

1 Changes in global teleconnection patterns under global warming and stratospheric aerosol
2 intervention scenarios

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15
16 **Abstract**

17 We investigate the potential impact of Stratospheric Aerosol Intervention (SAI) on the
18 spatiotemporal behavior of large-scale climate teleconnection patterns represented by the North
19 Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO)
20 and Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) indices using simulations from the Community Earth
21 System Models (CESM1 and CESM2). The leading Empirical Orthogonal Function of sea surface
22 temperature (SST) anomalies indicates that greenhouse gas (GHG) forcing is accompanied by
23 increases in variance across both the North Atlantic (i.e., AMO) and North Pacific (i.e., PDO) and a
24 decrease over the tropical Pacific (i.e., ENSO); however, SAI effectively reverses these global
25 warming-imposed changes. The projected spatial patterns of SST anomaly related to ENSO show no
26 significant change under either global warming or SAI. In contrast, the spatial anomaly patterns
27 pertaining to AMO (i.e., in the North Atlantic) and PDO (i.e., in the North Pacific) changes under global
28 warming are effectively suppressed by SAI. For AMO, the low contrast between the cold-tongue
29 pattern and its surroundings in the North Atlantic, predicted under global warming, is restored under
30 SAI scenarios to similar patterns as in the historical period. The frequencies of El Niño and La Niña
31 episodes modestly increase with GHG emissions in CESM2, while SAI tends to compensate for them.
32 All climate indices' dominant modes of inter-annual variability are projected to be preserved in both
33 warming and SAI scenarios. However, the dominant decadal and interdecadal variability mode

34 changes induced by global warming are exacerbated by SAI, particularly in the Atlantic-based AMO.
35 Nonetheless, these findings are limited by the data available, especially for multi-decadal signals,
36 with less than 100-year long simulations available for SAI.

37 **Keywords:** Ocean-atmosphere teleconnection patterns; GLENS; SSP5-85; Stratospheric Aerosol
38 Intervention; Global warming

39

40 **500-character non-technical text**

41 Teleconnection patterns are important characteristics of the climate system, well-known examples
42 include the El Niño and La Niña events driven from the tropical Pacific. We examined how patterns
43 that arise in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans behave under stratospheric aerosol geoengineering and
44 greenhouse gas (GHG)-induced warming. In general, geoengineering reverses trends, however in the
45 Atlantic, the multidecadal oscillation that is shifted to higher frequencies by GHG is further
46 strengthened.

47

48 **1. Introduction**

49 Although the Paris agreement and accompanying international commitments to decrease carbon
50 emissions are an essential step forward, current nationally contributions have only about a 50%
51 chance to restrict global mean temperature increase to 2°C above preindustrial (Meinshausen et al.,
52 2022). Exceeding 2°C will lead to severe consequences and societal disruption worldwide as
53 humanity is critically dependent on ecosystems, food, fresh water, and health systems which face
54 rapidly challenging adaptation pressure above 2°C of global warming (Field and Barros, 2014).

55 In parallel with emissions reductions, solar radiation modification (SRM) has been suggested to limit
56 global temperature increases and consequent climate impacts from anthropogenic greenhouse gas
57 (GHG) emissions. A naturally occurring analog of SRM is the well-known global surface cooling
58 following large volcanic eruptions, albeit over relatively short periods. Simulations have shown that
59 SRM decreasing total solar irradiance by about 2%, would roughly compensate for global warming
60 from a doubling of CO₂ concentrations (Dagon and Schrag, 2016).

61 Oceans act as major drivers of climate variability worldwide (e.g., Shukla, 1998; Cai et al., 2021), and
62 more than 90% of the excess energy balance of the earth arising from GHG emissions ends up heating
63 the ocean (Cheng et al., 2015). Variations in sea surface temperatures (SSTs) and the global climate
64 are linked through ocean-atmosphere energy exchanges that can be helpfully summarized by climate
65 indices that characterize large-scale climate teleconnection patterns. That is recurring and
66 persistent, large-scale anomaly patterns of pressure and circulation across large geographical

67 regions. Some of the most referred to are El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO), Pacific Decadal
68 Oscillation (PDO), Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO), and North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). The
69 dominant inter-annual feature of climate variability on the planet is ENSO, and its state produces
70 widespread climatic and environmental outcomes (Latif and Keenlyside, 2009). The PDO modulates
71 marine ecosystems and global climate on decadal time scales (Mantua et al., 1997), impacts ENSO
72 onset and frequency (Fang et al., 2014), and is useful for short- to long-term climate forecast (An and
73 Wang, 1999). The AMO has broader hemispheric impacts beyond North American and European
74 climates (Enfield et al. 2001), influencing the monsoons across North African, East Asia, and India
75 (Zhang and Delworth 2006). The NAO is among the dominant climate variability modes in the
76 northern hemisphere (Simpkins, 2021).

77 Several studies have explored how climate indices, particularly ENSO, respond to global warming
78 and increasing GHG concentrations. Statistically significant systemic changes have occurred in ENSO
79 dynamics and the evolution of El Niño and La Niña events since the 1960s (Moron et al., 1998;
80 Capotondi and Sardeshmukh, 2017). ENSO may favor more severe events under global warming
81 (Fedorov and Philander, 2001), and Cai et al. (2015) found that ENSO-associated disastrous weather
82 consequences tend to arise more frequently under unabated CO₂ emissions. Cai et al. (2021) found
83 an inter-model consensus on increases in forthcoming ENSO rainfall and temperature fluctuations
84 under increasing GHG concentrations. The PDO, which is essentially the extra-tropical manifestation
85 of ENSO, is simulated with a similar spatial pattern as at present under various future climates but
86 with reduced amplitude and a shorter characteristic time scale (e.g., Zhang and Delworth, 2016). The
87 North Atlantic is a key ocean for investigating global climate changes (Wang and Dong, 2010), and
88 acts as a major carbon dioxide sink (Watson et al., 2009). Atmospheric CO₂ concentrations vary with
89 the phase of the AMO with the warm phase associated with lowered atmospheric CO₂ (Wang and
90 Dong, 2010). The two NAO action points in the Icelandic low and the Azores high have been projected
91 to significantly intensify and shift northeastward by 10-to-20° in latitude and 30-to-40° in longitude
92 in response to global warming (Hu and Wu, 2004).

93 Stratospheric Aerosol Intervention (SAI), is a type of SRM that has been widely simulated by many
94 global climate models (e.g., Kravitz et al., 2013), which is accompanied by changing in global
95 circulations such as the NAO teleconnection pattern (Moore et al., 2014), and is known in various
96 models to partially offset the decline in the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC; Xie
97 et al., 2022). Undorf et al. (2018) simulated the North Atlantic SST cooling accompanied by the
98 historical rise of stratospheric sulfate aerosol from North America and Europe dating back to 1850-
99 1975. Gabriel and Robock (2015) is the only study to date that explores the effects of SAI in multiple

100 models on the possible amplitude and frequency changes of El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
101 They concluded that changes in ENSO in the SAI simulations were either not present or not large
102 enough to be captured by their approach, given the across-model variability issue. Thus, little is
103 known about possible changes that future global climate change scenarios with artificial cooling may
104 have on ocean-atmosphere climate indices. Recently, a novel set of SRM models have been globally
105 complete with the state-of-the-art climate models: Community Earth System Model versions 1 and
106 2 (CESM1 and CESM2). These models have improved planetary boundary layer turbulence, aerosols,
107 radiation, and cloud microphysics which should enable more reliable for the forthcoming global
108 climate change projections (Mills et al., 2017).

109 We use the Geoengineering Large Ensemble Simulation (GLENS) with 20 members from a single
110 model, the Community Earth System Model 1 (CESM1) with Stratospheric Aerosol Intervention
111 (GLENS-SAI), to explore the possible changes in climate teleconnection patterns under future climate
112 change scenarios. The models use the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 high GHG
113 emissions forcing state (Riahi et al., 2011) as a baseline and increase stratospheric sulfur injections
114 through the century, to maintain global surface temperatures at 2020 levels. This produces an
115 increasingly large signal-to-noise ratio through the 21st century. In addition, we use recent
116 simulations (SSP5-8.5-SAI) with an updated model version (CESM2). For these simulations, the SSP5-
117 8.5 GHG emissions scenarios were used as the GHG baseline on which SAI was performed. The two
118 different model experiments show some surprising differences in the required sulfur injections and
119 climate outcomes with and without SAI applications (Fasullo et al., 2020, Tilmes et al., 2020). Thus,
120 even models from different generations in the same family can produce sufficiently different climates
121 to explore a range of plausibly real climate impacts. The goal of this study is to identify robust features
122 across the two model versions in the response of climate indices (ENSO, PDO, AMO and NAO) to GHG
123 induced global warming and its compensation by SAI.

