



1 Deep Ocean Temperatures through Time

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7 [Abstract](#)

8 Benthic oxygen isotope records are commonly used as a proxy for global mean surface temperatures
9 during the late Cretaceous and Cenozoic, and the resulting estimates have been extensively used in
10 characterising major trends and transitions in the climate system, and for analysing past climate
11 sensitivity. However, some fundamental assumptions governing this proxy have rarely been tested.
12 Two key assumptions are: (a) benthic foraminiferal temperatures are geographically well mixed and
13 are linked to surface high latitude temperatures, and (b) surface high latitude temperatures are well
14 correlated with global mean temperatures. To investigate the robustness of these assumptions
15 through geological time, we performed a series of 109 climate model simulations using a unique set
16 of paleogeographical reconstructions covering the entire Phanerozoic at the stage-level. The
17 simulations have been run for at least 5000 model years to ensure that the deep ocean is in dynamic
18 equilibrium. We find that the correlation between deep ocean temperatures and global mean
19 surface temperatures is good for the Cenozoic and thus the proxy data are reliable indicators for this
20 time period, albeit with a standard error of 2K. This uncertainty has not normally been assessed and
21 needs to be combined with other sources of uncertainty when, for instance, estimating climate
22 sensitivity based on using $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ measurements from benthic foraminifera. The correlation between
23 deep and global mean surface temperature becomes weaker for pre-Cenozoic time periods (when
24 the paleogeography is significantly different than the present-day). The reasons for the weaker
25 correlation includes variability in the source region of the deep water (varying hemispheres but also
26 varying latitudes of sinking), the depth of ocean overturning (some extreme warm climates have
27 relatively shallow and sluggish circulations weakening the link between surface and deep ocean),
28 and the extent of polar amplification (e.g. ice albedo feedbacks). Deep ocean sediments prior to the
29 Cretaceous are rare, so extending the benthic foram proxy further into deeper time is problematic,
30 but the model results presented here would suggest that the predicted deep ocean temperatures
31 would probably be unreliable.



32

33 1. Introduction

34

35 One of the most widely used proxies for estimating global mean surface temperature through the
36 last 100 million years is benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ measurements from deep sea foraminifera (Zachos et al.,
37 2001), (Zachos et al., 2008), (Cramer et al., 2009), (Friedrich et al., 2012). Two key underlying
38 assumptions are that $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from benthic foraminifera represents deep ocean temperature (with a
39 correction for ice volume effects and any vital effects), and that the deep ocean water masses
40 originate from surface water in polar regions. By further assuming that polar surface temperatures
41 are well correlated with global mean surface temperatures, then deep ocean isotopes can be
42 assumed to track global mean surface temperatures. More specifically, (Hansen et al., 2008), and
43 (Hansen and Sato, 2012) argue that changes in high latitude sea surface temperatures are
44 approximately proportional to global mean surface temperatures because changes are generally
45 amplified at high latitudes but that this is offset because temperature change is amplified over land
46 areas. They therefore equate changes in benthic ocean temperatures with global mean surface
47 temperature.

48 The resulting estimates of global mean surface air temperature have been used to understand past
49 climates (e.g. (Zachos et al., 2008)). Combined with estimates of atmospheric CO_2 they have also
50 been used to estimate climate sensitivity (e.g. (Hansen et al., 2013)) and hence contribute to the
51 important ongoing debate about the likely magnitude of future climate change.

52 However, some of the underlying assumptions behind the method remains largely untested, even
53 though we know that there are major changes to paleogeography and consequent changes in ocean
54 circulation and location of deep-water formation in the deep past (e.g. (Lunt et al., 2010; Nunes and
55 Norris, 2006); (Farnsworth et al., 2019a)). Moreover, the magnitude of polar amplification is likely to
56 vary depending on the extent of polar ice caps, and changes in cloud cover (Sagoo et al., 2013), (Zhu
57 et al., 2019). These issues are likely to modify the correlation between deep ocean temperatures and
58 global mean surface temperature or, at the very least, increase the uncertainty in reconstructing
59 past global mean surface temperatures.

60 The aim of this paper is to investigate the strength and accuracy of the deep ocean temperature
61 proxy using a unique set of 109 climate model simulations of the whole Phanerozoic era (last 540
62 million years) at the stage level (approximately every 5 million years). We use this set of model
63 simulations to study the relationship between deep ocean temperature and global mean surface
64 temperature.



65 The focus of the work is to examine the mechanisms that link benthic ocean temperatures and
66 surface conditions. However, we evaluate the fidelity of the model by comparing the model
67 predicted ocean temperatures to estimates of the isotopic temperature of the deep ocean during
68 the past 110 million years ((Zachos et al., 2008), (Cramer et al., 2009), (Friedrich et al., 2012)), and
69 model predicted surface temperatures to the sea surface temperatures estimates of (O'Brien et al.,
70 2017) and (Cramwinckel et al., 2018). This gives us confidence that the model is behaving plausibly.
71 We then use the complete suite of climate simulations to examine changes in ocean circulation, ice
72 formation, and the impact on ocean and surface temperature. Our paper will not consider any issues
73 associated with assumptions regarding the relationship between deep-sea foraminifera $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and
74 various temperature calibrations because our model does not simulate the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of sea water (or
75 vital effects).

76

77 2. Simulation Methodology

78 2.1 Model Description

79 We use a variant of the Hadley Centre model, HadCM3 ((Pope et al., 2000), (Gordon et al., 2000))
80 which is a coupled atmosphere-ocean-vegetation model. The specific version, HadCM3BL-M2.1Da, is
81 described in detail in (Valdes et al., 2017). The model has a horizontal resolution of $3.75^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ in
82 longitude/latitude (roughly corresponding to an average grid box size of $\sim 300\text{km}$) in both the
83 atmosphere and the ocean. The atmosphere has 19 unequally spaced vertical levels, and the ocean
84 has 20 unequally spaced vertical levels. Though HadCM3 is relatively low resolution and complexity
85 model compared to the current CMIP5/CMIP6 state-of-the-art model, its performance at simulating
86 modern climate is comparable to many CMIP5 models (Valdes et al., 2017).

87 In order to perform paleo simulations, several important modifications to the standard model
88 described in (Valdes et al., 2017) must be incorporated:

- 89 (a) The standard pre-industrial model uses a prescribed climatological pre-industrial ozone
90 concentration (i.e. prior to the development of the “ozone” hole) which is a function of
91 latitude, atmospheric height and month of the year. However, we do not know what the
92 distribution of ozone should be in these past climates. (Beerling et al., 2011) modelled small
93 changes in tropospheric ozone for the early Eocene and Cretaceous but no comprehensive
94 stratospheric estimates are available. Hence most paleoclimate model simulations assume
95 unchanging concentrations. However, there is a problem with using a prescribed ozone
96 distribution for paleo simulations because it does not incorporate ozone feedbacks



97 associated with changes in tropospheric height. During warm climates, the model predicts
98 that the tropopause would rise. In the real world, ozone would track the tropopause rise,
99 however, this rising ozone feedback is not included in our model. This leads to substantial
100 extra warming and artificially increases the apparent climate sensitivity. Simulations of
101 future climate change have shown that ozone feedbacks can lead to an over-estimate of
102 climate sensitivity by up to 20% ((Dietmuller et al., 2014), (Nowack et al., 2015)). Therefore,
103 in order to incorporate some aspects of this feedback, we have changed the ozone scheme
104 in the model. Ozone is coupled to the model predicted tropopause height every model
105 timestep in the following simple way:

- 106 • 2.0×10^{-8} kg/kg in the troposphere
- 107 • 2.0×10^{-7} kg/kg at the tropopause
- 108 • 5.5×10^{-6} kg/kg above the tropopause
- 109 • 5.5×10^{-6} kg/kg at the top model level.

110 These values are approximate averages of present-day values and were chosen so that the
111 tropospheric climate of the resulting pre-industrial simulation was little altered compared
112 with the standard preindustrial simulations; the resulting global mean surface air
113 temperatures differed by only 0.05 °C. These modifications are similar to those used in the
114 FAMOUS model (Smith et al., 2008) except that the values in the stratosphere are greater in
115 our simulation, largely because our model vertical resolution is higher than in FAMOUS.

116 Note that these changes improve upon the scheme used by (Lunt et al., 2016). They used
117 much lower values of stratospheric ozone and had no specified value at the top of the
118 model. This resulted in their model having ~ 1°C cold bias for pre-industrial temperatures.
119 This may have also affected their estimates of climate sensitivity.

120 (b) The standard version of HadCM3 conserves the total volume of water throughout the
121 atmosphere and ocean (including in the numerical scheme) but several processes in the
122 model “lose or gain” water

- 123 1. Snow accumulates over ice sheets but there is no interactive loss through iceberg
124 calving resulting in an excess loss of fresh water from the ocean.
- 125 2. The model caps salinity at a maximum of 45 PSU (and a minimum of 0 PSU), by
126 artificially adding/subtracting fresh water to the ocean. This mostly affects small
127 enclosed seas (such as the Red Sea or enclosed Arctic) where the model does not
128 represent the exchanges with other ocean basins.



129 3. Modelled river runoff includes some river basins which drain internally. These often
130 correspond to relatively dry regions, but any internal drainage simply disappears
131 from the model.

132 4. The land surface scheme includes evaporation from sub-grid scale lakes (which are
133 prescribed as a lake fraction in each grid box, at the start of the run). The model
134 does not represent the hydrological balance of these lakes, consequently the
135 volume of the lakes does not change. This effectively means that there is a net
136 source/sink of water in the model in these regions.

137 In the standard model, these water sources/sinks are approximately balanced by a flux of
138 water into the surface ocean. This is prescribed at the start of the run and does not vary
139 during the simulations. It is normally set to a pre-calculated estimate based on an old
140 HadCM3-M1 simulation. The flux is strongest around Greenland and Antarctica and is
141 chosen such that it approximately balances the water loss described in (1) i.e. the net snow
142 accumulation over these ice sheets. There is an additional flux covering the rest of the
143 surface ocean which approximately balances the water loss from the remaining three terms
144 (2-4). The addition of this water flux keeps the global mean ocean salinity approximately
145 constant on century time scales. However, depending on the simulation the drift in average
146 oceanic salinity can be as much as 1PSU per thousand years and thus can have a major
147 impact on ultra-long runs ((Farnsworth et al., 2019a).

