

1 **Title: Asymmetric hysteresis response of midlatitude storm tracks to CO<sub>2</sub>**  
2 **removal**

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21

22 **Abstract**

23 In a warming climate, storm tracks are projected to intensify on their poleward side. Here we use large-  
24 ensemble CO<sub>2</sub> ramp-up and -down simulations to show that these changes are not reversed when CO<sub>2</sub>  
25 concentrations are reduced. If CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from the atmosphere following CO<sub>2</sub> increase, the North  
26 Atlantic storm track keeps strengthening until the middle of the CO<sub>2</sub> removal, while the recovery of  
27 the North Pacific storm track during ramp-down is stronger than its shift during ramp-up. In contrast,  
28 the Southern Hemisphere storm track weakens during ramp-down at a rate much faster than its  
29 strengthening in the warming period. Compared to the present climate, the Northern Hemisphere storm  
30 track becomes stronger and the Southern Hemisphere storm track becomes weaker at the end of CO<sub>2</sub>  
31 removal. These hemispherically-asymmetric storm track responses are attributable to the weakened  
32 Atlantic meridional overturning circulation and the delayed cooling of the Southern Ocean.

33 **Keywords: Storm track, Carbon Dioxide Removal**

34 **Main text**

35           The midlatitude storm tracks, where extratropical cyclones are commonly found, are  
36 fundamental features of the climate system. Arising from baroclinic instability, the Northern  
37 Hemisphere (NH) storm tracks are centered over the North Pacific (NP) and North Atlantic (NA),  
38 while the Southern Hemisphere (SH) storm track is hemispheric. Storm tracks effectively transport  
39 heat, moisture, and momentum poleward, contributing to the global energy balance<sup>1,2,3</sup>. They also have  
40 a profound impact on the day-to-day variability of local weather. The mobile cyclones within storm  
41 tracks explain more than 50% of the midlatitude precipitation<sup>4</sup>. In particular, explosive and/or  
42 consecutive cyclones are responsible for extreme events such as heavy precipitation, storm surges, and  
43 wind gusts, leading to the devastating socio-economic impacts<sup>5,6</sup>.

44           Given their importance in local weather and global hydroclimate, storm track changes caused  
45 by human activity have been of great interest<sup>7</sup>. The projected changes in storm tracks due to increasing  
46 greenhouse gases show regional and seasonal dependence in state-of-the-art climate models<sup>8,9,10,11,12,13</sup>.  
47 During the NH winter, a weakened storm track is anticipated on the equatorward side of the NP storm  
48 track, whereas an eastward extension is projected to occur on the northeastern flank of the NA storm  
49 track<sup>8,10,11,13</sup>. During the summer, an overall weakening of the NH storm tracks is found<sup>8,11,13</sup>.  
50 Conversely, the SH storm track show a systematic poleward intensification in a warming climate  
51 especially in austral summer<sup>8,11,12,13</sup>.

52           To reduce future climate risk, both carbon dioxide removal (CDR) and the reduction of carbon  
53 dioxide emissions have been suggested<sup>14,15</sup>. Their possible impacts on the climate system have then  
54 been investigated by conducting climate model experiments<sup>16,17</sup>. An example is the CDR Model  
55 Intercomparison Project (CDRMIP)<sup>18</sup> as a part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Coupled Model Intercomparison Project  
56 (CMIP6)<sup>19</sup>. This experiment and other similar experiments have shown that the climate response to  
57 CO<sub>2</sub> removal is not simple, raising the possibility of irreversible climate change<sup>16,20,21,22,23,24,25,26</sup>.

58 However, previous studies have primarily focused on the changes in basic climate elements such as  
59 temperature and precipitation<sup>20,21,22,23,26</sup>. Little emphasis has been placed on midlatitude weather and  
60 climate systems.

61 By conducting a large ensemble CDR experiment (CDR-LE; Methods), here we show that  
62 midlatitude storm tracks exhibit a hysteresis response to a symmetric CO<sub>2</sub> increase-and-decrease  
63 scenario, the hysteresis being defined as a difference between the two time periods when CO<sub>2</sub>  
64 concentrations are identical in transient ramp-up and –down simulations. They respond non-  
65 monotonically in the NH but monotonically in the SH to CO<sub>2</sub> removal. Their possible causes are  
66 discussed by considering sea surface temperature (SST) changes.

67

## 68 **Hemispherically-asymmetric storm track changes**

69 A time evolution of global-mean surface air temperature (orange) in the CDR-LE is shown in  
70 Fig. 1a. Both the ensemble-mean response (solid) and the ensemble spread (shading) are presented.  
71 During CO<sub>2</sub> increasing period, referred to as ramp-up (RU), surface air temperature increases linearly.  
72 At the time of quadrupled CO<sub>2</sub> (year 2140), it becomes ~5 K warmer than the present-day (PD)  
73 condition (gray dashed line). This warming trend is reversed into a cooling trend as CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations  
74 in the atmosphere are reduced during ramp-down (RD). However, the cooling trend is slightly weaker  
75 than the warming trend, resulting in a warmer surface air temperature at the end of RD (year 2280)  
76 compared to the PD state<sup>24,27</sup>. In the stabilization period when CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are maintained to  
77 the PD level, surface air temperature is still above the PD level by ~1K for approximately 40 years,  
78 until it slowly decreases. It does not return to the PD state even at the end of the stabilization period,  
79 exemplifying the hysteresis response of climate system to CO<sub>2</sub> concentration change<sup>26,28,29</sup>.

80 With increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, the latitude of the NH storm track, where a maximum  
81 zonal-mean eddy kinetic energy (EKE) is found (Methods), is projected to move poleward (Fig. 1b)

82 <sup>8,10,13</sup>. It gradually shifts equatorward when CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are reduced, and eventually returns to  
83 the initial latitude at the end of RD. The SH storm track latitude shows a qualitatively similar evolution  
84 to the NH storm track latitude (Fig. 1d). It shifts poleward during RU and is then maintained at a fixed  
85 latitude for ~20 years when CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations start to decrease. The poleward-shifted storm track  
86 moves equatorward in early RD and is fully recovered in the stabilization period. These results indicate  
87 that the position of the storm track responds almost linearly to a changing CO<sub>2</sub> pathway.

88         Such a symmetrical change is not found in storm track intensity (Figs. 1c,e). The NH storm  
89 track intensity gradually increases during RU, emerging from internal variability within ~40 years (see  
90 the timing when red line and blue shading start to diverge in Fig. 1c)<sup>30</sup>. This storm track strengthening  
91 is not reversed during RD. Instead of weakening, the NH storm track intensifies during the first half  
92 of RD, even faster than during RU, reaching a peak at the year 2200 of ~12% stronger intensity than  
93 the PD state. Afterwards, it rapidly weakens with a large ensemble spread, but its intensity at the end  
94 of RD is still stronger than the PD state. The storm track weakening continues after CO<sub>2</sub> removal (until  
95 ~2320), although not significantly different from the PD state. As in the NH, the SH storm track  
96 intensifies during RU, becoming ~14% stronger than the PD state at the year 2140 (Fig. 1e). However,  
97 it sharply weakens during RD at a rate faster than its strengthening. At the end of RD, the storm track  
98 intensity is ~3% weaker than the PD state. Although storm track intensity slowly increases toward its  
99 initial state in the stabilization period, it is not fully recovered.

100         It is noteworthy that the internal variability of storm track intensity, quantified by the model  
101 ensemble spread (red shading in Figs. 1c,e), is nearly constant during RU. This is consistent with  
102 previous studies reporting that internal climate variability does not change much in a warming  
103 climate<sup>31</sup>. However, the internal variability of the NH storm track intensity becomes larger in mid and  
104 late RD compared to RU (Fig. 1c). It indicates that the internal climate variability can be sensitive to  
105 CO<sub>2</sub> pathway, potentially manifested as uncertainty in the timing of the storm track recovery.

