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Quantifying molecular oxygen isotope variations during a Heinrich stadial

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Abstract. δ¹⁸O of atmospheric oxygen (δ¹⁸O atm) undergoes millennial-scale variations during the last glacial period, and systematically increases during Heinrich stadials (HSs). Changes in δ¹⁸O atm combine variations in biospheric and water cycle processes. The identification of the main driver of the millennial variability in δ¹⁸O atm is thus not straightforward. Here, we quantify the response of δ¹⁸O atm to such millennial events using a freshwater hosing simulation performed under glacial boundary conditions. Our global approach takes into account the latest estimates of isotope fractionation factor for respiratory and photosynthetic processes and make use of atmospheric water isotope and vegetation changes. Our modeling approach allows to reproduce the main observed features of a HS in terms of climatic conditions, vegetation distribution and δ¹⁸O of precipitation. We use it to decipher the relative importance of the different processes behind the observed changes in δ¹⁸O atm. The results highlight the dominant role of hydrology on δ¹⁸O atm and confirm that δ¹⁸O atm can be seen as a global integrator of hydrological changes over vegetated areas.

1 Introduction

Oxygen is one of the most abundant species in atmospheric air. As oxygen is produced by photosynthesis and consumed by respiration, a record of oxygen concentration in the past should help us to constrain these two major biospheric fluxes on Earth and potentially provide information on their link with the carbon cycle.

Changes in the O₂/N₂ ratio can be measured in air trapped in ice cores back to 800 kyr (Bender, 2002; Kawamura et al., 2007; Landais et al., 2012; Lemieux-Dudon et al., 2015). Unfortunately the O₂/N₂ ratio in ice cores does not provide a direct information on the true atmospheric variations because it is affected by permeation through the ice lattice during bubble formation at pore close-off, roughly 100 m below the ice sheet surface, and by gas loss during ice core storage. These effects have less impact on the isotopic composition of oxygen. These isotopic compositions have thus been explored as possible constraints on biospheric productivity (Luz et al., 1999).

When dealing with isotopes, it is standard to use the isotopic ratio, R, defined as the fraction of the abundance of the rare isotope over the dominant one in a substance. Since changes in isotope ratios through natural processes are very small, they are expressed in relation to a standard (recent air and Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (VSMOW) being


$\delta^{18}O = \frac{18}{18}R_{\text{sample}} - 1$. \hspace{1cm} (1)

$\delta^{18}O$ and $\delta^{17}O$ of atmospheric oxygen have been measured for the period of the past 800 kyr with a mean resolution of about 1500 years (e.g., Landais et al., 2010, and references therein; Blunier et al., 2012). As shown by Bender et al. (1994), $\delta^{18}O$ of atmospheric oxygen, noted $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ hereafter, cannot easily be related to biospheric productivity through photosynthesis and respiration fluxes. $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ variations actually reflect for a large part the isotopic composition of the meteoric water. The latter is transmitted to the plant through its roots and stems to the leaves, where photosynthesis produces oxygen with an isotopic composition close to the isotopic composition in leaf water. Respiration modifies the isotopic composition of atmospheric oxygen in a complex way. While the processes consuming oxygen enrich atmospheric oxygen through a preferential consumption of the lightest molecules, individual biological pathways are associated with a wide range of oxygen fractionations (Helman et al., 2005).

Based on fractionation factors available at the time, Bender et al. (1994) established that the relative proportion of oceanic vs. terrestrial biospheric productivities together with the difference in isotope fractionation over land and ocean were driving the $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ budget. Several studies have built on this idea and interpret the $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ variations mainly as variations in the oceanic vs. terrestrial biospheric productivities (Hoffmann et al., 2004; Ciais et al., 2012). However, recent measurements have revealed that, overall, fractionation associated with oceanic productivity is very similar to its terrestrial counterpart (Hendricks et al., 2004; Eisenstadt et al., 2010), questioning the interpretation of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ as an indicator of the relative proportion of oceanic vs. terrestrial biosphere productivity (Luz and Barkan, 2011).

Despite the complex interpretation of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$, several robust features have already been observed that highlight the potential of these measurements. At the orbital scale, $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ is showing clear variations at a 23-kyr periodicity (Dreyfus et al., 2007). This strong link with precession is probably related to the variations in the hydrological cycle at low latitudes (Bender et al., 1994). Indeed, variations related to the monsoon regime strongly imprint the isotopic composition of meteoric water as observed in speleothem records (e.g., Wang et al., 2008). They are easily transmitted to the isotopic composition of atmospheric oxygen because the major part of the biospheric productivity, and hence photosynthesis, is occurring in the tropics and subtropics.

At the millennial scale, it has recently been shown that $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ is responding to the abrupt climate changes of the last glacial period (Landais et al., 2007a; Severinghaus et al., 2009). Millennial-scale climate variability is perhaps best known from the Greenland ice cores, where it is manifested in the stable water isotopes of ice. During the last glacial period, these cores show 25 Dansgaard–Oeschger (DO) events (NGRIP members, 2004). A DO event typically exhibits a sawtooth pattern: (i) a cold phase (Greenland stadial, noted GS hereafter) lasting from centuries to millennia, followed by a warm phase (Greenland interstadial, GI) starting with (ii) a rapid transition (a few decades) with an amplitude of up to 16 ± 2.5°C (Landais et al., 2004; Huber et al., 2006; Kindler et al., 2014), and ending with (iii) a gradual cooling before an abrupt decrease towards cold, stadial values.

During the last decade, mechanisms of glacial abrupt events have been investigated using coupled ocean–atmosphere models of varying complexity (e.g., Kageyama et al., 2010, 2013; Stouffer et al., 2006). Recent hypotheses often invoke internal variability (Kleppin et al., 2015; Dokken et al., 2013), involving sea ice–atmosphere interactions (e.g., Li et al., 2005, 2010), through ice–albedo feedback and the impact of sea ice cover on regional temperatures by preventing heat exchange between the ocean and atmosphere. There remains robust evidence from multiple lines of paleoceanographic information and modeling that millennial-scale variability is linked to changes in the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) intensity (e.g., Mc Manus et al., 1998), potentially initiated by large freshwater input in the North Atlantic (e.g., Broecker et al., 1990). The presence of ice rafted debris (IRD; Ruddiman, 1977; Heinrich, 1988) in marine sediments from the North Atlantic region during the largest GS document episodes of massive iceberg discharge in the North Atlantic (Heinrich events) mainly from the Laurentide (H2, H4, H5) and Fennoscandian (H3, H6) ice sheets (Grousset et al., 1993; Guillec et al., 2014 and references therein). Even though IRD is present in each GS (Elliot et al., 2002), not all GSs contain a Heinrich event. Heinrich stadials (noted HSs hereafter) are GSs associated with a Heinrich event (Barker et al., 2009; Sanchez Goni and Harrison, 2010).

Several aspects of the observed patterns during DO events can be captured through the response of the Earth system to imposed freshwater perturbations in the North Atlantic (Liu et al., 2009; Otto-Bliesner and Brady, 2010; Kageyama et al., 2010; Roche et al., 2010), mimicking Heinrich events. Depending on the background state of the climate (glacial or interglacial, orbital context) and the AMOC, as well as on the magnitude of the freshwater forcing, these models produce a complete shutdown of the AMOC (HS-like state) or a reduction of the strength of the AMOC (GS-like state; e.g., Menviel et al., 2014). The injection of freshwater produces in all models a significant cooling of the North Atlantic region. The amplitude of the associated temperature change is probably affected by the simulated change in sea ice extent and feedbacks between sea ice and temperature that vary in the different models (Kageyama et al., 2013). These hosing experiments also produce an interhemispheric see-saw temperature pattern, associated with a southward shift of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) (e.g., Dahl et al.,
Abrupt climate variation associated with the Greenland signal is found down to low latitudes in numerous terrestrial and marine archives (e.g., Clement and Peterson, 2008). Its climatic impact is recorded in large parts of the North Atlantic region, both in marine cores (e.g., Bond et al., 1993; Broecker, 2000) and in speleothems (Fleitmann et al., 2009). Concomitant methane excursions and variations in the isotopic composition of the calcite of speleothems in eastern Asia (e.g., Wang et al., 2001; Cheng et al., 2012) strongly support the fact that these DO events are associated with major reorganization of the tropical water cycle and hence monsoon intensity through a shift in the ITCZ and its terrestrial equivalent, the tropical rain belt (Chappellaz et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2008; Pausata et al., 2011).

For this period of millennial-scale variability, high-resolution measurements of \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) have been obtained in Greenland and Antarctic ice cores (e.g., Guillevic et al., 2014; Landais et al., 2007a, 2010; Severinghaus et al., 2009). In Fig. 1 we present a synthesis of \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) evolution from the Siple Dome ice core over HSs displayed on Greenland Ice Core Chronology 2005 (GICC05) timescale, using definitions of Rasmussen et al. (2013) of the onset of GS. The \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) records show a systematic increase in a few thousand years following the onset of a HS (Fig. 2) by around 0.13 ‰, from +0.08 ‰ (HS1) to +0.18 ‰ (HS5). The difference in the slope inflection at the onset of HS4 and HS5, more pronounced that for HS1, HS2 and HS3, may be due to the long-term trend observed in \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \). Indeed, from 35 to 15 kyr, \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) exhibits a constant increase, consistent with the build-up of polar ice sheet, and hence enrichment of ocean water in \( ^{18}O \), but remains relatively stable over MIS3 (Fig. 1).

