

1 **The Southern Ocean Radiative Bias, Cloud**
2 **Compensating Errors and Equilibrium Climate**
3 **Sensitivity in CMIP6 Models**

4 **A. J. Schuddeboom¹ and A. J. McDonald^{1,2}**

5 ¹School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

6 ²Gateway Antarctica, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

7 **Key Points:**

- 8 • Mean and compensating shortwave cloud radiative effect errors in CMIP6 AMIP
9 models are quantified
- 10 • A significant negative relationship between mean and compensating shortwave cloud
11 radiative effect errors is found over the Southern Ocean
- 12 • Shortwave cloud radiative effect errors are shown to be unlikely to explain the high
13 effective climate sensitivity in these CMIP6 models

Abstract

Analysis of Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) models has focused on their higher equilibrium climate sensitivity (ECS) relative to CMIP5 simulations, with higher ECS values attributed to changing cloud feedbacks. We examine the simulation of the shortwave cloud radiative effect (SW CRE) in CMIP6 and explore a potential link between SW CRE errors and ECS. We derive mean and compensating errors in model data relative to satellite observations using a cloud clustering methodology. A statistically significant negative relationship between the mean and compensating errors in SW CRE over the Southern Ocean is identified. This relationship is observed elsewhere, but is only significant over the Southern Ocean. This implies model tuning efforts potentially hide biases in the representation of clouds in this region. High ECS models tend to have lower mean and compensating errors over the Southern Ocean, suggesting model biases are unlikely to explain the high ECS values.

Plain Language Summary

Climate models go through a continual process of evaluation and improvement. This process is based on using observational data and higher resolution models to detect errors within climate models and identifying the model elements that need to be improved. A major issue with the current generation of climate models is that the equilibrium climate sensitivity is higher than previous generations of models. This means that the current generation of models show a greater temperature change in response to increased carbon dioxide than previous generations. It is unclear if this high equilibrium climate sensitivity is physically sensible or whether hidden errors in models are the cause. The traditional evaluation of climate models focuses on the average error. However, this can obscure the true magnitude of errors since models often have compensating errors where errors of opposing signs cancel out when averaged. This paper uses a technique based on cloud typing that evaluates both mean and compensating errors in CMIP6 models. The relationship between these errors and the high equilibrium climate sensitivity in these models is investigated, with a specific focus on the Southern Ocean region. We find no relationship between these hidden errors and ECS.

1 Introduction

The refinement of climate models is a continual process driven by constant evaluation against observational measurements and more detailed models. With the recent release of Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) model data (Eyring et al., 2016), a new wave of model assessment is currently underway. A major focus in the research released so far has been the equilibrium climate sensitivity (ECS) of the CMIP6 models (Zelinka et al., 2020; Meehl et al., 2020). Simply put, the ECS describes the magnitude of temperature change associated with doubling the carbon dioxide and running a model to equilibrium (National Research Council, 1979; Gregory et al., 2004). Compared to the models in CMIP5, those in CMIP6 have higher average ECS values and many CMIP6 models have a greater ECS value than the largest values from CMIP5 (Meehl et al., 2020). Work by Zelinka et al. (2020) has attributed this change to variations in cloud feedbacks, with the largest changes related to the shortwave (SW) cloud feedback linked to decreasing extratropical low cloud coverage and albedo. It is important to note that this feedback has the largest impact over the Southern Ocean, a region that has long been associated with large model biases relative to observations (Wild et al., 1995; Bodas-Salcedo et al., 2012; Kay et al., 2012). Work detailed in Gettelman et al. (2019) has also identified that the atmosphere model in CESM2 has higher cloud feedbacks than in previous model versions and that changes to the stratiform cloud microphysics and ice nucleation processes are important, both of which have a large impact over the Southern Ocean.

While in general it appears that the models that increased their ECS values between CMIP5 and CMIP6 better match the observational data than their CMIP5 counterparts, it remains unclear if the high ECS models are more accurate than the low ECS models (Gettelman et al., 2019). One area of uncertainty is associated with the role played by compensating errors which can hide the true magnitude of model errors (Jakob, 2003; Hyder et al., 2018; Schuddeboom et al., 2019). Compensating errors potentially mean that an improvement to one aspect of a model can lead to poorer performance as the previous bias may have counteracted an oppositely signed error which is unaccounted for in model tuning. Additionally, Zelinka et al. (2020) suggests that the high ECS values in some CMIP6 models could be a result of compensating errors whereby improvements in the representation of the SW cloud feedbacks could mean that some unresolved model errors are no longer being cancelled out, leading to an artificially high ECS. It may also

76 be possible that the improvements made over the Southern Ocean lead to larger errors
77 in other regions.

78 To explore the cloud compensating errors in the CMIP6 models, the methodology
79 developed in Schuddeboom et al. (2018) and Schuddeboom et al. (2019) is used in this
80 study. Schuddeboom et al. (2018) used the self organizing map (SOM, Kohonen (1998,
81 2013)) clustering technique on cloud top pressure–cloud optical thickness (CTP-COT)
82 histograms to generate a set of cloud regimes associated with different cloud types. This
83 approach for identifying cloud regimes is well established (Jakob, 2003; Oreopoulos et
84 al., 2014; Mason et al., 2015; McDonald et al., 2016). By examining errors in the rep-
85 resentation of each cloud regime in terms of their frequency of occurrence and their ra-
86 diative properties, we can derive both the mean and cumulative error in the shortwave
87 cloud radiative effect (SW CRE). This then allows magnitude of compensating errors
88 to be estimated (Schuddeboom et al., 2019). In Schuddeboom et al. (2019) this technique
89 was used to compare the effect of applying different model parameterizations to the same
90 model, here it is used to examine different CMIP6 model runs. Given the importance
91 of the SW CRE errors over the Southern Ocean, this region was specifically analyzed in
92 Schuddeboom et al. (2019) and will also be analyzed in this paper. Zelinka et al. (2012)
93 used a radiative transfer model to derive the sensitivity of top of atmosphere fluxes to
94 changes in each bin of ISCCP CTP-COT histograms, these sensitivities when multiplied
95 by changes in cloud fraction forced by a doubling of carbon dioxide concentrations can
96 be used to directly quantify cloud feedbacks. We therefore test whether potential issues
97 in the representation of the current occurrence of different cloud regimes within CTP-
98 COT histograms might impact ECS.

99 **2 Data**

100 **2.1 Observational Data**

101 The analysis in this paper relies on data generated using the CFMIP Observation
102 Simulator Package (COSP, Bodas-Salcedo et al. (2011) and Swales et al. (2018)). COSP
103 is a satellite simulator which allows models to simulate data that is directly compara-
104 ble to observations. This is particularly useful for producing variables like CTP-COT
105 histograms as simulation of the observation process can reproduce many observational
106 biases. The clusters developed in Schuddeboom et al. (2018) were generated using CTP-

107 COT histograms from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS,
108 Platnick et al. (2003, 2017)) dataset. However, the regular outputs from the CMIP6 model
109 runs only include International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project (ISCCP, Rossow and
110 Schiffer (1991, 1999)) CTP-COT histograms. As such, this paper uses cloud regimes de-
111 rived from ISCCP observations developed in McDonald and Parsons (2018) and based
112 on the earlier work of McDonald et al. (2016).

113 The first of the major differences between the ISCCP and MODIS clusters are that
114 the two datasets have different resolutions which means that the generated clusters rep-
115 resent different spatial scales. The second difference is that the ISCCP regimes from McDonald
116 and Parsons (2018) have a different number of members than used in Schuddeboom et
117 al. (2018). We should also note that the ISCCP clusters also include a filter that removes
118 all data over regions with an average ground elevation of 1 km above sea level and that
119 McDonald and Parsons (2018) used data from both 2007 and 2008 rather than a single
120 year. While these factors impact the interpretation of the individual clusters, the inte-
121 grated nature of the error calculation process means that the methodology is unaffected.
122 These differences do however mean that the ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$ should not be directly
123 compared to the values produced in Schuddeboom et al. (2019).

124 In addition to the CTP-COT histograms from ISCCP, shortwave radiative fluxes
125 from the Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES, Wielicki et al. (1996))
126 dataset are used. In particular, this analysis uses top of atmosphere radiative fluxes from
127 the synoptic 1° (SYN1deg) Edition 4.1 CERES dataset (Minnis et al., 2020). As in Schuddeboom
128 et al. (2018) the CERES all sky and clear sky SW radiative fluxes are used to calculate
129 the SW CRE. When used to analyze the cloud clusters, the CERES data is interpolated
130 from a 1 degree by 1 degree equal angle grid to a 2.5 degree by 2.5 degree equal angle
131 grid to match the resolution of the ISCCP data.

132 **2.2 Model Data**

133 There are a wide range of different model experiments included within the CMIP6
134 framework. In this research only model runs that correspond to the Atmospheric Model
135 Intercomparison Project (AMIP, Gates et al. (1999) and Eyring et al. (2016)) are uti-
136 lized. In the AMIP simulations sea surface temperature, sea ice and CO_2 concentrations
137 are all prescribed. This specific experiment was chosen as it covers the same historical

138 period as the observations, it is also forced in a way which makes the models more com-
139 parable to observations and includes model runs from several different models which sim-
140 ulated all of the variables required for the analysis. The variables used in this study in-
141 clude the COSP generated daily ISCCP COT-CTP histograms (*clisccp*) and the clear
142 sky and all sky SW radiative fluxes (*rsut* and *rsutcs*). While the historical experiment
143 runs also met this criteria, fewer model runs simulated all of these variable and by fo-
144 cusing specifically on one experiment we can ensure that the models are compared in a
145 consistent manner. To match the observational data, the cluster based analysis of the
146 model data covers a period between 2007 and 2008 and removes all points over topog-
147 raphy greater than 1 km above sea level.