106 This asymmetric behavior in the NH storm track manifests differently in the NP and NA storm  
107 tracks. This is diagnosed by the maximum eddy kinetic energy at each longitude (Fig. 2a). The  
108 asymmetric NH storm track intensity change to symmetric CO<sub>2</sub> pathway is mostly due to the NA storm  
109 track centered at the Greenwich meridian. It sharply contrasts to the NP storm track centered at the  
110 date line, which shows a slow weakening followed by a rather fast recovery and overshoot. This zonal  
111 asymmetry is not evident in the SH (Fig. 2b).

112 The differences in storm track intensity between the peak CO<sub>2</sub> period (2121-2160) and early  
113 RU (2001-2040), and between late RD (2241-2280) and the peak period are further analyzed in Figs.  
114 2c,d. As a reference, the PD state, which resembles the observations<sup>8,10,13</sup>, is superimposed in each plot  
115 (contours). With increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, the NP storm track is weakened with a slight  
116 intensification on its northern flank (Fig. 2c). The NA storm track in contrast shows a northeastward  
117 intensification. In the SH, a poleward intensification of the storm track is found at all longitudes during  
118 RU. Such changes are commonly found in the CMIP6 models (Supplementary Fig. 1). Storm track  
119 intensity changes during RD are largely opposed to those during RU, but not exactly (Fig. 2d). The  
120 NH storm track in late RD becomes stronger than that in early RU over both the NP and NA (Fig. 2e).  
121 It contrasts to the SH storm track that is weaker in late RD than in early RU. Such hemispherically-  
122 contrasting storm track intensity changes are strongest in the winter hemisphere (Supplementary Fig.  
123 2), and not sensitive to the definition of the storm track (Supplementary Fig. 3).

124 Individual cyclones are also tracked in the lower troposphere (Fig. 3; Methods). In a warming  
125 climate, a decrease in NP cyclones and a northeastward expansion of NA cyclones are projected to  
126 occur, with an overall decrease in cyclones passing over the continent (Supplementary Fig. 4a)<sup>8,11,12,32</sup>.  
127 In the SH, a robust poleward shift in cyclone track is simulated. A similar response is also found for  
128 intense cyclones that are more localized over the oceans (Supplementary Fig. 4b). These changes are  
129 reversed during RD (Supplementary Figs. 4c,d). However, both NP and NA cyclones are still more  
130 frequent during late RD compared to early RU (Fig. 3a). This is in contrast to SH cyclones which

131 become less frequent in late RD. These changes are qualitatively similar to Eulerian storm track  
132 changes (Fig. 2e), especially for intense cyclones (Fig. 3b).

133

#### 134 **Role of the ocean**

135 Although the dominant mechanism(s) of storm track changes in future climate still remains to  
136 be determined<sup>9,12</sup>, it has been widely accepted that its changes are largely associated with the  
137 baroclinicity<sup>13</sup>. The time evolution of vertically integrated mean available potential energy, which is  
138 roughly proportional to the square of Eady growth rate<sup>33,34,35</sup>, shows a qualitatively similar result  
139 (Supplementary Fig. 5). Regional storm track changes (Figs. 2c-e) are also similar to mid-tropospheric  
140 zonal wind change (Supplementary Fig. 6), as anticipated from a close relationship between westerly  
141 jets and storm tracks in midlatitudes<sup>10,13</sup>. These results suggest that changes in storm track intensity  
142 can be understood by considering drivers of the background baroclinicity such as the SST gradient<sup>36</sup>.

143 The SST changes under the time-varying CO<sub>2</sub> pathway are not homogeneous in space (Figs.  
144 4a-c). During RU, NA SST shows localized cooling to the south of Greenland, known as a warming  
145 hole (Fig. 4a)<sup>37</sup>. This warming hole, possibly caused by a reduced influx of warm water from low  
146 latitudes linked to the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)<sup>27,37,38,39</sup>, results in an  
147 enhanced meridional SST gradient over the NA, strengthening the westerly jet and storm track. During  
148 RD, NA SST becomes colder than the CO<sub>2</sub> peak period (Fig. 4b). The net result is colder NA SST  
149 during late RD compared to early RU (Fig. 4c), explaining the hysteresis response of the NA storm  
150 track intensity. The close relationship among the NA storm track, jet, and SST gradient also appears in  
151 their temporal evolutions (Fig. 4d).

152 A skewed-parabolic change of the NA SST gradient is largely due to the delayed response of  
153 the AMOC (Fig. 4d), highlighting a potential role of the AMOC in NA climate change<sup>40,41</sup>. During RU,  
154 AMOC gets weaker due to enhanced surface freshwater and heat fluxes<sup>42,43,44</sup>. The strength of the

155 AMOC keeps decreasing until the middle of RD due to a reduced horizontal salt advection<sup>45</sup>, and  
156 rapidly recovers afterward because of an increased salt advection feedback driven by the subtropic-to-  
157 subpolar salinity gradient and oceanic stratification changes<sup>27</sup>. The prolonged weakening of the AMOC  
158 maintains an anomalously strong SST gradient in the NA which drives a strong baroclinicity and an  
159 intense storm track.

160 The NP storm track intensity shows an opposite evolution to the NA storm track intensity,  
161 although the overall change is smaller (Fig. 4e). Its change is again closely related to the SST gradient  
162 change in the region. During RU, SST warms faster in the midlatitude than in the subtropics (Figs. 4a  
163 and Supplementary Fig. 7a), reducing the local SST gradient (blue in Fig. 4e). This latitudinally-  
164 varying SST change is partly attributable to ocean heat redistribution in the NP<sup>46</sup>. In response to the  
165 SST gradient change, the intensities of the NP storm track and jet weaken with time<sup>47</sup>. During RD, a  
166 faster SST cooling in the midlatitude than in the subtropics strengthens the local SST gradient (Fig.  
167 4c), leading to stronger storm track and jet intensities in the region (see Supplementary Discussion 1).

168 However, the NP storm track intensity change cannot be explained by the local SST gradient  
169 change alone. While the NP SST gradient is weaker during late RD than early RU, the NP storm track  
170 is stronger (compare early RU and late RD in Fig. 4e). Moreover, the NP SST gradient does not show  
171 a local maximum around the year 2260, when the storm track intensity reaches its maximum. These  
172 suggest that the NP storm track intensity is determined not only by the local SST gradient but also by  
173 other factors. One possible factor is the tropical Pacific SST. The tropical eastern Pacific SST warms  
174 and cools throughout RU and RD, respectively, with the cooling being weaker than the warming. The  
175 net result is the El Niño-like SST anomaly at the end of RD compared to the initial state (Fig. 4c).  
176 Given the fact that the NP storm track strengthens on the equatorward side of their climatological  
177 locations during El Niño condition<sup>1,48</sup>, a slow cooling of the tropical eastern Pacific SST (purple in Fig.  
178 4e) may be partly responsible for the strengthening and southeastward extension of the NP storm track  
179 during RD (see Supplementary Discussion 1 and Supplementary Fig. 8)<sup>1,47,48</sup>.

180 In the SH, the poleward intensifying jet and storm track during RU align with a stronger  
181 warming in the midlatitude than in the Southern Ocean<sup>49,50</sup>, although a declined Antarctic sea ice tends  
182 to weaken or shift the jet equatorward<sup>51,52</sup>. A rather slow SST change over the Southern Ocean is likely  
183 due to an equatorward energy redistribution from the increased highlatitude ocean heat uptakes<sup>53</sup>  
184 (purple in Fig. 4f), with the meridional overturning circulation change in the ocean and surface  
185 westerly change in the atmosphere<sup>54</sup>. During RD, the delayed cooling is projected to occur in the  
186 Southern Ocean (Fig. 4b), partly due to its large heat capacity<sup>24,55,56</sup>. The reduced SST gradient (blue  
187 in Fig. 4f), which is smaller than the one during RU, explains the weakened SH storm track (green)  
188 and jet intensities (brown) during late RD compared to early RU.

