

Peer review status:

This is a non-peer-reviewed preprint submitted to EarthArXiv.

1 **An Analytical Model for CO<sub>2</sub> Surface Forcing, with**  
2 **Application to the Direct Precipitation Response**

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## Abstract

If temperature is held constant, increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> reduces atmospheric radiative cooling and suppresses precipitation. Global Climate Models suggest this “direct” precipitation response ranges from -2% to -3% per CO<sub>2</sub> doubling, and hence contributes significantly to the net precipitation response of +3% to +9% per CO<sub>2</sub> doubling. Our study aims to explain the magnitude and state-dependence of the direct precipitation response by developing an analytical model for CO<sub>2</sub> surface forcing. The model is grounded in idealized CO<sub>2</sub> spectroscopy that considers CO<sub>2</sub> absorption bands both at 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1000 cm<sup>-1</sup> and is validated against line-by-line radiative transfer calculations. Surface forcing increases with higher surface temperatures and less atmospheric water vapor. By combining our model with a previously established analytical model for top-of-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub> forcing, we derive a simplified model to estimate atmospheric forcing and quantify the global-mean precipitation sensitivity to CO<sub>2</sub> changes. Atmospheric forcing increases with surface temperature and decreases with tropopause temperature. Despite ignoring shortwave changes and clouds, our analytical results compare favorably with the surface forcing in CMIP6 models and capture the bulk of these models’ direct precipitation response. Our surface forcing model thus provides a theoretical understanding for how CO<sub>2</sub> increases suppress precipitation; it also has implications for understanding the precipitation response under solar geoengineering and how CO<sub>2</sub> changes affect land climates.

## 1 Introduction

The radiative forcing of CO<sub>2</sub> ( $F_{TOA}$ ) refers to the reduction in longwave and shortwave radiation escaping the climate system at either the top-of-atmosphere (TOA) or at the tropopause when atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are increased and surface temperature ( $T_s$ ) remains constant (Etminan et al., 2016). Increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations also increase the longwave radiation reaching the Earth’s surface, known as the surface forcing ( $F_{surf}$ ).  $F_{surf}$  has received less attention than  $F_{TOA}$ , yet it is intricately linked to variations in the hydrological cycle: the net atmospheric forcing ( $F_{atm}$ ) is the difference between  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{surf}$  (Allen & Ingram, 2002; Chen et al., 2023), and is largely balanced by changes in latent heating when averaging over sufficiently large spatial scales:

$$F_{atm} = F_{TOA} - F_{surf} \approx -L\Delta P_{CO_2}. \quad (1)$$

Here,  $L$  is the latent heat of vaporization of water,  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  is the precipitation response per CO<sub>2</sub>-doubling measured in mm/s, and all forcings are in units of W/m<sup>2</sup>. The relation is approximate because it omits changes in sensible heating, which are roughly three times smaller than the changes in latent heating (Siler et al., 2019), changes in shortwave fluxes as well as changes due to clouds (which we return to below). By convention downward fluxes are positive, so for an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> both  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{surf}$  are positive.

$\Delta P_{CO_2}$  is typically referred to as the “fast” or “direct” precipitation response and represents the change in precipitation when CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are instantaneously increased and temperatures have yet to respond. Typically,  $F_{TOA}$  is larger in magnitude than  $F_{surf}$ , resulting in negative  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$ , with climate model simulations giving values of  $\sim -3$  to  $-2\%$  per CO<sub>2</sub> doubling. This reduction in precipitation offsets a substantial fraction of the temperature-mediated increase in precipitation, which is typically +1 to +3%/K of surface warming, or about +3 to +9% per CO<sub>2</sub> doubling (Andrews et al., 2010; Kvalevåg et al., 2013; Richardson et al., 2016; Myhre et al., 2017; Jeevanjee & Romps, 2018). By contrast, the “slow” or “indirect” precipitation response  $\Delta P_{T_s}$  is driven by changes in surface temperature (note, equation 1 is also valid on “slow” timescales, but in this case  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{surf}$  are no longer equal to the radiative forcings and instead have to be replaced with the changes in TOA and surface radiative fluxes that take into account surface temperature changes).  $\Delta P_{T_s}$  is generally positive, though it becomes constant, or

48 even decreases, at high temperatures (Pierrehumbert, 2002; O’Gorman & Schneider, 2008;  
49 Liu et al., 2024).

50 What determines the magnitude of the direct precipitation response? The answer is cur-  
51 rently unclear, but an improved understanding would help narrow the persistently large  
52 uncertainty in future precipitation changes (Douville et al., 2021). A clearer understand-  
53 ing of the direct response is also pertinent to solar geoengineering proposals. Simulations  
54 of solar geoengineering interventions typically feature residual reductions in precipita-  
55 tion when surface temperatures are restored but CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are still high (Bala  
56 et al., 2008; K. L. Ricke et al., 2010; Seeley et al., 2021; K. Ricke et al., 2023). Block-  
57 ing solar radiation lowers temperatures, and thus reverses the indirect precipitation re-  
58 sponse  $\Delta P_{T_s}$  under global warming, but does not reverse the direct precipitation response  
59  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  induced by higher CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

60 One way to improve our understanding of  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  is to focus on  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{surf}$ . Sev-  
61 eral recent papers developed analytical models for  $F_{TOA}$  based on spectral decomposi-  
62 tions of CO<sub>2</sub> forcing and comparisons with line-by-line (LBL) radiative transfer calcu-  
63 lations (Jeevanjee et al., 2021; Romps et al., 2022; Stevens & Kluft, 2023). These stud-  
64 ies established a conceptual framework for thinking about  $F_{TOA}$  and its spatial and state  
65 dependency. Our goal in this paper is to develop an analogous model for  $F_{surf}$  to facil-  
66 itate insights into the direct precipitation response of CO<sub>2</sub>. As  $F_{surf}$  governs the responses  
67 of surface turbulent (latent and sensible) heat fluxes (Andrews & Forster, 2010; Stephens  
68 et al., 2012; Pendergrass & Hartmann, 2014), the model also has implications for study-  
69 ing the response of land climates to CO<sub>2</sub>.

70 We develop and validate the analytical model for  $F_{surf}$  in Sections 2 and 3. We then com-  
71 bine it with the  $F_{TOA}$  model of Jeevanjee et al. (2021) to estimate the direct precipita-  
72 tion response to CO<sub>2</sub> forcing. Subsequently, we compare our model to the “fast” pre-  
73 cipitation response  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  in Global Climate Models (GCMs) participating in RFMIP  
74 in Section 4. We find that our model accurately predicts the magnitude of  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  in GCMs,  
75 though further analysis suggests that the accuracy of this fit may be somewhat fortu-  
76 itous and due to canceling errors. Clear-sky longwave fluxes account for about 2/3 of  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$   
77 in GCMs, while the rest ( $\sim 1/3$ ) of  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  is due to changes in clear-sky shortwave fluxes  
78 driven by changes in water vapor absorption, an effect not included in our model. We  
79 conclude in Section 5.

## 80 2 Analytical Model Preliminaries

81 This section outlines the conceptual framework and underlying parameterizations of our  
82 analytical model; the approach is closely related to the analytical forcing and feedback  
83 models in Jeevanjee et al. (2021) and Koll et al. (2023). We consider an isolated 1D at-  
84 mospheric column. The column’s state is described by its surface temperature ( $T_s$ ), its  
85 tropopause temperature ( $T_{tp}$ ), a bulk tropospheric lapse-rate ( $\Gamma$ ), a bulk tropospheric  
86 relative humidity (RH), plus atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. Here and in the next sec-  
87 tion we assume idealized atmospheric profiles with vertically uniform  $\Gamma$  and RH, while  
88 in Section 4 we derive ( $T_s$ ,  $T_{tp}$ ,  $\Gamma$ , RH) from RFMIP data.

89 Similar to Jeevanjee et al. (2021), our key insight is that the flux change due to a CO<sub>2</sub>  
90 increase can be approximated using simple geometric shapes in flux-wavenumber space.  
91 However, whereas Jeevanjee et al. (2021) only considered the contribution from the strong  
92 “main” 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band, we find that the surface forcing also requires us to consider weaker  
93 “new” bands around 1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. To express the forcing contributions of these bands ana-  
94 lytically we use parameterizations for the shapes of the absorption spectra of CO<sub>2</sub> and  
95 H<sub>2</sub>O, plus their optical thickness relations. Section 2.1 describes the vertical thermody-  
96 namic profiles in the analytical model, Section 2.2 describes parameterizations for the  
97 absorption spectra, and Section 2.3 describes parameterizations for optical thickness.

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## 2.1 Thermodynamic Profile

We construct vertical thermodynamic profiles following Koll et al. (2023). Based on the fixed-anvil temperature (FAT) hypothesis (Hartmann & Larson, 2002), we assume a constant tropopause temperature  $T_{tp}$  fixed at 200 K, and treat stratospheric temperatures as isothermal and equal to  $T_{tp}$ . Next, we estimate the tropopause altitude  $Z_{tp}$  using the approximation from Romps (2016):

$$Z_{tp}(Ts) = \frac{1}{g}[C_p(Ts - T_{tp}) + L_v q_{vs}^*], \quad (2)$$

where  $g$  is the acceleration of gravity,  $C_p$  is the specific heat capacity of air at constant pressure, and  $L_v$  is the latent heat of condensation.  $q_{vs}^*$  denotes the surface saturation specific humidity which is set by the Clausius-Clapeyron relation, which we approximate as:

$$q_{vs}^*(Ts) = \frac{R_a e_{vs}^*}{R_v P_s} = \frac{R_a e_0^*}{R_v P_s} \exp\left(\frac{L_v(Ts - T_0)}{R_v T_0^2}\right). \quad (3)$$

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Here,  $e_{vs}^* = e_0^* \exp\left(\frac{L_v(Ts - T_0)}{R_v T_0^2}\right)$  is the surface saturation vapor pressure;  $e_0^*$  is a reference saturation vapor pressure at the reference temperature  $T_0$ ; and  $R_a$  and  $R_v$  are the specific gas constants for dry air and  $H_2O$ , respectively.

Based on Equation 2 we define the atmospheric bulk lapse rate  $\Gamma$  as

$$\Gamma(Ts) = \frac{dT}{dZ} \approx \frac{\Delta T}{Z_{tp}} = \frac{g(Ts - T_{tp})}{C_p(Ts - T_{tp}) + L_v q_{vs}^*}. \quad (4)$$

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$\Gamma$  decreases as  $Ts$  increases because it is dominated by the latent heat term,  $L_v q_{vs}^*$ , which increases rapidly with  $Ts$ . Consequently, in a warmer climate, the atmospheric temperature decreases more slowly with altitude.  $\Gamma$  maximizes in a dry atmosphere, where it reaches  $\Gamma_d = \frac{g}{C_p} \approx 10$  K/km.

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## 2.2 Approximating the absorption spectra of $CO_2$ and $H_2O$

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Previous studies of  $CO_2$  radiative forcing focused on the optically thick  $667 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band ( $500 - 870 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) (Jeevanjee et al., 2021; Romps et al., 2022), which is the main contributor to TOA radiative forcing. The  $667 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band is also important for the surface forcing, but we find that two new bands must be included to model  $F_{surf}$  accurately: the left new band centered at  $960 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (L) and the right at  $1060 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (R) (Fehr & Krossing, 2020). These new bands are much weaker than the  $667 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band (see Figure S1), so we provide separate models for the emission in the  $667 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band and the new bands.

The  $667 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band is already optically thick; therefore the main effect of increasing  $CO_2$  is to widen the band, allowing  $CO_2$  to radiate towards Earth's surface across a larger range of wavenumbers. Following Jeevanjee et al. (2021), the  $CO_2$  absorption coefficient can be approximated as decreasing exponentially away from the center of the  $667 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band. If  $CO_2$  increases from an initial concentration  $q_i$  to a new concentration  $q$ , the range of wavenumbers that are optically thick then widens logarithmically (in wavenumber space) on each side by an amount

$$\Delta w = l_{667} \ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right), \quad (5)$$

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where  $l_{667}$  is the exponential decay parameter of  $CO_2$ 's absorption coefficient in units of  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Jeevanjee et al., 2021). We determine  $l_{667}$  by fitting the  $CO_2$  absorption spectrum in Section 3.2.

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The new  $CO_2$  bands are optically thin at concentrations similar to present-day (less than 1000 ppm; see Figure S1), so the downward flux at the surface is weak. Nevertheless, the new bands' contribution to the surface forcing is not negligible because they are broad

120 compared to changes in the width of the main CO<sub>2</sub> band; Figure S2 shows a represen-  
 121 tative width of  $\sim 150 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the new bands, which should be compared to  $\Delta w \sim$   
 122  $7 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for a CO<sub>2</sub> doubling based on Equation and our fit for  $l_{667}$  (see Section 3).

The main effect of increasing CO<sub>2</sub> in the new bands is to increase the weak downward radiative flux at each wavenumber. Unlike our model of the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band, we assume the widths of the new bands remain constant. To model the relationship between CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and the increase in downward radiative flux, we assume the CO<sub>2</sub> absorption coefficient  $\kappa^{CO_2}$  is dominated by pressure broadening and depends only on total atmospheric pressure P,

$$\kappa^{CO_2} = \kappa_{ref}^{CO_2} \frac{P}{P_{ref}^{CO_2}}, \quad (6)$$

123 where  $\kappa_{ref}^{CO_2}$  has units of m<sup>2</sup>/kg and represents the reference absorption coefficient of CO<sub>2</sub>  
 124 for each new band at a reference atmospheric pressure  $P_{ref}^{CO_2}$ . We take  $\kappa_{ref}^{CO_2} = 9.12 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2/\text{kg}$   
 125 for the L band,  $\kappa_{ref}^{CO_2} = 1.40 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2/\text{kg}$  for the R, and  $P_{ref}^{CO_2} = 10^4 \text{ Pa}$ . (listed in Ta-  
 126 ble S1)

Next, we need to account for overlap between CO<sub>2</sub> bands and H<sub>2</sub>O. Following Jeevanjee et al. (2021), we denote the spectral interval 550-600 cm<sup>-1</sup> on the left side of the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band as (-) and the interval 750-800 cm<sup>-1</sup> on the right side of the band as (+) (see Figure S2). The (-) is influenced by absorption from the H<sub>2</sub>O rotational band, while the (+) and the new bands are influenced by absorption from the H<sub>2</sub>O continuum. Prior studies have provided estimates for the absorption coefficients of H<sub>2</sub>O in the rotation band ( $\kappa_{rot}^{H_2O}$ ) and continuum ( $\kappa_{ctn}^{H_2O}$ ) (Jeevanjee et al., 2021).  $\kappa_{rot}^{H_2O}$  at atmospheric pressure P is:

$$\kappa_{rot}^{H_2O} = \kappa_{rot,ref}^{H_2O} \frac{P}{P_{ref}^{H_2O}}, (-) \quad (7)$$

where  $\kappa_{rot,ref}^{H_2O}$  is the reference absorption coefficient for H<sub>2</sub>O in (-) at the reference atmospheric pressure  $P_{ref}^{H_2O}$ . We take  $\kappa_{rot,ref}^{H_2O} = 0.15 \text{ m}^2/\text{kg}$ ,  $P_{ref}^{H_2O} = 6.5 \times 10^4 \text{ Pa}$ .  $\kappa_{ctn}^{H_2O}$  at RH, T is:

$$\kappa_{ctn}^{H_2O} = \kappa_{ctn,ref}^{H_2O} \frac{RH}{RH_{ref}} e^{\left(\frac{L_v}{R_v T_{ref}} - \sigma\right)(T - T_{ref})}, (+), L, R. \quad (8)$$

127 Here  $\sigma = 0.021 \text{ K}^{-1}$  is a temperature scaling coefficient. The reference temperature  $T_{ref}$   
 128  $= 275 \text{ K}$ ,  $RH_{ref} = 0.75$ ,  $\kappa_{ctn,ref}^{H_2O} = 0.055 \text{ m}^2/\text{kg}$  for (+),  $0.0136 \text{ m}^2/\text{kg}$  for L new band,  
 129 and  $0.0176 \text{ m}^2/\text{kg}$  for R new band.

