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## ABSTRACT

Increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is expected to be the main factor of global warming. The relation between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and surface air temperature (SAT) has been found related to Rossby waves based on a multi-layer complex network approach. However, the significant relations between CO<sub>2</sub> and SAT occur in the South Hemisphere that is not that much influenced by human activities may offer not enough information to formulate targeted carbon reduction policies. Here, we address it by removing the effects of the Rossby waves to reconstruct CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT multi-layer complex network. We uncover that the CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are strongly associated with the surrounding SAT regions. The influential regions of CO<sub>2</sub> on SAT occur over eastern Asia, West Asia, North Africa, the coast of North American, and Western Europe. It is shown that CO<sub>2</sub> over Siberia in phase with the SAT variability in eastern East Asia. Indeed, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration variability is causing effects on the recent warming of SAT in some middle latitude regions. Furthermore, sensitive parameters that CO<sub>2</sub> impacts SAT of top 15 carbon emissions countries have been identified. These countries are significantly responsible for global warming, giving implications for carbon emissions reductions. The methodology and results presented here not only facilitate further research in regions of increased sensitivity to the warming resulting from CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations but also can formulate strategies and countermeasures for carbon emission and carbon reduction.

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The rising of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) has a great influence on global warming. The relation between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and surface air temperature (SAT) has been found related to Rossby waves. However, their dynamic modes have still remained a challenging problem, in particular for the North Hemisphere that is much influenced by human activities. In the present work, we develop a multi-layer climate network-based framework. By eliminating Rossby waves, we find that CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are related to their surrounding SAT in 2 days. CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations variability is causing effects on the recent warming of SAT in some middle latitude regions. In addition, the critical and sensitive regions of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations on SAT are identified. Our method and results presented here not only provide a deep

understanding of the modes of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration to SAT but also can be applied to study other climate and environmental phenomena, such as global warming and air pollution.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is one of the most important anthropogenic greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere. Despite global efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have been increasing worldwide since the industrial revolution reached 146% of the preindustrial level in 2017.<sup>1</sup> In the short term, CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are widely considered to affect the weather by

influencing SAT and sea ice cover, which are key leading indicators of the annual and decadal atmospheric circulation, and, consequently, resulting in torrential rains, blizzards, drought, and other types of extreme events.<sup>2–5</sup> In the long term, increases in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are believed to be the primary cause of global warming.<sup>6</sup> Global warming has been linked to extreme weather and climate events that have profoundly affected human societies and natural ecosystems. In addition, the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations on SAT should be well understood to retard the adverse impact of climate warming.

Considerable research has been devoted to assessing the relationship between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT. The earliest study can be traced back to Fourier who demonstrated the atmosphere absorbs longwave radiation from the Earth's surface.<sup>7,8</sup> By visually inspect ice-core CO<sub>2</sub> measurements and reconstructed paleoclimatic records, the study found that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has a close correlation with SAT.<sup>9</sup> Strong coupling relations between CO<sub>2</sub> and SAT derived from ice-core records at least the last 650 000 years.<sup>10,11</sup> However, Antarctic ice cores were not applicable for globally averaged temperature. Antarctic temperature increase led the CO<sub>2</sub> increase during the last deglaciation but global temperature lagged CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, their relation can be estimated from observations of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and SAT. Based on Mauna Loa and South Pole Stations, global average CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations lagged 4 months to the tropical mean SAT since 1960.<sup>13</sup> Wang *et al.* exhibited interannual variations of the CO<sub>2</sub> growth rate are correlated tightly with tropical land SAT during 1959–2011.<sup>14</sup> Humlum *et al.* found that atmospheric global mean CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations lag the global average SAT during 1980–2012.<sup>15</sup> Richardson pointed out that the conclusion violates conservation of mass<sup>16</sup> and temperature changes lagged 9 months in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. More recent research demonstrated that global SAT lags or leads atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> depending on the type of radiative forcing as well as its time scale.<sup>17</sup> These previous studies suggest that there exists a strong correlation between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT, however, the lead–lag role is still no complete consensus. In addition, their relationship is also calculated using climate sensitivity, which is a straightforward and efficient metric to quantify global SAT response to increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Past studies suggested that the global SAT change is nearly proportional to cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions based on the Earth system model.<sup>18,19</sup> However, model results are prone to uncertainties induced by different representations of carbon cycle processes in the simulations. The above studies do not provide a mechanistic understanding of how global CO<sub>2</sub> variability causes the change of SAT.

CO<sub>2</sub> retrievals from satellite measurements have found that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are spatially unevenly distributed. However, the role of non-dynamics CO<sub>2</sub> to SAT was still not well understood since previous studies analyzed the role of average CO<sub>2</sub> on SAT instead of non-dynamics CO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore, an improved understanding of the role of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in SAT is needed, which is beneficial to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through regulation and incentives.

