Change of Baiu Rain Band in Global Warming Projection by an Atmospheric General Circulation Model with a 20-km Grid Size

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Abstract

A global warming projection experiment was conducted on the Earth Simulator using a very high horizontal resolution atmospheric general circulation model, with 20-km grid size (the 20-km model). Such high horizontal resolution in a global climate model is unprecedented for a global warming projection. Experiments using the 20-km model were conducted by adopting the time-slice method, in which future changes in sea surface temperature (SST) were predicted by an atmosphere-ocean general circulation model (AOGCM) called MRI-CGCM2.3. The A1B emission scenario, proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), was assumed in the experiment.

The model reproduces a realistic Baiu rain band under the present-day climate conditions in terms of geographical distribution and northward seasonal march. Experiments of the dependency of the horizontal resolution on the reproducibility of the Baiu rain band have revealed that the 20-km model generally exhibits higher performance than a model with a lower horizontal resolution. The future climate simulation shows that precipitation, and its intensity increases over the Yangtze River valley of China, the East China Sea, Western Japan, and the ocean to the south of the Japan archipelago. Conversely, precipitation and its intensity decrease over the Korean peninsula and Northern Japan. The termination of the Baiu season tends to be delayed until August.

The future precipitation change is mainly attributable to the change in the horizontal transport of water vapor flux and its convergence associated with the intensification of a subtropical high. This can be interpreted as an atmospheric response to the El Niño condition of the ocean. The change in the wind field mainly contributes to the change in the water vapor flux in the case of the Baiu rain band.

1. Introduction

The rainy season, or rain band, observed in an East Asia summer monsoon season is called the Baiu in Japan, the Mei-yu in China and the Changma in Korea. This rainy season begins nearly simultaneously with the onset of the summer monsoon over central India in early June. During this rainy season, the rain band, or rain front, stagnates over the Yangtze River valley, with its eastern edge passing through the Japan Islands (Ninomiya and Akiyama 1992). The rain band migrates northward with seasonal march, and the rainy season terminates in mid-July (Wang and Ho 2002). Hereafter, we consistently use the terminology "the
Baiu rain band” to denote this rain band or associated frontal structure extending over East Asia in the summer monsoon season. We also consistently use the terminology “the Baiu season” to denote the period in which the Baiu rain band prevails. The onset and withdrawal of the Baiu season depends on the location (Wang and Ho 2002). The variability of the Baiu rain band, or the Baiu season, greatly affects the life and society of people living in East Asia. Therefore, a change in the Baiu rain band in a warmer future climate is one of the main concerns for this region.

Many atmospheric general circulation model (AGCM) studies have attempted to reproduce the Baiu rain band by forcing models with observed or climatological sea surface temperature (SST). However, the models have commonly underestimated the rainfall amount (Lau et al. 1996; Lau and Yang 1996; IPCC 2001; Liang et al. 2001; Kusunoki et al. 2001). Moreover, they have failed to simulate the observed northward migration of the Baiu rain band (Kang et al. 2002). Research on the dependence of the horizontal resolution on the reproducibility of the Baiu rain band has yielded optimistic results, namely, that models with a higher horizontal resolution increase the rainfall amount of the Baiu rain band, while models with a lower horizontal resolution do not. Nevertheless, not even the highest-resolution simulation can realistically simulate the Baiu rain band (Sperber et al. 1996; Kawatani and Takahashi 2003; Kobayashi and Sugi 2004).

Many projections have been conducted to investigate the change of the East Asian summer monsoon in a future warmer climate. The main results are summarized in Table 1. Preceding studies generally agree on an increase of precipitation. Hume et al. (1994) to Min et al. (2004) have evaluated the changes of surface temperature and precipitation based on area-averaged statistics over East Asia, because atmospheric models have insufficient horizontal resolution to resolve local change. Recent studies with higher resolution atmospheric models (Kitoh et al. 2005; Kitoh and Uchiyama 2006; Kimoto 2005; Kimoto et al. 2005) have made it possible to discuss the local change of climate over East Asia, although the resolution remains insufficient to properly reproduce the Baiu rain band.

An observational study (Ninomiya and Akiyama 1992) stressed the fact that disturbances of the multi-scales, from the mesoscale to synoptic and planetary scales, play important roles in the formation and maintenance of the Baiu rain band, and that the Baiu rain band is characterized by mutual interactions between phenomena within this multi-scale hierarchical system. Namely, the Baiu rain band consists of disturbances with a horizontal scale ranging from about 10 km of a meso-$\alpha$ structure, about 100 km of a meso-$\beta$ structure, about 1000 km of a meso-$\gamma$ structure, to about 5000 km of a synoptic and planetary scale structure. This suggests that the difficulty in simulating the Baiu rain band by AGCM is still attributable to an insufficient horizontal resolution. Hence, the purpose of this study is to evaluate the ability of a high resolution 20-km-grid AGCM to simulate the present-day climatology of the Baiu rain band, and to project its change in a warmer climate. Hereafter, the 20-km-grid AGCM is referred to as the “20-km model”.

Section 2 contains a brief description of the model. Section 3 presents the experimental design. Section 4 explains the verification data used. Section 5 evaluates the reproducibility of the Baiu rain band in the present-day climate simulations, with the 20-km model in comparison with simulations by coarser horizontal resolution models. Section 6 reports the change of the Baiu rain band in global warming projection. Section 7 is an interpretation of the change of the Baiu rain band as an atmospheric response to changes in sea surface temperature (SST) change. The relative contribution of change in the wind field, and the water vapor to a horizontal water vapor flux is estimated qualitatively. Finally, Section 8 summarizes the results.