189

## 190 **Discussion**

191 Here, we investigate the reversibility or hysteresis of midlatitude storm tracks in response to  
192 CO<sub>2</sub> removal. By conducting large ensemble CO<sub>2</sub> removal experiments, we show that the projected  
193 storm track intensity changes may be asymmetric in response to a symmetric CO<sub>2</sub> increase-and-  
194 decrease pathway with a noticeable hemispherical asymmetry and basin dependency. The NA storm  
195 track changes do not reverse for several decades after CO<sub>2</sub> levels begin to decline. Distinct from the  
196 NA, the NP and SH storm tracks show an immediate and rapid recovery during CO<sub>2</sub> removal period,  
197 although the final state at the end of CO<sub>2</sub> removal is different from the initial state in both cases. Such  
198 changes are closely related to ocean hysteresis such as the weakened AMOC, the slow cooling of  
199 equatorial eastern Pacific SST, and the delayed cooling of the Southern Ocean during CO<sub>2</sub> removal  
200 period. The larger internal variability of the NH storm track intensity during late CO<sub>2</sub> removal period  
201 than during CO<sub>2</sub> increase period is also closely related with the uncertainty in ocean response to CO<sub>2</sub>  
202 removal, especially the AMOC (Supplementary Fig. 9). Although the ocean response to CO<sub>2</sub> removal

203 may have a model dependency, the multi-model mean response from CDRMIP shows similar results,  
204 supporting the present study (Supplementary Discussion 2 and Supplementary Figs. 10-12).

205 The hysteresis response of midlatitude storm tracks to CO<sub>2</sub> removal is summarized in Fig. 5.  
206 Both the NA and NP storm track intensity changes take anticlockwise trajectories with CO<sub>2</sub>  
207 concentration changes indicating stronger storm tracks in ramp-up than in ramp-down at identical CO<sub>2</sub>  
208 concentrations (Figs. 5a,b), although their trends in a warming period are opposite. In contrast, the SH  
209 storm track intensity change follows a clockwise trajectory, with a weaker intensity at the end of CO<sub>2</sub>  
210 removal. Such hemispheric difference is also found in the reversibility. While both the NA and NP  
211 storm track intensities eventually return to the present-day state during the stabilization period, the SH  
212 storm track intensity is not fully reversed at the end of the stabilization period. This suggests that the  
213 SH storm track takes much longer time than the NH storm track to return to the present-day state.

214 This result indicates that future projections of day-to-day weather variability cannot be scaled  
215 by the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration or global-mean surface air temperature changes. The changes  
216 in midlatitude weather systems have often been linearly related with the global-mean surface air  
217 temperature changes<sup>57</sup>, especially when assessing climate risks<sup>58</sup>. However, a linear relationship in  
218 present and warm climate may not hold when global-mean surface temperature decreases through  
219 climate intervention<sup>59</sup> (Fig. 1a; see also Supplementary Fig. 13).

220 Although the projected storm track changes are relatively modest in time-varying CO<sub>2</sub>  
221 pathways when compared to the climatological states, their surface impacts are significant enough to  
222 warrant attention<sup>60,61</sup>. For instance, cyclone-related surface wind extremes become more frequent in  
223 southern North America and Europe during late CO<sub>2</sub> removal period compared to early CO<sub>2</sub> increasing  
224 period, but less frequent over North America (Supplementary Fig. 14), which align with storm track  
225 changes. In the SH, cyclone-related surface wind extremes are projected to decrease by ~40% during  
226 late CO<sub>2</sub> removal period compared to early CO<sub>2</sub> increasing period. This suggests that basin-dependent

227 and hemispherically-asymmetric storm track changes in response to CO<sub>2</sub> removal may have significant  
228 impacts on extreme weather. Lastly, our finding shows that substantial time is required to reach an  
229 equilibrium state after CO<sub>2</sub> removal. It implies that climate policy and monitoring efforts concerning  
230 climate intervention should necessarily be long-term in nature.

231

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243

244 **Author Contributions Statement**

245 J. Hwang conducted analysis, illustrated the figures, and wrote the manuscript. S.-W. Son  
246 conceptualized the overall research idea and wrote the manuscript. C. Garfinkel and T. Woollings  
247 improved the interpretation of the results and wrote the manuscript. H. Yoon assisted in the  
248 computation of Lagrangian storm tracks. All of the authors discussed the results and reviewed the  
249 manuscript.

250

251 **Competing Interests Statement**

252 The authors declare no competing interests.

253 **Figure Legends / Captions**

254 **Fig. 1 | Global surface air temperature and hemispheric storm track changes during CO<sub>2</sub>**  
255 **pathway. a,** Time series of the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (black) and annual mean global surface air  
256 temperature anomaly with respect to PD (orange). The solid line and shading indicate ensemble mean  
257 of the temperature and a standard deviation of its spread, respectively. **b-e,** Time series of the  
258 differences of latitudinal storm track position (**b,d**) and intensity (**c,e**), where the maximum of the  
259 zonal-mean storm track activity is observed in Northern Hemisphere (**b,c**) and Southern Hemisphere  
260 (**d,e**), during ramp-up (RU), ramp-down (RD), and stabilization (ST) simulations. The storm track is  
261 represented by the vertically averaged 2-8 day bandpass filtered EKE. The solid line denotes time-  
262 mean and ensemble-mean storm track characteristics in present day (blue; PD) and in the experiments  
263 (red), respectively. Shadings display the interdecadal variability in the PD period (light blue) and a  
264 standard deviation of the experiment ensemble spread (light red), respectively. The surface temperature  
265 is 11-year running averaged.

266  
267 **Fig. 2 | Spatial distribution of storm track changes during CO<sub>2</sub> pathway.** Hovmöller diagrams of  
268 ensemble-averaged annual-mean storm track intensity change in the Northern Hemisphere (**a**) and  
269 Southern Hemisphere (**b**), and its spatio-temporal change during CO<sub>2</sub> increasing (**c**) and decreasing  
270 period (**d**), and its hysteresis response (**e**). In panels **a,b**, the intensity is averaged within 3-grid points  
271 in latitude surrounding the maximum zonal-mean storm track activity in the model. Shades denoted  
272 the differences compared to PD simulation. In panels **c-e**, the CO<sub>2</sub> increasing period is defined by the  
273 difference between early RU (2001-2040) and CO<sub>2</sub> peak (2121-2160) periods. The decreasing period  
274 is defined as the difference between CO<sub>2</sub> peak (2121-2160) and late RD (2241-2280) periods. The  
275 shading in **e** depicts the difference of storm track intensity between the periods of late RD and early  
276 RU. The values which are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level (two-tailed t-test) are  
277 dotted. Three regions showing large EKE hysteresis have been framed with black boxes in **e** (North

278 Atlantic: 40°W-40°E, 40°-60°N; North Pacific: 150°-230°E, 30°-50°N, Southern Hemisphere: 30°-60°S).  
279 As a reference, the climatology of the storm track (contour; 10 m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-2</sup> interval) in the PD simulation is  
280 superimposed.

281

282 **Fig. 3 | Hysteresis response of cyclone track density.** Hysteresis response of ensemble-averaged  
283 annual-mean cyclone track density (tracks/month) of total (**a**) and intense cyclones (**b**). Black contours  
284 indicate the climatological cyclone track density of total (2 tracks/month; **a**) and intense cyclones (0.5  
285 tracks/month; **b**) in the PD simulation. Dotted regions indicate statistically significant differences at  
286 the 95% confidence level (two-tailed t-test). The low-latitude regions (less than 20 degree) are masked.

