

**We thank the reviewers and editor for their useful comments, which have improved the manuscript. This document includes a response to all the Reviewer and Editor comments. This is then followed by a revised version of the manuscript in which all our proposed changes are clearly highlighted (including line numbers which are referenced by this document).**

#### **Reviewer I – Andrey Ganopolski**

##### *General comments*

*1. ...I believe it would be useful for potential users of the methods it would be useful to present a more critical discussion of applicability of the methods and its potential limitations.*

**We agree, and have added a completely new section (Section 7; Conclusions are now Section 8) to clearly describe and discuss these limitations. A number of key limitations are also now included in the Abstract (lines 41-44).**

*Firstly, it should be stated very explicitly that the emulator is not applicable for simulations of transient climate change on time scales shorter than several millennia. However, on such long time scales, two major climate forcing – CO<sub>2</sub> and ice sheets – strongly interact with each other, that cannot be accounted for in the method presented in the manuscript. On the page 11 the authors wrote that they “are able to simulate global climate development over long periods of time (several million years), provided that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> level for the period is known, : : : ice sheets do not change outside the range considered... and the topography and land-sea mask are unchanged”. I believe the authors are too optimistic concerning “several million years” - even a much shorter time interval for which all these conditions are met would be difficult to find in the recent past or in the near future. Clearly, this method is not applicable to Quaternary.*

**We add a comment that the experiment design adopted here is not appropriate for simulations shorter than a few millennia, where complex models and transient simulations are most appropriate (lines 1006-1012). At the other extreme, “Several million years” has been changed to “several hundred thousand years or longer” (line 642) (see point below about the applicability of this emulator up to the next glacial inception, and new Section 7).**

*For Pliocene, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is not known sufficient accuracy. However, it is very likely that during the late Pliocene CO<sub>2</sub> concentration experienced significant fluctuation at different time scales. It is also likely that during Pliocene, the extent of northern hemisphere ice sheets varied beyond the range used in this study (e.g. Willeit et al., 2015). I cannot see how all these problems can be circumvented without use of a comprehensive Earth system model. The less important but still not negligible problem is that according to the PRISM4 reconstruction, land-sea mask and orography during the late Pliocene in some regions (primarily North America and Europe) differed considerably from the modern ones.*

**Yes, we agree, and have made it clearer in the Pliocene section that (a) our approach is only appropriate for periods of the Pliocene with equivalent or less ice than modern, and (b) that we do not include palaeogeographic changes in our Pliocene simulations.**

*The situation is even more problematic for the future. It is not known how good is performance of existing carbon cycle models on such long time scales, but a reasonable agreement between results obtained with different models gives some hope. However, future simulations with the stand-alone carbon cycle models are only valid till the next glacial inception. For the medium emission scenarios, the next glacial inception is immanent (of course making a brave assumption that humans will not influence climate after the end of fossil fuel era) before or soon after 100,000 AD. Beyond that time, the methodology described in the manuscript is not applicable any more. For the extreme Business-as-usual type scenarios (5000 GtC and more), the situation is even worse. Under such scenarios, most of the Greenland ice sheet will melt completely already within the next 1000 years and most of the Antarctic ice sheet will also melt eventually (e.g. Winkelmann et al., 2016). And, according to recent study by DeConto and Pollard (2016), this “eventually” may occur already within one or two millennia. Such rate of ice sheet melt would strongly affect the ocean circulation and stratification with unknown but long-term consequences. In addition, 70 meter sea level rise resulting from melting of existing ice sheets would strongly affect global land-sea mask and regional climates. In addition, submersion of the large part of northern Europe would also have serious implications for the geological storage of nuclear wastes in this area. As the result, the conditions required for applicability of the proposed method can be violated already after the first few thousand years.*

**Thank you for raising these points. Whilst, as you say, we have mentioned some of the limitations at different points throughout the manuscript, it is better to have a section dedicated to describing the assumptions that the emulator is based on, its limitations and the conditions under which it may be applied. This includes the point made here about the applicability of the current emulator approach only up to the next glacial inception. We have added a new section (7; Conclusions are now Section 8) to clearly describe these limitations. We also explain that the emulator could be expanded to include glacial**

states and therefore be applied to longer-term future (and the Quaternary), if the CO<sub>2</sub> and ice volume were known (e.g. from a transient EMIC or conceptual model simulation).

*Second, the emulator cannot be applied if the climate system possesses a strong nonlinearity. AMOC shutdown is the most natural example. The authors mentioned nonlinearity only once and assumed that “any non-linearities in the GCM response being absorbed by stochastic component of the Gaussian process” (p. 6). I am not sure I understand what this means. Please clarify.*

**Please see the response posted by Michel Crucifix in the Discussion.**

*2. The model reveals strong response in annual mean temperature on precessional forcing. Since annual mean precessional component of orbital forcing is zero, I wonder what causes such response. Is it really global or only regional phenomenon? May be it would be useful to add to the Fig. 4 annual SAT anomalies produced by other forcings: CO<sub>2</sub>, obliquity and precession (say difference between the maximum and minimum obliquity and difference between the “warm” and the “cold” orbits).*

**Figure 4 has been extended to show a larger range of forcings, as suggested. In addition to the SAT change due to reduced ice, plots are also now included showing the SAT change due to a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub>, the difference between maximum and minimum obliquity and the difference between “warm” and “cold” orbital conditions. The following text has also been added to Section 3.5.1:**

**“Also shown in Fig. 4, for comparison, are mean annual SAT anomalies produced by the other forcings, including a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub>, the difference between maximum and minimum obliquity and the difference between “warm” orbital conditions and “cold” orbital conditions. The warming caused by increased CO<sub>2</sub> is more widespread (Fig. 4b), with the largest warming occurring at high latitudes and for land regions, in agreement with typical future-climate simulations (IPCC, 2013, p. 1059). The temperature change due to obliquity and “warm” versus “cold” orbital conditions is less than that for either reduced ice (compared to pre-industrial) or increased CO<sub>2</sub>. Changes in obliquity have the largest impact on temperatures in high latitude regions, since the exposure of these regions to the sun’s radiation is most affected by changes in obliquity. Smaller temperature anomalies are observed over northern Africa and India and, since an increase in obliquity is indeed known to boost monsoon dynamics (e.g. Araya-Melo et al., 2015; Bosmans et al., 2015), changes in soil latent heat exchanges are therefore expected to contribute negatively to the temperature response. The comparison of “warm” versus “cold” orbital conditions, which highlights (annual mean) temperature changes primarily caused by precession, generally shows a warming trend, with the largest temperature changes occurring in monsoonal regions. Lower temperatures are observed in the Northern Hemisphere over northern Africa, India and, East Asia, whilst warmer temperatures occur in the Southern Hemisphere over South America, southern Africa and Australia. Figure 4 demonstrates that the temperature forcing caused by CO<sub>2</sub> affects mean annual temperatures on a global scale, whilst the forcing due to ice sheet and orbital changes affects mean annual temperatures in specific regions, having a limited impact on global mean temperatures. This is supported by the relatively high global mean SAT anomaly for the 2xCO<sub>2</sub> scenario of 4.2°C, compared with the lower SAT anomalies that result from the obliquity and precession forcing of 0.4°C each (see caption of Figure 4).”**

*3. I found the attempt to reconstruct Pliocene CO<sub>2</sub> from individual temperature records rather strange. These four temperature records are so poorly correlated with each other that it is hard to expect that any global factor (like CO<sub>2</sub>) can bring them in agreement with modelling results. As the result, all four CO<sub>2</sub> “reconstructions” have very little in common. I wonder what one can learn from such exercise. Although I cannot be objective in this respect, but I do believe that using of stacked data (e.g. Willeit et al. (2015), Stap et al. (2016)) rather than individual records, is more appropriate approach to reconstruct past CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.*

**Whilst we agree that the use of stacked benthic oxygen isotope data is appropriate in many circumstances, we do not believe that it would be suitable in this instance. This is because the GCM experiments that the emulator is calibrated on were relatively short (500 years), and hence benthic ocean temperatures would not yet have spun-up fully and reached steady state, particularly in the high CO<sub>2</sub> experiments. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to compare deep ocean temperatures from the proxy data to the modelled temperatures. We have added some text to the paper to explain this (lines 766-770).**

**We also believe that there are benefits to using individual temperature records. For example, if the model and emulator are correct, then the analysis shows that the temperature records are not consistent with each other, which may not be obvious by just comparing the records visually. We have added the following paragraph to Section 5.3 to describe the possible sources of the inconsistencies between the reconstructions at different sites, and what we think are most likely to be the cause:**

“There is substantial variation between our CO<sub>2</sub> estimates at different sites, and this may be attributed to a number of causes. It could be that there are errors in the GCM model used, in particular in its representation of the response of climate to CO<sub>2</sub> and/or orbital forcing. There could be inaccuracies associated with the SST data at one or more locations as, if the model was assumed to be correct, the estimated CO<sub>2</sub> should be similar across the four locations. The fact that they are not may indicate that the temperature records are not consistent with each other, which may not have been obvious by just comparing the records visually. This is one of the potential advantages to using individual temperature records rather than stacked records. It may also be that there is an issue with the dating of some of the proxy records; the data may be correct but there may be uncertainties/inaccuracies in the age models. Alternatively, the emulator may be wrong; for example, there may be non-linearities in the climate response simulated by the GCM that it is not capturing. Finally, there may be errors related to the modelled representation of the ice sheets, which are fixed at a constant configuration. In reality, of the possible sources of error that have been identified, the variations are less likely to be the result of errors in the emulator's estimates of the GCM output because validation diagnostics did not seem to suggest systematic failures. They are also less likely to be due to unrepresented changes in climate due to the ice sheets. Whilst some of the variation at the high latitude sites (982 and U1313) may be attributed to some regional climate processes not fully accounted for, e.g. involving the ice sheets and sea ice, two of the sites (722 and 662) are in tropical regions. Thus, SSTs at these sites would not be expected to be affected by changes in the ice sheets, and yet they show significantly different variations. Therefore, the inconsistencies are likely to be due to a combination of errors in the GCM model and inaccuracies in the SST data.”

*4. I would strongly suggest to not use expressions like “fossil fuel emission” or “anthropogenic fossil fuel emission”. Unfortunately, this jargon is used in some publications related to energy and mitigation. However, I do not believe it is appropriate for climate modelling papers. In any case, burning of fossil fuel is the most important but not the only source of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>. Land use and cement production also play a role in rising of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.*

**This is a good point. These instances have been changed to “anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions” or similar throughout.**

*L. 54 Which “system” is meant here?*

**Inserted “climate” (line 60).**

*L. 74 Typo. “precessional”*

**Done.**

*L. 110 I would change “modern day” to “Quaternary”*

**Done.**

*L. 128 “input configuration”?*

**Inserted “(i.e. any set of orbital and CO<sub>2</sub> conditions)” (line 136).**

*L. 250 change “forcings” to “parameters”*

**Done.**

*L. 256 What about obliquity?*

**We had missed it out of the sentence, so thank you for pointing it out. It has now been added.**

*L. 265. This is not estimate of “remaining reserves”. This is just “current estimate” of fossil fuel reserves which has a tendency to increase with time.*

**Removed “remaining”.**

*L. 277 I do not believe that 20 ppm CO2 change during Holocene (which is primarily transient response to the deglaciation) has something to do with the natural CO2 variability during Anthropocene.*

**The sentence has been reworded to make it clear that we present variations during the Holocene as an example of natural variations, rather than the change that we expect to occur in the future (lines 289-291).**

*L. 209 Emission cannot be removed*

**Replaced with “taken up”.**

*L. 298 CO2 will not return to preindustrial level because glacial cycles will resume before this will happen. But even without glacial cycles, it is unlikely that preindustrial level of 280 ppm is the true equilibrium CO2 concentration in the interglacial world.*

*Even small disbalance between volcanic outgassing and weathering would cause significant CO2 drift on time scale order of 100,000 years.*

**This sentence has been modified to make these assumptions clear (lines 310-314).**

*L. 353 Please specify initial conditions for model runs.*

**Inserted “All experiments were initiated from a pre-industrial spin-up experiment, with an atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of 280 ppmv, and pre-industrial ice sheet extents and orbital conditions.” (lines 370-371).**

*L. 367 Which positive feedback is meant here? I guess this is just an artefact of models with prescribed present day vertical ozone profile.*

**This sentence has been reworded and extended (lines 384-389):**

**“This is the result of a runaway positive feedback in the GCM caused, at least in part, by the vertical distribution of ozone in the model being prescribed for modern-day climate conditions. Consequently, the ozone distribution is not able to respond to changes in climate, meaning that when increased mean global temperatures result in an increase in altitude of the tropopause and hence an extension of the troposphere, relatively high concentrations of ozone, which were previously located in the stratosphere, enter the troposphere, resulting in runaway warming.”**

*L. 502 Why “linear nature of the plot increases” confidence? In theory, this plot must not be necessarily linear.*

**This sentence has been removed.**

*L. 585 What is “SAT index”*

**It is the globally averaged mean annual SAT for each experiment, but it has not been adjusted for grid box area, therefore we refer to it as a “SAT index”. The caption for Figure 8 has been amended to clarify this.**

*L. 751 “Across the four sites...” This sentence is not clear*

**Sentence has been reworded (lines 844-846).**

*L. 758 What is the meaning of “emulated uncertainty” and how it was defined?*

**Inserted “(defined as 1 standard deviation of the emulated grid box posterior variance)” (line 712 line 844).**

L. 763 What is meant under other “human activities”?

**Sentence has been reworded to include combustion of fossil fuels, land-use change and cement production (lines 856-858).**

L. 776 “long atmospheric lifetime of fossil fuel emission”?

**Sentence has been reworded to “CO<sub>2</sub> emissions” (lines 871-873).**

L. 776 Reference to the original Archer (2005) paper would be much more appropriate

**This reference has been added (line 871).**

L. 813 -820. The authors try to argue here that the fact that they cannot model ice sheet evolution is not very important for the future 200,000 years climate projections. This is not true – see my general comments.

**The following sentence has been added to clarify that on these timescales the inability to model ice sheet evolution may be an issue (lines 916-918):**

**“As will be discussed in Sect. 7, however, the emulator was not designed and calibrated to predict changes in ice sheets. This is a limitation that should be addressed when modelling future climate on timescales of tens of thousands of years or more (depending on the CO<sub>2</sub> scenario(s) being modelled).”**

L. 899 “High latitude sites concentrations” Sounds like CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is different in different sites

**This sentence has been reworded (lines 1088-1090):**

**“Our CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations derived from tropical ODP/IODP sites show relatively similar concentrations to CO<sub>2</sub> proxy records for the same period, although the concentrations derived from higher latitude sites are generally significantly higher than the proxy data.”**

*Fig. 9. I guess Fig9a shows annual SAT difference due to CO<sub>2</sub> increase to 400 ppm. If so “modern annual SST” is misleading. What is shown in 9b is not clear to me.*

**Yes, it is correct that Fig. 9a shows the annual SAT anomaly due to CO<sub>2</sub> being increased to 400 ppm. The caption states that this is “mean annual SAT for modern-day orbital conditions”, not “modern annual SST”, so we think that this is clear. We agree that Fig. 9b was not really adding anything and have therefore removed it, and amended the main text accordingly.**

## **Reviewer II**

*I – My main concern is about the limitations of the emulation strategy. They are not sufficiently stressed in the manuscript. Indeed, the authors have performed a very good job in developing and implementing the emulator technique, and the manuscript explains in details the methodology. To some extent, this is “the best that can be done” based on GCM tools. But, obviously this is also probably not entirely sufficient... Over all, the fundamental hypothesis is that “climate” responds very smoothly (as explained in the paper) to external forcing. This also makes the even stronger assumption that long-term components of the Earth system, in particular the deep ocean, the carbon cycle and ice-sheets, have no dynamic role. Though this is indeed a fairly usual assumption when studying century-scale changes, this is unlikely to be adequate for 100-kyr to million-year studies. I think the authors should clearly state that their strategy cannot account for : (for instance) deep ocean changes (as experienced during the Quaternary during cold and but also warm periods), CO<sub>2</sub> dynamics, ice sheet dynamics. The authors make the hypothesis that it might be suitable for warmer climates (thus the Pliocene and the future) while it is clearly inadequate for the Pleistocene. This might be true, but it is also likely a perspective problem: we know quite well that the Pleistocene climate results from complex interactions between ice-sheets, deep ocean and CO<sub>2</sub>; with much fewer data, we may (or may not) assume that the Pliocene is simpler...*

**Thank you for these helpful suggestions. Please see the response to comment (1) of Reviewer I (André Ganopolski). In particular, this new section includes a discussion of the fact that we do not carry out truly transient simulations, but a series of snapshots, and as such our methodology is inappropriate for examining deep ocean trends, and becomes compromised if deep ocean transient changes are important for controlling surface climate evolution.**

2 – On Pliocene results. In line with the above comment, the hypothesis of rather small ice-sheet changes in the late Pliocene is not very well founded. The authors mention that their chosen time window does not include the M2 glaciation at 3300 kyr BP (line 614). This is not quite correct since they investigate the 3300-2800 kyr BP time window, which starts precisely with the M2 glaciation, as can be clearly seen on the data of Fig.10. The M2 glaciation is estimated to correspond to a sea-level fall between 40 and 65 m (Miller et al. 2012; Dwyer & Chandler, 2009). The following cold events (KM2 at G20) are not so well characterized, but should correspond to roughly half the size of M2 (20 to 40 m of sea level drop). On the other side, the G17, K1 or KM3 time periods experienced significant reductions in ice volume with sea level rise estimated to be  $+25 \pm 10$  m (Miller et al. 2012). Overall, ice-sheet changes are certainly much larger than assumed in the manuscript, and not bounded by the lowice/modice configurations.

**The following text has been added (lines 665-669). Please also see the response to comment (1) of Reviewer I.**

**“represents the warm phase of climate (interglacial conditions), and does not include major glaciations (though the M2 cooling event may persist to the very start of the simulation at 3300 kyr BP, and the simulated period does include periods of likely glaciation, such as KM2 (~3100 kyr BP) and G20 (~3000 kyr BP)). The emulator would not be appropriate to periods of extensive glaciation and may not be well-matched to the periods of lesser glaciation included within the simulated interval.”**

3 – The corresponding calculation of  $pCO_2$  (§6.3) probably illustrates the failure of these assumptions. In any case, the four “reconstructions” shown on Fig.12 have little in common, which certainly deserves some comments. The much higher variability seen in high-latitude data points to “polar” climatic processes not being accounted for by the emulator (like ice-sheets, incorrect sea-ice, ...). Instead of presenting these curves as possible  $pCO_2$  reconstructions (something difficult to buy), I would rather use them to discuss the limitation of the overall strategy: if the model were perfect, the four curves should be identical... Most probably, the model-data strategy is furthermore inadequate: For instance, is it reasonable to use annual mean SAT to be compared with alkenone-based SST reconstructions?

**Please see the response to comment (3) of Reviewer I, and new paragraph at the end of Section 5.3.**

4 – On the future 200 ka results. I also have problems with the rather “conservative” assumption of small ice sheet changes. According to Pollard & DeConto (2016), the disappearance of WAIS (somewhat equivalent to lowice?) correspond to the rather mild RCP4.5 scenario, while an extended RCP8.5 results in more than 20 m of sea level rise for Antarctica alone. These ice-sheet changes might also impact the deep ocean circulation, something difficult to account with the emulator strategy.

**These limitations have been discussed in a new section (7) describing the limitations of the methodology.**

5 – Lines 808 + following are discussing the limitations of the overall strategy for the next glacial inception, since there is no ice-sheet model component. I would also add that the carbon cycle is prescribed here, not interactive. In other words, the long-term smooth decrease of  $CO_2$  is based on the assumption that nothing unexpected will happen in the Earth carbon cycle, and that the “silicate weathering” mechanism (or hypothesis) is a robust one, something far from being fully understood.

**The following text has been added to this paragraph to highlight these assumptions (lines 919-924):**

**“Another caveat is that the carbon cycle in the emulator is also essentially prescribed, and thus not interactive. This means that the atmospheric  $CO_2$  trajectory follows a smooth decline, as was projected using an impulse response function based on experiments using the cGENIE model (Lord et al., 2016), with long-term future climate being modelled as a series of snapshot simulations with the emulator. This smooth decline in  $CO_2$  assumes that no non-linear or unexpected behaviour will be demonstrated by the long-term carbon cycle, and that the silicate weathering mechanism, which is associated with a substantial degree of uncertainty, is correct.”**

6 – On the experimental design, it could be useful to explain why the ice-sheet size (lowice/modice) has not been included in the emulation procedure.

**The following text was added to the “Calibration and evaluation of the emulator” section (lines 563-566):**

**“This approach was adopted, rather than including the ice sheet extent as an active input parameter to the emulator, because only two ice sheet configurations have been simulated, which are not sufficient for an interpolation. One of the main benefits of including ice sheet extent as an active input parameter would be to emulate changing ice sheets over time, but this was beyond the scope of this study.”**

7 – *The simulation of sea ice at high latitudes under high CO<sub>2</sub> might be a problem, as explained in the text (lines 575-580). It could be useful to discuss rapidly how HadCM3 compares to other GCMs in terms of sea ice.*

**The section highlighted explains that the PCA, and therefore the emulator, may not be fully capturing high latitude variations, meaning that in the leave-one-out analysis some of the high CO<sub>2</sub> simulations include larger errors in these regions compared to the equivalent GCM simulation. It is true that there may also be underlying errors in the AOGCM representation of sea ice. These are discussed in Valdes et al (2017).**

8 – *Line 871. The comparison of model results with paleodata, or the projection of future impacts, is not so much a question of resolution. 1 - The GCM resolution is often not sufficient. 2 - Very often, this requires additional modelling (proxy modelling, impact models, ...)*

**The following sentence has been added to state this (lines 1060-1062):**

**“However, further downscaling of the data may also be necessary or beneficial, via further modelling such as proxy modelling, impact models or regional climate models, or via statistical downscaling techniques.”**

9 – *Fig.2: Simulations over 2000 ppm have been discarded (§3.4.1): the corresponding points should either be removed, or should be plotted with a different colour. These plots are not “slices” but “projections”.*

**Fig. 2a has been modified as suggested (colour changed). Replaced with “projections”.**

10 – *Fig.10: the comparison to data is poor. I believe just computing a correlation coefficient and/or explained variance ratio could be useful. See above comments on discussing the overall limitations.*

**Correlation coefficients have been computed and some text to describe the results has been added to Section 5.1 (lines 694-702).**

**In addition, we have made a small number of minor changes:**

- **The affiliation of Charlotte O’Brien has been corrected**
- **The CO<sub>2</sub> reconstructions have been redone using a wider range of constant CO<sub>2</sub> scenarios (260, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, and 800 ppmv) for the linear regression. Figure 12 has been updated with the new data.**
- **Figure 7 – CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has been added to the upper y axis**
- **Minor clarifications and rewordings throughout to improve clarity**
- **Ka/Ma has been changed to Myr/kyr where appropriate**

1 **Emulation of long-term changes in global climate:**  
2 **Application to the late Pliocene and future**

3  
4 Natalie S. Lord<sup>1,2</sup>, Michel Crucifix<sup>3,4</sup>, Dan J. Lunt<sup>1,2</sup>, Mike C. Thorne<sup>5</sup>, Nabila Bounceur<sup>3</sup>,  
5 Harry Dowsett<sup>6</sup>, Charlotte L. O'Brien<sup>6,7</sup> and Andy Ridgwell<sup>1,2,8</sup>

6 <sup>1</sup>School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, BS8 1SS, UK.

7 <sup>2</sup>Cabot Institute, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK.

8 <sup>3</sup>Université catholique de Louvain, Georges Lemaître Centre for Earth and Climate Research, Earth and Life  
9 Institute, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

10 <sup>4</sup>Belgian National Fund of Scientific Research, Brussels, Belgium.

11 <sup>5</sup>Mike Thorne and Associates Limited, Quarry Cottage, Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 3NJ,  
12 UK.

