



The Abdus Salam  
International Centre for Theoretical Physics



1986-9

**WCRP and ICTP Interpreting Climate Change Simulations: Capacity  
Building for Developing Nations Seminar**

*26 - 30 November 2007*

**IPCC WGI  
Radiative forcing of climate change.**

V. Ramaswamy  
*Princeton University - U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.  
Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory  
Forrestal Campus  
P.O. Box 308, 08542 N.J. Princeton  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*

# IPCC WGI

## Radiative forcing of climate change

V. Ramaswamy

NOAA/ Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory

*Presentation at ICTP, Trieste; November 27, 2007*

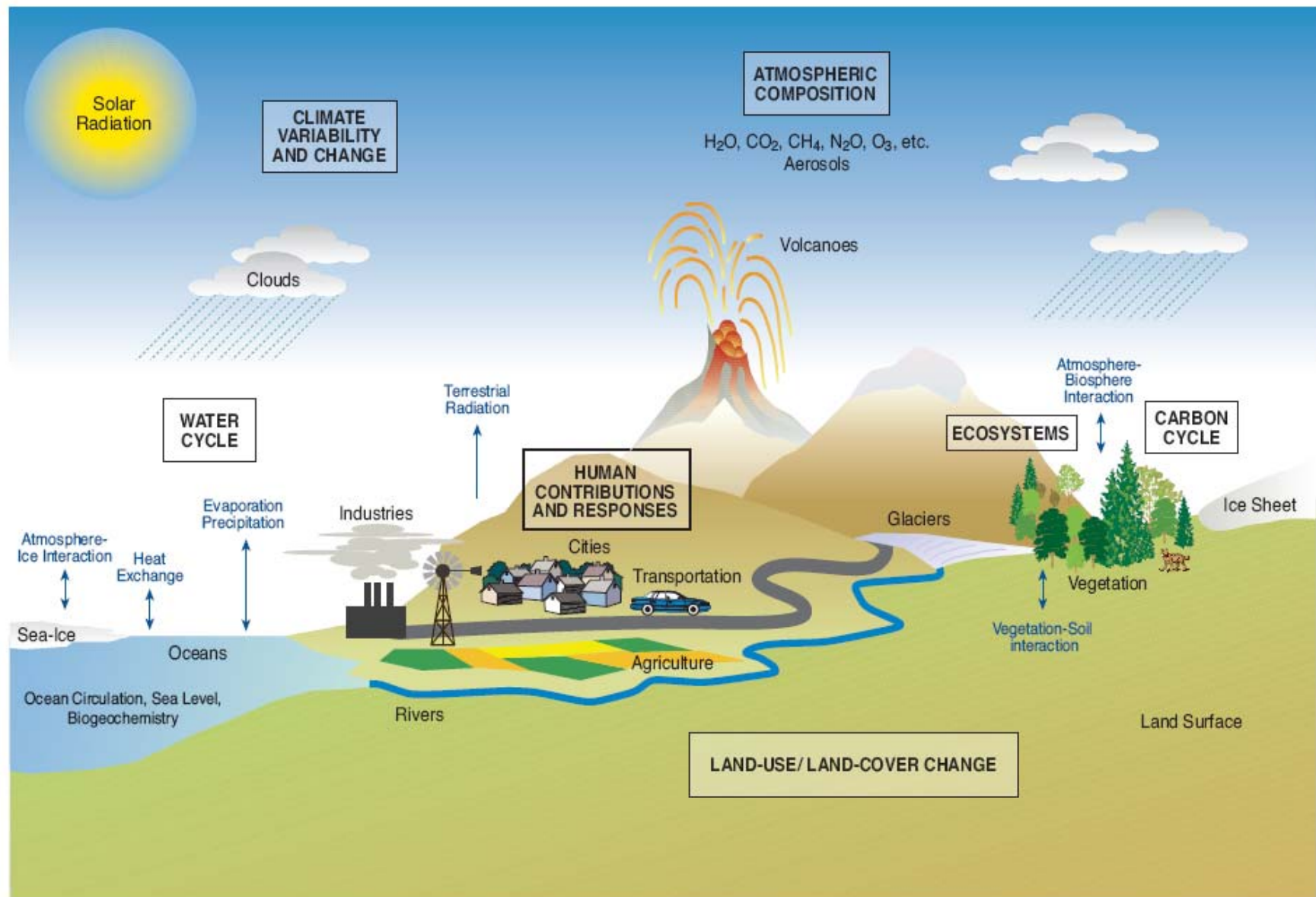


Figure 1: Major components needed to understand the climate system and climate change.

## Components of the Climate Change Process

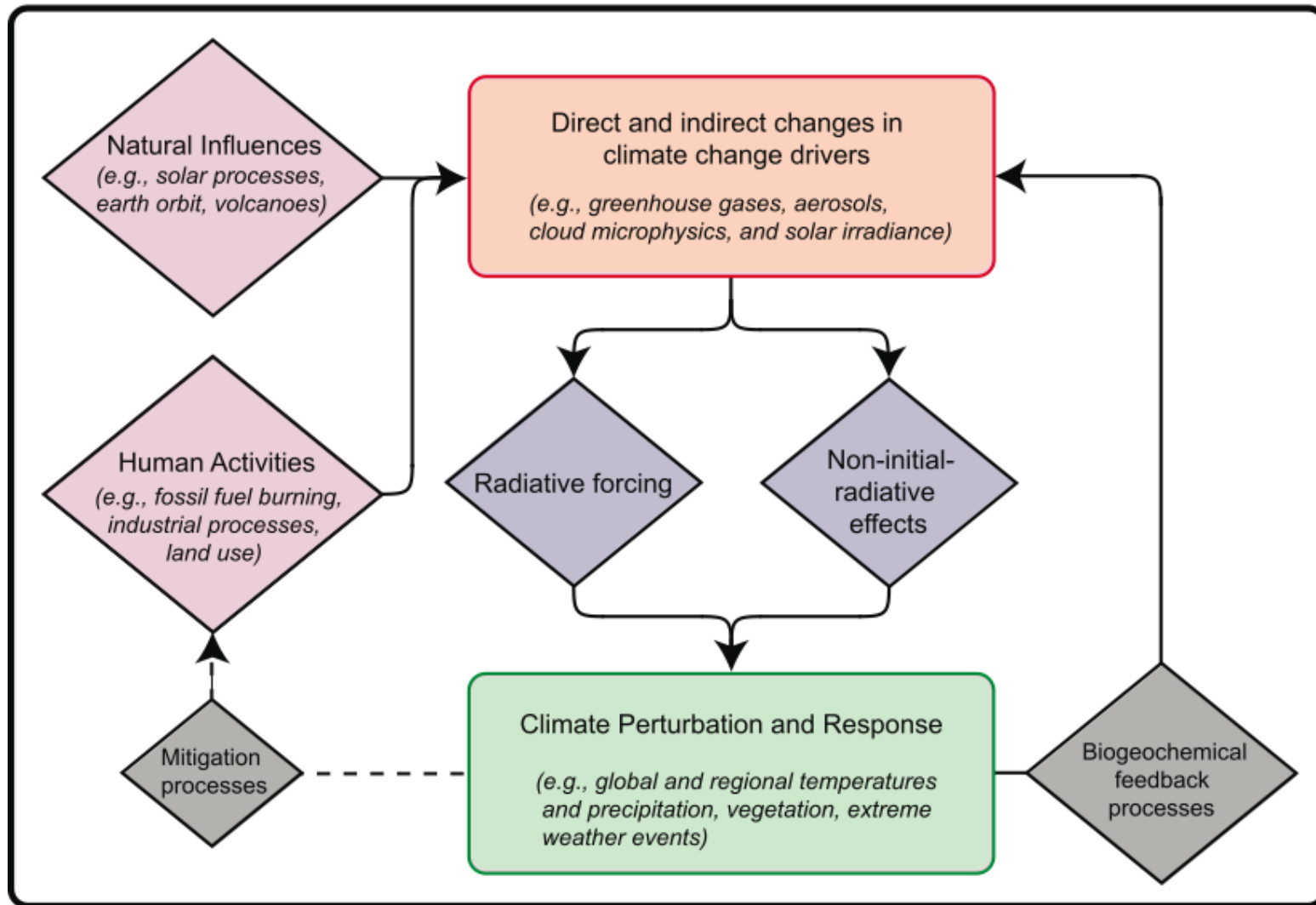
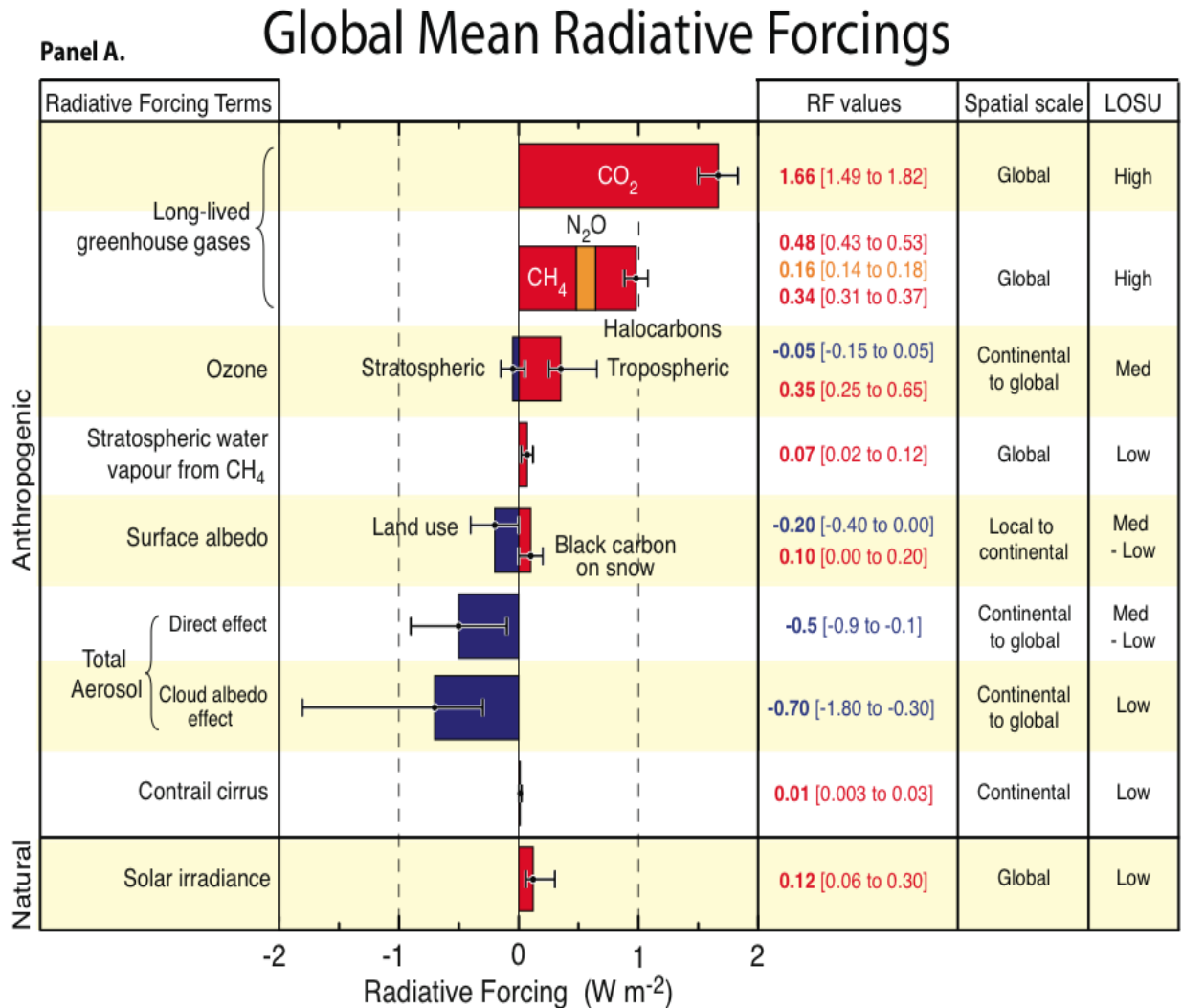


Figure 2.1



# Radiative Forcing of Climate [1750 to 2005]



**Best estimate and range for individual terms; ranges given by 90% confidence interval.**

**Note differences in spatial scale**

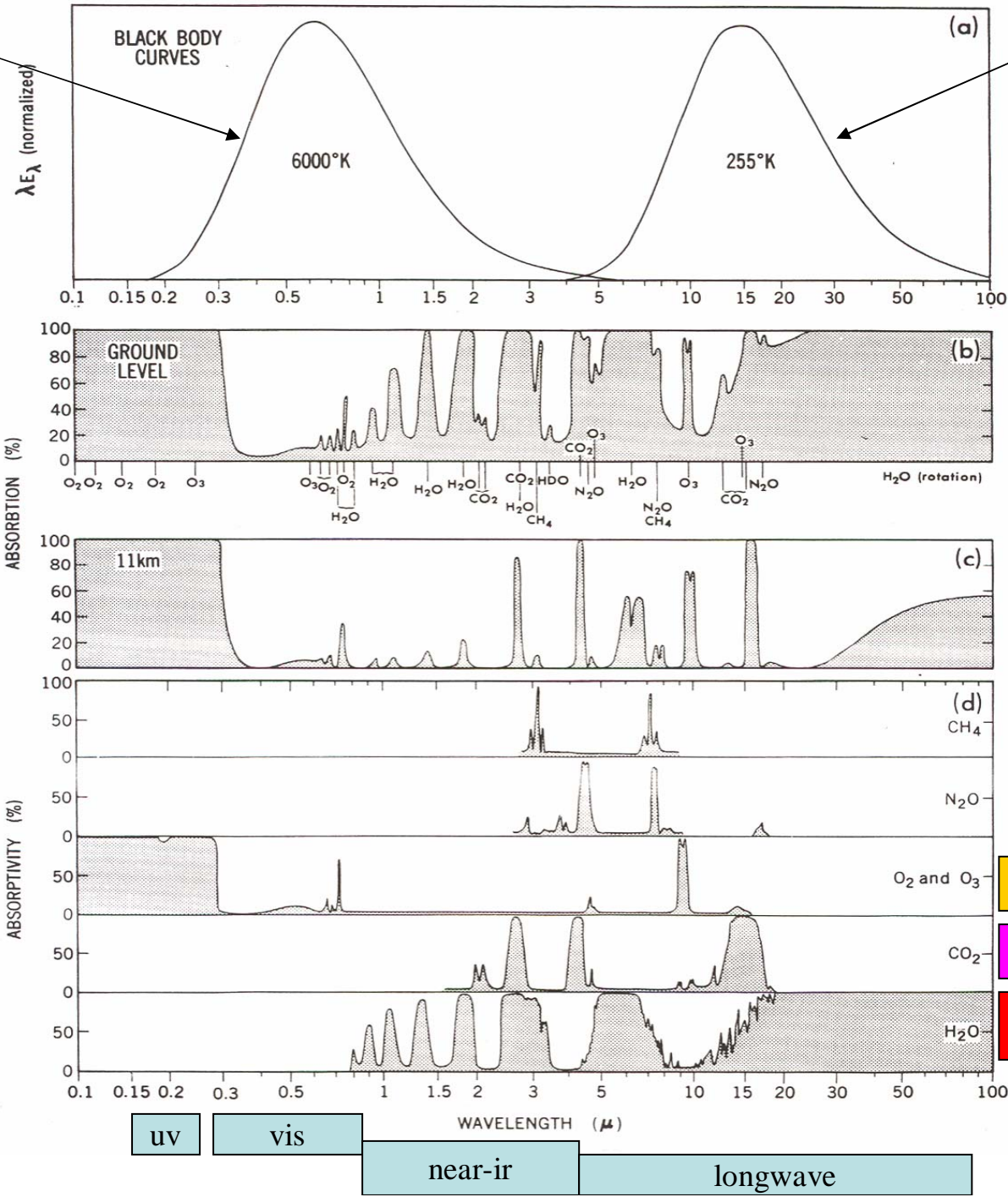
**Time-scale: varies between mechanisms; difficult to characterize CO<sub>2</sub>'s lifetime by a single value.**

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**Figure TS-5 (Panel A)**

Solar blackbody fn.

Earth's "effective" blackbody fn.



Methane

Nitrous oxide

Oxygen; Ozone

Carbon dioxide

Water vapor

uv

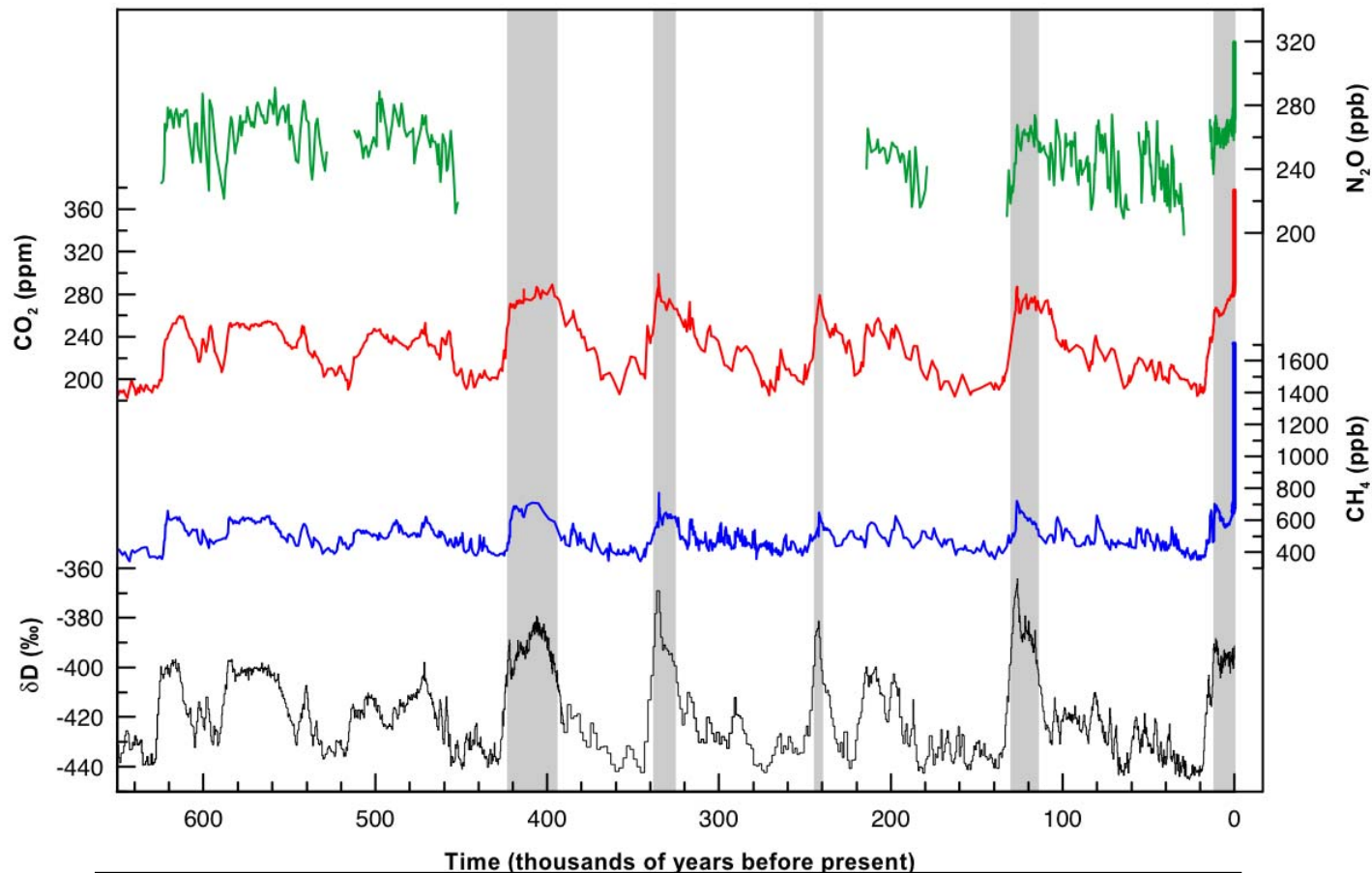
vis

near-ir

longwave

Molecule	Spectral Range $\text{cm}^{-1}$	Band Strength $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{atm}^{-1}$ at 296K
$\text{CO}_2$	550-800	220
$\text{O}_3$	950-1200	312
$\text{N}_2\text{O}$	1200-1350	218
$\text{CH}_4$	950-1650	134
$\text{CFCl}_3$ (CFC11)	800-900	1828
$\text{CF}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (CFC12)	875-950	1446
$\text{CF}_3\text{Cl}$ (CFC13)	1075-1125	1758

## Glacial-Interglacial Ice Core Data



Change in carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide concentrations over last 650,000 years, from Antarctic ice cores, and recent atmospheric measurements. Two temperature proxy timeseries are also shown.

[Figure 6.3]

### Points

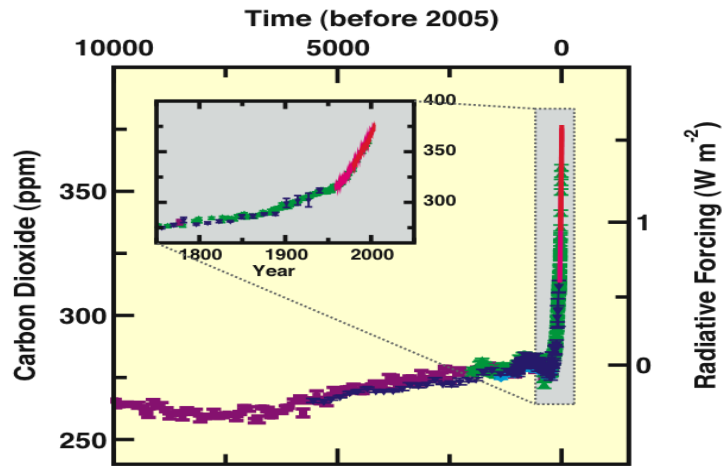
Long-term record, esp. CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>

N<sub>2</sub>O record not as continuous

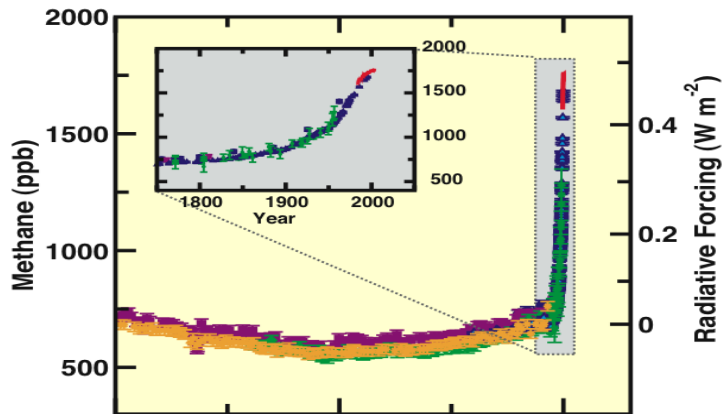
Long-lived greenhouse gas records approximately equivalent to global mixing ratio values

Temperature record is more local to Antarctica

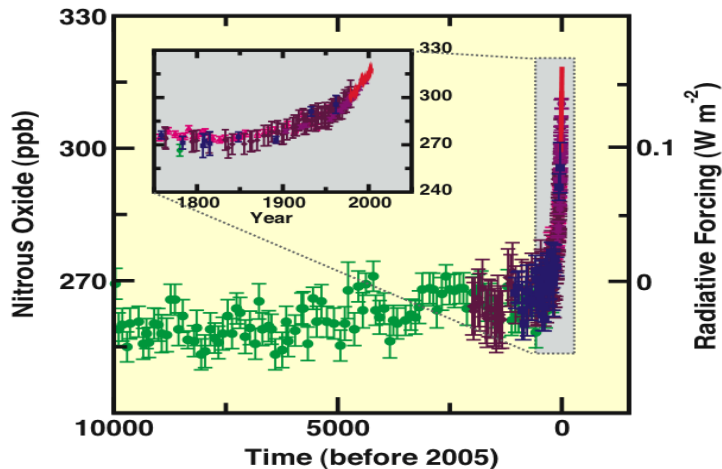
CO<sub>2</sub>



CH<sub>4</sub>



N<sub>2</sub>O



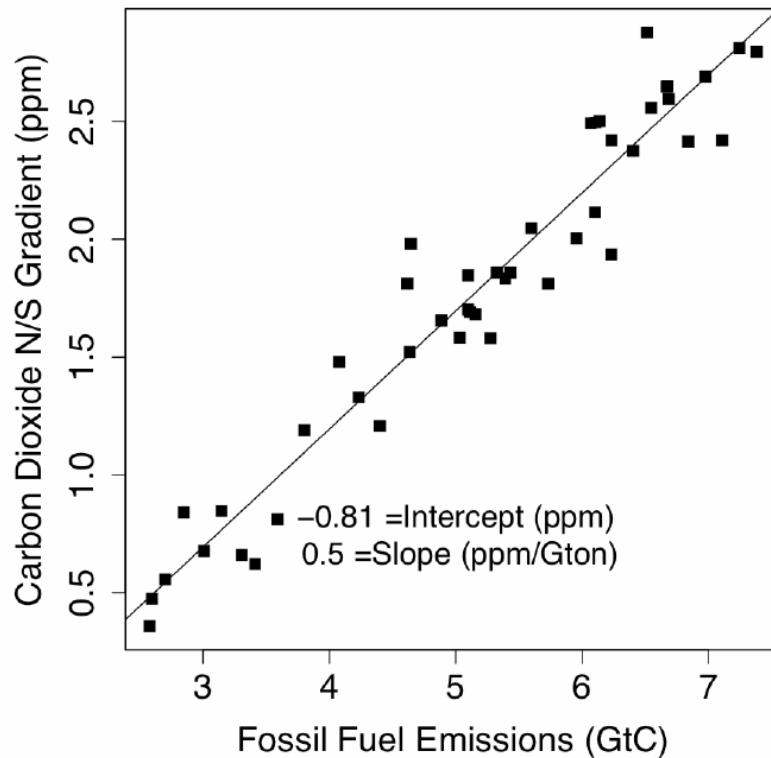
Change in carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide concentrations and radiative forcing over last 10,000 years, and (inset) from 1750-2005 [Figure SPM-1].