2. The models

High horizontal resolution AGCM experiments were conducted by adopting the “time-slice” method (Bengtsson et al. 1996; IPCC 2001), which is a two-tier global warming projection approach, using an atmosphere-ocean general circulation model (AOGCM), and an AGCM with a horizontal resolution that is higher than that of the atmospheric part of the AOGCM.
Table 1. Projected change of East Asian summer monsoon by preceding global warming studies with AOGCMs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Horizontal spacing of atmosphere</th>
<th>Emission scenario</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hulme et al.</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>7 AOGCMs</td>
<td>300–900 km</td>
<td>2xCO2</td>
<td>Precipitation increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPCC</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>9 AOGCMs</td>
<td>270–540 km</td>
<td>2xCO2</td>
<td>Precipitation increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitoh et al.</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>MRI-CGCM1</td>
<td>500 km</td>
<td>2xCO2, 4xCO2</td>
<td>The subtropical high intensifies and extends westward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giorgi et al.</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5 AOGCMs</td>
<td>300–600 km</td>
<td>2xCO2</td>
<td>No change in precipitation with CO2 only, No consensus if aerosol included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giorgi et al.</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>9 AOGCMs</td>
<td>270–540 km</td>
<td>IPCC SRES A2, B2</td>
<td>5%–20% precipitation increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPCC</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Same as Giorgi et al. (2000, 2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lal and Harasawa</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4 AOGCMs</td>
<td>270–540 km</td>
<td>No description</td>
<td>Precipitation increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hu et al.</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>16 AOGCM</td>
<td>270–540 km</td>
<td>2xCO2</td>
<td>Precipitation increases over China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min et al.</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>7 AOGCMs</td>
<td>270–540 km</td>
<td>IPCC SRES A2, B2</td>
<td>Precipitation increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitoh et al.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>MRI-CGCM2</td>
<td>270 km</td>
<td>IPCC SRES A2, B2</td>
<td>Precipitation increases in South China and decreases in North China, The subtropical high intensifies and extends westward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimoto</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>MIROC and 17 AOGCMs</td>
<td>110–270 km</td>
<td>IPCC SRES A1B for MIROC, 2xCO2 for 17 AOGCMs</td>
<td>Precipitation increases with the strengthening of the subtropical and the Okhotsk highs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimoto et al.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>MIROC</td>
<td>110 km</td>
<td>IPCC SRES A1B</td>
<td>Precipitation and intensity increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitoh and Uchiyama</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>7 AOGCMs</td>
<td>270 km</td>
<td>IPCC SRES A1B</td>
<td>Baiu rainy season withdrawal delays around Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AOGCM: Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Model
IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MRI-CGCM: Meteorological Research Institute-Coupled General Circulation Model, Japan
SRES: Special Report on Emissions Scenarios
MIROC: Name of the AOGCM developed cooperatively by the University of Tokyo, National Institute for Environmental Studies and Frontier Research Center for Global Change, Japan
The AOGCM used in the first step of the time-slice experiment is an MRI-CGCM2.3 (Yu-
kimoto et al. 2006a). The atmospheric part of this model has a horizontal spectral truncation of T42, corresponding to an approximately 270-km horizontal grid spacing, and 30 levels with a 0.4 hPa top. The oceanic part of this model is the Bryan-Cox-type grid model. The horizontal grid spacing is 2.5 degrees in longitude and 2 degrees in latitude. In order to resolve the equatorial Kelvin and Rossby waves, the latitudinal grid spacing is decreased near the equator between 4°S and 4°N down to the minimum of 0.5 degree at the equator. In the sea ice model, compactness and thickness are predicted on the base of thermodynamics. The sea ice is advected by the surface ocean current. To keep the model climatology close to the observation, a flux adjustment technique was applied to the heat and freshwater globally, and to the wind stress near the equator.

The 20-km model used in the second step of the time-slice experiment is a model jointly de-
volved by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), and the Meteorological Research Insti-
tute (MRI). The model is based on an operational numerical weather prediction model used at JMA, with some modifications in radiation and land surface processes as a climate model at MRI (Mizuta et al. 2006). The time integration was accelerated by introducing a semi-Lagrangian three-dimensional advection scheme (Yoshimura and Matsumura 2005). The time step was 6 minutes. The model has a horizontal spectral truncation of TL959, corre-
sponding to about a 20-km horizontal grid spacing, and has 60 levels with a 0.1 hPa (altitude of about 65 km) top. TL959 means that the model has a spectral Triangular truncation of spherical function at wave number 959, with a Linear grid for wave-to-grid transformation. The model has 1920 grids in longitude, and 960 grids in latitude. A mere increase in the horizontal resolution was found to gives rise to large model biases in precipitation and temperature, much less organization of convection, and suppression of tropical cyclone generation. Therefore, we carefully tuned the model to improve the model’s present-day climatology by changing the parameters in the evaporation process, cloud water content diagnosis, vertical transport of horizontal momentum in cumulus, and gravity wave drag (Mizuta et al. 2006). The integration of the 20-km model and data pro-
cessing were performed on the Earth Simulator (Habata et al. 2003; Habata et al. 2004).

