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On the Timing and Mechanism of Dansgaard-Oeschger Events

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Dansgaard-Oeschger (DO) events are arguably the most dramatic abrupt climate changes in recent climate history. By now, a wealth of paleo-climatic data is available that describes many intriguing aspects of these events. We briefly review this observational evidence, including the issue of a regular timing of events. We will then discuss what this evidence tells us about the mechanism of the DO events, present a theory that is consistent with most observational data, and outline remaining open questions.