

We would like to thank the reviewers for their constructive comments that helped to improve the manuscript ‘The future sea-level contribution of the Greenland ice sheet: a multi-model ensemble study of ISMIP6’. We have revised the manuscript accordingly and would be happy to provide a new version.

Please find below the reviewer’s comments in regular italic and a point-by-point response in bold font.

Referee 1

*This paper presents the results of the ISMIP6 effort to project the Greenland ice sheet sea-level rise contributions over the next century. This is a community effort which encompasses the contributions of a large number of groups around the world. As such, this paper will be an important input of the coming IPCC report. The paper is globally well written. I have nevertheless made a list of remarks which I believe might improve its clarity.*

**Thank you very much for the positive evaluation.**

*- all along the manuscript: you should refer to the TC guidelines for authors and adopt the required standards (e.g. caption are not in bold, use of Fig., Figs. and Figure, etc...)*

**OK. We’ve fixed the referencing of Figures. Bold font captions are defined by default in the Copernicus Word template, where mixed font entities are not foreseen. This will be handled during typesetting.**

*- page 2, line 20: define here (and not page 4 lines 29-30) GrIS and use it all along the manuscript afterward.*

**OK. Modified as suggested and replaced in the text.**

*- page 2, line 29: initiatives e.g. -> initiatives, e.g.*

**OK.**

*- page 3, line 10: is "in our context" necessary?*

**No, removed. Thanks.**

- page 4, line 2 : would be nice to have already some numbers on how many models have applied here

**OK, added the number of submissions.**

- page 4, line 5: the bibliography should be checked as for example you are using 2020a here but not in the list of references so that 2020a and 2020b cannot be distinguished.

**OK. We have checked the reference list and citations in the text and updated it to the current state. A few papers are still in discussion at this moment, so they will likely change.**

- page 4, line 24: "extended" here seems to refer to something different than in the captions of Tab. 1 and Fig. 1.

**Yes, there are several extensions, e.g. extending the CMIP5 range and adding CMIP6 models. We have added a reference that defines the experimental protocol.**

- Table 1: the note about "open" framework should be more explicit about what it is or refer the reader to the text. In general, "extended" and "open" experiment/framework should be defined more clearly at the beginning of the paper. Also, the same notation, with or without " " should be used all along the manuscript

**OK. To clarify, the distinction between ‘core’ and ‘extended’ experiments is about *which* forcing is applied, i.e. the choice of GCM and scenario. The distinction between ‘standard’ and ‘open’ refers to *how* the ocean forcing is applied as described on page 6.**

**In the mentioned note to Table 1 we now refer to the text, which we believe is clear about the difference between standard and open experiments. We have also removed quotas from all occurrences of ‘open’ in the text.**

- page 5, line 12: Figure 1a,b -> Fig. 1a,b

**OK.**

- caption Fig. 1: "extended" experiments are presented whereas it is mentioned page 18 line 21 that these experiments have not been studied here. At the end, I am a bit confused with what you refer to by extended and open (see my previous remark).

**As mentioned in the response to the comment above, there are several extensions defined. The text page 18 line 21 reads: “single-forcing experiments that have been proposed as part of the extended experiments”. The ‘as part of’ is important, because the extensions consist of more than just the single-forcing experiments. Next to the core experiments. the paper only discusses additional experiments extending the CMIP5 ensemble. With the reference introduce above, we believe it is possible to understand the basics of the ISMIP6 experimental protocol.**

- page 6, line 23: exercise xhttp -> exercise (http (?) isn't it a proper reference for this MIP? Also, the link is not working (error 404)

**OK, link has been updated.**

- page 8, line 3: the naming for the simulation should be explained somewhere. What is the 2 referencing to?

**Ok, naming convention including the model counter has been added.**

- page 8, line 7: observed -> observations (?)

**OK.**

- Figure 2 (and also other figures): in general the quality of the figures could be improved. Black frames should be removed. The size of the text should be similar to the main text size. The size of the figure should be adapted to either full width or one column, depending on the figure. For Fig. 2, it should be similar to Fig. 1 in Goelzer et al. 2018 to ease comparison (with a warning on the fact that the scales are not covering the same range?).

**All black frames have now been removed and figures have been formatted to fit a column (~9 cm width) or a full page (~18 cm width). We have also adjusted text sizes in all figures where necessary.**

**For Fig. 2 we felt we had to update the colour map compared to Fig. 1 in Goelzer et al. 2018 to avoid similar colours for high and low values. Nevertheless , we believe the figures remain easily comparable. The different colour scale is now mentioned in the text.**

*- caption Fig. 4: stippled -> dotted*

**OK. The line style has been updated to make the contrast stronger.**

*- page 12, line 22: Figure S3, S4 -> Figs. S3, S4*

**OK**

*- caption Fig. 5: I don't understand what you mean here by "The diagnostic have been calculated for grid cells subsampled...". Why sampling would be important in calculating a RMSE?*

**As mentioned here and in the text, errors are often spatially correlated for the variables of interest. The subsampling reduces biases due to this spatial correlation. It is not critical for the results, but gives the calculated errors more credibility.**

*- page 13, line 9: problem in that sentence?*

**OK, reformulated.**

*- Fig. 7b: the dashed line is very difficult to see*

**The dashed line has been made thicker and with alternating black and grey colour to improve visibility.**

*- page 16, line 2: Figure 7 -> Fig. 7b*

**OK.**

*- page 18, line 10: the reduction by 1/3 is relative to what. This part is not very clear.*

**OK. A reduction of the relative uncertainty by 1/3 (from 29% to 20%) is found for reducing the number of GCMs from 6 to 1. We have clarified this in the text.**

*- page 28, line 21: if a water-pressure dependent friction law is used, some words should be said on how the basal water pressure is evaluated.*

**OK. The model description has been updated, clarifying that there is no dependence of basal sliding on basal temperature or water pressure.**

*- page 30, line 2: is it VUB-GISM ou GISM-VUB?*

**OK, VUB-GISM.**

*- page 31, line 5: minimum and maximum resolution -> minimum and maximum resolutions*

**OK.**

**Thanks again for a constructive review of our manuscript.**

*Referee 2 (Fuyuki SAITO)*

*This paper present a projection and uncertainties of the contribution of the Greenland ice sheet to sea level rise until 2100 under ISMIP6 framework. I think this paper is fairly well written with some exception (only minor) below, and can be accepted with minor revision.*

**Thank you for the positive review.**

*P4,L7 about the period 01.01.2015 — 31.12.2100. I think it not necessary to write calendar dates here. I cannot found text to mention about day or month throughout the paper, but ‘end of 2014’ or similar notation. I read Nowicki et al (2020a) about SMB forcing. As far as I understand, SMB anomalies for ice sheet are provided as yearly averages (although the source of SMB anomalies is provided by regional model following the calendar).*

**It seems useful to be specific about the exact start and end date because specifying only the year has led to much confusion.**

*P5,L12. about changes in SMB due to elevation changes. I suspect that the experiment ctrl\_proj also includes this SMB/elevation feedback but there are no clear explanation in the text.*

**OK. We did not account for the SMB-height feedback in experiment ctrl\_proj. This information is now added in the caption to table 1.**

*P6 L23 xhttp to http.*

**OK.**

*Table 2 and some figures (e.g., Fig. 5). I suggest to sort the table and figures not by contributors but by models (model column). It may help to extract common/uncommon features in the same ice-sheet model more easily (Of course a common feature may be just a coincidence).*

**Table 2 just lists the participants, so we believe there would be no gain in sorting it differently. In general, the results show that structural similarities between model codes have much less impact on the results than e.g. the individual initialisation strategies. This is why we expressly avoid emphasising the code base and treat all submissions as individual models.**

*Figure 4. It is very hard to detect in this figure which is grey dotted or which is stippled line.*

**The line style has been updated to make the contrast stronger.**

*P12. L5 and Figure 5. about log of the velocity. Not clear. log with base e of velocity in m/yr?*

**You are right that formally velocity has to be normalised to a unitless number before taking the logarithm. In practice, normalising with a base unit of 1 m/yr, will give the desired result. This has been added in the text.**

*Figure 5d. Is this plot is just an ice-sheet volume change?. If not, what is different between absolute thickness changes integrated over the model grid and volume changes?*

**Negative thickness changes can compensate positive thickness changes in volume calculations. Integrating the absolute thickness change gives a better idea about the model drift.**

*P16 L2. About NOISM. How to compute this? I assume that something like a 5km-resolution ice-sheet model (with fixed geometry) is used.*

**That could be one approach. We did the calculations offline and using the 1 km resolution of the forcing dataset. But the details do not matter much.**

*Figure 8. Is it possible to rotate the cross symbol by 45 degree (+ to x)? Some medians and means can be distinguished easily.*

**Yes. The figure has been updated to make it clearer. Thanks for the suggestion.**

**Thank you very much for the review.**

**Please note that due to technical corrections some model results have slightly changed and with them the overall numbers specified in the manuscript. The differences to the original submission are negligible.**

The future sea-level contribution of the Greenland ice sheet: a multi-model ensemble study of ISMIP6

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## Abstract.

The Greenland ice sheet is one of the largest contributors to global-mean sea-level rise today and is expected to continue to lose mass as the Arctic continues to warm. The two predominant mass loss mechanisms are increased surface meltwater runoff and mass loss associated with the retreat of marine-terminating outlet glaciers. In this paper we use a large ensemble of Greenland ice sheet models forced by output from a representative subset of CMIP5 global climate models to project ice sheet changes and sea-level rise contributions over the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The simulations are part of the Ice Sheet Model Intercomparison Project for CMIP6 (ISMIP6). We estimate the sea-level contribution together with uncertainties due to future climate forcing, ice sheet model formulations and ocean forcing for the two greenhouse gas concentration scenarios RCP8.5 and RCP2.6. The results indicate that the Greenland ice sheet will continue to lose mass in both scenarios until 2100 with contributions of  $90 \pm 50$  mm and  $32 \pm 17$  mm to sea-level rise for RCP8.5 and RCP2.6, respectively. The largest mass loss is expected from the southwest of Greenland, which is governed by surface mass balance changes, continuing what is already observed today. Because the contributions are calculated against a unforced control experiment, these numbers do not include any committed mass loss, i.e. mass loss that would occur over the coming century if the climate forcing remained constant. Under RCP8.5 forcing, ice sheet model uncertainty explains an ensemble spread of 40 mm, while climate model uncertainty and ocean forcing uncertainty account for a spread of 36 mm and 19 mm, respectively. Apart from those formally derived uncertainty ranges, the largest gap in our knowledge is about the physical understanding and implementation of the calving process, i.e. the interaction of the ice sheet with the ocean.

## 1 Introduction

The aim of this paper is to estimate the contribution of the Greenland ice sheet (GrIS) to future sea-level rise until 2100 and the uncertainties associated with such projections. The work builds on a worldwide community effort of ice sheet modelling groups that are organised in the framework of the Ice Sheet Model Intercomparison Project for CMIP6 (ISMIP6), which is endorsed by the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6). This is the first time that process-based projections of the ice sheet sea-level contribution are systematically organised for the entire global ice sheet modelling community, extending earlier initiatives that were separated between the USA (Searise, [http://websrv.cs.umt.edu/isis/index.php/SeaRISE\\_Assessment](http://websrv.cs.umt.edu/isis/index.php/SeaRISE_Assessment)) and Europe (ice2sea, <https://www.ice2sea.eu>). In addition to the actual projections, the less tangible but equally important achievement of ISMIP6 is the building of a community and the creation and design of an intercomparison infrastructure that has not existed before. The link with CMIP illustrates the ambition to bring community ice sheet model projections to the level of existing initiatives, e.g. in the field of coupled climate model simulations (Eyring et al., 2016). The project output and timeline are oriented towards providing input for the sixth assessment cycle of the IPCC, where earlier assessments (Church et al., 2013; Oppenheimer et al., 2019) had to rely on input from various

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sources to provide ice sheet sea-level change projections. The present results are complemented by another paper on Antarctic ice sheet projections (Seroussi et al., 2020).

The overall mass balance of the [GrIS](#) is governed by the surface mass balance (SMB) that determines the amount of mass that is added by snow accumulation and removed by meltwater runoff and sublimation, and by the amount of mass that is lost through a large number of marine-terminating outlet glaciers. Over the period 1992-2018, the ice sheet has lost mass at an average rate of  $\sim 140$  Gt per year, which is equivalent to a sea-level contribution of  $\sim 0.4$  mm yr<sup>-1</sup> (The IMBIE Team, 2019). The contribution of SMB-related changes to these figures is  $\sim 52$  %, with the remainder of 48 % being due to increased discharge of outlet glaciers (The IMBIE Team, 2019).

Process-based future ice sheet projections rely on numerical models that simulate the gravity-driven flow of ice under a given environmental forcing, subject to boundary conditions at the surface, base and at the lateral boundaries. In our standalone modelling approach that connects to CMIP, the atmospheric and oceanic forcing is derived from CMIP Global Climate Model (GCM) output.