13 <sup>6</sup>Eastern Geology and Paleoclimate Science Center, U. S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA 20192, USA.

14 <sup>7</sup>Department of Geology and Geophysics, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511, USA.

15 <sup>8</sup>Department of Earth Sciences, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, USA.

16 *Correspondence to:* Natalie S. Lord (Natalie.Lord@bristol.ac.uk)

17 **Abstract**

18 Multi-millennial transient simulations of climate changes have a range of important applications, such as for  
19 investigating key geologic events and transitions for which high resolution palaeoenvironmental proxy data are  
20 available, or for projecting the long-term impacts of future climate evolution on the performance of geological  
21 repositories for the disposal of radioactive wastes. However, due to the high computational requirements of  
22 current fully coupled General Circulation Models (GCMs), long-term simulations can generally only be  
23 performed with less complex models and/or at lower spatial resolution. In this study, we present novel long-term  
24 “continuous” projections of climate evolution based on the output from GCMs, via the use of a statistical  
25 emulator. The emulator is calibrated using ensembles of GCM simulations which have varying orbital  
26 configurations and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and enables a variety of investigations of long-term climate  
27 change to be conducted which would not be possible with other modelling techniques at the same temporal and  
28 spatial scales. To illustrate the potential applications, we apply the emulator to the late Pliocene (by modelling  
29 surface air temperature (SAT)), comparing its results with palaeo-proxy data for a number of global sites, and to  
30 the next 200 thousand years (kyr) (by modelling SAT and precipitation). A range of CO<sub>2</sub> scenarios are  
31 prescribed modelled for each period. During the late Pliocene, we find that emulated SAT varies on an  
32 approximately precessional timescale, with evidence of increased obliquity response at times. A comparison of  
33 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration for this period, estimated using the proxy sea surface temperature (SST)  
34 data from different sites and emulator results ~~and using proxy CO<sub>2</sub> records~~, finds that relatively similar CO<sub>2</sub>  
35 concentrations are estimated based on sites produced at lower latitudes, ~~whereas~~ although higher latitude sites  
36 show larger discrepancies. In our second illustrative application, spanning the next 200 kyr into the future, we  
37 find that SAT oscillations appear to be primarily influenced by obliquity for the first ~120 kyr, whilst  
38 eccentricity is relatively low, after which precession plays a more dominant role. Conversely, variations in  
39 precipitation over the entire period demonstrate a strong precessional signal. Overall, we find that the emulator  
40 provides a useful and powerful tool for rapidly simulating the long-term evolution of climate, both past and  
41 future, due to its relatively high spatial resolution and relatively low computational cost. However, there are  
42 uncertainties associated with the approach used, including the inability of the emulator to represent capture  
43 deviations from a quasi-stationary response to the forcing, such as true transient changes adjustments in the  
44 climate system, such as those associated with the of the deep ocean temperature and circulation, in addition to its  
45 limited range of fixed ice sheet configurations and its requirement for prescribed atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
46 concentrations.

## 47 **1 Introduction**

48 Palaeoclimate natural archives reveal how the Earth's past climate has fluctuated between warmer and cooler  
49 intervals. Glacial periods, such as the Last Glacial Maximum (e.g. Lambeck et al., 2001; Yokoyama et al.,  
50 2000), exhibit relatively lower temperatures associated with extensive ice sheets at high northern latitudes  
51 (Herbert et al., 2010; Jouzel et al., 2007; Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005), whilst interglacials are characterized by  
52 much milder temperatures in global mean. Even warmer and sometimes transient (“hyperthermal”) intervals,  
53 such as occurred during the Palaeocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (e.g. Kennett and Stott, 1991), ~~are~~  
54 characterized by even higher global mean temperatures. Assuming that on glacial-interglacial timescales and  
55 across transient warmings and climatic transitions, tectonic effects can be neglected, the timing and rate of  
56 climatic change is at least partly controlled by the three main orbital parameters – precession, obliquity and  
57 eccentricity – which have cycle durations of approximately 23, 41, and both 96 and ~400 thousand years (kyr),  
58 respectively (Berger, 1978; Hays et al., 1976; Kawamura et al., 2007; Lisiecki and Raymo, 2007; Milankovitch,  
59 1941). Further key drivers of past climate dynamics include changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and in  
60 respect of the glacial-interglacial cycles, changes in the extent and thickness of ice sheets.

61

62 In order to investigate the dynamics, impacts and feedbacks associated with the response of the climate system  
63 to orbital forcing and CO<sub>2</sub>, long-term (>10<sup>3</sup> years (yr)) projections of changing climate are required. Transient  
64 simulations such as these are useful for investigating key past episodes of extended duration for which detailed  
65 palaeoenvironmental proxy data are available, such as through the Quaternary and Pliocene, allowing data-  
66 model comparisons. Simulations of long-term future climate change also have a number of applications, such as  
67 in assessments of the safety of geological disposal of radioactive wastes. Due to the long half-lives of potentially  
68 harmful radionuclides in these wastes, geological disposal facilities must remain functional for up to 100 kyr in  
69 the case of low- and intermediate-level wastes (e.g. Low Level Waste Repository, UK (LLWR, 2011)), and up  
70 to 1 Ma-Myr in the case of high-level wastes and spent nuclear fuel (e.g. proposed KBS-3 facility, Sweden  
71 (SKB, 2011)). Projections of possible long-term future climate evolution are therefore required in order for the  
72 impact of potential climatic changes on the performance and safety of a repository to be assessed (NDA, 2010;  
73 Texier et al., 2003). Indeed, while the glacial-interglacial cycles are expected to continue into the future, the  
74 timing of onset of the next glacial episode is currently uncertain and will be fundamentally impacted by the  
75 increased radiative forcing from anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Archer and Ganopolski, 2005; Ganopolski et al.,  
76 2016; Loutre and Berger, 2000b).

77

78 Making spatially-resolved past or future projections of changes in surface climate generally involves the use of  
79 fully coupled General Circulation Models (GCMs). However, a consequence of their high spatial and temporal  
80 resolution and structural complexity (and attendant computational resources) is that it is not usually practical to  
81 run them for simulations of more than a few millennia, and invariably, rather less than a single precessional  
82 cycle. Even when run for several thousand years, only a limited number of runs can be performed. Previously,  
83 therefore, lower complexity models such as Earth system Models of Intermediate Complexity (EMICs) have  
84 been used to simulate long-term transient past (e.g. Loutre and Berger, 2000a; Stap et al., 2014) and future (e.g.  
85 Archer and Ganopolski, 2005; Eby et al., 2009; Ganopolski et al., 2016; Lenton et al., 2006; Loutre and Berger,  
86 2000b) climate development. Where GCMs have been employed, generally only a relatively small number of

87 snapshot simulations of particular climate states or time slices of interest have been modelled (Braconnot et al.,  
88 2007; Haywood et al., 2013; Marzocchi et al., 2015; Masson-Delmotte et al., 2011; Prescott et al., 2014).

89

90 In this study, we present long-term continuous projections of climate evolution based on the output from a  
91 GCM, via the use of a statistical emulator. Emulators have been utilised in previous studies for a range of  
92 applications, including sensitivity analyses of climate to orbital, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and ice sheet configurations  
93 (Araya-Melo et al., 2015; Bounceur et al., 2015) and model parameterizations (Holden et al., 2010). However,  
94 to the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that an emulator has been trained on data from a GCM and  
95 then used to simulate long-term future transient climate change. It should be noted that, whilst other research  
96 communities may use different terms, we refer to the groups of climate model experiments as “ensembles”, and  
97 we refer directly to the GCM when discussing calibration of the emulator, rather than using the term “simulator”  
98 as has been used in a number of previous studies.

99

100 We calibrated an emulator using SAT data produced using the HadCM3 GCM (Gordon et al., 2000). Two  
101 ensembles of simulations were run, with varying orbital configurations and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.  
102 Each ensemble was run twice, once with modern-day continental ice sheets and once (for a reduced number of  
103 members) with reduced-extent ice sheets. We adopted this approach because in at least two of the intended uses  
104 for the emulator (Pliocene, and long-term future climate for application to performance assessments for potential  
105 radioactive waste repositories), it is thought that the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets (GIS, WAIS)  
106 could be reduced relative to their current size. The implications and uncertainties associated with this approach  
107 are discussed in Sect. 7. The ensembles thus cover a range of possible future conditions, including the high  
108 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations expected in the near-term due to anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> fossil fuel emissions, and  
109 the gradual reduction of this CO<sub>2</sub> perturbation over timescales of hundreds of thousands of years by the long-  
110 term carbon cycle (Lord et al., 2015, 2016).

111

112 We go on to illustrate a number of different ways in which the emulator can be applied to investigate long-term  
113 climate evolution of ~~over~~ hundreds of thousands to millions of years. Firstly, the emulator is used to simulate SAT  
114 changes for the late Pliocene for the period 3300-2800 kyr before present (BP) for a range of CO<sub>2</sub>  
115 concentrations. This interval occurs in the middle part of the Piacenzian Age, and was previously referred to as  
116 the “mid-Pliocene” (e.g. Dowsett and Robinson, 2009). During this time, global temperatures were warmer than  
117 pre-industrial (e.g. Dowsett et al., 2011; Haywood and Valdes, 2004; Lunt et al., 2010), before the transition to  
118 the intensified glacial-interglacial cycles that are associated with modern-day Quaternary climate (Lisiecki and  
119 Raymo, 2007). We then apply the emulator to future climate, simulating temperature and precipitation data for  
120 the next 200 kyr (AP – after present) for a range of fossil fuel anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenarios. Regional  
121 changes in climate at a number of European sites (grid boxes) are presented, selected either because they have  
122 been identified as adopted or proposed locations for the geological disposal of solid radioactive wastes, as in the  
123 cases of Forsmark, Sweden and El Cabril, Spain, or simply as reference locations where a suitable site has not  
124 yet been identified, as in the cases of Switzerland and the UK.

125

126 The paper is structured such that the theoretical basis of the emulator is described in Sect. 2, the GCM model  
127 description and simulations are presented in Sect. 3 and an account of how the emulator is trained and evaluated  
128 is given in Sect. 4. Section 5 presents illustrative examples of a number of potential applications of the emulator  
129 for the late Pliocene. Further examples of the application of the emulator to the next 200 kyr are described in  
130 Sect. 6. Section 7 includes a description and discussion of uncertainties associated with the methodology and  
131 tools, and the conclusions of this study are presented in Sect. 87.

## 132 **2 Theoretical basis of the emulator**

133 The emulator is a statistical representation of a more complex model, in this case a GCM. It works on the  
134 principle that a relatively small number of experiments are carried out using the GCM, which fill the entire  
135 multidimensional input space (in our case, four dimensions consisting of three orbital dimensions and a CO<sub>2</sub>  
136 dimension), albeit rather sparsely. The statistical model is calibrated on these experiments, with the aim of being  
137 able to interpolate the GCM results such that it can provide a prediction of the output that the GCM would  
138 produce if it were run using any particular input configuration (i.e. any set of orbital and CO<sub>2</sub> conditions). If  
139 successful (as can be tested by comparing emulator results with additional GCM results not included in the  
140 calibration), no further experiments are required using the GCM; the emulator can then be used to produce  
141 results for any set of conditions or sequence of sets of conditions within the range of conditions on which it has  
142 been calibrated. It should not~~cannot~~, of course, be used to extrapolate to conditions outside that range.

143  
144 In this study, we use a principal component analysis (PCA) Gaussian Process (GP) emulator based on Sacks et  
145 al. (1989), with the subsequent Bayesian treatment of Kennedy and O'Hagan (2000) and Oakley and O'Hagan  
146 (2002), and ~~associated with a~~ principal component analysis approach associated with by Wilkinson (2010). All  
147 code for the GP package is available online at <https://github.com/mcrucifix/GP>. This principal component (PC)  
148 emulator is based on climate data for the entire global grid, as opposed to calibrating separate emulators based  
149 on data for individual grid boxes. This approach is taken because, for past climate, the global response overall is  
150 of interest, rather than just the response at specific locations individually. It also means that the results are  
151 consistent across all locations. For future climate, and in particular for application to nuclear waste,  
152 recommendations and results should be consistent across all sites, which would be especially relevant to a large  
153 country such as the US. Alternatively, for some countries and locations, it may be more appropriate to emulate  
154 specific grid boxes. The theoretical basis for the emulator and its calibration, is as follows.

155  
156 Let  $\mathbf{D}$  represent the design matrix of input data with  $n$  rows, where  $n$  is the total number of experiments  
157 performed with the GCM, here 60 (sum of the two ensembles). The number of columns,  $p$ , is defined by the  
158 number of dimensions in input parameter space. In this case,  $p = 4$  representing the three orbital parameters and  
159 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. A more detailed explanation of the orbital input parameters is included in Sect.  
160 3; however, briefly, they are longitude of perihelion ( $\varpi$ ), obliquity ( $\epsilon$ ) and eccentricity ( $e$ ), with longitude of  
161 perihelion and eccentricity being combined under the form  $e\sin\varpi$  and  $e\cos\varpi$ . For a set of  $i=1, \dots, n$  simulations,  
162 each simulation represents a point in input space, and is characterised by the input vector  $\mathbf{x}_i$ , i.e. a row of  $\mathbf{D}$ .

163

164 The corresponding GCM climate data output is denoted  $f(\mathbf{x}_i)$ , where the function  $f$  represents the GCM model.  
 165 This output for all  $n$  experiments is contained in the matrix  $\mathbf{Y}$ . The raw output from the GCM is in the form of  
 166 gridded data covering the Earth's surface, with 96 longitude by 73 latitude grid boxes. We perform a principal  
 167 component analysis, to reduce the dimension of the output data before it is used to calibrate the emulator. Each  
 168 column of  $\mathbf{Y}$  contains the results for one experiment, i.e.  $\mathbf{Y} = [y(x_1), \dots, y(x_n)]$ . Furthermore, the centred matrix  
 169  $\mathbf{Y}^*$  can be defined as  $\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Y}_{mean}$ , where  $\mathbf{Y}_{mean}$  is a matrix in which each row comprises a set of identical  
 170 elements that are the row averages of  $\mathbf{Y}$ . The singular value decomposition (SVD) of  $\mathbf{Y}^*$  is:

$$\mathbf{Y}^* = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{V}^{T*}, \quad (1)$$

171 where  $\mathbf{S}$  is the diagonal matrix containing the corresponding eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{V}$ ,  $\mathbf{V}$  is a matrix of the right singular  
 172 vectors of  $\mathbf{Y}$ , and  $\mathbf{U}$  is a matrix of the left singular vectors.  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$  are orthonormal, and  $\mathbf{V}^{T*}$  denotes the  
 173 conjugate transpose of the unitary matrix  $\mathbf{V}$ . The columns of  $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}$  represent the principal components, and the  
 174 columns of  $\mathbf{V}$  the principal directions/axes. Each column of  $\mathbf{U}$  represents an eigenvector,  $\mathbf{u}_k$ , and  $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{S}$  provides the  
 175 projection coefficients  $\beta_k$ . Specifically, for experiment  $i$ ,  $a_k(x_i) = \sum_k \mathbf{V}_{ik}\mathbf{S}_{kk}$  gives the projection coefficient for  
 176 the  $k$ th eigenvector. The eigenvectors are ordered by decreasing eigenvalue, and in practice only a relatively  
 177 small number of the eigenvectors will be retained ( $n'$ ), typically selected on the basis of the largest values of  
 178  $a_k(\mathbf{x})$ . Thus:

$$y(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^{n'} a_k(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{u}_k, \quad (2)$$

179 We calibrate the emulator using the reduced dimension output data rather than the raw spatial climate data.  
 180 However, for simplicity, we will first consider a simple GP emulator. For this, the model output  $f(\mathbf{x})$  for the  
 181 input conditions  $\mathbf{x}$  is modelled as a stochastic quantity that is defined by a Gaussian process. Its distribution is  
 182 fully specified by its mean function,  $m(\mathbf{x})$ , and its covariance function,  $V(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ , which may be written:

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = GP[m(\mathbf{x}), V(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')], \quad (3)$$

183 The mean and covariance functions take the form:

$$m(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})^T\boldsymbol{\beta}, \quad (4)$$

$$V(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sigma^2[c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')], \quad (5)$$

184 where  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})$  is a vector of known regression functions of the inputs,  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  is a column vector of regression  
 185 coefficients corresponding to the mean function,  $c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  is the GP correlation function and  $\sigma^2$  is a scaling value  
 186 for the covariance function.  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})$  and  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  both have  $q$  components and, as before,  $^T$  denotes the transpose  
 187 operation.

188

189 A range of options are available for the regression functions  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})$  and the GP correlation function  $c$ , the most  
 190 suitable of which depends on the application of the emulator. Any existing knowledge that the user may have  
 191 about the expected response of the GCM to the input parameters can be used to inform their function choices.  
 192 However, if the emulator performs poorly, an alternative function can be selected which may prove to be more  
 193 suitable.

194

195 We assume a linear model,  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})^T = (1, \mathbf{x}^T)$ , with any non-linearities in the GCM response being absorbed by  
 196 the stochastic component of the GP. The correlation function is exponential decay with a nugget, a detailed  
 197 discussion of which can be found in Andrianakis and Challenor (2012). Hence, for the input parameters  $a=1, p$ ,  
 198 the correlation function can be written as:

$$c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \exp \left[ - \sum_{a=1}^p \left\{ \frac{(x_a - x'_a)^2}{\delta_a} \right\} \right] + \nu I_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}'}, \quad (6)$$

199 where  $\delta$  is the correlation length hyperparameter for each input,  $\nu$  is the nugget term, and  $I$  is an operator which  
 200 is equal to 1 when  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}'$ , and 0 otherwise. The nugget term has a number of functions in this application,  
 201 including accounting for any non-linearity in the output response to the inputs and for non-explicitly specified  
 202 inactive inputs, such as initial conditions and experiment, and averaging length. It also represents the effects of  
 203 lower-order PCs that are excluded from the emulator.

204

205 Now consider run  $i$ , which has inputs characterised by  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and outputs by  $\mathbf{y}_i$ . Let  $\mathbf{H}$  be the design matrix relating  
 206 to the GCM output, where row  $i$  represents the regressors  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}_i)$ , making  $\mathbf{H}$  an  $n$  by  $q$  matrix. The adopted  
 207 modelling approach states that the prior distribution of  $\mathbf{y}$  is Gaussian, characterised by  $\mathbf{y} \sim N(\mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{A})$ , with  
 208  $\mathbf{A}_{ij} = c(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j)$ .

209

210 Following the specification of the prior model above, a Bayesian approach is now used to update the prior  
 211 distribution. The posterior estimate of the GCM output is described by:

$$m^*(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} + t(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{A}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}), \quad (7)$$

$$V^*(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sigma^2 [c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - t(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} t(\mathbf{x}') + \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}) (\mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}')^T], \quad (8)$$

212 where

$$\sigma^2 = (n - q - 2)^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H} \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}), \quad (9)$$

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{H})^{-1} \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{y}, \quad (10)$$

213 and  $t(\mathbf{x})_i = c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_i)$  and  $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})^T - t(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{H}$ .

214

215 We follow the suggestion of Berger et al. (2001) and assume a vague prior  $(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2)$  which is proportional to  $\sigma^{-2}$ , an  
 216 approach that has been adopted by several other studies, including Oakley and O'Hagan (2002), Bastos and  
 217 O'Hagan (2009), Araya-Melo et al. (2015) and Bounceur et al. (2015). The posterior distribution of the GCM  
 218 output is a student-t distribution with  $n - q$  degrees of freedom, but is sufficiently close to being Gaussian for  
 219 this application.

220

221 Now, taking the output from the PCA performed earlier, we apply the GP model to each basis vector  $(a_k(\mathbf{x}))$ ,  
 222 which has been updated according to Eq. 7 and 8, in turn. Thus:

$$a_k(\mathbf{x}) = GP[m_k(\mathbf{x}), V_k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')], \quad (11)$$

223 where mean and covariance functions take the form:

$$\mathbf{m}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^{n'} m_k(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{u}_k, \quad (12)$$

$$\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{k=1}^{n'} V_k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{u}_k^T + \sum_{k=n'+1}^n \frac{S_{kk}^2}{n} \mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{u}_k^T, \quad (13)$$

224 The values of the hyperparameters are chosen by maximising the likelihood of the emulator, following Kennedy  
 225 and O'Hagan (2000), and based on the following expression from Andrianakis and Challenor (2012):

$$\log L(v, \delta) = -\frac{1}{2} (\log(|\mathbf{A}| |\mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{H}|) + (n - q) \log(\hat{\sigma}^2)) + K, \quad (14)$$

226 where  $K$  is an unspecified constant. On the recommendation of Andrianakis and Challenor (2012), a penalised  
 227 likelihood is used, which limits the amplitude of the nugget:

$$\log L^P(v, \delta) = \log L(v, \delta) - 2 \frac{\bar{M}(v, \delta)}{\epsilon \bar{M}(\infty)}, \quad (15)$$

228 where  $\bar{M}(v, \delta)$  is the Mean Squared Error between the GCM's output data and the emulator's posterior mean at  
 229 the design points, defined by  $\bar{M}(v, \delta) = v^2 / n (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T \mathbf{A}^{-2} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\beta})$ .  $\bar{M}(\infty)$  is its asymptotic value at  $\delta_i \rightarrow \infty$ ,  
 230 given by  $\bar{M}(\infty) = 1/n (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\beta})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{H}\boldsymbol{\beta})$ .  $\epsilon$  is assigned a value of 1.

231

232 To summarise, in this study  $\mathbf{D}$  is a  $60 \times 4$  matrix ( $n \times p$ ) of input data, consisting of 60 GCM simulations and  
 233 four input factors ( $\varepsilon$ ,  $\varepsilon \sin \varpi$ ,  $\varepsilon \cos \varpi$ , and  $\text{CO}_2$ ). The matrix  $\mathbf{Y}$  contains the output data from the GCM, with  
 234 dimensions of  $96 \times 73 \times 60$  (longitude  $\times$  latitude  $\times$   $n$ ). A PC analysis is performed on this output data, which is  
 235 then used to calibrate the emulator. Four hyperparameters ( $\delta$ ) are used, due to there being four input factors,  
 236 along with a nugget term ( $v$ ). The optimal values for these hyperparameters and the number of PCs retained are  
 237 calculated during calibration and evaluation of the emulator, discussed in Sect. 4. The GCM data used in this  
 238 study are mean annual SAT, and mean annual precipitation, although these are each emulated separately using  
 239 different emulators.

## 240 3 AOGCM simulations

### 241 3.1 Model description

242 To run the GCM simulations, we used the HadCM3 climate model (Gordon et al., 2000; Pope et al., 2000) – a  
 243 coupled atmosphere-ocean general circulation model (AOGCM) developed by the UK Met Office. Although  
 244 HadCM3 can no longer be considered as state-of-the-art when compared with the latest generation of GCMs,  
 245 such as those used in the most recent IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (IPCC, 2013), its relative computational  
 246 efficiency makes it ideal for running experiments for comparatively long periods of time (of several centuries)  
 247 and for running large ensembles of simulations, as performed in this study. As a result, this model is still widely  
 248 used in climate research, both in palaeoclimatic studies (e.g. Prescott et al., 2014) and in projections of future  
 249 climate (Armstrong et al., 2016). In addition, it has previously been employed in research into climate  
 250 sensitivity using a statistical emulator (Araya-Melo et al., 2015). The horizontal resolution of the atmosphere  
 251 component is  $2.5^\circ$  latitude by  $3.75^\circ$  longitude with 19 vertical levels, whilst the ocean has a resolution of  $1.25^\circ$   
 252 by  $1.25^\circ$  and 20 vertical levels.

