

Global warming - physicist's perspective 02 – measurements and modelling

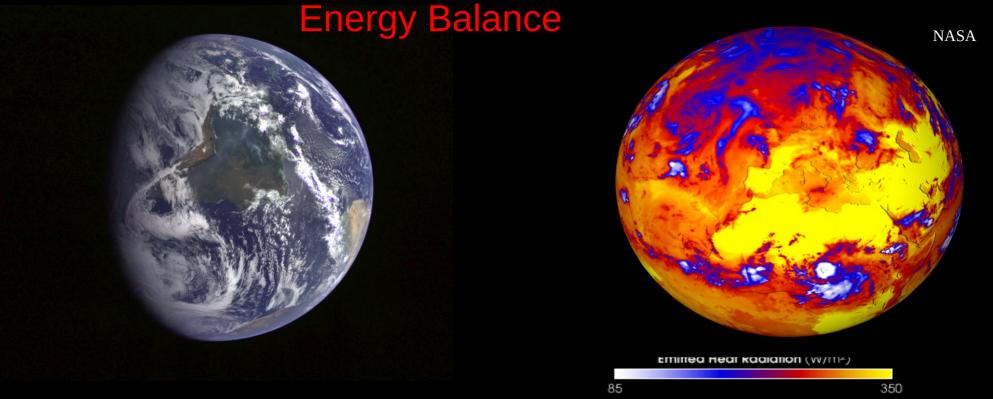
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Outline:

- 1. Physical properties and principles of climate system
- 2. Measurements and observations
- 3. Climate modeling



THE EARTH is illuminated by shortwave SOLAR radiation, which is partially absorbed and partially reflected.

In (quasi) equilibrium energy of absorbed radiation is balanced by emission in thermal infrared.

Deflections from the equilibrium result in climate system heating/cooling

ENERGY IN CLIMATE SYSTEM

- 1. Solar energy flux = $\frac{1}{4}$ of Solar constant $\frac{1}{4*1362W/m^2} \approx \frac{341W}{m^2}$.
- 2. Earth's surface albedo, mean ≈ 0.3 , highly variable, from 0.9 (fresh snow) to 0.07 (clean ocean).
- 3. Geothermal energy flux ≈ 0.092 W/m².
- 4. Heat flux from fossil fuel combustion $\approx 0.026 W/m^2$.

BASIC PROPERTIES OF THE CLIMATE SYSTEM

- 1. Air: surface pressure \approx 1000hPa (10m of water), c_p=1004I/kg*K.
- 2. Water: global average depth \approx 3000m, c_w=4192J/kg*K.
- 3. Ground only a shallow layer responding to radiative fluxes.
- 4. Greenhouse gases: H_2O , CO_2 , CH_4 , O_3 , many others.

Forcings and feedbacks in climate system.

Climate **forcings** are the **initial drivers** of a climate shift. Examples: solar irradiance, changes in the planetary orbit, anthropogenic or volcanic emissions of greenhouse gases.

Climate **feedbacks** are processes that **change as a result of a change in forcing**, and **cause additional climate change**. Examples : ice-albedo feedback, CO2 solubility.

Feedbacks can be positive or negative.

Positive feedbacks, when exceeding thresholds, may lead to rapid climate changes. There are indications in paleoclimatological data that such changes occurred in geological history of the planet.

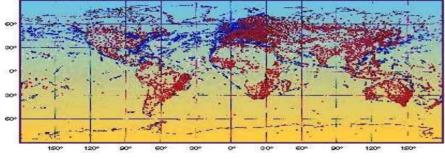
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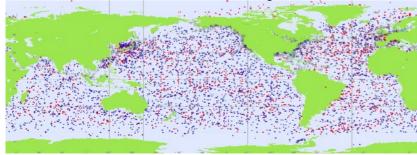
http://www.wmo.int/pages/themes/climate/climate_observation_networks_systems.php Atmosphere: Over 11,000 weather stations, as well as satellites, ships and aircraft take measurements.

1040 of stations are selected to provide high quality climate data.

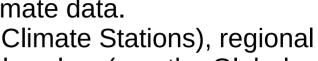
There are special networks at national (e.g. Reference Climate Stations), regional (e.g. Regional Basic Climatological Network) and global scales. (e.g. the Global Climate Observing System - GCOS - Surface Network, GSN).