3. Experimental design

The time-slice experiment was conducted as follows. The 20-km model was integrated for ten years as a time-slice, present-day climate simulation, with observed climatological SSTs (Reynolds and Smith 1994) averaged for 12 years from 1982 to 1993. The general perfor-
mance of the simulation is discussed in detail by Mizuta et al. (2006). As a time-slice, future climate simulation, the AGCM was integrated for ten years with projected SSts, by the MRI-
CGCM2.3. The projected SSts used for the future experiment were a superposition of the ob-
served SSts and the differences between the present SSts (1979–1998, 20-year mean taken from 20th-Century climate simulations) and the future SSts (2080–2099, 20-year mean), which were obtained from a climate change simulation (Yukimoto et al. 2006) with the MRI-CGCM2.3. SSt distributions for June and July, corresponding to the Baiu season are de-
picted in Fig. 1. The spatial structure of the SSt change by the MRI-CGCM2.3 simulation, resem-les an El Niño-like response in which warming is larger in the tropical central and eastern Pacific than in the western Pacific (Figs. 1e, f). The SSts include seasonal cycle, but they do not include interannual variations. The absence of SSt interannual variations may lead to an underestimation of the interannual variability of the atmospheric response.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) SRES A1B emission scenario (IPCC 2000) was assumed for future climate simulations. The A1B scenario is an intermedi-
ate emission scenario characterized by a future world of very rapid economic growth, global population that peaks in the middle of the 21st Century and declines thereafter, and by a balanced introduction of new and more efficient technologies of all energy supply (IPCC 2000; IPPC 2001). From around 2080 to 2099, with the concentration of CO₂ nearly doubled rela-
tive to that at the end of 20th Century, the global mean surface air temperature increases by about 2.5 degrees for the MRI-CGCM2.3 simulation (Yukimoto et al. 2006b). The concen-
Fig. 1. Sea surface temperature (SST) given to the 20 km model. (a) Climatological SST for the June present-day simulation. The observed SST by Reynolds and Smith (1994) are averaged for 12 years from 1982 to 1993. The contour interval is 0.5°C above 27°C and 2.0°C otherwise. (b) Same as (a) but for July. (c) Same as (a), but for the future simulation. Superposition of the observed SSTs (a) and the SST change (e). (d) Same as (c), but for July. (e) Change of the SST for June projected by the Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Model (AOGCM) ‘MRI-CGCM2.3’ with the IPCC SRES scenario A1B (IPCC 2000). The 20-year mean from 2080 to 2099 relative to the 20-year mean from 1979 to 1998 is shown. The base period is taken from the climate of the 20th Century experiment. The ensemble size of both experiments is five. The contour interval is 0.5°C.
trations of greenhouse gas and aerosols in the 20-km model were assumed as those for the year 2090 prescribed by the A1B scenario.

4. Verification data

To verify the precipitation climatology in the present-day climate simulation, observational data of the Global Precipitation Climatology Project (GPCP), compiled by Adler et al. (2003) are used. The horizontal resolution is 2.5 degree in longitude and latitude, corresponding to a grid spacing of about 210 km over Japan. The data cover the 23 years from 1979 to 2001. This period includes the 12 years from 1983 to 1994, to construct the observed climatological SST given to the present climate simulations.

In addition to the conventional GPCP 2.5-degree data widely used to verify the climate models, we have used two other source of higher horizontal resolution precipitation data. One is the one-degree daily data of GPCP compiled by Huffman et al. (2001). Horizontal resolution is one degree in longitude and latitude, corresponding to a grid spacing of about 90 km over Japan. These data are more appropriate to evaluate the small-scale structure of the 20-km model than conventional 2.5-degree resolution data, although the data cover only 7 years from 1997 to 2003.

The other is the Radar—Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System (AMeDAS) data, which is precipitation data covering the Japan Islands and their coastal regions. It is estimated from observations of radars calibrated by densely distributed AMeDAS rain gauges (about 17-km mesh). The calibration algorithm is described in Makihara (1996). The spatial resolution is approximately 5 km. The data cover only 10 years from 1991 to 2000. Both the one-degree daily data of GPCP, and the Radar-AMeDAS data, are useful to validate the small horizontal structure of the 20-km model, although neither source of data includes the entire 12-year period from 1983 to 1994 of observed SST used for the present climate simulations.

Observations based on the ERA-40 data (Simmons and Gibson 2000) are used to verify the model climatology of the mean sea level pressure (MSLP) and the water vapor flux, and to make a composite map of the water vapor flux for the El Niño years. The horizontal resolution is 2.5 degrees in longitude and latitude. The data cover the period from 1958 to 2001.

5. Present-day climate simulations

5.1 Precipitation

The first step of the global warming projection is to examine the model’s ability to reproduce the present-day climatology. The validity of the Baiu rain band climatology in the present-day simulation by the 20-km model is evaluated in this subsection. To examine the resolution dependence of the results, we also performed simulations with three lower spatial resolutions using the same model framework (Mizuta et al. 2006). The resolutions are TL63L40 (128 grids in longitude, 64 grids in latitude, about 270 km in grid size, and 40 vertical levels up to 0.4 hPa), TL95L40 (192, 96 grids, 180 km), and TL159L40 (320, 160 grids, 110 km). In these additional simulations, the parameter adjustments introduced to the 20-km model (TL959L60, 1920, 960 grids, 60 vertical levels up to 0.1 hPa) were not included, but the modification on the vertical transport of the horizontal momentum was included. The time steps are 30 minutes in all the three lower resolutions, while that of the 20-km model is 6 minutes.

Figure 2 compares the observed climatological precipitation of June with simulations by the models under the present-day climate condition. Coarser models (b–d) tend to underestimate precipitation over Japan and the Korean peninsula. In contrast, the 20-km model (e) more accurately reproduces the concentration of precipitation over western Japan and the Korean peninsula, although the rainfall of the 20-km model is rather excessive in comparison with the observations (a). A similar tendency was found in the July case (Fig. 3).

In order to quantify the performance of the 20-km model more objectively and rigorously, we introduced the “Taylor diagram” proposed by Taylor (2001) which is widely used in the evaluation of a climate model performance. See the Appendix for details. The root-mean-square (RMS) difference between the observation and model can be decomposed into the bias and the centered pattern RMS difference. Figure 4a shows the RMS differences and biases of models for the June precipitation climatology. The target domain is the same as that shown
in Fig. 2. The 20-km model has a smaller or equivalent RMS difference and bias than the lower resolution models.