253

254 HadCM3 is coupled to the land surface scheme MOSES2.1 (Met Office Surface Exchange Scheme), which was  
255 developed from MOSES1 (Cox et al., 1999). It has been used in a wide range of studies (Cox et al., 2000;  
256 Crucifix et al., 2005), and a comparison to MOSES1 and to observations is provided by Valdes et al. (2017).  
257 MOSES2.1 in turn is coupled to the dynamic vegetation model TRIFFID (Top-down Representation of  
258 Interactive Foliage and Flora Including Dynamics) (Cox et al., 2002). TRIFFID calculates the global distribution  
259 of vegetation based on five plant functional types: broadleaf trees, needleleaf trees, C3 grasses, C4 grasses and  
260 shrubs. Further details of the overall model setup, denoted HadCM3M2.1E, can be found in Valdes et al. (2017).

### 261 3.2 Experimental design

262 In our simulations, four input parameters are varied: atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and the three main orbital  
263 ~~foreings parameters~~ of longitude of perihelion ( $\varpi$ ), obliquity ( $\epsilon$ ) and eccentricity ( $e$ ). The extents of the GIS and  
264 WAIS are also modified, although only between two modes – their present-day configurations and their  
265 reduced-extent Pliocene configurations (Haywood et al., 2016). The extent and thickness of the East Antarctic  
266 Ice Sheet (EAIS) was not modified. A more detailed description of the continental ice sheet configurations is  
267 provided in Sect. 3.5.

268  
269 We combined eccentricity and longitude of perihelion under the forms  $e\sin\varpi$  and  $e\cos\varpi$  given that, in general at  
270 any point in the year, insolation can be approximated as a linear combination of these two terms and obliquity  
271 ( $\epsilon$ ) (Loutre, 1993). The ranges of orbital and CO<sub>2</sub> values considered are appropriate for the next 1 Ma-Myr and a  
272 range of anthropogenic emissions scenarios. For the astronomical parameters, calculated using the Laskar et al.  
273 (2004) solution, this essentially equates to their full ranges of -0.055 to 0.055 for  $e\sin\varpi$  and  $e\cos\varpi$ , and 22.2° to  
274 24.4° for  $\epsilon$ .

275  
276 For CO<sub>2</sub>, an emissions scenario is selected from Lord et al. (2016) in which atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> follows observed  
277 historical concentrations from 1750 CEAD (Common Era Anno Domini) to 2010 CEAD (Meinshausen et al.,  
278 2011), after which emissions follow a logistic trajectory, resulting in cumulative total emissions of 10,000 Pg C  
279 by year ~3200 CE. This experiment was run for 1 Ma-Myr using the cGENIE Earth system model, and aims to  
280 represent a maximum total future CO<sub>2</sub> release. To put this into perspective: current estimates of remaining-fossil  
281 fuel reserves are approximately 1000 Pg C, with an estimated ~4000 Pg C in fossil fuel resources that may be  
282 extractable in the future (McGlade and Ekins, 2015), and up to 20-25,000 Pg C in nonconventional resources  
283 such as methane clathrates (Rogner, 1997). The evolution of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration over the next 200  
284 kyr for this emissions scenario is show in Fig. 1. Although in the cGENIE simulation, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> reaches  
285 a maximum of 3900 parts per million (ppmv) within the first few hundred years, this concentration is not at  
286 equilibrium and only lasts for a couple of decades before decreasing. As a result, the concentration at 500 years  
287 into the experiment, 3600 ppmv, is chosen as the upper CO<sub>2</sub> limit, which means that the climatic effects of  
288 emissions of more than 10,000 Pg C cannot be estimated with the emulator.

289  
290 By the end of the 1 Ma-Myr emissions scenario, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have nearly declined to pre-  
291 industrial levels, reaching 285 ppmv. However, this experiment does not account for natural variations in the  
292 carbon cycle, which result in periodic fluctuations in CO<sub>2</sub>. For example, during the Holocene (11 kyr BP to

293 ~~~1750 CE) which resulted in~~ atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> ~~variyeding~~ between 260 and 280 ppmv ~~during the Holocene (11~~  
294 ~~kyr BP to ~1750 AD)~~ (Monnin et al., 2004). A value of 250 ppmv is therefore deemed to be appropriate to  
295 account for these natural variations in an unglaciated world, in addition to possible uncertainties in the model  
296 and hence is assumed as the value of the lower CO<sub>2</sub> limit in the ensemble.

297

298 The orbital and CO<sub>2</sub> parameter ranges that have been selected are also applicable to unglaciated periods during  
299 the the late Pliocene, when atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> was estimated to be higher than pre-industrial values (Martinez-  
300 Boti et al., 2015; Raymo et al., 1996). In this study, we do not consider or attempt to simulate past or future  
301 glacial episodes, which may be accompanied by larger continental ice sheets (see Sect. 7 for more discussion),  
302 although the conditions required to initiate the next glaciation, and extending the ensemble of GCM simulations  
303 to represent glacial states, are being investigated in a forthcomingseparate study. The underlying assumption of  
304 our ensemble is that it is suitable for simulating periods for which the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is high enough to  
305 prevent entry into a glacial state.

306

307 Two ensembles were generated, each made up of 40 simulations, meeting the recommended 10 experiments per  
308 input parameter (Loeppky et al., 2009). One ensemble includes orbital values suitable for the next 1 Ma-Myr and  
309 a relatively small range of lower CO<sub>2</sub> values, whereas the other ensemble represents the shorter-term future with  
310 a reduced range of orbital values and a larger range of higher CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. This approach was adopted  
311 because various studies have shown that on geological timescales of thousands to hundreds of thousands of  
312 years, an emission of fossil-fuelanthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere is removed-taken up by natural carbon  
313 cycle processes over different timescales (Archer et al., 1997; Lord et al., 2016). A relatively large fraction of  
314 the CO<sub>2</sub> perturbation is neutralised on shorter timescales of 10<sup>3</sup>-10<sup>4</sup> years, but it takes 10<sup>5</sup>-10<sup>6</sup> years for  
315 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations to very slowly return to pre-industrial levels (Colbourn et al., 2015; Lenton and  
316 Britton, 2006; Lord et al., 2016). if the effects of glacial-interglacial cycles and other natural variations, such as  
317 those due to imbalances between volcanic outgassing and weathering, are excluded. Hence, only a relatively  
318 short portion of the full million years has very high CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations under any emissions scenario, with the  
319 major part of the time having a CO<sub>2</sub> concentration no more than several hundred ppmv above pre-industrial, as  
320 demonstrated in Fig. 1.

321

322 The parameter ranges for the two ensembles, which are referred to as “*highCO<sub>2</sub>*” and “*lowCO<sub>2</sub>*”, are given in  
323 Table 1. The cut-off point for the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble is set at 110 kyr AP, as after this time eccentricity, which  
324 remained relatively low prior to this time, starts to increase more rapidly, and variability in  $e\sin\omega$  and  $e\cos\omega$   
325 increases. This first ensemble therefore has CO<sub>2</sub> sampled up to 3600 ppmv, and the orbital parameters are  
326 sampled within the reduced range of values that will occur over the next 110 kyr. The *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble  
327 samples the full range of orbital values and the upper CO<sub>2</sub> limit is set to 560 ppmv. This upper limit also covers  
328 the range of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations that have been estimated for the late Pliocene (e.g. Martinez-Boti et al., 2015;  
329 Seki et al., 2010). At 110 kyr in the 10,000 Pg C emissions scenario, the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is 542  
330 ppmv, which is rounded up to twice the pre-industrial atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (560 ppmv = 2\*280  
331 ppmv), a common scenario used in future climate-change modelling studies.

332

333 The benefits of the approach of having separate ensembles for high and low CO<sub>2</sub> mean that both parameter  
334 ranges have sufficient sampling density, whilst also reducing the chance of unrealistic sets of parameters, in  
335 particular for the period of the next 110 kyr. During this time, CO<sub>2</sub> is likely to be comparatively high, while  
336 eccentricity remains relatively low, and  $e\sin\omega$  and  $e\cos\omega$  exhibit relatively low variability. Having a separate  
337 ensemble in which CO<sub>2</sub> and the orbital parameters are only sampled within the ranges experienced within the  
338 next 110 kyr avoids wasting computing time on parameter combinations that are highly unlikely to occur, such  
339 as very high CO<sub>2</sub> and very high eccentricity. This methodology also provides the additional benefit of the low  
340 CO<sub>2</sub> emulator being applicable to palaeo-modelling studies, as the ensemble encompasses an appropriate range  
341 of CO<sub>2</sub> and orbital values for many past periods of interest, such as the Pliocene.

### 342 3.3 Generation of experiment ensembles

343 We used the Latin hypercube sampling function from the MATLAB Statistics and Machine Learning Toolbox  
344 (LHC; (MATLAB, 2012b)) to generate the two ensembles, ~~thereby. This is a statistical method that~~ efficiently  
345 ~~samplings~~ the four-dimensional input parameter space (Mckay et al., 1979). Briefly, this method ~~works by~~  
346 ~~dividesing~~ the parameter space within the prescribed ranges into  $n$  equally probable intervals,  $n$  being the  
347 number of experiments required, which in this case is 40 per ensemble.  $n$  points are then selected for each input  
348 variable, one from each interval, without replacement. The sample points for the four variables are then  
349 randomly combined. The LHC sampling function also includes an option to maximize the minimum distance  
350 between all pairs of points (~~the maxi-min criteria~~), which is utilised here to ensure the set of experiments is  
351 optimally space filling. ~~This is called the maxi-min criteria.~~

352  
353 For each ensemble, 3000 sample sets were created, with each set consisting of an  $n$  by  $p$  matrix,  $X$ , containing  
354 the four sampled input parameter values for each of the 40 experiments, and then the optimal sample set was  
355 selected as the final ensemble based on a number of criteria. Following Joseph and Hung (2008), we seek, in  
356 addition to the maxi-min ~~criteria~~, to maximise  $\det(X^T X)$ . Here, we will term this determinant the  
357 “orthogonality”, because the columns of the design matrix will ~~indeed~~ approach orthogonality as this  
358 determinant is maximised (assuming that input factors are normalised). However, a limitation of the method of  
359 sampling the parameters  $e\sin\omega$  and  $e\cos\omega$ , rather than eccentricity and longitude of perihelion directly, is that  
360 due to the nature of the  $e\sin\omega$  and  $e\cos\omega$  parameter space, the sampling process favours higher values of  
361 eccentricity over lower ones. This is not an issue for the longitude of perihelion, ~~becauseas~~ when eccentricity is  
362 low the value of this parameter has little effect on insolation. However, the value of obliquity selected for a  
363 given eccentricity value could have a significant impact on climate, meaning that it is desirable to have a  
364 relatively large range of obliquity values for low (<0.01) and high (>0.05) eccentricity values, in order to sample  
365 the boundaries sufficiently. It was observed that the sample sets with the highest orthogonality had  
366 comparatively few, if any, values of low eccentricity, also meaning that a very limited number of obliquity  
367 values were sampled for low eccentricity. We therefore adopted the approach whereby all sample sets that  
368 demonstrated normalised orthogonality values that were more than 1 standard deviation above the mean  
369 orthogonality were selected. From these, the single sample set with the greatest range of obliquity values for low  
370 eccentricity, hence with maximal sampling coverage of the low eccentricity boundary, was selected as the final

371 ensemble design. The input parameter values for the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* and *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* ensembles are given in Table 2, and  
372 the distributions in parameter space illustrated in Fig. 2.

### 373 **3.4 AOGCM simulations**

374 The two CO<sub>2</sub> ensembles were initially run with constant modern-day GIS and WAIS configurations (*modice*).  
375 All experiments were initiated from a pre-industrial spin-up experiment, with an atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration  
376 of 280 ppmv, and pre-industrial ice sheet extents and orbital conditions. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and the orbital  
377 parameters were kept constant throughout each simulation, and each experiment was run for a total of 500  
378 model years. This ~~simulation~~ length allows the experiments with lower CO<sub>2</sub> to reach near-equilibrium at the  
379 surface. Experiments with higher CO<sub>2</sub> have not yet equilibrated by the end of this period; the significance of this  
380 is addressed in Sect. 3.6. A number of the very high CO<sub>2</sub> experiments caused the model to become unstable and  
381 the interpretation of these experiments is discussed in Sect. 3.4.1. A control simulation was also run for 500  
382 years, with the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and the orbital parameters set at pre-industrial values. All climate  
383 variable results for the model, unless specified, are an average of the final 50 years of the simulation. Anomalies  
384 compared with the pre-industrial control (i.e. emulated minus pre-industrial) are discussed and used in the  
385 emulator, rather than absolute values, to account for biases in the control climate of the model.

#### 386 **3.4.1 Very high CO<sub>2</sub> simulations**

387 As mentioned previously, experiments in the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble with CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations of greater than 3100  
388 ppmv become unstable. These experiments exhibit accelerating warming trends several hundred years into the  
389 simulation, which eventually cause the model to crash before completion. This is the result of a runaway  
390 positive feedback in the GCM caused, at least in part, by the vertical distribution of ozone in the model being  
391 prescribed for modern-day climate conditions. Consequently, rather the ozone distribution is not than being  
392 able to respond to changes in climate, meaning that- when increased mean global temperatures result in an  
393 increase in altitude of the tropopause and hence an extension of the troposphere, resulting in runaway warming  
394 as- relatively high concentrations of ozone, which were previously located in the stratosphere, enter the  
395 troposphere, resulting in runaway warming.

396  
397 All other experiments ran for the full 500 years. However, those with a CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of 2000 ppmv or  
398 higher also exhibited accelerating warming trends before the end of the simulation. Consequently, only  
399 simulations with CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations of less than 2000 ppmv (equivalent to a total ~~fossil-fuel~~ CO<sub>2</sub> release of up  
400 to 6000 Pg C) are included in the rest of this study, meaning the methodology is not appropriate for CO<sub>2</sub> values  
401 greater than this. This equates to 20 experiments in total from the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble, with CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations  
402 ranging from 303 to 1901 ppmv. All 40 of the *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* experiments were used.

### 403 **3.5 Sensitivity to ice sheets**

404 In addition to running the two ensembles with modern-day GIS and WAIS configurations, we also investigated  
405 the climatic impact of reducing the sizes of the ice sheets. Many of the CO<sub>2</sub> values sampled, particularly in the  
406 *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble, are significantly higher than pre-industrial levels, and if the resulting climate were to persist

407 for a long periods of time ~~they-it~~ could result in significant melting of the continental ice sheets over timescales  
408 of  $10^3$ - $10^4$  years (Charbit et al., 2008; Stone et al., 2010; Winkelmann et al., 2015).

409  
410 We therefore set up the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* and *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* ensembles with reduced GIS and WAIS extents (*lowice*), using  
411 the PRISM4 Pliocene reconstruction of the ice sheets (Dowsett et al., 2016). In this reconstruction, the GIS is  
412 limited to high elevations in the Eastern Greenland Mountains, and no ice is present over Western Antarctica.  
413 Similar patterns of ice retreat have been simulated in response to future warming scenarios for the GIS (Greve,  
414 2000; Huybrechts and de Wolde, 1999; Ridley et al., 2005; Stone et al., 2010) and WAIS (Huybrechts and de  
415 Wolde, 1999; Winkelmann et al., 2015), equivalent to ~7 m (Ridley et al., 2005) and ~3 m (Bamber et al., 2009;  
416 Feldmann and Levermann, 2015) of global sea level rise, respectively. Large regions of the ~~East Antarctic ice~~  
417 ~~sheet (EAIS)~~ show minimal changes or slightly increased surface elevation, although there is substantial loss of  
418 ice in the Wilkes and Aurora subglacial basins (Haywood et al., 2016).

419  
420 The same CO<sub>2</sub> and orbital parameter sample sets were used for both ice configuration ensembles to allow the  
421 impact of varying the ice-sheet extents on climate to be directly compared. Only the Greenland and Antarctic  
422 grid boxes were modified; the boundary conditions for all other grid boxes, as well as the land/sea mask, were  
423 the same as in the modern-day ice sheet simulations. For Greenland and Antarctica, the extent and orography of  
424 the ice sheets was updated with the PRISM4 data, as well as the orography of any grid boxes that are projected  
425 to be ice-free. Soil properties, land surface type and snow cover were also updated for these grid boxes. Figure 3  
426 compares the orography for the *modice* and *lowice* ensembles, clearly showing the reduced extents for the ice  
427 sheets.

### 428 3.5.1 Pattern scaling of reduced ice simulations

429 It was expected that reducing the size of the continental ice sheets would have a relatively localised impact on  
430 climate (Lunt et al., 2004), and that the effect would be of a linear nature. Therefore, a subset of five simulations  
431 from the two ensembles were selected as reduced ice-sheet simulations (*lowCO<sub>2</sub>* – experiments 8, 19 and 29;  
432 *highCO<sub>2</sub>* – experiments 21, and 34; see Table 2), covering a range of orbital and CO<sub>2</sub> values.

433  
434 A comparison of the mean annual SAT anomaly for the five experiments showed that the largest temperature  
435 changes occur over Greenland and Antarctica, particularly in regions where there is ice in the *modice* ensemble  
436 but that are ice free in *lowice*. The spatial pattern of the change is also fairly similar across the simulations,  
437 suggesting that the response of climate to the extents of the ice sheets is largely independent of orbital variations  
438 or CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. The SAT anomaly for the five *lowice* experiments compared with their *modice*  
439 equivalents was calculated, and then averaged across the experiments, shown in Fig. 4a. The largest SAT  
440 anomalies occur locally to the GIS and Antarctic ice sheet (AIS), accompanied by smaller anomalies in some of  
441 the surrounding ocean regions (e.g. Barents and Ross Seas), with no significant changes in SAT elsewhere, in  
442 line with the results of Lunt et al. (2004); Toniazzo et al. (2004) and (Ridley et al., 2005). This SAT anomaly,  
443 caused by the reduced extents of the GIS and WAIS, was then applied (added) to the mean annual SAT anomaly  
444 data for all other *highCO<sub>2</sub>* and *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* *modice* experiments, to generate the SAT data for two *lowice* ensembles.

446 Also shown in Fig. 4, for comparison, are mean annual SAT anomalies produced by the other forcings,  
447 including a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub>, the difference between maximum and minimum obliquity and the difference  
448 between “warm” orbital conditions and “cold” orbital conditions. The warming caused by increased CO<sub>2</sub> is  
449 more widespread (Fig. 4b), with the largest warming occurring at high latitudes and for land regions, in  
450 agreement with typical future-climate simulations (IPCC, 2013, p. 1059). The temperature change due to  
451 obliquity and “warm” versus “cold” orbital conditions is less than that for either reduced ice (compared to pre-  
452 industrial) or increased CO<sub>2</sub>. Changes in obliquity have the largest impact on temperatures in high latitude  
453 regions, since the exposure of these regions to the sun’s radiation is most affected by changes in obliquity.  
454 Smaller temperature anomalies are observed over northern Africa and India and, since an increase in obliquity is  
455 indeed known to boost monsoon dynamics (e.g. Araya-Melo et al., 2015; Bosmans et al., 2015), changes in soil  
456 latent heat exchanges are therefore expected to contribute negatively to the temperature response. The  
457 comparison of “warm” versus “cold” orbital conditions, which highlights (annual mean) temperature changes  
458 primarily caused by precession, generally shows a warming trend, with the largest temperature changes  
459 occurring in monsoonal regions. Lower temperatures are observed in the Northern Hemisphere over northern  
460 Africa, India and, East Asia, whilst warmer temperatures occur in the Southern Hemisphere over South  
461 America, southern Africa and Australia. Figure 4 demonstrates that the temperature forcing caused by CO<sub>2</sub>  
462 affects mean annual temperatures on a global scale, whilst the forcing due to ice sheet and orbital changes  
463 affects mean annual temperatures in specific regions, having a limited impact on global mean temperatures. This  
464 is supported by the relatively high global mean SAT anomaly for the 2xCO<sub>2</sub> scenario of 4.2°C, compared with  
465 the lower SAT anomalies that result from the obliquity and precession forcing of 0.4°C each (see caption of Fig.  
466 4).

### 467 **3.6 Calculation of equilibrated climate**

468 Given the high values of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in many of the experiments, particularly in the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble,  
469 even by the end of the 500 yr running period the climate has not yet reached steady state. We therefore  
470 ~~estimated~~ ~~calculated~~ the fully equilibrated climate response using the methods described below.

#### 471 **3.6.1 Gregory plots**

472 In order to estimate the equilibrated response, we applied the method of Gregory et al. (2004) to the model  
473 results, regressing the net radiative flux at the top of the atmosphere (TOA) against the global average SAT  
474 change, as displayed in figures termed Gregory plots (Andrews et al., 2015; Andrews et al., 2012; Gregory et al.,  
475 2015). In this method, for an experiment which has a constant forcing applied (i.e. with no inter-annual  
476 variation) it can be assumed that:

$$477 \quad N = F - \alpha \Delta T, \tag{16}$$

478 where  $N$  is the change in the global mean net TOA radiative flux ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ),  $F$  is the effective radiative forcing ( $\text{W}$   
479  $\text{m}^{-2}$ ; positive downwards),  $\alpha$  is the climate feedback parameter ( $\text{W m}^{-2} \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$ ), and  $\Delta T$  is the global mean annual  
480 SAT change compared with the control simulation ( $^\circ\text{C}$ ). This method works on the assumption that if  $F$  and  $\alpha$   
481 are constant,  $N$  is an approximately linear function of  $\Delta T$ . By linearly regressing  $\Delta T$  against  $N$ , both  $F$  (intercept  
482 of the line at  $\Delta T = 0$ ) and  $-\alpha$  (slope of the line) can be diagnosed. The intercept of the line at  $N = 0$  provides an

483 estimate of the equilibrium SAT change (relative to the pre-industrial SAT) for the experiment, denoted  $\Delta T_{eq}^g$  to  
484 indicate it was calculated from the Gregory plots, and is equal to  $F/\alpha$ . This is in contrast to the SAT change  
485 calculated directly from the GCM model data by averaging the final 50 years of the experiment ( $\Delta T_{500}$ ).

486

487 The Gregory plots for two *modice* experiments, *modice\_lowCO2\_13* ( $\text{CO}_2$  555.6 ppmv) and  
488 *modice\_highCO2\_17* ( $\text{CO}_2$  1151.6 ppmv), are shown in Fig. 5. These experiments were selected as they have  
489  $\text{CO}_2$  values nearest to the 2x and 4x pre-industrial  $\text{CO}_2$  scenarios that are commonly used in idealised future  
490 climate experiments. For each experiment, mean annual data are plotted for years 1-20 of the simulation, and  
491 mean decadal data for years 21-500. The regression fits are to mean annual data in each case, and years 1-20 and  
492 21-500 were fitted separately. The values for  $F$  and  $\alpha$  estimated from Fig. 5 are presented in Table 3. These  
493 values are slightly lower than those identified in other studies using the same method. For example, Gregory et  
494 al. (2004) used HadCM3 to run experiments with 2x and 4x $\text{CO}_2$ , obtaining values for years 1-90 of  $3.9 \pm 0.2$   
495 and  $7.5 \pm 0.3 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  for  $F$ , and  $-1.26 \pm 0.09$  and  $-1.19 \pm 0.07 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$  for  $\alpha$ , respectively. Andrews et al.  
496 (2015) calculated  $F$  to be  $7.73 \pm 0.26 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  and  $\alpha$  to be  $-1.25 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$  for years 1-20 and  $-0.74 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ }^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$  for  
497 years 21-100 for 4x $\text{CO}_2$  simulations using HadCM3. The differences between our results and theirs may be due  
498 to the fact that we used MOSES2.1 and the TRIFFID vegetation model, whereas they used MOSES1, which is a  
499 different land-surface scheme and does not account for vegetation feedbacks.

