Earth's Climate: Past, Present and Future; Concerns and Solutions

Week 4: Thursday, April 13, 2016

Paul Belanger

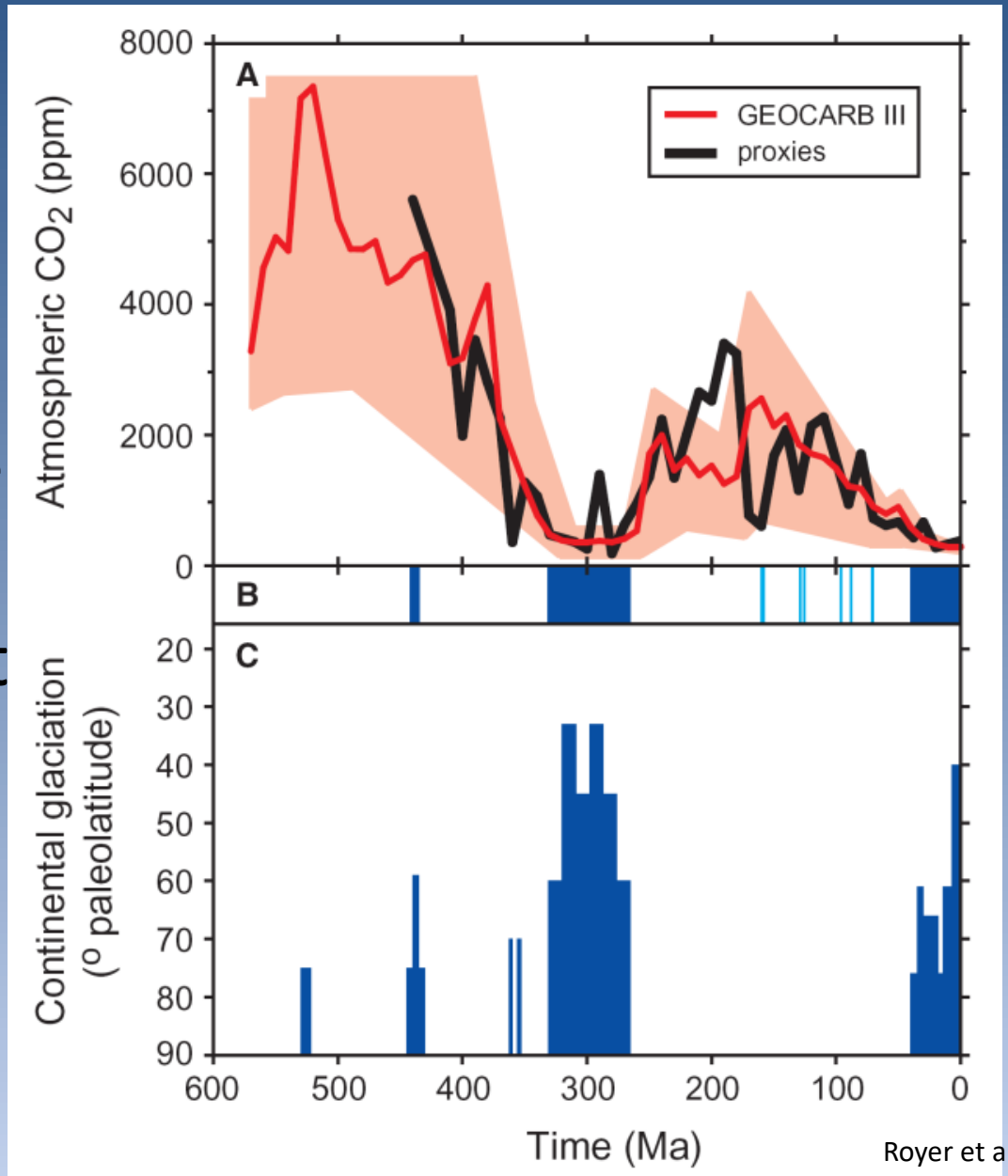
Concerns: Rates of change, Ocean acidification, modeling

1. Recap of climate variables and past records
2. Rates of change
3. Proxies that tell us of climate records
4. Ocean Acidification
5. Climate Modeling

1. Recap of climate variables and past records

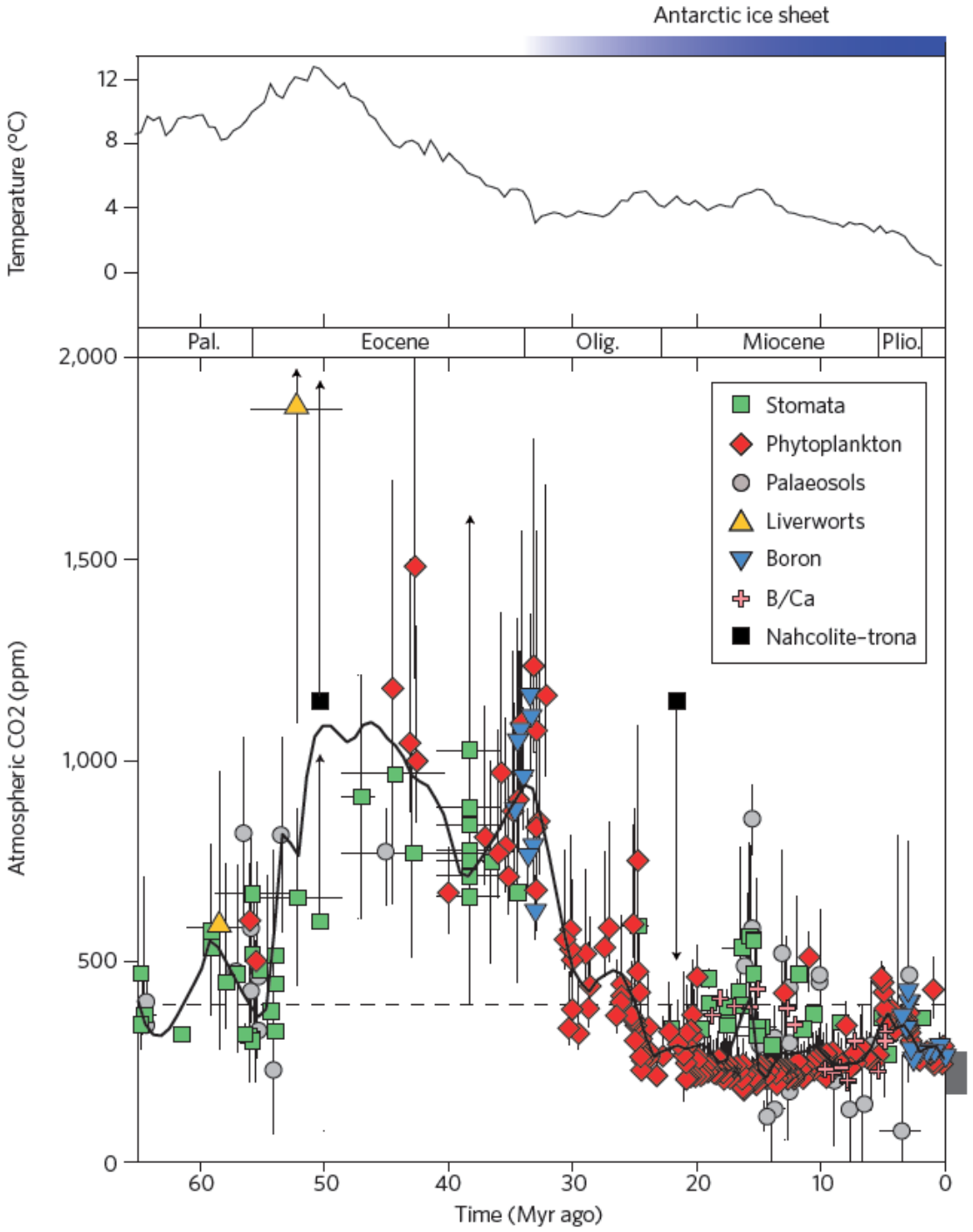
Alternating Greenhouse Earth / Ice-house Earth

Geologic cycles:
Climate through the Phanerozoic:
Carbon is the culprit

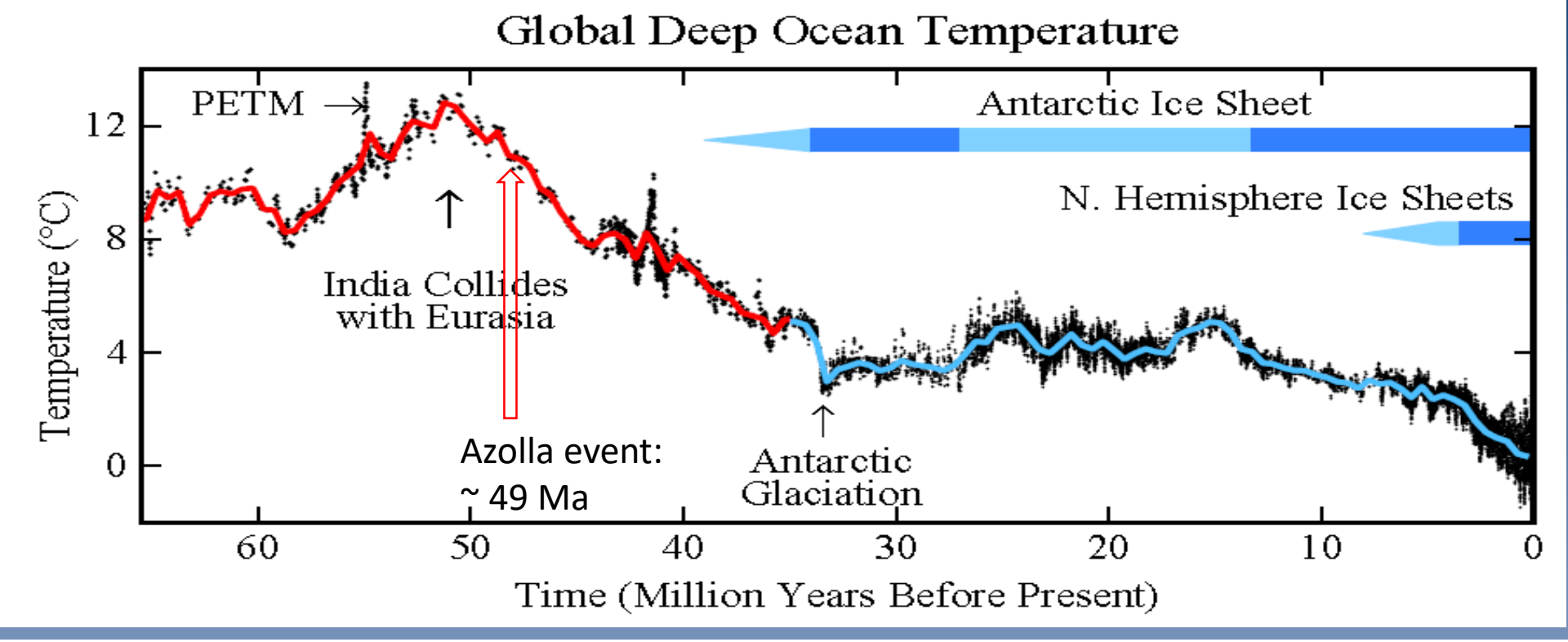


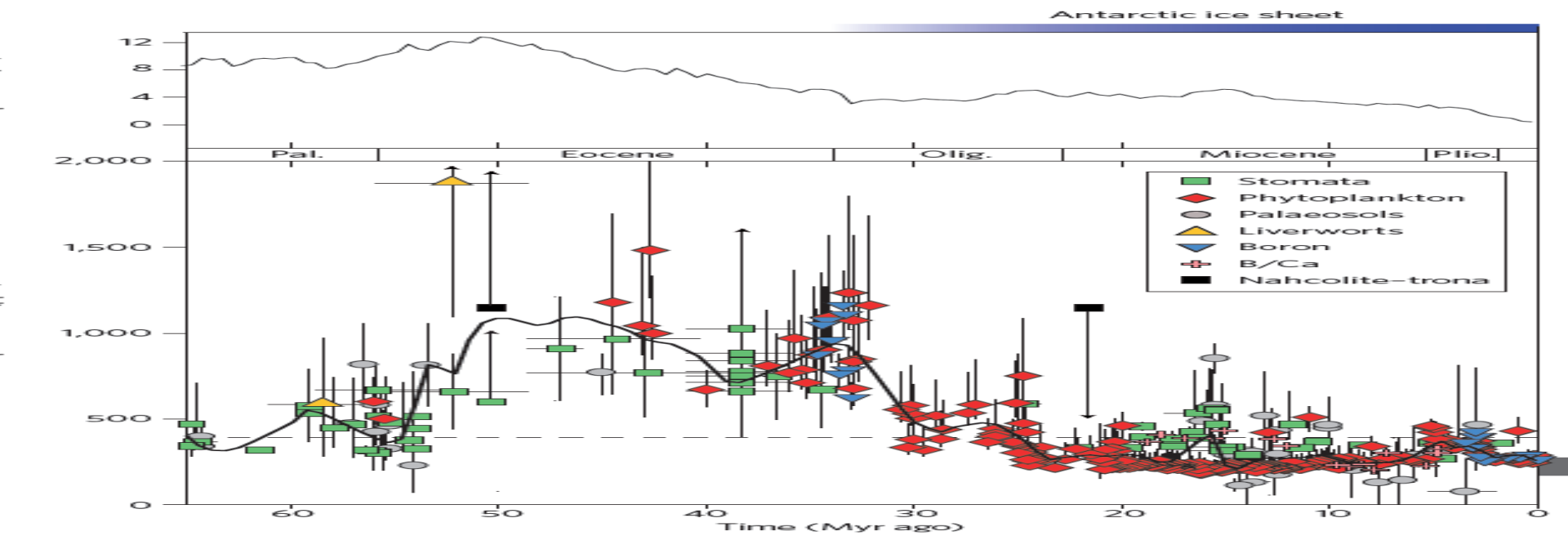
Royer et al., 2003

Correlation of CO_2 and temperature over last 65 million years



Beerling and Royer, Nature 2011

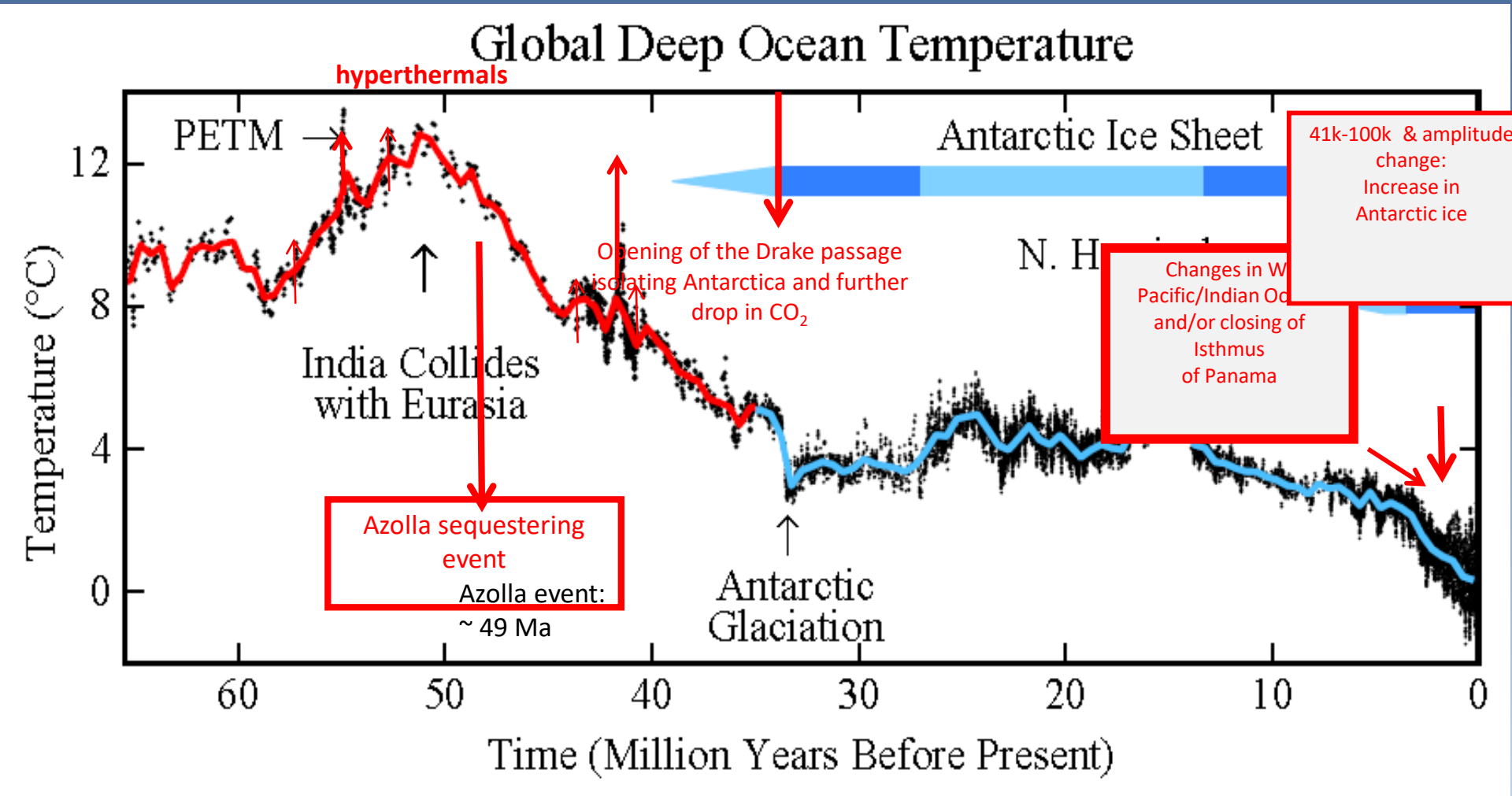

Global Deep Ocean Temperature
PETM
Antarctic Ice Sheet
N. Hemisphere Ice Sheets
India Collides with Eurasia
Azolla event: ~ 49 Ma
Antarctic Glaciation
Temperature (°C)
12
8
4
0
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Time (Million Years Before Present)


Antarctic ice sheet
12
8
4
0
Pal.
Eocene
Olig.
Miocene
Plio.
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
Stomata
Phytoplankton
Palaeosols
Liverworts
Boron
B/Ca
Nahcolite–trona
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Time (Myr ago)

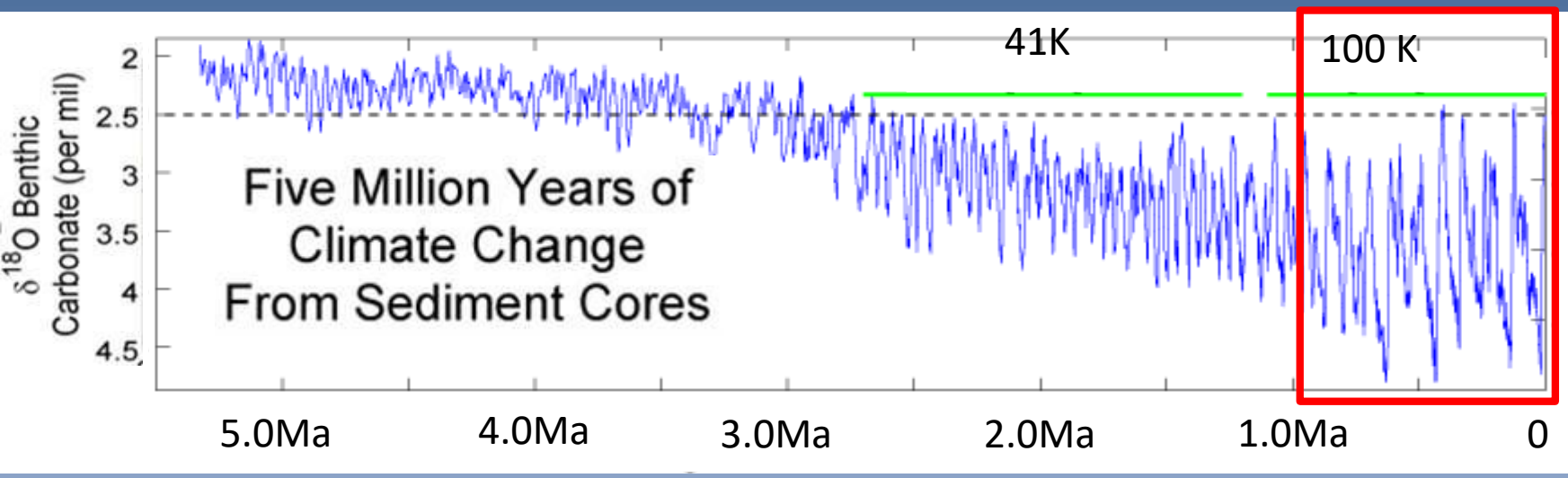
50 million years ago (50 MYA) Earth was ice-free.

