

# On Geoengineering the Albedo Solution to Global Warming and Identifying Key Parameters

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**Key Words:** Re-Radiation Model, Global Warming Solution, Planck Parameter, Planck-Albedo Parameter, Albedo-GHG Parameter

## Abstract

A solar geoengineering global warming model is developed with a re-radiation factor and the model is shown to be consistent with Planck's parameter. The re-radiation factor is important in quantifying the relative global warming impact of the albedo effect compared to that of greenhouse gases (GHG). The potential reverse forcing due to a change in the Earth's global albedo compared to GHGs is illustrated. Results of modeling support solar geoengineering solutions with two key parameters from modeling: an albedo-GHG and a Planck-Albedo feedback parameter. Using these, it is concluded that a 1.5% solar geoengineering change in the global albedo could result in a significant resolution to global warming and we also discuss feasibility.

## 1 Introduction

Solar geoengineering is vital in global warming as results can reverse trends and reduce the probability of a tipping point from occurring. In this paper, a geoengineering model that uses a re-radiation factor, which helps to quantify differences between changes in the global albedo versus greenhouse gas forcing, is developed. The re-radiation parameter is initially obtained in the absence of warming feedbacks with a unique value of 0.612 (or  $\beta=0.887$ ). The re-radiation factor is a redefined variable taken from the effective emissivity constant of the planetary system. An application of the model is provided between two different time periods (1950 and 2019). In 2019, the re-radiation parameter takes GHG change and feedback effects into account. Then, the Planck's feedback parameter is used to verify model consistency. The model illustrates a reasonable way to view the Earth's energy budget; simplifies estimates without the need for doubling theory, provides a number of useful insights in climatology sensitivity estimates and provides practical solar geoengineering calculation for global warming mitigation [1]. Specifically, a 1.6 albedo-GHG factor along and a Planck-Albedo parameter (having a value of  $1\text{W}/\text{m}^2/^\circ\text{K}/\Delta\%$ albedo) is obtained in modeling results. These values greatly simplify solar geoengineering [2, 3] calculations. Using these values, we exemplify a global warming albedo solution and discuss feasibility [1].

## 2. Data and Method

To introduce the re-radiation engineering model, we will often refer to the Planck parameter and its associated variables that play a key role in development and verifying this model. Therefore, we provide an overview in Appendix A which also includes a unique way to assess its value using an albedo approach (see A.1).

### 2.1 The Re-radiation Global Warming Model

In geoengineering, we are working with absorption, we define

$$P_{Total} = \sigma T_S^4 = \sigma \left( \frac{T_{TOA}}{\beta} \right)^4 \text{ and } P_\alpha = \sigma T_\alpha^4 = \sigma (\beta T_S)^4 \quad (1)$$

The definitions of  $T_{TOA}$ ,  $T_S$  and  $\beta$  are provided in Appendix A (Eq. A-1, A-2, A-3). We consider a time when there is **no feedback issues** causing warming trends. Then by conservation of energy, the equivalent power re-radiated from GHGs in this model is dependent on  $P_\alpha$

$$P_{GHG} = P_{Total} - P_\alpha = \sigma T_S^4 - \sigma T_\alpha^4 \quad (2)$$

To be consistent with Eq. A-1,  $T_\alpha = T_{TOA}$ , since typically  $T_\alpha \approx 255^\circ\text{K}$  and  $T_S \approx 288^\circ\text{K}$ , then in keeping with a common definition of Beta (see Eq. A-4) for the moment  $\beta \approx T_\alpha/T_S \approx T_{TOA}/T_S$ .

