

# Climate Change Around the World

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*Nordhaus : DICE  
model (planner's  
problem)*

ifo Institute Workshop on:

"Heterogeneous Agents and the  
Macroeconomics of Climate Change"

*Golosov, Hassler,*

Munich, Germany

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*Krusell , Tsyplakov*

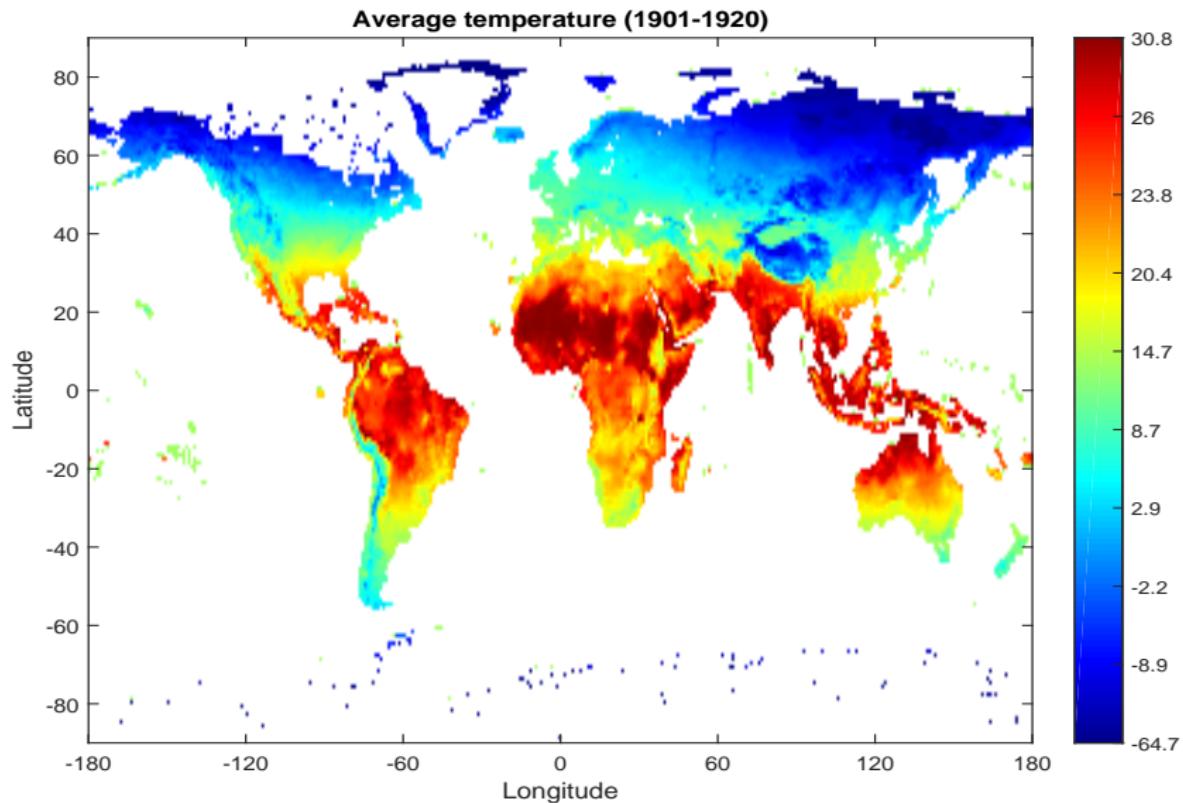
*2014 EUTA*

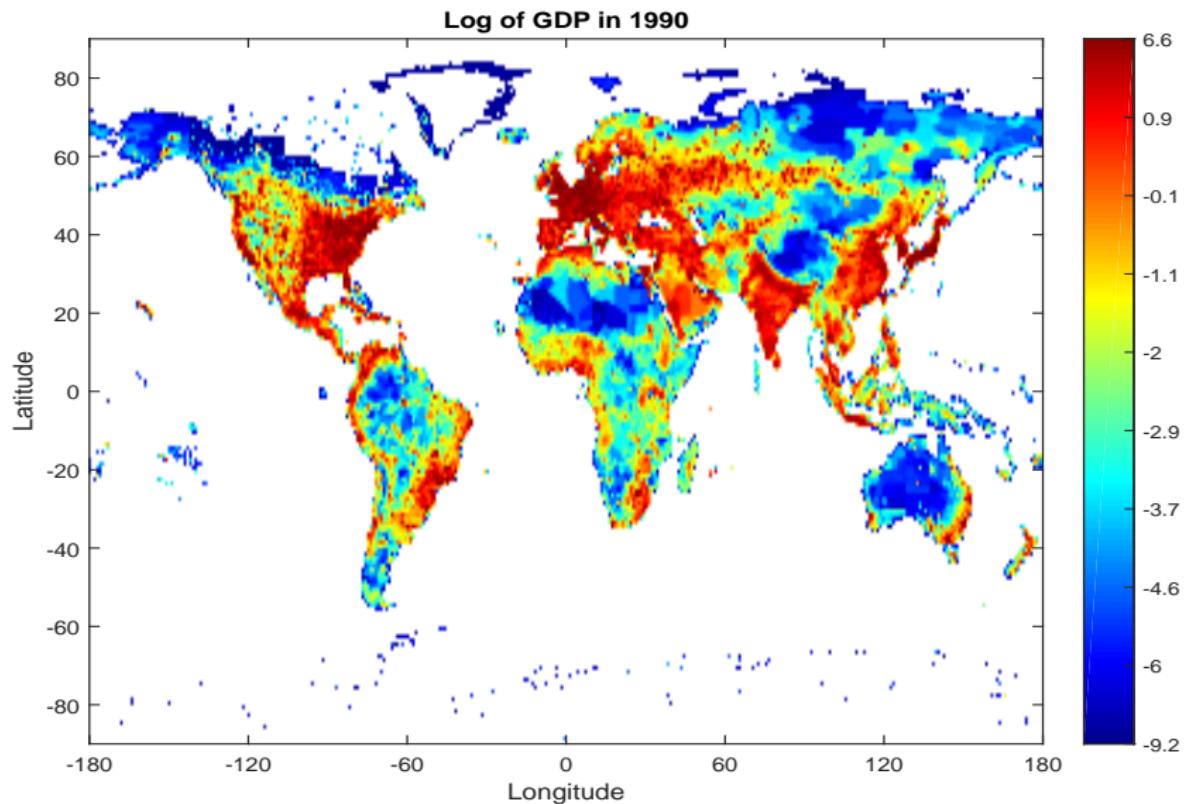
## The project

- ▶ Construct global model of economy-climate interactions featuring a high degree of geographic resolution ( $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  regions).
- ▶ Use the model as a laboratory to quantify the **distributional** effects of climate change and climate policy.
- ▶ If a set of regions imposes a carbon tax (or a quantity restriction on emissions), how does the path of global emissions respond? Which regions gain and which lose, and by how much?
- ▶ Related to growing new(ish) literature on spatial equilibrium models of climate change: Brock, Cai, and Xepapadeas; Brock, Engström, Grass, and Xepapadeas; Desmet and Rossi-Hansberg; Hassler and Krusell; Fried; Hassler, Krusell, Olovsson, and Reiter; Hillebrand and Hillebrand.

## The data

- ▶ Unit of analysis:  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  cells containing land.
- ▶ The model contains  $\sim 19,000$  regions (or cell-countries).
- ▶ Matsuura and Willmott: gridded  $(0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ)$  monthly terrestrial temperature data for 1900–2008.
- ▶ Nordhaus's G-Econ database: gross domestic product (GDP) and population for all such cells in 1990.





## Natural-science background I: the climate

- ▶ Energy balance (inflow from the Sun equals outflow from the Earth) determines the Earth's temperature.
- ▶ “Forcing”,  $F$ , from CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere (relative to pre-industrial) is:

$$F = \eta \frac{\ln(S/\bar{S})}{\ln(2)},$$

where  $S = 840\text{GtC}$  and  $\bar{S} = 600\text{GtC}$  are current and pre-industrial stocks.

- ▶ Equilibrium temperature,  $T$  (relative to pre-industrial), is:

$$T = \kappa F = \lambda \frac{\ln(S/\bar{S})}{\ln(2)},$$

where  $\kappa$  depends on various feedback effects.

- ▶  $\lambda \approx 3 \pm 1.5$  is “climate sensitivity” .

## Natural-science background II: the carbon cycle

- ▶ Carbon cycle: how emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> enter/exit atmosphere.
- ▶ Key: emissions spread globally very quickly (“global externality”).
- ▶ Depreciation structure of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>:
  - ▶ smooth, but very slow; some stays “forever” in atmosphere
  - ▶ nonlinear but linear approximation okay.
- ▶ Emissions: 10GtC/year;  $\Delta S_t \approx 4.5\text{GtC/year}$ .
- ▶ Estimated remaining carbon: oil + gas = 300GtC, coal much bigger (> 3,000GtC?). So coal is key!
- ▶ To summarize:  
emissions → carbon in atmosphere → forcing → temperature.
- ▶ Bad if higher  $T$  causes “damages”: the mother of all externalities (Stern).

## Integrated assessment models

- ▶ Pioneered by Nordhaus (DICE, RICE). Quantitative theory, computational.
- ▶ Key components:
  - ▶ climate system (as above)
  - ▶ carbon cycle (as above)
  - ▶ economic model of emissions AND damages
- ▶ Economic model: needs to be dynamic, forward-looking, possibly allowing stochastics (temperature variations, disasters).
- ▶ Here:
  - ▶ climate system more elaborate (regional variation)
  - ▶ economic model and damages new
  - ▶ the one-region version of the model is close to the representative-agent DSGE climate-economy model in Golosov, Hassler, Krusell, and Tsyvinski (2014)

## Overview for remainder of talk

1. economic model
2. our climate modeling
3. our damage specification
4. calibration, computation
5. results
6. conclusions, future

## The economic model

- ▶ Forward-looking consumers and firms in each region determine their consumption, saving, and energy use. No migration.
- ▶ Neoclassical production technologies, different TFPs both exogenously and due to climate.
- ▶ Energy as an input: coal, produced locally, at constant marginal cost (no profits).
- ▶ Coal slowly, exogenously replaced by (same-cost) green energy.
- ▶ Market structure: two cases.
  - ▶ Autarky (regions only linked via emission externality).
  - ▶ Unrestricted borrowing/lending (world interest rate clears market).
- ▶ Summary: like Aiyagari/Angeletos, though no shocks in this version.
- ▶ Adaptation: consumption smoothing and, in case with international markets, capital mobility ("leakage").

# Regional problem

planner's problem:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{MAX} \quad & \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t u \left( \underbrace{D(T(S_t, S_{t+1}))}_{\substack{\text{temperature} \\ \text{damage due to} \\ \text{temperature}}} \right) \left( f(K_t, E_t) - p E_t \right) \\
 \text{given } & K_t, E_t, S_t, S_{t+1} \\
 & + (1-\delta) K_t - K_{t+1} \Big) + \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \lambda_t \left( S_t - \underbrace{p_1 X_t + p_2 E_t - S_{t+1}}_{\substack{\text{final goods} \\ + \\ \text{services} \\ \text{intermediary} \\ \text{consumption good}}} \right) \\
 & + \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \lambda_{t+1} \left( S_{t+1} - (1-\beta) \Phi_t X_t + E_t - p_3 S_{t+2} \right) \\
 & \text{green back} \quad \text{current taxes} \\
 & \text{consequently} \quad \Rightarrow \text{signatures of CO}_2
 \end{aligned}$$

In a recursive equilibrium, region  $\ell$  solves

$$\begin{aligned}
 \triangleright \quad & v_t(\omega, A, \Gamma, \mathcal{S}; \ell) = \\
 & \max_{k', b'} [U(c) + \beta v_{t+1}(\omega', A', \Gamma', \mathcal{S}'; \ell)], \text{ s.t.}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$c = \omega - k' - q_t(\Gamma, \mathcal{S})b'$$

$$\omega' = \max_{e'} [F(k', D(T_\ell(\mathcal{S}'))A', e') - pe')] +$$

$$(1 - \delta)k' + b'$$

$$A' = (1 + g)A$$

$$\Gamma' = H_t(\Gamma, \mathcal{S})$$

$$\mathcal{S}' = \Phi_t(\Gamma, \mathcal{S}).$$

Comparative statics: take as given  $\{T_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty}$ ,  $T_0 = \bar{T}$  for  $t > 0$  (each agent is small relative to the world)

$\frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} V_{t+1}(w) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} M_t(K_t - b') + \frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} V_{t+1}(w)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} V_{t+1}(w) &= \max_{K' \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial K'} F(K', E') - p E' - (1-\delta) K' \\
 &\quad \text{minus damage}
 \end{aligned}$$

Transition paths: for  $t < T$

$$V_{t+1}(w) = \max_{K'} \frac{\partial}{\partial K'} M_t(K' - b') + \frac{\partial}{\partial K'} V_{t+1}(w')$$

$$\text{and } K' = \max_{E'} \frac{\partial}{\partial E'} D(T_\ell(\mathcal{S}')) F(K', E') - p E' - (1-\delta) K'$$

$$\text{Implies back to } V_t(w) \text{ or decision rules: } K' = \hat{K}_t(w)$$

$$\hat{E} = \hat{E}_t(w)$$

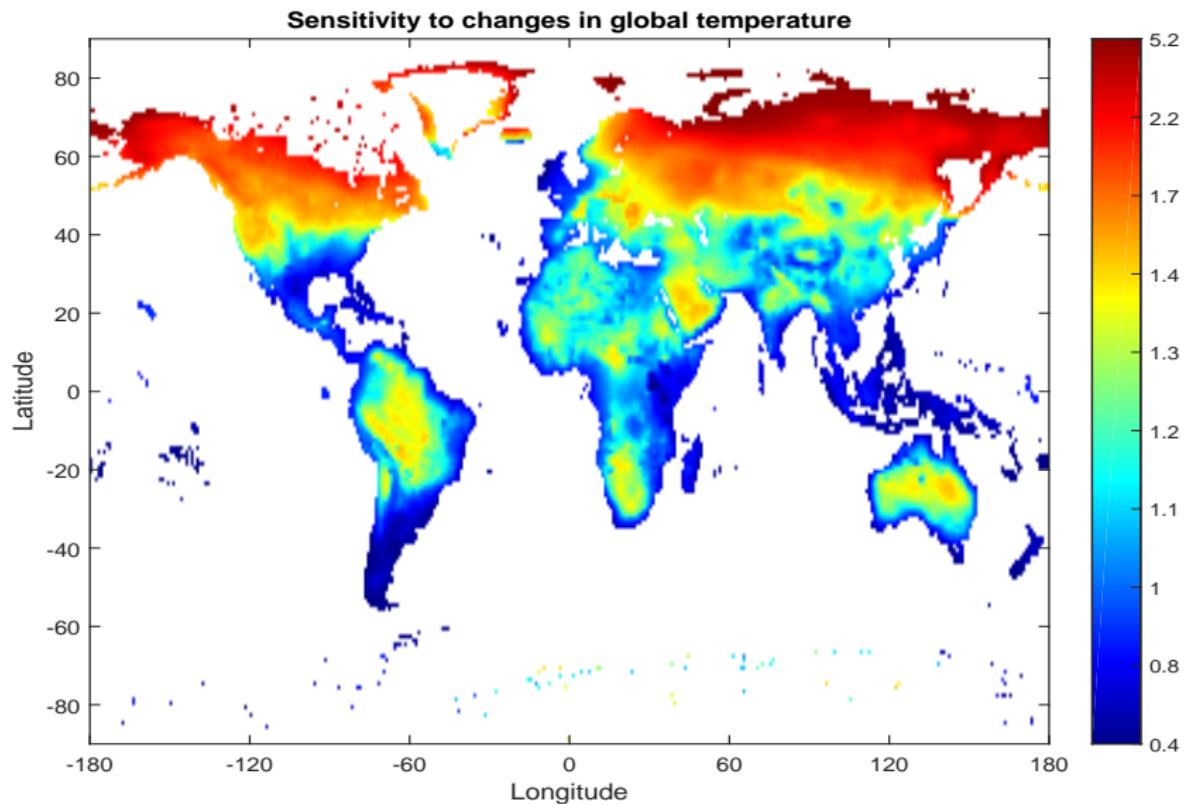
Straubhaar et al.: use dynamic method to solve this type of problems.

- Can be interpreted as a decentralized equilibrium.
- Set up to deal with shocks, aggregate and/or local.

## Our climate modeling

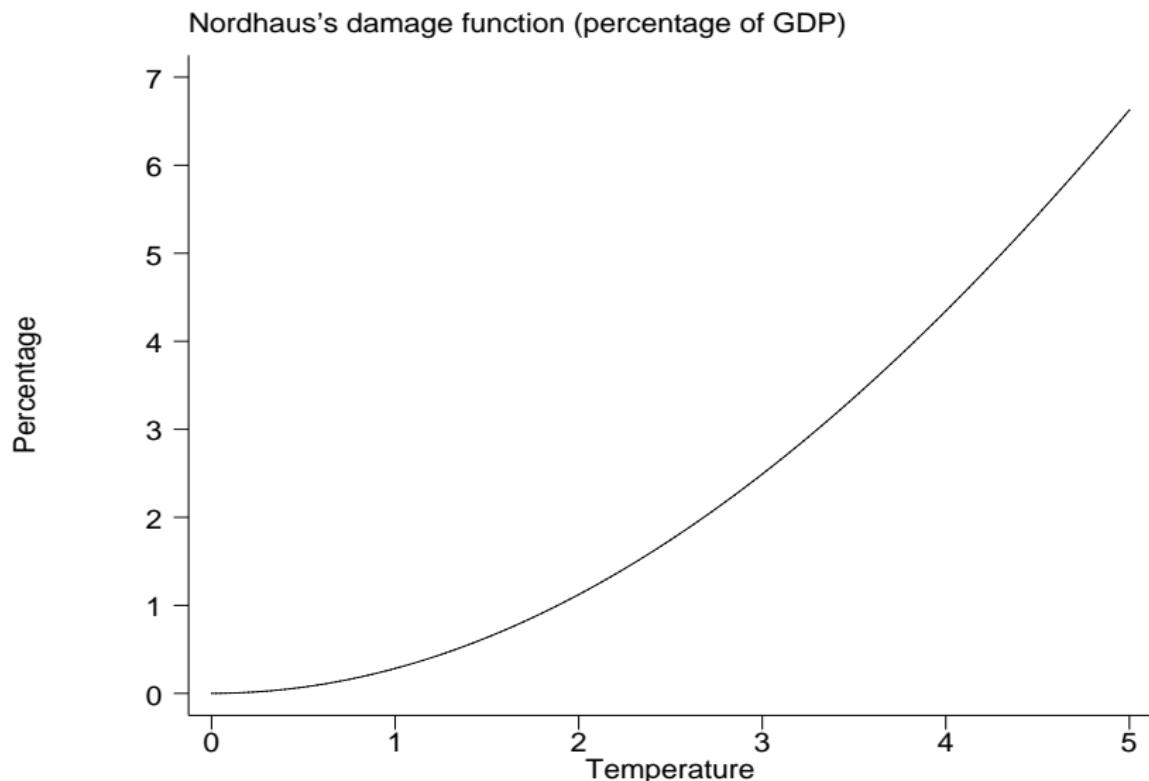
How will region  $\ell$ 's climate respond to global warming?

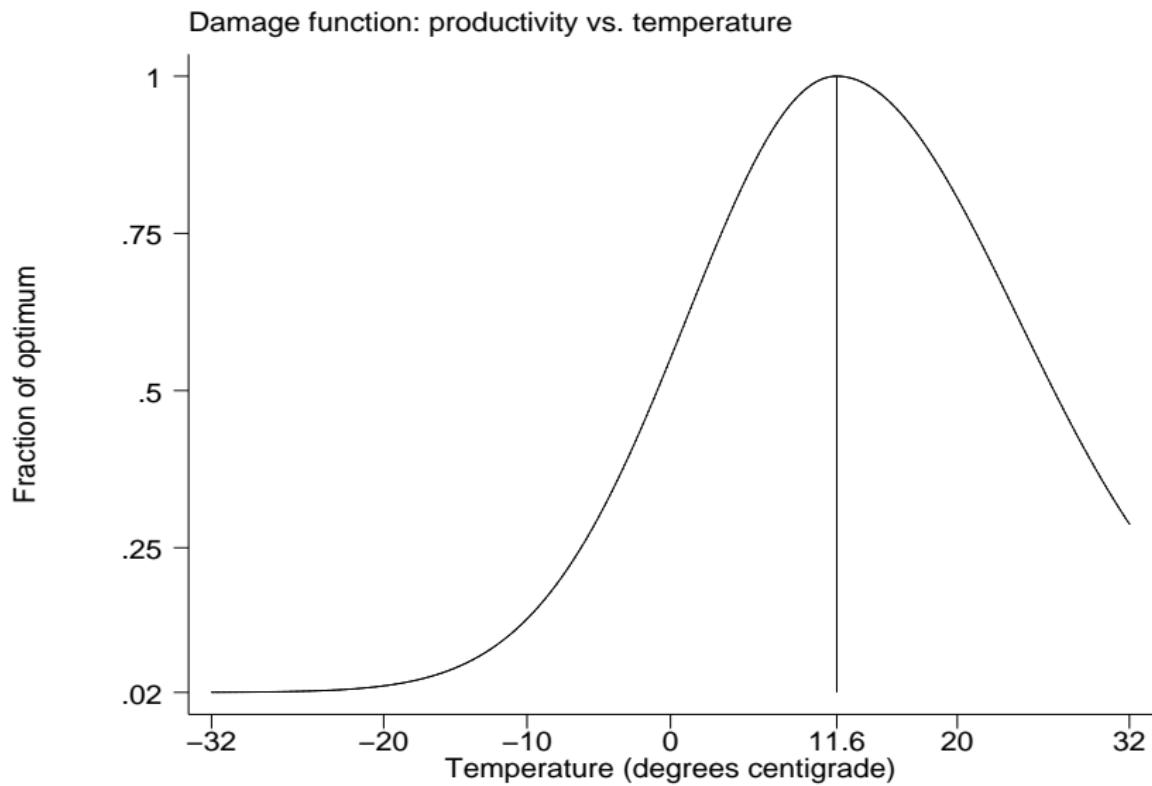
- ▶ Answer given by complex global and regional climate models.  
But not feasible (yet) to combine these with economic model.
- ▶ Therefore, use “pattern scaling” (aka “statistical downscaling”): statistical description of temperature in a given region as a function of a single state variable—average global temperature.
- ▶ Capture sensitivity of temperature in region  $\ell$  to global temperature  $T$  in a coefficient (linear structure; standard).
- ▶ With help of climate scientists, use runs of (highly) complex climate models into the future to estimate sensitivities.

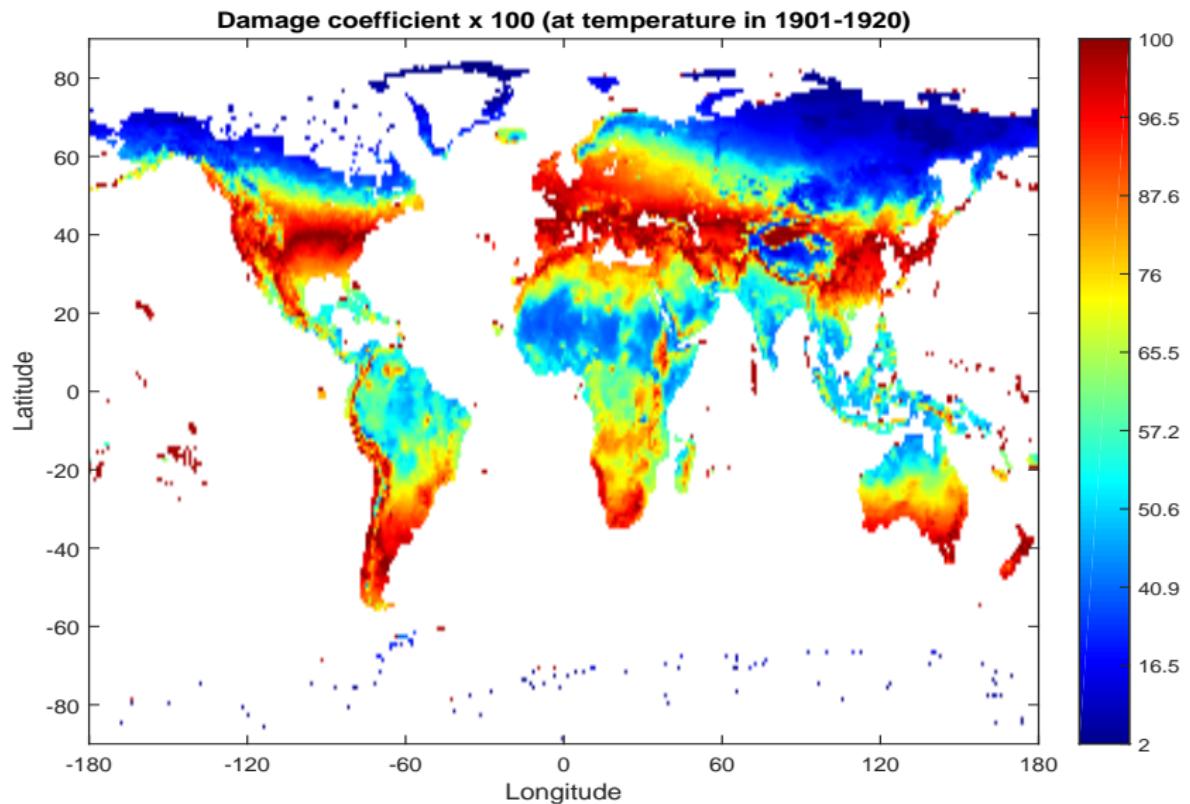


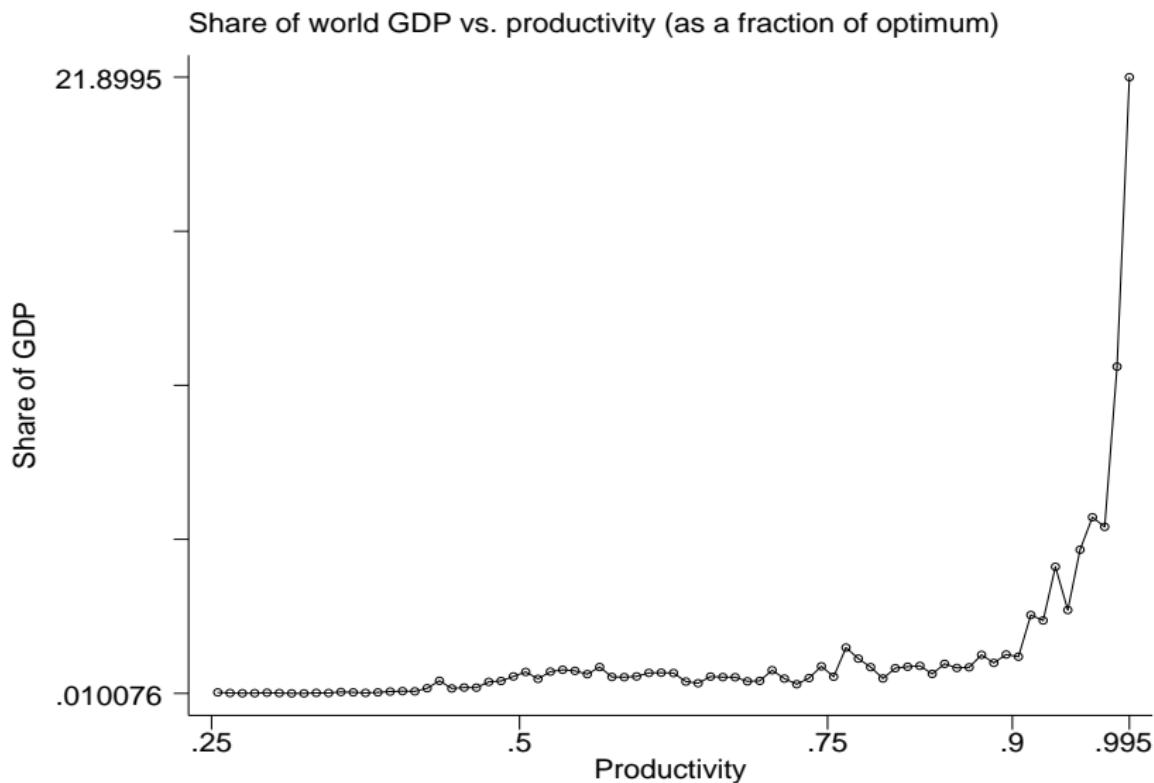
## Our damage specification

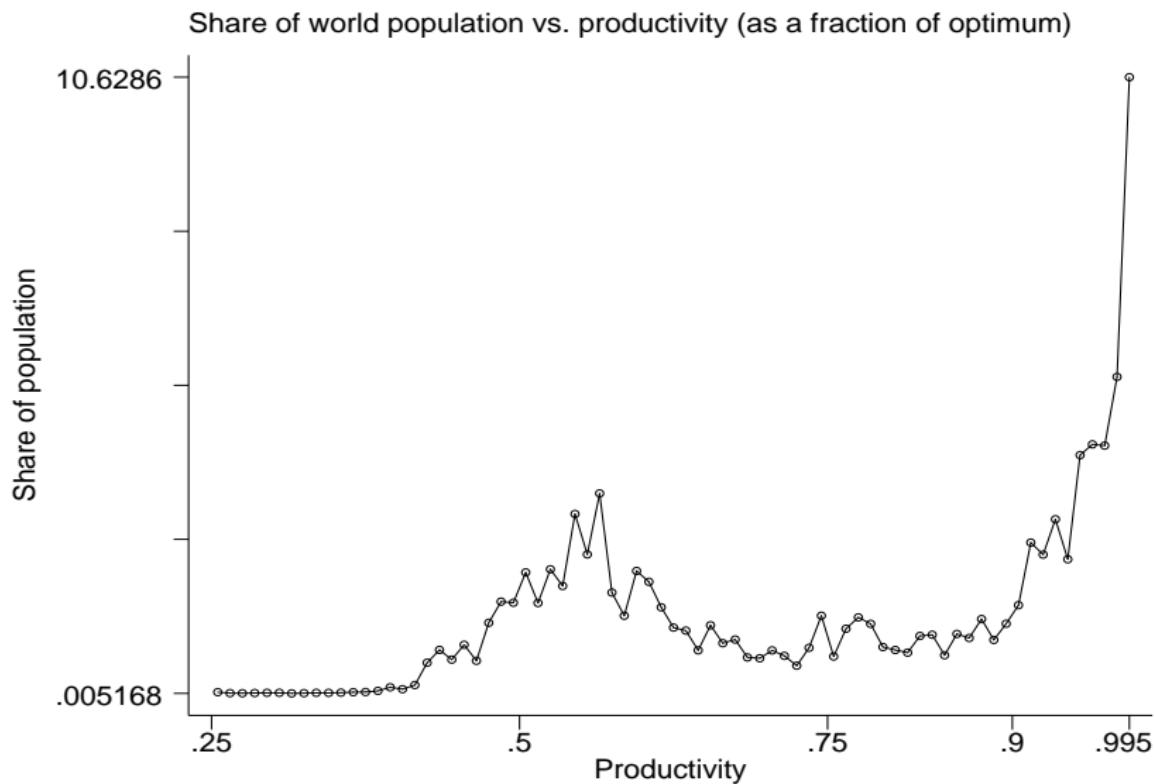
- ▶ What are the damages in region  $\ell$  as a result of global warming?
- ▶ Our approach: formulate a damage function  $D$  of local temperature that is:
  - ▶ common across all regions;
  - ▶ like Nordhaus's, a drag on total factor productivity (TFP);
  - ▶ consistent with Nordhaus's worldwide damage function when aggregated across all regions.
- ▶ Desmet and Rossi-Hansberg (2014) also use a common U-shape in a spatial application.





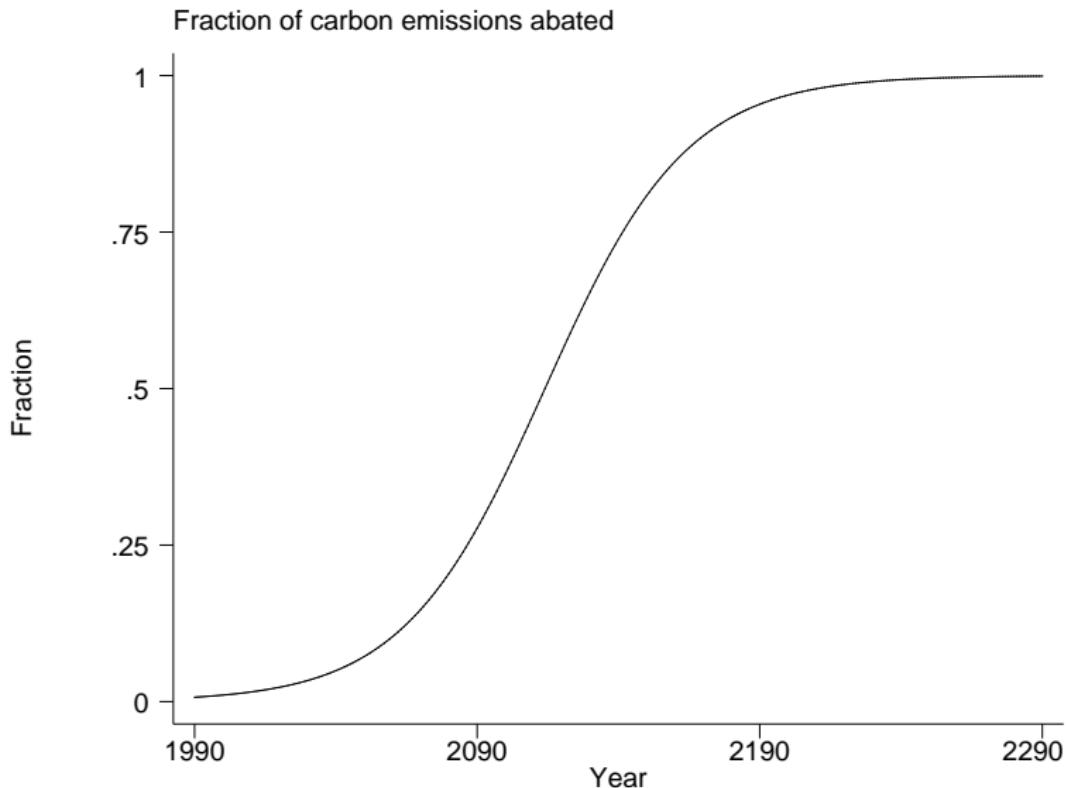






## Calibration

- ▶ Annual time step, log utility, discount factor  $\beta = 0.985$ .
- ▶ Production function in region  $\ell$ : CES in  $k_\ell^\alpha(D_\ell A_\ell L)^{1-\alpha}$  and energy  $e_\ell$ , with:
  - ▶ share parameter  $\theta$ ;
  - ▶ elasticity =  $(1 - \rho)^{-1}$  (set  $\rho = 0$  for now);
  - ▶  $\alpha = 0.36$ ;
  - ▶  $A_\ell$  grows at rate  $g = 1\%$ .
- ▶ Capital depreciates at rate  $\delta = 6\%$ .
- ▶ Initial distribution of region-specific capital,  $k_\ell$ , and level of productivity,  $A_\ell$ , chosen to: (1) match regional GDP per capita in 1990 and; (2) equalize MPKs across regions.
- ▶ Price of coal and  $\theta$  chosen to match: (1) total carbon emissions in 1990; and (2) energy share of 6% along a balanced growth path.
- ▶ Green energy replaces coal slowly (logistic).



## Carbon cycle

- ▶ The total stock of atmospheric carbon,  $S_t$ , is the sum of a permanent stock,  $S_{1t}$ , and a (slowly) depreciating stock,  $S_{2t}$ :  
$$S_t = S_{1t} + S_{2t}.$$
- ▶  $S_{1t} = 0.25E_t + S_{1,t-1}$ , where  $E_t$  is total carbon emissions.
- ▶  $S_{2t} = 0.36(1 - 0.25)E_t + 0.998S_{2,t-1}$ .
- ▶ Half-life of a freshly-emitted unit of carbon is 30 years;  
half-life of the depreciating stock (given no new emissions) is 300 years.

## Computation

- ▶ Richard Feynman: Imagine how much harder physics would be if electrons had feelings!
- ▶ Transition + heterogeneity = nontrivial fixed-point problem: guess on a temperature path, solve backwards for decisions, run globe forwards to confirm guessed path.
- ▶ Use mostly well-known methods but heterogeneity vast:
  - ▶ exogenous TFP
  - ▶ wealth/capital
  - ▶  $\ell$  captures entire path of future regional TFP endogenous to climate (this feature NOT one-dimensional);
    - ▶ we don't actually solve 19,235 DP problems
    - ▶ but so much heterogeneity that we need to solve 700 DPs
    - ▶ and then nonlinearly interpolate decision rules between 700 "types".
- ▶ Fortran 90 + OpenMP with 20 cores: less than five minutes.

## Experiments

- ▶ Laissez-faire.
- ▶ Main policy experiment: all regions impose common path for carbon taxes, financed locally (no interregional transfers).

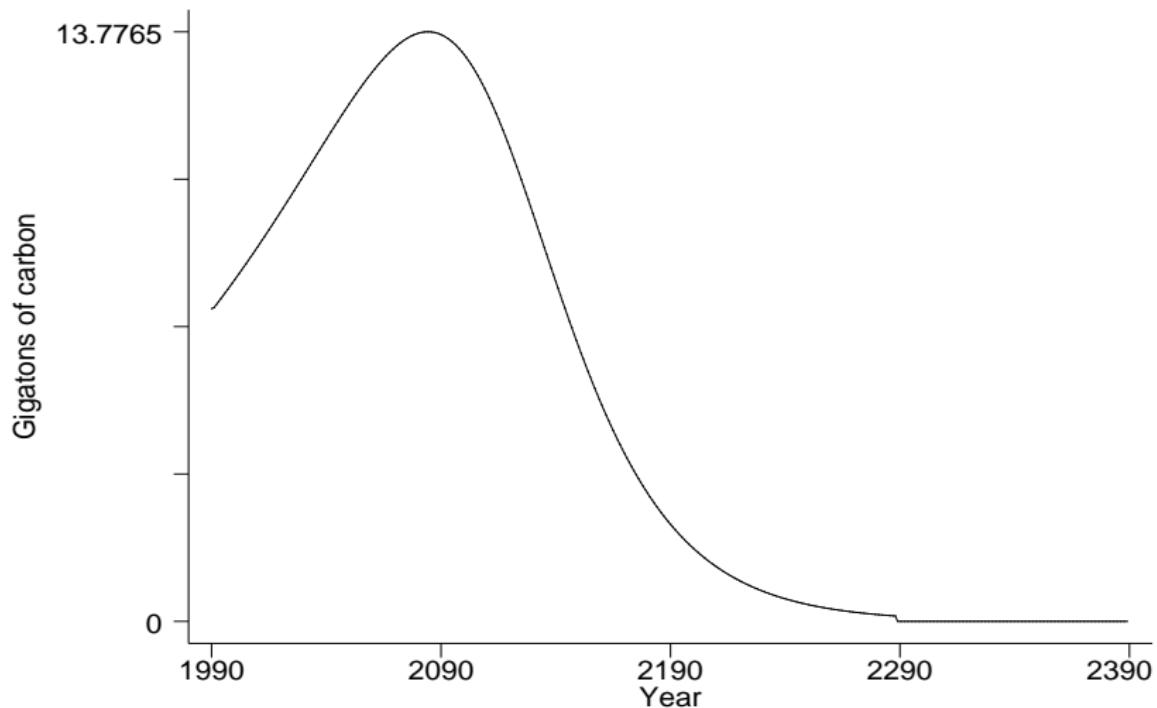
Throughout: focus on relative effects, not aggregates.