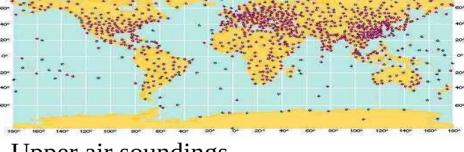


Weather stations and buoys

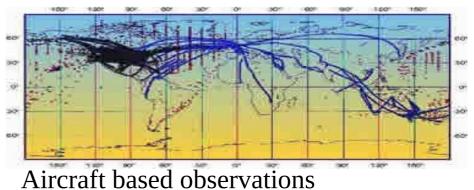


Voluntary ship observations



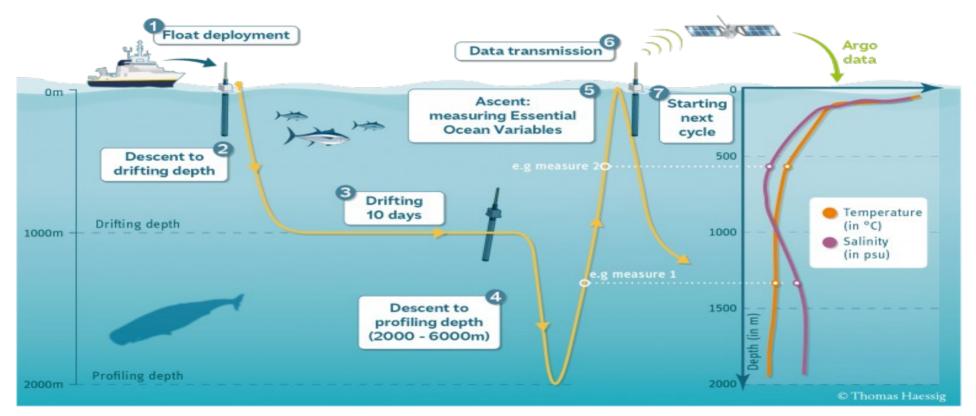


Upper air soundings





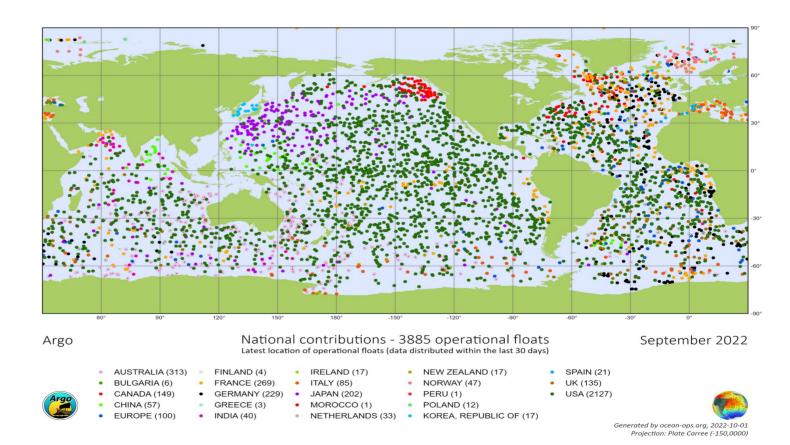
OCEAN: ARGO project: temperature and salinity profiling, deep sea currents.



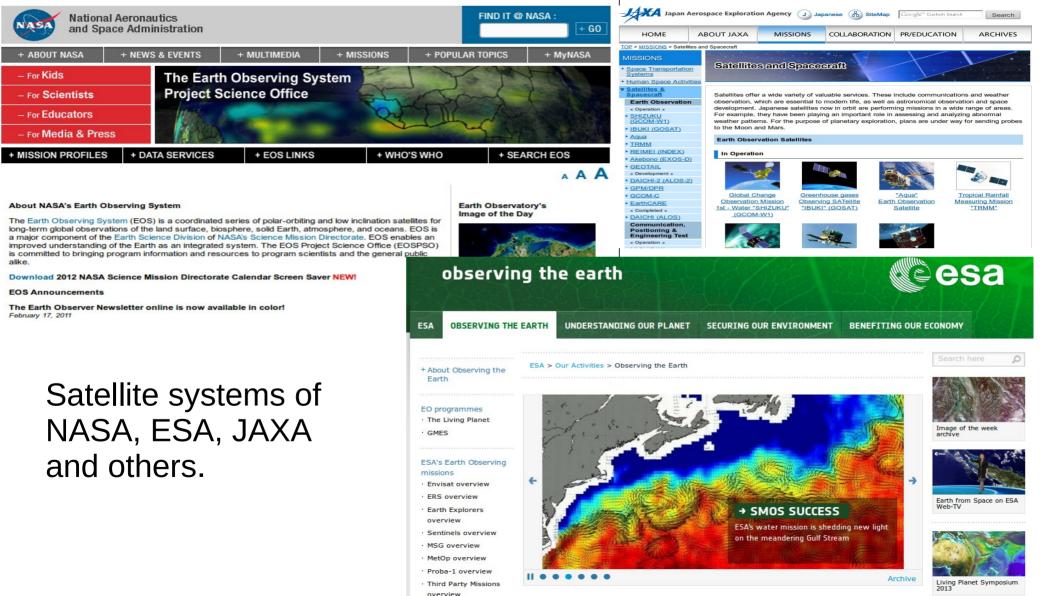
http://www.argo.ucsd.edu/

OCEAN: ARGO project: temperature and salinity profiling, deep sea currents.

