

1 **The relative importance of Antarctic sea-ice loss within the response to**  
2 **greenhouse warming**

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7 ABSTRACT: The response to Antarctic sea-ice loss within a coupled modelling framework is  
8 examined in comparison to the response to Arctic sea-ice loss and within the context of general  
9 greenhouse warming. Sea-ice loss responses are found to be linear (particularly in response to  
10 Antarctic or global sea-ice loss) with respect to the degree of imposed perturbation and additive  
11 when perturbations are applied in hemispheres separately and concurrently. Globally, and in the  
12 tropical Pacific in particular, Antarctic sea-ice loss plays a relatively larger role than Arctic sea-ice  
13 loss in both the atmosphere and the ocean, within the parameters of our experiments. The pattern  
14 of response to Antarctic sea-ice loss is found to more closely resemble that of greenhouse warming,  
15 again particularly in the tropics. An extension to multi-parameter pattern scaling is developed to  
16 include a scaling factor for Antarctic change in addition to those for tropical warming and Arctic  
17 sea-ice loss. The decomposition is applied to the modelled response to Antarctic sea-ice loss  
18 to break it down into component partial responses that scale with Antarctic, tropical, and Arctic  
19 changes. This helps to reveal the aspects of the response that are directly related to Antarctic  
20 change, and those that are modified via the induced changes in the tropics and Arctic. With this,  
21 we hope to gain a deeper understanding of the role of each of these changes for the development of  
22 physical mechanisms of the response.

## 23 **1. Introduction**

24 While there exist many studies on the role Arctic sea-ice loss plays in the atmospheric response  
25 to greenhouse warming (Deser et al. 2015; McCusker et al. 2017; Blackport and Kushner 2017;  
26 Oudar et al. 2017; Sun et al. 2018), comparatively little work has been done on the role of Antarctic  
27 sea-ice loss (England et al. 2020b,a; Ayres and Screen 2019; Ayres et al. 2022). This disparity  
28 may be related to deficiencies of climate models in simulating Antarctic sea ice. For example,  
29 the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5; Kay et al. (2015)) models simulate  
30 a decrease in Antarctic sea ice over the historical period and project it to continue in to the 21st  
31 century, much as they do in the Northern Hemisphere (Turner et al. 2013). In reality, we have  
32 observed a small increase over the last 40 years (Turner et al. 2013; Zunz et al. 2013). The cause  
33 of this discrepancy between models and observations has been the focus of many studies, with a  
34 particular focus on how large internal variability of the Antarctic can in fact align the observed  
35 increase in area with model simulations (Swart and Fyfe 2013; Gagné et al. 2015; Singh et al.  
36 2019). The latest generation of climate models participating in the Coupled Model Intercomparison  
37 Project Phase 6 (CMIP6; Eyring et al. (2016)) have reduced the spread of the simulated seasonal  
38 cycle of Antarctic sea ice, however there continues to be less confidence in projections of Southern  
39 Hemisphere sea ice than its northern counterpart due to deficiencies in simulating the mean state  
40 (Roach et al. 2020). Nonetheless, the role of Antarctic sea-ice within the response to greenhouse  
41 warming remains an important question, and we seek to understand the climate response to a loss  
42 of Antarctic sea ice so that, at the very least, we may be able to understand climate model biases  
43 in terms of the response to Antarctic sea-ice biases.

44 We find a small scope of modelling studies devoted to isolating the atmospheric response to  
45 Antarctic sea-ice loss in atmosphere-only configurations (Kidston et al. 2011; Bader et al. 2013;  
46 England et al. 2018) and in coupled model configurations (Smith et al. 2017; England et al. 2020b,a;  
47 Ayres et al. 2022). Within the former, Kidston et al. (2011) find increasing the extent of the sea ice  
48 leads to a significant poleward shift in the mid-latitude jet in the cold season only, while decreasing  
49 the extent led to no significant response. The authors conclude that future Antarctic sea-ice loss is  
50 unlikely to have an impact on the mid-latitude circulation. In contrast, Bader et al. (2013) found  
51 that the mean response in the cold season resembled the negative phase of the Southern Annular  
52 Mode (SAM), with an equatorward shift of the mid-latitude jet. England et al. (2018) also find

53 a small but significant equatorward shift of the jet. Within the latter, the England et al. studies  
54 focus mainly on the response in the tropics, where the authors find a strong response to both Arctic  
55 and Antarctic sea-ice loss of approximately equal magnitude, of which the Antarctic response is  
56 crucial in generating additional Arctic sea-ice loss and warming via a teleconnection driven by the  
57 tropics response. The results of Ayres et al. (2022) are in broad agreement with those of England  
58 et al., but they also include an examination of the oceanic response, which supports the ideas of  
59 England et al. (2020a).

60 Smith et al. (2017) uses a coupled model setup that constrains ocean temperature and salinity  
61 below 200m, therefore making it somewhat more akin to a slab ocean rather than a full dynamical  
62 ocean, and additionally simulates the response to the small positive trend that has been observed  
63 rather than the larger projected changes of the end of the century. Nevertheless, they do find a  
64 poleward shift of the mid-latitude jet in response to increased Antarctic sea-ice area. Finally, a  
65 study by Ayres and Screen (2019) uses a combination of coupled and atmosphere-only experiments  
66 from the CMIP5 archives to determine the response to sea-ice loss as a residual, using the indirect  
67 method of Zappa et al. (2018). Ayres and Screen (2019) find that Antarctic sea-ice loss acts to  
68 oppose the positive SAM response to increased CO<sub>2</sub> mainly through a weakening of the eddy-driven  
69 jet rather than an equatorward shift.

70 Typically, modelling studies that have focused on the Northern Hemisphere coupled climate  
71 response to sea-ice loss have assumed that the impact of Southern Hemisphere sea-ice melt on the  
72 Northern Hemisphere is negligible (Blackport and Kushner 2016, 2017; Hay et al. 2018; Screen  
73 and Blackport 2019; Sun et al. 2020; Hay et al. 2022). The work of England et al. (2020a)  
74 showed that Antarctic sea-ice melt generates a response in the tropical Pacific Ocean, which may  
75 then itself generate a response in the Northern Hemisphere extratropics. The global nature of the  
76 response to Antarctic forcing has also previously been found in a study by Bronselaer et al. (2018).  
77 The authors of that study showed how freshwater input near the Antarctic continent, intended to  
78 approximate expected melt from the Antarctic ice sheet, can increase the Southern Hemisphere  
79 sea-ice area, which results in delayed warming relative to RCP8.5 forcing, and a drying of the  
80 Southern Hemisphere.

81 As additional evidence for a potentially important role remote responses to Antarctic change,  
82 there also exists a body of literature on how changes in the Southern Hemisphere polar and

83 extratropical regions, not necessarily related to sea ice, can generate a response in the tropics. For  
84 example, Kang et al. (2008) highlighted how extratropical thermal anomalies can shift the ITCZ  
85 location, and Kang et al. (2011) showed that Southern Hemisphere polar ozone depletion can cause  
86 shifts in the westerly jet that alter subtropical precipitation.

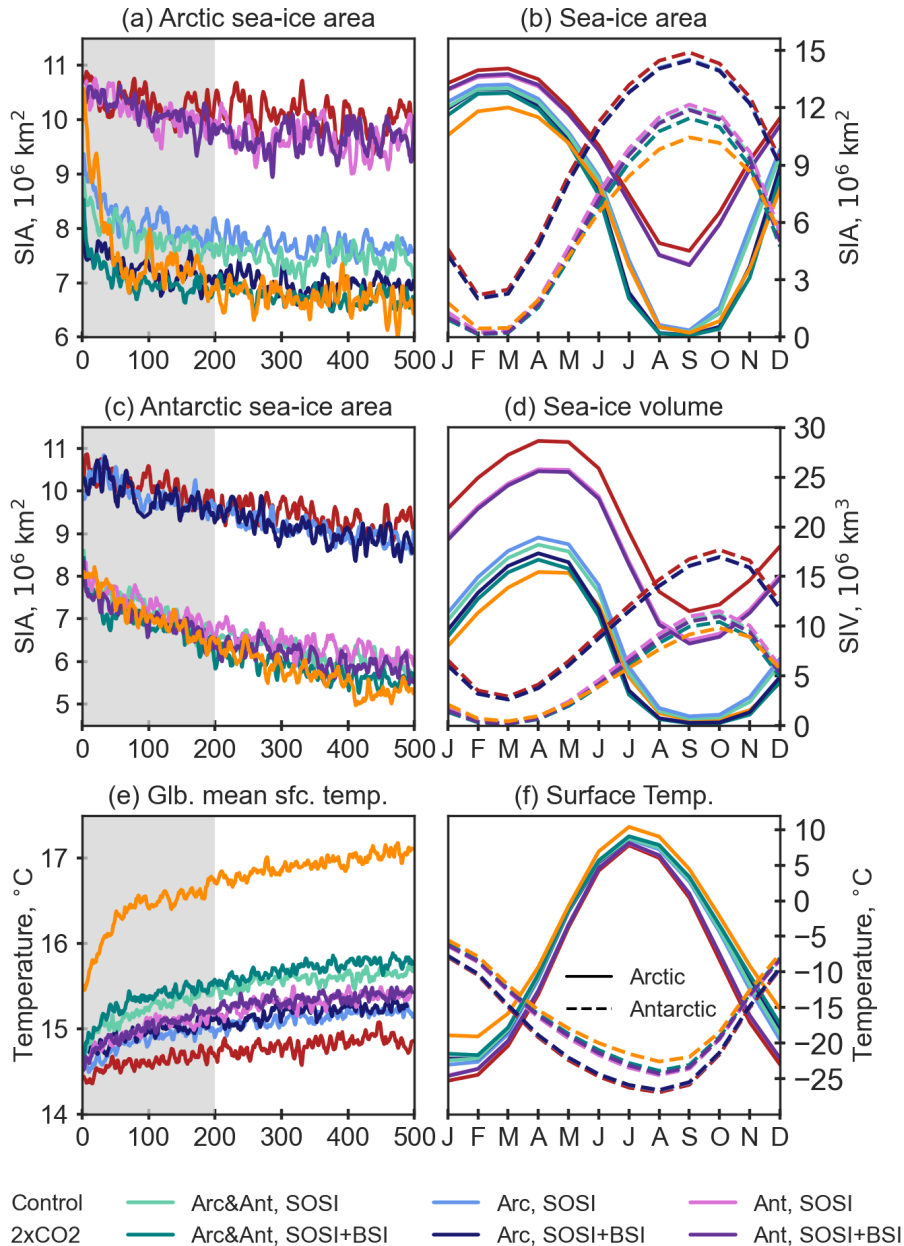
87 This study seeks to examine the relative role of Antarctic and Arctic sea-ice loss within the larger  
88 greenhouse warming response. We use of a suite of simulations where the albedo of sea ice is  
89 perturbed in each hemisphere separately and in both hemispheres concurrently under two different  
90 albedo parameter settings. The two different parameter settings allow us to assess the linearity  
91 of the response, while the separate and concurrent settings allow us to assess the additivity of  
92 the responses. We then make use of pattern-scaling methods to used to decompose the responses  
93 as in previous work (Blackport and Kushner 2017; Hay et al. 2018; Feldl et al. 2020; Hay et al.  
94 2022), but with the inclusion of a parameter related to Antarctic change. With this, instead of  
95 decomposing the response to greenhouse warming as has been done previously, we explore a new  
96 application of pattern scaling by decomposing the response to Antarctic sea-ice loss to understand  
97 aspects of its global nature.