500

501 The decrease in the climate response parameter ( $\alpha$ ) as the experiment progresses suggests that the strength of the  
502 climate feedbacks changes as the climate evolves over time. Consequently, the  $\Delta T$  intercept ( $N = 0$ ) for the first  
503 20 years of the simulation underestimates the actual warming of the model. Over longer timescales, the slope of  
504 the regression line becomes less negative, implying that the sensitivity of the climate system to the forcing  
505 increases (Andrews et al., 2015; Gregory et al., 2004; Knutti and Rugenstein, 2015). This non-linearity has been  
506 found to be particularly apparent in cloud feedback parameters, in particular shortwave cloud feedback  
507 processes (Andrews et al., 2015; Andrews et al., 2012). A number of studies have attributed this strengthening  
508 of the feedbacks to changes in the pattern of surface warming (Williams et al., 2008), mainly in the eastern  
509 tropical Pacific where an intensification of warming can occur after a few decades, but also in other regions such  
510 as the Southern Ocean (Andrews et al., 2015). The impact of variations in ocean heat uptake has also been  
511 suggested to be a contributing factor (Geoffroy et al., 2013; Held et al., 2010; Winton et al., 2010).

512

513 We take the  $\Delta T$  intercept ( $N = 0$ ) for years 21-500 to give the equilibrium temperature change ( $\Delta T_{eq}^g$ ) for the  
514 experiments, equating to values of 4.3°C and 8.9°C for the 2x and 4x $\text{CO}_2$  scenarios in Fig. 5. A limitation of this  
515 approach is that it assumes that the response of climate to a forcing is linear after the first 20 years, which has  
516 been shown to be unlikely in longer simulations of several decades or centuries (Andrews et al., 2015; Armour  
517 et al., 2013; Winton et al., 2010). However, a comparison of the difference in temperature response to upper-  
518 and deep-ocean heat uptake and its contribution to the relationship between net radiative flux change ( $N$ ) and  
519 global temperature change ( $\Delta T$ ) in Geoffroy et al. (2013) indicated that the method of Gregory et al. (2004) of  
520 fitting two separate linear models to the early and subsequent ( $N$ ,  $\Delta T$ ) data gives a good approximation of  $\Delta T_{eq}^g$ ,  
521  $F$  and  $\alpha$  as they have been calculated here. A study by Li et al. (2013) also found that, using the Gregory plot  
522 methodology,  $\Delta T_{eq}^g$  was estimated to within 10% of its actual value, obtained by running the simulation very

523 close to equilibrium (~6000 yr). However, this was using the ECHAM5/MPIOM model, meaning that it is not  
524 necessarily also true for HadCM3.

525

526 Given that the slope of the 21-500 yr regression line appears to become shallower with time, the estimates of  
527  $\Delta T_{eq}^g$  should be taken as a lower limit of the actual equilibrated SAT anomaly. However, this tendency to  
528 flatten, particularly as the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is increased, further justifies our use of the Gregory methodology;  
529 by the end of 500 years the high CO<sub>2</sub> experiments have not yet reached steady state, and even in the lower CO<sub>2</sub>  
530 experiments SAT is increasing very slowly, so will likely take a long time to reach equilibrium. It would  
531 therefore not be feasible to run most of these experiments to steady state using a GCM, due to the associated  
532 computational and time requirements. Furthermore, on longer timescales the boundary conditions (orbital  
533 characteristics and, more importantly, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations) would have changed, such that, in  
534 reality, equilibrium would never be attained.

### 535 3.6.2 Equilibrated climate

536 The final estimates of  $\Delta T_{eq}^g$  for the *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* and *highCO<sub>2</sub> modice* ensembles range from a minimum of -0.4°C  
537 (CO<sub>2</sub> 264.5 ppmv) to a maximum of 12.5°C (CO<sub>2</sub> 1900.9 ppmv). Figure 6 illustrates the difference between  
538 global mean annual SAT anomaly calculated from the GCM model data ( $\Delta T_{500}$ ) and calculated using the  
539 Gregory plot ( $\Delta T_{eq}^g$ ). Experiments with CO<sub>2</sub> below or near to pre-industrial levels tended to reach equilibrium  
540 by the end of the 500 years making a Gregory plot unnecessary, hence  $\Delta T_{eq}^g$  is taken to be the same as  $\Delta T_{500}$  in  
541 these cases. As CO<sub>2</sub> increases, the data points in Fig. 6 deviate further from the 1:1 line. This is the result of the  
542 ratio between  $\Delta T_{eq}^g$  and  $\Delta T_{500}$  increasing, as the experiments grow increasingly far from equilibrium by the end  
543 of the GCM run with increasing CO<sub>2</sub>.

544

545 We next calculated the ratio between  $\Delta T_{eq}^g$  and  $\Delta T_{500}$  for each experiment ( $\Delta T_{eq}^g/\Delta T_{500}$ ), which represents the  
546 fractional increase in climate change still due to occur after the end of the 500-year model run in order for  
547 steady state to be reached. To estimate the fully equilibrated climate anomaly, the spatial distribution of mean  
548 annual SAT anomaly was multiplied by the  $\Delta T_{eq}^g/\Delta T_{500}$  ratio. The ratio identified for each experiment is  
549 assumed to be equally applicable to all grid boxes. The same scaling ratio was also applied to the precipitation  
550 anomaly data to estimate the equilibrated mean annual precipitation.

551

552 The equilibrated global mean annual SAT anomaly ( $\Delta T_{eq}$ ) for the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* and *lowCO<sub>2</sub> modice* ensembles is  
553 plotted against  $\ln(\text{CO}_2)$  in Fig. 7, along with  $\Delta T_{500}$  for reference. ~~The linear nature of the plot increases our~~  
554 ~~confidence that the Gregory methodology is suitable for our uses, given the logarithmic relationship between~~  
555 ~~SAT and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.~~ Also plotted on Fig. 7 are a number of lines illustrating idealised relationships  
556 between  $\Delta T_{eq}$  and CO<sub>2</sub> based on a range of climate sensitivities. The most recent IPCC report suggested that the  
557 likely range for equilibrium climate sensitivity is 1.5°C to 4.5°C (IPCC, 2013), hence sensitivities of 1.5°C, 3°C  
558 and 4.5°C have been plotted. The size of the correction required to calculate  $\Delta T_{eq}$  from  $\Delta T_{500}$  increases with  
559 increasing CO<sub>2</sub>, and brings the final temperature estimates in line with the expected response (red lines), further  
560 increasing our confidence. The  $\Delta T_{eq}$  estimated for the experiments generally follows the upper line, equivalent  
561 to an equilibrium climate sensitivity of 4.5°C, which is higher than a previous estimate of 3.3°C for HadCM3

562 (Williams et al., 2001). This difference may be due to our simulations being “fully equilibrated” following the  
563 application of the Gregory plot methodology. In addition, Williams et al. (2001) used an older version of  
564 HadCM3 and prescribed vegetation (MOSES1), whilst in this study interactive vegetation is used (MOSES2.1  
565 with TRIFFID).

#### 566 **4 Calibration and evaluation of the emulator**

567 By considering different contributions of modern and low ice, high and low CO<sub>2</sub>, different number of PCs, and  
568 different values for the correlation length hyperparameters, we generated an ensemble of emulators, in order to  
569 test their relative performance. The *modice* and *lowice* ensembles were treated as independent data sets that  
570 were used separately when calibrating the emulator, since ice extent is not defined explicitly as an input  
571 parameter in the emulator code. This approach was adopted, rather than including the ice sheet extent as an  
572 active input parameter to the emulator, because only two ice sheet configurations have been simulated, which  
573 are not sufficient for an interpolation. One of the main benefits of including ice sheet extent as an active input  
574 parameter would be to emulate changing ice sheets over time, but this was beyond the scope of this study, and  
575 this methodology in its current form, as the glacial interglacial cycles are not considered.  $\ln\sigma(\text{CO}_2)$  was used  
576 as one of the four input parameters, along with obliquity,  $e\sin\varpi$  and  $e\cos\varpi$ . The performance of each emulator  
577 was assessed using a leave-one-out cross-validation approach, where a series of emulators is constructed, and  
578 used to predict one left-out experiment each time. For example, for the *lowCO<sub>2</sub> modice* ensemble (40  
579 experiments), 40 emulators were calibrated with one experiment left out of each. This left-out experiment was  
580 then reproduced using the corresponding emulator, and the results compared with the actual experiment results.  
581 The number of grid boxes for each experiment calculated to lie within different standard deviation bands, and  
582 the root mean squared error (RMSE) averaged across all the emulators were used as performance indicators to  
583 compare the different input configurations and hyperparameter value selections. The results in this section are  
584 applicable to the *modice* emulator, unless otherwise specified, however the calibration and evaluation for the  
585 *lowice* emulator yielded similar trends and results.

#### 586 **4.1 Sensitivity to input data**

587 We investigated the impact on performance of calibrating the emulator on the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* and *lowCO<sub>2</sub> modice*  
588 ensembles separately, and combined. The *lowCO<sub>2</sub> modice* emulator generally performs slightly better in the  
589 leave-one-out cross-validation exercise than the *highCO<sub>2</sub> modice* version, with a lower RMSE and fewer grid  
590 boxes with an error of more than 2 standard deviations. Combining the two ensembles into one emulator results  
591 in a similar RMSE to the *lowCO<sub>2</sub>-only modice* emulator but decreases the RMSE compared with the *highCO<sub>2</sub>-*  
592 *only modice* emulator. As a consequence, we took the approach of calibrating the emulator on the combined  
593 ensembles for the rest of the study. This has the advantage that continuous simulations of climate with CO<sub>2</sub>  
594 levels that cross the boundary between the high and low CO<sub>2</sub> ensembles (~560 ppmv), such as may be  
595 appropriate for emulation of future climate, can be performed using one emulator, rather than having to calibrate  
596 separate emulators for different time periods based on CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. There is also no loss of performance  
597 in the emulator for either set of CO<sub>2</sub> ranges, but rather a slight improvement for the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble.

## 598 4.2 Optimisation of hyperparameters

599 We calibrated two separate emulators, the first using the *modice* data and the second using the *lowice* data, both  
600 with 60 experiments each (combined *highCO<sub>2</sub>* and *lowCO<sub>2</sub>*). The input factors ( $\epsilon$ ,  $e\sin\varpi$ ,  $e\cos\varpi$  and  $\ln(\text{CO}_2)$ )  
601 were standardised prior to the calibration being performed; each was centred in relation to its column mean, and  
602 then scaled based on the standard deviation of the column. We tested different emulator configurations by  
603 varying the number of principal components retained, ranging from 5 to 20, and for each emulator  
604 configuration, the correlation length scales  $\delta$  and nugget  $\nu$  were optimized by maximization of the penalised  
605 likelihood. This optimisation was carried out in log-space, ensuring that the optimised hyperparameters would  
606 be positive. A leave-one-out validation was performed each time, and the *modice* and *lowice* configurations that  
607 performed best were selected as the final two optimised emulators. We found that a *modice* emulator retaining  
608 13 principal components has the lowest RMSE and a relatively low percentage of grid boxes with errors of more  
609 than 2 standard deviations. The scales  $\delta$  for the *modice* emulator are 7.509 ( $\epsilon$ ), 3.361 ( $e\sin\varpi$ ), 3.799 ( $e\cos\varpi$ ),  
610 0.881 ( $\text{CO}_2$ ), and the nugget is 0.0631. In contrast, a *lowice* emulator using 15 principal components exhibits the  
611 best performance, with length scales  $\delta$  of 5.597 ( $\epsilon$ ), 2.887 ( $e\sin\varpi$ ), 3.273 ( $e\cos\varpi$ ), 0.846 ( $\text{CO}_2$ ), and a nugget of  
612 0.0925. In both cases, the scales for the three orbital parameters are larger than the range associated with the  
613 input factors, indicating that the response is relatively linear with respect to these terms.

614

615 The *modice* emulator was evaluated using the leave-one-out methodology and results are shown in Fig. 8. The  
616 results suggest that the emulator performs well. Figure 8a shows the percentage of grid boxes for each left-out  
617 experiment estimated by the corresponding emulator within different standard deviation bands, along with the  
618 RMSE. The mean percentage of grid boxes within 1 and 2 standard deviations is 80% and 97%, which roughly  
619 corresponds to the 68% and 95% ratios expected for a normal distribution, suggesting that the uncertainty in the  
620 prediction is being correctly captured.

621

622 Several of the experiments performed considerably worse than others, exhibiting below the expected number of  
623 grid boxes with errors within 1 standard deviation (for reference, the mean value for 1 standard deviation across  
624 the left-out experiments is 0.3°C), and/or higher than the expected number of grid boxes with errors of greater  
625 than 2 standard deviations, which is generally accompanied by a higher RMSE. However, the input conditions  
626 for these experiments are not particularly similar or unique. Experiments *modice\_highCO2\_43*,  
627 *modice\_highCO2\_45* and *modice\_highCO2\_46* all have a fairly low eccentricity and obliquity, and a  $\text{CO}_2$   
628 concentration of ~1000 ppmv, but there are multiple experiments with similar values that have lower RMSE  
629 values. A spatial map of the errors (not shown) indicates that the grid boxes with errors of 3 or more standard  
630 deviations are at high northern latitudes in these experiments. However, the signs of the anomalies are not the  
631 same across these experiments, as the emulator overestimates the Arctic SAT anomaly in *modice\_highCO2\_43*  
632 and underestimates it in *modice\_highCO2\_45* and *modice\_highCO2\_46*. This suggests that the emulator is  
633 perhaps not quite capturing the full model behaviour in high northern latitudes, particularly for low eccentricity  
634 values, but this is certainly not true for all experiments. The errors in the experiments are generally less than  
635  $\pm 4^\circ\text{C}$ , and for most of the Arctic much lower than that. Note that the Arctic is a region in the model with high  
636 inter-annual variability, so one factor may be that the model simulations which are used to calibrate the emulator  
637 are not representative of the true stationary mean. There does not appear to be any obvious systematic error

638 associated with the input parameters, suggesting that errors are less likely to be an issue resulting from the  
639 design of the emulator and more likely to arise from run-to-run variability in the behaviour of the underlying  
640 GCM.

641

642 Figure 8b compares the mean annual “SAT index” for each left-out experiment calculated by the GCM and the  
643 corresponding emulator (Note: this is the mean value for the GCM output data grid assuming all grid boxes are  
644 of equal size, hence not taking into account grid box area). There are no obvious outliers, and the emulated  
645 means are relatively close to their modelled equivalents. There also does not appear to be any significant loss of  
646 performance at very low or very high temperature, and therefore at very low or very high CO<sub>2</sub>.

647

648 In summary, our calibration and evaluation shows that the emulator is able to reproduce the left-out ensemble  
649 simulations reasonably well, with no obvious systematic errors in its predictions. Using the emulator, calibrated  
650 on the full set of 60 simulations (*modice* or *lowice*), we are able to simulate global climate development over  
651 long periods of time (several ~~million~~ hundred thousand years or longer), provided that the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>  
652 levels for the period are known, and are within the limits of those used to calibrate the emulator, ice sheets do  
653 not change outside of the range-two configurations considered in the two ensembles, and the topography and  
654 land-sea mask are unchanged.

655

656 In the next two sections, we present illustrative examples of a number of potential applications of the emulator,  
657 by applying it to the late Pliocene in Sect. 5, and the next 200 kyr in Sect. 6.

## 658 **5 Application of the emulator to the late Pliocene**

659 In addition to being able to rapidly project long-term climate evolution, the emulator also allows climatic  
660 changes to be examined and analysed using a range of different methods that may not be possible using other  
661 modelling approaches. To illustrate this, we applied the *lowice* emulator to the late Pliocene and compared the  
662 results to palaeo-proxy data for the period. The *lowice* emulator was used because the ice sheets in this  
663 configuration are the PRISM4 Pliocene ice sheets (Dowsett et al., 2016). It should be noted, however, that this  
664 approach is only appropriate for periods of the Pliocene with equivalent or less than modern ice sheet extents  
665 (i.e. not glacial conditions), and that palaeogeographic changes for the Pliocene are not included here (although  
666 see Sect. 7 for further discussion of the fact that we use modern geography). We also tested the *modice* emulator  
667 which, in agreement with the findings in Sect. 4, had a limited impact on the long-term evolution of global SSTs  
668 outside the immediate region of the ice sheets themselves. Potential applications of the emulator for  
669 palaeoclimate are described below.

### 670 **5.1 Time series data**

671 One application of the emulator is to produce a time series of the continuous evolution of climate for a particular  
672 time period, as is illustrated here where climate is simulated at 1 kyr intervals over the period 3300 – 2800 kyr  
673 BP. This period of the late Pliocene was selected because it has been extensively studied as part of a number of  
674 projects (e.g. PRISM (Dowsett et al., 2016; Dowsett, 2007), PlioMIP (Haywood et al., 2010; Haywood et al.,

675 2016)), represents the warm phase of climate (interglacial conditions), and does not include major glaciations  
676 ~~(though like the M2 cooling event may persist to the very start of the simulation at 3300 kyr BP, and the~~  
677 ~~simulated period does include periods of likely glaciation, such as KM2 (~3100 kyr BP) and G20 (~3000 kyr~~  
678 ~~BP)). T<sub>emulator</sub> ~~for which the emulator would not be appropriate to periods of extensive glaciation and may not be well-~~  
679 ~~matched to the periods of lesser glaciation included within the simulated interval.~~ Orbital data for each ~~of the~~  
680 ~~time slices~~ 1 kyr (Laskar et al., 2004) were provided as input to the calibrated emulator, along with three  
681 representative CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. Three CO<sub>2</sub> reference scenarios were initially emulated, with constant  
682 concentrations of 280, 350 and 400 ppmv (although note that in reality, CO<sub>2</sub> varied during this period on orbital  
683 timescales (Martinez-Boti et al., 2015)).~~

684

685 To illustrate the comparison of the emulator results to palaeo-proxy data, SST data for various locations were  
686 compared with the emulated SAT for the equivalent grid box. Specifically, alkenone-derived palaeo-SST  
687 estimates from four (Integrated) Ocean Drilling Program (IODP/ODP) sites were used: ODP Site 982 (North  
688 Atlantic; (Lawrence et al., 2009)), IODP Site U1313 (North Atlantic; (Naafs et al., 2010)), ODP Site 722  
689 (Arabian Sea; (Herbert et al., 2010)) and ODP Site 662 (tropical Atlantic; (Herbert et al., 2010)). The locations  
690 of the sites are shown in Fig. 9a and detailed in Table 4. These Pliocene datasets were selected because they are  
691 all of sufficiently high resolution ( $\leq 4$  kyr) for the impacts of individual orbital cycles on climate to be captured,  
692 whilst covering a range of locations and climatic conditions. Alkenone data are shown converted to SST using  
693 two commonly applied calibrations: Prah1 et al. (1988) and Muller et al. (1998). All temperatures are presented  
694 as an anomaly compared with pre-industrial. The emulator results are compared with the SAT for the relevant  
695 grid box in the pre-industrial control experiment, whilst the proxy data are compared with SST observations for  
696 the relevant location taken from the HadISST dataset (Rayner et al., 2003). Observations are annual means and  
697 are averaged over the period 1870-1900.

698

699 ~~Table 4 presents the mean SAT anomaly (compared with pre-industrial) F~~for the modelled period ~~as estimated~~  
700 ~~by; the emulator estimates the mean SAT anomaly compared with the pre industrial control in for~~ the 280 ppmv  
701 scenario ~~to be  $0.6 \pm 0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $-0.8 \pm 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $0 \pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $0.2 \pm 0.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for the two North Atlantic (982 and U1313),~~  
702 ~~Arabian Sea, and equatorial Atlantic grid boxes, respectively (Table 4)for each of the four grid boxes.~~ Theirs  
703 mean increases with increasing CO<sub>2</sub>, by  $\sim 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  at low latitudes to  $2\text{-}3^{\circ}\text{C}$  at high latitudes for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> of  
704 400 ppmv. Figure 10 illustrates the evolution of annual mean temperature variations through the late Pliocene as  
705 calculated using the various methods. For the equatorial and Arabian Sea sites (662 and 722), the SAT and SST  
706 estimates are relatively similar to each other ~~in terms of the general estimated temperature~~, particularly for the  
707 higher CO<sub>2</sub> scenarios of 350 and 400 ppmv. ~~However, the comparison of timings and variations between the~~  
708 ~~SAT and SST data is fairly poor, and there was not found to be a significant correlation between the emulated~~  
709 ~~and proxy data temperatures at these sites when correlation coefficients were calculated. In fact, Site 982 was~~  
710 ~~the only location for which significant (negative) correlations were found for a confidence interval of 95%,~~  
711 ~~although the correlation coefficient is still relatively low. These correlation coefficients were  $-0.22$  (p-value~~  
712  ~~$0.004$ ) for the Prah1 et al. (1988) proxy SST data compared with the emulated SAT for the 280 ppmv scenario,~~  
713 ~~and  $-0.2$  (p-value  $0.007$ ) for the same SST data compared with the emulated SAT for the 350 ppmv scenario.~~

The Muller et al. (1998) SST data demonstrated correlation coefficients that were essentially identical to those above when compared with the same emulated SATs.

At the higher latitudes, the simulated SAT estimate is generally lower than the proxy data SST. This is a common issue in GCM simulations of the late Pliocene, where temperatures at high latitudes under increased CO<sub>2</sub>-induced radiative forcing are often underestimated (Haywood et al., 2013). It could also be that the alkenones are not recording mean annual temperature, and instead are being produced during peak warmth (e.g. during the summer months), especially at higher latitudes (Lawrence et al., 2009). This issue could be explored further by extending the methodology presented here to other variables. This seasonal bias could explain the large offset in temperature at the northernmost site (982), which exhibits a maximum difference in mean temperature anomaly for the period of 5.1°C between data sets, and possibly also at Site U1313. The emulated uncertainty in SAT (defined as 1 standard deviation of the emulated grid box posterior variance) is also shown in Fig. 10, and average values for the period given in Table 4. This is slightly higher at the northernmost North Atlantic site (982) compared to the lower latitude sites, but overall the uncertainty is relatively small when compared with the effects of variations in the orbital parameters and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.

## 5.2 Orbital variability and spectral analysis

The emulator can also be used to identify the influence of orbital variations on long-term climate change. One approach is to assess the spatial distribution of orbital timescale variability, by plotting the standard deviation for a climate variable for each grid box, as illustrated for SAT in Fig. 9 for the 400 ppmv CO<sub>2</sub> scenario (blue lines in Fig. 10). Figure 9a shows mean annual SAT (compared with pre-industrial) produced by the emulator under modern-day orbital conditions. Anomalies over the majority of the Earth's surface are positive, due to the relatively high atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of 400 ppmv. Warming is larger at high latitudes, primarily due to a number of positive feedbacks operating in these regions (known as polar amplification). The greatest warming is centred over parts of the GIS and WAIS, showing a similar spatial pattern to that in Fig. 4, and is a result of the reduced ice sheet extents in the emulated experiments compared with the pre-industrial simulation. Figure 9b shows the ~~difference between modern day emulated mean annual SAT (Fig. 9a) and emulated mean annual SAT (compared with pre industrial) averaged over the late Pliocene period (late Pliocene minus modern), whilst the standard deviation of mean annual SAT for the late Pliocene-, with is presented in Fig. 9c.~~ In both Fig. 9b and 9c, spatial variations primarily illustrating differences in the impact of orbital forcing on climate. For example, the relatively higher values at high latitudes compared with low latitudes in Fig. 9b e suggest that changes in the orbital parameters have a relatively large impact on SAT in these regions. This is consistent with astronomical theory, as changes in both obliquity and precession affect the distribution of insolation in space and time, with this effect being particularly significant at high latitudes. Monsoonal regions also demonstrate relatively large variations (Fig. 9b ~~and 9c~~), including Africa, India, and South America, in agreement with previous studies which suggest a link between orbital changes and monsoon variability (Caley et al., 2011; Prell and Kutzbach, 1987; Tuenter et al., 2003).

In order to visualise the effects of orbital forcing over time, a spectral wavelet analysis was performed on the SAT time series data produced by the emulator, for the scenario with constant CO<sub>2</sub> at 400 ppmv, shown in Fig.

