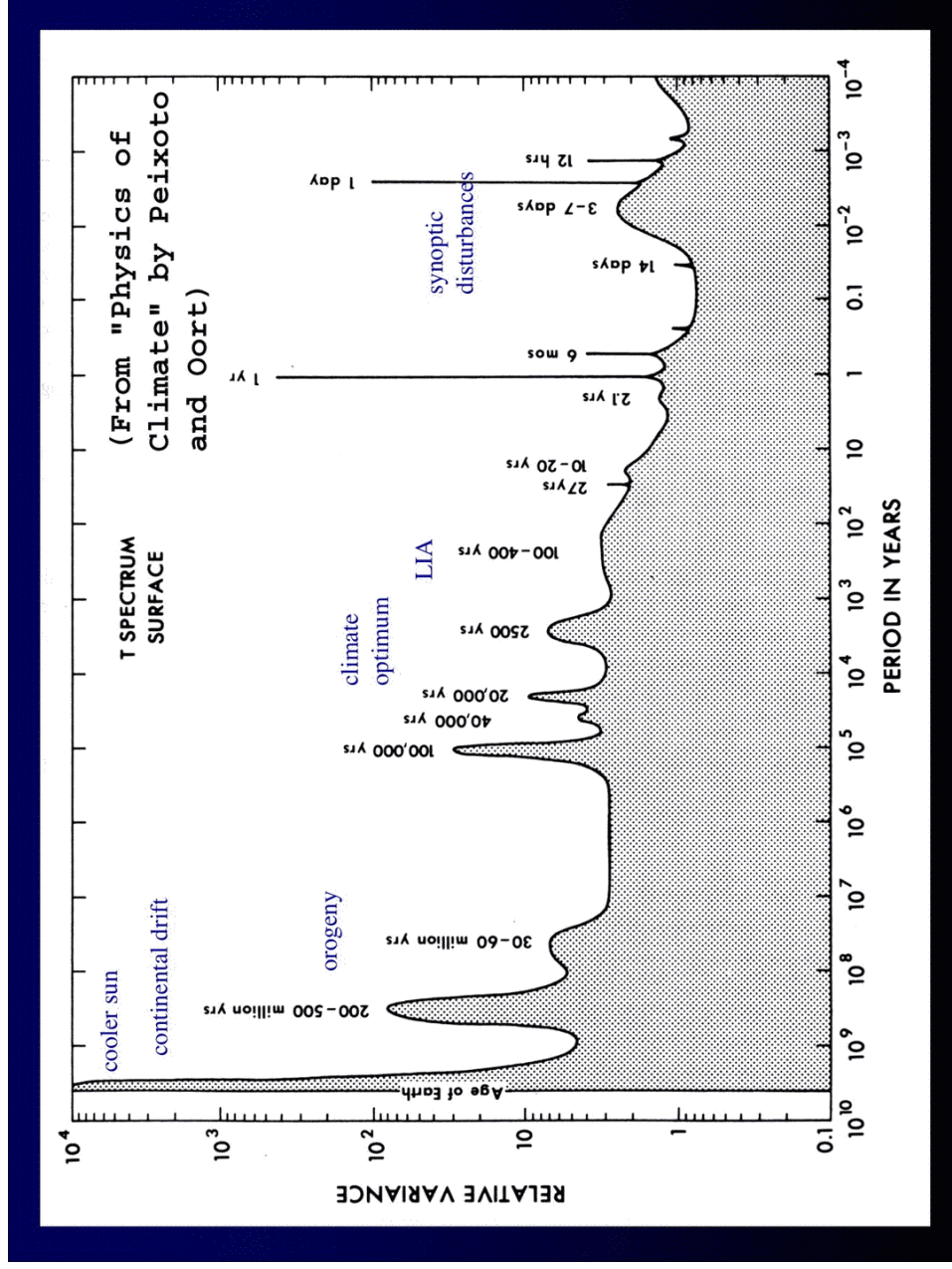


The Quantum Mechanics of Global Warming

Brad Marston
Brown University

The Sciences of Climate Change

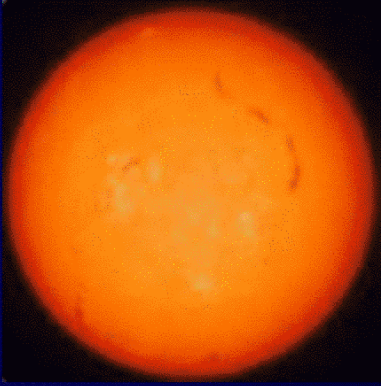
- Applied Math
 - Astronomy
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Geology
 - Meteorology
 - Oceanography
 - Physics:
 - Basic equations and simple estimates
 - Construction of complicated models.
- As multidisciplinary
as it gets



Outline

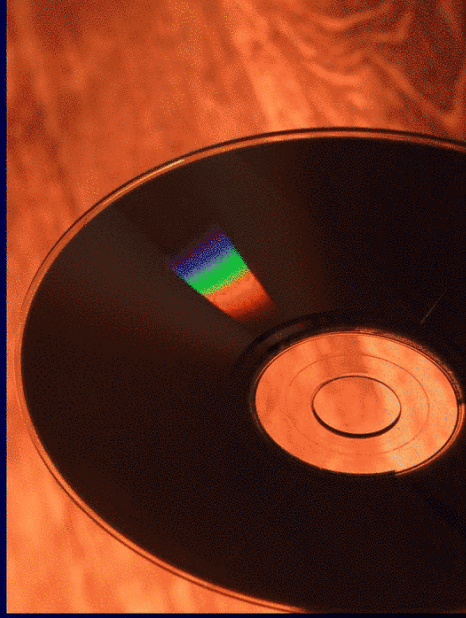
- Quantum mechanics #1: The ultraviolet catastrophe and Planck's blackbody radiation.
- QM #2: Why aren't we freezing?
- QM #3: Deciphering ice and sediment records of the past several million years.
- The recent past.
- The 21st century.
- Quantum field theory of global warming?
- Politics of climate change.

Planck's Blackbody Radiation



Sunlight is very nearly blackbody radiation.

Intensity is a function of both temperature and the frequency of light.



(spectrum photo by Bodo Hruckenstein)

Crisis in 19th Century Classical Physics

Intensity = function(Temperature, frequency)

$$[I] = \frac{\text{Watts}}{\text{meter}^2} = \frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{m}^2 \text{ s}} \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow$$

$$[k_B T] = J \quad [\nu] = \frac{1}{s}$$

$c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ speed of light

$k_B = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$ Boltzmann's constant

$$\Delta I(T, \nu) \propto \frac{k_B T \nu^2}{c^2} \Delta \nu \quad \longrightarrow \quad I = \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} \Delta I(T, \nu) \rightarrow \infty$$

UV Catastrophe!

Max Planck's Solution: Quanta

Light is composed of particles -- quanta -- called photons.

$$e = h\nu \quad \text{Photons carry energy.}$$

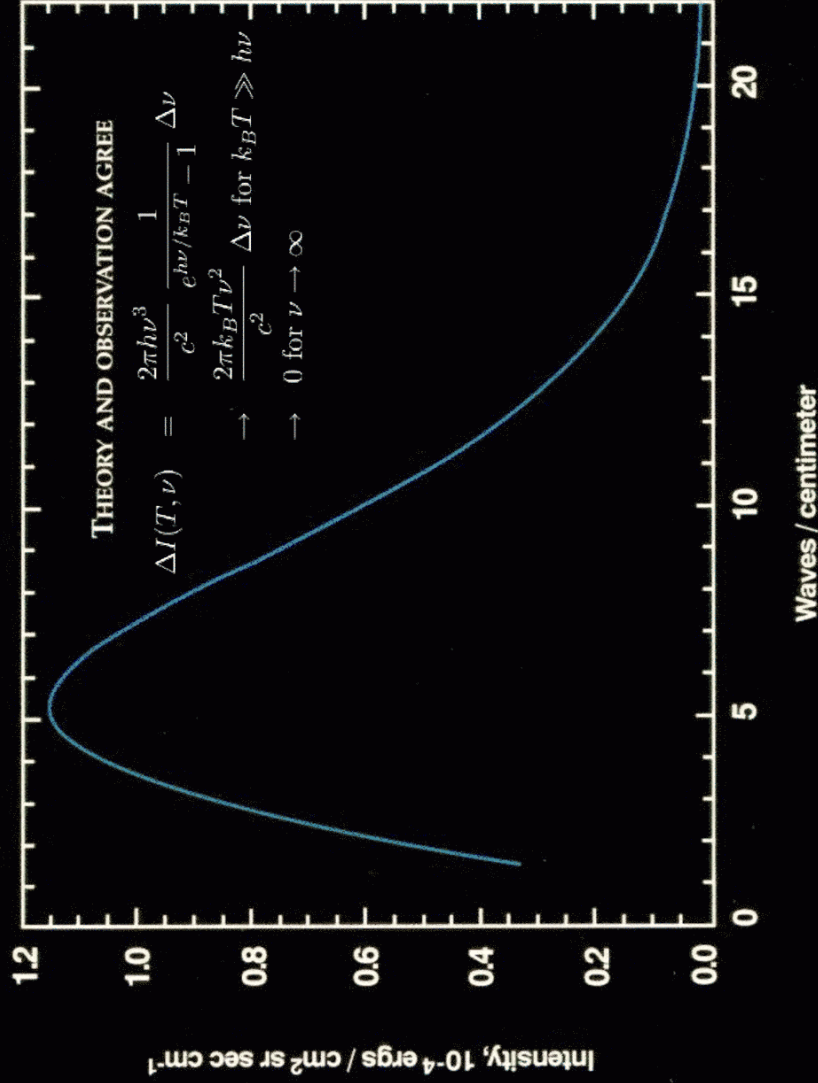
$$h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ Js} \quad \text{Planck's constant}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta I(T, \nu) &= \frac{2\pi h \nu^3}{c^2} \frac{1}{e^{h\nu/k_B T} - 1} \Delta\nu \\ \text{New constant of nature makes it possible to write the correct intensity.} &\rightarrow \frac{2\pi k_B T \nu^2}{c^2} \Delta\nu \text{ for } k_B T \gg h\nu \\ &\rightarrow 0 \text{ for } \nu \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

Now we can do that sum over frequency!

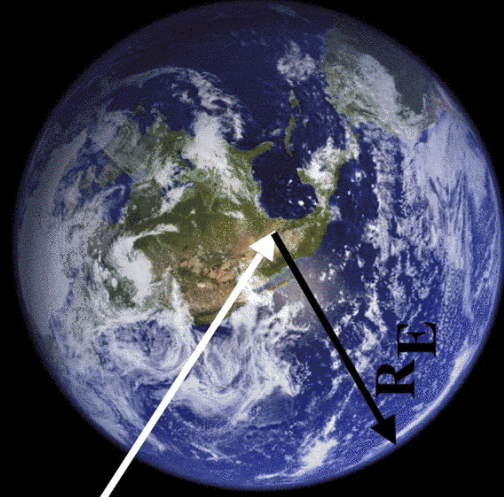
$$\begin{aligned} I &= \sigma T^4 \\ \sigma &\equiv \frac{2\pi^5 k_B^4}{15h^3 c^2} = 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \frac{\text{W}}{\text{m}^2 \text{K}^4} \end{aligned}$$

COSMIC MICROWAVE BACKGROUND SPECTRUM FROM COBE



Temperature of the Earth

The earth is (almost) in a thermal steady state: it emits as much radiation as it receives from the sun.



Albedo = $a = 30$ to 35% visible light reflected directly back to space (“earthshine” on the new moon).

$$fraction = \frac{\pi R_E^2}{4\pi r_E^2} \times (1 - a)$$

Energy Balance

$$Luminosity = Area \times Intensity = 4\pi R_{sun}^2 \times \sigma T_{sun}^4$$

incoming energy flux

$$\frac{\pi R_E^2}{4\pi r_E^2} (1 - a) 4\pi R_{sun}^2 \sigma T_{sun}^4 = 4\pi R_E^2 \sigma T_E^4$$

outgoing energy flux (IR)

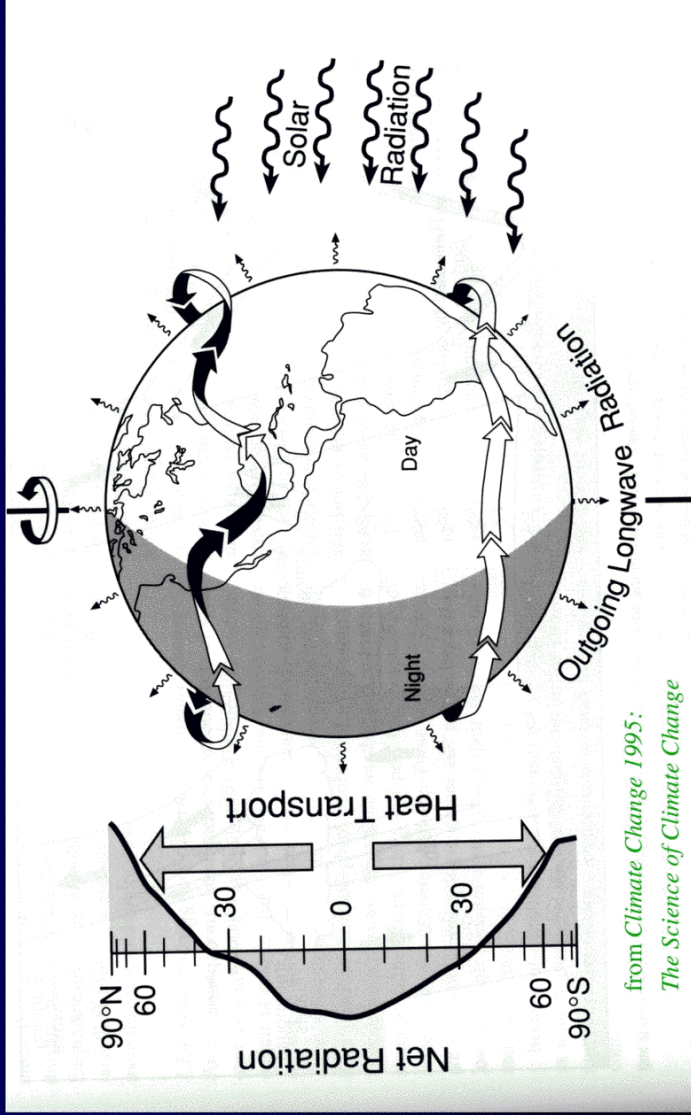
$$r_E = 150 \times 10^9 m$$

$$R_{sun} = 6.96 \times 10^8 m$$

$$T_{sun} = 5,800K$$

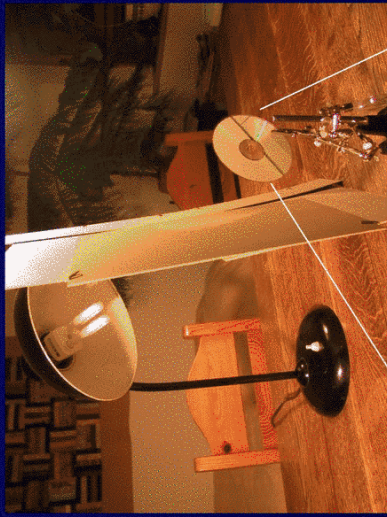
$$T_E = (1 - a)^{1/4} \sqrt{\frac{R_{sun}}{2r_E}} T_{sun} \approx 251K = -22C$$

FREEZING

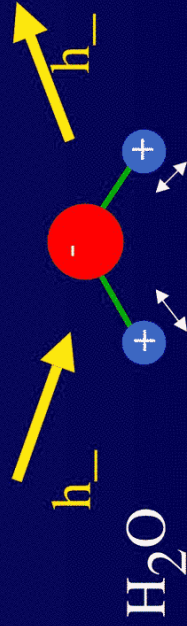


Terrestrial Planets

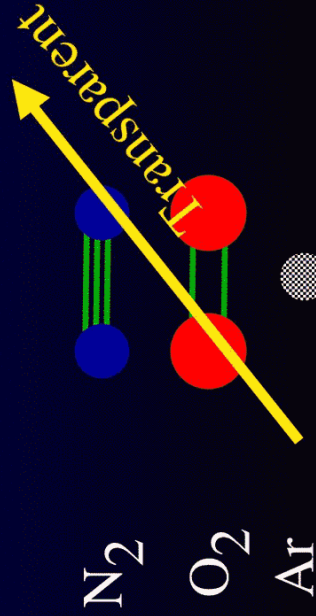
Planet	Venus	Earth	Mars
distance from sun ($\times 10^9$ m)	108	150	228
albedo (a)	75%	30%	15%
cloud cover	100%	50%	small
radiative temperature	-39 C	-18 C	-56 C
mean surface temperature	427 C	15 C	-53 C
greenhouse warming	466 C	33 C	3 C



