Global implications of Arctic climate processes and feedbacks



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GLIMPSE - Global implications of Arctic climate processes and feedbacks

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Global Implications of Arctic climate processes and feedbacks

- The GLIMPSE project will address the deficiencies in our understanding of the Arctic by developing, in concert with ARCMIP, improved physical descriptions of Arctic climate feedbacks in atmospheric and coupled regional climate models.
- The improved parameterizations will be implemented into global climate system models, to determine their global influences and consequences for decadal-scale climate variations.
- These results will be used to assess the probability of abrupt climate changes on decadal time scales in the past and in the future.



Outline

1. Motivation

2. Arctic Focus

- 2.1 Regional atmospheric models
- 2.2 Atmospheric boundary layer
- 2.3 Improved snow and sea-ice albedo param.
- 2.4 Coupled regional models of the Arctic
- 3. Global atmospheric circulation pattern
 - 3.1 Global impacts of snow and sea-ice albedo param.
 - 3.2 Global impacts of stratospheric ozone chem.-dynamics
- 4. Origin of circulation regimes and decadel variability
- 5. Summary and outlook

1. Motivation Arctic → Integral part of the Earth System





Natural Variability or anthropogenic trends?

Arctic surface air temperature trends (°C) Winter (DJF) 1943-2002 Chapman and Walsh, http://zubov.atmos.uiuc.edu/ARCTIC



Arctic/North Atlantic Oscillation (winter)

Dominating spatial variability pattern of sea-level pressure or geopotential Leading EOF (19%) of the geopotential height anomalies (m) at 1000 hPa

 $Geopotential: \phi = gz \rightarrow (1gpm = 9.81m^2s^{-2} = 9.81ms^{-2}m)$



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Temporal variation of the NAO Index, Hurrell 2002 Normalized SLP difference between Azoric High (Lisbon) and Icelandic Low (Stykkisholmur)



Temporal variation of the NAO Index, Hurrell 2002 Normalized SLP difference between Azoric High (Lisbon) and Icelandic Low (Stykkisholmur)



Quasi-Stationary planetary waves, NH winter

- Atmospheric circulation patterns → forced by orography of the surface, land-sea contrasts and baroclinic cyclones of mid-latitudes
- Global high and low pressure patterns are the fly wheels (Schwungrad) of the climate systems → determine climate variations on decadel scales
- Increase with height, propagate into the stratosphere and introduce radiation-dynamic feedbacks with the stratospheric ozone layer

DJF Geopotential field at 1.5 km height DJF Geopotential field at 12 km height







Regional feedbacks

Absorption of solar and emission of thermal radiation Polar night and Polar day→ each 6 months Radiative effects of clouds, aerosols, ice particles Turbulence in the stable planetary boundary layer Coupling with Arctic ocean and sea-ice Albedo and energy balance at the cold surface

Global scale interactions

T, **q**

Momentum, heat and humidity advection Interaction of global circulation and teleconnection pattern with regional Arctic processes and their parameterizations

diagram from SHEBA Science Plan



2.1 Regional atmospheric models

Regional climate modeling method

High horizontal resolution of regional topographic structures in the RCM, improved simulation of cyclones



Model simulations, parameterizations and measurements



ARCMIP - Arctic Regional Climate Model Intercomparison Project

Participating models

- 1. ARCSyM (USA)
- 2. COAMPS (S,USA)
- 3. HIRHAM (D,DK)
- 4. CRCM (C)
- 5. RCA (S)
- 6. RegCM (N)
- 7. REMO (D)

8. PolarMM5 (USA)

Experiment 1

 Simulations for one year SHEBA period
 Sept 1997-Sept 1998
 have been carried out

Experimental set-up

- Same domain
- Same horizontal resolution
- Same boundary conditions
- Different dynamics/physics

SHEBA 1997/98

The surface heat budget components of the Arctic Ocean have been measured

Trajectory of the SHEBA ice camp in the Beaufort-Chukchi sea

Application of RCMs for the SHEBA subdomain and the pan-Arctic domain



Winter ensemble mean

Winter ensemble stdev.

