



**Laurea / B.A.  
in Global Governance**

Università di Roma  
Tor Vergata

dicartimento studi  
■ impresa  
■ governo  
■ filosofia  
**igf**

# **Plants and environments**

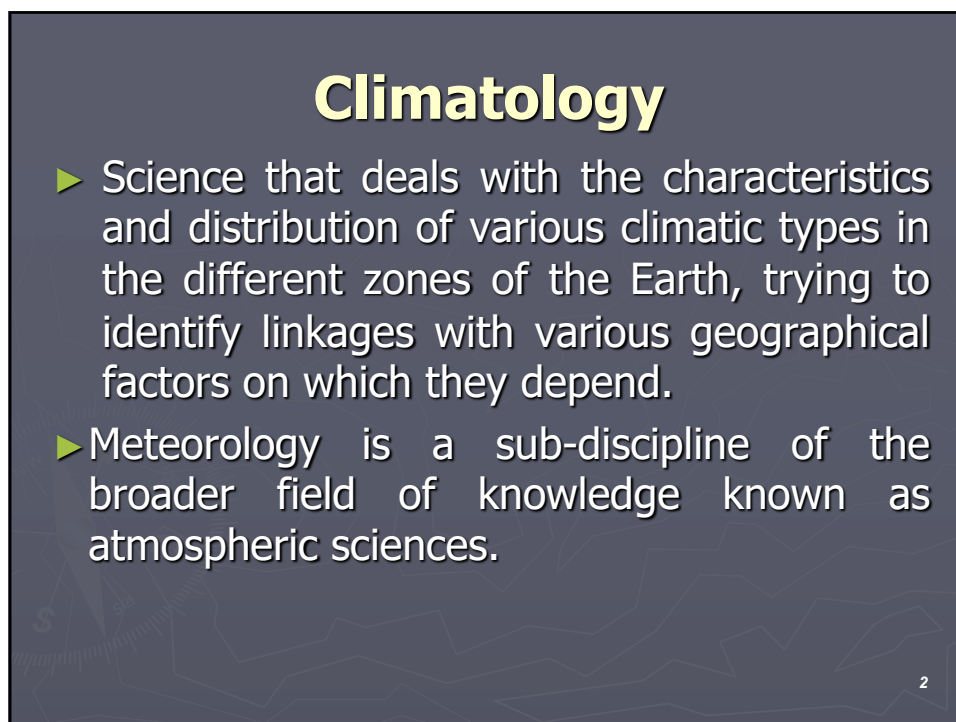
*2023/2024*

**Alessandro Travaglini**

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## **Climatology**

- ▶ Science that deals with the characteristics and distribution of various climatic types in the different zones of the Earth, trying to identify linkages with various geographical factors on which they depend.
- ▶ Meteorology is a sub-discipline of the broader field of knowledge known as atmospheric sciences.

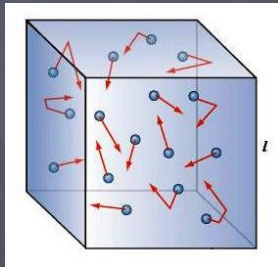


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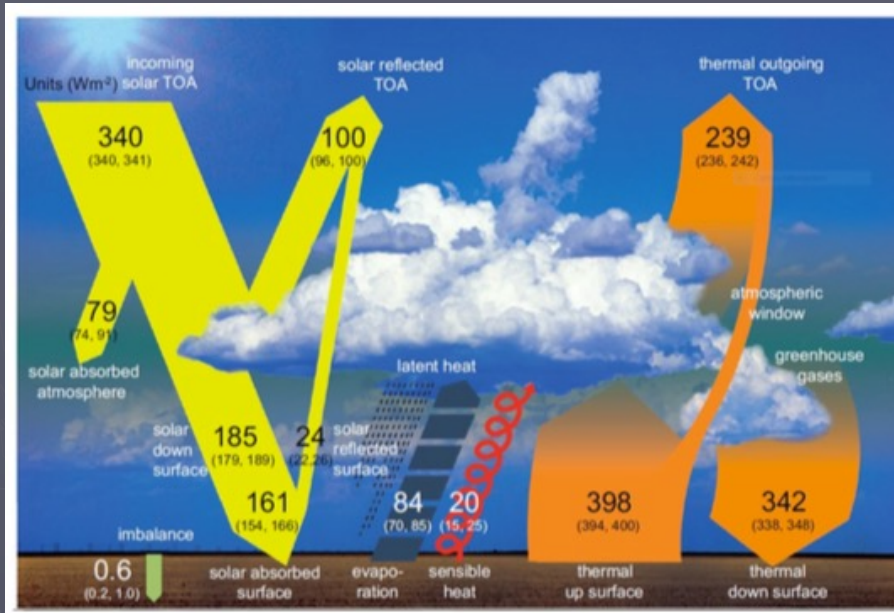
# temperature

- **Temperature** is a measure of the intensity or degree of hotness in a body.



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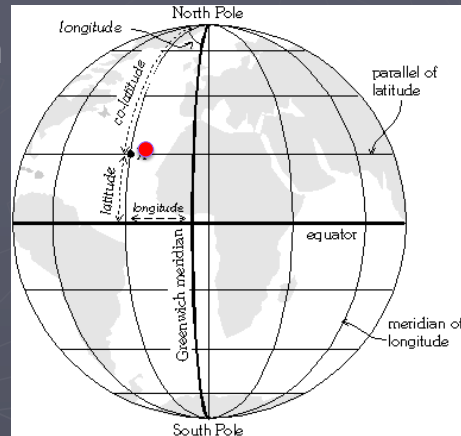
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## Variations of temperatures

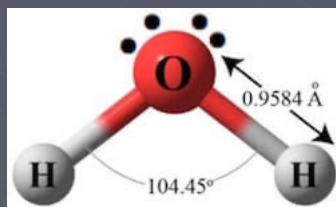
- Air temperature variations in **space** depend on:
- **Latitude**: distance of a point from Equator expressed in degrees

**Latitude** is an angle which ranges from  $0^\circ$  at the Equator to  $90^\circ$  (North or South) at the poles. Lines of constant **latitude**, or parallels, run east-west as circles parallel to the equator.



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- Distribution of continental and oceanic masses
- Water has high heat capacity:
- For increasing the temperature of one gram of water of 1 degree Celsius ( $^\circ\text{C}$ ) it has to absorb 4.184 Joules of heat

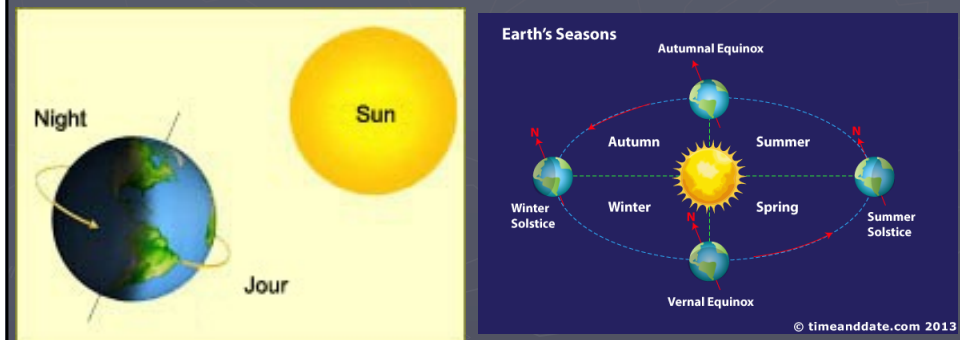


- Altitude above sea level

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- ▶ **Air temperature variations, over time, depend on:**
- ▶ Alternations of Seasons
- ▶ Alternations of night and day



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## Planetary Energy Balance

### The Sun Controls the Temperature



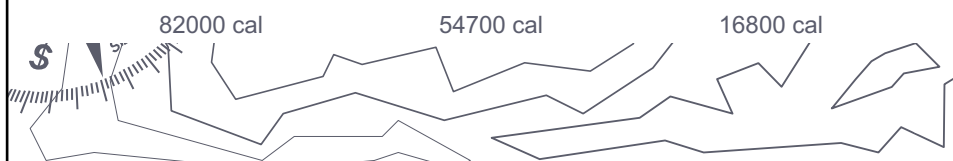
Solar energy is energy from the sun. The sun's energy reaches Earth in the form of sunlight. The temperatures we experience on Earth are directly related to how much sunlight is received.



Some areas on Earth receive more solar energy which results in higher temperatures. Areas near the equator, sometimes known as the Tropics, are examples of places where the temperatures are warmer.



Other areas on Earth receive less solar energy which results in lower temperatures. The North Pole and South Pole are good examples of places where the temperatures are colder.



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Heat:  $1200\text{W}\cdot\text{sq.m.}^{-1}\cdot\text{sec}^{-1}$  when sun is at zenith

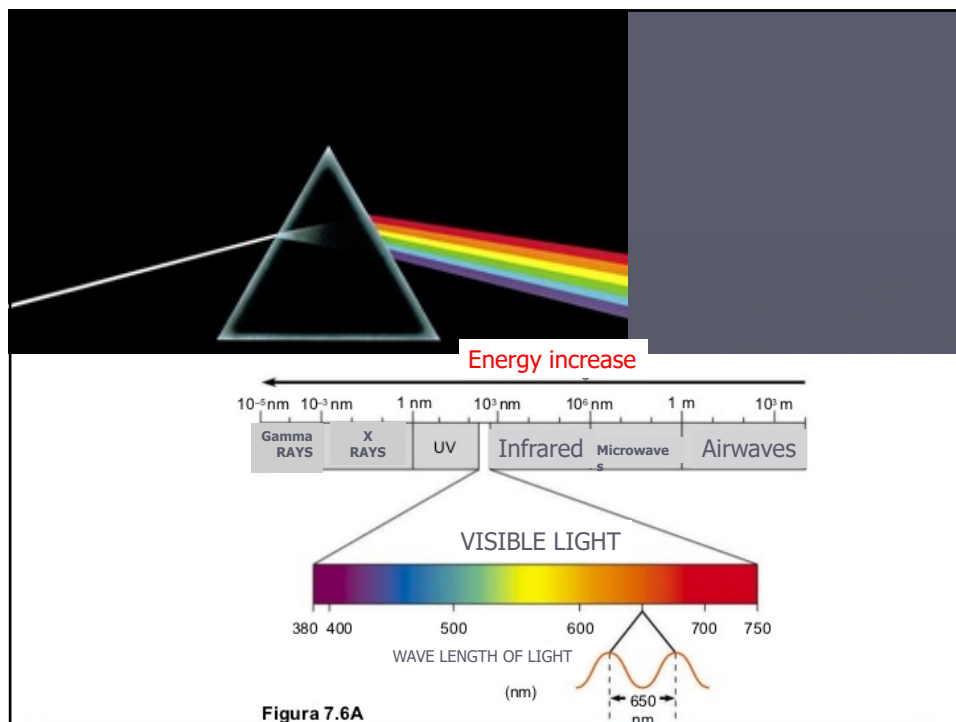
Global radiation on the ground 51%

Effective adsorbed Radiation from Earth 47%

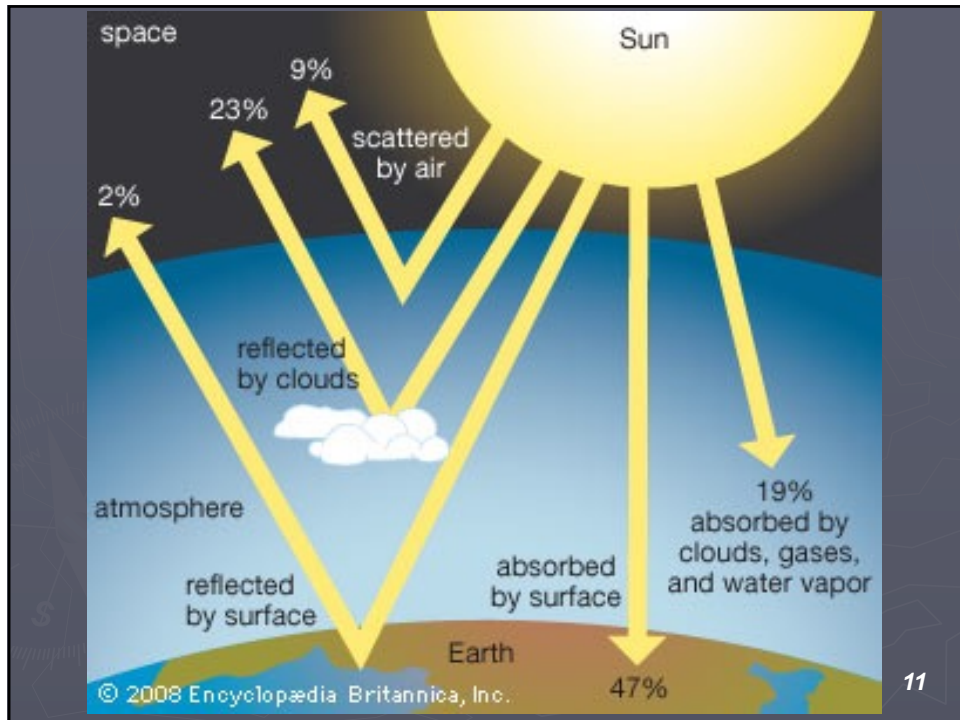
Solar energy is adsorbed from Earth as short wave and released as long wave with heat emission