The centered pattern RMS difference can be regarded as a bias-corrected RMS difference. The Taylor diagram displays a geometric relationship among the centered pattern RMS difference, the observed standard deviation, the simulated standard deviation, and the spatial correlation coefficient. Figure 4b is the Taylor diagram for the June precipitation climatology. The 20-km model has a larger, or equivalent correlation coefficient than the lower resolution models. When skill $S$ is used for evaluating
both the standard deviation and the correlation coefficient, the 20-km model has the highest accuracy. For July, same statistics are depicted in Fig. 5. The 20-km model has the smallest RMS difference, but it has large positive bias as is indicated by the excessive precipitation in Fig. 3b. In contrast, the Taylor diagram of Fig. 5b suggests the evident advantage of the 20-km model in terms of the correlation coefficient and Skill $S$.

To evaluate the small horizontal structure of the 20-km model, the GPCP one-degree daily precipitation dataset (about a 90-km grid spacing at 35°N), and the Radar-AMeDAS data (5 km) are compared with the simulation obtained with the 20-km model in Fig. 6. In June, the 20-km model accurately simulates the location of the Baiu rain band extending over the Kyushu Island (129–132°E, 31–34°N) and over the ocean to the south of Japan, although the rainfall amount is underestimated compared with that in the Radar-AMeDAS data (c). The 20-km model also reproduces orographic rain over Honshu (the largest Japan island). The tendency in July is similar to that found in June. The July precipitation of the GPCP one-degree daily precipitation (b) seems to be underestimated compared to that in the Radar-AMeDAS data (d). This could be attributed to the difference in observation period.
Fig. 4. Skill dependence of geographical distribution of precipitation on the horizontal resolution (km) of models for June. The verification data is GPCP data (Fig. 2a), and the target domain is the same as in Fig. 2 (110–150°E, 20–50°N). (a) Root mean square error (RMSE)s and biases. The unit is mm/day. The domain average of observation is shown above the panel. (b) Taylor diagram for displaying pattern statistics (Taylor 2001). The radial distance from the origin is proportional to the standard deviation of a simulated pattern normalized by the observed standard deviation. The correlation coefficient between the observed and simulated fields is given by the azimuthal position. The contour shows the measure of skill “S” evaluating both the standard deviation and correlation coefficient. S approaches unity in case of a perfect simulation (position of OBS in the panel). The standard deviation of the observation in the domain is shown above the panel. See Appendix for technical details.

Fig. 5. Same as Fig. 4, but for July.
used for two datasets, and to the spatially dense data (about a 17-km spacing) obtained from the Radar-AMeDAS data. In addition, the GPCP 2.5-degree precipitation in Fig. 3a appears to be underestimated compared with that in the Radar-AMeDAS data (Fig. 6d).

The observed and simulated precipitation intensities in June and July are depicted in Fig. 7. The precipitation simple daily intensity index (Frich et al. 1996) is defined as the total
precipitation in June and July divided by the number of rainy days (precipitation ≥ 1 mm day\(^{-1}\)). The target period is from June to July. The contour interval is 2 mm day\(^{-1}\). (a) GPCP one-degree daily precipitation dataset (Huffman et al. 2001) from 1997 to 2003. (b) Model climatology of 20-km horizontal resolution (TL959). The contour labels are omitted for legibility. (c) 110 km (TL159). (d) 180 km (TL095). (e) 270 km (TL063). The integration time is 10 years for all models with the same observed climatological SST.

precipitation in June and July divided by the number of rainy days (precipitation ≥ 1 mm day\(^{-1}\)). The 20-km model (b) reproduces intense precipitation over China, Korea and Japan, although the intensity is still underestimated. With lower horizontal resolution models (c–e), it is more difficult to reproduce intense precipitation. The same analysis was also conducted for the number of heavy rain days (precipitation ≥ 30 mm day\(^{-1}\)) in June and July. Similarly, the reproducibility of heavy rain days by the 20-km model is higher than those of coarser models (Figure not shown).

In Fig. 8, the observed seasonal marching of precipitation is compared with the model simulations for the longitudinal sector including Japan. The target region is indicated by the boxes in Figs. 2b and 3b. Hokkaido island in northern Japan (140–145°E, 41–45°N) was excluded, because there is no Baiu season there. In mid-
Fig. 8. Time-latitude cross section of the observed and simulated climatological pentad mean precipitation averaged for 125° to 142°E. The target region is indicated in Figs. 2b and 3b. The period is from pentad 27 (11–15 May) to 46 (14–18 Aug.). The contour interval is 2 mm/day. (a) Observation based on GPCP 2.5-degree data (Adler et al. 2003) from 1982 to 1993. (b) Model climatology of 20-km horizontal resolution (TL959). (c) 110 km (TL159). (d) 180 km (TL095). (e) 270 km (TL063).
May, an area of large precipitation was observed around 30°N; it stagnated there until the beginning of June (Fig. 8a). This area of heavy rainfall then gradually migrated northward until mid-July and then disappeared. This band of northward-migrating rain corresponds to the Japanese rainy season, the Baiu. Coarser models (c–e) generally underestimate the amount of rainfall in the Baiu rain band, and do not show the northward migration. In contrast, the 20-km model (b) accurately captures the northward migration of the Baiu rain band. However, the 20-km model underestimates the amount of rainfall from the end of May to the beginning of June. The RMS difference, bias, and Taylor diagram were also calculated for the time-latitude field shown in Fig. 8. The 20-km model shows the smallest RMS difference compared with coarser models (Fig. 9a). In terms of the Taylor diagram (b), the 20-km model is more accurate than coarser models, but the advantage is not as striking as that shown in panel (a).