This work continues from an earlier ISMIP6 project (initMIP-Greenland, Goelzer et al., 2018) that compared the initialisation techniques used by different ice sheet modelling groups. In many cases, the ice sheet projections presented here are directly based on modelling work that entered that earlier comparison. Differences between ice sheet models and, in particular, different ways of using the models is a large source of uncertainty (Goelzer et al., 2018). The specific contribution of the present analysis to the range of existing future sea-level change projections lies therefore in the quantification of ice sheet model (ISM) uncertainty, which is done here for the first time in a consistent framework.

In the following we discuss the approach and experimental setup in section 2 and briefly present the participating models in section 3. We analyse the modelled initial state (Sec. 4.1), the 21<sup>st</sup> century projections (Sec. 4.2) and associated uncertainties (Sec. 4.3) and close with a discussion and conclusions (Sec. 5). Two appendices give more detailed information about the participating models (A) and list the model results (B).

## 2 Approach and experimental setup

In this section we describe the approach and experimental setup for [GrIS](#) and sea-level change projections performed within the framework of ISMIP6. While focused on the scientific aims described in the introduction, the experimental framework is designed to be inclusive to a wide number of modelling approaches. We allow modelling groups to participate with more than one submission to explore modelling choices like different horizontal grid resolution or initialisation techniques with the same model. We also accommodate models from the same code base but used by different groups, knowing that modelling decisions (e.g. the chosen initialisation strategy) can be more important for the results than the underlying numerical scheme. The result is a heterogeneous set of ice sheet models that can be understood as an ensemble of opportunity. In the following we will refer

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to each of the 21 individual submission as a ‘model’, encompassing the code base as well as the modelling decisions (parameter choices, applied approximations, initialisation strategy).

The experimental design of ISMIP6-Greenland projections extends the protocol of earlier ISMIP6 initiatives (Nowicki et al., 2016; Goelzer et al., 2018; Seroussi et al., 2019) and is described in detail in a separate publication (Nowicki et al., 2020a). Here we only summarise the most important aspects and refer to detailed descriptions elsewhere. The actual ice sheet projections for the period 01.01.2015 - 31.12.2100 are tightly defined in terms of forcing and how to apply it, while the preceding ice sheet initialisation and historical run are largely up to the individual modeller.

Ice sheet model (ISM) initialisation to the present-day state is a critical aspect of any future ice sheet projection (Goelzer et al., 2017; 2018). It consists of defining the prognostic model state with the overall aim here to represent the present-day dynamic state of the GrIS as well as possible. In some cases modellers may initialise to a recent state of the ice sheet during the satellite era for which a large number of detailed observations of velocity and ice thickness are available. In other cases, the models may be initialised using spin-up techniques or steady state assumptions at some earlier stage of the ice sheet history or hybrid approaches that combine features of optimisation and spin-up (e.g. Pollard and DeConto 2012). See Goelzer et al. (2017; 2018) for a comparison and an overview of different initialisation strategies currently used in the ice sheet modelling community.

The experimental setup of the initialisation and the historical experiment leading up to the projections is left free to be decided by the modelers (see Appendix A). The only requirement is that the model state at the end of the historical run should represent the state of the GrIS at the end of 2014 as starting point for future projections. This time frame is set by CMIP6 requirements (Eyring et al., 2016). The length of the historical runs will consequently differ based on the initialisation strategy of each individual model.

Being an officially endorsed sub-project of CMIP6, the experimental design of ISMIP6 projections builds heavily on output of CMIP GCMs that are used to produce the forcing for ice sheet models over the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While ISMIP6 has proposed ice sheet model projections based on CMIP6 GCM output as part of its extended experimental design (Nowicki et al., 2020a), the results discussed in this paper focus solely on CMIP5-based forcing. Difference between CMIP5- and CMIP6-forced experiments are explored in a separate publication (Nowicki et al., 2020b). Working with CMIP5 output has allowed us to select GCMs from a well-defined ensemble and sample the CMIP5 ensemble range in a controlled way, while CMIP6 model results are still being produced. For the core experiments that are the main focus of this paper, we have selected three CMIP5 GCMs that perform well over the historical period and maximise the spread in future projections of a number of key climate change metrics relevant for GrIS evolution (Barthel et al., 2020). Three additional CMIP5 GCMs were selected using the same principle to extend the ensemble. We use the two scenarios RCP8.5 and RCP2.6 to cover a wide range of possible future climate evolution with particular focus on RCP8.5 (see Table 1). Exploring other scenarios was de-prioritised in favour of a feasible workload for the ice sheet modellers and for producing forcing data.

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Table 1. List of GCM-forced experiments for ISMIP-Greenland projections. Climate model uncertainty is sampled with three core GCMs (orange) and three additional extended GCMs (purple). Two different scenarios (RCP8.5, RCP2.6) are evaluated for model MIROC5. Sensitivity to the ocean forcing is sampled with three experiments under scenario RCP8.5. Forcing for the historical experiment is defined by each individual modeller (not shown). Experiment ‘ctrl\_proj’ applies zero SMB anomalies, no SMB-height feedback and a fixed retreat mask (not shown).

Exp ID	exp05 <sup>1</sup>	exp06	exp07	exp08	exp09	exp10	expa01	expa02	expa03
GCM	MIROC5	NorESM -M	MIROC5	HadGEM2-ES	MIROC5	MIROC5	IPSL-CM5A-MR	CSIRO-Mk3.6	ACCESS1-3
RCP	8.5	8.5	2.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Ocean sensitivity	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium

1) Experiments exp01 - exp04 are open framework experiments not listed here with the same GCM forcing as exp05 - exp08. See text for details.

The GCM output is used to separately derive ice sheet model forcing for the interaction with the atmosphere and the ocean.

Interaction with the atmosphere is incorporated in the models by prescribing surface mass balance (and temperature) anomalies relative to the period 1960-1989, for which the ice sheet is assumed to be in balance with the forcing (e.g. Mouginit et al., 2019). The forcing is produced with the regional climate model MAR version v3.9 (Fettweis et al., 2013; 2017) that locally downscales the GCM forcing to the GrIS surface (Figure 1a,b). We take into account changes in the SMB due to elevation changes using a parameterisation based on MAR output for the same simulation (Nowicki et al., 2020a). In cases where the modelled initial ice sheet differs substantially from the observed, we remap the SMB anomalies from the observed geometry to the modelled geometry using a technique developed specifically for that purpose (Goelzer et al., 2020b).

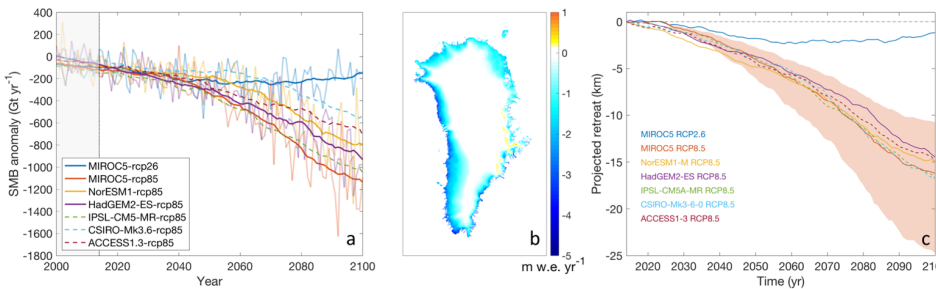


Figure 1 Illustration of atmospheric and oceanic forcing. a) Greenland wide SMB anomaly for projections starting at 2015. Strong lines are 10-year running mean values for the core experiments (solid) and extended CMIP5 experiments (dashed), plotted over the full time series in the background (omitted for the extended experiments for clarity). b) spatial pattern of the average MIROC5-RCP8.5 SMB anomaly 2091-2100. c) Greenland wide average of prescribed tidewater glacier retreat (Slater et al., 2019; 2020). The shading gives the range of ocean sensitivity sampled with two more experiments in MIROC5-RCP8.5-high and MIROC5-RCP8.5-low.

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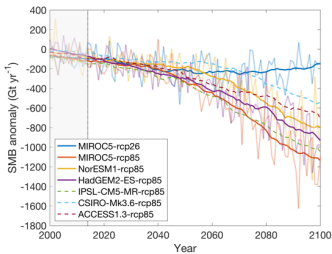
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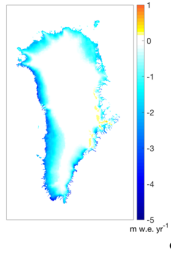
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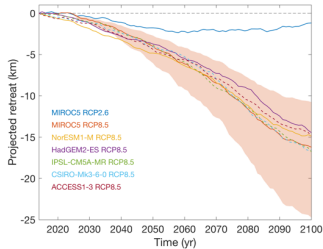
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The standard approach for ocean forcing is based on an empirically derived retreat parameterisation for tidewater glaciers (Slater et al., 2019, 2020) that is forced by MAR runoff and ocean temperature changes in 7 drainage basins around Greenland.

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The forcing is illustrated as Greenland wide average of prescribed tidewater glacier retreat in Figure 1c. In this retreat implementation, retreat and advance of marine-terminating outlet glaciers in the ISMs is prescribed as a yearly series of maximum ice front positions (Nowicki et al., 2020a). This approach is a strong simplification of the complex interaction between marine-terminating outlet glaciers and ocean, for which physically-based solutions are in development but not available for all models. The retreat parameterisation is designed to be used in the wide variety of models under consideration. Uncertainty in the parameterisation is translated into a set of three ocean sensitivities (medium, high, low) covering the median, 75 % and 25 % percentiles of sensitivity parameter  $\kappa$  that controls the amount of retreat given ocean temperature change and ice sheet runoff (Slater et al., 2019, 2020). Results are explored with the last two core experiments (Table 3).

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For some ISMs of high spatial resolution that incorporate a physical calving model, future evolution of marine-terminating outlet glacier is alternatively forced directly by changes in ocean temperature and runoff derived from the GCM and Regional Climate Model (RCM) output (Slater et al., 2020). Simulations performed with this submarine melt implementation are considered as a contribution to the open framework of the exercise, designed to allow exploration of novel modelling techniques that cannot be implemented in all models. We have decided to include model results from this open framework in our main analysis, since they represent a source of additional uncertainty in the way the forcing is applied. For this group of models, the last two experiments that sample uncertainty due to ocean forcing are not defined (Table 3).

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Model output for the ISMIP6 experiments is initially produced by the participating groups on the individual native grid of their models, then conservatively interpolated to a standard regular grid with a resolution close to the native grid for submission to our archive, and finally, conservatively interpolated to a common 5 x 5 km regular diagnostic grid for analysis. In a few models, the native grid is identical to the diagnostic grid. All results presented in this paper are based on data on the common diagnostic grid.

One of the main results presented below is the projected sea-level contribution of the GrIS to 21<sup>st</sup> century sea-level rise. In all cases, we calculate sea-level changes based on the evolving ice sheet geometry, taking into account the model specific densities for ice and sea water and correcting for the map projection error, following Goelzer et al. (2020a). In agreement with the GlacierMIP exercise (<http://www.climate-cryosphere.org/mips/glaciernip/about-glaciernip>) we have attempted to remove the contribution of loosely connected glaciers and ice caps in the periphery of Greenland from our mass change estimates to avoid double-counting in global sea-level change assessments. This has been done by correcting the ice sheet mass change per grid cell by the area fraction of the glaciers (level 0-1) in the Randolph Glacier Inventory (RGI Consortium, 2017). The assumed constant ocean area for conversion from ice mass above flotation to sea-level equivalent (SLE) is  $3.625 \times 10^{14} \text{ m}^2$  (Cogley 2012; Gregory et al., 2019), which implies that 1 mm SLE equals 362.5 Gt ice mass. For cases where the model simulates isostatic adjustment, we have assumed that corrections of the ice mass above flotation due to bedrock changes are negligible on the centennial time scale (Goelzer et al., 2020a). All sea-level contributions are corrected for model drift by subtracting the sea-level contribution from a control experiment (ctrl\_proj) and are therefore relative to the year 2014. This correction implies

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that the reported numbers have to be interpreted as the ice sheet response to future forcing in addition to a background evolution that arises from forcing before 2014, sometimes called the committed sea-level contribution (e.g. Price et al., 2011). This committed contribution is expected to be positive for Greenland, but much lower than the observed trend before 2014 (The IMBIE team, 2019), because the mass loss rate rapidly decreases in absence of additional forcing (Price et al., 2011). For ensemble statistics we report mean ( $\mu$ ) and the 2 x standard deviation ( $2\sigma$ ) range to quantify the uncertainty unless stated differently in the text.

