Supplementary Information for the manuscript entitled: Impacts of ocean albedo alteration on Arctic sea ice recovery and global climate

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a) High latitude surface energy budget decomposition

Over the area 60° to 90°N, imposed albedo modifications in alb70-90N relative to $4xCO_2$ simulation lead to a surface albedo increase of 0.115 ± 0.022 (Supplementary Table 2) and upwelling (reflected) surface shortwave radiation increase of 0.44 ± 0.01 PW (~41 %) (Supplementary Table 5). Since in the $4xCO_2$ simulation 2.84 ± 0.01 PW of downward shortwave radiation reaches the surface, with everything else unchanged this would lead to an increase of 0.33 PW (= 0.115×2.84) in reflected shortwave radiation in alb70-90N relative to $4xCO_2$. However, due to an additional increase in shortwave downward radiation at the surface of 0.22 ± 0.01 PW, upward shortwave radiation at the surface actually increases by 0.44 ± 0.01 PW (0.44 PW= 0.375×0.22 PW + 0.115×2.84 PW + 0.115×0.22 PW; where 0.375 is a surface albedo in the $4xCO_2$ simulation, Supplementary Table 2). Increase in shortwave downward radiation at the surface in alb70-90N relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation is predominantly a consequence of a decreased cloud cover: corresponding clear-sky shortwave downward radiation increase is only 0.04 PW.

Net shortwave radiation from the surface over the area 60° to $90^\circ N$ (difference between the upward and downward shortwave flux) increases by 0.21 ± 0.01 PW in alb70-90 relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation.

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As a consequence of increased ice cover and cooling in alb70-90N, sensible and latent heat fluxes from the surface to the atmosphere over the area 60° -90°N decrease by 0.03 PW and 0.07 \pm 0.01 PW relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation, respectively. Because of surface cooling, upward longwave radiation decreases by 0.28 \pm 0.02 PW while downward longwave radiation decreases by 0.25 \pm 0.02 PW, leading to a reduction in net longwave radiation from the surface of 0.04 \pm 0.01 PW. (Decomposition of net surface flux into shortwave, longwave, latent and sensible heat fluxes is given in Supplementary Table 5). Thus in alb70-90N relative to $4xCO_2$, about 33% of the net shortwave energy loss at the surface is compensated by a reduction in latent heat fluxes, ~19% by a decrease in net longwave radiation from the surface and ~14% by a reduction in sensible heat fluxes. Resulting net surface energy loss of 0.07 \pm 0.01 PW is thus only ~33% of the net surface shortwave energy loss. Partial compensation of net shortwave flux changes at the surface and the resulting net surface energy loss are illustrated in Supplementary Fig. 8a (for all of the simulations with imposed albedo modifications).

b) High latitude top-of-atmosphere (TOA) energy budget decomposition

We use the symbol 'TOA' to refer to top of model atmosphere values used to calculate energy variables within the climate model, not the derived values used for diagnostic comparison with satellite observations (Neale et al. 2010). TOA net shortwave energy flux to space in alb70-90N relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation (see Supplementary Table 6) increases by 0.20 ± 0.01 PW (similar to the 0.21 ± 0.01 PW increase in net surface shortwave flux to the atmosphere). This change in net shortwave TOA flux originates solely from an increase in upward shortwave TOA flux by the same amount $(0.20 \pm 0.01$ PW). Net TOA longwave flux to space decreases by 0.05 ± 0.01 PW (similar to the decrease in surface net longwave flux to the atmosphere). This change in net TOA longwave flux is mainly due to a decrease in upward longwave flux of 0.04 ± 0.01 PW. Imposed surface albedo alterations in alb70-90N relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation thus lead to 0.16 ± 0.01 PW additional energy loss at the top of the model over the area 60° -90°N.

Interestingly, in all simulations with imposed albedo modifications relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation (with no albedo modifications), high latitude net shortwave flux changes are effectively the same at the surface and at the top-of-atmosphere (Supplementary Tables 5 and 6). This is however not the case when comparing the simulations with different CO_2 concentrations (e.g., alb70-90N and $1xCO_2$).