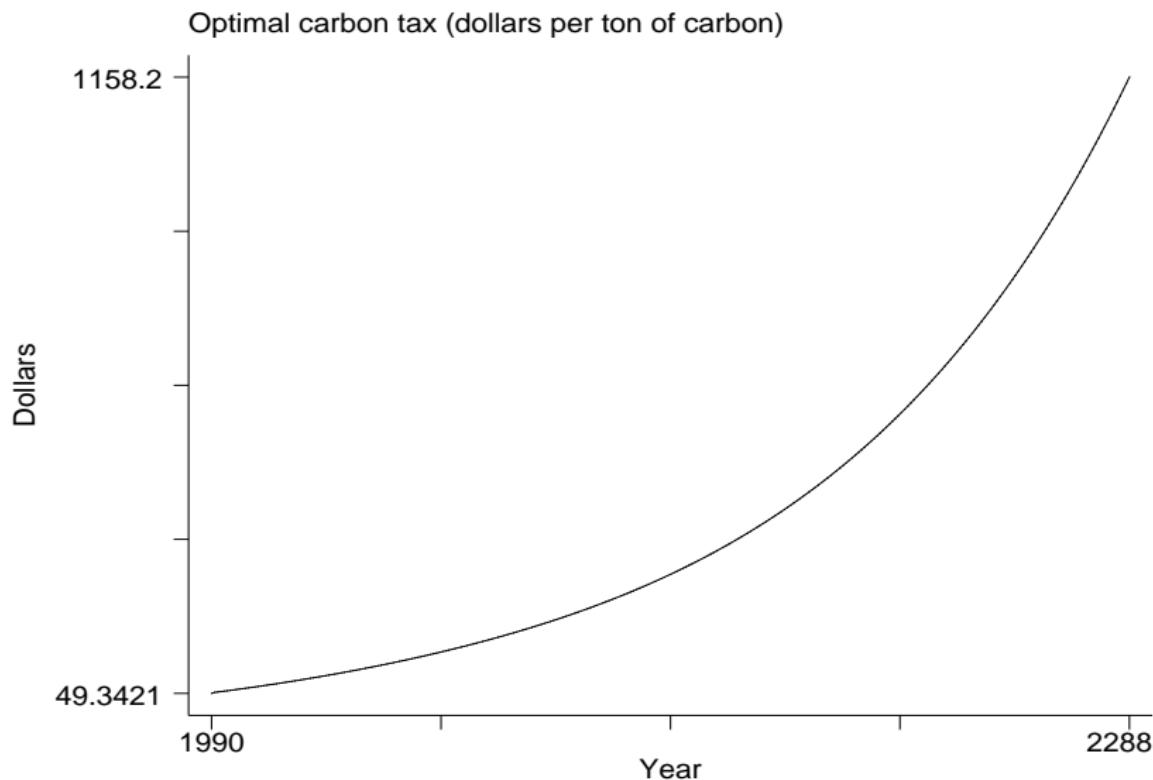
## Main findings

- ▶ Climate change affects regions very differently. Stakes big at regional level.
- ▶ Though a tax on carbon would affect welfare positively in some average sense, there is a large disparity of views across regions (56% of regions gain, while 44% lose).
- ▶ Findings are very close for two extreme market structures (autarky and international capital markets).

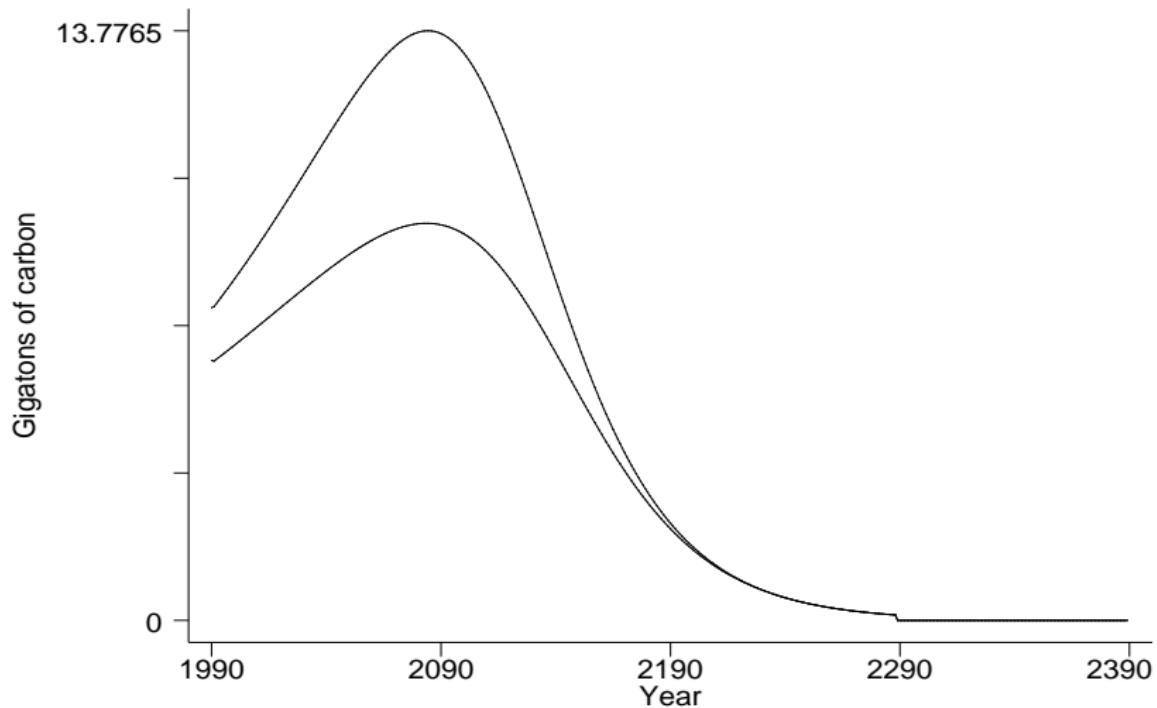
behavior of aggregates over time

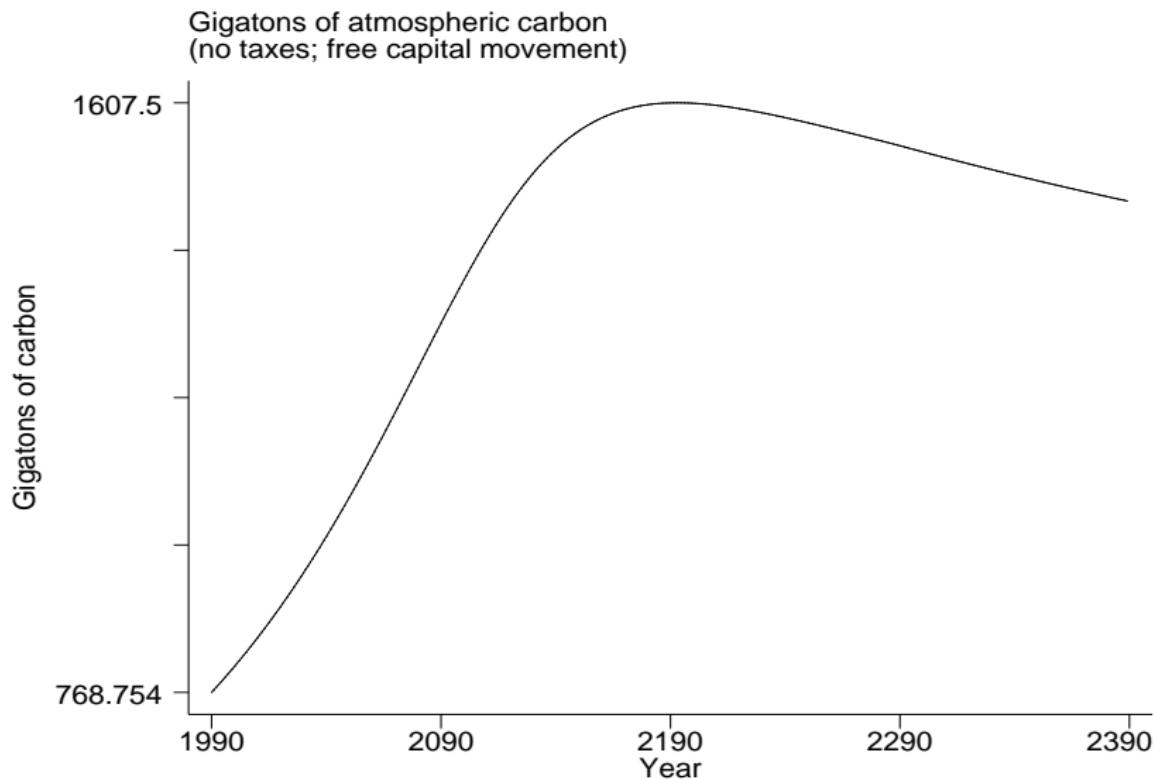
Global emissions of atmospheric carbon (in gigatons)  
(no taxes; free capital movement)

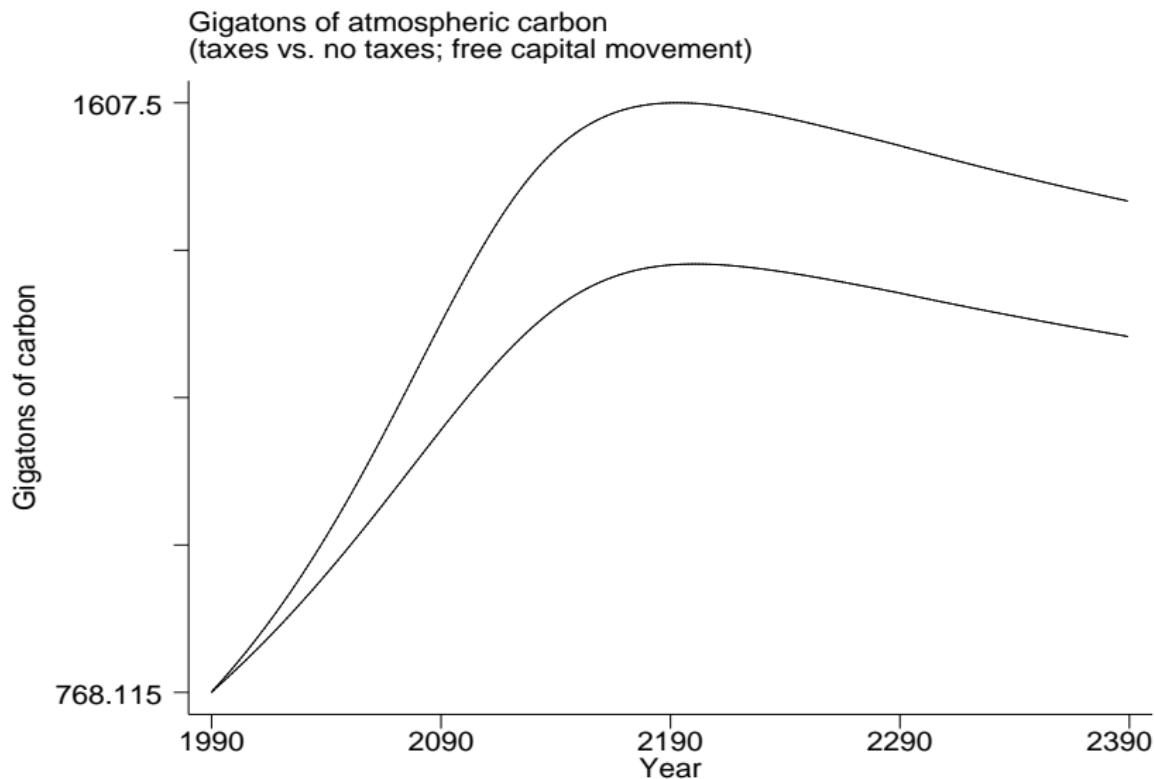


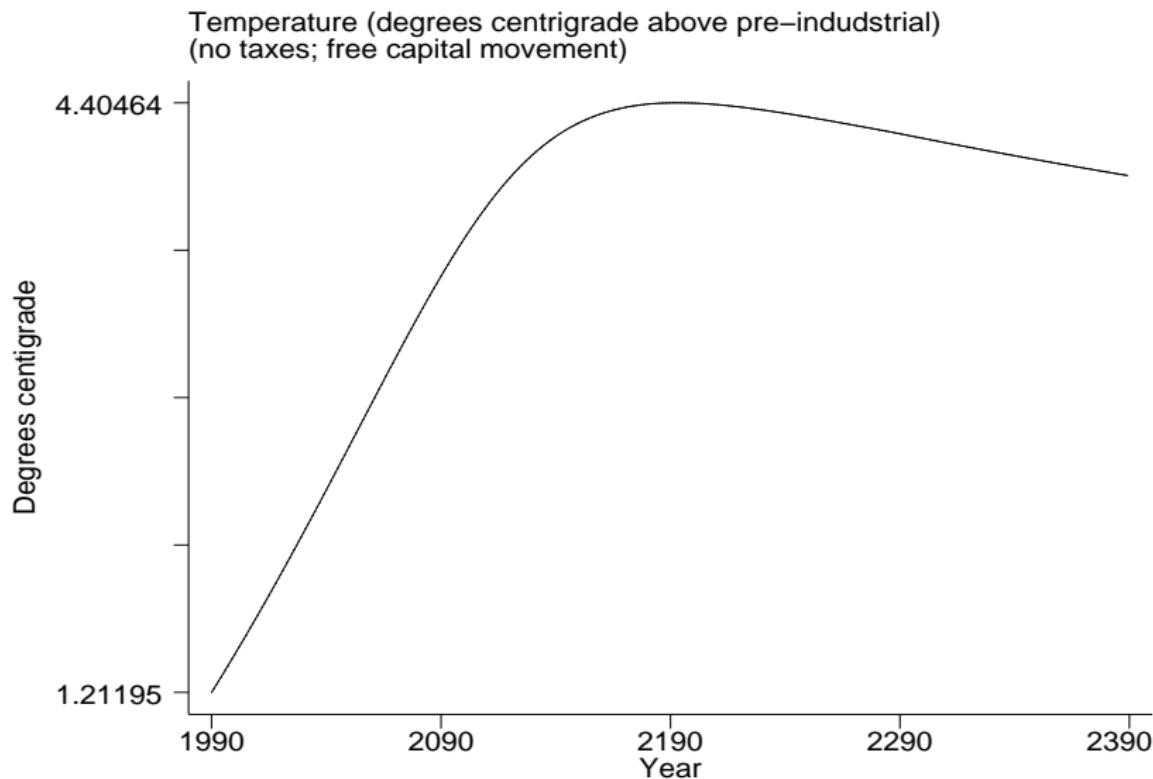


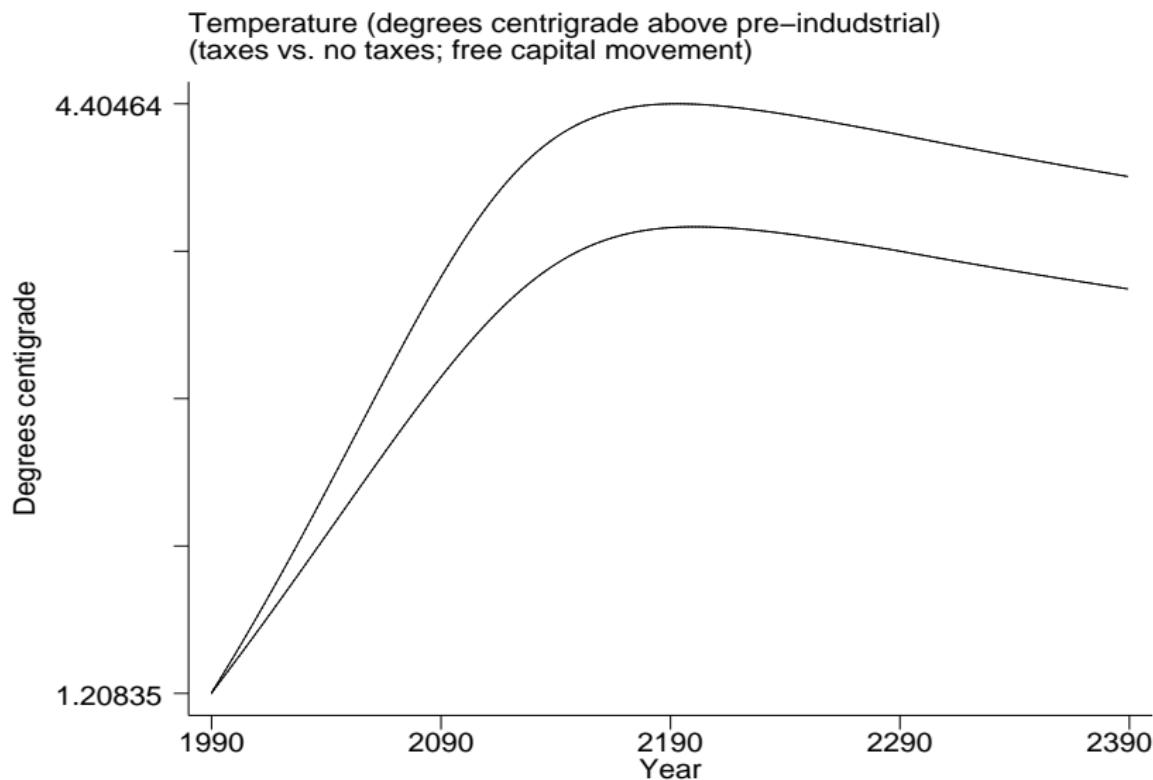
Global emissions of atmospheric carbon (in gigatons)  
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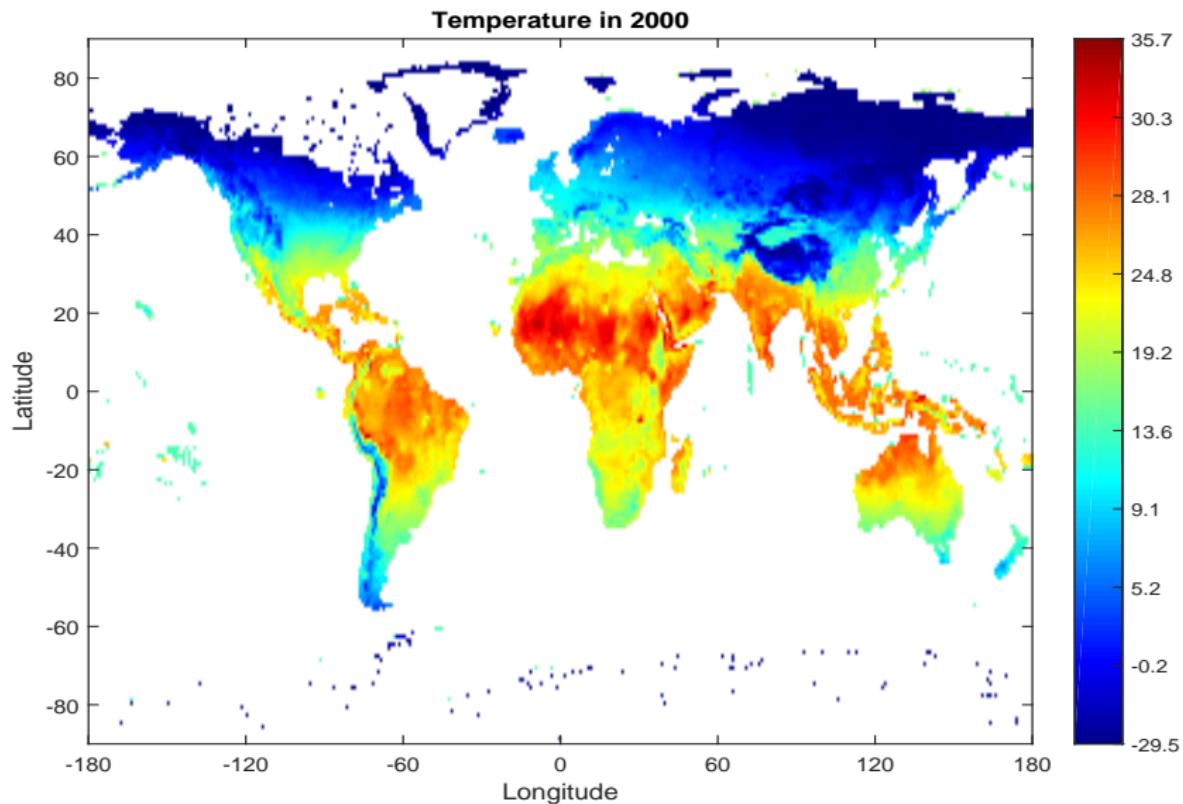


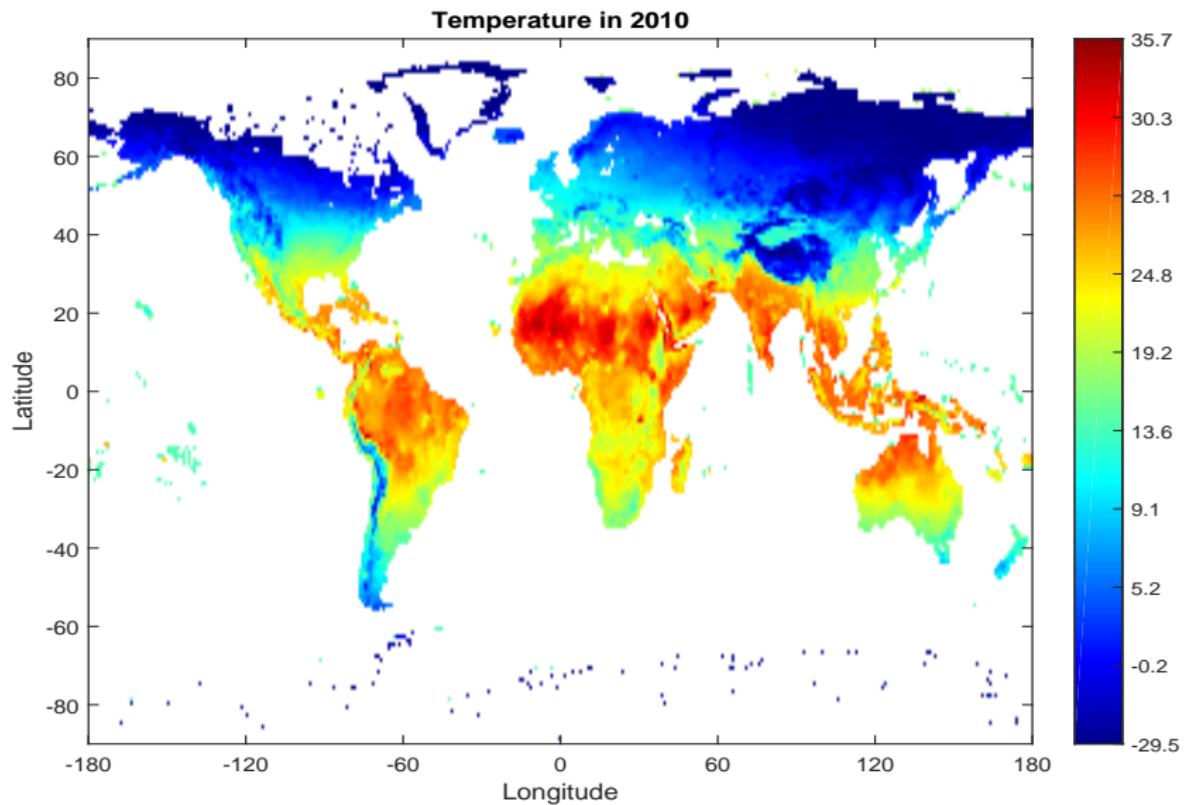


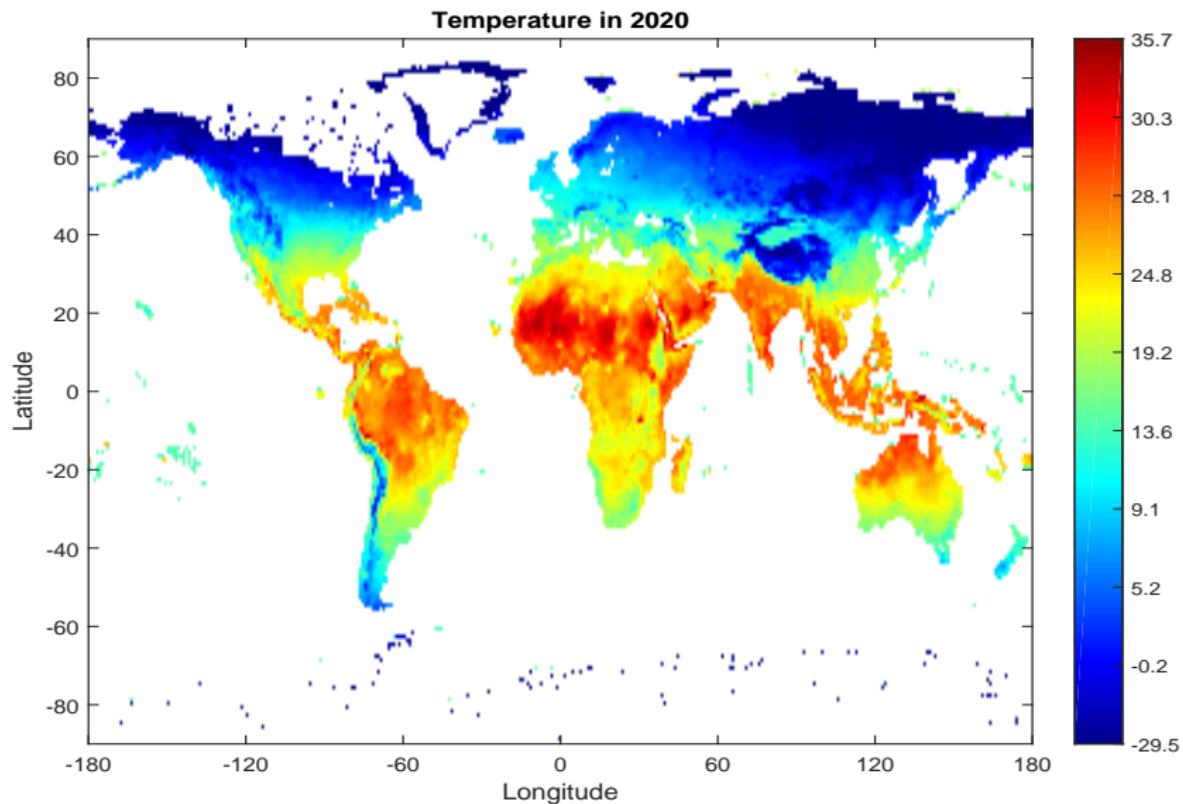


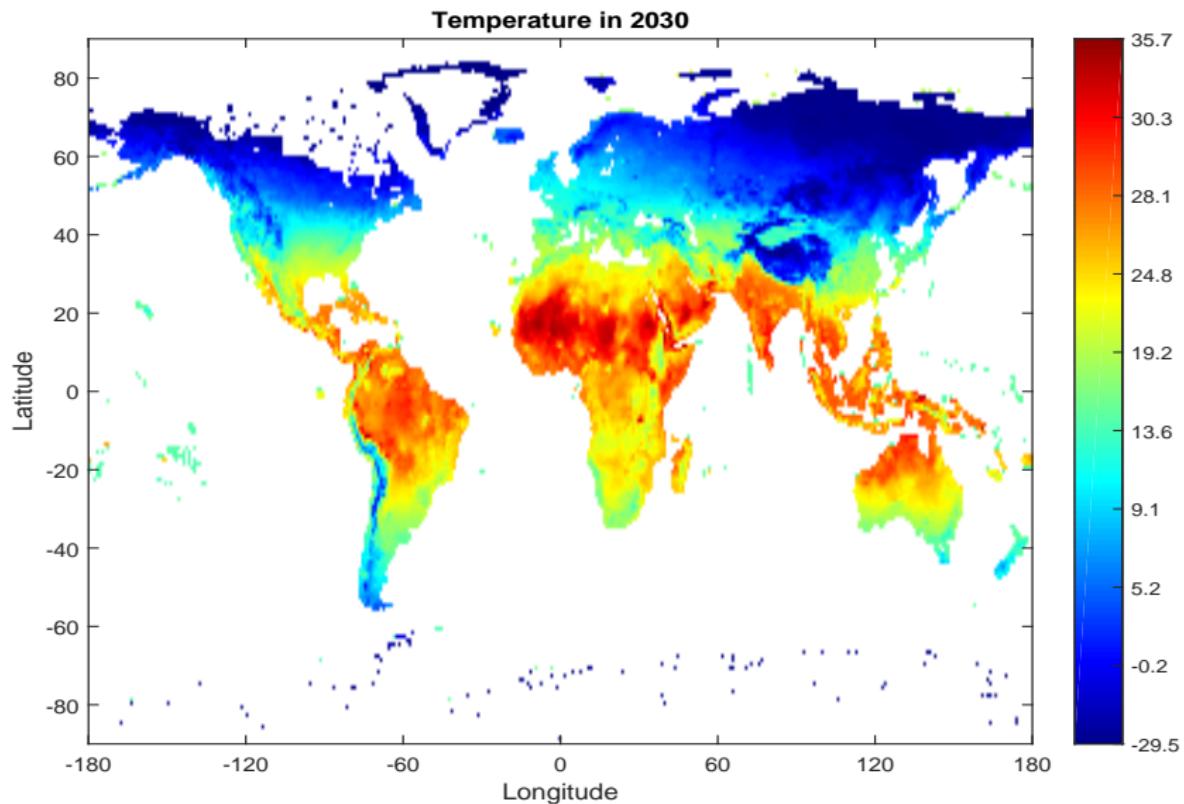
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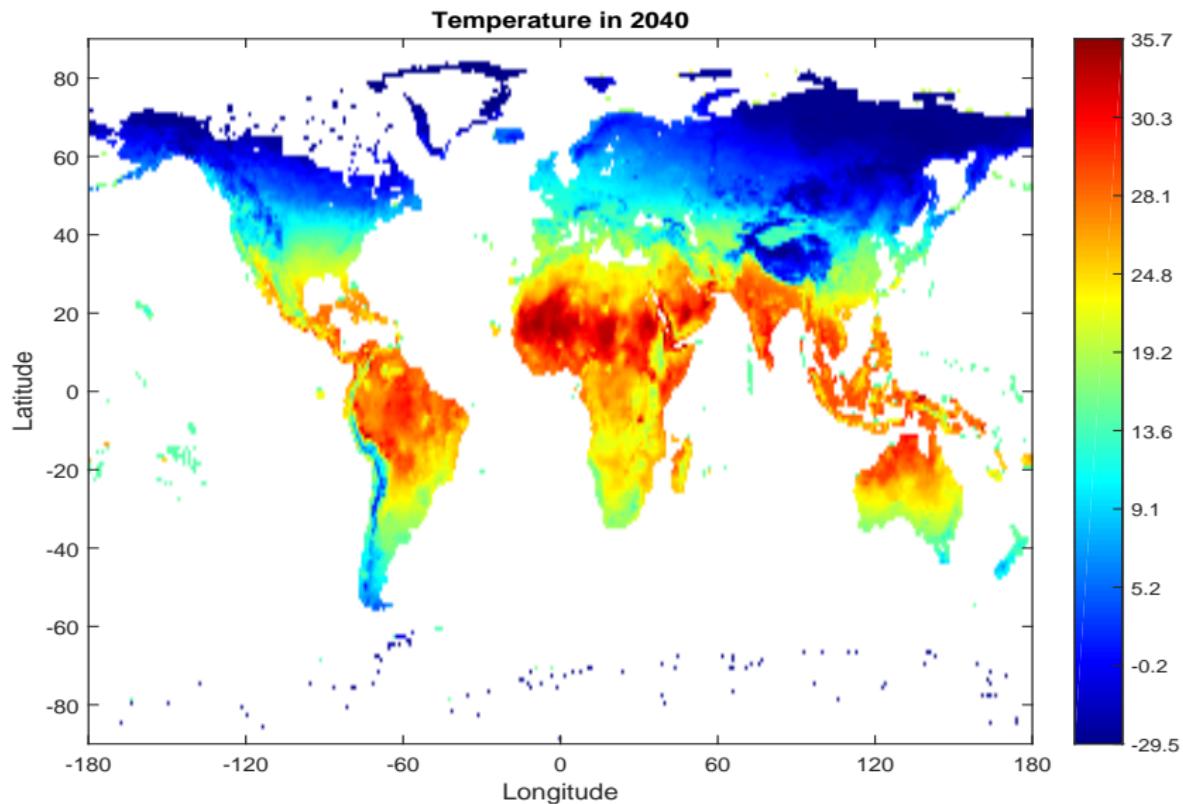
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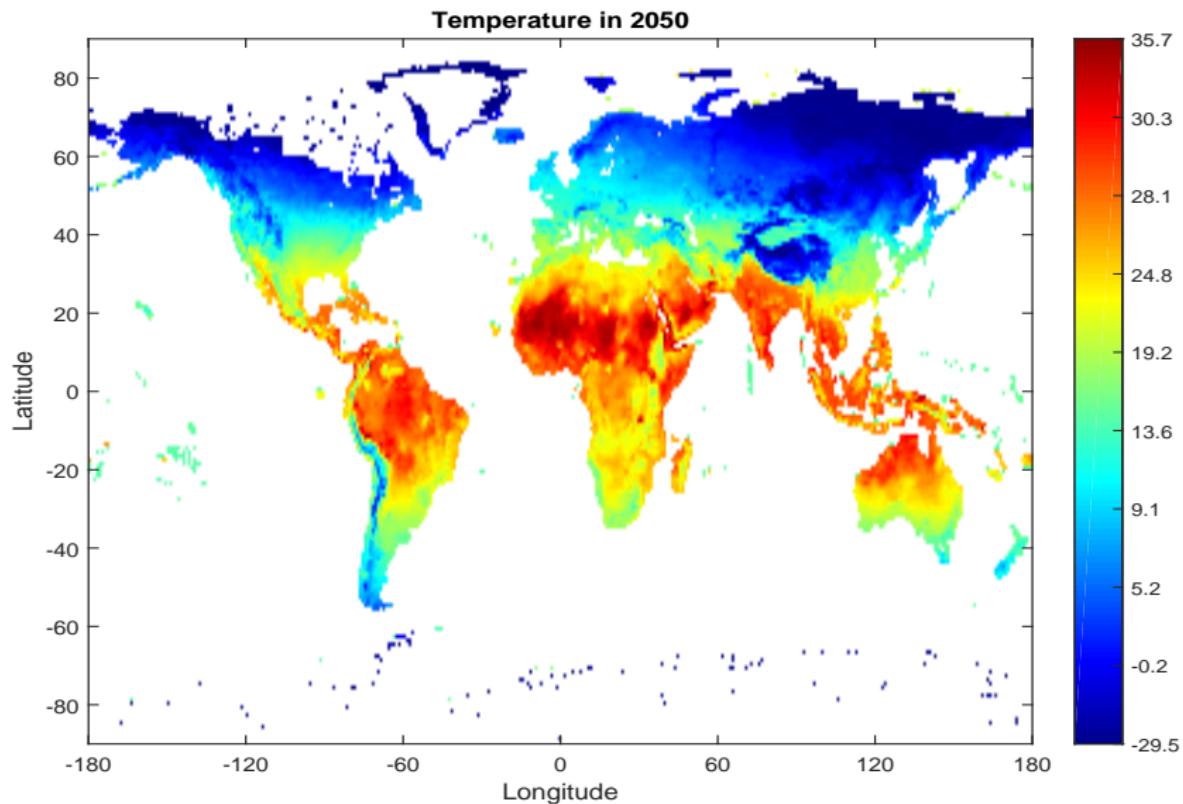


