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Assessing the impact of Laurentide Ice-Sheet topography on glacial climate

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5 Simulations of past climates require altered boundary conditions to account for known shifts in the Earth system. For the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and subsequent deglaciation, the existence of large Northern Hemisphere ice sheets provides a profound change in surface topography and albedo. While ice-sheet extent is fairly well known, numerous conflicting reconstructions of ice-sheet topography suggest that precision in this boundary condition is lacking. Here we use a high-resolution and oxygen-isotope-enabled fully-coupled global circulation model (GCM) (GISS ModelE2-R), along with two different reconstructions of the Laurentide Ice Sheet (LIS) that provide maximum and minimum estimates of LIS elevation, to assess the range of climate variability in response to uncertainty in this boundary condition. We present this comparison at two equilibrium time slices: the LGM, where differences in ice sheet topography are maximized, and 14 ka, where differences in maximum ice sheet height are smaller but still exist. Overall, we find significant differences in the climate response to LIS topography, with the larger LIS resulting in enhanced Atlantic meridional overturning circulation and warmer surface air temperatures, particularly over Northeast Asia and the North Pacific. These up and downstream effects are associated with differences in the development of planetary waves in the upper atmosphere, with the larger LIS resulting in a weaker trough over Northeast Asia that leads to the warmer temperatures and decreased albedo from snow and sea-ice cover. Differences between the 14 ka simulations are similar in spatial extent but smaller in magnitude, suggesting that climate is responding primarily to the larger difference in maximum LIS elevation in the LGM simulations. These results suggest that such uncertainty in ice-sheet boundary conditions alone may greatly impact the results of paleoclimate simulations and their ability to successfully simulate past climates, with implications for estimating climate sensitivity to greenhouse gas forcing utilizing past climate states.

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1 Introduction

The Last Glacial Maximum (LGM; ~ 21 ka) provides a valuable target to test the ability of general circulation models (GCMs) to simulate a climate for which they were not designed (Mix et al., 2001; IPCC AR4 WG1, 2007; Bracconot et al., 2012) and is a possible means of assessing climate sensitivity to changes in atmospheric CO₂ (Crucifix, 2006; Hansen et al., 2008; Schmittner et al., 2011, 2012; Fyke and Eby, 2012; Hargreaves et al., 2012; PALAEOSENS, 2012). The last deglaciation (~ 20 to 7 ka) was the most recent period when changes in Earth's orbit around the Sun caused Northern Hemisphere ice-sheet retreat (Clark et al., 2009; Carlson and Winsor, 2012; He et al., 2013) and rising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentration (Monnin et al., 2001; Lemieux-Dudon et al., 2010), which provides an evolving climate state (Shakun and Carlson, 2010) for testing GCMs (e.g., Timm and Timmerman, 2007; Liu et al., 2009; Shakun et al., 2012; Gregoire et al., 2012; He et al., 2013). For instance, by 14 ka, Northern Hemisphere ice sheets were still relatively large (60–70 % remaining by area; Dyke, 2004; Gyllencreutz et al., 2007), but atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations had already risen by ~ 60 % of their total deglacial change (Monnin et al., 2001; Lemieux-Dudon et al., 2010) and boreal summer insolation was ~ 7.5 % higher than present/LGM levels (Berger and Loutre, 1991).

However, the simulated glacial state in any one model is sensitive to the boundary conditions used as a starting point for the simulation (Manabe and Broccoli, 1985; Broccoli and Manabe, 1987; Hyde and Peltier, 1993; Abe-Ouchi et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2009; Pausata et al., 2011; Hofer et al., 2012). Thus, uncertainty in a particular set of glacial boundary conditions may overshadow a GCM's simulated change in climate and its ability to constrain climate sensitivity using the LGM as a starting point. Along this line, Hargreaves et al. (2012) suggested that disregarding high latitude response at the LGM which avoids bringing this ambiguity into climate sensitivity work, although this then ignores many climate feedbacks. Some of the important boundary conditions are well documented, such as the orbital parameters that drive the magnitude and sea-

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sonality of insolation (Berger and Loutre, 1991), and the concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases (Monnin et al., 2004; Jouzel et al., 2007; Lüthi et al., 2008; Lemieux-Dudon et al., 2010). Other boundary conditions of past glacial climates have proven to be more elusive. The aerosol forcing (particularly dust and black carbon) at the LGM and through the deglaciation is known only at individual locations, with limited spatial resolution (Petit et al., 1981; Thompson et al., 1995; Mahowald et al., 1999; Reader et al., 1999; Power et al., 2008). While large uncertainties still remain on the impact of aerosols on radiative forcing (Penner et al., 2004; Lohmann and Feichter, 2005; Forster et al., 2007; Chylek and Lohmann, 2008), the LGM dust loading may issue a forcing on the order of $\sim -1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ that is comparable to changes in greenhouse gases alone ($\sim -2.85 \text{ W m}^{-2}$), at least in the tropics, where ice sheet albedo is not a factor (Harrison et al., 2001; Claquin et al., 2003; Crucifix, 2006). Likewise, reconstructions of LGM and deglacial vegetation and the related impact on surface albedo are limited to low resolution global approximations and higher resolution estimates that are only regional in scope (Jackson et al., 2000; Prentice et al., 2000; Harrison et al., 2001; Ray and Adams, 2001; Bigelow et al., 2003; Williams, 2003; Pickett et al., 2004; Williams et al., 2011).

Perhaps the greatest source of uncertainty in glacial boundary conditions relates to ice-sheet thickness. Although the geographical extent of LGM and deglacial ice-sheet extents are fairly well mapped (Denton and Hughes, 1981, 2002; Dyke and Prest, 1987; Anderson et al., 2002; Clark and Mix, 2002; Bennike and Björck, 2002; Dyke, 2004; Gyllencreutz et al., 2007), direct observations of ice thickness and topography are limited and usually absent for the highest/thickest portions of the ice sheets (e.g., Denton and Hughes, 1981, 2002; Dyke et al., 2002; Clark et al., 1992, 2009; Goehring et al., 2008; Carlson and Clark, 2012). Therefore, ice-sheet height must be simulated through geophysical or glaciological modeling approaches. The reconstructions of ICE-4G, ICE-5G, and ICE-6G (Peltier, 1994, 2004; Toscano et al., 2011) have proven to be useful ice-sheet boundary conditions to employ in GCMs due to their geophysically-based solutions, global scope, and product availability. However, the differences between these

reconstructions (Peltier, 2004; Toscano et al., 2011), as well as other ice-sheet-specific reconstructions (Clark et al., 1996; Licciardi et al., 1998; Tarasov and Peltier, 2004; Argus and Peltier, 2010; Lambeck et al., 2010) suggest that there is a large range in existing ice-sheet boundary conditions, particularly for the Laurentide Ice Sheet (LIS).

This large uncertainty between reconstructions of ice-sheet geometry is unfortunate considering that glacial topography is one of the dominant drivers of atmospheric and oceanic circulation, temperature, and precipitation in simulations of deglacial climate (Abe-Ouchi et al., 2007; Pausata et al., 2011; Hofer et al., 2012; Tharammal et al., 2012). Glacial orography leads to reduced surface air temperatures through vertical lapse rate alone, but the presence of these large ice mountains also has been shown to have downstream effects, altering upper atmosphere flow (Cook and Held, 1988; Bromwich et al., 2004; Abe-Ouchi et al., 2007; Langen and Vinther, 2009), midlatitude storm tracks and wintertime precipitation (Kageyama et al., 1999; Hofer et al., 2012), and Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) strength (Yu et al., 1996; Adkins et al., 2002; Wunsch, 2003; Curry and Oppo, 2005; Lynch-Steiglitz et al., 2007; Otto-Bliesner et al., 2007; Weber et al., 2007; Arzel et al., 2008).

Here we test the impact that LIS geometry had on LGM and deglacial climate using two alternate reconstructions of LIS topography that provide upper and lower bounds for this boundary condition. As an upper bound, we use ICE-5G (VM2) (Peltier, 2004; hereafter 5G), which has the highest LIS topography of any LIS reconstruction, with a dominant ice dome over the western Keewatin sector (Fig. 1). As a lower bound, we employ the dynamics-driven flow-line reconstruction of Licciardi et al. (1998; hereafter L) (Fig. 1). The maximum height of this reconstruction is comparable to ICE-4G (Peltier et al., 1994; Clark et al., 1996), but it is ~ 20 % lower than that of ICE-5G, particularly over the western LIS (Fig. 1). The use of these reconstructions is a particularly relevant assessment of the range of variability in the Paleoclimate Modeling Intercomparison Project 3 (PMIP3) topographic boundary conditions, as the maximum ice-sheet heights of the 3 ice sheet reconstructions used to create the averaged topography of the LIS in the PMIP3 (<http://pmip3.lsce.ipsl.fr/>) lie in between the upper and lower bounds used in

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nary ice sheets with presumably the greatest effect on climate (Alley and Clark, 1999; Clark et al., 1999; Clark and Mix, 2002; Carlson and Clark, 2012).

The two LIS reconstructions have significantly different topographies (Fig. 1). At 21 ka, the 5G-reconstruction provides a much taller LIS, particularly the Keewatin Dome over western Canada, with elevations across this region at or above 4000 m. The 21 ka L-reconstruction is lower in maximum height and moves more of the ice mass to the east with 3 distinct ice domes centered over Keewatin, southern Ontario, and central Quebec. Comparatively, the 5G-LIS has a lower topography over eastern Ontario and Quebec, but the large Keewatin dome dominates the western topography. Additionally, the 5G-reconstruction has more abrupt changes in topography whereas the L-reconstruction has smoother transitions from high to low elevations, as would be expected from a flow line model of ice deformation over hard and soft beds and similar to inferences from the geologic record (Dyke and Prest, 1987; Jenson et al., 1996).