Net TOA energy loss over the area 60° - 90° N is also an estimate of the increase in implied total heat transport across 60° N with net surface energy loss being an estimate of the increase in implied ocean heat transport across 60° N. Thus, in alb70-90N relative to $4xCO_2$, ~44% of the change in TOA energy flux over 60° - 90° N (implied total heat transport across 60° N) is offset by a change in surface energy flux (implied ocean heat transport through 60° N) and ~ 56% is offset by a change in implied atmospheric heat transport through 60° N. Atmospheric heat transport changes are discussed shortly.

It has been conjectured that there is an adjustment mechanism that causes the top-of atmosphere reflected shortwave radiation to be nearly equal in both hemispheres, despite interhemispheric differences in surface albedo (Voigt et al. 2013). Our simulations do not support such findings. For example, in alb70-90N relative to $1xCO_2$, northern hemisphere TOA upward shortwave flux decreases by 0.18 ± 0.01 PW, whereas the southern hemisphere TOA upward shortwave hemisphere flux change equals only 0.01 ± 0.02 PW.

c) Clear- and cloudy-sky flux changes

The role of clouds in modulating the surface energy budget over the area 60° - 90° N can be highlighted by considering the fluxes over the cloud free (clear-sky) and cloud covered (cloudy-sky) areas. Any (all-sky) variable F can be expressed in terms of its clear-sky and cloudy-sky components, FC and FCL, using the following relation:

$$F = (1 - CLDFRC) \cdot FC + CLDFRC \cdot FCL, \tag{S1}$$

where *CLDFRC* is a total cloud fraction in a given cell.

In alb70-90N relative to $4xCO_2$, over the area 60° -90°N, net shortwave clear-sky flux from the surface increases by 0.56 ± 0.01 PW (mainly due to an increase in upward shortwave clear-sky flux of 0.61 ± 0.01 PW). Net shortwave cloudy-sky flux from the surface increases by only 0.10 PW (a result of 0.32 ± 0.01 PW increase in upward shortwave flux and 0.22 ± 0.01 PW increase in downward shortwave flux). Net longwave clear-sky flux into the atmosphere decreases by 0.12 ± 0.01 PW while net cloudy-sky longwave flux decreases by 0.06 ± 0.01 PW.

At the model top, net shortwave clear-sky energy flux to space over the area 60° - 90° N increases by 0.53 ± 0.01 PW (comparable to 0.56 ± 0.01 PW increase in clear-sky flux from the surface). TOA net shortwave full-sky energy flux to space increases by 0.09 ± 0.01 PW (similar to the 0.10 PW at the surface). Thus, both clear-sky and cloudy-sky net shortwave flux changes in alb70-90N relative to $4xCO_2$ are effectively maintained at the top of the model. However, it is interesting to note that this is only the case for the net shortwave fluxes. Upward and downward shortwave flux anomalies at the surface are not maintained at the top of atmosphere, only their sum is. As a consequence, shortwave albedo changes (defined as a ratio of reflected to incident radiation) differ at the surface and model top. Attenuation of surface albedo changes is largest in case of all-sky fluxes, but it is also present when considering the clear-sky fluxes (Supplementary Table 2). For example, in 4xCO2 simulation, clear-sky TOA albedo value is \sim 92% of the clear-sky surface albedo value, while in alb70-90N, clear-sky TOA albedo value is \sim 85% of the surface albedo value. Change in clear-sky TOA albedo between alb70-90N and 4xCO2 becomes 65% of the corresponding change in clear-sky surface albedo.

d) Atmospheric heat transport across 60°N

Atmospheric heat transport (AHT) changes relative to the 1xCO₂ simulation are plotted in Supplementary Fig. 9 a and b, accompanied by latent heat and dry static energy transport anomalies in panels 9c and 9d.

