

## Climate Change Q&A Seminar #2

# Can we distinguish between natural and human-induced climate change?

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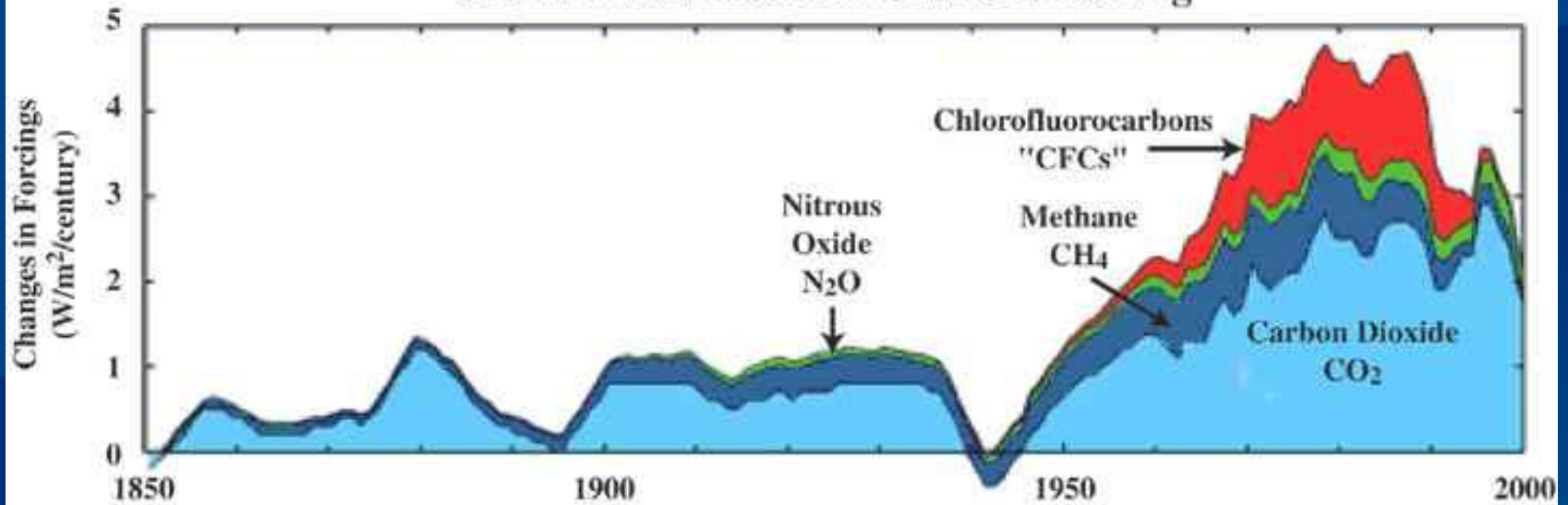
Email: [barry.brook@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:barry.brook@adelaide.edu.au)

# Climate Change Q&A

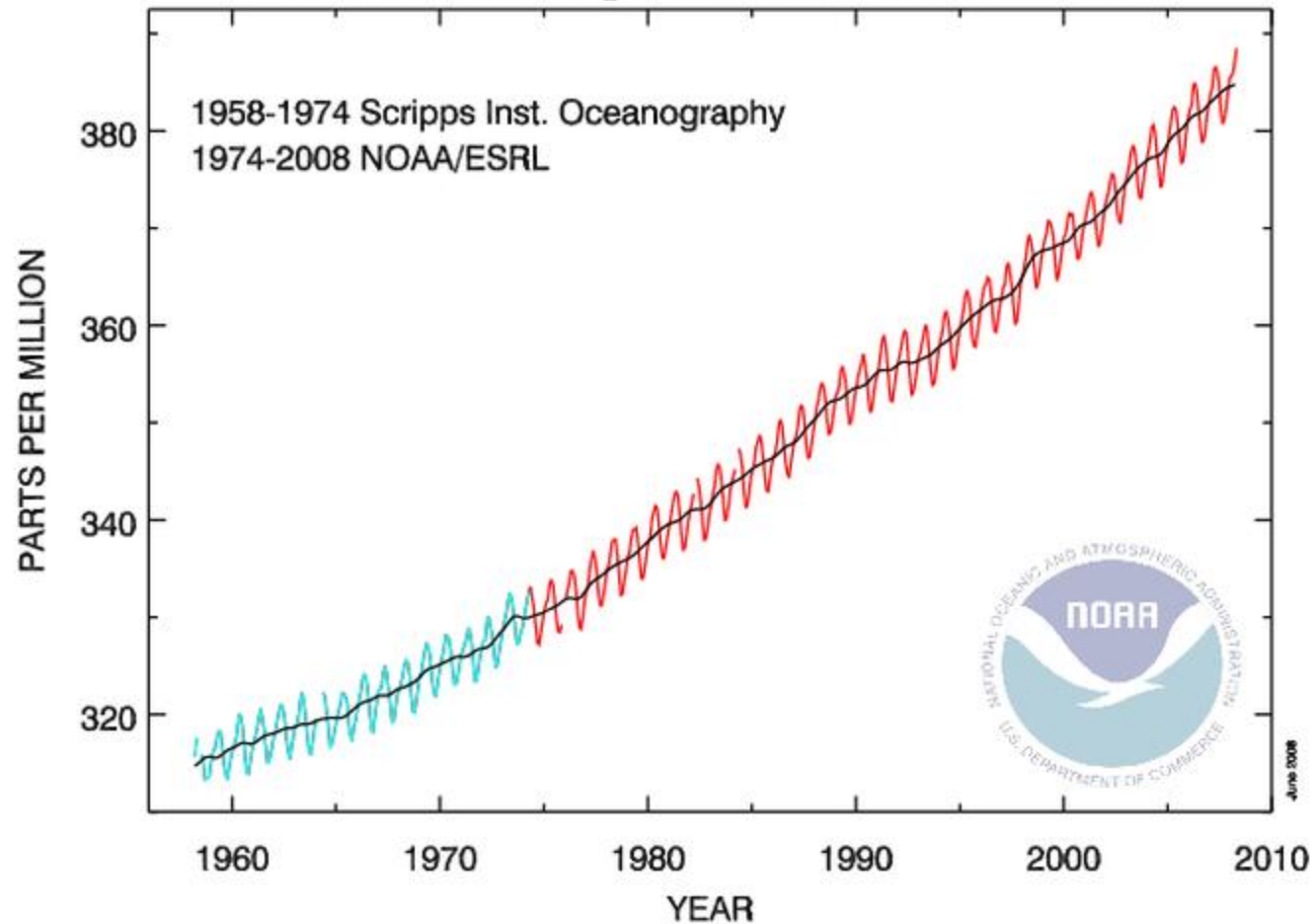
*6 lectures – step-by-step guide to the key questions*

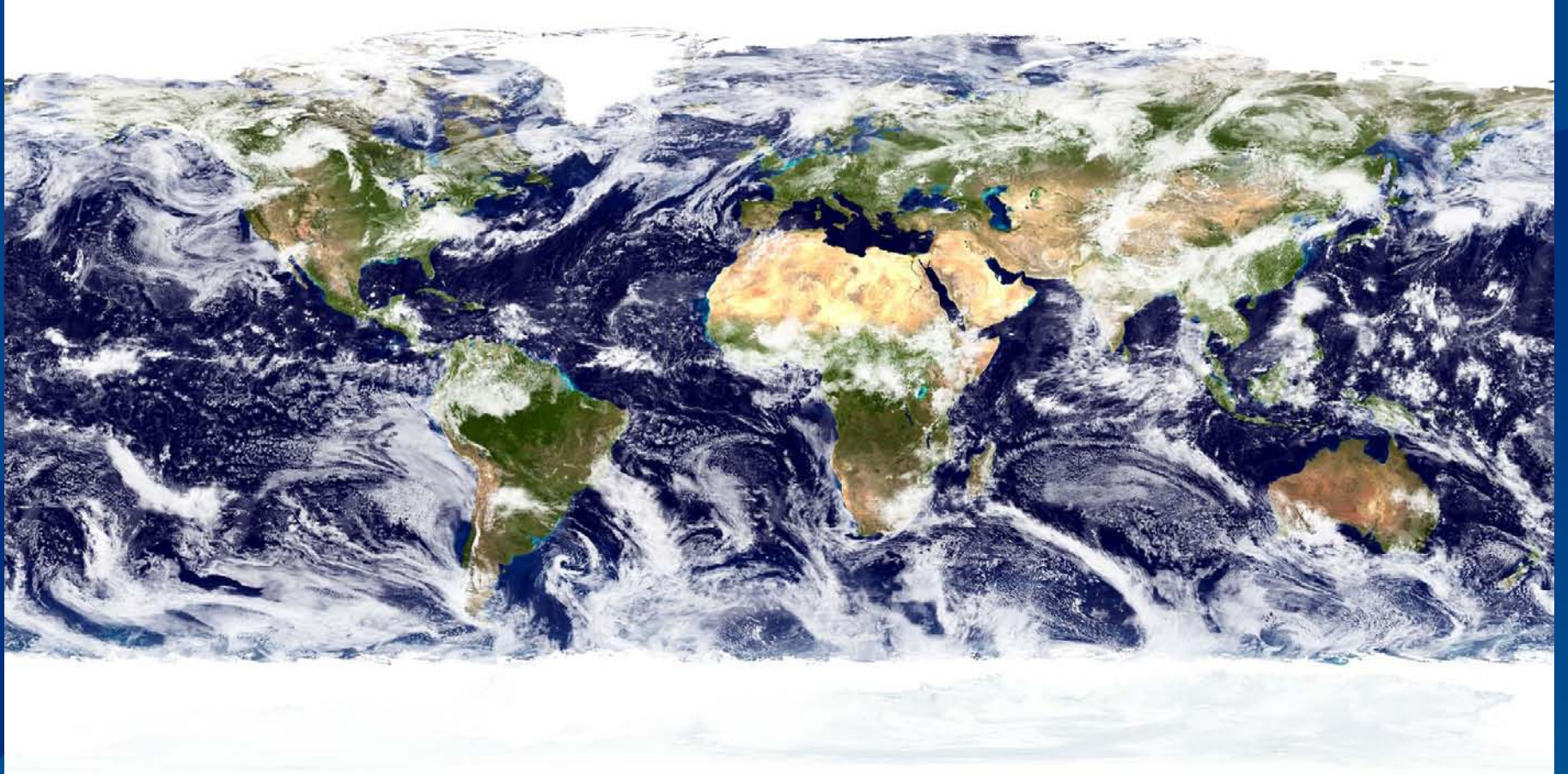
- 8 Aug: Is the Earth really warming?
- **22 Aug: Natural vs Human causes**
- 5 Sept: Future climate change scenarios?
- 19 Sept: Are impacts being overstated?
- 10 Oct: Will it cost the Earth to avoid this?
- 24 Oct: Greenhouse denial: the 'pretend debate'

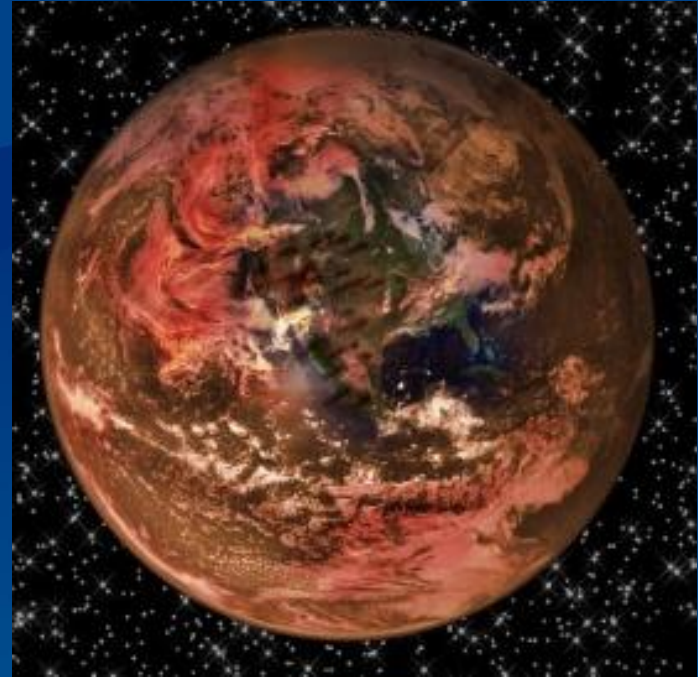
## Growth Rates of Greenhouse Gas Forcing

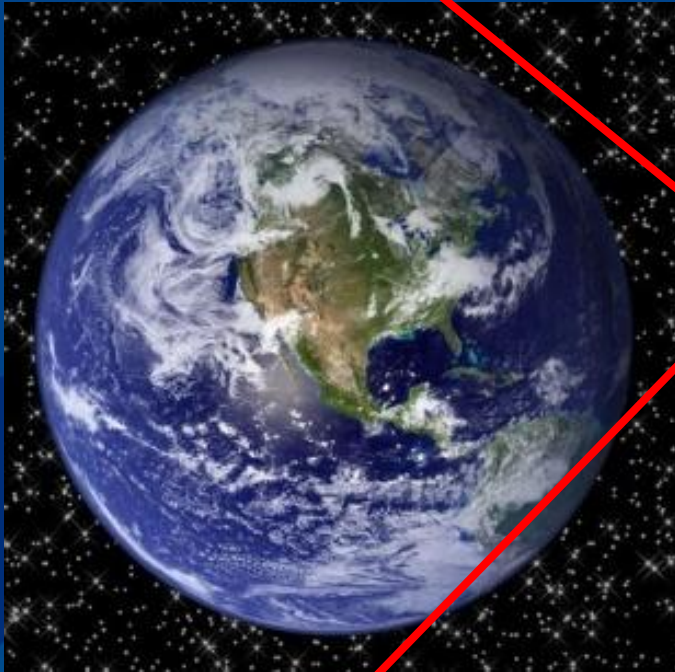


## Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at Mauna Loa Observatory



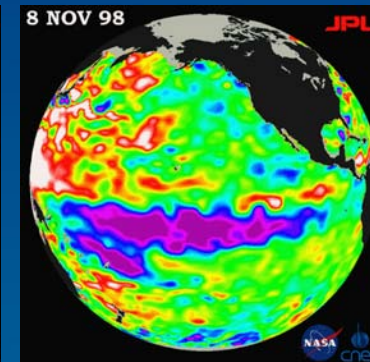
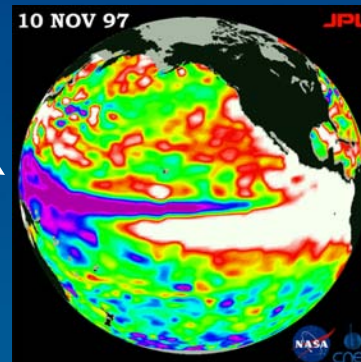
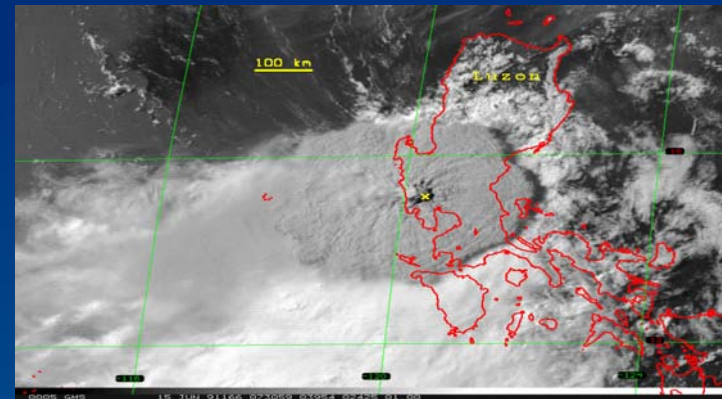
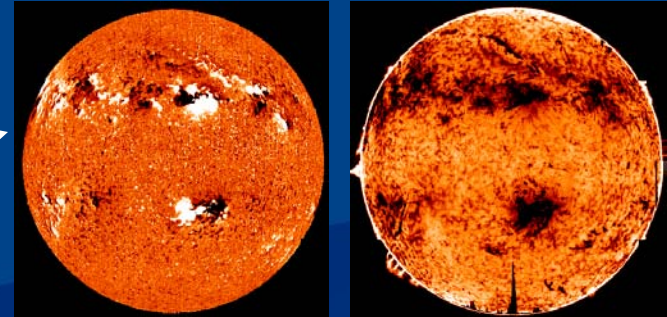






## Natural mechanisms

- Changes in the Sun
- Changes in the amount of volcanic dust in the atmosphere
- Internal variability of the coupled atmosphere-ocean system





## Non-natural mechanisms

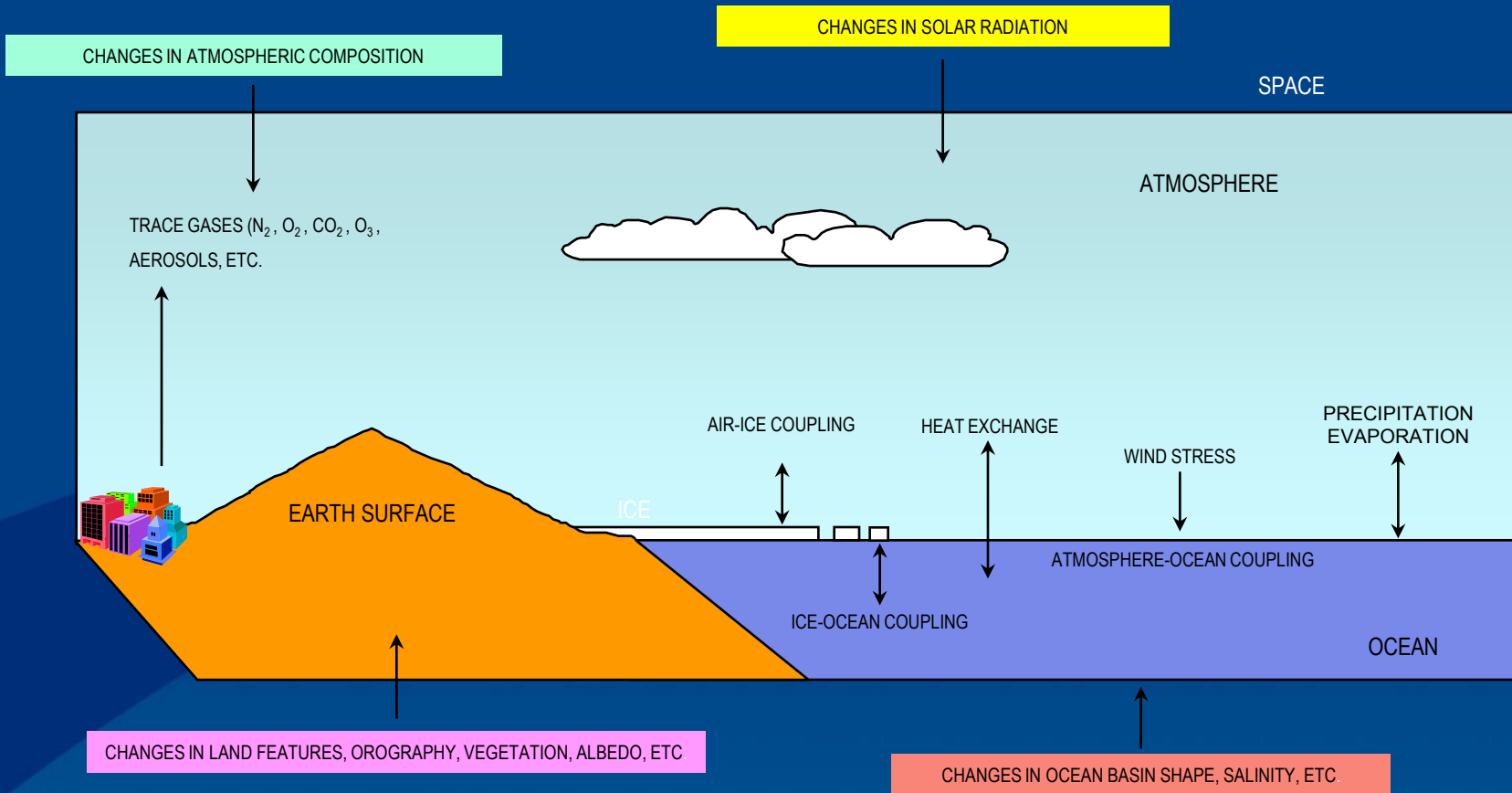
- Changes in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases
- Changes in aerosol particles from burning fossil fuels and biomass
- Changes in the reflectivity (albedo) of the Earth's surface

### Carbon Dioxide Concentrations



Smoke from fires in Guatemala and Mexico (May 14, 1998)





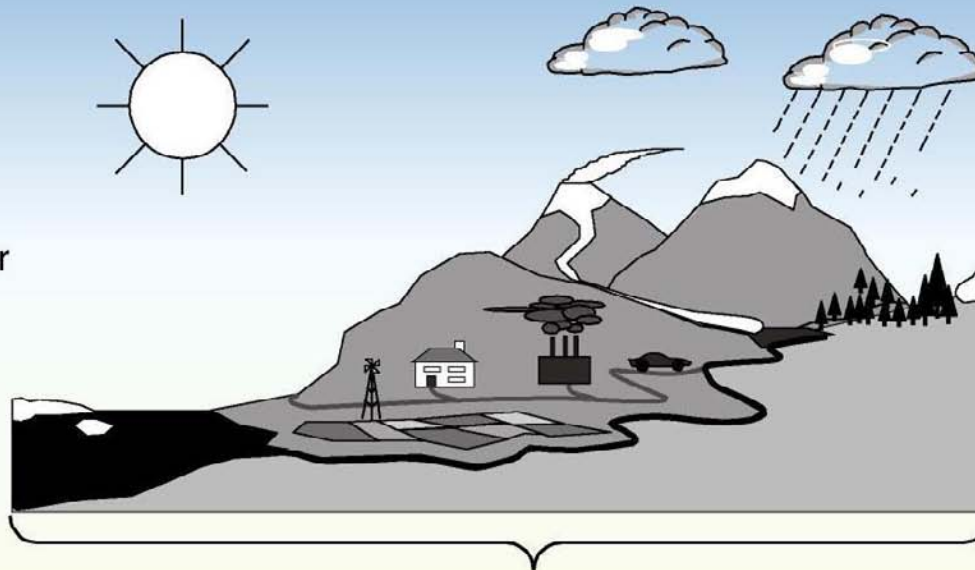
## Key questions about the climate system and its relation to human kind

**What changes have occurred?**

**Observations:**

- temperatures
- precipitation
- snow / ice cover
- sea level
- circulation
- extremes

**How well are the past and present climates understood?**



**What changes could lie ahead?**

**Simulations:**

- natural variation
- forcing agents
- global climate
- regional climate
- high impact events
- stabilisation

**Observations vis-à-vis Simulations**

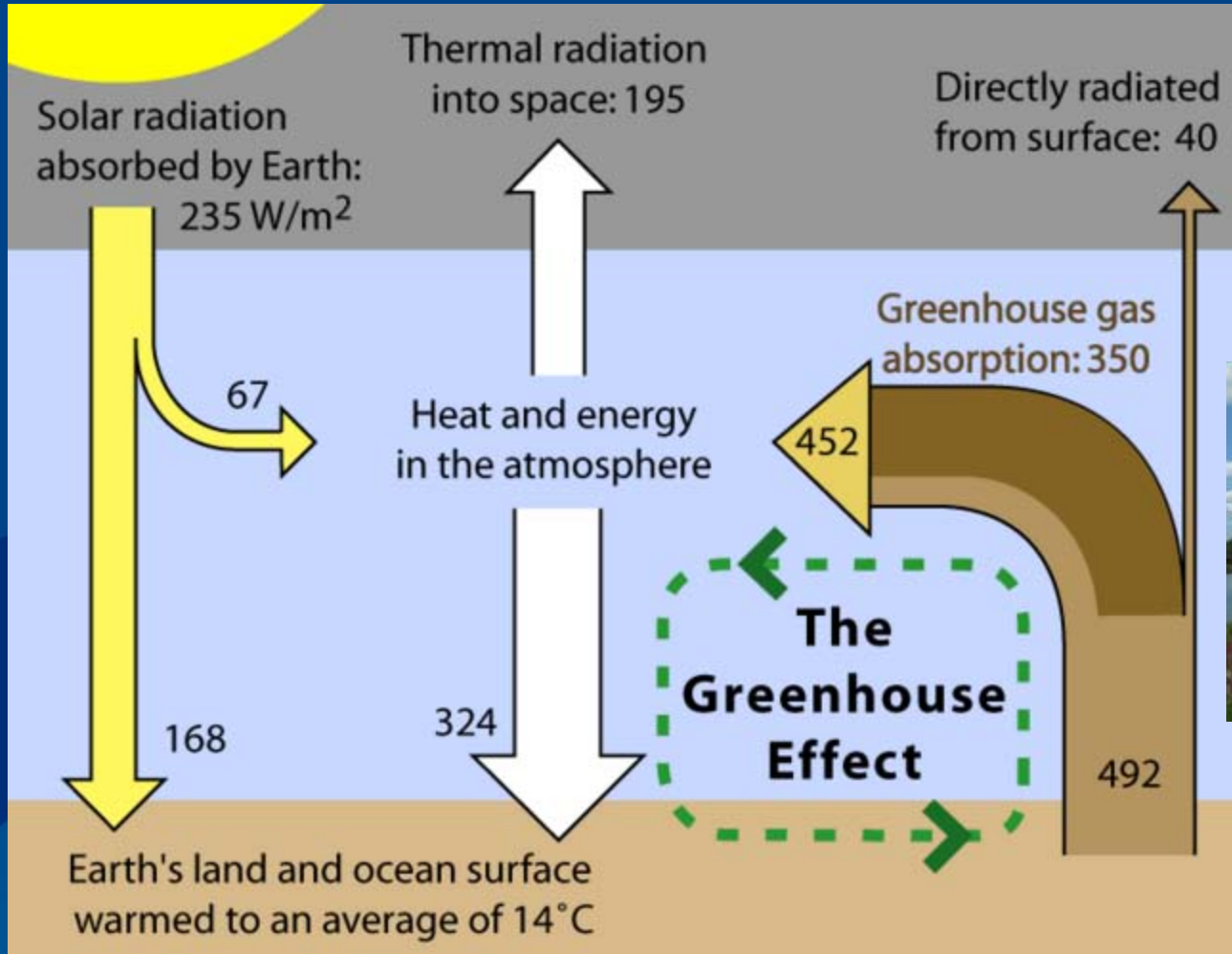
*Timeline:*

Palaeo & Instrumental  
Periods

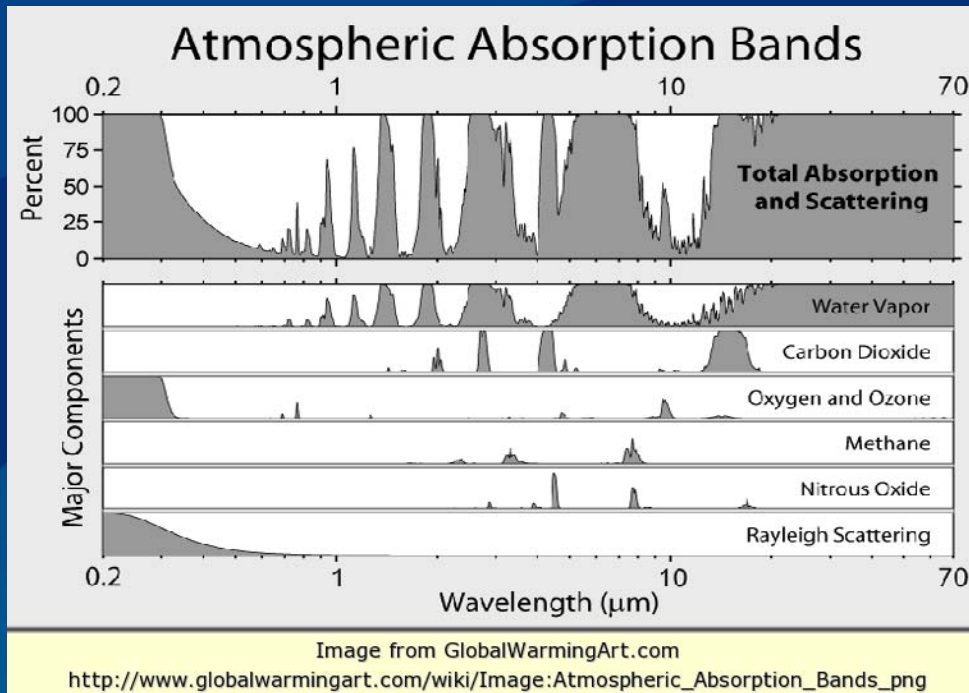
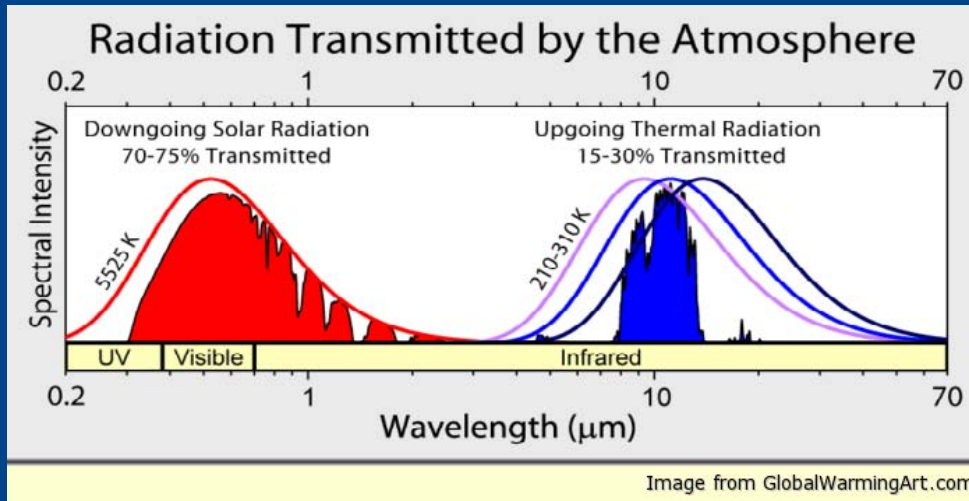
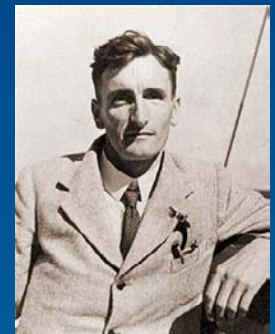
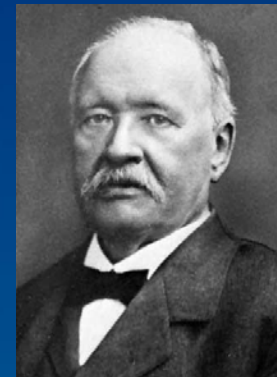
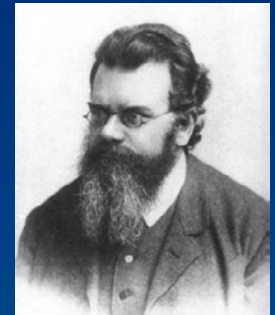
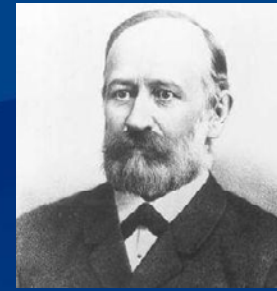
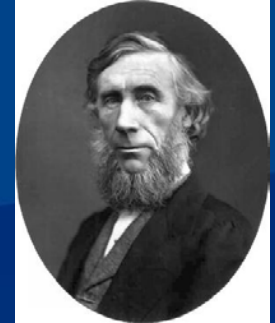
The Present

The Future

**The greenhouse effect is a myth**





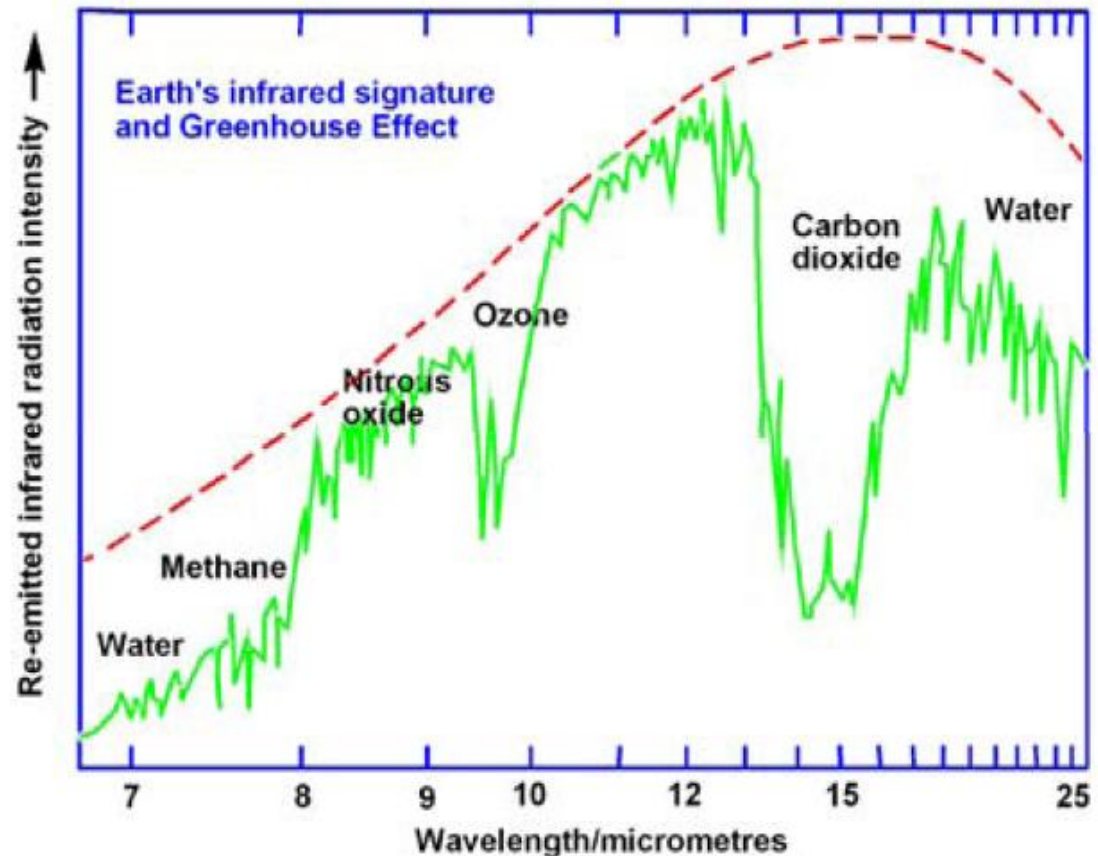


## Earth's Atmospheric Infrared (Heat) Absorption Spectrum

**Broken line shows amount of infrared radiation (heat) that would escape in absence of atmosphere.**

**Solid line shows amount of infrared radiation (heat) that actually escapes.**

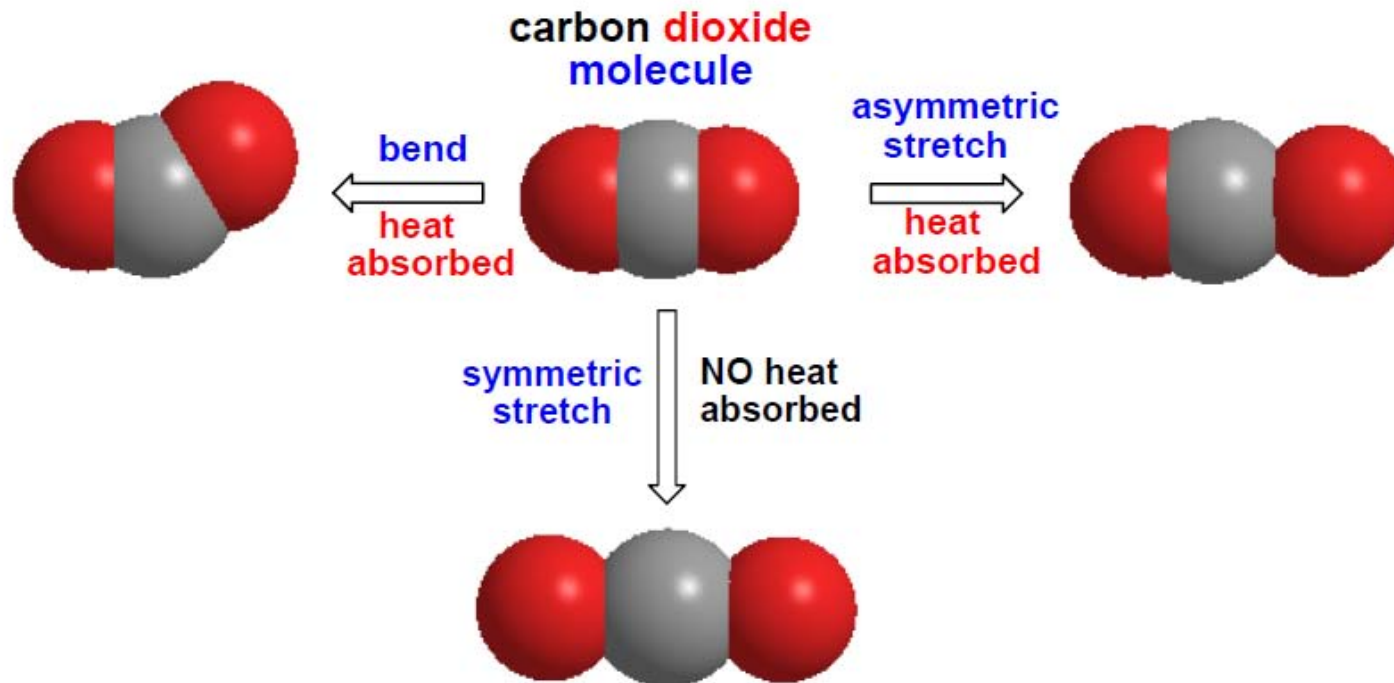
**Difference between lines is the infrared (heat) absorption by greenhouse gases (greenhouse effect).**



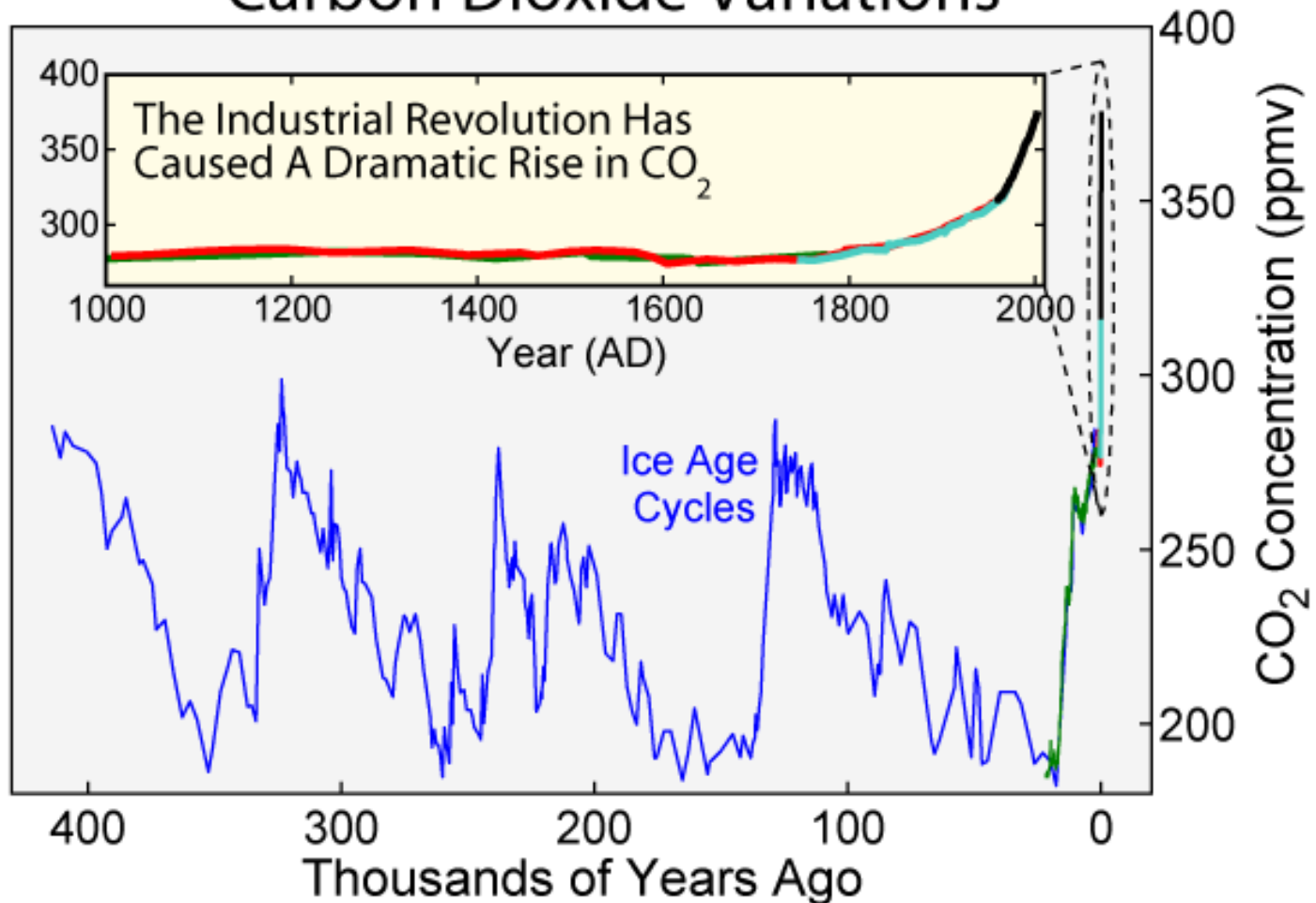


## The Greenhouse Effect – Carbon Dioxide

### Absorption of Infrared Radiation (heat) by Carbon Dioxide

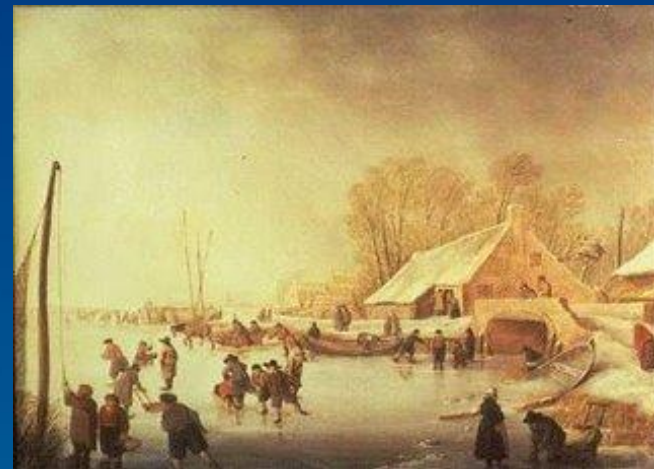
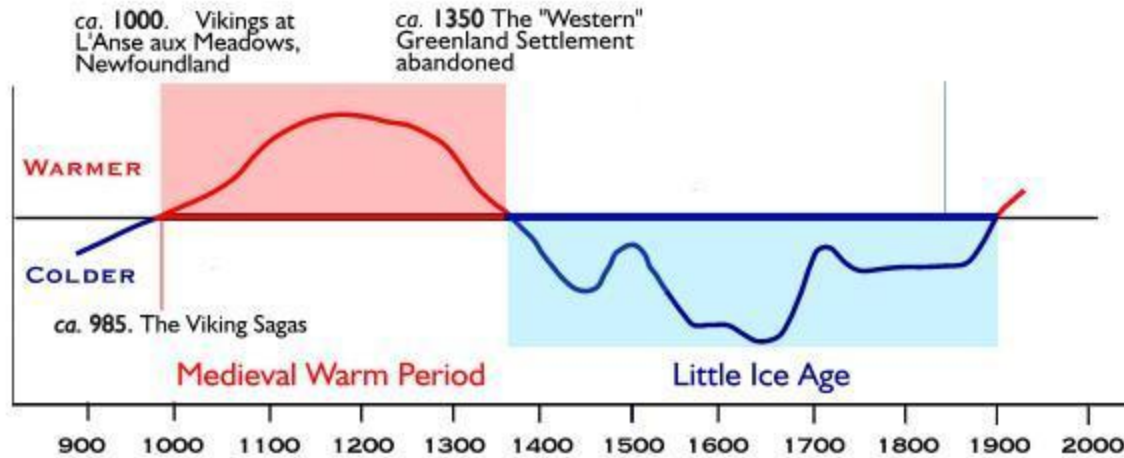


