1 The last interglacial (Eemian) climate simulated by LOVECLIM and CCSM3

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- 9
- 10 Abstract
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12 This paper presents a detailed analysis of the climate of the last interglacial simulated by two 13 climate models of different complexities, CCSM3 and LOVECLIM. The simulated surface 14 temperature, hydrological cycle, vegetation and ENSO variability during the last interglacial 15 are analyzed through the comparison with the simulated Pre-Industrial (PI) climate. In both 16 models, the last interglacial period is characterized by a significant warming (cooling) over 17 almost all the continents during boreal summer (winter) leading to a largely increased 18 (reduced) seasonal contrast in the northern (southern) hemisphere. This is mainly due to the 19 much higher (lower) insolation received by the whole Earth in boreal summer (winter) during 20 this interglacial. The arctic is warmer than PI through the whole year, resulting from its much 21 higher summer insolation, its remnant effect in the following fall-winter through the interactions 22 between atmosphere, ocean and sea ice and feedbacks from sea ice and snow cover. 23 Discrepancies exist in the sea-ice formation zones between the two models. Cooling is 24 simulated by CCSM3 in the Greenland-Norwegian Seas and near the shelves of Antarctica 25 during DJF but not in LOVECLIM as a result of excessive sea-ice formation. Intensified 26 African monsoon is responsible for the cooling during summer in North Africa and on the 27 Arabian Peninsula. Over India precipitation maximum is found further west, while in Africa the 28 precipitation maximum migrates further north. Trees and grassland expand north in 29 Sahel/Sahara, more clearly seen in LOVECLIM than in CCSM3 results. A mix of forest and 30 grassland occupies continents and expand deep in the high northern latitudes. Desert areas

reduce significantly in Northern Hemisphere, but increase in North Australia. The interannual SST variability of the tropical Pacific (EI-Nino Southern Oscilation) of the last interglacial simulated by CCSM3 shows slightly larger variability and magnitude compared to the PI. However, the SST variability in our LOVECLIM simulations is particularly small due to the overestimated thermocline's depth.

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7 Keywords: Last interglacial, paleoclimate modeling, surface temperature, monsoon,
8 vegetation, ENSO

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10 **1. Introduction**

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12 The Earth has experienced quite warm periods in the past (e.g. interglacials). Investigating 13 the climate processes and feedbacks during these warm periods helps to improve our 14 understanding of climate dynamics and to address key questions for the future, in particular 15 when the climate predicted to occur over the next centuries by the Intergovernmental Panel 16 on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) appears to be unprecedented over the last 150 years. The 17 last interglacial (also called the Eemian interglacial and Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 5e) was a 18 recent warm interglacial during which the Arctic experienced markedly summer warming, 19 accompanied by sea-level rise and reduction in ice sheets (Otto-Bliesner et al., 2006a; Kukla 20 et al., 2002; Bintanja et al., 2005; Jouzel et al., 2007; McKay et al., 2011). In terms of such 21 climatic features, the last interglacial is often considered to be analogue to the future climate 22 (eg. Kukla et al., 1997), though this is still questionable in terms of its completely different 23 astronomical configuration from today and the future (Berger and Loutre, 1996; Berger and 24 Yin, 2012). There are still no detailed datasets compiled for MIS-5e except for the global 25 temperature record of Turney and Jones (2010). This is related to the fact that creating a 26 database based on individual records is complicated (Groll et al., 2005) due to the large 27 uncertainties related to difficulties in estimating the duration of MIS-5e (Shackleton et al. 28 2003). Given its significance in helping to understand better the future warming, the last interglacial has been included recently in the Palaeoclimate Model Intercomparison project (in 29 30 its third phase, PMIP3, http://pmip3.lsce.ipsl.fr).

2 Yin and Berger (2010, 2012) have simulated the peak climates of the past nine interglacials 3 with LOVECLIM, an Earth system model of intermediate complexity. Using the same 4 boundary conditions, Herold et al. (2012) simulated the climate of five stronger interglacials 5 with CCSM3, a comprehensive Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Model. These studies 6 focused on the comparison between different interglacials. Because they used the same 7 climate forcings, these studies provide ideal paired experiments for inter-model comparison, 8 which would be interesting for the modeling community in particular given that LOVECLIM 9 and CCSM3 are often used in climate/paleoclimate modeling and are of different complexity. 10 The MIS-5e simulations provided by these studies and also included in Lunt et al (same 11 issue), are analyzed here. Lunt et al. (same issue) analyzed 18 snapshot simulations between 12 125ka and 130ka BP performed by several climate models. They focus on the analysis of 13 near surface temperature pointing out large regional deviations in the ensemble mean and 14 between ensemble mean and proxy data. However, due to the large amount of models, it is 15 difficult to address in details the possible reasons for the simulated regional dissimilarities 16 between the models. Given the increasing interest of the paleoclimate community in the last 17 interglacial climate, detailed information about the simulated climates is needed and the 18 mechanisms responsible for the changes of different climatic variables deserve to be 19 investigated. In this paper, we present a detailed regional and seasonal analysis for the 20 surface climates of MIS-5e relative to the Pre-Industrial (PI) period. We investigate the 21 feedbacks of sea ice, monsoon, vegetation and ENSO in the modeled climate system as 22 plausible explanations for the regional similarities/dissimilarities simulated in both models, 23 making it the first detailed intercomparison between CCSM3 and LOVECLIM models with 24 emphasis on MIS-5e. We also give some quantitative comparison with proxy data reported in 25 literature, in order to determine where features are robust and where uncertainties are large.