148 Once these requirements have been applied there are eight models available through
149 the Earth System Grid Federation (ESGF) online system which have daily output for
150 the set of variables required. The eight suitable models are CESM2 (Danabasoglu, 2019;
151 Gettelman et al., 2019), CNRM-CM6-1 (Voldoire, 2018), CNRM-ESM2-1 (Seferian, 2018),
152 GFDL-CM4 (Guo et al., 2018), HadGEM3-GC31-LL (Ridley et al., 2019), IPSL-CM6A-
153 LR (Boucher et al., 2018), MRI-ESM2-0 (Yukimoto et al., 2019) and UKESM1-0-LL (Tang
154 et al., 2019). There are two models which produce the *clisccp* variable but are not in-
155 cluded in this analysis, BCC-CSM2-MR and GISS-E2-1-G, this is associated with an out-
156 put error and a lack of other data, respectively. Both the HadGEM3 (5 runs) and IPSL
157 (2 runs) models include multiple runs, for these models the clustering is applied to all
158 runs and the ensemble mean displayed unless otherwise indicated. In later analysis, we
159 use the effective climate sensitivity values for each of these models taken from Meehl et
160 al. (2020) to represent model ECS. While there are differences between effective climate
161 sensitivity and equilibrium climate sensitivity, these are generally small. These values
162 are calculated from coupled atmosphere–ocean model simulations which is different then
163 our analysis based on AMIP simulations. A lack of data means that this inconsistency
164 can not be avoided without significant extra work. However, given that the errors we con-
165 sider are associated with cloud feedbacks and these have been identified in previous work
166 as critical to changes in ECS, we believe that the analysis of atmosphere-only models
167 in AMIP is still valid. Brief testing (not included in this study) of a small subset of his-
168 torical runs shows that they generate similar results to their equivalent AMIP runs, dif-
169 fering by less than one third of a Wm^{-2} in mean error and less than one Wm^{-2} in com-
170 pensating error.

3 Methodology

The cluster based approach used to analyze the model runs in this paper was developed in Schuddeboom et al. (2019) and was heavily influenced by the work in Williams and Webb (2009), Williams and Bodas-Salcedo (2017) and Hyder et al. (2018). This approach is based on using the rate at which a given cluster occurs, known as the relative frequency of occurrence (RFO), and the cluster average SW CRE to calculate the difference in SW CRE between models and observations. Two values are calculated, the ΔCRE which is the mean difference between the model and observations and the $|\text{CRE}|$ which is the difference if the errors associated with each cluster are summed rather than allowed to cancel. Therefore, $|\text{CRE}|$ allows us to calculate the magnitude of the cloud cluster compensating errors. While there will be compensating errors not captured by this approach, by using the cloud clusters we are at least able to estimate the magnitude of compensating errors. ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$ can be calculated with equations 1 and 2 where C represents the average CRE of cluster N and R represents the RFO of cluster N .

$$\Delta\text{CRE} = \left| \sum_N C_N^{\text{Model}} R_N^{\text{Model}} - C_N^{\text{CERES}} R_N^{\text{ISCCP}} \right| \quad (1)$$

$$|\text{CRE}| = \sum_N |C_N^{\text{Model}} R_N^{\text{Model}} - C_N^{\text{CERES}} R_N^{\text{ISCCP}}| \quad (2)$$

4 Results and Discussion

Before examining the models using the ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$, the zonal mean SW CRE is studied. Figure 1 (a) shows the zonal mean SW CRE for the CERES data and for each model and also includes the anomaly for each of these models from the CERES observations in figure 1 (b). The SW CRE zonal means are generally consistent across the different models with a clear peak over the Southern Ocean. There are however relatively large differences between the models over the tropics. These results can be compared to figure 9.5d from Flato et al. (2013), which shows a corresponding plot for the CMIP5 participants. In general, the shape of the distributions in CMIP5 and CMIP6 are similar, although the CMIP6 models have a smaller range of SW CRE over the Southern Ocean and also match better with the CERES mean SW CRE.

The differences between the models are further explored in figure 1 (b) which shows the zonal mean anomalies from the CERES measurements. The zonal average anoma-

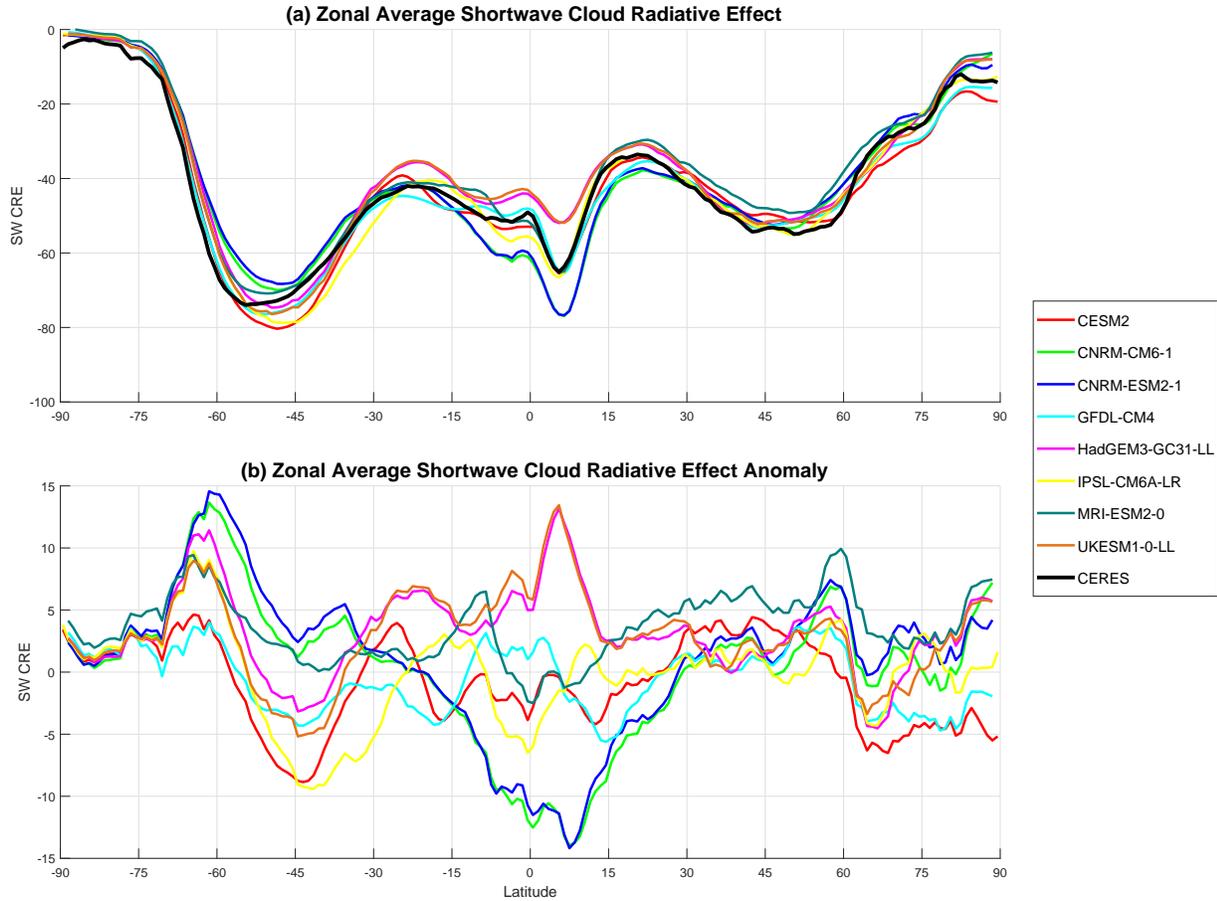


Figure 1. Zonal mean SW CRE for the CERES observations and each of the included CMIP6 model runs (a) and SW CRE anomalies between each of the models and CERES observations (b). The observational data used to generate the anomalies is from the CERES dataset and the sign convention used for the anomalies is model minus observations.

198 lies show a wide spread of values, ranging from $+15 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ to -15 Wm^{-2} . At latitudes
 199 between 30°N and 60°N the models appear relatively consistent with small biases, with
 200 a wider range of biases north of 60°N . Between 30°S and 30°N there are a wide range
 201 of behaviours. The GFDL, IPSL, MRI and CESM models all show relatively small bi-
 202 ases, while the CNRM models show large negative biases and HADGEM3 and UKESM
 203 models show large positive biases. Finally, clear differences between the models are ob-
 204 served south of 30°S , specifically between 45°S and 70°S . Over this region the models
 205 display the same shape with positive anomalies between 50°S and 70°S with a peak around
 206 60°S and then steadily decreasing anomaly values from 60°S to 45°S in every case. While
 207 the form of the curve is similar in each case the magnitude of the bias differs significantly

208 between the models. This difference can reach up to 15 Wm^{-2} meaning that some mod-
209 els have a mostly positive bias over this region while others are mostly negative. The na-
210 ture of this bias is similar to a result identified in Schuddeboom et al. (2019) where the
211 Southern Ocean featured two different regional biases, although the result in this paper
212 is much weaker than shown in the previous work.