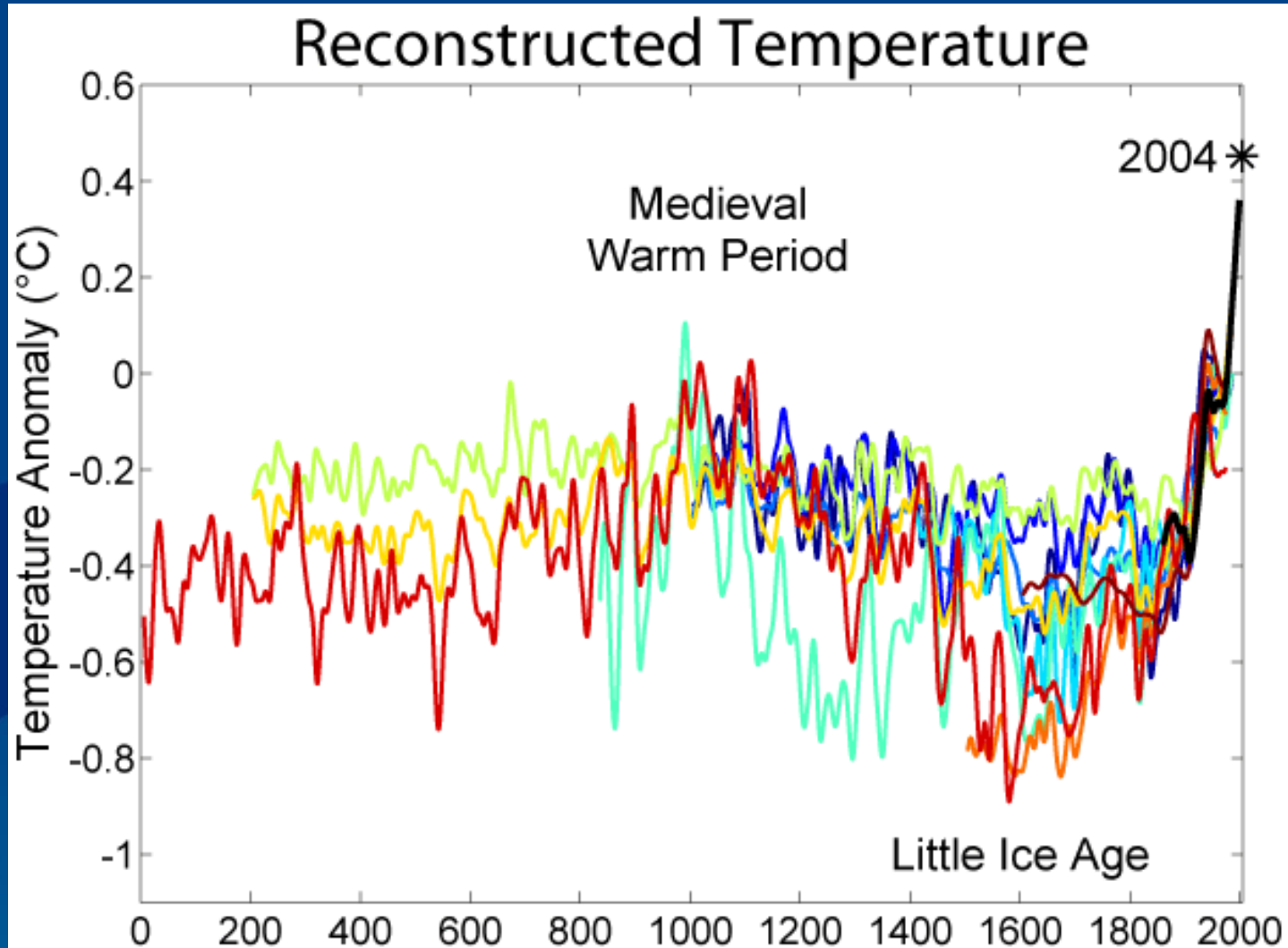
## Carbon Dioxide Variations

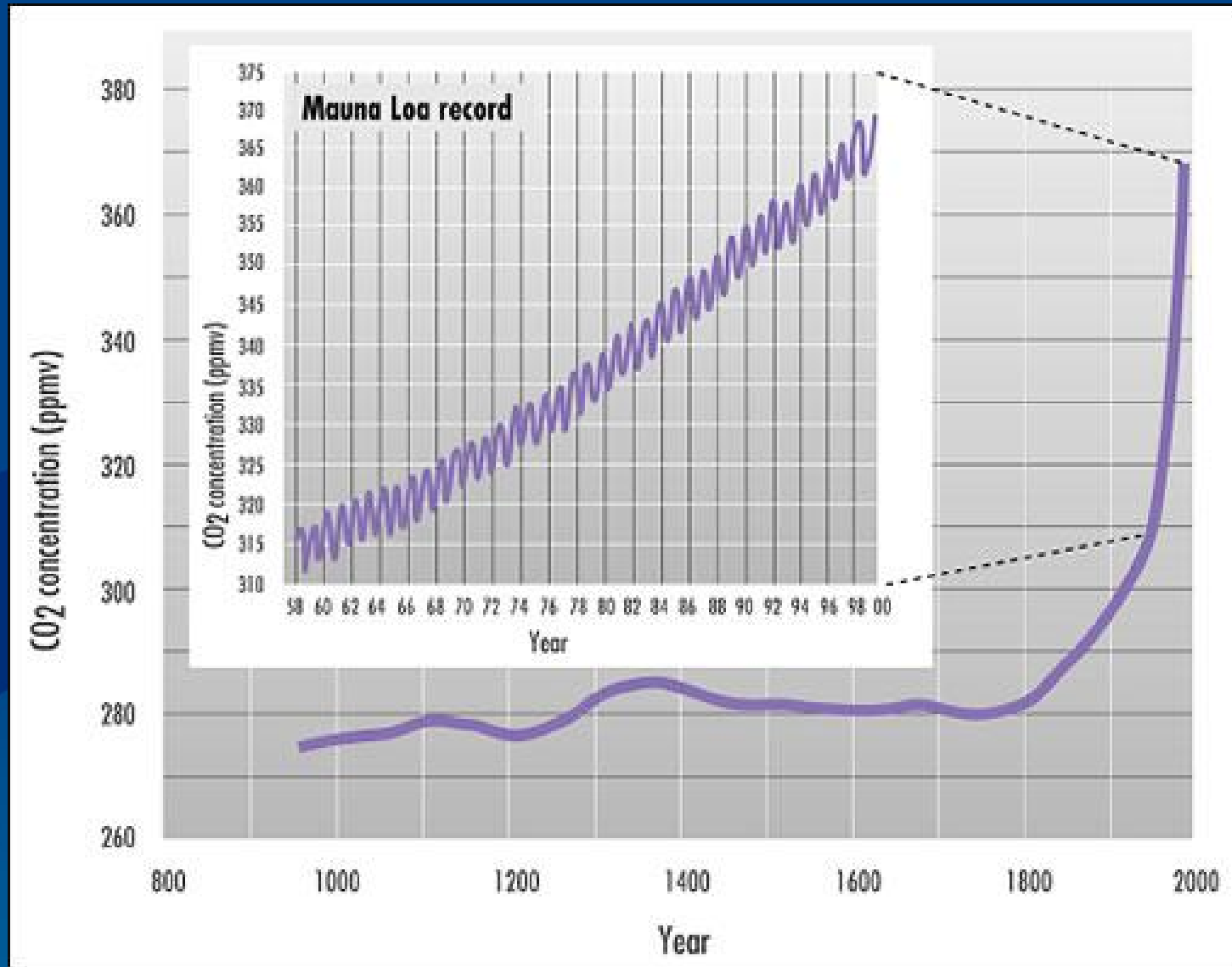


# Circumstantial evidence

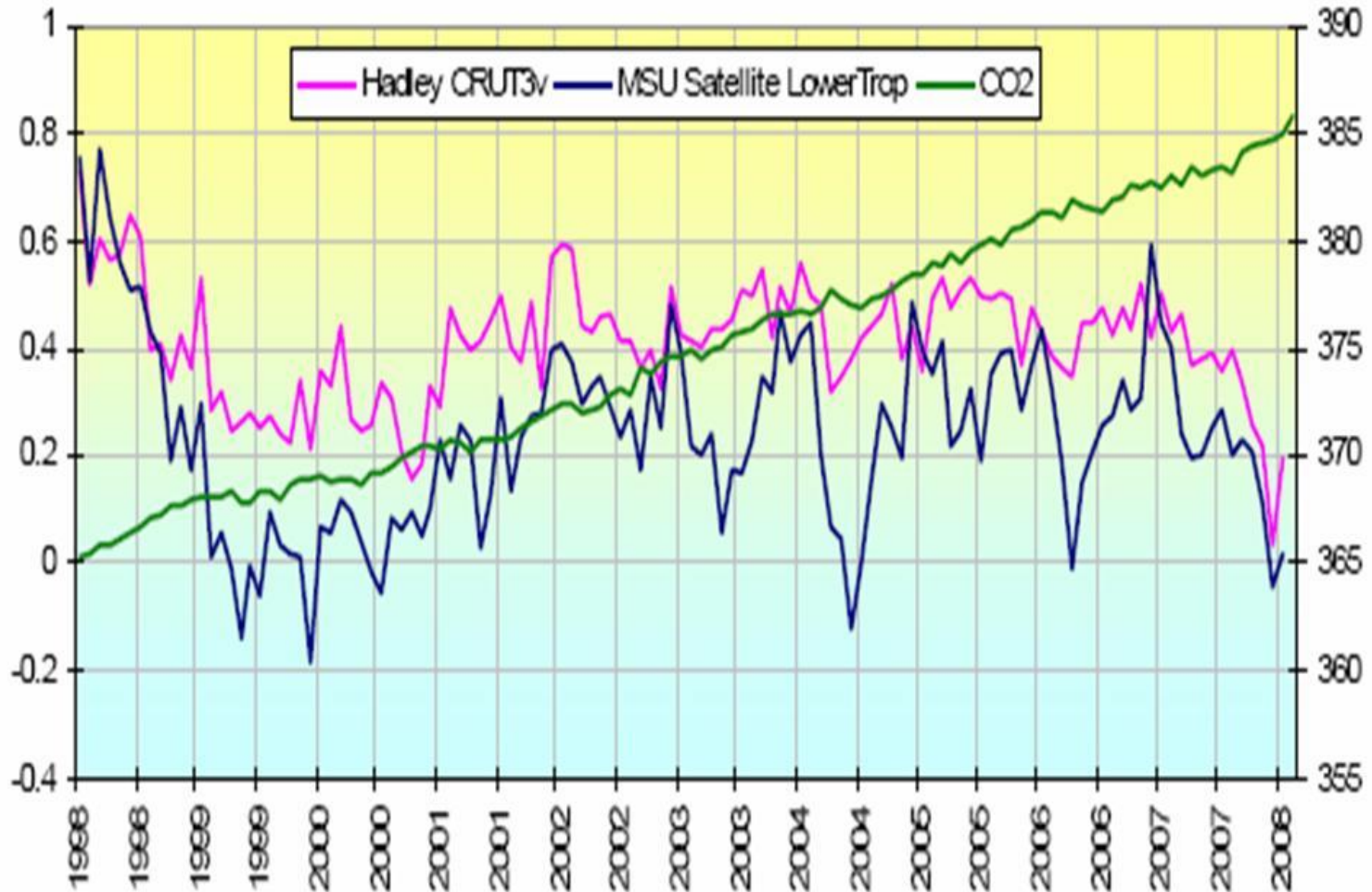
## THE MEDIEVAL WARM PERIOD AND THE LITTLE ICE AGE





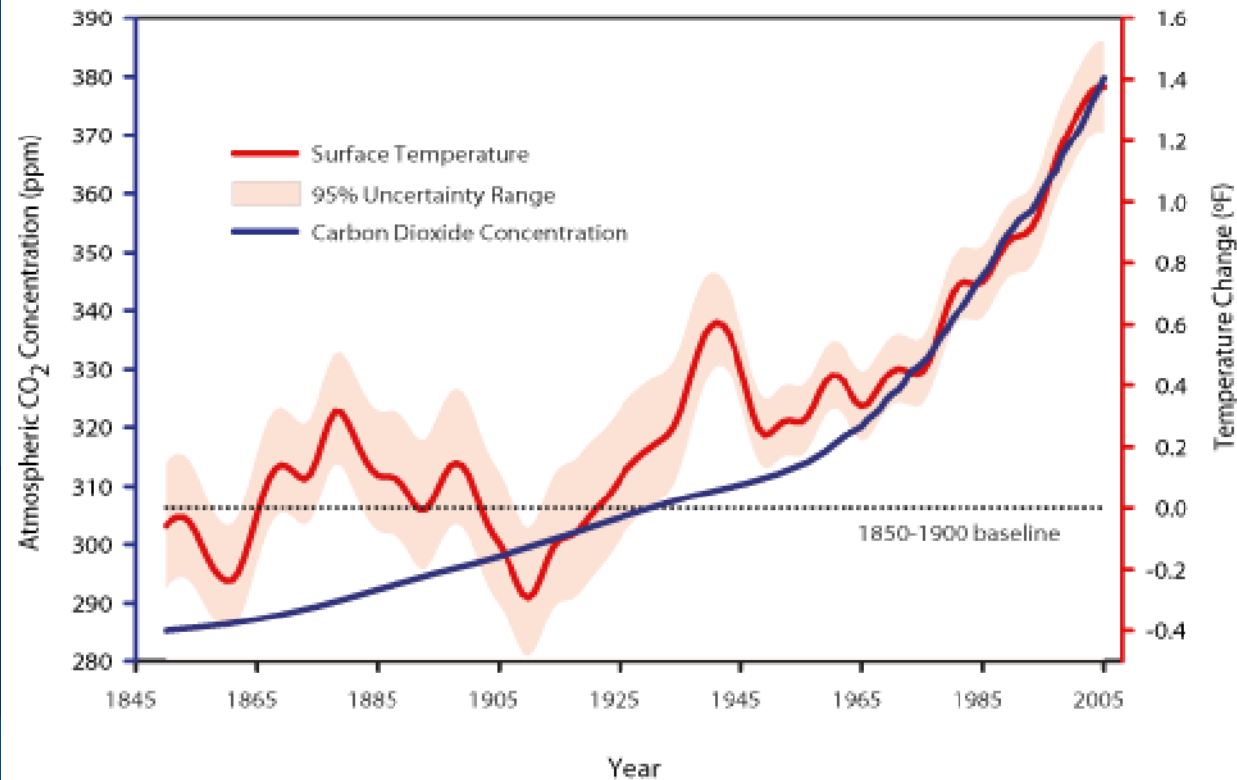


## Hadley and MSU Temps vs CO2



## Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> & Global Surface Temperature Trends

1800 - 2005

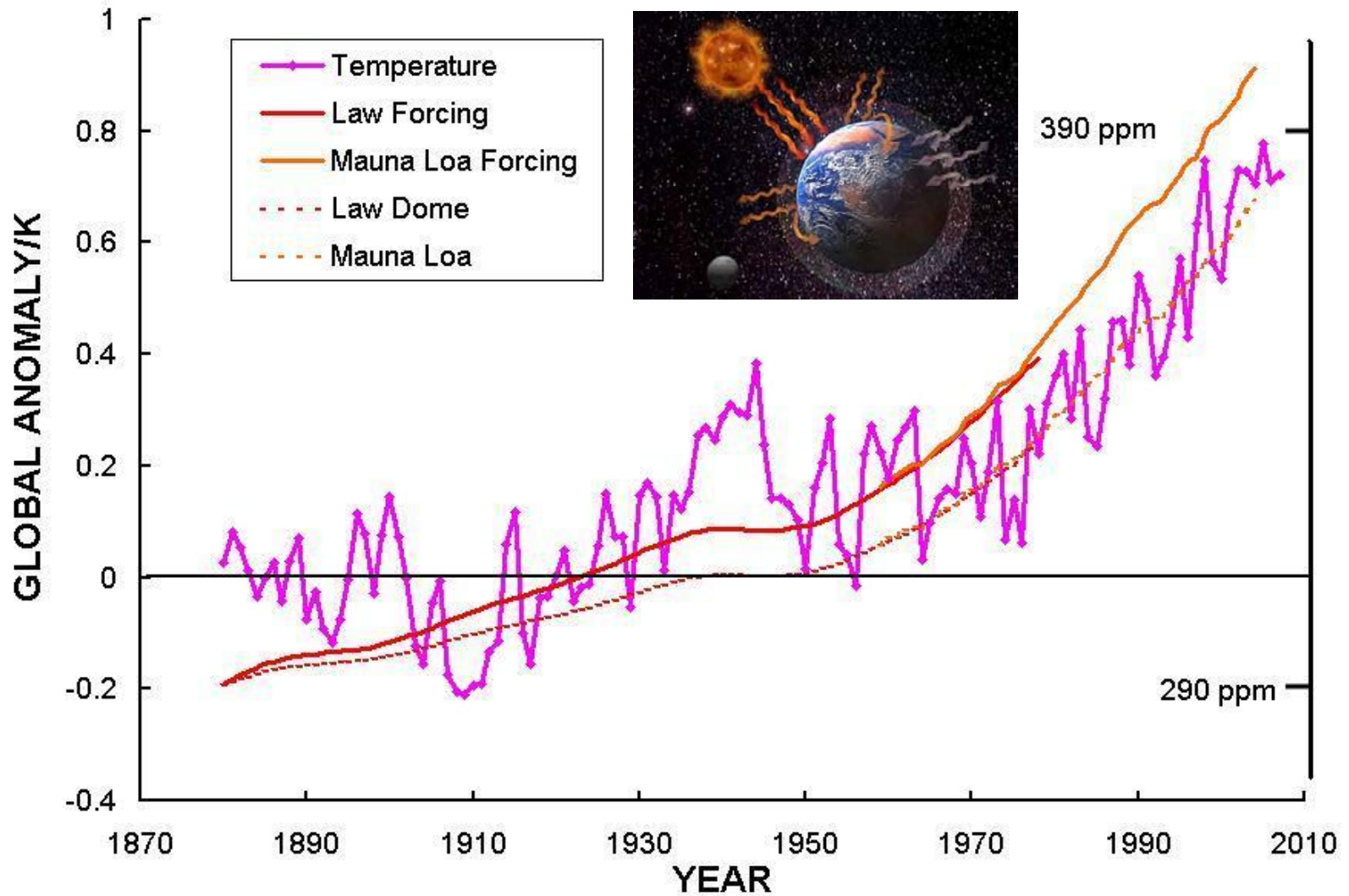


Source of CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration data: Keeling, C.D. and T.P. Whorf. 2005. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> records from sites in the SIO air sampling network. In Trends: A Compendium of Data on Global Change. Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. DOE, Oak Ridge, Tenn., U.S.A.

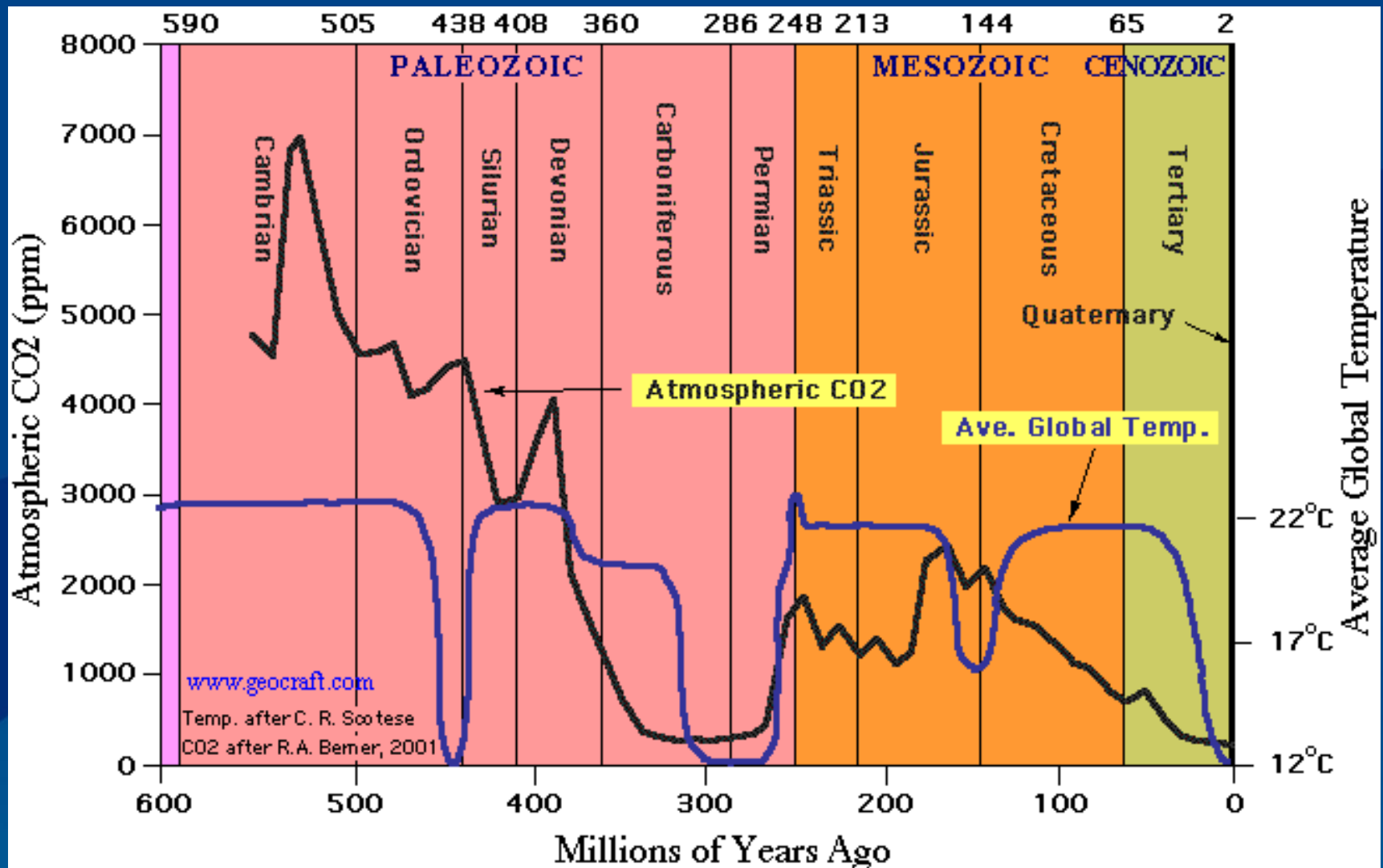
Source of Temperature data: Brohan, P., J.J. Kennedy, I. Harris, S. F.B. Tett, and P.D. Jones. 2006. Uncertainty estimates in regional and global observed temperature changes: a new dataset from 1850. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 111: D12106, doi:10.1029/2003JA009974.

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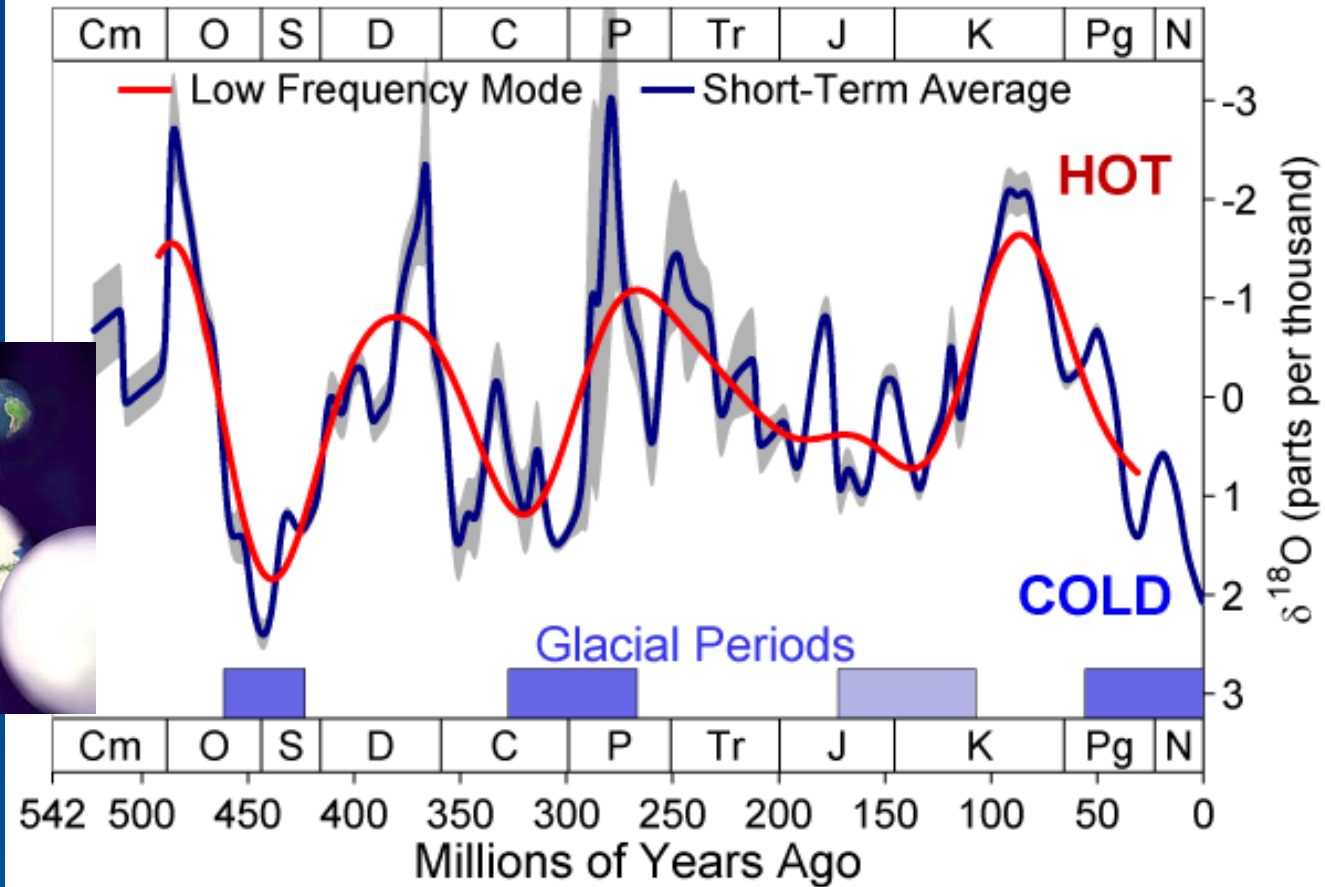


