# Effects of increasing precipitation on aerosol concentration in the Arctic

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#### **Abstract**

In this study, the influence of increased precipitation in a warmer climate on aerosol concentration is investigated. Due to the rapid warming in the Arctic, pronounced precipitation is expected. This study uses a CMIP6 model to get a better understanding of how enhanced precipitation in an abrupt 4xCO2 experiment affects aerosol concentration in the Arctic. A lack of CCN particles is present in areas over the sea where precipitation is enhanced. Over land, the relation between precipitation and CCNs is not as pronounced.

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#### 1. Introduction

The warming in the Artic is growing at much higher rates than the rest of the world - a phenomenon known as Artic amplification (Previdi et al., 2021). With increasing temperatures, the atmosphere can hold on more moisture, and thus increasing precipitation is expected. In addition, the massive sea ice retreat increases surface evaporation, which makes the Artic precipitation much more pronounced than what it would be only due to the Arctic warming (Bintanja et al., 2020).

Droplets and ice crystals in clouds together with precipitation can alter the aerosol particle concentration, by acting as sources and sinks. Wet scavenging is one of the most important sinks of aerosol particles in the atmosphere. Particles that are activated to cloud droplets or crystals can grow large enough under the right conditions to fall out of the cloud as precipitation. the particles are then scavenged by incloud scavenging, which is a major removal process for the accumulation mode. Aerosol particles can also be scavenged from beneath the cloud (below-cloud scavenging). This occurs when the cloud above is precipitating, and particles get collected and removed by the falling droplets. Below-cloud scavenging is an important sink for particles in the nucleation mode and coarser particles. (Isokääntä, 2022)

Aerosols have a crucial impact on the earth's energy budget. Aerosols alter the energy budget directly by scattering and absorbing solar and infrared radiation. In addition, aerosols also have an indirect effect where they can work as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN), thus

altering the clouds properties such as lifetime and albedo. With an increased amount of CCN, the particles grow to be smaller which increases the lifetime and albedo of the cloud. Hence inducing a negative effect on the radiative balance.

Further knowledge of how a warmer Arctic climate with increasing precipitation affects the aerosol concentration is thus important to get a better understanding their magnitude in the energy budged.

#### 2. Methods

#### 2.A. Packages

```
In [34]: # Importing packages
         import os as os
         # for handling the data
         import xarray as xr
         xr.set_options(display_style='html')
         import intake
         import cftime
         import pandas as pd
         import dask
         import numpy as np
         from sklearn.cluster import KMeans
         from sklearn.preprocessing import MinMaxScaler
         # for plotting
         import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
         import cartopy.crs as ccrs
         import cartopy as cy
         import matplotlib.gridspec as gridspec
         %matplotlib inline
         # my functions
         from functions Ingrid import *
         %reload_ext autoreload
         %autoreload 2
         # ignoring warnings
         import warnings
         warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
```

#### 2.B. Datasets

Model, experiments, and variables \ I used a coupled Earth System Model from CMIP6; The Norwegian Earth System Model version 2 (NorESM2) which is developed by the NorESM Climate modeling Consortium (NCC). There are three version of NorESM2 with different resolutions where NorESM2-MM with 1 degree resolutions is used in this project. To understand how precipitation in a warmer climate affects aerosol concentration I chose the experiments abrupt 4xCO2 and the piControl, to compare the variables without interuptions by future emissions. Hence the changes in aerosol concentration that is caused indirectly due to the increasing temperature can be investigated. The variables I focused on are Precipitation ('pr'), Cloud Condensation Nuclei Concentration at Liquid Cloud Top ('ccn'), and Surface Temperature ('ts').

**Reading the data** \ Since the aerosols variables was not available at the Pangeo CMIP6 online catalog, I downloaded the data directly from esgf with wget for the 30 first years (10 years at the time), for both experiments. An example of how that was done is shown below. The timeperiod was selected so that the abrupt 4xCO2 experiment could reach a steady state after the guadrupling.