Thousands of automatic profilers provide actual data from the world ocean.

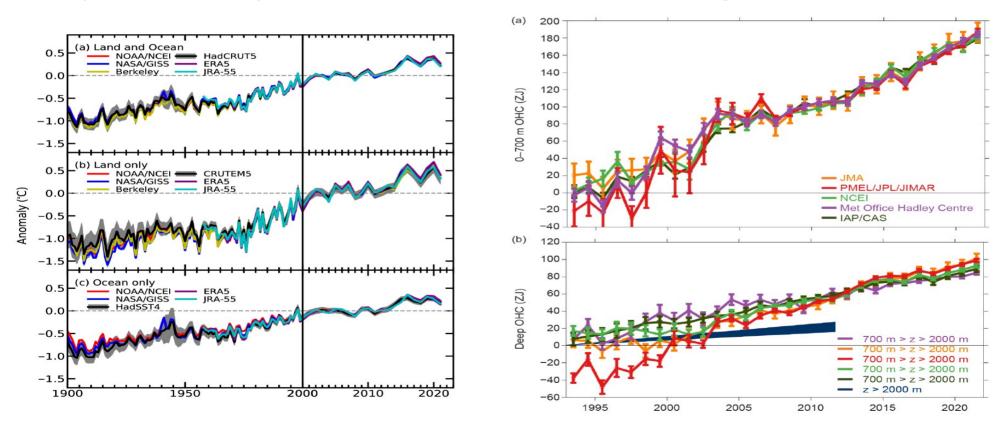


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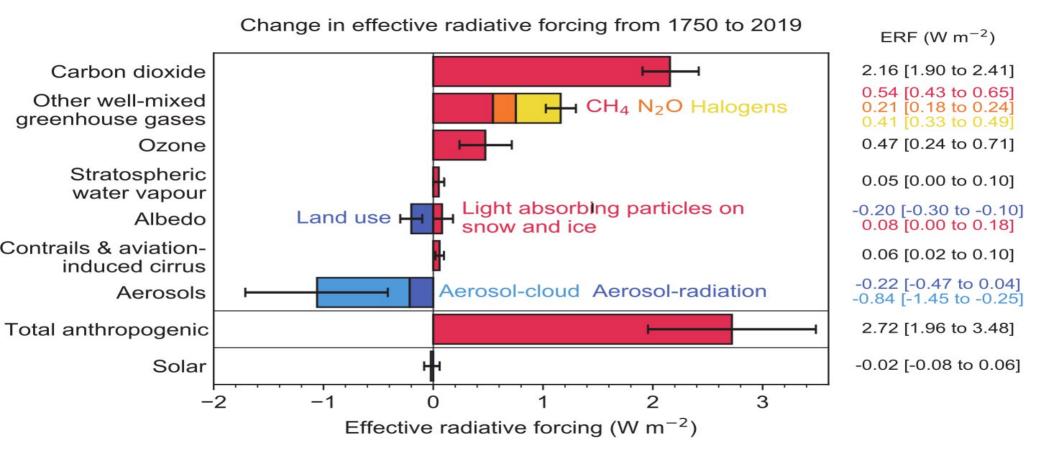
Observations - summary