98 This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the suite of simulations used herein and  
99 a brief derivation of an improved three-parameter pattern-scaling method. Section 3 is made of  
100 of two distinct parts: in the first, we discuss the linearity and additivity of the response to sea-ice  
101 loss from each hemisphere and use a spatial correlation analysis to reveal the relative importance  
102 of Antarctic sea-ice loss compared to the Arctic within the response to global warming. Next, we  
103 apply three-parameter pattern-scaling to our suite of simulations and explore using other, more  
104 physically motivated, scaling parameters. With this, we show how various parts of the response  
105 to Antarctic sea-ice loss are re-inforced or masked by the tropical and Arctic change it induces.  
106 Section 4 presents a summary of the results and discussion within the existing literature, and finally  
107 Section 5 presents a brief summary of the presented results and conclusions.

## 108 **2. Methods**

### 109 *a. Simulations*

110 To determine the relative contributions of Arctic and Antarctic sea-ice loss within the response  
111 to greenhouse warming, we perform eight simulations with the Coupled Earth System Model,



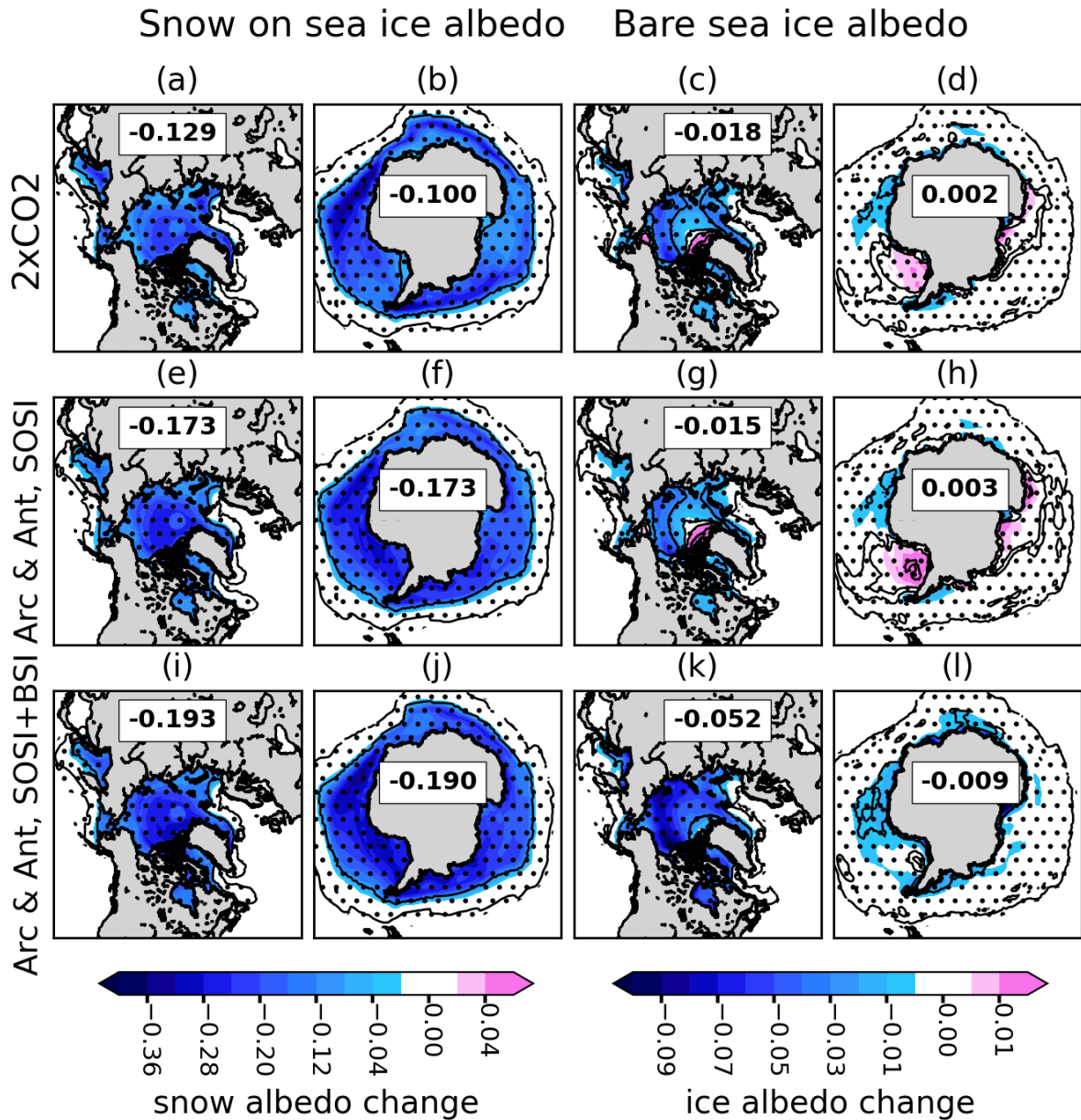
112 FIG. 1. Timeseries of five-year-running mean and seasonal cycles of sea-ice and temperature fields are shown.  
113 In (a) and (c) are the time series of Arctic and Antarctic sea-ice area, respectively, and in (e) is the time series  
114 of global mean surface temperature, where the red represents “control”, the orange “2xCO<sub>2</sub>”, light teal “Arc &  
115 Ant, SOSI”, dark teal “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”, light blue “Arc, SOSI”, dark blue “Ant, SOSI”, light purple “Ant,  
116 SOSI”, and dark purple “Ant, SOSI+BSI”. In (b), (d), and (f) are seasonal cycles of sea-ice area, sea-ice volume,  
117 and surface temperature, over the Arctic region in solid lines, and over the Antarctic in dashed lines.

123 TABLE 1. The simulation nomenclature used in this paper, with the radiative forcing, perturbed values applied  
 124 to Arctic and Antarctic snow on sea ice and sea ice albedos,

Simulation name	Radiative forcing	Arctic albedo perturbation	Antarctic albedo perturbation
Control	Year 2000	None	None
2×CO <sub>2</sub>	2×PI CO <sub>2</sub>	None	None
Arc& Ant, SOSI	Year 2000	$R_{snw}=-6.0$	$R_{snw}=-6.0$
Arc& Ant, SOSI+BSI	Year 2000	$R_{snw}=-6.0, R_{ice}=-6.0$	$R_{snw}=-6.0, R_{ice}=-6.0$
Arc, SOSI	Year 2000	$R_{snw}=-6.0$	None
Arc, SOSI+BSI	Year 2000	$R_{snw}=-6.0, R_{ice}=-6.0$	None
Ant, SOSI	Year 2000	None	$R_{snw}=-6.0$
Ant, SOSI+BSI	Year 2000	None	$R_{snw}=-6.0, R_{ice}=-6.0$

118 Version 1 (CESM1) using the CESM Large Ensemble (LENS) version used by Kay et al. (2015)  
 119 and a sea-ice loss protocol that acts on the albedo of bare sea ice and snow on sea ice, similar to  
 120 that of Blackport and Kushner (2017). CESM1 is a fully-coupled earth system model with nominal  
 121 resolution of 1° in both the atmosphere and the ocean, for more details see Kay et al. (2015) and  
 122 references therein.

125 Outlined in Table 1, these simulations are each branched at Year 2000 of the CESM LENS  
 126 member 1 and integrated for 500 years to quasi-equilibrium, of which we retain the last 300 years  
 127 for analysis. First, we have a “control” simulation with perennial year 2000 radiative forcing, and  
 128 a “2xCO<sub>2</sub>” simulation where CO<sub>2</sub> is instantaneously increased to 560 ppm, twice the preindustrial  
 129 concentration. The difference between these two simulations we take to be the response to  
 130 greenhouse warming, which is understood to be dominated by CO<sub>2</sub> forcing. Next, we perform  
 131 three experiments where we perturb the albedo of the snow on the sea ice (SOSI) in each hemisphere  
 132 separately (“Arc, SOSI” and “Ant, SOSI”), and in both concurrently (“Arc & Ant, SOSI”) to rapidly  
 133 melt sea ice. Specifically, the variable  $R_{snw}$  within the sea ice shortwave module is set to -6.0 in  
 134 order to increase the grain size of snow, and thus decrease its albedo (Briegleb and Light 2007).  
 135 Finally, we repeat these experiments but we additionally perturb the albedo of the bare sea ice  
 136 (BSI) as well to get the “Arc, SOSI+BSI”, “Ant, SOSI+BSI”, and “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”. This  
 137 perturbation is accomplished by setting both  $R_{snw} = -6.0$  and  $R_{ice} = -6.0$ , with the latter  
 138 having the effect of decreasing the albedo of bare ice by six standard deviations. In the



139      FIG. 2. Responses in sea ice albedos are shown. In (a) – (d) are the response of albedo of snow on sea ice  
 140      in “2xCO<sub>2</sub>” the Northern Hemisphere, in the Southern Hemisphere, of the bare sea ice albedo in the Northern  
 141      Hemisphere, and in the Southern Hemisphere, respectively. (e) – (h) and (j) – (l) are as in (a) – (d) but for the  
 142      response in “Arc & Ant, SOSI” and “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”, respectively. Stippling indicates where the albedo  
 143      response is significant at the 95% confidence level.

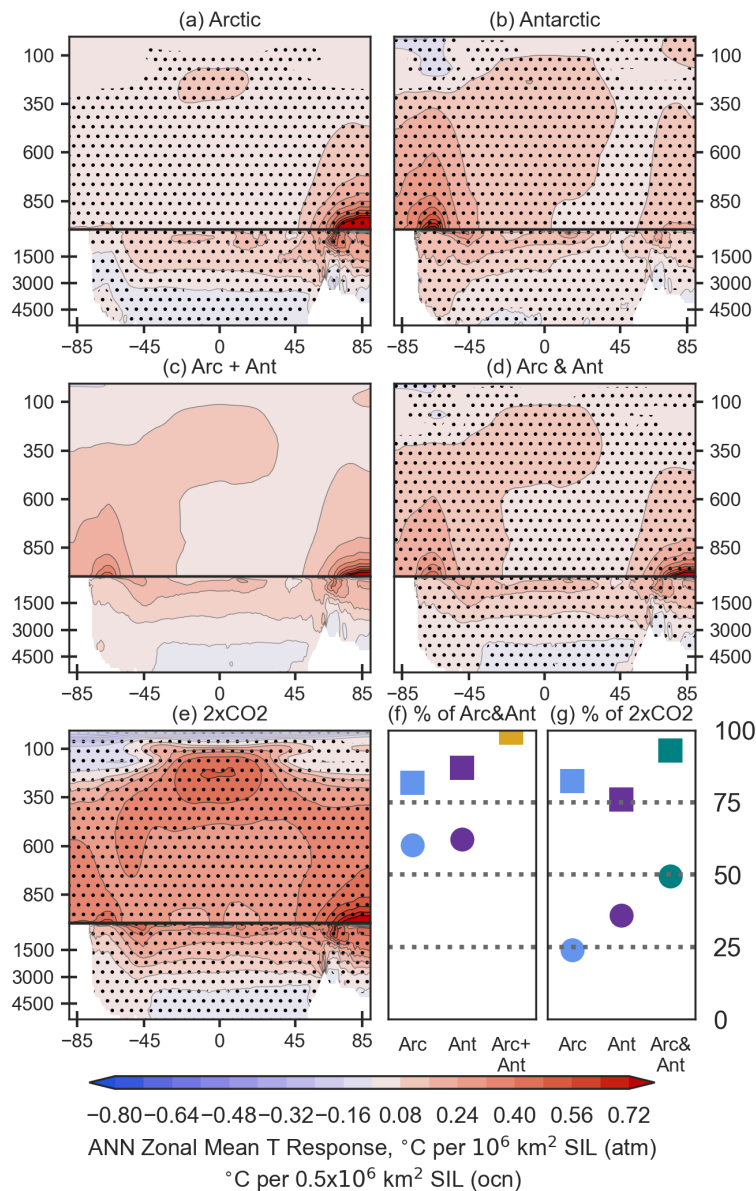


144 “SOSI+BSI” simulations, approximately  $3 \times 10^6$  km<sup>2</sup> of sea ice is lost in the annual mean in the  
145 perturbed hemisphere, which closely matches that lost under greenhouse warming (Fig. 1). The  
146 difference between each of these six simulations and “control” gives us the response to Arctic  
147 sea-ice loss, to Antarctic sea-ice loss, and to Arctic and Antarctic sea-ice loss, under two levels of  
148 sea-ice loss forcing. In addition to the additivity of the response to sea-ice loss we obtain with the  
149 first set of albedo perturbation experiments, the second set of allow us to assess the the linearity to  
150 different strengths of sea-ice forcing.