Atmospheric CO_2 amount was of the order of 1000 ppm 50 MYA.

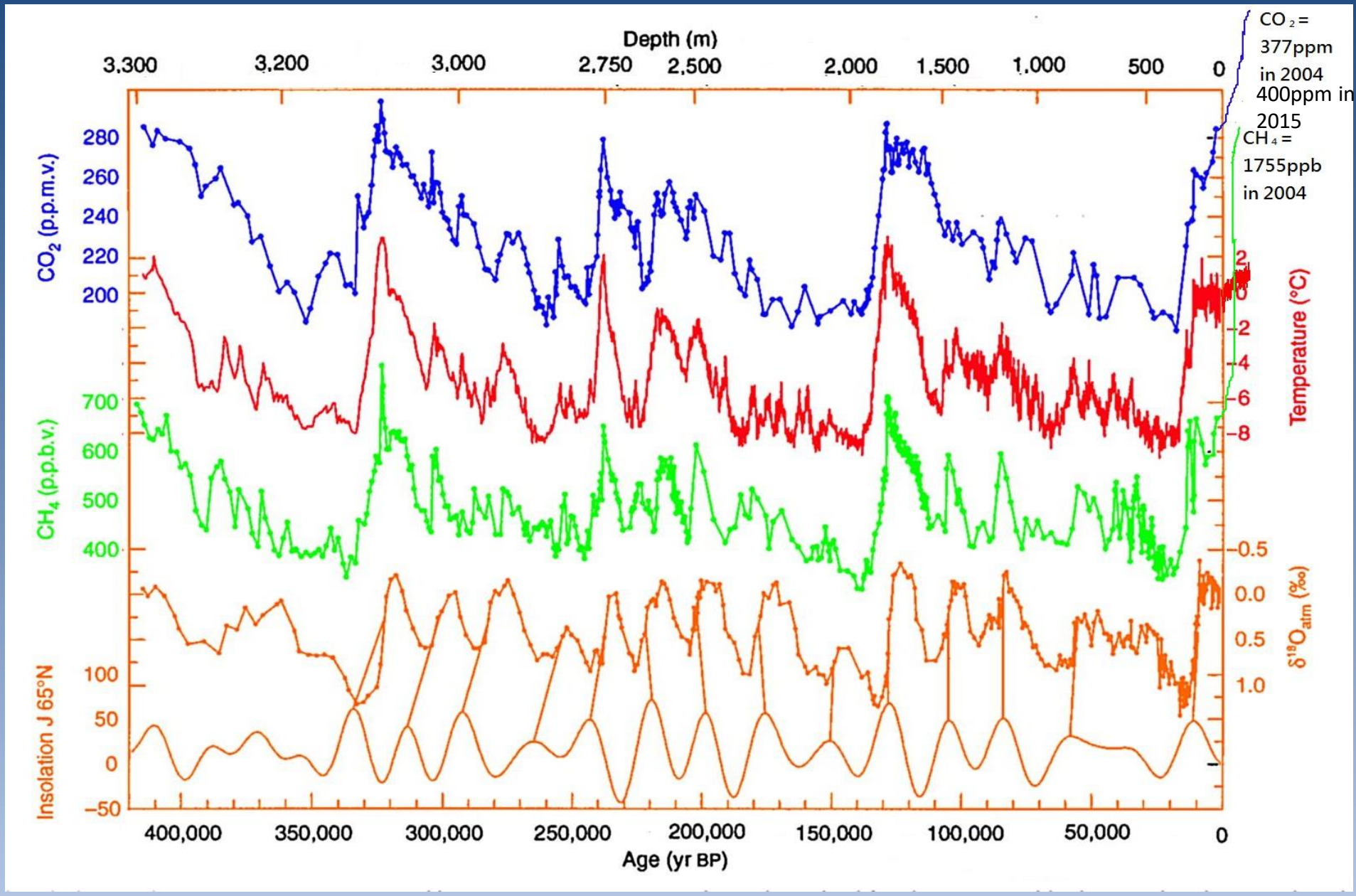
Atmospheric CO_2 imbalance due to plate tectonics ~ 10^{-4} ppm per year.



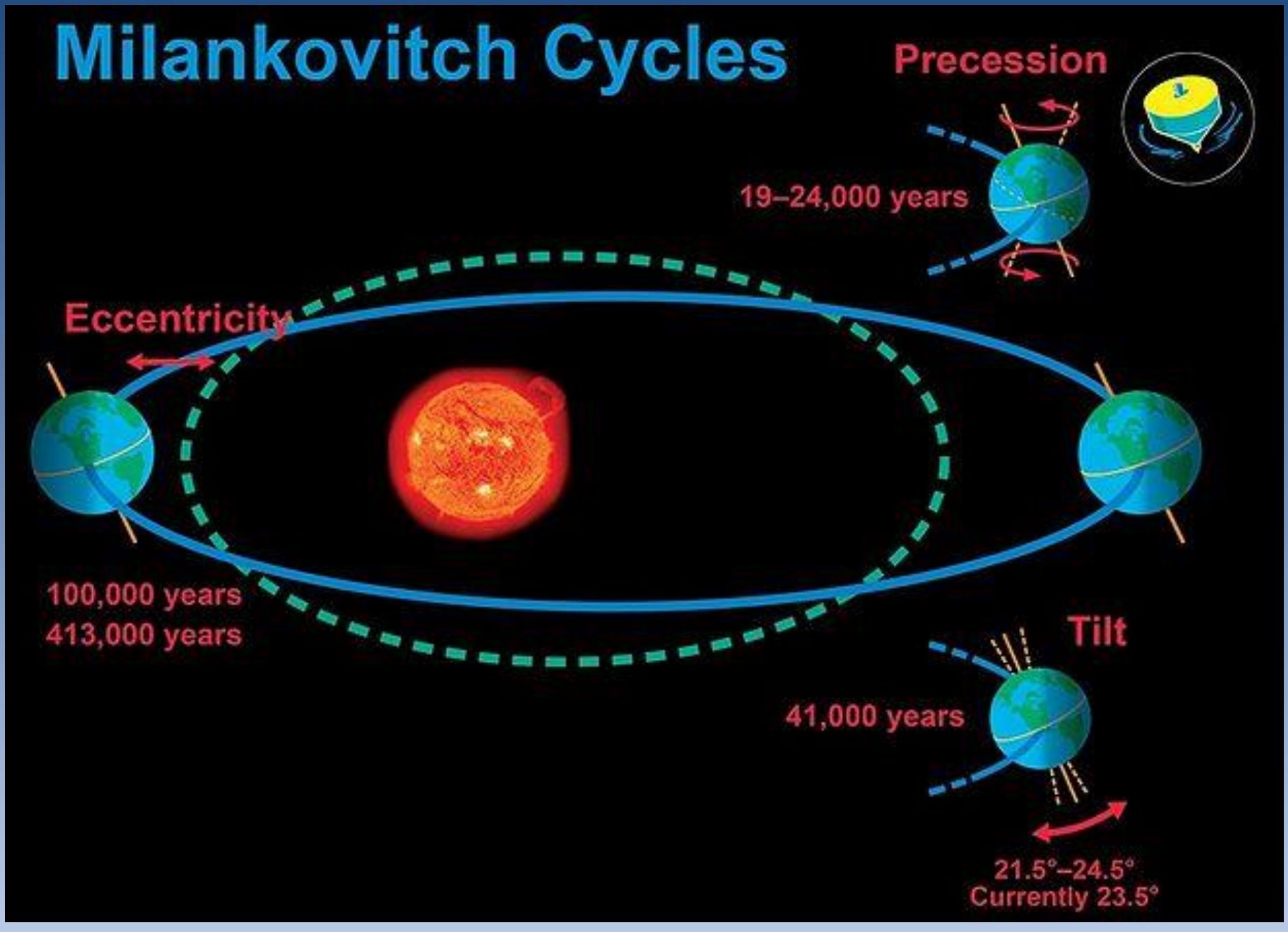
Climate Changes from Ocean Sediment Cores, since 5 Ma. Milankovitch Cycles



When CO_2 levels get below ~400-600 ppm Orbital parameters become more important than CO_2

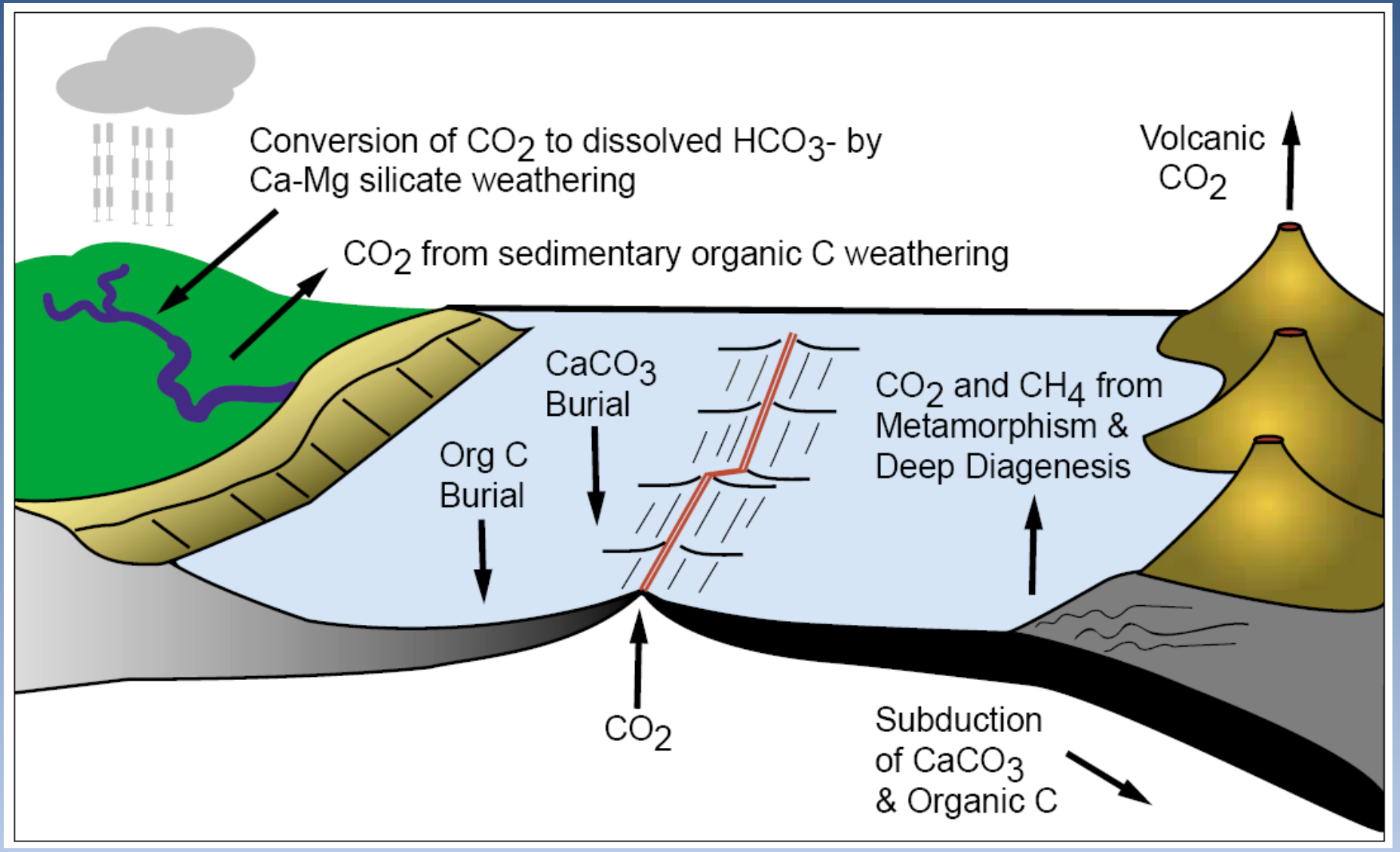


http://www.antarcticglaciers.org/climate-change/



http://cnx.org/content/m38572/1.5/

Long-term carbon cycle: *rocks*



Berner, 2001

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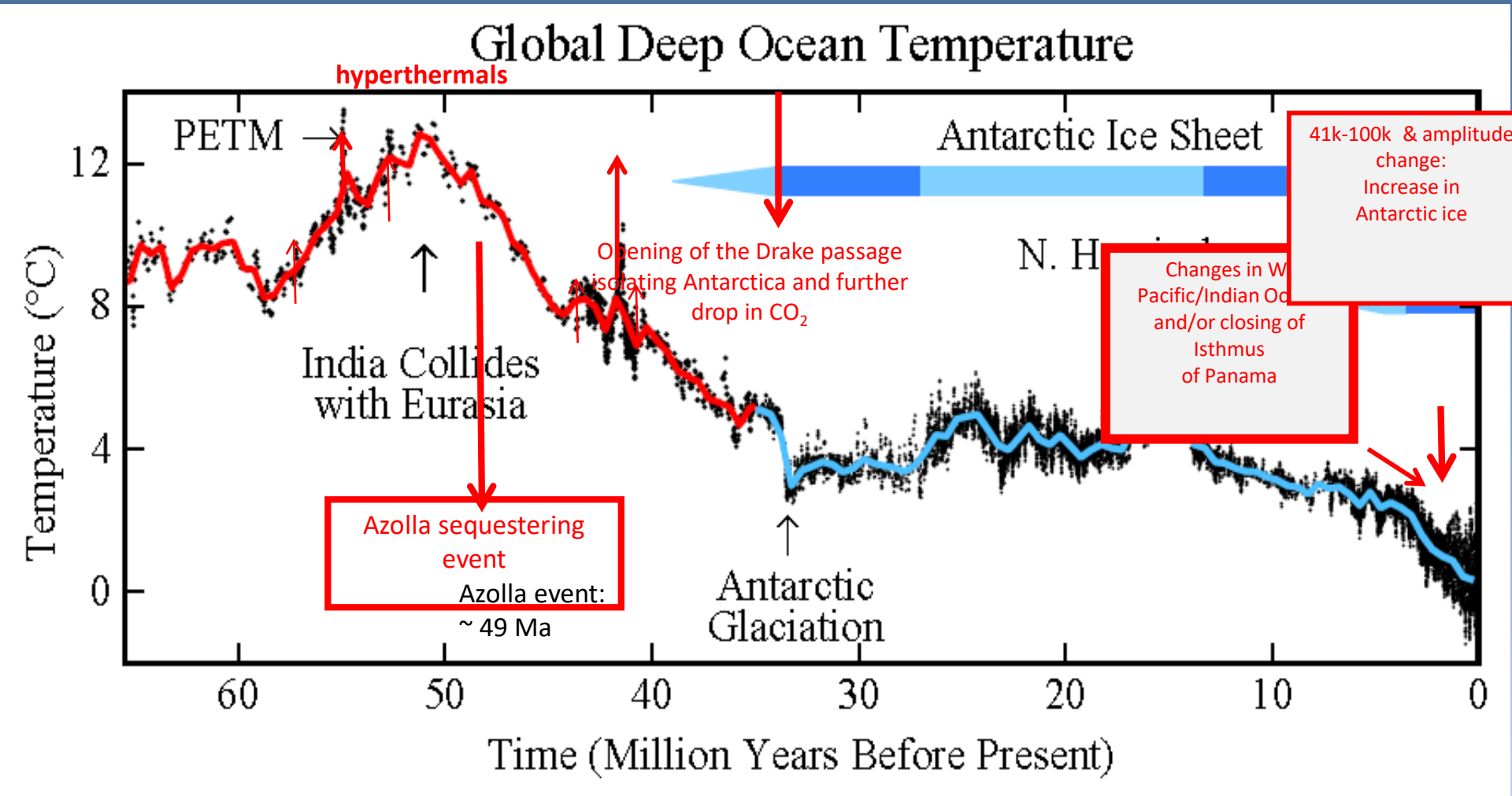


So – what changed?

Precipitation (sink):

$CO_2 + CaSiO_3 \rightarrow CaCO_3 + SiO_2$

GUESS WHAT:

AS CONTINENTS DRIFT TO HIGH LATITUDES AND HIGHER ELEVATIONS AND BECOME GLACIATED IT LEADS TO:

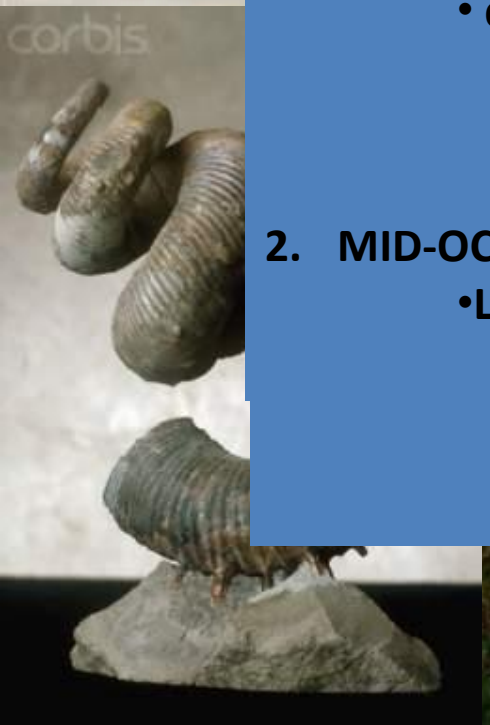
1. **GREATER MECHANICAL WEATHERING OF SILICATES:**
   - **increasing sequestration of CO_2 in sediments**
   - **decreasing the amount in the atmosphere**

ADDITIONALLY in the Cenozoic:

2. **MID-OCEAN SPREADING RATES SLOW DOWN**
   - **Less CO_2 into the atmosphere for volcanoes**

=

CO_2 DRAW DOWN THROUGH TIME!