10 (blue line). We used the standard MATLAB wavelet software of Torrence and Compo (1998) (available online at <http://atoc.colorado.edu/research/wavelets>). The wavelet power spectra for the four ODP/IODP sites are presented in Fig. 11, from which the dominant orbital frequencies influencing climate can be identified. For the late Pliocene up to ~2900 kyr, Fig. 11 suggests that changes in emulated SAT are paced by a combination of precession (longitude of perihelion) and eccentricity, with periodicities of approximately 21 and 96 kyr, respectively. The influence of precession is also supported by [Fig. 4c, which demonstrates precessional forcing in the regions where the sites are located, as well as by](#) the frequency of the SAT oscillations for this period shown in Fig. 10, and [the observation that](#) it appears to have a larger impact on SAT at higher latitudes (Fig. 10 and 11). After ~2900 kyr, obliquity appears to have an increased impact at the high latitude ~~ssite~~ site 982, superimposing the precession-driven temperature variations with a periodicity of ~41 kyr (Fig. 10 and 11). This signal is also apparent to a lesser extent at Site 722, but not at Site U1313. Spectral analysis of palaeo-proxy data and June insolation at 65° N also finds a reduction in the influence of precession and an increase in 41 kyr obliquity forcing around this time (Herbert et al., 2010; Lawrence et al., 2009). SAT changes at the lower latitude sites generally continue to be dominated by variations in precession and eccentricity, although the relatively low eccentricity during this period is likely to reduce the impact that precession has on climate. It also significantly reduces the variability in temperature, which is also observed during the period of low eccentricity between approximately 3240 and 3200 kyr in both Fig. 10 and 11. The slightly higher amplitudes of the peaks in temperature around 3150 kyr, 3050 kyr and 2950 kyr in Fig. 10 coincide with periods of high eccentricity, when its impact on climate is increased (Fig. 11). It is more difficult to identify orbital trends in the proxy data, particularly in sections with lower resolution. This is due to there being significantly more variation, both on shorter timescales of several tens of thousands of years, and longer timescales of hundreds of thousands of years, likely caused in part by changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. However, the amplitude of variations in the palaeo data at all four sites is generally, though not always, lower during periods of low eccentricity, particularly for the period ~3225-3200 kyr.

### 777 **5.3 Calculation of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>**

778 We also illustrate the use of the emulator for calculating a simple estimate of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration  
779 during the late Pliocene, and its comparison to published palaeo CO<sub>2</sub> records obtained from proxy data. CO<sub>2</sub> is  
780 estimated from the four alkenone SST records presented in Table 4 and Fig. 10: Herbert et al. (2010) (Sites 662  
781 and 722), Naafs et al. (2010) (Site U1313) and Lawrence et al. (2009) (Site 982). [Individual records of SST,  
782 rather than stacked benthic oxygen isotope data, were used because the GCM experiments that the emulator is  
783 calibrated on were only run for 500 years, meaning that deep ocean conditions would not yet have spun-up  
784 sufficiently, particularly in the experiments with high CO<sub>2</sub>. Thus, it would not be appropriate to compare deep  
785 ocean temperatures from- the experiments with those from the proxy data.](#)

786  
787 A linear regression is performed on the emulated grid box mean annual SAT data versus prescribed atmospheric  
788 CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, for ~~the three~~ constant CO<sub>2</sub> scenarios [of ranging from 2680, 350 and 400 ppmv up to 800  
789 ppmv](#). The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is then estimated from the palaeo SST data based on this linear relationship, and  
790 is presented in Fig. 12, along with the uncertainty. A number of CO<sub>2</sub> proxy records are also compared, derived  
791 from alkenone data at ODP Site 1241 in the east tropical Pacific (Seki et al., 2010) and Site 999 in the Caribbean

792 (Badger et al., 2013; Seki et al., 2010), and from boron ( $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ ) data at Site 662 (Martinez-Boti et al., 2015) and  
793 Site 999 (Bartoli et al., 2011; Martinez-Boti et al., 2015; Seki et al., 2010).

794

795 Our model-based  $\text{CO}_2$  estimates suggest a mean atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration for the period of between  
796 approximately  $350 \pm 154$  and  $629540 \pm 317$  ppmv (error represents the uncertainty taking into account the  
797 emulated grid box posterior variance for SAT), indicated at Sites 722 and 982, respectively. Our  $\text{CO}_2$  estimates  
798 are generally higher than the  $\text{CO}_2$  proxy records, particularly ~~using data from~~ for the two North Atlantic sites  
799 (982 and U1313), where palaeo SST ~~temperatures-anomalies~~ were also estimated to be high, compared with  
800 tropical ~~SSTs-anomalies~~, by the proxy data (Fig. 10). However,  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations derived from SST data  
801 calibrated using the approach of Prah1 et al. (1988) at the tropical sites of 722 and 662 shows greater similarity  
802 to the  $\text{CO}_2$  proxy data, both in terms of mean concentration and variance (not shown). It is difficult to identify  
803 temporal similarities between our  $\text{CO}_2$  estimates and the palaeo records. This is partly due to the high level of  
804 variability in our  $\text{CO}_2$  time series, resulting from the variability in the SST records that they were derived from.  
805 In addition, the  $\text{CO}_2$  proxy records have comparatively low resolutions, generally with intervals of 10 kyr or  
806 greater, and there is also considerable variation between them.

807

808 There is substantial variation between our  $\text{CO}_2$  estimates at different sites, and this may be attributed to a  
809 number of causes. It could be that there are errors in the GCM model used, in particular in its representation of  
810 the response of climate to  $\text{CO}_2$  and/or orbital forcing. There could be inaccuracies associated with the SST data  
811 at one or more locations as, if the model was assumed to be correct, the estimated  $\text{CO}_2$  should be similar across  
812 the four locations. The fact that they are not may indicate that the temperature records are not consistent with  
813 each other, which may not have been obvious by just comparing the records visually. This is one of the potential  
814 advantages to using individual temperature records rather than stacked records. It may also be that there is an  
815 issue with the dating of some of the proxy records; the data itself may be correct but there ~~time data associated~~  
816 with ~~ti may be wrong~~ may be uncertainties/inaccuracies in the age models. Alternatively, the emulator may be  
817 wrong; for example, there may be non-linearities in the climate response simulated by the GCM that it is not  
818 capturing. Finally, there may be errors related to the modelled representation of the ice sheets, which are fixed at  
819 a constant configuration. In reality, of the possible sources of error that have been identified, the variations are  
820 less likely to be the result of errors in the emulator's estimates of the GCM output ~~since it is based on the~~  
821 output from the GCM and ~~the~~ because validation diagnostics did not seem to suggest systematic failures. They  
822 are also less likely to be due to unrepresented changes in climate due to the ice sheets. Whilst some of the  
823 variation at the high latitude sites (982 and U1313) may be attributed to some regional climate processes not  
824 fully accounted for, e.g. involving the ice sheets and sea ice, two of the sites (722 and 662) are in tropical  
825 regions. Thus, SSTs at these sites would not be expected to be affected by changes in the ice sheets, and yet they  
826 show significantly different variations. Therefore, the inconsistencies are likely to be due to a combination of  
827 errors in the GCM model and inaccuracies in the SST data.

## 828 **6 Application of the emulator to future climate**

829 In addition to using the emulator to model past climates, it can also be applied to future climate, and in  
830 particular on the long timescales ( $>10^3$  yr) that are of interest for the disposal of solid radioactive wastes.

831 Previous modelling of long-term future climate has involved the use of lower complexity models such as EMICs  
832 for transient simulations (Archer and Ganopolski, 2005; Eby et al., 2009; Ganopolski et al., 2016; Loutre and  
833 Berger, 2000b), or of GCMs to model a relatively small number of snapshot simulations of particular reference  
834 climate states of interest. The BIOCLIM (Modelling Sequential Biosphere Systems under Climate Change for  
835 Radioactive Waste Disposal) research programme (BIOCLIM, 2001, 2003), for example, utilised both of these  
836 approaches to investigate climatic and vegetation changes for the next 200 kyr, for use in performance  
837 assessments for radioactive waste disposal facilities.

838

839 Here, for the first time, a GCM has been used to project future long-term transient climate evolution, via use of  
840 the emulator. We provide illustrations of two possible applications of the emulator, including ~~to~~ production of a  
841 time series of climatic data and ~~to~~ assessing the impact of orbital variations on climate. This work has input to  
842 the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Modelling and Data for Radiological Impact Assessments  
843 (MODARIA) collaborative research programme (<http://www-ns.iaea.org/projects/modaria>).

## 844 6.1 Time series data

845 Similarly to the late Pliocene, snapshots of SAT and precipitation at 1 kyr intervals were produced using the  
846 *modice* emulator for the next 200 kyr, assuming modern day ice sheet configurations. The projected evolution of  
847 climate is a result of future variations in the orbital parameters and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, which were  
848 provided as input data to the emulator (again, at 1 kyr intervals). Four CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenarios were modelled,  
849 with the response of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration to emissions and its long-term evolution calculated using  
850 the impulse response function of Lord et al. (2016). The scenarios adopted logistic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 500, 1000,  
851 2000 and 5000 Pg C released over the first few hundred years, followed by a gradual reduction of atmospheric  
852 CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations by the long-term carbon cycle. These four scenarios cover the range of emissions that might  
853 occur given currently economic and potentially economic fossil fuel reserves, but not including other potentially  
854 exploitable reserves, such as clathrates.

855

856 Four single grid boxes are selected, shown in Fig. 13, which represent example locations that could potentially  
857 be relevant for nuclear waste disposal: Forsmark, Sweden (60.4° N latitude, 18.2° E longitude), Central England,  
858 UK (52.0° N latitude, 0° W longitude), Switzerland (47.6° N latitude, 8.7° E longitude) and El Cabril, Spain (38°  
859 N latitude, 5.4° W longitude). The evolution of SAT at these grid boxes is presented in Fig. 14, along with the  
860 emulated uncertainty (1 standard deviation of the emulated grid box posterior variance)~~1 standard deviation~~).

861 ~~Across the four sites, the~~ In the 500 Pg C scenario, the maximum largest SAT increase of is between  $4.1 \pm 0.2^\circ\text{C}$   
862 occurs at the (Switzerland grid box), whilst the Spain grid box exhibits the largest warming in the 5000 Pg C  
863 scenario, of and  $12.3 \pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$ , (Spain grid box) in the 500 Pg C and 5000 Pg C scenarios, respectively. For  
864 comparison, when the *lowice* emulator is utilized, these values are reduced slightly to  $3.9 \pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$  (Spain grid  
865 box) and  $12.2 \pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$  (Spain grid box); in the 500 Pg C and 5000 Pg C scenarios, respectively. This peak in  
866 temperature occurs up to the first thousand years, when atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is at its highest following the  
867 emissions period, after which it decreases relatively rapidly with declining atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> until around 20 kyr  
868 AP. By 200 kyr AP, SAT at all sites is within  $2.6^\circ\text{C}$  ( $2.2^\circ\text{C}$  using the *lowice* emulator) of pre-industrial values,  
869 calculated by averaging the final 10 kyr of the 5000 Pg C scenarios. The emulated uncertainty for the next 200

870 kyr is of a similar magnitude to that for the late Pliocene and, similarly, is relatively small when compared with  
871 the fluctuations in SAT that result from orbital variations and changing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.

872

873 Up ~~until~~ ~20 kyr AP, the behaviour of the climate is primarily driven by the high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the  
874 atmosphere ~~caused by as a result of fossil fuel anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions~~ from a range of sources, including  
875 combustion of fossil fuels, and other human activities, land-use change and cement production. However, after  
876 this time, changes in orbital conditions begin to exert a relatively greater influence on climate, as the periodic  
877 fluctuations in SAT at all locations appear to be paced by the orbital cycles, which are shown in Fig. 14a.

878

879 The timing and relative amplitudes of the oscillations in future SAT are in good agreement with a number of  
880 previous studies. Paillard (2006) applied the conceptual model of Paillard and Parrenin (2004), previously  
881 mentioned in Sect. 5, to the next 1 Ma. The development of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> over the next 200 kyr, simulated  
882 by the model following emissions of 450 to 5000 Pg C and accounting for natural variations, shows a similar  
883 pattern of response to that of SAT presented here. Estimates of global mean temperature in Archer and  
884 Ganopolski (2005), derived by scaling changes in modelled ice volume to temperature, before applying  
885 anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> temperature forcing for a number of emissions scenarios, also demonstrate fluctuations in  
886 global mean annual SAT (not shown) of a similar timing and relative scale. The influence of declining CO<sub>2</sub> is  
887 still evident after 20 kyr, particularly for the higher emissions scenarios, in the slightly negative gradient of the  
888 general evolution of SAT. This is due to the long atmospheric lifetime of ~~fossil fuel~~ CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Archer,  
889 2005), and is also demonstrated in other studies (Archer and Ganopolski, 2005; Archer et al., 2009; Lord et al.,  
890 2016; Paillard, 2006). The impact of excess atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on the long-term evolution of SAT appears to be  
891 fairly linear, with only minor differences between the scenarios and sites, discounting the overall offset of SAT  
892 for different total emissions.

893

894 One of the key uncertainties associated with future climate change, which is of particular relevance to  
895 radioactive waste repositories located at high northern latitudes, is the timing of the next glacial inception. This  
896 is expected to occur during a period of relatively low incoming solar radiation at high northern latitudes, which,  
897 for the next 100 kyr, occurs at 0 kyr, 54 kyr and 100 kyr. A number of studies have investigated the possible  
898 timing of the next glaciation under pre-industrial atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (280 ppmv), finding that it is  
899 unlikely to occur until after 50 kyr AP (Archer and Ganopolski, 2005; Berger and Loutre, 2002; Paillard, 2001).

900

901 When ~~fossil fuel~~ anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are taken into account, the current interglacial is likely to last  
902 significantly longer, until ~130 kyr AP following emissions of 1000 Pg C and beyond 500 kyr AP for emissions  
903 of 5000 Pg C (Archer and Ganopolski, 2005). A recent study by Ganopolski et al. (2016) using the CLIMBER-2  
904 model found that emissions of 1000 Pg C significantly reduced the probability of a glaciation in the next 100  
905 kyr, and that a glacial inception within the next 100 kyr is very unlikely for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 1500 Pg C or  
906 higher.

907

908 Our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenarios, modelled using the response function of Lord et al. (2016), suggest that  
909 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will not have returned to pre-industrial levels by 100 ~~ka~~ kyr AP, equalling 298 and 400 ppmv

910 for the 500 and 5000 Pg C emissions scenarios, respectively. We calculated the critical summer insolation  
911 threshold at 65° N using the logarithmic relationship identified between maximum summer insolation at 65° N  
912 and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by Ganopolski et al. (2016). The evolution of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration over the  
913 course of our emissions scenarios suggests that, for emissions of 1000 Pg C or less, Northern Hemisphere  
914 summer insolation will next fall below the critical insolation threshold in approximately 50 kyr, and in ~100 kyr  
915 for emissions of 2000 Pg C. For the highest emissions scenario of 5000 Pg C, the threshold is not passed for  
916 considerably longer, until ~160 kyr. However, the uncertainty of the critical insolation value is  $\pm 4 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  (1  
917 standard deviation), and often the difference between summer insolation at 65° N and the insolation threshold is  
918 less than this, potentially impacting whether the threshold has in fact been passed and therefore whether glacial  
919 inception is likely. For example, for the 1000 Pg C scenario, whilst insolation first falls below the critical  
920 threshold at ~50 kyr, it does not fall below by more than the uncertainty value until ~130 kyr.

921

922 A limitation of our study relates to the continental ice sheets in HadCM3 being prescribed rather than responsive  
923 to changes in climate. A consequence of this is that an increase in the extent or thickness of the ice sheets, and  
924 hence the onset of glaciation, cannot be explicitly projected, but this also means that a regime shift of the ice  
925 sheets to one of negative mass balance, which may be expected to occur under high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenarios  
926 (Ridley et al., 2005; Stone et al., 2010; Swingedouw et al., 2008; Winkelmann et al., 2015), cannot be modelled.  
927 However, the results of the sensitivity analysis to ice sheets described in Sect. 3.5., for which a number of  
928 simulations were run again with reduced GIS and WAIS extents, suggest that the reduction in continental ice  
929 results in relatively localised increases in SAT in regions that are ice free, in addition to some regional cooling  
930 at high latitudes. Consequently, this does not act as a significant restriction on the glaciation timings put forward  
931 in this study considering their radioactive waste disposal application; given that the earliest timing of the next  
932 glaciation is of significant interest, smaller continental ice sheets and therefore higher local SATs would likely  
933 inhibit the build-up of snow and ice, delaying glacial inception further. As such, the estimates presented here  
934 should be viewed as conservative. As will be discussed in Sect. 7, however, the emulator was not designed and  
935 calibrated to predict changes in ice sheets. This is a limitation that should be addressed when modelling future  
936 climate on timescales of tens of thousands of years or more (depending on the CO<sub>2</sub> scenario(s) being modelled).  
937 Another caveat is that the carbon cycle in the emulator is also essentially prescribed, and thus not interactive.  
938 This means that the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> trajectory follows a smooth decline, as was projected using an impulse  
939 response function based on experiments using the cGENIE model (Lord et al., 2016), with long-term future  
940 climate being modelled as a series of snapshot simulations with the emulator. This smooth decline in CO<sub>2</sub>  
941 assumes that no non-linear or unexpected behaviour will be demonstrated by the long-term carbon cycle, and  
942 that the silicate weathering mechanism, which is associated with a substantial degree of uncertainty, is correct.

943

944 The emulator can also be used to project the evolution of a range of other climate variables, providing that they  
945 were modelled as part of the initial GCM ensembles. Figure 15 illustrates the development of mean annual  
946 precipitation and emulated uncertainty over the next 200 kyr at the four sites. The maximum increase in  
947 precipitation is between  $0.3 \pm 0.1 \text{ mm day}^{-1}$  (Switzerland grid box) and  $0.6 \pm 0.1 \text{ mm day}^{-1}$  (Sweden grid box) in  
948 the 500 Pg C and 5000 Pg C scenarios, respectively. Precipitation increases with increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at  
949 all sites apart from the Spain grid box, where it decreases by up to  $0.9 \pm 0.1 \text{ mm day}^{-1}$ . Regional differences in

950 the sign of changes in precipitation, including an increase at high latitudes and a decrease in the Mediterranean,  
951 are consistent with modelling results included in the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth  
952 Assessment Report, for simulations forced with the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 scenario  
953 (Collins et al., 2013). In contrast to SAT, precipitation appears to be more closely influenced by precession,  
954 illustrated by its periodicity of slightly less than 25 kyr. There appears to be; an increase in the intensity of  
955 precipitation fluctuations from approximately 140 kyr onwards, suggest-implying that the modulation of  
956 precession by eccentricity also has an impact, as expected.

## 957 **6.2 Orbital variability and spectral analysis**

958 The impact of orbital forcing was assessed by performing a spectral wavelet analysis on the SAT and  
959 precipitation time series data produced by the emulator for the Central England grid box for the 5000 Pg C  
960 emissions scenario, represented by blue lines in Fig. 14c and 15c, respectively. As for the late Pliocene, the  
961 wavelet software of Torrence and Compo (1998) was utilized. The analysis was performed on the data for 20-  
962 200 kyr AP, because the climate response up until ~20 kyr AP is dominated by the impact of elevated  
963 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, which masks the orbital signal and affects the results of the wavelet analysis.  
964

965 For future SAT, Fig. 16a suggests that, up until ~160 kyr, the obliquity cycle acts as the dominant influence,  
966 resulting in temperature oscillations with a periodicity of approximately 41 kyr. This is confirmed by Fig. 14c,  
967 which shows that the major peaks in SAT generally coincide with periods of high obliquity. Over this period,  
968 precession has a far more limited influence, likely due to eccentricity being relatively low until ~110 kyr (Fig.  
969 14a). However, from ~120 kyr AP onwards, concurrently with increasing eccentricity, precession becomes a  
970 more significant forcing on climate, resulting in SAT peaks approximately every 21 kyr. In contrast, precession  
971 appears to be the dominant forcing on precipitation for the Central England grid box for the entire 20-200 kyr  
972 AP period (Fig. 15c and 16b). This signal is particularly strong after ~120 kyr AP, due to higher eccentricity.

## 973 **7 Limitations**

974 There are a number of limitations associated with the methodology outlined above, emulator, particularly  
975 relating to the assumptions that it is based on and its application to different periods of time. Although these  
976 have mostly been discussed briefly in the preceding sections, here we summarise them together.;

- 977
- 978 • Firstly, as noted previously, the carbon cycle in the emulator is not coupled to the climate, essentially  
979 fixed, since the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is prescribed. ‡ The methodology thus assumes that  
980 there will be no unexpected non-linearities in the carbon cycle, and that changes in climate that are  
981 different from those in cGENIE do not feed back to the carbon cycle. This may be of particular  
982 importance when simulating future climates, when the natural carbon cycle is expected to be  
983 significantly perturbed due to ongoing anthropogenic emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, in a way that may not be fully  
984 represented in cGENIE. There is also uncertainty surrounding the dynamics of the carbon cycle over  
985 long periods of time, such as the role of the silicate weathering mechanism, although the observation  
986 that different carbon cycle models generally produce fairly similar results increases our confidence  
987 (Archer et al., 2009).

- 988
- 989 • ~~Secondly, the ice sheets in the emulator are also fixed, at either modern-day or reduced extents,~~
- 990 ~~although expanding the range of ice sheets that can be modelled is currently being undertaken in~~
- 991 ~~ongoing research. This means that care needs to be taken when simulating very long periods of time.~~
- 992 ~~For example, neither Quaternary nor future the glacial-interglacial cycles cannot be accounted~~
- 993 ~~for captured simulated using the current version of the emulator, which are known to have occurred in~~
- 994 ~~the past (e.g. Petit et al., 1999) and are expected to continue in the future. Furthermore, even during~~
- 995 ~~the Pliocene, it is likely that the extent of ice sheets in the Northern Hemisphere varied beyond the~~
- 996 ~~range simulated in this study (Willeit et al., 2015), and the emulator in its current form cannot represent~~
- 997 ~~this.~~
- 998
- 999 • ~~In the context of the Pliocene, the land-sea mask and orography used in the simulation of~~
- 1000 ~~Pliocene climate are also fixed and appropriate to modern-day conditions, whereas the PRISM4~~
- 1001 ~~reconstruction of paleogeography Pliocene ice sheets suggests that there may have been considerably~~
- 1002 ~~different in some regions, for example the region of the Hudson Bay is thought to have been land in the~~
- 1003 ~~Pliocene (Dowsett et al., 2016).~~
- 1004
- 1005 • ~~Due to both the carbon cycle and ice sheets being prescribed, interactions between these components of~~
- 1006 ~~the climate system can also not be simulated. These include natural changes in CO<sub>2</sub> which have been~~
- 1007 ~~found to accompany past glacial-interglacial cycles, with glacial periods over the last 800 kyr~~
- 1008 ~~exhibiting CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations of approximately 180 to 200 ppmv (Petit et al., 1999), whereas~~
- 1009 ~~interglacial periods demonstrated concentrations of 240 to 290 ppmv (Luthi et al., 2008). Changes in~~
- 1010 ~~the ice sheets in response to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> can also not be modelled, such as the likely future~~
- 1011 ~~melting of the GIS and AIS in response to anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Various studies have~~
- 1012 ~~modelled the response of the ice sheets to future climate warming, finding that the ice sheets may~~
- 1013 ~~experience significantly increased melt. In fact, for scenarios with high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (>~5000 Pg C),~~
- 1014 ~~it has been suggested that the GIS and AIS may be almost entirely melted within the next few thousand~~
- 1015 ~~years (e.g. DeConto and Pollard, 2016; Huybrechts et al., 2011; Winkelmann et al., 2015), which~~
- 1016 ~~would cause significant changes in deep ocean circulation and ocean stratification. These ocean~~
- 1017 ~~changes cannot be captured by the current version of the methodology emulator and, whilst their~~
- 1018 ~~impacts on global and regional climate are uncertain, they are expected to be long-term. The melting of~~
- 1019 ~~the ice sheets would also cause significant increases in global sea level, of approximately 70 m if both~~
- 1020 ~~the GIS and AIS melted, which would strongly affect the global land-sea mask and regional climates,~~
- 1021 ~~and which cannot be represented using the current methodology. This sea level rise would also have~~
- 1022 ~~serious implications for radioactive waste repositories located in relatively low-lying coastal regions~~
- 1023 ~~that are vulnerable to sea level rise, such as in northern Europe.~~
- 1024 • ~~Since the emulator models climate via a series of snapshots rather than a truly transient simulation, it is~~
- 1025 ~~not able to capture deviations from a stationary response trends in deep ocean conditions. As a~~
- 1026 ~~consequence, the methodology becomes inappropriate if such transient changes in the deep ocean are~~
- 1027 ~~found to be important for controlling surface climate evolution.~~

- The emulator presented in this study is only suitable for modelling transient climate changes on timescales of several millennia or longer, as a number of shorter-term processes in the climate and carbon cycle are not represented. These include internal variability in the climate system, such as interannual variability, North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), and El Niño – Southern Oscillation (ENSO), as well as radiative forcing occurring on shorter timescales (e.g. volcanic activity), and terrestrial carbon cycle processes. On these timescales, transient simulations run using fully-complex models such as GCMs or EMICS are most appropriate.