151 Examining the first few years in Fig. 1(a) and (c) we see that both albedo parameter settings  
152 result in rapid (within a few years) sea-ice loss in each hemisphere, while sea-ice loss in the  
153 CO<sub>2</sub> doubling scenario adjusts somewhat slower (on the order of 50 years) in the Arctic but just  
154 as rapidly as it does under albedo forcing in the Antarctic. After 100 years of simulation, the  
155 “SOSI+BSI” experiments and the CO<sub>2</sub> doubling experiment have approximately the same amount  
156 of sea-ice loss. We note that the Antarctic sea-ice area continues to drift throughout much of our  
157 simulations, appearing to be approaching quasi-equilibrium only after 400 or so years, whereas the  
158 Arctic is quasi-equilibrated within 100 years. This drift is also apparent in the global mean surface  
159 temperature (Fig. 1(e)). We do not expect it to be the result of the albedo perturbation because both  
160 the control simulation and “2xCO<sub>2</sub>” simulation undergo ongoing adjustment as well. Instead, we  
161 suspect that it is the result of Southern Ocean upwelling, when deep water formed in the Northern  
162 Hemisphere upwells in the Southern Ocean at long timescales (Talley 2013). A similar slow drift  
163 was also found in the experiments of Ayres et al. (2022).

164 Approximately 1/4 (0.5°C) of global mean surface warming in 2xCO<sub>2</sub> (2°C) is found in the “Arc  
165 & Ant, SOSI+BSI” albedo forcing experiment (Fig. 1(e)). When albedo forcing is constrained to  
166 the Antarctic only, there is somewhat more global warming than when the forcing is constrained  
167 to the Arctic only. In the tropics (not shown), less than 1/10 of the sea-surface warming resulting  
168 from the CO<sub>2</sub> doubling experiment occurs when albedo forcing in applied in the Arctic only, while  
169 1/5 of the SST warming occurs when albedo forcing applied in the Antarctic only, while roughly  
170 1/4 of the total warming occurs when albedo forcing is applied globally.

171 The seasonal cycle of sea-ice area (Fig. 1(b)) reveals that while our experiments are effective at  
172 reproducing the annual mean sea-ice loss under a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub>, they overestimate sea-ice loss  
173 in the summertime and underestimate it in the wintertime in both hemispheres. The result is an



174 FIG. 3. The response in zonal mean atmospheric and oceanic temperature are shown, scaled by the sea-ice  
 175 area lost as in Table 1. In (a) is the response in the “Arc, SOSI+BSI” simulation, in (b) for “Ant, SOSI+BSI”,  
 176 in (c) is the sum of (a) and (b), in (d) for the “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”, in (e) for the “2×CO<sub>2</sub>”. Stippling in (a),  
 177 (b), (d), and (e) indicates where the response is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. (f) gives the  
 178 spatial variance (i.e., the square of the spatial correlation) of “Arc&Ant, SOSI+BSI” explained by “Arc” in blue,  
 179 “Ant” in purple, and their sum in gold. The circles represent the variances for the atmosphere and the squares  
 180 represent the variances for the ocean. In (g) as in (f) but for the variance of “2×CO<sub>2</sub>” explained by “Arc”, “Ant”,  
 181 again in blue in purple, and “Arc&Ant” in teal.

182 amplified seasonal cycle of sea-ice area compared to greenhouse forcing. This deficiency in using  
183 a shortwave forcing method, in that it is most effective when there is incoming shortwave, thus  
184 missing the all-important winter ice loss, has been pointed out in previous work (Deser et al. 2015;  
185 Sun et al. 2020). We note here that the more equatorward position of Antarctic sea ice relative to  
186 Arctic sea ice means that this method can be more effective in the Southern Hemisphere. Indeed,  
187 July-August-September sea-ice loss in the Southern Hemisphere in “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI” is  
188 underestimated by 19% relative to “2xCO<sub>2</sub>”, and December-January-February sea ice by 30% in  
189 the Northern Hemisphere.

190 Albedo forcing is effective at reducing the volume of sea ice in both hemispheres (Fig. 1(d)),  
191 indicating that the sea ice that forms each winter is very thin. The seasonal cycle also reveals that  
192 albedo forcing in the Antarctic is more effective at making changes in the Arctic than vice-versa,  
193 with more separation between the solid red and purple lines than between the dashed red and blue  
194 lines in Fig. 1(b) and (d). The annual mean sea-ice area loss in the Northern Hemisphere due  
195 to Antarctic albedo forcing shown is 50% greater than the annual mean sea-ice area loss in the  
196 Southern Hemisphere due to Arctic albedo forcing.

197 The seasonal cycle of surface temperature averaged poleward of 60° in each hemisphere is shown  
198 in Fig. 1(f). Despite the overestimation of sea-ice loss compared to CO<sub>2</sub> doubling, the surface  
199 warming is underestimated in summertime. The cause of this difference may be related to other  
200 changes in the polar regions that occur only under CO<sub>2</sub> forcing and not under albedo forcing,  
201 such as changes in heat transport or clouds. The 2xCO<sub>2</sub> and “SOSI+BSI” albedo forcing curves  
202 match closely in Spring and nearly in Autumn in both hemispheres. There is little difference in the  
203 amount of warming between the “SOSI” and “SOSI+BSI” albedo forcing scenarios in wintertime  
204 and slightly more separation in summer, in each hemisphere.

### 205 *b. Three-parameter pattern scaling*

210 Coupled ocean-atmosphere models permit a full dynamical adjustment of the climate through the  
211 inclusion of thermodynamic and dynamics feedbacks between the ocean and atmosphere (Deser  
212 et al. 2015, 2016; Tomas et al. 2016), which extends the global reach of the sea-ice response.  
213 But this introduces some ambiguity in the mid-latitude response to sea-ice loss because the lower-  
214 latitude warming that occurs in a fully coupled experiment can in turn impact the mid-latitude

206 TABLE 2. The amount of tropical (20°S to 20°N) sea surface warming, Arctic sea-ice loss, Antarctic sea-ice  
 207 loss, as well as the change in the upper tropospheric (300-700 hPa) tropical lapse rate, the lower tropospheric  
 208 (1000-900 hPa) Arctic (> 65°N) lapse rate, and the lower tropospheric (975-800 hPa) Antarctic (< 65°S) lapse  
 209 rate in the annual mean, relative to “control” for each of the simulations in Table 1

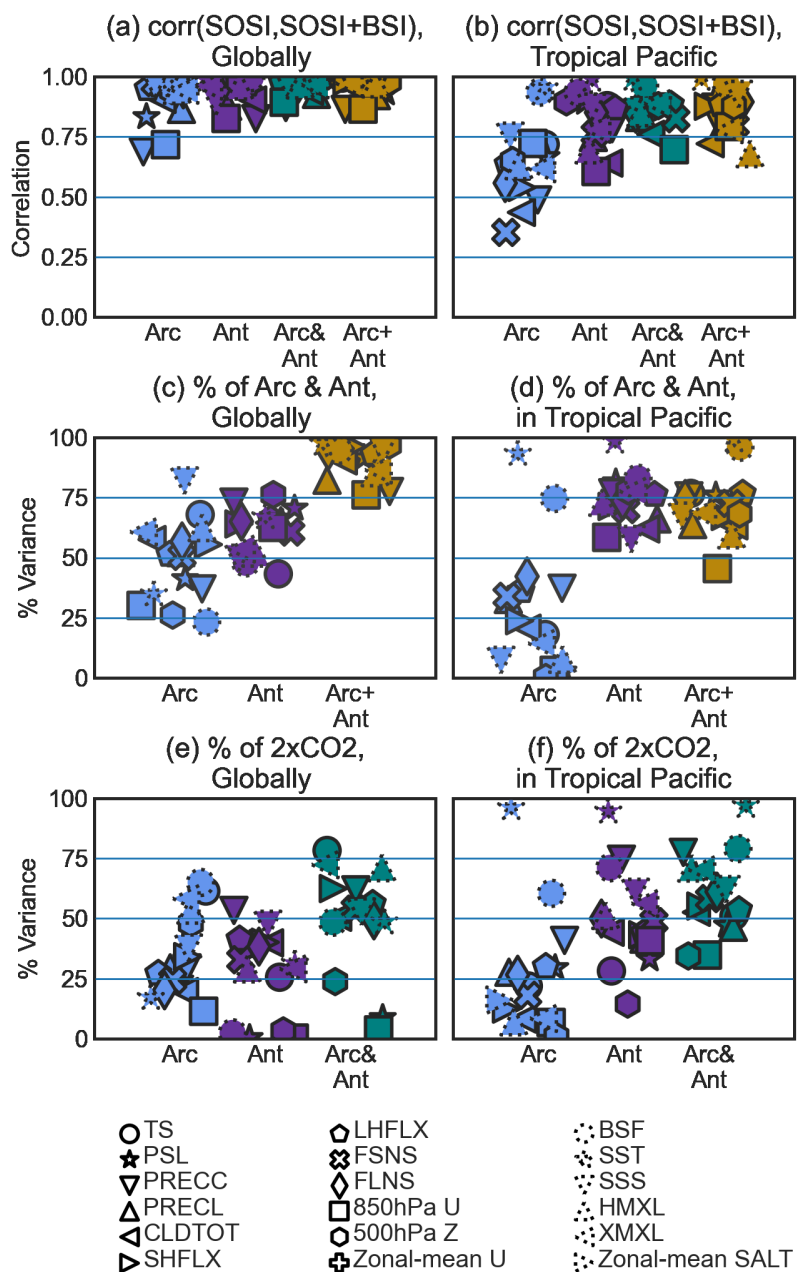
Response	$\delta T^{trop}$ (°C)	$\delta I^{Arc}$ (10 <sup>6</sup> km <sup>2</sup> )	$\delta I^{Ant}$ (10 <sup>6</sup> km <sup>2</sup> )	$\delta \Gamma_{upper}^{trop}$ (K km <sup>-1</sup> )	$\delta \Gamma_{lower}^{Arc}$ (K km <sup>-1</sup> )	$\delta \Gamma_{lower}^{Ant}$ (K km <sup>-1</sup> )
2×CO <sub>2</sub>	1.06	-3.22	-3.42	0.25	-2.11	-0.63
Arc & Ant, SOSI	0.26	-2.58	-3.12	0.06	-2.26	-0.80
Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI	0.29	-3.32	-3.44	0.07	-2.80	-0.89
Arc, SOSI	0.07	-2.33	-0.24	0.02	-2.17	-0.05
Arc, SOSI+BSI	0.09	-3.11	-0.26	0.02	-2.73	-0.04
Ant, SOSI	0.20	-0.36	-2.95	0.04	-0.21	-0.78
Ant, SOSI+BSI	0.21	-0.39	-3.23	0.05	-0.23	-0.85

215 response. This “back-effect” of the low-latitude response on the extratropics can be accounted for  
 216 with *multi-parameter pattern scaling* (Blackport and Kushner 2017; Hay et al. 2018; Feldl et al.  
 217 2020; Hay et al. 2022).