213 Next the ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$ are calculated with equations 1 and 2 and plotted in
214 figure 2. Figure 2 (a) shows results averaged globally for the cluster analysis, while fig-
215 ure 2 (b) only examines the Southern Ocean region. In figure 2 the Southern Ocean is
216 defined as the region between 40°S and 70°S to ensure it includes both of the large spikes
217 visible in figure 1 (b). For the models with multiple runs, each model member is shown
218 along with the ensemble mean. Examination of these runs highlights that they show lit-
219 tle difference from the ensemble mean. Additionally, to determine if these results are rep-
220 resentative, the same analysis was completed using data from 2009 and 2010 (see figure
221 S1 in supplementary information) and differences are very minor. Also included in both
222 sub-figures is the Pearson correlation coefficient, however this should be interpreted care-
223 fully as the values are not statistically significant.

224 The global values in figure 2 (a) show little coherent structure between the differ-
225 ent models. In the mean error there appear to be two groups of models, MRI-ESM, HadGEM
226 and UKESM which show higher mean errors of around 5 Wm^{-2} and all of the other mod-
227 els which show mean errors around 1 Wm^{-2} . The compensating errors show less struc-
228 ture with values over a large range. Notably, the IPSL model shows compensating er-
229 rors that are around 10 Wm^{-2} larger than the next largest model. Overall, it seems that
230 CESM2, CNRM-ESM2 and CNRM-CM6 are the standout models when both metrics
231 are considered with MRI-ESM2 also having notably small compensating errors. This fig-
232 ure also demonstrates the importance of considering the compensating errors as both IPSL
233 and GFDL appear to be amongst the most accurate models in the mean error, but are
234 the least accurate in the compensating error. In all models the compensating errors are
235 significantly larger than the mean errors suggesting significant work is still required to
236 improve the representation of clouds in climate models. For example, consider the best
237 performing model in $|\text{CRE}|$, CESM2. CESM2 has a mean error of around 1 Wm^{-2} and
238 a total compensating error of around 34 Wm^{-2} . This suggests that CESM2 actually has
239 compensating errors of 16.5 and 17.5 Wm^{-2} that are cancelling out to give the mean
240 error of 1 Wm^{-2} .

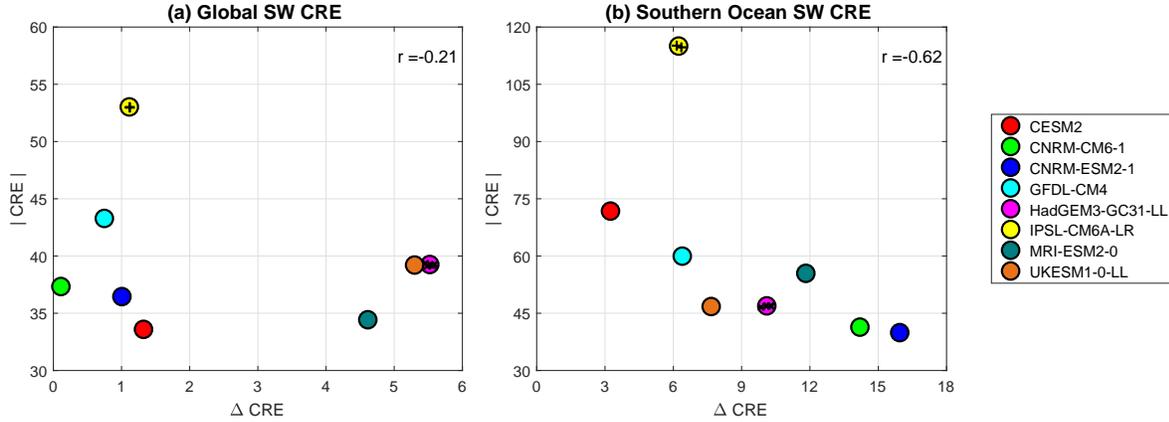


Figure 2. The ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$ for each of the models. Subplot (a) shows the global average values while subplot (b) covers the entire Southern Ocean region, defined here as between 40°S and 70°S . For models with multiple runs, IPSL and HadGEM3, the individual runs are indicated with a + symbol for IPSL and \times symbol for HadGEM3. To aid interpretation of this figure recall that ΔCRE can be considered the mean SW CRE error and $|\text{CRE}|$ the magnitude of the SW CRE compensating errors. This means that an ideal model would minimize both ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$ and appear near the origin. The variables on each of the axis are described by equations 1 and 2. The Pearson correlation coefficients are included in the top right of each subplot with any results that are statistically significant in bold.

241 The Southern Ocean values shown in figure 2 (b) display a completely different struc-
 242 ture compared to the global values in figure 2 (a). Over the Southern Ocean, the mod-
 243 els show a clear structure in which an increase in the mean error corresponds to a re-
 244 duction in the compensating errors. There is one major outlier, the IPSL model, which
 245 as in the global data has significantly larger compensating errors than other models. Look-
 246 ing at the other models, they appear to fall on a line between CESM2 and CNRM-ESM2.
 247 CESM2 has the lowest mean error of around 3 Wm^{-2} , but the largest (excluding IPSL)
 248 $|\text{CRE}|$ of around 70 Wm^{-2} . While CNRM-ESM2 has the largest mean error of 16 Wm^{-2}
 249 and the smallest $|\text{CRE}|$ of 40 Wm^{-2} . This suggests compensating errors of 33.5 and 36.5
 250 Wm^{-2} for CESM2 and 12 and 28 Wm^{-2} for CNRM-ESM2. Special mention should also
 251 be made of the UKESM and HadGEM models as they have relatively small ΔCRE and
 252 $|\text{CRE}|$. The relationship between the mean and compensating biases identified in figure
 253 2 (b) appears to be related to ordering of the models over the Southern Ocean in figure
 254 1 (b). This suggests a relationship between the geographic nature of the SW CRE bi-

255 ases and the magnitude of compensating errors. We also note that the errors derived over
256 the Southern Ocean are larger than those observed globally which is associated with the
257 fact that the occurrence of specific cloud clusters is more flawed when averaged over the
258 Southern Ocean than when averaged over the globe.

259 Without examining other regions it is hard to contextualize the results over the South-
260 ern Ocean. As such, figure 3 shows the ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$ over six different regions of
261 the globe. An alternative representation which shows the mean and compensating er-
262 rors as a function of latitude is also included in the supplementary information as fig-
263 ure S2. The region that covers the majority of the Southern Ocean, the midlatitude South-
264 ern Hemisphere, shows a strongly negative statistically significant relationship between
265 ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$. The correlation coefficients also suggest negative relationships in the
266 Northern Hemisphere regions. The two bands that cover the Southern Ocean also show
267 considerably larger mean and compensating errors than the other geographic regions ex-
268 amined. Overall, these results show that the negative relationship identified in figure 2
269 (b) is strongest over the Southern Ocean and is only statistically significant over that
270 region.

271 We now examine whether the mean and compensating cloud errors, which quan-
272 tify the misrepresentation in the CTP-COT histograms in the models relative to satel-
273 lite observations, have any relationship to ECS (figure 4). Figure 4 displays the relation-
274 ship between mean and compensating errors with ECS for the globe and the Southern
275 Ocean. This enables an exploration of whether compensating errors over the Southern
276 Ocean are a driving factor in the higher low-level cloud feedbacks which drive high ECS
277 values (Zelinka et al., 2020). As with figure 2, this figure is recreated using data from
278 2009 and 2010 and is included in the supplementary information as figure S3. Once again
279 the differences between these figures are minimal. To more quantitatively evaluate the
280 trends presented figures 2 and 4 alternate versions of these figures with a line of best fit
281 determined by linear regression are included in the supplementary information as figure
282 S4 and S5.