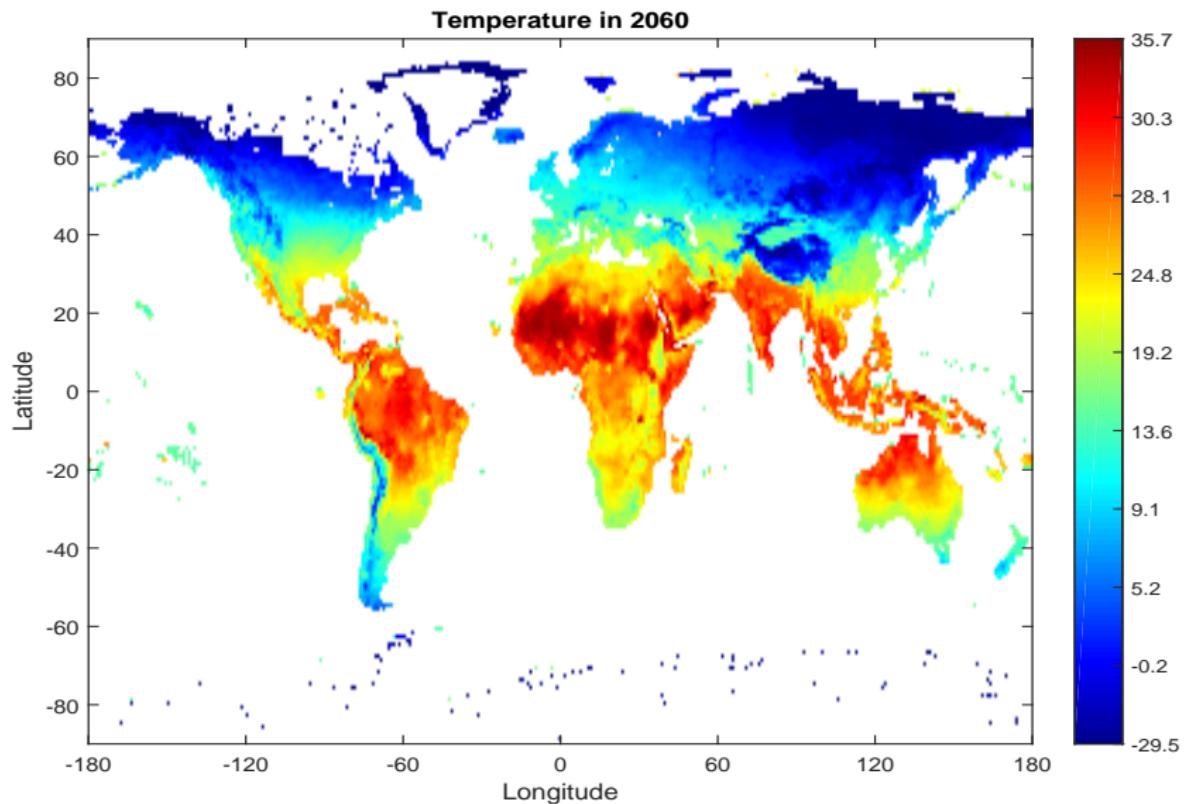


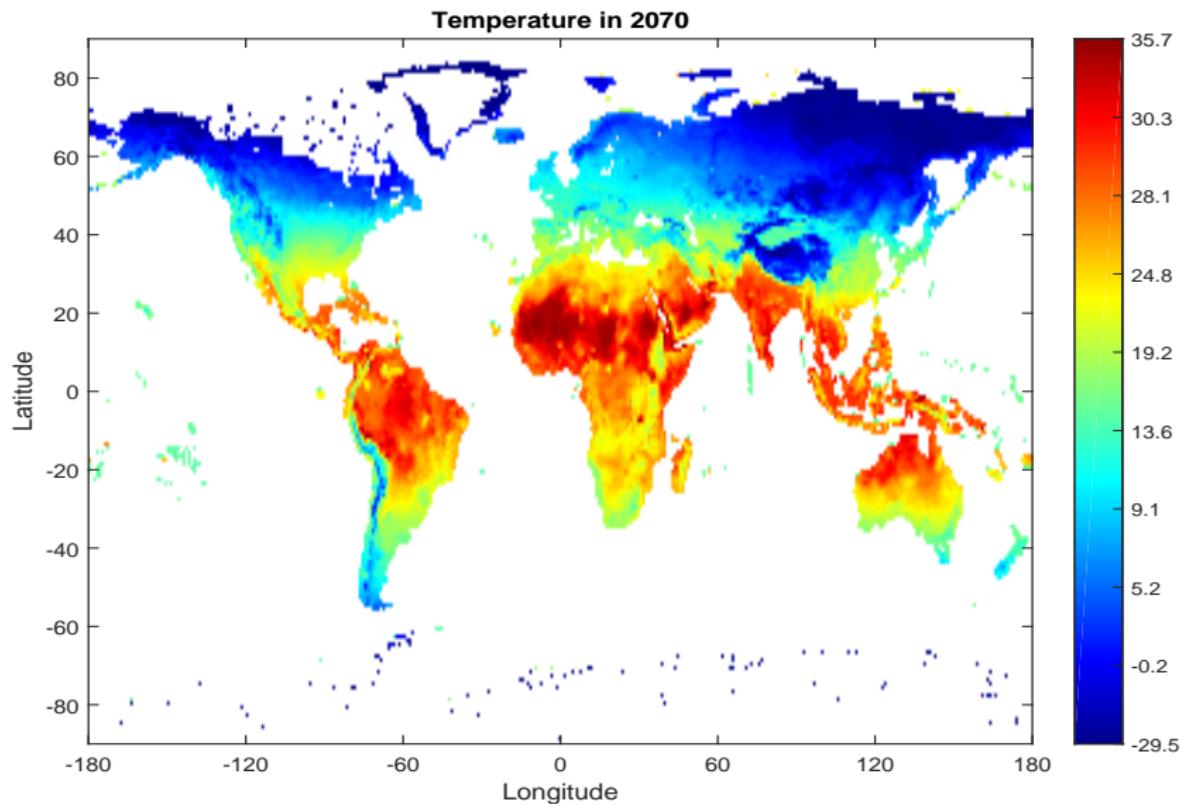


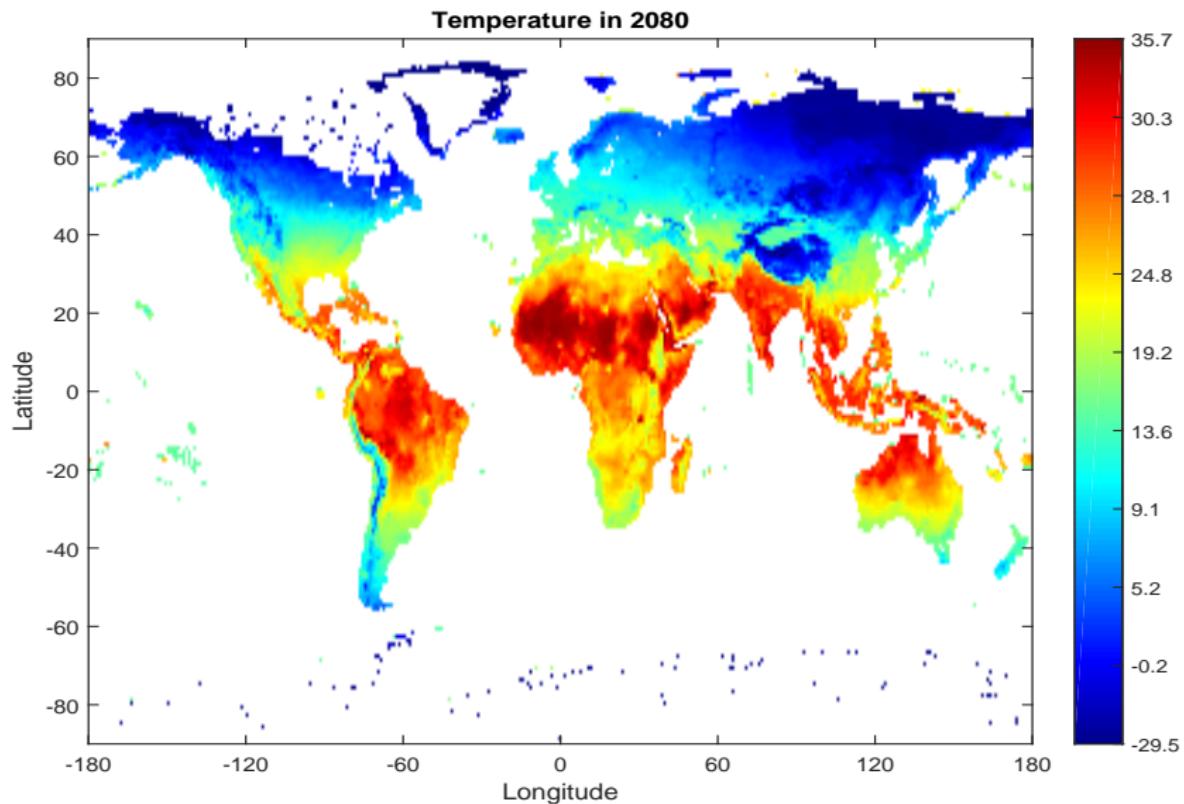


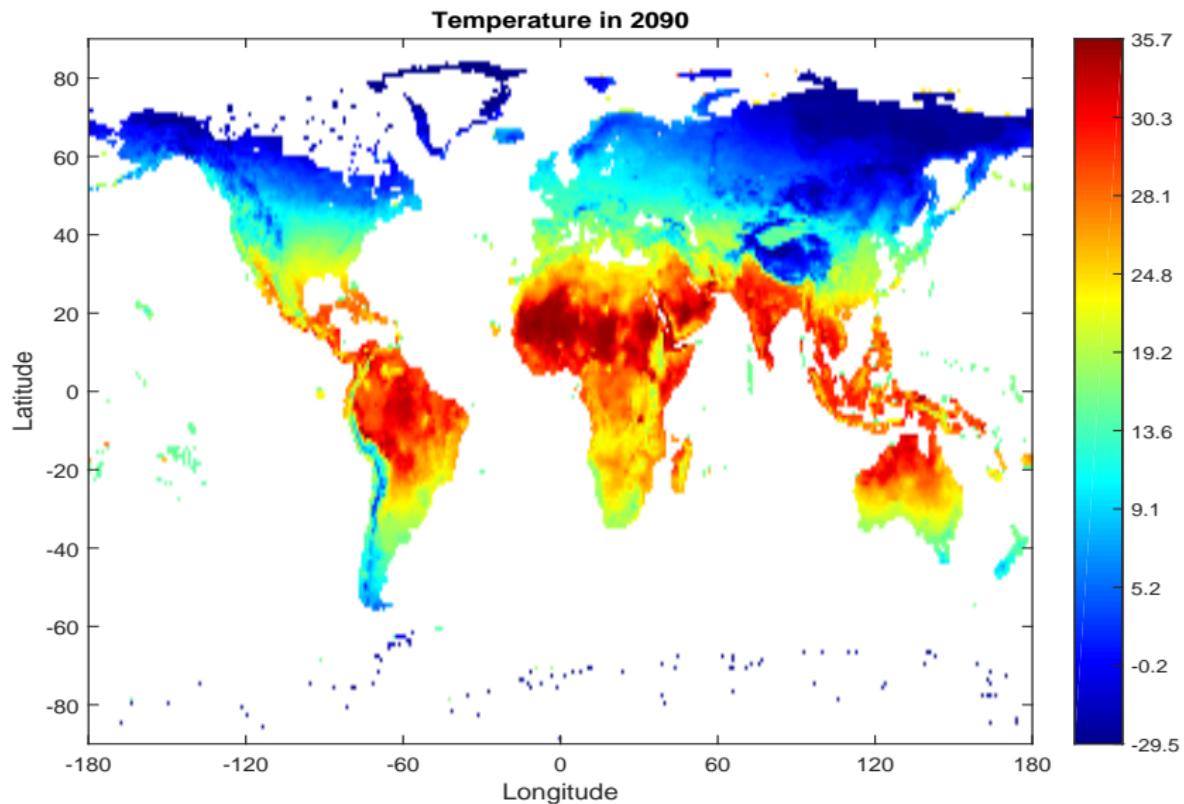


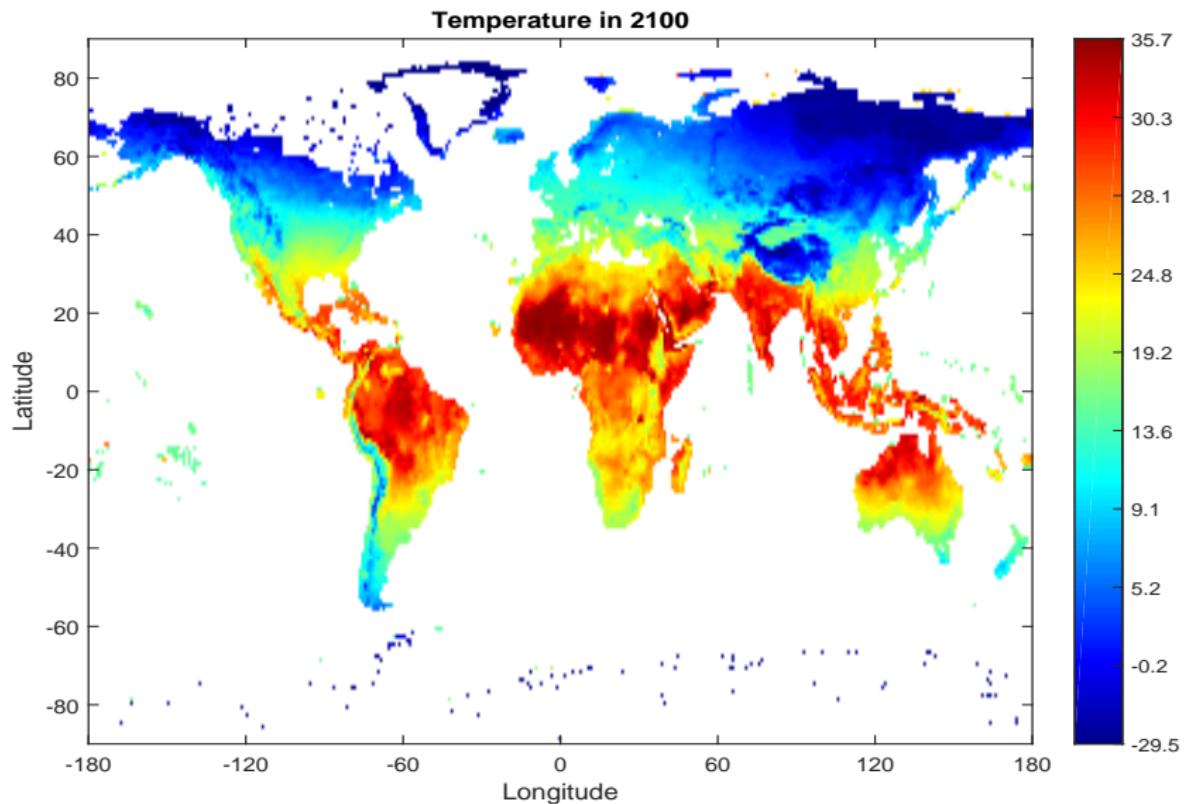


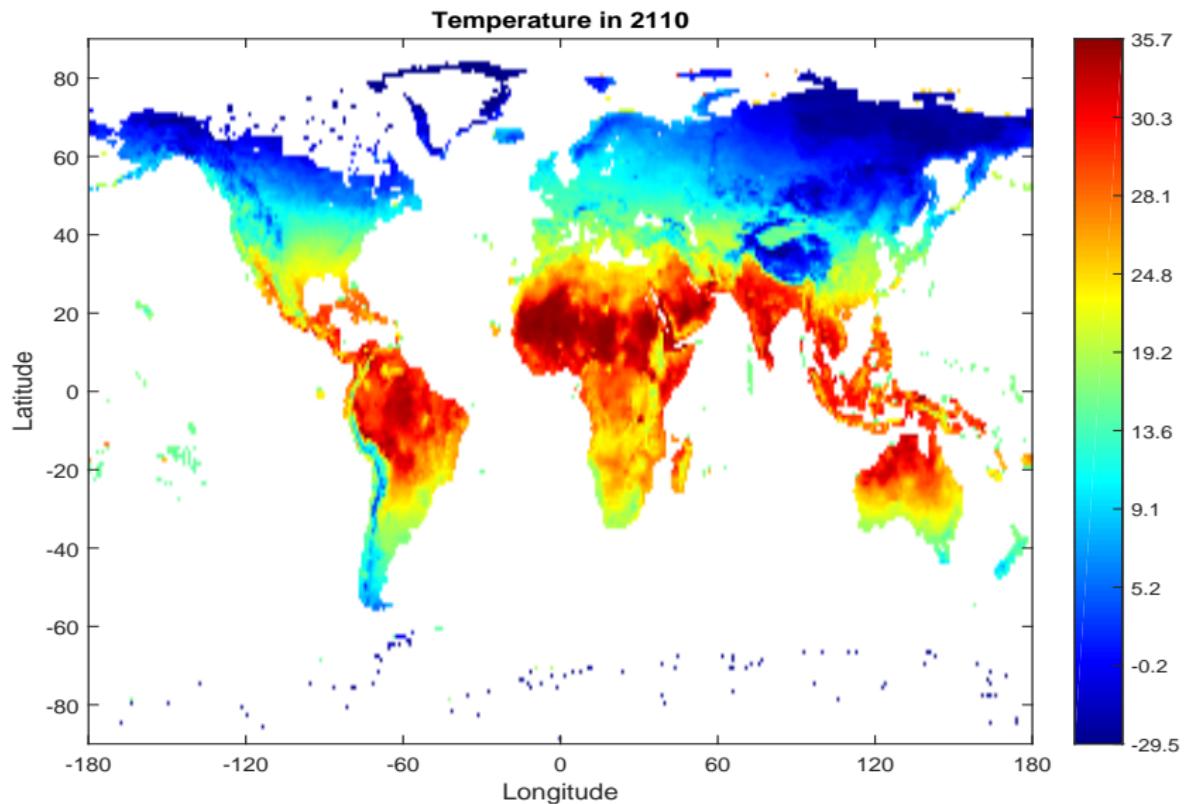


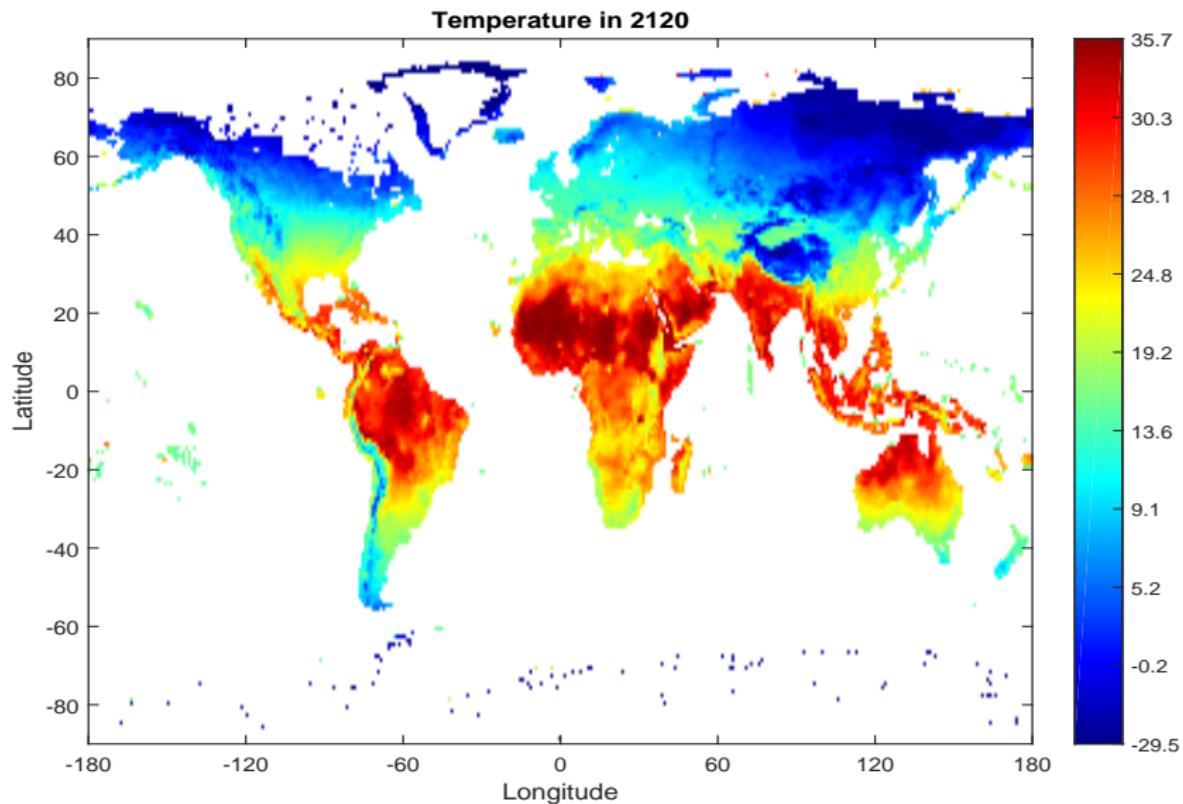


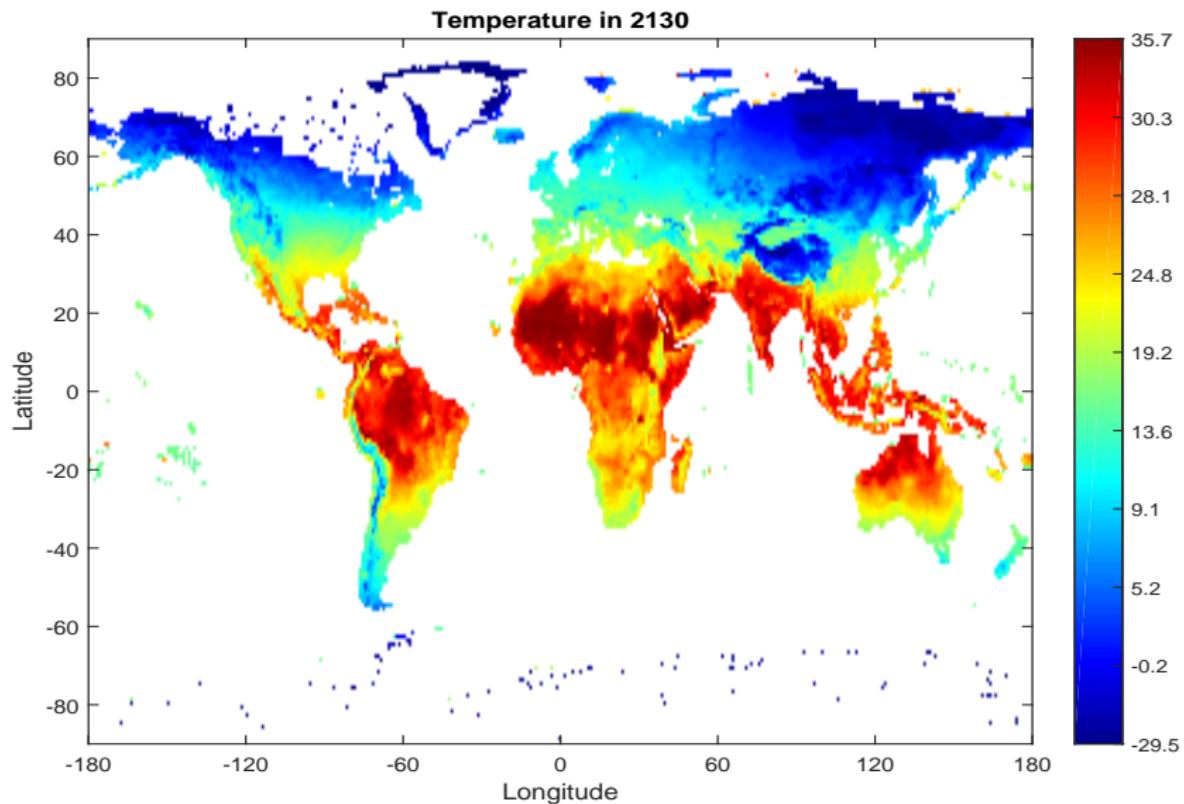


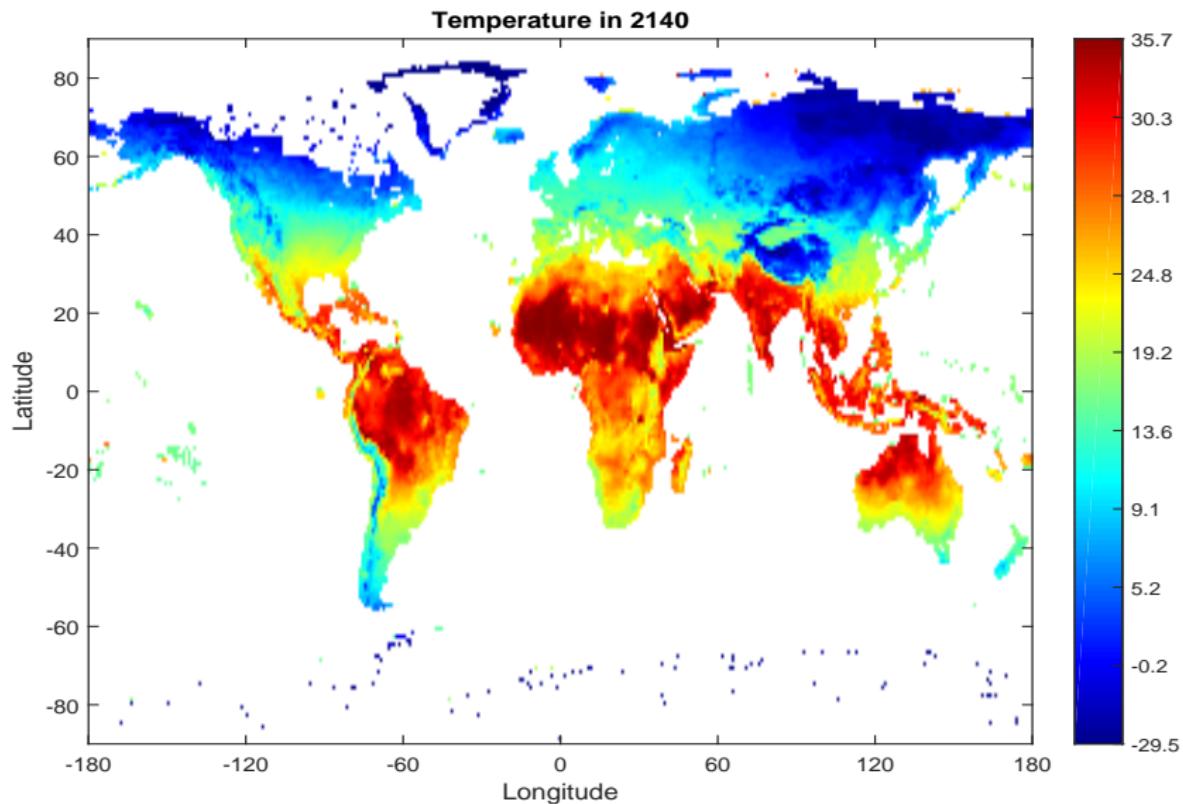


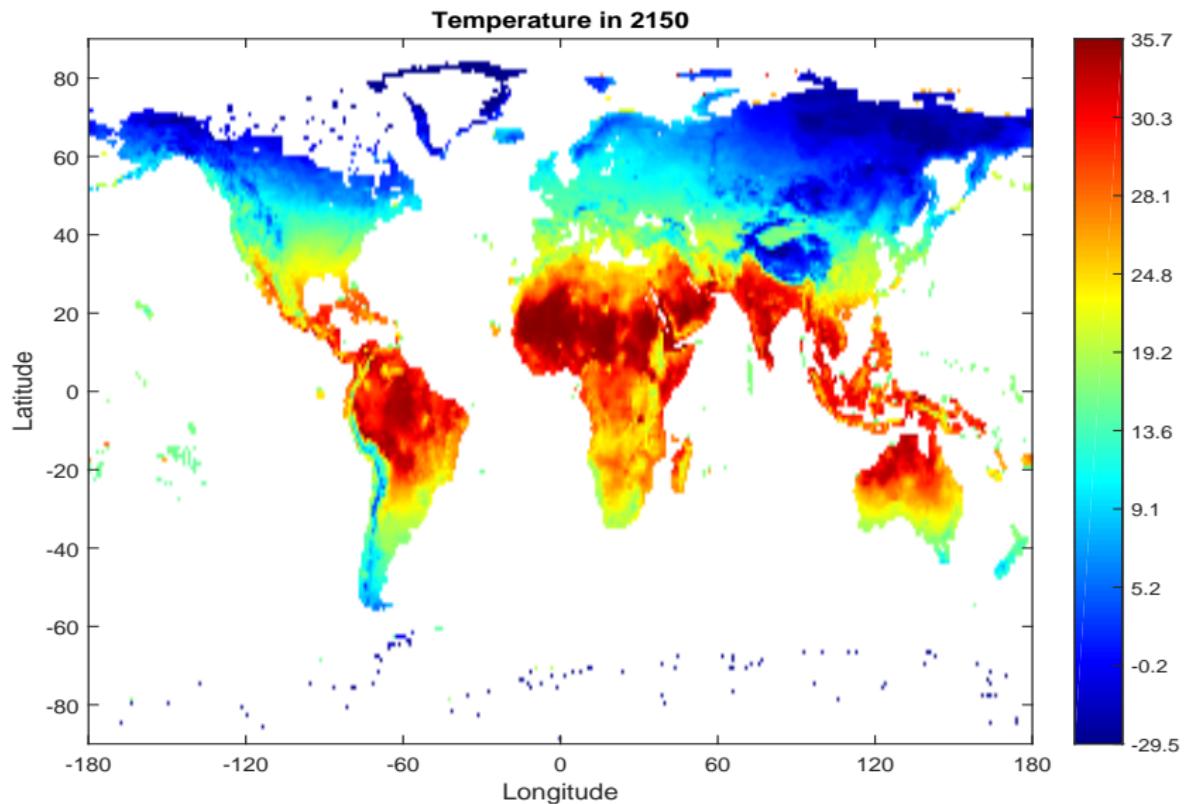


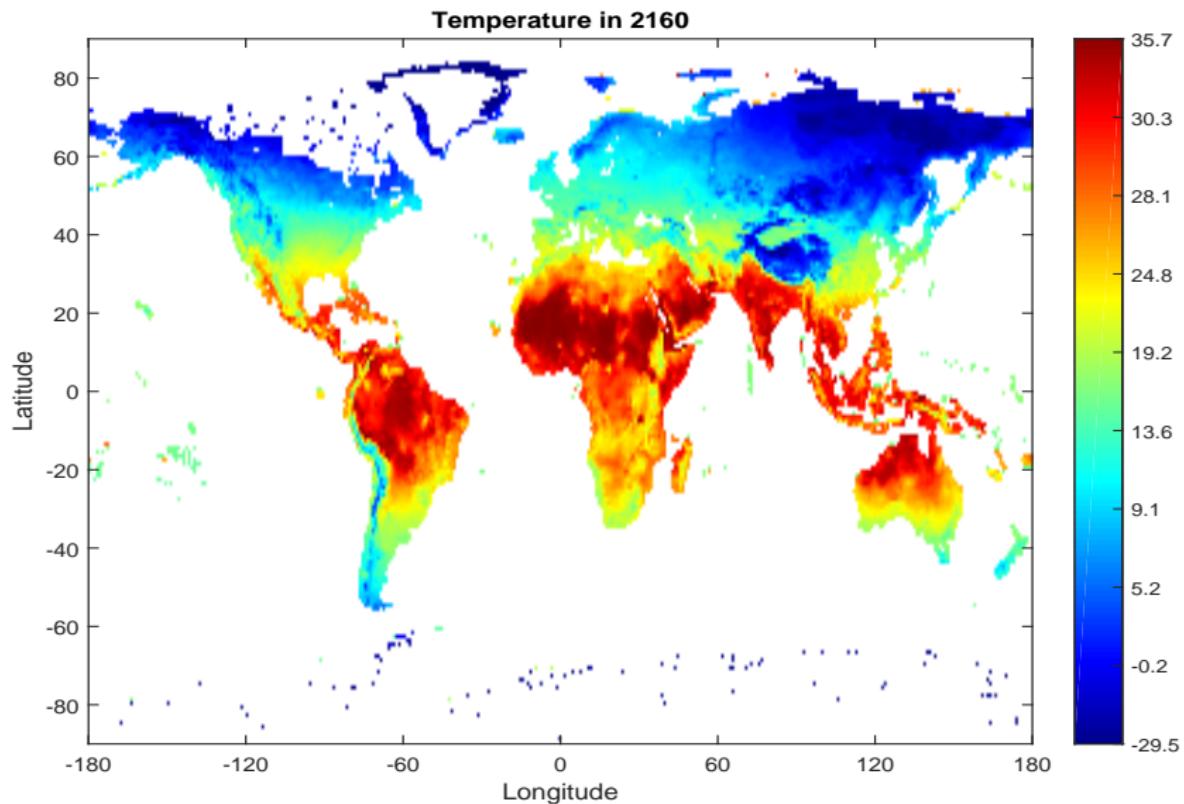


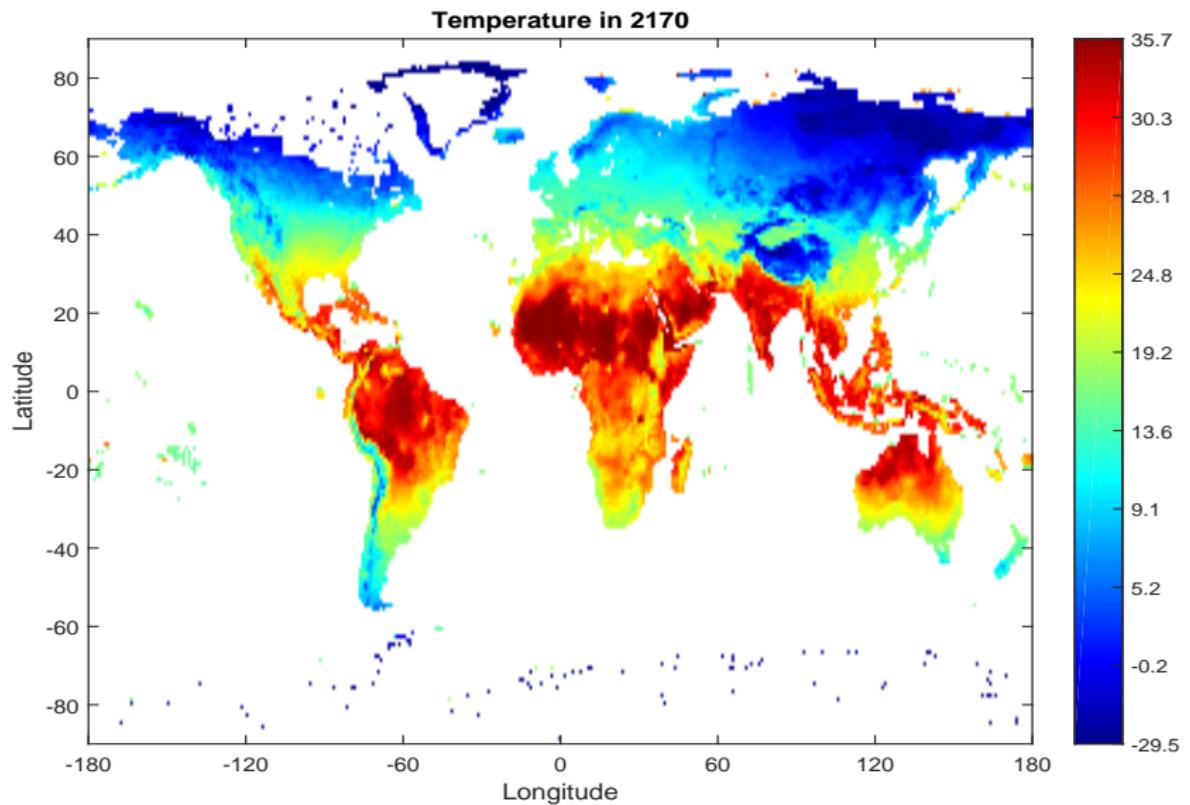


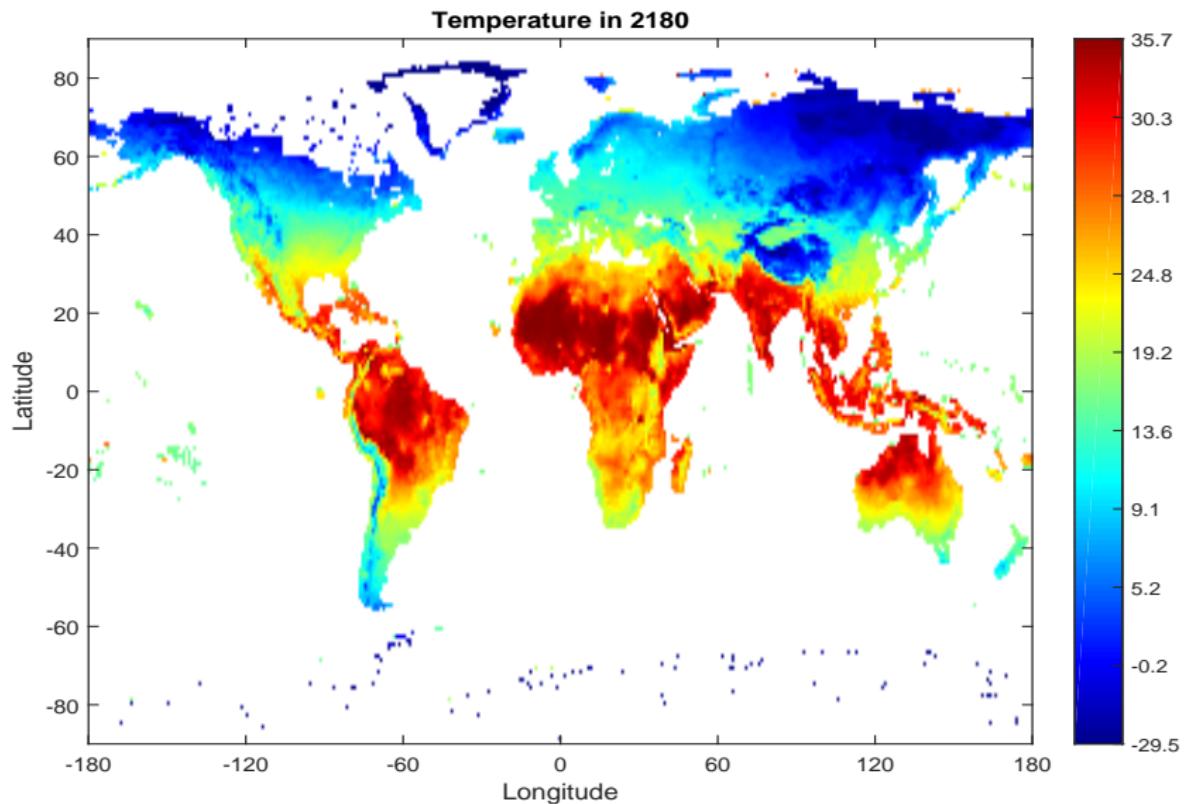