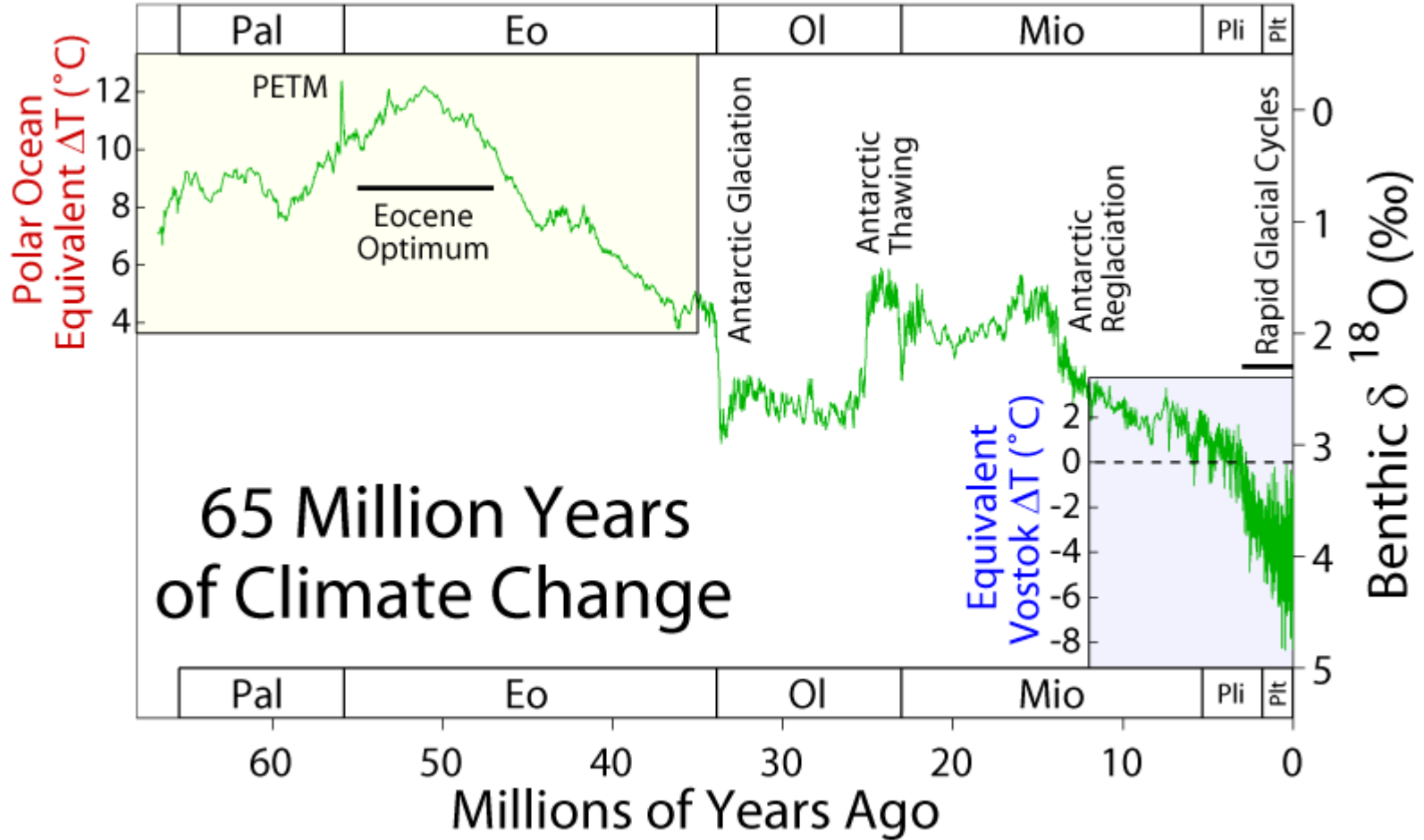


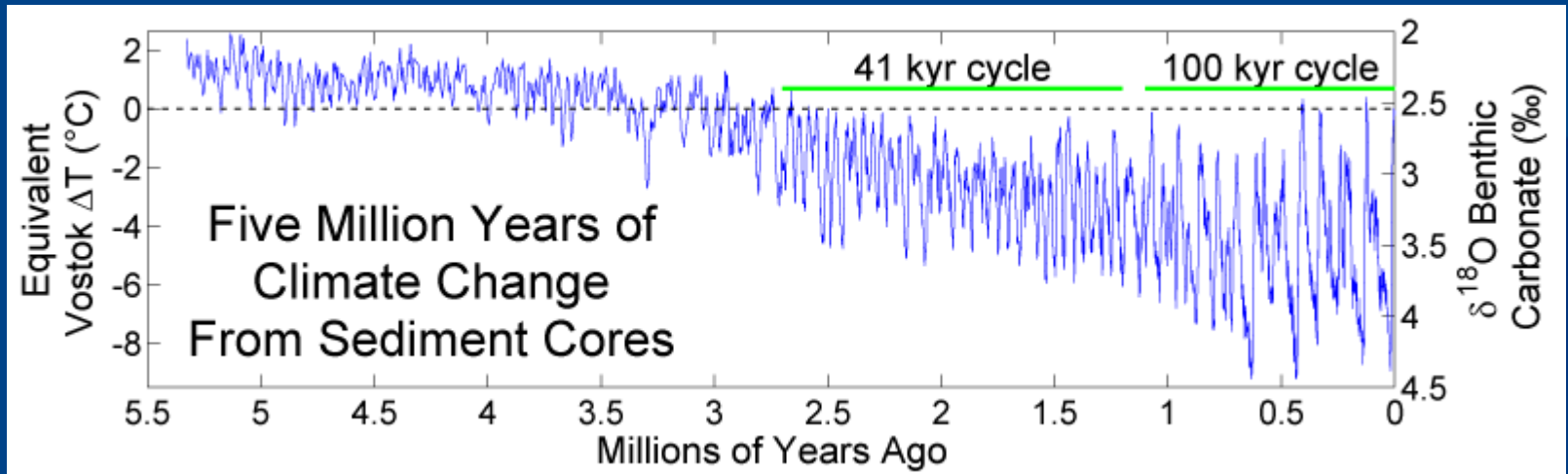
# Climate has changed before



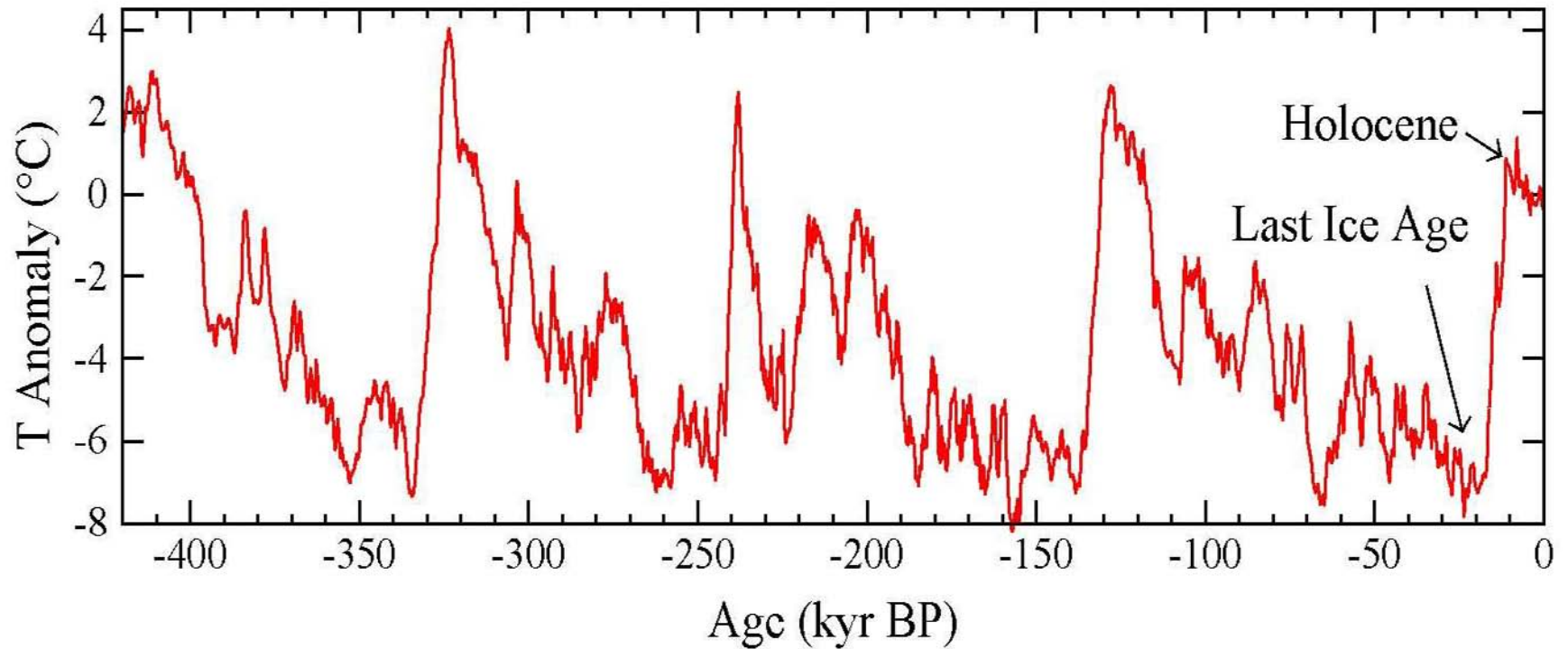
## Phanerozoic Climate Change





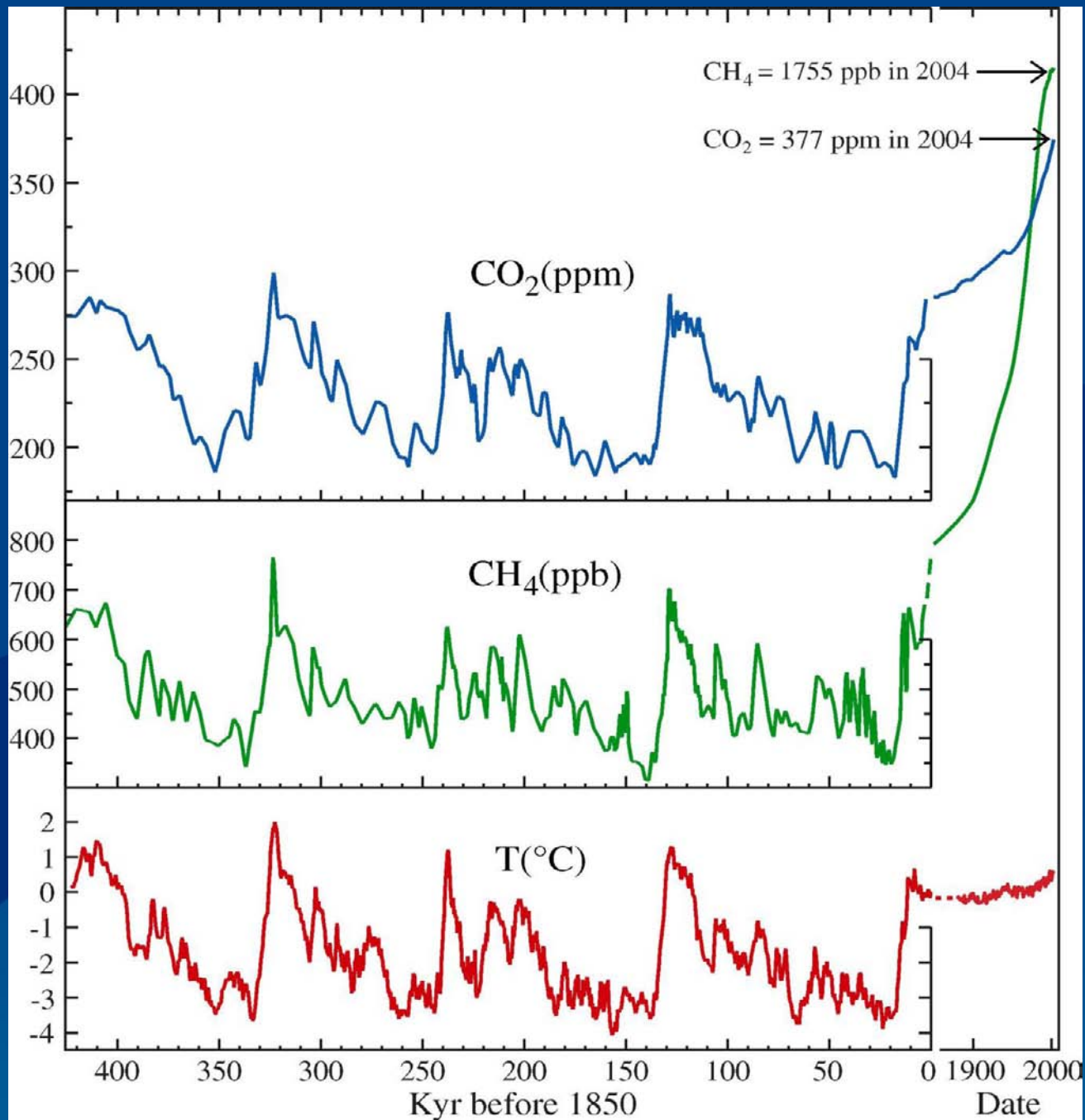


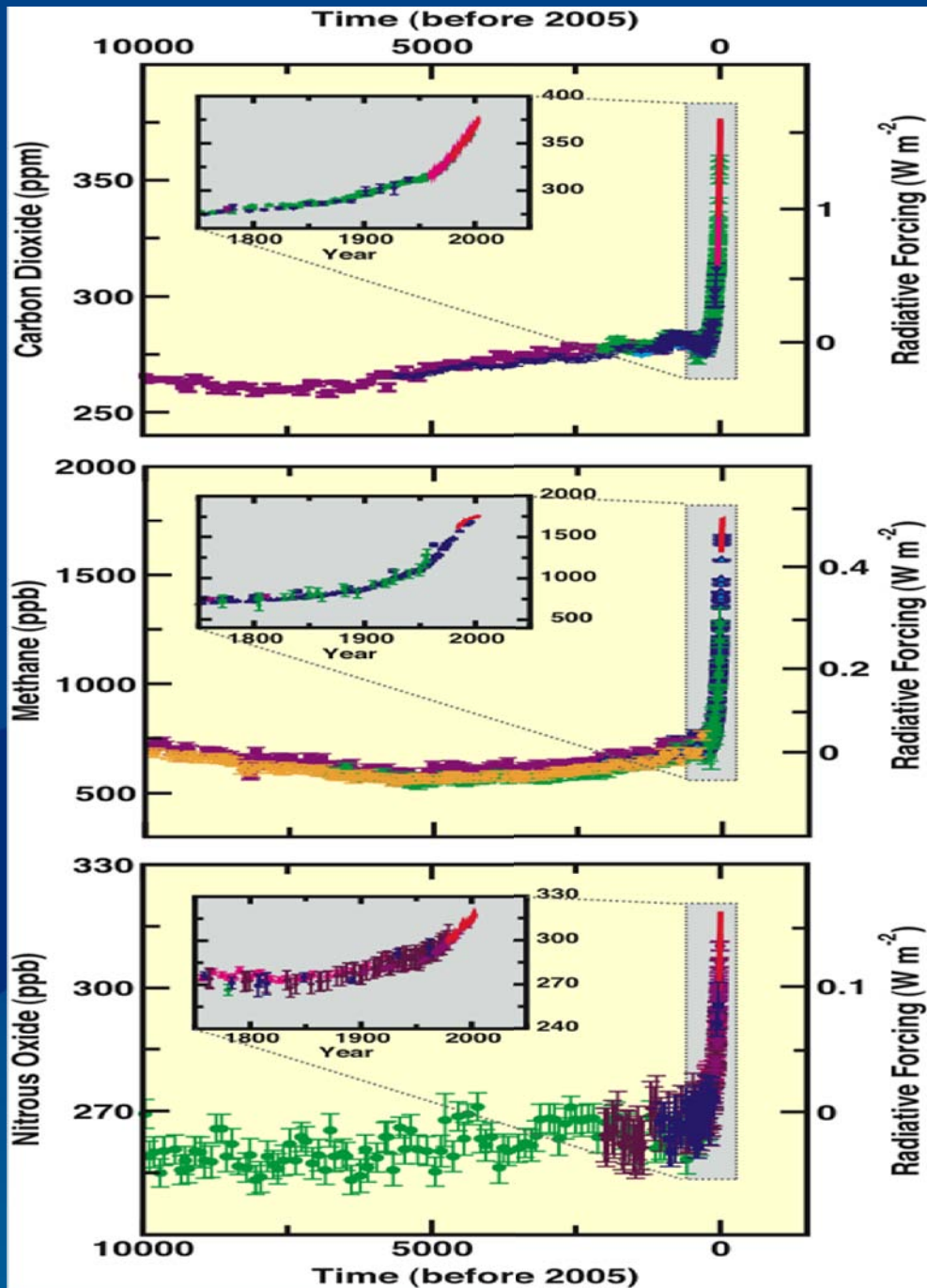
## Antarctic (Vostok) Temperature

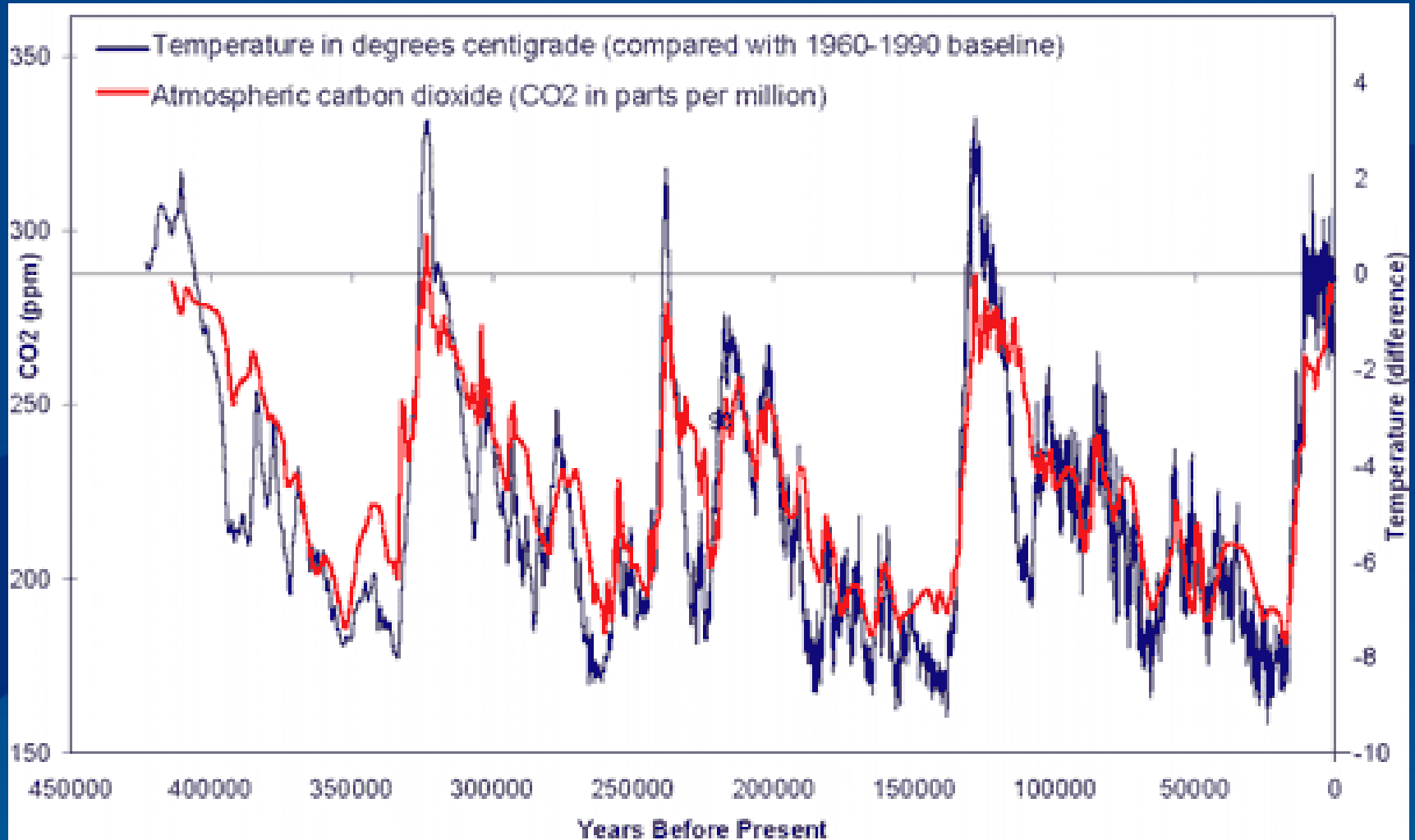


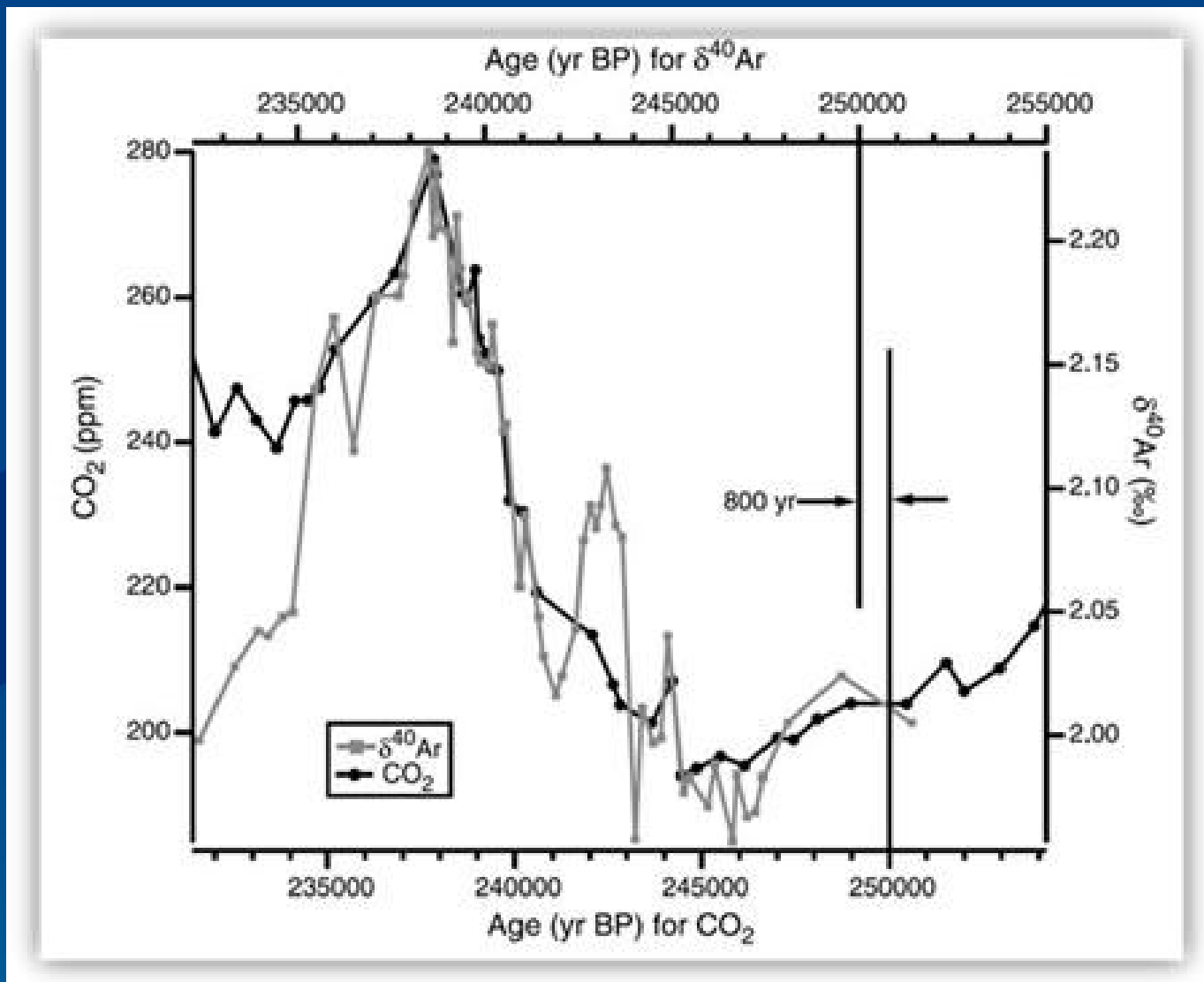
# CO<sub>2</sub> lags temperature

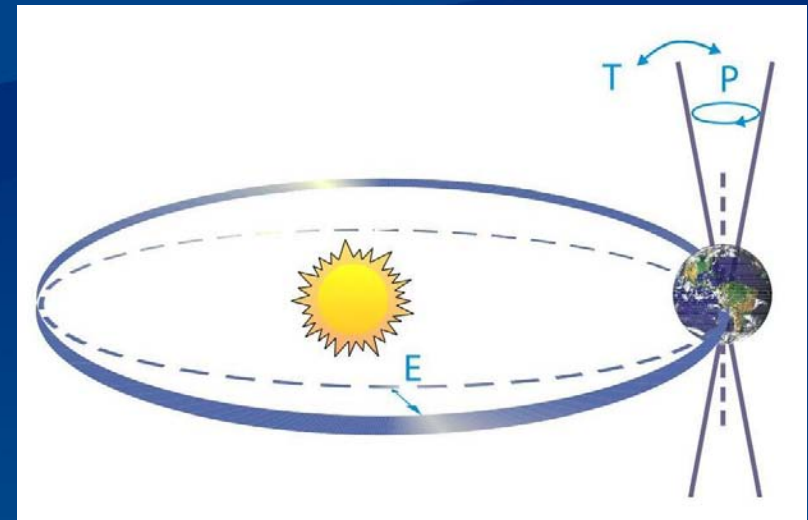
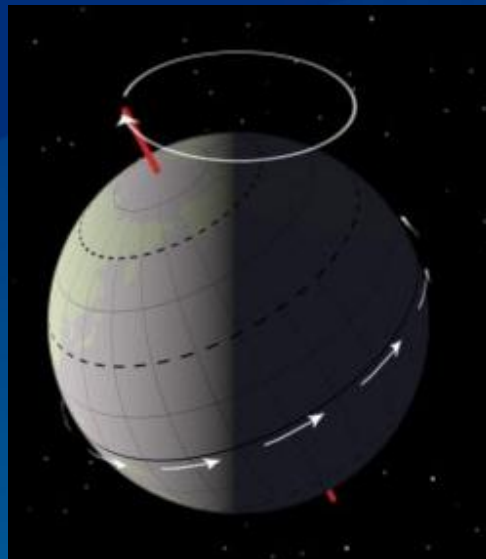
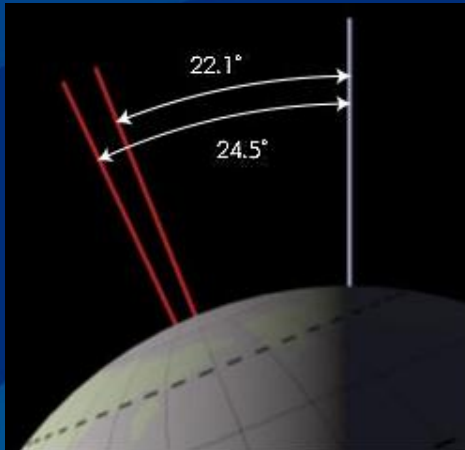
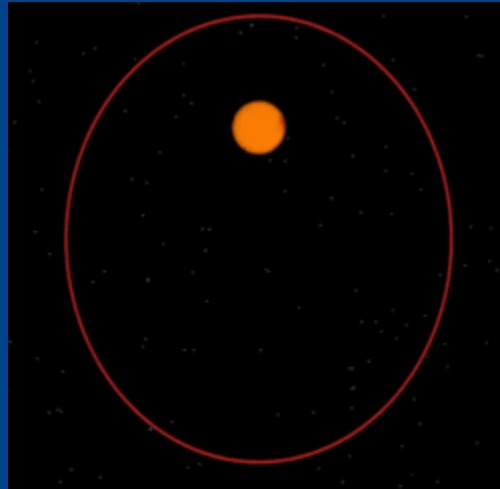


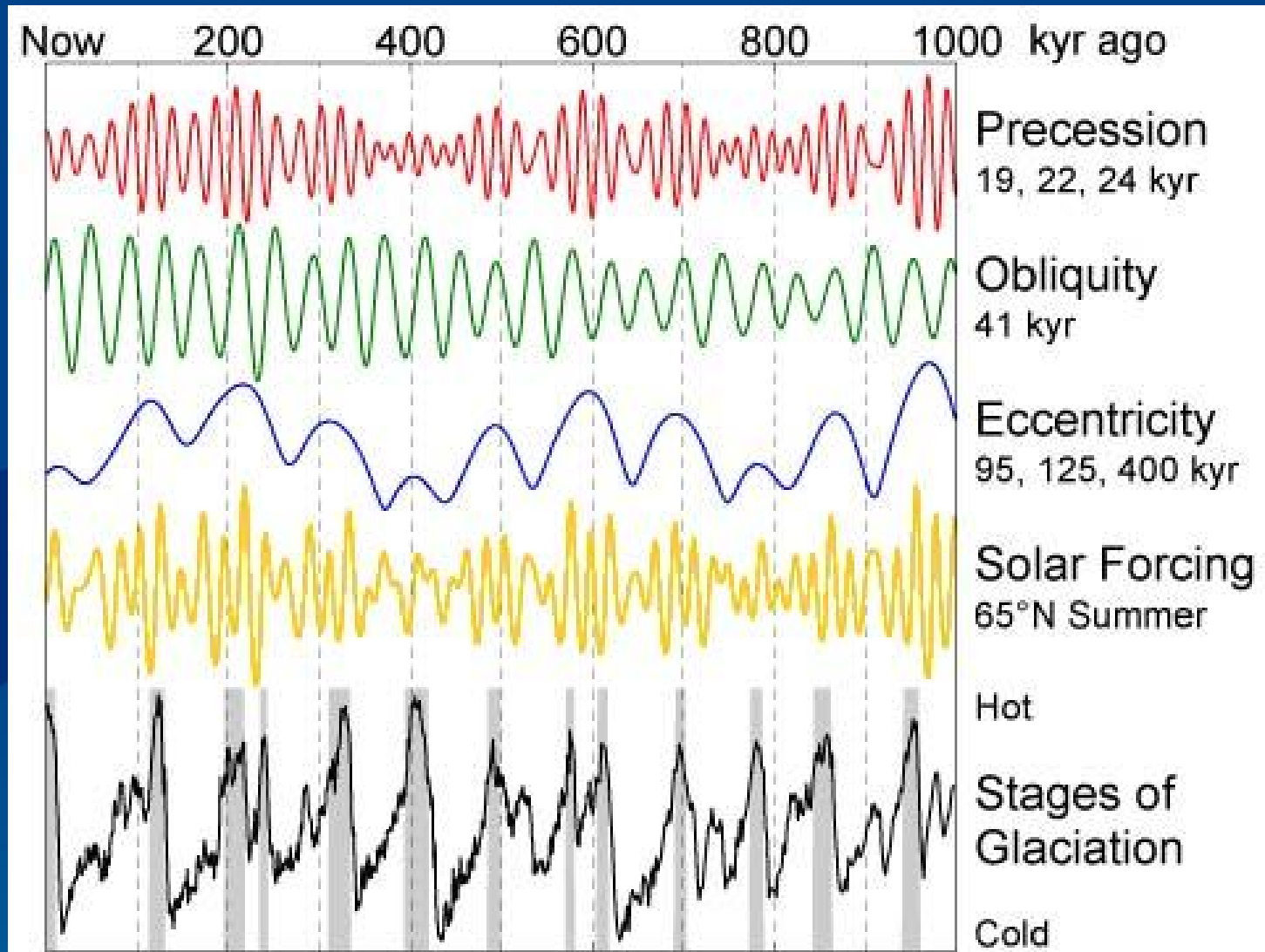


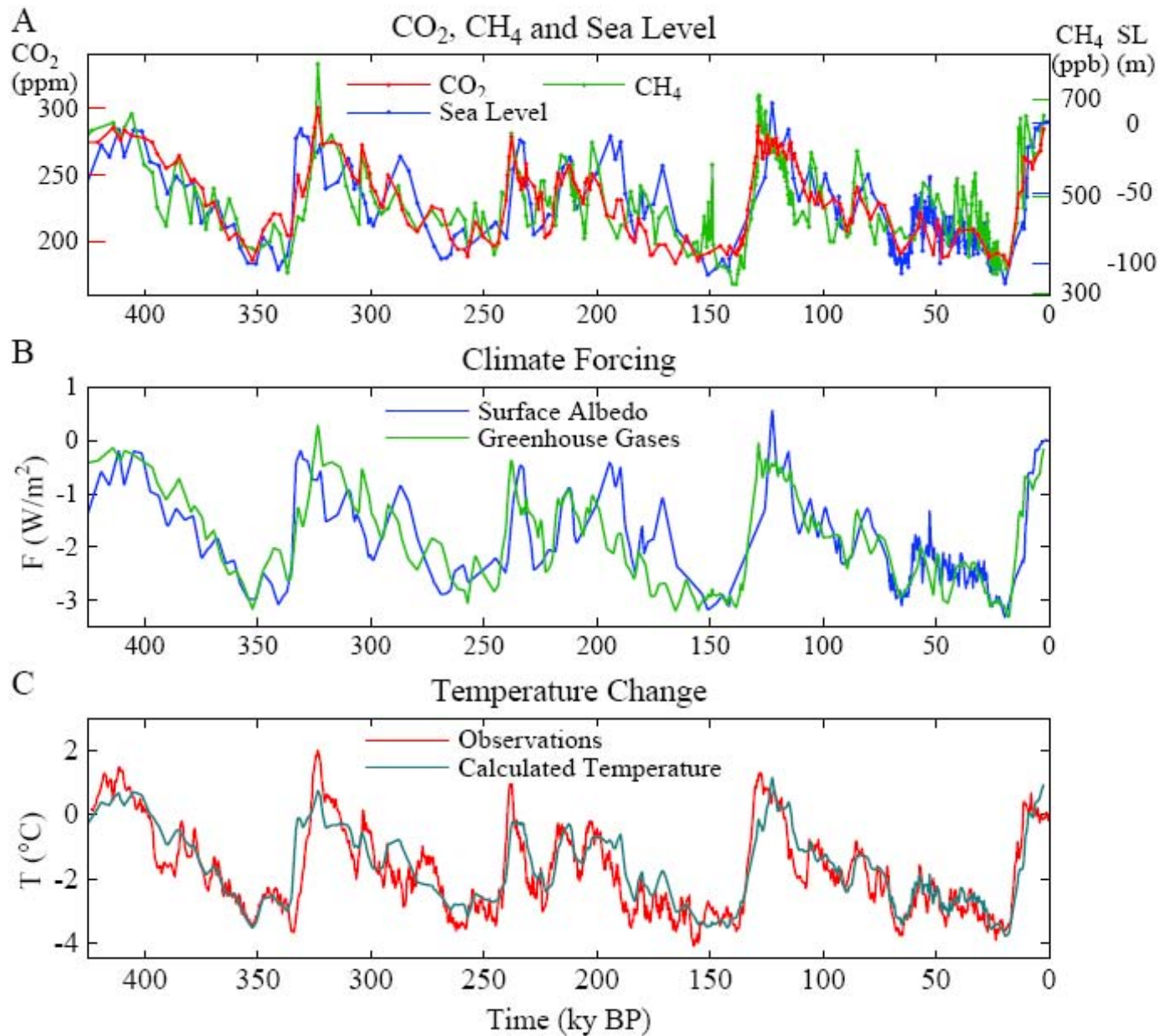




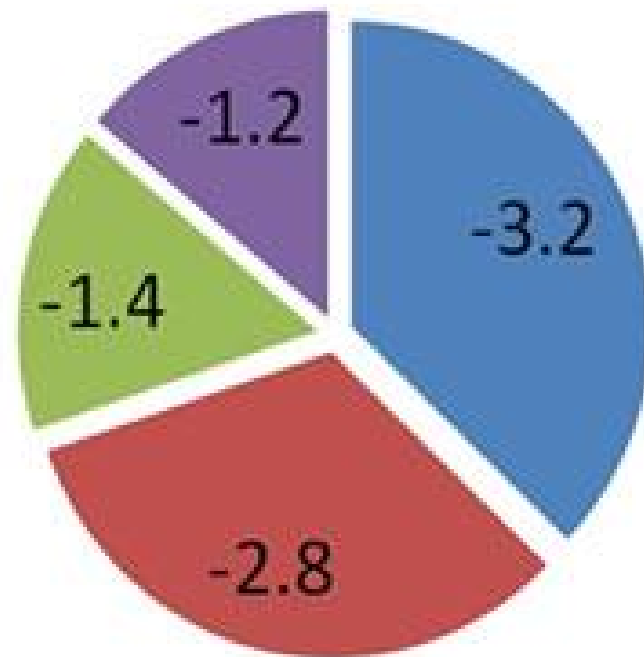




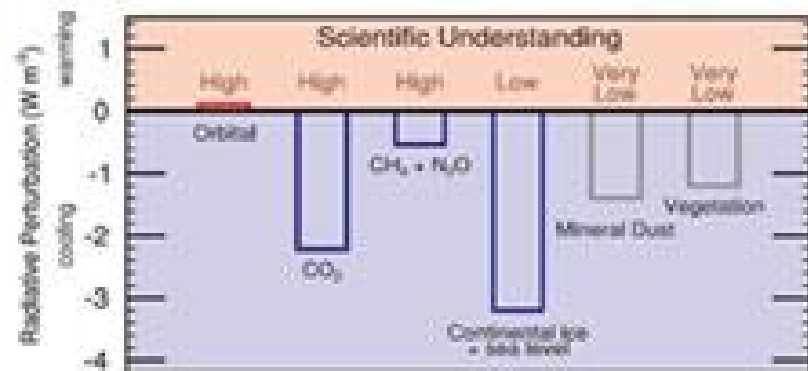




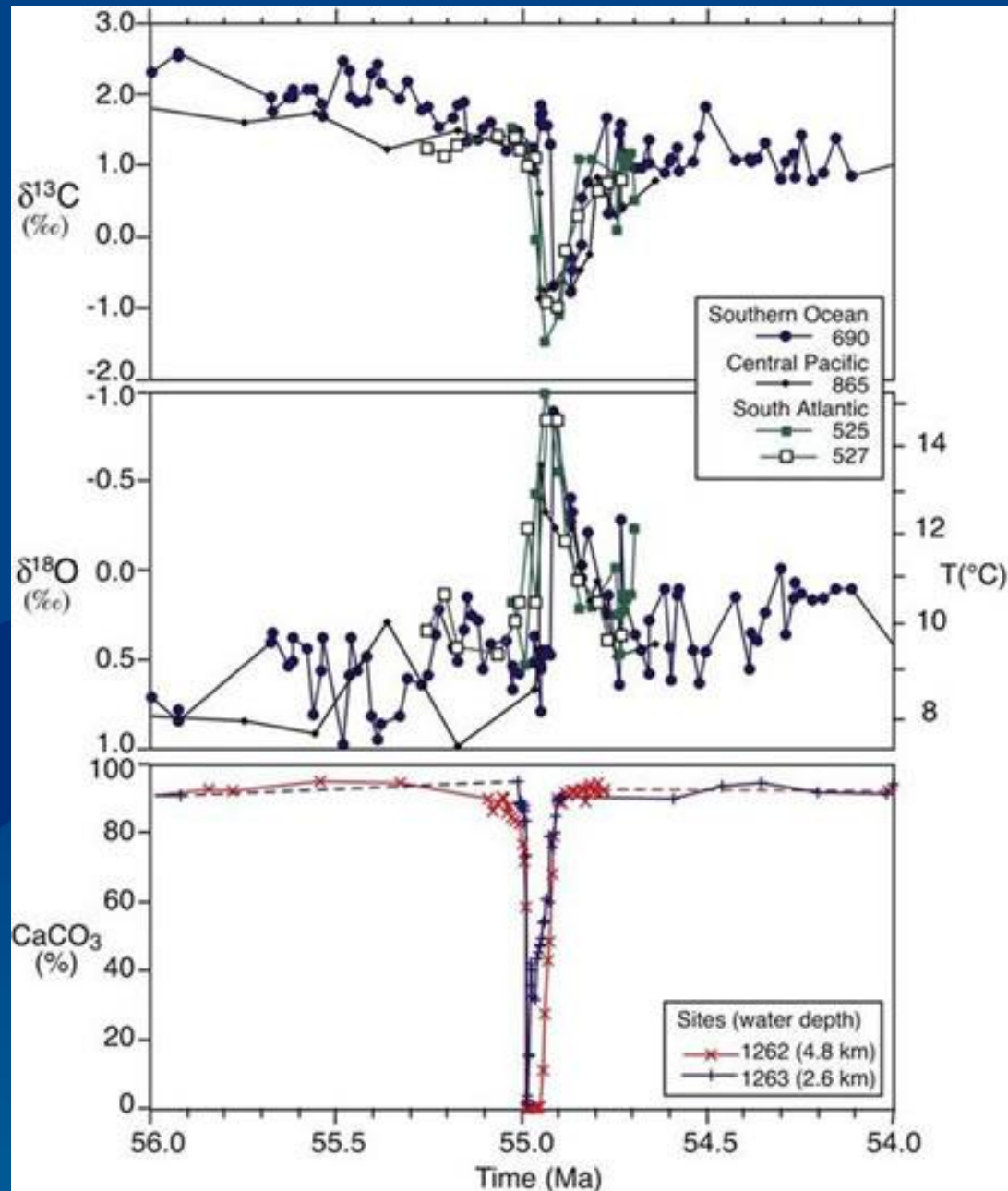
## Radiative Forcing during Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) (watts per square meter)



- Ice & Sea Level Albedo
- Greenhouse Gases
- Vegetation
- Mineral Dust

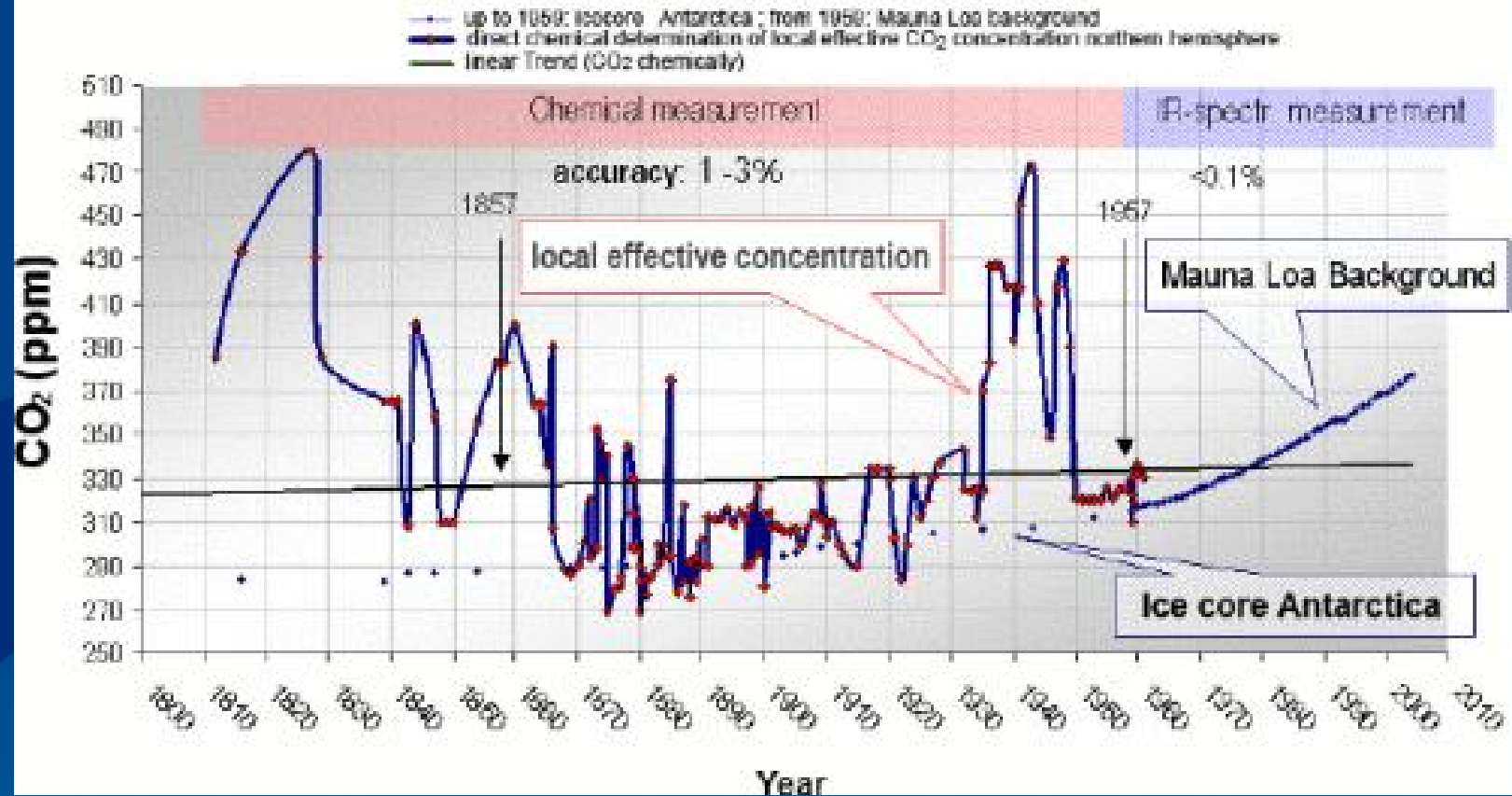


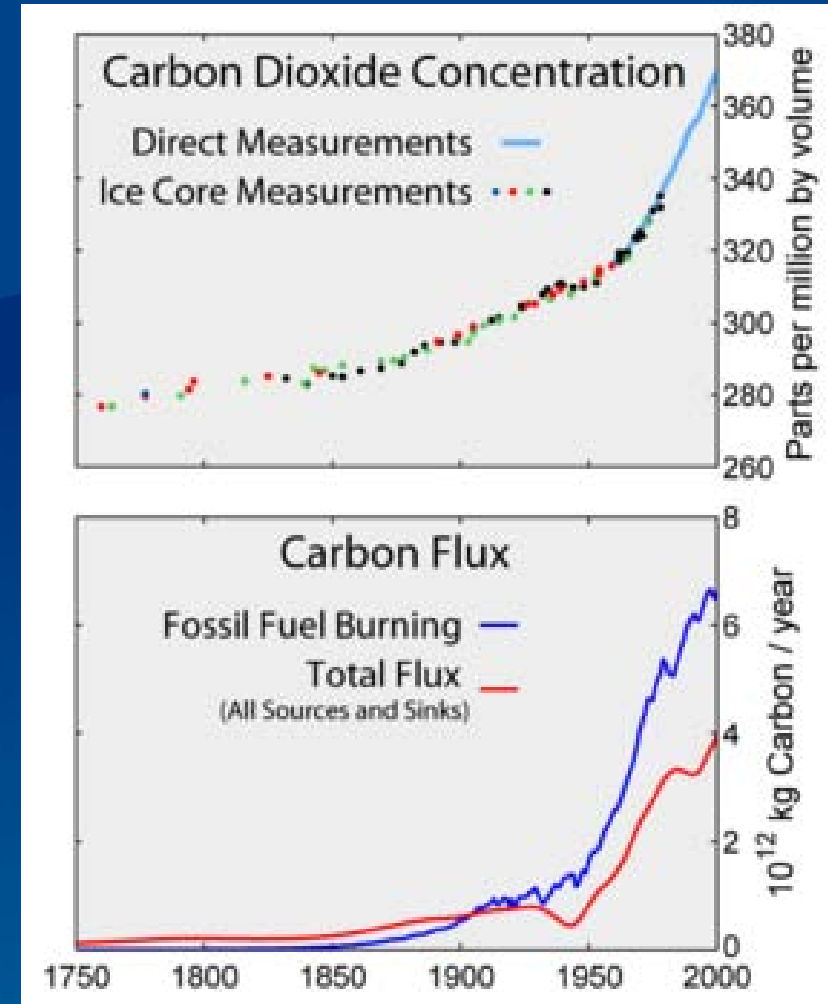
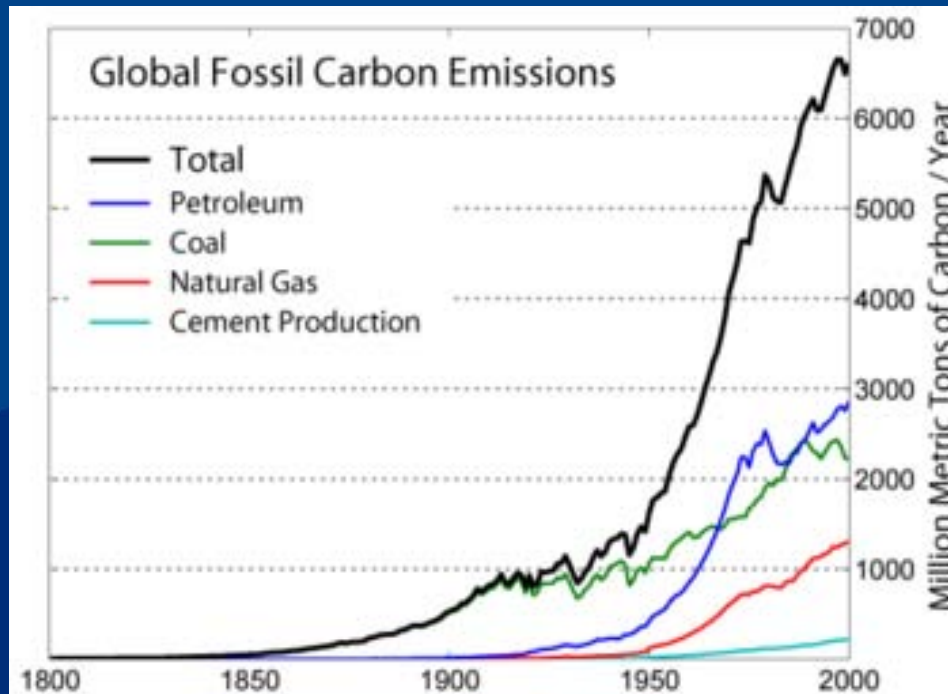