In recent years, network theory has been found useful for better understanding spatiotemporal behavior in the climate system.<sup>20–22</sup> Climate networks establish correlations among climate anomalies in distant parts of the world and attempts to explain them using

relevant physical phenomena. In a climate network, geography data are transformed into nodes and edges of a network that can represent spatiotemporal relationships. Nodes refer to geographical locations or grid sites, and edges are constructed based on similarities (such as cross correlations) in the variability over time between pairs of nodes. Various climate data records (such as temperature, pressure, winds, and precipitation) can be used to construct a climate network. The climate network approach can provide a powerful framework to better understanding the structure and pattern of climate phenomena such as El Niño,<sup>23–27</sup> North Atlantic Oscillation,<sup>28,29</sup> monsoon,<sup>30</sup> extreme rain events,<sup>31–33</sup> and air pollution.<sup>34</sup> Climate network approach has been successfully applied to SAT records and CO<sub>2</sub> data. For instance, based on the SAT records, Wang *et al.* studied the positive and negative correlations (links) of SAT network and identified the characteristics of Rossby waves.<sup>35</sup> Zhou *et al.* studied the global behavior of the climate system and captured the dominant teleconnections paths.<sup>36</sup> Based on CO<sub>2</sub>, propagation links of teleconnections in CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were identified.<sup>37</sup> In this case, climate networks provide a well-suited general framework to analyze the spatial characteristics of time series and the correlations between nodes.

The basic idea behind climate networks is that relevant and important features of atmospheric mechanisms influence the variability of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT at different locations, and these influences are encoded in the structure of the network. By extracting the topological index of the network, we can reveal the underlying interaction between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT. In a recent study, a multi-layer and multi-variable network analysis have been developed and applied to investigate the relations between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT.<sup>38</sup> They documented that the function of Rossby waves for the modulation of relations between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT. It showed that the connections between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT are dominant in the Southern Hemisphere (SH) relative to the Northern Hemisphere (NH). More specifically, these links yield a dense stripe in a band centered at around 50°S. Note that CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are mainly concentrated in the NH where the industry is developed and human activities are intensive and recent warming is more pronounced in the NH. Attention to the responsibilities of CO<sub>2</sub> changes on SAT in the NH could be more fundamental in curbing greenhouse gas emissions and limit adverse impacts. In this paper, we attempt to develop a framework to eliminate the influence of Rossby waves signal to identify the key area of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations directly related to SAT. The multi-layer network between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT is reconstructed based on the climate network approach. Furthermore, sensitive parameters that CO<sub>2</sub> impacts SAT of top 15 carbon emissions country has been identified to give implications for carbon emissions reductions. Our results can help to formulate strategies and countermeasures for carbon emission and carbon reduction.

## II. DATA

### A. Mid-tropospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations

Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) is the first in the new generation of high spectral resolution infrared sounder instruments flown aboard the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(NASA) Aqua satellite mission. It is mounted on the sun-synchronous, near-polar orbiting satellite where the range of wave numbers  $690\text{--}725\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are chosen for the retrievals of  $\text{CO}_2$  mixing ratio in the mid-troposphere. The weighting functions of AIRS  $\text{CO}_2$  channels peak between 300 and 500 hPa, and the  $\text{CO}_2$  data are retrieved globally under clear and cloudy conditions. Here, we employ  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations measurements from AIRS with daily temporal and  $2.5^\circ \times 2.0^\circ$  spatial resolutions over  $60^\circ\text{S}$  to  $80^\circ\text{N}$ .<sup>39</sup> To keep consistent with SAT data, 100 944 nodes of  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations have been interpolated onto  $2.5^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ . Before 2012, the AIRS retrievals are combined with the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU); after 2012, AIRS retrievals only applied infrared measurements because of the degradation of AMSU. To get a longer  $\text{CO}_2$  record, we have used AIRS/AMSU retrievals and AIRS retrievals of  $\text{CO}_2$  together in this study. The missing values from 2003 to 2016 in the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration grid points are removed, resulting in 322 days per year. Hence, the total time length is 4508 days.

## B. SAT

SAT data obtained from the National Centres for Environmental Prediction/National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCEP/NCAR) on daily temporal and  $2.5^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$  spatial resolutions are used in this study.<sup>40</sup> To be consistent with the length of  $\text{CO}_2$  records, we pick 322 days in each year from 2003 to 2016 according to the date of  $\text{CO}_2$ . To keep an approximate homogeneity covering the globe ( $60^\circ\text{S}$ – $80^\circ\text{N}$ ), we consider a subset of  $N = 658$  nodes of the mid-tropospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  and SAT (see all the dots in Fig. 3). Ultimately, we obtained 658 time series and  $M = 432\,964$  pairs representing possible links.

