Assessment of ESA GlobAlbedo for climate model applications

### examples using MPI-ESM

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### Surface albedo

- ... of major importance for climate
  - -local, regional (water & energy)





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- ... of major importance for climate
  - -local, regional (water & energy)

-global



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Snowball Earth

### Surface albedo

- ... of major importance for climate
  - -local, regional (water & energy)
    -global
- Small numbers
  - How small is small enough (accuracy requirements, sensitivities)?



# "Small" effect big impact ...



# Sahelian drought

- largest climate anomaly observed so far (recent times)
- Severe impact on humans
- Vegetation/surface albedo feedback as amplifier





### Meteosat surface albedo





### Surface albedo feedback



Charney, 1977; Schnitzler et al., 2001, Zheng & Yoon, 2009, Taylor et al., 2011



Loew, A., Raddatz, T., Bader, J.: Annual to decadal Sahelian rainfall variability: the role of surface albedo. in preparation



### Earth system models





### Globalbedo & MPI-ESM

1.Usability of GlobAlbedo for climate model evaluation?

2.How does usage of GlobAlbedo alter the simulated climate? (feedback)



### Climate model evaluation

• **Objective:** Value of GlobAlbedo for climate model benchmarking?



### Automated model evaluation



pyCMBS = python Climate Model Benchmarking Suite



### Automated model evaluation



*pyCMBS* = *python Climate Model Benchmarking Suite* 



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### https://github.com/pygeo/pycmbs

C ......

# Work performed

- ✓ Integration of GlobAlbedo (BHR, DHR) data into pyCMBS framework
- ✓ Use GlobAlbedo for evaluation of CMIP5 model simulations
- ✓ Use results as part of CMIP5 surface radiation assessment paper



### Monthly mean surface albedo

- Surface albedo model:  $\frac{\bar{F}^{\uparrow}}{\bar{F}^{\downarrow}}$
- Observations:
  - CLARA-SAL (CM-SAF) = BSA
  - MODIS WSA
  - CERES
  - Globalbedo (BHR, DHR)





Blue sky albedo product would be probably usefull

### CMIP5 radiation assessment

Multimodel mean land surface albedo



Climatological difference with ...





### Model ranking





AMIP



-0.10

-0.05

0.00

CLARA.

### CMIP5 radiation assessment

JOURNAL OF CLIMATE

• Surface solar radiation flux components

archive (AMIP,

Assessing land surface solar radiation fluxes in the CMIP5 ensemble

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### ABSTRACT

Earth System models (ESM) are indispensable tools in climate studies. The Climate Modelling Intercomparison Project (CMIP) is a coordinated effort of the Earth System Modelling community to evaluate the state-of-the art in ESMs. An accurate representation of the terrestrial surface fluxes remains a major challenge in earth system modelling. As the land surface water and energy fluxes are closely related with each other and the terrestrial carbon fluxes, the capability of ESMs to simulate these surface fluxes is of major importance. The present study analyzes the ensemble of CMIP5 models and focuses on the evaluation of land surface solar radiation fluxes. It analyzes more than 90% of the CMIP5 models and experiments for present day climate conditions (AMIP, HISTORICAL). It provides the first thorough assessment of surface solar radiation fluxes for CMIP5. The accuracy of each model is quantified against different observational datasets using various skill scores. A unique element is that the study also analyzes how different observational dataset affect the relative ranking between models. It is shown that the model ranking largely varies dependent on the observations chosen. As a consequence the choice of the observational record has a strong effect. It is illustrated that uncertainties in the model ranking are in general smaller between different experiments (AMIP, HISTORICAL) rather than the uncertainties related to the observational datasets themselves. It is therefore concluded that in most cases "good models are always good models".



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• Whole CMIP5

HISTORICAL)

Loew et al., 2014, submitted, JC

### Towards integrated model evaluation



Meehl et al., 2014



## Summary evaluation

- GlobAlbedo provides a useful and competetive data product that is usefull for climate model benchmarking similar to other existing datsets.
- <u>Recommendation</u>: study value for regional climate studies (interannual anomalies)
- Integration of GlobAlbedo in ESMValTool for continuous model benchmarking in CMIP6



# GlobAlbedo as boundary condition in MPI-ESM



### Does it matter?

• Objective: Using GlobAlbedo as model boundary condition.





### Tasks

- ✓Integrate GlobAlbedo as boundary condition in MPI-ESM
- ✓ Perform dedicated (AMIP like) model simulations
- ✓ Validate model results and assess impact on climate



### Data and methods

- MPI-ESM
- GlobAlbedo 0.5° product
- CMIP5 simulations (as independent reference + internal variability)
- 1. Perform CTRL simulation with standard model setup (AMIP)
- 2. Perform EXPERIMENT with GlobAlbedo as boundary condition



### Results





### Effect on temperature







### Effect on temperature



 $\rightarrow$  Motivation to improve ice albedo parameterization!



### Temperature analysis

• Where are larger differences between CTRL and EXPERIMENT?



### IPCC regions



### Temperature analysis

• Where are larger differences between CTRL and EXPERIMENT?

**EXPERIMENT - CTRL** 





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IPCC regions

### Do we get improvement? RMSD

CTRL - OBS





Difference between temperature observations and simulations



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### Summary impact assessment

- Impact mainly on regional scale
- Mainly slight improvement of T2m simulations using GlobAlbedo
- Improvement of ice albedo required in MPI-ESM



### Conclusions

- GlobAlbedo turned out to be a very usefull dataset for different aspects of climate modelling
- More regional analyis required
- More longterm data record required (temporal anomalies); QA4ECV