(m)

(%)

 (W/m^2)

12

25

20

15

10

10



Realistic reproduction of the observed winter climate, geopotential height 850 & 500 hPa, 2 m temperature, total cloud cover, longwave and shortwave downward radiation, Scatter between the participating models

- 2m temperature over land up to 7 K
- surface radiation fluxes up to 35 W/m²
- cloud cover 25 %

Intercomparison of temperature and humidity profiles for SHEBA domain and year

(Rinke et al., Climate Dyn., 2006)



- → Remarkable scatter between model temperature and humidity profiles (due to different radiation, clouds, aerosols, PBL, soil and permafrost schemes)
- → Temperature scatter in the order of 3°C (in the range of climate change scenarios)
- → Need for improved parameterizations of Arctic climate processes

Measurements and modelling approach → IPY

Measurements are needed for the improved model description and parameterizations of:

- 1. Surface radiative and turbulent fluxes
- 2. Stable Arctic boundary layer
- 3. Temperature and humidity inversions
- 4. Arctic Haze, aerosols and clouds
- 5. Low ice crystal clouds
- 6. Convective plumes due to leads in the sea-ice
- 7. Sea-ice dynamic and thermodynamic processes



2.2 Atmospheric boundary layer

Monthly averages of the SHEBA year 1997/98 for the models participating in ARCMIP: Shortwave and longwave radiation, surface albedo, cloud cover, water content.

Big uncertainties in the Arctic climate simulations due to:

Surface albedo, clouds and PBL turbulence

Wyser and Jones 2004



Different turbulent closure schemes for the APBL in winter

ECHAM3_MO

Monin Obukhov similarity theory in the surface layer Mixing length approach in the Ekman layer

ECHAM3_RO

Extension of similarity theory to the whole planetary boundary layer Coriolis force included

ECHAM4_TKE

MO in the surface layer and TKE closure in the Ekman layer



Nonlinear energy cascade of space and time scales in the atmosphere → atmospheric energy spectrum



HIRHAM with ECHAM3_MO

HIRHAM with ECHAM3_RO

HIRHAM with ECHAM4_TKE



MSLP (hPa) and 10 m wind for July 1990 over sea-ice regions for atmospheric HIRHAM simulations with different turbulent PBL closure schemes, but identical lower and lateral boundary forcing

→ Arctic PBL turbulence parameterization influences the regional circulation structures, Dethloff et al., Tellus, 2001

 M slp

 Above 1016.0

 10150 4016.0

 10130 4014.0

 10130 4014.0

 10110 4012.0

 1011.0 4012.0

 1010.0 4011.0

 10080 4010.0

 10080 4009.0

 1007.0 4008.0

 Below 1007.0

🛶 5 m/s



2.3 Improved snow and sea-ice albedo parameterization

Snow and sea-ice albedo feedback





- Ice, snow and clouds are the stabilizer and brakes of the climate system
- They regulate atmospheric temperature by reflecting much of the incoming solar radiation
- Ice-albedo feedback: Self accelerating feedback loop

water-vapour-cloud feedbacks changes

Temperature increase → melting ice and snow → open water forms → reduced solar reflection

New snow and sea ice albedo schemes from satellite and SHEBA data

(measured surface energy budget components)

Snow albedo:

 Surface temperature dependent scheme; different for forested (linear dependency) and non-forested (polynomial approach) areas → Roesch (2000) for Russian land stations

Sea ice albedo:

- 3 different surface types (snow covered ice, bare sea-ice, melt ponds and leads)
- Surface temperature dependent scheme; linear dependency
 → Køltzow et al. (2004)
- → The gross features of the annual surface albedo cycle are reproduced by using a surface temperature dependent scheme
- → Implementation into the RCM HIRHAM

New snow and ice albedo parameterization in HIRHAM

Mean spring (AMJ) 2m temperature (°C) in control and new albedo runs (Saha et al., 2006)



- → New albedo scheme leads to temperature decrease over the Arctic Ocean
- → Increased temperature gradient between tropics and Arctic with potential global implications
- \rightarrow Impact on Arctic sea-ice in coupled models expected

New snow and ice albedo parameterization in HIRHAM

compared with ERA-40 → mean of 8 May months (1991-1998) (Køltzow et al., 2005)



- → New albedo scheme improves 2m temperatures in spring and autumn
- → Improved simulation of MSLP in spring and autumn (but not in mid-summer compared to ERA-40)



2.4 Coupled regional models of the Arctic

Integration domain of the coupled A-O-I model HIRHAM-NAOSIM



Atmosphere model HIRHAM

- parallelized HIRHAM
- 110×100 grid points
- horizontal resolution 0.5°

Ocean model (MOM + EVP)

