

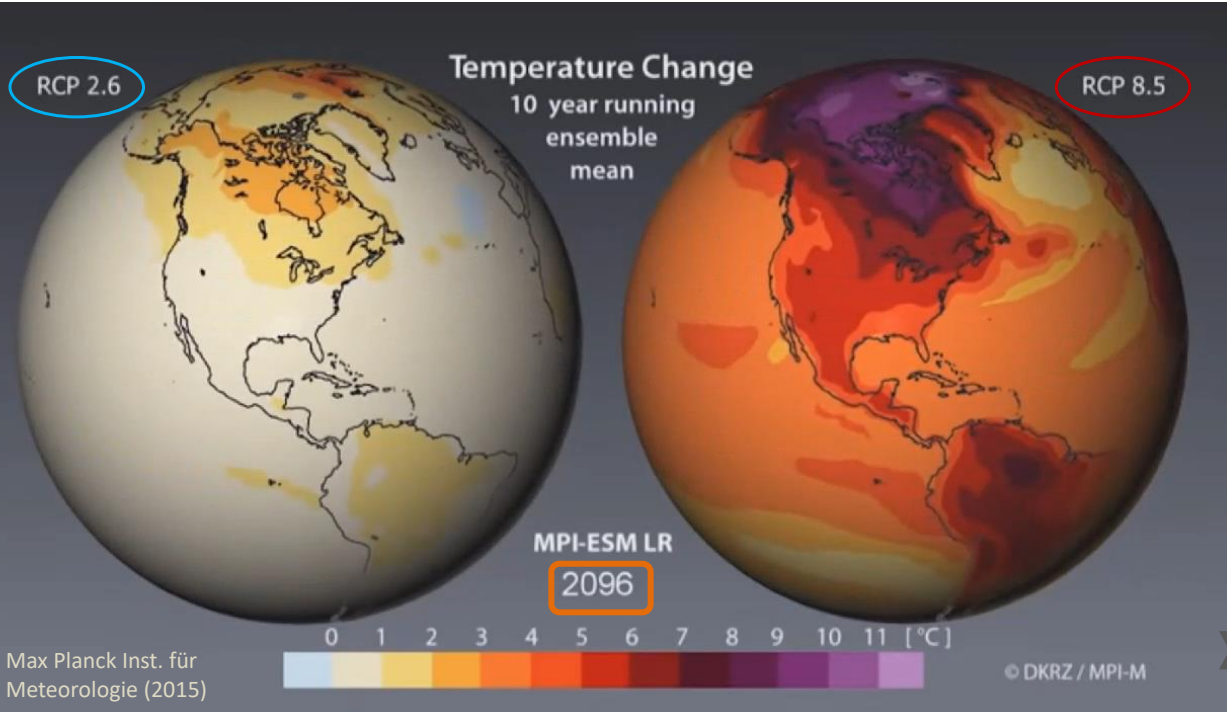


# Demystifying Climate Change

Session 7

## Impacts and Future Projections for Global Warming

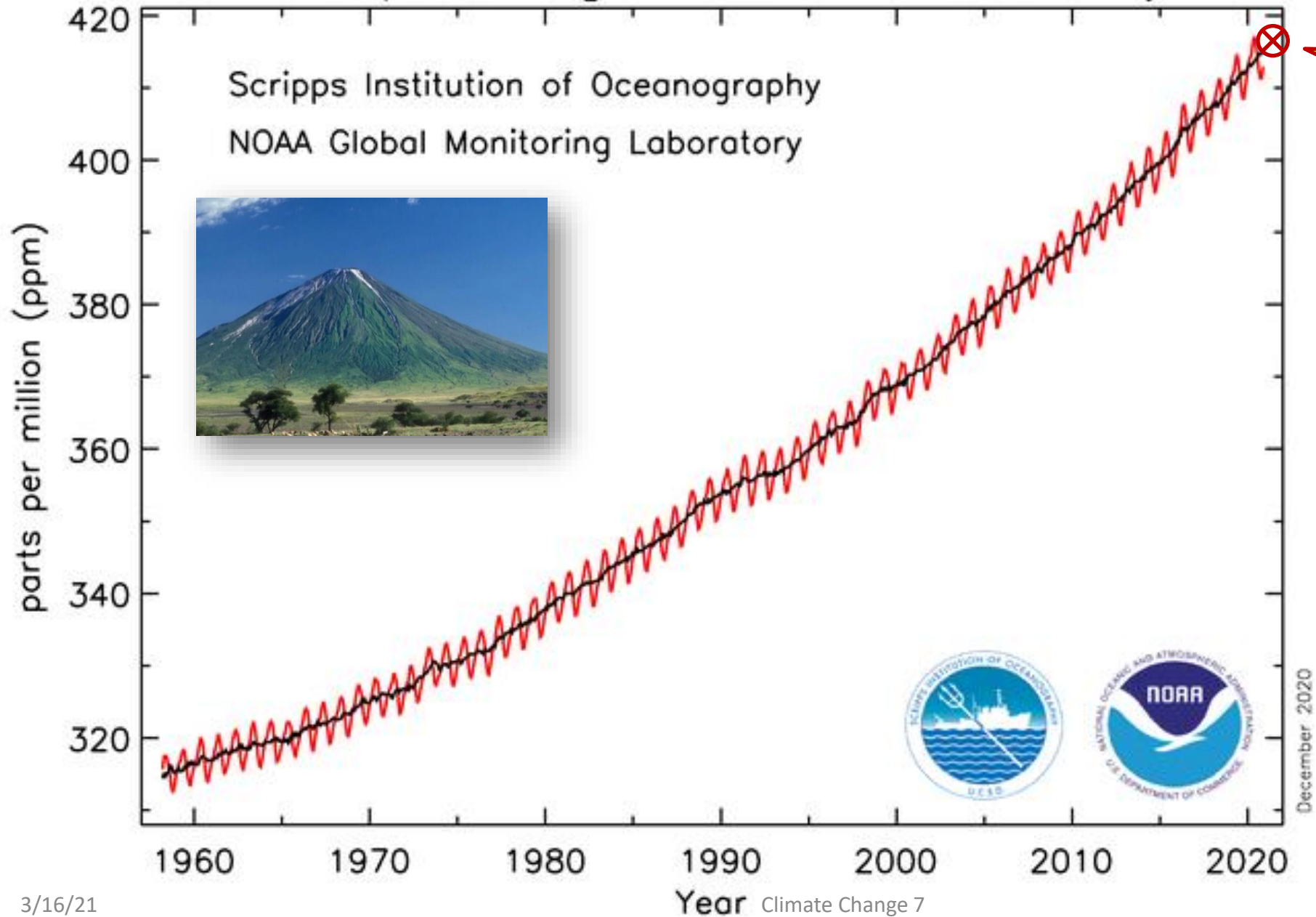
... and Uncertainties



OLLI at Illinois  
Spring 2021

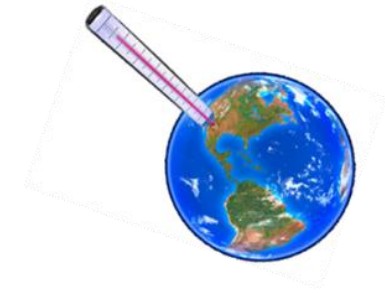
D. H. Tracy  
DavidHTracy@gmail.com

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



417.8 ppm  
Mar 15, 2021

# Course Outline

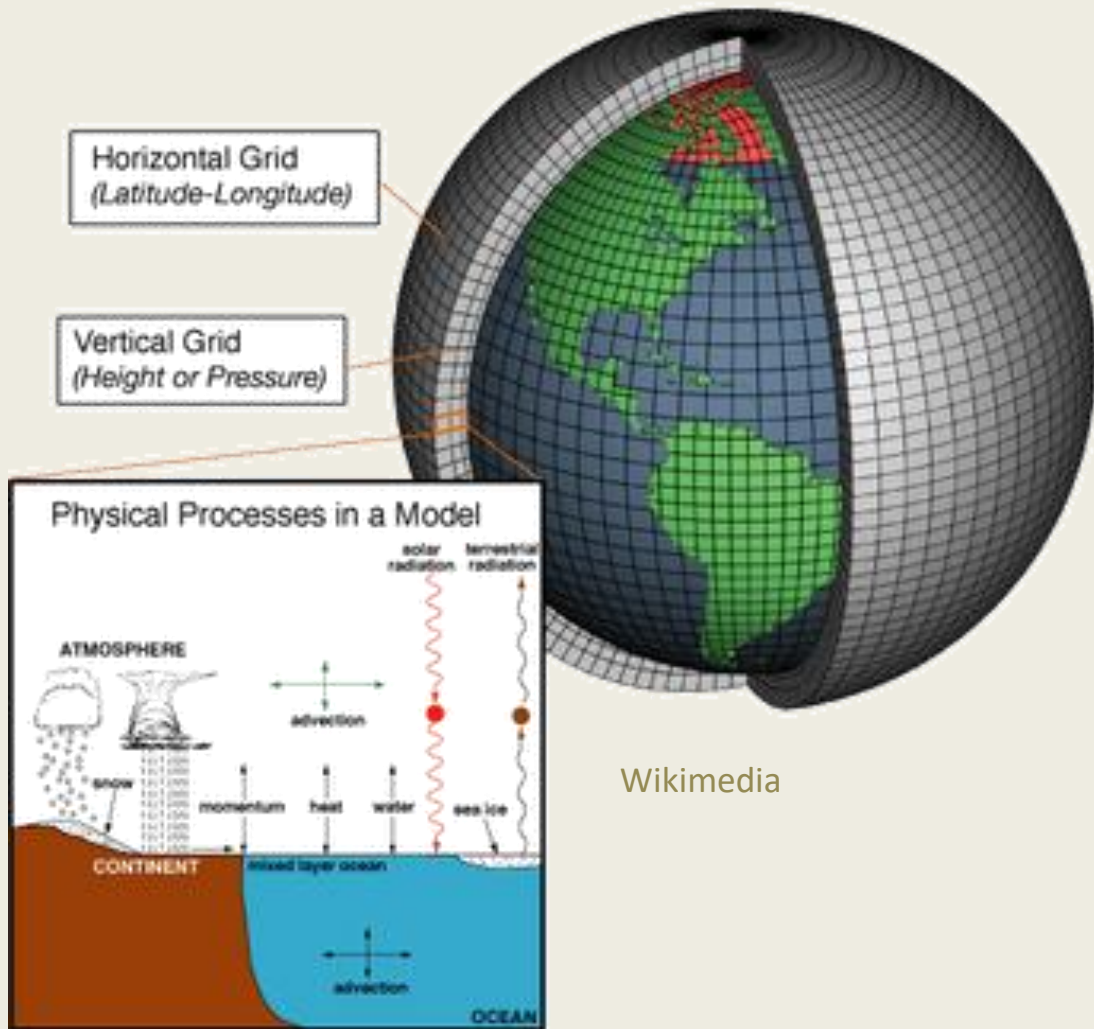


1. Building Blocks: Some important concepts
2. Our Goldilocks Earth: a Radiative Balancing Act
3. The Role of the Atmosphere: Greenhouse Gases & Clouds
4. Global Circulation and Dynamics of the Earth System:  
Oceans, Atmosphere, Biosphere, Cryosphere, People, Lithosphere
5. Natural Variability of the Climate, short and long term. Ice Ages
6. Carbon Dioxide and other Greenhouse Gases:  
Where do they come from, where do they go, how are they regulated?
- 7. Impacts and Future Projections for Global Warming -- Uncertainties**
8. Amelioration Strategies. The Climate Debate. Policy Options.

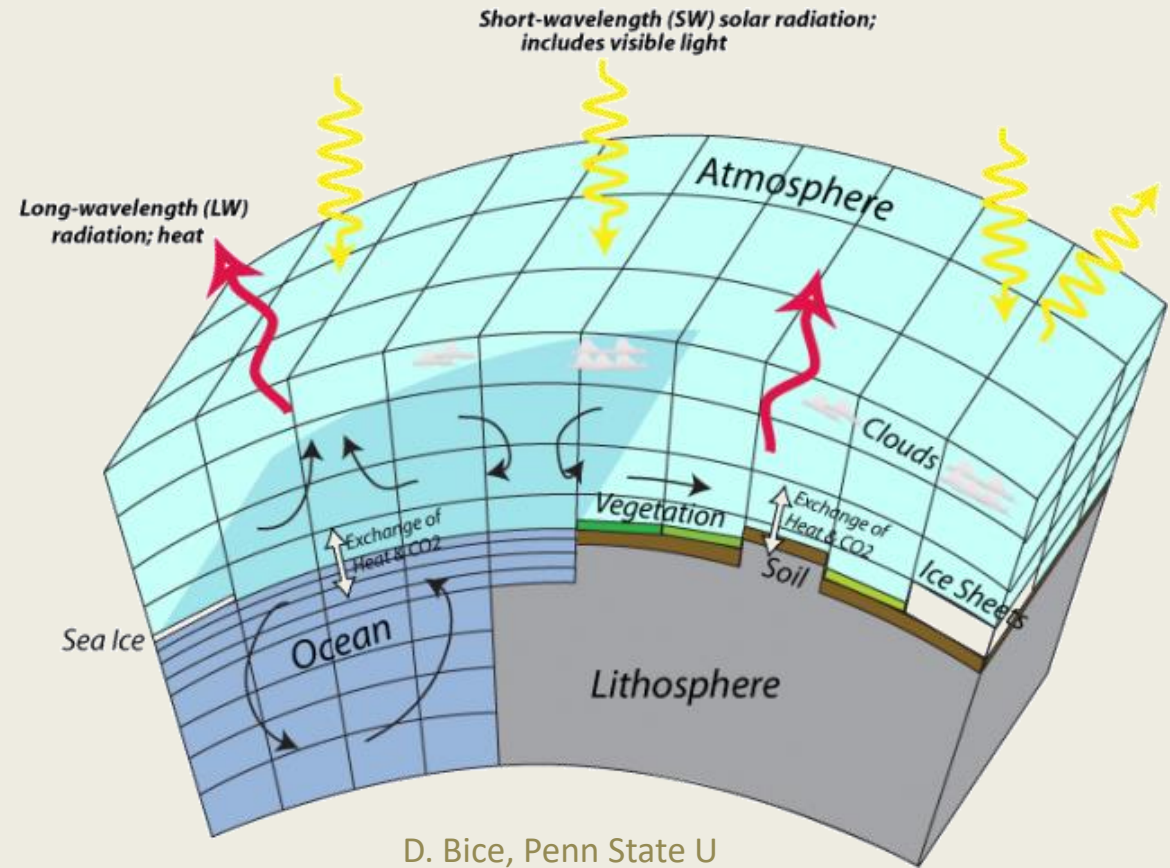
# Plan for Today

- How are Predictions made?
- The role of **Chaos** in Prediction
- How well have they worked? **Skill**
- Progress on refining Predictions **Climate Sensitivity**
- Current Understanding of the Prognosis
- Global and Regional Impacts
- Tipping Points

# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models



Wikimedia



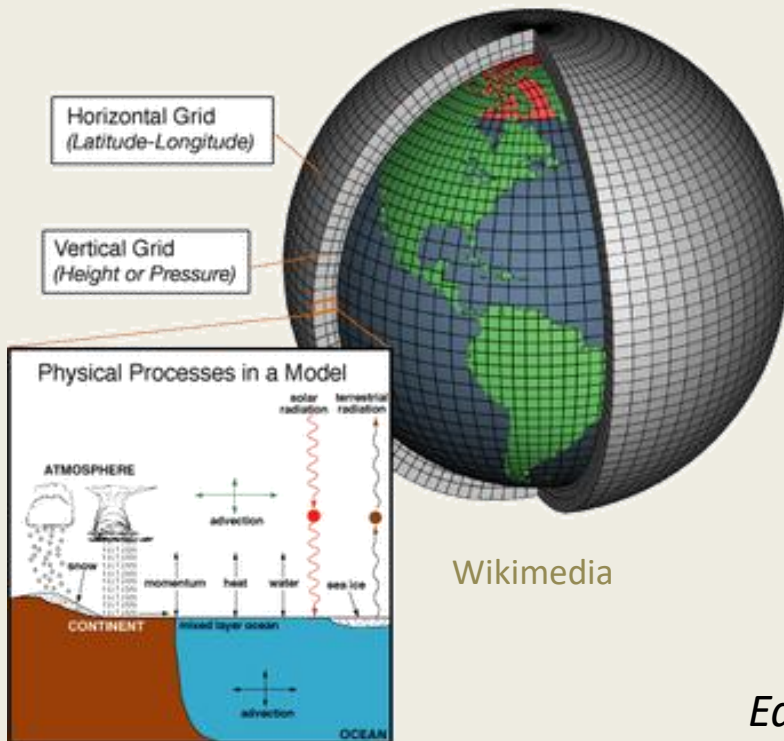
D. Bice, Penn State U

# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models (GCM)

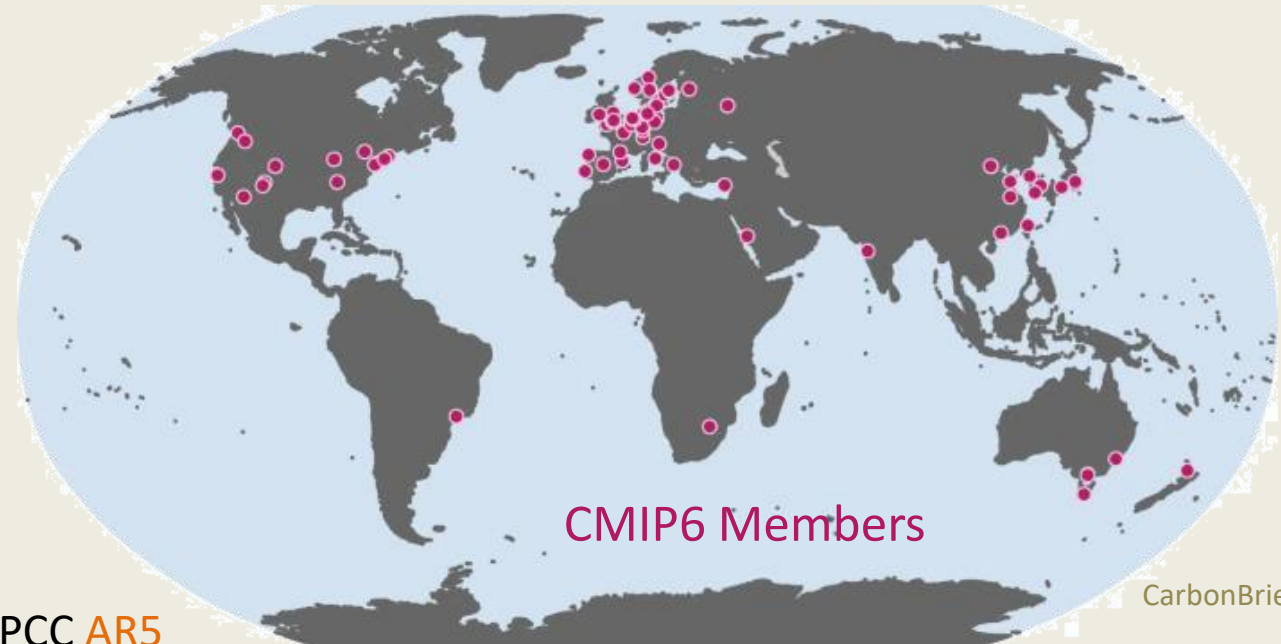
Many Groups around the world build and test GCMs

Most belong to the **CMIP6** Project

CMIP = **C**limate **M**odel **I**ntercomparison **P**roject



Wikimedia



CarbonBrief

Earlier:  
CMIP5 → IPCC AR5

CMIP6 → AR6 (due in April 2021)

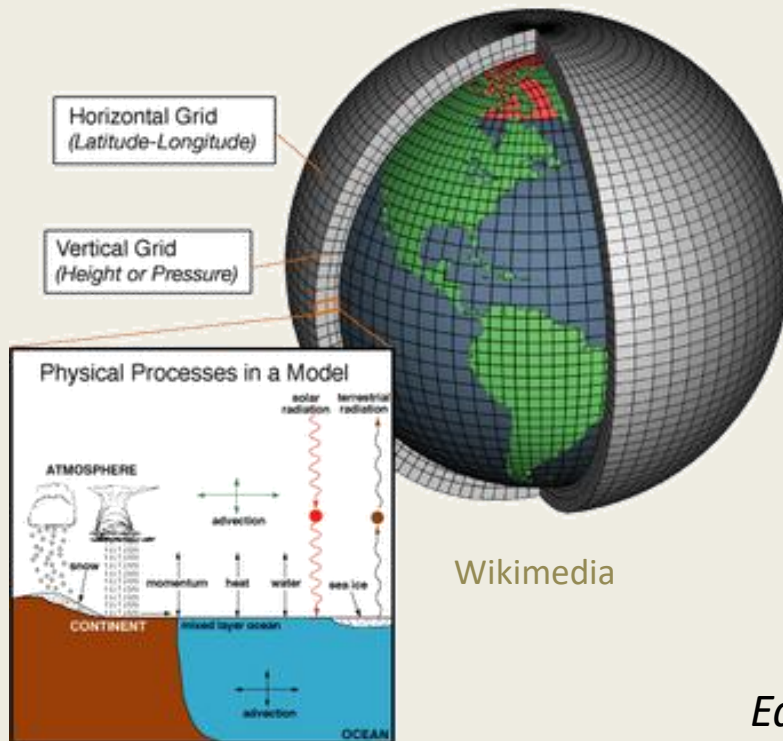


# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models (GCM)

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Wikimedia



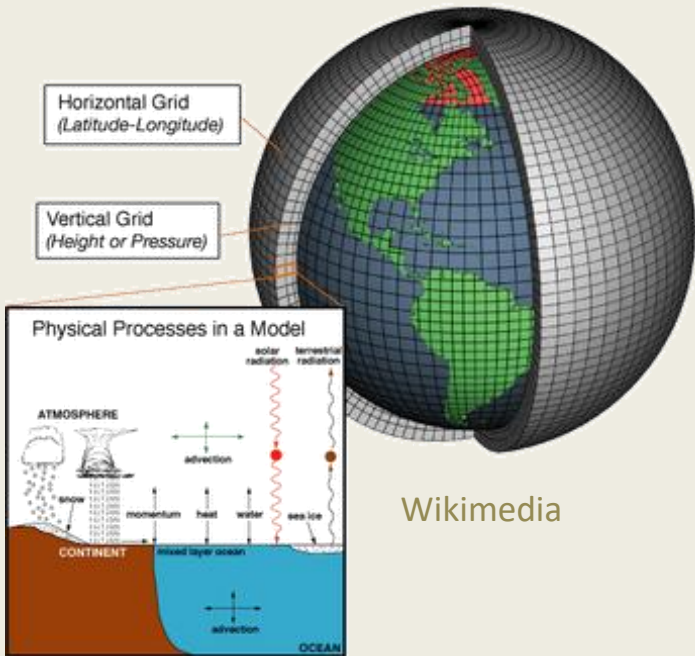
## Heavy Hitters Include:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| EC-Earth | European consortium                                |
| UKESM    | UK Meteorological Office + others                  |
| HADCM    | Hadley Centre (UK)                                 |
| GFDL     | Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab (Princeton)         |
| CMCC     | Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici |
| MIROC    | Tokyo University +                                 |
| GISS     | Goddard Institute of Space Science (NASA)          |

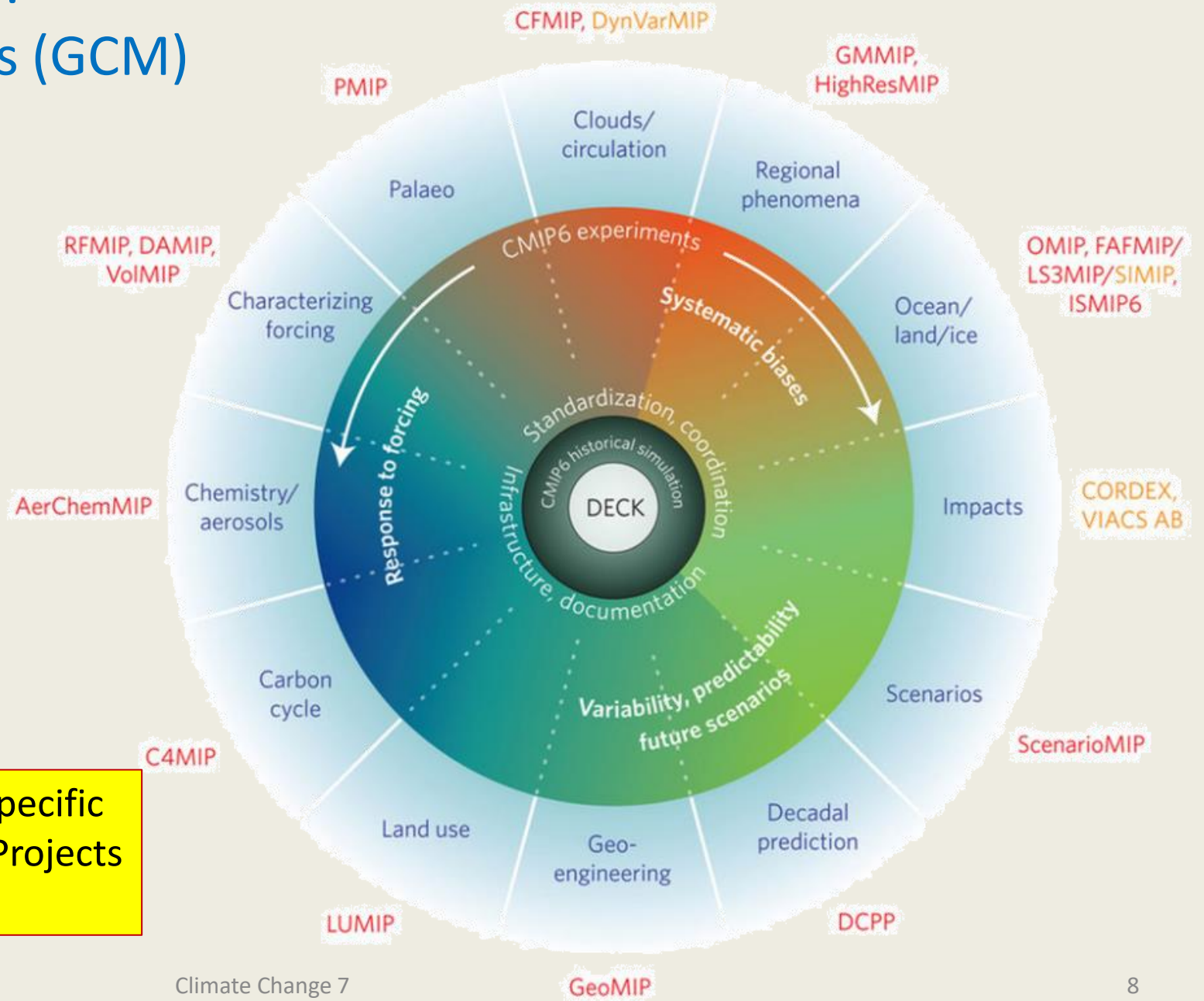
Earlier:  
CMIP5



# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models (GCM)



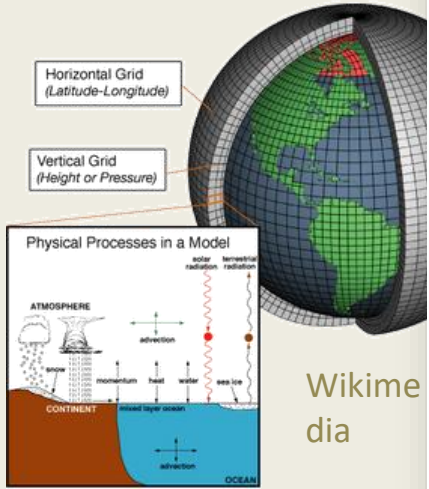
CMIP6 Contains many specific Model Intercomparison Projects and Experiments





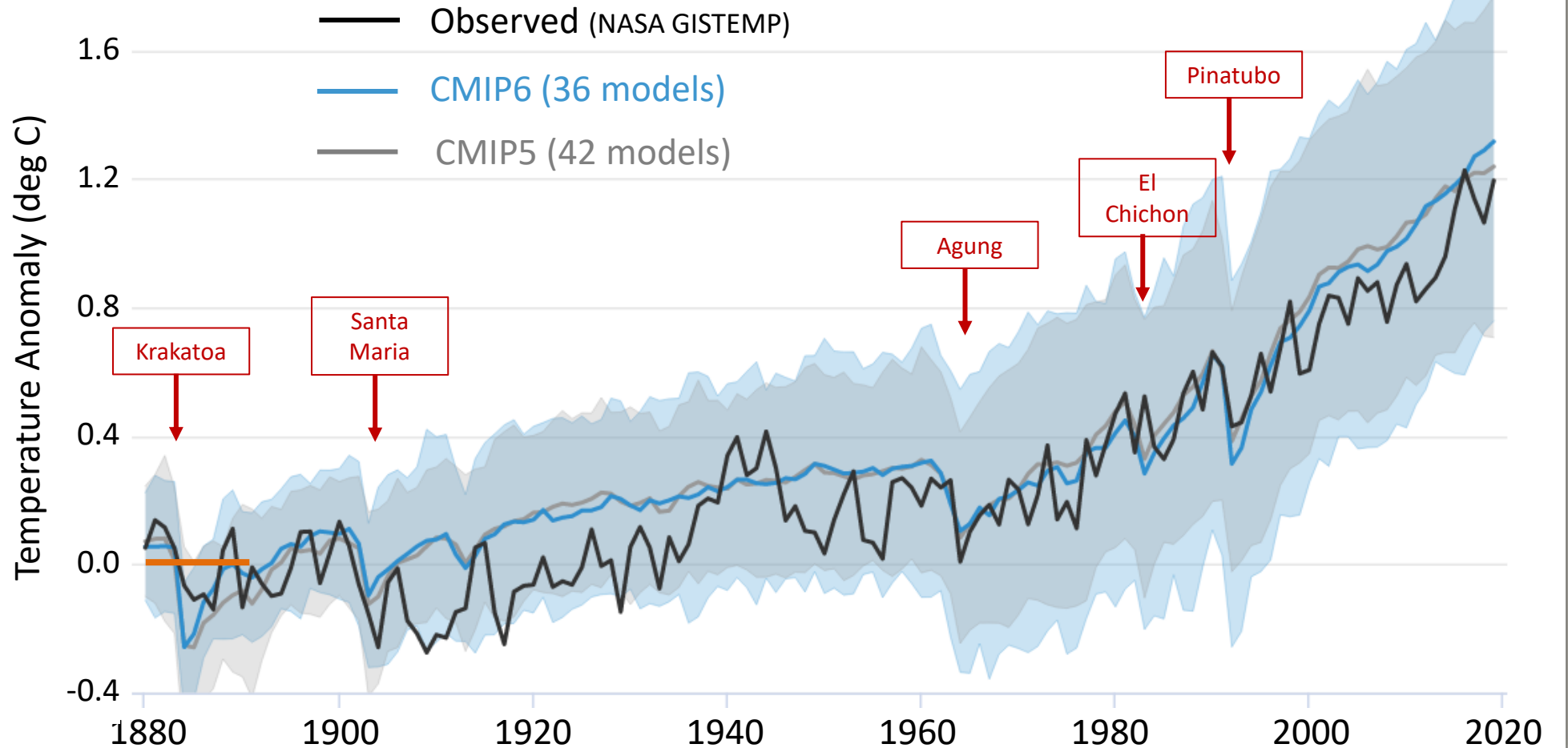
# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models (GCM)

All members were required to do these historical runs



Wikimedia

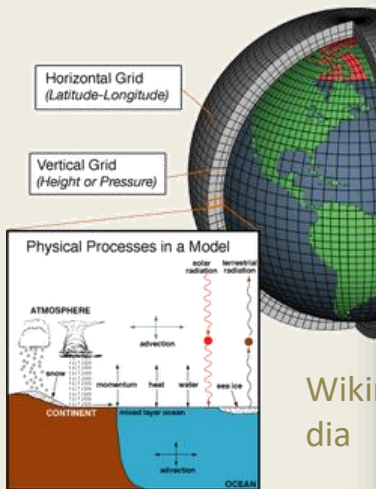
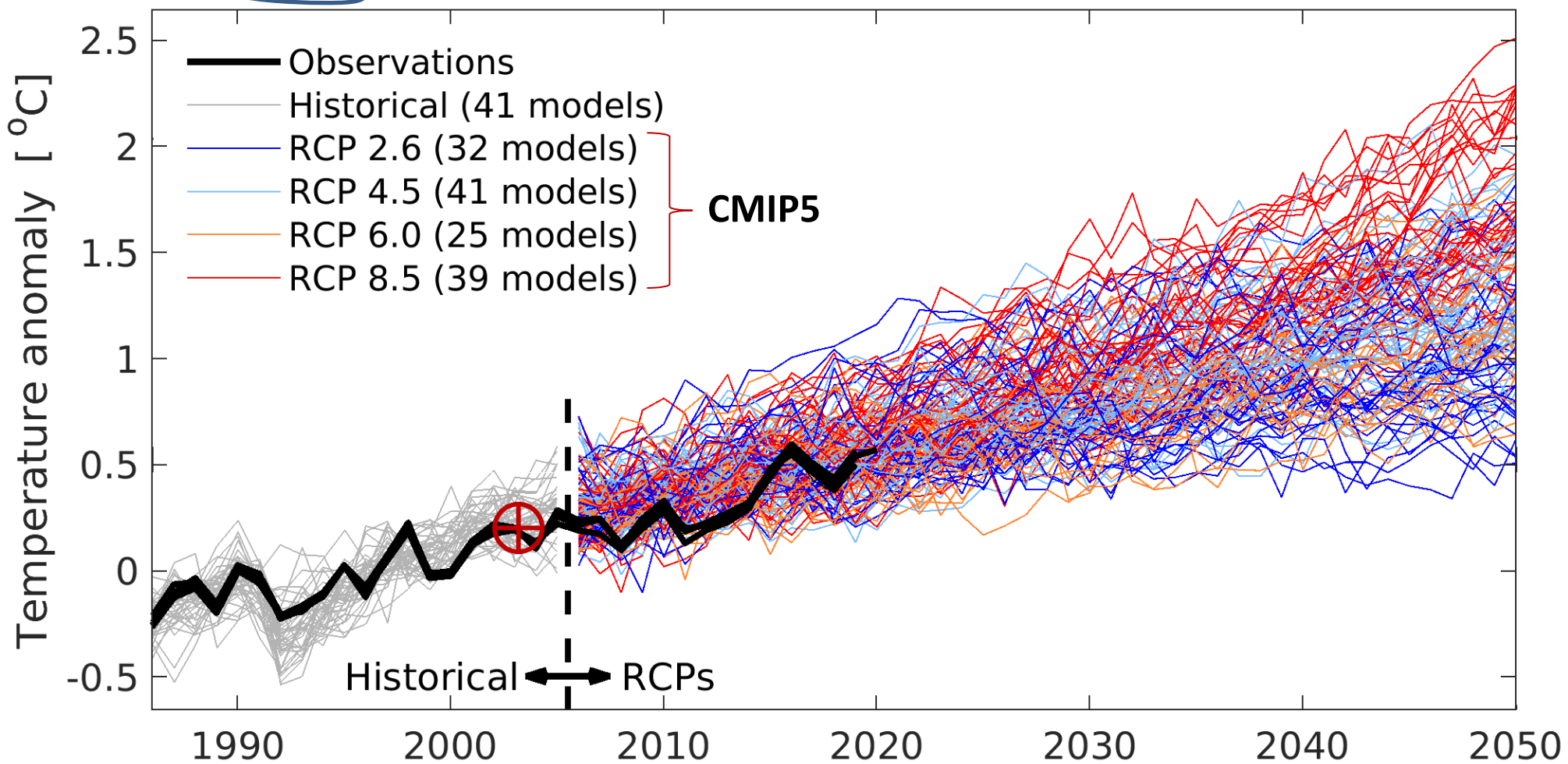
### Intercomparison Test Example: Historical Global Temperatures from 1880



# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models

Global Mean Surface Temp

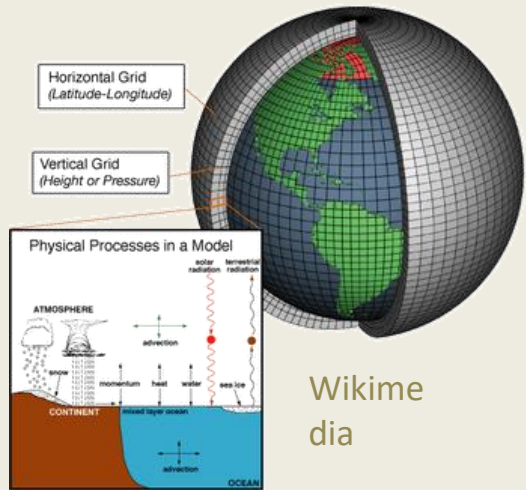
## GMST near-term projections relative to 1986-2005



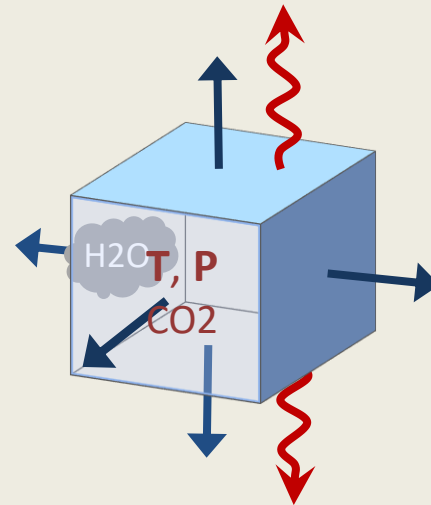
Wiki  
dia

# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models

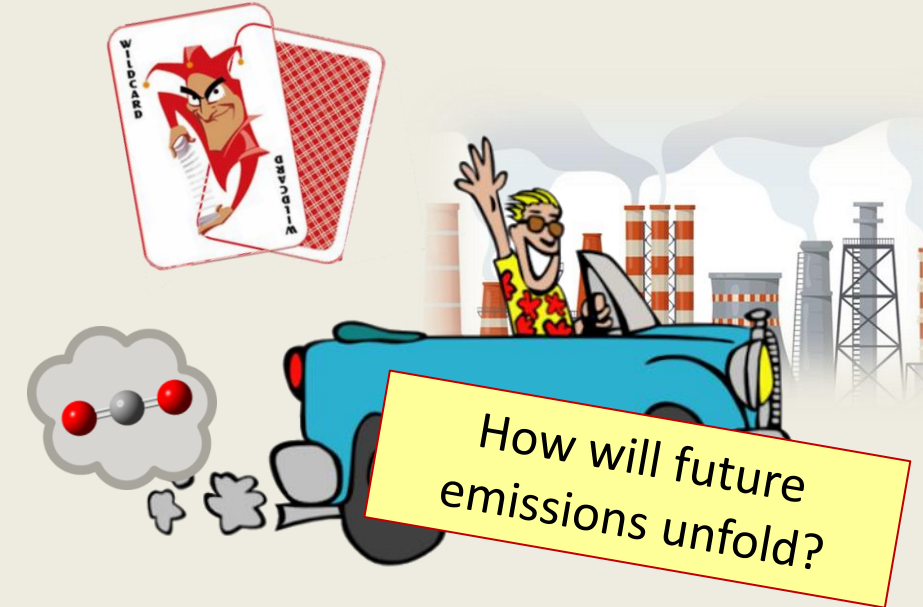
## Two Requirements for a GCM Projection:



Wikime  
dia



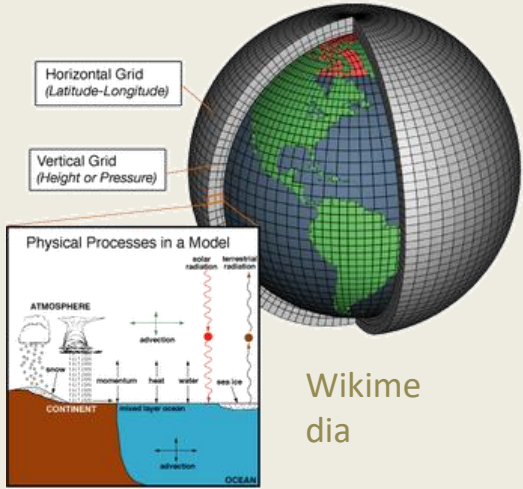
“The Physics”



“Human Behavior”

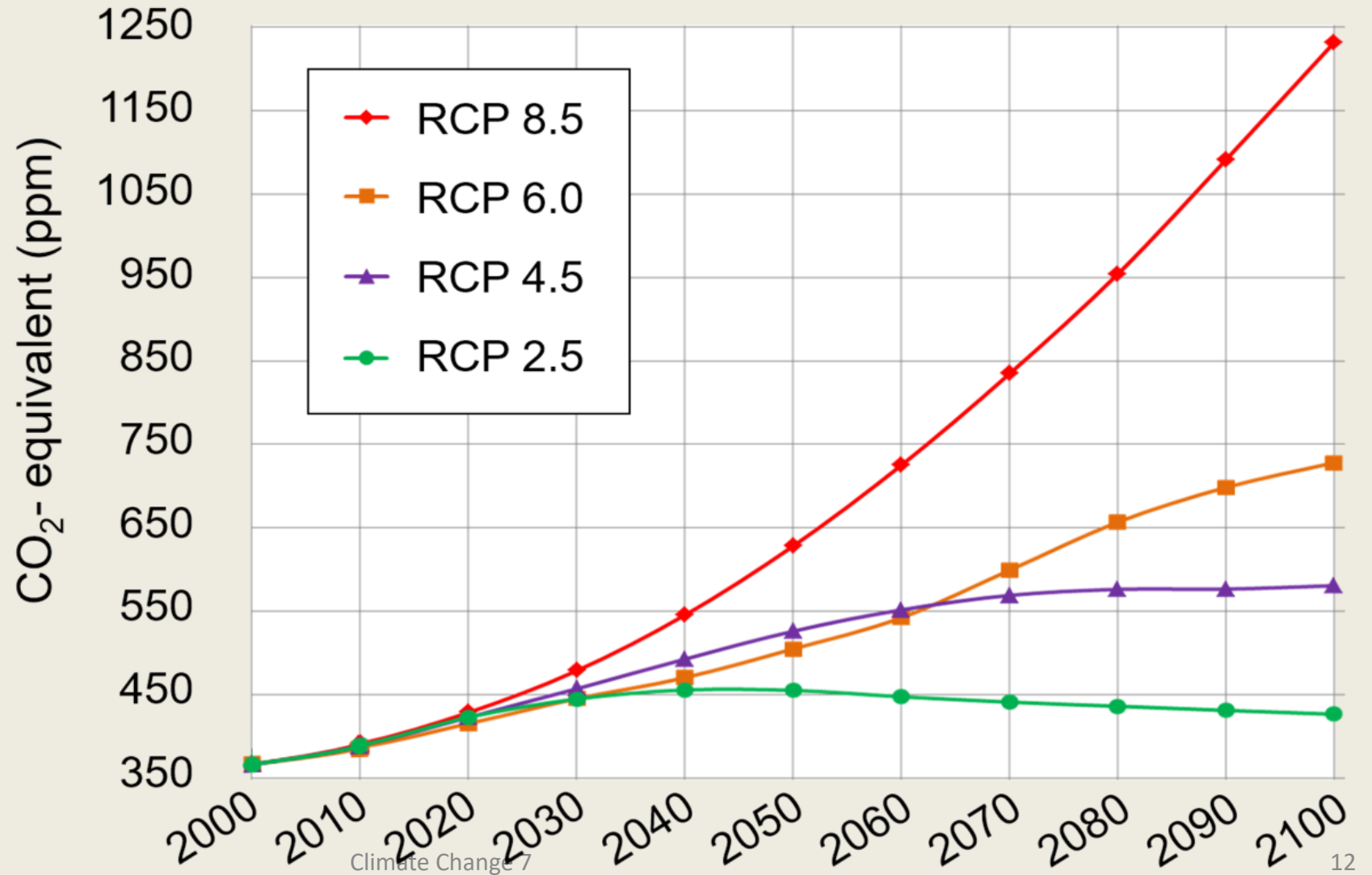


# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models



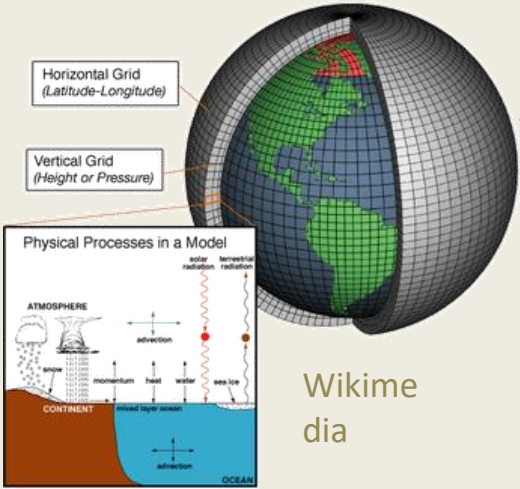
“Human Behavior”

