

Temperature thresholds of ecosystem respiration at a global scale.

Article

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42 Abstract

43 Ecosystem respiration is a major component of the global terrestrial carbon cycle and is strongly influenced by temperature. The global extent of the temperature-ecosystem 44 respiration relationship, however, has not been fully explored. Here, we test linear and 45 46 threshold models of ecosystem respiration across 210 globally distributed eddy covariance 47 sites covering the most extensive temperature range ever studied. We find thresholds to the 48 global temperature-ecosystem respiration relationship at high and low air temperatures and 49 mid soil temperatures, which represent transitions in the temperature dependence and 50 sensitivity of ecosystem respiration. Annual ecosystem respiration rates show a markedly 51 reduced temperature dependence and sensitivity compared to half-hourly rates, and a single 52 mid-temperature threshold for both air and soil temperature. Our study indicates a distinction 53 in the influence of environmental factors, including temperature, on ecosystem respiration 54 between latitudinal and climate gradients at short (half-hourly) and long (annual) timescales. Such climatological differences in the temperature sensitivity of ecosystem respiration have 55 important consequences for the terrestrial net carbon sink under ongoing climate change. 56

57 **Main**

- 58 Carbon losses from terrestrial ecosystems determine the direction and magnitude of carbon-
- 59 climate feedbacks^{1,2}. The trajectory of future climate change therefore depends on the
- biological processes that underpin ecosystem fluxes. Ecosystem respiration (R_e), the
- 61 cumulative respiration of autotrophs (plants) and heterotrophs (bacteria, fungi and animals),
- 62 represents a major component of the global carbon cycle³. Temperature strongly influences
- R_e through the laws of thermodynamics^{4–6}, but the global extent of the temperature- R_e
- ⁶⁴ relationship has not been fully explored^{7,8}.
- 65 Temperature-mediated variations in *R*_e are typically described as an exponential function in
- Earth system models (ESMs)². That is, globally static Q_{10} values of around 2 represent a
- 67 doubling of ecosystem CO₂ fluxes with an increase in temperature of 10 °C, when all other
- terms are equal⁹. Empirical and theoretical studies, however, have documented conflicting
- 69 temperature- R_e relationships. Latitudinal shifts in the temperature sensitivity of R_e have been
- observed in empirical studies, with ecosystems experiencing greater increases in R_e with
- temperature at high, compared to mid and low, latitudes^{8,10,11}. At the same time, global
- syntheses have proposed convergent temperature sensitivities of R_e across different
- 73 climates and ecosystem types^{4,12,13}.
- 74 The influence of temperature on ecosystem respiration is mediated by the temperature
- sensitivity of individual physiology, community composition and biotic interactions of all the
- ⁷⁶ organisms inhabiting an ecosystem^{13,14}. At the individual-level, metabolic rates scale with

- body mass and increase exponentially with temperature according to the Boltzmann factor,
- 78 $e^{-E/kT}$, where *E* is the activation energy (eV), *k* is the Boltzmann's constant (8.62 × 10⁻⁵ eV
- K^{-1}), and *T* is temperature (in Kelvin)⁶. Widescale application of the Boltzmann factor to
- individual metabolic rates has revealed a common value of *E* between 0.6 and 0.7 eV^{5,6,15}. At
- 81 the ecosystem-level, models based on metabolic theory indicate exponential temperature- R_e
- 82 relationships across diverse ecosystems with a value of *E* surprisingly similar to individual
- 83 metabolic rates (0.65 eV; $Q_{10} \sim 2.50^{4,13}$). Yet, models of the temperature- R_e relationship have
- focused on a limited temperature range between 0 and 30 °C, even though terrestrial
- 85 ecosystems experience temperatures between -60 and 50 °C¹⁶.
- In this study we test the generality of the temperature- R_e relationship, described by a general ecosystem model, across the most extensive temperature range yet investigated. The
- 88 model, founded in metabolic theory, gives the linear expression:

$$\ln(R_e) = \frac{-E}{1,000k} \left(\frac{1,000}{T}\right) + \ln[(b_0)(C)]$$
(1)

