

PMIP4/CMIP6 Last Interglacial simulations using different versions of MIROC, with and without vegetation feedback

*Ryouta O'ishi¹, Wing-Le Chan¹, Ayako Abe-Ouchi^{1,2,3}, Sam Sherriff-Tadano¹, Rumi Ohgaito³

1. Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, the University of Tokyo, 2. National Institute of Polar Research, 3. Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology

We carry out a Last Interglacial (LIG) experiment, named lig127k and a Tier1 experiment of PMIP4/CMIP6, using three versions of the MIROC model, MIROC4m, MIROC4m-LPJ and MIROC-ES2L. The results are compared with reconstructions from climate proxy data. All models show summer warming over northern high latitude land, reflecting the differences between the distributions of the LIG and present-day solar irradiance. Only MIROC4m-LPJ, which includes dynamical vegetation feedback from the change in vegetation distribution, shows warming signals, even for the annual mean, at northern high latitudes, as shown by proxy data. However, the latest Earth System Model (ESM) of MIROC, MIROC-ES2L, in which there is only a partial vegetation effect through the leaf area index, shows no change or even annual cooling over large parts of the northern hemisphere. Results from the series of experiments show that the inclusion of vegetation feedback is necessary for the reproduction of the strong annual warming over land at northern high latitudes. The LIG experimental results show that the warming predicted by models is still underestimated, even with dynamical vegetation, compared to reconstructions from proxy data, suggesting that further investigation and improvement to the climate feedback mechanism are needed.

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