In 4xCO₂ relative to the 1xCO₂ simulation, overall atmospheric heat transport across 60°N does not change noticeably. However, there is a shift in partitioning between AHT components, leading to a decrease in dry static energy (DSE) transport and increase in latent heat (LH) transport. In simulations with imposed albedo modifications, this decrease in DSE transport relative to the 1xCO₂ value is still present, but it is considerably smaller than in the 4xCO₂ simulation. Latent heat transport changes across 60°N, on the other hand, are much smaller, and depending on the case act to either partially attenuate or strengthen the DSE transport changes. As a result, overall atmospheric heat transport across 60°N increases in all simulations with imposed albedo modifications (relative to the 4xCO₂ simulation). For example, in alb70-90N relative to 4xCO₂, LH transport increases by ~0.01PW and DSE transport increases by ~0.08 PW, leading to an atmospheric heat transport increase of 0.09±0.01 PW across 60°N. AHT, DSE and LH transport values are given in Supplementary Table 7.

e) Subsurface temperature responses

On the time scales considered in this study we find only modest impacts of imposed albedo changes and sea ice recovery on high latitude subsurface land temperatures. However, it is not excluded that more substantial impacts could develop when considering longer time periods.

Imposed albedo modifications show only a modest impact on Arctic permafrost: 33-44% of preindustrial permafrost area remains in simulations with ocean albedo alterations compared to 32% in the 4xCO₂ control simulation (Supplementary Fig. 10).

f) Impact of ocean albedo alteration under lower CO_2 concentrations

We have preformed an analogue to the alb70-90 simulation, using the $1xCO_2$ as our background climate (alb70-90_1xco2). We find the ratios of recovered sea ice area to altered ocean albedo area to equal 80% in the simulation with albedo modifications imposed over 70° -90°N in the $1xCO_2$ climate, compared to 75% when the same modifications are imposed in the $4xCO_2$ climate. (Annual mean altered albedo area in alb70-90_1xco2 equals 1.27 ± 0.02 million km², while the annual mean recovered sea ice area equals 1.01 ± 0.07 million km²). As expected, the colder $1xCO_2$ climate allows for easier sea ice recovery in the presence of albedo changes, demonstrating the sensitivity of the impact of ocean albedo alterations on the background climate.

g) Spatial averaging

Over a region R at time t, for each two-dimensional variable F we define a regional weighted area sum FSUM as:

$$FSUM_{R,t} = \sum_{(i,j)\in R} area_{i,j} F_{i,j,t}$$
 (S2)

where i, j are the grid cells indices within the region R and $area_{i,j}$ is area of the corresponding gird cell.

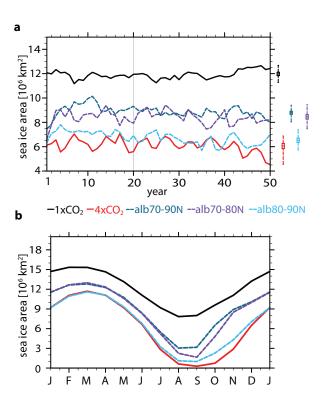
Total area of region R is then:

$$area_R = \sum_{(i,j)\in R} area_{i,j}.$$
 (S3)

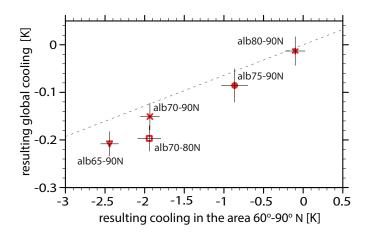
Weighted area average of variable F over the region R, $F_{R,t}$, is derived as a ratio of $FSUM_{R,t}$ and the area of region R:

$$F_{R,t} = \frac{FSUM_{R,t}}{area_R} = \frac{\sum_{(i,j)\in R} area_{i,j} \cdot F_{i,j,t}}{\sum_{(i,j)\in R} area_{i,j}}$$
(S4)

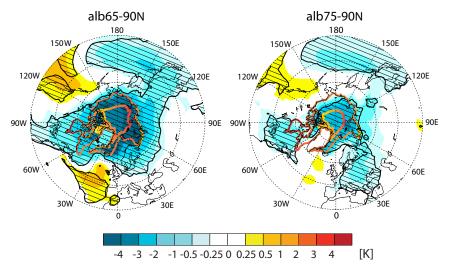
Supplementary Figures:



