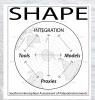
Southern Hemisphere climate variability over the past 8,000 years: an integrated data-model perspective

Steven J. Phipps ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate System Science Climate Change Research Centre University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

> AQUA Biennial Meeting 29 June – 3 July 2014



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Conclusions

A smorgasbord of climate model simulations

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150	(UK groups)		CMIPS (210)	CMIPS (35)				Yes	No	No	Na	Yes	192x144 x L60	380x216 × L40	HadGENG OC	Unrostricted	BADC	
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Come and see the SHAPE Climate Modelling Group poster this afternoon...

Steven J. Phipps, ARC CoE for Climate System Science and Climate Change Research Centre, UNSW, Sydney, Australia

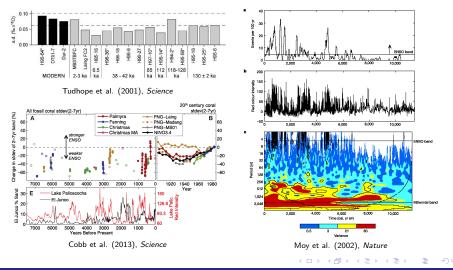
Southern Hemisphere climate variability over the past 8,000 years: an integrated data-model perspective

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

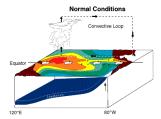
We know that ENSO has changed over the Holocene

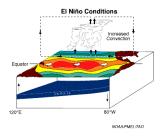


Steven J. Phipps, ARC CoE for Climate System Science and Climate Change Research Centre, UNSW, Sydney, Australia

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The dynamics of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation



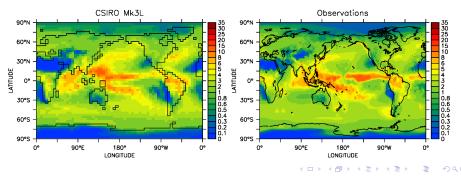


- El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is the dominant mode of internal variability within the coupled atmosphere-ocean system
- Irregular period of ${\sim}2\text{--7}$ years
- Average state of the system involves strong easterly trade winds pushing warm water to the west
- During an El Niño event, these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

Simulating the role of orbital forcing

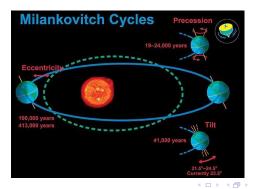
• The CSIRO Mk3L climate system model (Phipps et al., 2011, 2012)

- Atmospheric general circulation model $(5.6^{\circ} \times 3.2^{\circ}, 18 \text{ levels})$
- Ocean general circulation model $(2.8^{\circ} \times 1.6^{\circ}, 21 \text{ levels})$
- Dynamic-thermodynamic sea ice model
- Land surface scheme

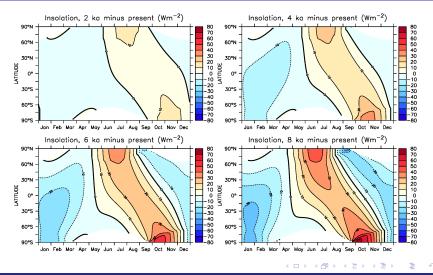


Simulating the role of orbital forcing

- 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)

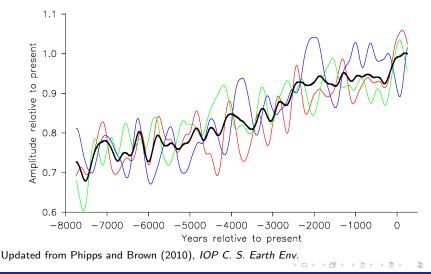


Orbital cycles cause large seasonal changes in insolation



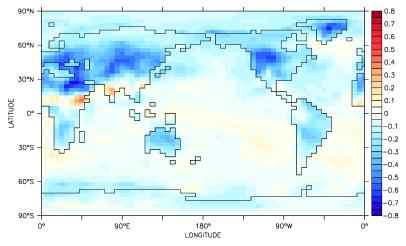
Conclusions

Simulated ENSO amplitude (with 500-year smoother)



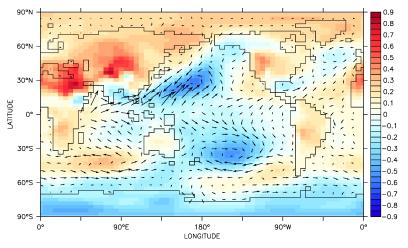
Conclusions

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



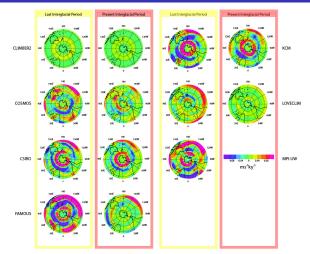
Updated from Phipps and Brown (2010), IOP C. S. Earth Env.

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



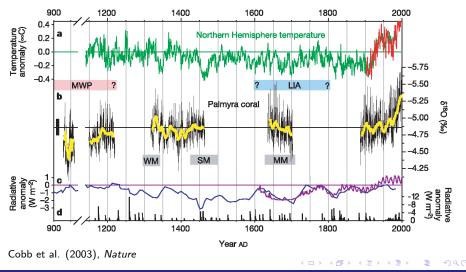
Updated from Phipps and Brown (2010), IOP C. S. Earth Env.

PMIP3: simulated trends in the SH westerly winds



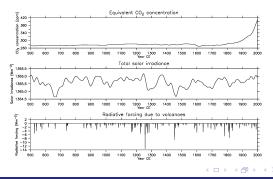
Bakker et al. (in press), Quaternary Science Reviews

ENSO also changes on shorter timescales

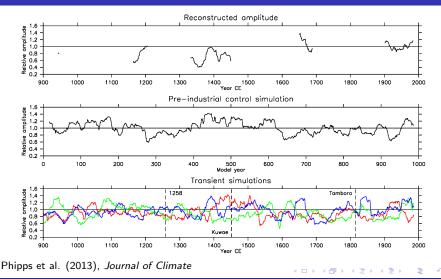


Simulating the role of forcings over the past 1500 years

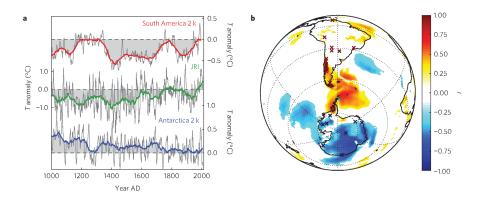
- Multiple ensembles of transient simulations of the past 1500 years:
 - Orbital changes (Berger, 1978)
 - Anthropogenic greenhouse gases (MacFarling Meure et al., 2006)
 - Solar irradiance (Steinhilber et al., 2009)
 - Explosive volcanism (Gao et al., 2008)



Reconstructed/simulated ENSO amplitude (30-year mean)

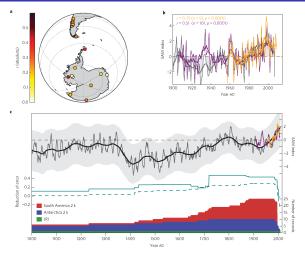


Reconstructing the Southern Annular Mode (SAM)



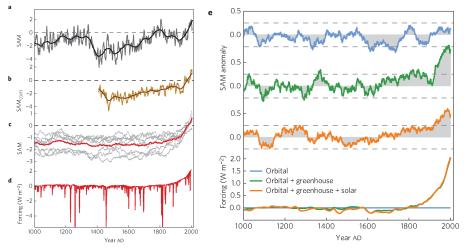
Abram et al. (2014), Nature Climate Change

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.