"\nurls = ['http://noresg.nird.sigma2.no/thredds/fileServer/esg\_dataroot/cmor/CMIP6/CMIP/NCC/NorESM2-MM/abrupt-4xC02/r1i1p1f1/Amon/pr/gn/v20191108/pr\_Amon\_NorESM2-MM\_abrupt-4xC02\_r1i1p1f1\_gn\_002101-003012.nc', \n 'http://n oresg.nird.sigma2.no/thredds/fileServer/esg\_dataroot/cmor/CMIP6/CMIP/NCC/NorESM2-MM/abrupt-4xC02/r1i1p1f1/Amon/ts/gn/v20191108/ts\_Amon\_NorESM2-MM\_abrupt-4xC02\_r1i1p1f1\_gn\_002101-003012.nc', \n 'http://noresg.nird.sigma2.no/thredds/fileServer/esg\_dataroot/cmor/CMIP6/CMIP/NCC/NorESM2-MM/abrupt-4xC02/r1i1p1f1/AERmon/ccn/gn/v20191108/ccn\_AERmon\_NorESM2-MM\_abrupt-4xC02\_r1i1p1f1\_gn\_002101-003012.nc'] \n\n\n# wget all files in the list\nfor url in urls:\n os.system('wget ' + url)\n"

After downlowding the data, the files was read in with xarray. Since the data was for 10 years at the time, the datasets for each 10 year period was contatenated together.

Reading files from piControl for the first 30 years:

```
list_of_files10_piControl = [
               ../../Data/ccn_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_rli1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc',
              '../../Data/cdnc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_rlilp1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc',
               ../../Data/co2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc'
               ../../Data/emibc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_rli1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc'
               ../../Data/emibvoc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc
               ../../Data/emidust_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc'
               ../../Data/emioa_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_rli1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc',
               ../../Data/emiso2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_rli1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc
               ../../Data/emiso4 AERmon NorESM2-MM piControl rli1p1f1 gn 120001-120912.nc',
               ../../Data/emiss_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc',
               ../../Data/pr_Amon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc'
               ../../Data/prc_Amon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc',
               ../../Data/ts_Amon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc'
               ../../Data/so2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_rli1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc'
              '../../Data/emivoc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_120001-120912.nc',
              '../../Data/emiisop AERmon NorESM2-MM piControl rlilp1f1 gn 120001-120912.nc'
         ds_piControl10 = xr.open mfdataset(list of files10 piControl, combine='by coords', compat='override', use cftim
In [4]: # Reading in piControl data for the next 20 years, where the files contains all variables that was read in for
         ds_piControl20 = xr.open_mfdataset('../../Data/NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_121001-121912.nc', use_cftime=T
ds_piControl30 = xr.open_mfdataset('../../Data/NorESM2-MM_piControl_r1i1p1f1_gn_122001-122912.nc', use_cftime=T
         Reading files from 4xco2 experiment for the first 30 years:
In [5]: # 10 first years
         ds 4xco2 10 = xr.open mfdataset('../../Data/all NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xC02 rli1p1f1 000101-001012.nc', use cftime=
In [6]: # next 10 years
         list of files20 = [
               ../../Data/ccn AERmon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xCO2 rlilplf1 gn 001101-002012.nc',
               ../../Data/pr_Amon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc'
               ../../Data/cdnc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rlilp1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc'
               ../../Data/co2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc'
               ../../Data/emibc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rlilplf1_gn_001101-002012.nc', ../../Data/emibvoc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rlilplf1_gn_001101-002012.nc'
               ../../Data/emidust_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc',
               ../../Data/emiisop_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rlilp1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc',
               ../../Data/emioa AERmon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xC02 rlilplf1 gn 001101-002012.nc',
               ../../Data/emiso2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rlilplf1_gn_001101-002012.nc'
               ../../Data/emiso4_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rlilp1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc',
               ../../Data/emiss_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc'
               ../../Data/emivoc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc',
               ../../Data/prc_Amon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc'
              '../../Data/so2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xCO2_r1i1p1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc',
              '../../Data/ts_Amon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc']
         ds_4xco2_20 = xr.open_mfdataset(list_of_files20, combine='by_coords', compat='override', use_cftime=True)
In [7]: # last 10 years
         list of files30 = [
               ../../Data/ccn_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc',
               ../../Data/pr_Amon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc'
               ../../Data/cdnc AERmon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xC02 r1i1p1f1 gn 002101-003012.nc',
               ../../Data/co2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_Tiilp1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc', ../../Data/emibc_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_Tiilp1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc
              ../../Data/emibvoc AERmon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xC02 rli1p1f1 gn 002101-003012.nc',
               ../../Data/emidust_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc', ../../Data/emiisop_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc',
               ../../Data/emioa_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc'
               ../../Data/emiso2 AERmon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xC02 rlilplf1 gn 002101-003012.nc
               ../../Data/emiso4_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc'
               ../../Data/emiss_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc'
               ../../Data/emivoc AERmon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xC02 rlilp1f1 gn 002101-003012.nc',
               ../../Data/prc_Amon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rli1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc'
               ../../Data/so2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xCO2_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc',
              '../../Data/ts Amon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xCO2 rli1p1f1 gn 002101-003012.nc']
         ds_4xco2_30 = xr.open_mfdataset(list_of_files30, combine='by_coords', compat='override', use_cftime=True)
```

