

1 **Nonlinear response of global monsoon precipitation to Atlantic overturning strength**
2 **variations during Marine Isotope Stage 3**
3

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13 **Key Points:**

- 14 • Nonlinear response of global monsoon rainfall to ocean circulation strength change in
15 Marine Isotope Stage 3.
- 16 • Simulated rainfall change is consistent with reconstructed precipitation variation during
17 millennial abrupt climate events.
- 18 • Nonlinearity in global monsoon rainfall is constrained by ocean heat transport.

19 Abstract

20 Monsoon rainfall proxy records show clear millennial variations corresponding to abrupt climate
21 events in Greenland ice cores during Marine Isotope Stage 3 (MIS3). The occurrence of these
22 abrupt climate changes is associated with Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)
23 strength variations which greatly impact the global oceanic energy transport. Hence, the AMOC
24 most likely plays a key role in modulating the global monsoon rainfall at millennial time scale. No
25 modeling work has hitherto investigated the global monsoon system response to AMOC
26 changes under a MIS3 background climate. Using a coupled climate model CCSM3, we simu-
27 lated MIS3 climate using true 38 ka before present boundary conditions and performed a set of
28 freshwater hosing/extraction experiments. We show not only agreement between modeling
29 results and proxies of monsoon rainfall within global monsoon domain but also highlights a
30 nonlinear relationship between AMOC strength and annual mean global monsoon precipitation
31 related to oceanic heat transport constraints. During MIS3, a weakened AMOC could lead to an
32 increase of annual mean global monsoon rainfall dominated by the southern hemisphere,
33 whereas northern hemisphere monsoon rainfall decreases. Above about 16 Sverdrups a further
34 strengthening of the AMOC has no significant impact on hemi-spheric and global monsoon
35 domain annual mean rainfall. The seasonal monsoon rainfall showed same asymmetric
36 response like annual mean both hemispherical and globally.

37 Plain Language Summary**38 1 Introduction**

39 The concept of 'global monsoon' has been intensively studied during recent years either from a
40 modern or paleoclimate perspective due to its great importance within the climate system and to
41 human activities and livelihoods. From the paleoclimate community, different types of proxy
42 records from various locations have been studied to examine monsoon rainfall variations over
43 different time scales. Monsoon rainfall proxies have demonstrated millennial scale monsoon
44 oscillations globally (Voelker, 2002; Cheng et al., 2012). Such millennial variation in precipitation
45 could be forced by climate condition change in the North Atlantic that associated with observed
46 abrupt climate shifts during the last glacial, namely, Dansgaard-Oeschger (D-O) events and ice
47 melting events during Heinrich Stadials (HSs, Wang et al., 2001; Mohtadi & Prange, 2016). D-O
48 events were featured with fast (within decades or less) shift from cold stadial to mild interstadial
49 which lasts for several centuries in Greenland ice core. And they were especially pronounced
50 during Marine Isotope Stage 3 (MIS3, approx. 57-29 ka years before present, Zhang & Prange,

51 2020). Heinrich Stadial 4 (HS4) occurred within MIS3 and was characterized by large iceberg-
52 derived freshwater flux into the North Atlantic and a reduction of North Atlantic Deep Water
53 (Elliot et al., 2001). The mechanisms behind millennial-scale monsoon variations and their
54 linkage to high latitude forcing are still under debate and one potential candidate to explain such
55 coupling processes is the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC, Sun et al., 2012),
56 which is responsible for more than half of the global oceanic heat transport towards high
57 northern latitudes (Ganachaud & Wunsch, 2000).

58 One robust but incomplete picture shown in proxy records is that NH summer monsoon was
59 drier and SH summer monsoon was wetter during HSs and D-O cold phases (Want et al., 2008;
60 Kenner et al., 2012). During D-O cold phases and HSs, the AMOC slowed down (Elliot et al.,
61 2002). SST in the North Atlantic along with Greenland surface temperature dropped
62 dramatically (Schulz, 2002) whereas the SH sur-face temperature increased (Voelker, 2002).
63 Such so called bipolar seesaw pattern could substantially change meridional temperature
64 gradients, transport the signal from the North Atlantic to the low latitudes, push the ITCZ into the
65 SH (warmer hemisphere) and led to a drier Asian and North American summer monsoon and a
66 wetter South American and Indo-Australian monsoon (Chiang & Friedman, 2012; Otto-Bliesner
67 et al., 2014; Wen et al., 2016).

68 The AMOC is suggested to slow down in recent years (Praetorius, 2018) which might induce a
69 bipolar seesaw and affect the monsoon rainfall. If this weaker AMOC continues to decrease in
70 its strength, it might collapse and switch to an 'off' mode (Hofmann & Rahmstorf, 2009; Prange
71 et al., 2003). However, the future of the AMOC is highly uncertain and an increase in its strength
72 cannot be ruled out either (Bakker et al., 2016). The global monsoon system in a stronger than
73 present day AMOC situation has seldom systematically analyzed although a persistently
74 stronger AMOC could have existed during the last glacial cycle (Böhm et al., 2014). MIS3
75 serves as an ideal background climate to study the following questions due to its abrupt climate
76 oscillations associated with AMOC strength variations: (1) How does the global monsoon rainfall
77 response to AMOC strength variations associated with forcing from the high latitudes?

78 (2)Especially important, if the AMOC were to grow stronger, how would the global monsoon
79 rainfall be affected?

80 **2 Experiment design and Methods**

81 The NCAR Community Climate System Model Version 3 (CCSM3, Collins et al., 2006; Yeager
82 et al., 2006) is a full-complexity global general circulation model, which includes atmosphere,
83 land, ocean and sea ice components. The atmosphere and land components share the T31
84 resolution in the horizontal (3.75°) and there are 26 vertical layers in the atmosphere and 10 soil
85 layers in the land with activated dynamic vegetation module (Rachmayani et al., 2015). The
86 ocean model has 25 vertical lev-els with layer thickness increasing from 8 m at the surface to
87 around 500 m at the ocean bottom. The horizontal resolution is 3° at mid and high latitudes and
88 around 0.9° around the equator with displaced North Pole over Greenland (Smith et al., 1995).

