

Southern Hemisphere climate variability over the past 8,000 years: an integrated data–model perspective

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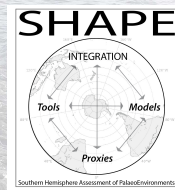
ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science

Climate Change Research Centre

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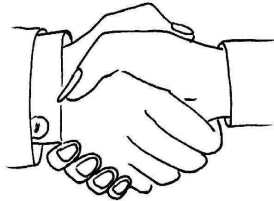


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| <p>List of FMP3S/MF3S participants</p> <p>Up to date FMP3S info: https://ncic.bcrp.org/fmp3s/ncicfmp3s/status</p> <p>Some ESGF access codes: PCMN FPL CR22 RACC</p> <p>More information: https://ncic.bcrp.org/fmp3s/index</p> | <p>CMF3S Email: nciccmf3s@ncic.bcrp.org</p> <p>FMP3S Email: ncicfmp3s@ncic.bcrp.org</p> <p>Model documentation: https://nciccmf3s.org/nciccmf3s/modeldocs/</p> |
|---|---|

Elasmobranchs (not in the table): LBR, LCM

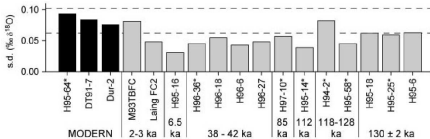
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The “handshake” question

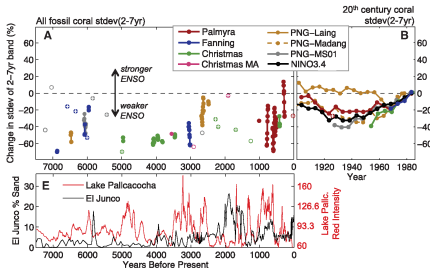


- Data-model integration is a two-way process
- Proxy data can be used to constrain climate model simulations
- Climate models can provide dynamical interpretation of proxy data
- Everyone wins: we learn more about the dynamics of the climate system than when we employ the two approaches separately

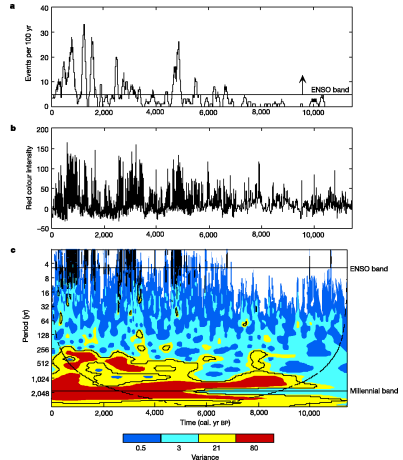
We know that ENSO has changed over the Holocene



Tudhope et al. (2001), *Science*

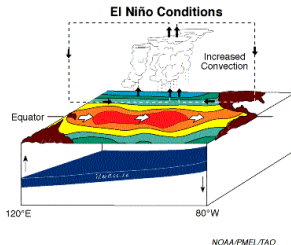
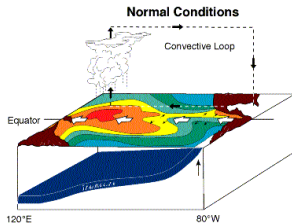


Cobb et al. (2013), *Science*



Moy et al. (2002), *Nature*

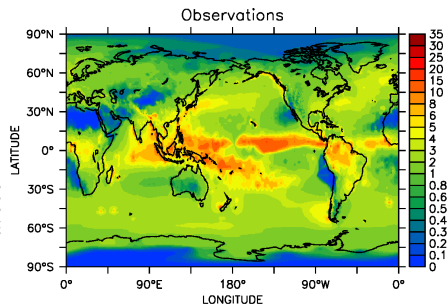
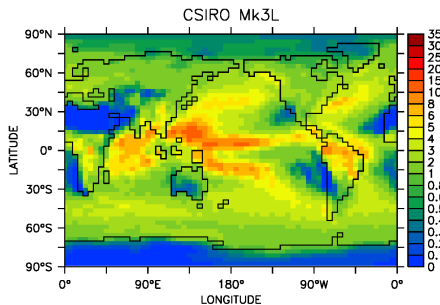
The dynamics of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation



- El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is the dominant mode of internal variability within the coupled atmosphere–ocean system
- Irregular period of $\sim 2\text{--}7$ years
- Average state of the system involves strong easterly trade winds pushing warm water to the west
- During an El Niño event, these winds slacken and the warm water flows eastwards

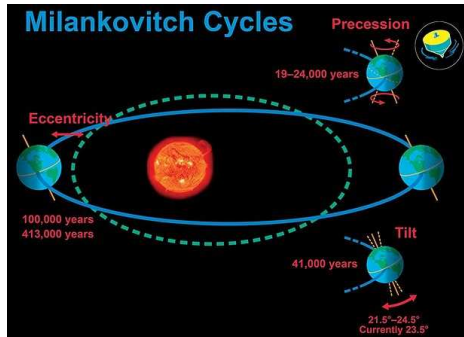
Simulating the role of orbital forcing

- The CSIRO Mk3L climate system model (Phipps et al., 2011, 2012)
 - Atmospheric general circulation model ($5.6^\circ \times 3.2^\circ$, 18 levels)
 - Ocean general circulation model ($2.8^\circ \times 1.6^\circ$, 21 levels)
 - Dynamic-thermodynamic sea ice model
 - Land surface scheme

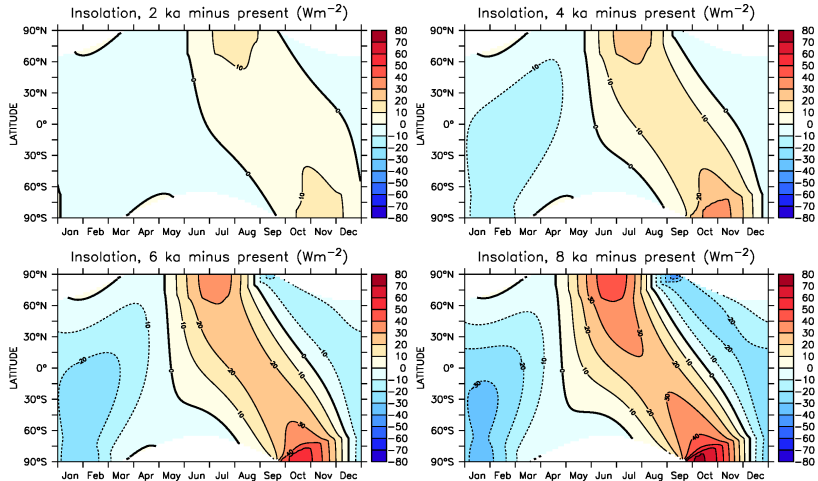


Simulating the role of orbital forcing

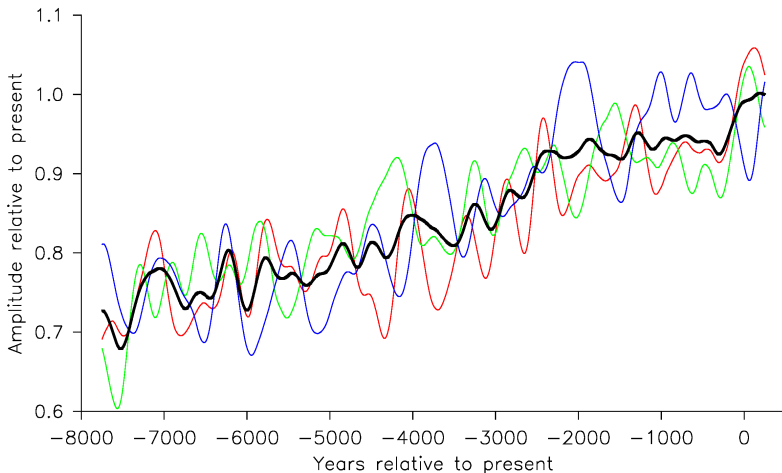
- Three transient simulations of the past 8,000 years:
 - Only the Earth's orbital geometry is varied (Berger et al., 1978)
 - Each ensemble member is initialised from different years of the control simulation (i.e. a perturbed initial conditions ensemble)