26

The paper is organized as follows: in Section 2 we give a brief description of CCSM3 and LOVECLIM models and the prescribed boundary conditions. In Section 3 we discuss the similarities and differences in surface temperature between CCSM3 and LOVECLIM. In Section 4 we focus on African, Indian and East Asian monsoons. Vegetation is discussed in

1 Section 5 and ENSO variability in Section 6. Conclusions are given in Section 7.

2

3 2. Model descriptions

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5 2.1. CCSM3 and BIOME4

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7 The Community Climate System Model 3 (CCSM3) is a coupled climate model with 8 components representing the atmosphere, ocean, sea ice and land surface connected by a 9 flux coupler (Collins et al., 2006). The atmospheric model is CAM3 (Collins et al., 2004). 10 CAM3 has 26 vertical levels and a 3.75°x3.75° horizontal resolution which corresponds to T31 11 configuration. The land model CLM version 3.0 (Oleson et al. 2004) is integrated on the same 12 horizontal grid as the atmosphere, with each grid box further divided into a hierarchy of land 13 units and soil columns. The ocean model POP (Smith and Gent, 2002) uses a dipole grid with 14 a horizontal resolution of 3°x1.5° in longitude and latitude, respectively. Vertically, the model 15 has 25 levels that extend to 4.75km. The sea-ice model CSIM (Briegleb et al., 2004) is a 16 dynamical model and has the same horizontal resolution as the ocean model POP. Ice sheets 17 are prescribed as today. In the CCSM3 model framework there is no dynamically coupled 18 vegetation module. Instead, vegetation is estimated using the offline vegetation model 19 BIOME4 (Kaplan et al., 2003). CCSM3 output variables (such as temperature, precipitation, 20 cloudiness, etc.) are used to force the BIOME4, to see what would be the vegetation 21 distribution given the simulated climate. BIOME4 has 28 types of plants which we grouped 22 into 3 major categories -a) forest that includes the following vegetation: tropical evergreen 23 forest, tropical semi-deciduous forest, tropical deciduous forest/woodland, temperate 24 deciduous forest, temperate conifer forest, warm mixed forest, cool mixed forest, cool conifer 25 forest, cold mixed forest, evegreen taiga forest, deciduous taiga forest, tropical savanna, 26 temperate broadleaved savanna, open conifer woodland, temperate sclerophyll woodland; b) 27 grass that includes: tropical xerophytic shrubland, temperate xerophytic shrubland, tropical 28 grassland, temperate grassland, boreal parkland, steppe tundra, shrub tundra, dwarf shrub 29 tundra, prostrate shrub tundra, cushion-forbs, lichen and moss and c) desert that includes 30 desert, barren and land ice.

2 2.2. LOVECLIM

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4 LOVECLIM is a three dimensional Earth system model of intermediate complexity (Goosse et 5 al., 2010). The atmosphere model ECBilt is a quasi-geostrophic model with 3 vertical levels 6 and 5.625°x5.625° (T21) horizontal resolution (Opsteegh et al., 1998). CLIO is a primitive-7 equation, free-surface ocean general circulation model coupled to a thermodynamic-dynamic 8 sea ice model (Goosse and Fichefet, 1999). The horizontal resolution is 3°×3° and there are 9 20 levels on the vertical in the ocean. VECODE is the vegetation model, developed by 10 Brovkin et al. (1997). Based on annual mean values of several climatic variables, the 11 VECODE model computes the evolution of the vegetation cover described as a fractional 12 distribution of desert, tree and grass in each land grid cell with the same resolution as that of 13 ECBilt. In this study, the atmosphere, ocean-sea ice and vegetation are interactively coupled, 14 and the ice sheets are prescribed as today.

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16 2.3. Boundary conditions for the equilibrium experiments

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18 In our experiments, MIS-5e has the astronomical configuration of 127 ka BP. It is worthy 19 noting that several dates around the peak of the last interglacial have been used to select the 20 insolation forcing in previous studies (see the summary in Lunt et al, same issue). According 21 to the strategy of Yin and Berger (2010, 2012), insolation at 127 ka BP was used in our MIS-22 5e experiments of both LOVECLIM and CCSM3. This is because, following the hypothesis 23 that an interglacial is associated with a strong summer insolation in Northern Hemisphere 24 (NH), the insolation was taken at the dates when NH summer occurred at perihelion just 25 preceding the interglacial peak taking into account a few thousands of years of lag between 26 the forcing and climatic response. Compared to PI, MIS-5e climate is driven by much larger 27 eccentricity (0.03937 vs. 0.01672 for PI) and obliquity (24.040° vs. 23.446° for PI) (Berger, 28 1978). NH summer occurring at perihelion, a situation opposite to PI, leads to much more 29 insolation received on Earth during boreal summer (Figure 1). The CO₂ equivalent 30 concentration (contribution of CO_2 , CH_4 and N_2O) is taken to be 284 ppmv in MIS-5e and 280

ppmv in PI (Table 1). As a result, the differences observed between MIS-5e and PI climate are
 mainly driven by the strong astronomically-induced seasonal forcing of MIS-5e.

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In CCSM3, the Pre-Industrial climate is a 900-year continuation run from year 400 of the
simulation conducted at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (Otto-Bliesner et al.,
2006b). The MIS-5e simulation is initiated from PI simulation at year 500 and run for 1000
years. In LOVECLIM, the simulations of PI and MIS-5e are both 1000-year long equilibrium
run. The results of the last 100-year are used for analysis.

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10 **3. Simulated surface temperature anomalies**

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12 Compared to PI, the global annual mean surface temperature of MIS-5e is 0.5°C warmer in 13 LOVECLIM and 0.2°C cooler in CCSM3 (Table 2). Terrestrial and marine records indicate a 14 warming of about 1.9°C during MIS-5e relative to preindustrial (Turney and Jones, 2010) 15 which is underestimated by LOVECLIM and CCSM3. In addition to the possible uncertainty in 16 the estimation based on proxy records, one of the reasons might be due to the lack of 17 interactive ice sheets in both models. Holden et al. (2010) investigated the effect of warming 18 in Antarctica when accounting for dynamic ice sheets. They found that the surface 19 temperature in East Antarctica increased from 1.4 (Dome C) and 2.2°C (Dome F) to 5 (Dome 20 C) and 4.9°C (Dome F) caused by the retreat and meltwater of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet 21 (WAIS). In NH, according to Otto-Bliesner et al (2006a), when Greenland ice sheet is 22 completely removed, there is an additional summer warming of several to more than 10°C 23 localized over Greenland, and the freshwater forcing of inserting 0.1 sverdrup of water in the 24 North Atlantic over 100 years yields to an annual cooling of 1.5°C south of Greenland. In spite 25 of this fresh water induced cooling, the summer temperature anomalies over Greenland 26 remain positive. Lunt et al (2004) also found that the effect of melted Greenland is local for 27 temperature (directly related to changes in altitude and albedo of the surface), precipitation 28 and more widespread for circulation (response to changed orography) but the "principal effect 29 of removing the Greenland ice-sheet is relatively localised". They show that December-30 January-February (DJF) surface temperature decreases over Barents Sea (2°C for 2m height

1 temperature) as a result of changes in the near-surface meridional wind speed. In the case of 2 melted Greenland, cold air from the pole is advected to the south. This cooling along with the 3 freshening of the North Atlantic increases the sea-ice formation and retains sea ice in June-4 July-August (JJA) as mentioned by Lunt et al (2004). However, all these sensitivity studies are 5 for a complete melting of Greenland ice sheet, therefore the effects of the MIS-5e Greenland 6 melting would be much smaller and would be important mainly for the regions over and 7 around Greenland. Nevertheless, the shortcoming of prescribing ice sheet to present should 8 be kept in mind when model-proxy comparison is made.