At 14 ka, both reconstructions retain the same general geometry as 21 ka, but absolute topography is diminished (Fig. 1). ICE-5G still has a dominant Keewatin dome, while the L-reconstruction continues to have 3 prominent domes. The L-reconstruction exhibits only a small diminution in ice topography over the Ontario and Quebec domes, such that a west-east dipole in topography difference exists between the two reconstructions (Fig. 1).

Our climate model simulations were started before the PMIP3 protocol for LGM conditions had been determined, but our selection of LIS boundary conditions provide limits of topographic uncertainty that go into the PMIP3 LIS elevations. The LIS in the PMIP3 boundary conditions is similar in geometry to ICE-5G (with higher Keewatin dome over western Canada and lower topography over eastern Ontario and Quebec), but the maximum topography of the LIS in PMIP3 is more similar to the LIS reconstruction used in 21 ka-L (Fig. 1).

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This difference in SAT is significant, developing solely in response to changes in LIS boundary conditions. Since differences in SAT between our two scenarios are exacerbated directly over the LIS due to topographic differences (i.e., vertical lapse rate of temperature and an ~ 1000 m maximum LIS height difference), the global mean SAT anomalies with the LIS area removed are -4.7 ± 0.1 °C and -5.0 ± 0.1 °C, thus suggesting that differences between the simulations are not due to differences directly over the ice sheet alone.

We use the differences in elevation and the resulting SAT at each time slice to estimate summer temperature lapse rates over the LIS by regressing the change in SAT onto the change in elevation. Using this approach, we estimate summer ice-sheet lapse rates of -4.6 °C km⁻¹ for 21 ka, which is consistent with the published range of -4 to -7 °C km⁻¹ of Abe-Ouchi et al. (2007), but slightly lower than earlier estimates of -6 to -8 °C km⁻¹ (Marshall et al., 2000; Pollard and PMIP, 2000; Charbit et al., 2002). Applying this lapse rate over the LIS compared to modern elevation accounts for 40–50 % of the SAT anomalies over the LIS. The remaining change in SAT temperature is due to other ice-sheet impacts (i.e., albedo) and changes in atmospheric circulation.

To the extent that borehole measurements capture SAT from the LGM, our results are ~ 1 °C colder than globally integrated borehole estimates that suggest LGM cooling of 4.3 ± 0.2 °C (Huang et al., 2008). Borehole measurements from Summit Greenland suggest LGM cooling of 14–16 °C (Cuffey et al., 1995; Cuffey and Clow, 1997), which is colder than our model anomalies of -9.9 ± 0.7 °C (21 ka-L) and -11.0 ± 0.8 °C (21 ka-5). This difference could in part be due to the smoothed topography in ModelE2-R relative to the actual elevation of the ice-core site, as well as due to differences in the temperature inversion over the ice sheet (Cuffey and Clow, 1997; Alley, 2000). An alternate estimate adjusting for possible changes in the temperature inversion over Greenland suggests that Greenland LGM cooling to be ~ 10 °C (Alley et al., 2010). Boreholes from Germany, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic suggest LGM cooling of 7–10 °C (Safanda and Rajver, 2001), which agree with our model anomalies of -10.1 ± 0.7 °C (21 ka-L) and -9.5 ± 0.6 °C (21 ka-5G).

change in elevation between 14 ka-L and 14 ka-5G, as above), which is consistent with values from the 21 ka simulations.

Downstream SAT differences between LIS scenarios still exist at 14 ka (see Sect. 4.1.1), so we continue to focus our temperature comparisons on this region.

Model results suggest a July SAT change in this location of $-0.8 \pm 0.7^\circ\text{C}$ (14 ka-L) and $+0.6 \pm 0.9^\circ\text{C}$ (14 ka-5G), consistent with the record at Lake El'gygytgyn suggesting July temperatures near modern conditions at 14 ka (Melles et al., 2012). The other proxy records from East Asia and Northwest Alaska suggest SAT near present conditions ($\pm 1.6^\circ\text{C}$; Peterse et al., 2011; Viau et al., 2008; Kurek et al., 2009). Our model results indicate colder 14 ka anomalies of $-2.7 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ (14 ka-L) and $-2.0 \pm 0.8^\circ\text{C}$ (14 ka-5G) for East Asia, $-2.0 \pm 0.6^\circ\text{C}$ (14 ka-L) and $-1.5 \pm 0.7^\circ\text{C}$ (14 ka-5G) for Zagoskin Lake, and $-2.6 \pm 0.7^\circ\text{C}$ (14 ka-L) and $-1.9 \pm 0.7^\circ\text{C}$ (14 ka-5G) for Burial Lake.

3.1.2 Precipitation minus evaporation

At 21 ka and 14 ka, precipitation is largely diminished, reflecting the decrease in atmospheric water vapor (global mean specific humidity anomalies of -20.2 , -19.6 , -11.9 , and -11.4 g water vapor per kg dry air for 21 ka-L, 21 ka-5G, 14 ka-L, 14 ka-5G, respectively, tracking relative anomalies in global mean temperature). In general, the largest precipitation minus evaporation (P–E) anomalies occur in the tropics (Fig. 2b and b) reflecting a southward displacement of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) as seen by the P–E over the tropical Pacific, Atlantic, South America, and Africa. This shift in the ITCZ is consistent with models and proxy records of the glacial hydrologic cycle (e.g., Peterson et al., 2000; Thompson et al., 2000; Chiang et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2004; Broccoli et al., 2006; Braconnot et al., 2007b).

In all simulations, enhanced precipitation over the Indonesian archipelago and the Arafura Sea north of Australia is likely due to a too large of land-sea contrast in ModelE2, with enhanced drying over the surrounding water masses. This feature likely traces back to too many low clouds in the tropics in ModelE2. This is not unique to

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these simulations and exists in all the CMIP5 runs by ModelE2; newer versions of ModelE2 have addressed this issue (delGenio personal communication, 2013). The lower sea level also subaerially exposes much of this region, contributing to this enhanced precipitation.

3.1.3 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the atmosphere

LGM $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ anomalies largely reflect the reduction in SAT, with the greatest depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ occurring directly over the ice sheets and across northern Asia (Fig. 2a and c). However, this direct coupling of SAT and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ does not hold everywhere. Areas of slight enrichment occur over nearly all tropical oceans basins in regions of reduced precipitation (Fig. 2b), despite globally colder SAT. In contrast, 21 ka anomalies are particularly depleted over northern Australia and into Indonesia where there is enhanced P–E.

Direct comparison of the simulated change in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ relative to 0 ka with terrestrial records that span this period shows that the 21 ka simulations capture the general change in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ where such proxy records exist (see colored dots in Fig. 2c). However, the simulations seem to do poorly in capturing the tropical speleothem records that are heavily influenced by precipitation seasonality (Wang et al., 2001; Bar-Matthews et al., 2003; Holmgren et al., 2003; Dykoski et al., 2005; Partin et al., 2007; Cheng et al., 2012). Despite this bias, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ anomalies of 21 ka-L and 21 ka-5G correlate well with these data with $r = 0.72$ and $r = 0.67$, respectively (correlations are significant with $p \leq 0.01$).

The $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ anomalies at 14 ka also reflect the reduction in SAT, particularly over the Northern Hemisphere ice sheets and northern Asia (Fig. 3a and c). The enrichment of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ over the tropical oceans is no longer evident, but the 14 ka depletion over northern Australia and into Indonesia still persists in concert with the enhanced P–E anomaly (Fig. 3b). The comparison with proxy data again captures the general spatial trends in 14 ka $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ anomalies (Fig. 3c). There is still some poor mismatch with some of the in the tropical records, but the 14 ka-L simulation still correlates well with

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in the meridional wave nature of the atmospheric jet (Fig. 2e). Most notably, the 21 ka simulations show a deepening of a trough immediately downstream of the LIS, as well as an enhanced trough over eastern Asia and an enhanced ridge over Beringia, immediately upstream of the LIS. Previous sensitivity experiments testing the impact of LGM ice sheet elevation on atmospheric circulation have described similar patterns in geopotential heights as the “stationary wave effect” (Broccoli and Manabe, 1987; Cook and Held, 1988; Abe-Ouchi et al., 2007). The 500 mb height anomalies in the 14 ka simulations reflect a similar pattern of stationary wave generation with deepening of troughs immediately downstream of the LIS and Scandinavian Ice Sheet and an enhanced ridge immediately upstream of the LIS (Fig. 3f).

3.1.5 Albedo

Surface albedo anomalies at 21 ka reflect the colder Northern Hemisphere temperatures and enhanced perennial snow cover over the ice sheets and across northern Asia (Fig. 2g). In addition, the expansion of sea ice in the Nordic Seas and the Northwest Pacific leads to an increase in surface albedo (Fig. 2g). Planetary albedo largely shows the same pattern as ground albedo, indicating that changes in shortwave reflectivity is primarily driven by surface cover changes instead of cloud cover (Fig. 2h).

Surface albedo at 14 ka is also enhanced directly over the ice sheets as well as across northern Asia, where there continues to be greater duration of seasonal snow cover relative to 0 ka (Fig. 3g). Elevated albedo over the Nordic Seas is again associated with sea ice expansion in this region, and the trends in ground albedo are largely mimicked by planetary albedo (Fig. 3h), suggesting that changes in low clouds only play a minor role on the total albedo anomaly.

3.2 Ocean changes

3.2.1 Ocean temperature

Similar to SAT, global sea surface temperatures (SST) are colder in the 21 ka simulations, with particularly strong cooling over the North Pacific (Fig. 4a). Some proxy reconstructions have suggested warmer than present conditions in this region (CLIMAP, 1981; Waelbroeck et al., 2009), but most recent GCM simulations do not have this feature (Braconnot et al., 2007a). The warmer than present interpretation may be a result of no-analogue issues with foraminifera transfer functions (Mix et al., 1999), or a limitation in LGM simulations.