89 Using this model, we performed a 38 ka B.P. boundary condition control experiment, which
90 represents the mid MIS3 period (referred as MIS3 in the manuscript), and 12 freshwater
91 hosing/extraction experiments with freshwater perturbation in the Nordic Seas. The freshwater
92 perturbation amount and experiment length are listed in Table S1. We use freshwater amount to
93 refer to the specific sensitivity experiment, e.g. +0.2Sv test indicates we put 0.2Sv freshwater in
94 the Nordic Seas whereas -0.2Sv means we extract 0.2Sv freshwater from the Nordic Sea
95 surface. These model experiments apply different sea level and land-sea distribution,
96 greenhouse gas con-centrations, orbital forcing and continental ice sheets compared to present
97 day. All experiments were integrated long enough (> 500 years) to reach new equilibria, which
98 has been tested by a student t-test (i.e. trend in the AMOC strength time series is not significant
99 for the last 100 years of each simulation). The applied positive and negative freshwater
100 perturbations ranged from ± 0.005 Sv to ± 0.2 Sv ($1 \text{ Sv} = 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$). All analyses in this study are
101 based on the last 100 year average from each experiment.

102 **3 Results and discussion**

103 3.1 AMOC responses to external freshwater forcing

104 With positive freshwater forcing in the MIS3 North Atlantic, the strength of the AMOC
105 decreased. A +0.2 Sv forcing is capable to cease the North Atlantic Deep Water Formation and
106 the AMOC strength decreased from 15.38 Sv to 4.24 Sv. Same amount negative forcing (-0.2
107 Sv) had weaker impact on the AMOC strength. It resulted in an increase of the AMOC strength

108 from 15.38 Sv to 21.45 Sv. Most importantly, a nonlinear response was seen in AMOC strength
109 in response to freshwater flux (Fig. S1). We interpreted the weak AMOC state as cold stadials
110 and strong circulation as mild interstadials in this study. Greenland surface temperature and NH
111 winter sea ice cover also showed nonlinear shape as a function of freshwater perturbation (not
112 shown here). Such abrupt change in temperature and ice cover was related to observed D-O
113 events during MIS3 and ice melting events during HS4 (Zhang et al., 2014) and +0.2 Sv hosing
114 experiment is interpreted as a simulation of HS4.

115 3.2 Model-proxy data comparison of global monsoon precipitation during MIS3

116 There are only a few rain-related proxy records spanning MIS3 allowing to reconstruct monsoon
117 precipitation variability on millennial time scale. They all demonstrated a linkage between AMOC
118 strength related abrupt climate shifts and monsoon precipitation. There are several records from
119 South American sites at Botuvera (Wang et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2007), Peru (Cheng et al.,
120 2013), Pacupahuain Cave (Kanner et al., 2012), Bahia State (Wang et al., 2004) and central
121 eastern Brazil (Strikis et al., 2018). All of these data showed a more humid South America when
122 the NH was cooler connected to iceberg melting events in the North Atlantic during HSs.

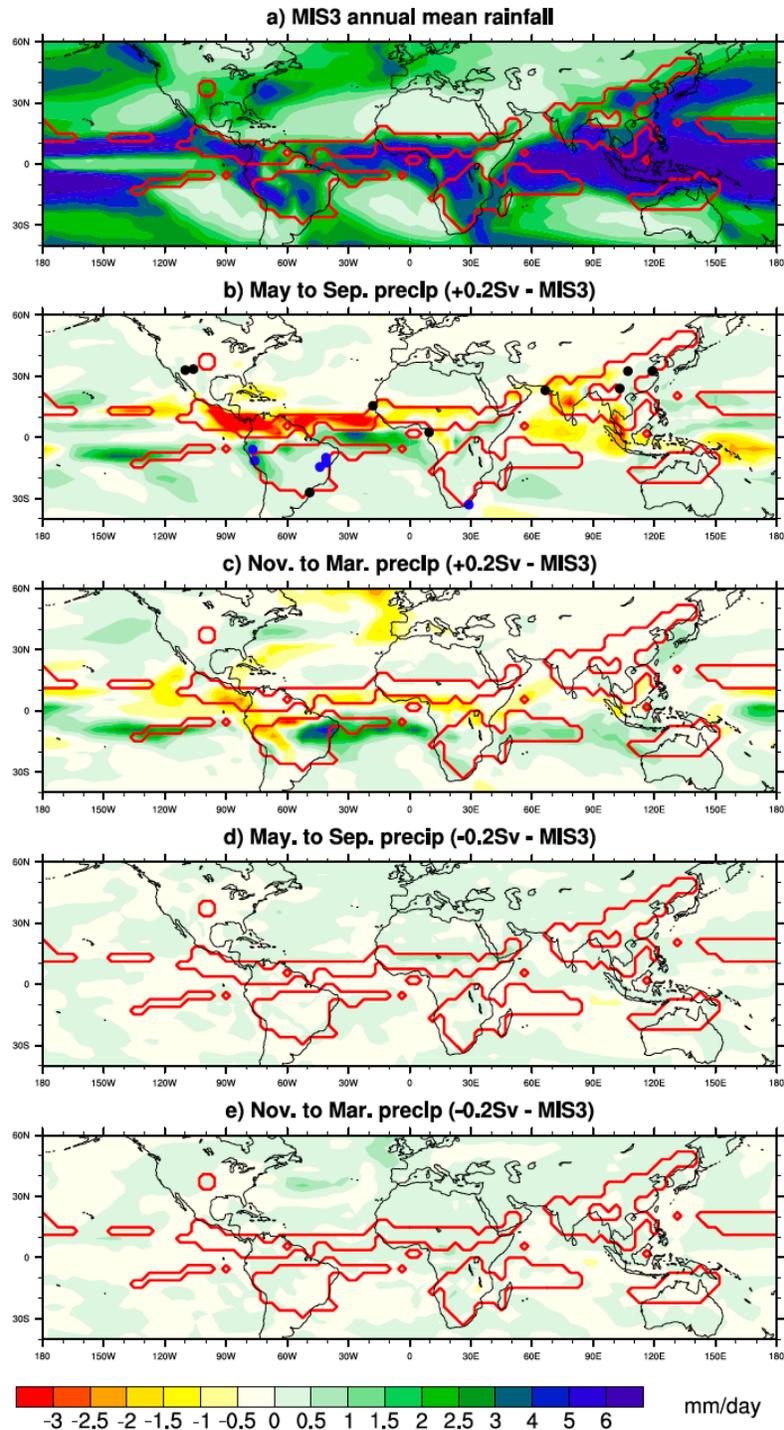
123 Rainfall proxy from Hulu cave (Wang et al., 2001) and Songjia cave (Zhou et al., 2014) within
124 the Asian monsoon region varied out-of-phase with records from South America above. A sharp
125 increase in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ during HSs represented a weaker and drier east summer Asia monsoon
126 during the NH cold phases. Meanwhile, two records from the Indian Monsoon region, Xiao
127 Bailong Cave (Cai et al., 2006) and Arabia Sea sediment core SO130-289KL (Deplazes et al.,
128 2016) indicated a weaker Indian Summer Monsoon during the cold stadials. Moreover, bulk
129 Fe/K ratios from the north African monsoon region (core GeoB9508-5, Mulitza et al., 2008)
130 correlating with oxygen isotope values in the NGRIP ice core (Andersen et al., 2004) showed
131 arid conditions during the HSs, whereas higher Fe/K ratios in core CD154-17-17K indicated
132 more humid south African conditions during the same intervals (Ziegler et al., 2013). Overall,
133 millennial-scale resolution proxies in the two hemispheres varied anti-phased with each other in
134 response to millennial-scale North Atlantic condition changes. An abrupt cooling in the North
135 Atlantic surface corresponds to a weakening of NH summer monsoon and an intensified SH
136 summer monsoon and vice versa. Such dipole pattern change in monsoon precipitation is
137 associated with an AMOC-driven south-ward shift of the ITCZ and more asymmetric Hadley
138 cells during the HSs. Most of the oxygen isotope records showed 2-3‰ differences comparing