148 For the paleo-simulations in this paper, we therefore take a slightly different approach.
149 When ice sheets are present in the Cenozoic, we include the water flux (for the relevant
150 hemisphere) described in (1) above, based on modern values of iceberg calving fluxes for
151 each hemisphere. However, to ensure that salinity is conserved, we also interactively
152 calculate an additional globally uniform surface water flux based on relaxing the volume
153 mean ocean salinity to a prescribed value on a 20-year timescale. This ensures that there is
154 no long-term trend in ocean salinity. Tests of this update on the pre-industrial simulations
155 revealed no appreciable impact on the skill of the model relative to the observations.

156

157 2.2 Model Boundary Conditions

158 There are several boundary conditions that require modification through time. In this sequence of
159 simulations, we only modify three key time-dependent boundary conditions: 1) the solar constant, 2)
160 atmospheric CO₂ concentrations and, 3) paleogeographic reconstructions. We set the surface soil



161 conditions to a uniform medium loam everywhere. All other boundary conditions (such as orbital
162 parameters, volcanic aerosol concentrations etc.) are held constant at pre-industrial values.

163 The solar constant is based on (Gough, 1981) and increases linearly at an approximate rate of 11.1
164 Wm^{-2} per 100 Ma (0.8% per 100Ma), to 1365Wm^{-2} currently. If we assume a planetary albedo of 0.3,
165 and a climate sensitivity of $0.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{Wm}^{-2}$ (equivalent to 3°C per doubling of CO_2), then this is
166 equivalent to a temperature increase of $\sim 0.015^{\circ}\text{C}$ per million years (8.1°C over the whole of the
167 Phanerozoic).

168 Estimates of atmospheric CO_2 concentrations have considerable uncertainty. We, therefore, use two
169 alternative estimates (fig. 1a). The first uses the best fit Loess curve from (Foster et al., 2017), which
170 is also very similar to the newer data from (Witkowski et al., 2018). The CO_2 levels have considerable
171 short and long-term variability throughout the time period. The second curve removes much of the
172 shorter term variability in the Foster (2017) curve. It was used for two reasons. Firstly, a lot of the
173 finer temporal structure in the Loess curve is a product of different sampling numbers of the raw
174 data and does not necessarily correspond to real features. Secondly, the smoother curve was heavily
175 influenced by a previous (commercially confidential) sparser sequence of simulations using non-
176 public paleogeographic reconstructions and which were in good agreement with terrestrial proxy
177 datasets (Harris et al., 2017). The first-order shapes of the two curves are similar, though they are
178 very different for some time periods (e.g. Triassic and Jurassic). Both curves largely sit within the
179 range of actual data points. We refer to the simulation using the second set of CO_2 reconstructions
180 as the “smooth” CO_2 simulations, though it should be recognised that the Foster CO_2 curve has also
181 been smoothed. The Foster CO_2 curve extends only back to 420 Ma, so we have proposed two
182 alternative extensions back to 540 Ma. Both curves increase sharply so that the combined forcing of
183 CO_2 and solar constant are approximately constant over this time period (Foster et al., 2017). The
184 higher CO_2 in the Foster curve relative to the “smooth” curve is because the initial set of simulations
185 showed that the Cambrian simulations were relatively cool compared to data estimates for the
186 period (Henkes et al., 2018).

187 2.3 Paleogeographic Reconstructions

188 The 109 paleogeographic maps used in the HadleyCM3 simulations are digital representations of the
189 maps in the PALEOMAP Paleogeographic Atlas (Scotese, 2016); (Scotese and Wright, 2018). Table 1
190 lists all the time intervals that comprise the PALEOMAP Paleogeographic Atlas. The PaleoAtlas
191 contains one map for nearly every stage in the Phanerozoic. A paleogeographic map is defined as a
192 map that shows the ancient configuration of the ocean basins and continents, as well as important



193 topographic and bathymetric features such as mountains, lowlands, shallow sea, continental
194 shelves, and deep oceans.

195 Once the paleogeography for each time interval has been mapped, this information is then
196 converted into a digital representation of the paleotopography and paleobathymetry. Each digital
197 paleogeographic model is composed of over 6 million grid cells that capture digital elevation
198 information at a 10 km x 10 km horizontal resolution and 40-meter vertical resolution. This
199 quantitative, paleo-digital elevation model, or “paleoDEM”, allows us to visualize and analyze the
200 changing surface of the Earth through time using GIS software and other computer modeling
201 techniques. For use with the HadCM3L climate model, the original high-resolution elevation grid was
202 reduced to a ~111 km x ~111 km (1° x 1°) grid.

203 For a detailed description of how the paleogeographic maps and paleoDEMs were produced the
204 reader is referred to (Scotese, 2016); (Scotese and Schettino, 2017); (Scotese and Wright, 2018).
205 (Scotese and Schettino, 2017) includes an annotated bibliography of the more than 100 key sources
206 of paleogeographic information. Similar paleogeographic paleoDEMs have been produced by
207 (Baatsen et al., 2016) and (Verard et al., 2015).

208 The raw paleogeographic data reconstructs paleo-elevations and paleo-bathymetry at a resolution of
209 1° x 1°. These data were re-gridded to 3.75° x 2.5° resolution that matched the GCM using a simple
210 area (for land sea mask) or volume (for orography and bathymetry) conserving algorithm. The
211 bathymetry was lightly smoothed (using a binomial filter) to ensure that the ocean properties were
212 numerically stable. The high latitudes had this filter applied multiple times. The gridding sometimes
213 produced single grid point enclosed ocean basins, particularly along complicated coastlines, and
214 these were manually removed. Similarly, important ocean gateways were reviewed to ensure that
215 the re-gridded coastlines preserved these structures. The resulting global fraction of land is
216 summarized in fig.1b and examples are shown in figure 2. The original reconstructions can be found
217 at <https://www.earthbyte.org/paleodem-resource-scotese-and-wright-2018/>

218 The paleogeographic reconstructions also include an estimate of land ice area ((Scotese and Wright,
219 2018); fig.1c). These were converted to GCM boundary conditions assuming a simple parabolic
220 shape to estimate the ice sheet height. Unlike (Lunt et al., 2016), these ice reconstructions suggest
221 small amounts of land ice were present during the early Cretaceous

222 2.4 Spin up Methodology

223 The oceans are the slowest evolving part of the modelled climate system and can take multiple
224 millennia to reach equilibrium, depending on the initial condition and climate state. In order to
225 speed up the convergence of the model, we initialized the ocean temperatures and salinity with the



226 values from previous model simulations from similar time periods. The atmosphere variables were
227 initialized in a similar manner. Although it is always possible that a different initialization procedure
228 may produce different final states, our experience is that the HadCM3 and HadCM3L have rarely
229 shown multiple equilibria.

230 The simulations were then run until they reached equilibrium, as defined by:

- 231 1. The globally and volume integrated annual mean ocean temperature trend is less than
232 $1^{\circ}\text{C}/1000$ year, in most cases considerably smaller than this.
- 233 2. The trends in surface air temperature are less than $0.3^{\circ}\text{C}/1000$ year
- 234 3. The net energy balance at the top of the atmosphere, averaged over 100-year period at the
235 end of the simulation, is less than 0.25 Wm^{-2} (in more than 80% of the simulations, the
236 imbalance is less than 0.1 Wm^{-2}). The Gregory plot (Gregory et al., 2004) implies surface
237 temperatures are within 0.3°C of the equilibrium state.

238 These trends were chosen because they are less than typical orbital time scale variability (e.g.
239 temperature changes since the last deglaciation were approximately 5°C over 10,000 years). Most
240 simulations were well within these criteria. 70% of simulations had residual net energy balances
241 less than 0.1 Wm^{-2} , but a few simulations were slower to reach full equilibrium. The resulting time
242 series of volume integrated global, annual mean ocean temperatures are shown in fig. 3.

243 The “smooth” CO_2 simulations were all run for 5000 model years and satisfied the criteria. The
244 Foster- CO_2 simulations were initially run for a minimum of 2000 years, at which point we reviewed
245 the simulations relative to the convergence criteria. If the simulations had not converged, we
246 extended the runs for an additional 3000 years. If they had not converged at the end of 5000 years,
247 we extended them again for an additional 3000 years. After 8000 years, all simulations had
248 converged based on the convergence criteria. In general, the slowest converging simulations
249 corresponded to some of the warmest climates (final temperatures in figure 3b and 3c were
250 generally warmer than in figure 3a) and almost all had significantly different final climates compared
251 to their initialization.

252



253 Results

254 3.1 Comparison of Deep Ocean Temperatures to Benthic Ocean Data

255 Before using the model to investigate the linkage of deep ocean temperatures to global mean
256 surface temperatures, it is interesting to evaluate whether the modelled deep ocean temperatures
257 agree with the deep ocean temperatures obtained from the isotopic studies of benthic foraminifera
258 (Friedrich et al., 2012; Zachos et al., 2008). It is important to note that the temperatures are likely to
259 be strongly influenced by the choice of CO₂, so we are not necessarily seeking perfect agreement but
260 to evaluate whether the model is within a plausible range. Figure 4a compares the modelled deep
261 ocean temperature to the foraminifera data from the Cenozoic and Cretaceous (115 Ma). The
262 observed isotope data are converted to temperature using the procedures described by (Hansen et
263 al., 2013).

264 The modelled deep temperature shown in fig.4a (solid line) is the average temperature at the
265 bottom level of the model, excluding depths less than 1000m. The observed data was collected from
266 a range of depths - including mid-ocean ridges whose depth can vary from 2000m to the true
267 bottom of the ocean. To evaluate whether this procedure gave a reasonable result, we also
268 calculated the global average temperature at the model layer depth closest to 2km (2116m). This is
269 shown by the dashed line in figure 4a. In general, the agreement between model bottom water
270 temperatures and 2km temperatures is very good. The standard deviation is 0.8°C, and the
271 maximum difference is 1.6°C. Compared to the overall variability, this is a relatively small difference.

