

1 No consensus has yet been reached on the major factors driving the observed
2 increase in the seasonal amplitude of atmospheric CO₂ in the northern latitudes. In this
3 study, we used atmospheric CO₂ records from 26 northern hemisphere stations with a
4 temporal coverage longer than 15 years, and an atmospheric transport model prescribed
5 with net biome productivity (NBP) from an ensemble of nine terrestrial ecosystem
6 models, to attribute change in the seasonal amplitude of atmospheric CO₂. We found
7 significant ($P < 0.05$) increases in seasonal peak-to-trough CO₂ amplitude (AMP_{P-T}) at
8 nine stations, and in trough-to-peak amplitude (AMP_{T-P}) at eight stations over the last
9 three decades. Most of the stations that recorded increasing amplitudes are in Arctic
10 and boreal regions ($>50^\circ \text{N}$), consistent with previous observations that the amplitude
11 increased faster at Barrow (Arctic) than at Mauna Loa (subtropics). The multi-model
12 ensemble mean (MMEM) shows that the response of ecosystem carbon cycling to rising
13 CO₂ concentration (eCO₂) and climate change are dominant drivers of the increase in
14 AMP_{P-T} and AMP_{T-P} in the high latitudes. At the Barrow station, the observed increase
15 of AMP_{P-T} and AMP_{T-P} over the last 33 years is explained by eCO₂ (39% and 42%)
16 almost equally than by climate change (32% and 35%). The increased carbon losses
17 during the months with a net carbon release in response to eCO₂ are associated with
18 higher ecosystem respiration due to the increase in carbon storage caused by eCO₂
19 during carbon uptake period. Air-sea CO₂ fluxes (10% for AMP_{P-T} and 11% for AMP_{T-P})
20 and the impacts of land-use change (marginally significant 3% for AMP_{P-T} and 4% for
21 AMP_{T-P}) also contributed to the CO₂ measured at Barrow, highlighting the role of these
22 factors in regulating seasonal changes in the global carbon cycle.

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Introduction

As an integrated signal of large scale ecological changes, the change in seasonal variations of atmospheric CO₂ concentration is an emerging property of the carbon cycle (Bacastow *et al.*, 1985; Kohlmaier *et al.*, 1989; Keeling *et al.*, 1996; Randerson *et al.*, 1997; Piao *et al.*, 2008; Graven *et al.*, 2013; Gray *et al.*, 2014; Zeng *et al.*, 2014; Barlow *et al.*, 2015; Forkel *et al.*, 2016; Wenzel *et al.*, 2016). The seasonal CO₂ amplitude (AMP) in the lower troposphere has increased by $\approx 50\%$ north of 45°N since the 1960s (Graven *et al.*, 2013), and this signal has been suggested to be contributed by an increased seasonality of net biome productivity (NBP) in boreal and northern temperate ecosystems. A full understanding of the major factors governing the increase in NBP or the quantitative contribution of other, smaller fluxes such as fossil-fuel CO₂ emissions and air-sea exchange to the increase in AMP is still lacking. On the one hand, Gray *et al.* (2014) and Zeng *et al.* (2014) suggested that agricultural improvements contributed to the increase in AMP at Mauna Loa by increasing the seasonal NBP uptake in cultivated lands, but the estimated contribution of this mechanism differed two-fold between the two studies (range 17-45% of the increasing AMP). On the other hand, Randerson *et al.* (1997) and Forkel *et al.* (2016) showed that during the last three decades, most of the increase in amplitude took place at stations north of 55°N. In this view, agriculture improvement seems unlikely to be the only driving factor, because croplands are mainly in northern temperate latitudes (Foley *et al.*, 2015). Using the LPJmL carbon cycle model with an improved phenological module coupled with an atmospheric transport model, Forkel *et al.* (2016) found that it is mainly the physiological

1 response of northern plants to warming rather to increasing CO₂ that explains the trend of
2 AMP over the last 20 years, but Graven *et al.* (2013) showed that AMP increased in the
3 1960s to the mid-1970s at a time when northern temperature slightly decreased. Moreover,
4 Barnes *et al.* (2016) suggested that advective fluxes through isentropic transport from
5 mid-latitude surface fluxes play a larger impact than changes in Arctic fluxes on the northern
6 high-latitude seasonal cycle throughout most of the troposphere, using GEOS-Chem
7 chemical transport model with CO₂ fluxes simulated from CLM4.5. It therefore highlights
8 the need to search deeper in the attribution of the AMP trend.

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10 In this paper, we investigate the AMP trend in the Northern Hemisphere over the last
11 thirty years (1980-2012) using an ensemble of ecosystem models with different
12 parameterizations of the effects of elevated CO₂, climate change and land use change
13 (TRENDYv2) (Sitch *et al.*, 2015) with another transport model (LMDZ4) (Hourdin *et al.*,
14 2013). We also separate the contribution of fossil fuel CO₂ emissions, air-sea fluxes as well
15 as the effects of climate change, rising CO₂ concentration (eCO₂), land use change and
16 nitrogen deposition in some models on the trends in the seasonality of land ecosystem carbon
17 cycle. The contribution of atmospheric transport trends to AMP trends is also analyzed. We
18 use long-term (>15 years during 1980-2012) trends in seasonal atmospheric CO₂
19 concentrations from 26 northern (north of 23 °N) atmospheric stations of the NOAA-ESRL
20 surface flask air-sampling network (Table S1 and Figure S1).

21

22 **Materials and methods**

1 *Datasets*

2 *Atmospheric CO₂ concentration data.* Weekly data for atmospheric CO₂ concentration were
3 obtained for 1980-2012 from the archive of Earth System Research Laboratory, National
4 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-ESRL) (Masarie *et al.*, 2014). Our analyses
5 used data from 26 northern temperate and boreal stations with observations longer than 15
6 years (Table S1), because the focus of our study was the long-term trend, which would not be
7 robust without long-term observations. The seasonal curves of atmospheric CO₂ for each
8 station were extracted by fitting the observation data with a function consisting of a quadratic
9 polynomial for the long-term trend, four-harmonics for the annual cycle, and a 80-days
10 Full-Width Half-Maximum value (FWHM) averaging filter and a 390-days FWHM averaging
11 filter to further remove short term variations and remaining annual cycles still present in the
12 residuals after the function fit (Thoning *et al.*, 1989). The processing was incorporated in the
13 standard software for processing CO₂ data (CCGCRV) developed by NOAA-ESRL (Thoning
14 *et al.*, 1989). We then obtained the amplitude and monthly concentration differences from the
15 seasonal curve for atmospheric CO₂.