### 3 Participating groups and models

We have 21 submissions from 14 modelling groups, covering a wide range of the global ice sheet modelling community (Table 2). Compared to initMIP-Greenland (Goelzer et al., 2018) the number of participating modelling groups has slightly decreased with some removals and some new additions, but the range of represented models is still broad. A detailed description of the individual models and initialisation techniques is given in Appendix A together with a table of important model characteristics (Table 4). The total range of horizontal grid resolution is between 0.2 km and 30 km, where extreme values come from finite element models with adaptive grid resolution that have high resolution near the margins to resolve narrow outlet glaciers, and low resolution inland. All participating models use either a form of data assimilation or nudging techniques of different degree to improve the match with present-day observations (Table 4).

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**Table 2. Participants, modelling groups and ice sheet models in ISMIP6-Greenland projections.**

Contributors	Group ID	Model	Group
Martin Rückamp, Angelika Humbert	AWI	ISSM	Alfred-Wegener-Institut Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung, DE / University of Bremen, DE
Victoria Lee, Antony J. Payne, Stephen Cornford, Daniel Martin	BGC	BISICLES	Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK Department of Geography, Swansea University, UK Computational Research Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, California, USA.
Isabel J. Nias, Denis Felikson, Sophie Nowicki	GSFC	ISSM	Cryospheric Sciences Laboratory, Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA, USA
Ralf Greve, Reinhard Calov, Chris Chambers	ILTS_PIK	SICOPOLIS	Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, JP / Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Potsdam, DE
Heiko Goelzer, Roderik van de Wal,	IMAU	IMAUICE	Utrecht University, Institute for Marine and Atmospheric research (IMAU), Utrecht, NL

Michiel van den Broeke			
Nicole-Jeanne Schlegel, Helene Seroussi	JPL	ISSM	Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
Joshua K. Cuzzone, Nicole-Jeanne Schlegel	JPL	ISSM- PALEO	Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
Aurélien Quiquet , Christophe Dumas	LSCE	GRISLI	LSCE/IPSL, Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, CEA-CNRS-UVSQ, Gif-sur-Yvette, FR
Lev Tarasov	MUN	GSM	Dept of Physics and Physical Oceanography, Memorial University of Newfoundland, <a href="#">Canada</a>
William H. Lipscomb, Gunter Leguy	NCAR	CISM	National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, USA
Andy Aschwanden	UAF	PISM	Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA
Youngmin Choi, Helene Seroussi, Mathieu Morlighem	UCI_JPL	ISSM	University of California Irvine, USA / Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA
Sébastien Le clec'h, Philippe Huybrechts,	VUB	GISM	Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, BE
Dan Lowry, Nicholas R. Golledge	VUW	PISM	GNS Science, Lower Hutt, NZ / Antarctic Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ

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All groups have contributed a complete set of core experiments (Table 3), which form the bases of the analysis for this paper. The submissions are identified by the group ID and model name (Table 2) and a counter to distinguish several submissions from the same group (Table 3). Four models have used the non-standard open forcing framework (BGC-BISICLES, UAF-PISM2, UCIPL-ISSM2, VUW-PISM), which does not define the ocean sensitivity experiments exp09 and exp10. In case BGC-BISICLES, they have been replaced by an own interpretation of high and low ocean forcing. The two models MUN-GSM1 and MUN-GSM2 have used remapped SMB anomalies (Goelzer et al., [2020b](#)), to optimize the forcing for their initial geometry, which differs more from the [observations](#) compared to other models.

10 Table 3. Experiment overview. List of experiments that have been performed by the participating groups. Experiment in red have been performed in the open framework using a model specific forcing approach.

Exp ID	Core experiments								Extensions		
	historical	ctrl_proj	exp05	exp06	exp07	exp08	exp09	exp10	expa01	expa02	expa03
GCM	-	-	MIROC5	NorESM	MIROC5	HadGEM2-ES	MIROC5	MIROC5	IPSL-CM5A-MR	CSIRO-Mk3.6	ACCESS1-3
RCP	-	-	8.5	8.5	2.6	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
Sensitivity	-	-	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
AWI-ISSM1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

AWI-ISSM2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AWI-ISSM3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
BCC-BISICLES	x	x	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1,2</sup>	x <sup>1,2</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>
GSFC-ISSM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
ILTSPiK-SICOPOLIS1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
ILTSPiK-SICOPOLIS2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
IMAU-IMAUICE1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
IMAU-IMAUICE2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
JPL-ISSM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
JPL-ISSMPALEO	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
LSCE-GRISLI	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
MUN-GSM1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-
MUN-GSM2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
NCAR-CISM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
UAF-PISM1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
UAF-PISM2	x	x	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	-	-	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>
UCI-JPL-ISSM1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
UCI-JPL-ISSM2	x	x	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
VUB-GISM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
VUW-PISM	x	x	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	x <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-

1) open format not using the retreat parameterisation. 2) own strategy to produce high and low ocean forcing.

## 4 Results

In this section we first present ice sheet modelling results for the end of the historical run, forming the starting point of sea-level change projections over the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is followed by the results of the projections, with focus on the [GrIS](#) sea-level contribution and associated uncertainties.

### 4.1 Historical run and initial state

The initial model states at the end of 2014 differ among the models in the ensemble as a result of different initialisation strategies, forcing and parameter choices. Figure 2 illustrates the diversity of modelled initial ice sheet area by showing the sum of grounded ice coverage across the ensemble. Disagreement in the periphery is partially related to a choice left deliberately to the individual modellers: which part of the ice-covered area of Greenland should be modelled. While some modellers target the entire observed ice-covered area, others mask out unconnected or loosely connected glaciers, ice caps and ice fields in an attempt to avoid double counting of those features in global assessments (see modelled ice masks for individual models in supplementary [Fig. S4](#)).

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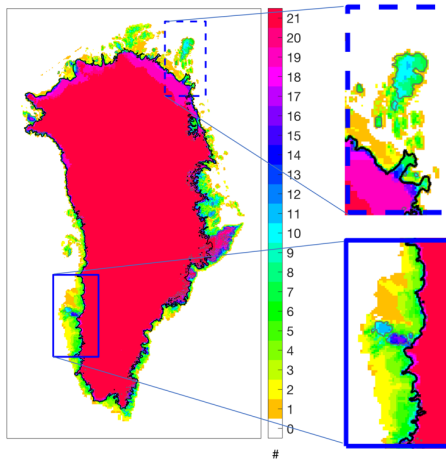


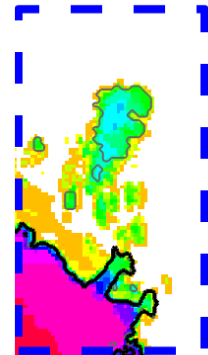
Figure 2 Common initial ice mask of the ensemble of models in the intercomparison. The colour code indicates the number of models (out of 21 in total) that simulate ice at a given location. Outlines of the observed main ice sheet (Rastner et al., 2012) and all ice-covered regions (i.e. main ice sheet plus small ice caps and glaciers; Morlighem et al. 2017) are given as black and grey contour lines, respectively. A complete set of figures displaying individual model results is given in the supplementary material.

Another view on the model spread for the initial state can be seen in Figure 3, which shows the grounded ice area and grounded volume for all models in the ensemble. In comparison we show two different observed values that equally depend on the choice of which part of the ice-covered area to include in the estimate. This notably leads to a large range in area between a low estimate (main ice sheet; Rastner et al., 2012) and high estimate (all ice-covered area; Morlighem et al. 2017), while the volume difference is relatively small due to the limited thickness of peripheral glaciated areas. Compared to initMIP-Greenland (cf. Fig. 2 in Goelzer et al., 2018, [but note the different colour map](#)), the spread in initial states has been considerably reduced, which is partially related to ongoing improvements of the modelling techniques of individual groups and partly because some extreme models are not part of the ensemble anymore.

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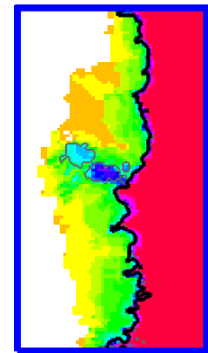
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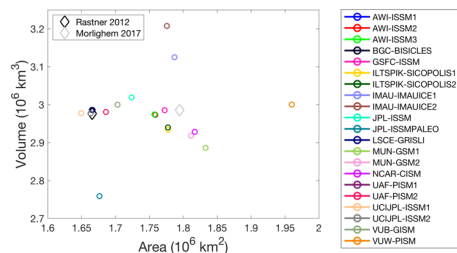
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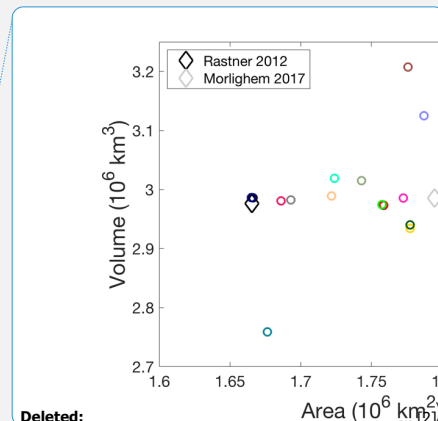
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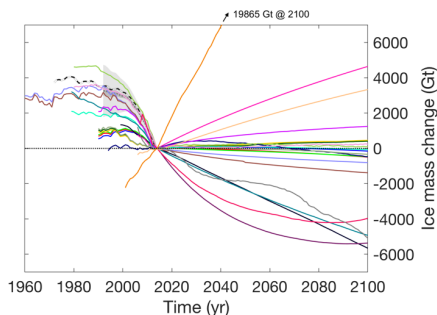


**Figure 3** Grounded ice area and grounded volume for all models (circles). Observed values (Mouginot et al. 2019) are given for the entire ice covered region (light grey diamond) and for the region of the main ice sheet (black diamond) where loosely connected glaciers and ice caps are removed (Rastner et al., 2012).

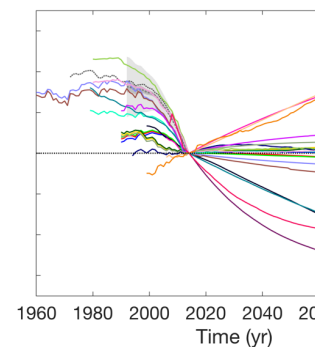


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The initial model state at the end of 2014 is the result of a model-specific initialisation that includes a short historical run. We display the ice mass evolution for this experiment followed by a standardised control experiment (ctrl\_proj) for the same period as the projections, but assuming zero SMB anomalies and a fixed retreat mask from 2015 onwards (Figure 4). In most models the ice sheet experiences a mass loss during the historical period, but the magnitude often falls below the observed range. In some cases this discrepancy is explained by the fact that the ice sheet is exposed to GCM forcing over the historical period which does not exhibit the observed interannual and interdecadal variability. In other cases, the historical run is not specifically forced, rather representing the background evolution arising as an artefact of the initialisation. In any case, representing the historical mass loss accurately was not a strong priority for our experimental setup, where any background evolution is effectively removed by subtracting results of experiment ctrl\_proj.



**Figure 4** Ice mass change relative to the year 2014 for the *historical* run and experiment *ctrl\_proj*. The colour scheme is the same as in Figure 3. Recent reconstructions of historical mass change (The IMBIE Team, 2019) are given as grey dotted line with cumulated uncertainties assuming fully correlated and uncorrelated errors in light and dark shading, respectively. The black and white dashed line shows one specific reconstruction going back longer in time (Mouginot et al., 2019).



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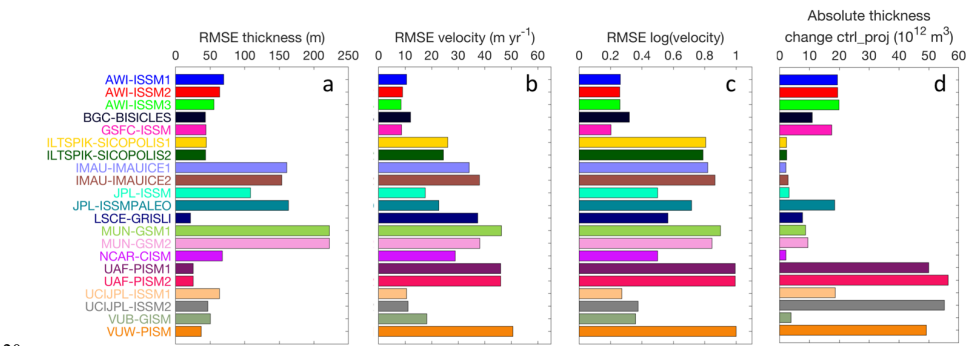
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The control experiment (ctrl\_proj) is in most cases the result of competing tendencies to (1) continue the mass trend before 2014 and (2) relax toward an unforced state as a result of removing the anomalies at the start of the projection period in 2015. The ensemble range of sea-level contribution due to that drift in experiment ctrl\_proj is -15 mm to 20 mm (Table 5).