287

288 **Fig. 4 | Spatial distribution of SST and regional storm track changes during CO<sub>2</sub> pathway. a-c,**  
289 Projected change of ensemble-averaged annual-mean sea surface temperature (SST; K) during CO<sub>2</sub>  
290 increasing (**a**) and decreasing period (**b**), and its hysteresis response (**c**) as in Figs. 2c-e. The values  
291 which are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level (two-tailed t-test) are dotted. **d-f**, The  
292 time series of storm track intensity (m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-2</sup>; green lines; boxed regions in Fig. 2e), SSTy (K; blue lines;  
293 boxed regions in **c**), and U500 (m s<sup>-1</sup>; brown lines; boxed regions in Supplementary Fig. 6) over North  
294 Atlantic (**d**), North Pacific (**e**), and Southern Hemisphere (**f**). The SSTy is defined as high-latitude  
295 minus and low-latitude SST differences (North Atlantic: 60°W-0°, 35°-65°N; North Pacific: 150°-230°E,  
296 20°-50°N; and Southern Hemisphere: 30°-60°S). The negative SSTy indicates the enhanced SST  
297 gradient in the region. The purple lines in **d-f** show the strength of AMOC (Sv), SST changes over the  
298 Niño3.4 region (170°-120°W, 5°N-5°S) in winter, and upward (into atmosphere) surface turbulent heat  
299 flux (THF; W m<sup>-2</sup>) around Southern Ocean (50°-70°S), respectively. Dark and light colors in **d-f** denote  
300 the ensemble mean and a standard deviation of ensemble spreads, respectively. The strength of AMOC  
301 is obtained by averaging the annual-mean Atlantic meridional ocean stream function from 35°N to

302 45°N at 1000 m depth, where the climatological maximum strength is found in the PD simulation. The  
303 time series are smoothed by the 11-year running mean.

304

305 **Fig. 5 | Regional storm track changes as a function of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.** Changes of EKEs (m<sup>2</sup>  
306 s<sup>-2</sup>; boxed regions in Fig. 2e) in North Atlantic (**a**), North Pacific (**b**), and Southern Hemisphere (**c**) as  
307 a function of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. The ramp-up (RU; violet), ramp-down (RD; green), and stabilization  
308 (ST; yellow) periods are denoted with different colors. Individual ensembles and their mean are  
309 denoted in light and dark dots, respectively.

310

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457

## 458 **Methods**

### 459 **Model & experimental design**

460 To assess storm track response to a changing CO<sub>2</sub> pathway, an idealized ramp-up and -down  
461 experiment is conducted with Community Earth System Model (CESM)<sup>62</sup> version 1.2.2. This model  
462 is integrated with a horizontal resolution of 0.9° by 1.25° in the atmosphere and of 1° by 0.5° in the  
463 ocean (i.e., f09\_g16 resolution). A total of 30 and 60 vertical levels are set for the atmosphere and  
464 ocean, respectively. The model output is archived at a spatial resolution of 2.5 ° by 2.5 ° except when  
465 calculating the latitudinal change of the storm track when the native model resolution is used instead.  
466 To test the robustness of the result, eight models of CMIP6 CDRMIP experiments are analyzed<sup>18</sup>. In  
467 addition, 20 models of CMIP6 historical and the shared socioeconomic pathways 585 scenarios, as  
468 well as 13 models of CMIP6 piControl and 1pctCO2 simulations are further examined<sup>19</sup>.

469 The model experiment is composed of the following three stages: 1) ramp-up, 2) ramp-down,  
470 and 3) stabilization (Fig. 1a). As a reference, the present-day (PD) simulation is also conducted for 900  
471 years, with CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations fixed to the values of the year 2000 (367 ppm). A total of 28 ensemble  
472 simulations are conducted with varying initial conditions. Each initial condition is chosen by  
473 considering interdecadal variability of SST. The 12 initial conditions are selected from six positive and  
474 six negative phases of Atlantic Multi-Decadal Variability<sup>63</sup> in the PD simulation. Similarly, 16  
475 ensembles are chosen from eight positive and eight negative phases of Pacific Decadal Oscillation<sup>64</sup>.  
476 Starting from each initial condition, CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are increased at the rate of 1% per year for  
477 140 years until quadrupled (2001-2140: RU). They are then decreased at a same rate for 140 years  
478 (2141-2280: RD), similar to CDRMIP protocol. The CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are then maintained at the PD  
479 level for an additional 120 years in the stabilization period (2281-2400). In this study, consecutive 300  
480 years of the PD simulation, within which 28 initial states are selected, are utilized for the analysis.

481

482

### 483 **Storm track**

484           The storm track is defined by vertically-averaged eddy kinetic energy (EKE) with mass  
485 weighting<sup>9,33,65,66</sup>. The variables at three pressure levels (i.e., 200, 500, and 850 hPa) are utilized due  
486 to data availability. The three pressure levels are utilized to represent the three layers of 1000-675 hPa,  
487 675-350 hPa, and 350-0 hPa. To isolate synoptic variability, a 2-8 day bandpass-filter is first applied  
488 to zonal and meridional winds. The three storm regions, centered on maximum hysteresis response  
489 regions (Fig. 2e), are specified for the regional analysis. They are the North Atlantic (NA; 40°W-80°E,  
490 40°-60°N), North Pacific (NP; 150°-230°E, 30°-50°N), and Southern Hemisphere (SH; 35°-60°S)  
491 regions. Although not shown, the overall results are not very sensitive to small shifts in the latitude of  
492 analysis domains. Other storm track definitions, such as the variance of 24-hour filtered meridional  
493 wind at 200 hPa<sup>8</sup> and the standard deviation of bandpass filtered geopotential height at 500 hPa<sup>67</sup>, are  
494 also utilized to test the robustness of the results (Supplementary Fig. 3).

495

### 496 **Lagrangian cyclone tracking**

497           Individual cyclones are tracked by using 6-hourly relative vorticity at 850 hPa<sup>68</sup>. Specifically,  
498 extratropical cyclones are defined when the T42-filtered 850-hPa relative vorticity satisfies cyclone  
499 criteria, such as amplitude  $\geq 1$  CVU (cyclonic vorticity unit,  $10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$  in the NH;  $-10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$  in the SH),  
500 lifetime  $\geq 48$  hours, travel distance  $\geq 1000$  km, and genesis at latitudes 20 degrees poleward in each  
501 hemisphere<sup>32</sup>. Cyclone density statistics are then calculated by considering an effective radius of 555  
502 km<sup>69</sup>. The intense cyclones are also separately defined as those with a maximum vorticity exceeding  
503 the 90th percentile in each hemisphere for each month from the PD simulation<sup>11</sup>.

504

505 **Mean available potential energy.**

506 The mean available potential energy<sup>65,66,70</sup> in midlatitudes is calculated as below:

507 
$$MAPE = \frac{c_p}{2g} \int_{1000 \text{ hPa}}^{200 \text{ hPa}} \Gamma (\bar{T}^2 - \tilde{T}^2) dp \quad (1)$$

508 where,  $\Gamma$  represents an inverse static stability  $(\frac{-\kappa\theta}{pT} (\frac{\partial\tilde{\theta}}{\partial p}))^{-1}$ . Overbar and tilde denote zonal-average  
509 and area-weighted average in midlatitudes (30°-60°), respectively.