- 90 where $\ln(R_e)$ is the natural logarithm of ecosystem respiration, in W ha⁻¹; (1,000/*T*) is the
- 91 reciprocal of absolute temperature; b_0 is the intensity of cellular metabolism; and C is the
- 92 size distribution of organisms (assumed to be independent of R_e according to the energy
- equivalence rule)⁴. The model predicts a general linear relationship between (1,000/T) and
- 94 $\ln(R_e)$, with an expected slope (\overline{E} from hereon in) across diverse ecosystems equal to -7.50
- 95 K (0.65 eV, with a plausible range between -2 and -11 K, or 0.2 and 1.2 eV)¹⁰. However, we
- 96 would expect climatological differences in resource supply^{17,18} and community
- 97 composition^{14,19} to alter \overline{E} across the global temperature range. We would also expect
- 98 divergent relationships between metabolism and resource supply with temperature to modify
- 99 the temperature- R_e relationship over time^{13,20}.

100 Results

101 We test the global extent of the linear temperature- R_e relationship predicted by metabolic 102 theory, by applying the model presented in Eq. 1 to measurements across 210 globally distributed FLUXNET sites²¹ (Figure 1 and Supplementary Data 1). Both short-term (half-103 hourly) and long-term (annual) measurements were tested for air and soil temperature. The 104 half-hourly FLUXNET dataset is presented with more conventional temperature and R_e units 105 in Extended Data 1. The linear model (Eq. 1) was compared to a threshold model, which 106 accounts for variations in the activation energy (\bar{E}) in Eq. 1 above and below specified 107 temperature breakpoints (see Methods). That is, the threshold model accounts for shifts in 108 109 the temperature sensitivity of R_e across the global temperature range, and explains latitudinal shifts in the temperature- R_e relationship observed in empirical studies^{8,10,11}. All 110

111 models were linear mixed effects models and goodness of fit comparisons used Akaike

112 Information Criterion (AIC) measurements.

113 Figure 1

The threshold model, which integrated two temperature breakpoints of -24.8 ±0.15 and 15.1 114 ± 0.22 °C, better explained R_e rates over the global extent of air temperatures in the 115 FLUXNET dataset than the linear model (Δ AIC = 3,839,265, Figure 2). Similar to previous 116 findings^{4,13}, the threshold model indicates a temperature sensitivity of R_e indistinguishable 117 from that of -7.50 K (0.65 eV, dashed line in Figs. 2a & b) predicted by metabolic theory 118 (likelihood ratio test: $\chi^2 = 0$, p = 1) between temperature breakpoints ($\overline{E} = -7.42$ K, 0.64 eV, 119 Q₁₀ ~ 2.45 between 15.1 and -24.8 °C, solid line in Fig. 2b). Evaluation of the linear model, 120 on the other hand, gives an activation energy for global Re rates of -7.30 K (0.63 eV, solid 121 122 lines in Fig. 2a), significantly different from that predicted by metabolic theory (likelihood ratio test: χ^2 = 20009, p < 0.0001). Importantly, the threshold model indicates a lower temperature 123 sensitivity of R_e at higher temperatures (\overline{E} = -2.84 K, 0.25 eV, $Q_{10} \sim 1.41$ above 15.1 °C) and 124 extreme temperature sensitivity of R_e at very low temperatures (\overline{E} = -30.53 K, 2.64 eV, $Q_{10} \sim$ 125 40.79 below -24.8 °C). The threshold model therefore primarily improves predictions, 126 127 compared to the linear model, of the temperature- R_e relationship at low and high latitude sites (Figs. 2f & g). High measured variability in Re across the global temperature range, 128

- however, likely reflects the interactive effects of disturbance events, plant phenology and soil
- 130 water and nutrient limitation on ecosystem metabolism.