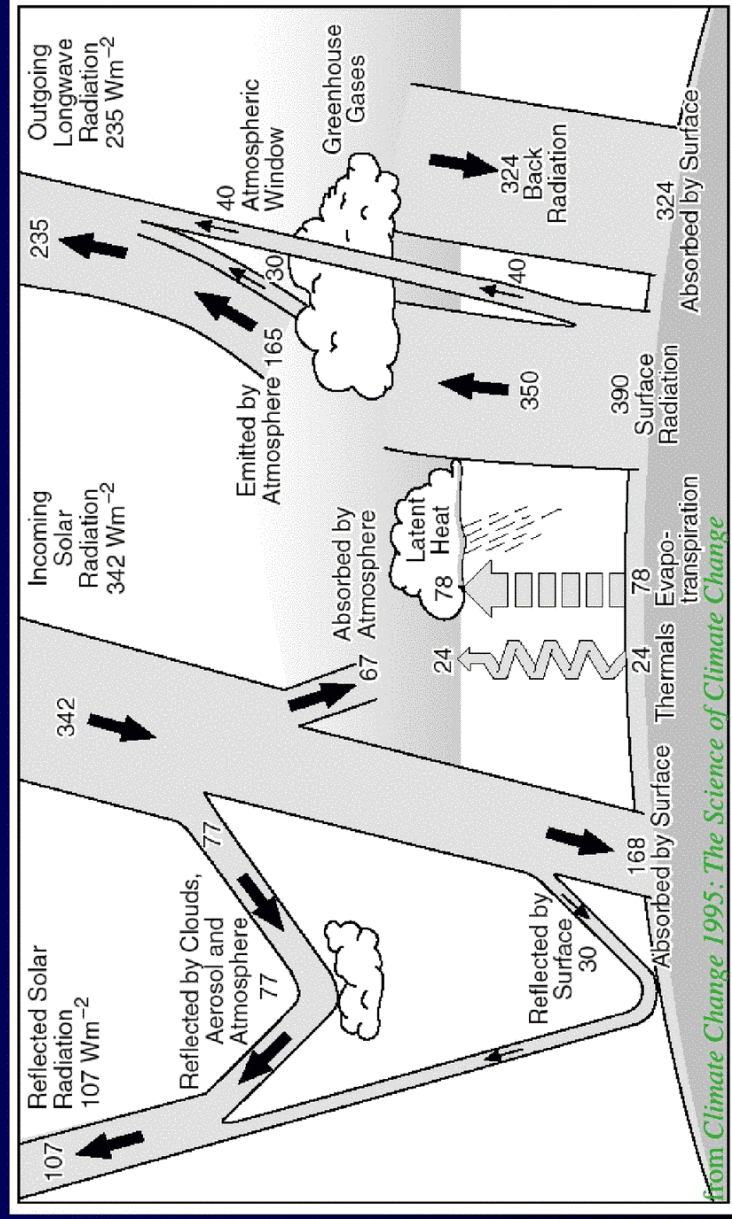
(photos by Bodo Huckenstein)

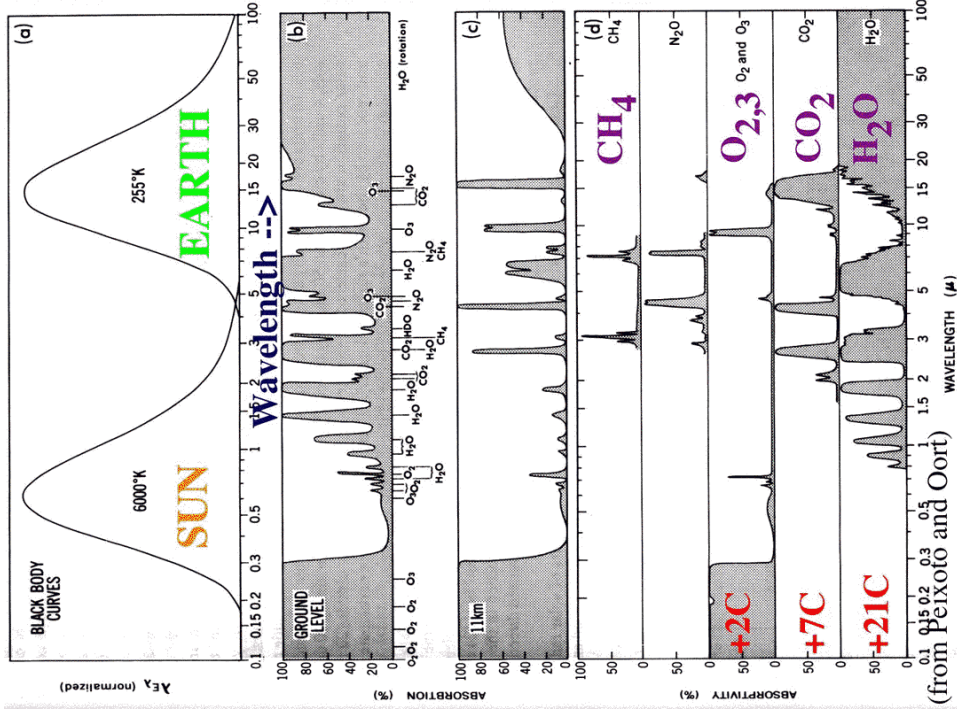
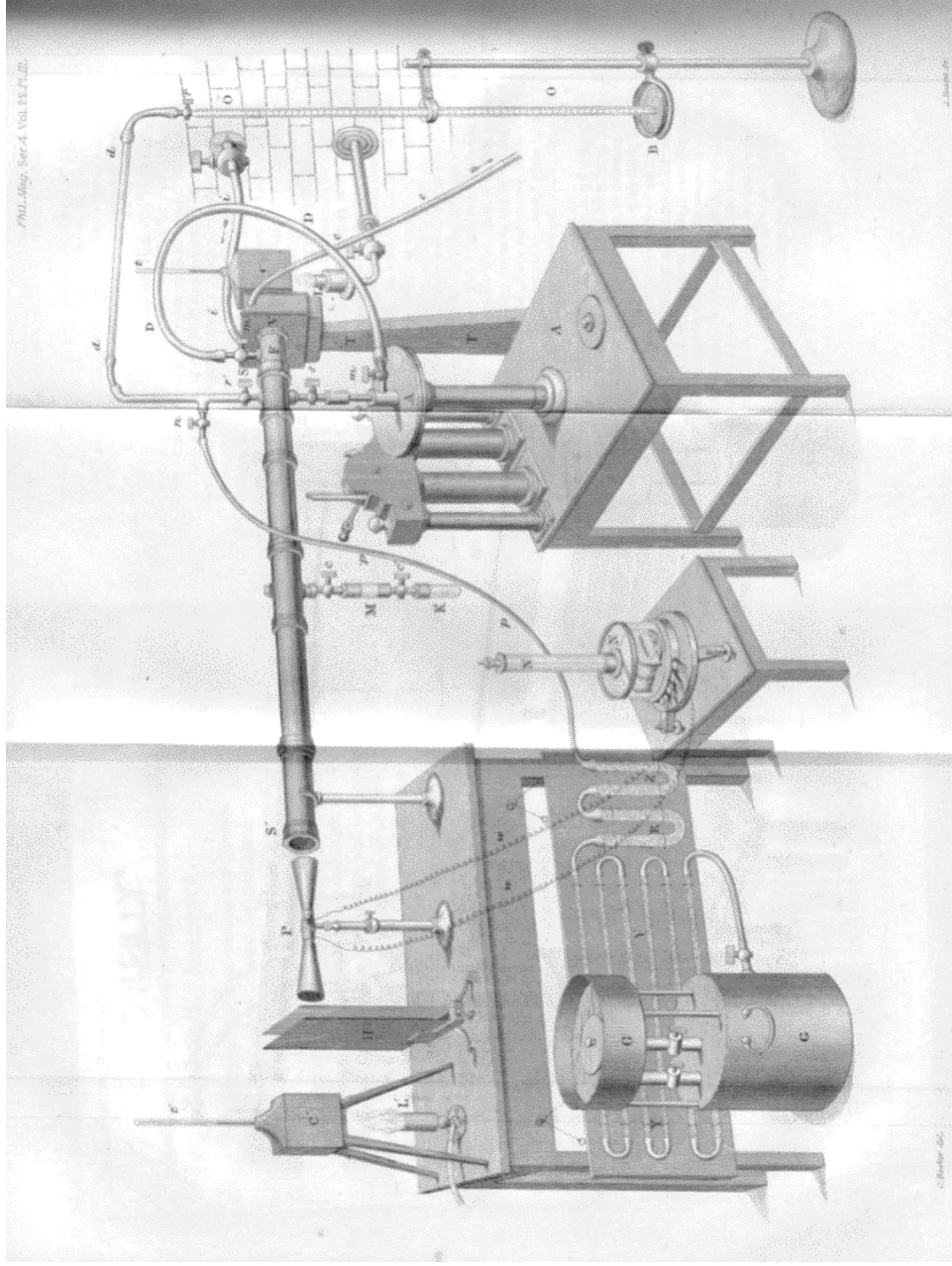


$$h_{\nu} = E_f - E_i$$



Svante Arrhenius, "On the influence of carbonic acid in the air upon temperature on the ground," Philos. Mag. 41, 237 (1896)





Principal greenhouse gas: water vapor

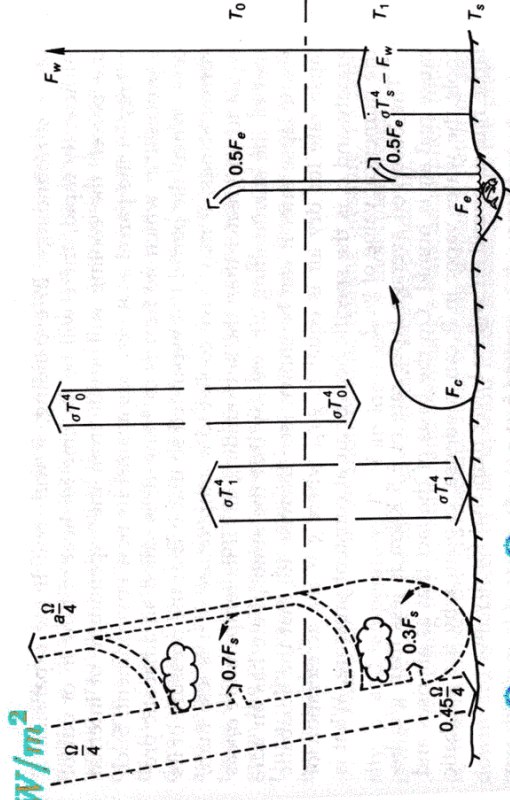
Secondary: carbon dioxide, methane, CFC's, ...

Absorption lines are pressure-broadened

radiative blackbody greenhouse effect

$$T_{\text{earth}} = 254\text{K} + 33\text{K} = 14\text{C}$$

$\Omega = 1372 \text{ W/m}^2$



John Harte,
Consider
a Spherical
Cow

$$\frac{\Omega}{4} = a\frac{\Omega}{4} + \sigma T_0^4 + F_w$$

$$2\sigma T_0^4 = \sigma T_1^4 + 0.5F_e + 0.7F_s$$

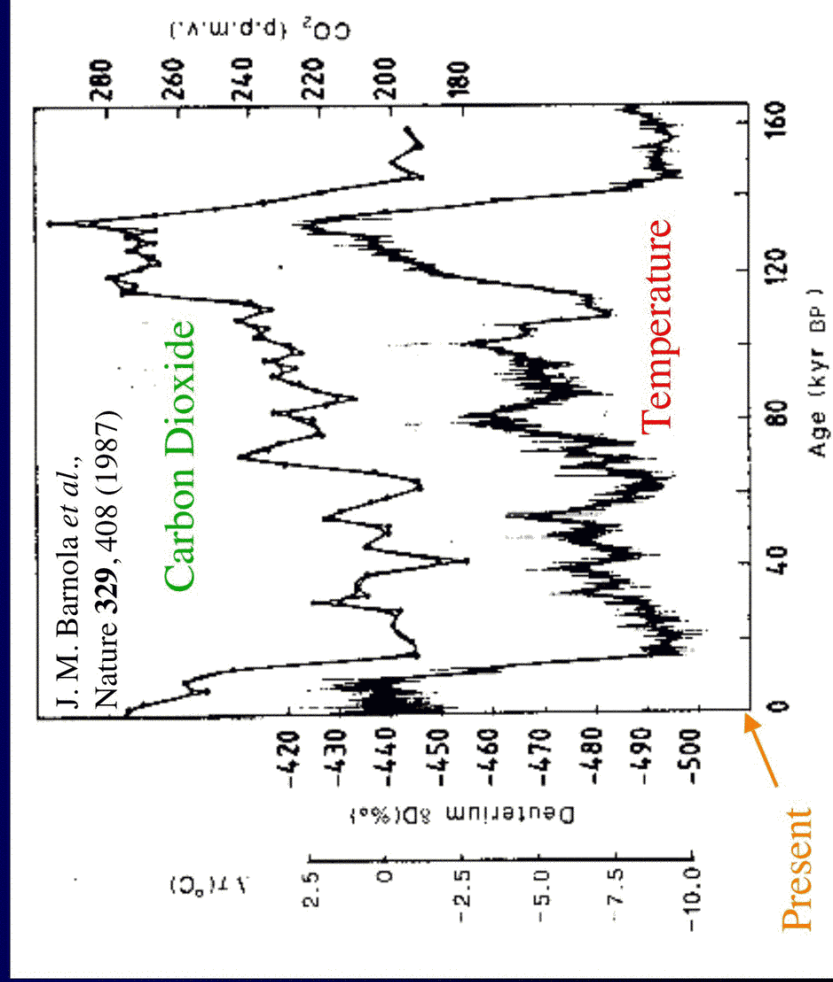
$$2\sigma T_1^4 = \sigma T_0^4 + \sigma T_s^4 - F_w + F_c + 0.5F_e + 0.3F_s$$

- $F_s \approx 86 \text{ W/m}^2$ Solar flux absorbed by atmosphere
- $F_e \approx 80 \text{ W/m}^2$ Latent heat from evaporating water
- $F_w \approx 20 \text{ W/m}^2$ IR flux directly to space
- $F_c \approx 17 \text{ W/m}^2$ Convective heat transfer

- $T_0 = 250\text{K}$
- $T_1 = 278\text{K}$
- $T_s = 289\text{K} = 16\text{C}$

Excellent agreement
for such a simple model

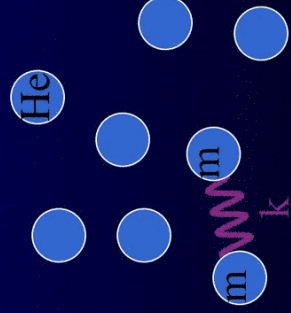
The Past 160,000 Years



Quantum Zero-Point Motion

Classically: All motion ceases at absolute zero temperature. Everything freezes into a solid.

Quantum physics: There is still some motion even at $T = 0$. This is why liquid helium never freezes!