Because of its global character, \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) should provide added value compared to the different local records of hydrological cycle variations in different continental and marine archives. However, until now, no quantitative, robust interpretation of past variations in \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) has been established, which limits the use of \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) as a quantitative indicator for past biospheric production or variations in the hydrological cycle. The aim of this modeling study is thus to provide a quantitative interpretation for the systematic increase in \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) over HSs. To reach this objective, we propose a global approach incorporating outputs from a general circulation model implemented with water isotopes and focus on the millennial variability in the last glacial period. We follow a modeling approach already developed by Hoffmann et al. (2004). We combine climatic parameters (temperature and humidity), isotopic composition of meteoric water, vegetation distribution and productivity simulated by different models with monthly mean temporal resolution.

In the following section, we describe the general method used to simulate a global \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) signal. Section 3.1 is dedicated to model validation and Section 3.2 proposes to quantify the different contributions (hydrology, vegetation, climatic conditions) to the \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) signal over a HS equivalent.

2 Method

According to Landais et al. (2007a, 2010) and Severinghaus et al. (2009), the millennial variations in \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) during the last glacial period are driven by shifts in the tropical rain belt modifying the relative humidity distribution and the isotopic composition of meteoric water consumed by terrestrial biosphere. The isotopic content of atmospheric oxygen is controlled by numerous processes, so we must consider (i) the worldwide meteoric water isotopic composition, from which ground water is derived; (ii) the worldwide temperature and humidity, from which evaporative enrichment of leaf water \( \delta^{18}O \) is calculated; (iii) the worldwide vegetation cover and gross primary productivity, defining the photosynthetically and respiratory active areas that contribute to \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \); and (iv) respiratory processes.

2.1 Oxygen isotopes mass balance model

Oxygen is exchanged with the terrestrial and marine biospheres as well as with the stratosphere. Assuming a steady state, \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) can thus be expressed as follows:

\[
\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} = \frac{F_{\text{terr}} \cdot \delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}} + F_{\text{mar}} \cdot \delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}}}{F_{\text{terr}} + F_{\text{mar}}} \cdot \delta^{18}O_{\text{strat}},
\]

where \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{strat}} \) represents the stratospheric isotope fractionation caused by photochemical reaction in the stratosphere involving \( O_2, O_3 \) and \( CO_2 \). \( F_{\text{terr}} \) and \( F_{\text{mar}} \) denote \( O_2 \) fluxes of gross terrestrial and oceanic productivity, respectively. \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}} \) and \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}} \) are the isotopic composition arising from the terrestrial and oceanic realms, respectively. \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{strat}} \) is a small term, 0.4 ‰ compared to \( \sim 23.8 \) ‰ for \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) with reference to V-SMOW (Luz et al., 2014) and is not assumed to change significantly over a HS because \( CO_2 \) level remains relatively stable. We assume a constant \( CO_2 \) level between the LGM and HS in our study. Ahn and Brook’s (2014) study shows that variations over HSs are small (increase of less than 20 ppm). Effect of isotopic exchange between \( CO_2 \) and \( O_2 \) in the stratosphere on \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) is expected to be proportional to \( CO_2 \) mixing ratio. Following the calculation of Bender et al. (1994), which estimates a \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) depletion of 0.4 ‰ for a \( CO_2 \) concentration of 353 ppm, we can estimate that a 20 ppm increase between the LGM and HS can modify \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) by \( \sim 0.23 \) ‰. The sign of this change is actually opposite to the sign of the observed \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) signal. We focus mainly on the millennial-scale variations in the terrestrial contribution to \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) signal, i.e.,

\[
F_{\text{terr}} \cdot \delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}/(F_{\text{terr}} + F_{\text{mar}}).
\]

We do not consider the marine influence, in this first approach, for the following reasons. First, our aim is to test the hypothesis of Landais et al. (2007b) and Severinghaus et al.
Figure 1. Greenland stadials and Heinrich stadials during the last glacial period. Red numbers indicate GSs and black labels HSs. (a) Black line: NGRIP $\delta^{18}$O, ‰, on the GICC05 timescale back to 60 ka b2k. (b) Red line: Siple Dome atmospheric $\delta^{18}$O (Severinghaus et al., 2009) on GICC05 timescale. Red dots denote intervals in the core where deep air convection or cracked firn layer may have thermally fractionated these samples, as shown by anomalous $\delta^{15}$N in Figs. S1 and S8 of Severinghaus et al. (2009). The transfer of Siple Dome atmospheric $\delta^{18}$O on the GICC05 chronology is achieved by using the Siple Dome gas age scale compatible with the GICC05 chronology (Guillevic, 2013), based on match points between Siple Dome methane variations (Brook et al., 2005; Ahn et al., 2012; depth point) and NEEM methane variations (Chappellaz et al., 2013; GICC05 gas age point). A linear interpolation is then performed between match points to calculate the Siple Dome gas age. Green line: NEEM atmospheric $\delta^{18}$O, ‰ ($\pm$0.03 ‰; Guillevic et al., 2014). Colored areas: GSs. Grey: GS with no major Heinrich event. Orange: HS1, HS2, HS3, HS4, HS5 and end of HS6 – GSs with a major Heinrich event. Black error bars indicate HS onset and end uncertainty (2$\sigma$), based on the Rasmussen et al. (2013) maximum counting error (MCE). Top (right to left): black and white horizontal bar indicate Marine Isotope Stage 1 to 4.

Figure 2. Evolution of Siple Dome atmospheric oxygen $\delta^{18}$O (Severinghaus et al., 2009) during Heinrich stadials on the GICC05 timescale.

2.2 Calculation of $\delta^{18}$O$_{\text{terr}}$

The major source of atmospheric oxygen from the terrestrial biosphere is the oxygen produced during photosynthesis. The fractionation associated with photosynthesis is small (Guy et al., 1993; Eisenstadt et al., 2010). The oxygen produced by this process thus has almost the same isotopic composition as the leaf water. Consumption of oxygen is also associated with biosphere productivity through different pathways (dark respiration, photorespiration, Mehler reaction). $\delta^{18}$O$_{\text{terr}}$ thus results from isotope fractionation associated with photosyn-
thesis and oxygen uptake. Following Bender et al. (1994), Blunier et al. (2002), Hoffmann et al. (2004), and Landais et al. (2007b), we assume a steady state, where photosynthesis equals respiration. \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}} \) calculates as

\[
\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}} = \frac{(\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}} + 1)}{\alpha_{\text{resp}}} - 1,
\]

where \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}} \) is the global production-weighted average isotopic composition of leaf water and \( \alpha_{\text{resp}} \) is the global apparent respiratory isotope fractionation factor associated with global oxygen uptake, i.e., oxygen consumption weighted average of fractionation factors associated with specific respiratory pathways.

### 2.3 Photosynthetic oxygen

As classically done, we estimate the value of \( \delta^{18}O \) of leaf water, hereafter \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}} \), based on the Craig and Gordon (1965) equation (C\&G) of evaporation applied to leaf transpiration (Dongmann, 1974; Flanagan et al., 1991b). It is thus calculated in the following way:

\[
d^{18}O_{\text{lw}} = h \cdot (\delta^{18}O_{\text{vap}} + \epsilon_{\text{eq}}) + (1 - h) \cdot (\delta^{18}O_{\text{gw}} + \epsilon_{\text{eq}} + \epsilon_{\text{kin}}),
\]

where \( h \) is the relative humidity at the site of photosynthesis, \( \epsilon_{\text{eq}} \) is the temperature-dependent liquid–vapor equilibrium isotope effect (Majoube, 1971), \( \epsilon_{\text{kin}} \) is the kinetic isotope effect occurring when humidity is below saturation, \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{gw}} \) is the isotopic composition of soil water and \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{vap}} \) is the water vapor \( \delta^{18}O \) near the surface. \( \epsilon_{\text{kin}} \) is deduced from the ratio of the diffusion coefficient associated with \( H^16O \) (D) and \( H^18O \) (D'). Several values for the ratio \( D/D' \) can be found in the literature (Merlivat, 1978; Cappa et al., 2003; Luz et al., 2009), varying from 1.028 to 1.032. For leaf water evaporation, many studies have reported lower enrichment in \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}} \) than that predicted by Eq. (4) with \( \epsilon_{\text{kin}} = D/D' - 1 \) as classically assumed (e.g., Allison et al., 1985; Bariac et al., 1989; Walker et al., 1989; Walker and Brunel, 1990; Yakir et al., 1990; Flanagan et al., 1991b, a, 1993, 1994). Farquhar et al. (1989) suggested that \( \epsilon_{\text{kin}} \) depends on the importance of either stomatal or boundary layer resistances. In moist conditions, stomata resistance is low and boundary layer resistance high, leading \( \epsilon_{\text{kin}} \) to values as low as 19% when using the Merlivat (1978) value for \( D/D' \). In this study, we have imposed a mean value for \( \epsilon_{\text{kin}} \) of 20% because higher values led to too high a global value for \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{adm}} \).

The calculation of \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}} \) using Eq. (4) requires spatial and temporal variations in temperature and relative humidity as well as the variations in the isotopic composition of water vapor and meteoric water, from which \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}} \) will be deduced (Sect. 2.3.2). These variables are obtained from outputs of modeling experiments.