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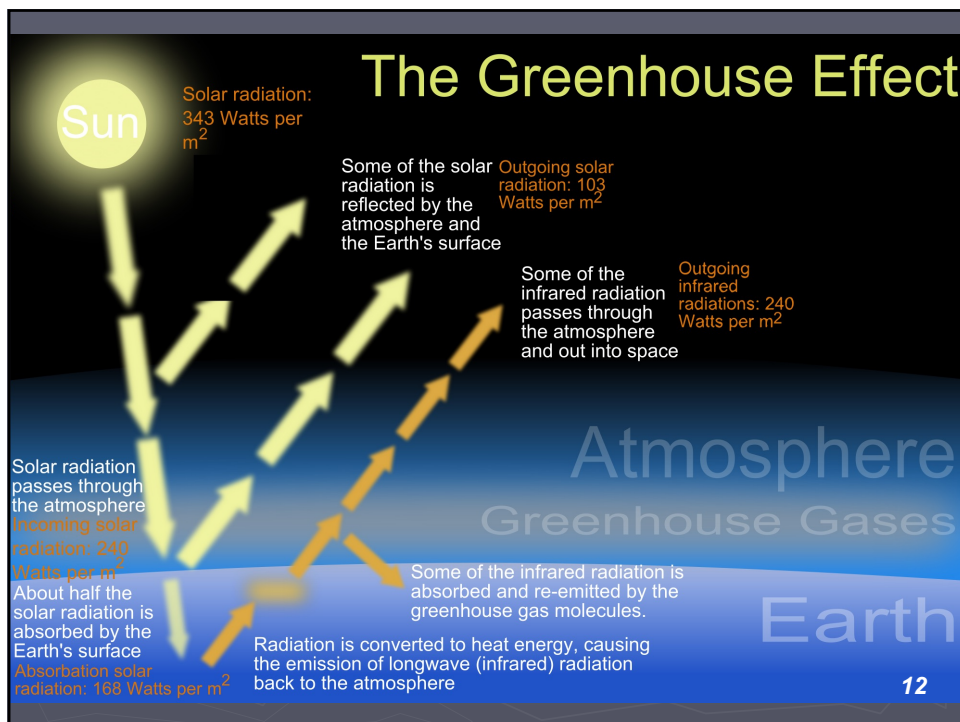
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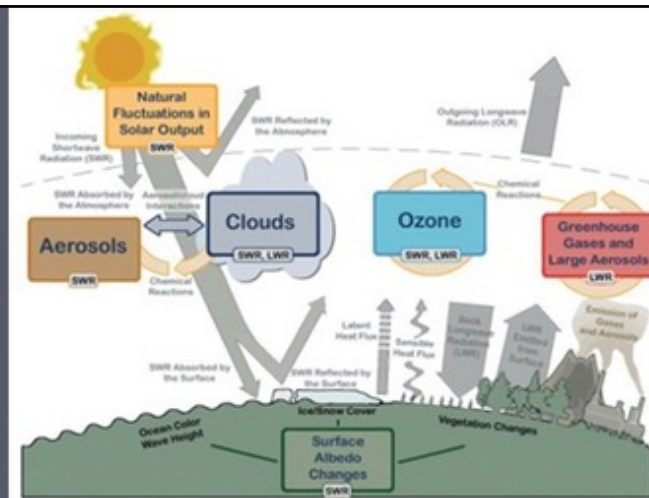
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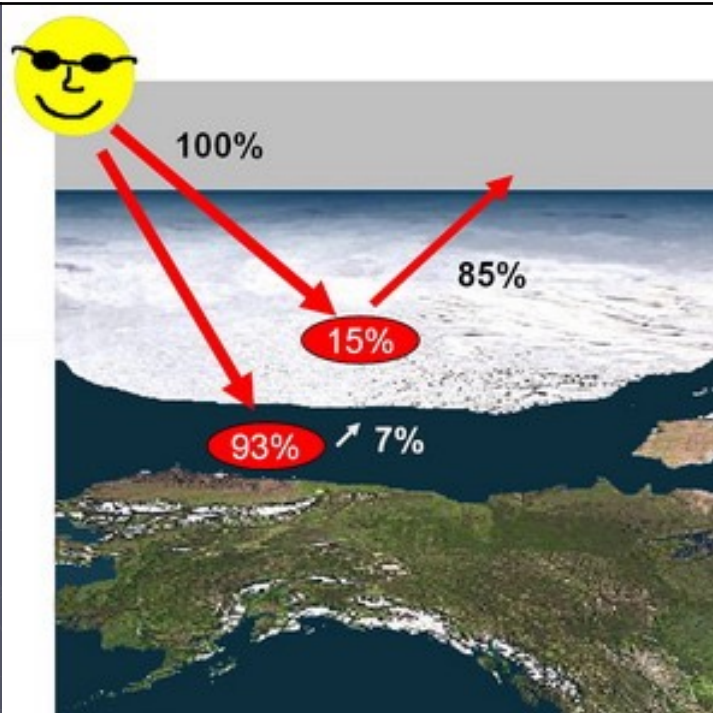


Principal drivers of Climate Change

Source: *Climate Change, 2013: the Physical Science Basis Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change*

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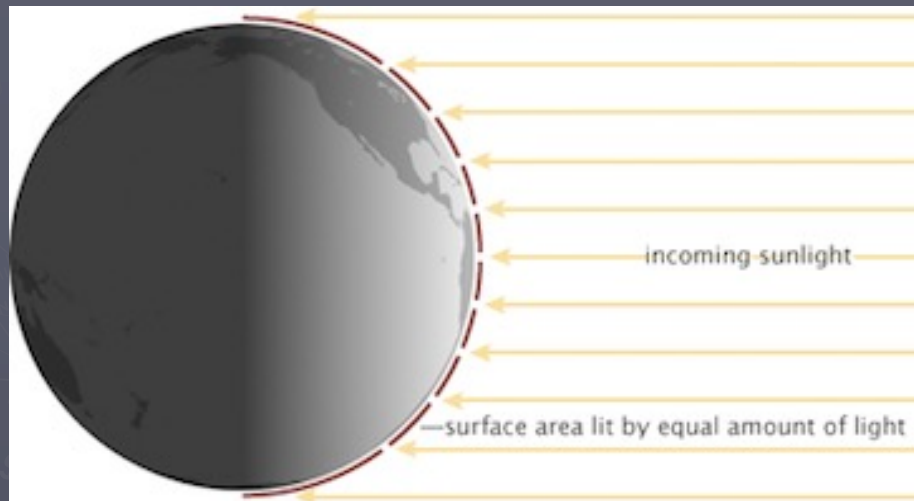


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## Planetary Energy Balance

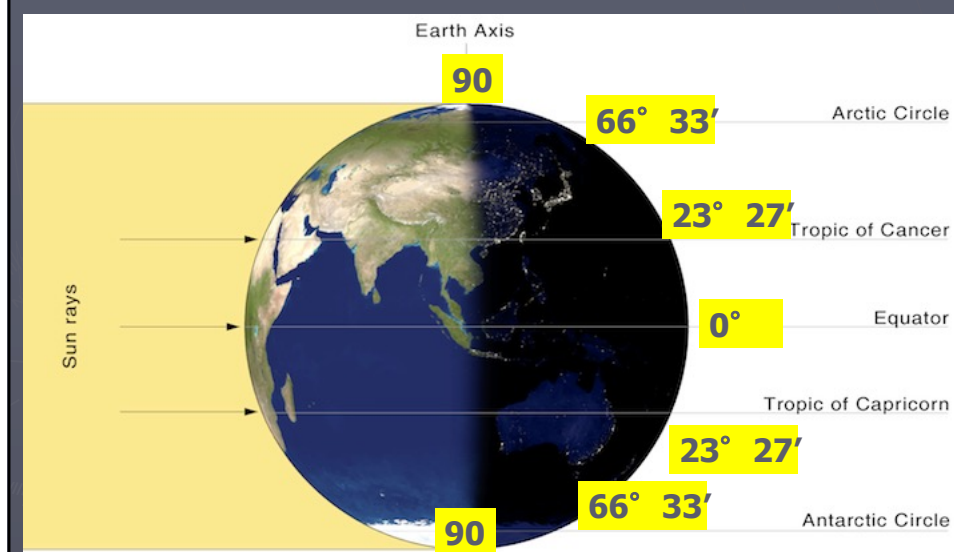
The Poles are cold and the Tropics are warm because of the curvature of the Earth



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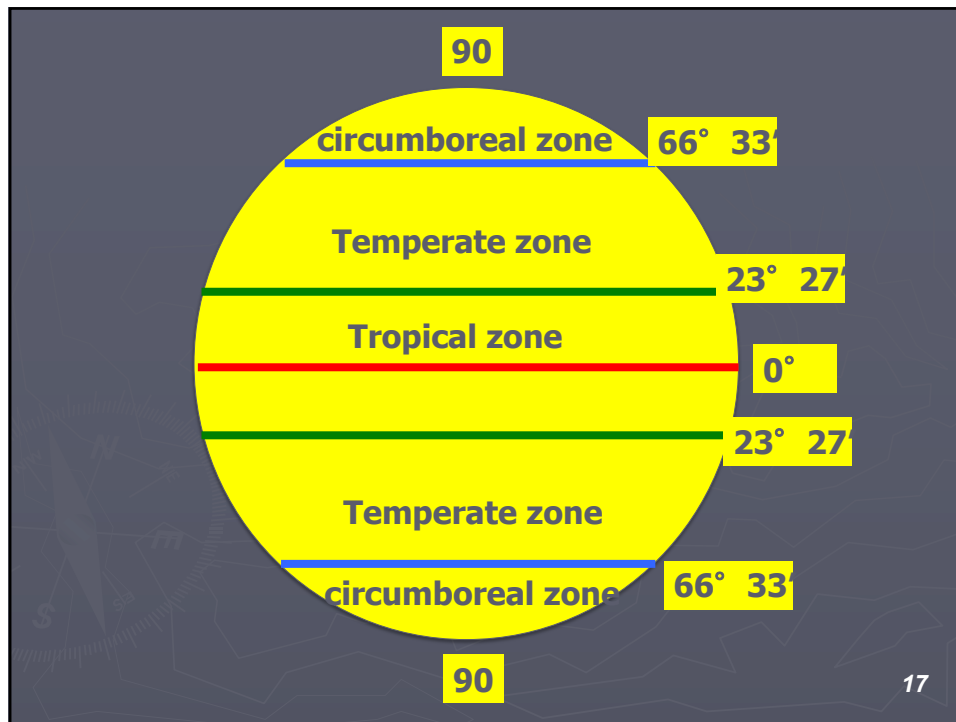
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## Planetary Energy Balance



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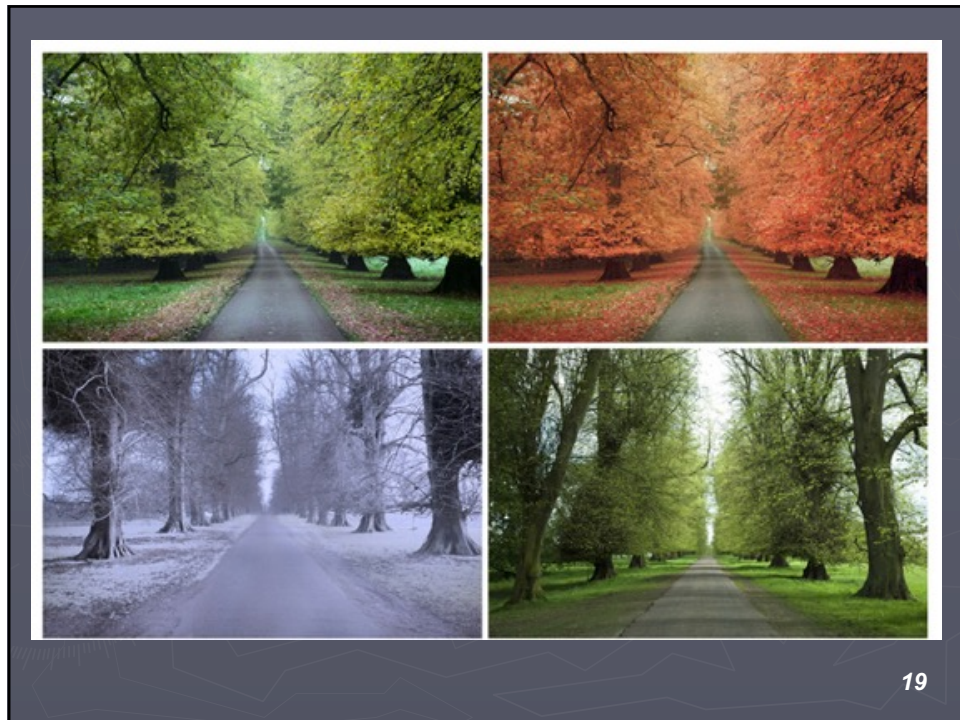
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## COSMIC FACTORS

- ▶ EARTH' S REVOLUTION
- ▶ TILTING EARTH AXIS, OR
- ▶ OBLIQUITY OF AXIS (Changing season)
- ▶ precession of equinox,
- ▶ Variation of eccentricity

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## Tilting Changes the Seasons

due to the Earth's axis tilt, the angle of the sunlight striking Earth changes.  
This causes seasonal changes in temperatures around the globe.

2004 Mar 20 9:00:00 pm UT

2003 Jun 21 9:00:00 pm UT

**As the Earth tilts away from the Sun, the Northern Hemisphere receives more sunlight and higher temperatures. This is the summer season in the Northern Hemisphere and the winter season in the Southern Hemisphere.**

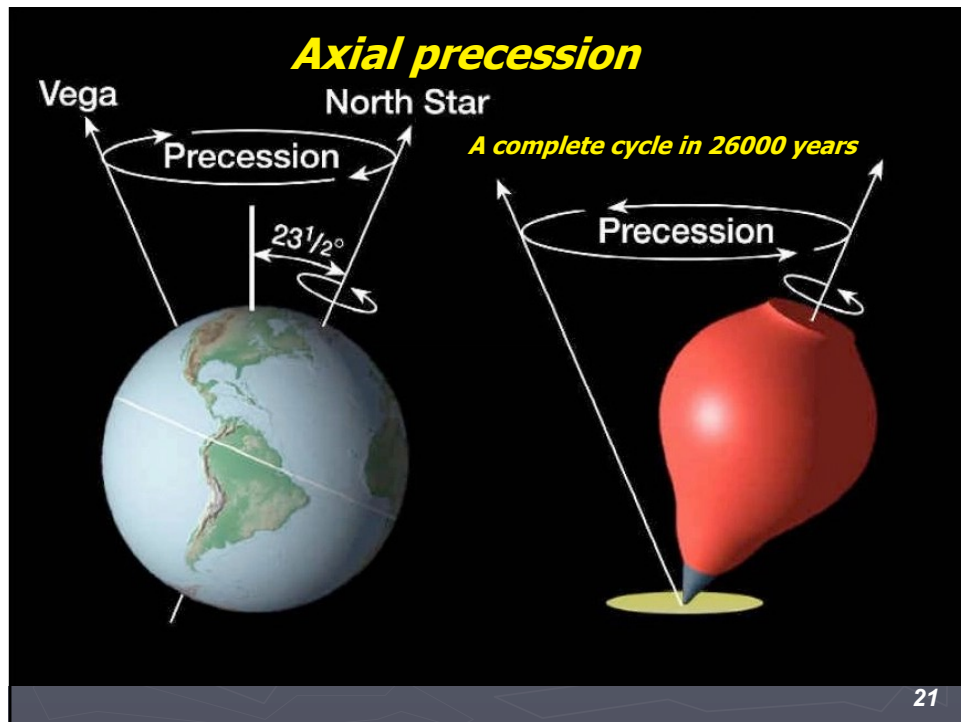
2004 Sep 22 9:00:00 pm UT

2003 Dec 22 9:00:00 pm UT

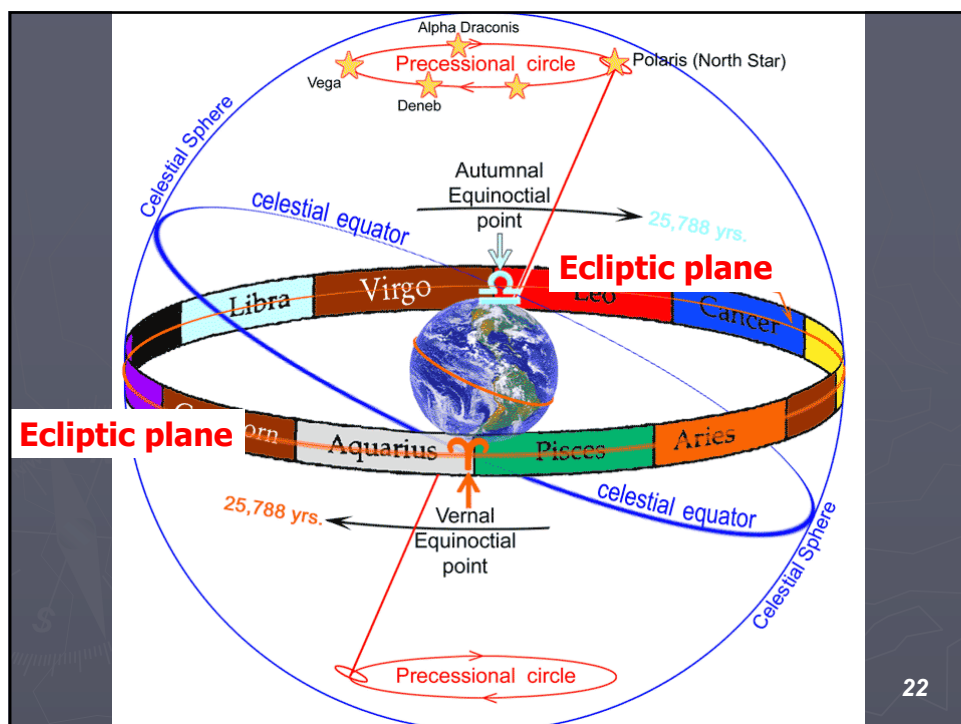
**As the Earth tilts towards the Sun, the Northern Hemisphere receives less sunlight and lower temperatures. This is the winter season in the Northern Hemisphere and the summer season in the Southern Hemisphere.**