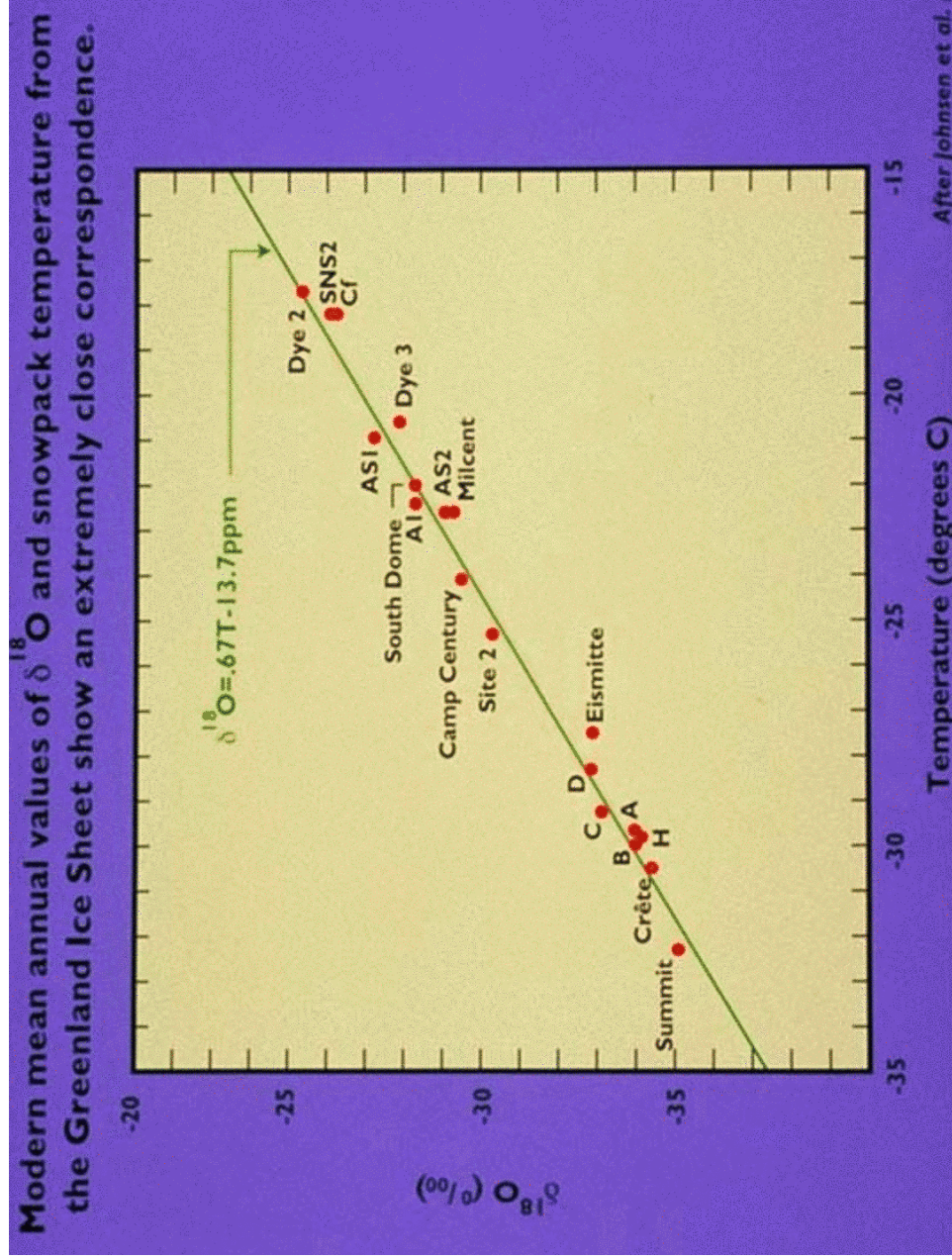


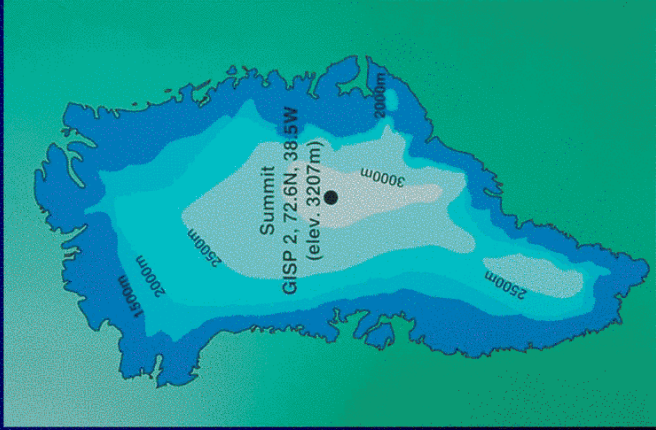
$$\nu = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{2k}{m}}$$

$$E_0 = \frac{1}{2} h\nu$$

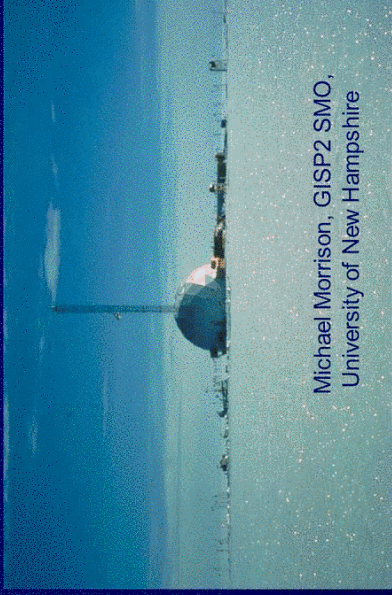
^{18}O versus ^{16}O in H_2O : Classically both molecules have same energy. Quantum zero-point energy means that ^{18}O water is slightly less likely to evaporate during cold spells.

(Harold Urey, "The thermodynamic properties of isotopic substances," 1946)





Thomas Andrews from a map drawn by Sherry Palmer



Michael Morrison, GISP2 SMO,
University of New Hampshire

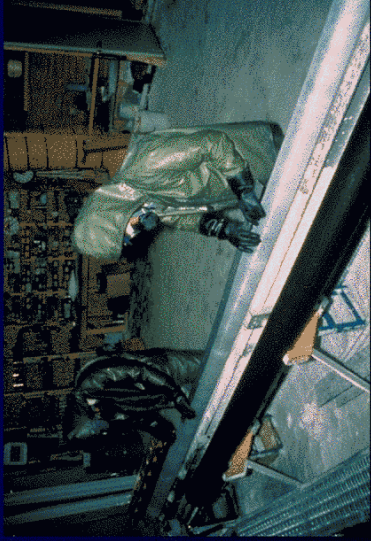
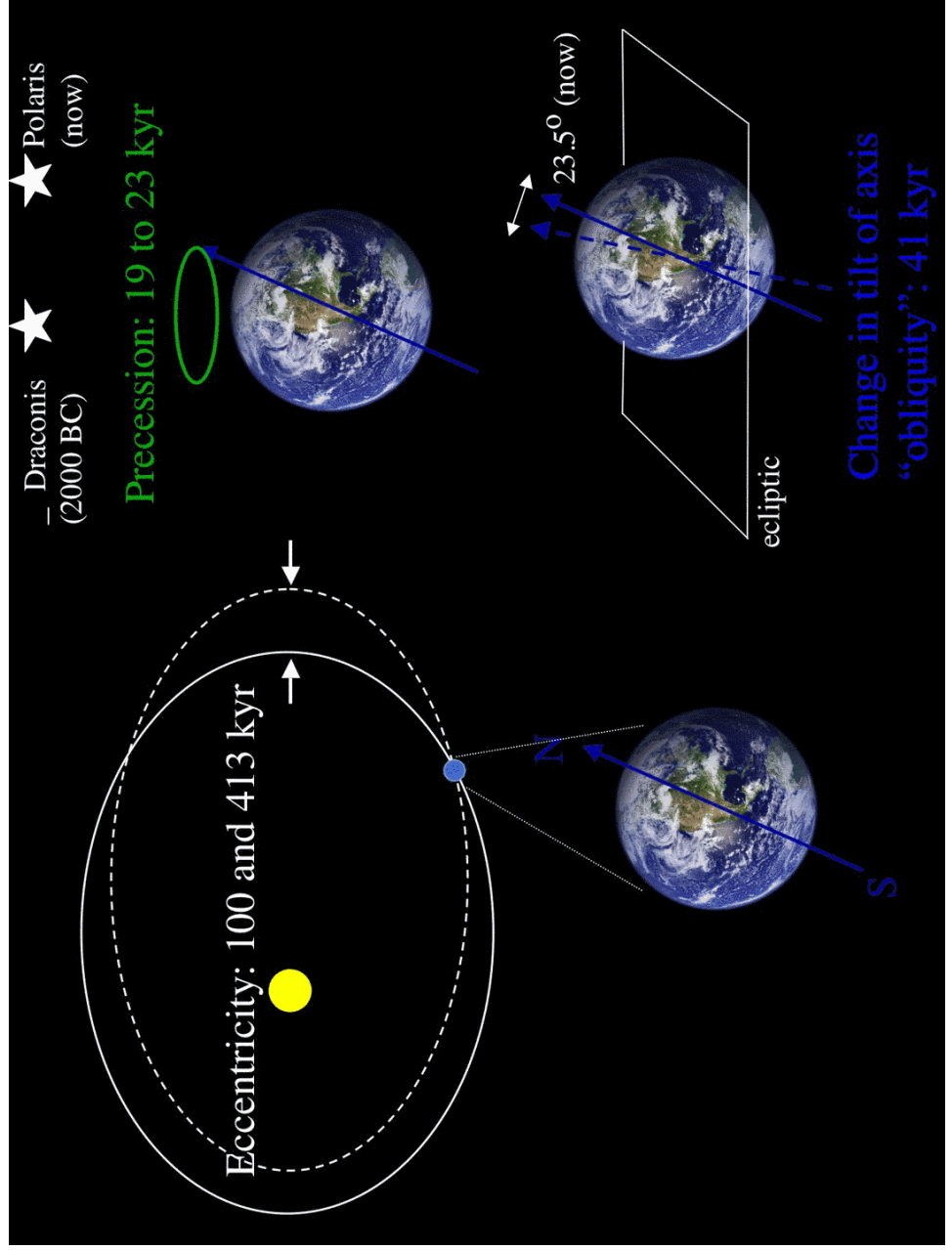
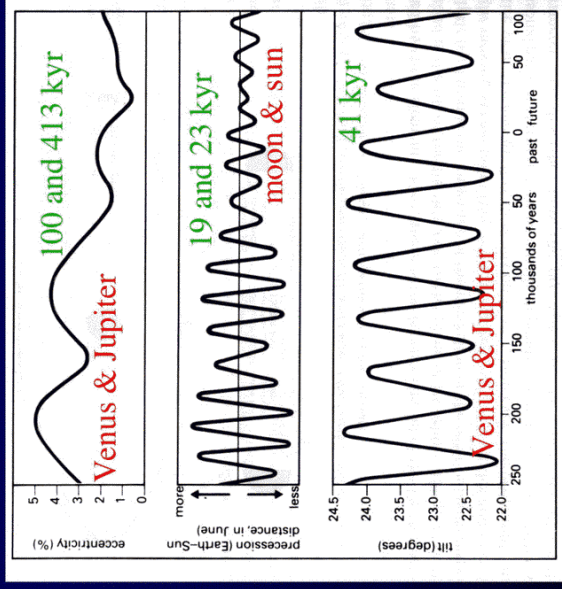


Photo by Kendrick Taylor, Desert Research Institute,
University and Community College System of Nevada.



Astronomical Theory of the Ice Ages

- 1864: James Croll accounts for the ice ages in terms of precession of equinoxes and changes in eccentricity.
- 1920 - 38: Milutin Milankovitch identifies summer radiation at high latitudes as primary cause -- forcing -- of ice ages.
- 1976: Spectral analysis of ocean sediment cores by John Imbrie at Brown and others supports this.



(graph from Burroughs, "Weather Cycles: Real or Imaginary?")

Spectral Analysis of Isotope Records

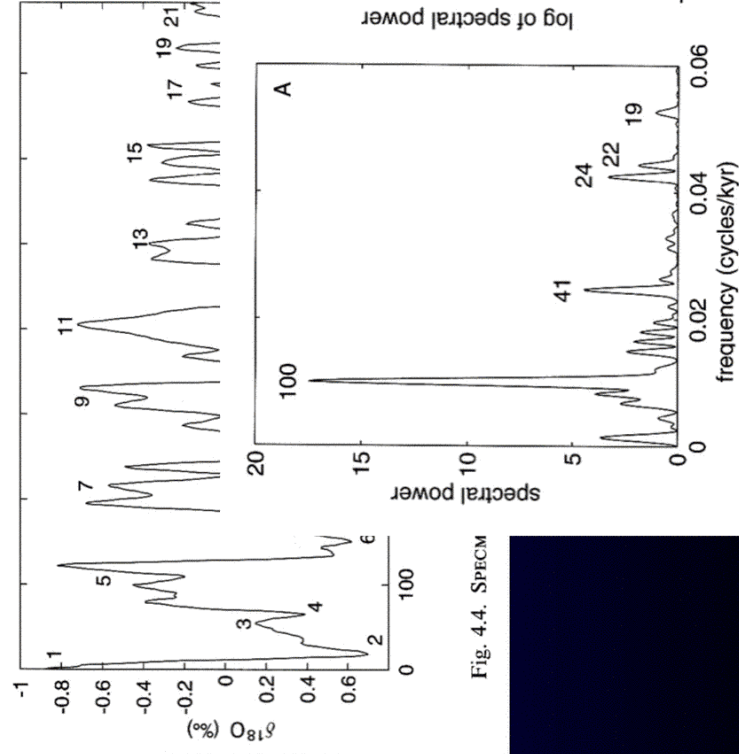


Fig. 4.4. SPECIM

Figures from *Ice Ages and Astronomical Causes: Data, Spectral Analysis, and Mechanisms* by R. Muller and G. MacDonald

Fig. 4.5. Spectrum of original SPECMAP stack.

What amplifies orbital forcing to produce ice ages?
 Why does 100 kyr eccentricity period dominate climate signal?

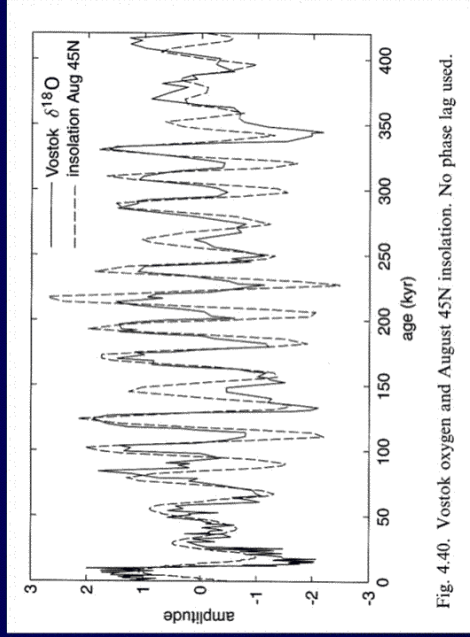
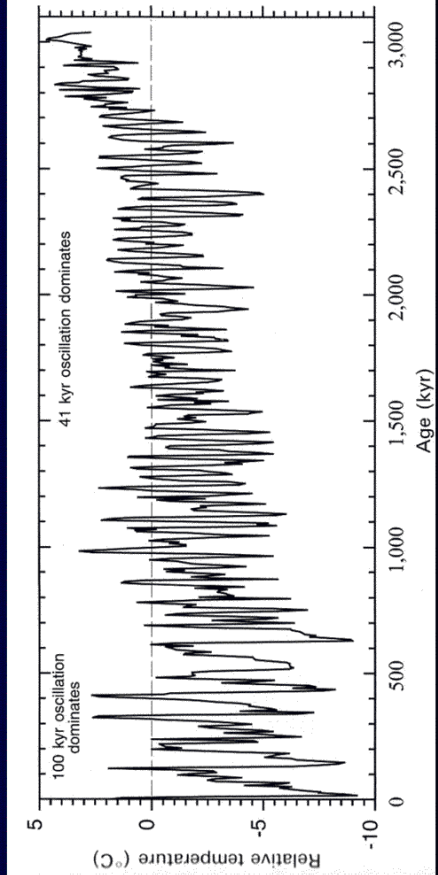
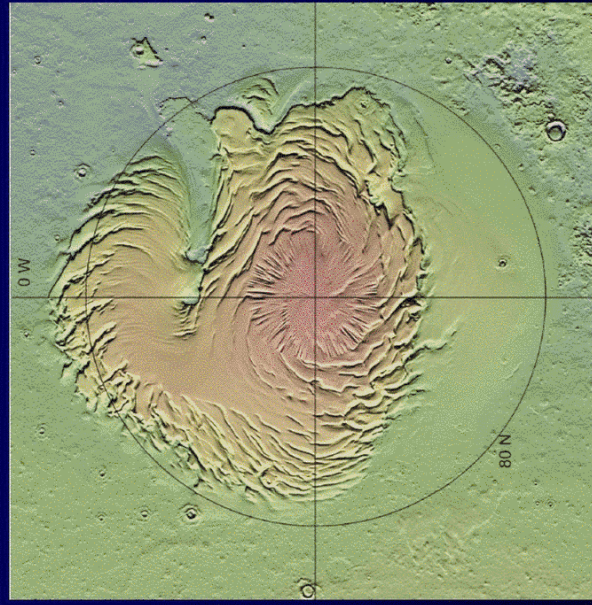


Fig. 4.40. Vostok oxygen and August 45N insolation. No phase lag used.



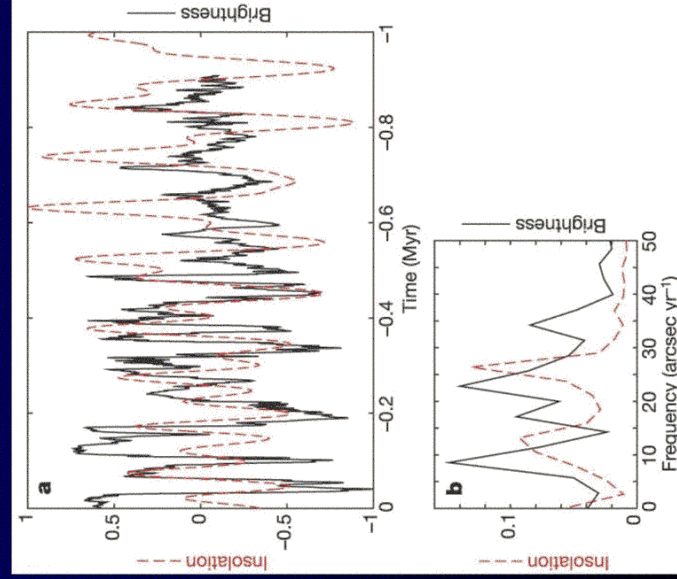
Why did the 41 kyr period dominate 1.5 million years ago?