272 The total change in benthic temperatures over the late Cretaceous and Cenozoic is well reproduced
273 by the model, with the “smooth” CO₂ record being particularly good. We do not expect the model to
274 represent sub-stage changes (100,000’s of years) such as the PETM excursion or OAEs, but we do
275 expect that the broader temperature patterns should be simulated.

276 Comparison of the two simulations illustrates how strongly CO₂ controls global mean temperature.
277 The Foster-CO₂ driven simulation substantially differs from the estimates of deep-sea temperature
278 obtained from benthic forams and is generally a poorer fit to data. The greatest mismatch between
279 the Foster curve and the benthic temperature curve is during the late Cretaceous and early
280 Paleogene. Both dips in the Foster-CO₂ simulations correspond to relatively low estimates of CO₂
281 concentrations. This is because the dominant source of CO₂ values for these periods is from
282 paleosols (fig.1), which are often lower than other proxies. Unfortunately, the alternative CO₂
283 reconstructions of (Witkowski et al., 2018) have a data gap during this period.



284 A second big difference between the Foster curve and the benthic temperature curve occurs during
285 the Cenomanian-Turonian. This difference is similarly driven by a low estimate of CO₂ in the Foster-
286 CO₂ curve. These low CO₂ values are primarily based on stomatal density indices. Stomatal indices
287 also frequently suggest CO₂ levels lower than estimates obtained by other methods. The CO₂
288 estimates by (Witkowski et al., 2018) generally supports the higher levels of CO₂ (near to 1000
289 ppmv) that are suggested by the “smooth” CO₂ curve.

290 Both sets of simulations underestimate the warming during the middle Miocene. This issue has been
291 seen before in other models (You et al., 2009). In order to simulate the surface warmth of the middle
292 Miocene (15 Ma), CO₂ concentrations in the range 460–580 ppmv were required, whereas the CO₂
293 reconstructions for this period (Foster et al., 2017; Witkowski et al., 2018) are generally quite low
294 (250-400ppmv). This problem may be either due to the climate models having too low a climate
295 sensitivity or that the estimates of CO₂ are too low. It could also be related to a breakdown in the
296 relationship between temperatures and δ¹⁸O of benthic forams.

297 The original compilation of (Zachos et al., 2008) represented a relatively small portion of the global
298 ocean and the implicit assumption was made that these results represented the entire ocean basin.
299 (Cramer et al., 2009) examined the data from an ocean basin perspective and suggested that these
300 inter-basin differences were generally small during the Late Cretaceous and early Paleogene (90Ma –
301 35 Ma) and the differences between ocean basins were larger during the late Paleogene and early
302 Neogene. Our model largely also reproduces this pattern. Figure 5 shows the ocean temperature at
303 2116 m during the late Cretaceous (69 Ma), the late Eocene (39 Ma) and the Oligocene (31 Ma) for
304 the “smooth”-CO₂ simulations. In the late Cretaceous, the model temperatures are almost identical
305 in the North Atlantic and Pacific (8°C – 10°C). There is warmer deep water forming in the Indian
306 Ocean (deep mixed layer depths, not shown), off the West coast of Australia (10°C – 12°C), but
307 otherwise the pattern is very homogeneous. This is in agreement with some paleo reconstructions
308 for the Cretaceous (e.g. (Murphy and Thomas, 2012).

309 By the time we reach the late Eocene (39 Ma), the North Atlantic and Pacific remain very similar but
310 cooler deep water (6°C – 8°C) is now originating in the South Atlantic. The South Atlantic cool
311 bottom water source remains in the Oligocene, but we see a strong transition in the North Atlantic
312 to an essentially modern circulation with the major source of deep, cold water occurring in the high
313 southerly latitudes (3°C – 5°C) and strong gradient between the North Atlantic and Pacific.

314 3.2 Comparison of Model Sea Surface Temperature to Proxy Data

315 The previous section focused on benthic temperatures, but it is also important to evaluate whether
316 the modelled sea surface temperatures are plausible (within the uncertainties of the CO₂



317 reconstructions). Figure 4b shows a comparison between the model simulations of sea surface
318 temperature and two published synthesis of proxy SST data. (O'Brien et al., 2017) compiled TEX_{86}
319 and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ for the Cretaceous, separated into tropical and high-latitude (polewards of 48°) regions.
320 (Cramwinckel et al., 2018) compiled early Cenozoic tropical SST data, using TEX_{86} , $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, Mg/Ca and
321 clumped isotopes. We compare these to modelled SST for the region 15°S to 15°N , and for the
322 average of Northern and Southern hemispheres between 47.5° and 60° . The proxy data includes
323 sites from all ocean basins and so we also examined the spatial variability within the model. This
324 spatial variability consists of changes along longitude (effectively different ocean basins) and
325 changes with latitude (related to the gradient between equator and pole). We therefore calculated
326 the average standard deviation of SST relative to the zonal mean at each latitude (this is shown by
327 the smaller tick marks) and the total standard deviation of SST relative to the regional average. In
328 practice, the equatorial values are dominated by inter-basin variations and hence the two measures
329 of spatial variability are almost identical. The high latitude variability has a bigger difference
330 between the longitudinal variations and the total variability, because the equator-to-pole
331 temperature gradient (i.e. the temperatures at the latitude limits of the region are a few degrees
332 warmer/colder than the average). The spatial variability was very similar for the “smooth”- CO_2 and
333 Foster- CO_2 simulations so, for clarity, on figure 4b we only show the results as error bars on the
334 model Foster- CO_2 simulations.

335 Overall, the comparison between model and data is generally reasonable. The modelled equatorial
336 temperatures largely follow the data, albeit with considerable scatter in the data. Both simulations
337 tend to be towards the warmest equatorial data in the early Cretaceous (Albian). These
338 temperatures largely come from TEX_{86} data. There are many $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ based SST which are significantly
339 colder during this period. This data almost exclusively comes from cores 1050/1052 which are in the
340 Gulf of Mexico. It is possible that these data are offset due to a bias in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of sea water because
341 of the relatively enclosed region. The Foster- CO_2 simulations are noticeably colder than the data at
342 the Cenomanian peak warmth, which is presumably related to the relatively low CO_2 as discussed for
343 the benthic temperatures. The benthic record also showed a cool (low CO_2) bias in the late
344 Cretaceous. This is not such an obvious feature of the surface temperatures. The Foster simulations
345 are colder than the “smooth”- CO_2 simulations during the late Cretaceous but there is not a strong
346 mismatch between model and data. Both simulations are close to the observations, though the
347 “smooth”- CO_2 simulations better matches the high-latitude data (but is slightly poorer with the
348 tropical data).

349 The biggest area of disagreement between mode and data is at the high latitudes in the mid-
350 Cretaceous warm period. As expected, the model is considerably cooler than the data, with a 10-



351 15°C mismatch between models and data. If we assume that the data has a seasonal bias, and select
352 the summer seasons from the model, then the mismatch is slightly reduced by about 4°C. The
353 problem of a cool high latitudes in models is seen in many model studies and there is increasing
354 evidence that this is related to the way that the models simulate clouds ((Kiehl and Shields, 2013);
355 (Sagoo et al., 2013); (Zhu et al., 2019)).

356 Correlation of Deep Ocean Temperatures to Polar Sea Surface Temperatures

357 The previous sections showed that that the climate model was producing a plausible reconstruction
358 of past ocean temperature changes, at least within the uncertainties of the CO₂ estimates. We now
359 use the HadCM3L model to investigate the links between deep ocean temperature and global mean
360 surface temperature.

361 In theory, the deep ocean temperature should be correlated with the sea surface temperature at the
362 location of deep-water formation which is normally assumed to be high latitude surface waters in
363 winter. We therefore compare deep ocean temperatures (defined as the average temperature at the
364 bottom of the model ocean, where the bottom must be deeper than 1000 m) with the average
365 winter sea surface temperature polewards of 60° (fig. 6). Winter is defined as December, January,
366 and February in the northern hemisphere and June, July, and August in the southern hemisphere.
367 Also shown in Figure 6 is the best fit line, which has a slope of 0.40 (+/-0.05 at the 97.5% level), an r²
368 of 0.59, and a standard error of 1.2°C. We obtained very similar results when we compared the polar
369 sea surface temperatures with the average temperature at 2116m instead of the true benthic
370 temperatures. We also compared the deep ocean temperatures to the mean polar sea surface
371 temperatures when the mixed layer depth exceeded 250 m (poleward of 50°). The results were
372 similar although the scatter was somewhat larger (r²=0.48).

373 Overall, the relationship between deep ocean temperatures and polar sea surface temperatures is
374 clear (Figure 6) but there is considerable scatter around the best fit line, especially at the high end,
375 and the slope is less steep than perhaps would be expected (Hansen and Sato, 2012). The scatter is
376 less for the Cenozoic and late Cretaceous (up to 100 Ma; green and orange dots and triangles). If we
377 used only Cenozoic and late Cretaceous simulations, then the slope is similar (0.43) but r²=0.92 and
378 standard error=0.47°C. This provides strong confirmation that benthic data is a robust
379 approximation to polar surface temperatures when the continental configuration is similar to the
380 present.

381 However, the scatter is greater for older time periods, with the largest divergence observed for the
382 warm periods of the Triassic and early Jurassic, particularly for the Foster CO₂ simulations (purple
383 and blue dots). Examination of climate models for these time periods reveals relatively sluggish and



384 shallow ocean circulation. For instance, in the Ladinian stage, mid-Triassic (~240Ma) the overturning
385 circulation is extremely weak (Fig. 7). The maximum strength of the northern hemisphere
386 overturning cell is less than 10 Sv and the southern cell is less than 5 Sv. Under these conditions,
387 deep ocean water does not always form at polar latitudes. Examination of the mixed layer depth
388 (not shown) shows that during these time periods, the deepest mixed layer depths are in the sub-
389 tropics. In subtropics, there is very high evaporation relative to precipitation (due to the low
390 precipitation and high temperature. This produces highly saline waters that sink and spread out into
391 the global ocean. This mechanism has been previously suggested as a mechanism for warm
392 Cretaceous deep water formation (Brass et al., 1982), (Kennett and Stott, 1991). This mechanism for
393 warm deep water formation has also been seen in other climate models (e.g. (Poulsen et al., 2001)).
394 Though it is not a pre-requisite for warm deep-water formation and is thus, potentially, a model-
395 dependent result.