The 21 ka simulations capture the general range of mean SST estimates from the Multiproxy Approach for the Reconstruction of the Glacial Ocean Surface (MARGO) proxy data in both the Pacific and Atlantic basins (Fig. 5a and b; Waelbroeck et al., 2009). The large differences between the simulations in the North Pacific indicates that this is a sensitive region for testing the model results. SST proxy records are sparse from the North Pacific, but limited data seem to indicate colder conditions. Alkenone and transfer function SST reconstructions from off the coast of Oregon document LGM cooling of 4–7 °C (Doose et al., 1997; Ortiz et al., 1997; Mangelsdorf et al., 2000; Herbert et al., 2001; Rosell-Melé et al., 2004), which are more consistent with the 21 ka-L result of 4.0 ± 0.3 °C cooling than with the 21 ka-5G cooling of 3.1 ± 0.2 °C. Alkenone records from the Sea of Okhotsk suggest LGM SST cooling of only 0–1 °C (Harada et al., 2006; Seki et al., 2004). The 21 ka-5G simulation has LGM cooling of 4.6 ± 0.2 °C in this region, and the 21 ka-L simulation shows cooling of 7.4 ± 0.2 °C, suggesting that neither simulation adequately captures SST in this somewhat isolated basin.

This cooling in 21 ka-L extends throughout the entire ocean with total global mean ocean temperature anomalies of -2.15 ± 0.01 °C (21 ka-L) and -2.01 ± 0.01 °C (21 ka-5G) (global mean ocean temperatures are scaled by mass of ocean water). Additionally, the greater global cooling in 21 ka-L persists in the deep ocean where tempera-

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ture anomalies averaged over the bottom 2000 m are -1.18 ± 0.01 °C (21 ka-L) and -1.04 ± 0.01 °C (21 ka-5G). The global mean ocean anomalies overlap with Kr/N₂ estimates of global mean ocean cooling at the LGM of 2.7 ± 0.6 °C (Headly and Severinghaus, 2007).

At 14 ka, cold SST anomalies continue throughout the global oceans, again with particular cooling in the North Pacific (Fig. 6a). The 14 ka basin-wide transects of SST show a similar pattern to 21 ka, with only slightly negative anomalies throughout most of the southern and tropical regions of the basins and larger cooling north of 40° N (Fig. 5c and d). Unfortunately, a SST compilation analogous to MARGO is not available for 14 ka, but the strong cooling in the North Pacific continues to suggest this region's importance, despite a limited number of SST records from this region. Three records from off the coast of Japan show mean 14 ka SST cooling of 1–3 °C (Sawada and Handa, 1998; Sun et al., 2005; Yamamoto et al., 2005). Our 14 ka simulations are consistent with cooling of 2.1 ± 0.2 °C (14 ka-L) and 2.0 ± 0.2 °C (14 ka-5G) in the same region. Model SST is too cold in the Sea of Okhotsk but within the uncertainty of proxy measurements, where alkenone records suggest SST cooling of 0–4 °C (Harada et al., 2006; Seki et al., 2007), compared with 4.3 ± 0.2 °C (14 ka-5G) and 4.7 ± 0.2 °C (14 ka-L). Additionally, one alkenone record from the southeastern Bering Sea suggests a SST cooling of 1–4 °C (Caissie et al., 2010; Dubois et al., 2009), while the 14 ka simulations indicate SST cooling of 5.2 ± 0.5 °C (14 ka-5G) and 5.6 ± 0.4 °C (14 ka-L).

Total global mean ocean anomalies are again colder at in the 14 ka-L simulation with anomalies of -0.83 ± 0.1 °C (21 ka-L) and -0.71 ± 0.1 °C (21 ka-5G). In the deep ocean (bottom 2000 m), however, temperature is nearly consistent with 0 ka with anomalies of -0.09 ± 0.01 °C (14 ka-L) and $+0.05 \pm 0.01$ °C (14 ka-5G).

3.2.2 Sea surface salinity

Globally averaged sea surface salinity (SSS) anomalies at 21 ka ($+0.55 \pm 0.01$ psu for 21 ka-L; $+0.60 \pm 0.01$ psu for 21 ka-5G) reflect a generally more saline ocean related to the reduction in global ocean volume. However, there are prominent regional distinc-

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More localized effects include $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ enrichment in the Arctic Ocean concurrent with elevated sea ice formation and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ depletion in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Scandinavian Ice Sheet margin where there is an increase in meltwater runoff relative to 0 ka (Fig. 4c). The 21 ka $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ anomalies also show depleted values in the Sea of Japan.

We compare the simulated change in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ relative to 0 ka using marine sediment records of foraminifera that have an independent temperature reconstruction from the same core to correct for glacial changes in SST (i.e., $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of seawater, see Sect. 2.5). The 21 ka simulations capture the general change in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ shown from the proxy data (Fig. 4c). One noticeable offset is in the Gulf of Mexico where the Ziegler et al. (2008) record in the Gulf of Florida sub-basin is not significantly influenced by LIS runoff, whereas ModelE2-R simulates a significant impact of LIS runoff consistent with other Gulf of Mexico records (Flower et al., 2004). Unfortunately, the limited number of temperature-corrected $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records that meet our selection criteria (providing data from the LGM as well as the past 2000 yr) are primarily confined to the tropics. We therefore include these data with our $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records for a global comparison of oxygen $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ at the LGM. Despite the limitations in spatial resolution of this dataset, the 21 ka-L and 21 ka-5G simulations correlate moderately well with the total $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ proxy dataset, with $r = 0.53$ and $r = 0.62$ respectively ($p \leq 0.01$ for both).

The 14 ka $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ anomalies also reflect the general trends in SSS (Fig. 6b and c). The freshening of the Arctic Ocean from glacial meltwater runoff leads to depleted $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values relative to 0 ka. The 14 ka simulations capture the general trends in the tropics-dominated proxy dataset, and the inclusion of these data into a total 14 ka $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ comparison result in correlations for 14 ka-L and 14 ka-5G of $r = 0.41$ and $r = 0.41$, respectively ($p \leq 0.01$).

3.2.4 Sea ice

There is expansion of annually averaged sea ice in the Nordic and Labrador Seas in the 21 ka simulations relative to the control (Fig. 4d), and this extent is largely the same as the maximum wintertime extent (not shown). In the Nordic Sea, the sea ice increases are primarily confined to north of Iceland. This sea ice extent is largely consistent with proxy inferences of wintertime sea ice extent from this region (Sarthein et al., 2003), but we do not capture the summer sea ice pullback of this reconstruction. In the Labrador Sea, ice extends from just south of Hudson Strait to the southwest coast of Greenland, which is consistent with perennial sea-ice reconstructions (de Vernal and Hillaire-Marcell, 2000; de Vernal et al., 2000) and previous LGM simulations (Otto-Bliesner et al., 2006, 2007; Braconnot et al., 2007a). The other region of major sea ice expansion in the 21 ka simulations occurs in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Bering Sea (Fig. 4d), also consistent with reconstructions (Shiga and Koizumi, 2000; Katsuki et al., 2010; Caissie et al., 2010).

The 14 ka simulations also have expansion of sea ice into the Nordic Sea, Sea of Okhotsk, and Bering Sea (Fig. 6d). Unfortunately there is no basin-wide reconstruction of 14 ka sea ice in the North Atlantic, although it was largely reduced to the Fram Strait by the start of the Holocene (de Vernal et al., 2008). Reconstructions from the Sea of Okhotsk suggest persistent sea ice in the region until after 6.5 ka, but the Bering Sea likely began to transition away from perennial sea ice after 17 ka (Caissie et al., 2010). However, summer sea ice extent in the Bering Sea in the 14 ka simulations is largely the same as the 0 ka simulation (not shown), consistent with this loss of perennial sea ice.

3.2.5 Ocean circulation

North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW) production is enhanced in the 21 ka simulations at the mid-latitudes (up to 50° N) but diminished at higher latitudes (50–65° N) due to a southward shift in convection sites (Fig. 4e). This is associated with a deepening and

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strengthening of overall mean AMOC transport to 30.8 ± 0.6 Sv (21 ka-L) and 33.2 ± 0.7 Sv (21 ka-5G), relative to 28.2 ± 0.7 in the control simulation. Below the NADW, however, is an enhanced contribution of Antarctic Bottom Water (AABW) from the south (Fig. 4e). In the Pacific, the 21 ka simulations show enhanced deepwater circulation from AABW and a reduction in North Pacific Intermediate Water (NPIW; Fig. 4f).

Kinematic and water mass proxy records continue to refine reconstructions of the AMOC at the LGM, with overturning strength anywhere from 30–40% weaker than present (McManus et al., 2004), to about the same as today (Lynch-Stieglitz et al., 2007; Ritz et al., 2013), and even the possibility of more rapid overturning at the LGM (Gherardi et al., 2009; Lippold et al., 2012). Water mass tracers suggest the shoaling of glacial NADW and a greater contribution of AABW (Curry and Oppo, 2005), but this increased stratification may also imply a more vigorous AMOC. At present, proxy uncertainty may preclude determination of whether the LGM AMOC was different than modern (Burke et al., 2011). Such uncertainty in circulation strength and depth is mirrored in a diverse array of AMOC results, some of which present stronger AMOC during the LGM (Otto-Bliesner et al., 2007) similar to our results. In the Pacific, the expansion of enriched $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ throughout the deep ocean suggests the increased influence of Antarctic-sourced waters in this basin (Matsumoto et al., 2002; Herguera et al., 2010). Other North Atlantic simulations have shown that enhanced AMOC is associated with the strengthening of the deep ocean circulation in the Pacific (Chikamoto et al., 2012), which is consistent with the enhanced negative stream function in our 21 ka results (Fig. 4f).