North Polar Cap of Mars

Laskar, Levrard, and Mustard, *Nature* **419**, 375 (2002); Head *et al.* *Nature* **426**, 797 (2003).

Martian Climate May Also Show Orbital Forcing



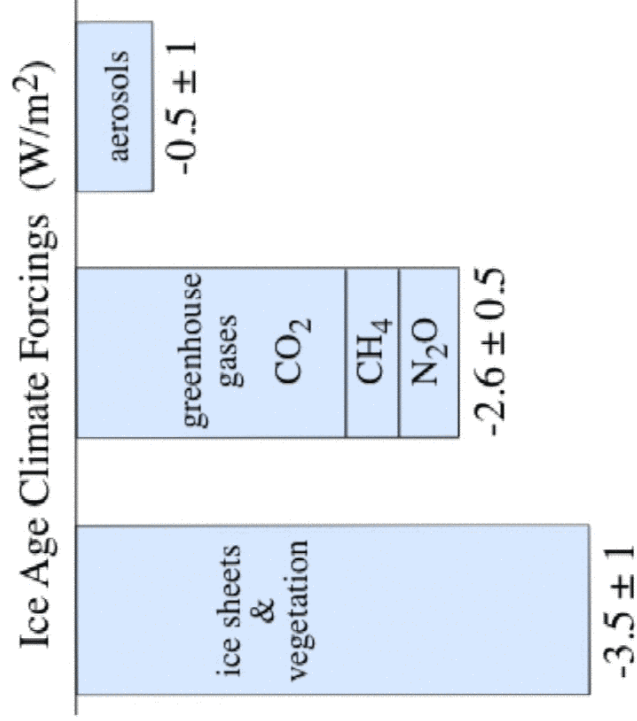
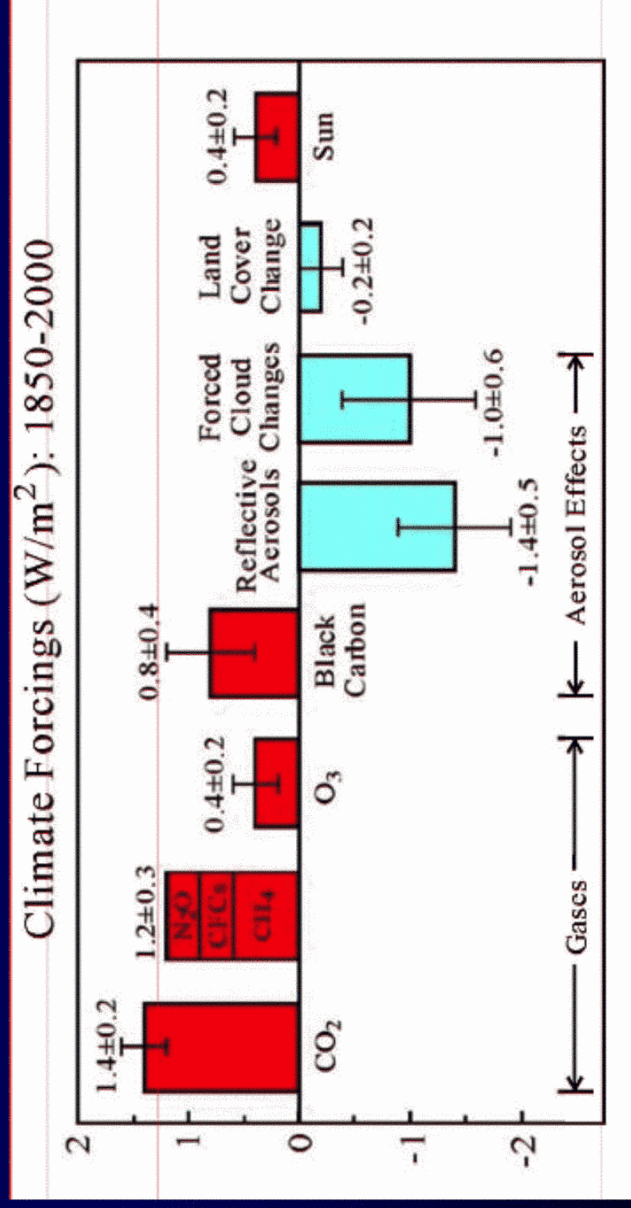
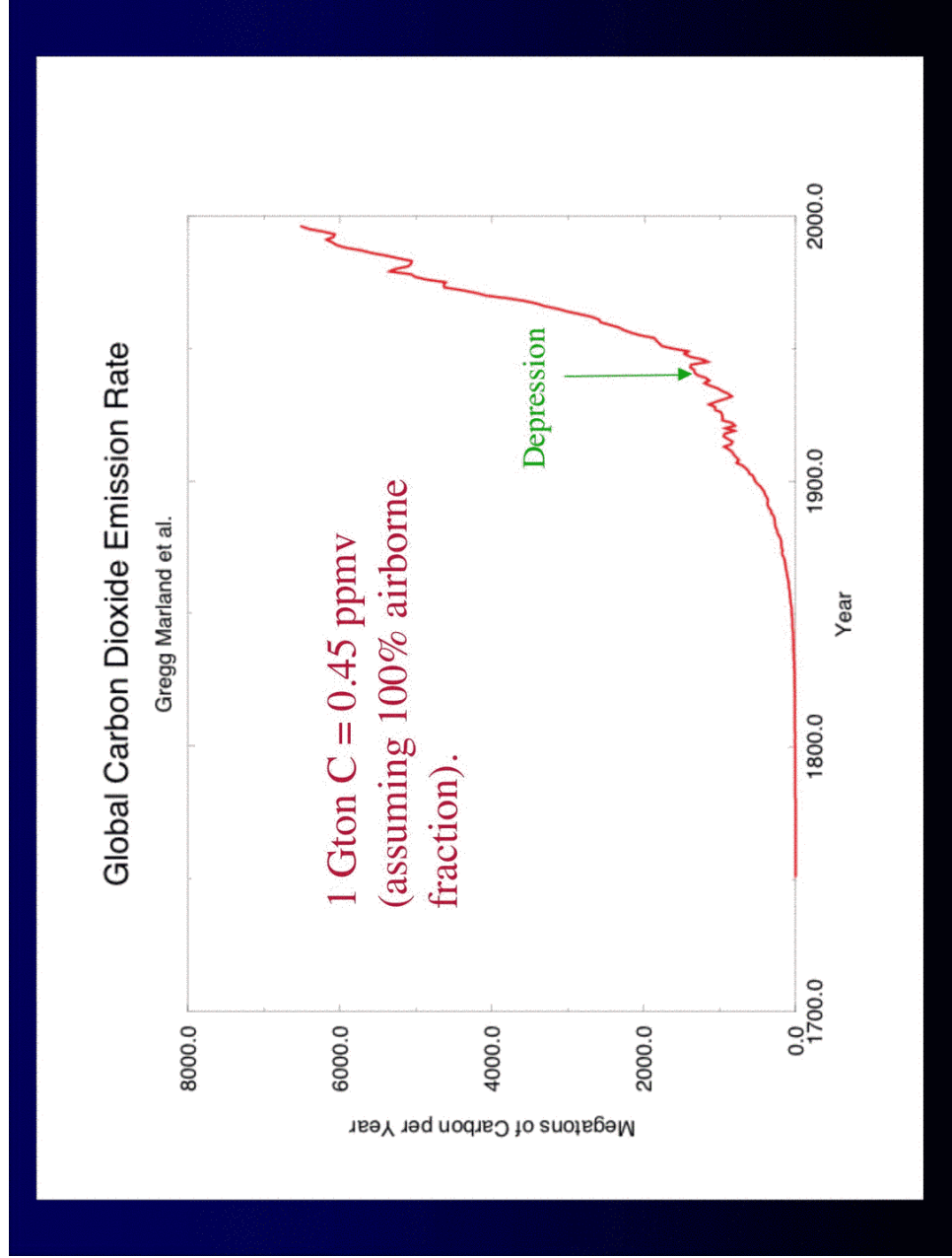
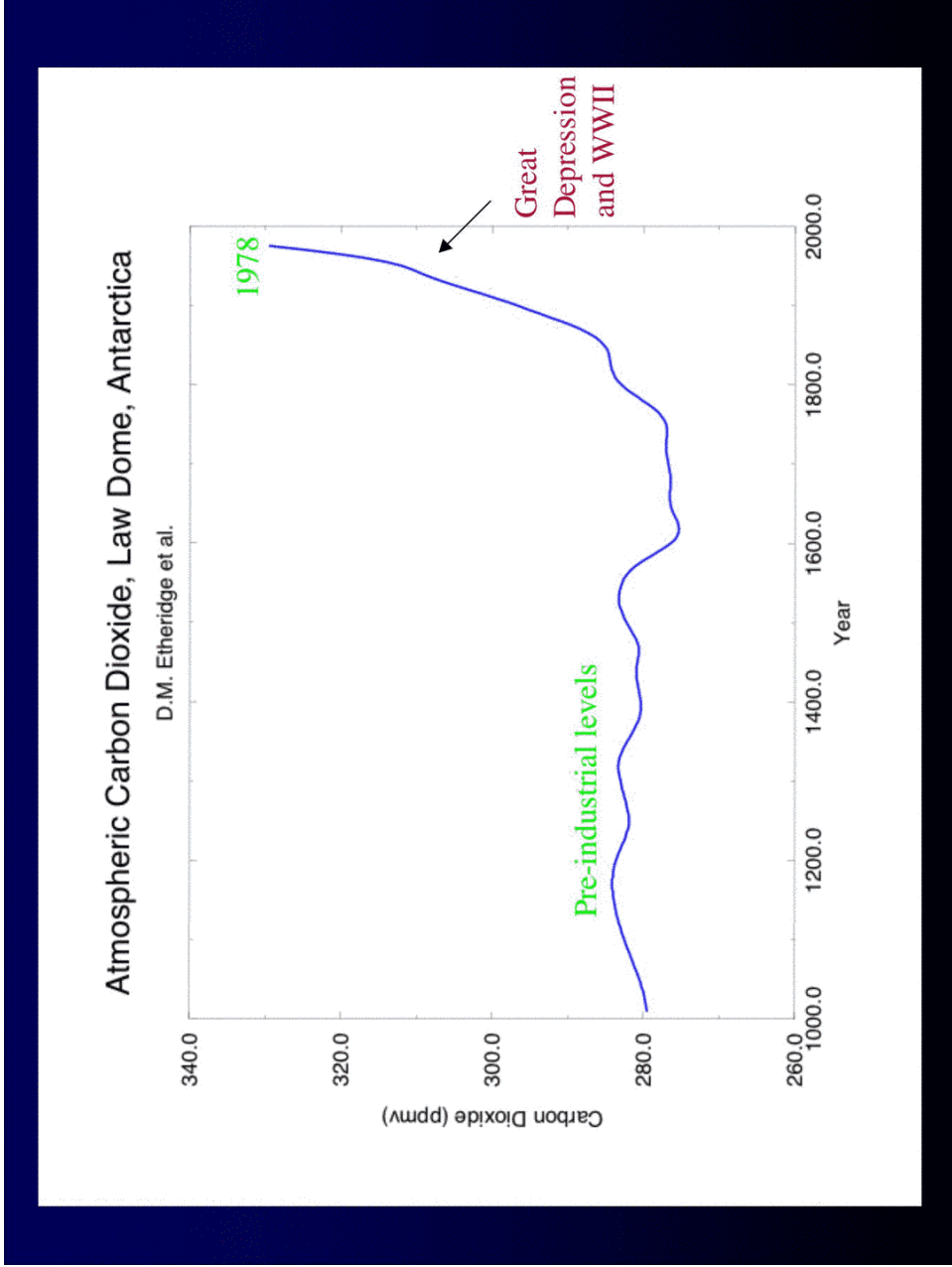


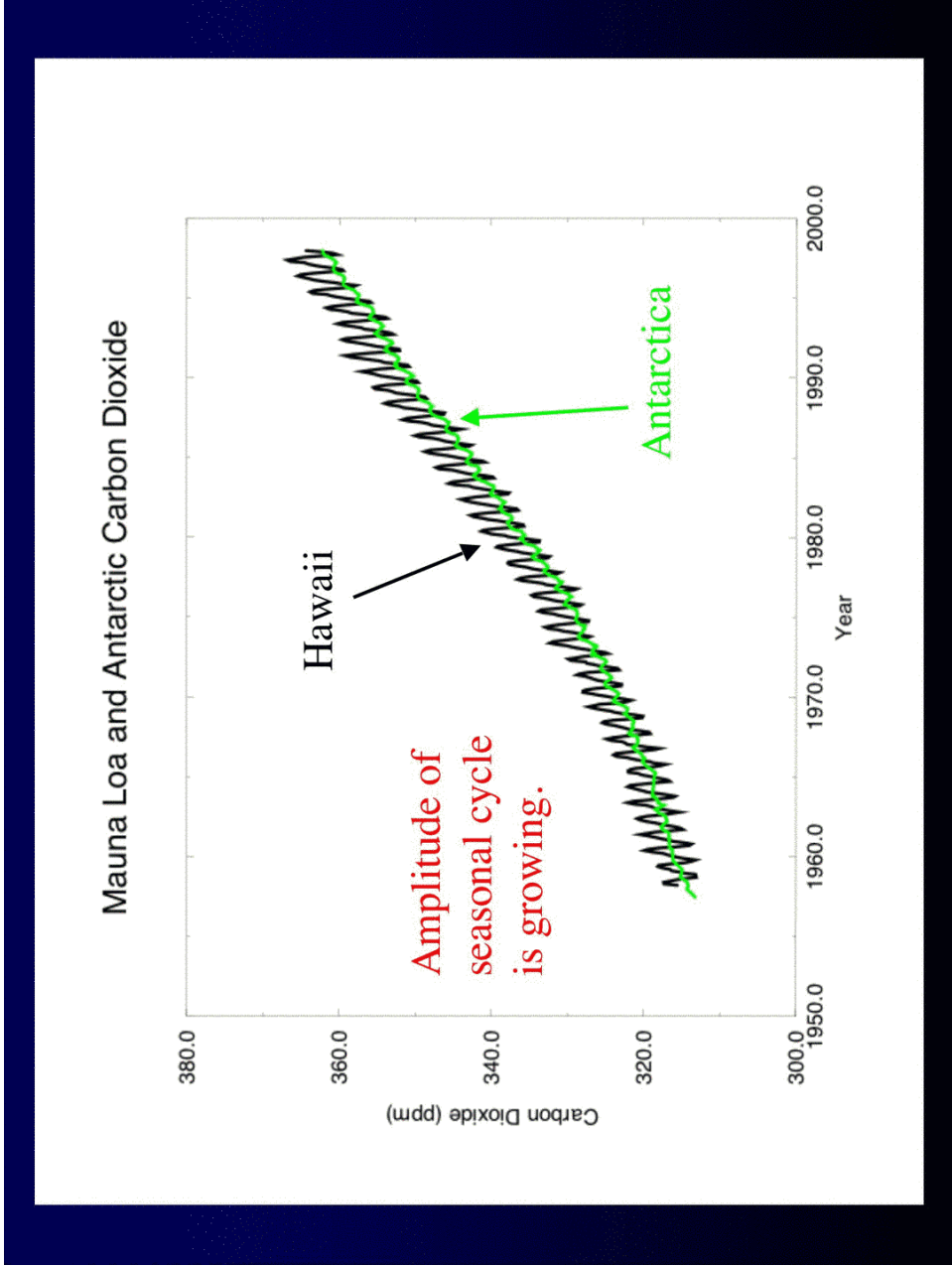
Fig 2. Global radiative forcings during the last ice age relative to the current interglacial period. The total forcing is $-6.6 \pm 1.5 \text{ W/m}^2$. Thus, the 5°C cooling of the ice age implies a climate sensitivity of 0.75°C per 1 W/m^2 forcing.

Hansen, J. et al., The missing climate forcing, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. London. B, 352, 231-240, 1997.

