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Modelling Historical Adaptation Rates to Inform Future Adaptation Pathways

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Quantifying the climate impacts onto economic outcomes is crucial to inform mitigation and adaptation policy decisions in the context of anthropogenic climate change. Existing macro-level economic impact projections are often derived using calibrated Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) or empirically-estimated econometric models. Both approaches, however, rarely consider how such impacts would change under macro-level adaptation interventions. Here, we present approaches to econometrically test climate impact estimates for their historical stability to approximate empirical macro-adaptation rates. By modelling deterministic trends and structural breaks as well as socio-economic drivers of adaptation, our approach could provide the basis for a new set of macro-economic impact projections that control for adaptation measures. Ultimately, adaptation-explicit impact projections could be used to inform both mitigation and adaptation decisions and further allow benchmarking of non-empirical modelling approaches.

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