139 the cold HSs with warm interstadials, indicating a drop in seasonal precipitation in the NH and
140 an increase in the SH. Xiao Bailong cave record experienced an especially strong change in the
141 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ signal, implying a significant weakening of the Indian Summer Monsoon when the AMOC
142 was presumably weaker (Cai et al., 2015).

143 In our simulation results, for all records within the global monsoon region, model results are
144 consistent with most of the observations, featuring enhanced SH summer monsoon rainfall and
145 drier NH summer monsoon during the HSs. However, the model produced drier conditions
146 during austral summer in western South America. Hence, at two sites (Pacupahuain cave and
147 north Peru) the model showed less precipitation during HS4, which seems to contradict the
148 proxy records. However, the reconstructed enhanced precipitation could also be related to
149 austral winter precipitation, as previously been suggested (Campos et al., 2019). At the Hulu
150 cave location, summer monsoon precipitation slightly increased during HS4 which is also incon-
151 sistent with the proxy record. However, the simulated Pacific Subtropical High in HS4 is still
152 weaker compared to the MIS3 control experiment. Last but not least, Indian Monsoon
153 precipitation is largely reduced in the HS4 experiment.

154 3.3 Simulated global monsoon precipitation and wind responses to AMOC strength change

155 Freshwater forcing did not affect the AMOC strength symmetrically and both seasonal and
156 annual global monsoon precipitation also show a nonlinear response to AMOC strength. Figure
157 1a shows annual mean precipitation in the MIS3 control run.



158
 159 **Figure 1. Annual total precipitation and anomalies between different experiments.** a) MIS3 control run; b) difference
 160 between +0.2 Sv experiment and MIS3 control run during May to September; c) difference between +0.2 Sv
 161 experiment run and MIS3 control run during November to March; d) difference between -0.2 Sv experiment and
 162 MIS3 control run during May to September; and e) difference between -0.2 Sv experiment and MIS3 control run
 163 during November to March. Red contour area indicates the global monsoon region calculated by modeled rainfall
 164 data. Dots in **b** are the proxy record locations as it is discussed in section 3.4. Black indicates drier summer monsoon
 165 and blue indicates wetter summer monsoon.

166 The global monsoon domain (red contour) was defined using the following criteria (Wang et al.,
167 2008; Wang et al., 2014): 1) annual mean local summer (May to Sep. in NH, Nov. to Mar. in SH)
168 minus winter (May to Sep. in SH, Nov. to Mar. in NH) precipitation is greater than 300 mm and
169 2) local summer precipitation exceeds 55% of annual total rainfall. Compare to present day
170 condition, the monsoon domain generally retreated in the north and expanded to the south over
171 land compared due to decreased summer to annual precipitation ratio in a colder climate (Yan
172 et al., 2016, Fig. 1a). We note however, that the global monsoon domain is not the focus of this
173 study since the total area of global monsoon domain does not vary much over all model
174 experiments.