### 2.3.1 Simulated climatic variations over an abrupt cooling

Temperature and relative humidity variations over a HS are inferred from simulations with the atmosphere–ocean general circulation model (AOGCM) IPSL CM4 (Marti et al., 2010) with a horizontal resolution for the atmosphere grid of 3.75° × 2.5° (latitude × longitude) and with a 19 vertical layer atmosphere. To model the \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{adm}} \) variations over a HS, we have used a glacial simulation perturbed by a freshwater hosing experiment. We will compare in the following the outputs of two simulations: one for the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM_ctrl) and one for the Heinrich stadial (HS_exp).

The LGM_ctrl boundary conditions are as follows (see Kageyama et al., 2009, for a detailed presentation of the climate setup): orbital parameters for 21 ky BP, CO2, CH4 and N2O levels set to 185 ppm, 350 and 200 ppb, respectively (Minnin et al., 2001; Dällenbach et al., 2000; Flückiger et al., 1999), ICE-5G ice sheet reconstruction and land–sea mask (Peltier, 2004).

The first experiment is an equilibrated glacial run (LGM_ctrl) used as a reference run (see LGMb in Kageyama et al., 2009). The second experiment (HS_exp) is a water hosing experiment, where an additional freshwater flux of 0.1 Sv (1 Sv = 10^6 m^3 s^-1) is imposed instantaneously in the Atlantic north of 40° N and the Arctic (see LGMc in Kageyama et al., 2009) from year 150 for 400 years. The input of freshwater in HS_exp, mimicking a Heinrich event, leads to an AMOC collapse in 250 years (see Fig. 1 in Kageyama et al., 2009). We selected this HS_exp experiment since the most efficient way to simulate the climate state during an Heinrich event with a model is to add freshwater in the high latitudes of the Atlantic ocean, even though results from recent studies (Marcott et al., 2011; Guillec et al., 2014; Rhodes et al., 2015; Alvarez-Solas et al., 2013) suggest that this does not satisfactorily explain the observed sequences of events (freshwater discharges from ice sheets might not be the initial trigger of Heinrich events) and especially the decoupling between Greenland and low latitudes. We therefore center our study on the mean state of two contrasted periods rather than investigate the dynamics of the transition from the LGM to HS. It also explains why we only focus on HSs and not DO events.

The climate response to the AMOC collapse in the HS_exp is of global extent and qualitatively agrees with palaeoarcheological reconstructions for the North Atlantic cooling, southwards Atlantic ITCZ migration and weakening of Indian and African monsoons (Kageyama et al., 2009, 2013).

However, the model does not simulate an Antarctic warming or weakened East Asian monsoon (Kageyama et al., 2009). In the following we used the monthly averaged spatial fields of temperature (Tm) and humidity calculated on the first layer of the atmosphere grid. From these data we followed the Lloyd and Farquhar (1994) approach to link leaf temperature during photosynthesis, Tp, to Tm, through
Figure 3. Amount-weighted annual-mean $\delta^{18}O$ of precipitation for (a) LGM_ctrl and (b) HS_exp experiments obtained with LMDZ-iso. Note that the anomaly can be seen in Fig. 4a. (c) HS_exp–LGM_ctrl annual-mean anomaly of groundwater $\delta^{18}O$. Groundwater $\delta^{18}O$ represents the isotopic value of the substrate water for photosynthesis (see text for details). (d) HS_exp–LGM_ctrl annual-mean anomaly of rainfall amount.

$T_p = 1.05 \cdot (T_m + 2.5)$. An additional 2.5°C is added to $T_m$ to account for the daytime increase in air temperature at the time of photosynthesis. The 5% increase allows for net canopy to air heat fluxes (Farquhar and Lloyd, 1993). The relative humidity from the first layer is not modified (Farquhar et al., 2007).

2.3.2 Modeling of $\delta^{18}O$ of meteoric water and groundwater

For our estimate, we also need the distribution of the oxygen isotopic composition of meteoric water. We extract it from the isotopic version of the atmospheric general circulation model developed at the Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique (LMDZ4; Risi et al., 2010). LMDZ is the atmospheric component of the IPSL-CM4 model used above. The physical package is described in detail by Hourdin et al. (2006). It includes in particular the Emanuel convective parameterization (Emanuel, 1991; Grandpeix et al., 2004) coupled to the Bony and Emanuel (2001) cloud scheme. Each grid cell is divided into four subsurfaces: ocean, land, ice sheet and sea ice (Risi et al., 2010). The monthly sea surface temperature and sea ice fields obtained from the two aforementioned experiments at equilibrium (LGM_ctrl and HS_exp) have been used as surface boundary conditions for the isotopic simulations. Monthly mean outputs of the IPSL-CM4 are imposed to the LMDZ4 model, so there is no coupling between ocean and atmosphere, and nonlinear sub-monthly scale processes are thus not taken into account here. This choice should not alter our results. Indeed, LeGrande and Schmidt (2008) analyze changes in water isotopes following the 8.2 ka event’s meltwater pulse (meltwater $\delta^{18}O$: $-30\%_o$) in a fully coupled AOGCM (Goddard Institute for Space Studies ModelE-R) and show that the effect of the freshwater impulse on $\delta^{18}O$ of precipitation, noted $\delta^{18}O_p$ hereafter, can be neglected because the signal is very short-lived, only a few decades, before the climatic component dominates. Furthermore, the main changes are constrained to the northern North Atlantic and its surrounding regions (Fig. 6 of LeGrande and Schmidt, 2008). Those regions only have a limited contribution to the $\delta^{18}O_{atm}$ signal, as most of the terrestrial photosynthesis occurs in the tropics. Figure 7 of LeGrande and Schmidt (2008) shows that two decades after a meltwater pulse, the ensemble mean (five simulations) anomaly of $\delta^{18}O_p$ calculates to $-0.01\%_o$, confirming the small impact of $\delta^{18}O$ depleted meltwater.

Figure 3 shows the mean annual $\delta^{18}O_p$, simulated for the LGM_ctrl and the HS_exp experiments. The $\delta^{18}O_p$ distribution for the LGM_ctrl experiment has already been confronted to observations of water isotopes in vapor and precipitation (Risi et al., 2010) and seasonal patterns are well captured. For validation purposes, $\delta^{18}O_p$ changes from the LGM to HS are compared with changes in (i) calcite $\delta^{18}O$ in speleothems, noted $\delta^{18}O_c$ hereafter, and in (ii) ice $\delta^{18}O$...
in Greenland ice cores over Heinrich events (Sect. 3.1.2; see Fig. 4a for δ18O anomaly).

Finally Eq. (4) also requires an estimate of δ18Ogw. Groundwater pumped through the plant’s roots represents a mixture of stored water and incoming precipitation water (McGuire et al., 2002). Indeed, during spring/summer, when maximal productivity occurs, the groundwater is composed of significant amounts of fall/winter precipitation. In order to take the mixing into account we use amount-weighted annual-mean δ18O of precipitation. This approach has been shown to be realistic in a field experiment in Kenya (Wang et al., 2012) and has been implemented in a global coupled climate model of intermediate complexity (Caley et al., 2014). When implementing this, we neglect the fractionation effects that can significantly affect the soil water isotopic composition, especially in dry regions (Kanner et al., 2014).

2.4 Oxygen uptake in respiratory processes

2.4.1 Global oxygen production

The geographical distribution of respiratory O2 fluxes (noted GPP_O2 hereafter from the hypothesis of equilibrium between oxygen production and consumption) is computed from the vegetation cover and gross primary productivity (GPP) distribution provided by the ORCHIDEE model, which simulates the vegetation distribution of 10 natural plant functional types (PFTs) and bare soil (Krinner et al., 2005). ORCHIDEE is the land surface component of the IPSL-CM4 model. It is used here with the same spatial resolution as the aforementioned models (latitude × longitude 3.75° × 2.5°) and is run in offline mode, forced by the high-frequency outputs from IPSL-CM4 for the two experiments LGM_ctrl and HS_exp. The prescribed forcing has a 6 h time step temporal resolution, and thus takes into account daily variability and diurnal cycle simulated by the IPSL model (Woillez, 2012). Each grid cell simulates the vegetation cover by splitting the cell into fractions of 10 PFTs (see Table 1 for names) and provides GPP fluxes (g C m−2 yr−1) for each PFT. Validation of the vegetation cover can be found in Woillez et al. (2011) for LGM_ctrl and Woillez et al. (2013) for HS_exp over western Europe. Here we extend this work and compare the LGM and HS simulation with worldwide vegetation reconstructions selected from marine (coastal) and terrestrial paleoarchives with high temporal resolution (Sect. 3.1.3).