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10 Global cooling is simulated in DJF and warming in JJA by both models. LOVECLIM simulates 11 consistently warmer climate than CCSM3. This might be related to the temperature biases in 12 both models and through feedbacks from the modeled climate system. Goosse et al (2010) 13 report that tropical regions in LOVECLIM are too warm and the temperature gradient between 14 the Eastern and Western Pacific is underestimated as a result of a warmer Eastern Pacific. In 15 CCSM3, Collins et al. (2006) report colder northern (60-90°N) and southern (60-90°S) 16 regions. Along with the missing feedback from dynamic ice sheets, the feedback from 17 vegetation could also affect the temperature through albedo change. As we discuss in Section 18 5, trees expanded deep into the northern high latitudes replacing grassland. The lack of 19 interactive vegetation in CCSM3 could cause unrealistic surface temperature because of the 20 missing response during the replacement. According to Brovkin (2002), climate exerts a major 21 control on the spatial distribution of vegetation types while vegetation influences climate via 22 changes in the physical properties of the land surface such as albedo, biogeophysical 23 mechanisms, roughness and atmospheric gas composition. For example Crucifix and Loutre 24 (2006) show that during boreal winters the albedo of snow in the presence of grass is about 25 0.8 (contributing to the cooling of the atmosphere). The presence of trees, however, reduces 26 the albedo to 0.4 and consequently increases the temperature in the atmosphere. Denman et 27 al. (2007) also show that "Shorter vegetation with more leaves has the most latent heat flux 28 and the least sensible flux. Replacement of forests with shorter vegetation together with the 29 normally assumed higher albedo could then cool the surface". Vegetation induced 30 cooling/warming through albedo change is also discussed in several other studies

- 1 (Ganopolski et al., 1998; Claussen, 1998; Claussen et al., 2006; Kubatzki et al., 2000).
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3.1. JJA surface temperature anomalies

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5 CCSM3 and LOVECLIM simulate a significant warming over almost all the continents in JJA 6 during MIS-5e, with the largest warming over the NH lands (Figure 2). The large continental 7 warming during MIS-5e results from its much higher insolation during boreal summer. 8 Radiative forcing induces a temperature response larger over land than over the ocean due to 9 the large thermal capacity of the ocean. Differences in heat capacity can explain the large 10 variation between land and ocean surface during boreal summer are warmer. Significant 11 warming is simulated over North America, Asia and Europe, in line with reconstructed surface 12 temperatures (Beaulieu and Reille, 1992; Hahne et al., 1994; Labervie et al., 1995; 13 Mamakowa, 1989). Table 3 gives some reconstructed surface temperature anomalies at 14 different locations as well as the corresponding results in both models. The significant 15 warming over Asia is in line with the loess records in China which indicate warm and humid 16 conditions during the last interglacial (Porter, S., 2001; Guan et al., 2007). Over China, both 17 CCSM3 and LOVECLIM simulate cooler annual temperature during MIS-5e, but warmer 18 summer, confirming that the strength of the soil development in the loess reflects mostly the 19 summer climatic conditions. Cooling is simulated over the monsoon region of North Africa, 20 related to a strengthened African monsoon (see section 4). The cooling is mainly driven by 21 increased low level moisture and latent heat flux in both models, increased cloudiness and 22 precipitation in CCMS3 and increase in precipitation and vegetation feedback in LOVECLIM. 23 Fischer and Jungclaus (2010) also simulated a temperature decrease in the tropics attributed 24 to the same intensification of the African monsoon system. Intensive warming is simulated in 25 the Arctic (for 60°N to 90°N) in both models. The simulated warming in CCSM3 is 2.2°C and 26 in LOVECLIM is 3°C, in agreement with the warming of 2.4°C found by means of numerical 27 simulations in Otto-Bliesner et al. (2006a). This warming is caused by the high insolation at 28 the top of the atmosphere during JJA and the large reduction of the sea ice and snow cover. 29 Less sea ice is simulated in both models - about -40% in CCSM3 and up to -60% in 30 LOVECLIM (Figure 3). The sea-ice models of CCSM3 and LOVECLIM are both dynamic and

1 thermodynamic, but it is only one sea-ice thickness category in LOVECLIM but multi-category 2 in CCSM3. This difference in sea-ice category at least partly contributes to the different sea-3 ice response in the two models. Additionally, the reduction of snow cover (not shown) in 4 Greenland and on the islands west of Greenland, is simulated to be up to 8m in LOVECLIM 5 and up to 1m in CCSM3. The strong feedback from the reduction of snow cover over land, 6 next to the external astronomical forcing, could partly explain why Greenland is on average 7 warmer in LOVECLIM (5.3°C) than in CCSM3 (3.4°C). The simulated warming for 75.10°N 8 and 42.32°W in CCSM3 is 3.8°C and in LOVECLIM is 6.3°C in line with the warming of about 9 5°C found in ice-core record (Andersen et al., 2004). Duplessy et al. (2007) point out that the 10 summer temperatures were 2° to 5°C warmer than today in North Atlantic, Greenland 11 (Andersen et al., 2004), Alaska (Muhs et al., 2001) and Asia (Lozhkin and Anderson, 1995) 12 (Table 3). Anderson et al. (2006) reviewed the Arctic climate during the last interglacial based 13 on reconstructed proxy records in terrestrial and marine archives. These reconstructions 14 show that the Arctic summer temperatures were about 4-5°C warmer than today and 15 associated with a decrease in summer sea ice.