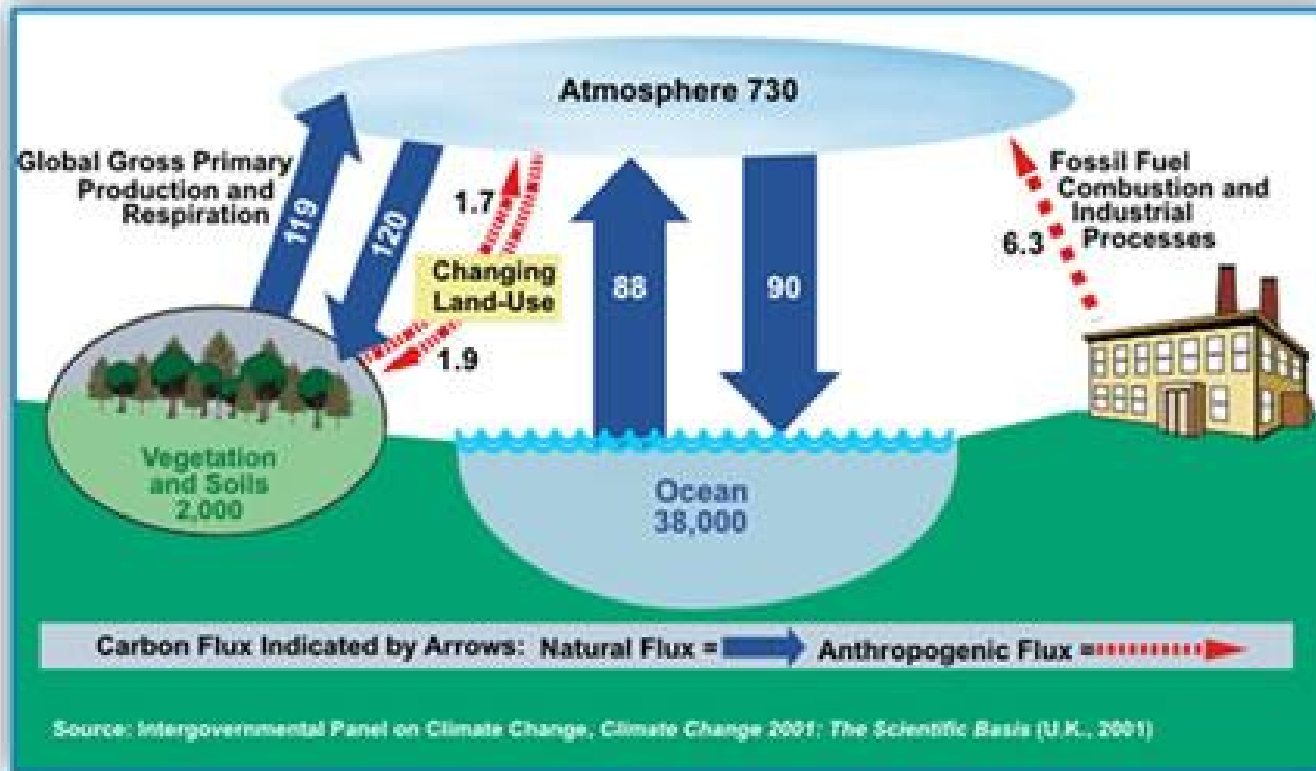


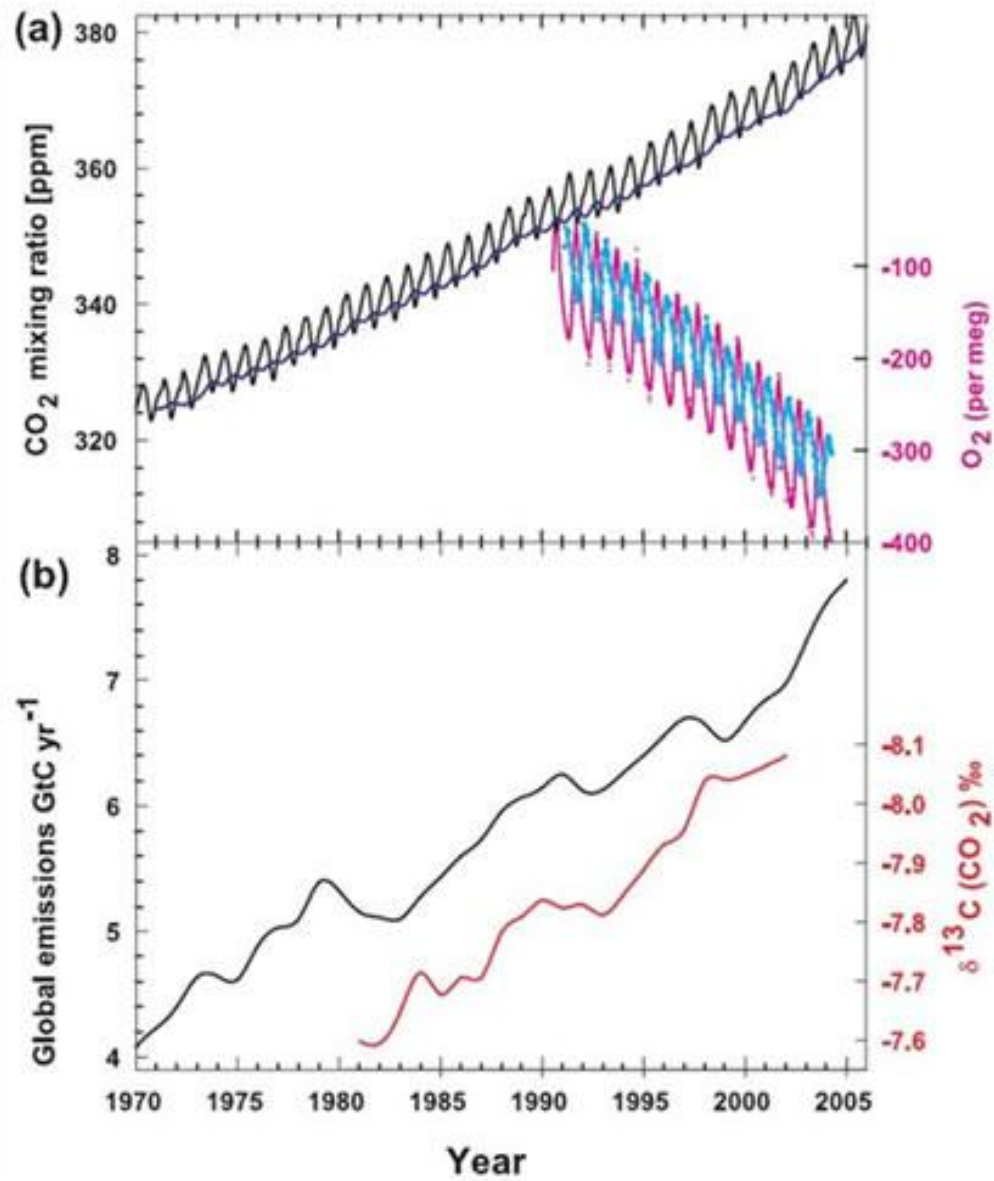
# Natural sources dwarf human emissions

## CO<sub>2</sub> Measurements 1812 - 2004 (chemical: raw data)

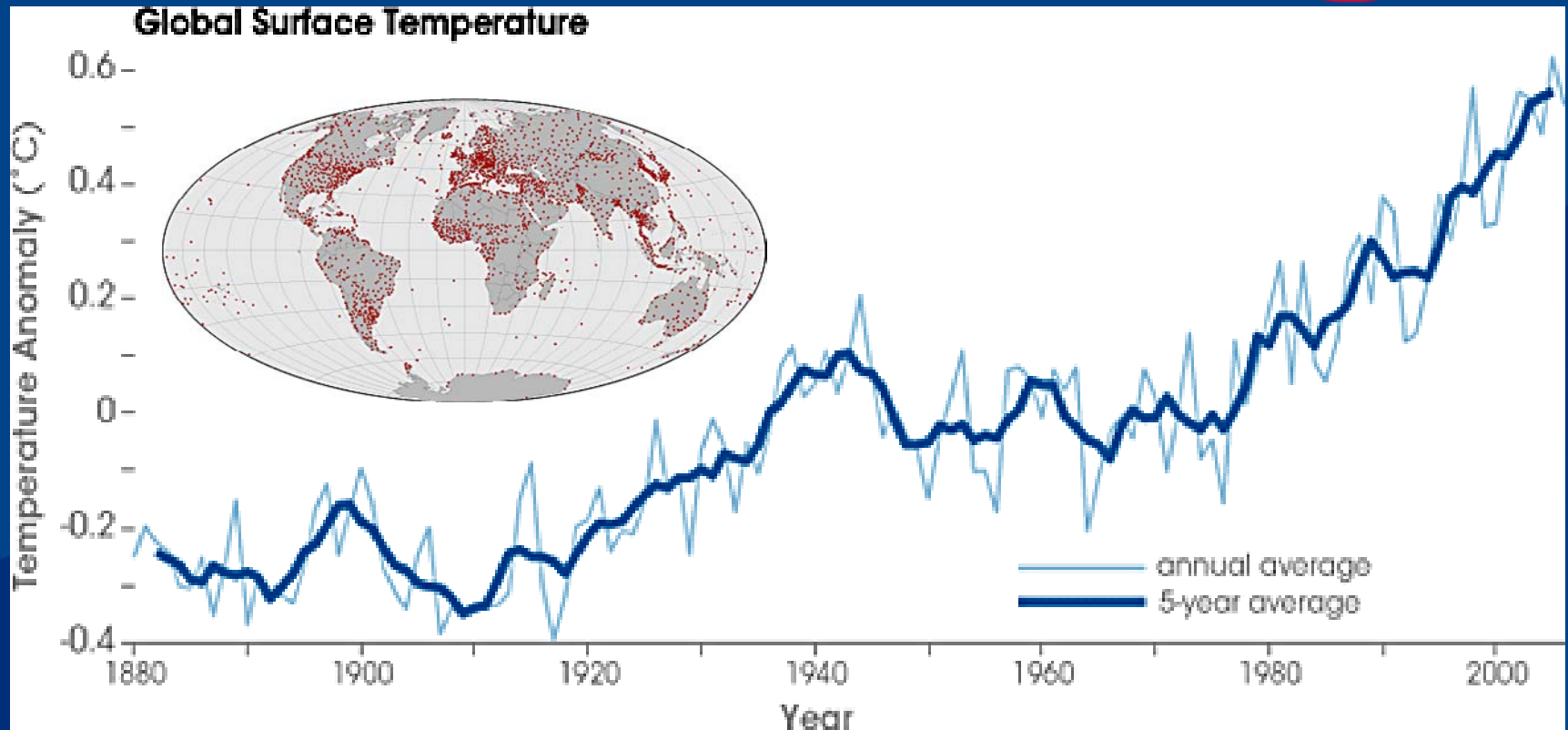




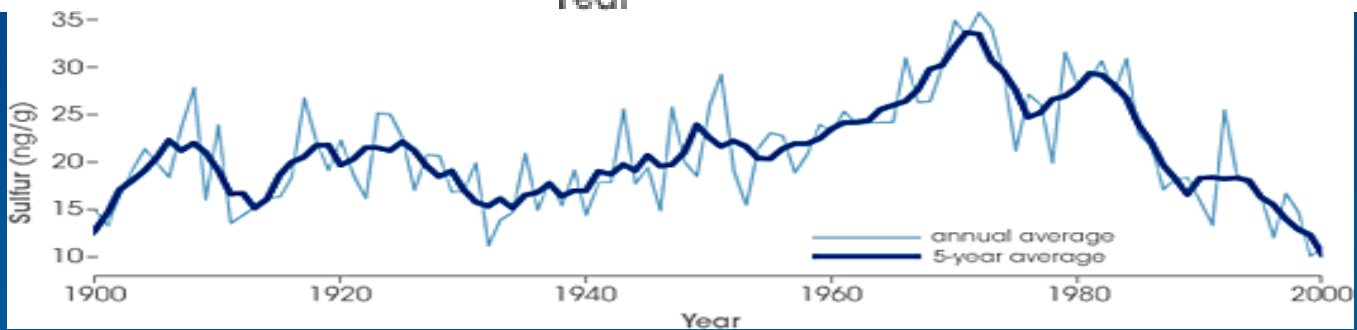
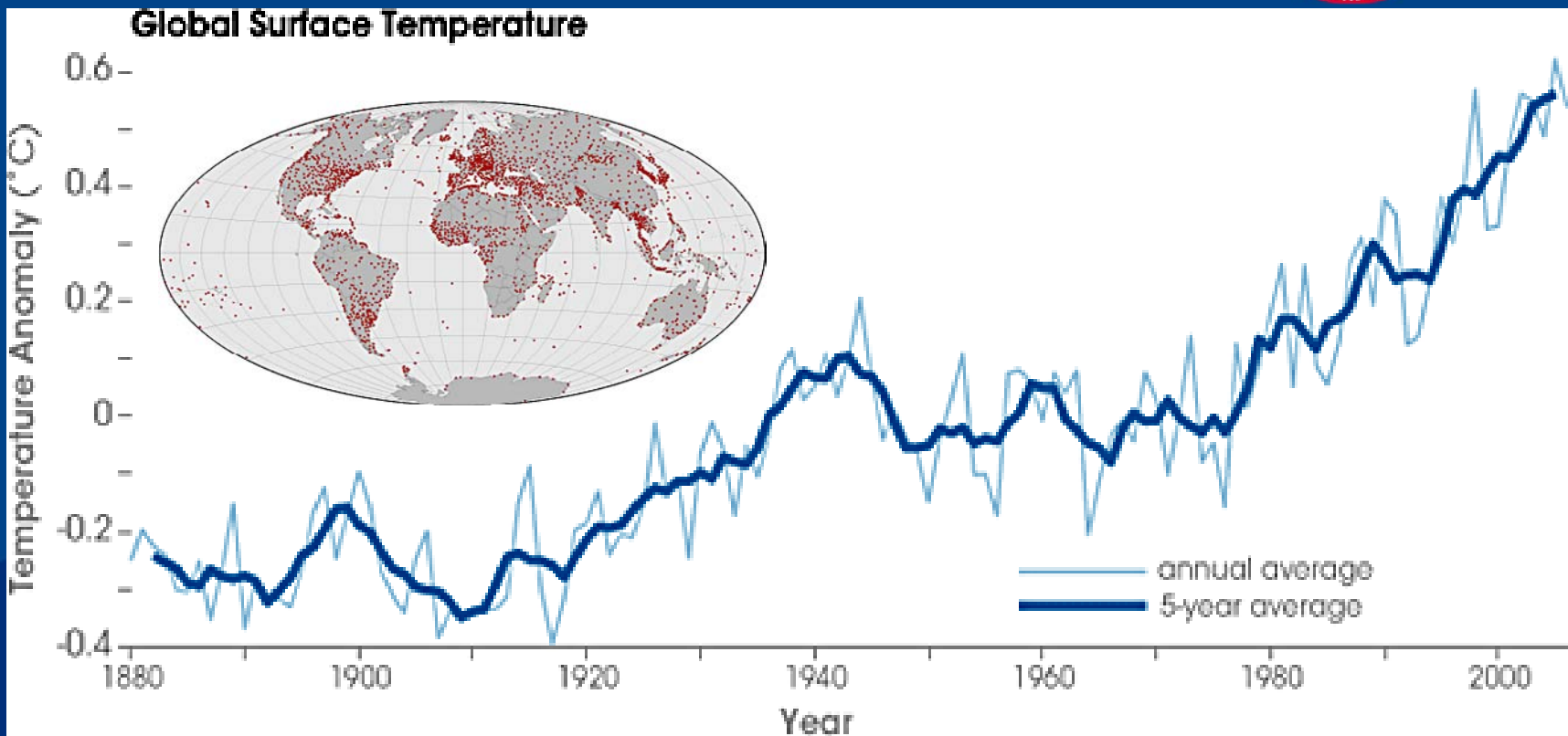


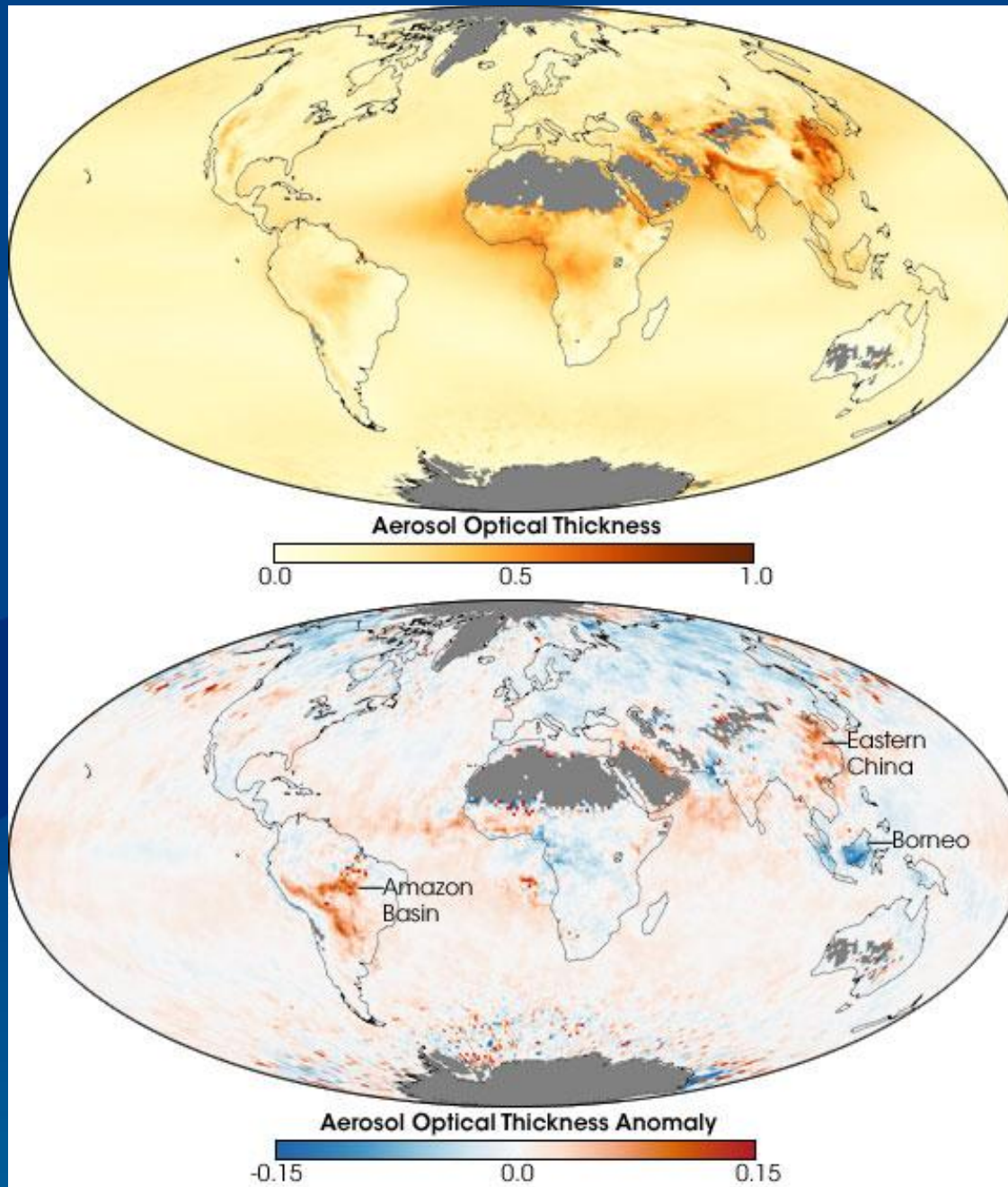


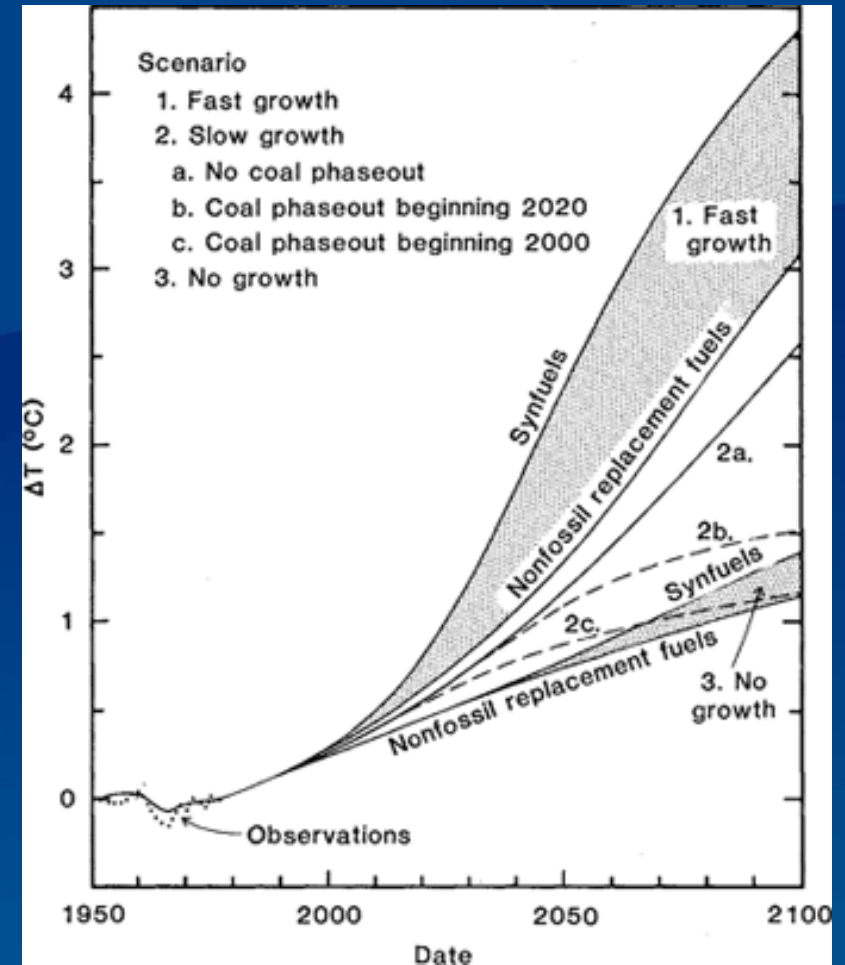
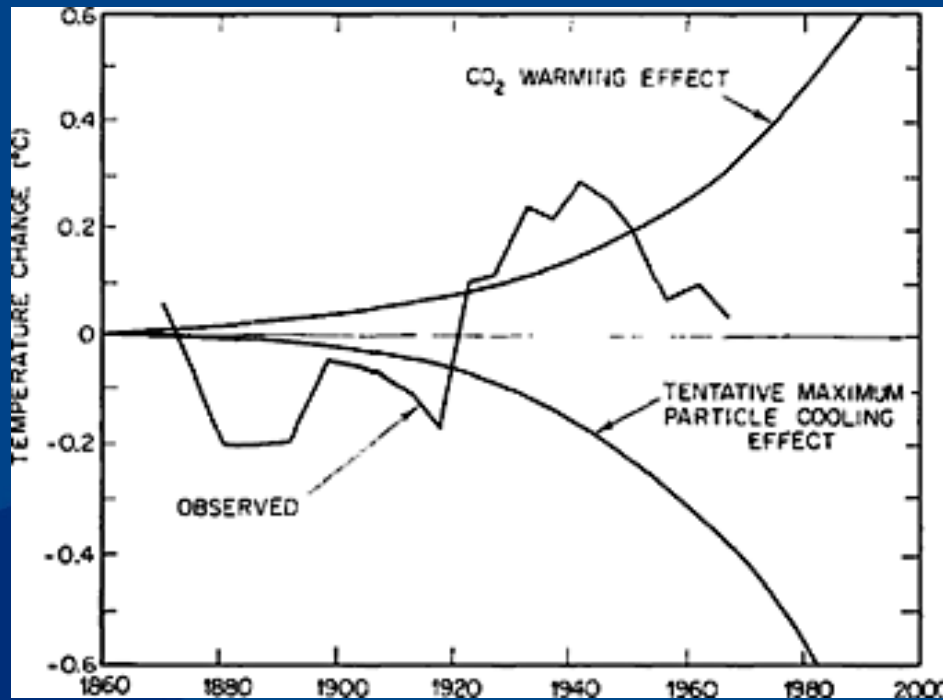
**It warmed before 1940  
when CO<sub>2</sub> was low**

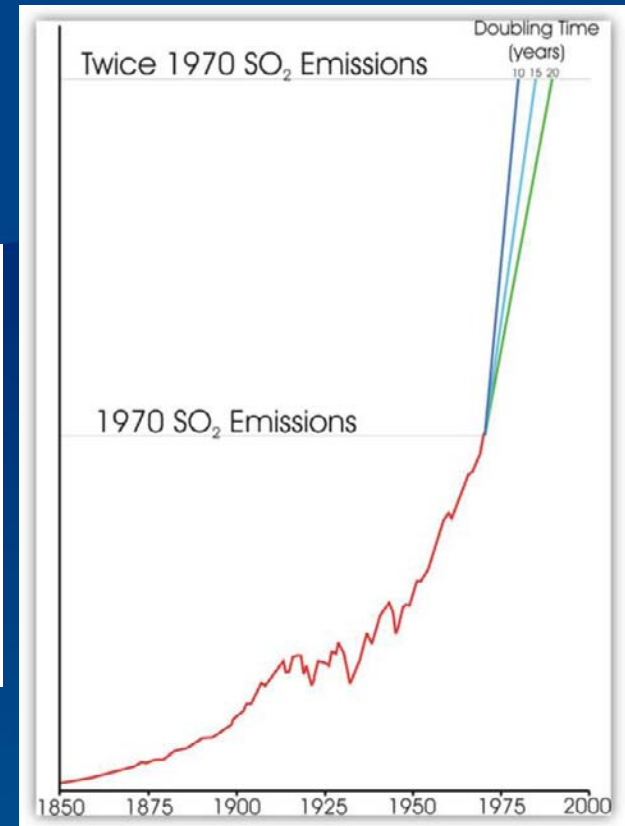
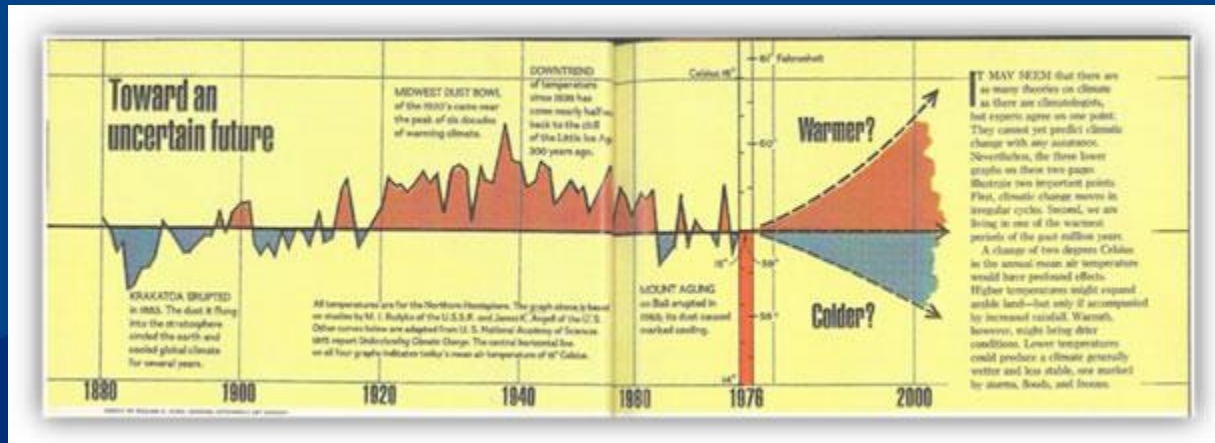




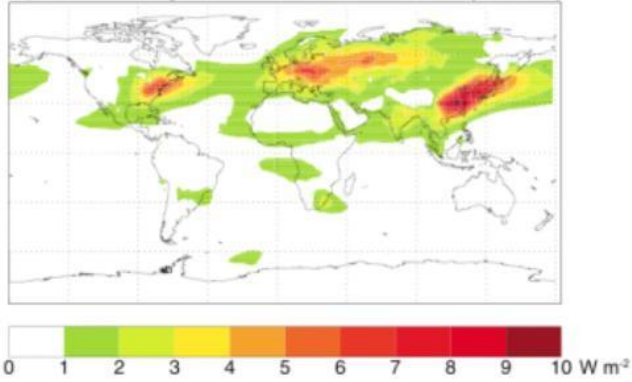




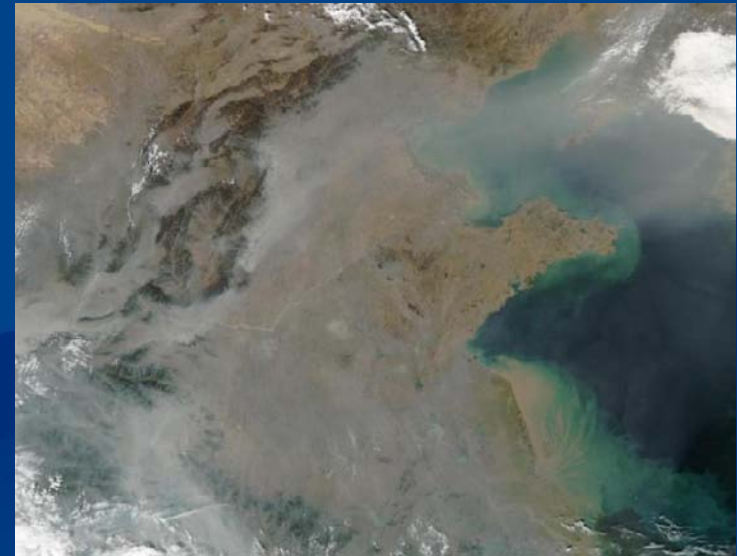
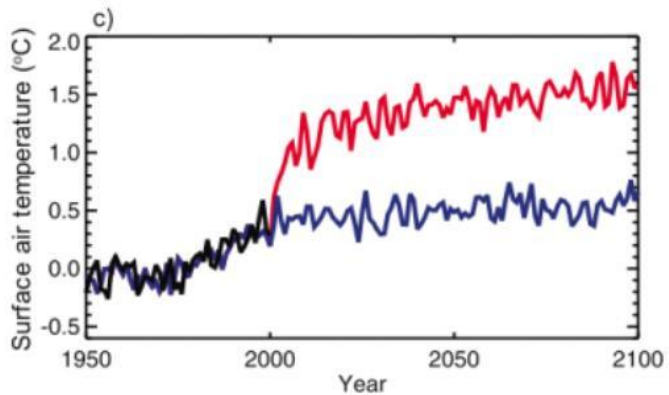
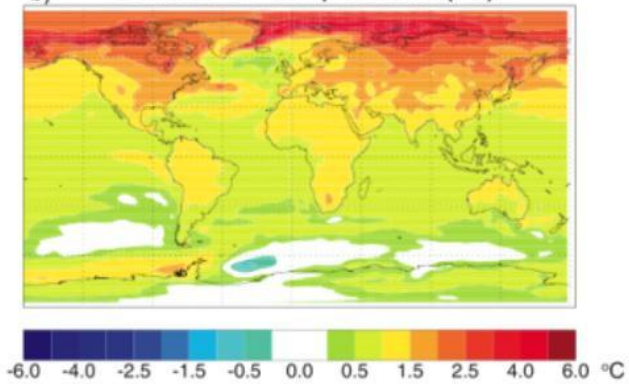




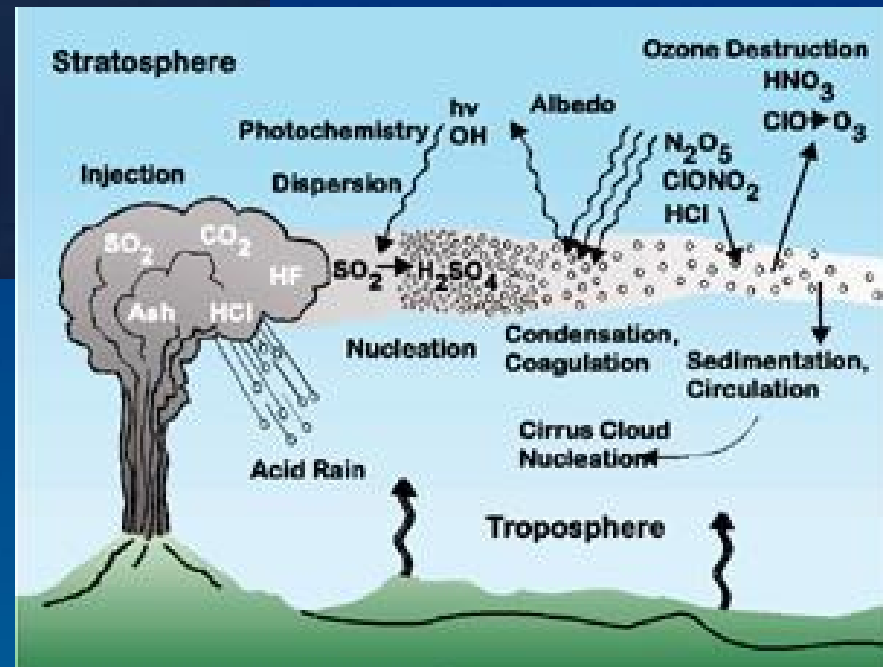
a) Clear-sky shortwave radiation ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ )

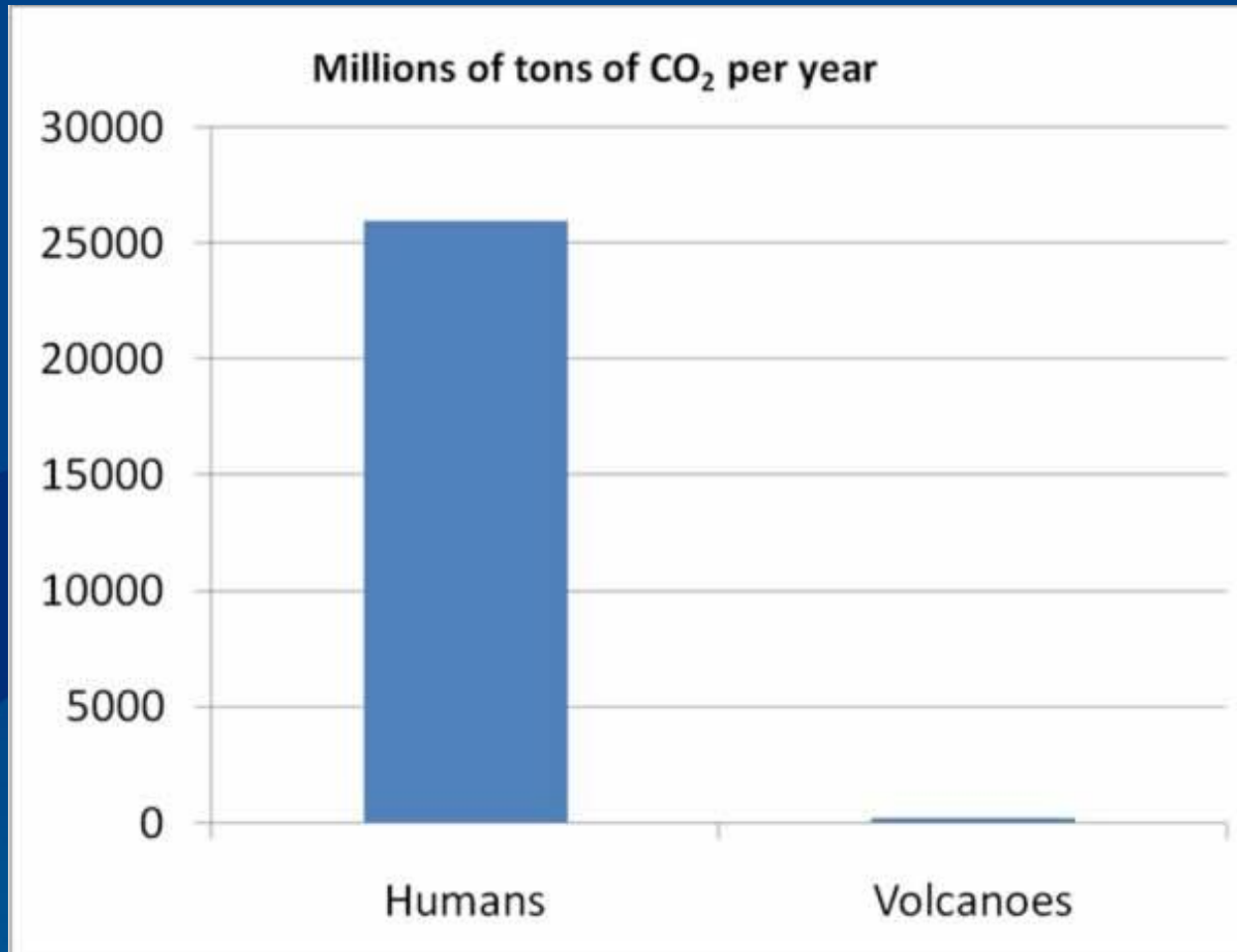


b) Surface air temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

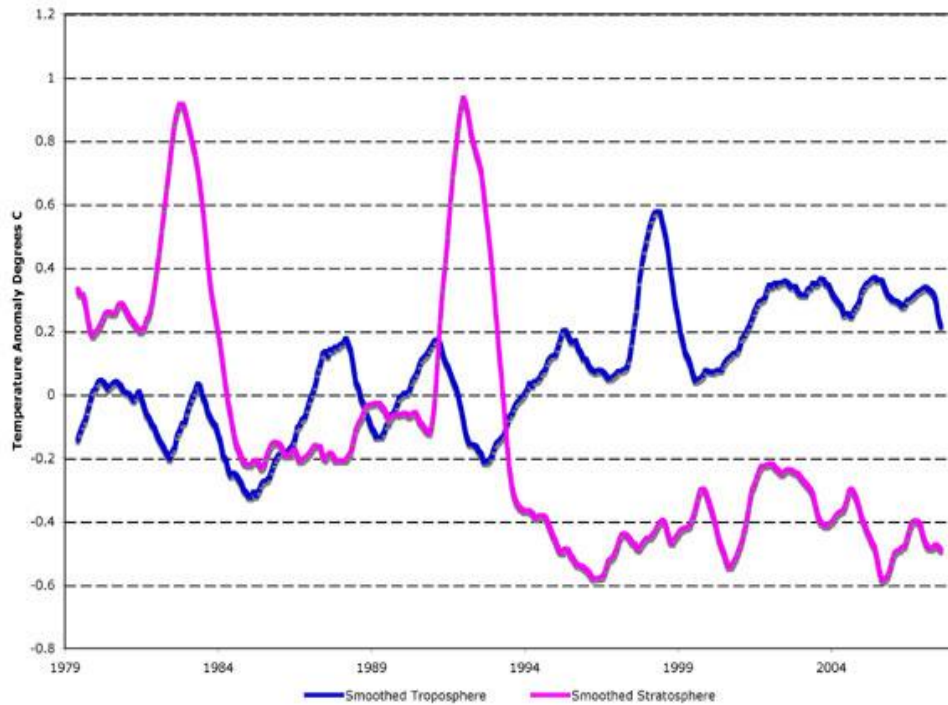


# It's volcanoes (or lack thereof)

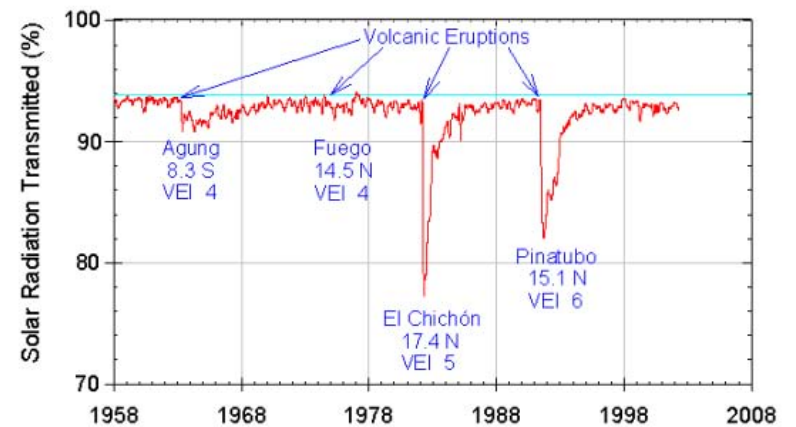






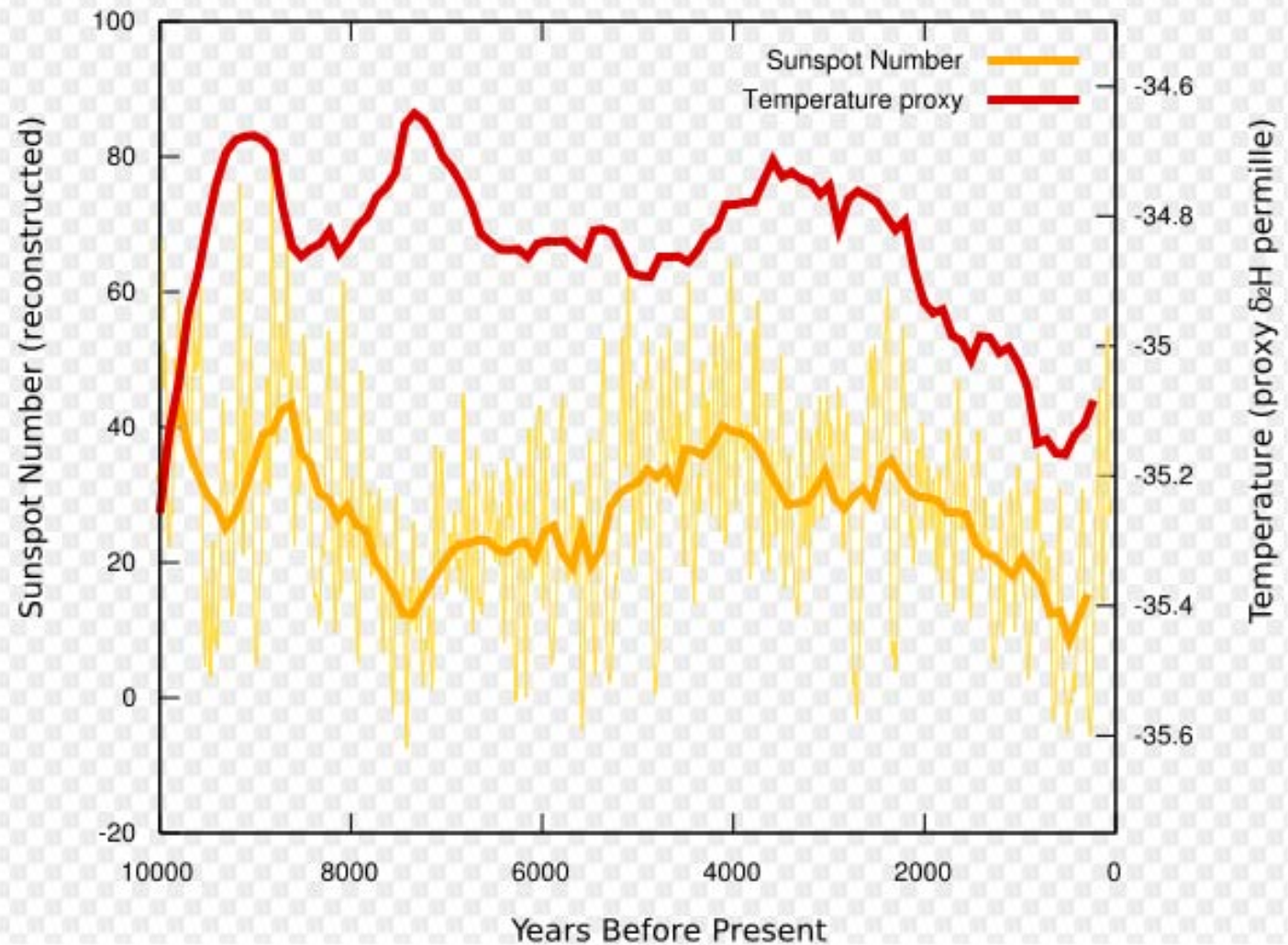


### Mauna Loa Observatory Atmospheric Transmission

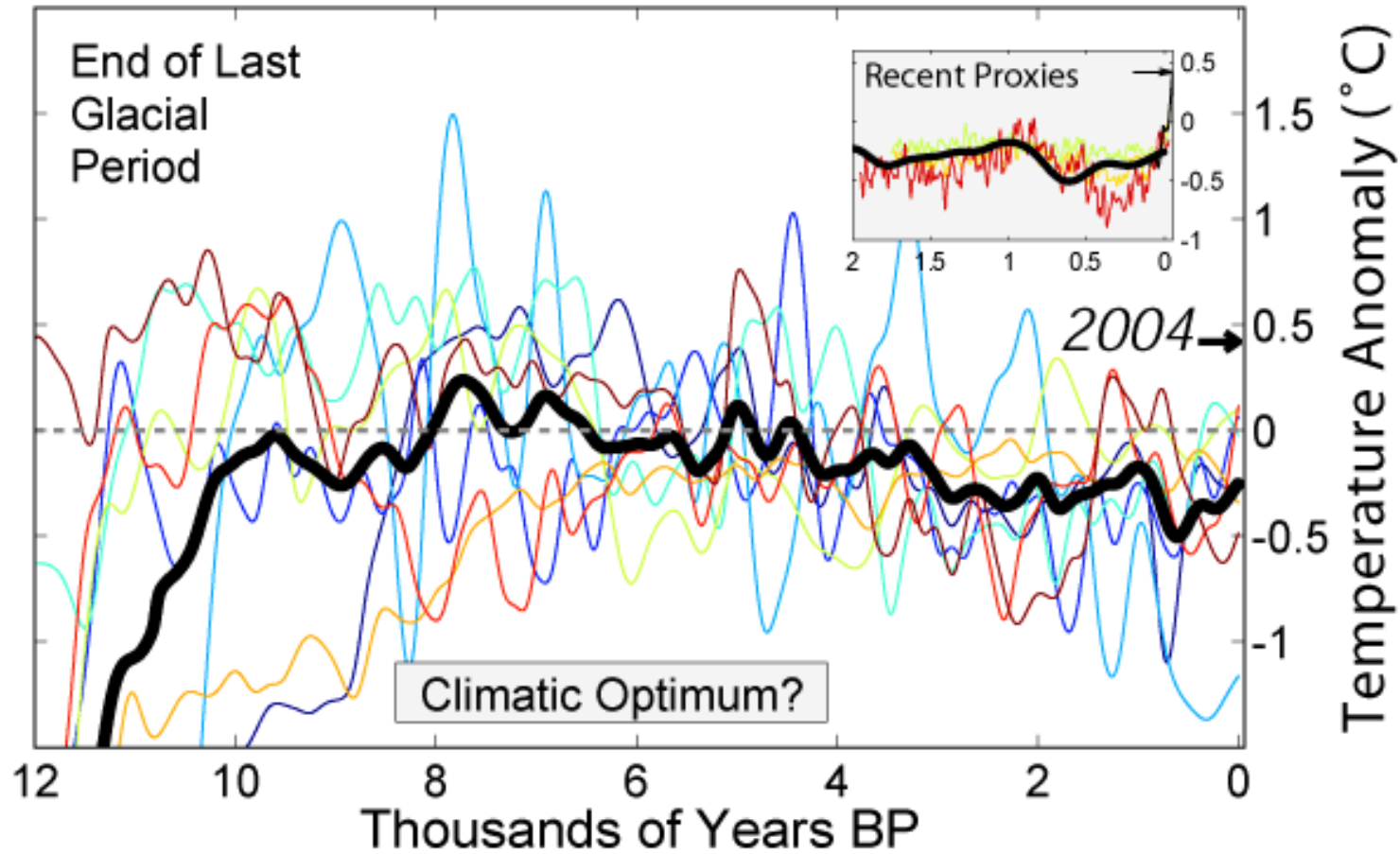




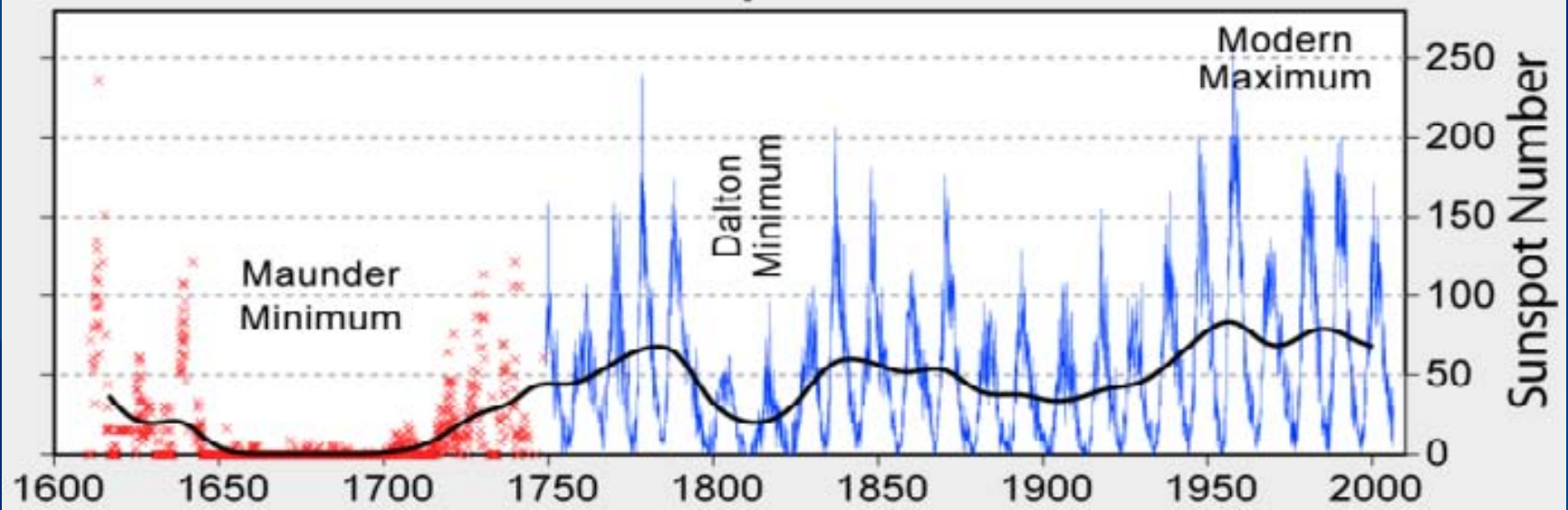
## Sunspot Activity and Temperature



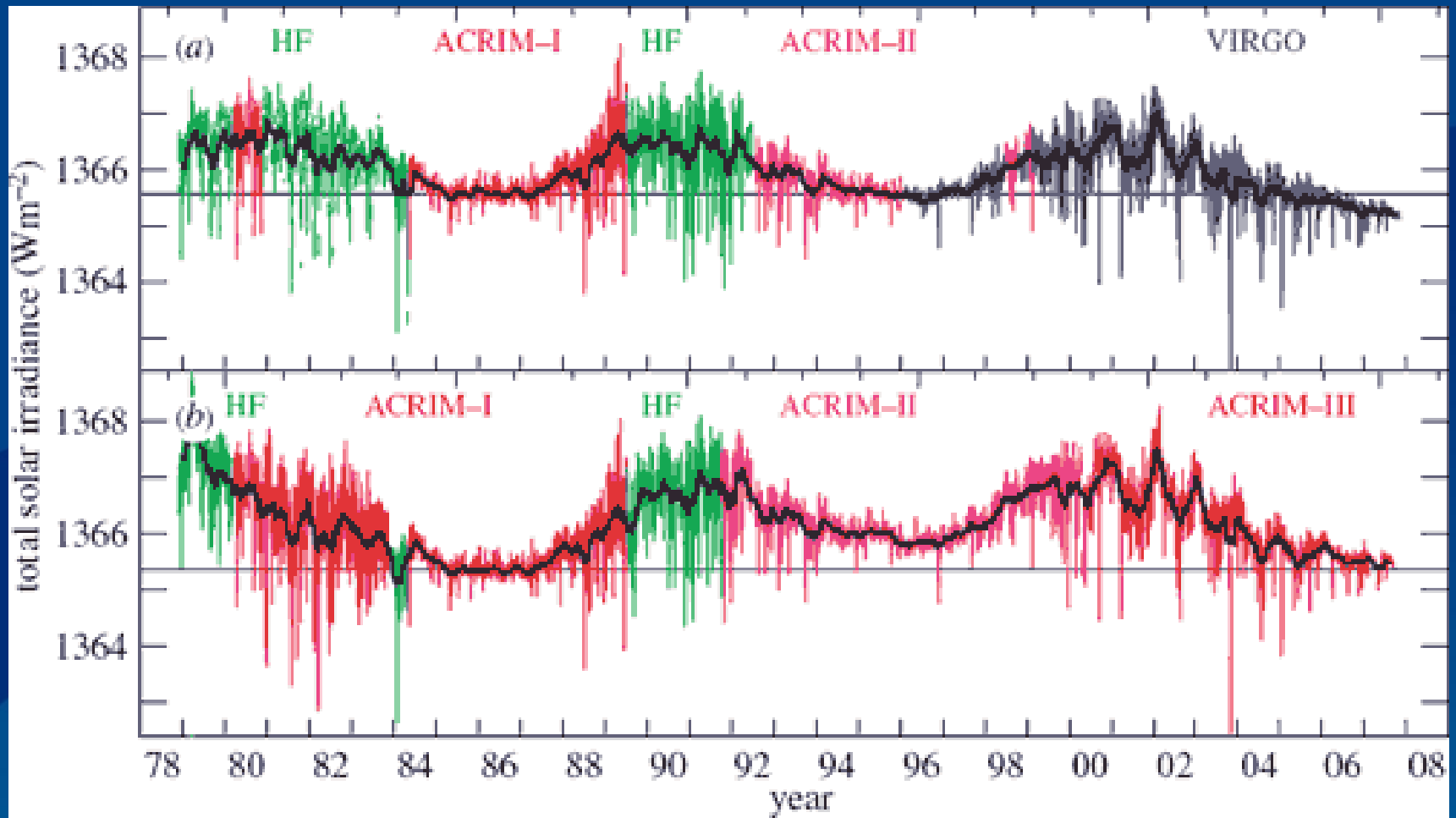
# Holocene Temperature Variations

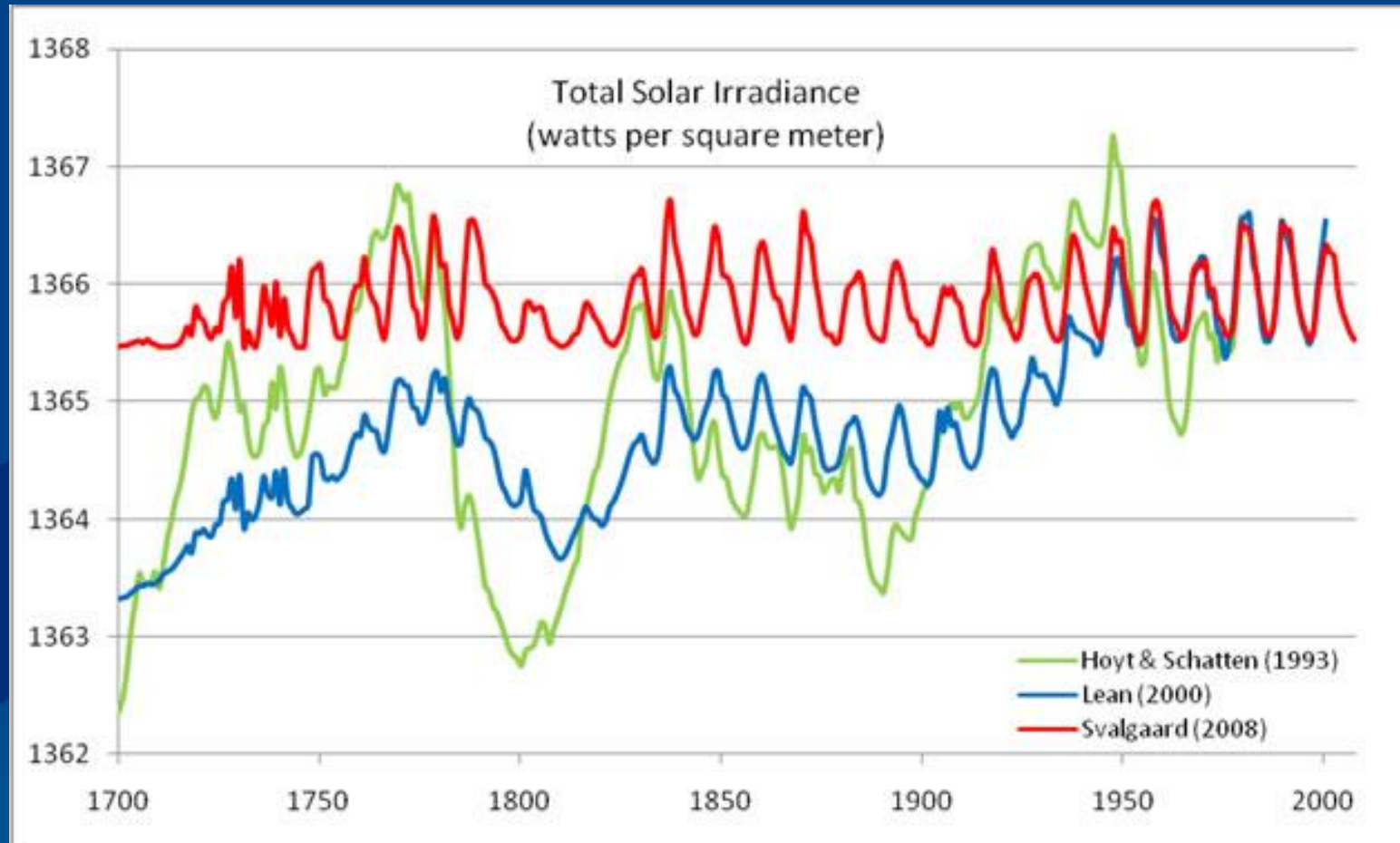


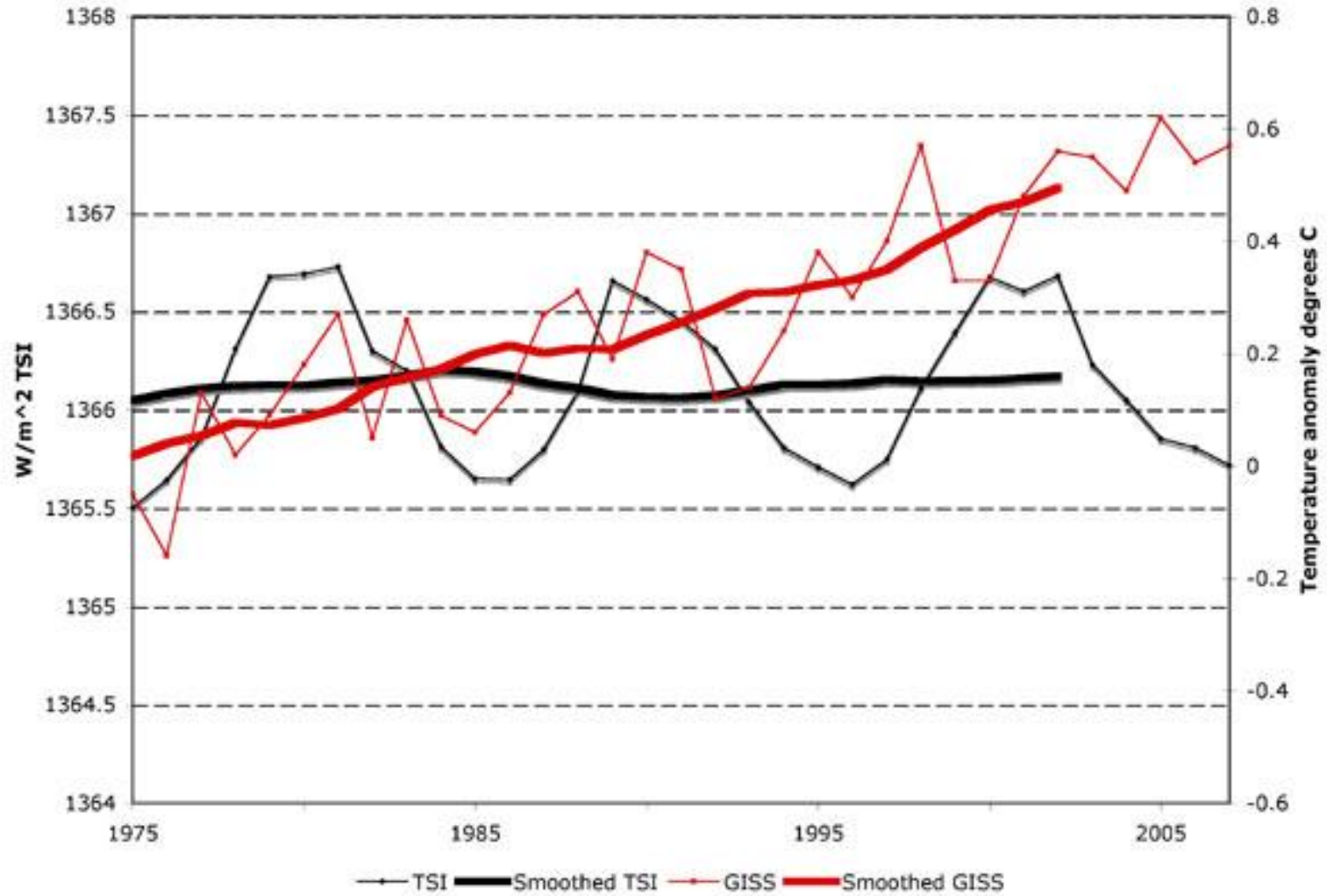
## 400 Years of Sunspot Observations



[http://www.globalwarmingart.com/wiki/Image:Sunspot\\_Numbers\\_png](http://www.globalwarmingart.com/wiki/Image:Sunspot_Numbers_png)

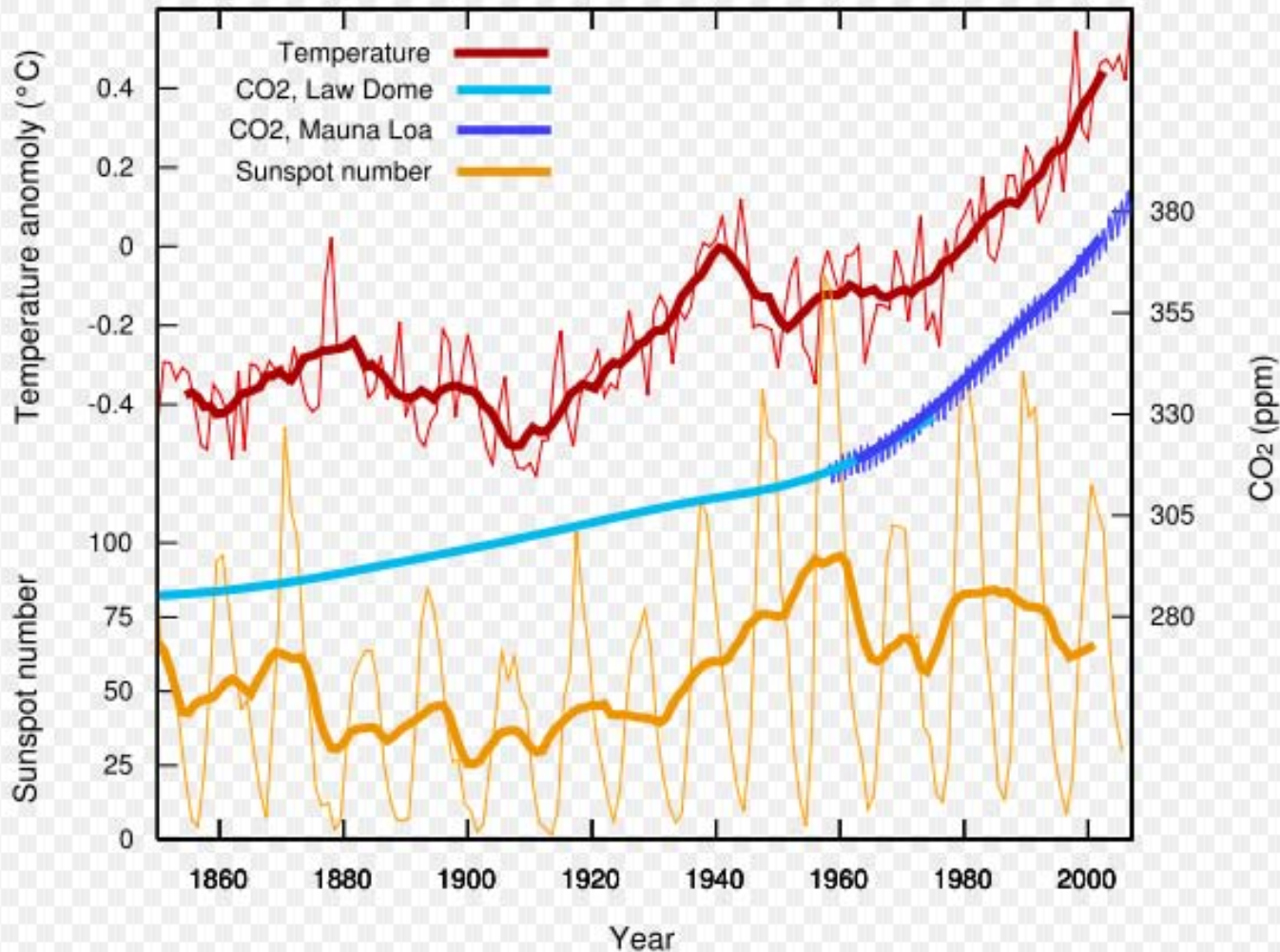


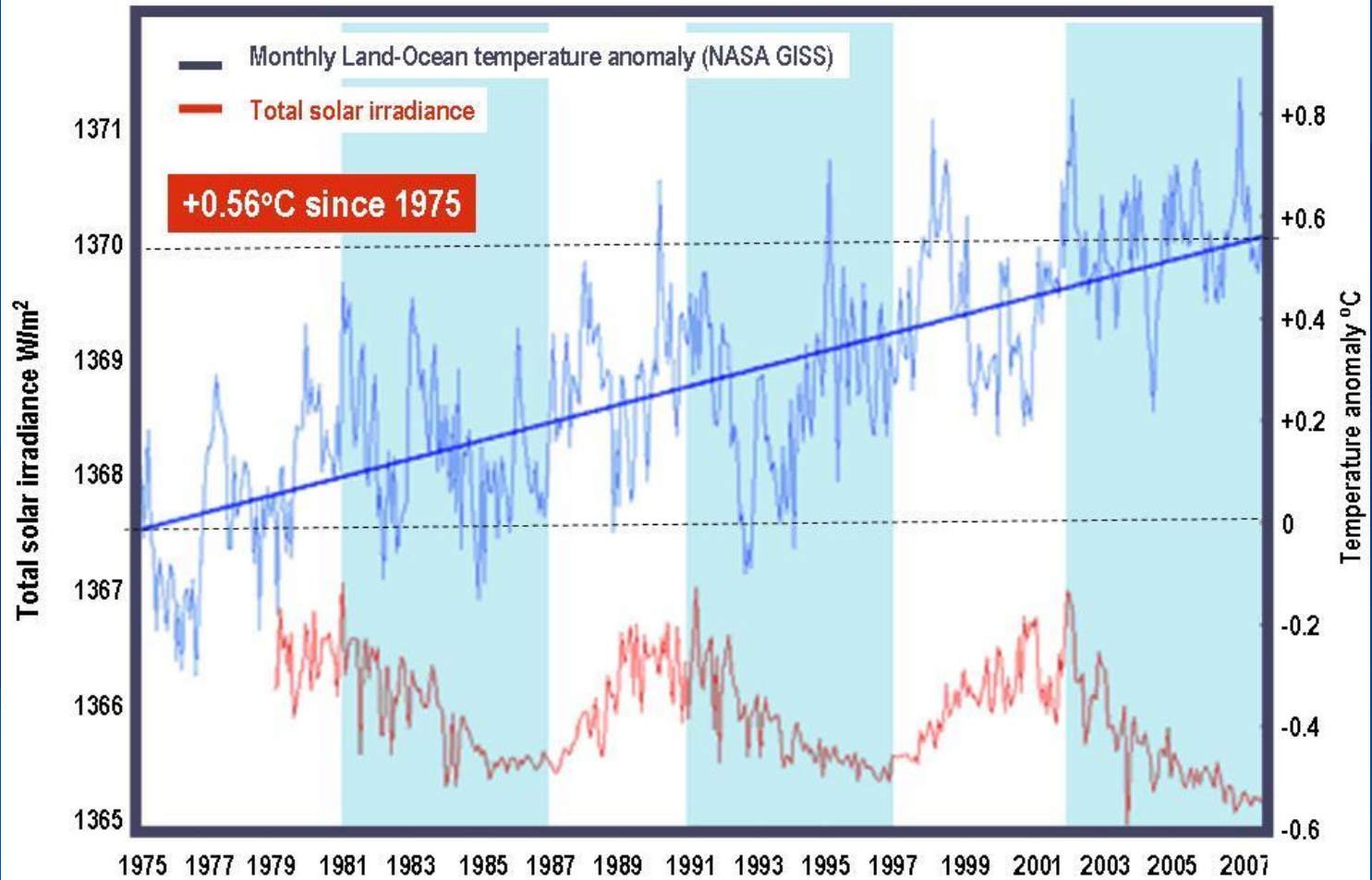


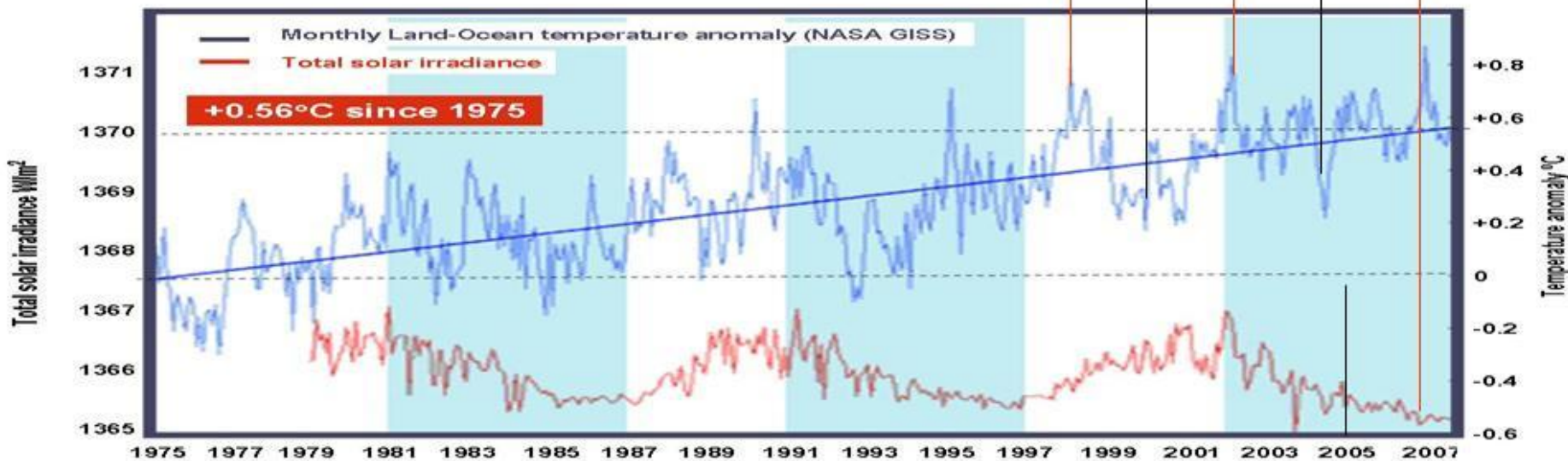
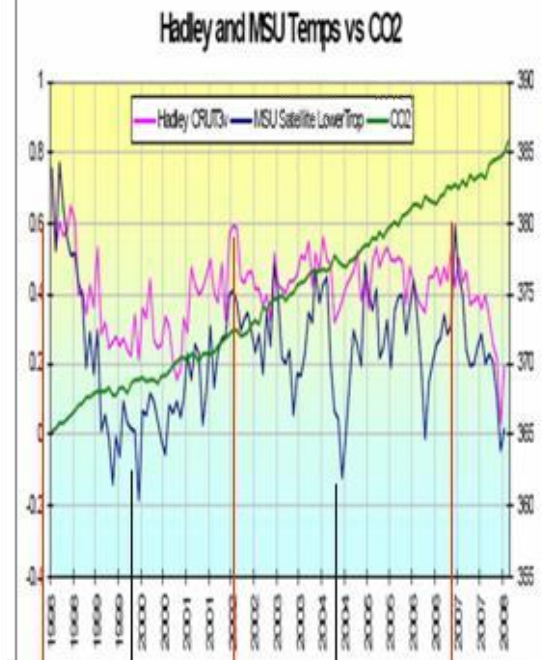
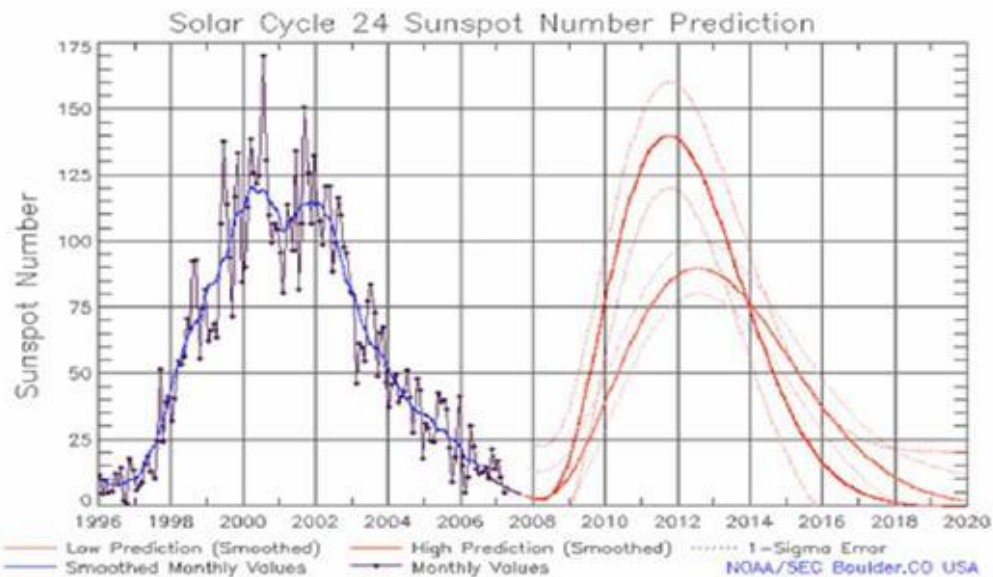


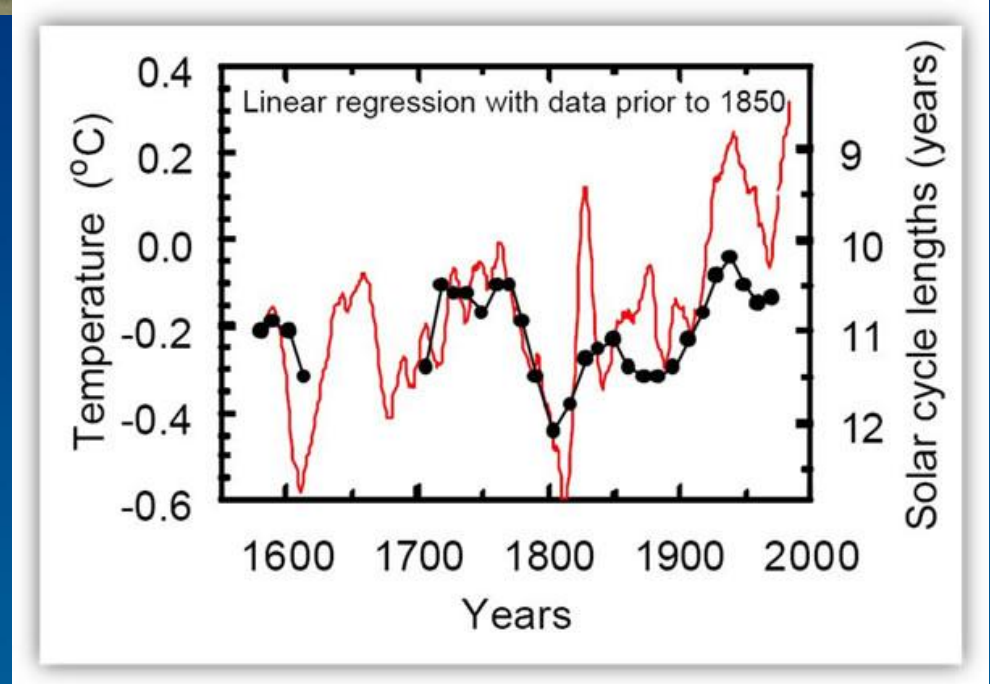
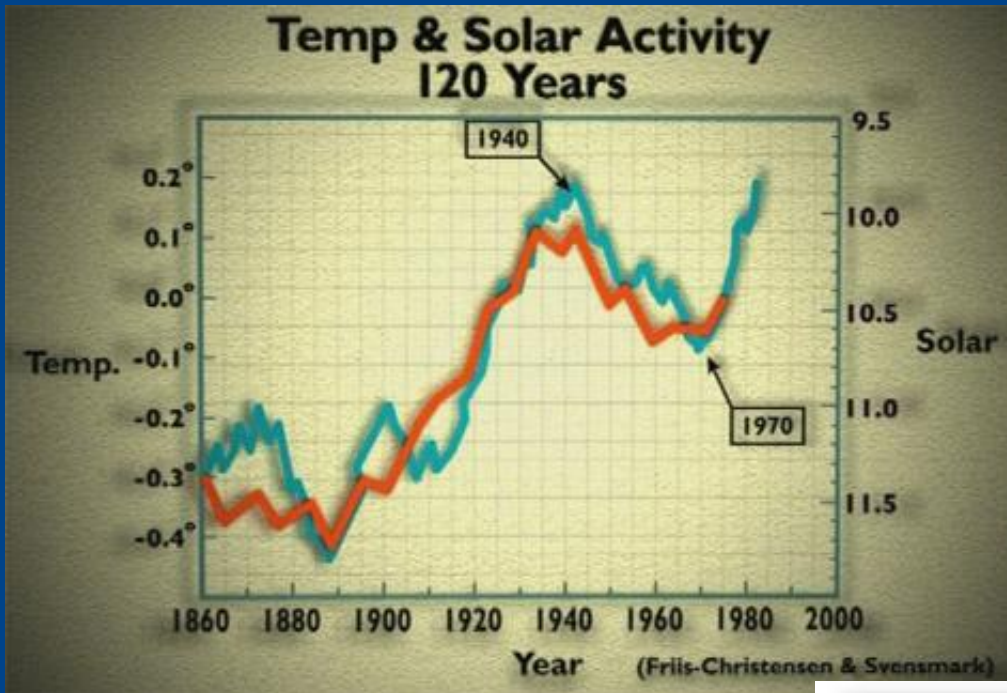


## Temperature, CO<sub>2</sub>, and Sunspots



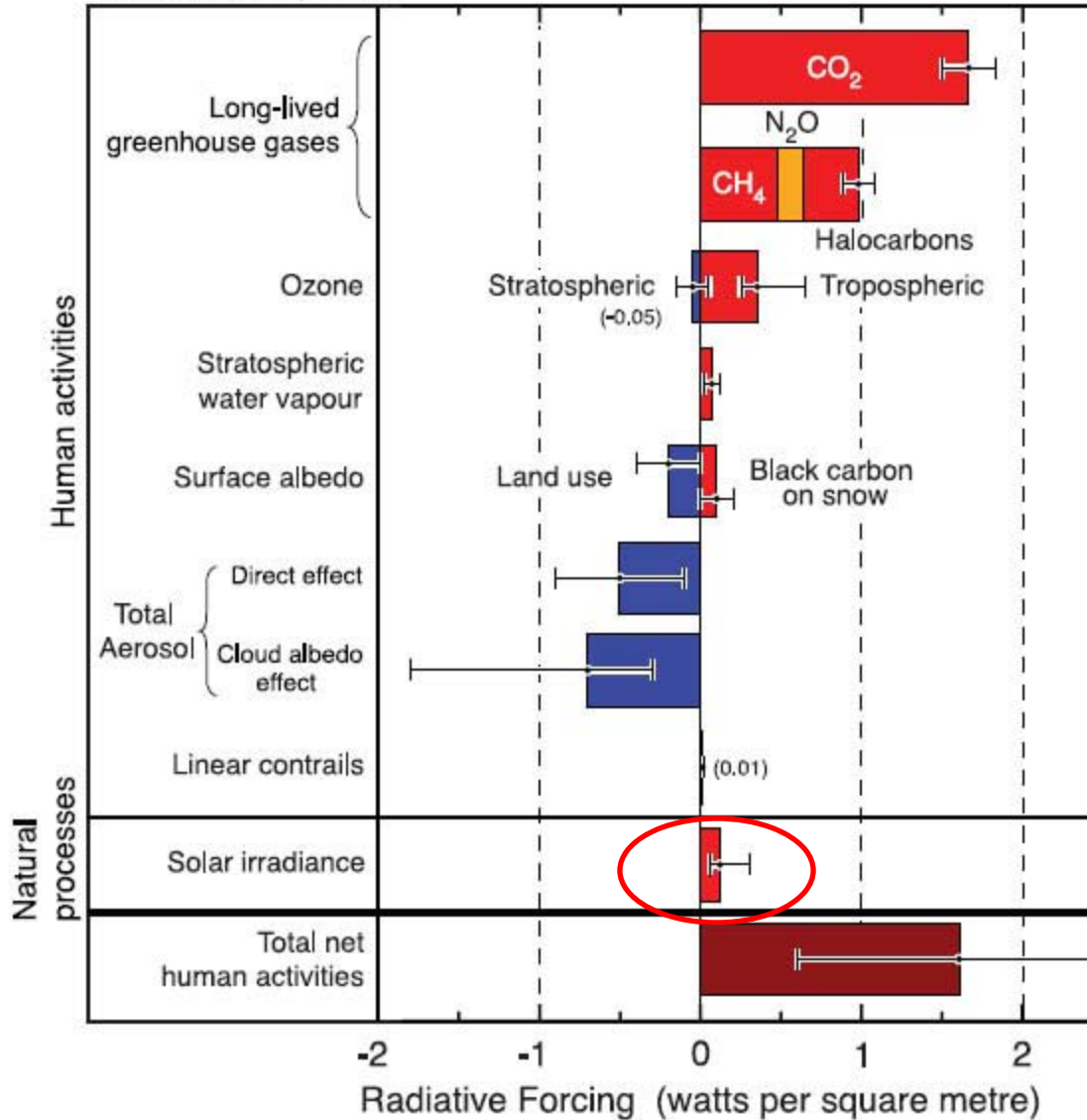




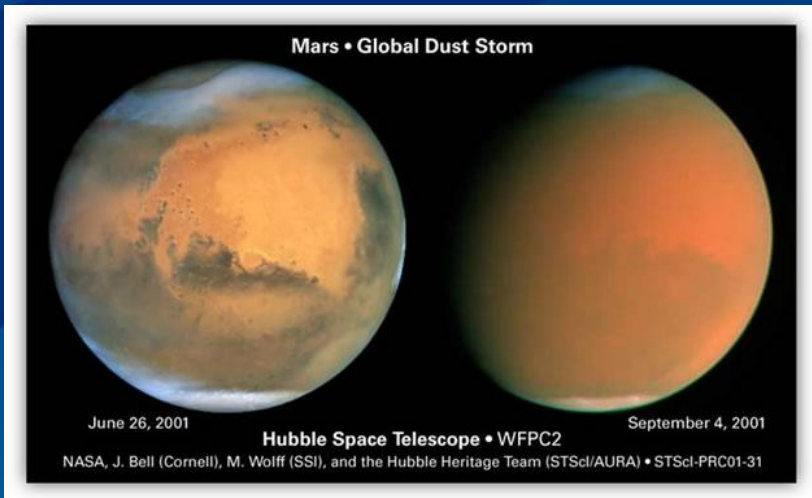
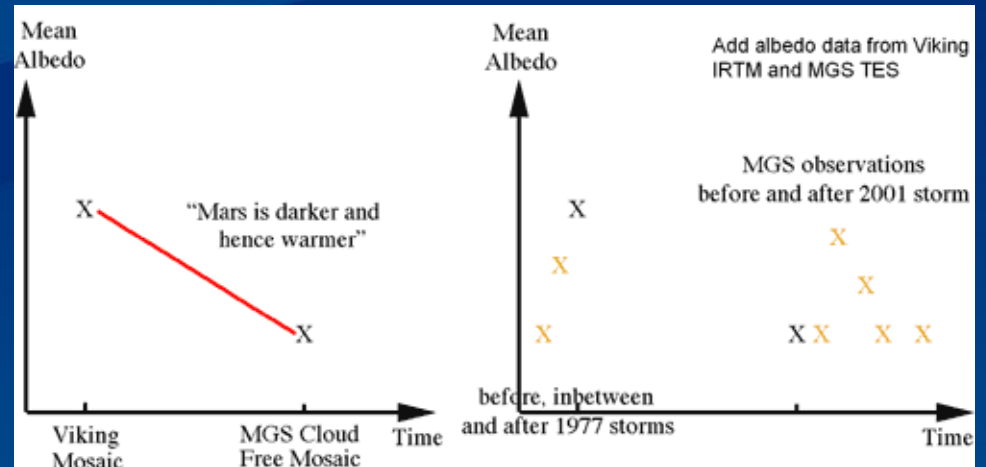
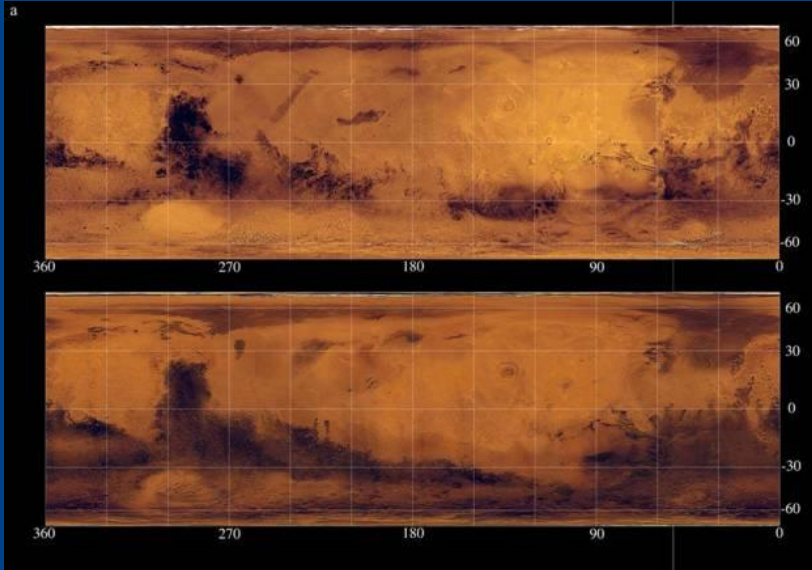