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58 This allows us to write the dependence  
59

$$60 \quad P_{GHG} = \sigma T_S^4 - \sigma T_\alpha^4 = \frac{\sigma T_\alpha^4}{\beta^4} - \sigma T_\alpha^4 = \sigma T_\alpha^4 \left( \frac{1}{\beta^4} - 1 \right) \quad (3)$$

61 We note that when  $\beta^4 = 1$ , there are no GHG contributions as required. We now define a re-radiation parameter  $f = \beta^4$ .  
62 We know that some fraction of the blackbody radiation is re-radiated by the GHGs, so  $f$  is a re-radiation parameter.  
63 That is, the energy,  $P_{GHG}$ , must be some fraction of  $P_\alpha$ . Consider this is  
64

$$65 \quad P_{GHG} = f P_\alpha = f \sigma T_\alpha^4 \quad (4)$$

66  
67 This we will see is consistent with Eq. 3. Once absorption occurs, initial temperature rise occurs to the Earth, and  
68 then part of this energy is reradiated back to Earth by GHGs. It is important in geoengineering to view this as part of  
69 the albedo effect. This is a key difference in how we view the total effect from short wavelength absorption with the  
70 inclusion of re-radiation [2]. Now in order consistency in  $f$ , we require from Equations 3 and 4  
71

$$72 \quad P_{GHG} = \sigma T_\alpha^4 \left( \frac{1}{f} - 1 \right) = f \sigma T_\alpha^4 \quad (5)$$

73  
74 This dependence leads us to the solution of the quadratic expression  
75

$$76 \quad f^2 + f - 1 = 0 \text{ yielding } f_1 = 0.618034 = \beta^4, \beta = (0.618034)^{1/4} = 0.88664 \quad (6)$$

77  
78 This is very close to the common value estimated for  $\beta$  (Appendix A) and this has been obtained through energy  
79 balance in the planetary system providing a completely self-determining assessment without approximations. In  
80 Section 2.3, we double check this model in another way by balancing energy. Then in Section 3 we will apply the  
81 modeling to demonstrate its capability and consistency with the Planck parameter.  
82

## 83 2.2 Re-radiation Model Applied to Two Different Time Periods

84  
85 Global warming can be modeled by looking at two different time periods. We can model the radiation for 1950  
86 consistent with our model in Eq. 2 and 4  
87

- 88 • we will assume no feedback issues causing a warming trend in 1950 so that from our model  
89

$$90 \quad P_{Total_{1950}} = P_\alpha + P_{GHG} = P_\alpha + f_1 P_\alpha = P_\alpha (1 + f_1) = 1.618 P_\alpha \quad (7)$$

91  
92 where  $P_\alpha = S_o \{0.25x(1 - Albedo)\}$  and  $S_o = 1361 \text{ W/m}^2$ . We can use the value 1.618 (Eq. 6), since we assume no  
93 changes in GHG and feedback issues in 1950, making it a good reference number for geoengineering estimates. We  
94 can term this as a 1950 albedo-GHG value. Since its value is related to the re-radiation parameter, it changes due to  
95 variations in our climate system. However, its 1950 value in our equilibrium model is constrained by the energy  
96 balance discussed in Section 2.3 and Eq. 5.  
97

98 In 2019 due to global warming trends, this model is more complex and harder to separate out terms. However, it can  
99 still be similarly modeled as  
100

$$101 \quad P_{Total2019} = P_{\alpha'} + P_{GHG'+Feedback} \approx P_{\alpha'} + f_2 P_{\alpha'} \quad (8)$$

102  
103 Here,  $P_{GHG'+Feedback}$  includes GHGs and its increase with feedbacks such as water-vapor, lapse rate effect and other  
104 changes such as an increase in snow-ice albedo variations that are hard to separate out. That is, some of this  
105 feedback is related to GHG forcing increases and some is related to albedo change.  $P_{\alpha'}$  represents the 2019 point in  
106 time with its albedo due to prior changes in UHI absorption, cloud absorption, ice and snow melting, and so forth  
107 that can be discerned. The model does not demand rigid accountability in its application (see Sec.3). We note that  $f$ ,  
108 a measure of the emissivity, is *not* constant, but must change since the amount of GHGs changes. However,  $f_2$  is not  
109 as accurate in terms of the actual emissivity value but is an approximation that in perhaps rigorous assessment could  
110 be determined.  
111

112 To be clear,  $f$  is just a fractional parameter related to the emissivity. In 1950 it was a function of the GHGs (with no  
113 feedbacks). In 2019, it is more complex and according to Eq. 8, must include feedbacks if  $P_{\alpha'}$  can be determined.

114 The model is also constrained relative to  $f_1$  as described in Section 2.3.2. However, it is primarily related to GHG  
115 re-radiation since  $P_{GHG} \approx P_{GHG'+Feedback}$  (see results in Section 3).