124 We employed empirical orthogonal functions and wavelet transforms to decompose time series and
125 study the differences in the climate teleconnection patterns between the SSP5-8.5 and SSP5-8.5-SAI
126 scenarios. Since teleconnection patterns are emergent features of the non-linear, chaotic climate
127 system (Ghil et al., 2002), their underlying physical causes are complex and not necessarily the same
128 in any model as on the real planet. Hence, we assess the potential changes in temporal and spatial
129 characteristics of climate indices of AMO, NAO, ENSO, and PDO under both extreme warming GHG
130 scenarios and with SAI employed to mitigate those warmings while maintaining extreme GHG
131 concentration trajectories.

132

133 **2. Data and Methods**

134 **2.1. Models and scenarios**

135 We used two SAI models and scenarios: (1) CESM1 for GLENS-SAI and (2) CESM2 for SSP5-8.5-SAI.
136 The GLENS simulations were done by the Community Earth System Model version 1 (CESM1) with
137 the Whole Atmosphere Community Climate Model (WACCM) as the atmospheric system integrated
138 to land, ocean, and sea ice models (Mills et al., 2017). The resolution of atmospheric component is
139 1.25° in longitude and 0.9° in latitude. A 20-member reference simulation for the RCP8.5 scenario
140 (Riahi et al., 2011) over the 2010–2030 period with three ensemble members (001 to 003)
141 continuing up to the end of the 21st century. GLENS-SAI is a 20-member ensemble of stratospheric
142 sulfur dioxide (SO_2) injection simulations, spanning 2020-2099. Each ensemble member was begun
143 in 2010 with small differences in their initial air temperatures, while their ocean, sea-ice, and land
144 temperatures were the same. Even before the start of the SAI injections in 2020, the fully coupled
145 model produced variability between the ensemble members due to its chaotic nature. Here, we use
146 all available members of the RCP8.5 and GLENS-SAI simulations, which extend until the end of the
147 21st century. For the analysis, we used monthly SST and sea-level pressure (PSL).

148 We also analyzed output from the NCAR Community Earth System Model version 2- Whole
149 Atmosphere Community Climate Model Version 6 (CESM2(WACCM6)). This model version was used
150 for performing the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6; Eyring et al., 2016)
151 simulations. Like GLENS, this SAI experiment is according to the high GHG emissions scenario, called
152 SSP5-85 in CMIP6, (SSP5-8.5-SAI) and limits mean global temperatures to 1.5°C above 1850–1900
153 conditions, which without SAI, is exceeded around the year 2020 in CESM2(WACCM6) under SSP5-
154 8.5. The experiment used sulfur injection locations at the same four latitudes as in GLENS to
155 accomplish the same three temperature goals (Tilmes et al., 2020). We used the monthly SST and PSL
156 data from all five members (r1 to r5) of the SSP5-8.5 scenario (covering 2015-2100) and the three
157 available ensemble members of SSP5-8.5-SAI that cover the period of 2020-2100. For the analysis,
158 we also applied a one-member historical simulation based on the specific CESM1(WACCM) version
159 used for GLENS between 1980-2009 (denoted as “historical” in the following). All three
160 corresponding members (r1 to r3) from the CESM2(WACCM6) version were used for the historical
161 period.

162 The SAI scenarios using both CESM1 and CESM2 inject SO_2 at four predefined points (30°N , 30°S ,
163 15°N , and 15°S) at ~ 5 km above the tropopause using a feedback controller to maintain not just the
164 global mean temperature, but the interhemispheric and equator-to-pole temperature gradients.
165 Fasullo and Richter (2022) explain the inter-model differences in the aerosol mass latitudinal

166 distributions between the SAI experiments using CESM1 and CESM2. CESM2 SAI utilizes the CMIP6
167 SSP5-8.5 experiment as a baseline which has been used by various modeling teams (Tilmes et al.,
168 2020) while CESM1 SAI uses the well-known RCP8.5 scenario. In GLENS-SAI, most of the aerosols
169 were injected at 30°N and 30°S with much smaller injection mass at 15°N and a tiny amount at 15°S
170 while for SSP5-8.5-SAI, the highest concentrations were released at 15°S, modest mass at 15°N and
171 30°S, and a small amount at 30°N. These differences in the SO₂ distributions across the two SAI
172 scenarios for CESM1 and CESM2 produce a range of variability in shortwave radiation and cloud
173 responses to CO₂ concentration increases (Fasullo and Richter, 2022). Additionally, Fasullo and
174 Richter (2022) identified that changes in the spatial salinity and density patterns in the Atlantic
175 Ocean, and in turn, the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), are very different under
176 GLENS-SAI compared to SSP5-8.5-SAI experiment. These differences between SAI simulations
177 represent part of the system variability.

178 The equilibrium climate sensitivity (ECS) of CESM2-WACCM is 4.75 °C and lies in an ECS range of 1.83
179 to 5.67 °C from 41 different CMIP6 GCMs (IPCC AR6, 2021). The absolute mean surface temperature
180 difference between CESM2-WACCM and historical records (0.89 °C) and is also within the range of
181 0.38-1.23 °C from 37 different CMIP6 models (Scafetta, 2021). CESM2 is one of the best nine models
182 for simulating precipitation worldwide when measured by the Hellinger distance between bivariate
183 empirical densities of 34 CMIP6 models and the historical data from Global Precipitation Climatology
184 Centre (GPCC; Abdelmoaty et al., 2021). Additionally, the global-mean values of SST, summer land
185 temperatures, precipitation, and ECS simulated by CESM1 and CESM2 are roughly similar to each
186 other as well as compatible with the historical values over the 1985-2014 period (Danabasoglu et al.,
187 2020; Table S1).

188 Relative to the preindustrial 1851-1850 period, CESM2-WACCM projects global mean surface air
189 temperature rises of ~6.25 °C by the 2071-2100 period under SSP5-8.5 which compares with the
190 range of ~3.3-6.6 °C from 35 ensembles of 12 CMIP6 models (Cook et al., 2020).