In this study, following Hoffmann et al. (2004), we calculate the terrestrial biosphere’s O2 fluxes in three steps. First, the outputs from ORCHIDEE provide the GPP expressed in g C m−2 yr−1 for each of the 10 PFTs on each model grid point. Second, simulated carbon molar fluxes for each PFT are converted to oxygen molar fluxes, based on the biochemical model of photosynthesis from Farquhar et al. (1980). The
model accounts for the fraction of photorespiration and the photosynthetic quotient (PQ) – measured by Keeling (1988) and Severinghaus (1995) as \( \sim 1.1 \). Third, GPP_\text{O}_2 for each PFT is expressed in terms of dark respiration (mitochondrial), Mehler respiration and photorespiration, each of these respiratory uptake processes being associated with a specific fractionation (refer to Table 2 for values):

\[
\text{GPP}_2 = \text{GPP}_2 \cdot \text{Mehler} + \text{GPP}_2 \cdot \text{dark} + \text{GPP}_2 \cdot \text{photo} = \frac{\text{GPP} \cdot \text{PQ} \cdot (1 + f_{\text{photo}})}{1 - f_{\text{Mehler}}},
\]

with

\[
\text{GPP}_2 \cdot \text{Mehler} = f_{\text{Mehler}} \cdot \text{GPP}_2,
\]

\[
\text{GPP}_2 \cdot \text{dark} = (1 - f_{\text{Mehler}}) \cdot \text{PQ} \cdot \text{GPP},
\]

\[
\text{GPP}_2 \cdot \text{photo} = (1 - f_{\text{Mehler}}) \cdot (\text{GPP}_2 - \text{PQ} \cdot \text{GPP}),
\]

\[
\text{GPP}_2 \cdot \text{photo} = (1 - f_{\text{Mehler}}) \cdot \text{PQ} \cdot \text{GPP} \cdot f_{\text{photo}},
\]

where \( f_{\text{Mehler}} \) denotes the fraction of Mehler reaction, and accounts for 10% of the total respiration (Badger et al., 2000) and \( f_{\text{photo}} \) represents the fraction of photorespiration.

### 2.4.2 Photorespiration

All types of C3 plants photorespire, but in different proportions. In contrast, C4 plants do not photorespire, because of a CO\(_2\) concentration mechanism allowing them to operate at high chloroplast CO\(_2\) partial pressures and thereby inhibit the oxygenation reaction during photosynthesis (Von Caemmerer, 2000). The proportion of photorespiration is calculated from the proportion of C4 vs. C3 plants, temperature and CO\(_2\) level (assumed constant in our study) as depicted in the biochemical model of photosynthesis from Farquhar et al. (1980) and already done in the studies of Hoffmann et al. (2004) and Landais et al. (2007a). Increasing photorespiration modifies \( \delta^{18}O \) resp, as photorespiration is associated with a high discrimination and in turn affects \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}} \). Details on equations used in our offline model for \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}} \) calculation can be found in Hoffmann et al. (2004).

### 2.4.3 Soil respiration

We have assigned fractionation factors for each soil using the soil type discrimination proposed by Angert et al. (2003). For this, we relate the Angert soil types to the type of vegetation cover over the considered soil in the ORCHIDEE model. As an example, we have assigned tropical soils (fractionation coefficient of \(-10.1\)‰) to soil covered by dominant the PFT tropical broadleaf evergreen trees and the PFT tropical broadleaf raingreen trees. Tropical soils \(-10.1\)‰ discriminate significantly less than temperate \(-17.8\)‰ or boreal soils \(-22.4\)‰ following Angert et al. (2003). The global respiratory isotope fractionation for the control run calculates as \(-15.895\)‰, much weaker than the common value \((-18\)‰) used for terrestrial ecosystems. As soil respiration only occurs where vegetation exists, a shift of the latter modifies the spatial distribution of soils where dark respiration takes place. In our model, the change in vegetation cover from the LGM to HS leads to a very slight weakening of soil respiration isotope fractionation using fractionation values of Angert et al. (2003). We present in Sect. 3.2.2 a sensitivity test to assess the magnitude of the uncertainty in soil respiration isotope fractionation that is introduced by not taking into account the effect of soil aeration, i.e. the weakening of respired O\(_2\) back-diffusion in waterlogged soils.

#### 2.4.4 Global terrestrial fractionation factor

Uptake of oxygen by respiration discriminates against heavy isotopes, leaving the substrate oxygen, atmospheric O\(_2\), enriched in \( ^{18}O \). Each of the oxygen uptake processes is affected by a specific, spatially and temporally constant fractionation (Table 2) and the global terrestrial isotope fractionation factor \( 18\alpha_{\text{resp}} \) is expressed as follows:

\[
18\alpha_{\text{resp}} = 18\alpha_{\text{photo}} \cdot f_{\text{photo}} + 18\alpha_{\text{Mehler}} \cdot f_{\text{Mehler}} + 18\alpha_{\text{dark_soil}} \cdot f_{\text{dark_soil}} + 18\alpha_{\text{dark_leaves}} \cdot f_{\text{dark_leaves}}.
\]

The latest estimations of \( 18\alpha_{\text{Mehler}}, 18\alpha_{\text{photo}} \) and \( 18\alpha_{\text{dark_leaves}} \) can be found in Table 2. A significant proportion of terrestrial respiration (30 to 40%) occurs below the surface (Raich and Potter, 1995) with varying fractionation values. Respiration below surface \( 18\alpha_{\text{dark_soil}} \) thereby needs to be considered for the different types of soils (boreal, temperate, tropical), as each soil type is associated with a specific fractionation factor because of different diffusion pathways (Angert et al., 2003). The Mehler fraction, \( f_{\text{Mehler}} \), represents 10% of global respiration (Badger et al., 2000) and \( f_{\text{photo}} \) is calculated from the outputs of the ORCHIDEE and IPSL-CM4 models. The dark respiration fraction is composed of leaf (38%) and soil (62%) respiration, following Landais et al. (2007b).

### 3 Results

#### 3.1 Simulation of regional climate, vegetation and isotopic pattern during a HS

We propose here a model–data comparison on a regional scale to evaluate the model performances, as the climatic and water cycle responses during a HS are not spatially homogeneous. Climatic outputs of the HS experiments are already discussed in Kageyama et al. (2009) and Woillez et al. (2013). In the following we thus mainly discuss the simulated change in relative humidity (Sect. 3.1.1) since the latter has an important influence on the \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{tw}} \) and hence \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}} \). Then, we further compare the modeled change in \( \delta^{18}O \) of precipitation over a HS with changes in speleothems calcite \( \delta^{18}O \) (Sect. 3.1.2) and modeled fraction of vegetation with vegetation reconstructions (Sect. 3.1.3).
Table 2. Parameters involved in the calculation of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$. Uncertainties are given for most of the parameters except for those derived from the ORCHIDEE model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>LGM_ctrl</th>
<th>HS_exp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$[\text{CO}_2]$</td>
<td>ppm</td>
<td>carbon dioxide mixing ratio in the troposphere</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t$</td>
<td>°C</td>
<td>temperature at the site of photosynthesis</td>
<td>21.08</td>
<td>21.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$h$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>relative humidity at the site of photosynthesis</td>
<td>66.09</td>
<td>66.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPP_C</td>
<td>Pmol C yr$^{-1}$</td>
<td>gross photosynthetic molar carbon flux from the terrestrial biosphere</td>
<td>6.758</td>
<td>6.450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPP_O$_2$</td>
<td>Pmol O$_2$ yr$^{-1}$</td>
<td>gross photosynthetic molar oxygen flux from the terrestrial biosphere</td>
<td>11.768</td>
<td>11.410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f/Ca</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>C4 fraction (in terms of GPP_C)</td>
<td>36.92</td>
<td>35.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f/photo</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>fraction of photorespiration</td>
<td>28.55</td>
<td>29.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f/soil_dark</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>soil fraction of dark respiration</td>
<td>62$^a$</td>
<td>62$^a$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f/dark_soil</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>fraction of soil respiration</td>
<td>38.10</td>
<td>37.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f/dark_leaves</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>fraction of leaf respiration</td>
<td>23.35</td>
<td>22.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f/Mehler</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>fraction of Mehler respiration</td>
<td>10$^b$</td>
<td>10$^b$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{dark, soil}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global isotopic fractionation associated with dark soil respiration</td>
<td>16.242 ± 0.5$^c$</td>
<td>16.056 ± 0.5$^c$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{dark, leaves}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>mitochondrial (AOX + COX) isotopic fractionation in leaves</td>
<td>19 ± 1$^c$</td>
<td>19 ± 1$^c$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{Mehler}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global Mehler respiration isotopic fractionation</td>
<td>10.8 ± 0.2$^d$</td>
<td>10.8 ± 0.2$^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f/photo</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global photosrespiration isotopic fractionation</td>
<td>21.4 ± 1$^d$</td>
<td>21.4 ± 1$^d$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f/resp</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global terrestrial respiration isotopic fractionation</td>
<td>17.83</td>
<td>17.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{pp, amount}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global precipitation water isotope delta</td>
<td>−6.689</td>
<td>−6.781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{pp}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global photosynthesis precipitation water isotope delta</td>
<td>−5.530</td>
<td>−5.289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{vap, amount}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global water vapor isotope delta</td>
<td>−12.648</td>
<td>−12.653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{vap}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global photosynthesis water vapor isotope delta</td>
<td>−12.483</td>
<td>−12.295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{leaffwater}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global leaf water isotope delta</td>
<td>5.164 ± 1$^e$</td>
<td>5.301 ± 1$^e$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{terr}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global terrestrial tropospheric isotope delta</td>
<td>23.407 ± 1</td>
<td>23.516 ± 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{mar}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global marine tropospheric isotope delta</td>
<td>25.3 ± 2$^f$</td>
<td>25.3 ± 2$^f$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{18}$O$_{\text{atm}}$</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>global tropospheric isotope delta</td>
<td>23.88 ± 2</td>
<td>23.95 ± 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$(Schlesinger and Andrews, 2000). Note that this estimation is for present day, and here we assume it was similar during the last glacial period. $^b$(Badger et al., 2000). $^c$(Landais et al., 2007a). $^d$(Helman et al., 2005). $^e$(Gillon and Yakir, 2001). $^f$(Note that the increase of 1% compared to the Luz et al. (2014) value accounts for the 1% enrichment of the glacial ocean (Waelbroeck et al., 2002).

