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Sea Ice Modeling in the GCM Context

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Global Climate Models (GCMs) must balance limitations in computing resources and manpower with the need to simulate all aspects of the climate system accurately and in detail. As a result, polar simulations of GCMs often receive less attention than do the lower latitudes. This presentation will provide a global climate modeling perspective on the polar regions from the point of view of a GCM/sea-ice modeler, including an overview of the sea ice components in current IPCC-class GCMs. One of these models features some striking advances in its simulation of the polar regions since the recent IPCC modeling cycle; I will discuss the current status of this model and our plans for further improving the cryospheric component of GCMs.