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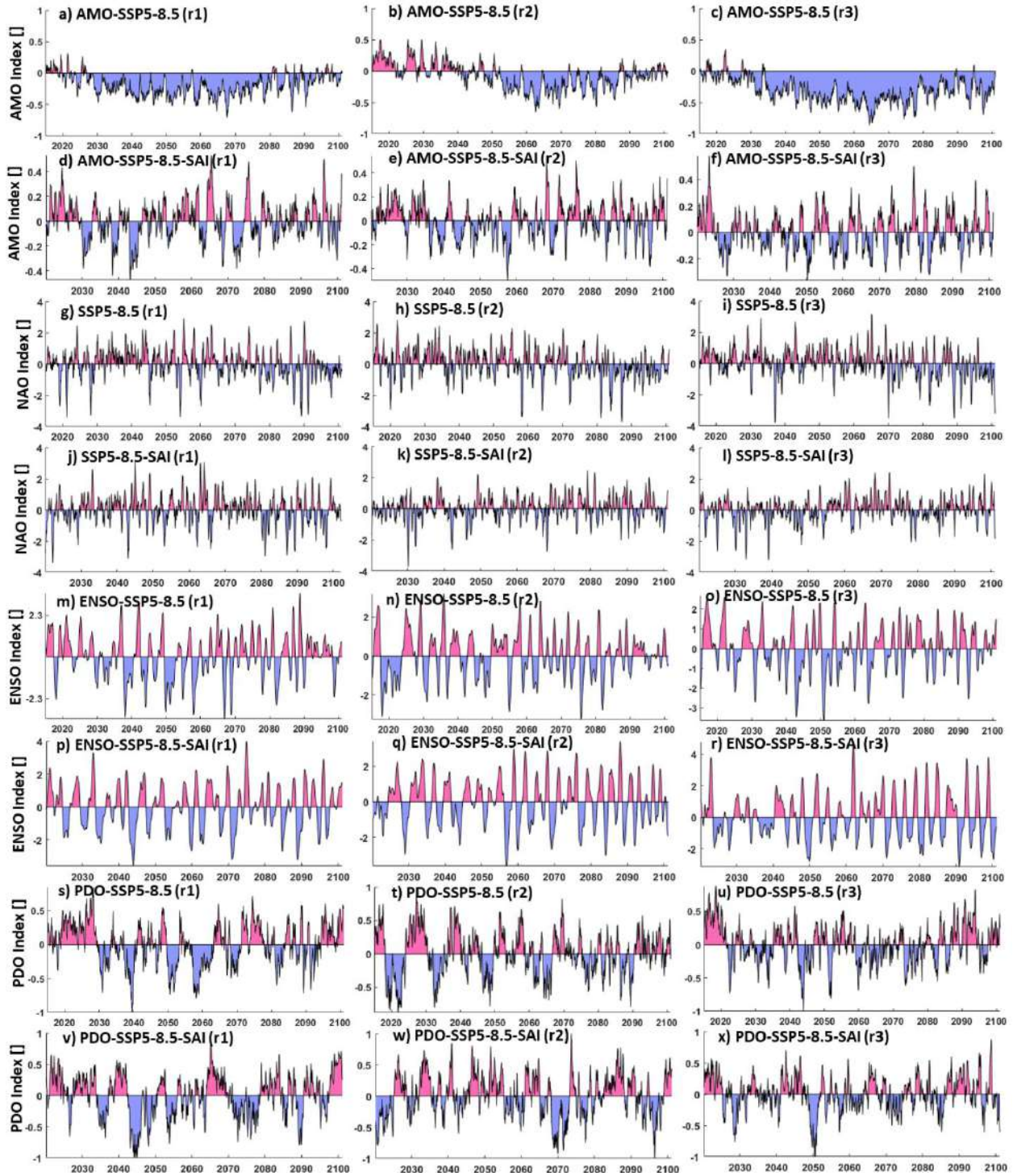
192 **2.2. Climate indices**

193 The AMO was calculated from the area-weighted average of SSTs across the northern Atlantic from
194 0-70° N. The NAO was computed from the PSL time series at two stations: Gibraltar (to the south of
195 Spain; around 36.1°N and 5.3°W) and Reykjavik (in the southwest of Iceland; around 64.1°N and
196 22.0°W). The ENSO index follows the definition proposed by Trenberth (1997). Here, we used SSTs
197 at the Niño 3.4 region (east-central equatorial Pacific between 5°N-5°S, 170°W-120°W) as a proxy
198 for ENSO. After removing the global mean SST anomaly, the leading Empirical Orthogonal Function

199 (EOF) of monthly SST anomalies across the North Pacific (20°–70°N) is termed PDO following Mantua
200 et al. (1997). All these computations were analyzed through the Climate Data Toolbox prepared by
201 Greene et al. (2019). As an example, Fig. 1 compares AMO, NAO, ENSO, and PDO indices obtained
202 from SSP5-8.5 and SSP5-8.5-SAI scenarios.

203 We characterized ENSO by El Niño and La Niña episodes. The ENSO index positive and negative
204 episodes correspond to El Niño and La Niña respectively. Consistent with Gabriel and Robock (2015),
205 ENSO episodes were identified as departures of at least 0.5 standard deviations from zero in a five-
206 month running averaged ENSO time series. Each episode was characterized by its duration (years),
207 the extreme peak excursion (°C), and the width at half extreme height (years).

208



209

210 **Figure 1.** AMO (panels a-f), NAO (panels g-l), ENSO (i.e., NINO3.4, panels m-r), and PDO (panels s-x)

211 indices obtained from ensemble members r1(left column), r2 (middle column), and r3 (right

212 column) of the SSP5-8.5 (odd rows) and SSP5-8.5-SAI (even rows) scenarios.

213

214

215 2.3. Spatio-temporal analyses

216 Analyses in both space and time as well as modes of variability ranging from the inter-annual through
217 decadal, to inter-decadal changes were used to identify the possible changes in the large-scale climate
218 circulations resulting from global warming and SAI scenarios. EOF analysis is commonly used to
219 extract the climate variability space-time modes (e.g., Chen and Tung, 2018; Joyce, 2002). We applied
220 EOF to extract the first (dominant) modes of de-trended non-seasonal-SST and its corresponding
221 variance across the North Atlantic and North Pacific, which are related to the AMO and PDO
222 respectively. As ENSO is the primary indicator of global climate variability, we used the leading EOF
223 of global SST anomalies in the study of ENSO.

224 The continuous wavelet transform (CWT) is commonly used to capture the primary characteristics
225 of signals (Addison, 2018). For a time series $(x_n, n=1, \dots, N)$ having regular time intervals δt , the
226 CWT is computed as the convolution of x_n with the scaled and normalized wavelet (e.g., here we use
227 the Morlet wavelet which gives reasonably equal weighting and resolution in time and period space;
228 Grinsted et al., 2004):

$$229 \quad W_n^X(s) = \sqrt{\frac{\delta t}{s}} \sum_{n'=1}^N x_{n'} \psi_0 \left[(n' - n) \frac{\delta t}{s} \right], \quad \psi_0(\eta) = \pi^{-1/4} e^{i\omega_0 \eta} e^{-0.5\eta^2} \quad (1)$$

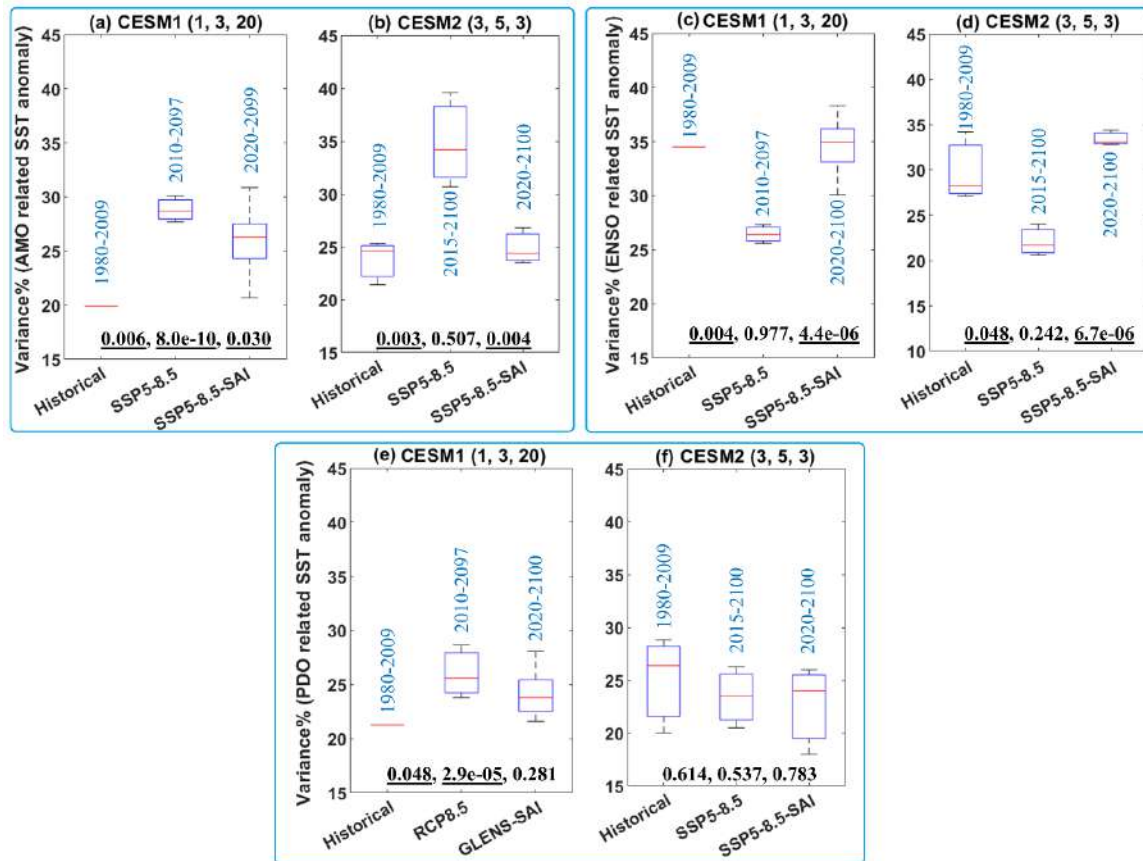
230 where s is the wavelet scale, ψ_0 the Morlet wavelet, ω_0 dimensionless frequency, $[*]$ the complex
231 conjugate, and η dimensionless time. The noise spectrum assigned to generate significance testing
232 is a key issue in time series analysis. We concurred with the widely-used red-noise null hypothesis
233 methodology based on 1000 synthetic series with the same mean, standard deviation and first-order
234 autoregressive coefficient as the target time series produced by Monte Carlo approaches to estimate
235 the significance of the CWT (Grinsted et al., 2004). Additionally, for each time series, CWT's global
236 power spectrum was calculated as a function of time. The global power spectrum provides insight
237 into the dominant temporal modes of variability of each climate index within each ensemble member
238 for the reference GHG and SAI scenarios. The wavelet method cone of influence automatically shows
239 where the periods analyzed are being influenced by the end of the time series. Thus, the longest
240 periods can only be reliably assessed for the middle of the time series.