The 14 ka simulations also have enhanced NADW formation with a southward shift in convection sites (Fig. 6e). The location of maximum AMOC is approximately at the same depth as the control simulation, but overall mean transport remains elevated at 30.5 ± 0.6 Sv (14 ka-L) and 32.7 ± 0.7 Sv (14 ka-5G), relative to the control (28.2 ± 0.7 Sv). Again, below the NADW, there is an enhanced contribution of AABW. In the Pacific, Antarctic Intermediate Water (AAIW) formation is slightly enhanced and NPIW is reduced relative to the control (Fig. 6f).

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Proxy records suggest that 14 ka AMOC strength was similar to that of the LGM (McManus et al., 2004; Lynch-Stieglitz et al., 2007). However, other records suggest a more intermediate rate of overturning in shallower waters between the relatively elevated values of the LGM and the reduced values in the Holocene (Gherardi et al., 2009). In the Pacific, overturning at 14 ka was in the middle of the transition from glacial to modern conditions (Herguera et al., 2010), which is similar to our results.

4 Ice sheet topography and resulting climate differences

Our 21 and 14 ka simulations result in distinct differences from the 0 ka control due to glacial boundary conditions that are distinct from the modern. The remainder of this paper will focus on the differences between the two simulations at each time slice that arise due to changes in LIS boundary conditions alone. Since most of the climate differences directly over the ice sheet are due to orographic differences alone, we focus on the LIS impacts in other regions.

4.1 Atmosphere differences

4.1.1 Surface air temperature

Global mean SAT anomalies are significantly different between the two simulations at 21 ka (Fig. 7a). This difference is robust even after removing the region of the LIS in the global mean, suggesting that mean SAT differences are not due to SAT directly over the LIS, but rather cooling in other regions that significantly impact the global mean. Indeed, there are prominent downstream differences in SAT, particularly over Northeast Asia and the North Pacific where 21 ka-L is 6–9°C colder than 21 ka-5G (Fig. 7a). In addition, there is slight SAT cooling in 21 ka-L over the Gulf of Mexico and southwestern Europe. Immediately downwind of the ice sheet over Greenland, the 21 ka-L simulation shows slightly warmer SAT.

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While global mean SAT anomalies are indistinct at 14 ka, there are still regional distinctions between the simulations. Cooling over Northeast Asia and the North Pacific continues to occur in the 14 ka-L simulation relative to 14 ka-5G by 1–2 °C (Fig. 8a). Additionally, SATs are cooler over most of Europe in 14 ka-L but warmer over the Nordic Sea east of Iceland.

4.1.2 Precipitation minus evaporation

The location of the ITCZ is consistent between 21 ka-L and 21 ka-5G, but 21 ka-L presents greater precipitation north of the equator in the tropical Pacific (Fig. 7b). The 21 ka-5G simulation shows greater precipitation over the northern mid-latitude Pacific and across eastern America, south of the LIS.

At 14 ka, differences in P–E between simulations are small, but highlight a slight enhancement of Pacific precipitation south of the equator in 14 ka-5G (Fig. 8b). Differences in precipitation also occur over the North Atlantic, with drier conditions in 14 ka-L along the east coast of North America and the Atlantic coast of Europe and slightly wetter conditions in the interior of the North Atlantic.

4.1.3 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the atmosphere differences

Differences in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ largely reflect the differences in SAT, with the greatest relative depletion of 21 ka-L occurring in Northeast Asia and the North Pacific, where SATs show the greatest cooling relative to 21 ka-5G (Fig. 7c). In the 14 ka simulations, there is a decoupling between the differences in SAT and the differences in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$, with relatively enriched $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ in 21 ka-L across Northeastern Africa and into south-central Asia (Fig. 8c). Additionally, the 21 ka-L shows relatively enriched values across much of the Arctic, but depleted values immediately downwind of the LIS and over southern Greenland.

4.1.4 Atmospheric circulation

The Northern Hemisphere subpolar jet in 21 ka-5G is stronger and more zonal across the mid-latitude Pacific and to the south of the LIS (Fig. 7e). In contrast, the subpolar jet in 21 ka-L is more wave-like and lies to the north of the 21 ka-5G jet across most of Asia and the Pacific. Differences in surface wind speed reflect this jet displacement, particularly over the North Pacific, where the more northern 21 ka-L jet results in greater surface winds. Across much of the North Atlantic, 21 ka-5G surface winds are stronger than 21 ka-L, where both simulations are already enhanced relative to 0 ka (Fig. 2d).

Differences in 500 mb height between the two 21 ka simulations express a shift in the location and depth of the dominant stationary wave patterns, particularly over Siberia and Beringia, where 21 ka-L heights are substantially lower than those in the 21 ka-5G simulation (Fig. 7f). These lower heights in 21 ka-L reflect a deepening of the trough over eastern Asia and a weakening of the ridge over Beringia relative to 21 ka-5G. This general reduction of 500 mb heights across this region provide a greater influence of Arctic air masses that help to drive the colder SAT (Sect. 4.1.1).

The higher LIS in 14 ka-5G still induces an increase in jet speed and southward displacement of the polar and subtropical jets relative to 14 ka-L (Fig. 8e). However the stronger subpolar jet in 14 ka-5G now extends further to the north over northern Europe. The general differences in 500 mb heights and the implied stationary wave pattern in the 21 ka simulations still exists between the 14 ka simulations, with a continued lowering of 14 ka-L 500 mb heights in Northeast Asia and Beringia that is associated with the colder SAT in this region relative to 14 ka-5G (Fig. 8f).

4.1.5 Albedo

The 21 ka-L simulation presents a region of higher albedo in Northeastern Asia, where there is additional snow cover over Siberia and Beringia, along with a relative expansion of sea ice over the Sea of Okhotsk (Fig. 7g). The 21 ka-5G has a higher albedo in a region along the southern margin of the LIS, likely due to the southward tracking of the

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5 zie and Mississippi Rivers (Fig. 9b). 21 ka-5G presents a greater contribution of Scandinavian Ice Sheet melt water through the Ob and Yenesei Rivers leading to a localized freshening of SSS along the coast, but in general, Arctic surface waters are more saline in 21 ka-5G. North Tropical Pacific surface waters are slightly fresher in 21 ka-L in association with enhanced P–E over this region (Fig. 7b).

10 SSS differences at 14 ka are largely similar to those in the 21 ka simulations, with fresher waters in 14 ka-L in the Arctic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and along the Atlantic coast of North America (Fig. 10b). The 14 ka-L simulation continues to present localized freshening due to greater melt water contributions of the LIS to the MacKenzie and Mississippi Rivers. SSS differences are negligible over the Pacific, reflecting the minimal changes in P–E (Fig. 8b).

4.2.3 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the surface ocean differences

15 The differences in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_o$ at 21 ka are largely similar to the differences in SSS, with depleted values in 21 ka-L relative to 21 ka-5G across the Arctic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico (Fig. 9c), reflecting the enhanced melt water contributions in 21 ka-L to the MacKenzie and Mississippi Rivers (Fig. 9b). In addition, 21 ka-L waters are depleted along the north shore of the Scandinavian Ice Sheet, consistent with reduced SSS and enhanced melt water contribution in 21 ka-5G along this margin. The Sea of Japan shows slightly depleted $\delta^{18}\text{O}_o$ values in 21 ka-L but no change in SSS, suggesting a shift in the isotopic composition of runoff arriving to this basin but a consistent volume of this runoff between the simulations.

20 In the 14 ka simulations, however, this relationship between SSS and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_o$ becomes decoupled, with fresher Arctic conditions in 14 ka-L associated with more enriched values of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_o$ relative to 14 ka-5G (Fig. 10c). However, the 14 ka-L simulation continues to show depleted values in relation to the greater contribution of fresh water from the MacKenzie and Mississippi drainage outlets. In addition, the Sea of Japan continues to reflect a difference in the isotopic composition of river runoff to the basin, but here the 14 ka-5G simulation presents depleted $\delta^{18}\text{O}_o$ values. Again, the lack of

creased contribution of AAIW, but the differences do not extend to include AABW (Fig. 10f).

5 The effects of ice-sheet topography

Uncertainty in the height of the LIS has a measurable impact on the simulated climate in GISS ModelE2-R, particularly at 21 ka, where global mean SATs are significantly different between 21 ka-L and 21 ka-5G. This response to changes in LIS topography alone is due to a series of differences in the 21 ka climate, initiated by the differences in atmospheric circulation that arise due to the enhanced topographic barrier in the LIS of 21 ka-5G. In both 21 ka simulations, the polar jet is forced to the south of the LIS (Fig. 2e). However, the elevated topographic barrier in the 21 ka-5G LIS drives the polar jet to be more zonal, whereas the 21 ka-L jet circulation has a greater meridional component reflecting a shift in the downstream stationary waves in the Northern Hemisphere relative to 21 ka-5G, as seen in 500 mb height differences (Fig. 7f). The primary impact of these stationary wave differences is downstream colder temperatures across Siberia, Beringia, and the North Pacific, leading to elevated sea ice in the Sea of Okhotsk and Bering Sea, as well as enhanced snow cover across Siberia (Figs. 2 and 9). Both of these impacts lead to an increase in ground albedo, thus reducing the total incoming shortwave budget in 21 ka-L (Fig. 7g and h). This snow cover-albedo positive feedback thus leads to further global cooling.