## Human Factors handled with RCP's in IPCC AR5 - Representative Concentration Pathways



# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models

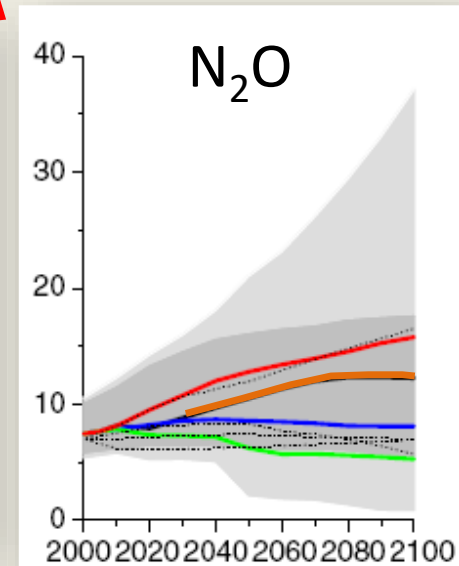
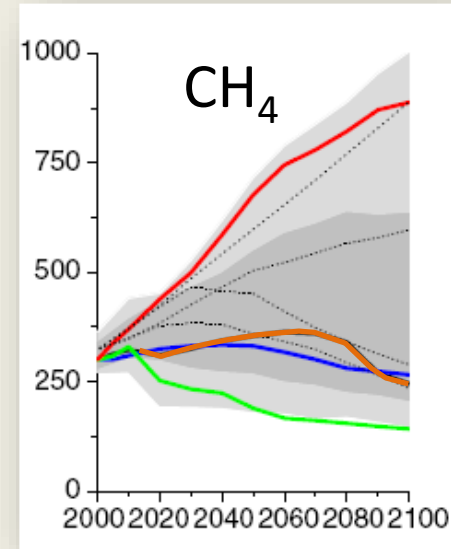
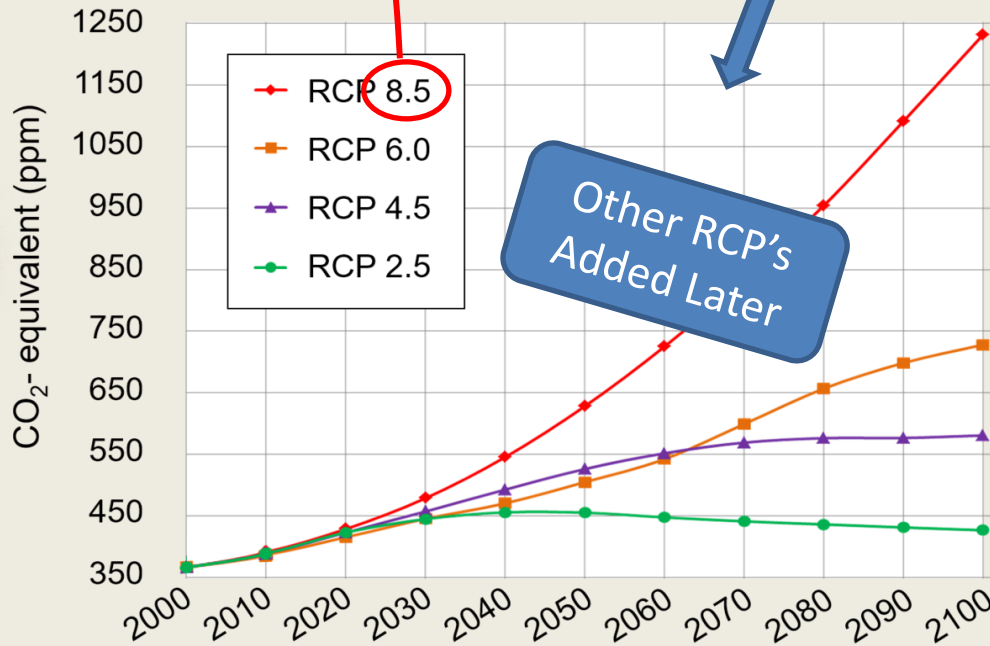
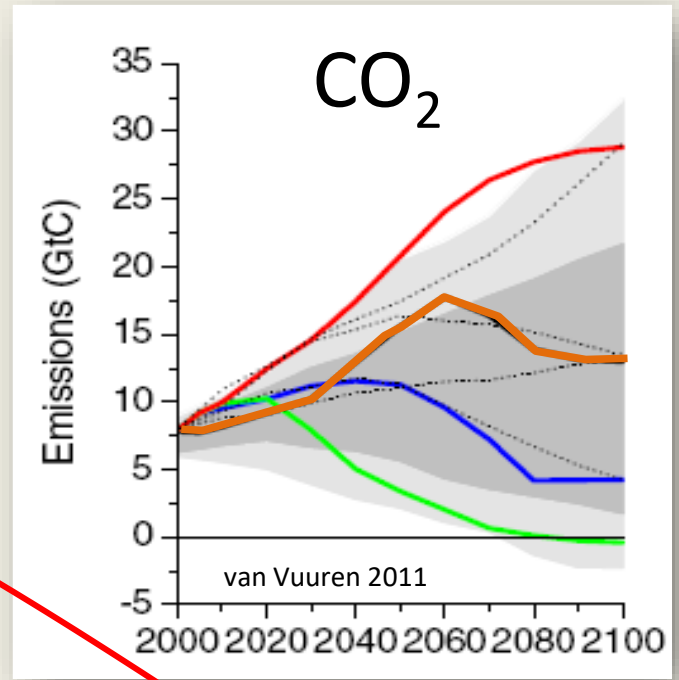
## Human Factors handled with RCP's in IPCC **AR5** - Representative Concentration Pathways



Wikime dia

Watts/m<sup>2</sup> of Radiative Forcing in 2100

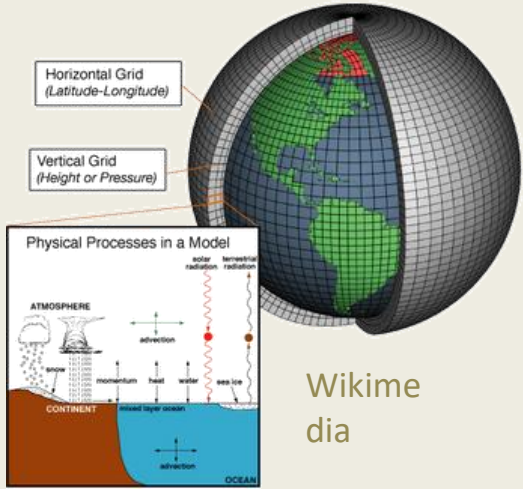
Human Emissions that would give these Concentrations



"Human Behavior"

# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models

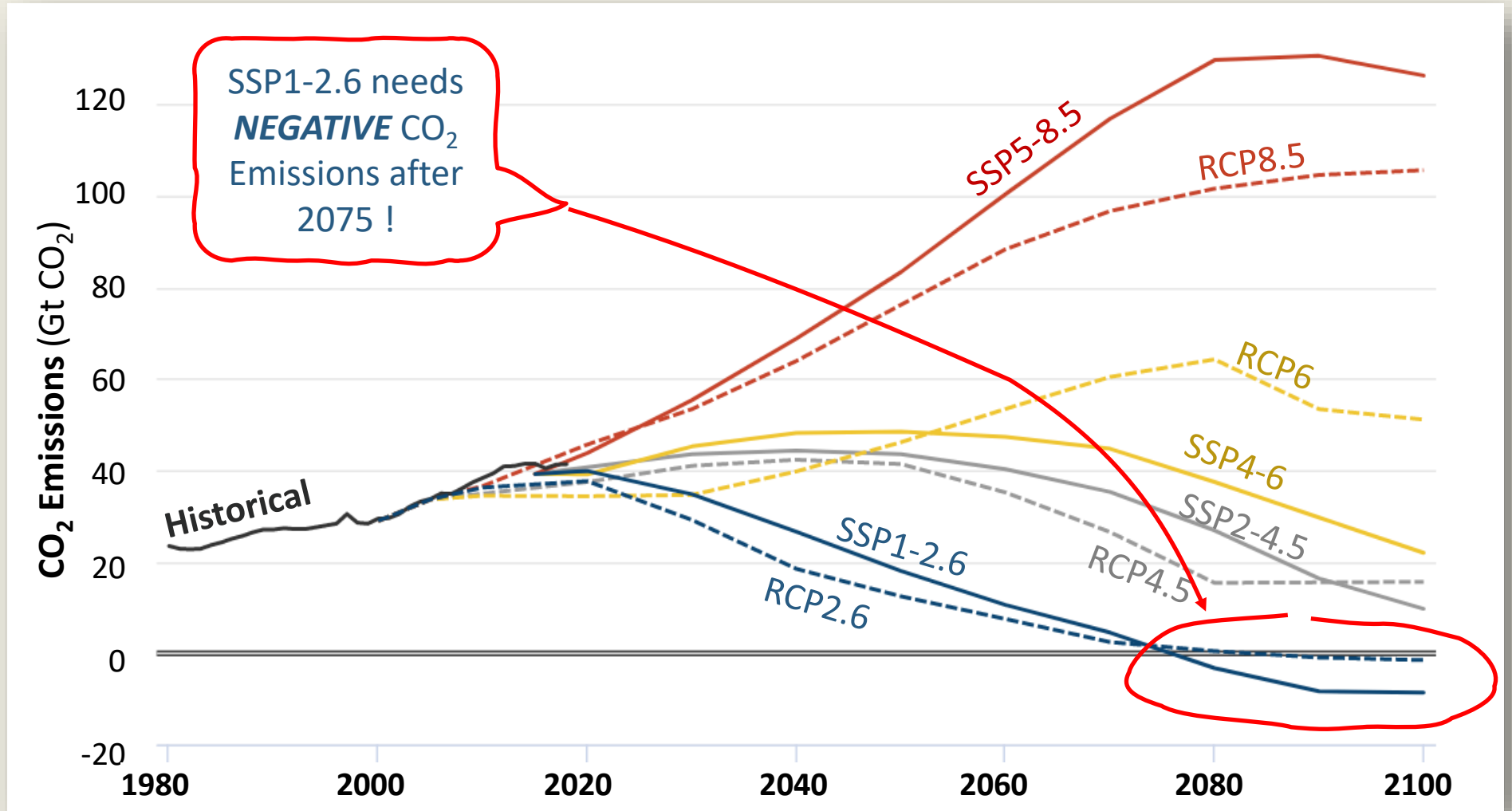
RCP's to be *replaced* by SSP's in IPCC **AR6**  
-- Shared Socioeconomic Pathways



Wikimedia



“Human Behavior”

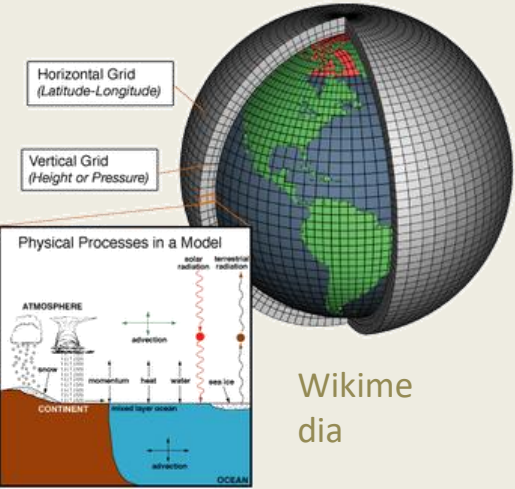


# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models

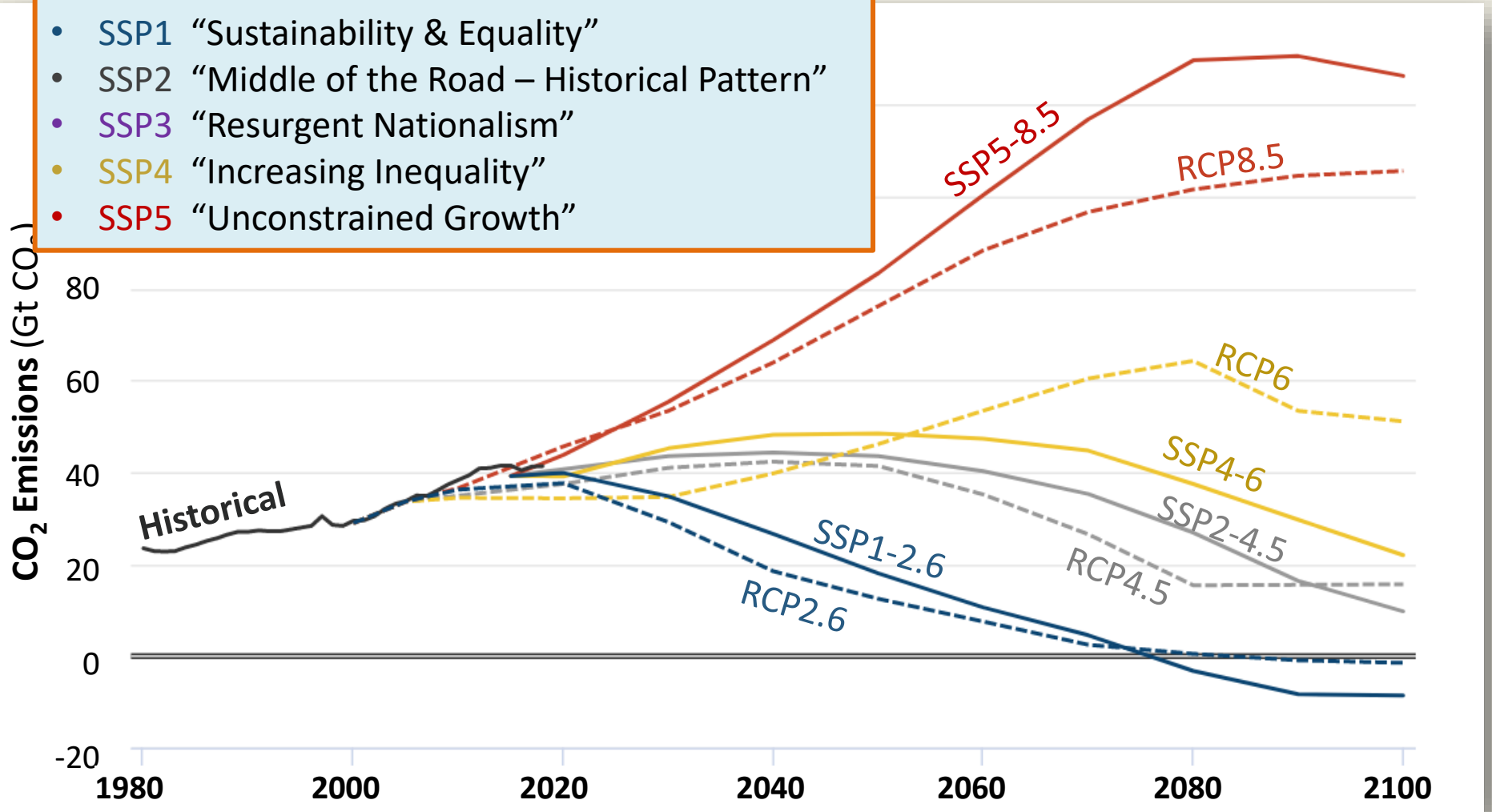
## RCP's to be *replaced* by SSP's in IPCC **AR6** -- Shared Socioeconomic Pathways

### Stories:

- SSP1 "Sustainability & Equality"
- SSP2 "Middle of the Road – Historical Pattern"
- SSP3 "Resurgent Nationalism"
- SSP4 "Increasing Inequality"
- SSP5 "Unconstrained Growth"



CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (Gt CO<sub>2</sub>)

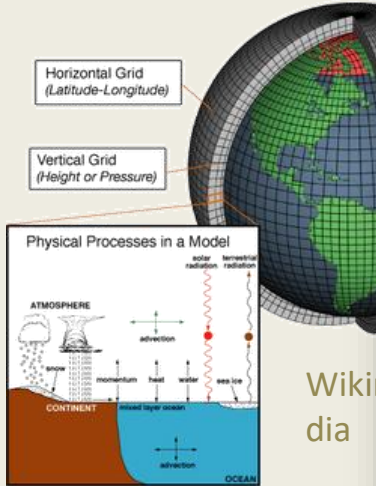
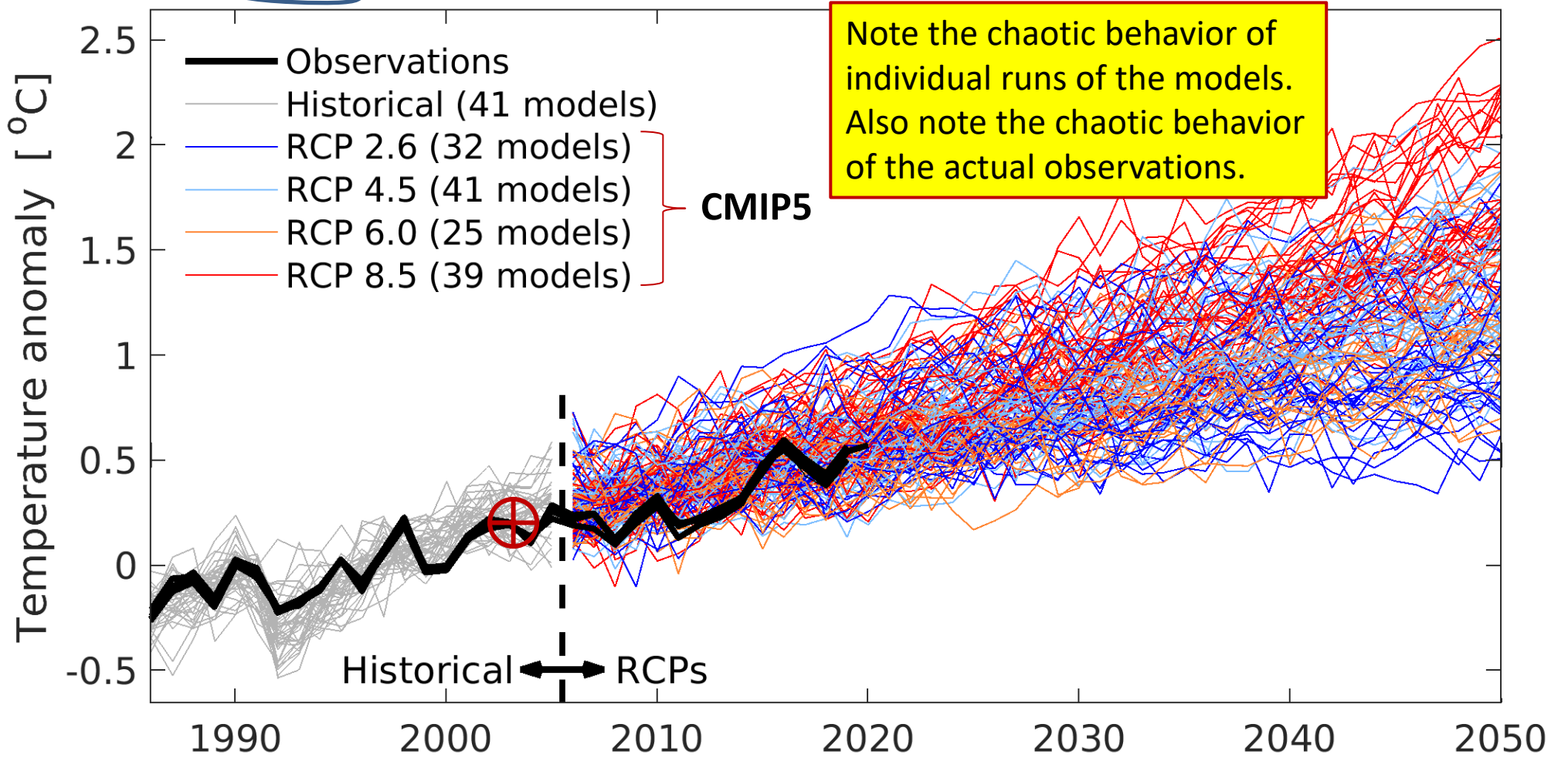


"Human Behavior"

# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models

Global Mean Surface Temp

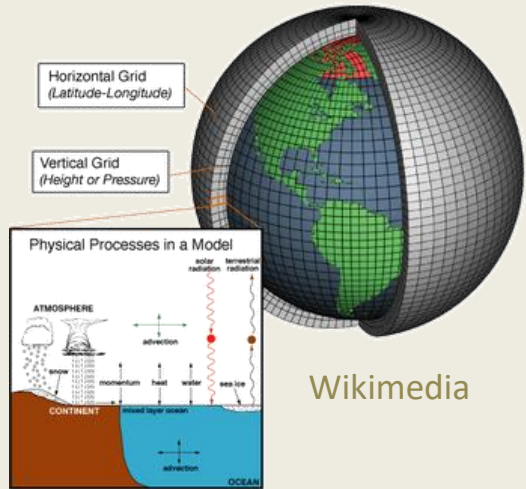
## GMST near-term projections relative to 1986-2005



Wiki  
dia



# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models

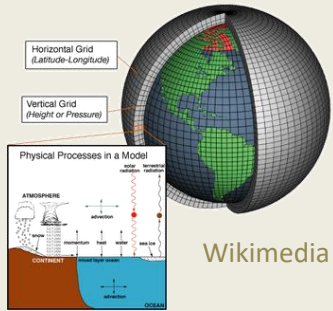


Wikimedia

Remember **Chaos**  
in non-linear  
systems from  
Session 1?

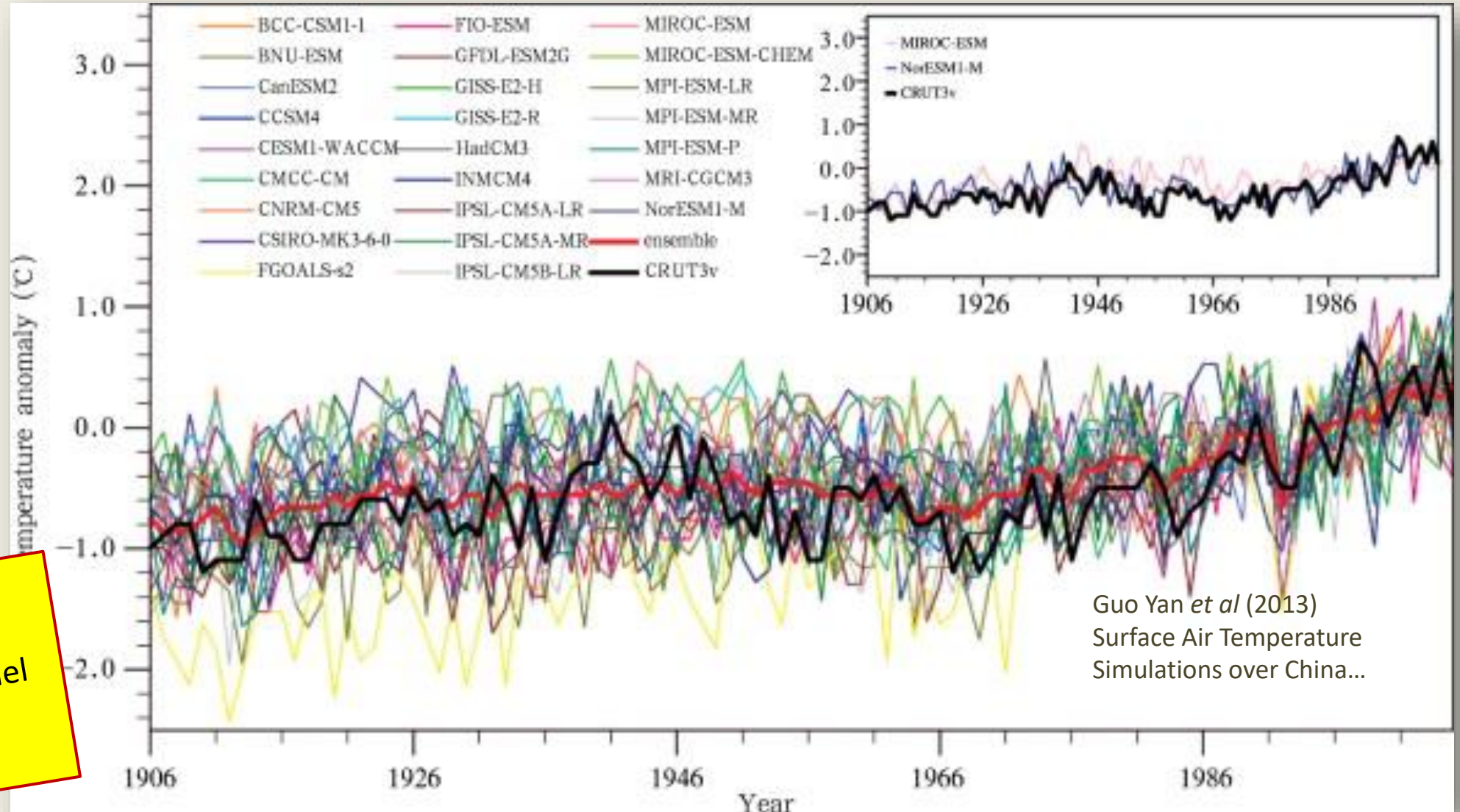


# Global Circulation Models are Chaotic -- Just like the Earth itself!

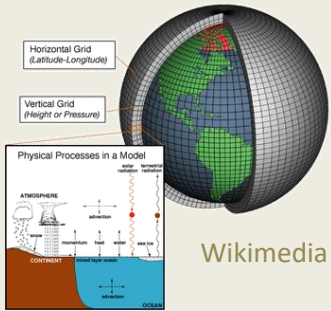


Temperatures in  
China 1906-2006:  
26 GCM Models  
*versus*  
Actual

This is an example illustrating the chaotic nature of individual model runs, this time only for China region.



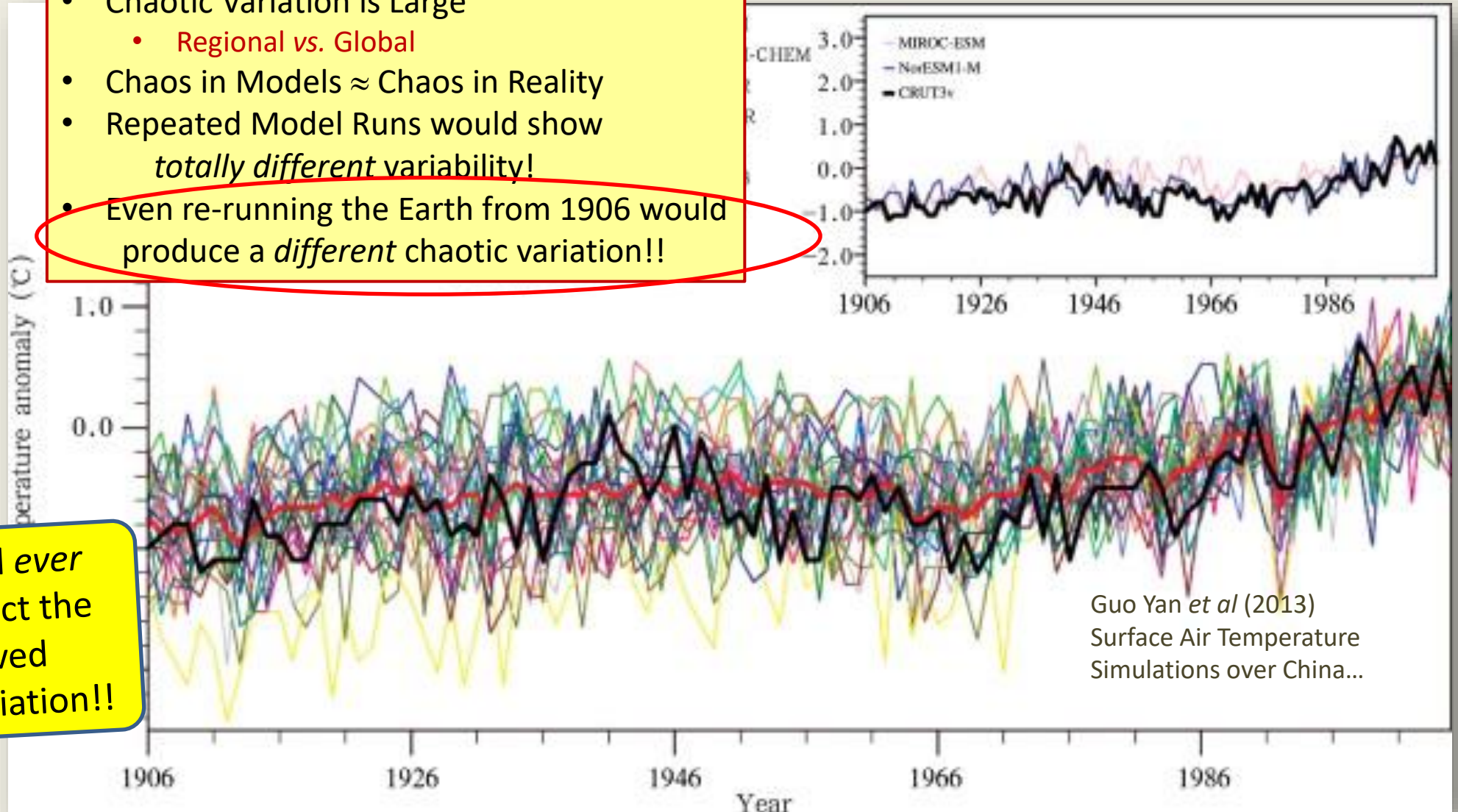
# Global Circulation Models are Chaotic -- Just like the Earth itself!



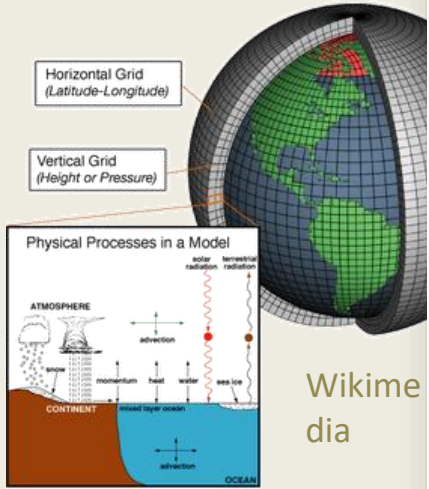
Temperatures in  
China 1906-2006:  
26 GCM Models  
*versus*  
Actual

No Model could ever  
accurately predict the  
actual observed  
Temperature Variation!!

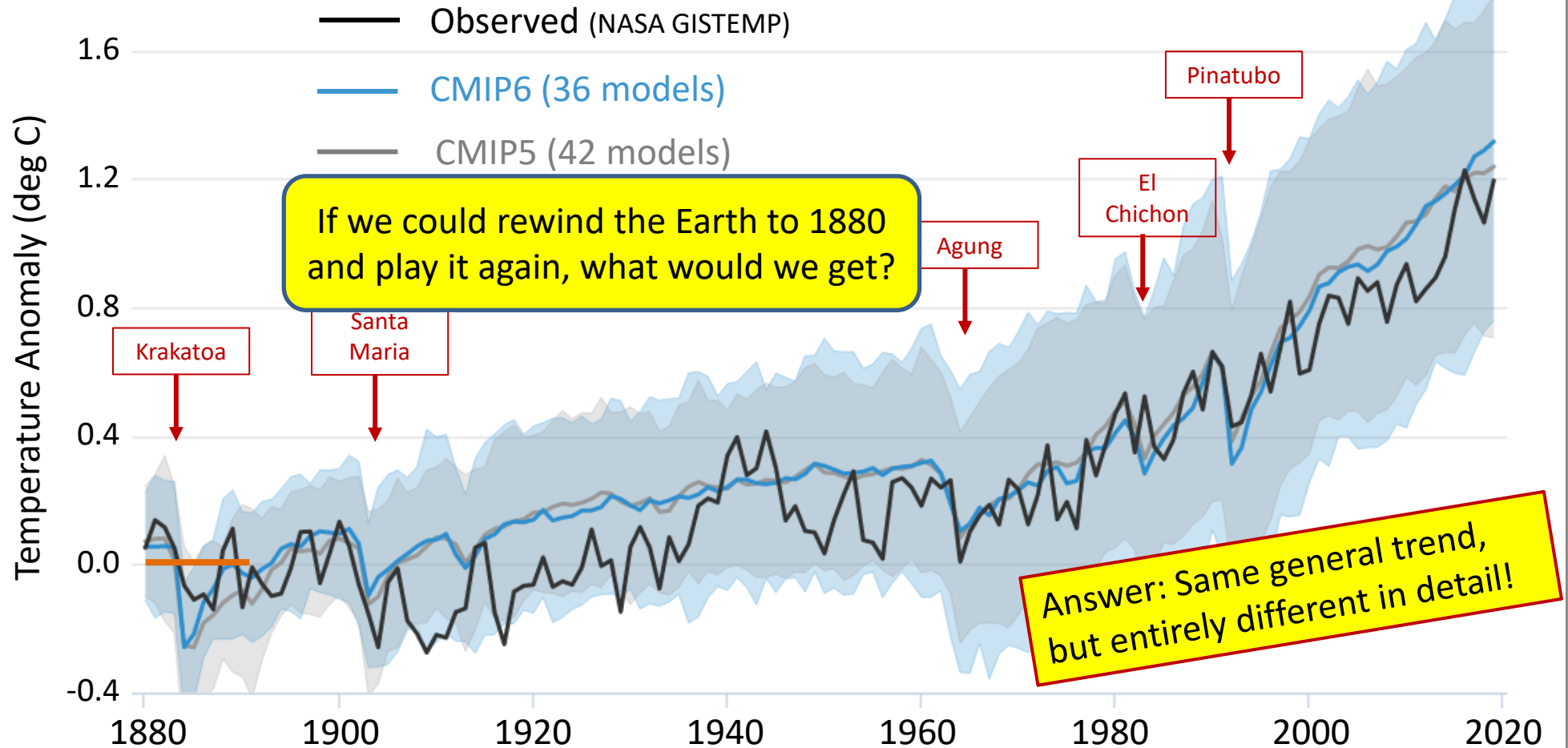
- Chaotic Variation is Large
  - Regional vs. Global
- Chaos in Models  $\approx$  Chaos in Reality
- Repeated Model Runs would show *totally different variability!*
- Even re-running the Earth from 1906 would produce a *different* chaotic variation!!



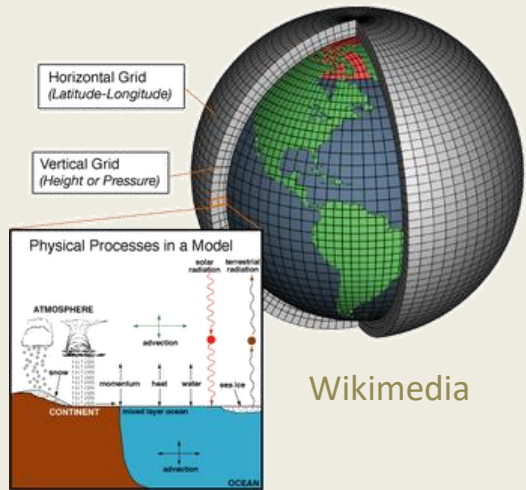
# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models (GCM)



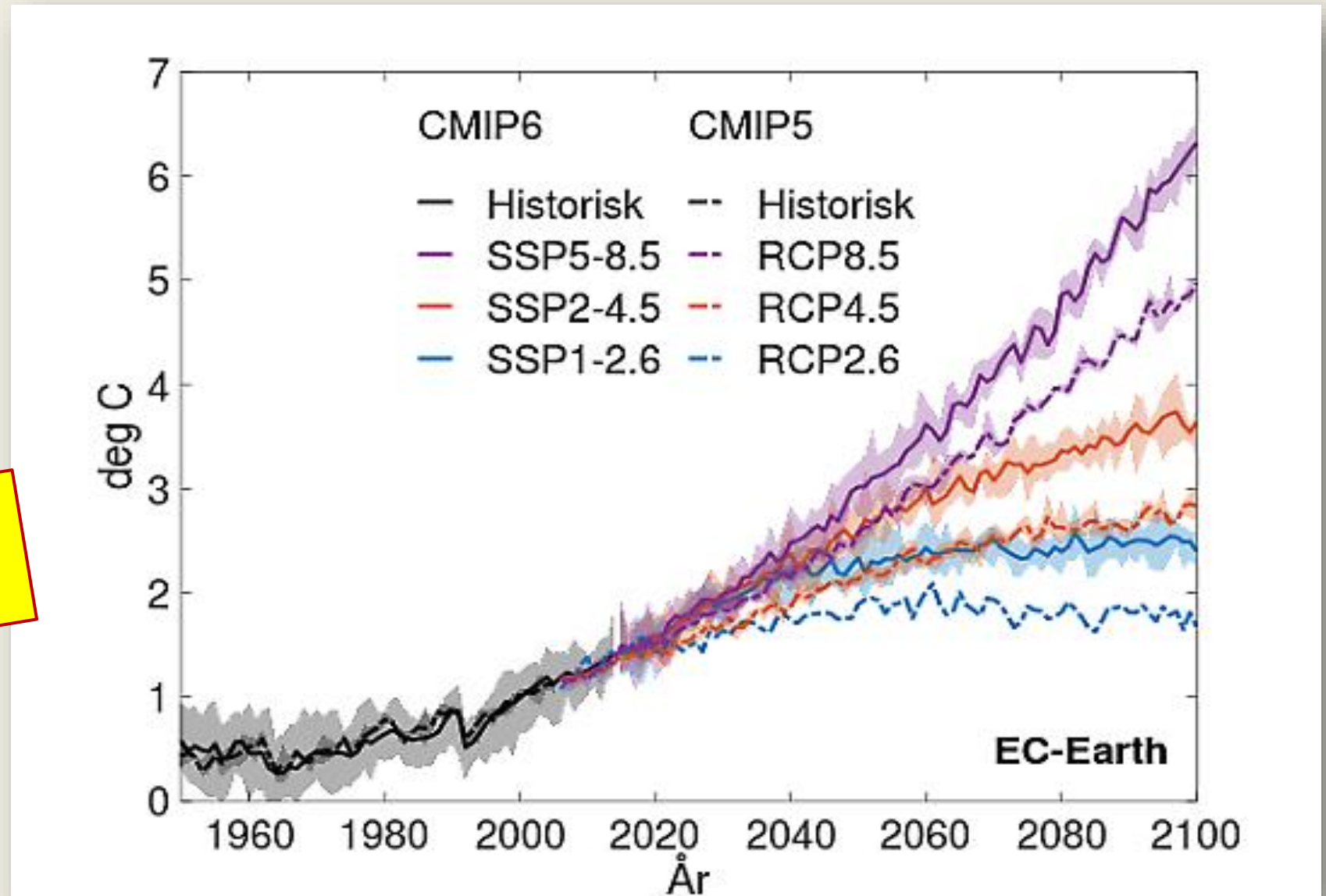
Intercomparison Test Example: Historical Global Temperatures from 1880



# Projecting Future Impacts: Global Circulation Models



Global average temperature rise for one CMIP6 model under different Scenarios.

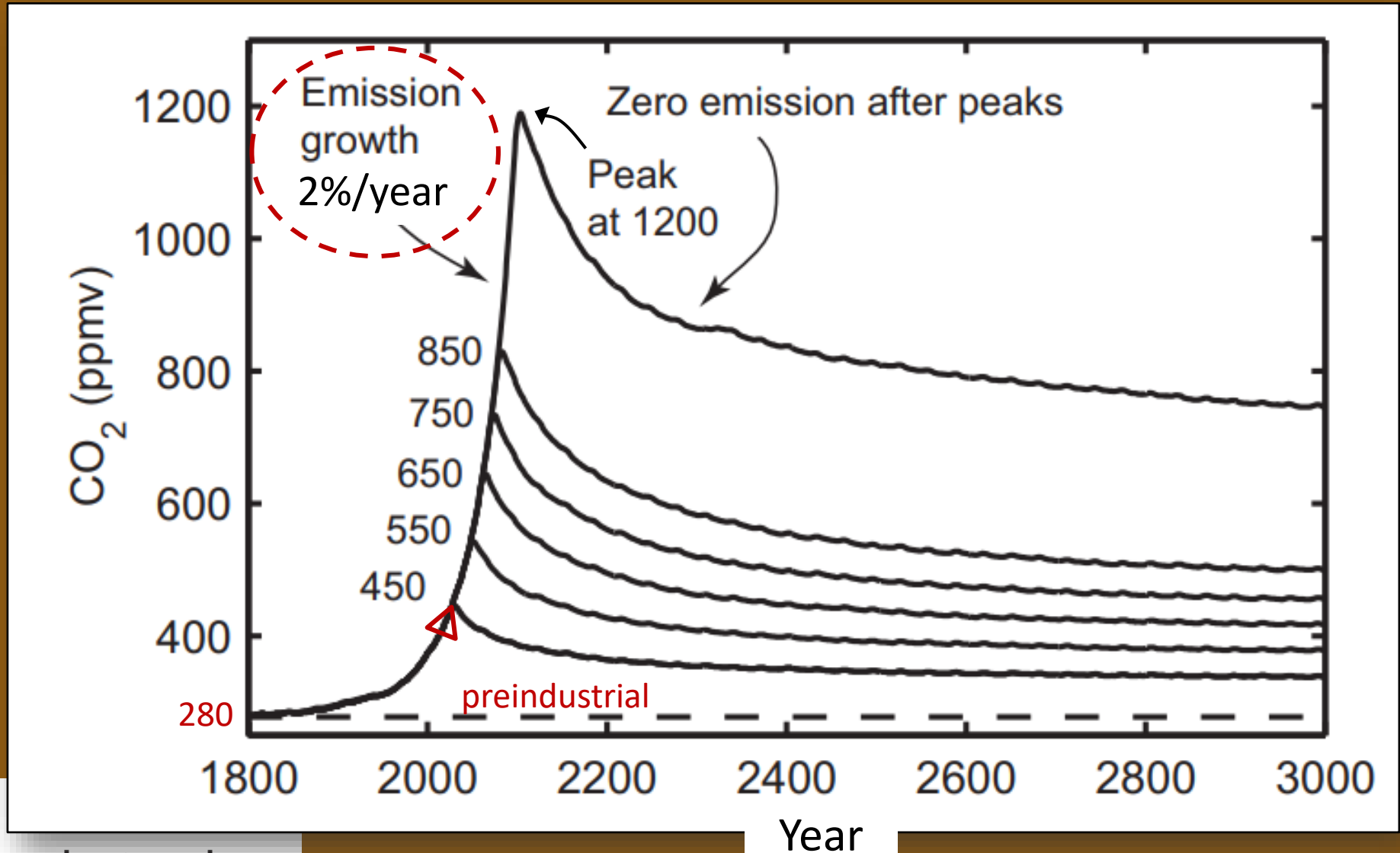


Baked  
In?