Making the datasets for each time period to have equal coordinates, and longitude range before concatenating:

For piControl

```
In [8]: # dropping variables that dosn't exsist in all time periods
  variables = ["time_bnds", "lev_bnds", "p0", "a", "b", "ps", "a_bnds", "b_bnds", "lat_bnds", "lon_bnds"]
```

```
variables = ["dms", "emidms"]
          ds piControl20 = ds piControl20.drop vars(variables)
          ds piControl30 = ds piControl30.drop vars(variables)
 In [9]: # transforming longitude range for the 10 first years
          ds piControl10 = ds piControl10.assign coords(lon=(((ds piControl10.lon + 180) % 360) - 180)).sortby('lon')
          For abrubt 4xCO2
In [10]: # the time periods for datasets with different dimension
          time20 = ds 4xco2 20.time.values
          time30 = ds_4xco2_30.time.values
In [11]: # converterting datatset for second timeperiod to have the same lat, lon and lev points as first period
ds_20 = convert(ds_4xco2_20, list_of_files20, time20)
          ../../Data/cdnc AERmon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xC02 rli1p1f1 gn 001101-002012.nc
          ../../Data/co2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rlilp1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc
../../Data/so2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rlilp1f1_gn_001101-002012.nc
In [12]: # converterting datatset for third timeperiod to have the same lat, lon and lev points as first period
ds_30 = convert(ds_4xco2_30, list_of_files30, time30)
          ../../Data/cdnc AERmon NorESM2-MM abrupt-4xC02 rli1p1f1 gn 002101-003012.nc
          ../../Data/co2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_r1i1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc
          ../../Data/so2_AERmon_NorESM2-MM_abrupt-4xC02_rli1p1f1_gn_002101-003012.nc
          Concatenating the datasets for the three time periods for each experiment:
In [13]: # the variables the dataset should contain
          var_list = ['pr', 'ccn', 'cdnc', 'co2', 'emibc', 'emibvoc', 'emidust', 'emiisop', 'emioa', 'emiso2', 'emiso4',
In [14]: # concatinating for abrubt 4xCO2
          ds_all_4xco2 = xr.concat([ds_4xco2_10[var_list], ds_20[var_list], ds_30[var_list]], dim="time")
In [15]: # concatinating for piControl
          ds all piControl = xr.concat([ds piControl10[var list], ds piControl20[var list], ds piControl30[var list]], di
          Fixing variable units:
In [16]:
          ds 4xco2 NorESM = fix units(ds all 4xco2)
          ds piControl NorESM = fix units(ds all piControl)
          2.C. Analysis methods
In [17]: # yearly data
ds 4xco2_NorESM_y = annual(ds_4xco2_NorESM)
          ds_piControl_NorESM_y = annual(ds_piControl_NorESM)
          Calculations for time series plots - Global and Arctic mean
In [18]: # defining the Arctic area
          max lat = 90; min lat = 70; max lon = 135; min lon = 45
          # finding all lat and lon within the area
          mask\_lon = (ds\_4xco2\_NorESM\_y.lon >= min\_lon) \& (ds\_4xco2\_NorESM\_y.lon <= max\_lon)
          mask lat = (ds 4xco2 NorESM y.lat >= min lat) & (ds 4xco2 NorESM y.lat<= max lat)
          # delimit the datatsets to only where the lat and lon are True
          ds arctic 4xco2 = ds 4xco2 NorESM y.where(mask lon & mask lat, drop=True)
          ds arctic piControl = ds piControl NorESM y.where(mask lon & mask lat, drop=True)
In [19]: # Artic and global mean
          arctic_mean_4xco2 = weighted_mean(ds_arctic_4xco2)
          global mean 4xco2 = weighted mean(ds 4xco2 NorESM y)
          arctic_mean_piControl = weighted_mean(ds_arctic_piControl)
          global mean piControl = weighted mean(ds piControl NorESM y)
          Calculations for spatial plots - difference between abrupt 4xCO2 and piControl
```