218 Additivity and separability of the atmospheric response to sea-ice loss from the rest of the  
 219 greenhouse warming response has been demonstrated in McCusker et al. (2017), and two-parameter  
 220 parameter scaling, first introduced by Blackport and Kushner (2017), has been used in the studies  
 221 of Hay et al. (2018, 2022); Feldl et al. (2020) to facilitate an inter-model comparison of non-  
 222 coordinated sea-ice loss experiments, and to understand high-latitude climate feedbacks. The idea  
 223 is as follows: assuming that a field-like variable  $Z$ , which could represent any atmospheric or  
 224 oceanic field, depends parameterically on internal variables  $X_i$  (e.g. mean surface temperature,  
 225 sea-ice extent) we can use pattern scaling approaches to estimate the *sensitivity* of  $Z$  to each  
 226 internal variable, or *scaling parameter* (while the other parameters are held fixed). Symbolically,  
 227 this sensitivity is written  $\left. \frac{\partial Z}{\partial X_i} \right|_{X_j \neq X_i}$ , If a model simulation generates a forced response  $\delta Z_m$  for a  
 228 particular type of forcing, the response can be written as the sum of *partial responses*,

$$\delta Z_m = \sum_i \left. \frac{\partial Z}{\partial X_i} \right|_{X_j \neq X_i} \delta X_{i,m}, \quad (1)$$

229 Unlike in previous work on this topic that considered the two-parameter problem (using Arctic  
 230 sea-ice area and low-latitude sea surface temperature as the scaling parameters), the independent



231 FIG. 4. The spatial correlation between the equivalent “SOS” and “SOSI+BSI” to demonstrate linearity of  
 232 responses (a) globally and (b) over the tropical Pacific Ocean. The amount of spatial variance in the “Arc & Ant,  
 233 SOSI+BSI” ((d) for the entire globe, (d) for the tropical Pacific region) and “ $2\times\text{CO}_2$ ” responses ((e), (f)) that  
 234 can explained by the “Arc, SOSI+BSI” in blue, “Ant, SOSI+BSI” in purple, “Arc&Ant, SOSI+BSI” in teal, and  
 235 “Arc + Ant, SOSI+BSI” in gold. Solid edges on the markers indicate atmospheric variables while dashed edges  
 236 indicate oceanic variables.

237 and distinct response patterns to greenhouse forcing, Arctic sea-ice loss, and Antarctic sea-ice loss  
 238 presented below and as shown in England et al. (2020b,a), obtained by separately controlling sea-  
 239 ice area from radiative forcing, motivate the inclusion of a third scaling parameter, one related to  
 240 Antarctic forcing. More generally, we use scaling parameters to represent Antarctic forcing,  $\delta AA$ ,  
 241 Arctic forcing,  $\delta A$ , and tropical forcing,  $\delta T$  and represent the forced response in some variable,  
 242  $\delta Z_m$ , as the sum of partial response patterns,

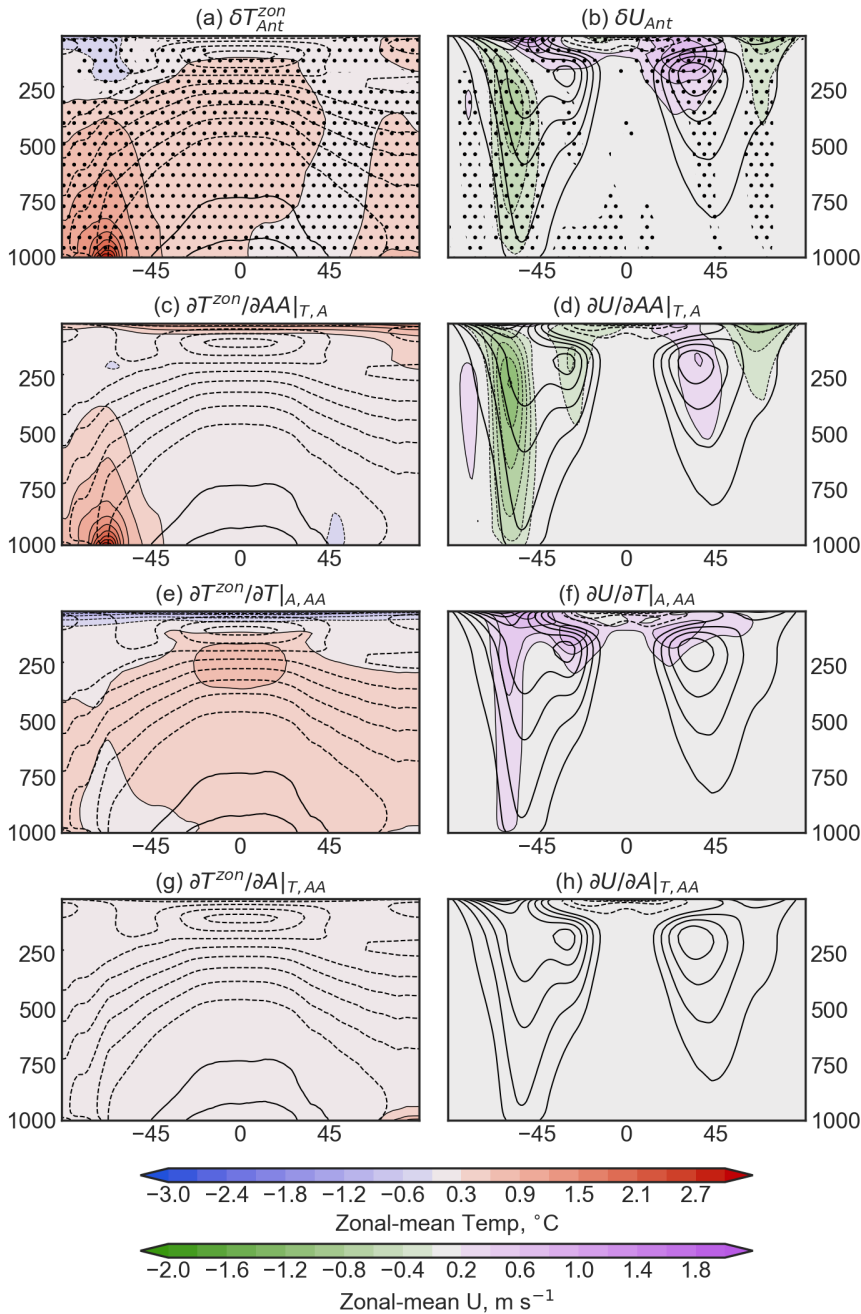
$$\delta Z_m = \left. \frac{\partial Z}{\partial A} \right|_{T,AA} \delta A_m + \left. \frac{\partial Z}{\partial AA} \right|_{A,T} \delta AA_m + \left. \frac{\partial Z}{\partial T} \right|_{A,AA} \delta T_m \quad (2)$$

243  
 244 Pattern scaling is based on an assumption of additivity of internal and external climate forcings. It  
 245 is generally implicitly assumed that climate responses to external forcings (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub>, anthropogenic  
 246 aerosols, ozone, volcanic eruptions) can be linearly added to obtain the total climate response to the  
 247 sum of the forcings (Stott et al. 2010). While some variables like temperature are generally additive,  
 248 it breaks down in other fields such as precipitation under some forcing scenarios (Shiogama et al.  
 249 2013; Marvel et al. 2015). The additivity of the climate response to internal forcing agents, such  
 250 as sea-ice area, SSTs, and lapse rates, has some evidence in support of it (McCusker et al. 2017;  
 251 Oudar et al. 2017; Hay et al. 2022). We can expect to obtain the best results from this method as  
 252 long as we remain within a linear regime, which we attempt to assess for these experiments below,  
 253 and have sufficient sampling, given to us by multiple multi-centennial simulations.

### 254 3. Results

#### 255 a. Albedo response

256 The annual mean response of the albedo of snow on sea ice and bare ice are shown in Fig. 2  
 257 for “2xCO<sub>2</sub>”, “Arc & Ant, SOSI”, and “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”. We do not include the single  
 258 hemisphere simulations because their responses are very similar to the equivalent “Arc & Ant”  
 259 response, albeit with slightly reduced magnitude. We note the high degree of similarity of the  
 260 albedo response of snow on sea ice in our perturbed simulations to that obtained via a CO<sub>2</sub> doubling  
 261 (Fig. 2(a) and (b) compared to (e) and (f) and (j) and (i)). The decrease in the albedo of snow on  
 262 sea ice under CO<sub>2</sub> doubling results from the warmer, wetter snow (Perovich et al. 2002) as



263 FIG. 5. In filled contours are the zonal-mean temperature (a) and zonal-mean zonal wind (b) responses to  
 264 Antarctic sea-ice loss decomposed in to three partial responses: (c) and (d) are the partial responses to Antarctic  
 265 sea-ice loss, (e) and (f) are the partial responses to tropical warming, and (g) and (h) are the partial responses  
 266 to Arctic sea-ice loss. The solid and dashed black contours show the zonal-mean temperature and zonal-mean  
 267 zonal wind in “control”, where solid indicate positive values and dashed indicate negative values. Stippling in  
 268 (a) and (b) indicate where the response to Antarctic sea-ice loss is statistically significant at the 95% confidence  
 269 level.

270 temperatures increase from radiative forcing. The magnitude of change, averaged over all grid  
271 boxes with sea-ice present, is 1.3-1.7 times larger for the “SOSI” response, and 1.5-1.9 times larger  
272 for the “SOSI+BSI” response. Perturbing the albedo of the snow on sea ice only results in small  
273 changes to the albedo of bare ice that approximately match those of “2×CO<sub>2</sub>” (Fig. 2(c) and (d))  
274 compared to (g) and (h). On the other hand, when we perturb the bare ice, we find a different  
275 response pattern in its albedo (Fig. 2(k) and (l)), with none of the regions of increasing albedo  
276 found otherwise.

277 It is clear that perturbing  $R_{snw}$  is much more effective at changing the albedo of snow on  
278 sea ice than perturbing  $R_{ice}$  is for changing the albedo of bare ice, particularly in the Southern  
279 Hemisphere. The average albedo of snow on sea-ice in the control simulation is 0.43 and 0.49,  
280 averaged across all grid-boxes containing sea ice, in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres,  
281 respectively. These are reduced to 0.30, 0.26, 0.24, and 0.39, 0.32, 0.30, in “2xCO<sub>2</sub>”, “Arc & Ant,  
282 SOSI”, and “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”, for the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, respectively.  
283 On the other hand, the average albedo of bare ice is only 0.06 and 0.01, respectively, in the annual  
284 mean. These values are reduced to 0.04, 0.04, 0.01 in the Northern Hemisphere and less than  
285 0.01 for all simulations in the Southern Hemisphere. These apparent very small values of bare ice  
286 albedo result from the extensive snow cover on the ice, particularly in the Antarctic (Massom et al.  
287 2001), which leave little areal coverage of bare ice and reduce the impact, on a hemispheric scale,  
288 of perturbing bare ice albedo.

289 Perturbing the value of  $R_{ice}$  on top of changing the albedo of snow on sea ice is not as effective  
290 at changing the albedo of the sea ice in the Southern Hemisphere due to the small area of bare ice  
291 in the model, while it can decrease by an additional 0.04, averaged over the Northern Hemisphere  
292 sea-ice area. In the Northern Hemisphere, the unperturbed response in albedo (Fig. 2(c)) results in  
293 an increase of the albedo of bare ice north of Greenland and a decrease elsewhere. Because these  
294 simulations result in an “ice-free” Arctic (the orange and light teal lines in Fig. 2(b)), the multi-  
295 year ice that typically makes up this region will be replaced by first-year ice with a higher albedo.  
296 Perturbing the albedo of bare ice counteracts this effect, save for a small region along the Greenland  
297 coast, and additionally decreases the albedo over the rest of the sea ice, achieving a hemispheric  
298 decrease. On the other hand, the response of the albedo of bare ice in the Southern Hemisphere is  
299 small both in the unperturbed simulations (Fig. 2(d)) and in the perturbed simulation (Fig. 2(l)).