Figure 10 illustrates the pentad mean precipitation time-series of observation and simulation by the 20-km model averaged for the target region indicated in Figs. 2b and 3b. Observation based on GPCP 2.5-degree data (Adler et al. 2003) is shown by thick solid line with closed circles. Shading shows the range of one standard deviation for the observed 12-year period from 1982 to 1993. The simulation by the 20-km model is shown by the thick dash line line with open circles. The thin dash lines show the range of one standard deviation for the simulated 10-year period. The unit is mm/day. The triangle mark in the bottom means that the difference between the observation and the present-day simulations is significant at the 90% level.
5.2 Mean sea level pressure

In Fig. 11, the reproducibility of the MSLP fields in June by the models is compared with the observations. All models accurately reproduce the Ogasawara high (130–170°E, 20–30°N). The strength of the simulated Okhotsk high, over the sea of Okhotsk (140–155°E, 45–60°N), increases as the horizontal resolution of the model increases. The Okhotsk high simulated by the 20-km model has realistic horizon-
tal structure, but the strength is overestimated. Between the Ogasawara high and the Okhotsk high, all models reproduce a relative low-pressure region over Japan around 35°N, which corresponds to the Baiu rain band. The magnitude of the pressure drop over Japan is more enhanced as the horizontal resolution of the model increases. For July, shown by Fig. 12, the 20-km model accurately reproduced a relative-low pressure region over Japan and the Okhotsk high, while the coarser model did not.

Taylor diagrams are also calculated for MSLP. In June, the 20-km model shows the smallest RMS, but the bias is comparable to that in coarser models (Fig. 13a). With regard to the Taylor diagram (b), the advantage of the 20-km model is evident. For July, the 20-km model shows the best performance with respect to the RMS and bias (Fig. 14a). With regard to the Taylor diagram (b), the 20-km model shows

Fig. 12. Same as Fig. 11, but for July.
the best performance as well, but the difference in accuracy is small among models. Similar verifications were conducted over the Ogasawara high (130–170°E, 20–30°N) and the Okhotsk high (140–155°E, 45–60°N) for June and July.

As for the Ogasawara high the skill difference among models is small both for June and July (figure not shown). In contrast, the advantage of the 20-km model is striking in the Taylor diagram for both June and July (figure not shown), as is qualitatively indicated by Figs. 11 and 12.

The verification of the 20-km model, with respect to the geographical distribution of precipitation and its intensity, the seasonal march of the Baiu rain band, and the geographical distribution of MSLP, confirm that the 20-km model generally exhibits a relatively higher performance than coarser models. This gives reliability, and credibility, to the future projection of the Baiu rain band in this study.
6. Future climate simulations

6.1 Precipitation

Figure 15 illustrates the changes in precipitation for June simulated by models due to global warming. The projection by the 20-km model shows that precipitation increases over the Yangtze River valley of China, the East China Sea, western Japan, and over the ocean to the south of the Japan archipelago. On the contrary, the precipitation decreases over some regions of northern Japan (a). An increase in precipitation over the East China Sea is also projected by the 110-km (b), 180-km (c), and CGCM2.3 (e) models, but the 270-km (d) model exhibits a decrease in precipitation. The SSTs and experimental design in the CGCM2.3 simulation, are different from those of other simulations (a–d); therefore, a direct comparison may not be appropriate.

The July case is shown in Fig. 16. The 20-km model (a) projects a precipitation increase over the Yangtze River valley of China, the East China Sea, western Japan, and over the ocean to the south of the Japan archipelago. On the contrary, precipitation decreases over the Korean peninsula and northern Japan. Although statistically significant regions are restricted to some part of the East China Sea and northern Japan, the area of significant regions is larger than that of those in the June case (Fig. 15a). An increase of precipitation over the East China Sea is also projected by other coarser models (Figs. 16b–e).

The study by Kitoh et al. (2005; A2, B2 scenario) with a former version of MRI-CGCM2 indicated a summertime precipitation increase over the Yangtze River valley of China. Using state-of-the-art high-resolution AOGCM, with the A1B scenario, Kimoto (2005) and Kimoto et al. (2005) projected an increase in the summertime precipitation increase over the East China Sea, Korea, and all of Japan. Yoshizaki et al. (2005) and Yasunaga et al. (2005) have conducted global warming projections using a cloud-resolving, non-hydrostatic 5-km mesh regional model nested into the 20-km model used in this paper. They found the frequency of occurrence of heavy rainfall increases over the Japan Islands.

The change in the intensity of precipitation in June and July is illustrated in Fig. 17. Both the simple daily intensity index (Frich et al. 2002), and the number of heavy rain days (precipitation ≥ 30 mm day⁻¹), increased over the Yangtze River valley of China and the East China Sea. In contrast, the intensity decreased over Korea. The regions of increased and decreased intensity approximately coincide with the regions of increased and decreased total precipitation (Figs. 15a and 16a), respectively.

Kitoh et al. (2005) also pointed out that the intensity of summertime precipitation increased over the Yangtze River valley of China. Kimoto et al. (2005) reported that the intensity of summertime precipitation increased over the East China Sea, Korea, and all of Japan. Yoshizaki et al. (2005) and Yasunaga et al. (2005) have conducted global warming projections using a cloud-resolving, non-hydrostatic 5-km mesh regional model nested into the 20-km model used in this paper. They found the frequency of occurrence of heavy rainfall increases over the Japan Islands.