Orbital cycles cause large seasonal changes in insolation

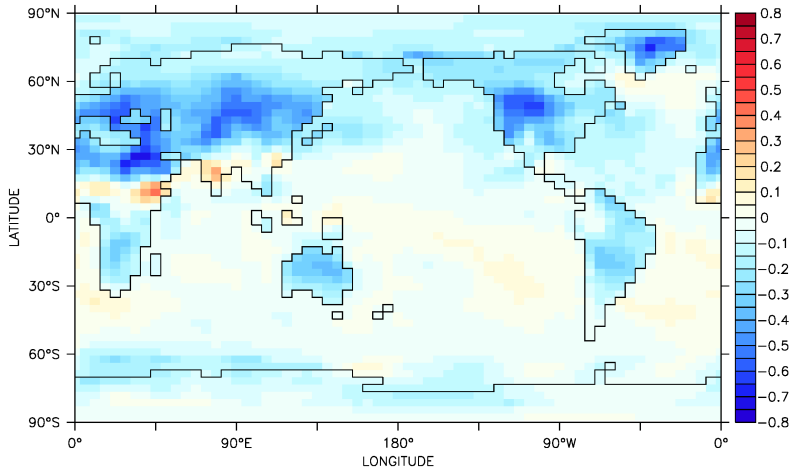


Simulated ENSO amplitude (with 500-year smoother)



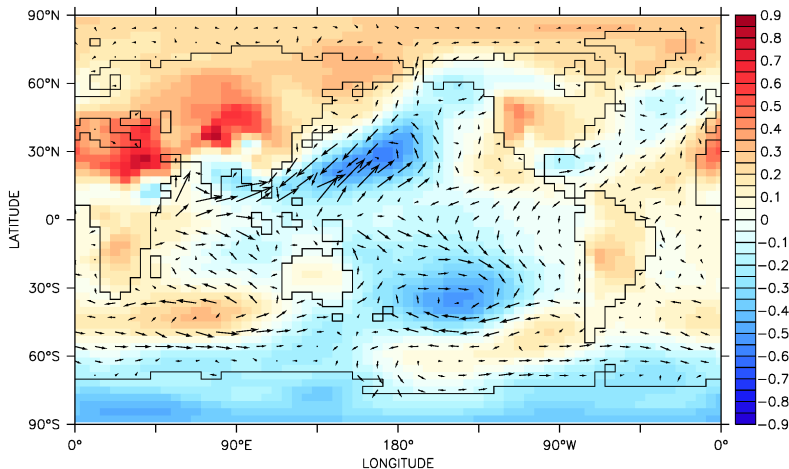
Updated from Phipps and Brown (2010), *IOP C. S. Earth Env.*

Trend in August surface air temperature (K ky^{-1})



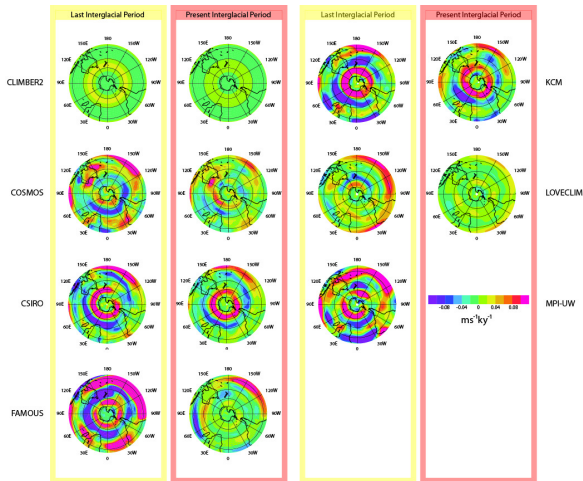
Updated from Phipps and Brown (2010), *IOP C. S. Earth Env.*

