### Improved Understanding of Multicentury Greenland Ice Sheet Response to Strong Warming in the Coupled CESM2-CISM2 with Regional Grid Refinement

Ziqi Yin<sup>1</sup>, Adam R Herrington<sup>2</sup>, Rajashree Datta<sup>3</sup>, Aneesh C. Subramanian<sup>4</sup>, Jan Thérèse Maria Lenaerts<sup>5</sup>, and Andrew Gettelman<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Colorado, Boulder <sup>2</sup>National Center for Atmospheric Research <sup>3</sup>NASA Goddard Space Flight Center <sup>4</sup>University of Colorado <sup>5</sup>University of Colorado Boulder <sup>6</sup>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

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#### Abstract

The simulation of ice sheet-climate interaction such as surface mass balance fluxes are sensitive to model grid resolution. Here we simulate the multicentury evolution of the Greenland Ice Sheet (GrIS) and its interaction with the climate using the Community Earth System Model version 2.2 (CESM2.2) including an interactive GrIS component (the Community Ice Sheet Model v2.1 [CISM2.1]) under an idealized warming scenario (atmospheric CO2 increases by 1% yr-1 until quadrupling the pre-industrial level and then is held fixed). A variable-resolution (VR) grid with 1/4\* regional refinement over broader Arctic and 1\* resolution elsewhere is applied to the atmosphere and land components, and the results are compared to conventional 1\* lat-lon grid simulations to investigate the impact of grid refinement. An acceleration of GrIS mass loss is found at around year 110, caused by rapidly increasing surface melt as the ablation area expands with associated albedo feedback and increased turbulent fluxes. Compared to the 1\* runs, the VR run features slower melt increase, especially over Western and Northern Greenland, which slope gently towards the peripheries. This difference pattern originates primarily from the weaker albedo feedback in the VR run, complemented by its smaller cloud longwave radiation. The steeper VR Greenland surface topography favors slower ablation zone expansion, thus leading to its weaker albedo feedback. The sea level rise contribution from the GrIS in the VR run is 53 mm by year 150 and 831 mm by year 350, approximately 40% and 20% smaller than the 1\* runs, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA <sup>2</sup>National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO, USA <sup>3</sup>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA, USA

#### • Key Points:

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10	•	For the first time, a variable-resolution atmosphere is coupled with the ocean and
11		sea ice components in CESM with a dynamic GrIS
12	•	Slower Greenland surface melt increase is detected in the Arctic-refined simula-
13		tion compared with simulations using a conventional $1^{\circ}$ grid
14	•	The steeper VR GrIS surface topography favors slower ablation zone expansion,
15		leading to weaker albedo feedback and slower melt increase

Corresponding author: Ziqi Yin, Ziqi.Yin@colorado.edu

#### 16 Abstract

The simulation of ice sheet-climate interaction such as surface mass balance fluxes 17 are sensitive to model grid resolution. Here we simulate the multicentury evolution of 18 the Greenland Ice Sheet (GrIS) and its interaction with the climate using the Commu-19 nity Earth System Model version 2.2 (CESM2.2) including an interactive GrIS compo-20 nent (the Community Ice Sheet Model v2.1 [CISM2.1]) under an idealized warming sce-21 nario (atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increases by 1% yr<sup>-1</sup> until quadrupling the pre-industrial level 22 and then is held fixed). A variable-resolution (VR) grid with  $1/4^{\circ}$  regional refinement 23 over broader Arctic and 1° resolution elsewhere is applied to the atmosphere and land components, and the results are compared to conventional  $1^{\circ}$  lat-lon grid simulations to 25 investigate the impact of grid refinement. An acceleration of GrIS mass loss is found at 26 around year 110, caused by rapidly increasing surface melt as the ablation area expands 27 with associated albedo feedback and increased turbulent fluxes. Compared to the 1° runs, 28 the VR run features slower melt increase, especially over Western and Northern Green-29 land, which slope gently towards the peripheries. This difference pattern originates pri-30 marily from the weaker albedo feedback in the VR run, complemented by its smaller cloud 31 longwave radiation. The steeper VR Greenland surface topography favors slower abla-32 tion zone expansion, thus leading to its weaker albedo feedback. The sea level rise con-33 tribution from the GrIS in the VR run is 53 mm by year 150 and 831 mm by year 350, 34 approximately 40% and 20% smaller than the 1° runs, respectively. 35

#### <sup>36</sup> Plain Language Summary

As one of the main contributors to global sea level rise, the Greenland Ice Sheet 37 (GrIS) has been losing mass as an accelerating rate during the recent decades. Better 38 understanding the interactions between the GrIS and the climate can help us make more reliable future projections of GrIS mass loss. To simulate these interactions, a fully cou-40 pled model infrastructure is necessary. Additionally, the model resolution needs to be 41 higher enough to resolve the surface topography and processes like orographic precip-42 itation. This study applies a  $1/4^{\circ}$  Arctic refined grid to an Earth System Model which 43 includes an interactive GrIS model to simulate multicentury GrIS evolution under an ide-44 alized warming scenario, and compares the results with simulations using a lower res-45 olution grid. We show that the simulation with the grid refinement has a slower increase in melt, thus contributing less to global sea level rise. This difference mainly results from 47 the slower ablation zone expansion and thus weaker albedo feedback in the Arctic re-48 fined grid simulation, with the smaller cloud longwave radiation playing a supporting 49 role. 50

#### <sup>51</sup> 1 Introduction

Recent data reveals an acceleration in the mass loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet 52 (GrIS), averaging 257 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  between 2017 and 2020, a sevenfold increase compared 53 to the early 1990s (Otosaka et al., 2023). GrIS mass loss is driven both by atmospheric warming (Hanna et al., 2021), which increases surface melt and meltwater runoff (Trusel 55 et al., 2018), and oceanic warming, which has caused glacier acceleration and enhanced 56 ice discharge (Straneo & Heimbach, 2013). Though the ice discharge increase played a 57 stronger role in GrIS mass loss between 1992 and 2018 ( $66 \pm 8\%$ ), during the last two 58 decades, surface mass balance (SMB) decrease has become the dominant contributor due 59 to increased surface melt (Enderlin et al., 2014; Mouginot et al., 2019). The exceptional 60 summer surface melting causes a maximum mass loss of 444 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  in 2019 (Tedesco 61 & Fettweis, 2020). The interactions between the ice sheet, the atmosphere, and the ocean 62 can initiate feedback effects, further amplifying or dampening the mass imbalance sig-63 nals. One important positive feedback is the albedo/melt feedback. As snow or ice melts, 64 the surface with lower albedo, e.g., warmer snow/firn/bare ice/ground, is exposed, lead-65

ing to increased absorption of shortwave radiation and thus further promoting melt of
the original and nearby regions. Many other feedbacks can enhance or restrain GrIS mass
loss, such as geometry/SMB feedbacks (Fyke et al., 2018). So, to better model the evolution of the GrIS, a coupled model that can represent these bidirectional interactions/feedbacks
is necessary.

The accuracy of simulated SMB is sensitive to model grid resolution, especially in 71 regions with steep and complex terrains. The mountainous GrIS margins, also where steep 72 topographic gradients are located, are too smooth in conventional 1° to 2° global climate 73 models (GCMs). Such models fail to resolve processes like orographic precipitation and 74 allow too much moisture to penetrate into the ice sheet interior, causing positive pre-75 cipitation biases (Pollard & Groups, 2000). Research has shown that, with a higher hor-76 izontal resolution, the orographic precipitation can be better resolved and thus the pos-77 itive precipitation biases can be reduced (van Kampenhout et al., 2019; Herrington et 78 al., 2022). In addition, the ablation zone around the GrIS margins where the majority 79 of summer melt occurs can be as narrow as tens of kilometers, which cannot be resolved 80 by  $1^{\circ}$  to  $2^{\circ}$  grids. It is therefore important to have a finer resolution for more accurate representation of GrIS SMB processes. 82

Modeling with a variable-resolution grid has several advantages. Though rapidly 83 developing, widespread use of global-uniform high-resolution climate models (e.g., mod-84 els participated in the High-Resolution Model Intercomparison Project (HighResMIP; 85 Haarsma et al., 2016)) is still impractical due to current limits in computational resources. Regional climate models (RCMs), usually in one-way nesting mode, offer regional high 87 resolution with a lower computational cost. However, they need boundary conditions from 88 GCMs or reanalysis, thus not allowing two-way interactions across the boundaries. More-89 over, the boundary conditions derived from a separate host model can introduce incon-90 sistencies between the host model and the RCM. Variable-resolution modeling overcomes 91 some of these challenges using a unified modeling framework, which can model the two-92 way interactions between the regional and large scales and is more computationally ef-93 ficient. 94

The application of regional grid refinement in GCMs can be dated back to the early 95 use of stretched grids in late 1970s (Schmidt, 1977; Staniforth & Mitchell, 1978) and now 96 it has been developed in many state-of-the-art GCMs (Harris et al., 2016; Zängl et al., 97 2022; Sakaguchi et al., 2023; Tang et al., 2023). In the Community Earth System Model, version2 (CESM2; Danabasoglu et al., 2020), regional grid refinement is supported by the spectral-element (SE; Lauritzen et al., 2018) dynamical core of the atmospheric com-100 ponent. Studies have proven its consistency in modeling global circulation and clima-101 tology (Zarzycki et al., 2015; Gettelman et al., 2018), fidelity in representing tropical and 102 extra-tropical cyclones (Zarzycki & Jablonowski, 2014; Zarzycki et al., 2014; Zarzycki, 103 2016) and regional climate, especially at regions with mountains or steep terrain (Rhoades 104 et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2016; Huang & Ullrich, 2017; Wu et al., 2017; Rhoades et al., 2018; Rahimi et al., 2019; Bambach et al., 2022; Wijngaard et al., 2023). The variable-106 resolution CESM2 (VR-CESM2) has also been applied to the polar regions. van Kam-107 penhout et al. (2019) shows that the simulation of GrIS SMB in the accumulation zone 108 is significantly improved by using two regionally refined grids over the GrIS at  $1/2^{\circ}$  and 109  $1/4^{\circ}$ . In addition to improvements where a refined resolution is applied to the GrIS, the 110 simulated clouds and precipitation in the Arctic is also substantially improved with two 111 Arctic-refined meshes, one at  $1/4^{\circ}$  and another with an additional  $1/8^{\circ}$  patch of refine-112 ment over Greenland (Herrington et al., 2022). For the Antarctic,  $1/4^{\circ}$  regional refine-113 ment over the Antarctic Ice Sheet and the surrounding Southern Ocean indicates both 114 improvements, mainly in temperature and wind fields, and degradations, primarily re-115 lated to surface melt, over the Antarctic Ice Sheet compared to 1° CESM2 (Datta et al., 116 2023). The VR-CESM2 in the above-mentioned studies are run in the coupled land-atmosphere 117

mode following the Atmospheric Model Intercomparison Project protocols (AMIP; Gates, 1992).

This study analyzes the results from a set of simulations using the fully coupled 120 configuration of CESM2 with a dynamic GrIS under an idealized strong warming sce-121 nario. A variable-resolution grid, which has  $1/4^{\circ}$  regional refinement over the broader 122 Arctic region and  $1^{\circ}$  horizontal resolution elsewhere, is applied to the atmosphere and 123 land components of CESM2. Unlike prior VR-CESM2 studies, we include coupling to 124 a dynamic ocean model, similar to Tang et al. (2023). This work aims to: first, investigate multicentury future GrIS evolution, and second, compare the results of the variableresolution run with those of global 1° resolution runs, to see where the regional refine-127 ment provides added value. Section 2 documents the model, grids, and experiment de-128 sign information. Section 3 presents the results and the comparison of the simulations. 129 Finally, in Section 4, a discussion and conclusions are provided. 130

#### <sup>131</sup> 2 Methods

132 2.1 Model Description

CESM2 is an Earth System Model (ESM) maintained by the National Center for 133 Atmosphere Research, which consists of atmosphere, ocean, land, sea ice, and land ice components and can be run in configurations with different levels of complexity. The ocean 135 component, Parallel Ocean Program version 2 (POP2; Smith et al., 2010), runs on a nom-136 inal 1° displaced-pole grid with 60 vertical levels. Sea ice is represented by the Commu-137 nity Ice CodE for sea ice version 5 (CICE5; Hunke et al., 2015), using the same horizon-138 tal grid as POP2. Land processes are simulated by the Community Land Model version 139 5 (CLM5; Lawrence et al., 2019), using the same horizontal grid as the atmosphere model. 140 CLM5 also embeds the Model for Scale Adaptive River Transport (MOSART; Li et al., 141 2013) to handle land surface runoff based on topographic gradients. 142

The GrIS is simulated using the Community Ice Sheet Model, version 2.1 (CISM2.1; 143 Lipscomb et al., 2019), using a 4-km rectangular grid with 11 terrain-following vertical 144 levels. To simulate ice flow, a depth-integrated higher-order approximation (Goldberg, 145 2011) of the Stokes equations is employed in the velocity solver. The parameterization of basal sliding utilizes a pseudo-plastic sliding law and a simple basal hydrology model, 147 following the approach described by Aschwanden et al. (2016). In this parameterization, 148 the yield stress is determined by the till friction angle and the effective pressure, with 149 the former being influenced by the bedrock elevation through a fixed piecewise linear re-150 lationship. The bedrock evolution due to Glacial Isostatic Adjustment (GIA) effect is 151 governed by an Elastic plate Lithosphere plus Relaxing Asthenosphere (ELRA) model 152 (see for example Rutt et al., 2009). This study accounts for calving processes through 153 a flotation criterion, where floating ice is instantaneously discharged to the ocean. 154

Two versions of CESM2 are used for the simulations in this study: CESM2.1 and CESM2.2. In CESM2.1, the atmosphere is simulated with the Community Atmosphere Model version 6 (CAM6; Gettelman et al., 2019), using the Finite-Volume (FV; Lin, 2004) dynamical core, with 32 vertical hybrid pressure-sigma levels. The CAM6 physical parameterization package is described in detail in Gettelman et al. (2019). CESM2.1 is one of the ESMs to contribute to the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6; Eyring et al., 2016) and the Ice Sheet Model Intercomparison Project for CMIP6 (ISMIP6; Nowicki et al., 2016).

CESM2.2 uses the same CAM physics parameterizations and vertical grid, but contains enhanced functionality for the SE dynamical core, including the capability for running VR grids (Herrington et al., 2022). The CMIP6 CESM2.1 simulations using CAM-FV are not reproducible in CESM2.2, and therefore two versions of the model are required to compare the VR grids to the CMIP6 workhorse configuration.

#### <sup>168</sup> 2.2 Surface Mass Balance

The GrIS SMB simulated in CESM2 is the sum of ice accumulation and ice abla-169 tion. The SMB processes of the GrIS are aggregated in CLM5, which includes up to 10 170 vertical snowpack layers with a maximum total depth of 10-m water equivalent. Only 171 snow accumulated over the 10-m threshold contributes to ice accumulation. Ice ablation 172 incorporates surface ice melt as well as sublimation. Part of rain and melt water pen-173 etrates into the snow layers and refreezes, as another source of ice, while the rest runs 174 off to the ocean. Melt energy is calculated from the sum of net surface radiation, latent and sensible turbulent heat fluxes, and ground heat fluxes at the atmosphere-snow in-176 terface. To account for sub-grid variability, each glaciated grid cell in CLM5 is subdi-177 vided into 10 elevation classes (ECs) with fixed elevation ranges (Lipscomb et al., 2013; 178 Sellevold et al., 2019). The area fractions of the ECs are calculated from the higher-resolution 179 CISM topography. For each EC, the surface energy fluxes and SMB are calculated in-180 dependently by downscaling atmospheric variables. Near-surface temperature and down-181 ward longwave radiation are downscaled with fixed lapse rates (6 K km<sup>-1</sup> and 32 W m<sup>-2</sup> 182  $km^{-1}$ ). Relative humidity is assumed uniform vertically. Due to a CAM6 model bias leading to excessive rainfall over the GrIS, precipitation is repartitioned based on near-surface 184 temperature thresholds: precipitation falls as snow when the temperature is below  $-2^{\circ}C$ , 185 as rain when the temperature is above 0°C, and as a linear combination of snow and rain 186 for temperatures between  $-2^{\circ}C$  and  $0^{\circ}C$ . 187

Though with biases such as overestimated precipitation, CESM2.1 at 1° with a fixed GrIS geometry simulates a realistic historical Greenland SMB (van Kampenhout et al., 2020). When coupled to CISM2, higher Greenland SMB and interannual variability is simulated, partly due to the different ice sheet topography (Muntjewerf, Petrini, et al., 2020).