510

511 **Surface wind extreme**

512 Surface wind extreme is defined as a daily mean wind speed exceeding 98th percentile<sup>71,72</sup> for  
513 each month from the PD simulation. The cyclone-related surface wind extreme is then defined as a  
514 day when the cyclone passes over land<sup>72</sup>. Although a daily maximum wind speed or 6-hourly wind  
515 speed is more commonly used to define wind extreme<sup>71,72</sup>, a daily mean wind speed is utilized in this  
516 study<sup>73</sup> due to data availability.

517

518 **Data availability**

519 The Data used in this study are available at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.25239559> (ref. 74),  
520 and the CMIP6 archives are freely available from <https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/projects/cmip6>.

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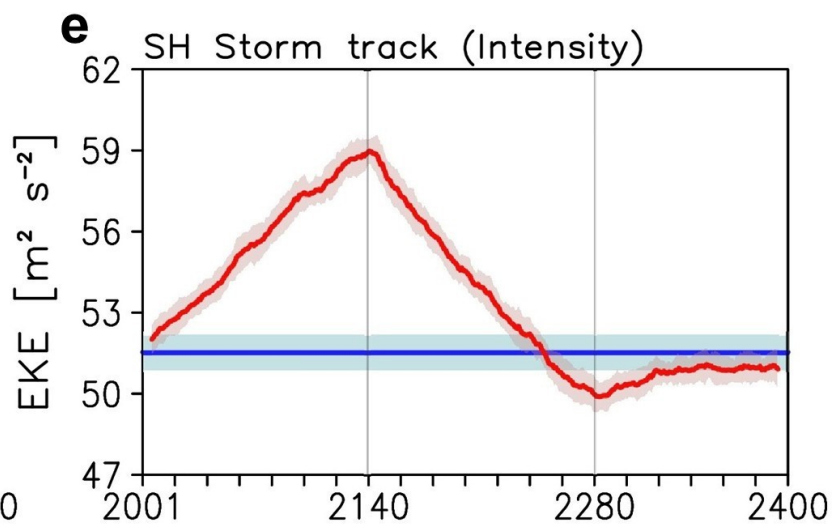
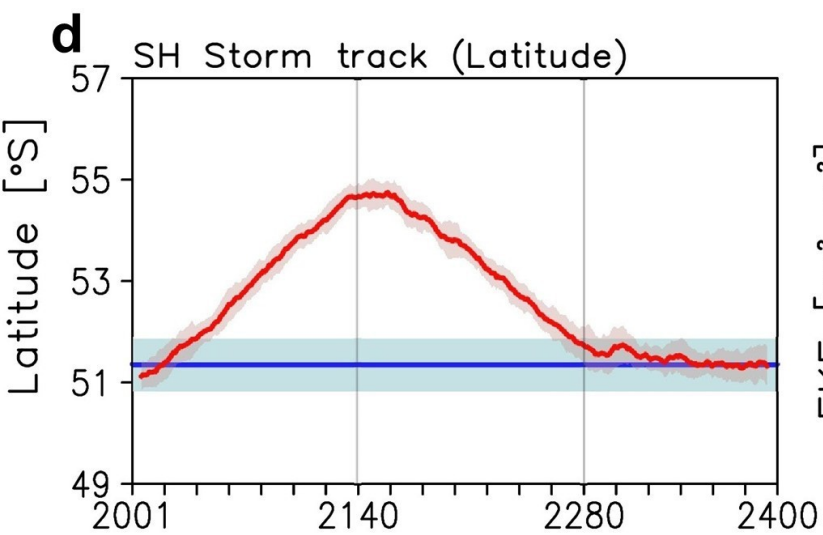
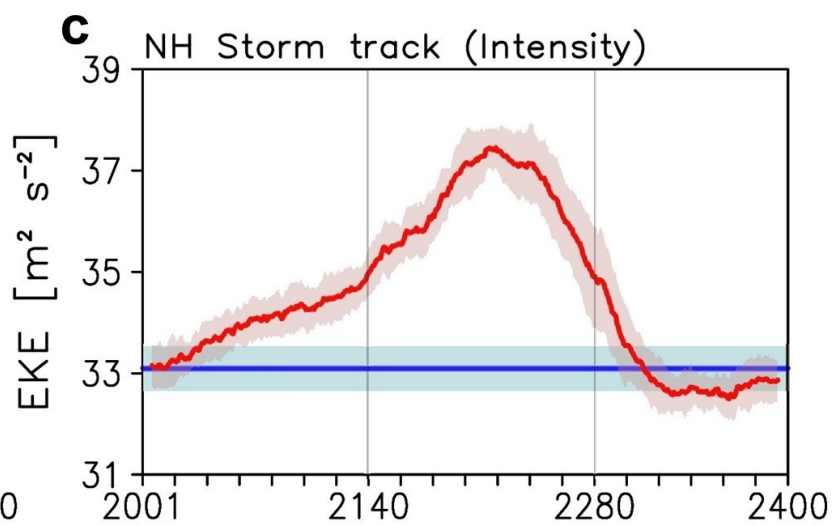
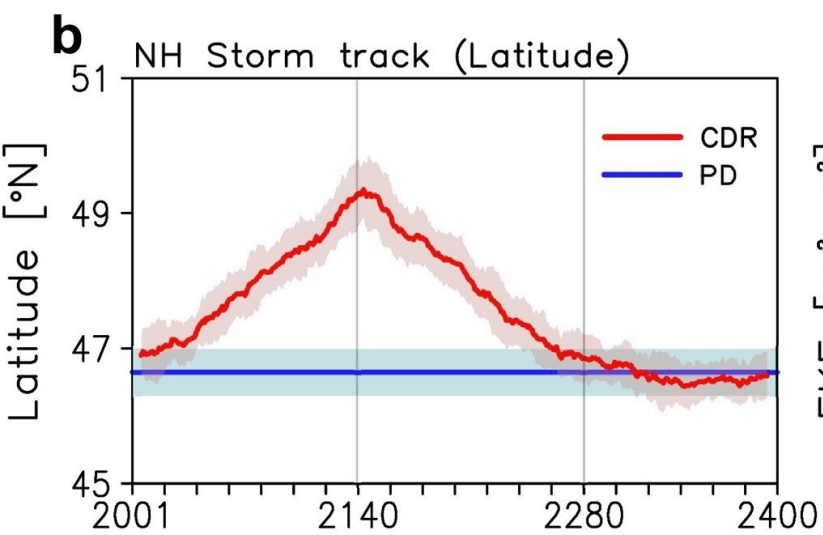
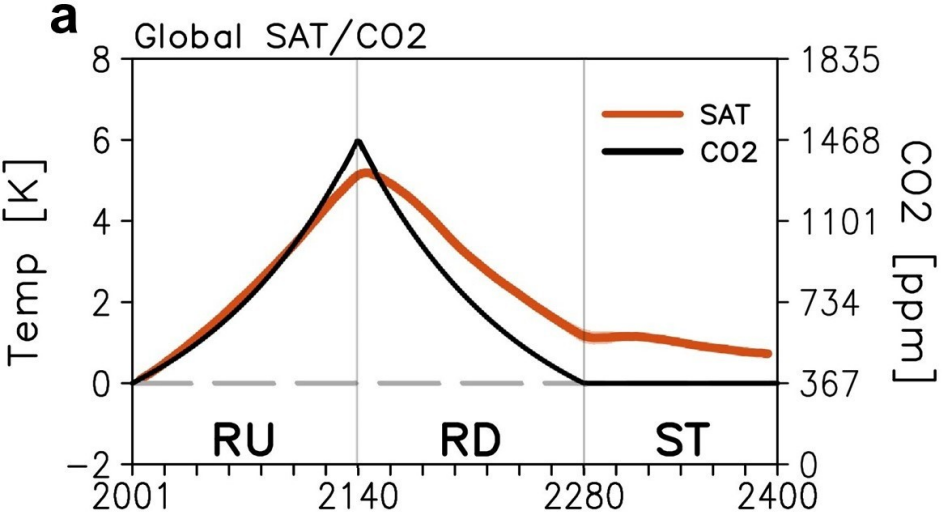
522 **Code availability**

523 The analysis were carried out using the function in NCAR Command Language v.6.2.1 and Python  
524 packages (scikit-learn 0.23.2). To carry out the interpolation of the model grid data, we utilized climate  
525 data operators available at <https://code.mpimet.mpg.de/projects/cdo>. All figures are generated using

526 the Grid Analysis and Display System (GrADS) v.2.2.1 (<http://cola.gmu.edu/grads>), and the codes are  
527 available at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.25239559> (ref. 74).