5 We further evaluate the initial model state at the end of 2014 in comparison to ice-sheet-wide observational data sets (Figure 5). We calculate the root mean square error (RMSE) of the modelled data compared to observations of ice thickness (Morlighem et al. 2017) and [horizontal](#) surface velocity magnitude (Joughin et al., 2016). The diagnostics are calculated for subsampled data to reduce spatial correlation in the error estimates, and we show median values for different offsets. The comparison shows a wide diversity of the models in terms of their match with the observed ice thickness distribution (Figure

10 5a) and velocity (Figure 5b). We include a comparison with the [logarithm](#) of the velocity [magnitude \(normalised by 1 m yr<sup>-1</sup>\)](#), which reduces the emphasis of errors in high velocities at the margins (Figure 5c). These diagnostics are complemented by the absolute ice thickness change in ctrl\_proj that serves as a measure of the model drift (Figure 5d). The largest thickness errors arise for coarse resolution models that show substantial mismatches, in particular, but not limited to the ice sheet margins. These are also models that do not apply calibration techniques to optimise the geometry during initialisation. Some of the

15 models with the lowest RMSE for ice thickness (e.g. LSCE-GRISLI and UAF-PISM) show relatively large errors in velocity, indicative of the prioritised field during optimisation (thickness) and of the dependence between geometry and dynamic behaviour. Nevertheless, a few examples show that low errors in thickness and velocity are not mutually exclusive. See supplementary [Figs. S3, S4 and S5](#) for a visual comparison of individual models with observations for ice thickness, surface elevation and velocity, respectively.

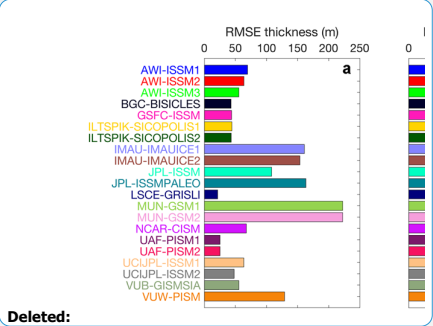


20 **Figure 5 a-c** Error estimate of model output at the end of the historical run compared to observations. a) Root mean square error (RMSE) of ice thickness compared to observations (Morlighem et al. 2017). RMSE of the horizontal velocity magnitude (b) and the [logarithm](#) of the horizontal velocity magnitude (c) compared to observations (Joughin et al., 2016). The diagnostics have been calculated for grid cells subsampled regularly in space to reduce spatial correlation; we show median values for different possible offsets of this sampling. d) Absolute thickness change in experiment ctrl\_proj integrated over the model grid.

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While a formal ranking and weighting of the ice sheet models based on the provided information is outside of the scope of this manuscript, we caution that different evaluation metrics should be combined and balanced in that case. This has already been mentioned for the comparison of errors in ice thickness and velocity. Another example is that good agreement of the ice sheet model geometry or surface velocity with observations can go hand in hand with a large drift in the control experiment (Figure 5d), which may indicate a too short relaxation during initialisation. Similarly, modifying the applied background SMB forcing can be used to reduce mismatch with the observed velocity and geometry. Finally, masking operations can be used to constrain the ice sheet model area and consequently the geometry, reducing the prognostic capabilities of the model. Combining complementary metrics and auxiliary information should be used in model ranking and weighting attempts. Another aspect that would have to be carefully considered for model weighting for ensemble statistics is the fact that several models have strong similarities and their results may therefore be overrepresented in the ensemble.

## 4.2 Projections

In the following we first present sea-level projections for the four core experiments with medium ocean forcing sensitivity.

Results of the projection experiments (2015-2100) are always presented relative to a control experiment (ctrl\_proj) with focus on MIROC5-forced experiments, which shows the strongest warming among the three selected GCMs. The ensemble mean ice thickness changes for scenario MIROC5-RCP8.5 shows a strong thinning at the margin due to the effect of increased surface meltwater runoff and marine-terminated glacier retreat (Figure 6a). The strongest response is seen at the marine margins where both effects combine to a thinning of up to several hundred meters, while the interior of the ice sheet is thickening less than 10 meters in response to increased snow accumulation, except for some places in the south-east where the thickening can reach 20 m and more.

The spread in the projections due to ice sheet model uncertainty and its spatial distribution is illustrated in Figure 6b, showing the ensemble standard deviation for experiment MIROC5-RCP8.5. Regions of largest uncertainty overlap with regions of largest thinning due to differences in the response of tidewater glaciers and their precise location in different models. The response to the anomalous SMB forcing is more homogeneous between models (cf. supplementary Fig. S8) as the magnitude is largely prescribed and can mostly vary due to differences in ice masks across the ensemble. Exceptions are the remapped SMB anomalies (MUN-GSM1, MUN-GSM2) that are displaced to match the model geometry and height-dependent SMB changes that are model specific, visible in the north-east.

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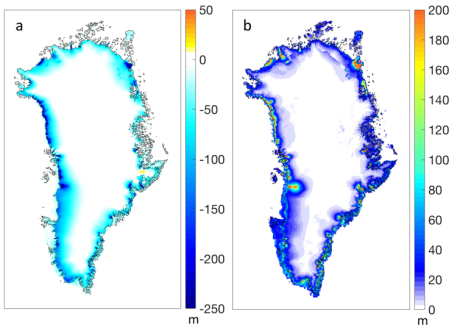
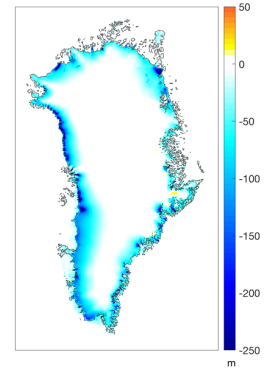
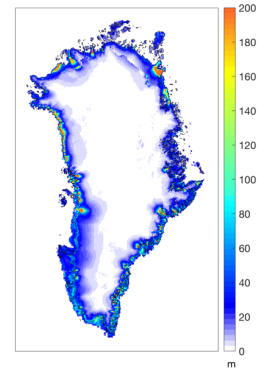


Figure 6 Ensemble mean (a) and standard deviation (b) of ice thickness change in MIROC5-RCP8.5 minus control over the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Thin black lines indicate the observed ice covered area (Morlighem et al., 2017)

- 5 The sea-level contribution for MIROC5-RCP8.5 is steadily increasing in all ice sheet models with an increasing rate of change until the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, indicative of accelerating mass loss for this [very high emission](#) scenario (Figure 7b). Short-term variability in this diagnostic is mainly due to interannual variability in the applied SMB forcing and therefore synchronised across the ensemble. The average rate of change across the ensemble is 0.9 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> and 2.4 mm yr<sup>-1</sup> over the period 2051-2060 and 2091-2100, respectively.
- 10 The total GrIS sea-level contribution by 2100 for MIROC5-RCP8.5 is projected between 67 mm and 135 mm with an ensemble mean (n=21) and 2σ range of 101 ± 40 mm. In contrast, GCM MIROC5 forced under scenario RCP2.6 leads to a contribution of only 32 ± 17 mm, and forcing from the two other core GCMs for the RCP8.5 scenario lead to contributions of 83 ± 37 mm and 69 ± 38 mm for HadGEM2-ES and NorESM1, respectively (Figure 7a). Detailed results for all models/scenarios are given in Figure 12 and listed in Table 5 in Appendix B.



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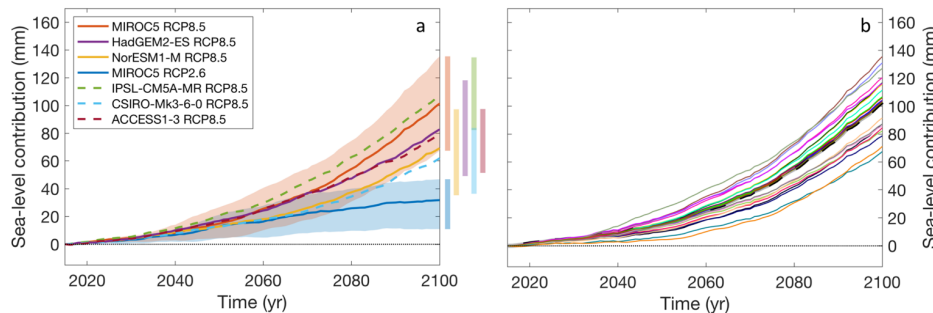
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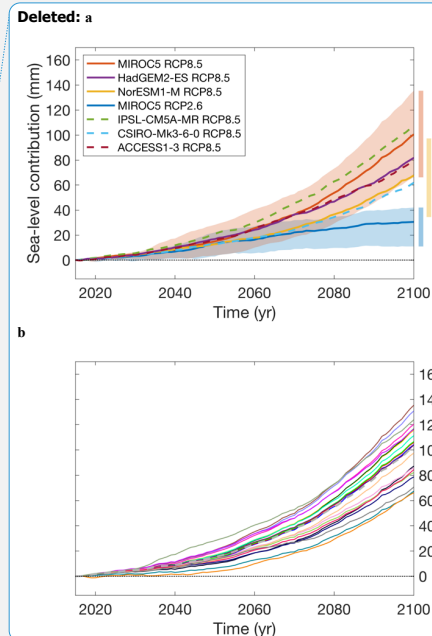


**Figure 7** Ensemble sea-level projections. a) ISM ensemble mean projections for the core experiments (solid) and extended experiments (dashed). The background shading gives the model spread for the two MIROC5 scenarios and is omitted for the other GCMs for clarity, but indicated by the bars on the right hand side. b) Model specific results for MIROC5-RCP8.5. The colour scheme is the same as in previous figures. The dashed line is the result of applying the atmosphere and ocean forcing to the present-day ice sheet without any dynamical response (NOISM).

Differences in results between individual ice sheet models are not easily linked to general ice sheet model characteristics (e.g. resolution, approximation to the force balance, treatment of basal sliding) and the relatively small ensemble size prevents us from applying statistical approaches to do so. Nevertheless, a few notable differences can be mentioned. Models using the open framework overall show lower contributions compared to models using the standard retreat forcing, although they are not clear outliers in the range of projections. Results from the two groups that have applied both approaches in parallel confirm this conclusion (see Table 5). For example, RCP8.5 results from models using the open approach (n=4) are on average 23 mm lower compared to results under standard forcing. Focussing on the latter group (standard forcing), models with larger initial area and volume tend to produce larger sea-level contributions. This is the expected behaviour given the effect of both forcing mechanisms. 1) Model of larger ice sheet extent will produce more runoff at the margins under the anomalous SMB forcing. 2) Thicker and more extended marine ice sheet margins will lose more mass to the retreat parameterisation.

The end members of the ensemble in terms of sea-level contribution (IMAU-IMAUICE2: high; JPL-ISSMPALEO: low) are amongst the models with the lowest resolution in the ensemble, which could suggest low resolution models have larger uncertainty but not necessarily a bias. However, note that the two lowest models (JPL-ISSMPALEO and VUW-PISM) did not apply the SMB-height feedback, which may explain some of the low response for these models.

We can also compare results to a schematic experiment where atmosphere and ocean forcing is applied to the present-day ice sheet without any dynamical response (NOISM, grey dashed line in Figure 7b). The only exception is the SMB-height feedback that is propagated according to height changes due to the applied SMB anomaly itself and due to local thinning at the margins where the retreat mask is applied. In this approach, biases in the initial state are reduced to measurement uncertainties, while



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dynamic changes are ignored by construction. If the dynamic response of the ice sheet to the retreat mask forcing is expected to increase the mass loss, one could suggest that for the observed geometry and for a given forcing, NOISM should serve as a lower bound to a ‘perfect’ projection in our standard framework. Because NOISM currently tracks the ensemble mean of the projections, the argument could be extended to suggest that taking the model mean for the best guess could imply a low bias.

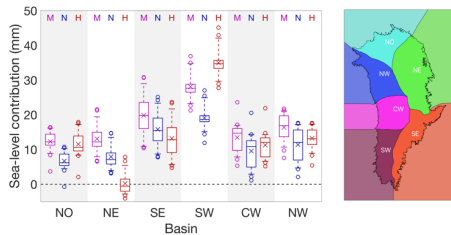
5 We do not have a dedicated core experiment to separate the effect of the parameterised SMB-height feedback from the ensemble of models. But such analysis will be possible with some of the extended experiments that are in preparation. If we were to rely on results of NOISM, the feedback accounts for 6-8 percent of the total sea-level contribution at year 2100 for RCP8.5 experiments, confirming similar numbers from earlier studies (Goelzer et al., 2013; Edwards et al., 2014a,b). However, the NOISM figures are subject to small biases due to missing dynamic height changes that would e.g. thin the marine margins and relatively thicken land-terminated ice sheet margins that are steepening in these projections in response to the anomalous SMB forcing.

### 4.3 Uncertainty analysis

In this section we analyse uncertainties in ice sheet response due to ISM differences, forcing scenarios and GCM boundary conditions on a regional basis. We use an existing basin delineation (IMBIE2-Rignot, Rignot et al., 2011) that separates the ice sheet into 6 drainage basins, which has been extended outside the observed ice mask to accommodate larger than observed ice sheet model configurations (see inset in Figure 8).