2. Rates of change

Unprecedented rates of change

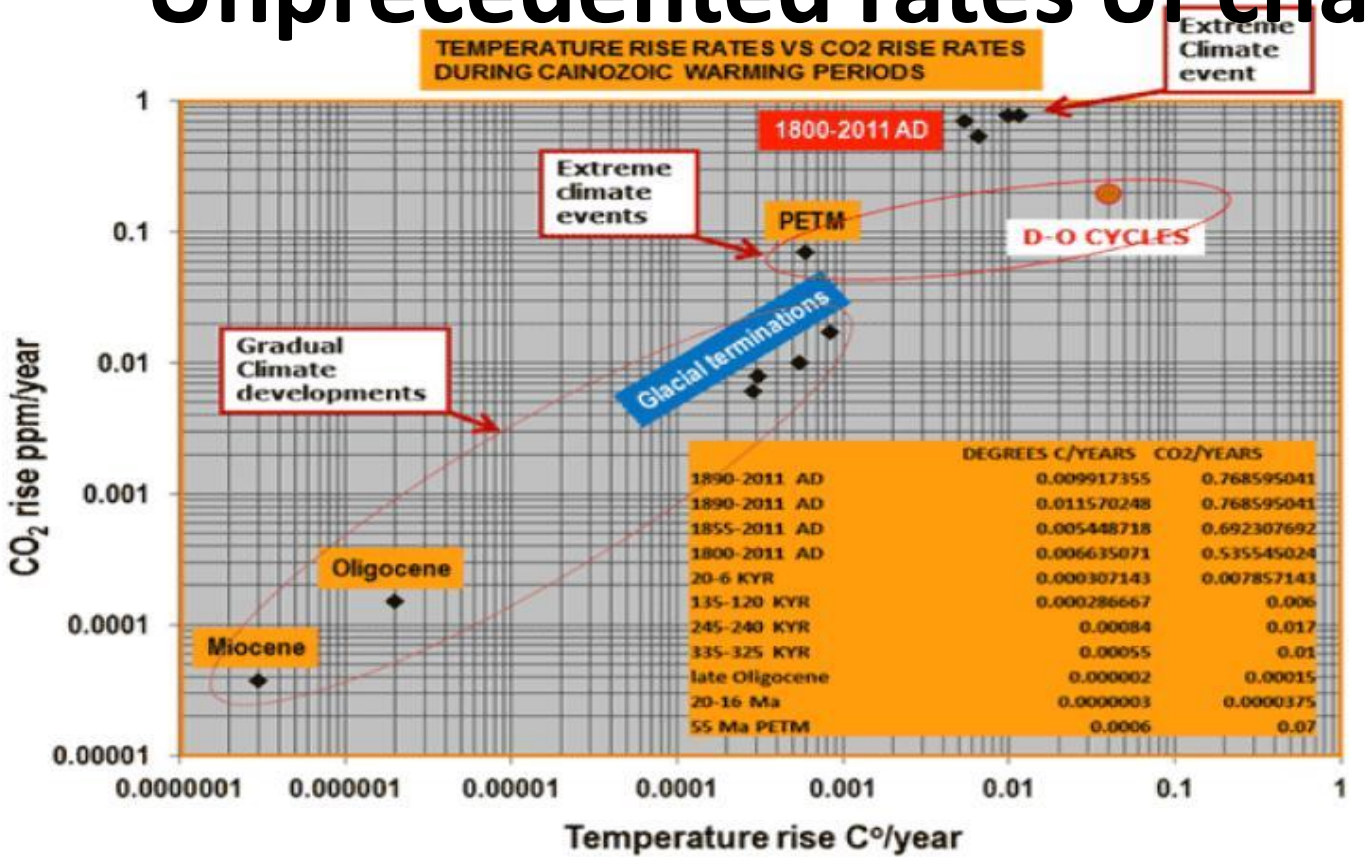
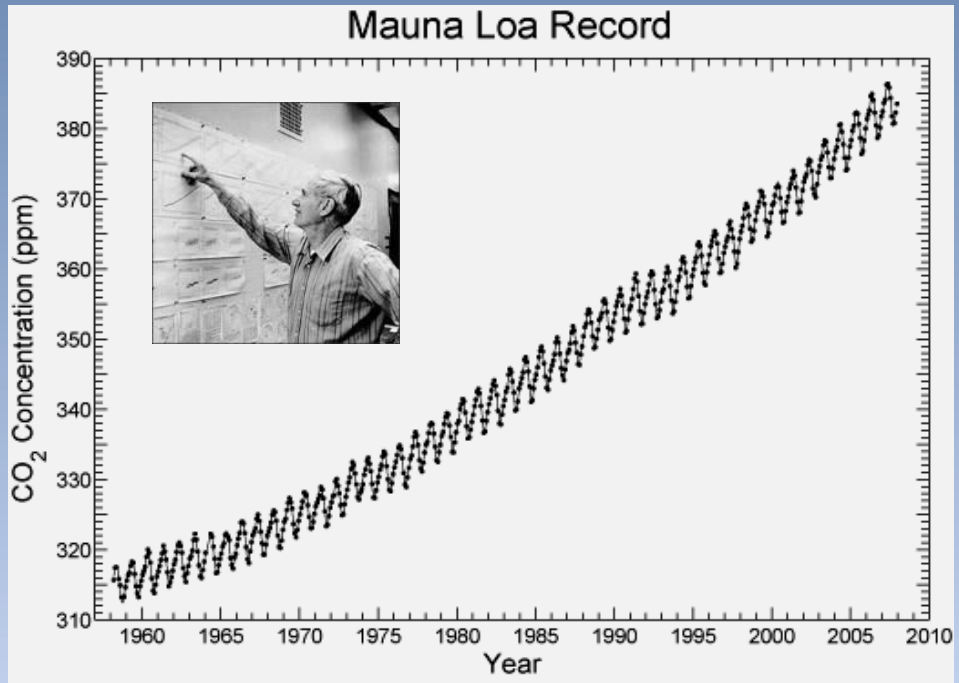
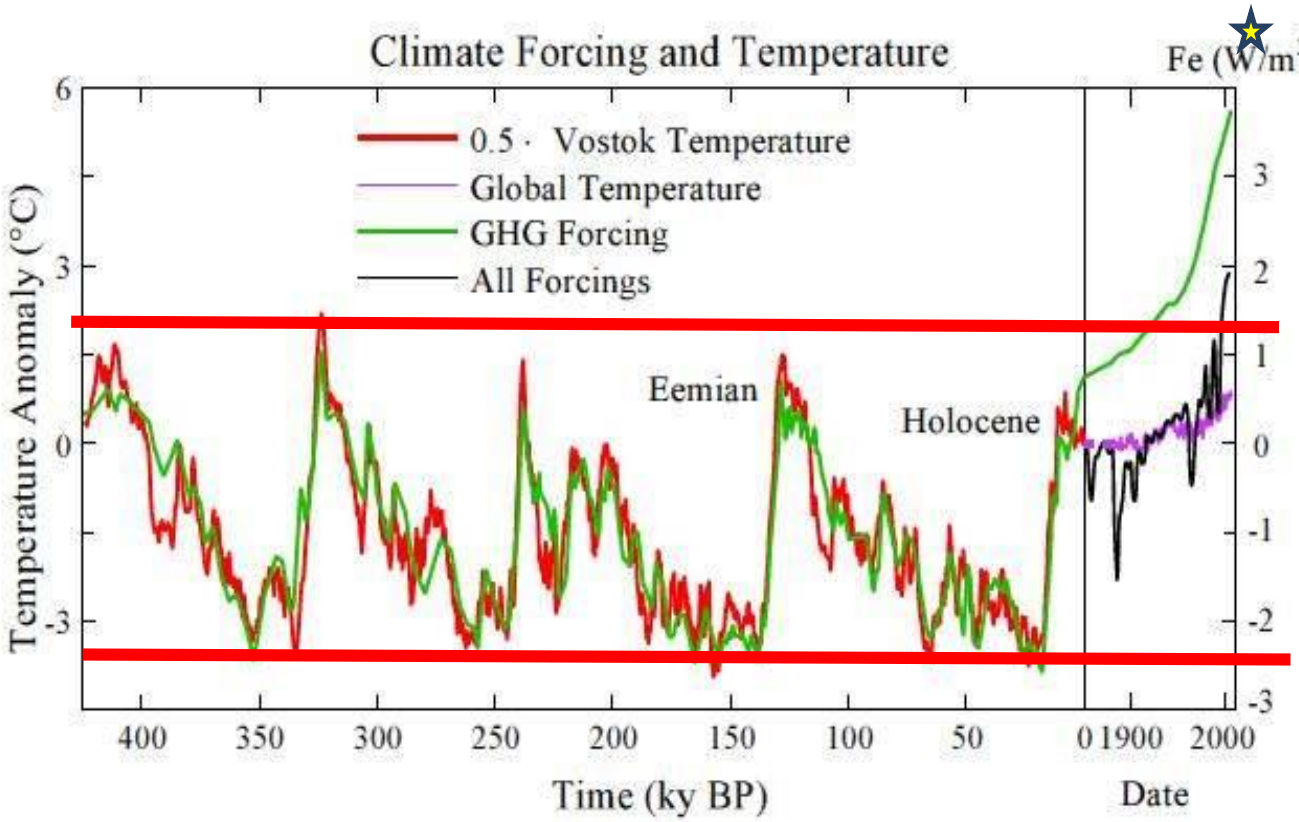


Figure 2: Relations between CO_2 rise rates and mean global temperature rise rates during warming periods, including the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, Oligocene, Miocene, glacial terminations, Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles and the post-1750 period.

3: EMISSIONS FROM HUMAN ACTIVITIES LARGELY TO BLAME

- 40% increase in CO_2
- Dead carbon altering atmospheric C^{14}
- That Carbon is more negative/enriched in C^{12}



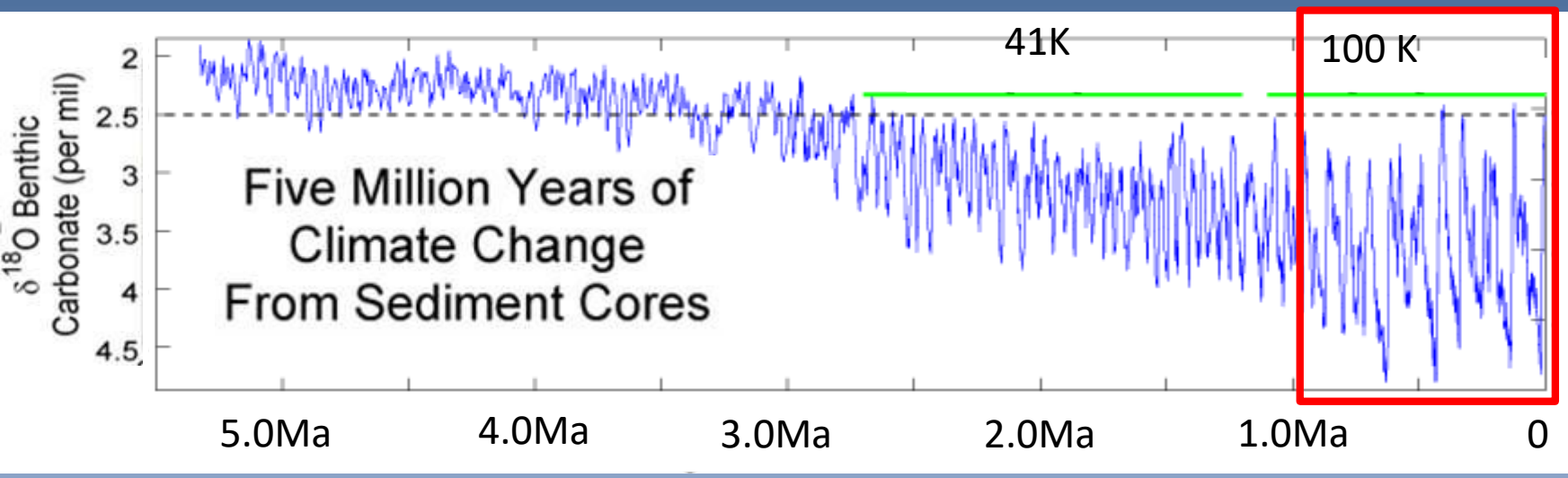


407 ppm (2017)

280ppm

180ppm

Climate Changes from Ocean Sediment Cores, since 5 Ma. Milankovitch Cycles

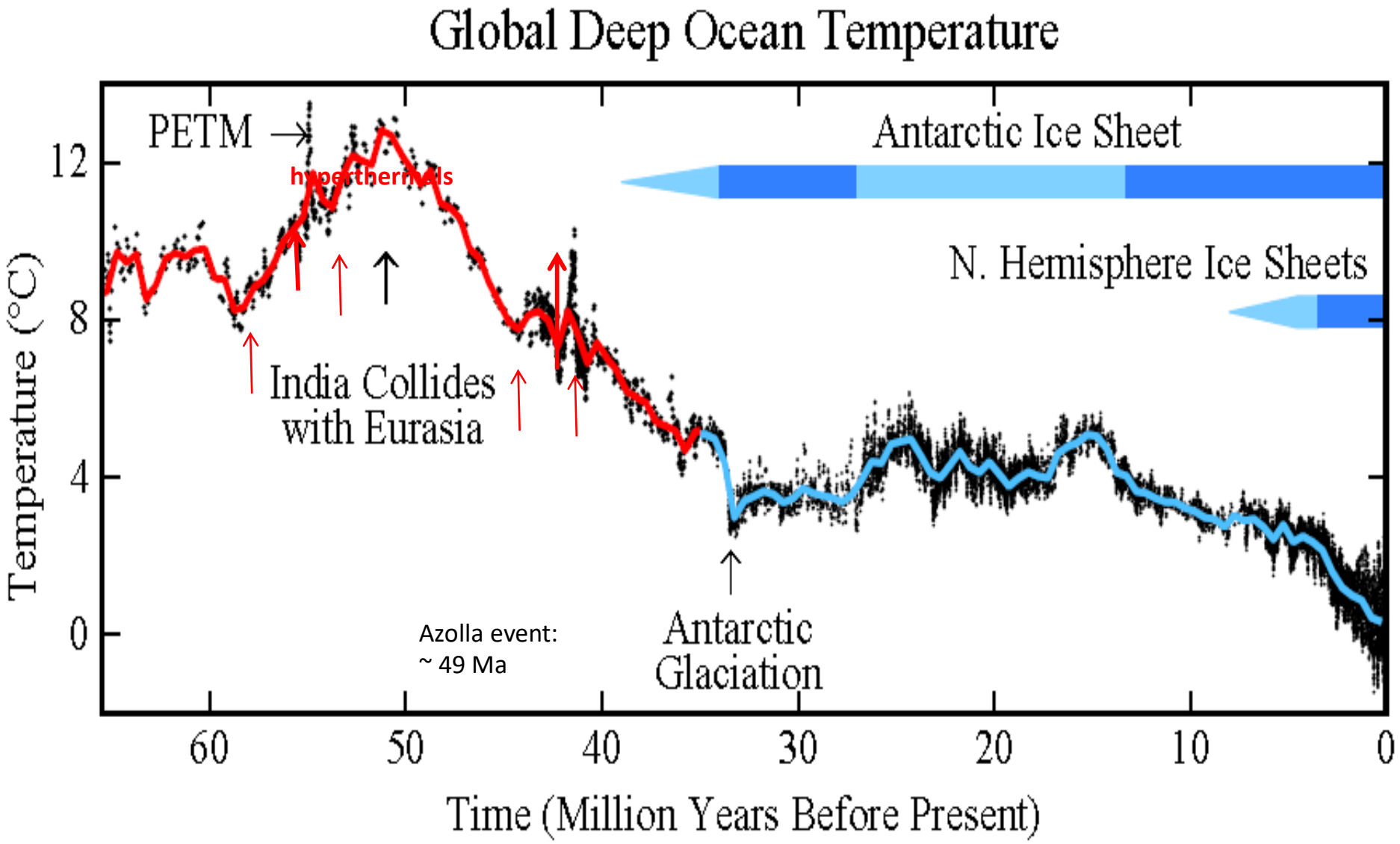


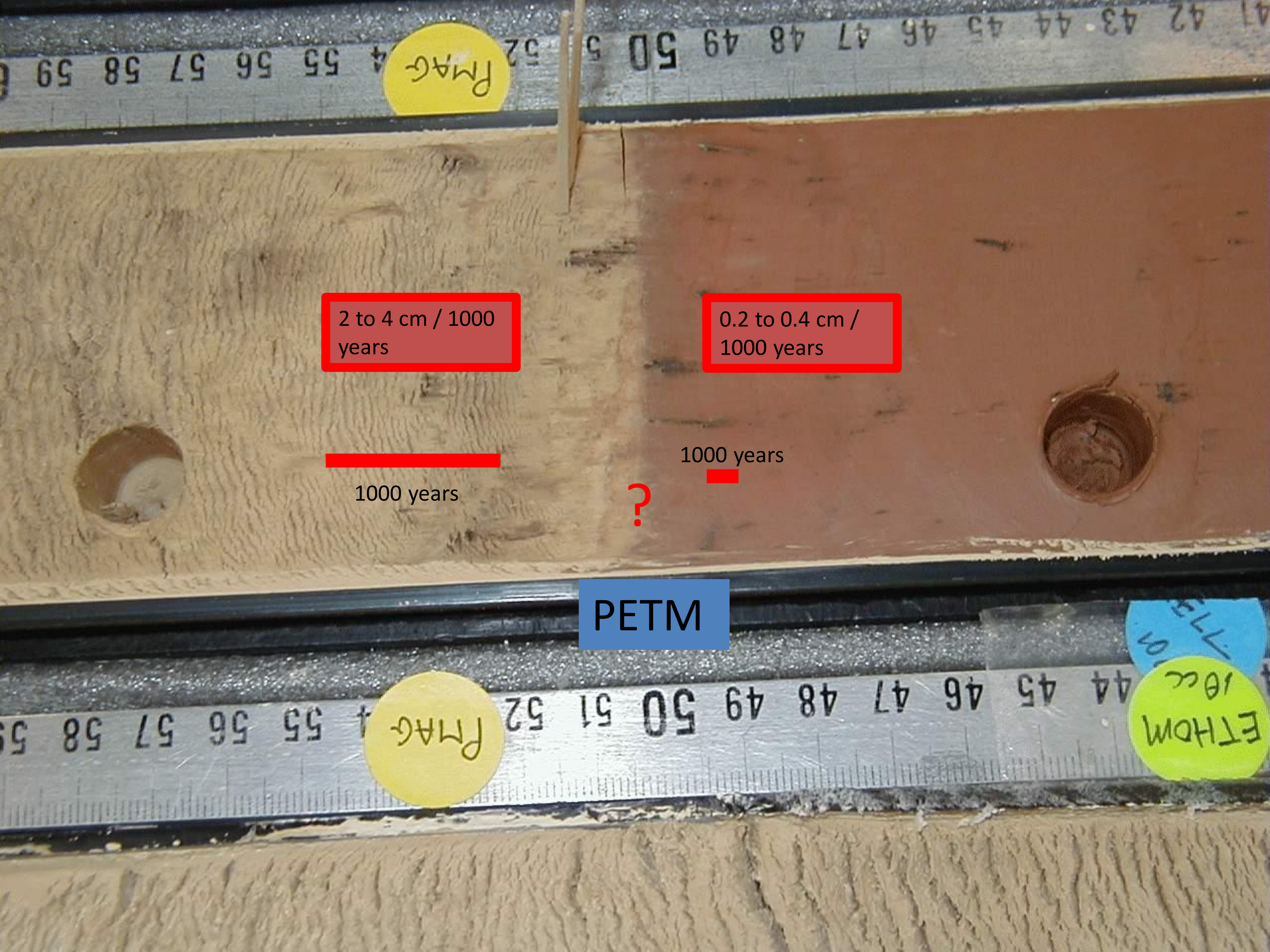
When CO_2 levels get below ~400-600 ppm Orbital parameters become more important than CO_2

Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum PETM

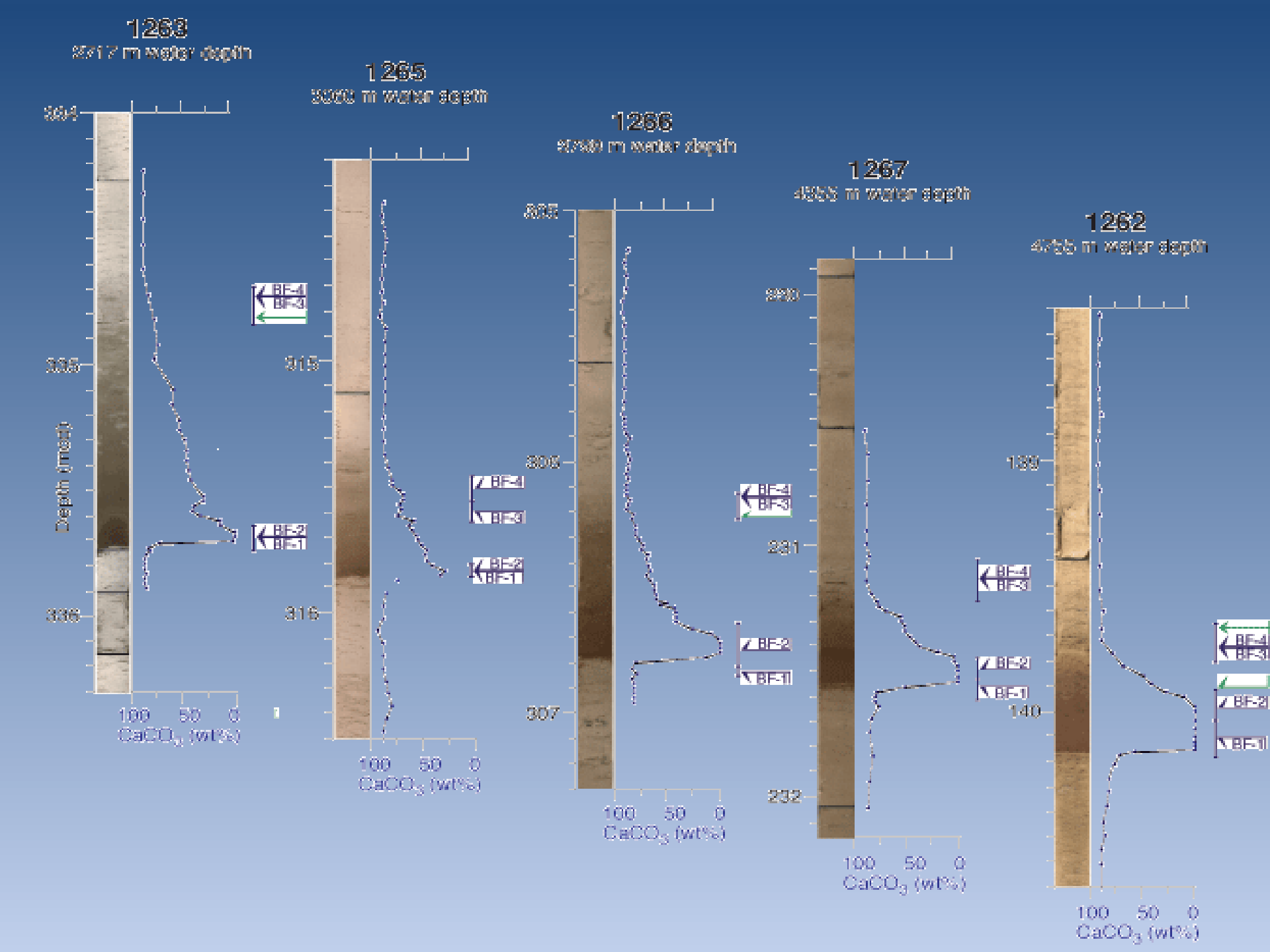
- AN OCEAN ACIDIFICATION EVENT

Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum - PETM





2 to 4 cm / 1000 years
0.2 to 0.4 cm / 1000 years
1000 years
1000 years
?
PETM


1263
1265
3000 m water depth
1266
1267
4865 m water depth
1262
4755 m water depth
Depth (mcd)
316
307
232
140
BF-4
BF-3
BF-2
BF-1
100 50 0
CaCO3 (wt%)

