

9 May 2018

Dr. John Yackel
Editor, The Cryosphere

Dear Dr. John Yackel

Thank you very much for your treatment of the article entitled “Medium-range predictability of early summer sea ice thickness distribution in the East Siberian Sea based on the TOPAZ4 ice-ocean data assimilation system” by Takuya Nakanowatari and co-authors (tc-2018-25). I understand that your final review of the revised manuscript is needed for the recommendation of publication in this journal.

After we submitted the revised manuscript in 24 April 2018, we found that the grant number shown in the acknowledgement is not correct. Therefore, we have modified the grant number in the revised version.

“...and JSPS KAKENHI Grant Numbers 17KK0014, 18H03745.” (Line 517)

We also have refereed following reference which was recently published and highly related to our study as follows;

“Mohammadi-Aragh et al. [2018] suggest the dominant role of the chaotic behavior in atmospheric prediction skill on the short-term predictability of sea ice deformation in the Arctic Ocean.” (Lines 84-86)

Mohammadi-Aragh M., Goessling H. F., Losch M., Hutter N., & Jung T. 2018. Predictability of Arctic sea ice on weather time scales. *Sci. Rep.*, 8, 6514, doi:10.1038/s41598-018-24660-0.

The updated manuscript was uploaded through the portal page of “The Cryosphere”.

We hope the manuscript has been improved satisfactorily for publication in The Cryosphere.

Sincerely yours,

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