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17 Over Antarctica the simulated mean surface temperature anomaly between 70°S and 90°S is 18 0.4°C in CCSM3 and 3.1°C in LOVECLIM. This warming is driven by the global warmth during 19 MIS-5e and the extent of sea ice (Figure 3). Warming is found between both model 20 simulations near the shelves of Antarctica in the regions of decreased sea-ice concentration. 21 The decrease of the sea-ice concentration causes a release of heat from the ocean into the 22 atmosphere due to its lowered insulation. CCSM3 simulates more sea ice, extending further 23 to the North during MIS-5e than does LOVECLIM. This is related to the enhanced meridional 24 temperature gradient between Africa and the Southern Ocean and increased upper level 25 zonal wind (Otto-Bliesner et al., 2006b; Yeager et al., 2006; Gent et al., 2011; Herold et 26 al.,2012). In west Antarctic Peninsula, LOVECLIM underestimates the sea-ice extent (Goosse 27 et al., 2010), leading to larger positive temperature differences with PI than in CCSM3. Over 28 the Southern Ocean LOVECLIM SST anomaly remains higher than the anomaly in CCSM3 29 but both being lower than the findings in proxy records. Marine records show a warming of 30 about 2°C over the Southern Ocean during the last interglacial period (Labeyrie et al., 1999;

1 Pahnke et al., 2003).

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3.2. DJF surface temperature anomalies

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5 During boreal winter both models show cooler continents in MIS-5e than at PI (Figure 4), as a 6 consequence of its reduced insolation. East of Japan, a negative anomaly is simulated in 7 CCSM3 associated with an increased sea-ice formation, but not in LOVECLIM (Figure 5). 8 Over the oceans, the sea-surface temperature (SST) anomalies are weak in both models 9 (around -0.5°C). In the southern polar region (for 60-90°S), CCSM3 and LOVECLIM simulate 10 an average cooling of -1.8° and -0.3°C, respectively. However, over the Southern Ocean, both 11 models simulate areas of warming. Between 52°S and 59°S and 40°E and 35°W CCSM3 and 12 LOVECLIM simulate a warming of 0.2° and 0.6°C, respectively (see Table 3). Nonetheless, 13 both models underestimate the warming of 2-3.5°C given in the proxy record by Bianchi and 14 Gersonde (2002). Similarly, around 55°S at 160°E, CCSM3 and LOVECLIM underestimate 15 the warming of 5-6°C found in Crosta et al. (2004).

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17 Over most of the Arctic region, the surface temperature anomalies agree pretty well in both 18 models with a smooth south-north transition from cooling to warming. The winter Arctic SST in 19 MIS-5e remains higher than in PI, a result of the higher summer insolation and its delayed 20 impact in winter through the ocean-sea-ice system, the so-called summer remnant effect (Yin 21 and Berger, 2012). Fischer and Jungclaus (2010) also point out that the reduced/absent sea-22 ice cover over the Barents Shelf and on the east coast of Greenland cannot act as an 23 insulator between the ocean and the atmosphere and heat from the ocean is released in DJF. 24 The Arctic, for 60-90°N, remains warmer in LOVECLIM partly related to the snow cover 25 change, too. In LOVECLIM the anomaly is -0.5m and in CCSM3 it is -0.01m. This is mainly 26 attributed to the melting of snow over Greenland where the role of snow depth is important 27 due to its effect on albedo. A vegetation feedback could also be related to the simulated 28 warmth in LOVECLIM. LOVECLIM surface temperature in MIS-5e remains higher than in 29 CCSM3 in the areas of expanded vegetation during MIS-5e. However, CCSM3 do not 30 account for the MIS-5e vegetation, hence it will be difficult to assess its effect on surface

1 temperature. Discrepancy on the sign of the anomalies between the two models happens in 2 the area of Svalbard archipelago from 74° to 81°N and from 10° to 35°E. CCSM3 simulates a 3 large cooling of -4.5°C while LOVECLIM simulates a warming of 6.4°C, mirrored also in the 4 sea-ice concentration in Figure 5. CCSM3 shows a sea-ice expansion with its maximum 5 positive anomaly (more than 20%) during DJF. Herold et al. (2012) first point the appearance 6 of such intensified sea-ice expansion after a 800 years run. Possible reason for this sea-ice 7 expansion could be related to the freshening and cooling of the North Atlantic Current. This 8 would induce two effects: a sea-ice increase at around 45°N and 60°W and a transport of 9 fresh and cold waters to the Greenland and Norwegian seas resulting in an increased sea-ice 10 formation. The decrease in salinity (not shown) in CCSM3 and LOVECLIM as a result of sea-11 ice melting during boreal summer indicates a freshening that is consistent with the weakening 12 of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) simulated in both models during 13 MIS-5e relative to PI. For example, in LOVECLIM, the much higher NH summer insolation 14 during MIS-5e reduces significantly the NH sea-ice concentration and increases the temperature of the source region of North Atlantic deep water all year round, leading to a 15 16 weaker North Atlantic deep water formation during MIS-5e than PI (Yin, 2013). Oppo et al. 17 (2001) discuss that changes in latitudinal temperature gradients may induce changes in large-18 scale wind fields with "far-reaching influences". Such influences include, for example, 19 changes in the strength and/or position of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation 20 (Hodell et al., 2009), changes in temperature and salinity in areas of deep water formation, 21 etc. Bauch et al. (1999) investigated the sea-surface temperature in the area of Iceland, 22 Norwegian and Greenland Seas based on proxy records of planktonic foraminiferal 23 assemblages, CaCO3 content, oxygen isotopes of foraminifera and iceberg-rafted debris. 24 Based on this analysis, it was shown that MIS-5e SST was warmer in comparison with 25 Holocene in Iceland Sea, but remained cooler north of 70°N due to a reduction in the 26 northward flow of Atlantic surface water, less outflow of polar waters from the Arctic Ocean 27 and steeper meridional SST gradient. It was also suggested that a relatively cold northern 28 Eurasian margin could have resulted in more glaciated areas with consequences for the 29 atmospheric circulation patterns, sea-ice cover and albedo.