#### <sup>193</sup> 2.3 Coupling Scheme

In the model framework, the GrIS is interactively coupled to the other Earth sys-194 tem components. CISM2 receives the CLM5 SMB for each EC, and is then downscaled 195 by the coupler using a trilinear remapping scheme (bilinear horizontally and linear ver-196 tically), with corrections of accumulation and ablation to conserve global water mass. 197 As the ice sheet evolves, the coupler updates the EC fractional glacier coverage in each 198 CLM5 grid cell based on the CISM2 ice sheet extent at annual frequency. The mean sur-199 face elevation in CAM6 is manually updated based on the CISM2 topography every 20 200 model years, using the CESM topography software (Lauritzen et al., 2015). Surface runoff 201 from CLM5, basal melt and ice discharge from CISM2 constitute the freshwater fluxes 202 inputted into the ocean, which are supplied as salinity anomalies. More detailed descrip-203 tion of the coupling scheme can be found in Muntjewerf et al. (2021). 204

#### 2.4 Grids

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The variable-resolution grid we use here - the Arctic grid (Fig.1a), is a 1° SE grid with  $1/4^{\circ}$  regional refinement over the broader Arctic region (Herrington et al., 2022). 207 It is generated by using the software package SQuadgen (https://github.com/ClimateGlobalChange/ 208 squadgen). The global  $1^{\circ}$  resolution runs use the latitude-longitude  $1^{\circ}$  grid, referred to 209 as f09, supported by the FV dynamical core. Figure 1b and 1c show a snapshot of the 210 surface topography over the GrIS before the start of the warming scenario for the f09 211 grid and the Arctic grid, respectively. The Arctic grid represents more detailed Green-212 land topography (e.g., the south dome and ice sheet periphery) with a more accurate ice 213 sheet mask. The surface elevation differences between two grids can range up over 700 214 m (Fig.1d), which is partly caused by the initial ice sheet volume difference. The physics 215 time step of the Arctic simulations is 450 s, which is a  $4 \times$  reduction relative to the de-216 fault 1800 s time step used in the  $1^{\circ}$  grid. 217



Figure 1. (a) The Arctic grid (Herrington et al., 2022). Note what is shown is the element grid; the computational grid has  $3 \times 3$  independent grid points per element. Surface topography (m) of the Greenland Ice Sheet represented by (b) the f09 grid, (c) the Arctic grid, and (d) their difference before the start of the warming scenario.

#### 218 2.5 Experiment Design

First, a pre-industrial simulation was branched off from the last leg of the spun-219 up pre-industrial Earth system/ice sheet state (Lofverstrom et al., 2020). A series of ex-220 periments were ran to bring the top of atmosphere radiative forcing into balance using 221 common tuning parameters such clubb gamma (Guo et al., 2015). The tuned pre-industrial control was then run for 180 years until the GrIS achieved near equilibrium state. Then 223 an idealized warming scenario was started, in which the atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration 224 increased by 1% per year until reaching  $4\times$  the pre-industrial value after 140 years, fol-225 lowed by a 210-year simulation with the fixed  $4 \times$  pre-industrial CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Fig.2a). 226 This set of simulations using the Arctic grid (hereafter ARCTIC) was compared to two 227 sets of simulations under the same forcing but using the f09 grid, in the older CESM2.1 228 code base. One is from Muntjewerf, Sellevold, et al. (2020) (hereafter F09M). In this code base, to reduce the too-high SMB over portions of the GrIS in CESM2 coupled runs, the cold rain ( $< -2^{\circ}$ C) produced by CAM immediately runs off to the ocean instead of be-231 ing converted to snow by CLM. Also, to facilitate low level convergence and precipita-232 tion near the coasts, the sub-grid roughness over Greenland is artificially increased. To 233 limit the differences between models, we ran another set of f09 simulation using CESM2.1 234 but without these two adjustments (hereafter F09). 235

236 2.6 Analysis

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#### 2.6.1 Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation Metrics

The Greenland blocking index (GBI) uses the 500-hPa geopotential height ( $Z_{500}$ ) to estimate blocking over the Greenland region (Fang, 2004). Strong and persistent blocking can result in extreme summer melt at the ice sheet surface (Hanna et al., 2014). The revised GBI from Hanna et al. (2018) is used, which is calculated by subtracting the areaaveraged  $Z_{500}$  over the Arctic region (60°N to 80°N) from the area-averaged  $Z_{500}$  over the Greenland region (60°N to 80°N, and 80°W to 20°W). Then the resulting time series is standardized with respect to the last 80 years of the pre-industrial period. Here only the JJA mean GBI is considered.

The North Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (NAMOC) index measures the strength of the North Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, which is predicted to be weaken with the addition of GrIS meltwater to the ocean (Vizcaíno et al., 2010; Muntjewerf, Sellevold, et al., 2020). The NAMOC index is defined as the maximum of the overturning stream function north of 28°N and below 500-m depth.

#### 251 2.6.2 Melt/albedo Feedback

<sup>252</sup> We use the melt/albedo feedback (or albedo feedback) calculations following Box <sup>253</sup> et al. (2012). The albedo feedback ( $\alpha_{feedback,a}$ ) is quantified by regression between 20 <sup>254</sup> annual samples of detrended anomalies of summer (JJA) average net shortwave radia-<sup>255</sup> tion ( $SW_{net}$ ) and near-surface air temperature ( $T_{air}$ ) in units of W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>, with anoma-<sup>256</sup> lies indicated by the ' character in  $\Delta'$ :

$$\alpha_{feedback,a} = \Delta' SW_{net} / \Delta' T_{air} \tag{1}$$

The regression uses annual pairs of anomalies instead of successive values in the time series. This pairing is illustrated in Fig.S1. Since this definition of albedo feedback does not include lags that may cause albedo change (e.g., a low albedo year pre-conditions the next year for low albedo), an alternative formulation of albedo feedback (referred to as the bulk albedo feedback ( $\alpha_{feedback,b}$ ) is considered, which is the change in  $SW_{net}$  over the change of  $T_{air}$ :

$$\alpha_{feedback,b} = \Delta SW_{net} / \Delta T_{air} \tag{2}$$

#### 263 2.6.3 Equilibrium Line Altitude (ELA)

Equilibrium line has zero annual mean SMB, separating the ice sheet accumula-264 tion zone and the ablation zone. To calculate the average ELA of the GrIS in our model, 265 we define the following algorithm: Loop through the ablation grids using the annual mean SMB field. If any of the neighboring grids has positive SMB, compute the elevation where 267 SMB equals zero using the two SMB and elevation values of this positive SMB grid (with 268 grid area  $a_p$ ) and the ablation grid (with grid area  $a_n$ ). Save this computed elevation as one ELA value, with an approximate length of the shared edge of the two grids as the 270 weight. The approximate edge length is calculated by  $(\sqrt{a_n} + \sqrt{a_p})/2$ . The final aver-271 age ELA is the length-weighted average of all the saved ELA values. 272

#### 273 3 Results

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#### 3.1 Response of the GrIS in the VR Run

To help visualize the spatial change patterns through time and later analyze the differences between F09M, F09, and ARCTIC, we will focus on three time periods: year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350. Year 131-150 represents the CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization period. Year 231-250 and year 331-350 are one and two centuries after, respectively, with the latter also representing the end of our simulation.

Since atmospheric  $CO_2$  radiative forcing is nearly logarithmic in concentration, the 280  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1}$  increase of CO<sub>2</sub> causes a nearly linear rise in the annual average near-surface 281 temperature (0.3 K per decade; Fig.2b). By CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization, the temperature increase 282 is 5.0 K over the GrIS. Polar amplification (the ratio of Arctic and global temperature 283 increase) is 1.8. GrIS amplification (the ratio of GrIS and global temperature increase) 284 is much smaller (1.1) due to its perennial ice and snow cover. After CO<sub>2</sub> stops increasing, the annual average near-surface temperature still rises, albeit more slowly (0.2 K per)decade) due to oceanic warming, adding another 3.8 K by the end of the simulation. The 287 relatively small area of the GrIS results in a larger variability of annual average near-288 surface temperature compared to the Arctic and global mean. 289



Figure 2. Evolution of (a) atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration (ppm), (b) global, GrIS, and Arctic region (north of 60°N) annual near-surface temperature anomaly with respect to the end of pre-industrial period (°C), (c) GrIS total area (left vertical axis, million km<sup>2</sup>) and ablation area (%; as percentage of total ice sheet area), (d) mass balance (MB, black) and components (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), (e) SMB (black) and components (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), and (f) JJA anomaly of surface energy balance components compared to the end of pre-industrial period (W m<sup>-2</sup>). The thick lines in (c)-(f) show the 20-year running means. The blue shaded periods are used in subsequent analysis.

Figure 2d shows the evolution of the GrIS-integrated mass balance and components. A similar pattern is found in Muntjewerf, Sellevold, et al. (2020). The mass loss accelerates after about 110 years, rising from 2.4 Gt yr<sup>-2</sup> before year 110 to 13.0 Gt yr<sup>-2</sup> between years 111 to 150. Then, after CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization, the GrIS mass loss decelerates gradually, combined with larger oscillations and variability. With the mass loss, the ice sheet area shrinks, decreasing from  $2.1 \times 10^6$  km<sup>2</sup> to  $1.8 \times 10^6$  km<sup>2</sup> (Fig.2c). The cumulative contribution to global mean sea level rise (GMSLR) is 53 mm by year 150 and 831 mm by year 350 (Table 1). The decreasing SMB dominates the mass balance trend (Fig.2d), which becomes negative at around year 130. Ice discharge gradually decreases as marine-terminating outlet glaciers thin, decelerate, and even transition to land-terminating glaciers.

**Table 1.** Annual Rate of Mass Loss (mm yr<sup>-1</sup>), Cumulative GrIS Mass Loss (mm), Mass Balance Components (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), GrIS Area (10<sup>6</sup> km<sup>2</sup>), and GrIS Volume (10<sup>6</sup> km<sup>3</sup>).

	Last 20 yrs of CTRL			Years 131-150			Years 231-250			Years 331-350		
	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC
Annual mass loss	-0.04	-0.10	-0.05	2.08	2.06	1.48	5.28	4.49	3.50	6.36	5.93	5.40
Cumulative mass loss	-0.8	-2.0	-1.1	97	84	53	501	447	344	1,098	976	831
MB	19	41	23	-776	-761	-542	-1,974	-1,669	-1,285	-2,376	-2,195	-2,001
SMB	616	723	685	-380	-319	-72	-1,797	-1,463	-1.081	-2,284	-2,097	-1,909
ID	573	654	636	376	420	448	161	187	187	78	81	77
BMB	-24	-27	-25	-20	-22	-22	-16	-18	-18	-14	-16	-16
GrIS area	1.97	2.00	2.02	1.92	1.96	1.99	1.77	1.80	1.83	1.60	1.64	1.66
GrIS volume	3.23	3.27	3.25	3.20	3.24	3.23	3.05	3.10	3.12	2.81	2.89	2.93

Notes: Mass Balance (MB) = Surface Mass Balance (MB) - Ice Discharge (ID) + Basal Melt Balance (BMB). Variables in this table are calculated using CISM2 outputs.

The accelerating SMB trend (decreasing) is dominated by the surface melt trend. 301 Figure 2e shows the evolution of SMB components. Surface melt increases profoundly: 302 the annual surface melt during year 131-150 and year 331-350 are more than four times 303 and eight times larger than the pre-industrial value, respectively (Table 2). The total 304 precipitation increases from the start due to increased rainfall but decreases during the last century as the decreasing trend of snowfall dominates. By the end of the simulation, the precipitation is about a quarter higher than the pre-industrial value (Table 2). Though 307 snowfall remains the major precipitation type, the proportion of liquid phase precipita-308 tion gradually grows through time, making up nearly one-third of the total precipita-309 tion by the end of the simulation (Table 2). Refreezing increases before  $CO_2$  stabiliza-310 tion as more liquid water is available from both increased rainfall and surface melt, and 311 then becomes relatively stable due to saturated snow cover. This is also reflected by the 312 refreezing capacity - defined as the fraction of refreezing to available liquid water - de-313 creasing from 55.4% pre-industrial to 19.7% by the end of the simulation (Table 2). Sub-314 limition is relatively small throughout the simulation, so is not discussed further. 315

**Table 2.** Annual Ice Sheet-Integrated Surface Mass Balance and Components Mean (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>).

	Last 2	20 yrs of	CTRL	Years 131-150			Years 231-250			Years 331-350		
	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC
SMB (4km)	616	723	685	-380	-319	-72	-1,797	-1,463	-1.081	-2,284	-2,097	-1,909
SMB	-	701	651	-745	-620	-369	-2,213	-1,752	-1,398	-2,552	-2,254	-2,159
Precipitation	942	1,026	955	1,047	1,273	1,200	1,106	1,374	1,277	1,156	1,308	1,265
Snowfall	850	934	869	782	961	930	699	932	913	695	819	849
Rain	92	92	86	265	312	270	406	443	364	461	488	416
Refreezing	142	295	307	680	872	758	784	956	824	781	1.019	830
Melt	485	476	468	2,147	2,400	1,986	3,662	3,606	3,083	4,009	4.073	3.806
Sublimation	-	52	57	60	53	70	34	34	52	19	19	32
Rain (%)	9.8	9.0	9.0	25.4	24.5	22.5	36.8	32.2	28.5	39.9	37.4	32.9
Refreezing (%)	24.6	51.9	55.4	28.2	32.2	33.6	19.3	23.6	23.9	17.5	22.3	19.7

Notes: SMB (4km) is calculated using CISM2 outputs. The other variables are calculated using CLM5 outputs. SMB = Snowfall + Refreezing – Melt – Sublimation. Rain (%) = Rain \* 100 / (Snowfall + Rain). Refreezing (%) = Refreezing \* 100 / (Rain + Melt).

The enhanced surface melt greatly reduces the SMB over the periphery of the GrIS. 316 Fig.3f-h show the spatial distribution of SMB difference compared to the pre-industrial 317 period, indicating the largest SMB decrease occurs along the southeast and west mar-318 gins  $(> 5,000 \text{ mm yr}^{-1} \text{ by the end of the simulation})$ . In the ice sheet interior, SMB in-319 creases due to the locally enhanced hydrological cycle. This spatial pattern of SMB changes 320 results in a similar spatial pattern of the ice sheet thickness changes, with slight thick-321 ening over the high interior and significant thinning towards the margins (Fig.3j-l). The 322 largest thinning along the western margins can exceed 1000 m by the end of the simu-323 lation. The surface ice velocity decreases at the ice sheet margins due to the thinning 324 of outlet glaciers, though generally, the surface ice velocity increases due to the steeper 325 surface slopes caused by the thickness changes (Fig.3n-p). 326



Figure 3. Spatial distribution over the GrIS for pre-industrial (first column) and differences with respect to the former by model years 131-150 (second column), 231-250 (thrid column) and 331-350 (forth column). (a-d) JJA mean albedo, (e-h) annual mean surface mass balance (mmWE yr<sup>-1</sup>) with accumulation zones (SMB > 0) and ablation zones (SMB < 0), (i-l) ice sheet thickness (m), and (m-p) surface velocity (m yr<sup>-1</sup>).

#### 3.2 Drivers for melt changes

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The spatiotemporal evolution of surface energy balance (SEB) components over the GrIS provides an explanation for the main physical drivers of accelerating surface melt. Figure 2f shows the summer (JJA) average anomalies of surface energy terms compared to the pre-industrial period. During the first century, the enhancement in net longwave radiation (less longwave cooling) from increased atmospheric temperature and cloudiness (Fig.S2a) provides most of the additional melting energy. The increased net short-

wave radiation is dampened by reduced incoming shortwave radiation (Fig.S2b) result-334 ing from enhanced cloudiness (Fig.S2a). At around year 110, the contribution of net short-335 wave radiation to the melt energy increases rapidly, surpassing net longwave radiation at around year 148, and becoming the dominant melt energy contributor. At the end of 337 the simulation, net shortwave radiation provides 37.3% of the total additional melt en-338 ergy (Table 3). The accelerated net shortwave radiation increase at about year 110 is 339 speculated to be due to the activation of the melt/albedo feedback. We find that the ac-340 celerated net shortwave radiation and melt increase coincides with a faster increase of 341 ablation area (Fig.2c). As the ablation zone expands, darker surfaces with lower albedo 342 are exposed, which absorbs more shortwave radiation and further enhances surface melt-343 ing. The decrease of surface albedo mainly occurs within the ablation zones, with little change in the ice sheet interior (Fig.3b-d). The ice sheet hypsometry also contributes to the accelerated expansion of the ablation zone - the quasi-parabolic shape favors faster 346 ablation area expansion as it approaches the interior plateau. The turbulent fluxes also 347 increase at around year 110, although at slower speeds. As near-surface air temperature 348 continues to rise, the surface temperature inversion becomes stronger, thus enhancing 349 the turbulent fluxes. The contribution of sensible heat flux to total additional melt en-350 ergy is comparable to the contribution of net longwave radiation by the end of the sim-351 ulation (22.5% and 21.5%, respectively; Table 3). The latent heat flux becomes less neg-352 ative through the simulation, which is potentially due to the decrease of sublimation as well as an increase in deposition and condensation. At the end of the simulation, 10.1%354 of the additional melt energy comes from latent heat flux (Table 3). The ground heat 355 flux rises from negative to positive, which is potentially a result of more refreezing in the 356 snow layer, and contributes 8.6% of the additional melt energy at the end of the sim-357 ulation (Table 3). 358

Table 3. Summer GrIS-averaged Albedo, Near-Surface Temperature and Skin Temperature (°C), Incoming Shortwave Radiation, Incoming Longwave Radiation at the Surface, and Surface Energy Balance Components Mean (W  $m^{-2}$ ).