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17 *Land-atmosphere CO₂ exchange.* An ensemble of eight dynamic global vegetation models
18 (DGVMs) from TRENDYv2 was used to simulate monthly net biome productivity (NBP) for
19 1979-2012. These models were coordinated to perform three simulations (S1, S2 and S3)
20 following the TRENDYv2 protocol (Sitch *et al.*, 2015). Only atmospheric CO₂ was varied in
21 simulation S1, and only atmospheric CO₂ and climate were varied in simulation S2. In
22 simulation S3, atmospheric CO₂, climate and land use were varied. The effects of rising

1 atmospheric CO₂, climate change and land use change on NBP could then be obtained from
2 S1, the difference between S2 and S1, and the difference between S3 and S2, respectively.
3 Four of the eight TRENDY models (CLM4.5, ISAM, LPX and OCN) considered
4 carbon-nitrogen interactions and nitrogen deposition in simulation S1, S2 and S3. All models
5 used the same forcing data sets, in which global atmospheric CO₂ concentration was from the
6 combination of ice core records and atmospheric observations (Keeling *et al.*, 2005), historical
7 climatic fields were from the CRU-NCEP dataset
8 (<http://dods.extra.ccea.fr/data/p529viov/cruncep/>), and land use data were from the Hyde
9 database (Hurtt *et al.*, 2011). The effect of nitrogen deposition was derived from an additional
10 simulation (S4) by the CLM4 model (Oleson *et al.*, 2010; Mao *et al.*, 2013) in which all
11 driving factors (atmospheric CO₂, climate and land use) were kept constant at the 1980 value,
12 except transient nitrogen deposition for 1980-2012 (Lamarque *et al.*, 2005). Strictly speaking,
13 the effect of climate change on NBP contains the fingerprint of rising CO₂ since CO₂-induced
14 climate change cannot be teased out based on offline simulations of carbon fluxes. The pure
15 effect of climate change can only be obtained through resorting to the fully coupled earth
16 system models (e.g. Mao *et al.*, 2017), however which exist a lot of biases in terms of the
17 simulated climate fields, CO₂ concentration and other biogeochemical processes. Detailed
18 information of the nine DGVMs used in this study is listed in Table S2.

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20 *Ocean-atmosphere CO₂ exchange.* A biogeochemical model, PlankTOM5, combined with a
21 global ocean general circulation model NEMO (NEMO-PlankTOM5), were used to simulate
22 the physical, chemical and biological processes that affect the surface ocean CO₂

1 concentration and thus the ocean-atmosphere CO₂ exchange (Buitenhuis *et al.*, 2010). The
2 PlankTOM5 model was forced by inputs of ions and compounds from river, sediment and
3 dust (Cotrim *da Cunha et al.*, 2007; Aumont *et al.*, 2003). The NEMO model was driven by
4 data for daily wind and precipitation from an NCEP reanalysis (Kalnay *et al.*, 1996). Further
5 details can be found in Buitenhuis *et al.* (2010).

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7 *Fossil fuel CO₂ emissions.* A gridded monthly time series of fossil fuel CO₂ emissions from
8 CDIAC were constructed based on a proportional-proxy approach (Andres *et al.*, 2011; Boden
9 *et al.*, 2016). Firstly, available monthly data for fossil fuel consumption data for 21 countries
10 were compiled, which accounted for about 80% of global total emissions. These data were
11 then used as a proxy for all remaining countries without monthly data based on countries'
12 similarities in climates and economies (for few countries, geographic closeness was also
13 considered). For some years without explicit monthly data, Monte Carlo methods were used
14 to apply data from years with known monthly fractions to the years with missing-data. Further
15 details can be found in Andres *et al.* (2011).

16

17 *The atmospheric transport model.* We used LMDZ4, a global tracer transport model (Hourdin
18 *et al.*, 2013) driven by the re-analysis 3-D atmospheric wind fields from the European Centre
19 for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (Dee *et al.*, 2011), to transform land-atmosphere CO₂
20 exchange, fossil fuel CO₂ emission and ocean-atmosphere CO₂ exchange into point estimates
21 of CO₂ concentration for the 26 stations. The model configuration we used had a horizontal
22 spatial resolution of 3.75° longitude × 2.5° latitude with 19 vertical layers.

1 The effects of changes in atmospheric CO₂ ('CO₂'), climate ('CLIM'), land use ('LU'),
2 fossil fuel ('FF'), ocean carbon flux ('Ocean') and atmospheric transport ('Wind') on seasonal
3 change in atmospheric CO₂ concentration were differentiated by designing eight transport
4 simulations (T1~T8, see Table S4). The first (T1) used time-varying monthly land-atmosphere
5 CO₂ exchange under scenario S3 (driven by rising CO₂, climate change and land use change),
6 fossil fuel CO₂ emission, and ocean-atmosphere CO₂ exchange coupled with the LMDZ4
7 transport model with variable winds, indicating the combined effects of 'CO₂', 'CLIM', 'LU',
8 'FF', 'Ocean' and 'Wind'. The LMDZ4 transport experiment was forced by historically
9 varying wind but constant land-atmosphere CO₂ exchange, fossil fuel CO₂ emission and
10 ocean-atmosphere CO₂ exchange for 1979 (T6) to assess the contribution of 'Wind'. The
11 individual effects of 'CO₂', 'CLIM' and 'LU' were determined using the LMDZ4 model with
12 varying winds to perform three more transport simulations (T2, T3 and T4, see Table 3), in
13 which fossil fuel CO₂ emission and ocean-atmosphere CO₂ exchange were constant at the
14 1979 value but land-atmosphere CO₂ exchange varied under the three scenarios (S1, driven by
15 CO₂; S2, driven by CO₂ and CLIM; S3, driven by CO₂, CLIM and LU). Consequently, the
16 effect of 'CO₂' alone on seasonal CO₂ variation could be assessed by the difference between
17 T2 and T6, that of 'CLIM' by the difference between T3 and T2, and that of 'LU' by the
18 difference between T4 and T3. We also prescribed varying land-atmosphere CO₂ exchange
19 from the CLM4 model under scenario S4 (varying only nitrogen deposition), constant fossil
20 fuel CO₂ emission and ocean-atmosphere CO₂ exchange to the LMDZ4 model with constant
21 winds (transport simulation T5) to obtain the effect of nitrogen deposition. Finally, we
22 performed two more simulations in which only fossil fuel CO₂ emission or ocean-atmosphere