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1 3.3 Annual surface temperature anomalies

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3 Figure 6 shows the annual differences between MIS-5e and PI simulated by CCSM3 and 4 LOVECLIM. Warming is simulated in high latitudes by both models with the largest anomalies 5 towards the North Pole. This warming is a result of the high insolation during summer and the 6 summer remnant effect during winter (Yin and Berger, 2012). On the contrary, over the 7 Southern Ocean, the insolation change during DJF is too small to trigger a summer remnant 8 effect and the annual warming is driven by the global warmth during JJA. Warmer Southern 9 Ocean and an annually warmer Antarctica are modeled in LOVECLIM, but not in CCSM3. The 10 average anomaly for the area 70-90°S is 1.5°C in LOVECLIM and -0.2°C in CCSM3 (see 11 Table 3). The warming in LOVECLIM is in line with ice-core records from the Antarctic 12 Plateau. The Vostok ice core shows an average warming of 2.3°C (Petit et al., 1999), which 13 was confirmed later by the EPICA ice-core record showing a 2-4°C warming during MIS-5e 14 compared to PI (Jouzel et al., 2007; Masson-Delmotte et al., 2010).

15 Overall, the annual mean response of the two models is small, but the seasonal response is 16 much clearer. This is also discussed by Lunt et al. (same issue) in their model 17 intercomparison. They stress that the agreement between models and proxy records is far 18 from perfect and it is important to assess the uncertainties in these proxy records. LOVECLIM 19 simulates higher seasonal and therefore annual mean surface temperatures than CCSM3. 20 Around Svalbard archipelago the strong DJF signal, simulated in CCSM3, is imprinted on the 21 annual surface temperature whereas the JJA signal dominates the LOVECLIM simulations in 22 this region. The uncertainties remain large in the areas of modeled sea-ice formation and 23 need to be further addressed because the majority of the seasonal and annual temperature 24 variations occur at the sea-ice boundaries.

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- 26 **4. Simulated precipitation anomalies**
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4.1. JJA precipitation anomalies29

30 Monsoon is the major manifestation of the seasonal cycle in the tropical regions and there is a

1 wide range of evidence from marine and terrestrial data that the monsoon characteristics are 2 affected by changes in the Earth's astronomical parameters (Noblet et al., 1996; Kubatzki et 3 al., 2000; Montoya et al., 2000) during the last Interglacial. Both CCSM3 and LOVECLIM 4 simulate significantly stronger northern monsoon during MIS-5e. Compared to PI (Figure 7), 5 the rainfall increases by 4-5 mm/day during MIS-5e over central Africa and Saudi Arabia and 6 by 3-4 mm/day over India, Tibet, southwestern China and the northern part of South America. 7 These results are in good agreement with the simulated heavy precipitation and proxy-based 8 reconstruction reported in Prell and Kutzbach (1987). The precipitation change is relatively 9 small over the extra-tropical regions.

10 A strong northward migration of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was simulated in 11 equatorial Africa with a significant precipitation increase over the Sahel and southern Sahara, 12 but less over tropical Africa south of 8°N. The sources of water for our simulated African 13 monsoon are from the tropical Atlantic and from local recycling further inland. The amount of 14 water vapor coming from both sources is enhanced during the last Interglacial due to 15 increased low-level wind speeds and land evaporation rates, as discussed also in Braconnot 16 et al. (2008). Indeed the distribution of precipitation depends very much on the location of 17 moisture sources and on wind speed. Compared to PI, the increased low level wind speed 18 and moisture transport during MIS-5e are consistent in both model simulations showing 19 higher tropical boreal summer precipitation.

20 Over Asia the most prominent shifts in precipitation maxima is related to the northward 21 displacement of the ITCZ. Northward shift of the ITCZ during JJA is seen from the eastern 22 Pacific to India, consistent with a greater increase in JJA insolation in the NH compared to the 23 SH. The warmer summer and colder winter lead to larger NH seasonal contrast. Large 24 amounts of water vapor are advected from moisture sources located over the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and west Pacific to Southern Asia. Moreover the northward penetration of 25 26 moist air is limited by the Tibetan plateau that prevents it from being transported further north. 27 As a consequence Asia experienced stronger summer monsoon in MIS-5e. The southern and 28 western branch of the North Pacific high strengthens the East Asian summer monsoon as 29 seen from an increase in onshore winds and in precipitation in northern China for CCSM3 and

in most of China in LOVECLIM. Southwesterly surface wind over India, cross equatorial flow
over Indian Ocean and anticyclonic circulation over western North Pacific Ocean are stronger
in CCSM3 than in LOVECLIM (Figure 8). The surface wind and moisture transport (not
shown) during MIS-5e are in good agreement with water vapor supply over East Asia coming
mainly from Indian Ocean and secondarily from South China Sea and western Pacific Ocean.

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7 Monsoon rainfall distribution is closely related to large scale atmospheric circulation. The 8 simulated upper level (200 hPa) tropical easterly jet (TEJ) anomaly is stronger in CCSM3 than 9 LOVECLIM over a region of 5-20°N and 150-210°E (Figure 9). The mean change over this 10 region is 1.06 m/s for CCSM3 and -0.91 m/s for LOVECLIM. TEJ is closely linked to the 11 boreal summer monsoon rainfall over Africa and Asia through the Hadley circulation. We 12 found that TEJ was stronger and shifted northward from its mean position during MIS-5e. 13 consistent with the strong rainfall over the convergence zone between the wind of the 14 southern and northern hemispheres, known as the monsoon trough (Zeng and Guo, 1982). 15 Similarly, Bosman et al. (2012) found a weakened African Easterly jet but strengthened TEJ 16 with north and westward extensions. Therefore, strong TEJ could be a dominating factor for 17 stronger monsoon over Indian and African region. Another important component of the 18 summer monsoon circulation is the upper-level monsoon ridge (in the 200 hPa geopotential 19 height), which normally extends from the Middle East eastward to southeastern Asia. The 20 northward shift of the strong gradient indicates a strong divergence in the upper troposphere 21 which supports the strong monsoon meridional vertical circulation and heavy rainfall over that 22 region. An anomalous high over central Europe, a low over the western Siberia plain and a 23 major high anomaly over northeastern Asia depict a wave train that has an equivalent 24 barotropic structure in the mid-latitudes. The specific humidity anomaly seen at low level 25 favours also the heavy rain simulated over Africa, India and East Asia. The JJA vertical 26 velocity at 400 hPa between 0-40 °N indicates more convection and heavier rainfall especially 27 over the African and Asian domains (Figure 10). The Indian Monsoon Index (IMI) is defined by 28 the difference between the 850 hPa zonal wind averaged over the region of 5-15°N and 40-29 80°E and that averaged over the region of 20-30°N and 70-90°E (Wang and Fan, 1999). The 30 Indian summer monsoon component plays dominant role in over all performance of Asian summer monsoon. The simulated JJA IMI is definitely stronger, by 0.13 in the 100-year mean
in CCSM3, during MIS-5e (Figure 11) than PI. This change is statistically significant and well
represents the change in precipitation over the Indian region.