The change in the seasonal march of the Baiu rain band, simulated by the 20-km model, is depicted in Fig. 18. In mid June, the position of the Baiu rain band in the future-climate simulations (Fig. 18b) shifts more to the north than the present-day position does (Fig. 18a). The northward migration of the Baiu rain band in the future climate is not as evident as in the present-day climate, and the Baiu rain band tends to stagnate around 30–35°N until the beginning of August. This means that the termination of the Baiu period is delayed until August, while the Baiu season in the present-day climate terminates in the middle of July. The change in precipitation due to global warming is depicted in Fig. 18c. A significantly large precipitation increase is found especially in July around 30°N. An increase in precipitation is also evident in August around 30–35°N, suggesting a delay in the termination of the Baiu season. However, this precipitation increase in August is not statistically significant.

Figure 19 illustrates the pentad mean precipitation time-series of present-day and future simulation by the 20-km model over Japan. The averaged region is indicated by the boxes in Figs. 2b and 3b. The onset date of the Baiu season is around the beginning of June in the
present-day simulation, but the onset date will not be greatly changed in the future simulation. In the mature stage of the Baiu season from mid-June to the beginning of July, precipitation in the future simulation increases, compared with the present-day simulation. Nevertheless, the large standard deviations both for the present-day and future simulations prevent
us from concluding that this change is statistically significant. Figure 19 suggests that the termination of the Baiu season in the present-day simulation is around mid-June. From mid-July to mid-August, precipitation in the future simulation is larger than that in the present-day simulation, again suggesting a delay in the termination of the Baiu season. However, this change is only statistically significant for the pentad 41 (20–24 Jul.).

Kitoh and Uchiyama (2006) have analyzed a future change in the Baiu season for seven AOGCMs, including MRI-CGCM2.3 used in this present study. All seven projections use the same emission scenario of A1B. They revealed that the withdrawal dates of the Baiu season are delayed, while the changes in the onset dates are small. Our results are consistent with theirs. The study by Yasunaga et al. (2006), with a non-hydrostatic 5-km-mesh re-

Fig. 16. Same as Fig. 15, but for July.
Fig. 17. Change of the daily precipitation intensity simulated by the 20-km model for June to July.
(a) Present-day climatology of the simple daily intensity index (Fröhlich et al. 2002), which is defined as the total precipitation divided by the number of rainy days (precipitation $\geq 1$ mm day$^{-1}$). The contour interval is 2 mm day$^{-1}$. (b) Present-day climatology of the number of heavy rain days (precipitation $\geq 30$ mm day$^{-1}$). The contour interval is 2 days. (c) Same as (a), but for future climatology. (d) Same as (b), but for future climatology. (e) Change of the intensity as the ratio of future climatology (e) to present-day climatology (a). The unit is %. Values greater than 100% are shaded. Solid and dashed contours show a 90% significance level. (f) Change in the number of days with precipitation $\geq 30$ mm/day as future minus present-day climatology. The unit is day. Positive values are shaded. Solid and dashed contours show a 90% significance level.
Regional model, has also indicated the delay in the withdrawal date of the Baiu season. Our result is consistent with the results above.

6.2 Mean sea level pressure

Figure 20 illustrates the change in the MSLP simulated by the 20-km model for June and July. In June, the MSLP decreases over the entire displayed domain. The MSLP decrease over the East China Sea can be related to the enhancement of convection, resulting in the increase of precipitation there (Fig. 15a). However, the relationship between the relatively large decrease of the MSLP north of 40°N, and the change in precipitation is not clear. In July, the MSLP over Japan decreases, indicating an intensification of the Baiu rain band. On the contrary, the MSLP to the south of Japan and over the Okhotsk high increases, indicating the intensification of both the Ogasawara and the Okhotsk high, although the intensification of the Okhotsk high is not statistically significant.
This strengthening of two highs is consistent with the results by Kimoto (2005) using 18 AOGCM projections. The intensification of the Ogasawara high in July also indicates a tendency of the high to stagnate to the south of Japan, which leads to a delay in the termination of the Baiu season.

The summertime intensification of the Ogasawara high in a future warmer climate is also projected with AOGCM by Kitoh et al. (1997), and with regional models by Kato et al. (2001) and Kurihara et al. (2005). In the present-day climate of July, the relatively higher-SST region is located to the east of the Philippine Islands (Fig. 1b). On the other hand, in the future climate, the higher-SST region shifts to near the equator around 150°–180°E (Fig. 1d). Yasunaga et al. (2006) attributed the intensification and stagnation of the Ogasawara high in the future climate, to the concentration of active convection over this equatorial higher SST region. This higher-SST region might lock the position of the Ogasawara high, and hinder the high from moving northward.

6.3 Water vapor flux

Figure 21 illustrates the present-day simulation (b), future simulation (c) and change (d) of the vertically integrated water vapor flux, and its convergence for July together with the observed climatology for verification (a). The 20-km model (b) accurately simulates the observed clockwise transport of water vapor around the rim of the Ogasawara high to the south of Japan, which is recognized as an important factor to provide a large amount of precipitation within the Baiu rain band (Ninomiya and Akiyama 1992). In addition, the model accurately simulates the northeastward water vapor transport over the South China Sea. As a result, the model accurately reproduces the large convergence area of water vapor flux over Korea and Japan, corresponding to the Baiu rain band. Thus, the validity of the simulated water vapor flux distribution, as well as its convergence, leads to a realistic simulation of the Baiu rain band in the present-day climate.

