

# **Equable climates**

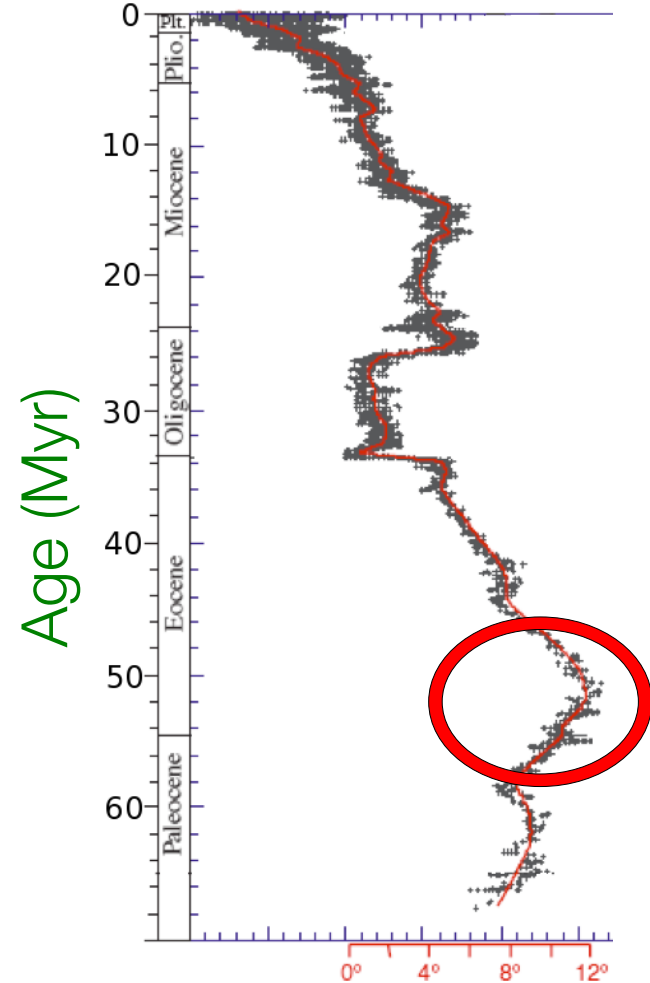
EPS 231 Climate dynamics  
Eli Tziperman

# 56 to 34 Myr ago: Eocene

EON	ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	Ma		
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	0.01		
			Pleistocene	Late	0.8	
				Early	1.8	
		Tertiary	Neogene	Pliocene	Late	3.6
					Early	5.3
				Miocene	Late	11.2
			Middle		16.4	
			Early		23.7	
			Oligocene	Late	28.5	
				Early	33.7	
				Eocene	Late	41.3
			Middle		49.0	
		Early	54.8			
		Paleogene	Paleocene	Late	61.0	
				Early	65.0	
				Mesozoic	Cretaceous	Late
		Early	144			
		Jurassic	Late		159	
			Middle		180	
	Triassic	Early	206			
		Late	227			
	Paleozoic	Permian	Middle	242		
			Early	248		
		Pennsylvanian	Late	256		
			Early	290		
		Mississippian	Late	323		
			Early	354		
		Devonian	Late	370		
			Middle	391		
			Early	417		
Silurian		Late	423			
		Early	443			
Ordovician		Late	443			
		Middle	458			
	Early	470				
Cambrian	D	490				
	C	500				
	B	512				
	A	520				
		543				
Precambrian	Proterozoic	Late	900			
		Middle	1600			
		Early	2500			
	Archean	Late	3000			
		Early	3800?			

Warm climates  
146–34 Myr

Gradual cooling over past 55 Myr



Deep ocean Temperature

[Zachos et al., 2001]

# Equable Climates



Frost-intolerant species in high-latitude continental climate regions

## Cretaceous Coastal Environment



## Hadrosaurus - Cretaceous



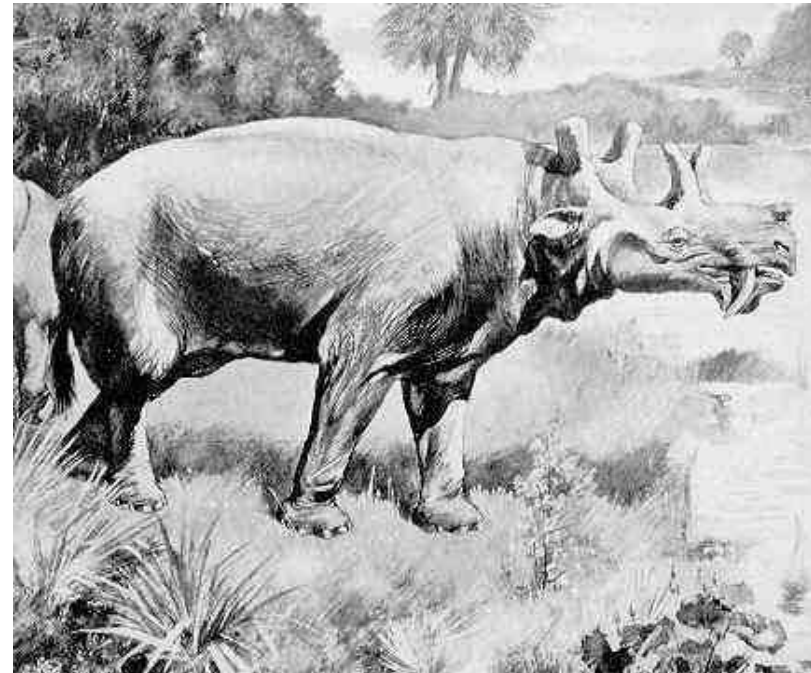
Artist: Karen Carr

# Cretaceous Marine Environment



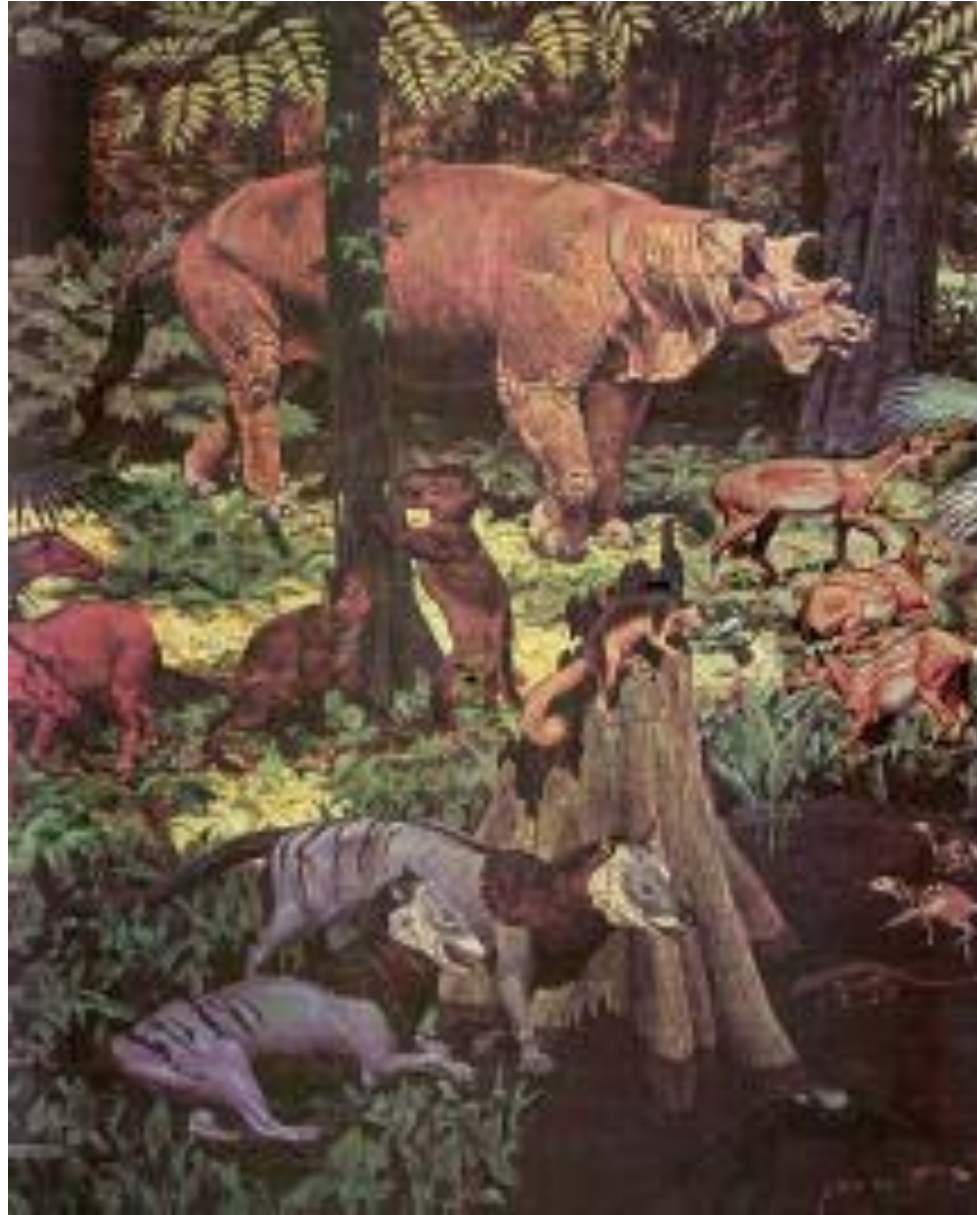
Artist: Karen Carr

# Eobasileus - Eocene



Artist: Charles R. Knight

# Eocene Mammals



Artist: Jay Matternes

# “Equable” climate

1. Surface temperatures at the poles were closer to surface temperatures at the equator.
2. The high latitude seasonal cycle was smaller: winter and surface temperature were closer.

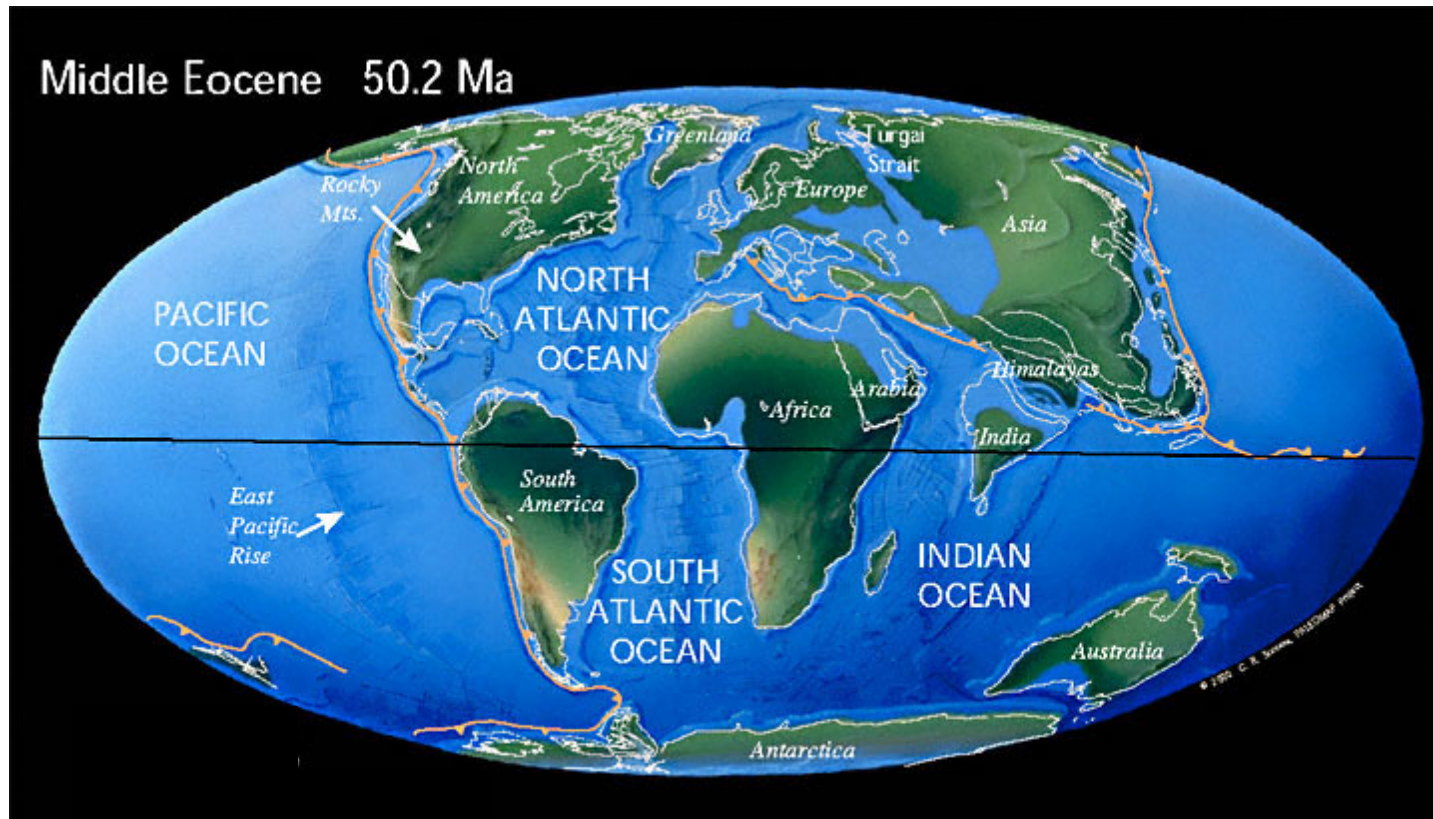
# “Hothouse/Equable” climates ~146–34 Ma

Cretaceous

Paleocene

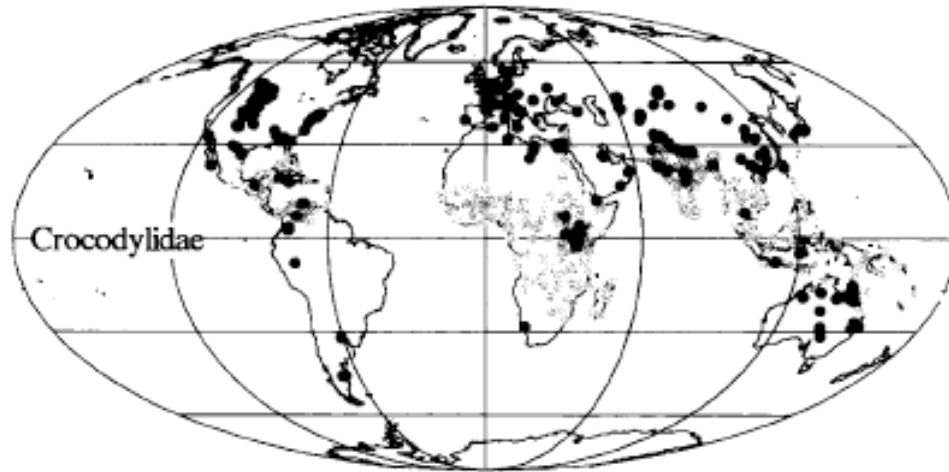
Eocene

- Higher global mean temperature
- Lower equator-to-pole temperature diff.
- Less high latitude seasonality
- No significant ice
- Tropical SSTs  $> \approx$  modern
- Warm deep ocean
- $\text{CO}_2 = 500\text{--}2,000$  ppm?





# Plant and animal fossils

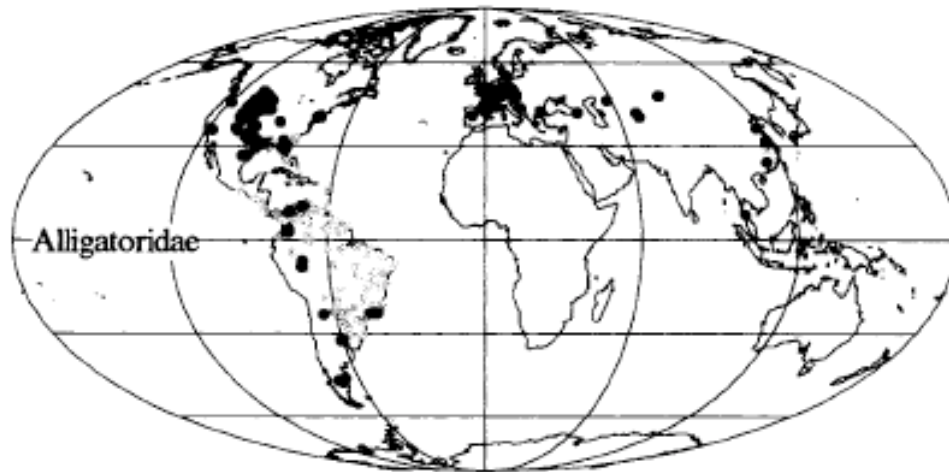


Crocodiles & Alligators today  
need:

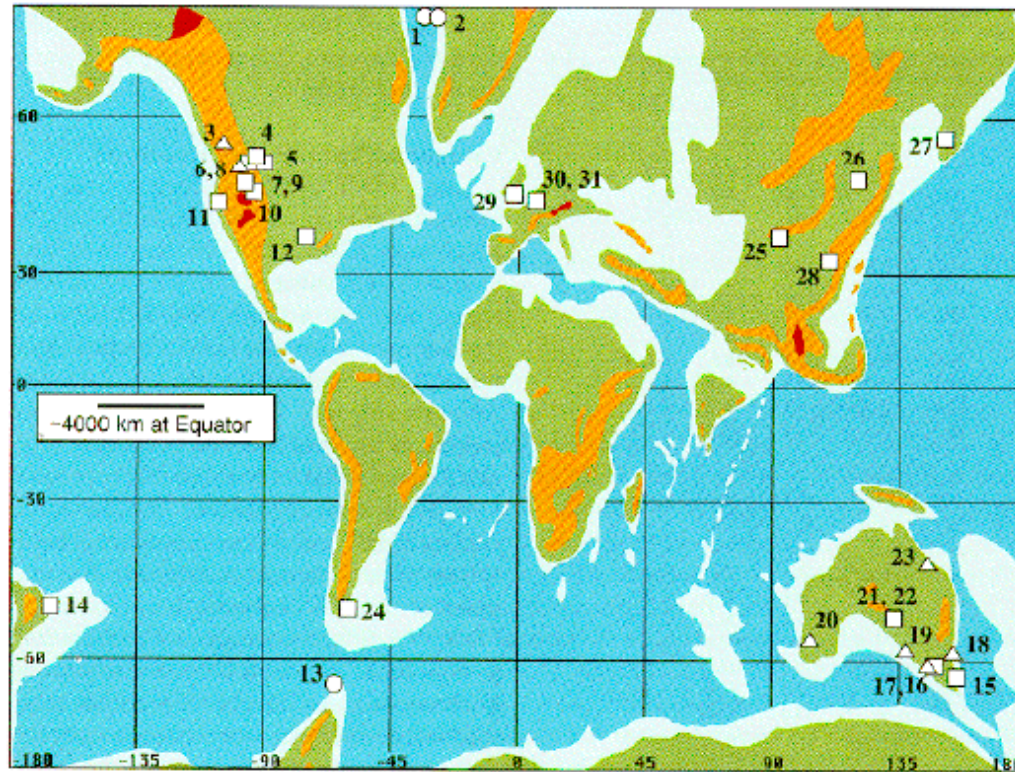
$$\text{MAT} > 14.2^{\circ}\text{C} + \text{CMM} > 5.5^{\circ}\text{C}$$

MAT: mean annual temperature

CMM: cold month mean



# Eocene near living relative (NLR) Analysis



[Greenwood and Wing, 1995]

□ - palms

△ - cycads, gingers, tree ferns

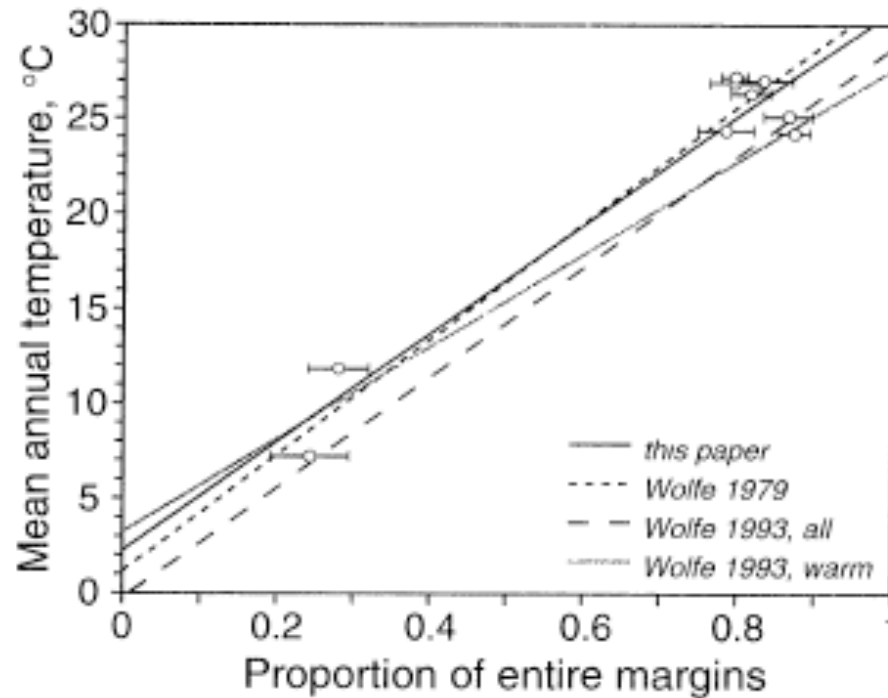
○ - no frost intolerant plants

■ - lowlands

■ - uplands

■ - higher uplands

# Leaf Margin Analysis (LMA)



[Wilf, 1997]



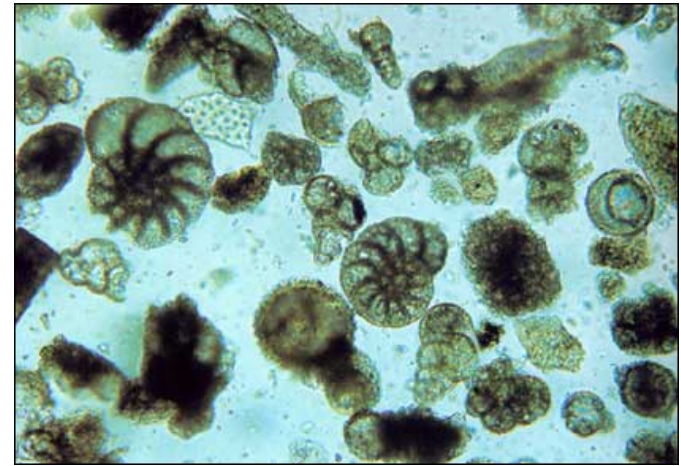
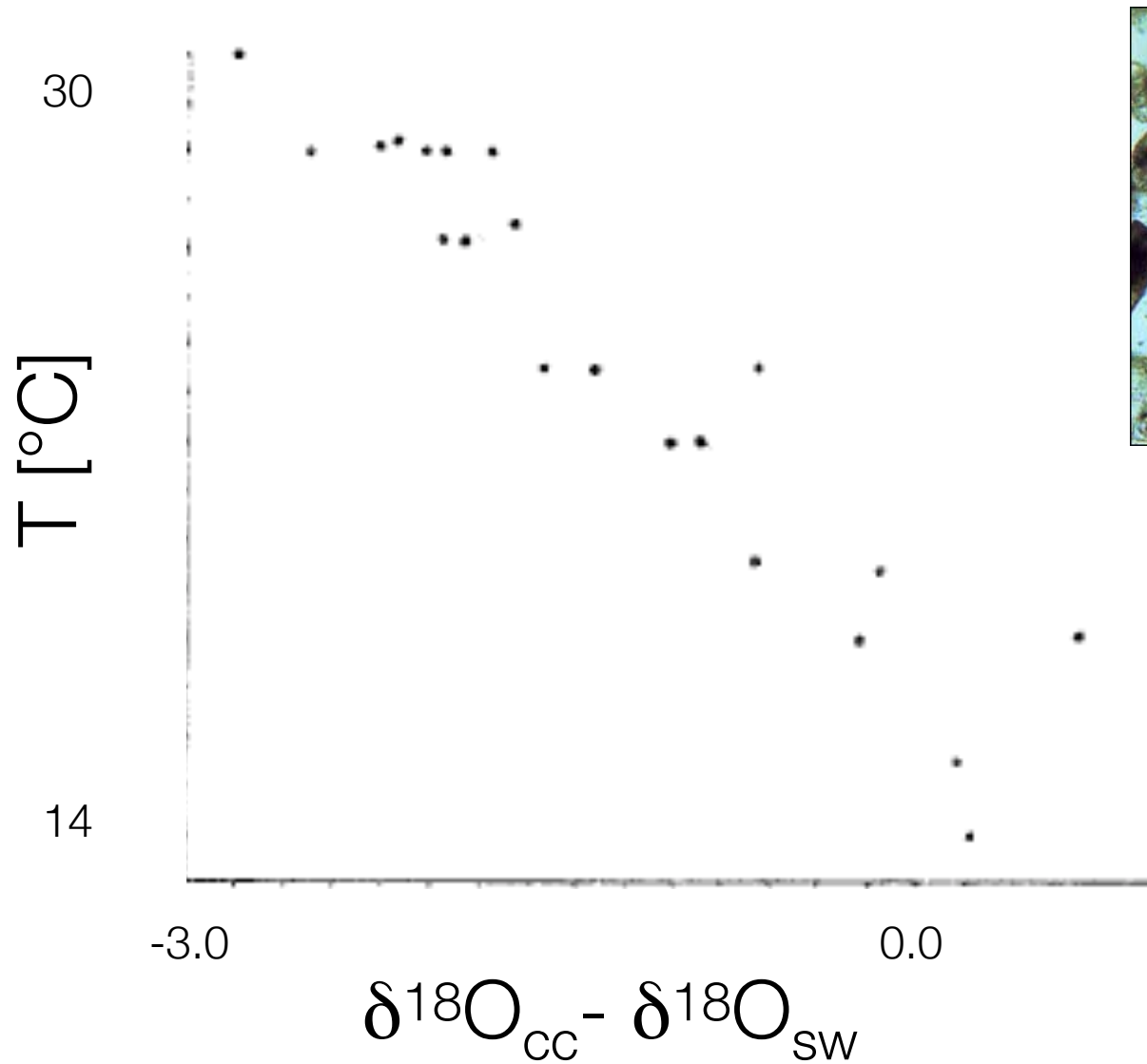
Eastern Redbud -  
 Untoothed  
 (Entire Margin)

American Elm - Toothed



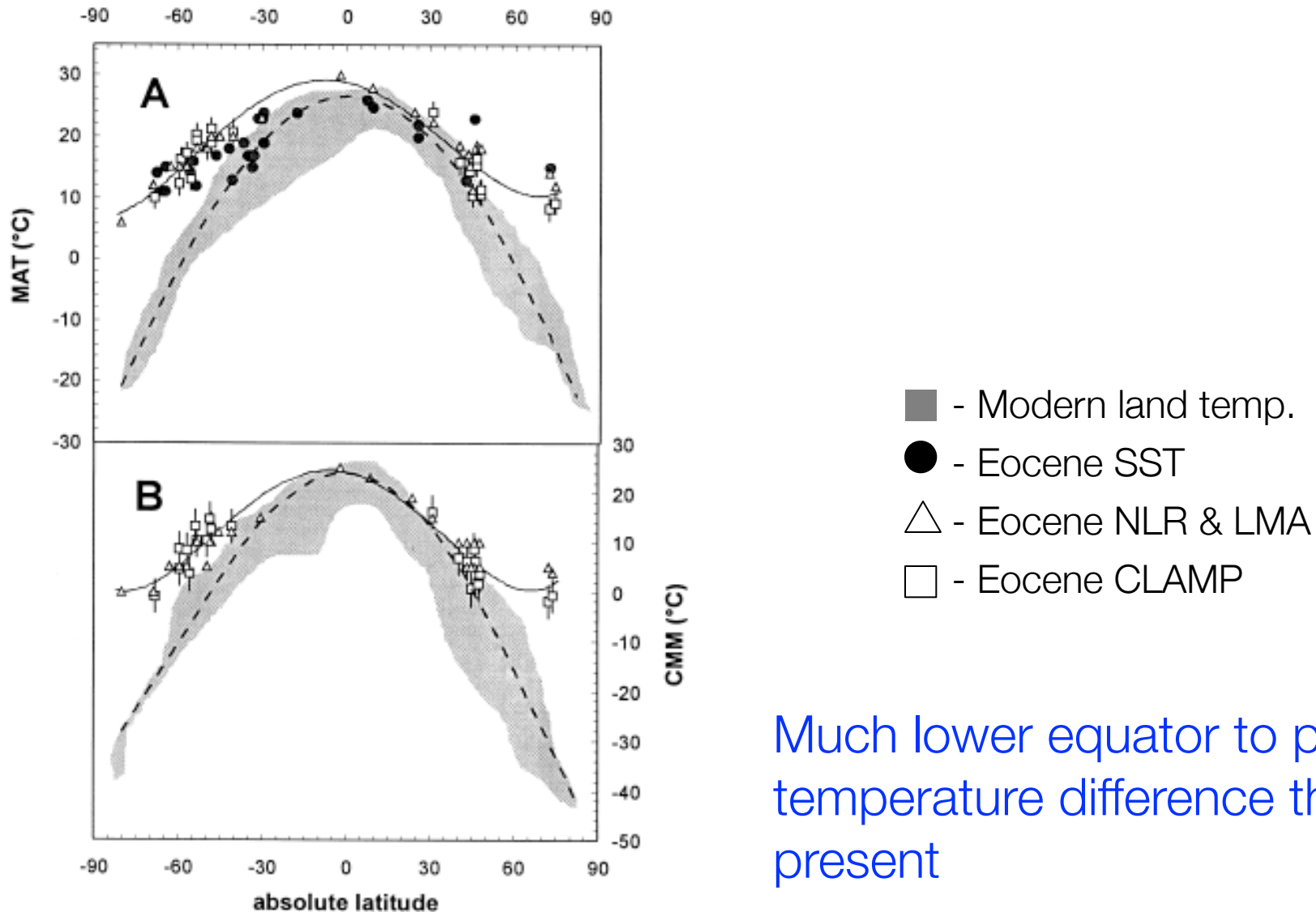
“The physiological basis for the MAT vs. leaf-margin correlation has never been adequately demonstrated.”  
 [Wilf, 1997]

# $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ Temperature reconstruction



[Erez and Luz, 1983]