As a consequence of these limitations, care needs to be taken when applying the emulator to ensure that its application is appropriate. For example, ~~also~~ when considering future climate, the way in which future carbon dioxide concentration have been modelled, and the ice sheet configurations modelled, mean that this methodology is only applicable on timescales up until the next glacial inception. After this, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> would be expected to change in response to the initiation of glacial conditions, accompanied by the expansion of the ice sheets, decreasing sea level, and the climatic changes that would results from these changes. A number of studies have modelled the possible timing of the next glacial inception, finding that for CO<sub>2</sub> scenarios with medium emissions the current interglacial period may end in approximately 130 kyr (Archer and Ganopolski, 2005; Ganopolski et al., 2016). However, for high emissions of 5000 Pg C, glacial inception may be delayed for more than 500 kyr (Archer and Ganopolski, 2005). A study by Brandefelt et al. (2013) estimated that for permafrost development to occur at Forsmark, Sweden during the insolation minima at 17 and 54 kyr AP, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations of ~210 ppmv or less and ~250 ppmv or less would be required, respectively. In light of the long atmospheric lifetime of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that has been discussed, low concentrations such as these are unlikely in the next few tens of thousands of years; however, they cannot be entirely excluded. In order to account for this limitation, the emulator could be extended to include glacial states, meaning that it could be applied to future climate on a longer timescale, as well as to the Quaternary, if the evolution of CO<sub>2</sub> and ice volume were known (e.g. from a transient EMIC or conceptual model simulation). Thus, when emulating long-term climate, careful consideration should be given to what assumptions are being made and whether the methodology is appropriate for the conditions being modelled.

Bearing in mind these limitations, ~~we believe~~ the methodology described in this paper ~~emulator is to be~~ a useful and powerful tool for simulating long-term past and future climatic changes, as well as for exploring the dynamics and sensitivities of the climate system.

## **87 Summary and Conclusions**

In this study, we present long-term continuous projections of future climate evolution at the spatial resolution of a GCM, via the use of a statistical emulator. The emulator was calibrated on two ensembles of simulations with varied orbital and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> conditions and modern day continental ice sheet extents, produced using the HadCM3 climate model. The method presented by Gregory et al. (2004) to calculate the steady-state global temperature change for a simulation, by regressing the net radiative flux at the top of the atmosphere against the change in global SAT, was utilised to calculate the equilibrated SAT data for these ensembles, as it was not

1066 feasible to run the experiments to equilibrium due to the associated time and computer resources needed. A  
1067 number of simulations testing the sensitivity of SAT to the extent of the GIS and WAIS suggest that the  
1068 response of SAT is fairly linear regardless of orbit, and that the largest changes are generally local to regions  
1069 that are ice free. The mean SAT anomaly identified across these experiments was then applied to the  
1070 equilibrated SAT results of the modern-day ice sheet extent ensembles, to generate two equivalent ensembles  
1071 with reduced ice sheets.

1072

1073 Output data from the modern-day and reduced ice sheet ensembles were then used to calibrate separate  
1074 emulators, which were optimised and then validated using a leave-one-out approach, resulting in satisfactory  
1075 performance results. We discuss a number of useful applications of the emulator, which may not be possible  
1076 using other modelling approaches at the same temporal and spatial resolution. Firstly, a particular benefit of the  
1077 emulator is that it can be used to produce time series of climatic variables that cover long periods of time (i.e.  
1078 several thousand years or more) at a GCM resolution, accompanied by an estimation of the uncertainty in the  
1079 form of the posterior variance. This would not be feasible using GCMs due to the significant time and  
1080 computational requirements involved. The global grid coverage of the data also means that the evolution of a  
1081 climate variable at a particular grid box can be examined, allowing for comparisons to data at a regional or local  
1082 scale, such as palaeo-proxy data, or for the evolution of climate at a specific site to be studied. However, further  
1083 downscaling of the data may also be necessary or beneficial, via further modelling such as proxy modelling,  
1084 impact models or regional climate models, or via statistical downscaling techniques. -Secondly, the influence of  
1085 orbital forcing on climate can be assessed. This effect may be visualised with a continuous wavelet analysis on  
1086 the time series data for a particular CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenario, which will identify the orbital frequencies  
1087 dominating at different times. The spatial distribution of orbital timescale variability can also be simulated, by  
1088 plotting the standard deviation for a climate variable for each grid box, taking into account the emulator  
1089 posterior variance. Finally, the emulator can be used to back-calculate past atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations  
1090 based on proxy climate data. Through an inversion, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations can be estimated using SST  
1091 proxy data, based on a linear relationship between emulated grid box mean annual SAT and prescribed CO<sub>2</sub>  
1092 concentration. Estimated CO<sub>2</sub> can then be compared with palaeo CO<sub>2</sub> concentration proxy records.

1093

1094 To illustrate these potential applications, we applied the emulator at 1 kyr intervals to the late Pliocene (3300-  
1095 2800 kyr BP) for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations of 280, 350 and 400 ppmv, and compared the emulated SATs  
1096 at specific grid boxes to SSTs determined from proxy data from a number of ODP/IODP sites. The wavelet  
1097 power spectrum for SAT at each site was also produced, and the dominant orbital frequency assessed. In  
1098 addition, we used the SST proxy data to estimate atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, based on a linear relationship  
1099 between emulated grid box mean annual SAT and prescribed CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. We find that:

1100

1101 - Temperature estimates from the emulator and proxy data show greater similarity at the equatorial sites  
1102 than at the high latitude sites. Discrepancies may be the result of biases in the GCM, errors in the  
1103 emulator, seasonal biases in the proxy data, unknown changes in the climate and/or carbon cycle, ~~or~~  
1104 issues with the tuning of parts of the record, biases in the GCM, or errors in the emulator.

- 1105 - The response of emulated SAT appears to be dominated by a combination of precessional and  
1106 eccentricity forcing from 3300 kyr to approximately 2900 kyr, after which obliquity begins to have an  
1107 increased influence.
- 1108 - Regions with a particularly large response to orbital forcing include the high latitudes and monsoon  
1109 regions (Fig. 9b ~~and 9e~~).
- 1110 - Our CO<sub>2</sub> ~~reconstructions~~ concentrations derived from tropical ODP/IODP sites show relatively  
1111 similar concentrations to CO<sub>2</sub> proxy records for the same period, although ~~for the higher latitude sites~~  
1112 concentrations derived from higher latitude sites are generally significantly higher than the proxy data.  
1113

1114 The emulator was also applied to the next 200 kyr, as long-term future simulations such as these have relevance  
1115 to the geological disposal of solid radioactive wastes. The continuous evolution of mean annual SAT and  
1116 precipitation at a number of sites in Europe are presented, for four scenarios with ~~fossil fuel~~ anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>  
1117 emissions of 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000 Pg C. A spectral wavelet analysis was also performed on the SAT and  
1118 precipitation data for the Central England grid box. The data suggests that:

- 1119
- 1120 - SAT and, to a lesser extent, precipitation exhibit a relatively rapid decline back towards pre-industrial  
1121 values over the next 20 kyr, as excess atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is removed by the long-term carbon cycle.
- 1122 - Following this, SAT fluctuates due to orbital forcing on an approximate 41 kyr obliquity timescale  
1123 until ~160 kyr AP, before the influence of precession increases with increasing eccentricity from ~120  
1124 kyr AP.
- 1125 - Conversely, precipitation variations over the entire 200 kyr period demonstrate a strong precessional  
1126 signal.

1127

1128 Overall, we find that the emulator provides a useful and powerful tool for rapidly simulating the long-term  
1129 evolution of climate, both past and future, due to its relatively high spatial resolution and relatively low  
1130 computational cost. We have presented illustrative examples of a number of different possible applications,  
1131 which we believe make it suitable for tackling a wide range of climate questions.

1132

### 1133 **Code availability**

1134 Code for the Latin hypercube sampling function is available from the MATLAB Statistics and Machine  
1135 Learning Toolbox. The wavelet software of Torrence and Compo (1998) is available online  
1136 at <http://atoc.colorado.edu/research/wavelets>.

### 1137 **Data availability**

1138 The data used in this paper are available from Natalie S. Lord (Natalie.Lord@bristol.ac.uk).

1139 **Competing interests**

1140 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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1146 <http://www.bris.ac.uk/acrc/>. Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does  
1147 not imply endorsement by the U. S. Government.

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**Table 1. Ensembles setup: sampling ranges for input parameters (obliquity,  $esin\varpi$ ,  $ecos\varpi$  and  $CO_2$ ) for the  $highCO_2$  and  $lowCO_2$  ensembles.**

Ensemble	Time covered from present day (AP)	Parameter	Sampling range	
			Minimum	Maximum
$highCO_2$	110 kyr	$\varepsilon$ ( $^\circ$ )	22.3	24.3
		$esin\varpi$	-0.016	0.016
		$ecos\varpi$	-0.016	0.015
		$CO_2$ (ppmv)	280	3600
$lowCO_2$	1 Ma	$\varepsilon$ ( $^\circ$ )	22.2	24.4
		$esin\varpi$	-0.055	0.055
		$ecos\varpi$	-0.055	0.055
		$CO_2$ (ppmv)	250	560

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**Table 2. Experiment setup: Orbital parameters (obliquity, eccentricity and longitude of perihelion) and atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration for simulations in the  $highCO_2$  and  $lowCO_2$  ensembles. All experiments in both ensembles were run with modern ice sheet (*modice*) configurations. Experiments shown in bold were also run with reduced ice sheet (*lowice*) configurations. The experiment number is given, and the experiment name is constructed using the ice sheet configuration, the ensemble name and the experiment number, for example: *modice\_lowCO2\_1*.**

Ensemble	#	$\varepsilon$ ( $^\circ$ )	$e$ -	$\varpi$ ( $^\circ$ )	$CO_2$ (ppmv)	Ensemble	#	$\varepsilon$ ( $^\circ$ )	$e$ -	$\varpi$ ( $^\circ$ )	$CO_2$ (ppmv)
$highCO_2$	1	23.53	0.0093	240.3	3348.2	$lowCO_2$	1	22.99	0.0481	320.1	375.7
	2	24.24	0.0135	212.6	2159.3		2	23.02	0.0323	63.7	516.9
	3	22.38	0.0110	260.0	1645.0		3	22.81	0.0481	334.2	470.4
	4	24.07	0.0044	101.8	800.8		4	24.03	0.0537	84.9	390.3
	5	23.07	0.0203	313.0	1999.9		5	23.09	0.0294	293.8	325.3
	6	24.03	0.0087	184.9	3049.0		6	23.58	0.0098	325.1	337.5
	7	22.53	0.0163	162.0	900.9		7	23.72	0.0133	74.3	489.2
	8	23.57	0.0158	21.0	1746.3		<b>8</b>	<b>24.17</b>	<b>0.0066</b>	<b>174.1</b>	<b>346.0</b>
	9	23.34	0.0131	113.5	996.8		9	23.82	0.0400	48.2	260.6
	10	23.37	0.0198	220.2	3139.3		10	23.39	0.0412	53.8	409.5
	11	22.73	0.0187	236.1	1081.9		11	22.89	0.0531	115.2	436.6
	12	22.63	0.0121	184.8	2451.5		12	23.34	0.0281	133.9	504.4
	13	22.41	0.0131	192.8	3372.4		13	22.65	0.0473	102.6	555.6
	14	22.78	0.0137	299.3	448.2		14	23.20	0.0368	180.9	385.1
	15	22.97	0.0111	14.1	1225.7		15	23.96	0.0232	40.0	403.4
	16	22.90	0.0087	62.2	1841.9		16	24.27	0.0460	298.1	341.1
	17	23.63	0.0151	200.6	1151.6		17	22.35	0.0391	265.9	522.1
	18	23.77	0.0134	78.7	2101.7		18	23.91	0.0361	343.2	318.6
	19	23.73	0.0159	323.7	1526.6		<b>19</b>	<b>22.33</b>	<b>0.0484</b>	<b>324.2</b>	<b>264.5</b>
	20	24.29	0.0082	164.6	2890.4		20	22.94	0.0350	268.7	540.8

<b>21</b>	<b>22.31</b>	<b>0.0038</b>	<b>299.1</b>	<b>1389.5</b>	21	22.68	0.0323	332.4	531.5
22	23.42	0.0117	122.5	397.3	22	24.28	0.0387	118.7	446.7
23	24.00	0.0101	206.6	303.4	23	23.60	0.0484	282.0	310.5
24	22.48	0.0146	294.9	2845.7	24	24.19	0.0337	346.3	548.3
25	22.57	0.0067	81.2	1341.2	25	24.14	0.0423	11.6	425.4
26	22.93	0.0171	114.4	3516.0	26	22.20	0.0035	85.2	303.0
27	24.13	0.0143	257.3	2951.8	27	22.78	0.0070	212.1	480.4
28	23.00	0.0062	272.2	2274.6	28	22.72	0.0526	239.9	280.0
29	23.95	0.0103	114.7	564.7	<b>29</b>	<b>23.65</b>	<b>0.0543</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>362.0</b>
30	23.17	0.0169	56.7	1900.9	30	23.24	0.0351	200.4	411.9
31	23.70	0.0122	1.4	773.0	31	23.87	0.0276	156.5	287.5
32	23.24	0.0021	310.2	2582.1	32	22.25	0.0499	208.9	365.3
33	22.81	0.0121	66.3	2386.5	33	22.54	0.0510	103.4	471.1
<b>34</b>	<b>24.18</b>	<b>0.0145</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>668.2</b>	34	22.58	0.0404	292.2	544.5
35	23.82	0.0075	10.8	2244.8	35	22.87	0.0530	20.9	498.2
36	23.14	0.0141	314.1	3588.9	36	23.53	0.0414	147.0	507.0
37	23.49	0.0121	101.5	2760.4	37	22.39	0.0165	149.1	393.9
38	22.66	0.0162	69.5	2623.9	38	22.43	0.0537	175.0	484.8
39	23.28	0.0146	207.5	1484.8	39	24.38	0.0482	342.9	418.3
40	23.89	0.0092	21.1	3188.8	40	23.76	0.0504	127.0	528.1

1509 **Table 3. Parameter values estimated from Gregory plots for the 2x and 4x pre-industrial CO<sub>2</sub> simulations. Shown are**  
1510 **the effective radiative forcing ( $F$ ; W m<sup>-2</sup>) and the climate feedback parameter ( $\alpha$ ; W m<sup>-2</sup> °C<sup>-1</sup>) for years 1-20 and years**  
1511 **21-100. The uncertainties are the standard error from the linear regression.**

Simulation		$F$		$\alpha$	
		(W m <sup>-2</sup> )		(W m <sup>-2</sup> °C <sup>-1</sup> )	
		yr 1-20	yr 21-100	yr 1-20	yr 21-100
<i>2xCO<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>modice_lowCO2_13</i>	4.24 ± 0.4	-	-1.30 ± 0.2	-0.68 ± 0.05
<i>4xCO<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>modice_highCO2_17</i>	6.88 ± 0.3	-	-0.99 ± 0.1	-0.56 ± 0.02

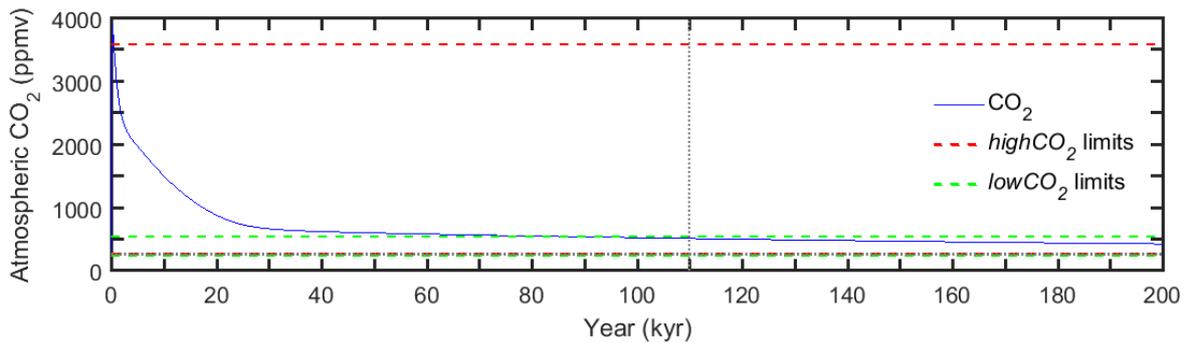
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**Table 4. Mean temperature anomalies and uncertainties (1 standard deviation) for the period 3300-2800 kyr BP estimated by the emulator and alkenone proxy data for the four ODP/IODP sites.**

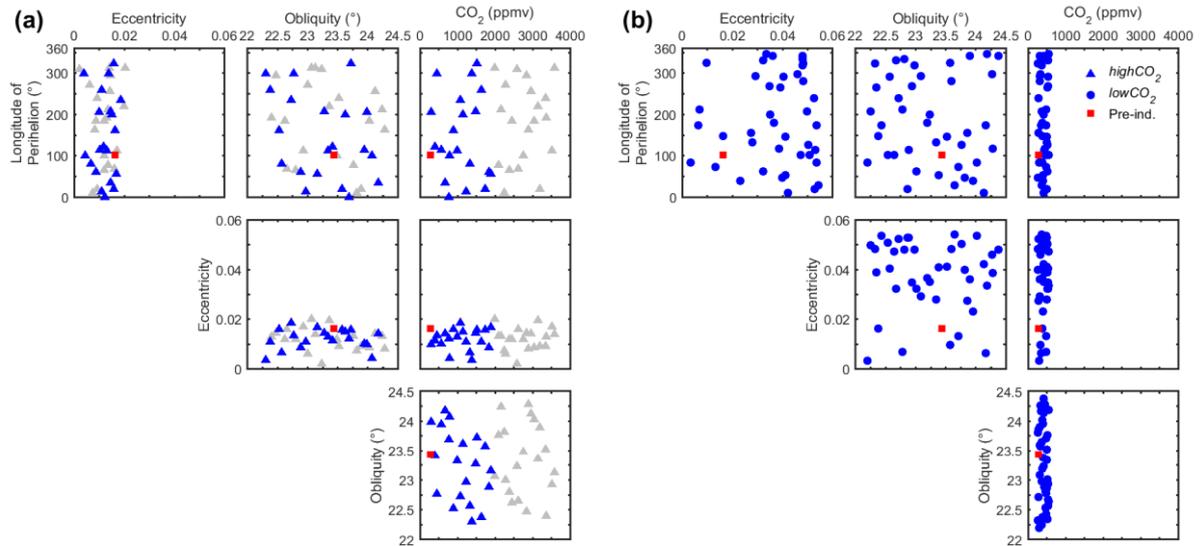
ODP/IODP Site	Location		Emulated SAT anomaly (°C)			Proxy data SST anomaly (°C)		
			280 ppmv	350 ppmv	400 ppmv	Prahl et al. (1988)	Muller et al. (1998)	
982 <sup>1</sup>	North Atlantic	57.5° N	15.9° W	0.6	2.4	3.3	5.4	5.7
				±0.4	±0.3	±0.3		
U1313 <sup>2</sup>	North Atlantic	41.0° N	33.0° W	-0.8	0.0	0.8	1.6	2.0
				±0.3	±0.2	±0.2		
722 <sup>3</sup>	Arabian Sea	16.6° N	59.8° E	0.0	1.0	1.7	1.0	1.7
				±0.2	±0.2	±0.2		
662 <sup>3</sup>	Tropical Atlantic	1.4° S	11.7° W	0.2	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.9
				±0.2	±0.2	±0.2		

<sup>1</sup>Lawrence et al. (2009); <sup>2</sup>Naafs et al. (2010); <sup>3</sup>Herbert et al. (2010).