241 The individual ensemble members are treated as independent of each other in calculating the
242 statistics of the ensembles. The CWT was conducted on monthly ENSO time series, and the 12-month
243 moving averaged low-pass filtered signals of AMO, NAO, and PDO. We always use the longest
244 available record length in every ensemble member to gain maximum statistical power to establish
245 significant differences between experiments.

246 **3. Results:**

247 **3.1. Changes in the spatial patterns**

248 Figure 2 reveals the projected changes in the variance of the SST anomalies related to the AMO (i.e.,
249 across the North Atlantic), ENSO (i.e., global scale), and PDO (i.e., across the North Pacific) based on
250 CESM1 and CESM2 results. Fig. S1 shows three different plots for the CESM1 as the time period of the
251 20-member ensemble for RCP8.5 differ: ensembles 001 to 003 (2010-2097) are longer than the other
252 17 ensemble members (2010-2030). For RCP8.5 and SSP5-85 using CESM1 and CESM2, respectively,
253 the strong GHG forcing and global warming to the end of the 21st century increases the variance of
254 the first EOF SST anomaly in the North Atlantic and North Pacific (representing AMO and PDO), but
255 reduces the variance of the leading EOF in global SST anomaly (related to ENSO). Based on the
256 statistical t-test results, the changes in the means imposed by global warming relative to historical
257 are all significant except one case (Fig. 2f). Differences between SAI and historic in CESM2 values of
258 the leading EOF variance of AMO and ENSO are not significant, showing that the significant changes
259 under GHG forcing are effectively reversed by SAI. In contrast, the changes in PDO variance imposed
260 by global warming using CESM1 relative to historical remain significant under SAI. Using CESM2,
261 there is no significant changes in the PDO variance from historical to global warming, or to SAI.