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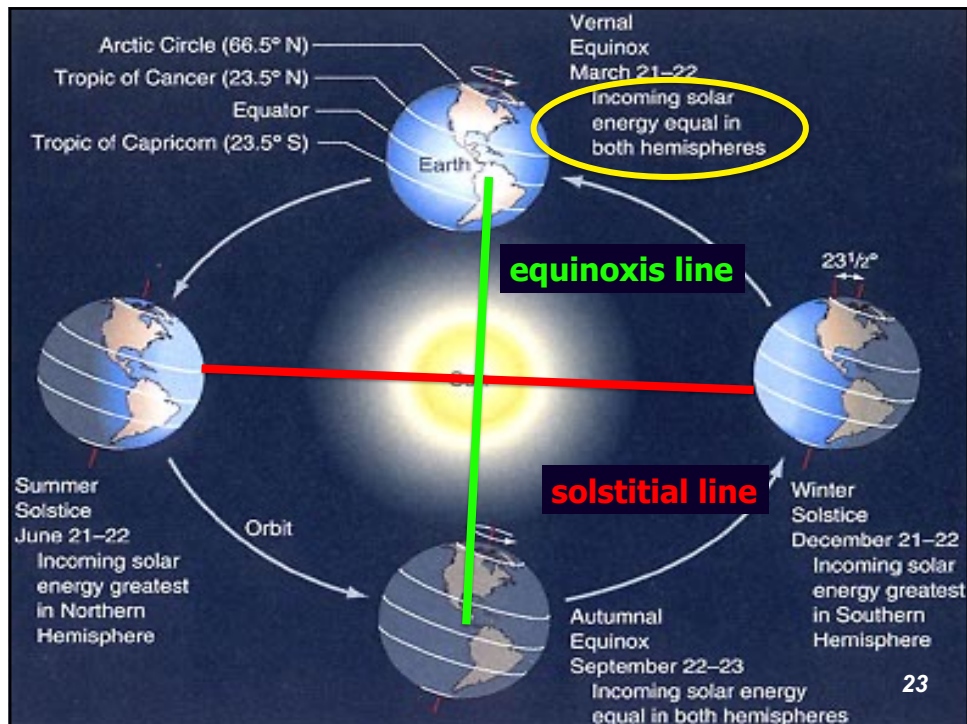
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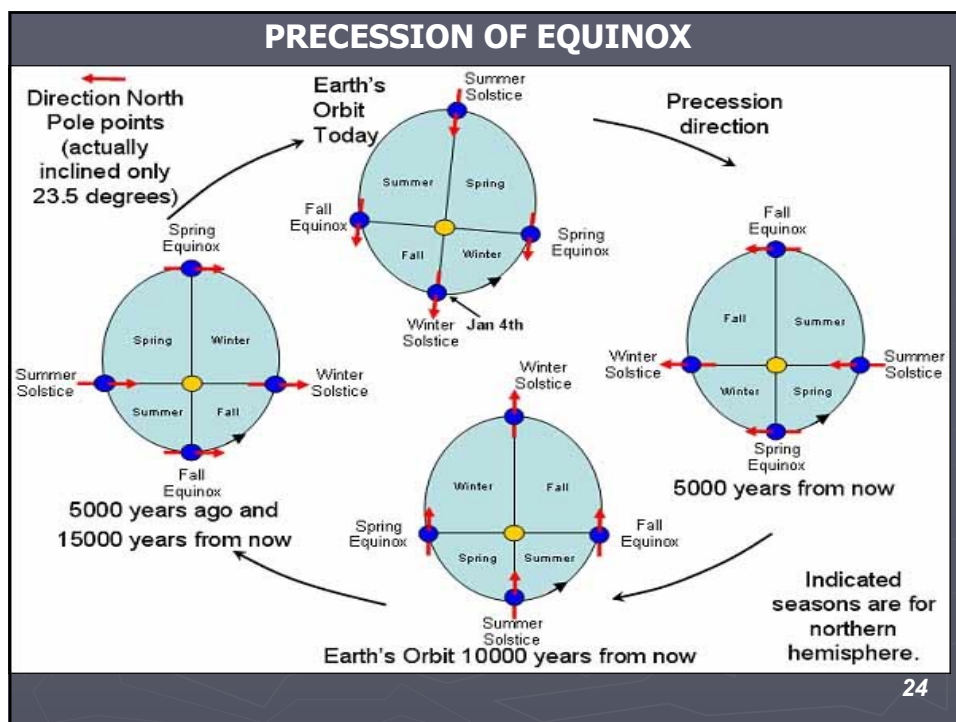
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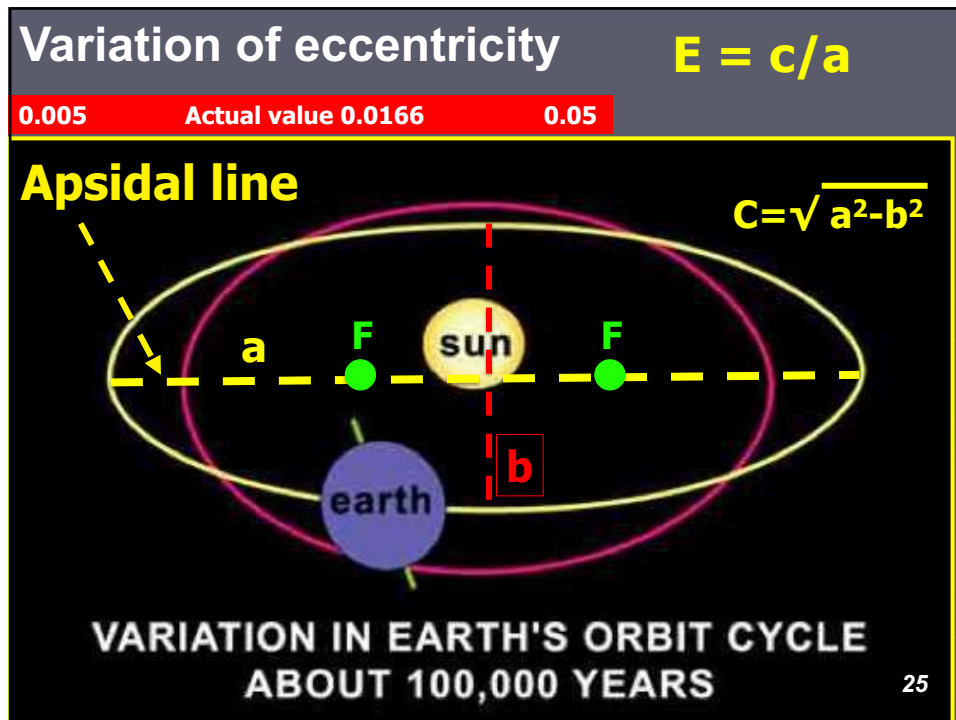


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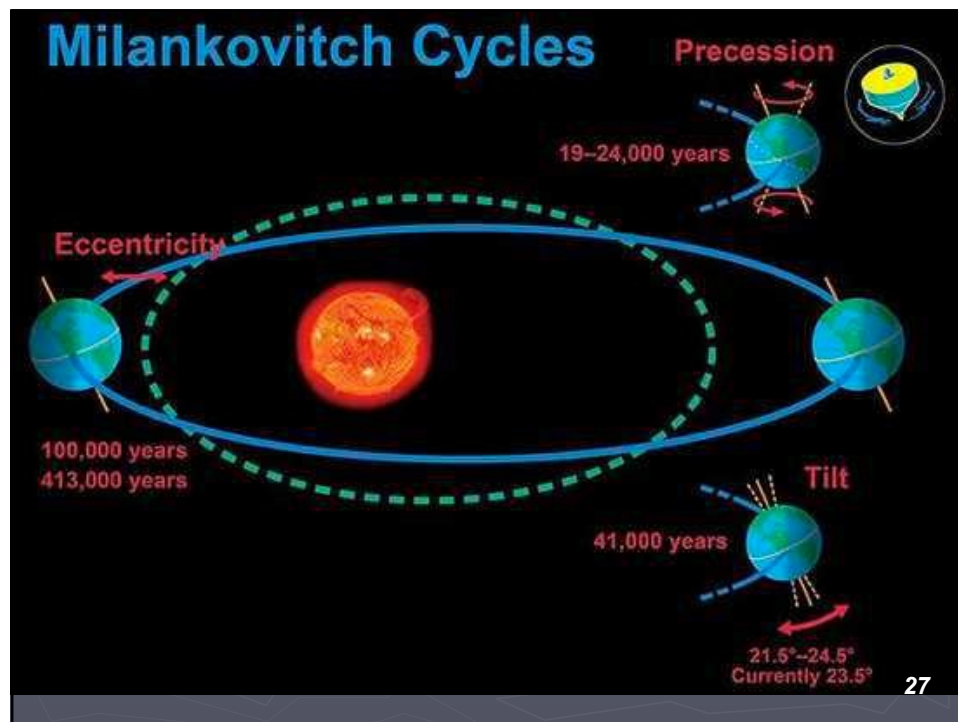
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**Milutin Milanković**