In the 14 ka simulations, the difference in the magnitude of maximum LIS height is smaller between the two reconstructions, but there is still downstream cooling over Siberia and Beringia in 14 ka-L related to a similar difference in atmospheric circulation and stationary waves (Fig. 3e, f). However, differences in snow cover and surface albedo are no longer present across this region (Fig. 7g), and the global mean temperatures between 14 ka-L and 14 ka-5G are equivalent. This comparison with the 21 ka simulation might suggest a minimum cutoff in LIS maximum elevation difference that induces strong enough changes in atmospheric circulation to cause significant differ-

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ences in global mean surface temperature through a snow-albedo feedback. However, the 14 ka simulations are also forced with elevated boreal summer insolation and greenhouse gases, such that generally warmer globally averaged temperatures at 14 ka (relative to 21 ka) may preclude the expansion of snow and sea ice in this region, eliminating the possibility of inducing this snow-albedo cooling feedback, even with the differences in planetary wave strength induced by LIS topographic differences.

Significant differences in ocean circulation also arise due changes in the LIS topography. All of our simulations show increased AMOC transport relative to the control, with southward displacement of the NADW formation (Figs. 4e and 6e). Glacial surface winds are enhanced over the North Atlantic (relative to 0 ka) in relation to the southward shift in the polar jet (Figs. 2d and 3d). Such windier conditions may provide the mechanism driving enhanced overturning in our simulations (Wunsch, 2003). In each the 21 and 14 ka simulation pairings, the higher LIS (21 ka-5G and 14 ka-5G) results in a stronger AMOC (Figs. 9e and 10e). In either case, there is no significant change in river runoff between the simulations, but both 21 ka-5G and 14 ka-5G have stronger wind speeds over the North Atlantic relative to their 21 ka-L and 14 ka-5G counterparts, leading to enhanced wind-driven overturning. These differences in AMOC strength are transferred to the deep Pacific with enhanced contribution of AAIW and AABW associated with the stronger AMOC (Chikamoto et al., 2012). Despite these changes in circulation, the 21 ka-L simulation has colder ocean temperatures (relative to 21 ka-5G) in both the globally averaged ocean and the deep ocean, suggesting ocean temperatures are reflecting the overall colder climate and reduced heat content of the system as would be expected from the snow-albedo feedback mechanism driving colder SAT.

To better constrain the range of climate variability that arise from uncertainty in LIS topography, more data are needed from regions where resulting climate differences are the greatest. The region of Siberia, Beringia, and the North Pacific have modeled differences in SAT, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, surface albedo, SST and sea concentrations, all related to the differences in atmospheric circulation that arise due to variation in LIS topography in both 21 and 14 ka simulations. Therefore, this region serves an important model-data

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test location on the LIS reconstructions used in GCMs. Unfortunately, the distribution of LGM SST proxy records from the North Pacific is limited (Kucera et al., 2005; Waelbroeck et al., 2009) and most records that do exist are confined along coastal regions, where GCMs may not adequately resolve changes in the Kuroshio and California Currents, and sea level boundary conditions may also significantly influence ocean current behavior (Ortiz et al., 1997; Kao et al., 2006). In addition, only a few terrestrial reconstructions of SAT and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ exist from lake records in the region (Melles et al., 2012; Peterse et al., 2011; Viau et al., 2008; Kurek et al., 2009), but perennial ice cover, proxy uncertainties, and the possibility of no-analog environments in pollen reconstructions may limit the ability of such reconstructions to distinguish the climate differences discussed in this paper. Future data collection should focus on Northeast Asia and the North Pacific to help test LIS boundary conditions.

6 Implications for ice sheet stability

The extent and volume of the LIS was determined by a number of glaciological factors that impact ice sheet stability. LIS surface mass balance was paced by boreal summer insolation (Hays et al., 1976; Imbrie and Imbrie, 1980), with particular focus on the obliquity band (Huybers and Wunsch, 2005). Such continuous cycling of boreal summer insolation limits the size of the LIS through latitudinal shifts in the equilibrium line altitude moving in step with insolation (Oerlemans, 1991; Ruddiman, 2002). Ice sheet size is also limited by an ice thickness-basal melting negative feedback, whereby increases in ice thickness can lead to a decrease in the pressure melting point, decoupling the ice sheet from its bed and allowing for enhanced basal sliding and ice height drawdown (Clarke, 1987; Payne, 1995; Marshall and Clark, 2002). Such thermal instabilities may be exacerbated by subglacial till rheology conditions that might also limit ice sheet height (Clark et al., 1994; Clark and Pollard, 1998; Licciardi et al., 1998).

Our results may suggest an additional limit on LIS height. As shown in our LGM simulations, the larger LIS in 21 ka-5G leads to a warmer global mean SAT due to

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atmospheric circulation changes and the snow-albedo feedback in Northeast Asia. That an increase in LIS maximum height leads to global surface warming might suggest a climatically-driven negative feedback on LIS surface mass balance that limits ice sheet height above a certain threshold. Satellite-based gravity field measurements of glacial isostatic adjustment have suggested the need for revisions to ICE-5G (Peltier and Drummond, 2008; Peltier, 2009) to be included in the upcoming ICE-6G that lower maximum LIS elevation (Peltier, 2010; otherwise see PMIP3 boundary conditions, <http://pmip3.lsce.ipsl.fr/>). These revisions may imply that LIS elevation in ICE-5G is above the threshold of this elevation-warming feedback. In order to test this feedback mechanism, more analysis should be conducted on the impact of this SAT difference and ice-sheet topography on LIS surface mass balance.

7 Implications for testing LGM climate reconstructions

We present a range of climate variability that develops solely due to two different physically-based reconstructions of the LIS. This range of uncertainty in this boundary condition alone is enough to provide significant differences in LGM climate. Previous sensitivity experiments testing the impact of “ice” vs. “no ice” in model boundary conditions have shown large differences in LGM climate due to changes in atmospheric circulation and its attendant influence on ocean circulation (Abe Ouchi et al., 2007; Otto-Bliesner et al., 2006; Pausata et al., 2011; Hofer et al., 2012; Tharammal et al., 2012). Our 21 ka model results show that even a 20% change in LIS elevation between two LIS reconstructions still has a similar impact on atmospheric and oceanic circulation and their influence on the LGM climate state. This suggests that the range of uncertainty within the existing LIS reconstructions can lead to significantly different results in simulated regional and global climate.

The ability of GCMs to capture LGM AMOC is often used as a test of model skill (Timm and Timmerman, 2007; Liu et al., 2009). Despite a range of proxy estimates for an AMOC target value (Yu et al., 1996; Adkins et al., 2002; McManus et al., 2004; Curry

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and Oppo, 2005; Lynch-Steiglitz et al., 2007), coupled climate models simulate different strengths and depths of the AMOC (Otto-Bliesner et al., 2007; Weber et al., 2007). The strength of the PMIP approach toward simulating the LGM is in the assessment of climate variability (i.e., AMOC) across a variety of models physics and design with a common fixed set of boundary conditions. However, our results suggest that AMOC strength in a single model may vary by nearly 10% in response to changes in LIS topography alone, meaning that any uncertainties in the LIS boundary condition may be translated into the uncertainty in this important test of model skill. Thus, the uncertainty in the range of PMIP assessment of AMOC might be expanded with inclusion of LIS topographic uncertainty.

8 Implications for climate sensitivity

The LGM provides the most recent large-scale change in global climate and greenhouse gas concentrations through which global climate sensitivity can be assessed (Crucifix, 2006; Hansen et al., 2008; Schmittner et al., 2011; Hargreaves et al., 2012; PALAEOSENS, 2012). However, our model results suggest that significant differences in global mean temperature arise due to variability in LIS topography alone, suggesting that the use of models to constrain CO₂ sensitivity for the LGM should include some assessment of this boundary condition uncertainty in the overall range of possible sensitivity estimates. This analysis is particularly relevant in the assessment of how such uncertainty in boundary conditions leads to the development of fast feedbacks (i.e., snow-albedo) that are important in driving sensitivity (PALAEOSENS, 2012). Our 14 ka simulations show that even small differences in LIS height can lead to differences in atmospheric circulation, but these differences are not enough to initiate the snow-albedo feedback. Depending on the model (or other boundary conditions), this preconditioning may be sufficient to initiate fast-feedback mechanisms that lead to significant differences in global mean SAT, while other models may not provide the same

response. Such a change in LIS within the uncertainty of reconstruction estimates may have a similar effect in other models.

Given such large uncertainties in the high-latitude boundary conditions and their associated impact on high-latitude climate, Hargreaves et al. (2012) instead correlated simulated LGM SAT from 20° S–30° N with the global mean SAT change from CO₂ doubling sensitivity (2 × CO₂) simulations of each model in a grouping of PMIP2/CMIP3 pairings, which circumvented earlier issues with correlating global LGM SAT with 2 × CO₂ simulations (Crucifix, 2006). Our results suggest an additional source of high-latitude variability in LGM SAT that arises due to uncertainty in LIS topography alone, giving credence to the former study's focus on tropical SAT at the LGM to constrain CO₂ sensitivity. On the contrary, this additional source of uncertainty from ice-sheet topography in a region where LGM SAT anomalies are already at their greatest may suggest that focusing on the tropics could underestimate the full range of uncertainty in CO₂ sensitivity estimates.

9 Uncertainty in other boundary conditions

Finally, we have only assessed the impact of changing LIS height in one GCM. A number of the other LGM boundary conditions have been shown to significantly impact the global mean climate state, particularly the dust/aerosol forcing (Penner et al., 2004; Lohmann and Feichter, 2005; Forster et al., 2007; Chylek and Lohmann, 2008) and vegetation land cover (Jahn et al., 2005). The large range of uncertainties in both the LGM and deglacial dust forcing (Petit et al., 1981; Thompson et al., 1995; Mahowald et al., 1999; Reader et al., 1999; Power et al., 2008) and vegetation dynamics (Jackson et al., 2000; Prentice et al., 2000; Harrison et al., 2001; Ray and Adams, 2001; Bigelow et al., 2003; Williams, 2003; Pickett et al., 2004; Williams et al., 2011) suggests the need to determine the sensitivity of the climate response to the uncertainties in these boundary conditions. Future sensitivity studies will have offline coupling of ModelE2 boundary conditions to the Lund–Potsdam–Jena (LPJ) dynamic vegetation

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model (Sitch et al., 2003; Gerten et al., 2004; Bondeau et al., 2007) to assess the impact of this land surface choice.