### 116 117 2.3 Energy Balance

118 Although  $f_1$  has been uniquely defined in Eq. 6, this should also result from balancing the energy in and out of our  
119 global system.

#### 120 121 2.3.1 Balancing $P_{out}$ and $P_{in}$ in 1950

122 To balance the energy in with the energy out in 1950 with no global warming imbalance we can still start with Eq. 7.  
123 In equilibrium the radiation that leaves must balance  $P_\alpha$  the absorption energy so that

$$124 \quad \begin{aligned} Energy_{Out} &= (1-f_1)P_\alpha + (1-f_1)P = (1-f_1)P_\alpha + (1-f_1)\{P_\alpha + f_1P_\alpha\} \\ &= (1-f_1)\{2P_\alpha + f_1P_\alpha\} = 2P_\alpha - f_1P_\alpha - f_1^2P_\alpha = Energy_{In} = P_\alpha \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

128 This is consistent, so that in 1950 Eq. 9 requires the same quadratic solution as Eq. 6. It is apparent that

$$129 \quad P_\alpha = f_1 P_{Total\_1950} \quad (10)$$

130 or

$$131 \quad P_\alpha = f_1(P_\alpha + f_1P_\alpha) \text{ or } 1 = f_1(1 + f_1) \quad (11)$$

132 The RHS of Eq. 11 is Eq. 6. This illustrates  $f_1$  from another perspective as the fractional amount of total radiation in  
133 equilibrium. As a final check, an application in Section 3, Table 1 results, will illustrate that  $f_1$  provides reasonable  
134 results.

#### 135 136 2.3.2 Warming Imbalance in 2019

137 The re-radiation parameters  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ , are connected and from Eq. 7 and 8 we have

$$138 \quad f_2 = f_1 + \left( \frac{P_{2019}}{P_{\alpha'}} - \frac{P_{1950}}{P_\alpha} \right) = f_1 + \Delta f \quad (12)$$

139 In this way  $f_2$  is a function of  $f_1=0.618$  and the differences in the global warming residuals that is identified in Eq. 12  
140 as  $\Delta f$ .

### 141 3.0 Results and Discussion

142 Since the re-radiation parameter is fixed for  $f_1=0.618$ , to obtain  $T_{1950}=13.89^\circ\text{C}$  ( $287.038^\circ\text{K}$ ), the only adjustable  
143 parameter left in our model is the Earth's albedo. This value requires an albedo value of 0.3008 (see Table 1) to  
144 obtain the correct value  $T_{1950}$ . This albedo numbers is reasonable and similar to values cited in the literature [4].

145 In 2019, the average temperature of the Earth is  $T_{2019}=14.84^\circ\text{C}$  ( $287.99^\circ\text{K}$ ). Here we are not sure of the albedo since  
146 it likely changed due to UHI increase, snow and ice melting and cloud coverage changes. The IPCC value in AR5  
147 [5] is 0.294118 (100/340) is given in AR5 [6]. However, this would represent a 3% change since 1950 which may be  
148 an overestimation. In our assessment, we will assume a low middle value of about 1.2% change. Another reason for  
149 this choice will become apparent in the resulting analysis. Then, the  $f_2$  parameter is adjusted to  $0.6311$  to obtain  
150  $T_{2019}$ . Results are provided in Table 1. The results yield  $P_{Total\_1950}=384.935 \text{ W/m}^2$  and  $P_{Total\_2019}=390.055 \text{ W/m}^2$ .

151  
152 **Table 1** Model results

Year	T( $^\circ\text{K}$ )	$T_\alpha$ ( $^\circ\text{K}$ )	$f_1, f_2$	$\alpha, \alpha'$	$P_\alpha, P_{\alpha'}$ ( $\text{W/m}^2$ )	$P_{GHG'+feedback}$ $P_{GHG}$ ( $\text{W/m}^2$ )	$P_{Total}$ ( $\text{W/m}^2$ )
2019	287.991	254.83	0.63114	29.719	239.131	150.925	390.056
1950	287.041	254.51	0.6180	30.08	237.903	147.032	384.935
$\Delta 2019-1950$	<b>0.95</b>	0.328	<b>1.311%</b>	0.361 <b>(1.2%)</b>	<b>1.228</b>	3.893	<b>5.12</b>

153  
154 From Table 1

$$166 \quad \Delta P_{Total} = P_{2019} - P_{1950} = 5.121 W / m^2 \quad (13)$$

167  
168 and

$$169 \quad \Delta T_{Total} = T_{2019} - T_{1950} = 0.95^\circ C \quad (14)$$

170  
171 which is the observed surface temperature increase since 1950.