131 Figure 2

- Given the importance of belowground communities in $R_e^{14,19}$, linear and threshold models
- 133 were tested for the global relationship between soil temperature and ecosystem respiration
- 134 (Figure 2 and Supplementary Table 2). A single temperature threshold of 11.4 ±0.29 °C
- emerged for soil temperature, with little evidence for a lower temperature breakpoint
- (likelihood ratio test: $\chi^2 = 0$, p = 1). Above the temperature threshold, the activation energy of
- 137 R_e was lower than that observed for air temperature ($\overline{E} = -2.18$ K, 0.19 eV, $Q_{10} \sim 1.30$), while
- below the temperature threshold the activation energy was steeper than that between air
- temperature thresholds (\overline{E} = -13.37 K, 1.16 eV, Q₁₀ ~ 5.05). The absence of a lower
- 140 threshold for R_e with soil temperature is likely explained by thermal insulation from snow
- 141 cover at low temperatures²² resulting in much fewer observations, compared to air
- temperature, of the soil temperature- R_e relationship below 0 °C.
- 143 To account for the relative uncertainties of eddy covariance measurements below -20 °C²³,
- alongside the emergence of a single temperature breakpoint for soil temperature, we tested
- the sensitivity of the air temperature threshold model to temperature ranges with few

- 146 available measurements (Extended Data 2). Ecosystem respiration data were classified in 5 147 $^{\circ}$ C temperature intervals and intervals containing < 1% of all measurements (n < 235,521) 148 were defined as low frequency intervals. Such intervals were present at both high (> 36 $^{\circ}$ C) and low (< -19 °C) temperatures. Each low frequency temperature interval was removed one 149 by one, as well as all together (~ 1.8 % of the dataset), to investigate the sensitivity of the 150 151 threshold model. The test provides supporting evidence of the robustness of temperature breakpoints to the removal of each temperature interval one by one. However, there was no 152 support for a lower temperature breakpoint (-24.8 °C in Fig. 2b & c) when all low frequency 153 intervals or all those < -19 °C were removed. Instead, a single temperature breakpoint of 154 14.6 °C emerged (Extended Data 3 and Supplementary Table 3). The lower air temperature 155 breakpoint should therefore be considered with caution until more accurate R_e 156 measurements at low temperatures can be made. Re rates nevertheless display a sharp 157
- decline at lower temperatures for both air (Fig. 2b) and soil (Fig. 3b) temperatures.

159 Figure 3

- 160 Sharp declines in *R*_e at low soil and air temperatures likely indicate pulse responses of soil
- respiration to rewetting and thawing events²⁴, attributed to the suppression of microbial
- 162 activity under water limitation in freezing conditions 25 and an uncoupling of the temperature
- 163 dependence of microbial respiration from thermodynamic laws²⁶. Differences between global
- temperature- R_e relationships for air and soil temperature at short timescales also suggest
- shifts in the contribution of above ground and below ground communities to R_e across the
- 166 global extent of temperatures. For instance, a lower activation energy for the temperature- R_e
- relationship at higher soil temperatures (\overline{E} = -2.18 K > 11.4 ±0.29 °C, Fig. 3), compared to air
- temperatures (\overline{E} = -2.84 K > 15.1 °C, Fig. 2), could indicate a relative reduction in the
- 169 contribution of belowground autotrophs and heterotrophs to R_e in warmer climates. On the
- other hand, the lower threshold for the temperature- R_e relationship at low air temperatures
- 171 could reflect a temperature limit for the metabolism of aboveground communities, whereas
- the absence of a lower temperature threshold for soil temperature suggests the importance
- of belowground communities as components of R_e in mild to cold climates.
- 174 Global air temperature thresholds were consistent across climates, but the goodness of fit of
- the threshold model (pseudo r^2 and $\Delta AICs$ compared to the linear model, Fig. 4) declined
- 176 with a decrease in overall temperature range at lower latitudes. For instance, the
- temperature dependence of R_e (variation in R_e rates explained by temperature) was greater
- in cold, higher latitude, climates (tundra and boreal, $r_m^2 > 0.60$), compared to mild
- (temperate, $r_m^2 = 0.48$) and warm, low latitude, climates (mediterranean and tropical, $r_m^2 \leq 100$
- 180 0.09). In warmer climates, random effects had a much greater influence on R_e than in mild or
- 181 cold climates, with FLUXNET site and latitude explaining more variation in tropical and