130 The reference values of  $\kappa_{rot}^{H_2O}$  and  $\kappa^{CO_2}$  are taken from HITRAN 2016 (Gordon et al.,  
 131 2017), while  $\kappa_{ctn}^{H_2O}$  is taken from MT\_CKD\_v3.2 (Mlawer et al., 2012) and rescaled to align  
 132 with the values used by Jeevanjee et al. (2021). The values for the (+) and (-) bands rep-  
 133 resent averages within the respective wavenumber ranges, and the radiative properties  
 134 of H<sub>2</sub>O in the new bands are represented by values at the L band and R band centers.  
 135 With these absorption coefficients, we calculate downward optical thicknesses, as discussed  
 136 in the next subsection.

137 The reference parameters used in this study, along with the fitted parameters, are pro-  
 138 vided in Table S1. Subscripts are used to denote different bands and gases.

### 139 2.3 Downward optical thickness

We define the downward optical thickness ( $\tau_d$ ) as the integrated opacity of an atmospheric absorber from some level in the atmosphere down to the surface:

$$\tau_d = \int_P^{P_s} \kappa q \frac{dp}{g}, \quad (9)$$

140 where  $p$  is the pressure of the atmospheric level (Pa),  $p_s$  is the surface pressure (Pa),  $\kappa$   
 141 is the mass absorption coefficient (m<sup>2</sup>/kg) as described in Section 2.2, and  $q$  is the mass

142 concentration of the atmospheric absorber (kg/kg). Note that Equation 9 applies monochro-  
 143 matically and that  $\tau_d$  decreases with increasing pressure; that is, the downward optical  
 144 thickness is largest at TOA.

Plugging Equations 6–8 into Equation 9 and integrating from the TOA down to the sur-  
 face, we obtain the following expressions for  $\tau_d$  for CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O:

$$\tau_d^{CO_2} = k_{ref}^{CO_2} \frac{q}{P_{ref}^{CO_2}} \frac{P_s^2}{2g}, \quad (10)$$

$$\tau_{d,rot}^{H_2O} = k_{rot,ref}^{H_2O} WVP_0 \frac{P_s}{P_{ref}^{H_2O}} e^{-\frac{L_v}{R_v T_s}}, (-) \quad (11)$$

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$$\tau_{d,ctn}^{H_2O} = \frac{RH^2 \rho_{ref}^* k_{ctn,ref}^{H_2O}}{\alpha RH_{ref} \Gamma} e^{\alpha(T_s - T_{ref})}, (+), L, R$$

where,  $\alpha = \frac{2L_v}{R_v T_{ref}^2} - \sigma.$  (12)

146 Here,  $WVP_0$  is a reference column water vapor path, given by  $WVP_0 = \int q^* dp/g =$   
 147  $(T_s + T_{tp}) RH p_v^\infty / (2\Gamma L_v)$ , where  $p_v^\infty = 2.5 \times 10^{11}$  Pa (Koll & Cronin, 2018; Jeevanjee  
 148 & Fueglistaler, 2020; Jeevanjee et al., 2021).  $\rho_{ref}^*$  is the saturated water vapor density  
 149 at the reference temperature  $T_{ref}$  (kg/m<sup>3</sup>).

150 Note that we do not require a model for the CO<sub>2</sub> optical depth in the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band,  
 151 because this band is already optically thick. Put differently, the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band already  
 152 emits from very close to the surface, so increasing CO<sub>2</sub> only increases the downward flux  
 153 into the surface by widening the band ( $\Delta w$ ), not by increasing the temperature from which  
 154 the downward emission originates.

## 155 2.4 The Downward Radiative Flux

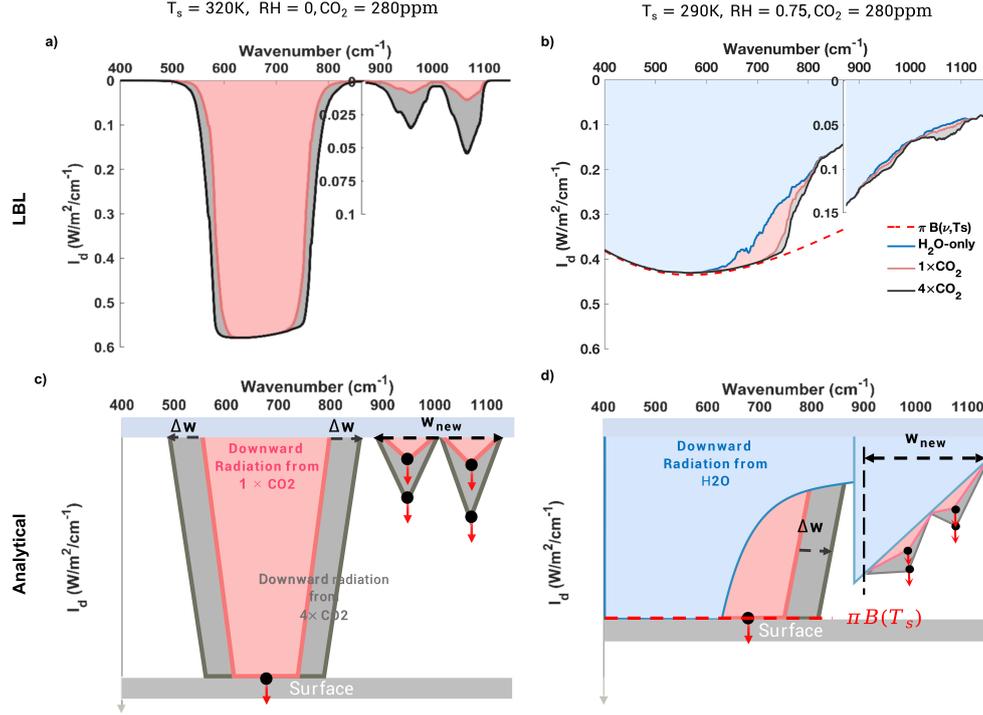
Finally, we approximate the atmosphere’s downward radiative flux into the surface  $I_d$ .  
 A useful upper bound on  $I_d$  can be obtained by neglecting the atmosphere’s detailed tem-  
 perature structure and assume it is isothermal with temperature equal to the surface tem-  
 perature  $T_s$ . There is no downward longwave flux at the TOA, so the downward flux at  
 the surface takes a modified form of Beer’s law:

$$I_d = (1 - \exp(-\tau_d)) \pi B(\nu, T_s). \quad (13)$$

156 Here  $B(\nu, T_s)$  is the Planck function evaluated at wavenumber  $\nu$  and temperature  $T_s$ .  
 157  $I_d$  increases with the downward optical depth  $\tau_d$ . This expression is an upper bound on  
 158  $I_d$  because it uses  $T_s$  in the Planck function. In reality, unless the atmosphere had an  
 159 inverted temperature structure, any downward emission originates from an atmospheric  
 160 temperature that is colder than  $T_s$ .

## 161 3 Analytical Models for Surface and Atmospheric Forcing

162 We next describe our analytical model for the Clear-Sky Longwave (CSLW) component  
 163 of  $F_{surf}$ . We begin by considering an atmosphere with CO<sub>2</sub> as the only greenhouse gas,  
 164 then generalize the model to a moist atmosphere with both CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. Finally, we  
 165 combine our model with Jeevanjee et al. (2021)’s  $F_{TOA}$  model to obtain an analytical  
 166 model for atmospheric forcing  $F_{atm}$ . We test these analytical models against line-by-line  
 167 radiative transfer calculations across various thermodynamic conditions and CO<sub>2</sub> con-  
 168 centrations. Similar to Jeevanjee et al. (2021), our model for  $F_{surf}$  contains two free pa-  
 169 rameters, which we tune based on line-by-line calculations.



**Figure 1.** The downward radiative flux into the surface,  $I_d$ , at  $\text{CO}_2 = 280\text{ ppm}$  ( $q_i$ ) and  $1120\text{ ppm}$  ( $4q_i$ ). a) Output from the PyRADS LBL model with  $T_s = 320\text{ K}$  and  $\text{RH}=0$ . b) Output from the PyRADS LBL model with  $T_s=290\text{K}$  and  $\text{RH}=0.75$ . The added blue curve represents  $I_d$  in the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -only. Spectra are smoothed using a  $50\text{cm}^{-1}$  sliding window. The x-axis is split at  $870\text{cm}^{-1}$  to illustrate the  $667\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band and the new bands of  $\text{CO}_2$ , with a change in y-axis scale at  $870\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Panels c) and d) are schematic diagrams of the top panels used to construct our analytical model.

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### 3.1 PyRADS Line-By-Line model

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We validate the analytical models by comparing them to line-by-line calculations with the PyRADS radiation code (Koll & Cronin, 2019). This code incorporates  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  line data from HITRAN 2016 (Gordon et al., 2017),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  continuum data from MT\_CKD.v3.2 (Mlawer et al., 2012), and  $\text{CO}_2$  continuum data derived from a fitting function (Pierrehumbert, 2010). Doppler broadening is incorporated via a Voigt lineshape. The model's spectral range covers  $0.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $3500\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , with a  $0.01\text{ cm}^{-1}$  bin size. All calculations are conducted assuming a moist adiabatic troposphere coupled to an isothermal stratosphere at  $200\text{ K}$ . For computational efficiency, the atmospheric layer where temperature decreases to  $200\text{ K}$  is designated as the tropopause, while the model top is placed at  $0.9$  times the tropopause pressure.  $\text{RH}$  is vertically constant. For a  $\text{CO}_2$ -only atmosphere (i.e., an atmosphere where  $\text{CO}_2$  is the only greenhouse gas), we set  $\text{RH}$  to  $0\%$ . The atmosphere is resolved using  $50$  vertical levels, logarithmically spaced in pressure between the surface and model top.

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### 3.2 $F_{surf}$ in a CO<sub>2</sub>-only atmosphere

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We first examine how the downward flux at the surface ( $I_d$ ) responds to changes in CO<sub>2</sub>. The left panels of Figure 1 illustrate an example with CO<sub>2</sub> as the only greenhouse gas. To better visualize the effect we set  $T_s = 320$  K, as the new bands become more significant at higher  $T_s$ . Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is increased from 1x to 4x the preindustrial CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (280 ppm); panel a) shows the results of a LBL calculation, while panel c) shows a schematic representation. In the figure, the y-axis is inverted, so emission from closer to the surface (i.e., from warmer temperatures) appear lower on the axis.

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In the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band, increasing CO<sub>2</sub> means a wider range of wavenumbers emit from close to the surface and fewer wavenumbers emit from close to the TOA. The flux originating very close to the surface is  $\pi B(\nu_0, T_s)$ , whereas the flux originating from the TOA is zero. The resulting change in flux due to a CO<sub>2</sub> increase is represented by the shaded gray area in Figure 1a.

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Geometrically this area can be approximated by two parallelograms, each with a width of  $\Delta w$  and a height of  $\pi B(\nu_0, T_s)$ . Following Jeevanjee et al. (2021), the width  $\Delta w$  of the parallelograms increases by the amount specified in Equation 2.2 for each CO<sub>2</sub> doubling, while the height increases according to the Planck function. Note that the left and right parallelogram in Figure 1a have slightly different heights, which is due to the wavenumber-dependence of  $B(\nu, T)$ . However, as long as the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band is narrow relative to the Planck function this variation can be approximated as linear and canceling between opposite band wings, so we can approximate  $B(\nu, T)$  across the band by using its central value at 667 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Thus, the surface forcing in the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band,  $F_{surf,667}$ , is given by

$$\begin{aligned} F_{surf,667} &= 2\Delta w\pi B(\nu_0, T_s) \\ &= 2l_{667}\ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right)\pi B(667\text{cm}^{-1}, T_s), \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

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where  $q_i$  and  $q$  (in units of kg/kg) are the mass concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> before and after an increase, respectively, and  $B(667\text{ cm}^{-1}, T_s)$  ( $\text{Wm}^{-2}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) is the Planck function at wavenumber 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> and temperature  $T_s$ .

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To estimate  $F_{surf}$  from the new CO<sub>2</sub> bands,  $F_{surf,new}$ , we focus on the increase in  $I_d$  at each wavenumber and disregard changes in bandwidth. Geometrically, the areas highlighted in Figure 1a closely resemble two triangles. An increase in CO<sub>2</sub> increases the height of each triangle but does not increase the length of its base (physically, this occurs because the new bands are optically thin so an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> primarily enhances the flux within the bands without significantly altering their bandwidths).

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Due to the similar shapes of the L and R bands, we simplify the derivation by assuming that the base lengths of the two triangles are equal, each being  $\frac{1}{2}w_{new}$ . The heights correspond to the downward radiative fluxes in the L and R bands, denoted as  $I_d(L, q)$  and  $I_d(R, q)$ , respectively.  $F_{surf,new}$  is then the difference in triangle area when varying CO<sub>2</sub> from  $q$  to  $q_i$ :

$$\begin{aligned} F_{surf,new} &= \frac{1}{4}w_{new}[I_d(L, q) - I_d(L, q_i) + I_d(R, q) - I_d(R, q_i)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2}w_{new}[I_d(new, q) - I_d(new, q_i)] \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

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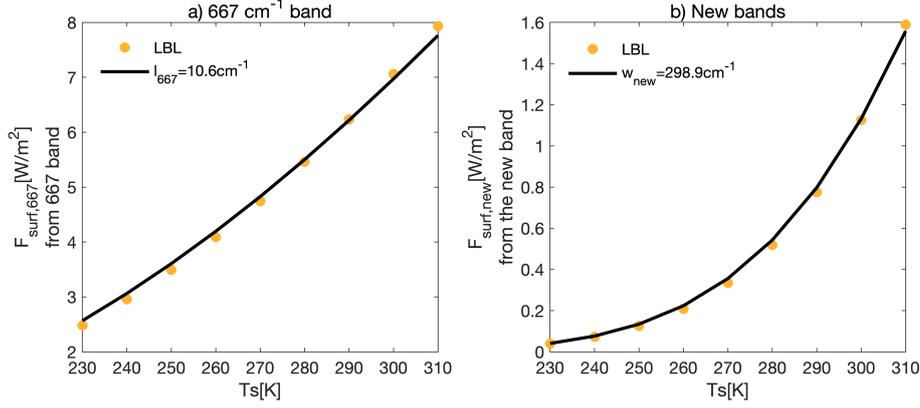
223

where  $I_d(new, q) = \frac{1}{2}[I_d(L, q) + I_d(R, q)]$ , represents the mean downward radiative flux from the new bands. This flux is calculated using Equation 13, evaluated at the center of each band.

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To determine the two free parameters  $l_{667}$  and  $w_{new}$ , we conduct a set of LBL calculations with  $T_s$  ranging from 230 K to 310 K, with CO<sub>2</sub> = 280 ppm and CO<sub>2</sub> = 560 ppm.



**Figure 2.** Fitting results for the two free parameters in the analytical model (Equation 16) compared to LBL results. To fit the parameters we assume CO<sub>2</sub> is the only radiatively active gas and has a concentration of 280 ppm, while Ts ranges from 230 K to 310 K. a) Surface forcing for the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band  $F_{surf,667}$ . b) Surface forcing for the new bands  $F_{surf,new}$ . Orange dots: LBL (PyRads). Black curves: Analytical model.