396 The correlation between deep ocean temperatures and the temperature of polar surface waters
397 differs between the “smooth” CO₂ simulations and the Foster CO₂ simulations. The slope is only 0.30
398 ($r^2=0.57$) for the “smooth” CO₂ simulations whereas the slope is 0.48 ($r^2=0.65$) for the Foster
399 simulations. This is because CO₂ is a strong forcing agent that influences both the surface and deep
400 ocean temperatures. By contrast, if the CO₂ does not vary as much, then the temperature does not
401 vary as much, and the influence of paleogeography becomes more important. These
402 paleogeographic changes generally cause subtle and complicated changes in ocean circulation that
403 affect the location and latitude of deep-water formation.

404 In contrast, the mid-Cretaceous is also very warm but the continental configuration (specifically, land
405 at high southern latitudes) favors the formation of cool, high latitude deep water. Throughout the
406 Cretaceous there is significant southern high latitude source of deep water and hence deep-water
407 temperatures are well correlated with surface high latitude temperatures. The strength of this
408 connection, however, may be over exaggerated in the model. Like many climate models, HadCM3
409 underestimates the reduction in the pole-to-Equator sea surface temperature. This means that
410 during the Cretaceous the high latitudes are probably too cold. Consequently, some seasonal sea ice
411 does form which encourages the formation of cold deep-water, via brine rejection.

412 In the late Eocene (~40 Ma), the ocean circulation is similar to the Cretaceous, but the strong
413 southern overturning cell is closer to the South Pole, indicating that the main source of deep water
414 has moved further polewards. The poleward movement of the region of downwelling waters
415 explains some of the variability between deep ocean temperatures and temperature of polar surface
416 waters.



417 For reference, we also include the present-day meridional circulation. The modern southern
418 hemisphere circulation is essentially a strengthening of late Eocene meridional circulation. The
419 Northern hemisphere is dominated by the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation. The Atlantic
420 circulation pattern does not resemble the modern pattern of circulation until the Miocene.

421 [Surface Polar Amplification](#)

422 The conceptual model used to connect benthic ocean temperatures to global mean surface
423 temperatures assumes that there is a constant relationship between high latitude sea surface
424 temperatures and global mean annual mean surface air temperature. (Hansen and Sato, 2012)
425 argue that this amplification is partly related to ice-albedo feedback but also includes a factor
426 related to the contrasting amplification of temperatures on land compared to the ocean. To
427 investigate the stability of this relationship, fig. 8 shows the correlation between polar winter sea
428 surface temperatures (60° - 90°) and global mean surface air temperature. The polar temperatures
429 are the average of the two winter hemispheres (i.e. average of DJF polar SSTs in the Northern
430 hemisphere and JJA polar SSTs in the Southern hemisphere). Also shown is a simple linear
431 regression, with an average slope of 1.3 and with an $r^2 = 0.79$. If we only use Northern polar winter
432 temperatures, the slope is 1.1; if we only use Southern polar winter temperatures, then the slope is
433 0.7. Taken separately, the scatter about the mean is considerably larger (r^2 of 0.5 and 0.6
434 respectively) than the scatter if both data sets are combined ($r^2 = 0.79$).

435 As expected, there appears to be a strong non-linear component to the correlation. There are two
436 separate regimes: 1) one with a steeper slope during colder periods (average polar winter
437 temperature less than about 1°C), and 2) a shallower slope for warmer conditions. This is strongly
438 linked to the extent of sea-ice cover. Cooler periods promote the growth of sea-ice which
439 strengthens the ice-albedo feedback mechanism resulting in a steeper temperature gradient (strong
440 polar amplification). Conversely, the warmer conditions result in less sea ice and hence a weaker sea
441 ice-albedo feedback resulting in a weaker temperature gradient (reduced polar amplification).

442 Examining the Foster CO_2 and “smooth” CO_2 simulations reveals an additional factor. If we examine
443 the “smooth” CO_2 simulations only, then the best fit linear slope is slightly less than the average
444 slope (1.1 vs 1.3). This can be explained by the fact that we have fewer very cold climates
445 (particularly in the Carboniferous) due to the relatively elevated levels of CO_2 . However, the scatter
446 in the “smooth” CO_2 correlation is much larger, with an r^2 of only 0.66. By comparison, correlation
447 between Global Mean Surface Temperature and Polar Sea Surface Temperature using the Foster CO_2
448 has a similar overall slope to the combined set and a smaller amount of scatter. This suggests that
449 CO_2 forcing and polar amplitude forcing have an important impact on the relationship between



450 global and polar temperatures. The variations of carbon dioxide in the Foster set of simulations are
451 large and they drive large changes in global mean temperature. Conversely significant sea-ice albedo
452 feedbacks characterize times when the polar amplification is important. There are several well
453 studied processes that lead to such changes, including albedo effects from changing ice but also
454 from poleward heat transport changes, cloud cover, and latent heat effects ((Alexeev et al., 2005;
455 Holland and Bitz, 2003; Sutton et al., 2007)). By contrast, the “smooth” CO₂ simulations have
456 considerably less forcing due to CO₂ variability which leads to a larger paleogeographic effect. For
457 instance, when there is more land at the poles, there will be more evaporation over the land areas
458 and hence simple surface energy balance arguments would suggest different temperatures ((Sutton
459 et al., 2007)) .

460 In figure 8, there are a few data points which are complete outliers. These correspond to simulations
461 in the Ordovician; the outliers happen irrespective of the CO₂ model that is used. Inspection of these
462 simulations shows that the cause for this discrepancy is related to two factors: 1) a continental
463 configuration with almost no land in the Northern hemisphere and , 2) a reconstruction which
464 includes significant southern hemisphere ice cover (see fig.1 and fig 2). Combined, these factors
465 produced a temperature structure which is highly non-symmetric, with the Southern high latitudes
466 being more than 20°C colder than the Northern high latitudes. This anomaly biases the average polar
467 temperatures shown in figure 8.

468 [Deep Ocean Temperature versus Global Mean Temperature](#)

469 The relationships described above help to understand the overall relationship between deep ocean
470 temperatures and global mean temperature. Figure 9 shows the correlation between modelled deep
471 ocean temperatures (> 1000 m) and global mean surface air temperature, and figure 10 shows a
472 comparison of changes in modelled deep ocean temperature compared to model global mean
473 temperature throughout the Phanerozoic.

474 The overall slope is 0.64 (0.59 to 0.69) with an $r^2 = 0.74$. If we consider the last 115 Ma (for which
475 exists compiled benthic temperatures), then the slope is slightly steeper (0.67 with an $r^2 = 0.90$).
476 Similarly, the “smooth”-CO₂ and the Foster-CO₂ simulation results have very different slopes. The
477 “smooth”-CO₂ simulations have a slope of 0.47, whereas the Foster-CO₂ simulations have a slope of
478 0.76. The root mean square departure from the regression line in figure 9 is 1.3°C.

479 The relatively good correlations in the fig.9 are confirmed when examining fig.10a and 10b. On
480 average, the deep ocean temperatures tend to underestimate the global mean change (fig.10b)
481 which is consistent with the regression slope being less than 1. However, the errors are substantial
482 with largest errors occurring during the pre-Cretaceous and can be 4-6 °C. This is an appreciable



483 error that would have a substantial impact on estimates of climate sensitivity. Even within the late
484 Cretaceous and Cenozoic, the errors can exceed 2°C which can exceed 40% of the total change.

485 The characteristics of the plots can best be understood in terms of figures (6 and 8). For instance,
486 most of the Carboniferous simulations plot below the regression line because the polar SSTs are not
487 well-correlated with the global mean temperature (figure 8). By contrast, the Triassic and Jurassic
488 Foster CO₂ simulations plot above the regression line because the deep ocean temperature is not
489 well-correlated with the polar temperatures (figure 6).

490 Discussion and Conclusion

491 The paper has presented the results from two unique sets of paleoclimate simulations covering the
492 Phanerozoic. The focus of the paper has been to use the HadCM3L climate model to evaluate how
493 well we can predict global mean surface temperatures from benthic foram data. This is an important
494 consideration because benthic microfossil data are one of the few datasets used to directly estimate
495 past global mean temperatures. Other methods, such as using planktonic foraminiferal estimates,
496 are more challenging because the sample sites are geographically sparse, so it is difficult to
497 accurately estimate the global mean temperature from highly variable and widely dispersed data.
498 This is particularly an issue for older time periods when fewer isotopic measurements from
499 planktonic microfossils are available, and can result in a bias because most of the isotopic
500 temperature sample localities are from tropical latitudes (30°S – 30°N) (Song et al., 2019).

501 By contrast, deep ocean temperatures are more spatially uniform. Hence, benthic foram data has
502 frequently been used to estimate past global mean temperatures and climate sensitivity (Hansen et
503 al., 2013). Estimates of uncertainty for deep ocean temperatures incorporate uncertainties from CO₂
504 and from the conversion of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ measurements to temperature but have not been able to assess
505 assumptions about the source regions for deep ocean waters and the importance polar
506 amplification. Of course, in practice, lack of ocean sea floor means that benthic compilations exist
507 only for the last 110Ma.

508 We have shown that although the expected correlation between benthic temperatures and high-
509 latitude surface temperatures exists, the correlation has considerable scatter. This is caused by
510 several factors. Changing paleogeographies results in changing locations for deep water formation.
511 Some paleogeographies result in significant deep-water formation in the Northern hemisphere (e.g.
512 our present-day configuration) although for most of the Phanerozoic, the dominant source of deep-
513 water formation has been southern hemisphere. Similarly, even when deep water is formed in just
514 one hemisphere, there can be substantial regional and latitudinal variations in its location and the
515 corresponding temperatures. Finally, during times of very warm climates (e.g. mid-Cretaceous) the



516 overturning circulation can be very weak and there is a marked decoupling between the surface
517 waters and deep ocean. In the HadCM3 model during hothouse time periods, high temperatures and
518 high rates of evaporation produce hot and saline surface waters which sink to become intermediate
519 and deep waters at low latitudes.