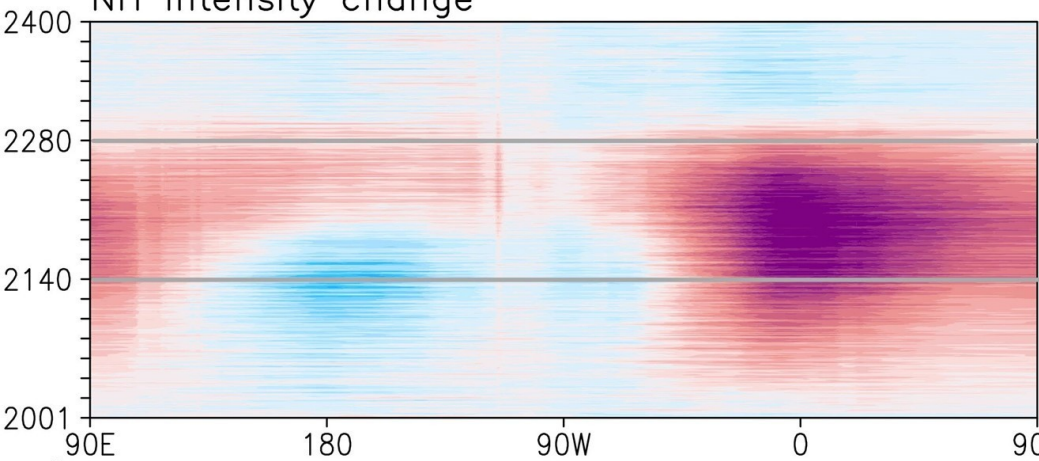
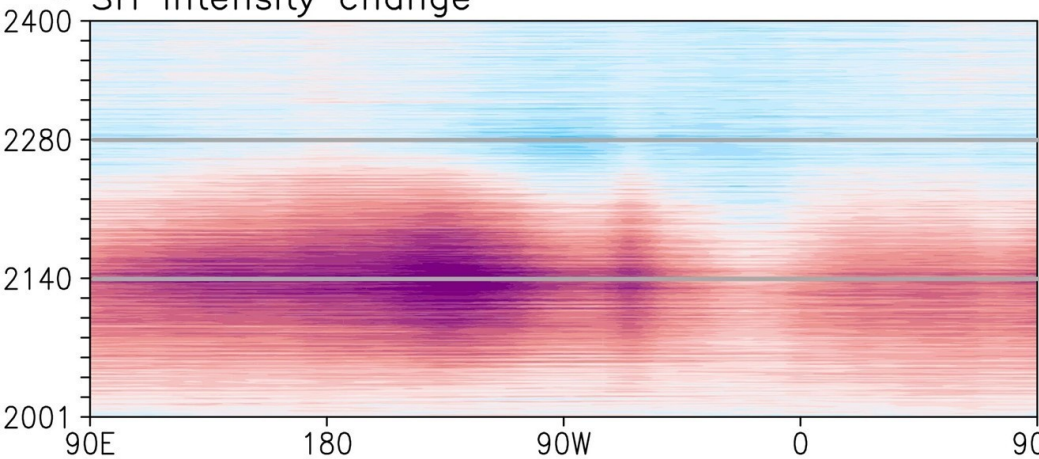
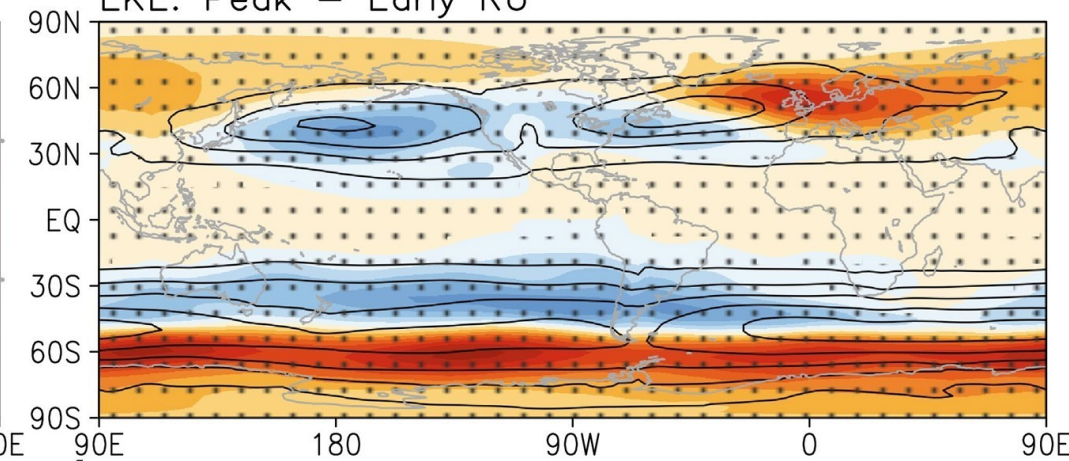
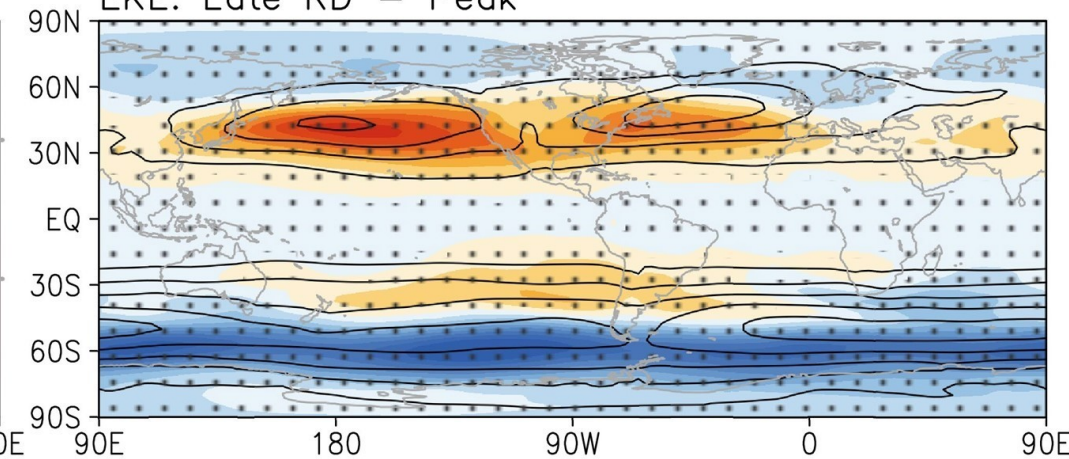
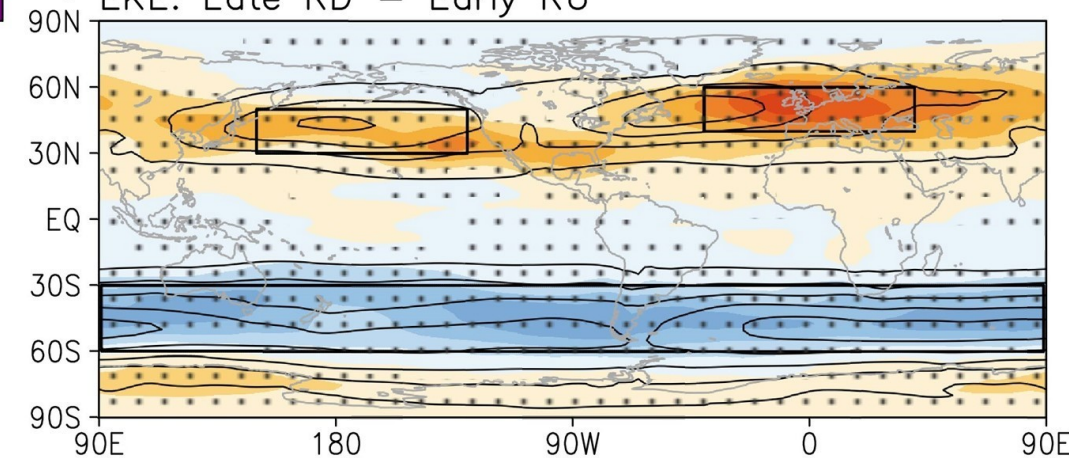
528 **Methods-only references**