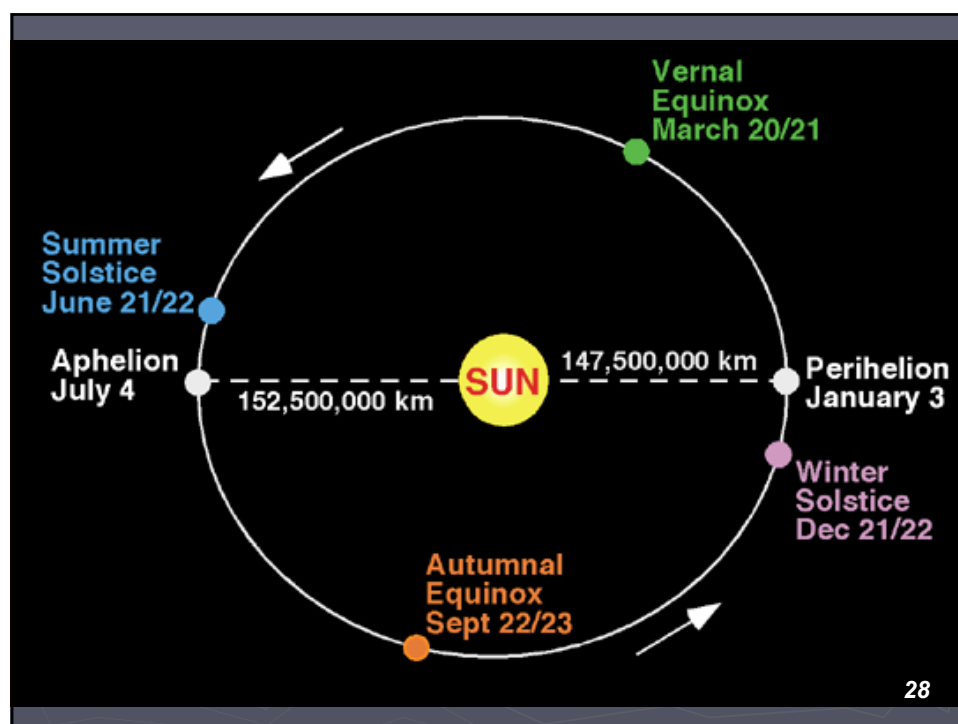
28 May 1879 –  
12 December 1958

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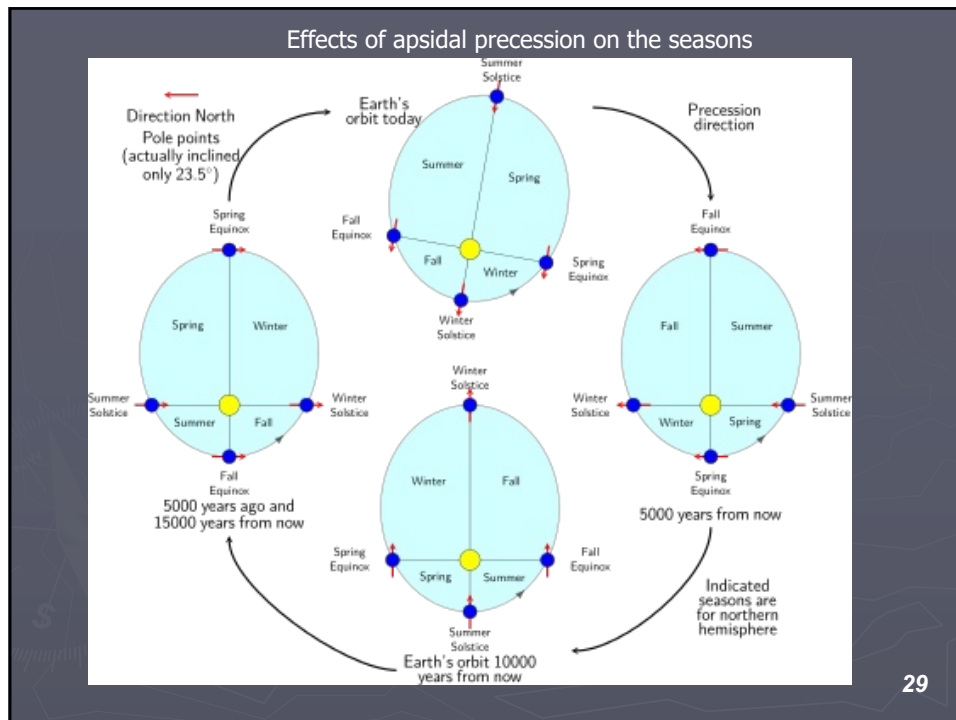
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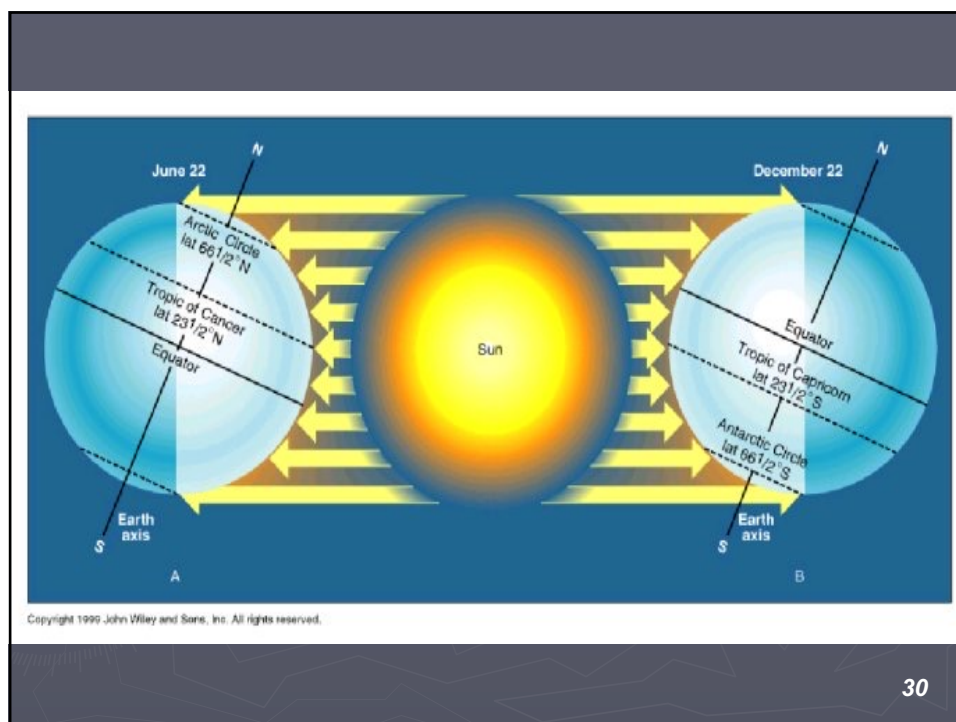
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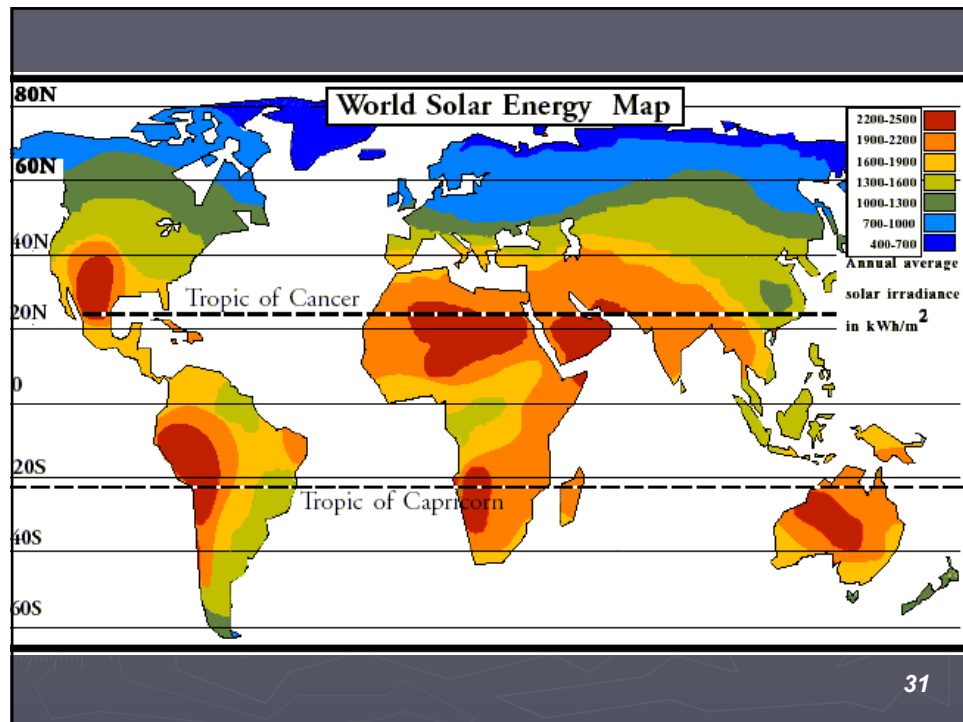
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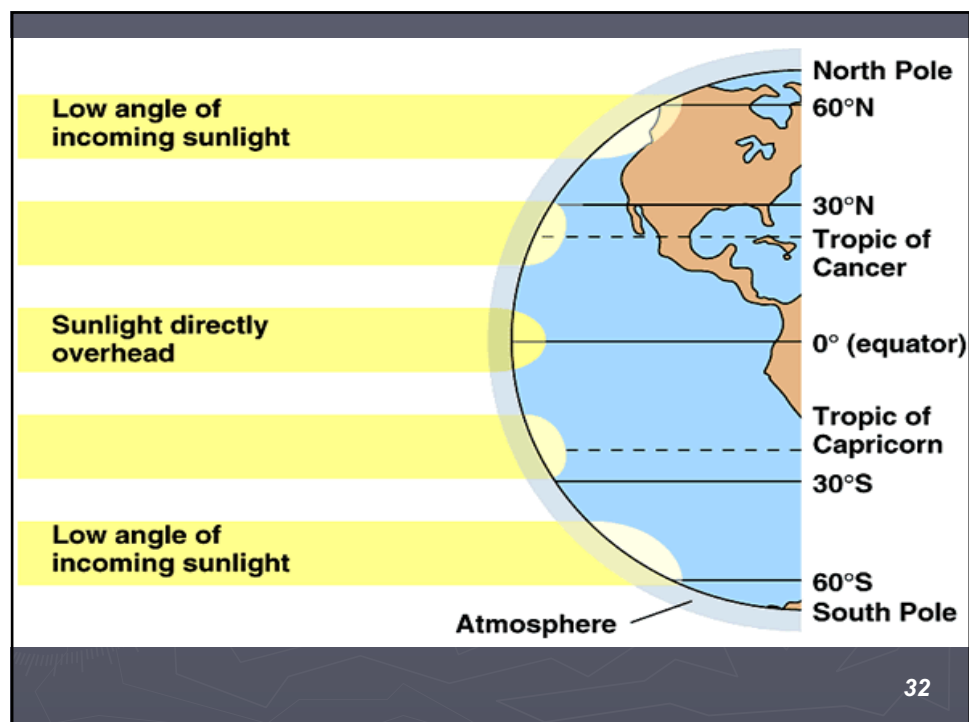
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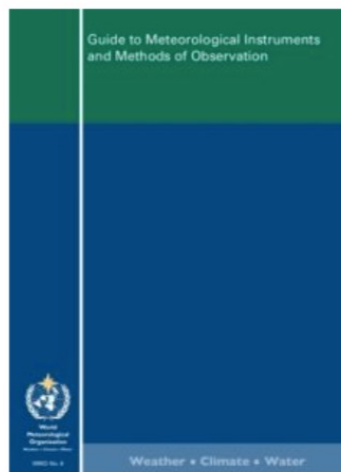
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# Meteorological factors



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WMO, 2007. WMO guide n. 8 – Guide to meteorological instruments and methods of observation  
([https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=10616](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10616))



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## Where and how,

- ▶ The thermometer and hygrometer are placed on a turf, away from obstacles (ideally, consider placing them in the center of a grass circle with a radius of 5 m, away from obstacles at least 4 times the height of the obstacles themselves and at least 30 m away from concrete slabs or asphalted areas).
- ▶ turf is not substitutable with green plastic carpets and this for reasons related to the different surface energy balance
- ▶ (grass transpires, plastic, such as concrete and asphalt, no!)

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- ▶ The radiometers must be perfectly horizontal and should not receive shadows
- ▶ The rain gauges and anemometers must be sufficiently far from obstacles such as buildings and trees (ideal: 8-10 times the height of the obstacle for anemometers, 3-5 times for rain gauges)

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## Height from ground of sensors

- ▶ temperature and humidity: (1.50-1.80 m)
- ▶ Wind Speed and direction: (10 m)
- ▶ global solar radiation: (1.50-1.80 m)
- ▶ rainfall (1.50-1.80 m)
- ▶ Soil temperature: (- 0.10 m).

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### TEMPERATURE and LAPSE RATE:

The **lapse rate** is defined as the rate at which atmospheric temperature decreases with increase in altitude.  $0,6^{\circ} \text{ C}/100 \text{ m}$  0.4 wet 0.65 dry

Factors determining temperature variation:

Incidence angle of sun rays

latitude

Changing season

Time

exposure

Land declivity

Type of surface

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## isotherm

- ▶ a line on a weather map or chart connecting points having equal temperature.
  - ▶ Also called isothermal line
  - ▶ The different extension of continents between North and South hemisphere determines a global temperature difference for which the North is a bit warmer
- ▶ **70% of water**
  - ▶ **30 % of continental surface**
  - ▶ **39% in north emisphere**
  - ▶ **19% in south emisphere**

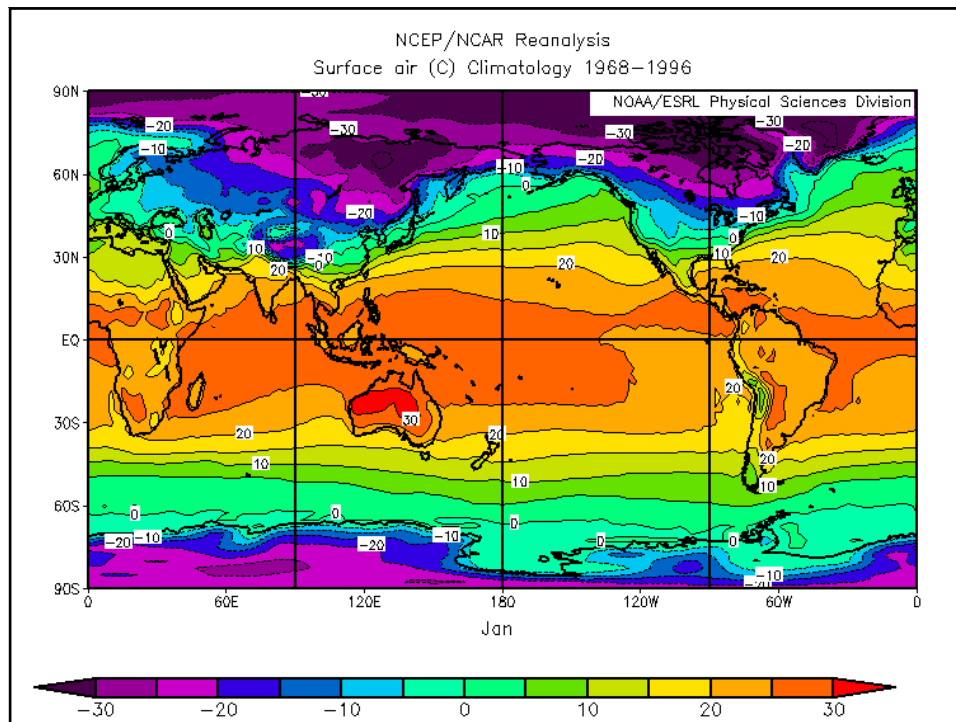
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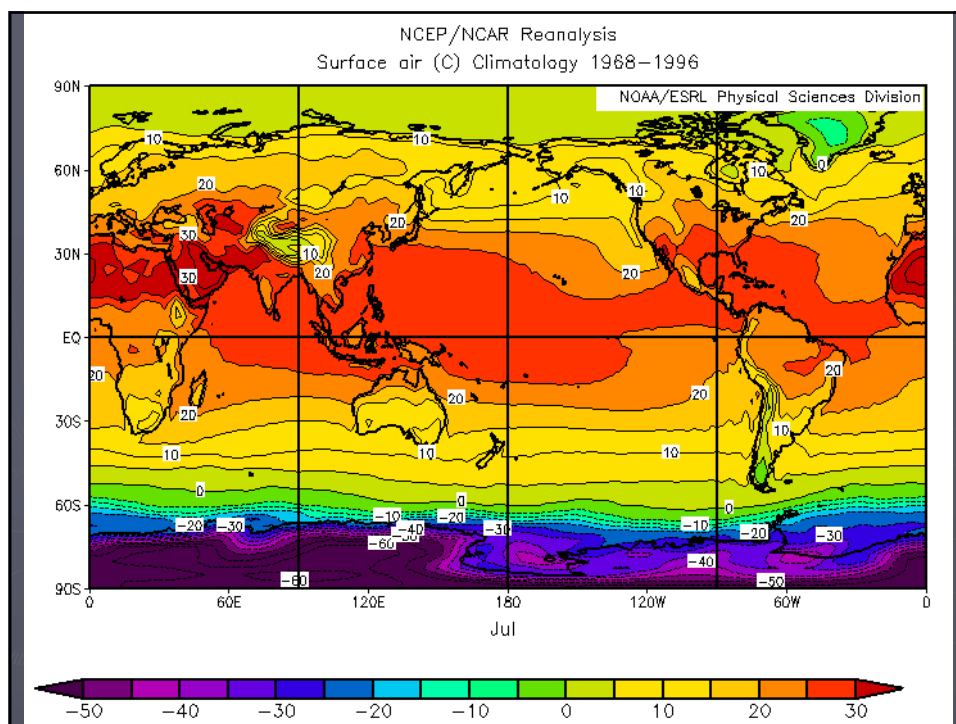
- ▶ The isotherm of 20 ° in the southern hemisphere runs above the Tropic of Capricorn
- ▶ In the northern one further north.
- ▶ Isotherms deviate to the passage from the oceans to the continents during the different seasons

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## Planetary Energy Balance

### Darks Colors Absorb, Lighter Colors Reflect

Once the electromagnetic radiation reaches the earth's surface, it is absorbed or reflected, depending on the nature of the material.

Dark colored surfaces absorb more of the incoming visible radiation. Earth's darkest materials include ocean water, and to a lesser extent plants and trees. These areas soak up the sun's radiation and warm the earth.

Bright surfaces such as ice and snow, and to a lesser degree desert sand, reflect most incoming radiation. Reflected radiation passes back through the atmosphere and into space without warming the earth.

Ever walked barefoot on black pavement on a hot sunny day? The pavement gets really hot! That's because dark colors absorb radiation.



When your feet get so hot you can't stand it, you jump onto the concrete sidewalk, which feels much cooler. That's because lighter colors reflect radiation.



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## Thermal excursion

Difference between average temperature of warmer month and average temperature of colder month

In northern hemisphere it corresponds to the difference between average temperature in January and in July

If average temperature  $T$  in July – average temperature in January  $> 20^\circ$  continental climate

If average temperature  $T$  in July – average temperature in January  $< 10^\circ$  oceanic climate

If difference value is between 10 and 15 suboceanic climate

If difference value is between 15 and 20 subcontinental climate

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## Temperature Scales

A number of measurement scales have been invented to measure temperature.