Could we  
cool it off  
again?



# Future CO<sub>2</sub> Pathways if we Stop Emitting at Various Concentrations



PNAS 2009

Irreversible climate change due to carbon dioxide emissions

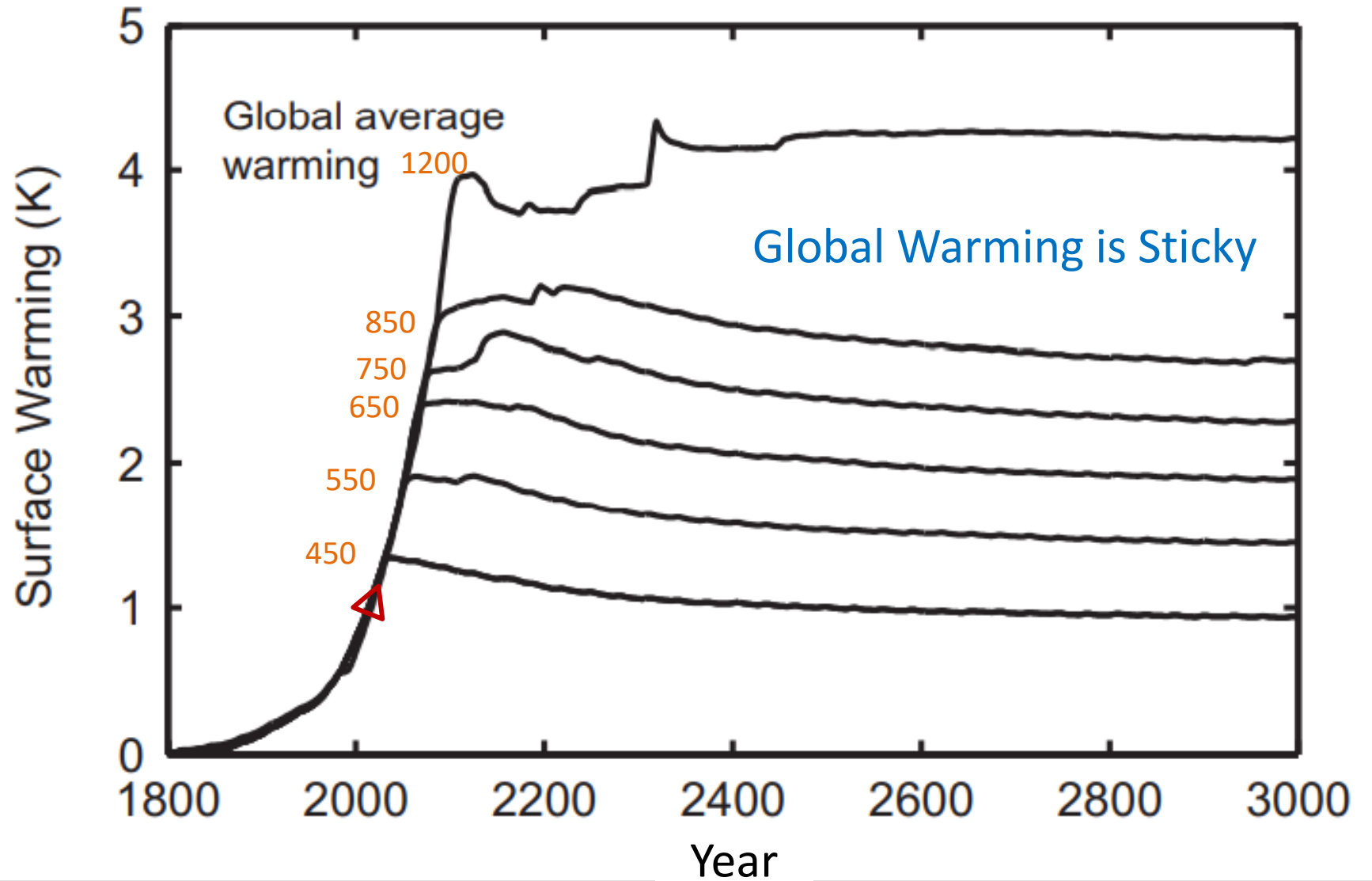
Susan Solomon<sup>a,1</sup>, Gian-Kasper Plattner<sup>b</sup>, Reto Knutti<sup>c</sup>, and Pierre Friedlingstein<sup>d</sup>

# Future Temperature Pathways if we Stop Emitting CO<sub>2</sub> at these Points



The good news?

We have probably staved off the next Ice Age for a few thousand years...



PNAS 2009

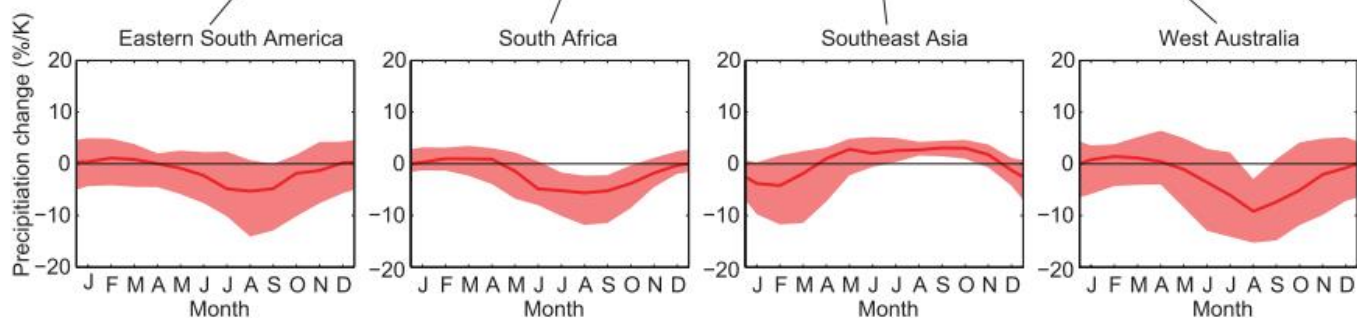
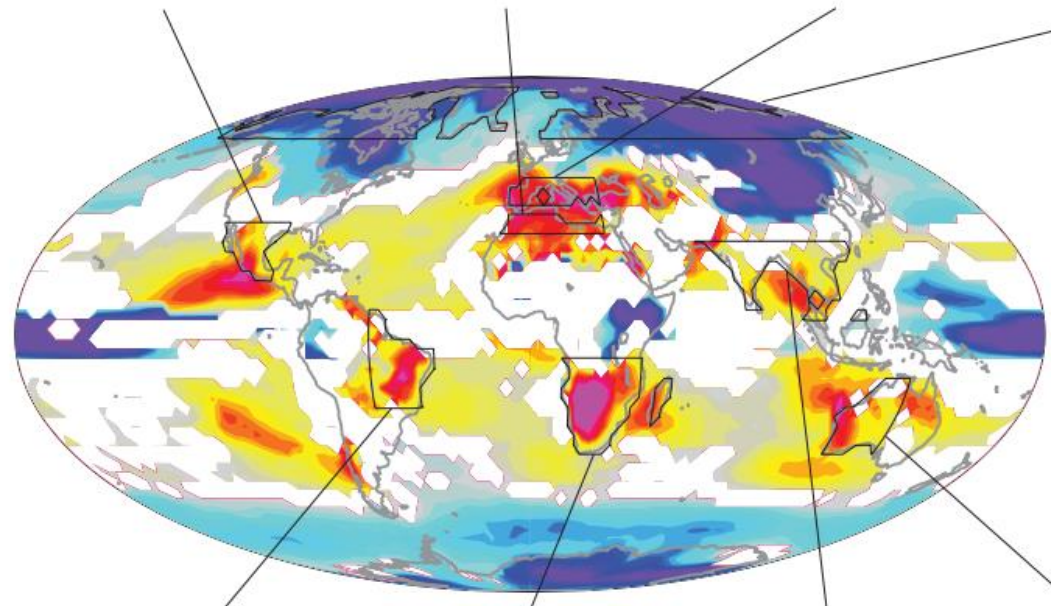
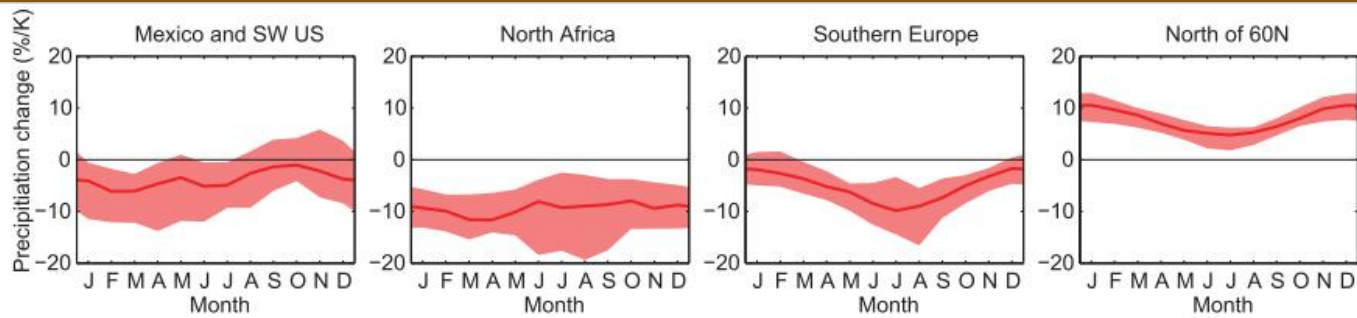
Irreversible climate change due to carbon dioxide emissions

Susan Solomon<sup>a,1</sup>, Gian-Kasper Plattner<sup>b</sup>, Reto Knutti<sup>c</sup>, and Pierre Friedlingstein<sup>d</sup>





# Precipitation Trends



The mixed news?  
 Equatorial and High Latitudes will get Wetter...  
 Mid-Latitudes will get Dryer

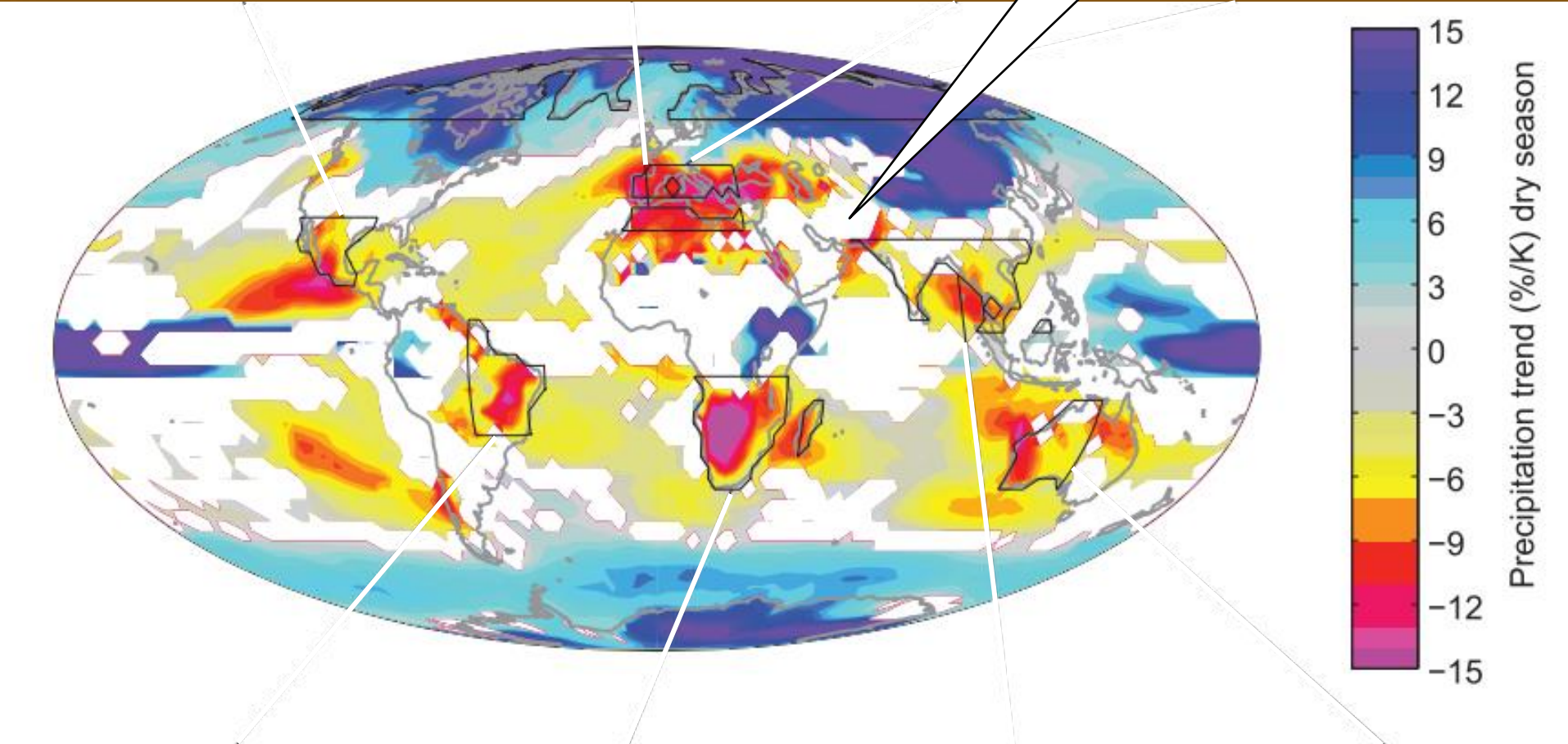
**PNAS** 2009  
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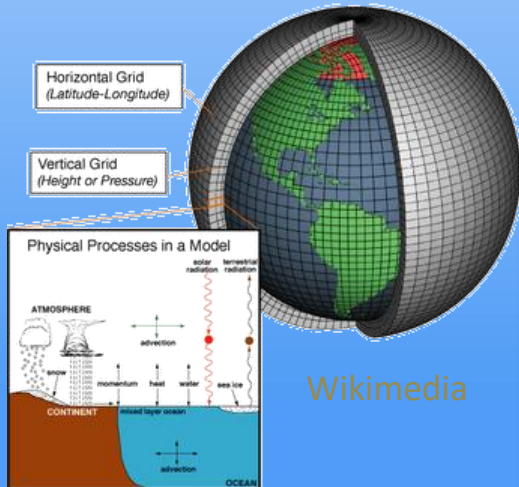
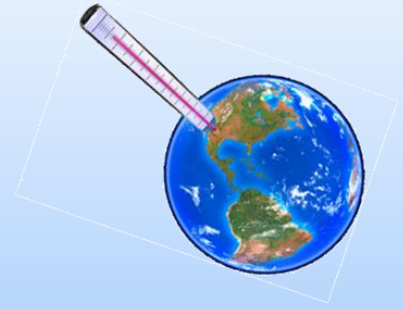
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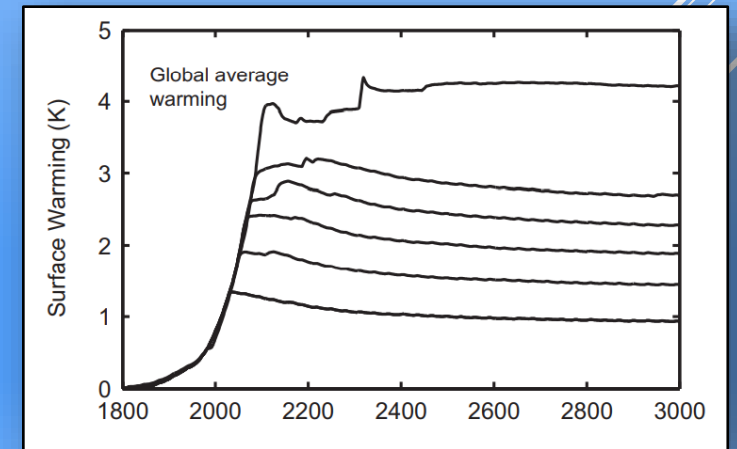
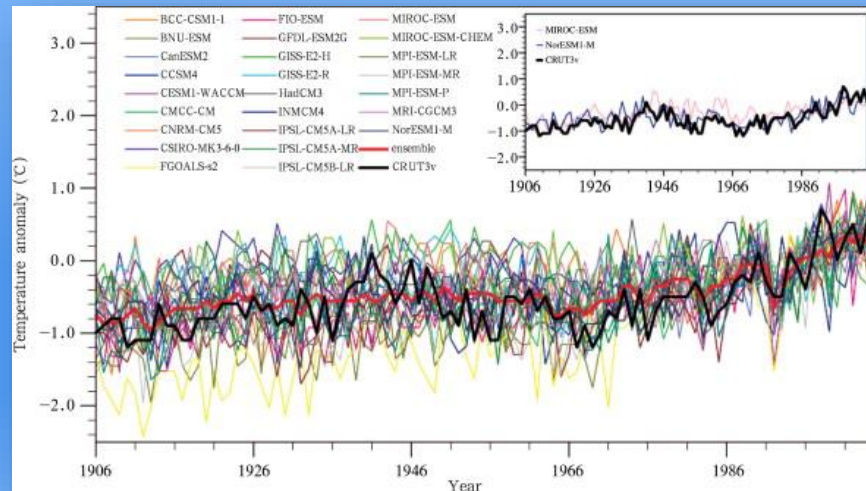




# Questions about Climate Prediction, RCP's , Chaos or Baked-In Warming?



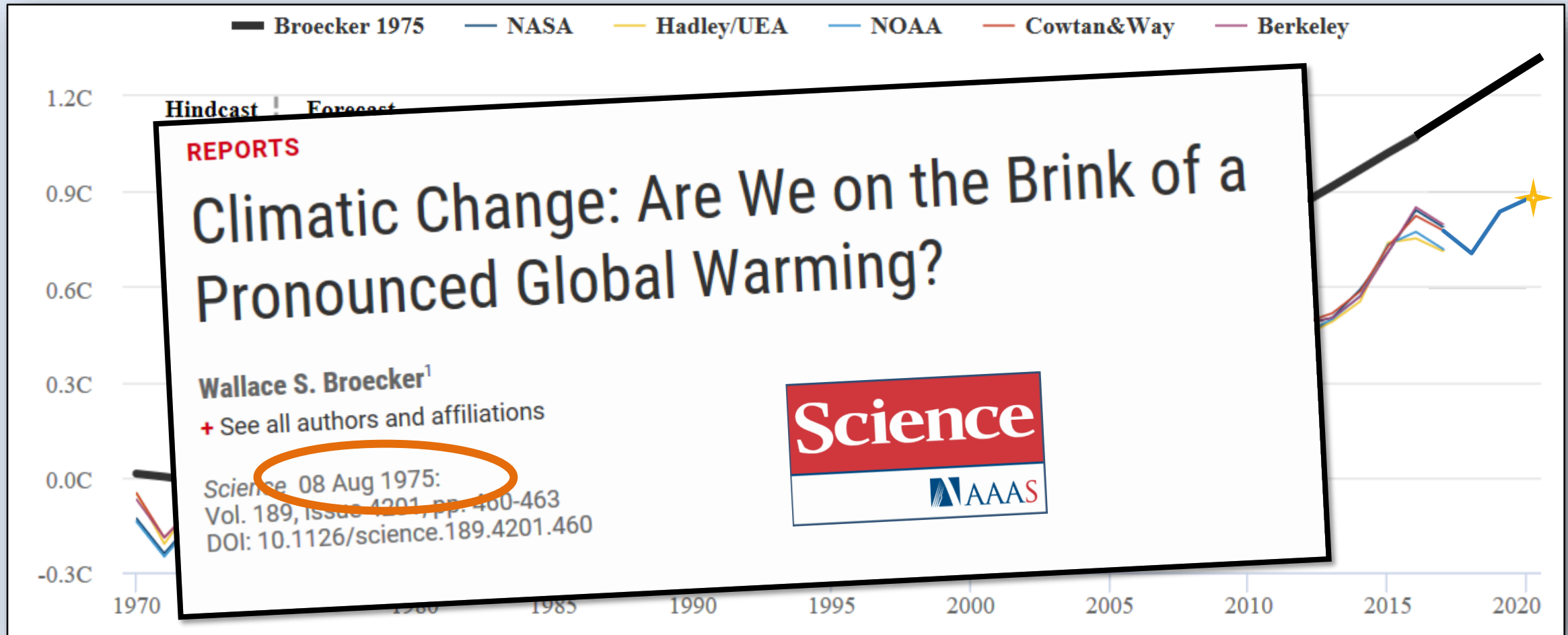
Wikimedia



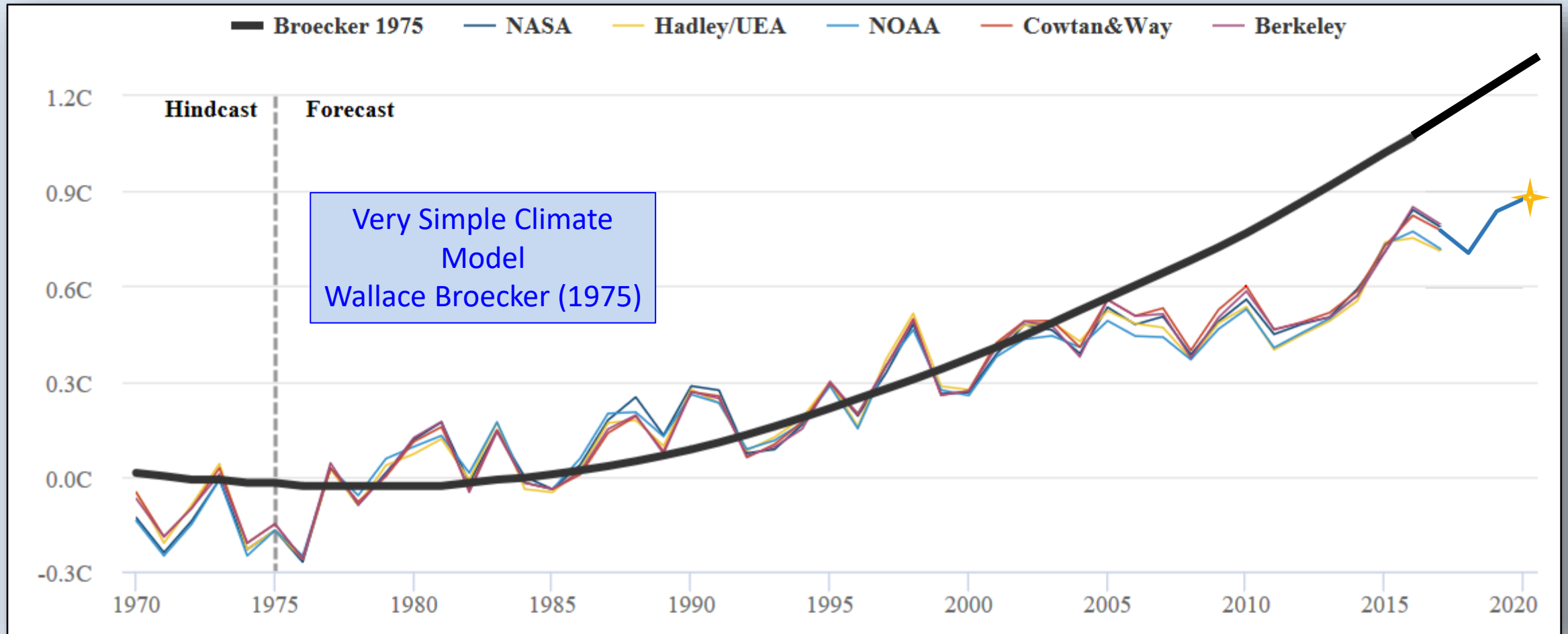
# Climate Predictions: How well did they do so far?



# Climate Predictions: How Well Did They Do?

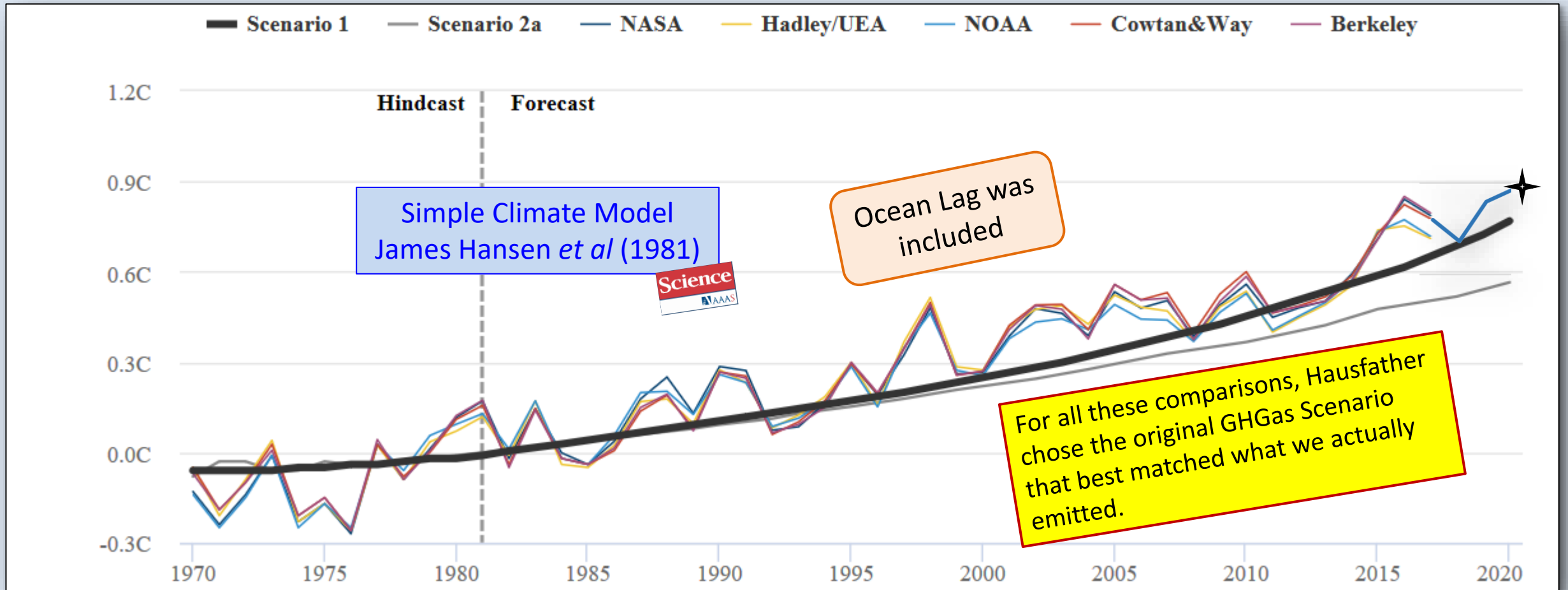


# Climate Predictions: How Well Did They Do?



Data assembled by Z. Hausfather,  
CarbonBrief.org

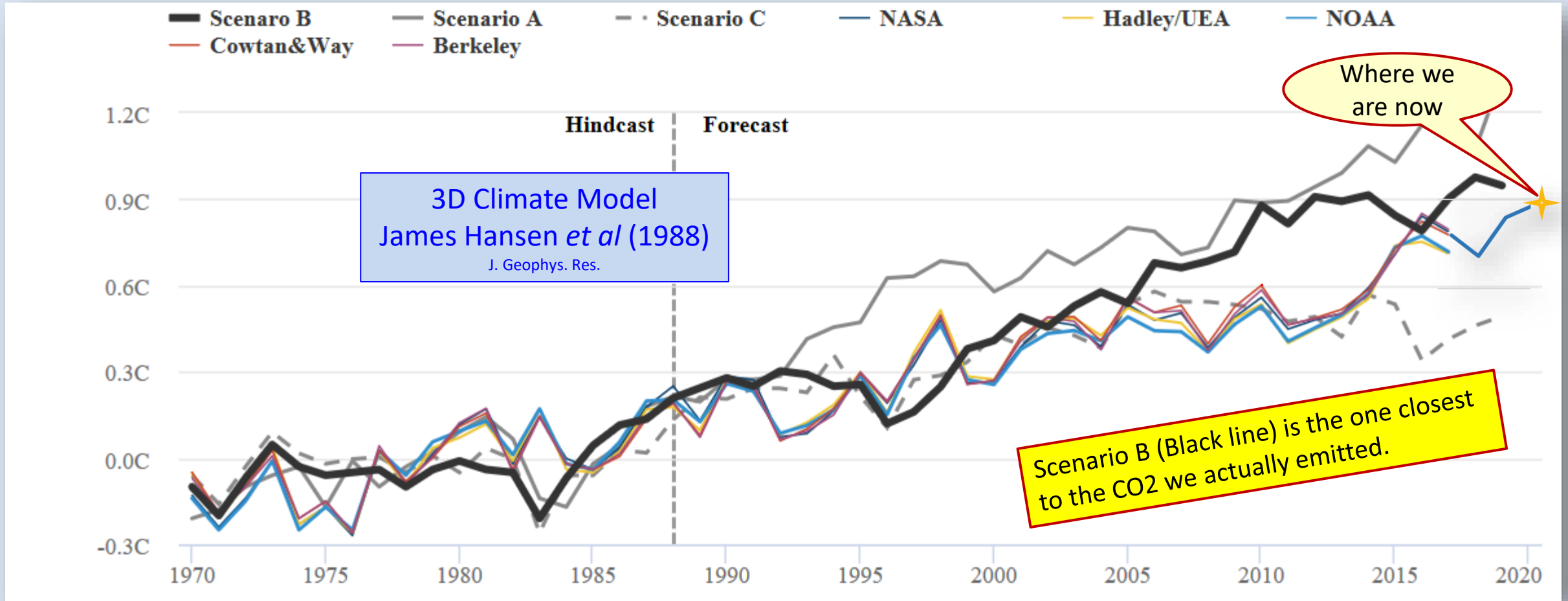
# Climate Predictions: How Well Did They Do?



Baseline Period

Data assembled by Z. Hausfather, CarbonBrief.org

# Climate Predictions: How Well Did They Do?

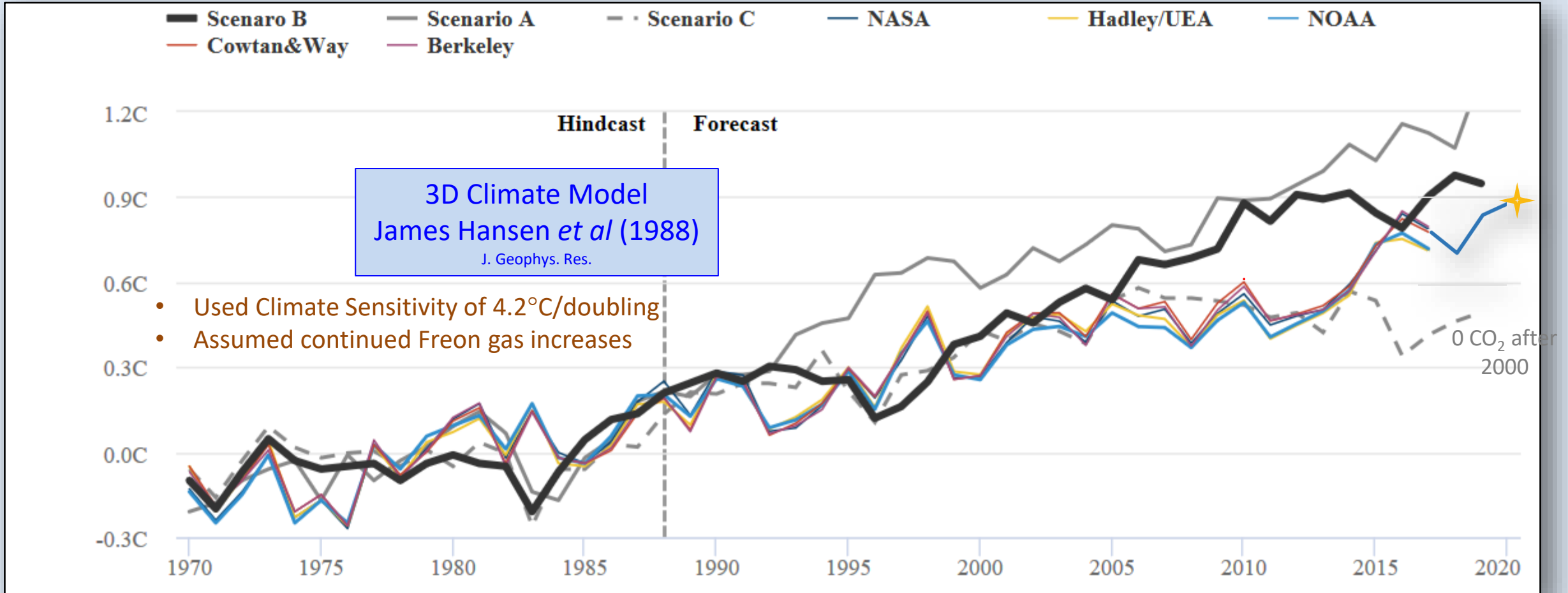


Baseline Period

Data assembled by Z. Hausfather, CarbonBrief.org

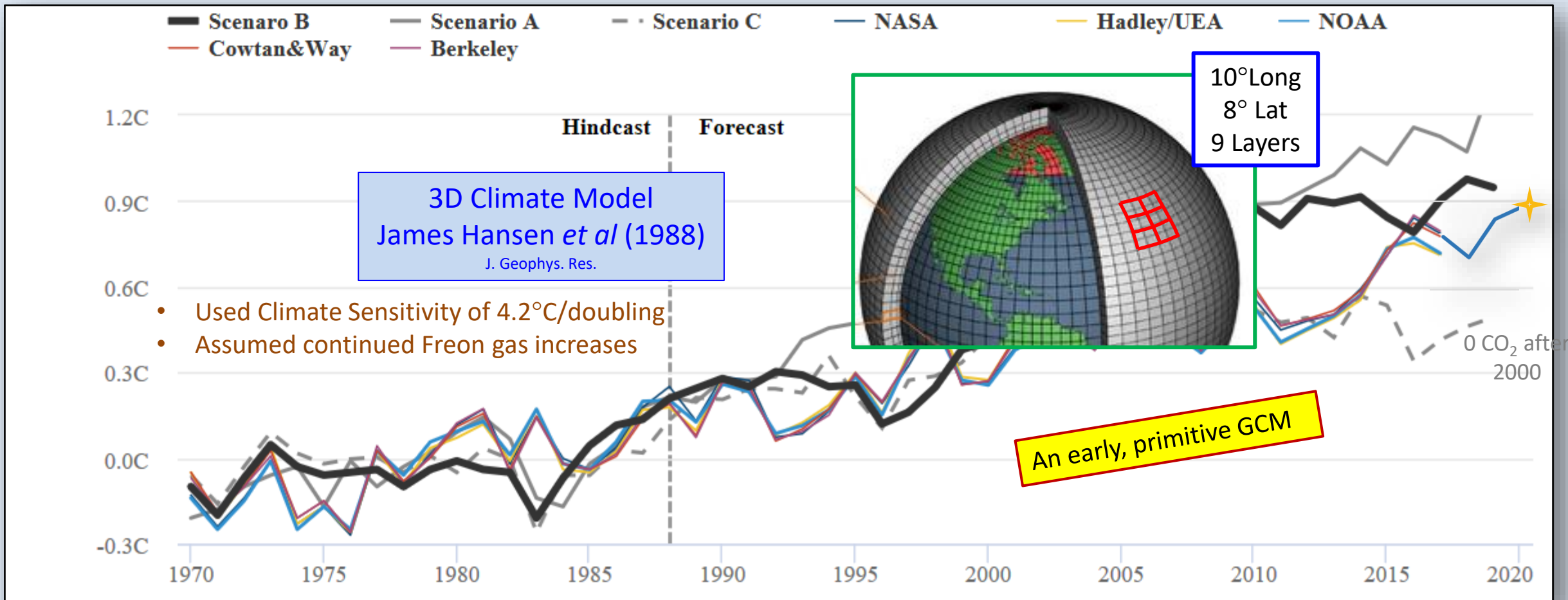


# Climate Predictions: How Well Did They Do?



Data assembled by Z. Hausfather, CarbonBrief.org

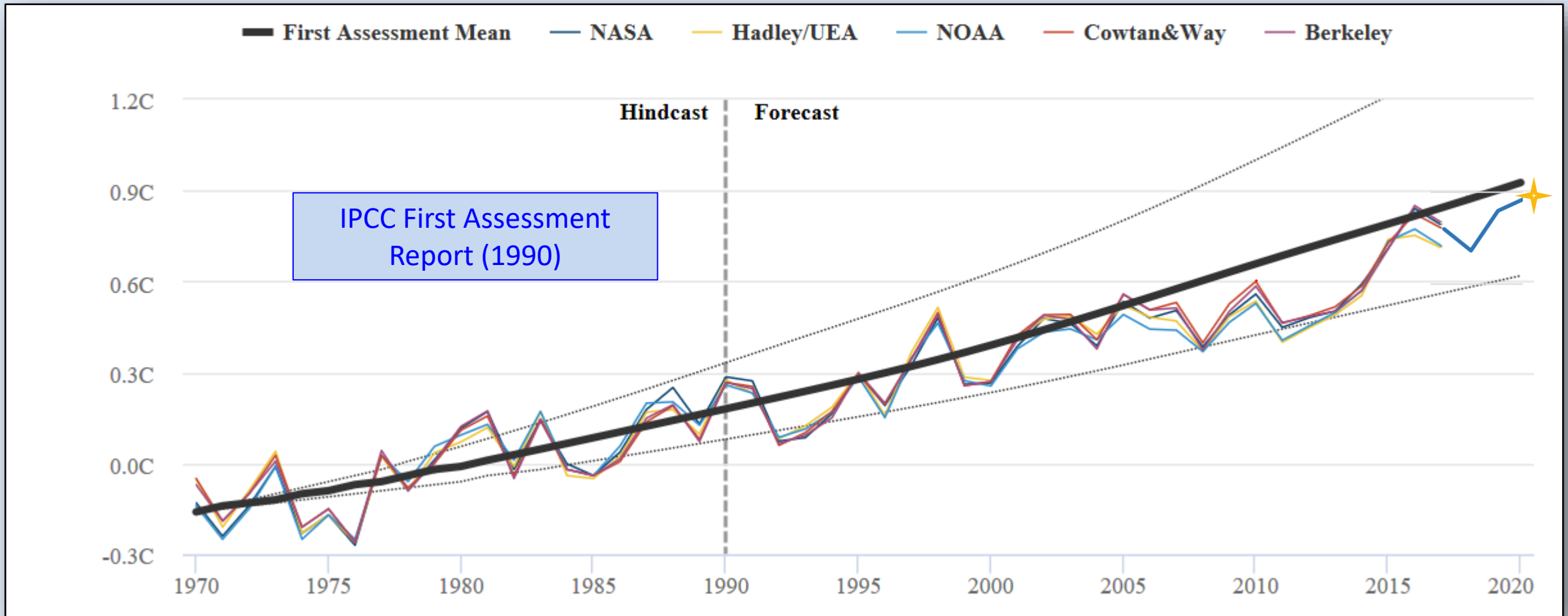
# Climate Predictions: How Well Did They Do?