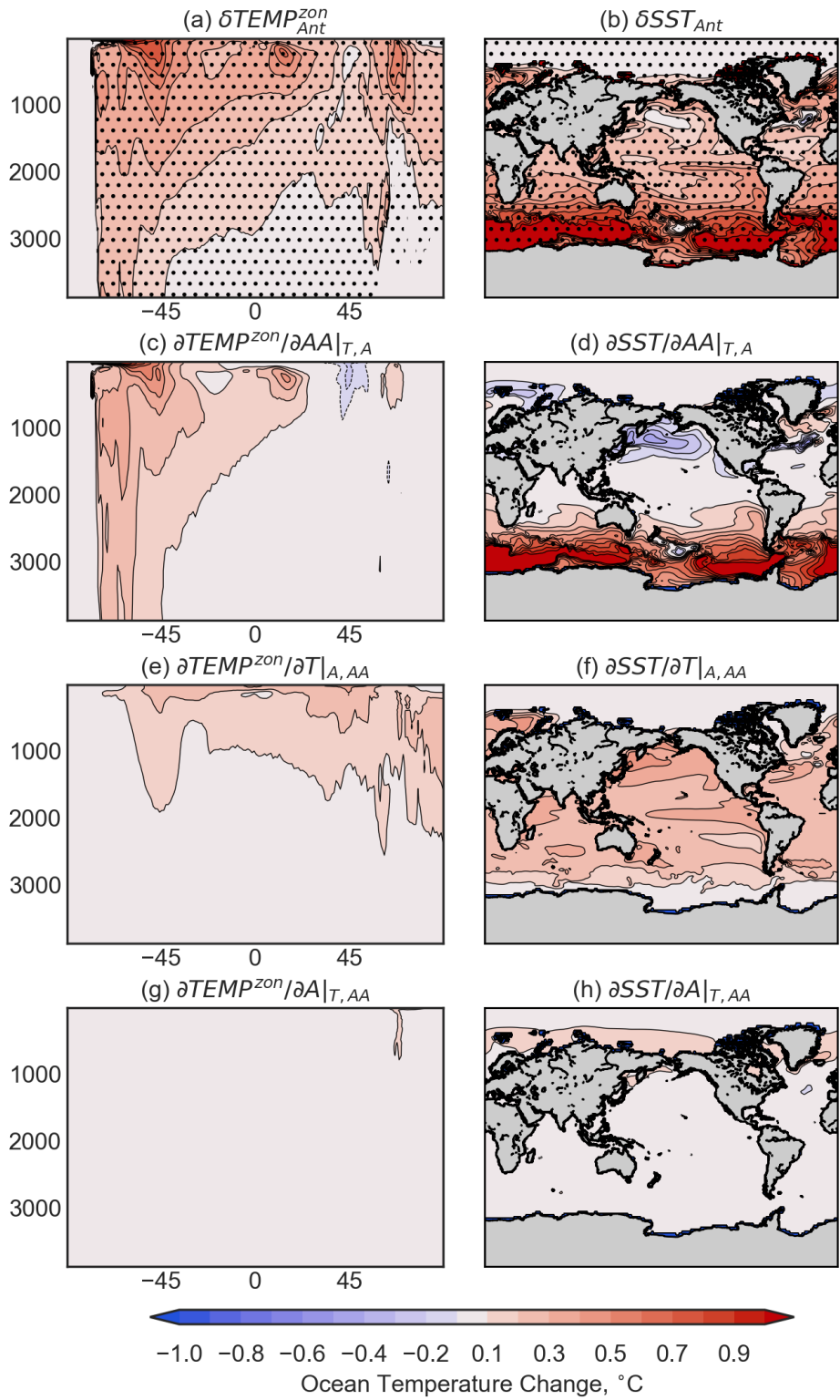


300 As in the Northern Hemisphere, perturbing the albedo overcomes the otherwise positive response  
301 occurring in the Ross and Weddell Seas.

302 *b. Linearity and Additivity*

303 In Fig. 3, we show the zonal mean temperature response, scaled by the global sea-ice loss, of  
304 both the atmosphere and ocean for the “SOSI+BSI” simulations. The “SOSI” simulations generate  
305 similar responses with reduced magnitude. The familiar pattern of both polar lower tropospheric  
306 and tropical upper tropospheric warming is seen in the atmosphere, and we find it mirrored near  
307 the ocean surface. The similarity of panels (c) (which shows the sum of the responses to “Arc,  
308 SOSI+BSI” and “Ant, SOSI+BSI”) and (d) (the response to “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”) indicate the  
309 additivity of sea-ice loss forcing from each hemisphere across the zonal mean thermal response.  
310 We quantify the degree of additivity (Fig. 3(f)) as the spatial variance in “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”  
311 explained by “Arc, SOSI+BSI”, “Ant, SOSI+BSI”, and “Arc + Ant, SOSI+BSI”, with the latter,  
312 in gold, being near 100% here. Somewhat more of the spatial variability comes from “Ant,  
313 SOSI+BSI” (57 and 80% for atmosphere and ocean, respectively), than for “Arc, SOSI+BSI” (55  
314 and 75%). The similar but stronger pattern of response obtained from “2×CO<sub>2</sub>” can be seen in (e)  
315 and we quantify the similarity of the sea-ice loss response patterns by spatial variance explained  
316 in (g). It is lowest for the atmospheric response to “Arc, SOSI+BSI” at 25%, while nearly 100% of  
317 the spatial variance of the oceanic response is explained by “Arc & Ant, SOSI+BSI”.

318 To more generally assess the linearity and additivity of the sea-ice loss responses, we first correlate  
319 the “SOSI” responses with their corresponding “SOSI+BSI” response for many atmospheric and  
320 oceanic fields and present them in Fig. 4(a). The correlation between responses to two different  
321 sea-ice forcings can be understood as an indirect test of linearity. The high correlations indicate a  
322 high degree of linearity exhibited by all variables in response to sea-ice loss, confirming previous  
323 research (Screen et al. 2018) and justifying the use of the linear decomposition of pattern scaling  
324 for understanding these responses. We note that the response to Arctic sea-ice loss appears to be  
325 slightly less linear than the response to Antarctic sea-ice loss. This result is particularly apparent  
326 in the tropical Pacific (b) where the response to Arctic sea-ice loss is fairly noisy in the “SOSI”  
327 experiment.



328 FIG. 6. As in Fig. 5 but for the zonal mean ocean temperature and sea surface temperature responses and  
 329 partial responses.

330 Given the linearity of the responses, hereafter we will examine only the “SOSI+BSI” responses  
331 and for simplicity and reading ease, we will drop “SOSI+BSI” suffix to the experiment names as  
332 the “SOSI” results are very similar but the “SOSI+BSI” results have a better signal to noise ratio.  
333 A high degree of additivity is exhibited across all examined variables, in good agreement with the  
334 results of England et al. (2020b). The spatial variance of “Arc & Ant” (Fig. 4(c),(d)) explained  
335 by “Ant” is generally larger than that explained by “Arc”, particularly so in the tropical Pacific  
336 region, where the response to Antarctic sea-ice loss is clearly dominant over the response to Arctic  
337 sea-ice loss. Additionally, we find the ocean is surprisingly linear and additive to sea-ice forcing,  
338 motivating the use of pattern-scaling on oceanic variables.

339 The response in “Arc & Ant” can explain, on average across different variables, about half the  
340 spatial variance in “2xCO<sub>2</sub>” (Fig. 4(e), (f)). Each of “Arc” and “Ant” explain about the same  
341 amount, globally, but in the tropical Pacific it is clear that “Ant” more closely resembles the pattern  
342 from greenhouse warming.

### 343 *c. Pattern-Scaling Results*

344 Using an extension of pattern scaling to three parameters with the simulations at hand, we have  
345  $m \geq 3$  with  $m = 7$ , where  $m$  is the number of distinct responses, we generate a multi-sensitivity  
346 mean pattern by combining responses and reduce sampling errors. Hereafter all pattern-scaled  
347 results show the mean of six patterns generated from different combinations of experiments. In  
348 previous work, pattern-scaled results have been visualized as either ‘sensitivities’ to sea-ice loss  
349 or to warming, i.e. the partial derivatives in Equation (2), or as ‘partial responses’ whereby we  
350 plot the entire partial derivative terms, including the delta variable. In the case of the latter, this  
351 has always been used to decompose the response to general greenhouse warming and as such the  
352 deltas are those of that experiment. Here, we seek instead to break down the coupled response to  
353 Antarctic sea-ice loss and understand what role tropical warming or Arctic sea-ice loss play.

354 We demonstrate this idea with Fig. 5, with the coupled model response in “Ant, SOSI+BSI”  
355 of zonal-mean temperature in (a) and zonal-mean zonal wind in (b). The partial responses of  
356 zonal-mean temperature to SH SIL (c), to tropical warming (e), and to NH SIL (g) reveal that local,  
357 surface-amplified Antarctic warming is due mainly to local sea-ice loss but an additional uniform  
358 warming from the surface to the tropopause driven by the tropics that extends all the way to the

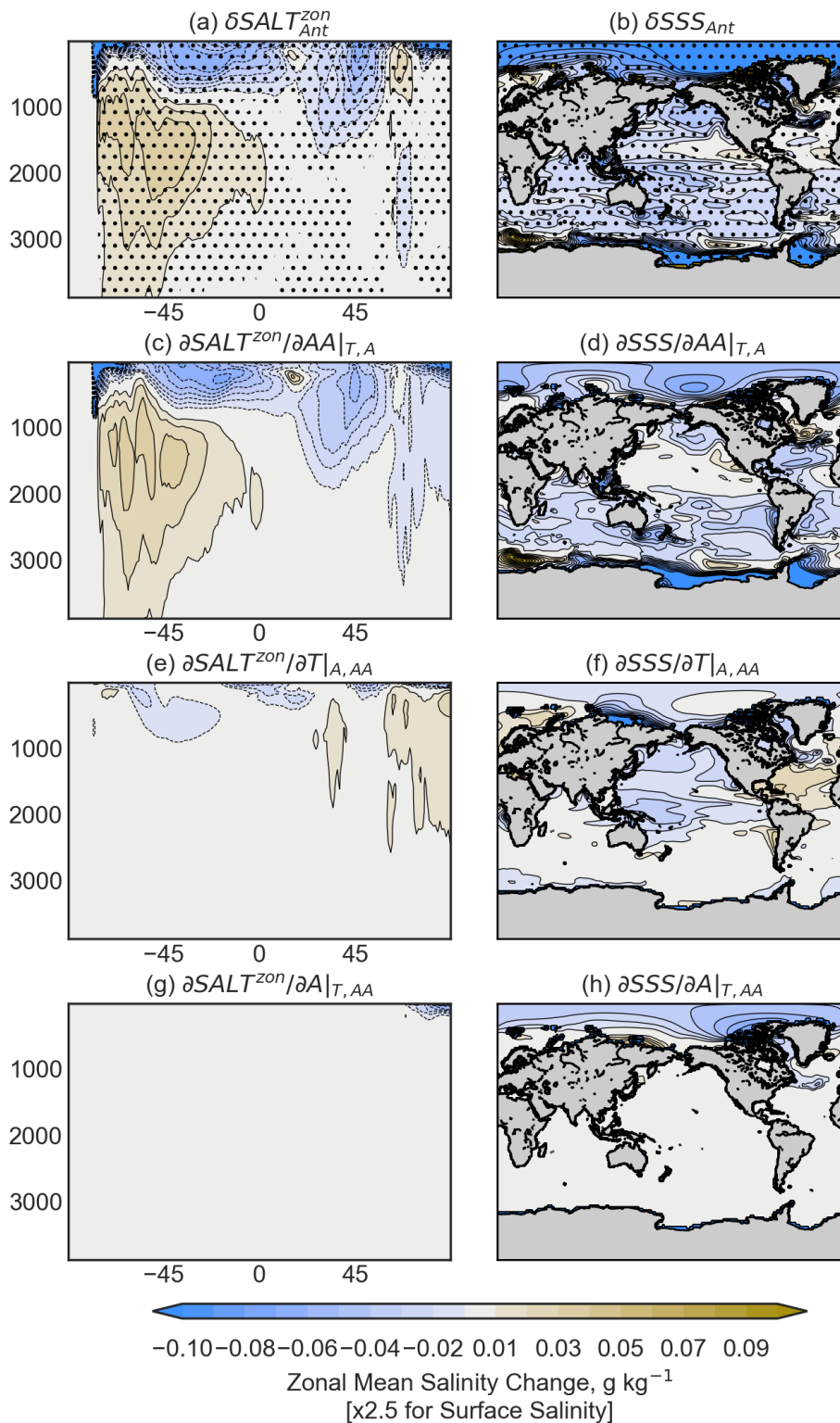


FIG. 7. As in Fig. 5 but for the zonal mean salinity and sea surface salinity responses and partial responses.

