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The Effect of Lateral Viscosity Variations on Local Sea Level and Bedrock Deformation in Antarctica



Ice Loading



Earth Model





Southern

lemisphere

Ice Coverage

19.0 19.5 20.0 20.5 21.0 21.5 22.0 22.5 log₁₀

Antarctic ice sheet evolution since Last Glacial Maximum



MWP-1A (14.3 – 12.8 kybp):

Sea level rise ~16 m during this event at rates of 26-53 mm/yr



Antarctic ice sheet evolution since Last Glacial Maximum



MWP-1B (11.5 – 11 kybp):

Antarctica contribution to the global sea level rise ~5 m in ~300 years, at rates of 13-15 mm/yr



Argus, et al.. 2014

Antarctic ice sheet evolution since Last Glacial Maximum



Lateral viscosity variations underneath Antarctic ice sheet



We use finite element modeling package **CitcomSVE** (Zhong et al., 2008, 2022; Tao et al., 2024) to compute the bedrock motion and sea level change accounting for the horizontal gradients in viscosity.





Bedrock motion evolution during MWP-1C



Relative sea level evolution



Sea Level Change Patterns: Antarctica

West Antarctica

- Sea level rise before ~11 kyBP
- Followed by **local sea level fall** due to rapid ice loss during **MWP-1B** and after
- 3D low-viscosity models show a faster sea-level fall between 11-8 kyBP

East Antarctica

- Sea level rises until ~8 kyBP
- Results from **3D** and **1D** models are similar, with only slight differences



Further Plan

Ice dynamics-GIA coupled model, Gomez et al., 2020



Ice model reconstruction by GIA with data constraints (e.g., RSL, GPS and Ice thickness change), Argus et al., 2014





Explore how to reconstruct Antarctica deglaciation model that both follows the ice dynamic physics and can fit to the geological & geodetic data observations.