**Increase since 1750 is unprecedented in record**  
**CO<sub>2</sub> radiative forcing has increased by 20% in last 10 years**



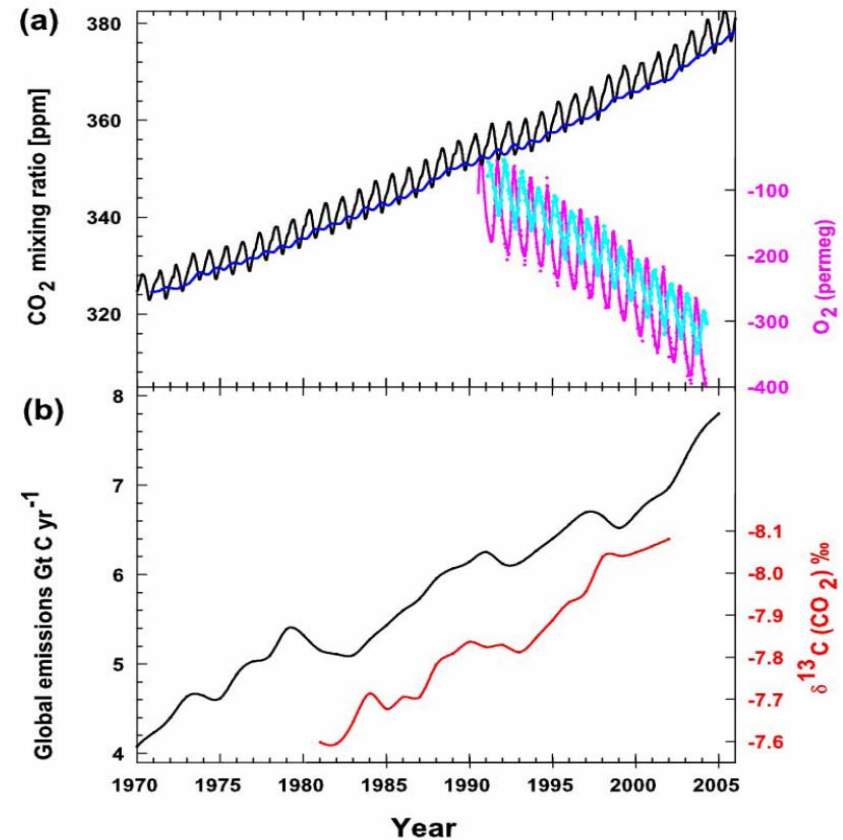
# Carbon dioxide increases are due to anthropogenic emissions

North-South CO<sub>2</sub> gradient is related to fossil fuel emissions [Figure 7.5]



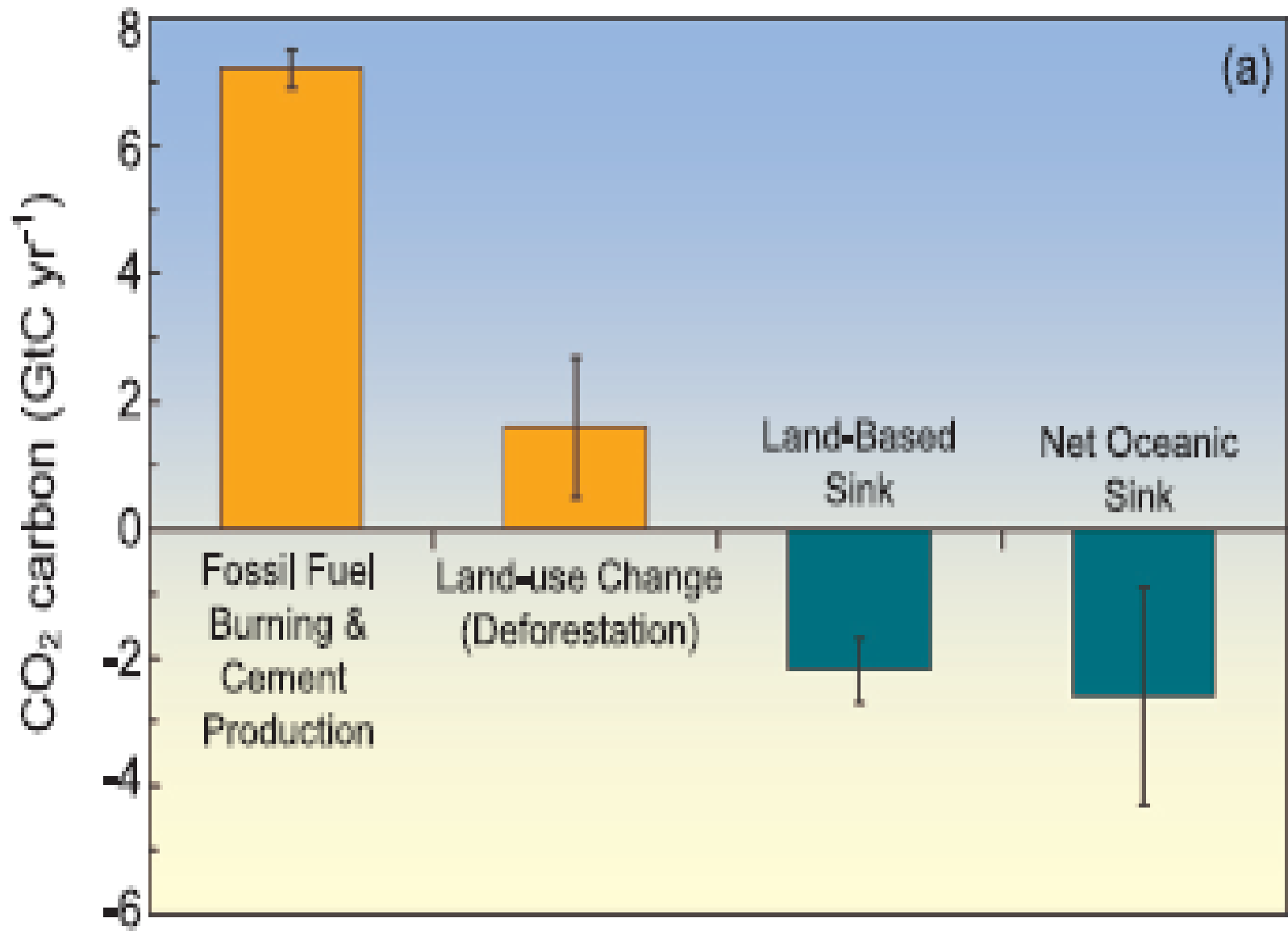
CO<sub>2</sub> → chemically stable → long-lived → well-mixed

Oxygen and carbon isotope record show anthropogenic cause [Figure 2.3]



Global fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are increasing

# IPCC AR4 Chapter 7



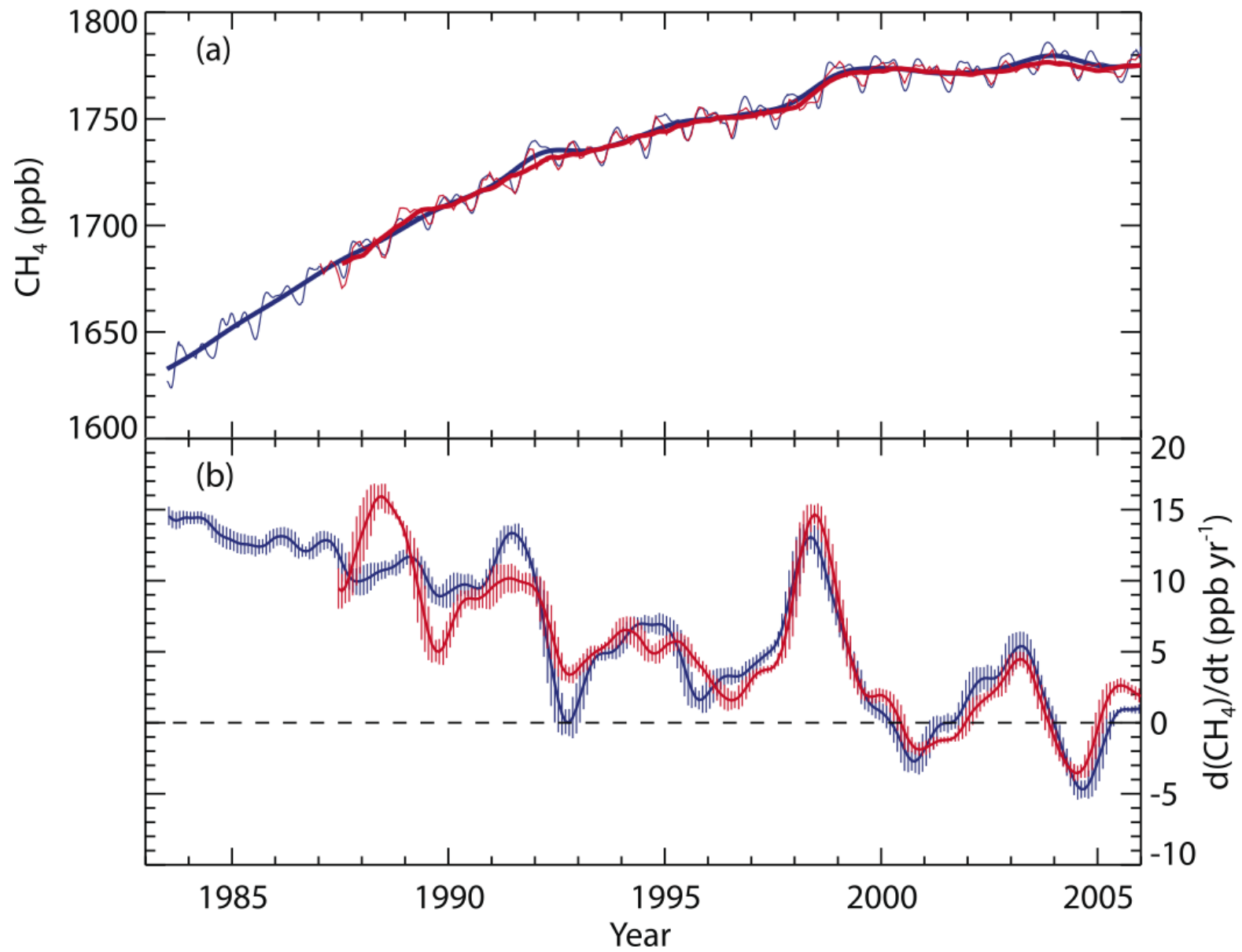


Figure 2.4



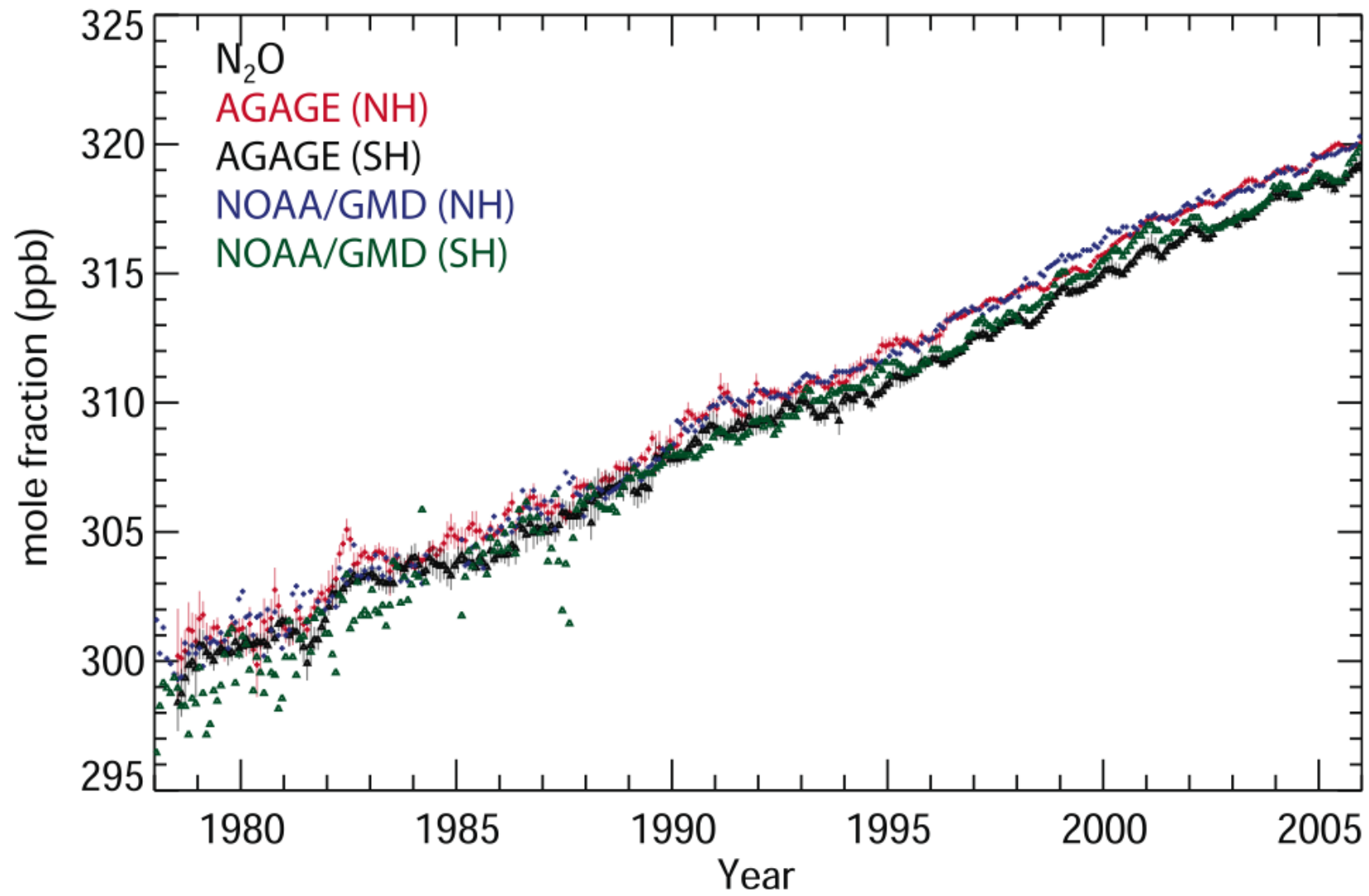
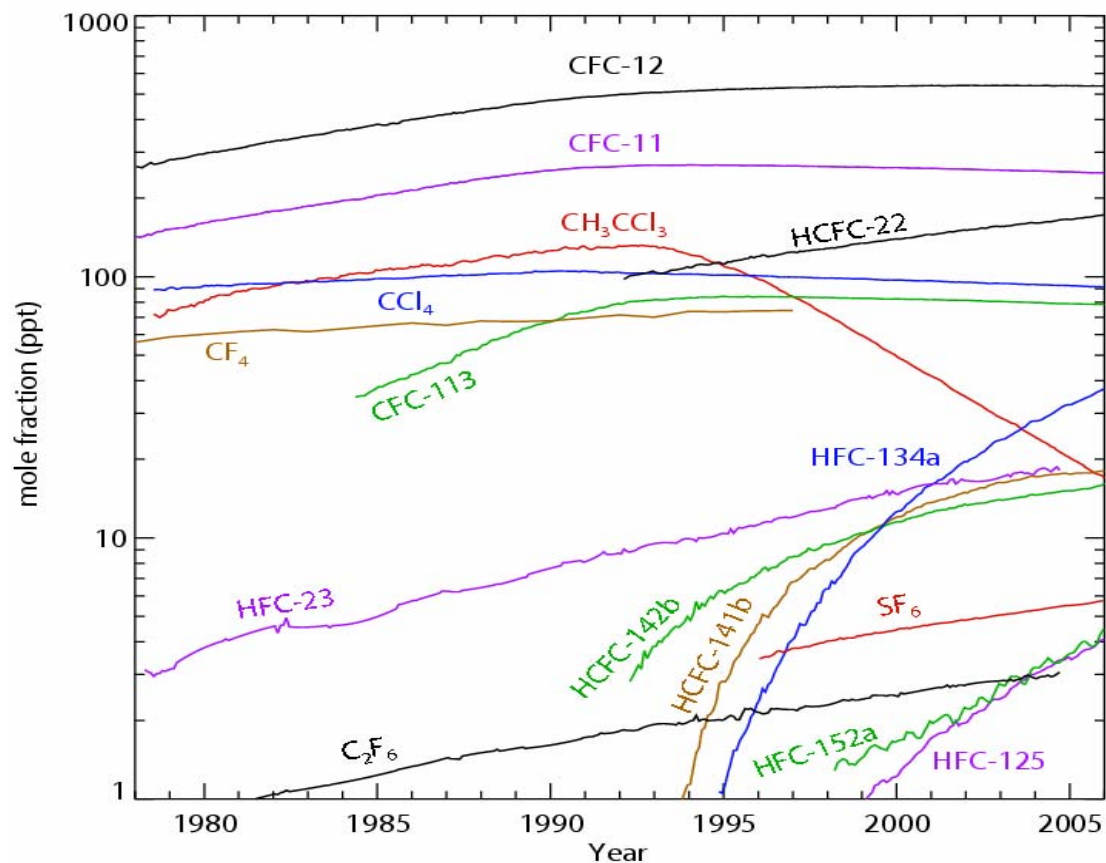
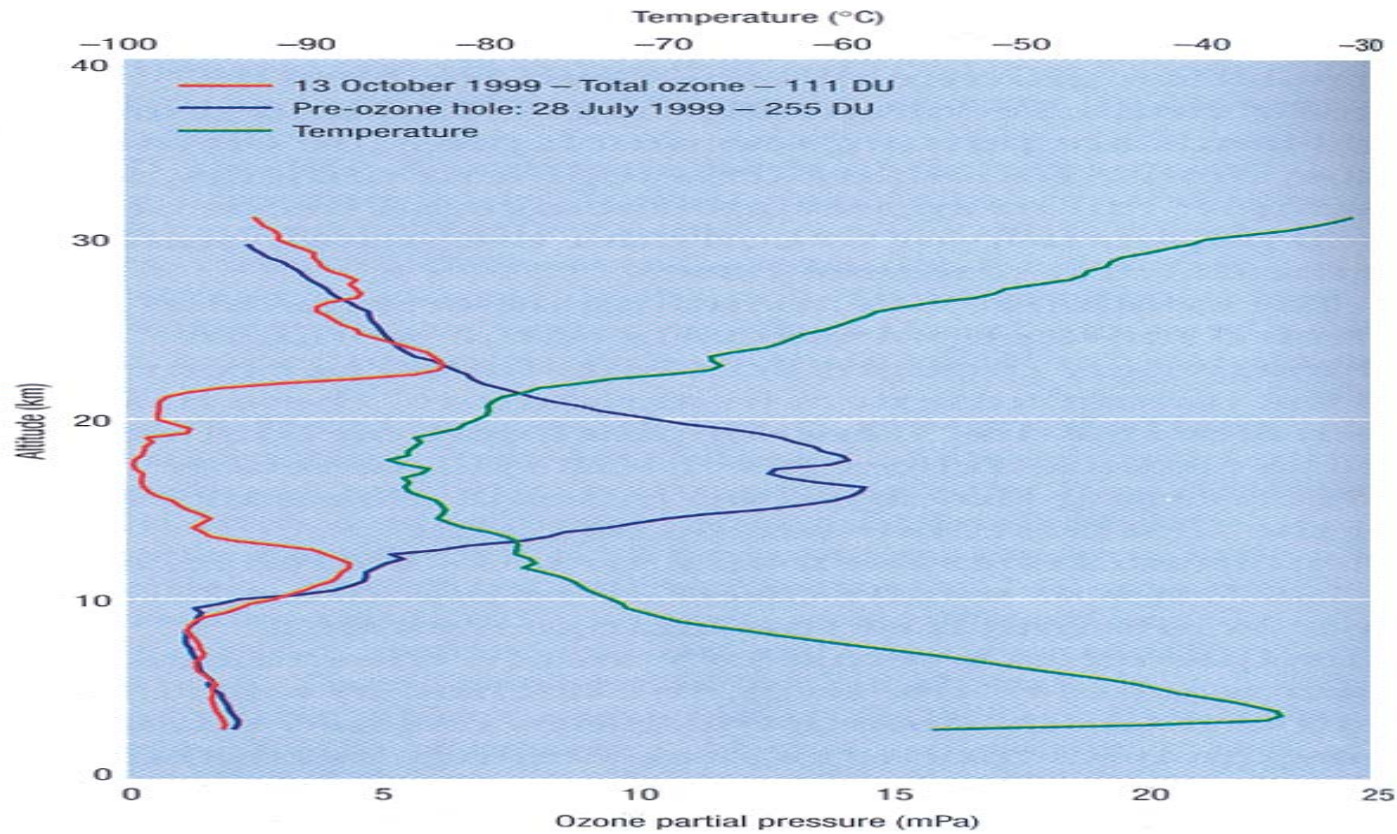


Figure 2.5

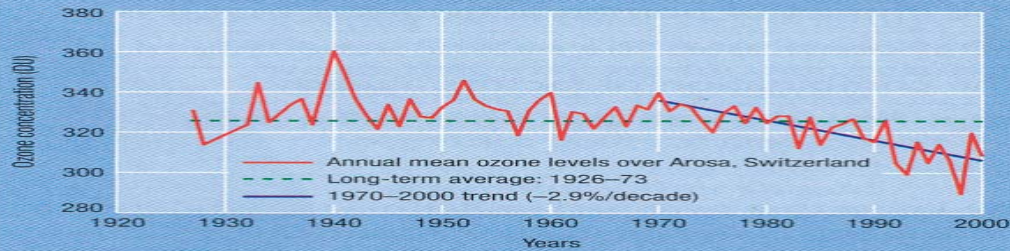
## Temporal evolution of the major Halocarbons [Figure 2.6]



Some species (CFC-11, CFC-12) flattening or going down because of Protocols  
Some species (HCFC-22, SF<sub>6</sub>) increasing  
Overall slight increase in halocarbon radiative forcing since the time of the TAR  
Not elucidated on in SPM, as recently evaluated in IPCC/TEAP (2005) report



### Measurement of atmospheric ozone



In 1922, G.M.B. Dobson, an English physicist at Oxford, developed an operational spectrophotometer for routine measurement of total ozone in the

overhead air column. The Dobson photospectrometer, as shown above, was the standard instrument for more than 50 years and more than 100 were



constructed and deployed around the world for ozone measurement. The systematic observations from Arosa, Switzerland show nearly steady amounts of ozone until the early 1970s, and a significant decline thereafter.

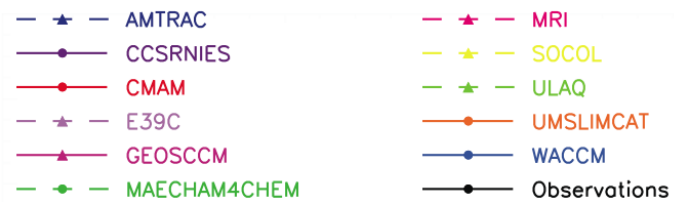
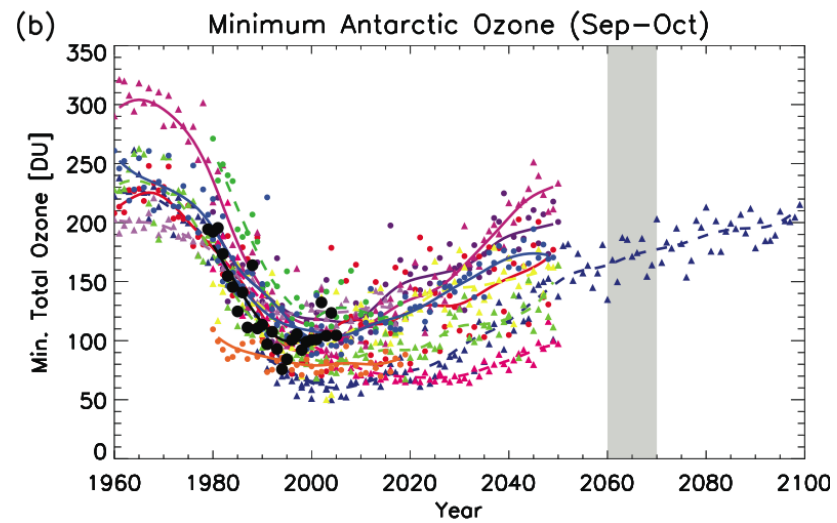
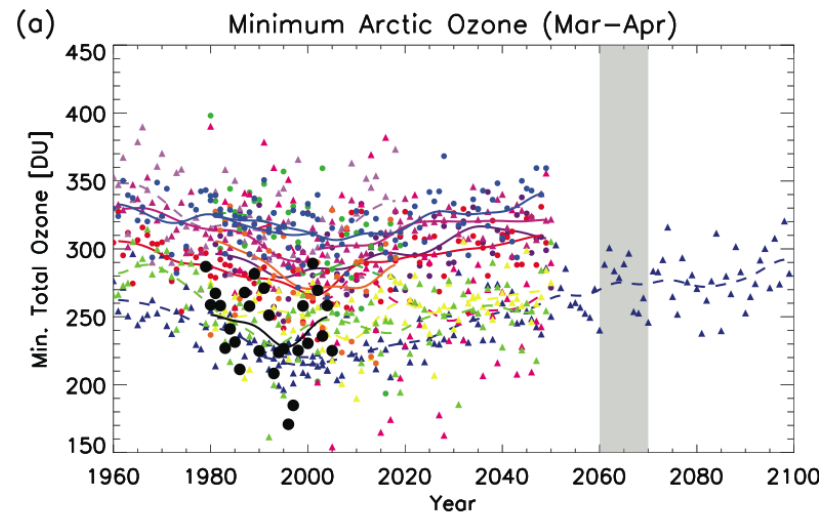
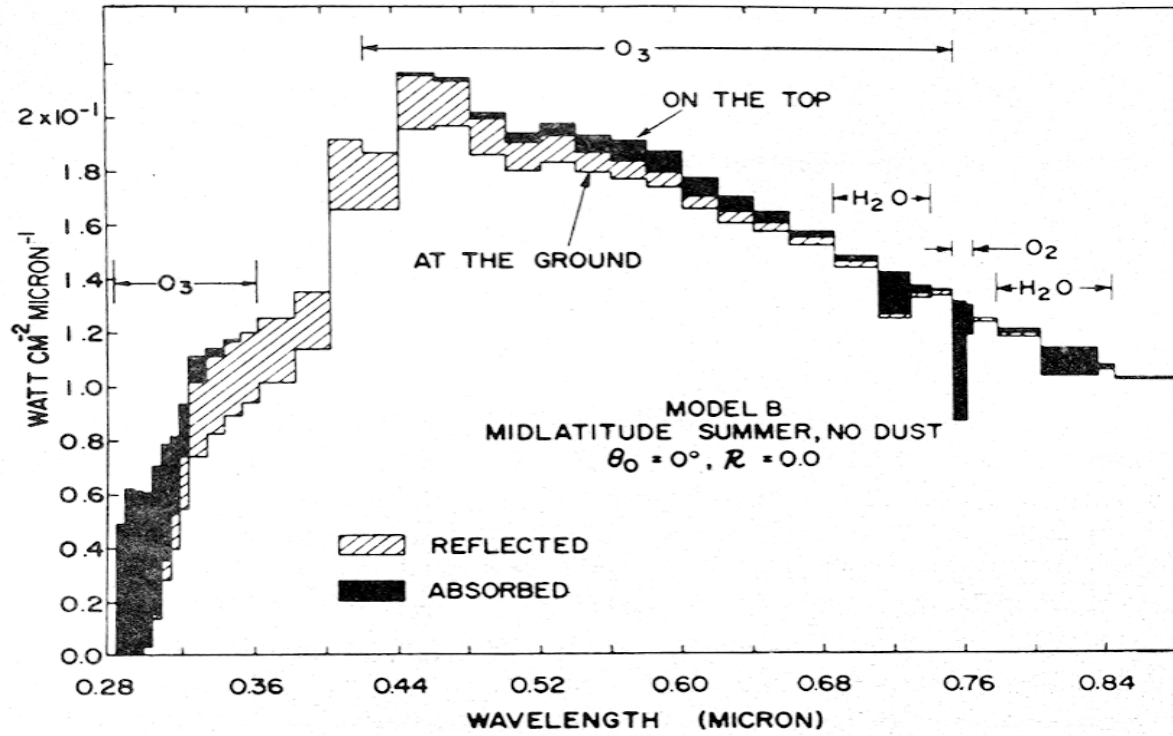
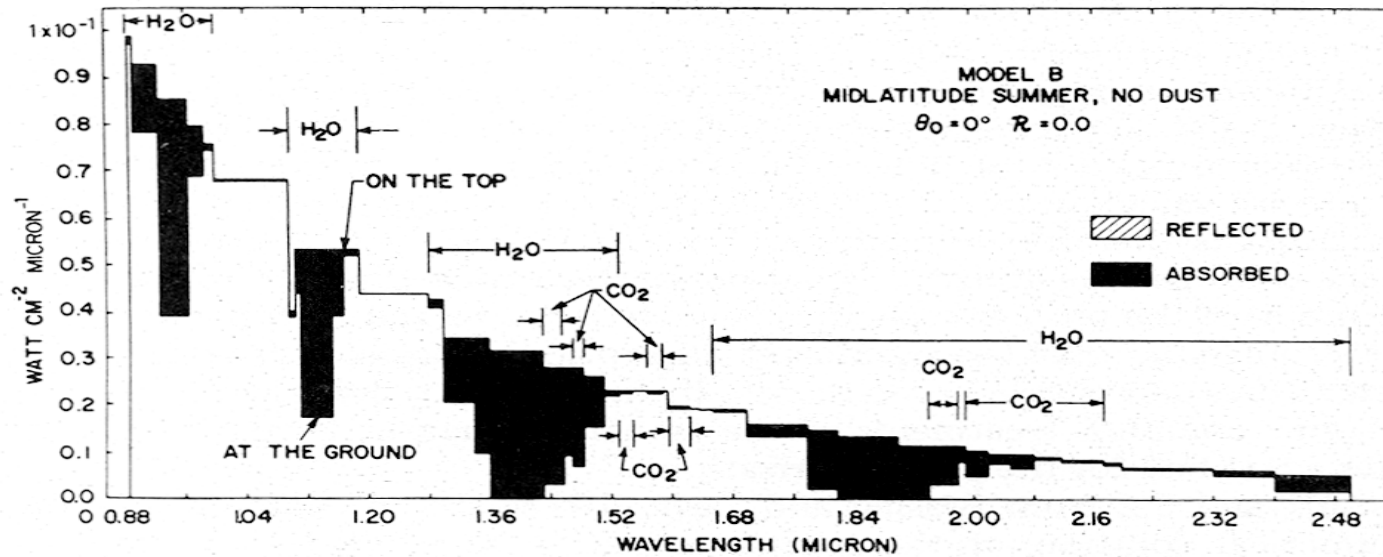