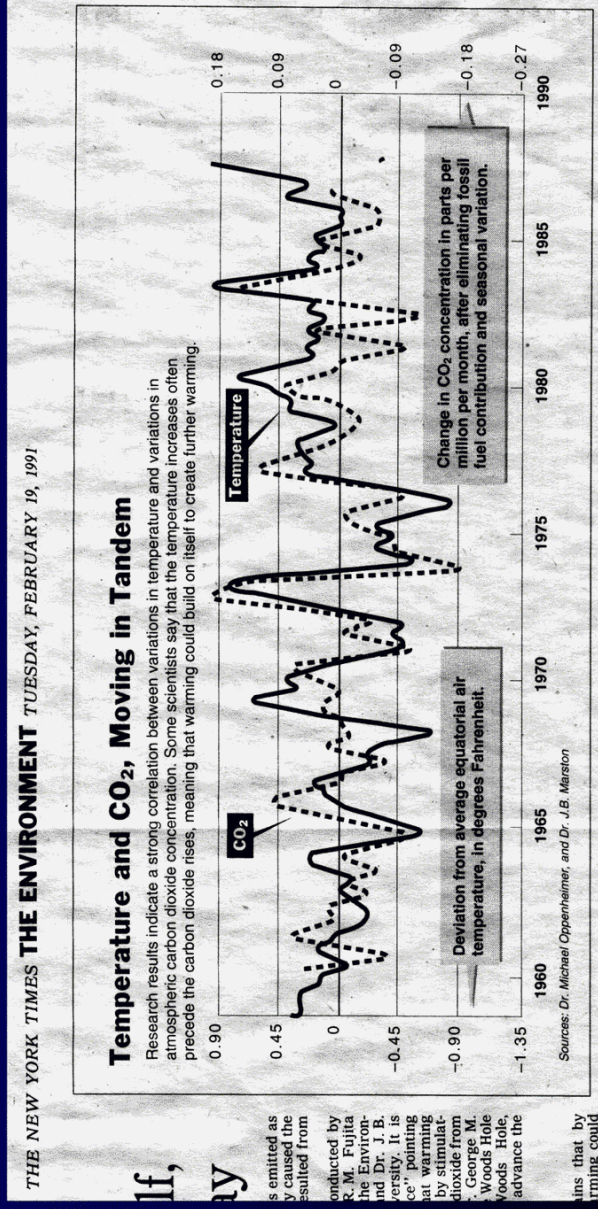


Source: Jim Hansen (2003).



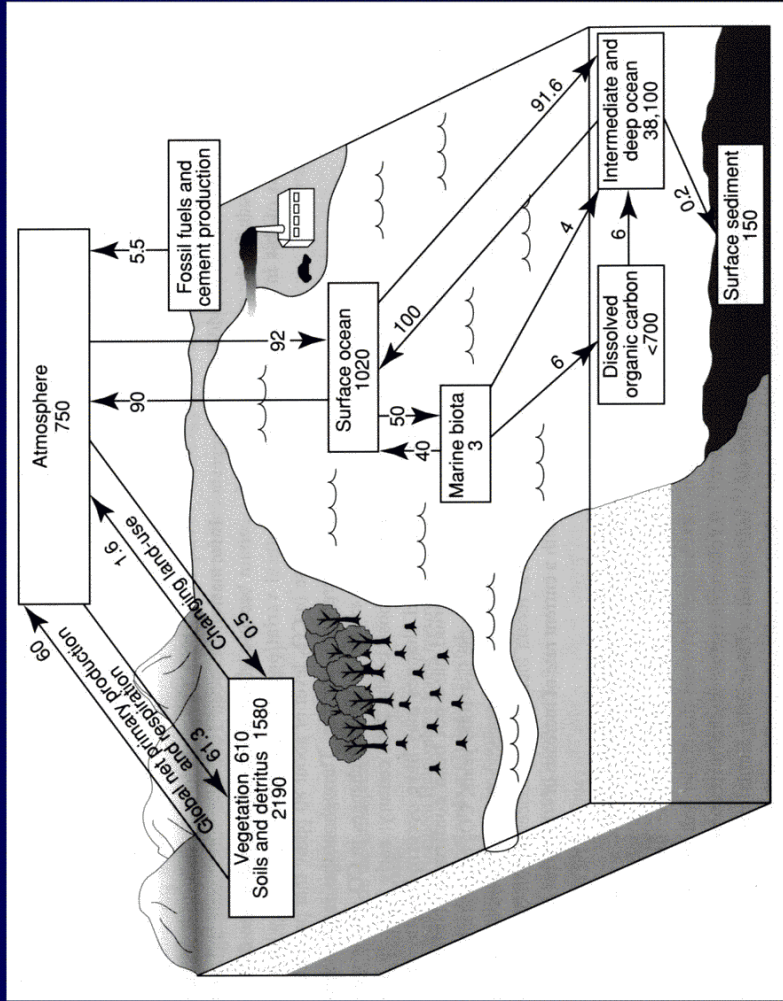


Positive CO₂ Feedback Could Worsen Warming



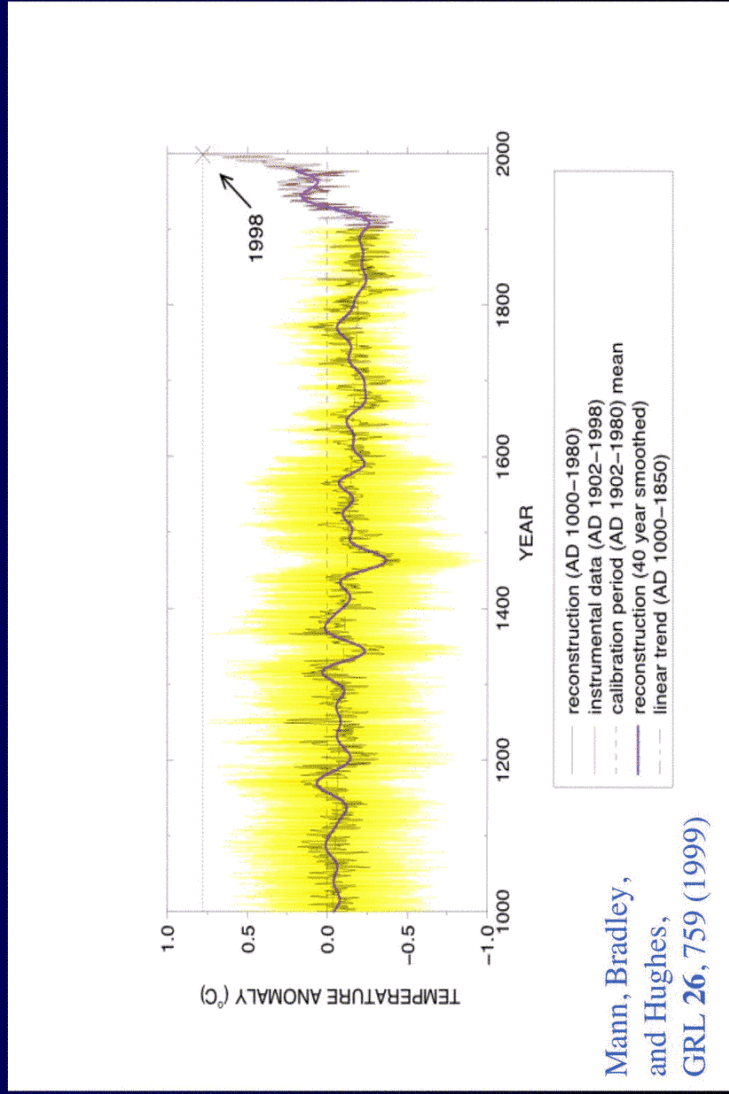
J. B. Marston, M. Oppenheimer, R. M. Fujita, and S. R. Gaffin, "CO₂ and temperature" *Nature* **349**, 573 (1991).

Vast Reservoirs of Carbon & Enormous Fluxes



Source: *Climate Change 1995*

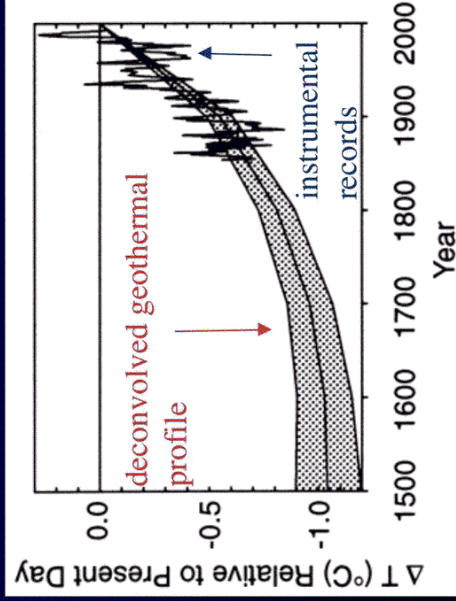
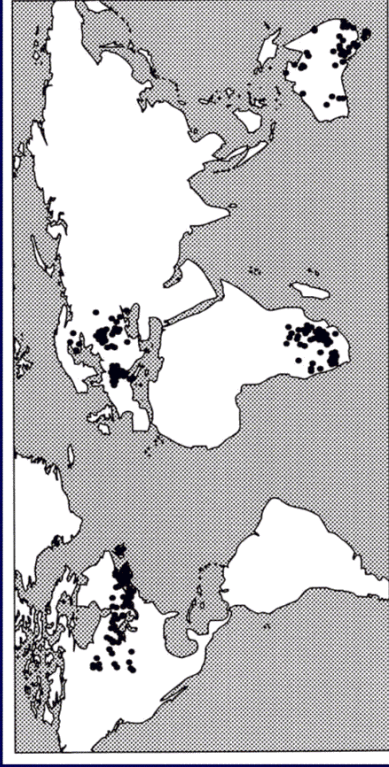
Temperature of Northern Hemisphere

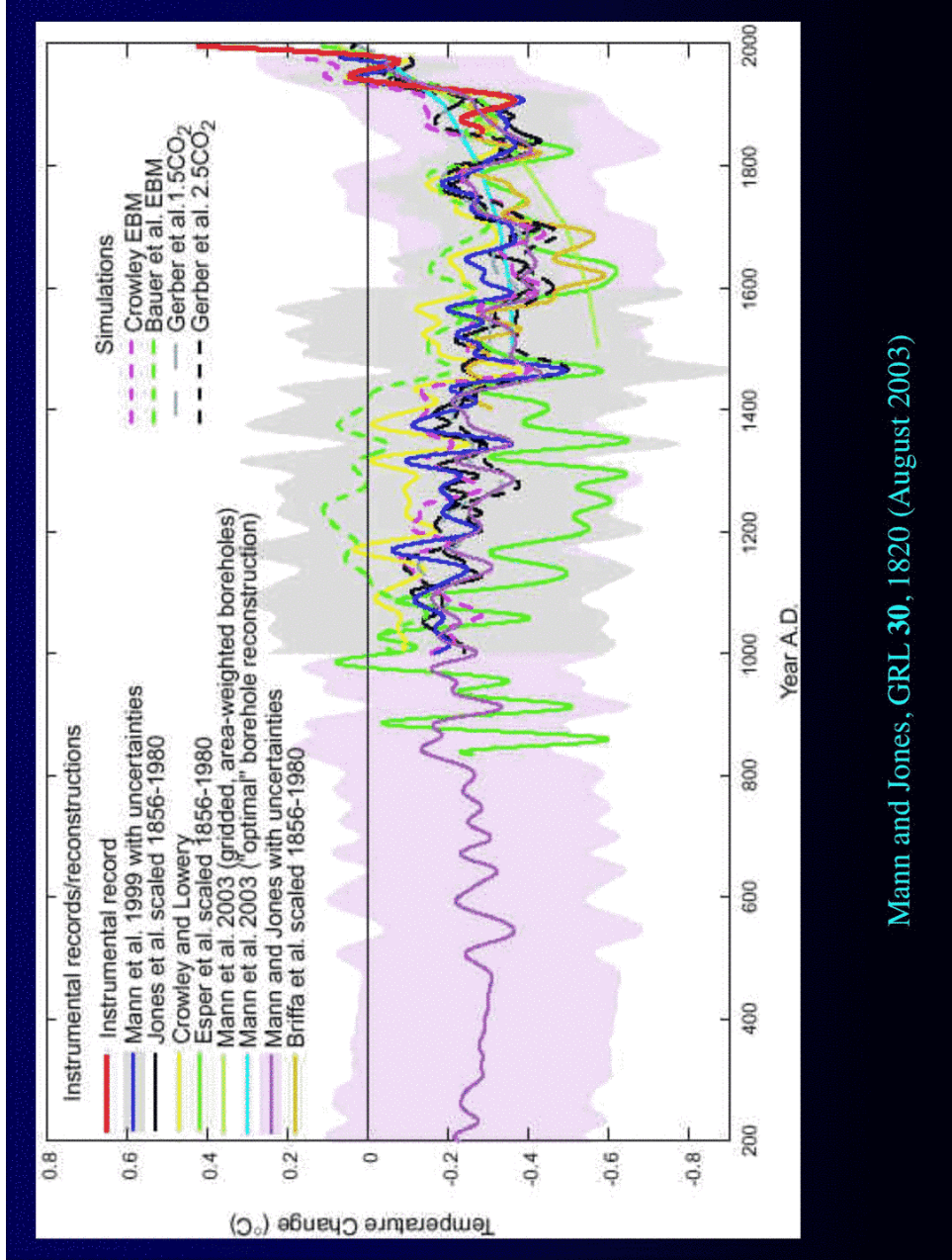




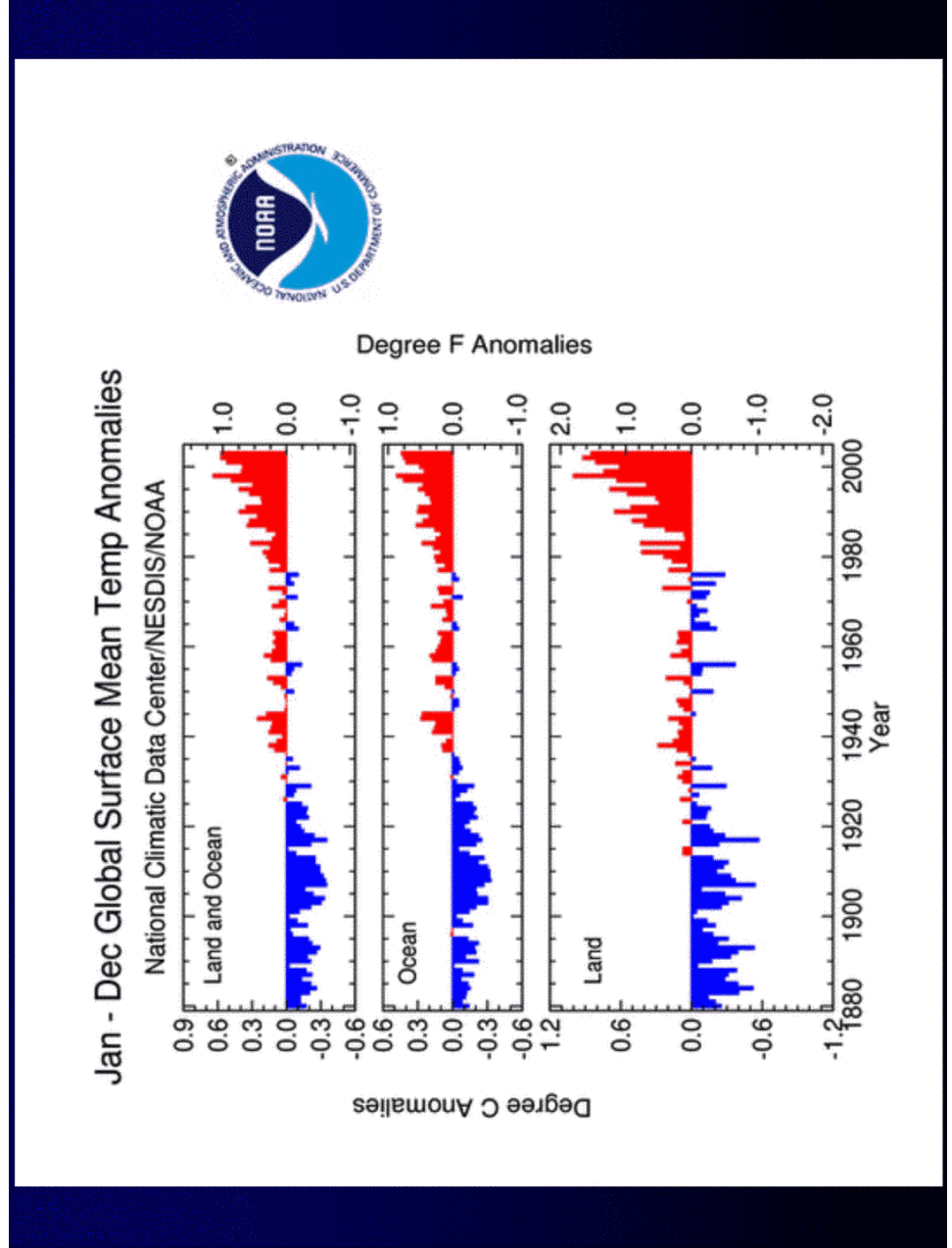
A Different Method To Extract Past Temperature: Geothermal Boreholes

Heat flow due to geothermal gradient of 0.03 K/m is $I = 0.1 \text{ W/m}^2$ since $K_{\text{granite}} = 3 \text{ J/(m s K)}$. **Negligible.**