359 other pole. Finally, Arctic sea-ice loss is responsible for a shallow layer of warming at the Arctic  
360 surface. The response in zonal-mean zonal wind reveals opposing influences of the tropics and the  
361 Antarctic on the Southern Hemisphere eddy-driven jet such that the partial response to Antarctic  
362 sea-ice loss is larger than the coupled model response. There is little role for Arctic sea-ice loss in  
363 this decomposition.

364 Given the additivity of ocean variables in our experiments (Fig. 4) we apply pattern-scaling to  
365 understand the response of the ocean to Antarctic sea-ice loss. The modelled response of the zonal  
366 mean to Antarctic SIL is a broad warming that is carried from pole to pole with maxima in warming  
367 under the Antarctic sea-ice, at the edge of the Arctic sea-ice, and in the tropical subsurface (Fig.  
368 6(a)). At the surface, we see a strong warming across the Southern Ocean, in the tropical Pacific  
369 and near the sea-ice edge in the Northern Hemisphere (Fig. 6(b)). The pattern-scaling partial  
370 responses reveal that subsurface tropical and Antarctic warming can be directly scaled with sea-ice  
371 loss (Fig. 6(c)), with a broader warming scaling with tropical warming (Fig. 6(e)). Though not  
372 a strong signal in the zonal mean, the pattern-scaling reveals a cooling in the Northern Pacific in  
373 the partial response to Antarctic SIL (Fig. 6(d)) that is overwhelmed by even a small amount of  
374 tropical warming (Fig. 6(f)). Arctic sea-ice loss generates a small amount of warming near the ice  
375 edge ((g),(h)).

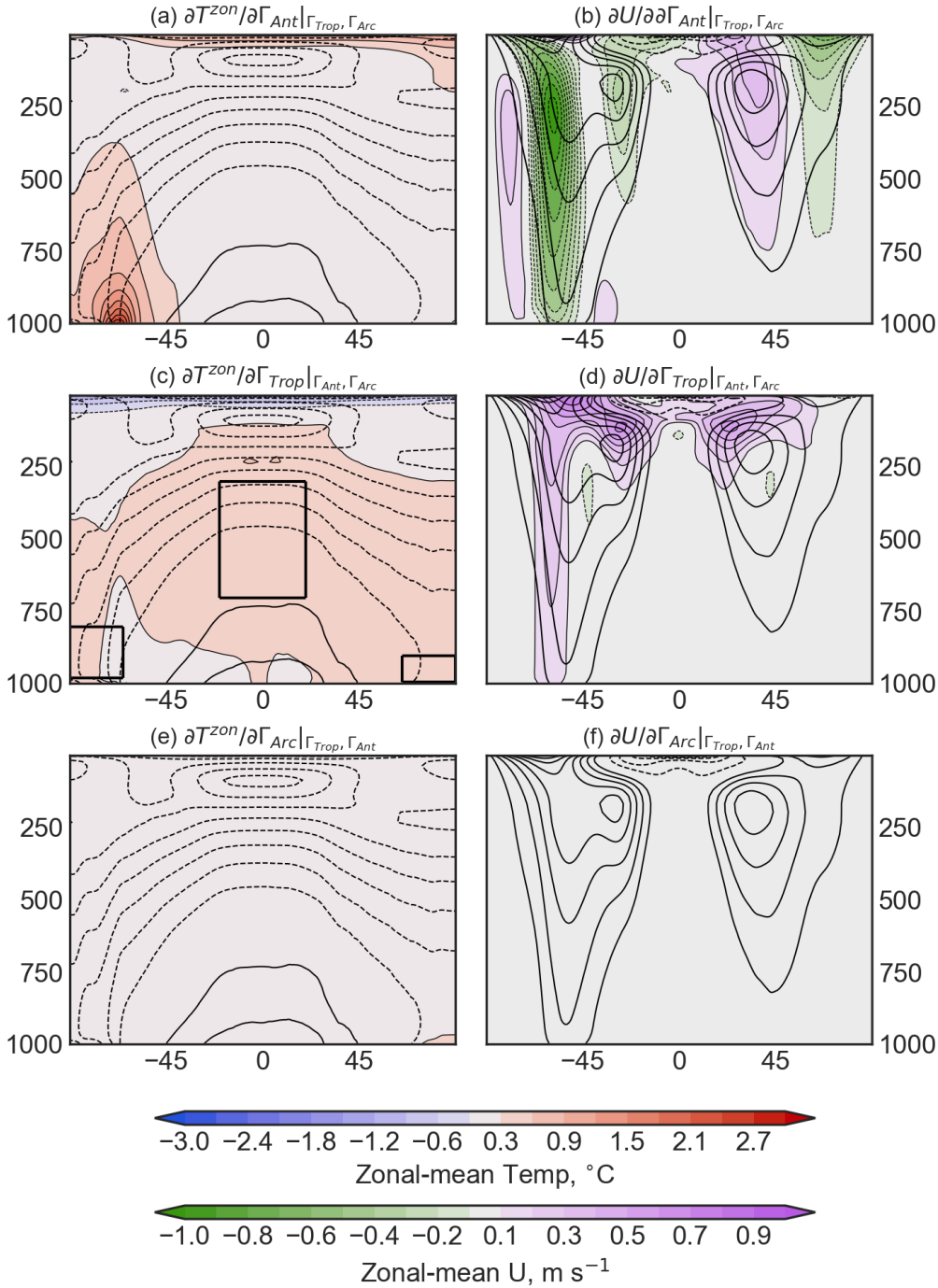
376 Surprisingly, Antarctic sea-ice loss freshens the upper ocean not only in the Southern Hemisphere  
377 where the ice is lost (Fig. 7(a)) (except in the seas adjacent to Queen Maud Land (Fig. 7(b)))  
378 but throughout the upper ocean all the way to the Arctic. A small salinification region is found  
379 co-located with the subtropical warming maxima. At depth in the Southern Hemisphere, we find  
380 that Antarctic sea-ice loss causes salinification. The pattern-scaling decomposition reveals that  
381 only a small and shallow portion of the Arctic freshening scales with Arctic SIL (Fig. 7(g)), and  
382 that the signal scales mainly with Antarctic SIL. More work is needed to understand the mechanism  
383 responsible for this surprising result, or whether it is an artifact of the scaling parameters. Finally,  
384 tropical warming drives a weak salinification in the Arctic sub-surface, while at the surface, it  
385 freshens the Pacific but creates a saltier Atlantic.

386 *d. Scaling with Lapse Rates*

387 Influenced by the results of Feldl et al. (2020), we extend three-parameter pattern-scaling to a  
388 new set of more physically-motivated scaling parameters: low-level polar lapse rates and upper  
389 tropospheric tropical lapse rates. the Arctic lapse rate feedback is an important contributing  
390 component to Arctic Amplification (Pithan and Mauritsen 2014), due to the meridional gradient  
391 of the feedback sign, negative at low latitudes and positive at high latitudes. In the tropics, the  
392 feedback is negative because the moist adiabatic conditions lead to a larger warming in the upper  
393 troposphere than at the surface, creating a larger increase in outgoing longwave radiation per degree  
394 of surface warming relative to a vertically uniform warming. On the other hand, the Arctic the  
395 lapse rate feedback is positive because stable stratification promotes surface-confined warming.  
396 The lapse rate feedback is strongly correlated, across models, with sea-ice loss and increased  
397 surface turbulent heat fluxes (Feldl et al. 2020; Boeke et al. 2021), and Cai and Lu (2009) found  
398 lapse rate feedback includes the effects of other local feedbacks, such as water vapor, evaporation,  
399 moist convection feedbacks. Importantly, Feldl et al. (2020) found distinct mechanisms control  
400 the positive high-latitude lower tropospheric lapse rate feedbacks from the negative lapse rate  
401 feedbacks of the rest of the atmosphere, which we hope to use to our advantage in decomposing  
402 the response to sea-ice loss.

403 The advantage to using lapse rates as our scaling variables is that it does not use scaling variables,  
404 such as sea ice, that we have directly perturbed in the model, but ones that are directly linked to the  
405 polar surface and in particular with amplified warming of the polar surface, and can be separated  
406 from the rest of the atmosphere.

407 To compare the results with our original decomposition, Fig. 8 shows the partial responses  
408 of zonal-mean temperature and zonal-mean zonal wind to lower tropospheric Antarctic lapse  
409 rate changes (a) and (b), to upper tropospheric tropical lapse rate changes (c) and (d), and to  
410 lower tropospheric Arctic lapse changes. Qualitatively, each partial response resembles the partial  
411 responses in Fig. 5, with some differences in magnitude. These results help show that pattern-  
412 scaling results are robust to sensible choices of scaling variables.



413 FIG. 8. As in the lower six panels of Fig. 5 but where the decomposition into partial responses use lapse rates  
 414 as scaling parameters, such that the partial responses in (a) and (b) are to the lower tropospheric Antarctic lapse  
 415 rate, in (c) and (d) are to the upper tropospheric tropical lapse rate, and in (e) and (f) are to the lower tropospheric  
 416 Arctic lapse rate. Thick black boxes in (c) indicate the region over which averaging is performed to obtain the  
 417 scaling parameters.