## III. METHODS

### A. Data pre-processing

Linear tendency and seasonal cycle are dominant in AIRS  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations and SAT data. Given a  $\text{CO}_2$  record,  $\tilde{C}_i(t)$ , where  $i$  is the node index of the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, 658$ ) and  $t$  is the length of the  $\text{CO}_2$  time series ( $t = 1, 2, \dots, 322 \times 14$ ). The linear trend is removed as  $\tilde{C}_i(t) = \tilde{C}_i(t) - (a_i t + b_i)$ , where  $a_i t + b_i$  is the linear trend of the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations on the total number of day  $t$ . Leap days are excluded for simplicity. Next, we remove the long-term mean and divide by its corresponding standard deviation as  $\tilde{C}_i^y(d) = (\tilde{C}_i(d) - \sum_y \tilde{C}_i(d)/N) / \text{std}(\tilde{C}_i^y(d))$ . The effects of autocorrelations in the records are eliminated by the denominator. Finally, the anomalies  $\text{CO}_2$  time series of each node  $i$  is rewritten as  $C_i(t)$ . For SAT records,  $\tilde{T}_j(t)$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, 658$ ), we constructed their anomalies SAT as the way of  $\text{CO}_2$  records and denoted as  $T_j(t)$ . After that, we get the  $\text{CO}_2$  anomaly records  $C_i(t)$  and SAT anomaly records  $T_j(t)$ .

### B. Method of removing Rossby waves

Rossby waves corresponding weather change cycle is approximately a week (see Fig. S1 in the supplementary material). The time delay associated with the wavelengths of Rossby waves in the  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations and SAT multi-layer network is 3–5 days.<sup>38</sup> Here, moving average methods are used to removing the role of Rossby

waves. We choose 7 days as an appropriate width of the window, which is explained later. We calculate a 7-day moving average for each node and then glue each 7th day in the period of the records to yield new records. We measure the correlation coefficient and link's weights based on the new glued records. Here, we explain why we choose 7 days as the width of the window. We generate new records by using the width of window range from 3 to 10 days and then calculate their positive and negative links, respectively (see Fig. S2 in the supplementary material). It is overserved that after 6 days, positive and negative link weights do not enhance around the wavelength of Rossby waves. Thus, any size of the sliding window longer than 6 days gives the results eliminating the effect of Rossby waves. Yet, the weight links yield stronger strength when using a sliding window of 7 days. Therefore, our choice of sliding window, 7 days, is suitable for evaluating the characteristic of the network.

### C. Network construction

Similar to earlier studies,<sup>34,38</sup> we define  $X_{C_i, T_j}(\tau)$  as the time-delayed cross-correlation function for the  $\text{CO}_2$  node  $i$  and SAT node  $j$ . The time lags  $\tau$  is in the range between  $-100$  and  $+100$  days. The time lag is chosen to be long enough to avoid the sensitive of correlation estimation to our choice of time lag, which leads to erroneous correlation estimation. The strength of the positive and negative link weights is denoted as  $W_{C_i, T_j}^{pos}$  and  $W_{C_i, T_j}^{neg}$ . We define  $\tau_{C_i, T_j}^{pos}$  and  $\tau_{C_i, T_j}^{neg}$  as the corresponding time lags at these two peaks. When  $\tau_{C_i, T_j}^{pos} > 0$ , the links are outgoing from  $\text{CO}_2$  nodes pointing to SAT nodes; when  $\tau_{C_i, T_j}^{neg} < 0$ , the links are pointing away from SAT nodes incoming to  $\text{CO}_2$  nodes. Here, links with zero-time lags are excluded. The adjacency matrix of a climate network is defined as follows:

$$A_{C_i, T_j}^{pos} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } W_{C_i, T_j}^{pos} \geq Q \text{ and } \tau_{C_i, T_j}^{pos} > 0, \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$A_{C_i, T_j}^{neg} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } W_{C_i, T_j}^{neg} \leq -Q \text{ and } \tau_{C_i, T_j}^{neg} > 0, \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Here,  $Q$  is a threshold for the weight links, which is determined based on the shuffling procedure.<sup>41,42</sup> In the shuffled case, the order of years is permuted and the order of days within each year is maintained for each pair of  $\text{CO}_2$  and SAT nodes  $i$  and  $j$ .<sup>41</sup> This shuffling keeps all the statistical quantities of the original data but omits the physical dependencies between  $\text{CO}_2$  and SAT nodes. In such a case, the shuffled network represents the properties of statistical quantities and the autocorrelations of the original records, which may introduce unrealistic links. If the original link weights are significantly higher than that of the control, we regard it as a real link; otherwise, they are spurious links. Then, we obtain the desired connection between  $\text{CO}_2$  and SAT based on the adjacency matrix  $A_{C_i, T_j}^{pos}$  and  $A_{C_i, T_j}^{neg}$ .

The degree is the most common application for measuring climate networks. A link that points toward a node is referred to as an in-degree link, and a link that points away from a node is considered as an out-degree link. The way of  $\text{CO}_2$  dynamically influenced SAT is defined as the weighted out-degree of  $\text{CO}_2$  nodes, which are the

total outgoing link weights from CO<sub>2</sub> nodes,<sup>26</sup>

$$O_{C_i}^{pos} = \sum_j A_{C_i,T_j}^{pos} W_{C_i,T_j}^{pos}, \quad (3)$$

$$O_{C_i}^{neg} = \sum_j A_{C_i,T_j}^{neg} W_{C_i,T_j}^{neg}. \quad (4)$$

And, the response of SAT to CO<sub>2</sub> is denoted as weighted in-degree of SAT nodes, which are the total incoming links weights pointing toward SAT nodes,