520 Similar arguments can be made regarding the link between global mean temperature and the
521 temperature at high latitudes. Particularly important is the area of land at the poles and the extent
522 of sea ice/land ice. Colder climates and paleogeographic configurations with more land at the pole
523 will result in a steeper latitudinal temperature gradient and hence exhibit a changing relationship
524 between polar and global temperatures. But the fraction of land versus ocean is also important.

525 Finally, the overall relationship between deep ocean temperatures and global mean temperature is
526 shown to be relatively linear, but the slope is quite variable. In the model simulations using the
527 “smooth” CO₂ curve, the slope is substantially shallower (0.48) than slope obtained using the Foster
528 CO₂ curve (0.76). This is related to the different controls that CO₂ and paleogeography exert (as
529 discussed above). In the simulation that uses the “smooth” CO₂ data set, the levels of CO₂ do not
530 vary much, so the paleogeographic controls are more pronounced.

531 This raises the interesting conundrum that when trying to use reconstructed deep ocean
532 temperatures and CO₂ to estimate climate sensitivity, the interpreted global mean temperature also
533 depends, in part, on the CO₂ concentrations. However, if we simply use the combined slope, then
534 the root mean square error is approximately 1.4°C, and the maximum error is over 4°C. The root
535 mean square error is a relatively small compared to the overall changes and hence the resulting
536 uncertainty in climate sensitivity associated with this error is relatively small (~15%) and the CO₂
537 uncertainty dominates. However, the maximum error is potentially more significant.

538 Our work has not addressed other sources of uncertainty. In particular, it would be valuable to use a
539 water isotope-enabled climate model to better address the uncertainties associated with the
540 conversion of the observed benthic δ¹⁸O to temperature. This requires assumptions about the δ¹⁸O
541 of sea water. We hope to perform such simulation in future work, though this is a particularly
542 challenging computational problem because the isotope enabled model is significantly slower and
543 the completion of the multi-millennial simulations required for deep ocean estimates would take
544 more than 18 months to complete.

545 Our simulations extend and develop those published by (Lunt et al., 2016), and (Farnsworth et al.,
546 2019a; Farnsworth et al., 2019b). The simulations reported in this paper used the same climate
547 model (HadCM3L) but used an improved ozone concentration and corrected a salinity drift that can
548 lead to substantial changes over the duration of the simulation. Our simulations also use an



549 alternative set of geographic reconstructions that cover a larger time period (540 Ma – Modern).
550 They also include realistic land ice cover estimates, which were not included in the original
551 simulations (except for the late Cenozoic) but generally have a small impact in the Mesozoic.
552 Similarly, the new simulations use two alternative models for past atmospheric CO₂ use more
553 realistic variations in CO₂ through time, while at the same time recognizing the levels of uncertainty.
554 Although the Foster CO₂ curve is more directly constrained by CO₂ data, it should be noted that this
555 data come from multiple proxies and there are large gaps in the data set. There is evidence that the
556 different proxies have different biases and it is not obvious that the correct approach is to simply fit
557 a Loess-type curve to the CO₂ data. This is exemplified by the Maastrichtian. The Foster Loess curve
558 shows a minimum in CO₂ during the Maastrichtian which results in the modelled deep ocean
559 temperatures being much too cold. However, detailed examination of the CO₂ data shows most of
560 the Maastrichtian data is based on stomatal index reconstructions which often are lower than other
561 proxies. Thus, the Maastrichtian low CO₂, relative to other periods, is potentially driven by changing
562 the proxy rather than by real temporal changes.
563 Though the alternative, “smooth” CO₂ curve is not the optimum fit to the data, it does pass through
564 the cloud of individual CO₂ reconstructions and hence represents one possible “reality”. For the Late
565 Cretaceous and Cenozoic, the “smooth” CO₂ simulation set does a significantly better job simulating
566 the deep ocean temperatures of the Friedrich/Cramer/Zachos curve.
567 Although the focus of the paper has been the evaluation of the modelled relationship between
568 benthic and surface temperatures, the simulations are a potentially valuable resource for future
569 studies. This includes using the simulations for paleoclimate/climate dynamic studies and for climate
570 impact studies, such as ecological niche modelling. We have therefore made available on our
571 website the results from our simulations
572 (https://www.paleo.bristol.ac.uk/ummodel/scripts/papers/Valdes_et_al_2021.html)

573 Data Availability

574 All simulation data is available from:
575 https://www.paleo.bristol.ac.uk/ummodel/scripts/papers/Valdes_et_al_2021.html

576 Author contributions

577 Study was developed by all authors. All model simulations were performed by PJV who also
578 prepared the manuscript with contributions from all co-authors.

579 Competing interests

580 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest

581



582

583 [Acknowledgments.](#)

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585 paleogeographic digital elevation models was funded by the sponsors of the PALEOMAP Project.
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589 Advanced Computing Research Centre, University of Bristol (<http://www.bris.ac.uk/acrc/>). The
590 authors declare that they have no competing interests. Data and materials availability: All data
591 needed to evaluate the conclusions in the paper are present in the paper. Model data can be
592 accessed at www.bridge.bris.ac.uk/resources/simulations.

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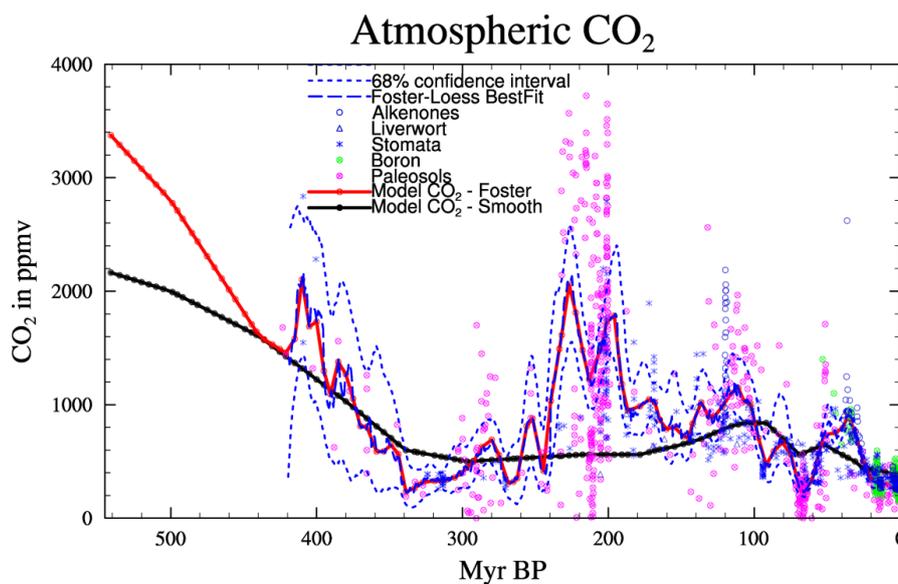
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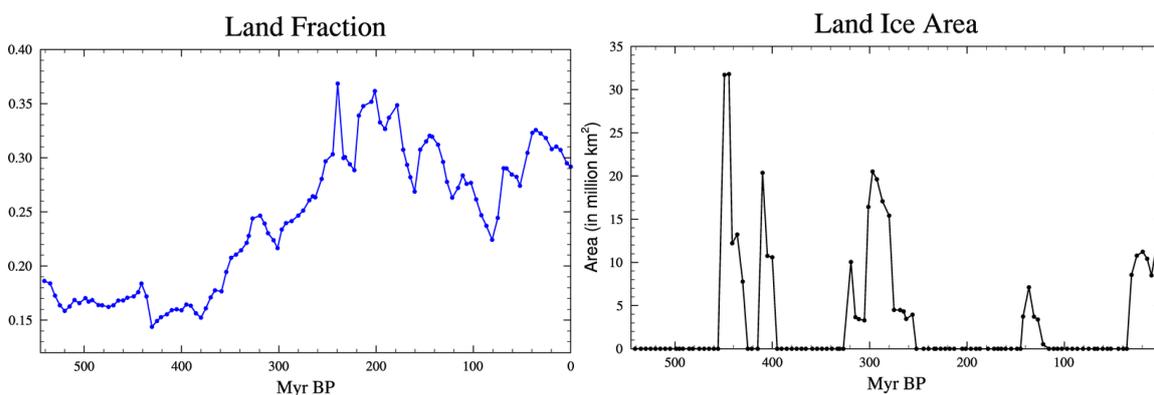


599 Figures

600 Figure 1. Summary of boundary condition changes to model of the Phanerozoic, (a) CO₂
601 reconstructions (from Foster et al. 2017) and the two scenarios used in the models, (b) Land-sea
602 fraction from the paleogeographic reconstructions, and (c) land ice area input into model. The
603 paleogeographic reconstructions can be accessed at [https://www.earthbyte.org/paleodem-](https://www.earthbyte.org/paleodem-resource-scotese-and-wright-2018/)
604 [resource-scotese-and-wright-2018/](https://www.earthbyte.org/paleodem-resource-scotese-and-wright-2018/). An animation of the high-resolution (1° x 1°) and model
605 resolution (3.75° longitude x 2.5° latitude) maps can be found here:
606 [https://www.paleo.bristol.ac.uk/~ggpjv/scotese/scotese_raw_moll.normal_scotese_moll.normal.ht](https://www.paleo.bristol.ac.uk/~ggpjv/scotese/scotese_raw_moll.normal_scotese_moll.normal.html)
607 [ml](https://www.paleo.bristol.ac.uk/~ggpjv/scotese/scotese_raw_moll.normal_scotese_moll.normal.html)



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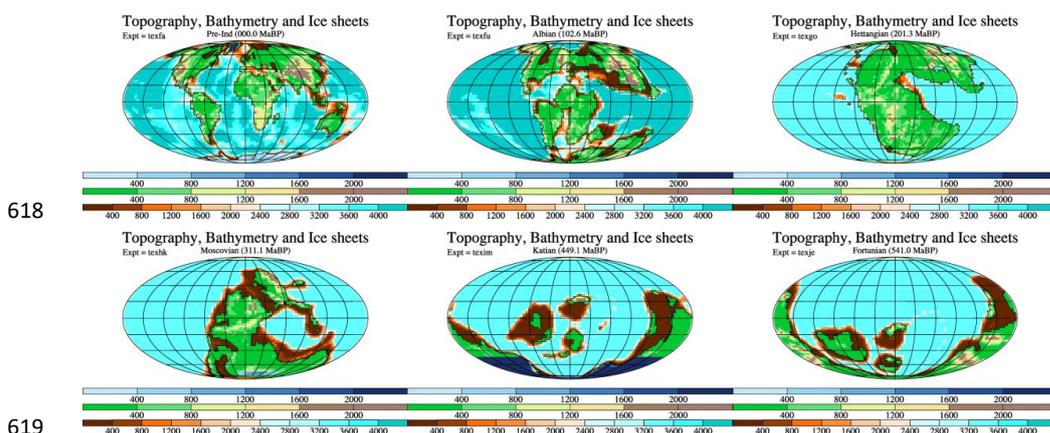
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611 Figure 2. A few example paleogeographies, once they have been re-gridded onto the HadCM3L grid.
612 The examples are for (a) present day, (b) Albian, 102.6Ma (Lower Cretaceous), (c) Hettangian,
613 201.3Ma (lower Jurassic), (d) Moscovian, 311.1Ma (Pennsylvanian, Carboniferous), (e) Katian,
614 449.1Ma (Upper Ordovician), and (f) Fortunian, 541.0Ma (Cambrian). The top color legend refers to
615 the height of the ice sheets (if they exist), the middle color legend refers to heights on land (except
616 ice), and the lower color legend refers to the ocean bathymetry. All units are meters.