# Latitudinal temperature distribution

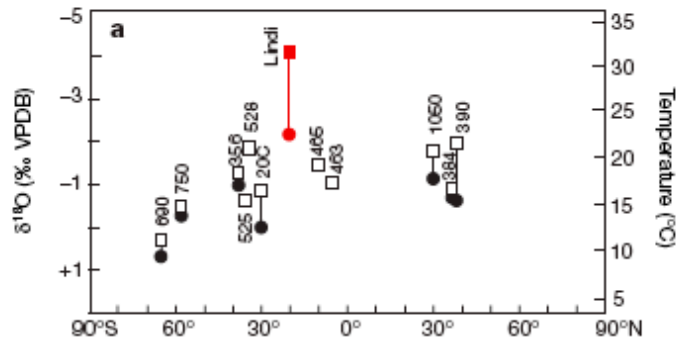


Much lower equator to pole temperature difference than at present

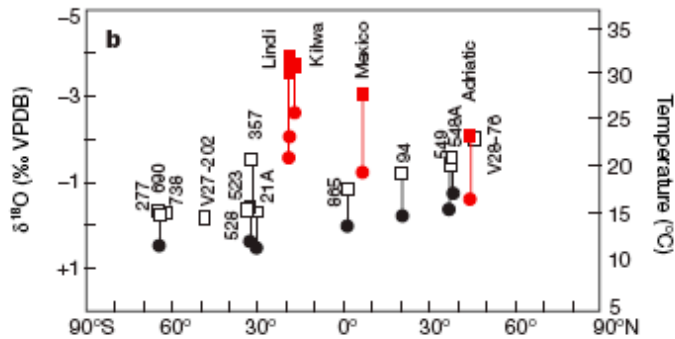
# Re-evaluating planktonic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ Data

Equator during Eocene not as cool as thought initially

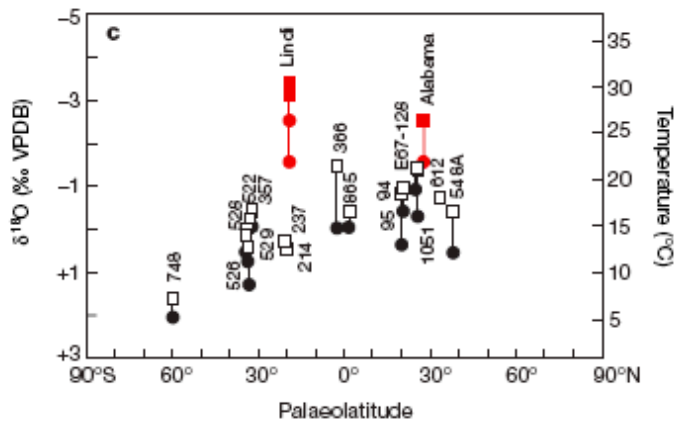
Late Cretaceous



Middle Eocene



Late Eocene



□ - Mixed Layer  
○ - Intermediate  
■ - New  
● - Old

[Pearson et al., 2001]

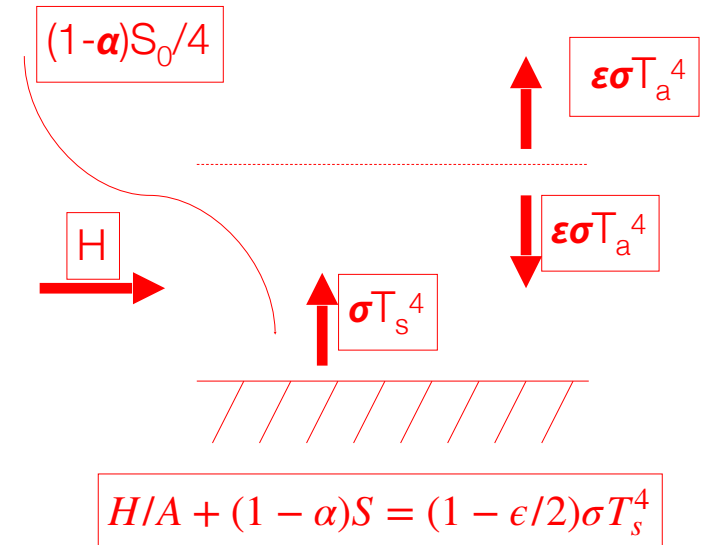
# In-class workshop

Consider an energy balance model for the Arctic:

Modern climate:

S (W/m <sup>2</sup> )	H [PW]	$\epsilon$	$\alpha$
200	3.5	0.60	0.55

A=area north of 60N



- 1) Calculate the Arctic temperature from this energy balance.
- 2) Calculate the changes to the albedo, emissivity, and the mid-latitude heat transport required to increase the high latitude temperature by 20 °C

# Energy balance for the Arctic: Back of the envelope...

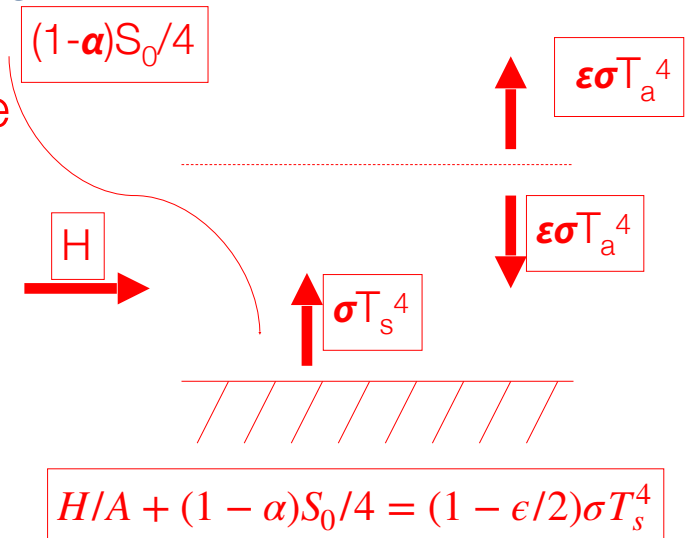


Changes required to reduce equator-to-pole temperature gradient by increasing CO<sub>2</sub> or meridional heat fluxes or albedo or long-wave emissivity (clouds!):

Modern climate:

T [C]	H [PW]	$\epsilon$	$\alpha$
-8.0	3.5	0.60	0.55

Energy-balance model



Changes required to increase high latitude temperature:

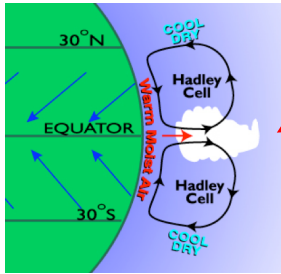
$\Delta T$ [C]	$\Delta H$ [PW]	$\Delta \epsilon$	[CO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>dry</sub> [ppm]	[CO <sub>2</sub> ] <sub>wet</sub> [ppm]	$\Delta \alpha$
<b>10.0</b>	1.1	0.20	X2 <sup>5</sup> ≈9x10 <sup>3</sup>	x2 <sup>2.5</sup> ≈2x10 <sup>3</sup>	-0.15
<b>15.0</b>	1.7	0.28	x2 <sup>7.5</sup> ≈5x10 <sup>4</sup>	x2 <sup>3.75</sup> ≈4x10 <sup>3</sup>	-0.23



# Proposed mechanisms

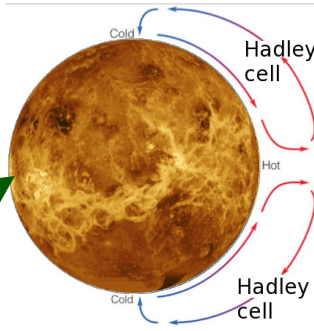
## Equator-to-pole Hadley cell:

(1)



Today

Eocene?  
(Like Venus...)

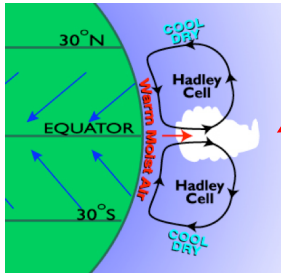


(B. Farrell, 1990)

# Proposed mechanisms

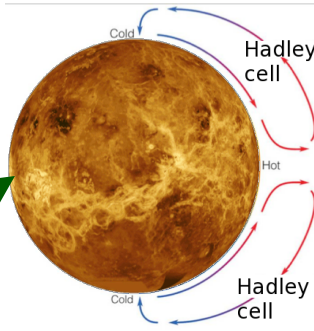
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## Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs, 15-25 km)

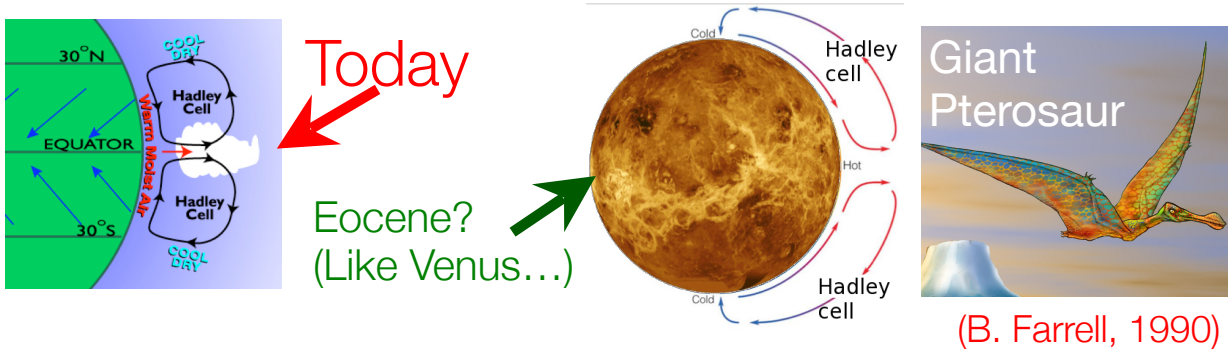
← PSCs at dusk over Arctic Sweden  
due to methane: Sloan 1992;  
weakening Brewer-Dobson circulation:  
Kirk-Davidoff et al. 2002

(2)

# Proposed mechanisms

## Equator-to-pole Hadley cell:

(1)



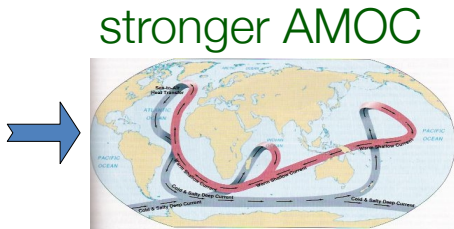
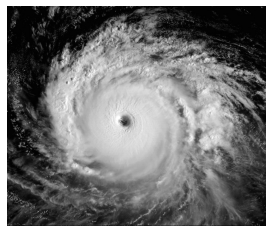
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← PSCs at dusk over Arctic Sweden  
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 weakening Brewer-Dobson circulation:  
 Kirk-Davidoff et al. 2002

(2)

## Stronger hurricanes

(3)



Warmer high latitudes

(K. Emanuel, 2002)

# Proposed mechanisms

Breakup of subtropical stratocumulus cloud decks at high SST

Causing albedo decrease and warming of mid-latitudes

Schneider et al 2019, (Bretherton et al)



**(4)**

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/aerial-view-layer-stratocumulus-clouds-369408491>

# Proposed mechanisms

## Breakup of subtropical stratocumulus cloud decks at high SST



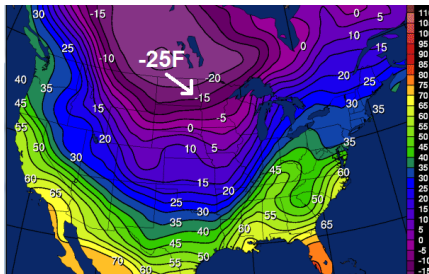
**(4)**

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Schneider et al 2019, (Bretherton et al)

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/aerial-view-layer-stratocumulus-clouds-369408491>

**(5)**



## Arctic air suppression over high latitude land

By low cloud forming due to moisture arriving from over warmer ocean

Cronin & Tziperman 2015

# Proposed mechanisms

## Breakup of subtropical stratocumulus cloud decks at high SST



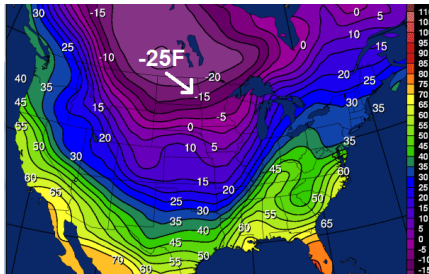
(4)

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(5)



## Arctic air suppression over high latitude land

By low cloud forming due to moisture arriving from over warmer ocean

Cronin & Tziperman 2015

## Arctic convective cloud feedback

wintertime  
deep Arctic  
convection



high cloud  
emissivity/  
greenhouse  
effect

Warmer  
winter Arctic

(6)

Abbot & Tziperman 2008



notes:  
Equator-to-pole Hadley cell

2986

JOURNAL OF THE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

1990

VOL. 47, No. 24

**Equable Climate Dynamics**

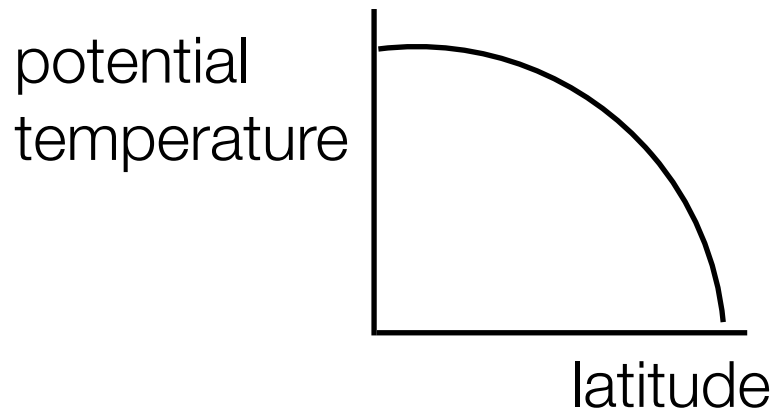
**BRIAN F. FARRELL**

*Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts*



# Equator-to-pole Hadley cell in class workshop

Consider the radiative-convective equilibrium profile:



Draw the profile after the effects of atmospheric heat transport

# In-class workshop

Use angular momentum conservation to calculate the subtropical jet speed at 30N

[www.nasa.gov/images/content/65932main\\_sageii\\_psc\\_640x480.jpg](http://www.nasa.gov/images/content/65932main_sageii_psc_640x480.jpg)



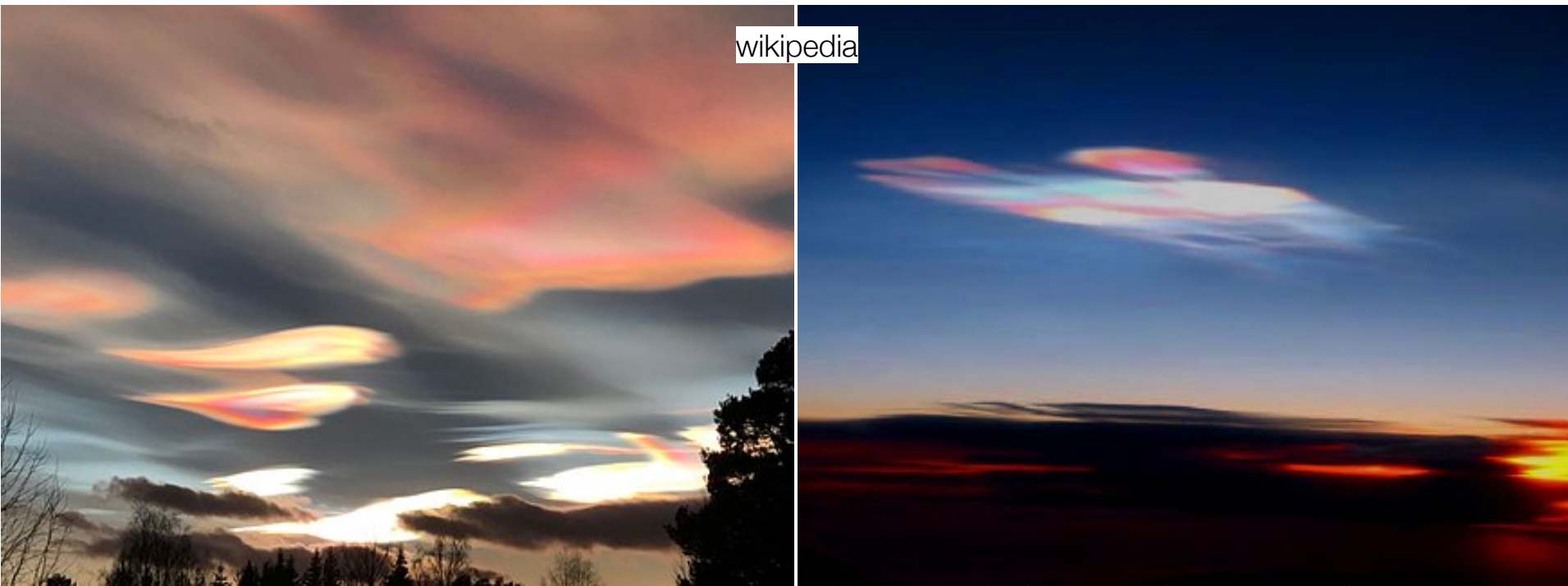
## Polar Stratospheric Clouds (PSCs, 15-25 km)

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weakening Brewer-Dobson circulation:  
Kirk-Davidoff et al. 2002

**(2)**

# Polar stratospheric clouds

PSCs form at very low temperatures, below  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , at 15–30 km height, during winter, in polar areas, within polar stratospheric vortex



PSC, Elverum, Norway.

A type II (water) PSC showing iridescence

Due to their high altitude & Earth [surface curvature](#), PSCs receive sunlight from below the horizon & reflect it to the ground, shining brightly well before [dawn](#) or after [dusk](#)

Composition: water ice, sulfuric acid  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ; nitric acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ )

# Polar stratospheric clouds in equable climate 1.0

## Possible methane-induced polar warming in the early Eocene

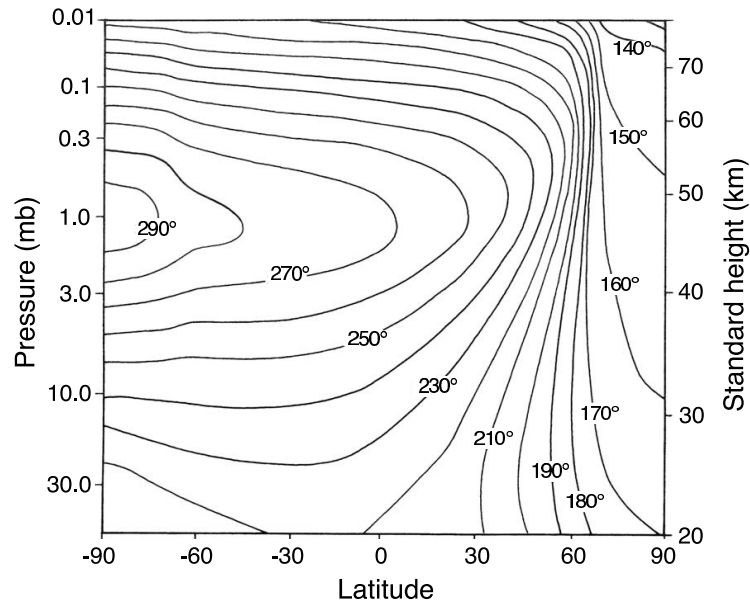
**L. Cirbus Sloan, James C. G. Walker, T. C. Moore Jr,  
David K. Rea & James C. Zachos 1992**

The proposed feedback:

warmer climate

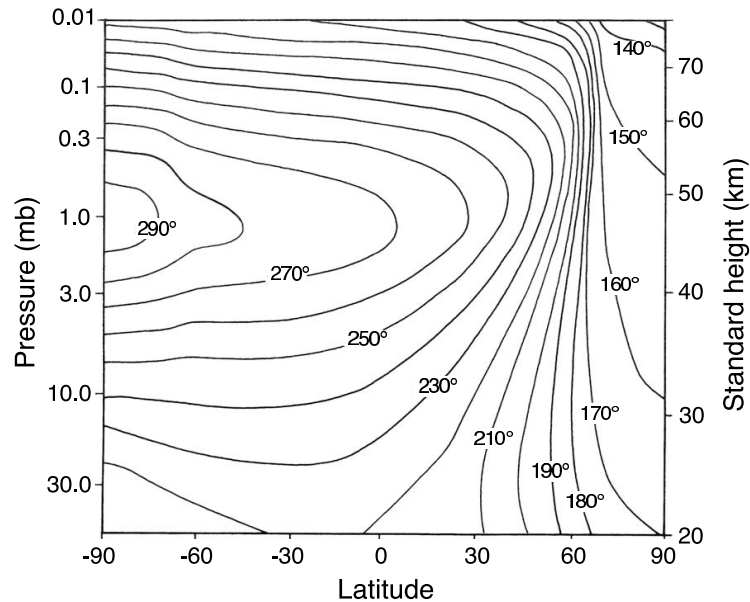
- ➔ higher methane  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions by anaerobic bacteria from swamps
- ➔ greenhouse effect in the troposphere & — unlike water — able to make it to the stratosphere (liquid only at  $-161.5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  at 1 atm)
- ➔ oxidizes into  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{CH}_4 + 2\text{O}_2 = \text{CO}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
- ➔  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  forms PSCs
- ➔ further warms the poles.

# PSCs: stratospheric temperature & circulation

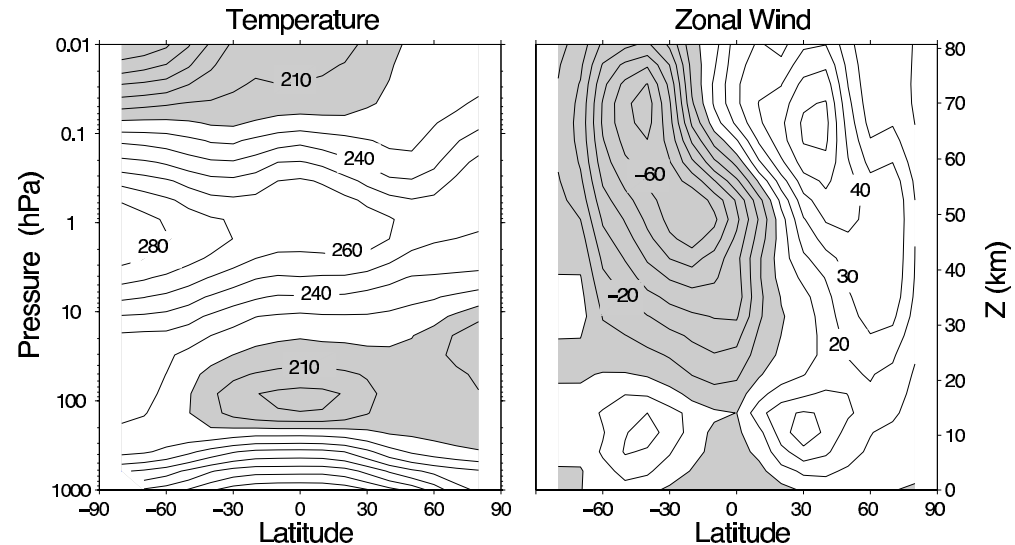


**Fig. 13.11** The zonally-averaged radiative-equilibrium temperature in in January. The downwards solar radiation at the top of the atmosphere is given, and the upwards radiative flux into the stratosphere is based on observed properties, including temperature, of the troposphere.<sup>18</sup>

# PSCs: stratospheric temperature & circulation

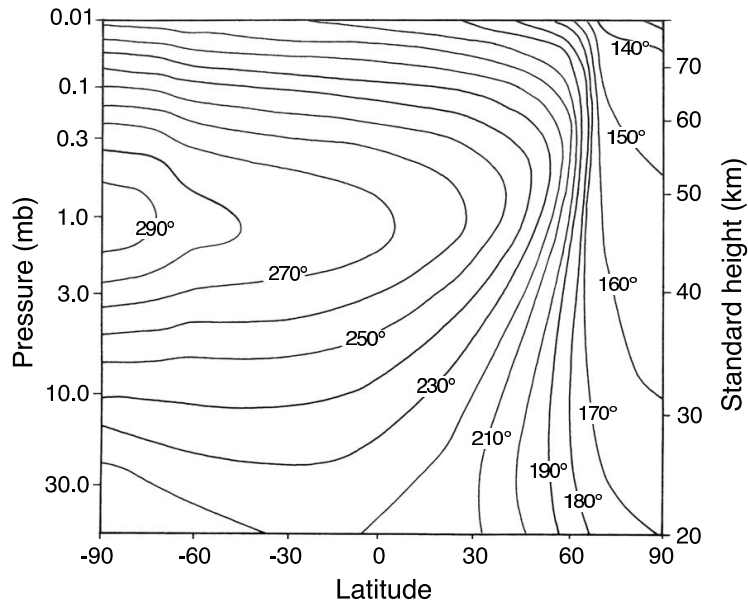


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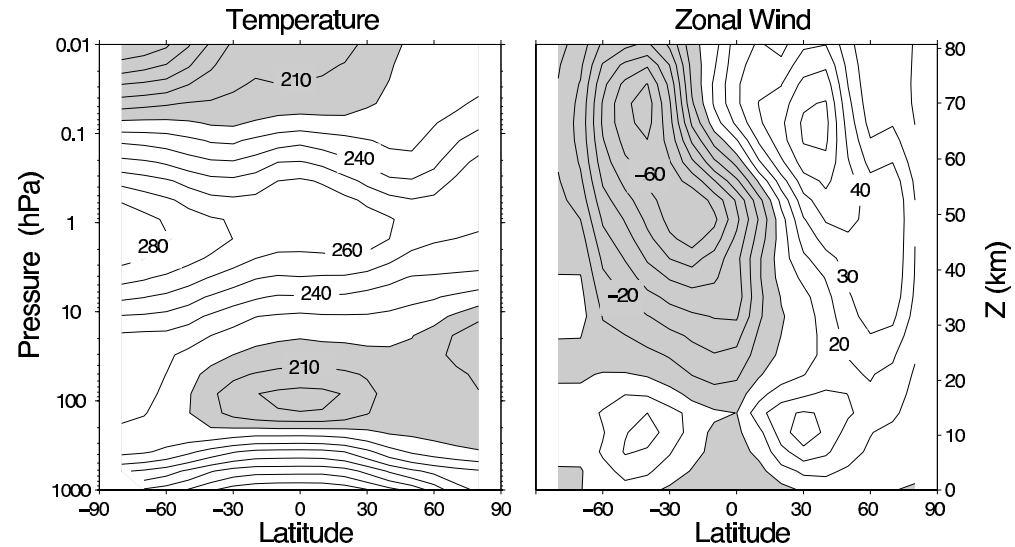


**Fig. 13.12** The zonally averaged temperature and zonal wind in January. Temperature contour interval is 10 K, and values less than 220 K are shaded. Zonal wind contours are 10  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  and negative (westward) values are shaded.<sup>19</sup>

# PSCs: stratospheric temperature & circulation

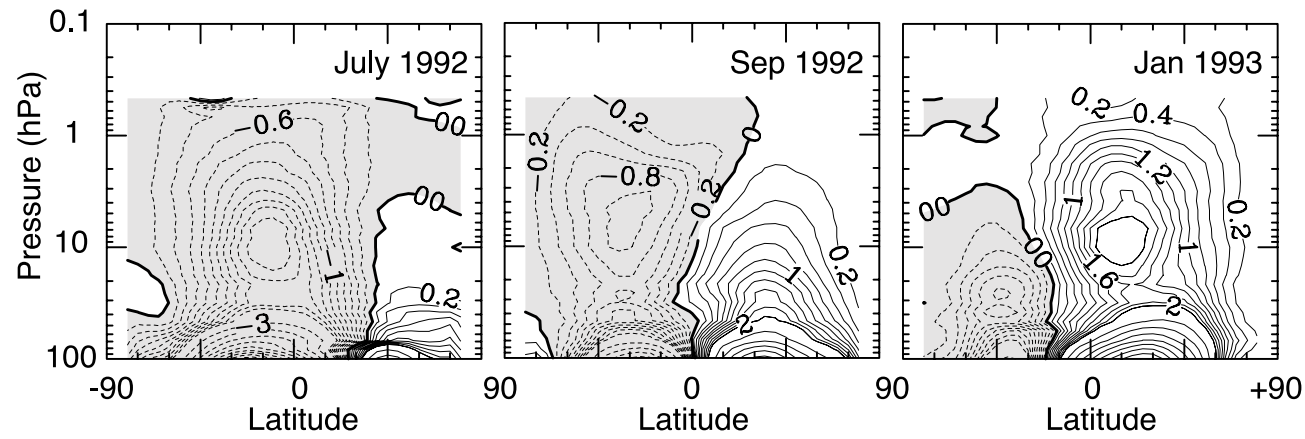


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## Brewer Dobson circulation



**Fig. 13.13** The observed mass-weighted streamfunction in the stratosphere, in Sverdrups ( $10^9 \text{ kg s}^{-1}$ ). The circulation is clockwise where the contours are solid. Note the stronger circulation in the winter hemispheres, whereas the equinoctial circulation (September) is more inter-hemispherically symmetric.<sup>21</sup>



# Polar stratospheric clouds in equable climate 2.0

## On the feedback of stratospheric clouds on polar climate

Daniel B. Kirk-Davidoff, Daniel P. Schrag, and James G. Anderson    **2002**

The propose feedback:

warmer climate,

- ➔ warmer troposphere in polar areas
- ➔ lower equator-to-pole temperature difference
- ➔ weaker mid-latitude weather systems
- ➔ weaker wave propagation into the stratosphere
- ➔ weaker Brewer-Dobson circulation
- ➔ colder poles in Stratosphere
- ➔ more PSC
- ➔ warmer troposphere in polar areas

# Polar stratospheric clouds: TEM and B-D circulation

$$q = \beta y + \left[ \nabla^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{f_0^2}{N^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \right] \psi.$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + J(\psi, q) = 0, \quad \zeta = \nabla^2 \psi, \quad b = f_0 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z},$$

**Understanding the driving of  
the B-D circulation by wave flux**

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$$\overline{v'q'} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \overline{u'v'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{f_0}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \right)$$

**Understanding the driving of  
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$$\mathcal{F} \equiv -\overline{u'v'} \mathbf{j} + \frac{f_0}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \mathbf{k}$$

$$\overline{v'q'} = \nabla_x \cdot \mathcal{F},$$

Eliaassen-Palm  
flux

Understanding the driving of  
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# Polar stratospheric clouds: TEM and B-D circulation

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← Eliassen-Palm flux

$$\overline{v}^* = \overline{v} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{1}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \right)$$

$$\overline{w}^* = \overline{w} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{1}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \right)$$