ds piControl10 = ds piControl10.drop vars(variables)

In [20]: # skipping the 5 first years compare thexperiments after the quardrupling of CO2 is stabalized

ds\_4xco2\_stable = ds\_4xco2\_NorESM\_y.sel(time=slice('0005-12-31','0030-12-31'))
ds\_piControl\_stable = ds\_piControl\_NorESM\_y.sel(time=slice('1204-12-31','1229-12-31'))

ds\_4xco2\_stable = add\_attrs(ds\_4xco2\_stable)

```
In [21]: # computing the mean over time
ds_4xco2_mean = ds_4xco2_stable.mean('time', keep_attrs=True)
ds_piControl_mean = ds_piControl_stable.mean('time', keep_attrs=True)

In [22]: # global differences
ds_diff = ds_4xco2_mean-ds_piControl_mean
```

#### Seasonal differences

```
In [23]: # grouping the datasets into seasons
    ds_season_4xco2 = ds_4xco2_NorESM.groupby('time.season').mean(keep_attrs=True)
    ds_season_piControl = ds_piControl_NorESM.groupby('time.season').mean(keep_attrs=True)

In [24]: # gloabal seasonal differences
    season_diff = ds_season_4xco2-ds_season_piControl

In [25]: # name of seasons
    seasons = season_diff.season.values
```

#### 3. Results and discussion

ds piControl stable = add attrs(ds piControl stable)

Figure 1 shows that temperature, precipitation, and CCN concentrations will increase more over the Arctic than for the global mean. Increased precipitation can cause a removal of CCN particles due to wet scavenging, but the CCN concentration is still increasing likely due to the quadrupling of CO2.

The spatial plots in Figures 2, and 3, show that the most pronounced increase in precipitation occurs on the south coast of Greenland, as well as over the Bering Sea. If we look at the CCN concentration in Figure 3 for the same locations, we see that the concentration is only increasing slightly. Bearing in mind from figure 1 that Arctic CCN concentration will have a large increase in total, the slight increase in CCNs over the two locations could induce that wet scavenging is a dominating process.