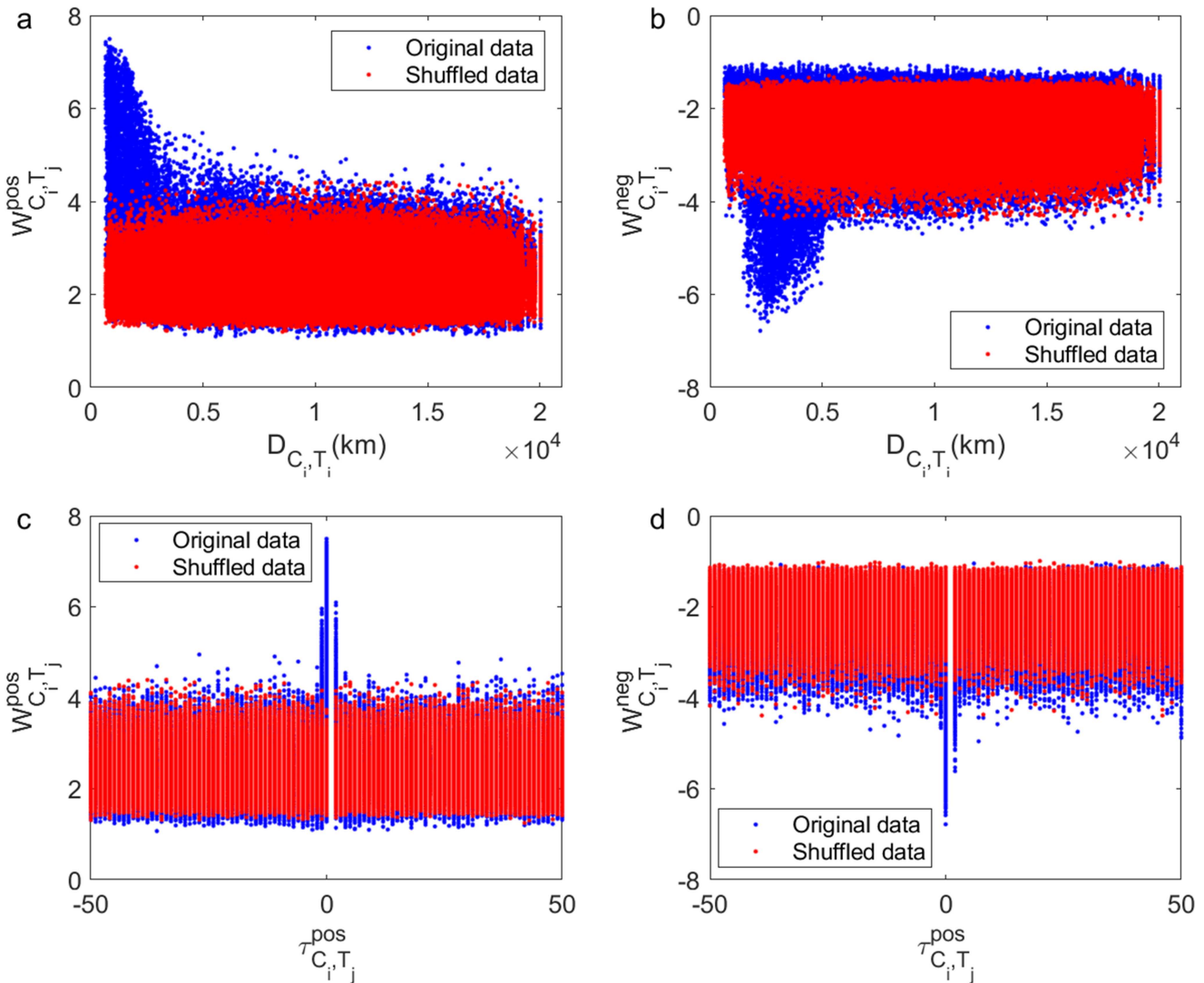
$$I_{T_j}^{pos} = \sum_i A_{C_i,T_j}^{pos} W_{C_i,T_j}^{pos}, \quad (5)$$

$$O_{T_j}^{neg} = \sum_i A_{C_i,T_j}^{neg} W_{C_i,T_j}^{neg}. \quad (6)$$

Obviously, the outgoing links of the CO<sub>2</sub> are the same as the incoming links of the SAT. Nodes that have higher values represent a larger amount of connection with other nodes in the network, while lower ones mean “isolated” in the network. The in and out fields describe the level of CO<sub>2</sub> nodes impact on the SAT nodes and the level of affected SAT node from CO<sub>2</sub> nodes, respectively.