Understanding the driving of the B-D circulation by wave flux

# Polar stratospheric clouds: TEM and B-D circulation

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$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + J(\psi, q) = 0, \quad \zeta = \nabla^2 \psi, \quad b = f_0 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z},$$

$$\frac{\partial b}{\partial t} + J(\psi, b) + w N^2 = J,$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{v}^*}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \bar{w}^*}{\partial z} = 0.$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} = f_0 \bar{v}^* + \overline{v'q'} + \bar{F}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial t} = -N^2 \bar{w}^* + \bar{J}$$

$$\overline{v'q'} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \overline{u'v'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{f_0}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{F} \equiv -\overline{u'v'} \mathbf{j} + \frac{f_0}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \mathbf{k}$$

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Understanding the driving of the B-D circulation by wave flux

# Polar stratospheric clouds: TEM and B-D circulation

$$q = \beta y + \left[ \nabla^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{f_0^2}{N^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \right] \psi.$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + J(\psi, q) = 0, \quad \zeta = \nabla^2 \psi, \quad b = f_0 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z},$$

$$\frac{\partial b}{\partial t} + J(\psi, b) + w N^2 = J,$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{v}^*}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \bar{w}^*}{\partial z} = 0.$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{v}}{\partial t} = f_0 \bar{v}^* + \overline{v'q'} + \bar{F}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial t} = -N^2 \bar{w}^* + \bar{J}$$

$$\overline{v'q'} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \overline{u'v'} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{f_0}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{F} \equiv -\overline{u'v'} \mathbf{j} + \frac{f_0}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \mathbf{k}$$

$$\overline{v'q'} = \nabla_x \cdot \mathcal{F}, \quad \leftarrow \text{Eliassen-Palm flux}$$

$$\bar{v}^* = \bar{v} - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{1}{N^2} \overline{v'b'} \right)$$

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**Understanding the driving of the B-D circulation by wave flux**



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wave forcing

$$-f_0 \overline{v}^* \approx \overline{v'q'}, > 0$$

**Understanding the driving of the B-D circulation by wave flux**

# Polar stratospheric clouds: TEM and B-D circulation

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wave forcing

$$-f_0 \bar{v}^* \approx \overline{v'q'}, > 0$$

Eddy  $q'$  flux is down gradient,  $d\bar{q}/dy \approx \beta > 0$ , which means equatorward:  $\overline{v'q'} < 0$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{v}^* > 0$$

poleward B-D circulation

Eliassen-Palm flux

**Understanding the driving of the B-D circulation by wave flux**

## In-class workshop

$$q = \beta y + \left[ \nabla^2 + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{f_0^2}{N^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \right] \psi. \quad \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} = f_0 \bar{v}^* + \overline{v'q'} + \bar{F}$$

given the above, and the fact that the eddy flux of PV is from high to low values of  $\bar{q}$  because it is a conserved quantity, what is the direction of the Brewer-Dobson circulation

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given the above, and the fact that the eddy flux of PV is from high to low values of  $\bar{q}$  because it is a conserved quantity, what is the direction of the Brewer-Dobson circulation

Considering more carefully vertical wave propagation  
in equable climate (Korty and Emanuel)

# Polar stratospheric clouds: vertical wave propagation

$$q = \nabla^2 \psi + f + \frac{f_0^2}{\rho_R} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{\rho_R}{N^2} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \right) \quad \text{surface b.c } w = \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla h_b$$

$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + J(\psi, q) = 0, \quad \zeta = \nabla^2 \psi, \quad \psi' = \text{Re } \tilde{\psi}(z) \sin ly e^{ik(x-ct)},$$

$$\rho_R = \rho_0 e^{-z/H}$$

$$\psi = -\bar{u}(z)y + \psi',$$

$$\left[ \frac{f_0^2}{\rho_R} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{\rho_R}{N^2} \frac{\partial \tilde{\psi}}{\partial z} \right) \right] = \tilde{\psi} \left( K^2 - \frac{\partial \bar{q} / \partial y}{\bar{u} - c} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial q'}{\partial t} + \bar{u} \frac{\partial q'}{\partial x} + v' \frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial y} = 0,$$

Assume constant  $\bar{u}, N^2$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial y} = \beta - \frac{f_0^2}{\rho_R} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{\rho_R}{N^2} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\Phi(z) = \tilde{\psi}(z) \left( \frac{\rho_R}{\rho_R(0)} \right)^{1/2} = \tilde{\psi}(z) e^{-z/2H}$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \bar{u} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \left[ \nabla^2 \psi' + \frac{f_0^2}{\rho_R} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{\rho_R}{N^2} \frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial z} \right) \right]$$

$$+ \frac{\partial \psi'}{\partial x} \left[ \beta - \frac{f_0^2}{\rho_R} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{\rho_R}{N^2} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial z} \right) \right] = 0.$$

# vertical propagation in class workshop

Consider the equation

$$\frac{d^2 \Phi}{dz^2} + m^2 \Phi = 0,$$

$$m^2 = \frac{N^2}{f_0^2} \left( \frac{\beta}{\bar{u} - c} - K^2 - \gamma^2 \right),$$

$$\gamma^2 = f_0^2 / (4N^2 H^2) = 1 / (2L_d)^2$$

- A. Analytically: for what values of  $\bar{u}$  do we expect vertical propagation, assuming stationary waves ( $\omega = 0$ )
- B. Suppose  $N = 2 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ;  $H = 7 \text{ km}$ , and  $\bar{u} = 40 \text{ m/s}$ ,  $f_0$  at  $60\text{N}$ . what values of  $k$  propagate? We want that in units of  $n$ , where  $n = kL_x / 2\pi$  and  $L_x$  is the length of the equator.

# Polar stratospheric clouds: vertical wave propagation

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vertical propagation: if  $m^2 > 0$

Vallis AOFD



# Polar stratospheric clouds: vertical wave propagation

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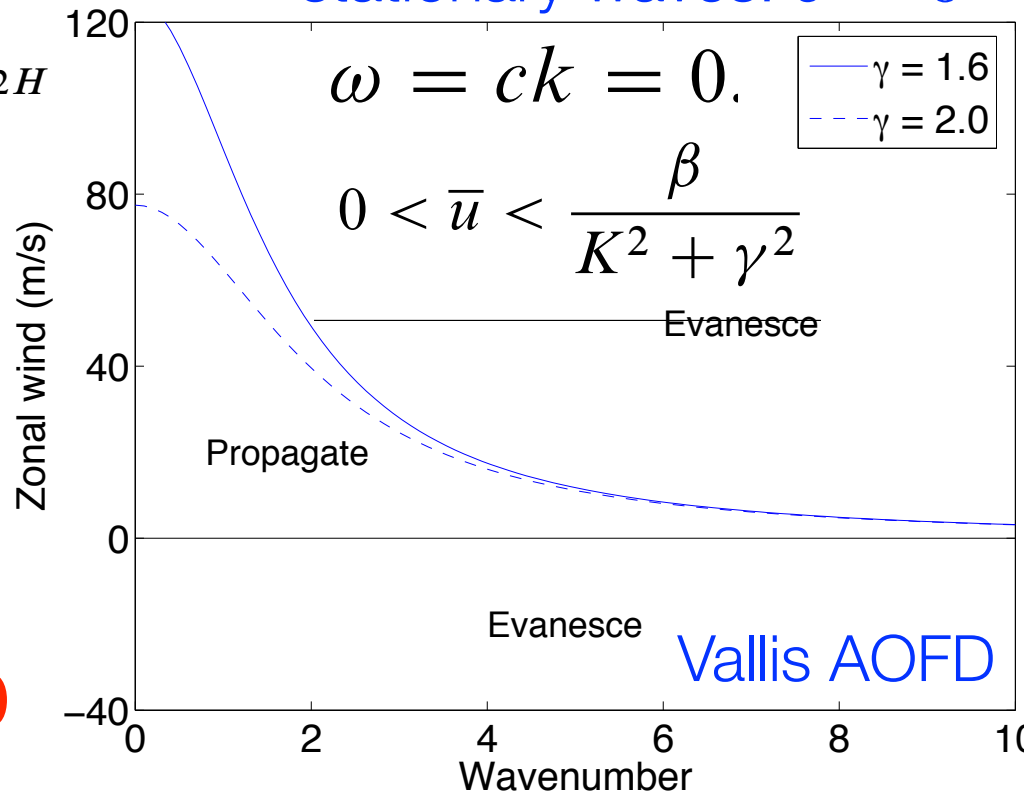
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vertical propagation: if  $m^2 > 0$

stationary waves:  $c = 0$



**Figure 13.7** The boundary between propagating and evanescent waves as a function of zonal wind & wavenumber, using (13.61), for  $N=2 \times 10^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $\gamma = 1.6$  ( $\gamma = 2$ ) corresponding to a scale height of 7 km (5.5 km); deformation radius  $NH/f$  of 1,400 km (1,100 km).

# PSCs: surprising wave propagation into stratosphere in equable climate

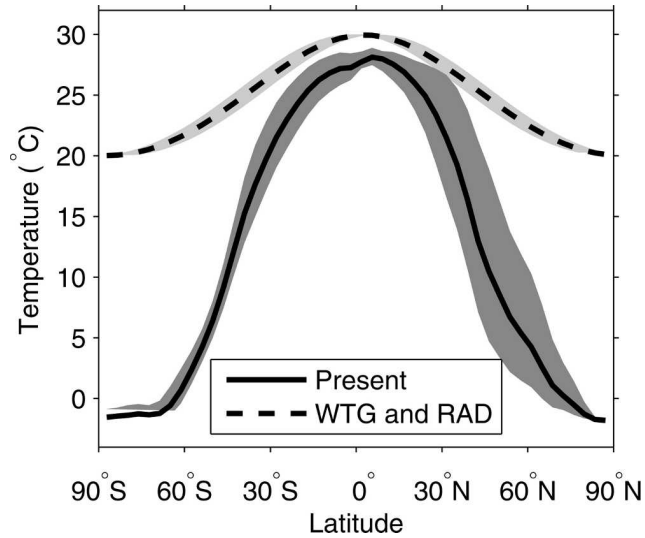
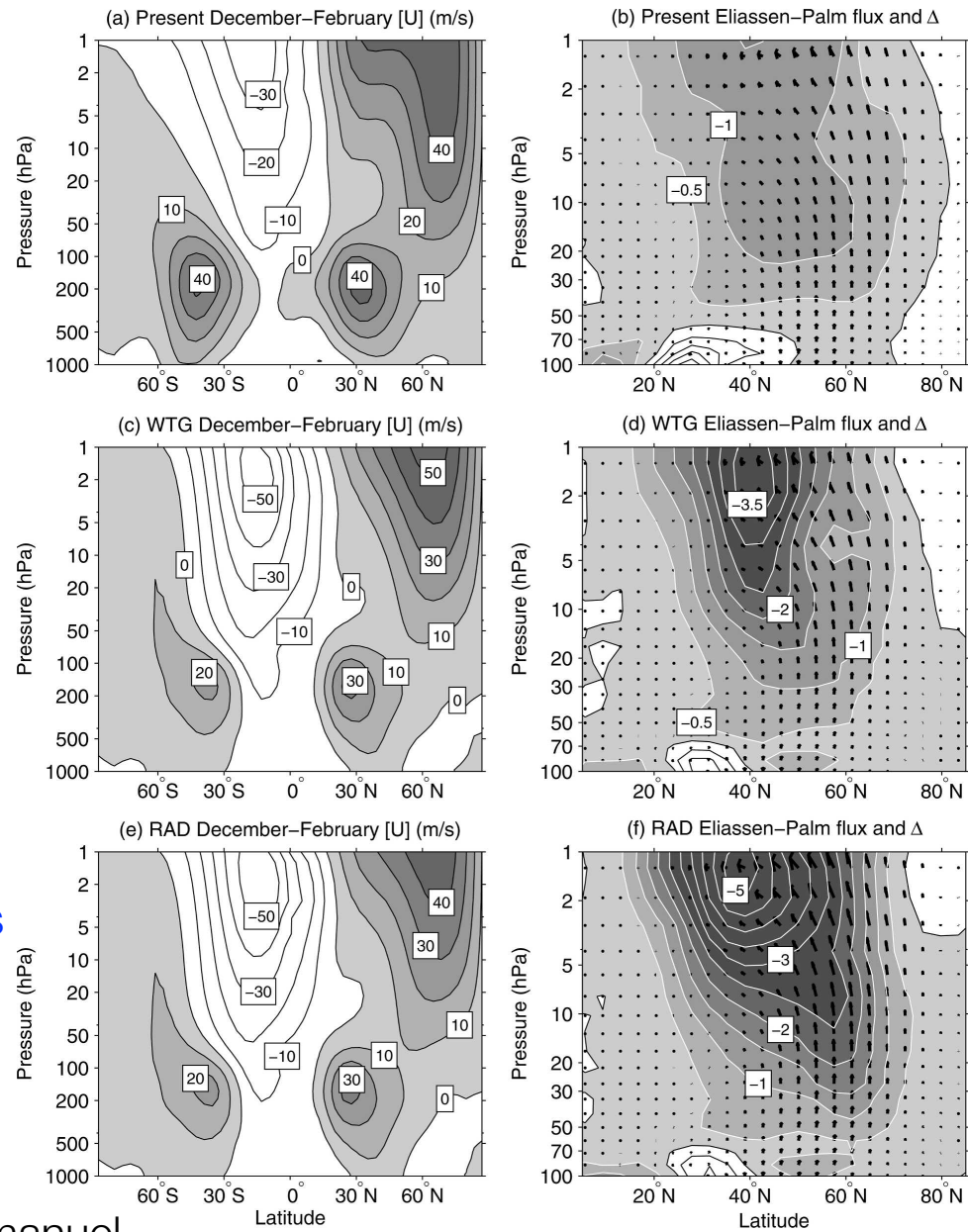


FIG. 1. Zonal- & annual-mean SSTs prescribed in the simulations. Gray bands show temporal range of zonal mean SST.

**3 runs:** present-day, WTG with present-day  $\text{CO}_2$ , WTG with high  $\text{CO}_2$  (RAD)

FIG. 3. (a) Zonal-mean zonal wind averaged over the last 5 DJF of Present; westerly winds are shaded. (b) EP (arrows) & its divergence  $\Delta$  (contours) in Northern Hemisphere stratosphere @ Present;  $\Delta$  units:  $10^{15} \text{ m}^3$ . As in (a), (b) but for (c), (d) WTG and (e), (f) RAD.



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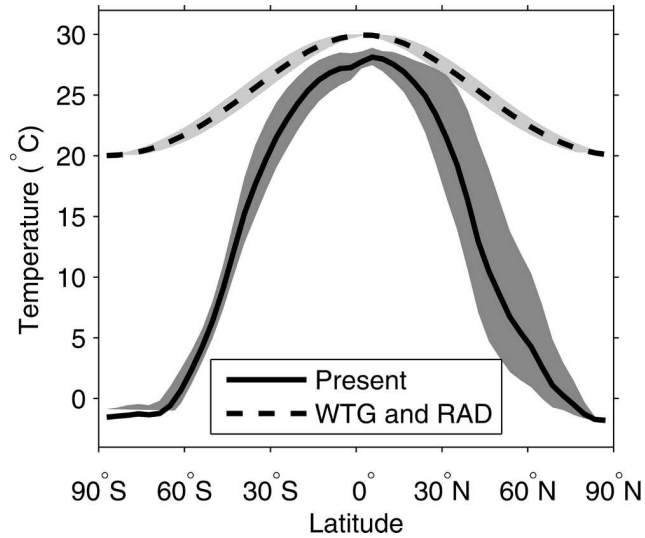
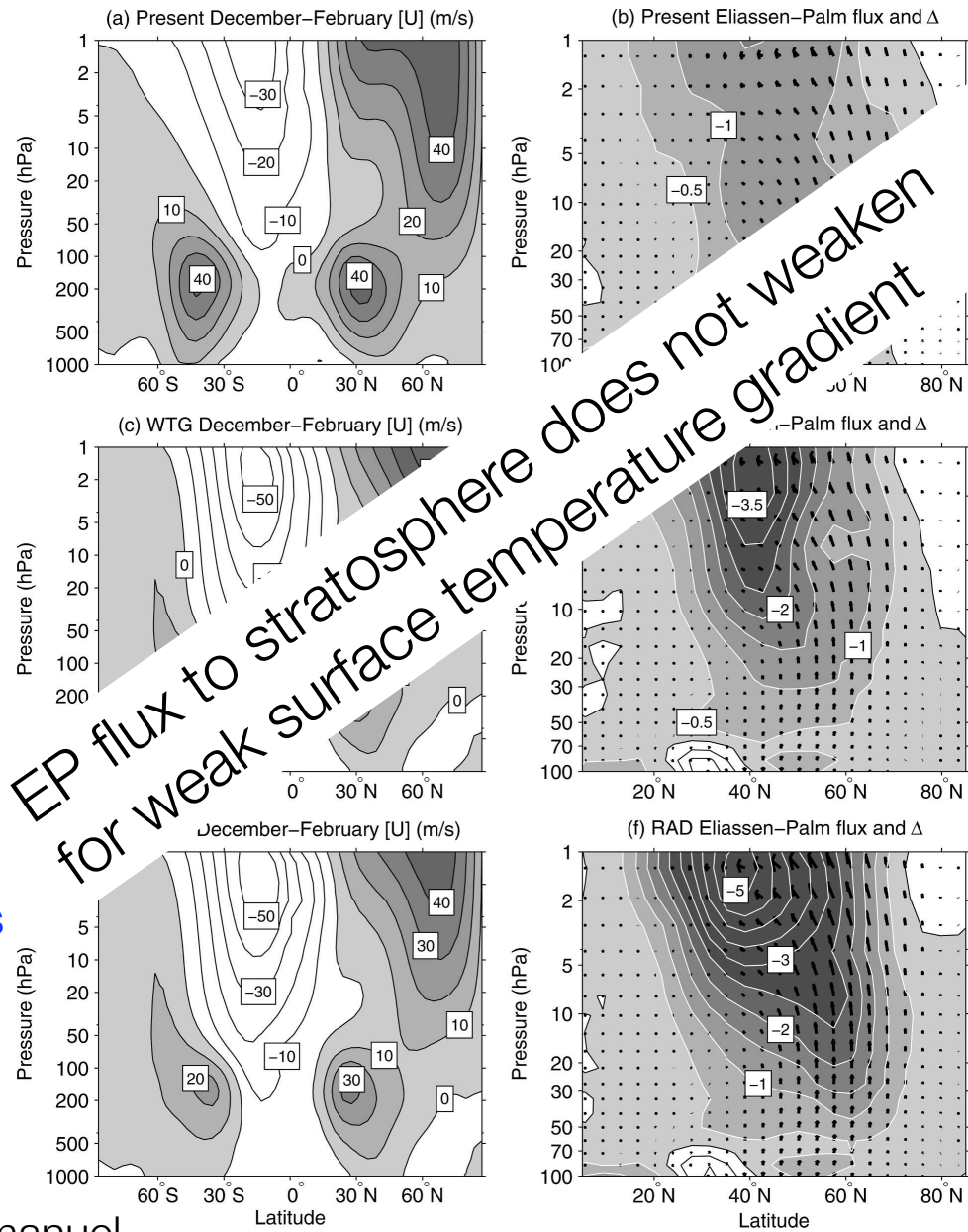


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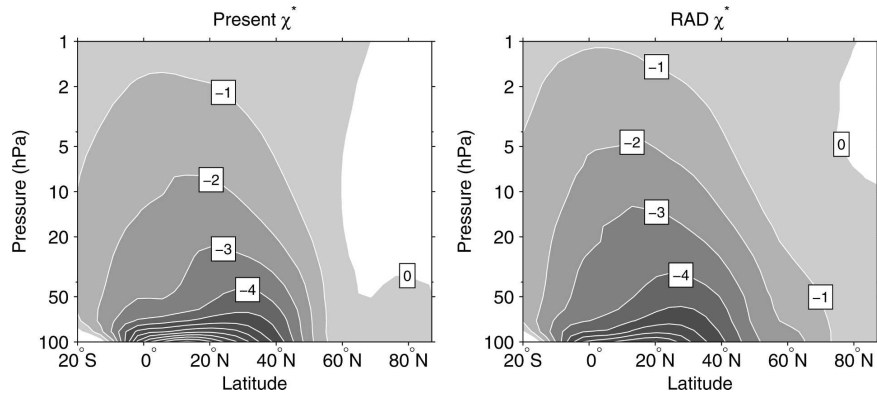
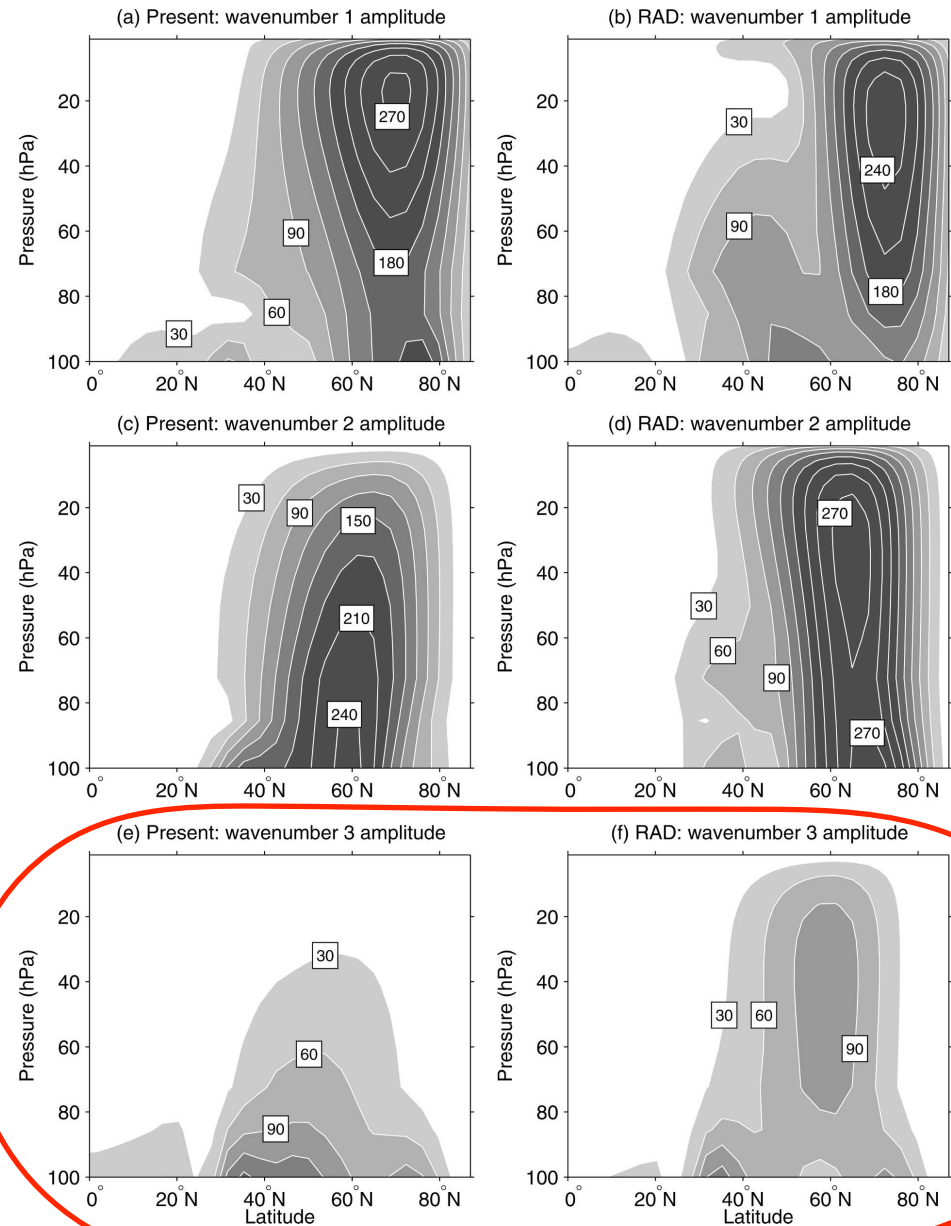


FIG. 5. The residual mean circulation in the stratosphere for (a) Present and (b) RAD. The flow circulates clockwise around negative contours. Contours are plotted and labeled every  $10^9 \text{ kg s}^{-1}$ .

FIG. 4. Amplitude of wavenumber 1 (normalized by  $\sqrt{p/p_0}$  to compensate for increasing amplitudes with decreasing density) in (a) Present; (b) RAD from data averaged over last five DJFs; units=m. As in (a), (b) but for (c), (d) wavenumber 2 and (e), (f) wavenumber 3.



# PSCs: surprising wave propagation into stratosphere in equable climate

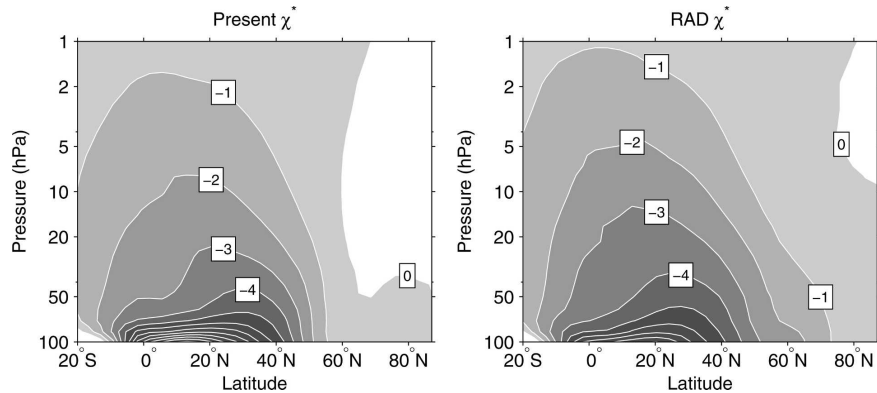
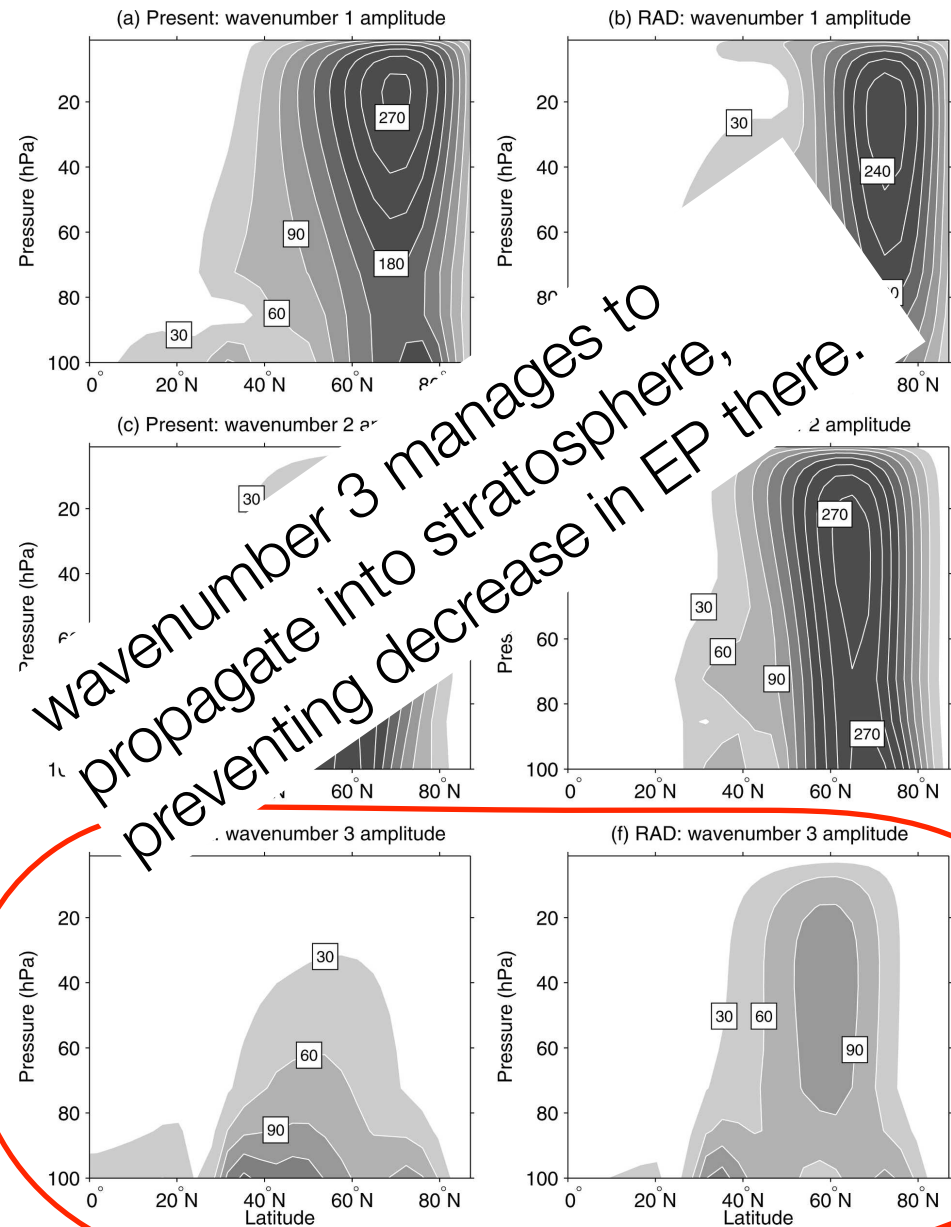


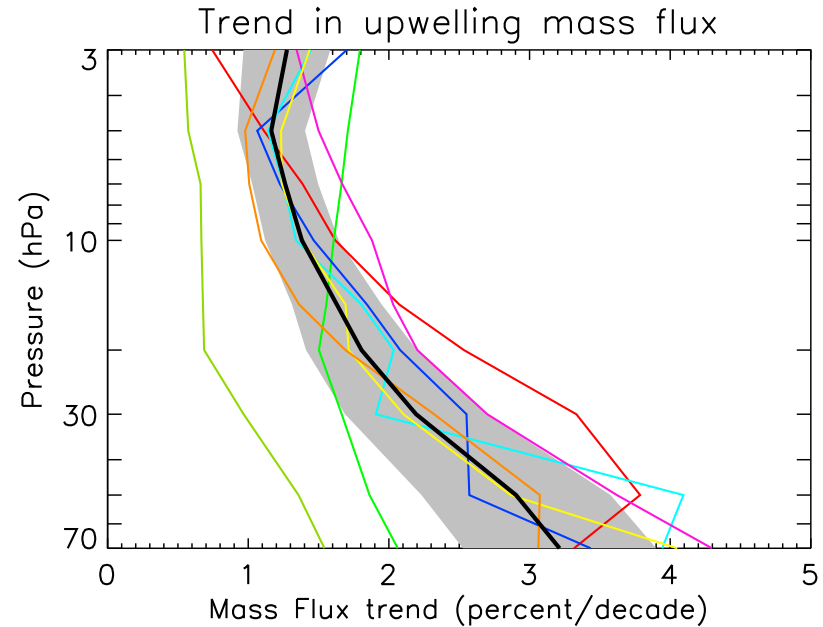
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## Brewer-Dobson circ. projected to **strengthen** in a future warmer climate

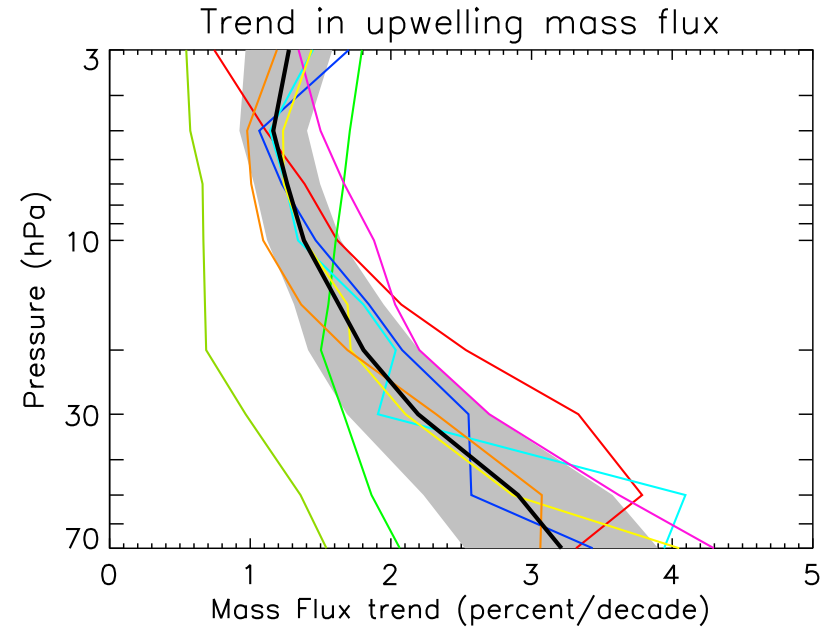
Figure 8. Projected trends in tropical upwelling in percent per decade based on a linear fit to the years 2006–2009 from RCP8.5 scenario simulations of eight stratosphere-resolving GCMs. The black line is the multi-model mean with the shading showing the inter-model standard error, scaled to represent a 95% confidence interval.