283 The global mean errors shown in figure 4 (a) suggest only a weak relationship be-
284 tween global mean SW CRE error and ECS. As described earlier, MRI-ESM, HadGEM
285 and UKESM show much larger global mean errors than the other models however the
286 MRI-ESM is the smallest ECS model used in this paper and the HadGEM and UKESM

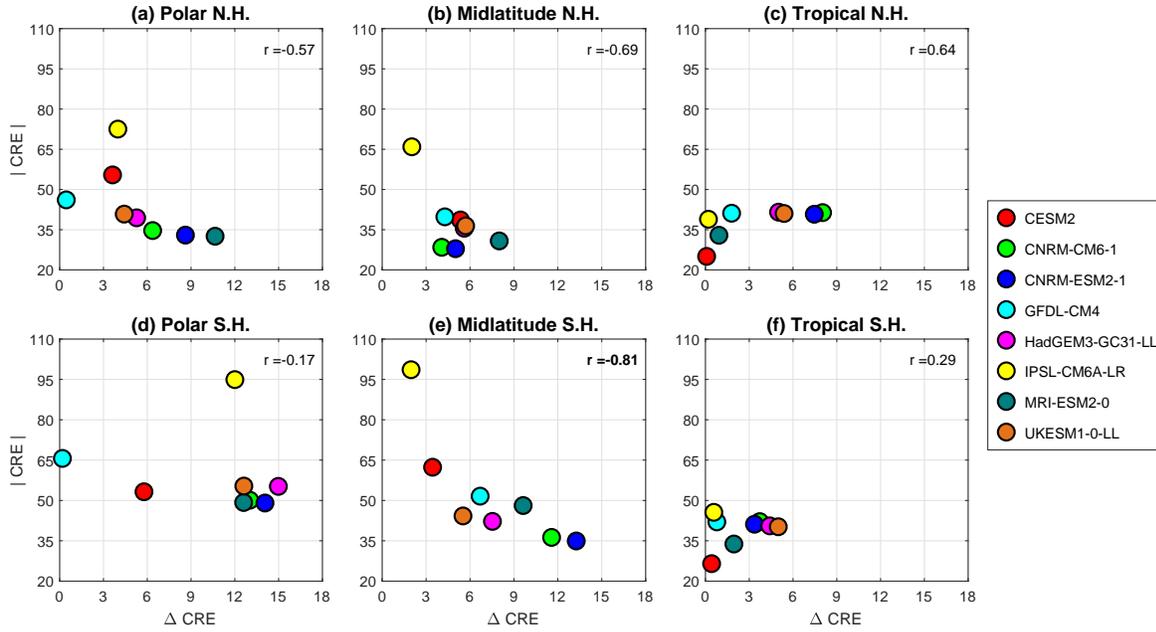


Figure 3. The ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$ for each of the models. The subplots show regions defined as following: (a) 90°N to 60°N , (b) 60°N to 30°N , (c) 30°S to 0°N , (d) 90°S to 60°S , (e) 60°S to 30°S and (f) 30°S to 0°S . The variables on each of the axis are described by equations 1 and 2. The Pearson correlation coefficients are included in the top right of each subplot with any results that are statistically significant in bold.

287 are the two largest. The global compensating errors in figure 4 (b) show more structure,
 288 but again do not show a clear relationship between compensating errors and ECS and
 289 the correlation coefficient suggests no relationship. At first glance it appears that the
 290 highest ECS models have the lowest compensating errors, but this is mostly due to the
 291 poor performance of the IPSL and GFDL models. Ultimately there might be more co-
 292 herent patterns for both these figures, but the limited number of models makes it un-
 293 clear and further work should add more models into this analysis as the data becomes
 294 available.

295 The Southern Ocean errors in figure 4 (c) and (d) display some level of coherence
 296 between the different models. The mean errors in figure 4 (c) display a complicated struc-
 297 ture that can be interpreted in two different ways. While the general tendency is that
 298 lower mean error models have higher ECS, this interpretation is complicated by the av-
 299 erage performance of HadGEM and UKESM. An alternative interpretation is to group
 300 the models into three groups. First, CESM by itself, then GFDL, IPSL, HadGEM and

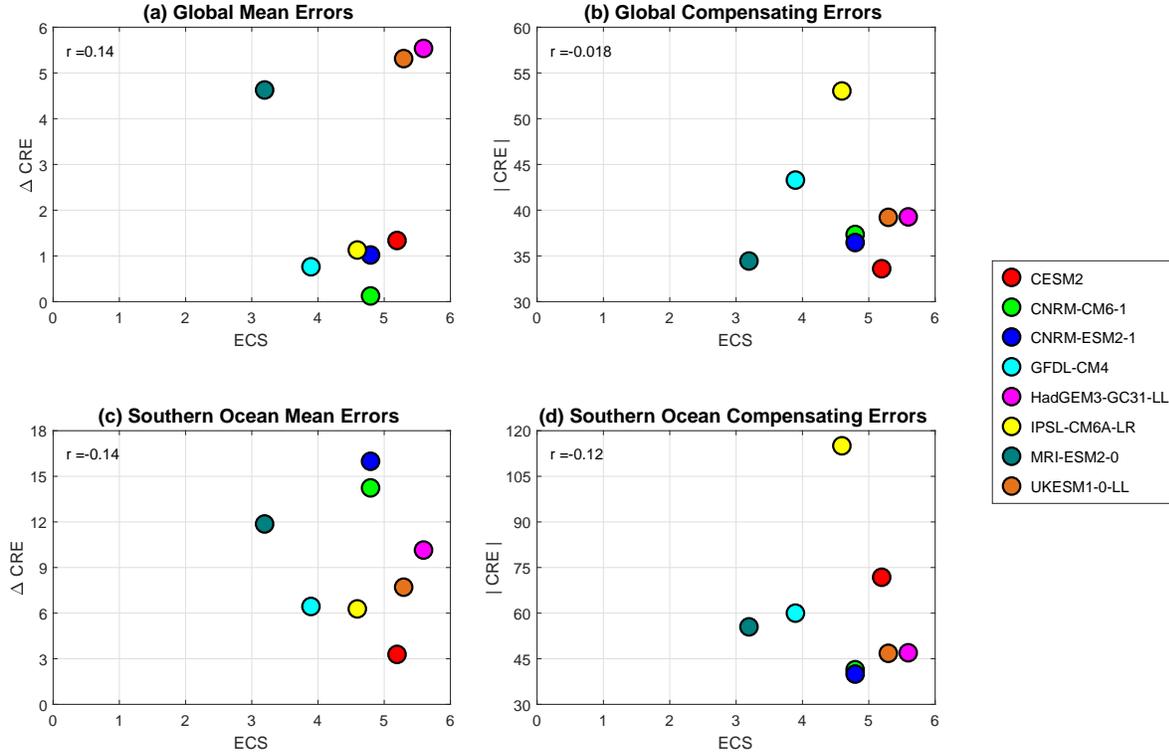


Figure 4. The ECS and the mean and compensating SW CRE errors of the included CMIP6 models. This includes both global values and values over the Southern Ocean, defined here as between $40^{\circ}S$ and $70^{\circ}S$. Subplot (a) shows the global Δ CRE, subplot (b) shows global $|CRE|$, subplot (c) shows the Southern Ocean Δ CRE and subplot (d) shows Southern Ocean $|CRE|$. Δ CRE and $|CRE|$ are described in equations 1 and 2 and the ECS values are taken from Meehl et al. (2020). The Pearson correlation coefficients are included in the top left of each subplot with any results that are statistically significant in bold.

301 UKESM and finally, MRI-ESM and the two CNRM models. With this interpretation
 302 a greater mean error would correspond to a larger ECS. The line of best fit in supple-
 303 mentary figure S5 and the correlation coefficient suggest the negative relationship is more
 304 likely, but it is not statistically significant. Figure 4 (d) shows the clearest negative re-
 305 lationship with the highest ECS models showing the smallest compensating errors, al-
 306 though the relationship is weak. These results suggest a further examination of both the
 307 IPSL and CESM2 models as they have a clear position as outliers.

5 Conclusion

This paper focuses on eight models from CMIP6 which have released AMIP runs with the appropriate data for the SW CRE to be evaluated with the techniques introduced in Schuddeboom et al. (2019). This methodology examines cloud cluster in terms of their frequency of occurrence and their radiative properties to derive both the mean and cumulative error in the shortwave cloud radiative effect (SW CRE). Initially the zonal distribution of SW CRE was compared across all the models. This identified that there was generally good agreement between the models and CERES observations, although there were two regions, the Tropics and the Southern Ocean, where clear model disagreement with the observations occurred. The issues over the Tropics are not explored further in the current work, but is an area worthy of further investigation.

Next the mean and compensating errors in SW CRE were analyzed for each of the eight models using ΔCRE and $|\text{CRE}|$. Both globally and over the Southern Ocean the compensating errors are shown to be large relative to the mean errors. While there was no clear relationship between mean and compensating errors in the global results, there is a strong negative relationship over the Southern Ocean. Models with small mean errors over the Southern Ocean consistently have large compensating errors and vice versa. This suggests that the models with the high mean errors may better simulate the Southern Ocean region but errors that are being cancelled out in other models increase the mean value. This behaviour possibly stems from a geographical bias identified in the zonal mean SW CRE.

In addition to the Southern Ocean, other geographical regions were examined. While several relationships are suggested between mean and compensating errors, the strongest and only statistically significant relationship was observed over the Southern Ocean. The mean and compensating errors were also directly evaluated against the ECS taken from Meehl et al. (2020). Globally, there was no clear relationship between model ECS and its mean or compensating errors. Over the Southern Ocean there appears to be a weak relationship that suggested that a model with a strong ECS was more likely to have lower mean and compensating errors, though we emphasise that this relationship is not statistically significant. The exact strength of these relationships are uncertain due to the limited number of available models.

339 The main result of this study is that the mean and compensating errors related to
340 clouds in these models display a negative relationship over polar and midlatitude regions,
341 most strongly observed over the Southern Ocean. This suggests that recent model im-
342 provements targeted at removing shortwave radiative biases over the Southern Ocean
343 relative to satellite observations have only partially corrected the issues and that other
344 errors still exist when the distribution of cloud types and their radiative properties are
345 considered. Unfortunately, the small number of models with suitable outputs is a ma-
346 jor limitation on this study. We hope that as a wider array of models release appropri-
347 ate data it will become possible to reach more definitive conclusions about the relation-
348 ship between SW CRE errors over the Southern Ocean and ECS. In addition to adding
349 extra models, the authors also plan on using this approach to evaluate the impact of changes
350 made to models between CMIP5 and CMIP6. This could potentially lead to the iden-
351 tification of the parts of the model that need further improvements.