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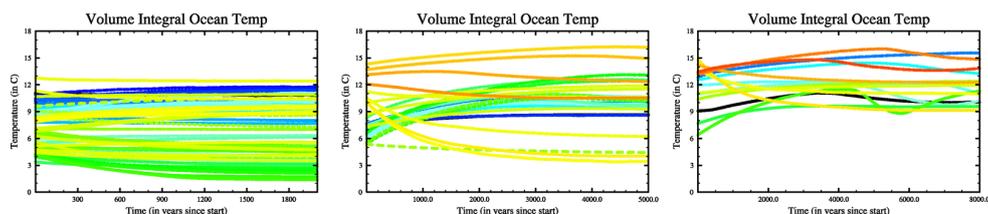
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629 Figure 3. Time series of the annual, volume mean ocean temperature for all 109 simulations. (a)
630 shows those simulations for which 2000 years was sufficient to satisfy the convergence criteria
631 described in text (these were for all simulations listed in table 1 except those listed in (b) and (c)), (b)
632 those simulation which required 5000 years (these were for all the simulations for 31.0, 35.9, 39.5,
633 55.8, 60.6, 66.0, 69.0, 102.6, 107.0, 121.8, 127.2, 154.7, 160.4, 168.2, 172.2, 178.4, 186.8, 190.8,
634 196.0, 201.3, 204.9, 213.2, 217.8, 222.4, 227.0, 232.0, and 233.6 Ma BP), and (c) those simulation
635 which required 8000 years (these were simulations for 44.5, 52.2, 86.7, 91.9, 97.2, 111.0, 115.8,
636 131.2, 136.4, 142.4, 145.0, 148.6, 164.8, and 239.5 Ma BP)

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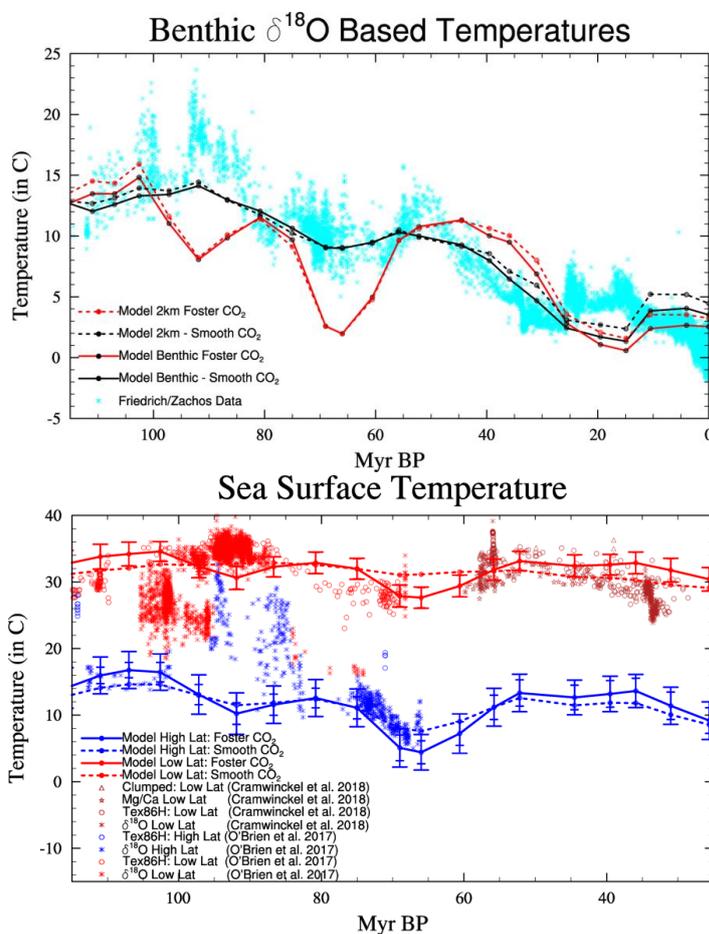
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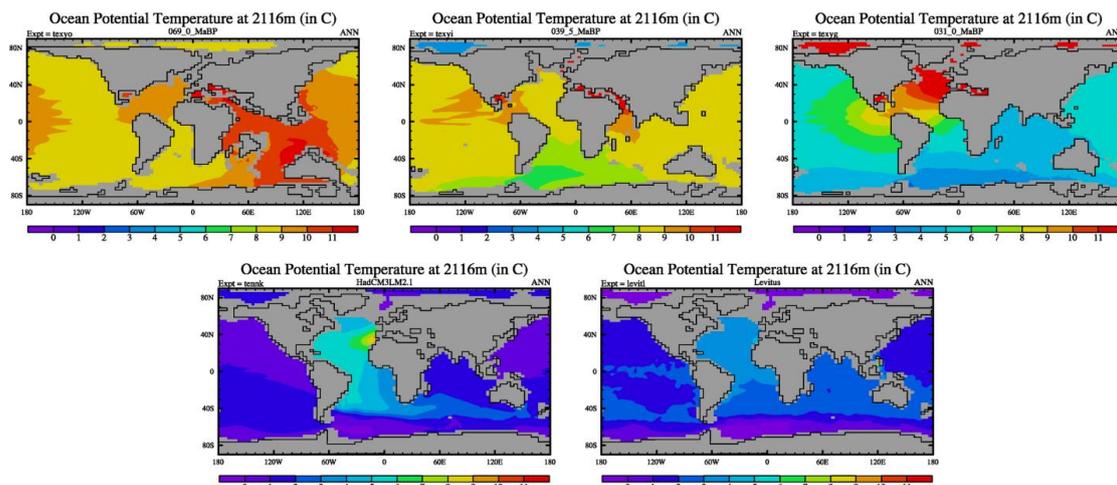
641 Figure 4. (a) Comparison of modelled deep ocean temperatures versus those from (Zachos et al.,
 642 2008) and (Friedrich et al., 2012) converted to temperature using the formulation in (Hansen et al.,
 643 2013). The model temperatures are global averages over the bottom layer of the model but excludes
 644 shallow marine settings (less than 300m). The dashed lines show the modelled global average ocean
 645 temperatures at the model layer centered at 2116m, and (b) Comparison of modelled sea surface
 646 temperatures with the compilations of (O'Brien et al., 2017) and (Cramwinckel et al., 2018). The data
 647 is a combination of Tex_{86} (using the TexH calibration), $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (using Bemis et al. calibration, with a
 648 correction for the latitudinal gradient of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$) Mg/Ca, and clumped Isotope data (from (Evans et al.,
 649 2018)). The model data shows low latitude temperatures (averaged from 10S to 10N) and high
 650 latitude temperatures (averaged over 47.5N to 65N and 47.5S to 65S). The Foster- CO_2 simulations
 651 also show a measure of the spatial variability. The large bars show the spatial standard deviation
 652 across the whole region, and the smaller bars shows the average spatial standard deviation along
 653 longitudes within the region. Note that the ranges of both the x and y-axis differ between (a) and (b).





654 Figure 5. Modelled annual mean ocean temperatures are 2116m depth for three example past time
655 periods. The left figure is for the late Cretaceous, the center for the late Eocene (39.5Ma), and the
656 right for the Oligocene (31Ma). These are results from the smooth-CO₂ set of simulations which
657 agree better with the observed benthic temperature data. Also included are the pre-industrial
658 simulation and World Ocean Atlas 1994 observational data, provided by the NOAA-ESRL Physical
659 Sciences Laboratory, Boulder Colorado from their web site at <https://psl.noaa.gov/>. The thin black
660 lines show the coastlines and the grey areas are showing where the ocean is shallower than 2116m.