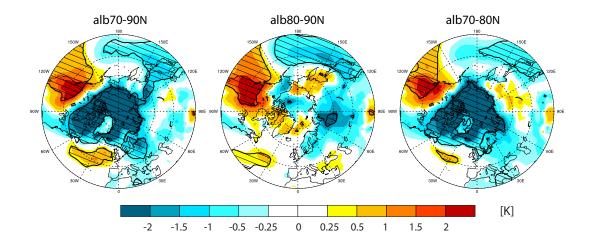
Supplementary Fig. 1: (a): Annual Arctic sea ice areas over the last 50 years of model integration. Boxes on the right show the mean with two standard errors while whiskers indicate min/max range (over the last 30 years). (b): Monthly mean Arctic sea ice areas (over the last 30 years of model integration). $1xCO_2$ simulation – black solid line, $4xCO_2$ simulation – red solid line, alb70-90N – dark blue dashed line, alb80-90N – light blue dashed line, alb70-80N – dark purple dashed line.



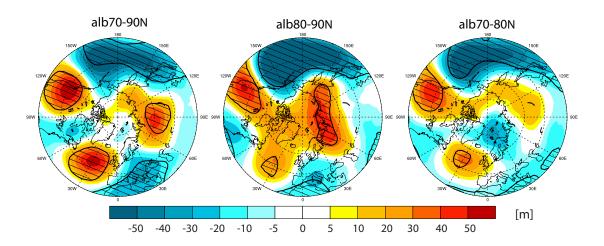
Supplementary Fig. 2: Global annual mean temperature anomalies [K] versus high latitude $(60^{\circ}-90^{\circ}N)$ temperature anomalies (both relative to $4xCO_2$). The dashed line shows the ratio of high latitude to global cooling if there was no change in temperature outside the area $60^{\circ}-90^{\circ}N$. The largest global and local temperature responses per unit area of imposed ocean albedo modifications are achieved in alb70-80N simulation, which also had the largest cooling effect outside of $60^{\circ}-90^{\circ}N$.



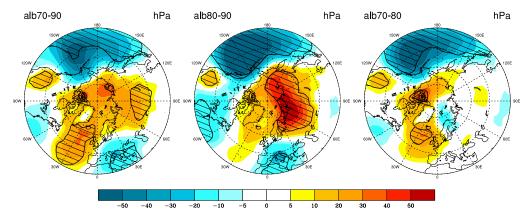
Supplementary Fig. 3: Annual surface air temperature anomalies [K] between 30°N and 90°N in alb6590N and alb7590N relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation. Dashed areas indicate the anomalies that are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. Both simulations show notable warming off the west coast of North America (in addition to the Arctic cooling). Thin and thick contour lines indicate the areas with annual mean sea ice fractions larger than 15% and 80%, respectively.



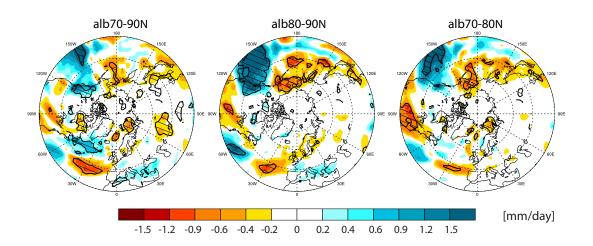
Supplementary Fig. 4: January surface air temperature anomalies [K] in modified ocean albedo simulations relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation. Dashed areas indicate the anomalies that are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.



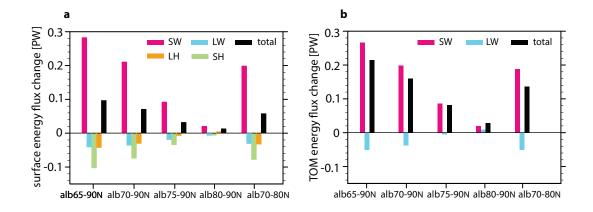
Supplementary Fig. 5: January 500hPa geopotential height anomalies in modified ocean albedo simulations relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation, units: [m]. Dashed areas indicate the anomalies that are statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.