Baseline Period

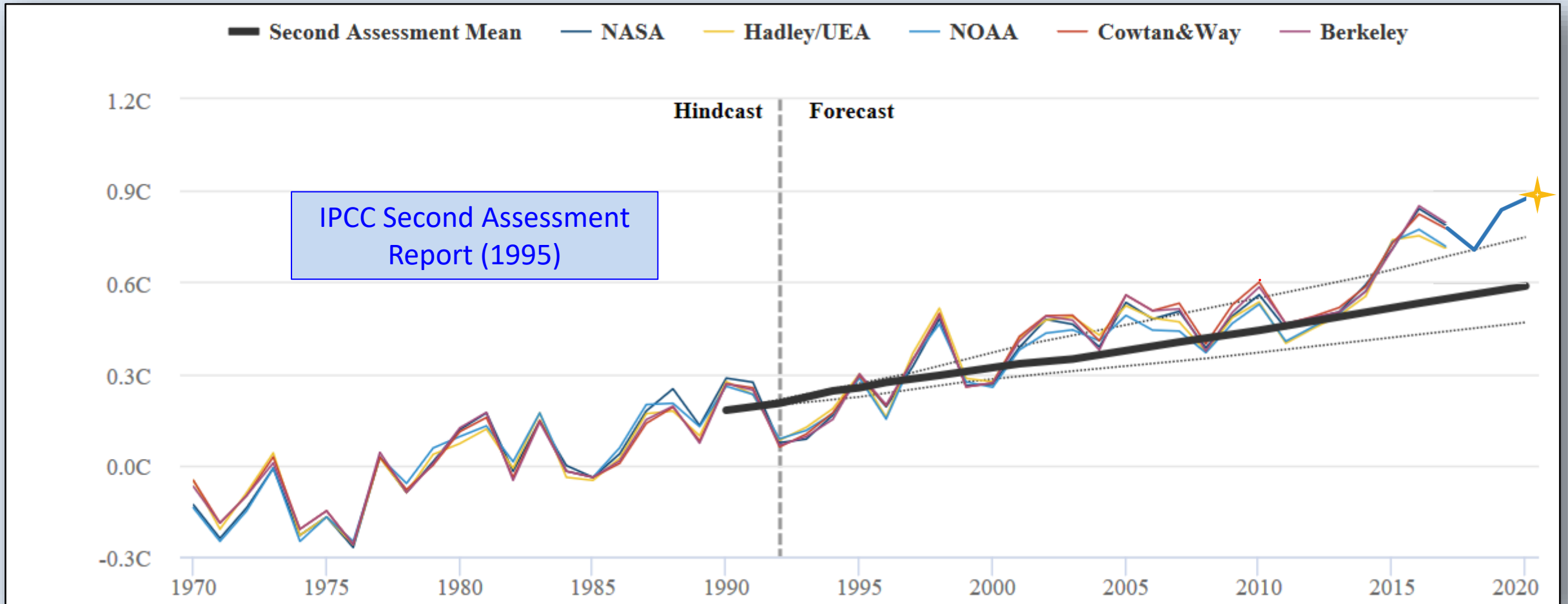
Data assembled by Z. Hausfather, CarbonBrief.org

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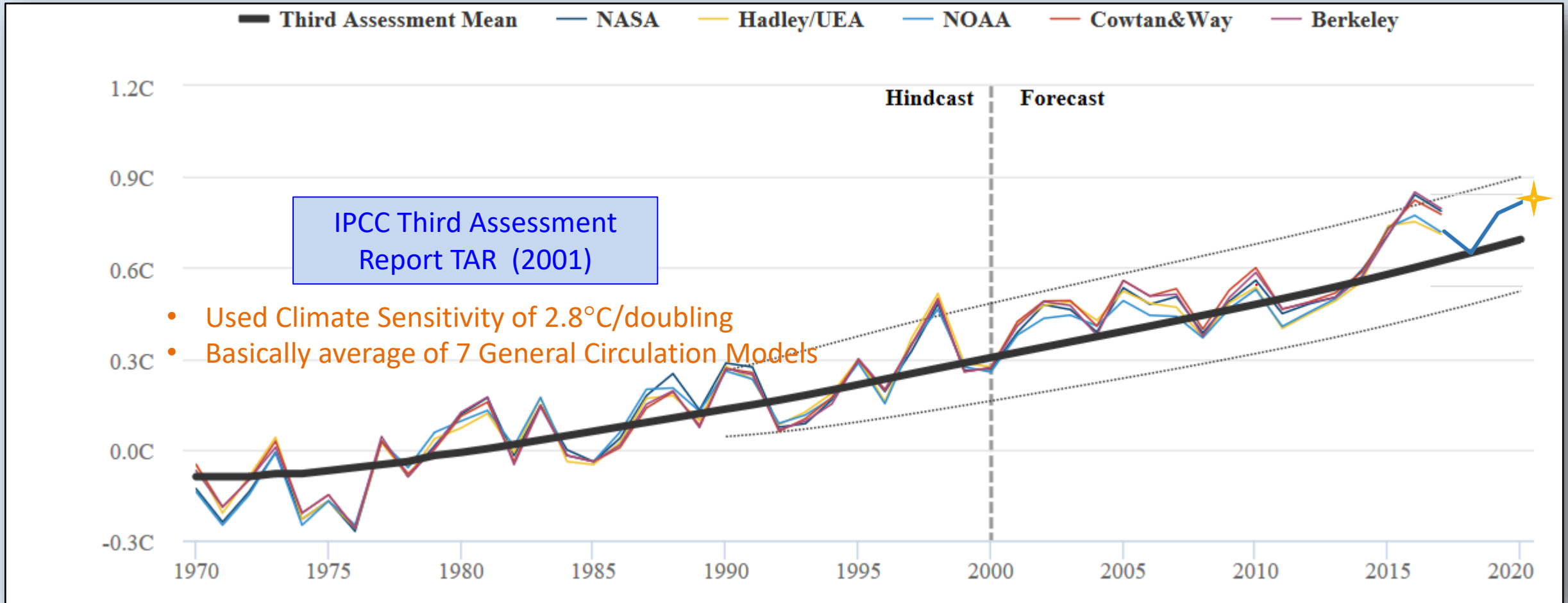
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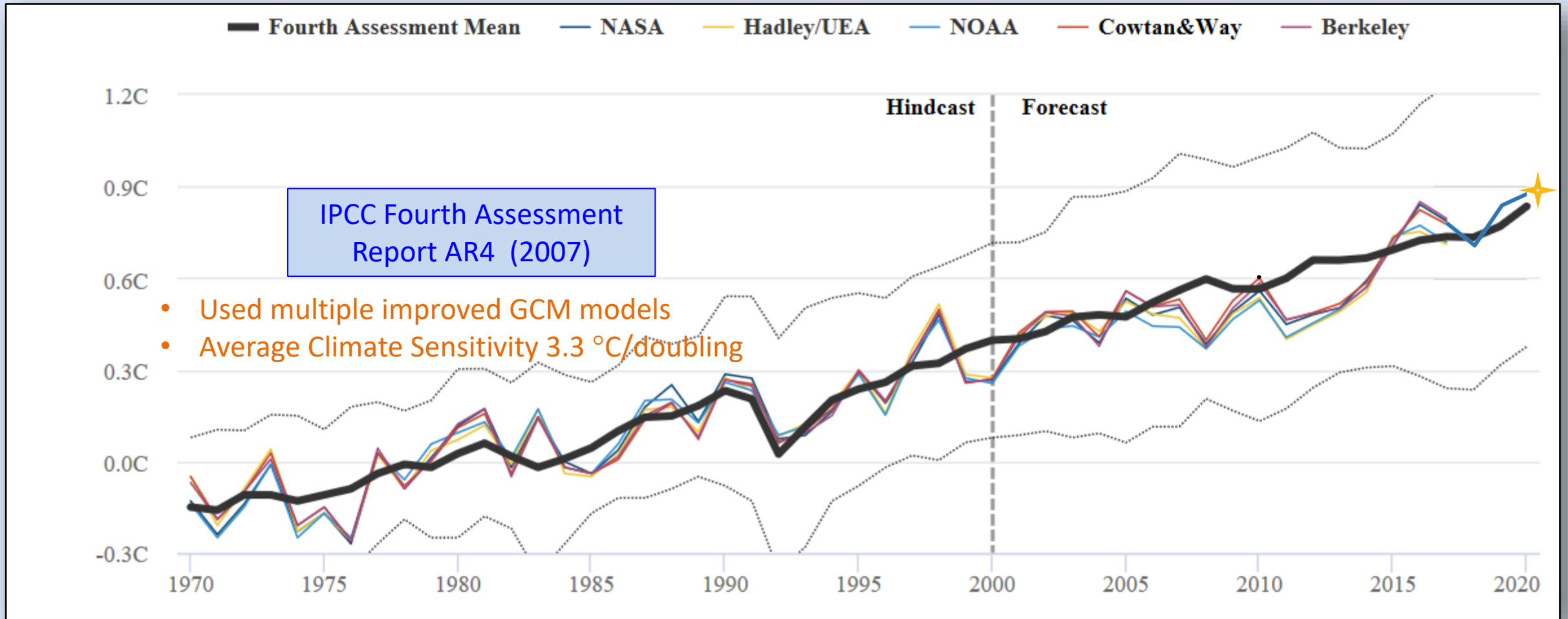
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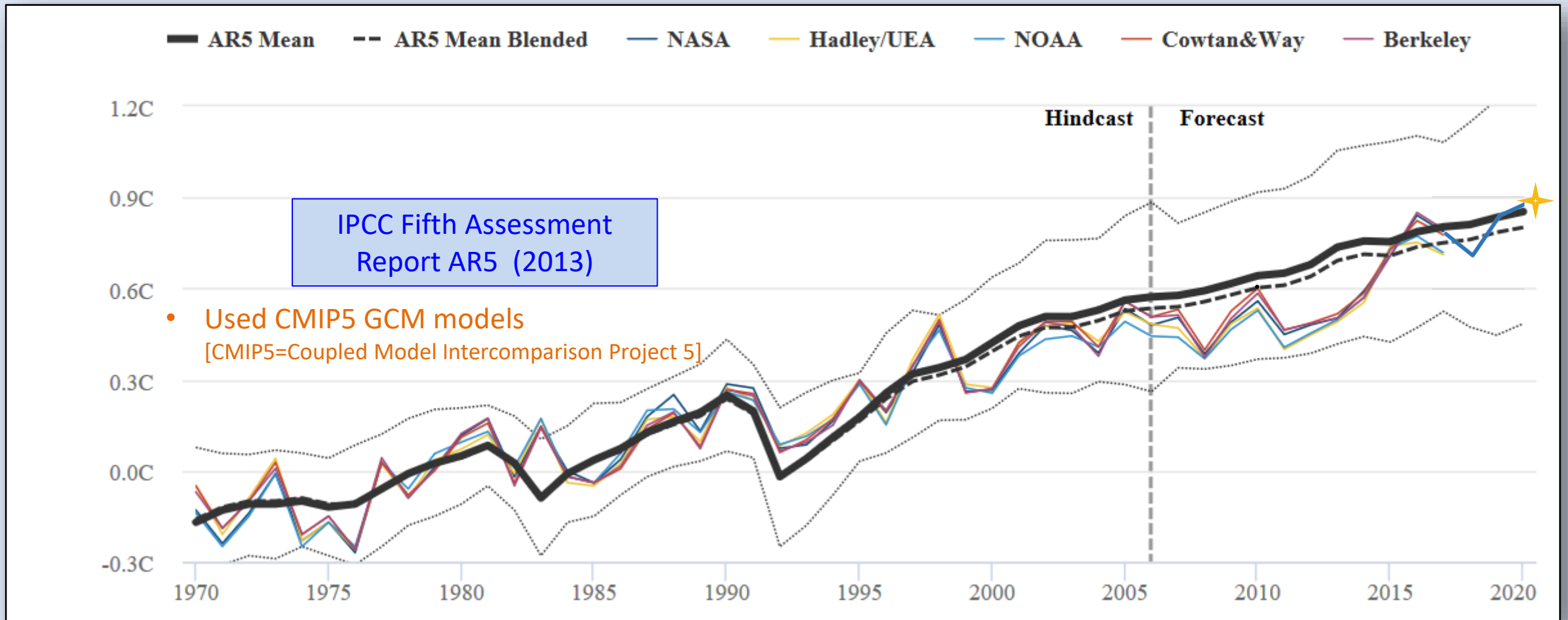


Data assembled by Z. Hausfather, CarbonBrief.org

# Climate Predictions: How Well Did They Do?



# Climate Predictions: How Well Did They Do?



Data assembled by Z. Hausfather, CarbonBrief.org

DEC 2020  
92 PAGES

# Reviews of Geophysics

## REVIEW ARTICLE

10.1029/2019RG000678

### Key Points:

- We assess evidence relevant to Earth's climate sensitivity  $S$ : feedback process understanding and the historical and paleoclimate records
- All three lines of evidence are difficult to reconcile with  $S < 2$  K, while paleo evidence provides the strongest case against  $S > 4.5$  K
- A Bayesian calculation finds a 66% range of 2.6–3.9 K, which remains within the bounds 2.3–4.5 K under plausible robustness tests






















### Correspondence to:

S. Sherwood,  
s.sherwood@unsw.edu.au

### Citation:

Sherwood, S. C., Webb, M. J., Annan, J. D., Armour, K. C., Forster, P. M., Hargreaves, J. C., et al. (2020). An assessment of Earth's climate sensitivity

## An Assessment of Earth's Climate Sensitivity Using Multiple Lines of Evidence

S. C. Sherwood<sup>1</sup> , M. J. Webb<sup>2</sup> , J. D. Annan<sup>3</sup>, K. C. Armour<sup>4</sup> , P. M. Forster<sup>5</sup> , J. C. Hargreaves<sup>3</sup>, G. Hegerl<sup>6</sup> , S. A. Klein<sup>7</sup> , K. D. Marvel<sup>8,9</sup>, E. J. Rohling<sup>10,11</sup> , M. Watanabe<sup>12</sup> , T. Andrews<sup>2</sup> , P. Braconnot<sup>13</sup> , C. S. Bretherton<sup>4</sup> , G. L. Foster<sup>11</sup> , Z. Hausfather<sup>14</sup> , A. S. von der Heydt<sup>15</sup> , R. Knutti<sup>16</sup> , T. Mauritsen<sup>17</sup> , J. R. Norris<sup>18</sup>, C. Proistosescu<sup>19</sup> , M. Rugenstein<sup>20</sup> , G. A. Schmidt<sup>9</sup> , K. B. Tokarska<sup>6,16</sup> , and M. D. Zelinka<sup>7</sup> 

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Cristian Proistosescu  
UIUC Department of Atmospheric Sciences  
Climate Modeler



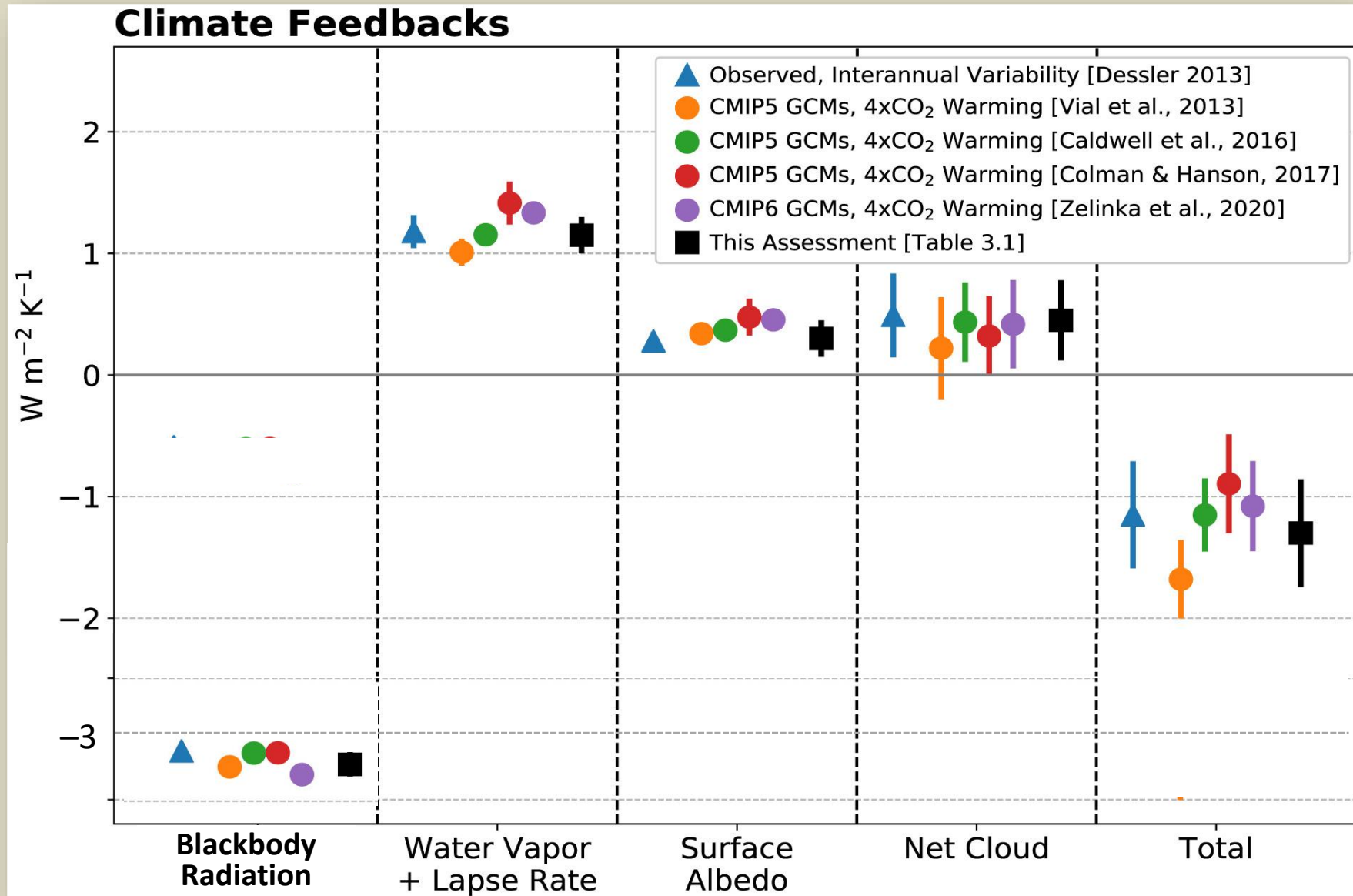


# Basis of WCRP\* Climate Sensitivity Estimates

- Analysis of Feedback Processes
  - Water Vapor Feedback
  - Surface Albedo Feedback
  - **Net Cloud Feedback** now thought to be net **heating**
  - *& others*
- Historical Records: Compatibility with models
- Paleoclimate Records: Compatibility with models
- Use of Bayesian Statistical Methods



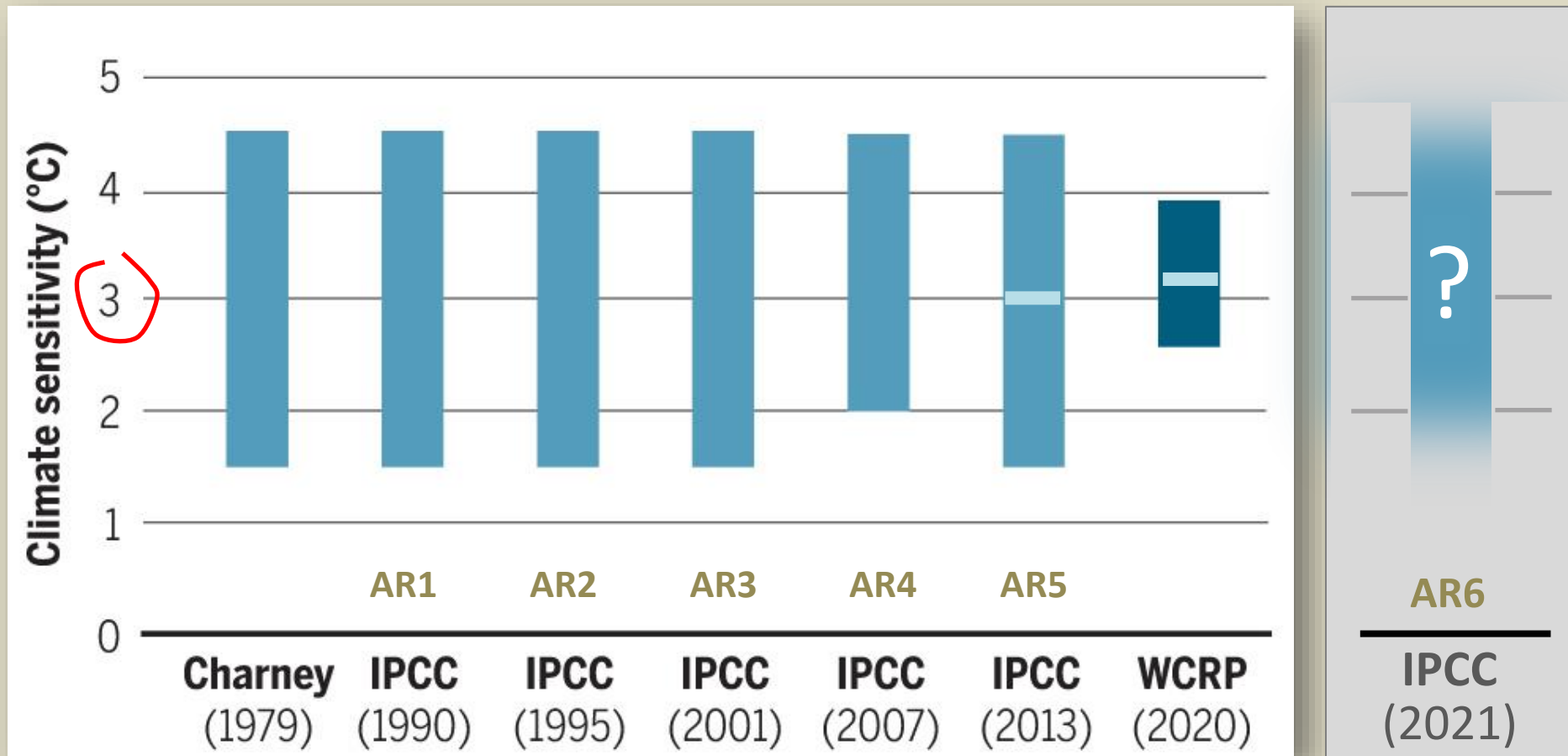
# WCRP Climate Sensitivity Estimates



Sherwood *et al*  
(2020)

# Climate Sensitivity Estimates over Time

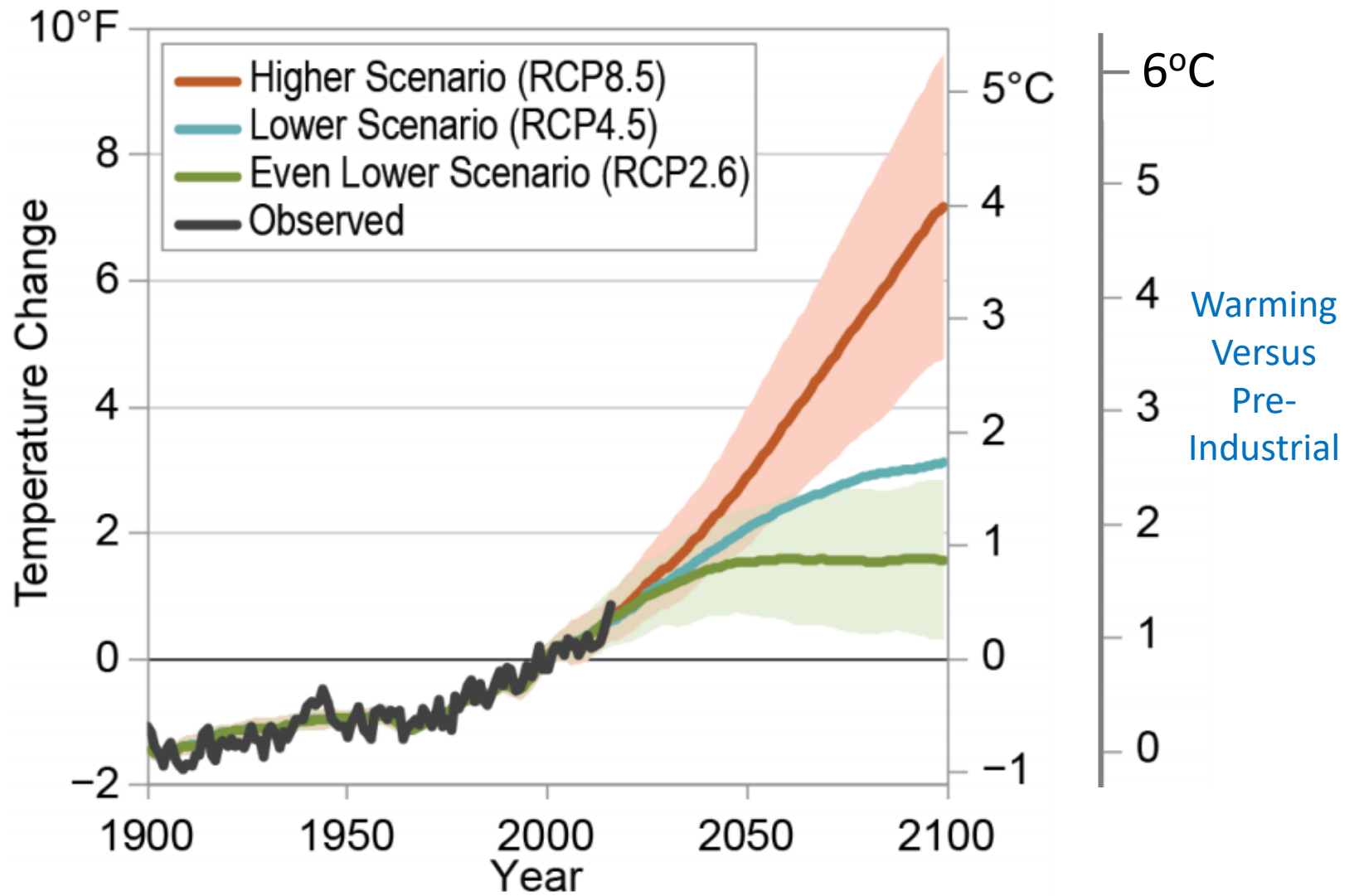
Range of “Likely” Temperature Rises for a CO<sub>2</sub> Doubling



Sherwood *et al*  
(2020)

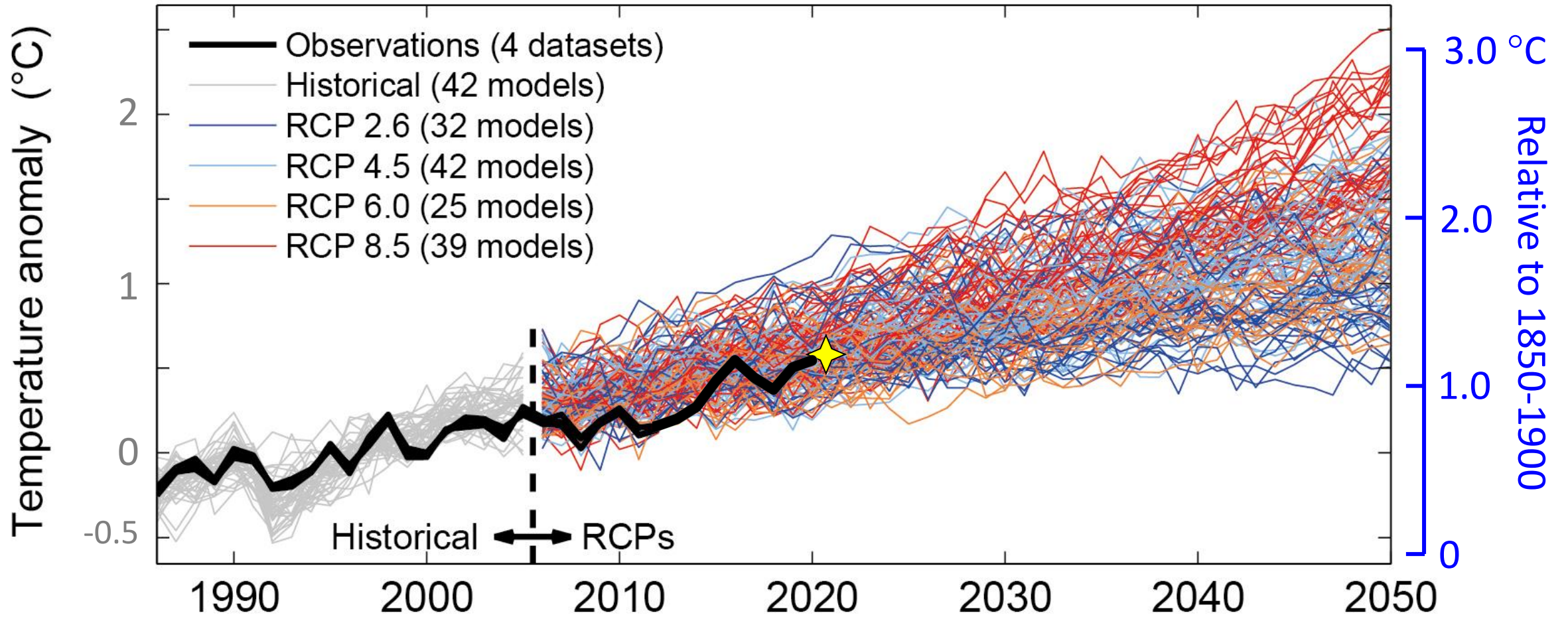
# Current and Recent Predictions

# Global Average Temperature Change



National Climate Assessment 4 (2018) Fig. A5.10

# AR5 Projections from ~2007



Relative to  
1986-2005

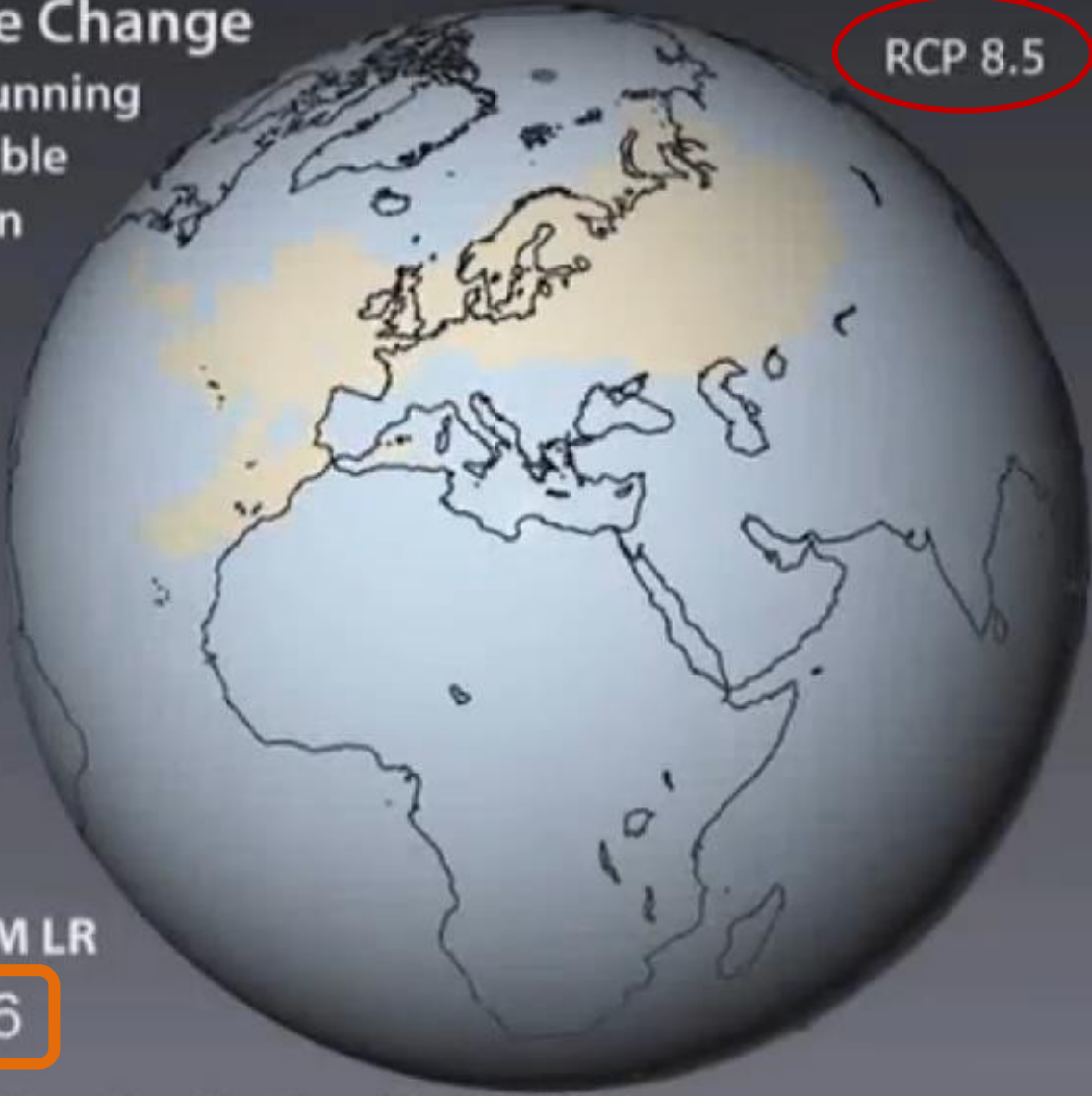
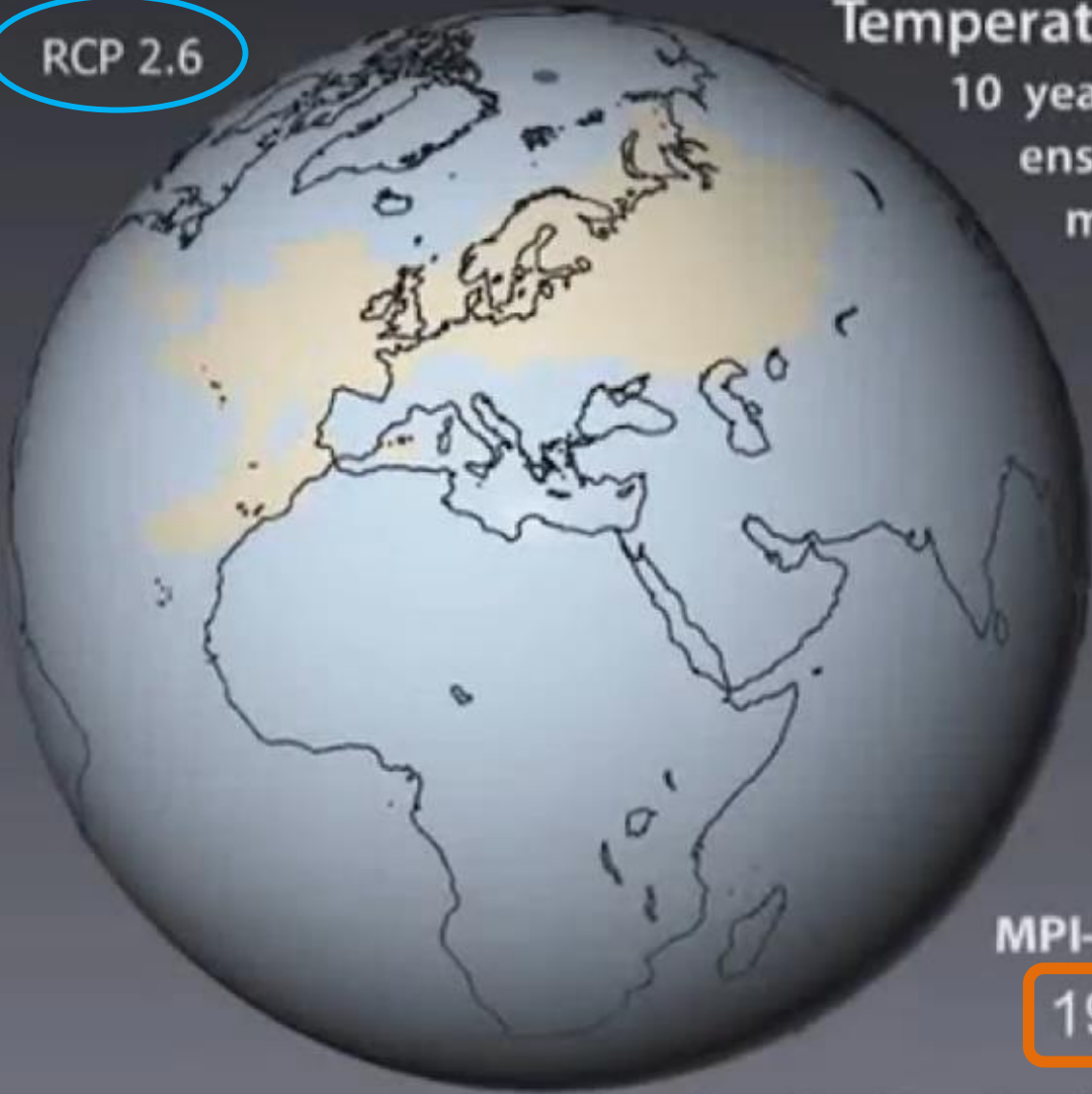
IPCC AR5 11.25

RCP 2.6

# Temperature Change

10 year running  
ensemble  
mean

RCP 8.5



MPI-ESM LR  
1986



RCP 2.6

# Temperature Change

10 year running  
ensemble  
mean

RCP 8.5

MPI-ESM LR

2096

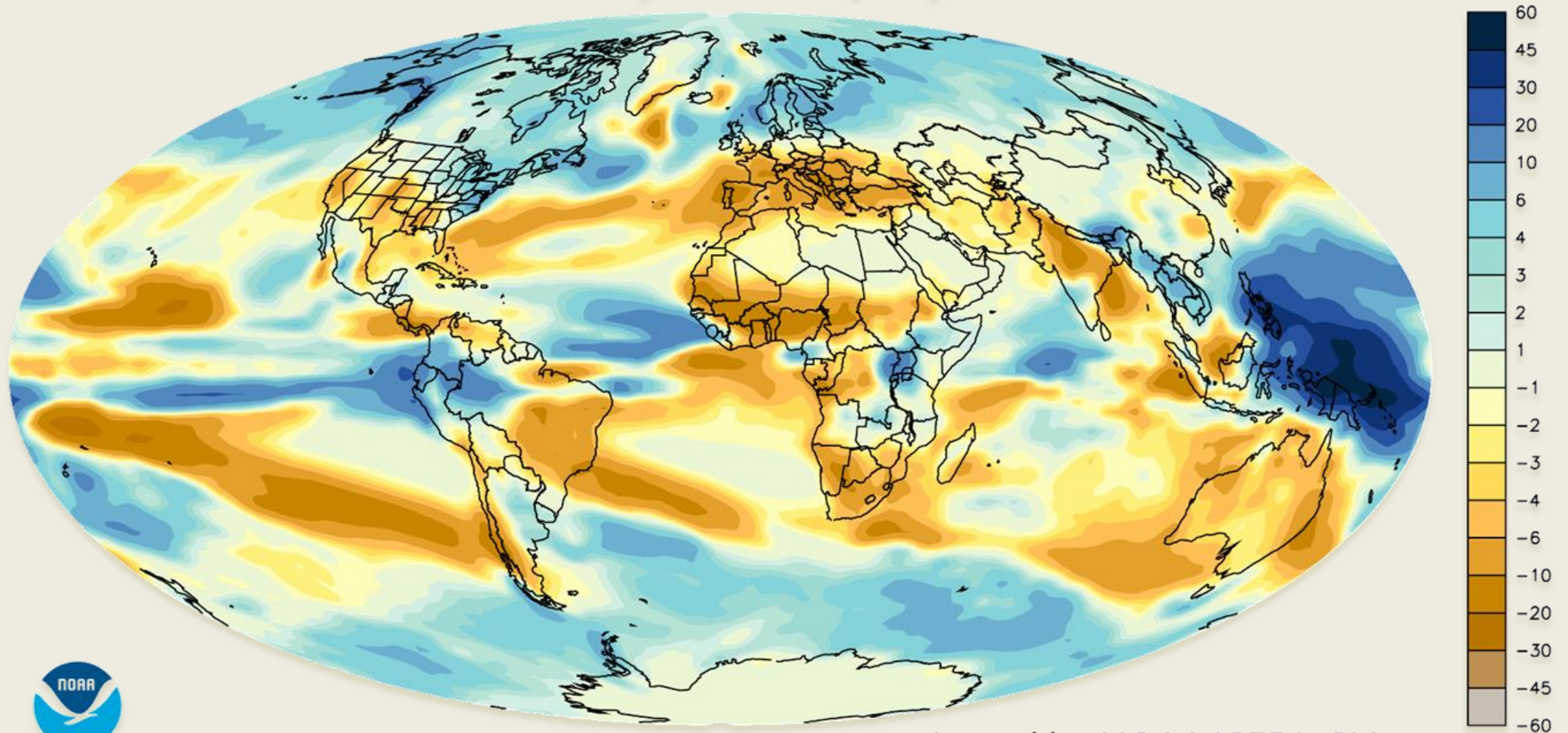
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 [°C]





# CHANGE IN PRECIPITATION BY END OF 21st CENTURY

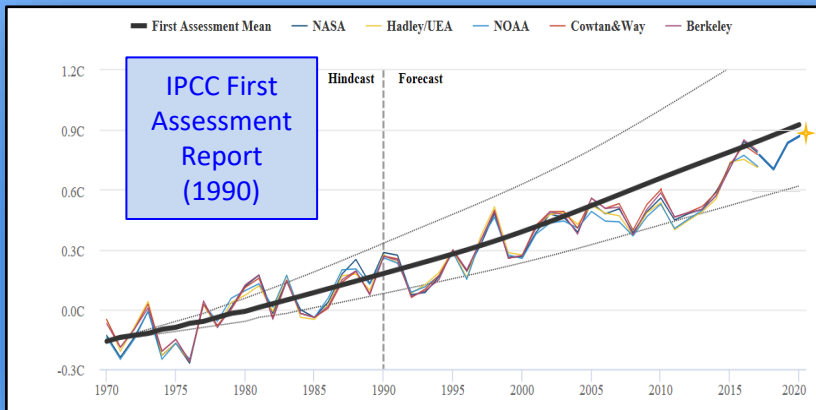
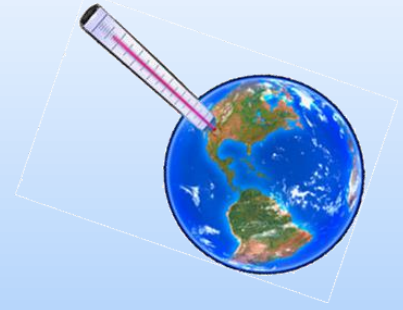
inches of liquid water per year



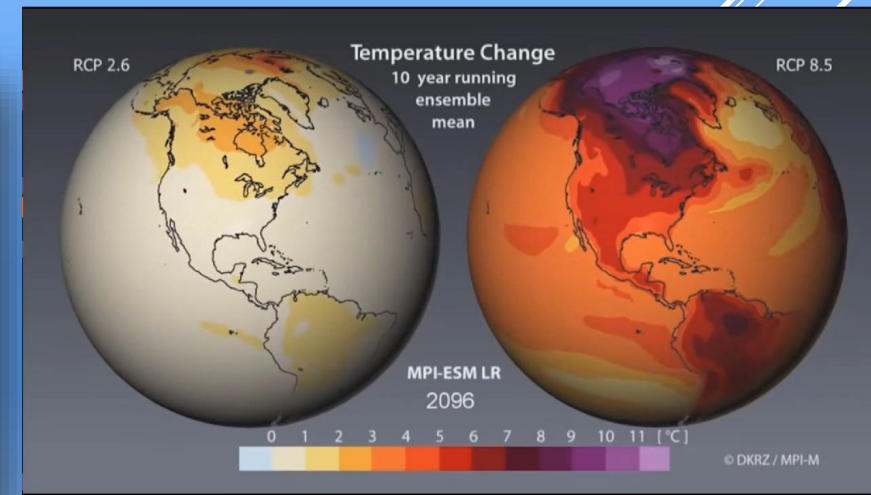
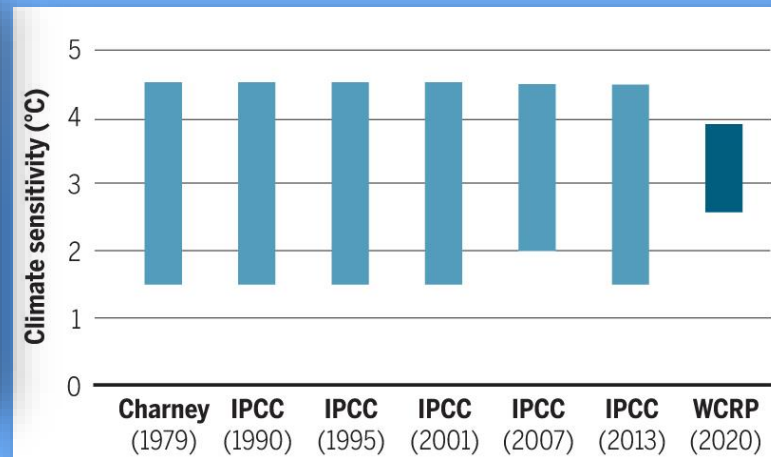
as projected by NOAA/GFDL CM2.1



# Questions about Prediction Skill, Climate Sensitivity, Global Trends



Climate Baseline  
Change 5  
elin  
e

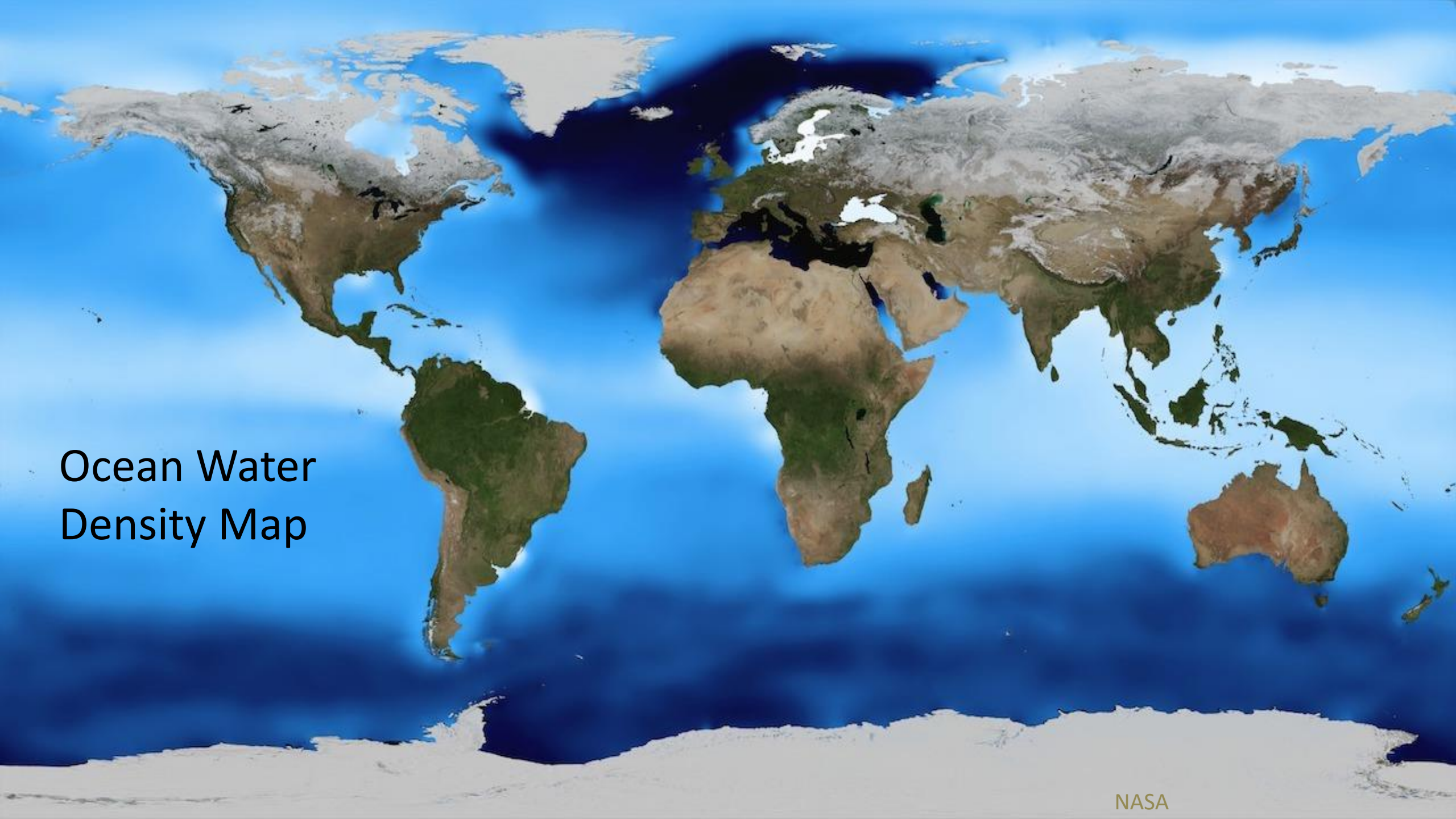


# Climate Impacts Expected in This Century and Beyond

- Sea
  - Sea Level Increases
  - Acidification
  - Warming
  - Circulation changes
- Cryosphere melting
- Land
  - Heat and Drought
  - Precipitation/Floods
  - Extreme Weather Events
  - Food Production
  - Biome
- People
  - Migration
  - Health
  - Food Security
  - Economic