- mediterranean ecosystems (Supplementary Table 4). Across the 210 sites, the threshold model better predicted the temperature- R_e relationship in the majority of cases (n = 197, Supplementary Data 1), while temperature explained more of the variation in R_e rates at
- sites with greater temperature ranges and higher latitudes (and Extended Data 4).
- 186 Q₁₀ estimates from the threshold model reflect latitudinal shifts in the temperature sensitivity
- 187 of ecosystem respiration, with tropical, mediterranean, temperate, boreal, and tundra
- 188 climates yielding Q_{10} values of 1.38 ±0.01, 1.82 ±0.43, 2.32 ±0.31, 2.67 ±0.10, and 2.90
- ± 0.12 respectively, compared to a global Q₁₀ of 2.26 ± 0.35 , and higher Q₁₀ estimates based
- 190 on the soil temperature threshold model (Supplementary Table 5). Empirical observations of
- 191 R_{e} , soil respiration and carbon turnover rates are comparable with threshold model
- 192 estimates of higher temperature sensitivities of R_e at high-latitudes and lower temperature
- 193 sensitivities of R_e at low-latitudes^{10,27}. Weaker temperature control in the linear model, similar
- to ESMs that implement static global Q_{10} values, cannot capture shifts in R_e temperature
- sensitivities across the global temperature range (Supplementary Table 5).

196 Figure 4

- 197 Annual temperature- R_e relationships were analysed across site years to investigate whether
- climatological differences in the temperature dependence and sensitivity of R_e emerge over
- longer timescales. The threshold model explained the temperature- R_e relationship better
- than the linear model at longer timescales for both air and soil temperature (Fig. 5).
- 201 Surprisingly, threshold models converged for air and soil temperature, with a single mid-
- temperature breakpoint of 11.0 \pm 0.16 °C (Figs 5b & d). Above the temperature threshold,
- 203 annual Re rates declined with increasing mean annual temperatures from mid to low
- 204 latitudes, while the activation energy below the temperature threshold was markedly reduced
- 205 (Figs 5a & c, $\overline{E} \sim -4.90$ K, 0.42 eV) compared to short timescales. Weaker temperature
- relationships at longer timescales is reflected by global Q_{10} estimates of 1.34 ±0.55 and 1.29
- 207 ±0.58 for air and soil temperature, respectively (Supplementary Table 6). An overall lack of
- 208 R_e variation explained by temperature ($r_m^2 < 0.14$) likely reflects the importance of
- 209 confounding effects from soil water, nutrient limitation, and resource availability, alongside
- thermal acclimation, at longer timescales. The threshold model was further consistent for
- 211 annual soil respiration and air temperature measurements from the Global Soil Respiration
- 212 Database²⁸, with a single temperature breakpoint of 5.5 °C (Extended Data 5 and
- 213 Supplementary Table 6).
- Figure 5
- 215