It took a long time to recover

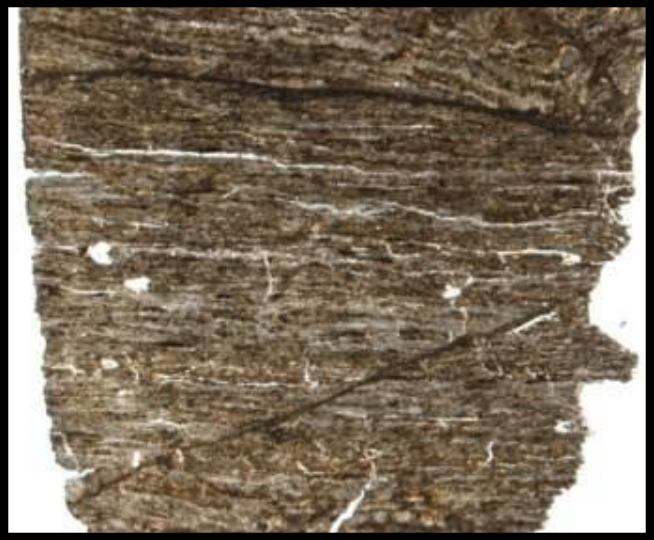
The Azolla event

- AN OCEAN SEQUESTRATION EVENT

The Arctic Sea 50 million years ago

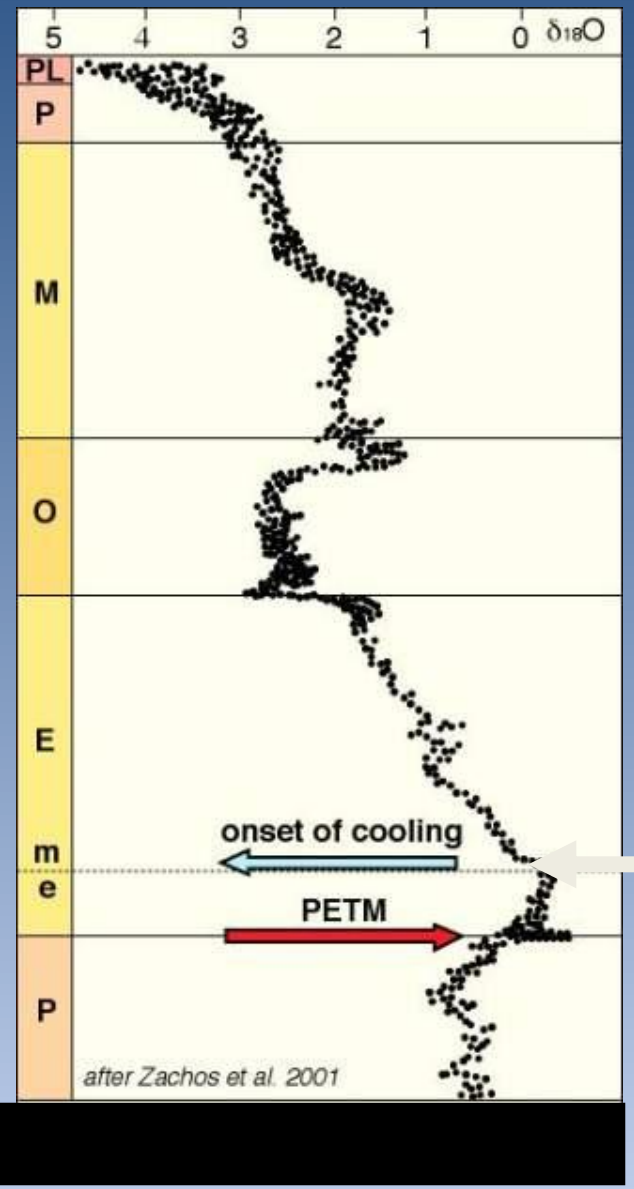
ACEX Azolla core

- >8 meter ACEX core with 90% Azolla
- Azolla occurs as laminated layers
- indicates Azolla deposited in situ
- bottom-water anoxia at ACEX site

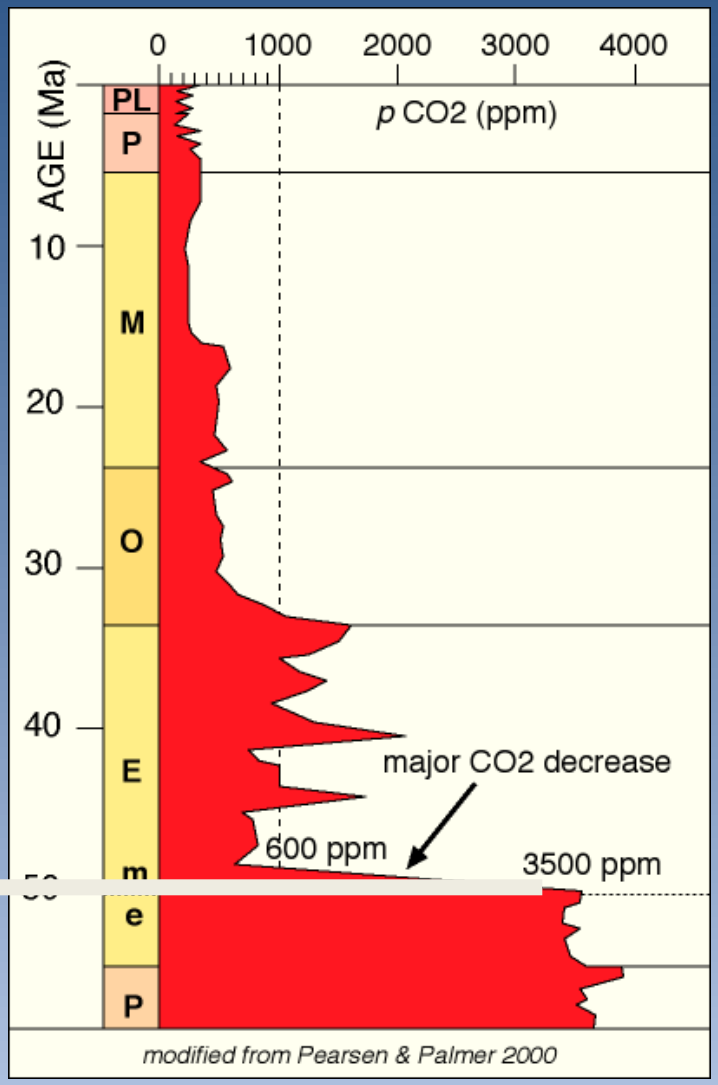


Bujak, pers. Comm.

UNPRECEDENTED DROP IN CO_2



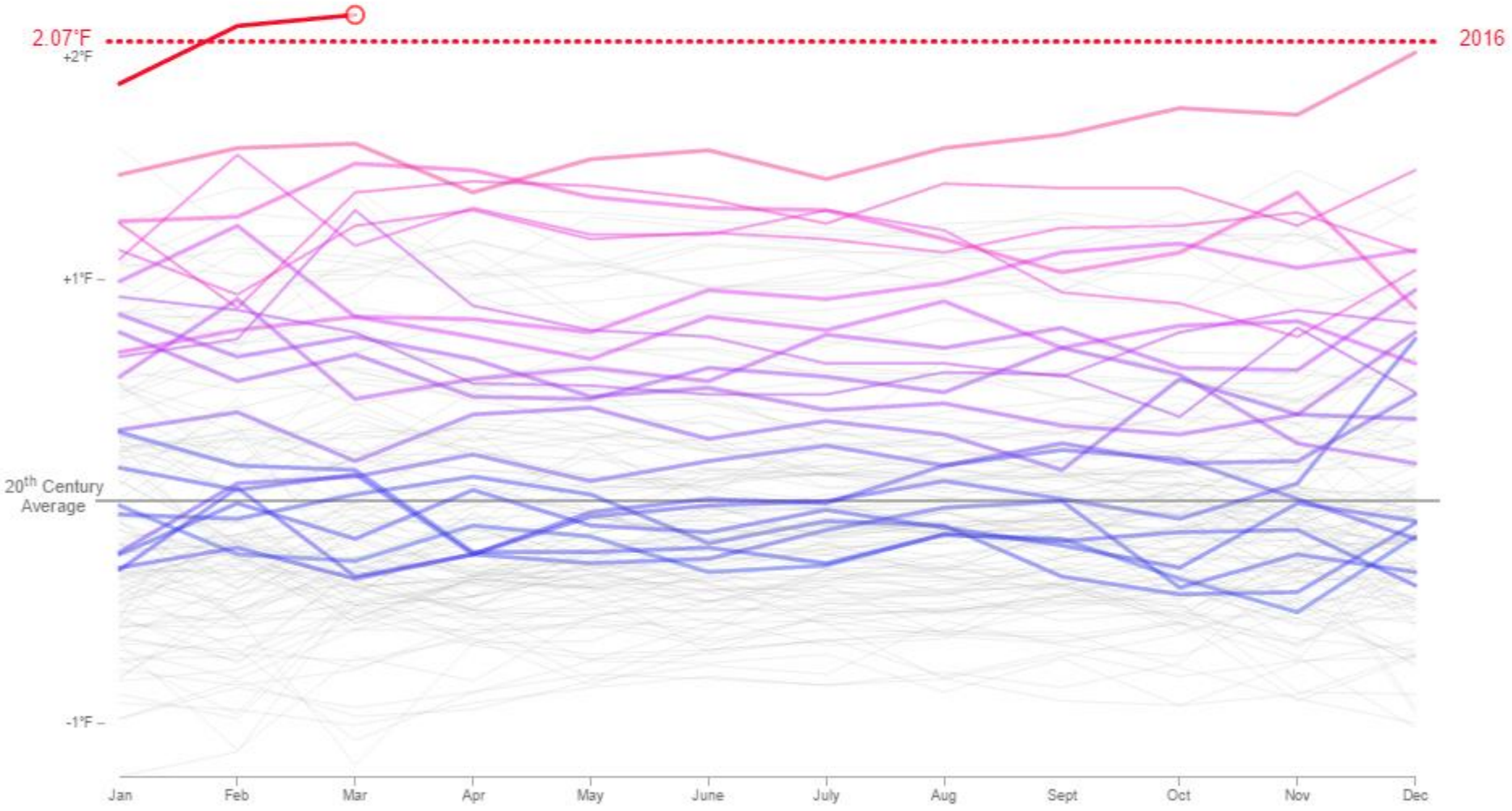
the massive decrease in atmospheric CO_2?

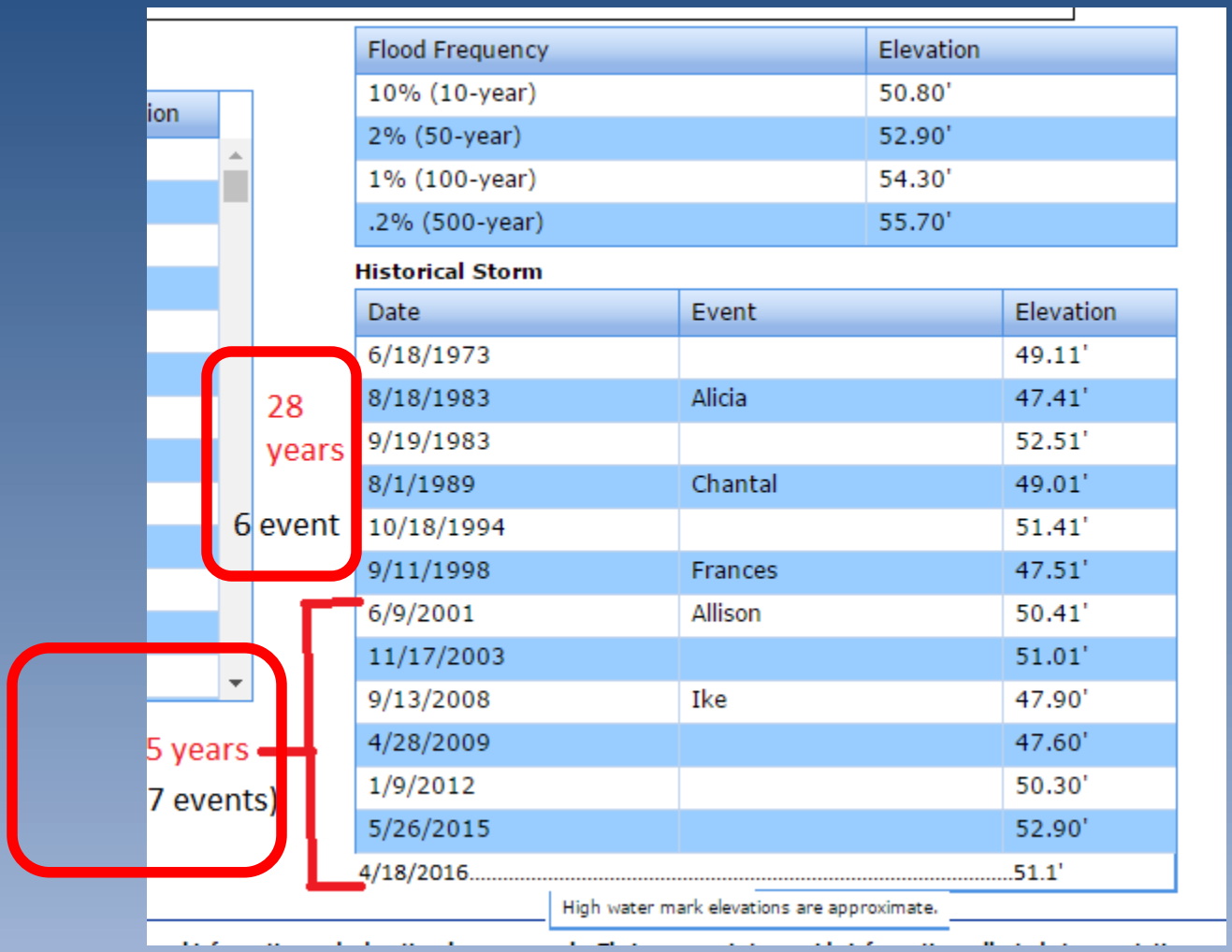


Bujak, pers. Comm.

Click To Start Animation

http://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2016-04-19/earth-s-temperature-just-shattered-the-thermometer





Flood Frequency	Elevation
10% (10-year)	50.80'
2% (50-year)	52.90'
1% (100-year)	54.30'
.2% (500-year)	55.70'

Historical Storm

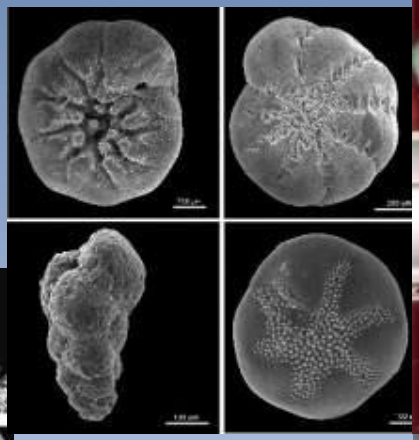
Date	Event	Elevation
6/18/1973		49.11'
8/18/1983	Alicia	47.41'
9/19/1983		52.51'
8/1/1989	Chantal	49.01'
10/18/1994		51.41'
9/11/1998	Frances	47.51'
6/9/2001	Allison	50.41'
11/17/2003		51.01'
9/13/2008	Ike	47.90'
4/28/2009		47.60'
1/9/2012		50.30'
5/26/2015		52.90'
4/18/2016		51.1'

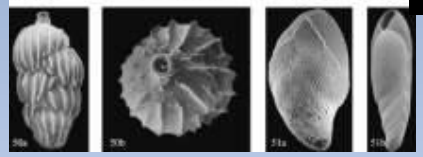
High water mark elevations are approximate.

http://www.harriscountyfws.org/GageDetail/Index/440?r=1&span=7#stream

3. Proxies that tell us of climate records

Scientific History of Climate change – PROXY DATA





SOME OF THE EARLIEST PROXY DATA WAS FROM TERRESTRIAL DEPOSITS

- Strandlines/shorelines
- Moraines
- Till
- Kettle lakes, etc.

We may know what caused these today, but imagine back then?

IT'S THE INTERPRETATION THAT'S NOT ALWAYS CORRECT

Darwin observed ancient Alpine shorelines:
interpreted as ocean shoreline

Agassiz – later correctly interpreted as ice-dammed lake-shore strandlines/shoreline

Louis Agassiz

Louis Agassiz

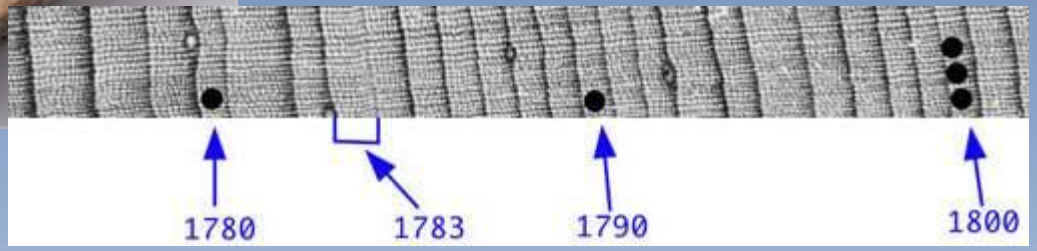
Born	May 28, 1807 Haut-Vully, Switzerland
Died	December 14, 1873 (aged 66) Cambridge, Massachusetts
Fields	Paleontology, Glaciology, Geology, Natural History
Alma mater	University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

- **Jean Louis R. Agassiz**
- **"Father" of Glaciology**
- 1807-1873
- Paleontologist
- Glaciologist