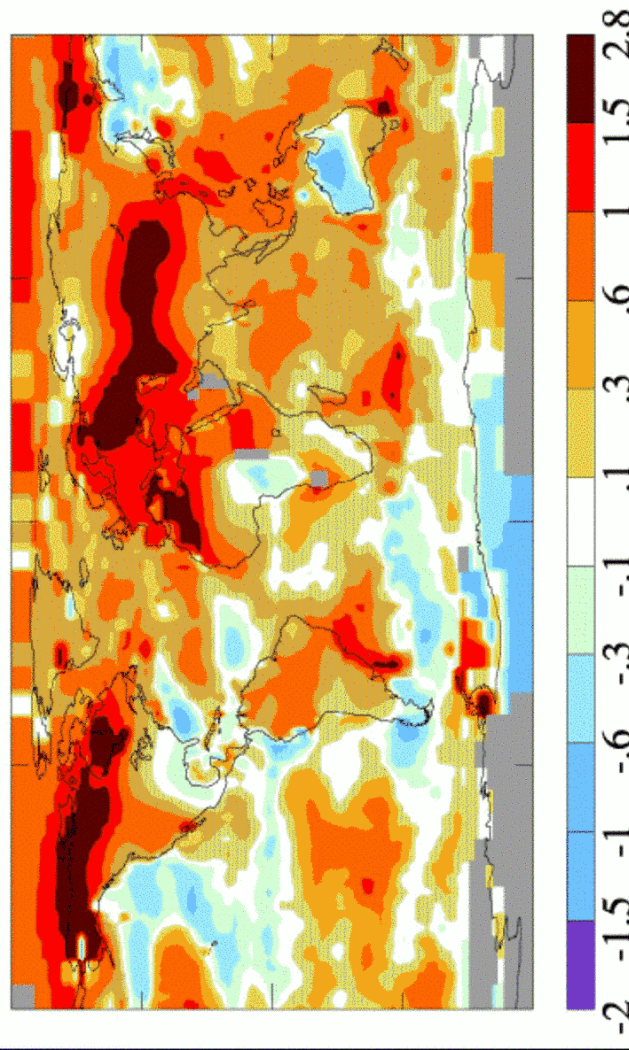
Mann and Jones, GRL 30, 1820 (August 2003)



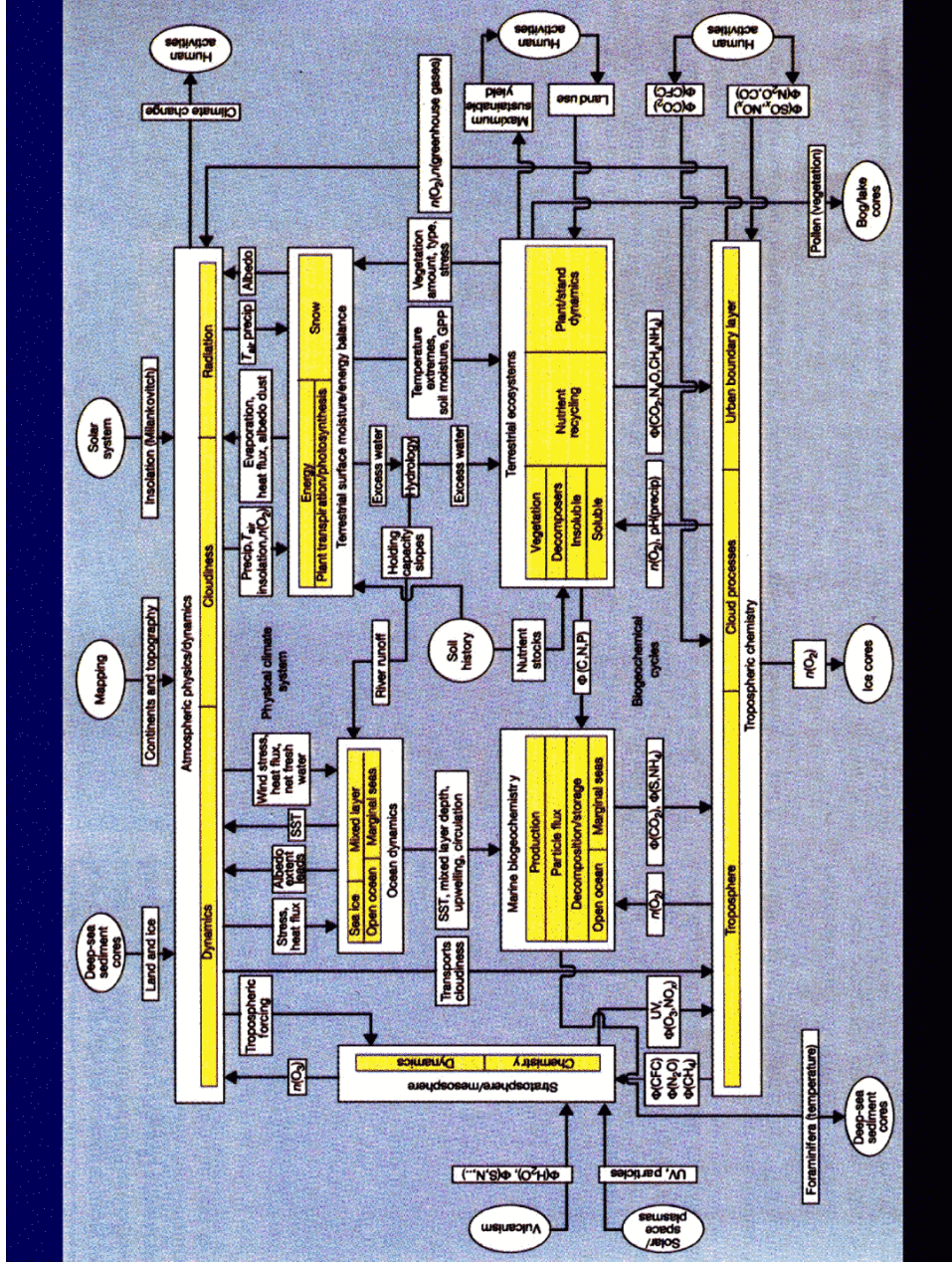
Other Signs of Warming

- Glaciers are melting all over the world, with only a few exceptions.
- Sea level is rising, 1 to 2 mm/year, due to thermal expansion and influx of melt water.
- Arctic ice is thinning. Warming is greater in north polar region, consistent with greenhouse effect.

2001 (Dec-Nov) Surface Temperature Anomaly ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

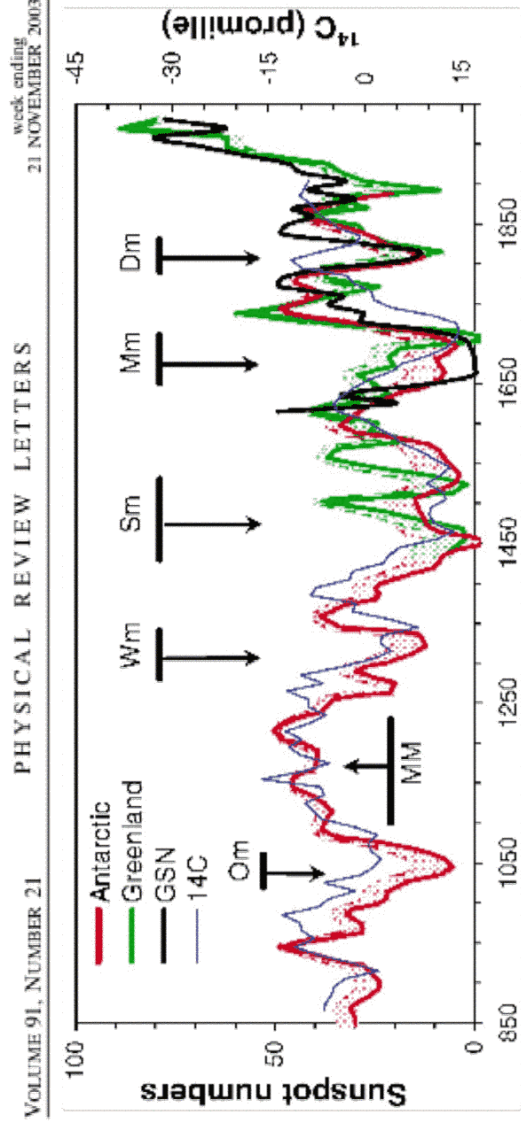


Source: J. Hansen, NASA GISS



- ## Uncertainties in Models
- 16 orders of magnitude of length scales: 40,000 km (circumference of earth) to 10 nm (aerosol particles). Enormous range of time scales too.
 - Changes in clouds: positive or negative feedback?
 - Cumulus clouds have net cooling effect.
 - Cirrus clouds have net warming effect.
 - Simple argument: Empirically, the relative humidity stays roughly constant over the course of a year --> same cloudiness, but more water vapor when hot --> **positive feedback**.
 - Recent satellite observations support positive feedback.
 - Role of natural and anthropogenic dust, soot, and aerosols?
 - Fluctuations in the solar activity? Solar constant larger during solar maximum, when there are more sunspots.
 - Indirect effects via cosmic rays -- nucleation?

Usoskin *et al.* "Millennium-Scale Sunspot Number Reconstruction: Evidence for an Unusually Active Sun since the 1940's," PRL **91**, 211101 (2003)

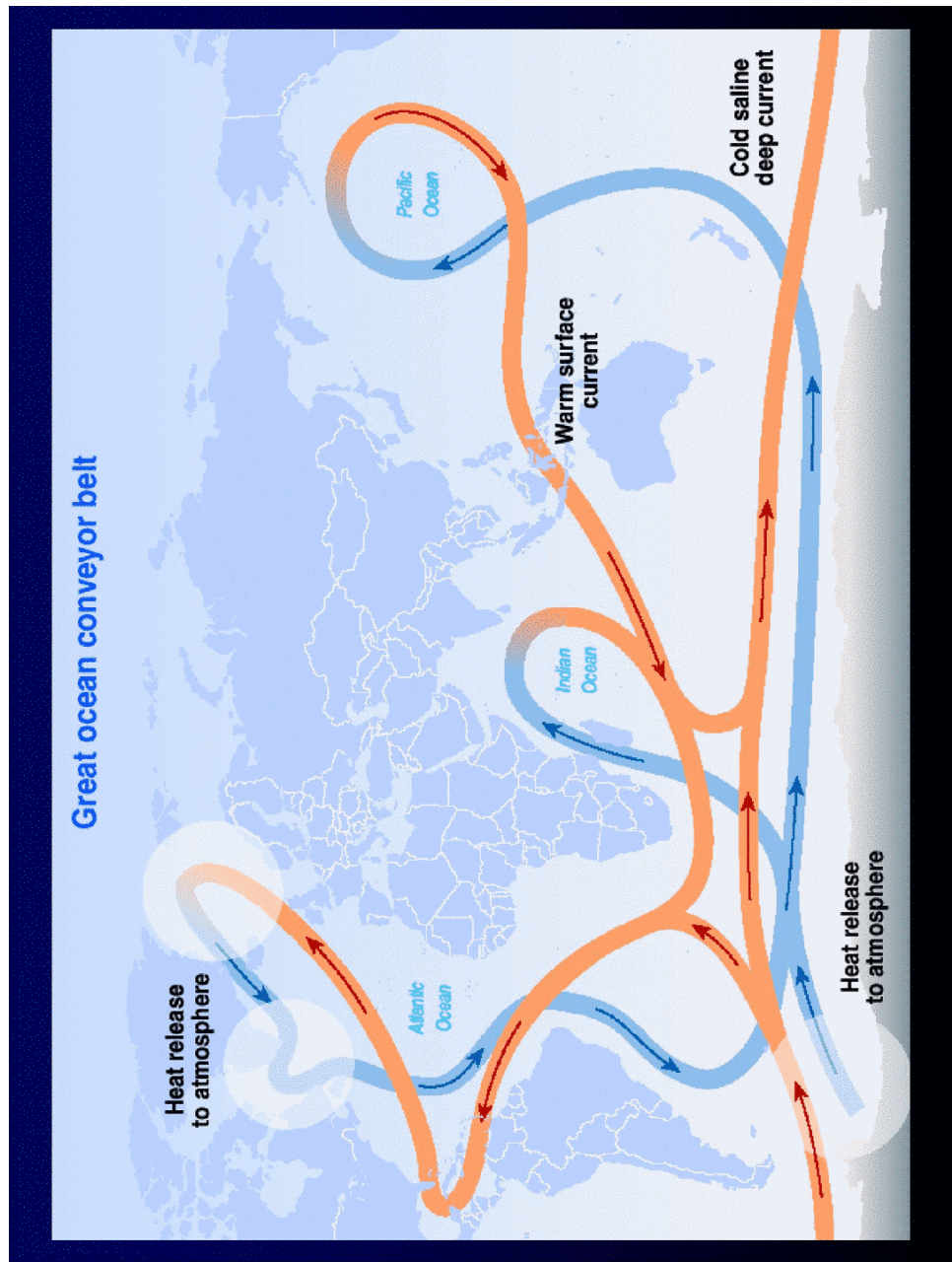
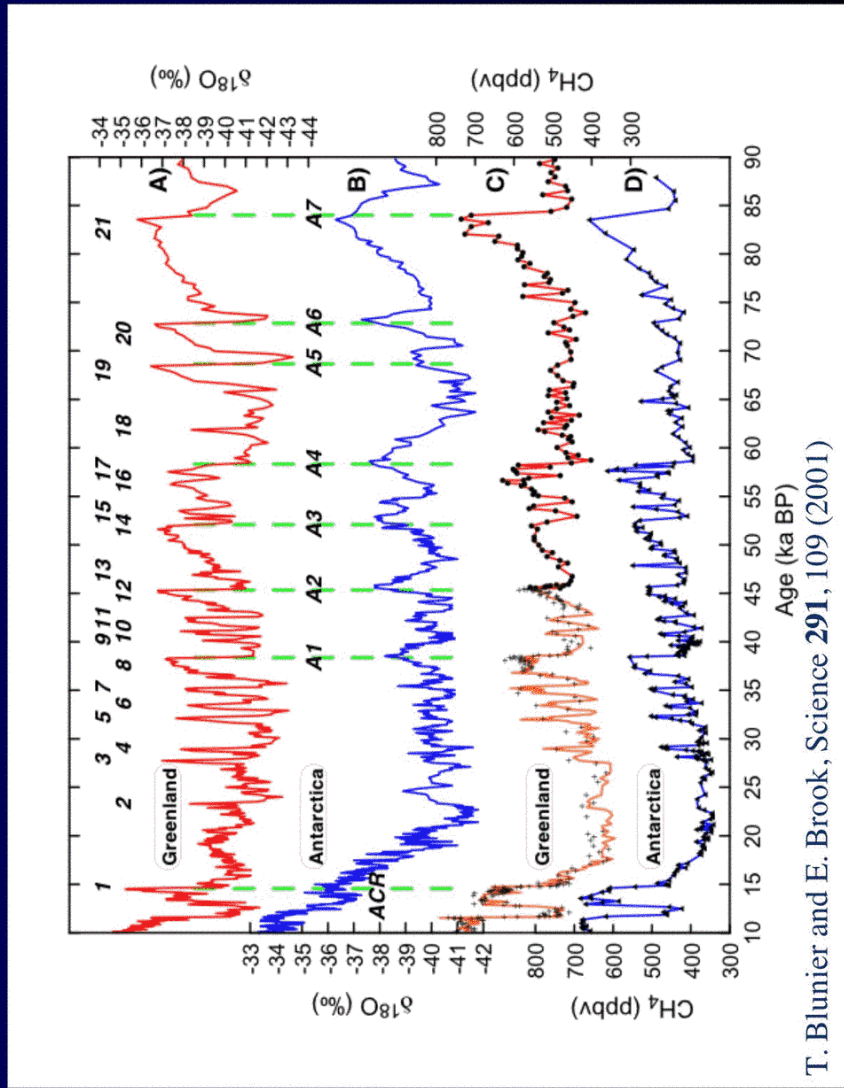