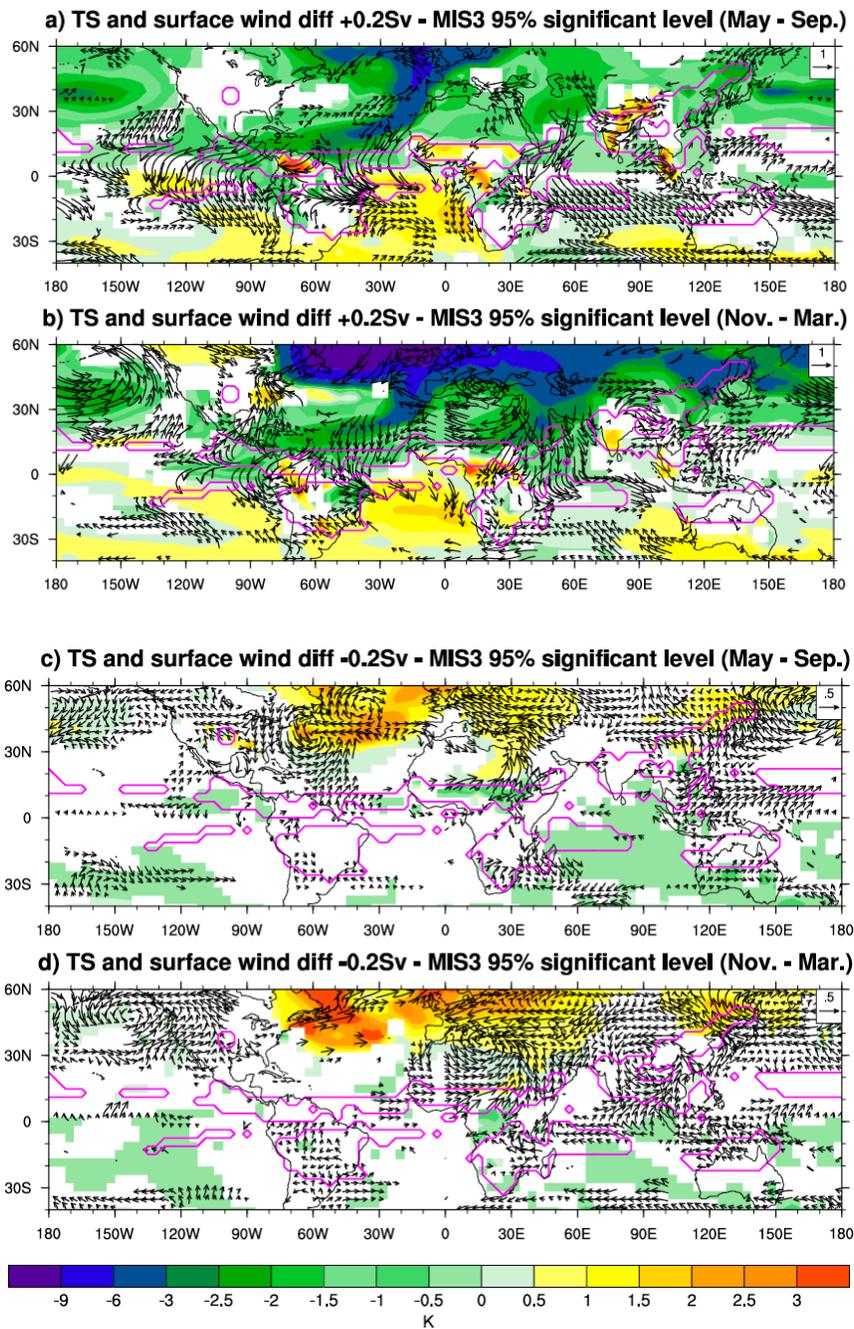
175 The global monsoon region annual averaged rainfall rate is 3.43 mm/day in MIS3. When the
176 AMOC decreased to 4.24 Sv during HS4 in the model, local summer monsoon precipitation
177 was generally reduced in the north and increased in the south. The strongest change in boreal
178 summer monsoon precipitation was observed in tropical America and the tropical North Atlantic
179 Ocean, featuring more than 3 mm/day precipitation decrease. The central equatorial Atlantic
180 experiences maximum rainfall increase, which is larger than 3 mm/day. The Asian-Australian
181 monsoon rainfall generally increases especially over east Asia (Fig. 1b). During boreal winter,
182 the strongest rainfall change moves southward over the Pacific and the Atlantic associated with
183 the seasonal shift of the Intertropical Convergence Zone. Moreover, a strong rainfall increase is
184 simulated over Northeast Brazil (Fig. 1c).

185 In the case that AMOC strength increased to 21.45 Sv in the -0.2Sv experiment, the monsoon
186 precipitation responded generally oppositely and about one order of magnitude weaker
187 compared to the +0.2 Sv run in boreal winter and summer. The most significant increase in
188 rainfall was observed in the African monsoon region (Figure 1d and 1e).

189 The statistical significance (at 95% confidence level) of the surface temperature differences
190 between the ± 0.2 Sv runs and the MIS3 control run, calculated using a student t-test, is shown
191 in Figure 2. The same test is applied for surface wind differences. In the +0.2 Sv experiment,
192 during May to September, Northern Indian Ocean surface temperature slightly decreased and
193 continental surface temperature increased, which resulted in a stronger meridional temperature
194 gradient and westerly wind anomalies, thus strengthening regional summer monsoon wind.
195 Weaker monsoon winds were observed over East Asia and western Africa associated with
196 weaker land-ocean temperature contrasts compared to the unperturbed MIS3 control run. The

197 wind anomalies blew towards the Australian continent, indicating a weaker winter monsoon
198 surface flow (Fig. 2a). As for November to March, wind anomalies were directed away from the
199 continent in the East Asian and African monsoon regions whereas over Australia, a northwest
200 wind anomaly was seen. However, temperature and wind changes in northern Australia were
201 not significant (Fig. 2b). Generally speaking, when the AMOC became weaker with positive

202 fresh-water forcing, during boreal summer, the global monsoon reduced its wind strength
 203 whereas during boreal winter, the global monsoon surface flow became stronger.