## Radiative forcing of climate between 1750 and 2005

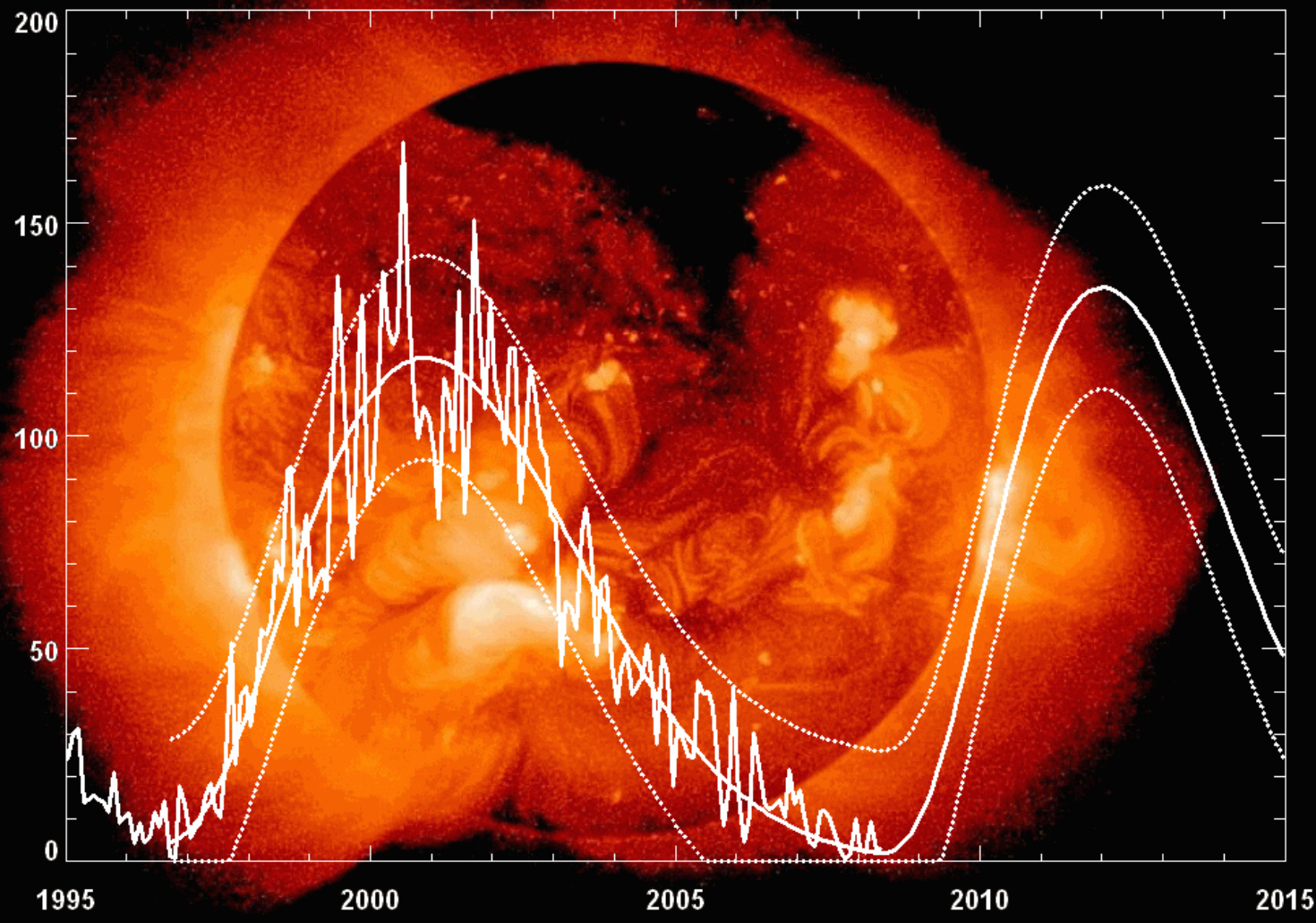
Radiative Forcing Terms



# Other planets are warming

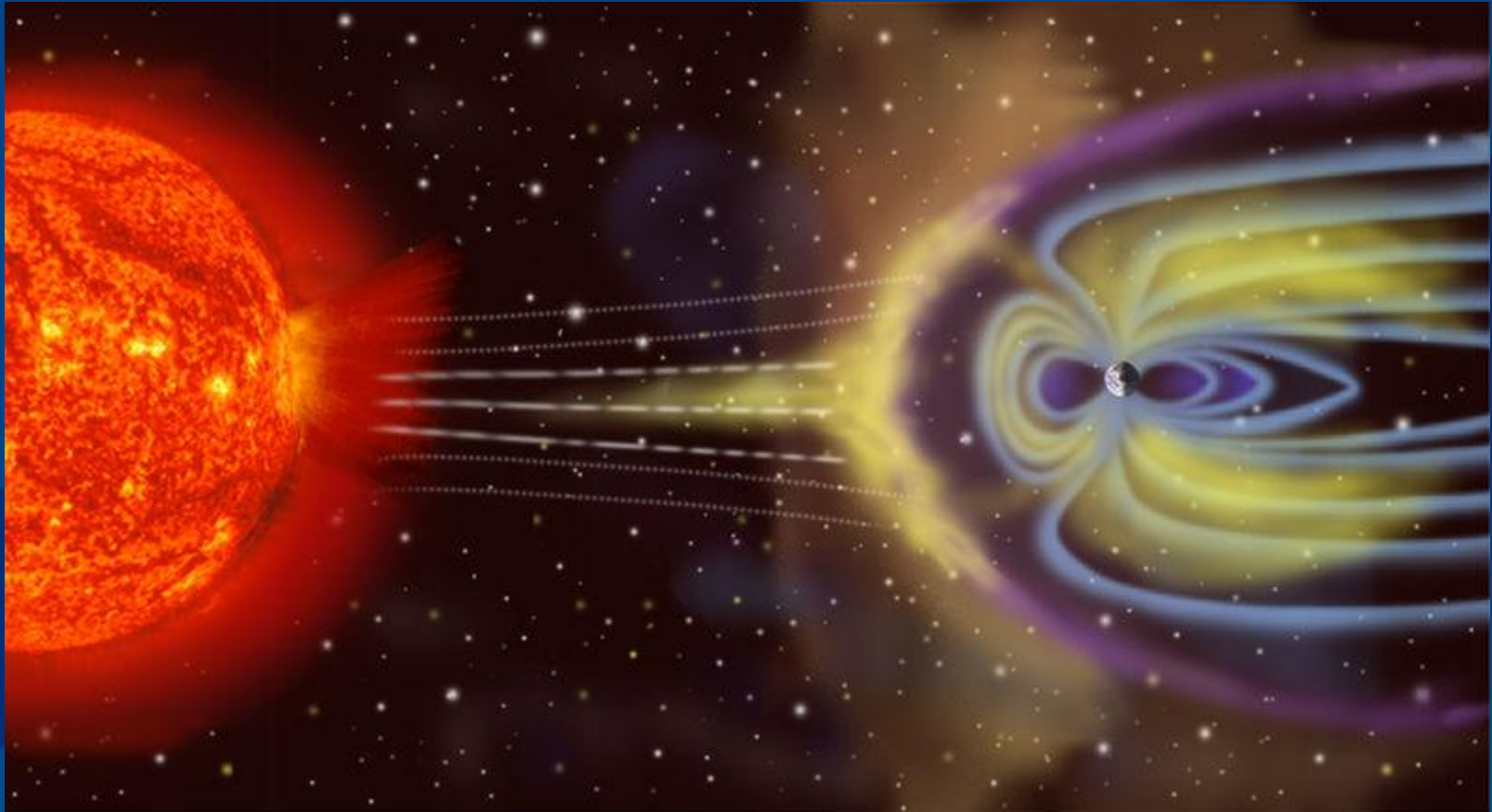


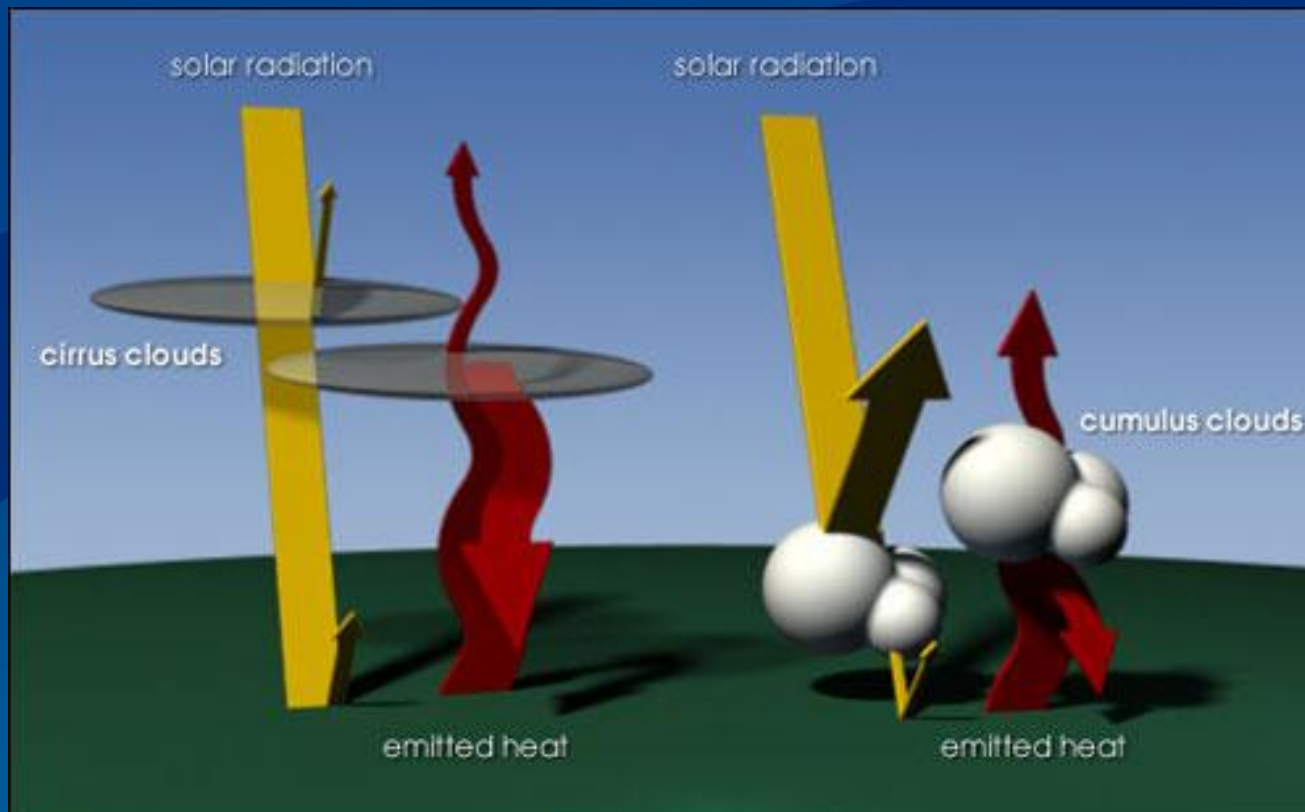
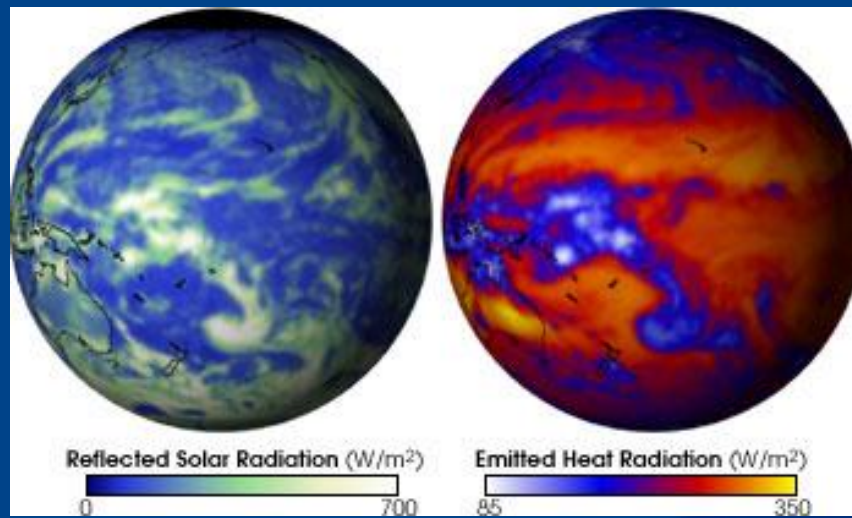
Cycle 23-24 Sunspot Number Prediction (June 2008)

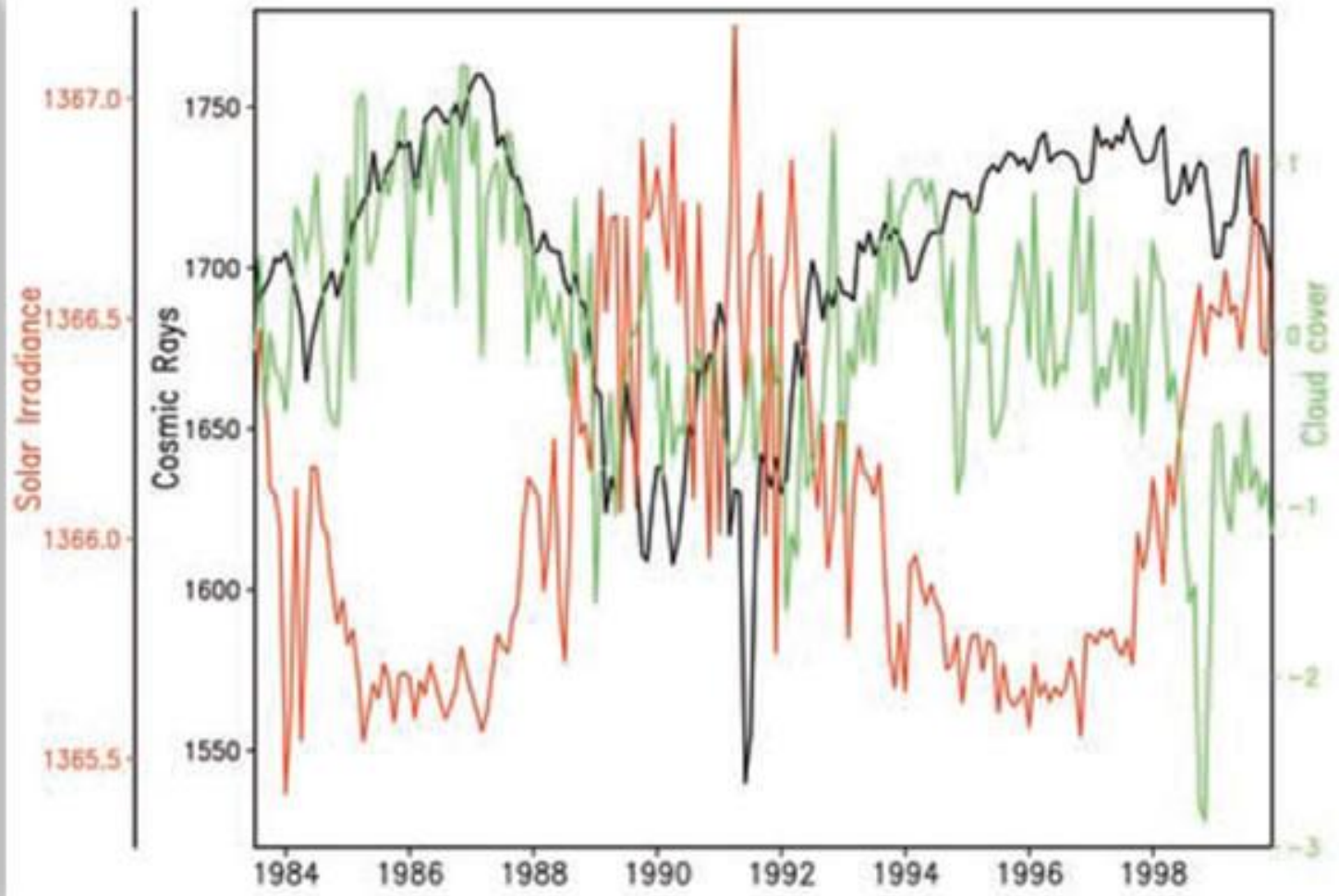




# It's cosmic rays



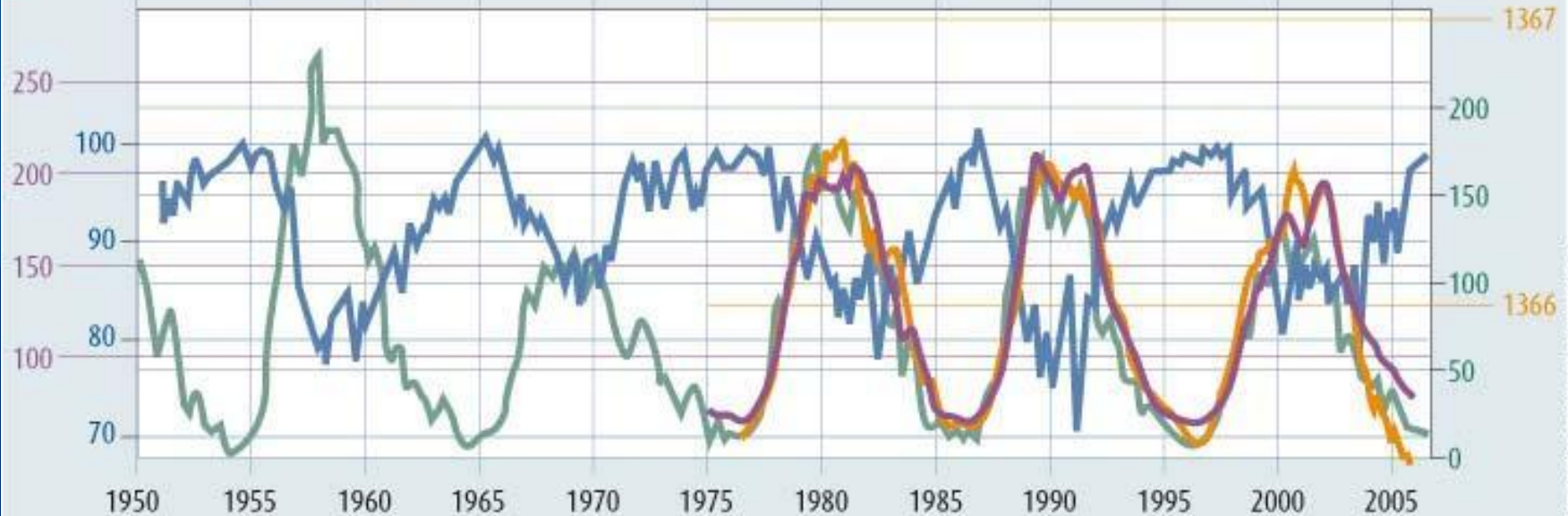




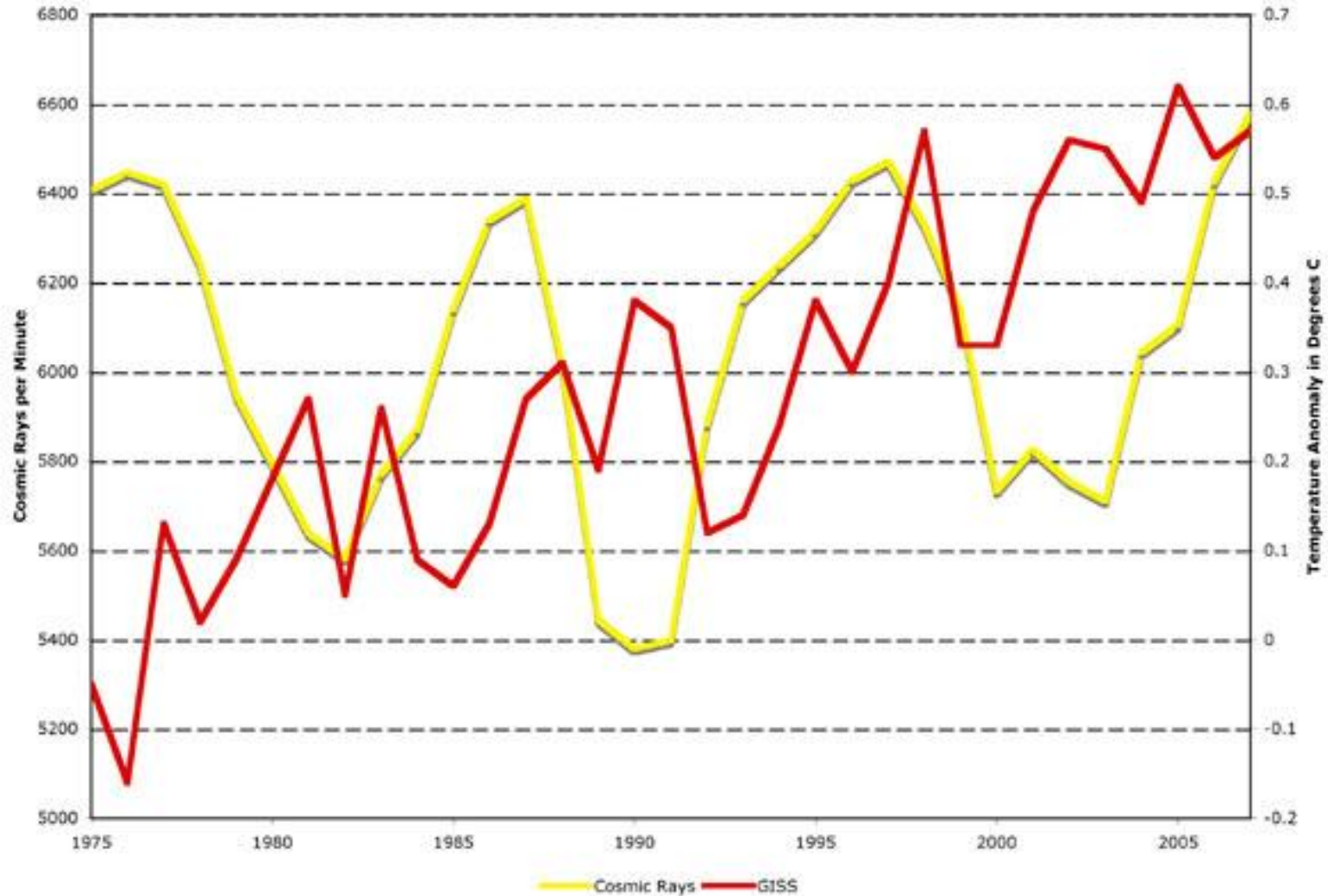
## RECENT CHANGES IN SOLAR ACTIVITY AND COSMIC RAYS

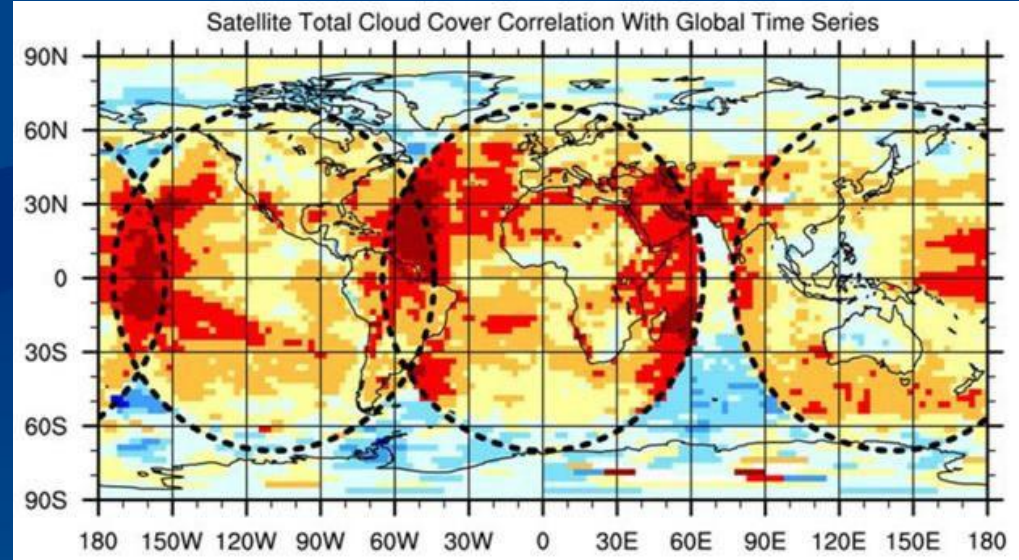
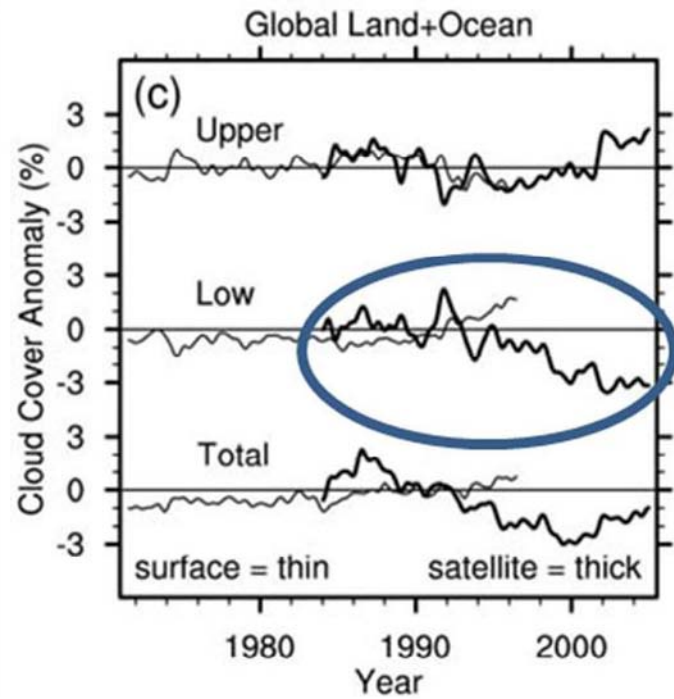
Direct, accurate measurements of cosmic ray intensity and various forms of solar activity began only in the late 20th century. None of these measures shows any long-term trends that can explain the recent warming

- Total solar irradiance as measured by spacecraft ( $W/m^2$ )
- 10.7 cm radio waves, an indicator of ultraviolet intensity (solar flux units)
- Smoothed sunspot number
- Cosmic ray intensity as measured by the Climax monitor in Colorado (% relative to 1954)



Note: vertical scales have been adjusted to show the correlations

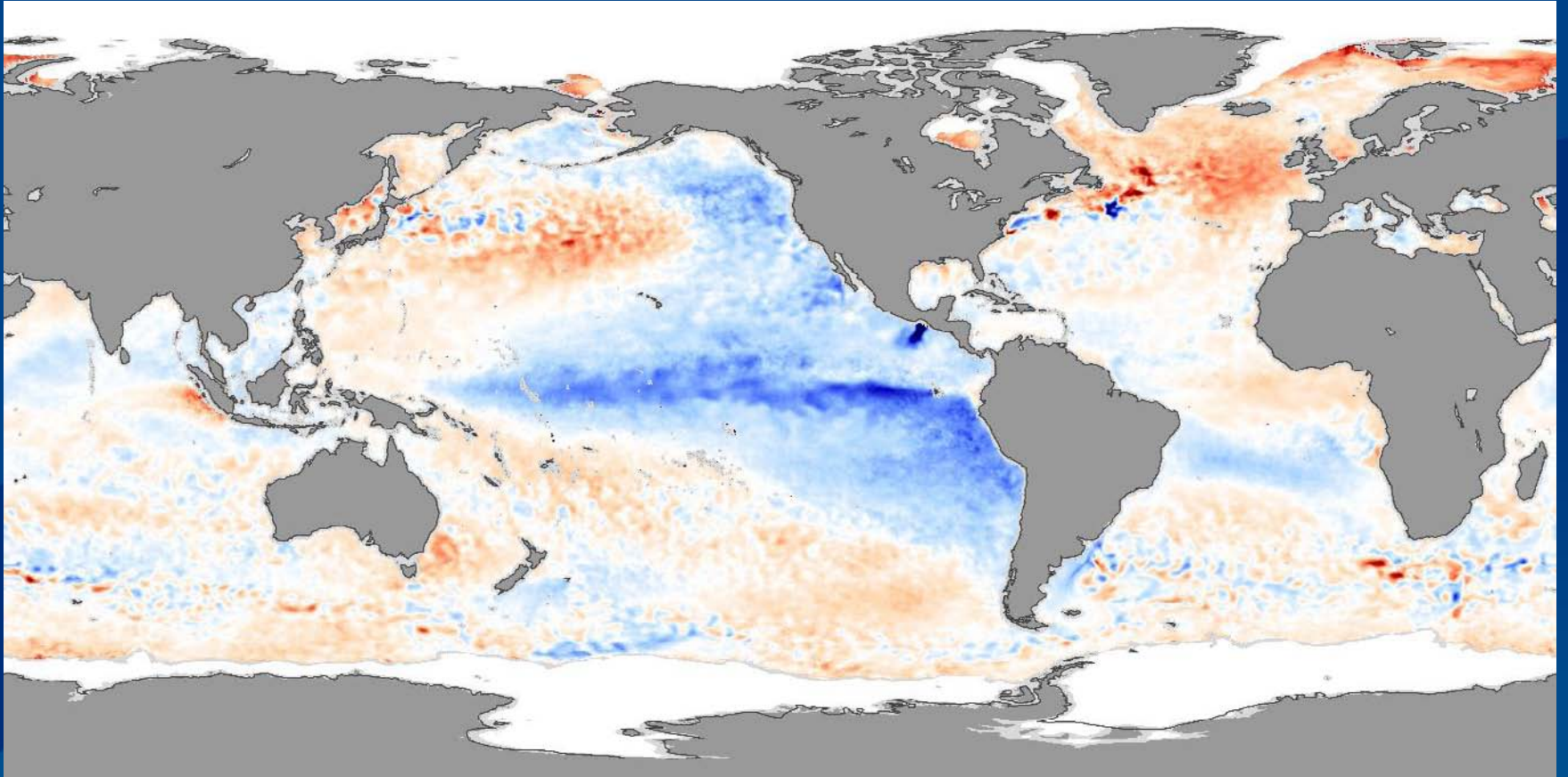




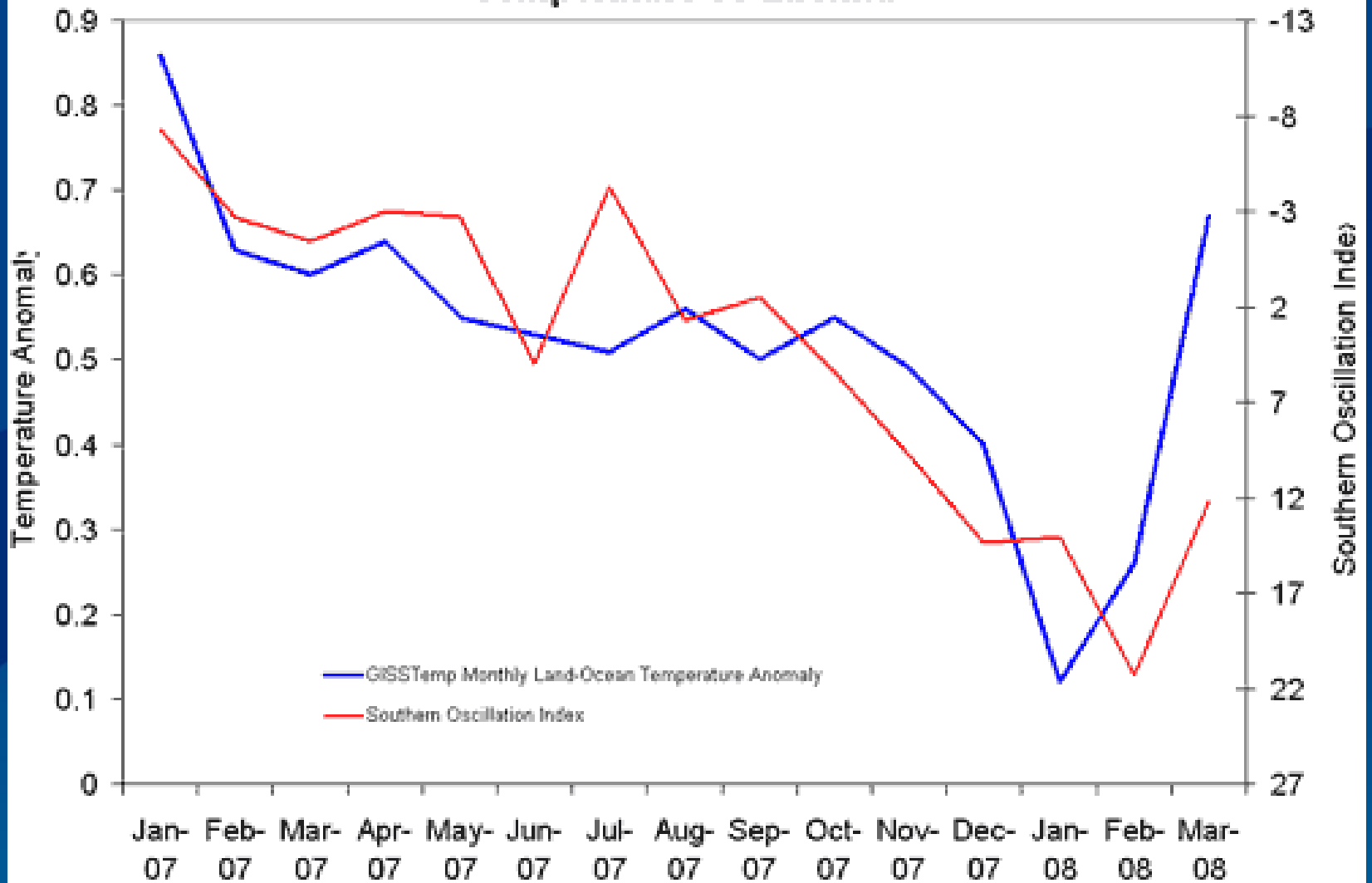


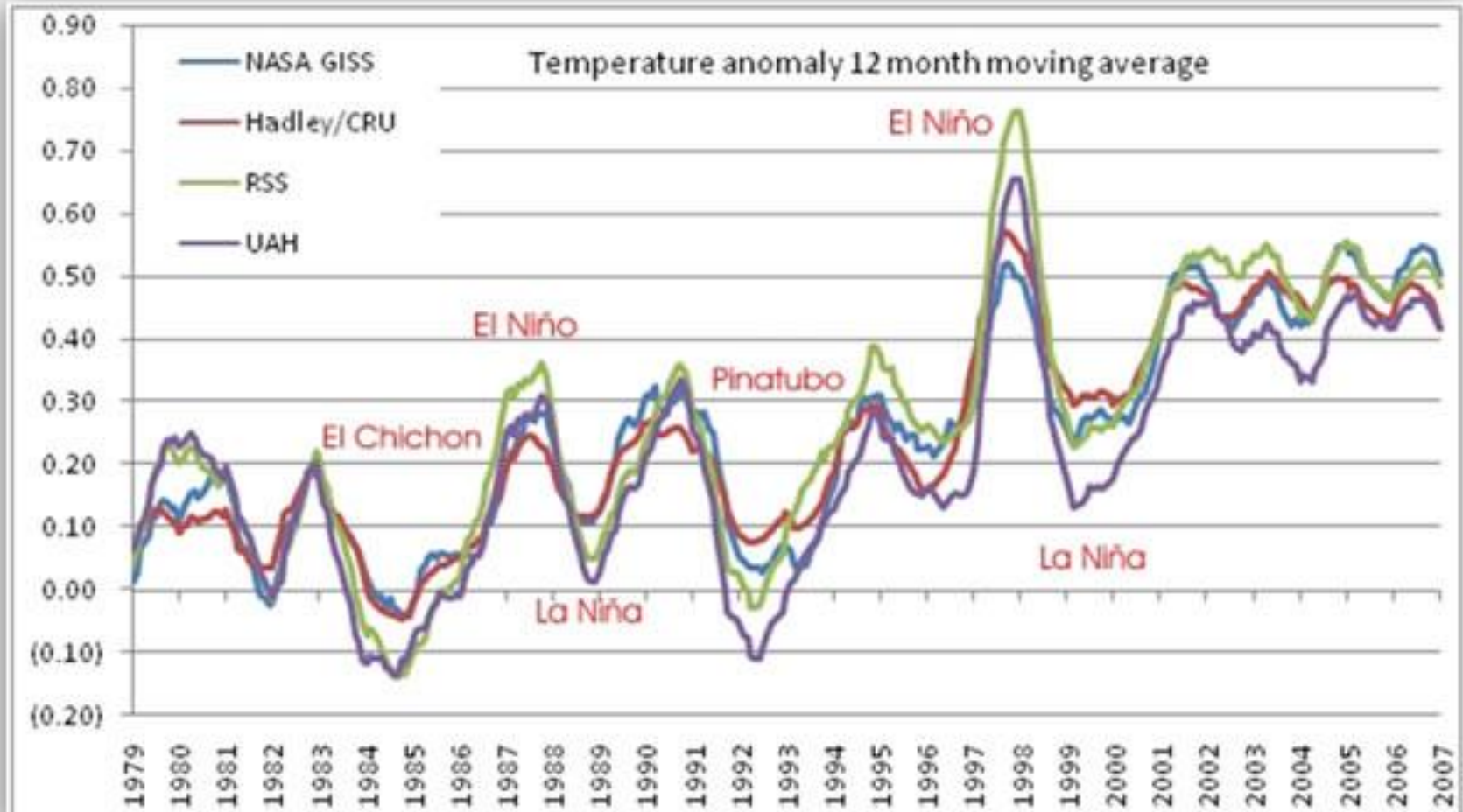
**It's the ocean**

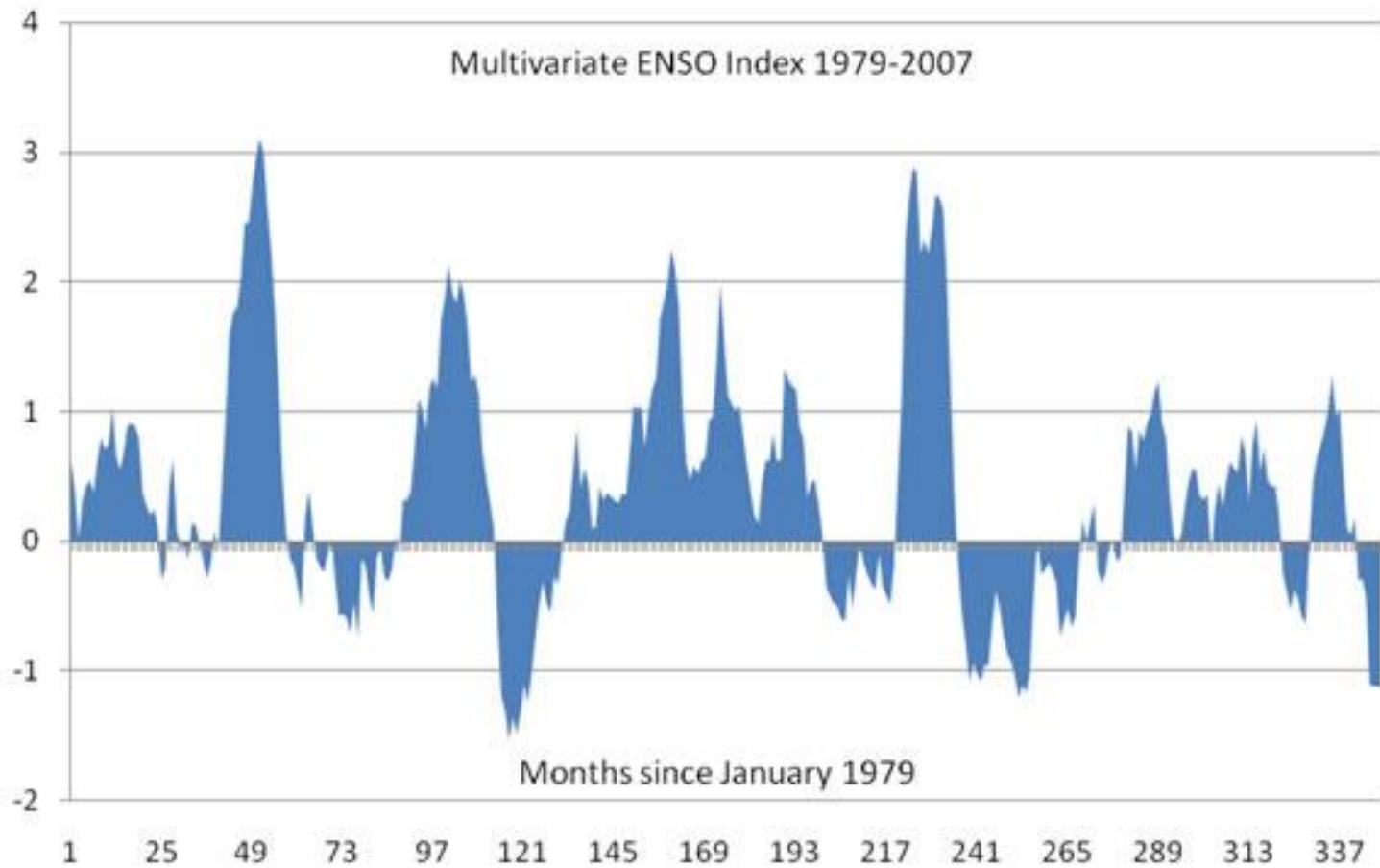




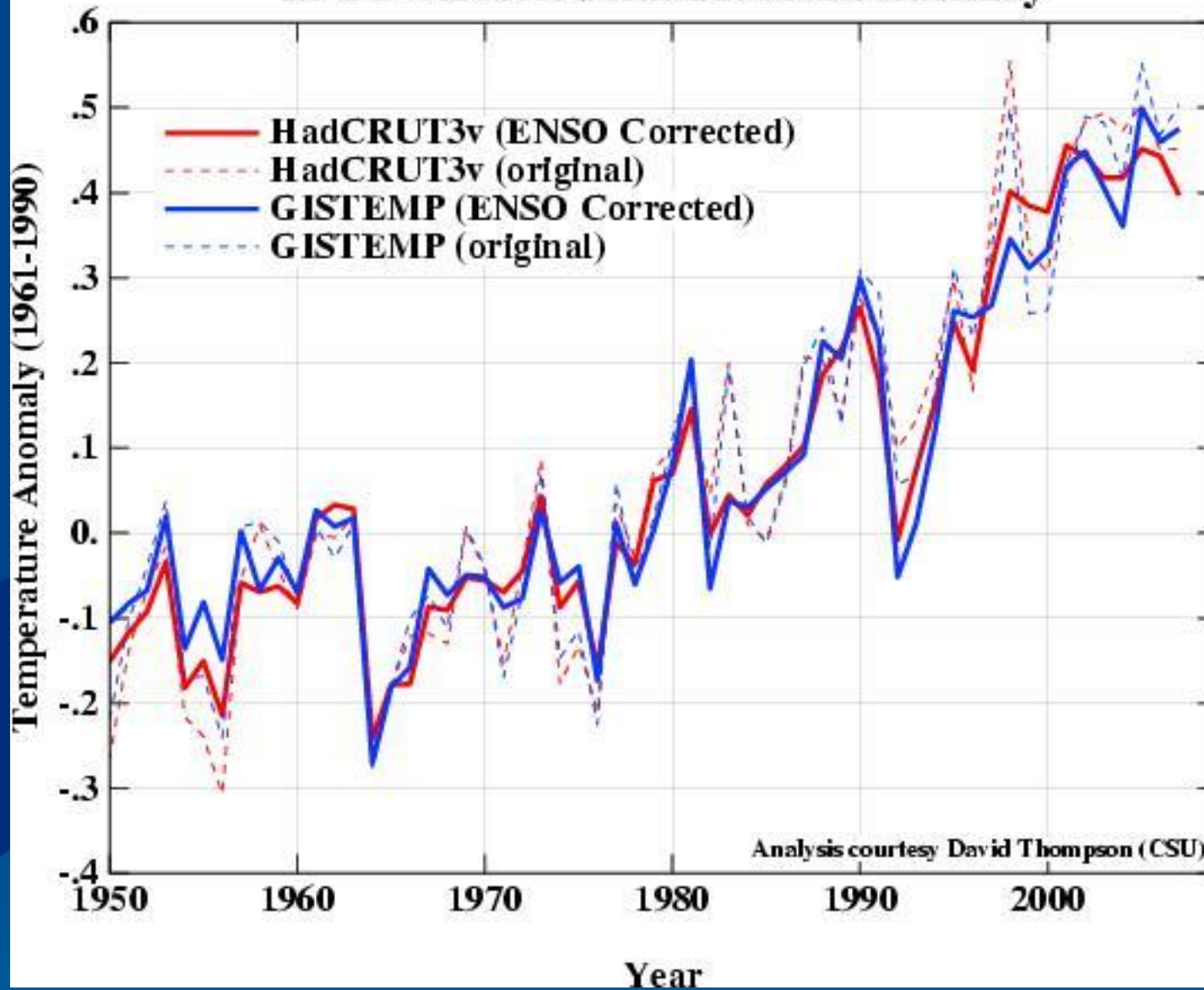
## Temperature vs La Nina

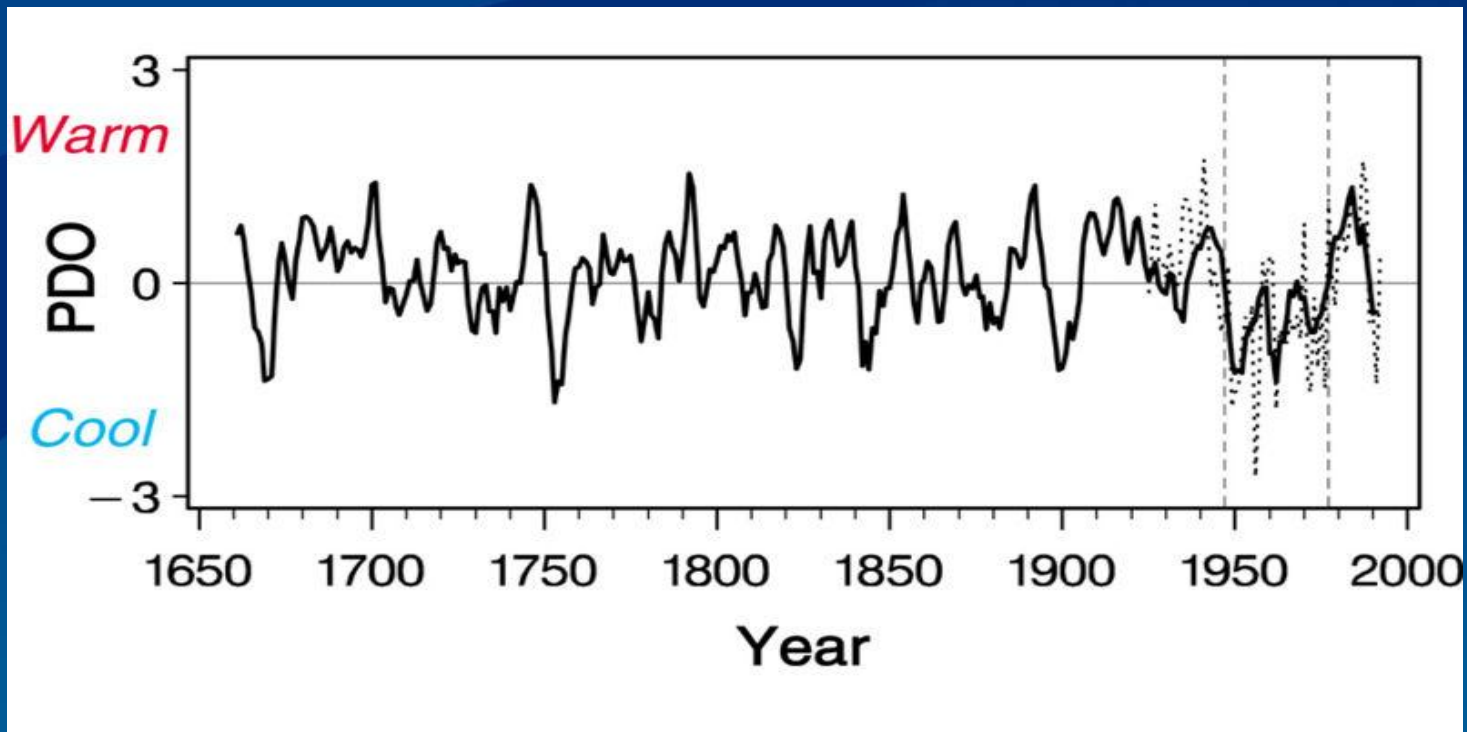
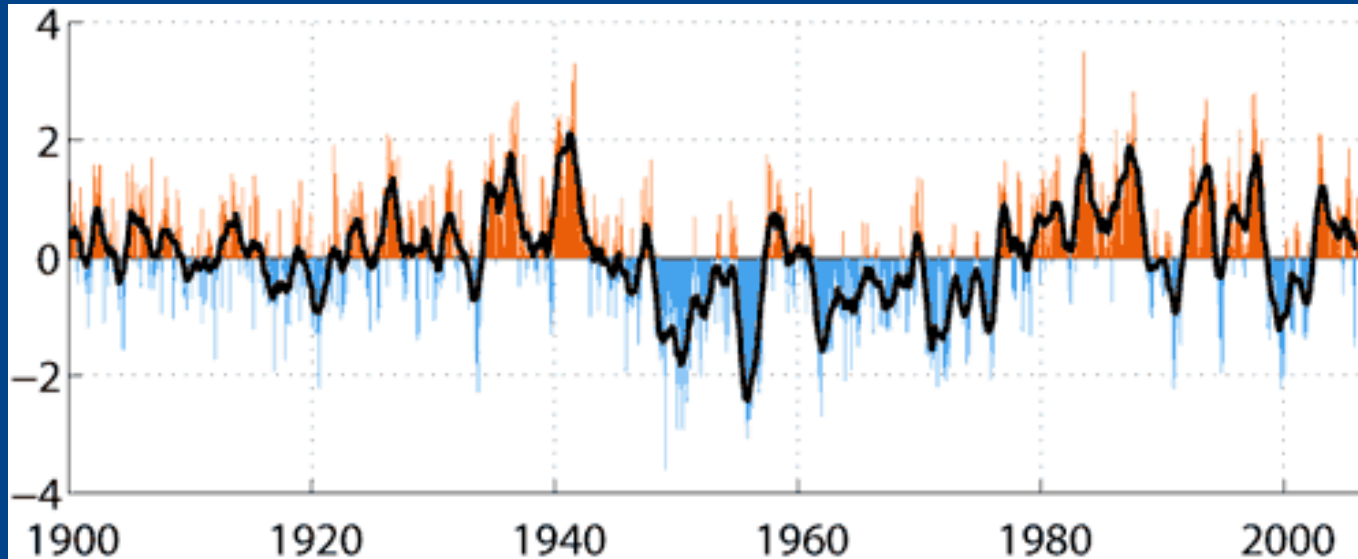