1 CO₂ exchange varied in addition to variable winds (T7 and T8) to obtain the individual effects
2 of ‘FF’ and ‘Ocean’ on CO₂ seasonal variation. The contribution of ‘FF’ could thus be
3 calculated from the difference between T7 and T6, and that of ‘Ocean’ from the difference
4 between T8 and T6.

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6 **Observed CO₂ amplitude trends**

7 The 26 northern (north of 23 °N) atmospheric stations selected are shown in Figure S1
8 and Table S1. According to the shape of detrended CO₂ seasonal cycle (*Thoning et al.*, 1989)
9 (see methods) (Figure S2), we divided the amplitude into peak-to-trough (AMP_{P-T}, defined
10 as the difference between the peak and trough values of the CO₂ seasonal cycle in a year)
11 and trough-to-peak (AMP_{T-P}, defined as the difference between the trough value of the CO₂
12 seasonal cycle in a year and the peak value of the cycle in the next year). The AMP_{P-T} and
13 AMP_{T-P} represent the seasonal variations in atmospheric CO₂ concentration during the period
14 of net carbon uptake and the period of net carbon release, respectively (Figure S2). Positive
15 trends in AMP_{P-T} ranging from 0.05 to 0.15 ppm yr⁻¹ are significant (P<0.05) at nine stations
16 during 1980-2012, eight of which are north of 50 °N (Figure 1a). The other stations do not
17 show significant positive AMP_{P-T} trends and five stations show negative trends (the latter
18 being significant at only one station UUM). The significant increase in AMP_{P-T} mainly
19 reflects an increasing CO₂ drawdown (defined by the monthly net change in CO₂
20 concentration) in June and July (Figure S3).

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22 The trends in AMP_{T-P} reported in Table S1 are similar to those of AMP_{P-T}, logically

1 expected because we remove a long-term mean trend in each CO₂ time series (Figure 1b). In
2 total, seven out of the eight stations with a significant ($P < 0.05$) increase in AMP_{T-P} during
3 1980-2012 are located north of 50 °N. The months of September and October are those
4 during which most of the negative trend of AMP_{T-P} occurs at those stations (Figure S3).
5 Overall, no stations show significant positive trend in AMP_{T-P} during the study period.

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7 **Terrestrial ecosystem model output and simulation of trends in CO₂ amplitude**

8 The net biome productivity (NBP) from eight dynamic global vegetation models
9 (DGVMs) from TRENDYv2 (Sitch *et al.*, 2015) and an additional model with
10 carbon-nitrogen interactions (Oleson *et al.*, 2010; Mao *et al.*, 2013) (Table S2 and S3) are
11 prescribed to the atmospheric transport model (LMDZ4) (Hourdin *et al.*, 2013) (See Methods).
12 Time-varying monthly NBP of each model from TRENDYv2 under simulation S3 (driven by
13 CO₂, climate change and land-cover change) (Sitch *et al.*, 2015), fossil fuel and cement
14 emissions (Andres *et al.*, 2011; Boden *et al.*, 2016), and interannual air-sea fluxes (Buitenhuis
15 *et al.*, 2010) were prescribed to the global LMDZ4 transport model (Hourdin *et al.*, 2013) with
16 variable winds for 1980-2012. This simulation is the T1 (see Methods and Table S4), from
17 which the modeled CO₂ concentration field was sampled at each station and analyzed changes
18 in amplitude, as for the observed time series.

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20 Most T1 simulations (except with the ISAM and JULES ecosystem models) produce a
21 significant increase in AMP_{P-T} at boreal (north of 50 °N) stations (Figure 1a), though there
22 are differences among models. In comparison with the observed average trend ($0.094 \pm$

1 0.033 ppm yr⁻¹) of AMP_{P-T} at the eight boreal stations with a significant increase in AMP_{P-T},
2 three models show a larger AMP_{P-T} positive trend (CLM4.5: 0.105 ± 0.046 ppm yr⁻¹; LPJ:
3 0.101 ± 0.053 ppm yr⁻¹; VISIT: 0.101 ± 0.059 ppm yr⁻¹). The T1 simulations also correctly
4 reproduced the absence of a trend for the three boreal stations with no significant trend in
5 observed AMP_{P-T} (BAL, MHD and SHM in Figure 1a), except for ORCHIDEE for MHD
6 and VISIT for SHM.

7
8 Similar to trends in AMP_{P-T}, statistically significant increasing AMP_{T-P} is found in the T1
9 simulation results (except again for ISAM and JULES), consistent with the observed trends.
10 The simulations with ISAM and JULES produce more significant increasing trends in
11 AMP_{T-P} for temperate than boreal and Arctic stations.

12
13 Overall, unlike previous studies that have shown a systematic underestimation of AMP
14 trend by ecosystem models, namely the CMIP5 models (Taylor *et al.*, 2012) and the
15 MsTMIP models (Huntzinger *et al.*, 2013; Wei *et al.*, 2014) at high northern latitudes
16 (Graven *et al.*, 2013; Thomas *et al.*, 2016), we found both underestimation and
17 overestimation of AMP trends from the TRENDYv2 models (Figure S4). This phenomenon
18 may be due to different climate forcing (between CMIP5 and other ensembles), partly
19 different terrestrial ecosystem models, and the simulation of transport using different models
20 (LMDZ4 here instead of TM3 and ACTM in Graven *et al.* (2013) and TM3 in Thomas *et al.*
21 (2016)).