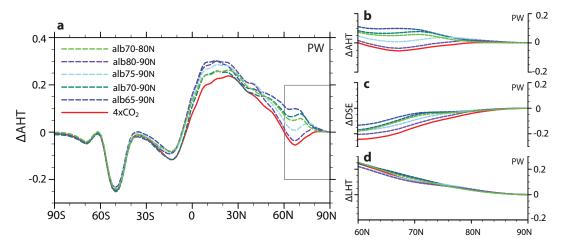
Supplementary Fig. 6: January surface pressure anomalies in modified ocean albedo simulations relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation, units: [hPa]. Dashed areas indicate the anomalies that are statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.



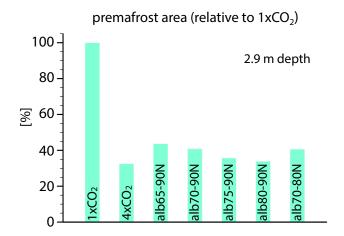
Supplementary Fig. 7: January precipitation anomalies [mm/day] in modified ocean albedo simulations relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation. Dashed areas indicate the anomalies that are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.



Supplementary Fig. 8: (a) Surface and (b) top-of-atmosphere (TOA) annual mean energy flux anomalies over the area 60° - $90^{\circ}N$ in simulations with imposed albedo alterations relative to the $4xCO_2$ simulation. Positive anomaly means increase in the upward flux. Legend: SW - net shortwave flux, LW - net longwave flux, LH - latent heat flux, SH - sensible heat flux, total - sum of all surface/TOA fluxes. The heights of SW bars in panels a in b indicates similar change in shortwave net flux at the surface and model top.



Supplementary Fig. S9: Atmospheric heat transport (AHT) anomalies [PW] relative to the $1xCO_2$ simulation and its high latitude decomposition into dry static energy (DSE) and latent heat (LH) transport. AHT, DSE and LH transports across 60°N are summarized in Supplementary Table 7.



Supplementary Fig. 10: Remaining Northern hemispheric permafrost area relative to the $1xCO_2$ simulation [%]. Over the time scales considered in this study, imposed albedo modifications have lead to a small increase in permafrost area.

Supplementary Tables:

Supplementary Table 1: Annual mean altered albedo area, annual mean and September Arctic sea ice extents and annual mean surface air temperatures (60°-90°N and global) over the last 30 years of model integration (mean and one standard error).

	Annual mean	Annual mean	September	60°-90°N	Global
	altered albedo	Arctic sea ice	Arctic sea ice	annual mean	annual mean
	area [millions	area [millions	extent [millions	surface air	surface air
	of km ²]	of km ²]	of km ²]	temperature [°C]	temperature [°C]
1xCO ₂	0	11.93±0.07	8.00±0.10	-12.19±0.12	13.77±0.02
$4xCO_2$	0	6.06±0.09	0.28±0.04	-2.95±0.11	18.24±0.03
alb65-90N	4.96±0.04	9.28±0.05	3.58±0.14	-5.39±0.08	18.03±0.02
alb70-90N	3.67±0.05	8.81±0.06	3.17±0.16	-4.88±0.09	18.08±0.02
alb75-90N	1.76±0.04	7.52±0.07	1.90±0.12	-3.81±0.11	18.15±0.02
alb80-90N	0.97±0.03	6.49 ± 0.08	0.99±0.09	-3.05±0.11	18.22±0.02
alb70-80N	3.23±0.05	8.41±0.09	1.64±0.14	-4.89±0.12	18.04±0.03

Supplementary Table 2: Surface, top-of-atmosphere (TOA) and clear-sky top-of-atmosphere (TOA CS) albedo values averaged over the area 60° - 90° N (\pm one standard error). All albedo values are calculated using the 30-year mean reflected and incident shortwave radiation.

