

Interactive comment on “Greenland ice sheet surface mass balance: evaluating simulations and making projections with regional climate models” by J. G. L. Rae et al.

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We thank the reviewer for his/her comments, and provide our responses below.

COMMENT: *I would urge the authors to redraw Fig. 2. Although many readers will access this article purely electronically, and so font size is perhaps of debatable importance, I found the extreme smallness of the font rather inconvenient - the text is essentially unreadable at normal zoom levels. In particular, the legend in sub-plot (a) would be better placed separate from the sub-plots, and increased in size. It might also help to transpose the x and y arrangement of the grid of sub-plots, so that there are two rows of four. Finally, a spurious number '11' seems to have crept in between the*

C1434

final two sub-plots.

RESPONSE: We agree with the reviewer that the plots in Figure 2 are too small and difficult to read. We tried transposing the x and y arrangements as suggested, but this did not lead to any great improvement in readability. After experimenting with various orientations, we have therefore decided that the best solution is to split the figure across two pages. This allows the size of the legend (and the font in it) in Fig. 2a to be increased. We have, however, retained the legend in Fig. 2a, because if we were to remove it and place it separately, we would have to reduce the size of the plots to compensate. We have also reproduced the legend in Fig. 2e on the second page. The spurious number '11' was a page number. Now that the figure has been split across two pages, this page number appears correctly, below the caption on the first page, rather than between the sub-plots.

COMMENT: *A similar comment applies to Fig. 9. Again, perhaps adjusting the layout of the subplots would help? Shifting one sub-plot onto a second row would allow all three to be larger.*

RESPONSE: We have now re-drawn Fig. 9 with larger symbols and a larger font size, and moved Fig. 9c onto a second row.

COMMENT: *Page 2076, line 11: "ECHAM-E1-forced" should presumably be "ECHAM5-E1-forced"*

RESPONSE: We have now corrected this.

COMMENT: *Page 2080, line 15: "HIRHAM" should be "HIRHAM5"?*

RESPONSE: We have now corrected this.

COMMENT: *Page 2082, lines 5 and 6: the use of a dash to denote a range between two numbers becomes rather clumsy when one or both of those numbers is negative, or has an explicit plus sign attached to it. I would suggest at least adding spaces around the dash, but preferably replacing with the form "between ... and ... Gt yr⁻¹".*

C1435

RESPONSE: We have now replaced the dashes with the form "between ... and ...", as suggested by the reviewer.

Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., 6, 2059, 2012.

C1436