The change of water vapor flux (d) suggests the intensification of clockwise transport over the Ogasawara high, resulting in an increase in the convergence over the Yangtze River valley, the East China Sea, Western Japan, and over the ocean to the south of the Japan archipelago. First, this water vapor flux change is caused by water vapor increases, mainly in the lower troposphere, associated with the temperature rise due to warming, as expected from the Clausius-Clapeyron relation. Secondly, this change in the water vapor flux is caused by the intensification of a clockwise low-level flow over the Ogasawara high. The relative magnitude of the contribution from these two factors will be qualitatively estimated in the next section. In contrast, the decrease in the convergence appears over the Korean peninsula and Northern Japan. This distribution of the divergence change (Fig. 21d) bears a close resemblance to that of the precipitation change (Fig. 15a), suggesting that the future precipitation change is mainly attributable to the change in the horizontal transport of the water vapor flux.
7. Discussion

In order to interpret the model response in a future warmer climate, the anomaly composite maps of precipitation (Fig. 22a) and water vapor flux and its convergence (Fig. 22b), were synthesized using eight El Niño years. Deviations are calculated from an average of twelve non-El Niño and Southern Oscillation (ENSO) years. The definition of El Niño follows the op-

Fig. 20. Change of the mean seal level pressure simulated by the 20-km model. (a) Present-day climatology for June. This panel is identical to Fig. 11b. The contour interval is 2 hPa. (b) Present-day climatology for July. This panel is identical to Fig. 12b. Contour interval is 2 hPa. (c) Same as (a), but for future climatology. (d) Same as (b), but for future climatology. (e) Change as future minus present-day climatology. The contour interval is 1 hPa. Positive values are shaded. Thick solid and thick dashed contours show the 90% significance level. (f) Same as (e), but for July.
Fig. 21. Vertically integrated water vapor flux (arrow) and its convergence (shading) of July. The unit of water vapor flux is $\text{Kg m}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$. The unit of convergence is converted to mm/day assuming the density of liquid water as 1 g cm$^{-3}$. Calculations are based on 6-hourly data of the water vapor and wind vector. (a) Observation based on ERA-40 data averaged for 12 years from 1982 to 1993. The contour interval is 2 mm day$^{-1}$. The top pressure level is 1 hPa. (b) Present-day climatology of the 20-km model. The top pressure level is 0.4 hPa. The difference of the top level between the ERA-40 (1 hPa) and the model (0.4 hPa) is negligible in the vertical integration of the water vapor flux, because majority of the water vapor is confined to the lower troposphere. (c) Future climatology. (d) Change as present-day minus future climatology. The contour and thick arrow show a 90% significance level of the convergence and water vapor flux, respectively.

The operational criterion of JMA. The observed precipitation anomaly for the El Niño years (a) is almost similar to the precipitation change in a future climate (c), albeit with some differences in higher latitudes. Moreover, the observed water vapor flux anomaly and its convergence for El Niño years (b) resemble the change in water vapor flux and its convergence in a future climate (d), albeit with some differences. The spatial structure of the SST change by the
Fig. 22. (a) Difference of the precipitation distribution of eight El Niño years (1982, 83, 87, 91, 92, 93, 97, and 98) from twelve Non-El Niño and Southern Oscillation (ENSO) years (1979, 80, 81, 84, 86, 90, 91, 94, 95, 96, 2000, and 2001) for July. The definition of El Niño follows the operational criterion used by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA): El Niño occurs when the five-month running mean sea surface temperature (SST) is more than 0.5 degrees above normal for six months or more in the Niño 3 region (4°S–4°N, 150–90°W). SSTs are based on the JMA operational analysis, and the SST climatology is the 30-year average from 1961 to 1990. Precipitation of GPCP 2.5-degree data from 1979 to 2001 is used for a composite. The contour interval is 2 mm/day. Positive values are shaded. Thick solid and thick dashed contours show a 90% confidence level. (b) Same as (a), but for water vapor flux and its convergence. The figure format is the same as in Fig. 21d. ERA-40 data are used. (c) Change of precipitation as future minus present-day climatology simulated by the 20-km model for July. Same as Fig. 16a, but for a wider displayed region. (d) Change of the water vapor flux and its convergence as future minus present-day climatology simulated by the 20-km model for July. Same as Fig. 21d.
MRI-CGCM2.3 (Figs. 1e, f) resembles an El Niño-like response, although the location of a large positive anomaly over the tropics shifts more westward than that of the observed positive anomaly for the El Niño years. Figure 22 suggests the possibility that the change in the precipitation, the water vapor flux, and the convergence of the water vapor flux, can be interpreted as an atmospheric response to the El Niño condition of the ocean.

It has been well-known by long-range forecasters of the JMA (Ueno et al. 2001) that, under the El Niño condition, the total precipitation during the Baiu season tends to increase in association with the delay of the termination of the Baiu season. This tendency is similar to the future change obtained from the present study, suggesting that the response of the Baiu rain band observed under the El Niño condition, will be enhanced in future warmer climates.

The analyses shown in Fig. 21 have revealed that the change in the water vapor flux is a key factor to the change in the Baiu rain band. Figure 23 evaluates the relative contribution of water vapor and wind, to the change in the water vapor flux in July at 850 hPa. In the panel (b), the future vapor flux was calculated using the wind field of the present-day climatology, with the water vapor of the future climatology. Then, the present-day climatology (a) was subtracted from the calculated future vapor flux. On the other hand, in panel (c), the future vapor flux was calculated using the wind field of the future climatology, with the water vapor of the present-day climatology. Then, the present-day climatology (a) was subtracted from the calculated future vapor flux. The close similarity between panels (c) and (d) indicates that the change in the wind field mainly contributes to the change in the water vapor flux. The calculations for panels (b) and (d) were based on the monthly mean wind and water vapor, because output with a higher time resolution, such as 6-houtry or daily data, was not archived due to storage capacity limitations. This means that the contributions from higher frequencies are neglected in the calculation.

To compare the situation for the case of the Indian summer monsoon, the same calculation was conducted over the Arabian Sea and the Indian Subcontinent (figure not shown). In marked contrast to the East Asian case (Fig. 22), the increase of the water vapor mainly contributes to the increase of the water vapor flux of the Somali jet. This is consistent with the results by Kitoh et al. (1997).