	surf albedo CS surf albedo		TOA albedo	TOA CS albedo	
	60°-90°N	60°-90°N	60°-90°N	60°-90°N	
1xCO ₂	0.520 ± 0.018	0.476 ± 0.014	0.540 ± 0.006	0.408±0.009	
$4xCO_2$	0.375±0.018	0.338 ± 0.013	0.498±0.005	0.310±0.008	
alb65-90N	0.522±0.011	0.499 ± 0.006	0.539±0.004	0.416±0.004	
alb70-90N	0.490±0.012	0.463 ± 0.006	0.528±0.005	0.392±0.004	
alb75-90N	0.431±0.014	0.399± 0.010	0.511±0.005	0.350±0.006	
alb80-90N	0.392±0.018	0.357 ± 0.012	0.501±0.005	0.323±0.006	
alb70-80N	0.480±0.013	0.449 ± 0.008	0.527±0.005	0.383±0.006	

Supplementary Table 3: Surface and top-of-atmosphere (TOA) albedo values: global, northern and southern hemispheric means (± one standard error). All albedo values are calculated using the 30-year mean reflected and incident shortwave radiation.

	surface	surface	surface	TOA	TOA	TOA
	albedo	albedo	albedo	albedo	albedo	albedo
	global	NH	SH	global	NH	SH
1xCO ₂	0.131±0.001	0.142±0.001	0.120±0.001	0.312±0.001	0.312±0.001	0.311±0.002
$4xCO_2$	0.115±0.001	0.125±0.001	0.106±0.001	0.302±0.001	0.303±0.001	0.301±0.001
alb65-90N	0.121±0.001	0.137±0.001	0.106±0.001	0.303±0.001	0.306±0.001	0.300±0.001
alb70-90N	0.120±0.001	0.134±0.001	0.106±0.001	0.303±0.001	0.305±0.001	0.301±0.001
alb75-90N	0.118±0.001	0.129±0.001	0.106±0.001	0.302±0.001	0.304±0.001	0.301±0.001
alb80-90N	0.116±0.001	0.126±0.001	0.106±0.001	0.302±0.001	0.303±0.001	0.301±0.001
alb70-80N	0.120±0.001	0.133±0.001	0.106±0.001	0.303±0.001	0.305±0.001	0.301±0.001

Supplementary Table 4: Annual mean top-of-atmosphere (TOA) and surface flux areaweighted sums. All fluxes are positive down. Values shown as mean \pm one standard error.

	TOA net	surf net	TOA net	surf net NH	TOA net	surf net
	60°-90°N	60°-90°N	NH area-	area-	SH area-	SH area-
	area-	area-	weighted	weighted	weighted	weighted
	weighted	weighted	sum [PW]	sum [PW]	sum [PW]	sum [PW]
	sum [PW]	sum [PW]				
1xCO ₂	-3.31±0.00	-0.48±0.01	-0.52±0.02	-0.54±0.02	0.46±0.02	0.50±0.02
$4xCO_2$	-3.21±0.01	-0.40±0.01	-0.29±0.02	-0.22±0.02	0.96 ± 0.02	0.90±0.02
alb65-90N	-3.43±0.01	-0.50±0.01	-0.52±0.02	-0.37±0.01	1.02±0.01	0.89±0.01
alb70-90N	-3.37±0.01	-0.47±0.01	-0.44±0.02	-0.34±0.02	0.99±0.01	0.89±0.01
alb75-90N	-3.29±0.01	-0.43±0.01	-0.38±0.02	-0.25±0.01	1.00±0.01	0.88±0.01
alb80-90N	-3.24±0.01	-0.41±0.01	-0.37±0.02	-0.22±0.01	1.01±0.02	0.87±0.02
alb70-80N	-3.35±0.01	-0.46±0.01	-0.43±0.02	-0.31±0.01	1.03±0.02	0.92±0.02

Supplementary Table 5: Decomposition of net surface flux over the area 60° - 90° N into shortwave and longwave components. Values given as annual mean area-weighted sums (mean \pm one standard error).