226 From each calculation, we output  $F_{surf,667}$ ,  $F_{surf,new}$ ,  $I_d(\text{new}, q)$  and  $I_d(\text{new}, q_i)$ . We  
 227 substitute Ts and the outputted  $I_d(\text{new}, q)$  and  $I_d(\text{new}, q_i)$  into Equations 14 and 15  
 228 to obtain the estimated  $F_{surf,667}$  and  $F_{surf,new}$ . Then we perform linear regression be-  
 229 tween the simulated and estimated  $F_{surf,667}$  and  $F_{surf,new}$  to determine  $l_{667}$  and  $w_{new}$ .  
 230 This procedure yields optimal values of  $l_{667} = 10.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $w_{new} = 298.9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Fig-  
 231 ure 2). The parameter values are an excellent fit to the LBL calculations, with  $R^2$  val-  
 232 ues close to 1.

233 Using the Taylor expansion, retaining only the first-order approximation, our final model  
 234 for  $F_{surf}$  in a CO<sub>2</sub>-only, clear-sky atmosphere is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_{surf} &= F_{surf,667} + F_{surf,new} \\
 &= 2l_{667} \ln(2) \pi B(667 \text{ cm}^{-1}, Ts) \\
 &\quad + 74.7 \text{ cm}^{-1} \pi B(1000 \text{ cm}^{-1}, Ts) 117.9 q_i
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

235 The approximate conversion of the CO<sub>2</sub> volume fraction into its mass fraction is  $q_i =$   
 236  $\text{PPMV}_{\text{CO}_2} \times 44/29 \text{ kg/kg}$ . If CO<sub>2</sub> is the only greenhouse gas and under representative  
 237 conditions (Ts=300K, 280 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>)  $F_{surf}$  is dominated by the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band, which  
 238 contributes 3 times more to  $F_{surf}$  than the new bands. Both terms increase with Ts due  
 239 to the temperature-dependence of the Planck function, but the contribution from the  
 240 new bands also increases with the CO<sub>2</sub>-abundance. At Ts=300K, the contribution from  
 241 the new bands starts outweighing the contribution from the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band above 10<sup>4</sup>  
 242 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure S3).

### 243 3.3 $F_{surf}$ in a CO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O atmosphere

244 We now generalize the model to include H<sub>2</sub>O. The right panels of Figure 1 are similar  
 245 to the left panels but with RH = 0.75 and a lower temperature Ts = 290 K, to make the  
 246 strength of H<sub>2</sub>O absorption more relevant for present-day Earth. Comparing  $I_d$  at 280  
 247 ppm with and without H<sub>2</sub>O, the rotation band of H<sub>2</sub>O significantly enhances  $I_d$  on the  
 248 left side of the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band, while the H<sub>2</sub>O continuum enhances  $I_d$  on the right side  
 249 of the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band and in the new bands. At shorter wavenumbers H<sub>2</sub>O intensifies  
 250  $I_d$  so much that the downward flux already originates from just above the surface, and

251 adding more CO<sub>2</sub> no longer increases the downward emission (Figure 1d, at less than  
 252 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>). In other parts of the spectrum H<sub>2</sub>O increases I<sub>d</sub> but the surface flux is still  
 253 sensitive to increases in CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 1d, above 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>). In both cases, the radiative  
 254 forcing of CO<sub>2</sub> is smaller with H<sub>2</sub>O than in the CO<sub>2</sub>-only case.

255 F<sub>surf,667</sub> can still be estimated using the differences between I<sub>d</sub> in the (-) and (+) re-  
 256 gions of the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band and I<sub>d</sub> emitted from the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band center, but I<sub>d</sub> in  
 257 (-) and (+) is now equal to the downward flux emitted by the H<sub>2</sub>O rotation band and  
 258 the H<sub>2</sub>O continuum. Under the conditions shown in Figure 1, I<sub>d</sub> in the (-) region is so  
 259 strong that the downward flux is already equal to the surface Planck function (Figure 1d),  
 260 so adding CO<sub>2</sub> does not affect I<sub>d</sub>. In the (+) region, the H<sub>2</sub>O continuum produces a rel-  
 261 atively weak I<sub>d</sub>, allowing more CO<sub>2</sub> to enhance I<sub>d</sub> and thereby contribute to a net F<sub>surf,667</sub>.  
 262 Note that if RH or Ts are lower, as shown in Figure S4, H<sub>2</sub>O in the (-) region becomes  
 263 optically thin and I<sub>d</sub> is weaker, which allows CO<sub>2</sub> to still increase F<sub>surf,667</sub> in the (-) re-  
 264 gion.

265 Taking these effects into account, F<sub>surf,667</sub> in an atmosphere with H<sub>2</sub>O is:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{surf,667} &= 2\Delta w \ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right) [\pi B(\nu_0, Ts) - I_d(667cm^{-1})], \\ &= 21.2cm^{-1} \ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right) [\pi B(667cm^{-1}, Ts) - I_d(667cm^{-1})], \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

266 where I<sub>d</sub>(667cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 1/2 × (I<sub>d</sub>(-) + I<sub>d</sub>(+)), and I<sub>d</sub>(-) and I<sub>d</sub>(+) are calculated by sub-  
 267 stituting Equations 11 and 12 into Equation 13. This expression quantifies how the pres-  
 268 ence of H<sub>2</sub>O reduces F<sub>surf,667</sub> for a given change in CO<sub>2</sub>. The difference between Equa-  
 269 tion 14 for a CO<sub>2</sub>-only atmosphere and Equation 17 for a CO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O atmosphere is given  
 270 by the term 21.2 cm<sup>-1</sup> ln(q/q<sub>i</sub>)I<sub>d</sub>(667cm<sup>-1</sup>) which describes the baseline downwelling  
 271 flux from H<sub>2</sub>O in the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band. Using representative global-mean values of Ts =  
 272 280 K and RH = 0.75, this term equals 3.7 W/m<sup>2</sup>, which should be compared to F<sub>surf,667</sub> =  
 273 5.5 W/m<sup>2</sup> for a CO<sub>2</sub>-only atmosphere at the same conditions. H<sub>2</sub>O thus significantly re-  
 274 duces the CO<sub>2</sub> surface forcing in the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band, by about 67%.

The new bands overlap with the H<sub>2</sub>O continuum, but since CO<sub>2</sub> emission is not satu-  
 rated in this region and the continuum is relatively flat (the curvature in Figure 1 is ex-  
 aggerated by the zoomed-in y-axis), their emission can still be approximated by two tri-  
 angles. The optical thicknesses of H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> are comparable in the new bands, so  
 we must include both their contributions when computing I<sub>d</sub> in the new bands:

$$\tau_d = \tau_d^{H_2O} + \tau_d^{CO_2}, \quad (18)$$

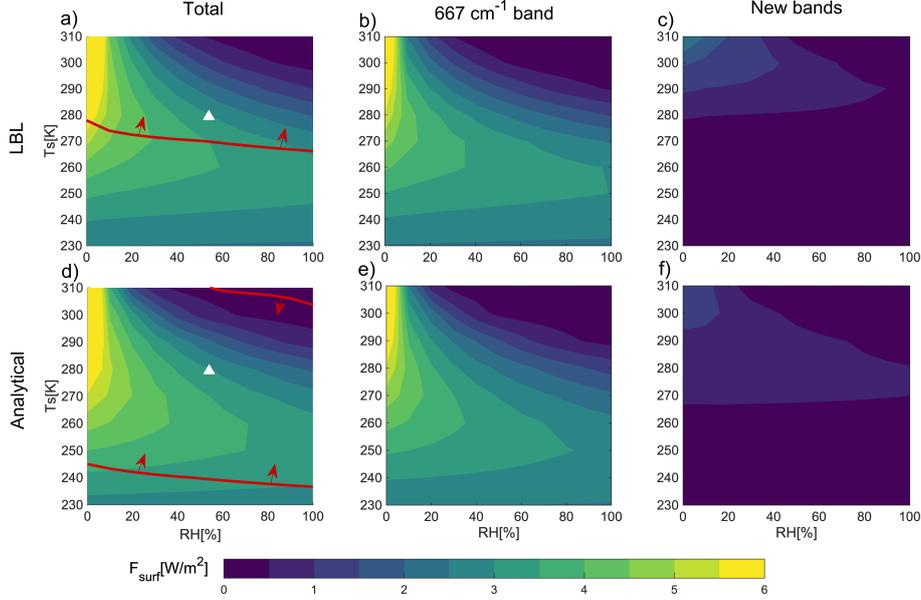
275 which can be evaluated using the expressions from Section 2. F<sub>surf,new</sub> is then obtained  
 276 from Equation 15 as before, but now we evaluate I<sub>d</sub> in Equation 13 using this combined  
 277 value of τ<sub>d</sub>. In addition, we assume the new bands have the same width w<sub>new</sub> in a CO<sub>2</sub>-  
 278 H<sub>2</sub>O as in CO<sub>2</sub>-only atmosphere.

279 Putting things together, our analytical model for F<sub>surf</sub> in a CO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O atmosphere is:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{surf} &= 21.2cm^{-1} \ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right) [\pi B(667cm^{-1}, Ts) - I_d(667cm^{-1})] \\ &\quad + 149.45cm^{-1} [I_d(new, q) - I_d(new, q_i)], \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

280 where I<sub>d</sub>(667cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 1/2 × (I<sub>d</sub>(-) + I<sub>d</sub>(+)) and I<sub>d</sub>(new, q) = 1/2 [I<sub>d</sub>(L, q) + I<sub>d</sub>(R, q)].  
 281 Substituting Equations 10, 13, and 18 into Equation 19, using the Planck function at 667  
 282 cm<sup>-1</sup> in place of the Planck functions for the (-) and (+) regions, and the Planck func-  
 283 tion at 1000 cm<sup>-1</sup> in place of the Planck functions for the L and R new bands, and ap-  
 284 proximating with Taylor expansion gives:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{surf} &= 21.2cm^{-1} \ln(2) \pi B(667cm^{-1}, Ts) e^{-\tau_d^{H_2O}(667cm^{-1})} \\ &\quad + 74.7cm^{-1} \pi B(1000cm^{-1}, Ts) \times \\ &\quad (46.5q_i + 71.4q_i) e^{-\tau_d^{H_2O}(new)}, \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$



**Figure 3.**  $F_{surf}$  for  $T_s$  varying from 230 K to 310 K and RH varying from 0 to 100%, with  $\text{CO}_2$  doubled from 280 ppm to 560 ppm. The top row shows the results of the LBL calculations and the bottom row shows the results of the analytical model. The left column shows the total forcing, the middle column shows the forcing due to the  $667\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band and the right column shows the forcing due to the new bands. White triangles denote the global-mean  $T_s$  and RH of present-day Earth. The areas indicated by the red lines and arrows indicate conditions for which  $F_{surf,new}$  accounts for more than 10% of the  $F_{surf}$ .

285 where  $e^{-\tau_d^{H_2O}(667\text{cm}^{-1})} = (e^{-\tau_{d,rot}^{H_2O}(-)} + e^{-\tau_{d,ctn}^{H_2O}(+)})/2$ , and  $e^{-\tau_d^{H_2O}(new)} = (e^{-\tau_{d,ctn}^{H_2O}(L)} +$   
 286  $e^{-\tau_{d,ctn}^{H_2O}(R)})/2$ .  $F_{surf}$  increases with  $T_s$  due to both the  $667\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and the new bands,  
 287 decreases with  $\tau_d^{H_2O}$  in both bands, and increases with  $\text{CO}_2$  due to the  $\text{CO}_2$ -dependence  
 288 of the optically thin new bands.

289 Comparing the analytical model with and without  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , as given by Equations 16 and 20,  
 290 one can see that  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  reduces  $F_{surf}$  by adding an attenuation factor of  $e^{-\tau_d^{H_2O}}$ . Our ana-  
 291 lytical model for  $F_{surf}$  is derived based on the difference in  $I_d$ . In Appendix S1.4, Equa-  
 292 tion A.8, we provide an alternative analytical model for  $F_{surf}$  analogous to the method  
 293 used in Jeevanjee et al. (2021)’s model.

294 As an application of Equation 19, we calculate  $F_{surf}$  at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole  
 295 Station ( $140.5^\circ\text{E}$ ,  $89.5^\circ\text{S}$ ) under clear-sky conditions, using the following background state:  
 296  $(T_s, \text{RH}, \text{CO}_2, T_{tp}, \text{Ps}) = (245\text{ K}, 0.95, 380\text{ ppm}, 200\text{ K}, 10^5\text{ Pa})$  and  $\Gamma = 6\text{ K/km}$  (Freese  
 297 & Cronin, 2021). From Equation 19, we obtain  $F_{surf} = 3.45\text{ W/m}^2$ , consistent with the  
 298 radiosonde-observed value of  $3.33\text{ W/m}^2$  (Loeb et al., 2018; Kato et al., 2018) and a value  
 299 of  $2.90\text{ W/m}^2$  simulated using RRTMG (Freese & Cronin, 2021).

### 300 3.4 Validation against LBL model

301 We validate our analytical model for  $F_{surf}$  by comparing its estimates of  $F_{surf}$  for a  $\text{CO}_2$ -  
 302  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  atmosphere with the results of our 1D LBL model. Figure 3 shows that our ana-  
 303 lytical model accurately captures the dependence of  $F_{surf}$  on RH and  $T_s$  (Figure 3a,d;  
 304 correlation coefficient  $r=0.98$ ), although it is more accurate in the  $667\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band ( $r=0.99$ )

305 than in the new bands ( $r=0.80$ ). In the new bands, our model tends to underestimate  
 306  $F_{surf,new}$  at  $T_s > 290$  K and overestimate it at  $T_s < 290$  K (see Figure S5). The bias  
 307 of our analytical model in the new bands can be related to our imperfect parameteri-  
 308 zation of  $H_2O$ , which is likely further compounded by our approximation of the down-  
 309 welling surface flux via Equation 13.

310 Both the LBL calculations and our analytical model show that  $F_{surf}$  increases with  $T_s$   
 311 in the  $CO_2$ -only case (i.e., when  $RH = 0$ ), but is non-monotonic for  $RH$  values above  $\sim 10\%$ ,  
 312 and generally peaks at a relatively cold  $T_s$  of  $250 - 270$  K. The decrease in  $F_{surf}$  at higher  
 313  $T_s$  is due to the  $H_2O$  masking effect. As seen in the right panels of Figure 1,  $H_2O$  masks  
 314 the emission from certain wavenumbers, and this masking strengthens as  $T_s$  increases  
 315 and the water vapor path lengthens, counteracting the increase in  $F_{surf}$  due to the in-  
 316 crease in  $\pi B(\nu, T_s)$  as  $T_s$  rises. The latter effect only wins out at relatively low  $T_s$  and  
 317  $RH$ . Figure 3 also shows that  $F_{surf}$  is dominated by the  $667\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band at low  $T_s$  while  
 318 the new bands become dominant at high  $T_s$  and  $RH$ . For  $T_s > 290$  K and  $RH > 50\%$ ,  
 319 the new bands contribute over 50% of the total  $F_{surf}$  (see Figure S6).

### 320 3.5 Analytical model for $F_{atm}$

321 Finally, we combine our analytical model for  $F_{surf}$  with Jeevanjee et al. (2021)'s ana-  
 322 lytical model for  $F_{TOA}$  to develop an analytical model for  $F_{atm}$ . In doing so, we will ig-  
 323 nore the contribution to  $F_{atm}$  from the new bands. The new bands were not included  
 324 in Jeevanjee et al. (2021)'s model, though we find that these bands can substantially con-  
 325 tribute to  $F_{atm}$  once  $T_s > 270$  K (Figure S6). In Appendix S1 we derive an extension  
 326 of Jeevanjee et al. (2021)'s  $F_{TOA}$  model which includes the effect of the new bands; for  
 327 the rest of this paper, however, our discussion of  $F_{atm}$  is based on the simpler model which  
 328 ignores the new bands.