418 *e. Assessment of regional changes using pattern scaling*

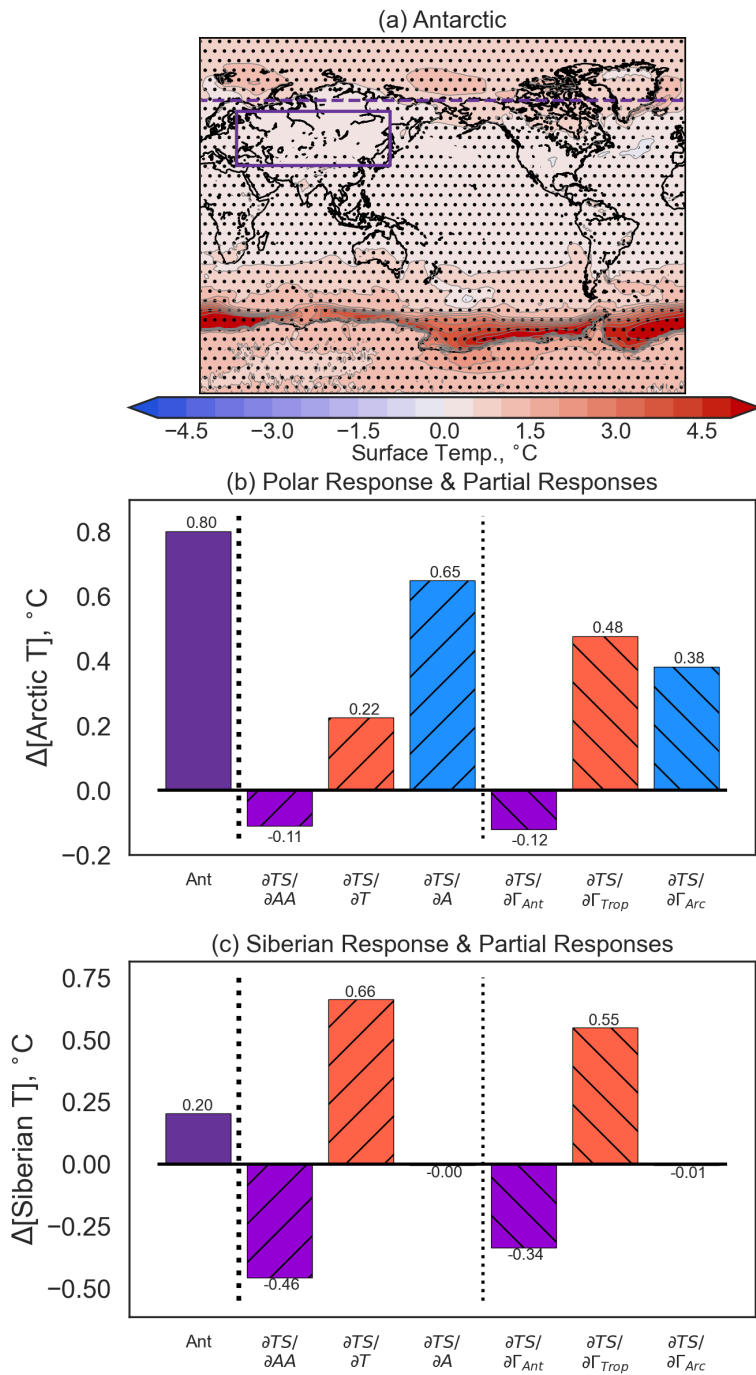
419 Next, we demonstrate how we can use pattern-scaling to reveal and understand specific aspects  
420 of the coupled response to Antarctic SIL. The surface temperature response in “Ant” (Fig. 9(a))  
421 is largest along the sea-ice margins of the Southern Hemisphere, over the Antarctic continent,  
422 and over the Arctic Ocean. We decompose this area-weighted mean response in two regions:  
423 The Arctic (b), and across Siberia (c). The former is chosen because Arctic warming driven by  
424 Antarctic sea-ice loss has previously been studied by England et al. (2020b), and the latter is chosen  
425 because the sign of the temperature response across Siberia in general greenhouse warming has  
426 previously been associated with sea-ice loss (e.g., Mori et al. (2014)).

427 The modelled response in “Ant” is a broad Arctic warming of  $0.80^{\circ}\text{C}$ , whereas the partial re-  
428 sponses reveal that this warming is driven by both the small amounts of tropical warming/increasing  
429 tropical upper lapse rate and Arctic sea-ice loss/decreasing lower lapse rate. The partial response  
430 to Antarctic sea-ice loss or Antarctic lower lapse rate changes is in fact a very small amount of  
431 cooling. Whether the warming is driven more by remote influence or locally depends on the scaling  
432 parameter used, and understanding this and how the cooling in response to Antarctic change arises.

433 Decomposing the weak and broad warming of  $0.20^{\circ}\text{C}$  in “Ant” across Siberia (Figure 9(a),(c))  
434 reveals a tug-of-war between the partial response to tropical and Antarctic change. The tropics act  
435 to warm this region while Antarctic sea-ice loss or lapse rate change acts to cool it. The tropical  
436 influence overwhelms that of the Antarctic. Again, we find consistency with the decomposition of  
437 SSTs in Figure 6(b), where the sea surface cooling extending from Eastern coast of Asia could be  
438 arising from the continental cooling.

439 Another aspect of the response to “Ant” that we note is the deepening of the Aleutian Low in the  
440 coupled model (Fig. 10(a)), something previously associated with Arctic sea-ice loss in coupled  
441 modelling studies (Hay et al. 2018, 2022). The breakdown into partial responses shown in Fig.  
442 10(b), reveals that the  $0.17\text{ hPa}$  decrease in average sea-level pressure over the Aleutian Low region  
443 does in fact arise as a response to Antarctic change, and the effects of tropical or Arctic change  
444 are small and approximately cancel. It is worth noting here that the various partial responses wont  
445 sum exactly to the response in “Ant”, as these come from the mean of the six combinations of  
446 experiments which each have their own distinct responses. A seemingly curious result here





447 FIG. 9. The surface temperature response to Antarctic sea-ice loss (a), with a dashed purple line to indicate the  
 448 region we average over to obtain Arctic-mean temperature in (b) and the solid purple box to indicate the region we  
 449 average over to obtain Siberian temperature in (c). In (b) and (c) are then the area-averaged surface temperature  
 450 response to Antarctic sea-ice loss broken up in to partial responses as indicated on the x-axes. Stippling in (a)  
 451 indicates where the surface temperature response to Antarctic sea-ice loss is statistically significant at the 95%  
 452 confidence level.

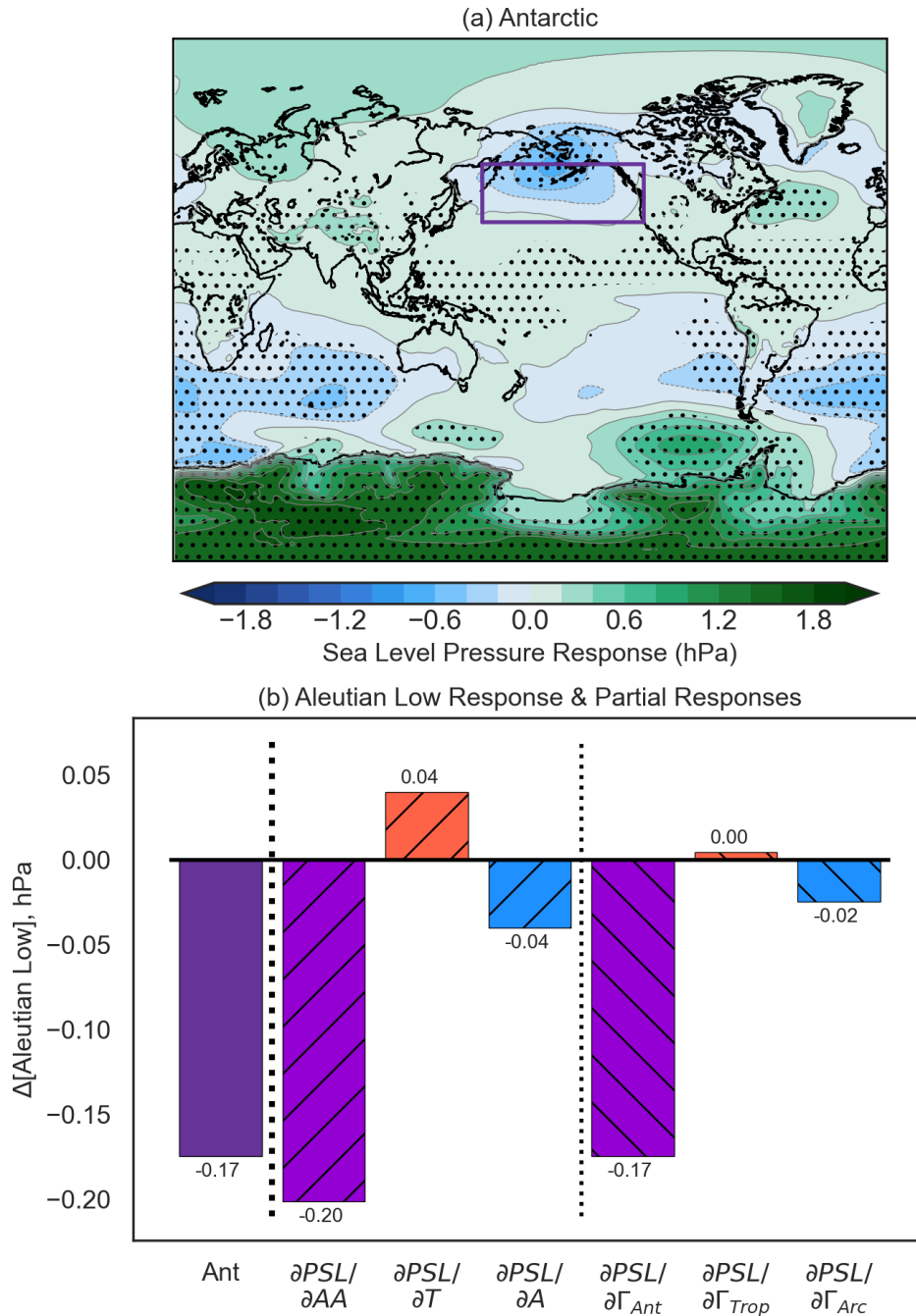
453 whereby Antarctic sea-ice directly drives Northern Hemisphere change, both over Siberia and in the  
454 North Pacific is revealed by the pattern-scaling decomposition. Dynamically, there is consistency  
455 between Siberian and North Pacific sea-surface cooling and a deepening Aleutian Low, setting  
456 up a plausible physical scenario, but a mechanistic explanation and understanding remains to be  
457 revealed.

458 Lastly, the relatively larger role of the Antarctic in the tropics as compared to the Arctic (Fig.  
459 4, right hand column) is examined by decomposing the response of tropical Pacific precipitation  
460 in “Ant” (Fig. 11). An equatorward intensification of precipitation is found, particularly evident  
461 in the Northern Hemisphere with drying on the northward flank of the Intertropical Convergence  
462 Zone (ITCZ). The decomposition into partial responses in the Pacific (Fig. 11(b)) reveals that the  
463 southern portion of the moistening is driven by tropical change, whereas the northern portion is  
464 driven equally by tropical change and Antarctic change. The drying on the northern flank of the  
465 ITCZ mainly driven by Antarctic change, with an additional boost from tropical change. Arctic  
466 change plays no role. These results are consistent and robust to the scaling parameters used.

#### 467 **4. Discussion**

468 We have found a relatively larger role for Antarctic sea-ice loss as compared to Arctic sea-ice  
469 loss, particularly in the tropics, for the same amount of hemispheric sea-ice loss in the annual  
470 mean. However, the Antarctic sea-ice loss experiments generate larger wintertime sea-ice loss than  
471 the Arctic ones as a result of the albedo protocol and the geography of each pole: albedo forcing is  
472 only effective where there is incoming solar radiation and the sea-ice of the Southern Hemisphere  
473 is located at lower latitudes. While this potentially limits a clean comparison of the Arctic and  
474 Antarctic cases, we do note that England et al. (2020b) also finds a somewhat larger response to  
475 Antarctic sea-ice loss than Arctic sea-ice loss under a different sea-ice loss protocol that does not  
476 suffer from the same issue in wintertime.

477 There is a relatively larger role for Antarctic sea-ice loss in the tropical Pacific, particularly as a  
478 component of the full response to greenhouse warming. As we know that climate models have not  
479 successfully reproduced trends in Antarctic sea-ice (Roach et al. 2020) or tropical SSTs (Li and  
480 Xie 2014), the results we have presented here could potentially suggest that some component of  
481 the SST bias as being driven by biased Antarctic sea-ice area.



482 FIG. 10. The sea level pressure response in “Ant, SOSI+BSI” (a), with a solid purple box to indicate the region  
 483 we average over to obtain area-averaged Aleutian Low pressure for (b). In (b) and is then Aleutian Low response  
 484 to Antarctic sea-ice loss broken up in to partial responses as indicated on the x-axes. Stippling in (a) indicates  
 485 where the sea level pressure response to Antarctic sea-ice loss is statistically significant at the 95% confidence  
 486 level.

487 However, as with all protocols used in coupled modelling studies to induce sea-ice loss, there is  
488 evidence that the warming response to sea-ice loss is likely overestimated (England et al. 2022), as  
489 the method itself generates additional heating beyond what is due to sea-ice loss alone. While this  
490 is an important factor to keep in mind when analyzing sea-ice loss experiments, it is unlikely to  
491 impact our qualitative conclusions. A reduced magnitude of the response directly linked to sea-ice  
492 loss is likely.