# The Sea



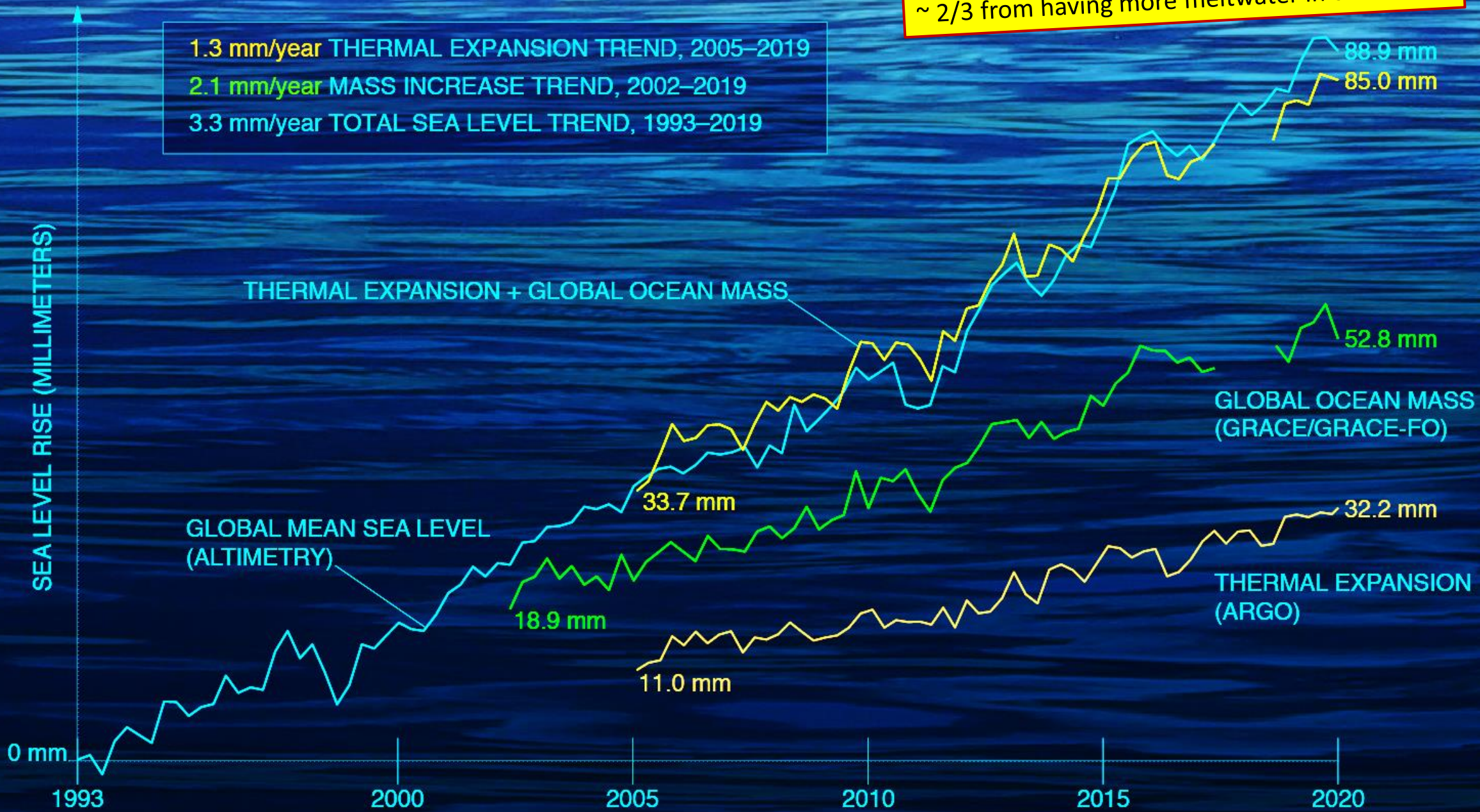


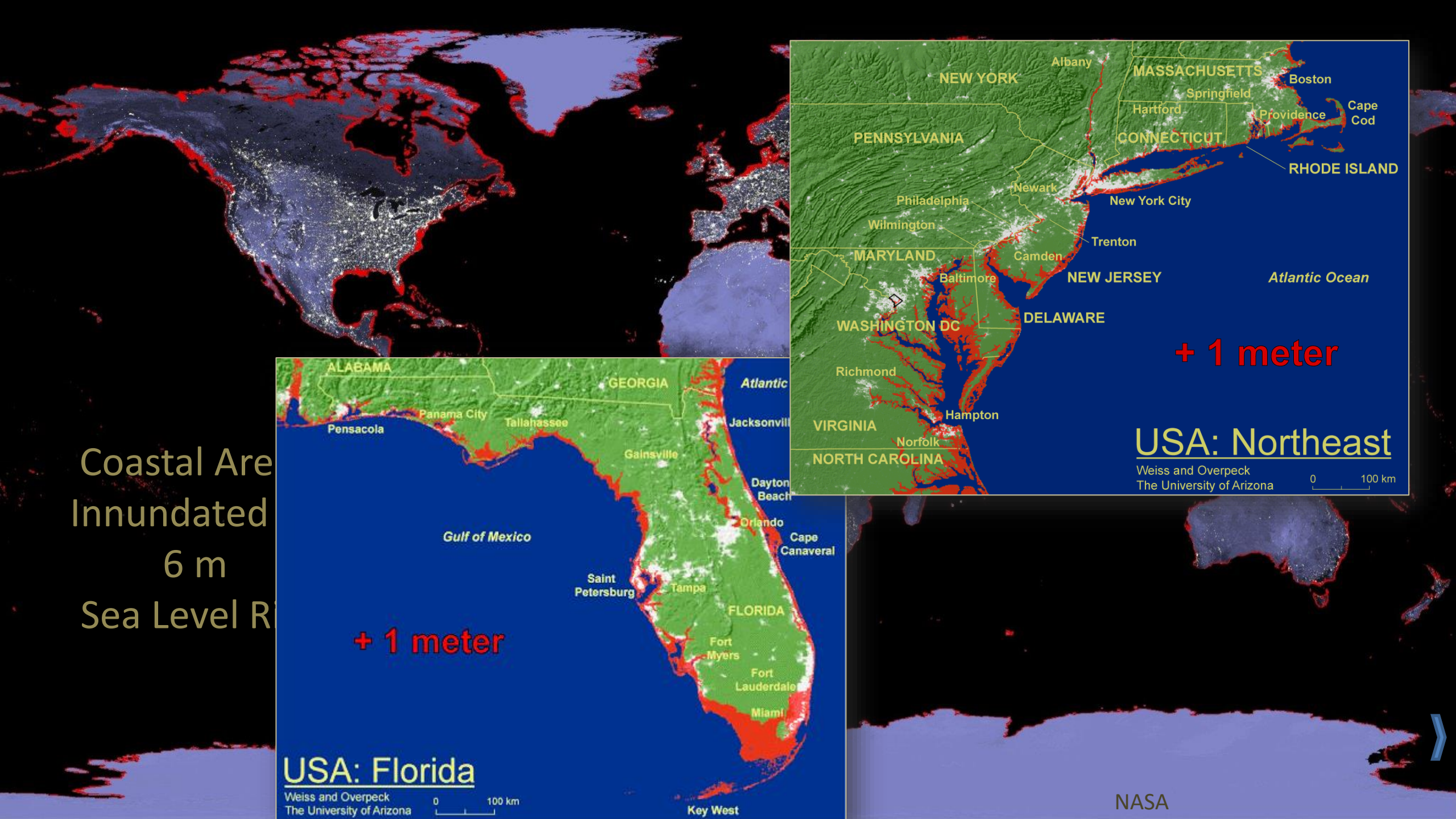
Ocean Water  
Density Map

100 mm

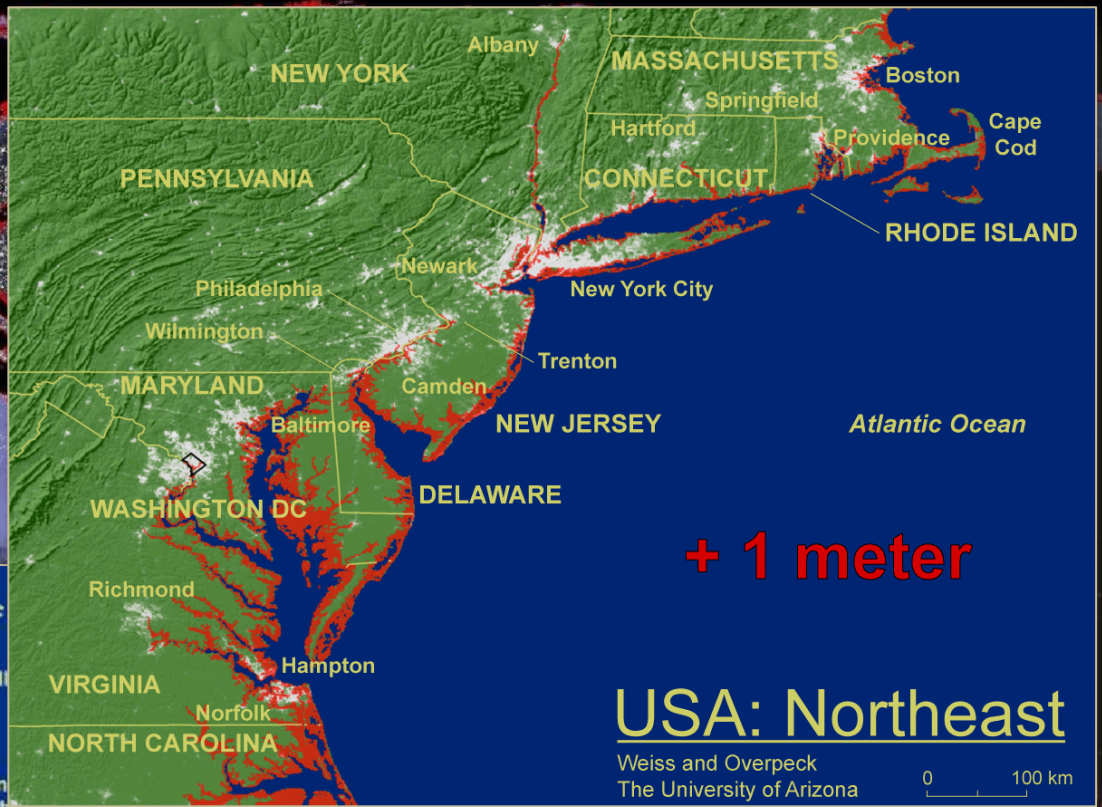
~ 1/3 of rise due to thermal expansion of water  
~ 2/3 from having more meltwater in oceans

1.3 mm/year THERMAL EXPANSION TREND, 2005–2019  
2.1 mm/year MASS INCREASE TREND, 2002–2019  
3.3 mm/year TOTAL SEA LEVEL TREND, 1993–2019





Coastal Area  
Innundated  
6 m  
Sea Level Rise



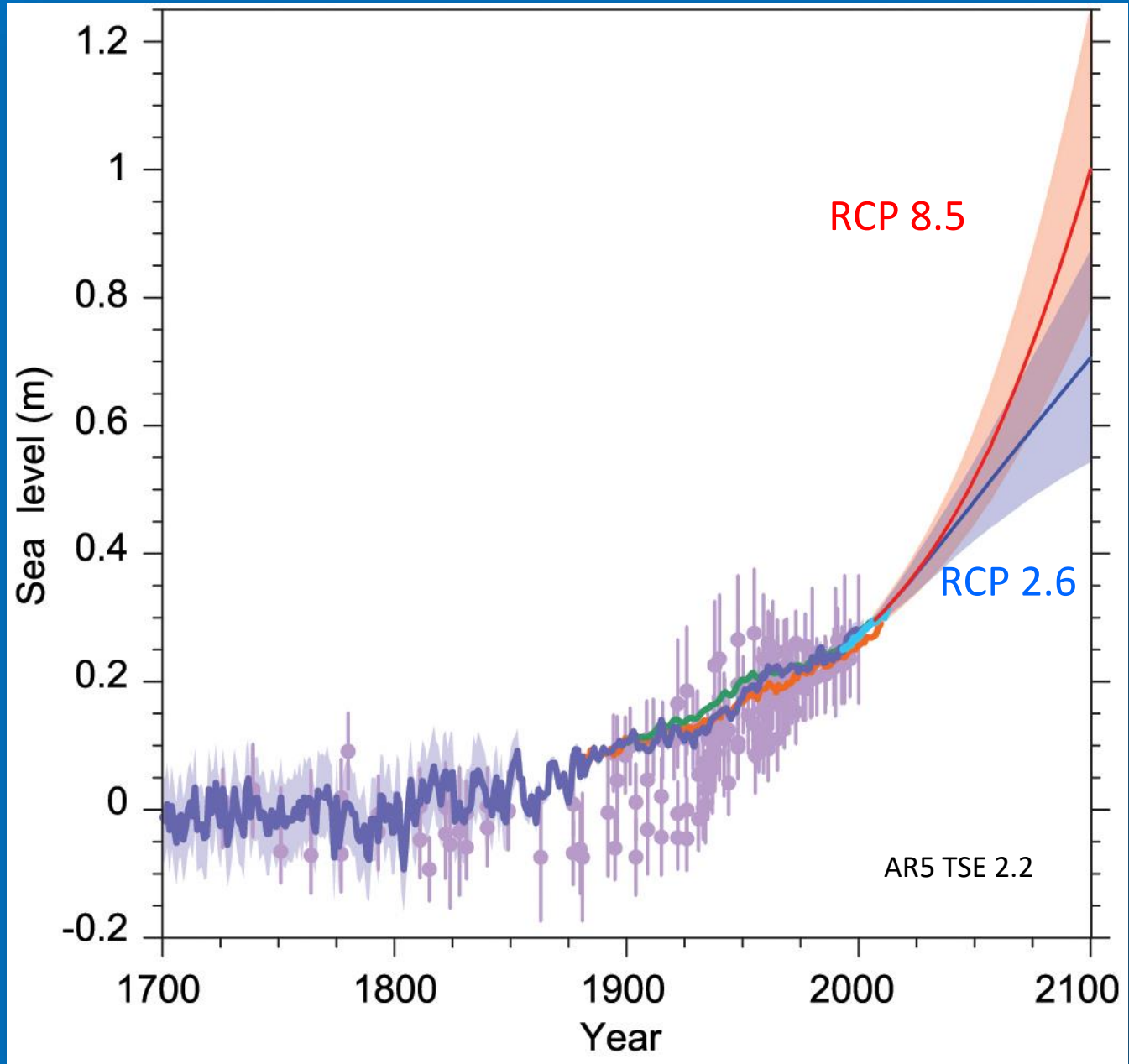


Business Insider



Business Insider



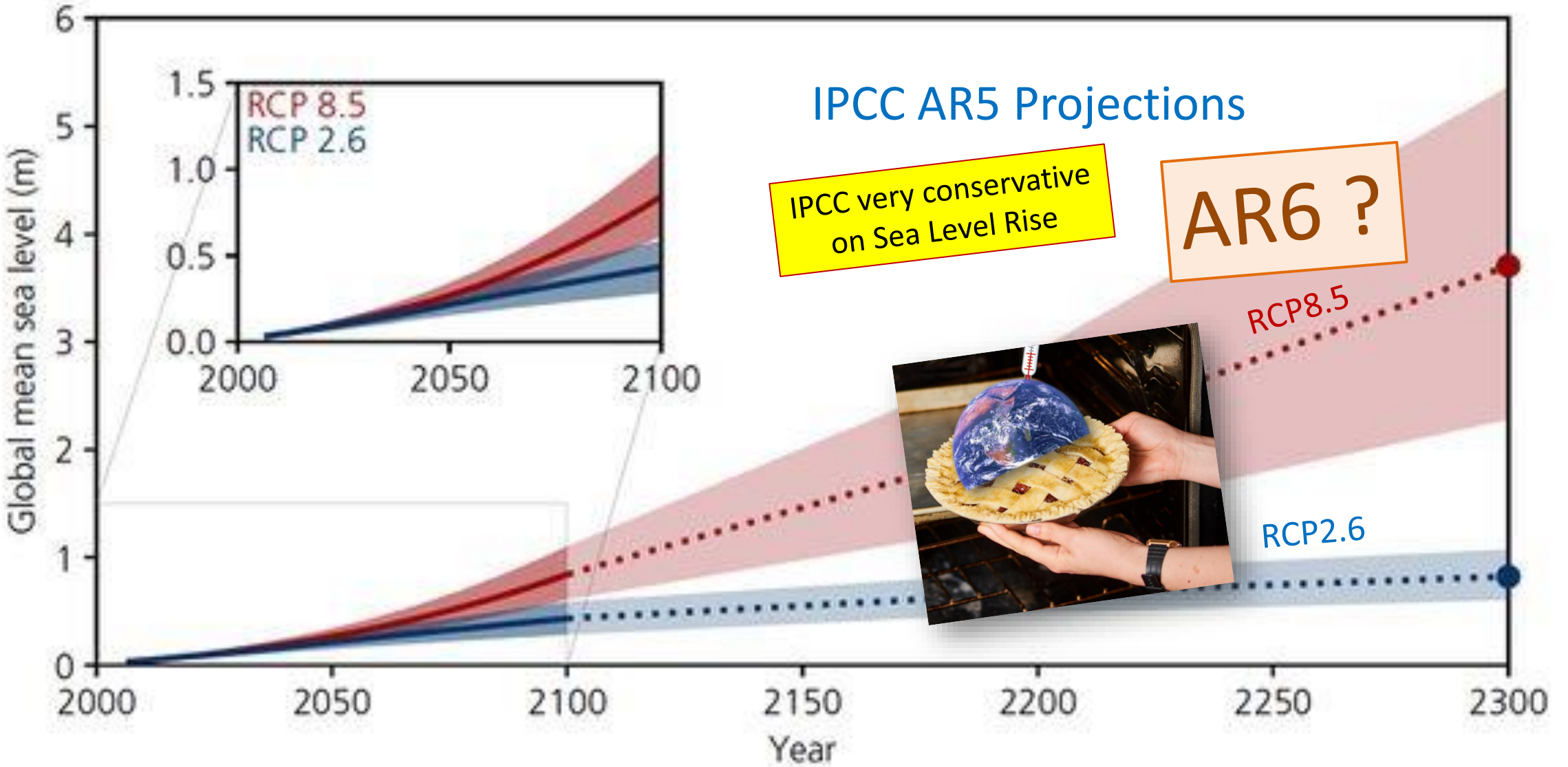


RCP 2.6

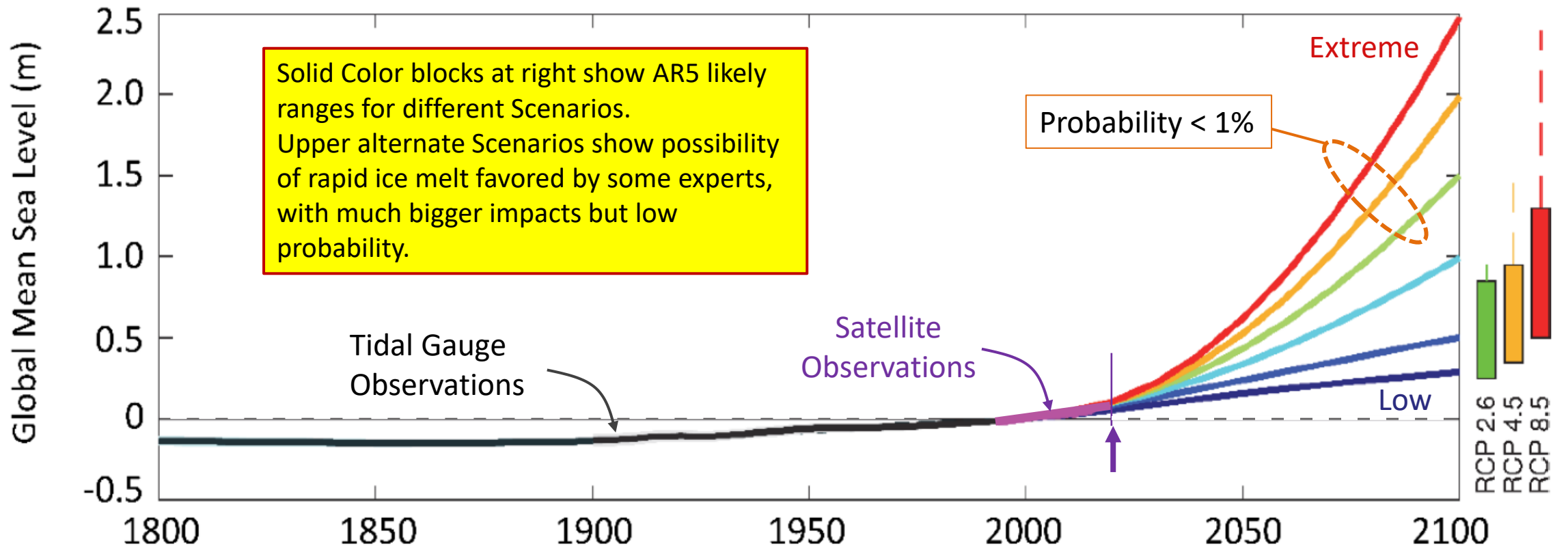
# IPCC AR5 Projections

IPCC very conservative on Sea Level Rise

AR6 ?



# NOAA Global Mean Sea Level (GMSL) Scenarios for 2100



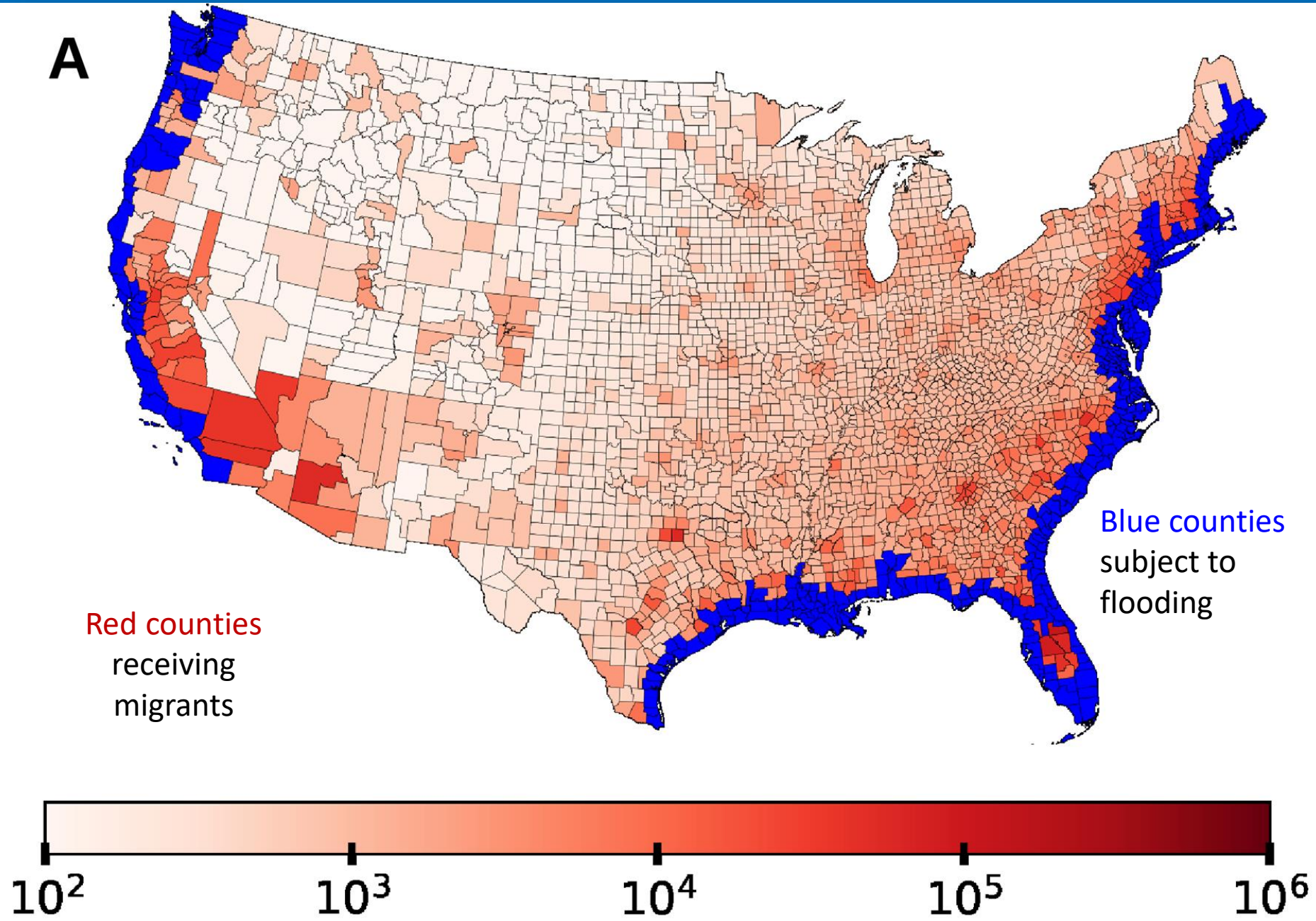
Adapted from Sweet et al, NOAA Technical Report "Global and Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the United States" (2017)

# Modeling Migration under Sea Level Rise of 1.8m by 2100

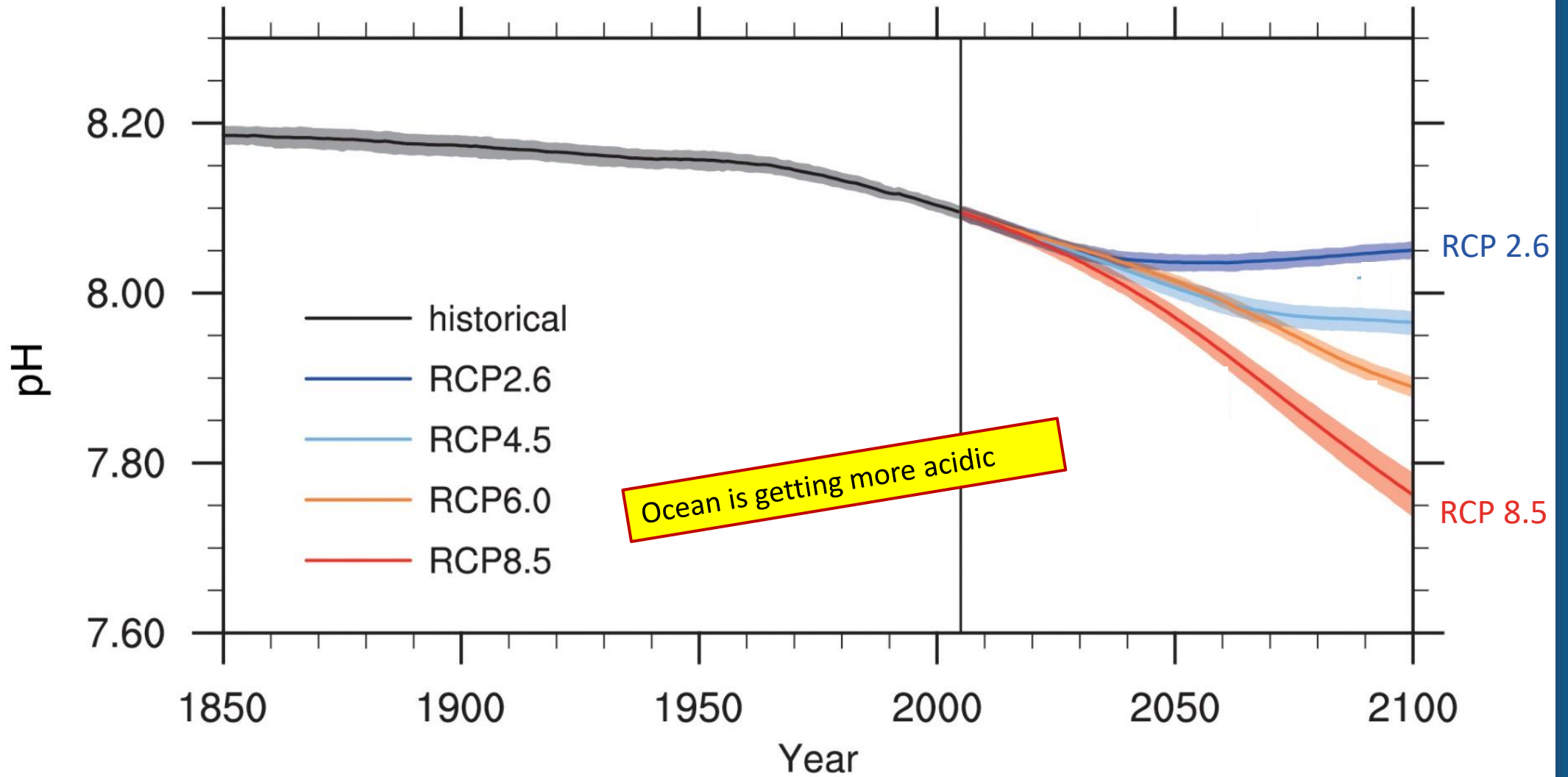
Robinson et al,  
PLOS|One (2020)

“Modeling Migration Patterns in the USA under Sea Level Rise”

A



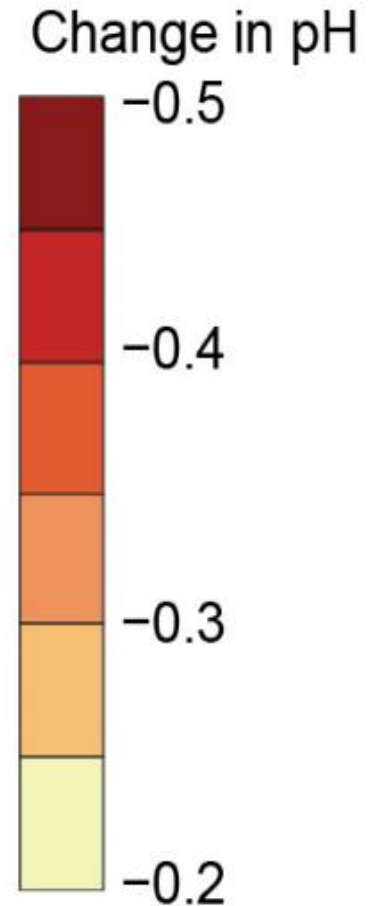
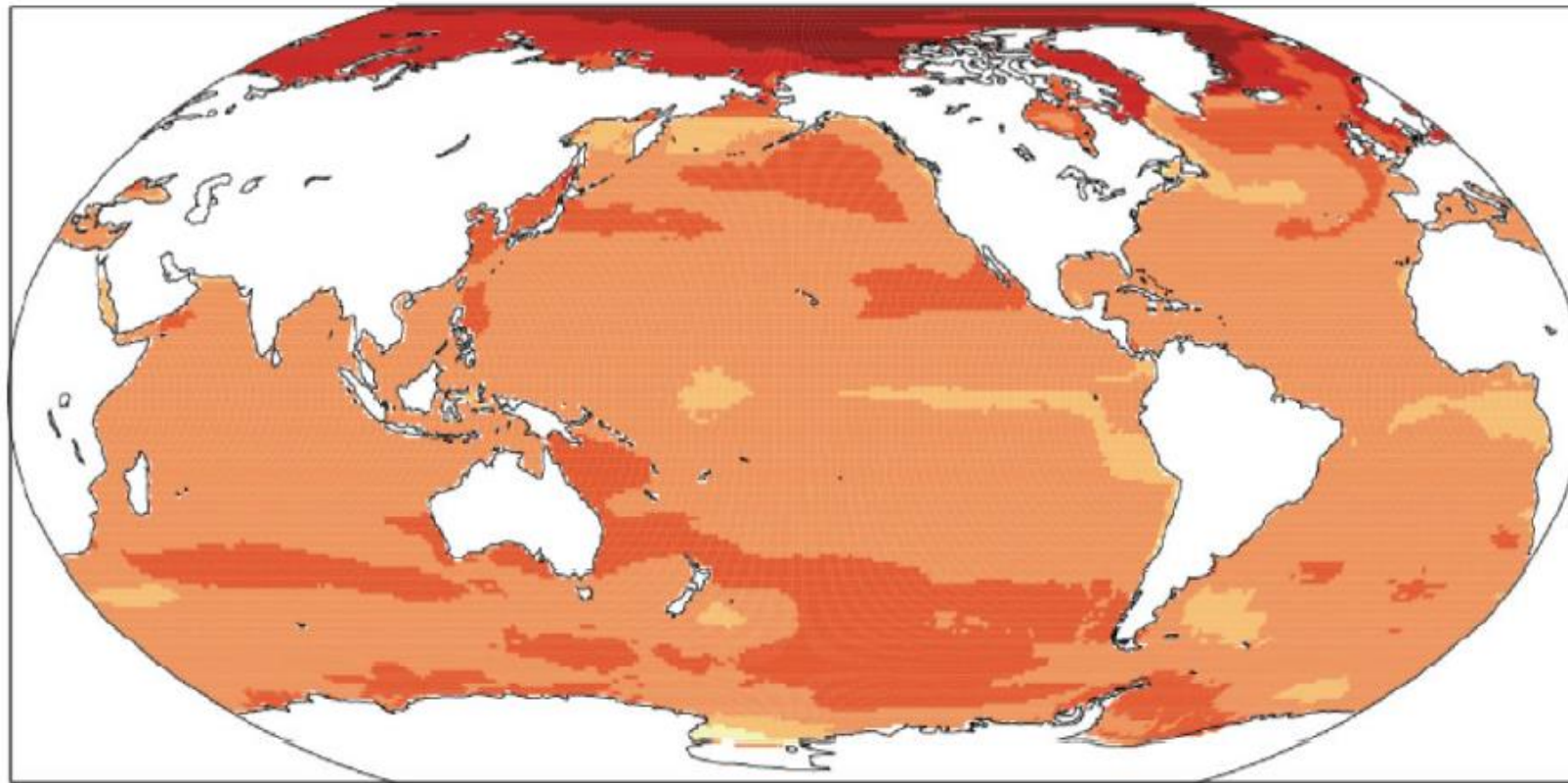
# Global ocean surface pH



AR5 TS-20

# Projected Change in Surface Ocean Acidity

**RCP 8.5**  
[2090-2099  
vs  
1990-1999]



# Effects of Ocean Warming + Acidification

Healthy - Dec 2014

Dying - Feb 2015

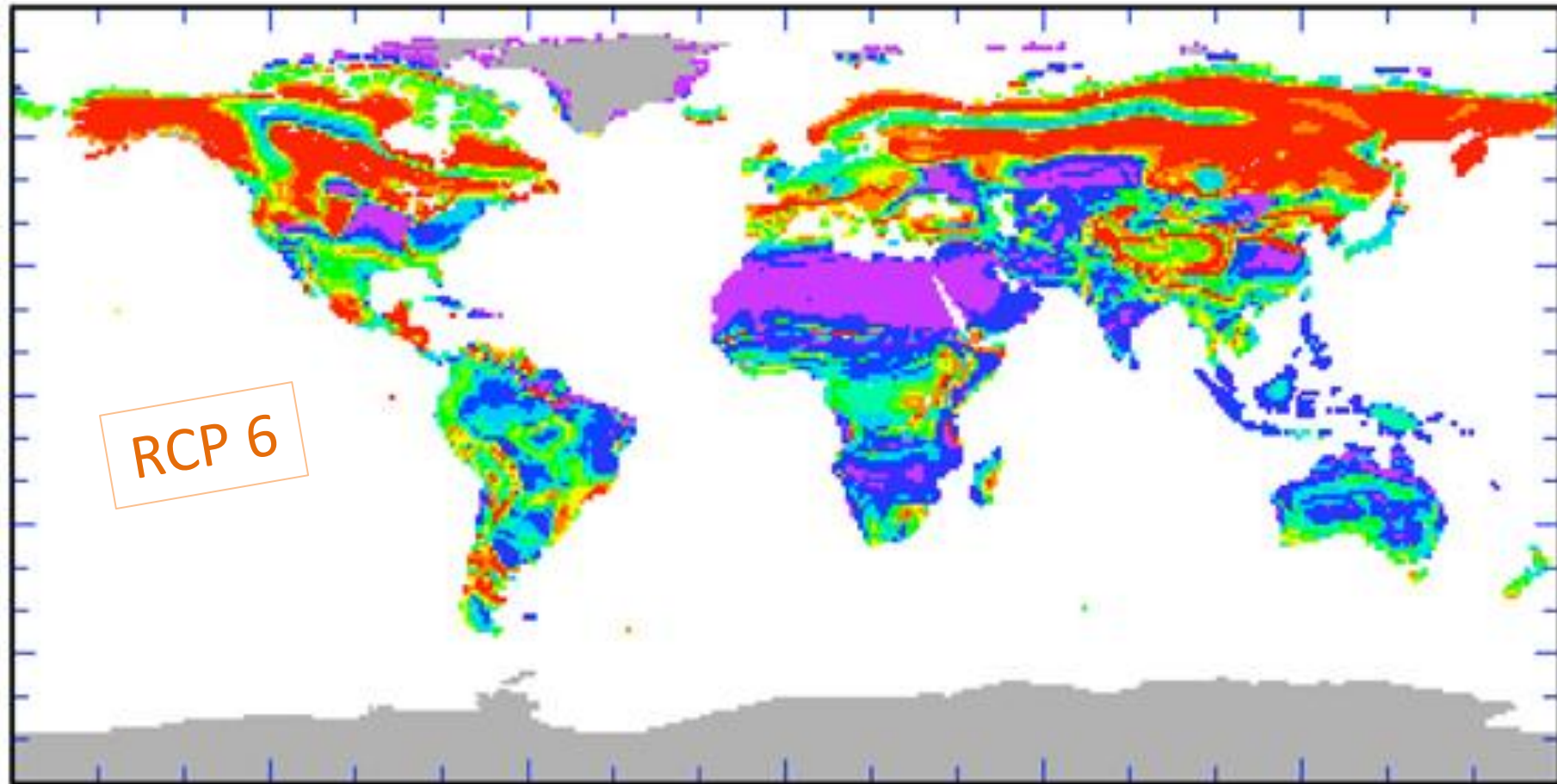
Dead - Aug 2015

pH Decrease will make it very difficult for Corals and Mollusks to build/maintain Aragonite Shells

Effects are Scenario dependent:

- Under RCP8.5, 70-90% of Coral Reefs gone by 2100
- Under RCP 2.6, many could survive (big uncertainties)
- Huge impact on Fisheries

# Percentage of Plant Species Changing by 2100



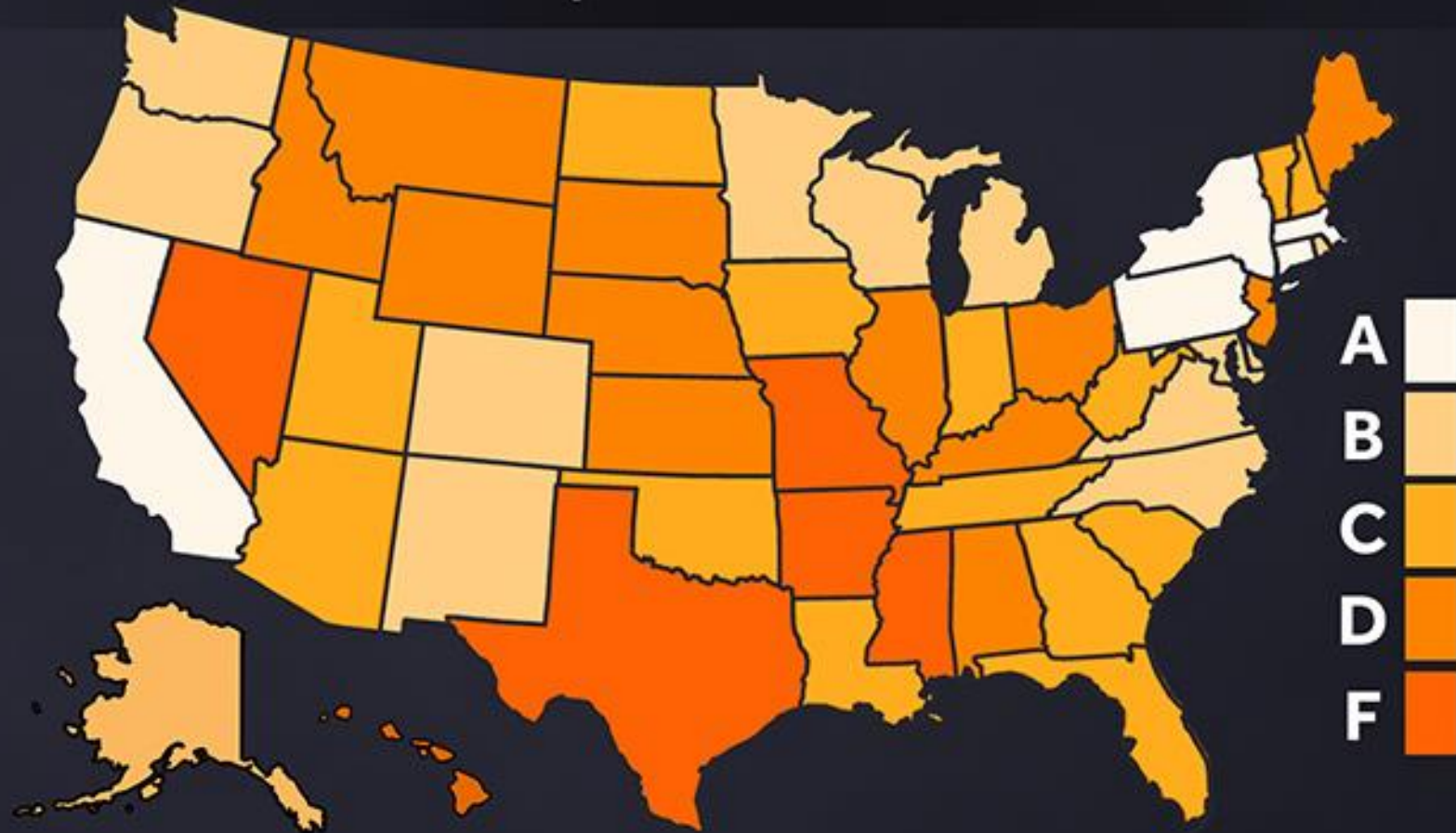
Ecological Sensitivity

Bergengren (2011)  
NASA/JPL/Caltech



# CLIMATE CHANGE: Is Your State Prepared?

Climate Change  
Preparedness  
Grades



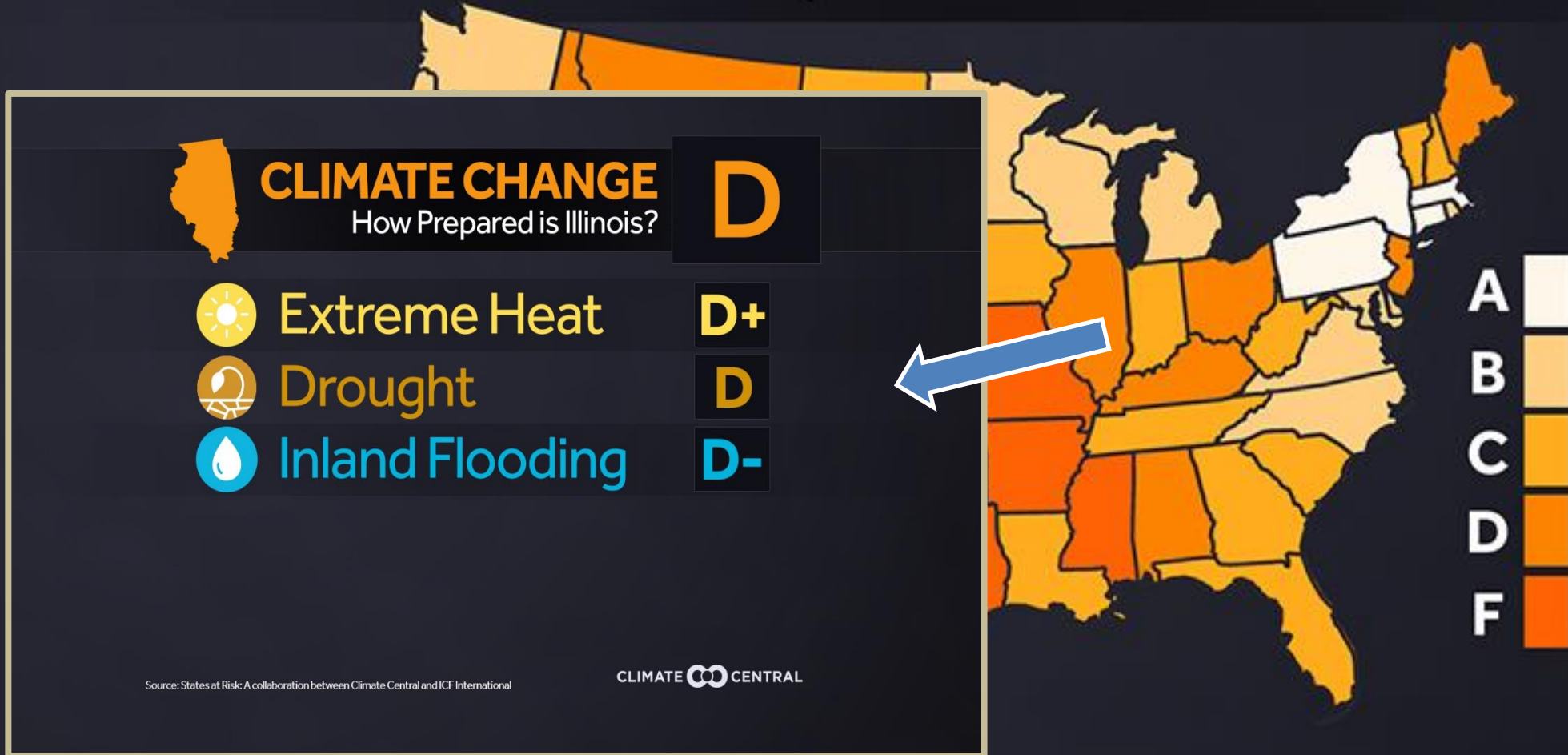
Source: States at Risk: A collaboration between Climate Central & ICF International