4

5 There is more monsoon precipitation in the NH during MIS-5e in LOVECLIM than in CCSM3 6 (Table 4). A major precipitation difference between two models is found over tropical Indian 7 Ocean, tropical central Pacific Ocean, tropical Atlantic Ocean, North America and East Asia. 8 For example over East Asia, in LOVECLIM, summer precipitation increases over southern 9 and eastern China and over Japan during MIS-5e when compared to PI. This is in agreement 10 with some proxy records. For example, stalagmite from eastern China (Wang et al., 2008) and 11 lake sediments from Japan (Xiao et al., 1999) indicate stronger summer monsoon 12 precipitation during MIS-5e than today. However, CCSM3 simulates less summer precipitation 13 over eastern China and Japan during MIS-5e than PI.

14

15 **4.2. DJF precipitation anomalies**

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17 In DJF, both CCSM3 and LOVECLIM simulate more rain during MIS-5e over the Indian 18 Ocean, west Pacific, north east and south east Pacific, but less over the subtropical southern 19 continents (South America, central Africa, and Australia) (Figure 12). The weakening of the 20 southern summer monsoon during MIS-5e is in agreement with the modeling results of 21 Montoya et al. (2000) and with some proxy records. For example, Tofalo et al. (2011) 22 conclude a drier MIS-5e in Argentina based on their analysis of loess-paleosols records. High 23 pollen concentrations and high percentage of henopodiaceae/Amaranthaceae from the lake 24 Titicaca (Bolivia-Peru) indicate warmth and aridity during MIS-5e (Fritz et al., 2007). Zhao et 25 al. (2001) shows that the stalagmite growth in Western Australia during MIS-5e was slow 26 implying dry conditions. Ayliffe et al. (1998) discuss that during interglacials and warm 27 interstadials the southeastern part of Australia was comparatively arid. Therefore, both model 28 simulations and proxy data show a weakened monsoon precipitation in the SH during MIS-5e 29 compared to PI.

2 **5. Vegetation**

3

4 Over Africa (between the Equator and 30°N), the increase of tree fraction during MIS-5e as 5 compared to PI is larger in LOVECLIM than in BIOME4 (Figure 13a, d). Grassland simulated 6 in BIOME4 (Figure 13b) occupies about 80% of the land at 20°N while LOVECLIM simulates 7 about 50%, the rest being mainly trees (Figure 13e). On one hand, this difference between 8 the two models could be related to the fact that the vegetation-climate feedbacks are missing 9 in CCSM3 due to the lack of a dynamic vegetation model. On the other hand, it could be 10 related to the fact that LOVECLIM tends to overestimate the precipitation around 30°N and 11 the temperature in the tropics (Goosse et al., 2010) and therefore to amplify the vegetation 12 response. This has also been reflected in the inter-model comparison for the mid-Holocene 13 climate (Braconnot et al. 2007). The expansion of the vegetated area during MIS-5e in 14 Sahel/Sahara in LOVECLIM, which results from the northward shift of the ITCZ and moisture 15 advection, is in line with proxy records showing wetter, more green and vegetated 16 Sahel/Sahara (Jolly et al., 1998).

17

18 Simulated grass is also more developed over Europe, Asia and central North America 19 (between 30°N and 60°N) in BIOME4 during MIS-5e than in LOVECLIM. The abundance of 20 grass and decrease of forest in BIOME4 could be associated with colder annual climate and 21 negative precipitation anomaly in CCSM3 that could affect the distribution of vegetation. 22 LOVECLIM simulates warmer annual climate and positive precipitation anomaly with higher 23 tree fraction below 45°N and similar between 45°N and 60°N to its PI level, in line with proxy 24 data showing a well-established mixed forest in Europe (Kukla et al., 2002; Muller et al., 2003; 25 Shackleton et al., 2003). The simulation of BIOME4 over the Chinese loess plateau shows 26 temperate deciduous forest, temperate conifer forest and warm mixed forest in the south and 27 central part of the loess plateau, and cool mixed forest, shrubland and grassland in the 28 northwestern part. The simulation of LOVECLIM shows that trees are mainly developed in the 29 south region (>50%) while grass occupies more space in the northwestern part. Both model 30 simulations are found in agreement with proxy data over the Chinese loess plateau showing a 1 mixture of steppe and forest (Cai et al., 2012).

To the north (between 60°N and 70°N), wetter and warmer climate promote the growth and northward shift of boreal forest in both models (Figure 13a, d). Based on fossil pollen data, Anderson et al (2006) report that the boreal forests experienced "dramatic poleward expansions". Tundra, grass and forest (proxy data indicate mainly birch forest) flourished on the western and eastern sides of Greenland. Notable northward shift of boreal forest across the Arctic is also reported in Saarnisto et al. (1999) for Scandinavia, in Lozhkin et al. (2007) for Siberia and in Edwards et al. (2003) for Alaska.

9

A large reduction in deserts, as compared to PI, is simulated by both BIOME4 and LOVECLIM
over the NH (Figure 13c, f). Over the Southern Hemisphere, good agreement is also found
between the two models. The increase in desert between the Equator and 30°S is attributed
to the annual warming and decreased precipitation over Australia.

