

We are at the dawn of the upcoming Paris Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting where the world comes together and debates and tries and craft solutions to imminent climate change. http://www.cop21paris.org/





The international political response to climate change began at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, where the 'Rio Convention' included the adoption of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This convention set out a framework for action aimed at stabilising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." The UNFCCC which entered into force on 21 March 1994, now has a nearuniversal membership of 195 parties.

The main objective of the annual Conference of Parties (COP) is to review the Convention's implementation. The first COP took place in Berlin in 1995 and significant meetings since then have included COP3 where the Kyoto Protocol was adopted, COP11 where the Montreal Action Plan was produced, COP15 in Copenhagen where an agreement to success Kyoto Protocol was unfortunately not realised and COP17 in Durban where the Green Climate Fund was created.



2014 launched the most recent, 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report (AR5) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, AR5. These reports are available on line. They have been written by hundreds of scientists from across the globe and have garnered thousands of comments during the review process.



If you want to keep up on the trends on climate, each year the American Meteorological Society has been publishing a special supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. One of the best, most comprehensive and thorough updates by the world's experts on this topic.



Too often the conversation starts with 'do you believe in global warming? Global Warming and climate change is not a religious issue. Our knowledge of Climate change is based on the scientific method, which uses experimentation, theory and the testing and falsification of hypotheses to advance our knowledge.

Science is Not Democratic. Hypotheses are Rejected and Accepted based on observation and test and falsification theoretical principles, not votes

Hence, constructive criticism and reasonable skepticism is already integrated into the scientific process.

But it is transparent, anyone has access to do science.

It is true that models we use are not perfect and they depend upon the knowledge and assumptions we have. But we have falsified the null hypothesis



The issue of climate change has been over politicized. As a result the world has been too slow to respond and change to the slow and chronic warming of the planet, with the emissions of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel combustion. If we keep business as usual we will soon approach a tipping point. In the medical field. Doctors adopt the precautionary principle, 'do no harm'. Unfortunately, we have been unable to convince society to do the same. Problem is complicated by a society that remains willfully scientifically illiterate and is bombarded with mis information from vested interests of the status quo and the fossil fuel industry.

While scientists feel inclined to be unbiased brokers of information to minimize and remove bias and conflict of interest, we also must face and consider our roles as citizens and the need for better outreach of information



It is my opinion that the climate deniers are masters at using Fallacious Logic to bolster their arguments of climate change. It is important that we apply stronger logic to this topic, and others. Hence it is worth being familiar with some of the fallacious arguments that are often used to promote indefensible theories and ideas.

http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/fallacies.htm



Years ago I almost dropped this lecture from this class. Al Gore and the IPCC had won the Nobel Peace Prize and Gore had just released his movie on climate change, so I felt a larger portion of the population was getting exposed to the data and message. I did not expect the political backlash that resulted. The tempo and assaults by the climate deniers increase. Hence, I retain this lecture as a preamble to the ecosystem ecology lectures on how ecosystems will respond to global change in general.



Lets step back and simply and coldly look at the evidence.



Fact 1. CO2 is increasing and is approaching 400 ppm



Fact 2. Current CO2 concentrations are the highest over the past million years. The rise started at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution

## Other Arguments

If water is such a strong greenhouse gas and is so Abundant (parts per thousand), why should we worry about tiny changes in  $CO_2$  (parts per million)  $CH_4$  and  $N_2O$  (parts per billion)?

Without Greenhouse effect, Earth would be frozen and water effect would be tiny..

Water Vapor Saturates its IR Absorption Wavebands, while other Greenhouse Gases fill open Niches in infrared Spectrum

ESPM 2 Biosphere



CO2 may be low in concentration, but it is a highly effective greenhouse gas. The atmosphere has an atmospheric window where long wave energy is lost to space. But the absorption spectra of CO2 corresponds with this window, so Increasing CO2 makes this window more opaque.

Also recognize how we measure CO2 in the atmosphere. We use infrared absorption spectroscopy. In other words, we pass infrared energy of a known, absorbing wavelength, through a tube of known length filled with gas and the amount of energy absorbed is proportional to the CO2 concentration. This is another application of Beer's Law



The radiative heating of the surface as a function of CO2 and other greenhouse gases. Since the industrial age the CO2 forcing has increased from near zero W m-2 to about 2 W m-2



Radiative forcing on the climate system. Note that not all changes are Positive. Aerosols and land use change, though albedo, can be offsetting. But bottom line is that total radiative forcing is exceeding 2 W m-2

http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/figures/WGI\_AR5\_Fig8-15.jpg



Numerous independent efforts to assess global temperatures have yielded the same results. A few years ago a group of Berkeley skeptics, with funding from the Koch Brothers, also attempted to produce an independent temperature record. What did they learn? That all the scientists were doing an excellent job with the data in hand. There was NO fudging of the records or answers to meet some preconceived expectations!