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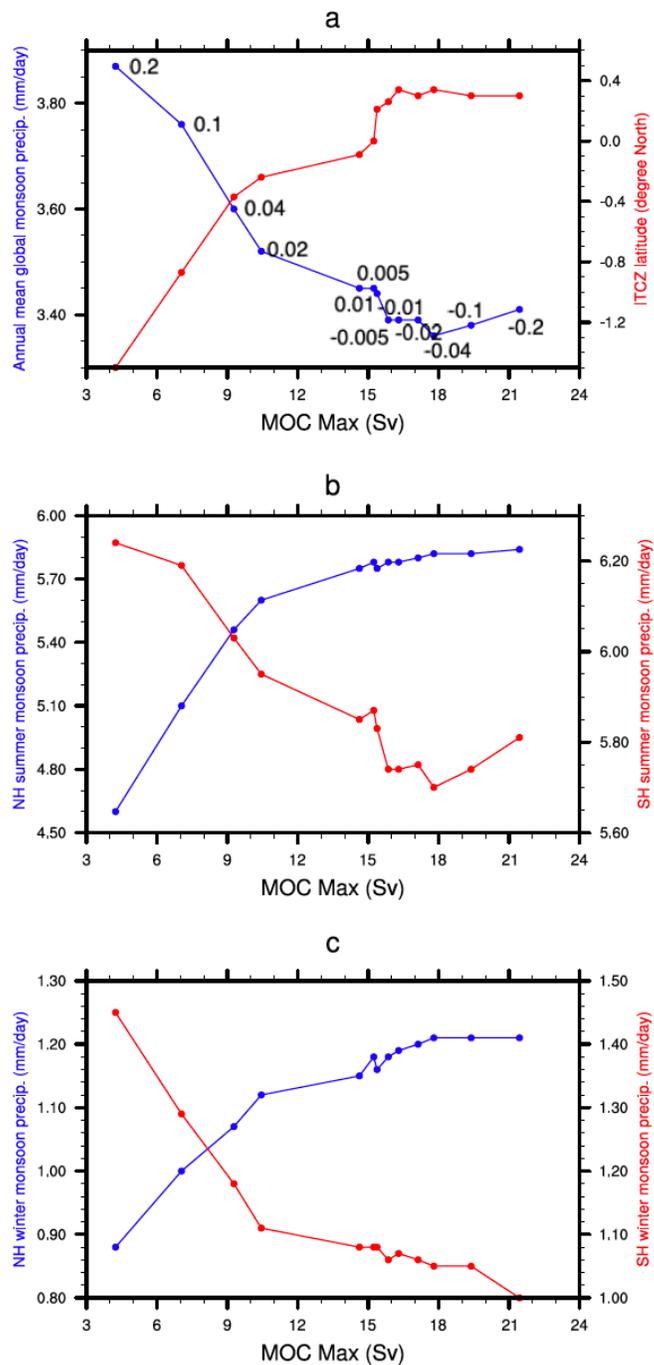
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206 Figure 2. **Surface wind and surface temperature differences.** a) May to September difference between +0.2 Sv
 207 experiment and MIS3 control run; b) November to March difference between +0.2 Sv experiment and MIS3 control
 208 run and; c) same as panel **a** but for the -0.2 Sv experiment; and d) same as panel **b** for the -0.2 Sv experiment. Wind
 209 difference vector unit: meter per second. Values above 95% confidence level are shown. Pink contour area indicates
 210 the global monsoon region as the same in figure 1.
 211

212 For an AMOC stronger than the MIS3 baseline state with saltier North Atlantic surface water
213 due to freshwater extraction, simulated winds and temperatures showed changes in opposite
214 direction. Global monsoon flow became stronger in boreal summer and weaker in boreal winter.
215 However, with the same magnitude of freshwater perturbation (-0.2 Sv), the monsoon
216 responses were much weaker. Between May and September, most of the SH ocean
217 experienced a cooling of less than 1 degree and NH warming was generally seen only above
218 20°N with maximum of around 3 degrees in the central North Atlantic. Surface wind change was
219 less than 1 m/s and generally in opposite direction compared to the +0.2 Sv experiment (Fig.
220 2c). During November to March, NH warming was slightly stronger than in boreal summer in
221 mid and high latitudes over the North Atlantic and surface wind change had a similar pattern as
222 during May to September in the monsoon regions (Fig. 2d).

223 The annual mean precipitation in the global monsoon domain increased rather linearly when the
224 AMOC strength was below 15.38 Sv with positive freshwater hosing but kept at a steady level at
225 around 3.4 mm/day when we imposed negative forcing in the Nordic Seas (Fig. 3a). The mean
226 ITCZ latitude (defined as the median latitude of maximum annual mean precipitation between
227 20°N and 20°S) moves southward with decreasing AMOC strength. The mean ITCZ location
228 was constantly around 0.3°N when the AMOC increased from 15.38 Sv to 21.45 Sv, but it
229 moved southward and even reached the SH when the AMOC strength decreased to 4.24 Sv.
230 Separating local summer and winter precipitation in the NH and SH gave a quite similar figure.
231 In both hemispheres, local summer and winter monsoon precipitation no longer sig-nificantly
232 increases or decreases when the AMOC reaches ca. 16 Sv. However, in both seasons,
233 monsoon precipitation decreased linearly in the north and increased in the south when the
234 AMOC strength decreased with positive freshwater forcing (Fig. 3b and 3c). The SH monsoon

235 rainfall dominated the annual mean global monsoon rainfall since the ITCZ moved southward
 236 when the AMOC weakened.