Temperature anomaly

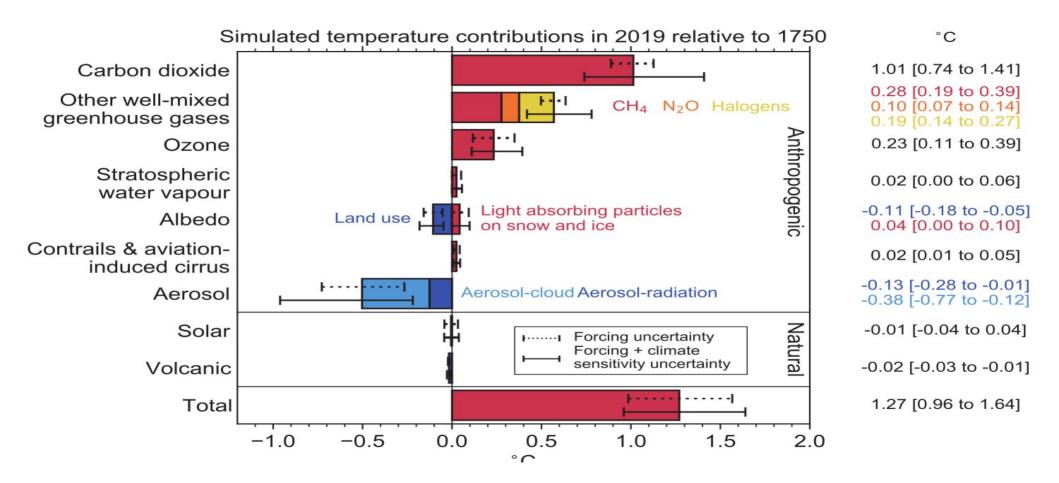


OHC change

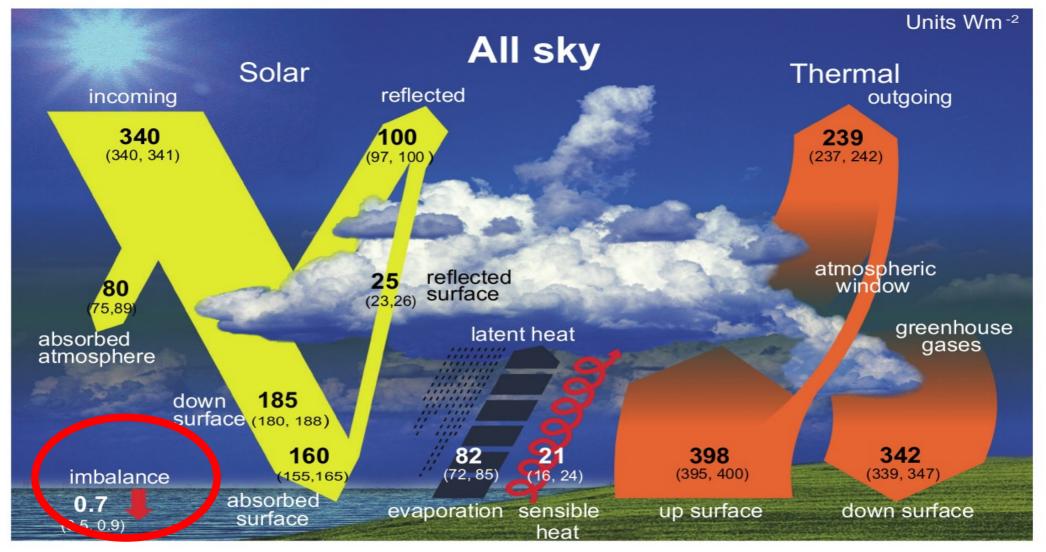
https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/state-of-the-climate/



https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/



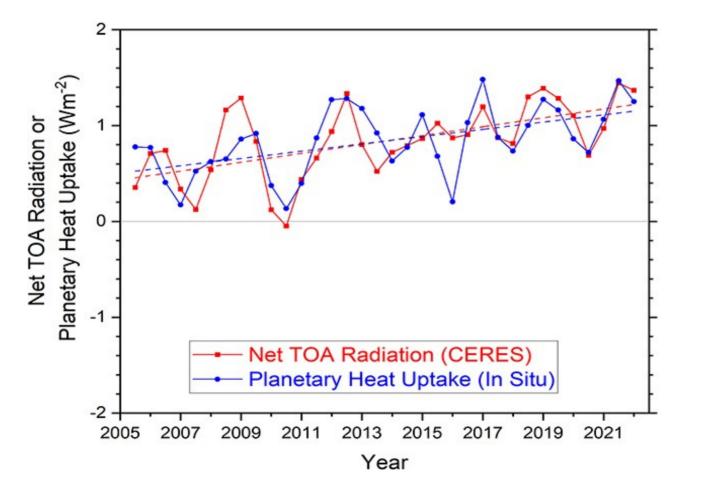
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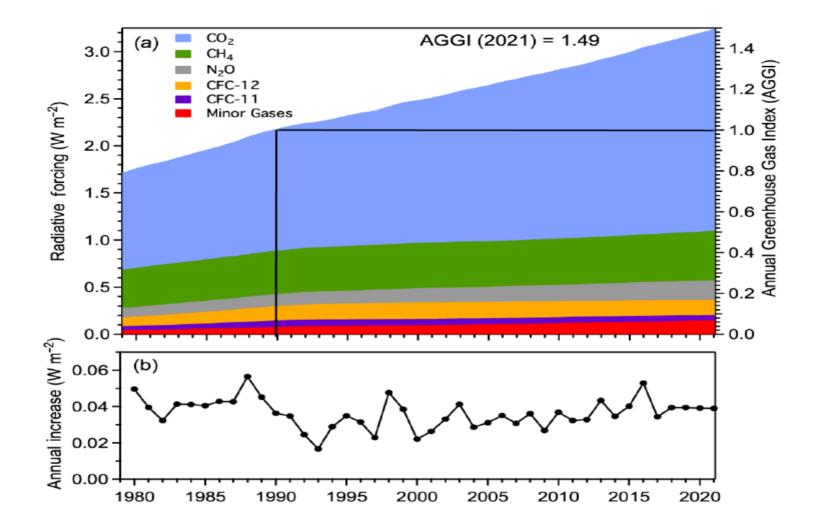
Energy balance of climate system. Units: W/m².