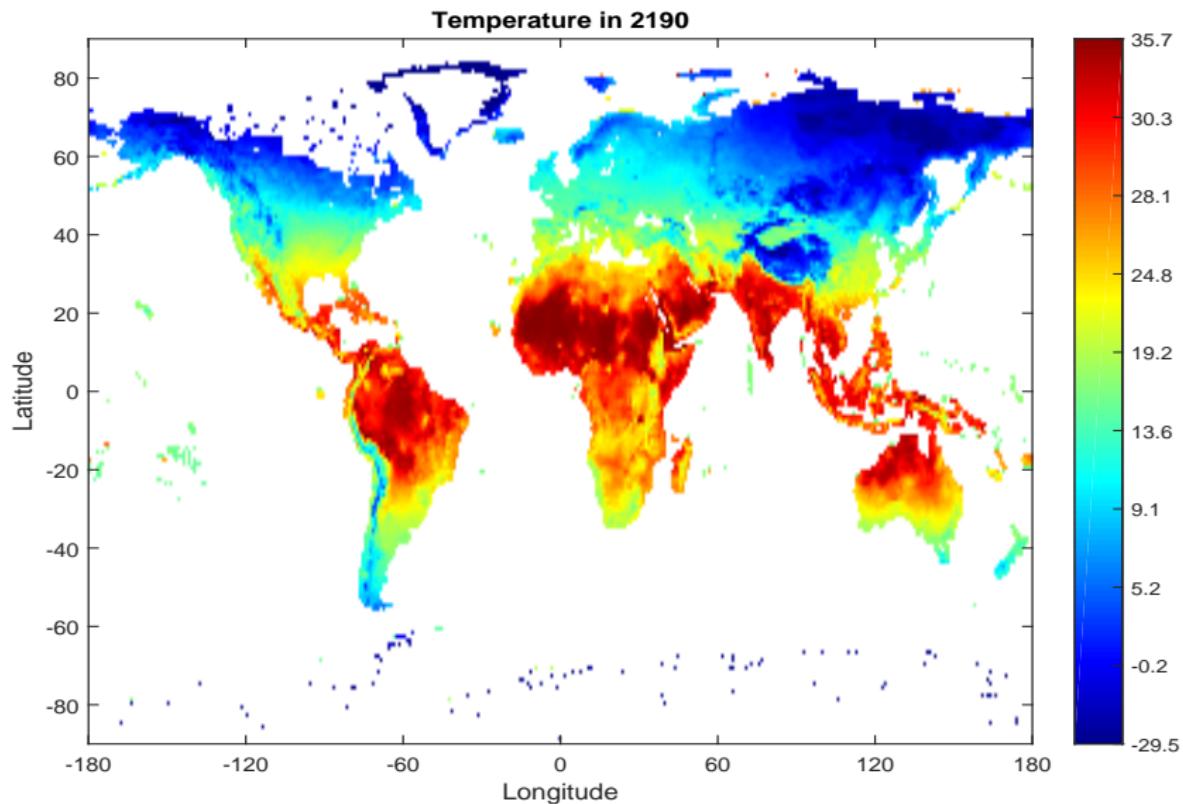


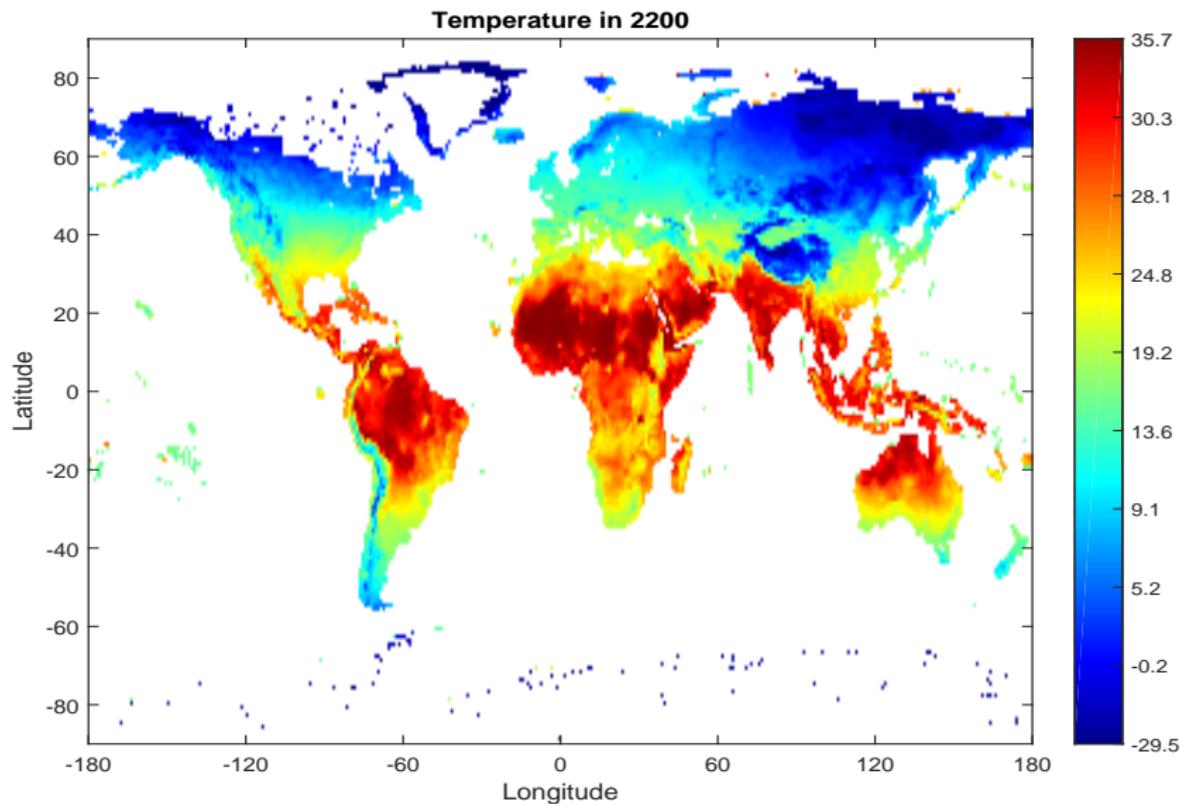










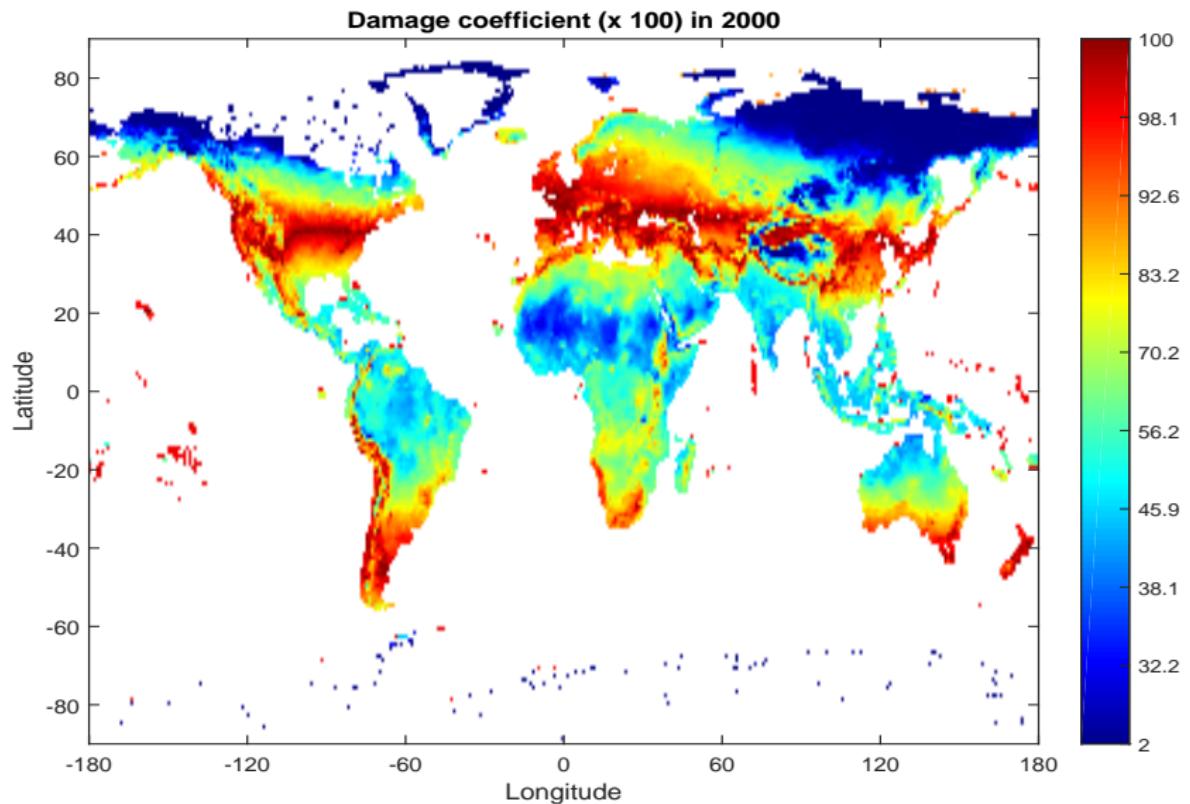


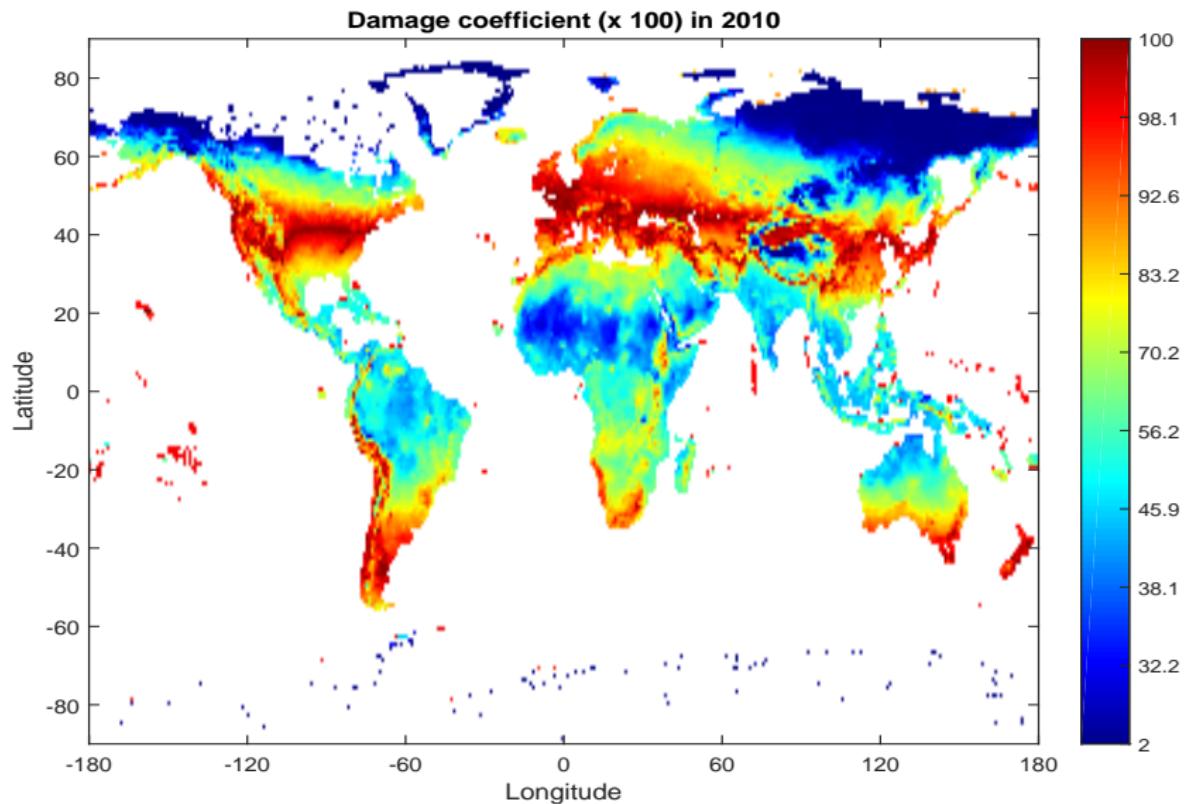
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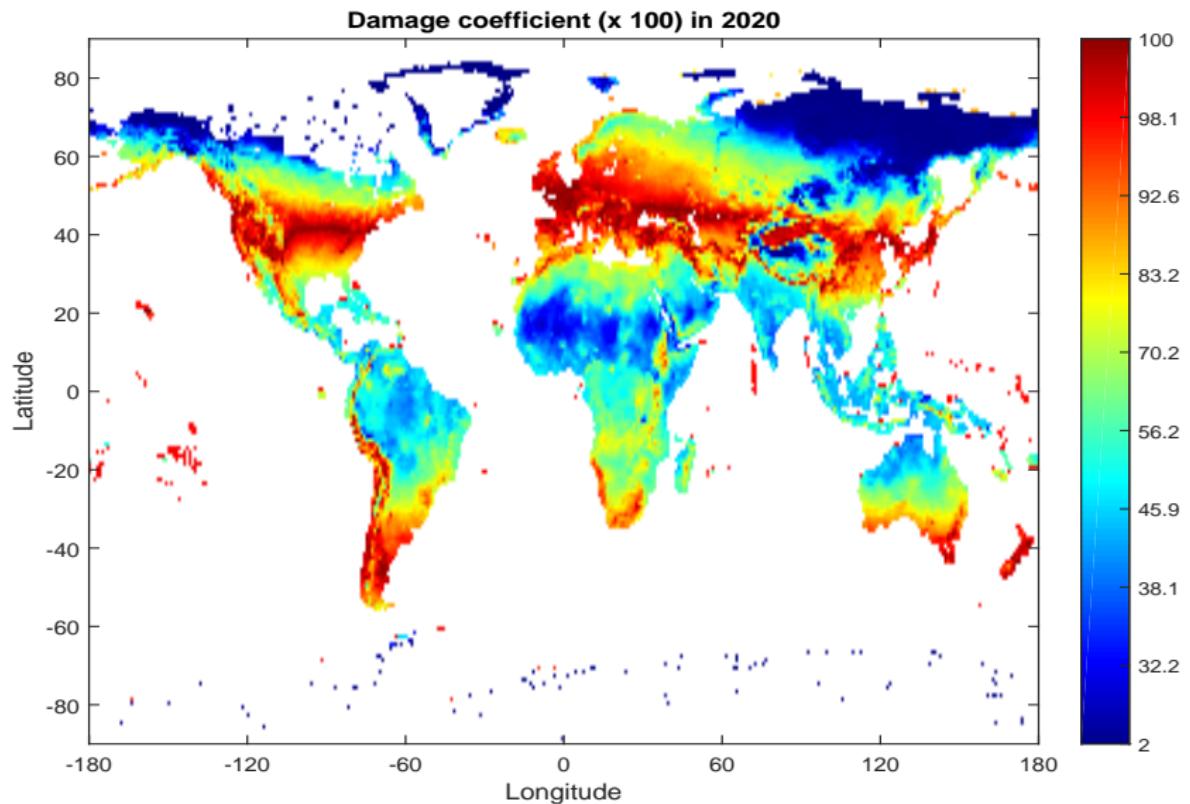
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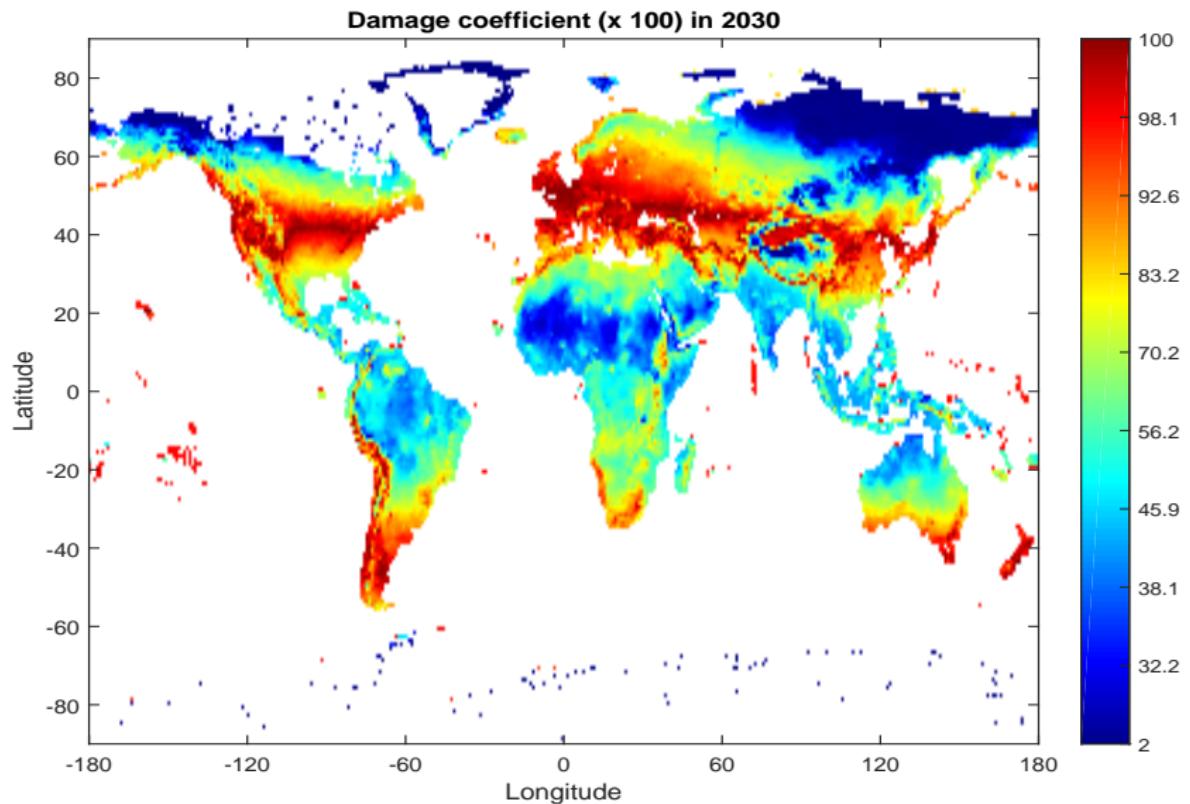
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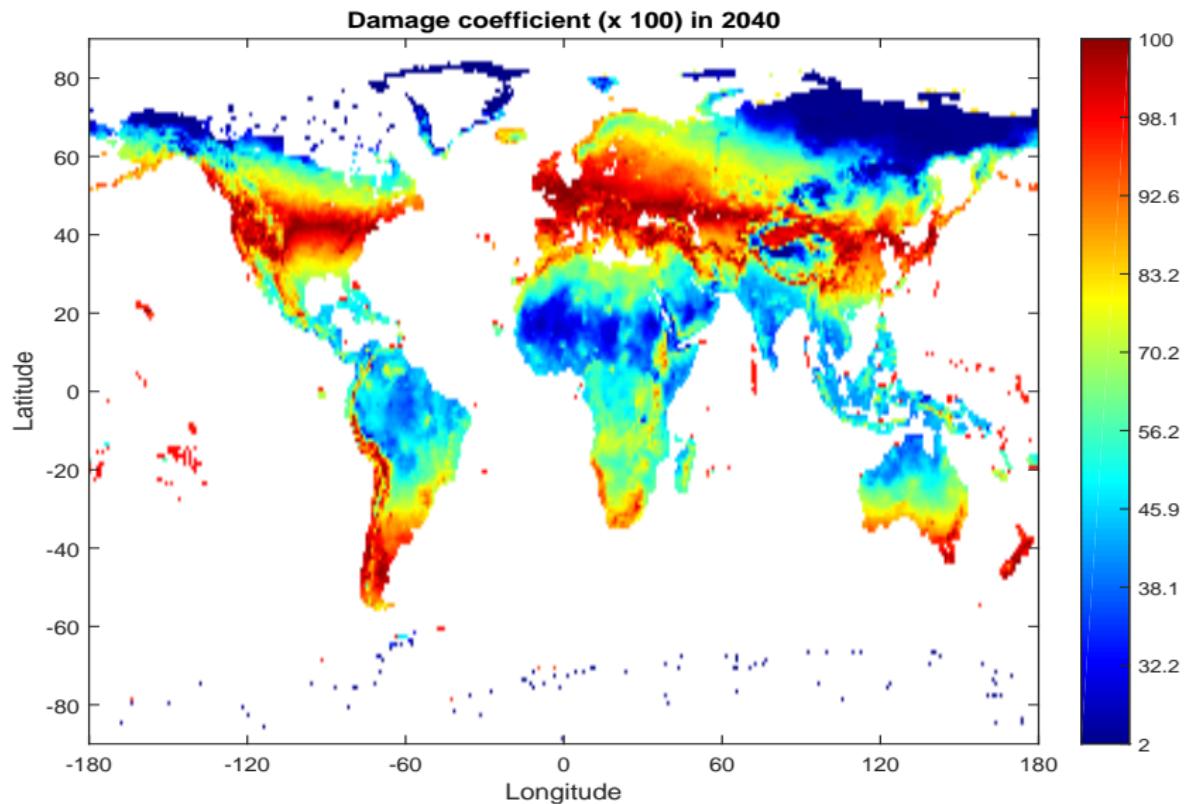
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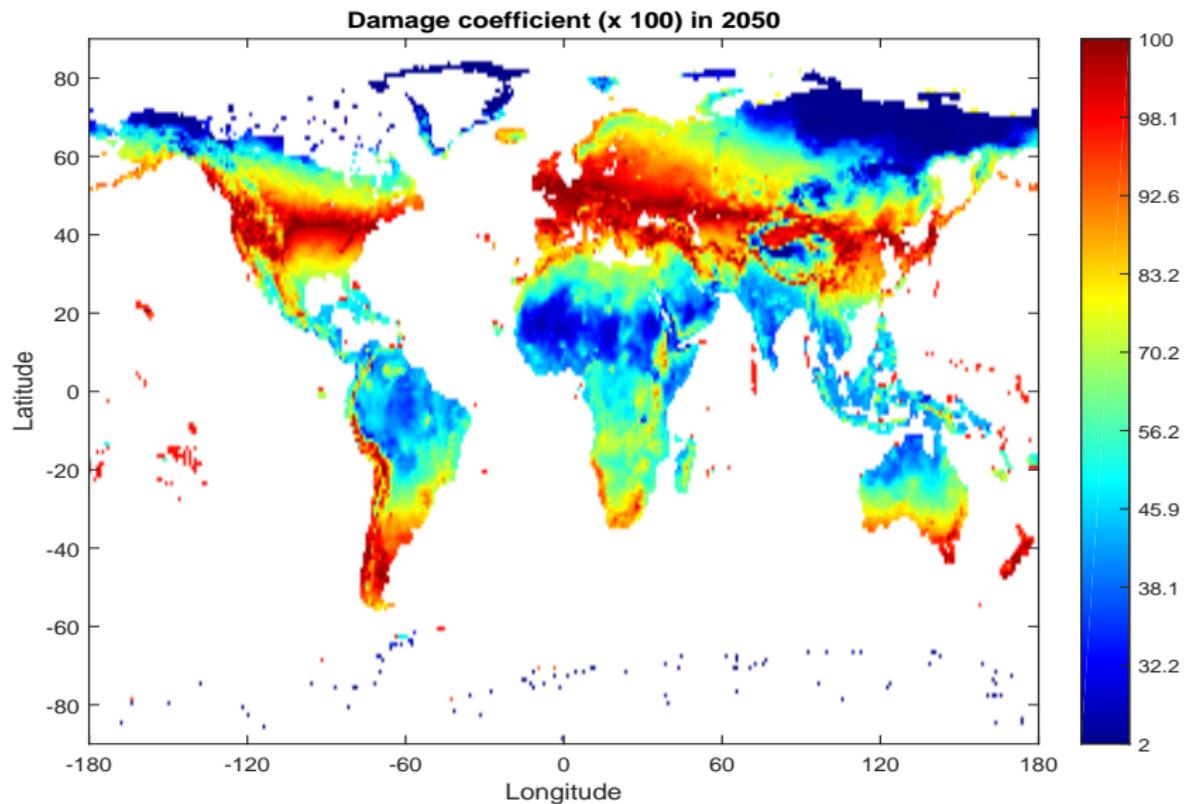


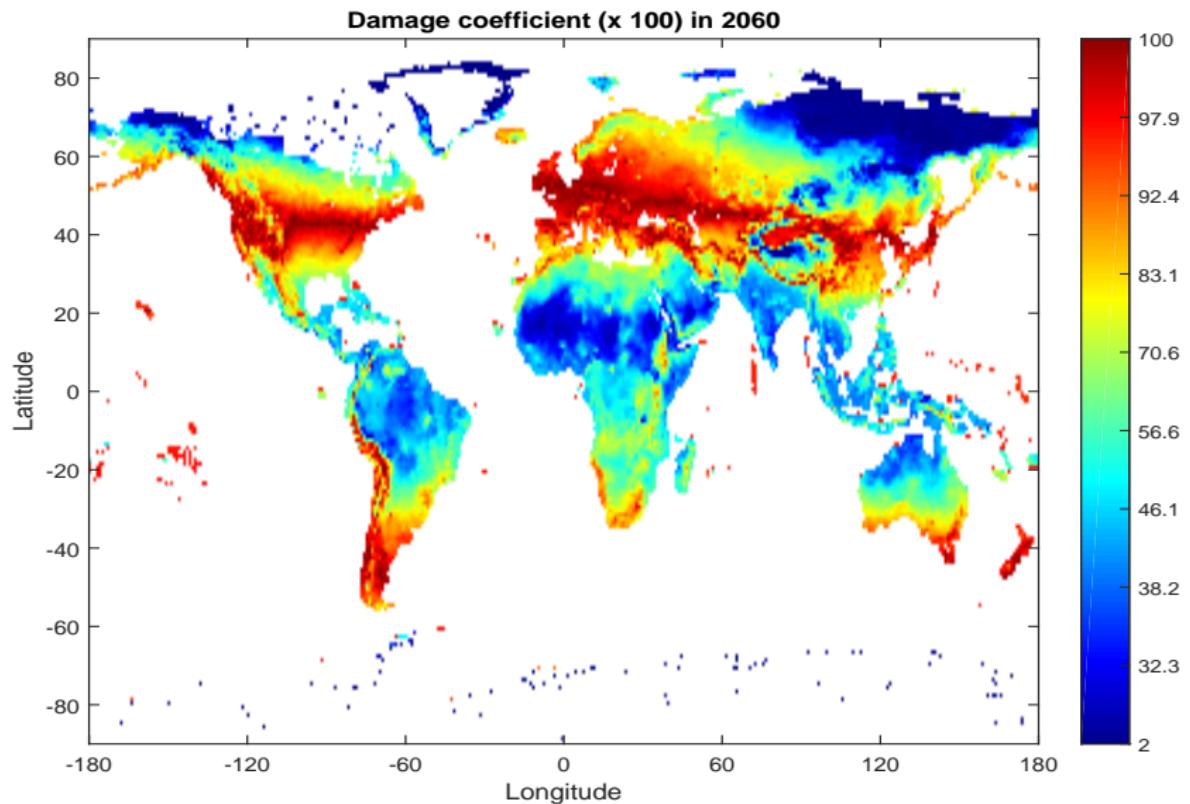


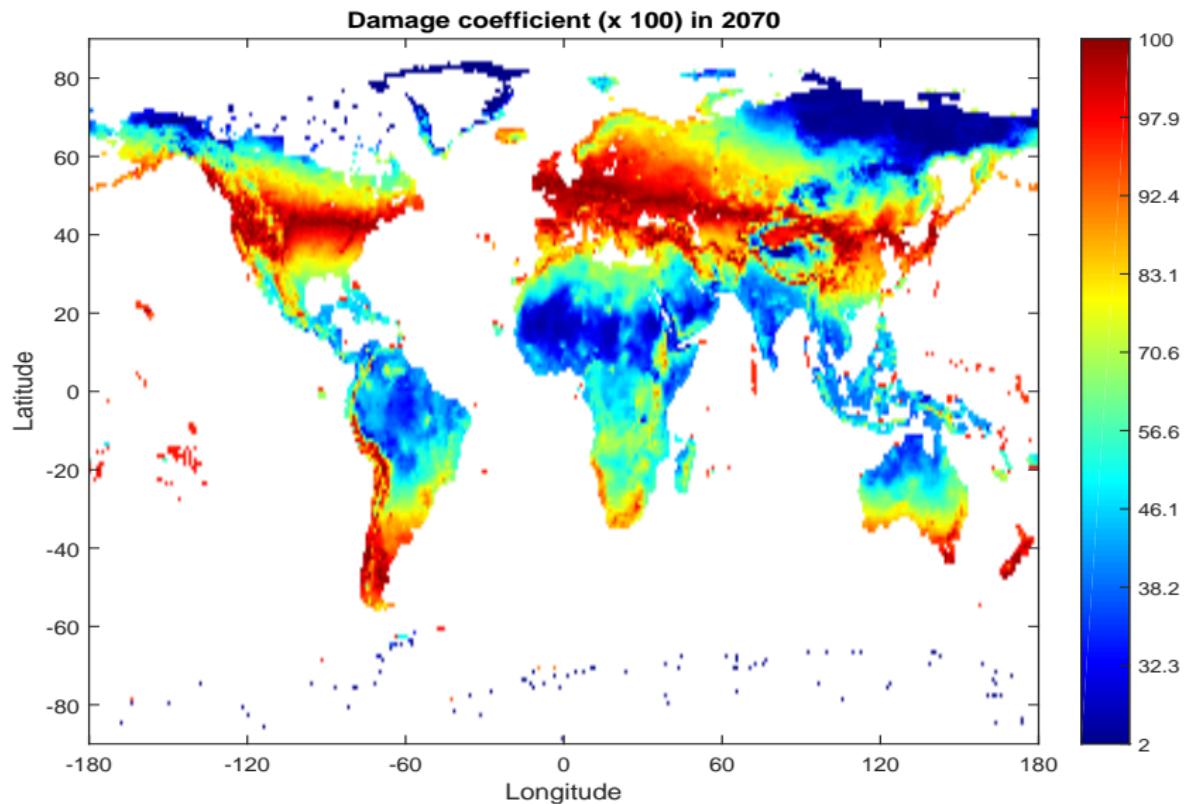


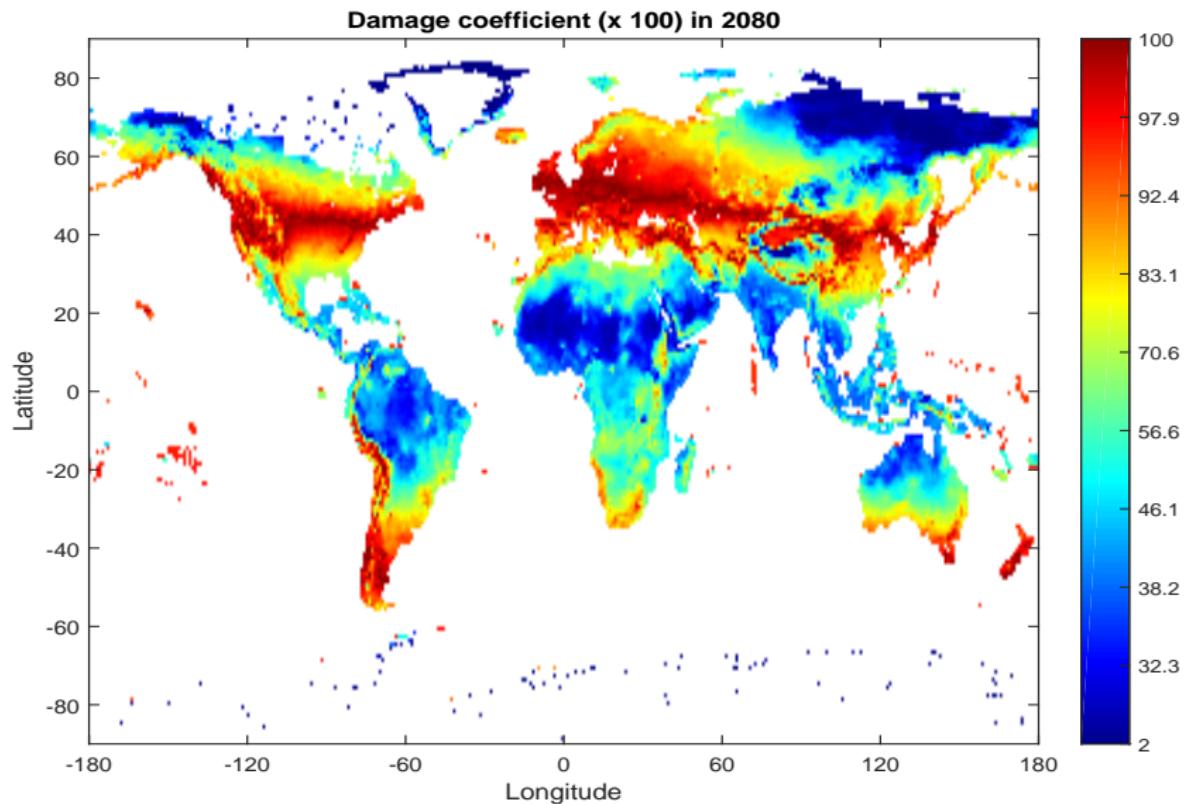


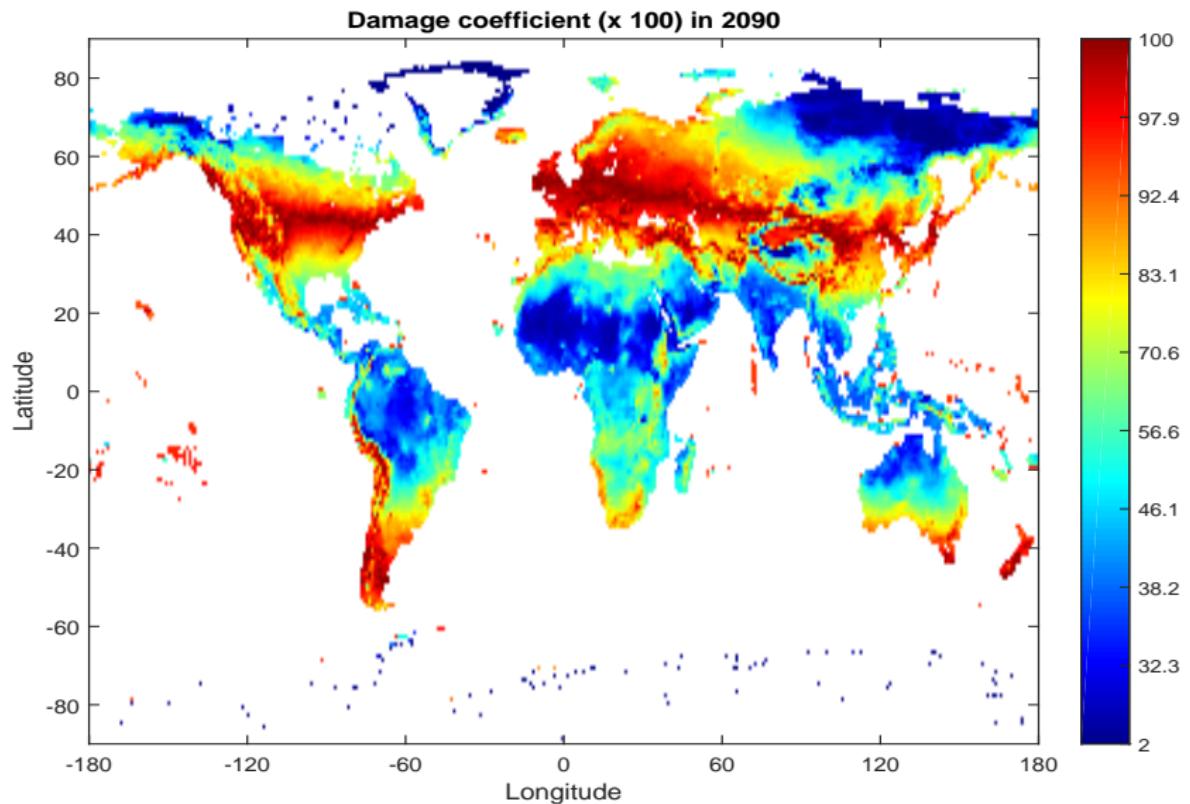


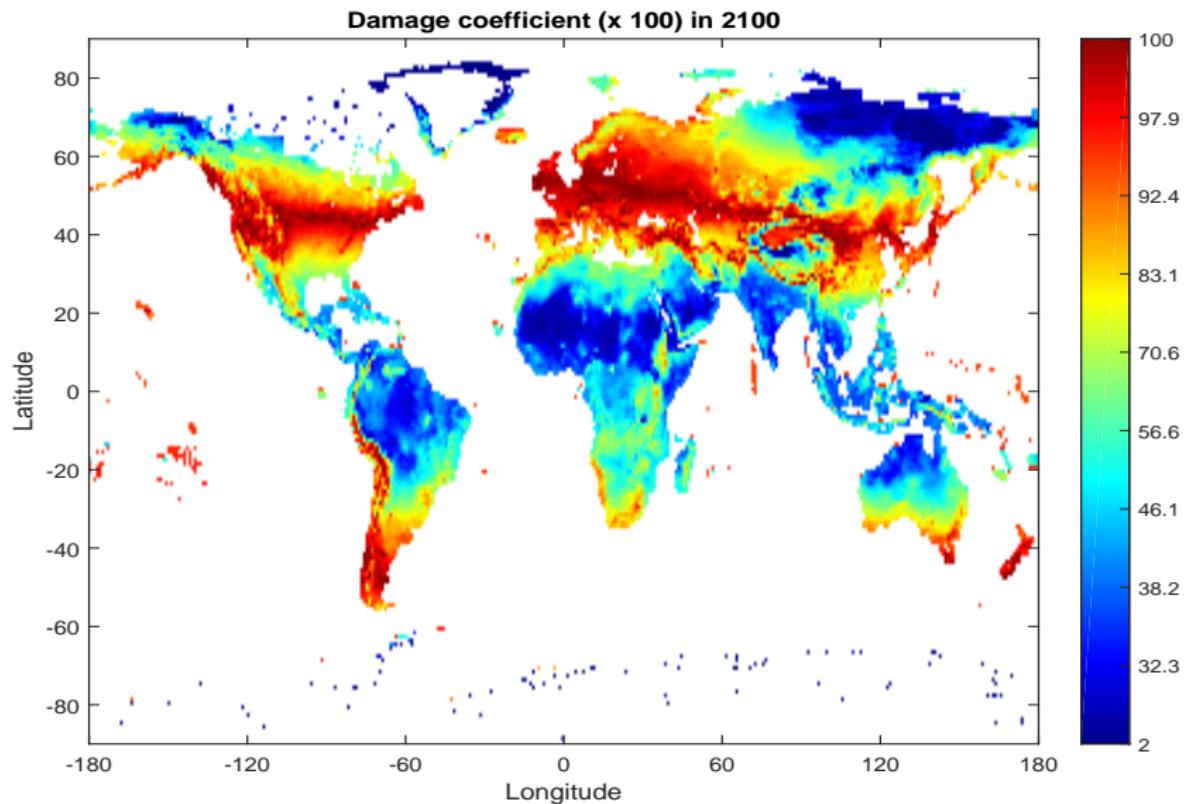


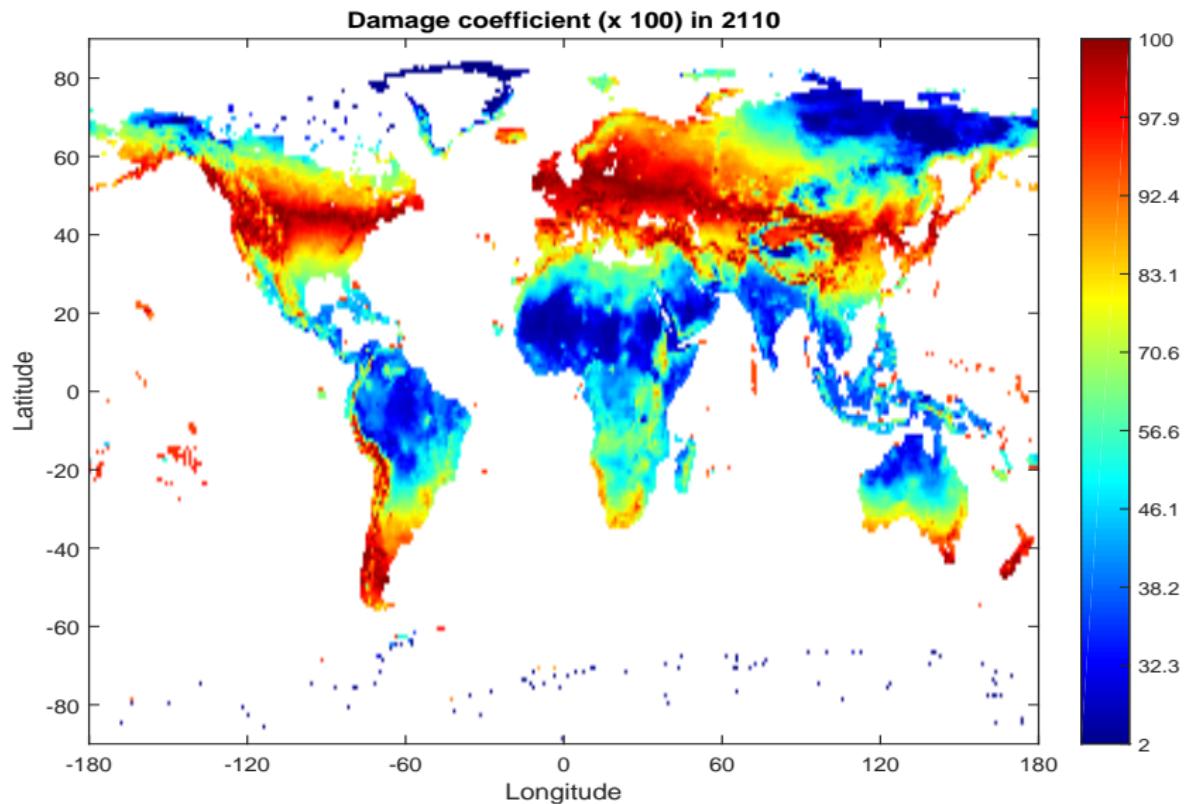


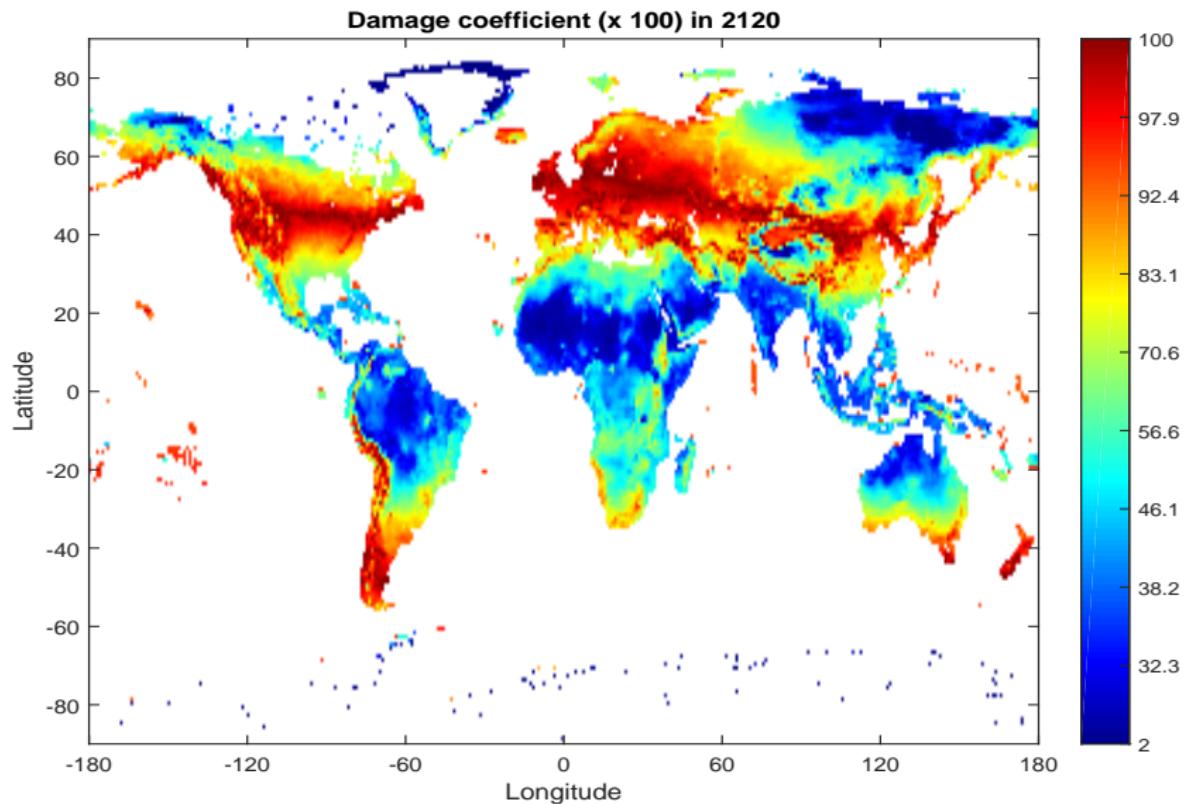


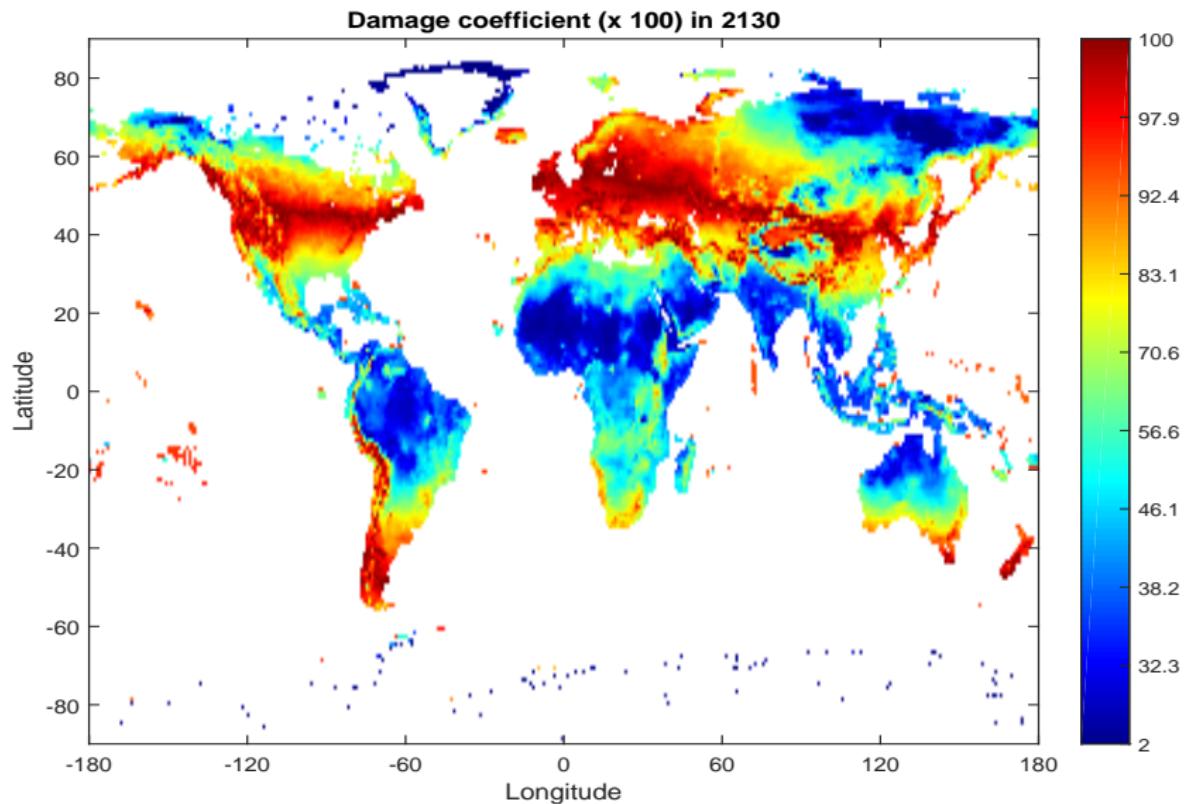




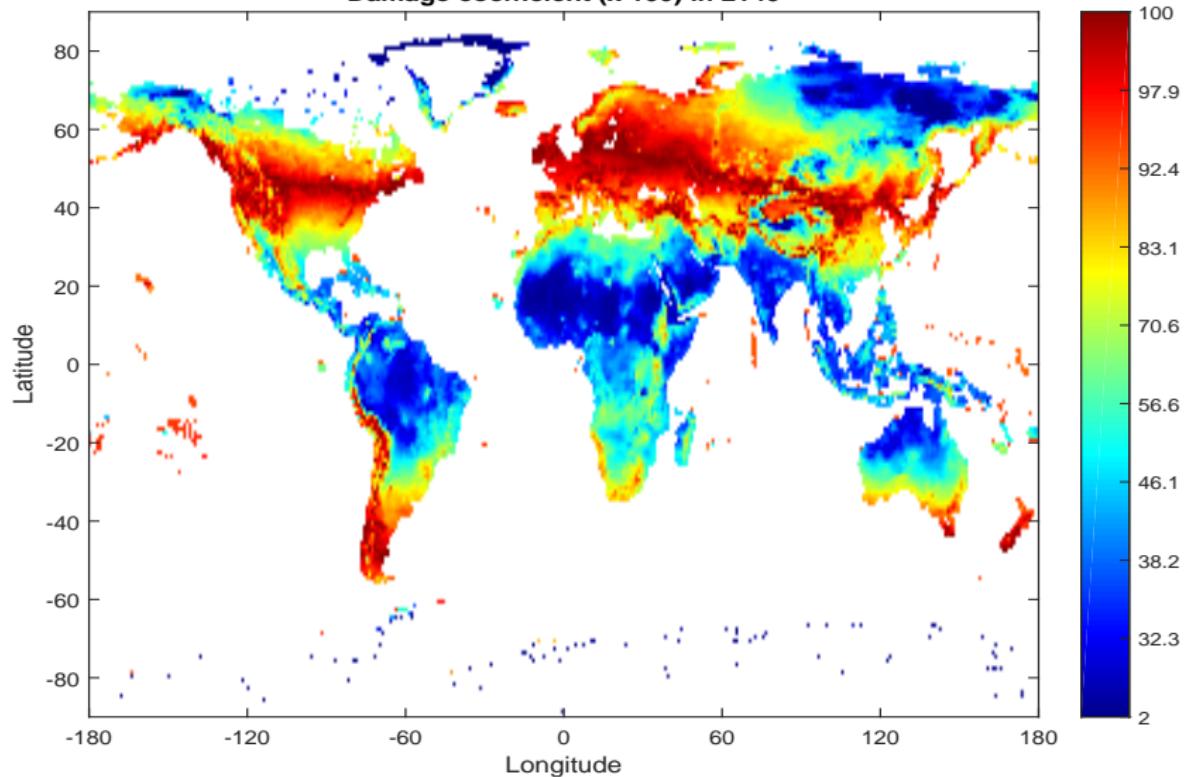


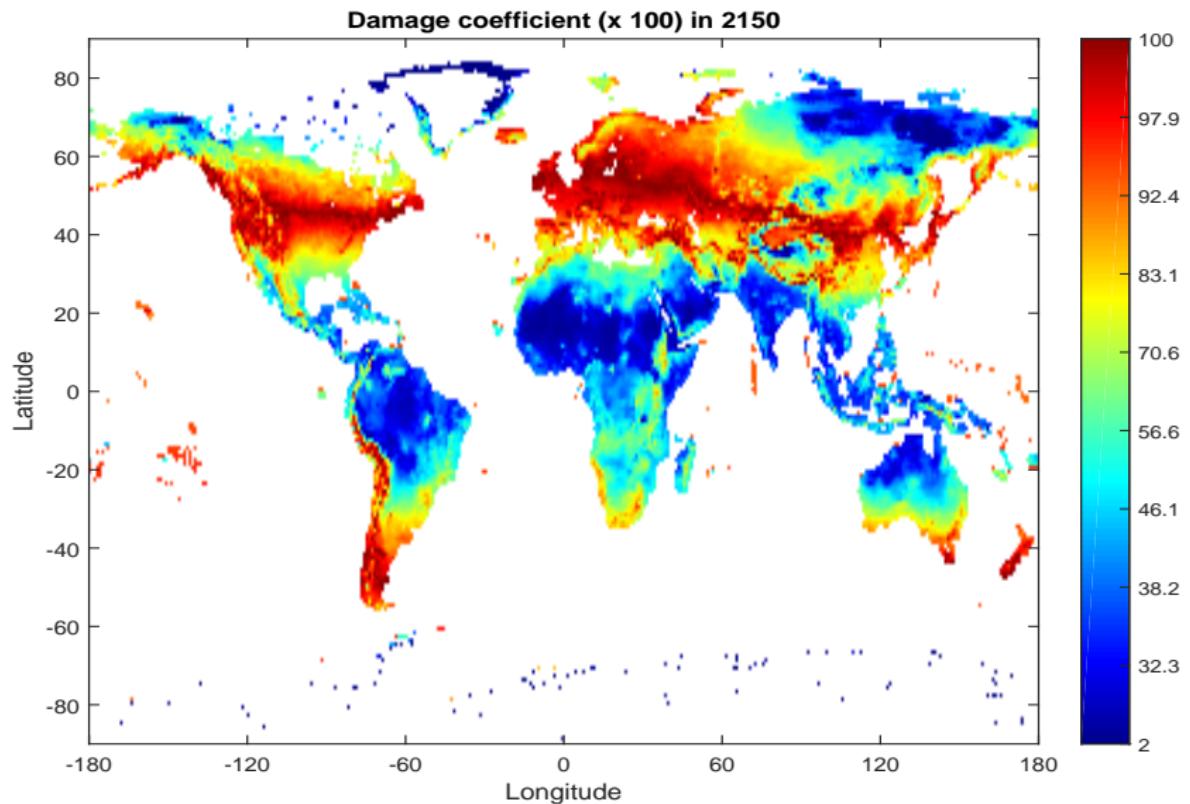


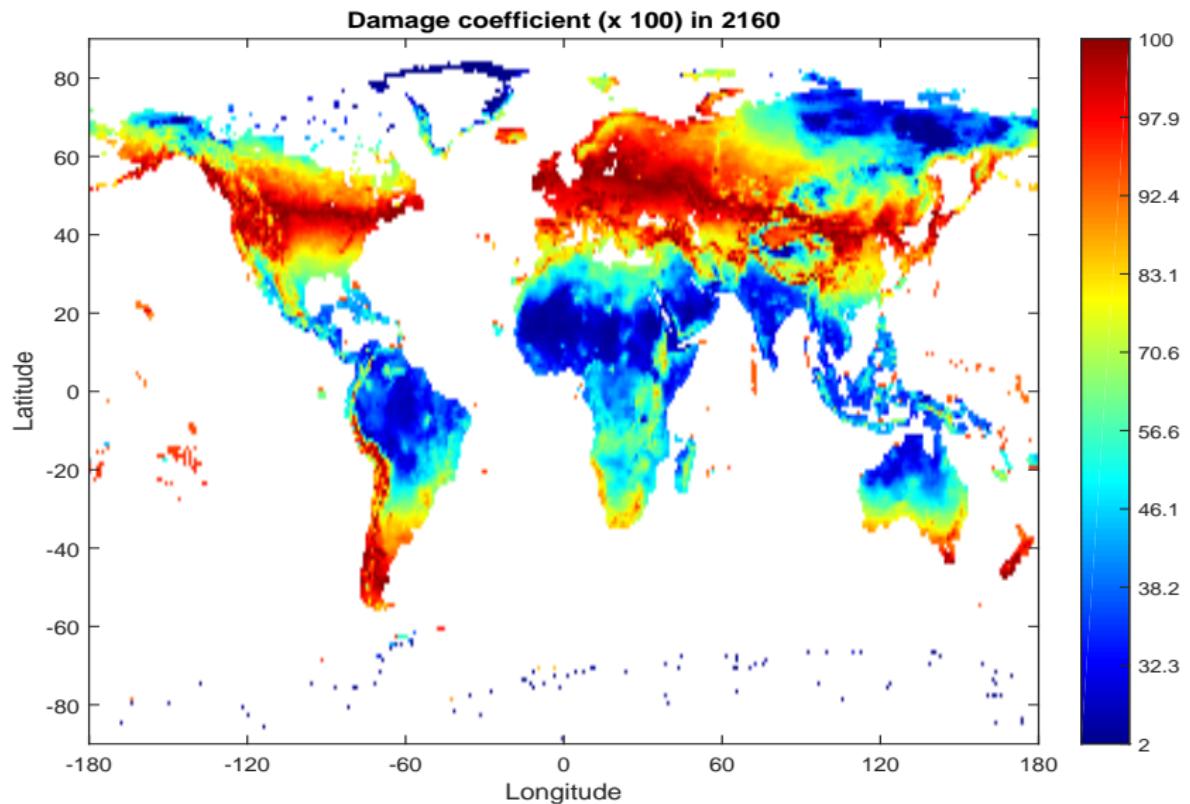




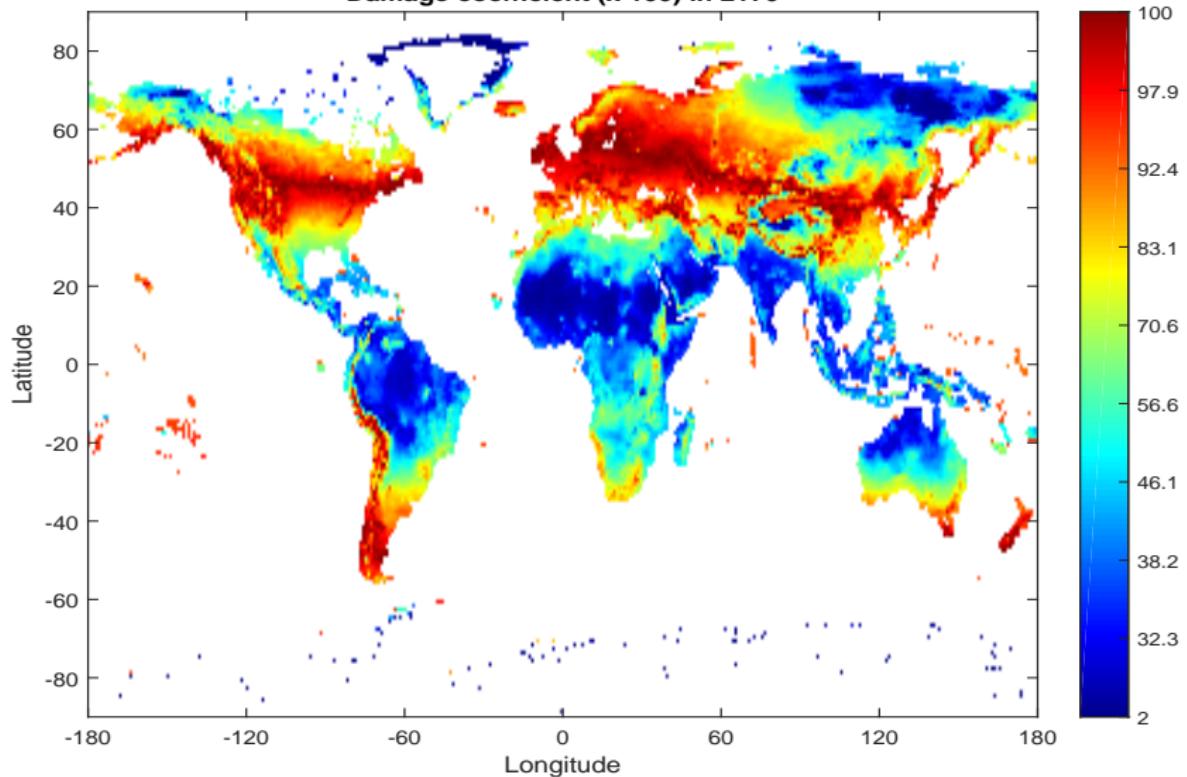
**Damage coefficient (x 100) in 2140**

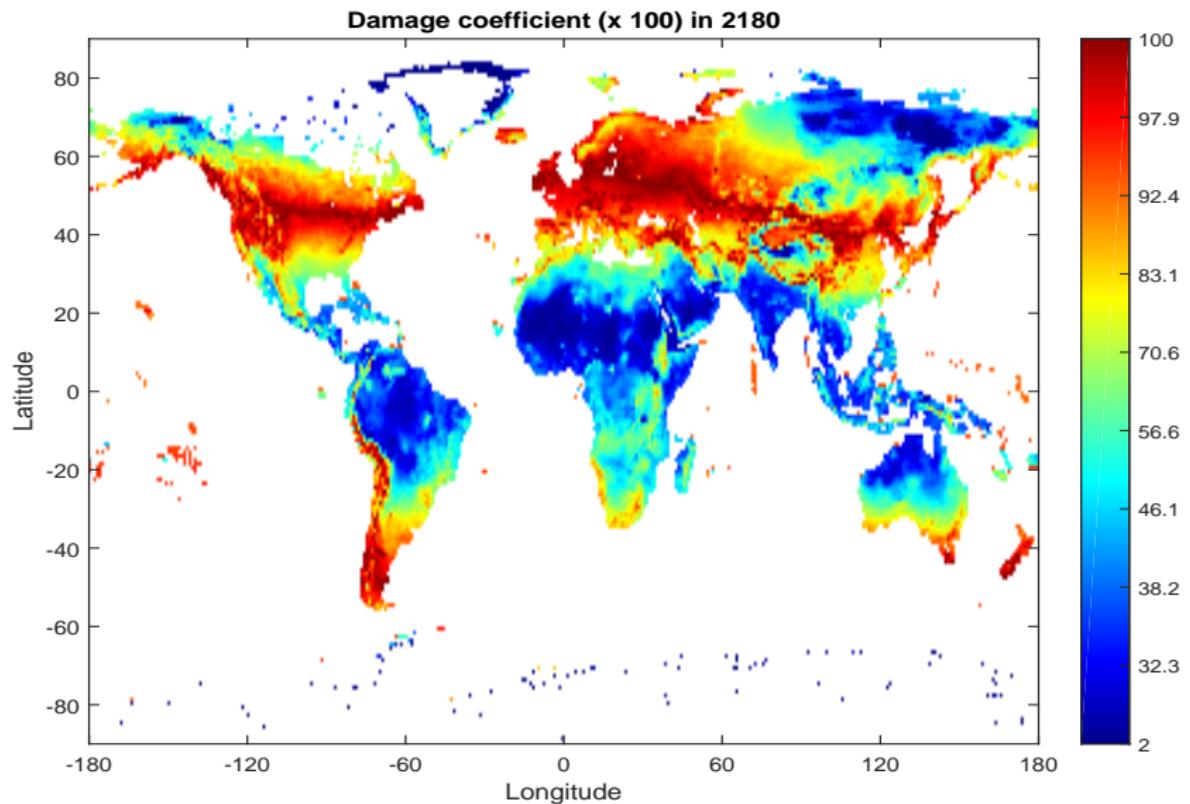


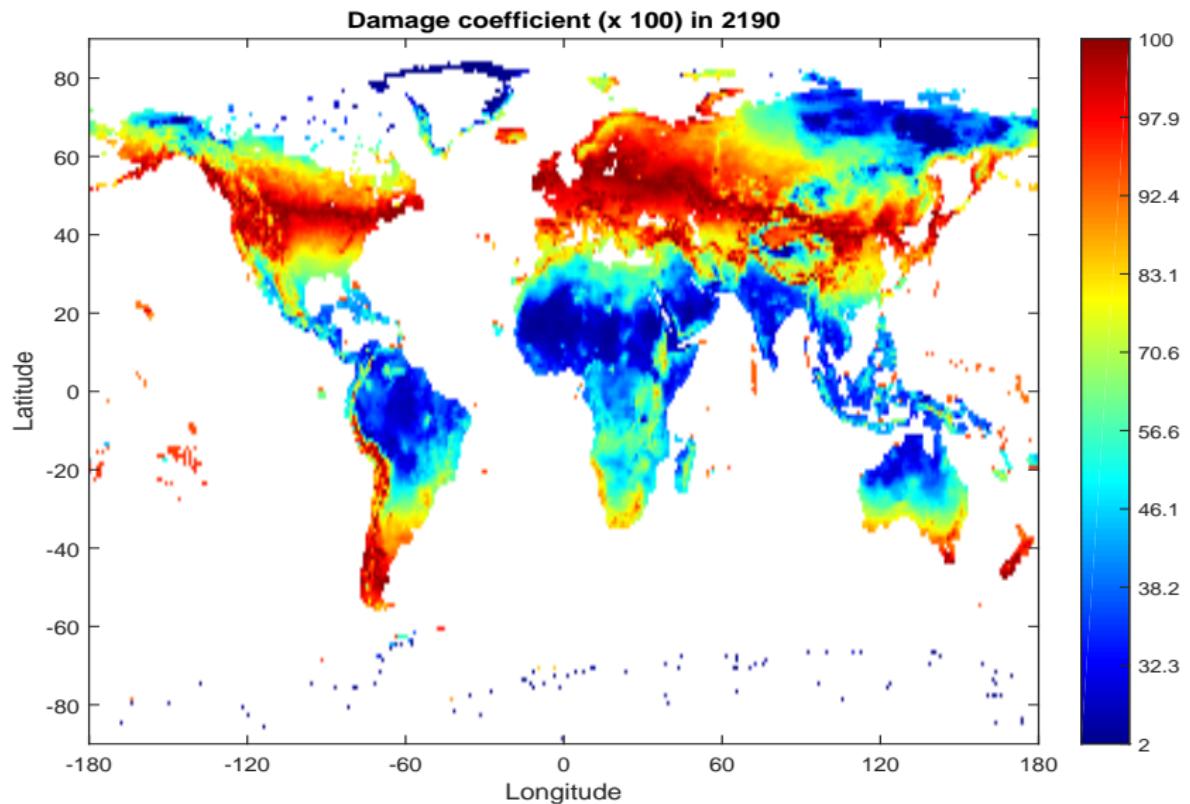


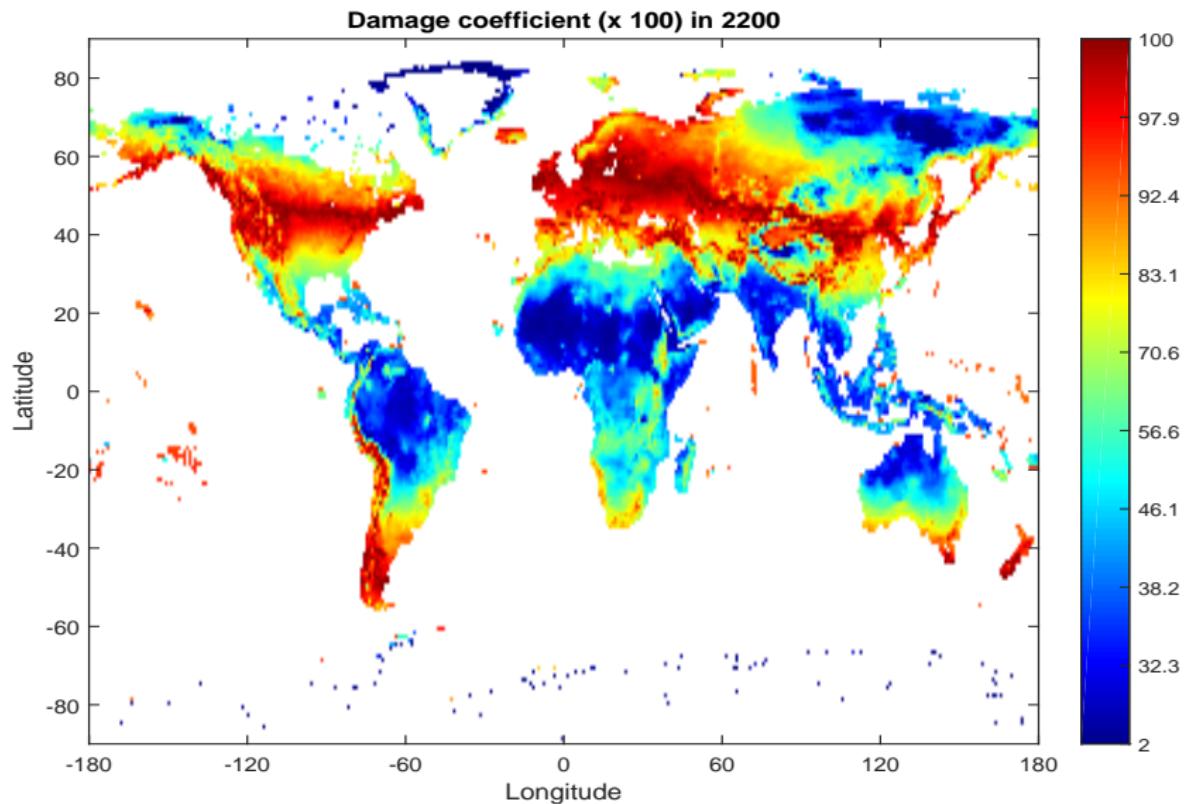


**Damage coefficient (x 100) in 2170**





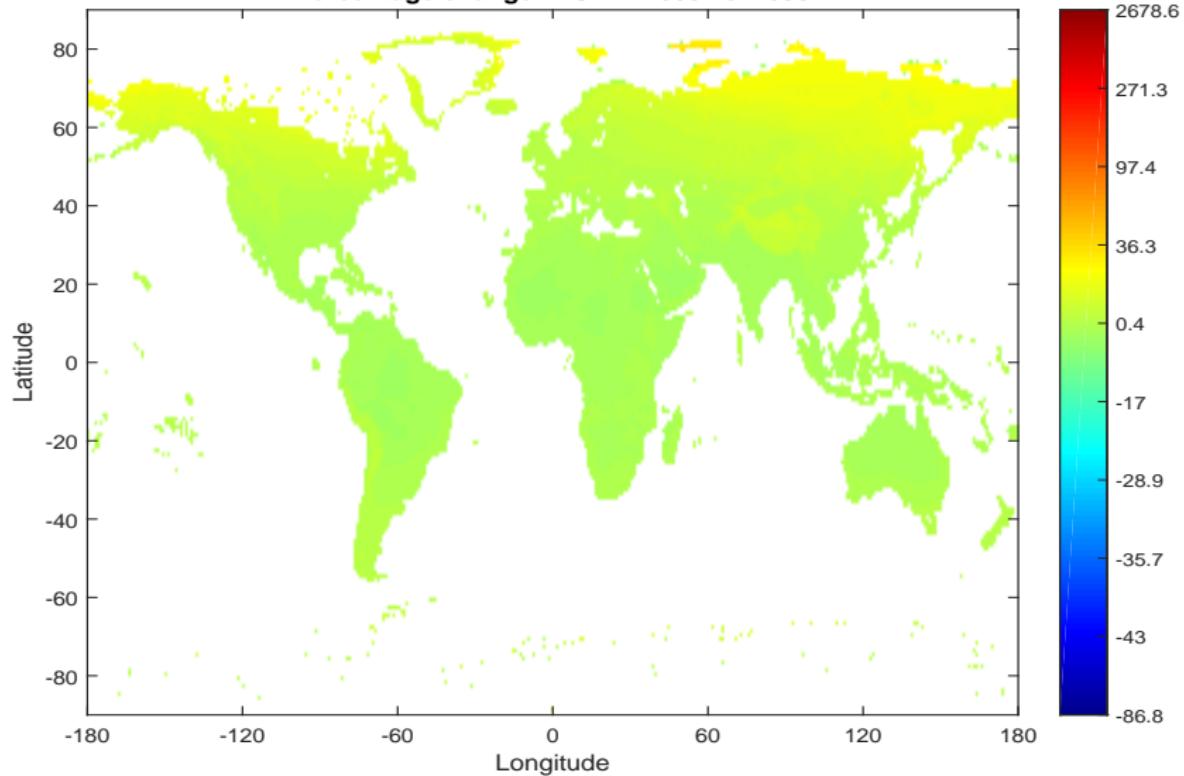




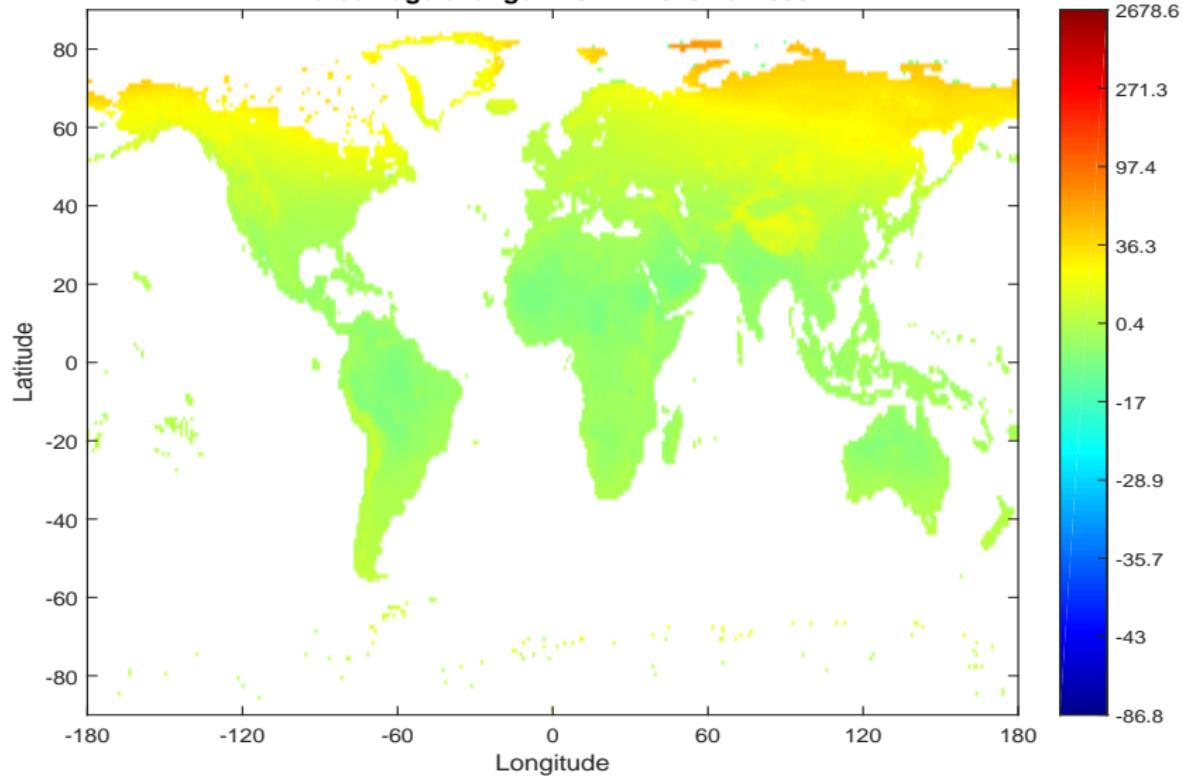
movie: percentage change in gdp, laissez-faire

animation: [www.econ.yale.edu/smith/pctgdp1.mp4](http://www.econ.yale.edu/smith/pctgdp1.mp4)