- Changes in the Brewer-Dobson circulation are mainly a response to the tropospheric warming, including the concomitant SST changes, and not the direct radiative effect of increasing GHG amounts cooling the stratosphere.

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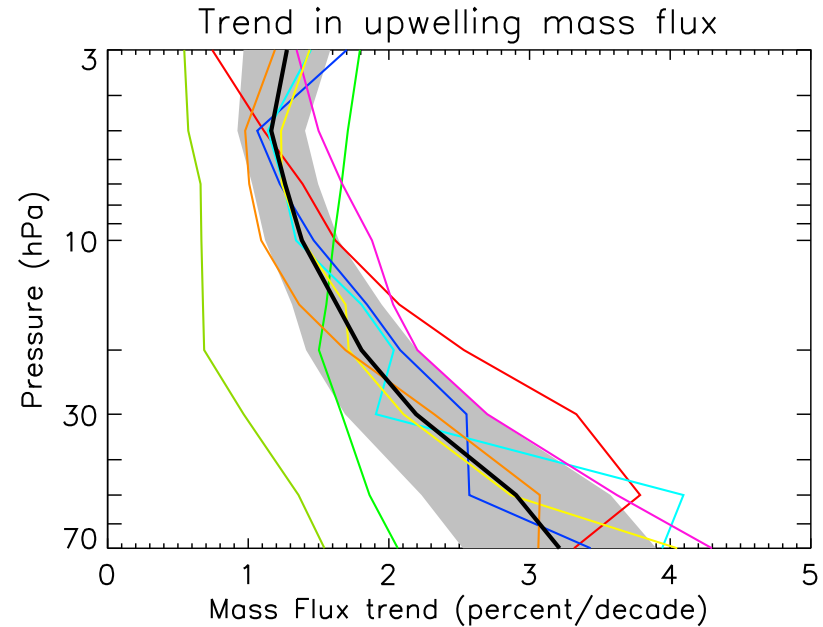
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1. Changes in the Brewer-Dobson circulation are mainly a response to the tropospheric warming, including the concomitant SST changes, and not the direct radiative effect of increasing GHG amounts cooling the stratosphere.
2. Both resolved & parameterized unresolved gravity waves drive a stronger BD circulation in RCP-type model projections.

## Brewer-Dobson circ. projected to **strengthen** in a future warmer climate

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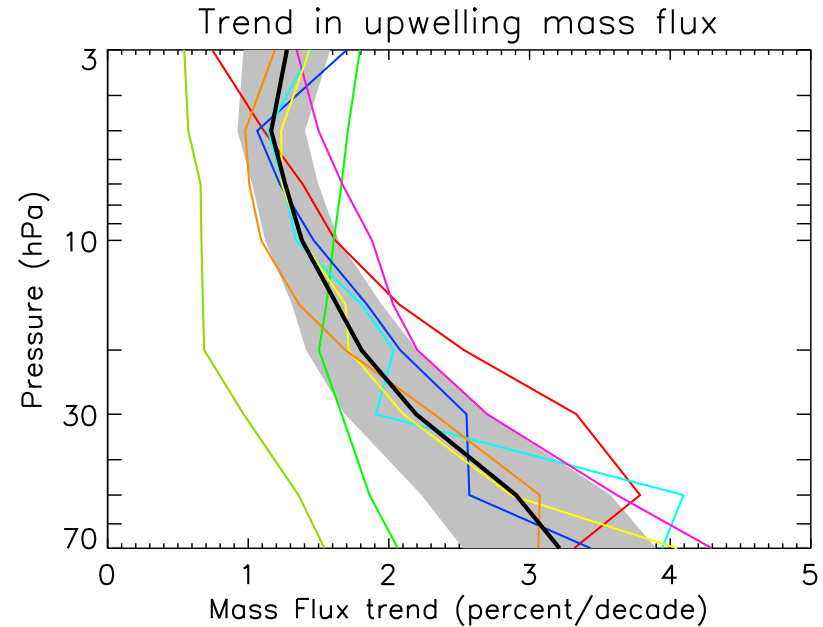


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3. Currently, there is no consensus on the mechanism of the increase in stratospheric wave drag from resolved planetary & synoptic-scale Rossby waves.
4. The mechanism may be related to a shift in critical layer where wave breaking occurs, due to eastward acceleration & upward movement of the subtropical jets

# Summary of obstacles for Polar Stratospheric Clouds dynamical feedback idea

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- Also: future warm climate projections show a strengthening of the Brewer-Dobson circulation.

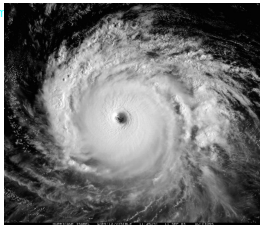
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- The reason is that wavenumber #3 may be able to propagate vertically
- ➔ B-D circulation would then not weaken.
- Also: future warm climate projections show a strengthening of the Brewer-Dobson circulation.
- ➔ Dynamical feedback that was proposed to cool the Arctic polar stratosphere and allow PSCs to develop is running into difficulties.

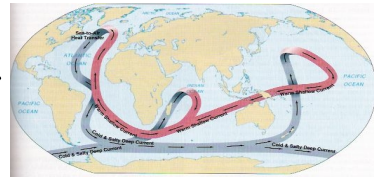
Stronger hurricanes

[www.nasa.gov/images/content/65932n](http://www.nasa.gov/images/content/65932n)

**(3)**



stronger AMOC



Warmer high latitudes

(K. Emanuel, 2002)



# Hurricanes and ocean mixing

The proposed feedback:

warmer climate, stronger Hurricanes

- ➔ stronger internal waves forced at the ocean surface
- ➔ propagate into deep ocean interior and break
- ➔ stronger deep ocean diapycnal mixing
- ➔ Stronger meridional overturning circulation
- ➔ Higher meridional heat flux into arctic
- ➔ Warmer Arctic, tropics warm less due to high CO<sub>2</sub>

notes

Potential intensity:

Estimating hurricane strength from SST

# Hurricanes and ocean mixing

## Entropy reminder

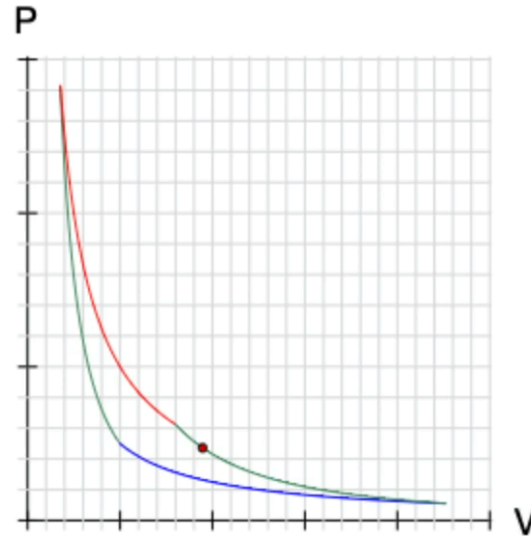
Consider a container with fluid, divided into two equal parts with temperatures  $T_H > T_C$ . Removing the divider, the temperature will eventually be homogenized to  $(T_C + T_H)/2$ . During the process, the infinitesimal change in entropy due to the transfer of an infinitesimal amount of heat  $dQ > 0$  between the two systems leads to a gain  $dQ$  for the cold system and a loss of  $dQ$  for the hot system (gain of  $-dQ$ ); thus the entropy change is

$$dS = \frac{dQ}{T_C} + \frac{-dQ}{T_H} = dQ \frac{T_H - T_C}{T_H T_C} > 0.$$

so the increase in entropy is because temperature flows from the hot reservoir to the cold one.

# Hurricanes and ocean mixing

notes: Carnot engine



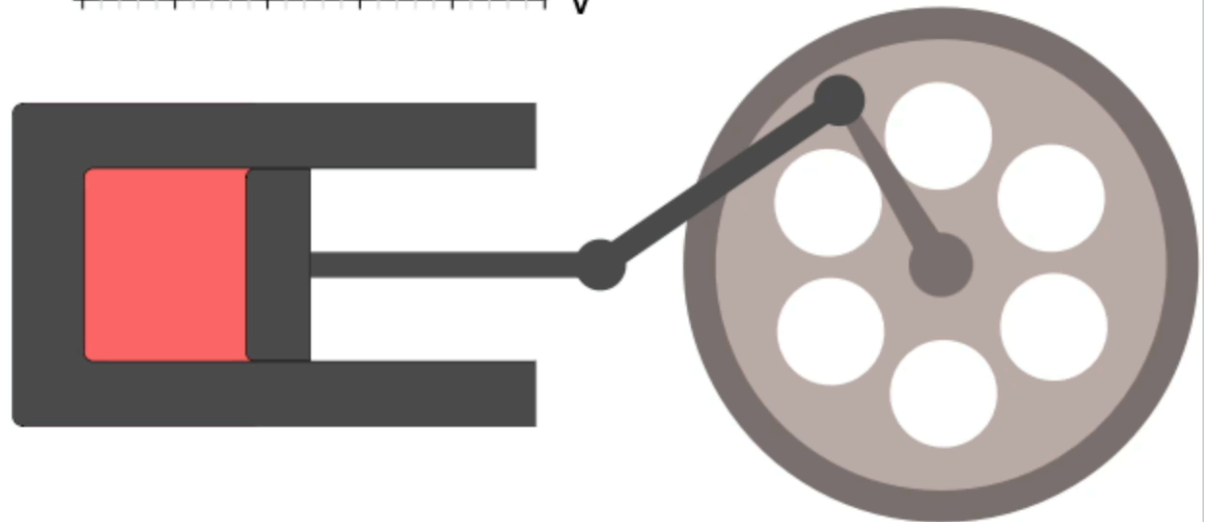
Isothermal Expansion

Adiabatic Expansion

Isothermal Compression

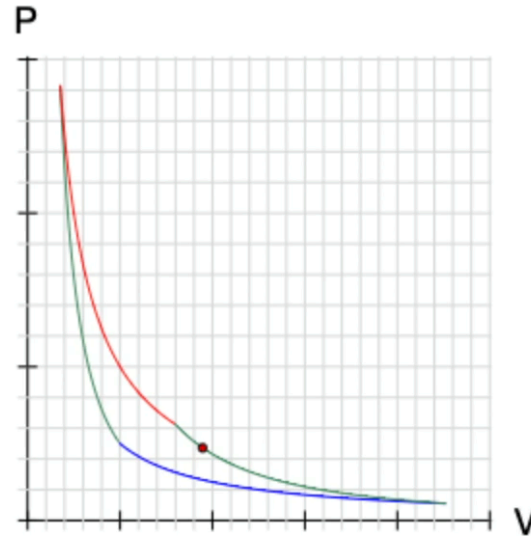
Adiabatic Compression

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# Hurricanes and ocean mixing

notes: Carnot engine



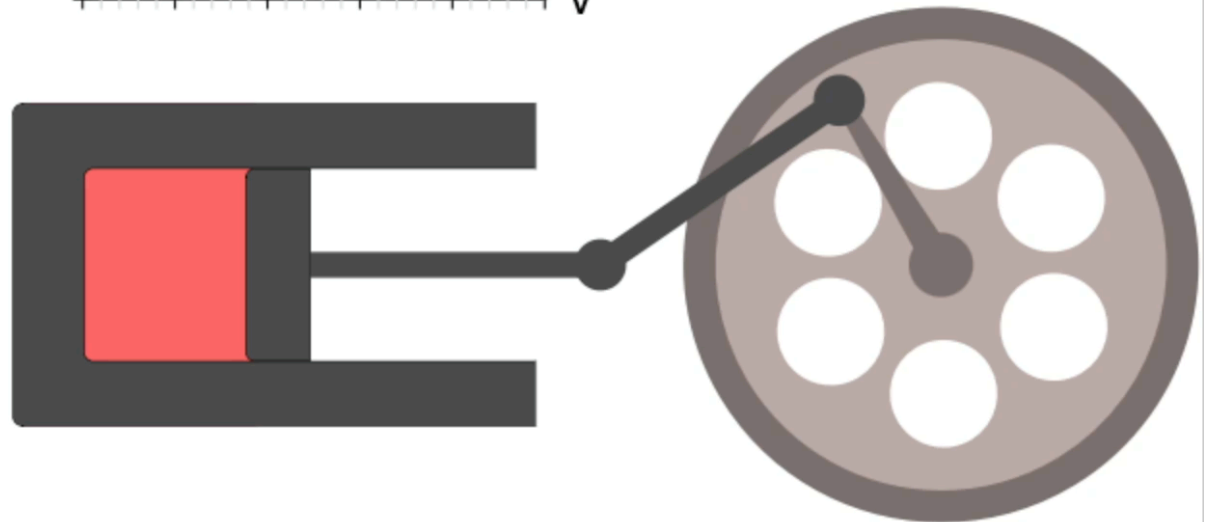
Isothermal Expansion

Adiabatic Expansion

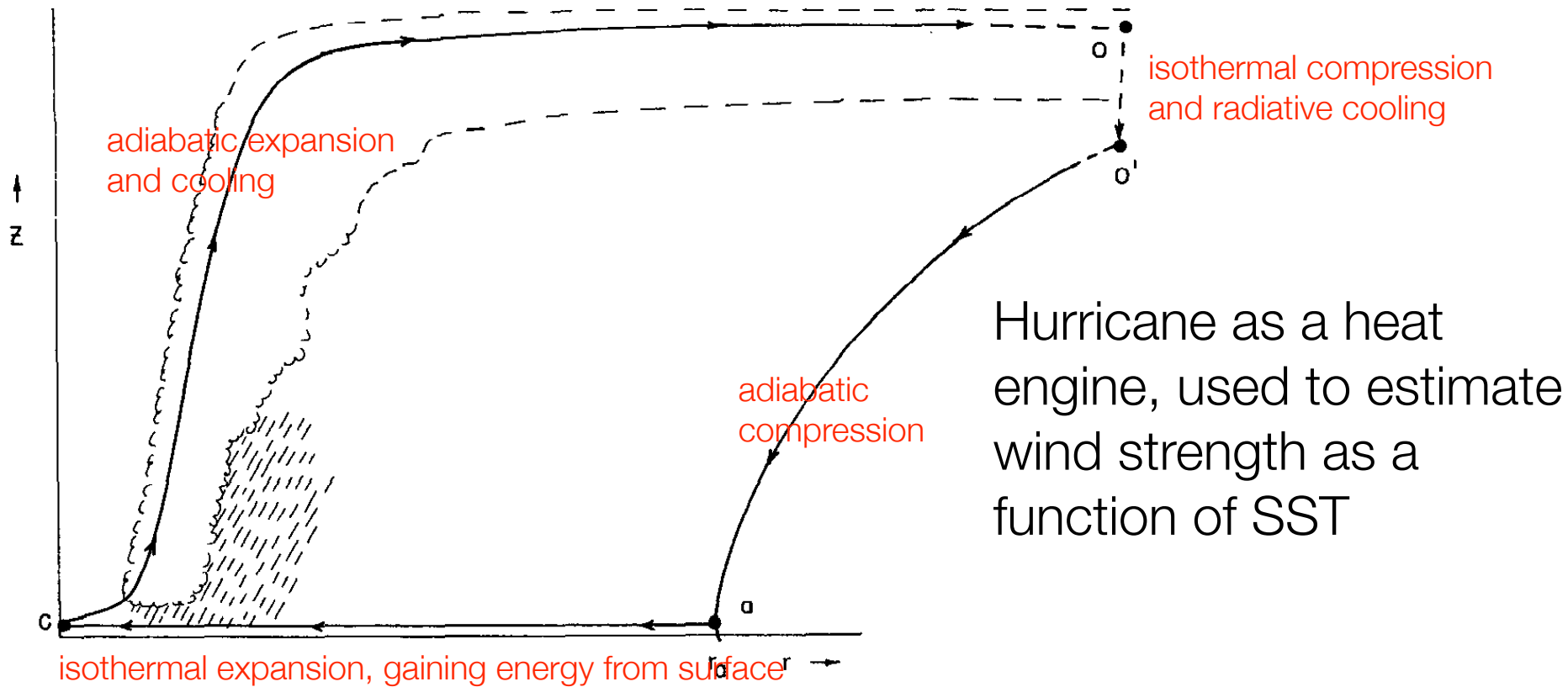
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# Hurricanes and ocean mixing



*Figure 1* The hurricane Carnot cycle. Air begins spiraling in toward the storm center at point  $a$ , acquiring entropy from the ocean surface at fixed temperature  $T$ . It then ascends adiabatically from point  $c$ , flowing out near the storm top to some large radius, denoted symbolically by point  $o$ . The excess entropy is lost by export or by electromagnetic to space between  $o$  and  $o'$  at a much lower temperature  $T_o$ . The cycle is closed by integrating along an absolute vortex line between  $o'$  and  $a$ . The curves  $c-o$  and  $o'-a$  also represent surfaces of constant absolute angular momentum about the storm's axis.

# Efficiency of a Carnot cycle

The first law of thermodynamics, energy conservation  $dU = dQ - dW$

$dU$ : change in the internal energy

$dQ$ : heat gain due to exchange of heat with an outside reservoir;

$dW$ : is the work done by the system

Therefore:

$$W = \oint dW = \oint PdV = \oint (dQ - dU) = \oint (TdS - dU) = (T_H - T_C)(S_B - S_A) \quad \text{for a Carnot engine}$$

Now, integrate  $dQ = TdS$  to find that

The total amount of thermal energy transferred between the hot reservoir and the system will be

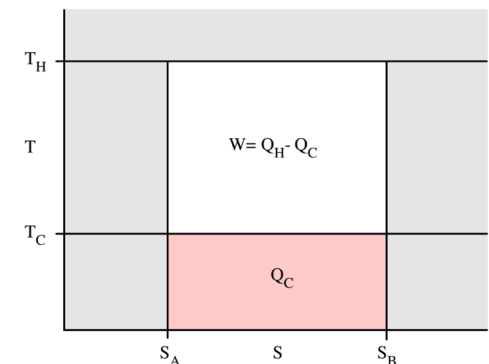
$$Q_H = T_H(S_B - S_A)$$

and the total amount of thermal energy transferred between the system and the cold reservoir will be

$$Q_C = T_C(S_B - S_A)$$

The efficiency  $\eta$  is defined to be:

$$\eta = \frac{W}{Q_H} = 1 - \frac{T_C}{T_H} \quad \text{or } \eta = \frac{T_H - T_C}{T_H}$$



# Hurricanes and ocean mixing

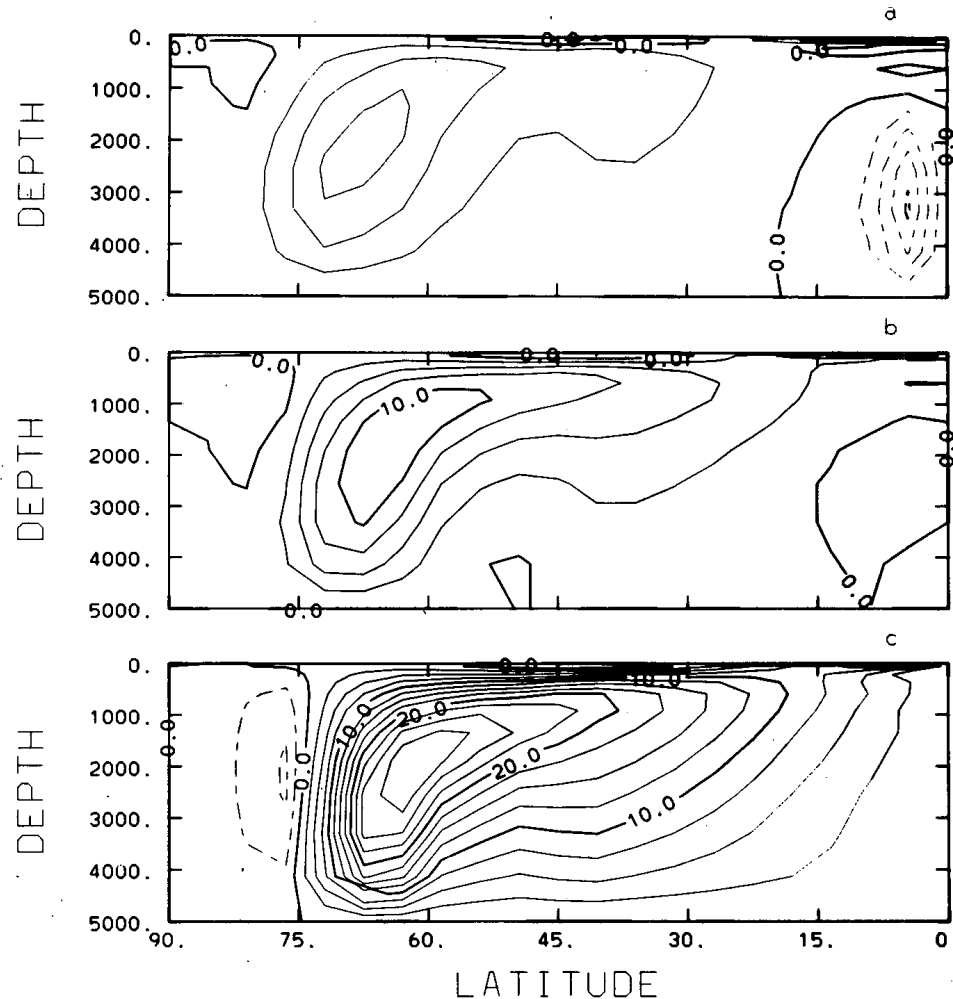


FIG. 7. Meridional overturning streamfunction for (a)  $A_{HV} = 0.1$ , (b)  $A_{HV} = 0.5$ , (c)  $A_{HV} = 2.5$  (c.i. =  $2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , solid contours indicate counterclockwise circulation).

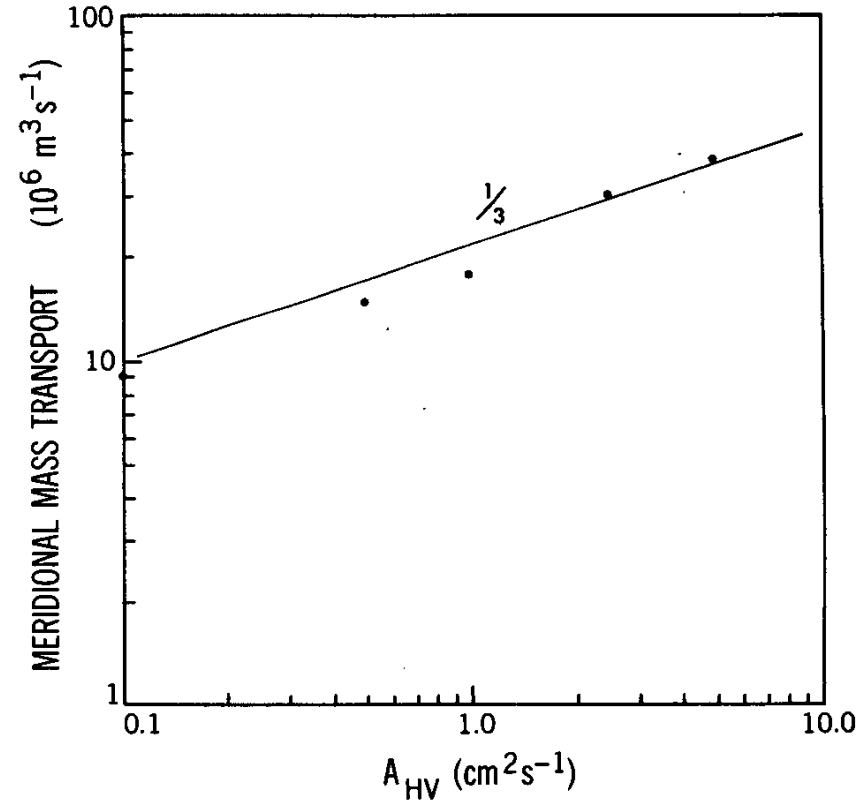


FIG. 8. Dependence of meridional overturning streamfunction on vertical diffusivity.

Frank Brian 1987

AMOC depends on vertical diapycnal mixing to the third power



# Hurricanes and ocean mixing

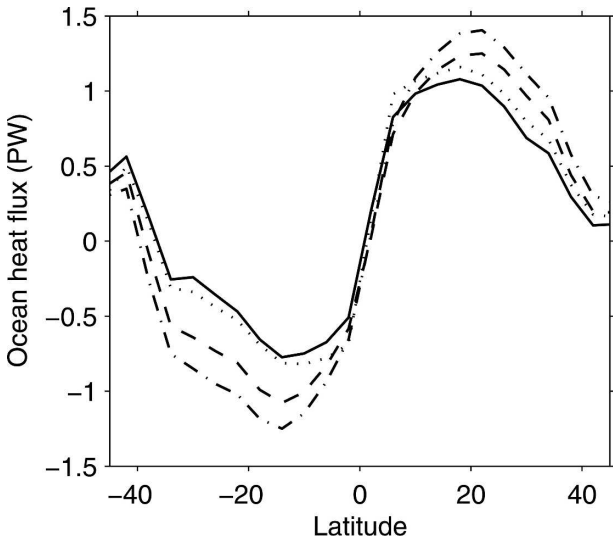


FIG. 2. Total ocean heat fluxes for simulations with uniformly weak mixing and 338 ppm  $\text{CO}_2$  (dotted), uniformly weak mixing and 3380 ppm  $\text{CO}_2$  (solid), elevated tropical mixing to 220 m and 3380 ppm  $\text{CO}_2$  (dashed), and elevated tropical mixing to 360 m and 3380 ppm  $\text{CO}_2$  (dashed-dotted).

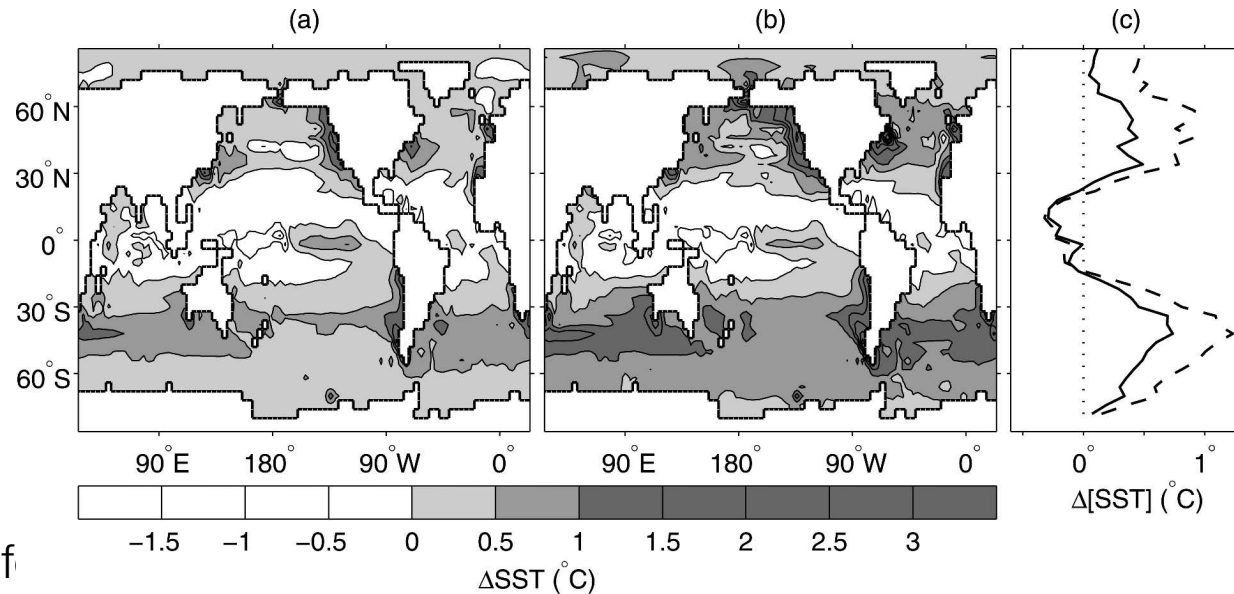


FIG. 4. Change in SSTs for runs with 3380 ppm  $\text{CO}_2$  between (a) a simulation with elevated tropical mixing to 220 m and the control (uniformly weak mixing) and (b) a simulation with elevated tropical mixing to 360 m and the control. (c) Change in zonally averaged SST for the simulations shown in panels (a) (solid) and (b) (dashed).