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/

Energy imbalance increases ...

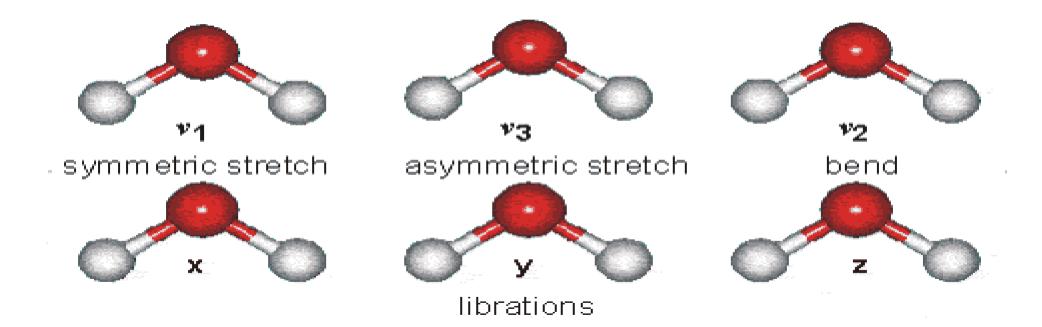


Schmidt GA, et al., 2023, CERESMIP: a climate modeling protocol to investigate recent trends in the Earth's Energy Imbalance. *Front. Clim.* 5:1202161. https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2023.12 02161