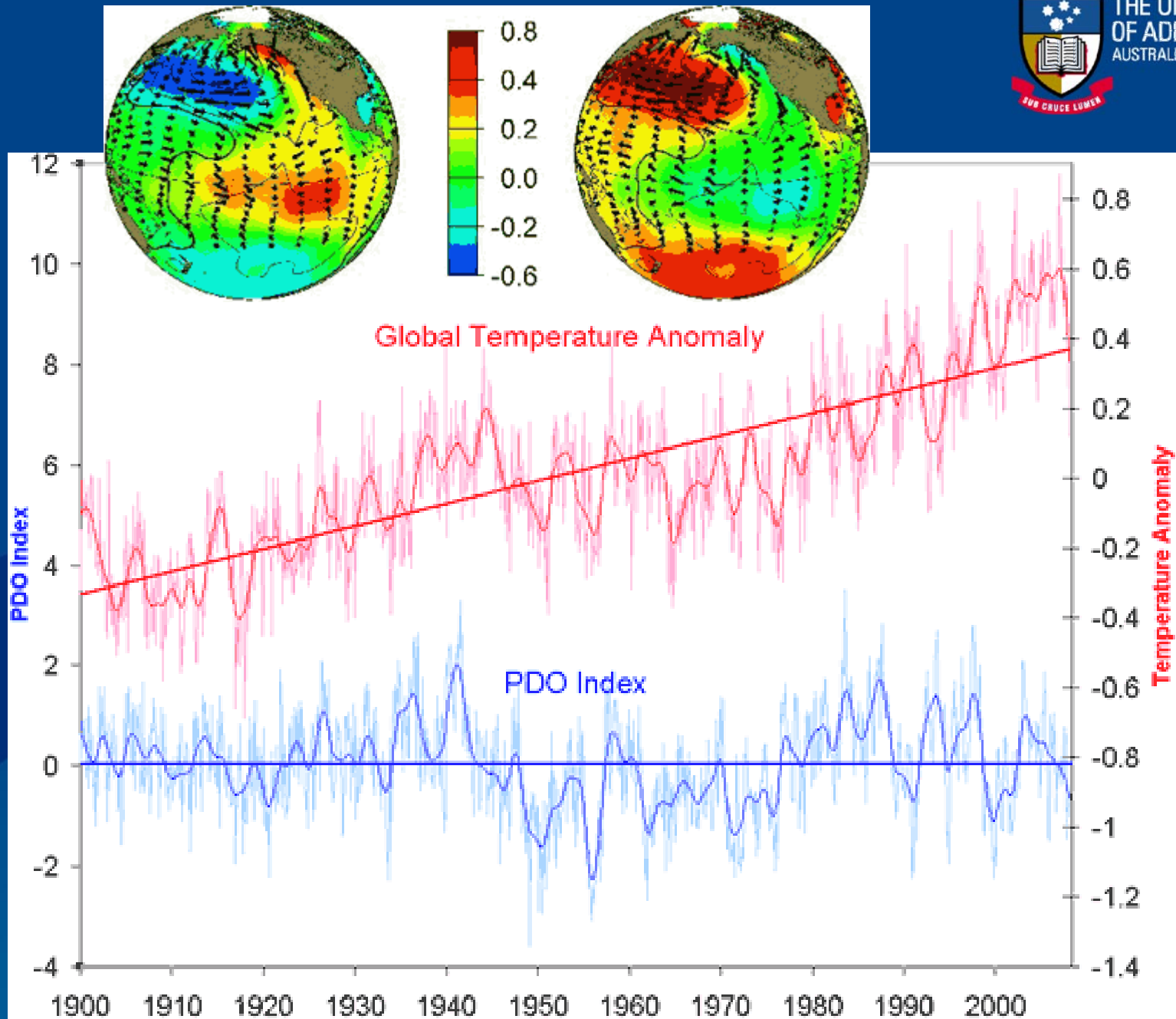




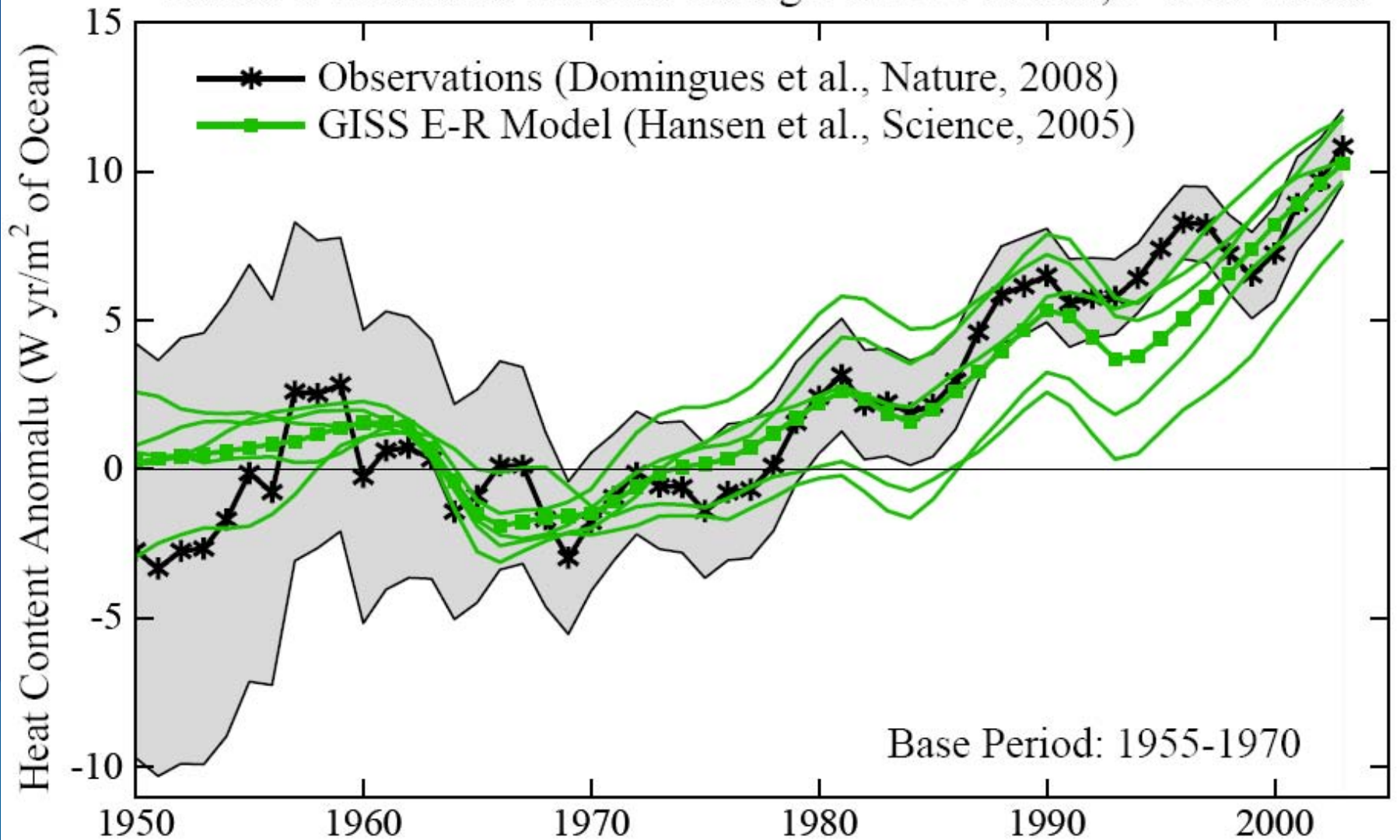
## ENSO-corrected Annual Mean Anomaly





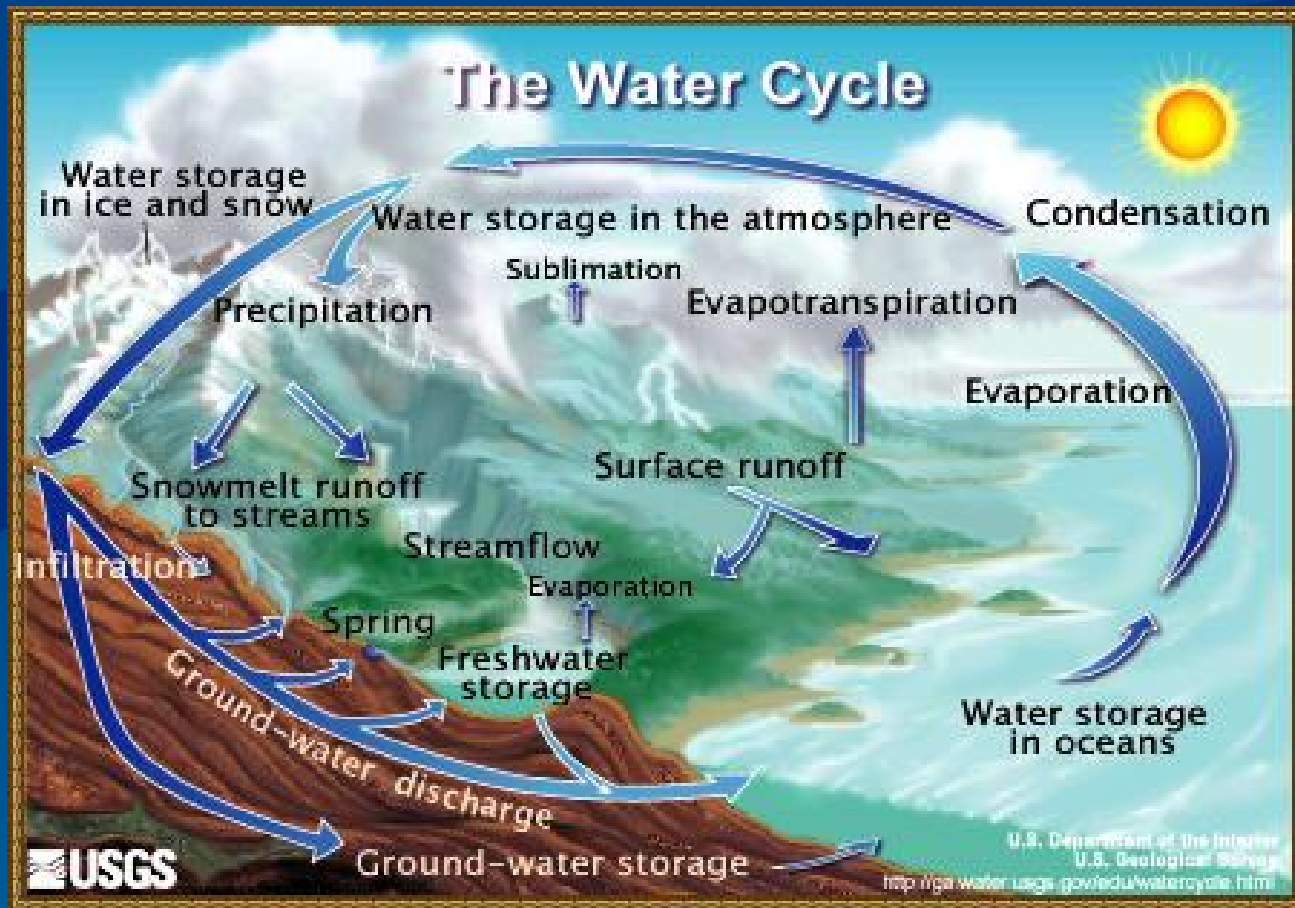


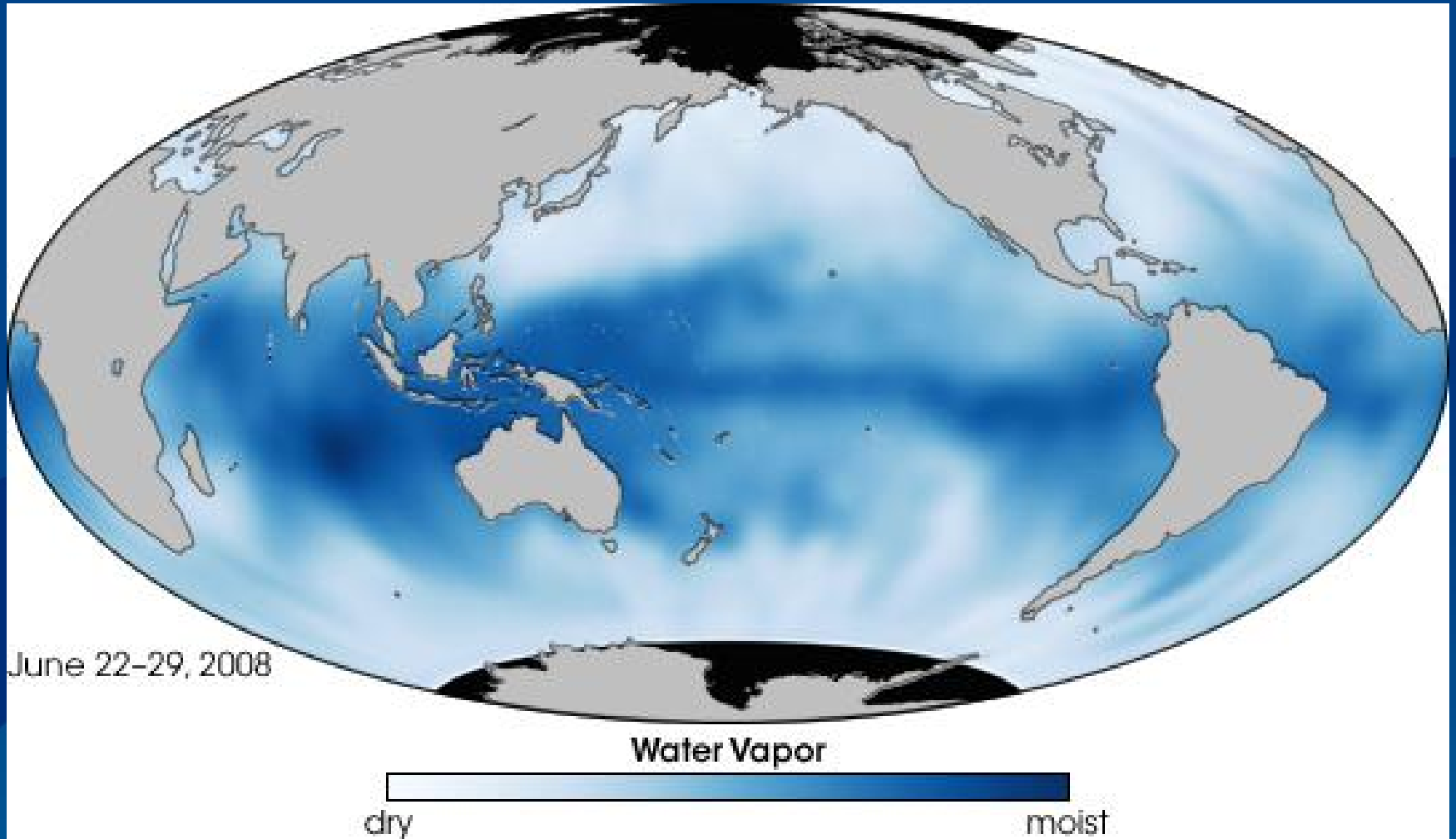
## Global Ocean Heat Content Chnage: Above 700 m, 3-Year Mean

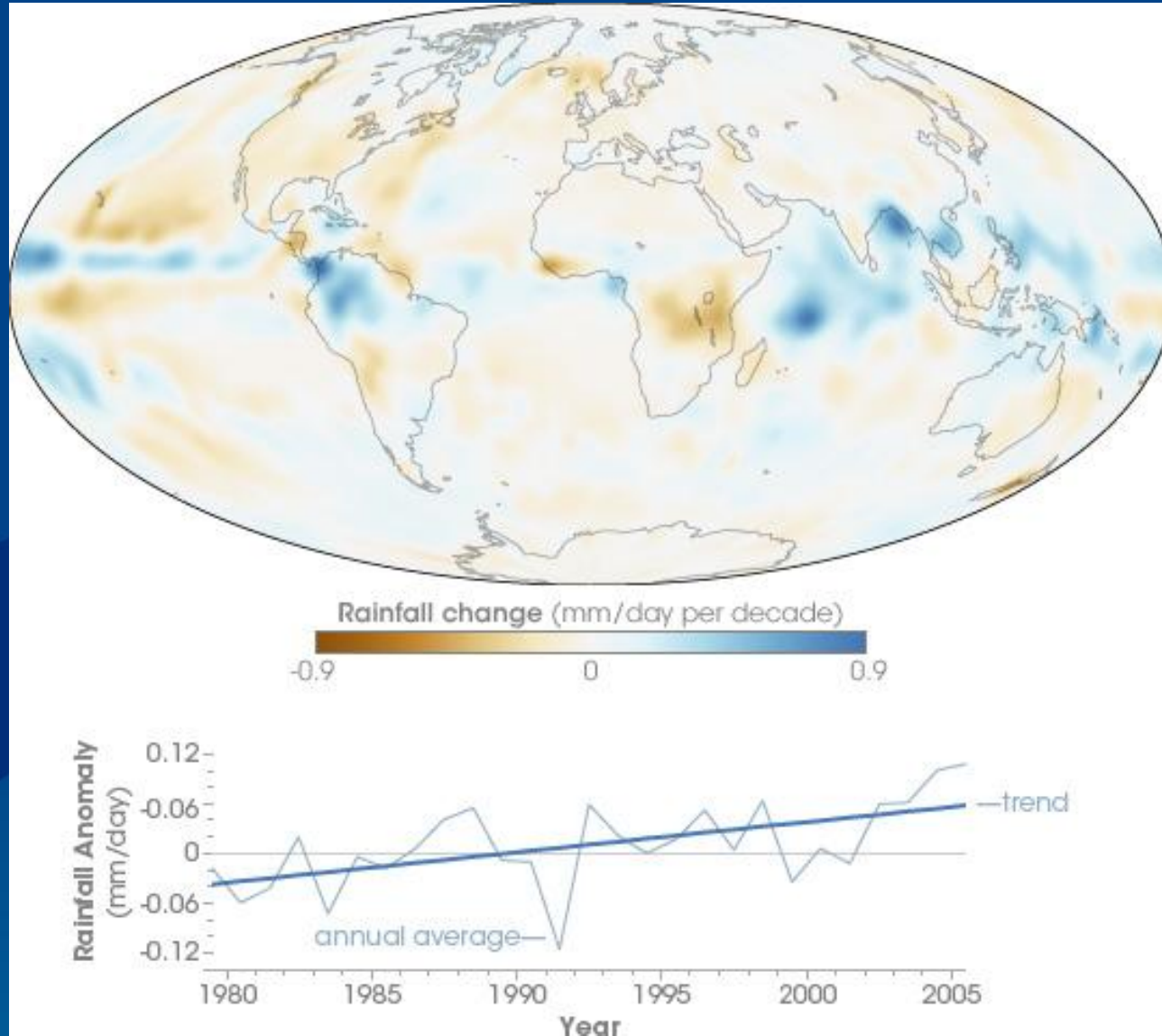


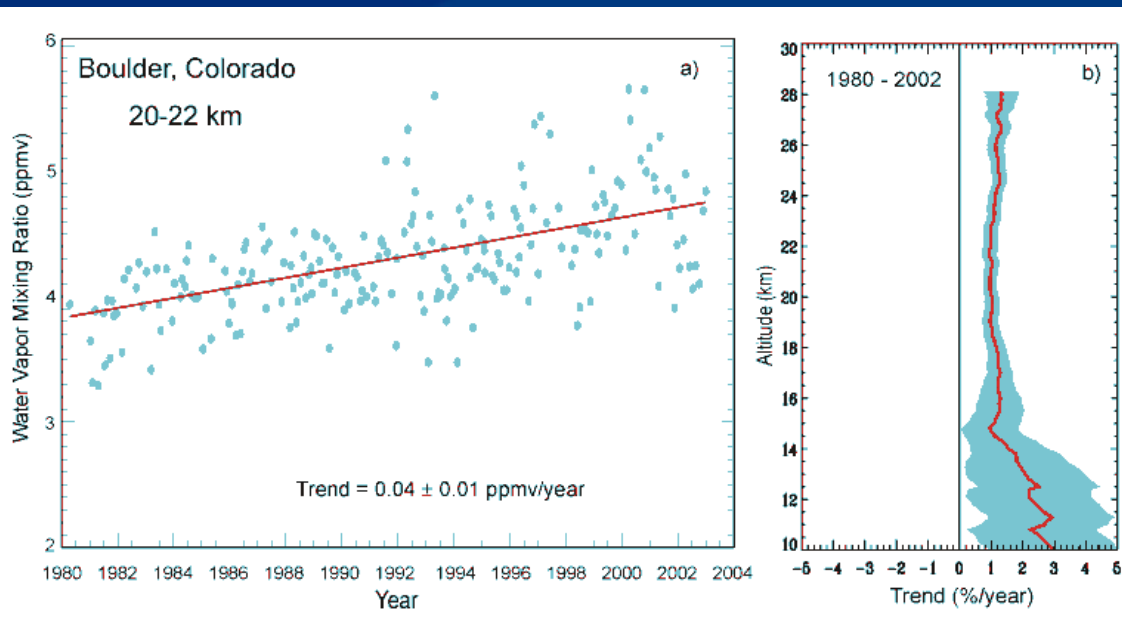
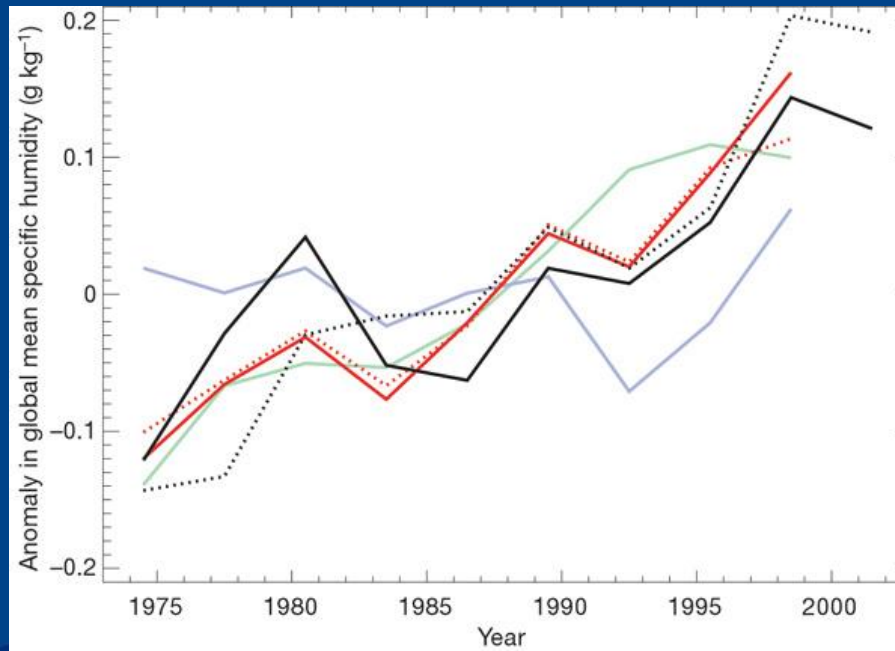


# It's water vapour

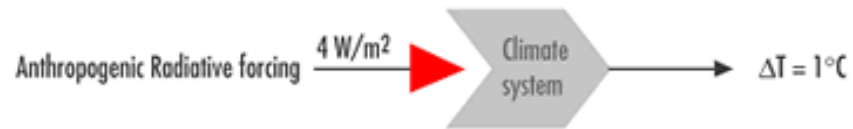




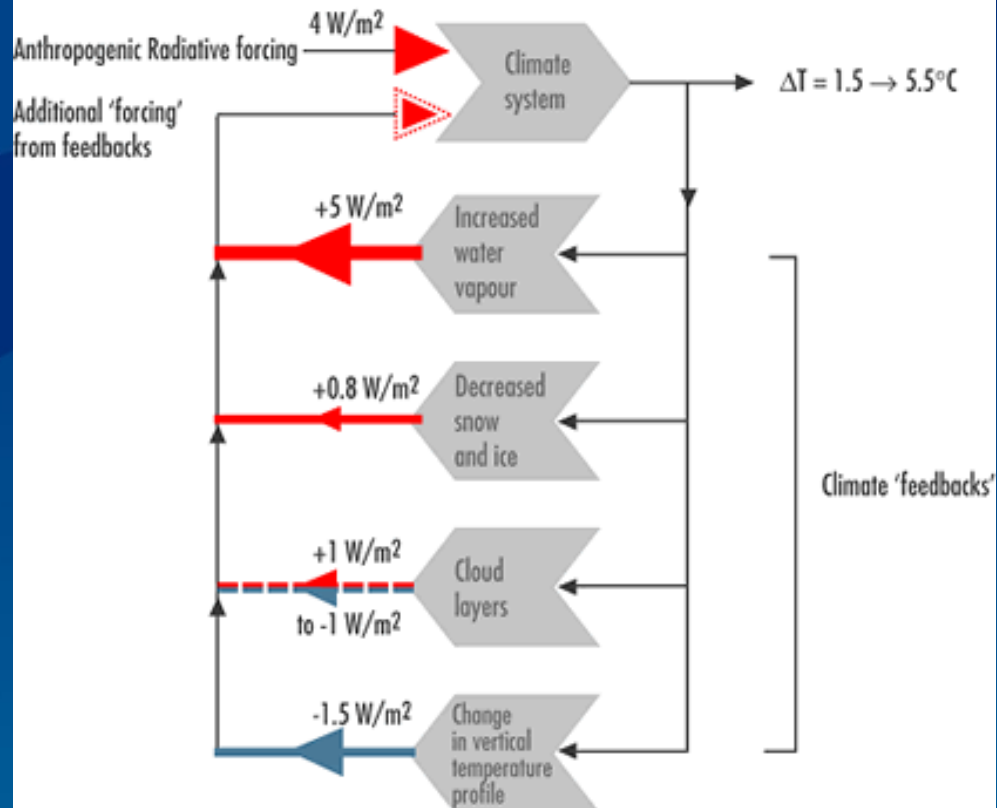




### Without feedbacks



### With feedbacks



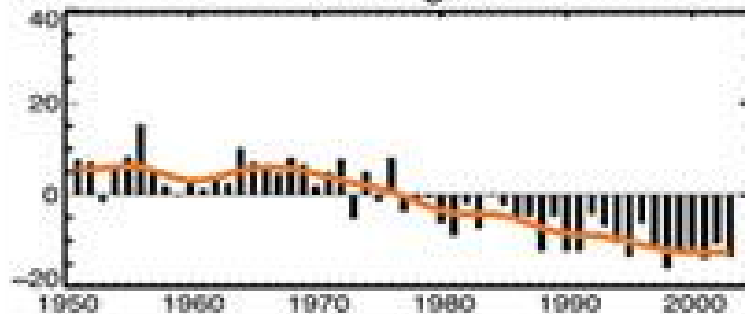
# 'Fingerprint' attributions

## Frequency of cold and warm days and nights

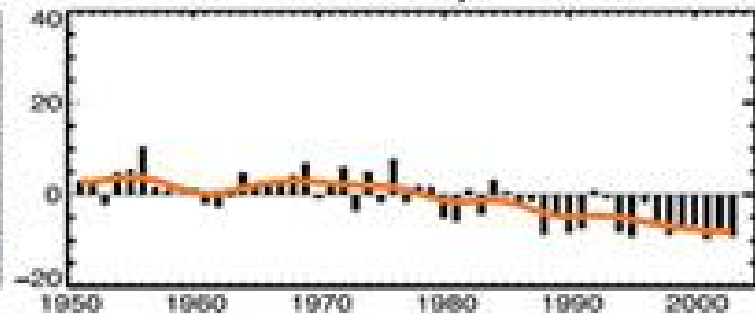
cold = bottom 10th percentile, warm = top 10th percentile

