(47-220415-A) Increasing CO₂ Seasonal Cycle Amplitude in the Arctic Proportional to Rising Atmospheric CO₂ Levels

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Atmospheric observations show an enhanced increase of atmospheric CO₂ seasonal cycle amplitude (SCA) in the Arctic relative to lower latitudes. This enhancement coincides with intensified temperature increase in the Arctic and rising atmospheric CO₂ concentrations globally, both of which were suggested to be important in causing the Arctic CO₂ SCA amplification. Here, we present analyses of five-decades of atmospheric CO₂ measurements at Barrow, Alaska (BRW) and Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawaii (MLO). At BRW, atmospheric CO₂ SCA increased at a rate of 0.602 \pm 0.057 % yr⁻¹ between 1971 and 2021, whereas it increased at a rate of 0.226 \pm 0.068 % yr⁻¹ at MLO (Fig. 1). However, when normalizing their SCA by annual atmospheric CO₂ mole fractions, the trend of CO₂ SCA at both sites mostly disappears (Fig. 1), suggesting the SCA trend was likely primarily driven by increasing atmospheric CO₂. We also analyzed atmospheric CO₂, $\delta 13CO_2$ and COS measurements from 11 long-term Arctic sites and the 4-decades of marine boundary layer reference, which is a smoothed representation of atmospheric CO₂ at different latitudes and constructed from atmospheric measurements at remote locations around the globe; results are overall consistent. To better understand the cause for the proportionality between the enhanced CO₂ SCA in the Arctic and increasing atmospheric CO₂ and to disentangle the regional contributions of fluxes and atmospheric transport to Arctic CO₂SCA amplification, we analyzed NOAA CarbonTracker (CT2019B) posterior fluxes between 2000 and 2018. Global simulations were conducted, where we traced the impact of regional fluxes by source categories (terrestrial CO₂ uptake fluxes, fossil fuel emissions, ocean fluxes, and fire emissions) on measured atmospheric CO₂ SCA at different sites.



Figure 1. Seasonal cycle amplitude (SCA) of atmospheric CO₂ measured at BRW (black) and MLO (red). Left panel: SCA in parts per million (ppm). Right panel: SCA normalized by annual average CO₂.