172  
173 Table 1 summarizes model results for the specified albedos and observed Earth's surface temperatures. To show  
174 model consistency, the forcing change  $5.121 W/m^2$ , resulting in a  $0.95^\circ K$  rise, should agree with what is expected  
175 from Planck's feedback parameter. From A-14 and Eq. 6, it is evident that

$$177 \quad \beta^4 \Delta R_{LWR_S} = 5.12 \times \beta^4 = 3.164 W/m^2 \quad (15)$$

178  
179 This equation illustrates the consistency of the re-radiation model. Then, Planck's feedback parameter ( $3.3 W/m^2$   
180  $^\circ K$ ) temperature rise is in agreement with what is observed by equilibrium modeling

$$182 \quad 3.164 W/m^2 \times (1/3.3)^\circ K/W/m^2 = 0.959^\circ K \text{ at } T_s \quad (16)$$

### 184 3.1 Why the Re-radiation Parameter is Significant

185  
186 In Table 1, the measure of  $\Delta f = 1.45\%$  fractional increase is mainly due to re-radiation change and associated  
187 feedbacks. This is significant. From Eq. 7, 8 and 12 we can illustrate this key characteristic of climate change since

$$189 \quad \Delta f = f_2 - f_1 = \left( \frac{P_{2019}}{P_{\alpha'}} - \frac{P_{1950}}{P_{\alpha}} \right) = \left( \frac{P_{GHG'+F}}{P_{\alpha'}} - \frac{P_{GHG}}{P_{\alpha}} \right) \quad (17)$$

190  
191 Therefore,  $f$  is an estimate of climate re-radiation and  $\Delta f$  an estimate of climate emissivity change and confounded  
192 with feedback effects. It is a measure of GHG forcing increase and the feedback relative to the initial 1950 radiation,  
193 and is generally helpful in looking at how our climate is working.

### 195 3.2 The Albedo-GHG Factor

196  
197 We can look at an important ratio, the power created by the albedo effect compared to GHGs in 1950. The initial  
198 radiation is  $P_{\alpha}$  which heats the Earth to  $254.51^\circ K$ , and then according to Eq. 7 and Table 1, the energy increased by  
199  $P_{GHG}$  is due to re-radiation  $fP_{\alpha}$  and the ratio is

$$201 \quad \left\{ \frac{P_{\alpha} + P_{GHG}}{P_{GHG}} = \frac{P_{\alpha} + f_1 P_{\alpha}}{f_1 P_{\alpha}} = \frac{1 + f_1}{f_1} = \frac{1.62}{0.62} = 2.62 \right\}_{1950} \quad \text{and} \quad \left\{ \frac{1 + f_2}{f_2} = 2.58 \right\}_{2019} \quad (18)$$

202  
203 We note the ratio is reduced in 2019 as  $P_{GHG}$  increases along with feedbacks with re-radiation increases. If  $f$  could  
204 approaches a catastrophic value of unity, this ratio reduces to a minimum of 2.

205  
206 In this engineering view, we can look at a change in albedo forcing compared with a change in GHGs. The variation  
207 in the energy due to an average albedo change and its re-radiation is

$$209 \quad \Delta P_{\alpha} = \Delta P_{\alpha'} + f_2 \Delta P_{\alpha'} = 1.631 \Delta P_{\alpha'} \quad (19)$$

210  
211 The average change in GHGs can be written in terms of  $\Delta f$  and the absorbed energy that GHGs receive from solar  
212 absorption is

$$213 \quad \Delta P_{GHG} = \Delta f P_{GHG} = 1.311\% (f_2 P_{\alpha'}) = 0.827\% P_{\alpha'} \quad (20)$$