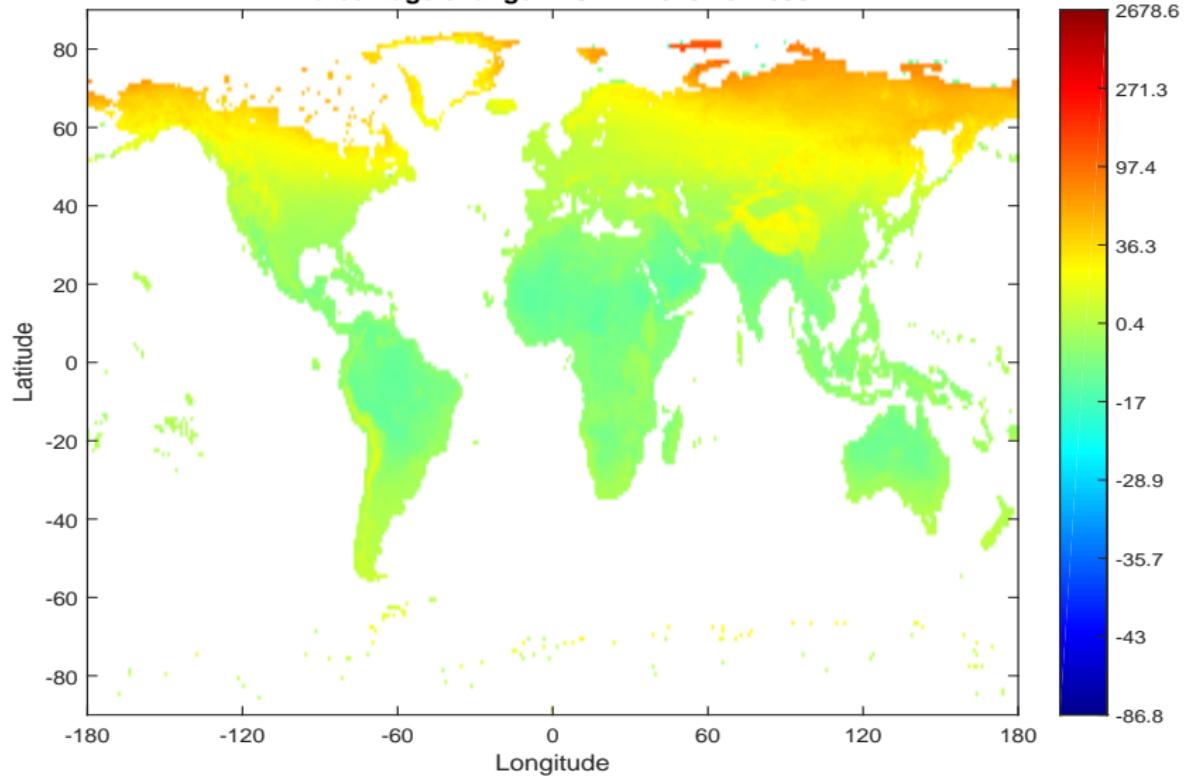
Percentage change in GDP: 2000 vs. 1990



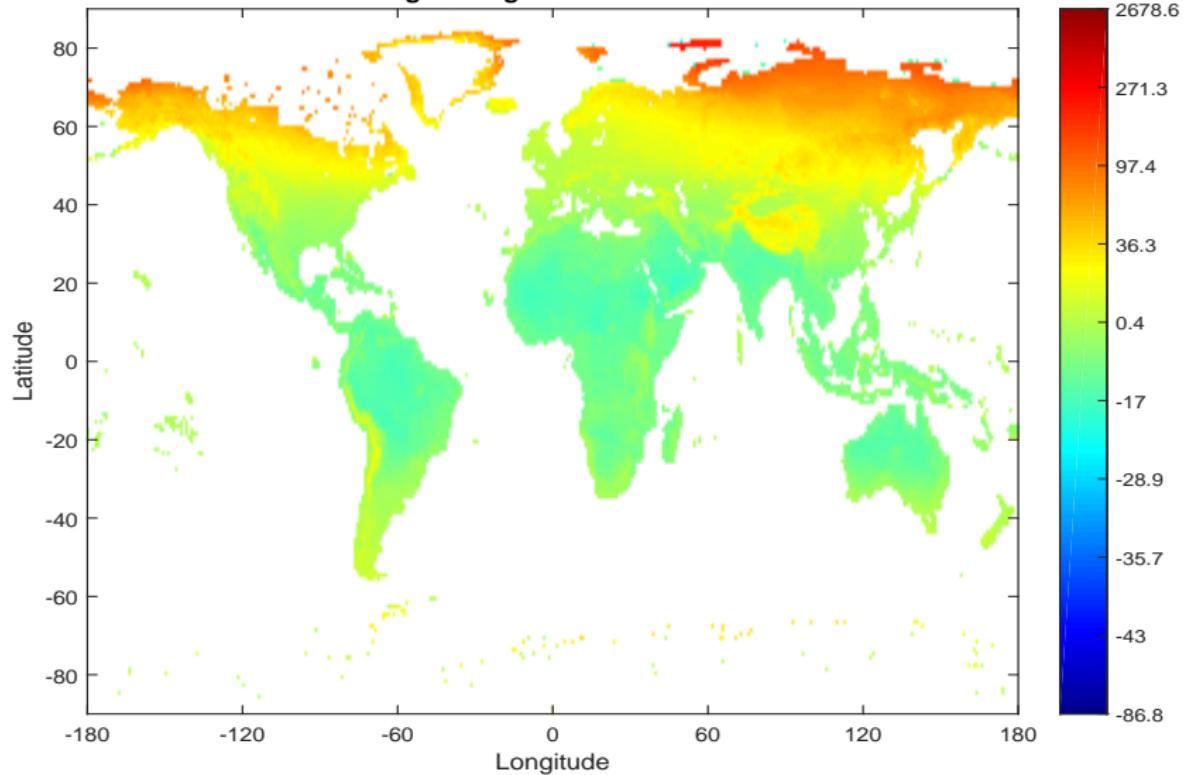
Percentage change in GDP: 2010 vs. 1990



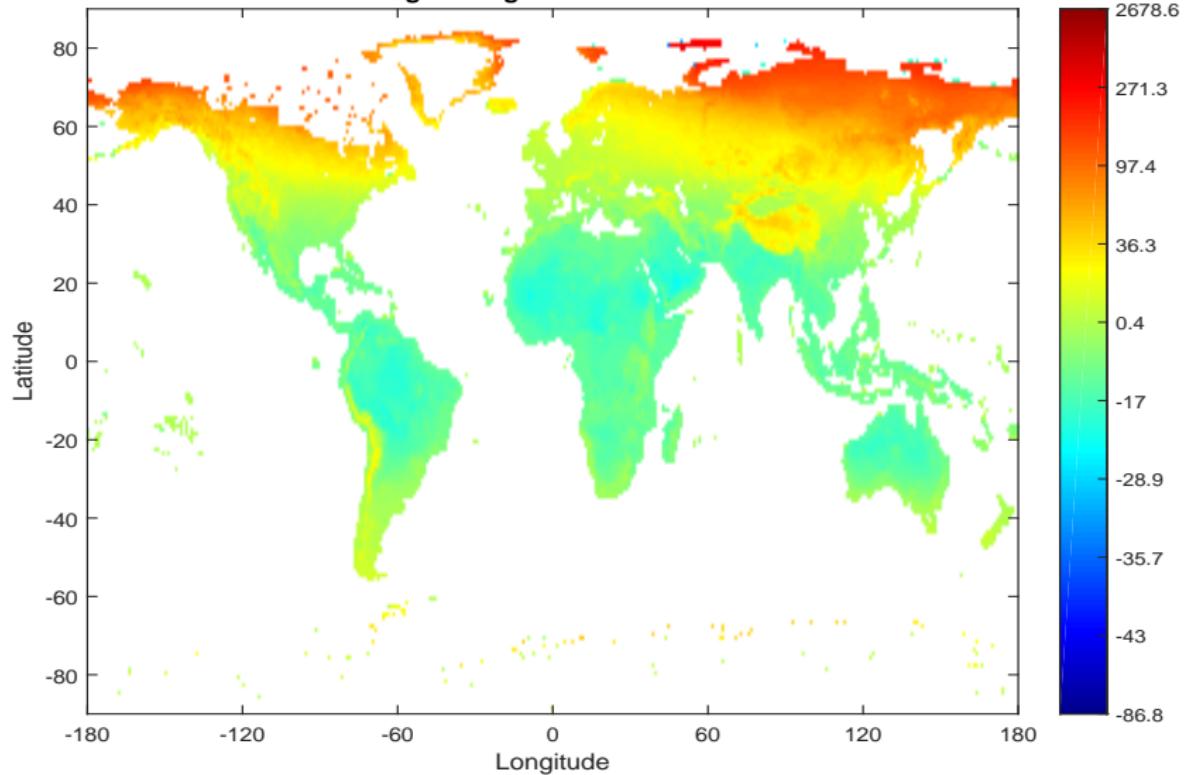
Percentage change in GDP: 2020 vs. 1990



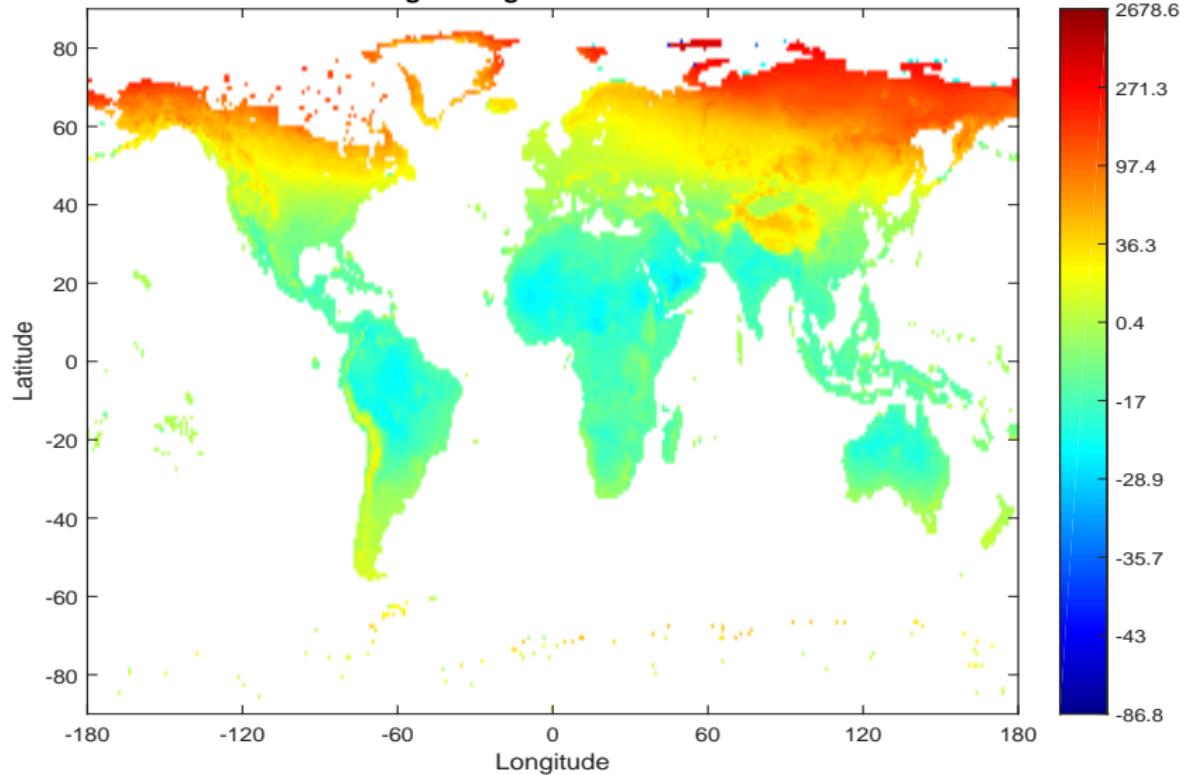
Percentage change in GDP: 2030 vs. 1990



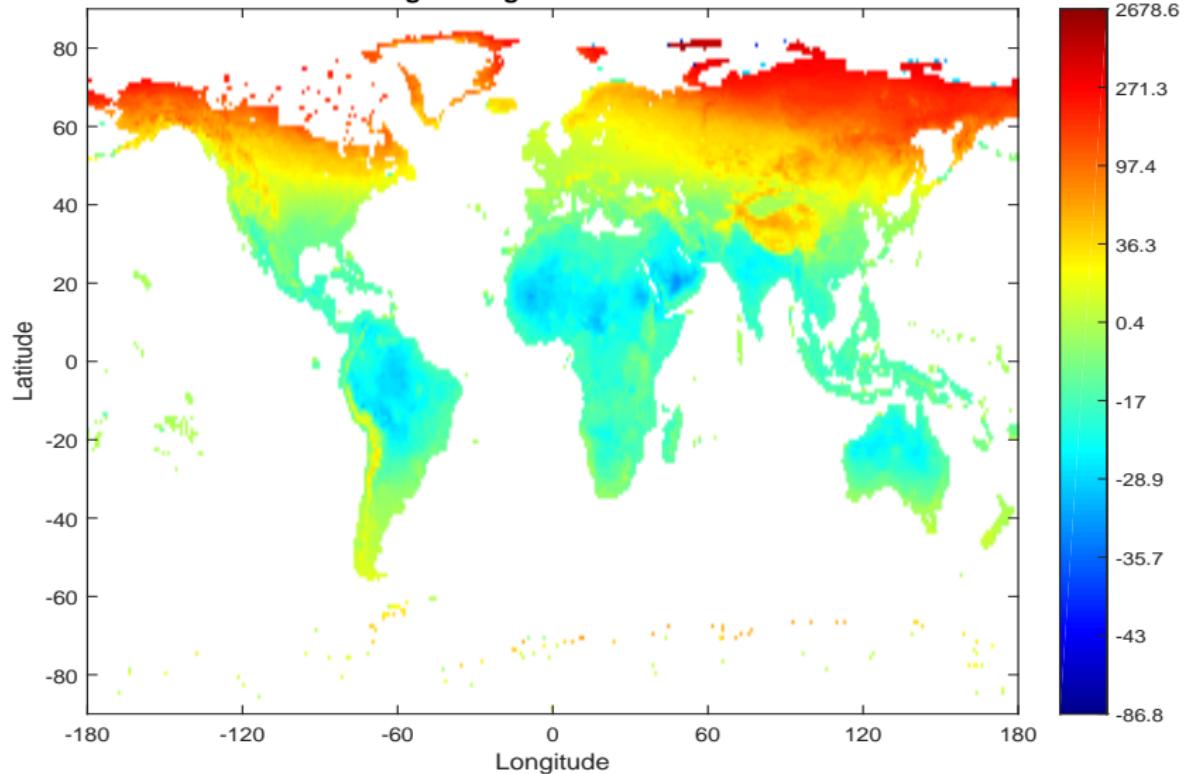
Percentage change in GDP: 2040 vs. 1990



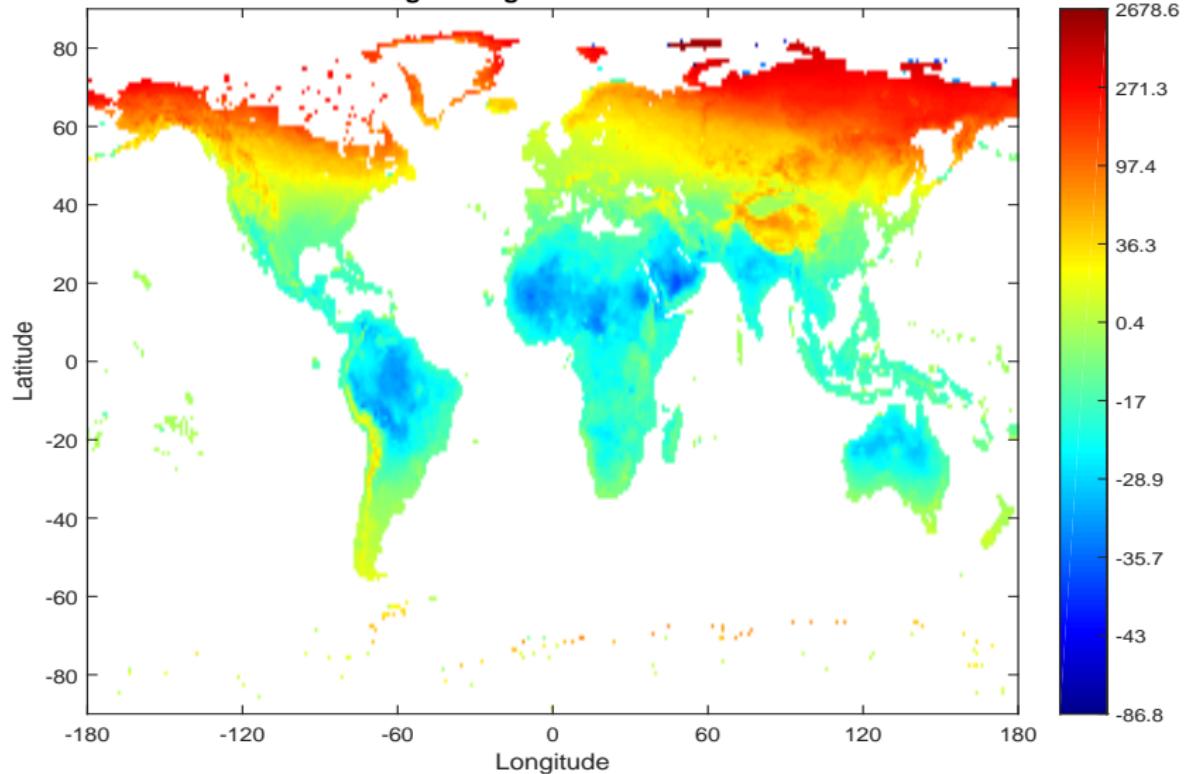
Percentage change in GDP: 2050 vs. 1990



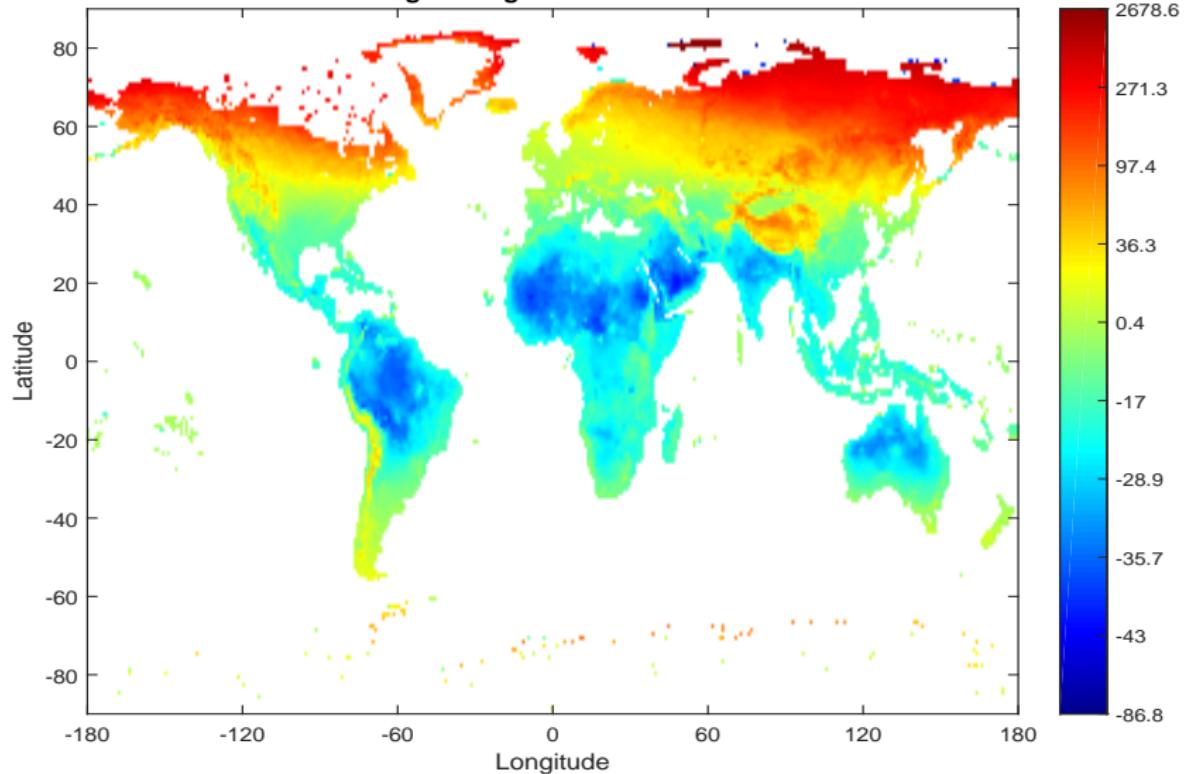
Percentage change in GDP: 2060 vs. 1990



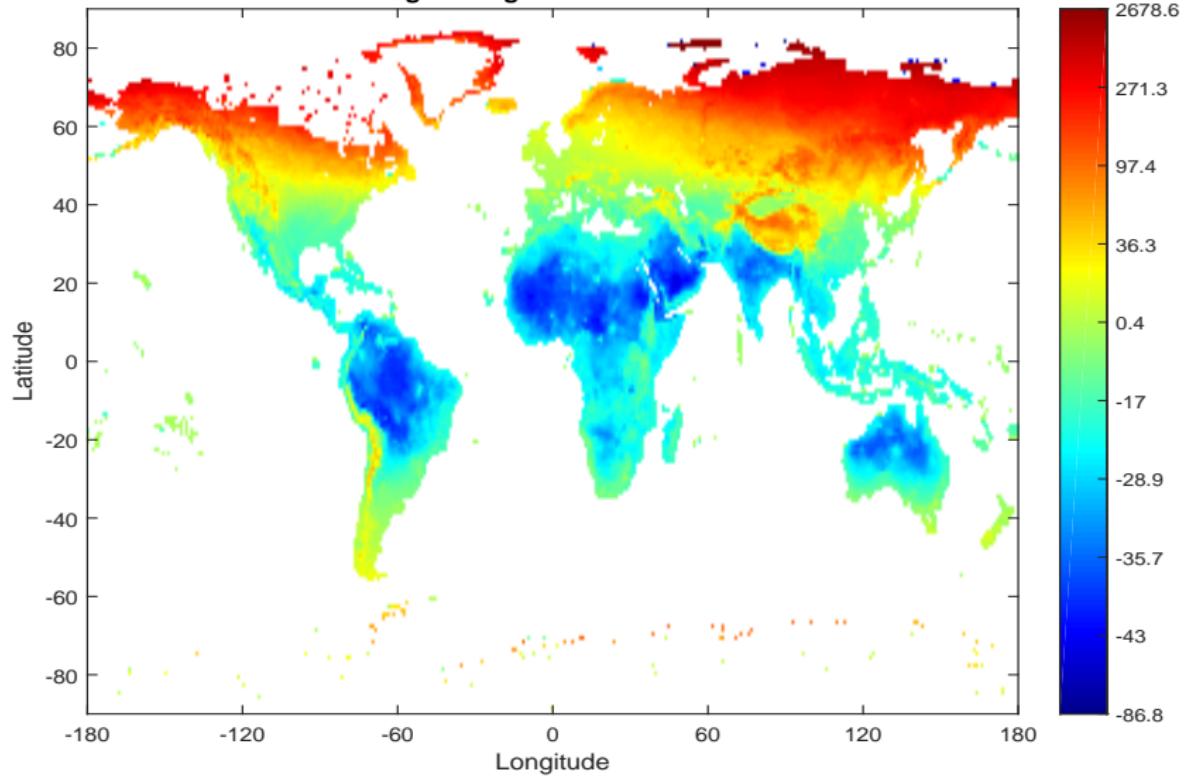
Percentage change in GDP: 2070 vs. 1990



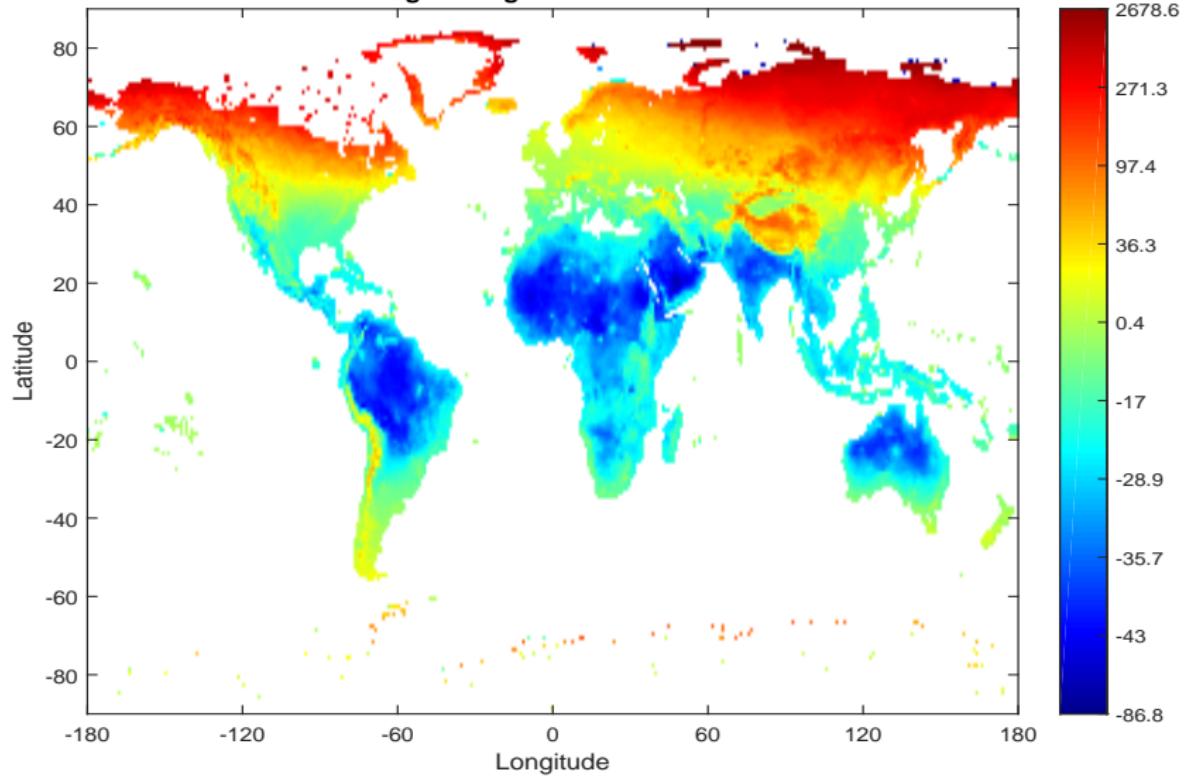
Percentage change in GDP: 2080 vs. 1990



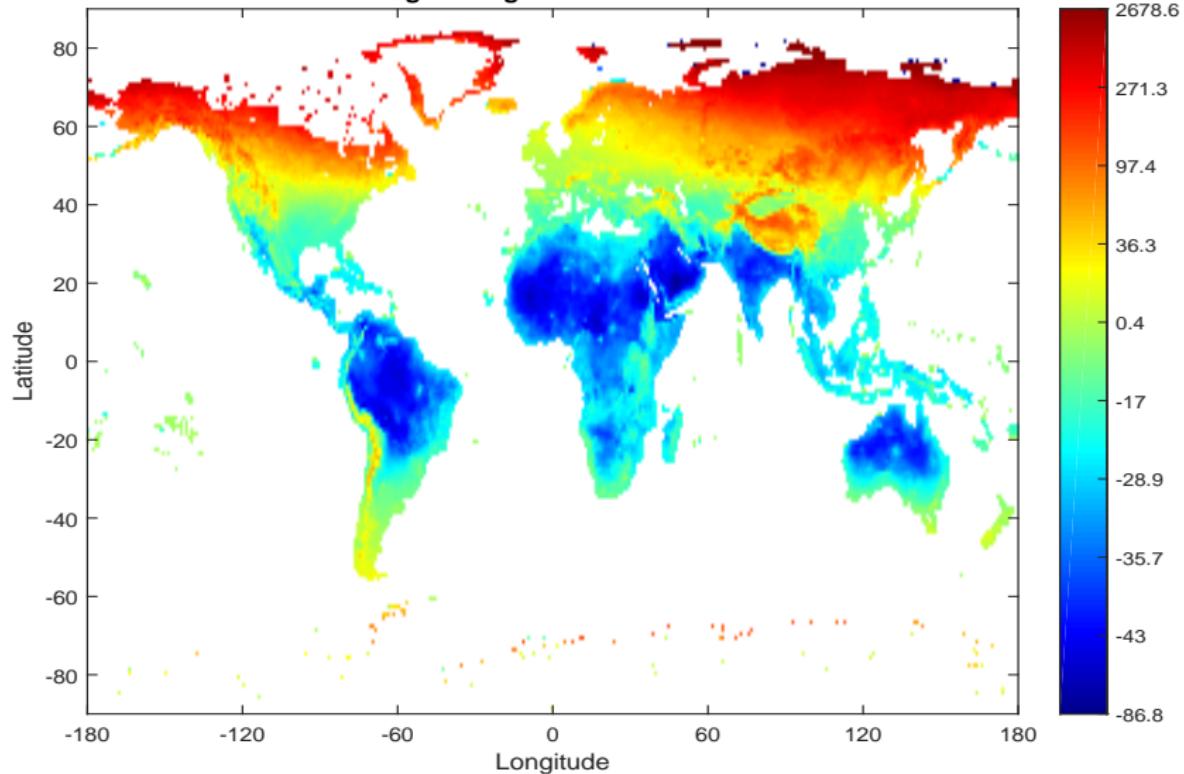
Percentage change in GDP: 2090 vs. 1990



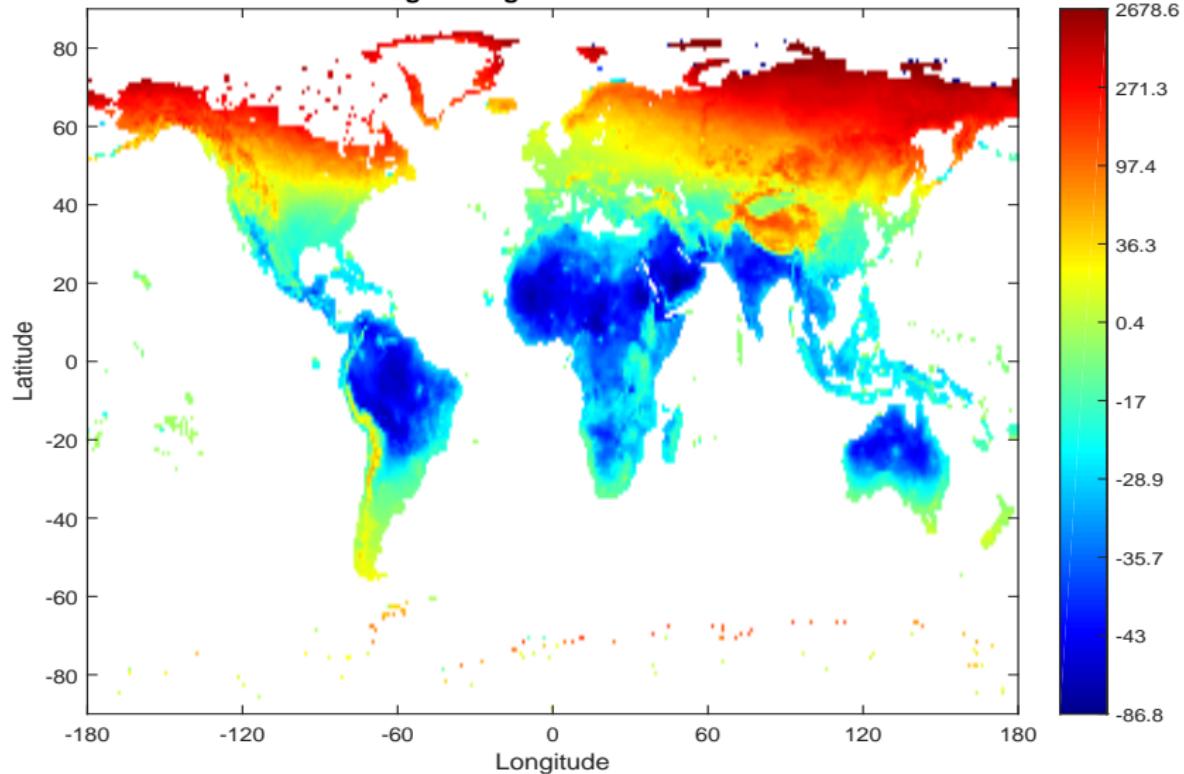
Percentage change in GDP: 2100 vs. 1990



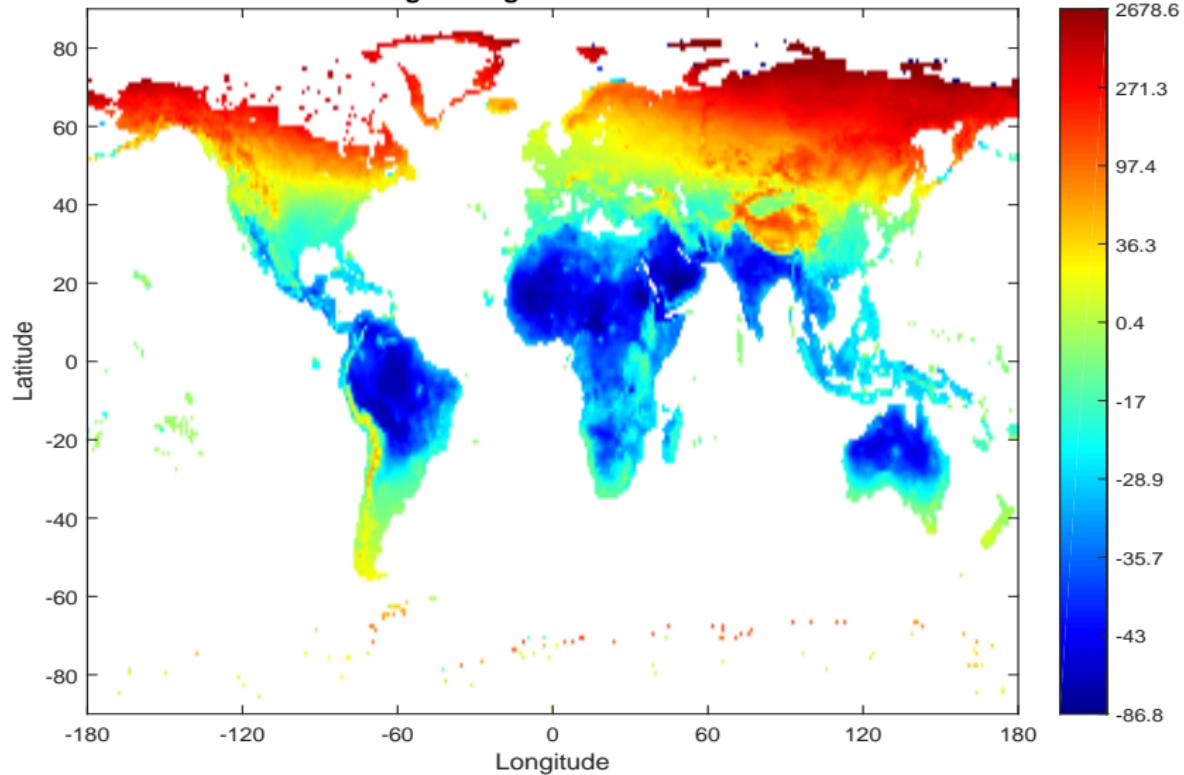
Percentage change in GDP: 2110 vs. 1990



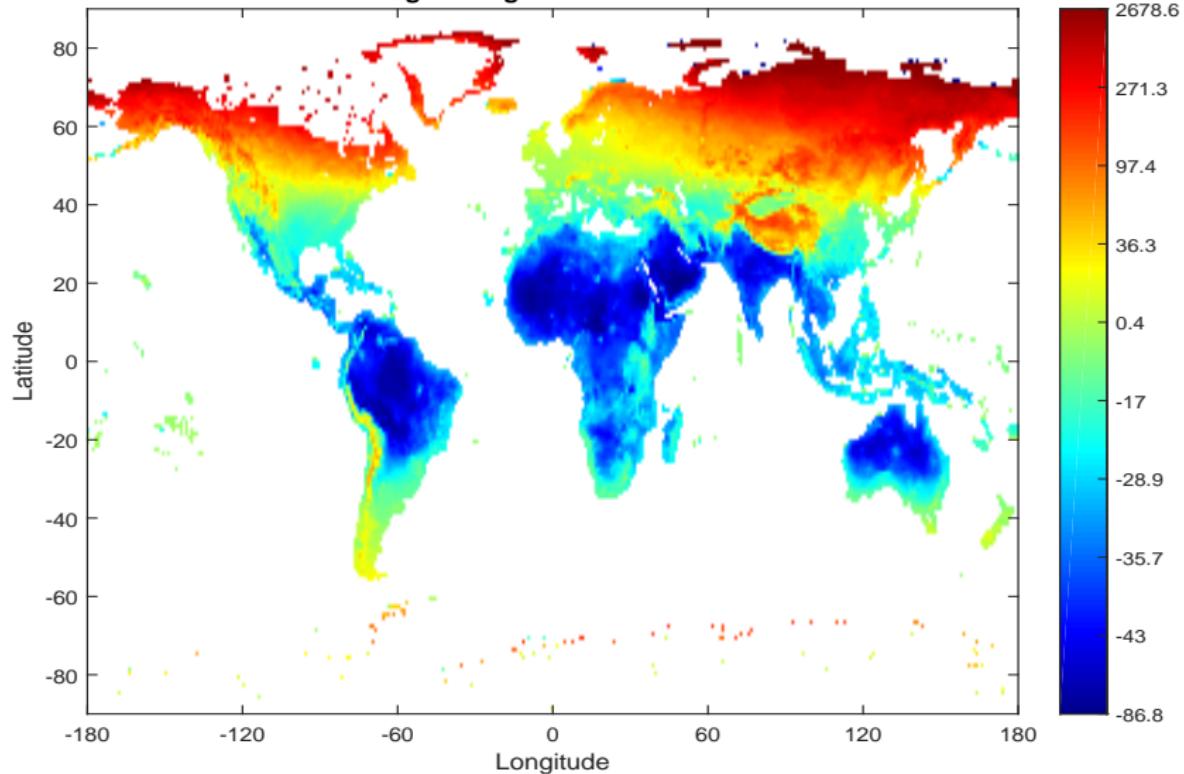
Percentage change in GDP: 2120 vs. 1990



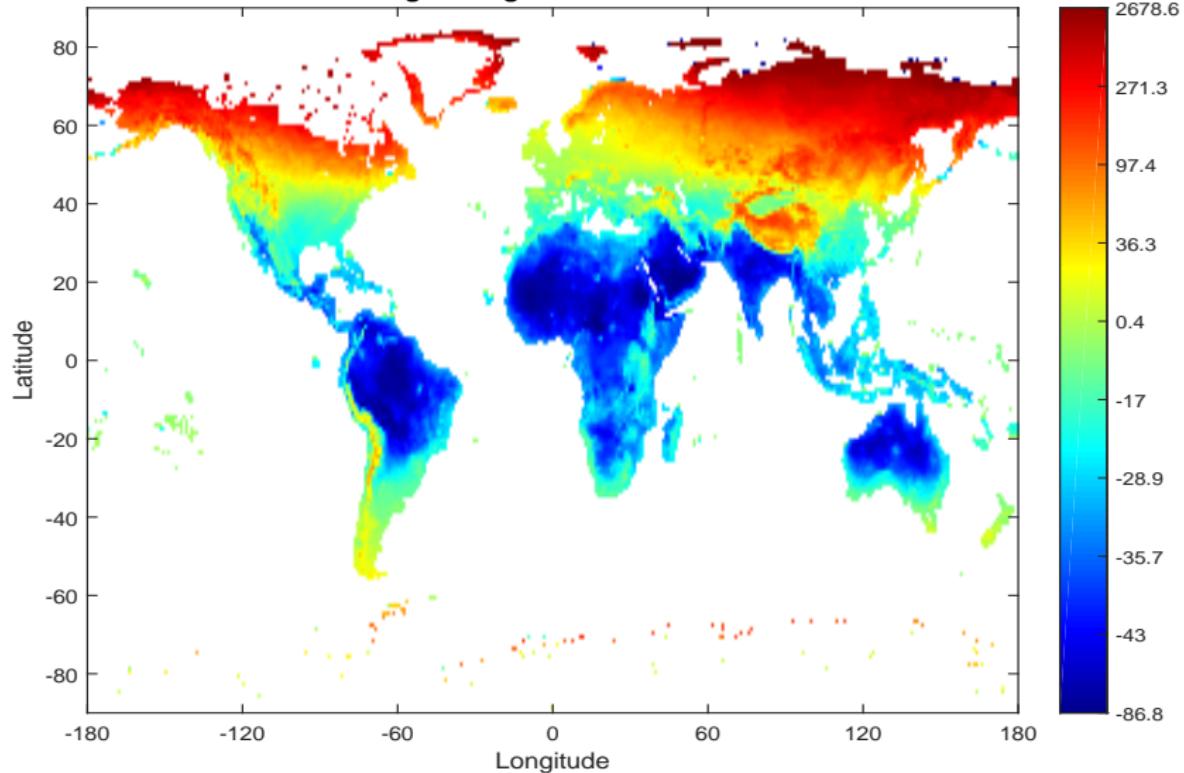
Percentage change in GDP: 2130 vs. 1990



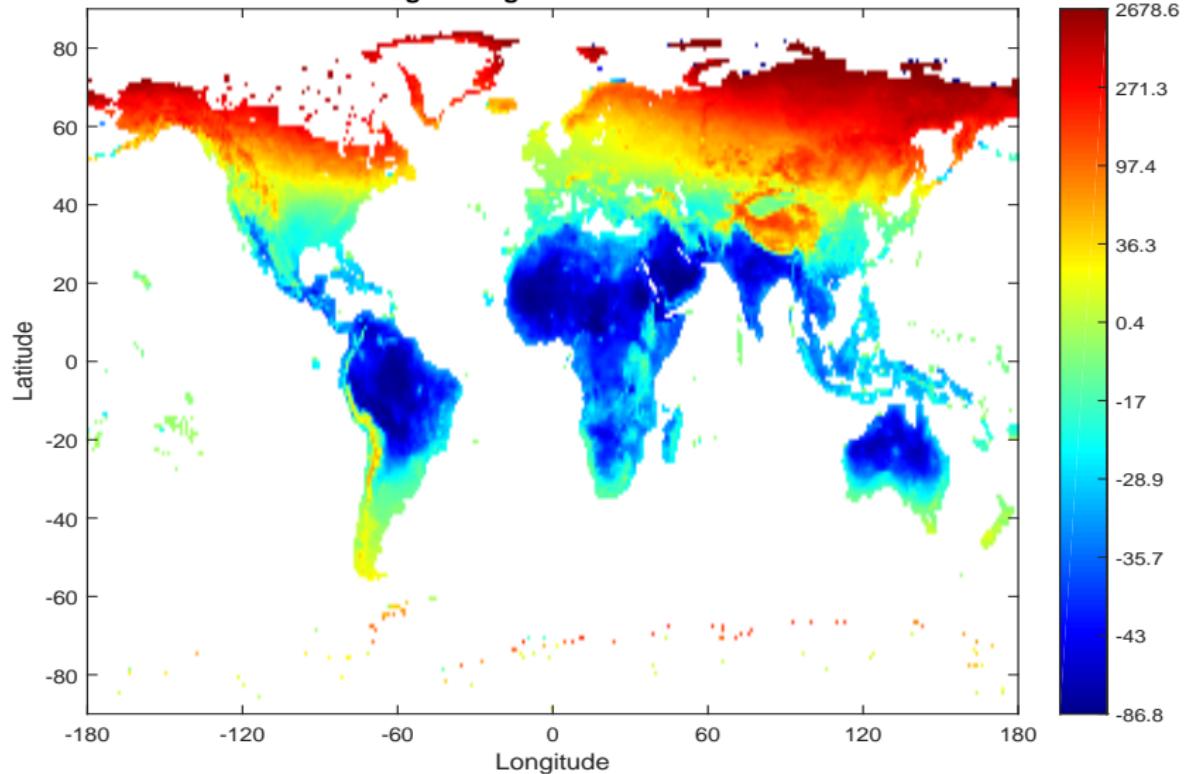
Percentage change in GDP: 2140 vs. 1990



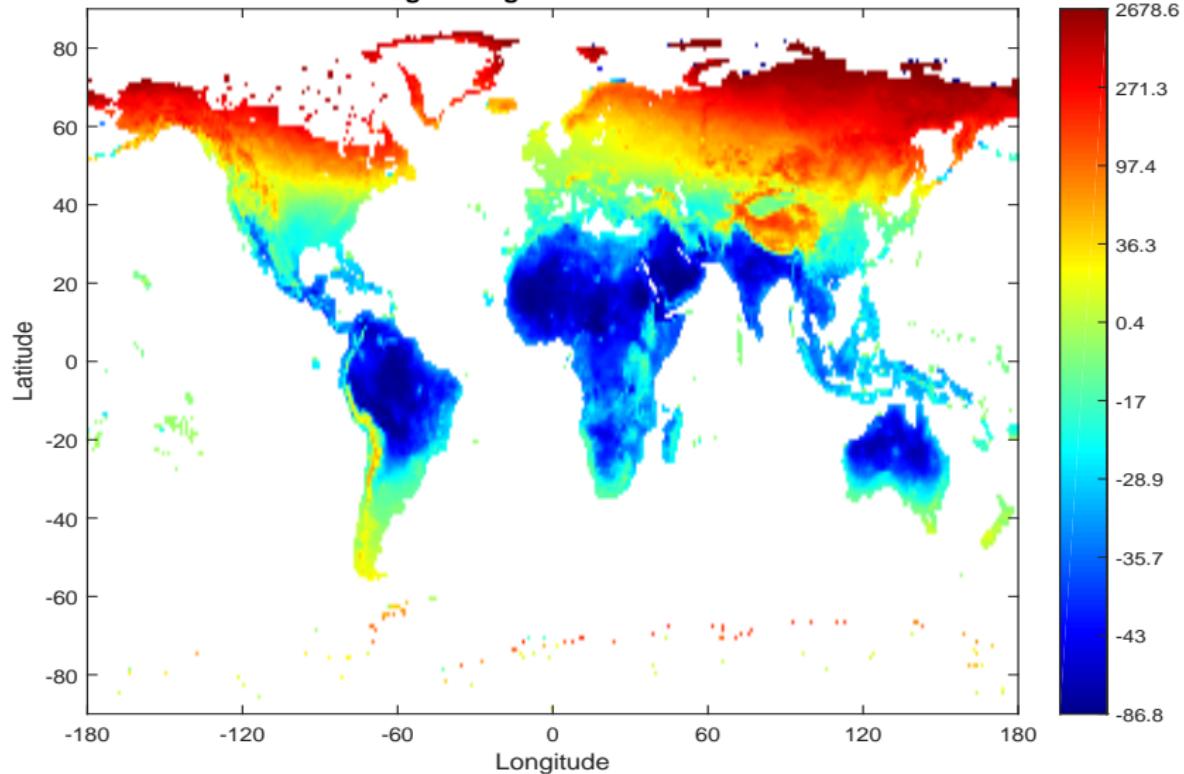
Percentage change in GDP: 2150 vs. 1990



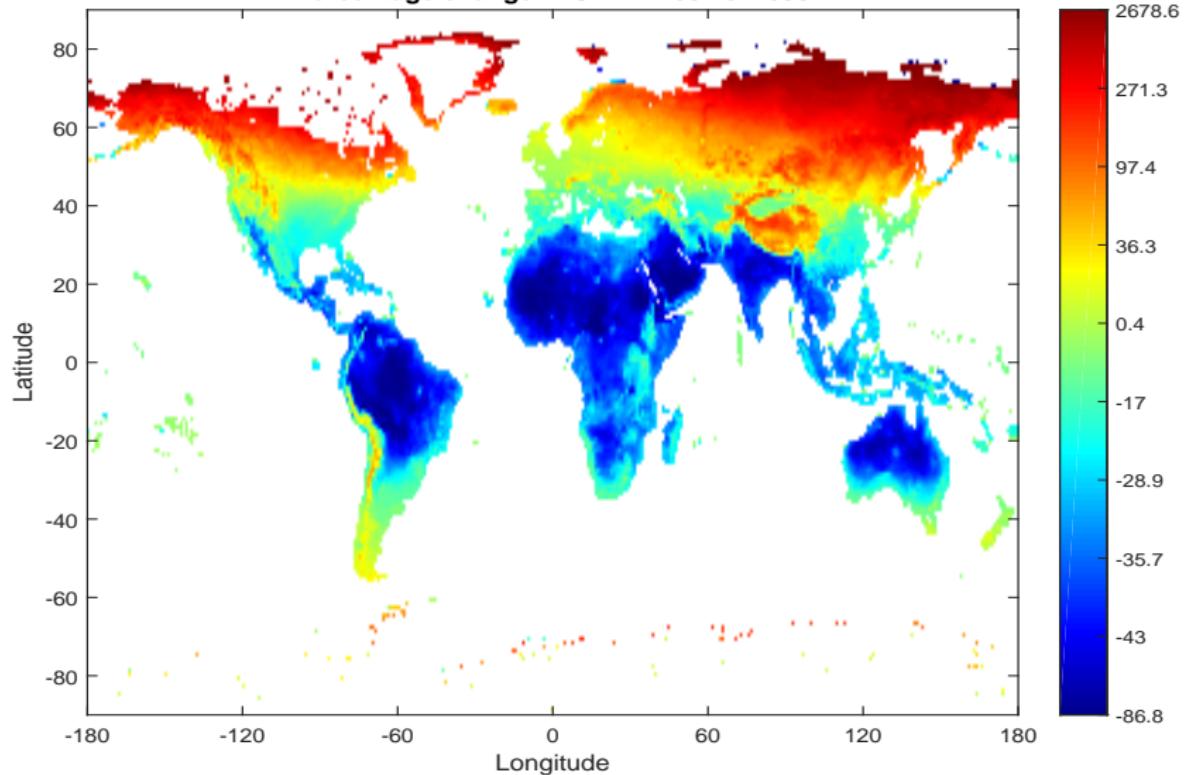
Percentage change in GDP: 2160 vs. 1990



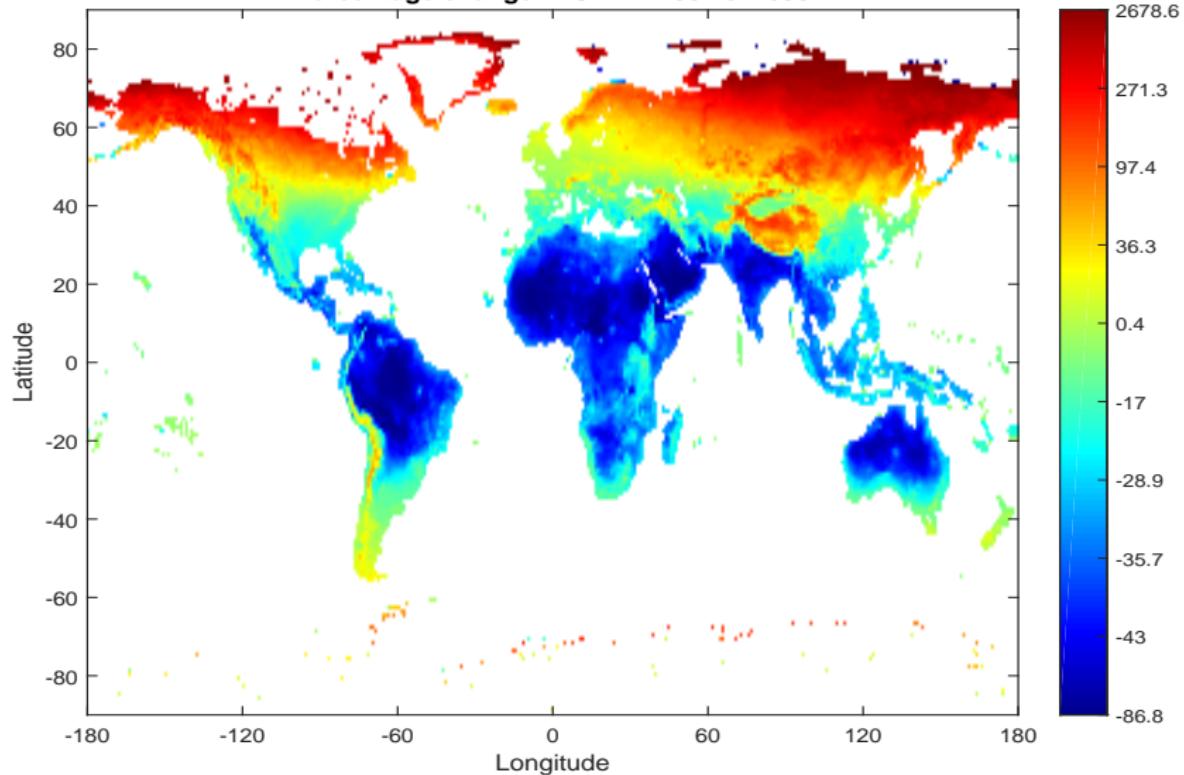
Percentage change in GDP: 2170 vs. 1990



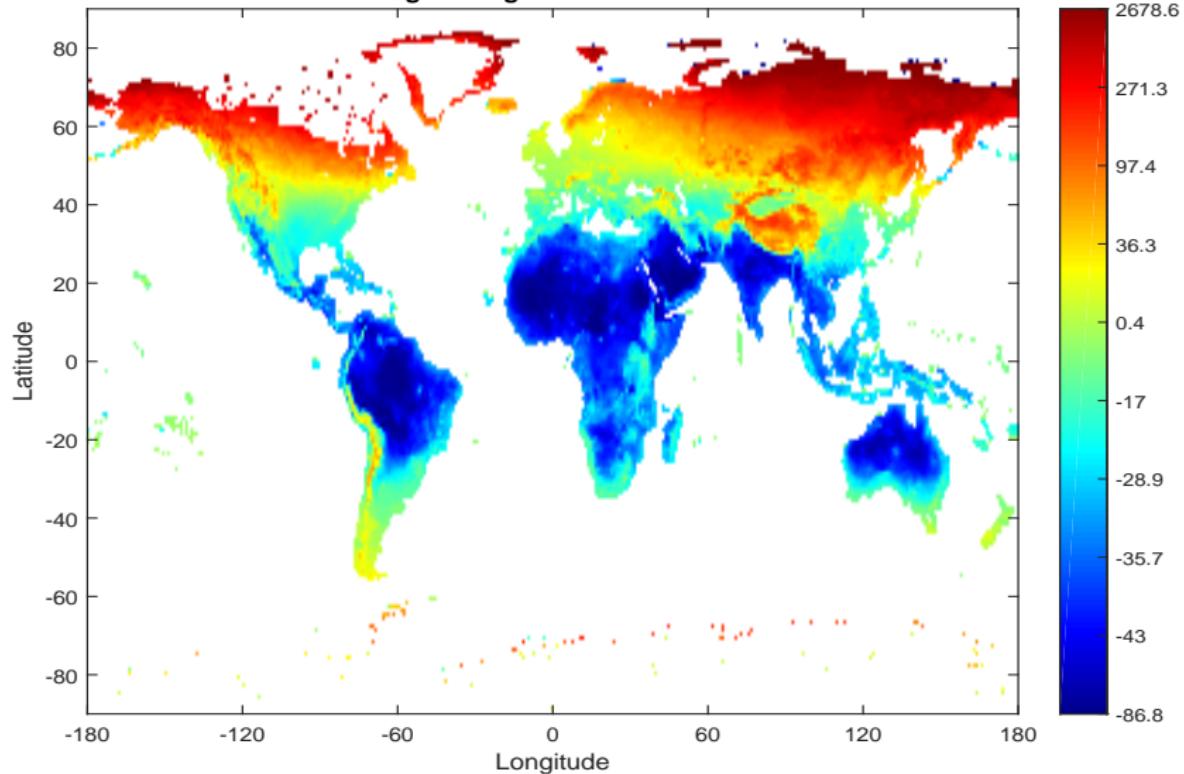
Percentage change in GDP: 2180 vs. 1990



Percentage change in GDP: 2190 vs. 1990