The results in Figure 8 show the projected contribution to sea-level rise in the year 2100, indicating a north-south gradient with larger contributions from the south. The basin with the largest contributions is ‘SW’ due to an extended ablation zone in southwest Greenland, which is the region with the largest source of sea-level contribution from changes in SMB already observed (The IMBIE Team, 2019; Mouginot et al., 2019). However, note for this comparison that the basins do not all have the same area. When we interpret the ensemble standard deviation relative to the ensemble mean as a measure for ice sheet model uncertainty, the largest uncertainty of ~40 % is present in the ‘NO’ and ‘SE’ basins and the lowest uncertainty of 17 % in the ‘SW’ basin. The good agreement between models for ‘SW’ can be explained by the dominance of the SMB forcing in this basin, which is prescribed in our experiments, so that variations between models mainly occur due to differences in ice sheet mask.

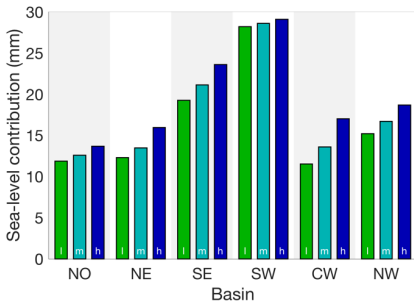
Comparing results for RCP8.5 between the three GCMs side by side (Figure 8) shows that the SW basin has the lowest ISM interquartile range in all cases, but is also one of the two basins (SW and NE) with the largest difference between GCMs. While the large GCM difference in the SW can be explained by the GCM-specific warming pattern and their influence on the SMB forcing, differences in the NE basin are governed mainly by the ocean forcing.



**Figure 8** Regional analysis of ice sheet changes for the three core GCMs (MIROC5 -M, NorESM - N, HadGem2-ES - H) under scenario RCP8.5. The box plots show the ensemble median (dashed line), mean (cross), interquartile range (box) and outliers. The basin definition is based on the IMBIE2-Rignot delineation (Rignot et al., 2011).

#### Ocean sensitivity.

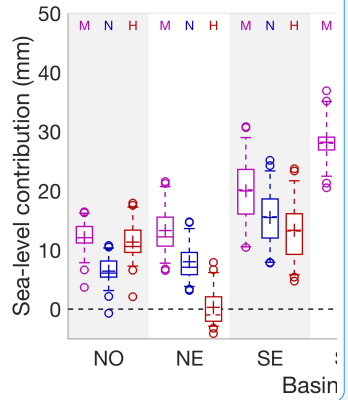
- 5 Uncertainty in the tidewater glacier retreat parameterisation is sampled with three experiments under forcing scenario MIROC5-RCP8.5. Results for the three experiments are again compared per region (Figure 9). The largest impact of differences in ocean forcing is visible in region CW, which is dominated by the response of Jakobshavn Isbrae, one of the largest outlet glaciers in Greenland. In the SW region, which is dominated by changes in SMB, differences in the ocean forcing have only a minor impact on the results, in line with findings described above. The mean spread due to ocean forcing over all
- 10 ISMs that have performed the experiments (n=18) is 49 mm when summed over all 6 regions to get the Greenland-wide contributions.



**Figure 9** Regional analysis of uncertainty due to ocean forcing. Ensemble mean sea-level contribution for MIROC5-RCP8.5 for low (green), medium (cyan) and high (blue) ocean forcing. The mean of the total Greenland contribution is 97 mm, 101 mm and 116 mm for low, medium and high ocean forcing, respectively.

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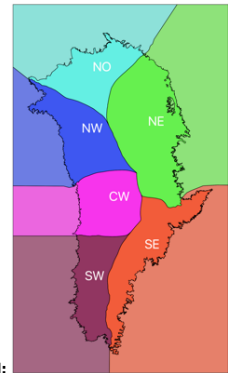
Combining projected sea-level contributions of the [GrIS](#) from all experiments, the ensemble mean and  $2\sigma$  range for CMIP5 RCP8.5 is  $90 \pm 50$  mm (n=144), including 6 GCMs and 3 ocean sensitivities. The ensemble mean for RCP2.6 is  $32 \pm 17$  mm



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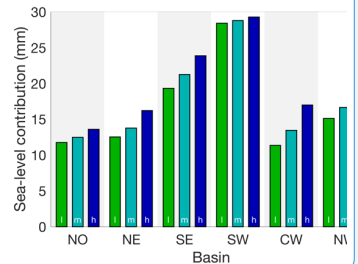
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... [5]



(n=21), sampling only one GCM (MIROC5) and one ocean sensitivity (medium). The corresponding ratios  $\sigma/\mu$  are ~~28~~ % for RCP8.5 and ~~27~~ % for RCP2.6, respectively, indicating that the relative uncertainty depends weakly on the ensemble mean and ensemble size. The ISM ensemble mean in experiment MIROC5-RCP8.5-medium is  $101 \pm 40$  mm (n=21), with  $\sigma/\mu = 20$  %, meaning that the relative uncertainty reduces by only 1/3 ~~when selecting one out of 6 GCMs~~. For each of the three RCP8.5 core experiments with medium ocean sensitivity, the absolute  $2\sigma$  range, indicative of the ISM uncertainty, is  $\sim 40$  mm (n=21). For the extended experiments that have not been performed with some of the high and low extreme models, the absolute  $2\sigma$  range is reduced at  $\sim 30$  mm (n=15). The  $2\sigma$  range of the ISM means across the 6 GCMs, indicative of the climate forcing uncertainty is of similar magnitude (36 mm) compared to the ISM uncertainty, while the spread of the means for 3 different ocean sensitivities is about half (19 mm), indicating the approximate relative importance of the three sources of uncertainty.

Note that the reported GCM uncertainty based on only six models does not represent the full CMIP ensemble range.

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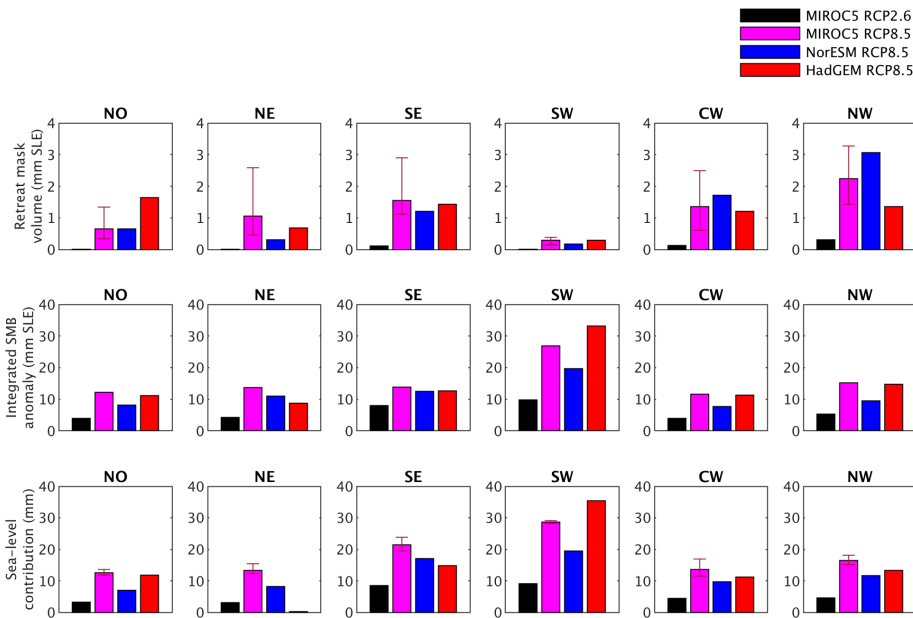
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#### 4.4 Ice dynamic contribution

In this section we give an impression of the role of atmospheric and oceanic forcing and the contribution of ice dynamics. Separating the different forcing mechanisms completely requires dedicated single-forcing experiments that have been proposed as part of the extended experiments in the ISMIP6 protocol (Nowicki et al., [2020a](#)), but have not been studied here. Such analysis exceeds the scope of this manuscript and will be explored in a forthcoming publication.

To characterise the strength of the ocean forcing per region and forcing scenario, we have calculated the ice volume (in mm SLE) that would be instantaneously removed by the retreat parameterisation from the observed ice sheet geometry (Figure 10a). For an ice sheet model, the actual mass loss due to the retreat parameterisation is considerably larger than the diagnostic shown here, as the ice sheet responds dynamically to a retreat of the calving front. The ice flow accelerates and transports more mass to the marine margin that is subsequently removed by the masking, while the ice sheet is thinning further inland. This dynamic and non-linear response is the reason why physically-based ice sheet models are indispensable to produce ice sheet projections for any time scale longer than a decade or two. The diagnostic is contrasted by the integrated SMB anomaly over the observed geometry (Figure 10b), which represents the dominant forcing for the resulting total sea-level contribution from the experiments (Figure 10c). The SMB contribution is again calculated using the NOISM approach described above, taking into account elevation changes arising from the SMB anomaly itself to propagate the parameterised SMB-elevation feedback. In this case, however, we omit the tidewater glacier retreat in an atmosphere-only setup.

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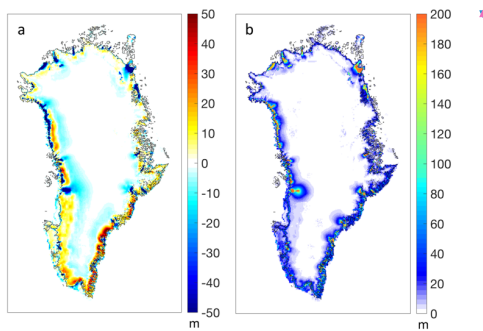


**Figure 10** Ocean and atmospheric forcing and sea-level response. a) Volume instantaneously removed by the prescribed tidewater glacier retreat mask when applied to the observed geometry (Morlighem et al., 2017). b) Integrated surface mass balance anomaly forcing over the observed geometry. (c) Ensemble mean sea-level contribution for all models using the standard forcing approach. Bars in a and c are for low and high ocean sensitivity. Note the different vertical scale for a compared to b and c.

- 5 Visual inspection of the similarity between rows b and c suggests that the SMB anomaly is the governing forcing in our experiments, while oceanic forcing plays a more limited role for the results. In line with results described above, basin ‘SW’ shows the lowest relative importance of oceanic forcing and basin ‘NW’ shows the largest.

Figure 11 illustrates the role of ice dynamic changes in our projections. We have calculated the mean dynamic contribution as the residual of the local mass change and the integrated SMB anomaly (Figure 11a) and the corresponding standard deviation (Figure 11b) for the ISM ensemble. Note that this diagnostic includes all ice thickness changes that are not explicitly related to SMB changes. The dynamic contribution (Figure 11a) shows large negative values in places where the retreat parameterisation has removed ice at the margins and from connected inland regions that have been thinning in response (which is therefore not explained by SMB changes). A region of positive dynamic contribution is visible in the land-terminated

ablation zones around Greenland, where the negative SMB anomaly steepens the margins, which is compensated by dynamic thickening (Huybrechts and deWolde, 1999). Further inland, the corresponding upstream thinning is visible as a negative dynamic signal. Largest differences between models are located in regions of tidewater glacier retreat, where the amount of ice available for calving varies between models due to inaccuracies in the initial state.

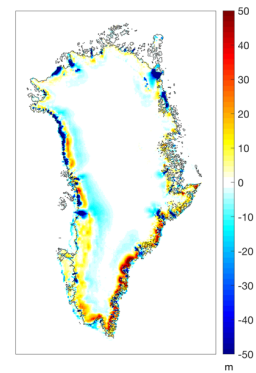


**Figure 11** Dynamic contribution for experiment MIROC5-RCP8.5. (a) Ensemble mean dynamic ice thickness change residual and (b) standard deviation. See Fig. S9 in the supplement for patterns for each individual model.

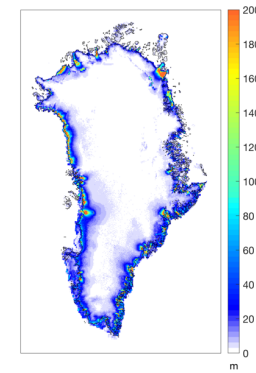
## 5 Discussion and conclusion

In the previous sections we have presented sea-level change projections for the GrIS over the 21<sup>st</sup> century and associated uncertainties due to forcing and ISM differences. Figure 12 summarizes the sea-level contribution from all experiments. The results indicate that the GrIS will continue to lose mass in both scenarios until 2100 with contributions of  $90 \pm 50$  mm and  $32 \pm 17$  mm to sea-level rise for RCP8.5 and RCP2.6, respectively.