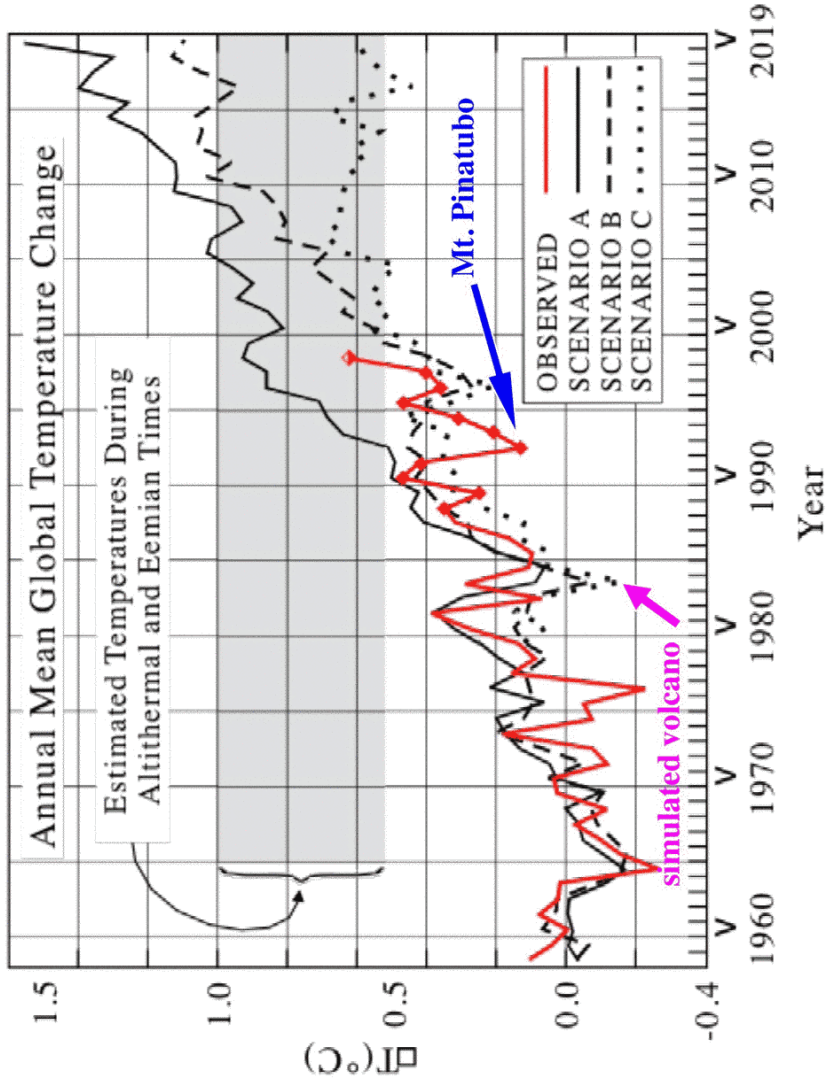
Uncertainties in Models (continued)

- Interactions between atmosphere and oceans, coupling processes with very different time scales?
- Changes in land use: deforestation, asphalt, agriculture.
- Future emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Potential for nonlinear response: Abrupt changes in oceanic circulation? Example: The Younger-Dryas event.
- Etc., Etc., Etc.
- **Upshot: Simplest (Manabe, 1983) and most complex computer models find that a doubling of CO₂ will cause globally averaged temperature to rise by a few degrees centigrade. IPCC (2001): 1.4 to 5.8°C by year 2100.**

Big Problems Likely

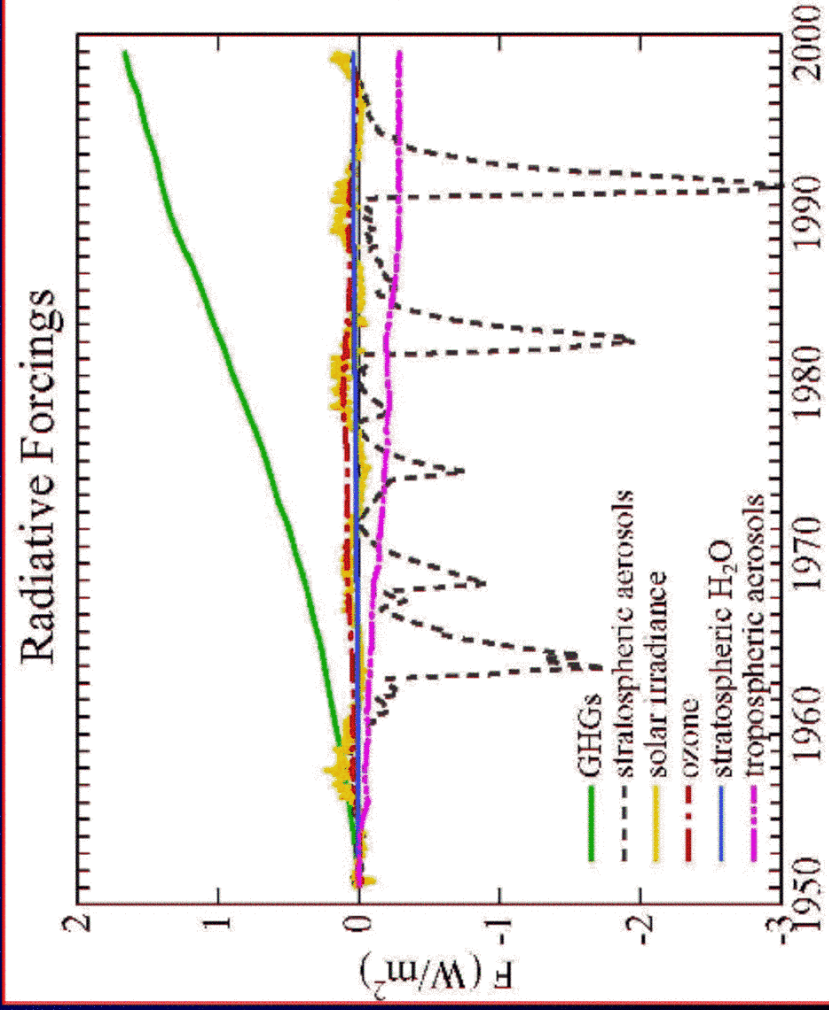
Sudden Swings in Climate Have Happened Before





Climate model calculations reported by J. Hansen et al. (1988) with new data added.



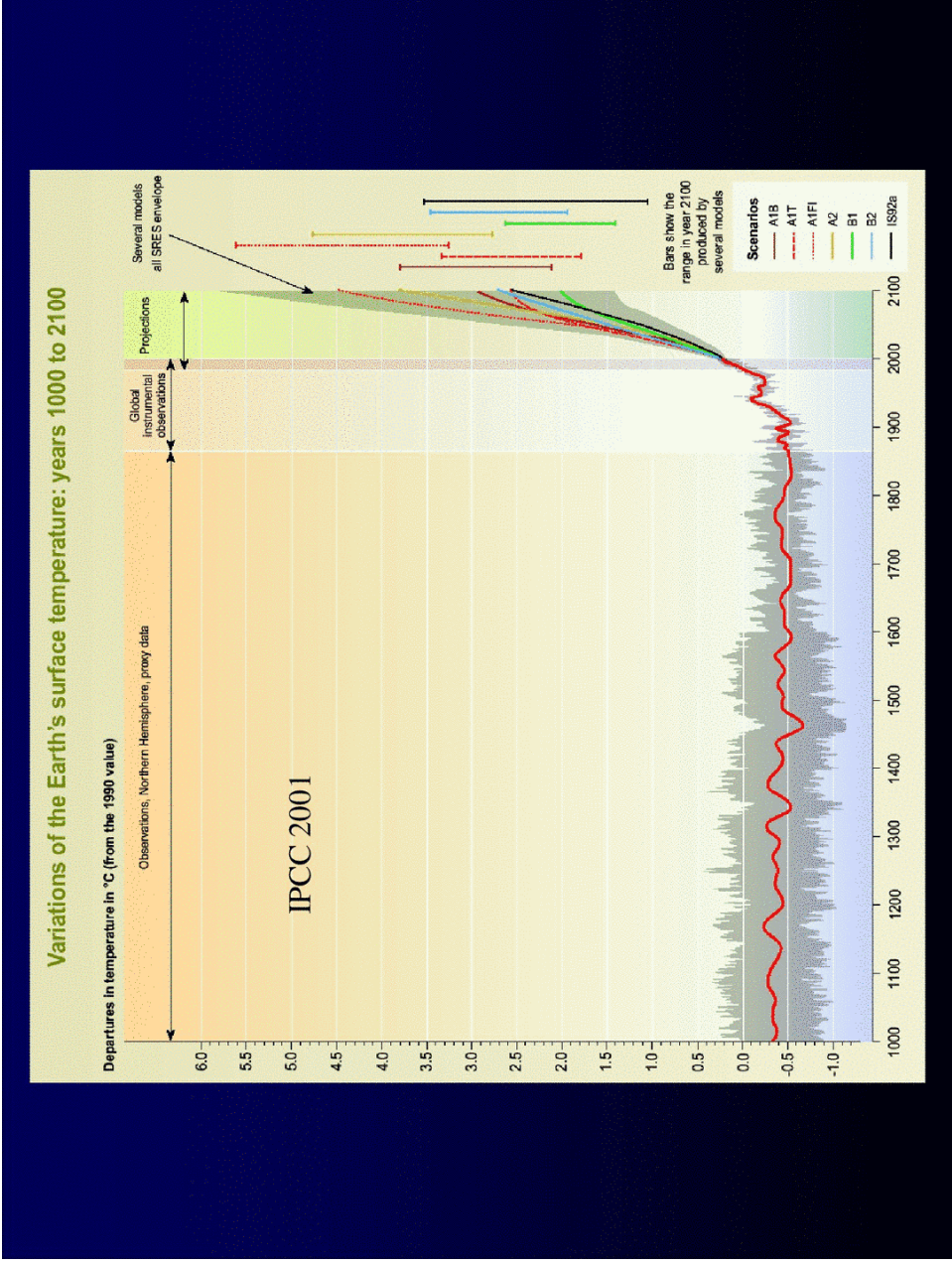


Source: Jim Hansen (2003).

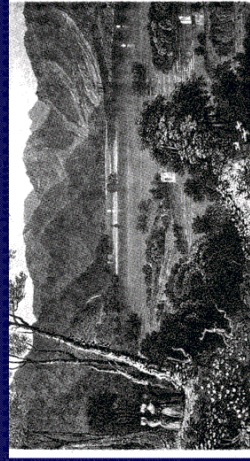
Richardson's Human Weather Computer (1917 --1922)



“Lewis Fry Richardson’s imaginary ‘forecast factor’ would have employed some 64,000 human computers to keep up with the pace of the weather. The workers sit in tiers inside a great spherical theater; the director, atop a pedestal in the middle, shines a beam of light on those places where the calculation is getting ahead or falling behind.” [Brian Hayes, *American Scientist* **80**, 10 -- 14 (2001).]



Providence Journal, 9/12/2001



Warming makes a better world

PATRICK J. MICHAELS
WASHINGTON

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, many industry spokesmen have been telling us that global warming will be a net benefit to the planet. In fact, that's the thesis of a new book, "The Greenhouse Advantage: How Global Warming Will Make a Better World," by Patrick J. Michaels and Nathaniel Rich. Michaels is senior fellow in environmental studies at the Cato Institute, and Rich is senior advisor to the Greening Earth Society in Washington, D.C.

What isn't noted in the paper or the brief flurry of reports that have followed is that the book covers only the United States and the United Kingdom. The rest of the world is left out. Michaels and Rich also ignore the fact that the beginning of the last 20 years, the fact is that all major industrialized nations have seen a significant increase in the number of days with temperatures in the 60s and 70s. During roughly the same time period, the number of days with temperatures in the 30s and 40s has declined. This is a very significant change, especially in the United States, where the number of days with temperatures in the 60s and 70s has increased by more than 50 percent since 1980. Michaels and Rich also ignore the fact that the number of days with temperatures in the 90s and 100s has increased significantly since 1980. This is a very significant change, especially in the United States, where the number of days with temperatures in the 90s and 100s has increased by more than 50 percent since 1980.

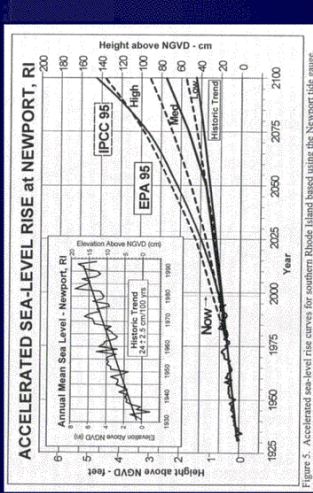
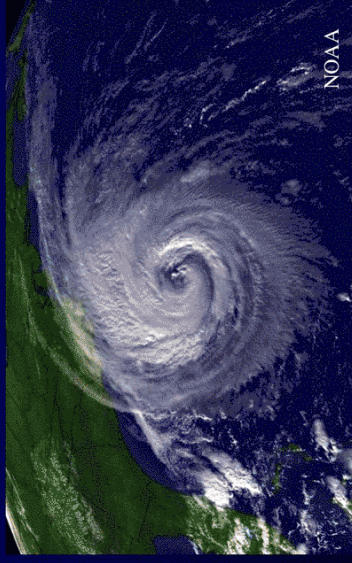
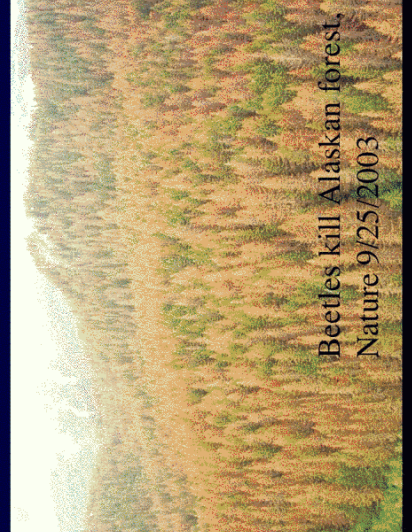
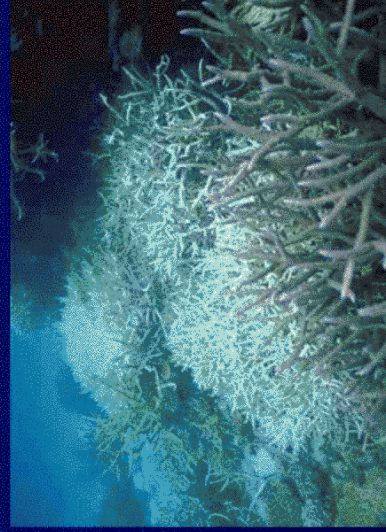
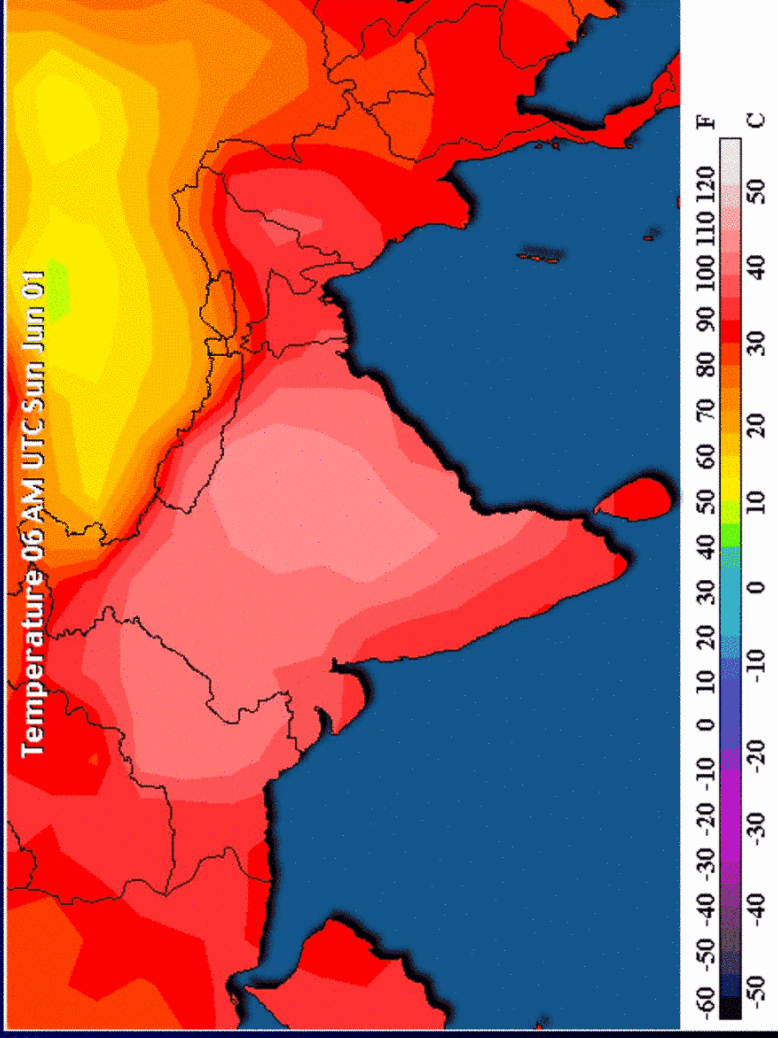


Figure 5. Accelerated sea-level rise curves for southern Rhode Island based using the Newport tide gauge.