3.1.1 Simulated humidity validation

According to climate reconstructions, during HS, wet periods in northeastern Brazil are synchronous with periods of weak East Asian summer monsoons (Wang et al., 2001) and with cold periods in Greenland (Grootes and Stuiver, 1997) and Europe (Genty et al., 2003). Reorganization in tropical rainfall patterns leads to wetter conditions in southwestern North America (Asmerom et al., 2010) and southern South America (Kanner et al., 2012), and to dryer conditions in the Australian–Indonesian monsoon region (Mohtadi et al., 2011), wide parts of Asia (Wang et al., 2008), northern South America (Peterson and Haug, 2006), Mediterranean region (Fleitmann et al., 2009), and equatorial western Africa (e.g., Weldeab, 2012).

During HS, the model simulates similar humidity patterns as reconstructed ones, with dryer conditions over Europe, the Mediterranean region, northern and equatorial Africa, southern and eastern Asia, Middle East, India, southern Australia and parts of Indonesia. In South America, a region of particular interest, where major simulated changes in vegetation and oxygen production occur, the model captures well the observed contrast with increased moisture in northeastern Brazil, and drying in northern South America and Central America.

These rapid comparisons show that there is a good general agreement between modeled changes in humidity over an HS and climatic reconstructions over the different regions.

3.1.2 Simulated amount-weighted $\delta^{18}O_{\text{pp}}$ validation

Tropics

Comparisons of modeled hosing-driven amount-weighted $\Delta^{18}O_{\text{pp}}$ anomalies with reconstructed $\Delta^{18}O$ of speleothem’s calcite during HSs are presented in Table 3 and Fig. 4. Thirteen Heinrich $\Delta^{18}O_{\text{pp}}$ proxy reconstructions arise from Lewis et al. (2010) ($n = 11$) and Pausata et al. (2011) ($n = 4$). They are located in the eastern Mediterranean, and in the regions of the South American monsoon, East Asian monsoon, Indian summer monsoon, North American monsoon and the Australian–Indonesian monsoon. Those regions represent the most productive ones and therefore carry a substantial part of the $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ signal. Although reconstructed $\Delta^{18}O_{\text{pp}}$ anomalies from Lewis et al. (2010) and Pausata et al. (2011) studies were estimated differently, they are consistent and common reconstructed $\Delta^{18}O_{\text{pp}}$ estimates (for Hulu and Songjia Cave) are similar in both
studies (Table 3, this study; method section of Pausata et al., 2011).

The dominant hydrological controls on reconstructed \( \delta^{18}O_p \) are site-specific and are described by Lewis et al. (2010). Figure 4 demonstrates the ability of the AOGCM LMDZ-iso to reproduce the observed \( \Delta \delta^{18}O_p \) spatial pattern for most of the sites, particularly in regions strongly affected by ITCZ (and its land extension) variations and hence by changes in the water cycle, regardless of the processes at play. There are two regions where the model does not properly reproduce the observed signal over HS. The first one occurs in the Indian summer monsoon domain (Timta Cave). Model and observation would reconcile two grid cells south of Timta Cave, as it is located just at the transition between a positive and negative simulated \( \delta^{18}O_p \) anomaly. This disagreement can be due to a model bias. The IPSL model indeed does not simulate the monsoonal signal at the right place, with an Indian monsoon located too far south even for modern climate (Marti et al., 2010). In the LGM simulation also, the IPSL model predicts that it mostly takes place over the ocean (−0.5 to −2 mm day\(^{-1}\)) is only simulated over the ocean; see Fig. 9 (lower panel) of Kageyama et al., 2009), while there is evidence for a monsoonal signal over land. In northern India, i.e., the Timta Cave site, the model does not simulate any significant rainfall change between the two periods. A more intense weakening of the Indian monsoon over land in the HS run, and hence less rainfall, would have helped in reconciling the model and data at Timta Cave, since \( \delta^{18}O_p \) would have been enriched through the amount effect. Pausata et al. (2011) recently suggested that change in rainfall amount associated with Indian monsoon rather than in southeastern Asia explains changes observed in calcite \( \delta^{18}O \) in Chinese stalagmites (in southeastern Asia). As in Pausata et al. (2011), a freshwater impulse was applied to the control simulation with LGM background climate. Rainfall amount drops in eastern Asia and northwestern India, mostly over the ocean, but increases in southeastern India, as shown in Fig. 3d. Values of −0.17 and −0.13 mm day\(^{-1}\) are simulated at Hulu and Songjia Cave during HS, respectively. The enrichment in \( \delta^{18}O_p \) observed in Chinese caves is reproduced by the model, but the latter fails to capture the enrichment in Timta Cave. Overall, \( \delta^{18}O_p \) is enriched over the whole of India (with an abrupt change south of Timta Cave) and southern Asia. The possible role of the Indian monsoon in the oxygen isotopic enrichment of Chinese stalagmites is limited in our simulation, probably because the monsoonal signal is located too far south in the IPSL model. The increase in \( \delta^{18}O \) over southeastern Asia is consistent with local amount effect.

Another mismatch occurs in the North American monsoon domain (Cave of the Bells), where the observed \( \Delta \delta^{18}O_p \) (−0.8‰) and the modeled \( \Delta \delta^{18}O_p \) (0.9‰) are of opposite sign. The elevation of the site (1700 m a.s.l.) might explain the disagreement between model and data, in a region where the coarse model resolution does not allow for the role of orography to be properly represented. At Timta Cave and Cave of the Bells, our model fails to capture the calcite \( \delta^{18}O \) anomaly recorded in speleothems. These two sites are located at high altitude and do not correspond to the regions where most of the oxygen is produced.

As shown in Table 3, the modeled increase in \( \delta^{18}O_p \) quantitatively agrees with data \( \delta^{18}O_c \) increase during HS in most of the compared sites (Fig. 4). In conclusion, the key features of HS precipitation inferred from speleothem’s \( \delta^{18}O_c \), i.e., a low-latitude interhemispheric see-saw pattern (Cheng et al., 2012), are generally well captured by the LMDZ model.

### High latitudes

In Greenland, HS can hardly be distinguished from the GS or from the mean LGM state. The only clear \( \delta^{18}O_{ice} \) signal is observed from GI to GS (or HS) with an approximately 4‰ decrease in central Greenland sites (GRIP, GISP2, NGRIP). The depletion simulated in Greenland, with a 1.6‰ decrease at the GRIP site, by the model for a HS compared to a glacial background state does not compare well with available data. However, it is difficult to compare the \( \delta^{18}O \) change simulated by a freshwater input (the most efficient way to model a Heinrich event, as mentioned in Sect. 2.3.1) and the \( \delta^{18}O \) depletion between a GI and a GS. Indeed, there is more and more evidence that the \( \delta^{18}O_p \) depletion at the end of a GI is not due to the same freshwater discharge than the one associated with a Heinrich event. It can well be due to a threshold in the extent in sea ice or an atmospheric heat transport. Therefore our choice of modeling approach may potentially explain some of the discrepancies observed in the low latitudes, but our approach is the best we can realize today.

#### 3.1.3 Validation of simulated vegetation

In order to compare model and data easily, simulated PFTs are gathered into five mega-biomes (boreal, temperate and tropical trees, C3 and C4 grasses) as well as bare soil. We distinguish between C3 and C4 plants as their partitioning has a strong impact on photospiration fraction. The simulated dominant vegetation fraction is shown for LGM_ctl (Fig. 5) and HS_exp (Fig. 6), together with pollen-based reconstructed mega-biomes. Given its domination, we display bare soil fraction only if it covers more than 80% of a grid cell.

#### Global oxygen production

Present-day carbon and oxygen productions amount to 10.5 Pmol C yr\(^{-1}\) and 17.95 Pmol O\(_2\) yr\(^{-1}\) (taking into account photospiration) in the ORCHIDEE model, respectively. This is in line with other estimates, e.g., Angert et al. (2003) or Welp et al. (2011), estimating 8 to 13 Pmol C yr\(^{-1}\) and 12.5 to 14.2 Pmol O\(_2\) yr\(^{-1}\), respectively. For the LGM and HS, land carbon production estimates from the ORCHIDEE model are rather low, 6.8 and 6.5 Pmol C yr\(^{-1}\),
which translates into 11.8 and 11.4 Pmol O\textsubscript{2} yr\textsuperscript{-1} for the LGM and HS, respectively. This is up to a factor of 2 lower than model-based LGM estimates from Joos et al. (2004), Hoffmann et al. (2004) or Bender et al. (1994), ranging from 23 to 16.7 Pmol O\textsubscript{2} yr\textsuperscript{-1}.

The ORCHIDEE model is known to underestimate LGM productivity at both low latitudes (too low productivity in tropical forests, especially Amazonia) and high latitudes (too low productivity in the absence of permafrost modeling).

Photosynthesis fraction (see Sect. 2.4.2) may also be invoked to explain part of the model–data discrepancy for the LGM and HS. Underestimation of photosynthesis may arise from uncertainties related to the time of photosynthesis. In the real world, plants must reduce their CO\textsubscript{2} uptake under water stress, as stomata close to preclude water loss. This leads to a higher proportion of photospiration, not necessarily considered during experiments performed under ideal hydric conditions, whose results are used in the classical Farquhar parameterization (Farquhar et al., 1980).