22

1 **Effects of various factors on the trends in AMP_{P-T}**

2 In order to separate the contribution of different driving factors on the trend of AMP_{P-T},
3 we performed transport simulations with changes in NBP caused by different factors from
4 factorial runs of the TRENDYv2 models, respectively with variable CO₂ only (eCO₂),
5 variable CO₂ and climate, and variable CO₂, climate and land cover change (Table S4, see
6 Methods). We further differentiated between the contribution of trends in atmospheric
7 transport from the trends in AMP, using the LMDZ4 transport model with variable transport
8 fields (Dee *et al.*, 2011) but constant NBP, air-sea CO₂ flux and fossil fuel and cement
9 emissions for 1979, so that the trends in AMP from this simulation could be attributed to
10 transport trends only.

11

12 The impact of climate change on NBP affecting the AMP_{P-T} trends estimated from the
13 multi-model ensemble mean (MMEM) varies among stations (Figure 2a). We find a positive
14 trend of AMP induced by climate change at boreal atmospheric stations (eight of 11 stations
15 north of 50 °N (Figure 2a and S5b). On average, climate change caused an enhancement of
16 0.015 ± 0.025 ppm yr⁻¹ in AMP_{P-T} over boreal region (north of 50 °N) (Figure 3a), which is
17 about 20% of the observed AMP_{P-T} trend. To have an idea of the potential impact of different
18 climatic factors, we present an analysis on the trends of temperature and precipitation during
19 1980-2012 in northern hemisphere. As shown in Figure S5, most northern high-latitude
20 regions show non-significant trends of precipitation. By contrast, a positive trend of
21 temperature was widely found in eastern Siberia and Alaska (Figure S5), which is also the
22 main footprint area of Barrow station (Piao *et al.*, 2017). This result indicates that

1 temperature is the possible dominant factor on AMP trends at high latitudes, although such
2 positive effects may saturate (Piao *et al.*, 2014; Fu *et al.*, 2015). As shown in Figure S6a, for
3 the BRW station (71 °N), the effect of climate change on AMP_{P-T} is positive mainly during
4 May and June.

5
6 In contrast, at the temperate stations (in the band of 23-50 °N), the effect of climate
7 change on the AMP_{P-T} trends is mainly negative (10 of the 15 stations), although the impact
8 is not significant (except for TAP at P<0.05 and ASK marginally significant at P<0.1).
9 Climate change is modeled to cause an average decrease in AMP_{P-T} of -0.012 ± 0.040 ppm
10 yr⁻¹ at stations in the temperate region (Figure 3a). Analysis of NBP impacted by climate
11 change (Trendy models S2 – S1 simulations) shows that climate change alone caused a
12 decrease in CO₂ uptake from April to August in western and central US, eastern Europe,
13 northeast China and Mongolia (Figure S7b), associated with declining soil moisture driven
14 by rising temperature and decreasing precipitation in these regions (Sitch *et al.*, 2015).

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16 In the simulations of CO₂ with MMEM, eCO₂ causes a significant increase in AMP_{P-T} at
17 10 of the 11 boreal stations (Figure 2a), and the magnitude of trend in AMP_{P-T} driven by
18 eCO₂ (0.036 ± 0.005 ppm yr⁻¹) is about twice as large as that caused by climate change
19 (Figure 3a). This larger effect of eCO₂ than climate change on the AMP_{P-T} trends in the
20 boreal zone is also present in the simulations with NBP in the individual ecosystem models
21 (Figure S8a and b). This result does not support previous findings by Forkel *et al.* (2016), in
22 which the signal of climate change is considered larger than eCO₂ in the observed increase

1 of AMP_{P-T} at high latitudes. We agree, however, that climate change rather than eCO₂ causes
2 the latitudinal difference of trend in AMP_{P-T}. The magnitude of eCO₂ effect to increase the
3 trend of AMP in temperate regions (0.028 ± 0.023 ppm yr⁻¹) is comparable to that in boreal
4 regions (Figure 3a), although the effect is significant at fewer stations (nine of 15) (Figure 2a).
5 It should be noted that four TRENDY models (CLM4.5, ISAM, LPX and OCN) considered
6 carbon-nitrogen interactions and nitrogen deposition, thus the eCO₂ signal derived from these
7 models also includes the interactive effect of nitrogen deposition. Another simulation with
8 nitrogen deposition using the CLM4 model (Oleson *et al.*, 2010; Mao *et al.*, 2013) (see
9 Methods), however, predicts that the effect of nitrogen deposition on the AMP_{P-T} trend is
10 not significant ($P < 0.05$) at any of the stations (Figure S9a), but this result depends on
11 individual model parameterizations (Galloway *et al.*, 2008). Further studies based on
12 multiple models with carbon-nitrogen interactions are thus needed.

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14 Both forest inventory data and model simulation have indicated that afforestation and
15 forest regrowth after the abandonment of agriculture in northern ecosystems have an
16 important role in regional and global carbon balances (Pan *et al.*, 2011; Houghton *et al.*,
17 2012; FAO, 2015). Most TRENDYv2 DGVMs (except ISAM) in our study predict that land
18 use change would increase net carbon uptake from April to August in Eastern Europe, China
19 and central and eastern United States (Figure S7c). Accordingly, a significant ($P < 0.05$) or
20 marginally significant ($P < 0.10$) positive effect of land use change on the trend in AMP_{P-T} is
21 predicted across six boreal stations and three northern temperate stations (Figures 2a and
22 S5c), although the magnitude of the signal is generally much smaller than the effect of eCO₂

1 and climate change. Overall, the positive increase in AMP_{P-T} attributed to land use change is
2 similar between boreal (0.007 ± 0.009 ppm yr^{-1}) and northern temperate (0.004 ± 0.008 ppm
3 yr^{-1}) regions (Figure 3a), suggesting that the latitudinal difference in observed AMP_{P-T}
4 increase (0.07 ± 0.05 ppm yr^{-1} in the boreal zone and 0.01 ± 0.05 ppm yr^{-1} in temperate zone)
5 has little linkage with land use change. It should be noted that, however, large uncertainties
6 remain in estimating the effect of land use change on the AMP_{P-T} trend, primarily because
7 processes of land use change and management (e.g., wood harvest, shifting cultivation and
8 peat fires) are not considered in some Trendy models (Table S3) and some critical processes
9 (e.g., human settlement, erosion/sequestration and woody encroachment) are absent in all
10 models (Houghton *et al.*, 2012).