10 Conclusions

We attempt to assess the range of climate uncertainty that results from variability in the possible reconstructions of the LIS elevation at two different time slices, 21 ka and 14 ka. The simulated climate at each time slice results in significant differences in atmospheric and oceanic climate. In particular, the 21 ka-L is significantly colder than the 21 ka-5G simulation in both SAT and ocean temperatures, which is due to a snow-albedo feedback in Northeast Asia that reduces the shortwave contribution to the system. Additionally, the two LIS simulations at each time slice result in significant differences in the AMOC, suggesting that any given model's ability to capture LGM anomalies in ocean overturning may be influenced as much by the LIS boundary condition as by limitations in model physics. Future research should work on minimizing the uncertainty in the LIS reconstructions, thus reducing their impact on the uncertainty in simulated glacial climate.

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Table 1. Boundary conditions for experiments presented in this paper. The abbreviations for the orbital parameters refer to eccentricity (E), obliquity in degree (O), and angular precession (longitude of perihelion, or omega) in degree (P) (Berger and Loutre, 1991).

Simulation	Time Slice	Orbital Parameters	Greenhouse Gas Concentrations	Sea level Change	LIS geometry and Max Elevation
21 ka-L	21 ka	E: 0.019398 O: 22.989 P: 113.98	CO ₂ : 188 ppm CH ₄ : 385 ppm N ₂ O: 200 ppm	–120 m	Licciardi et al. (1998) 3560 m
21 ka-5G	21 ka	E: 0.019398 O: 22.989 P: 113.98	CO ₂ : 188 ppm CH ₄ : 385 ppm N ₂ O: 200 ppm	–120 m	Peltier (2004) 4520 m
14 ka-L	14 ka	E: 0.020180 O: 24.004 P: 228.37	CO ₂ : 239 ppm CH ₄ : 630 ppm N ₂ O: 261 ppm	–86 m	Licciardi et al. (1998) 2890 m
14 ka-5G	14 ka	E: 0.020180 O: 24.004 P: 228.37	CO ₂ : 239 ppm CH ₄ : 630 ppm N ₂ O: 261 ppm	–86 m	Peltier (2004) 3400 m
Control	Preindustrial (0 ka)	E: 0.017236 O: 23.446 P: 101.37	CO ₂ : 285 ppm CH ₄ : 791 ppm N ₂ O: 275 ppm	0 m	Modern

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Table 2. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ proxy records used in model-data comparison of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_o$. Records were selected that have continuous coverage from the LGM to preindustrial. For ocean records, an additional selection criteria required the existence an associated independent temperature proxy (i.e., Mg/Ca) to calculate $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ from $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ (Bemis et al., 1998).

Reference	Proxy	Lat (° N)	Lon (° E)
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ records			
Bar-Matthews et al. (2003)	Speleothem	31.5	35.0
Cheng et al. (2012)	Speleothem	42.9	81.8
Cruz et al. (2005)	Speleothem	-27.2	-49.2
Dykoskie et al. (2005)	Speleothem	-27.2	-49.2
Holmgren et al. (2003)	Speleothem	-24.0	29.2
Partin et al. (2007)	Speleothem	4.0	114.0
Wang et al. (2001)	Speleothem	25.3	108.1
Wang et al. (2007)	Speleothem	-27.2	-49.2
Williams et al. (2005)	Speleothem	-42.0	172.0
Dansgaard et al. (1993)	GRIP ice core	72.6	-37.6
Grootes et al. (1993)	GISP2 ice core	72.6	-38.5
Svensson et al. (2008)	NGRIP ice core	75.1	-42.3
Thompson et al. (1998)	Bolivia ice core	-18.0	-69.0
Kohn and McKay (2010)	Megafauna teeth (LGM only)	45.0	-108.0
$\delta^{18}\text{O}_o$ records			
Benway et al. (2006)	Marine sediment core	7.9	-83.6
Carlson et al. (2008b)	Marine sediment core	33.7	-57.6
Carlson et al. (2008b)	Marine sediment core	32.8	-76.3
Carlson et al. (2008b)	Marine sediment core	-27.5	-46.5
Chen et al. (2010)	Marine sediment core	26.6	125.8
Govil and Naidu (2010)	Marine sediment core	14.5	72.7
Klinkhammer et al. (2009)	Marine sediment core	7.9	83.6
Koutavas et al. (2002)	Marine sediment core	-1.2	-89.7
Lea et al. (2000)	Marine sediment core	2.3	-91.0
Lea et al. (2003)	Marine sediment core	10.7	-64.9
Lea et al. (2006)	Marine sediment core	0.5	-92.4
Mohtadi et al. (2010)	Marine sediment core	-1.5	100.1
Mohtadi et al. (2010)	Marine sediment core	-5.9	103.2
Oppo and Sun (2005)	Marine sediment core	19.6	117.6
Pahnke et al. (2003)	Marine sediment core	-45.5	174.9
Sagawa et al. (2006)	Marine sediment core	36.1	141.8
Skinner and Shackleton (2004)	Marine sediment core	37.8	-10.2
Steinke et al. (2006)	Marine sediment core	6.6	113.4
Steinke et al. (2008)	Marine sediment core	6.6	113.4
Steinke et al. (2011)	Marine sediment core	19.5	116.3
Stott et al. (2007)	Marine sediment core	-10.6	125.4
Stott et al. (2007)	Marine sediment core	-5.0	133.4
Stott et al. (2007)	Marine sediment core	6.3	125.8
Visser et al. (2003)	Marine sediment core	-4.7	117.9
Weldeab et al. (2005)	Marine sediment core	2.5	9.4
Weldeab et al. (2006)	Marine sediment core	-4.6	-36.6
Weldeab et al. (2007)	Marine sediment core	2.5	9.4
Ziegler et al. (2008)	Marine sediment core	29.0	-87.1
Xu et al. (2008)	Marine sediment core	-13.1	121.8

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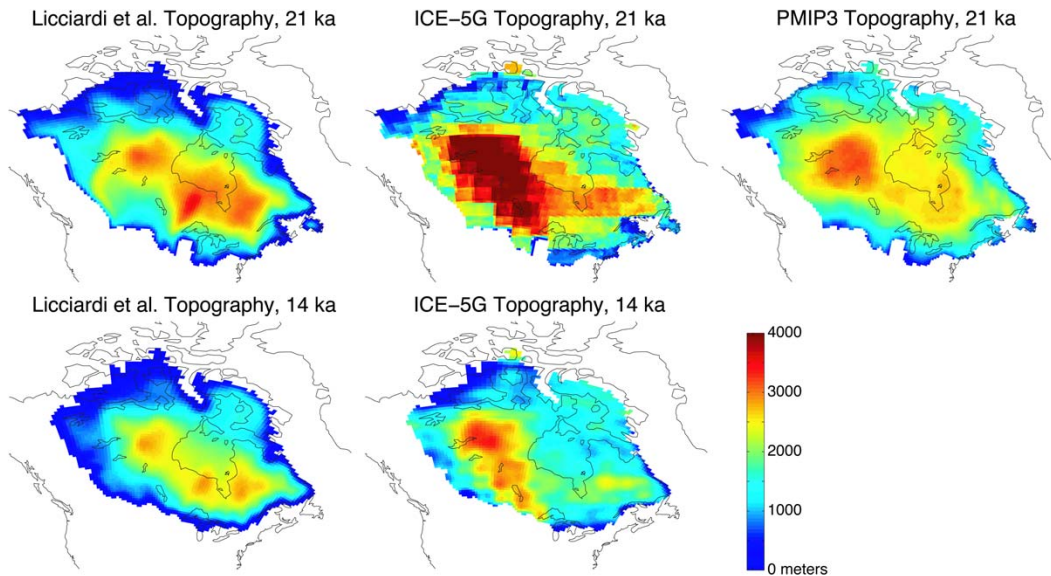


Fig. 1. Laurentide Ice Sheet topographies used in 21 ka (top row) and 14 ka (bottom row) simulations. The left column presents the Licciardi et al. (1998) reconstructions used in 21 ka-L and 14 ka-L. The middle column presents the ICE-5G reconstructions (Peltier, 2004) used in 21 ka-5G and 14 ka-5G. For comparison, the single plot in the right column shows the LIS topography used in the PMIP3 boundary conditions (<http://pmip3.lsce.ipsl.fr/>).

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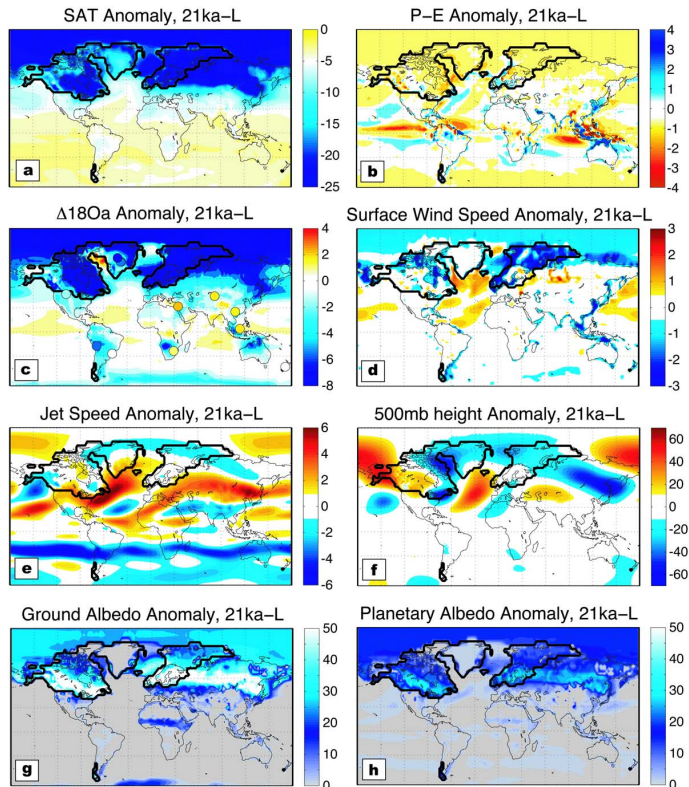


Fig. 2. 21 ka anomalies (21 ka-L minus 0 ka), for the following annually averaged atmospheric variables: **(a)** Surface Air Temperature (°C); **(b)** Precipitation minus Evaporation (mm day⁻¹); **(c)** $\delta^{18}\text{O}_a$ (‰) with anomalies from proxy records (see Table A1) plotted as circles with the same colorbar; **(d)** Surface Wind Speed (m s⁻¹); **(e)** Atmospheric Jet Speed (m s⁻¹); **(f)** Geopotential height at the 500 mb level, with zonal mean removed (m); **(g)** Ground Albedo (%); **(h)** Planetary Albedo (%). Ice sheet extents outlined in bold black line.