	net	downward	upward	net	downward	upward	latent	sensible
	shortwave	shortwave	shortwave	longwave	longwave	longwave	heat flux	heat flux
	flux [PW]	flux	flux	flux [PW]	flux	flux	[PW] *	[PW]
	(positive	[PW]	[PW]	(positive	[PW]	[PW]	(positive	(positive
	down)			up)			up)	up)
1xCO ₂	1.55±0.01	3.24±0.01	1.68±0.01	1.32	7.49±0.02	8.81±0.02	0.53	0.18
$4xCO_2$	1.77±0.01	2.84±0.01	1.06±0.01	1.23±0.01	8.84±0.02	10.06±0.02	0.68	0.26
alb65-90N	1.49	3.11±0.01	1.62±0.01	1.19	8.52±0.01	9.71±0.01	0.58	0.22
alb70-90N	1.56±0.01	3.06±0.01	1.50±0.01	1.19	8.59±0.01	9.79±0.01	0.61	0.23
alb75-90N	1.68±0.01	2.95±0.01	1.27±0.01	1.21	8.73±0.02	9.94±0.02	0.65	0.25
alb80-90N	1.75±0.01	2.88±0.01	1.13±0.01	1.22	8.83±0.02	10.05±0.02	0.67	0.27
alb70-80N	1.57±0.01	3.02±0.01	1.45	1.20	8.58±0.02	9.78±0.02	0.60	0.23

^{*} Model output latent heat flux (LHFLX) was corrected to account for latent heat of sublimation of snow (see Kay et al. 2013).

Supplementary Table 6: Shortwave and longwave TOA flux components over the area 60° - 90° N (annual mean area-weighted sums, mean \pm one standard error).

	net shortwave flux [PW] (positive	upward shortwave flux [PW]	net longwave flux [PW] (positive up)	upward longwave flux [PW]
	down)		4 17	
1xCO ₂	3.00±0.01	3.53±0.01	6.31±0.01	6.35±0.01
$4xCO_2$	3.28±0.01	3.25±0.01	6.49±0.01	6.53±0.01
alb65-90N	3.01	3.52	6.44 ± 0.01	6.48±0.01
alb70-90N	3.08±0.01	3.45±0.01	6.45±0.01	6.49±0.01
alb75-90N	3.19±0.01	3.34±0.01	6.49±0.01	6.53±0.01
alb80-90N	3.26±0.01	3.27±0.01	6.50 ± 0.01	6.54±0.01
alb70-80N	3.09±0.01	3.44±0.01	6.44±0.01	6.48±0.01

Supplementary Table 7: Annual mean atmospheric heat transport (AHT) across 60° and its components: latent heat (LH) and dry static energy (DSE) transports (mean \pm one standard error).

	AHT	LH transport	DSE transport	
	[PW]	[PW]	[PW]	
1xCO ₂	2.83±0.01	0.79±0.01	2.04±0.01	
$4xCO_2$	2.81±0.01	1.01±0.01	1.80±0.01	
alb65-90N	2.93±0.01	1.02±0.01	1.91±0.01	
alb70-90N	2.90±0.01	1.02±0.01	1.88±0.01	
alb75-90N	2.86±0.01	0.99±0.01	1.87±0.01	
alb80-90N	2.83±0.01	0.99±0.01	1.84±0.02	
alb70-80N	2.89±0.01	1.02±0.01	1.87±0.01	

Supplementary Table 8: Dependence of the sea ice and surface temperature response on the strength of ocean albedo alteration. Experiments alb70-90Nval08 and alb70-90Nval07 are identical to the alb70-90N except that the albedo values are uniformly set to 0.8 and 0.7. Columns the same as in Table 1.

			September	60°-90°N	Global
	Annual mean	Annual mean	Arctic sea ice	annual mean	annual mean
	altered albedo	Arctic sea ice	extent [millions	surface air	surface air
	area [millions	area [millions	of km ²]	temperature	temperature
	of km ²]	of km ²]		[°C]	[°C]
alb70-90N	3.67±0.05	8.81±0.06	3.17±0.16	-4.88±0.09	18.08±0.02
alb70-90Nval08	4.07±0.05	8.32±0.06	2.33±0.11	-4.58±0.08	18.11±0.02
alb70-90Nval07	4.13±0.06	8.30±0.08	2.21±0.14	-4.64±0.11	18.14±0.02

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