# Land Ice Modeling in

## **Earth System Models**

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Supported by DOE Office of Science ASCR & BER programs







Office of Science

Climate, Ocean, and Sea Ice Modeling Project

Yet another photo of Jakobshavn? Yawn ...

presentation goals & caveats ice sheet & atmos. / land model coupling ice sheet & ocean model coupling glacier & ice cap coupling to ESMs coupled land ice & ESM initialization

summary

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### **Goals & Caveats**

 provide overview of challenges associated with, and state of, efforts to couple models of land ice with Earth Systems Models (ESMs)

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• ... or, how do large-scale, (ideally) predictive ESM capabilities square with the discussions this week?

### "Have you coupled processes X and Y?"



### **Goals & Caveats**

- Caveats:
  - perspective is largely through past 5 yrs of work on coupling land ice models to the Community Earth System Model (CESM)
  - related efforts with similar and different challenges (and successes) are ongoing elsewhere (e.g., GFDL, NASA GISS/GSFC, various in U.K. and E.U.)
  - Many things are covered in passing or not at all (e.g. calving, melange, sea ice)

### **Community Earth System Model**

- CESM consists (largely) of:
  - Atmosphere model (CAM)
  - Land model (CLM)
  - Ocean model (POP)
  - Sea ice model (CICE)
  - Land ice model(s) (CISM)

### CESM Component Coupling: Hub (coupler) and Spokes (component models)



### **Greenland: Models vs. Observations**



Price et al. (*PNAS*, **108**(22), 2011)

Rignot & Mouginot, GRL, 39 (2012)

### Antarctica: Models vs. Observations



(courtesy of D. Martin & S. Cornford)

Rignot et al., Science, 333 (2011)

## Model for Prediction Across Scales (MPAS)

- Spherical Centroidal Voronoi Tesselations (SCVT); unstructured mesh framework for var. res. climate model components
- Atmos., ocean, land, sea ice & ice sheet components under devel.
- Enhance grid using arbitrary density function
- Shared framework (LANL-NCAR M<sup>3</sup>)
- Beta release (ocean) this year

var. res. global mesh: 120 - 30 km in S. Ocean



var. res. Greenland ice sheet mesh: 65 - 2 km



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### Ice Sheet & Atmos. / Land Coupling

Important processes & feedbacks to capture

- 1) Conservation of energy & mass (heat & moisture fluxes)
  - a) Freshwater flux betweeen ice sheet & ocean (SMB)
- 2) Impact of changing ice sheet geometry on:
  - a) SMB "free" using standard SMB downscaling schemes<sup>1</sup> (~5-10%)
  - b) Atmos. circulation "difficult"; currently requires restart of atmos. model using new (filtered?) surface topog<sup>2</sup> (~5-10%)
  - c) Albedo conceptually simple using "dynamic land units" (changing land types in time), but not standard in large-scale ESMs (?)

<sup>1</sup>Edwards et al., TCD, 2013a, 2013b (*Ice2Sea*) <sup>2</sup>J. Fyke / M. Vizcaino (pers. comm.)

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#### Importance to GRISO:

- 1. SMB is 0-order control on ice sheet geom. & vel. (& more so in future when margin does not contact ocean?)
- 2. SMB is 0-order control on GIS freshwater flux to ocean (important for fjord circulation & transfer of heat from ocean to fjords)

### **SMB** Downscaling

Use snowpack & energy balance model (EBM) in land model (CLM)

Precipitation on coarse atmos grid (~100 km) downscaled to fine (<=5km) ice sheet grid using lapse rate and hi-res DEM

Compute SMB in ~10 elevation classes from hi-res grid

- Avoid code duplication
- Better than PDD scheme (e.g., energetic consistency)
- Cost savings (~1/10 as many columns)
- "Dynamic land units" (in devel) allow for albedo feedbacks

## **SMB** Downscaling



Ice sheet  $\rightarrow$  Land (10 classes)