On the other hand, CCN concentrations are also only slightly increasing over Scandinavia and western parts of Russia, where precipitation is not pronouncedly increased. In addition, the CCNs is conspicuously decreasing over eastern parts of Russia. The precipitation map shows that there is an increase in precipitation, but not as concentrated in the same locations as the CCN drop. The precipitation is also not increasing as pronouncedly as for the coast of Greenland, and the Bering Sea. One difference between these two scenarios is that the first case is located over the ocean, and the second case is located over the continents. Over the oceans, there is more access to moisture from the sea, while this is not necessarily the case over land. Thus other processes can induce the small increase in CCNs over land, while wet scavenging over the two ocean areas can still be a part of the removal of CCNs in these regions.

The changes in CCN concentrations strongly vary over the year as Figure 7 shows. The summer months are characterized by high concentrations of CCNs, while winter and spring have the lowest CCN concentrations. Compared with the seasonal precipitation plots in Figure 6, we see that precipitation is at its lowest in the summer months and highest in winter and spring. Hence when there is less precipitation, there would be less wet scavaging, and we see more CCN concentration. However multiple factors affect the seasonal differences in CCN concentration. In summer there is more solar radiation compared to the winter, especially in the Arctic. Higher solar radiation produces higher chemical activity, and thus also the formation of new aerosol particles. The lack of solar radiation in the spring and winter also reduces the ability for new aerosol particles to form.

```
In [26]: # Plotting time series
         timepoints = []
         for i in range(len(global mean 4xco2['time'])):
             timepoints.append(i)
         fig = plt.figure(figsize=(10, 5))
         gs = gridspec.GridSpec(ncols=2, nrows=3, hspace = 0.7, wspace = 0.3, top = 1,
                                 bottom = 0, left = 0, right = 1)
         ax = fig.add subplot(gs[0, 0])
         ax.plot(timepoints, global_mean_4xco2['ts'], label='4xco2')
         ax.plot(timepoints, global_mean_piControl['ts'], label='piControl')
         ax.set title('Global mean', size=15)
         ax.set_ylabel('Temperature [C$^\circ$]')
         ax.legend()
         fancy(ax, 10)
         ax = fig.add_subplot(gs[1, 0])
         ax.plot(timepoints, global_mean_4xco2['pr'], label='4xco2')
         ax.plot(timepoints, global_mean_piControl['pr'], label='piControl')
         ax.set_ylabel('Precipitation [mm]')
         ax.legend()
         fancy(ax, 10)
```

```
ax = fig.add_subplot(gs[2, 0])
ax.plot(timepoints, global_mean_4xco2['ccn'], label='4xco2')
ax.plot(timepoints, global_mean_piControl['ccn'], label='piControl')
ax.set xlabel('Time [years]')
ax.set_ylabel('CCN [cm$^{-3}$]')
ax.legend()
fancy(ax, 10)
ax = fig.add_subplot(gs[0, 1])
ax.plot(timepoints, arctic_mean_4xco2['ts'], label='4xco2')
ax.plot(timepoints, arctic_mean_piControl['ts'], label='piControl')
ax.set_title('Arctic mean', size=15)
ax.legend()
fancy(ax, 10)
ax = fig.add subplot(gs[1, 1])
ax.plot(timepoints, arctic mean 4xco2['pr'], label='4xco2')
ax.plot(timepoints, arctic_mean_piControl['pr'], label='piControl')
ax.legend()
fancy(ax, 10)
ax = fig.add_subplot(gs[2, 1])
ax.plot(timepoints, arctic_mean_4xco2['ccn'], label='4xco2')
ax.plot(timepoints, arctic_mean_piControl['ccn'], label='piControl')
ax.set_xlabel('Time [years]')
#ax.set_yscale('log')
ax.legend()
fancy(ax, 10)
```