11
12 Over the past thirty years, global CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel consumption have
13 increased from 5.3 Pg C yr^{-1} in 1980 to 9.7 Pg C yr^{-1} in 2012 (Boden *et al.*, 2016) (Figure
14 S10a). However, the pattern of change is not spatially uniform in the Northern Hemisphere.
15 Annual fossil fuel CO_2 emissions is increased significantly in the northern temperate region,
16 but decreased in the boreal region (Figure S10a). This heterogeneity is also found in the
17 period of April to August, during which AMP_{P-T} is calculated for most northern temperate
18 and boreal stations (Figure S10b). As a result, effect of changes in fossil fuel carbon
19 emissions on the trend in AMP_{P-T} is opposite between temperate and boreal stations,
20 although the trends in AMP_{P-T} caused by the trends in fossil CO_2 emissions were not
21 significant for most stations. A negative effect of fossil fuel emissions on the AMP_{P-T} trend
22 is simulated for the temperate stations (13 of the 15 stations showing a negative trend with

1 three significant stations and one marginally significant station) (Figure 2a), and a positive
2 effect is simulated for most boreal stations (eight of the 11 stations). The absolute value of
3 the AMP_{P-T} trend associated with fossil fuel emissions is generally larger at temperate
4 (average of -0.013 ± 0.022 ppm yr⁻¹) compared to boreal stations (average of 0.003 ± 0.007
5 ppm yr⁻¹) (Figure 3a).

6
7 A recent study (Horton *et al.*, 2015) demonstrated robust trends in sub-seasonal
8 atmospheric circulation patterns over mid-latitude regions during 1979-2013, particularly in
9 summer and autumn. Such changes in large-scale atmospheric circulation may exert an effect
10 on the trend of CO₂ amplitude. The magnitude of AMP_{P-T} trend caused by transport change
11 is comparable or even larger than the effect of climate change and eCO₂ on NBP at some
12 atmospheric stations, particularly in the temperate zone, although the impact of transport
13 trends on the trend in AMP_{P-T} was significant for only two stations (UUM and IZO) (Figure
14 2a). The magnitude of AMP_{P-T} trend caused by wind is remarkable at UUM (Figure 2a),
15 suggesting the potential role of atmospheric transport. This result is consistent with the
16 recent study showing that increasing seasonal fluxes in lower latitudes have a larger impact
17 on the CO₂ amplitude throughout most of the troposphere compared to increasing seasonal
18 fluxes at higher latitudes due to isentropic transport across latitudes (Barnes *et al.*, 2016).

19
20 In terms of effects air-sea fluxes on the trend of AMP_{P-T} , a weak contribution to AMP
21 trends was simulated across most of stations except at BRW (0.010 ppm yr⁻¹, $P < 0.05$, 10%
22 of the observed trend) and MBC (0.015 ppm yr⁻¹, $P < 0.1$, 16% of the observed trend).

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The mechanisms driving the trend in AMP_{P-T} are here analyzed with observations at the Arctic station of BRW (71°N), the longest northern high latitude CO₂ record showing an increase of amplitude of 35% since 50 years, larger than at the Mauna Loa longest record located in the sub-tropics (Graven *et al.*, 2013; Gray *et al.*, 2014; Zeng *et al.*, 2014; Barlow *et al.*, 2015; Forkel *et al.*, 2016). Our transport simulations with MMEM NBP indicate that AMP_{P-T} at the BRW station significantly increased by about 0.095 ppm yr⁻¹ from 1980 to 2012, comparable to the observed trend of 0.097 ppm yr⁻¹ (Figure 1a). eCO₂ is identified as the largest contributor of increasing AMP_{P-T} with a trend of 0.039 ppm yr⁻¹ (40% of the observed trend, P<0.05), followed by climate change with a trend of 0.031 ppm yr⁻¹ (32% of the observed trend, P<0.05) (Figure S8a and b). The effect of ocean flux is of 0.010 ppm yr⁻¹ (10% of observed trend, P<0.05), and land use change has marginally significant contributions (0.003 ppm yr⁻¹ and 3% of observed trend, P<0.1) (Figure S8c and e). The impacts on the AMP_{P-T} trend were not significant for the other factors such as fossil fuel emissions and transport (Figure S8d and f).

Effects of various factors on trends in AMP_{T-P}

We also assessed the effect of various factors on the trend in AMP_{T-P} with the same NBP and transport model simulations (See Methods). In contrast to the period of net carbon uptake, climate change accelerates carbon release from boreal ecosystems during the non-carbon uptake period. An increasing AMP_{T-P} (a negative trend in AMP_{T-P} indicates a larger release) is simulated at eight of the 11 boreal stations (one station significant at P<0.05;

1 two stations marginally significant at $P < 0.1$; Figure 2b). In contrast, a decreasing AMP_{T-P}
2 (shown with positive trend) is produced at 12 of the 15 temperate stations (one station
3 significant at $P < 0.05$; one station marginally significant at $P < 0.1$) (Figure 2b). Autumnal
4 warming may increase vegetation productivity by delaying vegetation senescence, as well as
5 accelerate ecosystem respiration (Piao *et al.*, 2008; Vesala *et al.*, 2010). The opposite effect
6 of climate change on the trend in AMP_{T-P} in boreal (-0.016 ± 0.027 ppm yr⁻¹) and temperate
7 (0.011 ± 0.040 ppm yr⁻¹) regions (Figure 3b) is therefore probably due to their different
8 magnitudes of the response of vegetation productivity (GPP) and ecosystem respiration
9 (TER) to climate change. Indeed, the model show that the climate change induced increase
10 of TER is greater than that of GPP in high northern latitudes, whereas the increase of GPP is
11 larger in temperate regions (Figure S11).