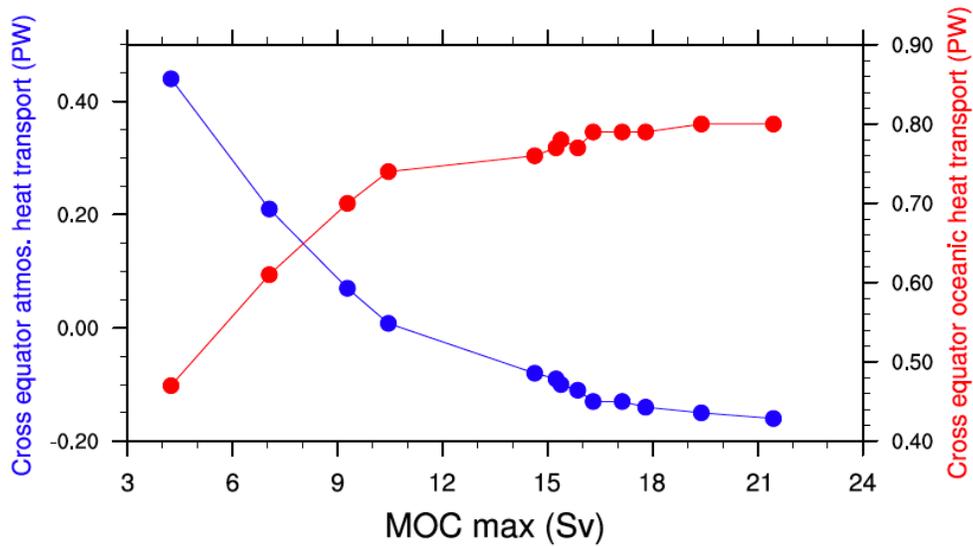
237
 238 Figure 3. **Climate responses to AMOC strength change.** a) Mean ITCZ position and average annual precipitation rate
 239 in global monsoon region as indicated in Figure 2 as a function of AMOC strength; b) average summer (May to
 240 September for NH and November to March for SH) precipitation rate in global monsoon region as a function of
 241 AMOC strength in the two hemispheres; and c) same as b but for hemispheric winter (November to March for NH
 242 and May to September for SH).

243 3.4 Mechanism of global monsoon precipitation change as response to AMOC strength variation

244 The monsoon-ocean coupled system is influenced by tropical SSTs and the polar ice sheets
245 (Webster et al., 1994; Pierrehumbert, 2000). The AMOC can affect both by redistributing ocean
246 heat content. Meanwhile, a weaker AMOC, less northward oceanic heat transport, larger sea ice
247 cover and colder surface temperature in Greenland is associated with D-O cold phases and vice
248 versa. D-O event signals could be found in the tropics over the monsoon region (Zhang et al.,
249 2015). The spread of their impact from the high latitudes to the tropics due to AMOC strength
250 variations could be a plausible explanation of millennial scale global monsoon variability as it is
251 observed in the proxy records.

252 The high-low latitude teleconnection of global monsoon response to D-O type climate
253 oscillations through AMOC strength variations is clearly seen in our simulated results. Taking
254 the +0.2 Sv freshwater hosing experiment as an example, the AMOC strength significantly
255 decreased as proxy records have shown that melted ice has greatly reduced North Atlantic
256 Deep Water Formation during HS4. North Atlantic surface temperatures dropped by more than
257 20 degrees at high latitudes since the freshwater decreased ocean shallow layer salinity and
258 hampered convection. A bipolar seesaw pattern was shown due to less oceanic heat transport
259 to the north (Stocker et al., 2003) and amplifying feedbacks like a higher albedo. Temperature
260 seesaw also led to a specific humidity seesaw in the model. There was less atmospheric water
261 vapor in the north, while the SH became wetter. What is more, in our simulations, the NH ice
262 cover expanded due to low temperature and directly affected the atmospheric circulation

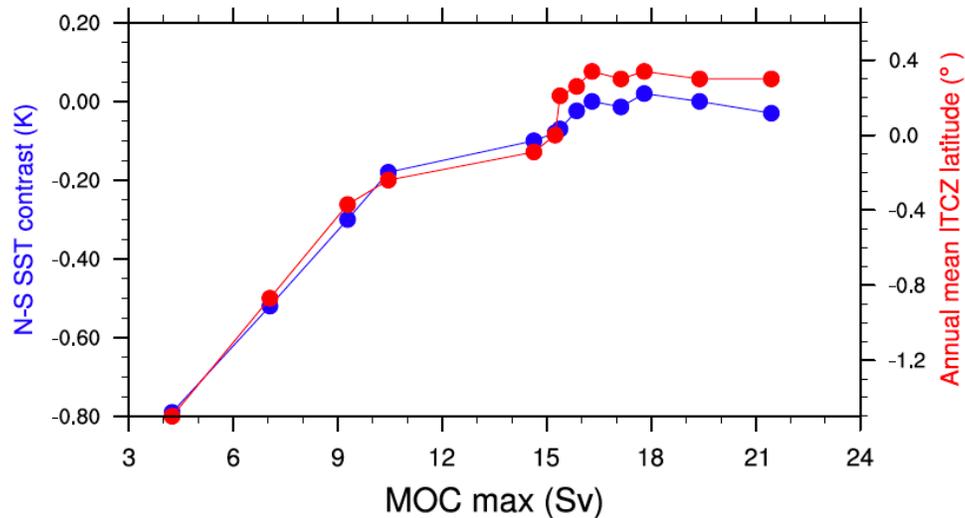
263 pattern in the high and mid-latitudes. Coupling of the ocean and the atmosphere brought this
 264 impact to the low latitudes through stronger northward atmospheric heat transport (Fig. 4)



265
 266 Figure 4. Cross equatorial oceanic and atmospheric heat transports as a function of AMOC strength.

269 and promoted a southward shift of the ITCZ (Chiang et al., 2003; Zhang & Delworth, 2005;
 270 Frierson et al., 2013, Fig. 3a). Corresponding to the southward shift of ITCZ, the tropical
 271 meridional SST gradient became sharper between the two hemispheres (Fig. 5). Our simulated
 272 ITCZ latitude shift in response to cross equatorial atmospheric heat transport change is about

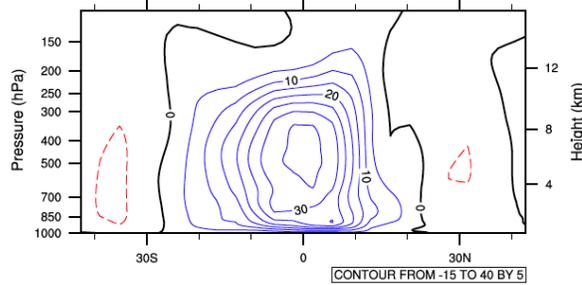
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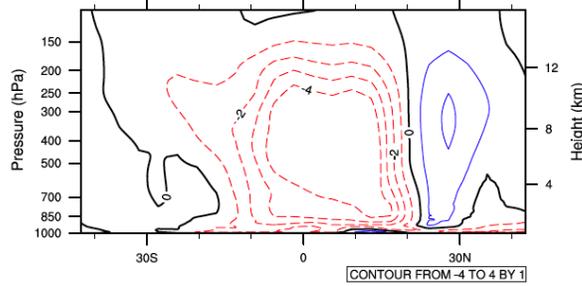
274
 275 Figure 5. North-South SST contrast and mean ITCZ latitude as a function of AMOC strength. North-South SST
 276 contrast is defined as the annual mean SST difference between 20°N to the equator and 20°S to the equator.
 277