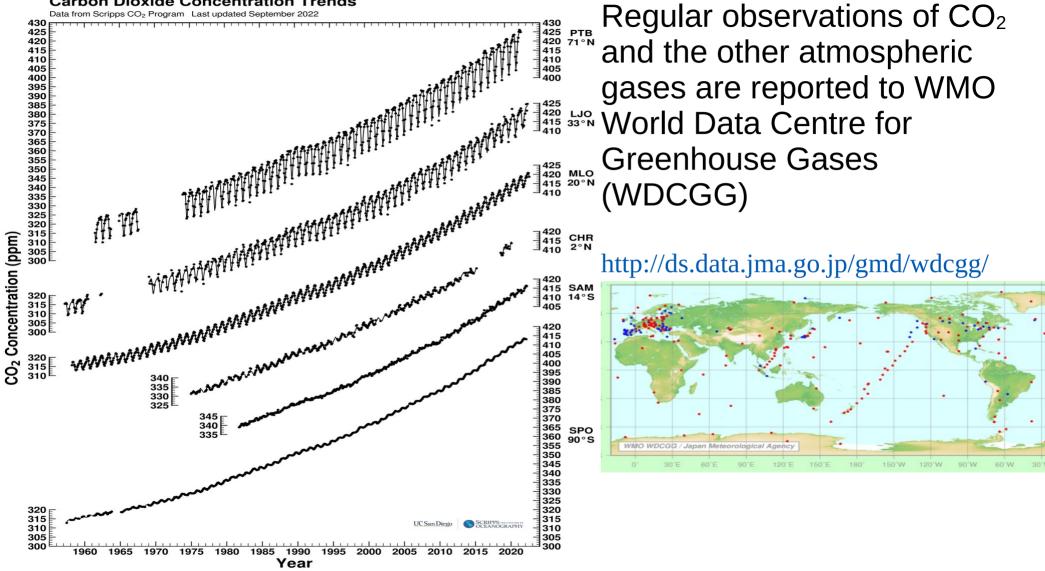


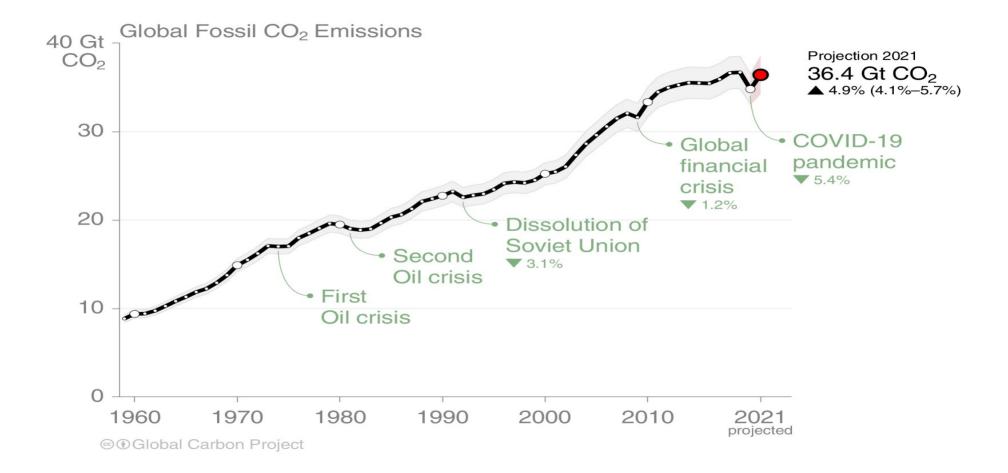
https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/state-of-the-climate/

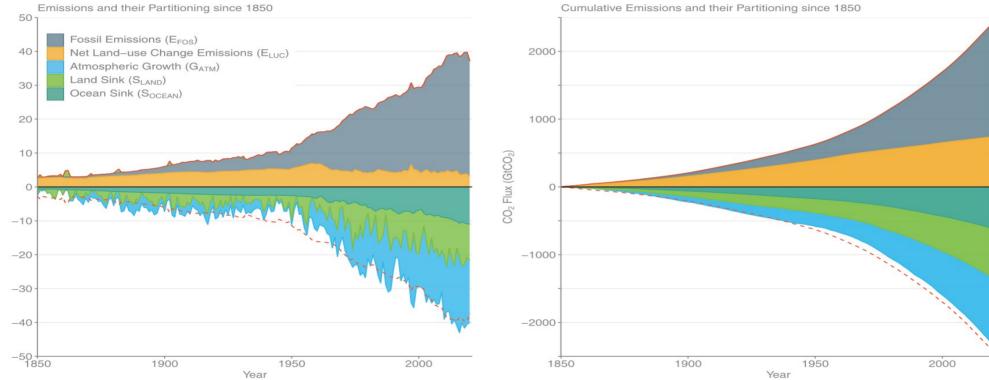
Why particles with 3 or more atoms absorb long-wave (low energy) radiation?



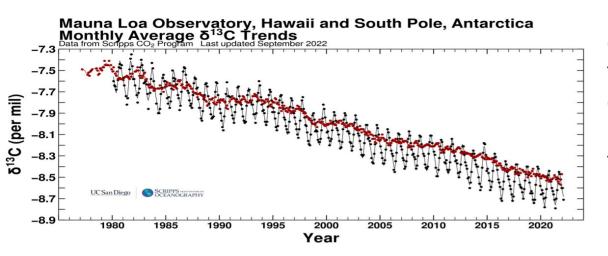
Global Stations Carbon Dioxide Concentration Trends







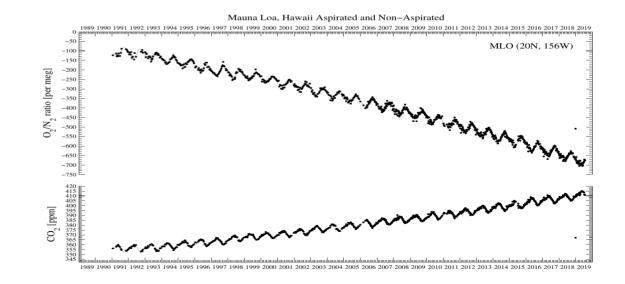
Cumulative Emissions and their Partitioning since 1850



Carbon stable isotopes concentration ratio ${}^{13}C/{}^{12}C$ allows to determine the role of fossil fuel combustion in CO₂ concentration increase in the atmosphere and in the ocean.

Another signature of fossil fuel combustion $C+2O=CO_2$

is the ratio of O_2/N_2 in air.



Outline:

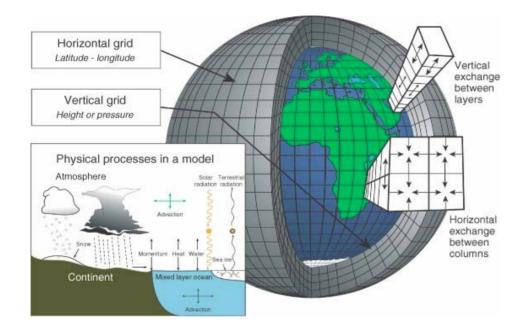
Physical properties and principles of climate system
Contemporary climate
Climate modeling