An observational study by Hu et al. (2003) has demonstrated a conspicuous summertime precipitation trend for the period from 1951 to 2000, which is characterized by a negative (drying) trend to the north of the Yangtze River valley, and a positive (wetting) trend over the Yangtze River valley, known as the “North-drying south-wetting pattern”. Moreover, Hirota et al. (2005) has investigated the observed summertime precipitation trend over East Asia from 1979 to 2003. They found that the precipitation significantly decreases around northeastern China, and increases over southeastern China and Japan. Our future projection has revealed that precipitation increases significantly over the Yangtze River valley, and tends to decrease in some regions in northern China (Figs. 15a and 16a). This suggests that the observed North-drying south-wetting pattern over China will be enhanced in a future warmer climate.

8. Summary

A global warming projection was conducted on the Earth Simulator using a very high horizontal resolution atmospheric general circulation model, with a 20-km grid size. Such high horizontal resolution in a global climate model is unprecedented for a global warming projection. Experiments using the 20-km global model were conducted by adopting the timeslice method, in which future change in the SST were predicted by an AOGCM called MRI-CGCM2.3 (a 270-km grid atmosphere). The IPCC SRES A1B emission scenario was assumed in the experiment.

The model reproduces a realistic Baiu rain band, or Baiu season under the present-day climate conditions in terms of the geographic distribution of precipitation, northward seasonal march of the Baiu rain band, onset and withdrawal of the Baiu season, precipitation intensity, and geographic distribution of MSLP. Experiments on the horizontal resolution dependency on the reproducibility of the Baiu rain band, have revealed that the 20-km model generally exhibits higher performance than lower horizontal resolution models. The future
climate simulation shows that precipitation and its intensity increase over the Yangtze River valley of China, the East China Sea, Western Japan, and the ocean to the south of the Japan archipelago. Conversely, precipitation, and its intensity, decrease over the Korean peninsula and Northern Japan. The termination of the Baiu season tends to be delayed until August.

The future precipitation change is mainly attributable to the change in the horizontal transport of the water vapor flux, and its con-
vergence associated with the intensification of a subtropical high, which can be interpreted as an atmospheric response to the El Niño condition of the ocean. This is plausible because the spatial structure of the future SST change forcing the 20-km model, resembles an El Niño-like response. The analyses indicate that the change in the wind field contributes to the change in the water vapor flux, in the case of the Baiu rain band.

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Appendix

Taylor (2001) devised a diagram to quantify how well models simulate an observed climate field. This diagram is called the “Taylor diagram” and was adopted to evaluate the performance of climate models in Chapter 8 (Model Evaluation) of IPCC (2001).

The root-mean-square (RMS) difference $E$ between the observation and the model is defined as:

$$E = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} (f_n - r_n)^2},$$

where $f$ is the target variable of model, $r$ is a reference variable such as an observation, $n$ is the sample number in space and/or time, and $N$ is the total number of samples. The square of the RMS difference $E$ can be decomposed into two terms:

$$E^2 = E_f^2 + E_r^2,$$

where the bias $E$ is defined as

$$E = \bar{f} - \bar{r},$$

the centered pattern RMS difference $E'$ is defined as

$$E' = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} [(f_n - \bar{f}) - (r_n - \bar{r})]^2},$$

$\bar{f}$ is the mean of $f$ and $\bar{r}$ is the mean of $r$. The centered pattern RMS difference $E'$ can be regarded as bias corrected RMS difference. Denoting the standard deviation of $f$ as $\sigma_f$, the standard deviation of $r$ as $\sigma_r$, and the correlation coefficient between $f$ and $r$ as $R$, the four statistical quantities of interest satisfy the following equation:

$$E'^2 = \sigma_f^2 + \sigma_r^2 - 2\sigma_f\sigma_r R.$$

The similarity of the above equation to the law of cosine makes it possible to display the geometric relationship among $E'$, $\sigma_f$, $\sigma_r$, and $R$ as shown in Fig. A. The model field is positioned such that $\sigma_f$ is the radial distance from the origin, $R$ is the cosine of the azimuthal angle, and $E'$ is the distance to the observed point. In the limit of perfect simulation by the model, the model point coincides with the observed point, which means that $E'$ approaches zero and $R$ approaches unity. In panel (b) of Figs. 4, 5, 9, 13 and 14, the centered pattern RMS difference $E'$ and all standard deviations are normalized by the corresponding observed standard deviation $\sigma_r$. Because the observed standard deviation $\sigma_r$ is also normalized by itself, the observed point will therefore always be plotted at unit distance from the origin along the abscissa.

Taylor (2001) has also proposed a skill score $S$ evaluating both the standard deviation and correlation coefficient:
Fig. A. Geometric relationship among the centered pattern root-mean-square (RMS) difference $E'$, the standard deviation of model $\sigma_f$, the standard deviation of observation $\sigma_r$, and the correlation coefficient $R$ between the model and the observation. From Taylor (2001).

\[ S = \frac{4(1 + R)}{(\sigma_f^2 + 1/\sigma_r^2)(1 + R_0)} \]

where $\sigma_f = \sigma_f/\sigma_r$ and $R_0$ is the maximum correlation attainable. $S$ approaches unity in the case of perfect simulation (the position of observation). Taylor (2001) estimated $R_0$ as 0.9976 by the intra-ensemble correlation coefficients based on six-member ensemble simulations. In the present study we have assumed $R_0$ as unity because an ensemble simulation was not available. However, the differences of the $S$ values are negligible, and the contour lines of $S$ for $R_0 = 0.9976$ and 1.0 are indistinguishable in the panel (b) of Figs. 4, 5, 9, 13, and 14.

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