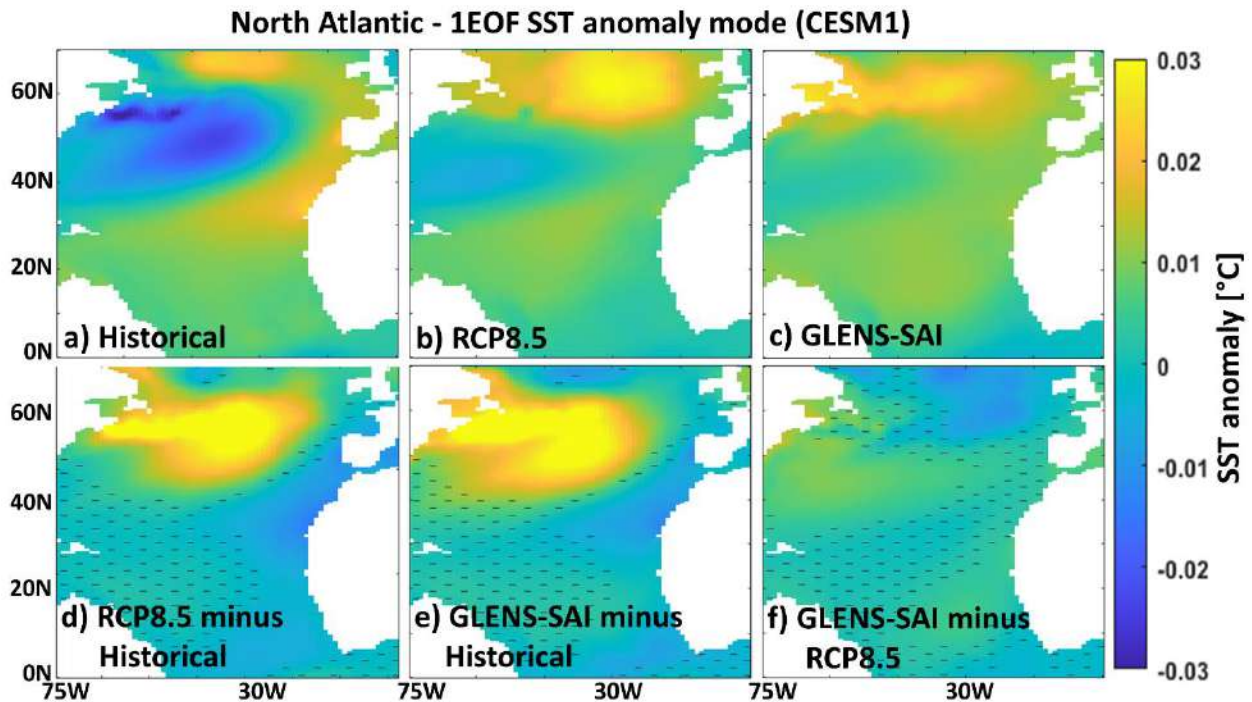


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263 **Figure 2.** Box and whiskers plot of the variance in the leading EOFs, representing AMO, PDO, and
 264 ENSO, relative to the total variance of the SST fields: AMO across the North Atlantic (top-left panel);
 265 ENSO (top-right panel) global SST; and PDO across the North Pacific (bottom panel). The values in
 266 blue on each column box show the period of the data for historical, GHG (i.e., RCP-8.5 and SSP5-8.5),
 267 and climate intervention (GLENS-SAI and SSP5-8.5-SAI) scenarios. The titles of each subplot refer to
 268 the CESM version and the number of ensembles used in the historical, GHG (RCP8.5 and SSP5-8.5),
 269 and SAI (GLENS-SAI or SSP5-8.5-SAI) scenarios, respectively. The median for each experiment is
 270 denoted by the red line, the upper (75th) and lower (25th) quartiles by the top and bottom of the box
 271 and ensemble limits by the whisker extents. The three values shown at bottom of each sub-plot
 272 refer to the p-values obtained from the statistical t-test between historical and global warming,
 273 historical and SAI, and global warming and SAI, respectively. Values underlined are significant (i.e.,
 274 $p < 0.05$)
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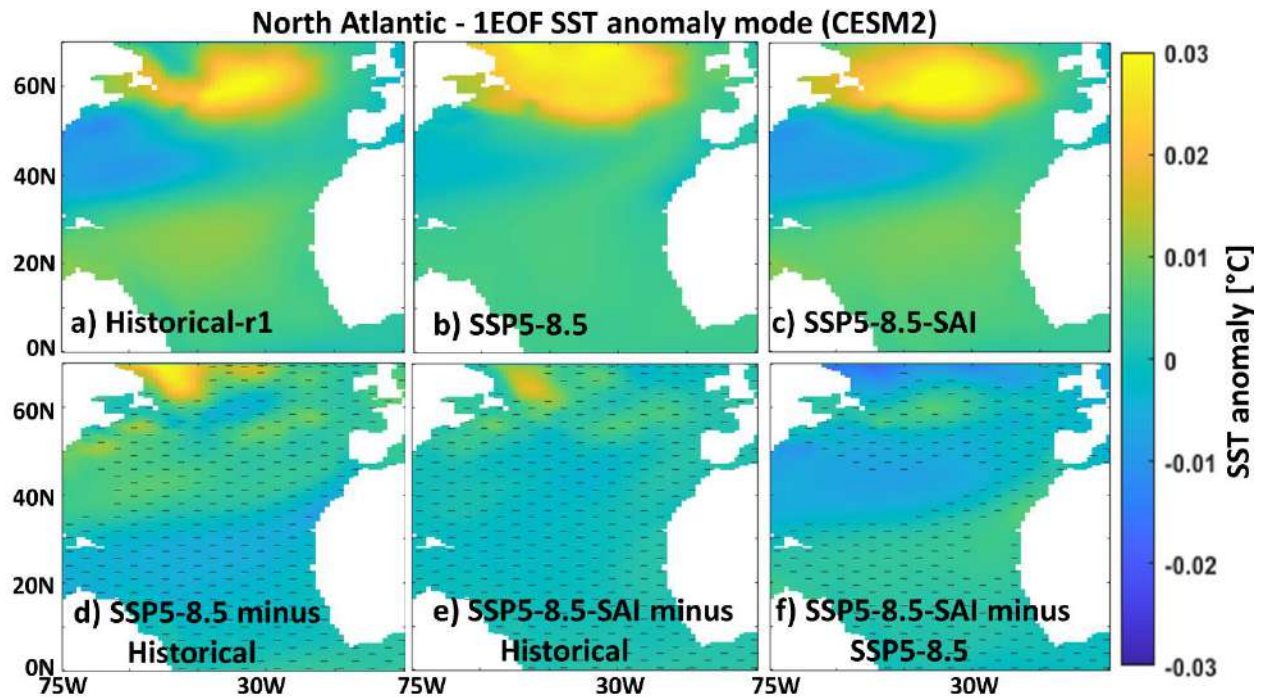
276 Figures 3-6 and S2-S3 show the spatial anomalies of the leading EOF mode of the SST in the North
 277 Atlantic, North Pacific, and tropical pacific under both the CESM1 and CESM2. For the historical
 278 period, there is a cold-tongue pattern in the North Pacific broadens from the western to the eastern
 279 parts surrounded by warm water, particularly to the north. GHG related global warming lowers the
 280 contrast between the cold-tongue pattern and its surroundings and increases the water temperature
 281 inside the cold-tongue-pattern, and also leads to a substantial expansion of a warm-pattern in the
 282 north. The same patterns (Fig. 4) are also obtained under SSP5-8.5 using CESM2. SAI effectively

283 shrinks the warm pattern in the northern Atlantic under the RCP8.5 and SSP5-8.5 through a
 284 significant SST decrease, particularly using CESM1 (bottom row in Figs. 3 and 4). The SSP5-8.5-SAI
 285 experiment increases the temperature contrast in the cold-tongue pattern, while the GLENS-SAI does
 286 not. The projected changes in the spatial SST patterns across the North Atlantic, observed under
 287 global warming, are significantly suppressed under SAI (Figs. 3f and 4f). This response of AMO to SAI
 288 is compatible with the observed changes in AMO imposed by anthropogenic and volcanic aerosols
 289 reported by Masson-Delmotte et al. (2021). Anthropogenic and volcanic aerosols are understood to
 290 have impacted the timing and magnitude of the cold (negative) episode in the historical AMO record
 291 between the mid-1960s and mid-1990s and succeeding warming (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2021).
 292 Anthropogenic aerosols have also been suspected as impacting historical SSTs elsewhere,
 293 particularly the decadal ENSO variability (e.g., Sutton and Hodson, 2007; Westervelt et al., 2018).
 294



295

296 **Figure 3.** The first EOF (1EOF) patterns of SST anomaly across the North Atlantic relate to the AMO
 297 index simulated by CESM1 for the historical data (a) and the mean of the available ensemble
 298 members outputs under the RCP8.5 (b) and GLENS-SAI (c) scenarios. The maps at the bottom row
 299 show RCP8.5 minus historical (d), GLENS-SAI minus historical (e), and GLENS-SAI minus RCP8.5 (f)
 300 where the hatched patterns are not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$), based on p-values from t-test
 301 analysis.



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Figure 4. As in Fig. 3, but for CESM2 and SSP5-8.5.

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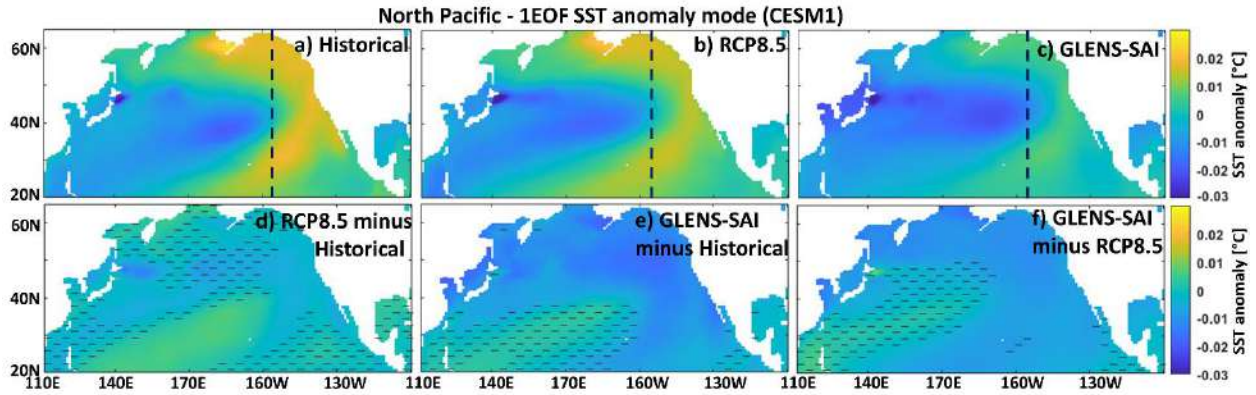
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The leading EOF of monthly global SST anomalies corresponding to the ENSO mode (Figs. S2 and S3), and is seen as a warm-tongue pattern over the tropical Pacific, that exhibits very similar patterns under both global warming and SAI scenarios as in the historical period. However, Fig. S4 shows that the warm-tongue pattern in CESM1 and CESM2 has an excessive westward extension relative to observations, which is compatible with the findings of Capotondi et al. (2020).

While the first EOF SST anomaly across the North Pacific under both global warming and SAI scenarios in CESM1 and CESM2 (Figs. 5 and 6) exhibits a similar cold-tongue pattern (typical of the North Pacific) as in the historical period. A lower contrast between the cold-tongue pattern and its surroundings is observed under SSP5-8.5 (Fig. 6b), which is effectively compensated by the geoengineering scenarios of SSP5-8.5-SAI through a significant SST decrease over middle North Pacific (Fig. 6c and 6f) since there is no significant change between SAI and historical maps (Fig. 6e). There is an excessive eastward expansion of the cold-tongue pattern with cooler temperatures under the SAI scenario as simulated by the CESM1 (Fig. 5c), which is due to the significant cooling of the water in the outside of the cold-tongue pattern imposed by the SO₂ injection (Fig. 5e-f).

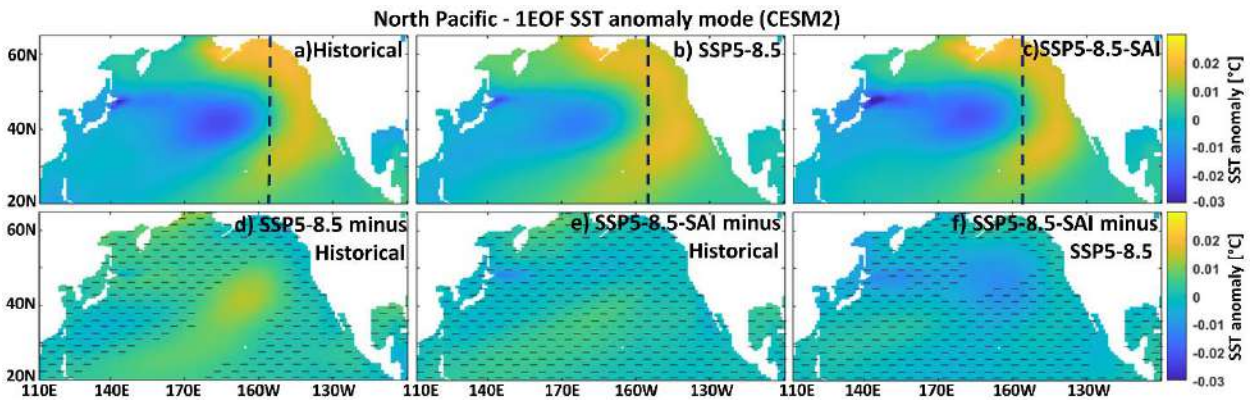


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Figure 5. As Fig. 3 but across the North Pacific relate to the PDO index.