	Last 20 yrs of CTRL			Years 131-150			Years 231-250			Years 331-350		
	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC
Albedo	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.64	0.66	0.68	0.61	0.62	0.65
$T_{2m}$	-7.00	-7.05	-7.34	-1.22	-1.11	-1.88	0.50	0.43	-0.22	1.03	1.21	0.79
$T_{skin}$	-7.83	-7.83	-8.42	-2.14	-2.15	-3.10	-0.74	-0.85	-1.74	-0.31	-0.20	-0.96
SWin	288.3	286.4	294.3	262.0	261.7	272.6	255.9	254.9	266.6	250.9	253.4	264.0
LW <sub>in</sub>	231.0	232.6	224.1	267.7	268.5	257.8	276.1	276.8	266.7	280.3	280.7	271.6
Melt energy	8.8	8.5	8.4	40.3	43.4	35.7	71.0	68.3	59.7	84.6	83.6	80.0
SWnet	64.0	62.1	64.9	73.5	72.8	73.5	89.5	84.9	83.2	94.8	92.8	91.6
LWnet	-50.6	-49.0	-55.3	-38.2	-37.3	-44.0	-36.1	-34.9	-41.2	-34.1	-34.1	-39.9
SHF	4.8	4.5	7.1	8.4	10.4	11.2	14.2	14.7	17.6	16.1	16.7	23.3
LHF	-8.3	-8.0	-7.5	-6.9	-5.4	-7.1	-2.7	-2.3	-3.6	-0.6	0.1	-0.3
GHF	-1.2	-1.1	-0.8	3.6	2.9	2.1	6.1	5.9	3.8	8.4	8.2	5.3

Notes: Melt energy = net shortwave radiation  $SW_{net}$  + net longwave radiation  $LW_{net}$  + sensible heat flux SHF + latent heat flux LHF + ground heat flux GHF.

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To examine the role of large scale circulation on summer GrIS surface melt, we calculated the GBI. Figure 4a shows the evolution of the GBI for ARCTIC. There is a negative trend of the GBI before  $CO_2$  stabilization, which indicates weakening summer block-361 ing over the Greenland region. This agrees with the result of Sellevold and Vizcaíno (2020), 362 which uses an AMIP style configuration of CESM2.1 under the same  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ CO}_2$  warm-363 ing scenario. After CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization, there is no significant trend for GBI. Figure 4b shows the linear regression between GrIS-integrated JJA melt, and the JJA GBI. Both variables are filtered with a 10-year high-pass filter, thus representing the sub-decadal timescale. On sub-decadal timescales, the GBI explains 40% of the annual variability of summer 367 surface melt. A more negative GBI results in less surface melt. Therefore, this indicates 368 the GBI (more general the atmospheric circulation pattern) is not a driver of the melt 369

- acceleration at about year 110, but actually counteracts part of the effect of global warm-
- ing on the surface melt before  $CO_2$  stabilization.



Figure 4. Evolution of the Greenland Blocking Index for ARCTIC (a), and the regression of JJA GrIS-integrated filtered surface melt (Gt  $yr^{-1}$ ) onto JJA filtered Greenland Blocking Index (b). The thick orange line in (a) shows the 10-year low-pass filtered time series. The timescale of the filtered quantities effectively removes both the mean and the trend of each time series. Black line is drawn where the regression is significant, with an annotated m (slope), and  $r^2$  for the explained variance for (b).

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#### 3.3 Impacts of Enhanced Resolution

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#### 3.3.1 Large-scale Climate

Before delving into the simulated GrIS responses, we first compare the represen-374 tations of large-scale climate conditions between the regionally-refined ARCTIC run and 375 the 1° runs. Figure 5a-c show the summer mean 500 hPa geopotential height for ARCTIC 376 during the three time periods - year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350. As the at-377 mosphere warms, the 500 hPa geopotential height increases over the northern high lat-378 itudes. The differences between ARCTIC and the  $1^{\circ}$  runs show a consistent pattern dur-379 ing each period (Fig.5d-i). Compared to F09M and F09, ARCTIC has significantly lower 380 500 hPa geopotential height over Greenland except for the period year 331-350 for ARCTIC 381 and F09M, which possibly indicates weaker blocking and less anticyclonic flows over the 382 GrIS in ARCTIC. This lower geopotential region in ARCTIC extends over the Canadian Archipelago 383 during year 131-150. There is also significant higher geopotential over subpolar regions 384 in ARCTIC compared to F09M and F09, especially during year 331-350. 385



Figure 5. Northern hemisphere summer 500 hPa geopotential height (dam) of ARCTIC (a-c), and the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (d-f), ARCTIC and F09 (g-i). The three columns from left to right represent averaged periods year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350, respectively. Dotted regions are where the two simulations are significantly different (p < 0.05) by student t test.

Figure 6 compares the summer temperature over the northern hemisphere between **ARCTIC** and the 1° runs. The lower-troposphere summer virtual temperature, computed 387 by equating a layer mean virtual temperature with the 500–1,000 hPa geopotential thick-388 ness, is higher in ARCTIC over much of the northern hemisphere (Fig.6a-f). This agrees 380 with the common response to increasing horizontal resolution (also reducing physics time step) in general circulations models (GCMs) (Pope & Stratton, 2002; Roeckner et al., 391 2006) including CAM (Herrington & Reed, 2020): increasing the horizontal resolution 392 warms the climate, since higher resolved vertical velocities generate more condensational heating. However, FO9M and FO9 have warmer lower troposphere than ARCTIC centered 394 over the GrIS, which also extends to Canadian Archipelago and Alaska during year 131-395 150 (Fig.6a,d) and to East Siberia during year 231-250 (Fig.6b,e). This spatial pattern 396 of lower-troposphere virtual temperature differences agrees with that of the 500 hPa geopo-397 tential height difference, indicating that probably the stronger summer blocking over Green-398 land regions in F09M and F09 causes the higher lower-troposphere virtual temperature 399 there. Compared to the lower troposphere, the near-surface temperature difference shows 400 a distinct spatial pattern with larger magnitudes (Fig.6g-l). Except for some terrestrial regions (e.g., parts of Siberia and Eurasia), ARCTIC is significantly cooler than F09M and 402 F09 at near-surface level. This results from the different pre-industrial climate, in which 403 **ARCTIC** is cooler, likely due to increasing the albedo of snow over sea ice to tune this run. 404 The regions where the lower troposphere is cooler in ARCTIC during year 131-150 and year 405

231-250 also have much lower near-surface temperature. However, the near-surface temperature differences over the GrIS are much smaller due to its perennial ice and snow 407

cover. There are also regions at the ice sheet periphery that are warmer in ARCTIC. This is caused by the difference of cloud conditions, which is discussed in Section 3.3.3. 409



Figure 6. Northern hemisphere summer lower troposphere virtual temperature differences (K) between ARCTIC and F09M(a-c), ARCTIC and F09(d-f). Lower troposphere layer mean virtual temperature is derived from the 1,000-500 hPa geopotential thickness, using the hypsometric equation. Northern hemisphere summer near-surface air temperature differences (K) between ARCTIC and FO9M(g-i), ARCTIC and FO9(j-l). The three columns from left to right represent averaged periods year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350, respectively. Dotted regions are where the two simulations are significantly different (p < 0.05) by student t test.

The NAMOC evolution is insensitive to the enhanced resolution in the atmosphere. 410 The three simulations have very similar NAMOC index, and even their initial differences 411 are diminished. During the period of  $CO_2$  increase, the NAMOC weakens significantly 412 (Fig.7a, with the NAMOC index decreasing by  $0.14 \text{ Sv yr}^{-1}$ ,  $0.13 \text{ Sv yr}^{-1}$ , and 0.12 Sv413

 $yr^{-1}$  in ARCTIC, FO9M, and FO9, respectively. Then the NAMOC index gradually stabi-414 lizes and remains at about 5 Sv for almost two centuries. We also compare the evolu-415 tion of the NAMOC index with the total freshwater flux from the GrIS into the ocean 416 (Fig.7b). The total freshwater flux is calculated by adding up surface runoff, basal melt, 417 and solid ice discharge. The NAMOC index declines at the start of  $CO_2$  increase, which 418 is much earlier than the rapid increase freshwater flux at around year 110, and remains 419 stable when the freshwater flux keeps increasing. This relationship is also found in sim-420 ulations under SSP5-8.5 forcing (Muntjewerf, Petrini, et al., 2020), which suggests the 421 relatively limited role of additional freshwater input from the GrIS on NAMOC weak-422 ening compared to global warming in CESM2. 423



Figure 7. Evolution of the annual mean (a) NAMOC index (Sv), (b) total freshwater flux into the ocean (mSv), (c) Northern Hemisphere sea ice extent (million  $\text{km}^2$ ; ice concentration > 15%), and (d) averaged sea ice thickness (m). The thick lines in (b) represent 20-year running means. The dotted lines in (c) represent September mean sea ice extent and the gray shaded range represents the "ice-free" condition.

Slower decline of Northern Hemisphere sea ice extent is found in ARCTIC compared to the 1° runs (Fig.7c). In the 1° runs, the Arctic becomes ice-free (sea ice extent < one million km<sup>2</sup>) in September after about 60 years, while this happens about five decades later in ARCTIC. There is an acceleration of annual sea ice decline ((Fig.7c)) at around

year 90 for all the simulations. This is possibly because the ice-free Arctic ocean absorbs 428 more radiation, which stores more heat in the ocean and slows down sea ice formation 429 in colder seasons, but the reason for the timing needs further investigation. Before the 430 Arctic becomes ice-free all year round by the end of the simulation, ARCTIC has larger 431 sea ice extent than the 1° runs due to its slower sea ice decline during the first two cen-432 turies. This is mostly driven by the larger initial sea ice thickness in ARCTIC of the warm-433 ing scenario (Fig.7d), which is a result of increasing the albedo of snow over sea ice in 434 ARCTIC during the tuning process. 435

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#### 3.3.2 SMB Evolution and Ice Sheet Changes

The evolution of ice sheet-integrated quantities in the three simulations follows a 437 similar pattern but with different magnitudes and timing. Figure 8b compares the evo-438 lution of the GrIS-integrated SMB of the three simulations. Compared to the 1° runs, 439 the SMB in ARCTIC decreases more slowly, such that by the end of the simulation, the 440 drop of annual SMB in ARCTIC is 306 Gt yr<sup>-1</sup> and 226 Gt yr<sup>-1</sup> ( $\sim 10\%$ ) smaller than F09M 441 and F09, respectively (Table 1). This SMB difference mainly results from the difference 442 in melt, with ARCTIC generally producing less surface melt than FO9M and FO9, especially 443 around the period year 180-260 (Fig.8a). During year 231-250, the GrIS-integrated melt in F09M and F09 is 579 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  and 523 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  larger than ARCTIC, respectively (Table 1). The difference in precipitation is relatively small (Fig.8a). F09 has larger precip-446 itation than ARCTIC, which compensates some of its larger melt and results in smaller 447 SMB difference. In F09M, the adjustments that direct cold-rain to surface runoff and in-448 crease sub-grid roughness over Greenland greatly reduce precipitation. Compared to F09, 449 it causes a 204 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  reduction of annual total precipitation averaged over the 350 years. 450 The slower SMB decrease of ARCTIC causes slower decrease of MB (Fig.8c), and thus slower 451 ice volume decrease (Fig.8d) and smaller global mean sea level rise (GMSLR) contribution (Fig.8e). Over the whole 350 years, F09M and F09 contribute to 267 mm and 145 453 mm ( $\sim 20\%$ ) more GMSLR than ARCTIC, respectively (Table 1). We note the different 454 initial ice volume and initial mass balance of the three simulations, which will be dis-455 cussed in Section 4. 456



**Figure 8.** Evolution of GrIS-integrated (a) total precipitation and melt (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), (b) SMB (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), (c) MB (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), (d) ice volume ( $\times 10^4$  km<sup>3</sup>), and (e) accumulated contribution to global mean sea level rise (mm) for the three simulations. The thick lines in (a)-(c) represent 20-year running means.

Averaged over the whole 350 years, the smaller melt in ARCTIC is most significant 457 along the ice sheet periphery in western and northern GrIS, where FO9M and FO9 melt 458 over 300 mm more ice each year (Fig.9c,d). The south tip shows the reverse of the larger 459 spatial pattern, with more melt in ARCTIC. This is due to the weaker cloud shortwave cooling there in ARCTIC (discussed in Section 3.3.3). The spatial pattern of melt differ-461 ence is consistent for ARCTIC compared to F09M and F09 despite their different initial con-462 ditions (Fig.8d). The spatial pattern of total precipitation difference is almost the op-463 posite for ARCTIC compared to F09M and F09, with the former having lower precipita-464 tion and the latter having larger precipitation centered over the south and southeast coasts 465 (Fig.9a,b). Due to the smoother topography in the  $1^{\circ}$  grid, there is more moisture pen-466 etration into the ice sheet from southeast. For FO9M, the effect of directing cold-rain to 467 surface runoff and increasing sub-grid roughness is evident, which greatly reduces the total precipitation. Over the 350 years, weaker ice sheet thinning (difference > 100 m) is found in ARCTIC especially along the western and northern peripheries compared to 470 the 1° runs (Fig.9e,f). The larger precipitation in F09 reinforces its smaller melt in the 471 south tip, resulting in less ice sheet thinning there. 472



Figure 9. Maps of the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (left column), ARCTIC and F09 (right column): (a-b) annual mean precipitation (mm  $yr^{-1}$ ), (c-d) surface melt (mm  $yr^{-1}$ ) averaged over the whole 350 years, and (e-f) ice thickness change (m) between the end of the simulation and the end of pre-industrial period. Blue color indicates more precipitation, less melt, or less thinning. For precipitation and melt, ARCTIC results are remapped to the f09 grid for the comparison.

#### 473 3.3.3 Surface Energy Balance

To explain the differences in meltwater production between ARCTIC and the  $1^{\circ}$  runs, 474 we examine how incident radiation is impacted by cloud conditions. Figure 10a,b illus-475 trate the summer mean cloud fraction difference between ARCTIC and the  $1^{\circ}$  runs. There 476 is a ring of cloud fraction surplus around the ocean perimeter of Greenland in ARCTIC, 477 which is similar to previous findings in (Herrington et al., 2022). Lower cloud fraction 478 in ARCTIC is found in the northern and southern peripheries, while in between the cloud fraction can be higher compared to the 1° runs, especially during year 231-250. This pat-480 tern is different to that in Herrington et al. (2022), where the smoother topography in 481 lower resolution runs causes more moisture intrusion thus larger cloud fraction in the ice 482 sheet interior. The higher pressure in the 1° runs over the GrIS (Fig.5) may contribute 483

to their lower cloud fraction by generating stronger large-scale subsidence and cloud dissipation. The spatial pattern of total cloud liquid water path (LWP) difference over the 485 GrIS generally follows that of cloud fraction difference, except for the much larger LWP in the southern interior in ARCTIC (Fig.5c,d). The pattern of cloud difference impacts the incident radiation. In ARCTIC, the incident shortwave radiation is generally larger due to less cloud cover or thinner clouds, especially in northern Greenland and along the 489 ice sheet margins (Fig.10e,f). At the same time, smaller incident longwave radiation is 490 found all over the ice sheet for ARCTIC (Fig.10g,h), with the largest differences along the 491 north and southeast margins. This is a combined effect of the cloud conditions and lower 492 free atmosphere temperature over Greenland in ARCTIC. 493



Figure 10. Maps of the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (left three columns), ARCTIC and F09 (right three columns): (a-b) JJA mean cloud fraction, (c-d) total cloud liquid water path (kg m<sup>-2</sup>), (e-f) downward shortwave radiation (W m<sup>-2</sup>), and (g-h) downward longwave radiation (W m<sup>-2</sup>) averaged over three periods: year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350.

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Differences in the representation of clouds and the resultant incident radiation have a direct impact on SEB terms and thus total energy available for melt. Despite the overall larger incident shortwave radiation in ARCTIC, especially along the ice sheet margins, it has smaller net shortwave radiation in the interior compared to the 1° runs, peaking at the gently sloping ice surface in the western and northern basins (or transitional area)

(Fig.11a,b). Therefore, the albedo in these regions of ARCTIC must drop more slowly than

those in the 1° runs. The net shortwave radiation difference during year 131-150 is still 500 small, and it becomes dominant in the SEB during year 231-250 and year 331-350. The 501 spatial pattern of net longwave radiation difference (Fig.11c,d) is consistent with the pat-502 tern of incident longwave radiation (Fig.10g,h), suggesting the weaker cloud longwave 503 warming effect in ARCTIC. The spatial pattern of differences in net longwave radiation 504 is consistent through time. Compared to the radiative fluxes, the difference of turbulent 505 fluxes between ARCTIC and the 1° runs is relatively small (Fig.11e-h). The above men-506 tioned gently sloping ice surface in the western and northern basins also favors smaller 507 sensible and latent heat fluxes in ARCTIC. Larger sensible heat flux is found in ARCTIC 508 along the ice sheet margins especially during year 331-351, which originates from the higher 509 near-surface temperature there (Fig.6g-l). The difference of ground heat flux is small be-510 tween ARCTIC and the 1° runs (not shown). As the sum of the above SEB terms, the to-511 tal melt energy difference has a spatial pattern that agrees with the averaged melt dif-512 ference (Fig.9c,d). In the aggregate, the spatial distribution of the lower melt energy in 513 ARCTIC (Fig.11a,b) mainly results from the combination of smaller net shortwave radi-514 ation due to higher surface albedo and smaller net longwave radiation due to lower cloud 515 fraction. 516



Figure 11. Maps of the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (left three columns), ARCTIC and F09 (right three columns): (a-b) JJA mean total melt energy, (c-d) net shortwave radiation, (e-f) net longwave radiation, (g-h) sensible heat flux, and (i-j) latent heat flux averaged over three periods: year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350 in the unit of W m<sup>-2</sup>. Grids that do not have 100 percent ice fraction were masked out to avoid bias caused by comparing grids with different ice fraction.