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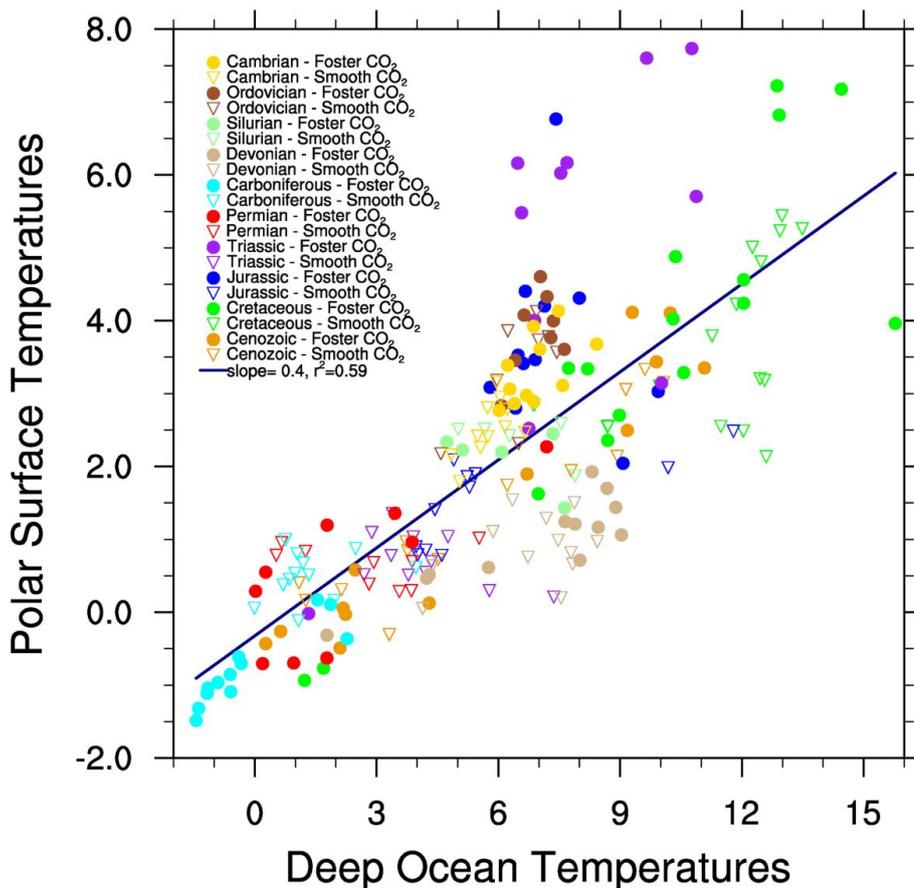


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663 **Figure 6.** Correlations between deep ocean temperatures and surface polar sea surface
664 temperatures. The deep ocean temperatures are defined as the average temperature at the bottom
665 of the model ocean, where the bottom must be deeper than 1000m. The polar sea surface
666 temperatures are the average winter (i.e. northern polar in DJF and southern polar in JJA) sea
667 surface temperature polewards of 60°. The inverted triangles show the results from the smooth CO₂
668 simulations and the dots refer to the Foster CO₂ simulations. The colors refer to different geological
669 era.

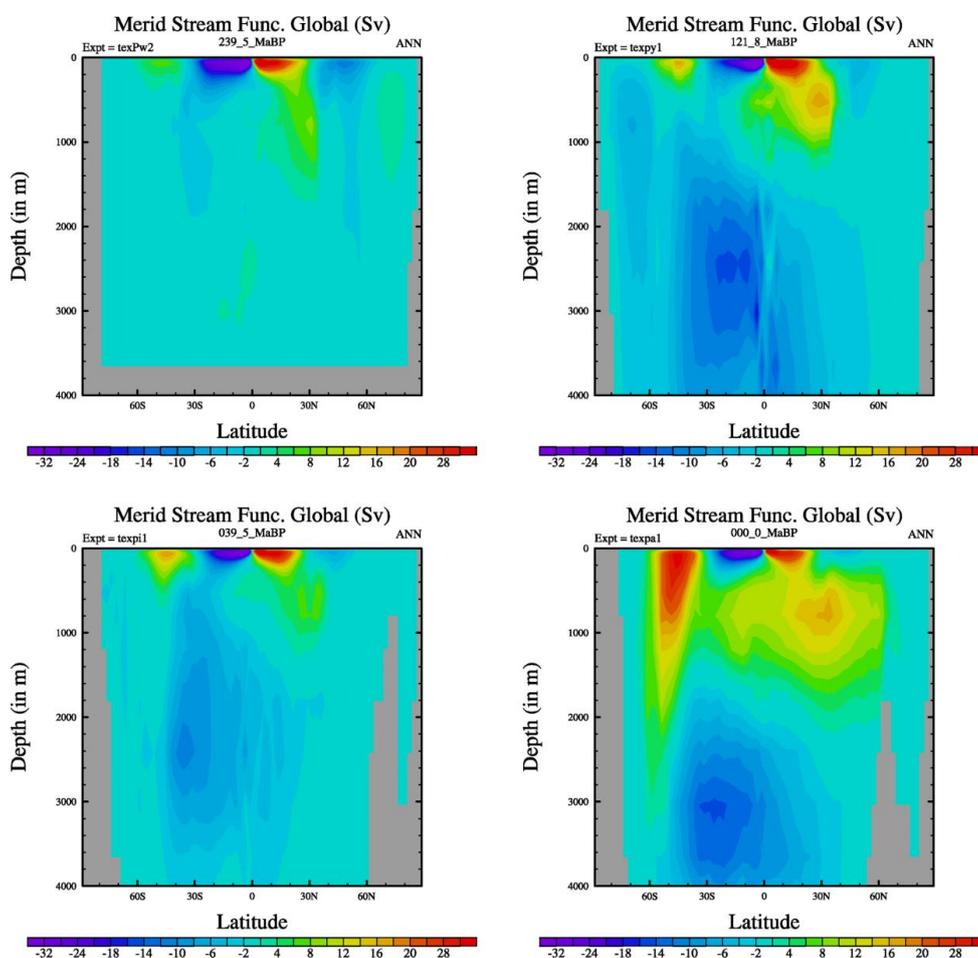
Polar Surface versus Deep Ocean Temperatures



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671 Figure 7. Global Ocean overturning circulation (in Sverdrup) for four different time periods for the
672 Foster-CO₂ simulations. Positive (yellow/red) values correspond to a clockwise circulation, negative
673 (dark blue/purple) values represent an anti-clockwise circulation. Top left: Middle Triassic, Ladinian,
674 239.5Ma, top right: Lower Cretaceous, Aptian, 121.8 Ma, bottom left: Late Eocene, Bartonian,
675 39.5Ma, and bottom right: Present Day.
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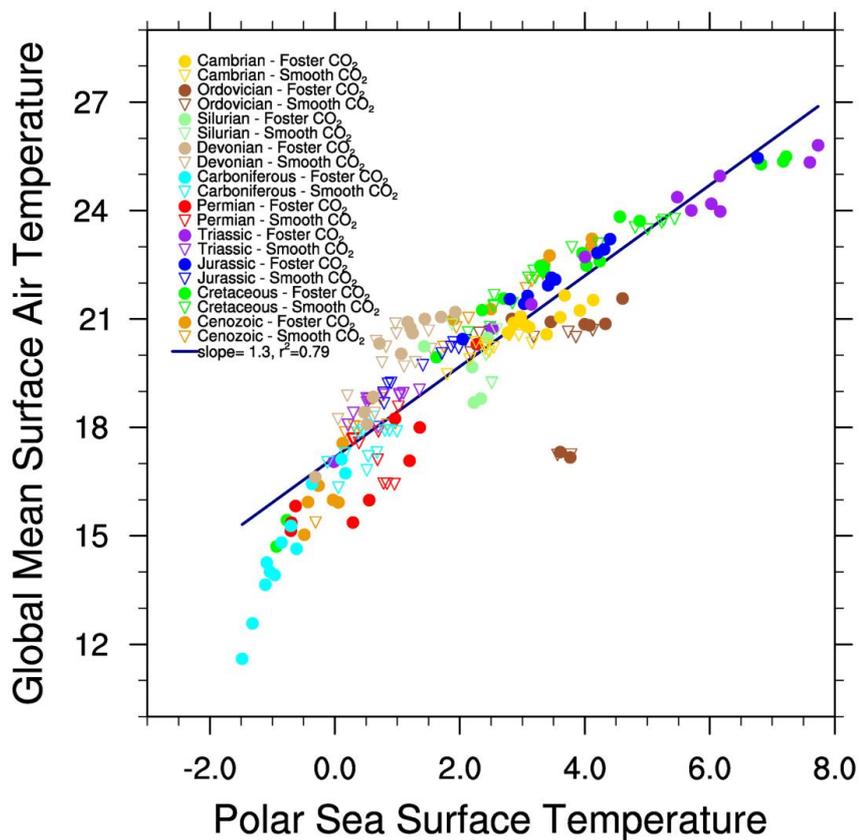


679 **Figure 8.** Correlation between high latitude ocean temperatures (polewards of 60°) and the annual
680 mean, global mean surface air temperature. The polar temperatures are the average of the two
681 winter hemispheres (i.e. northern DJF and southern JJA). Other details as in figure 6.

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Global Mean Surface Air Temperature versus Polar SST

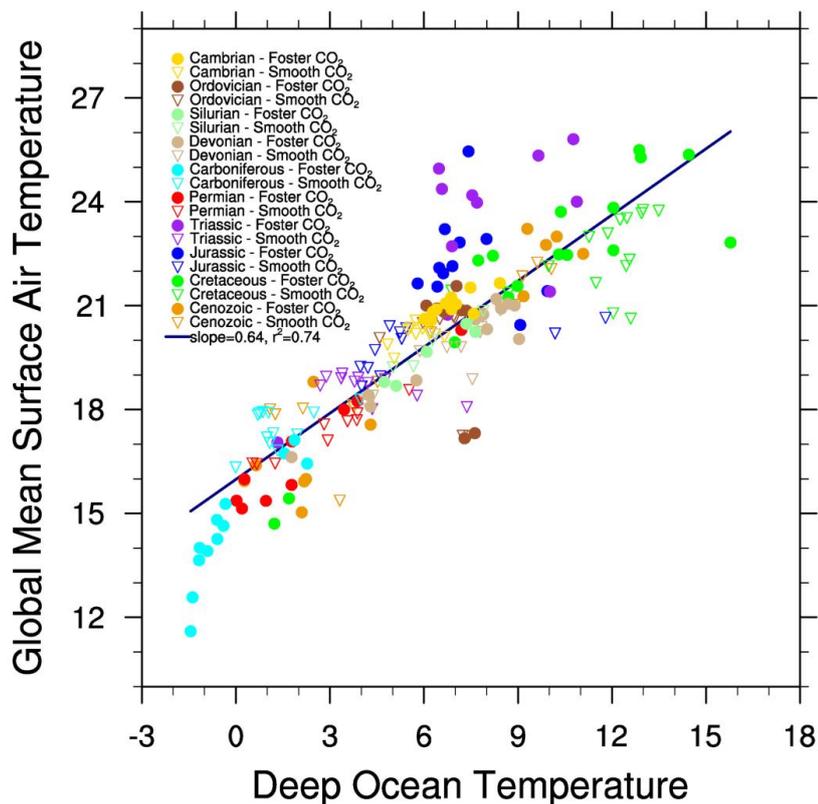


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685 Figure 9. Correlation between the global mean, annual mean surface air temperature and the deep
686 ocean temperature. The deep ocean temperatures are defined as the average temperature at the
687 bottom of the model ocean, where the bottom must be deeper than 1000m. Other details as in
688 figure 6.
689