Figure 7.18





VIS



Near-IR

**Back Scattering (Cooling)**

**Absorption  
(Atmospheric Warming)**

**Absorption  
(Column  
Warming)**

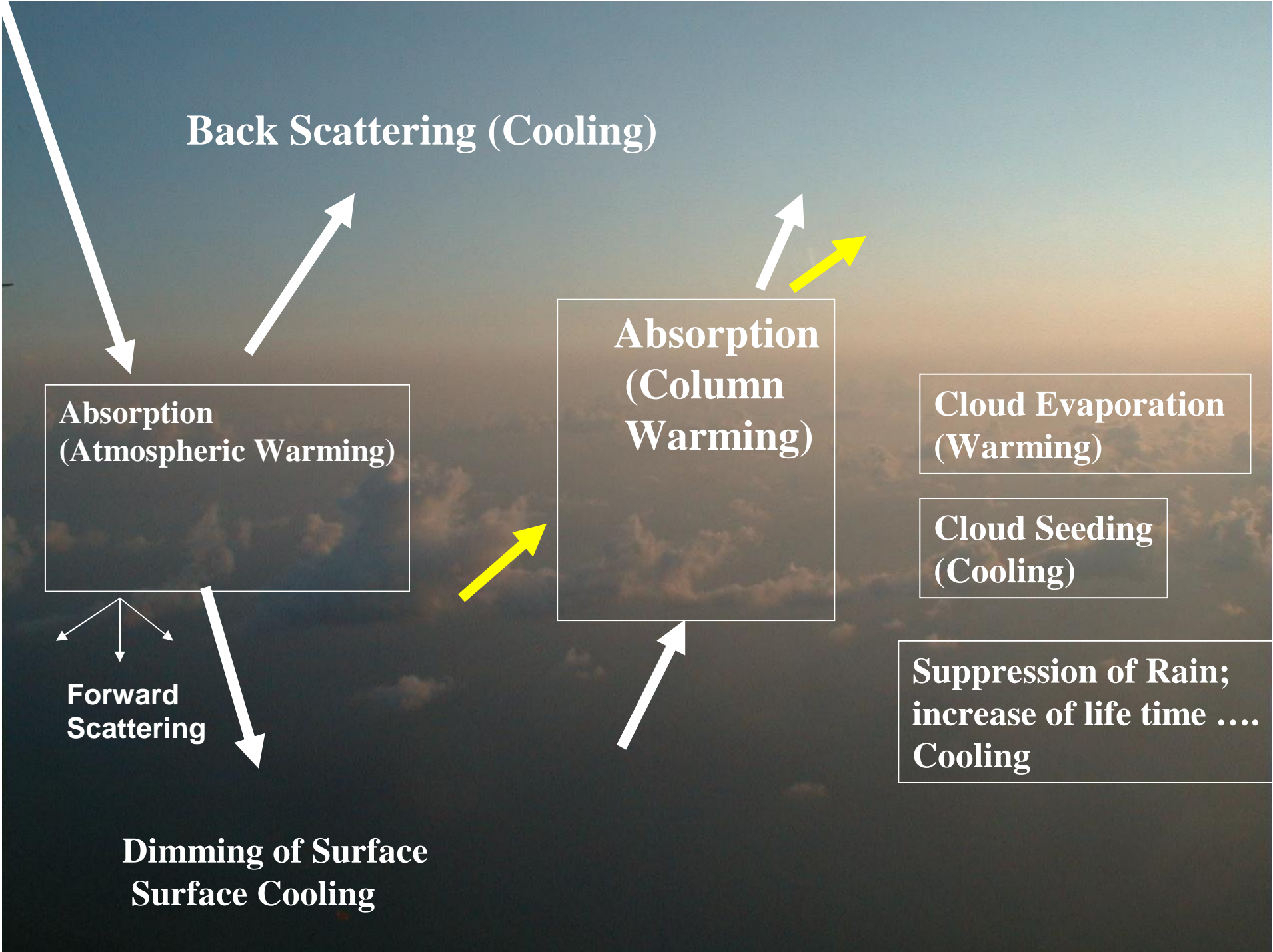
**Cloud Evaporation  
(Warming)**

**Cloud Seeding  
(Cooling)**

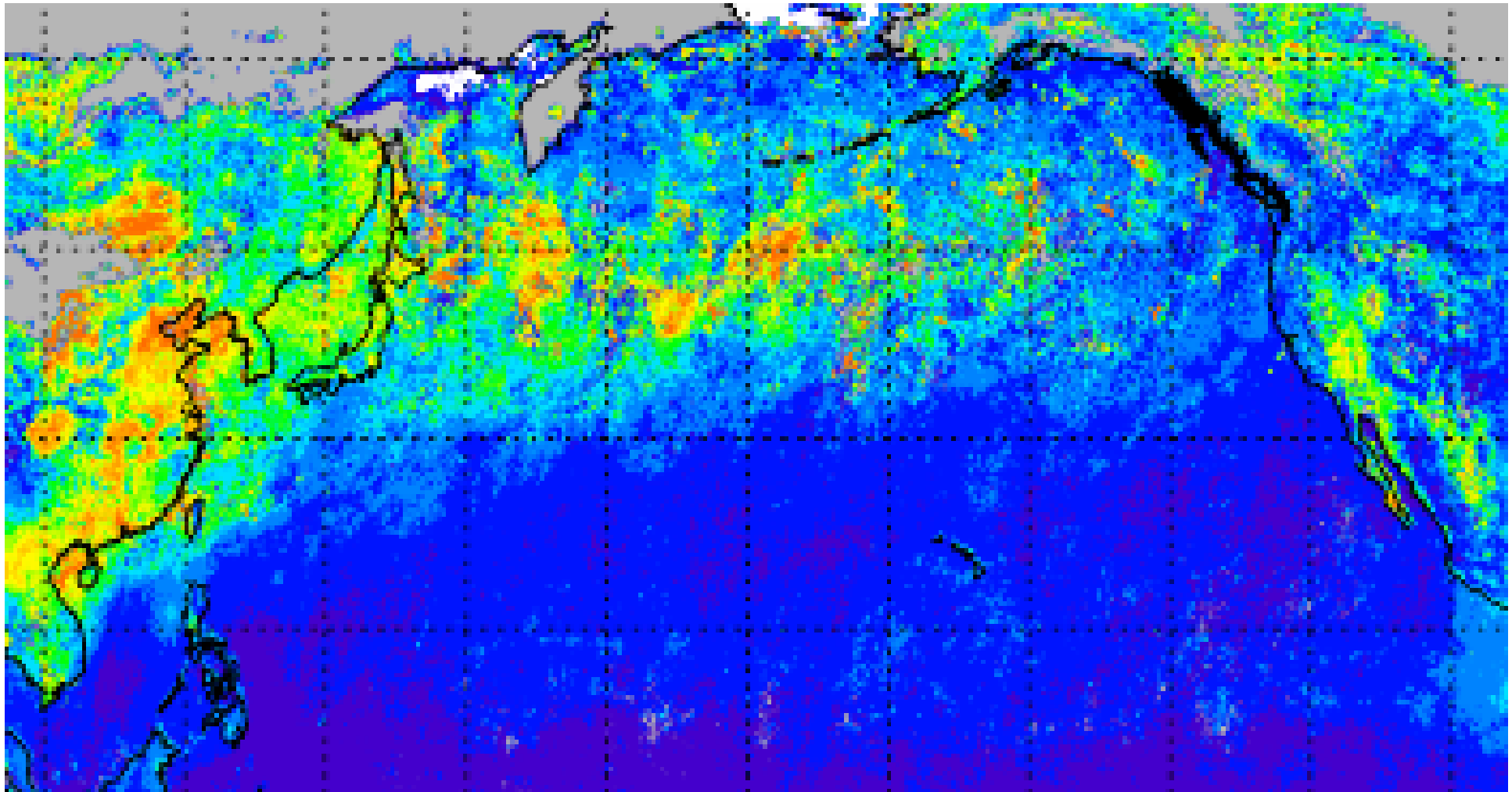
**Suppression of Rain;  
increase of life time ....  
Cooling**

**Forward  
Scattering**

**Dimming of Surface  
Surface Cooling**



# MODIS AOD: April 2003



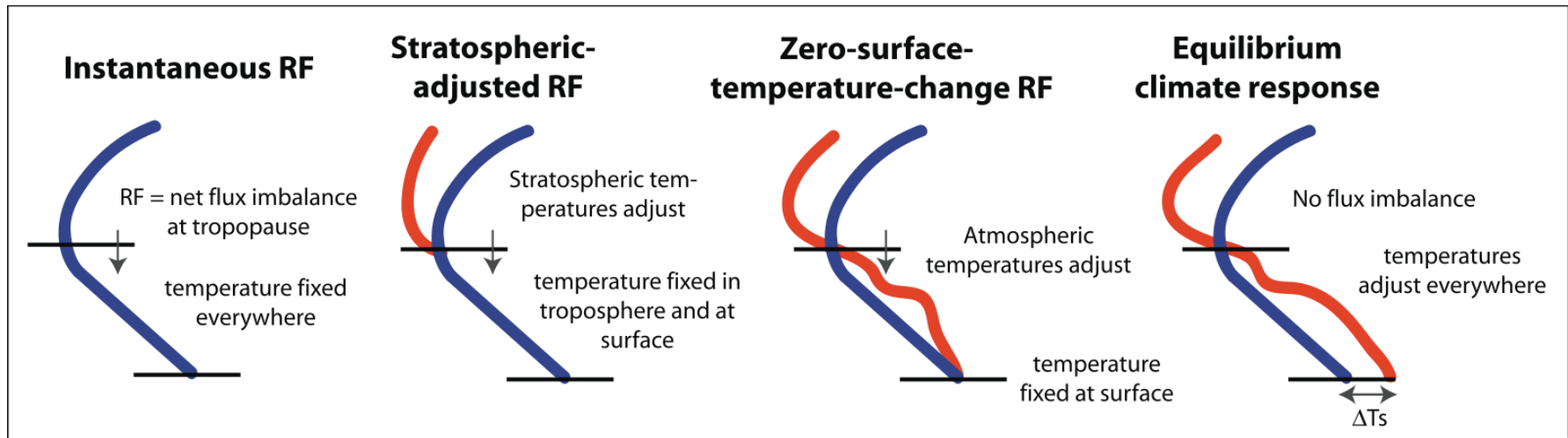


Figure 2.2



## FORCING - RESPONSE RELATION

{ at equilibrium }

$$\Delta T_s = \lambda * (\Delta F)$$

$T_s$  = global-mean, annual-mean  
surface temperature

$\Delta F$  = global-mean, annual-mean  
radiative forcing evaluated at  
tropopause after equilibration  
of stratosphere

$\lambda$  = global-mean climate  
sensitivity factor (parameter)

### Radiative Forcing of Tropospheric Ozone Increases

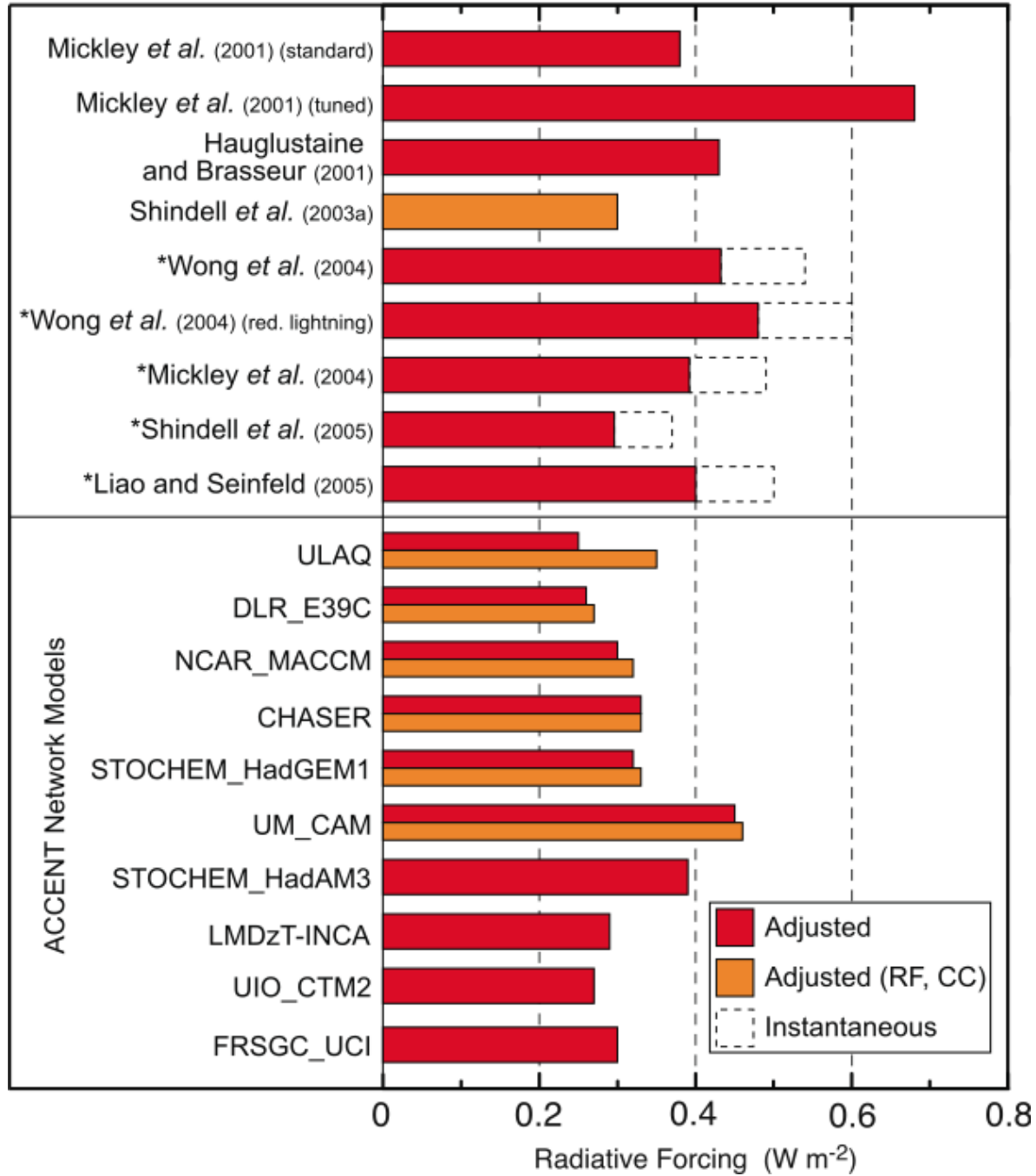


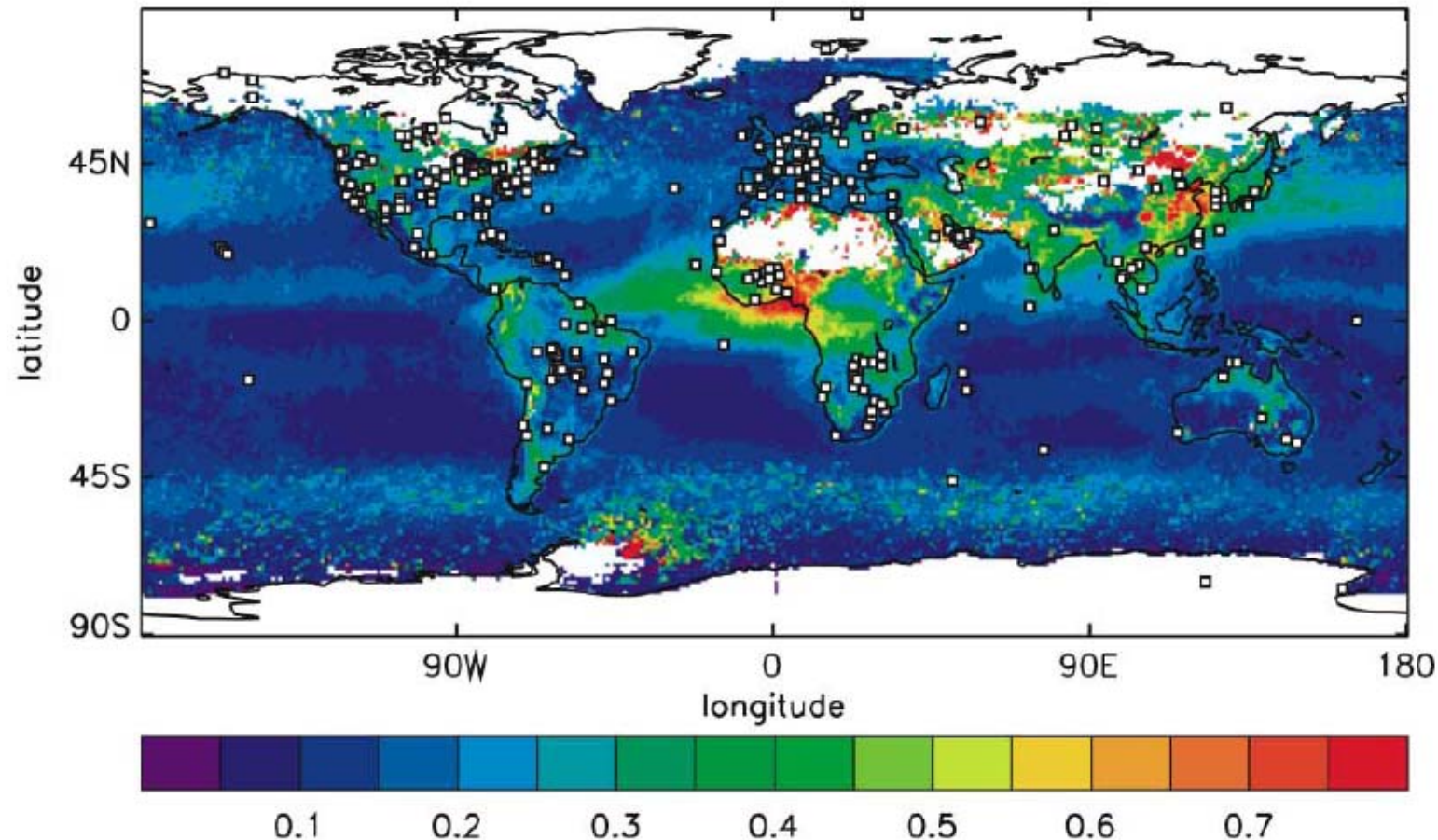
Figure 2.9

- Long-Lived Greenhouse Gases (LLGHGs):  
Use the observed record, together with radiative transfer calculations, to determine the Radiative Forcing.
- For other species e.g., aerosols, tropospheric ozone, observations are less extensive, there is more spatial inhomogeneity.  
Other methods e.g., three-dimensional chemistry-transport models, together with relevant observations, used to determine the Radiative Forcing.

***Since the TAR, improved understanding and better quantification of the forcing mechanisms***

Total aerosol optical depth (natural+anthropogenic components) at mid-visible wavelength, from satellite instruments, and complemented by two different kinds of ground-based measurements [Figure TS-4 (top)]

January to March, 2001



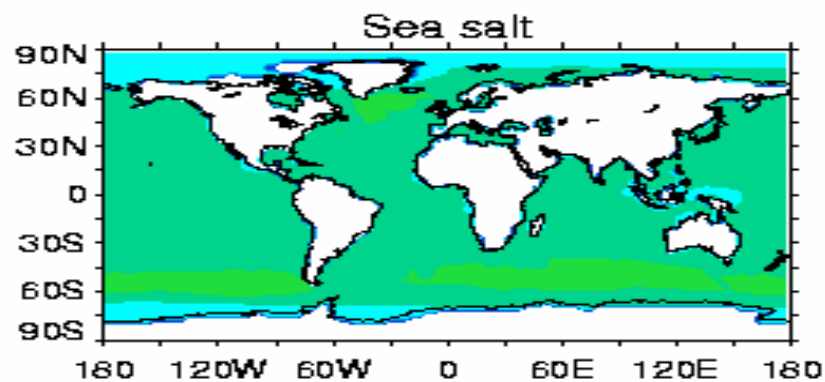
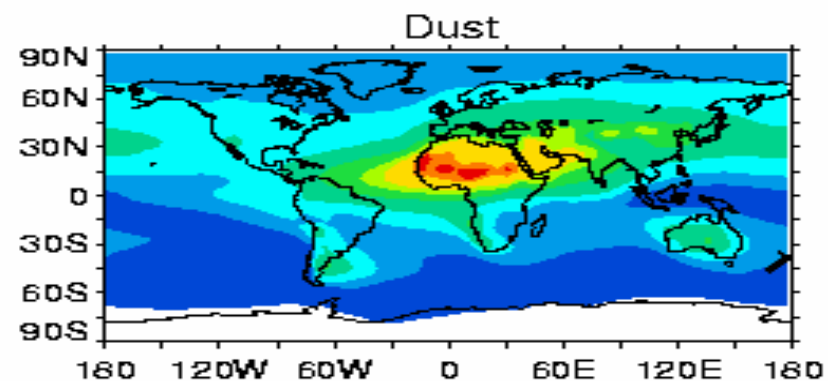
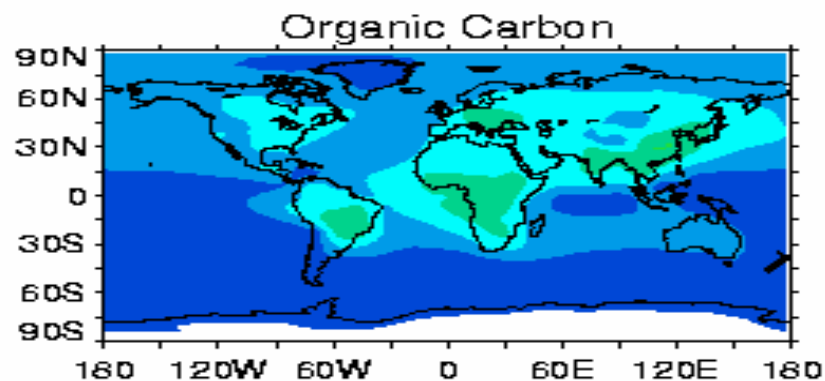
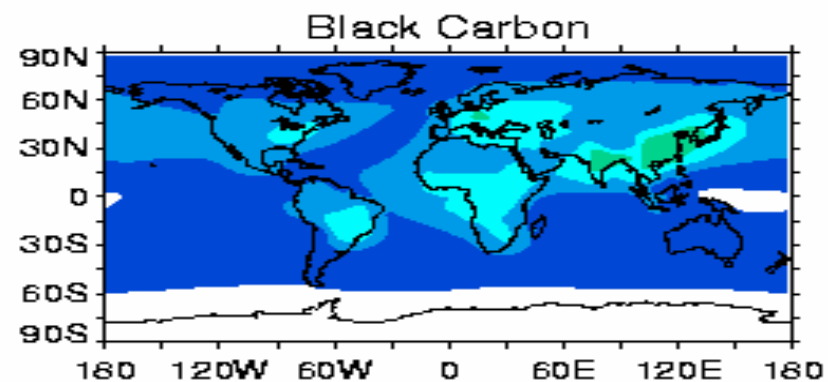
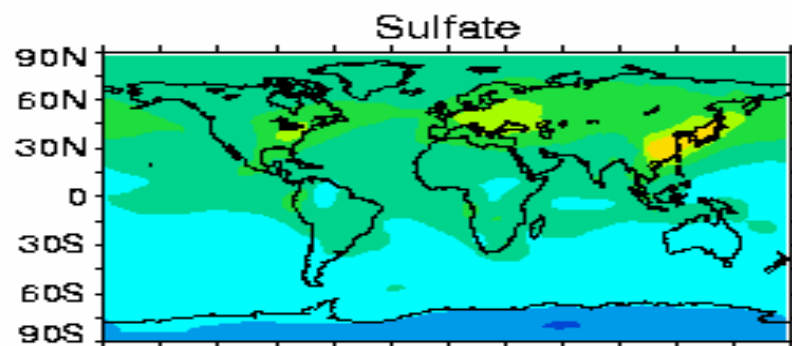
- Observations reveal the presence and provide quantitative aspects.
- Aerosol transport-forcing models better tested and constrained.
- ➔ More improved estimate of the Aerosol Direct Radiative Forcing.

- Global observations available only over the past approximately 25 years.
- Models used that describe the transport and distribution of aerosols based on natural and anthropogenic emissions.

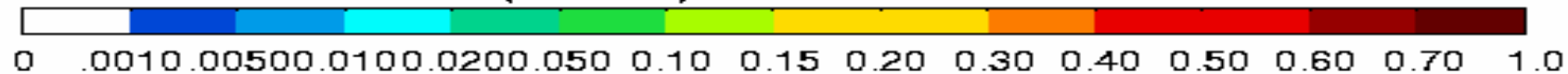
### **Aerosol species:**

**Sulphate, nitrate, fossil fuel organic carbon, fossil fuel black carbon, biomass burning, mineral dust, sea salt**

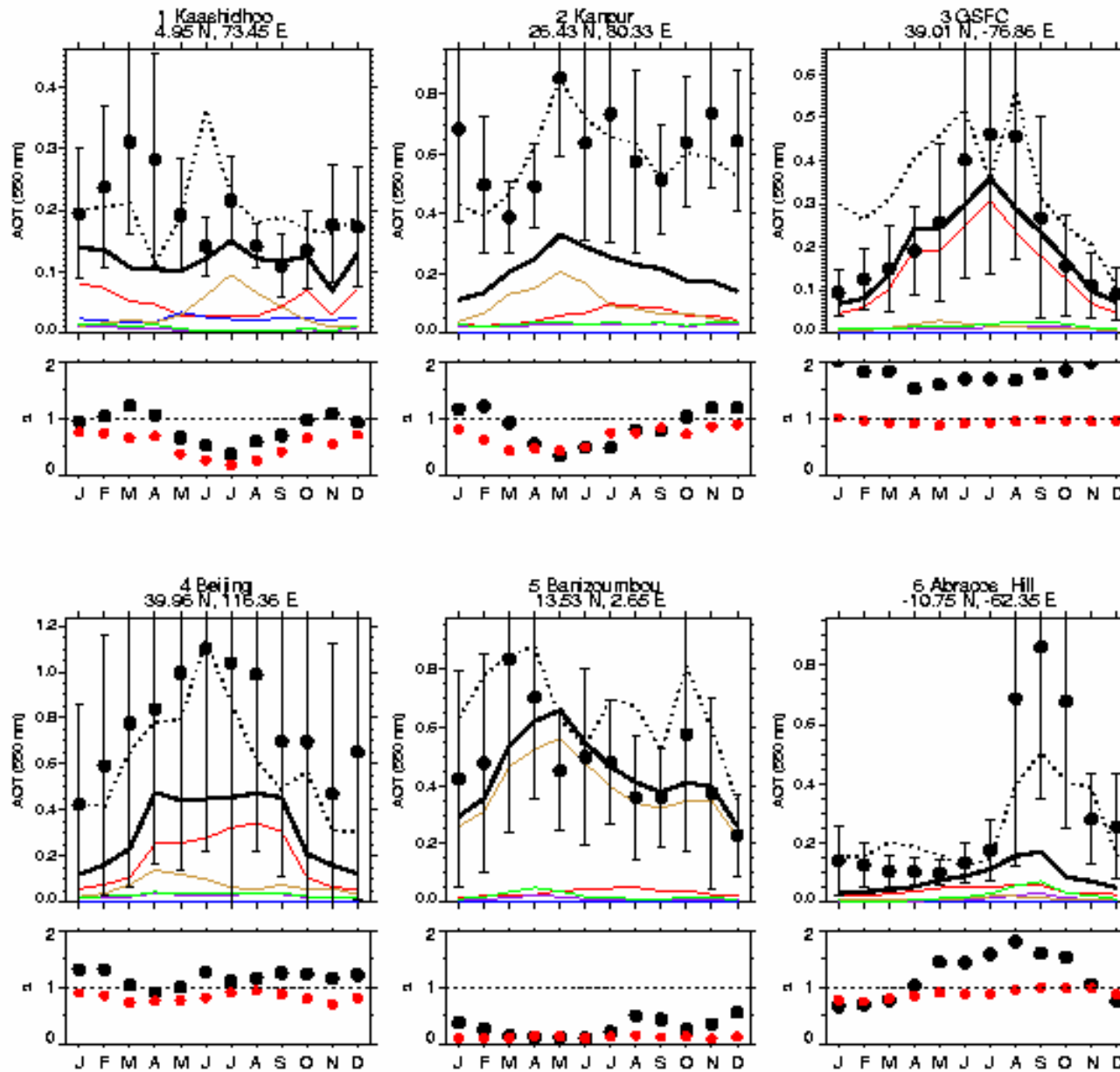
**(‘red’ = significant anthropogenic component)**



AOT (550nm) from MOZART 2000



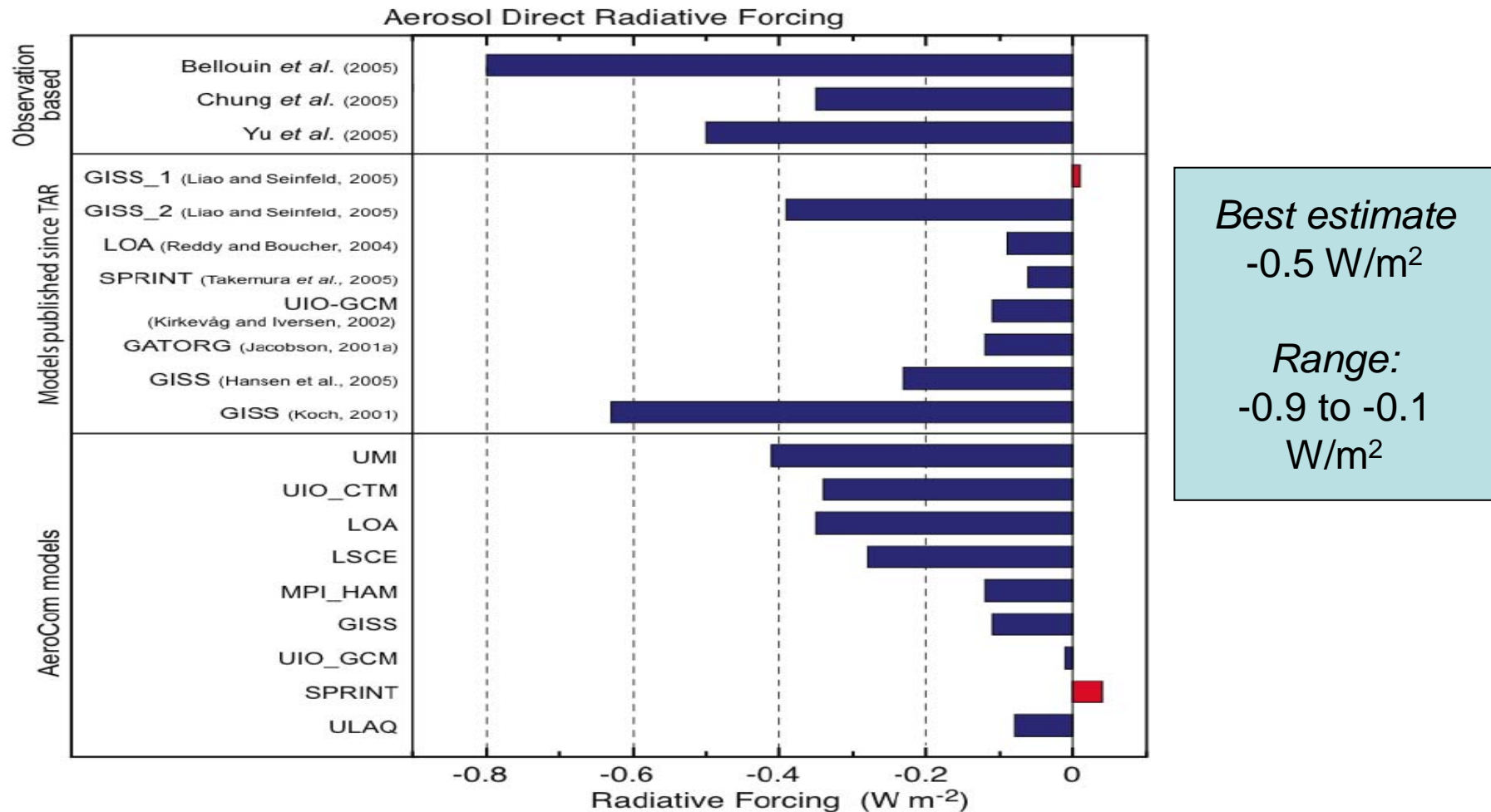
# Aerosol Optical Depth: Simulation vs. AERONET, MODIS



Ginoux et al. (2006)



Estimates of the Aerosol Direct Radiative Forcing (sulphate, fossil fuel black and organic carbon, biomass burning, dust and nitrate) from different models [Fig. 2.13]



More models that contain aerosol species beyond sulphate

Observations used to apply constraints to combined aerosol direct radiative forcing