278 $-3^\circ / \text{PW}$, which is comparable to the PMIP2 Last Glacial Maximum ensemble mean (Donohoe et al., 2013). The seasonal cycle of ITCZ latitude as function of cross equatorial atmospheric heat transport and meridional SST contrast also matches the CMIP3 ensemble mean (McGee et al., 2014). Apart from a latitudinal shift to the warmer hemisphere of its rising branch, the Hadley cell also became weaker in the SH and stronger in the NH during boreal summer and winter 282 which was due to reduced oceanic heat transport as well (Fig. 6a and 6c).

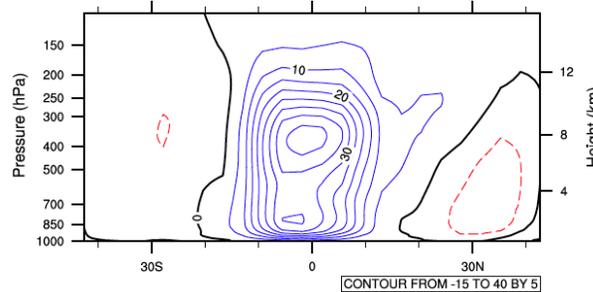
a) May to sep. mean mass meridional circulation $10^9 \text{ kg/s} +0.2\text{Sv}$ - MIS3



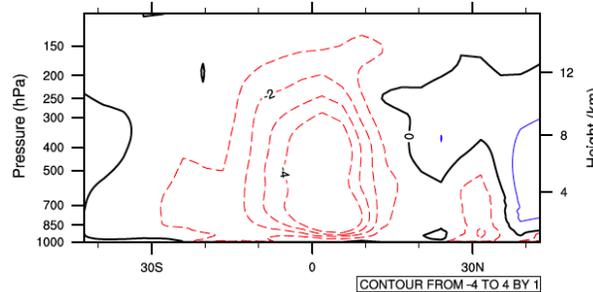
b) May to sep. mean mass meridional circulation $10^9 \text{ kg/s} -0.2\text{Sv}$ - MIS3



c) Nov. to mar. mean mass meridional circulation $10^9 \text{ kg/s} +0.2\text{Sv}$ - MIS3



d) Nov. to mar. mean mass meridional circulation $10^9 \text{ kg/s} -0.2\text{Sv}$ - MIS3



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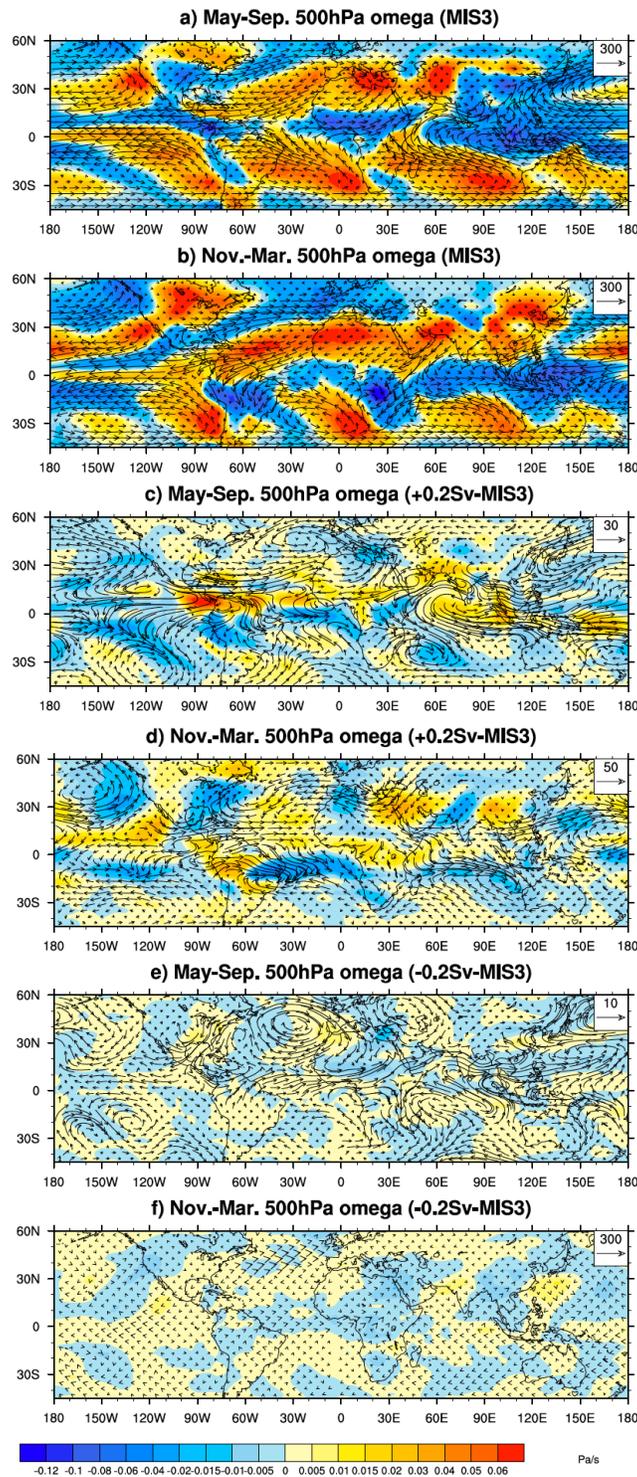
286 Figure 6. **Mean meridional mass streamfunction differences.** a) $+0.2 \text{ Sv}$ –MIS3 control run (May to September); b) -0.2 Sv –MIS3 control run (May to September); c) same as a but for November to March; and d) same as b but for November to March. Positive values indicate clockwise circulation and negative values indicate counterclockwise 288 circulation. 289