Surface Air Temperature versus Deep Ocean Temperature

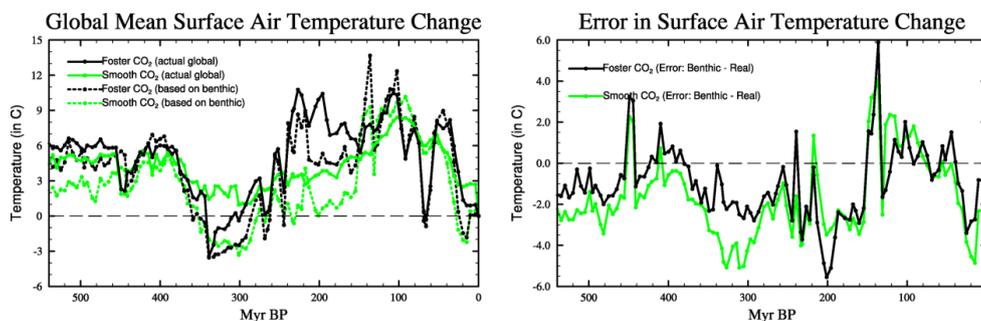


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692 Figure 10. Phanerozoic Time series of modelled temperature change (relative to pre-Industrial) for
693 the smooth (green lines) and Foster-CO₂ (black) simulations (a) shows the actual modelled global
694 mean surface air temperature (solid lines) whereas the dashed line shows the estimate based on
695 deep ocean temperatures, and (b) error in the estimate of global mean temperature change if based
696 on deep ocean temperatures (i.e. deep ocean – global mean surface temperatures).



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813



Table I. List of Paleogeographic Maps and PaleoDEMs

Map Number	Stratigraphic Age Description	Plate Model Age
1	Present-day (Holocene, 0 Ma)	0
2	<i>Last Glacial Maximum (Pleistocene, 21 ky)*</i>	0
3	<i>Late Pleistocene (122 ky)*</i>	0
4	<i>Middle Pleistocene (454 ky)*</i>	0
5	<i>Early Pleistocene (Calabrian, 1.29 Ma)*</i>	0
6	<i>Early Pleistocene (Gelasian, 2.19)*</i>	0
7	Late Pliocene (Piacenzian, 3.09)	5
8	<i>Early Pliocene (Zanclean, 4.47 Ma)*</i>	5
9	<i>latest Miocene (Messinian, 6.3 Ma)*</i>	5
10	Middle/Late Miocene (Serravallian&Tortonian, 10.5 Ma)	10
11	Middle Miocene (Langhian, 14.9 Ma)	15
12	Early Miocene (Aquitanian&Burdigalian, 19.5 Ma)	20
13	Late Oligocene (Chattian, 25.6 Ma)	25
14	Early Oligocene (Rupelian, 31 Ma)	30
15	Late Eocene (Priabonian, 35.9 Ma)	35
16	late Middle Eocene (Bartonian, 39.5 Ma)	40
17	early Middle Eocene (Lutetian, 44.5 Ma)	45
18	Early Eocene (Ypresian, 51.9 Ma)	50
19	Paleocene/Eocene Boundary (PETM, 56 Ma)	55
20	Paleocene (Danian&Thanetian, 61 Ma)	60
21	KT Boundary (latest Maastrichtian, 66 Ma)	65
22	Late Cretaceous (Maastrichtian, 69 Ma)	70
23	Late Cretaceous (Late Campanian, 75 Ma)	75
24	Late Cretaceous (Early Campanian, 80.8 Ma)	80
25	Late Cretaceous (Santonian&Coniacian, 86.7 Ma)	85
26	Mid-Cretaceous (Turonian , 91.9 Ma)	90



27	Mid-Cretaceous (Cenomanian, 97.2 Ma)	95
28	Early Cretaceous (late Albian, 102.6 Ma)	100
29	Early Cretaceous (middle Albian, 107 Ma)	105
30	Early Cretaceous (early Albian, 111 Ma)	110
31	Early Cretaceous (late Aptian, 115.8 Ma)	115
32	Early Cretaceous (early Aptian, 121.8 Ma)	120
33	Early Cretaceous (Barremian, 127.2 Ma)	125
34	Early Cretaceous (Hauterivian, 131.2 Ma)	130
35	Early Cretaceous (Valanginian, 136.4 Ma)	135
36	Early Cretaceous (Berriasian, 142.4 Ma)	140
37	Jurassic/Cretaceous Boundary (145 Ma)	145
38	Late Jurassic (Tithonian, 148.6 Ma)	150
39	Late Jurassic (Kimmeridgian, 154.7 Ma)	155
40	Late Jurassic (Oxfordian, 160.4 Ma)	160
41	Middle Jurassic (Callovian, 164.8 Ma)	165
42	Middle Jurassic (Bajocian&Bathonian, 168.2)	170
43	Middle Jurassic (Aalenian, 172.2 Ma)	175
44	Early Jurassic (Toarcian, 178.4 Ma)	180
45	Early Jurassic (Pliensbachian, 186.8 Ma)	185
46	Early Jurassic (Sinemurian/Pliensbachian, 190.8 Ma)	190
47	Early Jurassic (Hettangian&Sinemurian, 196 Ma)	195
48	Late Triassic (Rhaetian/Hettangian, 201.3 Ma)	200
49	Late Triassic (Rhaetian, 204.9 Ma)	205
50	Late Triassic (late Norian, 213.2 Ma)	210
51	Late Triassic (mid Norian, 217.8 Ma)	215
52	Late Triassic (early Norian, 222.4 Ma)	220
53	Late Triassic (Carnian/Norian 227 Ma)	225
54	Late Triassic (Carnian, 232 Ma)	230



55	Late Triassic (early Carnian, 233.6)	235
56	Middle Triassic (Ladinian, 239.5 Ma)	240
57	Middle Triassic (Anisian, 244.6 Ma)	245
58	Permo-Triassic Boundary (252 Ma)	250
59	Late Permian (Lopingian, 256 Ma)	255
60	late Middle Permian (Capitanian, 262.5 Ma)	260
61	Middle Permian (Wordian/Capitanian Boundary 265.1 Ma)	265
62	Middle Permian (Roadian&Wordian, 268.7 Ma)	270
63	Early Permian (late Kungurian, 275 Ma)	275
64	Early Permian (early Kungurian, 280 Ma)	280
65	Early Permian (Artinskian, 286.8 Ma)	285
66	Early Permian (Sakmarian, 292.6 Ma)	290
67	Early Permian (Asselian, 297 Ma)	295
68	Late Pennsylvanian (Gzhelian, 301.3 Ma)	300
69	Late Pennsylvanian (Kasimovian, 305.4 Ma)	305
70	Middle Pennsylvanian (Moscovian, 311.1 Ma)	310
71	Early/Middle Carboniferous (Baskirian/Moscovian boundary, 314.6 Ma)	315
72	Early Pennsylvanian (Bashkirian, 319.2 Ma)	320
73	Late Mississippian (Serpukhovian, 327 Ma)	325
74	Late Mississippian (Visean/Serpukhovian boundary, 330.9 Ma)	330
75	Middle Mississippian (late Visean, 333 Ma)	335
76	Middle Mississippian (middle Visean, 338.8Ma)	340
77	Middle Mississippian (early Visean, 344 Ma)	345
78	Early Mississippian (late Tournaisian, 349 Ma)	350
79	Early Mississippian (early Tournaisian, 354Ma)	355
80	Devono-Carboniferous Boundary (358.9 Ma)	360
81	Late Devonian (middle Famennian, 365.6 Ma)	365



82	Late Devonian (early Famennian, 370 Ma)	370
83	Late Devonian (late Frasnian, 375 Ma)	375
84	Late Devonian (early Frasnian, 380 Ma)	380
85	Middle Devonian (Givetian, 385.2 Ma)	385
86	Middle Devonian (Eifelian, 390.5 Ma)	390
87	Early Devonian (late Emsian, 395 Ma)	395
88	Early Devonian (middle Emsian, 400 Ma)	400
89	Early Devonian (early Emsian, 405 Ma)	405
90	Early Devonian (Pragian, 409.2 Ma)	410
91	Early Devonian (Lochkovian, 415 Ma)	415
92	Late Silurian (Pridoli, 421.1 Ma)	420
93	Late Silurian (Ludlow, 425.2 Ma)	425
94	Middle Silurian (Wenlock, 430.4 Ma)	430
95	Early Silurian (late Llandovery, 436 Ma)	435
96	Early Silurian (early Llandovery, 441.2 Ma)	440
97	Late Ordovician (Hirnantian, 444.5 Ma)	445
98	Late Ordovician (Katian, 449.1 Ma)	450
99	Late Ordovician (Sandbian, 455.7 Ma)	455
100	Middle Ordovician (late Darwillian, 460 Ma)	460
101	Middle Ordovician (early Darwillian, 465 Ma)	465
102	Early Ordovician (Floian/Dapingian boundary, 470 Ma)	470
103	Early Ordovician (late Early Floian, 475 Ma)	475
104	Early Ordovician (Tremadoc, 481.6 Ma)	480
105	Cambro-Ordovician Boundary (485.4 Ma)	485
106	Late Cambrian (Jiangshanian, 491.8 Ma)	490
107	Late Cambrian (Pabian, 495.5 Ma)	495
108	late Middle Cambrian (Guzhangian, 498.8 Ma)	500
109	late Middle Cambrian (early Epoch 3, 505 Ma)	505



110	early Middle Cambrian (late Epoch 2, 510 Ma)	510
111	early Middle Cambrian (middle Epoch 2, 515 Ma)	515
112	Early/Middle Cambrian boundary (520 Ma)	520
113	Early Cambrian (late Terreneuvian, 525 Ma)	525
114	Early Cambrian (middle Terreneuvian, 530 Ma)	530
115	Early Cambrian (early Terreneuvian, 535 Ma)	535
116	Cambrian/Precambrian boundary (541 Ma)	540
814	* <i>Simulations were not run for the time intervals highlighted in italics.</i>	
815		
816		