Korty and Emanuel 2008

**BUT:** Enhanced vertical diapycnal mixing has a negligible effect on SST

## Breakup of subtropical stratocumulus cloud decks at high SST

Causing albedo decrease and warming of mid-latitudes

Schneider et al 2019, (Bretherton et al)



(4)

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/aerial-view-layer-stratocumulus-clouds-369408491>

# Breakdown of subtropical stratocumulus decks

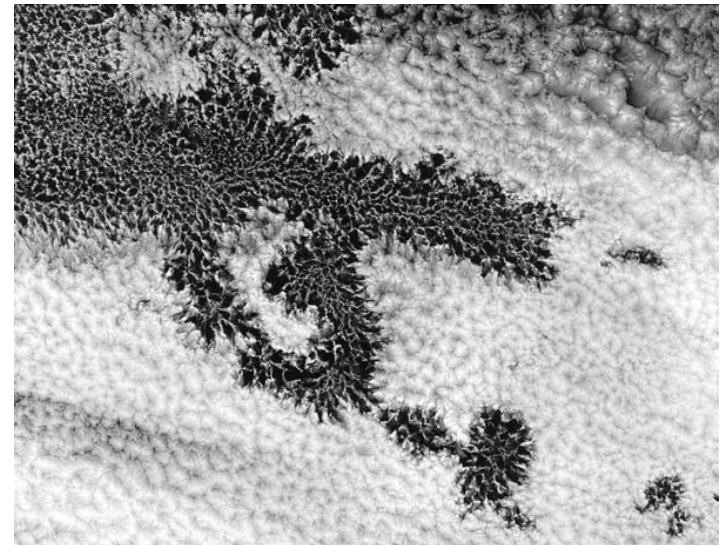
## Stratocumulus clouds at present:

- Cover broad regions (6.5% of Earth area) over the subtropical oceans.
- Characterized by lines, waves, and cellular structures.
- Radiative cooling from the cloud tops drives convection to surface, that replenishes liquid water in these clouds.
- Can often be seen out of an airplane window while flying.
- **Large SW albedo, strong cooling effects on climate.**



Stratocumulus clouds from a plane

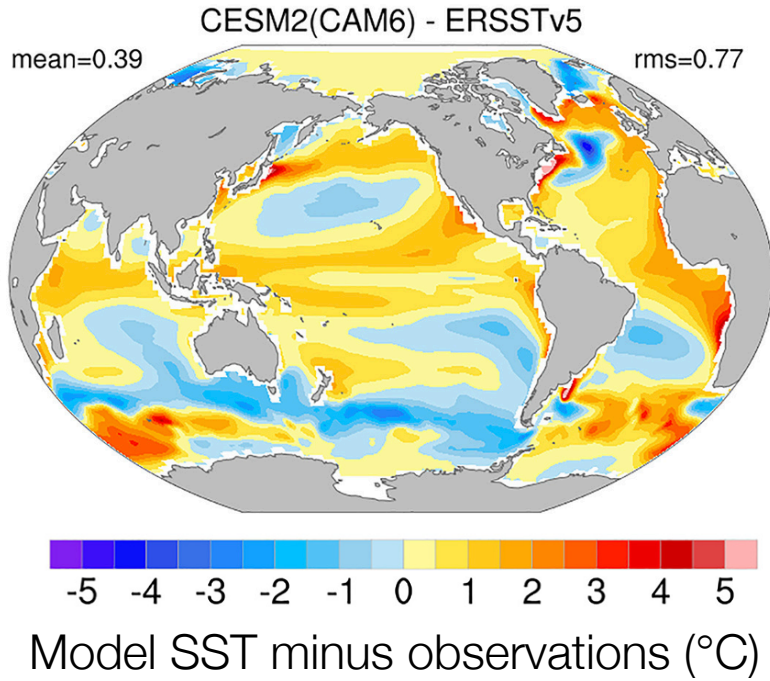
[http://www.pilotfriend.com/training/flight\\_training/met/clouds.htm](http://www.pilotfriend.com/training/flight_training/met/clouds.htm)



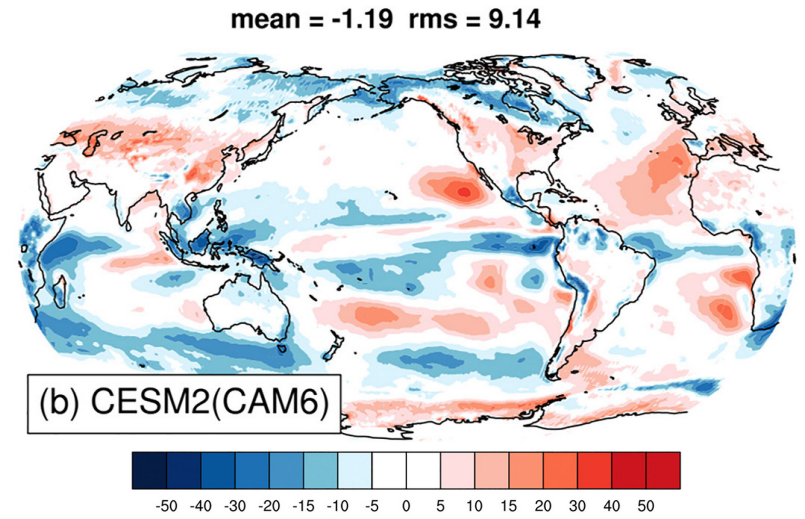
Cellular convective structures

<https://visibleearth.nasa.gov/images/98570/clouds-in-eastern-south-pacific-ocean?size=small>

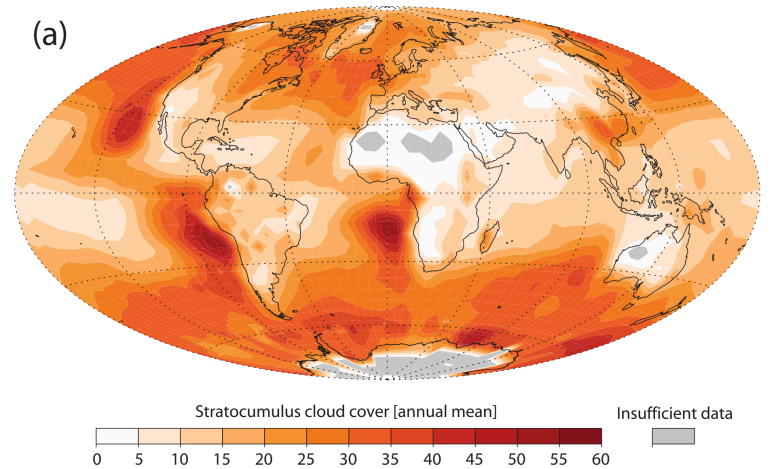
# Stratocumulus cloud model bias leads to significant SST errors



G. Danabasoglu et al 2020,  
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2019MS001916>



shortwave CRF: model  $Wm^2$  minus observations

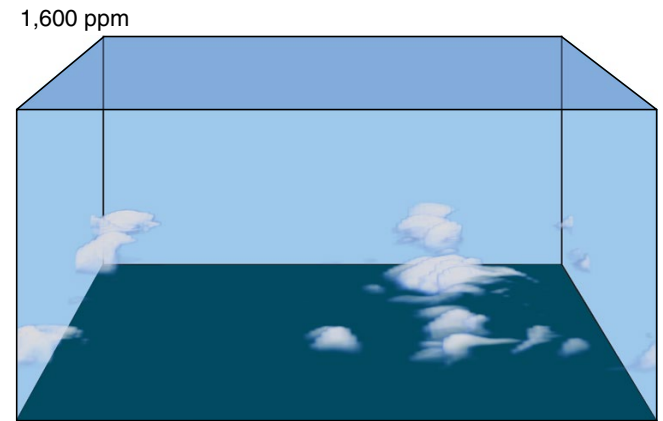
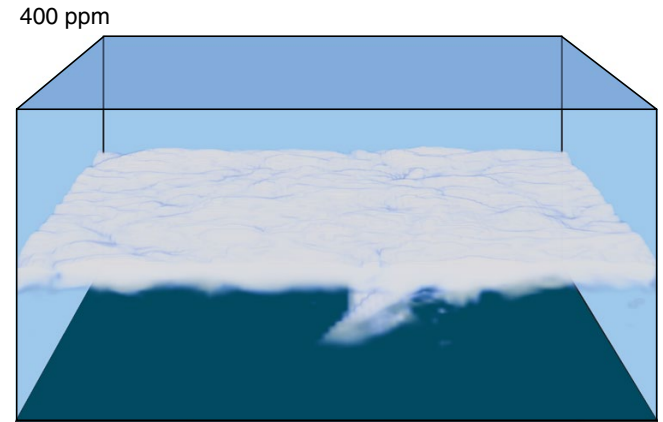


observed stratocumulus cloud fraction (%)

SST error (difference between model and observations) is large,  $\sim 2.5C$  in regions with underestimated stratocumulus cloud cover

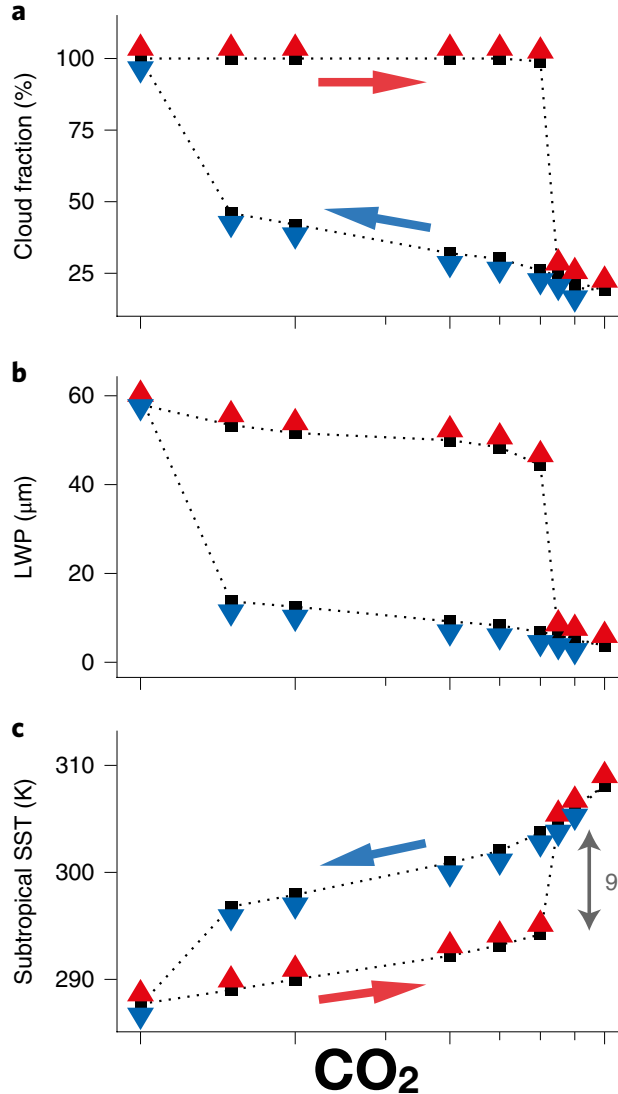
# Breakdown of subtropical stratocumulus decks

Cloud  
resolving  
simulation:  
stratocumulus  
decks break  
at high CO<sub>2</sub>

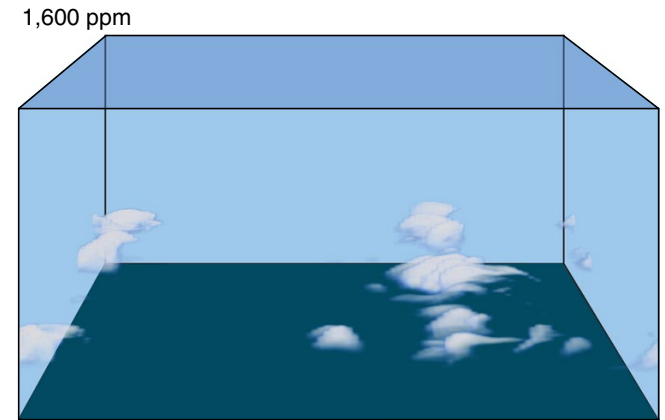
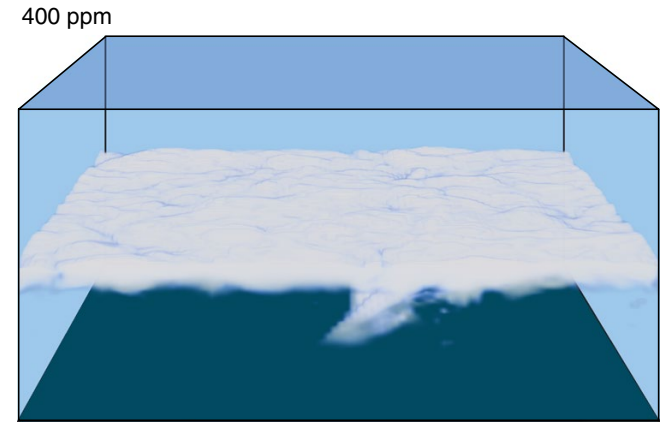


**Possible climate transitions from breakup of stratocumulus decks under greenhouse warming**

# Breakdown of subtropical stratocumulus decks



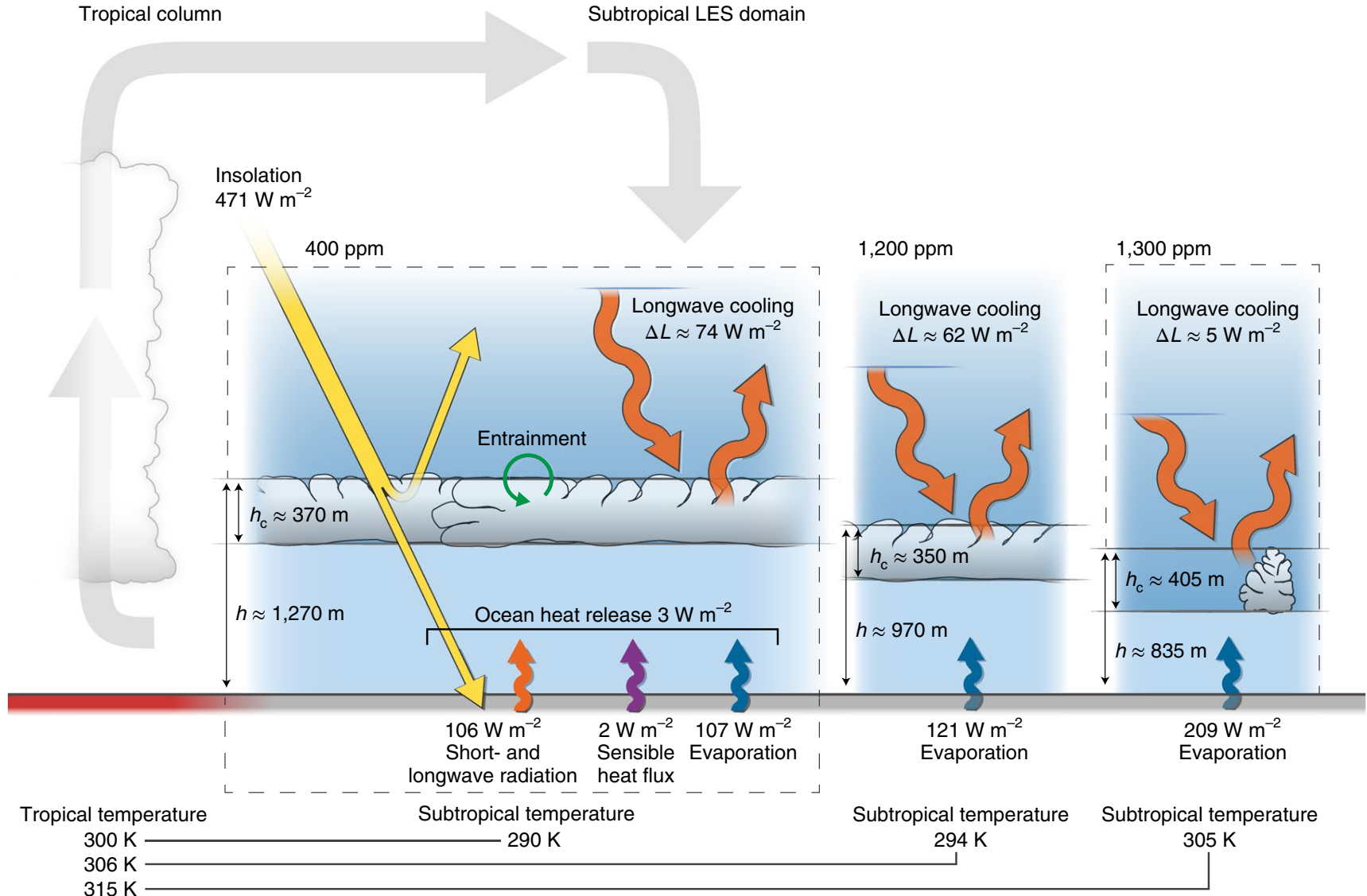
Cloud resolving simulation: stratocumulus decks break at high  $\text{CO}_2$



hysteresis as a function of  $\text{CO}_2$

**Possible climate transitions from breakup of stratocumulus decks under greenhouse warming**

# Breakdown of subtropical stratocumulus decks

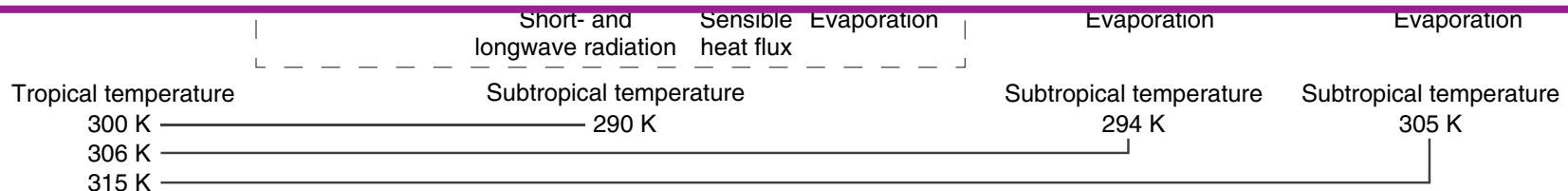


# Breakdown of subtropical stratocumulus decks

Tropical column

Subtropical LES domain

**Fig. 1** | Simulated subtropical clouds for 400 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>, 1,200 ppm, and after breakup (1,300 ppm). In stratocumulus clouds, LW cooling of cloud tops propels air parcels downward, convectively coupling clouds to surface moisture source. Turbulence entrains warm & dry air across the inversion, counteracting radiative cooling & convective moistening of cloud layer. At high CO<sub>2</sub> (& H<sub>2</sub>O) LW cooling of cloud tops weakens, bec downwelling LW arrives from lower levels/ higher temperatures ➔ decks break up into cumulus clouds, leading to dramatic albedo change & surface warming. Evaporation increases & LW cooling at cloud tops drops to < 10%.





# Breakdown of subtropical stratocumulus decks

## Mechanism of breakup at high CO<sub>2</sub>:

Higher CO<sub>2</sub>: ➡ downwelling LW toward cloud tops ↑ (increased atm emissivity ➡ ↑ LW coming from lower/warmer altitudes)

➡ decreased cloud top cooling ➡ decoupling from surface

➡ clouds dissipate

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[paper mentions a 2nd mechanism: high T ➡ enhanced evaporation  
➡ more turbulence at cloud level due to latent heat release ➡ more entrainment ➡ warming/drying & decoupling;

But: with clouds gone, is there still latent heat release?]

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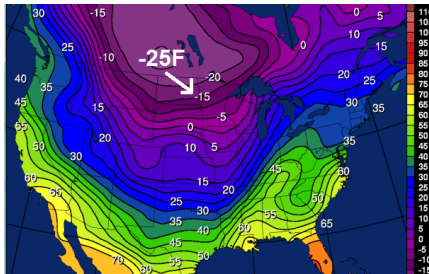
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But: with clouds gone, is there still latent heat release?]

## Consequences of stratocumulus breakup:

Subtropical SST jumps by 10K. Subtropical marine stratocumulus clouds cover ~6.5% of Earth's surface & reduce absorbed SW by  $\sim 110 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ , compared to  $\sim 10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  by scattered cumulus. With climate sensitivity of  $1.2 \text{ K (W m}^{-2}\text{)}^{-1}$  (4.8 K/CO<sub>2</sub> doubling; high for current GCMs) implies  $(110-10) \text{ W m}^{-2} \times 6.5\% \times 1.2 \text{ K (W m}^{-2}\text{)}^{-1} \approx 8 \text{ K}$  global-mean surface warming (stratocumulus clouds cover ~6.5% of Earth area). **This seems to assume an infinitely efficient heat transport to the rest of the globe.**

**(5)**

## Arctic air suppression over high latitude land

By low cloud forming due to moisture arriving from over warmer ocean

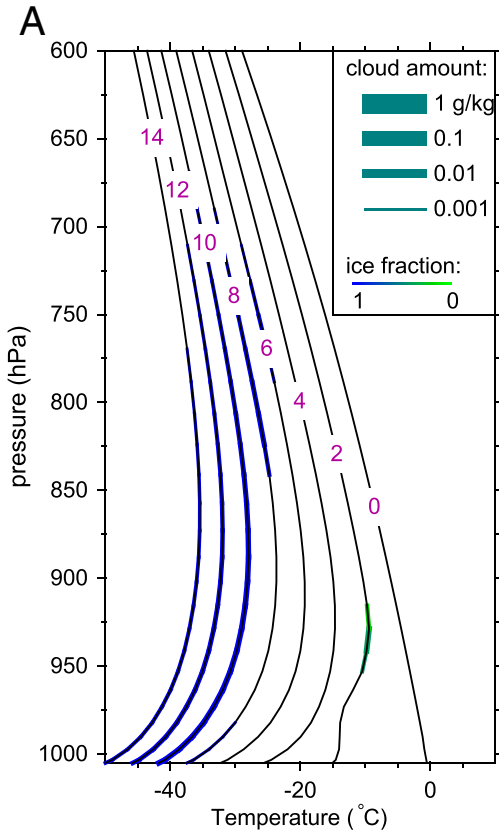
Cronin & Tziperman 2015

# Arctic air suppression

## Arctic air formation

Single-column model (WRF) simulation of polar air formation with initial 2-m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 0^\circ \text{C}$ . Simulating an air column going from ocean to over high-latitude land during winter, no solar forcing.

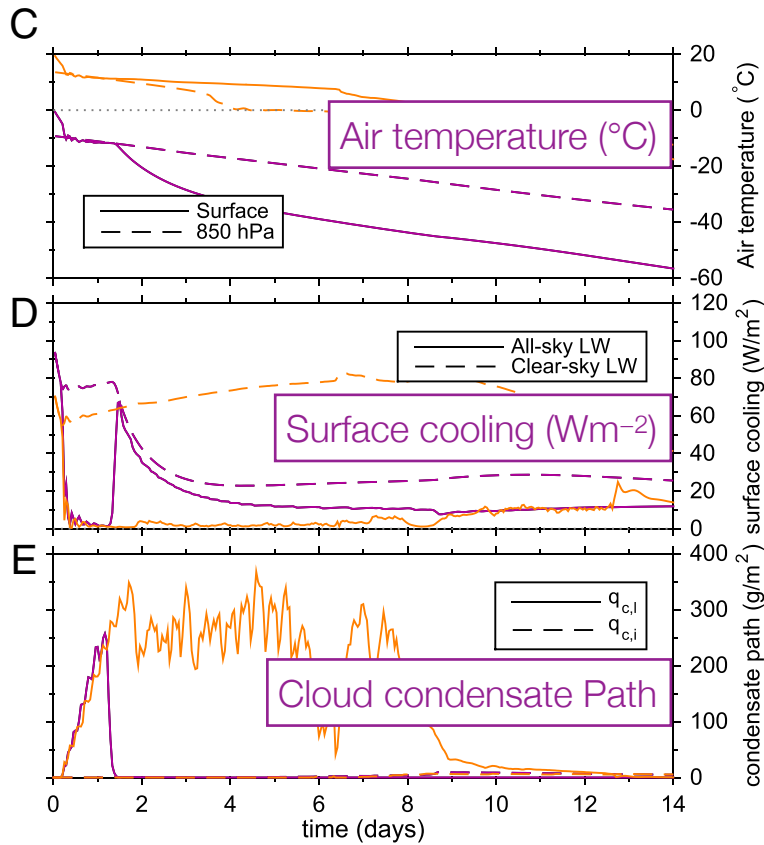
Results: surface temperature cools by about 60C in two weeks, strong inversion develops.



(following Judith Curry 1983)

# Arctic air formation - mechanism

## Arctic air formation for present-day initial conditions - mechanism



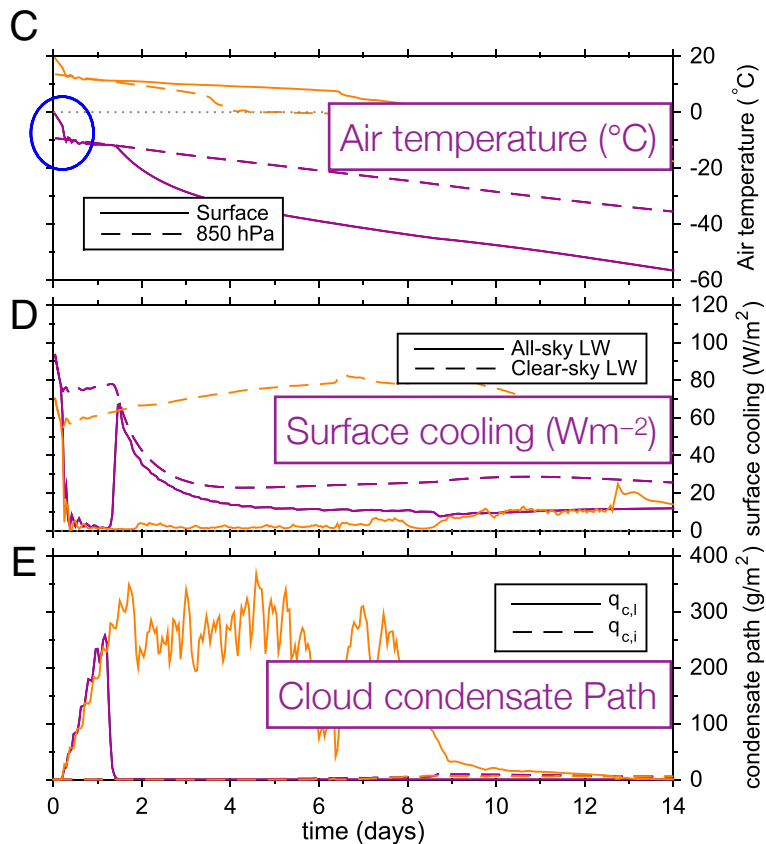
Single-column simulation of polar air formation with initial 2-m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 0^\circ C$

**Consider purple curves only:**

(following Curry 1983)

# Arctic air formation - mechanism

## Arctic air formation for present-day initial conditions - mechanism



Single-column simulation of polar air formation with initial 2-m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$

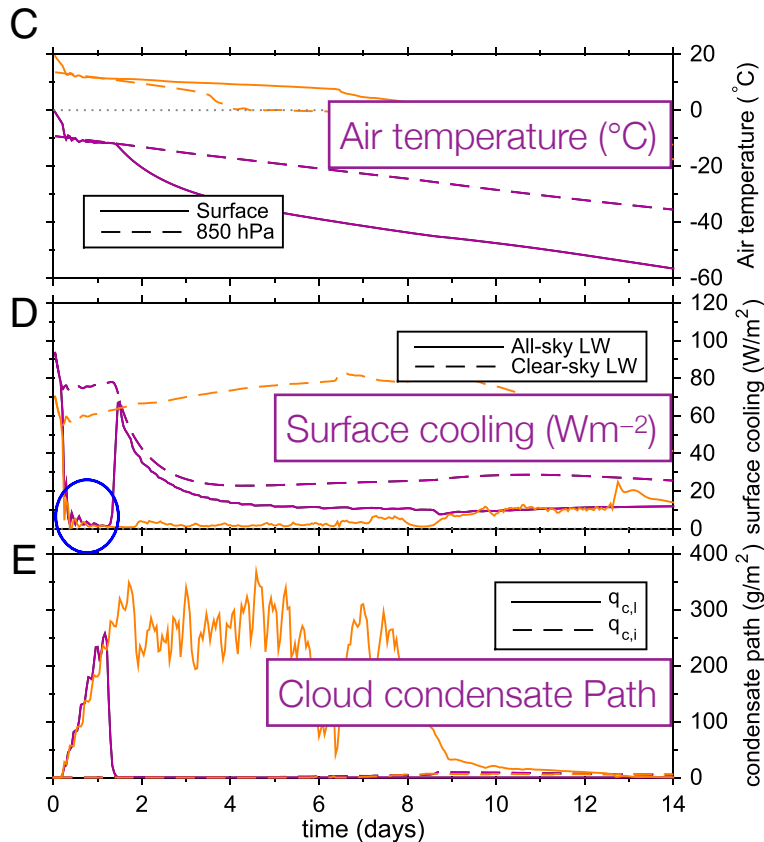
**Consider purple curves only:**

- Rapid initial cooling to  $t=1/2$  day

(following Curry 1983)

# Arctic air formation - mechanism

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Single-column simulation of polar air formation with initial 2-m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 0^\circ \text{C}$

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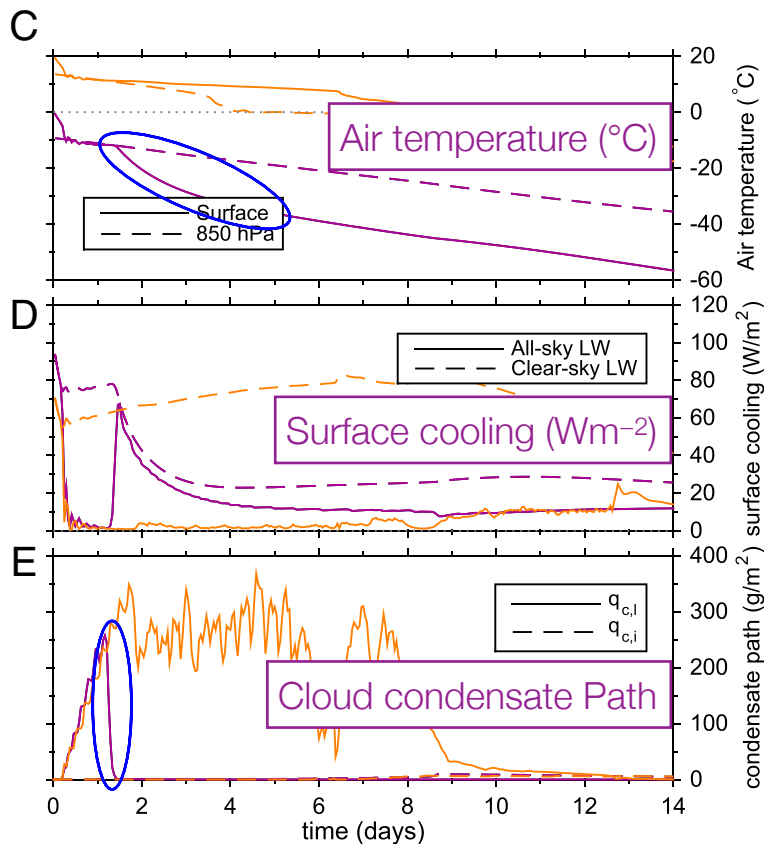
- Rapid initial cooling to  $t=1/2$  day
- Low clouds form during day 1, slow surface cooling, allowing the mid-atmosphere to cool very rapidly

(following Curry 1983)



# Arctic air formation - mechanism

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Single-column simulation of polar air formation with initial 2-m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 0^\circ \text{C}$

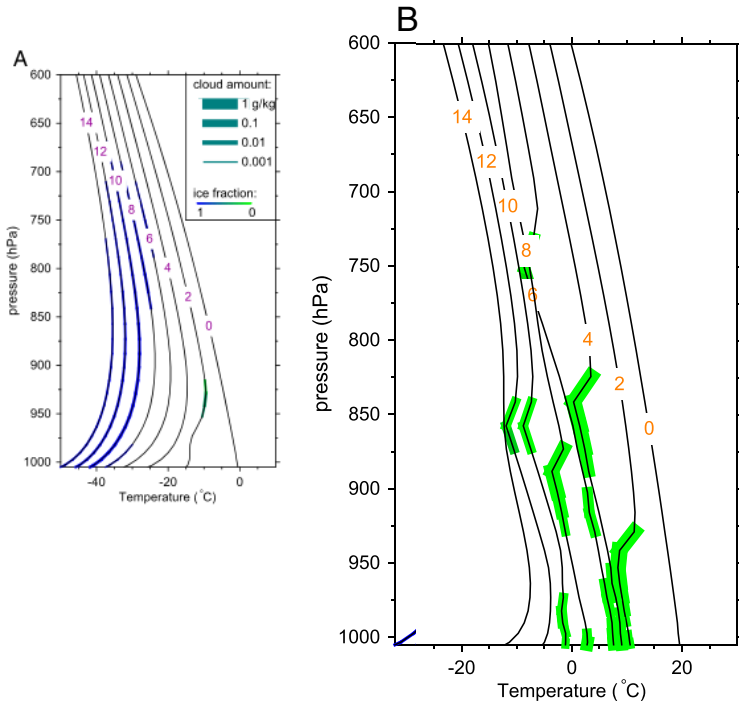
### Consider purple curves only:

- Rapid initial cooling to  $t=1/2$  day
- Low clouds form during day 1, slow surface cooling, allowing the mid-atmosphere to cool very rapidly
- Clouds dissipate within 1.5 days, surface cooling accelerates in the absence of LW from the mid-atmosphere.