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

(2015)

# CLIMATE CHANGE: Is Your State Prepared?

Climate Change  
Preparedness  
Grades



Source: States at Risk: A collaboration between Climate Central & ICF International

CLIMATE CENTRAL

(2015)



# The Great Climate Migration Has Begun




New York Times Magazine 7/23/2020

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/23/magazine/climate-migration.html>

The Great Climate Migration  
Has Begun  
New York Times Magazine 7/23/2020

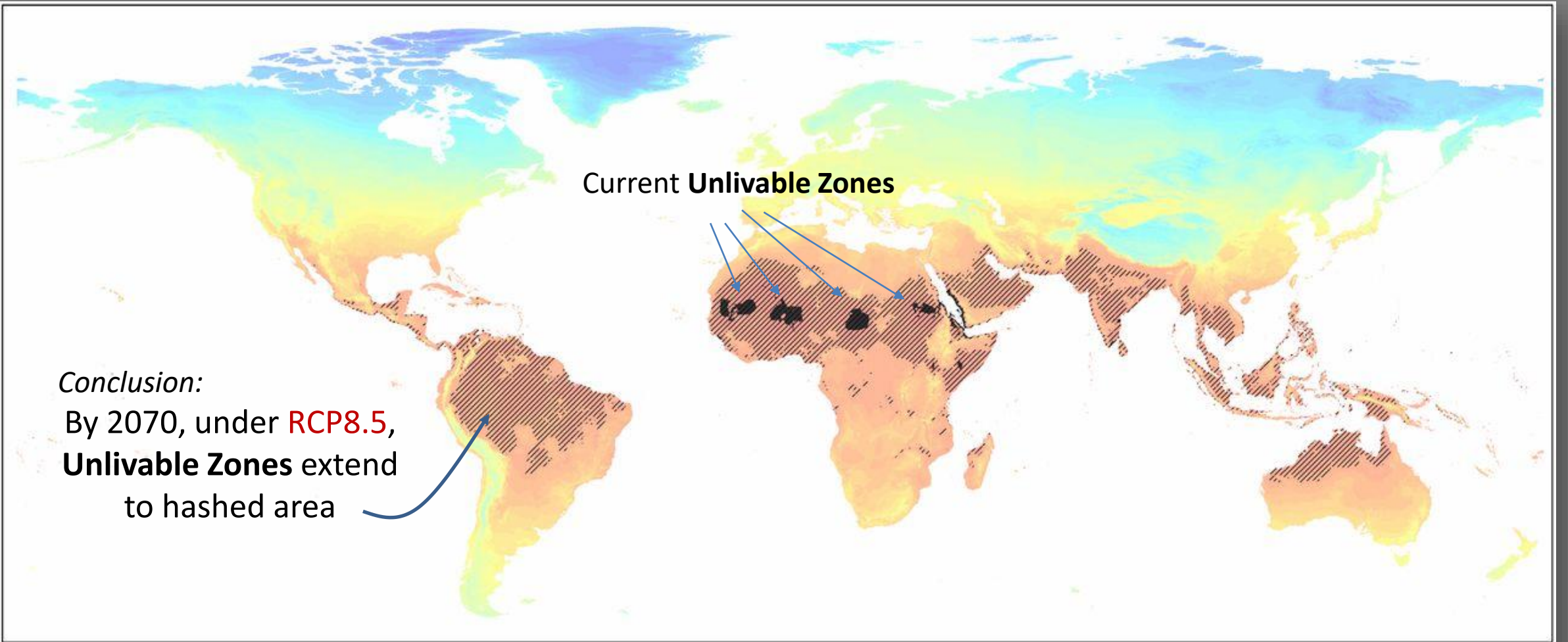


# Future of the human climate niche

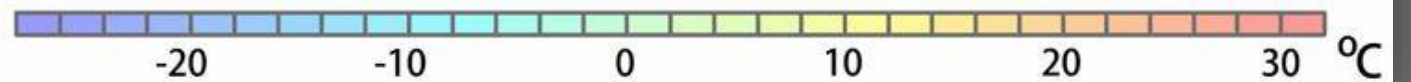
Chi Xu (徐驰)<sup>a,1</sup> , Timothy A. Kohler<sup>b,c,d,e</sup>, Timothy M. Lenton<sup>f</sup> , Jens-Christian Svenning<sup>g</sup> , and Marten Scheffer<sup>c,h,i,1</sup>

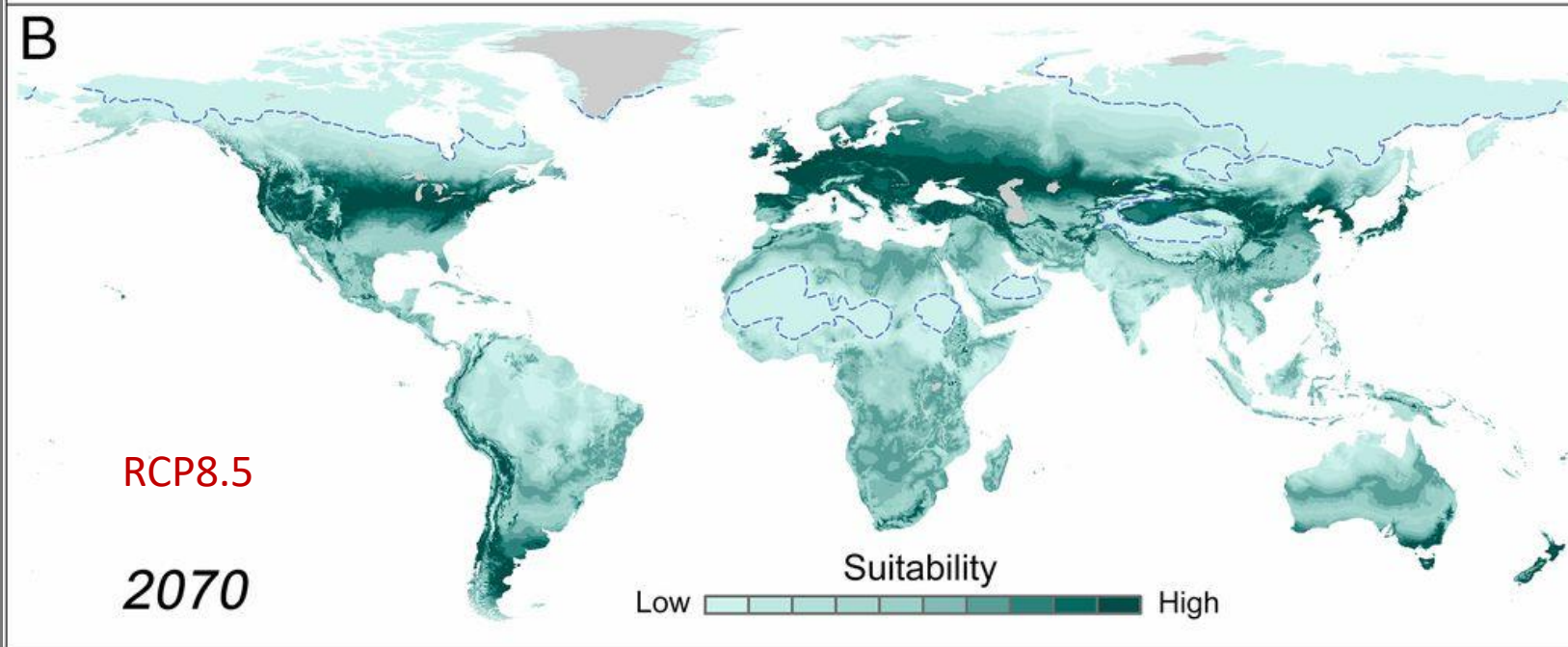
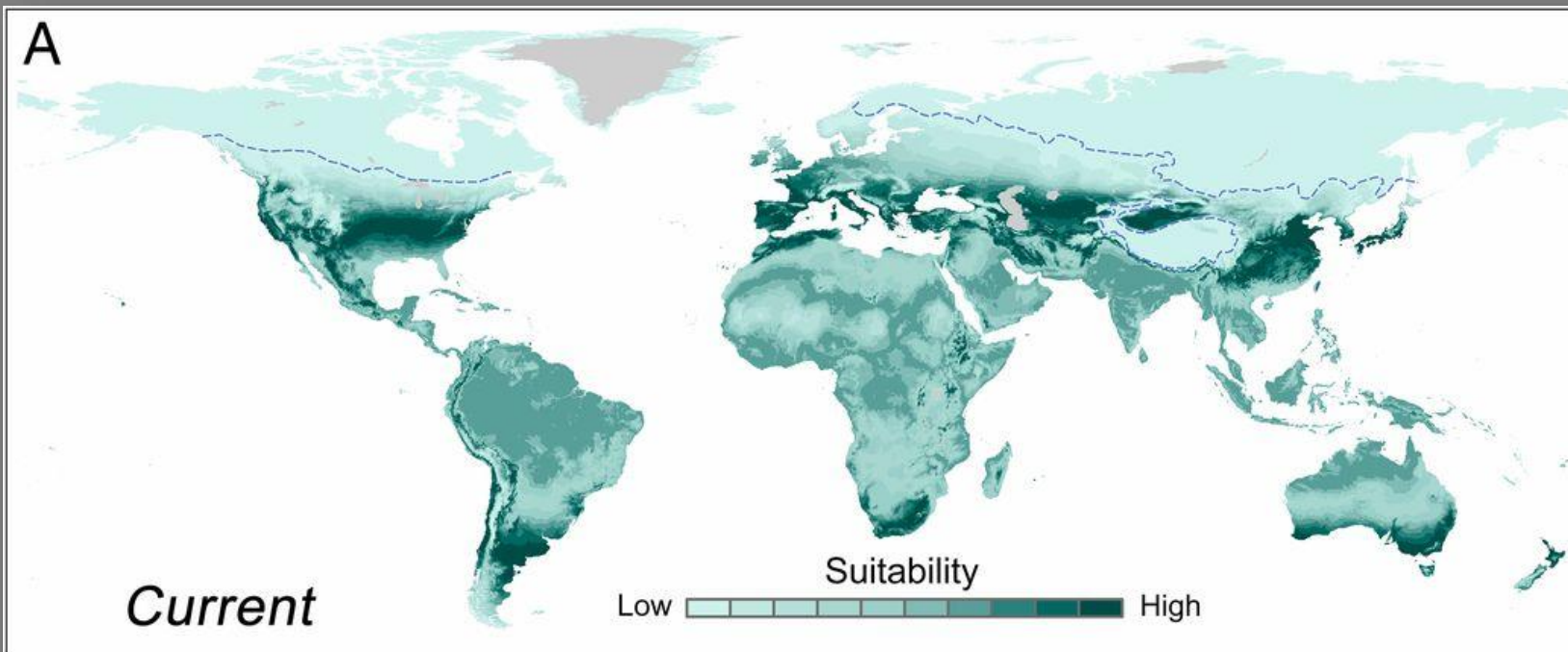
<sup>a</sup>School of Life Sciences, Nanjing University, Nanjing 210023, China; <sup>b</sup>Department of Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164; <sup>c</sup>Santa Fe Institute, Santa Fe, NM 87501; <sup>d</sup>Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Cortez, CO 81321; <sup>e</sup>Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto 603-8047, Japan; <sup>f</sup>Global Systems Institute, University of Exeter, Exeter, EX4 4QE, United Kingdom; <sup>g</sup>Center for Biodiversity Dynamics in a Changing World, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark; <sup>h</sup>Wageningen University, NL-6700 AA, Wageningen, The Netherlands; and <sup>i</sup>SARAS (South American Institute for Resilience and Sustainability Studies), 10302 Bella Vista, Maldonado, Uruguay

**“All species have an environmental niche, and despite technological advances, humans are unlikely to be an exception. Here, we demonstrate that for millennia, human populations have resided in the same narrow part of the climatic envelope available on the globe, characterized by a major mode around  $\sim 11$  °C to  $15$  °C mean annual temperature (MAT).”**



Mean annual temperature (in 2020)



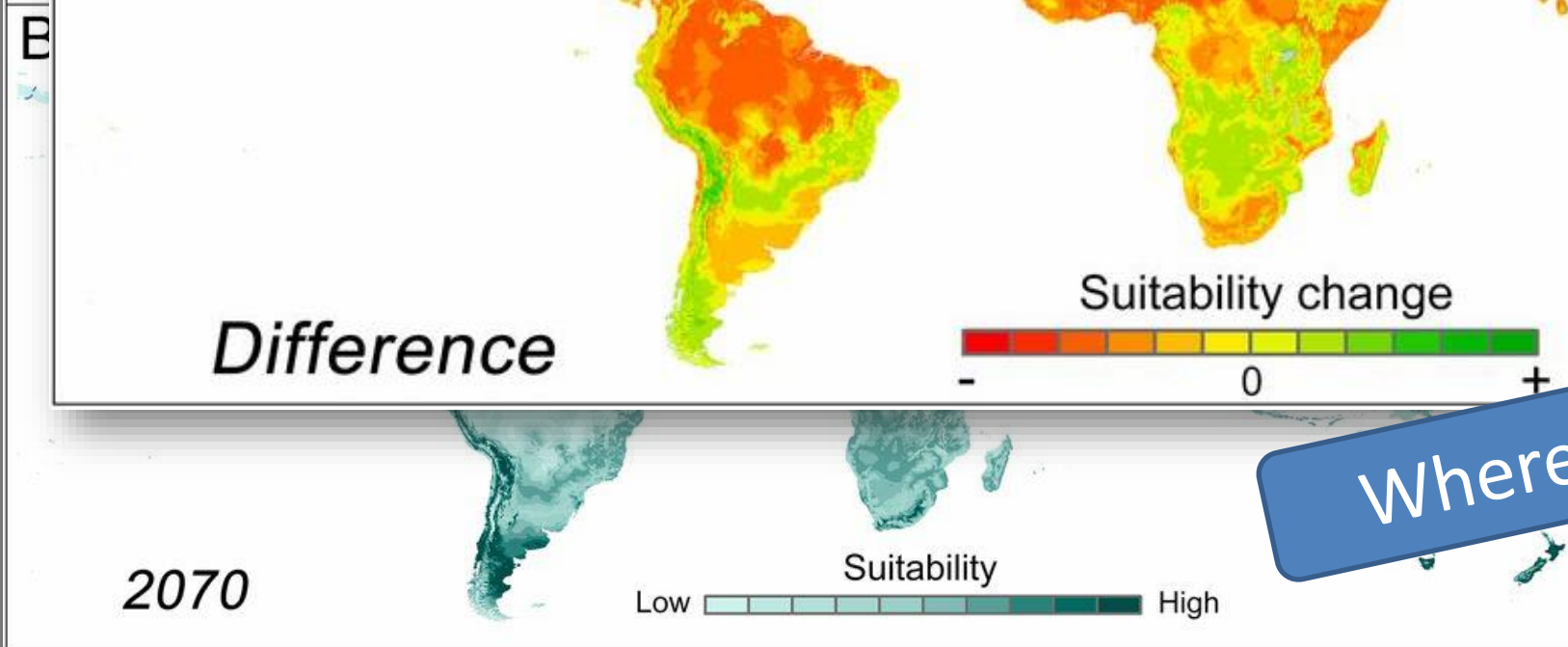
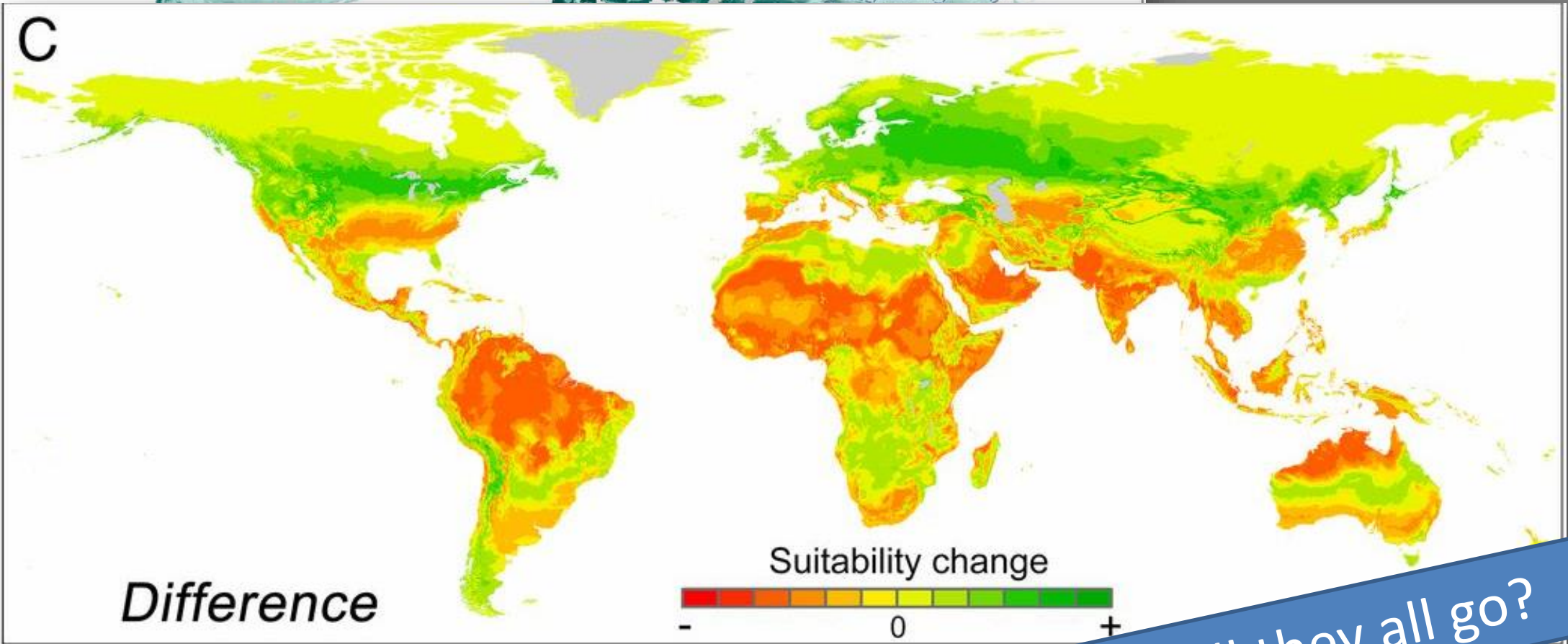


2020

Suitable Zones  
move toward poles

2070

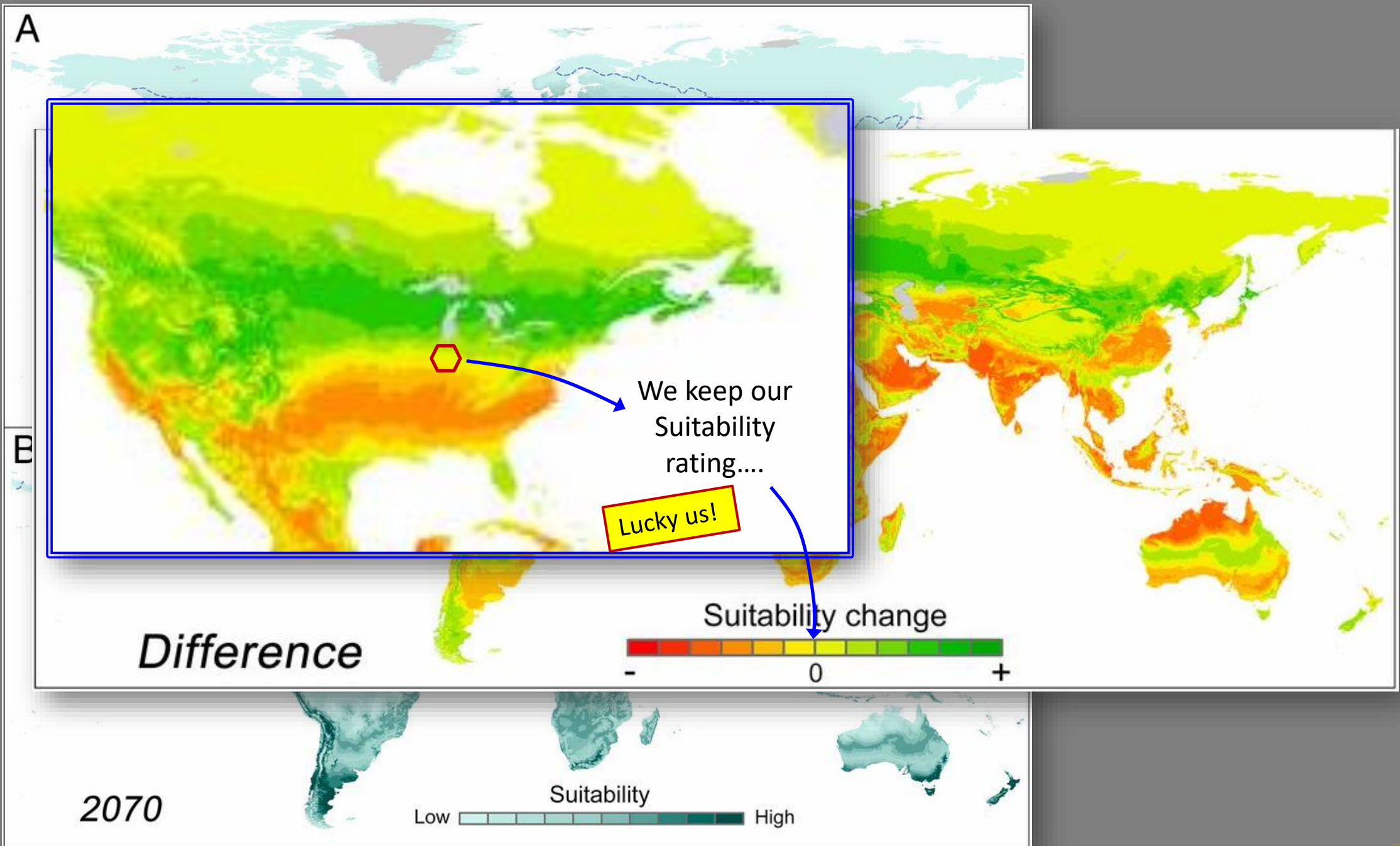




Where will they all go?

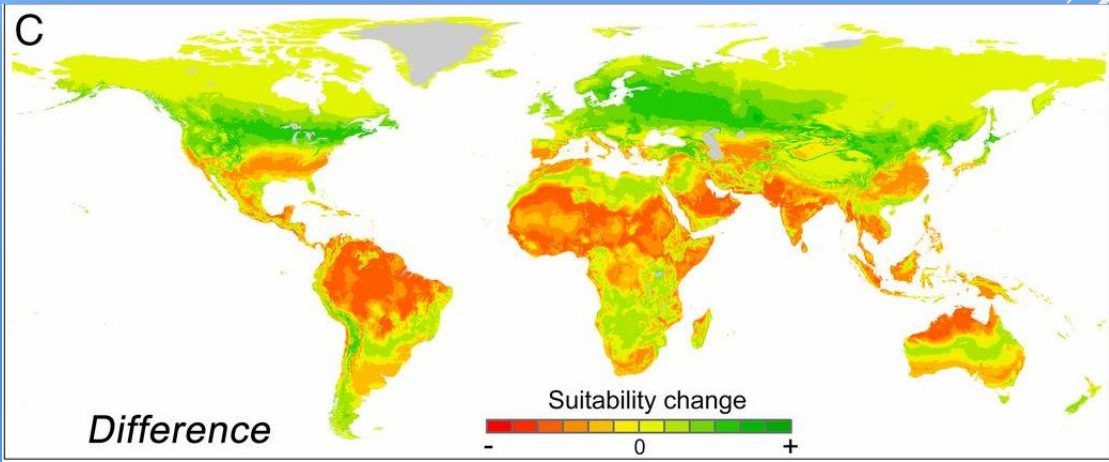
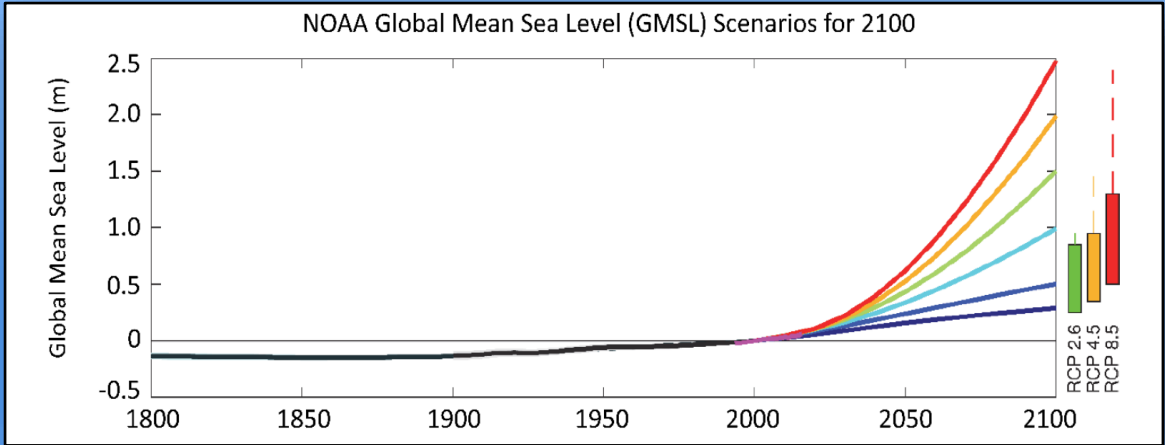
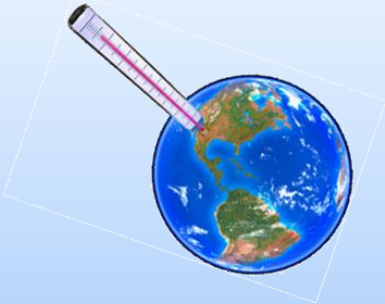




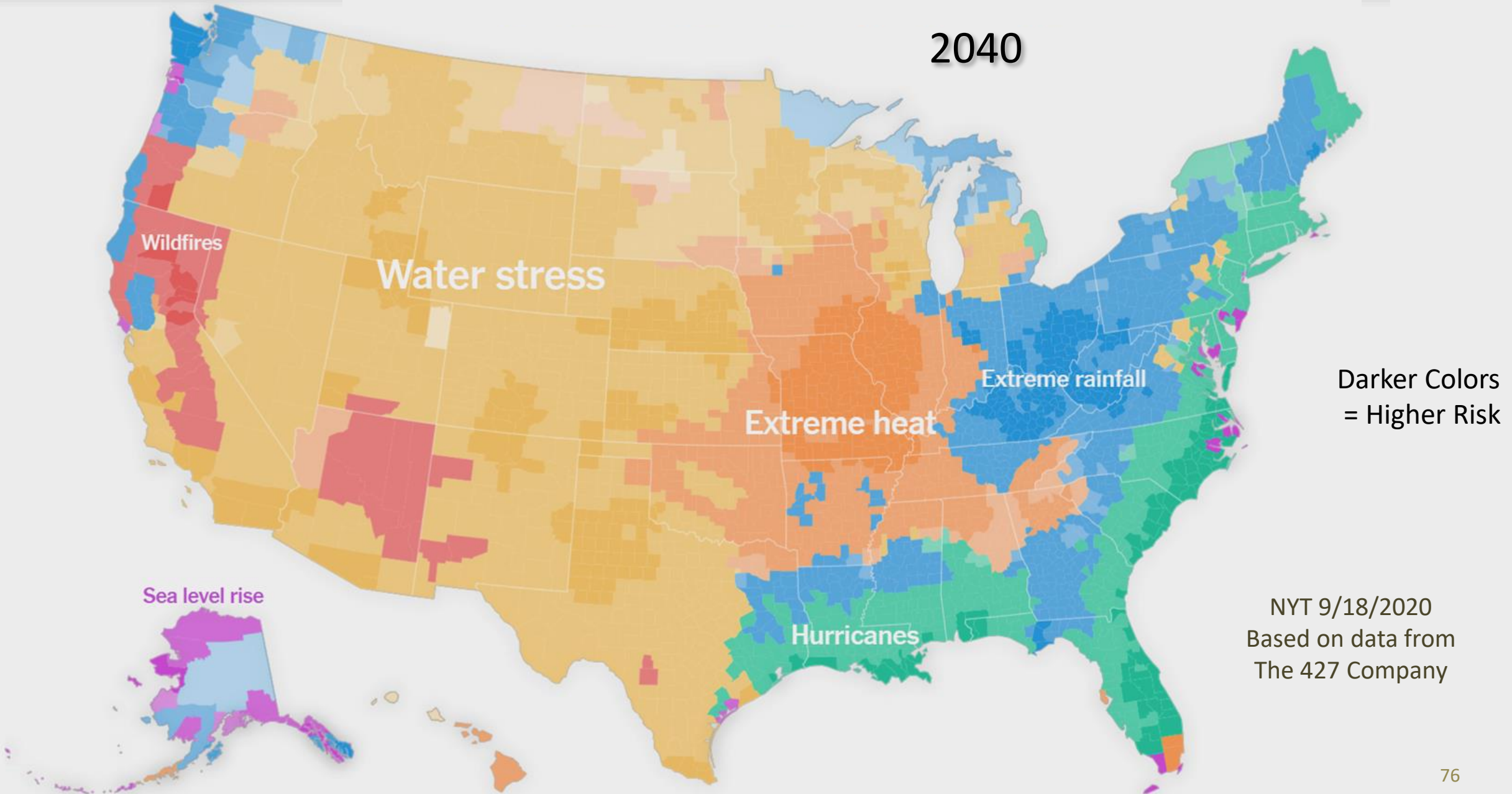




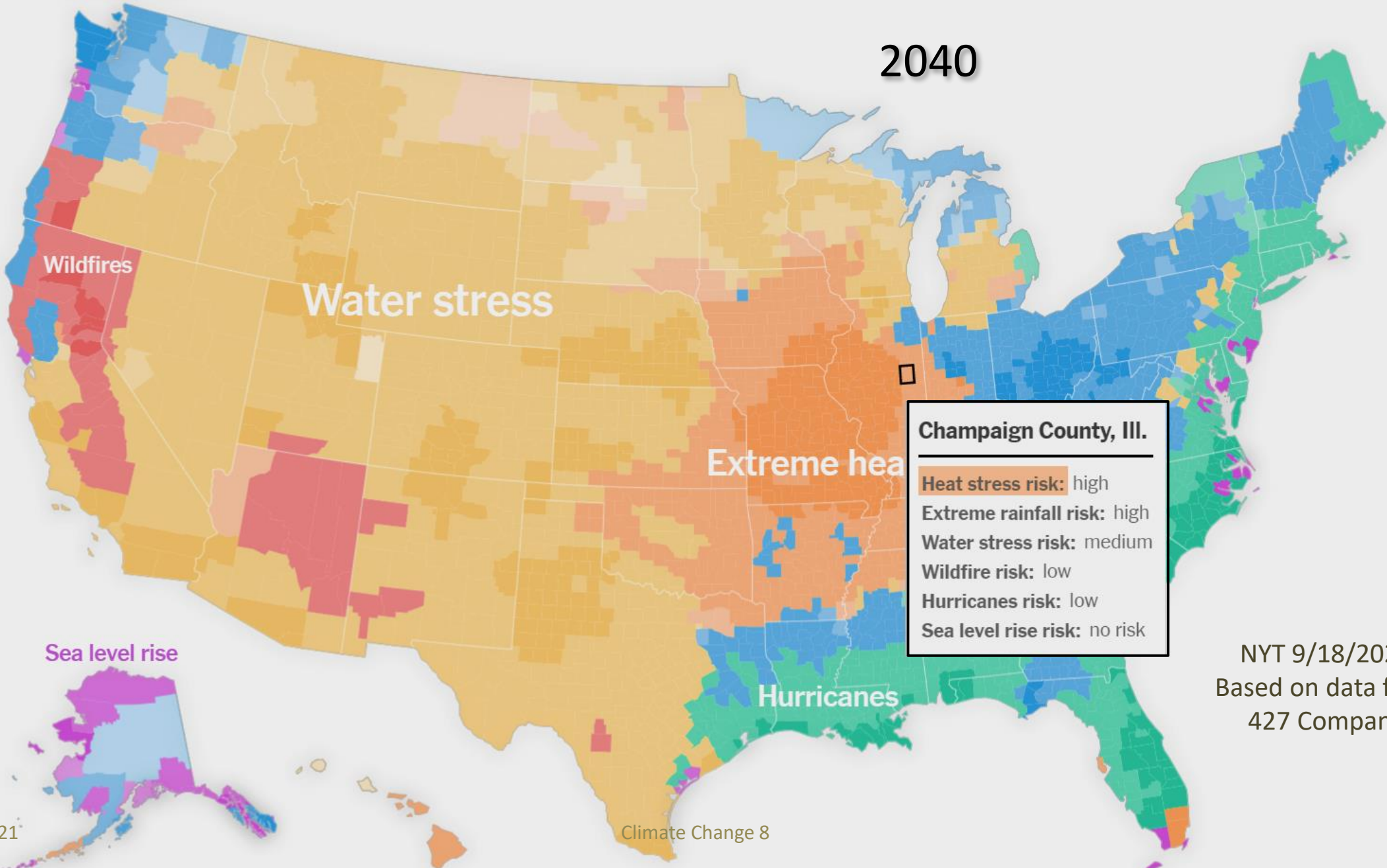
# Questions about Global Projections: Sea Level, Migration etc.







2040



NYT 9/18/2020  
Based on data from  
427 Company

SS

Extreme heat

Hurricanes

**Champaign County, Ill.**

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Heat stress risk: high

Extreme rainfall risk: high

Water stress risk: medium

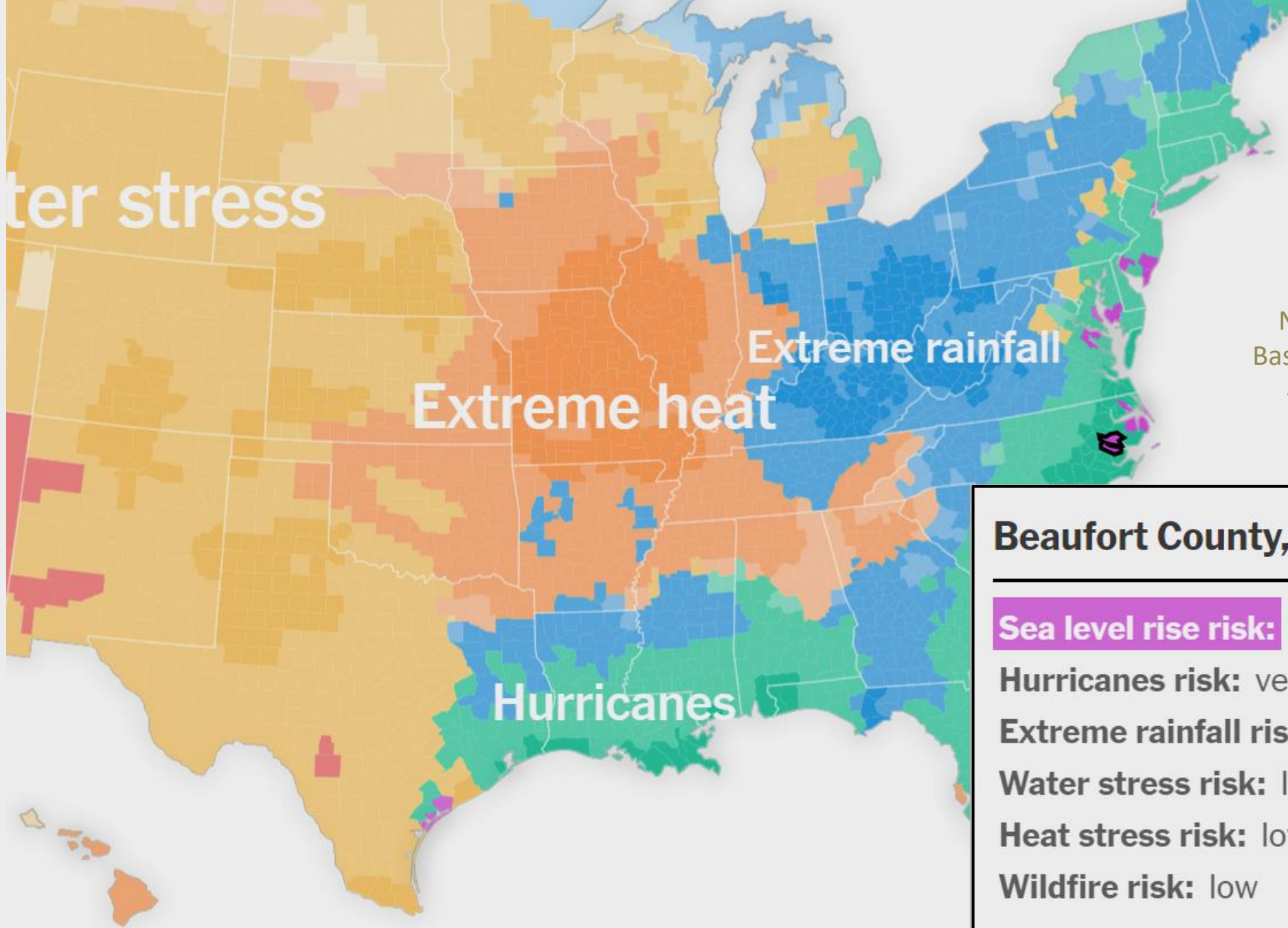
Wildfire risk: low

Hurricanes risk: low

Sea level rise risk: no risk

2040

NYT 9/18/2020  
Based on data from  
427 Company



Water stress

2040

NYT 9/18/2020  
Based on data from  
427 Company

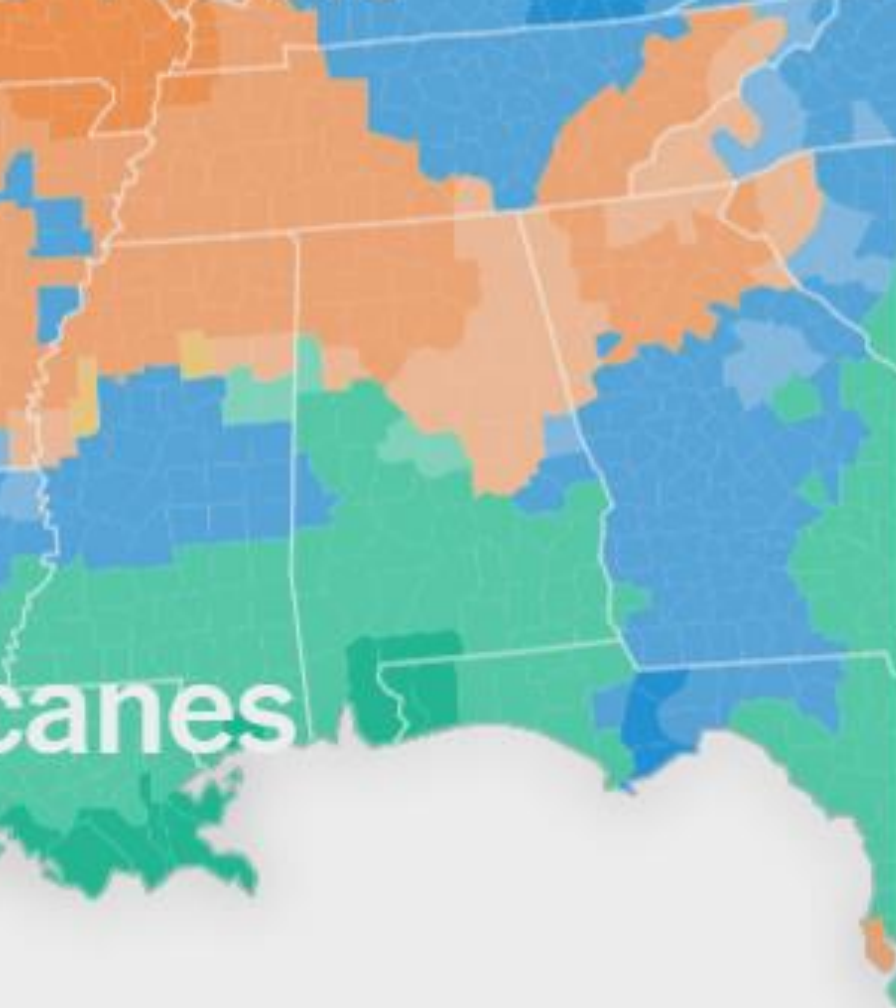
Extreme heat

Extreme rainfall

Hurricanes

**Beaufort County, N.C.**

- Sea level rise risk:** very high
- Hurricanes risk:** very high
- Extreme rainfall risk:** low
- Water stress risk:** low
- Heat stress risk:** low
- Wildfire risk:** low