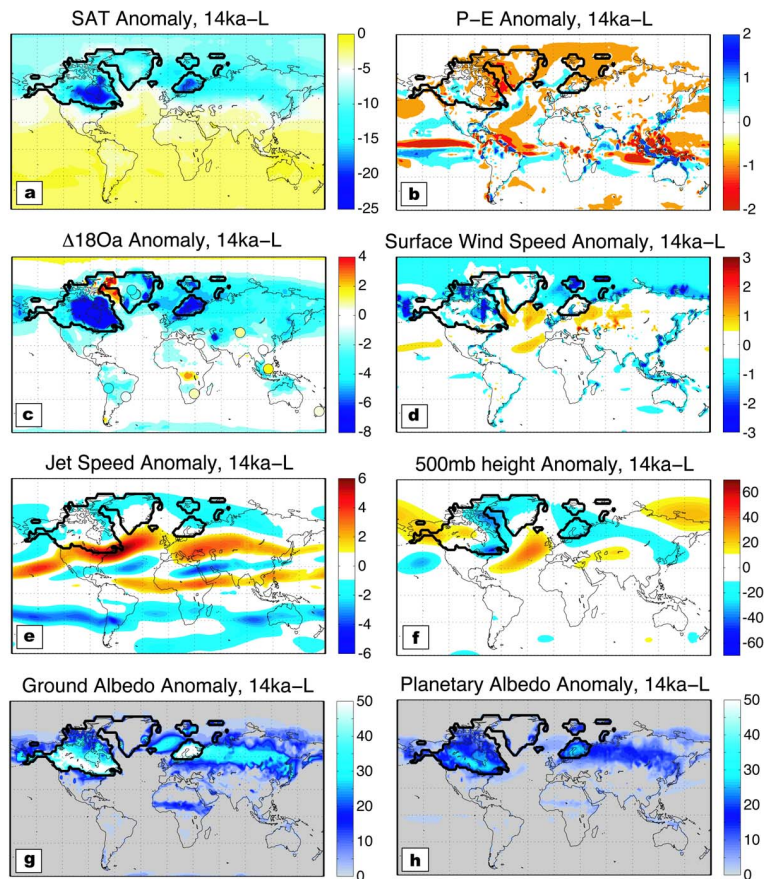


Fig. 3. Same as Fig. 2, but for 14 ka anomalies (14 ka-L minus 0 ka).

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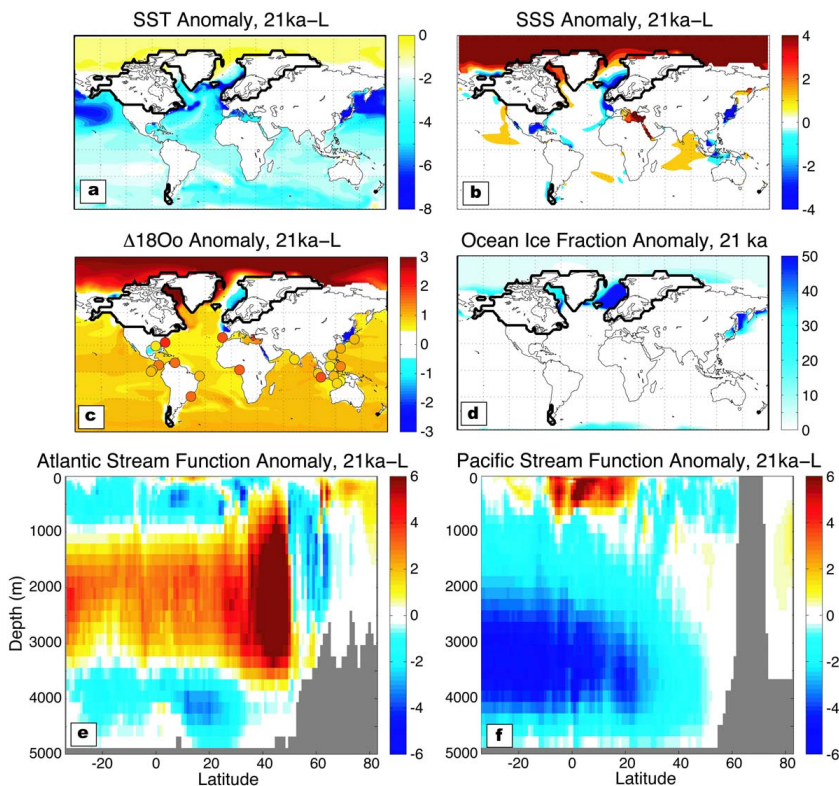


Fig. 4. 21 ka anomalies (21 ka-L minus 0 ka), for the following annually averaged ocean variables: **(a)** Sea Surface Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$); **(b)** Sea Surface Salinity (psu); **(c)** $\delta^{18}\text{O}_o$ (‰) with anomalies from proxy records (see Table A1) plotted as circles with the same color-bar; **(d)** Sea Ice Fraction (%); **(e)** Atlantic Ocean overturning stream function (Sv); **(f)** Pacific Ocean overturning stream function (Sv).

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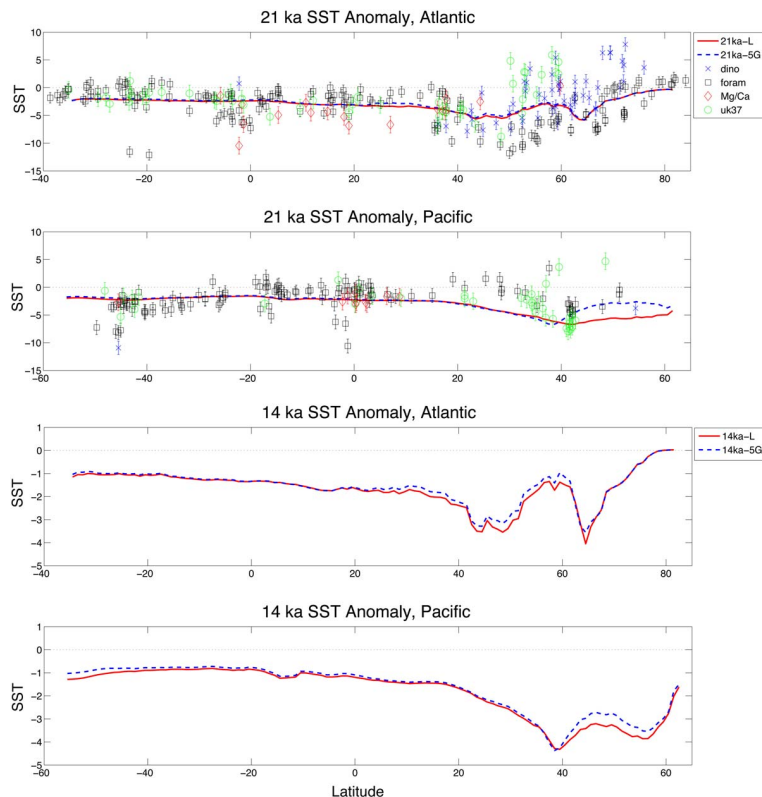


Fig. 5. Longitudinal transects of SST anomalies averaged across the Atlantic and Pacific basins, with comparison to published MARGO data and uncertainties for the 21 ka simulations (Waelbroeck et al., 2009). MARGO data is separated by categories of proxies used in the reconstruction of SST as follows: blue x's, dinoflagellates; black squares, foraminifera; red diamonds, Mg/Ca; and green circles, alkenones (U_{37}^K). A similar compilation of SST records does not exist for 14 ka.

