Effect of Improved Bedrock Geometry on Antarctic Vulnerability to Regional Ice Shelf Collapse

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Assessed Antarctic Ice Sheet vulnerability to regional ice shelf collapse.
- Start with present-day AIS.
- Subject each sector in turn to extreme thinning
- Evolve for 1000 yrs using BISICLES AMR ice sheet model

Primary AIS vulnerability is complete collapse of the submarine-grounded portion of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) via Marine Ice Sheet Instability (MISI)

WAIS collapse can result from loss of any of the ice shelves (ASE, Ronne, or Ross) with a path to the vulnerable portion of the WAIS.

Vulnerability elsewhere was limited and localized.

Limitation -- based on Bedmap2 (2013)
Does Better Data Change this picture?

- Bedmap2 was the state of the art in 2013, but suffered from incomplete observational coverage and interpolation artifacts.
- **Since 2013, the data has improved!**
  - sustained campaign of observations,
  - improved interpolation techniques based on mass conservation.
  - Resulting datasets, including recent BedMachine dataset (2019), incorporate much-improved bedrock and thickness data compared to what was available in Bedmap2.
- **Does this affect projections of vulnerability?**
  - After ice-shelf buttressing is lost, the resulting Marine Ice Sheet Instability (MISI) is largely controlled by bedrock topography.
- **Plan:** reproduce our previous examination to examine the effect of this improvement on projected Antarctic vulnerability,
  - pay special attention to regions like the Aurora Basin which were under-constrained in Bedmap2.
Work in progress....

- “Stuff happened” in 2020...

- Have present-day BISICLES initial condition:
  - Bedmachine (2019) ice thickness and bedrock
  - Bed friction and rheology tuned to match velocity to observations
  - Arthern accumulation field (same as before)
  - Ice temperature field from Morlighem (private communication, 2020)

- Finally getting runs going....
(very) Preliminary results

- Whole-continent ABUMIP-style experiment
  - (ABUM-style extreme shelf-thinning)
  - 1km finest resolution
  - Currently at 25 year evolution (goal is 1000 years)
- Compare with similar experiment using Bedmap2 from Cornford et al (2016)
Future (in-progress) work

- Convergence test -- verify that new bedmap doesn’t change resolution requirements for resolving Marine Ice Sheet Instability dynamics.

- Re-do regional ice shelf collapse experiment and compare to original Bedmap2 results.

- Will allow for evaluation of improved bedmap on predictions of Antarctic vulnerability to MISI and potential for future sea level rise.
  - Change in continental vulnerability? (possible that differences we see now may be due to differences in initialization rather than in the bedmap itself)
  - Change in regional vulnerability?