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356 [climate-project-isscp-h-series-data/access/isscp-basic/hgg/](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/data/international-satellite-cloud-climate-project-isscp-h-series-data/access/isscp-basic/hgg/). We would also like to ac-
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359 eling groups for producing and making available their model output, the Earth System
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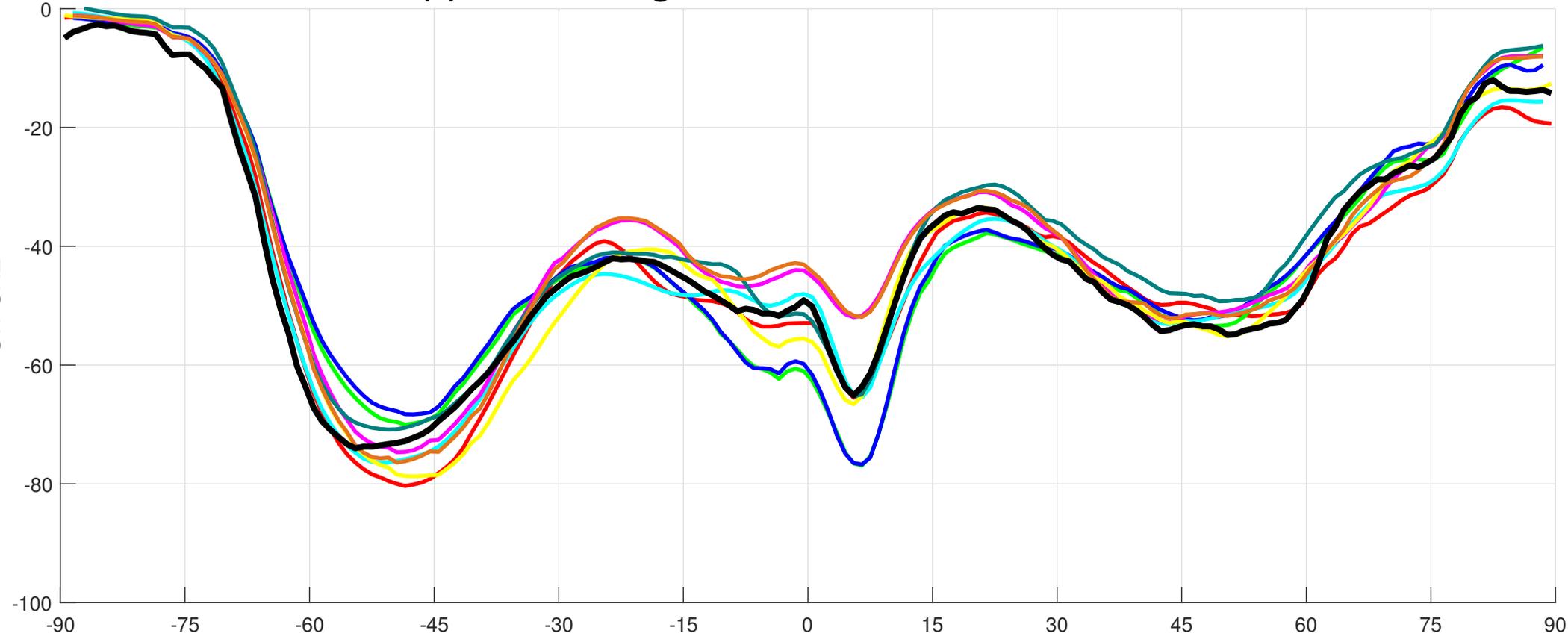
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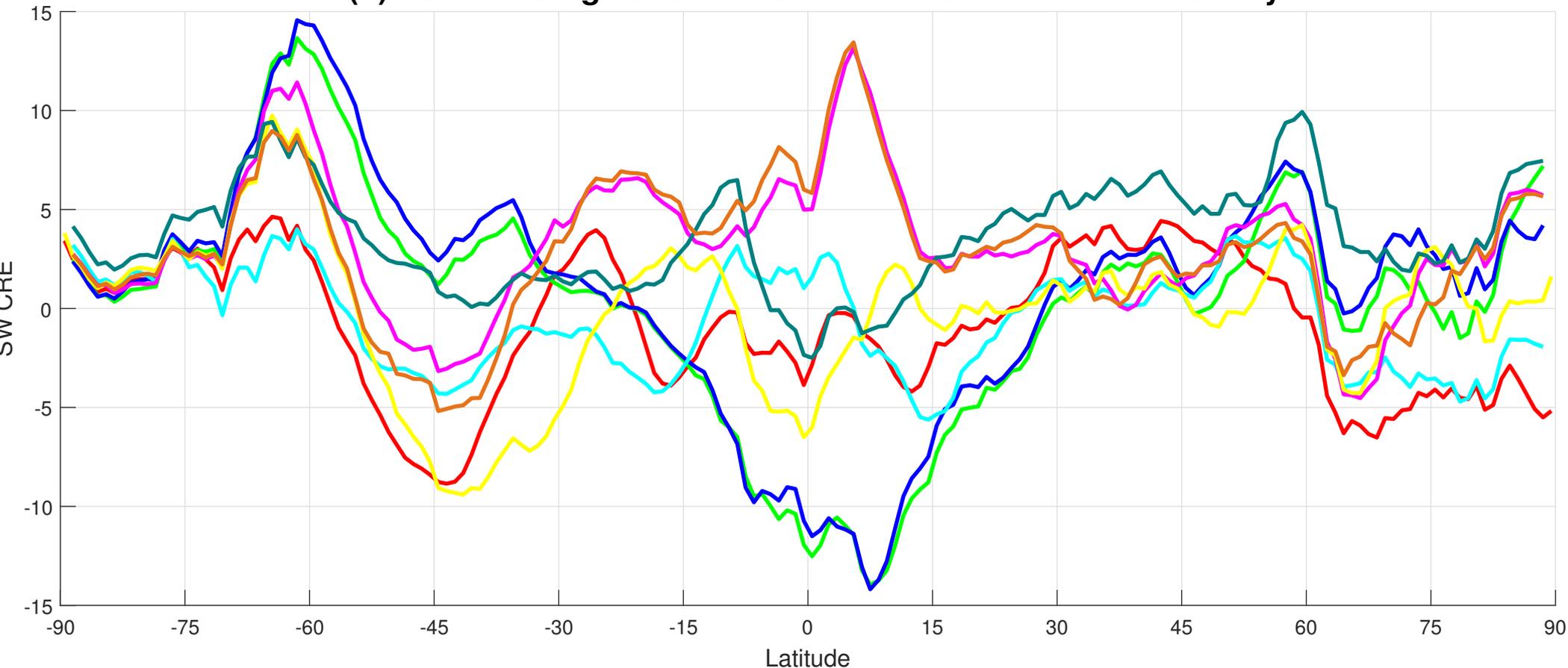
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Figure 1.

(a) Zonal Average Shortwave Cloud Radiative Effect



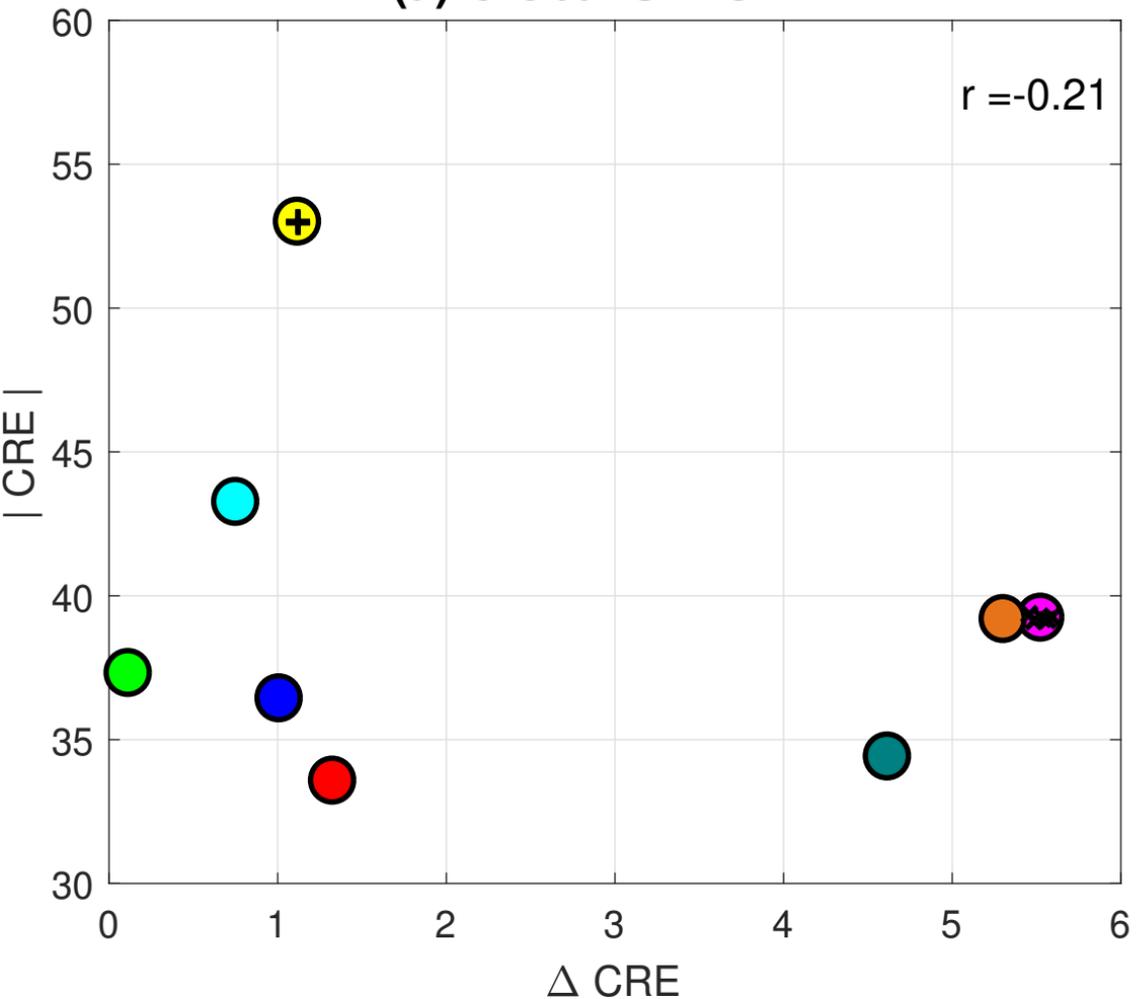
(b) Zonal Average Shortwave Cloud Radiative Effect Anomaly