#### D. Significance tests

The statistical significance of link weights is determined based on a shuffling procedure. In the shuffled case, the order of years is



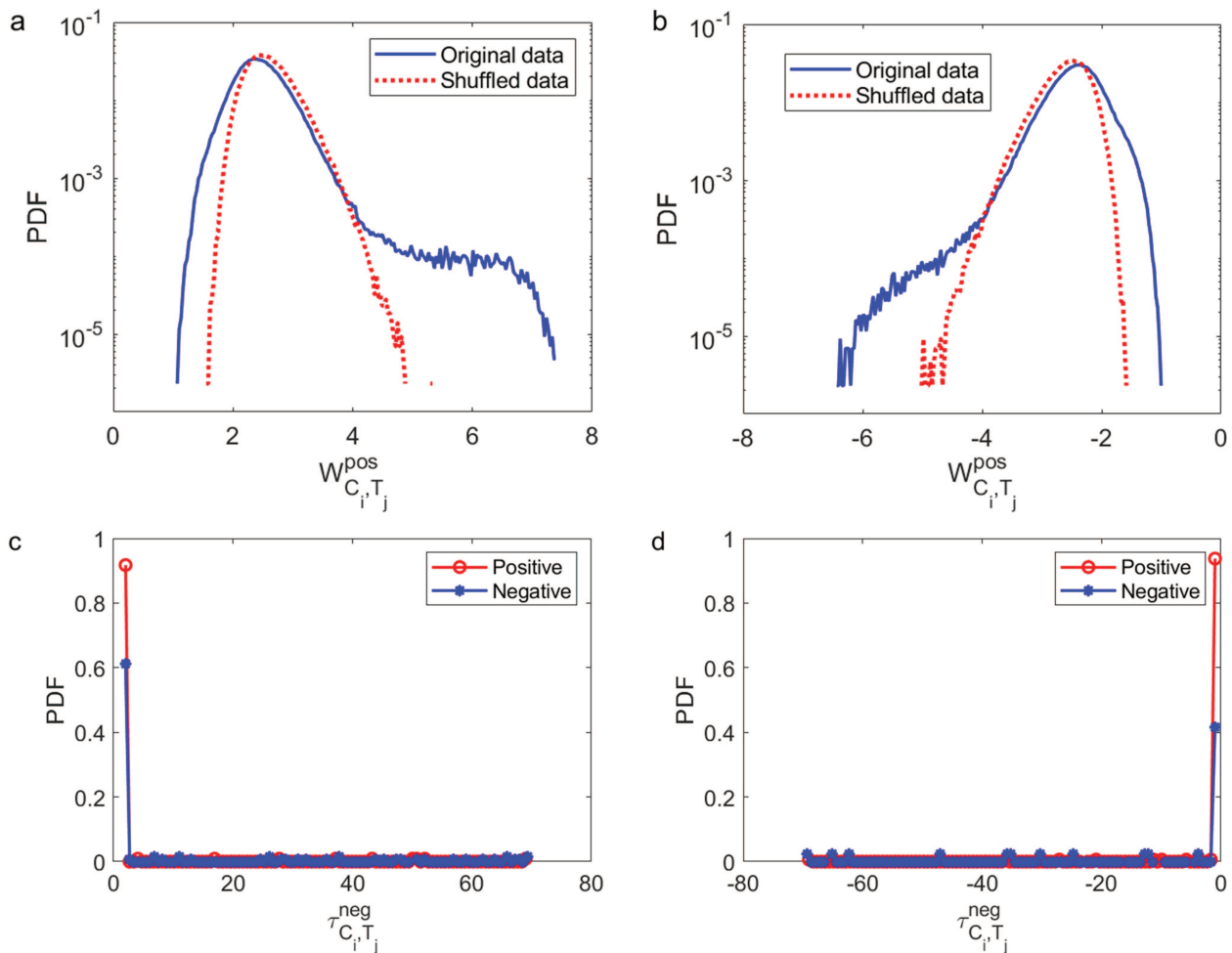
**FIG. 1.** (a) The positive weighted links vs their distance for both original (blue dots) and shuffled (red dots) data. (b) Same as (a) but for negative weighted links. (c) The positive weighted links vs their time lags for both original and shuffled data. (d) Same as (c) but for negative weighted links.

permuted and the order of days within each year is maintained for each pair of CO<sub>2</sub> and SAT nodes  $i$  and  $j$ .<sup>41</sup> We generate shuffled data according to the procedures described in Sec. III D. This shuffling keeps all the statistical quantities of the original data but omits the physical dependencies between CO<sub>2</sub> and SAT nodes. In such a case, the shuffled network represents the properties of statistical quantities and the autocorrelations of the original records, which may introduce unrealistic links. We choose a control for the records to distinguish realistic links from unrealistic ones. If the original link weights are significantly higher than that of the control, we regard it as a real link; otherwise, they are spurious links.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We present the main results of the correlated multi-layered networks composed of the mid-troposphere CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations

and SAT as described above. Figures 1(a) and 1(b) display link weights (both positive and negative),  $W_{C_i,T_j}$  as a function of the geographical distances,  $D_{C_i,T_j}$  (in km) for original and shuffle cases. Higher  $W_{C_i,T_j}^{pos}$  and  $W_{C_i,T_j}^{neg}$  over short distances (smaller than 5000 km) are observed in the original network but not in the shuffled data, indicating the relations between CO<sub>2</sub> and SAT are less likely to occur by chance. It is clear that there is no strong distinction between the original and shuffled link weights as a wide range of original link weights is associated with the same shuffled link weights at a distance longer than 10 000 km. Figures 1(c) and 1(d) present  $W_{C_i,T_j}$  on the time lag for the original and shuffle case. Peaks are observed around  $-1, 0,$  and  $2$  days for the positive and negative links in the original network. These links in the shuffled network do not change with time lag value. Strong  $W_{C_i,T_j}$  is related to short time lags (within 2 days), suggesting that the information propagation of these links is fast.