Table describes important temperatures for the three dominant scales in use today.

▶ Measurement	Steam Point of Water	Ice Point of Water	Absolute Zero
▶ Fahrenheit	212	32	-460
▶ Celsius	100	0	-273
▶ <u>Kelvin</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>0</u>

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## Conversion factor

Measurement	Steam Point of Water	Ice Point of Water	difference
Fahrenheit	212	32	180 units
Celsius	100	0	100 units

$74^{\circ} \text{ F} = ^{\circ} \text{ C} ?$

$74 - 32 = 42$

$42 / 1.8 = 23^{\circ} \text{ C}$

$30^{\circ} \text{ C} = \text{F} ?$

$^{\circ} \text{ F} = (\text{C} \times 1.8) + 32$

$^{\circ} \text{ F} = (30 \times 1.8) + 32 = 86 \text{ F}$

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## Precipitation

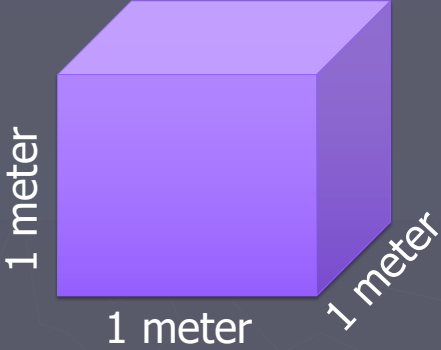

- ▶ Rainfall is measured with
- ▶ **rain gauge**
- ▶ Expressed as mm/sm  
equivalent liter per square  
meter



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1 meter = 1000 mm  
 1 mm of rain per square meter = 1 liter  
 (1000 x 1000 x 1000) mm = 1000 liters  
 1000 liters = 1000 Kg = 1 ton per s. m.

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► Precipitation can be

solid	Liquid
	

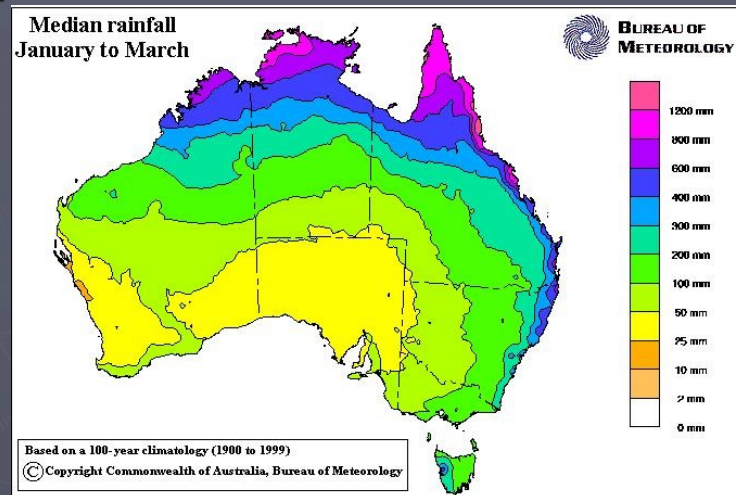
► Pluviometric regime  
 ► distribution over time, number of days with rainfall  $\geq 1$  mm  
 ► Isohyet

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## Isohyet

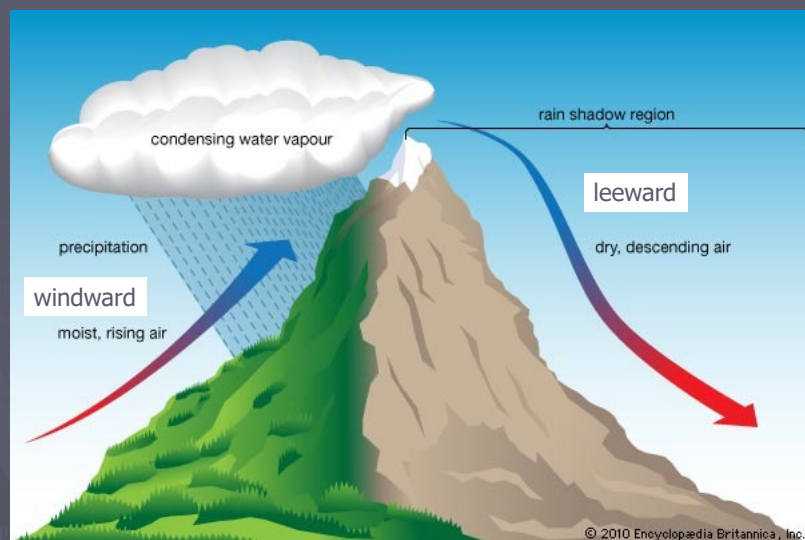
- ▶ a line on a map or chart connecting areas of equal rainfall



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## orographic precipitation

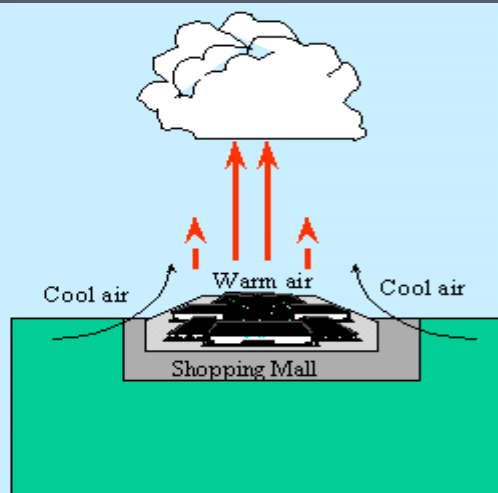


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## CONVECTIONAL PRECIPITATION

- Unequal heating at the earth's surface creates a local hot spot.
- Air in contact with the hot spot expands and rises.
- Rising air cools adiabatically to dew point temperature.



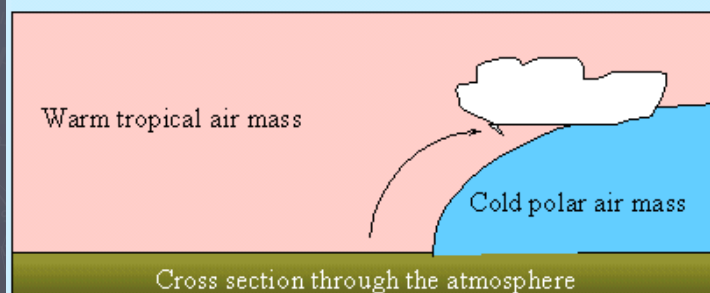
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## CYCLONIC OR FRONTAL PRECIPITATION

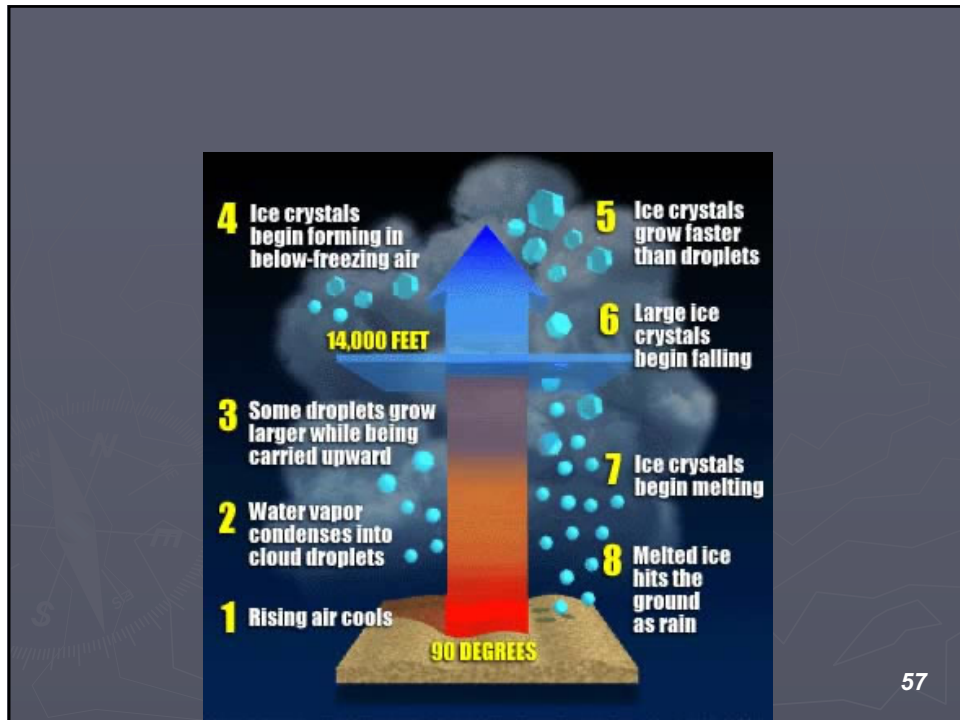
### Cyclonic or Frontal Precipitation

- Warm air in contact with cold air rises.
- As it rises, it cools
- Moist air condenses and forms clouds.

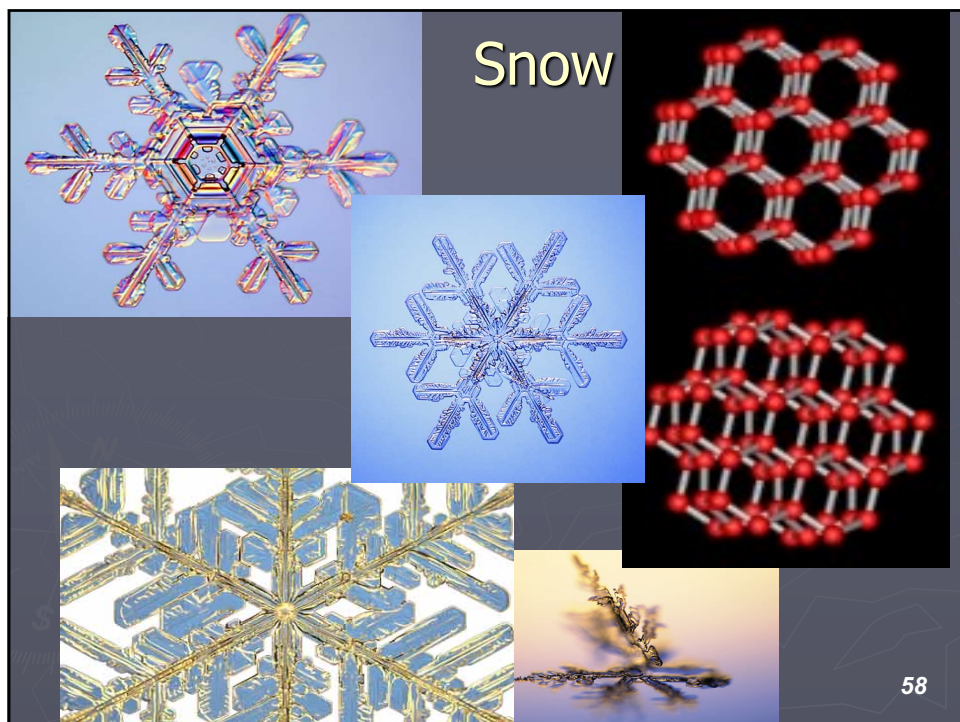


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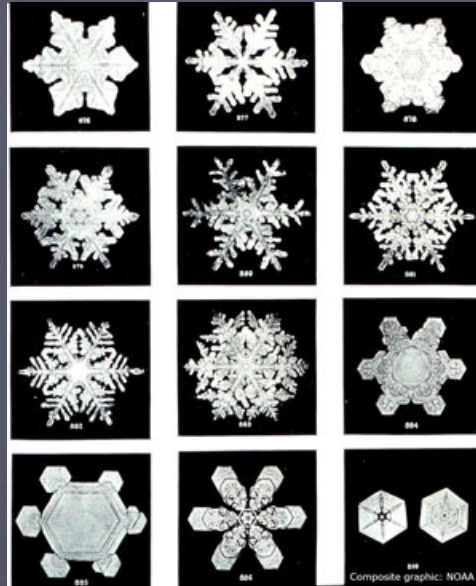


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- individual snowflakes all follow slightly different paths from the sky to the ground — and thus encounter slightly different atmospheric conditions along the way. Therefore, *they all tend to look unique*, resembling everything from prisms and needles to the familiar lacy pattern.



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## hail

- Hail** is solid precipitation that falls from thunderstorms as round or irregular balls of ice or ice-pellets, generally taken to be 5mm in diameter or larger

Hail stone size classification			
SIZE CODE	DIAMETER	DESCRIPTION	INTENSITY RANGE
1	5 to 10 mm	pea	H0 - H2
2	11 to 15 mm	mothball, bean	H0 - H3
3	16 - 20 mm	cherry, five pence coin (new), penny	H1 - H4
4	21 to 30 mm	walnut, one pound or two pence coin	H2 - H5
5	31 to 45 mm	golf ball, table tennis ball	H3 - H6
6	46 to 60 mm	hen's egg, billiard ball	H4 - H7
7	61 to 80 mm	tennis ball, orange	H5 - H8
8	81 to 100 mm	grapefruit, softball	H6 - H9
9	101 to 125 mm	melon	H7 - H10
10	over 150 mm	coconut	H8 - H10

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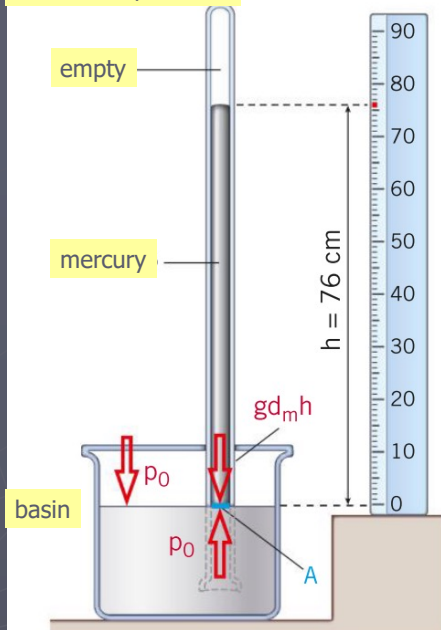


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## atmospheric pressure

- ▶ also called **barometric pressure**, force per unit area exerted by an atmospheric column (that is, the entire body of air above the specified area).
- ▶ Atmospheric pressure is measured using an **aneroid barometer**