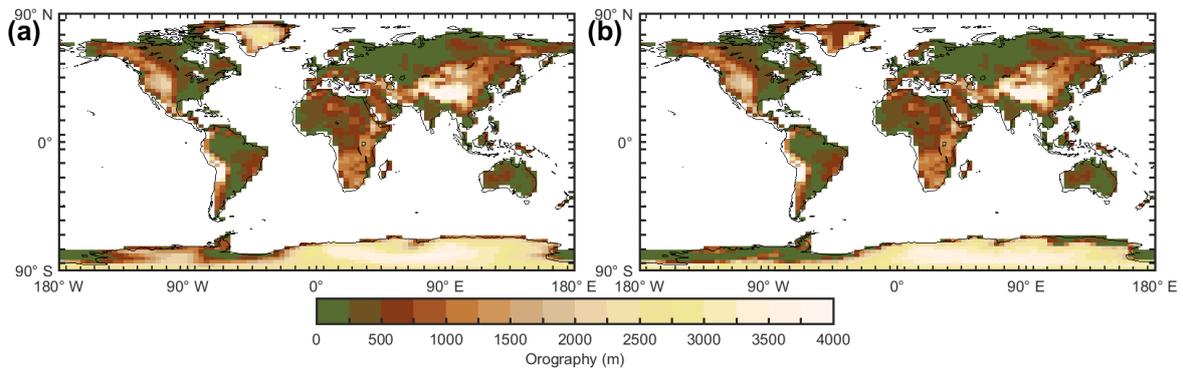


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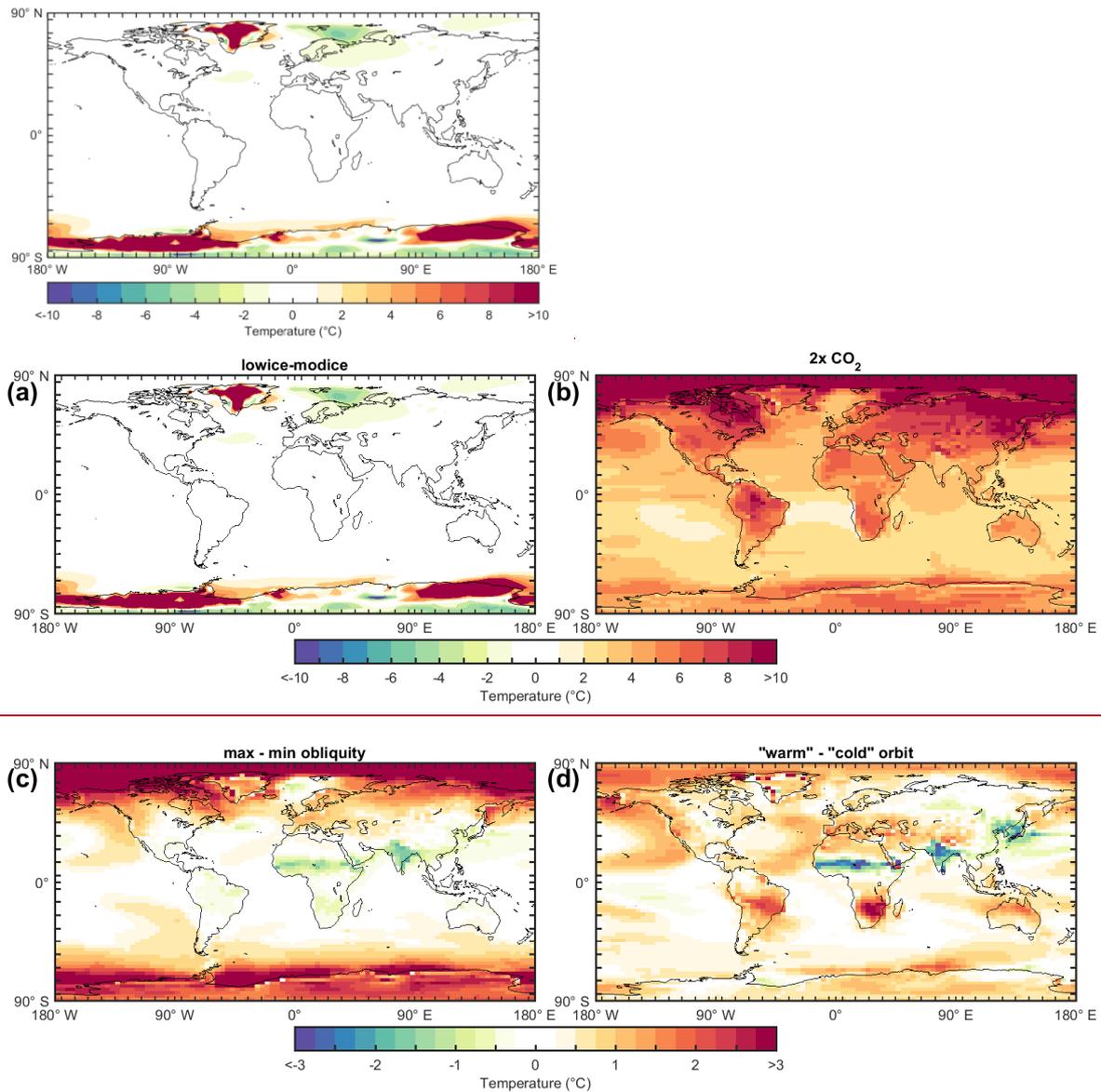
**Figure 1. Time series of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (ppmv) for the next 200 kyr following logistic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 10,000 PgC, run using the cGENIE model (Lord et al., 2016). Also shown are the upper and lower CO<sub>2</sub> limits of the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* (red dashed lines) and *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* (green dashed lines) ensembles. The pre-industrial CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of 280 ppmv (horizontal grey dotted line), and the 110 kyr cut-off for the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble (vertical grey dotted line) are included for reference.**



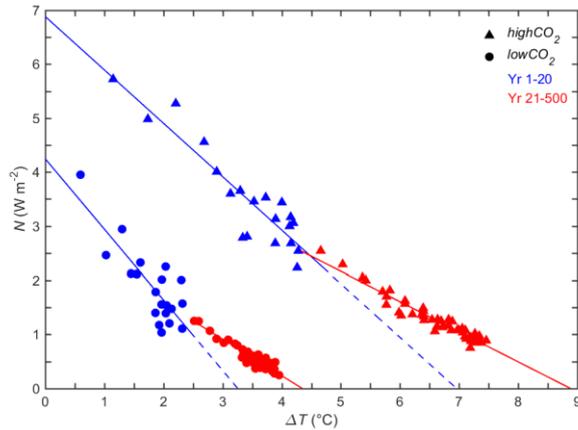
1520 Figure 2. Distribution of 40 experiments produced by Latin hypercube sampling, displayed as two-dimensional slices  
 1521 projections through four-dimensional space. (a) *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble, (b) *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble. The variables are  
 1522 eccentricity ( $e$ ), longitude of perihelion ( $\varpi$ ; degrees), obliquity ( $\varepsilon$ ; degrees), and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration  
 1523 (ppmv). A pre-industrial control simulation is shown in red. In the *highCO<sub>2</sub>* ensemble, experiments with CO<sub>2</sub>  
 1524 concentrations of more than 2000 ppmv, shown in grey, were excluded from the emulator.



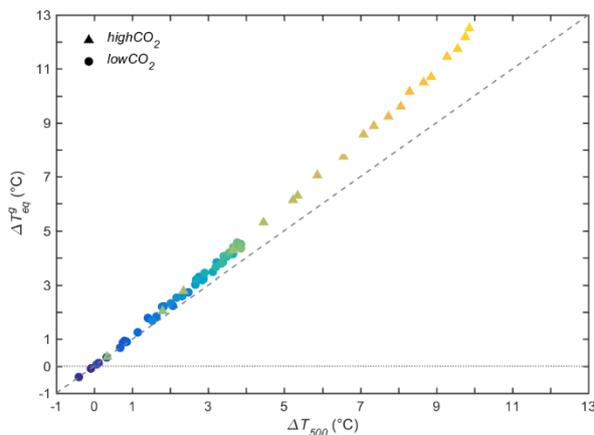
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 1526 Figure 3. Orography (m) in the two ice sheet configuration ensembles. (a) *modice* ensemble, (b) *lowice* ensemble.  
 1527 Differences only occur over Greenland and Antarctica.



528 **Figure 4. Mean annual SAT (°C) anomalies produced by the various climate forcings. (a) for the**  
 529 **lowice experiments compared with their modice equivalents, averaged across the five lowice**  
 530 **experiments performed using the modice emulator. All orbital and CO<sub>2</sub> conditions are set to pre-industrial**  
 531 **values unless specified: (b) 2x pre-industrial CO<sub>2</sub>, (c) maximum obliquity compared to minimum obliquity, (d)**  
 532 **“warm” orbital conditions (high eccentricity, NH summer at perihelion) compared to “cold” orbital conditions (low**  
 533 **eccentricity, NH summer at aphelion). All SAT anomalies have been calculated compared with the pre-industrial**  
 534 **control simulation. The different forcings result in global mean SAT anomalies of: (b) 4.2°C, (c) 0.4°C, and (d) 0.4°C.**

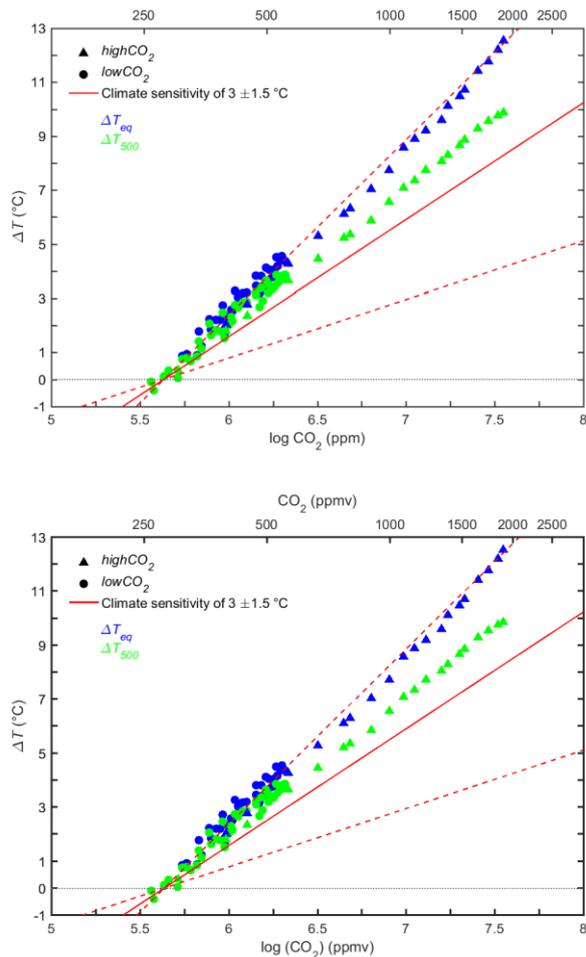


1535 Figure 5. Gregory plot showing change in TOA net downward radiation flux ( $N$ ;  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ) as a function of change in  
 1536 global mean annual SAT ( $\Delta T$ ;  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for approximate  $2\times\text{CO}_2$  (*modice\_lowCO2\_13*; circles) and  $4\times\text{CO}_2$   
 1537 (*modice\_highCO2\_17*; triangles) experiments. Lines show regression fits to the global mean annual data points for  
 1538 years 1-20 (blue) and years 21-500 (red). Data points are mean annual data for years 1-20 (blue) and mean decadal  
 1539 data for years 21-500 (red). The  $\Delta T$  intercepts ( $N=0$ ) of the red lines give the estimated equilibrated SAT ( $\Delta T_{eq}^g$ ) for  
 1540 the two experiments. The  $\Delta T$  intercepts of the dashed blue lines represent the equilibrium that the experiment would  
 1541 have reached if the feedback strengths in the first 20 years had been maintained. SAT is shown as an anomaly  
 1542 compared with the pre-industrial control simulation.

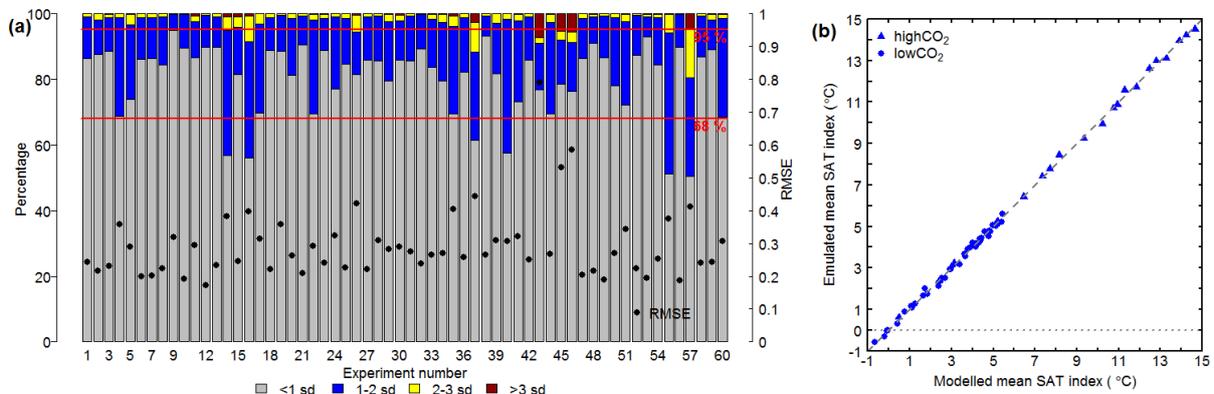


1543 Figure 6. Equilibrated global mean annual change in SAT ( $\Delta T_{eq}^g$ ;  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) estimated using the methodology of Gregory et  
 1544 al. (2004) against global mean annual change in SAT ( $\Delta T_{500}$ ;  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) at year 500 (average of final 50 years) for the *lowCO₂*  
 1545 (circles) and *highCO₂* (triangles) *modice* ensembles. The colours of the points indicate the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration of the  
 1546 experiment, from low (blue) to high (yellow). The 1:1 line (dashed) is included for reference. SAT is shown as an  
 1547 anomaly compared with the pre-industrial control simulation.

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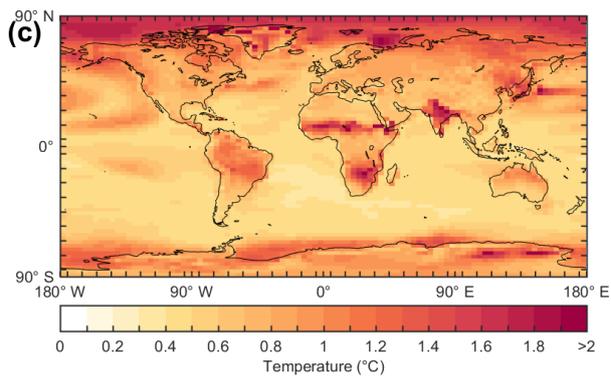
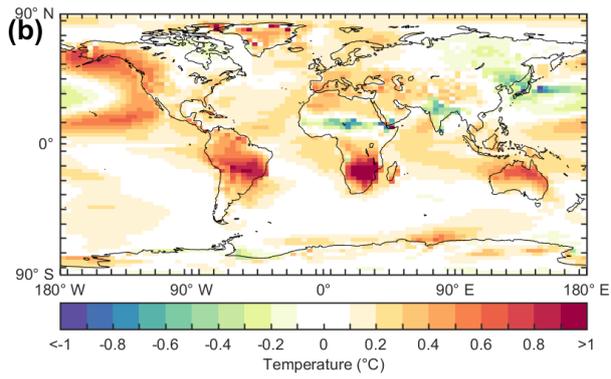
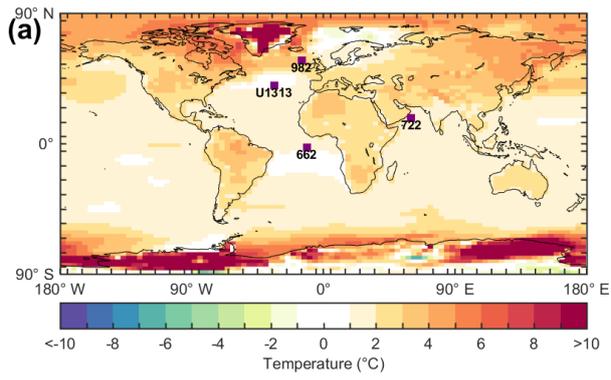


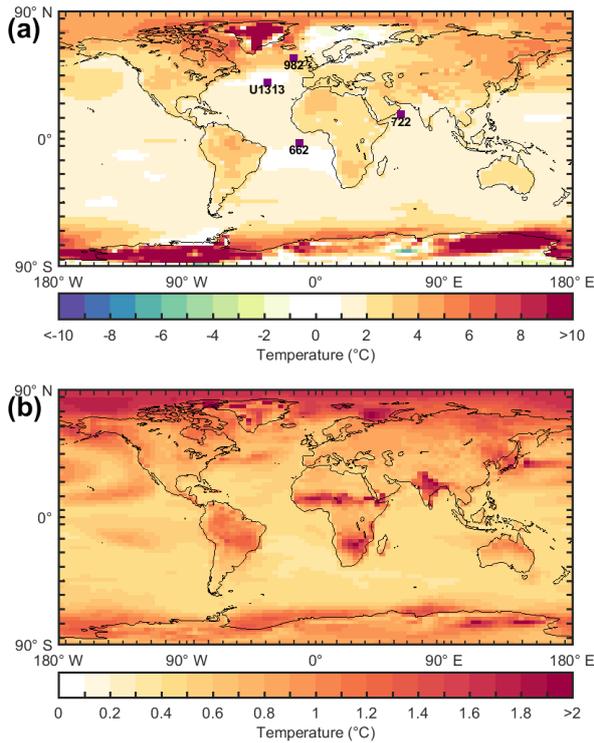
1549 **Figure 7.** Equilibrated global mean annual change in SAT ( $\Delta T_{eq}$ ; °C; blue), estimated by applying the  $\Delta T_{eq}^G/\Delta T_{500}$   
 1550 ratio identified using the Gregory methodology to the GCM data, against atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (ppmv) for the *lowCO<sub>2</sub>*  
 1551 (*circles*) and *highCO<sub>2</sub>* (*triangles*) *modice* ensembles. Also shown is  $\Delta T_{500}$  (green), along with the idealized relationship  
 1552 between  $\ln(\text{CO}_2)$  and  $\Delta T$  (red lines) for a climate sensitivity of 3°C (solid), 1.5°C (lower dashed) and 4.5°C (upper  
 1553 dashed) (IPCC, 2013). SAT is shown as an anomaly compared with the pre-industrial control simulation.



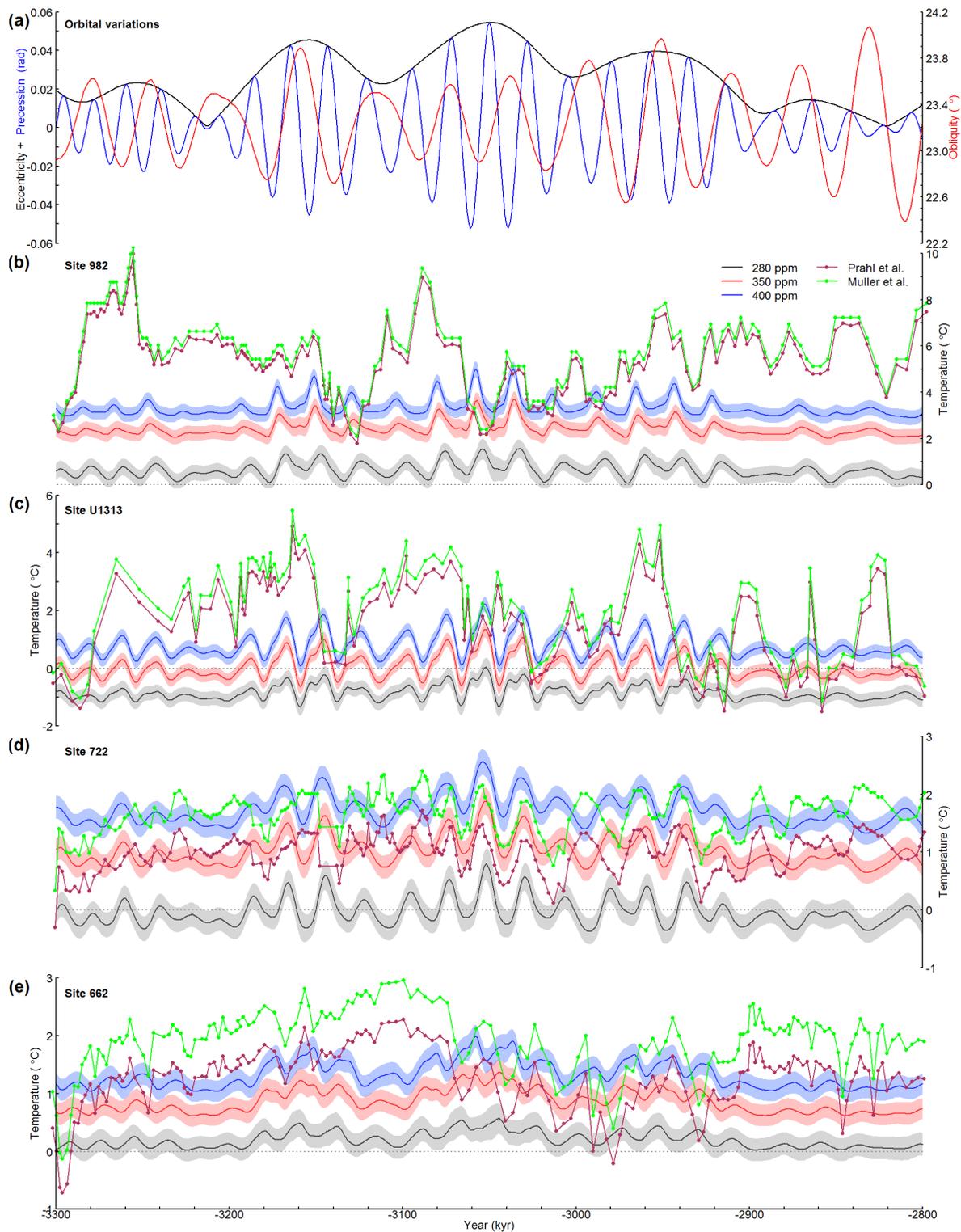
1554 **Figure 8.** Evaluation of emulator performance. (a) Bars give the percentage of grid boxes for which the emulator  
 1555 predicts the SAT of the left-out experiment to within 1, 2, 3 and more than 3 standard deviations (sd). Also shown is  
 1556 the RMSE for the experiments (black circles). Red lines indicate 68% and 95%. (b) **MGlobal m**ean annual SAT index  
 1557 (°C) calculated by the emulator and the GCM for the *lowCO<sub>2</sub>* (*circles*) and *highCO<sub>2</sub>* (*triangles*) *modice* ensembles. The  
 1558 1:1 line (dashed) is included for reference. Note: this is the mean value for the GCM output data grid assuming all

1559 grid boxes are of equal size, hence not taking into account variations in grid box area: we therefore refer to it as a  
1560 SAT index. SAT is shown as an anomaly compared with the pre-industrial control simulation.





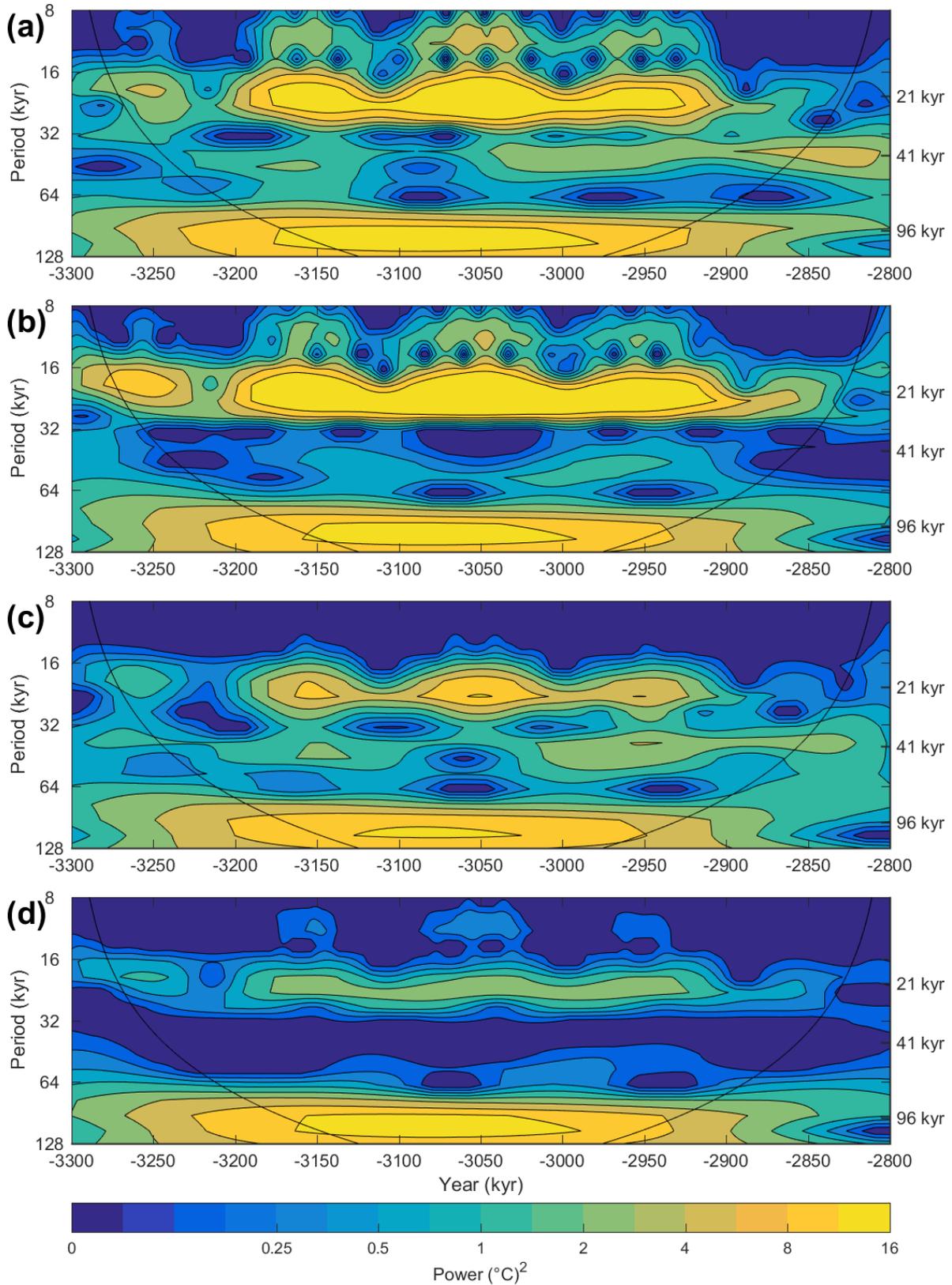
1561 **Figure 9. Emulated mean annual SAT (°C) for the 400 ppmv CO<sub>2</sub> scenario, modelled using the *lowice* emulator. SAT**  
 1562 **is shown as an anomaly compared with the pre-industrial control simulation. (a) Mean annual SAT for modern-day**  
 1563 **orbital conditions. Also shown are the locations of the four ODP/IODP sites (purple squares): Site 982 (North**  
 1564 **Atlantic; (Lawrence et al., 2009)), Site U1313 (North Atlantic; (Naafs et al., 2010)), Site 722 (Arabian Sea; (Herbert et**  
 1565 **al., 2010)) and Site 662 (tropical Atlantic; (Herbert et al., 2010)). (b) ~~Anomaly in mean annual SAT averaged over the~~**  
 1566 **~~period 3300–2800 kyr BP (late Pliocene) compared to that produced under modern-day orbital conditions (Fig. 9a).~~**  
 1567 **~~(c) Standard deviation of mean annual SAT for the period 3300–2800 kyr BP (late Pliocene), also taking into account~~**  
 1568 **the emulator posterior variance.**



