

Dear Suning Hou and co-authors.

I am happy to accept your manuscript subject to technical correction. In your revised version you state that "The offset between pCO₂ from Site 999 and the SST and isotope data shown from Site 1168 is age model independent". Do you mean dependent rather than independent? If so, please correct.

I will look forward to seeing your manuscript published in *Climate of the Past*.

Best regards,
Björg Risebrobakken
Editor, *Climate of the Past*

Dear editor,

Thank you very much for reviewing and accepting our manuscript. We mean independent in the text; pCO₂ lags MIS M2 d18O maximum at Site 999 while lowest SST is coupled to d18O maximum at Site 1168, thus it is age model independent.

Best regards,
Suning Hou and on behalf of co-authors