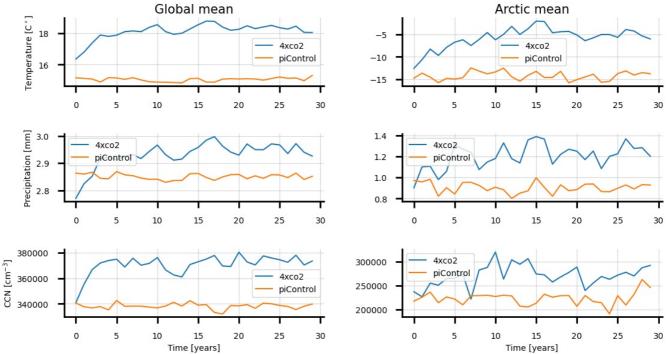


Figure 1: timeseries plots of how temperature, precipitation, and CCN varies the 30 first year after start of runtime, for both experiments.

```
In [27]: # plotting differences in temp, precipitation, and CCN concentration on a map
plot_map(ds_diff['ts'], 'Temperature (4xC02-piControl)', reverse=True, vmin=-12, vmax=12)
```

# Temperature (4xCO2-piControl)

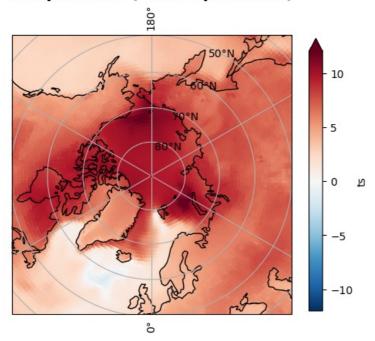


Figure 2: Spatial plot for tempereature changes for the abrupt 4xCO2-piControl experiment over the Artic area. Units are given in C°.

In [28]: plot\_map(ds\_diff['pr'], 'Precipitation (4xCO2-piControl)', vmin=-0.8, vmax=0.8)

## Precipitation (4xCO2-piControl)

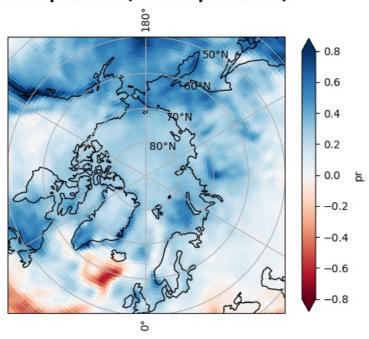


Figure 3: Spaceial plot for precipitation changes for the abrupt 4xCO2-piControl experiment over the Artic area. Units are given in mm.

In [29]: plot\_map(ds\_diff['ccn'], 'CCN (4xCO2-piControl)', cmap='PiYG', vmin=-200000, vmax=200000)

## CCN (4xCO2-piControl)

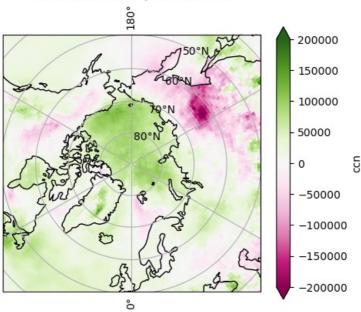


Figure 4: Spatial plot for changes in ccn concentration for the abrupt 4xCO2-piControl experiment over the Artic area. Units are given in  $cm^{-3}$ .