290 A colder NH generally led to stronger subsidence and less atmospheric water vapor content. A
291 warmer SH favored uplifting of moist air and higher specific humidity compared to MIS3
292 baseline conditions. As a consequence, the NH summer monsoon rainfall was reduced, while
293 SH and global monsoon rainfall increased. The above process grew stronger when we put more
294 freshwater into the North Atlantic as it is shown in Figure 3. The oppo-site (D-O warm phase) is
295 true for a stronger AMOC when we extract freshwater in the North Atlantic. The NH became
296 warmer and wetter which led to more monsoon rainfall. The SH became cooler, drier and the
297 monsoon rainfall was reduced. The SH Hadley cell was strengthened, while the NH Hadley cell
298 was weakened (Fig. 6b and 6d). The ITCZ moved northward and the annual mean rainfall within
299 global monsoon domain decreased. However, same amounts of freshwater extraction resulted
300 in much weaker responses compared to freshwater injection as it is shown in Figure 3. The
301 annual mean rainfall in global monsoon domain did not further increase and the ITCZ stayed
302 around 0.4°N when the AMOC strength reached ca. 16 Sv and above. The asymmetrical
303 monsoon precipitation response is related to a nonlinearity in oceanic and atmospheric heat
304 transport. Oceanic and atmospheric cross equatorial heat transports responded linearly to
305 positive freshwater injections but did not vary much when the perturbations were negative.
306 When the AMOC slowed down with a +0.2 Sv freshwater injection, cross equatorial ocean heat
307 transport decreased from 0.8 PW to less than 0.5 PW. To compensate such energy transport
308 change, the atmosphere carried approximately 0.4 PW heat from the SH to the NH (Fig. 4).

309 To further investigate monsoon rainfall and circulation changes in individual monsoon domain,
310 1000-500 hPa water vapor flux along with 500hPa vertical velocity in the ± 0.2 Sv experiments
311 was compared with MIS3 control run. MIS3 control experiment showed strong water vapor
312 convergence towards individual local summer monsoon domain accompanied with upward
313 motion (Fig 7a and 7b). In the +0.2 Sv case during boreal summer, water vapor was transported
314 away from Asian and African monsoon regions accompanied with weaker upward motion
315 (except eastern part of Asia) whereas in the SH, water vapor was transported towards the
316 monsoon region and vertical motion was strengthened (Fig. 7c). In boreal winter, though ver-
317 tical motion increased over India, large parts of Asia experience anomalous subsidence. In the

318 SH, stronger vertical motion and enhanced water vapor transport were simulated in the
 319 monsoon region (Fig. 7d). In general, the NH monsoon rainfall de-creased and the SH

320



321
 322 Figure 7. 1000-500 hPa water vapor flux and 500 hPa omega (vertical pressure velocity). a) May to September mean
 323 in MIS3 control run; b) November to March mean in MIS3 control run; c) May to September difference between

324 +0.2 Sv experiment and MIS3 control run; d) same as a but for November to March; e) same as a but for the -0.2 Sv
325 experiment; and f) same as b but for the -0.2 Sv experiment. Vector unit: kg/m/s, omega unit: Pa/s.
326

327 experienced more monsoon rainfall in both seasons. The -0.2 Sv case showed different and
328 weaker responses. In both seasons, the NH experienced stronger upward motion at 500hPa
329 level in East Asian and African monsoon region and water vapor converged towards monsoon
330 regions whereas in the SH water va-por was mostly transported away from the monsoon
331 regions accompanied with weaker vertical motion (Fig. 7e and 7f).

332 Overall, based on our results, the AMOC strength showed a strong nonlinear behavior to
333 freshwater perturbation and AMOC strength variations induced nonlinear responses in surface
334 conditions including monsoon precipitation (annually and season-ally) corresponding to cold
335 stadial and warm interstadial conditions.

336

337 **4 Conclusions**

338 This study provides an integrated picture of global monsoon rainfall changes between cold
339 stadials and mild interstadials during MIS3 by combining modeling re-sults and proxies. The
340 modeled monsoon rainfall variations are mostly consistent with proxy records. Such agreement
341 provides further confidence in model simula-tions of global monsoon changes under climates
342 different from the modern one and may aid the current monsoon research. The global monsoon
343 precipitation response to AMOC strength changes under MIS3 background climate was
344 analyzed in detail and it was found that total annual and seasonal rainfall within the global
345 monsoon region show a nonlinear response to freshwater-induced AMOC changes.

346 Corresponding to D-O cold phases (stadials), positive freshwater perturbations in the Nordic
347 Seas slowed down the AMOC, decreased northward ocean heat transport, hence, cooled the
348 NH and warmed the SH, which led to a more southward posi-tioned ITCZ along with a more
349 asymmetrical Hadley cell and an increase in annual global monsoon precipitation in the south
350 and a decrease of monsoon rainfall in the north. A more vigorous circulation induced by
351 freshwater extraction did not have significant impact on monsoon rainfall globally and in the two
352 hemispheres individually since the oceanic heat transport was hardly affected. The bipolar
353 seesaw pat-tern was much less significant, meridional SST contrast in the tropics limited and
354 the ITCZ position stayed stable. As a result, the main factor affecting monsoon pre-cipitation in
355 the model is the oceanic heat transport associated with the AMOC be-tween the hemispheres.

356 Combining both model data and paleo records, our work showed a clear picture of global
 357 monsoon precipitation response to high latitude climate variations tied to abrupt climate
 358 oscillations during MIS3, which provides insight into high-low latitude teleconnections for both
 359 present and past climates.

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