- Ice fraction and elevation
- Runoff and calving fluxesHeat flux to surface

Land  $\rightarrow$  Ice sheet (10 classes)

- Surface mass balance
- Surface elevation
- Surface temperature



#### **Surface Mass Balance Models**



#### CESM vs. RACMO SMB (5 km res)



Take RACMO as the "true" SMB

Current downscaling scheme gives reasonable comparison Underestimation of accum. in steep coastal regions

### CESM SMB (Gt/yr): 1980-2100



- Precipitation increases slightly over time
- Melt and runoff increase more
- SMB is persistently <= 0 after ~2070

### Ice Sheet & Atmos. / Land Coupling

#### Missing / poorly captured / in need of improvement:

- 1) 2-way coupling (geom. effect on atmos.) non-standard and clunky (offline filtering / creating of new topog; restarts)
- 2) Precip. downscaling non-standard (is it feasible at all?)
- 3) Downscaling scheme does not capture important orographic effects (in reality, not all cells at same elev. will have same SMB)
- 4) Coupling of land ice liquid / solid freshwater flux to ocean non-standard
- 5) Subglacial hydrology models non-standard (incorrect location & lagging of melt water input to ocean); Supra- & en-glacial models non-standard
- Albedo effects from changing land types non-standard ("dynamic land units", snow/ice → rock))
- 7) SMB biases, difficult to diagnose & remove, can cause very large biases in land ice geometry & evolution

Many of these are currently being tackled (1,4,5,6,7) &/or become less important w/ hi-res (var-res) models (2,3,7?)

#### **SMB Biases: CISM-CESM GIS Initial Condition**



### Subglacial Hydrology (simplistic, big picture)

Subglacial hydrology is a strong control on basal sliding (& thus ice discharge to ocean)



Zwally et al. (2002)

Subglacial hydrology is important to circulation within Greenland fjords



### **Evolutionary Subglacial Hydrology in CISM**

Conservative, 2d, time-dependent subglacial hydrology model, containing both distributed (macroporous film) and channelized elements<sup>1</sup>

Coupled to water-pressure dependent sliding law with theoretical<sup>2</sup> and observational<sup>3</sup> support



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### Ice Sheet & Ocean Coupling

Important processes & feedbacks to capture

- 1) Conservation of energy & mass between ice sheet & ocean
  - a) solid / liquid water & sensible / latent heat fluxes TO ocean
  - b) solid / liquid water & sensible / latent heat fluxes FROM ocean
- 2) Atmos. & ocean coupling
  - a) Warm / cool / moisture laden air mass advection to GIS
- 3) Freshwater effects on (local & regional) ocean circulation
- 4) Formation, advection, melting of sea ice (orphaned here)
- 5) Changes in sea level (eustatic + steric + circulation)

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#### Importance to GRISO:

- 1. Ocean heat content affect on marine outlet dynamics
- 2. Freshwater flux affecting local (fjord) and regional ocean circulation (& sea ice formation?)

### Ice Sheet & Ocean Coupling: Implementation

Ice Sheet Model: fairly trivial code alterations

#### Ocean Model (POP):

- 3d, primitive equations on the sphere, hydrostat. & Boussinesqe approx.
- Eularian grid in vert., depth as vert. coord. ("z coord.")
- Fixed volume: mean sea-level = fixed!
- Many tedious & fiddly changes for sub-shelf circulation

#### Ocean Model (MPAS)

- Largely the same equations
- ALE, z\* vert. coord., pressure forcing at sfc
- NOT fixed volume
- Sub-shelf circulation apparently trivial (so far)

## **New Ocean Model Grid**

#### Existing POP grid: No cavities under ice shelves



Figures courtesy of X. Asay-Davis (LANL / PIK) & M. Maltrud (LANL)

## **New Ocean Model Grid**

- Existing POP grid: No cavities under ice shelves
- New POP grid: Ice shelves replace by open ocean
- Bathymetry from RTOPO-1 data set (Timmermann et al. 2010)