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Figure 6. As in Fig. 5, but for CESM2.

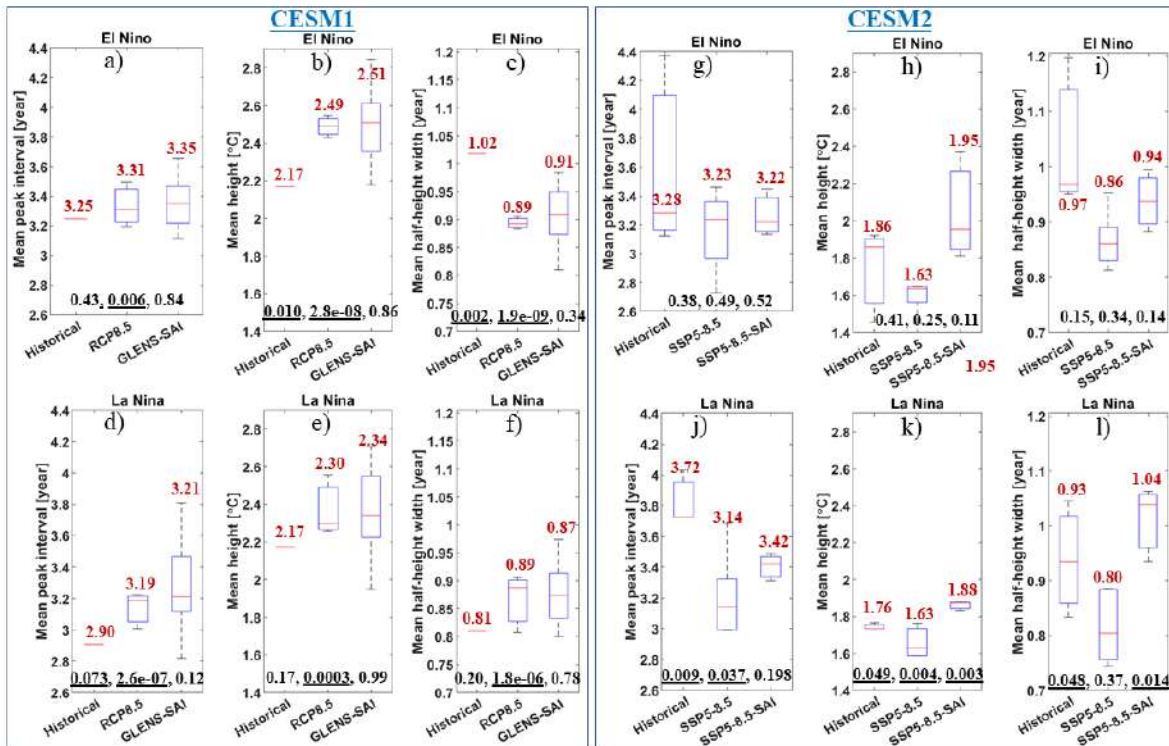
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326 3.2. Temporal evolution of indices

327 Figure 7 displays the projected changes in the El Niño and La Niña episodes in the ENSO index under
 328 global warming and SAI. The global warming scenario simulated by CEMS2 tends to reduce the time
 329 between, as well as the intensity and duration of the La Niña episodes compared to the historical
 330 conditions, but El Niño shows no significant changes. Frequency increases in both El Niño and La
 331 Niña episodes were suggested in earlier climate simulations e.g., Fredriksen et al. (2020), Cai et al.
 332 (2014) and Yun et al. (2021) for El Niño, and Cai et al. (2015) for La Niña. In contrast, using CESM1,
 333 the characteristic changes of El Niño are stronger than that of La Niño and the El Niño intensity
 334 significantly increases while its duration decreases relative to historical period. The La Niño intensity
 335 significantly increases but other characteristics show no significant changes under RCP8.5.

336 Although the SAI is mostly accompanied by a slight decrease in the median of El Niño/La Niña
 337 characteristics towards their historical value, its effect on global warming imposed-changes is only

338 statistically significant for the intensity and duration of La Niña events. For the CESM2 SAI
 339 experiment, there are no significant differences in El Niño characteristics as with the GHG forcing
 340 experiment. In contrast La Niña peak intervals, height (i.e., intensity), and width (i.e., duration)
 341 characteristics are significantly different from GHG forcing and reverse the direction of changes
 342 imposed by GHG. For CESM1, there are no significant differences between the results from RCP8.5
 343 and GLENS-SAI scenarios.
 344



345
 346 **Figure 7.** The projected changes in the mean peak interval, height, and half-height width of El Niño
 347 and La Niña events for global warming (RCP8.5 and SSP5-8.5) and SAI (GLENS-SAI and SSP5-8.5-
 348 SAI) scenarios simulated by CESM1 (panels a-f) and CESM2 (panel g-l). The median for each
 349 experiment is denoted by the red line, the upper (75th) and lower (25th) quartiles by the top and
 350 bottom of the box and ensemble limits by the whisker extents. The values labeled in red on each
 351 box show their median. The three values shown at bottom of each sub-plot refer to the p-values
 352 obtained from the statistical t-test between historical and global warming, historical and SAI, and
 353 global warming and SAI, respectively. Values underlined are significant (i.e., p < 0.05).
 354

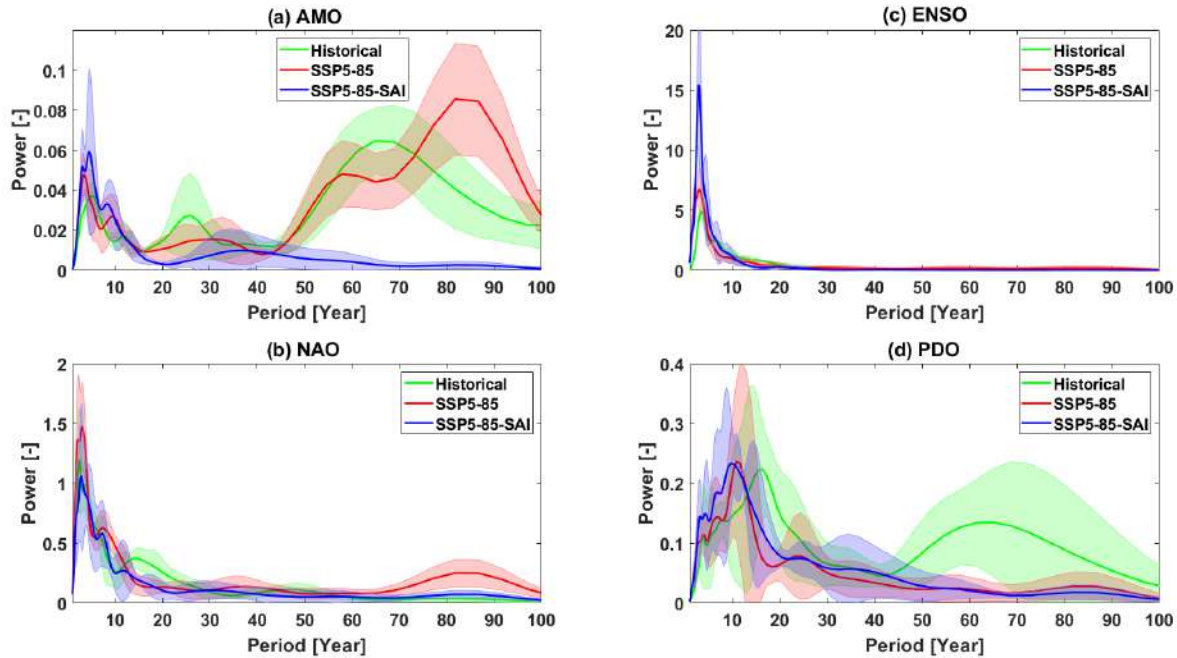
355 Another way to illustrate the temporal evolution of signals is by using the power spectrum. Figures
 356 8 and 5S compare the changes in temporal variability of each climate indices (AMO, NAO, ENSO, and
 357 PDO) using the global power spectrums of CWTs under the global warming and SAI scenarios
 358 simulated by CESM2, excluding CESM1 outputs as there is just a single ensemble member for CESM1
 359 historical data over a short 1980-2009 period. In CESM1, the signals longer than 25 years, which are

360 the most energetic modes in observations of the PDO (Mantua and Hare, 2002) and AMO (Enfield et
361 al., 2001), cannot be captured in the historical simulations owing to their short simulation period
362 (1980-2009). As an example, Fig. S5 shows the ENSO CWTs and their global power spectrums for
363 historical, SSP5-8.5, and SSP5-8.5-SAI scenarios.