For a  $CO_2$ -only atmosphere, combining the analytical model for  $F_{TOA}$  (Equation 14 in  
 Jeevanjee et al. (2021)) and our analytical model for  $F_{surf}$  yields

$$F_{atm} = -21.2\text{cm}^{-1}\ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right)\pi B(667\text{cm}^{-1}, T_{tp}), \quad (21)$$

329 which depends only on  $T_{tp}$  and is independent of  $T_s$  (see Figure 4). For  $CO_2$ -only  $F_{atm}$   
 330 is always negative, so an increase in  $CO_2$  always increases the atmosphere's radiative cool-  
 331 ing (and increases precipitation).

332 For a  $CO_2$ - $H_2O$  atmosphere we obtain:

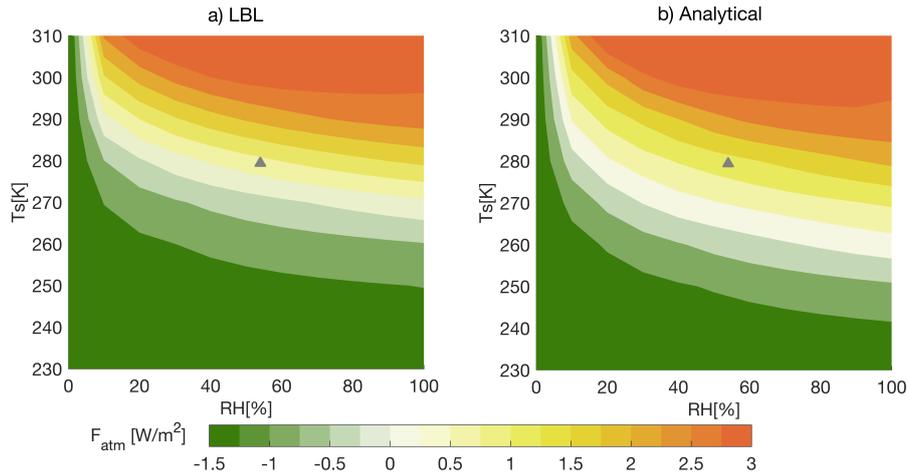
$$F_{atm} = 21.2\text{cm}^{-1}\ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right)[\pi B(667\text{cm}^{-1}, \overline{T_{em}}) - \pi B(667\text{cm}^{-1}, T_{tp}) - \pi B(667\text{cm}^{-1}, T_s) + I_d(667\text{cm}^{-1})]. \quad (22)$$

333 Where  $\overline{T_{em}} = \min(T_s, T_{em})$ ,  $T_{em}$  is the effective emission temperature of  $H_2O$ , which  
 334 depends quadratically on  $RH$  (Jeevanjee et al., 2021).

335 Plugging Equations 11, 12, and 13 into Equation 19 gives:

$$F_{atm} = 21.2\text{cm}^{-1}\ln(2)[\pi B(667\text{cm}^{-1}, \overline{T_{em}}) - \pi B(667\text{cm}^{-1}, T_{tp}) - \pi B(667\text{cm}^{-1}, T_s)e^{-\tau_d^{H_2O}(667\text{cm}^{-1})}], \quad (23)$$

336 where  $e^{-\tau_d^{H_2O}(667\text{cm}^{-1})} = (e^{-\tau_{d,rot}^{H_2O}(-)} + e^{-\tau_{d,ctn}^{H_2O}(+)})/2$ .  $F_{atm}$  is now a function of  $T_s$ ,  
 337  $RH$ , and  $T_{tp}$ . In Appendix S1.4, we present an alternative model for calculating  $F_{surf}$   
 338 (Equation A.8) and  $F_{atm}$  (Equation A.9) using the same approach as in Jeevanjee et al.  
 339 (2021), which employs an effective downward emission temperature  $T_{dem}$ . Equation A.9  
 340 provides an intuitive understanding of the dependencies of  $F_{atm}$  on  $H_2O$ ,  $T_s$ , and  $T_{tp}$ :



**Figure 4.**  $F_{atm}$  obtained from the LBL model (a) and our analytical model (b) for  $T_s$  ranging from 230 K to 310 K and RH from 0 to 100%, with  $\text{CO}_2$  at 280 ppm. In the LBL model,  $F_{atm}$  is calculated using the entire  $\text{CO}_2$  spectrum, whereas in the analytical model,  $F_{atm}$  only accounts for the  $667\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band of  $\text{CO}_2$ . Triangles denote the global-mean  $T_s$  and RH of pre-industrial Earth from RFMIP.

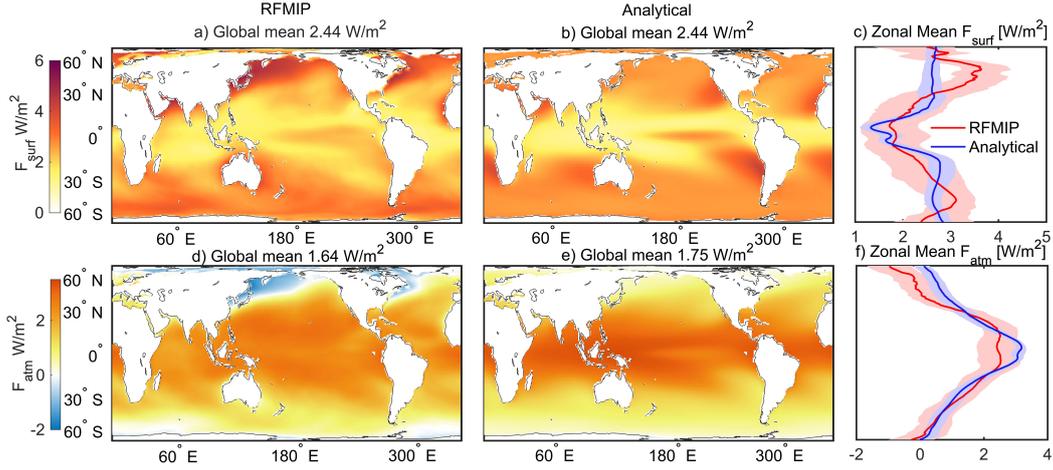
341 as the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  concentration increases,  $T_{em}$  decreases, and  $T_{dem}$  increases, partially offset-  
 342 ting each other term’s effect. Increases in  $T_s$  and decreases in  $T_{tp}$  enhance  $F_{atm}$  through  
 343 the Planck function (see Figure 4).

344 In Figure 4 we validate the analytical model for  $F_{atm}$  (Equation 23) against the LBL model  
 345 and present its state-dependence on  $T_s$  and RH. The analytical model for  $F_{atm}$  (Equa-  
 346 tion 23) reproduces the key features of the LBL calculations, though it tends to over-  
 347 estimate the forcing because it neglects the new bands. Neglecting the new bands  
 348 has almost little impact on  $F_{TOA}$  at  $T_s < 300\text{ K}$ , but leads the model to underestimate  $F_{surf}$ .

349 In contrast to a  $\text{CO}_2$ -only atmosphere, the sign of  $F_{atm}$  now varies depending on  $T_s$  and  
 350 RH. At low  $T_s$  and RH,  $F_{atm}$  resembles the  $\text{CO}_2$ -only case and is negative. This means  
 351 an increase in  $\text{CO}_2$  increases the atmosphere’s radiative cooling and increases precipi-  
 352 tation. However, at high  $T_s$  and RH  $F_{atm}$  is positive. This means an increase in  $\text{CO}_2$   
 353 reduces the atmosphere’s radiative cooling and reduces precipitation. Interestingly, present-  
 354 day global-mean conditions are surprisingly close to the boundary where  $F_{atm}$  flips sign.  
 355 This suggests the  $\text{CO}_2$ -precipitation effect reverses sign in climates only moderately colder  
 356 ( $\sim 10\text{ K}$ ) than today, while  $F_{atm}$  becomes significantly stronger in hot climates. This  
 357  $T_s$ -dependence is entirely due to the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , as  $F_{atm}$  becomes independent of  
 358  $T_s$  as  $\text{RH} \rightarrow 0$  (see the left sides of Figure 4a,b).  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  thus crucially controls whether  
 359 an increase in  $\text{CO}_2$  allows the atmosphere to shed more energy (at low  $T_s$  and RH) or  
 360 to retain more energy (at high  $T_s$  and RH).

#### 361 4 Spatial Forcings and $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$ in RFMIP

362 In this section we compare our analytical models for clear-sky longwave  $F_{surf}$  (Equa-  
 363 tion 19) and  $F_{atm}$  (Equation 23) with outputs from GCMs participating in RFMIP. We  
 364 begin by evaluating global-mean  $F_{surf}$  and  $F_{atm}$  using GCM output. Subsequently, we  
 365 use Equation 1 to compute  $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$  and its spatial distribution in RFMIP, and compare  
 366  $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$  as diagnosed from GCMs to  $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$  predicted by our analytical model for  $F_{atm}$ .



**Figure 5.** Top row: Multi-model mean RFMIP  $F_{surf}$  (left), the estimate from the analytical model (middle), and zonal means (right panel). The 95% confidence interval for the zonal mean is shaded. Bottom row: Same as top row but for  $F_{atm}$ .

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#### 4.1 RFMIP data

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RFMIP is a subproject of CMIP6 designed for investigating uncertainties in radiative forcing (Pincus et al., 2016). The experiments used here comprise ‘piClim-control’ and ‘piClim-4×CO<sub>2</sub>’, both of which use fixed pre-industrial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) and sea-ice and were run for 30 years (Eyring et al., 2016). The piClim-control experiment represents a scenario with CO<sub>2</sub> at pre-industrial levels that serves as baseline for radiative forcing calculations. The piClim-4×CO<sub>2</sub> experiment features quadrupled CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations compared to pre-industrial.

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We compute  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{surf}$  by subtracting the relevant fields for piClim-control from piClim-4×CO<sub>2</sub>. It should be noted that land surface temperatures are not held constant in the RFMIP experiments. To ensure compatibility with the definition of forcing (change in flux while keeping temperature constant), we therefore restrict our analysis to ocean grid points in the RFMIP simulations.

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We use data from 15 GCMs participating in RFMIP to evaluate the spatial patterns of  $F_{surf}$ ,  $F_{atm}$ , and  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$ . For each of these variables, we perform calculations separately under clear-sky and all-sky conditions. For comparison we then evaluate our analytical model at each latitude-longitude grid point separately. The inputs to our analytical model are  $T_s$ ,  $T_{tp}$ ,  $\Gamma$ , and RH, which we derive from RFMIP data as follows. For  $T_s$ , we use the atmospheric temperature at 850 hPa, which avoids complications in inversion regions. The tropopause temperature  $T_{tp}$  is defined as the temperature at a fixed pressure level that decreases linearly from 100 hPa at the equator to 300 hPa at the poles (Soden et al., 2008).  $\Gamma$  is taken as the vertically-averaged, pressure-weighted lapse rate. RH is the ratio of the vertically-averaged, pressure-weighted specific humidity to the vertically-averaged, pressure-weighted saturation specific humidity inside the troposphere. For all variables, we use multi-year averages of the pre-industrial values from each model to serve as inputs in our analytical model and calculate spatial patterns for each model individually.

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## 4.2 Spatial patterns of $F_{surf}$ , $F_{atm}$ , and $\Delta P_{CO_2}$

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We use Equations 19 and 23 with input data from the piClim-control experiments to estimate the spatial distribution of  $F_{surf}$  and  $F_{atm}$  in RFMIP (Figure 5). For further diagnosis of any discrepancies between RFMIP models and our  $F_{atm}$  estimate, we also estimate  $F_{TOA}$  using Jeevanjee et al. (2021)’s analytical model (see Figure S11).

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The analytical model for  $F_{surf}$  exactly matches the global-mean  $F_{surf}$  of  $2.44 \text{ W/m}^2$  (Figure 5a,b), and produces good agreement with the zonal structure of  $F_{surf}$ , which is characterized by weaker values in the tropics and stronger values in the extratropics (Figure 5c). Comparing with our 1D results (Section 3) shows that the tropical minimum in  $F_{surf}$  is a result of high Ts and RH, in which  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  masks  $\text{CO}_2$  and thus diminishes  $F_{surf}$ .

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The most significant discrepancies are in the temperate regions of the Northwest Pacific and Northwest Atlantic, where our model fails to capture the high values of  $F_{surf}$ . We find that these strong  $F_{surf}$  values are caused by local increases in RH after  $\text{CO}_2$ -doubling (Figure S12), which lead to increased downward longwave emission reaching the surface. Our analytical model assumes RH remains fixed during  $\text{CO}_2$ -doubling, so it cannot account for this effect.

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The analytical model for  $F_{atm}$  also produces a good match to the RFMIP data. It estimates a global mean  $F_{atm}$  of  $1.75 \text{ W/m}^2$ , close to the RFMIP value of  $1.64 \text{ W/m}^2$ . The spatial patterns are also comparable; both RFMIP models and our analytical expressions show that  $F_{atm}$  is large in the deep tropics and becomes small at high latitudes. This pattern is consistent with our 1D results in Figure 4, which show that  $F_{atm}$  becomes small and even reverses sign at low Ts and low RH.

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There are two primary differences between the analytic model estimates of  $F_{atm}$  and RFMIP results. First, the model does not capture the negative  $F_{atm}$  in the northwest Pacific and Atlantic, which is driven by the large  $F_{surf}$  there. Interestingly, these negative  $F_{atm}$  are compensated by relatively strong, positive  $F_{atm}$  over the eastern parts of the basin, leading to pronounced zonal asymmetries. Second, the analytical model predicts a narrow band of large  $F_{atm}$  over the equator, whereas the RFMIP data has a slightly weaker forcing maximum that is spread over a wider band of latitudes. A similar discrepancy is seen in the  $F_{TOA}$  comparison in Figure S11 and is likely due to our simplified estimate of tropopause pressures and temperatures (i.e., linearly decreasing from equator to pole).

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We next evaluate the effectiveness of using our clear-sky longwave expressions for  $F_{atm}$  to predict  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  in RFMIP models. We do this by calculating the precipitation change in each RFMIP model, which is equal to  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$ . We further use energy balance to decompose  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  into separate contributions due to changes in longwave, shortwave, and sensible heat fluxes under clear-sky conditions (Figure 6c). Interestingly, cloud radiative effects contribute only marginally to the total  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  in RFMIP (see Figure S13), so we do not further discuss cloud changes.