## Beaufort County, N.C.

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2040

**Sea level rise risk: very high**

**Hurricanes risk: very high**

**Extreme rainfall risk: low**

**Water stress risk: low**

**Heat stress risk: low**

**Wildfire risk: low**

NYT 9/18/2020  
Based on data from  
427 Company

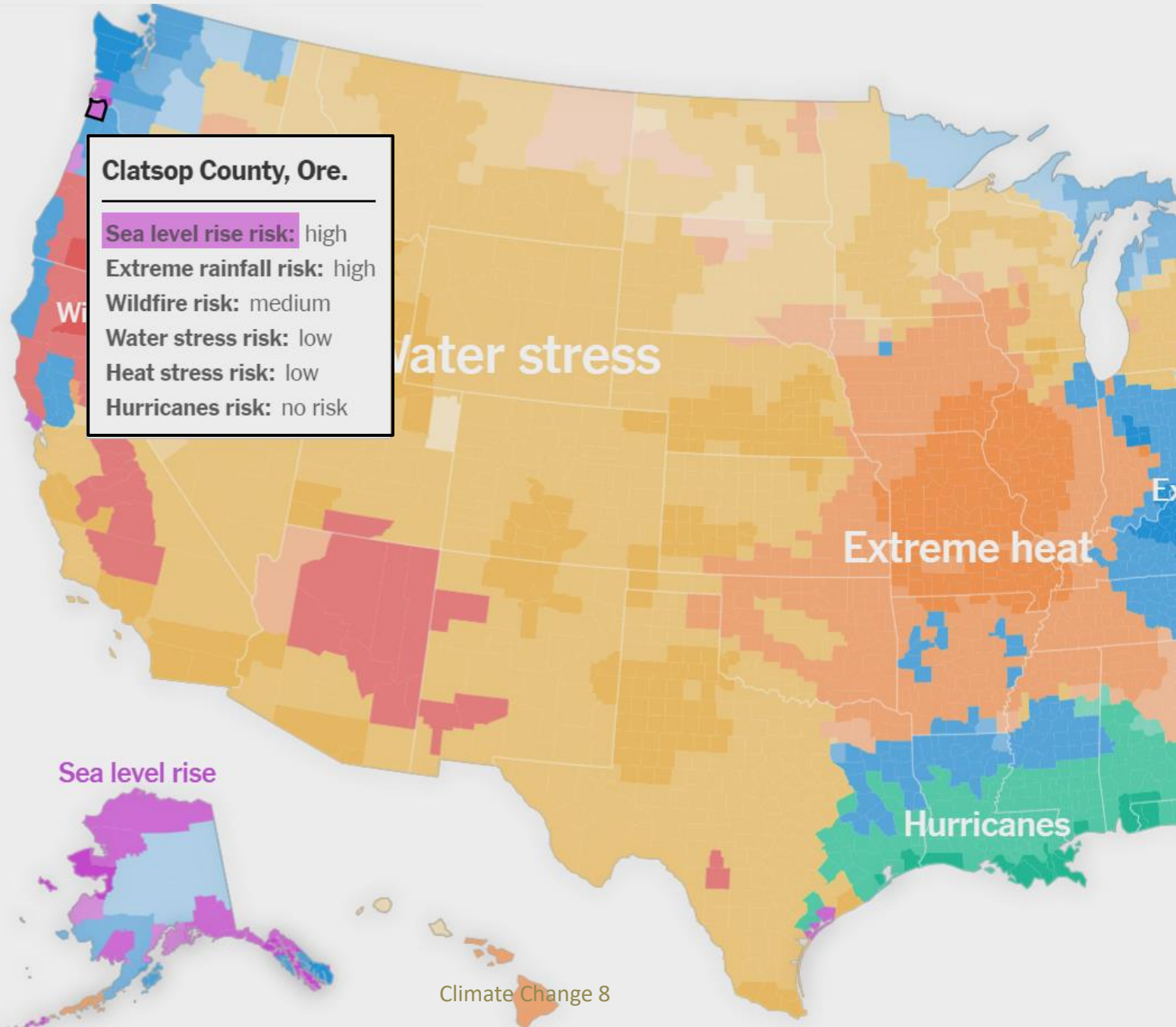


2040

**Clatsop County, Ore.**

---

Sea level rise risk: high  
Extreme rainfall risk: high  
Wildfire risk: medium  
Water stress risk: low  
Heat stress risk: low  
Hurricanes risk: no risk



NYT 9/18/2020  
Based on data from  
427 Company

2040

### Clatsop County, Ore.

Sea level rise risk: high

Extreme rainfall risk: high

Wildfire risk: medium

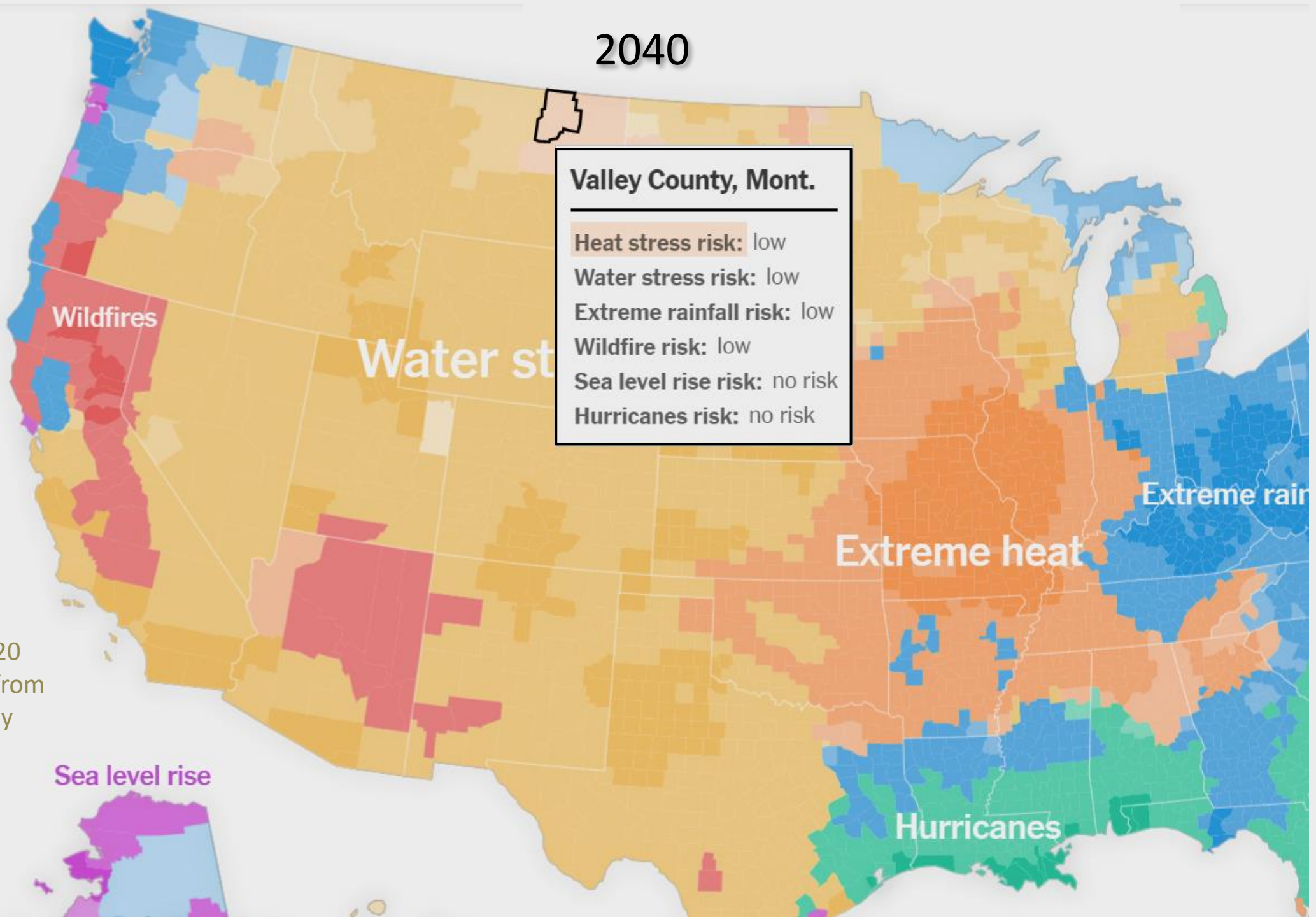
Water stress risk: low

Heat stress risk: low

Hurricanes risk: no risk

NYT 9/18/2020  
Based on data from  
427 Company

2040



**Valley County, Mont.**

- Heat stress risk: low
- Water stress risk: low
- Extreme rainfall risk: low
- Wildfire risk: low
- Sea level rise risk: no risk
- Hurricanes risk: no risk

Wildfires

Water st

Extreme rain

Extreme heat

Sea level rise

Hurricanes

NYT 9/18/2020  
Based on data from  
427 Company

2040

## Valley County, Mont.

Heat stress risk: low

Water stress risk: low

Extreme rainfall risk: low

Wildfire risk: low

Sea level rise risk: no risk

Hurricanes risk: no risk

Wildfires

Water stress

NYT 9/18/2020  
Based on data from  
427 Company



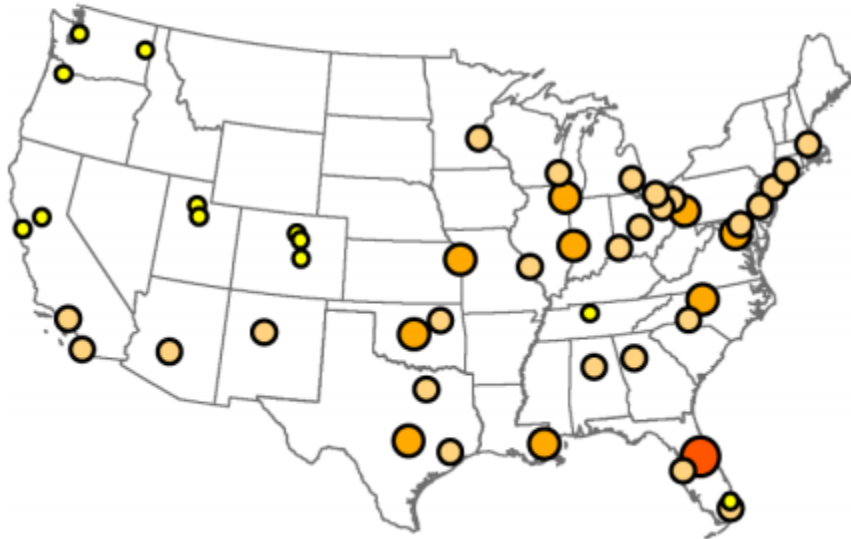
Source of NYT climate impact maps  
was this consulting company

We help you navigate climate change

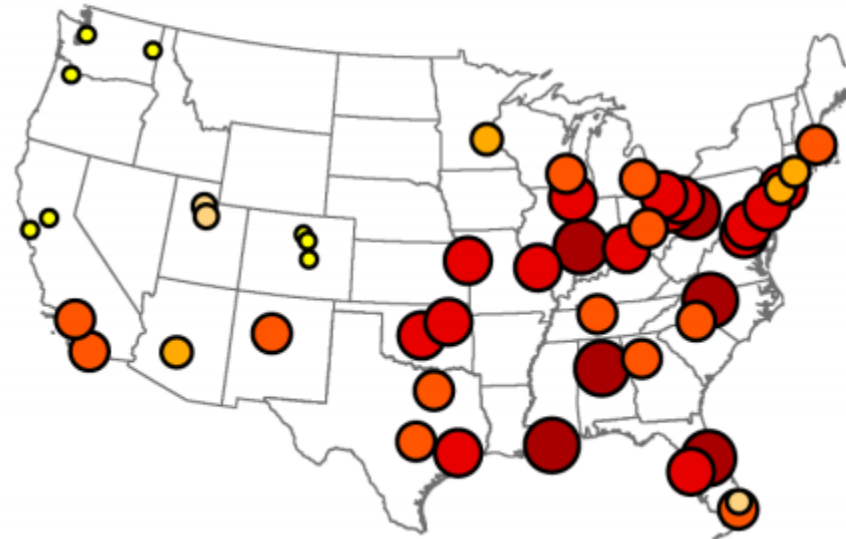
Four Twenty Seven blends economic modeling with climate science to help you reduce risks, identify new opportunities, and **build resilience** in the face of climate change.

# Projected Change in Annual Extreme Temperature Mortality

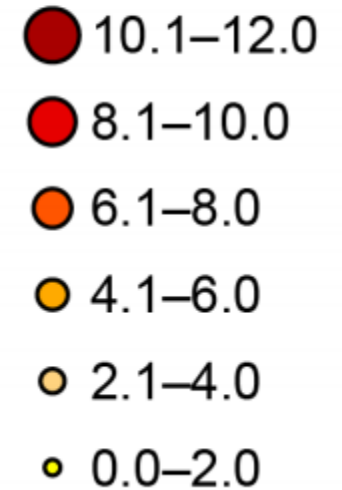
Lower Scenario  
(RCP4.5)



Higher Scenario  
(RCP8.5)



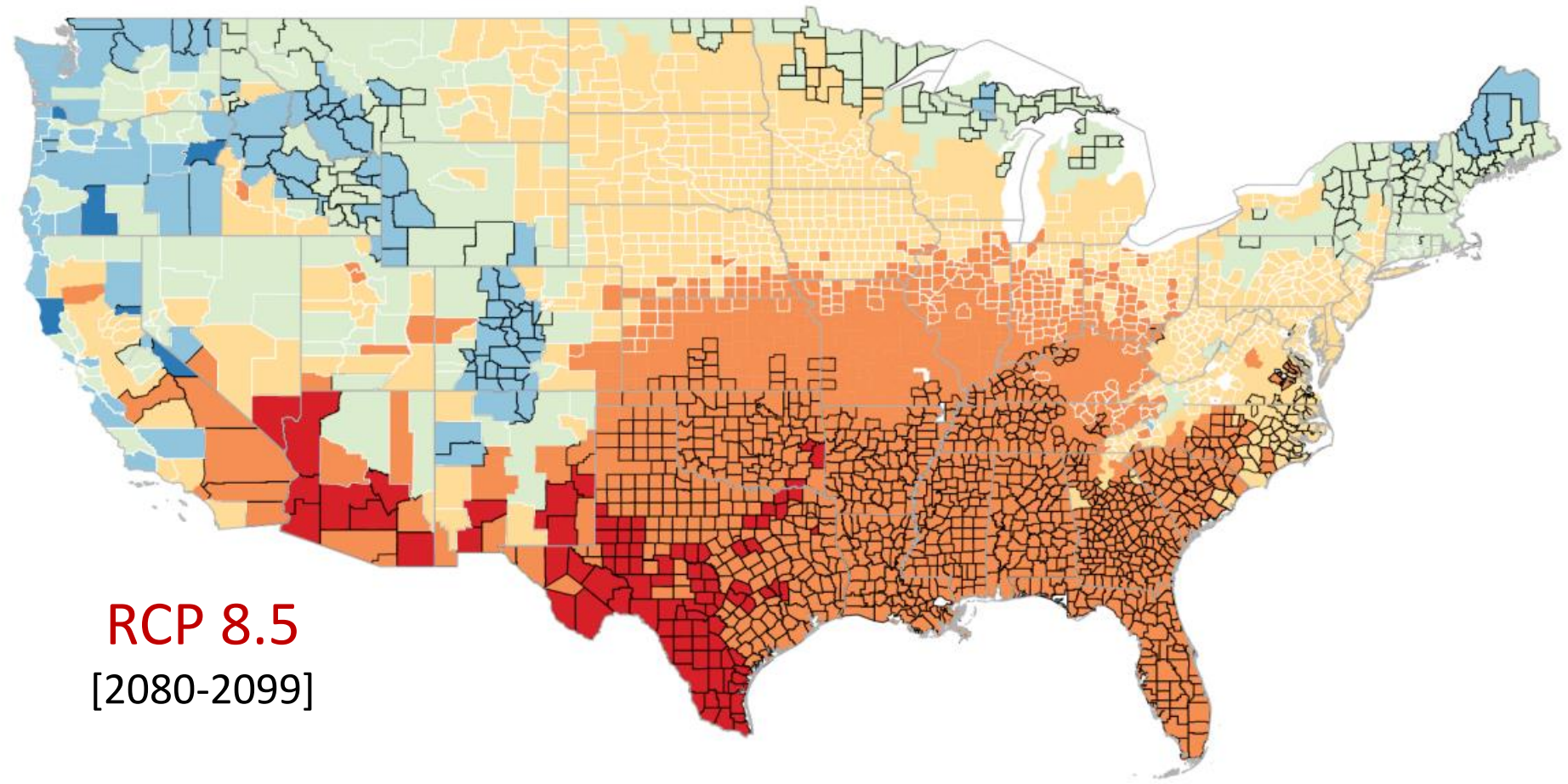
Change in Mortality Rate  
(deaths per 100,000 people)



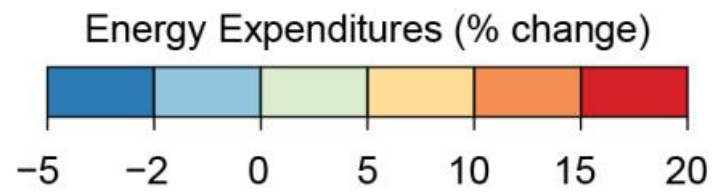
Excess Mortality for 49 Cities  
due to Heat and Cold  
[2080-2099]

National Climate Assessment 4  
(2018) Fig. 14.4

# Projected Changes in Energy Expenditures

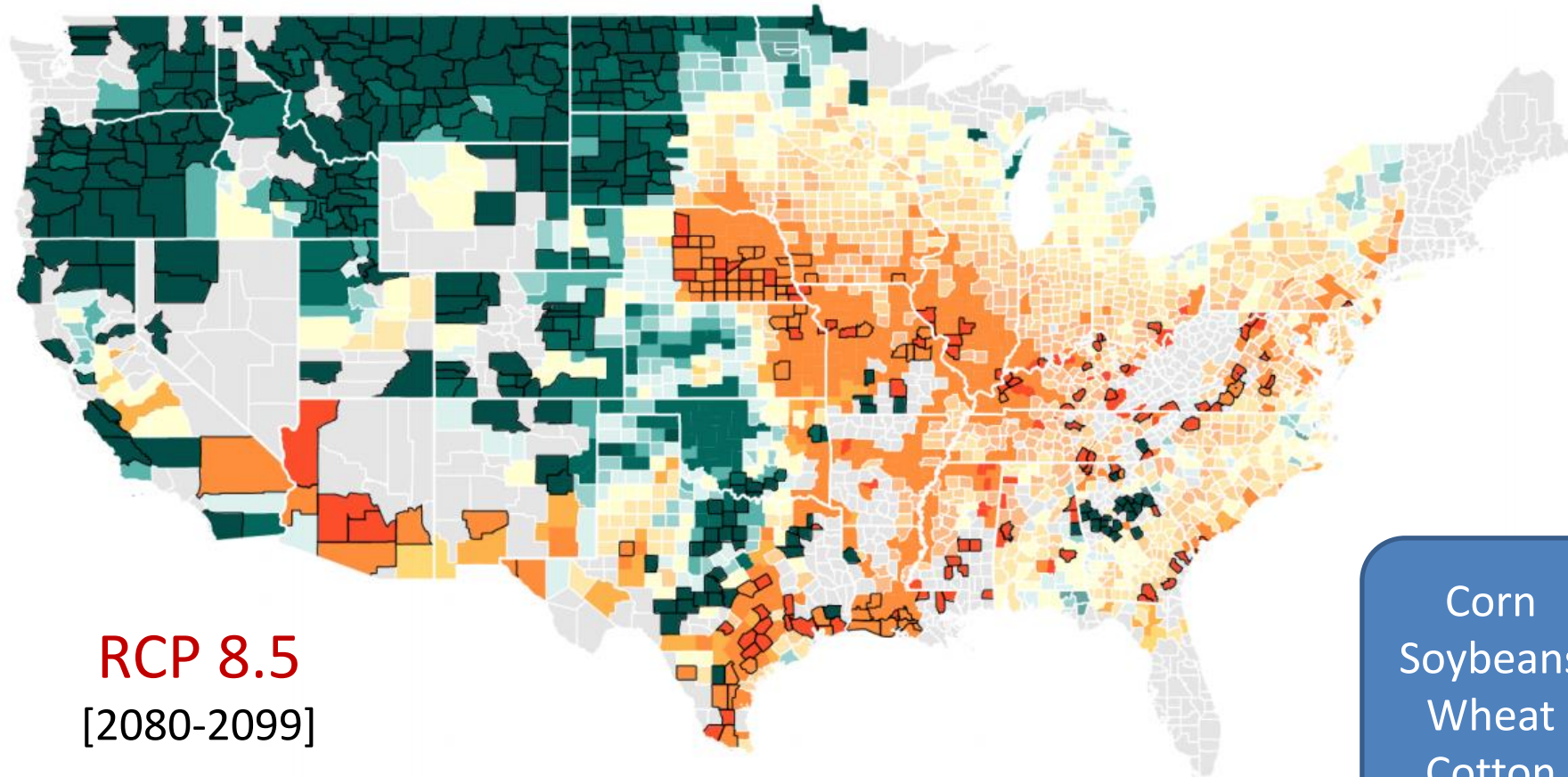


**RCP 8.5**  
[2080-2099]



National Climate Assessment 4  
(2018) Fig. 4.2

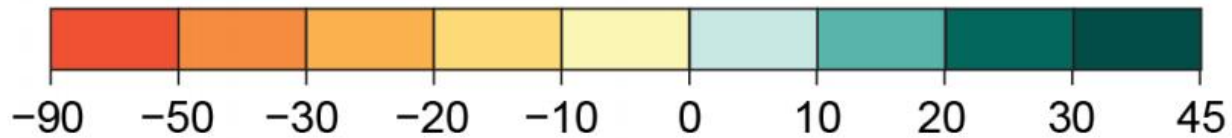
# Agricultural Productivity



**RCP 8.5**  
[2080-2099]

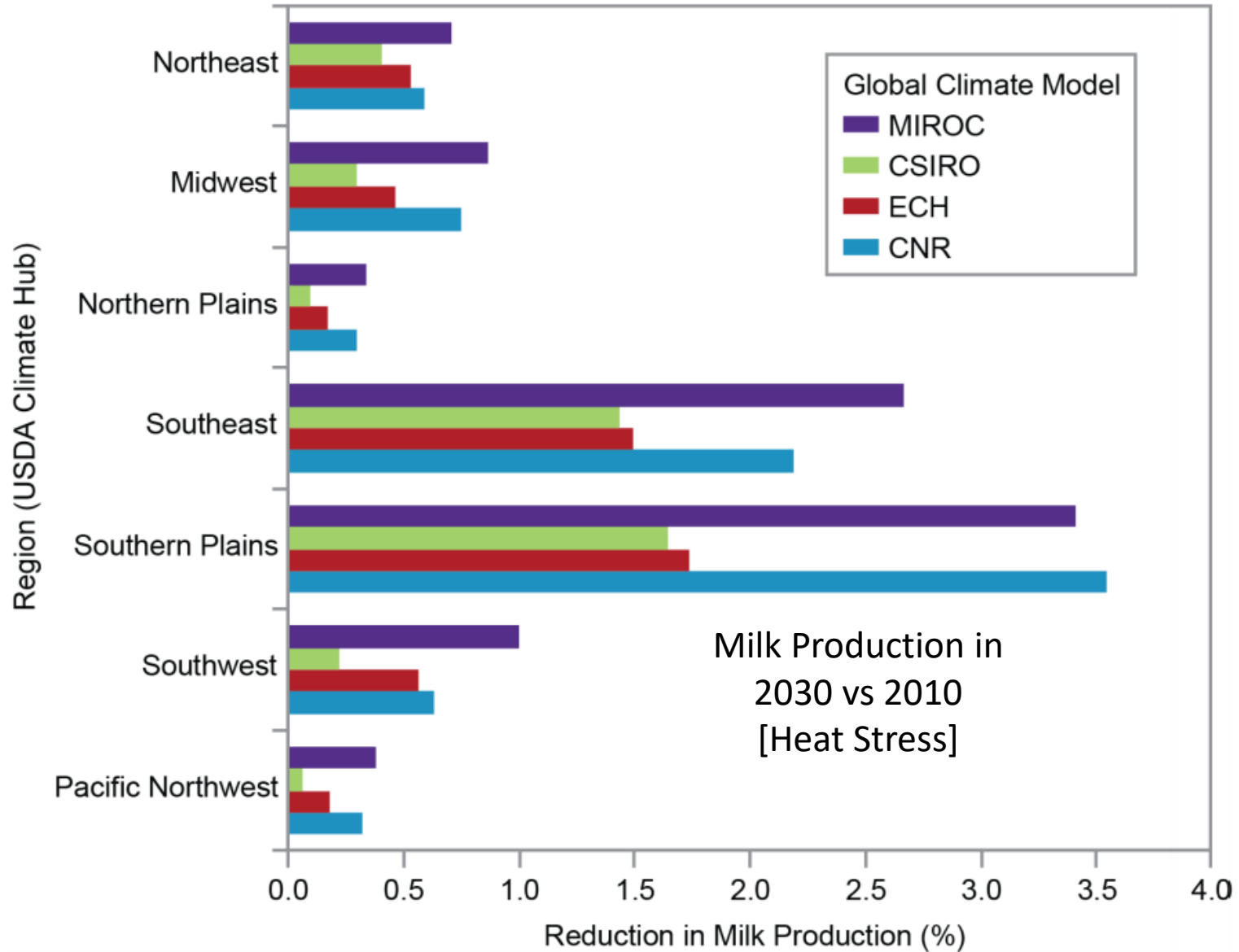
Corn  
Soybeans  
Wheat  
Cotton

Agricultural Yields (% change)

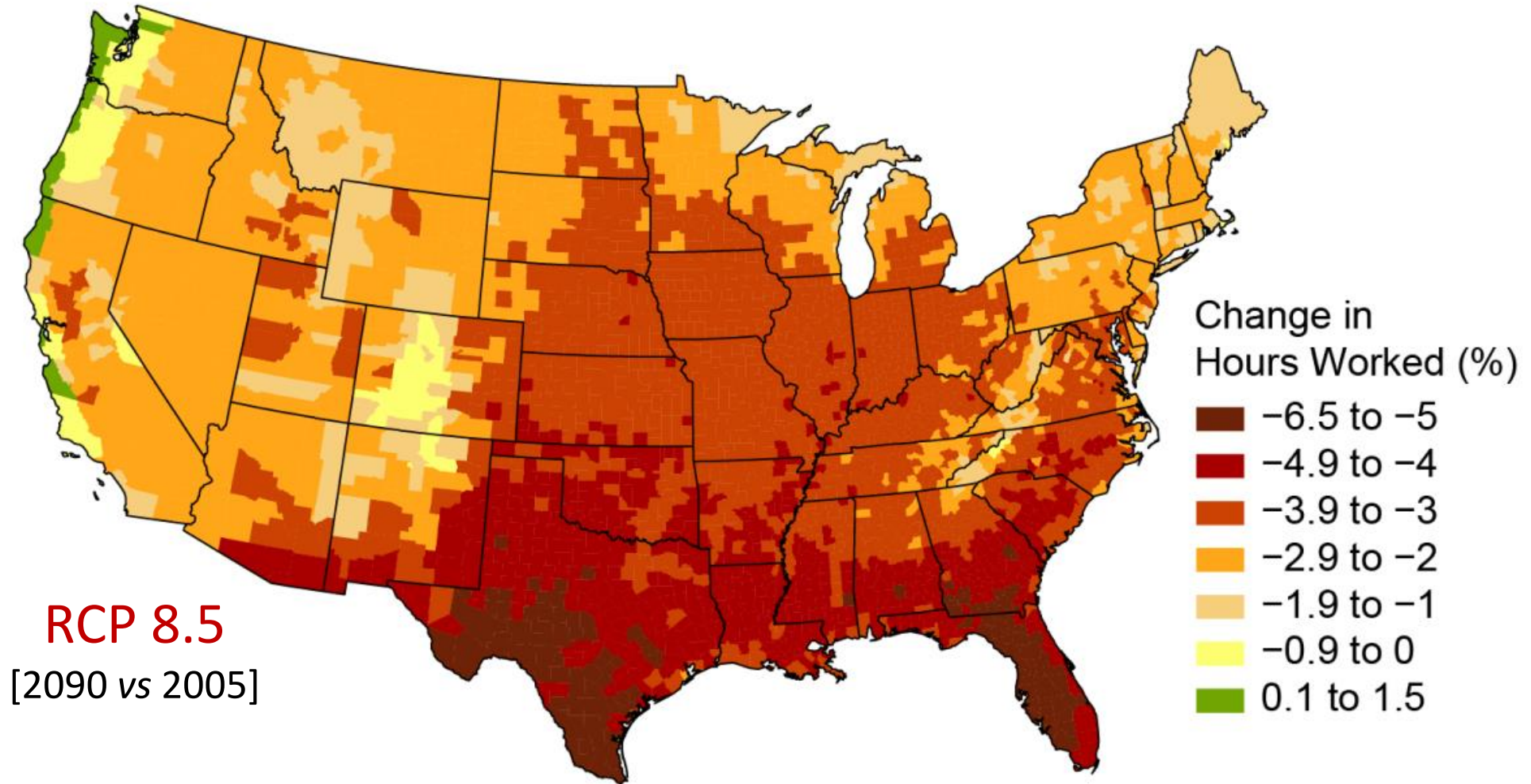




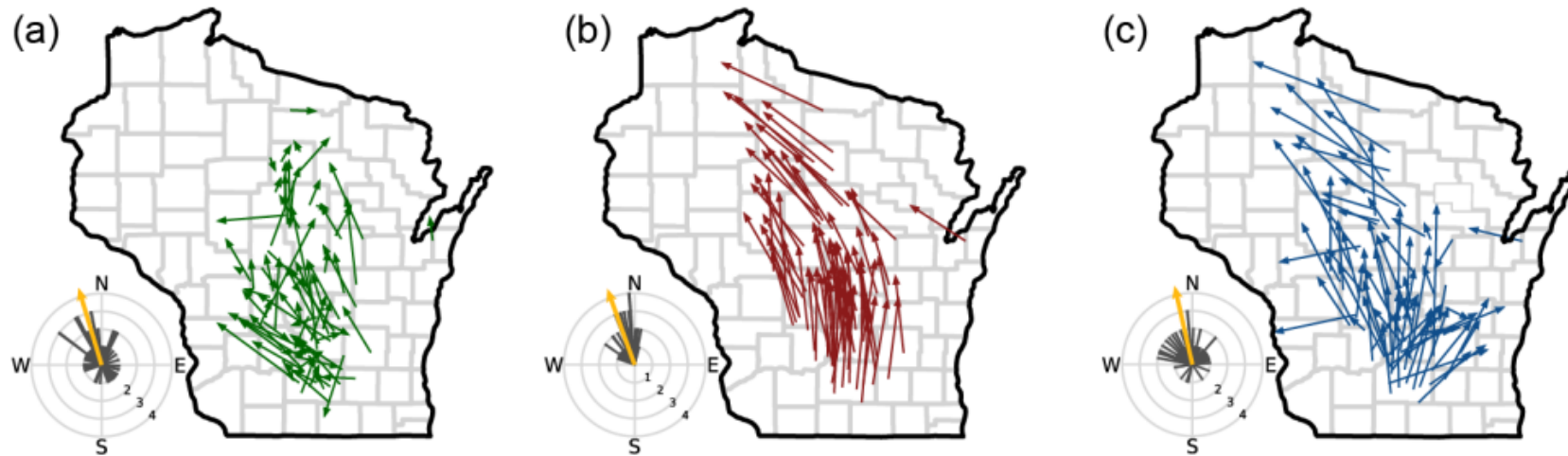
## Projected Reduction in Milk Production (2030)



# Projected Changes in Hours Worked

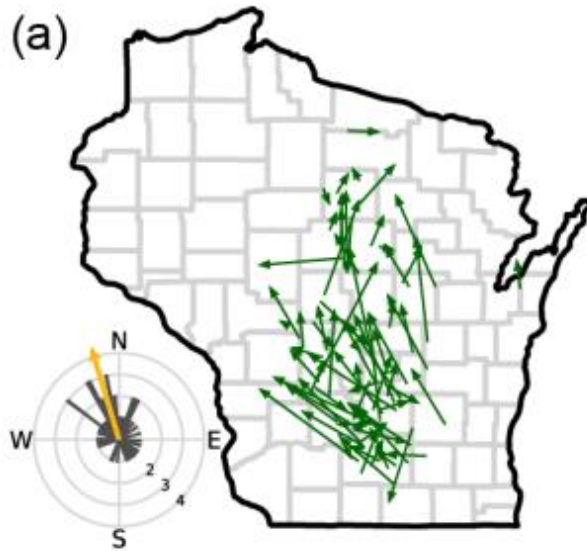


## Climate Change Outpaces Plants' Ability to Shift Habitat Range

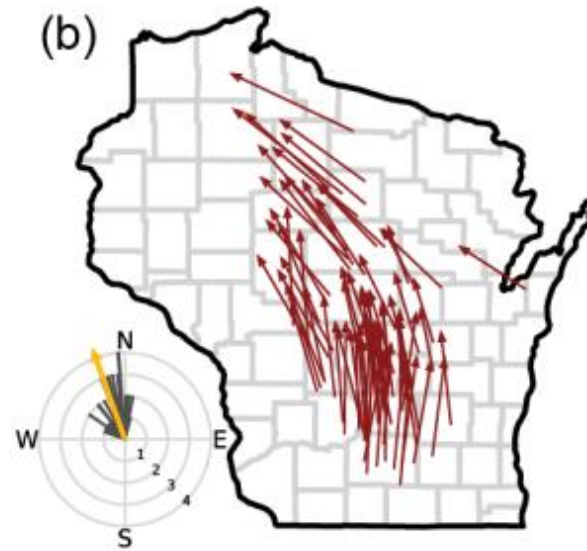


**Figure 21.5:** While midwestern species, such as understory plants in Wisconsin, are showing changes in range, they may not be shifting quickly enough to keep up with changes in climate. The panels here represent 78 plant species, showing (a) observed changes in the center of plant species abundances (centroids) from the 1950s to 2000s, (b) the direction and magnitude of changes in climate factors associated with those species, and (c) the lag, or difference, between where the species centroid is now located and where the change in climate factors suggests it should be located in order to keep pace with a changing climate. Source: adapted from Ash et al. 2017.<sup>141</sup> ©John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

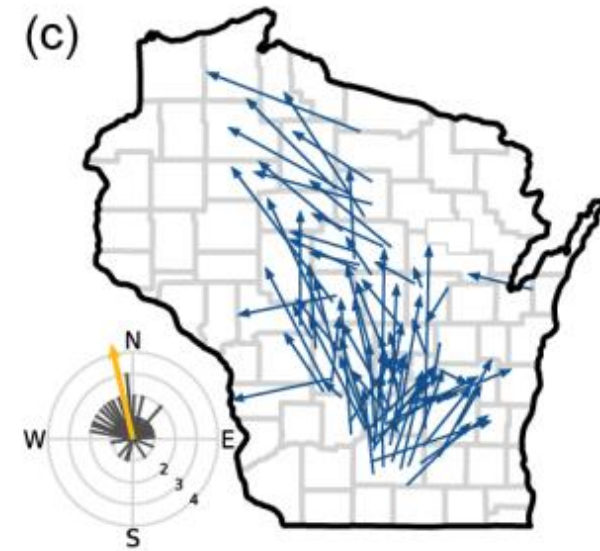
# Climate Change Outpaces Plants' Ability to Shift Habitat Range



How 78 Plant Species **Actually** Moved...



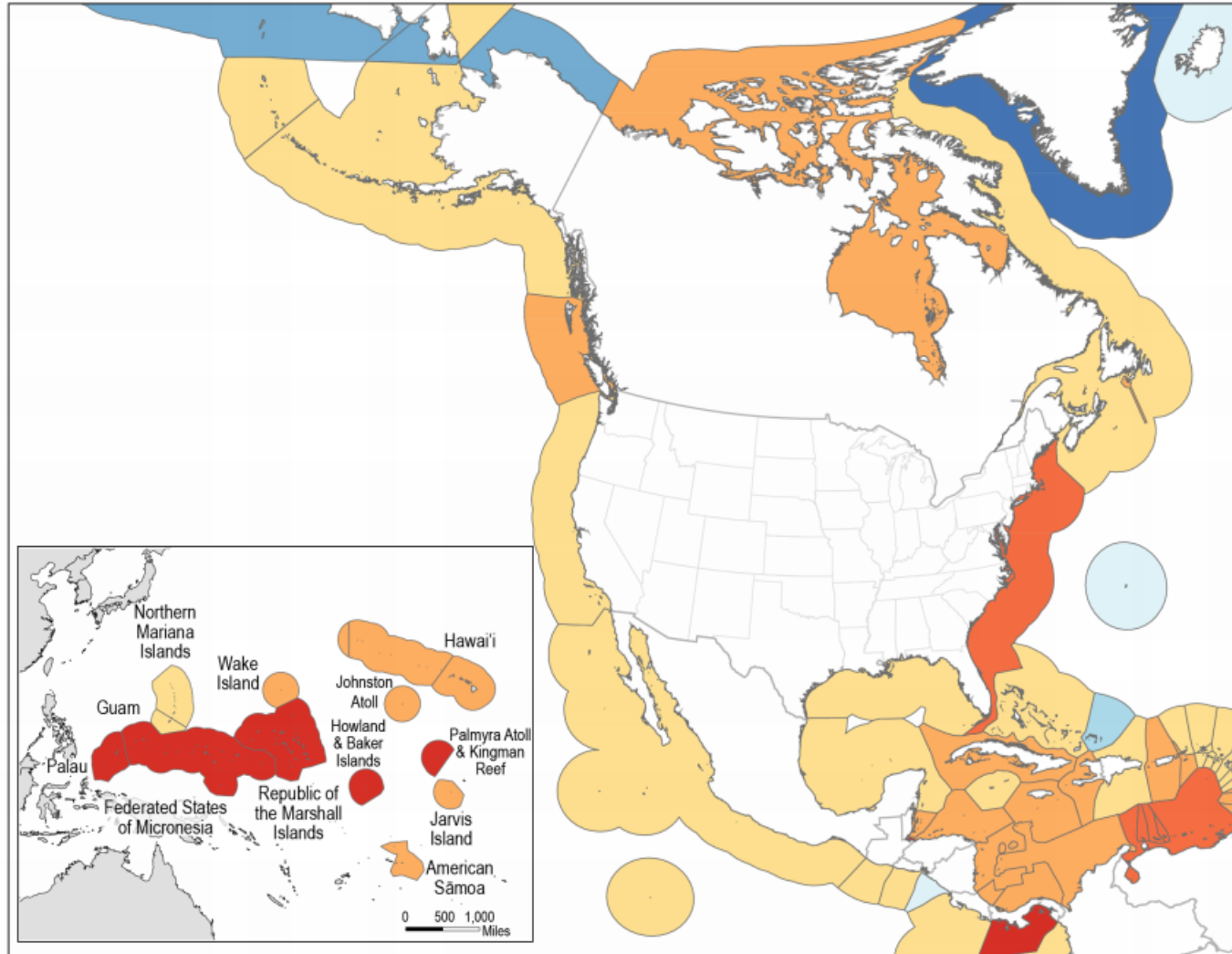
How They **Should** Have Moved...



The Lag: How much **More** They Should Have Moved...

1950's to 2000's

### Projected Changes in Maximum Fish Catch Potential



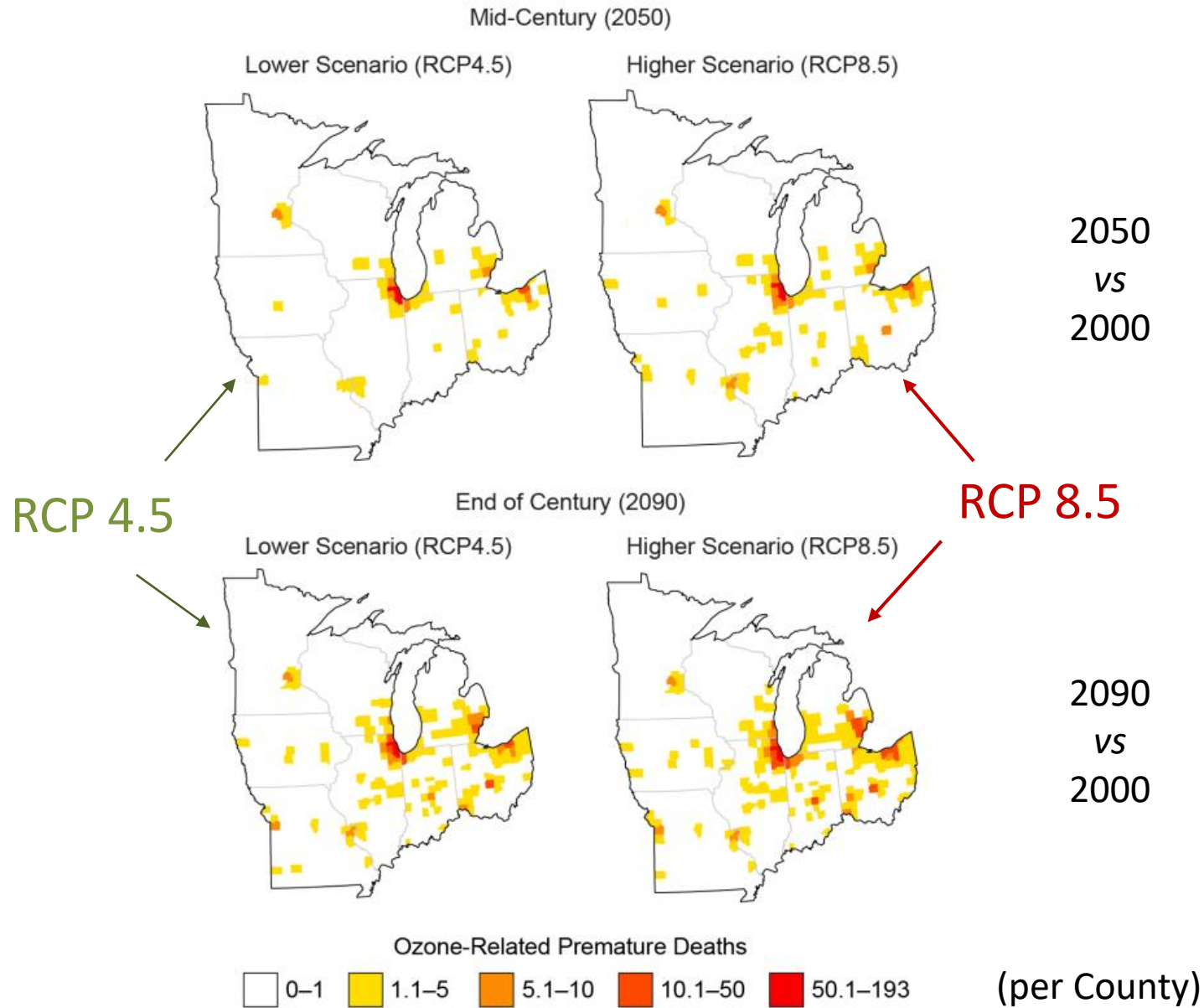
Average Change  
in Maximum Catch Potential (%)



**RCP 8.5**  
[2050 vs 2000]

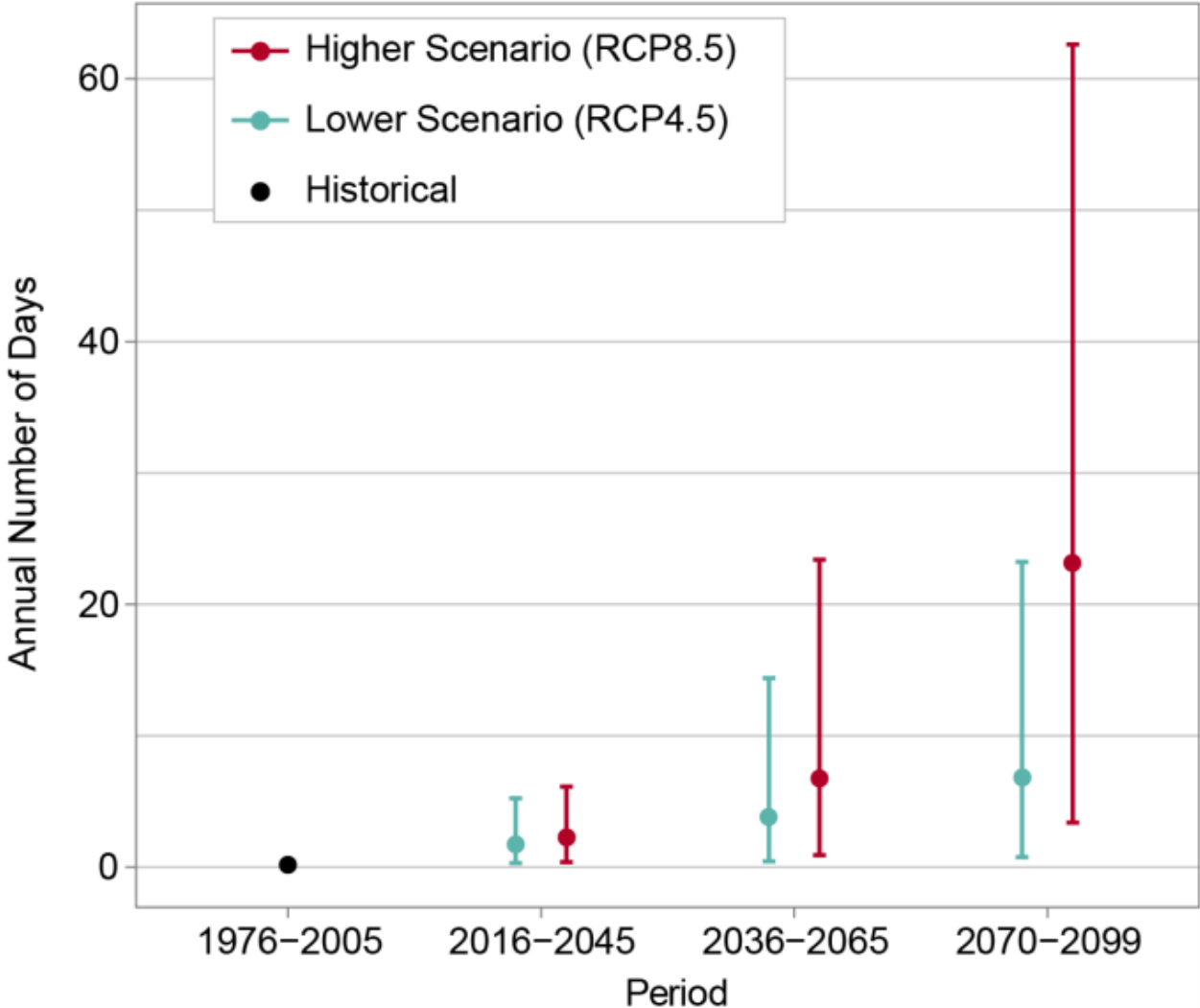
National Climate  
Assessment 4  
(2018) Fig. A5.29

# Projected Changes in Ozone-Related Premature Deaths



National Climate Assessment 4 (2018) Fig. 21.9

# Days Above 100°F for Chicago



National Climate Assessment 4  
(2018) Fig. 21.10

# CLIMATE TIPPING POINTS



The point of no return?