1961 - 1990 base period

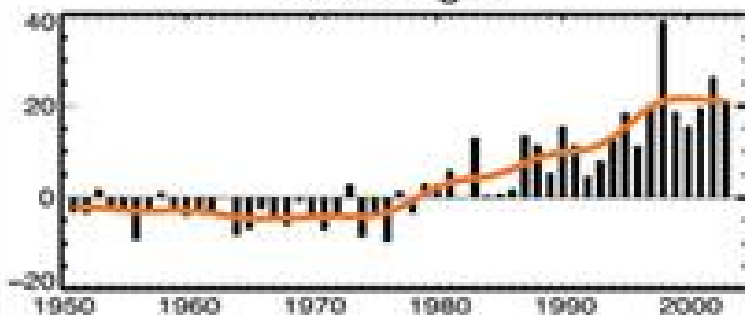
### Cold Nights



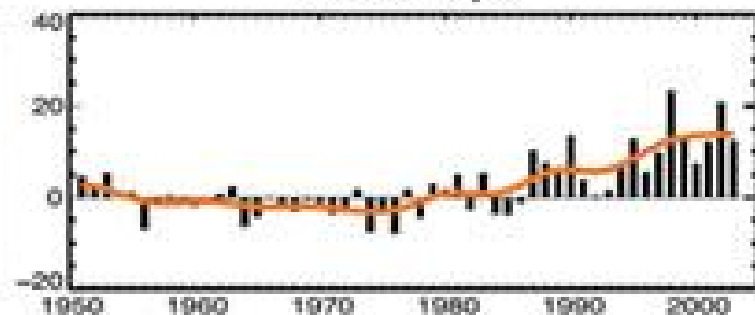
### Cold Days



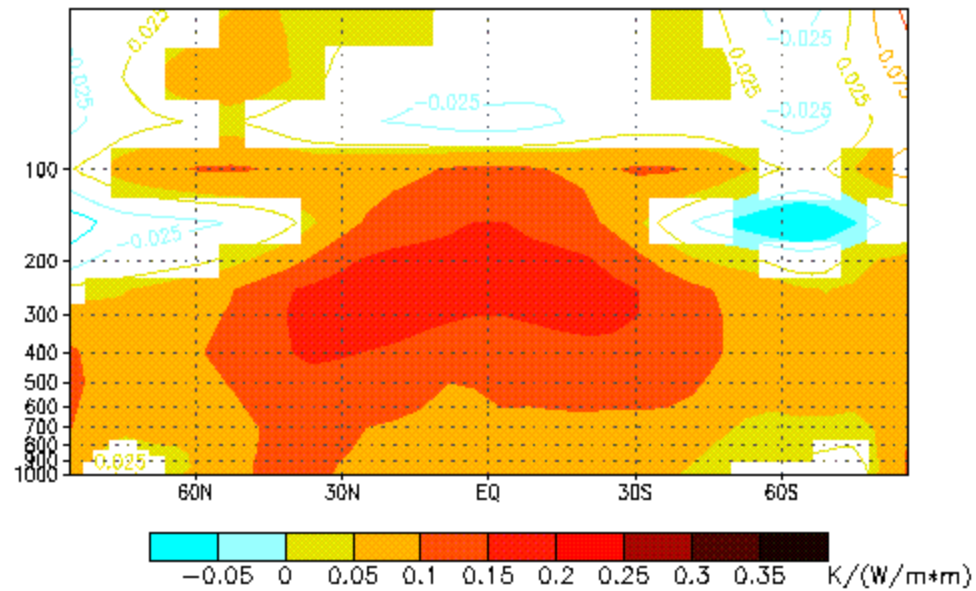
### Warm Nights



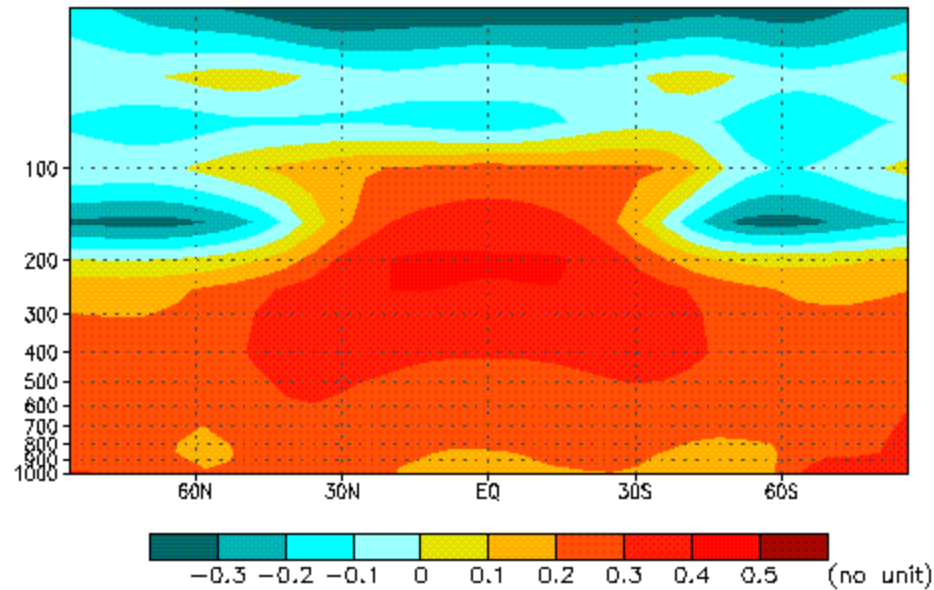
### Warm Days



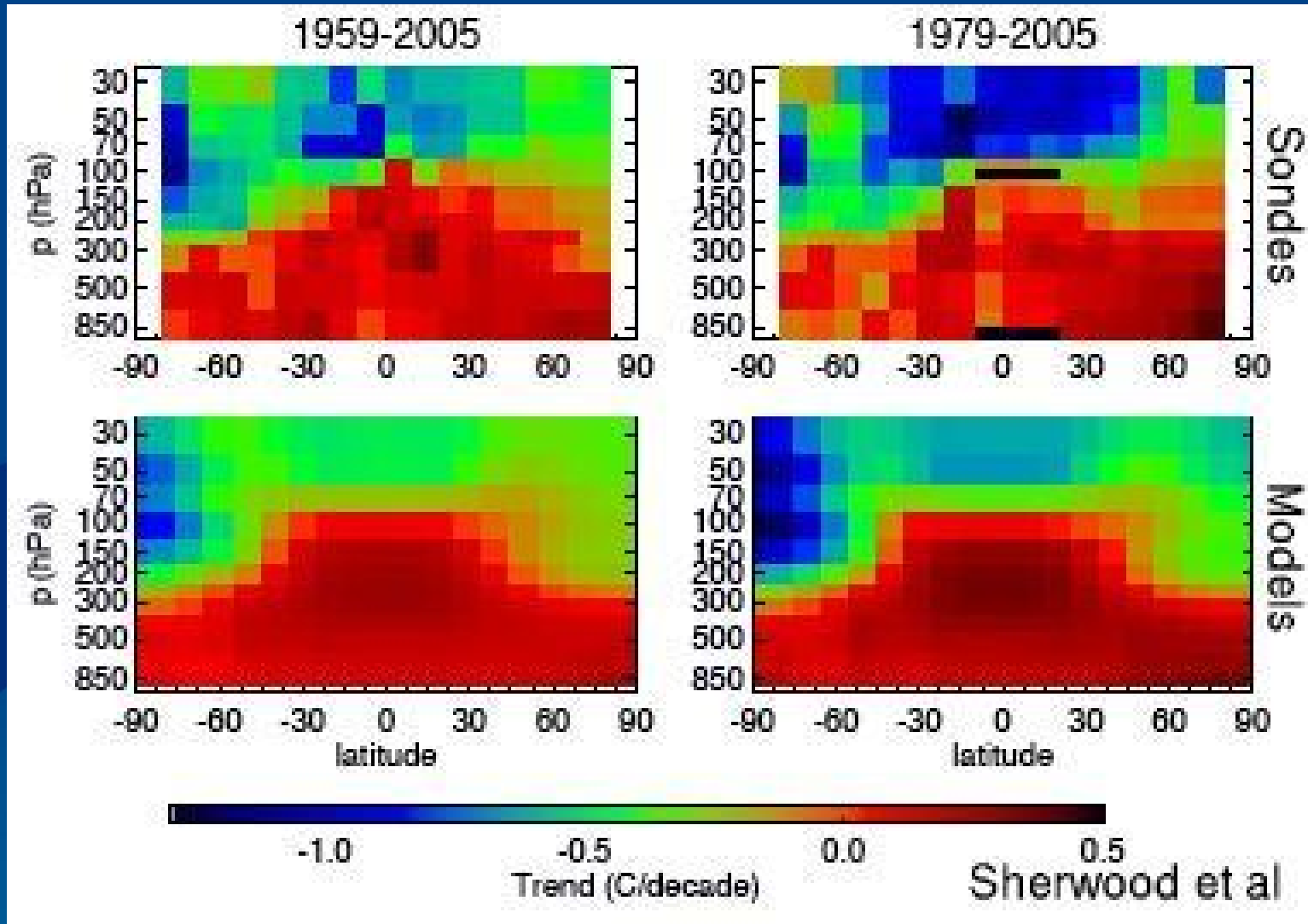
### a) Solar Variability Experiments



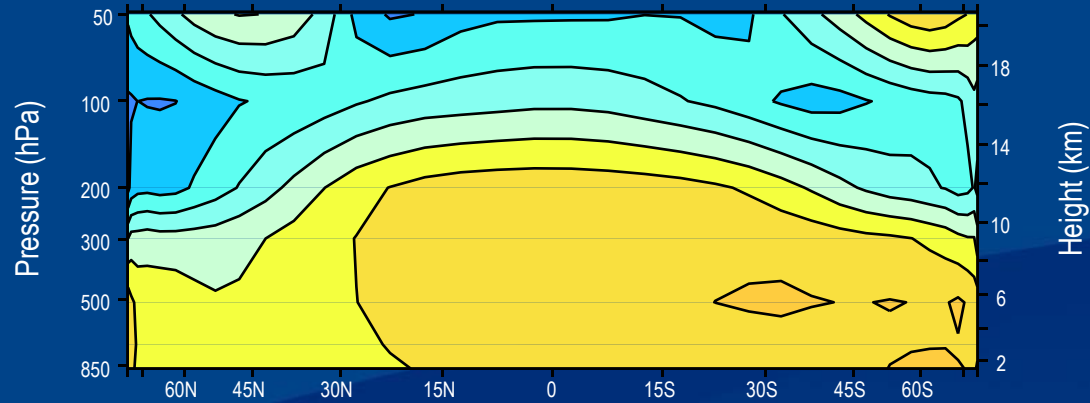
### b) CO2 Experiment



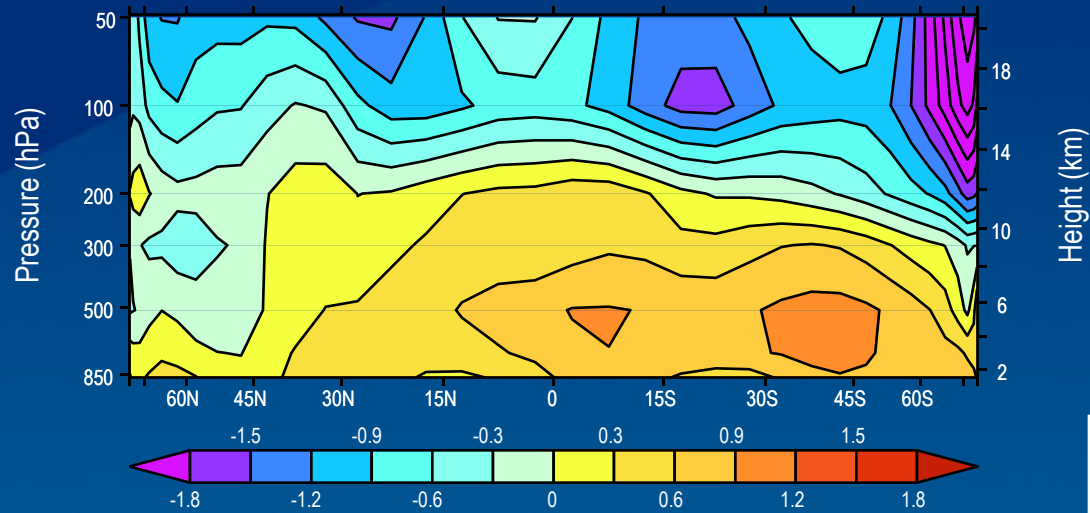




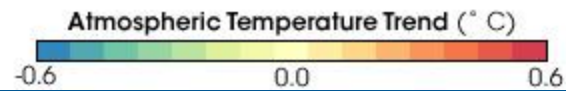
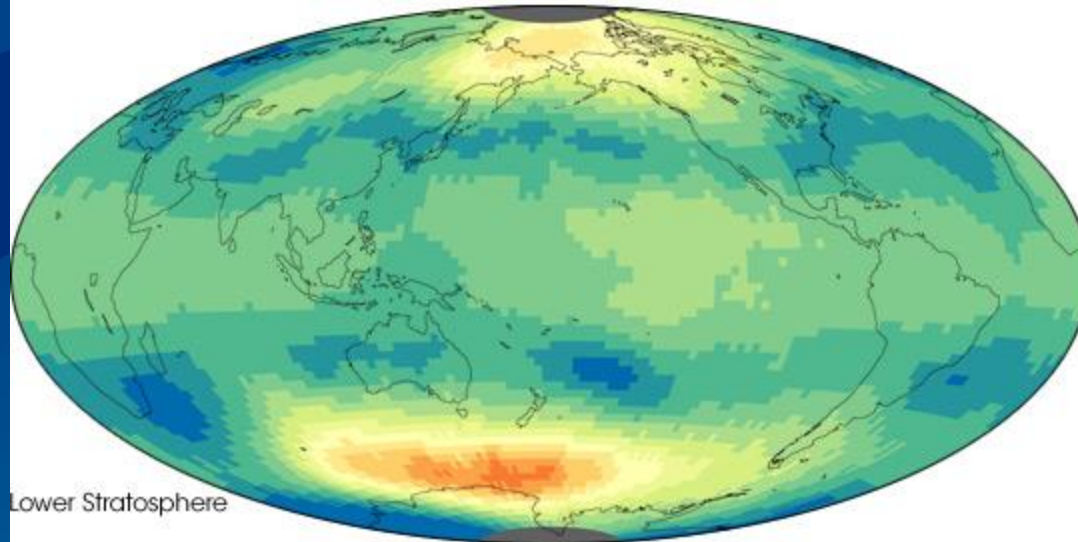
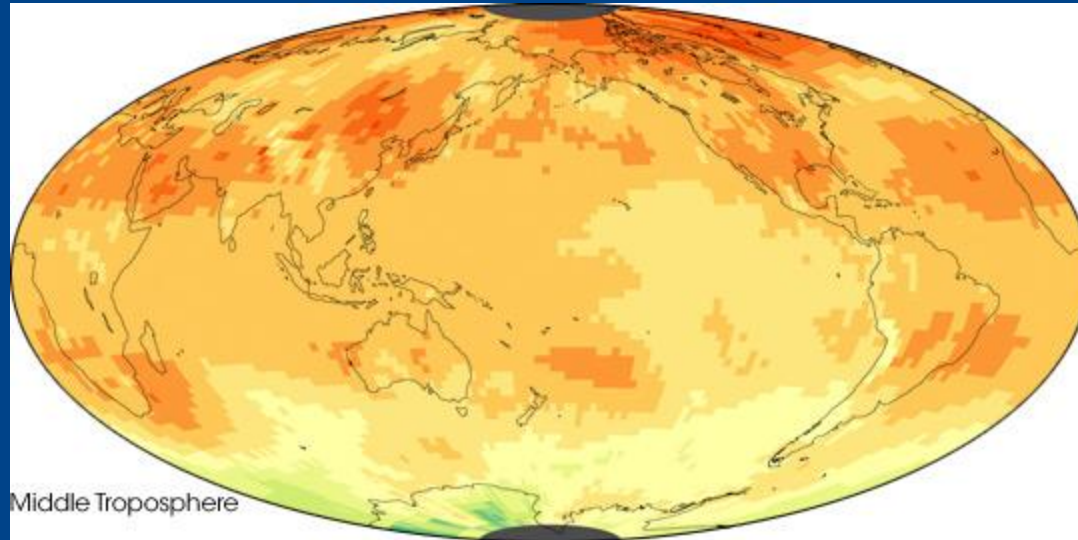
### Model Changes: CO<sub>2</sub> + Sulfate Aerosols + Stratospheric Ozone



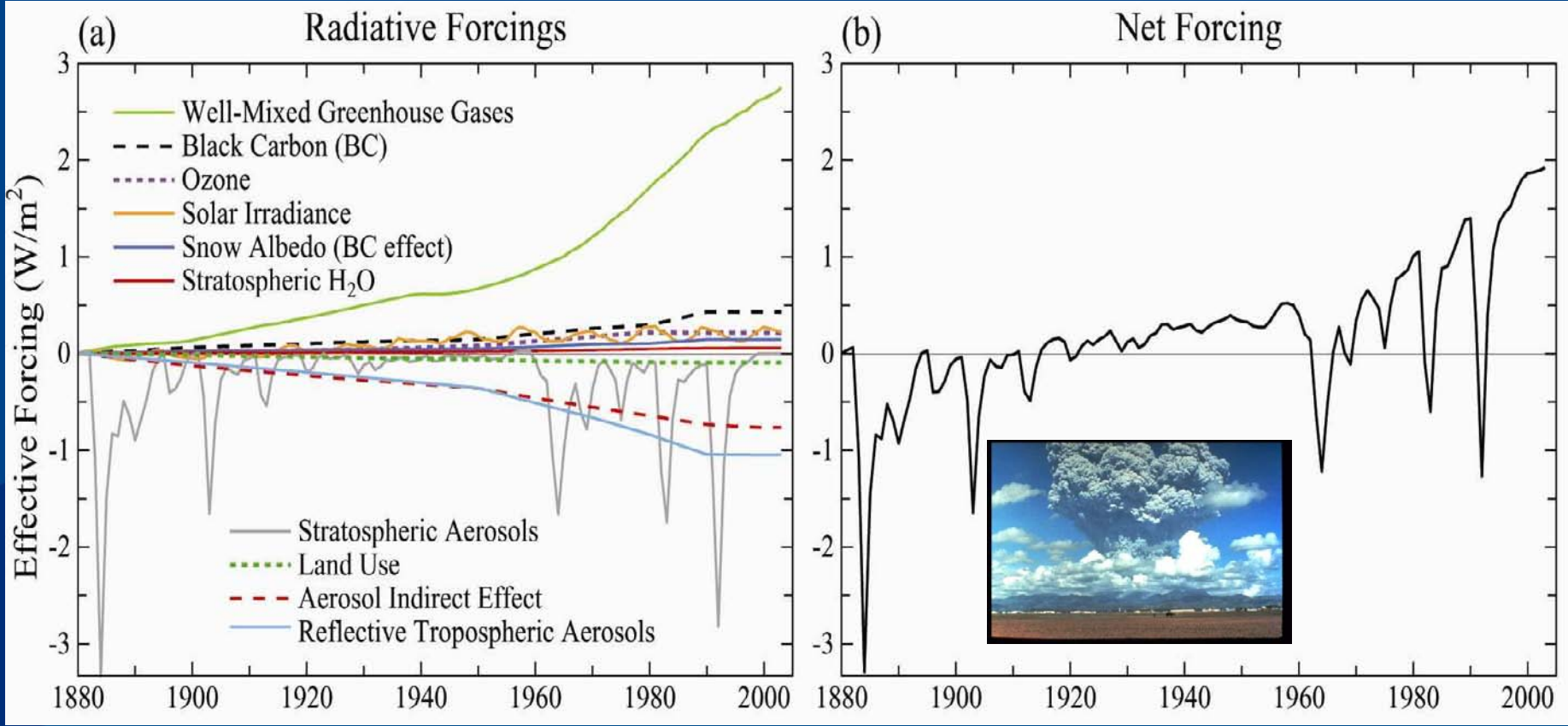
### Observed Changes

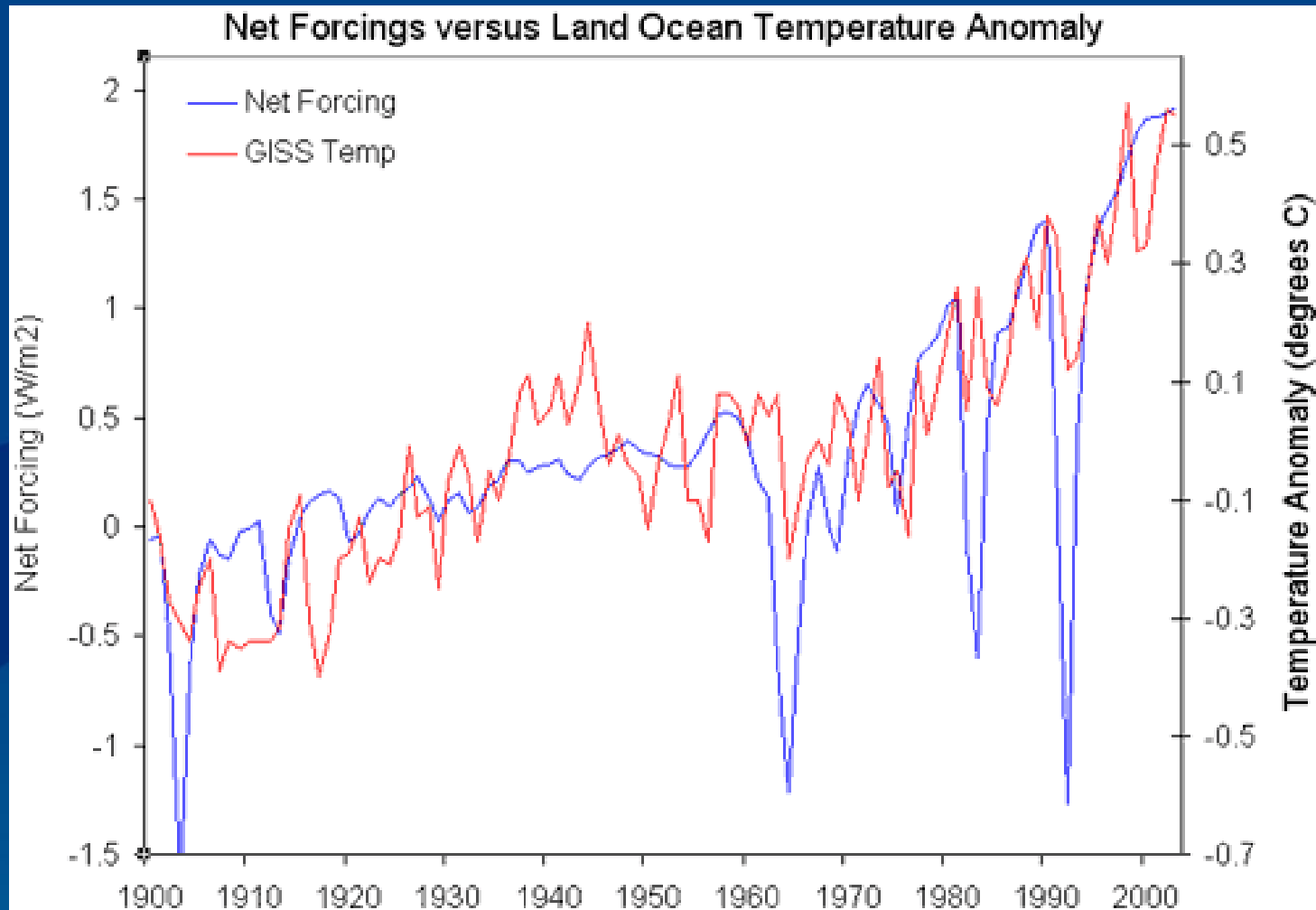


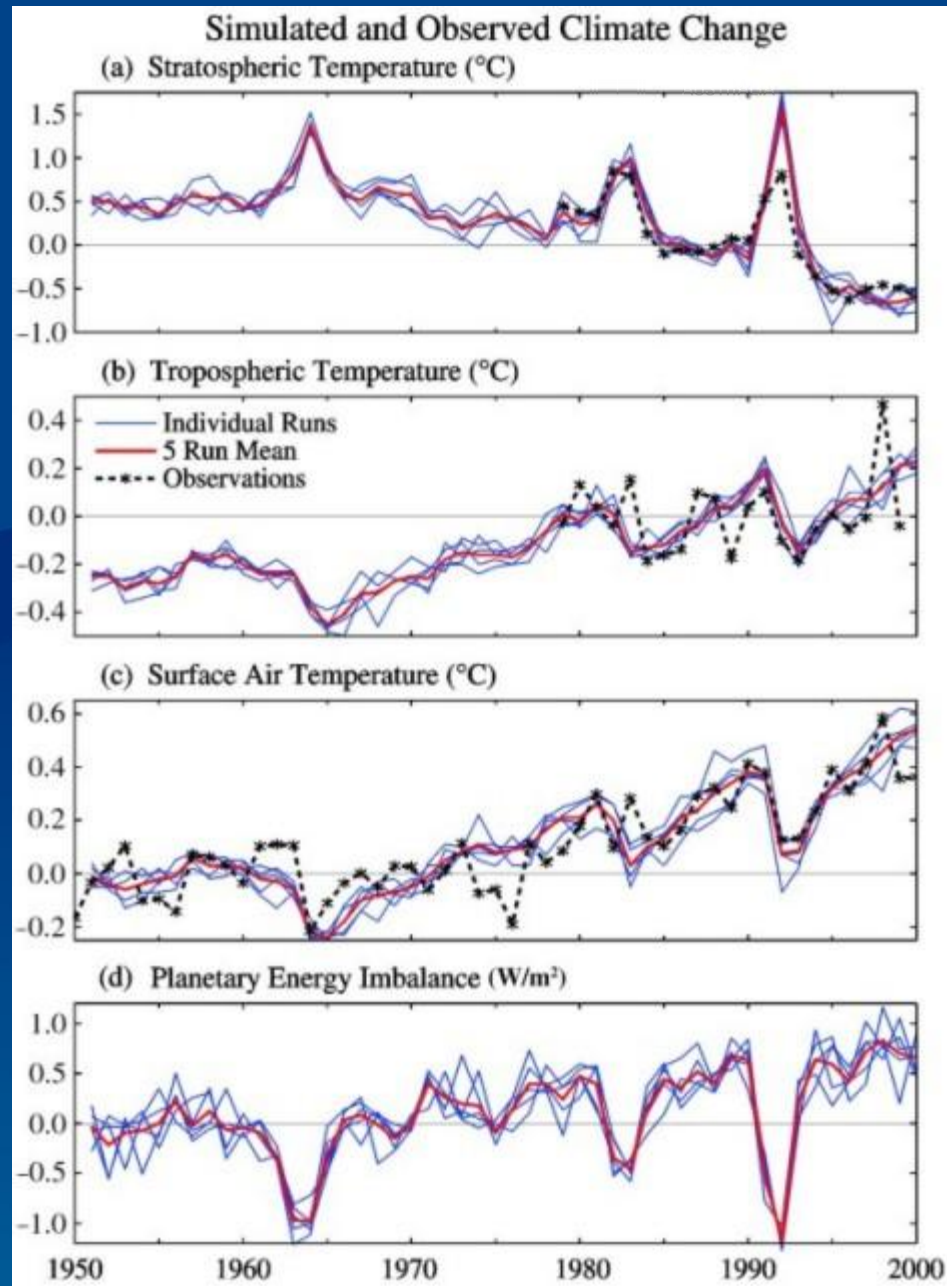
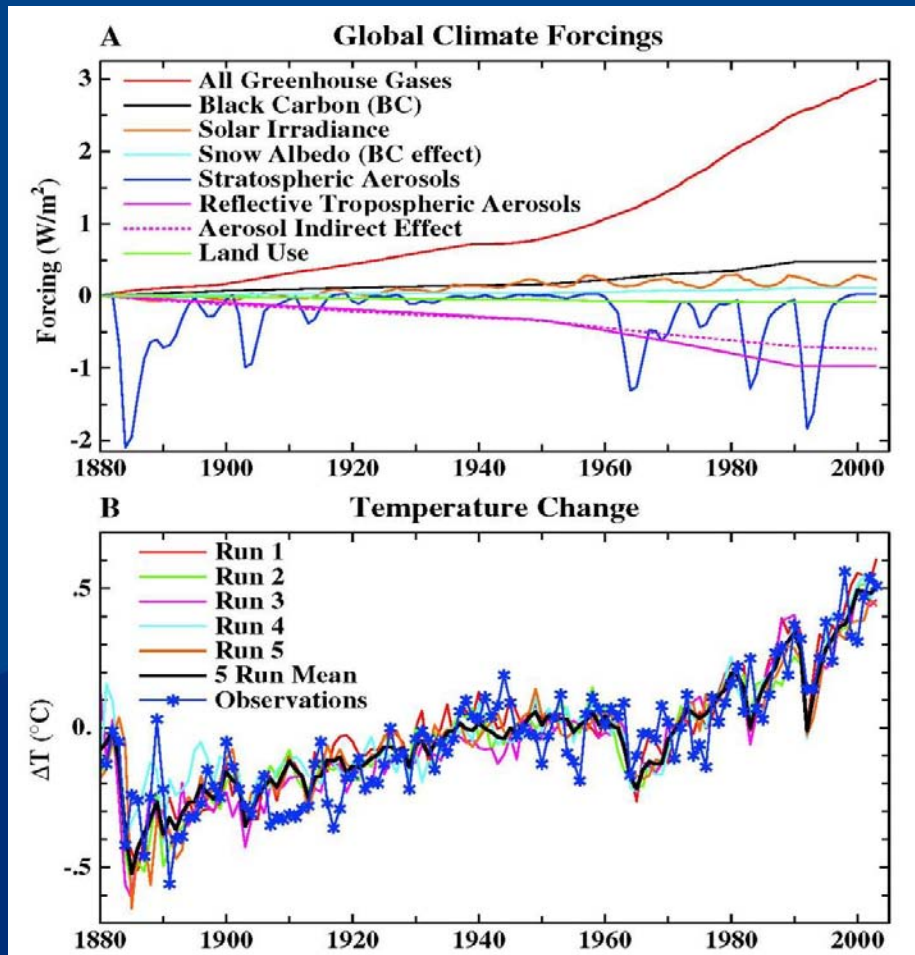
Temperature  
changes in °C









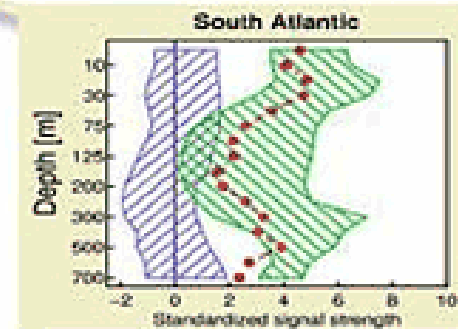
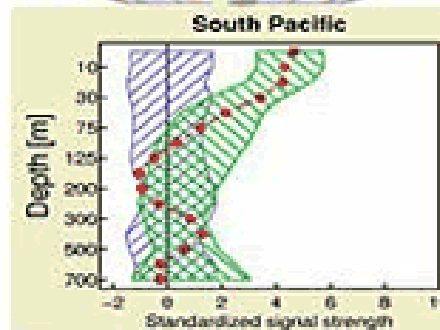
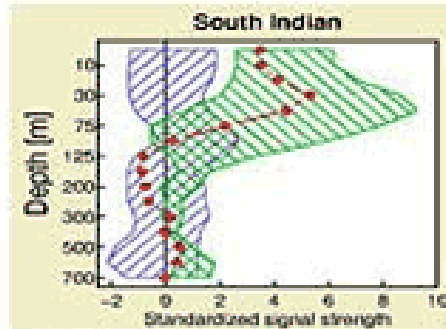
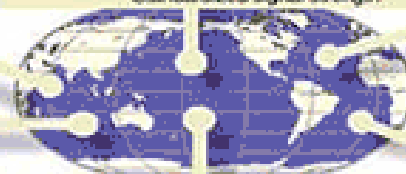
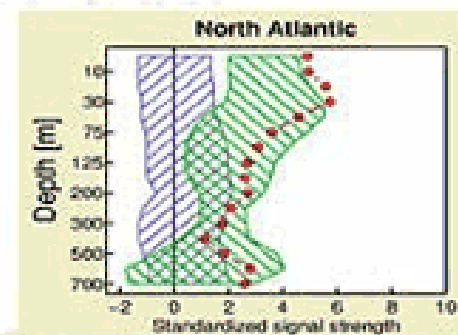
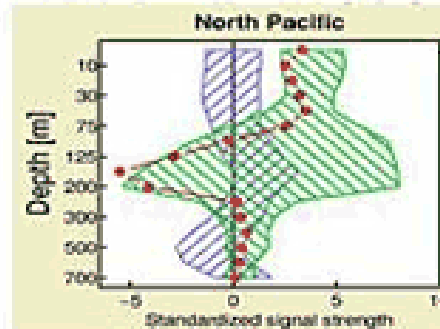
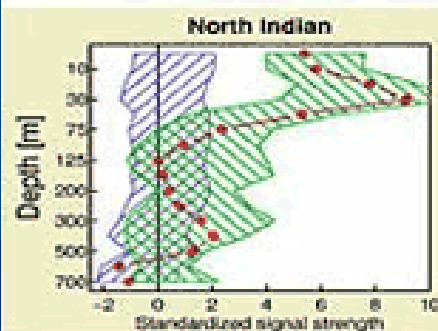


## Penetration of Ocean Warming Signal (1960-1999)

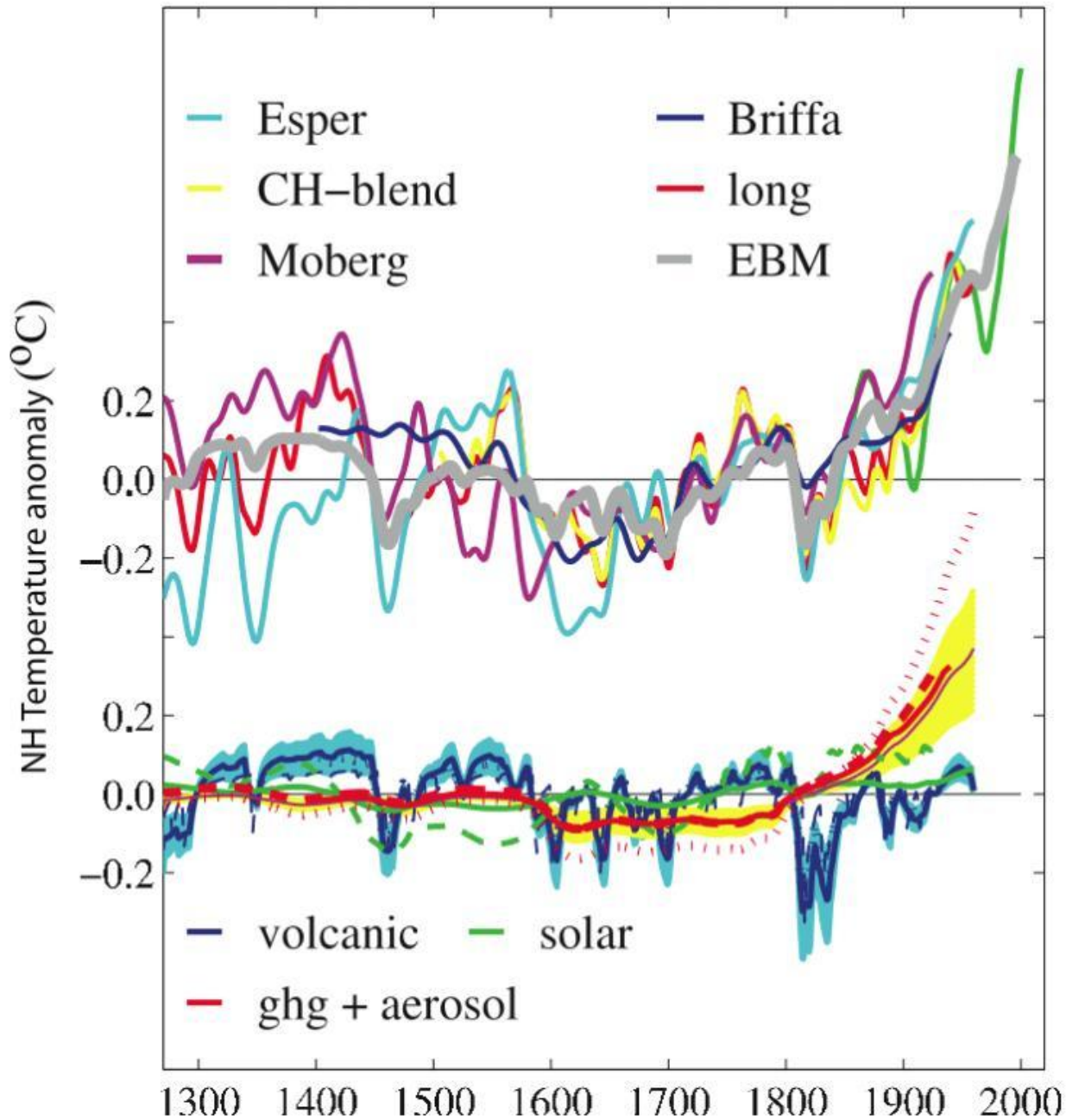
RED: Observed ocean temps

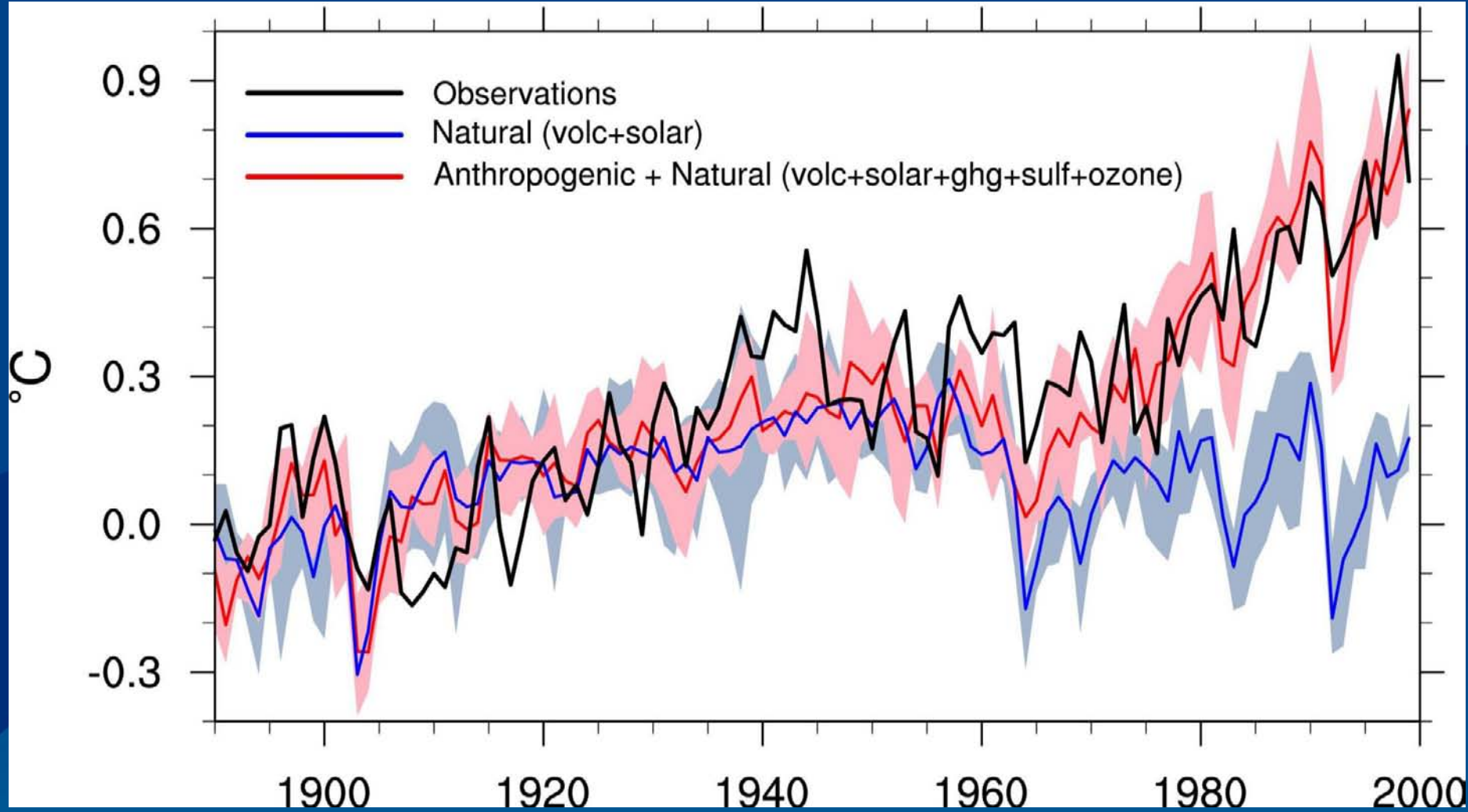
GREEN Climate model with human-made greenhouse gas

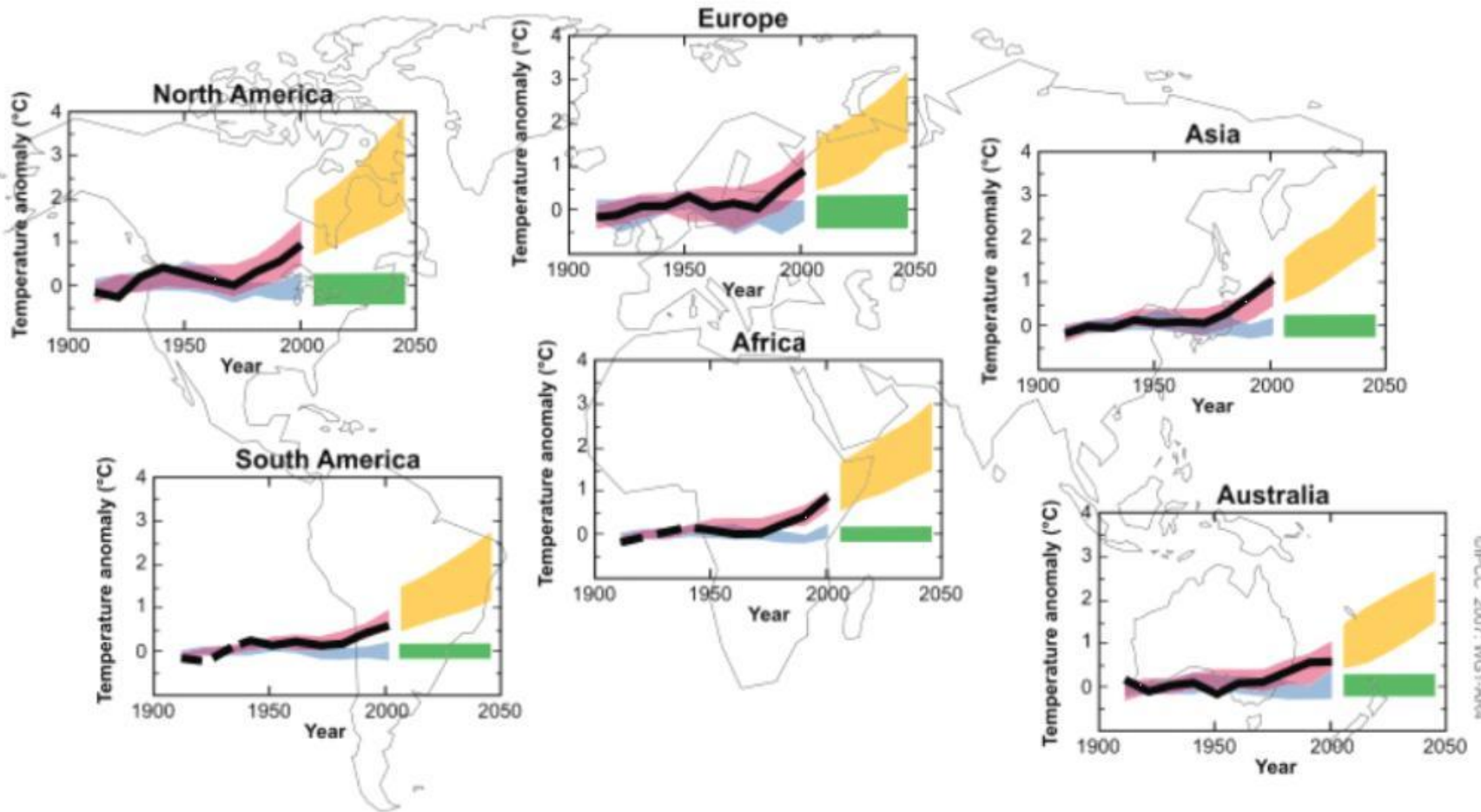
BLUE Climate model without human-made greenhouse gas

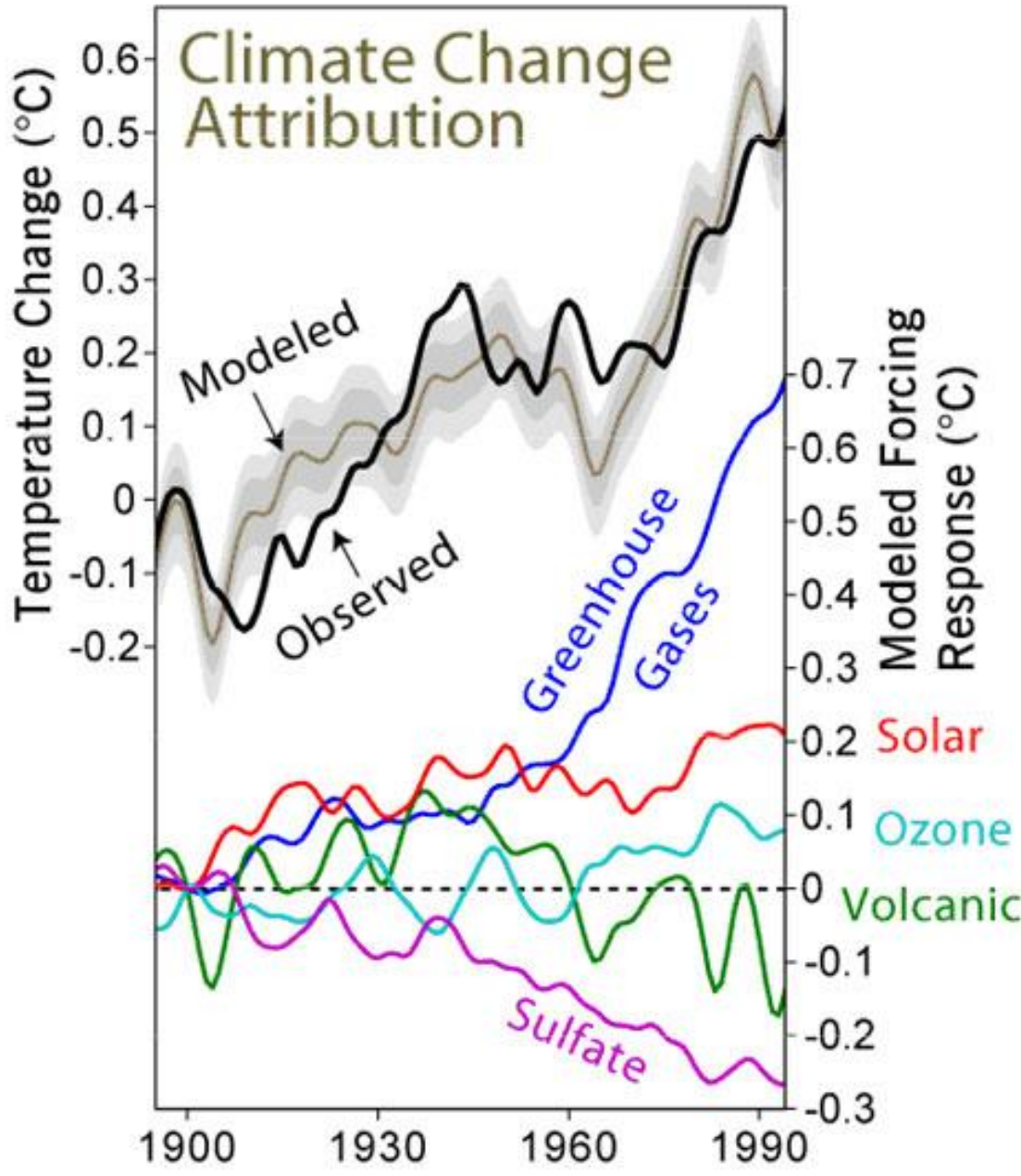












## The climate system is telling us a consistent story

- Human fingerprints have been identified in:
  - Surface temperature (1995)
  - Zonal-mean vertical profiles of atmospheric temperature change (1996)
  - Global ocean heat content (2001)
  - Satellite records of stratospheric and tropospheric temperature change (2003)
  - The height of the tropopause (2003, 2004)
  - Vertical structure of upper-ocean temperature changes (2005)
  - Sea-surface temperature changes in hurricane formation regions (2006)
  - Atmospheric water vapor over oceans (2007)
  - Surface specific humidity
  - Hydrologically-relevant climate variables in the western U.S. (2008)

**More information and discussion:**  
**[www.bravenewclimate.com](http://www.bravenewclimate.com)**

**Climate Q&A slide sources include:**

<http://www.grist.org/news>  
<http://n3xus6.blogspot.com>  
<http://tamino.wordpress.com>  
<http://www.realclimate.org>  
<http://www.skepticalscience.com>  
<http://www.aussmc.org>  
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate>  
<http://arctic.atmos.uiuc.edu/cryosphere>  
<http://sealevel.colorado.edu>  
<http://cce.890m.com>  
<http://www.ipcc.ch>  
<http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gjstemp>  
<http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews>  
<http://environment.newscientist.com/channel/earth/dn11462>  
<http://www.woodfortrees.org>  
<http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt>  
<http://www.globalwarmingart.com>  
<http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov>  
<http://nature.com/nature>  
<http://sciencemag.com>  
<http://pnas.org>  
<http://www.unep.org/Themes/climatechange>  
<http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1>  
<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>  
<http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/temperature>  
<http://www.woodfortrees.org>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org>  
<http://www.yaleclimatemediaforum.org>  
<http://www.global-greenhouse-warming.com>  
<http://www.remss.com/msu>  
<http://climate.uah.edu>  
<http://atmoz.org/blog>  
<http://climateprogress.org>  
<http://forecast.uchicago.edu>  
<http://geosci.uchicago.edu/~rtp1/ClimateBook>  
<http://www.ccpo.odu.edu/SEES>  
<http://www.eoearth.org>  
<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov>  
<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>  
<http://www.climateprediction.net>  
<http://scitizen.com>  
<http://www.desmogblog.com>  
<http://www.climatedenial.org>  
<http://www.psie.psu.edu>  
<http://www.agu.org/journals>  
<http://www.esa.org>  
<http://www.aps.org>  
<http://publishing.royalsociety.org>  
<http://flood.firetree.net>  
<http://www.climateaudit.org>  
<http://julesandjames.blogspot.com/>  
<http://icecap.us>  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/tag/climate-change>  
<http://www.aip.org/history/climate/>  
<http://ams.allenpress.com>  
<http://climatespin.blogspot.com>  
<http://wattsupwiththat.wordpress.com>  
<http://hot-topic.co.nz>  
<http://www.ukcip.org.uk>  
<http://climatesci.org>  
<http://blogs.nature.com/climatefeedback>  
<http://stephenschneider.stanford.edu>  
<http://scienceblogs.com>  
<http://www.wmo.int>  
<http://chriscolose.wordpress.com>  
<http://aerosols.blogspot.com>  
<http://moregrumbinescience.blogspot.com>  
<http://www.ametsoc.org>  
<http://www.theoil drum.com>  
<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com>  
<http://frankbi.wordpress.com>  
<http://www.layscience.net>  
<http://www.energybulletin.net>  
<http://www.daf.gov.au>  
<http://www.climatechange.gov.au>  
<http://csiro.au>  
<http://www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org>  
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate>