

What causes the mid-brunhes transition in benthic d18O stack?

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The interglacial climates of the past 1 Myr are characterized by a transition, about 430 kyr ago, between the older ones, which were relatively cool, and the more recent ones, which were relatively warm. This transition corresponds to the so-called mid-Brunhes Transition (MBE). Benthic calcite d₁₈O (d₁₈O_c) records show systematically lower values during the interglacials after 430 kyr ago, implying a smaller global ice volume and/or a higher deep-ocean temperature. It is widely known that the benthic d₁₈O_c reflects changes in ambient temperature and sea water d₁₈O which itself is a function of global ice volume and ocean mixing. To clarify whether there is a systematic sea level change during interglacials before and after the MBE, here we employ a start-of-art, stable water isotope enabled climate model to isolate the contribution of ice volume within the d₁₈O_c. In this work, we will explore whether we can reproduce the MBE without changes in sea water d₁₈O associated with ice volume, and discuss the roles of ocean mixing and deep sea temperature on our simulated benthic d₁₈O_c stack. The results will aid our understanding of the origin of MBE, as well as the role of ocean circulation on interglacial climates.