Our estimates are around 10 mm lower compared to GrIS sea-level contributions reported by Fürst et al., (2015) for only one ice sheet model ( $101.5 \pm 32.5$  mm and  $42.3 \pm 18.0$  mm for RCP8.5 and RCP2.6, respectively), but a larger range of CMIP5 GCMs (including the ones used in this study). However, their results include a present-day background trend of  $0.32 \text{ mm yr}^{-1}$  and span a 15 years longer period (2000-2100 vs 2015-2100 in our study). Correcting for the length (assuming a linear trend of  $0.32 \text{ mm yr}^{-1}$  for the first 15 years) and assuming a minimum dynamic committed sea-level contribution of  $\sim 6$  mm (Price et al., 2011) to make the results more comparable leads to similar projections in the present study. Although our RCM-based forcing is a clear improvement over the positive-degree-day approach used in Fürst et al. (2015), it has only a minor impact on the overall projections. The ocean forcing in their work was also driven by GCM-based ocean warming, but interaction with the ice was parametrised by prescribing tidewater glacier speedup, rather than by prescribing their retreat. Our estimates for RCP2.6 are also similar to results obtained with an ice sheet model forced by three CMIP5 GCMs (Rückamp et al., 2018).



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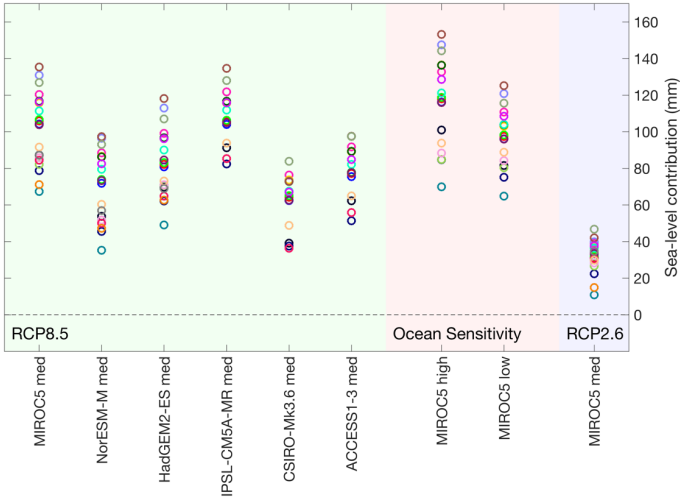
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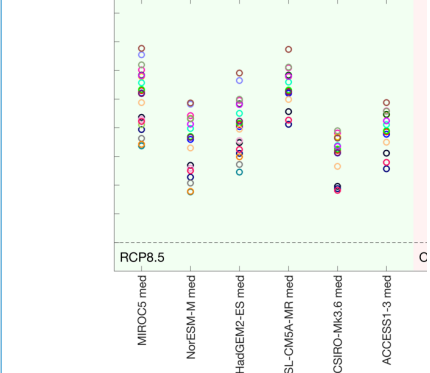
The AR5 projections for the GrIS under RCP8.5 at 2100 with respect to the 1986-2005 time-mean is 150 mm (likely range 90-280 mm). If similar corrections for the committed contribution and for the length as described above are applied to our results using observed ( $0.4 - 0.8 \text{ mm yr}^{-1}$ , The IMBIE Team, 2019) instead of modelled trends, our estimates overlap with the lower range of this assessments.



**Figure 12** Overview of sea-level projections for different CMIP5 experiments. All contributions are calculated relative to experiment 'ctrl\_proj'. The colour scheme is the same as in previous figures.

In exchange with the GlacierMIP team (<http://www.climate-cryosphere.org/activities/targeted/glaciermip>), we have attempted to mask out loosely connected glaciers and ice caps based on the RGI to avoid double counting when our projections are used in global sea-level change assessments. However, next to large resolution difference between ice sheet and glacier models, the fundamental differences of grid-based approaches in ice sheet modelling and "entity-based" approaches in glacier modelling is difficult to reconcile. Further work and a close interaction between our two communities is needed to improve solutions for these concerns.

While we consider the RCM-based SMB forcing a robust element in our projections, the computational requirements to produce such forcing are immense and were only possible through the committed dedication of the MAR group. The large



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computational cost has also defined clear constraints on the amount of GCMs and scenarios we could consider in our experiments and has ruled out a comparative analysis of RCM uncertainty. While different RCMs largely agree for simulations over the recent historical period (e.g. Fettweis et al., 2020), larger differences have to be expected for future projections where feedback mechanisms play a more important role. While we have not provided RCM uncertainty estimates in our projections, the SMB-dominated future response of the GrIS we find in our results suggests that those uncertainties would propagate almost directly into the projections.

The anomaly forcing approach chosen for SMB largely removes GCM/RCM biases and simplifies the experimental setup and model comparison, because all models apply the same forcing data. Nevertheless, it may be desirable to explore operating with the full SMB fields if consistency is a priority. Also, the anomaly approach is not suitable on the long term, because the assumption that unforced drift and forced signal combine linearly breaks down when both signals have become large. In any case it may be useful to operate with statistically bias-corrected GCM output that are in standard use by other comparison exercises (ISIMIP, Warszawski et al., 2014), and avoid ad hoc corrections of GCM output.

Compared to the sophistication of fully physically-based RCM SMB calculations, the implementation of the ocean forcing remains a crude approach that attempts to capture the complex interactions between the ocean and marine-terminating tidewater glaciers in Greenland in a very simplified way. Compared to earlier ad hoc approaches (e.g. Goelzer et al., 2013; Fürst et al., 2015; Calov et al., 2015; Beckmann et al., 2019), the advantage of the used technique (Slater et al., 2019, 2020) is its empirically-based and transparent implementation. Nevertheless, large uncertainties are attached to this part of the projections and leaves room for considerable improvements in the future. This requires a better physical understanding of the calving process (Benn et al., 2017) and high grid resolutions to resolve individual marine-terminating outlet glaciers. Existing calving laws need to be improved and included in ice flow models (e.g. Bondzio et al., 2016; Morlighem et al., 2016), which starts to be computationally feasible at continental scale (e.g. Morlighem et al., 2019), as shown by the model submissions to the open framework in this study. Better understanding is also needed of the oceanographic processes that transport heat from the open ocean to the shelf, up fjords to calving fronts, and of the rate at which the ocean melts glacier calving fronts. We have generously sampled the uncertainty attached to the parameterisation itself, but we cannot rule out additional factors that could bias ice sheet response from the far-field ocean temperature change and the local fjord circulation to the glacier front and its interaction with the local glacier bed geometry. Future work to improve understanding and representation of both the ocean forcing and ice dynamics is required.

Disentangling the importance of SMB and ocean forcing and the role of ice dynamics for sea-level change projections is an important scientific question that has strong bearing on our process understanding of the GrIS and its response to future climate change. With the experimental setup for the present study, we were not able to address this issue sufficiently. Dedicated single-forcing experiments that have been proposed by ISMIP6 as part of the extended experiments will be analysed in a forthcoming publication to that end.

Our experimental setup did not specifically encourage participants to achieve a good match of modelled historical mass changes with observations. To some extent this is related to the lack of knowledge about the past forcing and to the relative

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short history of high-quality observations compared to the dynamic response time of the [GrIS](#). As a result, we are not in the position to quantify the present-day mass loss or the committed sea-level contribution from our experiments and have instead reported sea-level contributions relative to an unforced control experiment. This is an issue that needs to be addressed in future intercomparison exercises.

5 The largest difference between individual models in our ensemble and hence the ISM-related uncertainty in the projections arises from differences in the initial state. Inaccuracies in the initial state directly translate into differences in the applied SMB (masking), the amount of ice available for calving (thickness distribution) and, more generally, into the dynamic state of the ice sheet and its response to forcing. Improving initialisation techniques further therefore remains a key priority for our community. The availability of high-quality observational data sets used as boundary conditions and to calibrate, validate and

10 force ice sheet models has been a key ingredient in this endeavour and remains a fundamental requirement to reduce uncertainties in future ice sheet and sea-level change projections.

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[Code availability.](#) Data processing, analysis and plotting scripts are available on GitHub (<https://github.com/ismip>) and will be archived in a permanent repository on Zenodo with digital object identifier <https://doi.org/xxx>.

15 [Data availability.](#) The forcing datasets are available through the ISMIP6 wiki and are also made publicly available via <https://doi.org/xxx>. The 2d fields of model output from the simulations described in this paper will be made available in the CMIP6 archive through the Earth System Grid Federation (ESGF) with digital object identifier <https://doi.org/xxx>. The re-computed scalar variables will be made available on Zenodo with digital object identifier <https://doi.org/xxx>.

20 In order to document CMIP6’s scientific impact and enable ongoing support of CMIP, users are obligated to acknowledge CMIP6, the participating modelling groups, and the ESGF centres (see details on the CMIP Panel website at <http://www.wcrp-climate.org/index.php/wgcm-cmip/about-cmip>).

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## 6 Appendix A: Detailed model description

We present in the following a short description of the participating models and their initialisation approach. Main model characteristics are summarised in Table 4. Further details may be found in the referenced model description papers and earlier publications of the individual groups.

### 6.1 AWI - ISSM

The Ice Sheet System Model (ISSM; Larour et al., 2012) is applied to the [GrIS](#) with Blatter-Pattyn higher-order approximation

30 (Blatter 1995, Pattyn 2003). The initial state is defined by data assimilation of present-day conditions. Observed surface velocities (Joughin et al., 2010, 2016) are used to infer the basal friction coefficient at the ice base. The geometric input is

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BedMachine v3 (Morlighem et al., 2017) but excluding glaciers and ice caps surrounding the ice sheet proper. The initialization uses a 3-D temperature field that was generated by a combination of data assimilation and paleoclimatic thermal spin-up (Rückamp et al., 2018). During all transient runs, we neglect an evolution of the thermal field. Grounding line evolution is treated with a sub-grid parameterization scheme, which tracks the grounding line position within the element (Seroussi et al., 2014). Basal melt rate below floating tongues is parameterized with a Beckmann-Goosse relationship (Beckmann and Goosse, 2003). The historical run employs SMB from RACMO2.3p2 (Noël et al., 2018) and no oceanic forcing. Model calculations are performed on a horizontally unstructured grid. The only difference between AWI-ISSM1, AWI-ISSM2 and AWI-ISSM3 is the spatial resolution. The minimum horizontal resolution at fast-flowing outlet glaciers is 1 km, 1 km and 0.75 km for AWI-ISSM1, AWI-ISSM2 and AWI-ISSM3, respectively. AWI-ISSM1 uses static adaptive mesh refinement (Larour et al., 2012) while in AWI-ISSM2 and AWI-ISSM3, the minimum resolution is prescribed in fast-flowing regions (observed ice velocity > 200 m yr<sup>-1</sup>). Independent of the spatial resolution, the vertical discretization comprises 15 terrain-following layers refined towards the base. A detailed description of the model characteristics can be found in Rückamp et al. (2020).

## 6.2 BGC – BISICLES

The method of initialization remains the same as in intMIP-Greenland (Goelzer et al., 2018), except the ice surface is evolved with fjord bathymetry and bedrock elevation located outside the ice sheet interpolated from BedMachine v3 (Morlighem et al., 2017). All experiments use the ISMIP6 open approach, where the calving front is free to move. Its position is determined by advecting the area fraction of ice in the grid cells with the relative velocity of the front, which is the ice velocity at the calving front minus the calving rate in the normal direction to front. The calving rate is a function of the melt rate given by Xu et al. (2013), Rignot et al. (2016) relative to its mean value between 1997 and 2006. This approach models both melting along the front and solid ice calving. The historical run uses atmosphere and ocean forcing averaged over 9 GCMs, ACCESS1.3-rcp85, CNRM-CM6-ssp126, CNRM-CM6-ssp585, CSIRO-Mk3.6-rcp85, HadGEM2-ES-rcp85, IPSL-CM5-MR-rcp85, MIROC5-rcp26, MIROC5-rcp85 and NorESM1-rcp85. For ctrl\_proj, the calving rate at the front is equal to the normal ice velocity, i.e. the calving front is approximately stationary.

## 6.3 GSFC – ISSM

The Ice Sheet System Model (ISSM, Larour et al., 2012) is initialized to present-day conditions, by using BedMachine v3 geometry (Morlighem et al., 2017) and observed surface velocities (Joughin et al. 2016, 2017) to invert for the basal friction coefficient. The resolution of the mesh varies from 500 m in the fast flowing outlet glaciers, and in regions where projected retreat occurs, to 25 km in the slow flowing interior. The ice viscosity is estimated from 1960–1989 surface temperatures from RACMO2.3p2 (Noël et al., 2018) and held constant during all simulations. To reduce spurious thickening signals, a 50-year relaxation is performed using a 1960–1989 mean SMB from RACMO2.3p2 (Noël et al., 2018). We estimate basal melt under floating ice by finding the difference between the model and 2003 – 2009 observed dynamic thickness change (Csatho et al., 2014) at the end of the relaxation. The difference is treated as the basal melt rate (floating ice only) and is held constant

for the duration of the projections. The grounding line is allowed to evolve using a sub-element migration scheme (Seroussi et al., 2014). The calving front position is fixed, and dictated by the ISMIP6 projected retreat masks.

