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- ✧ [Home](#)
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- ✧ [Nomination and Election](#)
- ✧ [Awards](#)
- ✧ [Publications](#)
- ✧ [National Academies Studies](#)

ACTIVITIES

- ✧ [Koshland Science Museum](#)
- ✧ [Evolution Resources](#)
- ✧ [Sackler Colloquia](#)
- ✧ [Kavli Frontiers of Science](#)
 - ▷ [US Frontiers](#)
 - ▷ [Chinese-American Frontiers](#)
 - ▷ [German-American Frontiers](#)
 - ▷ [Indo-US Frontiers](#)
 - ▷ [Japanese-American Frontiers](#)
 - ▷ [UK-US Frontiers](#)
- ✧ [Keck Futures Initiative](#)
- ✧ [Exhibitions and Cultural Programs](#)
- ✧ [Distinctive Voices@The Beckman Center](#)
- ✧ [Committee on Human Rights](#)

Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium Series

Ninth Annual Japanese-American Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
U.S. National Academy of Sciences

December 8-10, 2006
Irvine, California

Glacial/interglacial climate simulated with a climate model and an ice sheet model [-Presentation](#)

Ayako Abe-Ouchi, The University of Tokyo

Please click on the above link to watch the presentation - both slides and audio. This presentation file is in [Flash](#) format, available free online.

One of the challenges of earth system modeling is to confirm the theories of ice age cycle by simulating it and to understand the uniqueness or necessity of the present state of climate and cryosphere and predict the future. Whether earth orbital parameters (so -called Milankovitch cycle) or the CO₂ is the driver and what amplifies the forcing signal have been investigated by different hierarchy of models. Here we simulated the glacial cycles and investigate the origin of saw-tooth shape 100ka cycle using a three dimensional ice sheet model with the input obtained by a global climate model. The ice sheet model includes the thermo-mechanical coupling with the process of delayed isostatic rebound. In order to estimate the climate sensitivity to Milankovitch forcing and atmospheric CO₂ indicated by ice core data we used a climate model (an atmospheric GCM (CCSR/NIES) coupled to a slab ocean). Within the range of possibilities of the model, ice age cycles with a saw-tooth shape 100 ka cycle and the major NH ice sheet (Laurentide ice sheet and Fenno-Scandian ice sheet) volume and geographical distribution in the past 400,000 years are successfully simulated. It is shown by sensitivity studies that this 100ka cycle is mainly obtained by the slowly acting ice sheet response to Milankovitch forcing even without the CO₂ cycle. The CO₂ change amplifies the cycle and affects the global climate change, while the delay of crustal rebound sharpens the termination of every ice age cycle.

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