**FIG. 2.** (a) The PDF of the positive link weights of original (blue) and shuffled (red) data. (b) Same as (a) but for negative weighted links. (c) The PDF of time lag  $\tau > 0$  of the positive and negative links. (d) Same as (c) but for  $\tau < 0$ .

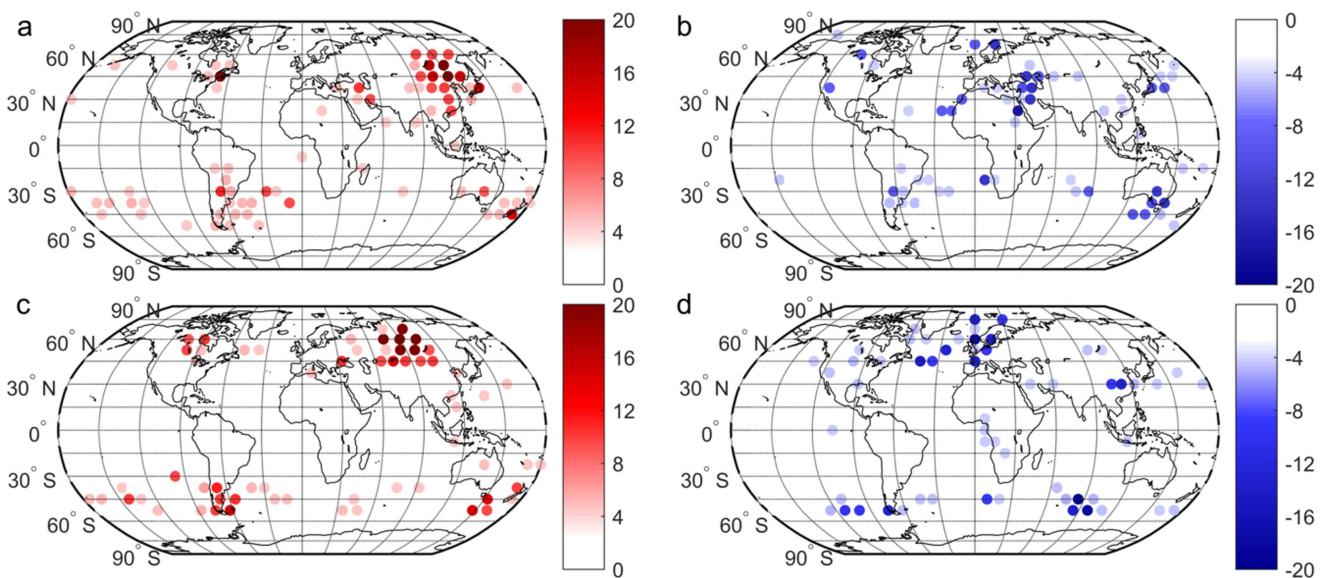
Figures 2(a) and 2(b) show the probability density function (PDF) of  $W_{C_i, T_j}^{pos}$  and  $W_{C_i, T_j}^{neg}$  for original and shuffle cases. We find that values in the original network have a long tail and therefore occur due to certain physical interactions. These differences between the distribution of original data and shuffled data indicate that many significant links exist in the multi-layer network. We, thus, consider only links  $|W_{C_i, T_j}| \geq 4.5$ , which are separated from the shuffled links. Next, we investigate the PDF of time delays for positive and negative links. For  $\tau_{C_i, T_j} > 0$  [Fig. 2(c)], the direction is toward the SAT nodes at the surface. Significant links peak with a 2-day time delay, indicating that changes in the  $CO_2$  occur two days before the correspondingly changes in the SAT. The PDF in Fig. 2(d) shows the maximum values at  $-1$  days, suggesting that a high  $CO_2$  concentration is observed 1 day before a high level of SAT.

The domain  $CO_2$  regions are quantified by the  $CO_2$  weighted out-degrees of nodes associated with the total weights of the significant outgoing interlinks to the SAT. Figures 3(a) and 3(b) depict the map of weighted out-degrees obtained from the positive and negative links. The direction is toward the SAT nodes at the surface. We find that the most prominent positive regions are located over eastern Asia ( $35^\circ$ – $60^\circ$ N,  $90^\circ$ – $150^\circ$ E), central west Asia, and southeast Canada in the Northern Hemisphere (NH). Regions in Western Asia, Western Europe, coastal areas of North America, and North parts of Africa are characteristic by clustering negative links toward SAT nodes. In the Southern Hemisphere (SH), high positive values are observed in the eastern Australia, the adjacent Pacific Ocean, and the Southern Atlantic Ocean. The negative interlinks are mainly connected to the southern South America, southern Africa and its surrounding seas, and the southern sea areas of

Australia. These locations that affect the SAT are densely populated and industrialized areas.