#### 6.4 ILTSPIK – SICOPOLIS

The model SICOPOLIS version 5.1 (Greve, 2019; [www.sicopolis.net](http://www.sicopolis.net)) is applied to the [GrIS](#) with either shallow-ice dynamics (SICOPOLIS1) or hybrid shallow-ice–shelfy-stream dynamics (Bernales et al., 2017; SICOPOLIS2) for grounded ice. Floating ice is ignored. Ice thermodynamics is treated with the melting-CTS enthalpy method (ENTM) by Greve and Blatter (2016). The ice surface is assumed to be traction-free. Basal sliding under grounded ice is described by a Weertman-Budd-type sliding law with sub-melt sliding and subglacial hydrology (Kleiner and Humbert, 2014; Calov et al., 2018). The model is initialized by a paleoclimatic spin-up over 134,000 years until 1990 that follows Greve (2019) closely. During the last 9,000 years, the computed topography is continuously nudged towards the (slightly smoothed) observed present-day topography. Prior to 1,000 years ago, this is done by the method described by Rückamp et al. (2019). For the last 1,000 years, the ‘implied SMB’ by Calov et al. (2018) with a relaxation time of 100 years is used instead. The latter limits the simulated ice sheet to its present-day extent. The basal sliding coefficient is determined individually for 20 different regions, the 19 basins by Zwally et al. (2012) plus a separate region for the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream (NEGIS, defined by  $\geq 50 \text{ m a}^{-1}$  surface velocity), by minimizing the RMSD between simulated and observed logarithmic surface velocities. The historical run from 1990 until 2015 employs the MIROC5-RCP8.5 atmospheric forcing and no oceanic forcing. For the last 9,000 years of the spin-up, the historical run and the future climate simulations, a regular (structured) grid with 5 km resolution is used. In the vertical, we use terrain-following coordinates with 81 layers in the ice domain and 41 layers in the thermal lithosphere layer below. The present-day surface temperature is parameterized (Fausto et al., 2009; Rückamp et al., 2019). The bed topography is BedMachine v3 (Morlighem et al., 2017), the geothermal heat flux is by Greve (2019), and glacial isostatic adjustment (GIA) is modelled by the local-lithosphere–relaxing-asthenosphere (LLRA) approach with a time lag of 3000 years (Le Meur and Huybrechts, 1996). A more detailed description of the set-up will be given elsewhere (Greve et al., Geosci. Model Dev., in preparation).

#### 6.5 IMAU – IMAUCE

The model (de Boer et al., 2014) is initialised to a thermo-dynamically coupled steady state with constant, present-day boundary conditions for 61 kyr using the average 1960-1990 surface temperature and SMB from RACMO2.3 (van Angelen et al., 2014). Bedrock data is from Morlighem et al. (2017) and geothermal heat flux from Shapiro and Ritzwoller (2004). The model is run in SIA mode with ice sheet margins evolving freely within the observed ice mask, outside of which a negative SMB is applied. For IMAUCE1 (16 km resolution) we continue with fixed temperature for 11 kyr to get a dynamic steady state that we assign to the year 1959. The historical run (1960-2014) is forced with SMB anomalies from a downscaled RACMO product (Noël et al., 2016) and a historical extension of the retreat mask forcing. For IMAUCE2 the dynamic steady state from IMAUCE1 is interpolated to 8 km resolution and relaxed for 10 kyr, before proceeding with the historical run.

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## 6.6 JPL – ISSM

The JPL-ISSM ice sheet model (Larour et al., 2012) configuration relies on the data assimilation of present-day conditions, followed by a model relaxation, and a historical spin-up, similar to Schlegel et al. (2016). For the calculation of stress balance, L1L2 (Hindmarsh, 2004; Schoof and Hindmarsh, 2010) is used over the entire domain, with a resolution varying between 250 m in the areas of strongest gradients in surface velocity and along the margins to a resolution of 15 km in the interior. Bedrock topography is interpolated from BedMachine (Morlighem et al., 2017), and initial ice surface is from the GIMP dataset (Howat et al., 2014). Basal heat flux is from Shapiro and Ritzwoller (2004) and air temperature from RACMO2 (van Angelen et al., 2014). We use observed surface velocities (Rignot and Mouginot, 2012) to infer unknown basal friction at the base of the ice sheet (Morlighem et al., 2010). We then calculate ice temperature, assuming that the ice sheet is in a steady-state thermal equilibrium (Seroussi et al., 2013). This is followed by a relaxation of 4.2k years, to reduce the initial unphysical transient behavior resulting from errors and biases in the datasets and forcing (Schlegel et al., 2016), using a climatological mean surface mass balance from 1979-1988 (Box, 2013). Finally, we run a historical spin-up from 1840 through 1979, using the Box, 2013 reconstruction of surface mass balance. Grounding line migration is based on hydrostatic equilibrium and a sub-element scheme (Seroussi et al., 2014 and Seroussi and Morlighem, 2018, SEM2 parameterization), and basal melting rates, from literature (Rignot 2001; Rignot and Steffen, 2008; Seroussi et al., 2011; and Prescott et al., 2003), are set under floating ice. The ice front is held static during all initialization, historic, and control experiments, and there is a free-flux boundary condition at all ice margins. For the historical experiment, MAR 3.9 yearly anomalies in SMB (Fettweis et al., 2017) from the 1979-1988 mean are added to the spin-up SMB (i.e. the Box, 2013 1979-1988 climatology). For the control experiment, the model is forced only with the spin-up SMB. During projection runs, the ISMIP6 SMB anomalies are imposed using an SMB gradients scheme (Helsen et al., 2012) on top of the spin-up SMB, and ISMIP6 retreat masks are imposed yearly, on Jan. 1 of each year.

## 6.7 JPL – ISSM PALEO

Initialization procedures are after Cuzzone et al. (2019). Bedrock topography is interpolated from the BedMachine dataset (Morlighem et al., 2014), which combines a mass conservation algorithm for the fast-flowing ice streams and krigging in the interior of the ice sheet. Initial ice thickness is from the GIMP dataset (Howat et al., 2014). Geothermal flux is from Shapiro and Ritzwoller (2004), air temperature from Box (2013). We assimilate surface horizontal velocities derived from published 2008-2009 surface velocities (Rignot and Mouginot, 2012) to derive basal sliding on grounded ice and ice viscosity on floating ice. The model uses the higher order ice flow approximation of Blatter (1995) and Pattyn (2003), is extruded to 5 layers, and uses higher order vertical finite elements (Cuzzone et al., 2018) to compute the ice sheet thermal evolution. The initial friction coefficient is modified through time based upon variations in the simulated basal temperature following Cuzzone et al. (2019). The model is spun up over one glacial cycle (beginning 125,000 years ago) using a method whereby the 1840-1900 mean surface air temperature and precipitation (Box, 2013) is scaled back through time based upon isotopic variations in the Greenland Ice Core Project (GRIP) delta O18 record (Danasgaard et al., 1993). We use the positive degree day model of

Tarasov and Peltier (1999) to derive the surface mass balance through time (degree day factors, snow = 0.006 m °C-1 day-1, ice = 0.0083 m °C-1 day-1). From 1840 to 1979, the model is then forced with the surface mass balance history derived in Box (2013), and from 1979 to 2014, the RACMO2.3 (Noël et al., 2015) surface mass balance is used.

## 6.8 LSCE - GRISLI

- 5 Here we used the GRISLI version 2.0 (Quiquet et al., 2018) which includes the analytical formulation of Schoof (2007) to compute the flux at the grounding line. Basal drag is computed with a power-law basal friction (Weertman, 1957). We use an iterative inversion method to infer a spatially variable basal drag coefficient that insures an ice thickness as close as possible to observations with a minimal model drift (Le clec'h et al., 2019). The model is run for 60 kyr with a fixed geometry (observed present-day) in order to equilibrate the temperature field. The basal drag is assumed to be constant for the forward experiments.
- 10 The model uses finite differences on a staggered Arakawa C-grid in the horizontal plane at 5 km resolution with 21 vertical levels. Atmospheric forcing, namely near-surface air temperature and surface mass balance, is taken from the 1995-2014 climatological annual mean computed by the MAR version 3.9 regional atmospheric model. The initial ice sheet geometry, bedrock and ice thickness, are taken from the BedMachine v3 dataset (Morlighem et al., 2017) and the geothermal heat flux is from Shapiro and Ritzwoller (2004).

## 15 6.9 MUN - GSM

- The two models GSM1 and GSM2 are from a 2 glacial cycle run (starting at 240 ka) with 30 ensemble model parameters set to values from an ongoing calibration against various paleo constraints (including RSL data and cosmogenic dates) along with fit to present-day topography at the end of the transient run. The grid resolution is 0.25 by 0.125 degrees longitude/latitude which translates to about 13.9 km in the latitudinal direction and goes down to about 5 km in the longitudinal direction near
- 20 the northern edge of the ice sheet. For this intercomparison, the model was nudged to observed 2000 CE ice margins during the 1500 to 2000 CE interval. The model uses a 4 km deep permafrost resolving bedthermal model with the deep geothermal heatflux set to a partially calibrated mix from Rogozhina et al (2016), Fox Maule et al., (2009), Tarasov and Peltier (2003), and Pollack et al (1993). The glacial cycles use a calibrated mix of climate forcings derived from the GRIP del180 record (GICC05 chronology + Dansgaard et al, 1993 chronology), the synthetic temperature record from Barker et al (2011), and
- 25 PMIP III fields from GCM simulations (Braconnot et al, 2012). Surface mass balance depends on both PDD and (orbitally updated) monthly mean insolation. Ocean temperatures (for submarine ice melt) are derived from scaling the results of the TRACE deglacial simulation with CSSM3 (Liu et al, 2009). The two models differ in the soft bedded basal drag used since 1500 CE. The GSM1 version uses a Coulomb-plastic soft bed rheology, while the GSM2 version uses a linear Weertman type basal drag law (as was used for the full glacial cycle run for both models). Both use a power law 3 basal drag for hard bed.

6.10 NCAR – CISM

The Community Ice Sheet Model (CISM; Lipscomb et al. 2019) was run on a regular 4-km grid with 10 vertical layers using a depth-integrated higher-order velocity solver based on Goldberg (2011) and a basal sliding law based on Schoof (2007). The ice sheet was initialized with present-day thickness and bed topography (Morlighem et al. 2017) and an idealized temperature profile. CISM was then spun up for 30,000 years with surface mass balance and surface temperature from a 1980-1999 climatology provided by the MAR regional climate model (Fettweis et al. 2017), and with basal heat fluxes from Shapiro and Ritzwoller (2004). During the spin-up, the model was nudged toward present-day thickness by adjusting friction coefficients in a basal-sliding power law. There is no dependence of basal sliding on basal temperature or water pressure. All floating ice was assumed to calve immediately. For partly grounded cells at the marine margin, basal shear stress was weighted using a grounding-line parameterization. By the end of the spin-up, the ice thickness, temperature, and velocity fields were very close to steady state. For the historical period (1990-2014), the model was run forward with SMB and surface temperature anomalies, including lapse-rate corrections, from the MAR simulation that provided the background climatology. Basal friction coefficients were held fixed at the values obtained during the spin-up.

6.11 UAF – PISM

Ice sheet initial conditions are provided by the “calibrated” experiments in Aschwanden et al. (2016). The goal of an initialization procedure is to provide a present-day energy state which can currently not be obtained from observations alone. To define the energy state, a “standard” glacial cycle run was performed where the surface can evolve freely, similar to Aschwanden et al. (2013). The spin-up started at 125 kyr BP with the present-day topography from Howat et al. (2014) using a horizontal grid resolution of 9 km. The grid was refined to 6 km, 4.5 km, and 3 km at 25 kyr BP, 20 kyr BP and 15 kyr BP, respectively. We used a positive degree-day scheme to compute the climatic mass balance from surface temperature (Fausto et al., 2009) and model-constrained precipitation (Ettema et al., 2009). The degree-day factors were the same as in Huybrechts and de Wolde (1999). Second, we accounted for paleo-climatic variations by applying a scalar anomaly term derived from the GRIP ice core oxygen isotope record (Dansgaard et al., 1993) to the temperature field (Huybrechts, 2002). Then we adjusted mean annual precipitation in proportion to the mean annual air temperature change (Huybrechts, 2002). Finally, sea level forcing, which determines the land area available for glaciation, is derived from the SPECMAP marine  $\delta^{18}O$  record (Imbrie et al., 1992). Using this as a starting point, we then ran a 100-year long relaxation simulation at 900 m resolution to account for differences/updates in model physics, but we kept the ice surface close to observations using a flux correction (Aschwanden et al., 2016). The result is an initial state that is both close to the observed geometry (Howat et al., 2014) and surface speeds (Rignot and Mouginot, 2012) of 2008. For ISMIP6, the initial state was regridded to a horizontal resolution of 1 km as defined by ISMIP6.