12
13 Simulation of atmospheric CO₂ from MMEM NBP produce an increasing AMP_{T-P} in
14 response to eCO₂ at 25 of the 26 temperate and boreal stations (19 stations significant at
15 $P < 0.05$, two stations marginally significant at $0.05 < P < 0.1$; Figure 2b). NBP from six out of
16 the eight terrestrial ecosystem models (except ISAM and JULES) also produces an
17 enhancing AMP_{T-P} from eCO₂ (Figure S12a). This result indicates that an acceleration of
18 carbon release during the period of net carbon release is as an indirect effect of the NBP
19 response to eCO₂. This acceleration is due to the increment in carbon storage caused by the
20 enhancement of net carbon uptake during the period of carbon uptake under the effect of
21 eCO₂, which stimulates ecosystem respiration during the non-carbon uptake period (Figure
22 S13). Similarly, we also found enlargement of AMP_{T-P} in response to land use change

1 (significant at nine of the 26 stations, Figure 2b).

2

3 Similar to the effect on AMP_{P-T} , the contribution of fossil fuel CO_2 emissions, air-sea
4 fluxes and transport on the trends in AMP_{T-P} are significant only at a minority of stations
5 (only one, four and two stations at $P<0.05$ for the effect of fossil fuel, air-sea fluxes and
6 transport, respectively; Figure 2b). However, the magnitude of signal induced by transport
7 and fossil fuel emissions is generally remarkable over temperate region (Figure 3b), causing
8 an average impacts of -0.014 ± 0.036 ppm yr⁻¹ and 0.010 ± 0.014 ppm yr⁻¹ in the trend of
9 AMP_{P-T} , respectively.

10

11 Overall, the observed significant enlargement of AMP_{T-P} at the BRW station (-0.090 ppm
12 yr⁻¹) is mainly driven by eCO₂ (-0.038 ppm yr⁻¹ and 42% of the observing trend, $P<0.05$),
13 climate change (0.032 ppm yr⁻¹ and 35% of the observing trend, $P<0.05$), ocean flux change
14 (-0.010 ppm yr⁻¹ and 11% of the observing trend, $P<0.05$) and land use change (-0.003 ppm
15 yr⁻¹ and 4% of the observing trend, $P<0.05$).

16

17 **Conclusion**

18 Unlike previous studies based on one model only (Zeng *et al.*, 2014; Forkel *et al.*, 2016),
19 our results based on an ensemble of models to capture the trends in amplitude suggest that
20 rising atmospheric CO_2 concentration is the primary driver of enhancement of both AMP_{P-T}
21 and AMP_{T-P} , although climate change plays a critical role and contributes largely to the
22 latitudinal differences in the AMP trend. In addition, the effects of other factors such as land

1 use change, fossil fuel emissions, ocean flux, and transport on the trends in AMP_{P-T} and
2 AMP_{T-P} are not statistically significant at most stations, but still large enough to cancel out the
3 effect of eCO_2 at some temperate stations where the observed seasonal CO_2 trends are small.
4 However, the uncertainties in the forcing data on land use change and fossil fuel emission at
5 the moment do not allow an unequivocal statement on the contribution of these factors, and
6 further studies based on spatially and temporally explicit historical data sets, including land
7 use and fossil fuel emission are needed. Finally, rising atmospheric CO_2 concentration has an
8 opposite implication in the northern ecosystem carbon balance between the period of carbon
9 uptake (trend in AMP_{P-T}) and the period of carbon release (trend in AMP_{T-P}), due to the
10 lagged effects of increases in carbon storage during the period of carbon uptake on the carbon
11 cycle in the period of carbon release. Our results not only provide insights for large-scale field
12 experiments, but also highlight the importance of understanding processes of the carbon
13 release during the non-growing season, which is critical for reliable projections of the global
14 carbon cycle, and thus, the future climate change.

15

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3 increasing atmospheric CO₂ seasonal amplitude. *Nature*, **515**, 394-397.

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1 **Supporting Information Captions**

2 **Tables**

3 **Table S1** Atmospheric CO₂ measurement stations (data coverage > 15 years in the period of
4 1980-2012) used in the study and estimated trends of peak-to-trough amplitude (AMP_{P-T}) and
5 trough-to-peak amplitude (AMP_{T-P}).

6 **Table S2** Details of dynamic global vegetation models used in this study.

7 **Table S3** Processes of land use change and management considered in TRENDYv2 models.

8 **Table S4** Summary of transport simulations performed.

9

10 **Figures**

11 **Figure S1** Spatial distribution of the NOAA-ERSL stations (data coverage > 15 years) used in
12 this study.

13 **Figure S2** A schematic describing the terms we used to characterize the seasonal amplitude of
14 atmospheric CO₂.

15 **Figure S3** Observed trends in monthly net CO₂ concentration change (MNCC) from
16 long-term records of the global NOAA-ERSL surface flask air-sampling network.

17 **Figure S4** Observed and modeled trends in CO₂ seasonal peak-to-trough amplitude (AMP_{P-T})
18 (a, c) and trough-to-peak amplitude (AMP_{T-P}) (b, d) during 1980 to 2012, averaged over the
19 stations from northern temperate region (23-50°N) and boreal region (north of 50°N).

20 **Figure S5** Spatial distribution of trends in temperature (a) and precipitation (b) from April to
21 August during the period 1980-2012. Note that the period from April to August corresponds
22 to the carbon uptake period of most northern temperate and boreal stations. Regions with
23 mean annual NDVI (AVHRR NDVI3 g dataset) less than 0.1 were masked.

24 **Figure S6** Trends in monthly net CO₂ concentration change (MNCC) estimated by
25 process-based models at Barrow, Alaska (BRW) during carbon uptake period (CUP) (a) and
26 those during carbon release period (CRP) (b) from 1980 to 2012.

1 **Figure S7** Spatial distribution of trends in net biome productivity (NBP) obtained from eight
2 TRENDY models driven by rising CO₂ (a), climate change (b) and land use change (c) from
3 April to August.