Torricelli experiment



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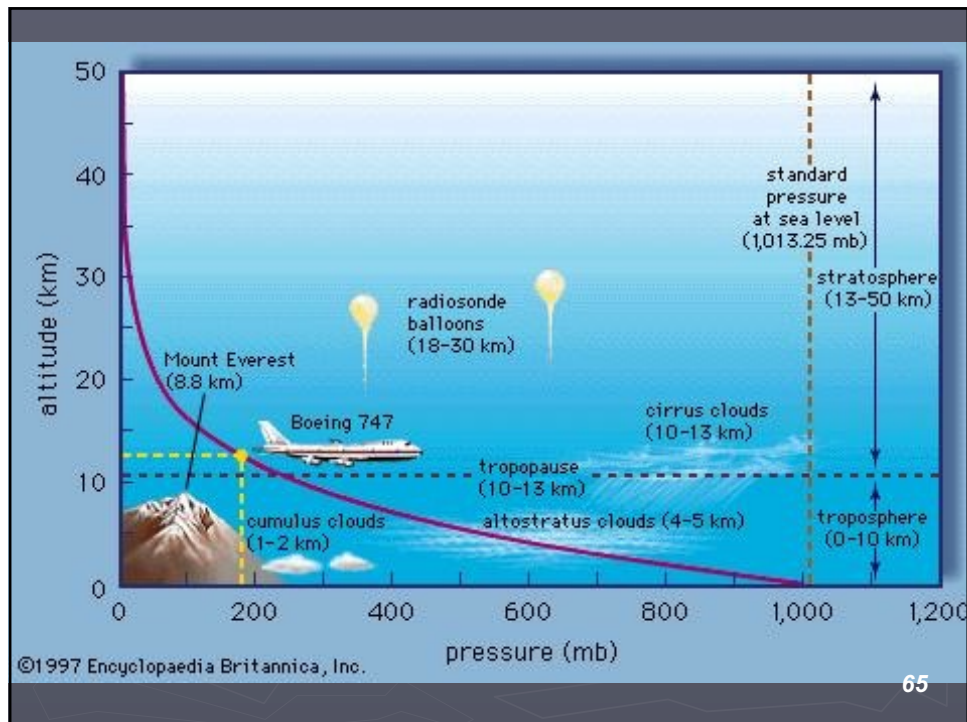
- ▶ The **standard atmosphere** (symbol: **ATM**) is a unit of pressure equal to **101325 Pa** or **1013.25 hectopascal** or **millibars**.
- ▶ Equivalent to **760 mmHg (torr)**, **14.696 psi**.

	pascal	bar	atm	psi
1 pascal	1	0,00001	0,00000986923	0,000145038
1 bar	100000	1	0,986923	14,5038
1 atm	101325	1,01325	1	14,695949
1 psi	6894,76	0,0689476	0,068046	1

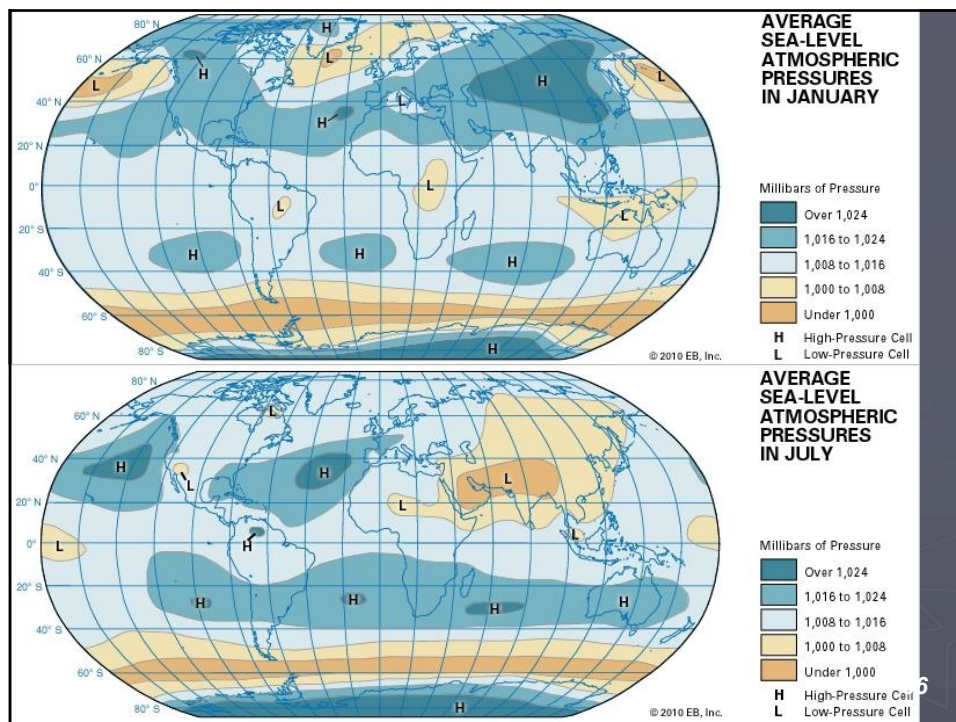
- ▶ The **Pascal** is a **Newton per square meter** or in terms of **I.S. base units**, **kilogram per meter per second-squared**)

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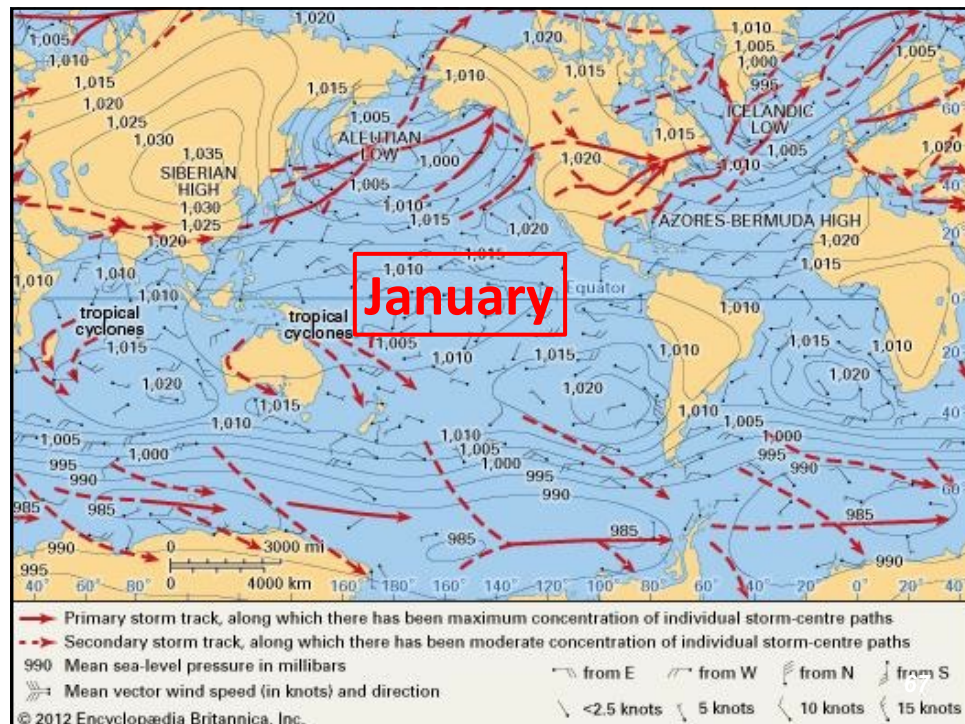


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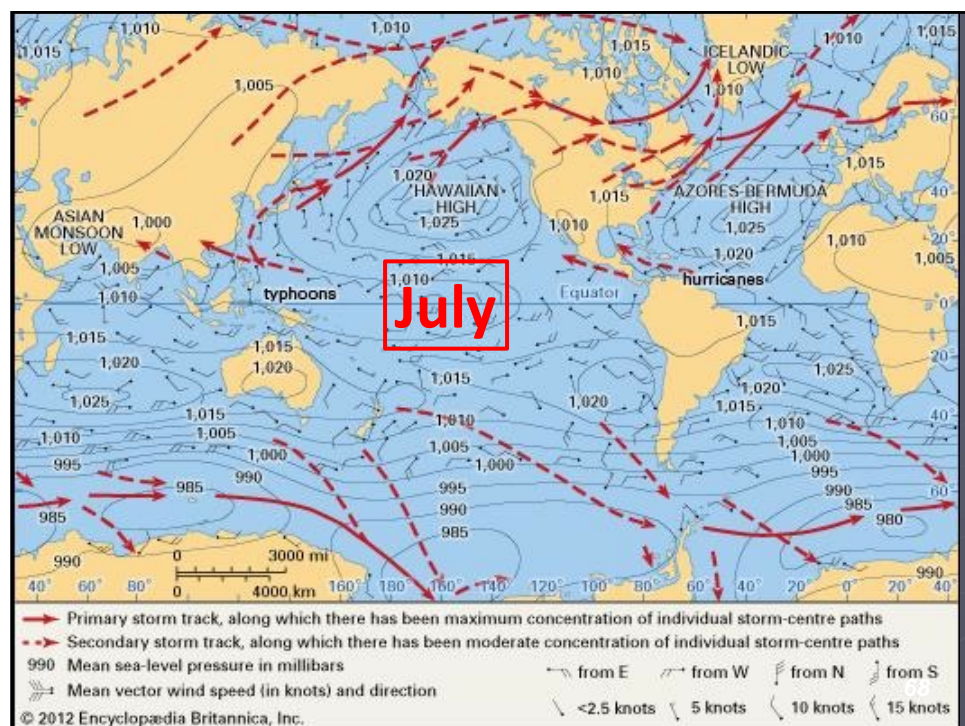


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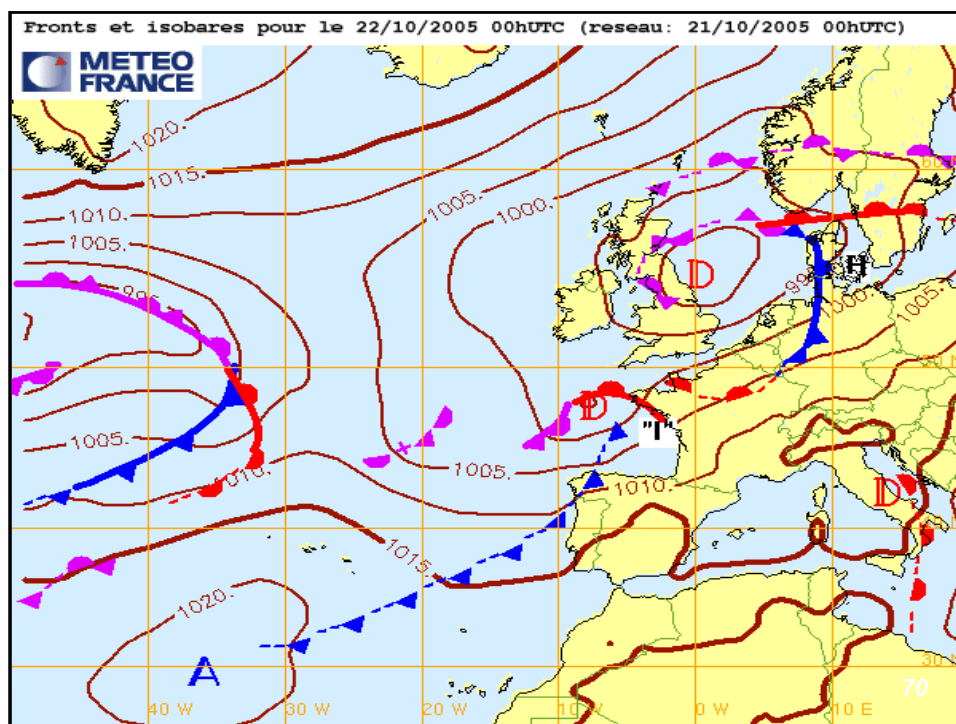
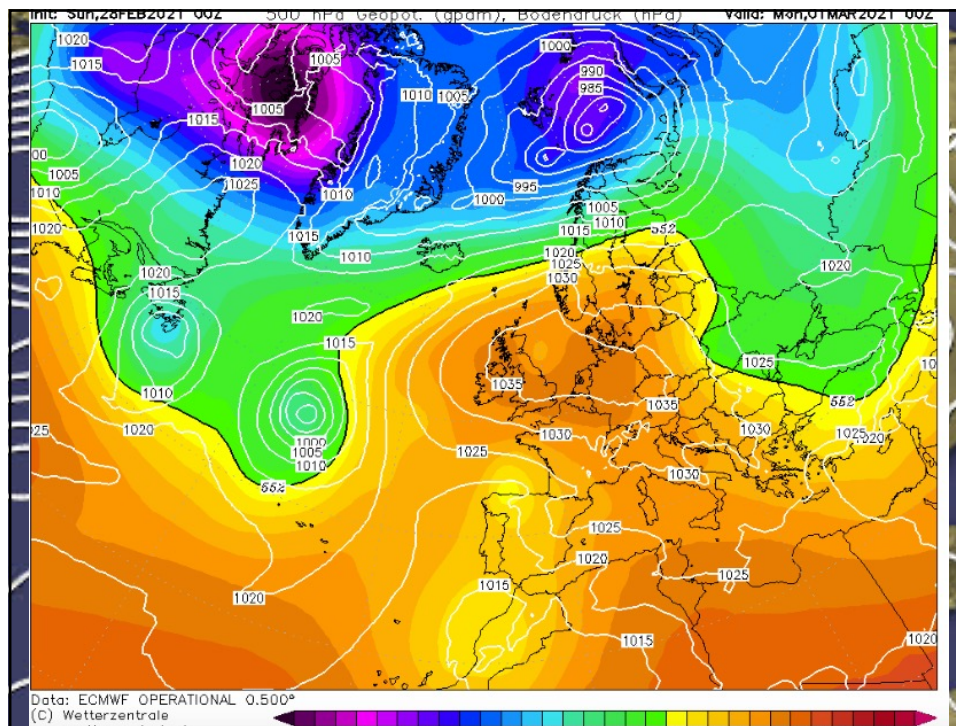




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## Wind is simply the air in motion.

- ▶ The vertical component of the wind is typically very small (except in thunderstorm updrafts) compared to the horizontal component, but is very important for determining the day to day weather.
- ▶ **Rising air will cool**, often to saturation, and can lead to clouds and precipitation.
- ▶ **Sinking air warms** causing evaporation of clouds and thus fair weather.

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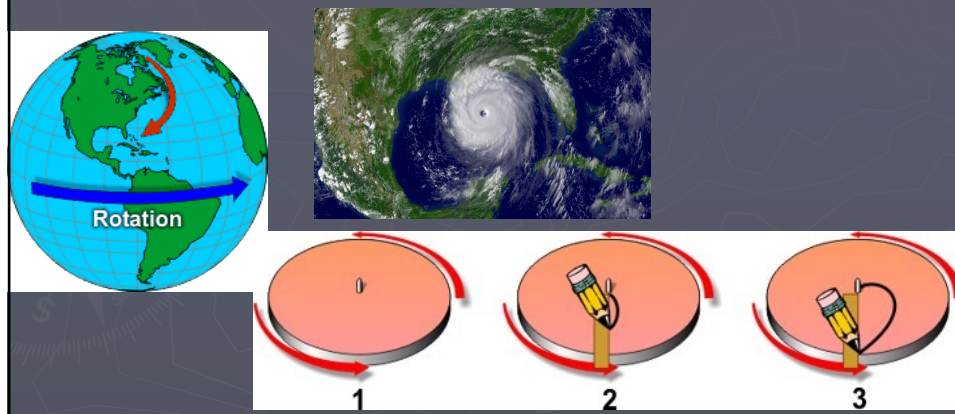
- Pressure gradient is the *difference* in pressure between high and low pressure areas.
- Wind speed is *directly proportional* to the pressure gradient.
- This means the strongest winds are in the areas where the pressure gradient is the greatest.