Trend in August MSLP (hPa ky^{-1}) and surface wind stress



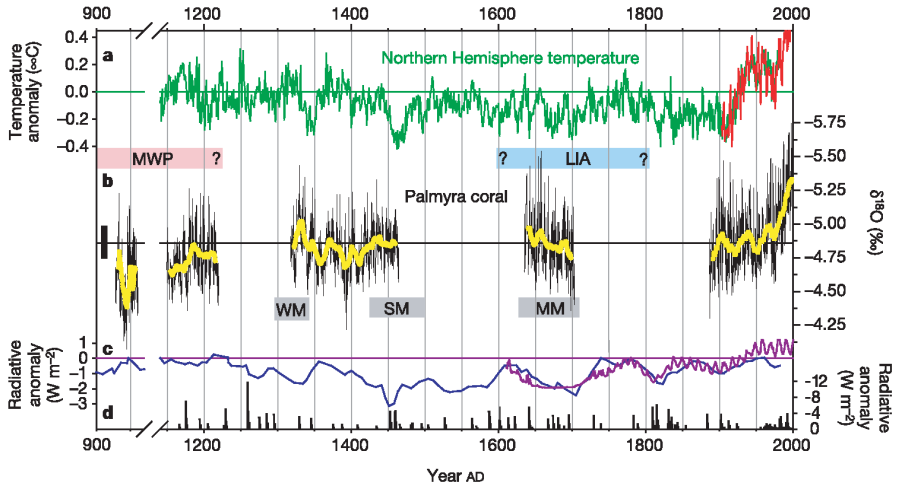
Updated from Phipps and Brown (2010), *IOP C. S. Earth Env.*

PMIP3: simulated trends in the SH westerly winds



Bakker et al. (in press), *Quaternary Science Reviews*

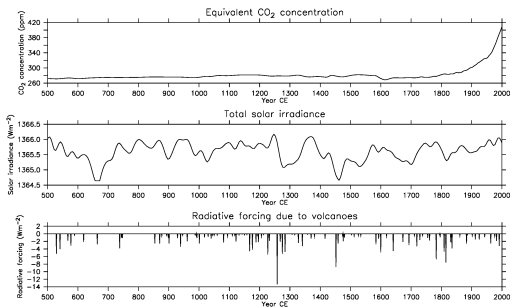
ENSO also changes on shorter timescales



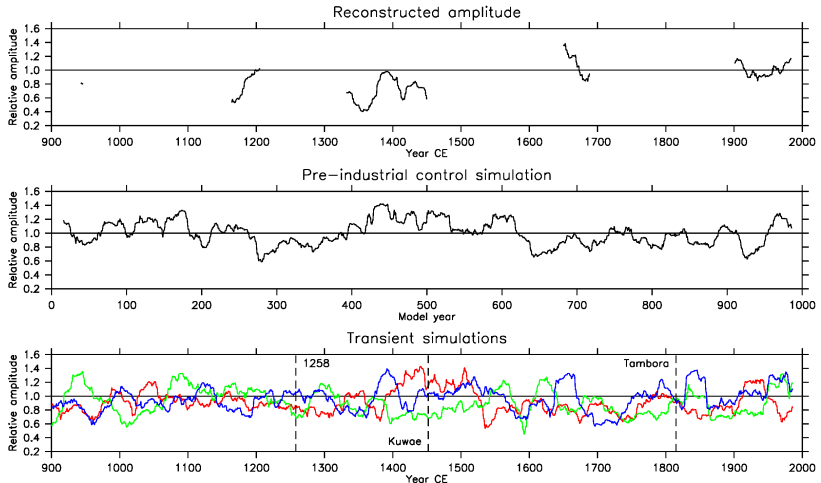
Cobb et al. (2003), *Nature*

Simulating the role of forcings over the past 1500 years

- Multiple ensembles of transient simulations of the past 1500 years:
 - Orbital changes (Berger, 1978)
 - Anthropogenic greenhouse gases (MacFarling Meure et al., 2006)
 - Solar irradiance (Steinhilber et al., 2009)
 - Explosive volcanism (Gao et al., 2008)