- CESM2
- CNRM-CM6-1
- CNRM-ESM2-1
- GFDL-CM4
- HadGEM3-GC31-LL
- IPSL-CM6A-LR
- MRI-ESM2-0
- UKESM1-0-LL
- CERES

Figure 2.

(a) Global SW CRE



(b) Southern Ocean SW CRE

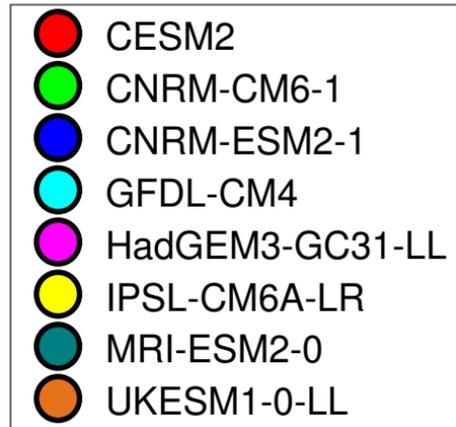
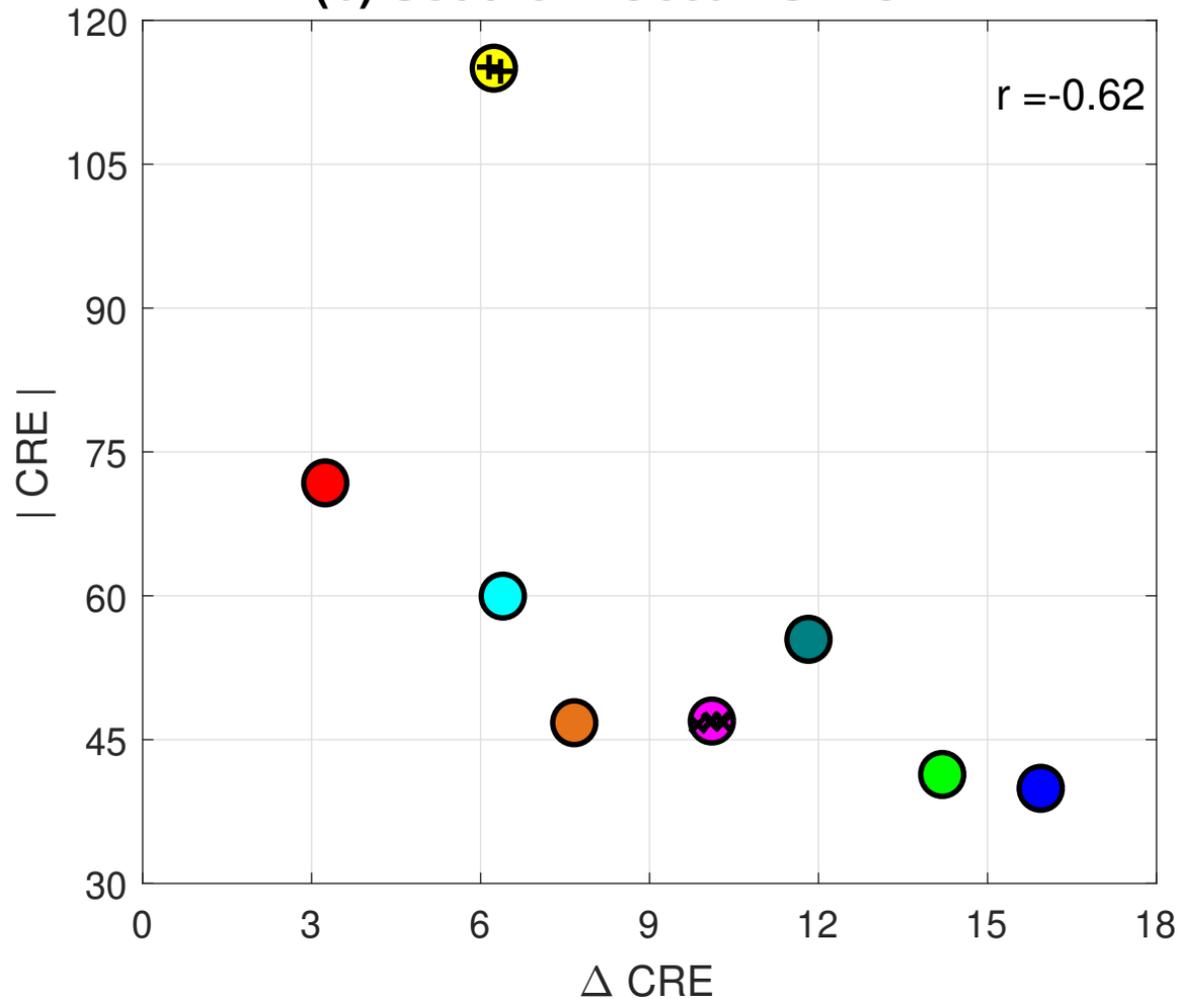


Figure 3.