We begin by comparing the global-mean precipitation changes. Substituting the global-mean  $F_{atm}$  from RFMIP into Equation 1 gives:

$$\Delta P_{CO_2} = \frac{-F_{atm}}{L} = \frac{-1.64 \text{ W/m}^2}{2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ J/kg}} = -0.057 \text{ mm/day}. \quad (24)$$

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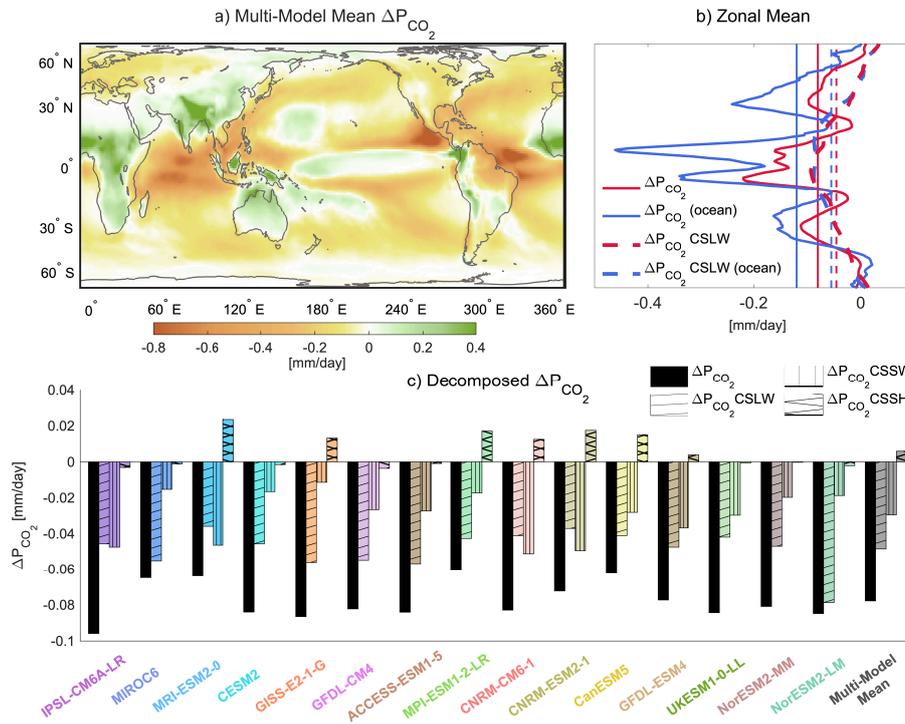
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Similarly, our analytical model gives an estimate of  $\sim -0.06 \text{ mm/day}$ , or an overestimate of 5%. Despite the good agreement in the global-mean  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  between the analytical model and RFMIP data, changes in clear-sky longwave fluxes account for only 62% of total  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  in the ensemble-mean (see Table S3), with the rest coming from changes in clear-sky shortwave fluxes and, to a lesser extent, in sensible heat fluxes. In Figure 6b, the total  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  is  $0.092 \text{ mm/day}$  in RFMIP, and the pattern of  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  shows large meridional variations, with strong decreases in the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and



**Figure 6.** Changes in precipitation due to  $\text{CO}_2$  doubling  $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$ . a) The multi-model mean precipitation change caused by  $\text{CO}_2$  doubling in 15 RFMIP models ( $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$ ). b) Zonal mean of  $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$  in a). The dashed curves show the zonal mean precipitation changes from the clear-sky longwave forcing  $F_{\text{atm}}$  ( $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$  CSLW). The red and blue dashed curves represent all points and ocean-only points, respectively. Straight lines are to the global-mean of the respective colored curves. c) The global-mean  $\Delta P_{\text{CO}_2}$  simulated by each of the 15 RFMIP models and the multi-model mean (black bars), as well as the contributions from changes in clear-sky longwave radiation (CSLW), clear-sky shortwave radiation (CSSW), and the clear-sky sensible heat flux (CSSH) shown by colored bars.

439 over the mid-latitude storm tracks. In Figure 6a, we also show changes in precipitation  
 440 over land, where precipitation increases over most locations except for Europe and west-  
 441 ern Asia, North America, and the Amazon.

442 The clear-sky shortwave radiative forcing arises due to changes in absorption by CO<sub>2</sub>  
 443 and atmospheric water vapor. Both CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O have shortwave absorption bands and  
 444 increases in CO<sub>2</sub> drive increases in atmospheric temperatures, and thus in atmospheric  
 445 water vapor levels. Consequently, even with fixed surface temperatures, higher levels of  
 446 CO<sub>2</sub> lead to more shortwave absorption and a positive atmospheric shortwave forcing.  
 447 Figure S12 compares  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  due to clear sky shortwave absorption (CSSW) with changes  
 448 in specific humidity, showing that regions with substantial increases in H<sub>2</sub>O correspond  
 449 to areas experiencing significant reductions in  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  due to CSSW. However, even in  
 450 regions where H<sub>2</sub>O decreases, there is still a reduction in  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  due to CSSW via CO<sub>2</sub>  
 451 shortwave absorption, which is higher near the equator and lower at the poles.

## 452 5 Discussion and Conclusion

453 The radiative forcing at the top-of-atmosphere ( $F_{TOA}$ ) represents the increase in net in-  
 454 coming radiation to Earth per CO<sub>2</sub>-doubling, whereas the radiative forcing at the sur-  
 455 face ( $F_{surf}$ ) represents the corresponding increase in radiation reaching the surface. The  
 456 difference between  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{surf}$ , termed the radiative forcing of the atmosphere ( $F_{atm}$ ),  
 457 quantifies the increase in radiation retained within the atmosphere per CO<sub>2</sub>-doubling.  
 458 Because changes in atmospheric radiative cooling are closely linked to changes in latent  
 459 heat fluxes and precipitation via energy balance,  $F_{atm}$  can thus be used to estimate the  
 460 direct precipitation change per CO<sub>2</sub>-doubling ( $\Delta P_{CO_2}$ ).

461 Accurate computation of these forcings requires simulations with comprehensive climate  
 462 models and line-by-line radiative transfer codes, making it hard to fully discern the ba-  
 463 sic physics at play. In recent work, Jeevanjee et al. (2021) proposed an analytical model  
 464 for clear-sky longwave (CSLW)  $F_{TOA}$ , offering insights into the factors controlling  $F_{TOA}$ .  
 465 In this study, we have developed an analogous analytical model for CSLW  $F_{surf}$ . By com-  
 466 bining this with the CSLW  $F_{TOA}$  model of Jeevanjee et al. (2021), our work yields an  
 467 analytical model for CSLW  $F_{atm}$  and hence for  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$ . We also extend Jeevanjee et al.  
 468 (2021)'s model to include the new CO<sub>2</sub> bands at around 1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>, providing a more  
 469 comprehensive analytical model for  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{atm}$  in the Appendix S1.

470 Our analytical model for  $F_{surf}$  predicts that  $F_{surf}$  is a function of Ts, RH,  $\Gamma$ , and CO<sub>2</sub>.  
 471 Under present-day Earth climate conditions,  $F_{surf}$  generally decreases with increasing  
 472 Ts, increasing RH, and decreasing  $\Gamma$  due to the masking effect of water vapor on changes  
 473 in CO<sub>2</sub> longwave emission.  $F_{surf}$  increases with increasing CO<sub>2</sub> before CO<sub>2</sub> arrives  $\sim 10^4$   
 474 ppm. The model successfully reproduces the global-mean  $F_{surf}$  of 2.44 W/m<sup>2</sup> in the RFMIP  
 475 ensemble-mean ( $\sim 60\%$  of  $F_{TOA}$ ) and is also able to capture the meridional distribution  
 476 of  $F_{surf}$ , which is largest in the extratropics and smallest in the tropics.

477 Our analytical model for  $F_{atm}$ , derived by combining the  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{surf}$  models, ac-  
 478 curately predicts  $F_{atm}$  in the RFMIP ensemble-mean, although it slightly overestimates  
 479 the global-mean  $F_{atm}$  of 1.64 W/m<sup>2</sup> by 0.11 W/m<sup>2</sup> (6.7%).  $F_{atm}$  exhibits the opposite  
 480 pattern to  $F_{surf}$ , being largest at warmer surface temperature and higher relative hu-  
 481 midities. The  $F_{TOA}$  model adds an additional dependence on tropopause temperature  
 482  $T_{tp}$ , causing  $F_{atm}$  to peak in the tropics, where the combination of a cold tropopause  
 483 and warm surface amplifies  $F_{atm}$ .

484 The contribution of the new bands to these forcings is significant at high temperatures  
 485 ( $T_s > 270$  K, see Figure S6). In Appendix S1, we provide analytical models for forcings  
 486 from the new bands at TOA,  $F_{TOA,new}$  (equation A.3) and within the atmosphere,  $F_{atm,new}$   
 487 (equation A.5), extending Jeevanjee et al. (2021)'s  $F_{TOA}$  model, which only considers  
 488 the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band. We use this more comprehensive model to investigate  $F_{atm}$  state-

489 dependence. Figure S9 shows  $F_{atm}$  as a function of (Ts, RH), where  $F_{atm,new}$  is almost  
 490 always negative, except under conditions of extremely high Ts and RH. Figure S10 is  
 491  $F_{atm}$  as a function of (Ts, CO<sub>2</sub>) at RH = 0.75, while  $F_{atm}$  calculated by merely equa-  
 492 tion 23 is independent of CO<sub>2</sub>. In Figure S10, at CO<sub>2</sub> from 0 to 10<sup>5</sup> ppm,  $F_{atm} > 0$  for  
 493 Ts > 280 K, leading to a reduction in precipitation;  $F_{atm} < 0$  for Ts < 280 K, result-  
 494 ing in an increase in precipitation. The larger the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, the larger the mag-  
 495 nitude of  $F_{atm}$ , amplifying the precipitation effects of CO<sub>2</sub>-doubling.

496 Our model for  $F_{atm}$  (Equation 23) accurately reproduces  $F_{atm}$  in both LBL calculations  
 497 and RFMIP. However, the longwave clearsky  $F_{atm}$  explains only about two-thirds (62%)  
 498 of the total CO<sub>2</sub>-driven precipitation change  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  in RFMIP models, while the remain-  
 499 ing precipitation change is largely due to increases in atmospheric clear-sky shortwave  
 500 absorption. Both CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O absorb SW radiation, and the pattern of  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  due  
 501 to shortwave radiation is largely correlated with changes in specific humidity, with the  
 502 largest decreases in precipitation seen in moist, tropical regions. Our study thus only pro-  
 503 vides a rough explanation for the precipitation change due to CO<sub>2</sub> changes; future re-  
 504 search could refine this approach by focusing on the clearsky SW forcing from CO<sub>2</sub> and  
 505 H<sub>2</sub>.

Another limitation of our model is the assumption that RH is fixed before and after CO<sub>2</sub>-  
 doubling. Several regions do experience notable changes in RH, particularly the Atlantic  
 and Pacific storm track regions, where increases in RH lead to larger  $F_{surf}$  and smaller  
 (negative)  $F_{atm}$  than predicted by our model (Figure 5). Finally, while not discussed in  
 detail here, explaining the spatial pattern of changes in precipitation requires account-  
 ing for changes in horizontal energy transport, though the global mean of the changes  
 in horizontal energy transport is very small (Manabe & Wetherald, 1975). The local  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$   
 can be written as:

$$\Delta P_{CO_2} = \frac{-F_{atm} - \Delta SH + \Delta H}{L}, \quad (25)$$

506 where  $\Delta SH$  denotes the change in upward sensible heat flux at the surface per CO<sub>2</sub>-doubling;  
 507  $\Delta H$  is the change in column-integrated dry static energy flux divergence,  $\Delta H = \nabla \cdot \int u$   
 508  $s \frac{dp}{g}$ , where  $u$  is horizontal velocity,  $s = CpT + gz$  is dry static energy,  $Cp$  is specific  
 509 heat capacity of air,  $T$  is temperature, and  $g$  gravity acceleration (Muller & O’Gorman,  
 510 2011). Our analytical approach is sufficient to roughly capture the spatial pattern of  $F_{atm}$   
 511 in Equation 25; a similar understanding of the spatial patterns of  $\Delta SH$  and  $\Delta H$  would  
 512 thus be sufficient to yield an understanding of the local change in latent heat fluxes  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$ .

513 Despite these limitations, our analytical model for clear-sky longwave surface forcing per-  
 514 forms well in tests against LBL calculations and RFMIP data. It provides detailed in-  
 515 sight into the nature of CO<sub>2</sub>’s surface and atmospheric forcings, as well as a first insight  
 516 into the direct response of precipitation to CO<sub>2</sub> changes. Our results thus allow one to  
 517 reason about how  $F_{surf}$  and  $F_{atm}$  vary in space and across climate states, with impli-  
 518 cations for surface flux changes and the response of the hydrologic cycle to solar geoengi-  
 519 neering. Our results can also be used to identify potential biases in climate model sim-  
 520 ulations of  $F_{surf}$  and  $F_{atm}$  by highlighting their dependencies on surface temperature,  
 521 atmospheric humidity, lapse-rate, and tropopause temperatures.

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638 **Acknowledgments**

639 This section is optional. Include any Acknowledgments here. The acknowledgments should  
640 list:

641 All funding sources related to this work from all authors

642 Any real or perceived financial conflicts of interest for any author

643 Other affiliations for any author that may be perceived as having a conflict of in-  
644 terest with respect to the results of this paper.

645 It is also the appropriate place to thank colleagues and other contributors. AGU  
646 does not normally allow dedications.

# Supporting Information for “An analytical model”

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## 1. A Supplement of New Bands to $F_{TOA}$ & $F_{atm}$

### 1.1. Upward radiative flux at TOA(I) from the new bands

In the context of present Earth’s climate, the contribution of CO<sub>2</sub>’s new bands to  $F_{TOA}$  is minimal when compared to the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band. However, the contribution of the new bands to  $F_{atm}$  becomes comparable to that of the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band under both high-temperature, low-RH conditions and low-temperature, high-RH conditions (S6). Jeevanjee, Seeley, Paynter, and Fueglistaler (2021)’s  $F_{TOA}$  model reasonably omits CO<sub>2</sub>’s new bands, as their impact on  $F_{TOA}$  is negligible, only reaching approximately 20% under conditions of high temperature and RH. In this study, we present a preliminary analytical model to estimate the contributions of the new bands to both  $F_{TOA}$  and  $F_{atm}$ .

Following the same derivation approach as for  $I_d$ , we employ Beer’s law and  $\overline{T_{em}}$  from Jeevanjee et al. (2021)’s model, assuming  $I = 0$  at the surface and determined by the optical thickness of H<sub>2</sub>O  $\tau^{H_2O}$  and CO<sub>2</sub>  $\tau^{CO_2}$  at TOA. The magnitude of  $\tau$  equals to  $\tau_d$  given in the main text.  $\overline{T_{em}}$  is described in the main text as  $\overline{T_{em}} = \min(T_s, T_{em})$ .  $T_{em}$  is

emission temperature of H<sub>2</sub>O. When  $\tau^{CO_2} \ll 1$ ,  $I = \pi B(\nu, \overline{T_{em}})$ , and when  $\tau^{CO_2} \gg 1$ ,  $I = \pi B(\nu, T_{tp})$ . For any  $\tau^{CO_2}$ , we have I:

$$I = \pi B(\nu, T_{tp}) + [\pi B(\nu, \overline{T_{em}}) - \pi B(\nu, T_{tp})] \exp(-\tau^{CO_2}), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

As  $\tau^{CO_2}$  increases, I decreases. When  $\tau^{CO_2}$  or  $\tau^{H_2O} = 1$  reaches the stratosphere, I arrives its minimum value  $\pi B(\nu, T_{tp})$ .

## 1.2. Derivation and Verification of the Analytical models for $F_{TOA,new}$

We apply the same methodology used in the main text to estimate  $F_{surf,new}$  to derive  $F_{TOA,new}$ . We approximate the radiative flux of the new bands, I, using two triangles (see figure S7).

For CO<sub>2</sub>-only case (see Figure S6 a&c), similar to Eq. 15, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{TOA,new} &= \frac{1}{4} w_{TOA,new} [I(RS, q_i) - I(RS, q) + I(PQ, q_i) - I(PQ, q)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} w_{TOA,new} [I(new, q_i) - I(new, q)] \\ &= 84.4 [I(new, q_i) - I(new, q)] \\ &= 84.4 [\pi B(new, T_s) - \pi B(new, T_{tp})] * [\exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - \exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q))] \\ &= 84.4 [\pi B(new, T_s) - \pi B(new, T_{tp})] * [\exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - \exp(-2\tau^{CO_2}(q))] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

Here,  $w_{TOA,new} = 168.79 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  is fitted using the same method described in the main text for  $w_{new}$ .