The classical scaling factor between carbon uptake and oxygen production (Keeling, 1988) of 1.07 used in our study may also have been underestimated. Indeed, plants can produce oxygen without involving carbon uptake during times of stress, which is not considered in experiments run under ideal conditions. The oxygen production calculated here from the ORCHIDEE model seems to be biased toward too low values for the LGM. The same bias is true for HS. Still, it should be noted that the $\delta^{18}$O\textsubscript{ref} calculations of our study and hence the final results do not depend on the absolute value of oxygen production at the LGM and HS.

**LGM\_ctrl vegetation**

The main features of the glacial vegetation are correctly reproduced by the ORCHIDEE model, as briefly presented by Woiellez et al. (2011): reduced fractions of tropical forest, particularly in Amazonia, and high grass fractions in Siberia, Alaska, and western North America. Main biases are an overestimation of the tree fractions over western Europe, eastern Eurasia and eastern North America, as well as an overestimation in bare soil fractions over India, southern Africa, Siberia and South America (Woiellez et al., 2011), leading to an underestimation of the global carbon production, as mentioned in the previous section.

The model simulates temperate trees in southeastern Asia (Vietnam, southern China, Cambodia), tropical trees and grasses over the western pacific warm pool (Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia) and over southern Africa, in agreement with BIOME6000 reconstructions (Prentice et al., 2000). The model underestimates temperate trees in Asia and overestimates bare soil in South Africa.

A more detailed comparison shows that the important (boreal) tree fraction over southwestern Europe differs from palynological reconstructions depicting an important grass fraction, but this bias mainly comes from the overestimation of Boreal broadleaf summergreen trees, which is a common feature in the version of ORCHIDEE used here, also found in present-day vegetation simulations. The bias might also be the sign that the LGM climate simulated by IPSL-CM4 over western Europe is too warm and wet (Woiellez et al., 2011). In a few regions, ORCHIDEE correctly simulates the presence of forest, but the dominant type of tree disagrees with pollen reconstructions: tropical trees over Papua New Guinea and western Indonesia, while reconstructions reveal the presence of temperate trees over these regions. Simulated forests over southern Australia (a thin coastal band in the southeast) are composed of temperate and tropical trees, while reconstructions rather indicate the presence of a few tropical trees. The model simulates mixed vegetation composed of grasses, boreal and temperate trees in eastern North America, consistent with pollen data, but the spatial distribution is incorrect.

It is important to keep in mind that model–data comparison of vegetation can only remain qualitative given the coarse resolution of the vegetation model, related to the model res-
Table 4. Comparison of mega-biomes during Heinrich stadials between pollen reconstructions (references are included in the table) and simulated vegetation (compiled from HS_exp using the ORCHIDEE vegetation model). Note that simulated C3 and C4 grasses are merged into one mega-biome because pollen-based biome reconstructions do not allow us to distinguish between the two PFTs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core ID</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Resolutiona (yr/sample)</th>
<th>Which HSb</th>
<th>Mega-biome distribution</th>
<th>Model results</th>
<th>Agreement</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>flora</td>
<td>pollen data</td>
<td>biome(s) designation</td>
<td>dominant, subdominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashiru Bog</td>
<td>equatorial Africa</td>
<td>−3.47</td>
<td>29.57</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>HS1</td>
<td>grassland and dry shrubland, savannah and xerophytic scrubland, warm temperate mixed forest, grasses, temperate forest, grasses</td>
<td>tropical forest, grasses</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>Reutenauer et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tanganyika</td>
<td>equatorial Africa</td>
<td>−8.5</td>
<td>30.85</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>HS1</td>
<td>savannah and xerophytic scrubland, warm temperate mixed forest, grasses, temperate forest, grasses</td>
<td>grasses</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>Reutenauer et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Malawi</td>
<td>equatorial Africa</td>
<td>−9.33</td>
<td>33.75</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>HS1</td>
<td>savannah and xerophytic scrubland, warm temperate mixed forest, grasses, temperate forest, grasses</td>
<td>grasses</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>Reutenauer et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Malawi Dambiri</td>
<td>equatorial Africa</td>
<td>−11.29</td>
<td>34.44</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>HS1</td>
<td>savannah and xerophytic scrubland, tropical forest, grasses, temperate forest, grasses</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Reutenauer et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashiru Bog</td>
<td>equatorial Africa</td>
<td>−4.4</td>
<td>−4.18</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>HS1</td>
<td>savannah and xerophytic scrubland, tropical forest, warm temperate mixed forest, grasses, temperate forest, grasses</td>
<td>tropical forest</td>
<td>Reutenauer et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Caco</td>
<td>South America</td>
<td>−2.97</td>
<td>−43.42</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>HS1</td>
<td>savannah and xerophytic scrubland, grassland and dry shrubland, warm temperate mixed forest, grasses, temperate forest, grasses</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Reutenauer et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonia</td>
<td>South America</td>
<td>−23.87</td>
<td>−46.71</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>HS1</td>
<td>savannah and xerophytic scrubland, grassland and dry shrubland, warm temperate mixed forest, grasses, temperate forest, grasses</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>Reutenauer et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lago Grande di Monticchio</td>
<td>South America</td>
<td>−4.15</td>
<td>−36.21</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>HS1</td>
<td>savannah and xerophytic scrubland, warm temperate mixed forests, temperate montane forests, grasses, temperate forest, grasses</td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>Reutenauer et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wan-goom</td>
<td>Australasia</td>
<td>−38.35</td>
<td>142.6</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>HS4</td>
<td>herbaceous and shrublands, grasses, temperate forest, tropical forest</td>
<td>fair</td>
<td>Harrison and Sanchez-Goni (2010)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Surprise</td>
<td>Australasia</td>
<td>−36.21</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>HS4</td>
<td>herbaceous and shrublands, grasses, temperate forest, tropical forest</td>
<td>bad</td>
<td>Harrison and Sanchez-Goni (2010)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kohota</td>
<td>Australasia</td>
<td>−36.7</td>
<td>174.52</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>HS4</td>
<td>herbaceous and shrublands, grasses, temperate forest, tropical forest</td>
<td>bad</td>
<td>Harrison and Sanchez-Goni (2010)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Companion Lagoon</td>
<td>Australasia</td>
<td>−27.68</td>
<td>153.41</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>HS4</td>
<td>tropical forest</td>
<td>grasses</td>
<td>Harrison and Sanchez-Goni (2010)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Variations during a Heinrich stadial

[180]

b Hessler et al. (2010); Handiani et al. (2012)
olution of the climatic forcing fields. Furthermore, pollen records represent the surrounding vegetation distribution at different altitudes, while the ORCHIDEE model does not account for elevation changes within a grid cell (Woillez et al., 2013).

**HS_exp vegetation**

To validate the simulated HS vegetation, we compare the millennial-scale changes in selected high-resolution (< 800 years; mean resolution is 400 years) pollen records of 48 sites described for HS1-GS2 (n = 16) in South America and southern Africa (Hessler et al., 2010; Handiani et al., 2012), and for HS4–GS9 (n = 31) in Europe (Fletcher et al., 2010), North America (Jimenez-Moreno et al., 2010), Japan (Takahara et al., 2010) and Australasia (Harrison and Goni, 2010). Figure 7 displays the location of paleorecords discussed in this study. Table 4 summarizes the model–data comparison at a grid cell level and provides additional information revealed by palynological reconstructions. The sampling resolution for the analyzed period (MIS2 for HS1, MIS3 for HS4), the other biomes represented for a given site, and the potential occurrences of similar reconstructed vegetation changes over other HSs are presented.

The model–data comparison has been performed as follows: the two dominant reconstructed biomes are compared with the two dominant simulated biomes over the grid cell covering the site where the proxy originates. Among the 48 sites with pollen reconstructions, 12 were discarded because of absence of vegetation on the considered grid cell. Among the remaining 36 terrestrial and coastal sites, 11 disagree (30 %) and 25 (70 %) display moderate to good agreement (Table 4). Good agreement (n = 13) is obtained when reconstructed and simulated dominant biomes are alike, fair agreement (n = 9) when a subdominant biome agrees with a dominant one, and moderate agreement (n = 3) when subdominant biomes only are similar.

Simulated vegetation in regions associated with high oxygen productivity agrees well with pollen reconstruction. This is the case for South America, where a strong increase in tropical forest at the expense of bare soil is simulated in eastern Brazil, and in the West Pacific Warm Pool region, where tropical forest represents the dominant biome. The slight southward shift of the southern border of desert areas
in equatorial Africa is also well captured by ORCHIDEE. In the Indian summer monsoon region, the simulated weakened monsoon (Kageyama et al., 2009) leads to the appearance of desert areas south and east of India, consistent with a dryer climate revealed by a core from the Indus region (Deplazes et al., 2014).

From this analysis it appears that sites showing a disagreement between model and data are coastal sites and/or have a very high bare soil fraction. Coastal sites do not necessarily only represent the vegetation in the coastal region, but they offer numerous records and allow high-resolution analysis thanks to their high sedimentation rate, so it is crucial to include them for millennial-scale analysis. Five (50 %) of the sites showing no agreement present a very high simulated bare soil fractions (> 90 %). Woillez et al. (2013) already pointed out the overestimation of the bare soil fractions by the ORCHIDEE model. We argue that this bias might partly explain the observed discrepancy between model and data. Furthermore, the other sites showing a disagreement, over Europe and Australia, underestimate grass fraction. For Europe, the bias is already present in the LGM simulation and is probably partly due to the systematic overestimation of forest by ORCHIDEE in this region (Woillez et al., 2011). Given the scarcity of data offering a time resolution high enough to catch millennial-scale vegetation variability, further testing of the simulated vegetation remains challenging. In conclusion, HS_exp vegetation agrees reasonably well with available pollen-based vegetation reconstruction.