Temperature records become more uncertain as we try and reconstruct historical records before the 1850s when thermometers were commonly used across cities of the world. But the message remains the same. Over 250 years, current temperatures are the warmest



Climate deniers argue that the climate has not warmed lately. Yes there is a plateau, probably due to oceanic effects, but the most recent years remain the warmest. We also need to remember 1998 was extremely warm due to the El Nino.



Data circa 2015 from the NOAA NCDC web site. This dataset goes back to 1880. Warming has been steady since the 1980s

https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/201510, through 2014!



https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/service/global/map-blended-mntp/ 201401-201412.gif

While 2014 was one of the warmest years on record, remember there will be warmer and cooler regions. We see pools of cool air in the eastern North American. But this in part was associated with the unprecedented heat and drought in the west. The warm blob that prevented storms from hitting the west also caused the jet stream to bring colder air down from the Arctic to the east. We also see cooler air off the coast of Greenland. Some say this may be evidence of glacial meltwater. Other cool areas are central Asia, east of the Urals. But also notice the extreme warmth of the tundra in Alaska and Siberia. This is predicted due to the ice-sea albedo feedback and is of grave concern if the permafrost begins to warm and melt.



http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/figures/WGI\_AR5\_FigFAQ2.2-1.jpg



http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/figures/WGI\_AR5\_FigFAQ2.1-2.jpg

Hartmann, D.L., A.M.G. Klein Tank, M. Rusticucci, L.V. Alexander, S. Brönnimann,
Y. Charabi, F.J. Dentener, E.J. Dlugokencky, D.R. Easterling, A. Kaplan, B.J. Soden,
P.W. Thorne, M. Wild and P.M. Zhai, 2013: Observations: Atmosphere and Surface.
In: *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*[Stocker, T.F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S.K. Allen, J. Boschung, A.
Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press,
Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.



The radiative forcing of greenhouse gases warms the surface temperature due to re radiation. The whole atmosphere does not warm because energy is conserved. Instead energy is redistributed in the vertical column of the atmosphere. So there ends up being stratospheric cooling, too.



Karl et al AMS State of Climate 2014



Canary in the Mine are things like Sea ice. While we many not measure temperature perfectly everywhere, all the time, how do we explain the steep drop in sea ice in the Arctic.



NCDC NOAA, State of Climate 2014 AMS BAMS report







http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/files/2015/11/Figure4a\_-350x472.png



Picture took flying over Greenland this past Nov. I was astounded to see Rivers of melt water on the Glaciers. First this is a cold time of year, so there should not be liquid water and this water was surrounded by more glaciers, indicating to me a warm area.

Think about the feedback effects on ice-water albedo. Snow is white and highly reflective. Water is dark and absorbs energy, leading to a positive feedback





Karl et al presentation State of Climate AMS 2014



Heat capacity of the ocean is increasing, too. But it has thermal inertial http://www.nodc.noaa.gov/OC5/3M\_HEAT\_CONTENT/



http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/figures/WGI\_AR5\_Fig13-27.jpg



One prediction of global warming is thermal expansion of the oceans and melting ice caps, which together will cause sea level rise. Here is what is happening near home.








There remain lots of questions about the accuracy and representativeness of the climate models. They do a good job predicting climate, long term, global averages. They are shown to predict past and natural climate variations well and only predict future condition if they include all forcings, positive and negative



http://www.ipcc.ch/report/graphics/images/Assessment%20Reports/AR5%20-%20WG1/Technical%20Summary/FigTS-15.jpg



http://www.ipcc.ch/report/graphics/images/Assessment%20Reports/AR5%20-%20Synthesis%20Report/Topic%202/Fig%202.8-01.png



http://www.ipcc.ch/report/graphics/images/Assessment%20Reports/AR5%20-%20WG1/Chapter%2001/Fig1-05.jpg



http://www.ipcc.ch/report/graphics/images/Assessment%20Reports/AR5%20-%20WG1/Chapter%2001/Fig1-04.jpg





http://www.ipcc.ch/report/graphics/images/Assessment%20Reports/AR5%20-%20WG1/Technical%20Summary/FigBoxTS.6-1.jpg



http://www.ipcc.ch/report/graphics/images/Assessment%20Reports/AR5%20-%20WG1/Chapter%2011/Fig11-10.jpg