For CO<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O case (see Figure S6 b&c), unlike the CO<sub>2</sub>-only case, the optical depth submitted into Eq. A.1 is given by  $\tau = \tau_{CO_2} + \tau_{H_2O}$ , as Eq. 19.

$$\begin{aligned}
F_{TOA,new} &= 84.4[I(new, q_i) - I(new, q)] \\
&= 84.4[\pi B(new, \overline{T_{em}}) - \pi B(new, T_{tp})] * [\exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - \exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q))] \\
&= 84.4[\pi B(new, \overline{T_{em}}) - \pi B(new, T_{tp})] * [\exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - \exp(-2\tau^{CO_2}(q_i))].
\end{aligned}
\tag{A.3}$$

$F_{TOA}$  is determined by the difference in the Planck function at  $\overline{T_{em}}$  and  $T_{tp}$ . The influence of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is such that the doubling of higher concentrations result in a smaller increase in  $F_{TOA,new}$ . The presence of H<sub>2</sub>O further reduces  $F_{TOA,new}$ .

Following Figure 3, we compare the results of the analytical model with those from LBL simulations (Figure S7). Overall, the analytical model reproduces the dependence of  $F_{TOA,new}$  on RH and  $T_s$ : as temperature increases,  $F_{TOA,new}$  rises, while at low temperatures,  $F_{TOA,new}$  remains nearly independent of RH. When the  $T_s$  exceeds 290 K, higher RH leads to weaker  $F_{TOA,new}$ . This is because increased optical thickness of H<sub>2</sub>O closes H<sub>2</sub>O window at 290 K, which overwhelm CO<sub>2</sub>.

### 1.3. Derivation and Verification of the Analytical models for $F_{atm,new}$

By combining the analytical model for  $F_{TOA,new}$  with the analytical model for  $F_{surf,new}$  presented in the main text, we derive an analytical model for  $F_{atm,new}$ .

For CO<sub>2</sub>-only case, combining Eq. 15 and Eq. A.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
F_{atm,new} &= 84.4[I(new, q_i) - I(new, q)] - 149.45[I_d(new, q) - I_d(new, q_i)] \\
&= 84.4[\pi B(new, T_s) - \pi B(new, T_{tp})] * [exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q))] \\
&\quad - 149.45\pi B(new, T_s)[exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q))] \\
&= [-65.05\pi B(new, T_s) - 84.4\pi B(new, T_{tp})] * [exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - exp(-2\tau^{CO_2}(q_i))].
\end{aligned} \tag{A.4}$$

For CO<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O case, combining Eq. 20 and Eq. A.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
F_{atm,new} &= 84.4[I(new, q_i) - I(new, q)] - 149.45[I_d(new, q) - I_d(new, q_i)] \\
&= 84.4[\pi B(new, \overline{T_{em}}) - \pi B(new, T_{tp})] * [exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q))] \\
&\quad - 149.45\pi B(new, T_s)exp(-\tau^{H_2O})[exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q))] \\
&= \{84.4[\pi B(new, \overline{T_{em}}) - \pi B(new, T_{tp})] - 149.45\pi B(new, T_s)exp(-\tau^{H_2O})\} \\
&\quad * [exp(-\tau^{CO_2}(q_i)) - exp(-2\tau^{CO_2}(q_i))].
\end{aligned} \tag{A.5}$$

31 Similar to F<sub>TOA</sub>, the influencing factors are nearly identical, except for that an increase  
32 in either T<sub>s</sub> or T<sub>tp</sub> leads to a corresponding increase in F<sub>atm</sub>. The doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> from  
33 higher concentrations results in a smaller increase in F<sub>TOA,new</sub>. The presence of H<sub>2</sub>O  
34 further reduces F<sub>TOA,new</sub> by 84.4π(B(new, T<sub>s</sub>) - B(new, T<sub>em</sub>)).

35 As a verification to LBL model(Figure S8 c&f), Our model consistently calculates a nega-  
36 tive F<sub>atm,new</sub>, indicating that CO<sub>2</sub> doubling results in a reduction of energy retained in the  
37 atmosphere. In contrast, the LBL results show that under conditions of high temperature  
38 and humidity, increasing CO<sub>2</sub> leads to a positive F<sub>atm,new</sub>. Figure S8 is identical to Figure  
39 4, but with the addition of F<sub>atm,new</sub> and serves as a validation against the LBL model.

#### 1.4. An Alternative Approach to Calculate $F_{surf}$ – via $\overline{T_{dem}}$

Jeevanjee et al. (2021) calculates radiative flux by determining the emission temperature  $\overline{T_{em}}$  from the optical thickness  $\tau$  and then using the Planck function at  $\overline{T_{em}}$  as the radiative flux. Radiative forcing is then derived from changes in this radiative flux before and after CO<sub>2</sub>-doubling. In the main text, we provide a method for directly estimating the downward radiative flux from the optical thickness to compute surface radiative forcing. To maintain consistency in this comprehensive analytical model, we also present an alternative approach to calculate  $F_{surf}$  and  $F_{atm}$ , based on Jeevanjee et al. (2021)'s method —calculating the downward emission temperature  $\overline{T_{dem}}$  from the downward optical thickness  $\tau_d$ , using the Planck function at  $\overline{T_{dem}}$  as the downward radiative flux  $I_d$ , and then deriving radiative forcing from the change in  $I_d$ . In the new bands, accurate calculations require considering the combined  $\tau$  of both H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>. However, the relationship between  $\tau$  and T is not readily solvable in this case. Therefore, we present calculations only for the 667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band. Future studies could explore converting  $\tau^{CO_2}$  into a function of T based on pressure-temperature relationships, and derive the inverse function of  $\tau^{CO_2} + \tau^{H_2O}$  with respect to T using Mathematica.

Here, we employ a equivalent optical thickness  $\tau_{eq}$  to calculate  $\overline{T_{dem}}$ . Jeevanjee et al. (2021) provided a formula for calculating the temperature at any given  $\tau$  of H<sub>2</sub>O.  $\overline{T_{dem}}$  is the temperature at the downward emission optical thickness  $\tau_{dem} = 1$ .

$\tau_{dem}$  is equivalent to the optical thickness at  $\tau_{eq}$

$$\tau_{eq} = \tau^{H_2O} - \tau_{dem}. \quad (\text{A.6})$$

The column optical thickness of H<sub>2</sub>O  $\tau^{H_2O}$  is given by Equations 11&12 (the column optical thickness is fixed no matter it is integrated from the bottom up or the top down).

60 Thus, by substituting Equation A.6 into Jeevanjee et al. (2021)'s Equations 9&12&13, we  
 61 get that  $\overline{T_{dem}}$  at  $\tau_{dem} = 1$ .

Then, the alternative way to calculate downward radiative flux  $I_d$  as shown in Equation 13 in the main text is:

$$I_d = \pi B(667cm^{-1}, \overline{T_{dem}}). \quad (\text{A.7})$$

By substituting Equation A.7 back into Equation 18, we obtain the alternative way to calculate  $F_{surf}$ :

$$F_{surf} = 21.2cm^{-1} \ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right) [\pi B(667cm^{-1}, T_s) - \pi B(667cm^{-1}, \overline{T_{dem}})]. \quad (\text{A.8})$$

By substituting into Equation 23, we obtain the alternative way to calculate  $F_{atm}$ :

$$F_{atm} = 21.2cm^{-1} \ln\left(\frac{q}{q_i}\right) [\pi B(667cm^{-1}, \overline{T_{em}}) - \pi B(667cm^{-1}, T_{tp}) - \pi B(667cm^{-1}, T_s) + \pi B(667cm^{-1}, \overline{T_{dem}})]. \quad (\text{A.9})$$

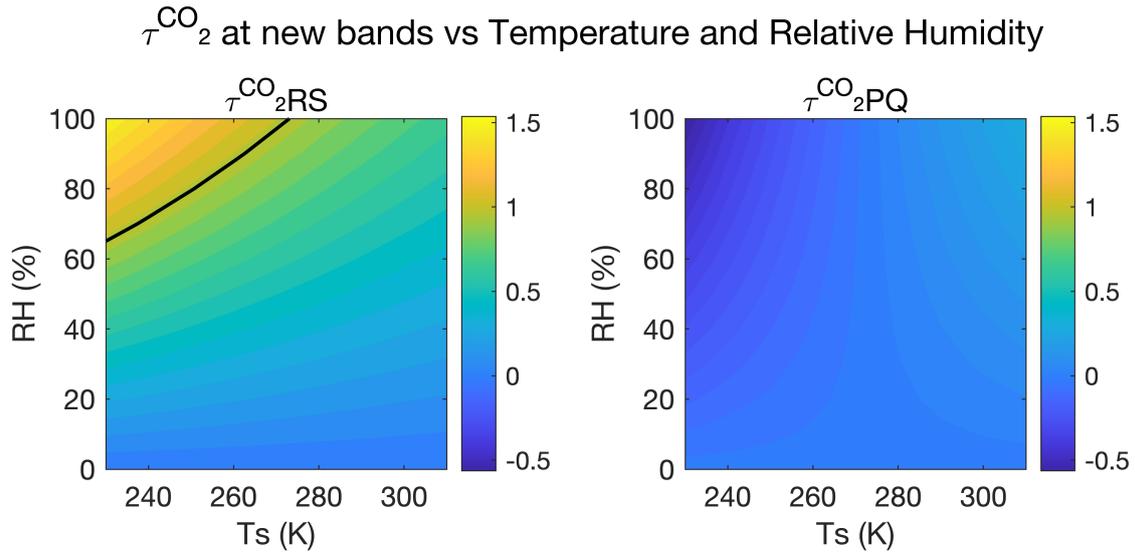
## References

62 Jeevanjee, N., Seeley, J. T., Paynter, D., & Fueglistaler, S. (2021). An analytical model  
 63 for spatially varying clear-sky co<sub>2</sub> forcing. *Journal of Climate*, 34(23), 9463–9480.

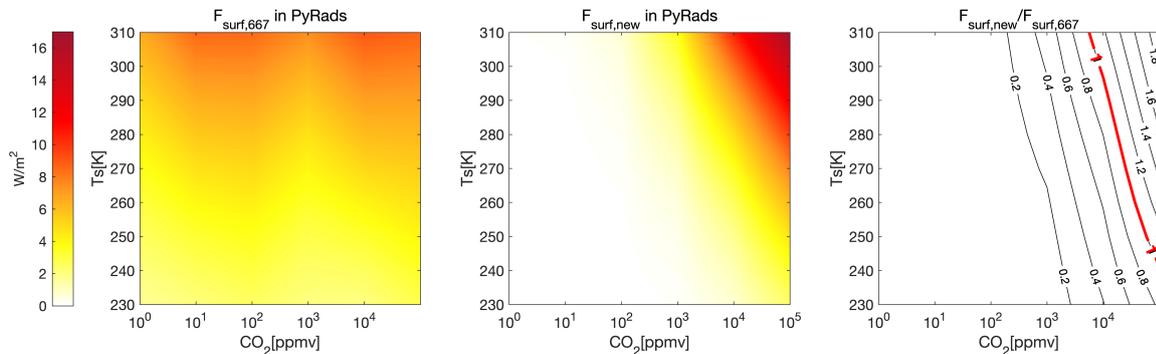
The parameters used in this paper are listed in Table S1

**Table S1.** Parameters used in the analytical model of CO<sub>2</sub>  $F_{surf}$

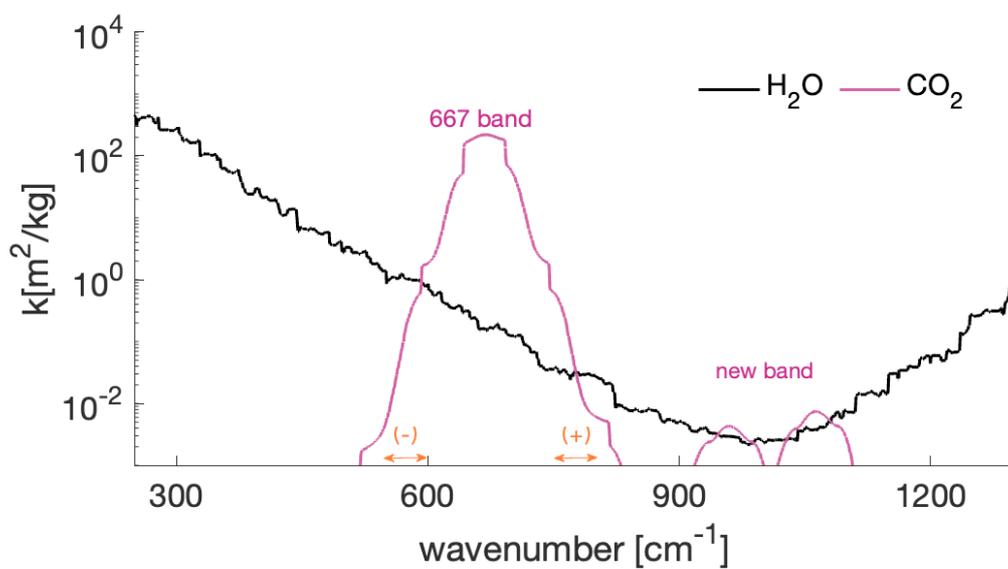
Parameter	Value	Description
$l_{667}$	10.6 cm <sup>-1</sup>	spectroscopic decay parameter of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band
$w_{new}$	298.9 cm <sup>-1</sup>	width of new bands
(-)	550-600 cm <sup>-1</sup>	wavenumbers at the left of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band
(+)	750-800 cm <sup>-1</sup>	wavenumbers at the right of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band
$\nu_0$	667 cm <sup>-1</sup>	wavenumber at the center of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band
$\nu_{RS}$	960 cm <sup>-1</sup>	wavenumber at the center of RS band
$\nu_{PQ}$	1060 cm <sup>-1</sup>	wavenumber at the center of PQ band
$(T_{ref}^{CO_2}, P_{ref}^{CO_2})$	(250 K, 100 hPa)	Reference T and P for CO <sub>2</sub> absorption coefficient
$(T_{ref}^{-,H_2O}, P_{ref}^{-,H_2O})$	(245 K, 370 hPa)	Reference T and P for H <sub>2</sub> O absorption coefficient at left side of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band (-)
$(T_{ref}^{+,H_2O}, P_{ref}^{+,H_2O})$	(275 K, 650 hPa)	Reference T and P for H <sub>2</sub> O absorption coefficient at right side of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band (+)
$(T_{ref}^{new,H_2O}, P_{ref}^{new,H_2O})$	(275 K, 650 hPa)	Reference T and P for H <sub>2</sub> O absorption coefficient at new bands
$RH_{ref}$	0.75	Reference RH for H <sub>2</sub> O absorption coefficient at right side of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band (+) and new bands
$\kappa_{ref}^{RS,CO_2}$	9.12*10 <sup>-4</sup> m <sup>2</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup>	Reference CO <sub>2</sub> absorption coefficient at the center of RS band
$\kappa_{ref}^{PQ,CO_2}$	1.40*10 <sup>-3</sup> m <sup>2</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup>	Reference CO <sub>2</sub> absorption coefficient at the center of PQ band
$\kappa_{ref}^{-,H_2O}$	1.50*10 <sup>-1</sup> m <sup>2</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup>	Reference H <sub>2</sub> O absorption coefficient at left side of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band (-)
$\kappa_{ref}^{+,H_2O}$	5.5*10 <sup>-2</sup> m <sup>2</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup>	Reference H <sub>2</sub> O absorption coefficient at right side of 667 cm <sup>-1</sup> band (+)
$\kappa_{ref}^{RS,H_2O}$	1.36*10 <sup>-2</sup> m <sup>2</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup>	Reference H <sub>2</sub> O absorption coefficient at the center of RS band
$\kappa_{ref}^{PQ,H_2O}$	1.76*10 <sup>-2</sup> m <sup>2</sup> kg <sup>-1</sup>	Reference H <sub>2</sub> O absorption coefficient at the center of PQ band