216 Discussion

- 217 Our study shows how latitudinal shifts in *R*_e temperature sensitivity at both short and long
- timescales correspond to transitions in the global temperature– R_e relationship across
- temperature thresholds. Importantly, temperature thresholds also indicate differences in the
- temperature dependence of R_{e} , with more variation in R_{e} rates explained by temperature in
- 221 cold compared to warm climates. In cold climates, temperature strongly influences metabolic
- activity of belowground microbial communities^{19,25,26}. In warm climates, ecosystem
- metabolism is limited by water and nutrient availability, and resource availability to biological
 communities^{18,27,29–31}.
- Both the temperature sensitivity and dependence of annual *R*_e rates is markedly reduced
- 226 compared to the short-term *R*_e temperature response, suggesting the dominance of resource
- 227 effects on ecosystem metabolism at longer timescales¹³. For instance, primary production
- 228 directs carbon availability for ecosystem metabolism and typically shows a weaker
- temperature dependence^{20,32}. Nutrient availability further drives preferential allocation of
- 230 photosynthate C above- or below-ground, with consequences for carbon availability and
- 231 quality to different ecosystem components¹⁷.
- Thresholds to the temperature- R_e relationship shown here will undoubtedly result from
- temporally divergent sensitivities between ecosystem components (e.g. below- and above-
- ground, heterotrophic and autotrophic) and several environmental controls over time.
- 235 Variable acclimation of the different components of R_e to these environmental controls may
- further influence the temperature dependence and sensitivity of R_e by modifying the
- temperature response of catabolic and anabolic pathways^{33–35}. Although we would expect
- such mechanisms to occur as gradual state changes rather than the sharp breakpoints
- 239 described here, our study indicates consistent temperature thresholds at which ecosystem
- 240 metabolism changes at a global scale. However, such results need to be validated for
- 241 different ecosystem components as detailed measurements become available, and for
- 242 decadal timescales over which the influence of anthropogenic factors can be detected.
- Biosphere feedbacks with future climate changes will be strongly influenced by the
- temperature- R_e relationship^{36,37} and latitudinal shifts in R_e temperature sensitivity as
- identified here will have important consequences for the global net land carbon sink³⁸. For
- instance, while huge stores of labile carbon in permafrost regions could be released if
- temperatures rise above lower thresholds for microbial decomposition²⁶, CO₂ fertilisation in
- tropical and boreal regions could enhance carbon gains through primary production relative
- to losses through $R_e^{30,39}$. Climate change forecasts by ESMs would thus be improved by
- accounting for temperature thresholds of R_e at a global scale. A higher resolution

- understanding of R_e -climate feedbacks, however, requires strategic disentangling of the
- 252 multiple environmental controls on the aboveground, belowground, heterotrophic, and
- autotrophic components of terrestrial ecosystem carbon fluxes.

254 Methods

255 The FLUXNET dataset

256 FLUXNET is a global network of micrometeorological sites providing eddy covariance CO₂

- 257 exchange observations between terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere²¹. The
- 258 FLUXNET 2015 dataset used in this study provides half hourly temperature and night-time
- 259 R_e measurements over 1454 site years and a latitudinal range of 78.92 °N to 37.43 °S.
- 260 Observations across the 210 sites, which range from arctic tundra to tropical rainforest
- ecosystems, provide an extensive temperature range of 89.7 °C, from -43.4 to 46.3 °C
- 262 (Figure 1 and Supplementary Data 1).
- 263 The FLUXNET dataset is subject to a data processing pipeline which include data quality
- 264 controls checks, filtering of low turbulence periods and partitioning of CO₂ fluxes into
- 265 respiration and photosynthesis components using established methods²¹. Disentangling
- respiration and photosynthesis fluxes during the day is complex and the extraction of R_e
- relies on modelling techniques with high uncertainty. Night-time CO₂ exchange
- 268 measurements thus provide the best approximation of R_{e} , and uncertainty has been
- 269 minimised for the FLUXNET dataset by employing quality control procedures²¹. Here, non-
- gap-filled half hourly (μ mol CO₂ m⁻² s⁻¹) and annual (g C m⁻²) night-time R_e
- 271 (RECO_NT_VUT_MEAN), air temperature (TA_F) and soil temperature (TS_F)
- 272 measurements were compiled from the FLUXNET 2015 dataset
- 273 (<u>https://fluxnet.fluxdata.org/data/fluxnet2015-dataset/</u>). *R*_e measurements were then
- 274 converted to units of metabolic energy (W ha⁻¹)⁴ by taking 0.272 J μ mol CO₂ and 10,000 m²
- 275 ha⁻¹.