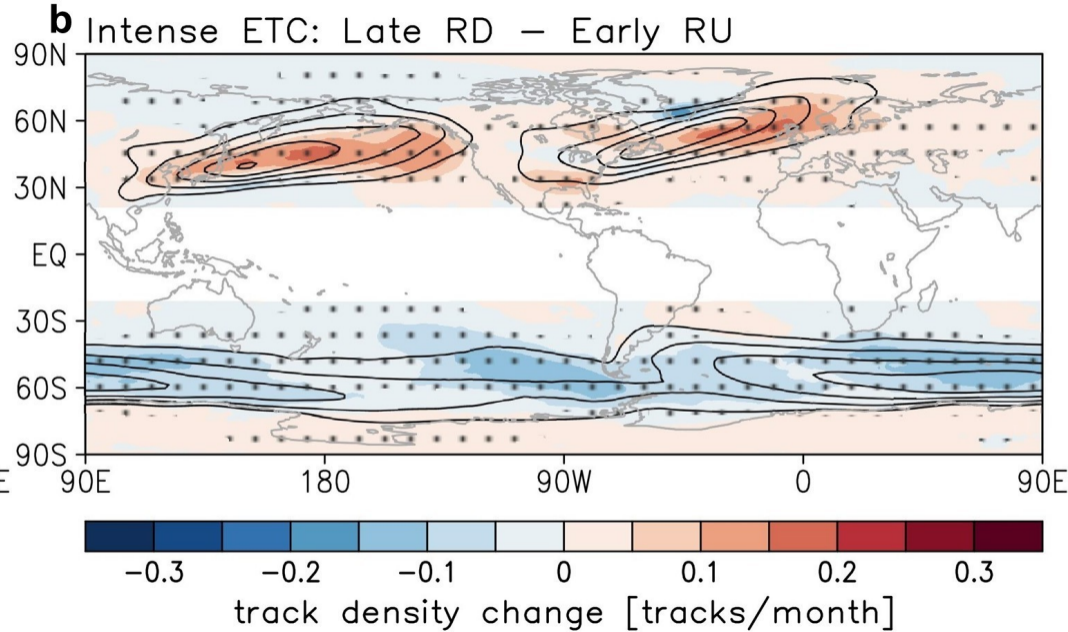
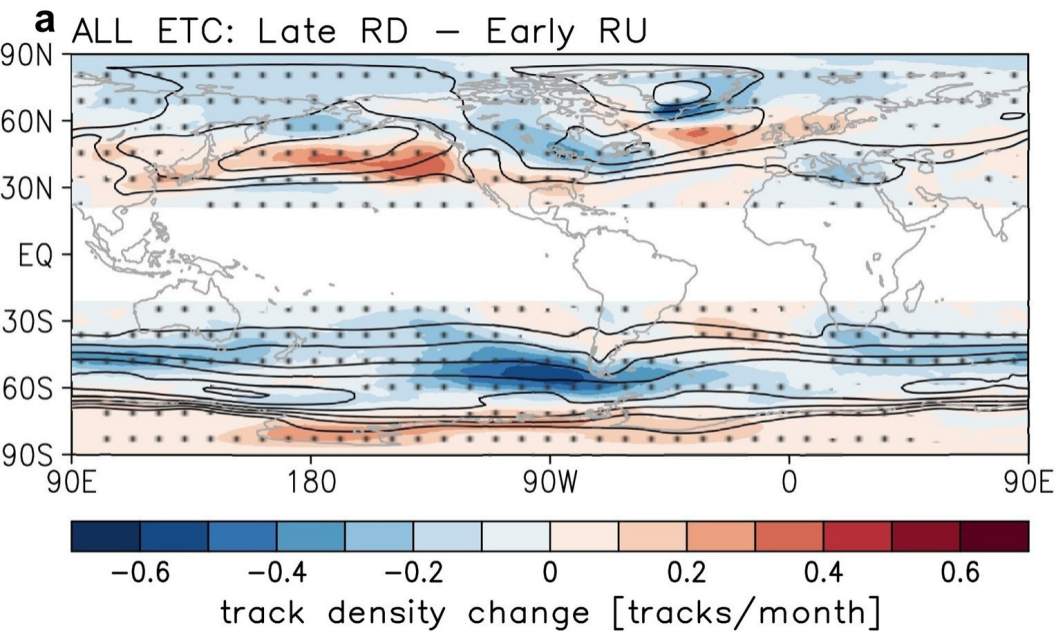
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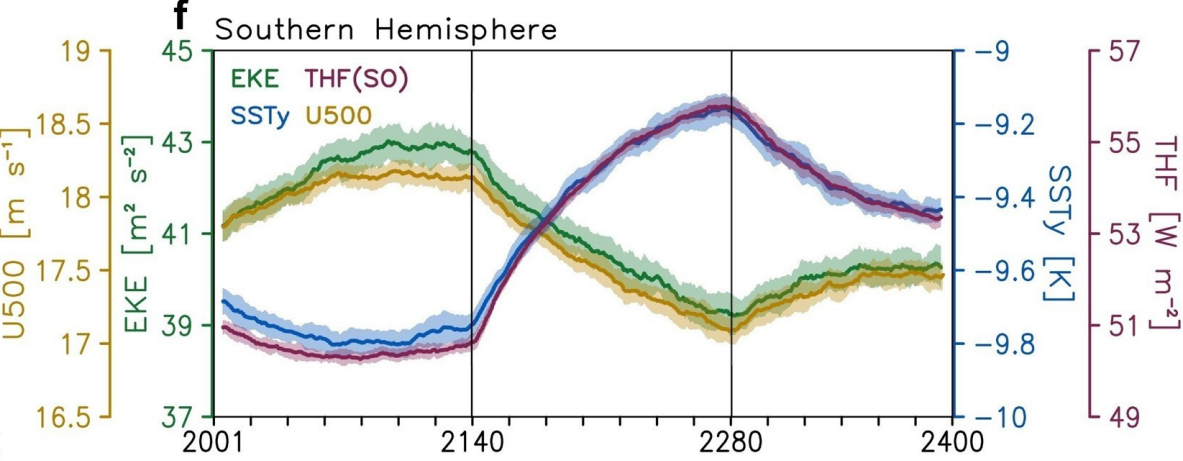
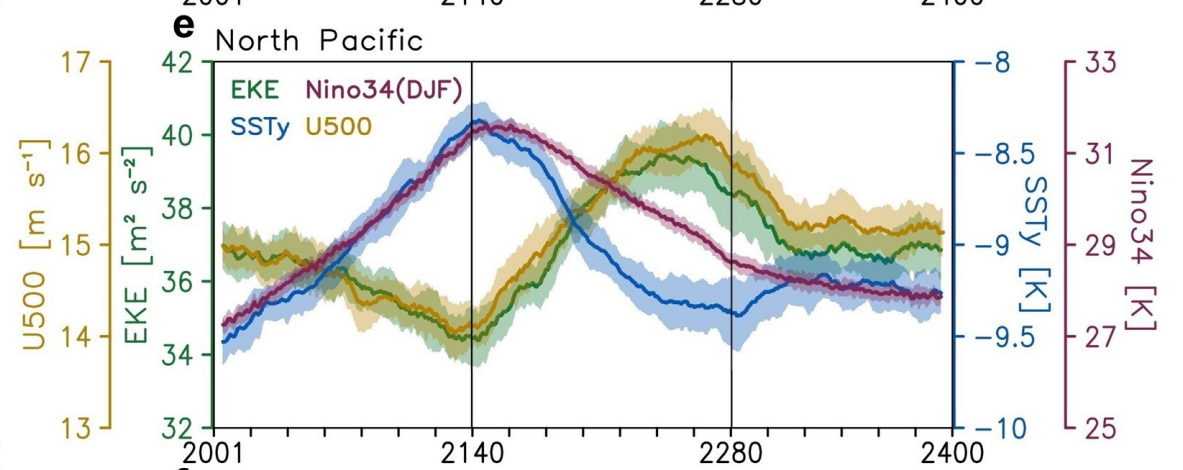
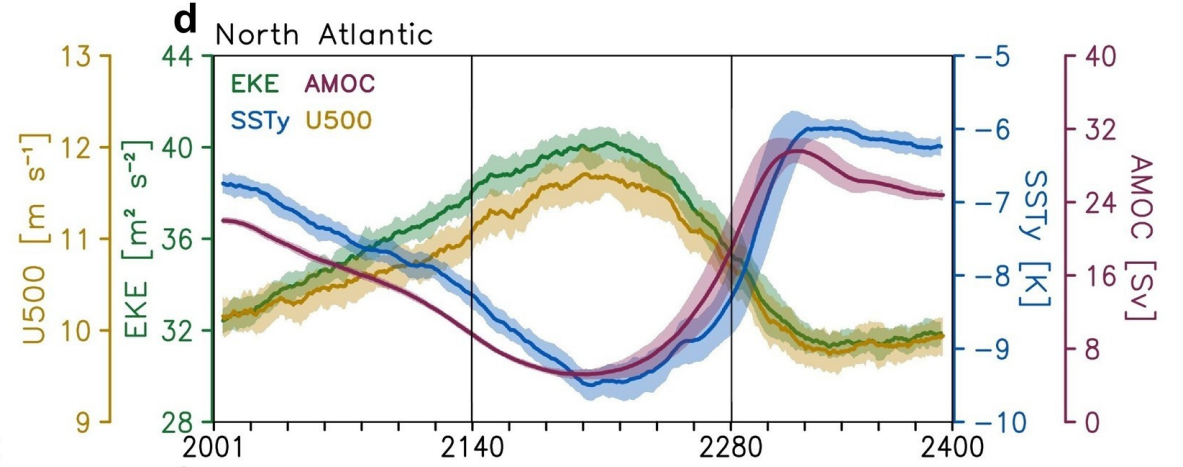
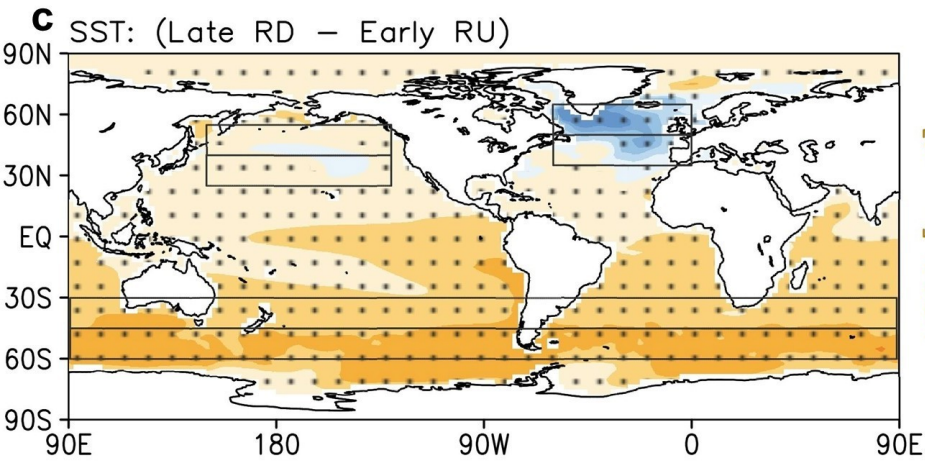