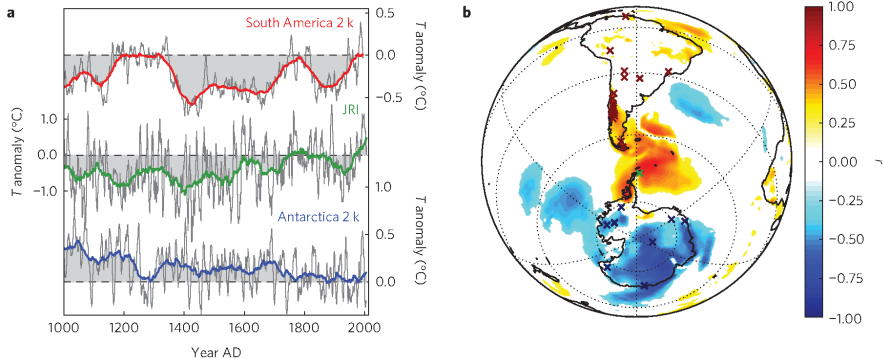


Reconstructed/simulated ENSO amplitude (30-year mean)



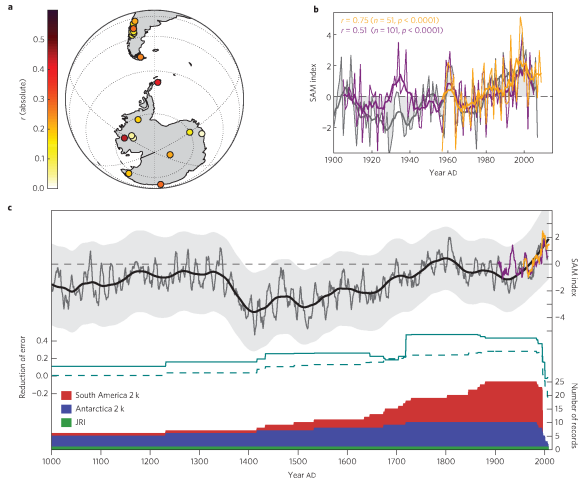
Phipps et al. (2013), *Journal of Climate*

Reconstructing the Southern Annular Mode (SAM)



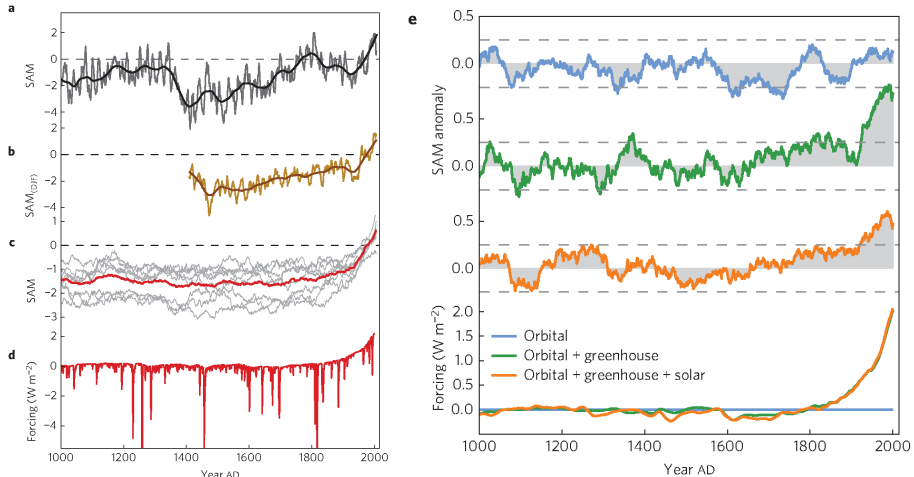
Abram et al. (2014), *Nature Climate Change*

Reconstruction of SAM over the last millennium



Abram et al. (2014), *Nature Climate Change*

Data-model comparison and role of external forcings



Abram et al. (2014), *Nature Climate Change*

Conclusions

- Orbital changes can explain long-term trends in ENSO and SAM over the past 8 ka. These are driven by changes in the seasonal and meridional distribution of insolation, which cause large-scale changes in the atmospheric circulation.
- On shorter timescales, internal variability dominates. There is no evidence that natural forcings influence ENSO or SAM, although anthropogenic forcings have caused a shift in the SAM.
- Overall, a picture emerges of high-frequency internal variability, superimposed on top of long-term trends driven by orbital changes.
- This suggests that care should be taken when interpreting proxy records, and particularly when synchronising records from different sites, as variations on sub-millennial timescales may simply represent random internal variability.