Climate modeling: a virtual planet

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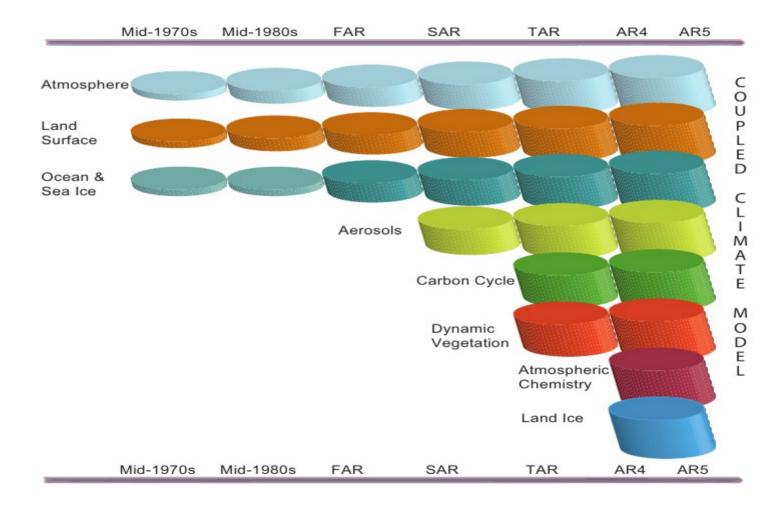
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climate



geophysical fluid dynamics thermodynamics radiative transfer chemistry equations boundary conditions model equations numerical code * data and initial conditions supercomputing facility virtual reality allowing for simulating

The development of climate models over the last 35 years

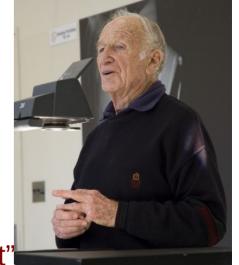


Predictability of weather and climate

Edward N. Lorenz (1917-2008):

Selected papers:

"Deterministic nonperiodic flow", 1963 (sensitivity of solutions to initial conditions: "butterfly effect" attractor)

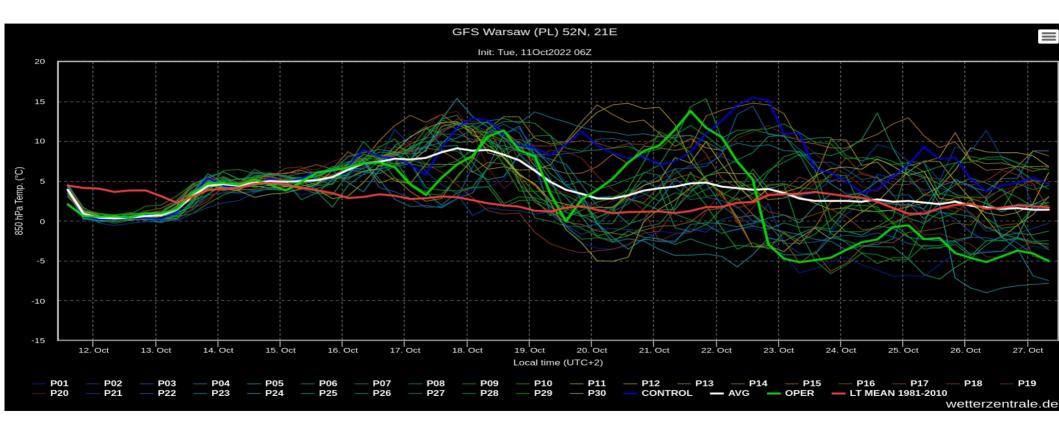


"The problem of deducing the climate from the governing equations", 1964 (long term predictability – obcertainties in the governing equations)

"Climatic change as a mathematical problem", 1970 (unpredictable weather does not mean that climate is not predictable)

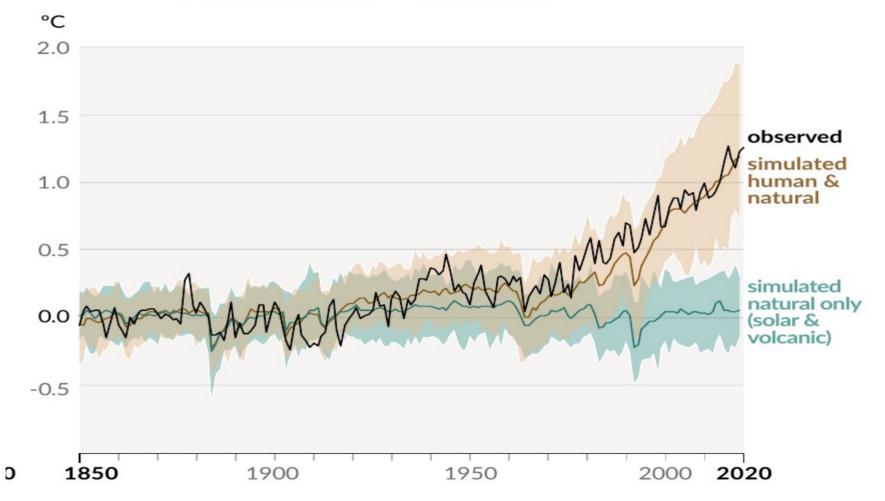
"Predictability – a problem partly solved", 2006