214  
215 This resulting ratio is from Table 1

$$217 \quad \frac{\Delta P_{\alpha}}{\Delta P_{GHG}} = \frac{\Delta P_{\alpha'} (1 + f_2)}{\Delta f P_{\alpha'} f_2} = \frac{1.228 W / m^2}{0.0131} \frac{1.631}{239.1 W / m^2 \cdot 0.631} = 1.01 \quad (21)$$

218  
219 Note that this ratio is of course dependent on the 2019 albedo 1.2% change, selected here to obtain unity for  
220 illustrative purposes. The ratio  $\Delta P_{\alpha} / \Delta f P_{\alpha}$  is an interesting aspect of climate change. In 2019, if we have knowledge of  
221 values, we can assess which is the dominant part of the warming trend. It also provides us with a measure of solar  
222 reversibility

223

224

$$\Delta P_{\alpha'} \geq \Delta f \frac{P_{\alpha'} f_2}{(1 + f_2)} 1.02 \approx 1.21 W / m^2 \quad (22)$$

225

226 This ratio is dependent on the change in the albedo compared with a GHG change. This does not include the  
 227 potential for a transient climate response (TCR). It is perhaps not the best way to assess geoengineering estimates.  
 228 True values of  $\Delta\alpha$  and  $\Delta f$  are not easily obtained in 2019. However, it avoids CO<sub>2</sub> doubling estimates, which are  
 229 also difficult to evaluate. Furthermore, in some instances, a  $\Delta P_{\alpha}$  change, create excess GHGs. This has been a  
 230 concern with cool roofs in the winter. We can estimate similarly as in Eq. 22, weather such a change is beneficial by  
 231 comparison.

232

233 It is important to simplify things further to provide a more productive approach. In reverse solar geoengineering of a  
 234 global warming solution, it is helpful to have simple reliable values. In this view, the 1.6 albedo-GHG factor (which  
 235 is reasonably accurate) is an important engineering number. It provides one of the significant values needed in  
 236 reverse albedo forcing that takes into account the initial absorption change followed by re-radiation. Another  
 237 important engineering value is described by a Planck-albedo parameter.

238

### 239 3.3 Planck-Albedo Parameter and a Simplified Reverse Forcing Solution

240 The albedo changes and  $\Delta P_{\alpha}$  in Table 1, are:  $\% \Delta \alpha = 1.6\%$  and  $1.638 W / m^2$ , respectively. We note that we can define  
 241 a unique Planck-albedo parameter  $\lambda_{\% \Delta \alpha} = \Delta P_{\alpha} / \% \Delta \text{albedo}$ . To illustrate from Table 1

242

$$243 \lambda_{\% \Delta \alpha} = 1.024 W / m^2 / \% \text{albedo} \quad (23)$$

244

245 This parameter can also be expressed per degree (noting the 0.95°K change in Table 1)

246

$$247 \lambda_{\% \Delta \alpha \Delta T} \approx 1 W / m^2 / \% \text{albedo} / ^{\circ} K \quad (24)$$

248

249 The helpful parameter [3] is featured here as a modeling tool. We term it the Planck-albedo parameter, since it  
 250 relates to blackbody ( $P_{\alpha}$ ) absorption. A simple numeric example is given in the conclusion to illustrate how it  
 251 provides helpful estimates along with the albedo-GHG factor. This interesting parameter simplifies from the basic  
 252 assessments of the two different time periods (see also Eq. A-8) as

253

$$254 \lambda_{\% \Delta \alpha} = \frac{(\Delta E_o)_{\alpha}}{\alpha_1 - \alpha_2} \frac{1}{100} = \frac{E_o (\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)}{\alpha_1 - \alpha_2} \frac{1}{100} = E_o \alpha_1 / 100 \approx 1 W / m^2 / \% \Delta \text{albedo} \quad (25)$$

255

256 where  $E_o = 340 W / m^2$  and when  $\alpha_1$  is 0.294118, the value  $1.000 W / m^2 / \% \text{albedo}$  is obtained. We note the value  
 257 29.4118% (100/340) is given in AR5 [6]. The parameter's relationship to  $\lambda_{\alpha}$  is