276 Model analysis

- 277 The linear model (1) for describing the temperature- R_e relationship was fitted to the global
- 278 FLUXNET dataset, for both air and soil temperature. To test for the presence of temperature
- thresholds to the linear temperature– R_e model at a global scale, which explain shifts in R_e
- temperature sensitivity across climates, we compare the linear model in Eq. 1 to a threshold
- 281 (piecewise) model. The threshold model, with two temperature breakpoints, gives:
- 282 $\ln(Re) = \bar{E}_1 f_1(1,000/T,k_1) + \bar{E}_2 f_2(1,000/T,k_1,k_2) k^2 + \bar{E}_3 f_3(1,000/T,k_2) + \ln[(b_0)(C)] (2)$
- 283 where \overline{E}_{1} , \overline{E}_{2} and \overline{E}_{3} represent activation energies for different temperature (1,000/*T*) ranges, 284 determined by the two temperature breakpoints (k_{1} and k_{2}) and *f* represents the functions:

286
$$f_1 = \begin{cases} 1,000/T, & 1,000/T \le k_1 \\ k_1, & k_1 > 1,000/T \end{cases}$$

287
$$f_2 = \begin{cases} 0, & 1,000/T \le k_1 \\ 1,000/T - k_1, & k_1 \le 1,000/T \le k_2 \\ k_2 - k_1, & 1,000/T > k_2 \end{cases}$$

288
$$f_3 = \begin{cases} 0, & 1,000/T \le k_2 \\ 1,000/T, & 1,000/T > k_2 \end{cases}$$

289 The threshold model first introduced a single temperature breakpoint to the linear model, so 290 that the activation energy (\overline{E} , with more negative values indicating higher temperature sensitivity) varies above and below a specified temperature. Temperature breakpoints were 291 292 tested for the temperature (1,000/T) range between 3.1 and 4.4, for every increment of 0.001 293 (~0.07 °C). Differences in linear and threshold model AIC's were then compared for every 294 temperature breakpoint. The highest ΔAIC was taken as providing the most support for a 295 temperature breakpoint, as long as $\Delta AIC > 5$ for additional degrees of freedom and p < 0.05296 in a likelihood ratio test. Then, the threshold model integrated an additional temperature 297 breakpoint, taking the first temperature breakpoint with the greatest support as a fixed value. Model AIC's for each second temperature breakpoint were compared to the single 298 threshold model and the second threshold was selected based on the highest Δ AIC given 299 300 the conditions outlined above. Temperature breakpoints were identified for short (half-hourly) and long (annual) temperature- R_e relationships. 301

All models were linear mixed effects models, with FLUXNET site and latitude set as random effects. First, the models were tested for the global dataset and then for broadly classified

304 climate zones (cold, mild, and warm) and climates (tundra, boreal, temperate,

mediterranean, and tropical). Some generalisations were necessary during climate

306 classification. For instance, alpine sites at mid-latitudes were classified as boreal climates

307 (Supplementary Data 1). Linear and threshold models were further tested for each

308 FLUXNET site. Finally, annual *R*_e rates were used to investigate changes in temperature

309 breakpoints, and linear and threshold model performance, at long timescales for air and soil

temperature. Long timescale models accounted for latitude and year as random effects.

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Figure 1. Global distribution of the FLUXNET sites. Site locations (n = 210) are displayed over a
world mean annual temperature (MAT) map. Symbol diameter represents the number of site years
(range: 1 to 22 years) and the inset left-hand figure shows the distribution of site years (n = 1454) by
MAT.