The affected regions on the SAT are quantified by the weighted in-degrees associated with the total weights of the significant incoming interlinks from  $CO_2$  nodes, which are presented in Figs. 3(c) and 3(d). The localized nodes of the strong positive values are found in the central-east Asia ( $37.5^\circ$ – $52.5^\circ$ N,  $70^\circ$ – $150^\circ$ E) and eastern and central South America. Significant negative peaks are detectable over the eastern Asia, Western Europe, the North Atlantic Ocean, and central North America. In the SH, regions with larger positive values coincide with that of  $CO_2$ . For negative cases, the centers in a large swath of the southern Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean, the south part of Africa, and Australia are highlighted. Of note is that these locations are most influenced by  $CO_2$ . If the equatorial regions are excluded, then the map of high values [Figs. 3(c) and 3(d)] to some extent resembles Fig. 3(b).<sup>43</sup>

Based on the weighted degree index, we further provide sensitive parameters that  $CO_2$  impacts SAT of top 15 carbon emissions country, which is shown in Fig. 4. Four types are classified according to the weighted out-degrees. China is the world's biggest carbon emitter, as expected, it gives rise to  $0.64^\circ\text{C}$  increasing per unit of ppm. In Australia, it displays an unexpected high influence value (0.43), where is not that much-emitted carbon. As the second biggest carbon emitter, the US brings to  $0.32^\circ\text{C}$  increasing per unit of ppm, which is half of that in China. The values in India, Russia, Japan, and German are 0.32, 0.38, 0.35, and 0.31, respectively. The third category contains Iran, Saudi Arabia, and France, the parameters are 0.24, 0.23, and 0.3, respectively. These values in Canada, Brazil, and Korea are 0.22, 0.21, and 0.2, respectively. In summary, the rank of most weighted out-degrees is consistent with the rank of their carbon emissions. Therefore, large carbon emissions countries



**FIG. 3.** The maps of weighted out-degrees (outgoing from the  $CO_2$  nodes) for positive (a) and (b) negative links, respectively. The maps of weighted in-degrees (incoming to the SAT nodes) for positive (c) and (d) negative links, respectively.



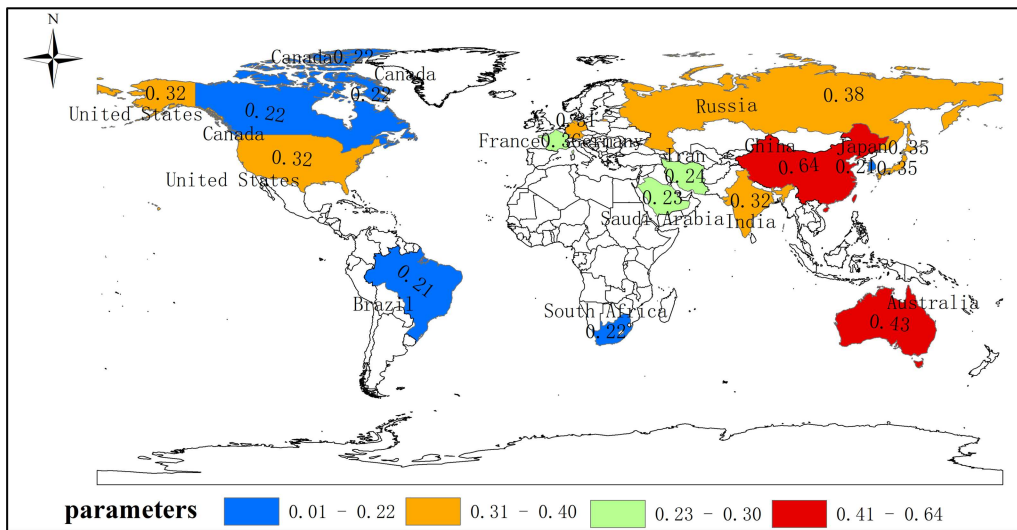


FIG. 4. Map of influence parameters of top 15 carbon emissions national.

are chiefly responsible for global warming, these countries must do more to reduce carbon emissions.

To intuitively understand the propagation process from CO<sub>2</sub> network to SAT network, we display their transport paths with the following characteristics: (1) the distance  $\leq 7500$  km and (2)  $|W_{C_i, T_j}| \geq 4.5$ . These 98 positive links and 31 negative links are presented in Fig. 5. We find that the links are transported from high latitude nodes to low latitude nodes. For positive links, the striking links are propagated from CO<sub>2</sub> in Siberia to SAT in eastern parts of East Asia, suggesting that SAT in eastern parts of East Asia is consistent with the variability of CO<sub>2</sub> in Siberia. These links are located over the downstream jet exit region.<sup>44</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> variability over the North Atlantic is found to be consistent with the change of SAT in the western Asia. Furthermore, the connection from CO<sub>2</sub> nodes over North America to the SAT nodes in eastern coastal regions is also highlight, which is a portion of wave train pattern generated by the

North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) from the North Atlantic to East Asia.<sup>45,46</sup> Noted that the starting point and ending point of the above links are closely associated with prominent “centers of action” over European Russia, west-central Asia, East Asia, the North Pacific, and North America.<sup>47</sup> To intuitively understand these propagation links, we investigated the links with Rossby waves and without Rossby waves (see Fig. S3 in the supplementary material).