258

$$259 \lambda_{\alpha} = \lambda_{\% \Delta \alpha \Delta T} \times \% \Delta \alpha \quad (26)$$

260

261 and appropriate feedback parameters could including the re-radiation albedo-GHG factor in 2019 [2], for example

262

$$263 \lambda_{\alpha}^{\dagger} = \lambda_{\% \Delta \alpha \Delta T} \times \% \Delta \alpha (1 + f_2) \quad (27)$$

264

265 The albedo-GHG and the Planck-Albedo feedback parameter may be combined in order to provide a simple solar  
 266 geoengineering solution estimate

267

$$268 \Delta P_{\text{Rev}_S} = -\lambda_{\% \Delta \alpha \Delta T} \% \Delta \alpha (1 + f_2) A = \Delta P_T (1 + f_2) A \quad (28)$$

269

270 and from A-14  $\Delta P_{\text{Rev}_LWR} = \beta^4 \Delta P_{\text{Rev}_S}$  the temperature reduction is

271

$$272 \Delta T_{\text{Rev}} = -\Delta P_{\text{Rev}_LWR} \frac{1}{\lambda_o} \quad (29)$$

273

274 Here  $\Delta P_{\text{Rev}}$  is the reverse forcing, A is an estimate of the anticipated GW amplification reduction, and  $\Delta P_T$  is the  
 275 reverse forcing from the target area. The equation provides a fairly simple and practical way to estimate  $\Delta P_{\text{Rev}}$ . An  
 276 example is provided in the conclusion. In solar geoengineering, it may be reasonable to not consider a calculation  
 277 allowance for the climate system to equilibrate [13] since this works both ways.

## 278 4.0 Conclusion

279

280 In this paper, we provided a re-radiation global warming model. The model shows consistency with the Planck  
 281 parameter. We noted that the re-radiation parameter increased by about 1.45% due to global warming from 1950 to  
 282 2019, illustrating the warming from a different perspective. From the model, a helpful albedo-GHG parameter was  
 283 quantified having a value of 1.6.

284

285 We also found an engineering factor that we termed the Planck-albedo parameter, which is about  
 286  $\lambda_{\% \Delta \Delta T} \approx 1W/m^2 / \Delta \% albedo / ^\circ K$ . These findings can be helpful in quickly estimating the effect of an albedo change on  
 287 global warming and in assessing  $\lambda_\alpha$ . These results support solar geoengineering solutions [3, 7-9].

288

289 For example, Feinberg 2020 [2] suggested a goal of 1.5% geoengineering albedo change. Using Equation 26, with a  
 290 decrease in water-vapor feedback anticipated, we might use a value of  $A \approx 2$  [10], then

291

$$292 \Delta P_{Rev\_S} = -1W/m^2/\% \times 1.5\% \times (1+f_2) \times 2 = -4.8 \text{ Watt}/m^2 \quad (29)$$

293

294 One can multiply this by  $\beta^4$  to compare with IPCC models or to relative to our results in Table 1 with a forcing of  
 295  $5.12 W/m^2$ . Equation 29 expressed in terms of reverse temperature warming results is then

296

$$297 \Delta T_{Rev} = -0.90^\circ K \quad (30)$$

298

299 This would indicate a significant resolution to the current warming trend. As one might suspect, a 1.5% albedo  
 300 change requires a lot of modified area. Feasibility is discussed in more detail in Feinberg's 2020 [2]. Results of  
 301 Feinberg [2] indicate the required area of change, if proper hotspots are targeted, is 3.4-17 times smaller than the  
 302 estimates of the current urbanization area. Other solar geoengineering solutions have been proposed [7-9].

303

304 It is important to task agencies worldwide, such as NASA, to work on solar geoengineering, which at this late time  
 305 is likely more important than space exploration and many other projects that countries are concerned about.