### **Coupling Ice Sheet Model to Ocean Model**

#### **Current - Partial Cells Method**

- Interface represented by a stairstep & "partial top cells"
- Vertical (but not horizontal) heat and freshwater fluxes at interface (L >> H)
- Moving interface means that grid cells are added or removed from the ocean over time ("wetting"/ "drying")

Future – Immersed Bndry Method (maybe)



Figures courtesy of X. Asay-Davis (LANL / PIK)

# Boundary Layer Physics heat, salt, momentum and mass transport

- few observations under ice shelves
- use boundary layer theory validated for sea ice (McPhee 2008)
- includes stabilizing effect of stratification, very important for rapid melting
- Implemented in POP, not yet in MPAS-Ocean



Slide courtesy of Xylar Asay-Davis (LANL / PIK)

## **Coupling CISM to ocean circulation model**

POP



Figures courtesy of X. Asay-Davis (LANL / PIK)

Losch 2008

## Ice-Ocean Coupling: Antarctica / S. Ocean Simulation



Simulations and figures courtesy of X. Asay-Davis (LANL / PIK)

### **MPAS-Ocean: Ice Shelf & Ocean Coupling**



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- Apply surface pressure, increasing in time, to southern portion.
- Vertical coordinate is z\*; all layers compress proportionally.
- This is meant as a proof of concept to test robustness of the vertical coordinate, and not as a realistic land ice test.


#### **MPAS-Ocean: Ice Shelf & Ocean Coupling**

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#### Ice Sheet & Ocean Coupling

#### Missing / poorly captured / in need of improvement:

- 1) Hydrostatic models adequate? New mixing params. to go from nonhydrostatic fjord models to global-scale ocean models?
- 2) Adequate understanding / treatment of boundary layer physics?
- 3) Fjord / outlet resolution in ice sheet and ocean models: var. / hi-res. ocean models require "scale aware" parameters
- 4) Hi-res. models require hi-res. ice thickness and bathymetry (extreme outlet gl. sensitivity to small unc. in geom., e.g. E. Enderlin work)
- 5) For low-res, global models, large marginal fresh-water inputs can lead to negative salinities fixed by going to hi-res?
- 6) Need more obs for validation of modeled submarine melt
- Icebergs: 50% and 99% of freshwater flux to oceans in GIS and Ant., respectively. Thermodynamic and mechanical effects currently ignored in most ocean / sea-ice models.

#### Ice Sheet & Ocean Coupling

#### Bintanja et al., Nat Geos. (2013)



Recent trends in Ant. sea-ice extent better explained when accounting for freshwater flux from iceberg discharge AMOC "hosing" experiments: much less sensitive when using realistic spatial distribution of freshwater around GIS margin



#### Ice Sheet / Ocean / Sea Ice Coupling

Thermal and mechanical effects of icebergs on sea ice and ocean



Tabular iceberg opening sea-ice lead ... new ice forming in lee

## Ocean and sea-ice evolution influence melange properties



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Sastrugi, Jakobshavn Isbrae catchment, Greenlar

#### **G&IC Coupling to ESMs**

Important processes / feedbacks & relevance to GRISO have been discussed already (e.g., solid / liquid freshwater flux to oceans, albedo effects on larger ice sheet, etc.)

#### **Current Approaches:**

- predict SMB as already discussed
- RGI and volume-area scaling for initial condition (on V&A)
- Evolve G&IC in time using SMB evolution and V&A scaling
   Issues:
- SMB biases even more problematic for smaller ice masses
- Large no. of tidewater glaciers how to treat statistically?

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SS init. cond. for GIS (10 km res; tuned to bal vels)







When the coupling to SMB field is turned "on", ice sheet does this ...



Gillet-Chaulet et al., TC (2012)



Aschwanden et al., *TC* (2013)

#### Problem:

Method 1: Can tune model to fit observations of modern vels and shape ...