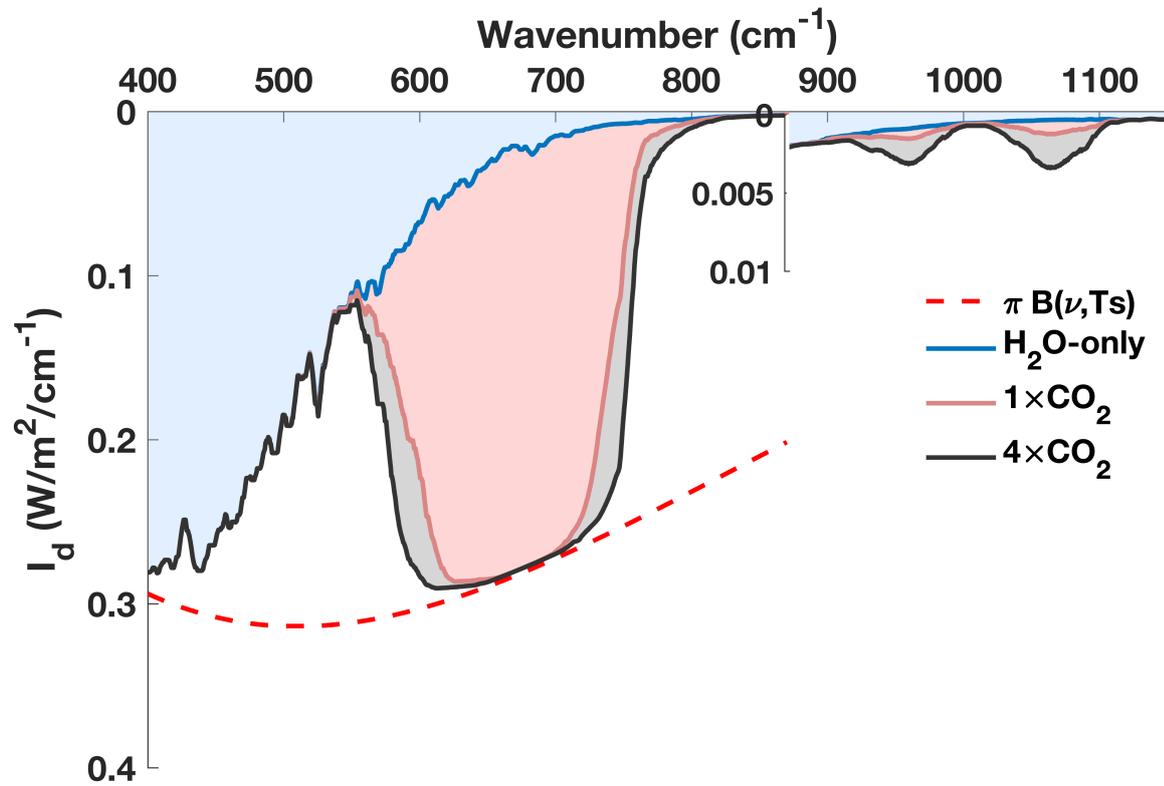
**Figure S1.** The optical thicknesses of the new  $CO_2$  bands calculated from Equation 10 are shown as functions of  $T_s$  and  $RH$  at  $CO_2 = 1000$  ppm. The left panel represents the RS band, and the right panel represents the PQ band.  $\tau^{CO_2}$  for both bands is less than 1 in almost all conditions, while the optical thickness of  $667\text{ cm}^{-1}$  band only reaches  $\leq 1$  at the boundaries



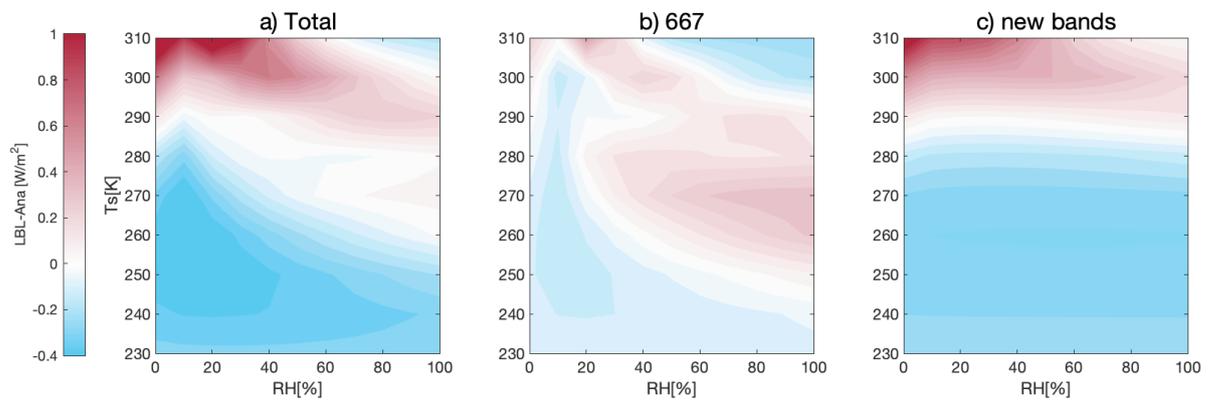
**Figure S2.** Under the  $CO_2$ -only scenario,  $F_{surf,667}$  and  $F_{surf,new}$ , as well as the ratio  $F_{surf,new}/F_{surf,667}$ , are analyzed as functions of  $T_s$  and  $CO_2$ . The results illustrate under what conditions the new bands become more significant than the 667 band for  $CO_2$ -only induced  $F_{surf}$ .



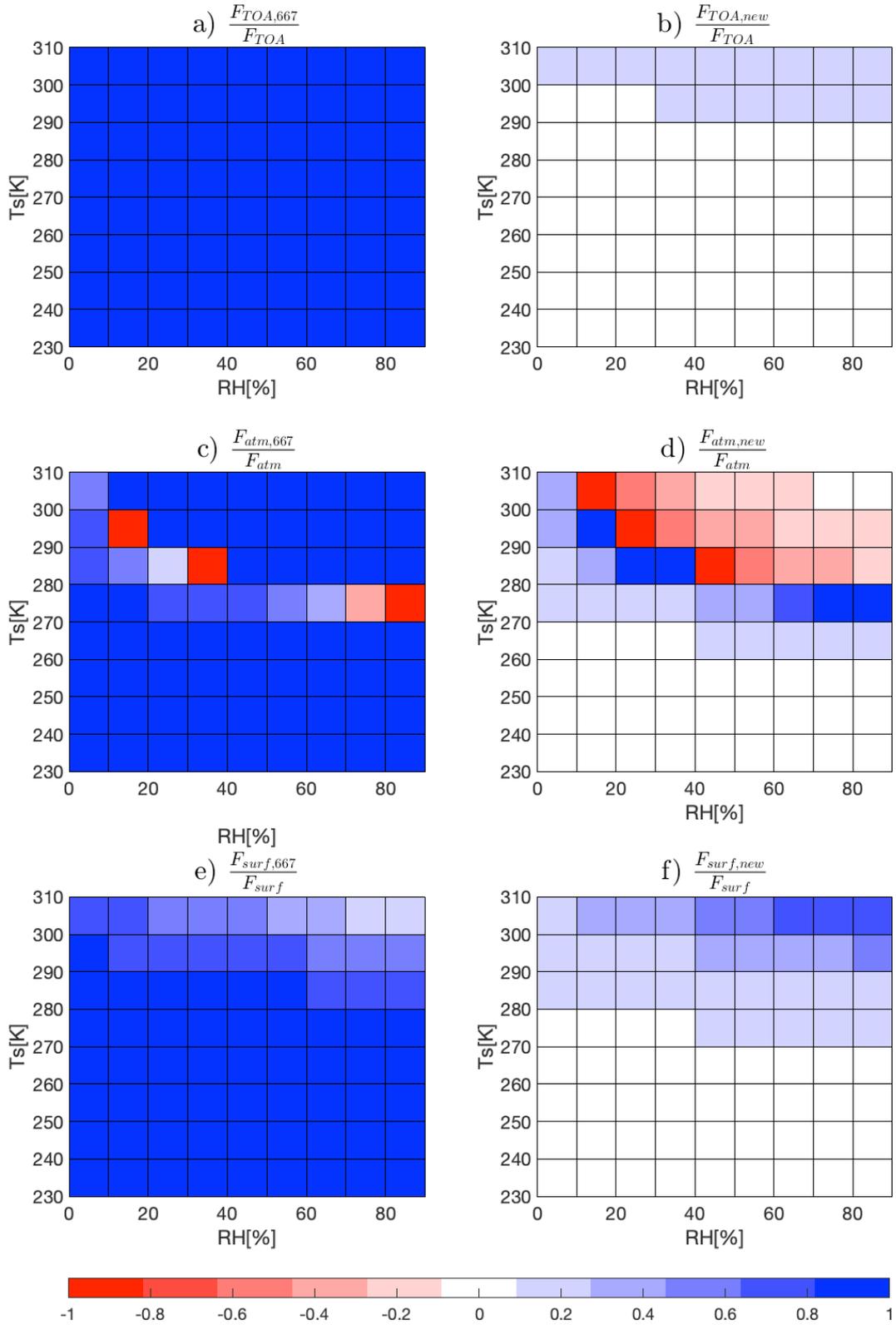
**Figure S3.** Absorption coefficients of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  at 500 hPa and 250 K.  $667 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  band and new bands of  $\text{CO}_2$ , (-) and (+) region are illustrated.



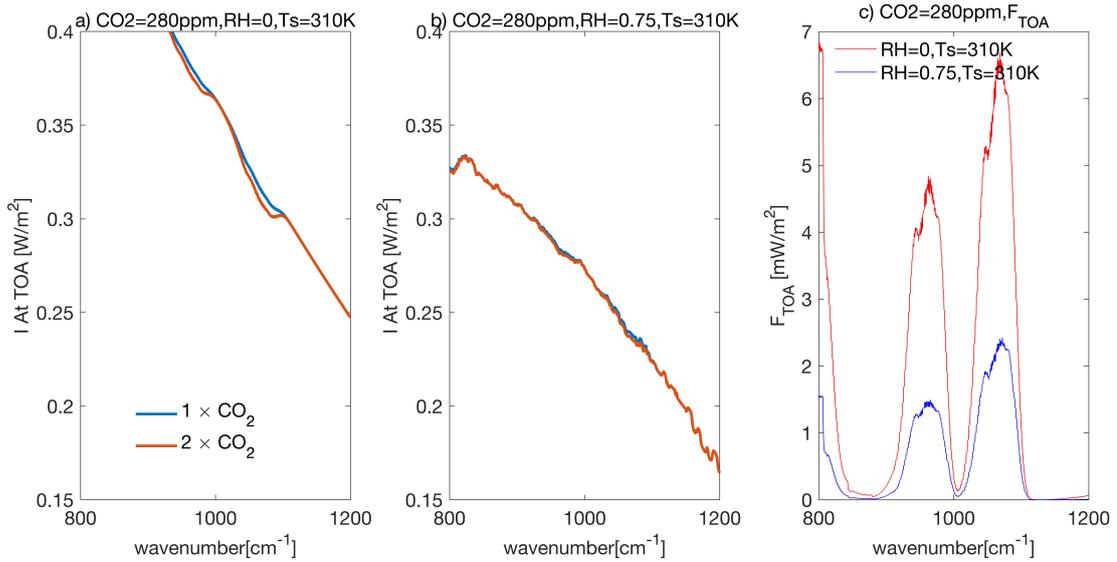
**Figure S4.** The downward radiative flux into the surface,  $I_d$  from a LBL model at  $\text{CO}_2 = 280$  ppm ( $q_i$ ) and 1120 ppm ( $4q_i$ ) with  $T_s = 260$  K and  $\text{RH}=0.75$ . The added blue curve represents  $I_d$  in the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ -only, serving as an indicator of the background radiation that  $\text{CO}_2$  replaces. Spectra are smoothed using a  $50\text{cm}^{-1}$  sliding window. The x-axis is split at  $870\text{cm}^{-1}$  to illustrate the  $667\text{cm}^{-1}$  band and the new bands of  $\text{CO}_2$ , with y-axis magnified by a factor of 10 at  $870\text{cm}^{-1}$ .



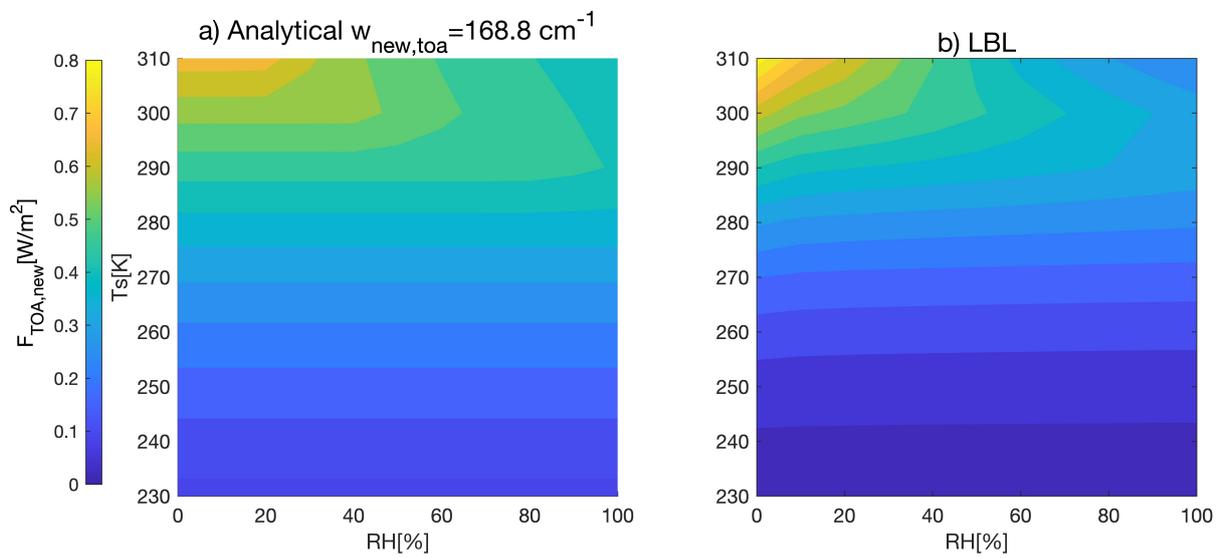
**Figure S5.** This figure shows the difference in  $F_{surf}$  between the LBL calculation results and our analytical model (LBL-Analytical) in Figure 3. From left to right, the plots correspond to the 667  $cm^{-1}$  band + the new bands, the 667  $cm^{-1}$  band, and the new bands, respectively.