For negative cases, we observed that a group of negative links transport eastward from CO<sub>2</sub> in the central United States to SAT in West Europe. It indicates that changes in the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration are opposite to the changes in SAT. Negative links from CO<sub>2</sub> in North Atlantic directed to SAT in the Mediterranean region and even North Africa are also detectable. These links yield a clear connection with the North Atlantic storm track.<sup>48</sup> Wave trains emerging in the southern part of the North Atlantic storm track transport to the Mediterranean region and subsequently propagate eastward along with the subtropical westerly jet.<sup>49</sup> It is also noted that negative links propagate from CO<sub>2</sub> in eastern China to SAT in the Pacific Ocean, which is less pronounced. This path is probably consistent with the wave train linking Asia and North America.<sup>50</sup> In the SH, the connectivity pattern shows dense links in the 40°S band within the longitude from South America to Australia.

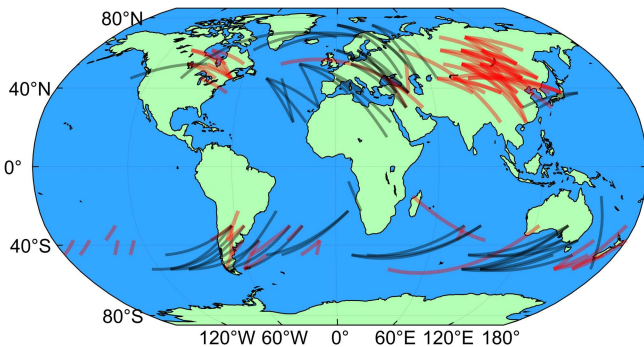


FIG. 5. The maps of propagation links for positive (red solid lines) and negative (black solid lines) links from CO<sub>2</sub> to SAT.

### V. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we developed a climate network approach to study the relations between CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT. We have found that the influence of mid-tropospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations on SAT is significant. This is achieved by removing the Rossby waves signal in CO<sub>2</sub> and SAT records to construct a multi-layered network between CO<sub>2</sub> and SAT. The striking link weights occur in the near distance, suggesting CO<sub>2</sub> is strongly associated with its surrounding regions of SAT. The critical regions that CO<sub>2</sub> affects SAT are found to be in the eastern Asia, West Asia, eastern North American,

and Western Europe in the NH. Other successive centers of higher levels are observed in southern South America and south and east sea areas of Australia in the SH. These sensitive regions correspond to regions that are much influenced by human activities and higher CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. Moreover, sensitive regions that are affected by CO<sub>2</sub> are observed over Siberia, Western Europe, North America, and southern South America. The influence parameters that CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations affected SAT of large carbon emissions country are determined. The magnitude of values, in general, conforms to the order of carbon emissions, suggesting large carbon emissions countries are chiefly responsible for global warming. In addition, explicit transport links are analyzed to investigate the process of CO<sub>2</sub> on SAT. The results indicate the change of CO<sub>2</sub> is causing effects on the recent warming of SAT in some middle latitude regions. These links follow atmosphere circulation, such as the North Atlantic storm track, NAO, and subtropical westerly jet.

Rossby waves are removed to investigate the critical regions that influence the CO<sub>2</sub> on the SAT and sensitive regions of SAT affected by CO<sub>2</sub>. The identification of these regions is conducive to the development of targeted carbon reduction policies and thus mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Our results show that recent warming in eastern East Asia may be related to the change of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in Siberia. Large carbon emissions countries are chiefly responsible for global warming, which have implications for carbon emissions reductions. This study not only provides complementary support for the results from the observational data-based study and the climate modeling but also calls for attention for further research in regions of increased sensitivity to the warming resulting from CO<sub>2</sub>. Compared with sensitive regions from the former study,<sup>38</sup> our results are can be more helpful for global carbon emission reduction. Moreover, our framework provides a bridge between the network analysis and the complex climate system.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

See the [supplementary material](#) for the time lag of the function of Rossby waves in CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and SAT multi-layer network and explaining the appropriate width of the window for removing Rossby waves.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY

The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration data that support the findings of this study are openly available online at [https://acdsc.gesdisc.eosdis.nasa.gov/data/Aqua\\_AIRS\\_Level3/AIRX3C2D.005/](https://acdsc.gesdisc.eosdis.nasa.gov/data/Aqua_AIRS_Level3/AIRX3C2D.005/) and [https://acdsc.gesdisc.eosdis.nasa.gov/data/Aqua\\_AIRS\\_Level3/AIRX3C2D.005/](https://acdsc.gesdisc.eosdis.nasa.gov/data/Aqua_AIRS_Level3/AIRX3C2D.005/). SAT data can be obtained from <https://psl.noaa.gov/data/gridded/data.ncep.reanalysis.surface.html>, while the output data that support the

findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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