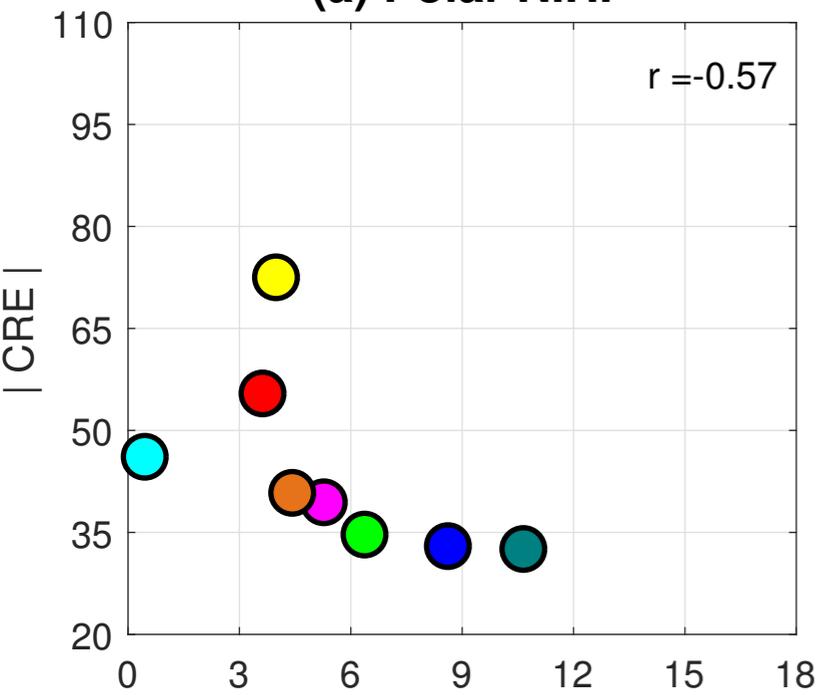
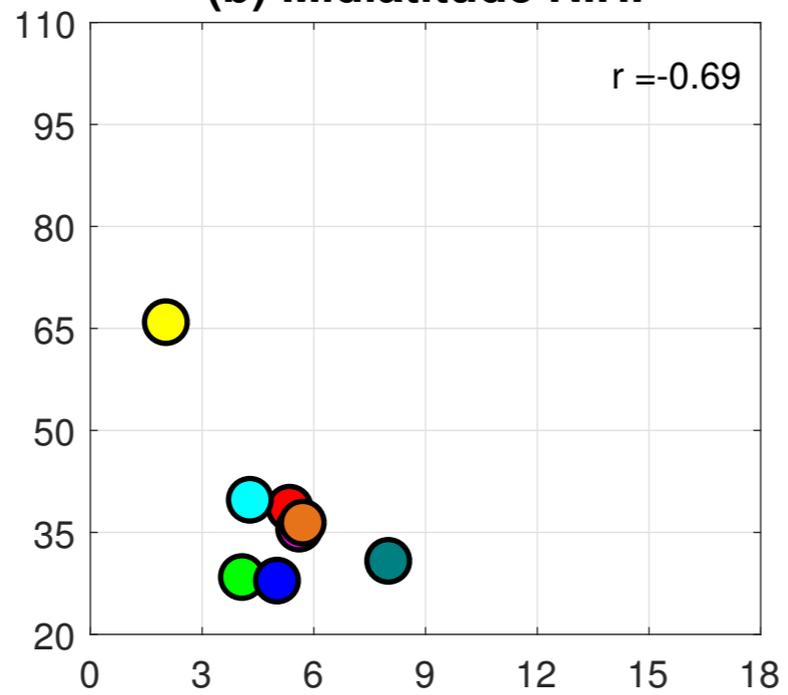
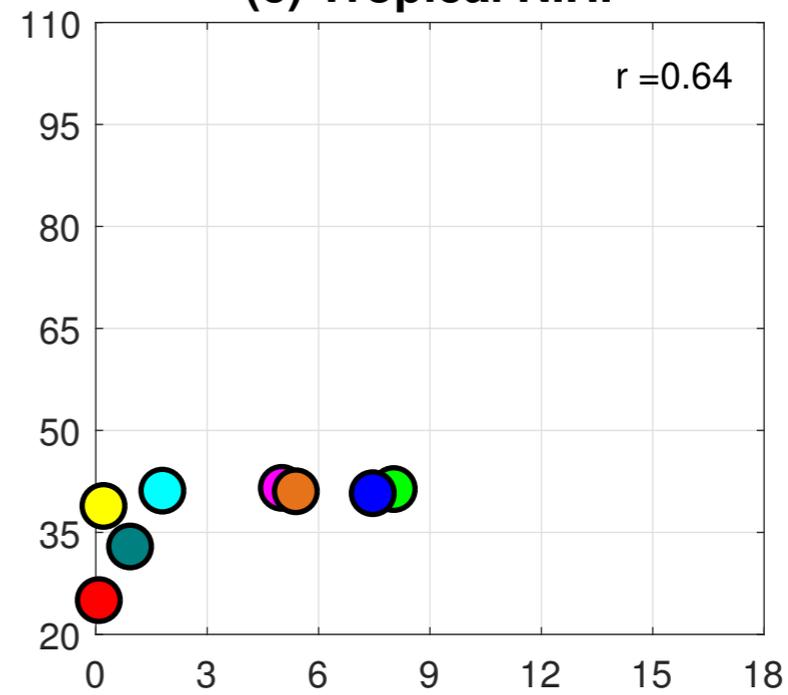
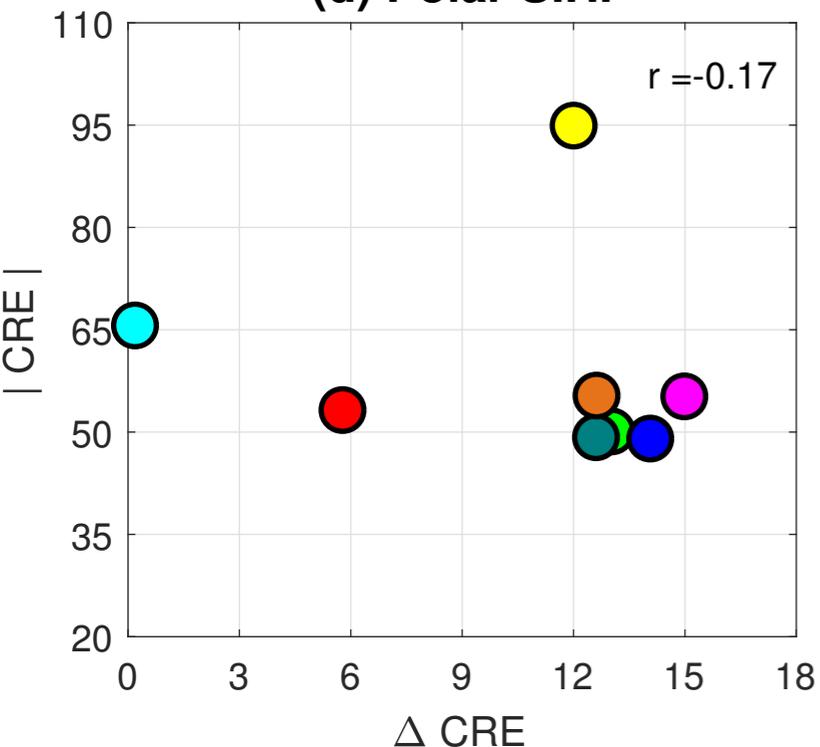
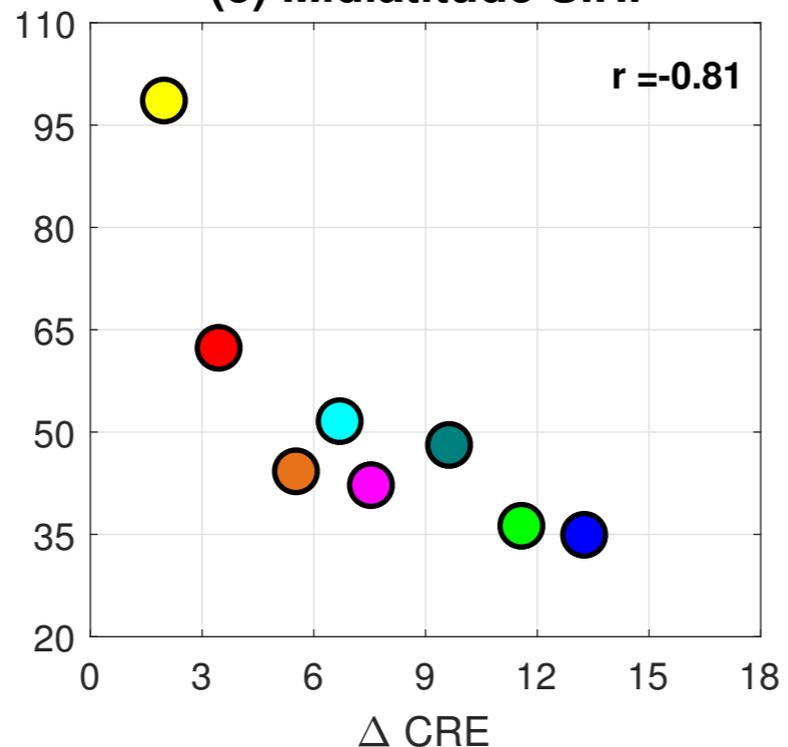
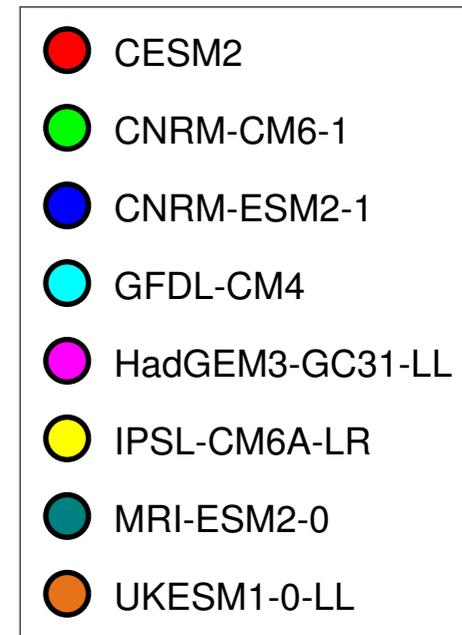
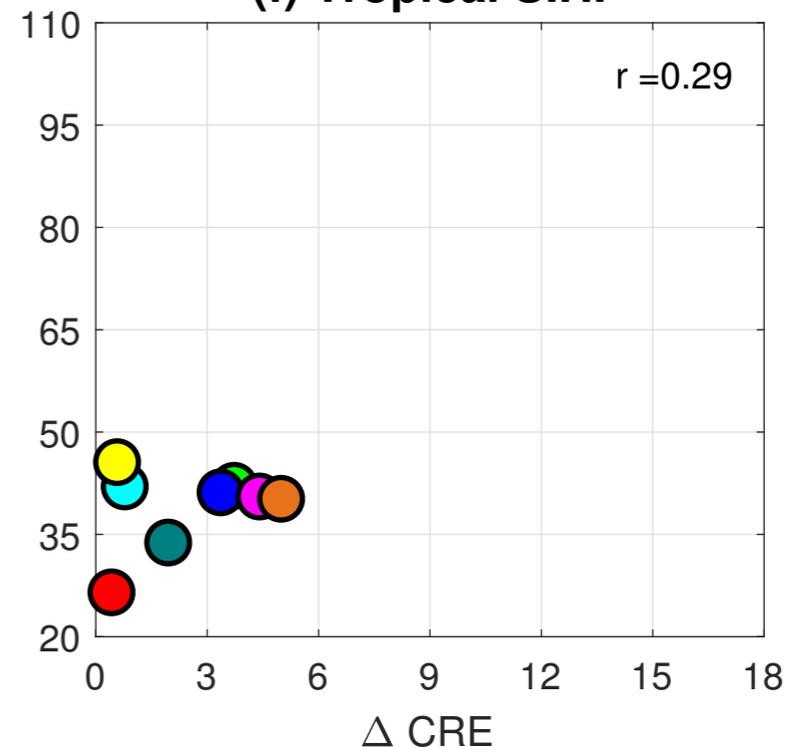
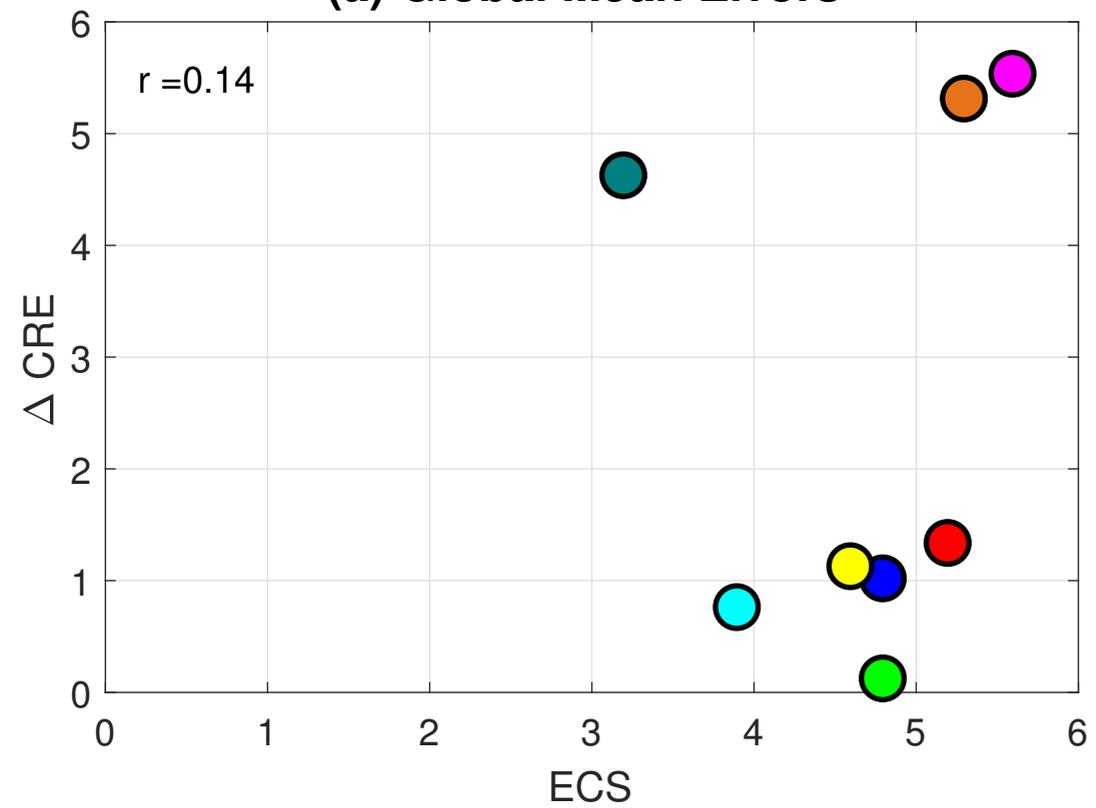