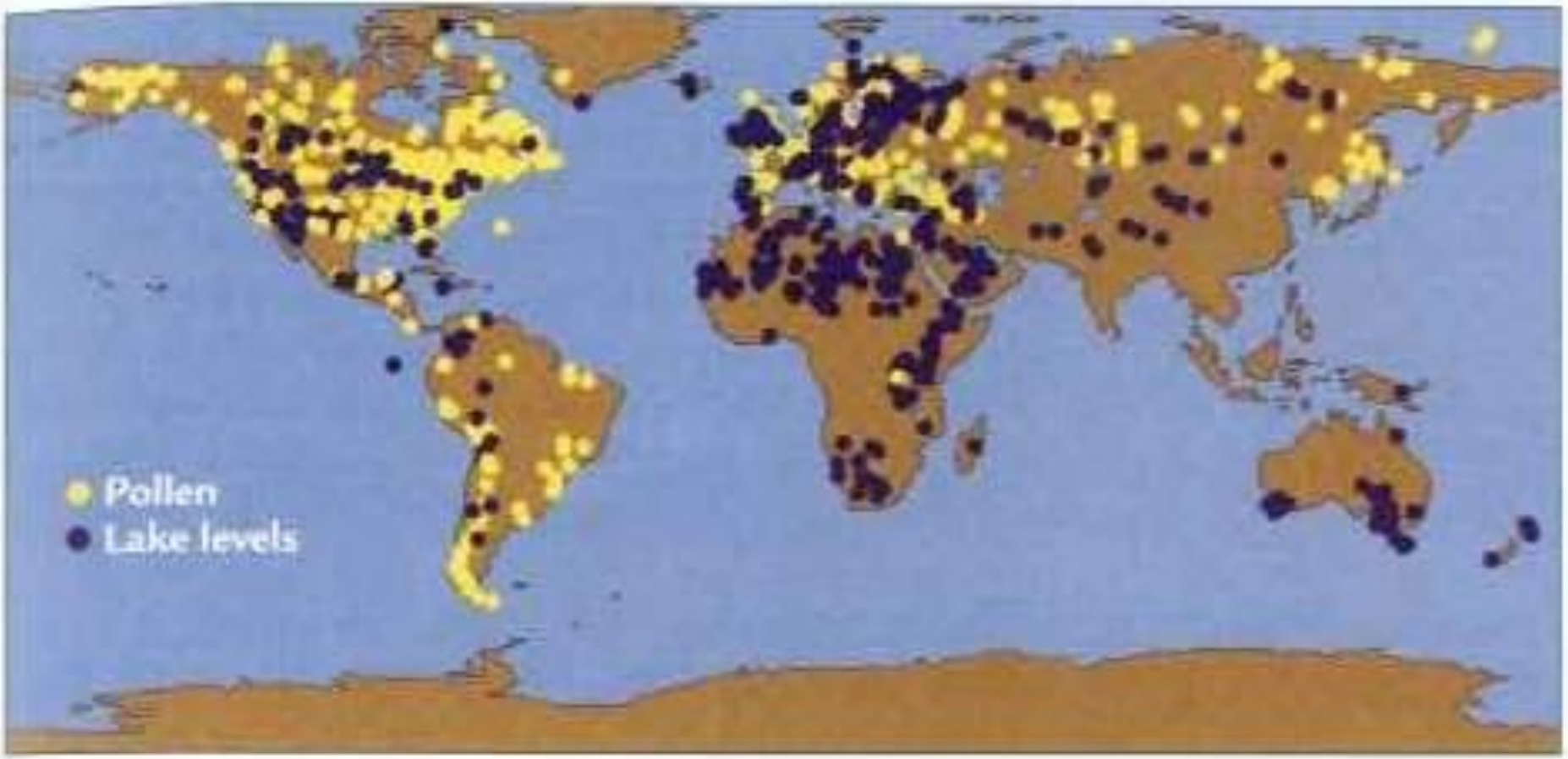
Photographic proxy data/evidence

Ruddiman, 2008

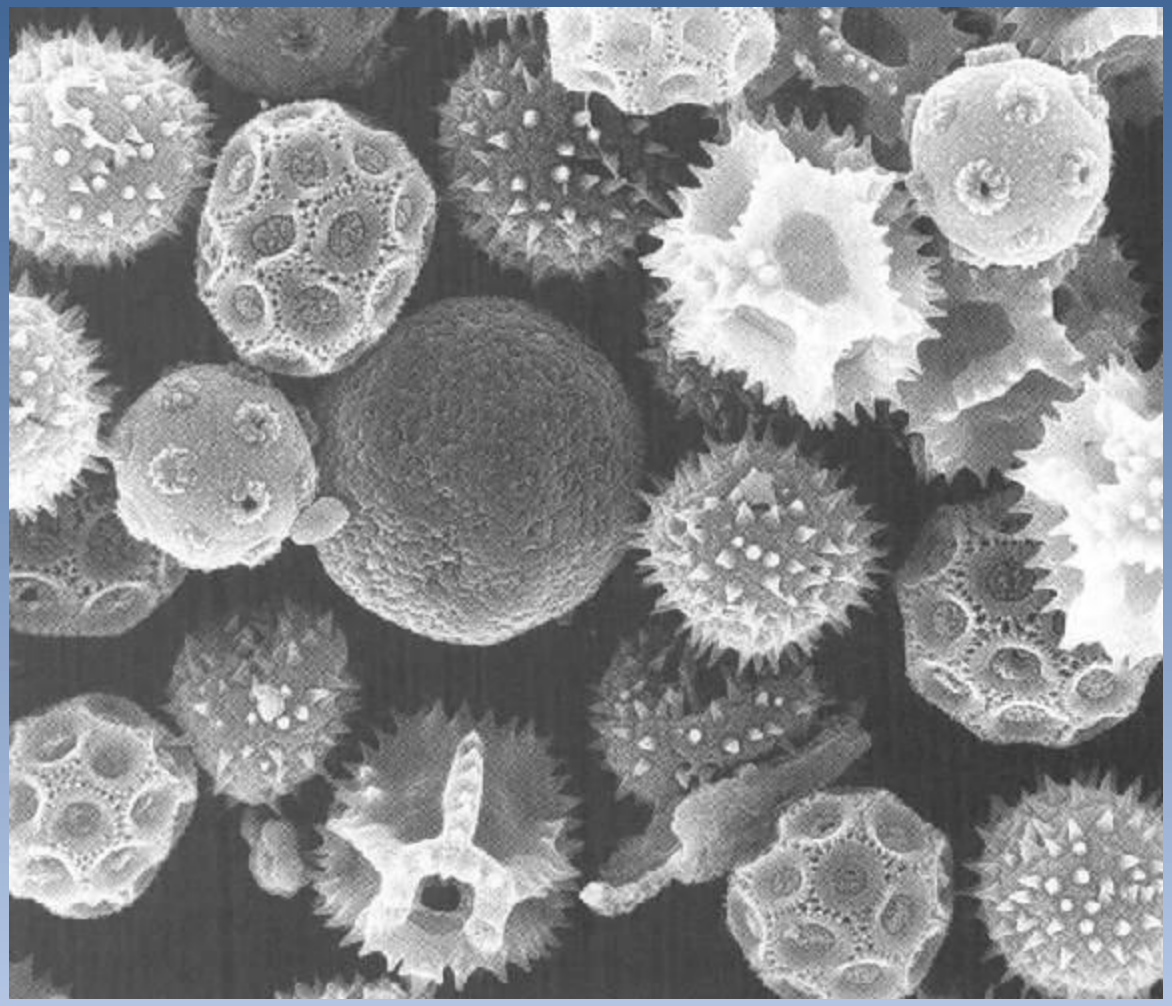
EARLY PROXY DATA: TREE RINGS



Pollen & Lake core data



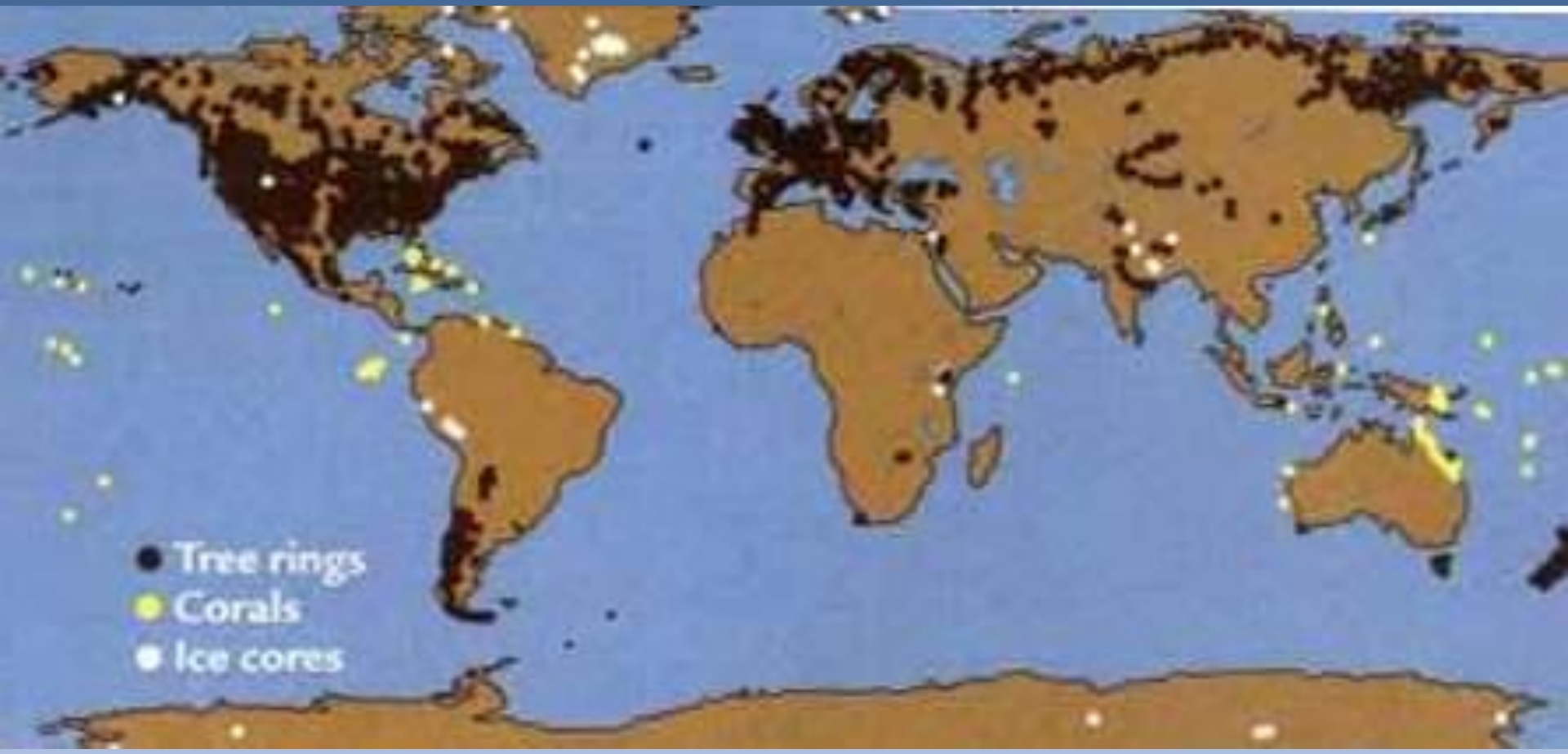
Ruddiman, 2008



PROXY DATA: POLLEN DATA

PROXY DATA: LEAVES

Tree rings, corals, ice cores



Ruddiman, 2008

PROXY DATA: ICE CORES

TERRESTRIAL DATA

North American:
- Wisconsin
- Illinoian
- Kansan
- Nebraskan

European:
- Wurm
- Riss
- Mindel
- Gunz

LATER EVIDENCE CAME FROM THE MARINE RECORD

NOT WITHOUT IT'S PROBLEMS, BUT MORE COMPLETE

Cesare Emiliani in the early 1950s when he was doing his pioneering research at the University of Chicago (Photo from the Archives of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami).

Cesare Emilani:

Paleontologist, Chemist

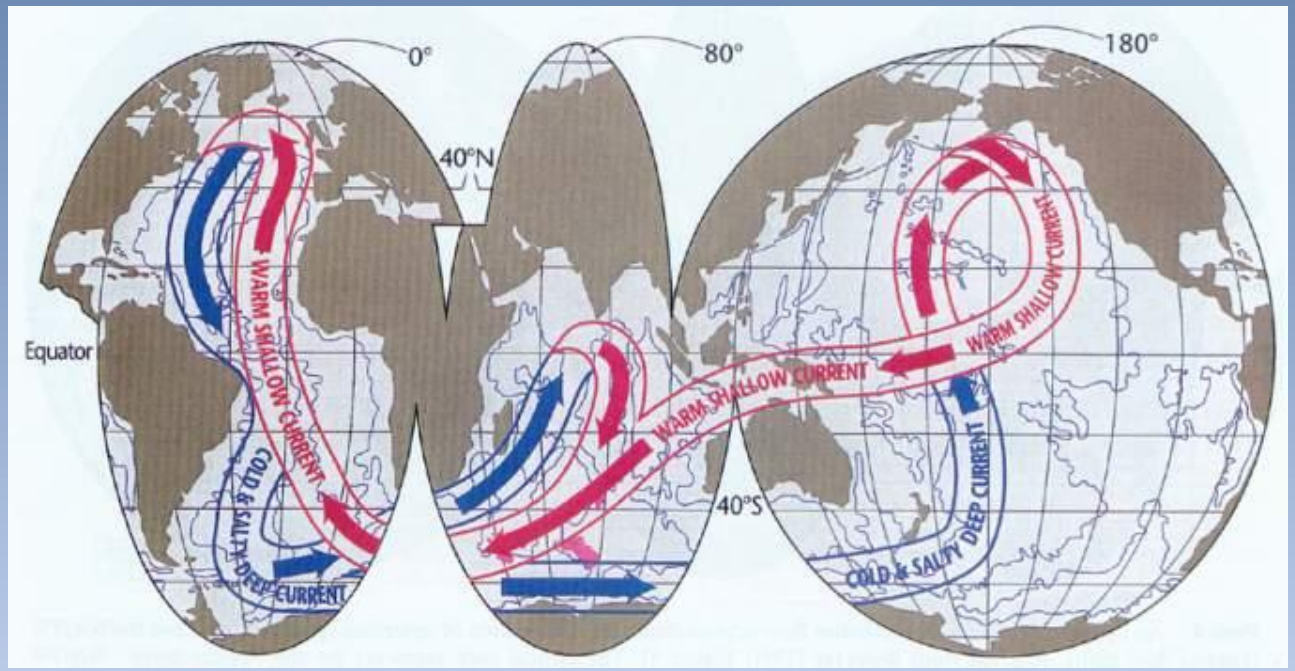
Father of Paleoceanography

Other Paleoceanographers

Wally Broecker

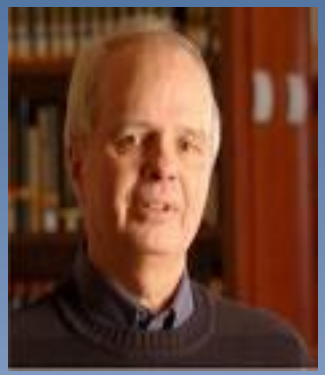
Thermal-haline

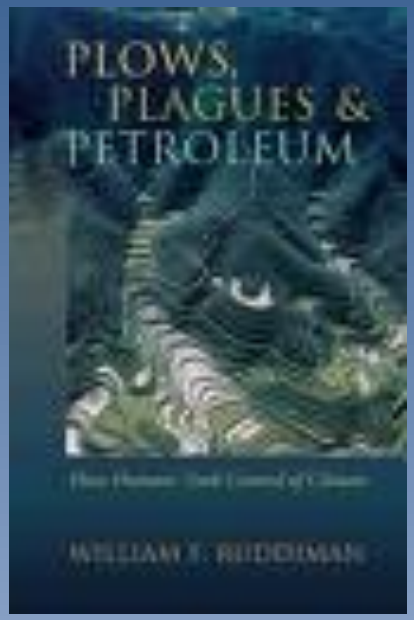
"conveyor" belt of circulation



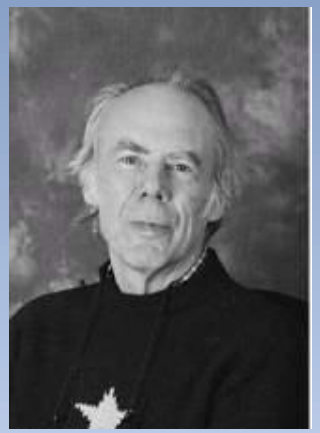
Other Paleoceanographers

Bill Ruddiman



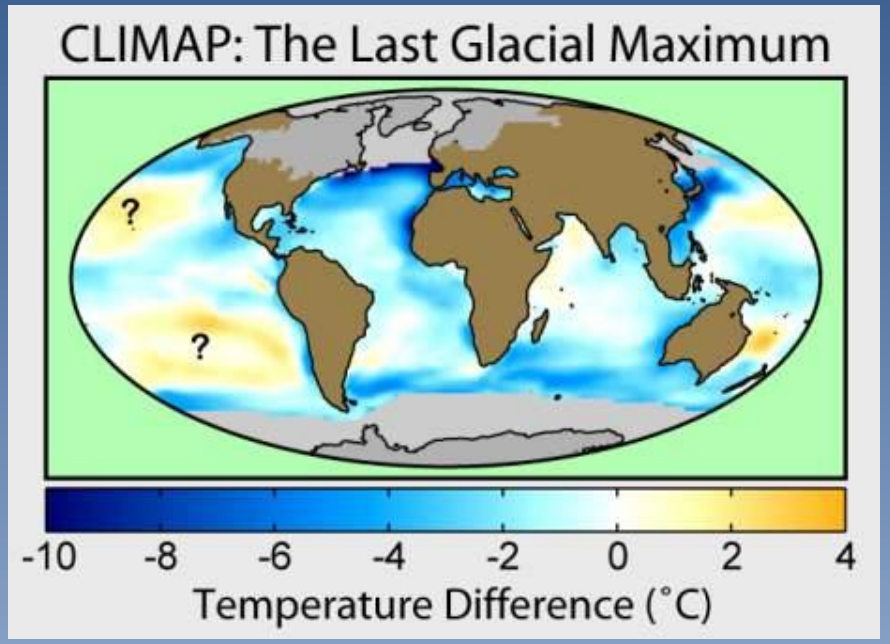


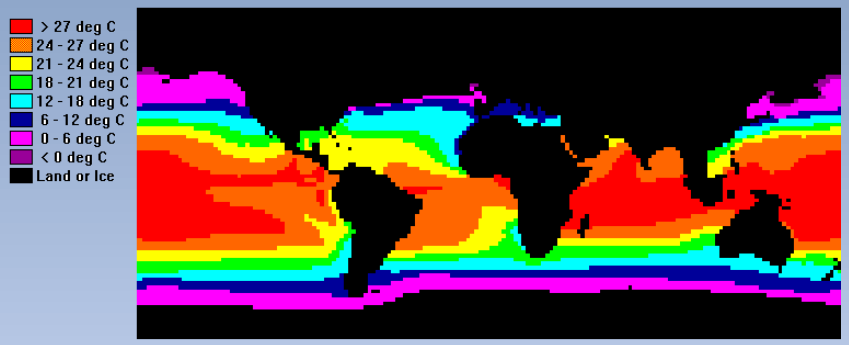
Nick Shackleton

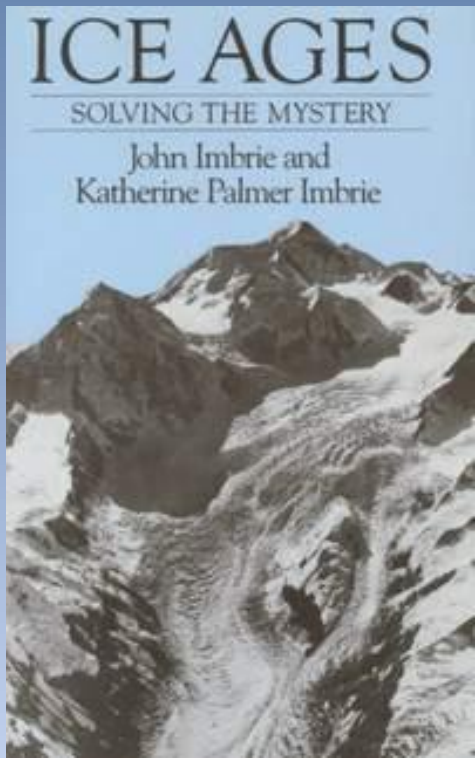


Other Paleoceanographers

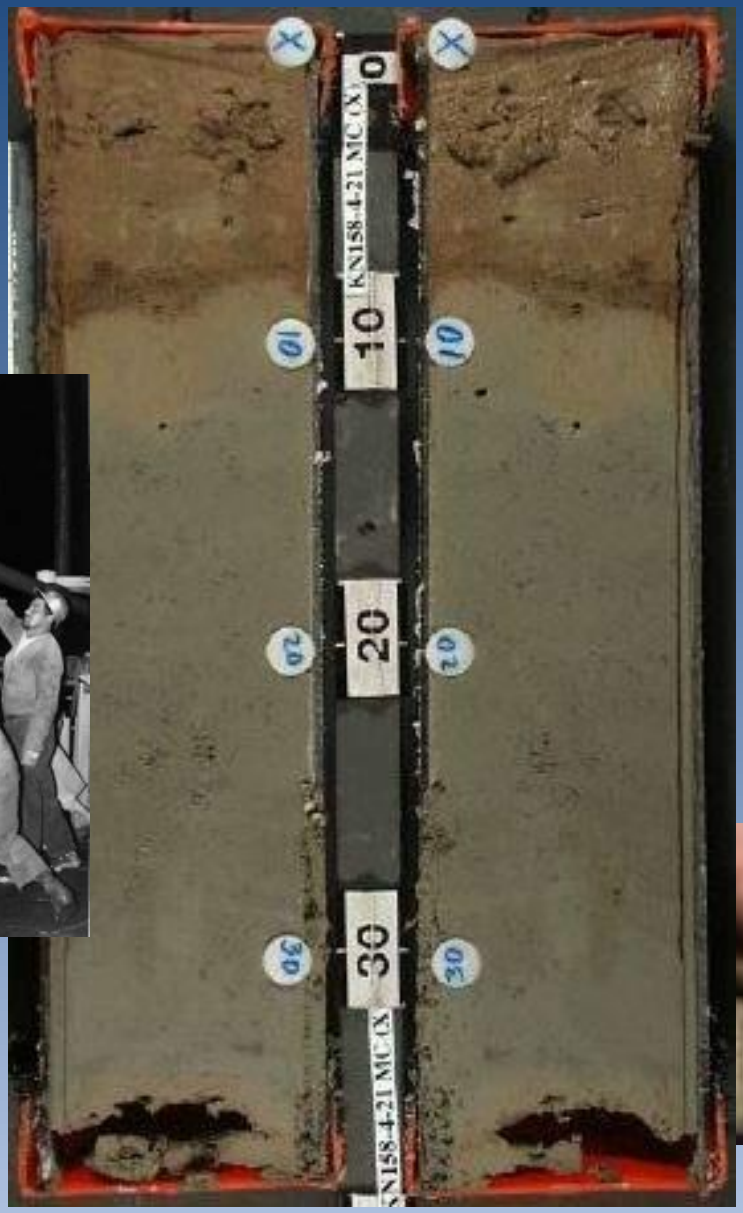
John Imbrie:
CLIMAP



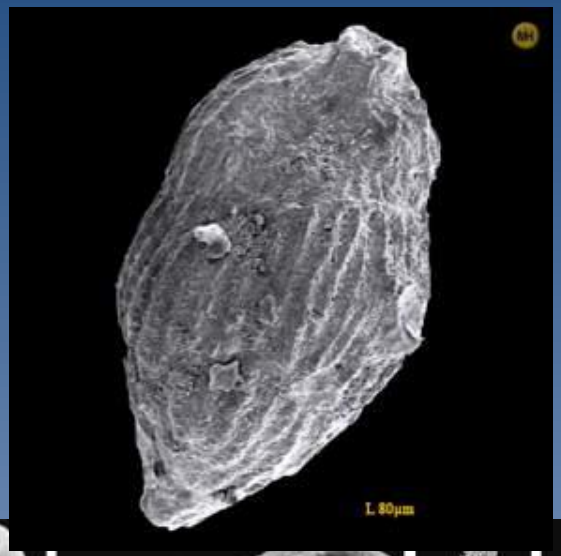


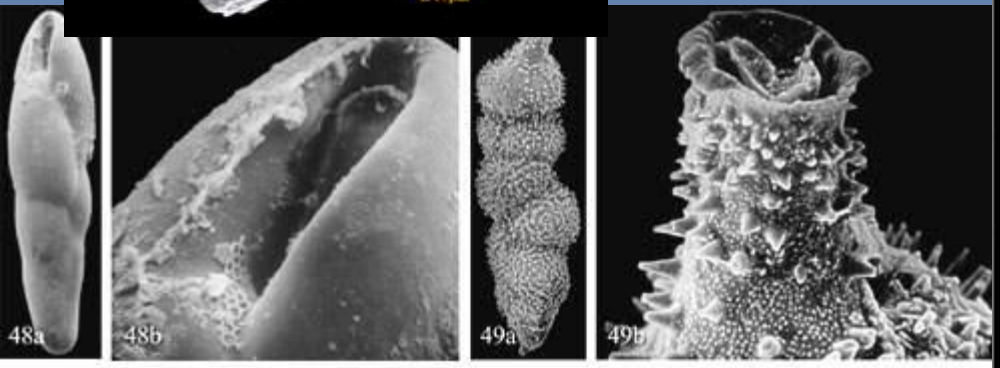


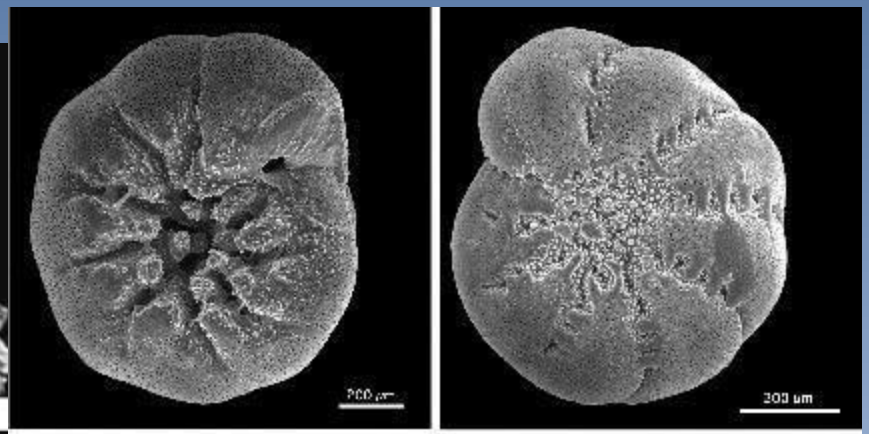
PROXY DATA: CORE DATA

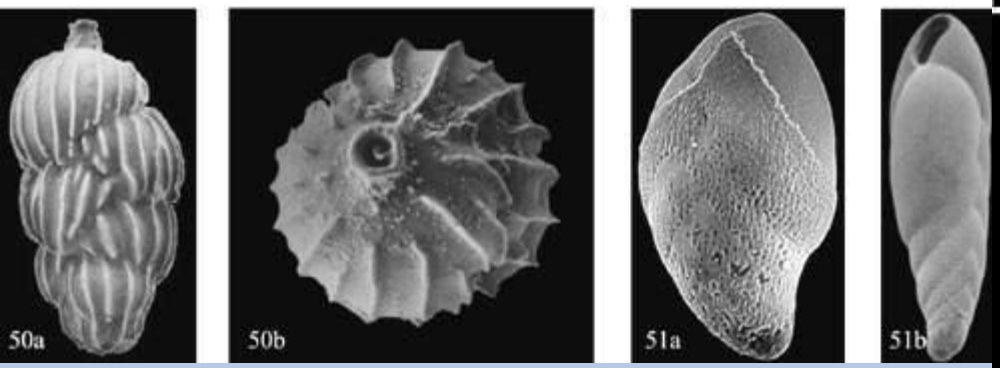


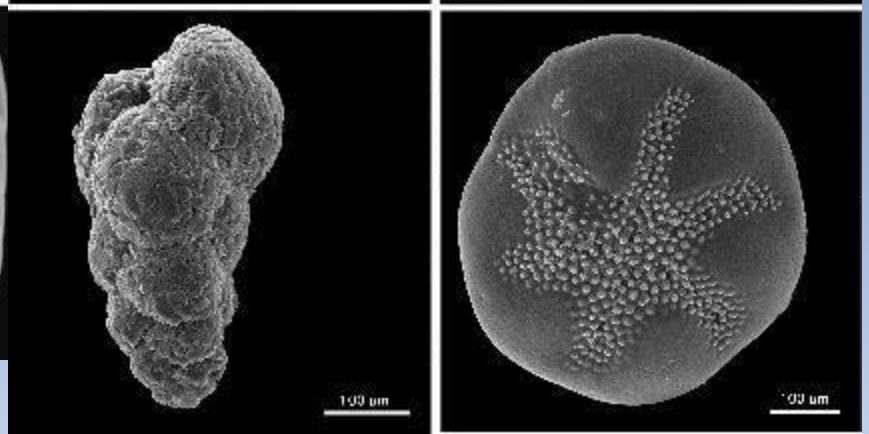
PROXY DATA: BENTHIC FORAMS



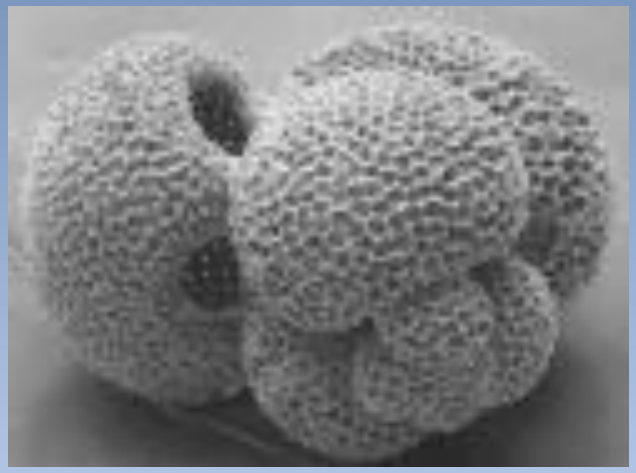




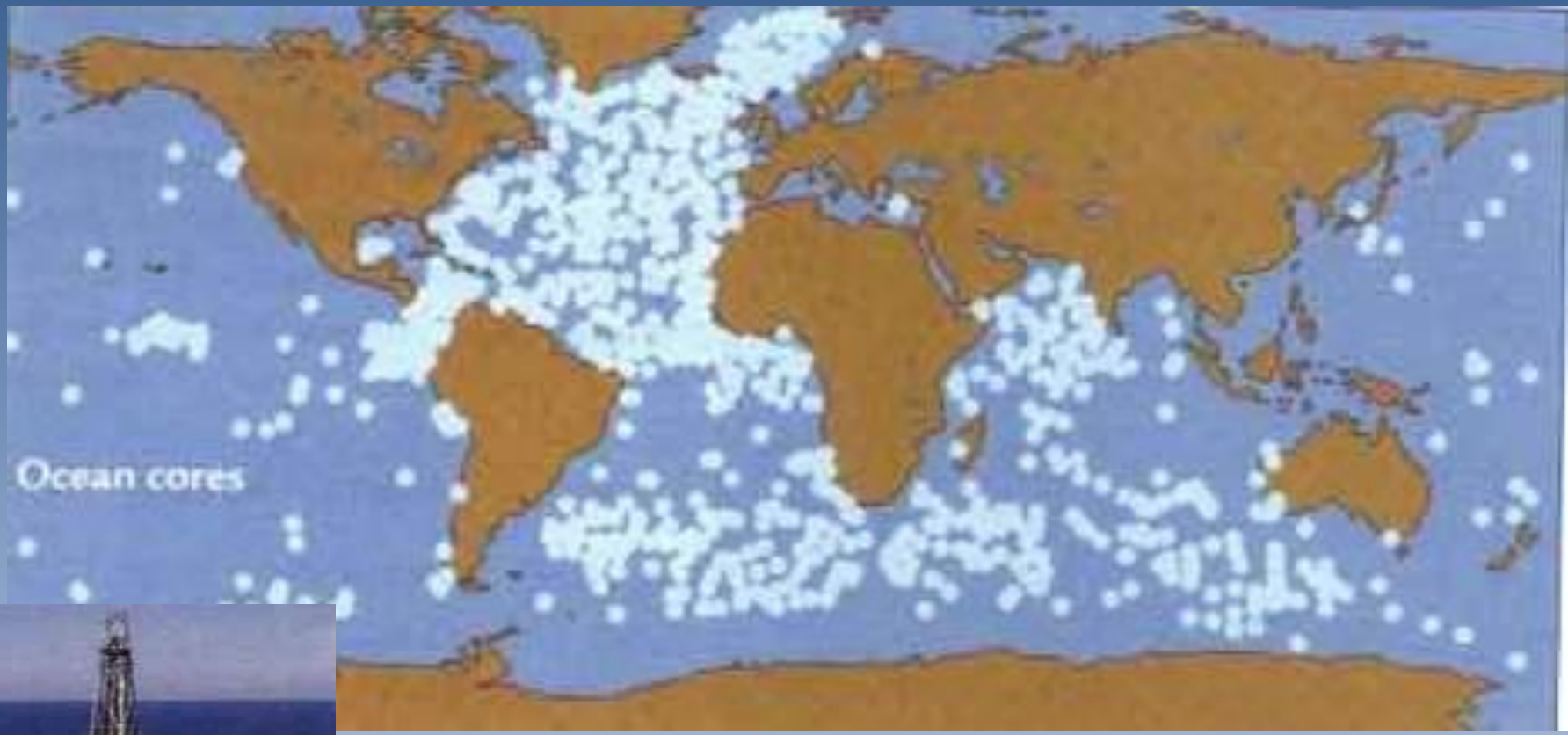




PROXY DATA: PLANKTONIC FORAMS



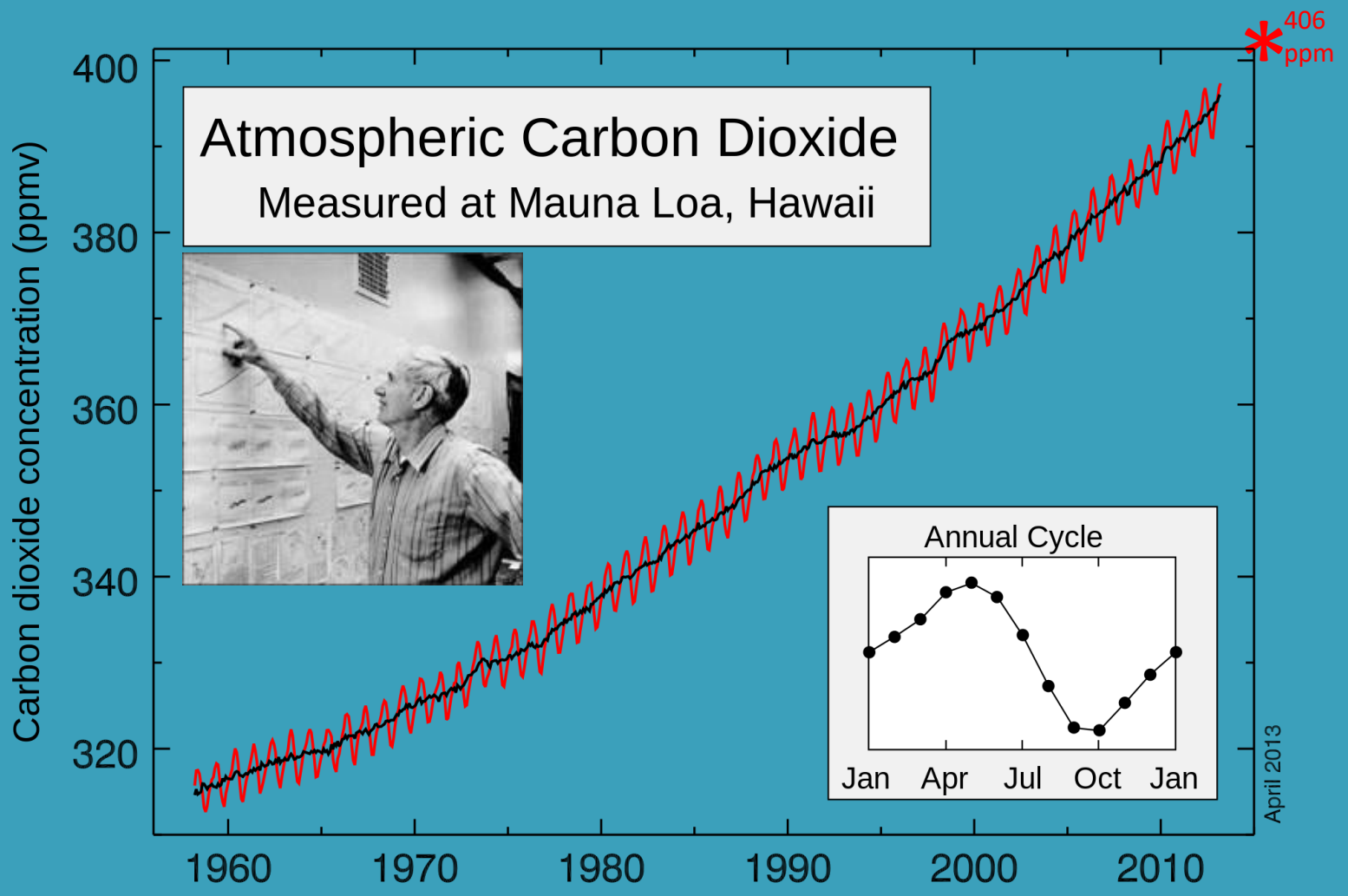
Deep Sea Coring



Ruddiman, 2008

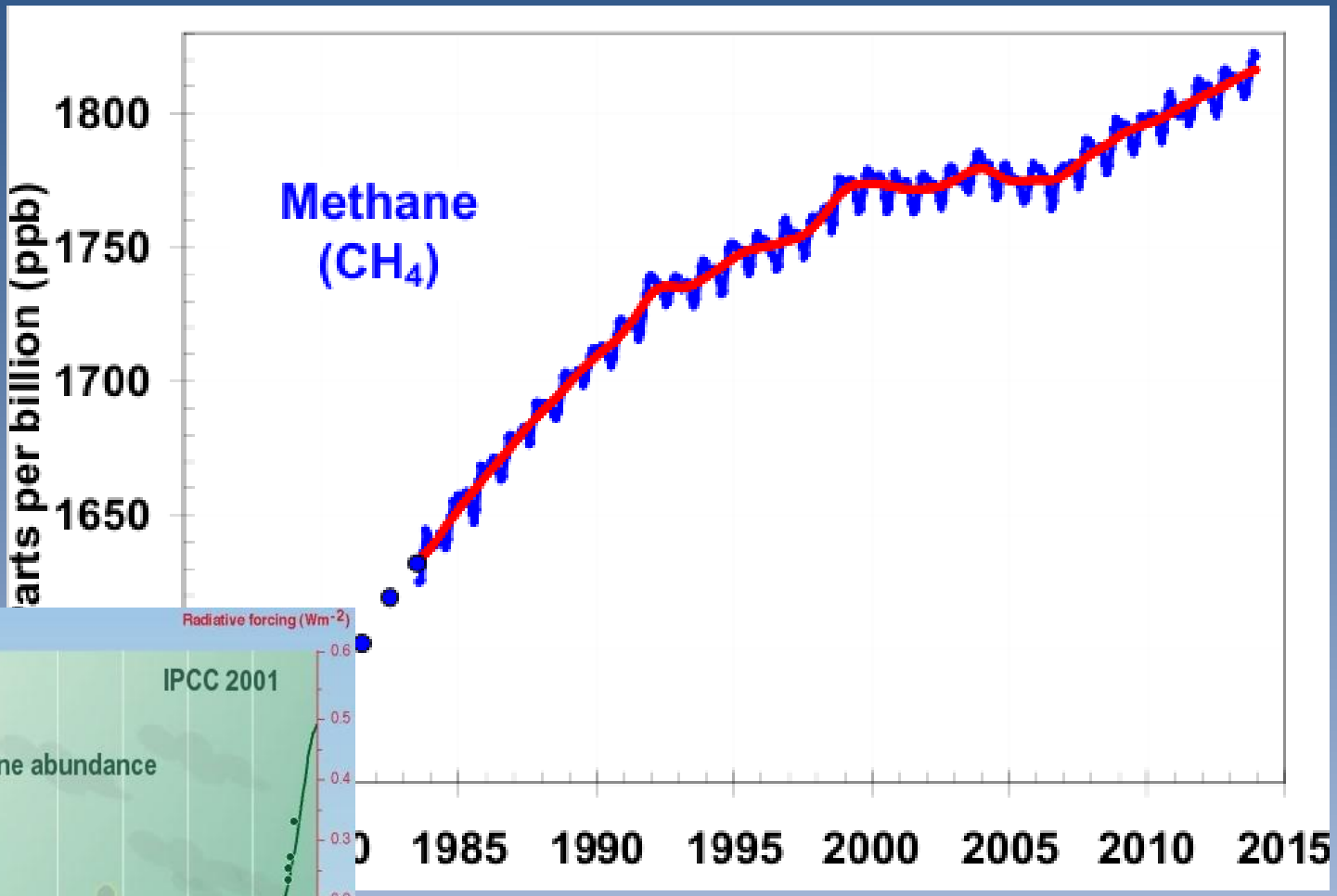
Empirical: real measured data in the modern day

Lest we forget: CO_2 is still going up

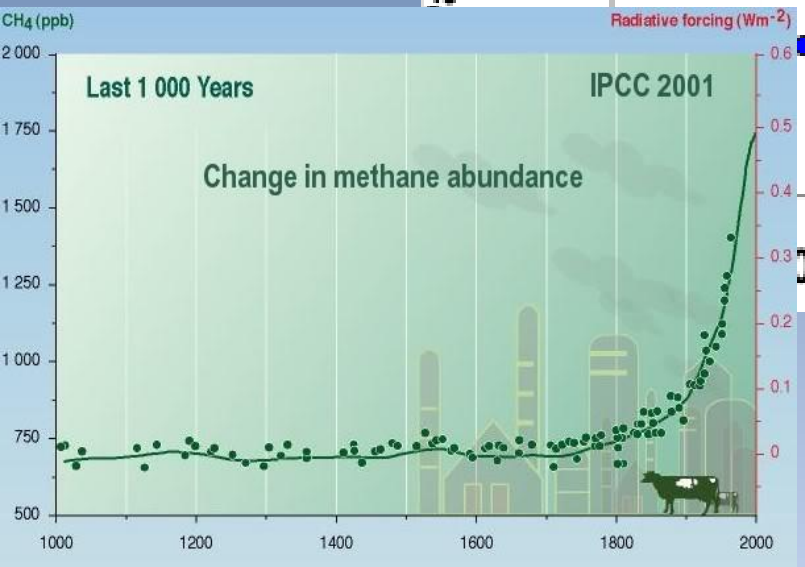


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keeling_Curve

What about Methane?