1569 **Figure 10.** Data-model comparison of temperature **anomaly** for the period 3300-2800 kyr BP (late Pliocene). (a) Time  
1570 series of orbital variations (Laskar et al., 2004), showing eccentricity (black) and precession (radians; blue) on the left  
1571 axis, and obliquity (degrees; red) on the right axis. (b):(e) Time series of emulated grid box mean annual SAT (°C;  
1572 plain lines), modelled every 1 kyr, for three constant CO<sub>2</sub> scenarios; 280 ppmv (black), 350 ppmv (red) and 400 ppmv  
1573 (blue). Modelled using the *lowice* emulator. Error bands represent the emulated grid box posterior variance (1  
1574 standard deviation). Also shown is SST proxy data (°C; dotted lines) calibrated using the method of Prah et al. (1988)  
1575 (maroon), and the method of Muller et al. (1998) (green). SSTs for four ODP/IODP sites are compared: Site 982  
1576 (North Atlantic; (Lawrence et al., 2009)), Site U1313 (North Atlantic; (Naafs et al., 2010)), Site 722 (Arabian Sea;  
1577 (Herbert et al., 2010)) and Site 662 (tropical Atlantic; (Herbert et al., 2010)). SAT is shown as an anomaly compared

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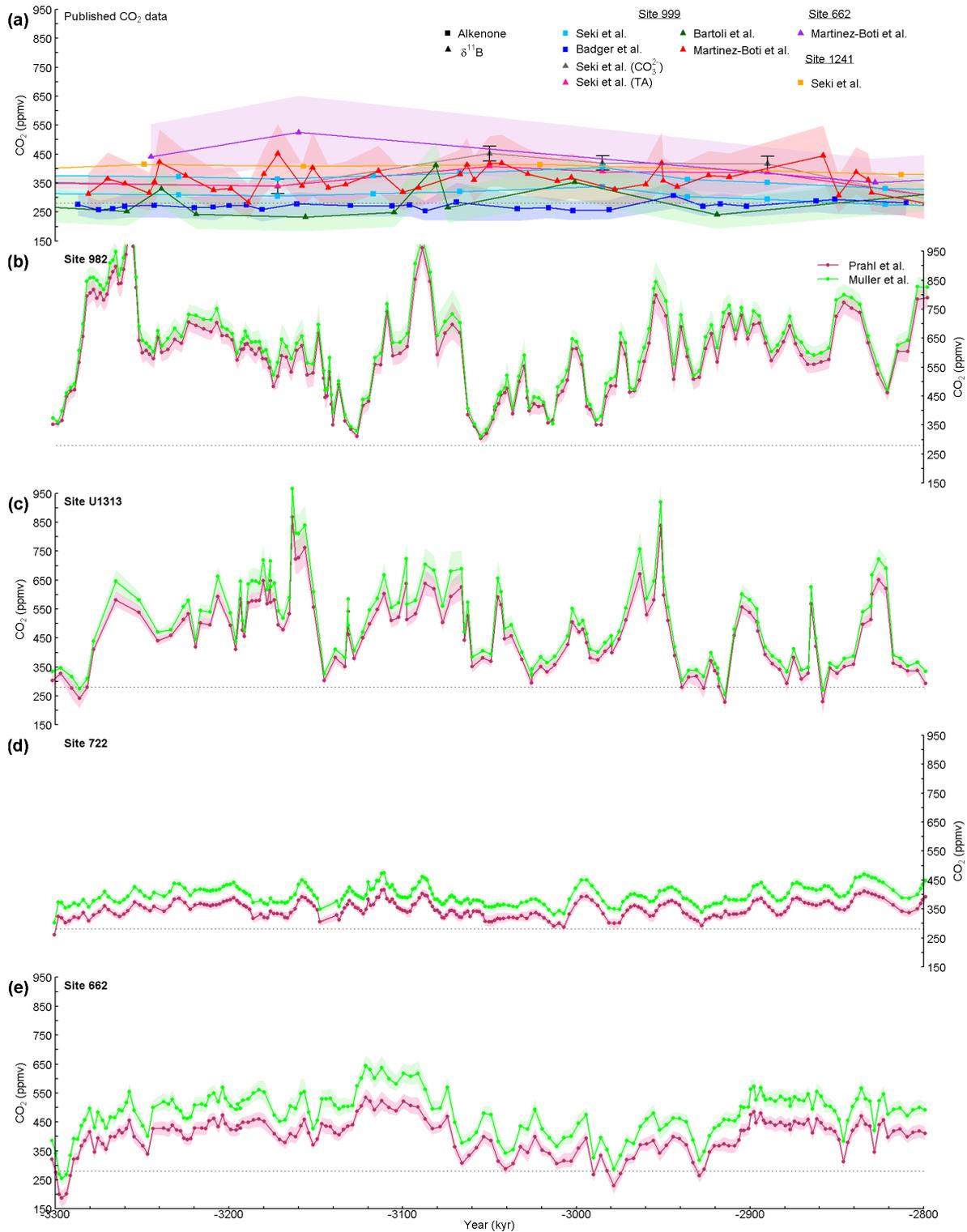
with the pre-industrial control simulation, SST is shown as an anomaly compared with SST observations for the period 1870-1900 taken from the HadISST dataset (Rayner et al., 2003). Note the different vertical axis scales.



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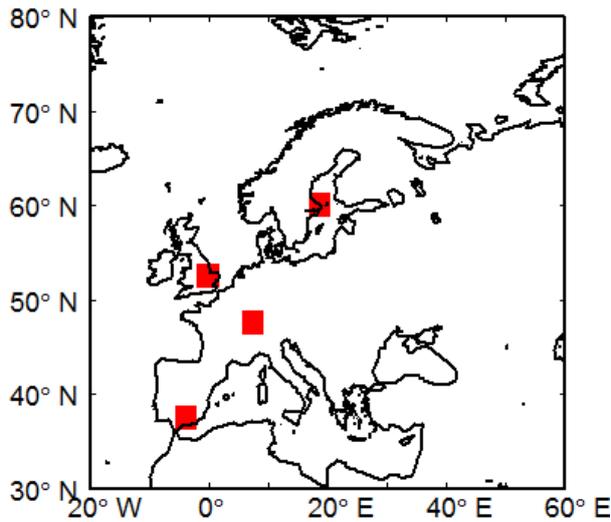
Figure 11. The wavelet power spectrum for 3300-2800 kyr BP (late Pliocene). Wavelet analysis was performed on emulated grid box mean annual SAT (°C), modelled every 1 kyr using the *lowice* emulator, for constant CO<sub>2</sub> of 400 ppmv (blue line in Fig. 10b to 10e). The data are normalized by the mean variance for the analysed SAT data ( $\sigma^2 =$

1583 0.14°C). Four ODP/IODP sites are compared: (a) Site 982 (North Atlantic; (Lawrence et al., 2009)), (b) Site U1313  
 1584 (North Atlantic; (Naafs et al., 2010)), (c) Site 722 (Arabian Sea; (Herbert et al., 2010)) and (d) Site 662 (tropical  
 1585 Atlantic; (Herbert et al., 2010)).

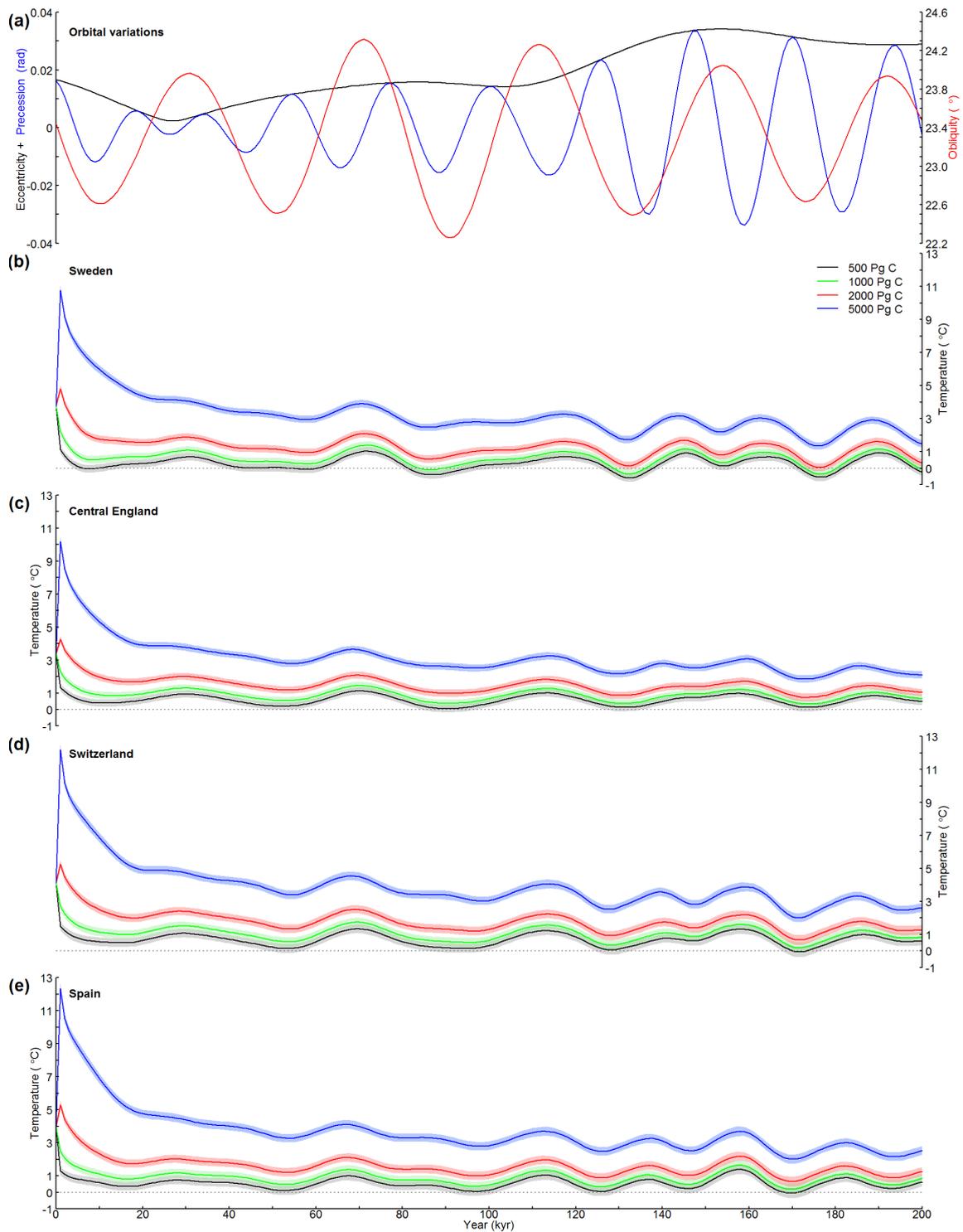


1586 **Figure 12. Data-model comparison of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (ppmv) for the period 3300-2800 kyr BP (late**  
 1587 **Pliocene) for six ODP/IODP sites: Site 982 (North Atlantic), Site U1313 (North Atlantic), Site 722 (Arabian Sea), Site**  
 1588 **999 (Caribbean), Site 662 (tropical Atlantic), and Site 1241 (east tropical Pacific). (a) Time series of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>**  
 1589 **concentration from selected proxy data records. Shown is CO<sub>2</sub> estimated from alkenone (squares) for Site 999 by Seki**  
 1590 **et al. (2010) (light blue), Badger et al. (2013) (dark blue) and for Site 1241 by Seki et al. (2010) (orange), and**  
 1591 **estimated from δ<sup>11</sup>B (triangles) for Site 999 by Seki et al. (2010) based on modelled carbonate concentration ([CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>])**

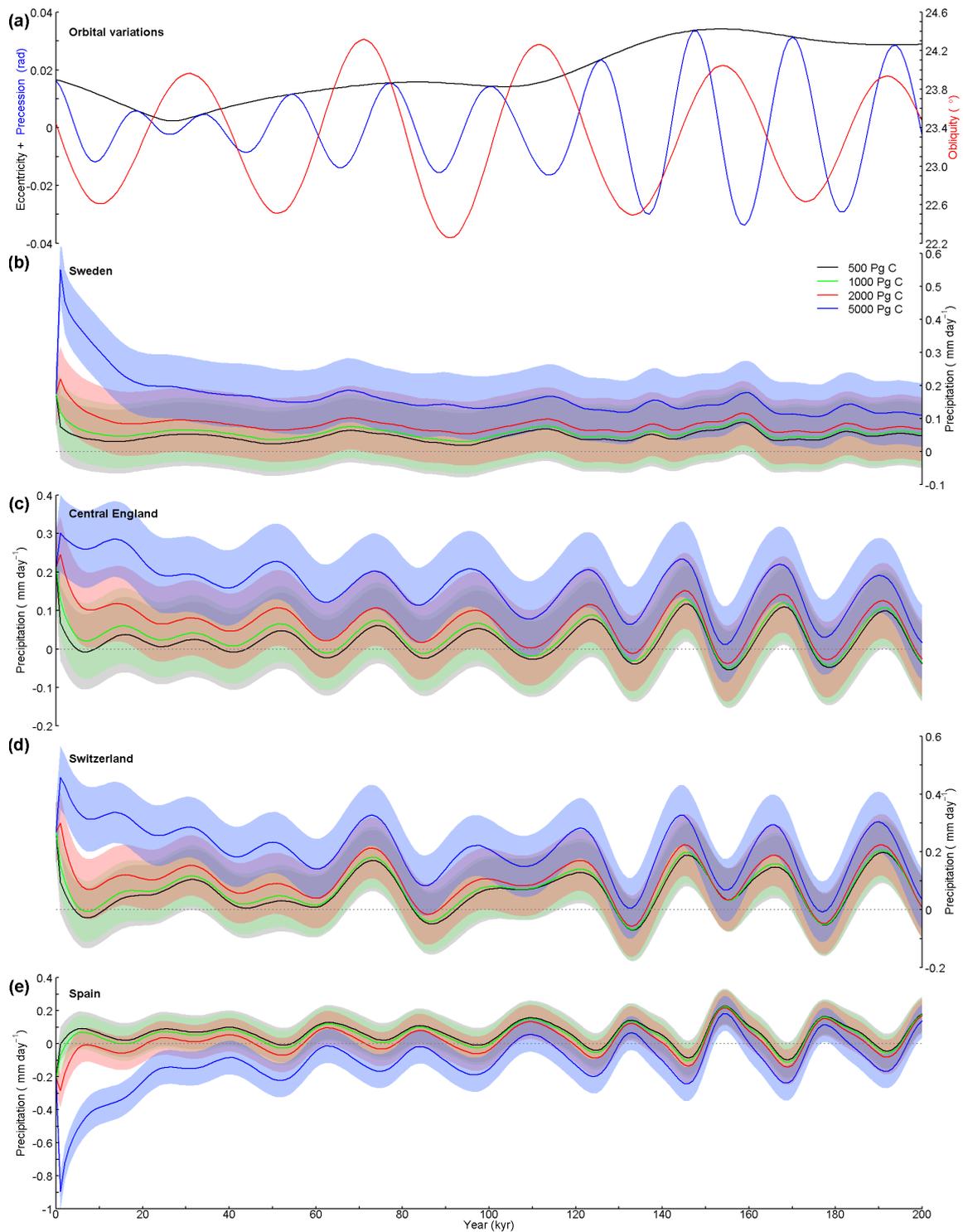
1592 (grey) and assuming modern total alkalinity (TA; pink), Bartoli et al. (2011) (dark green), Martinez-Boti et al. (2015)  
 1593 (red) and for Site 662 by Martinez-Boti et al. (2015) (purple). For the Seki et al. (2010)  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  records, error bars are  
 1594  $\pm 25$  ppmv and the error band is the result of varying the modern TA by  $\pm 5\%$ , whilst for Martinez-Boti et al. (2015)  
 1595 the error band represents the 95% confidence interval for a 10,000 member Monte Carlo analysis. (b):(e) Time series  
 1596 of atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration estimated from SST proxy data (circles; Herbert et al. (2010) – Sites 662 and 722,  
 1597 Naafs et al. (2010) – Site U1313, Lawrence et al. (2009) – Site 982) calibrated using the method of Prahl et al. (1988)  
 1598 (maroon), and the method of Muller et al. (1998) (light green).  $\text{CO}_2$  is calculated based on a linear relationship  
 1599 between emulated grid box mean annual SAT (modelled using the *lowice* emulator) and  $\text{CO}_2$ , for three constant  $\text{CO}_2$   
 1600 scenarios of 280, 350 and 400 ppmv. Error bands represent estimated atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration taking into  
 1601 account the emulated grid box posterior variance (1 standard deviation). Where the error appears to be very low, this  
 1602 is generally an artefact of the way that the data has been plotted. The pre-industrial  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration of 280 ppmv  
 1603 (grey dotted line) is included for reference.



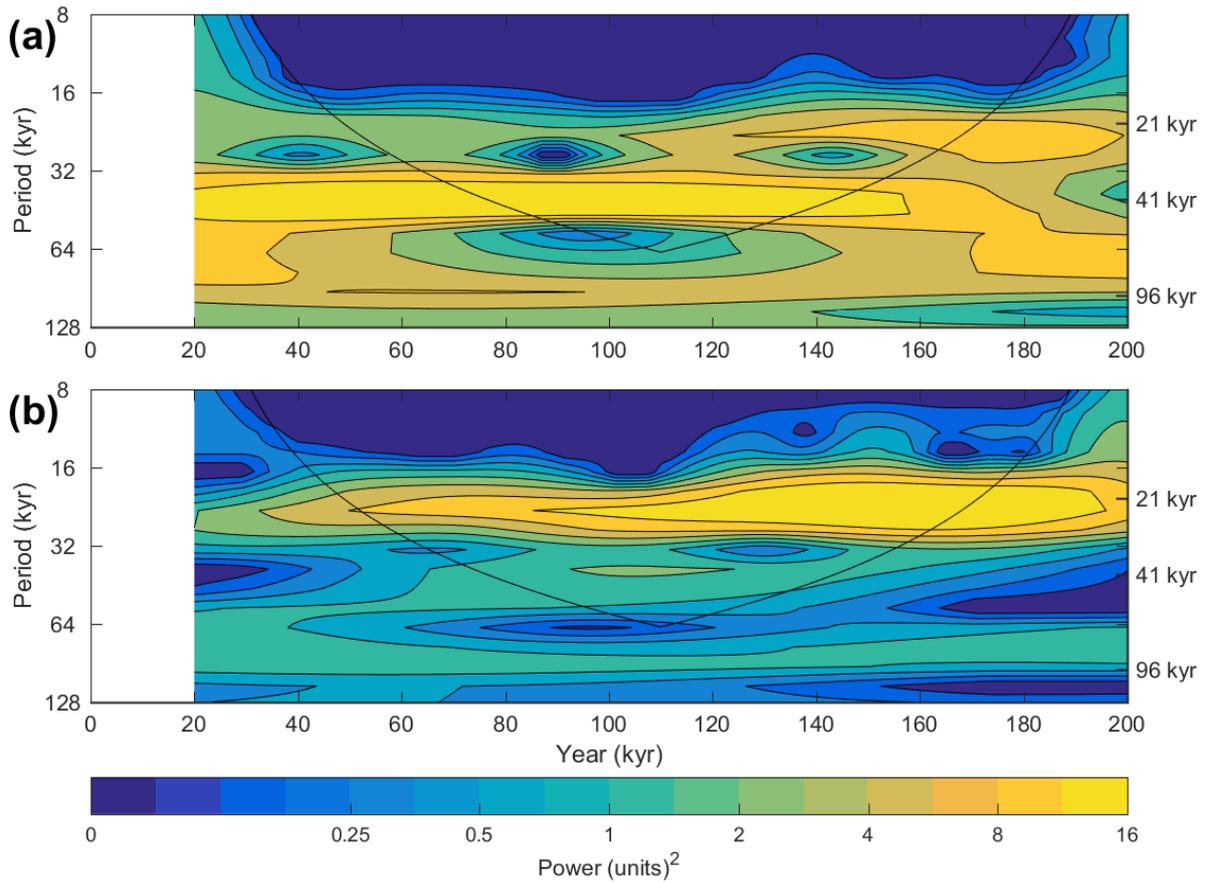
1604 Figure 13. Map of Europe highlighting the grid boxes that represent the four case study sites. From north to south:  
 1605 Sweden, Central England, Switzerland and Spain.



1606 Figure 14. Emulation of SAT **anomaly** for the next 200 kyr. (a) Time series of orbital variations (Laskar et al., 2004),  
 1607 showing eccentricity (black) and precession (radians; blue) on the left axis, and obliquity (degrees; red) on the right  
 1608 axis. (b):-(e) Time series of emulated grid box mean annual SAT (°C), modelled every 1 kyr, for four CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
 1609 scenarios; 500 Pg C (black), 1000 Pg C (green), 2000 Pg C (red) and 5000 Pg C (blue). Modelled using the *modice*  
 1610 emulator. Error bands represent the emulated grid box posterior variance (1 standard deviation). Four sites are  
 1611 presented, representing grid boxes in Sweden, Central England, Switzerland and Spain. SAT is shown as an anomaly  
 1612 compared with the pre-industrial control simulation.



1613 Figure 15. Emulation of precipitation **anomaly** for the next 200 kyr. (a) Time series of orbital variations (Laskar et al., 2004), showing eccentricity (black) and precession (radians; blue) on the left axis, and obliquity (degrees; red) on the right axis. (b)-(e) Time series of emulated grid box mean annual precipitation ( $\text{mm day}^{-1}$ ), modelled every 1 kyr, for four CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scenarios; 500 Pg C (black), 1000 Pg C (green), 2000 Pg C (red) and 5000 Pg C (blue). Modelled using the *modice* emulator. Error bands represent the emulated grid box posterior variance (1 standard deviation). Four sites are presented, representing grid boxes in Sweden, Central England, Switzerland and Spain. Precipitation is shown as an anomaly compared with the pre-industrial control simulation. Note the different vertical axis scales.



1621 **Figure 16.** The wavelet power spectrum for the next 200 kyr for the Central England grid box. Wavelet analysis was  
 1622 performed on data for 20 kyr AP onwards, for: (a) emulated grid box mean annual SAT (°C; blue line in Fig. 14c),  
 1623 and (b) emulated grid box mean annual precipitation (mm day<sup>-1</sup>; blue line in Fig. 15c). Both variables were modelled  
 1624 every 1 kyr using the *modice* emulator, for the 5000 Pg C emissions scenario. The data are normalized separately by:  
 1625 (a) the mean variance for the analysed SAT data ( $\sigma^2 = 0.14^\circ\text{C}$ ), and (b) the variance for the analysed precipitation  
 1626 data ( $\sigma^2 = 0.003^\circ\text{C}$ ).

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