- AWI's regional NAOSIM
- 242×169 grid points
- horizontal resolution 0.25°

Total volume of Arctic sea-ice 1989–2000



Ice volume, GLIMPSE coupled RCMs

- \rightarrow Spin-up of about 6–10 years to reach quasi-stationary ice volume
- → Year to year variations in ice volume for HIRHAM–NAOSIM and ORCM shows similar fluctuations (consequence of variability in external atmospheric forcing)

Sea-ice concentration (Big anomaly of September 1998) from SSMI and sensitivity simulation with the coupled model HIRHAM-NAOSIM and the new ice albedo scheme



Dorn et al., JGR 2006, submitted
Sea-ice concentration (Big anomaly of September 1998) from SSMI and sensitivity simulation with the coupled model HIRHAM-NAOSIM and the new ice albedo scheme



Dorn et al., JGR 2006, submitted

Sea-ice concentration (Big anomaly of September 1998)

from SSMI and two 10 year long simulations with the coupled model using a lead closing parameter of 1.2 and the new ice albedo scheme





Mean sea-level pressure in hPa (June-September 1998)



h1.2-alb

ECMWF

SSMI Special Sensor Microwave Imager

Sea-ice concentration (Big anomaly of September 1998) from SSMI and two 10 year long simulations with the coupled model

using a lead closing parameter of 1.2 and the new ice albedo scheme





Bias in the cyclonic circulation of the atmosphere over the Kara sea.

Current biases for radiation in the range of 5 W/m² (Summer) and 20 W/m² (Winter) due to the influence of cloud feedbacks.

 \rightarrow Radiative response in CO2 scenario runs \rightarrow 2.5 W/m²?

Strong regional atmospheric-sea-ice feedbacks during summer which are not understood good enough.

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SSMI Special Sensor Microwave Imager

NP 35 (August 2007-March2008) "Arctic PBL and synoptic cyclones" ARCMIP and CARCMIP in the pan-Arctic domain



Measurements on Russian North Pole drifting station NP 35 Comparison against simulations with coupled and uncoupled RCMS



3. Global atmospheric circulation pattern

Global climate simulations with the coupled atmosphere-ocean model ECHO-G

- Atmosphere: ECHAM4/T30/L19 (~ 3.75°, 19 layers)
- Ocean: HOPE-G/T42er/L20 (~ 2.8°, 20 layers)
 Zorita et al. (2004)
- Unforced (control) run over 1000 years with fixed solar constant (1365 W/m²) and CO₂ (353 ppm)
 - \rightarrow climate variations due to internal nonlinear dynamics
- Forced (historic) run over 500 years with reconstructed variations of solar irradiance, volcanic dust indices, and greenhouse gases
 - → climate variations due to changes in external forcing and internal nonlinear dynamics

1000 yr run of ECHO-G with constant external forcing EOF1, 500 hPa, NH, DJF

EOF 1 GPH500hPa 17.72 %



500 yr run of ECHO-G with

time dependent external forcing

EOF1, 500 hPa, NH, DJF

EOF 1 GPH500hPa 17.32 %

Arctic Oscillation, Strength of Aleutian high increases in the forced run Projection of GHG & aerosols on natural circulation modes

1000 yr run of ECHO-G constant external forcing PC1, 500 hPa, NH, DJF

Wavelet transform spectra of PC1 Thick contour shows 95 % confidence level for a corresponding red noise process Dashed-dotted lines separate regions where edge effects are important

500 yr run of ECHO-G time dependent external forcing PC1, 500 hPa, NH, DJF



Large amount of energy on decadel time scales

Decadel scale climate changes as a result of nonlinear dynamics, Coupling of dynamics and external forcing, **Casty, C. et al., 2005**.

North Atlantic Oscillation in MSLP (hPa)

500 year long simulations with ECHAM4/OPYC, DMI



North Atlantic Oscillation in MSLP (hPa)

500 year long simulations with ECHAM4/OPYC, DMI





3.1 Global impacts of improved snow and sea-ice albedo parameterization

New snow and ice albedo parameterization in ECHO-G

(= global coupled atmosphere-ocean model ECHAM4/HOPE-G)

(Benkel et al., 2006)



Year



← Red lines: 5 mill. km²

 \rightarrow New albedo scheme **improves Arctic sea-ice** area and extent during summer (associated with increase in ice volume)

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Diagnostic with localized Eliassen-Palm fluxes