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#### 3.3.4 Melt/albedo Feedback and the Impact of Ice Sheet Hypsometry

We speculate that the slower decrease in albedo in ARCTIC is caused by a weaker albedo feedback. We first examine the bulk albedo feedback (Eq.2), which captures the long-term change in net shortwave radiation versus near-surface temperature when timelags are considered. Over the whole 350 years, the bulk albedo feedback of ARCTIC (Fig.12a) and the 1° runs (not shown) is all positive over the GrIS, meaning more shortwave radiation is absorbed as near-surface temperature rises. The positive bulk albedo feedback is concentrated in the ablation zones, peaking in the lower elevations in the gently slop-

ing western and northern basins (> 15 W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>). Figure 12b and 12c show the dif-525 ference of the bulk albedo feedback between ARCTIC and F09M, ARCTIC and F09, respec-526 tively. In general, ARCTIC has weaker bulk albedo feedback compared to the 1° runs. A weaker bulk albedo feedback means less shortwave radiation is absorbed given the same amount of near-surface temperature increase. The spatial patterns of the bulk albedo 529 feedback difference agree well with those of the net shortwave radiation difference (Fig.11c,d), 530 indicating a limited role of near-surface temperature increase on causing this pattern. 531 Unlike the bulk albedo feedback that peaks in the lower elevations, the differences are 532 larger over the higher ablation zones. We also examine the albedo feedback (Eq.1) us-533 ing annual paired detrended anomalies of net shortwave radiation and near-surface tem-534 perature over the three 20-year periods. By definition, the albedo feedback reveals an interplay of physical mechanisms, but it is more sensitive to interannual variabilities (e.g., of snowfall), which may make it harder to interpret. The albedo feedback differences show 537 a similar but more variable spatial pattern compared to those of the bulk albedo feed-538 back during year 231-250 and year 331-350 (Fig.S3e-f,h-i) when the albedo feedback is 539 strong (Fig.S3b-c). The difference between bulk albedo feedback and albedo feedback 540 also stresses the importance of melt preconditioning effect on following melt seasons. 541



Figure 12. Maps of the bulk albedo feedback (W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>) defined by  $\Delta SW_{net}/\Delta T_{air}$  of ARCTIC (a), and the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (b), ARCTIC and F09 (c). Time changes from the end of pre-industrial period to the end of the simulation. Gray lines in (a) separate the seven drainage basins defined by Rignot and Mouginot (2012), and blue lines show the location of the two transects plotted in Figure 15.

The difference in albedo feedback between ARCTIC and the  $1^{\circ}$  runs can be largely 542 explained by the different representations of surface topography in different resolution. 543 Figure 13 shows the surface elevation-cumulative area relationships in the three simulations for the whole ice sheet and the individual basins defined by Rignot and Mouginot (2012). A steeper slope in the elevation-cumulative area relationship indicates a larger 546 area increase per meter of elevation rise, thus representing a flatter topography. Ryan 547 et al. (2019) demonstrates the dominant role of Greenland's seasonally fluctuating snow-548 line for reducing ice sheet albedo compared to bare ice albedo reduction caused by melt 549 processes. Here, instead of the end-of-summer snowline elevation, we use the ELA to avoid 550 the possible difficulties of snowline classification. Though different due to processes like 551 superimposed ice formation (Cogley et al., 2011), a significant correlation is found be-552 tween the ELA and the end-of-summer snowline elevation (Fausto & the PROMICE team<sup>\*</sup>, 553 2018). For the whole ice sheet, the average ELA rises from around 600 m to 2,500 m over 554 the 350 years. Within this range, ARCTIC has a less steep slope of the elevation-cumulative 555 area relationship than the 1° runs (Fig.13a), indicating a smaller area increase with the 556

same amount of elevation rise. The slope difference between ARCTIC and the 1° runs becomes even larger at the end of the simulation compared to the start. Figure 14b shows

- the relationships between annual mean ELA and ablation area of the three simulations.
- The match between the simulated ELA-ablation area relationship and the elevation-cumulative
- area relationship demonstrates the role of topography on regulating the speed of abla-
- tion zone expansion. With the same amount of ELA increase, the ablation area incre-
- ment in ARCTIC is smaller due to its steeper topography, which results in a slower ab-
- lation zone expansion (Fig.14a) and thus smaller albedo feedback of ARCTIC (Fig.12b,c).
- To further verify the result, the annual mean ablation area and ELA are also computed
- based on the ARCTIC outputs but remapped to the f09 grid (ARCTIC2f09) using the Earth
- 567 System Modeling Framework (ESMF) first-order conservative remapping algorithm (ESMF
- Joint Specification Team, 2021). A similar slower ablation area expansion and smaller
- slope of the ELA-ablation area relationship is found for ARCTIC2f09 (purple line and dots
- in Fig.14) compared to the  $1^{\circ}$  runs, which attests our theory.



Figure 13. Hypsometric surface elevation-area relationships for the whole GrIS (a) and for different basins defined by Rignot and Mouginot (2012) (b-h). For the colored lines, the solid lines represent year 0, and the dotted lines represent year 350. The blue shaded elevation range indicates the annual GrIS- or basin-mean ELA variability in ARCTIC during the 350 years.



**Figure 14.** Evolution of the annual mean ablation area  $(Mkm^2)$  (a) and the relationship between ablation area and mean equilibrium line altitude over the Greenland Ice Sheet (b).

Aside from topography, other factors can also affect albedo feedback. Along the southeast coast, the larger precipitation in F09 (Fig.9b) potentially slows down the albedo reduction more effectively, leading to its smaller bulk albedo feedback there compared to ARCTIC (Fig.12c). The impact of clouds on net shortwave radiation also cannot be eliminated from the bulk albedo feedback calculation. However, since the cloud pattern differences that cause more downward shortwave radiation in ARCTIC (Fig.10e,f) would play en opposite role, it is not considered as a contributor to the major albedo feedback differences.

Due to the regional dependence of ELA and surface topography, we also check the 579 elevation-cumulative area relationship within separate GrIS drainage basins. The slope 580 difference between ARCTIC and the 1° runs is largest within the steepest Central East 581 and South East Basins (Fig.13d,e), but due to the narrow ablation zones and large pre-582 cipitation in these basins, it does not result in large difference of the albedo feedback. 583 For all the other basins where the albedo feedback is smaller in ARCTIC such as the South 584 West, we also find that it has less steep slopes of the elevation-cumulative area relation-585 ship compared to the 1° runs (Fig.13f). This consists with our hypothesis that the to-586 pography represented in different resolution grids causes the albedo feedback differences.

The different representations of surface topography originate from the grid resolution differences and also the related numerical modeling requirements. Figure 15 shows 589 the representation of the ice sheet surface along two transects (positions shown in Fig-590 ure 12a) for the three simulations at different times. One is the east-west "K-transect" in southwest Greenland and the other is a transect extending from the central dome down 592 to the Kangerlussuaq glacier on the southeast coast. Compared to ARCTIC, the coarser 593  $1^{\circ}$  grids have fewer grid cells along the transects, which may result in flatter surfaces lo-594 cally. Moreover, the smoothing and flattening of the raw topography, necessary to pre-595 vent the model from exciting grid-scale numerical modes (Herrington et al., 2022), causes 596 the lower-elevation ablation zones to extend beyond the true ice sheet margin more in 597 the 1° runs. It results in flatter slopes along the transects in FO9M and FO9, which favor faster ablation zone expansion. For the more gently sloping K-transect (Fig.15a) with a relatively wide ablation zone (can climbs up the whole transect), this impact of sur-600 face slope is more significant as reflected in the bulk albedo feedback (Fig.12b,c). How-601 ever, for the steeper southeast transect (Fig.15b) where the ablation zone below  $\sim 2600$ 602 m is relatively narrow, the impact is limited. 603



Figure 15. Model surface elevation (m) along the (a) K-transect, and (b) a transect spanning the central dome down to the Kangerlussuaq glacier in southeast Greenland, for F09M, F09, and ARCTIC at different times. The GMTED reference surface is a 1 km surface elevation data set Danielson and Gesch (2011) used for generating the CAM topographic boundary conditions.

#### <sup>604</sup> 4 Summary and Discussion

In this study, we applied an Arctic-refined variable-resolution grid to a coupled Earth system/ice sheet model, CESM2.2-CISM2.1, to investigate future, multicentury, climate and GrIS evolution. The variable-resolution grid has a horizontal resolution of  $1/4^{\circ}$  over the broader Arctic region and 1° elsewhere. The simulation was run under a multicentury idealized  $4 \times CO_2$  scenario and is compared with two other reference simulations under the same forcing scenario but using a lower resolution grid (1° lat-lon grid) to explore the impact of enhanced horizontal resolution.

Though with different magnitudes and timing, the response of the GrIS to the warm-612 ing climate in the variable-resolution run is similar to what was found in Muntjewerf, 613 Sellevold, et al. (2020). In the variable-resolution run, the global annual average near-614 surface temperature rises approximately linearly at a speed of 0.33 K per decade dur-615 ing  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ CO}_2$  increment. Polar amplification is 1.8, while GrIS amplification is much 616 smaller (1.1). After CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization, the speed of global annual average near-surface 617 temperature rise decreases more than 40 percents compared to the previous stage (0.19) 618 K per decade). An acceleration of the GrIS mass loss is found at around year 110 (2.4 619 Gt yr<sup>-2</sup> before year 110 to 13.0 Gt yr<sup>-2</sup> during year 111-150), which is driven by faster 620 SMB decrease. At this time, the expansion of the ablation area is large enough to trig-621 ger a large melt/albedo feedback, which reinforces the absorption of shortwave radiation 622 and accelerates the melt. The increased sensible and latent heat fluxes also contribute 623 to this process due to expanded and strengthened near-surface temperature inversion. 624 By the end of the simulation, the ablation zone covers 57% of the ice sheet surface. The 625 cumulative contribution from the GrIS to global mean sea level rise is 53 mm by year 626 150 and 831 mm by year 350, which is about 40% and 20% smaller compared to the 1° runs. The sea level rise contribution from our variable-resolution run by  $CO_2$  stabiliza-628 tion is also small compared to other CESM simulations under the CMIP RCP8.5 and 629 SSP5-8.5 scenarios by year 2100 (109 mm in Muntjewerf, Petrini, et al. (2020) and 76 630 mm in Lipscomb et al. (2013)), when the  $CO_2$  concentration is close to  $4 \times CO_2$ . If com-631

pared to projections using GrIS models forced by outputs from CMIP5 GCMs ( $90\pm50$ mm during 2015-2100; Goelzer et al., 2020), our estimation approaches the lower bound.

Compared to the  $1^{\circ}$  runs, the variable-resolution run has relatively slower MB and 634 SMB decrease. This mainly originates from the smaller surface melt during summer in 635 the variable-resolution run. The SMB difference between the simulations can be smaller 636 than their difference in melt due to compensating terms, which stresses the importance 637 of correctly modeling individual SMB components for making reliable projections of GrIS 638 mass loss. The excessive melt in the 1° runs is concentrated in the western and northern transitional zones towards the margins, produced by the combined effect of greater net longwave and net shortwave radiation, with the latter playing a primary role. The 641 larger net longwave radiation over the ice sheet peripheries in the 1° runs results from 642 their larger and thicker cloud cover over these regions. The net shortwave radiation dif-643 ferences are a product of the stronger albedo feedback over the western and northern basins 644 in the  $1^{\circ}$  runs. In coarser grids, stronger smoothing and flattening of topography due 645 to grid resolution and necessity to prevent model from exciting grid-scale numerical modes leads to faster ablation zone expansion, thus stronger albedo feedback. Therefore, future sea level projections based on models with a coarse resolution may be biased high due to their inability of adequately resolving the Greenland topography. 649

Comparisons between these simulations are complicated by differences in grid res-650 olution, physics time step and dynamical core (dycore). Similar to the effect of increasing resolution, reducing physics time step can also increase resolved vertical velocities and thus condensational heating. By comparing two AMIP style CESM2.2 simulations 653 using the same quasi-uniform  $1^{\circ}$  SE grid but different time steps, Herrington et al. (2022) 654 showed that the simulation with a reduced time step has a warmer troposphere over nearly 655 all latitudes. Then by comparing two simulations using the same time step but differ-656 ent grids - the Arctic grid and the quasi-uniform  $1^{\circ}$  grid, Herrington et al. (2022) showed 657 that the warmer temperature caused by enhanced resolution is confined to the refined 658 Arctic region with a larger magnitude. Therefore, the differences of the simulated climate within the refined Arctic region in this study is more likely a result of changing the horizontal resolution though the impact from changing the physics time step cannot be 661 eliminated. Since the SE dycore is less diffusive than the FV dycore, the resolved ver-662 tical velocities are larger in the SE dycore, which can also warm up the atmosphere. It 663 is impossible to fully disentangle the impacts of changing resolution and dynamical core 664 in the current simulations since these factors change simultaneously. 665

Another uncertainty in this study is the initial condition. The pre-industrial sim-666 ulations of ARCTIC was branched off from an initial condition similar to the initial con-667 dition of the FO9M 1% CO<sub>2</sub> simulation. The aim of this is to achieve a near equilibrium 668 state of the GrIS after changing the grid. As a more direct comparison, F09 went through 669 a similar spin-up process as ARCTIC. The resulted initial ice sheet conditions before the 670 start of the idealized warming period are different among the three simulations: F09 has a larger initial ice volume than ARCTIC, while F09M has a smaller initial ice volume than 672 **ARCTIC** (Fig.8d). We found that **ARCTIC** has slower SMB decrease and lower melt com-673 pared to the 1° runs in multicentury scale, no matter whether their initial ice volume 674 is larger or smaller. Also, ARCTIC has a cooler pre-industrial climate than F09M and F09. 675 The impact of this cooler climate is kept through the whole idealized warming simula-676 tion, which is reflected in Figure 6g-l. Moreover, we note that all the three simulations 677 have small positive drifts of GrIS MB before the start of the warming scenario (Table 678 1). The cooler initial climate in ARCTIC results in a longer adjusting time for the GrIS to shift to mass loss, which degrades the specific projections of GrIS sea level rise con-680 tribution. However, our result suggests that the near-surface temperature is not the main 681 driver for the different responses of the GrIS among the simulations. Considering all these, 682 we can conclude that our finding is robust. 683

One limitation of the current model configuration lies in the ice-ocean interface. 684 The direct impact of oceanic thermal forcing on ocean-terminating ice fronts is not in-685 cluded, and the floating criterion used in the calving parameterization is highly idealized. The limited understanding and implementation of processes such as calving and submarine melting in ice sheet models has been identified as a major source of uncertainties for future projections of the GrIS (Goelzer et al., 2020). Oceanic forcing can en-689 hance solid ice discharge (Holland et al., 2008; Wood et al., 2018). Using another cou-690 pled Earth system/ice sheet model, EC-Earth-PISM, under the same  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ CO}_2$  warm-691 ing scenario, Madsen et al. (2022) showed that even by embedding a constant oceanic 692 thermal forcing and a simple geometric calving criterion, the ice discharge decrease is 693 much smaller after 350 years. Most modeling studies that include oceanic forcing estimate a second order future sea level rise contribution from ice dynamics compared to 695 SMB for the entire ice sheet (Price et al., 2011; Fürst et al., 2015; Aschwanden et al., 696 2019), but with improved bathymetry and bed topography mapping, Choi et al. (2021) 697 showed that ice dynamics could contribute comparably as SMB or more to GrIS mass 698 loss over this century. These studies illustrate the importance of properly including iceocean interactions for future GrIS projections at century to multicentury scale. Currently, 700 the functionality of ice sheet-ocean interaction is under study in CESM and will be in-701 cluded in the future versions. The Arctic grid or grids with even higher-resolution refinement will also be helpful by providing a better resolved atmospheric forcing for mod-703 eling the ice dynamics in narrow fjords. 704

In the aggregate, our study demonstrates the value of employing variable-resolution
 grids for coupled climate-GrIS modeling, providing valuable insights into ice sheet-climate
 interactions. It underscores the critical role of grid resolution in modeling the evolution
 of the GrIS on multicentury time scales, particularly in capturing topography-related processes and feedbacks, and thus advances the projection of the GrIS' future sea level rise
 contribution.

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#### 720 Open Research

The data presented in this manuscript are stored in https://doi.org/10.5281/ Zenodo.10685261, and the code for generating the plots are available at https://github .com/IceZYin/2022-VR-dynamic-GrIS.git.