Finally, based on the reasonable agreement of the simulated changes in vegetation, humidity and precipitation with
observations depicted in this section, we can rely on the validity of the model to simulate $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ over a HS.

3.2 Global increase in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ during a HS

The model calculates $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ for LGM_ctrl and HS_exp as 23.41 and 23.52‰, respectively (Table 2). This average $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ value is coherent with the $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ value of 23.8‰ with respect to V-SMOW and the finding that terrestrial and marine contribution to $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ are similar (Luz et al., 2014). Moreover, the global increase in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ of 0.11‰ (Fig. 8) can quantitatively explain most of the 0.1‰ $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ increase over HS (Severinghaus et al., 2009; Guillevic et al., 2014; Fig. 1). In the following, we use the different model outputs to decipher the main influences on $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ and hence on $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$.

By construction (Eq. 3), $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ is linearly dependent on both $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ and $\epsilon_{\text{resp}}$; we discuss these two effects below. Figure 8 (upper panel) details the different contributions to $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ change over a HS and demonstrates the dominant role of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ (Sect. 3.2.1) compared to $\epsilon_{\text{resp}}$ (Sect. 3.2.2). Indeed, the 0.11‰ increase in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ exclusively stems from $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ increase (+0.14‰ over HS_exp), while respiratory fractionation leads to a negative anomaly (−0.03‰) over HS_exp. We explore in more details below the origin of the relative changes in $\epsilon_{\text{resp}}$ and $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ as calculated by our modeling approach. In particular, we look at the different regional contributions to the global $\epsilon_{\text{resp}}$ and $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ signals since low-latitude regions are associated with the largest GPP_O2 (Fig. 9a for the whole latitudinal range and Fig. 10a for a closeup of the tropics) and hence have the strongest influence on the global $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ signal (Fig. 9c).

3.2.1 Leaf water

We find global $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ values of 5.16 and 5.30‰ for LGM_ctrl and HS_exp, respectively. The 0.14‰ difference is similar to the $\delta^{18}O$ increase observed in ice cores during HS (Fig. 2). The increase in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ is clearly visible in the low-latitude regions. It corresponds to an increase in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$ and a decrease in GPP_O2 weighted relative humidity, both effects leading to a global $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ increase (Fig. 9b).

Still, when looking at the whole latitudinal range, the GPP_O2 weighted relative humidity is not significantly different in HS and in LGM state. This is due to the decrease in relative humidity during HS in the extratropical regions (Fig. 9b). The net effect of relative humidity on $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ is thus zero. As a consequence, the main driver of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ (and hence $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$) increase is the increase in GPP_O2-weighted $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$ (Fig. 9b) by 0.18‰ (Fig. 8). This increase is linked to the southward shift of the tropical belt occurring during HS, as suggested from the speleothem data compilation (see Sect. 3.1.2).

Figure 10 clearly shows how rainfall amount and $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$ are anticorrelated as expected on most of the intertropical band. During a HS, $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$ is enriched in the Northern Hemisphere down to 14°S. A particular pattern occurs between the Equator and 14°S, where oxygen production is most enhanced at HS, as precipitation is more abundant but also heavier in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$.

3.2.2 Respiration

Respiratory processes lead to a 0.03‰ decrease in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ in HS_exp compared to $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ in LGM_ctrl (Fig. 8a). This variation is too small to challenge $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ enrichment caused by hydrological processes, but the sign of its anomaly raises questions. Here we explain the stability of $\epsilon_{\text{resp}}$ on millennial timescales by a compensatory effect taking place be-
between the main respiratory pathways. We then carry out a simple sensitivity experiment to get a better understanding of the causes of $^{18}$O dark soil negative anomaly during HS.

$^{18}$O resp is classically separated into four contributions as given in Eq. (6): soil respiration, leaf respiration, photorespiration and Mehler reaction.

Soil respiration with associated fractionation factor $^{18}$O dark soil represents 63% of dark respiration (Schlesinger and Andrews, 2000). It represents 39% of global terrestrial respiration in our simulation, in agreement with estimates from Raich and Potter (1995) of 30 to 40%. $^{18}$O dark soil is temperature-dependent (Angert et al., 2003), with higher fractionation associated with colder soils, causing a high zonal contrast. This temperature effect leads to a change in $^{18}$O dark soil by 0.19‰ at HS, increasing $^{18}$O resp by 0.12‰ and in turn depleting $^{18}$O terr.

The photorespiration fraction, strongly discriminative against $^{18}$O (18Ophoto = −21.4‰), represents 28.56% of the global terrestrial oxygen uptake in LGM_ctrl. The proportion of photorespiration is mainly linked to the change in the C3 vs. C4 plant proportions and in temperature during photosynthesis (Von Caemmerer, 2000; Hoffmann et al., 2004). During HS_exp, photorespiration fraction increases by 1% (29.52%), driven by a slight decrease in C4 grass (1.3%) and a slight photosynthesis temperature increase (0.3 °C). As a result, change in photorespiration fraction and soil respiration lead $^{18}$O resp to decrease by 0.03‰ in HS_exp, thus causing $^{18}$O terr enrichment.

In summary, in our model, a weaker $^{18}$O dark soil during HS cancels out the effect of increased photorespiration on $^{18}$O resp. Note that this compensation between the two main respiratory processes explains not only the temporal stability of $^{18}$O resp but also its zonal stability. Indeed, in high latitudes, cold temperatures lead to a weak photorespiration but strong soil isotope fractionation. In low latitudes, despite a weak soil isotope fractionation, high temperatures and variable C4 fraction lead to a highly variable photorespiration.

The 0.19‰ increase in $^{18}$O dark soil during HS needs to be considered carefully. Indeed, following the southward migration of the tropical rain belt during HS, tropical soils generally dry out during HSs, as inferred from the lower atmospheric nitrous oxide concentration and its isotopic composition during HS1 (Schilt et al., 2014). Well-aerated soils are associated with a strong discrimination (Angert et al., 2003). Well-aerated tropical soils of the Northern Hemisphere should thus lead to a stronger $^{18}$O dark soil, owing to the greater area of the northern vs. southern tropics. We perform a sensitivity study to assess the effect of soil moisture content on $^{18}$O dark soil by allowing the latter to vary in the intertropical band according to the amount of precipitation simulated by the IPSL model, used as a proxy for soil aeration. Concretely, $^{18}$O dark soil is allowed to vary from its initial value (e.g., −10.2‰ for tropical waterlogged soils) up to a factor of 2 (−20.2‰ for well-aerated tropical soils). Note that not only tropical but also temperate soils are simulated in the 30° S–30° N latitudinal band, as the type of soil is related to the vegetation cover in our model (Sect. 2.4.3).
Our results suggest a strong control of tropical hydrology on \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}} \) through changes in \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \). It suggests that \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}} \) is related to tropical hydrology and may be a good tracer for global monsoon signal. The aim of the following discussion is to evaluate these results by (i) providing some insights on \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}} \) estimate and (ii) testing the robustness of our conclusion to the model’s rainfall amount and land surface slope by using existing parameterizations employed in models that predict nitrous oxide production (e.g., LPX-Bern, which is a state-of-the-art bottom-up dynamic global vegetation and land surface process model; Stocker et al., 2013). Second, soil respiration is closely linked to the vegetation cover in our model, as types of soil (boreal, temperate, tropical) and their associated fractionation factor are related to PFTs rather than land area (Sect. 2.4.3). Third, aboveground oxygen productivity controls the rate of soil respiration. As Southern Hemisphere tropics dominate over Northern Hemisphere tropics in terms of GPP\(_O_2\) for both LGM and HS runs, \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{dark soil}} \) anomaly remains negative even when considering soil aeration. The distribution of vegetation simulated by ORCHIDEE, favoring Southern Hemisphere tropics, combined with the GPP\(_O_2\) weighting of soil respiration, explains why the drying-out of the Northern Hemisphere soils, albeit covering a greater land area, does not lead to a stronger \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{dark soil}} \) during HS in our model.

4 Discussion

The aim of the following discussion is to evaluate these results by (i) providing some insights on \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}} \) estimate and (ii) testing the robustness of our conclusion to the model’s rainfall amount and land surface slope by using existing parameterizations employed in models that predict nitrous oxide production (e.g., LPX-Bern, which is a state-of-the-art bottom-up dynamic global vegetation and land surface process model; Stocker et al., 2013). Second, soil respiration is closely linked to the vegetation cover in our model, as types of soil (boreal, temperate, tropical) and their associated fractionation factor are related to PFTs rather than land area (Sect. 2.4.3). Third, aboveground oxygen productivity controls the rate of soil respiration. As Southern Hemisphere tropics dominate over Northern Hemisphere tropics in terms of GPP\(_O_2\) for both LGM and HS runs, \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{dark soil}} \) anomaly remains negative even when considering soil aeration. The distribution of vegetation simulated by ORCHIDEE, favoring Southern Hemisphere tropics, combined with the GPP\(_O_2\) weighting of soil respiration, explains why the drying-out of the Northern Hemisphere soils, albeit covering a greater land area, does not lead to a stronger \( \delta^{18}O_{\text{dark soil}} \) during HS in our model.
clusion on the driver of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ changes through three sensitivity experiments separating the different parameters (hydrology, climate and vegetation).