14

15 6. Mean climate and interannual variability of the tropical Pacific

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17 To study the changes in the mean climate of the tropical Pacific, the annual mean of 18 equatorial tropical Pacific SST, zonal wind stress and mean tilt of the thermocline are 19 averaged over 5°S-5°N between 150-275°E and analyzed. In the CCSM3 simulations, MIS-5e 20 SST shows a westward shift in the Pacific cold tongue (minimum SST), an eastward shift of 21 the warm pool (maximum SST) and a cooling mainly in the central Pacific relative to the PI 22 (Figure 14a). The east-west SST difference (difference between cold tongue and warm pool) 23 increases slightly from 4°C in PI to 4.2°C in MIS5. This is not the case for LOVECLIM which 24 shows, in both MIS-5e and PI, an east-west SST difference of 2°C. For CCSM3, the zonal 25 wind stress shows a very slight decrease mainly in the eastern and western sides in MIS-5e 26 (Figure 14b). In LOVECLIM, however, there is a significant increase in the MIS-5e zonal wind 27 stress when compared to PI. The mean thermocline depth (depth of the largest vertical 28 temperature gradient) is approximated by the depth of the 20°C-isotherm as is usually done 29 by model studies of PI and also found to be a good approximation for MIS-5e. In CCSM3, 30 there is almost no difference in the thermocline between MIS-5e and PI (Figure 14c) which is

1 consistent with the very small difference in the zonal wind stress. In contrast, LOVECLIM 2 shows a much deeper thermocline for MIS-5e especially in the western part. Based on the 3 finding of Timmermann et al. (2005), we suggest that this deepening of the thermocline is an 4 ocean-related process most likely caused by its re-adjustment to the weakening of the Atlantic 5 meridional circulation (AMOC) as mentioned earlier. The thermocline deepening occurring 6 only in LOVECLIM but not in CCSM3 might be related to the difference in their atmosphere 7 resolutions. Indeed, in response to AMOC weakening, more complex models exhibit a change 8 in their atmospheric circulation which in turn causes a shoaling of the thermocline and 9 restrains the thermocline from deepening through oceanic processes (Timmermann et al., 2007a). 10

11 For the interannual variability around the mean state discussed above, the last 1200 months 12 of SSTs were analyzed. We focus on the so-called NINO3.4 region (5°S-5°N: 190 -240°E) and 13 the SST averaged over this region. The monthly mean cycle was resolved, and a 12-month 14 moving average filter was applied following Douglass (2011). The NINO3.4 SST variability in 15 the LOVECLIM simulations is particularly small (Figure 15b). This is because the 16 overestimated deep thermocline in LOVECLIM diminishes the SST variability. Underestimated 17 SST variability in LOVECLIM was also mentioned by Goosse et al. (2010). We will, therefore, 18 mainly discuss the ENSO characteristics of the CCSM3 experiments.

19 The spectrum of the SST NINO3.4 anomalies shows dominant variability at interannual time 20 scale which is related to ENSO (Figure 15a). The spectrum power for PI has large and 21 significant magnitude in 1.7-6.5 year band with the largest peak around 3.7 years. We also 22 find the largest peak of the spectrum at period around 2-3 years when we apply a 5-month 23 moving average filter. This is consistent with some other CCSM3 model studies where a 24 period of around 2 years for ENSO variability was found (e.g., Merkel et al., 2010). In the MIS-25 5e run, the large and significant peaks of the spectrum are limited to 2-6 year band while the 26 leading period is around 2.1 years. The largest peak of the power spectrum in MIS-5e has 27 shorter period compared to the one in PI and its magnitude is slightly larger (~10%). This 28 shorter period during MIS-5e might be partially related to the westward shift of the cold tongue 29 which reduces the distance between the cold tongue and the warm pool. The moderate 30 change in the magnitude and pattern of the significant peaks in the spectrum of MIS-5e can in

1 some degree be related to the shoaling of the thermocline, the increase of the east-west 2 temperature gradient and the weaker trade winds in the tropical Pacific. However, as shown 3 above, the change in these factors was moderate. It is also of interest to check other factors. 4 Following Timmermann et al. (2007b), the change in the strength and phase of the SST 5 annual cycle (mean value of each month) could be another factor to modify the power 6 spectrum in MIS-5e. This can be further investigated by comparing the annual cycle with 7 standard deviation of each month as inspired by Merkel et al. (2010). The standard deviation 8 (Figure 15b) and the mean SST (Figure 15c) of each month do not follow the same trend 9 (have opposite trend). The standard deviation of the MIS-5e SST is the highest (lowest) in 10 boreal winter (spring) when the amplitude of the annual cycle is around its minimum 11 (maximum) which might affect the ENSO variability. Measurement of oxygen isotopes in coral 12 fossils of Bunaken Island (around 120°E of the equator) by Hughen et al. (1999) also showed 13 ENSO variability but suggested the same power spectrum as the SST data prior to 1976.

14

15 7. Conclusions

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17 In this paper, the last interglacial climate, including surface temperature, hydrological cycle, 18 vegetation and ENSO, was investigated through simulations of two models of different 19 complexity, CCSM3 and LOVECLIM. In both models, continents remain warmer during 20 summer (except over North Africa and Arabian Peninsula) and cooler during winter in MIS-5e 21 than PI. Discrepancies between the two models mainly occur in the polar areas, closely 22 related to feedbacks from sea ice and snow cover. CCSM3 simulates more sea ice in MIS-5e 23 and lower surface temperatures than LOVECLIM. In addition, the reduction in snow is much 24 larger cover in LOVECLIM than in CCSM3, contributing to the larger Arctic warming in 25 LOVECLIM.

Intensification of the African monsoon causes cooling during boreal summer over North Africa and on the Arabian Peninsula. In MIS-5e the ITCZ moves further north as compared to PI. Precipitation increases over the Sahel/Sahara, over India, Tibet, southwestern China and over the northern part of South America. Deserts reduce largely in the NH, but increase in North Australia due to the annual warming and decreased precipitation. Trees and grassland flourish in Sahel/Sahara, trees being more abundant in LOVECLIM simulation than in
 BIOME4. Simulated mid-latitude trees are also more abundant in LOVECLIM. In both models
 trees expand deep in high northern latitudes, found in good agreement with proxy records..

4 CCSM3 simulates larger tropical Pacific SST for MIS-5e than for PI. We suggest this is 5 related to the change in the SST annual cycle next to smaller effects through increased east-6 west temperature gradient and less-steep thermocline. The SST variability in our LOVECLIM 7 simulations is particularly small due to the overestimated thermocline's depth.