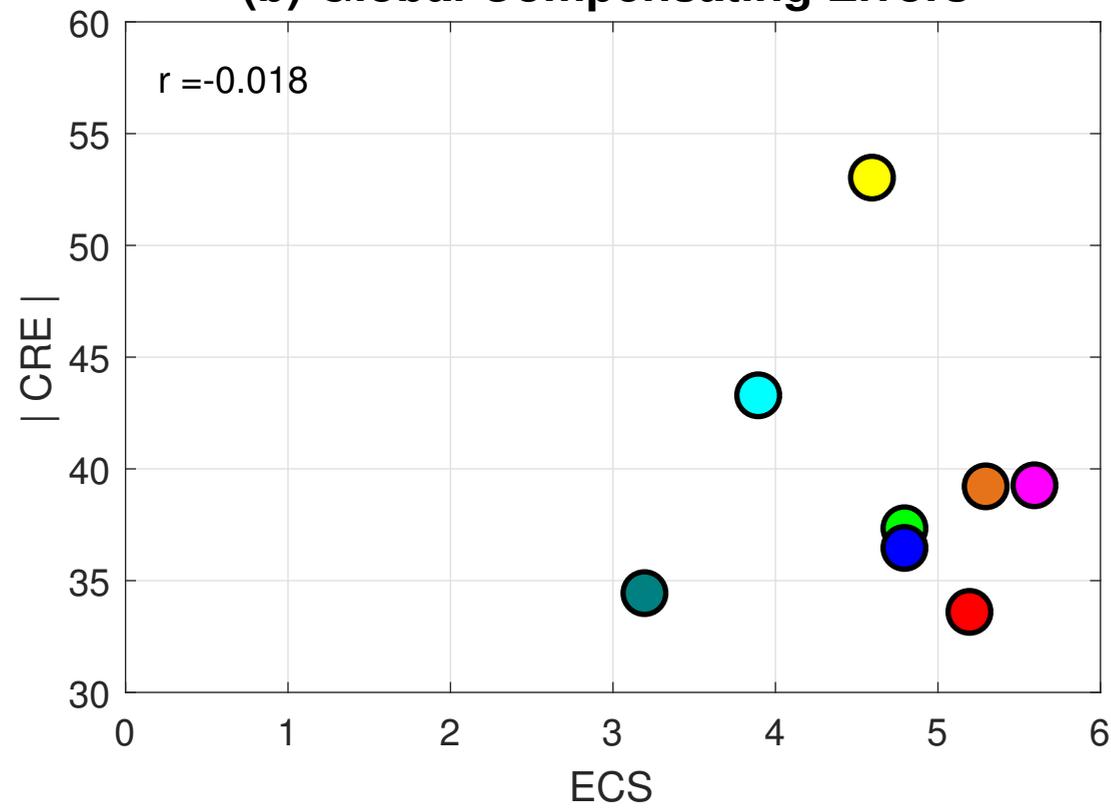
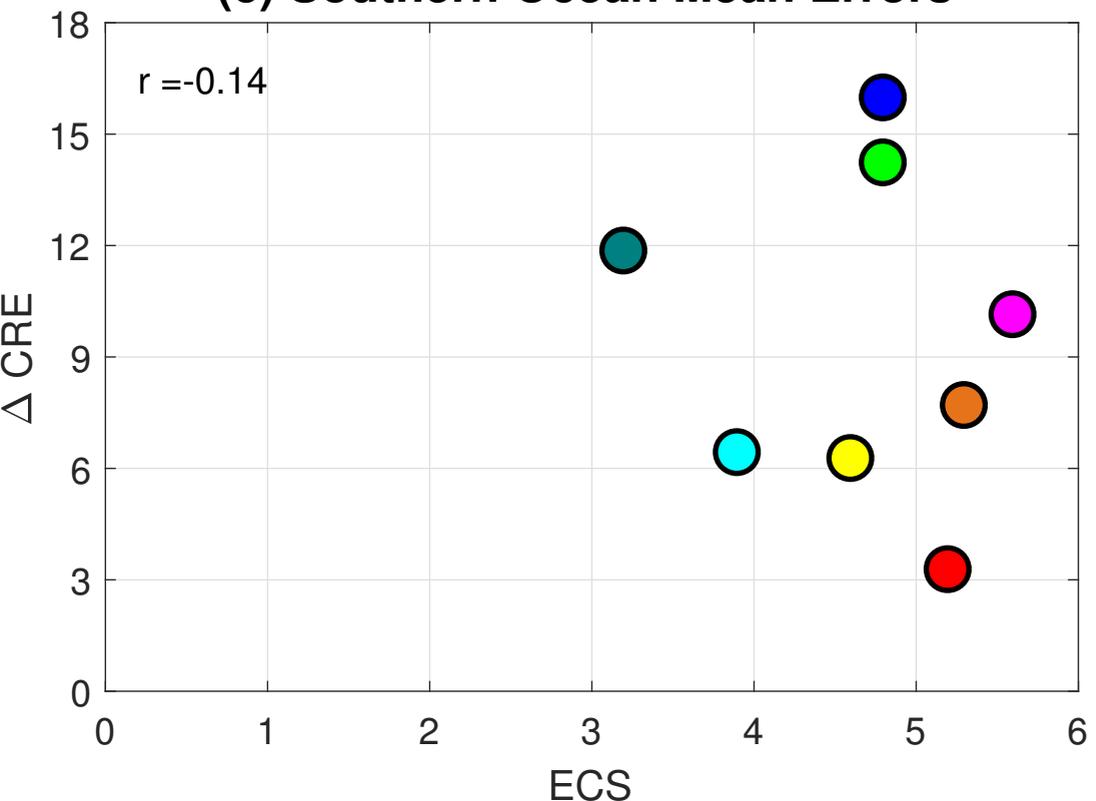
(a) Polar N.H.**(b) Midlatitude N.H.****(c) Tropical N.H.****(d) Polar S.H.****(e) Midlatitude S.H.****(f) Tropical S.H.**

Figure 4.

(a) Global Mean Errors**(b) Global Compensating Errors****(c) Southern Ocean Mean Errors****(d) Southern Ocean Compensating Errors**