364 The inter-annual modes of AMO, NAO, and ENSO are preserved under both global warming and SAI.
365 For the decadal and longer periodicities, SAI accentuates AMO changes induced by GHG (Fig. 8a). For
366 example, the dominant modes at 20-30- and 55-85-year of the AMO, observed during the historical
367 period, show no significant changes under global warming; however, they vanish under SAI. The
368 decadal 10-20-years mode of the historical NAO is not preserved in the global warming scenario nor
369 with SAI (Fig. 8b). For ENSO, the dominant historical inter-annual modes show no significant change
370 under both global warming and SAI, except that its power under SAI is stronger (Fig. 8c). The
371 dominant modes at 10-20- and 50-70-years, observed in historical PDO (consistent with the real
372 PDO's dominant modes (Mantua et al., 1997)), are not present in both the SSP5-8.5 and SAI
373 simulations, and the latter two are similar to each other (Fig. 8d). In contrast with the historical
374 period in which the dominant modes of PDO occur in the 10-20- and 50-70-year bands, the dominant
375 modes under global warming (i.e., SSP5-8.5) and SAI (i.e., SSP5-8.5-SAI) occur at the ~10-year period.
376 The PDO shift to a higher frequency with decadal/multi-decadal variability weakness, observed
377 under global warming, was also earlier demonstrated by Fang et al. (2014) with a previous
378 generation of the climate model, the Fast Ocean Atmosphere Model (FOAM) used in IPCC AR4
379 experiments. Likewise, the PDO timescale has been simulated to decrease from ~20 to ~12 years
380 under global warming (Fedorov et al., 2020), possibly because of changes in the phase speed of
381 internal Rossby waves and ocean stratification (Zhang and Delworth, 2016). Nonetheless, although
382 PDO cycles between 30-50-year bands show slightly stronger power under SAI than global warming,
383 the 30-50-year is not the dominant PDO mode under SAI in contrast to Zhang and Delworth's (2016)
384 results for cooler climates, which the PDO dominant variability shifts to lower frequency (~34 yr).
385 They related this increase to weaker ocean stratifications accompanied by global cooling. However,
386 Zhang and Delworth (2016) used a different model (Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory coupled
387 model version 2.5 through the forecast-oriented low ocean resolution version) and experiments
388 ($2\times\text{CO}_2$ for global warming and $0.5\times\text{CO}_2$ for cooling).

389 We further analyzed the concatenated series from the available members for each scenario using
390 CESM2 to statistically capture the low frequency cycles with better reliability. Figure S6 summarizes
391 the CWT global power spectrums for AMO, NAO, ENSO, and PDO. The results, on the whole, are

392 compatible with those shown in Fig. 8, despite small discrepancies such as the much stronger
393 interdecadal mode in AMO obtained from the concatenated ensembles.



394

395 **Figure 8.** The CWT global power spectra obtained for the indices of AMO (a), NAO (b), ENSO (c),
396 and PDO (d) under SSP5-8.5 and SSP5-8.5-SAI relative to the historical results based on CESM2 for
397 the periods of 1850-2014. Shading in each curve shows the across-ensemble range.

398

399 4. Discussion

400 4.1. Caveats to interpretation

401 Caution is required when interpreting the results from this study with regard to real-world
402 variability. Although CESM2 is highly rated among existing climate models, large model-observation
403 differences are nonetheless present (Fasullo, 2020). Model-observation differences are larger in the
404 earlier CESM1 version than in CESM2. For example, CESM1 exhibited a Subtropical (Azores) high
405 anomaly (related to NAO) that was too weak but its representation is improved in CESM2 (Simpson
406 et al., 2020). We also find large differences in amplitude and variance of climate indices simulated by
407 both CESM1 and CESM2 relative to the observations over the 1980-2009 period. The amplitude of
408 the dominant EOF of the ENSO-related SST-anomaly modeled in both CESM1 and CESM2 is about
409 twice the observations for the historical (1980-2009) period (Figs. S4 and S6). Figure S6 further
410 shows NAO and PDO dominant mode amplitudes are lower in the model projections than in
411 observations over the historical period. Additionally, the ENSO-associated SST anomaly pattern in
412 the tropical Pacific shows an excessive westward extension under both CESM1 and CESM2 (Fig. S4).

413 These limitations mirror those by Capotondi et al. (2020) for CESM2 in simulating the ENSO, who
414 suggested further work to illuminate how the physical parameterizations impact the key ENSO
415 feedback. Additionally, although CESM2 simulates the pattern of the summer and winter NAO well
416 over the historical period 1979-2014, the large uncertainties in specific members and in the historical
417 observations mean it is difficult to be quantitative about this (Simpson et al., 2020). However, CESM1
418 tends to underestimate the observed SST fluctuations in the Atlantic, leading to an underestimation
419 of the forced response (Undorf et al., 2018).

420 CMIP models tend to systematically underestimate the low-frequency signals (i.e., PDO) in the North
421 Pacific (Fasullo et al., 2020), owing in part to an imperfect modeling of decadal-scale structures in
422 these simulations (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2021). Compared to observational estimates, the decadal
423 variability in the subpolar North Atlantic SST appears to be slightly intensified through CMIP6
424 (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2021). How well we, therefore, can potentially capture forthcoming changes
425 in climate indices' variability will be restricted by how good each model simulations are (Gabriel and
426 Robock, 2015).

427 The second limitation is disparities in the length of records (30 years for the historical period, roughly
428 90 years for GHG emissions, and 80 years for SAI scenarios) may hinder the direct comparison of
429 climate indices behavior between historical and future climate scenarios of global warming and SAI;
430 and thus, the number of El Niño/La Niña events as well as the significance of the longer periodicities
431 (i.e., decadal and inter-decadal) in power spectrums. Furthermore, these records explore variability
432 within the statistical assumptions of the methods, which may not be robust for non-stationary time
433 series where the Normality and independence assumptions inherent in the wavelet and t-tests would
434 not strictly hold. We are limited to the available simulations, and a 3-member ensemble for SAI under
435 CESM2 is inherently weaker than 20-member ensembles under CESM1. CESM1 has a shorter 30-year
436 historical period from 1980 to 2009 which could not capture the interdecadal variability modes of
437 the teleconnection patterns. Yet another limitation arises from the relatively low spatial resolution
438 of the models which may affect the spatial SST anomaly patterns. Furthermore, Holmes et al. (2019)
439 pointed out the models are too low resolution to resolve ocean eddies, which substantially contribute
440 to ENSO irregularity and predictability. The absence of the eddy process may also be associated with
441 bias in spatial patterns and other ENSO characteristics (Bellenger et al., 2014) in the CMIP models
442 (Cai et al., 2021). Global high-horizontal resolution climate models have been indicated to
443 significantly improve the ocean-atmosphere circulations such as ENSO (Masson et al., 2012). As an
444 example, Haarsma et al. (2016) pointed out that the High Resolution Model Intercomparison Project
445 for CMIP6 improves the understanding of the climate teleconnection patterns of large-scale

446 circulations such as ENSO, NAO, and PDO, which suggests that running these high-resolution models
447 with SAI scenario would be worthwhile.