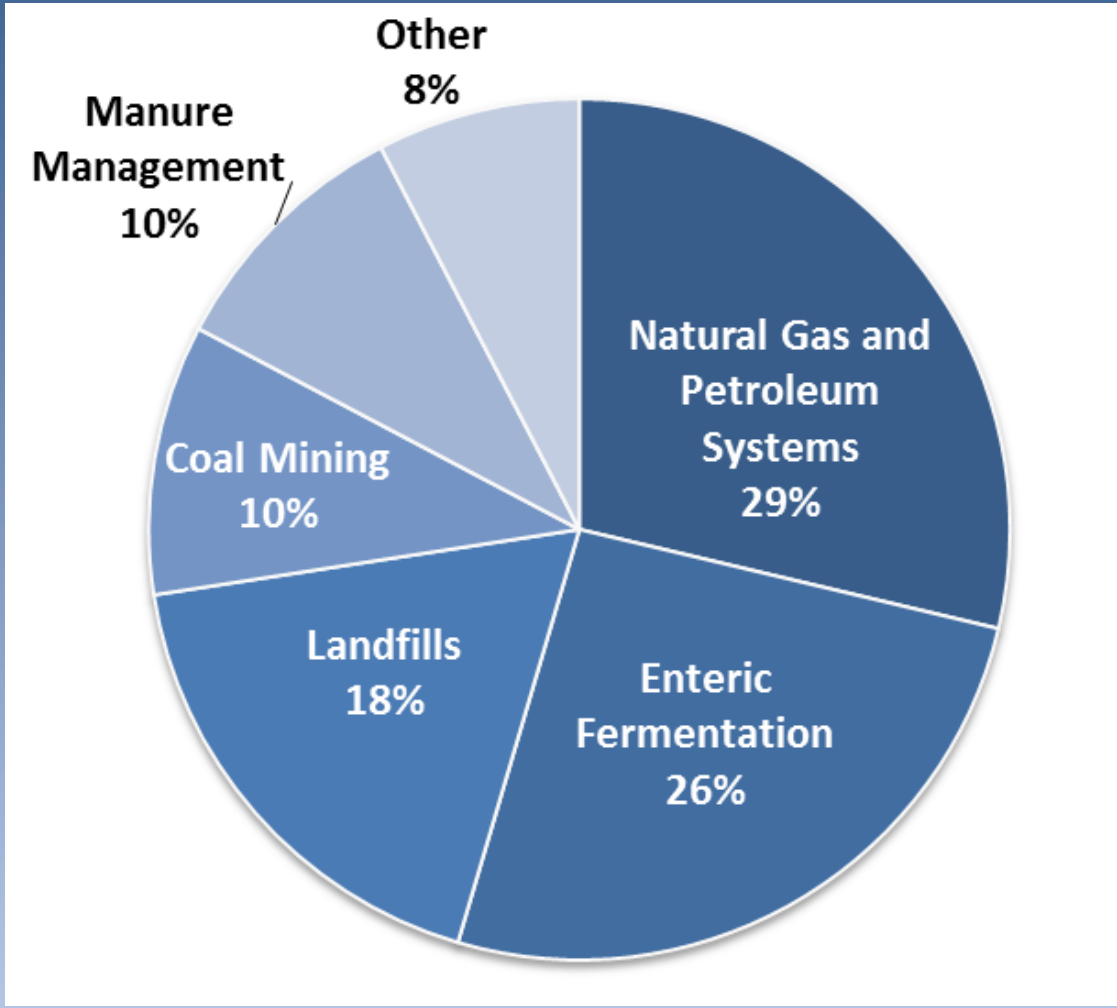


http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/aggi/aggi.html

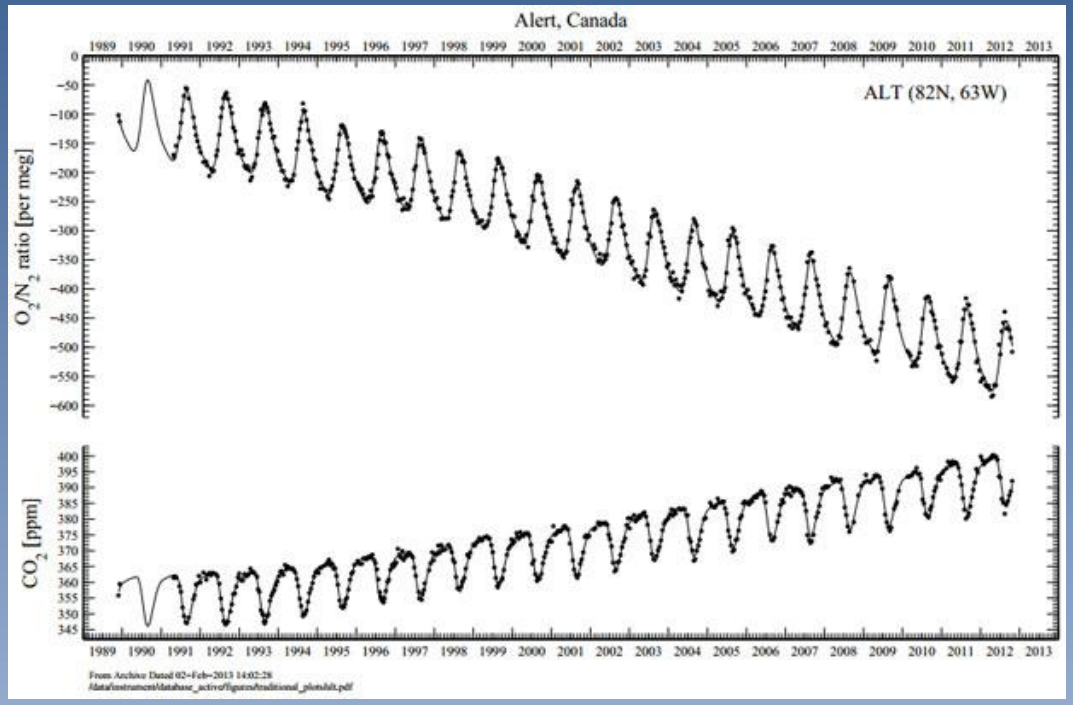


http://clathrates.blogspot.com/2012/04/threat-of-methane-release-from.html

SOURCE OF METHANE

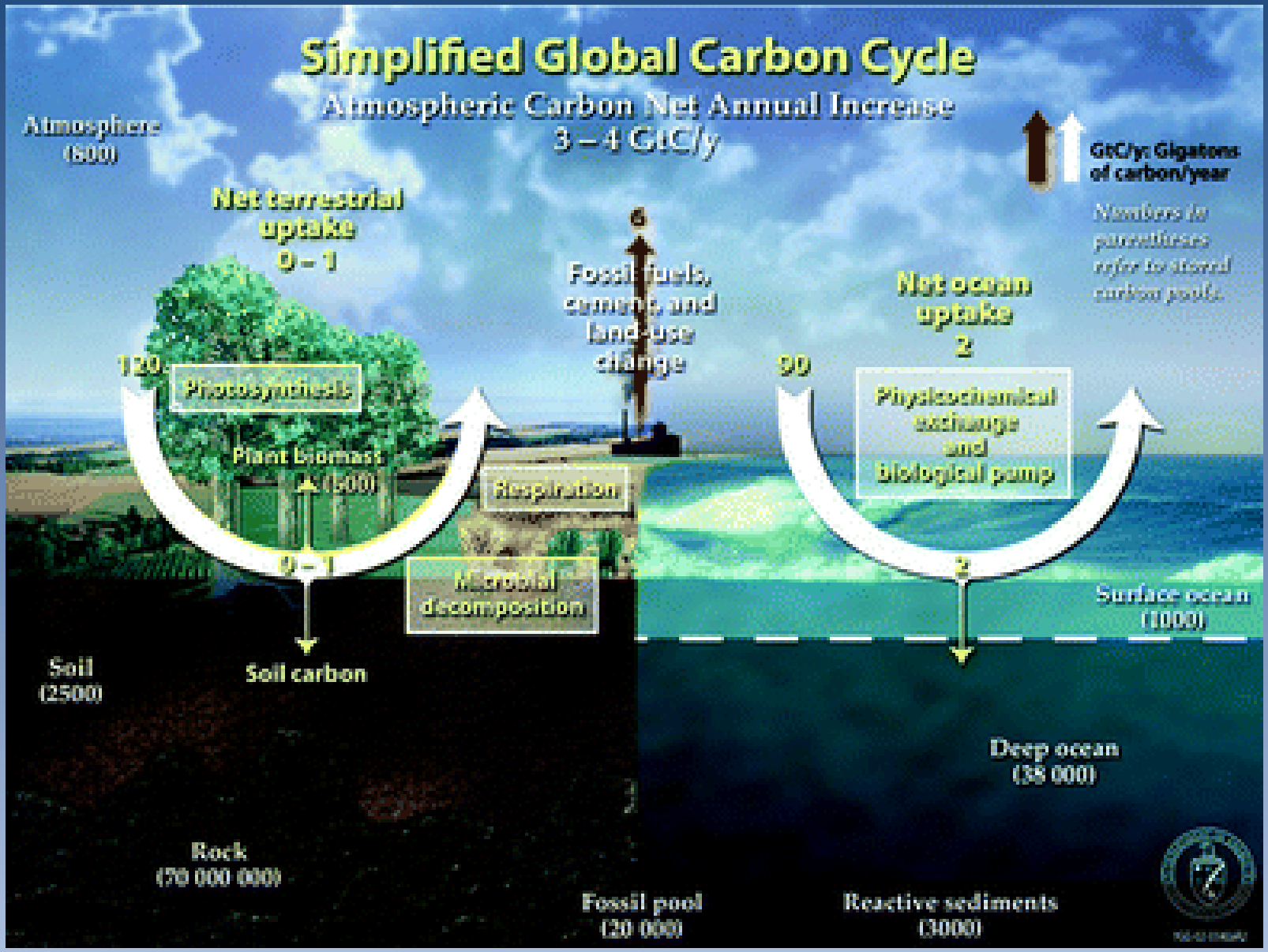


Oxygen used by burning



The observed downward trend is 19 'per meg' per year. This corresponds to losing 19 O_2 molecules out of every 1 million O_2 molecules in the air/year.
http://scrippso2.ucsd.edu

4. Ocean Acidification



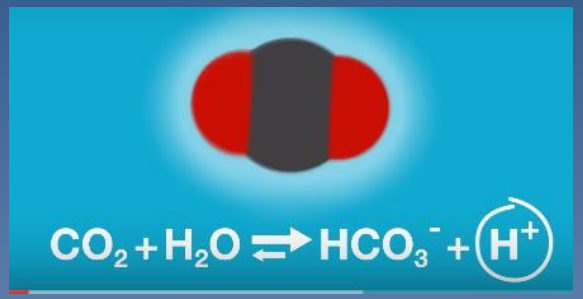
http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/co2/story/Ocean+Carbon+Uptake

Ocean acidification

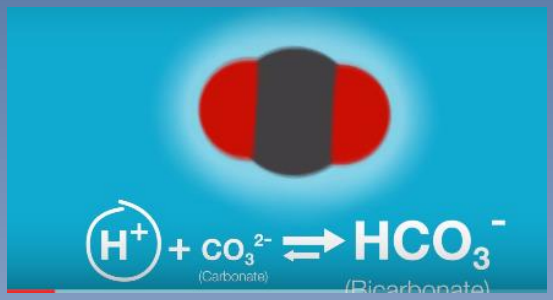
- Web page post Monday October , 2015 (and fb)
- Let's start with a video: https://youtu.be/W1TZ8g8JYVU from http://www.skepticalscience.com/ocean-acidification-global-warming.htm

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS: Ocean acidification

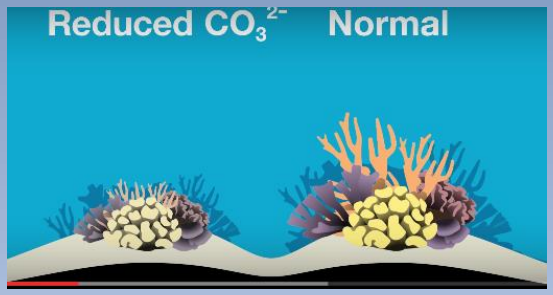
- Adding CO_2 adds H^+ ions making water more acidic (lowers pH)



- This in turn reduces CO_3^{-2} ions



- reducing CO_3^{-2} makes it more difficult for organisms to make their shell – especially aragonitic ones



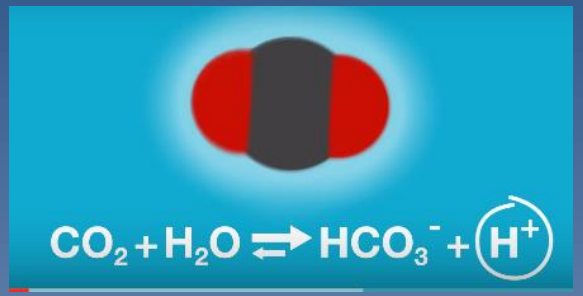
http://www.skepticalscience.com/ocean-acidification-global-warming.htm

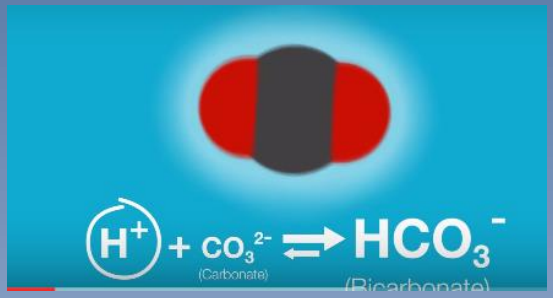
Continued

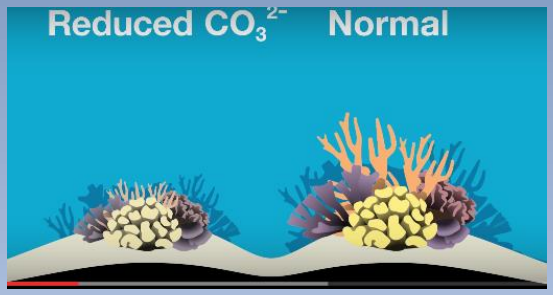
- Takes hundreds of years to equilibrate from weathering – or buffering from the deep sea carbonates as we saw in the PETM

- 0.1 decrease in pH = 26% CO_3^{-2} ions

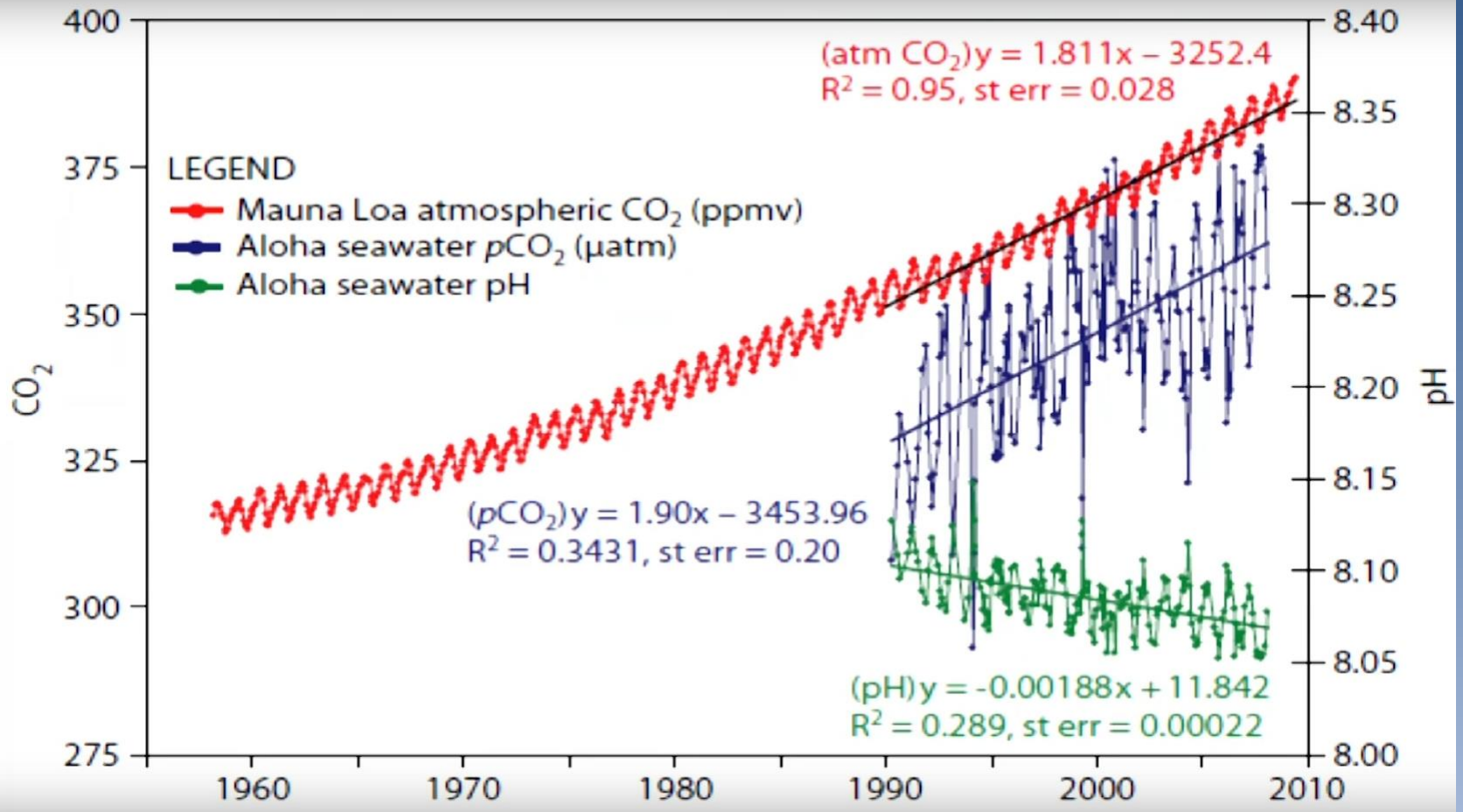
- reducing CO_3^{-2} makes it more difficult for organisms to make their shell – especially aragonitic ones