4 **Figure S8** Trends in CO₂ seasonal peak-to-trough amplitude (AMP_{P-T}) estimated by eight
5 TRENDY models and multi-model ensemble mean (MMEM) under different scenario
6 simulations at northern temperate and boreal stations.

7 **Figure S9** Same as Figure 2, but for trends in CO₂ seasonal trough-to-peak amplitude
8 (AMP_{T-P}) (a) and trough-to-peak amplitude (AMP_{T-P}) (b) estimated by CLM4 model under
9 nitrogen deposition scenarios at 26 northern temperate and boreal stations.

10 **Figure S10** Trends in fossil fuel CO₂ emissions.

11 **Figure S11** Spatial distribution of trends in net biome productivity (NBP) (a), gross primary
12 productivity (GPP) (b) and total ecosystem respiration (TER) (c) from September to March
13 for eight Trendy models driven by climate change only.

14 **Figure S12** Same as Figure S5, but for trends in CO₂ seasonal trough-to-peak amplitude
15 (AMP_{T-P}).

16 **Figure S13** Spatial distribution of trends in net biome productivity (NBP) (a), gross primary
17 productivity (GPP) (b) and total ecosystem respiration (TER) (c) from September to March
18 for eight Trendy models driven by rising CO₂ only.

19

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1 **Figure legends**

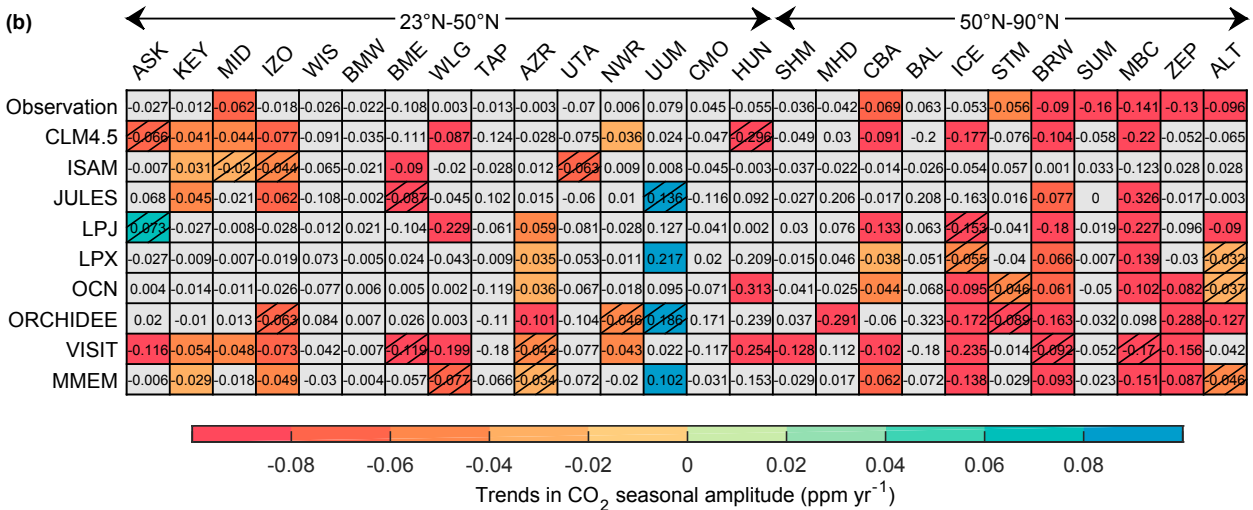
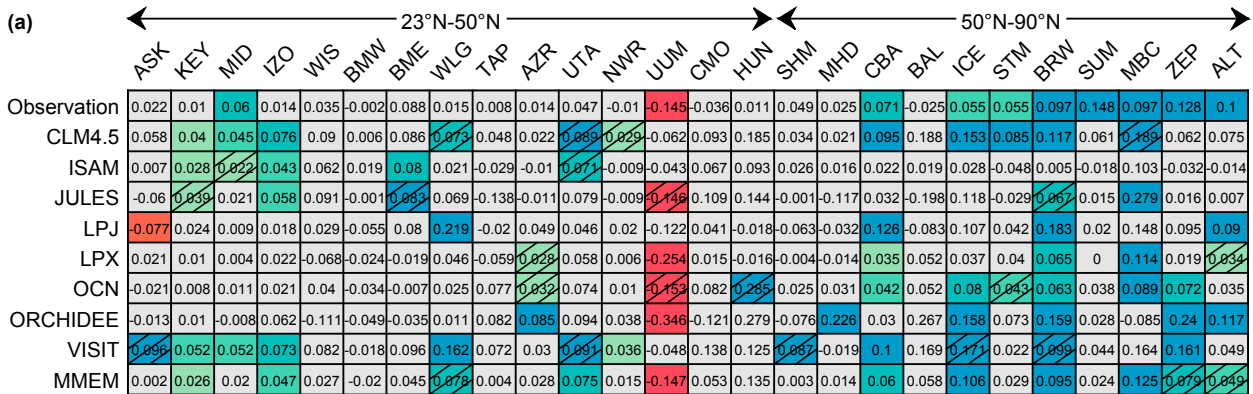
2 **Figure 1** Observed and modeled trends in CO₂ seasonal peak-to-trough amplitude (AMP_{P-T})
3 (a) and trough-to-peak amplitude (AMP_{T-P}) (b) during 1980-2012. The modeled
4 AMP_{P-T}/AMP_{T-P} trends were calculated based on eight TRENDY models and the multi-model
5 ensemble mean (MMEM) in the T1 transport simulation (see methods). The abbreviated
6 names of the 26 stations measuring atmospheric CO₂ concentrations in the northern temperate
7 and boreal regions are shown at the top of the figure. The stations were sorted based on their
8 latitudes, from 23 °N to 90 °N. Each row represents the trends for the various stations, and each
9 column represents the trends derived from observation and the model simulations at a station.
10 Gray grids indicate non-significant trends ($P > 0.10$), colored grids without slashes indicate
11 significant trends ($P < 0.05$) and colored grids with slashes indicate marginally significant
12 trends ($P < 0.10$). The number in each grid is the value of the trend. Station abbreviations are
13 defined in Table S1.