Interaction between the time mean state and the transient eddies

 $\frac{Du}{Dt} - fv^* = \nabla \cdot \vec{E}_u$ $\frac{Dv}{Dt} + fu^* = \nabla \cdot \vec{E}_v$ Divergence operator $\nabla = \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{1}{\rho_o} \frac{\partial \rho_o}{\partial z} \right|$ $\vec{E}_{u} = \left| \frac{1}{2} \left(\vec{v'^{2}} - \vec{u'^{2}} \right), -\vec{u'v'}, f \frac{\vec{v'\phi_{z'}}}{S} \right| \quad \vec{E}_{v} = \left| -\vec{u'v'}, -\frac{1}{2} \left(\vec{v'^{2}} - \vec{u'^{2}} \right), -f \frac{\vec{v'\phi_{z'}}}{S} \right|$ **Barotropic component** Baroclinic component of EP fluxes of EP fluxes → Decribes the barotropic feedback \rightarrow Decribes the baroclinic feedback between the mean state and the between the mean state and the transient transient waves due to momentum waves due to heat fluxes fluxes

Diagnostic with localized Eliassen-Palm Fluxes (EPF)

(interaction between the time mean state and the transient eddies) (Sokolova et al., 2006)

EPF difference (m²s⁻²) ECHO-G "New albedo minus control run" for 8 years



Atlantic



Diagnostic with localized Eliassen-Palm Fluxes (EPF)

(interaction between the time mean state and the transient eddies) (Sokolova et al., 2006)

EPF difference (m²s⁻²) ECHO-G "New albedo minus control run" for 8 years





Zonal wind changes and zonally averaged Eliassen-Palm Fluxes (EPF), (Dethloff et al., GRL 2006)

ECHO-G "New albedo minus control run" for 8 years

100



Zonal wind differences (ms⁻¹)



Zonally averaged EPF differences (10⁶ m³s⁻²) (10-90 days)

Wave-like wind changes and stronger EP Fluxes on seasonal time scales

New snow and ice albedo parameterization in ECHO-G 500 hPa geopotential difference (gpm) "New albedo minus control run" (thick black contours = 95% significance level)



Non-Stationarity of the AO/NAO pattern, (Dethloff et al., 2006)

New snow and ice albedo parameterization in ECHO-G 500 hPa geopotential difference (gpm) "New albedo minus control run" (thick black contours = 95% significance level)



Non-Stationarity of the AO/NAO pattern, (Dethloff et al., 2006)



3.2 Global impacts of stratospheric ozone chemistry-dynamics

→ Funded by the virtual institute Pole-Equator-Pole of the German Helmholtz-Association

Phases of the NAO in the stratosphere (Wallace 2000)



Stratosphere colder as usual
 → Enhanced ozone depletion
 due to chlorine compounds FCKW
 → Less ozone in the Arctic

Positive phase Colder stratosphere



Negative phase Warmer (less cold) stratosphere

Wind (m/s) and temperature (K) in the stratosphere



Wind (m/s) and temperature (K) in the stratosphere

Expected greenhouse warming connected with:

- \rightarrow Cooling of the polar stratosphere
- → Increased polar vortex with stronger zonal winds
- → Lowered stratospheric temperatures increases ozone depletion in the presence of chlorine compounds (FCKW)
- → Ozone hole of polar stratosphere
- → Tropo-stratospheric feedback changes
 → Influence on AO?





Zonal wind (m/s) mean of years 11-25



ECHO-GiSP interactive Stratosphere, Potsdam with prescribed Ozone (AWI Potsdam)



ECHO-GiSP with interactive Stratospheric Ozone chemistry (AWI Potsdam) Brand et al., 2006, in preparation

Zonal wind differences (m/s) due to stratospheric Dynamic-Radiation-Chemistry feedbacks



Wind changes in mid-latitudes during winter tropo-stratospheric coupling → Asymmetries between NH and SH

Geopotential height differences (gpm) on 200 hPa



Geopotential and planetary wave changes in mid-latitudes during winter → vertical (Tropo-Strato) and meridional (Tropics-Polar) coupling

Geopotential height differences (gpm) on 200 hPa

geopoth: coup-ref, yrs 11-25, 200 hPa, gpm 22 - The second 30 TR **Preliminary results:** \rightarrow Planetary wave activity in mid-latitudes enhanced in interactive AOGCM with stratospheric chemistry \rightarrow Zonalwind reduction and planetary wave increase \rightarrow Shift to a negative AO phase in the stratosphere? \rightarrow Would warm the stratosphere and reduce ozone

Geopotential and planetary wave changes in mid-latitudes during winter → vertical (Tropo-Strato) and meridional (Tropics-Polar) coupling

hole?