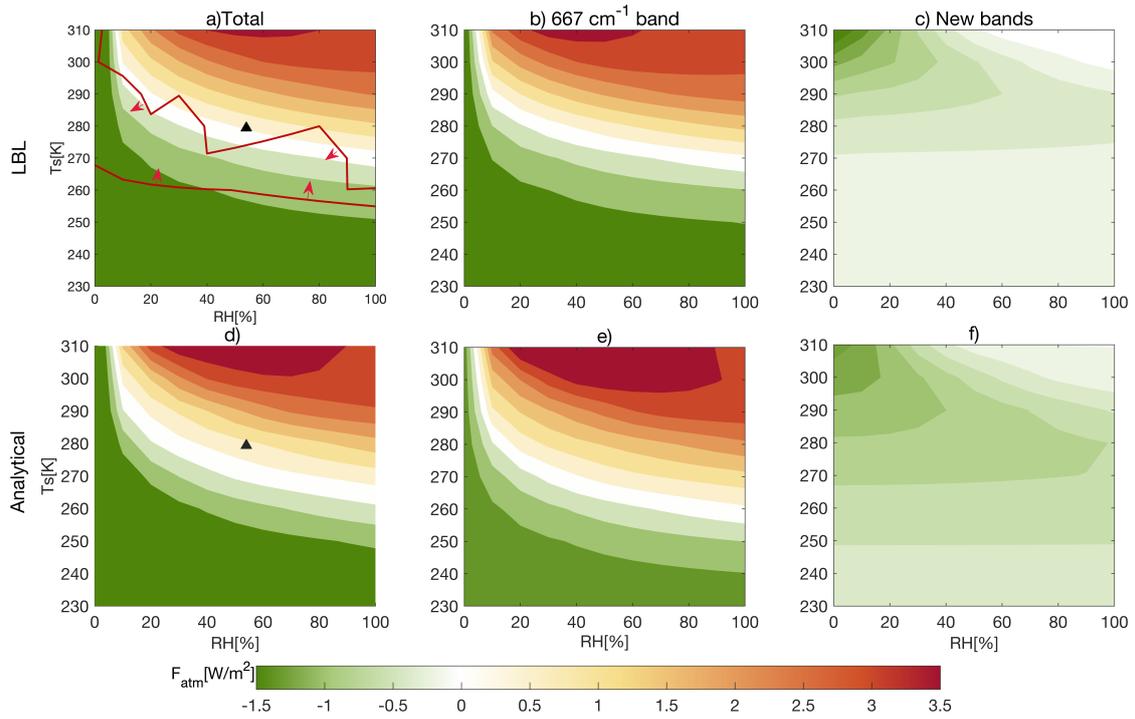
**Figure S6.** The proportion of each CO<sub>2</sub>'s two infrared bands (667 cm<sup>-1</sup> band and the new band) contribution to F<sub>TOA</sub> (a & b), F<sub>atm</sub> (c & d), and F<sub>surf</sub> (e & f) under climate state ranging



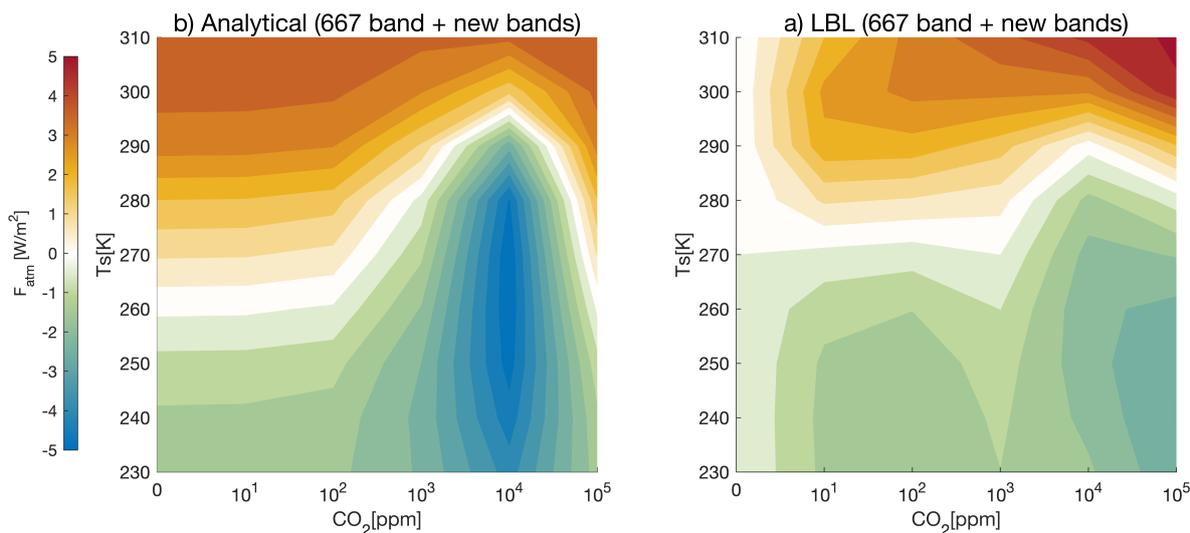
**Figure S7.** At TOA, the new  $\text{CO}_2$  bands (a) Outgoing radiation for dry atmosphere with only  $\text{CO}_2$  before and after  $\text{CO}_2$  doubling. (b) Outgoing radiation for moist atmosphere with both  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  before and after  $\text{CO}_2$  doubling. (c) Comparison of TOA radiative forcing ( $F_{\text{TOA}}$ ) between the dry  $\text{CO}_2$ -only atmosphere and the combined  $\text{CO}_2+\text{H}_2\text{O}$  atmosphere.



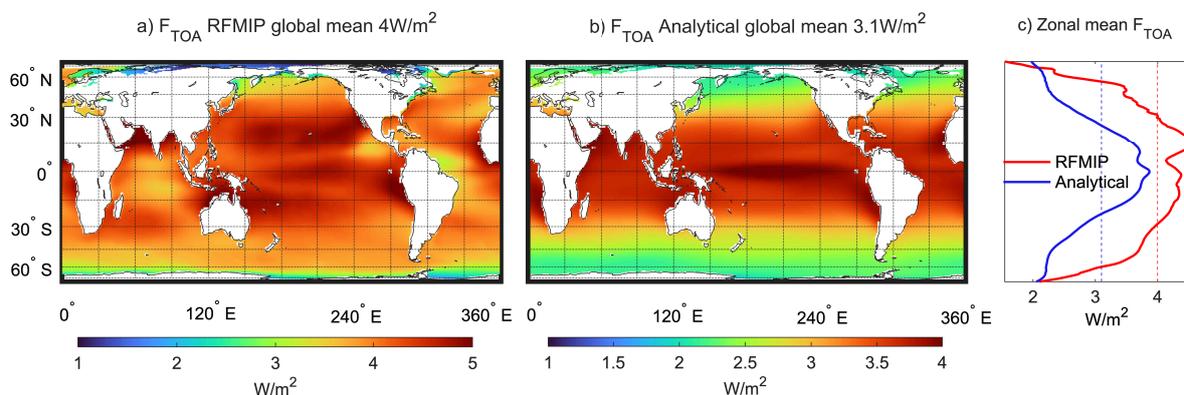
**Figure S8.**  $F_{\text{TOA,new}}$  as a function of RH and  $T_s$  from a) the analytical model and b) the LBL simulation.



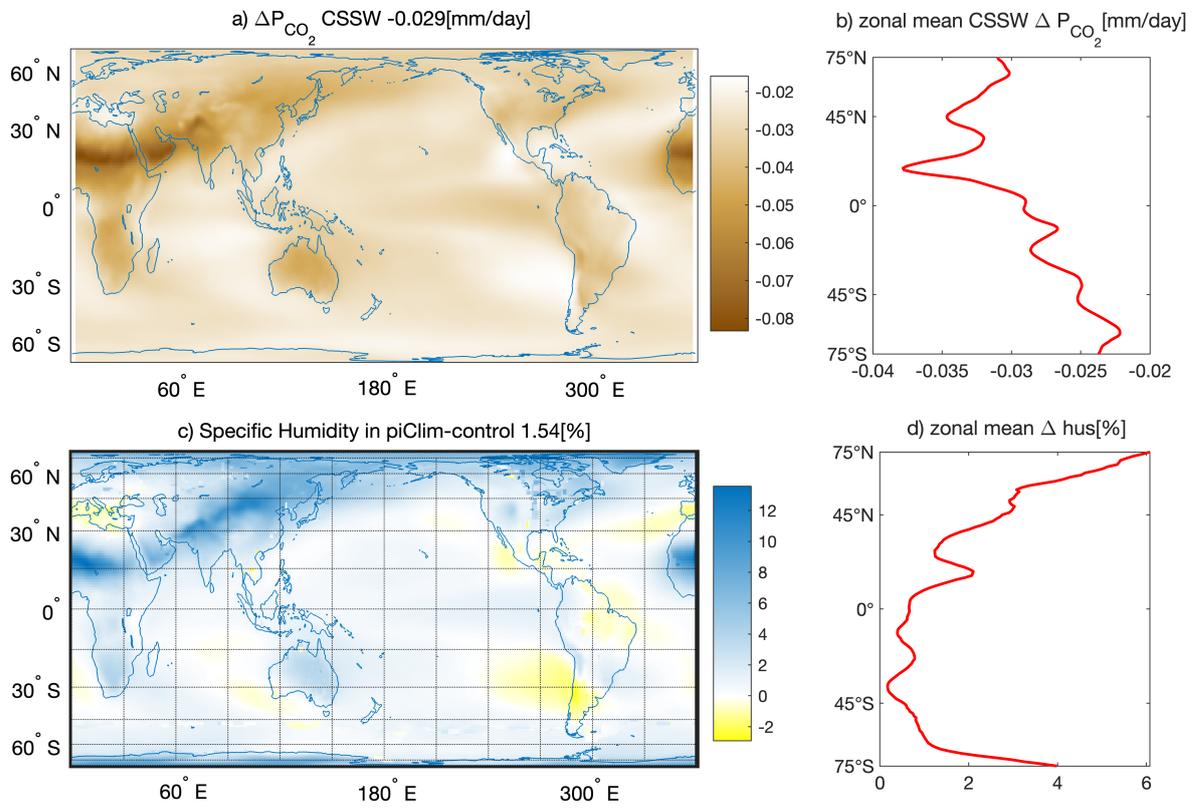
**Figure S9.** Same as Figure 3 but for  $F_{atm}$ .  $F_{atm}$  as a function of RH and  $T_s$  from LBL and our analytical model for  $F_{atm}$  considering the new bands (Equation 23&A.5). Black triangle: global-mean state. Red arrows: new bands accounting for more than 10% of the  $F_{atm}$ .



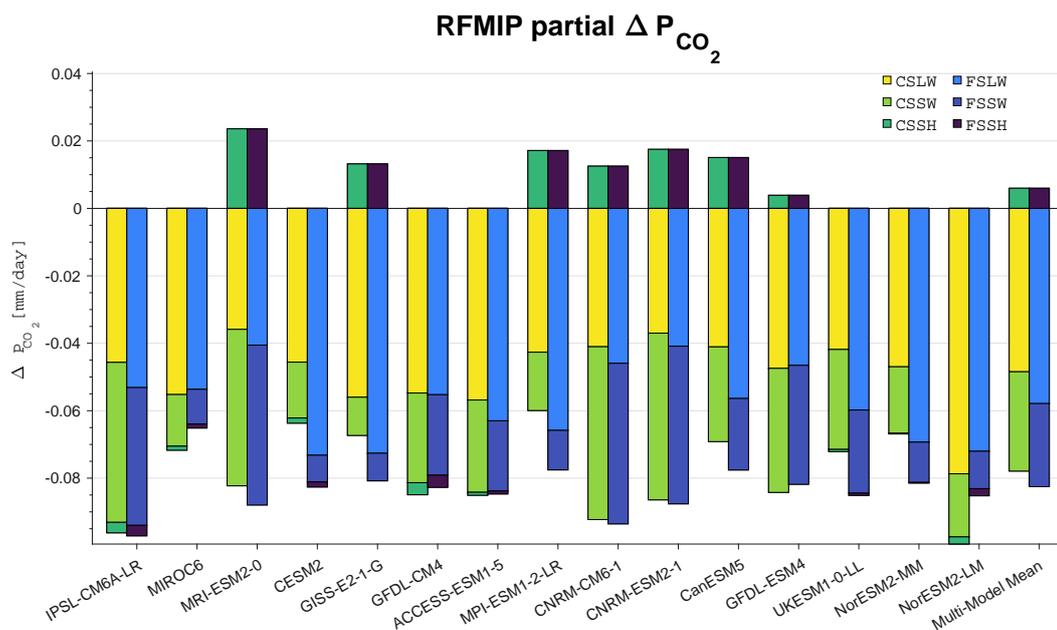
**Figure S10.**  $F_{atm}$  as a function of  $T_s$  and CO<sub>2</sub> at RH = 0.75 from a) the analytical model and b) the LBL simulation.



**Figure S11.** The distribution of  $F_{TOA}$  is presented for: a) the simulation results from RFMIP, b) the calculations using the Nadir analytical model, and c) the meridional average as a function of latitude. The initial conditions for all cases are based on the RFMIP pi-clim fields, consistent with the methodology described in Section 4.1.



**Figure S12.** Spatial patterns of precipitation change caused by clear-sky shortwave(a) and percentage change in atmospheric column specific humidity (c), averaged over 15 RFMIP models. (b) and (d) are their zonal mean.



**Figure S13.**  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  resulting from longwave (LW), shortwave (SW), and sensible heat (SH) fluxes, as estimated under clear-sky (CS) and full-sky (FS) based on the energy balance from each CMIP model and their multi-model mean.

**Table S2.** The rate of precipitation change from CO<sub>2</sub> doubling contributed by clear-sky longwave forcing ( $\frac{\Delta P_{CO_2}^{CSLW}}{P}$ ) in 15 RFMIP models and their multi-model mean. Note: Since the T<sub>s</sub> over land in RFMIP is not fixed, we only used ocean grids when calculating  $\Delta P_{CO_2}^{CSLW}$ . However, considering the global energy transport, we used all grids when calculating the original precipitation P.

Factor Model	$\Delta P_{CO_2}^{CSLW}$ (mm/day)	$P$ (mm/day)	$\frac{\Delta P_{CO_2}^{CSLW}}{P}$ (%)
IPSL-CM6A-LR	-0.050	3.0	-1.7
MIROC6	-0.062	3.2	-2.0
MRI-ESM2-0	-0.046	3.0	-1.5
CESM2	-0.055	2.9	-1.9
GISS-E2-1-G	-0.070	3.0	-2.4
GFDL-CM4	-0.066	2.9	-2.3
ACCESS-ESM1-5	-0.065	3.2	-2.0
MPI-ESM1-2-LR	-0.052	2.8	-1.8
CNRM-CM6-1	-0.045	2.9	-1.6
CNRM-ESM2-1	-0.045	2.9	-1.5
CanESM5	-0.051	2.9	-1.8
GFDL-ESM4	-0.058	3.0	-2.0
UKESM1-0-LL	-0.045	3.1	-1.5
NorESM2-MM	-0.056	2.9	-2.0
NorESM2-LM	-0.087	2.9	-3.0
Multi-Model Mean	-0.057	3.0	-1.9

**Table S3.** Estimated Proportion of Decomposed  $\Delta P_{CO_2}$  in 15 RFMIP Models under Clear-Sky and Cloudy-Sky Conditions

Factor Model	CSLW	CSSW	CSSH	CS	FSLW	FSSW	FSSH	FS
IPSL-CM6A-LR	48%	50%	3%	100%	55%	43%	3%	101%
MIROC6	85%	24%	2%	111%	83%	16%	2%	100%
MRI-ESM2-0	51%	73%	-37%	92%	64%	74%	-37%	101%
CESM2	54%	20%	2%	76%	87%	9%	2%	98%
GISS-E2-1-G	65%	13%	-15%	63%	84%	9%	-15%	78%
GFDL-CM4	67%	32%	4%	103%	67%	30%	4%	101%
ACCESS-ESM1-5	68%	33%	1%	101%	75%	25%	1%	101%
MPI-ESM1-2-LR	71%	28%	-28%	71%	109%	19%	-28%	100%
CNRM-CM6-1	49%	62%	-15%	96%	55%	57%	-15%	98%
CNRM-ESM2-1	51%	68%	-24%	95%	56%	65%	-24%	97%
CanESM5	66%	45%	-24%	87%	91%	34%	-24%	100%
GFDL-ESM4	61%	48%	-5%	104%	60%	46%	-5%	101%
UKESM1-0-LL	50%	35%	1%	86%	71%	29%	1%	101%
NorESM2-MM	58%	24%	0	83%	86%	15%	0	101%
NorESM2-LM	93%	22%	2%	117%	85%	13%	2%	100%
Multi-Model Mean	62%	38%	-8%	92%	74%	32%	-8%	98%