Multi model average A1B scenario



## **Caveat Emptor**

- The ability of climate models to reproduce past is no guarantee of predicting future if new processes come into play, and they are not well parameterized or modeled
  - Physics of Melting ice caps
  - Timing and Extent of melting tundra
    - 1500+ GtC is in the tundra permafrost
    - Methane emissions from wetlands
  - Cloud physics
  - Aerosols and Black Carbon
  - Portending future changes in Land Use
  - Portending future CO2 levels
    - · Effects of technology and adapting alternative energy
    - Changes in population and World economy
    - Pandemics, wars, water scarcity

ESPM 2 Biosphere





ESPM 2 Biosphere



The sea level rise is not anticipated to be uniform over all regions of the globe due to the influence of ocean circulation changes, as well as land movements unrelated to global warming. A more realistic projection of the geographical distribution of sea level rise remains as a problem for future research. However, to crudely illustrate the effect of various hypothetical spatially uniform sea level rise scenarios, the red areas in **Fig. 5** indicate regions of the southeastern United States that would be below sea level for regionally uniform rises of one, two, four, and eight meters, respectively.



According to a new simulation study by a group of scientists at NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL), a 5-12% increase in wind speeds for the strongest hurricanes (typhoons) in the northwest tropical Pacific is projected if tropical sea surfaces warm by a little over 2 degrees C (Figure 1). Although such an increase in the upper-limit intensity of hurricanes with global warming was suggested on theoretical grounds a decade ago, this investigation is the first to examine the question using a hurricane prediction model that is being used operationally to simulate realistic hurricane structures.







## Attribution of the present-day total greenhouse effect

 Table 1. Effect of Each Absorber on the Percentage Net LW

 Absorbed by the Circa 1980 Atmosphere for Each Absorber Being

 Removed (Minimum Effect) and for That Absorber Acting Alone

 (Maximum Effect)<sup>a</sup>

	Single Factor	Single Factor	Attribution (Including Overlaps)	
Abs	ber (% of Total G)	Addition (% of Total <i>G</i> )	All Sky	Clear Sky
H <sub>2</sub> O (Vap	) 39.0	61.9	50	67
$CO_2$	14.0	24.6	19	24
Clouds	14.5	36.3	25	
All Others	4.9	9.2	7	9
N <sub>2</sub> O	1.0	1.6		
Ozone	2.7	5.7		
$CH_4$	0.7	1.6		
CFCs	0.1	0.5		
Aerosols	0.3	1.8		
All GHGs	18.8	32.0		
$H_2O + Cl$	ds 66.9	80.9		
$H_2O + CO$	57.6	79.1		
$H_2O + Cl$	$ds + CO_2$ 90.8	95.1		
All Others	CO <sub>2</sub> 19.1	33.1		
All Others	Clouds 20.9	42.4		
auAll G refers to a columns a Multipy radiative f	Gs" encompasses CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> , absorbers other than H <sub>2</sub> O, yount for overlaps for "all-s percentages by 155 W/m <sup>2</sup> c units.	N <sub>2</sub> O, CFCs, and O CO <sub>2</sub> , and clouds. T sky" and "clear-sk to get the equival	3. "All The attr y" con- lent cha	Others" ibution ditions. ange in







Hurricane storm duration and intensity are scaling with SST











## Tipping points and Arctic sea ice???

feedback, but in winter the excess oceanic heat is lost to the atmosphere due to a lack of insulating sea-ice cover. This leads to an anomalously warm atmosphere, which in turn causes increased heat loss by longwave radiation at the top of the atmosphere and decreased heat gain by atmospheric advection from lower latitudes. A lasting impact of the ice– albedo feedback is not possible because the large-scale heat fluxes quickly adapt to release the excess oceanic heat from the Arctic.

Tietsche et al 2011 GRL

ESPM 2 Biosphere



Natural Solar Forcing of Climate Variability
Eccentricity: 400 ka and 100 ka 0.06 0.00 Age (ka) 0 200 400 600 800 1000
Summer Winter
C Axial precession: 23 kyr -0.08 0.00 Age (ka) 0 200 400 500 800 1000
Summer Winter
ESPM 2 Biosphere

Zachos et al Science 2001










Let's look at other sources of information on global warming. Remember, as scientists we must be self consistent.



Stable isotopes in ice are great proxies for studying paleo climates



Paleo record of temperature and CO2. Yes, climate has changed in the past and it will again in the future. But this change is slow, over thousands and tens of thousands of years, not over several decades, like today





Tree rings have been used as proxies for temperature. Complicated because both rain and temperature affect tree ring growth. But with careful analysis and adjustments for artifacts and confounding effects, time series can be extended back a 1000 years. We see the famous hocky stick curve with the increase in temperature over the past century.



Blue band, modesl with natural forcing, red models with natural and anthropogenic forcings