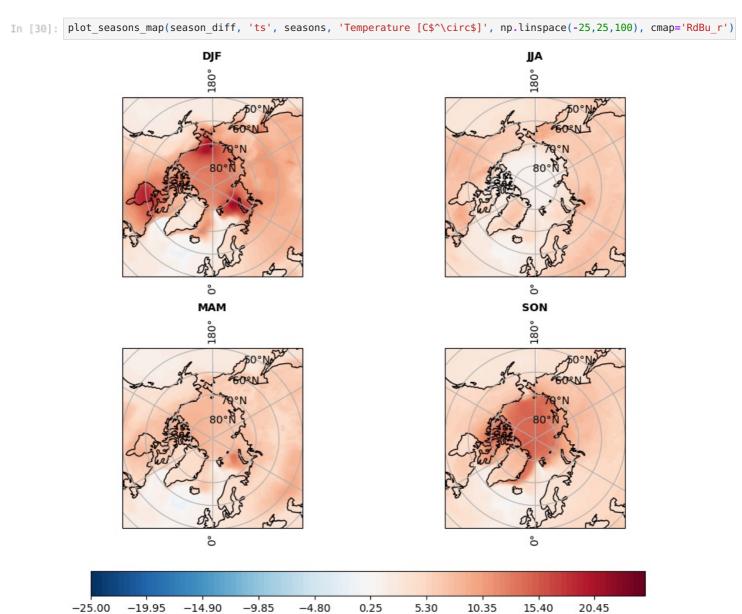


Figure 5: Seasonal plot for temperature

Temperature [C°]

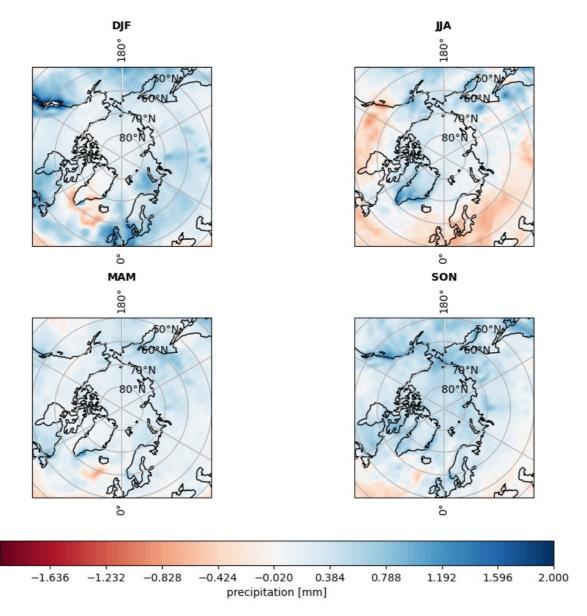


Figure 6: Seasonal plot for precipitation

In [32]: plot\_seasons\_map(season\_diff, 'ccn', seasons, 'CCN [cm\$^{-3}\$]', np.linspace(-300000,300000,100), cmap='PiYG')

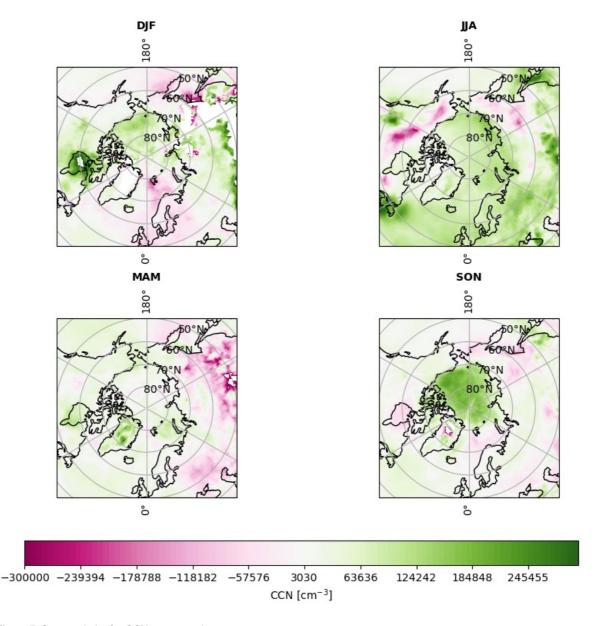


Figure 7: Seasonal plot for CCN concentrations

#### 4. Conclusion

The increasing precipitation in a warmer climate is shown to have a possible influence on aerosol concentration. However, there is not a significant pattern of how increasing precipitation affects aerosol concentration. Multiple factors play an important role in the variation in aerosol concentration. These factors, such as solar radiation, are needed to be accounted for to completely understand the influence of precipitation on aerosol concentration.

#### 5. References

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