448

449 **4.2. Implications for climate stability**

450 Teleconnection signals represent emergent properties of the non-linear climate system. The
451 behavior of the climate teleconnection patterns can be characterized via its oscillations. In its
452 simplest form, a stable pattern would represent a fixed point or a periodic oscillation, but with real
453 non-linear systems, a quasi-periodic oscillation over specific frequency bands is more likely (e.g., Ghil
454 et al., 2002). These quasi-periodic characteristic frequencies may change smoothly over time in a
455 linear system but may proceed towards chaotic solutions via frequency doubling in non-linear
456 systems. Moron et al. (1998) suggested that ENSO crossed a threshold in the early 1960s, and the
457 periodicity of the seasonally forced climatic oscillator increased abruptly. The notable decline in low-
458 frequency multi-decadal band components of the wavelet spectra of the indices we study,
459 accompanied by a concomitant increase in the variance of the decadal band is consistent with abrupt
460 frequency doubling. This can be expected in non-linear systems as the energy in the system is raised,
461 progressing along the pathway towards chaotic behavior and hence less predictability on decadal
462 timescales. Ocean stratification (ocean buoyancy frequency) and the baroclinic Rossby wave in the
463 North Pacific play significant roles in SST amplitude and PDO cycles since enhanced ocean buoyancy
464 frequency speeds up the Rossby waves, and so the decadal and longer cycle weakening accompanies
465 higher PDO frequency (Fang et al., 2014). Ocean stratification changes predominantly in response to
466 changes in surface temperature and salinity (Fang et al., 2014). The North Atlantic and the northeast
467 Pacific are projected to be among those areas with the greatest stratification changes under global
468 warming in the second-half of the 21st century (Capotondi et al. 2012). Historical records also show
469 that volcanic sulfate aerosols have altered multi-decade SST variability in the North Atlantic and
470 North Pacific (Birkel et al., 2018).

471 Whether the climate system in the model is representative of the earth can be diagnosed to some
472 extent by comparison of the historical simulation with observations. As noted in Section 4.1 both
473 CESM versions do present differences from observations, so they are not perfect. All climate models
474 are unavoidably uncertain (Knutti et al., 2002), mostly because of the imperfect understanding of
475 many of the interplays and feedbacks within the climate system (Jun et al., 2008). Previous analysis
476 of ENSO under SAI found no significant changes (Gabriel & Robock, 2015), but they used different
477 models with widely varying fidelity of modeled ENSO to observations, and much smaller simulated
478 quantities of SO₂ with the relatively modest RCP4.5 emissions scenario as a baseline. Furthermore,

479 in the only previous assessment of ENSO under SAI, by Gabriel and Robock (2015), SAI simulations
480 may not have been long enough to detect changes. The large 20-member ensemble of GLENS used in
481 this study may overcome this limitation, especially for short-period indices, since this represents
482 ~1600 model-years.

483 Changes in climate teleconnection patterns can indicate significant changes in the forcing. Such
484 changes are seen in time series analysis of teleconnection indices in the real world that coincide with
485 increased GHG (Tsonis et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2009). Wang et al (2009) note that regime shifts in
486 system behavior in the observations occurred when North Pacific and North Atlantic patterns
487 increase their coupling, and the key instigator is the NAO. The NAO's long-period counterpart, the
488 AMO, are seen in our simulations to change under SAI relative to GHG forcing at periods longer than
489 a decade. The historical NAO's decadal mode which vanished under global warming is not restored
490 by the simulated SAI.

491 The North Atlantic is an atypical region under SAI. The declines in heat transported northwards by
492 the AMOC under GHG forcing are, to great extent, reversed under all kinds of SRM including SAI (Xie
493 et al., 2022). Thus, great differences exist in SST and air/ocean heat flux between SAI and GHG
494 climates in the North Atlantic (Yue et al., 2021). If regime shifts occur when North Atlantic and Pacific
495 oceans increase their coupling, and if the decline in AMOC under GHG forcing decreases coupling
496 between the basins, then SAI may act to promote regime shift by reversing a decline in AMOC.

497 Many authors have noted that explosive volcanism, in some ways a natural analogue for SAI, is
498 accompanied by a positive episode of the NAO (e.g., Robock, 2000), and this may then be associated
499 with changes in multi-decadal AMO variability (Birkel et al., 2018). Furthermore, in the extreme
500 scenario of SAI being done such that temperatures are actually decreased then projected
501 strengthening of AMOC occurs (Tjiputra et al., 2016). However, it is also possible that regime shifts
502 induced by GHG forcing and the large temperature feedbacks they induce may dominate impacts over
503 those fairly subtle regime shifts in climate teleconnection patterns.

504

505 **5. Conclusions**

506 This study delivers a first overview of SAI response on the large-scale ocean-atmosphere circulations
507 of AMO, NAO, ENSO, and PDO using experiments based on CESM1(WACCM) and CESM2(WACCM6)
508 that apply stratospheric aerosol intervention through the injection of sulfur into the stratosphere,
509 GLENS-SAI and SSP5-8.5-SAI, respectively. The impacts of these interventions are assessed against
510 historical (1980-2009 for both the models and 1850-2014 for CESM2 in some analyses) and
511 projections under RCP8.5 and SSP5-85 (for the GLENS-SAI and SSP5-8.5-SAI, respectively). We found

512 that SAI effectively reverses the global warming-imposed changes in the variance of the leading EOF
513 SST anomaly associated with AMO, ENSO, and PDO. The SAI also effectively suppresses the changes
514 in the spatial patterns of the EOF SST anomaly across the North Atlantic (i.e., AMO) and North Pacific
515 (i.e., PDO). A decrease in the contrast between the cold-tongue pattern and its surroundings in the
516 North Pacific is further projected under GHG induced global warming, which the SAI successfully
517 restored.

518 CESM2 simulations suggest that increasing GHG emissions are accompanied by a modest increase in
519 the frequency of the El Niño and La Niña episodes but a modest decrease in their intensity and
520 duration. The SAI scenario effectively compensates for these changes.

521 In contrast to the impact of the SAI on the spatial patterns of the climate indices of AMO, PDO, and
522 ENSO, the SAI scenario does not effectively suppress the projected changes in decadal and inter-
523 decadal variability imposed by global warming. The decadal and inter-decadal variability modes of
524 all the historical climate indices (except for Atlantic-based indices under SSP5-8.5) are not preserved
525 in the GHG warming scenario and the SAI does not restore them.

526 Furthermore, compared to the historical 1850-2014 period in CESM2, SAI is projected to accentuate
527 AMO and no effective impact on NAO at decadal and longer frequencies. Unlike the historical period
528 in which the long-period dominant modes of PDO occur in the 10-20- and 50-70-year bands, the
529 dominant modes under global warming are reduced to ~10-years, and the SAI does not restore them.

530 The results exhibited here are particular to these types of future global warming scenarios and the
531 details of the SAI application, which deal with an extreme scenario of GHG emissions and continuous
532 increases in sulfur emissions. Furthermore, the findings are from ensemble members from just two
533 closely related models. Caution is warranted due to the model-observation differences, disparities in
534 the record length of the historical period compared to future climate scenarios, and the low spatial
535 resolution of the models. To improve trust in the projected changes and effects of SAI on the ocean-
536 atmosphere simulations, it is essential to further unravel the primary physical mechanisms behind
537 these changes. Nevertheless, our study does detect changes in climate teleconnection signals, and
538 hence underlying climate system dynamics under SAI when decomposed using EOF and wavelet
539 analyses.

540

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545

546 **Competing interests:**

547 We confirm that there is no conflict of interest among the authors of this manuscript.

548

549 **Data availability:**

550 The data for CESM1 and CESM2 simulations are publicly available via their websites:

551 <http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/projects/community-projects/GLENS/> (DOI: 10.5065/D6JH3JXX) and

552 <https://esgf-node.llnl.gov/search/cmip6/>.

553

554 **Author contribution:**

555 A. R.: Coordinated to analysis and the graphics of various figures and the manuscript preparation; Kh.

556 K. and S. T.: conceptualization and preparing the data; J. M. conceptualized and coordinated the

557 interpretation and discussion for various sections. All authors contributed to the discussion and

558 writing.

559

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