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OMEN-SED 0.9: A novel, numerically efficient organic matter sediment diagenesis module for coupling to Earth system models

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Abstract. We present the first version of OMEN-SED (Organic Matter ENabled SEDiment model), a new, one-dimensional analytical early diagenetic model resolving organic matter cycling and associated biogeochemical dynamics in marine sediments designed to be coupled to Earth system models. OMEN-SED explicitly describes organic matter (OM) cycling as well as associated dynamics of the most important terminal electron acceptors (i.e. O_2 , NO_3, SO_4) and methane (CH_4), related reduced substances (NH_4, H_2S), macronutrients (PO_4) and associated pore water quantities (ALK, DIC). Its reaction network accounts for the most important primary and secondary redox reactions, equilibrium reactions, mineral dissolution and precipitation, as well as adsorption and desorption processes associated with OM dynamics that affect the dissolved and solid species explicitly resolved in the model. To represent a redox-dependent sedimentary P cycle we also include a representation of the formation and burial of Fe-bound P and authigenic Ca-P minerals. Thus, OMEN-SED is able to capture the main features of diagenetic dynamics in marine sediments and, therefore, offers similar predictive abilities than a complex, numerical diagenetic model. Yet, its computational efficiency allows its coupling to global Earth system models and therefore the investigation of coupled global biogeochemical dynamics over a wide range of climate relevant timescales. This paper provides a detailed description of the new sediment model, an extensive sensitivity analysis, as well as an evaluation of OMEN-SED's performance through comprehensive comparisons with observations and results from a more complex numerical model. We find solid phase and dissolved pore water profiles for different ocean depths are reproduced with good accuracy and simulated terminal electron acceptor fluxes fall well within the range of globally observed fluxes. Finally, we illustrate its application in an Earth system model framework by coupling OMEN-SED to the Earth system model

cGENIE and tune the OM degradation rate constants to optimise the fit of simulated benthic OM contents to global observations. We find simulated sediment characteristics of the coupled model framework, such as OM degradation rates, oxygen penetration depths and sediment-water interface fluxes are generally in good agreement with observations and in line with what one would expect on a global scale. Coupled to an Earth system model, OMEN-SED is thus a powerful tool that will not only help elucidate the role of benthic-pelagic exchange processes in the evolution and, in particular, the termination of a wide range of climate events, but will also allow a direct comparison of model output with the sedimentary record - the most important climate archive on Earth.