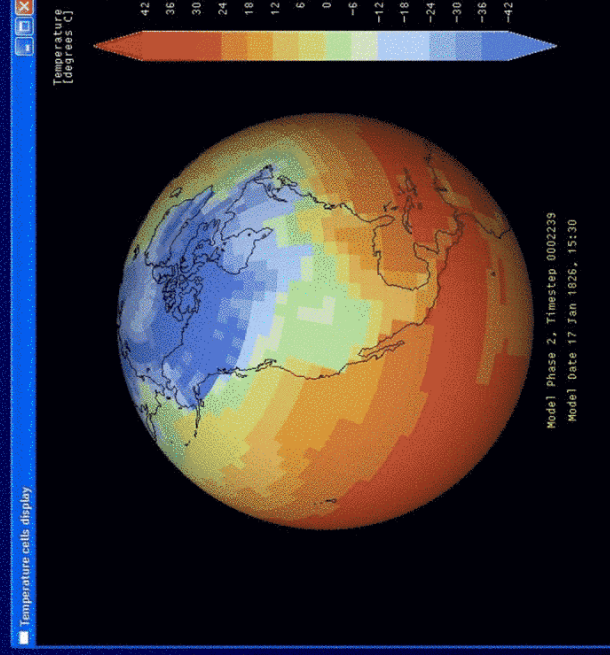
HYDERABAD, India (AP) -- Sunstroke and dehydration claimed another 160 lives in a southern Indian state, raising the death toll from a two-week heat wave to nearly 800.



Research: A 4th Quantum Mechanical Aspect

- To study properties of a gas, it is neither useful nor practical to follow the trajectories of each of 10^{23} atoms. *Statistical* physics gets at the important questions right away (ideal gas law, etc.)
- Climate is statistical; weather is not. To model climate, it seems wasteful to compute averages by integrating the equations of motion that describe weather forward in time for long periods.
- Can we develop statistical methods to directly extract climate statistics, like average temperature, from models?
- *Linear Schrödinger-like equations govern Probability Distribution Function (PDF).*

climateprediction.net



"More than any other theoretical procedure, numerical integration is also subject to the criticism that it yields little insight into the problem. The computed numbers are not only processed like data but they look like data, and a study of them may be no more enlightening than a study of real meteorological observations. An alternative procedure which does not suffer this disadvantage consists of deriving a new system of equations whose unknowns are the statistics themselves. This procedure can be very effective for problems where the original equations are linear, but, in the case of non-linear equations, the new system will inevitably contain more unknowns than equations, and can therefore not be solved, unless additional postulates are introduced." [Edward Lorenz, *The Nature and Theory of the General Circulation* (1967)]

Illustration: The Lorenz Attractor

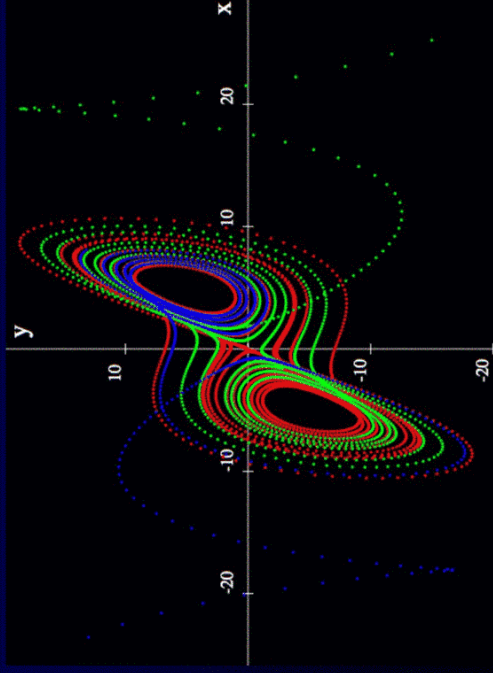
Discovered in a highly simplified model of convection rolls in the atmosphere.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= 3(y - x) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= 26.5x - y - xz \\ \frac{dz}{dt} &= xy - z \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle x \rangle = \langle y \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle z \rangle \approx 22.7$$

$$\langle z^2 \rangle - \langle z \rangle^2 \approx 43.8$$



Log-Hopf Equation and Cumulant Expansion

Uriel Frisch, *Turbulence: The Legacy of A. N. Kolmogorov* (1995)

EOM $\frac{dx}{dt} = x^2$

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi = u \frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} \Psi$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(t, u) \equiv \langle \Psi(t, u) \rangle$$

Average over initial conditions

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \bar{\Psi} = u \frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} \bar{\Psi}$$

Generating Functional

$$\Psi(t, u) \equiv e^{iu x(t)}$$

Linear

“Schrödinger equation”

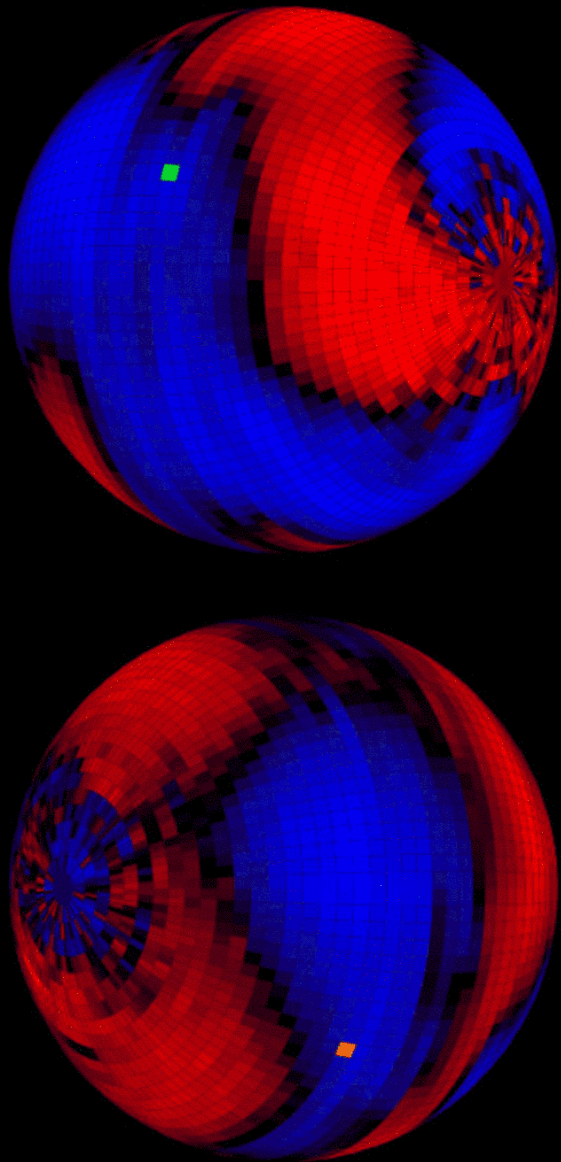
Cumulant Expansion

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\Psi}(t, u) &\equiv \exp S(t, u) \\ S(t, u) &= iu \langle x \rangle - \frac{1}{2!} u^2 (\langle x^2 \rangle - \langle x \rangle^2) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

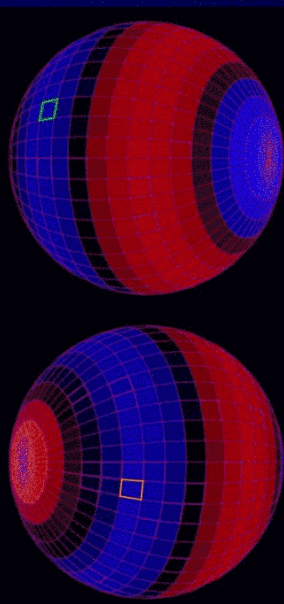
↑

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x \rangle &= \langle y \rangle = 0 \\ \langle z \rangle &= 23.37 \\ \langle z^2 \rangle - \langle z \rangle^2 &= 40.17 \end{aligned}$$

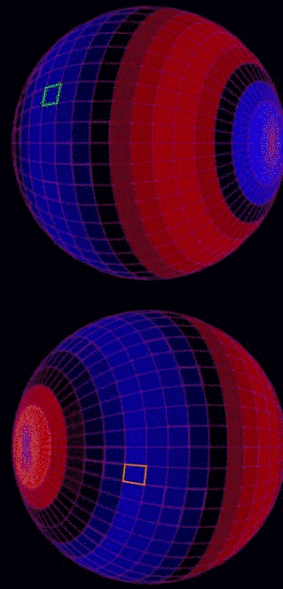
The Quantum Field Theory of Global Warming



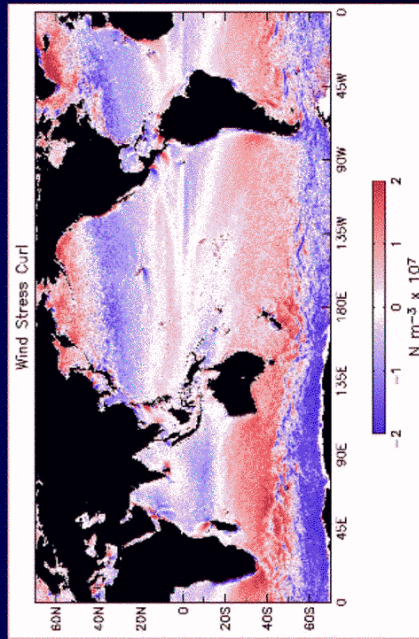
Direct Simulation



Cumulant Expansion



Observation (4 year mean)



Chelton *et al.*, *Science* 303, 978 (February 2004)



“Human beings are now carrying out a large scale geophysical experiment of a kind that could not have happened in the past nor be reproduced in the future. Within a few centuries we are returning to the atmosphere and oceans the concentrated organic carbon stored in sedimentary rocks over hundreds of millions of years. (Revelle and Suess 1957)

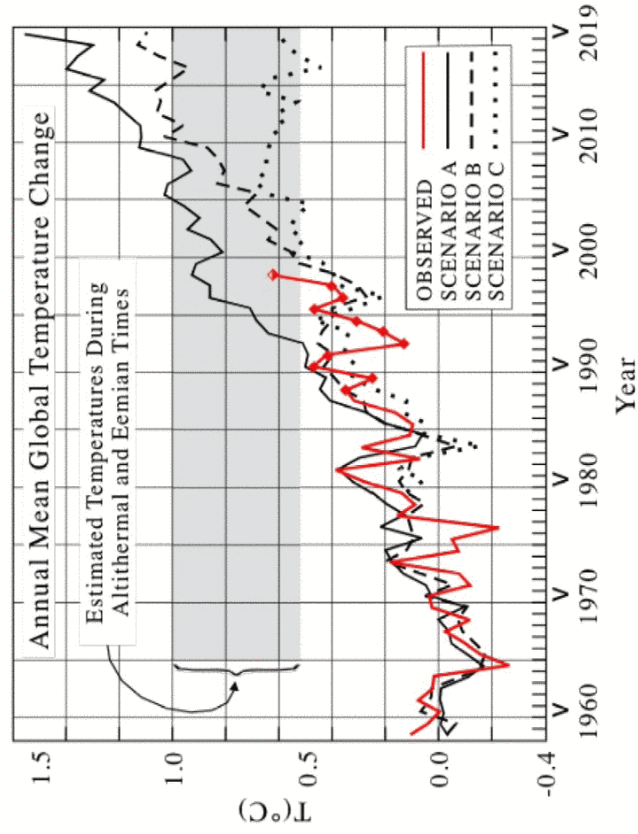
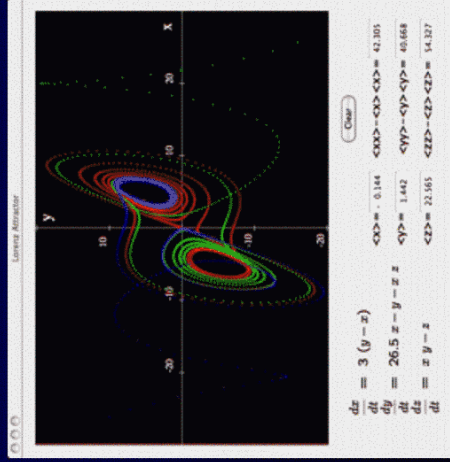
References for further study:

homepage.mac.com/bradmarston/

The Quantum Mechanics of Global Warming

Brad Marston
Department of Physics
Brown University

Quantum mechanics plays a crucial, albeit often overlooked, role in our understanding of the Earth's climate. In this talk, I use three well known aspects of quantum mechanics to present a simple physical picture of what may happen as the concentrations of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide continue to increase. I also utilize some basic astronomy and wave mechanics to decipher historical and paleoclimatic records. I conclude with a personal perspective on the politics versus the science of global warming.



'But when Pat Michaels testified to Congress in 1998 and showed our 1988 predictions (Fig. 1) he erased the curves for scenarios B and C, and showed the result only for scenario A. He then argued that, since the real world temperature had not increased as fast as this model calculation, the climate model was faulty and there was no basis for concern about climate change, specifically concluding that the Kyoto Protocol was "a useless appendage to an irrelevant treaty".'

Combating global warming would be a costly waste

ProJo 7/25/2003

SALLIE BALIUNAS

WASHINGTON

HUMAN RECORD historical events, Herodotus wrote, "in the hope of preserving them from decay the remembrance of what men have done." Nature also writes its own history. And when coupled with that written by men, it can ameliorate the tendency to sensationalize current trends in climate into something unusual or dangerous.

Massachusetts, and a leading Democratic presidential candidate, added to the alarmism over climate change. At an environmental conference in Washington, he compared the "threat of global warming" to the same mobilization of national resources as was required to defeat Soviet communism.

In a similar vein, attorneys general from six states are suing the federal government to force nuclear power plants to shut down, because of the threat to life on the planet and has never been classified as a toxic pollutant, but is blamed by alarmists for warming.

even considering legislation for the state to enforce a ban on burning fossil fuels.

These domestic calls for action echo a United Nations-sponsored worldwide plan, called the Kyoto Protocol. It requires signatories to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, when the notion that the earth is dangerously warming.

The historical record — both man and nature's — doesn't support this view. It is in fact according to the thermometer readings in the northern hemisphere, the Little Ice Age was the second half of the 18th Century than it was in the second half of the 19th. And because the 20th Century also coincided with an increased concentration of greenhouse gases, the 19th Century should be expected to be warmer than the 20th.

future global warming — was and will be caused, at least in part, by the burning of fossil fuels. But to get a proper estimate of the amount of warming required that the 20th Century actually was unusually warm, and that the 18th Century was normal. Were they?

To find the answer, we must go back several centuries. The instrumental record of global temperature change was insufficient to deal with climate's natural fluctuations, as the record dates back only to the late 19th Century.

Nature's record, however, goes back much further. — or provides — of climate information derived from glaciers, boreholes, coral, tree growth, sediments of lakes, and ice cores. In addition, there is a wealth of documentary evidence such as weather diaries and crop accounts.

The technique of studying proxies isn't easy. There are many differences among proxies, so averaging the best many proxies around is likely to be a better way to make a meaningful global average.

Because of these limitations, proxies are best viewed as records of local climate, with each account- ing for its own regional and local characteristics.

Nonetheless, despite the problems, there is a wealth of climate information from proxies that can be used to study the climate of the past.

And a recent review (<http://ohz.ohz.harvard.edu/press/0310.htm>) by a team from Harvard University of more than 240 scientific articles by over 1,000 researchers using the various proxy data shows that the 19th Century was warmer than the 20th. Instead, the warmest, or most extreme, climate for those locations occurred in the Medieval Warm Period, between the 9th and 14th centuries.

That the 19th Century was warmer than the 20th is a natural increase in greenhouse gas concentration from human activities — must have natural explanations. Whatever they are, the results of the warming, as far as man was concerned, in most cases appear to have been beneficial.

period And England had productive vineyards. H.H. Lamb, the founder of the climatic research unit at East Anglia University, found that England's May frosts were rarer than the 18th and 19th centuries to support more than 50 vineyards, signifying that May frosts were rarer. But natural swings in climate ended that environment, beginning with a perturbation in the Little Ice Age, which had from 1300 to 1800. The Little Ice Age had from some winners. The intensity of the Little Ice Age reached its peak from 1550 to 1700, bringing crop failures, disease and death. Many died of famine in Scotland during the 18th Century.

That the last millennium has seen periods warmer than the 20th Century in many parts of the world where there is information means that the 20th Century may not be unusual. Instead, the 19th and 20th centuries may be the tail of an unusually cold period that had persisted for some centuries, perhaps as far back as the 14th Century in some areas. It was not so normal. The scientific consensus over the last millennium suggests that a strong trend of human-induced warming does not exist. The scientific facts indicate that costly policies to combat global warming are unlikely to mitigate the effects of global warming, and that we could reduce society's economic ability to cope with them.

Sallie Baliunas is senior scientist at George C. Marshall Institute, past contributing editor at the World Climate Report and an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

“A flawed recent study [Soon and Baliunas, 2003] compels us to stress two points which might seem patently obvious: (1) It is essential to assess each proxy series for sensitivity to past temperature variability and not, as in SB03, to equate hydrological influences with temperature influences; (2) It is also essential to distinguish between regional anomalies, which often cancel in a hemispheric mean and not, as in SB03, to equate eg., the existence of asynchronous warm anomalies in different regions with a hemispheric mean warm anomaly.” [Mann and Jones, GRL 30, 1820 (2003)]

“The Bush administration took the unusual step of inserting a reference to the Soon-Baliunas paper in the EPA’s recent report on the environment, replacing a statement that temperatures have risen significantly in recent decades.” [Robert Park, APS, 8/1/2003]