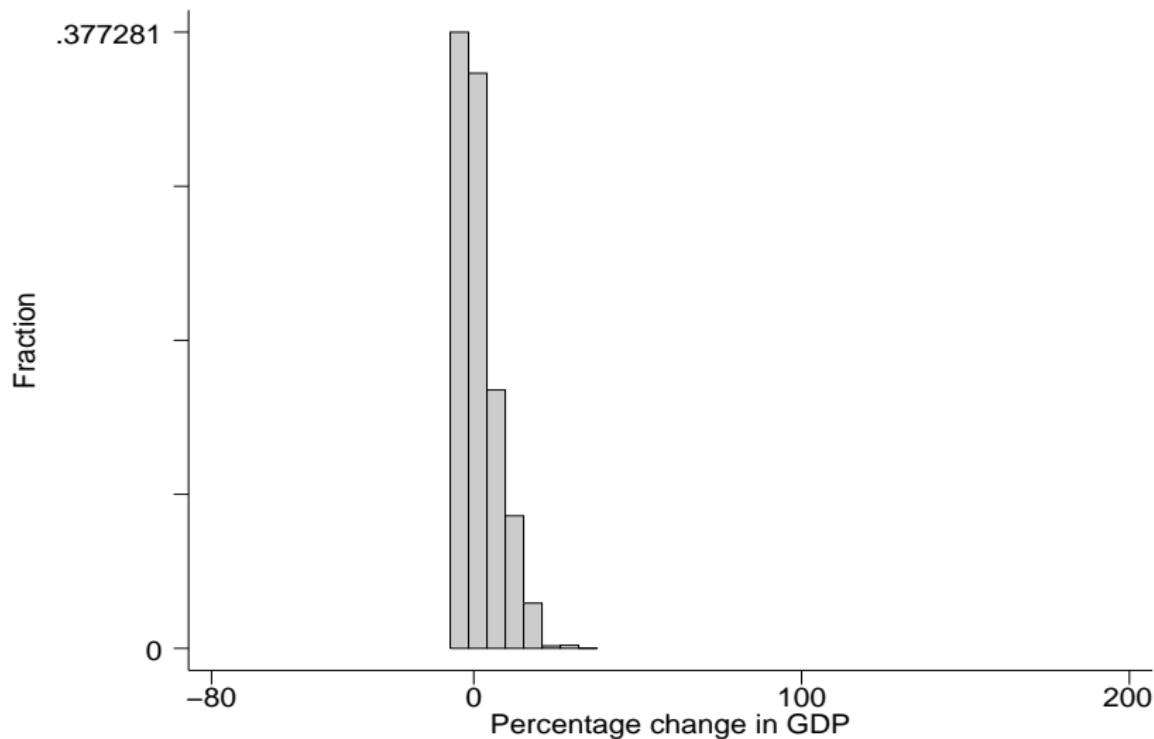
Percentage change in GDP: 2200 vs. 1990



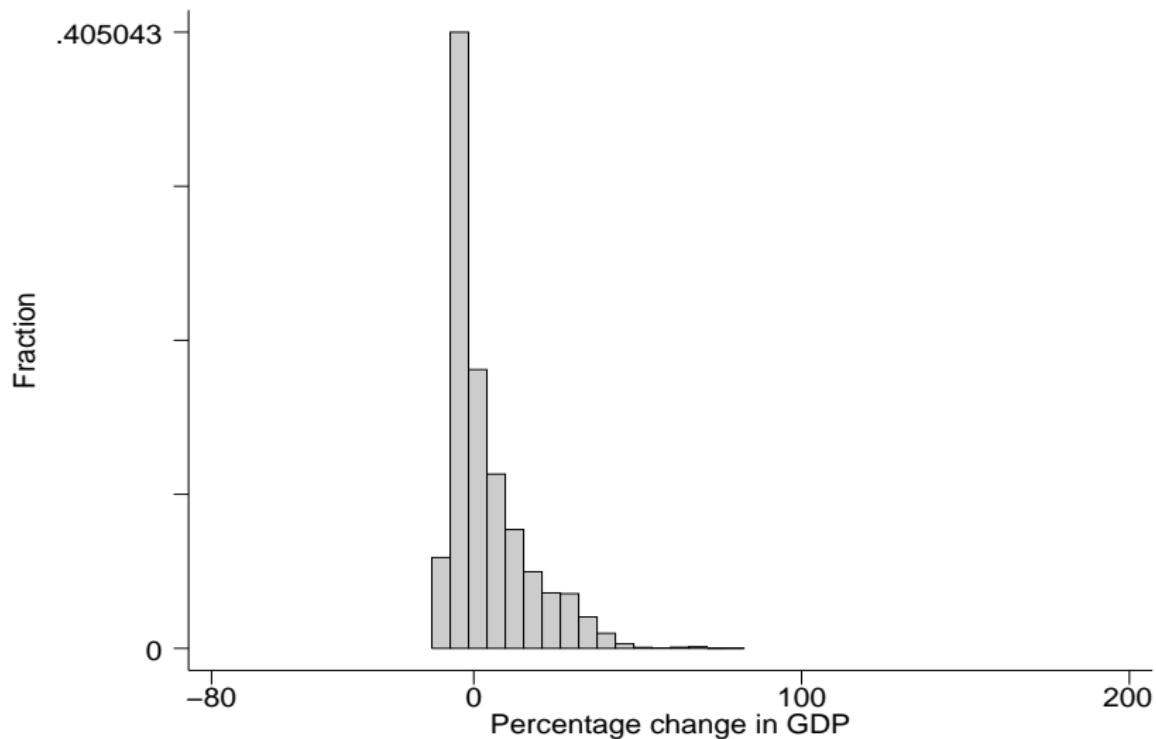
movie: distribution of percentage changes in GDP

animation: [www.econ.yale.edu/smith/distpctgdp1.mp4](http://www.econ.yale.edu/smith/distpctgdp1.mp4)

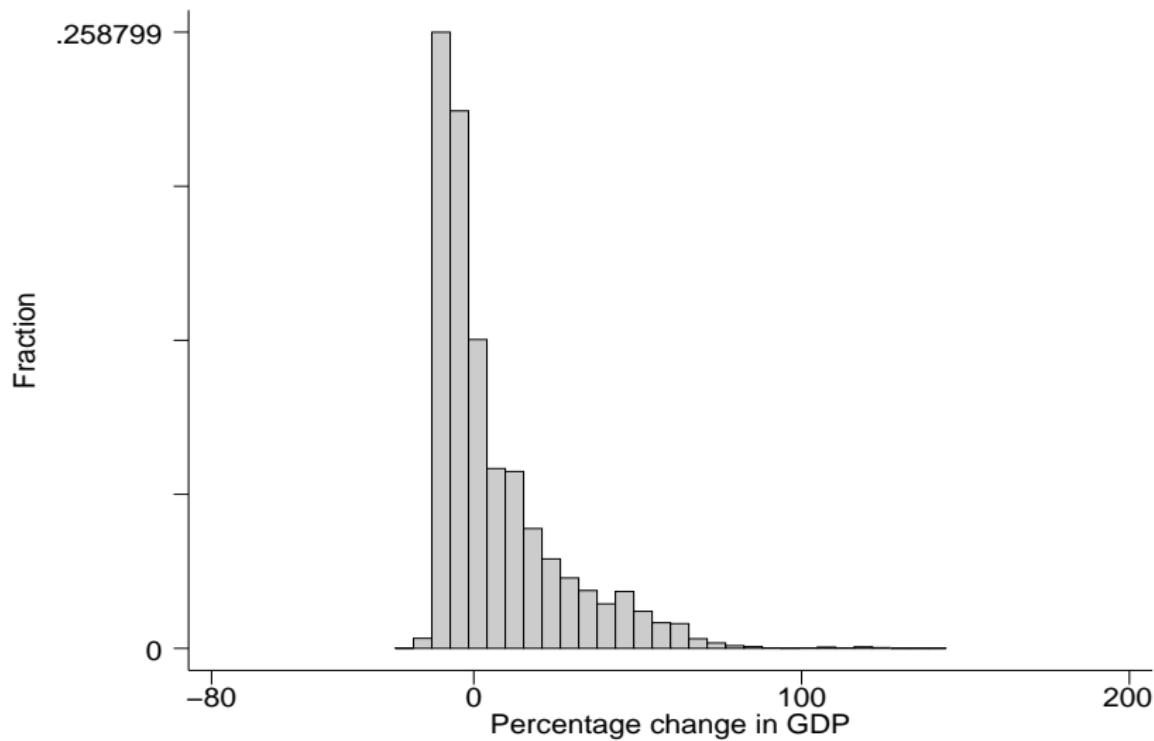
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2000 vs. 1990



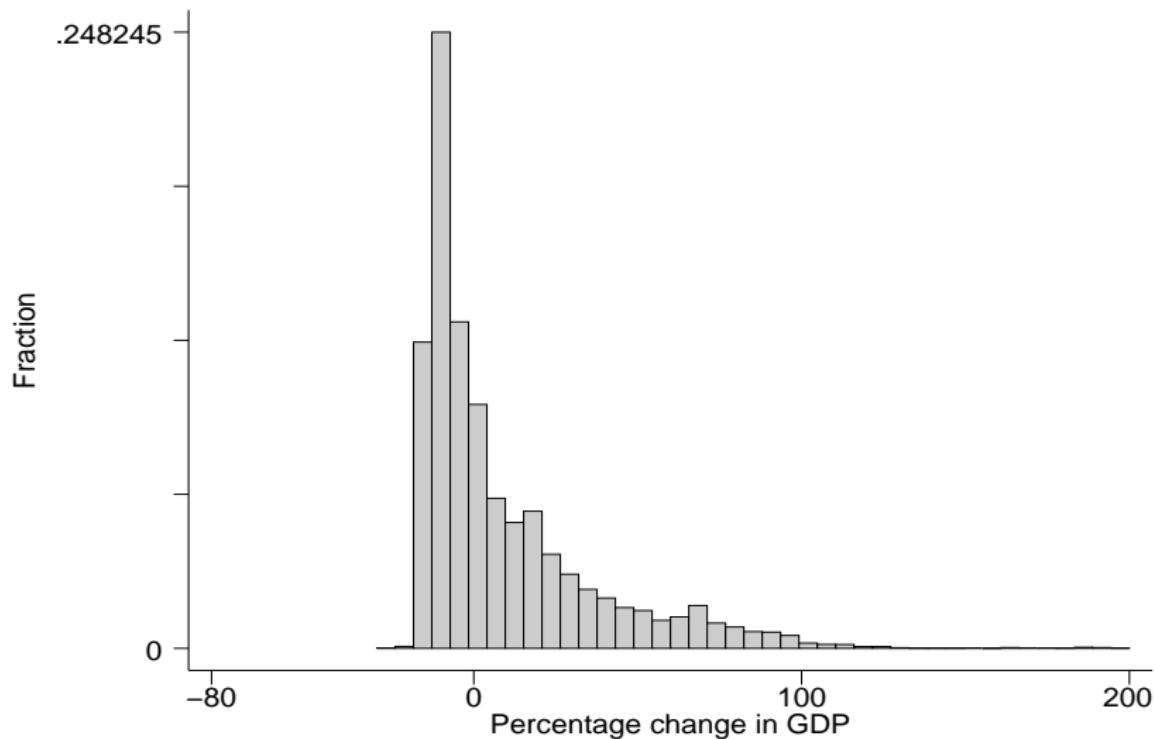
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2010 vs. 1990



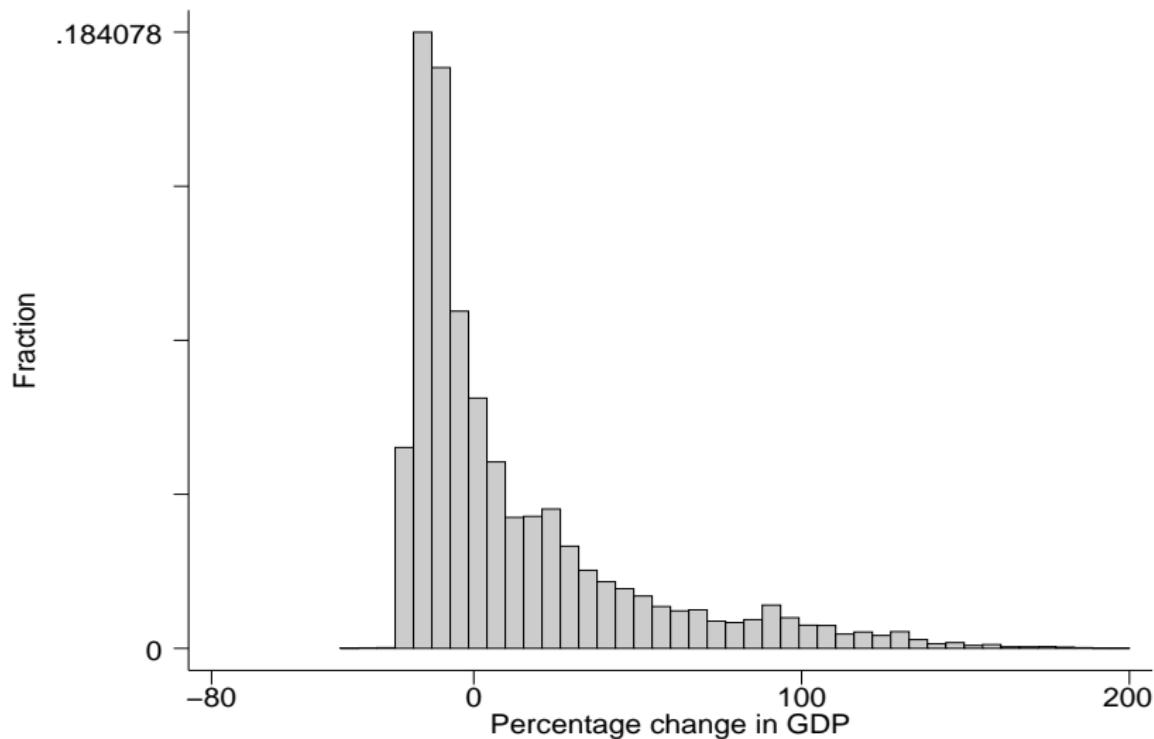
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2020 vs. 1990



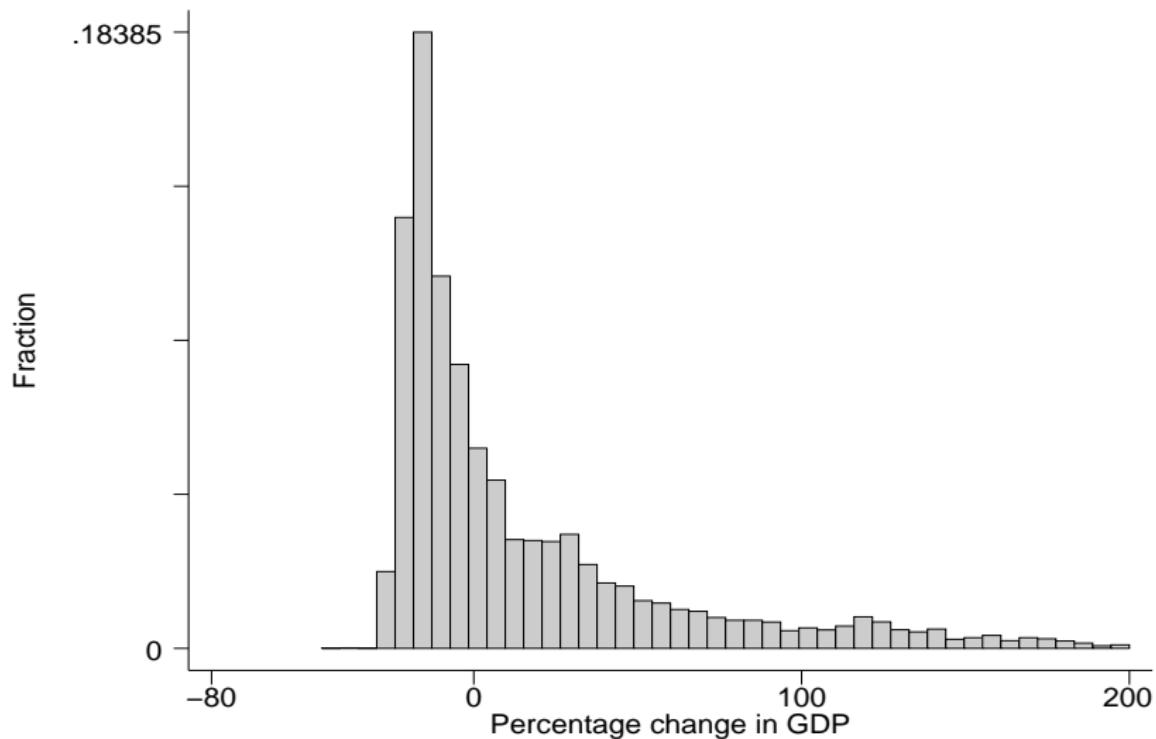
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2030 vs. 1990



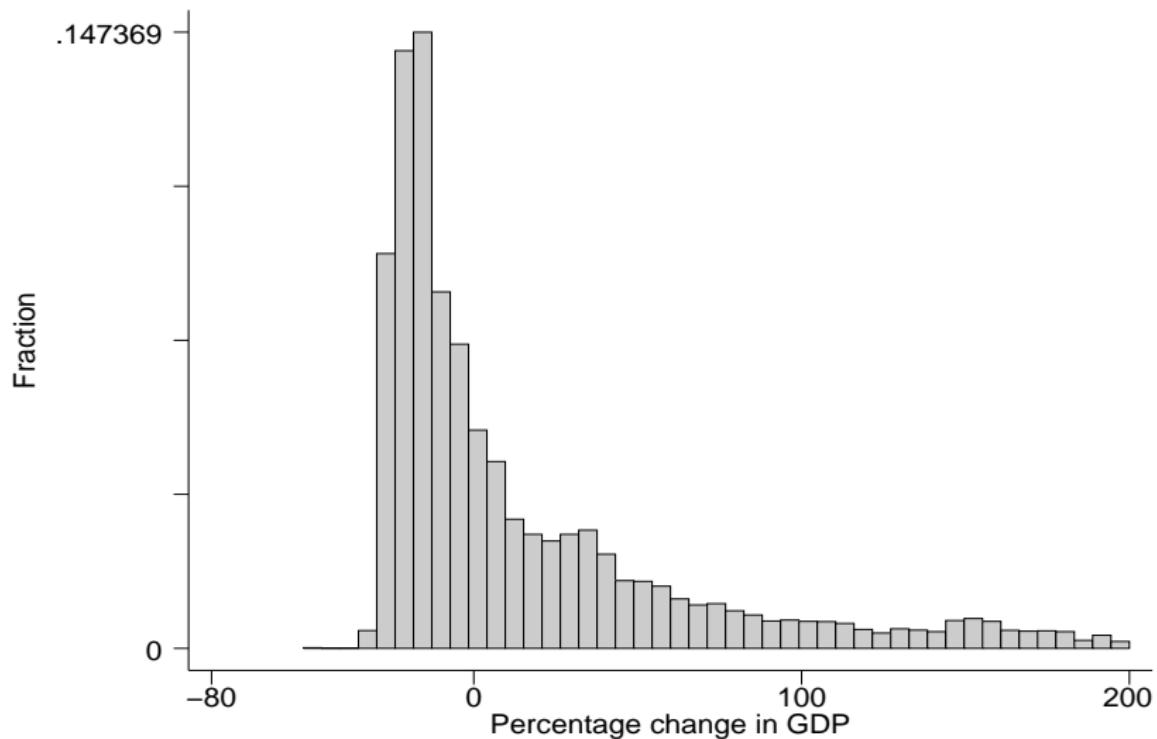
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2040 vs. 1990



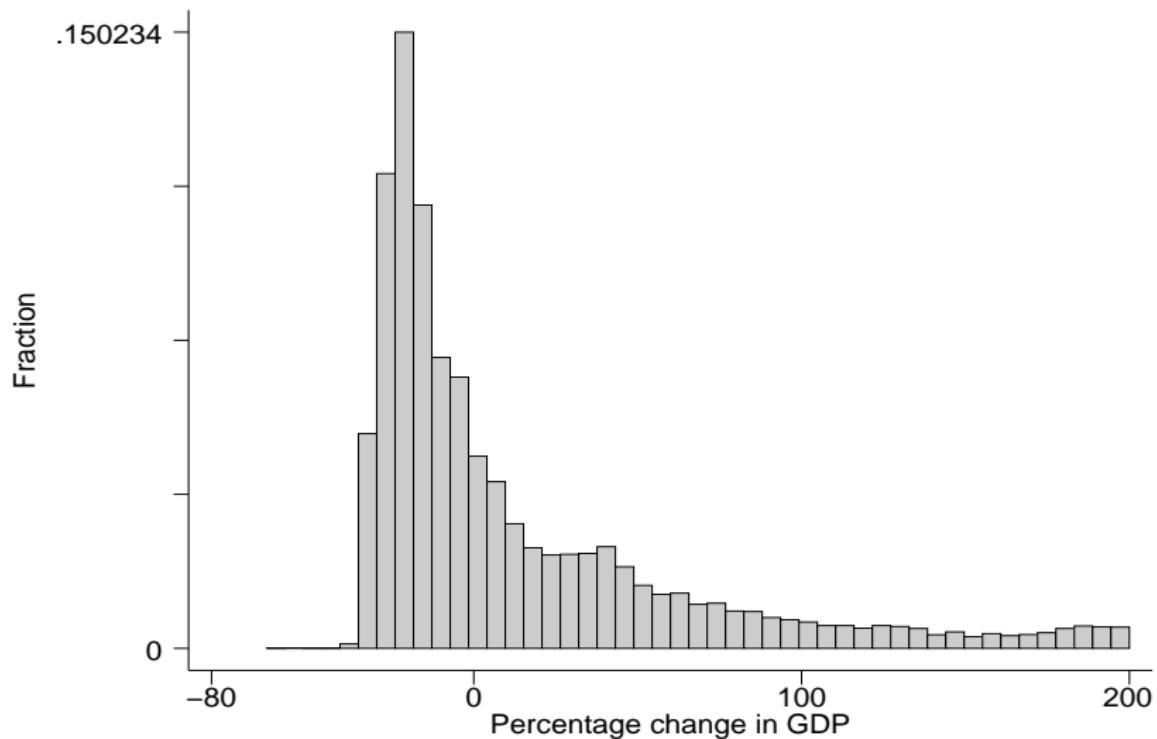
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2050 vs. 1990



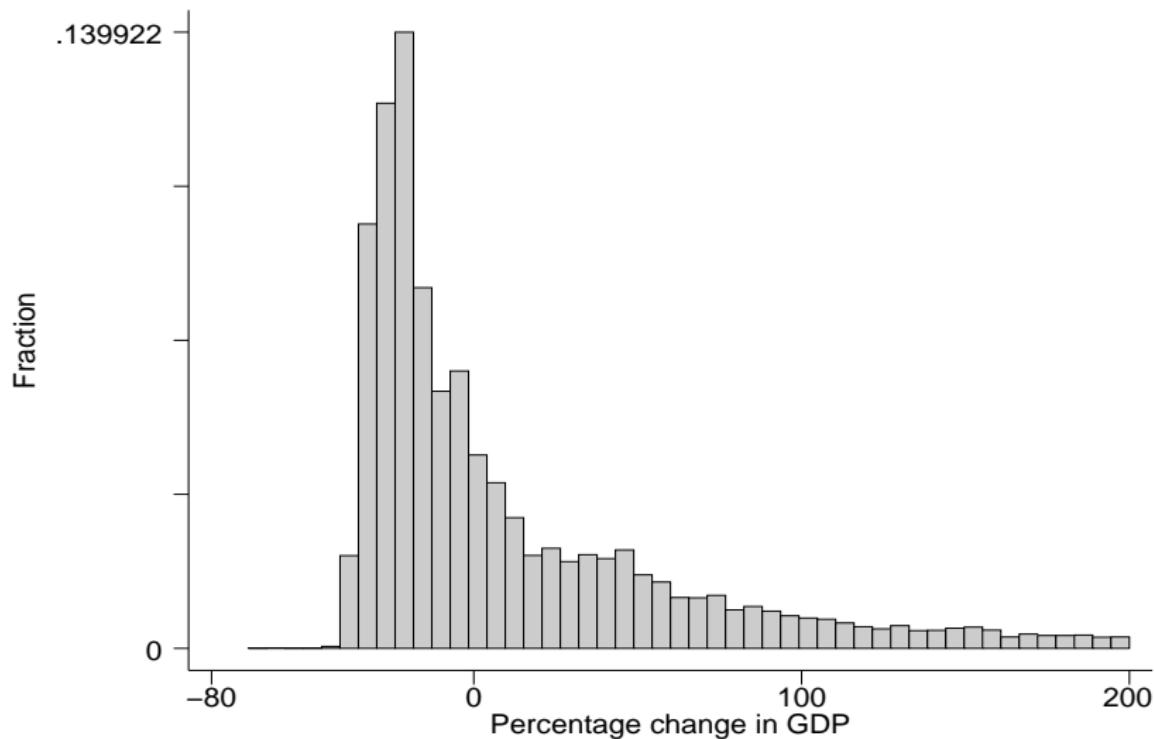
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2060 vs. 1990



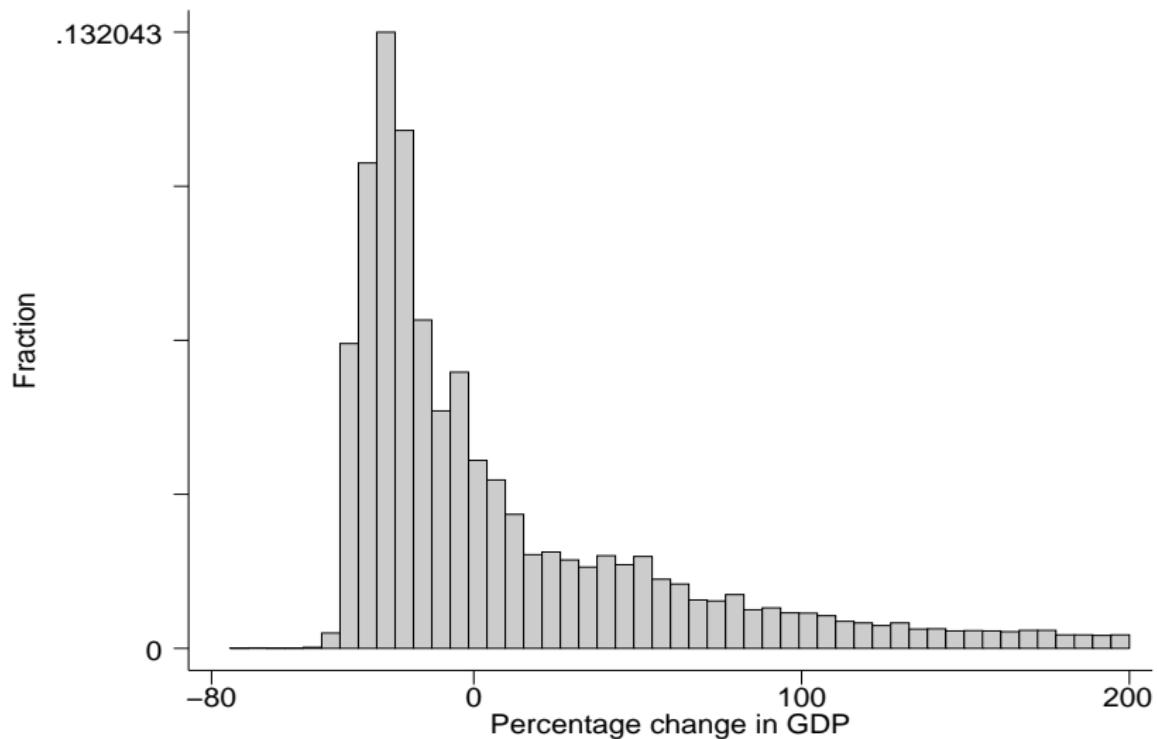
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2070 vs. 1990



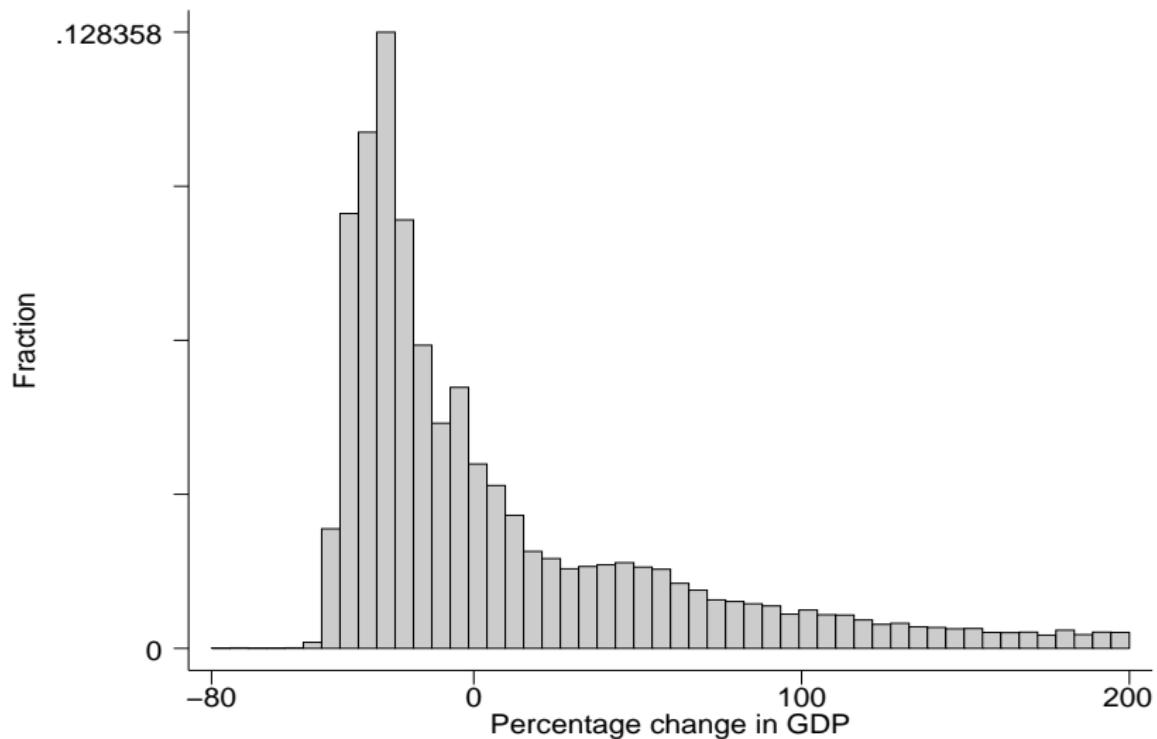
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2080 vs. 1990



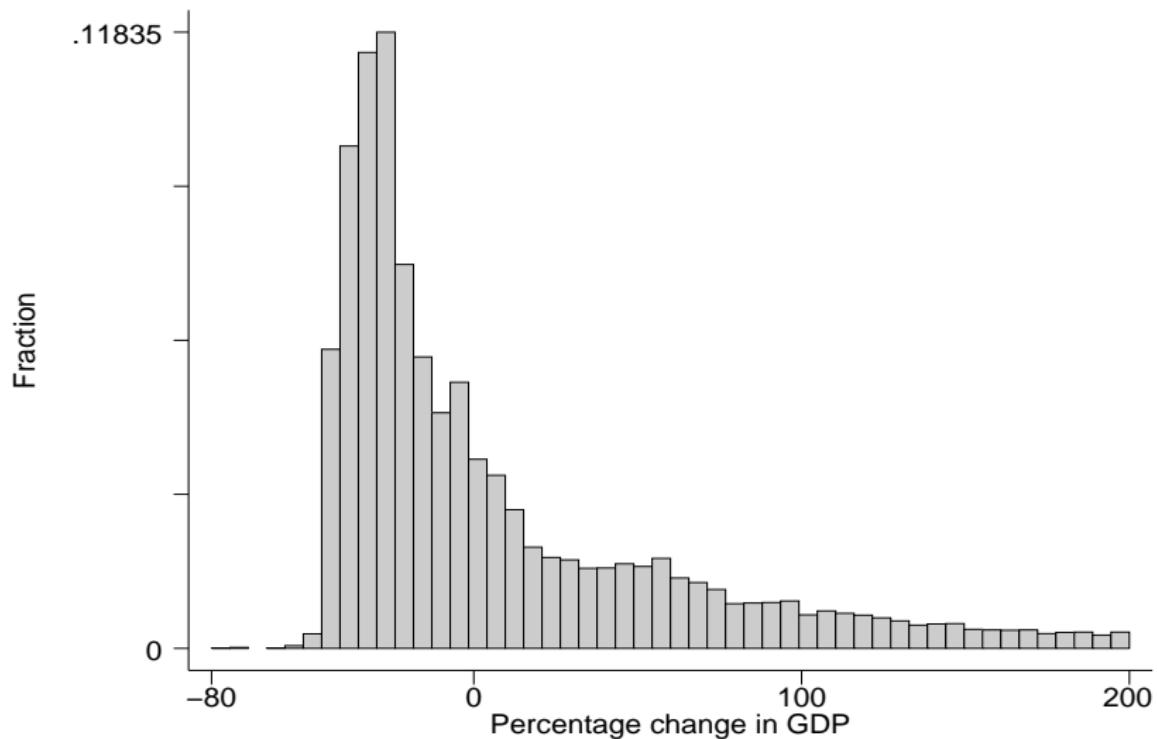
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2090 vs. 1990



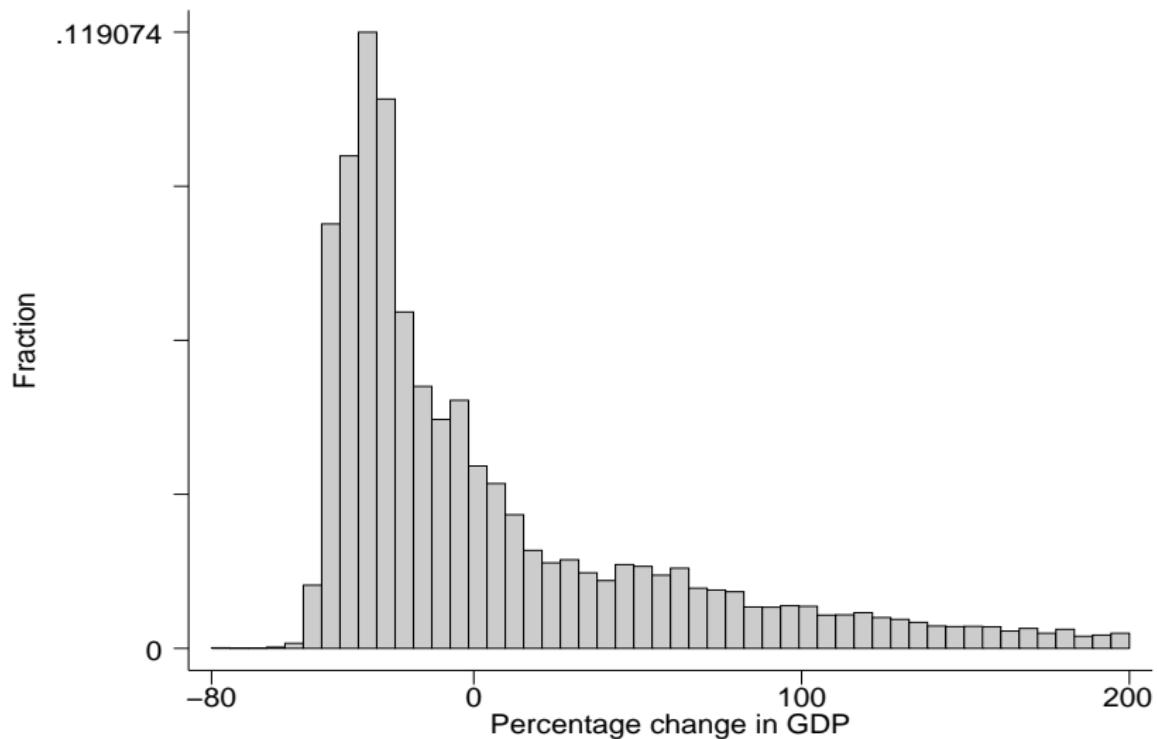
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2100 vs. 1990



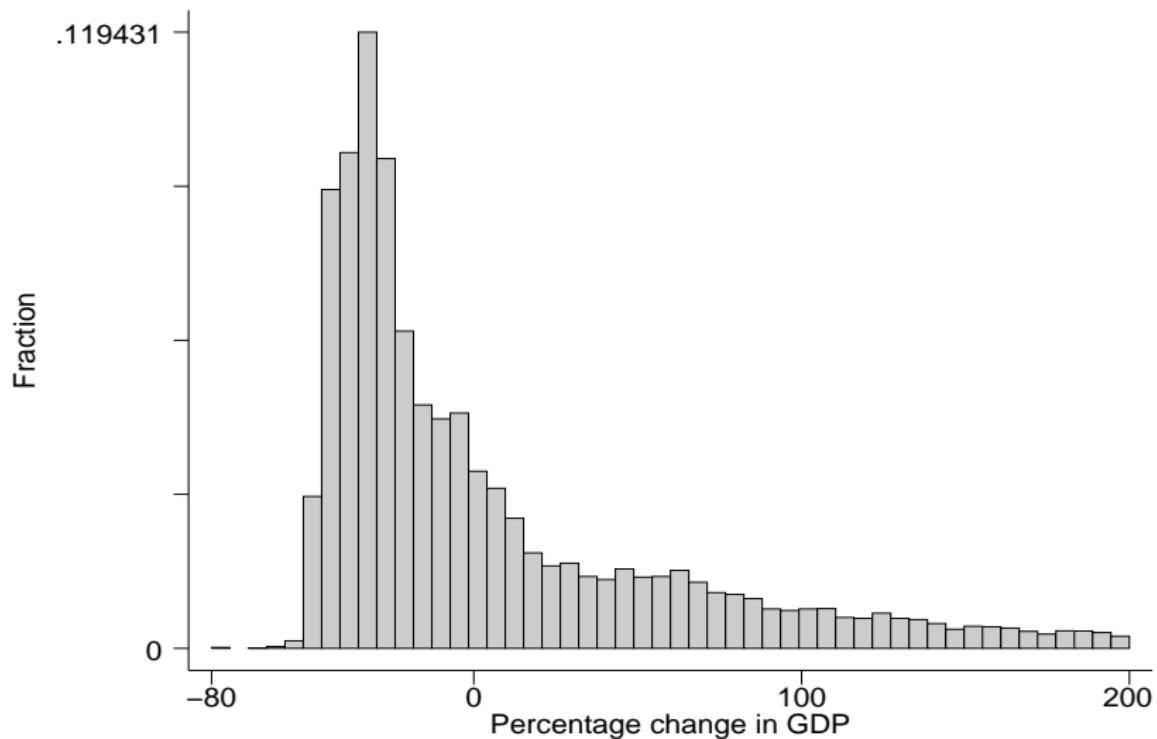
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2110 vs. 1990