(following Curry 1983)

# Arctic air suppression

Suppression of Arctic air formation for warmer initial conditions (warmer ocean)

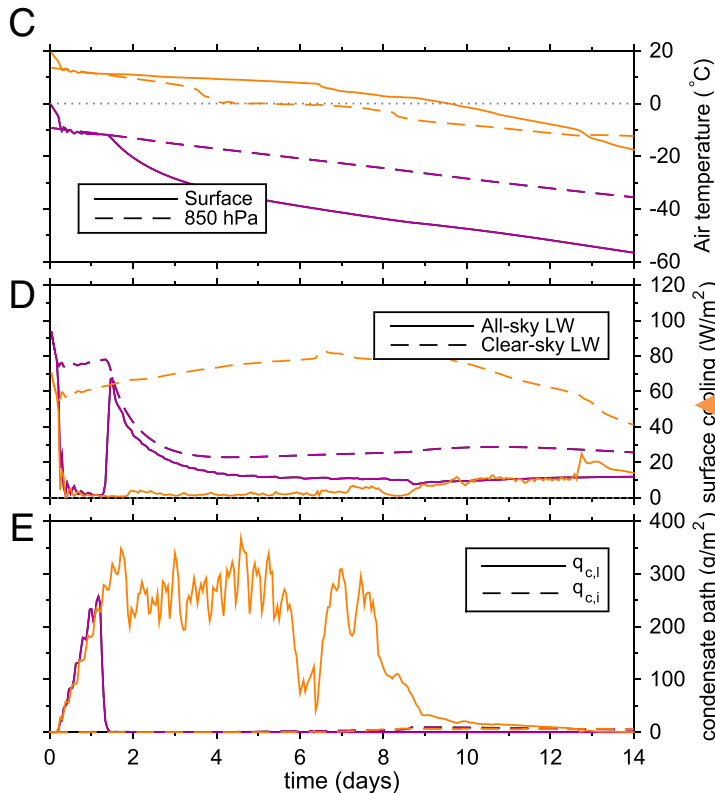


Single-column simulation of polar air formation with initial 2m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 20^\circ \text{C}$  instead of  $0^\circ \text{C}$

Day-1 cooling similar to cold initial conditions, but further surface cooling suppressed by LW effects of a liquid low cloud cloud layer!

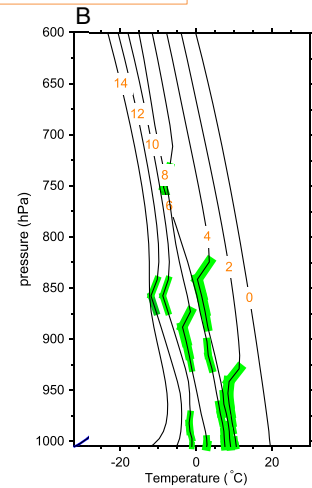
# Arctic air suppression

Suppression of Arctic air formation for warmer initial conditions - mechanism



Single-column simulation of polar air formation w/initial 2-m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 20^{\circ}\text{C}$

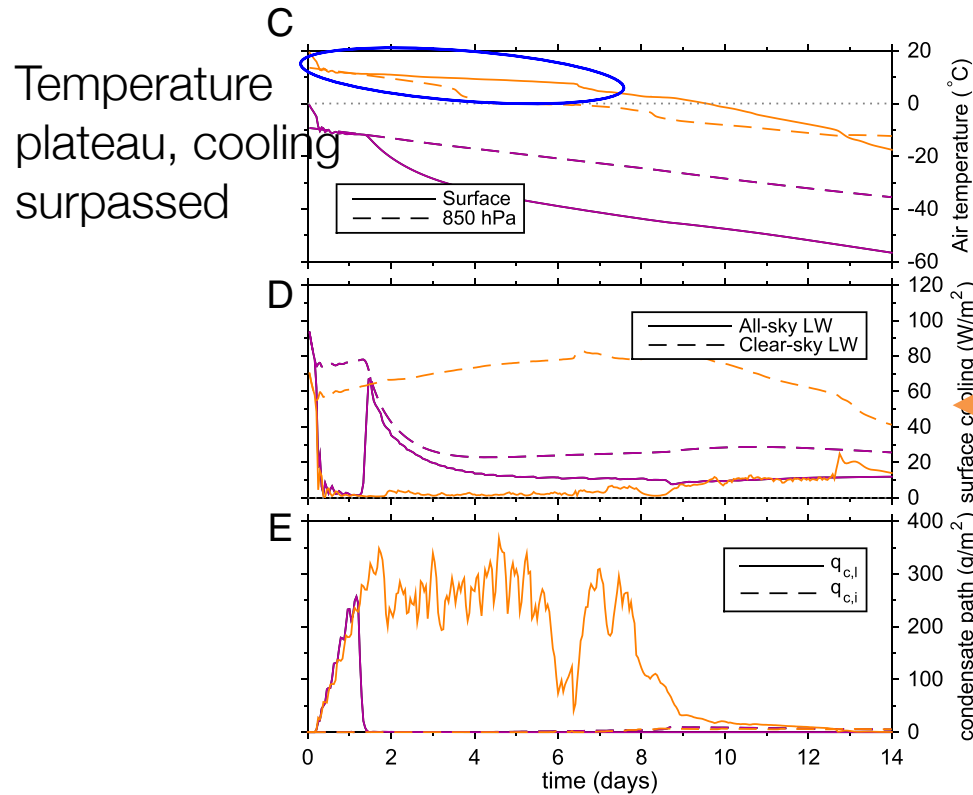
Consider orange curves



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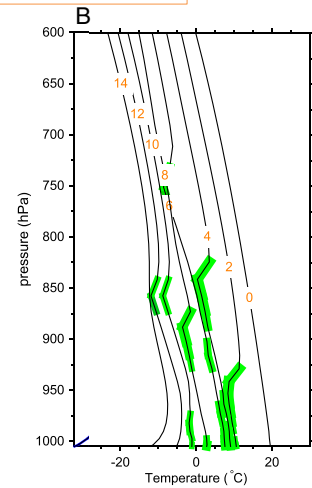
# Arctic air suppression

Suppression of Arctic air formation for warmer initial conditions - mechanism



Single-column simulation of polar air formation w/initial 2-m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 20^{\circ}\text{C}$

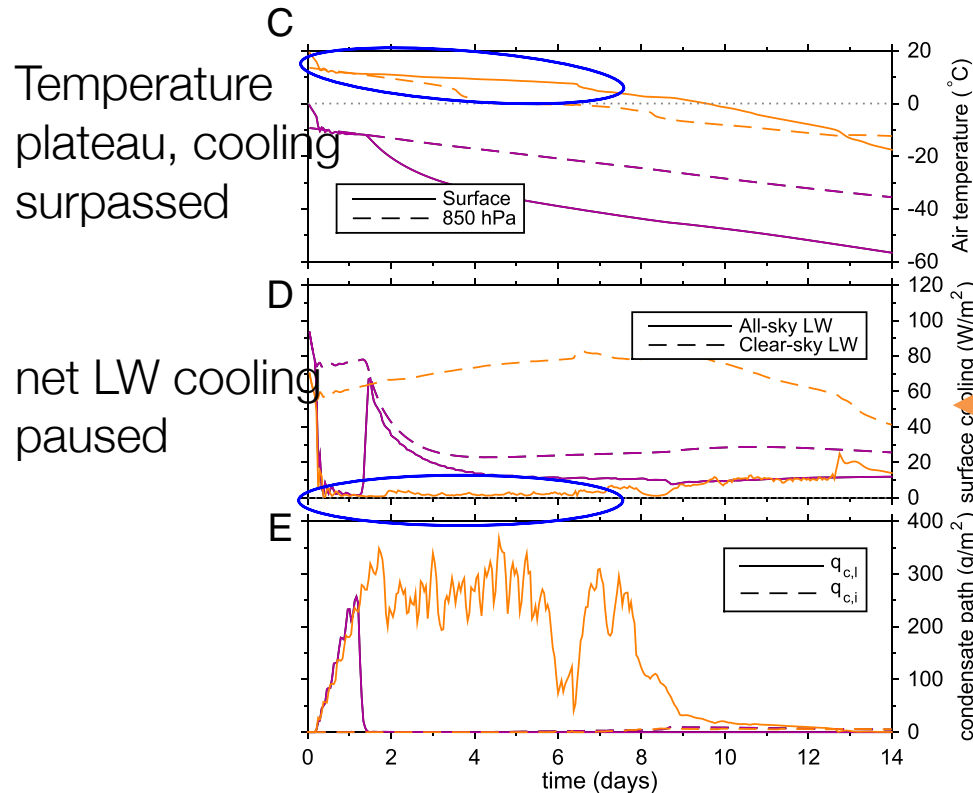
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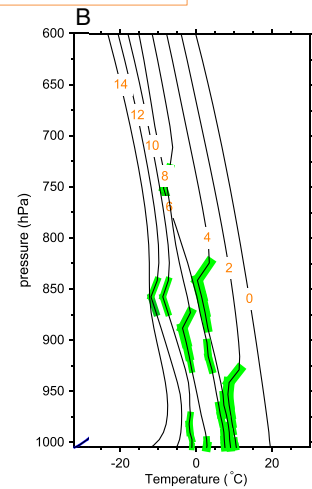
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Suppression of Arctic air formation for warmer initial conditions - mechanism



Single-column simulation of polar air formation w/initial 2-m air temperature  $T_2(t=0) = 20^\circ \text{C}$

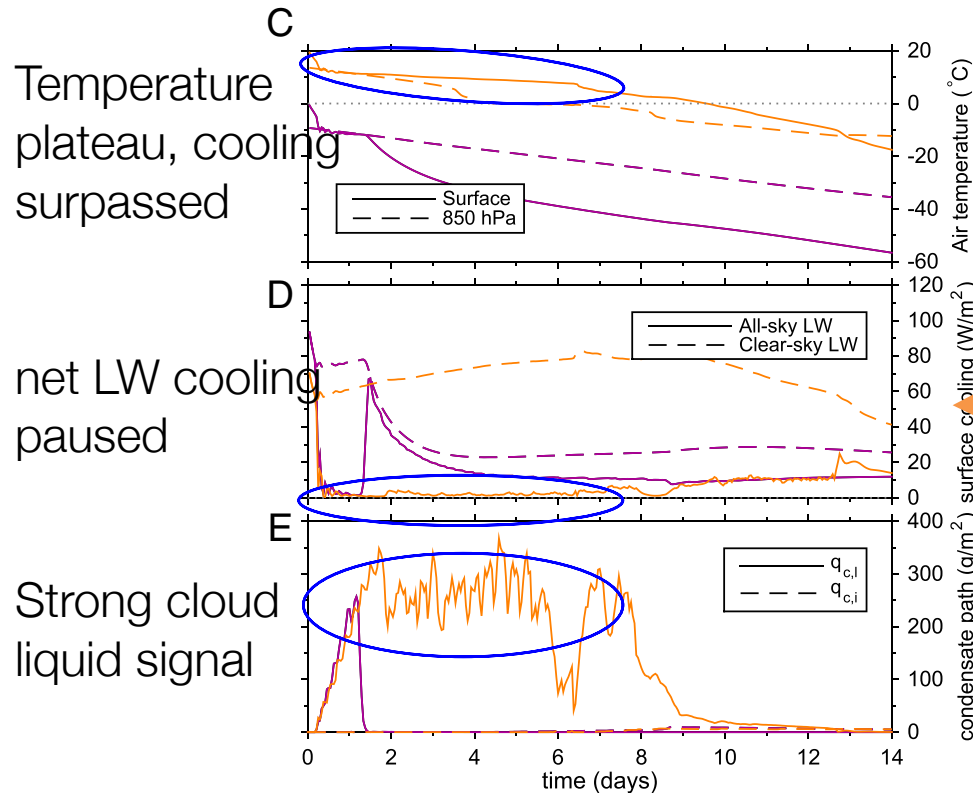
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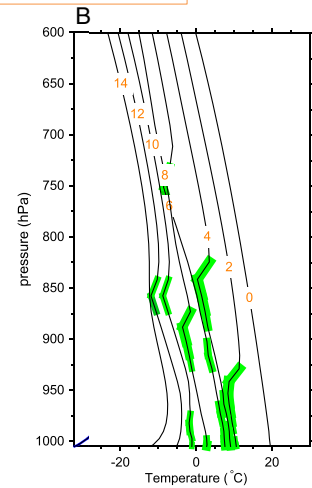
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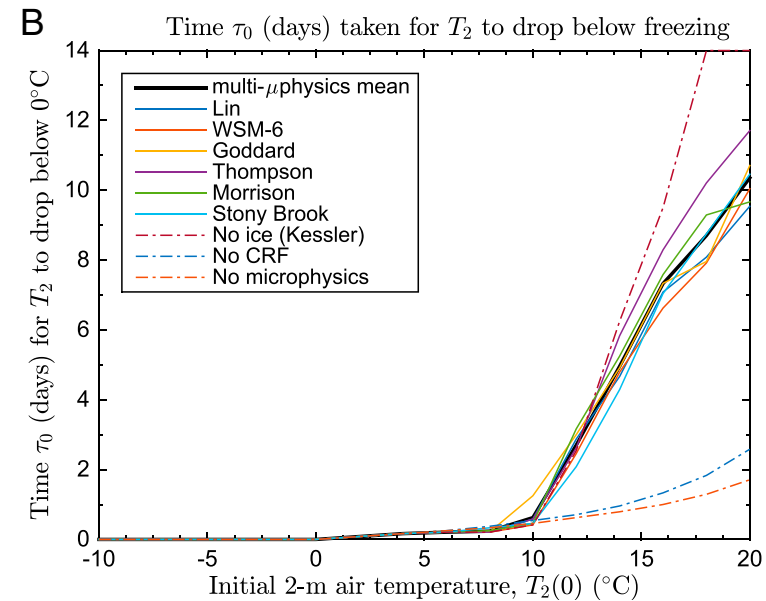
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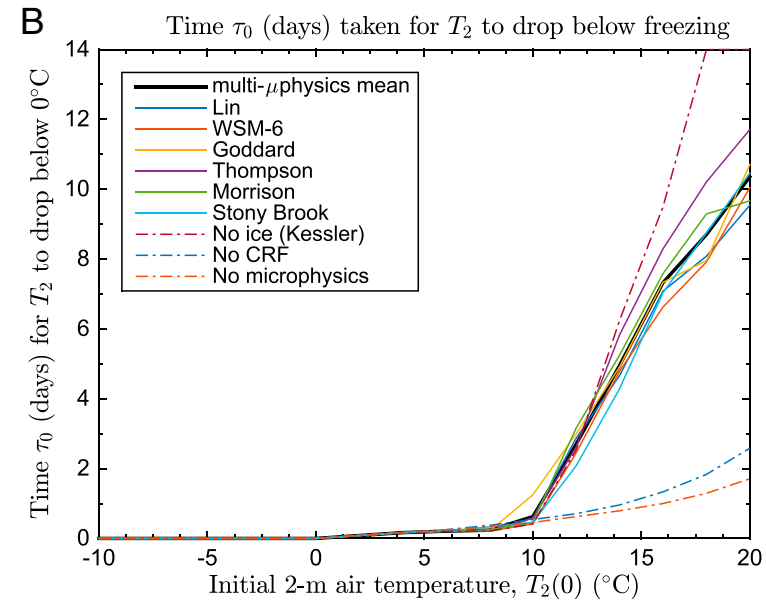
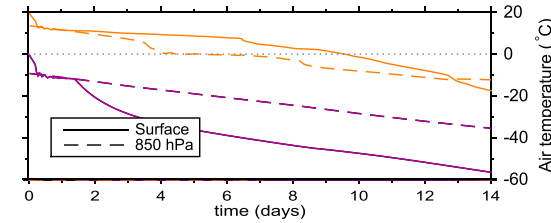
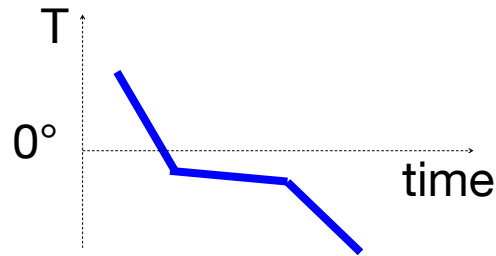
Time-to-freezing increases nonlinearly w/initial (ocean) temperature



# Arctic air suppression

Time-to-freezing increases nonlinearly w/initial (ocean) temperature

Cold initial conditions

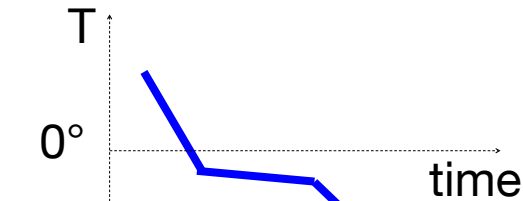




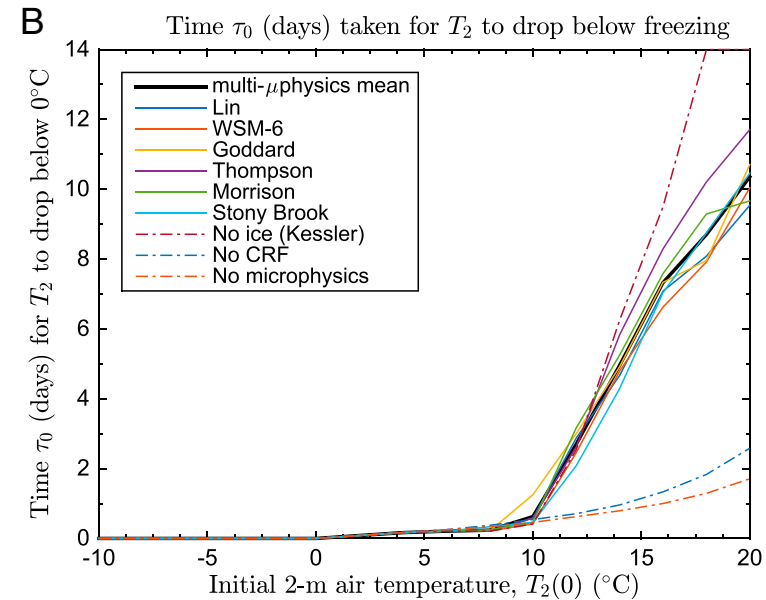
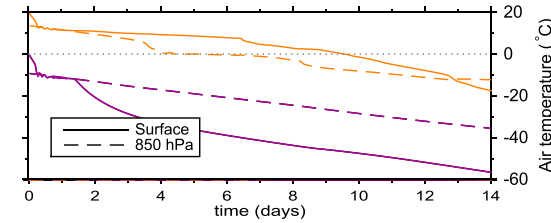
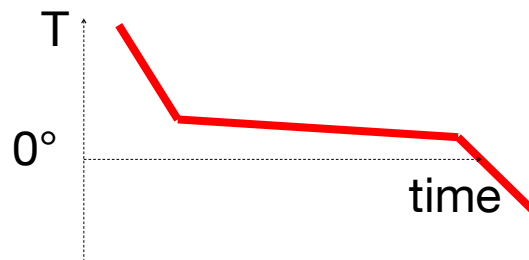
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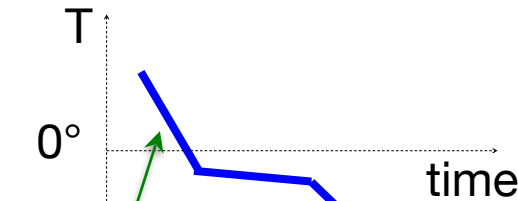
Warm initial conditions



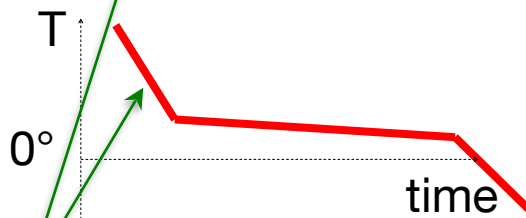
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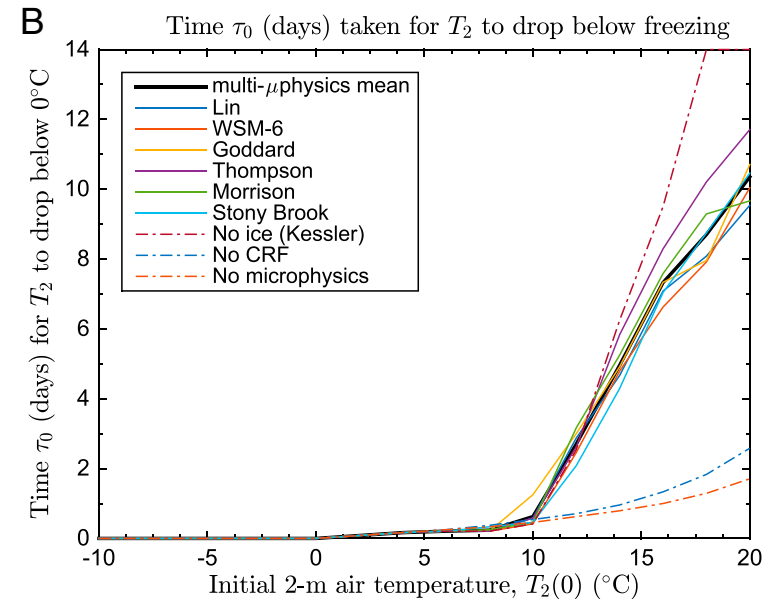
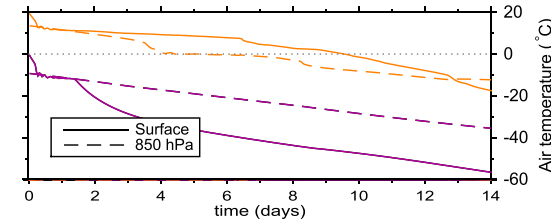
Cold initial conditions



Warm initial conditions



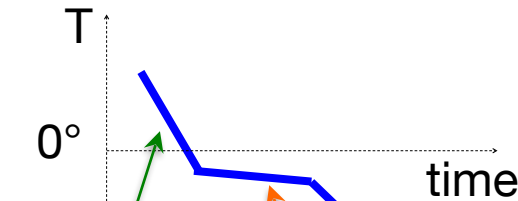
Initial cooling before low clouds



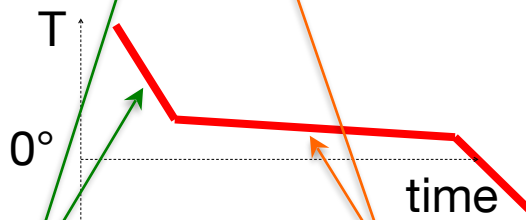
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Time-to-freezing increases nonlinearly w/initial (ocean) temperature

Cold initial conditions

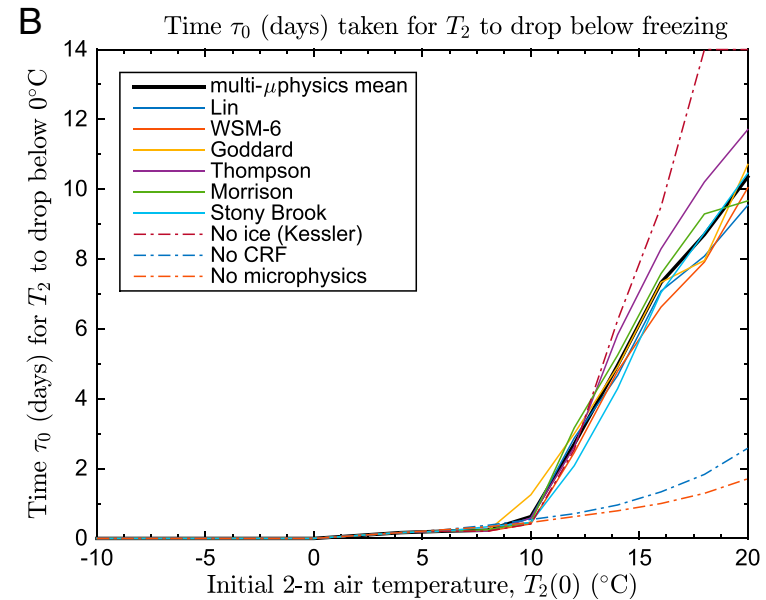
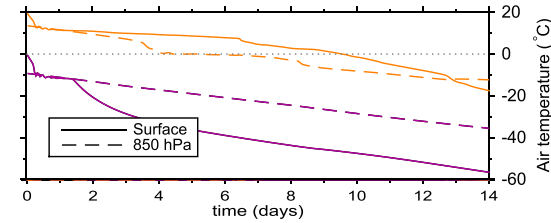


Warm initial conditions



Initial cooling before low clouds

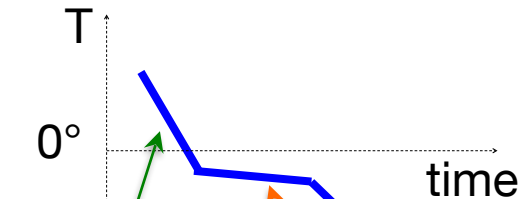
Plateau of suspended cooling due to low clouds



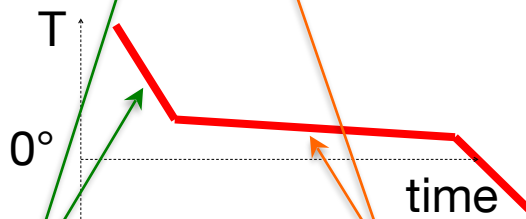
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Time-to-freezing increases nonlinearly w/initial (ocean) temperature

Cold initial conditions

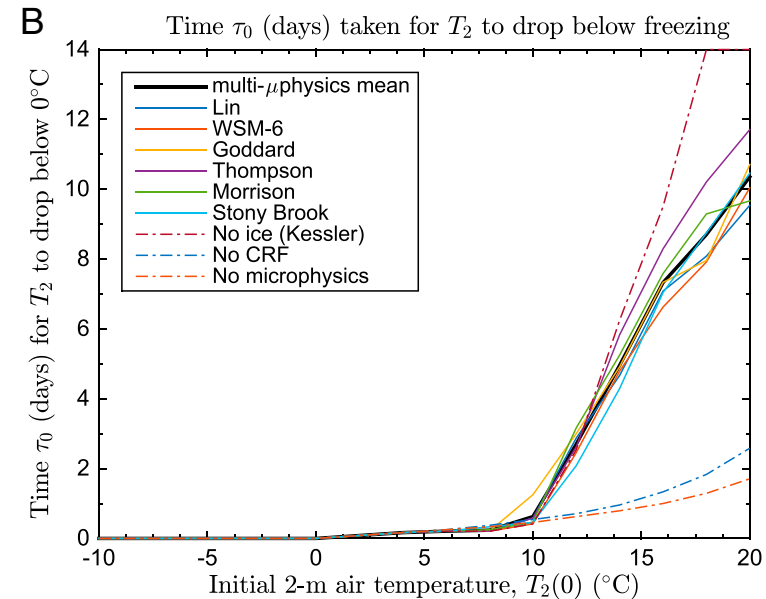
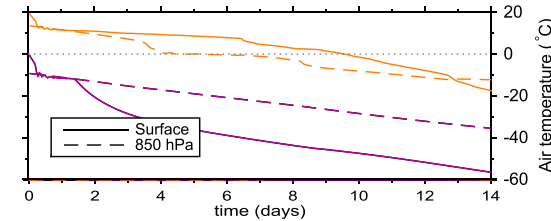


Warm initial conditions



Initial cooling before low clouds

Plateau of suspended cooling due to low clouds



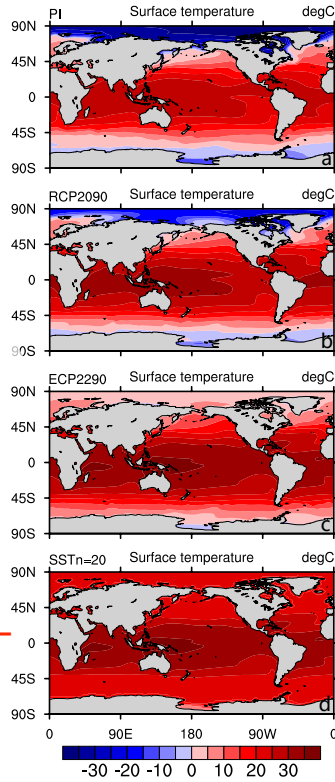
Time-to-freezing increases rapidly for  $T_2(t=0) > 10^\circ\text{C}$  because plateau occurs above freezing point then and keeps  $T_2 > 0$  for a few days.