4. Origin of circulation regimes and decadel variability

Objectives

- 1. Reality-near model simulations of the climate state, its variability and regime behaviour of the atmospheric circulation
- 2. Understanding the origin of atmospheric regime behaviour and testing hypothesis

Requirements for the model:

Complex enough for topic 1, idealised enough for topic 2

→ quasi-geostrophic three-layer model of the atmosphere T21 spectral model, 1000 year long simulations



First EOF of 833 hPa geopotential height: Arctic Oscillation



AO-Index in a three-layer model



Decadel variations are due to the internal nonlinear dynamics of the model atmosphere!

Sempf et al., J. Atmos. Sci. 2006

PC1 time series of 833 hPa geopotential (normalised) \rightarrow Sign corresponds to AO+ and AO-, two 100 year integrations with a lower and a higher value for baroclinicity, α = 0.72 (top) and α = 0.76 (bottom)



PC1 time series of 833 hPa geopotential (normalised) \rightarrow Sign corresponds to AO+ and AO-, two 100 year integrations with a lower and a higher value for baroclinicity, α = 0.72 (top) and α = 0.76 (bottom)

Friction processes, PBL parameterizations and ratio between baroclinicity/barotropicity of atmospheric processes determines residence times in AO regimes

Changes in the residence times of regimes, high- and low-index regimes (AO+, AO-) → implications for climate change scenarios → paleoclimatic changes!



5. Summary and outlook



Feedbacks and parameterizations are key processes in the climate system and poorly understood

- → Decadel-scale climate variations are a result of nonlinear atmospheric dynamics and complex A-O-I feedbacks
- → Snow- and Sea-Ice albedo and stratospheric feedbacks trigger negative AO phases; GHG: positive AO phases
- → Improved understanding of feedbacks between natural and external/anthropogenic forcing factors needed.
- → Could deliver more reliable climate projections

To reduce uncertainties

- \rightarrow Large-scale synoptic studies of Arctic key processes
- → Improved description of sea-ice dynamics, permafrost, PBL and cloud schemes and regional A-O-I feedbacks
- → Importance of IPY 2007- 08, Pan-Arctic coordination
- → Improved model formulation ARCMIP, CARCMIP
- \rightarrow Synthesis of regional and global models & data

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The End

Direct climatic effect of Arctic aerosols in HIRHAM4

(Implementation of an aerosol block without advection of aerosols, Strong Arctic aerosol loading in Spring \rightarrow Arctic Haze)



MSLP fields (hPa) after 20 days of simulation for March 1990. Control run (solid lines) and Aerosol run (dashed lines).



Rinke et al. (2004)

Changes in the development of cyclones over the Arctic Ocean

Direct radiative forcing effect of aerosols on the mean sea level pressure (Fortmann et al., 2004)

(ensemble of 8 March months)

(Aerosol run minus Control run)

ECHAM4 cloud parameterization (Rockel et al., 1991)





Influence of cloud parameterizations on the mean sea level pressure as indirect aerosol effect

(Cloud run minus Control run)

Indirect aerosol effect taken into account Cloud droplet concentration depends on sulfate mass, (Boucher et al., 1995)

Changes in the optical properties of water and ice clouds



Impact of indirect aerosol effects on the Barents Sea Oscillation

Improved snow albedo scheme (left) and sea ice albedo scheme (right), Benkel et al., 2006

Black \rightarrow Old albedo scheme

Red \rightarrow New albedo scheme



Mean seasonal cycle (1996-1999) of selected variables averaged over all sea areas north of 70°N from ERA-40 reanalysis data and simulations of HIRHAM– NAOSIM. Observed mean sea-ice cover is based on SSMI data instead of ERA-40. Fluxes are positive towards the ocean–ice surface, Dorn et al., 2006



Temperature, longwave radiative and cloud bias compared to ERA-40 reanalysis data for mean over period 1996-1999

Strong sensitivity of atmospheric and ice variables with respect to:

→ sea-ice albedo parameterization → relationship between lateral and basal sea-ice growth



Reference period for the observational data: 1979-1999. Observational data from Parkinson and Cavalieri (2002).

	Obs.	Old	New
Sea Ice extend over Baffin Bay, Labrador Sea, Greenland Sea, and Gulf of St. Lawrence (MAM mean) [10 ⁶ km ²]	2.3	3.0	2.4
NH sea ice extend (Sep) [10 ⁶ km ²]	6.9	6.2	7.2
NH sea ice extend (Mar) [10 ⁶ km ²]	15.3	16.9	16.3