International edition 3/2/2021

US Edition 3/13/2021

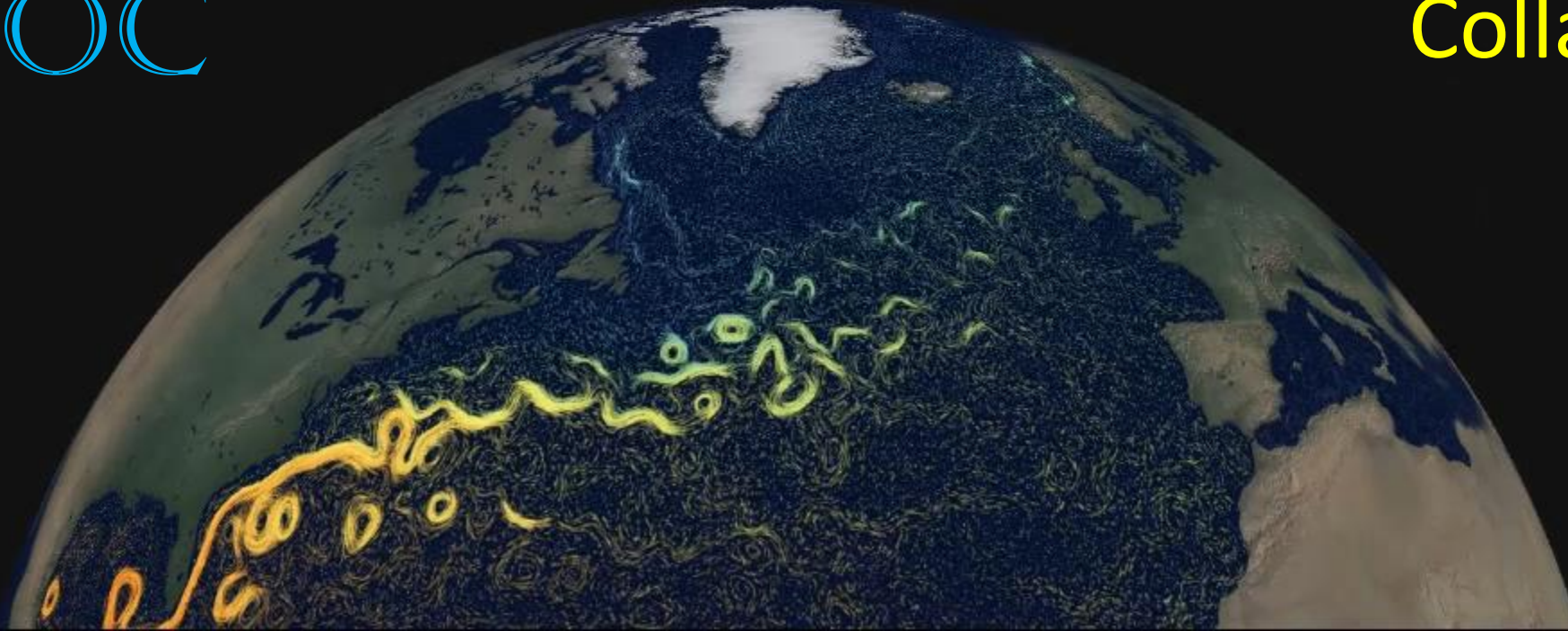
# In the Atlantic Ocean, Subtle Shifts Hint at Dramatic Dangers

The warming atmosphere is causing an arm of the powerful Gulf Stream to weaken, some scientists fear.

By MOISES VELASQUEZ-MANOFF  
and JEREMY WHITE

# THE AMOC


# The Dreaded AMOC Collapse





# The Dreaded AMOC Collapse

Currents swing west from Africa, ultimately influencing weather patterns from Caracas to Miami to Europe.



The Gulf Stream propels the heat of the Caribbean past Cape Hatteras, N.C., before bending toward the British Isles.

## The Dreaded AMOC Collapse

A map of the North Atlantic Ocean showing ocean circulation patterns. The map uses a color scale from dark blue (cold) to yellow (warm). A prominent feature is a large, irregularly shaped area of dark blue water in the central North Atlantic, labeled 'COLD BLOB'. The Gulf Stream is visible as a bright yellow/orange line along the eastern coast of North America. The text 'But now, in the North Atlantic, there is the "cold blob."' is overlaid on the map. The title 'The Dreaded AMOC Collapse' is written in large yellow letters on the right side. Labels for 'New York' and 'St. John's' are present on the map.

But now, in the North Atlantic, there is the  
"cold blob."

# The Dreaded AMOC Collapse

COLD BLOB

New York

St. John's

NORTH AMERICA

# The Dreaded AMOC Collapse

The fear: Melting Greenland ice will tip the delicate balance of hot and cold that defines not only the North Atlantic, but life far and wide.

As we saw earlier, AMOC collapse can and has happened, but models suggest it takes over a century to fully develop.

International edition 3/2/2021

US Edition 3/13/2021

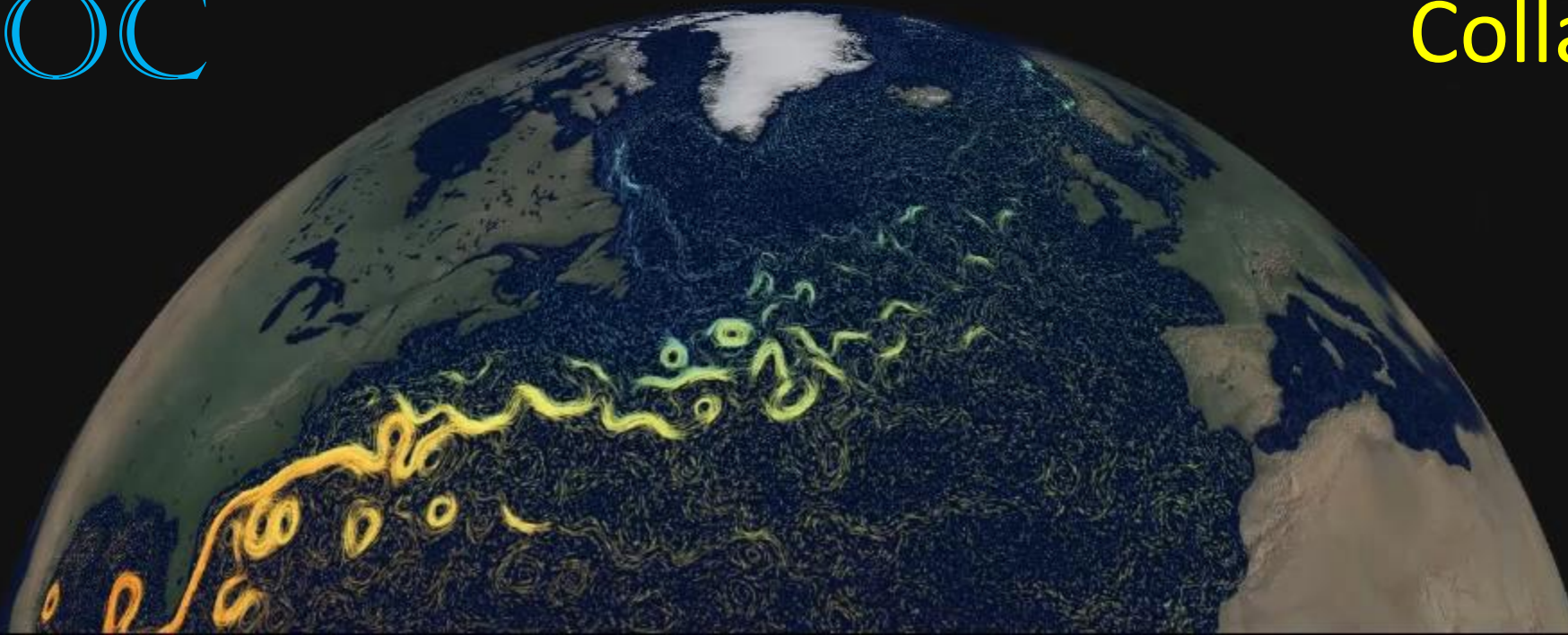
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# The “Hothouse Earth” Paper



PERSPECTIVE

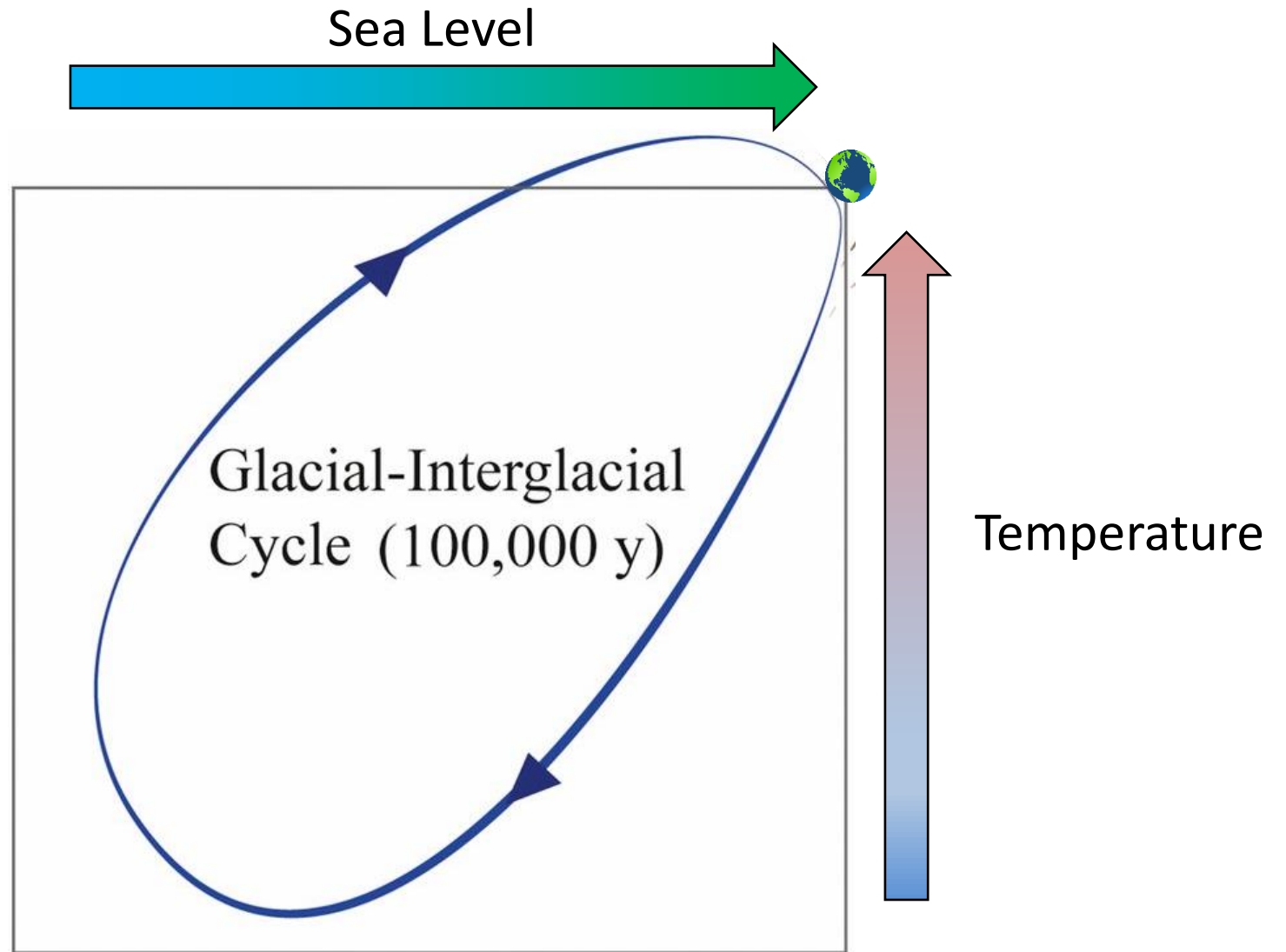
## Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene

Undefined: 1945 onwards?

Will Steffen<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Johan Rockström<sup>a</sup>, Katherine Richardson<sup>c</sup>, Timothy M. Lenton<sup>d</sup>, Carl Folke<sup>a,e</sup>, Diana Liverman<sup>f</sup>, Colin P. Summerhayes<sup>g</sup>, Anthony D. Barnosky<sup>h</sup>, Sarah E. Cornell<sup>a</sup>, Michel Crucifix<sup>i,j</sup>, Jonathan F. Donges<sup>a,k</sup>, Ingo Fetzer<sup>a</sup>, Steven J. Lade<sup>a,b</sup>, Marten Scheffer<sup>i</sup>, Ricarda Winkelmann<sup>k,m</sup>, and Hans Joachim Schellnhuber<sup>a,k,m,1</sup>

Edited by William C. Clark, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, and approved July 6, 2018 (received for review June 19, 2018)

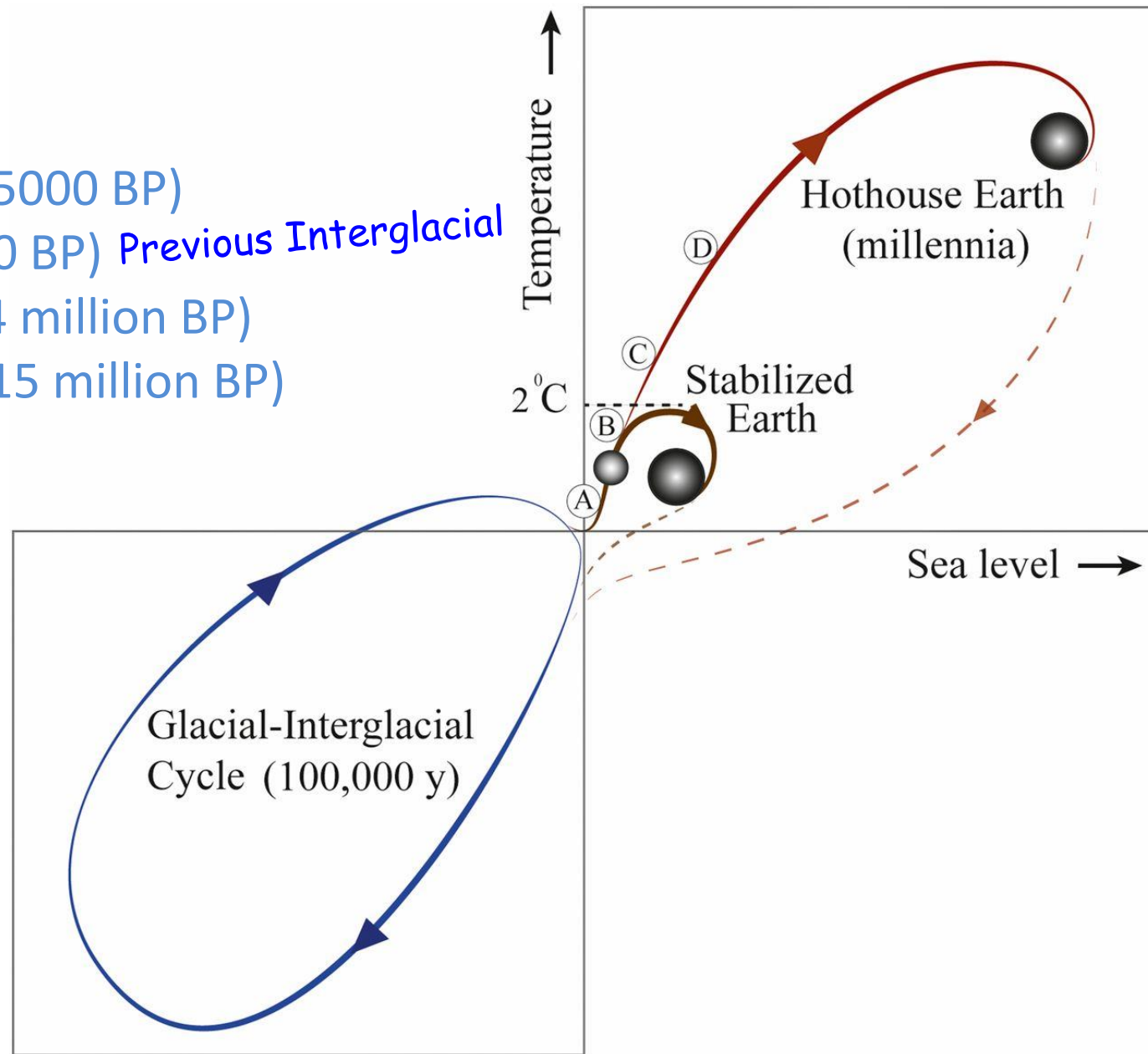
We explore the risk that self-reinforcing feedbacks could push the Earth System toward a planetary threshold that, if crossed, could prevent stabilization of the climate at intermediate temperature rises and cause continued warming on a “Hothouse Earth” pathway even as human emissions are reduced....



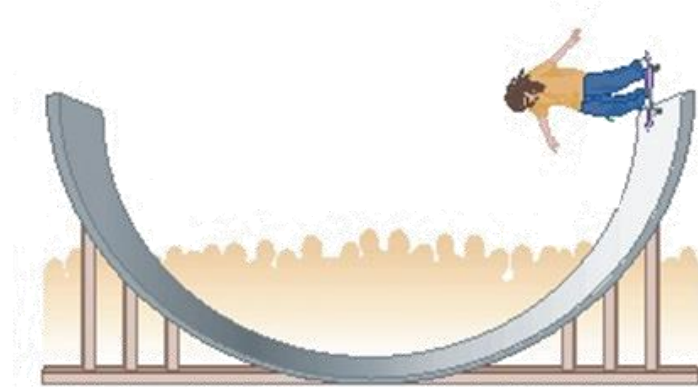
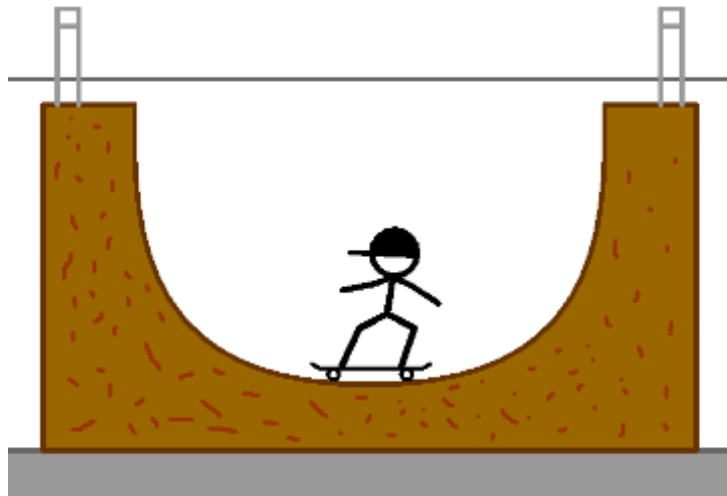
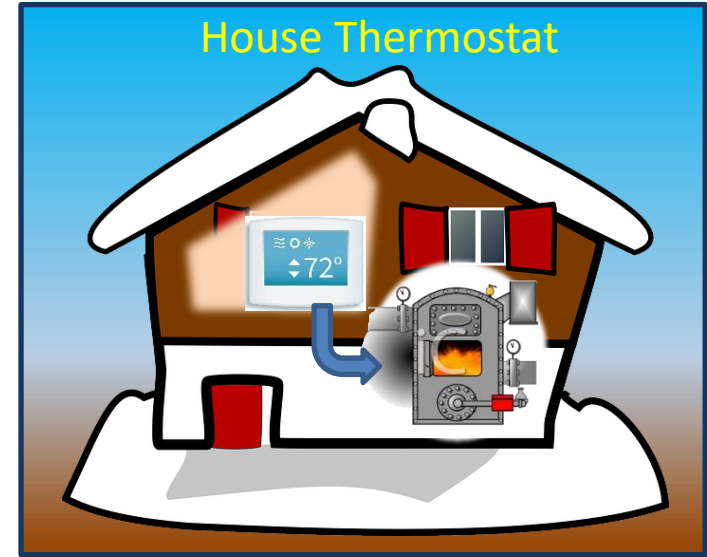
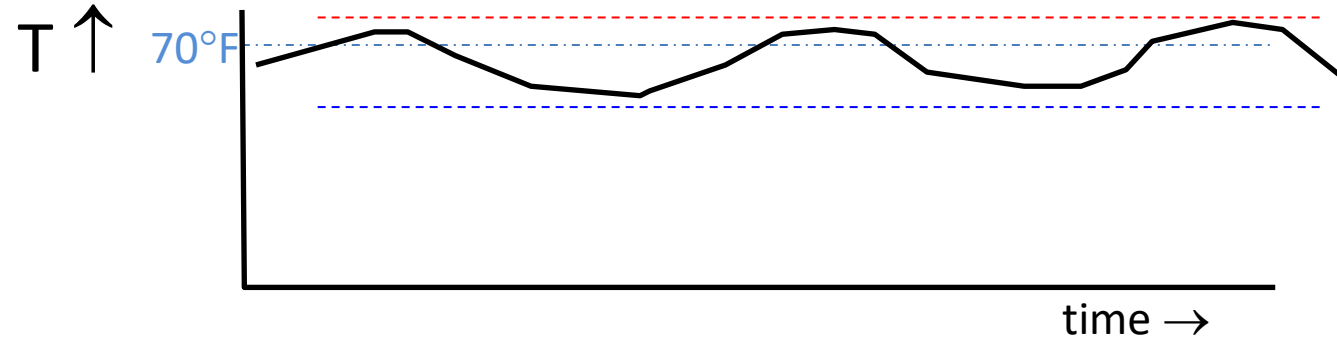


"Hothouse Earth" Paper

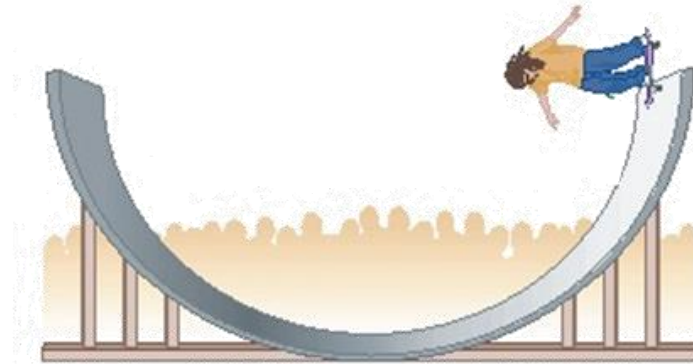
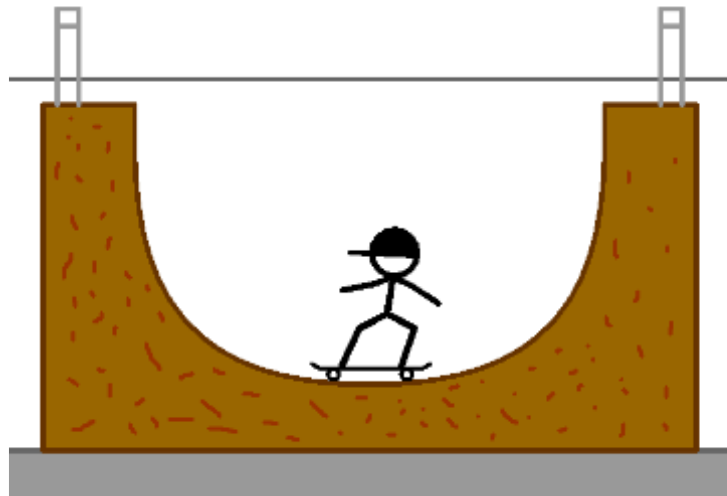
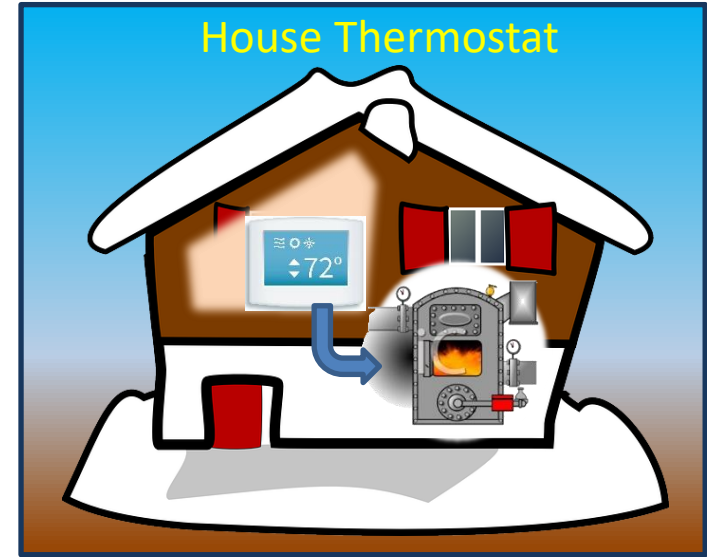
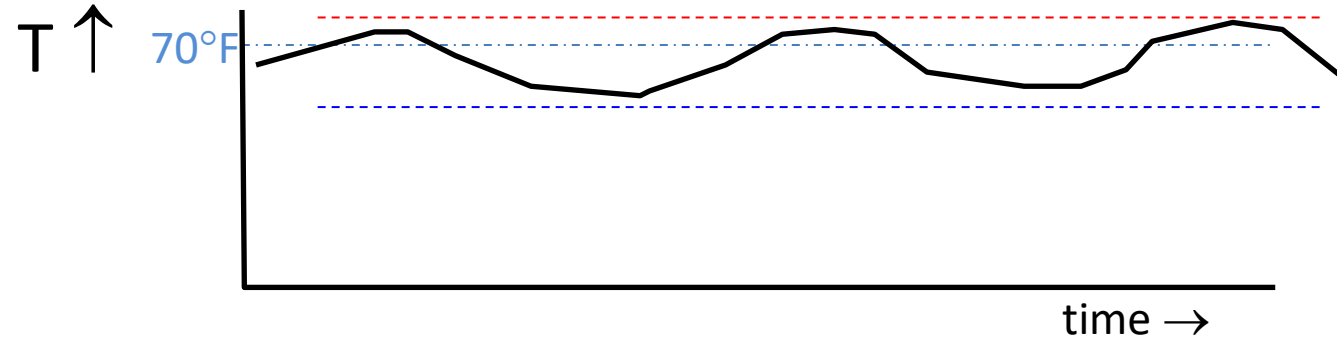
- A. Mid-Holocene (~5000 BP)
- B. Eemian (~120,000 BP) *Previous Interglacial*
- C. Mid-Pliocene (~ 4 million BP)
- D. Mid-Miocene (~ 15 million BP)

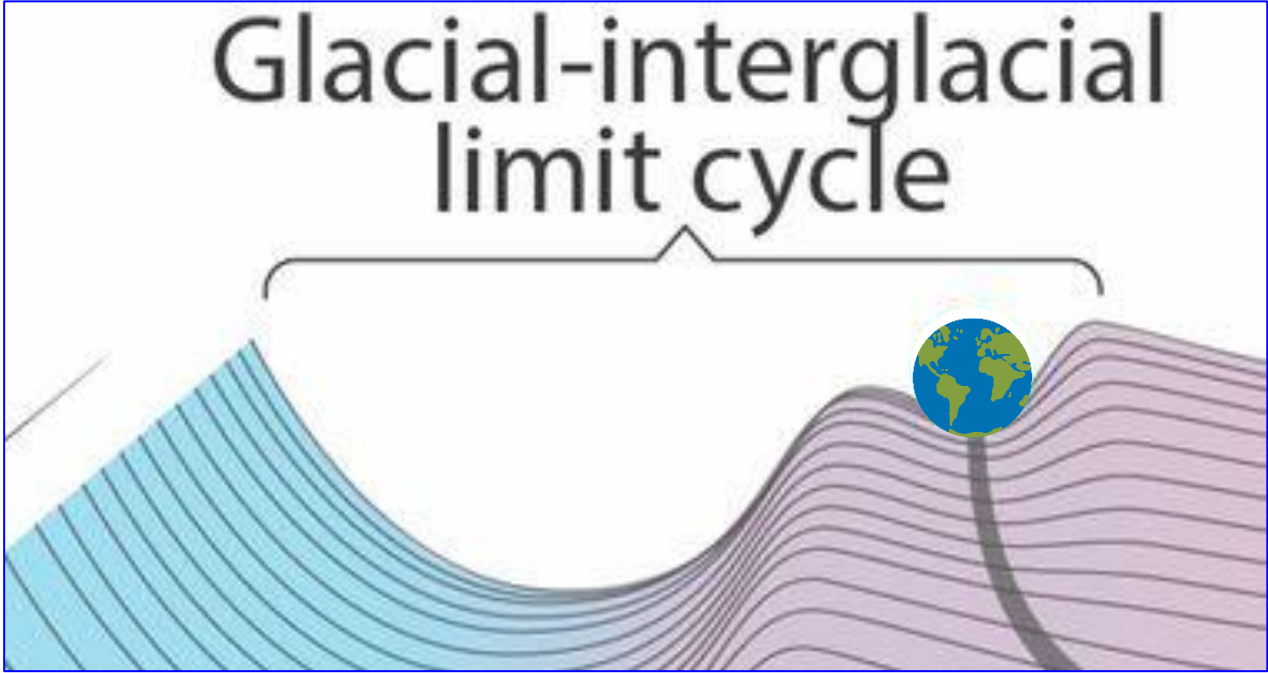


# "Limit Cycles"

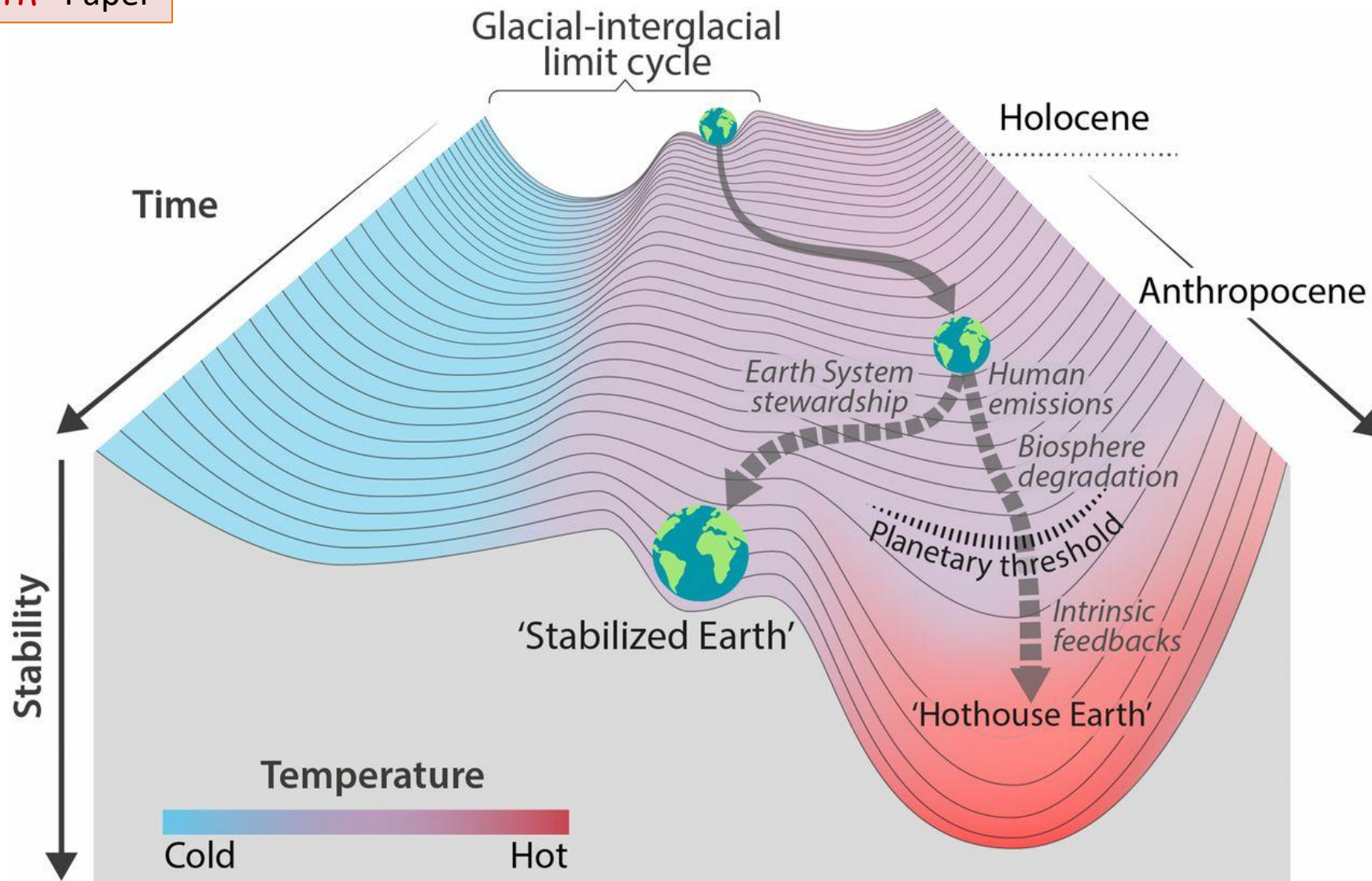


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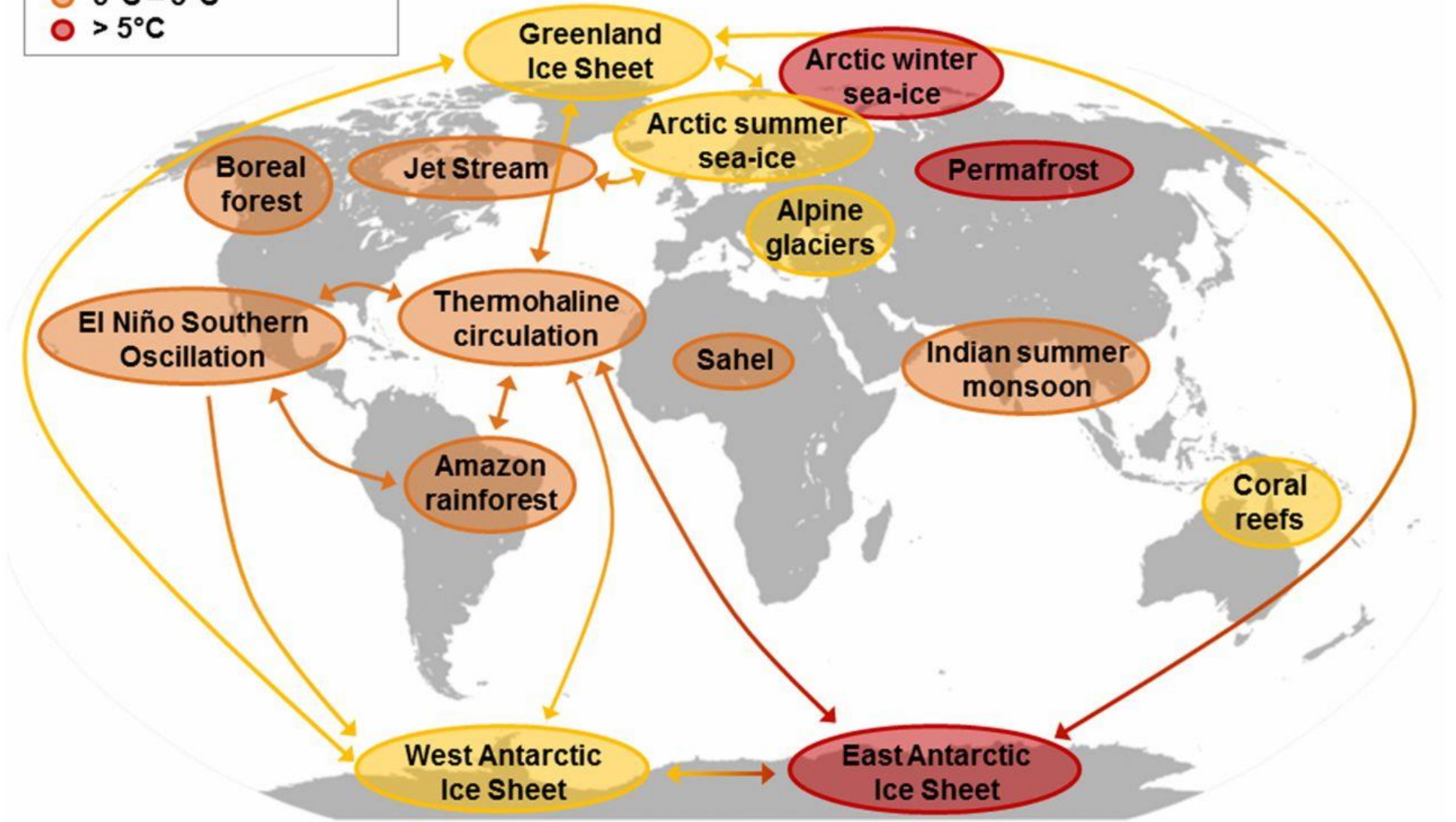


"Hothouse Earth" Paper



"Hothouse Earth" Paper

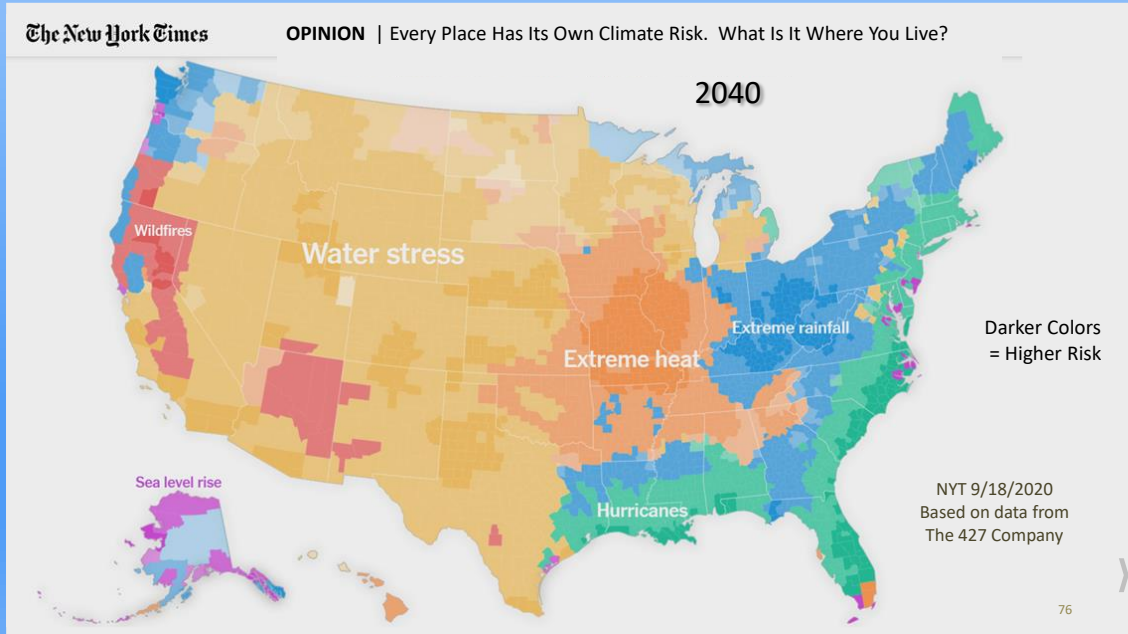
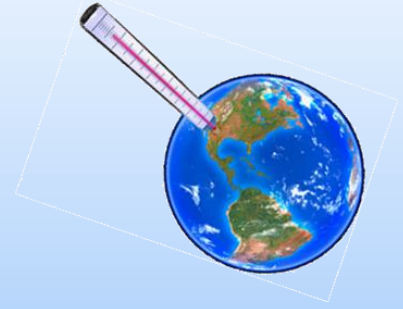
Tipping elements at risk:  
● 1°C – 3°C  
● 3°C – 5°C  
● > 5°C



Weakening of biological Carbon takeup (land & sea)



# Questions about Regional Projections: Tipping Points, etc.



# Course Outline



1. Building Blocks: Some important concepts
2. Our Goldilocks Earth: a Radiative Balancing Act
3. The Role of the Atmosphere: Greenhouse Gases & Clouds
4. Global Circulation and Dynamics of the Earth System:  
Oceans, Atmosphere, Biosphere, Cryosphere, People, Lithosphere
5. Natural Variability of the Climate, short and long term. Ice Ages
6. Carbon Dioxide and other Greenhouse Gases:  
Where do they come from, where do they go, how are they regulated?
- 7. Impacts and Future Projections for Global Warming -- Uncertainties**
8. Amelioration Strategies. The Climate Debate. Policy Options.