# Arctic air suppression in a 3-dimensional atmospheric GCM

Preindustrial  
SST

Prescribed  
SST  
scenarios

Warmer SST



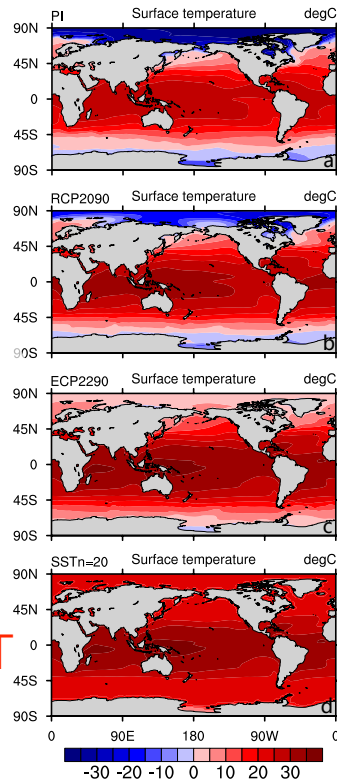
Hu, Cronin,  
Tziperman, 2018

# Arctic air suppression in a 3-dimensional atmospheric GCM

Preindustrial  
SST

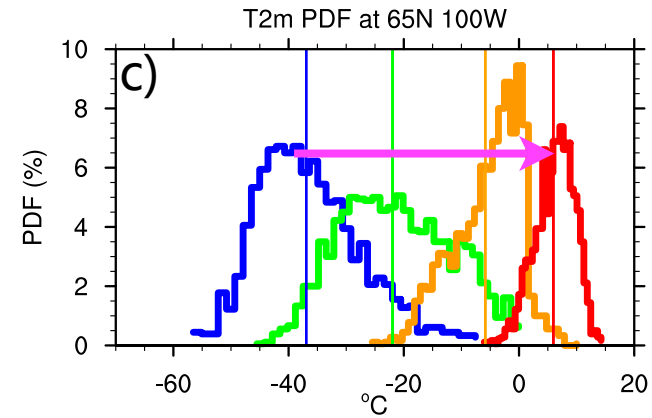
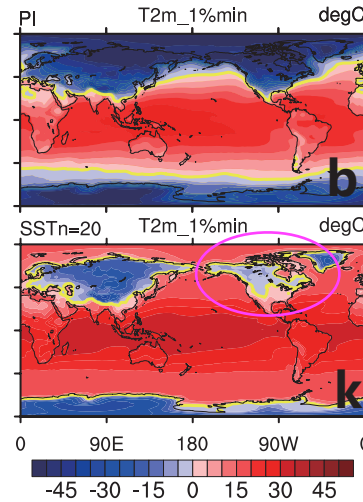
Prescribed  
SST  
scenarios

Warmer SST



coldest  
2m T for  
PI

coldest  
2m T for  
warm  
SST



Coldest temperatures warm (mean&pdf),

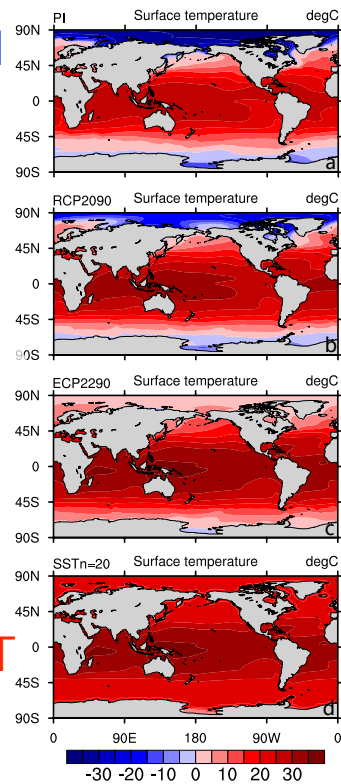
Hu, Cronin,  
Tziperman, 2018

# Arctic air suppression in a 3-dimensional atmospheric GCM

Preindustrial SST

Prescribed SST scenarios

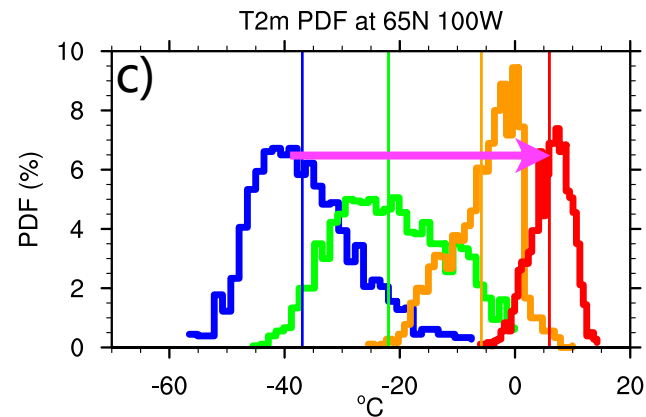
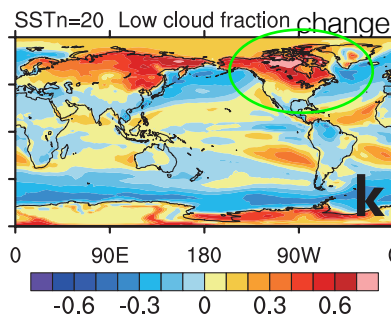
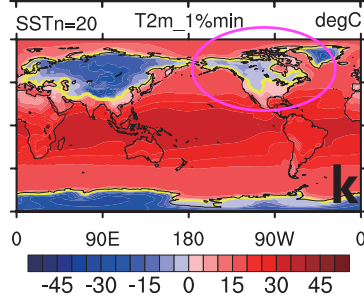
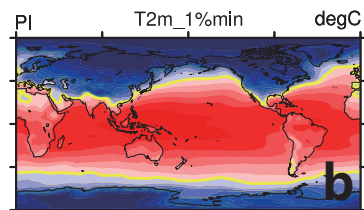
Warmer SST



coldest 2m T for PI

coldest 2m T for warm SST

low clouds increase over land



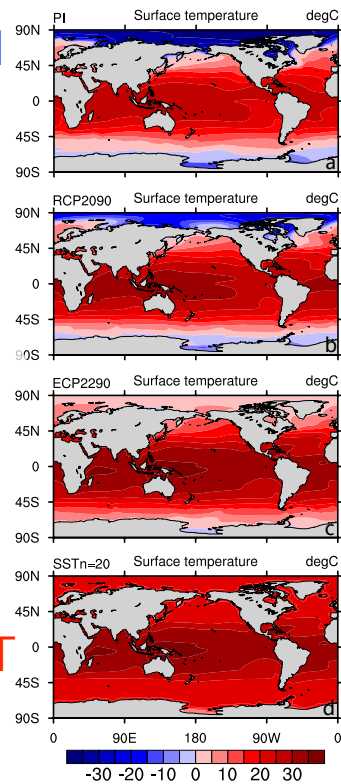
Coldest temperatures warm (mean&pdf),  
more low clouds over land,

# Arctic air suppression in a 3-dimensional atmospheric GCM

Preindustrial SST

Prescribed SST scenarios

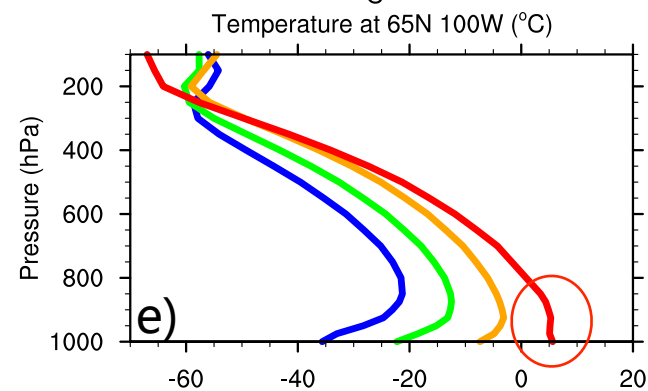
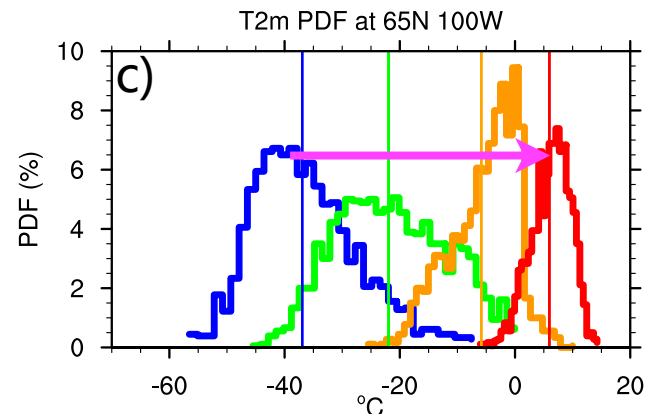
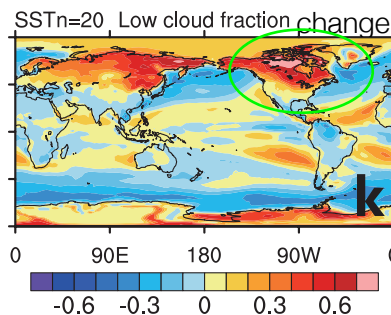
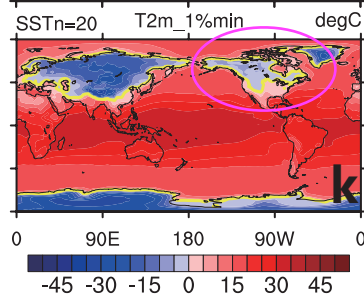
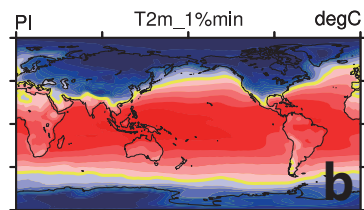
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T profile without inversion

Hu, Cronin,  
Tziperman, 2018

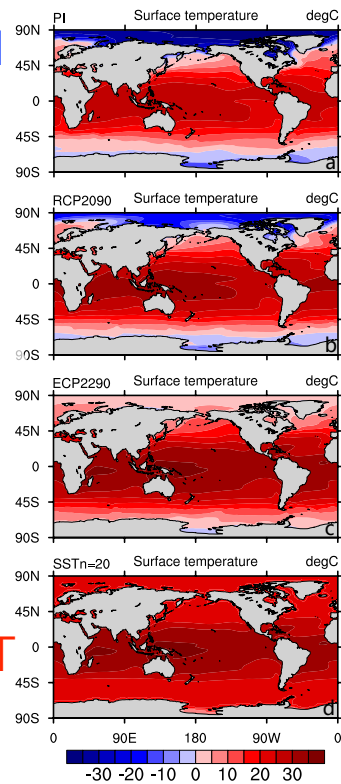


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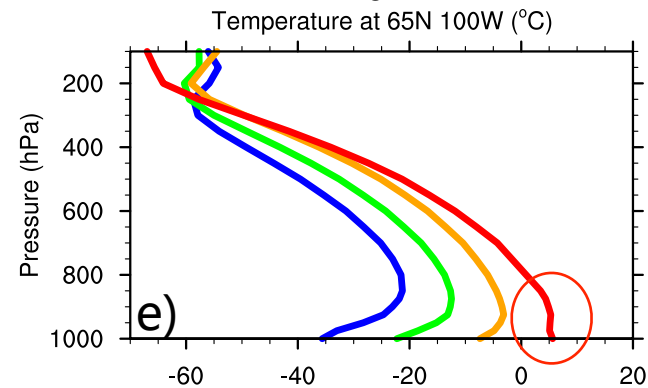
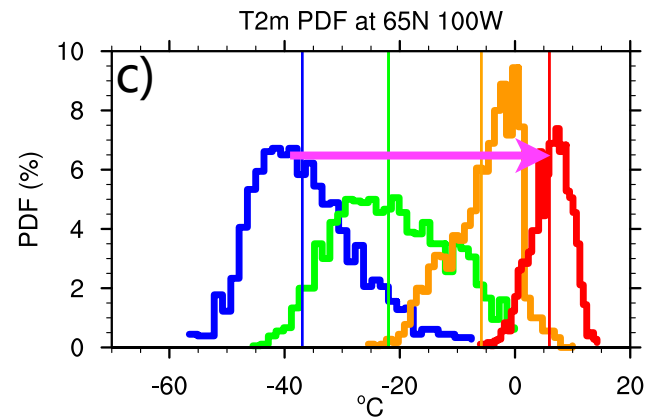
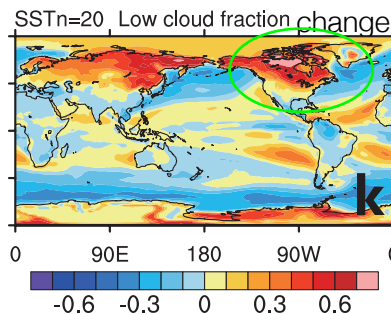
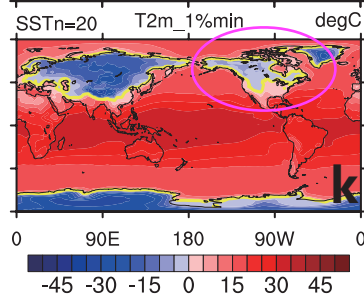
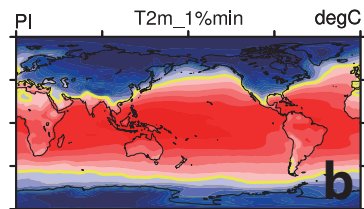
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Coldest temperatures warm (mean&pdf), more low clouds over land,

Hu, Cronin, Tziperman, 2018

T profile without inversion - all consistent w/ Arctic air suppression

## Arctic convective cloud feedback

**wintertime**  
deep Arctic  
convection



high cloud  
emissivity/  
greenhouse  
effect



Warmer  
winter Arctic

Abbot & Tziperman 2008

**(6)**

# Arctic convective cloud feedback: idea & outline

## Idea:

- In a warm climate, deep convection—which today occurs mostly in the tropics—may occur in the Arctic during polar night (😬)
- Convective cloud greenhouse effect keeps winter Arctic ice-free.
- Warmer Arctic warms temperature minima at nearby continents.

# Arctic convective cloud feedback: idea & outline

## Idea:

- In a warm climate, deep convection—which today occurs mostly in the tropics—may occur in the Arctic during polar night (🤔)
- Convective cloud greenhouse effect keeps winter Arctic ice-free.
- Warmer Arctic warms temperature minima at nearby continents.

## Outline:

1. Moist Static Energy, calculating MSE conserving T profile.
2. Moist convection: Lift Condensation Level, Level of Free Convection, Level of Neutral Buoyancy.
3. Condition on stability to convection between the surface ( $z=0$ ) and a height  $z$  based on  $MSE_s$  vs  $MSE^*(z)$ :

$$MSE^{parcel}(z) = MSE^{*,parcel}(z) = MSE^{parcel}(z = 0).$$

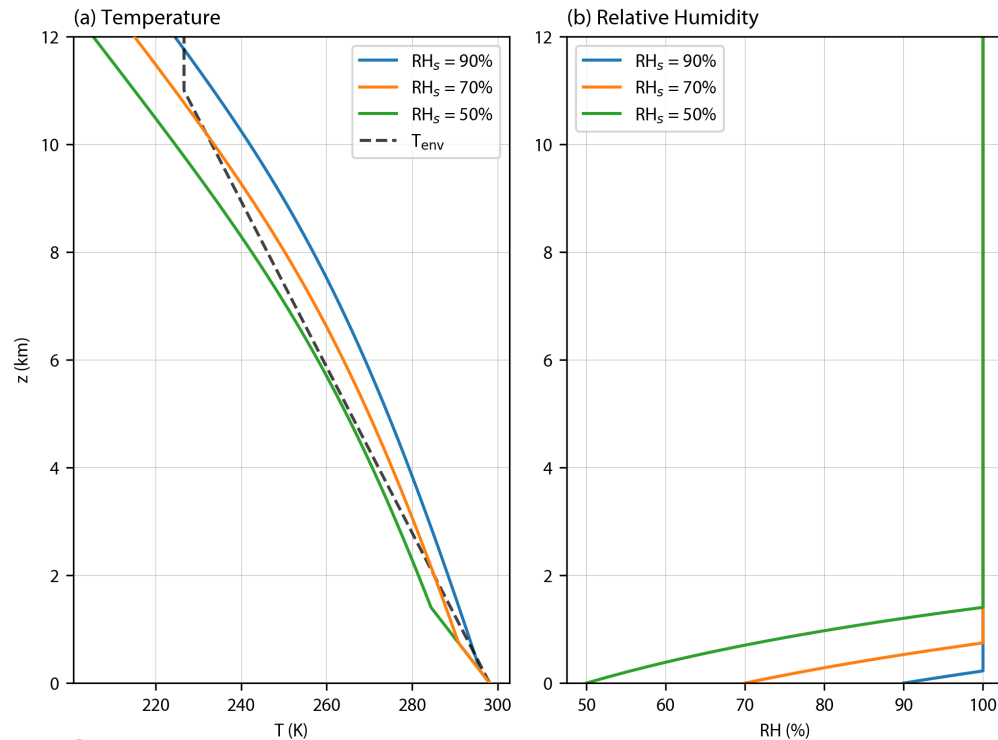
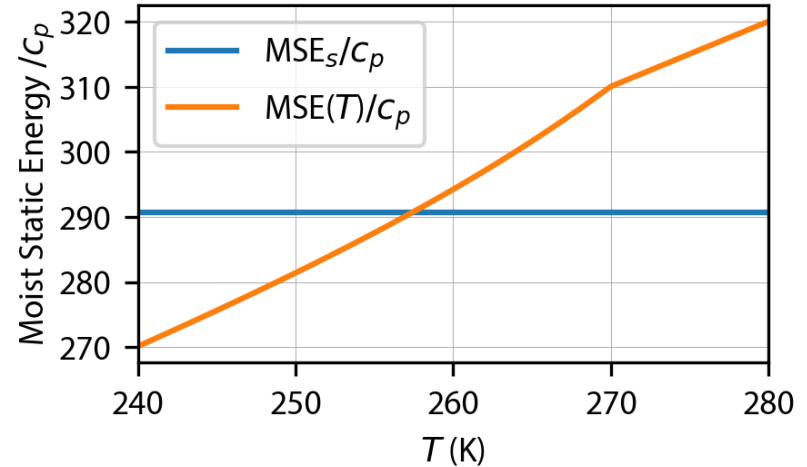
4. 2-level model formulation.
5. The solution, multiple equilibria, and hysteresis.
6. GCM verification.

# Moist Convection

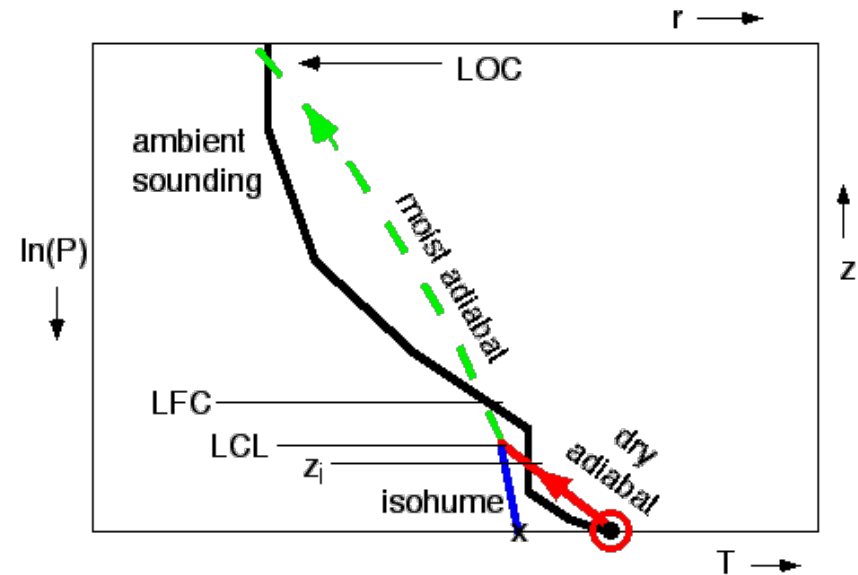
calculating MSE-  
conserving temperature

Terms:

- Lift Condensation Level
- Level of Free Convection
- Level of Neutral Buoyancy
- Stable vs unstable conditions



Stages in moist convection for three  
surface RH values



<https://www.eoas.ubc.ca/courses/atc201/A201Resources/SoundingTutorial1/SoundingTutorial1Readings.html>

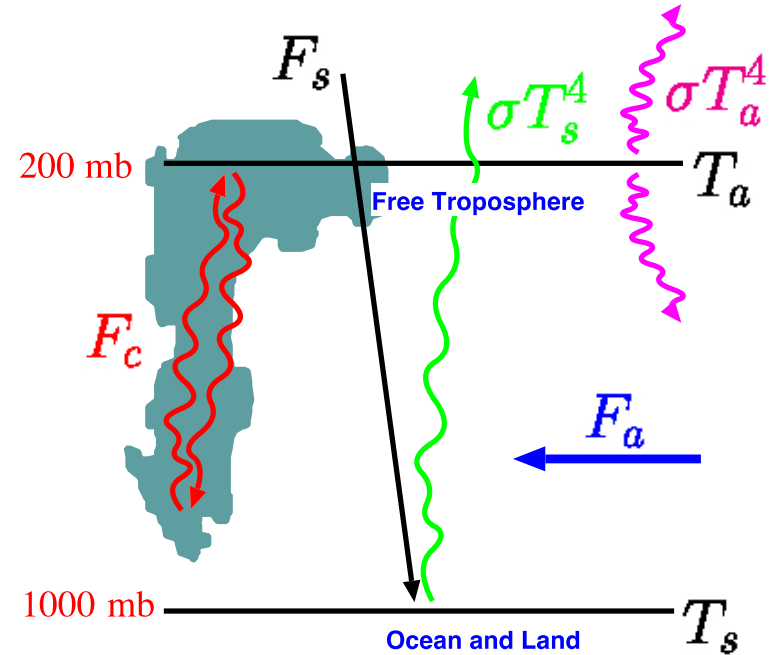
# Multiple equilibria due to convective cloud feedback

(Abbot & Tziperman 2009)

A 2-level energy balance model with convective heat flux:

$$C_s dT_s/dt = F_s - F_c + \epsilon\sigma T_a^4 - \sigma T_s^4,$$

$$C_a dT_a/dt = F_a + F_c + \epsilon\sigma(T_s^4 - 2T_a^4).$$



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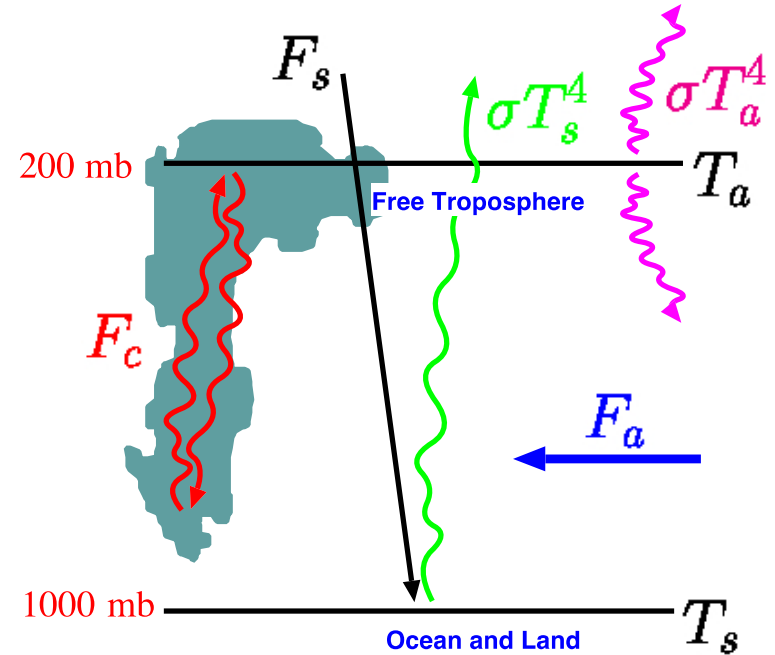
convection occurs when moist static

Energy (MSE) satisfies

$$MSE_s = C_p T_s + gz_s + Lr_s$$

$$MSE_a^* = C_p T_a + gz_a + Lr_a^*$$

$$MSE_s > MSE_a^*$$



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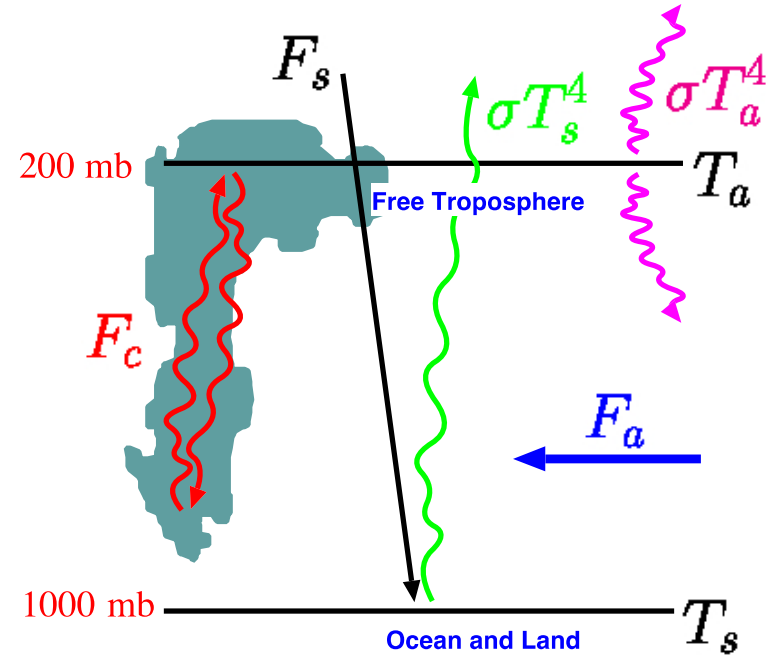
$$MSE_a^* = C_p T_a + gz_a + Lr_a^*$$

$$MSE_s > MSE_a^*$$

Without convection, find two temperatures from:

$$0 = F_s + \epsilon\sigma T_{a2}^4 - \sigma T_{s2}^4,$$

$$0 = F_a + \epsilon\sigma(T_{s2}^4 - 2T_{a2}^4),$$





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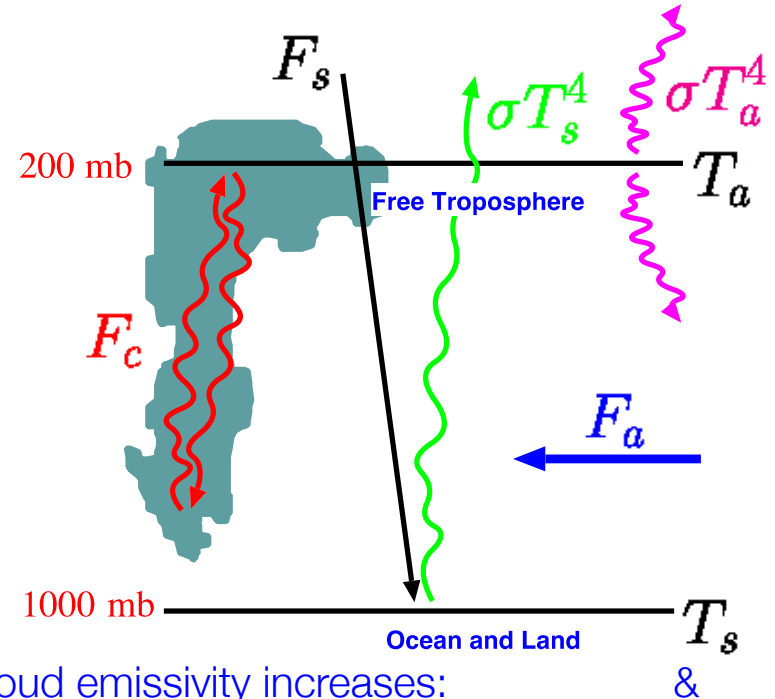
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With convection: cloud emissivity increases:  
found from

$$\tilde{\epsilon} = \epsilon_0 + \Delta\epsilon(F_c, T_a, T_s)$$

$$0 = F_s - F_c + \tilde{\epsilon}\sigma T_{a2}^4 - \sigma T_{s2}^4,$$

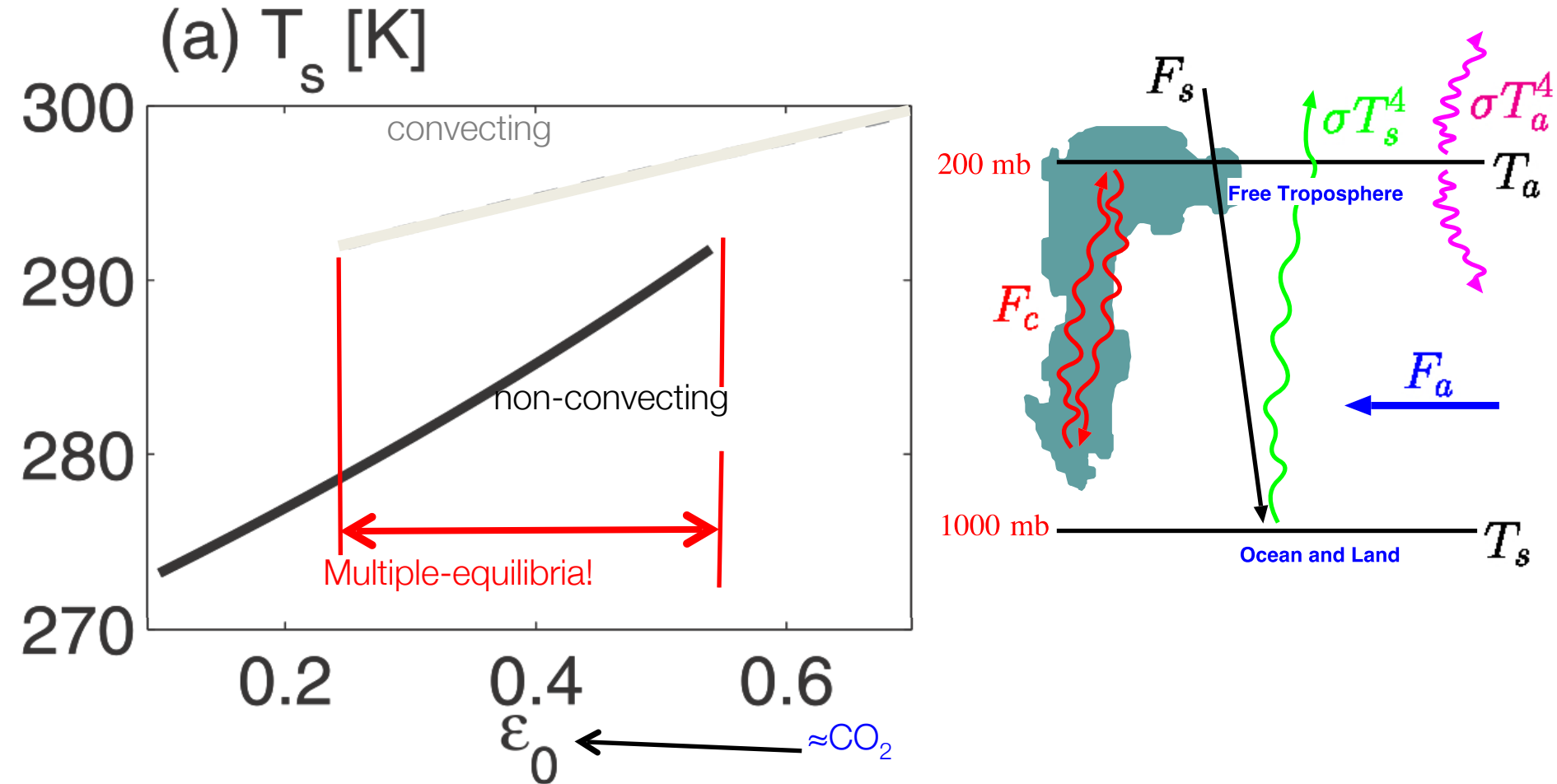
$$0 = F_a + F_c + \tilde{\epsilon}\sigma(T_{s2}^4 - 2T_{a2}^4),$$

$$C_p T_{s2} + Lr_{s2} = C_p T_{a2} + Lr_{a2}^* + gz_a$$

# Multiple equilibria due to convective cloud feedback

(Abbot & Tziperman 2009)

Results for surface temperature: multiple equilibria!



Note: must check self-consistency of sol'n with/without convection

# Multiple equilibria due to convective cloud feedback

(Abbot & Tziperman 2009)

Show reviews & then the following slide with GCM results supporting this mechanism

# Back to the future

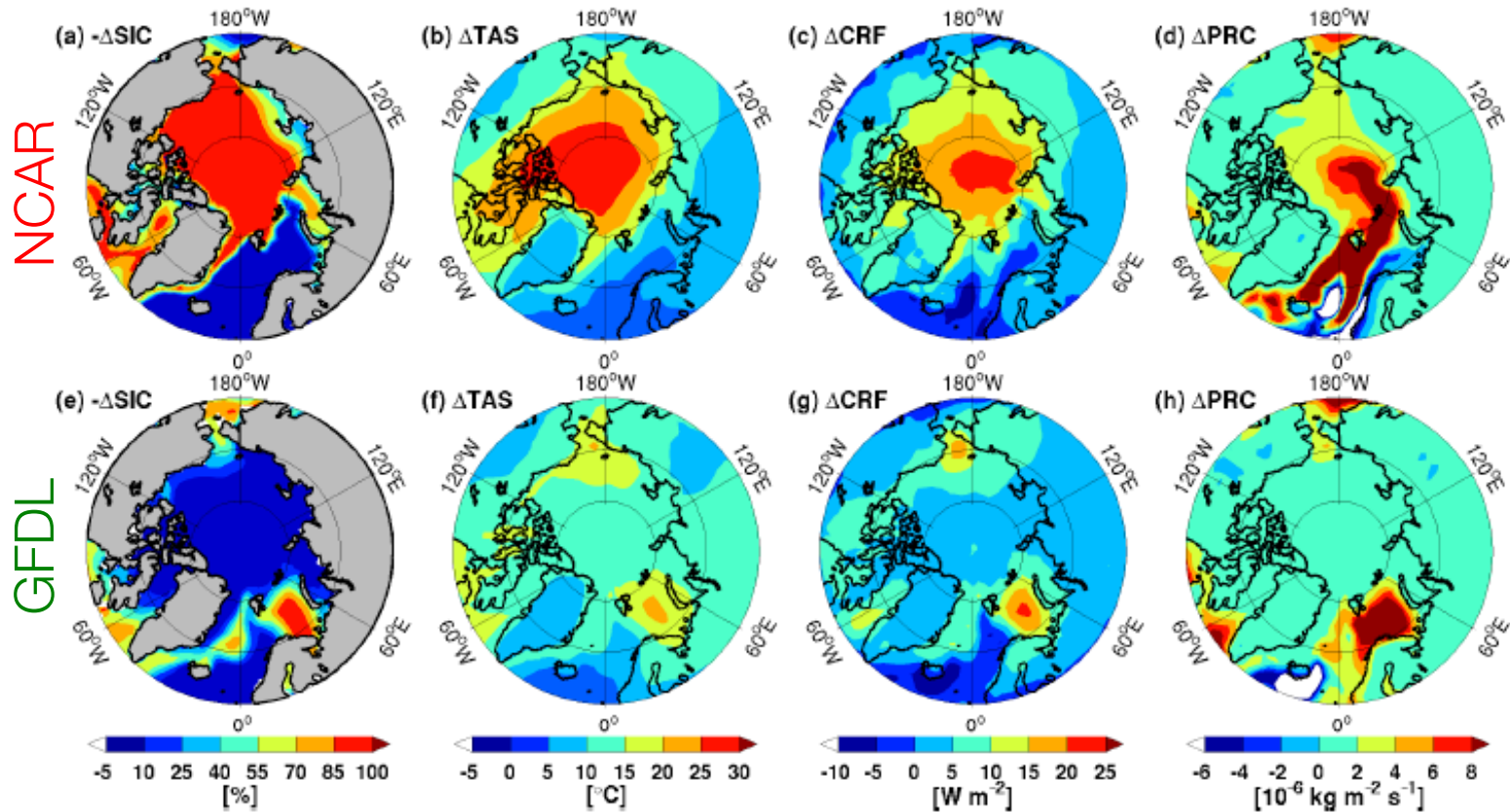


# Enticing 3D IPCC Model Simulations

Consider the **NCAR** & **GFDL** 3d coupled ocean-atmosphere state-of-the-art (2009...) models, at x4 CO<sub>2</sub>; anomaly from pre-industrial

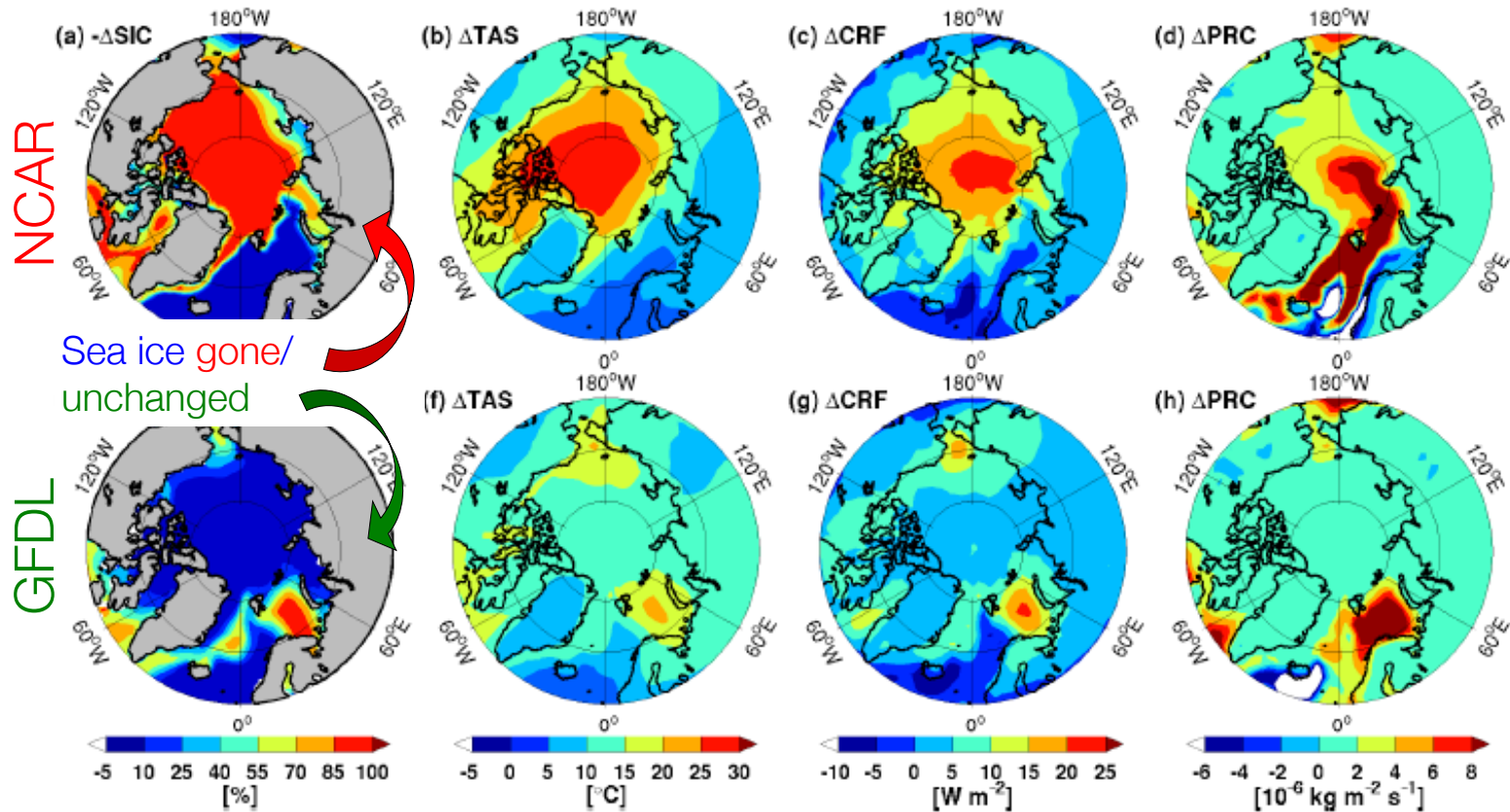
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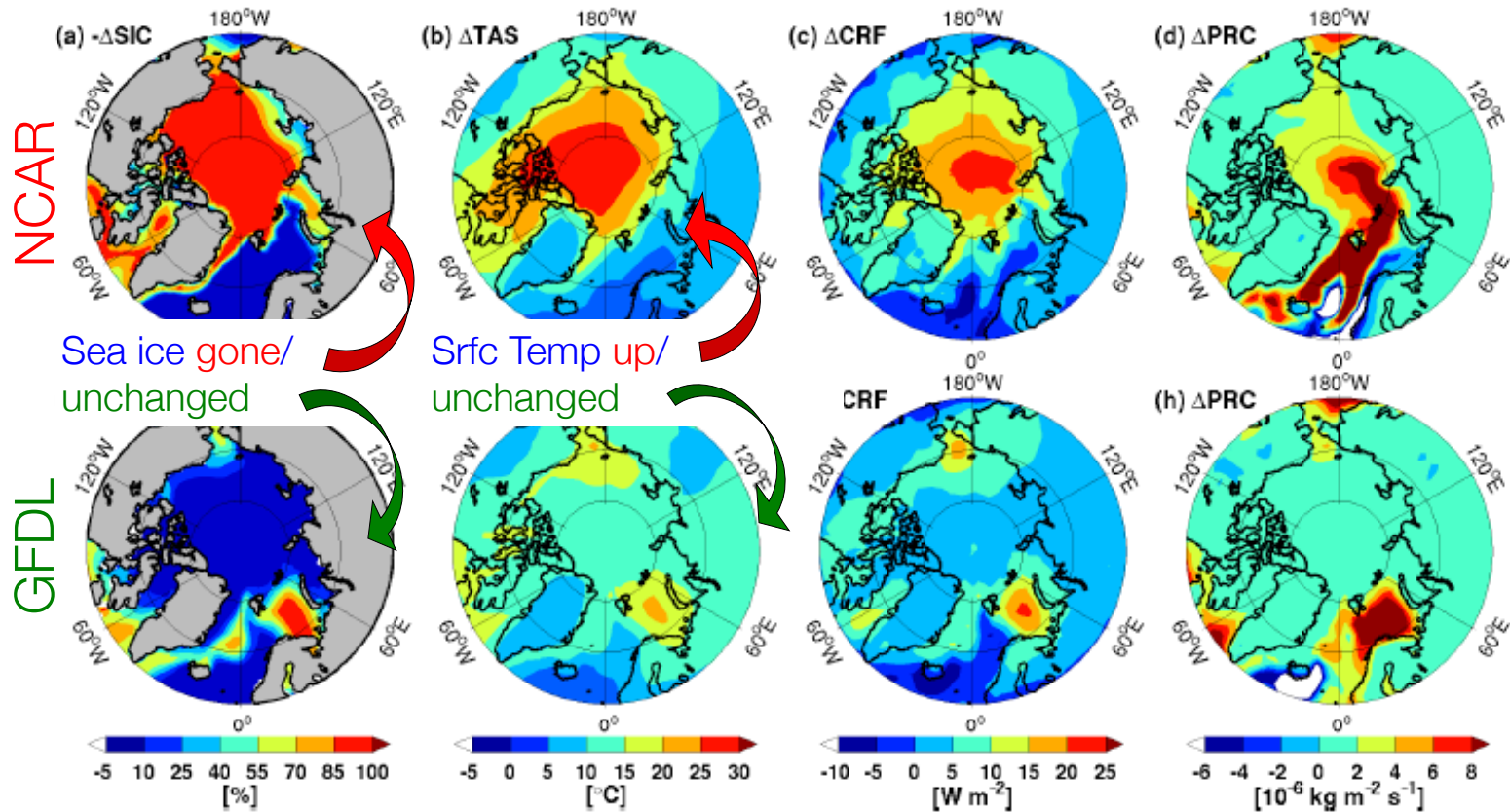
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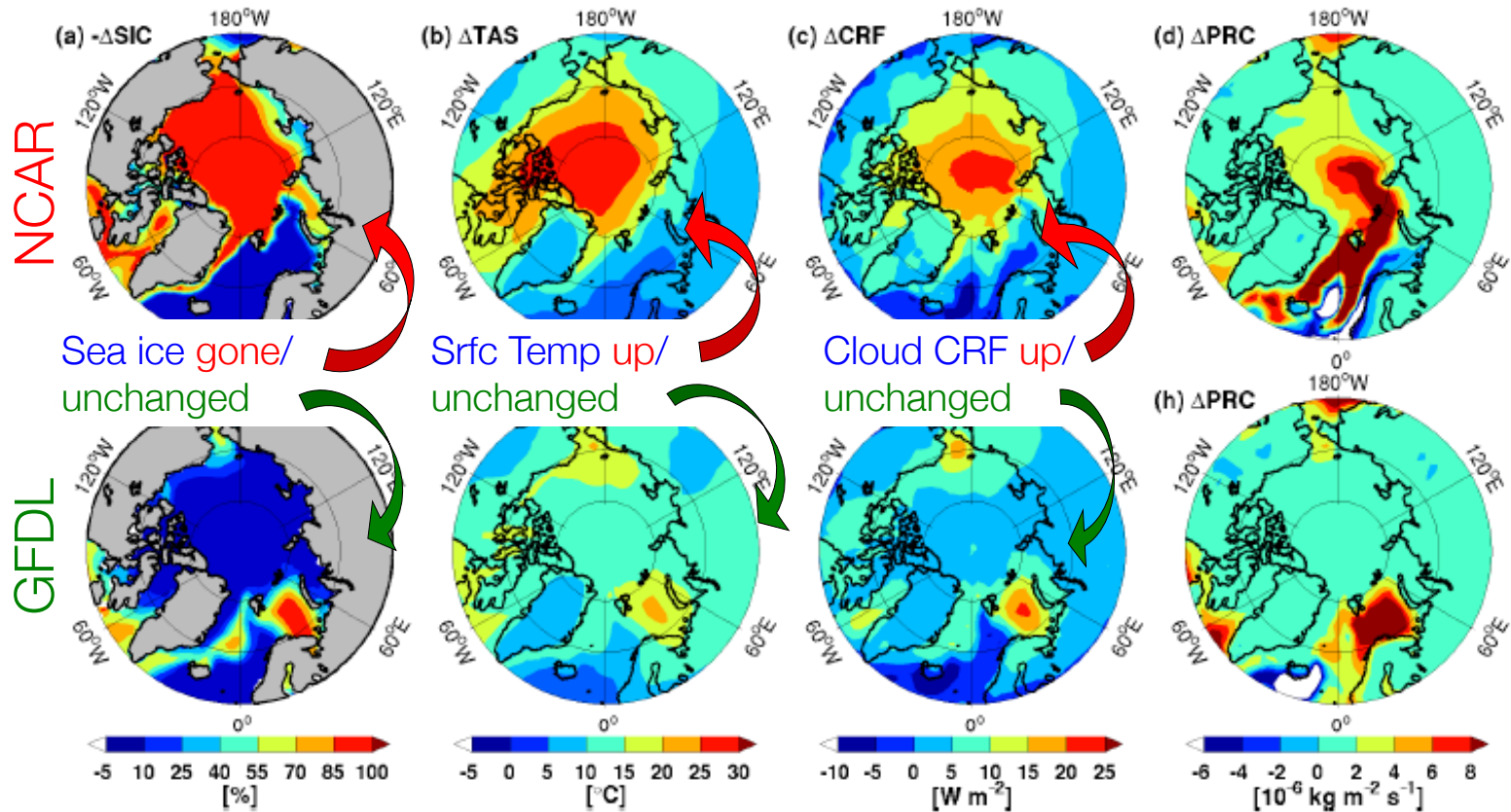
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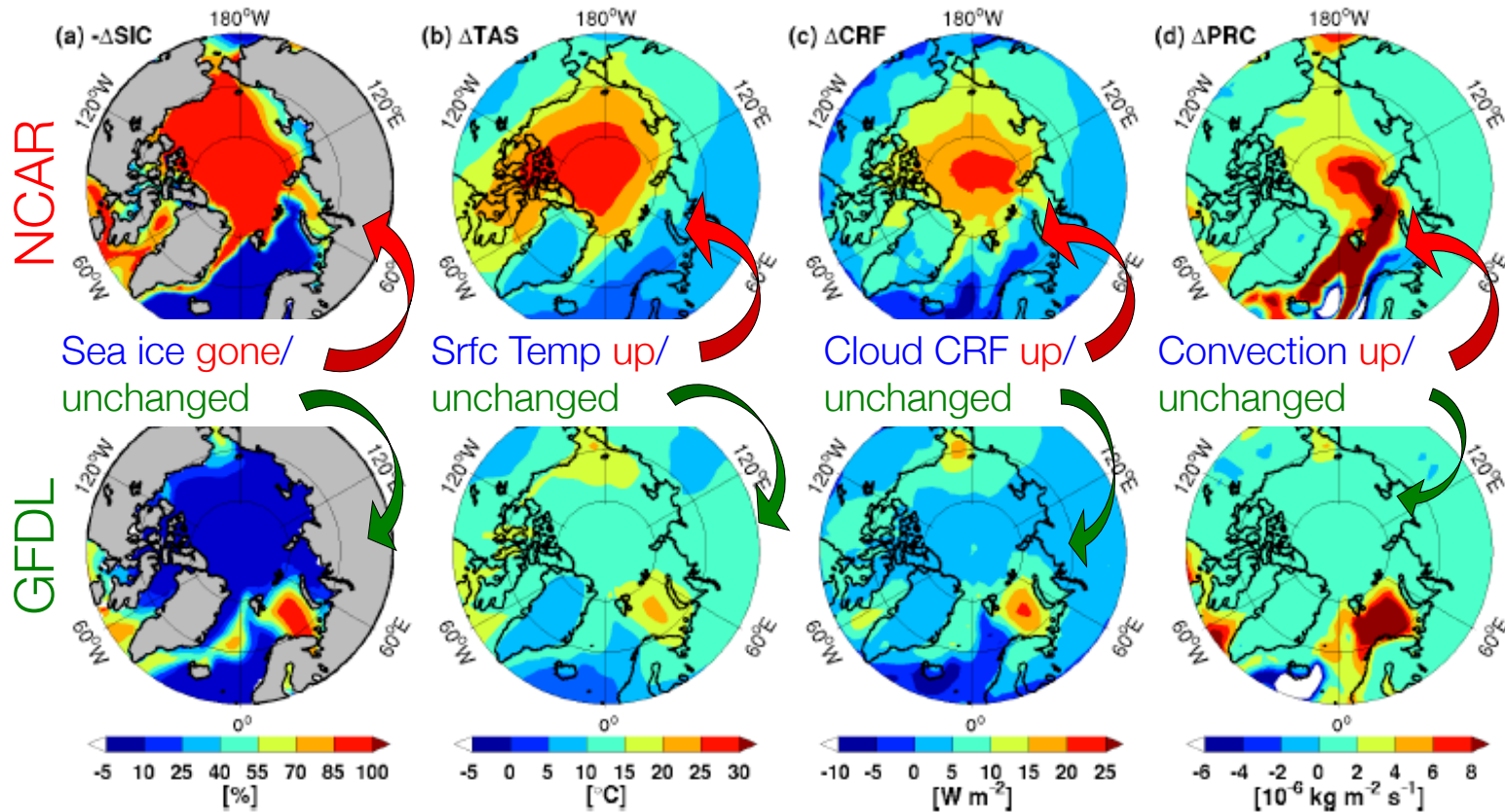
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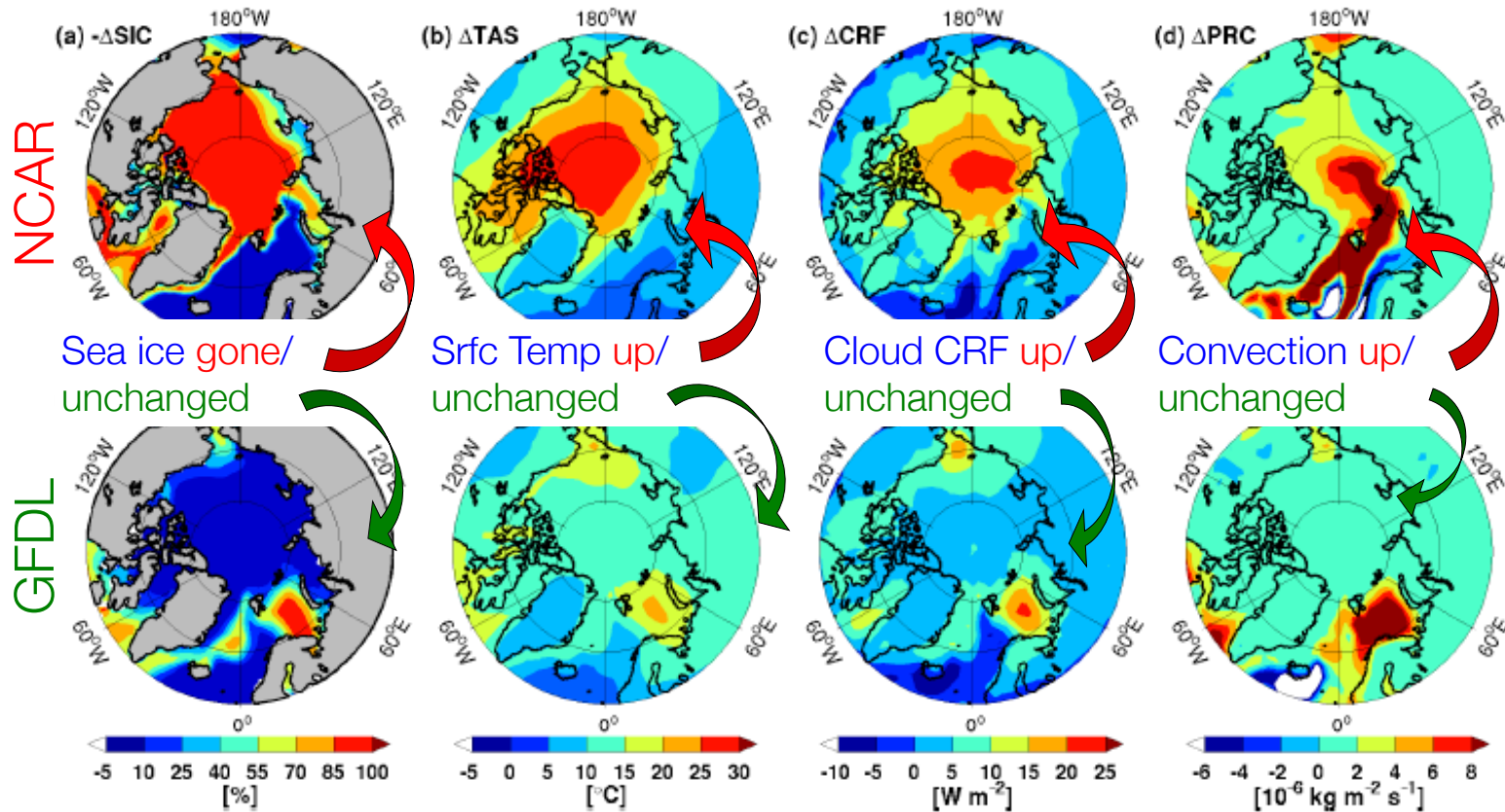
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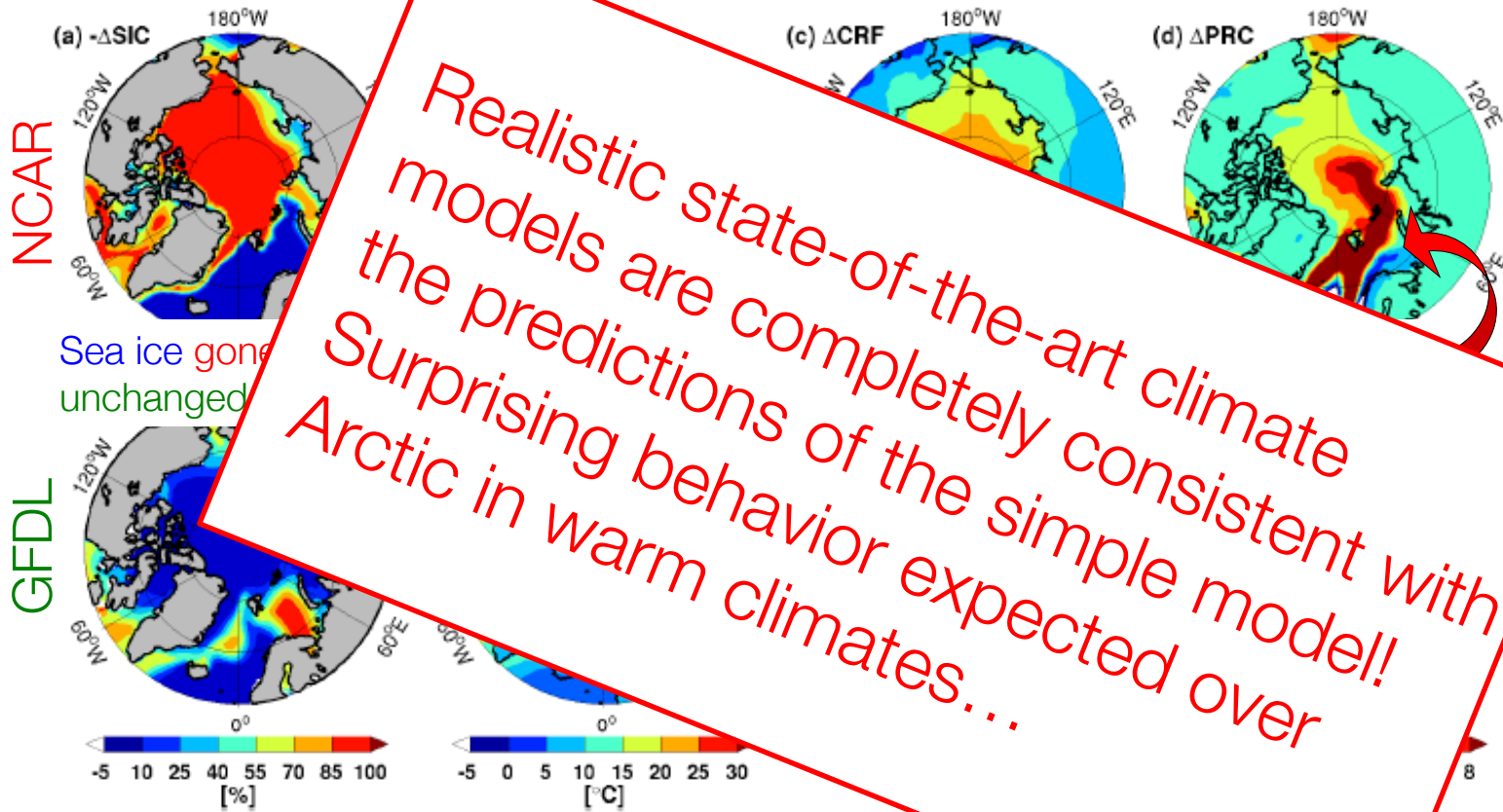
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→ IPCC NCAR 3d model behaves like toy model!!

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Consider the **NCAR** & **GFDL** 3d coupled ocean-atmosphere state-of-the-art (2009...) models, at x4 CO<sub>2</sub>; anomaly from pre-industrial



Realistic state-of-the-art climate models are completely consistent with the predictions of the simple model! Surprising behavior expected over Arctic in warm climates...

→ IPCC NCAR 3d model behaves like toy model!!

# Equable climate summary

back to two initial overview slides with 6 mechanisms

The End