306

## 307 Appendix A

308

### 309 Overview of Planck Feedback Parameter

310

311 Estimates on Planck's feedback parameter are varied, typically between  $-3.8W/m^2/^\circ K$  and  $-3.21W/m^2/^\circ K$  with some  
 312 values as large as  $-7.1W/m^2/^\circ K$  [11]. The IPCC AR4 [12] lists a value of  $-3.21W/m^2/^\circ K$ . Numerous authors have  
 313 developed different expressions [11]. A typical estimate starts with

314

$$315 F_{TOA} = (1-\alpha)S_o/4 - \sigma(\beta T_s)^4 = (1-\alpha)S_o/4 - R_{LWR} \quad (A-1)$$

316

317 where  $S_o=1361W/m^2$ ,  $F_{TOA}$  is the radiation budget at the top of the atmosphere,  $R_{LWR}$  is the outgoing long wave  
 318 radiation (a function of surface temperature and albedo),  $\sigma$  is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant and  $\beta$  is described in  
 319 this section below and is redefined in terms of a re-radiation parameter in this paper. Then the Planck parameter  $\lambda_o$   
 320 can be calculated as

321

$$322 \lambda_o = \partial F_{TOA} / \partial T_s = -\partial R_{LWR} / \partial T_s \quad (A-2)$$

323

324 This result is

$$325 \lambda_o = -4\beta^4 \sigma T_s^3 = -4\beta \sigma T_{TOA}^3 \quad (A-3)$$

326

327

328 where  $\beta$  varies in the literature from 0.876 to 0.887 (averaging=0.8815) and  $T_s=288^\circ K$  [12]. This yields -  
 329  $3.37W/m^2/^\circ K < \lambda_o < -3.21W/m^2/^\circ K$ . However, from Eq. A-3,  $\beta$  is often taken as the ratio

330

$$331 \beta = T_{TOA} / T_s = 255^\circ K / 288^\circ K = 0.8854 \text{ and } \beta^4 = 0.615 \quad (A-4)$$

332

333 A common assessment uses  $T_{TOA}=255^\circ K$ , so that  $\lambda_o = -3.33W/m^2/^\circ K$ . Another expression developed by Schlesinger  
 334 [6] is dependent on the albedo and surface temperature as

335

$$336 \lambda_o = S_o (1-\alpha) / T_s \quad (A-5)$$

337

338 When  $S_o=1361$ ,  $0.294118 < \alpha < 0.3$ , and  $T_s=288^\circ K$  then  $-3.308W/m^2/^\circ K > \lambda_o > -3.3358W/m^2/^\circ K$ , respectively.

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### A.1 Estimating Planck's Parameter with an Albedo Method

Consider a global albedo change corresponding to 1°K rise from solar absorption letting

$$F_{ToA} = 0 = (1 - \alpha)E_o - \sigma(T_s)^4 \quad (A-6)$$

where  $E_o = S_o/4$ . Then a 1°K change is

$$\Delta T_s = T_2 - T_1 = \left( \frac{E_o}{\sigma} (1 - \alpha_2) \right)^{1/4} - \left( \frac{E_o}{\sigma} (1 - \alpha_1) \right)^{1/4} = 1^\circ K \quad (A-7)$$

Here we will use the AR5 albedo starting value of 0.294118 [6]. We find that the corresponding albedo change is 0.28299 when  $E_o = 340 \text{ W/m}^2$ . This corresponds to

$$\Delta E_o = E_o \{ (1 - \alpha_2) - (1 - \alpha_1) \} = E_o (\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) = 3.784 \text{ W/m}^2 \quad (A-8)$$

Since this is for a 1°K rise, then it can also be written as

$$\lambda_{1K} = 3.784 \text{ W/m}^2 / ^\circ K \quad (A-9)$$

We note this is related to the surface value, then

$$\lambda_{1K} = -4\sigma T_s^3 \quad (A-10)$$

By comparison to above we have

$$\lambda_o = \lambda_{1K} \beta = -3.784 \text{ W/m}^2 / ^\circ K = -3.349 \text{ W/m}^2 / ^\circ K \quad (A-11)$$

This is very close to the  $-3.33 \text{ W/m}^2 / ^\circ K$  value obtained in the traditional manner.

It can be helpful to recall that from Eq. A-1 if we let

$$R_{LWR\_S} = \sigma(T_s)^4 \quad (A-13)$$

then

$$\beta^4 R_{LWR\_S} = R_{LWR} \quad (A-14)$$

We use this expression in showing model consistency with the Planck feedback parameter.

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