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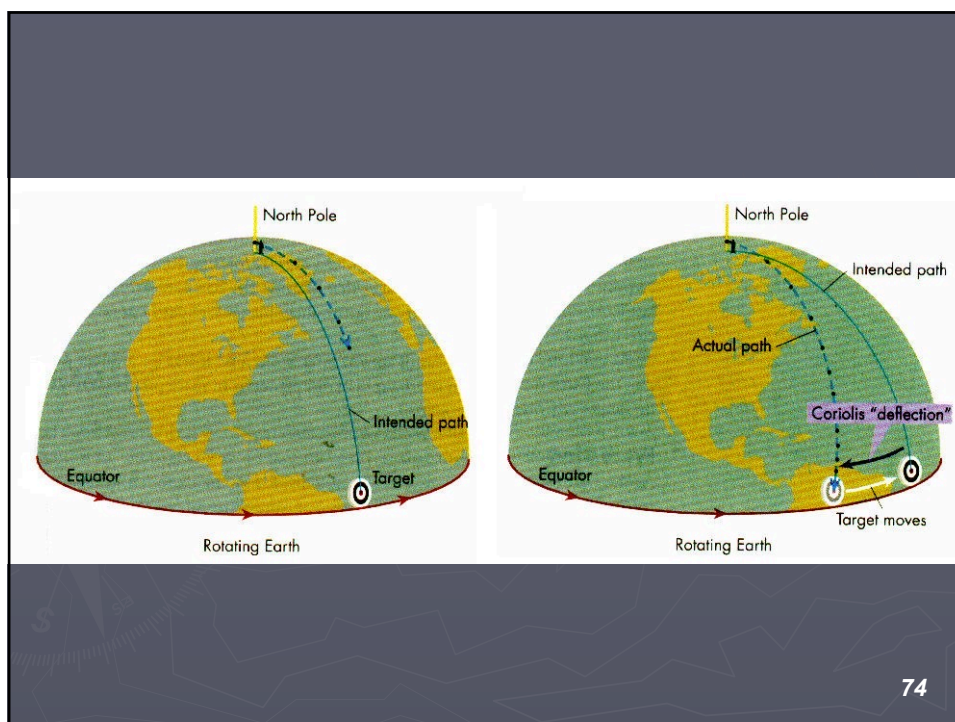
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## the Coriolis force (or effect)

- ▶ because of the earth's rotation, there is second force, the **Coriolis force** that affects the direction of wind flow.



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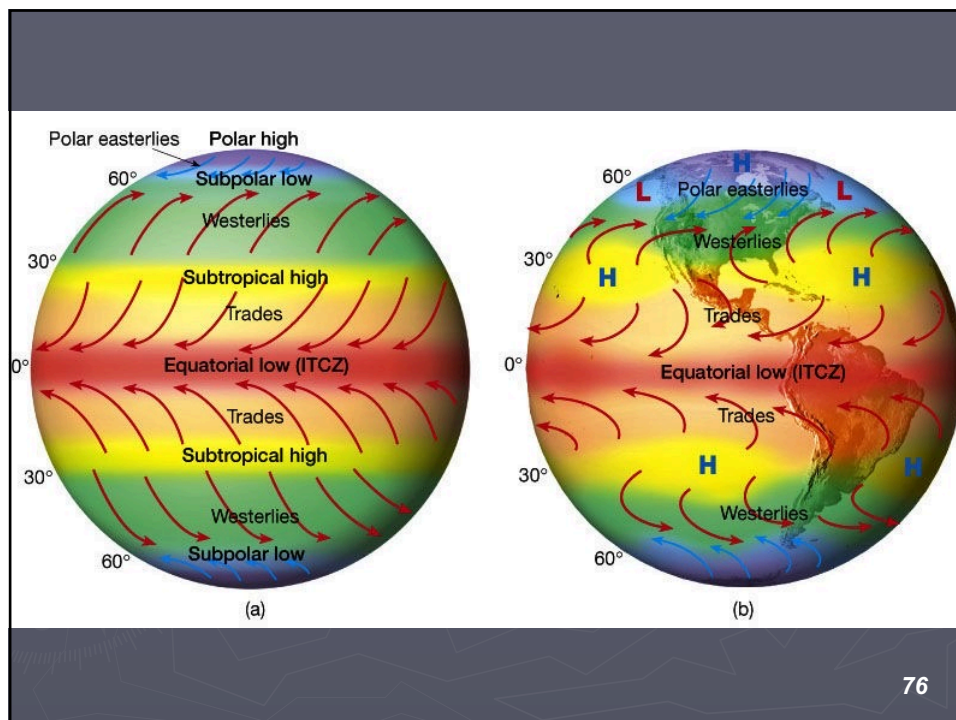


## wind

- It is the movement of air caused by the uneven heating of the Earth by the sun.
- It does not have much substance—you cannot see it or hold it—but you can feel its force. It can dry your clothes in summer and chill you to the bone in winter.
- High pressure system Low pressure system

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## Wind Zones

- ▶ The Earth contains five major wind zones: polar easterlies, westerlies, horse latitudes, trade winds, and the doldrums.
- ▶ **Polar easterlies** are dry, cold prevailing winds that blow from the east. They emanate from the polar highs, areas of high pressure around the North and South Poles. Polar easterlies flow to low-pressure areas in sub-polar regions.

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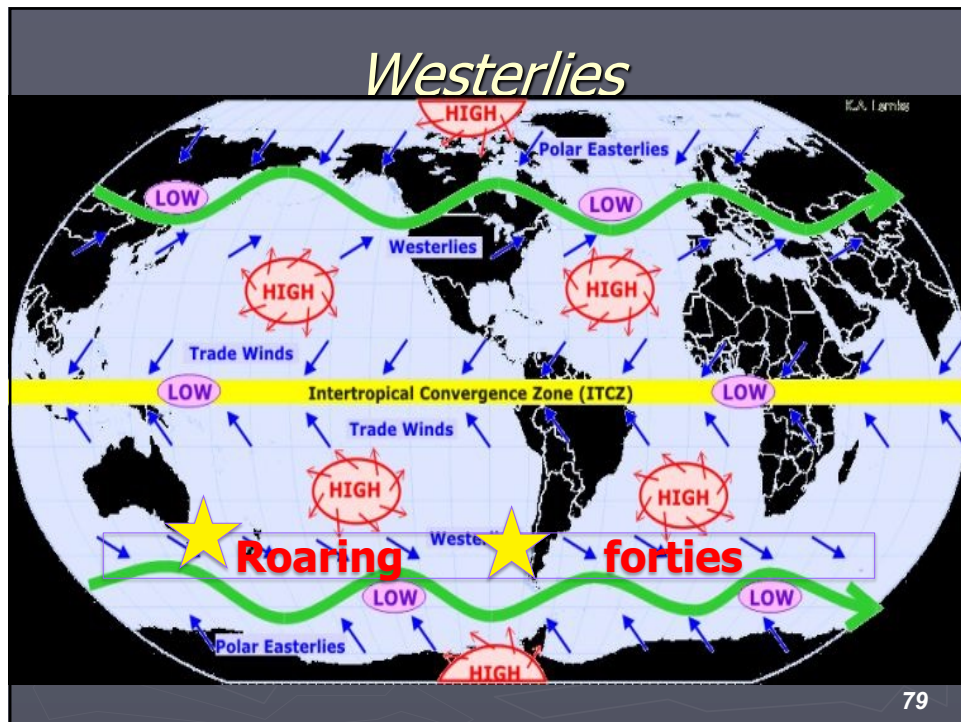
## *Westerlies*

- ▶ Westerlies are prevailing winds that blow from the west at mid latitudes. They are fed by polar easterlies and winds from the high-pressure **horse latitudes**, which sandwich them on either side.
- ▶ Westerlies are strongest in the winter, when pressure over the pole is low, and weakest in summer, when the polar high creates stronger polar easterlies.

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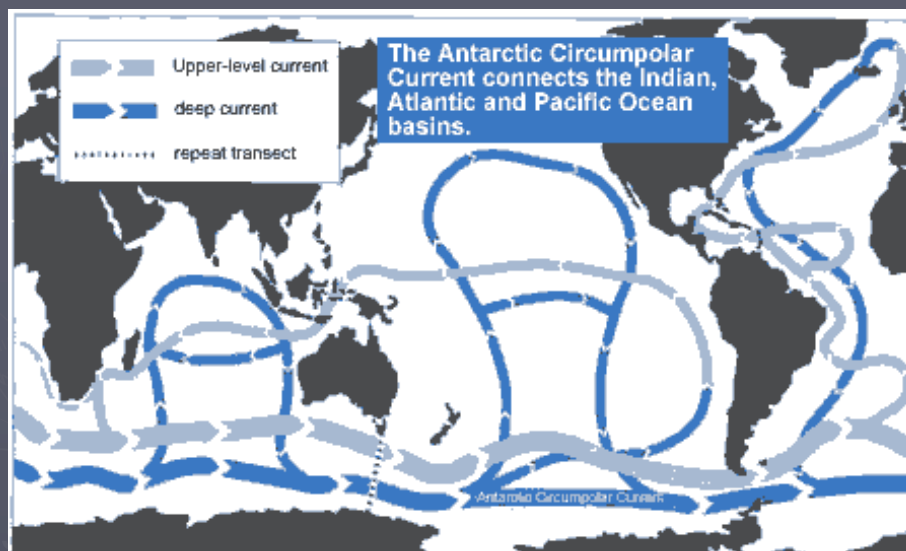
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- ▶ Westerlies have an enormous impact on ocean currents, especially in the Southern Hemisphere. Driven by westerlies, the powerful **ANTARCTIC CIRCUMPOLAR CURRENT** (ACC) rushes around the continent (from west to east) at about **4 kilometers** per hour. In fact, another name for the Antarctic Circumpolar Current is the **West Wind Drift**. The **ACC** is the largest ocean current in the world, and is responsible for transporting enormous volumes of cold, nutrient-rich water to the ocean, creating healthy marine ecosystems and food webs.

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## ACC controls climate in three ways:

- ▶ 1. By connecting the world's oceans, the ACC redistributes heat and other properties influencing the patterns of temperature and rainfall.
- ▶ 2. The vertical movement of water, caused by Antarctic freezing during the winter and warming during summer, controls the renewal of deep water in the world's oceans.
- ▶ 3. There is an exchange of gases, such as oxygen and carbon dioxide, with the atmosphere at the sea surface. The ocean contains 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere, so the rate at which carbon dioxide is absorbed by the Southern Ocean can directly affect climate change.

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## *Horse Latitudes*

- ▶ The Horse latitudes are a narrow zone of warm, dry climates between Westerlies and trade winds. Horse latitudes are about 30 and 35 degrees north and south.
- ▶ Many deserts, from rainless Atacama of south America to the arid Kalahari desert of Africa, are part of the horse latitudes

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## *Trade Winds*

- ▶ Trade winds are the powerful prevailing winds that blow from the east across the tropics. Trade winds are generally very predictable. They have been instrumental in the history of exploration, communication, and trade. Ships relied on trade winds to establish quick, reliable routes across the vast Atlantic and, later, Pacific Oceans. Even today, shipping depends on trade winds and the ocean currents they drive. **Monsoon**

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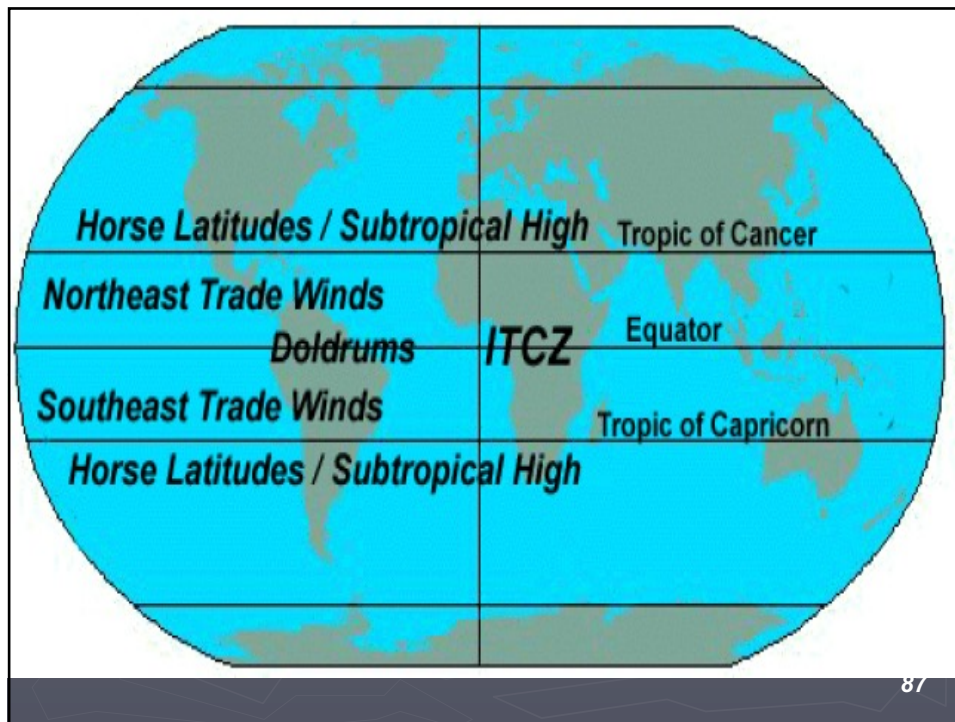
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## *Doldrums*

- ▶ The place where trade winds of the two hemispheres meet is called the **intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ)**. The area around the **ITCZ** is called the doldrums. Prevailing winds in the doldrums are very weak, and the weather is unusually calm.

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## *Jet Streams*

Jet streams are geostrophic winds that form near the boundaries of air masses with different temperatures and humidity. The rotation of the Earth and its uneven heating by the sun also contribute to the formation of high-altitude jet streams.

These strong, fast winds in the upper atmosphere can blow 480 kph. Jet streams blow through a layer of the atmosphere called the stratosphere, at altitudes of 8 to 14 kilometers above Earth's surface.