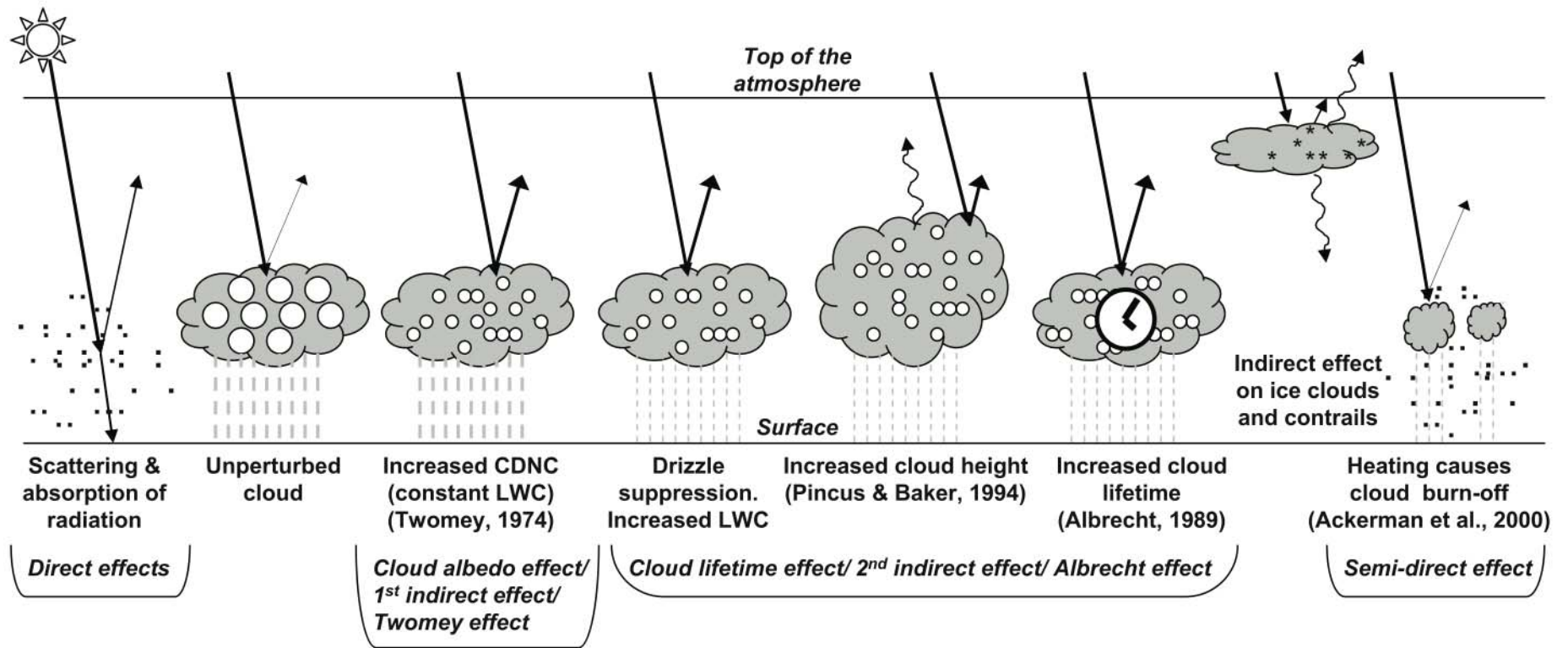
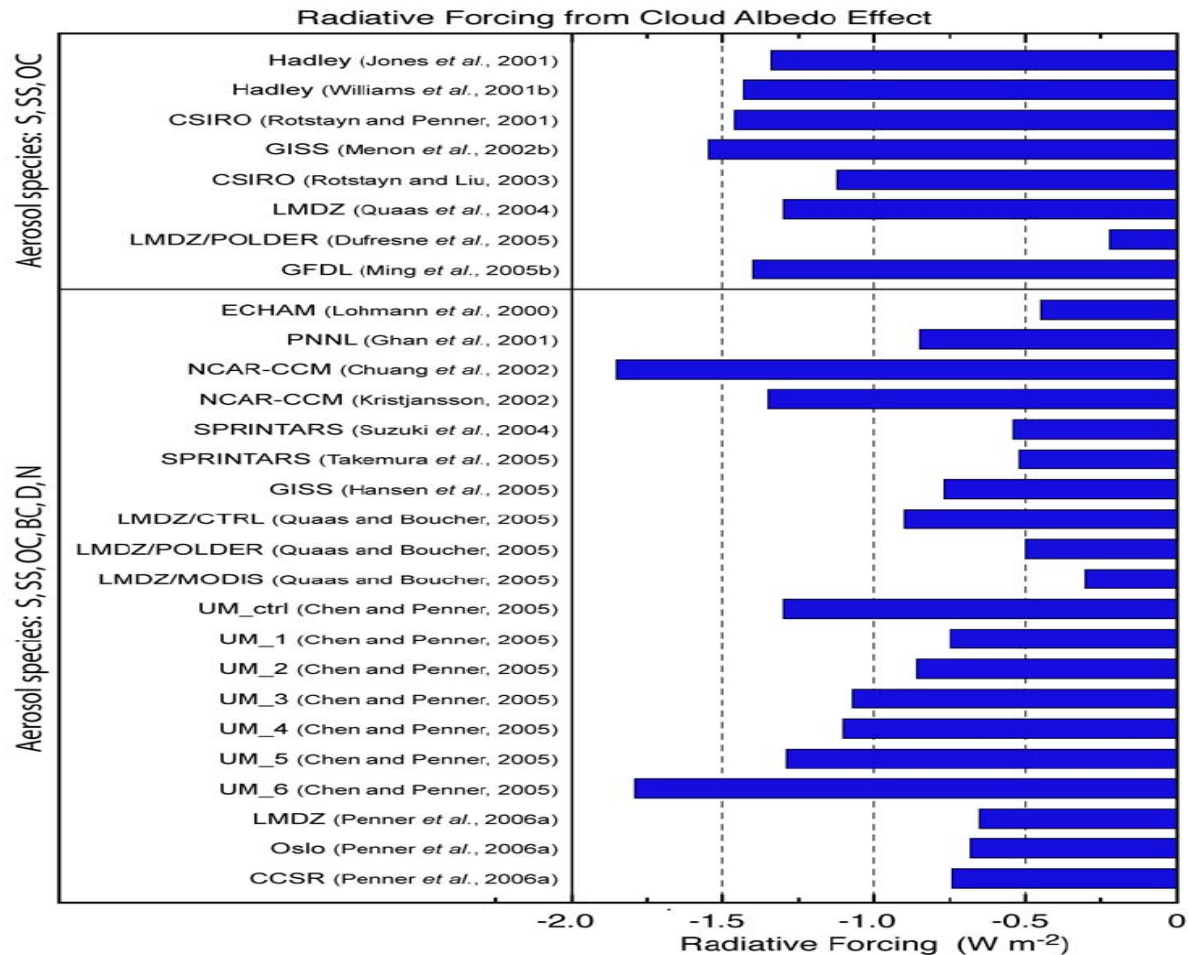


Figure 2.10

## Estimates of the Cloud Albedo radiative forcing due to aerosols from different models [Figure 2.14]



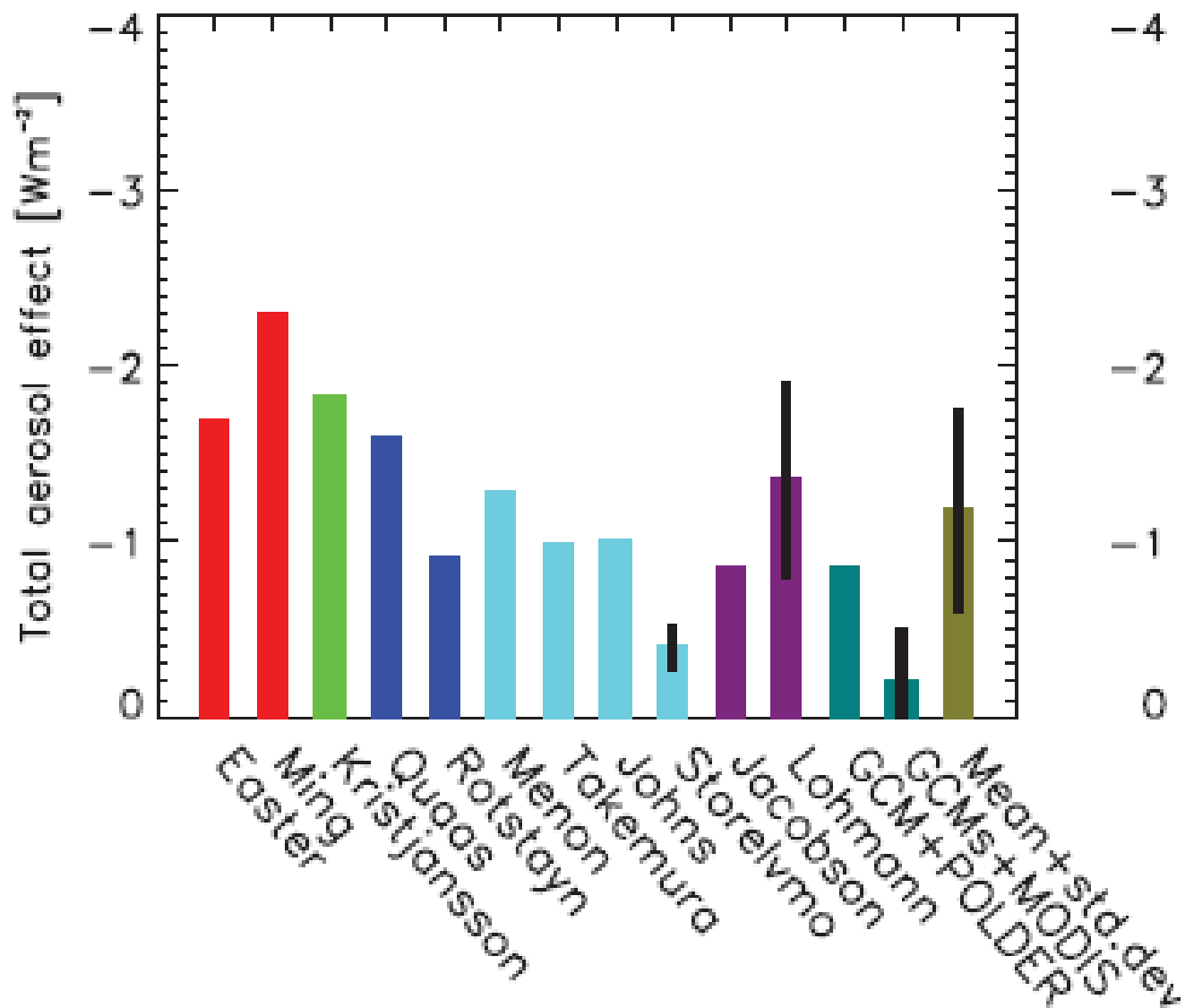
*Best estimate:*  
-0.7 W/m<sup>2</sup>

*Range:*  
-1.8 to -0.3 W/m<sup>2</sup>

**More model studies since the TAR, many include more species**

**Those with more aerosol species or constrained by satellite observations have a weaker radiative forcing**

# Global



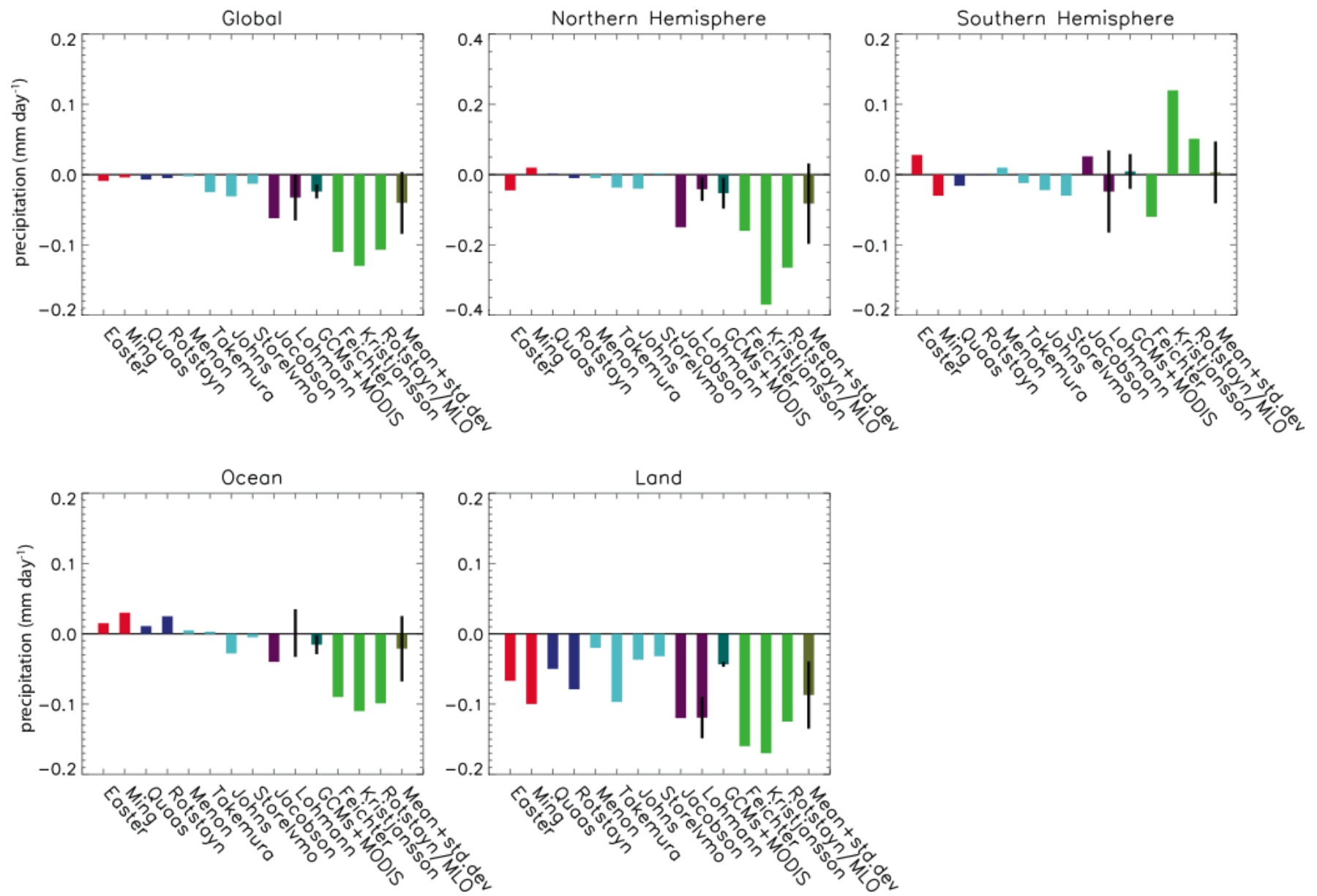


Figure 7.22

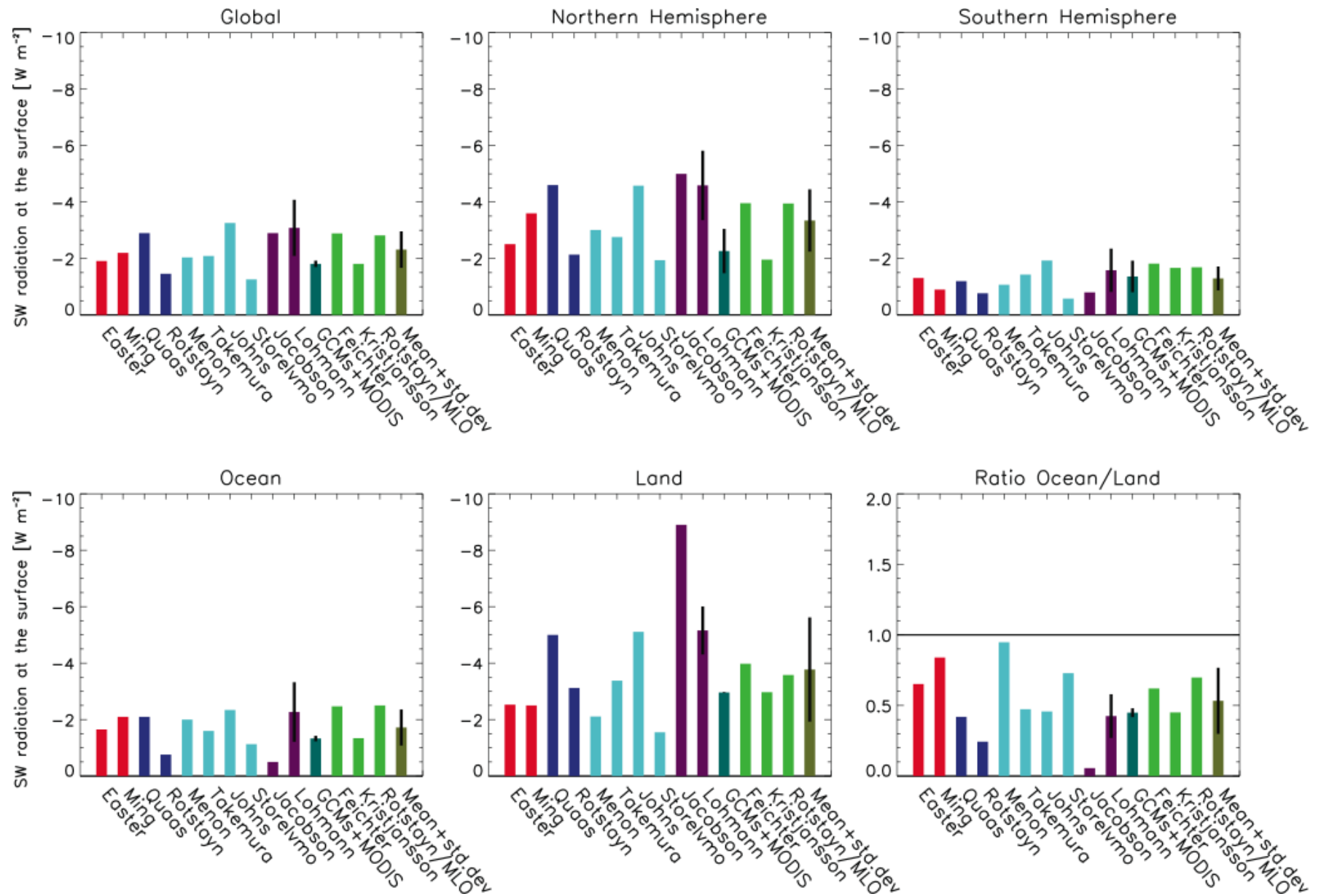
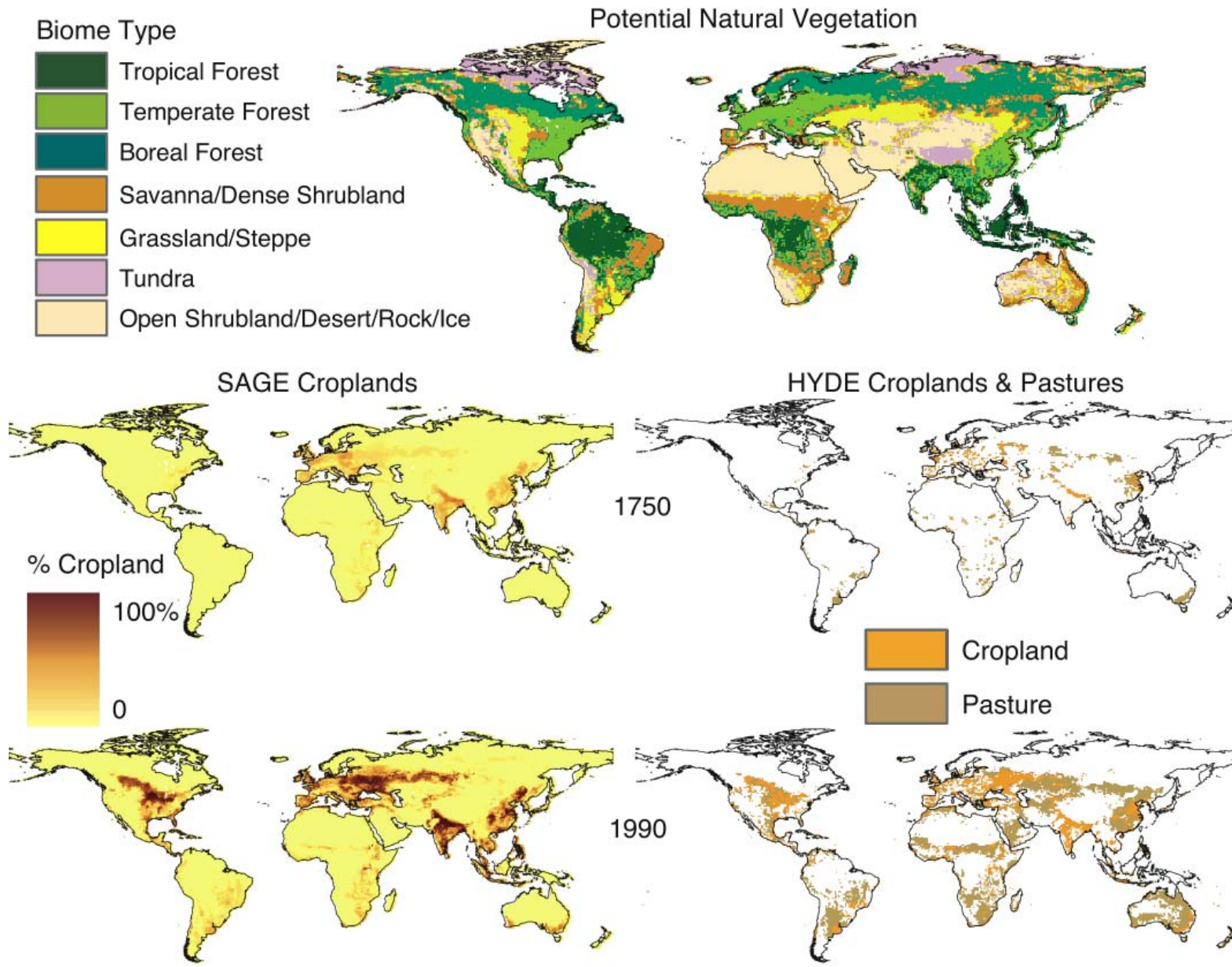


Figure 7.23



**Figure 2.15**



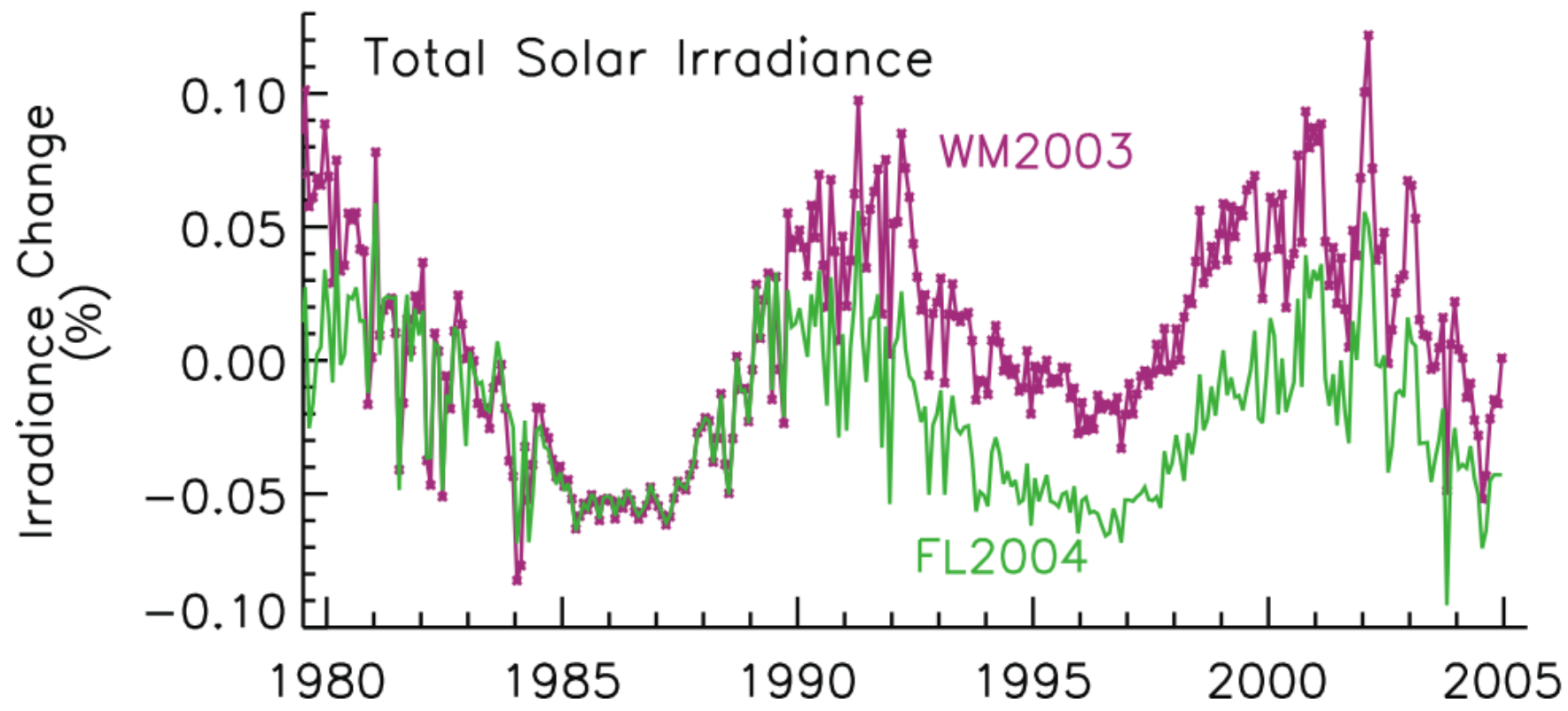
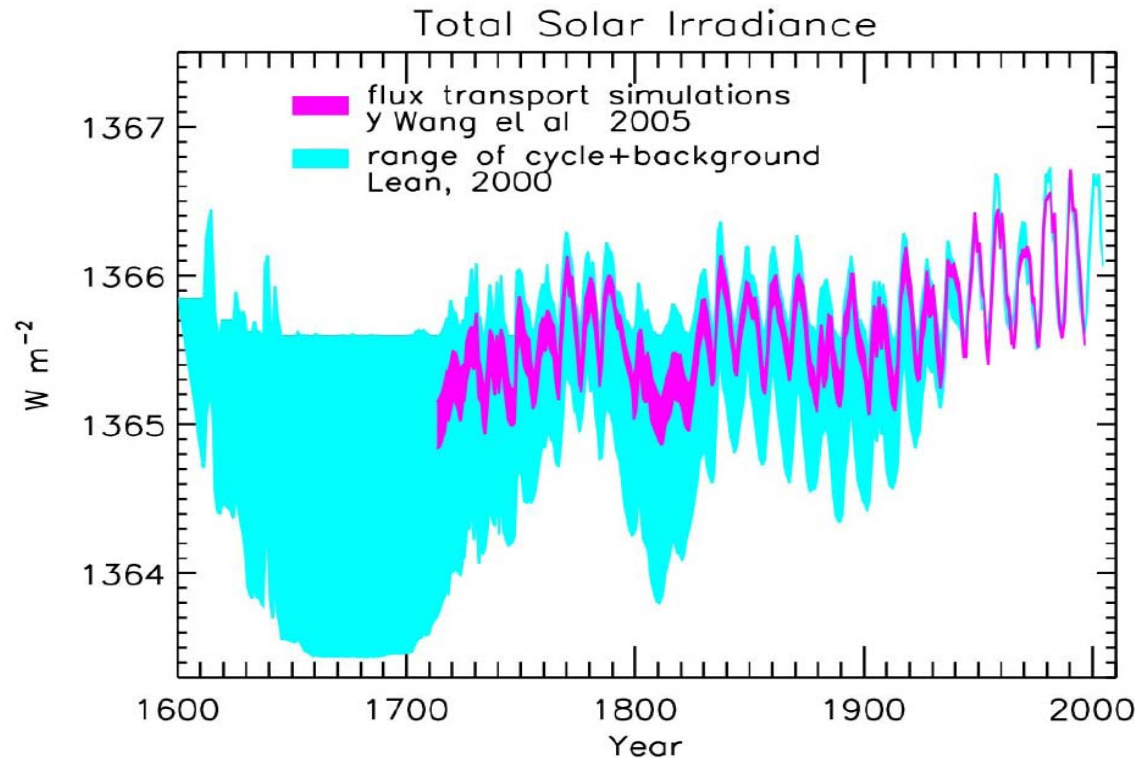


Figure 2.16

## Reconstruction of the Total Solar Irradiance [Figure 2.17]



*Best estimate:* 0.12 W/m<sup>2</sup>

*Range:* 0.06 to 0.30 W/m<sup>2</sup>

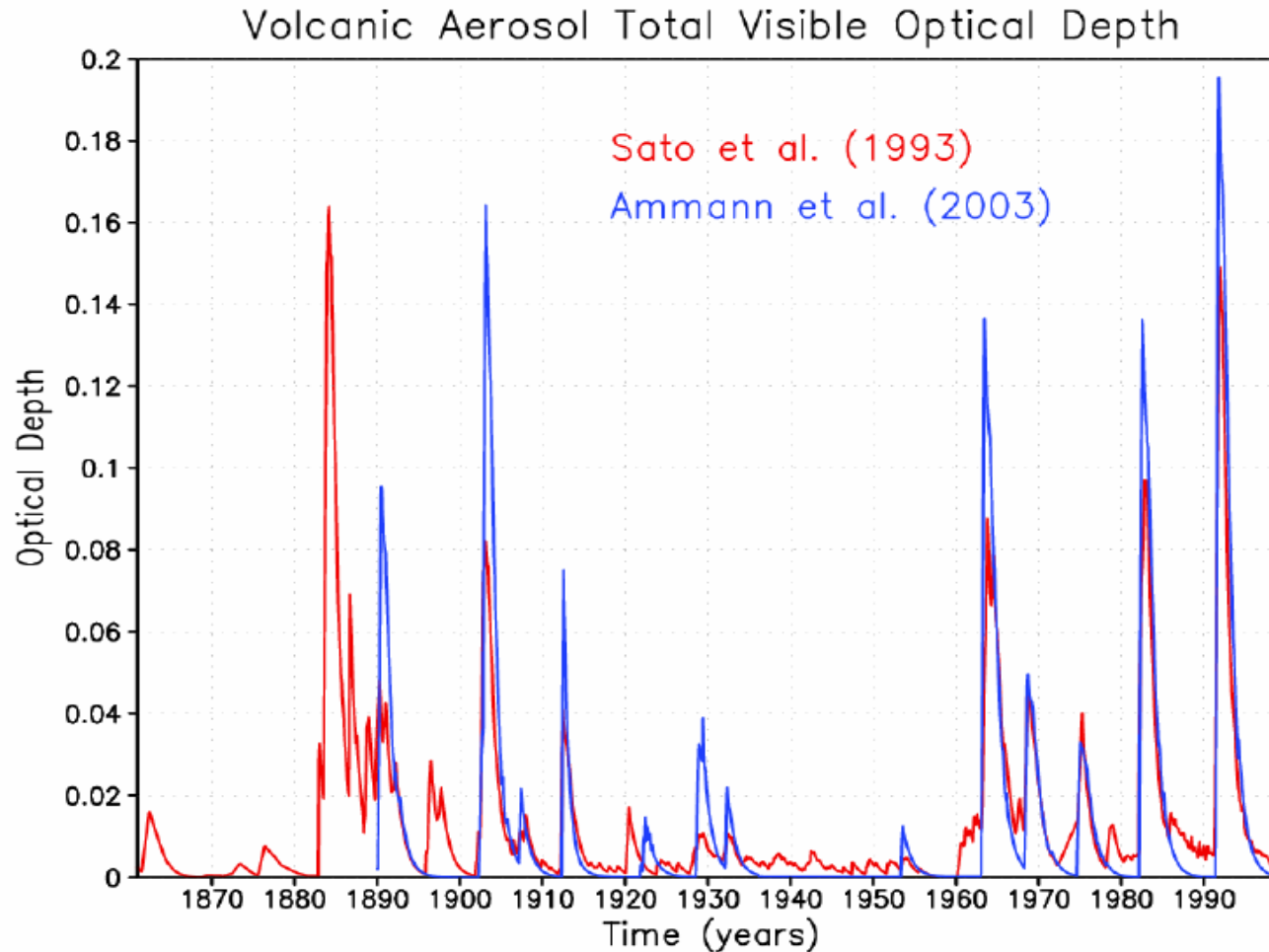
**New reconstruction yields smaller solar radiative forcing estimate than in the TAR - based on: a) solar magnetic flux model rather than proxy data; b) better understanding of recent variations; c) re-evaluation of variations in Sun-like stars**

**Revised solar radiative forcing much smaller than long-lived greenhouse gas forcing since pre-industrial times**

**Solar indirect effects on stratospheric ozone not included**



Visible optical depth from stratospheric sulphate aerosols in the aftermath of explosive volcanic eruptions [Fig. 2.18]



→ Explosive volcanic eruptions are episodic.

→ Aerosols from an explosive volcanic eruption are transitory (lasting ~1-2 years).

- **Galactic cosmic rays:** Not-evaluated - no proven physical mechanism, and studies comparing with changes in global cloud cover are inconsistent.
- **Aviation:** Linear contrails radiative forcing only evaluated. Aviation induced cirrus too uncertain to quantify. Other aviation effects implicitly included in other radiative forcing terms.
- **Water vapour** is a powerful greenhouse gas, but changes are associated with the climate response/feedback and not included on the *forcing “bar-plot”* [Fig. SPM-2]. Climate models include this feedback in their evaluation of temperature changes

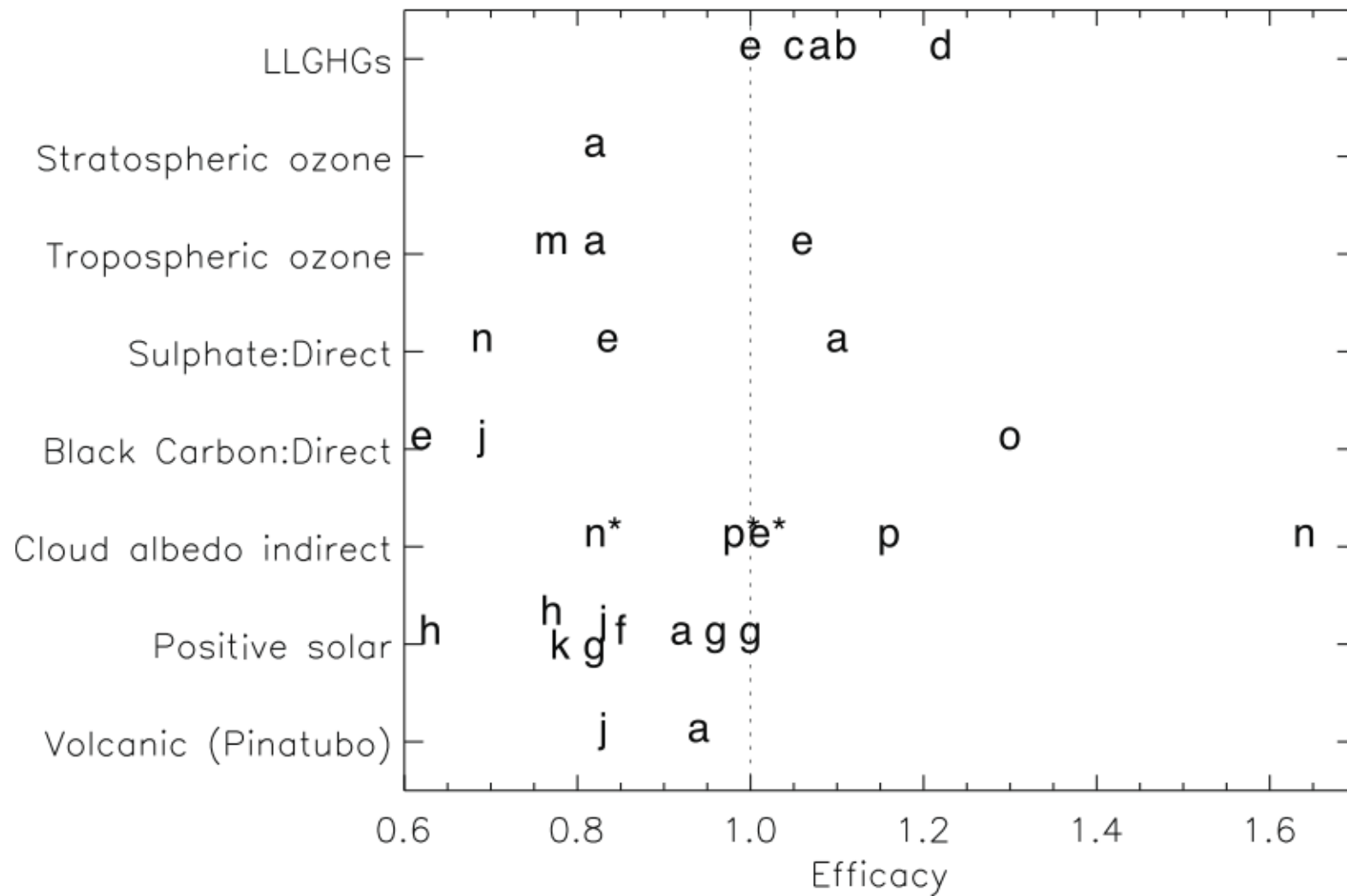
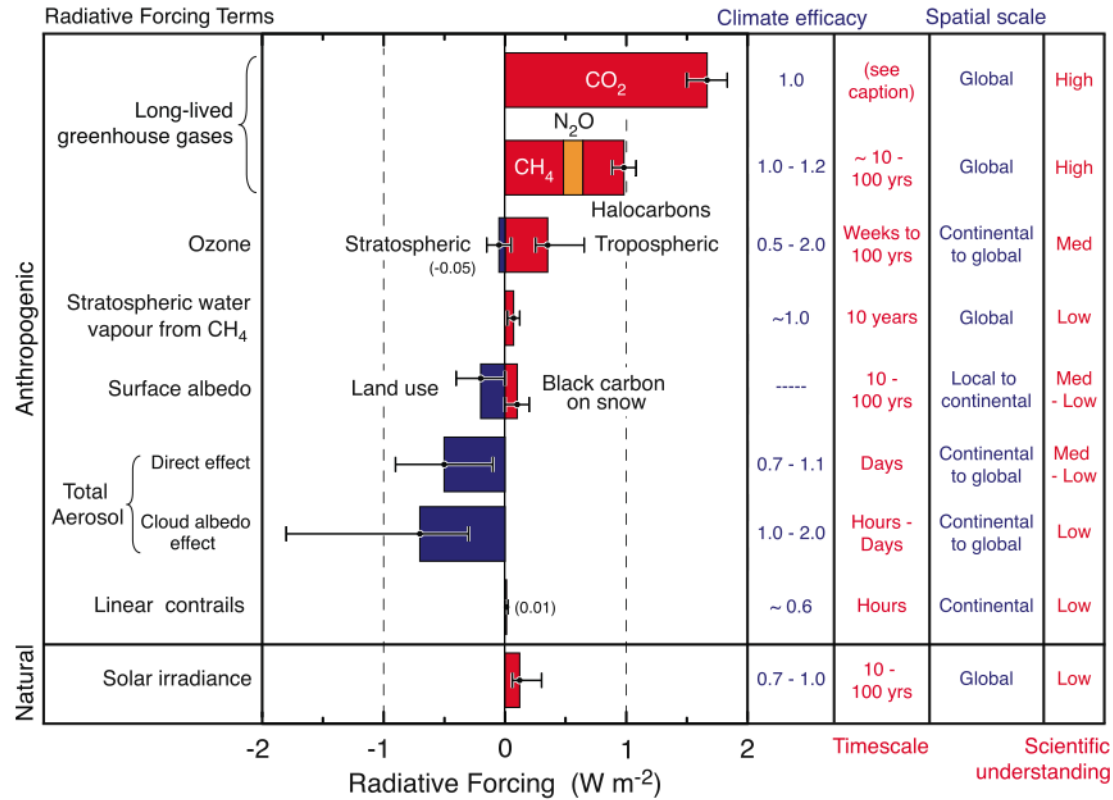


Figure 2.19

A.

Radiative forcing of climate between 1750 and 2005



B.

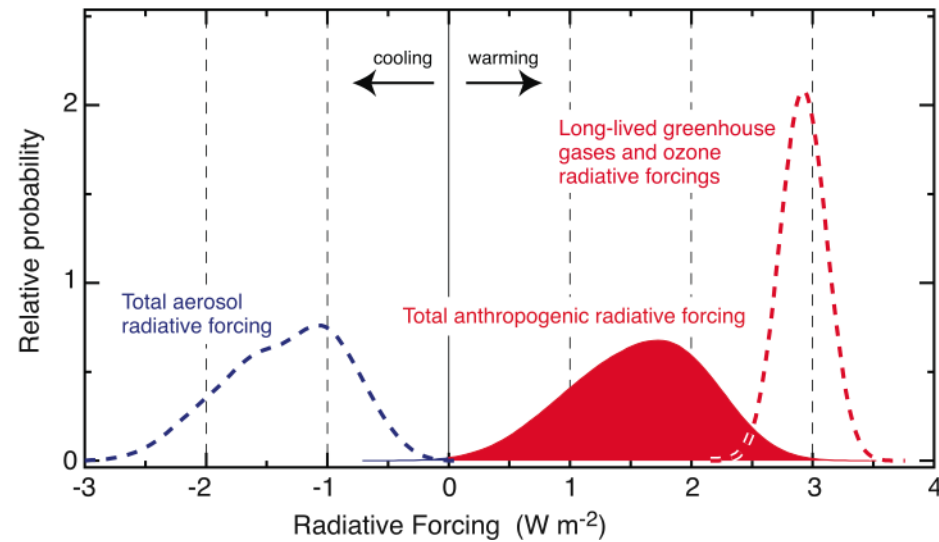


Figure 2.20

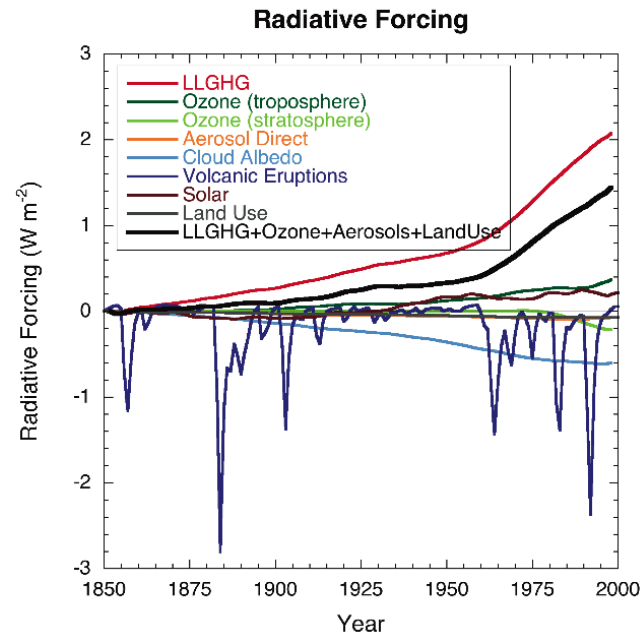
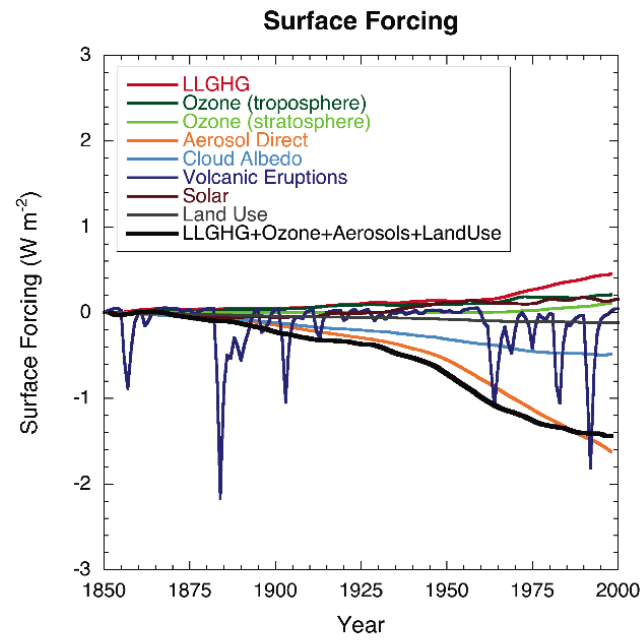
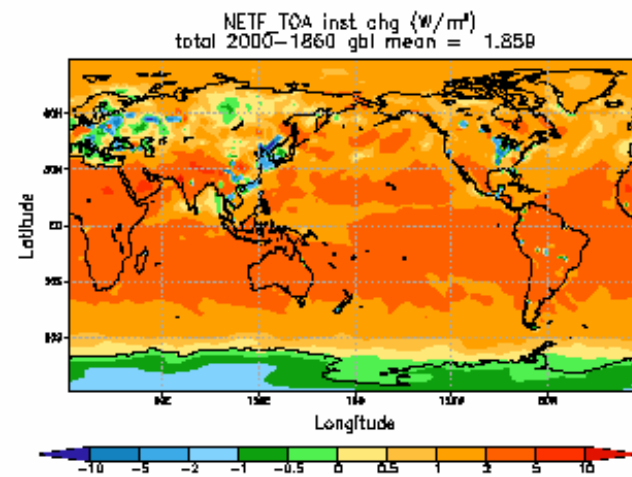
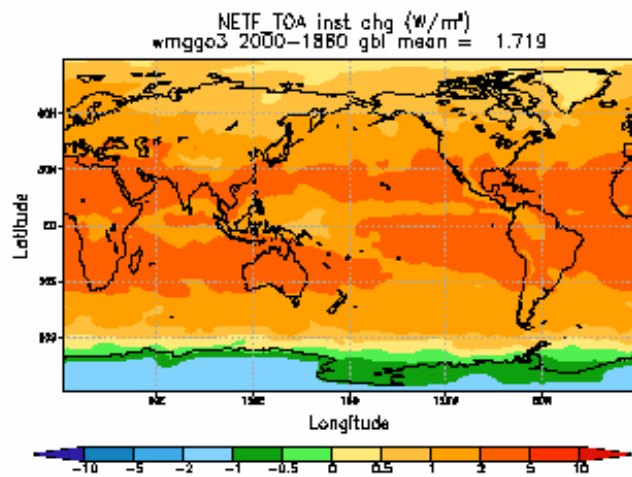
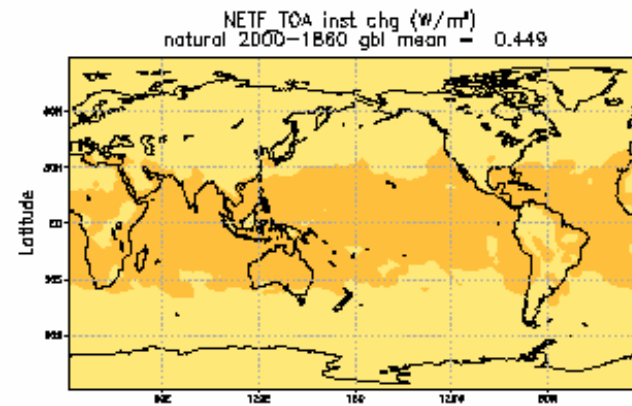
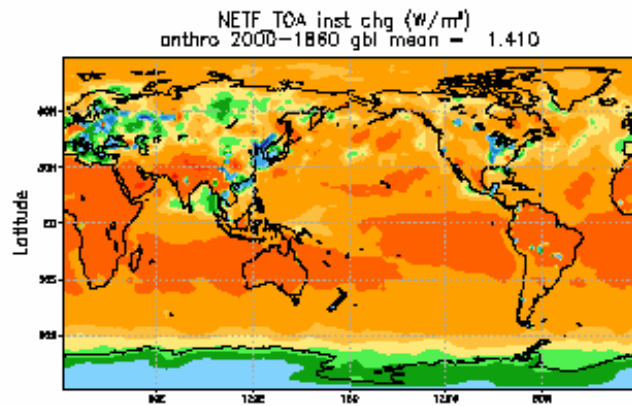


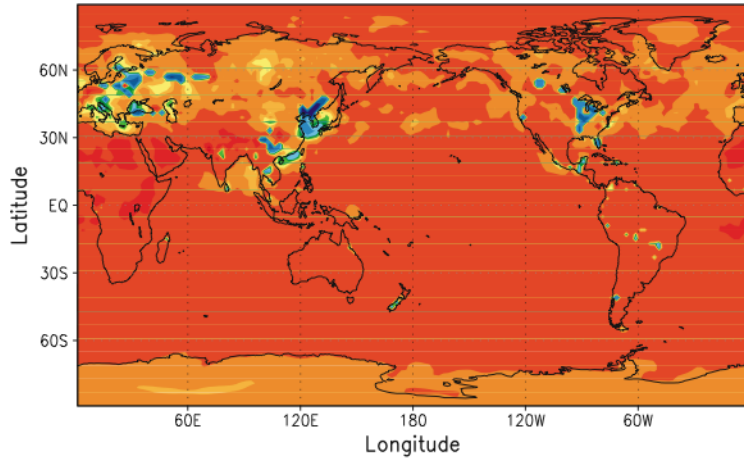
Figure 2.23



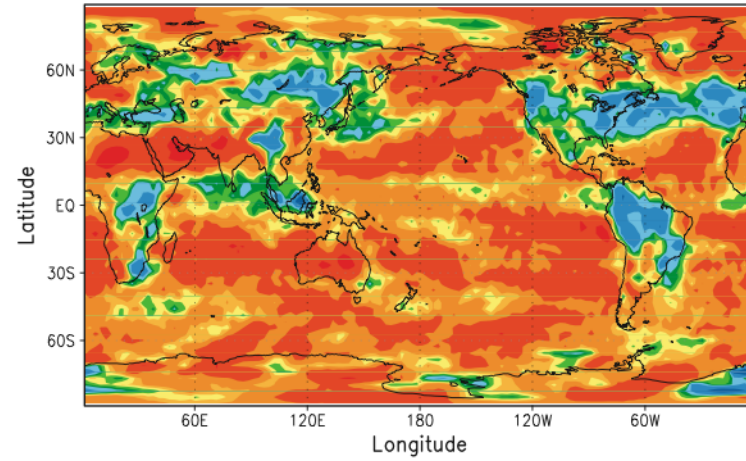


Radiative Forcing

(a) Global-mean =  $2.78 \text{ W m}^{-2}$

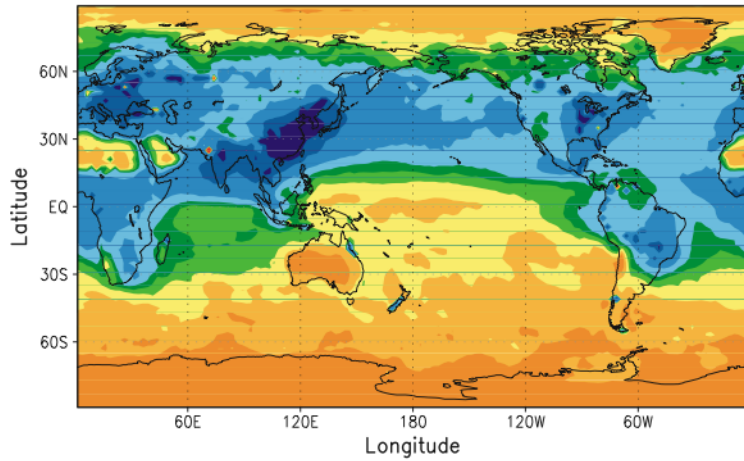


(b) Global-mean =  $1.28 \text{ W m}^{-2}$



Surface Forcing

(c) Global-mean =  $-1.01 \text{ W m}^{-2}$



(d) Global-mean =  $-1.58 \text{ W m}^{-2}$

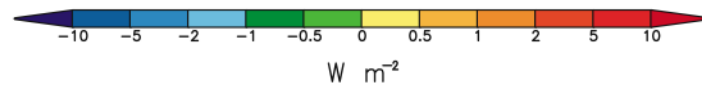
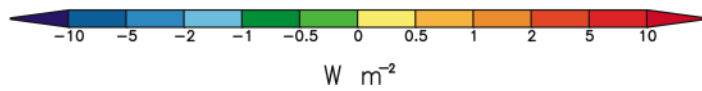
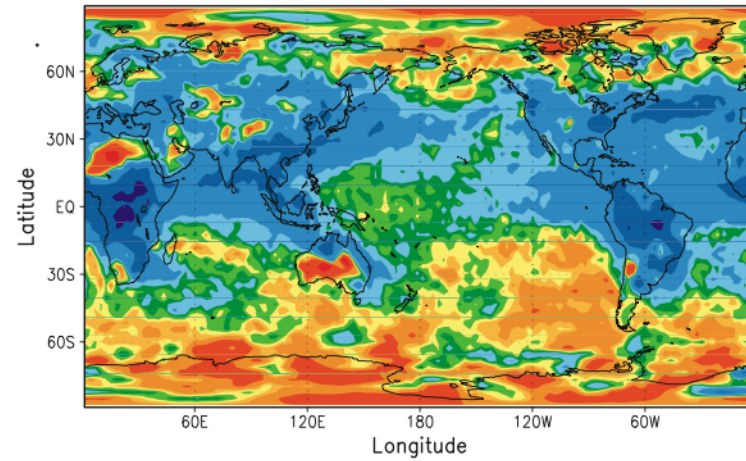
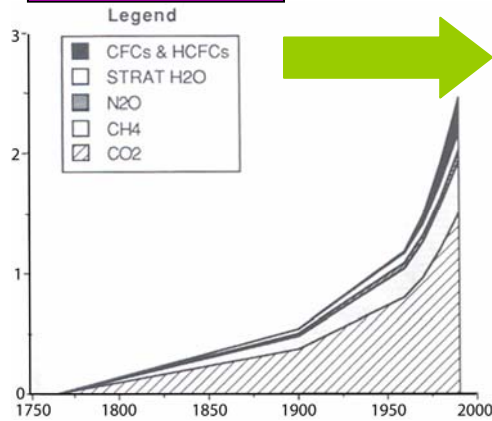
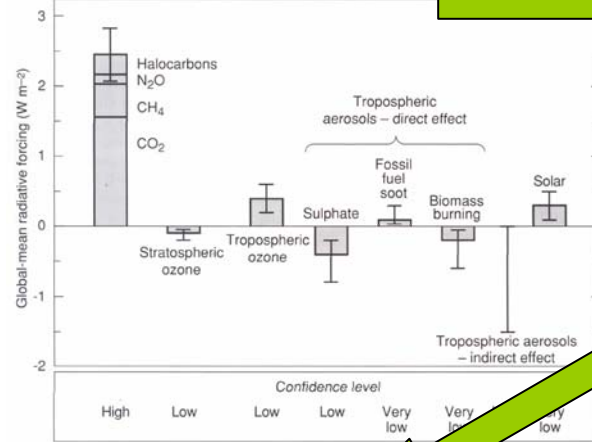


Figure 2.24

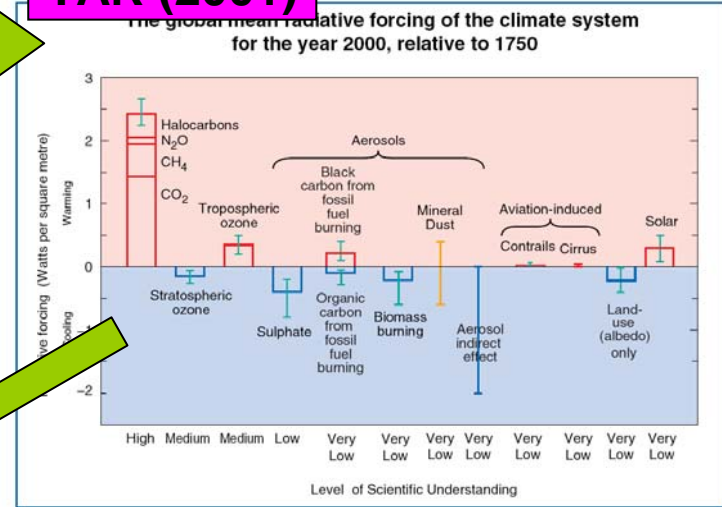
# FAR (1990)



# SAR (1995)

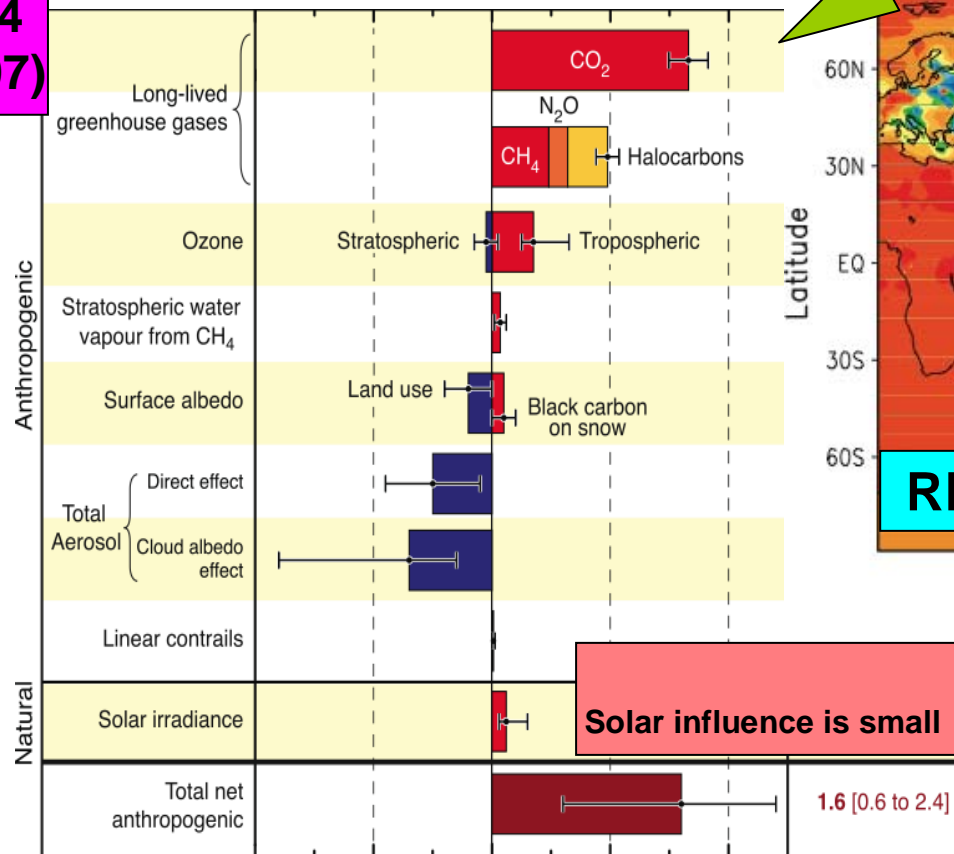


# TAR (2001)

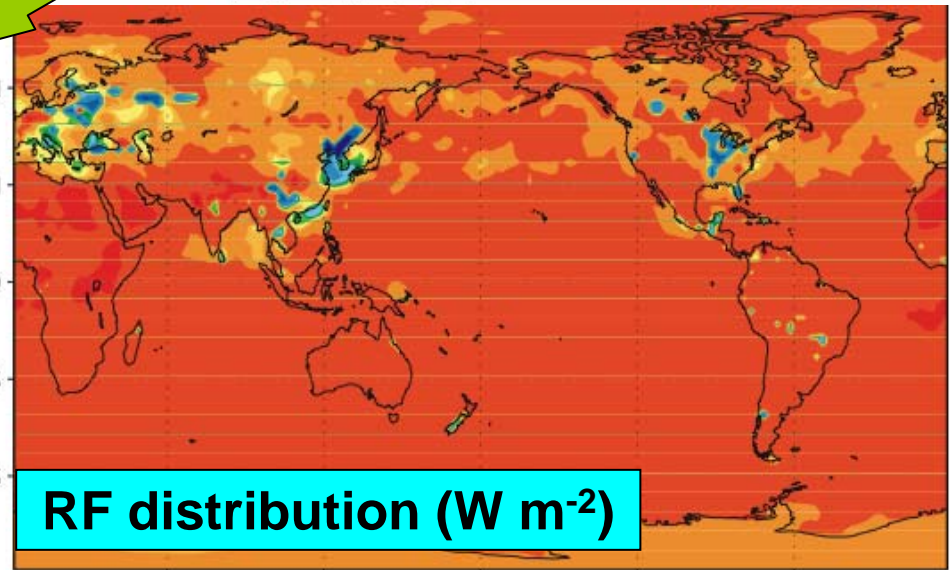


# AR4 (2007)

## Global-mean RF (W m<sup>-2</sup>)



Solar influence is small



RF distribution (W m<sup>-2</sup>)

Global-mean Anthro RF is positive → Warming influence [very high confidence]

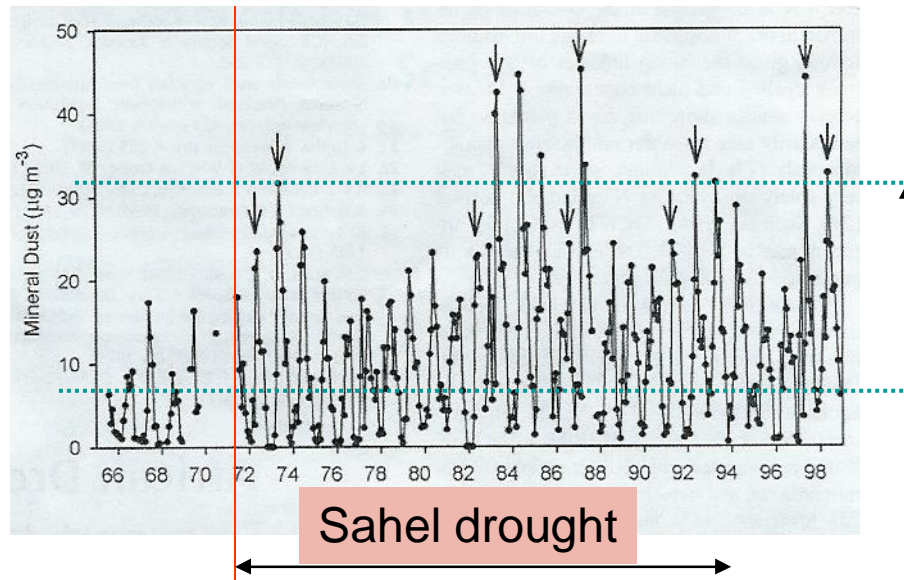
# Key Issues

*.....Urgent progress needed.....*

- Causes of recent changes in methane growth rates
- Roles of different factors in tropospheric ozone increase
- **Aerosol distributions**
- **Aerosol-cloud interactions**
- Water vapor increases in the stratosphere
- **Land-surface properties and land-atmosphere interactions.**
- Solar irradiance changes on decadal-to-centuries scales.
- Emissions, concentrations and forcings in future → GHGs and aerosols

# Observed Variability of Dust for the last 50 Years

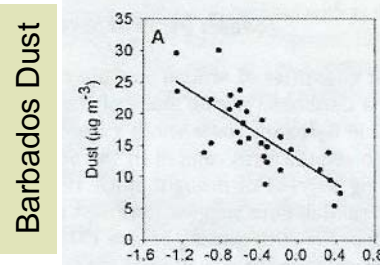
## Dust concentration at Barbados (Prospero and Lamb, 2003)



Factor 4 increase

Since 1970ies dust concentration in Caribbean (Prospero and Lamb, 2003) and dust deposition in French Alps (De Angelis and Gaudichet, 1991) have increased by a factor 4-5

## Correlation at Barbados (Prospero and Lamb, 2003)



Sahel Precipitation Index (previous year)



# Aerosol Indirect Effects (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>)

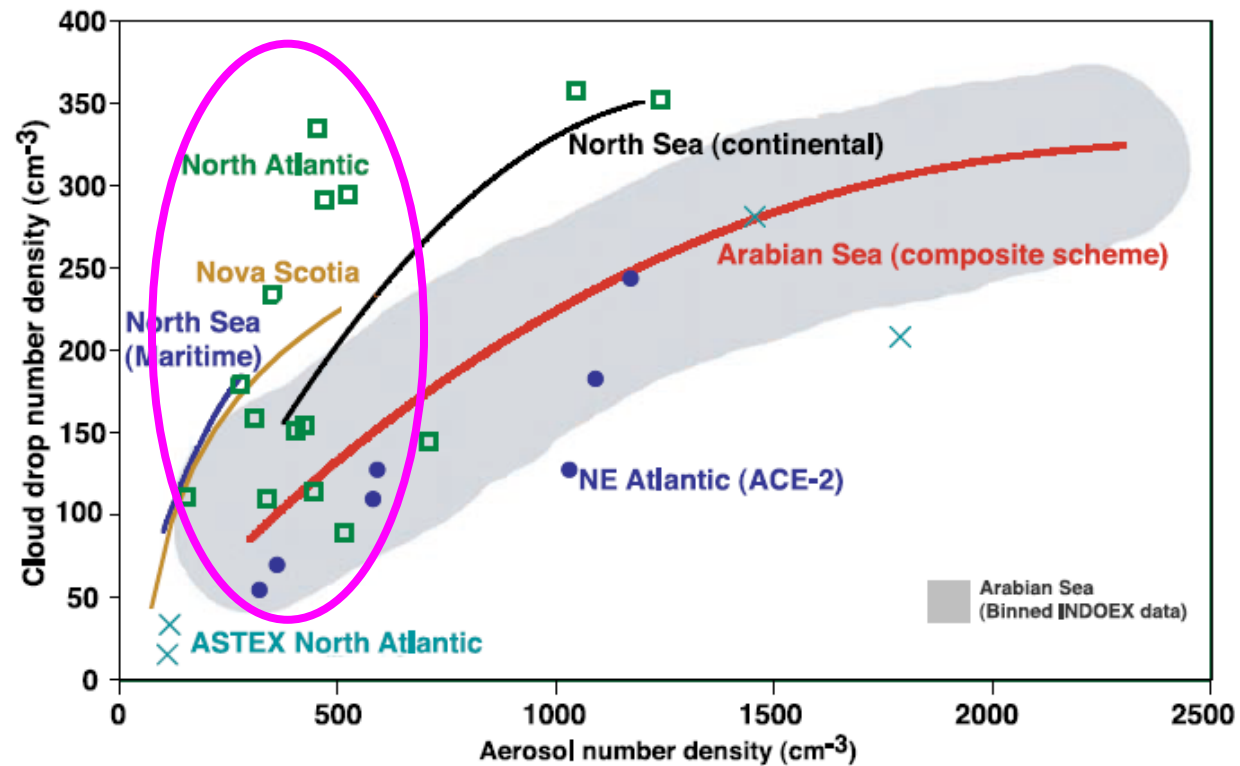
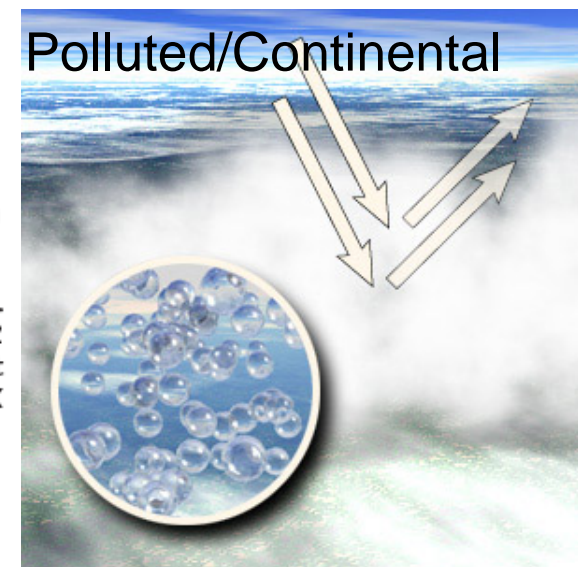


Fig. 5. Aircraft data illustrating the increase in cloud drops with aerosol number concentration. References for the data are as follows: North Sea (28), Nova Scotia and North Atlantic (29), ACE-2 (30), Astex (31), the thick red line is obtained from a composite theoretical parameterization that fits the INDOEX aircraft data for the Arabian Sea (23). The gray-shaded region is the INDOEX aircraft data for the Arabian Sea (32).

Ramanathan et al. (2001)





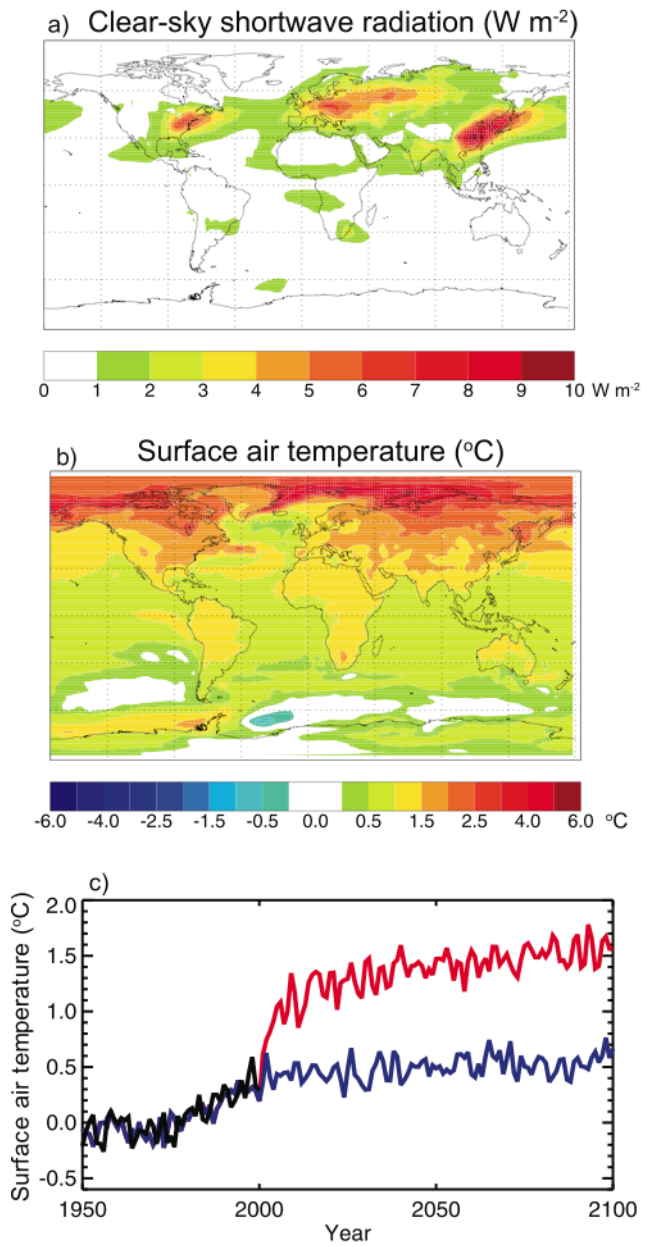
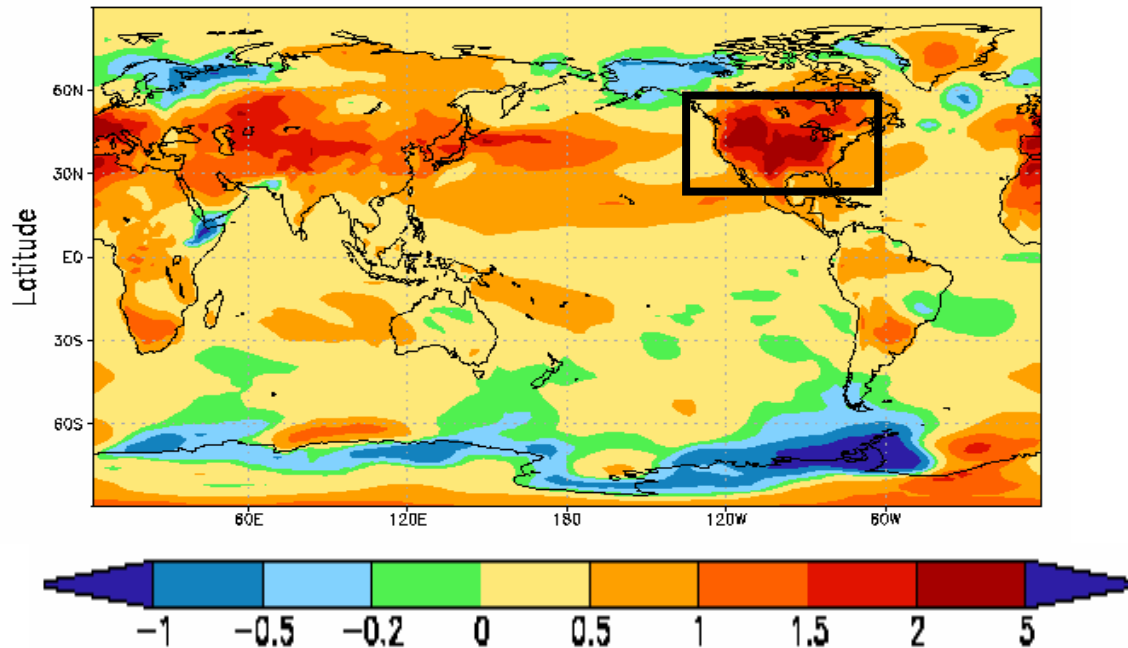


Figure 7.24

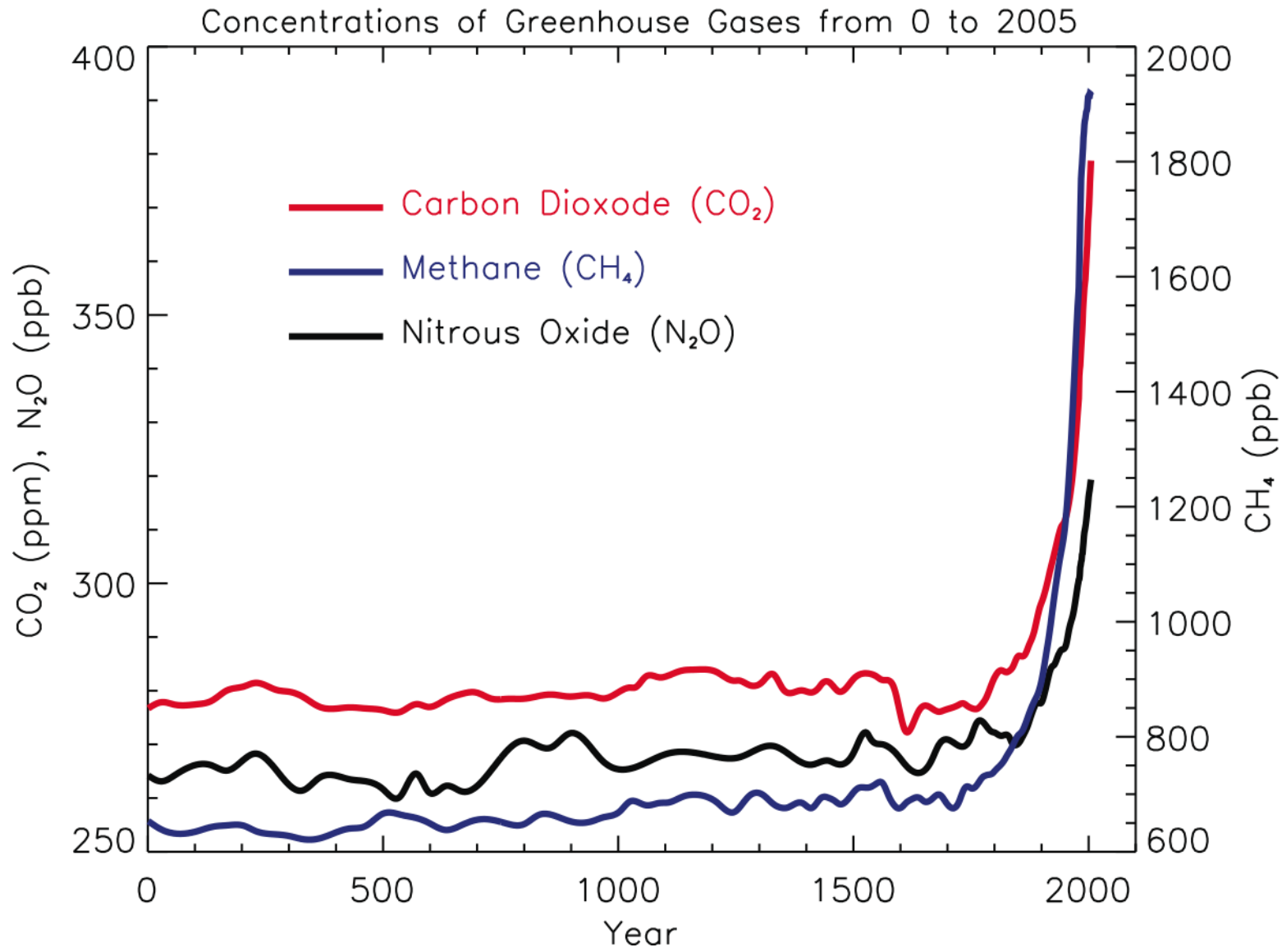
# A “WIN-LOSE” CASE: Global decreases in sulfate aerosol contribute to warmer U.S. summers

Change in Summer Temperature from 2000 to 2090 (°C)  
resulting from projected changes in air pollutants

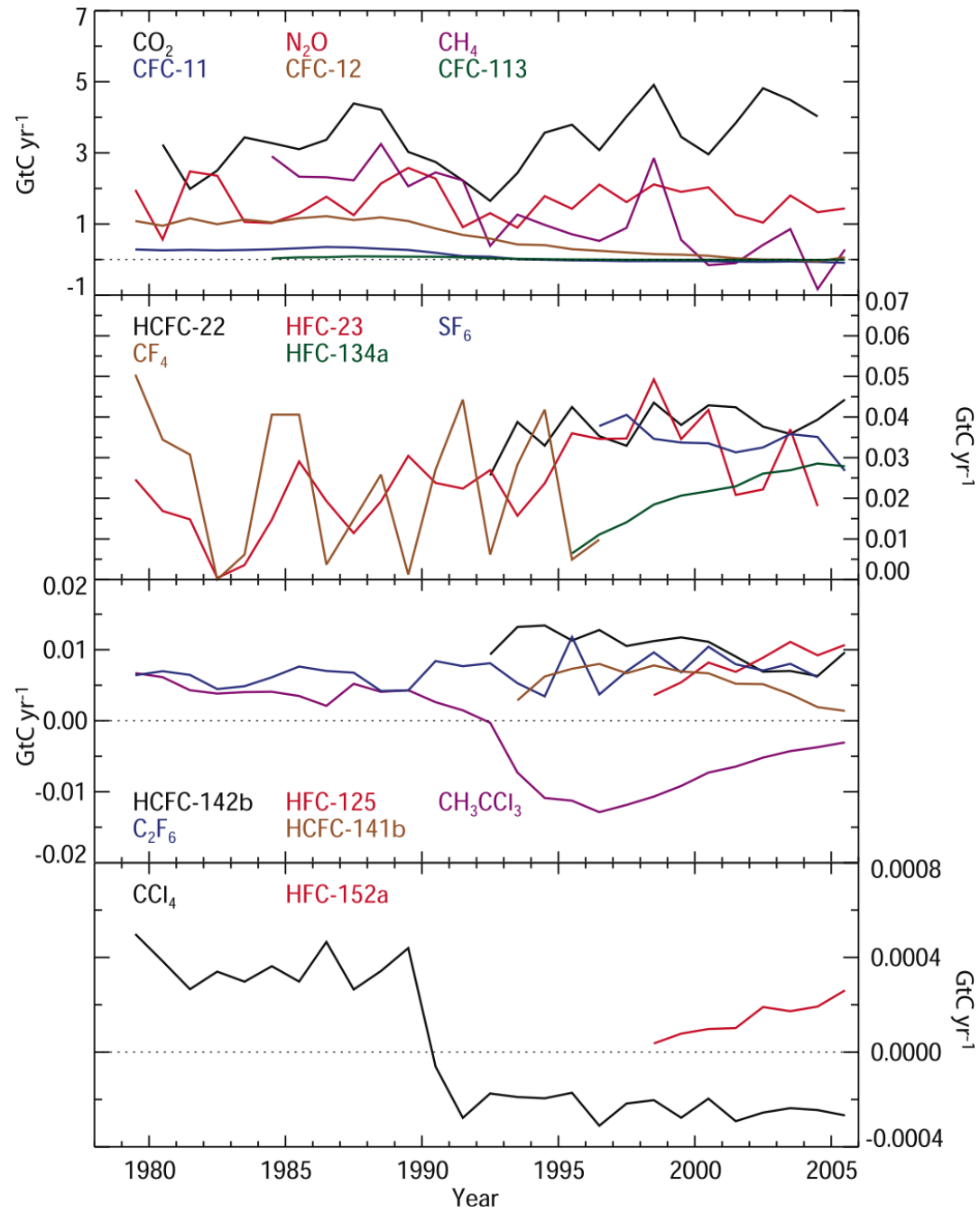


**Warming over U.S.  
is due in part to  
decreases in sulfate  
driven by pollution  
control efforts  
(better air quality;  
not so for climate)**

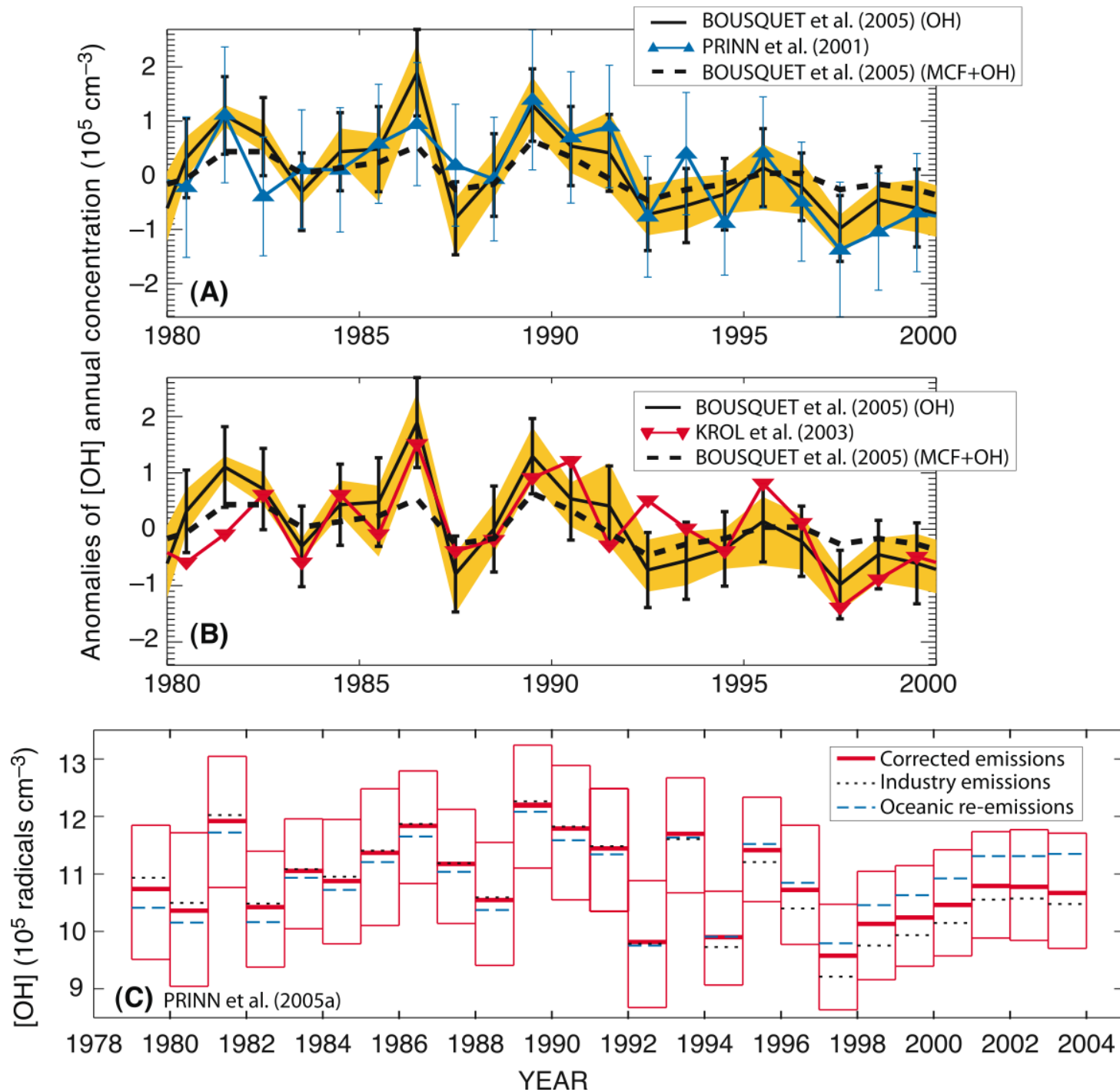
in GFDL Climate Model [Levy *et al.*, JGR 2007, *in press*]



**FAQ 2.1, Figure 1**



**Figure 2.7**



**Figure 2.8**

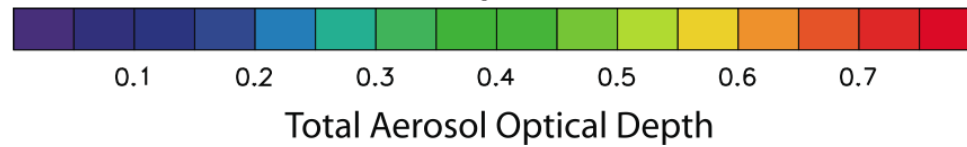
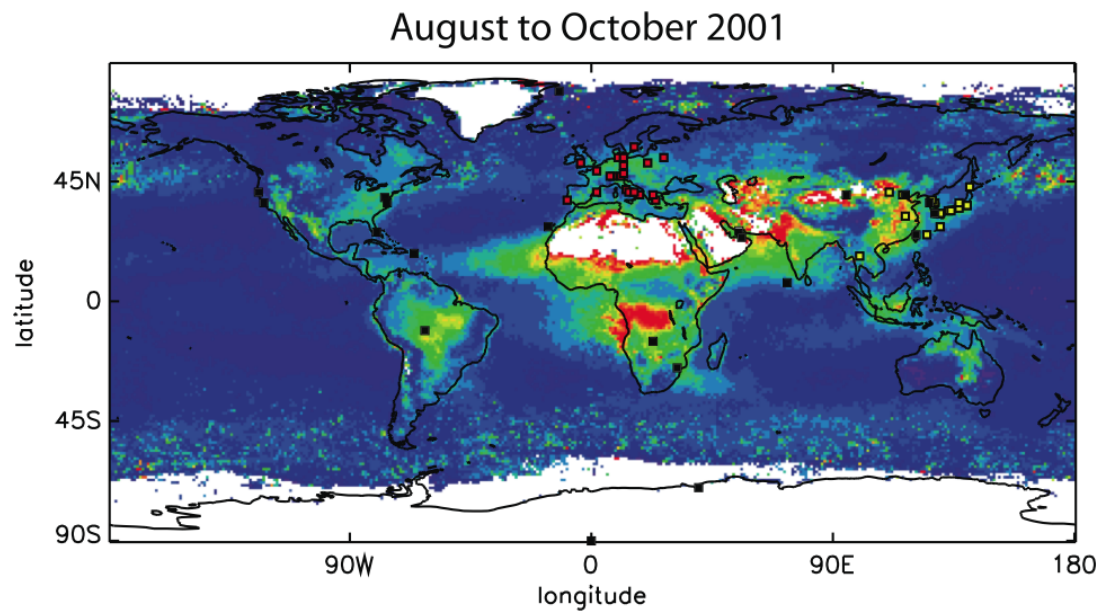
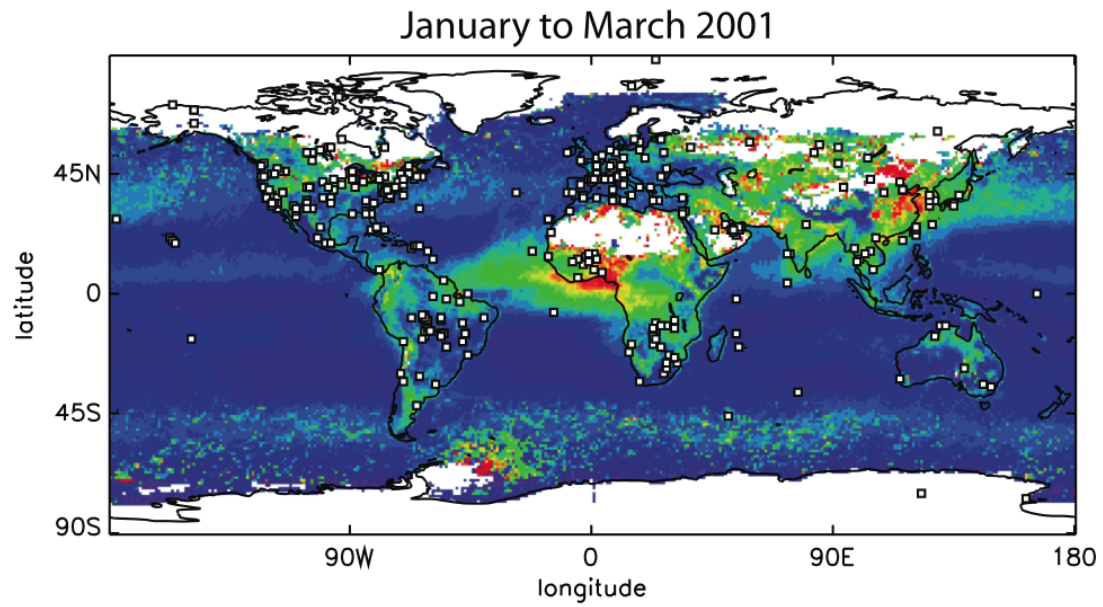
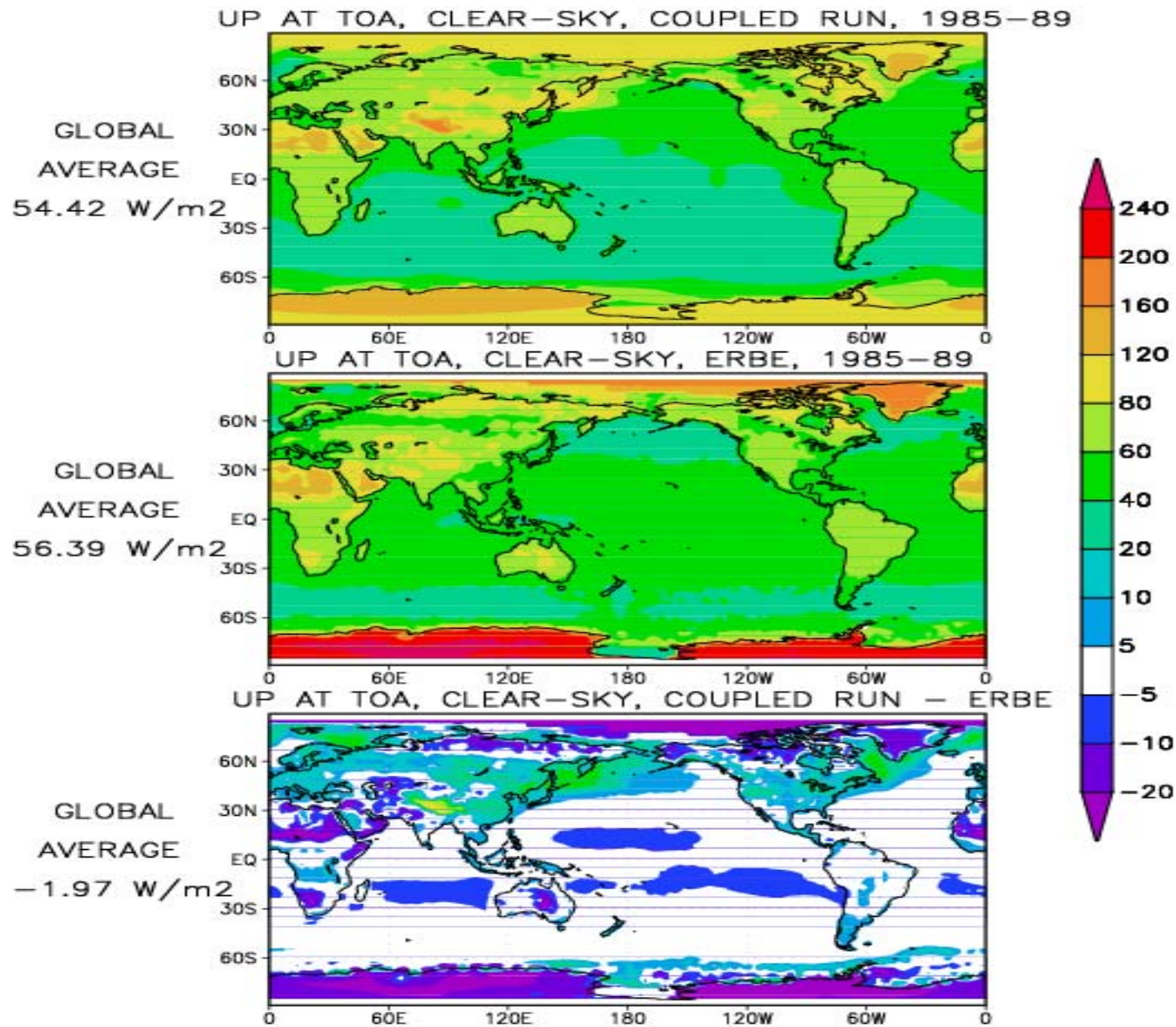
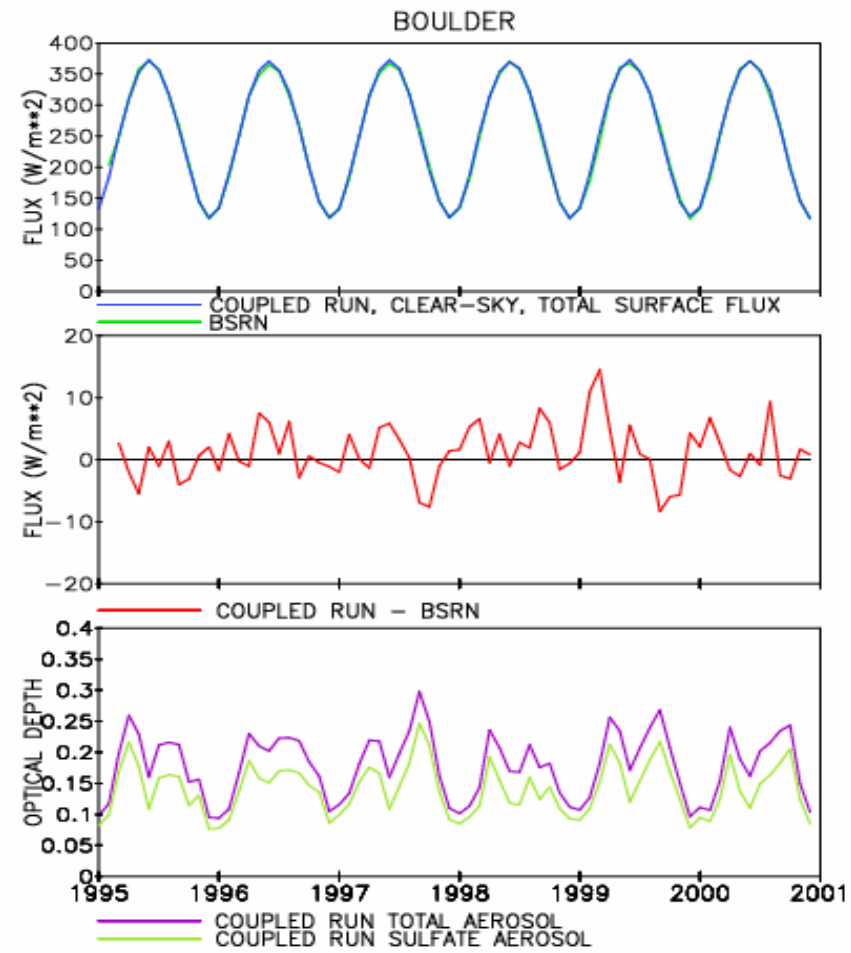


Figure 2.11



# Comparison of Clear-Sky SW @ TOA





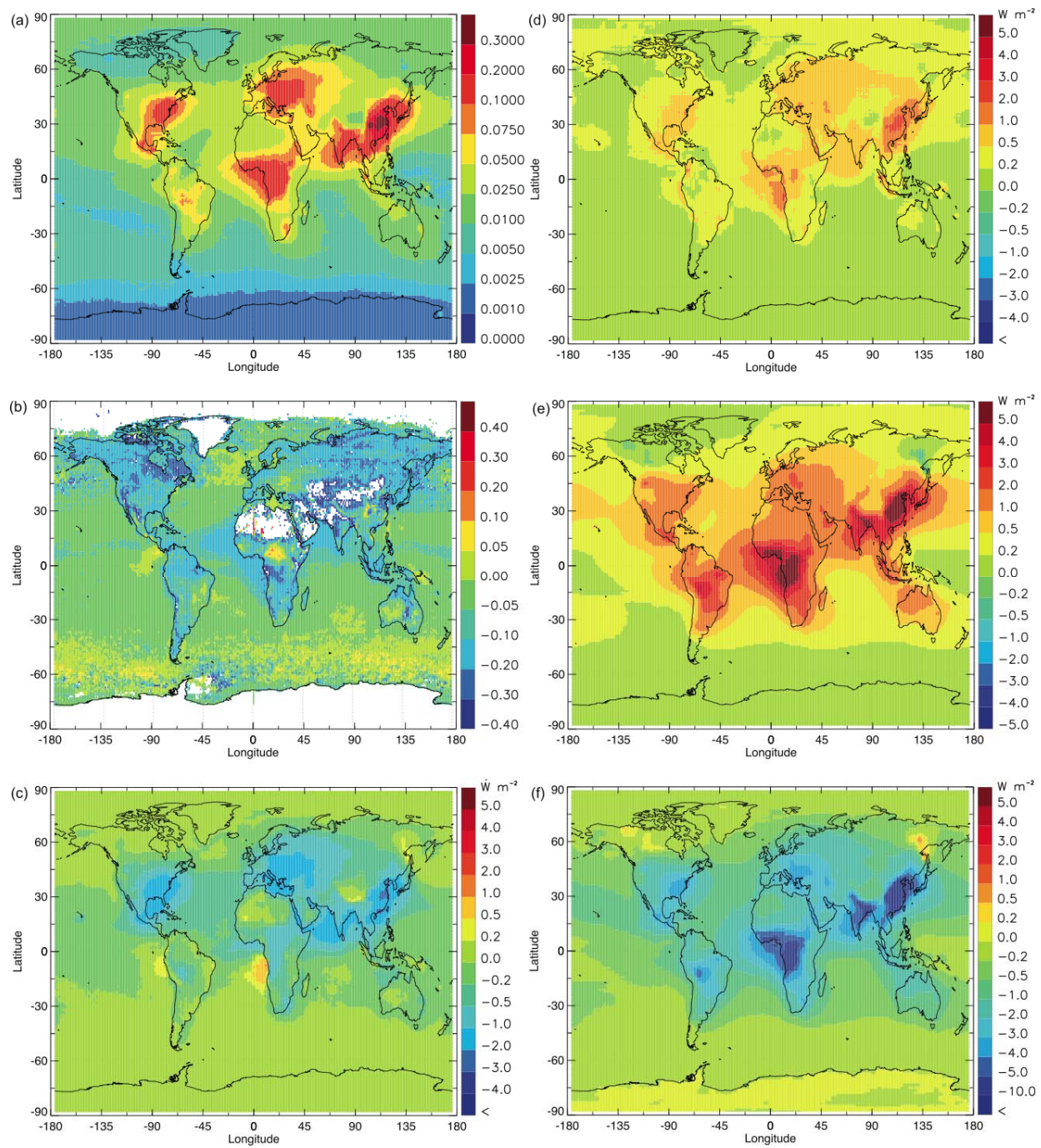
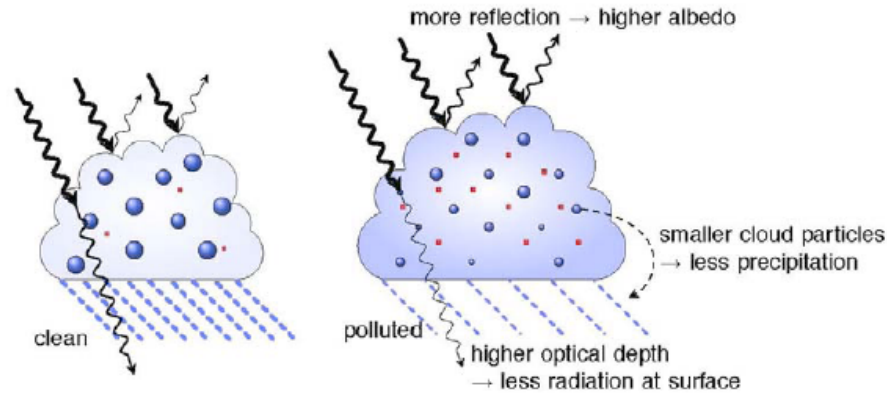


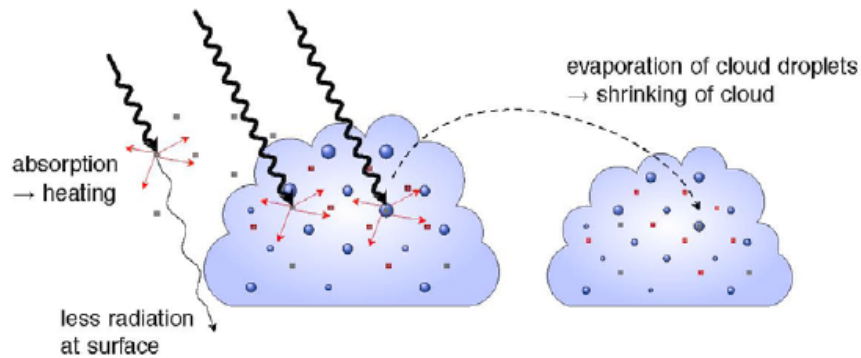
Figure 2.12



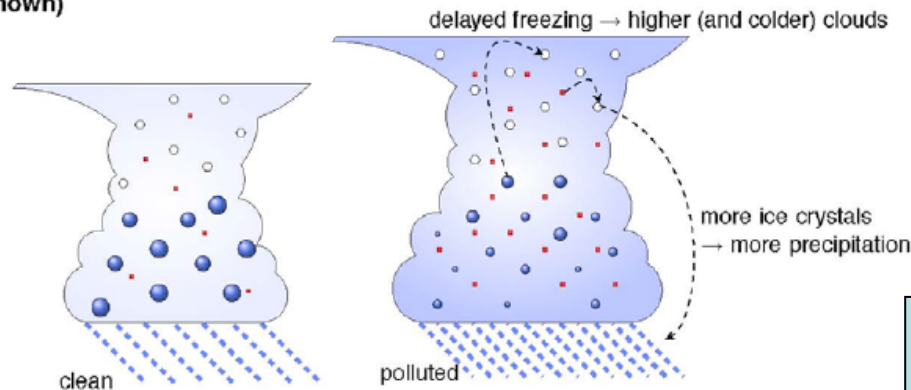
**Cloud albedo and lifetime effect (negative radiative effect for warm clouds at TOA; less precipitation and less solar radiation at the surface)**



**Semi-direct effect (positive radiative effect at TOA for soot inside clouds, negative for soot above clouds)**



**Glaciation effect (positive radiative effect at TOA and more precipitation), thermodynamic effect (sign of radiative effect and change in precipitation not yet known)**



**Only the change of cloud albedo induced by aerosols in the context of liquid water clouds, is considered to be radiative forcing**

**Other processes are not considered as radiative forcings. However, they are included in climate models that explicitly consider the relevant processes**

**Aerosol effects on ice clouds are poorly understood, and are not quantified.**

Aerosol cloud interactions [Figure 7.20]

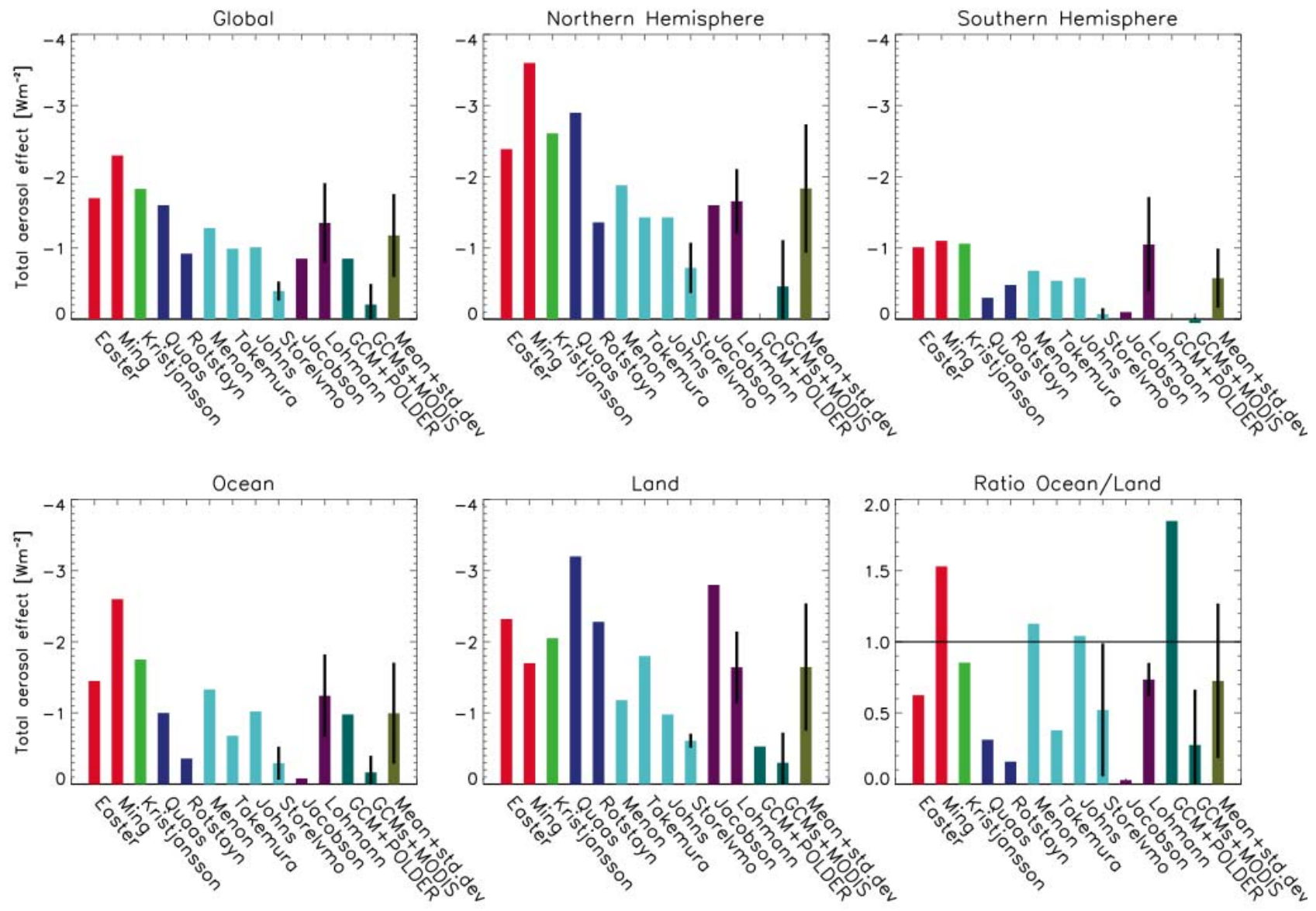
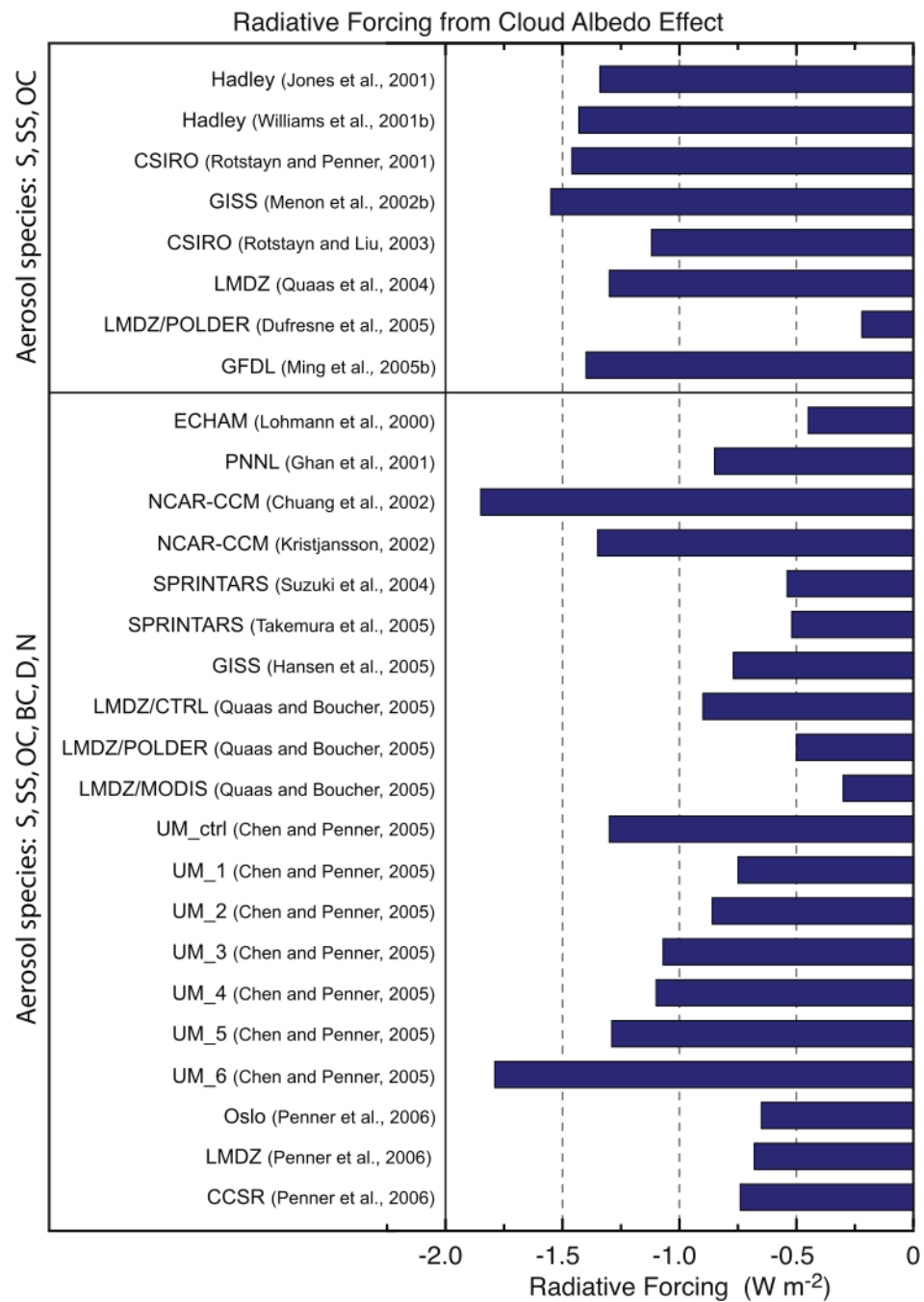


Figure 7.21



**Figure 2.14**



## Combining anthropogenic forcing estimates

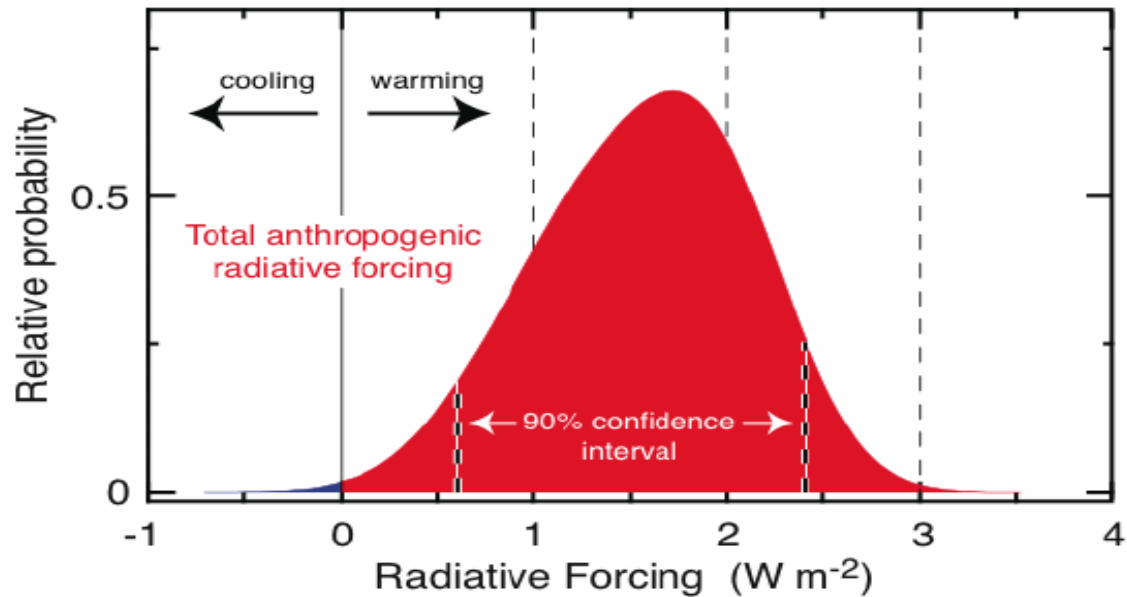


Figure TS-5  
(Panel B)

Panel B.

**Combined anthropogenic forcing is not straight sum of individual terms.**

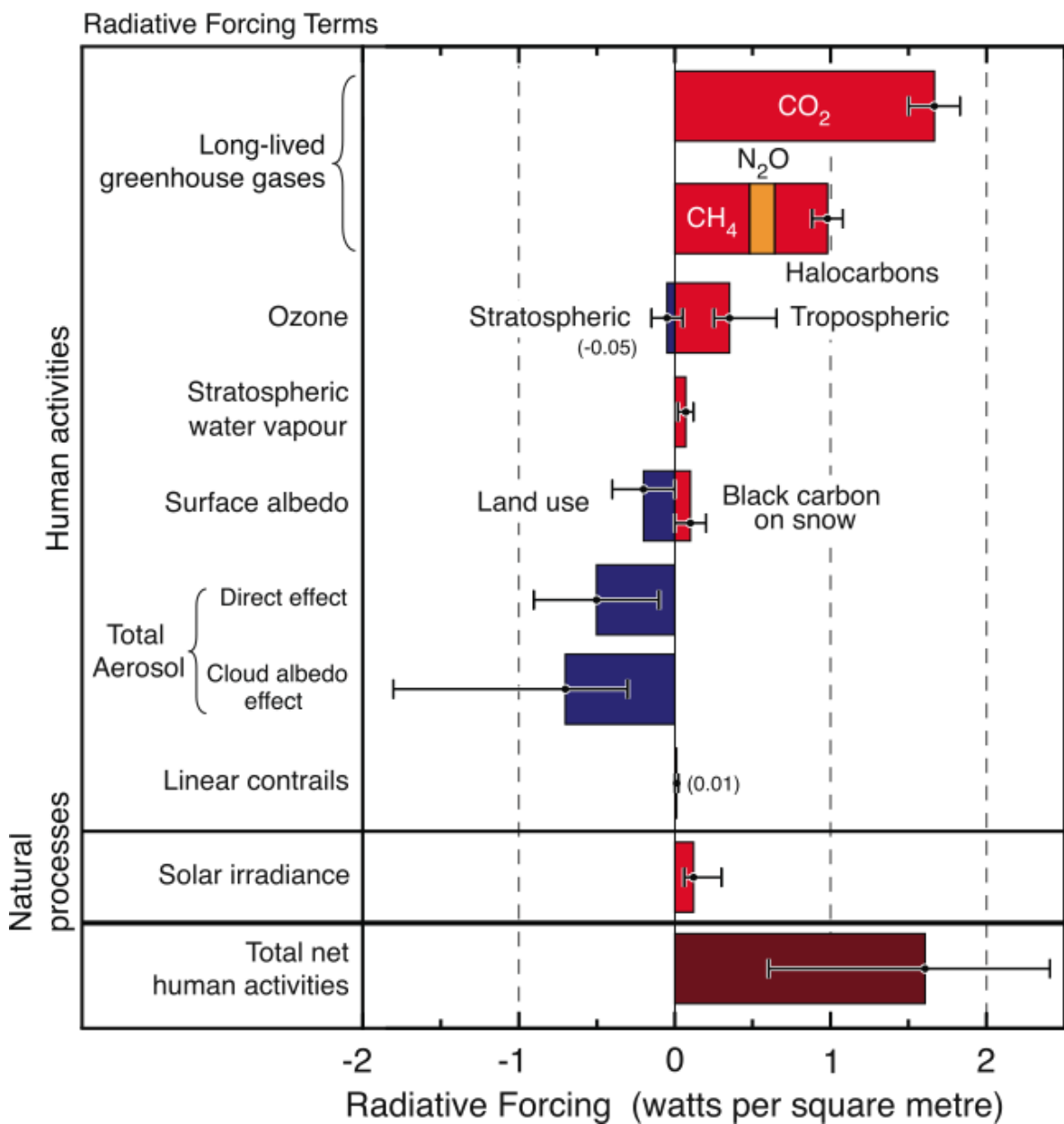
**Tropospheric ozone, cloud-albedo, contrails → asymmetric range about the central estimate**

**Uncertainties for the agents represented by normal distributions except: contrail (lognormal); discrete values → trop. ozone, direct aerosol (sulphate, fossil fuel black and organic carbon, biomass burning), cloud albedo**

**Monte Carlo calculations to derive probability density functions for the combined effect**

**Only derived for the global-mean**

# Radiative forcing of climate between 1750 and 2005



FAQ 2.1, Figure 2

# Total Solar Irradiance

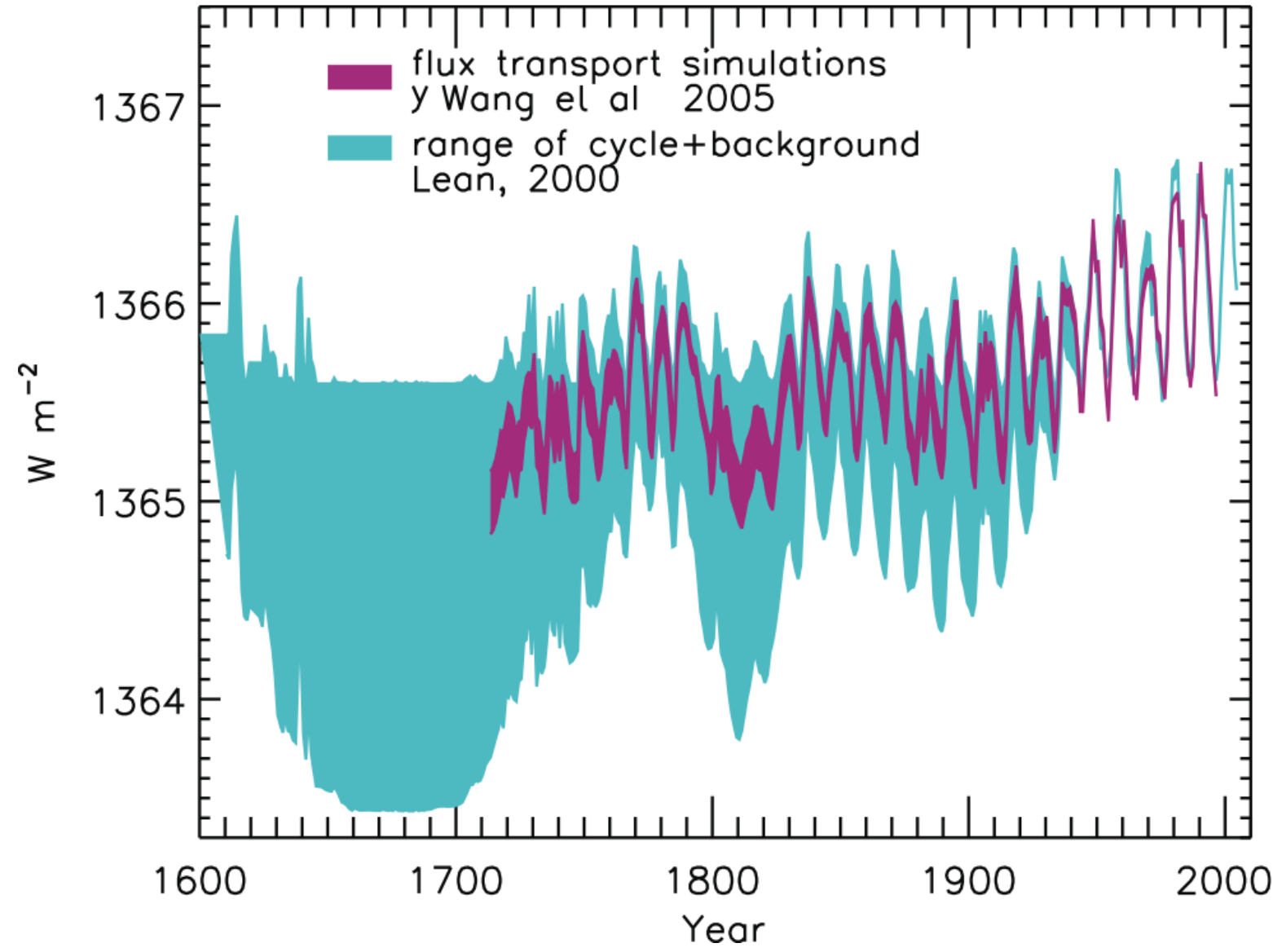
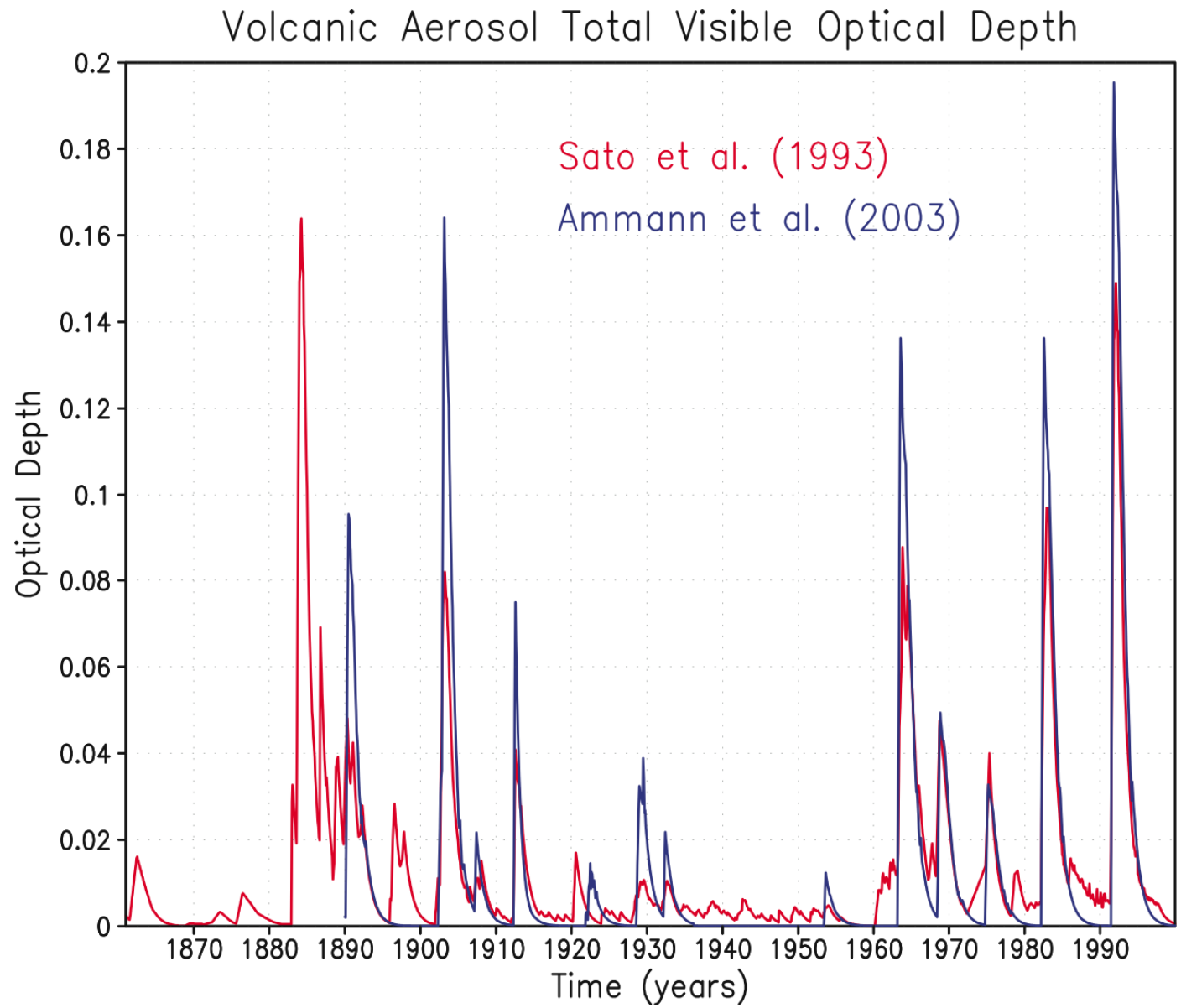
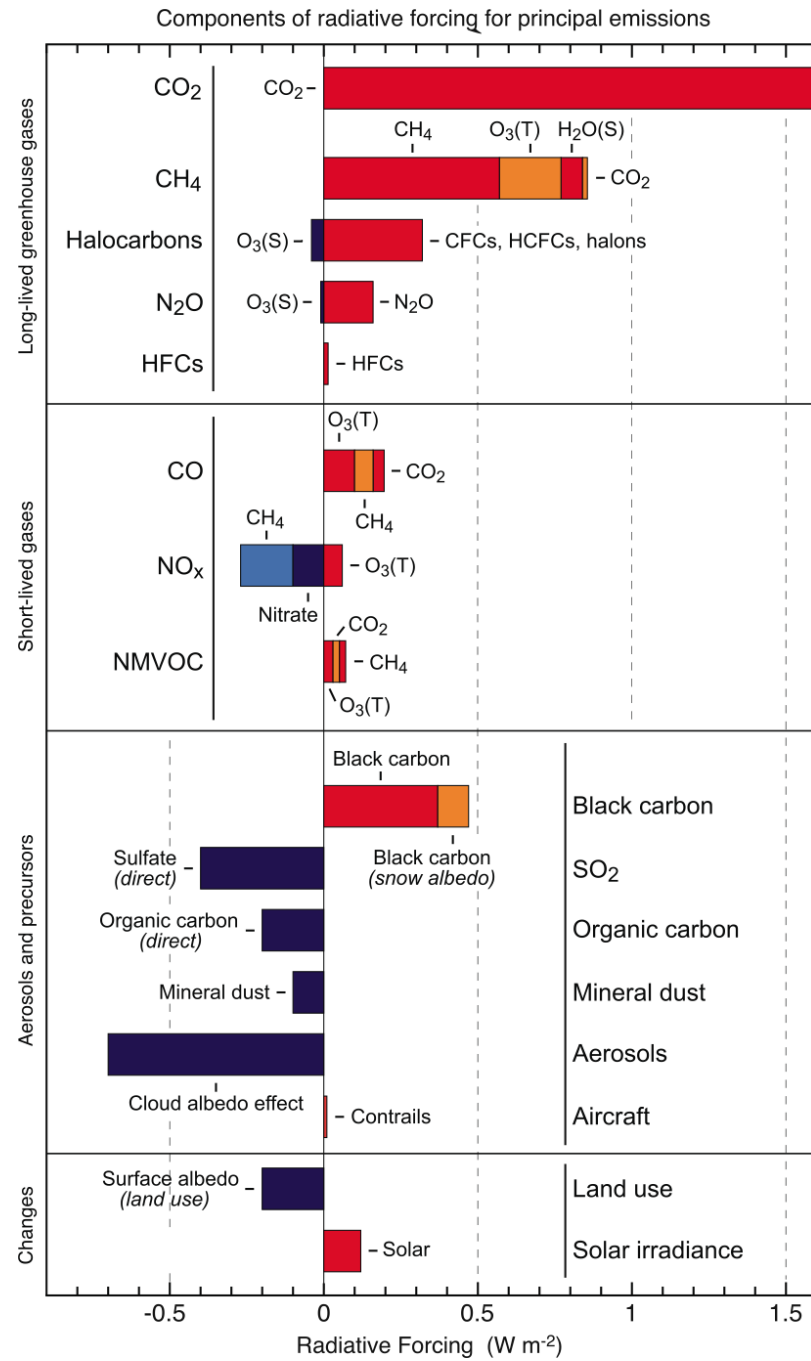


Figure 2.17



**Figure 2.18**



**Figure 2.21**

Integrated Radiative Forcing for Year 2000 Global Emissions  
(Weighted by 100-yr and 20-yr time horizons)

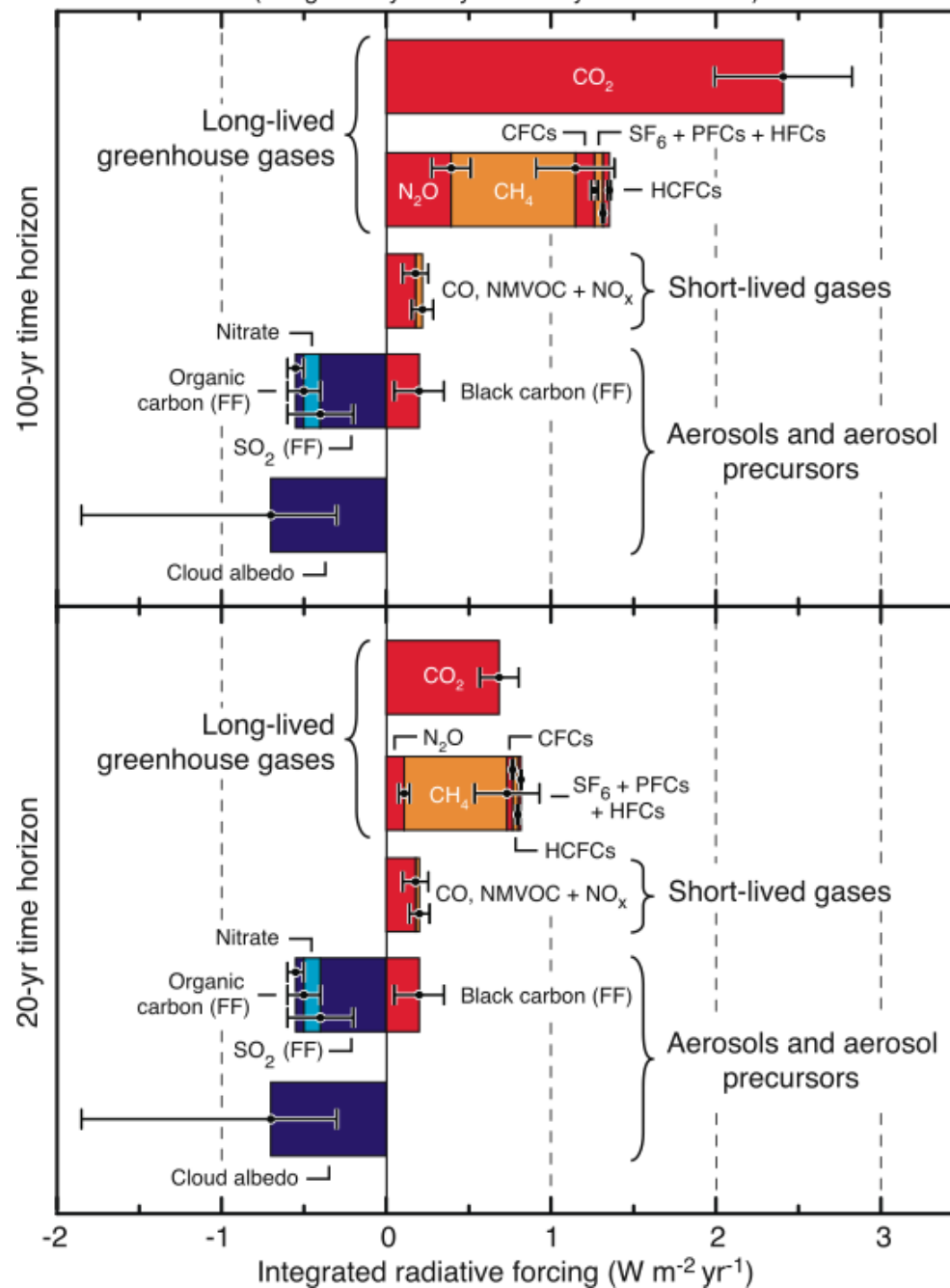
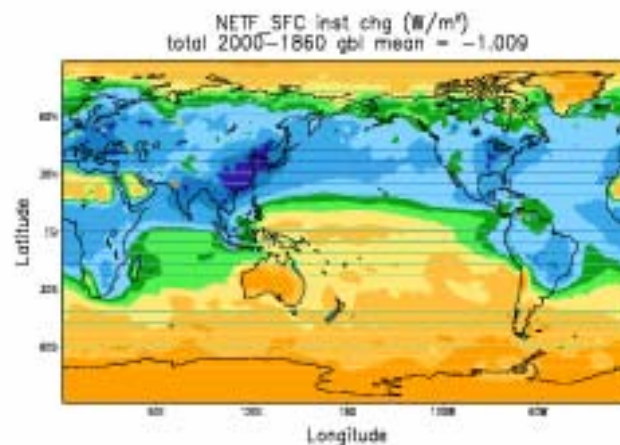
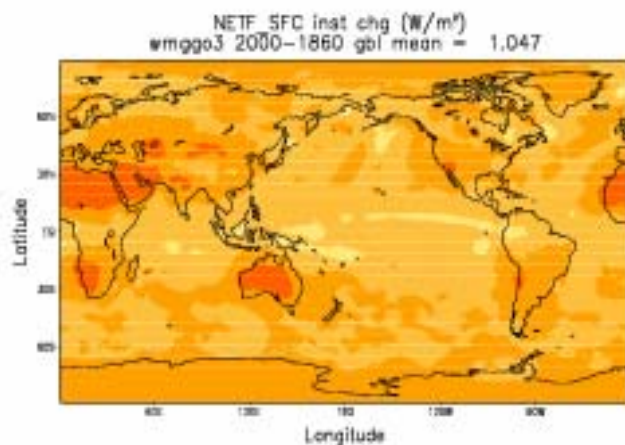
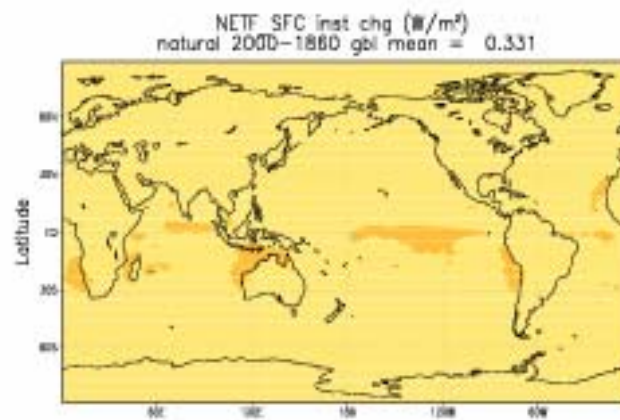
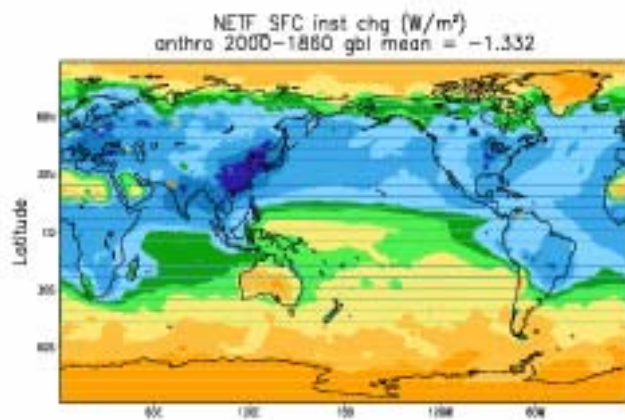
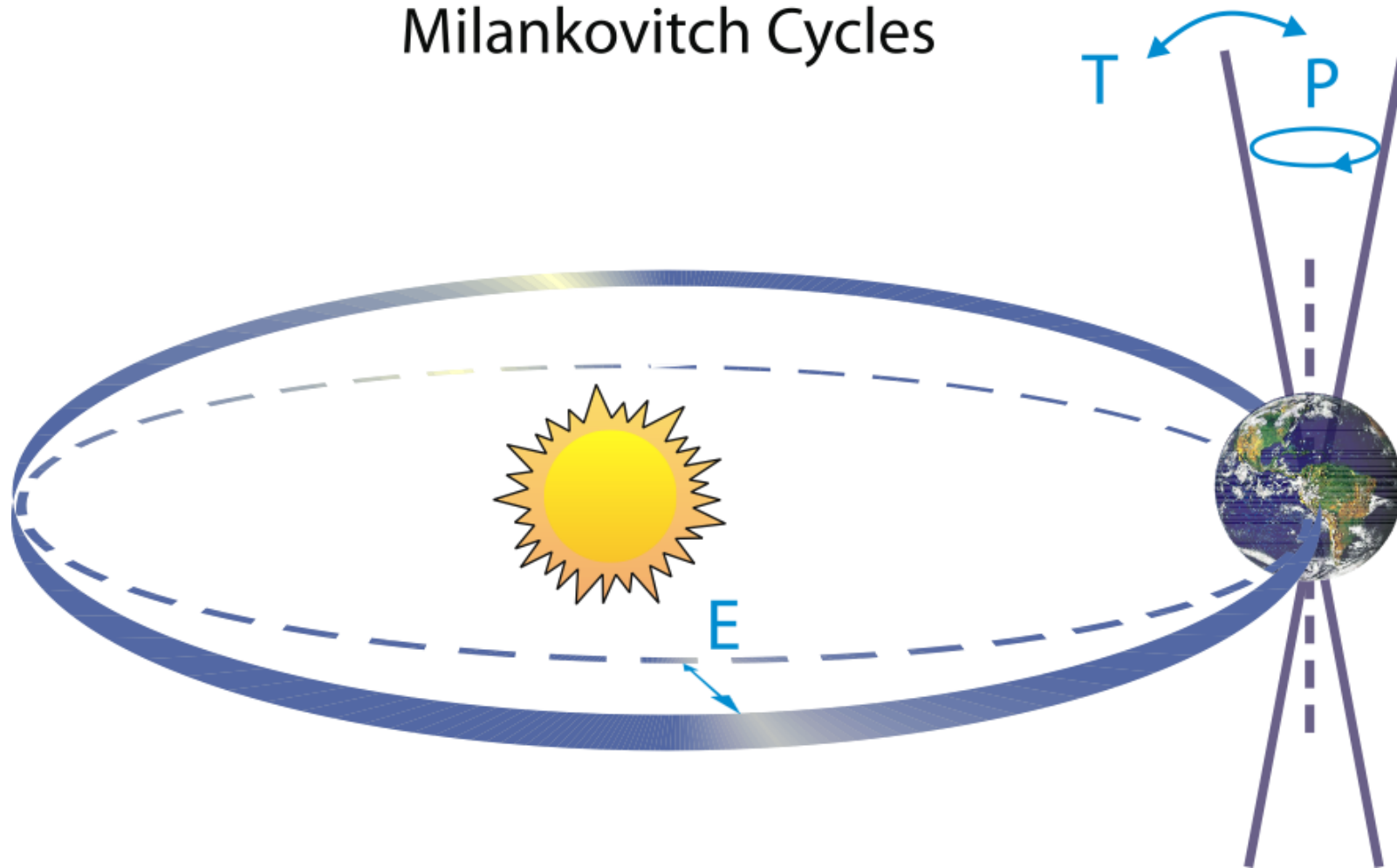


Figure 2.22

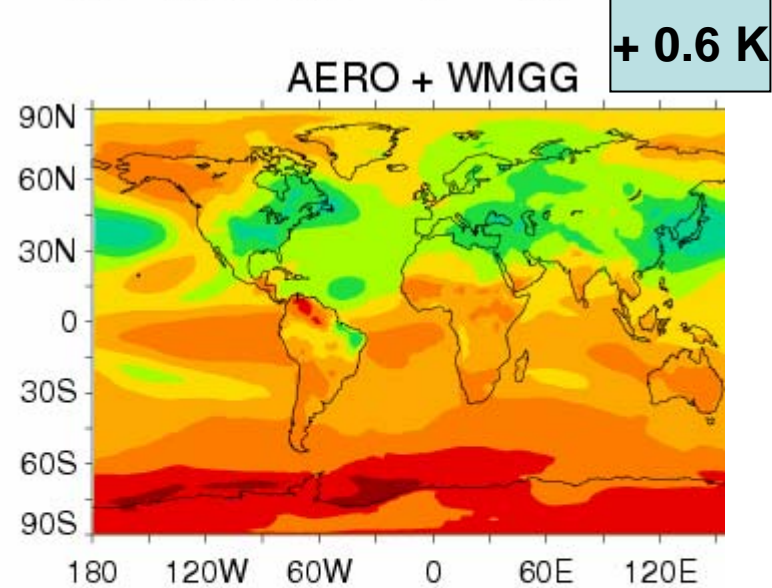
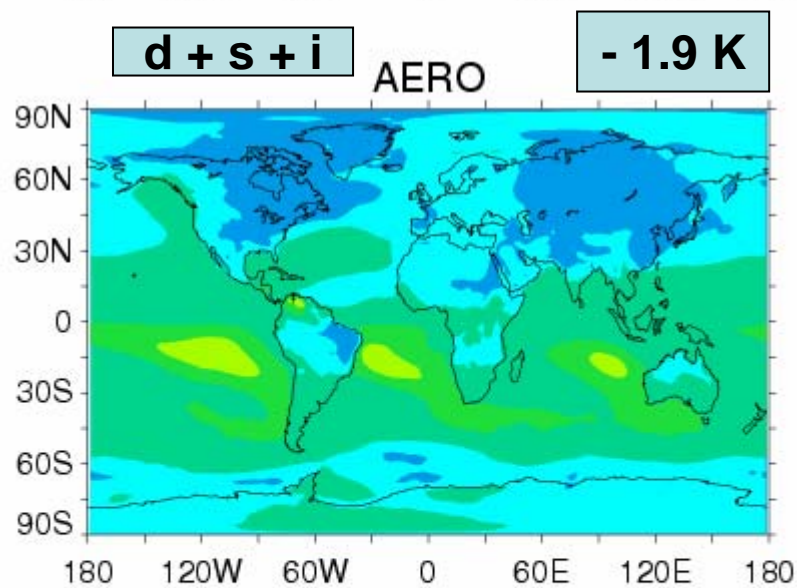
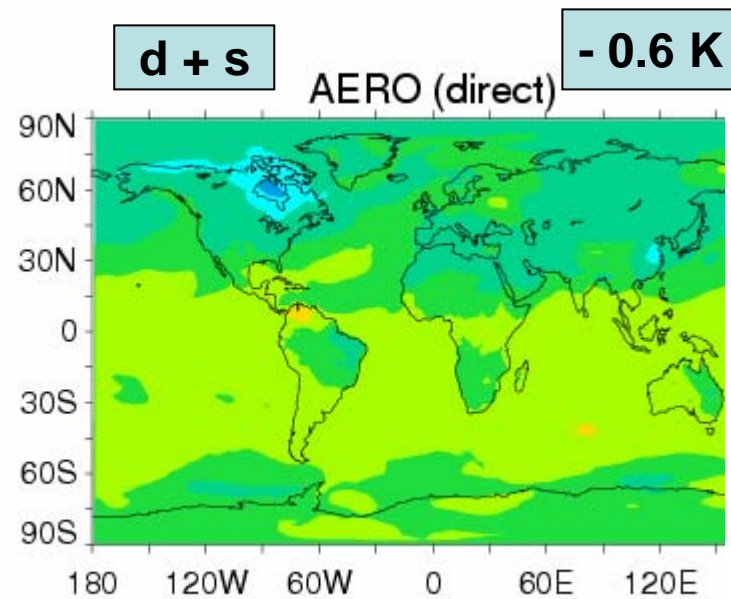
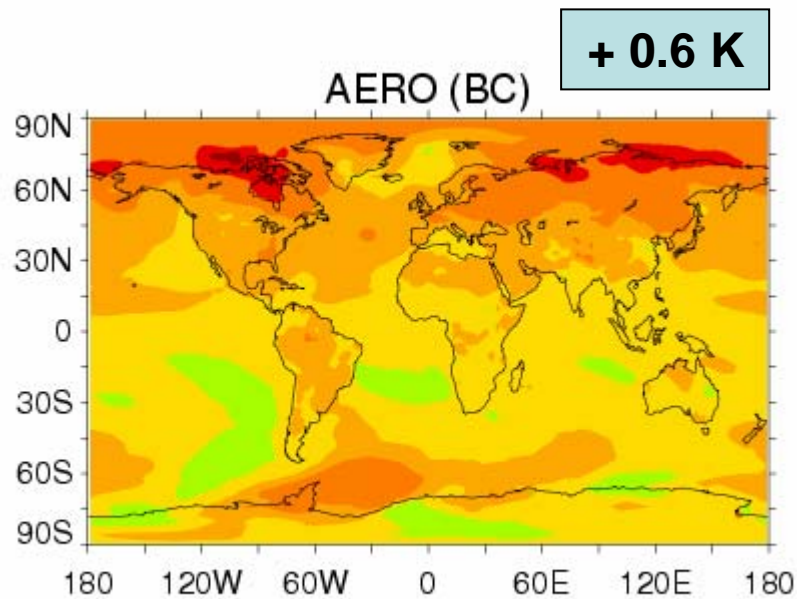




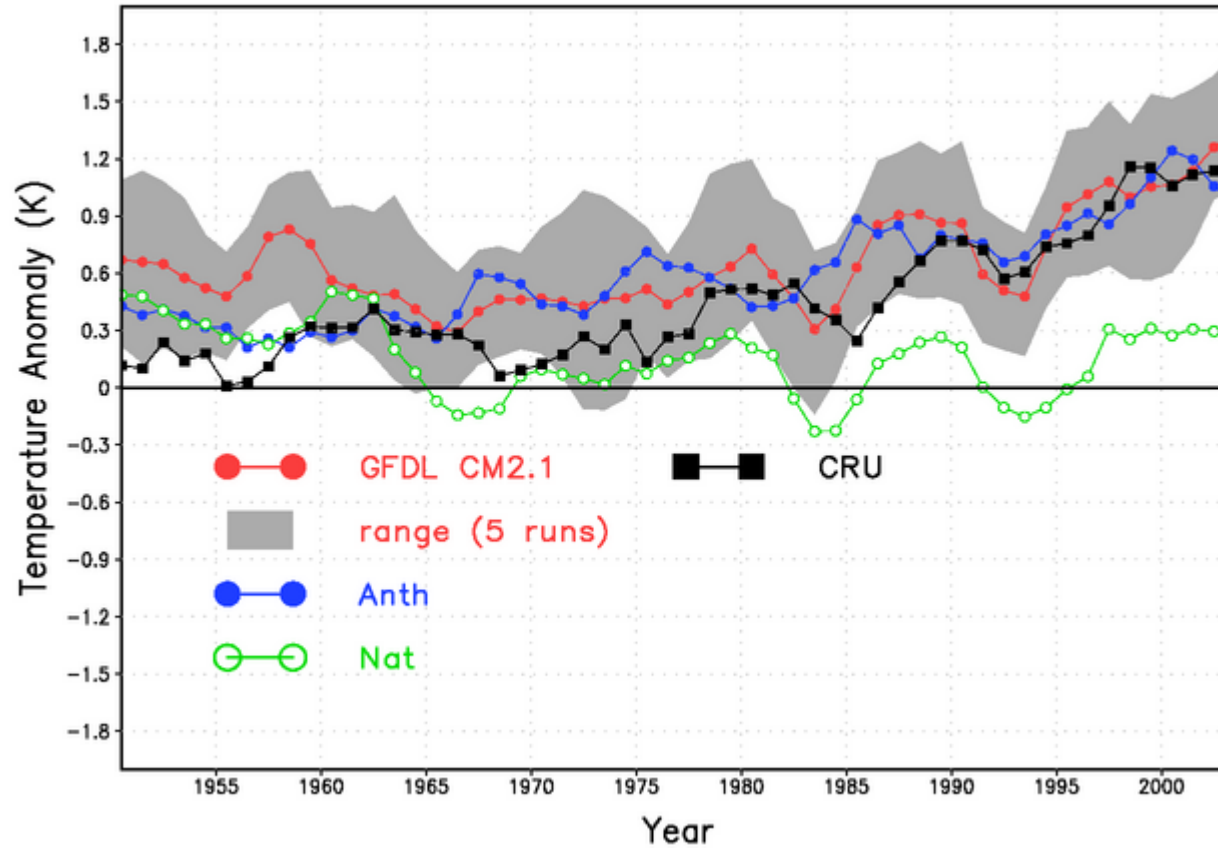
# Milankovitch Cycles



©IPCC 2007: WG1-AR4



S Asia(land) Annual-Mean Surface Temperature Change (K)  
(referenced to 1881-1920 average)





S Asia(land) Annual-Mean Precip change (mm/day)  
(referenced to 1961-1990 average)