8

9 The simulated broad-scale climate change during the last interglacial as compared to PI is 10 compared well between the two models. This demonstrates that LOVECLIM, although 11 classified as a climate model of intermediate complexity, is an efficient tool for climate 12 investigations. Additionally, CCSM3 and LOVECLIM qualitatively simulate the large scale 13 climate changes in line with proxy records. We should keep in mind that the proxy records are 14 scarce and mostly confined to the NH and their interpretations are regionally biased. Additional proxy data could increase not only our understanding of the past climate dynamics, 15 16 but can provide necessary data for model assessment because comparisons between model 17 simulations and proxy data is a key to test the credibility of the proposed methods.

18

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Table 1.	Greenhouse	gas	concentrations	and	astronomical	parameters	used	for	the	ΡI	and
the last i	nterglacial sin	nulat	ions in both LO	/ECI	LIM and CCSN	<i>і</i> З.					

		Greenhou	ise gases	Astronomical parameters			
date	CO2	CH4	N2O	CO2eq	eccentricity	obliquity	longitude perihelion
(kaBP)	(ppmv)	(ppbv)	(ppbv)	(ppmv)		(deg)	(deg)
0	280	760	270	280	0.01672	23.446	102.04
127	287	724	262	284	0.03938	24.04	275.41

Table 2. Global mean surface temperature (°C) of MIS-5e and PI in CCSM3 and LOVECLIM. DJF and JJA stand for December-January-February and June-July-August, respectively.

	Annual		ſ	ŊF	JJA		
	CCSM3	LOVECLIM	CCSM3	LOVECLIM	CCSM3	LOVECLIM	
MIS5	12.3	16.5	9.6	13.7	15.0	19.7	
PI	12.5	16.0	10.8	14.1	14.1	18.2	
anomaly	-0.2	0.5	-1.2	-0.4	0.9	1.4	

Table 3. Reconstructed surface temperature anomaly (difference between MIS-5e and PI) based on proxy records and the corresponding simulated anomaly by CCSM3 and LOVECLIM.

Study	Coordinates/area	Delta T	CCSM3	LOVECLIM
		°C	°C	°C
JJA				
Andersen et al (2004)	42.32W; 75.10N	5	3.8	6.3
Andreev et al. (2004)	141E; 73N	4-5	1.6	2.3
Beaulieu and Reille (1992)	6.5E; 47.73N	1.7	4.6	3.4
Hahne et al. (1994)	7.57E, 52.4N	1.4	2.6	2.7
Labeyrie et al. (1996)	96.28E; 46S	3 and more	-0.07	0.4
Lozkhin and Anderson (1995)	132-180E; 60-70N	4-8	2.9	1.8
Mamakowa (1989)	~16.57E; ~50.88N	2.5	4.6	3.7
Muhs et al. (2001)	148-164W; 58-66N	0-2	0.4	2.1
Otto-Bliesner et al. (2006a); model study	0-360E; 60-90N	2.4	2.2	3
Pahnke et al. (2005)	174.55E; 45.3S	~ 2	-0.01	0.2
DJF				
Bianchi and Gersonde (2002)	40E-35W; 52-59S	2-3.5	0.2	0.6
Crosta et al. (2004)	160E; 55S	5-6	0.1	0.2
Lozkhin and Anderson (1995)	132-180E; 60-70N	4	-0.6	3.7
	0-360E; 50S-60S		-0.1	0.7
Annual				
EPICA (Jouzel et al., 2007)	123E; 75S	2-4	-0.2	0.8
Vostok (Petit et al., 1999)	106E, 78S	2.3	-0.1	0.8
	0-360E; 60S-90S		-0.2	1.7
	0-360E; 70S-90S		-0.2	1.5

Table 4. Precipitation anomalies (mm/day, MIS-5e minus PI) over East Asia (20°N-40°N; 95°E-145°E), India (6.5°N-37.5°N; 67.5°E-101.5°E) and Africa (0-30°N; 15°W-45°E), simulated by CCSM3 and LOVECLIM.

	CCSM3	LOVECLIM
East Asia	-0.4	0.4
India	0.75	2.05
Africa	1.7	3.2

Figure captions

Figure 1. Difference in the latitudinal-seasonal insolation distribution (Wm⁻²) between 127ka BP and PI. The true longitudes 0° and 180° correspond to the spring and fall equinoxes, respectively; 90° and 270° are for the summer and winter solstices, respectively.

Figure 2. JJA surface temperature (°C) anomaly (MIS-5e minus PI) simulated by a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM. Temperature anomaly between black and grey dashed lines is statistically insignificant.

Figure 3. JJA sea-ice fraction (%) anomaly simulated by a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM.

Figure 4. DJF surface temperature (°C) anomaly simulated by a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM. Temperature anomaly between black and grey dashed lines is statistically insignificant.

Figure 5. DJF sea-ice fraction (%) anomaly simulated by a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM.

Figure 6. Annual surface temperature (°C) anomaly simulated by a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM. Temperature anomaly between black and grey dashed lines is statistically insignificant.

Figure 7. JJA precipitation (mm/day) anomalies simulated by a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM. Precipitation anomaly between black and grey dashed lines is statistically insignificant.

Figure 8. JJA surface wind (m/s) anomaly for region 10°S-40°N and 0-160°E in a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM.

Figure 9. Tropical Easterly Jet (m/s) anomaly at 200hPa (10°S-50°N and 0-160°E) in a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM.

Figure 10. Vertical velocity (Pa/s) anomaly at 400mb for region 0-40°N and 0-360°E, simulated in CCSM3.

Figure 11. Indian Monsoon Index anomaly (MIS-5e minus PI) in CCSM3.

Figure 12. DJF precipitation (mm/day) anomaly simulated by a) CCSM3 and b) LOVECLIM. Precipitation anomaly between black and grey dashed lines is statistically insignificant.

Figure 13. Vegetation fraction (%) simulated by BIOME4 for a) trees, b) grass, c) desert and by LOVECLIM for d) trees, e) grass, f) desert.

Figure 14. CCSM3 and LOVECLIM simulations averaged over 5°S-5°N between 150-275°E of a) SST (°C), b) wind stress (Pa) and c) depth of the thermocline (m).

Figure 15. CCSM3 and LOVECLIM results averaged over NINO3.4 region (5°S-5°N and 190-240°E) for a) spectrum for SST anomalies, b) monthly standard deviation for SST anomalies and c) monthly SST anomalies.





















Figure 6







Figure 8