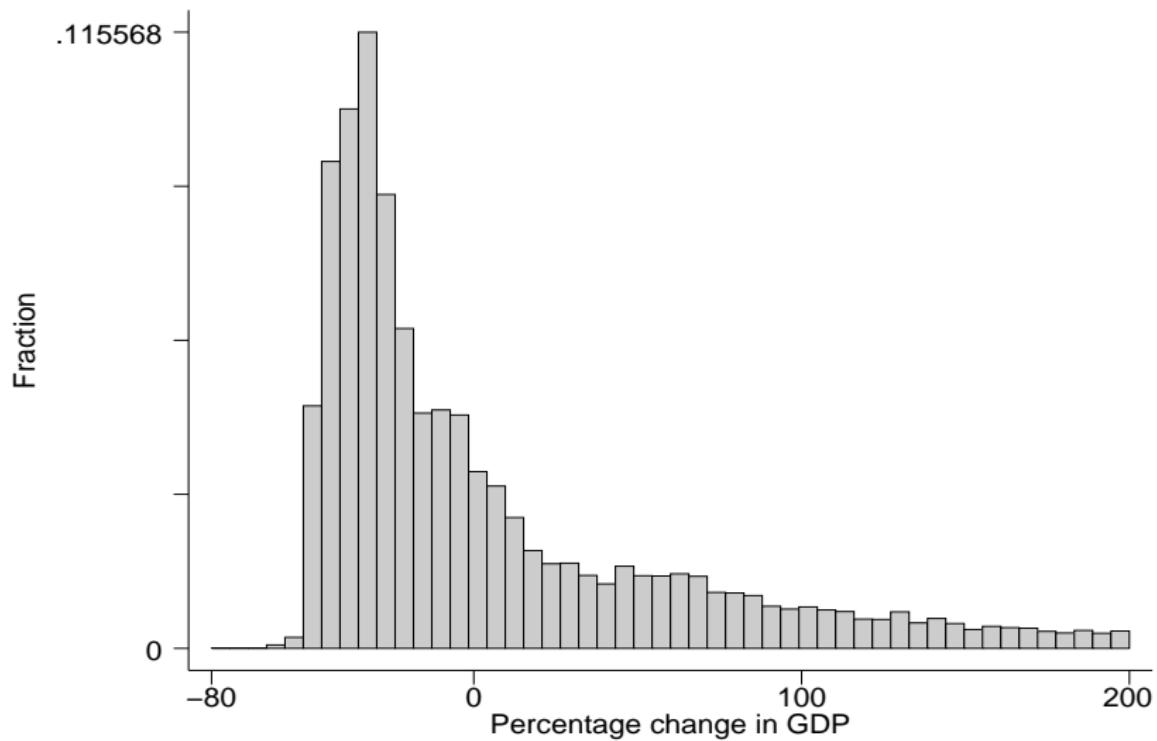
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2120 vs. 1990



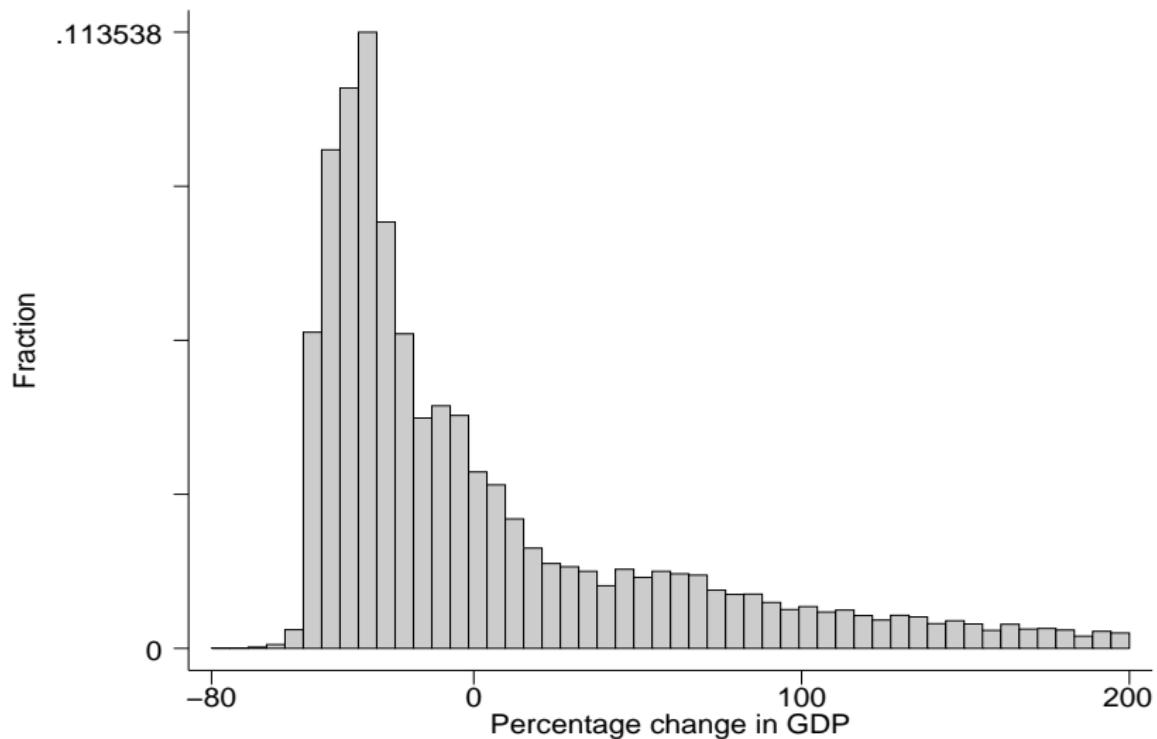
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2130 vs. 1990



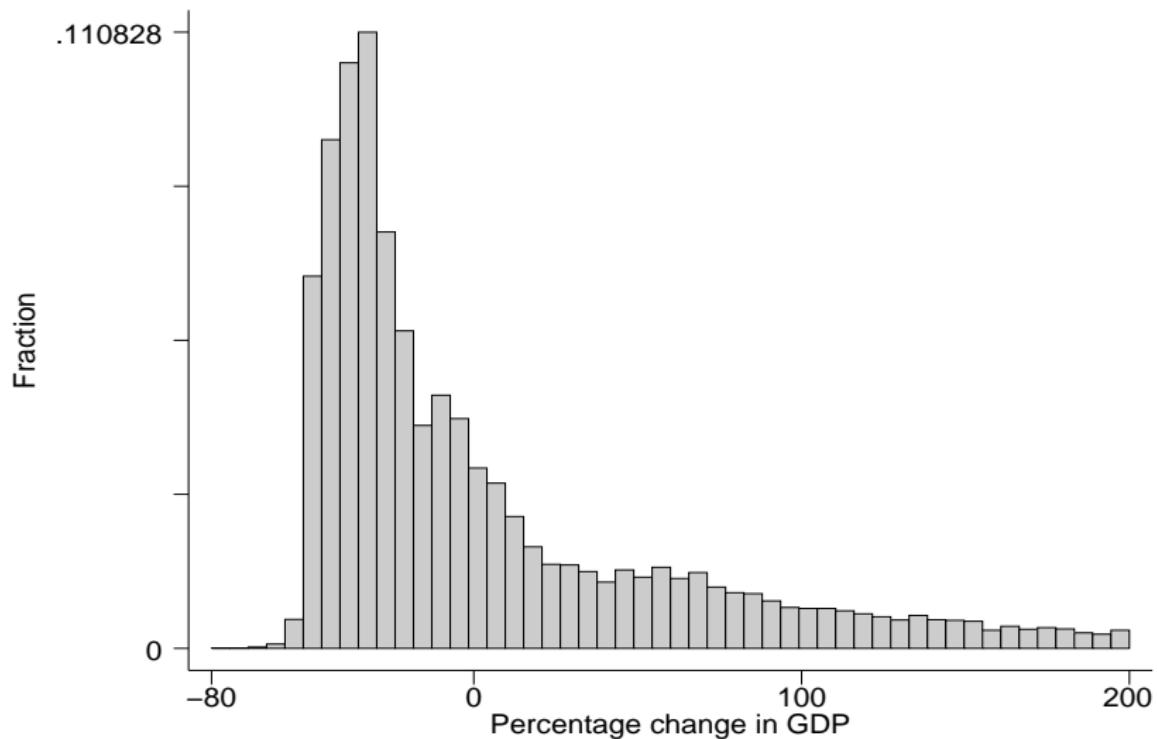
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2140 vs. 1990



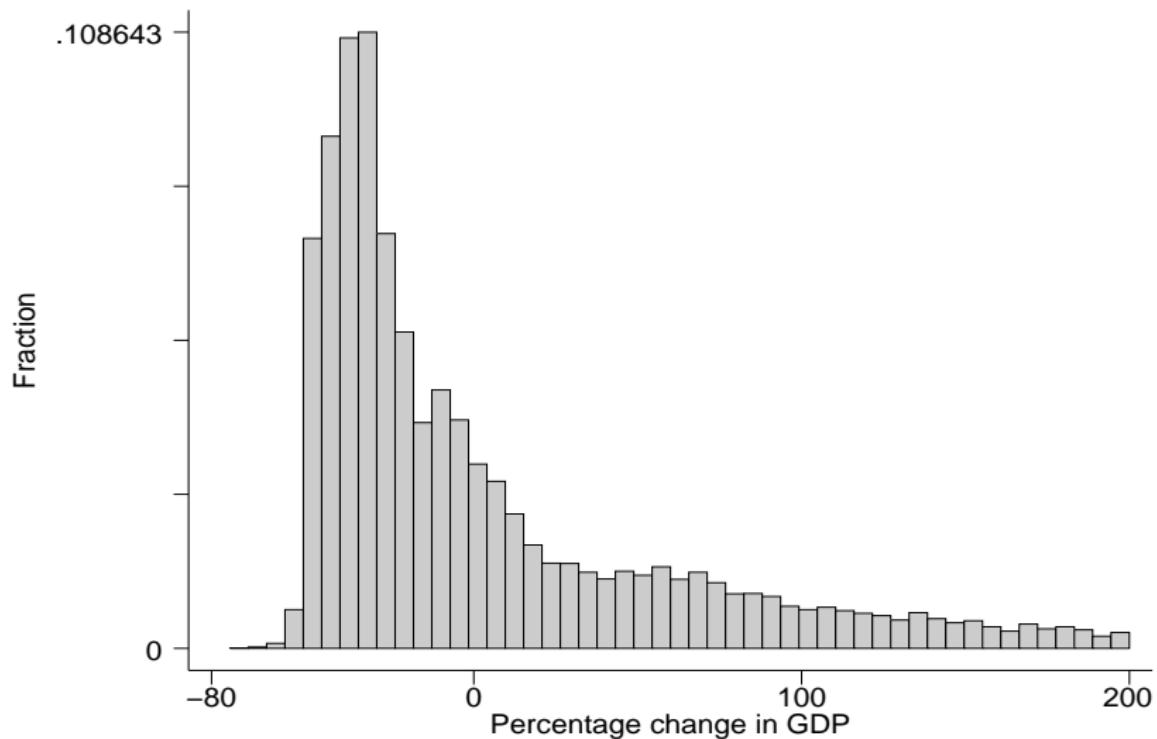
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2150 vs. 1990



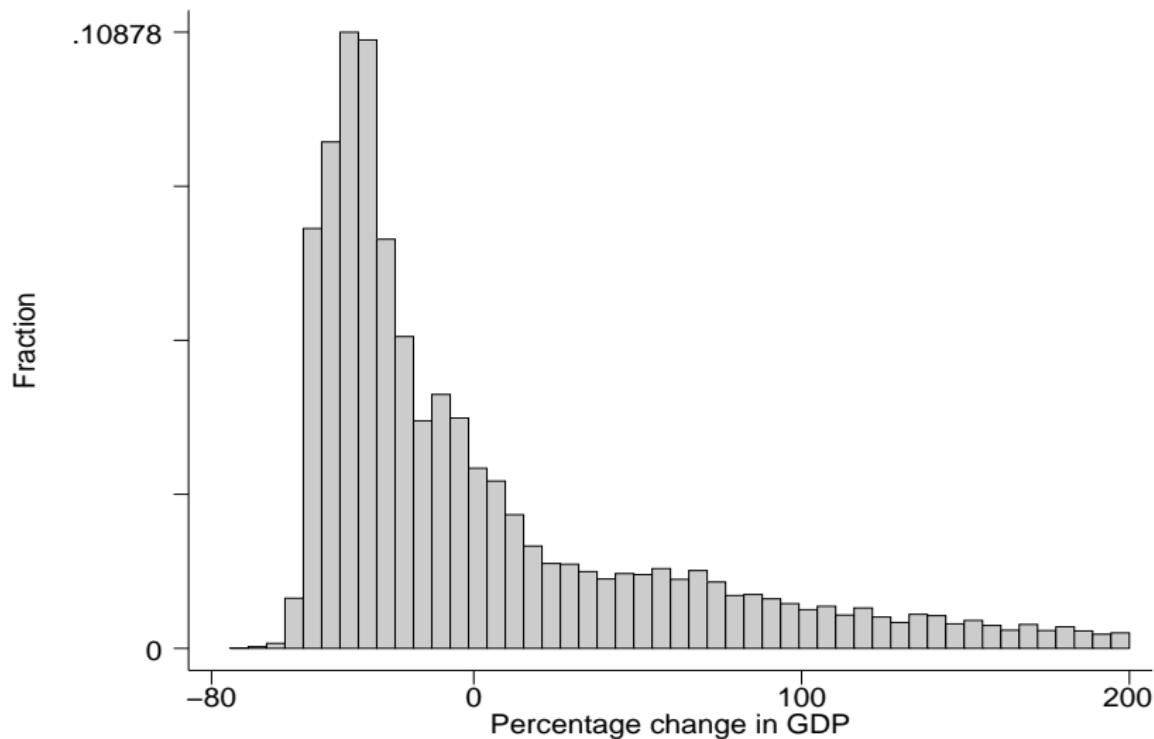
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2160 vs. 1990



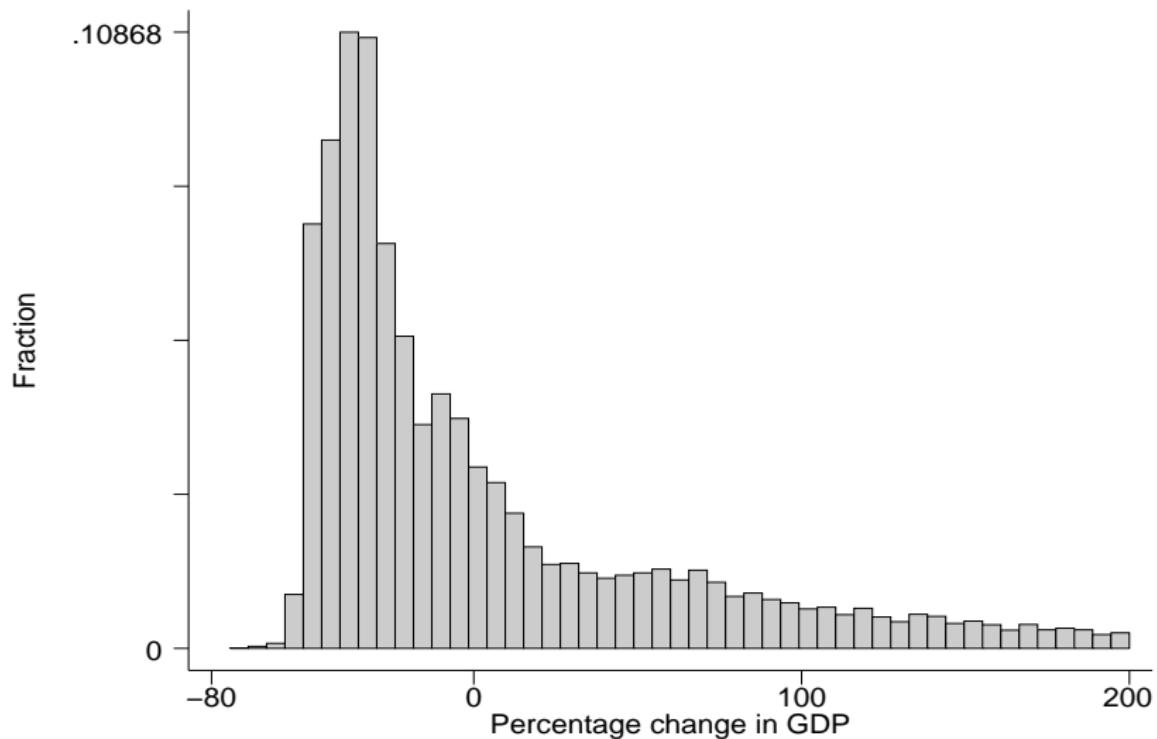
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2170 vs. 1990



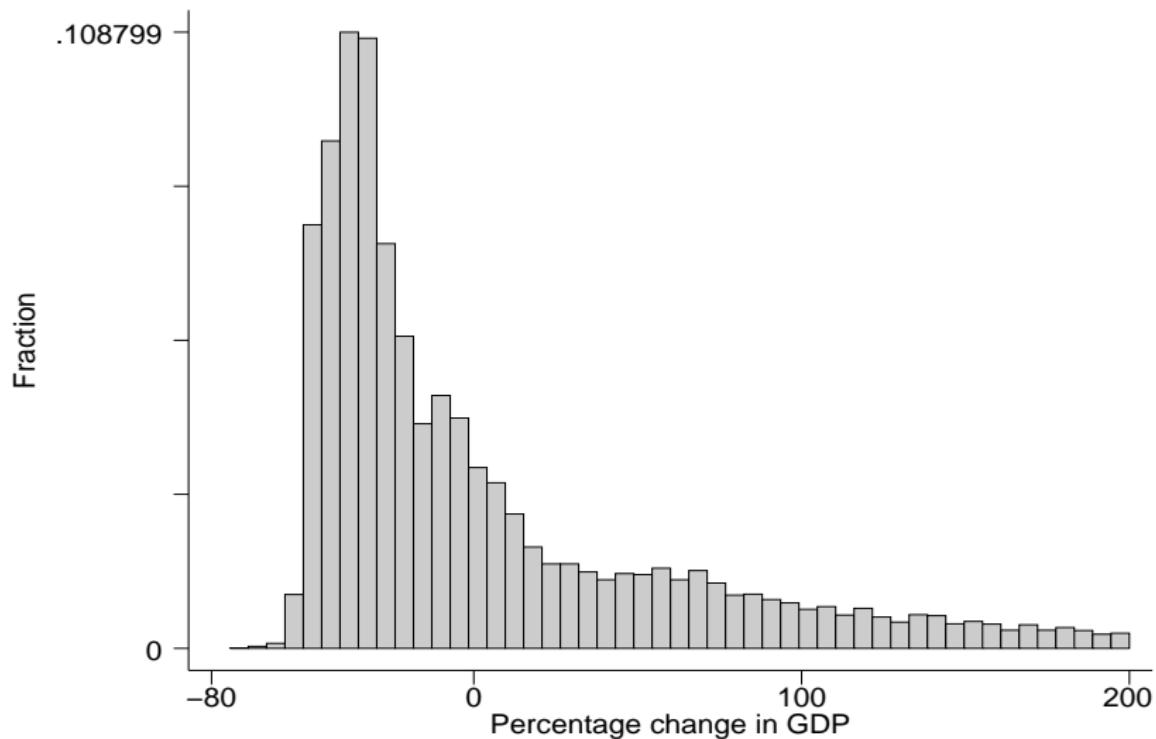
Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2180 vs. 1990



Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2190 vs. 1990

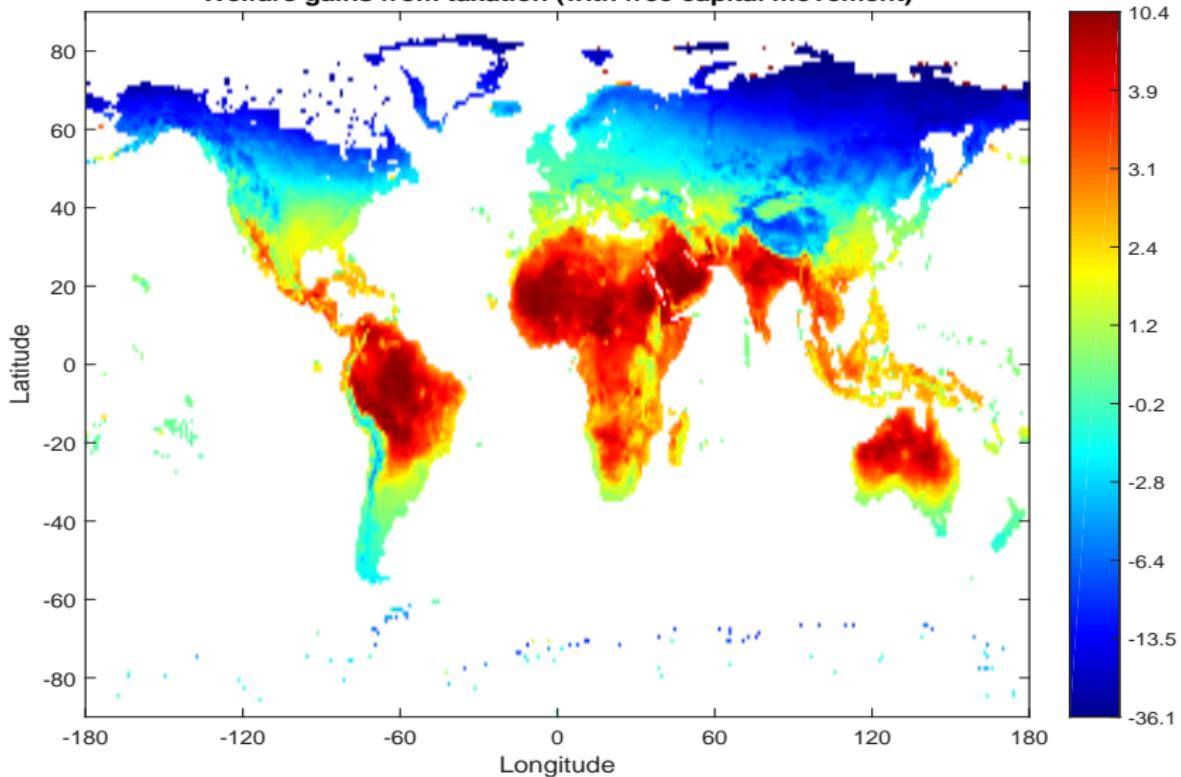


Distribution of percentage change in GDP: 2200 vs. 1990

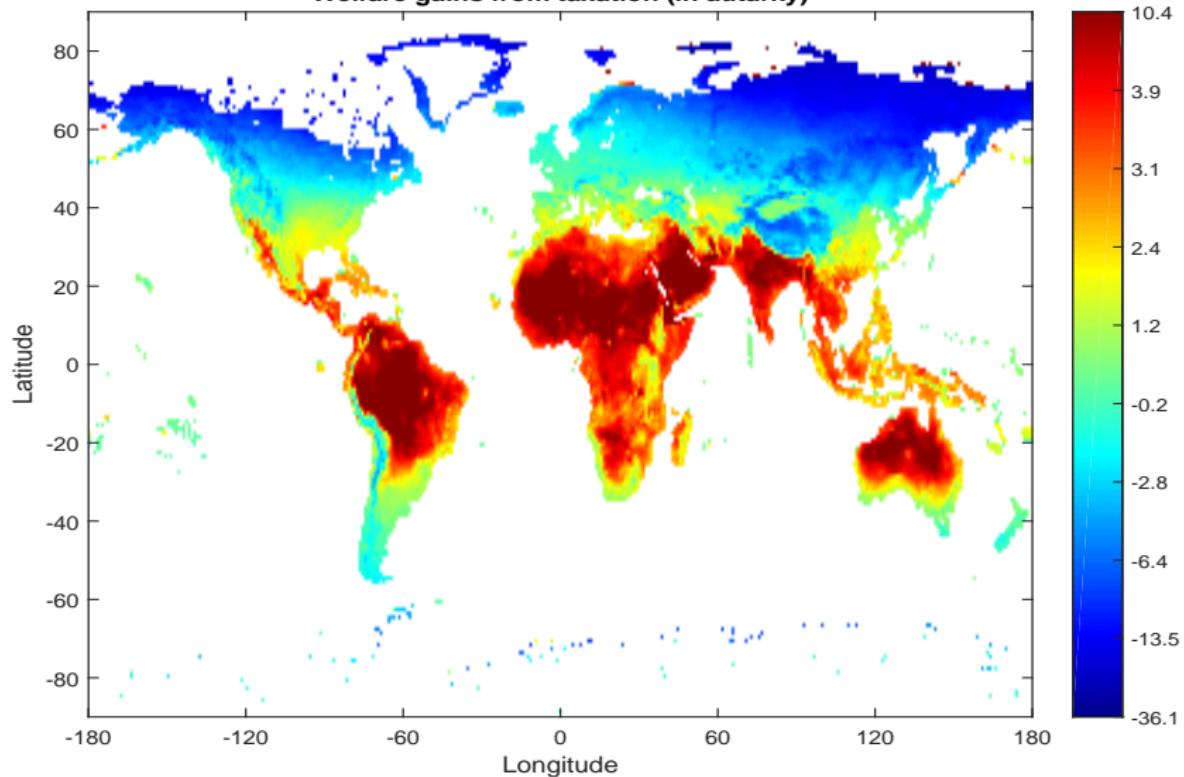


pictures: winners and losers from tax

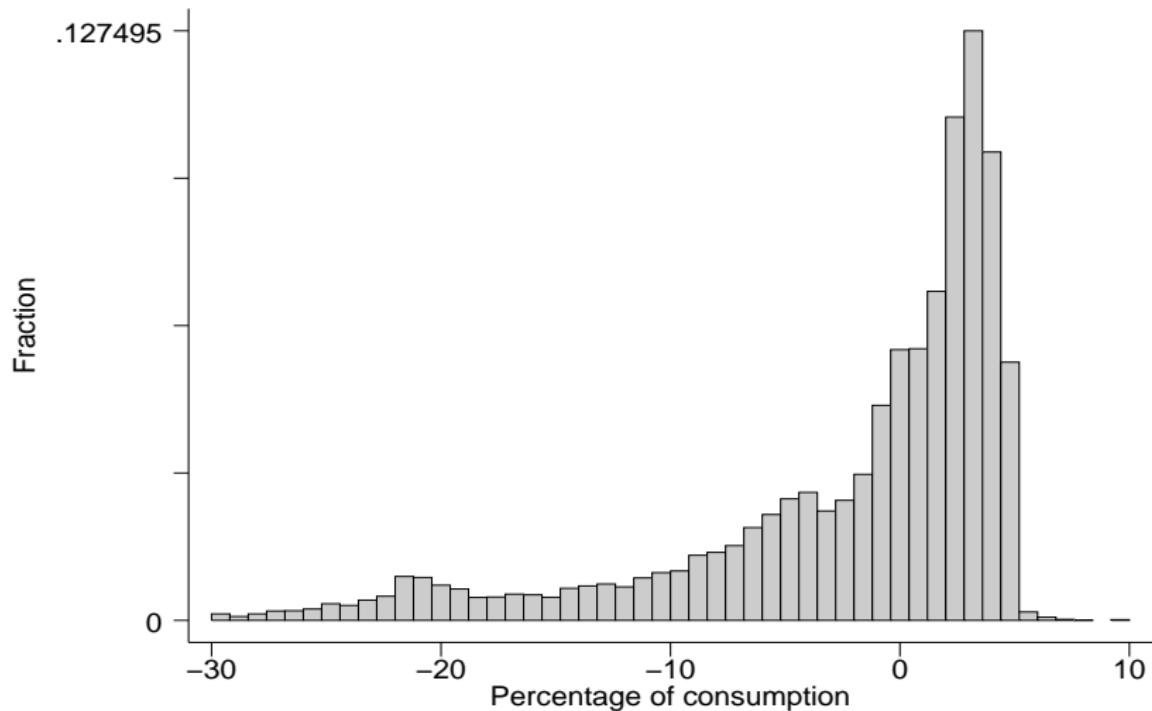
**Welfare gains from taxation (with free capital movement)**



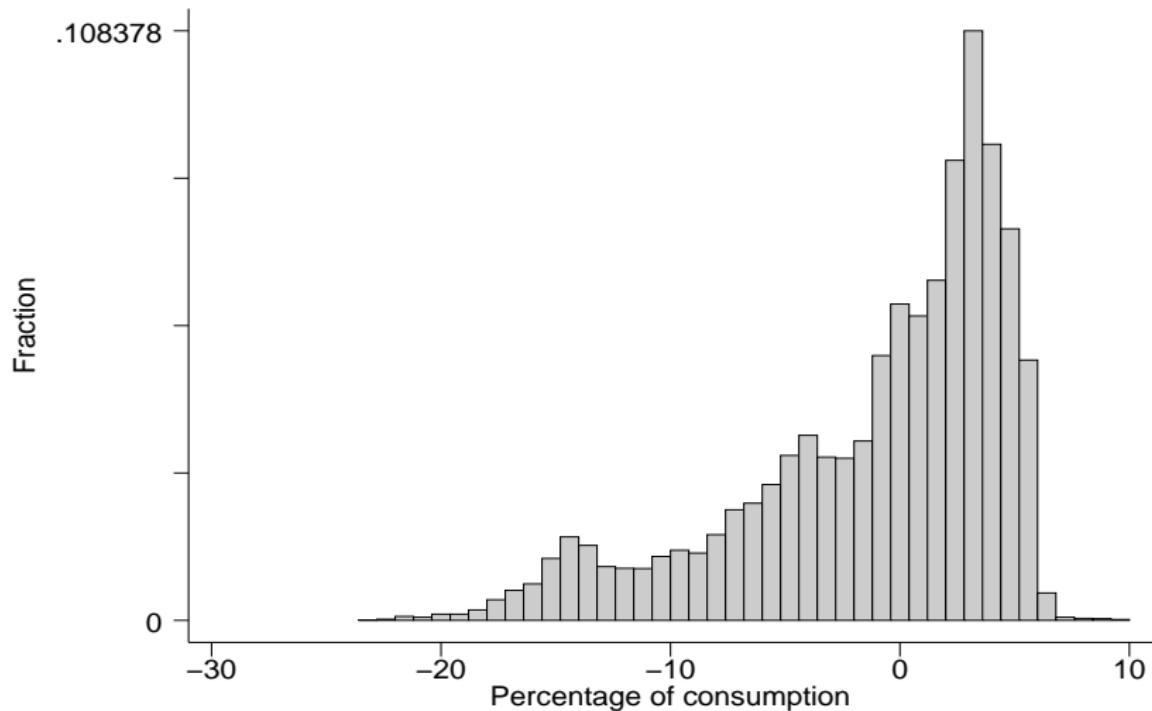
**Welfare gains from taxation (in autarky)**



Welfare gains from taxation (with free movement)  
(as a percentage of consumption)



Welfare gains from taxation (in autarky)  
(as a percentage of consumption)

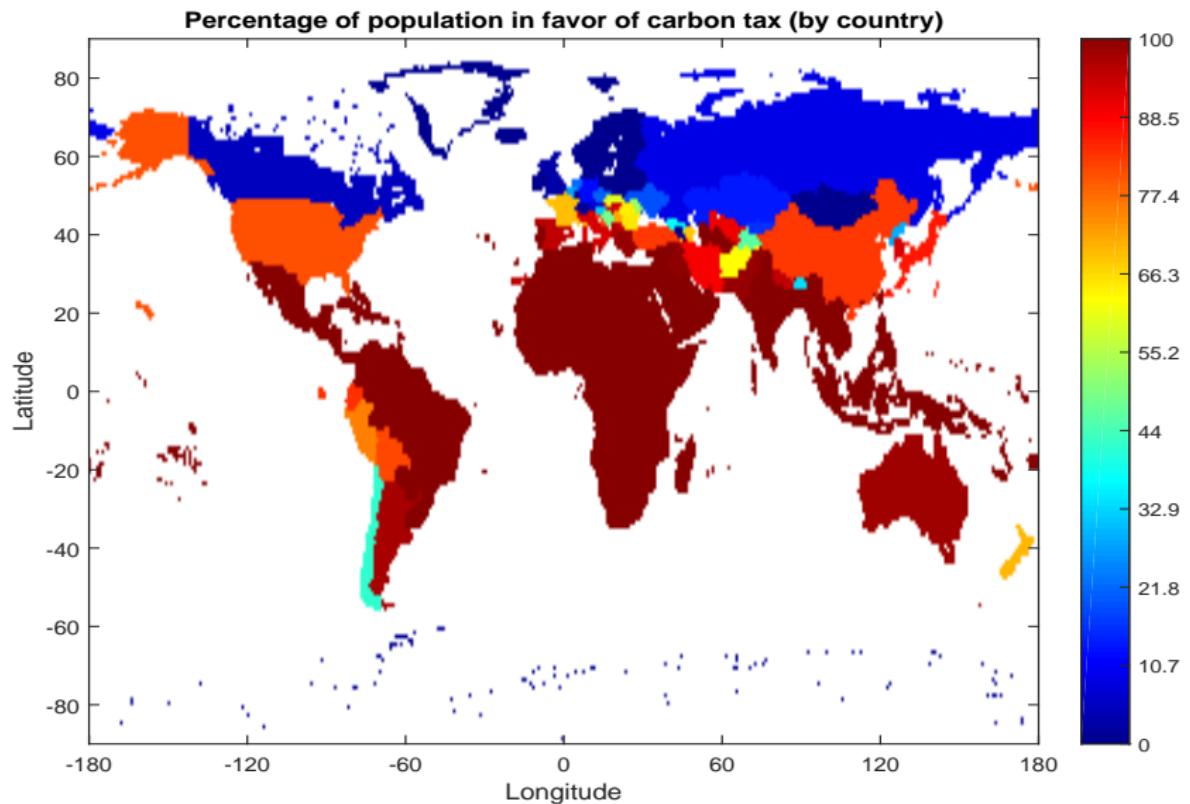


## Welfare changes from tax: summary measures

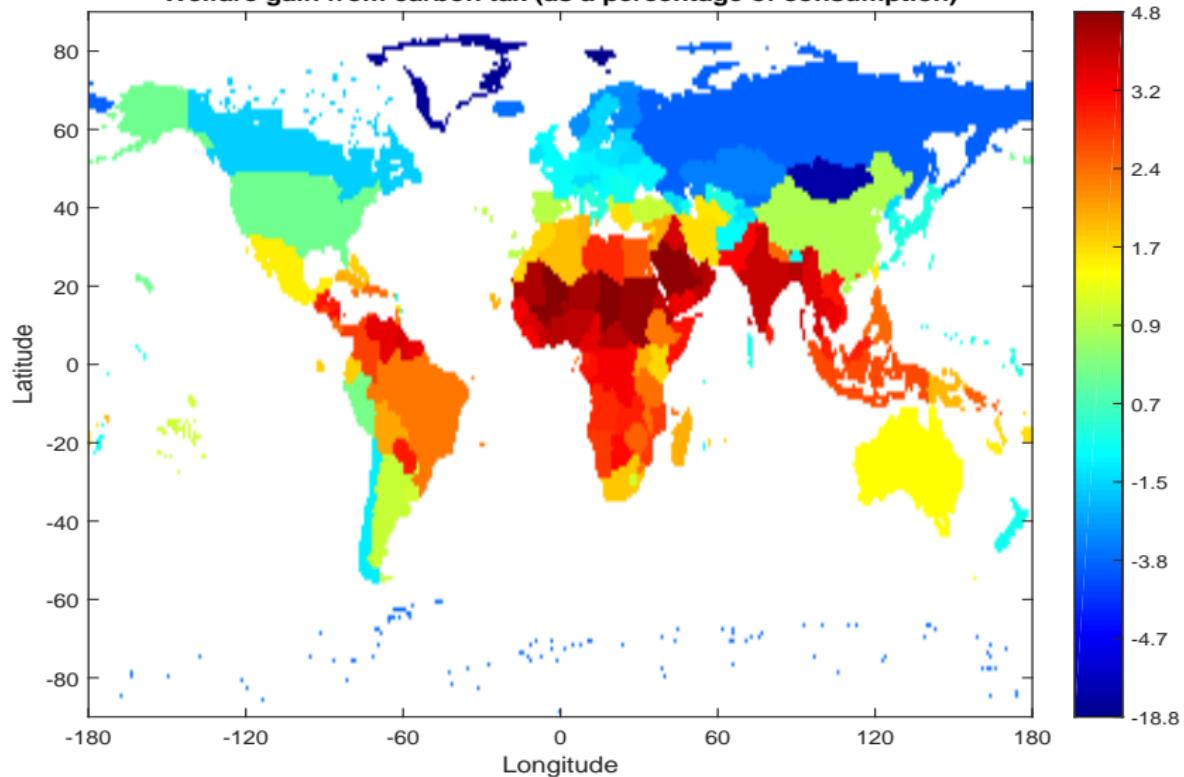
- ▶ One region = one vote: 56% gain.
- ▶ One person = one vote: 84% gain.
- ▶ One dollar = one vote: 68% gain.
- ▶ Average gain across all regions: -2.11% (of consumption).
- ▶ Average gain weighted by regional GDP: 0.60%.
- ▶ Average gain weighted by regional population: 1.74%.
- ▶ World consumption path: gain of 0.37%.

## Welfare changes from tax in U.S. and China only

- ▶ One region = one vote: 56% gain (vs. 56%).
- ▶ One person = one vote: 83% gain (vs. 84%).
- ▶ One dollar = one vote: 69% gain (vs. 68%).
- ▶ Average gain across all regions: -0.55% (vs. -2.11%).
- ▶ Average gain weighted by GDP: 0.16% (vs. 0.60%).
- ▶ Average gain weighted by population: 0.44% (vs. 1.74%).
- ▶ World consumption path: gain of 0.10% (vs. 0.37%).
- ▶ 27% of regions in U.S. gain (vs. 41%).
- ▶ 27% of regions in China gain (vs. 36%).
- ▶ 60% of regions in rest of world gain (vs. 58%).



**Welfare gain from carbon tax (as a percentage of consumption)**



movie: distribution of mpks

animation: [www.econ.yale.edu/smith/distmpk1.mp4](http://www.econ.yale.edu/smith/distmpk1.mp4)

# Conclusions

Takeaway:

- ▶ Results from our model: climate change is about relative effects much more than about average effects!
- ▶ In particular, large disagreements about taxes (so large transfer payments needed to compensate those losing from carbon tax).
- ▶ Methodological insight: we thought the market structure (because it admits more or less adaptation) would be important for the results, but it isn't.

## Building on the platform

1. Sea-level rise. [Can easily handle region-specific damages.]
2. Merge with the Norwegian Earth System Model (NorESM).  
No need to simplify climate system, gain access to a rich set of weather variables (extreme weather events, wind, etc.).
3. Weather shocks (local and aggregate). [Developed new computational tools to handle aggregate uncertainty + transition.] Risk sharing.
4. More regional heterogeneity: rural vs. urban and/or manufacturing vs. agriculture, with separate *U*-shapes.
5. Migration.
6. Growth-rate effects of climate change.
7. Gradual adaptation.

## “Coupling” with NorESM (with Storelvmo and Bjordal)

- ▶ Couple: Disaggregated Integrated Assessment Model (DIAM?) *and* a regional “global circulation model”, the Norwegian Earth System Model (NorESM).
- ▶ No need for a simplified geophysical model in DIAM!
- ▶ Coupling can be accomplished “off-line”: DIAM need not touch NorESM when it is generating an aggregate emissions path, and NorESM need not touch DIAM when it is generating a time path for regional temperatures.
- ▶ Define:  $\mathbb{T} \equiv \{\{T_{it}\}_{t=0}^T\}_{i=1}^M$  and  $\mathbb{E} \equiv \{E_t\}_{t=0}^T$ .
- ▶ DIAM:  $\mathbb{E} = G(\mathbb{T})$ . NorESM:  $\mathbb{T} = H(\mathbb{E})$ .
- ▶ Equilibrium is a fixed point:  $\mathbb{T}^* = H(G(\mathbb{T}^*))$ .

### Standard deviation of temperature shock (by year)