... but then ESM SMB is NOT in equilb. w/ ice sheet

**Method 2:** Can "spin-up" model to (try and) include ~10<sup>4</sup>-10<sup>5</sup> yr transients (e.g., temperature), and possibly even capture realistic modern mass trends ...

... but no (easy) way to constrain to also fit today's vels and shape

- \* Solution:
- Use method 1 with ...

 ad hoc additional tuning of sliding coeff. and ice thickness to minimize difference between model flux divergence and ESM SMB (should be ~0)

 Formal PDE-constrained optimization used during initialization process

\* For now, assume quasi-equilibrium initial (1850) conditions

Optimization Problem: find  $\beta$  that minimizes the functional  $\mathcal{J}$ 

$$\mathcal{J}_{1}(\beta, H) = \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{d} \int_{\Gamma} |\operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{U}H) - \tau_{s}|^{2} ds + \qquad (\text{SMB mismatch})$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{v} \int_{\Gamma_{top}} |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}^{obs}|^{2} ds + \qquad (\text{surface velocity mismatch})$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{H} \int_{\Gamma} |H - H^{obs}|^{2} ds + \qquad (\text{observed thickness mismatch})$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\beta) + \mathcal{R}(H) \qquad (\text{regularizations}).$$

such that the ice sheet model equations (FO or Stokes) are satisfied

U: computed depth averaged velocity H: ice thickness  $\beta$ : basal sliding friction coefficient  $\tau_s$ : SMB  $\mathcal{R}(\beta)$  regularization term

\*\* Heavy lifting by Georg Stadler (UT) & Mauro Perego (SNL)



Figures from Mauro Perego (SNL)

1.45

sliding coeff.

beta (kPa yr / m) 0.600 0.800 1.00 1.20 1.40

0.548

sfc speed

#### Truth (synthetic)

... add noise to SMB & thickness ...

Recovered (It works!)



beta (kPa yr / m)



#### surf. vel. magn. (m / yr) 14.0 15.0 16.0 17.0 18.0 13.2 19.0



#### target SMB

div. flux (m / yr) -0.200 -0.100 0.00 0.100 0.200	
-0.256	0.256
1.1	
div. flux (m / yr)	
-0.200 -0.100 0.00	0.100 0.200



Figures from Mauro Perego (SNL)

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### Summary

- ESM and ice sheet modeling communities are making good progress on coupling
- Still lots left to do (much of it unglamorous: software-level)
- New hi-res / var-res models in devel. May "fix" many current shortcomings (?)
- Plenty of new work to do coming up with suitable params. of process-scale models (e.g. non-hydrostat processes)

#### **Questions:**

- Are we adequately engaging sea-ice community?
- Are we using CMIP4 / 5 archives to our advantage (e.g. Yin et. al, *Nat. Geosc.*, 2011)?















#### Future: Moving Boundaries using IBMs

- Immersed Boundary Method
  - includes ghost cells adjacent to boundary
  - implicit representation of sloped interface geometry
  - as ice sheet retreats, ghost cells become new ocean cells
  - no partial cells, so never have infinitesimally thin cells



Figures courtesy of X. Asay-Davis (LANL / PIK)

 Empirically, observed ELA occurs where accumulation area=0.57\*total area [Bahr et al., 2009]



- Simulated SMB fields can be compared against RGI-derived hypsometry
- ELA (line of net 0 ice gain/loss) useful as a composite indicator of T/P conditions: gives a glaciologically-relevant, globalcoverage metric of climate model performance: vertical ELA bias



## Ocean Model features needed for ice shelf simulations

- Sub-shelf circulation
  - Ocean surface is not sea level
  - Vertical walls
  - Changing upper surface elevation
- Mass and tracer fluxes at ice-ocean interface
- Boundary-layer physics (working in POP)
- Sea ice model (in early stages of development)
- Coupling to Land Ice Model

 Issue: how to evaluate CESM non-ice-sheet SMB, given extreme sparsity of SMB observations?