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# Improved Understanding of Multicentury Greenland Ice Sheet Response to Strong Warming in the Coupled CESM2-CISM2 with Regional Grid Refinement

## Ziqi Yin<sup>1</sup>, Adam R. Herrington<sup>2</sup>, Rajashree Tri Datta<sup>1</sup>, Aneesh Subramanian<sup>1</sup>, Jan T. M. Lenaerts<sup>1</sup>, and Andrew Gettelman<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA <sup>2</sup>National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO, USA <sup>3</sup>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA, USA

#### • Key Points:

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10	•	For the first time, a variable-resolution atmosphere is coupled with the ocean and
11		sea ice components in CESM with a dynamic GrIS
12	•	Slower Greenland surface melt increase is detected in the Arctic-refined simula-
13		tion compared with simulations using a conventional $1^{\circ}$ grid
14	•	The steeper VR GrIS surface topography favors slower ablation zone expansion,
15		leading to weaker albedo feedback and slower melt increase

Corresponding author: Ziqi Yin, Ziqi.Yin@colorado.edu

#### 16 Abstract

The simulation of ice sheet-climate interaction such as surface mass balance fluxes 17 are sensitive to model grid resolution. Here we simulate the multicentury evolution of 18 the Greenland Ice Sheet (GrIS) and its interaction with the climate using the Commu-19 nity Earth System Model version 2.2 (CESM2.2) including an interactive GrIS compo-20 nent (the Community Ice Sheet Model v2.1 [CISM2.1]) under an idealized warming sce-21 nario (atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> increases by 1% yr<sup>-1</sup> until quadrupling the pre-industrial level 22 and then is held fixed). A variable-resolution (VR) grid with  $1/4^{\circ}$  regional refinement 23 over broader Arctic and 1° resolution elsewhere is applied to the atmosphere and land components, and the results are compared to conventional  $1^{\circ}$  lat-lon grid simulations to 25 investigate the impact of grid refinement. An acceleration of GrIS mass loss is found at 26 around year 110, caused by rapidly increasing surface melt as the ablation area expands 27 with associated albedo feedback and increased turbulent fluxes. Compared to the  $1^{\circ}$  runs, 28 the VR run features slower melt increase, especially over Western and Northern Green-29 land, which slope gently towards the peripheries. This difference pattern originates pri-30 marily from the weaker albedo feedback in the VR run, complemented by its smaller cloud 31 longwave radiation. The steeper VR Greenland surface topography favors slower abla-32 tion zone expansion, thus leading to its weaker albedo feedback. The sea level rise con-33 tribution from the GrIS in the VR run is 53 mm by year 150 and 831 mm by year 350, 34 approximately 40% and 20% smaller than the 1° runs, respectively. 35

#### <sup>36</sup> Plain Language Summary

As one of the main contributors to global sea level rise, the Greenland Ice Sheet 37 (GrIS) has been losing mass as an accelerating rate during the recent decades. Better 38 understanding the interactions between the GrIS and the climate can help us make more reliable future projections of GrIS mass loss. To simulate these interactions, a fully cou-40 pled model infrastructure is necessary. Additionally, the model resolution needs to be 41 higher enough to resolve the surface topography and processes like orographic precip-42 itation. This study applies a  $1/4^{\circ}$  Arctic refined grid to an Earth System Model which 43 includes an interactive GrIS model to simulate multicentury GrIS evolution under an ide-44 alized warming scenario, and compares the results with simulations using a lower res-45 olution grid. We show that the simulation with the grid refinement has a slower increase in melt, thus contributing less to global sea level rise. This difference mainly results from 47 the slower ablation zone expansion and thus weaker albedo feedback in the Arctic re-48 fined grid simulation, with the smaller cloud longwave radiation playing a supporting 49 role. 50

#### <sup>51</sup> 1 Introduction

Recent data reveals an acceleration in the mass loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet 52 (GrIS), averaging 257 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  between 2017 and 2020, a sevenfold increase compared 53 to the early 1990s (Otosaka et al., 2023). GrIS mass loss is driven both by atmospheric warming (Hanna et al., 2021), which increases surface melt and meltwater runoff (Trusel 55 et al., 2018), and oceanic warming, which has caused glacier acceleration and enhanced 56 ice discharge (Straneo & Heimbach, 2013). Though the ice discharge increase played a 57 stronger role in GrIS mass loss between 1992 and 2018 ( $66 \pm 8\%$ ), during the last two 58 decades, surface mass balance (SMB) decrease has become the dominant contributor due 59 to increased surface melt (Enderlin et al., 2014; Mouginot et al., 2019). The exceptional 60 summer surface melting causes a maximum mass loss of 444 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  in 2019 (Tedesco 61 & Fettweis, 2020). The interactions between the ice sheet, the atmosphere, and the ocean 62 can initiate feedback effects, further amplifying or dampening the mass imbalance sig-63 nals. One important positive feedback is the albedo/melt feedback. As snow or ice melts, 64 the surface with lower albedo, e.g., warmer snow/firn/bare ice/ground, is exposed, lead-65

ing to increased absorption of shortwave radiation and thus further promoting melt of
the original and nearby regions. Many other feedbacks can enhance or restrain GrIS mass
loss, such as geometry/SMB feedbacks (Fyke et al., 2018). So, to better model the evolution of the GrIS, a coupled model that can represent these bidirectional interactions/feedbacks
is necessary.

The accuracy of simulated SMB is sensitive to model grid resolution, especially in 71 regions with steep and complex terrains. The mountainous GrIS margins, also where steep 72 topographic gradients are located, are too smooth in conventional 1° to 2° global climate 73 models (GCMs). Such models fail to resolve processes like orographic precipitation and 74 allow too much moisture to penetrate into the ice sheet interior, causing positive pre-75 cipitation biases (Pollard & Groups, 2000). Research has shown that, with a higher hor-76 izontal resolution, the orographic precipitation can be better resolved and thus the pos-77 itive precipitation biases can be reduced (van Kampenhout et al., 2019; Herrington et 78 al., 2022). In addition, the ablation zone around the GrIS margins where the majority 79 of summer melt occurs can be as narrow as tens of kilometers, which cannot be resolved 80 by  $1^{\circ}$  to  $2^{\circ}$  grids. It is therefore important to have a finer resolution for more accurate representation of GrIS SMB processes. 82

Modeling with a variable-resolution grid has several advantages. Though rapidly 83 developing, widespread use of global-uniform high-resolution climate models (e.g., mod-84 els participated in the High-Resolution Model Intercomparison Project (HighResMIP; 85 Haarsma et al., 2016)) is still impractical due to current limits in computational resources. Regional climate models (RCMs), usually in one-way nesting mode, offer regional high 87 resolution with a lower computational cost. However, they need boundary conditions from 88 GCMs or reanalysis, thus not allowing two-way interactions across the boundaries. More-89 over, the boundary conditions derived from a separate host model can introduce incon-90 sistencies between the host model and the RCM. Variable-resolution modeling overcomes 91 some of these challenges using a unified modeling framework, which can model the two-92 way interactions between the regional and large scales and is more computationally ef-93 ficient. 94

The application of regional grid refinement in GCMs can be dated back to the early 95 use of stretched grids in late 1970s (Schmidt, 1977; Staniforth & Mitchell, 1978) and now 96 it has been developed in many state-of-the-art GCMs (Harris et al., 2016; Zängl et al., 97 2022; Sakaguchi et al., 2023; Tang et al., 2023). In the Community Earth System Model, version2 (CESM2; Danabasoglu et al., 2020), regional grid refinement is supported by the spectral-element (SE; Lauritzen et al., 2018) dynamical core of the atmospheric com-100 ponent. Studies have proven its consistency in modeling global circulation and clima-101 tology (Zarzycki et al., 2015; Gettelman et al., 2018), fidelity in representing tropical and 102 extra-tropical cyclones (Zarzycki & Jablonowski, 2014; Zarzycki et al., 2014; Zarzycki, 103 2016) and regional climate, especially at regions with mountains or steep terrain (Rhoades 104 et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2016; Huang & Ullrich, 2017; Wu et al., 2017; Rhoades et al., 2018; Rahimi et al., 2019; Bambach et al., 2022; Wijngaard et al., 2023). The variable-106 resolution CESM2 (VR-CESM2) has also been applied to the polar regions. van Kam-107 penhout et al. (2019) shows that the simulation of GrIS SMB in the accumulation zone 108 is significantly improved by using two regionally refined grids over the GrIS at  $1/2^{\circ}$  and 109  $1/4^{\circ}$ . In addition to improvements where a refined resolution is applied to the GrIS, the 110 simulated clouds and precipitation in the Arctic is also substantially improved with two 111 Arctic-refined meshes, one at  $1/4^{\circ}$  and another with an additional  $1/8^{\circ}$  patch of refine-112 ment over Greenland (Herrington et al., 2022). For the Antarctic,  $1/4^{\circ}$  regional refine-113 ment over the Antarctic Ice Sheet and the surrounding Southern Ocean indicates both 114 improvements, mainly in temperature and wind fields, and degradations, primarily re-115 lated to surface melt, over the Antarctic Ice Sheet compared to 1° CESM2 (Datta et al., 116 2023). The VR-CESM2 in the above-mentioned studies are run in the coupled land-atmosphere 117

mode following the Atmospheric Model Intercomparison Project protocols (AMIP; Gates, 1992).

This study analyzes the results from a set of simulations using the fully coupled 120 configuration of CESM2 with a dynamic GrIS under an idealized strong warming sce-121 nario. A variable-resolution grid, which has  $1/4^{\circ}$  regional refinement over the broader 122 Arctic region and  $1^{\circ}$  horizontal resolution elsewhere, is applied to the atmosphere and 123 land components of CESM2. Unlike prior VR-CESM2 studies, we include coupling to 124 a dynamic ocean model, similar to Tang et al. (2023). This work aims to: first, investigate multicentury future GrIS evolution, and second, compare the results of the variableresolution run with those of global 1° resolution runs, to see where the regional refine-127 ment provides added value. Section 2 documents the model, grids, and experiment de-128 sign information. Section 3 presents the results and the comparison of the simulations. 129 Finally, in Section 4, a discussion and conclusions are provided. 130

#### <sup>131</sup> 2 Methods

132 2.1 Model Description

CESM2 is an Earth System Model (ESM) maintained by the National Center for 133 Atmosphere Research, which consists of atmosphere, ocean, land, sea ice, and land ice components and can be run in configurations with different levels of complexity. The ocean 135 component, Parallel Ocean Program version 2 (POP2; Smith et al., 2010), runs on a nom-136 inal 1° displaced-pole grid with 60 vertical levels. Sea ice is represented by the Commu-137 nity Ice CodE for sea ice version 5 (CICE5; Hunke et al., 2015), using the same horizon-138 tal grid as POP2. Land processes are simulated by the Community Land Model version 139 5 (CLM5; Lawrence et al., 2019), using the same horizontal grid as the atmosphere model. 140 CLM5 also embeds the Model for Scale Adaptive River Transport (MOSART; Li et al., 141 2013) to handle land surface runoff based on topographic gradients. 142

The GrIS is simulated using the Community Ice Sheet Model, version 2.1 (CISM2.1; 143 Lipscomb et al., 2019), using a 4-km rectangular grid with 11 terrain-following vertical 144 levels. To simulate ice flow, a depth-integrated higher-order approximation (Goldberg, 145 2011) of the Stokes equations is employed in the velocity solver. The parameterization of basal sliding utilizes a pseudo-plastic sliding law and a simple basal hydrology model, 147 following the approach described by Aschwanden et al. (2016). In this parameterization, 148 the yield stress is determined by the till friction angle and the effective pressure, with 149 the former being influenced by the bedrock elevation through a fixed piecewise linear re-150 lationship. The bedrock evolution due to Glacial Isostatic Adjustment (GIA) effect is 151 governed by an Elastic plate Lithosphere plus Relaxing Asthenosphere (ELRA) model 152 (see for example Rutt et al., 2009). This study accounts for calving processes through 153 a flotation criterion, where floating ice is instantaneously discharged to the ocean. 154

Two versions of CESM2 are used for the simulations in this study: CESM2.1 and CESM2.2. In CESM2.1, the atmosphere is simulated with the Community Atmosphere Model version 6 (CAM6; Gettelman et al., 2019), using the Finite-Volume (FV; Lin, 2004) dynamical core, with 32 vertical hybrid pressure-sigma levels. The CAM6 physical parameterization package is described in detail in Gettelman et al. (2019). CESM2.1 is one of the ESMs to contribute to the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6; Eyring et al., 2016) and the Ice Sheet Model Intercomparison Project for CMIP6 (ISMIP6; Nowicki et al., 2016).

CESM2.2 uses the same CAM physics parameterizations and vertical grid, but contains enhanced functionality for the SE dynamical core, including the capability for running VR grids (Herrington et al., 2022). The CMIP6 CESM2.1 simulations using CAM-FV are not reproducible in CESM2.2, and therefore two versions of the model are required to compare the VR grids to the CMIP6 workhorse configuration.

#### <sup>168</sup> 2.2 Surface Mass Balance

The GrIS SMB simulated in CESM2 is the sum of ice accumulation and ice abla-169 tion. The SMB processes of the GrIS are aggregated in CLM5, which includes up to 10 170 vertical snowpack layers with a maximum total depth of 10-m water equivalent. Only 171 snow accumulated over the 10-m threshold contributes to ice accumulation. Ice ablation 172 incorporates surface ice melt as well as sublimation. Part of rain and melt water pen-173 etrates into the snow layers and refreezes, as another source of ice, while the rest runs 174 off to the ocean. Melt energy is calculated from the sum of net surface radiation, latent and sensible turbulent heat fluxes, and ground heat fluxes at the atmosphere-snow in-176 terface. To account for sub-grid variability, each glaciated grid cell in CLM5 is subdi-177 vided into 10 elevation classes (ECs) with fixed elevation ranges (Lipscomb et al., 2013; 178 Sellevold et al., 2019). The area fractions of the ECs are calculated from the higher-resolution 179 CISM topography. For each EC, the surface energy fluxes and SMB are calculated in-180 dependently by downscaling atmospheric variables. Near-surface temperature and down-181 ward longwave radiation are downscaled with fixed lapse rates (6 K km<sup>-1</sup> and 32 W m<sup>-2</sup> 182  $km^{-1}$ ). Relative humidity is assumed uniform vertically. Due to a CAM6 model bias leading to excessive rainfall over the GrIS, precipitation is repartitioned based on near-surface 184 temperature thresholds: precipitation falls as snow when the temperature is below  $-2^{\circ}C$ , 185 as rain when the temperature is above 0°C, and as a linear combination of snow and rain 186 for temperatures between  $-2^{\circ}C$  and  $0^{\circ}C$ . 187

Though with biases such as overestimated precipitation, CESM2.1 at 1° with a fixed GrIS geometry simulates a realistic historical Greenland SMB (van Kampenhout et al., 2020). When coupled to CISM2, higher Greenland SMB and interannual variability is simulated, partly due to the different ice sheet topography (Muntjewerf, Petrini, et al., 2020).

#### <sup>193</sup> 2.3 Coupling Scheme

In the model framework, the GrIS is interactively coupled to the other Earth sys-194 tem components. CISM2 receives the CLM5 SMB for each EC, and is then downscaled 195 by the coupler using a trilinear remapping scheme (bilinear horizontally and linear ver-196 tically), with corrections of accumulation and ablation to conserve global water mass. 197 As the ice sheet evolves, the coupler updates the EC fractional glacier coverage in each 198 CLM5 grid cell based on the CISM2 ice sheet extent at annual frequency. The mean sur-199 face elevation in CAM6 is manually updated based on the CISM2 topography every 20 200 model years, using the CESM topography software (Lauritzen et al., 2015). Surface runoff 201 from CLM5, basal melt and ice discharge from CISM2 constitute the freshwater fluxes 202 inputted into the ocean, which are supplied as salinity anomalies. More detailed descrip-203 tion of the coupling scheme can be found in Muntjewerf et al. (2021). 204

#### 2.4 Grids

205

The variable-resolution grid we use here - the Arctic grid (Fig.1a), is a 1° SE grid with  $1/4^{\circ}$  regional refinement over the broader Arctic region (Herrington et al., 2022). 207 It is generated by using the software package SQuadgen (https://github.com/ClimateGlobalChange/ 208 squadgen). The global  $1^{\circ}$  resolution runs use the latitude-longitude  $1^{\circ}$  grid, referred to 209 as f09, supported by the FV dynamical core. Figure 1b and 1c show a snapshot of the 210 surface topography over the GrIS before the start of the warming scenario for the f09 211 grid and the Arctic grid, respectively. The Arctic grid represents more detailed Green-212 land topography (e.g., the south dome and ice sheet periphery) with a more accurate ice 213 sheet mask. The surface elevation differences between two grids can range up over 700 214 m (Fig.1d), which is partly caused by the initial ice sheet volume difference. The physics 215 time step of the Arctic simulations is 450 s, which is a  $4 \times$  reduction relative to the de-216 fault 1800 s time step used in the  $1^{\circ}$  grid. 217



Figure 1. (a) The Arctic grid (Herrington et al., 2022). Note what is shown is the element grid; the computational grid has  $3 \times 3$  independent grid points per element. Surface topography (m) of the Greenland Ice Sheet represented by (b) the f09 grid, (c) the Arctic grid, and (d) their difference before the start of the warming scenario.

