

Clim. Past Discuss., editor comment EC1
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Comment on cp-2020-161

Pierre Francus (Editor)

Editor comment on "Hydroclimatic variability of opposing Late Pleistocene climates in the Levant revealed by deep Dead Sea sediments" by Yoav Ben Dor et al., Clim. Past Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2020-161-EC1>, 2021

Dear Authors,

I read the reviewers comments and also read your manuscript myself. The concerns raised by the reviewers look reasonable and you should be ready to reply to all of them. There are a few comments I would like to emphasize.

- As suggested in referee 3 comments (RC3), please reorganized the labelling of figures. The current numbering is confusing, especially at the beginning.
- Please verify the numbers in the call for figures in the text. I have the feeling that there are some inconsistencies.
- As suggested in RC2, the supplementary material is plentiful, and will be overwhelming for most of the readership of Climate of the Past. Try to remove what is not necessary.
- I agree with RC3 that referring to "non-persistent periodic[al] components of 2-6 years" in ll. 369-370 appears more like wishful thinking than proper interpretation of the obtained results.

I also have comments of my own.

- The interpretation is based on the comparison between the "periodic components" of the current synoptic conditions (ll. 334-335 and 424-448), with the "periodic components" of your records. However, it is not discussed how sure we are that the current synoptic conditions are similar to the ones in isotopic stage 2, and even if the conditions were similar during the two time-intervals considered here for analysis, 18 ka and 27 ka. Indeed, during the Pleistocene, the presence of large polar ice caps has deflected the jet streams and many other systems towards the equator. This should be discussed.

Technical comments

l143-1475: repetition of intro

l147: missing data replaced by median? Valid?

l159-161: Not clear what you do.

l226 and following: μ is indicating what? Median, mean? This looks odd.

l345-346: I do not understand the rationale. More is needed to explain the relationship.

Figure7: what is the time-scale?

l409: I don't see why Figs 6-7 are illustrating the sentence here.

l410: What do you mean by background episodes? Actually, what do exactly mean by episode? Do you mean a time interval?

l468: demonstrate strong regime shifts? I find "strong" excessive.

Prior to making your revision, you are expected to answer the 3 referee comments (and mine) in order for me to decide if I can invite you to prepare a revised version of your manuscript. More details here: https://www.climate-of-the-past.net/peer_review/interactive_review_process.html.

I also would like to remind you that Climate of the Past is expecting you to make your data available, and to have a section "Data availability" at the end of the manuscript before the acknowledgements (please see <https://www.climate-of-the-past.net/submission.html> for more details).

I'm looking forward to reading your responses on the web site.

Thank you for submitting your work to Climate of the Past.

Pierre Francus