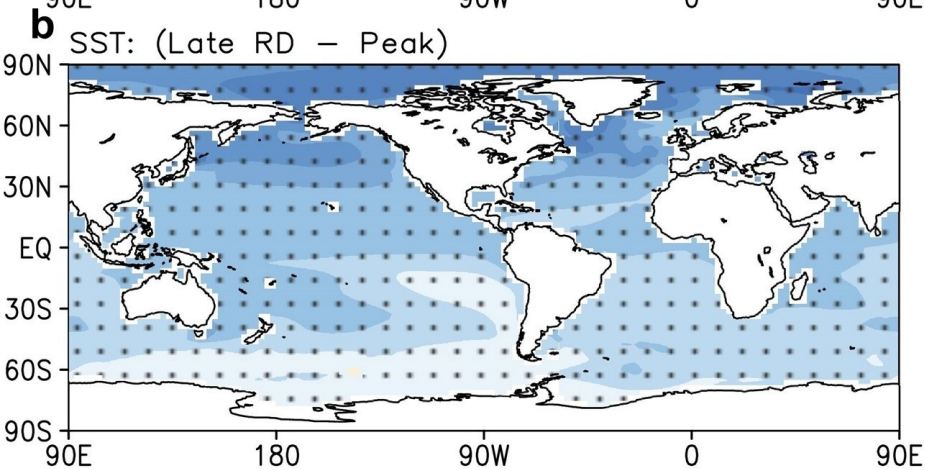
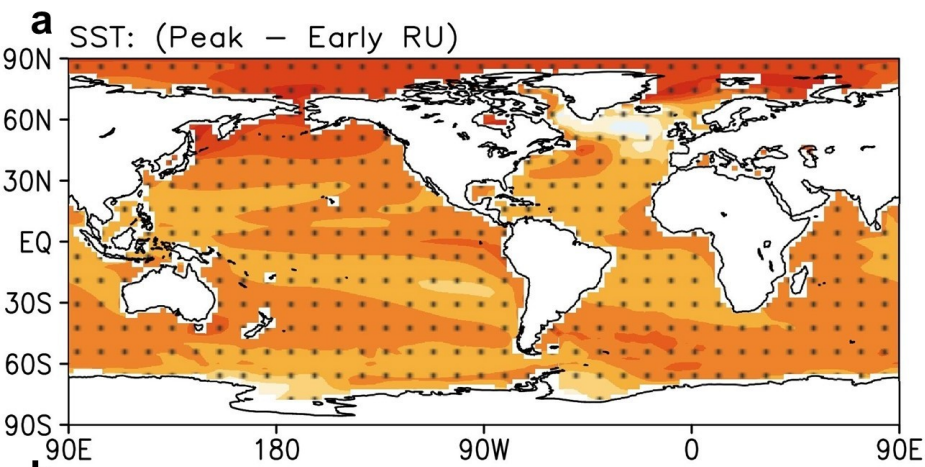


Time [year]

Time [year]

**a** NH Intensity change**b** SH Intensity change**c** EKE: Peak - Early RU**d** EKE: Late RD - Peak**e** EKE: Late RD - Early RU





Time [year]