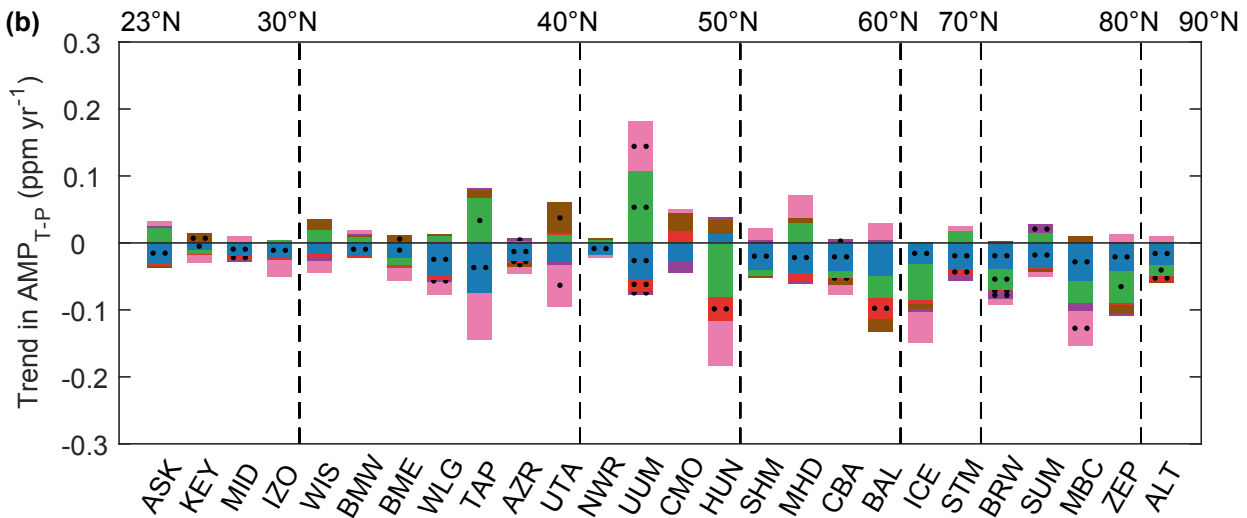
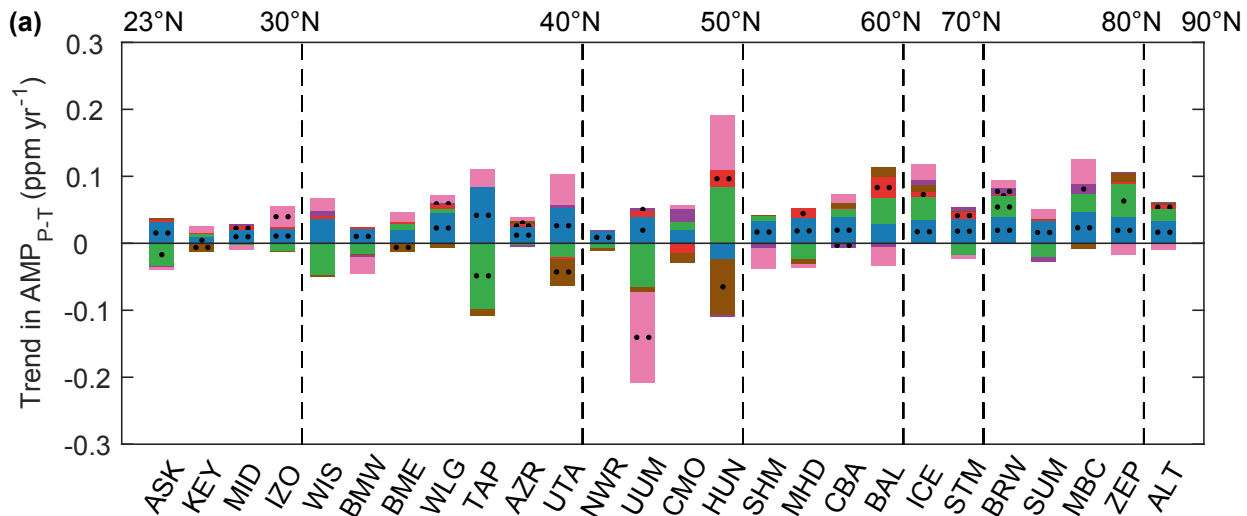
14 **Figure 2** Trends in CO₂ seasonal peak-to-trough amplitude (AMP_{P-T}) (a) and trough-to-peak
15 amplitude (AMP_{T-P}) (b) estimated by multi-model ensemble mean (MMEM) under various
16 scenarios for the 26 northern temperate (23-50 °N) and boreal (north of 50 °N) stations. The
17 results are presented based on the latitudes of the stations. The individual effects of changes in
18 atmospheric CO₂ ('CO₂'), climate ('CLIM'), land use ('LU'), fossil fuel ('FF'), ocean-air
19 carbon flux ('Ocean') and wind ('Wind') on the CO₂ seasonal amplitudes were derived from
20 transport simulations (T2 - T6), (T3 - T2), (T4 - T3), (T7 - T6), (T8 - T6) and T6, respectively
21 (see Methods and Table S4). Significant ($P < 0.05$) trends for each scenario are denoted by two

1 dots, and marginally significant ($P < 0.10$) trends are denoted by one dot, in the middle of the
2 bars.

3 **Figure 3** Trends in CO₂ seasonal peak-to-trough amplitude (AMP_{P-T}) (a) and trough-to-peak
4 amplitude (AMP_{T-P}) (b) estimated by multi-model ensemble mean (MMEM) under different
5 scenarios, averaged over the stations from the northern temperate (23-50°N) and boreal (north
6 of 50°N) region. Model scenario simulations include changes in atmospheric CO₂ ('CO₂'),
7 climate ('CLIM'), land use ('LU'), fossil fuel ('FF'), ocean-air carbon flux ('Ocean') and
8 wind ('Wind'). Uncertainties are shown by error bars based on the standard deviation of AMP
9 trends across the stations in each region.

10





CO₂ CLIM LU FF Ocean Wind