493 Two weaknesses of pattern scaling methods are the lack of physical explanation in the results,  
494 and the lack of a residual, i.e. it assumes a climate response can be fully explained by the chosen  
495 scaling factors. To attempt to account for the latter, we have used multiple experiment combinations  
496 in generating the partial responses to minimize spurious results and hopefully determine the most  
497 accurate partial responses. For the former, we attempt to take the whole picture of partial responses  
498 to try to build a physically consistent story that may then be tested using different approaches.  
499 For example, we find that there is a direct response to Antarctic change throughout the ocean  
500 that extends into the Northern Hemisphere and is consistent between the surface, sea-surface  
501 subsurface temperature partial responses, between the Aleutian Low, precipitation, and salinity  
502 partial responses. While we can postulate that the ocean is driving the atmosphere due to a lack of  
503 response in the Northern Hemisphere in similar atmosphere-only experiments (England et al. 2018;  
504 Ayres et al. 2022), the coupling is two-way and complex and could potentially only be understood  
505 by examining, for example, the transient evolution of the response to Antarctic sea-ice loss.

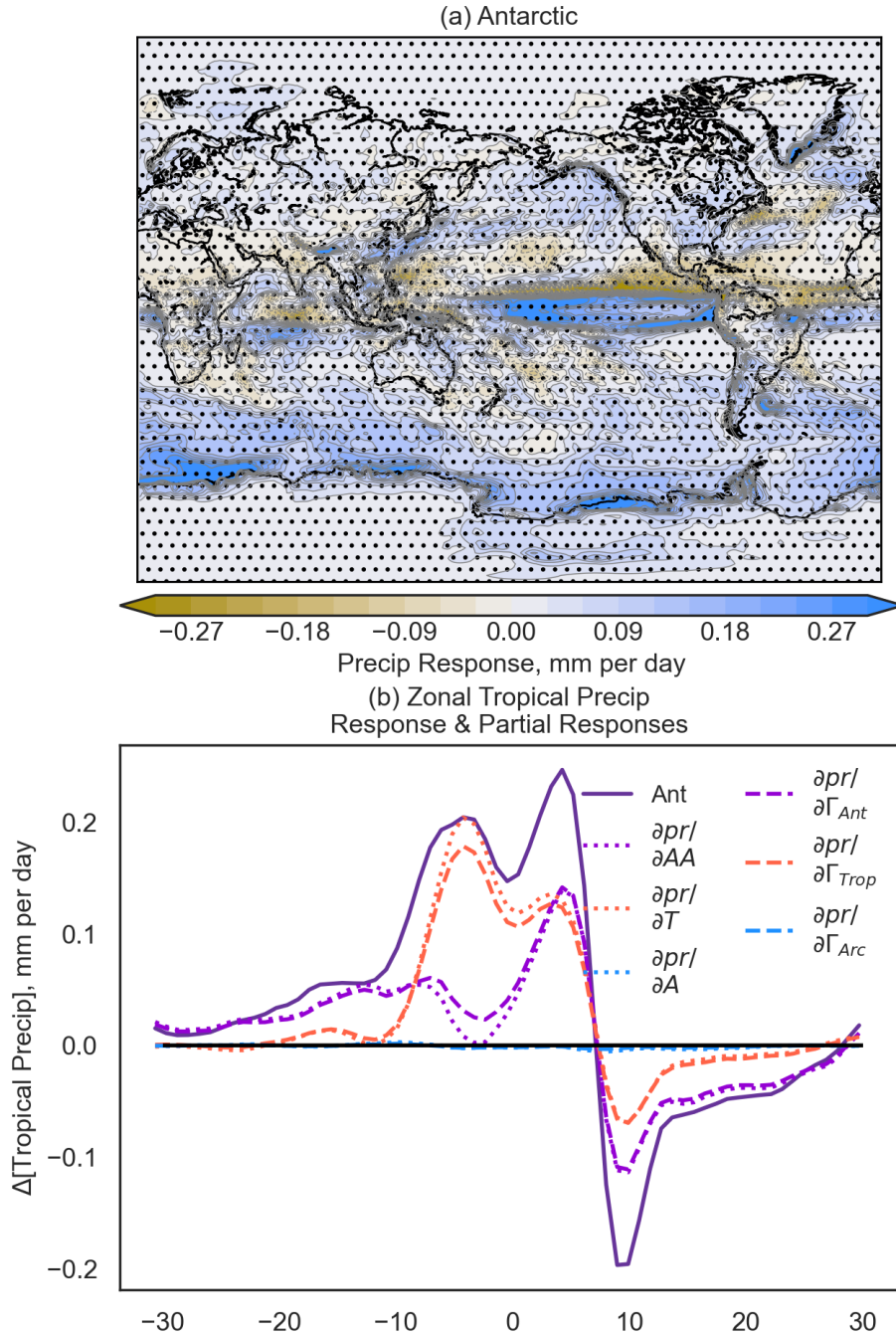
## 506 **5. Conclusions**

507 Using a set coupled model sea ice and snow albedo perturbation experiments alongside a CO<sub>2</sub>  
508 doubling experiment, we find a globally relevant role for Antarctic sea-ice loss in CESM1. In  
509 both the atmosphere and the ocean, the zonal mean temperature response to sea-ice loss from  
510 either hemisphere replicates that of greenhouse warming by CO<sub>2</sub>, something that has been termed  
511 the “mini global warming” for the atmospheric response Deser et al. (2015). We show here, in  
512 agreement with Ayres et al. (2022), that the the ocean’s response also exhibits this global character.  
513 Using an spatial correlation analysis we find a larger correspondence between the response to  
514 sea-ice loss in both hemispheres concurrently and that from the Antarctic alone, particularly in the  
515 tropical Pacific, quantifying the larger role of Antarctic change.

516 For the first time, we expand the two-parameter pattern scaling of Blackport and Kushner (2017)  
517 to include a third parameter related to Antarctic change. We also explore the use of other scaling  
518 parameters that are perhaps more physically relevant and find that the decomposition of the response  
519 into partial responses is qualitatively robust, allowing us to re-frame and generalize the response  
520 into parts that scale with, or partial responses to, Antarctic change, tropical change, and Arctic  
521 change.

522 Applying this improved version of multi-parameter pattern-scaling to the coupled model response  
523 to Antarctic sea-ice loss, we demonstrate how this can be used to disentangle the distinct role of  
524 Antarctic change from that which arises from tropical or Arctic change that is itself driven by  
525 Antarctic sea-ice loss. The method reveals details of the response and creates a plausible physical  
526 basis that can then be tested via targeted modelling experiments.

527 Given this, we have found that the partial response to Antarctic change can play an important role  
528 not just locally but in the tropics and into the Northern Hemisphere. This includes a subsurface  
529 warming and salinification of the ocean just north of the Equator, as well as an equatorward  
530 shift of the precipitation in this same region. Further North, a cooling of Siberia and the North  
531 Pacific sea surface, where there is also a freshening that extends to depth and in to the Arctic,  
532 alongside a deepening of the Aleutian Low. Some of these aspects were evident from the coupled  
533 modelling results (e.g. the Aleutian Low, freshening North Pacific, equatorward intensification of  
534 the precipitation), while others were only revealed by the decomposition (e.g. Siberian, Arctic,  
535 and North Pacific cooling). Additionally, these results show that even small amounts of tropical  
536 change as those found in “Ant”, can easily overwhelm the impact of Antarctic change, of particular  
537 relevance for understanding the role of the Antarctic in the response to greenhouse warming.



538 FIG. 11. The precipitation response in “Ant, SOSI+BSI” (a) and the zonal response of precipitation from  
 539 -30°N to 30°N over the Pacific Ocean broken up in to its component partial responses as indicated by the legend.  
 540 Stippling in (a) indicates where the precipitation response to Antarctic sea-ice loss is statistically significant at  
 541 the 95% confidence level.

542 *Acknowledgments.* This work was supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy  
 543 Grant DE-SC0019407.

544 *Data availability statement.* Output from the simulations used in this study is stored with the  
 545 Digital Research Alliance of Canada and subsets of it can be obtained by contacting the authors.

## 546 APPENDIX

### 547 **Three-parameter pattern scaling**

548 Classically, pattern scaling posits that spatial patterns of the externally forced response of some  
 549 variable,  $Z$ , are robust throughout the transient evolution when scaled by the change in global mean  
 550 temperature change,  $\delta T$ :

$$\delta Z(t, x, y, s) = z(x, y, s) \delta T(t). \quad (\text{A1})$$

551 Here  $x, y$  are the spatial coordinates,  $t$  is the time coordinate, and  $s$  specifies the averaging period  
 552 (e.g., monthly or seasonal mean).  $z(x, y, s)$  then represents the time-invariant pattern of the response  
 553 of  $Z$ .

554 In this case, we will require  $m \geq 3$ , where  $m$  is the index of a particular simulation, to obtain the  
 555 system of equations required to solve for the three sensitivity patterns, and we can write Equation  
 556 2 succinctly in matrix notation as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \delta Z_1 \\ \delta Z_2 \\ \delta Z_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta A_1 & \delta AA_1 & \delta T_1 \\ \delta A_2 & \delta AA_2 & \delta T_2 \\ \delta A_3 & \delta AA_3 & \delta T_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial A} |_{T, AA} \\ \frac{\partial Z}{\partial AA} |_{T, A} \\ \frac{\partial Z}{\partial T} |_{A, AA} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A2})$$

557 Assuming that the above matrix is invertible, we invert to solve for the sensitivities. This inversion  
 558 yields,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial A} |_{T, AA} \\ \frac{\partial Z}{\partial AA} |_{T, A} \\ \frac{\partial Z}{\partial T} |_{A, AA} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \begin{pmatrix} \beta & \gamma & \epsilon \\ \zeta & \eta & \iota \\ \kappa & \lambda & \mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \delta Z_1 \\ \delta Z_2 \\ \delta Z_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A3})$$

559 such that,

$$\left. \frac{\partial Z}{\partial A} \right|_{T,AA} = \frac{1}{\alpha} [\beta \delta Z_1 + \gamma \delta Z_2 + \epsilon \delta Z_3] \quad (\text{A4})$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial Z}{\partial AA} \right|_{T,A} = \frac{1}{\alpha} [\zeta \delta Z_1 + \eta \delta Z_2 + \iota \delta Z_3] \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial Z}{\partial AA} \right|_{A,AA} = \frac{1}{\alpha} [\kappa \delta Z_1 + \lambda \delta Z_2 + \mu \delta Z_3] \quad (\text{A6})$$

560 where

$$\alpha = \delta A_1 \beta + \delta AA_1 \zeta + \delta T_1 \kappa \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$\beta = \delta AA_2 \delta T_3 - \delta AA_3 \delta T_2 \quad (\text{A8})$$

$$\gamma = \delta AA_3 \delta T_1 - \delta AA_1 \delta T_3 \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$\epsilon = \delta AA_1 \delta T_2 - \delta AA_2 \delta T_1 \quad (\text{A10})$$

$$\zeta = \delta A_3 \delta T_2 - \delta A_2 \delta T_3 \quad (\text{A11})$$

$$\eta = \delta A_1 \delta T_3 - \delta A_3 \delta T_1 \quad (\text{A12})$$

$$\iota = \delta A_2 \delta T_1 - \delta A_1 \delta T_2 \quad (\text{A13})$$

$$\kappa = \delta A_2 \delta AA_3 - \delta A_3 \delta AA_2 \quad (\text{A14})$$

$$\lambda = \delta A_3 \delta AA_1 - \delta A_1 \delta AA_3 \quad (\text{A15})$$

$$\mu = \delta A_1 \delta AA_2 - \delta A_2 \delta AA_1 \quad (\text{A16})$$

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