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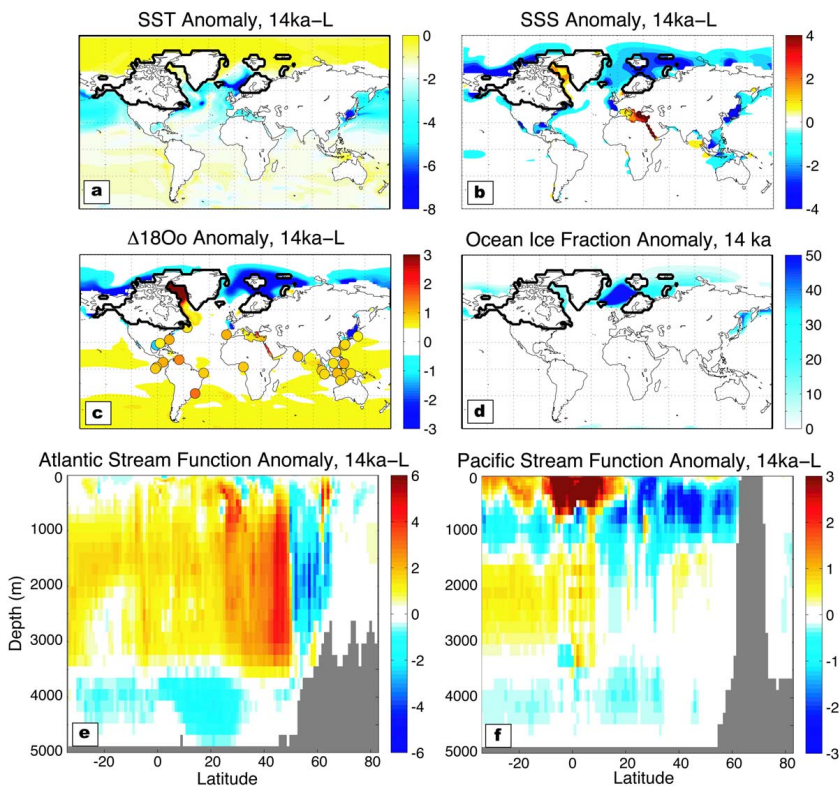


Fig. 6. Same as Fig. 4, but for 14 ka anomalies (14 ka-L minus 0 ka).

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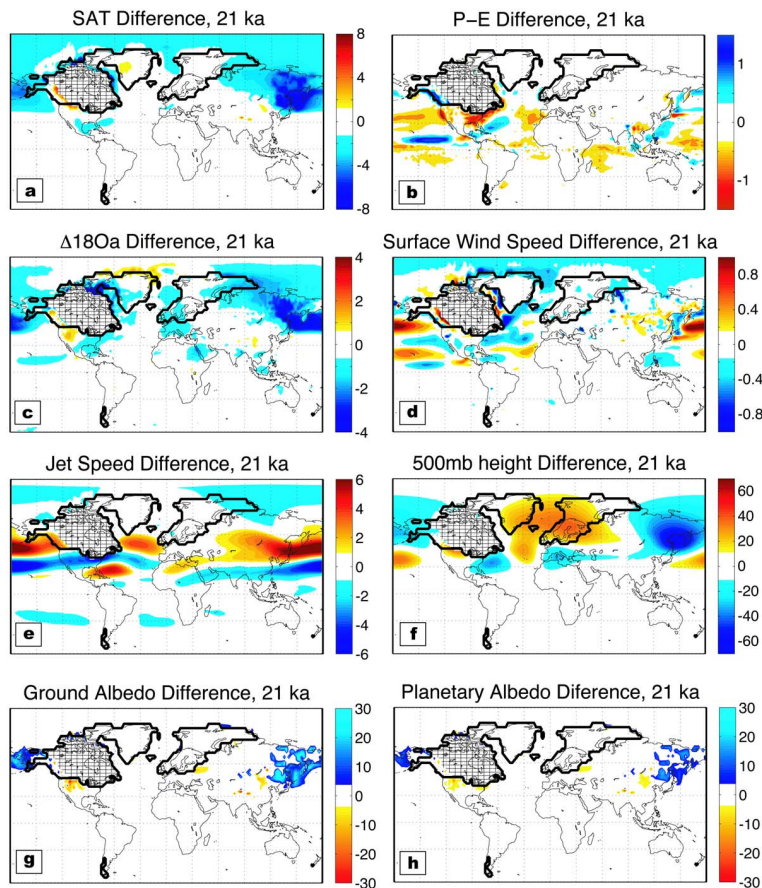


Fig. 7. Differences between 21 ka simulations (21 ka-L minus 21 ka-5G) for the same atmospheric variables presented in Fig. 2. The LIS is masked out to focus on downstream differences.

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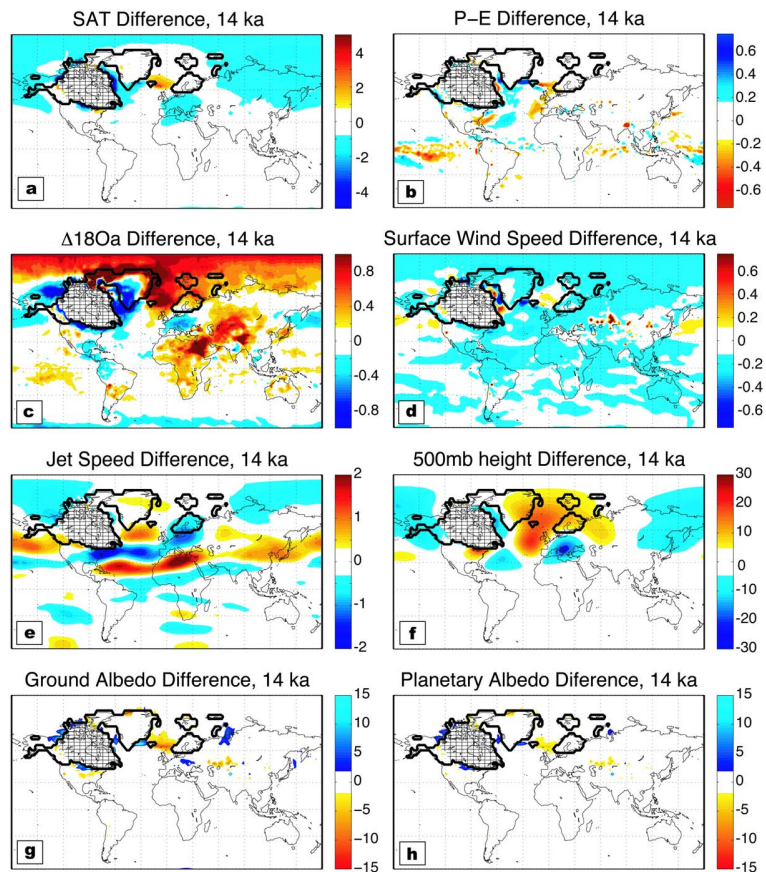


Fig. 8. Same as Fig. 7, but with the atmospheric differences between 14 ka simulations (14 ka-L minus 14 ka-5G).

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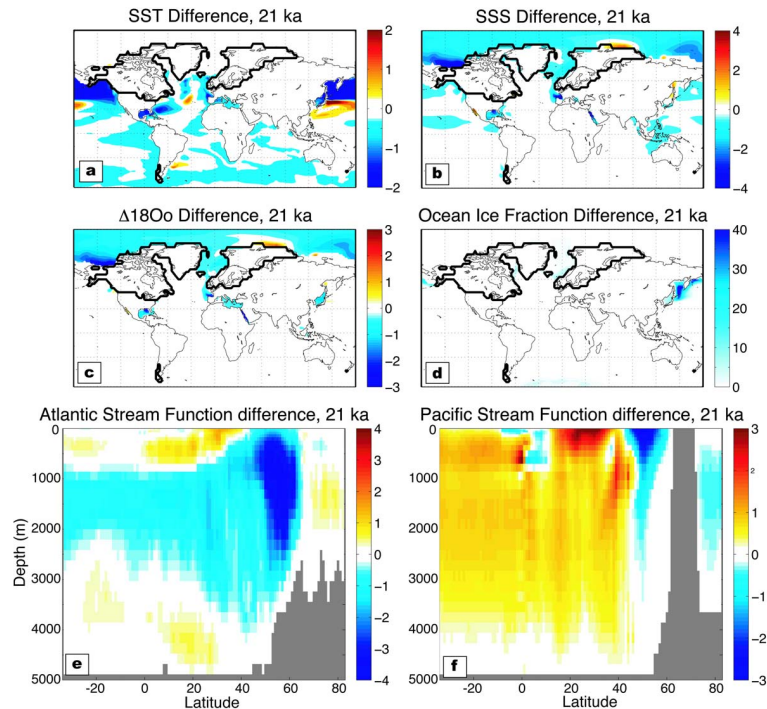


Fig. 9. Differences between 21 ka simulations (21 ka-L minus 21 ka-5G) for the same ocean variables presented in Fig. 4.

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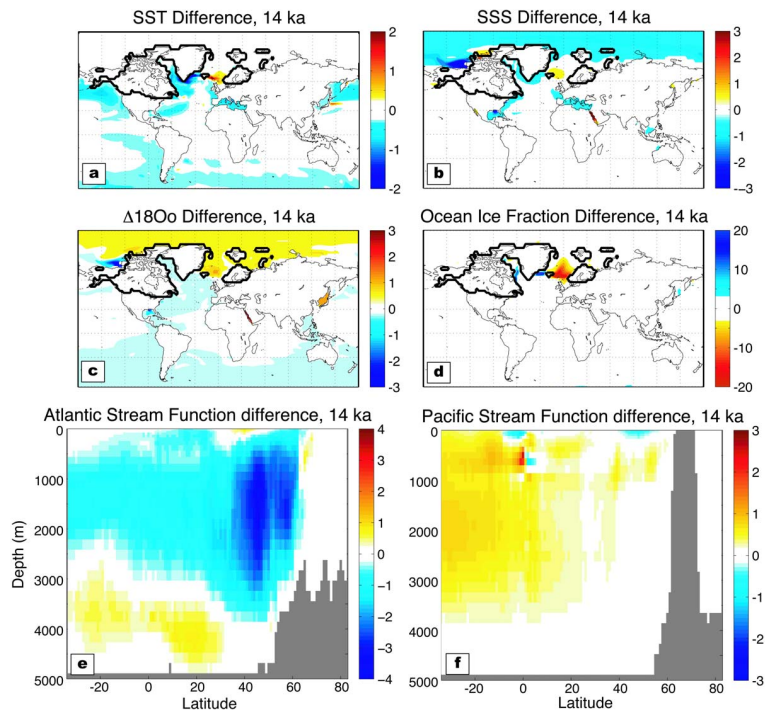


Fig. 10. Same as Fig. 9, but with the ocean differences between 14 ka simulations (14 ka-L minus 14 ka-5G).

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