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405 Figure 2. Global extent of the temperature-ecosystem respiration (Re) relationship. Night-time 406 half hourly ecosystem respiration measurements from the FLUXNET dataset (symbols), broadly 407 classified as tropical (magenta), mediterranean (orange), temperate (yellow), boreal (purple) or tundra 408 (green) climates. Left-hand plots (a, d & f) present predictions from the linear model (Eq. 1) and 409 middle plots (b,e & g) from a threshold model with two temperature breakpoints (Eq. 2), of the 410 temperature-ecosystem respiration relationship. The right-hand plot (c) shows the presence of two temperature breakpoints (black line: air (1,000/T) = 4.027, -24.8 °C; grey line: air (1,000/T) = 3.469, 411 412 15.1 °C), identified by the threshold models performance (ΔAIC's compared to the linear model where higher values provide a better fit to the FLUXNET dataset). Goodness of fit measures indicate the 413 pseudo r^2 for marginal (fixed) effects (r^2_m) and conditional (fixed and random) effects (r^2_c), with top 414 plots (a & b) showing predictions of the fixed effects only (temperature, solid lines) in each model 415 416 compared to the activation energy of -7.50 K predicted by metabolic theory (dashed lines, $r_{m}^{2} = 0.361$; 417 $r_{c}^{2} = 0.542$). Middle plots (d & e) present model predictions against observed FLUXNET 418 measurements (solid black 1:1 lines would demonstrate perfect prediction), and bottom plots (f & g) 419 show model residuals against latitude. Full details of the linear mixed effects models are presented in 420 Supplementary Table 1.



Figure 3. The global soil temperature-ecosystem respiration relationship. Night-time half hourly ecosystem respiration measurements from the FLUXNET dataset (symbols), broadly classified by climate with symbol colours as in Figure 2. Predictions of the temperature-ecosystem respiration relationship are compared for a) the linear model and b) the threshold model, for the fixed effects of temperature (solid lines). Both models are compared to the activation energy of -7.50 K predicted by

427 metabolic theory (dashed lines, $r_m^2 = 0.173$, $r_c^2 = 0.500$). The right-hand plot (c) shows the presence of

428 a single temperature breakpoints (black line: soil (1,000/T) = 3.515, 11.4 °C), identified by the

429 threshold models performance (Δ AIC's compared to the linear model where higher values provide a

better fit to the FLUXNET dataset). Full details of the linear mixed effects models are presented inSupplementary Table 2.

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435Figure 4. Temperature thresholds of ecosystem respiration (R_e) across five climates. Night-time436half hourly ecosystem respiration measurements from the FLUXNET dataset (symbols), classified as437a) tundra, b) boreal), c) temperate, d) mediterranean, and e) tropical, with symbol colours as in Figure4382. Solid lines show threshold model predictions for the fixed effects of temperature, and dashed lines439show an activation energy of -7.5 K predicted by metabolic theory. ΔAICs indicate a greater goodness440of fit of the threshold compared to linear model. Full details of the linear mixed effects models are441presented in Supplementary Table 4.





Figure 5. Long-term temperature thresholds of ecosystem respiration (R_e). Mean annual R_e and either a) air or c) soil temperature measurements (symbols), with symbol colours representing climate as in Figure 2. Plots show predictions from the threshold model (solid lines, for the fixed effects of temperature only). Both threshold models identified a single temperature breakpoint of 11.0 °C, with little support for a second temperature breakpoint (Δ AIC < 5 and p > 0.05). Dashed lines indicate an activation energy of -7.50 K as predicted by metabolic theory and Δ AlCs are between the linear and

- threshold models. Full details of the threshold mixed effects models are presented in Supplementary
- 450 Table 6.

451 Data availability

- 452 The dataset analysed during the current study is available on Dryad
- 453 (https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.70rxwdbwk).
- 454 Code availability
- 455 The R code used for analysis during the current study is available on Dryad
- 456 (<u>https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.70rxwdbwk</u>).
- 457

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468 Author contributions

- 469 ASAJ and CV developed the methodology and led the writing of the manuscript. ASAJ and
- 470 AM conduced the data analysis. JA, NA, DB, AB, PDB, CB, AC, JD, AG, BG, IG, CMG, HI,
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473 Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.