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6.12 UCI\_JPL - ISSM

The ice sheet configuration is set up using data assimilation of present-day conditions (Morlighem et al., 2010). The bed topography is interpolated from BedMachine Greenland v3 dataset (Morlighem et al., 2017). The initial ice surface topography is from the GIMPdem (Howat et al., 2014). For the thermal model, surface temperatures from Fausto et al. (2009) and geothermal heat flux from Shapiro and Ritzwoller (2004) are used. A Higher-Order model (HO) is used for the entire domain. The model for UCIJPL-ISSM1 has 14 vertical layers and a horizontal resolution varying between 0.5 km along the coast and 30 km inland, while UCIJPL-ISSM2 has 4 vertical layers with a horizontal resolution between 0.2 km and 20 km. We perform the inversion of basal friction assuming that the ice is in thermo-mechanical steady state. The ice temperature is updated as the basal friction changes and the ice viscosity is changed accordingly. At the end of the inversion, basal friction, ice temperature and stresses are all consistent. After the data assimilation process, the model for UCIJPL-ISSM1 is relaxed for 50 years using the mean surface mass balance of 1961-1990 from RACMO (van Angelen et al., 2014), while keeping the temperature constant. The historical run was performed with SMB anomalies of MIROC5 provided by ISMIP6, with the fixed ice front for UCIJPL-ISSM1 and with moving ice front for UCIJPL-ISSM2.

6.13 VUB - GISM

GISM-VUB (Huybrechts, 2002; Fürst et al., 2015) is configured with the higher order version, using a simplified resistance equation to describe the basal resistance (called SR HO in Fürst et al., 2013). GISM was initialised to the present-day geometry by assimilation of the observed ice thickness (Le clec'h et al., 2019). A steady state was assumed for the starting date of December 1989 using the 1960-1989 mean SMB from MAR forced by the MIROC5 climate. The iterative initialisation method optimized both the basal sliding coefficient in unfrozen areas and the rate factor in Glen's flow law for frozen areas. The ice temperature and the initial velocity field needed in the initialisation procedure were derived from a glacial spin-up with a freely evolving geometry over the last two glacial cycles with a synthesized temperature record based on ice-core data from Dome C, NGRIP, GRIP, and GISP2 (Fürst et al., 2015). For this spin-up experiment, a PDD model was used with an observed precipitation field derived from the Bales et al. (2009) surface accumulation for the period 1950-2000, and scaled by 5% per °C. The ice temperature and velocity fields from the 'free geometry present-day' were rescaled to the observed ice thickness (Morlighem et al., 2017) and excluded peripheral ice (Citterio et al., 2013). The historical experiment is run from January 1990 to December 2014 using the yearly SMB from MAR forced by MIROC5. For the projections, the standard retreat forcing and the parameterised SMB-height feedback from the ISMIP6 protocol are applied.

6.14 VUW – PISM

We use an identical approach to the one described in Golledge et al., (2019). Starting from initial bedrock and ice thickness conditions from Morlighem et al., (2017), together with reference climatology from Ettema et al., (2009) we run a multi-stage spinup that guarantees well-evolved thermal and dynamic conditions without loss of accuracy in terms of geometry. This is

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achieved through an iterative nudging procedure, in which incremental grid refinement steps are employed that also include resetting of ice thicknesses to initial values. Drift is thereby eliminated, but thermal evolution is preserved by remapping of temperature fields at each stage. In summary, we start with an initial 20 km resolution 5 year smoothing run in which only the shallow-ice approximation is used. Then, holding the ice geometry fixed, we run a 125000 year, 20 km resolution, thermal evolution simulation in which temperatures are allowed to equilibrate. Refining the grid to 10 km and resetting bed elevations and ice thicknesses we run a further 3000 years using full model physics, then refine the grid to 5 km for a further 1000 years, then refine the grid to 2 km for 500 years. The resultant configuration is then used as the starting point for each of our forward experiments.

10 **Table 4. Model characteristics**

Numerical method: FD= Finite difference, FE= Finite element, FV= Finite Volume with adaptive mesh refinement  
Ice flow: SIA= Shallow ice approximation, SSA= Shallow shelf approximation, HO= Higher order, HYB= SIA and SSA combined  
Initialisation method: DAv= Data Assimilation of velocity, DAs= Data Assimilation of surface elevation, DAi= Data Assimilation of ice thickness, SP= Spin up, CYC= transient glacial cycle(s), NDm= nudging to ice mask, NDs= nudging to surface elevation  
15 Initial SMB: RA1= RACMO2.1, RA3= RACMO2.3, HIR= HIRHAM5, MAR= MAR, BOX= BOX reconstruction (synthesis of simulation and data), ISMB= Implied SMB  
Velocity: RM= Rignot and Mouginot, J= Joughin et al.  
Bed and surface: M= Morlighem et al., B= Bamber et al.  
Geothermal Heat Flux (GHF): SR= Shapiro and Ritzwoller, G= Greve, MIX= See individual model description.  
20 Model resolution (Res) in km. In case of heterogeneous grid resolution, the minimum and maximum resolutions are given.

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Model ID	Numerics	Ice flow	Initialisation	Initial year	Initial SMB	Velocity	Bed	Surface/ Thickness	GH F	Res min	Res max
AWI-ISSM1	FE	HO	DAv	1990	RA3	J	M		G	1 <sup>1</sup>	7.5
AWI-ISSM2	FE	HO	DAv	1990	RA3	J	M		G	1 <sup>1</sup>	7.5
AWI-ISSM3	FE	HO	DAv	1990	RA3	J	M		G	0.75	7.5
BGC-BISICLES	FV	SSA	DAv	2000	HIR	RM	M			1.2	4.8
GSFC-ISSM	FE	SSA	DAv	2007	RA3	J	M		SR	1	25
ILTSPIK-SICOPOLIS1	FD	SIA	CYC/NDs	1990	ISMB	J	M	M	G	5	5
ILTSPIK-SICOPOLIS2	FD	HYB	CYC/NDs	1990	ISMB	J	M	M	G	5	5
IMAU-IMAUICE1	FD	SIA	SP/NDm	1990	RA3		M		SR	16	16
IMAU-IMAUICE2	FD	SIA	SP/NDm	1990	RA3		M		SR	8	8
JPL-ISSM	FE	HYB	DAv	1979	BOX/MAR <sup>2</sup>	RM	M		SR	0.25	15
JPL-ISSMPALEO	FE	SSA	SP/DAv <sup>3</sup>	1979	BOX/RA3 <sup>4</sup>	RM	M		SR	3	30
LSCE-GRISLI	FD	HYB	SP/DAs <sup>7</sup>	1995	MAR		M	M	SR	5	5
MUN-GSM1	FD/FV <sup>5</sup>	HYB	CYC/NDm	1980	MAR		B		MIX	5	14 <sup>6</sup>

MUN-GSM2	FD/FV <sup>5</sup>	HYB	CYC/NDm	1980	MAR		B		MIX	5	14 <sup>6</sup>
NCAR-CISM	FE	HO	SP/DAi	1990	MAR		M	M	SR	4	4
UAF-PISM1	FD	HYB	CYC/NDs <sup>7</sup>	2008	RA1		M	M	SR	0.9	0.9
UAF-PISM2	FD	HYB	CYC/NDs <sup>7</sup>	2008	RA1		M	M	SR	0.9	0.9
UCIPL-ISSM1	FE	HO	DAv	2007	RA1	RM	M		SR	0.5	30
UCIPL-ISSM2	FE	HO	DAv	2007	RA1	RM	M		SR	0.2	20
VUB-GISM	FD	HO	CYC/DAi <sup>7</sup>	1990	MAR		M	M	SR	5	5
VUW-PISM	FD	HYB	SP/NDs <sup>7</sup>	2000	RA1		M		SR	2	2

1) At same minimum resolution, AWI-ISSM1 has considerably more small elements compared to AWI-ISSM2.

2) Climatology and historical spinup from BOX, but historical experiment from MAR anomalies.

3) SP with a base friction map of DAv (before paleo run) that is scaled over time.

4) Climatology and historical spinup from BOX, but historical experiment from RACMO anomalies.

5) 5) FD for ice dynamics, FV for ice thermodynamics.

6) 0.25 degrees longitude by 0.125 degrees latitude.

7) CYC/SP used only for the ice temperature.

## 7 Appendix B: Detailed model results

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**Table 5 Modelled present-day ice sheet area, ice volume and mass change in future experiments for all participating models.**

	Mass loss (mm SLE)											
	Initial (2014)			projection - ctrl_proj								
	Area (10 <sup>12</sup> m <sup>2</sup> )	Vol. (10 <sup>15</sup> m <sup>3</sup> )	ctrl_proj	exp05	exp06	exp07	exp08	exp09	exp10	expa01	expa02	expa03
Model ID												
AWI-ISSM1	1.7586	2.9731	0.1	104.2	71.8	30.9	80.8	116.2	96.0	104.0	62.4	75.4
AWI-ISSM2	1.7585	2.9737	0.8	106.0	73.3	31.3	82.2	118.1	97.4	105.5	64.2	77.2
AWI-ISSM3	1.7574	2.9744	0.7	106.6	74.0	31.9	83.2	118.8	98.3	106.2	65.0	77.9
BGC-BISICLES	1.6664	2.9860	14.4	87.2	53.8	26.6	69.7	101.0	81.5	91.2	39.1	62.2
GSFC-ISSM	1.7726	2.9856	-12.7	120.4	88.4	39.1	99.1	132.7	110.8	121.8	76.3	91.8
ILTSPIK-SICOPOLIS1	1.7772	2.9341	-1.5	115.8	86.5	36.6	96.3	136.4	103.0	115.7	73.7	89.0
ILTSPIK-SICOPOLIS2	1.7773	2.9400	-1.3	116.7	86.2	36.4	96.8	136.4	103.7	116.7	72.8	89.3
IMAU-IMAUICE1	1.7870	3.1251	2.2	130.9	96.5	39.8	113.0	147.6	120.8			

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IMAU-IMAUCE2	1.7759	3.2077	3.7	135.4	97.3	42.0	118.1	153.2	125.2	134.7	73.0	97.5
JPL-ISSM	1.7238	3.0189	0.2	111.4	79.5	36.4	90.1	121.1	103.9	111.8	67.5	82.2
JPL-ISSMPALEO	1.6764	2.7589	13.2	67.4	35.2	10.9	49.1	70.0	64.8			
LSCE-GRISLI	1.6652	2.9863	1.7	78.7	45.5	22.3	62.2	84.7	75.1	82.4	37.5	51.4
MUN-GSM1	1.8328	2.8864	-0.1	82.1	50.0	26.6	70.7	84.8	80.3			
MUN-GSM2	1.8113	2.9181	-0.5	85.8	51.7	28.3	71.0	88.3	84.2			
NCAR-CISM	1.8170	2.9284	-3.3	116.3	82.5	37.6	96.2	128.6	108.5	115.9	67.0	84.8
UAF-PISM1	1.6860	2.9806	14.8	103.9	73.3	33.4	84.5	116.0	95.9	105.0	62.6	77.7
UAF-PISM2	1.6860	2.9806	7.9	84.4	50.0	30.5	64.8			85.3	36.3	55.8
UCIPL-ISSM1	1.6495	2.9774	-9.7	91.6	60.4	29.8	73.1	93.7	88.9	93.8	48.9	64.9
UCIPL-ISSM2	1.6635	2.9771	7.3	87.2	56.9	34.6	69.0					
VUB-GISM	1.7029	2.9999	0.9	126.9	93.1	46.8	107.1	144.2	115.6	128.0	83.8	97.4
VUW-PISM	1.8598	3.0002	-49.3	71.1	47.3	14.8	62.6					
NOISM	1.6684	2.9854	0.0	102.9	77.6	38.5	101.7	107.4	100.9	112.7	56.9	80.0
Mean (n=21, excl. NOISM)	1.7479	2.9768	0.5	101.4	69.2	31.7	82.8	116.2	97.4	107.9	62.0	78.3
Std	0.0747	0.0846	13.1	19.8	18.9	8.5	18.3	24.3	16.1	15.1	14.8	14.4

*Author contributions.* HG, SN, AP, EL, HS, WHL, JG, AA-O and AS, have designed the project with help of CA, AB, DF, CL, MM, DS, RS and FS. Model results were contributed by HG, SN, AP, HS, WHL, AA, RC, CC, YC, JC, CD, DF, NRG, RG, AH, PH, SL, VL, GL, DPL, MM, IN, AQ, MR, NS, and LT to the project. ES, CA, PA, DF, XF, MM, DS have provided or prepared input and forcing data. ES and HG have processed the model output data. HG has written the manuscript with comments from all co-authors.

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Review statement.

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