4.1 Estimate of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}}$ over a Heinrich stadial

$\delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}}$ has been recently estimated as $24.3 \pm 2.0\%e$ for present day (Luz et al., 2014). In order to estimate $\delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}}$ for the LGM and HS, we assumed that fractionation during oxygen uptake by marine biosphere remained constant between the LGM/HS and present day and used a mean ocean $\delta^{18}O$ enriched by 1\%e at the LGM (Waelbroeck et al., 2002). This results in a value of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}}$ of $25.3 \pm 2.0\%e$ for the LGM and HS. It is important to note that a rise in sea level during a HS would lead to a depleted mean ocean $\delta^{18}O$, as polar ice sheets accumulate $^{16}O$, and can therefore not explain the increased $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ observed during stadials.

Because of the spatial limitation of paleorecords to provide a global picture of marine primary productivity, we have estimated the marine productivity for the LGM and HS using the Pelagic Interaction Scheme for Carbon and Ecosystem Studies (PISCES) model. The PISCES model is a biogeochemical model of the global ocean including a simple representation of marine ecosystem and forced offline by the AOGCM IPSL-CM4 (Aumont and Bopp, 2006; Mariotti et al., 2012). The model PISCES has already been compared under glacial conditions with observations (Mariotti et al., 2012; Tagliabue et al., 2009; Bopp et al., 2003) and reproduces roughly the paleoproductivity reconstruction of Kohfeld et al. (2005). Using the same forcings as for our simulations, Mariotti et al. (2012) simulate a global decrease in oceanic primary productivity of 16\% during a Heinrich event, in agreement with independent modeling studies (Schmittner, 2005; Mennerick et al., 2008; Schmittner and Galbraith, 2008) and more important than the one in terrestrial GPP (3.5\%). Because $\delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}}$ is larger than $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$, this decrease in marine productivity would lead to a decrease in global $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ during the HS, opposite to the observation. We simulated a change in the marine production to assess its impact on $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ signal. With a change of 10\% in marine export, $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ varies by 0.05\%e. However this result needs to be treated with caution for two main reasons. (i) The fraction of land versus ocean production is strongly affecting $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ if the isotope fractionation factors associated with the terrestrial and marine production are not similar. Pioneer studies on the Dole effect often invoked the marine-to-terrestrial production ratio to explain the observed variations. Though it is not the case in our model, recent studies suggest their magnitude to be very close, with $\delta^{18}O_{\text{mar}}$ 1.8\%e higher than $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$. The change in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ is thus likely to be smaller in the real world. (ii) Recent studies (eg. Mariotti et al., 2012) rather suggest a decrease in marine export after a Heinrich event. This would lead to a decrease in $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ signal that is in opposition to the observations as mentioned in Section 4.1. We conclude that marine productivity is not the driver for $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ increase during HS.

4.2 Disentangling the influences of climate, hydrology and vegetation on $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$: sensitivity experiments.

In order to assess the robustness of our conclusion stating that the low-latitude hydrological cycle is the driver of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{atm}}$ changes, we have run three different experiments:

– In HSclim we test the impact of the climatic conditions. This simulation is similar to LGM-ctrl, except that the temperature and relative humidity from HS_exp are prescribed as boundary conditions.

– In HShydro we test the impact of the hydrological cycle. This simulation is similar to LGM-ctrl, except that $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$ and $\delta^{18}O_{\text{vap}}$ from HS_exp are prescribed as boundary conditions.

– In HSveget we test the impact of the vegetation. This simulation is similar to LGM-ctrl, except that the vegetation production and distribution from HS_exp are prescribed as boundary conditions.

Figure 11 summarizes the results of the sensitivity analysis in terms of temperature, humidity, and oxygen isotopic composition of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$, $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ and $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$. The sensitivity tests show that the implementation of one parameter from HS_exp (HSclim, HShydro and HSveget) leads to a simulated $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ anomaly similar to or higher than in the full HS_exp.

In HSclim, $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ enrichment is mostly caused by the 0.3\% decrease in relative humidity over the LGM vegetated areas after the AMOC collapse, since $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$ and $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ are not modified by definition. This global decrease in GPP_O2-weighted relative humidity is not visible in the global HS_exp (Fig. 8) and hence does not explain the $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ increase in HS_exp. In HSveget, the southward shift of HS_exp vegetation leads to a global GPP_O2 weighted relative humidity decrease by 0.5\%. As in HSclim, this leads to a high $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ positive anomaly. The effect of relative humidity on $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ is minimized in HS_exp, as the southward shift in vegetation counterbalances the change in climatic conditions. This compensation explains why the final GPP_O2-weighted relative humidity does not vary.

In HShydro, the $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$ increase explains the whole $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ increase. This increase in GPP_O2-weighted $\delta^{18}O_{\text{p}}$ is similar in HShydro and HS_exp, which confirms that the $\delta^{18}O_{\text{terr}}$ simulated by the model in the full experiment HS_exp is arising from a change intrinsic to the hydrological cycle, only slightly affected by vegetation distribution.

In addition, note that a weakening of $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$ only occurs with HS vegetation (HS_exp, HSveget), regardless of the climatic conditions. Moreover, HSclim depicts a stronger $\delta^{18}O_{\text{lw}}$, caused by a higher temperature increase over HS,
leading to an enhanced photorespiration fraction among C3 plants. However, the temperature effect on δ18Ow remains minor.

The global impact of 18εresp is negligible in all experiments, with variations 1 order of magnitude lower than δ18Op.

Finally, these tests confirm the strong control of hydrological processes on δ18Oterr, and highlight the role of the vegetation distribution in defining δ18Op and climatic conditions recorded by δ18Oterr.

5 Conclusions and perspective

Our study first aimed at quantitatively testing the driving of δ18Oatm by tropical hydrology as suggested by the strong correlation between local records of δ18O and global record of δ18Oatm on the millennial scale. For this we used a HS-type simulation under LGM background conditions with an oxygen isotope mass balance model using spatial and temporal fields of (i) temperature and relative humidity from the AOGCM IPSL-CM4, (ii) PFT distribution and GPP provided by the dynamic global vegetation model ORCHIDEE, (iii) oxygen isotope composition of water vapor and precipitation from the AOGCM LMDZ-iso, and (iv) the latest isotope fractionation factor measurements involved in respiratory and photosynthetic processes.

Validation of AOGCM outputs feeding the oxygen isotope mass balance model was performed through a model-data comparison of the main drivers of δ18Oterr: (i) simulated δ18Op was compared to speleothem’s calcite δ18O anomalies, and in most sites showed excellent agreement despite the complexity of the δ18O signal; (ii) simulated HS humidity was compared to the reconstructed ones, broadly agreeing with paleodata; and (iii) simulated vegetation was compared with palynological reconstructions for LGM and HS, and was qualitatively consistent.

The model simulates a terrestrial enrichment of δ18Oterr of 0.11‰, which mostly arises from the δ18Op signal. On a global scale, respiration fractionation only plays a minor role in the anomaly observed during HS, and slightly decreases δ18Oterr in our simulation, driven by a weaker isotope fractionation of soil respiration during HS that masks the effect of increased photorespiration. Accounting for the effect of soil aeration on 18εdark,soil modifies the 18εresp anomaly by 0.05‰, a change too small to challenge δ18Op main control on δ18Oterr. However, the simplicity of our approach to model soil moisture content and the GPP_O2 weighting of 18εdark,soil favoring Southern Hemisphere tropics are likely to explain this result. In order to precisely evaluate the uncertainty associated with 18εresp, an improved parameterization of soil aeration will be needed. This limitation of the model must thus be kept in mind when considering the conclusion of this study.

The strong control of the low-latitude hydrological cycle on simulated δ18Oatm on millennial timescales suggests that δ18Oatm records, at first order, changes in monsoonal activity on millennial timescales, in agreement with CH4 mixing ratio variations. Indeed, rapid CH4 variations during the last glacial period are generally attributed to changes in the low-latitude water cycle (Baumgartner et al., 2014; Brook et al., 2000; Chappellaz et al., 1993) driven by latitudinal shifts of the ITCZ and the monsoon systems (e.g., Chiang, 2009). Such a signal can also be used for exploring the low-latitude hydrological cycle characteristic of Heinrich events. Indeed, the recent study of Rhodes et al. (2015) suggests that observed CH4 spikes in WAIS Divide ice core during the cold phases of HSs represent the hydrological signature of Heinrich events, through activation of Southern Hemisphere wetlands. The Guilevic et al. (2014) multi-ice-core proxies approach over GS9–HS4 also suggests a decoupling between changes in Greenland temperatures and low-latitude hydrology identified in both CH4 and δ18Oatm, and demonstrates the need for high-resolution data with common precise chronology to explore submillennial variations.

δ18Oatm is a valuable tool to assess the validity of Earth system model simulations, as it integrates a combination of hydrological, climatic and biological processes. Furthermore, δ18Oatm is a global signal, which mostly arises from the tropics and integrates all vegetated areas. Therefore, the ability of a model to catch δ18Oatm millennial-scale variations implies a correct spatial representation of an ensemble of processes. The comparison of Earth system model outputs with global proxies such as δ18Oatm, involving the main components of the climatic system, is crucial for gaining
confidence in their ability to represent the real world. Our approach is mainly restricted to terrestrial contribution, but future modeling exercises should also include the oceanic $\delta^{18}$O$_{atm}$ signal.

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