#### 218 2.5 Experiment Design

First, a pre-industrial simulation was branched off from the last leg of the spun-219 up pre-industrial Earth system/ice sheet state (Lofverstrom et al., 2020). A series of ex-220 periments were ran to bring the top of atmosphere radiative forcing into balance using 221 common tuning parameters such clubb gamma (Guo et al., 2015). The tuned pre-industrial control was then run for 180 years until the GrIS achieved near equilibrium state. Then 223 an idealized warming scenario was started, in which the atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration 224 increased by 1% per year until reaching  $4\times$  the pre-industrial value after 140 years, fol-225 lowed by a 210-year simulation with the fixed  $4 \times$  pre-industrial CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (Fig.2a). 226 This set of simulations using the Arctic grid (hereafter ARCTIC) was compared to two 227 sets of simulations under the same forcing but using the f09 grid, in the older CESM2.1 228 code base. One is from Muntjewerf, Sellevold, et al. (2020) (hereafter F09M). In this code base, to reduce the too-high SMB over portions of the GrIS in CESM2 coupled runs, the cold rain ( $< -2^{\circ}$ C) produced by CAM immediately runs off to the ocean instead of be-231 ing converted to snow by CLM. Also, to facilitate low level convergence and precipita-232 tion near the coasts, the sub-grid roughness over Greenland is artificially increased. To 233 limit the differences between models, we ran another set of f09 simulation using CESM2.1 234 but without these two adjustments (hereafter F09). 235

236 2.6 Analysis

#### 237

#### 2.0 marysis

#### 2.6.1 Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation Metrics

The Greenland blocking index (GBI) uses the 500-hPa geopotential height ( $Z_{500}$ ) to estimate blocking over the Greenland region (Fang, 2004). Strong and persistent blocking can result in extreme summer melt at the ice sheet surface (Hanna et al., 2014). The revised GBI from Hanna et al. (2018) is used, which is calculated by subtracting the areaaveraged  $Z_{500}$  over the Arctic region (60°N to 80°N) from the area-averaged  $Z_{500}$  over the Greenland region (60°N to 80°N, and 80°W to 20°W). Then the resulting time series is standardized with respect to the last 80 years of the pre-industrial period. Here only the JJA mean GBI is considered.

The North Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (NAMOC) index measures the strength of the North Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, which is predicted to be weaken with the addition of GrIS meltwater to the ocean (Vizcaíno et al., 2010; Muntjewerf, Sellevold, et al., 2020). The NAMOC index is defined as the maximum of the overturning stream function north of 28°N and below 500-m depth.

#### 251 2.6.2 Melt/albedo Feedback

<sup>252</sup> We use the melt/albedo feedback (or albedo feedback) calculations following Box <sup>253</sup> et al. (2012). The albedo feedback ( $\alpha_{feedback,a}$ ) is quantified by regression between 20 <sup>254</sup> annual samples of detrended anomalies of summer (JJA) average net shortwave radia-<sup>255</sup> tion ( $SW_{net}$ ) and near-surface air temperature ( $T_{air}$ ) in units of W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>, with anoma-<sup>256</sup> lies indicated by the ' character in  $\Delta'$ :

$$\alpha_{feedback,a} = \Delta' SW_{net} / \Delta' T_{air} \tag{1}$$

The regression uses annual pairs of anomalies instead of successive values in the time series. This pairing is illustrated in Fig.S1. Since this definition of albedo feedback does not include lags that may cause albedo change (e.g., a low albedo year pre-conditions the next year for low albedo), an alternative formulation of albedo feedback (referred to as the bulk albedo feedback ( $\alpha_{feedback,b}$ ) is considered, which is the change in  $SW_{net}$  over the change of  $T_{air}$ :

$$\alpha_{feedback,b} = \Delta SW_{net} / \Delta T_{air} \tag{2}$$

#### 263 2.6.3 Equilibrium Line Altitude (ELA)

Equilibrium line has zero annual mean SMB, separating the ice sheet accumula-264 tion zone and the ablation zone. To calculate the average ELA of the GrIS in our model, 265 we define the following algorithm: Loop through the ablation grids using the annual mean SMB field. If any of the neighboring grids has positive SMB, compute the elevation where 267 SMB equals zero using the two SMB and elevation values of this positive SMB grid (with 268 grid area  $a_p$ ) and the ablation grid (with grid area  $a_n$ ). Save this computed elevation as one ELA value, with an approximate length of the shared edge of the two grids as the 270 weight. The approximate edge length is calculated by  $(\sqrt{a_n} + \sqrt{a_p})/2$ . The final aver-271 age ELA is the length-weighted average of all the saved ELA values. 272

#### 273 3 Results

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#### 3.1 Response of the GrIS in the VR Run

To help visualize the spatial change patterns through time and later analyze the differences between F09M, F09, and ARCTIC, we will focus on three time periods: year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350. Year 131-150 represents the CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization period. Year 231-250 and year 331-350 are one and two centuries after, respectively, with the latter also representing the end of our simulation.

Since atmospheric  $CO_2$  radiative forcing is nearly logarithmic in concentration, the 280  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1}$  increase of CO<sub>2</sub> causes a nearly linear rise in the annual average near-surface 281 temperature (0.3 K per decade; Fig.2b). By CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization, the temperature increase 282 is 5.0 K over the GrIS. Polar amplification (the ratio of Arctic and global temperature 283 increase) is 1.8. GrIS amplification (the ratio of GrIS and global temperature increase) 284 is much smaller (1.1) due to its perennial ice and snow cover. After CO<sub>2</sub> stops increasing, the annual average near-surface temperature still rises, albeit more slowly (0.2 K per)decade) due to oceanic warming, adding another 3.8 K by the end of the simulation. The 287 relatively small area of the GrIS results in a larger variability of annual average near-288 surface temperature compared to the Arctic and global mean. 289



Figure 2. Evolution of (a) atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentration (ppm), (b) global, GrIS, and Arctic region (north of 60°N) annual near-surface temperature anomaly with respect to the end of pre-industrial period (°C), (c) GrIS total area (left vertical axis, million km<sup>2</sup>) and ablation area (%; as percentage of total ice sheet area), (d) mass balance (MB, black) and components (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), (e) SMB (black) and components (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), and (f) JJA anomaly of surface energy balance components compared to the end of pre-industrial period (W m<sup>-2</sup>). The thick lines in (c)-(f) show the 20-year running means. The blue shaded periods are used in subsequent analysis.

Figure 2d shows the evolution of the GrIS-integrated mass balance and components. A similar pattern is found in Muntjewerf, Sellevold, et al. (2020). The mass loss accelerates after about 110 years, rising from 2.4 Gt yr<sup>-2</sup> before year 110 to 13.0 Gt yr<sup>-2</sup> between years 111 to 150. Then, after CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization, the GrIS mass loss decelerates gradually, combined with larger oscillations and variability. With the mass loss, the ice sheet area shrinks, decreasing from  $2.1 \times 10^6$  km<sup>2</sup> to  $1.8 \times 10^6$  km<sup>2</sup> (Fig.2c). The cumulative contribution to global mean sea level rise (GMSLR) is 53 mm by year 150 and 831 mm by year 350 (Table 1). The decreasing SMB dominates the mass balance trend (Fig.2d), which becomes negative at around year 130. Ice discharge gradually decreases as marine-terminating outlet glaciers thin, decelerate, and even transition to land-terminating glaciers.

**Table 1.** Annual Rate of Mass Loss (mm yr<sup>-1</sup>), Cumulative GrIS Mass Loss (mm), Mass Balance Components (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), GrIS Area (10<sup>6</sup> km<sup>2</sup>), and GrIS Volume (10<sup>6</sup> km<sup>3</sup>).

	Last 20 yrs of CTRL			Years 131-150			Years 231-250			Years 331-350		
	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC
Annual mass loss	-0.04	-0.10	-0.05	2.08	2.06	1.48	5.28	4.49	3.50	6.36	5.93	5.40
Cumulative mass loss	-0.8	-2.0	-1.1	97	84	53	501	447	344	1,098	976	831
MB	19	41	23	-776	-761	-542	-1,974	-1,669	-1,285	-2,376	-2,195	-2,001
SMB	616	723	685	-380	-319	-72	-1,797	-1,463	-1.081	-2,284	-2,097	-1,909
ID	573	654	636	376	420	448	161	187	187	78	81	77
BMB	-24	-27	-25	-20	-22	-22	-16	-18	-18	-14	-16	-16
GrIS area	1.97	2.00	2.02	1.92	1.96	1.99	1.77	1.80	1.83	1.60	1.64	1.66
GrIS volume	3.23	3.27	3.25	3.20	3.24	3.23	3.05	3.10	3.12	2.81	2.89	2.93

Notes: Mass Balance (MB) = Surface Mass Balance (MB) - Ice Discharge (ID) + Basal Melt Balance (BMB). Variables in this table are calculated using CISM2 outputs.

The accelerating SMB trend (decreasing) is dominated by the surface melt trend. 301 Figure 2e shows the evolution of SMB components. Surface melt increases profoundly: 302 the annual surface melt during year 131-150 and year 331-350 are more than four times 303 and eight times larger than the pre-industrial value, respectively (Table 2). The total 304 precipitation increases from the start due to increased rainfall but decreases during the last century as the decreasing trend of snowfall dominates. By the end of the simulation, the precipitation is about a quarter higher than the pre-industrial value (Table 2). Though 307 snowfall remains the major precipitation type, the proportion of liquid phase precipita-308 tion gradually grows through time, making up nearly one-third of the total precipita-309 tion by the end of the simulation (Table 2). Refreezing increases before  $CO_2$  stabiliza-310 tion as more liquid water is available from both increased rainfall and surface melt, and 311 then becomes relatively stable due to saturated snow cover. This is also reflected by the 312 refreezing capacity - defined as the fraction of refreezing to available liquid water - de-313 creasing from 55.4% pre-industrial to 19.7% by the end of the simulation (Table 2). Sub-314 limition is relatively small throughout the simulation, so is not discussed further. 315

**Table 2.** Annual Ice Sheet-Integrated Surface Mass Balance and Components Mean (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>).

	Last 2	20 yrs of	CTRL	Years 131-150			Years 231-250			Years 331-350		
	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC
SMB (4km)	616	723	685	-380	-319	-72	-1,797	-1,463	-1.081	-2,284	-2,097	-1,909
SMB	-	701	651	-745	-620	-369	-2,213	-1,752	-1,398	-2,552	-2,254	-2,159
Precipitation	942	1,026	955	1,047	1,273	1,200	1,106	1,374	1,277	1,156	1,308	1,265
Snowfall	850	934	869	782	961	930	699	932	913	695	819	849
Rain	92	92	86	265	312	270	406	443	364	461	488	416
Refreezing	142	295	307	680	872	758	784	956	824	781	1.019	830
Melt	485	476	468	2,147	2,400	1,986	3,662	3,606	3,083	4,009	4.073	3.806
Sublimation	-	52	57	60	53	70	34	34	52	19	19	32
Rain (%)	9.8	9.0	9.0	25.4	24.5	22.5	36.8	32.2	28.5	39.9	37.4	32.9
Refreezing (%)	24.6	51.9	55.4	28.2	32.2	33.6	19.3	23.6	23.9	17.5	22.3	19.7

Notes: SMB (4km) is calculated using CISM2 outputs. The other variables are calculated using CLM5 outputs. SMB = Snowfall + Refreezing – Melt – Sublimation. Rain (%) = Rain \* 100 / (Snowfall + Rain). Refreezing (%) = Refreezing \* 100 / (Rain + Melt).

The enhanced surface melt greatly reduces the SMB over the periphery of the GrIS. 316 Fig.3f-h show the spatial distribution of SMB difference compared to the pre-industrial 317 period, indicating the largest SMB decrease occurs along the southeast and west mar-318 gins  $(> 5,000 \text{ mm yr}^{-1} \text{ by the end of the simulation})$ . In the ice sheet interior, SMB in-319 creases due to the locally enhanced hydrological cycle. This spatial pattern of SMB changes 320 results in a similar spatial pattern of the ice sheet thickness changes, with slight thick-321 ening over the high interior and significant thinning towards the margins (Fig.3j-l). The 322 largest thinning along the western margins can exceed 1000 m by the end of the simu-323 lation. The surface ice velocity decreases at the ice sheet margins due to the thinning 324 of outlet glaciers, though generally, the surface ice velocity increases due to the steeper 325 surface slopes caused by the thickness changes (Fig.3n-p). 326



Figure 3. Spatial distribution over the GrIS for pre-industrial (first column) and differences with respect to the former by model years 131-150 (second column), 231-250 (thrid column) and 331-350 (forth column). (a-d) JJA mean albedo, (e-h) annual mean surface mass balance (mmWE yr<sup>-1</sup>) with accumulation zones (SMB > 0) and ablation zones (SMB < 0), (i-l) ice sheet thickness (m), and (m-p) surface velocity (m yr<sup>-1</sup>).

#### 3.2 Drivers for melt changes

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The spatiotemporal evolution of surface energy balance (SEB) components over the GrIS provides an explanation for the main physical drivers of accelerating surface melt. Figure 2f shows the summer (JJA) average anomalies of surface energy terms compared to the pre-industrial period. During the first century, the enhancement in net longwave radiation (less longwave cooling) from increased atmospheric temperature and cloudiness (Fig.S2a) provides most of the additional melting energy. The increased net short-

wave radiation is dampened by reduced incoming shortwave radiation (Fig.S2b) result-334 ing from enhanced cloudiness (Fig.S2a). At around year 110, the contribution of net short-335 wave radiation to the melt energy increases rapidly, surpassing net longwave radiation at around year 148, and becoming the dominant melt energy contributor. At the end of 337 the simulation, net shortwave radiation provides 37.3% of the total additional melt en-338 ergy (Table 3). The accelerated net shortwave radiation increase at about year 110 is 339 speculated to be due to the activation of the melt/albedo feedback. We find that the ac-340 celerated net shortwave radiation and melt increase coincides with a faster increase of 341 ablation area (Fig.2c). As the ablation zone expands, darker surfaces with lower albedo 342 are exposed, which absorbs more shortwave radiation and further enhances surface melt-343 ing. The decrease of surface albedo mainly occurs within the ablation zones, with little change in the ice sheet interior (Fig.3b-d). The ice sheet hypsometry also contributes to the accelerated expansion of the ablation zone - the quasi-parabolic shape favors faster 346 ablation area expansion as it approaches the interior plateau. The turbulent fluxes also 347 increase at around year 110, although at slower speeds. As near-surface air temperature 348 continues to rise, the surface temperature inversion becomes stronger, thus enhancing 349 the turbulent fluxes. The contribution of sensible heat flux to total additional melt en-350 ergy is comparable to the contribution of net longwave radiation by the end of the sim-351 ulation (22.5% and 21.5%, respectively; Table 3). The latent heat flux becomes less neg-352 ative through the simulation, which is potentially due to the decrease of sublimation as well as an increase in deposition and condensation. At the end of the simulation, 10.1%354 of the additional melt energy comes from latent heat flux (Table 3). The ground heat 355 flux rises from negative to positive, which is potentially a result of more refreezing in the 356 snow layer, and contributes 8.6% of the additional melt energy at the end of the sim-357 ulation (Table 3). 358

Table 3. Summer GrIS-averaged Albedo, Near-Surface Temperature and Skin Temperature (°C), Incoming Shortwave Radiation, Incoming Longwave Radiation at the Surface, and Surface Energy Balance Components Mean (W  $m^{-2}$ ).

	Last 20 yrs of CTRL			Years 131-150			Years 231-250			Years 331-350		
	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC	F09M	F09	ARCTIC
Albedo	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.64	0.66	0.68	0.61	0.62	0.65
$T_{2m}$	-7.00	-7.05	-7.34	-1.22	-1.11	-1.88	0.50	0.43	-0.22	1.03	1.21	0.79
$T_{skin}$	-7.83	-7.83	-8.42	-2.14	-2.15	-3.10	-0.74	-0.85	-1.74	-0.31	-0.20	-0.96
SWin	288.3	286.4	294.3	262.0	261.7	272.6	255.9	254.9	266.6	250.9	253.4	264.0
LW <sub>in</sub>	231.0	232.6	224.1	267.7	268.5	257.8	276.1	276.8	266.7	280.3	280.7	271.6
Melt energy	8.8	8.5	8.4	40.3	43.4	35.7	71.0	68.3	59.7	84.6	83.6	80.0
SWnet	64.0	62.1	64.9	73.5	72.8	73.5	89.5	84.9	83.2	94.8	92.8	91.6
LWnet	-50.6	-49.0	-55.3	-38.2	-37.3	-44.0	-36.1	-34.9	-41.2	-34.1	-34.1	-39.9
SHF	4.8	4.5	7.1	8.4	10.4	11.2	14.2	14.7	17.6	16.1	16.7	23.3
LHF	-8.3	-8.0	-7.5	-6.9	-5.4	-7.1	-2.7	-2.3	-3.6	-0.6	0.1	-0.3
GHF	-1.2	-1.1	-0.8	3.6	2.9	2.1	6.1	5.9	3.8	8.4	8.2	5.3

Notes: Melt energy = net shortwave radiation  $SW_{net}$  + net longwave radiation  $LW_{net}$  + sensible heat flux SHF + latent heat flux LHF + ground heat flux GHF.