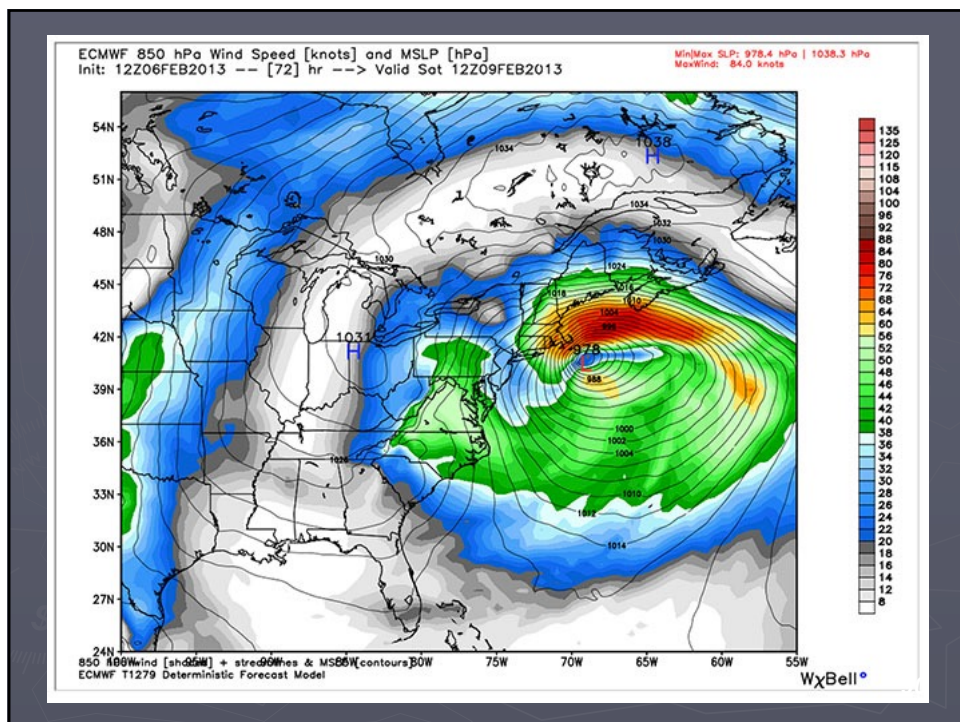
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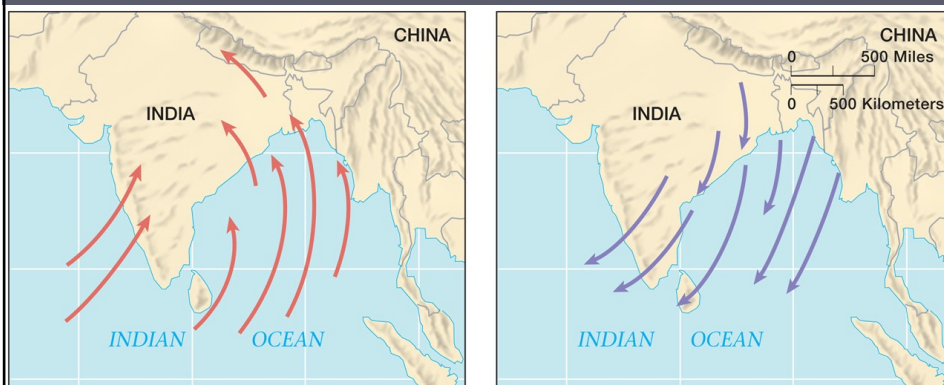
## Monsoon

- ▶ A monsoon is a seasonal change in the prevailing wind system of an area. They always blow from cold, high-pressure regions. Monsoons are part of a yearlong cycle of uneven heating and cooling of tropical and mid-latitude coastal regions.

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## monsoon



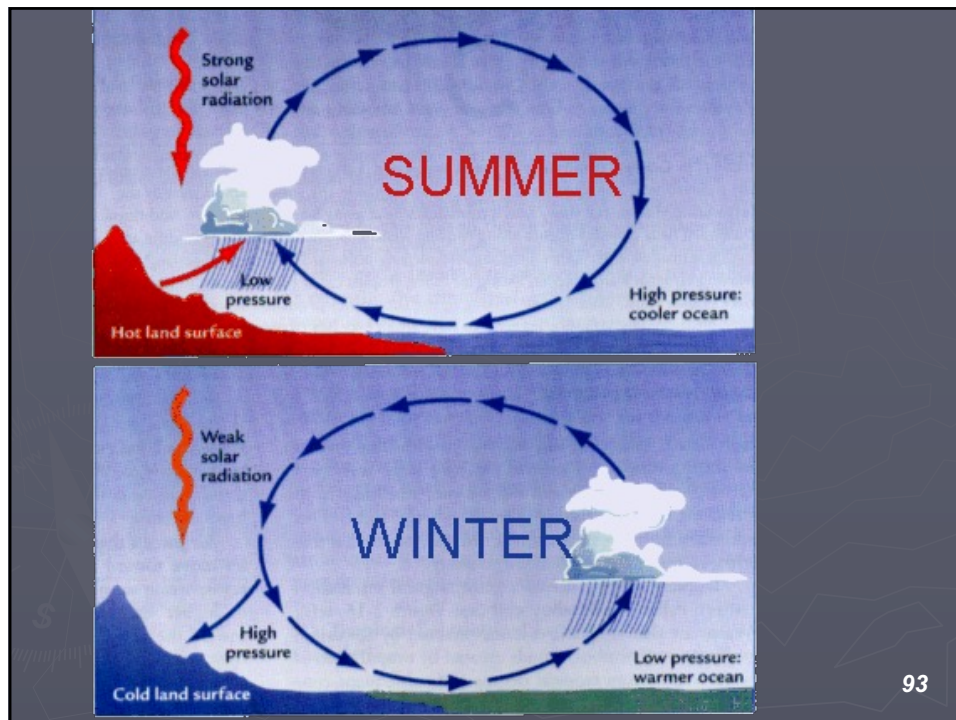
Summer

Winter

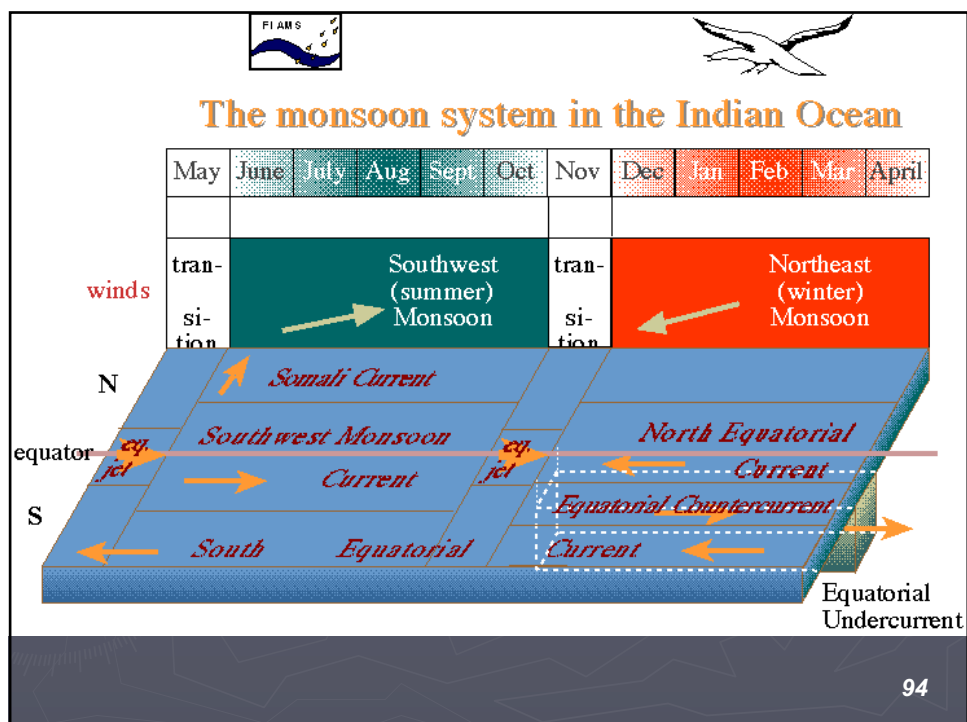
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## Measuring Winds

- Wind is measured in **meters per second**. Under normal conditions, the winds move much faster higher in the atmosphere, creating high wind shear in high altitudes.



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## The Beaufort scale

Beaufort Number	Wind Speed (miles/hour)	Wind Speed (km/hour)	Wind Speed (knots)	Description	Wind Effects on Land
0	< 1	< 1	< 1	Calm	Calm. Smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	1-5	1-3	Light Air	Wind motion visible in smoke.
2	4-7	6-11	4-6	Light Breeze	Wind felt on exposed skin. Leaves rustle.
3	8-12	12-19	7-12	Gentle Breeze	Leaves and smaller twigs in constant motion.
4	13-18	20-28	11-16	Moderate Breeze	Dust and loose paper are raised. Small branches begin to move.
5	19-24	29-38	17-21	Fresh Breeze	Small trees begin to sway.
6	25-31	39-49	22-27	Strong Breeze	Large branches are in motion. Whistling is heard in overhead wires. Umbrella use is difficult.
7	32-38	50-61	28-33	Near Gale	Whole trees in motion. Some difficulty experienced walking into the wind.
8	39-46	62-74	34-40	Gale	Twigs and small branches break from trees. Cars veer on road.
9	47-54	75-88	41-47	Strong Gale	Larger branches break from trees. Light structural damage.
10	55-63	89-102	48-55	Storm	Trees broken and uprooted. Considerable structural damage.
11	64-72	103-117	56-63	Violent Storm	Widespread damage to structures and vegetation.
12	> 73	> 117	> 64	Hurricane	Considerable and widespread damage to structures and vegetation. Violence.

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## Beaufort scale

- ▶ The amount of force that wind is generating is measured according to the Beaufort scale.
- ▶ It has 17 levels of wind force.
- ▶ "0" describes conditions that are so calm the smoke rises vertically.
- ▶ "12" is hurricane

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## DEW

- ▶ is a type of precipitation where water droplets form on the ground, or on objects near the ground in a process called condensation of moisture

### DEW POINT



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## fog

- ▶ The term "fog" is typically distinguished from the more generic term "cloud"
- ▶ Fog is low-lying, and the moisture in the fog is often generated locally (such as from a nearby body of water, like a lake or the ocean, or from nearby moist ground or marshes).

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- ▶ By definition, fog reduces visibility to less than 1 kilometre (0.62 mi), whereas mist causes lesser impairment of visibility



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average diameter is varying between 0.01mm and 0.1mm

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## Mist

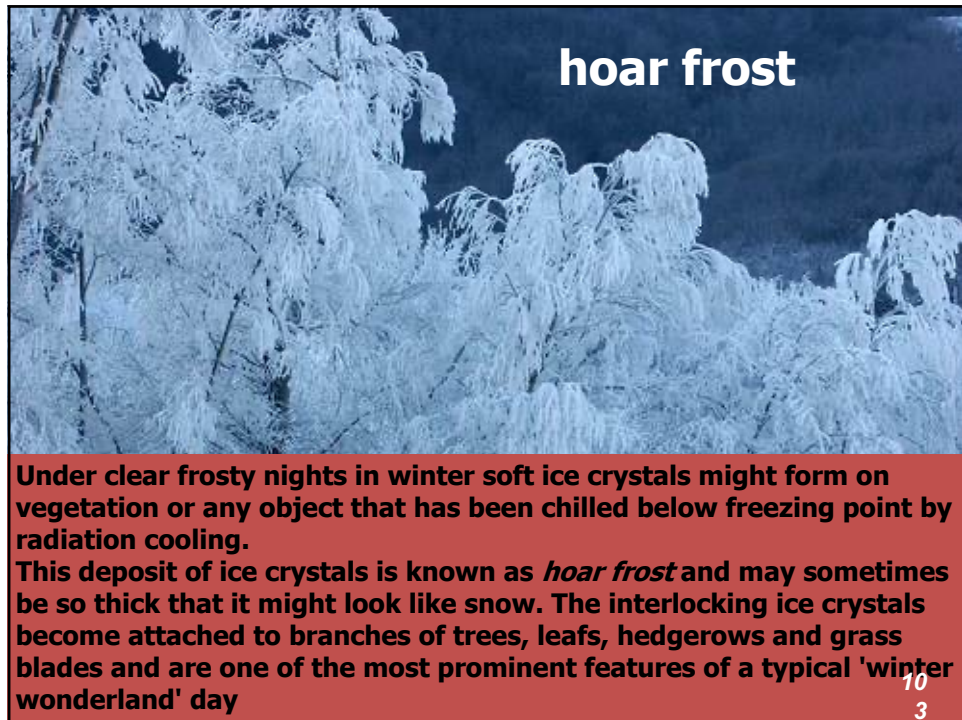
- ▶ **Mist** is a phenomenon caused by small, microscopic droplets of water suspended in air
- ▶ Droplets are smaller than in fog
- ▶ Physically it is one instance of a dispersion.
- ▶ It is most commonly seen where warm, moist air meets sudden cooling, such as in exhaled air in winter.
- ▶ visibility with mist is better than with fog. It exceeds 1 kilometre (0.62 mi)

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## Rime

- ▶ It is formed by the freezing of steam around the surfaces exposed to radiation night.
- ▶ it is therefore frosting.
- ▶ Sublimation is the opposite.
- ▶ Steam → Ice. The ice that is formed on a glass is therefore always frost.
- ▶ Ice crystal-looking generally in the form of flakes, needles, feathers.

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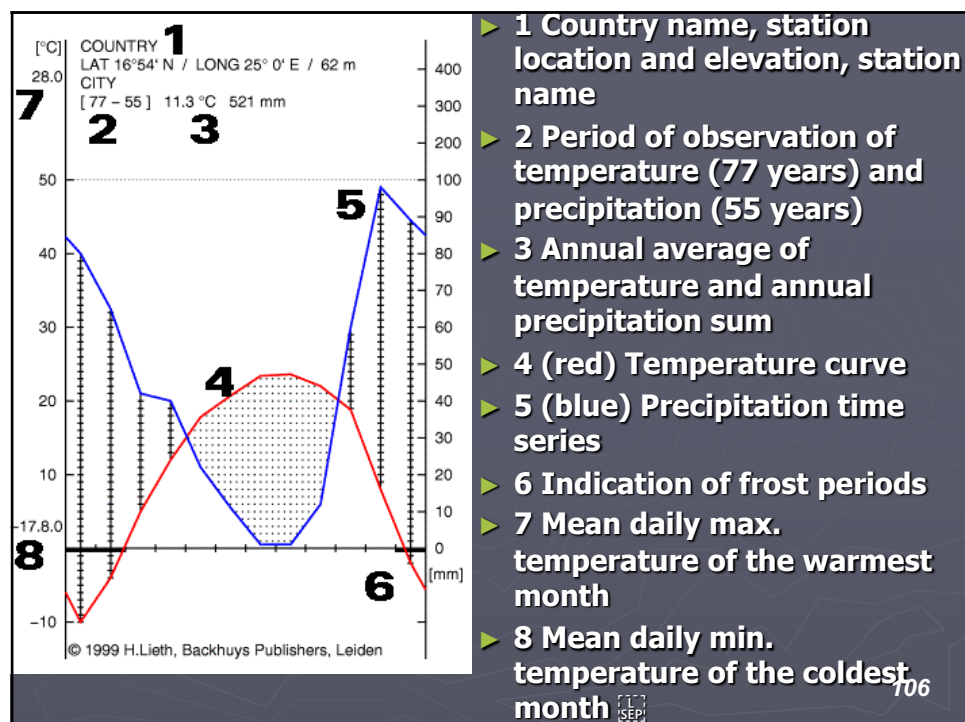


# Climate Diagrams

- Climate diagrams are brief summaries of average climatic variables and their time course

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