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Regional and global temperature response, in PDRMIP data from a energy balance perspective

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Modern climate models vary in their temperature responses to different climate forcings (such as CO₂, methane, sulfate aerosols and black carbon). Here we study the reasons for model discrepancies between different forcings by analyzing Precipitation Driver Response Model Intercomparison Project (PDRMIP) data. PDRMIP contains four different experiments in addition to the present-day base case: 1) fivefold sulfur concentrations, 2) tenfold black carbon concentrations, 3) twofold CO₂ concentrations, and 4) threefold methane concentrations. We use a set of modern climate models from the PDRMIP dataset to decompose the temperature responses to various energy budget terms, the longwave and shortwave, cloudy and clear sky components, surface terms and horizontal energy transport. This study allows us to better understand the key processes responsible for climate model discrepancies in estimates of anthropogenic climate change impacts. Preliminary results show that the magnitude of the temperature response of each forcing is similar, and mechanisms causing temperature changes are similar between different forcings. Somewhat surprisingly, most of the model spread originates from changes in long wave radiations. Here we investigate global and regional responses and model spread for different climate forcings.