#### **Coupling CISM to CESM Atmos. / Land**



#### **Coupling: Surface Mass Balance**

Four models compared for 1960-2008 using ECMWF reanalysis (Polar MM5, RACMO, MAR, ECMWF-downscale)

Net SMB agrees to within 34%

Variation relative to component means:

42% (runoff), 20% (precip), melt (38%), refreeze (83%)

Less agreement regionally

Compared w/ obs., better agreement for accum. than ablation zone (higher uncertainty in modeled ablation processes)

Use of a single, common ice sheet mask crucial for comparing model and data
## RCP8.5 GIS sea level rise contribution predictions (Lipscomb et al., in press)

 Best initial GIS configurations generate 7.3 cm of eustatic sea level rise (SLR) 1850-2100



# RCP8.5 GIS sea level rise contribution predictions





Calving front of Jakobshavn Isbrae, Greenland





Model output: sheet thickness, water pressure, water flux, etc.

#### Kanger. Glacier Bed and Offshore Topography



#### Jak. Isbræ Bed and Offshore Topography





#### **New Hi-Res Data Will Require Refined / Unstructured Grids**



Gillet-Chaulet et al., *TCD* (2012)

#### **Community Earth System Model**

- CESM consists (largely) of:
  - Atmosphere model (CAM)
  - Land model (CLM)
  - Ocean model (POP)
  - Sea ice model (CICE)
  - Land ice model(s) (CISM)
    - 3d, regular / structured grid, SIA, FDM<sup>1</sup> (current)
    - " <sup>1st</sup>-order ("Blatter-Pattyn"), FDM<sup>2,3</sup> (summer / fall 2013)
    - 2d, depth-integrated, block-structured AMR, "L1L2", FVM<sup>4</sup> (early 2014?)
    - 3d, unstructured, var-res (MPAS), SIA $\rightarrow$ Stokes, FEM<sup>5,6</sup> (2014?)

<sup>1</sup>Rutt et al., 2009 <sup>2</sup>Price et al., 2011 <sup>3</sup>Lemeiux et al., 2011 <sup>4</sup>Cornford et al., 2012 <sup>5</sup>Perego et al., 2012 <sup>6</sup>Leng et al., 2012

#### **Evolutionary Subglacial Hydrology in CISM**

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Coupled to water-pressure dependent sliding law with theoretical<sup>2</sup> and observational<sup>3</sup> support



<sup>1</sup>Hoffman et al., AGU 2012 (after Creyts, Flowers, Hewitt, Schoof, Werder) <sup>2</sup>Schoof, 2005 <sup>3</sup>Iverson, 2011



- Surface pressure applied to southern 150km, constant in time.
- Baroclinic instability in northern portion.



Slide courtesy of Mark Petersen (LANL)

#### Coupling (offline) of Ice Sheet & Ocean



#### Ice Sheet & Ocean Coupling: Challenges



Warming at depths of 200-500 m (Yin et al. Nat. Geosc. 2011)



Y. Xu et al. AGU (2007)



Sciascia et al. JGR (2013)



#### Ice-Ocean Coupling: Antarctica / S. Ocean Simulation



Simulations and figures courtesy of X. Asay-Davis (LANL / PIK)

#### Measuring Submarine Melt Rates Using Phase-Sens. Airborne Radar





Brinkerhoff et al., TCD (2013)

### **Coupled Land Ice & ESM Initialization**

sliding coeff. sfc speed

0.600 0.800 0.548

0.600

0.548

0.800

beta (kPa yr / m) 800 1.00 1.20 1.2	10	surf. vel. r 14.0 15.0 1	nagn. (m / y 6.0 17.0 18	r) 3.0	div. -0.200 -0.100	. flux (m / yr) 0 0.00 0.100	0.200
1.4	5	13.2		19.0	-0.256		0.256
beta (kPa yr / m) .800 1.00 1.20 1.	40	surf. vel. 14.0 15.0	magn. (m / y 16.0 17.0 1	r) 8.0	div -0.200 -0.10	/. flux (m / yr) 0 0.00 0.100	0.200
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