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To examine the role of large scale circulation on summer GrIS surface melt, we calculated the GBI. Figure 4a shows the evolution of the GBI for ARCTIC. There is a negative trend of the GBI before  $CO_2$  stabilization, which indicates weakening summer block-361 ing over the Greenland region. This agrees with the result of Sellevold and Vizcaíno (2020), 362 which uses an AMIP style configuration of CESM2.1 under the same  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ CO}_2$  warm-363 ing scenario. After CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization, there is no significant trend for GBI. Figure 4b shows the linear regression between GrIS-integrated JJA melt, and the JJA GBI. Both variables are filtered with a 10-year high-pass filter, thus representing the sub-decadal timescale. On sub-decadal timescales, the GBI explains 40% of the annual variability of summer 367 surface melt. A more negative GBI results in less surface melt. Therefore, this indicates 368 the GBI (more general the atmospheric circulation pattern) is not a driver of the melt 369

- acceleration at about year 110, but actually counteracts part of the effect of global warm-
- ing on the surface melt before  $CO_2$  stabilization.



Figure 4. Evolution of the Greenland Blocking Index for ARCTIC (a), and the regression of JJA GrIS-integrated filtered surface melt (Gt  $yr^{-1}$ ) onto JJA filtered Greenland Blocking Index (b). The thick orange line in (a) shows the 10-year low-pass filtered time series. The timescale of the filtered quantities effectively removes both the mean and the trend of each time series. Black line is drawn where the regression is significant, with an annotated m (slope), and  $r^2$  for the explained variance for (b).

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#### 3.3 Impacts of Enhanced Resolution

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#### 3.3.1 Large-scale Climate

Before delving into the simulated GrIS responses, we first compare the represen-374 tations of large-scale climate conditions between the regionally-refined ARCTIC run and 375 the 1° runs. Figure 5a-c show the summer mean 500 hPa geopotential height for ARCTIC 376 during the three time periods - year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350. As the at-377 mosphere warms, the 500 hPa geopotential height increases over the northern high lat-378 itudes. The differences between ARCTIC and the  $1^{\circ}$  runs show a consistent pattern dur-379 ing each period (Fig.5d-i). Compared to F09M and F09, ARCTIC has significantly lower 380 500 hPa geopotential height over Greenland except for the period year 331-350 for ARCTIC 381 and F09M, which possibly indicates weaker blocking and less anticyclonic flows over the 382 GrIS in ARCTIC. This lower geopotential region in ARCTIC extends over the Canadian Archipelago 383 during year 131-150. There is also significant higher geopotential over subpolar regions 384 in ARCTIC compared to F09M and F09, especially during year 331-350. 385



Figure 5. Northern hemisphere summer 500 hPa geopotential height (dam) of ARCTIC (a-c), and the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (d-f), ARCTIC and F09 (g-i). The three columns from left to right represent averaged periods year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350, respectively. Dotted regions are where the two simulations are significantly different (p < 0.05) by student t test.

Figure 6 compares the summer temperature over the northern hemisphere between **ARCTIC** and the 1° runs. The lower-troposphere summer virtual temperature, computed 387 by equating a layer mean virtual temperature with the 500–1,000 hPa geopotential thick-388 ness, is higher in ARCTIC over much of the northern hemisphere (Fig.6a-f). This agrees 380 with the common response to increasing horizontal resolution (also reducing physics time step) in general circulations models (GCMs) (Pope & Stratton, 2002; Roeckner et al., 391 2006) including CAM (Herrington & Reed, 2020): increasing the horizontal resolution 392 warms the climate, since higher resolved vertical velocities generate more condensational heating. However, FO9M and FO9 have warmer lower troposphere than ARCTIC centered 394 over the GrIS, which also extends to Canadian Archipelago and Alaska during year 131-395 150 (Fig.6a,d) and to East Siberia during year 231-250 (Fig.6b,e). This spatial pattern 396 of lower-troposphere virtual temperature differences agrees with that of the 500 hPa geopo-397 tential height difference, indicating that probably the stronger summer blocking over Green-398 land regions in F09M and F09 causes the higher lower-troposphere virtual temperature 399 there. Compared to the lower troposphere, the near-surface temperature difference shows 400 a distinct spatial pattern with larger magnitudes (Fig.6g-l). Except for some terrestrial regions (e.g., parts of Siberia and Eurasia), ARCTIC is significantly cooler than F09M and 402 F09 at near-surface level. This results from the different pre-industrial climate, in which 403 **ARCTIC** is cooler, likely due to increasing the albedo of snow over sea ice to tune this run. 404 The regions where the lower troposphere is cooler in ARCTIC during year 131-150 and year 405

231-250 also have much lower near-surface temperature. However, the near-surface temperature differences over the GrIS are much smaller due to its perennial ice and snow 407

cover. There are also regions at the ice sheet periphery that are warmer in ARCTIC. This is caused by the difference of cloud conditions, which is discussed in Section 3.3.3. 409



Figure 6. Northern hemisphere summer lower troposphere virtual temperature differences (K) between ARCTIC and F09M(a-c), ARCTIC and F09(d-f). Lower troposphere layer mean virtual temperature is derived from the 1,000-500 hPa geopotential thickness, using the hypsometric equation. Northern hemisphere summer near-surface air temperature differences (K) between ARCTIC and FO9M(g-i), ARCTIC and FO9(j-l). The three columns from left to right represent averaged periods year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350, respectively. Dotted regions are where the two simulations are significantly different (p < 0.05) by student t test.

The NAMOC evolution is insensitive to the enhanced resolution in the atmosphere. 410 The three simulations have very similar NAMOC index, and even their initial differences 411 are diminished. During the period of  $CO_2$  increase, the NAMOC weakens significantly 412 (Fig.7a, with the NAMOC index decreasing by  $0.14 \text{ Sv yr}^{-1}$ ,  $0.13 \text{ Sv yr}^{-1}$ , and 0.12 Sv413

 $yr^{-1}$  in ARCTIC, FO9M, and FO9, respectively. Then the NAMOC index gradually stabi-414 lizes and remains at about 5 Sv for almost two centuries. We also compare the evolu-415 tion of the NAMOC index with the total freshwater flux from the GrIS into the ocean 416 (Fig.7b). The total freshwater flux is calculated by adding up surface runoff, basal melt, 417 and solid ice discharge. The NAMOC index declines at the start of  $CO_2$  increase, which 418 is much earlier than the rapid increase freshwater flux at around year 110, and remains 419 stable when the freshwater flux keeps increasing. This relationship is also found in sim-420 ulations under SSP5-8.5 forcing (Muntjewerf, Petrini, et al., 2020), which suggests the 421 relatively limited role of additional freshwater input from the GrIS on NAMOC weak-422 ening compared to global warming in CESM2. 423



Figure 7. Evolution of the annual mean (a) NAMOC index (Sv), (b) total freshwater flux into the ocean (mSv), (c) Northern Hemisphere sea ice extent (million  $\text{km}^2$ ; ice concentration > 15%), and (d) averaged sea ice thickness (m). The thick lines in (b) represent 20-year running means. The dotted lines in (c) represent September mean sea ice extent and the gray shaded range represents the "ice-free" condition.

Slower decline of Northern Hemisphere sea ice extent is found in ARCTIC compared to the 1° runs (Fig.7c). In the 1° runs, the Arctic becomes ice-free (sea ice extent < one million km<sup>2</sup>) in September after about 60 years, while this happens about five decades later in ARCTIC. There is an acceleration of annual sea ice decline ((Fig.7c)) at around

year 90 for all the simulations. This is possibly because the ice-free Arctic ocean absorbs 428 more radiation, which stores more heat in the ocean and slows down sea ice formation 429 in colder seasons, but the reason for the timing needs further investigation. Before the 430 Arctic becomes ice-free all year round by the end of the simulation, ARCTIC has larger 431 sea ice extent than the 1° runs due to its slower sea ice decline during the first two cen-432 turies. This is mostly driven by the larger initial sea ice thickness in ARCTIC of the warm-433 ing scenario (Fig.7d), which is a result of increasing the albedo of snow over sea ice in 434 ARCTIC during the tuning process. 435

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#### 3.3.2 SMB Evolution and Ice Sheet Changes

The evolution of ice sheet-integrated quantities in the three simulations follows a 437 similar pattern but with different magnitudes and timing. Figure 8b compares the evo-438 lution of the GrIS-integrated SMB of the three simulations. Compared to the 1° runs, 439 the SMB in ARCTIC decreases more slowly, such that by the end of the simulation, the 440 drop of annual SMB in ARCTIC is 306 Gt yr<sup>-1</sup> and 226 Gt yr<sup>-1</sup> ( $\sim 10\%$ ) smaller than F09M 441 and F09, respectively (Table 1). This SMB difference mainly results from the difference 442 in melt, with ARCTIC generally producing less surface melt than FO9M and FO9, especially 443 around the period year 180-260 (Fig.8a). During year 231-250, the GrIS-integrated melt in F09M and F09 is 579 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  and 523 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  larger than ARCTIC, respectively (Table 1). The difference in precipitation is relatively small (Fig.8a). F09 has larger precip-446 itation than ARCTIC, which compensates some of its larger melt and results in smaller 447 SMB difference. In F09M, the adjustments that direct cold-rain to surface runoff and in-448 crease sub-grid roughness over Greenland greatly reduce precipitation. Compared to F09, 449 it causes a 204 Gt  $yr^{-1}$  reduction of annual total precipitation averaged over the 350 years. 450 The slower SMB decrease of ARCTIC causes slower decrease of MB (Fig.8c), and thus slower 451 ice volume decrease (Fig.8d) and smaller global mean sea level rise (GMSLR) contribution (Fig.8e). Over the whole 350 years, F09M and F09 contribute to 267 mm and 145 453 mm ( $\sim 20\%$ ) more GMSLR than ARCTIC, respectively (Table 1). We note the different 454 initial ice volume and initial mass balance of the three simulations, which will be dis-455 cussed in Section 4. 456



**Figure 8.** Evolution of GrIS-integrated (a) total precipitation and melt (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), (b) SMB (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), (c) MB (Gt yr<sup>-1</sup>), (d) ice volume ( $\times 10^4$  km<sup>3</sup>), and (e) accumulated contribution to global mean sea level rise (mm) for the three simulations. The thick lines in (a)-(c) represent 20-year running means.

Averaged over the whole 350 years, the smaller melt in ARCTIC is most significant 457 along the ice sheet periphery in western and northern GrIS, where FO9M and FO9 melt 458 over 300 mm more ice each year (Fig.9c,d). The south tip shows the reverse of the larger 459 spatial pattern, with more melt in ARCTIC. This is due to the weaker cloud shortwave cooling there in ARCTIC (discussed in Section 3.3.3). The spatial pattern of melt differ-461 ence is consistent for ARCTIC compared to F09M and F09 despite their different initial con-462 ditions (Fig.8d). The spatial pattern of total precipitation difference is almost the op-463 posite for ARCTIC compared to F09M and F09, with the former having lower precipita-464 tion and the latter having larger precipitation centered over the south and southeast coasts 465 (Fig.9a,b). Due to the smoother topography in the  $1^{\circ}$  grid, there is more moisture pen-466 etration into the ice sheet from southeast. For FO9M, the effect of directing cold-rain to 467 surface runoff and increasing sub-grid roughness is evident, which greatly reduces the total precipitation. Over the 350 years, weaker ice sheet thinning (difference > 100 m) is found in ARCTIC especially along the western and northern peripheries compared to 470 the 1° runs (Fig.9e,f). The larger precipitation in F09 reinforces its smaller melt in the 471 south tip, resulting in less ice sheet thinning there. 472



Figure 9. Maps of the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (left column), ARCTIC and F09 (right column): (a-b) annual mean precipitation (mm  $yr^{-1}$ ), (c-d) surface melt (mm  $yr^{-1}$ ) averaged over the whole 350 years, and (e-f) ice thickness change (m) between the end of the simulation and the end of pre-industrial period. Blue color indicates more precipitation, less melt, or less thinning. For precipitation and melt, ARCTIC results are remapped to the f09 grid for the comparison.

#### 473 3.3.3 Surface Energy Balance

To explain the differences in meltwater production between ARCTIC and the  $1^{\circ}$  runs, 474 we examine how incident radiation is impacted by cloud conditions. Figure 10a,b illus-475 trate the summer mean cloud fraction difference between ARCTIC and the  $1^{\circ}$  runs. There 476 is a ring of cloud fraction surplus around the ocean perimeter of Greenland in ARCTIC, 477 which is similar to previous findings in (Herrington et al., 2022). Lower cloud fraction 478 in ARCTIC is found in the northern and southern peripheries, while in between the cloud fraction can be higher compared to the 1° runs, especially during year 231-250. This pat-480 tern is different to that in Herrington et al. (2022), where the smoother topography in 481 lower resolution runs causes more moisture intrusion thus larger cloud fraction in the ice 482 sheet interior. The higher pressure in the 1° runs over the GrIS (Fig.5) may contribute 483

to their lower cloud fraction by generating stronger large-scale subsidence and cloud dissipation. The spatial pattern of total cloud liquid water path (LWP) difference over the 485 GrIS generally follows that of cloud fraction difference, except for the much larger LWP in the southern interior in ARCTIC (Fig.5c,d). The pattern of cloud difference impacts the incident radiation. In ARCTIC, the incident shortwave radiation is generally larger due to less cloud cover or thinner clouds, especially in northern Greenland and along the 489 ice sheet margins (Fig.10e,f). At the same time, smaller incident longwave radiation is 490 found all over the ice sheet for ARCTIC (Fig.10g,h), with the largest differences along the 491 north and southeast margins. This is a combined effect of the cloud conditions and lower 492 free atmosphere temperature over Greenland in ARCTIC. 493



Figure 10. Maps of the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (left three columns), ARCTIC and F09 (right three columns): (a-b) JJA mean cloud fraction, (c-d) total cloud liquid water path (kg m<sup>-2</sup>), (e-f) downward shortwave radiation (W m<sup>-2</sup>), and (g-h) downward longwave radiation (W m<sup>-2</sup>) averaged over three periods: year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350.

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Differences in the representation of clouds and the resultant incident radiation have a direct impact on SEB terms and thus total energy available for melt. Despite the overall larger incident shortwave radiation in ARCTIC, especially along the ice sheet margins, it has smaller net shortwave radiation in the interior compared to the 1° runs, peaking at the gently sloping ice surface in the western and northern basins (or transitional area)

(Fig.11a,b). Therefore, the albedo in these regions of ARCTIC must drop more slowly than

those in the 1° runs. The net shortwave radiation difference during year 131-150 is still 500 small, and it becomes dominant in the SEB during year 231-250 and year 331-350. The 501 spatial pattern of net longwave radiation difference (Fig.11c,d) is consistent with the pat-502 tern of incident longwave radiation (Fig.10g,h), suggesting the weaker cloud longwave 503 warming effect in ARCTIC. The spatial pattern of differences in net longwave radiation 504 is consistent through time. Compared to the radiative fluxes, the difference of turbulent 505 fluxes between ARCTIC and the 1° runs is relatively small (Fig.11e-h). The above men-506 tioned gently sloping ice surface in the western and northern basins also favors smaller 507 sensible and latent heat fluxes in ARCTIC. Larger sensible heat flux is found in ARCTIC 508 along the ice sheet margins especially during year 331-351, which originates from the higher 509 near-surface temperature there (Fig.6g-l). The difference of ground heat flux is small be-510 tween ARCTIC and the 1° runs (not shown). As the sum of the above SEB terms, the to-511 tal melt energy difference has a spatial pattern that agrees with the averaged melt dif-512 ference (Fig.9c,d). In the aggregate, the spatial distribution of the lower melt energy in 513 ARCTIC (Fig.11a,b) mainly results from the combination of smaller net shortwave radi-514 ation due to higher surface albedo and smaller net longwave radiation due to lower cloud 515 fraction. 516



Figure 11. Maps of the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (left three columns), ARCTIC and F09 (right three columns): (a-b) JJA mean total melt energy, (c-d) net shortwave radiation, (e-f) net longwave radiation, (g-h) sensible heat flux, and (i-j) latent heat flux averaged over three periods: year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-350 in the unit of W m<sup>-2</sup>. Grids that do not have 100 percent ice fraction were masked out to avoid bias caused by comparing grids with different ice fraction.

#### 517

#### 3.3.4 Melt/albedo Feedback and the Impact of Ice Sheet Hypsometry

We speculate that the slower decrease in albedo in ARCTIC is caused by a weaker albedo feedback. We first examine the bulk albedo feedback (Eq.2), which captures the long-term change in net shortwave radiation versus near-surface temperature when timelags are considered. Over the whole 350 years, the bulk albedo feedback of ARCTIC (Fig.12a) and the 1° runs (not shown) is all positive over the GrIS, meaning more shortwave radiation is absorbed as near-surface temperature rises. The positive bulk albedo feedback is concentrated in the ablation zones, peaking in the lower elevations in the gently slop-

ing western and northern basins (> 15 W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>). Figure 12b and 12c show the dif-525 ference of the bulk albedo feedback between ARCTIC and F09M, ARCTIC and F09, respec-526 tively. In general, ARCTIC has weaker bulk albedo feedback compared to the 1° runs. A weaker bulk albedo feedback means less shortwave radiation is absorbed given the same amount of near-surface temperature increase. The spatial patterns of the bulk albedo 529 feedback difference agree well with those of the net shortwave radiation difference (Fig.11c,d), 530 indicating a limited role of near-surface temperature increase on causing this pattern. 531 Unlike the bulk albedo feedback that peaks in the lower elevations, the differences are 532 larger over the higher ablation zones. We also examine the albedo feedback (Eq.1) us-533 ing annual paired detrended anomalies of net shortwave radiation and near-surface tem-534 perature over the three 20-year periods. By definition, the albedo feedback reveals an interplay of physical mechanisms, but it is more sensitive to interannual variabilities (e.g., of snowfall), which may make it harder to interpret. The albedo feedback differences show 537 a similar but more variable spatial pattern compared to those of the bulk albedo feed-538 back during year 231-250 and year 331-350 (Fig.S3e-f,h-i) when the albedo feedback is 539 strong (Fig.S3b-c). The difference between bulk albedo feedback and albedo feedback 540 also stresses the importance of melt preconditioning effect on following melt seasons. 541



Figure 12. Maps of the bulk albedo feedback (W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>) defined by  $\Delta SW_{net}/\Delta T_{air}$  of ARCTIC (a), and the difference between ARCTIC and F09M (b), ARCTIC and F09 (c). Time changes from the end of pre-industrial period to the end of the simulation. Gray lines in (a) separate the seven drainage basins defined by Rignot and Mouginot (2012), and blue lines show the location of the two transects plotted in Figure 15.