Predictability of weather and climate – illustration:



http://www.wetterzentrale.de/topkarten

b) Change in global surface temperature (annual average) as **observed** and simulated using **human & natural** and **only natural** factors (both 1850-2020)



Model validations:

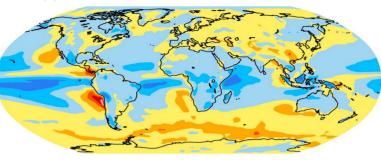
Annual-mean cloud radiative effects of the CMIP5 models compared against the measurements (CERES EBAF 2.6) data set (in W m⁻ ²: top row: shortwaye effect:

²; top row: shortwave effect; middle row: longwave effect; bottom row: net effect).

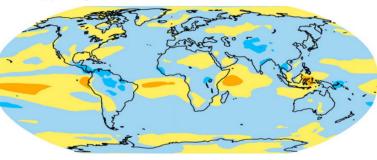
On the left are the global distributions of the multimodel-mean biases, and on the right are the zonal averages of the cloud radiative effects from observations.

Model results are for the period 1985–2005, while the available CERES data

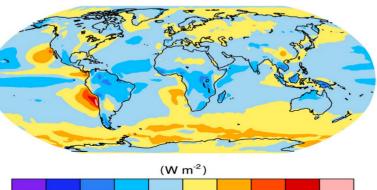
(a) Shortwave cloud radiative effect - MOD-OBS



(b) Longwave cloud radiative effect - MOD-OBS



(c) Net cloud radiative effect - MOD-OBS



0

20

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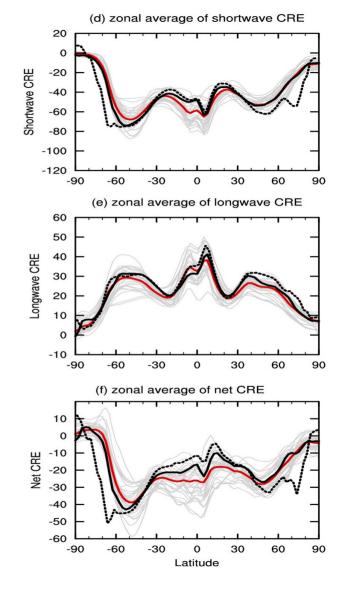
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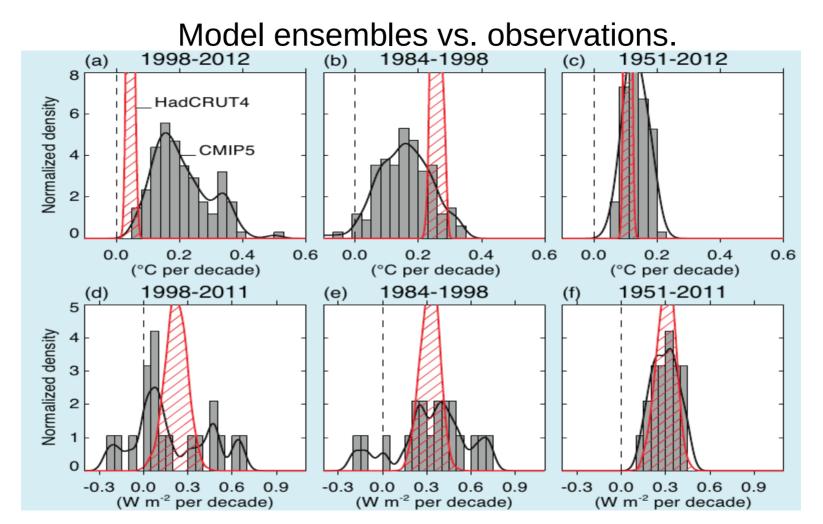
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(Top) Observed and simulated global mean surface temperature (GMST) trends in degrees Celsius per decade, over the periods 1998–2012 (a), 1984–1998 (b), and 1951–2012 (c). For the observations, 100 realizations of the Hadley Centre/Climatic Research Unit gridded surface temperature data set 4

Arguments, that climate model provide valuable information:

1) the models can reproduce the current climate;

2) the models can reproduce the recent observed trends as well as the more distant past;

3) the models are based on physical principles;

4) there is a hierarchy of the models from the simplest ones to most complicated, which allows for understanding and interpretation many of the results;

5) the value of simulations is increased where multiple models are available, since they

indicate which changes are more certain than others.