

## Results of the Greenland Ice Sheet Model Initialisation Experiments ISMIP6 – initMIP-Greenland

**Goelzer, Heiko (1,2); Nowicki, Sophie (3); Edwards, Tamsin (4);  
Beckley, Matthew (3); Abe-Ouchi, Ayako (5); Aschwanden, Andy (6);  
Calov, Reinhard (7); Gagliardini, Olivier (8); Gillet-Chaulet, Fabien (8);  
Golledge, Nick (9); Gregory, Jonathan (10,11); Greve, Ralf (12); Humbert, Angelika  
(13,14); Huybrechts, Philippe (15); Kennedy, Joseph (20); Larour, Eric (16);  
Lipscomb, William (17); Le clec'h, Sébastien (18); Lee, Victoria (19);  
Morlighem, Mathieu (25); Pattyn, Frank (2); Payne, Tony (19); Rodehacke,  
Christian (21); Rückamp, Martin (13); Saito, Fuyuki (22); Schlegel, Nicole (16);  
Seroussi, Helene (16); Shepherd, Andrew (23); Sun, Sainan (2); van de Wal,  
Roderik (1); Ziemen, Florian (24)**

- 1: Utrecht University, Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (IMAU), Netherlands;  
2: Laboratoire de Glaciologie, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium;  
3: NASA GSFC, Cryospheric Sciences Branch, Greenbelt, USA;  
4: Department of Environment, Earth & Ecosystems, The Open University, Milton Keynes,  
United Kingdom; 5: Atmosphere Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Japan;  
6: Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA; 7: Potsdam Institute for Climate  
Impact Research, Potsdam, Germany; 8: Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, IRD, IGE, F-38000 Grenoble,  
France; 9: Antarctic Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New  
Zealand; 10: Department of Meteorology, University of Reading, Reading, United Kingdom;  
11: Met Office Hadley Center, Exeter, United Kingdom; 12: Institute of Low Temperature Science,  
Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan; 13: Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine  
Research, Bremerhaven, Germany; 14: University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany; 15: Vrije  
Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium; 16: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, USA;  
17: Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, USA; 18: Laboratoire des sciences du climat et  
de l'environnement, Gif-sur-Yvette, FR; 19: University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom;  
20: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, USA; 21: Danish Meteorological Institute,  
Copenhagen, Denmark; 22: Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Yokohama,  
Japan; 23: School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds, United Kingdom;  
24: Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany;  
25: University of California Irvine, Irvine, USA

E-Mail: [h.goelzer@uu.nl](mailto:h.goelzer@uu.nl)

Ice sheet model initialisation has a large effect on projected future sea-level contributions and gives rise to important uncertainties. The goal of this intercomparison exercise for the continental-scale Greenland ice sheet is therefore to compare, evaluate and improve the initialisation techniques used in the ice sheet modelling community. The initMIP-Greenland project is the first in a series of ice sheet model intercomparison activities within ISMIP6 (Ice Sheet Model Intercomparison Project for CMIP6). The experimental set-up has been designed to allow comparison of the initial present-day state of the Greenland ice sheet between participating models and against observations. Furthermore, the initial states are tested with two schematic forward experiments to evaluate the initialisation in terms of model drift (forward run without any forcing) and response to a large perturbation (prescribed surface mass balance anomaly). We present and discuss results that highlight the wide diversity of data sets, boundary conditions and initialisation techniques used in the community to generate initial states of the Greenland ice sheet.

**Keywords:** Greenland ice sheet, modelling, initialisation, sea-level projection