The difference in albedo feedback between ARCTIC and the  $1^{\circ}$  runs can be largely 542 explained by the different representations of surface topography in different resolution. 543 Figure 13 shows the surface elevation-cumulative area relationships in the three simulations for the whole ice sheet and the individual basins defined by Rignot and Mouginot (2012). A steeper slope in the elevation-cumulative area relationship indicates a larger 546 area increase per meter of elevation rise, thus representing a flatter topography. Ryan 547 et al. (2019) demonstrates the dominant role of Greenland's seasonally fluctuating snow-548 line for reducing ice sheet albedo compared to bare ice albedo reduction caused by melt 549 processes. Here, instead of the end-of-summer snowline elevation, we use the ELA to avoid 550 the possible difficulties of snowline classification. Though different due to processes like 551 superimposed ice formation (Cogley et al., 2011), a significant correlation is found be-552 tween the ELA and the end-of-summer snowline elevation (Fausto & the PROMICE team<sup>\*</sup>, 553 2018). For the whole ice sheet, the average ELA rises from around 600 m to 2,500 m over 554 the 350 years. Within this range, ARCTIC has a less steep slope of the elevation-cumulative 555 area relationship than the 1° runs (Fig.13a), indicating a smaller area increase with the 556

same amount of elevation rise. The slope difference between ARCTIC and the 1° runs becomes even larger at the end of the simulation compared to the start. Figure 14b shows

- the relationships between annual mean ELA and ablation area of the three simulations.
- The match between the simulated ELA-ablation area relationship and the elevation-cumulative
- area relationship demonstrates the role of topography on regulating the speed of abla-
- tion zone expansion. With the same amount of ELA increase, the ablation area incre-
- ment in ARCTIC is smaller due to its steeper topography, which results in a slower ab-
- lation zone expansion (Fig.14a) and thus smaller albedo feedback of ARCTIC (Fig.12b,c).
- To further verify the result, the annual mean ablation area and ELA are also computed
- based on the ARCTIC outputs but remapped to the f09 grid (ARCTIC2f09) using the Earth
- 567 System Modeling Framework (ESMF) first-order conservative remapping algorithm (ESMF
- Joint Specification Team, 2021). A similar slower ablation area expansion and smaller
- slope of the ELA-ablation area relationship is found for ARCTIC2f09 (purple line and dots
- in Fig.14) compared to the  $1^{\circ}$  runs, which attests our theory.



Figure 13. Hypsometric surface elevation-area relationships for the whole GrIS (a) and for different basins defined by Rignot and Mouginot (2012) (b-h). For the colored lines, the solid lines represent year 0, and the dotted lines represent year 350. The blue shaded elevation range indicates the annual GrIS- or basin-mean ELA variability in ARCTIC during the 350 years.



**Figure 14.** Evolution of the annual mean ablation area  $(Mkm^2)$  (a) and the relationship between ablation area and mean equilibrium line altitude over the Greenland Ice Sheet (b).

Aside from topography, other factors can also affect albedo feedback. Along the southeast coast, the larger precipitation in F09 (Fig.9b) potentially slows down the albedo reduction more effectively, leading to its smaller bulk albedo feedback there compared to ARCTIC (Fig.12c). The impact of clouds on net shortwave radiation also cannot be eliminated from the bulk albedo feedback calculation. However, since the cloud pattern differences that cause more downward shortwave radiation in ARCTIC (Fig.10e,f) would play en opposite role, it is not considered as a contributor to the major albedo feedback differences.

Due to the regional dependence of ELA and surface topography, we also check the 579 elevation-cumulative area relationship within separate GrIS drainage basins. The slope 580 difference between ARCTIC and the 1° runs is largest within the steepest Central East 581 and South East Basins (Fig.13d,e), but due to the narrow ablation zones and large pre-582 cipitation in these basins, it does not result in large difference of the albedo feedback. 583 For all the other basins where the albedo feedback is smaller in ARCTIC such as the South 584 West, we also find that it has less steep slopes of the elevation-cumulative area relation-585 ship compared to the 1° runs (Fig.13f). This consists with our hypothesis that the to-586 pography represented in different resolution grids causes the albedo feedback differences.

The different representations of surface topography originate from the grid resolution differences and also the related numerical modeling requirements. Figure 15 shows 589 the representation of the ice sheet surface along two transects (positions shown in Fig-590 ure 12a) for the three simulations at different times. One is the east-west "K-transect" in southwest Greenland and the other is a transect extending from the central dome down 592 to the Kangerlussuaq glacier on the southeast coast. Compared to ARCTIC, the coarser 593  $1^{\circ}$  grids have fewer grid cells along the transects, which may result in flatter surfaces lo-594 cally. Moreover, the smoothing and flattening of the raw topography, necessary to pre-595 vent the model from exciting grid-scale numerical modes (Herrington et al., 2022), causes 596 the lower-elevation ablation zones to extend beyond the true ice sheet margin more in 597 the 1° runs. It results in flatter slopes along the transects in FO9M and FO9, which favor faster ablation zone expansion. For the more gently sloping K-transect (Fig.15a) with a relatively wide ablation zone (can climbs up the whole transect), this impact of sur-600 face slope is more significant as reflected in the bulk albedo feedback (Fig.12b,c). How-601 ever, for the steeper southeast transect (Fig.15b) where the ablation zone below  $\sim 2600$ 602 m is relatively narrow, the impact is limited. 603



Figure 15. Model surface elevation (m) along the (a) K-transect, and (b) a transect spanning the central dome down to the Kangerlussuaq glacier in southeast Greenland, for F09M, F09, and ARCTIC at different times. The GMTED reference surface is a 1 km surface elevation data set Danielson and Gesch (2011) used for generating the CAM topographic boundary conditions.

#### <sup>604</sup> 4 Summary and Discussion

In this study, we applied an Arctic-refined variable-resolution grid to a coupled Earth system/ice sheet model, CESM2.2-CISM2.1, to investigate future, multicentury, climate and GrIS evolution. The variable-resolution grid has a horizontal resolution of  $1/4^{\circ}$  over the broader Arctic region and 1° elsewhere. The simulation was run under a multicentury idealized  $4 \times CO_2$  scenario and is compared with two other reference simulations under the same forcing scenario but using a lower resolution grid (1° lat-lon grid) to explore the impact of enhanced horizontal resolution.

Though with different magnitudes and timing, the response of the GrIS to the warm-612 ing climate in the variable-resolution run is similar to what was found in Muntjewerf, 613 Sellevold, et al. (2020). In the variable-resolution run, the global annual average near-614 surface temperature rises approximately linearly at a speed of 0.33 K per decade dur-615 ing  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ CO}_2$  increment. Polar amplification is 1.8, while GrIS amplification is much 616 smaller (1.1). After CO<sub>2</sub> stabilization, the speed of global annual average near-surface 617 temperature rise decreases more than 40 percents compared to the previous stage (0.19) 618 K per decade). An acceleration of the GrIS mass loss is found at around year 110 (2.4 619 Gt yr<sup>-2</sup> before year 110 to 13.0 Gt yr<sup>-2</sup> during year 111-150), which is driven by faster 620 SMB decrease. At this time, the expansion of the ablation area is large enough to trig-621 ger a large melt/albedo feedback, which reinforces the absorption of shortwave radiation 622 and accelerates the melt. The increased sensible and latent heat fluxes also contribute 623 to this process due to expanded and strengthened near-surface temperature inversion. 624 By the end of the simulation, the ablation zone covers 57% of the ice sheet surface. The 625 cumulative contribution from the GrIS to global mean sea level rise is 53 mm by year 626 150 and 831 mm by year 350, which is about 40% and 20% smaller compared to the 1° runs. The sea level rise contribution from our variable-resolution run by  $CO_2$  stabiliza-628 tion is also small compared to other CESM simulations under the CMIP RCP8.5 and 629 SSP5-8.5 scenarios by year 2100 (109 mm in Muntjewerf, Petrini, et al. (2020) and 76 630 mm in Lipscomb et al. (2013)), when the  $CO_2$  concentration is close to  $4 \times CO_2$ . If com-631

pared to projections using GrIS models forced by outputs from CMIP5 GCMs ( $90\pm50$ mm during 2015-2100; Goelzer et al., 2020), our estimation approaches the lower bound.

Compared to the  $1^{\circ}$  runs, the variable-resolution run has relatively slower MB and 634 SMB decrease. This mainly originates from the smaller surface melt during summer in 635 the variable-resolution run. The SMB difference between the simulations can be smaller 636 than their difference in melt due to compensating terms, which stresses the importance 637 of correctly modeling individual SMB components for making reliable projections of GrIS 638 mass loss. The excessive melt in the 1° runs is concentrated in the western and northern transitional zones towards the margins, produced by the combined effect of greater net longwave and net shortwave radiation, with the latter playing a primary role. The 641 larger net longwave radiation over the ice sheet peripheries in the 1° runs results from 642 their larger and thicker cloud cover over these regions. The net shortwave radiation dif-643 ferences are a product of the stronger albedo feedback over the western and northern basins 644 in the  $1^{\circ}$  runs. In coarser grids, stronger smoothing and flattening of topography due 645 to grid resolution and necessity to prevent model from exciting grid-scale numerical modes leads to faster ablation zone expansion, thus stronger albedo feedback. Therefore, future sea level projections based on models with a coarse resolution may be biased high due to their inability of adequately resolving the Greenland topography. 649

Comparisons between these simulations are complicated by differences in grid res-650 olution, physics time step and dynamical core (dycore). Similar to the effect of increasing resolution, reducing physics time step can also increase resolved vertical velocities and thus condensational heating. By comparing two AMIP style CESM2.2 simulations 653 using the same quasi-uniform  $1^{\circ}$  SE grid but different time steps, Herrington et al. (2022) 654 showed that the simulation with a reduced time step has a warmer troposphere over nearly 655 all latitudes. Then by comparing two simulations using the same time step but differ-656 ent grids - the Arctic grid and the quasi-uniform  $1^{\circ}$  grid, Herrington et al. (2022) showed 657 that the warmer temperature caused by enhanced resolution is confined to the refined 658 Arctic region with a larger magnitude. Therefore, the differences of the simulated climate within the refined Arctic region in this study is more likely a result of changing the horizontal resolution though the impact from changing the physics time step cannot be 661 eliminated. Since the SE dycore is less diffusive than the FV dycore, the resolved ver-662 tical velocities are larger in the SE dycore, which can also warm up the atmosphere. It 663 is impossible to fully disentangle the impacts of changing resolution and dynamical core 664 in the current simulations since these factors change simultaneously. 665

Another uncertainty in this study is the initial condition. The pre-industrial sim-666 ulations of ARCTIC was branched off from an initial condition similar to the initial con-667 dition of the FO9M 1% CO<sub>2</sub> simulation. The aim of this is to achieve a near equilibrium 668 state of the GrIS after changing the grid. As a more direct comparison, F09 went through 669 a similar spin-up process as ARCTIC. The resulted initial ice sheet conditions before the 670 start of the idealized warming period are different among the three simulations: F09 has a larger initial ice volume than ARCTIC, while F09M has a smaller initial ice volume than 672 **ARCTIC** (Fig.8d). We found that **ARCTIC** has slower SMB decrease and lower melt com-673 pared to the 1° runs in multicentury scale, no matter whether their initial ice volume 674 is larger or smaller. Also, ARCTIC has a cooler pre-industrial climate than F09M and F09. 675 The impact of this cooler climate is kept through the whole idealized warming simula-676 tion, which is reflected in Figure 6g-l. Moreover, we note that all the three simulations 677 have small positive drifts of GrIS MB before the start of the warming scenario (Table 678 1). The cooler initial climate in ARCTIC results in a longer adjusting time for the GrIS to shift to mass loss, which degrades the specific projections of GrIS sea level rise con-680 tribution. However, our result suggests that the near-surface temperature is not the main 681 driver for the different responses of the GrIS among the simulations. Considering all these, 682 we can conclude that our finding is robust. 683

One limitation of the current model configuration lies in the ice-ocean interface. 684 The direct impact of oceanic thermal forcing on ocean-terminating ice fronts is not in-685 cluded, and the floating criterion used in the calving parameterization is highly idealized. The limited understanding and implementation of processes such as calving and submarine melting in ice sheet models has been identified as a major source of uncertainties for future projections of the GrIS (Goelzer et al., 2020). Oceanic forcing can en-689 hance solid ice discharge (Holland et al., 2008; Wood et al., 2018). Using another cou-690 pled Earth system/ice sheet model, EC-Earth-PISM, under the same  $1\% \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ CO}_2$  warm-691 ing scenario, Madsen et al. (2022) showed that even by embedding a constant oceanic 692 thermal forcing and a simple geometric calving criterion, the ice discharge decrease is 693 much smaller after 350 years. Most modeling studies that include oceanic forcing estimate a second order future sea level rise contribution from ice dynamics compared to 695 SMB for the entire ice sheet (Price et al., 2011; Fürst et al., 2015; Aschwanden et al., 696 2019), but with improved bathymetry and bed topography mapping, Choi et al. (2021) 697 showed that ice dynamics could contribute comparably as SMB or more to GrIS mass 698 loss over this century. These studies illustrate the importance of properly including iceocean interactions for future GrIS projections at century to multicentury scale. Currently, 700 the functionality of ice sheet-ocean interaction is under study in CESM and will be in-701 cluded in the future versions. The Arctic grid or grids with even higher-resolution refinement will also be helpful by providing a better resolved atmospheric forcing for mod-703 eling the ice dynamics in narrow fjords. 704

In the aggregate, our study demonstrates the value of employing variable-resolution
 grids for coupled climate-GrIS modeling, providing valuable insights into ice sheet-climate
 interactions. It underscores the critical role of grid resolution in modeling the evolution
 of the GrIS on multicentury time scales, particularly in capturing topography-related processes and feedbacks, and thus advances the projection of the GrIS' future sea level rise
 contribution.

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#### 720 Open Research

The data presented in this manuscript are stored in https://doi.org/10.5281/ Zenodo.10685261, and the code for generating the plots are available at https://github .com/IceZYin/2022-VR-dynamic-GrIS.git.

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### Supporting Information for "Improved Understanding of Multicentury Greenland Ice Sheet Response to Strong Warming in the Coupled CESM2-CISM2 with Regional Grid Refinement"

Ziqi Yin<sup>1</sup>, Adam R. Herrington<sup>2</sup>, Rajashree Tri Datta<sup>1</sup>, Aneesh

Subramanian<sup>1</sup>, Jan T. M. Lenaerts<sup>1</sup>, and Andrew Gettelman<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA

<sup>2</sup>National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO, USA

<sup>3</sup>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA, USA

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Figure S1. Examples of albedo feedback (W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>) calculated by regression of inter annual anomalies. The locations of the two example GC-Net AWS sites (a), one at the ablation zone (JAR1) and the other at the accumulation zone (Summit). The regression of detrended net shortwave radiation and near-surface air temperature anomalies of the grid cell that contains the JAR1 site (b) and the Summit site (c) during  $CO_2$  stabilization. The slope *m* represents the albedo feedback value. The numbers over points represent the year number of the 20-year period.



Figure S2. Evolution of the annual mean GrIS-averaged cloud fraction (a) and downward shortwave radiation (W  $m^{-2}$ ) (b).

ARCTIC

ARCTIC - F09M

ARCTIC - F09

year 131-150

(a)

(d)

(g)

year 231-250





(b)

(e)

(h)



60

10

40 -50

-60

15 10

n

Albedo feedback difference (W.m<sup>-2</sup>.K<sup>-1</sup>)

30

15

10 5

Albedo feedback difference (W.m<sup>-2</sup>.K<sup>-1</sup>)

20 -25

30

(c)

(f)

(i)

Albedo feedback (W.m<sup>-2</sup>.K<sup>-1</sup>)



Maps of the albedo feedback (W m<sup>-2</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>) defined by  $\Delta' SW_n / \Delta' T_{air}$  of ARCTIC (a-c), and the difference between ARCTIC and FO9M (d-f), ARCTIC and FO9 (g-i). The three

columns from left to right represent averaged periods year 131-150, year 231-250, and year 331-

350, respectively.

Figure S3.

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