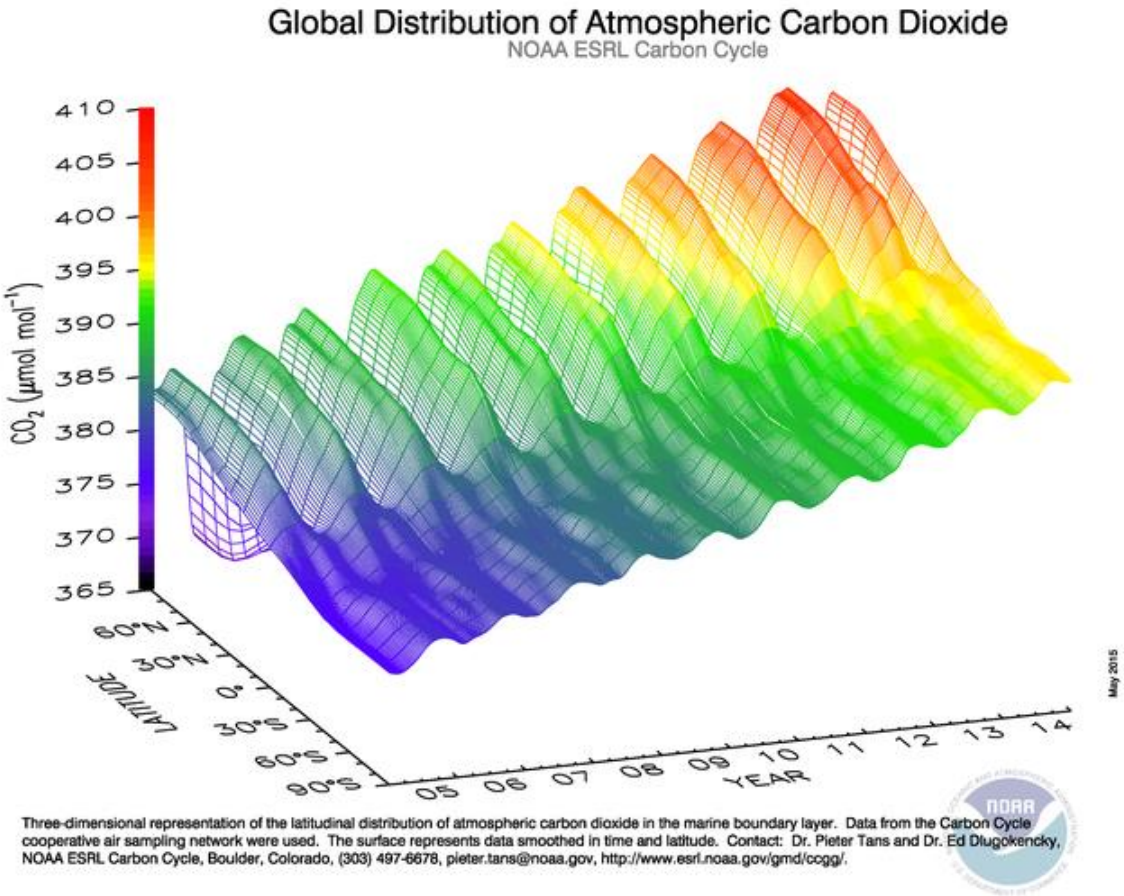




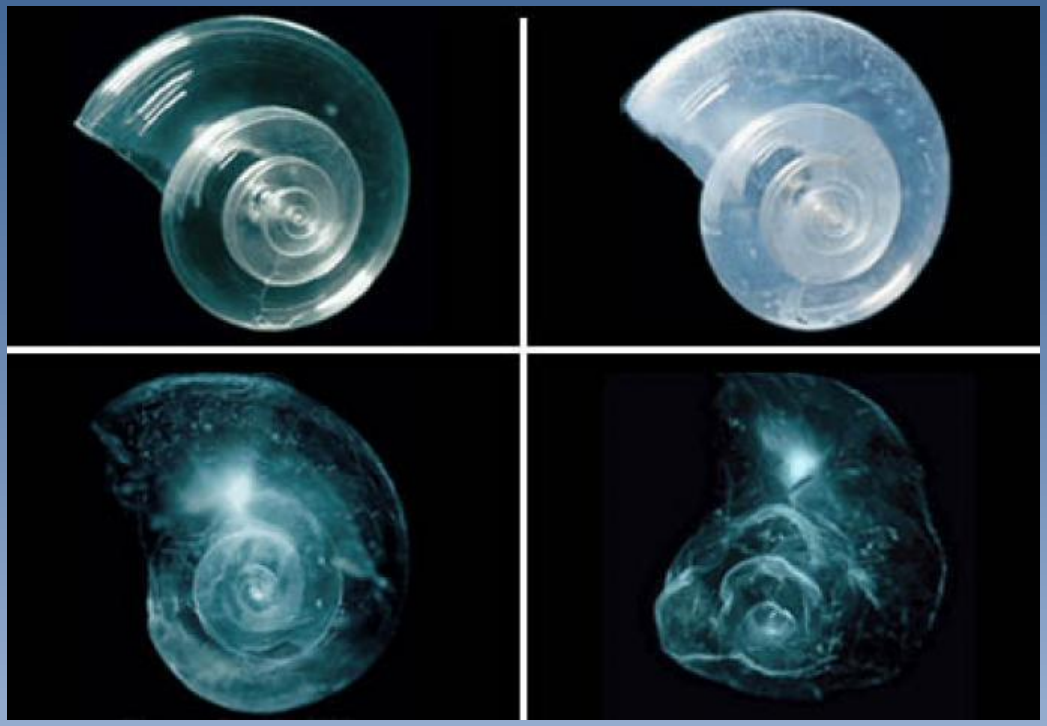
UQx DENIAL101x 5.3.3.1 Ocean acidification



http://www.skepticalscience.com/ocean-acidification-global-warming.htm


Global Distribution of Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide
NOAA ESRL Carbon Cycle
410
405
400
395
390
385
380
375
370
365
CO_2 (μmol mol^{-1})
LATITUDE
60°N
30°N
0
30°S
60°S
90°S
05
06
07
08
09
10
11
12
13
14
YEAR
May 2015
NOAA
Three-dimensional representation of the latitudinal distribution of atmospheric carbon dioxide in the marine boundary layer. Data from the Carbon Cycle cooperative air sampling network were used. The surface represents data smoothed in time and latitude. Contact: Dr. Pieter Tans and Dr. Ed Dlugokencky, NOAA ESRL Carbon Cycle, Boulder, Colorado, (303) 497-6678, pieter.tans@noaa.gov, http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/.

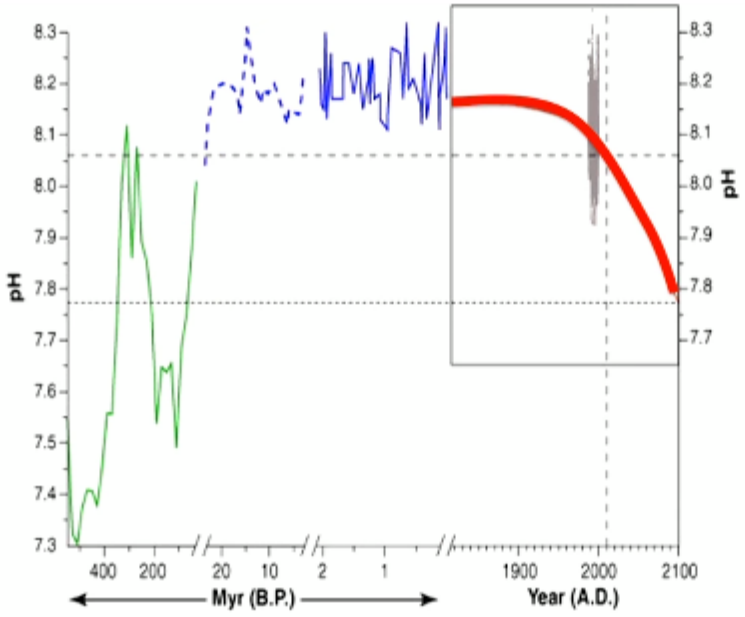
Pteropods



http://ocean.si.edu/ocean-acidification?gclid=Cj0KEQjw-b2wBRDcrKerwe-S5c4BEiQABprW-CHiUm54_8lcDb8ns9yN_W-5pYHfqqSf7QUb6MFohssaAmCM8P8HAQ

pH through time

Here is a related lecture-video from Denial101x - Making Sense of Climate Science Denial



Attribution 5

WE WILL RESUME HERE 4/27

Ocean acidification

- $CaCO_3 + H_2CO_3 = Ca^{+2} + 2HCO^{-}_3$ [1]
- H_2CO_3 is carbonic acid - a relatively weak naturally occuring acid that forms by the reaction between water and carbon dioxide: $H_2O + CO_2 = H_2CO_3$ [2]
-

Unprecedented rates of change

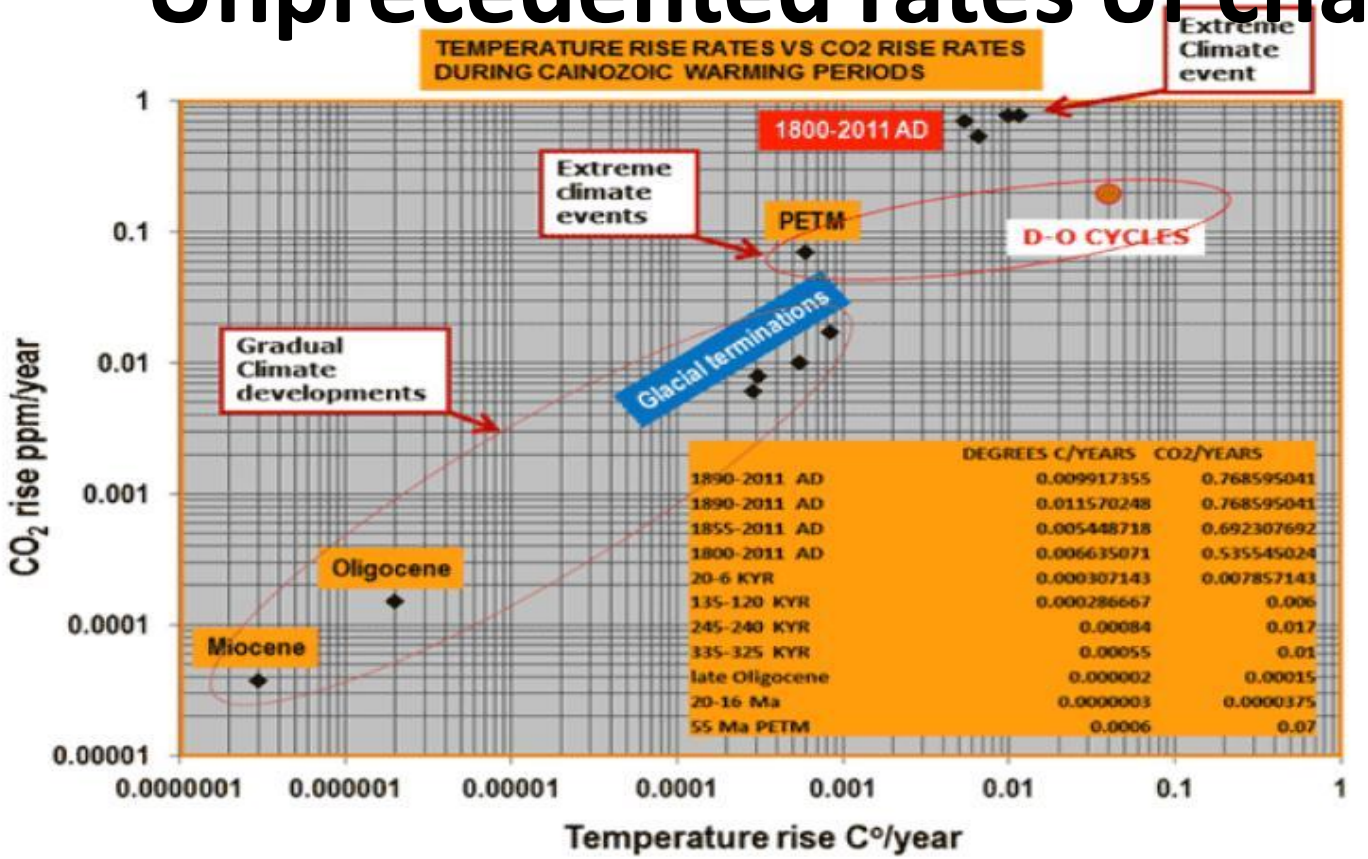


Figure 2: Relations between CO_2 rise rates and mean global temperature rise rates during warming periods, including the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, Oligocene, Miocene, glacial terminations, Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles and the post-1750 period.

Past and present; future estimates

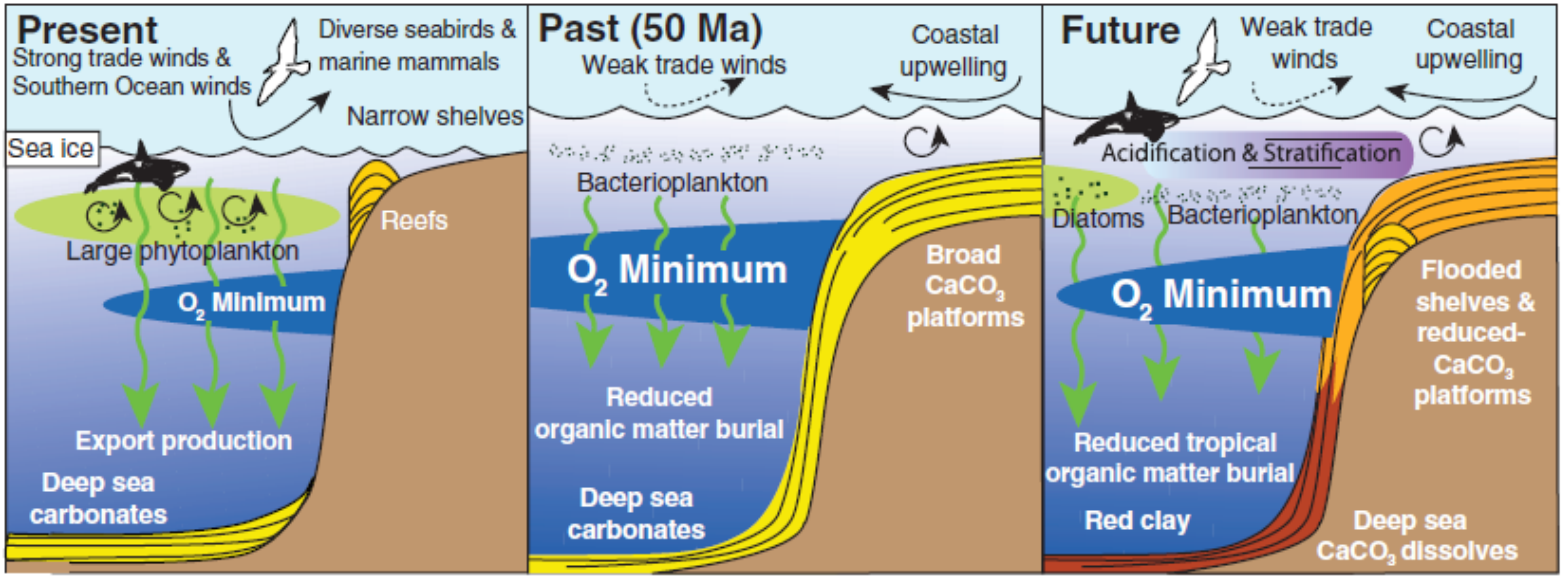
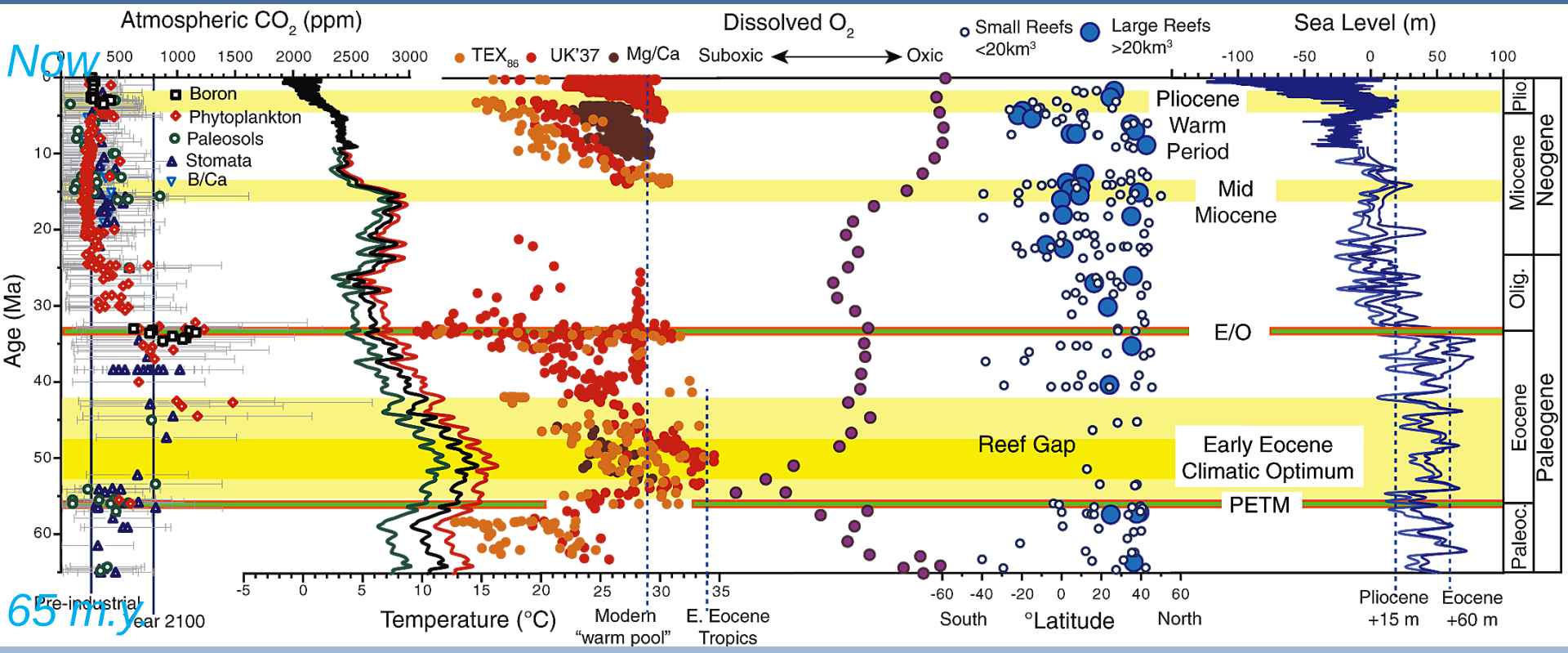


Fig. 1. Comparison of present, past, and future ocean ecosystem states. In the geologic past (middle panel), a warmer, less oxygenated ocean supported longer food chains based in phytoplankton smaller than present-day phytoplankton (left panel). The relatively low energy transfer between trophic levels in the past made it hard to support diverse and abundant top predators dominated by marine mammals and seabirds, and also reduced deep-sea organic matter burial. Equilibration of weathering with high atmospheric pCO_2 allowed carbonates to accumulate in parts of the deep sea. Reef construction was limited by high temperatures and coastal runoff even as high sea level created wide, shallow coastal oceans. In the future (right panel), warming will eventually reproduce many features of the past warm world but will also add transient impacts such as acidification and stratification of the surface ocean. Acidification will eventually be buffered by dissolving carbonates in the deep ocean, which create carbonate-poor "red clay." Stratification and the disappearance of multiyear sea ice will gradually eliminate parts of the polar ecosystems that have evolved in the past 34 million years and will restrict the abundance of short–food chain food webs that support marine vertebrates in the polar seas.

R. Norris et al., Science, 2013

History of oceans for last 65 m.y.

We know a great deal about past CO_2 , temp., etc.

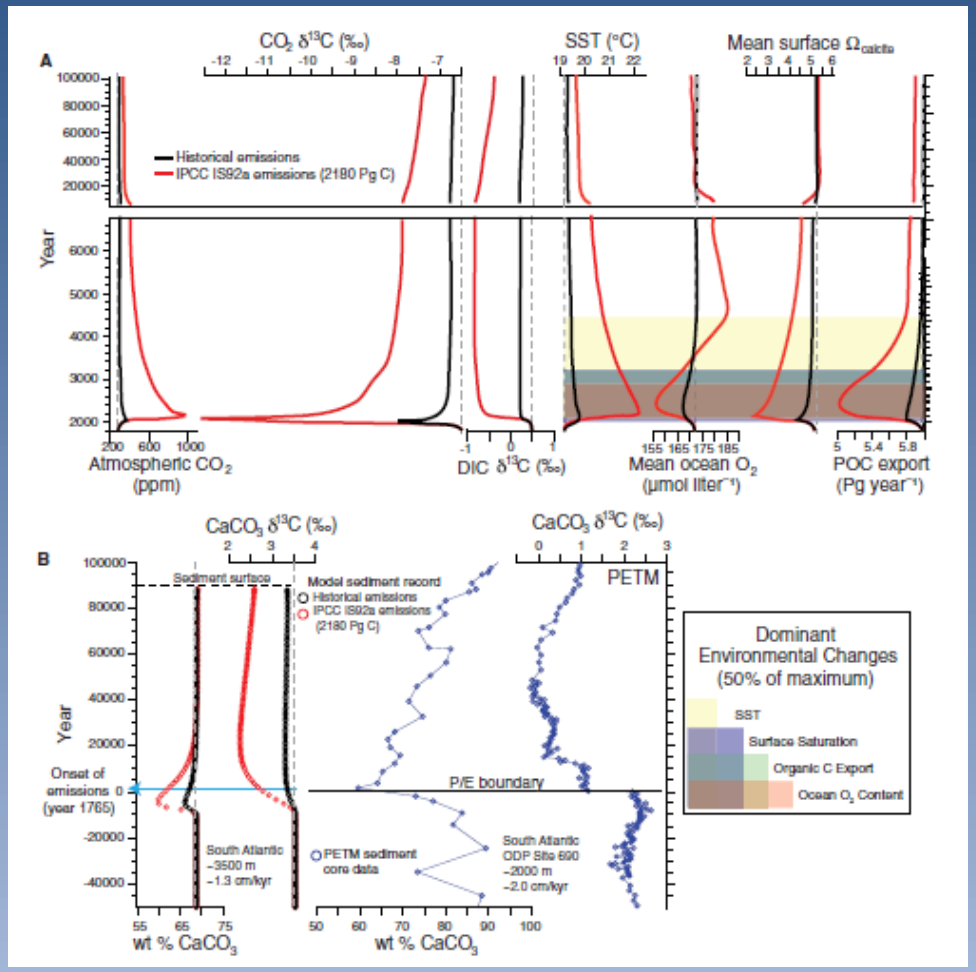


R. Norris et al., Science, 2013

History of oceans for last 65 m.y. and 100,000 year projections into the future

Using the past to model the future

…and a SEGWAY to Modeling



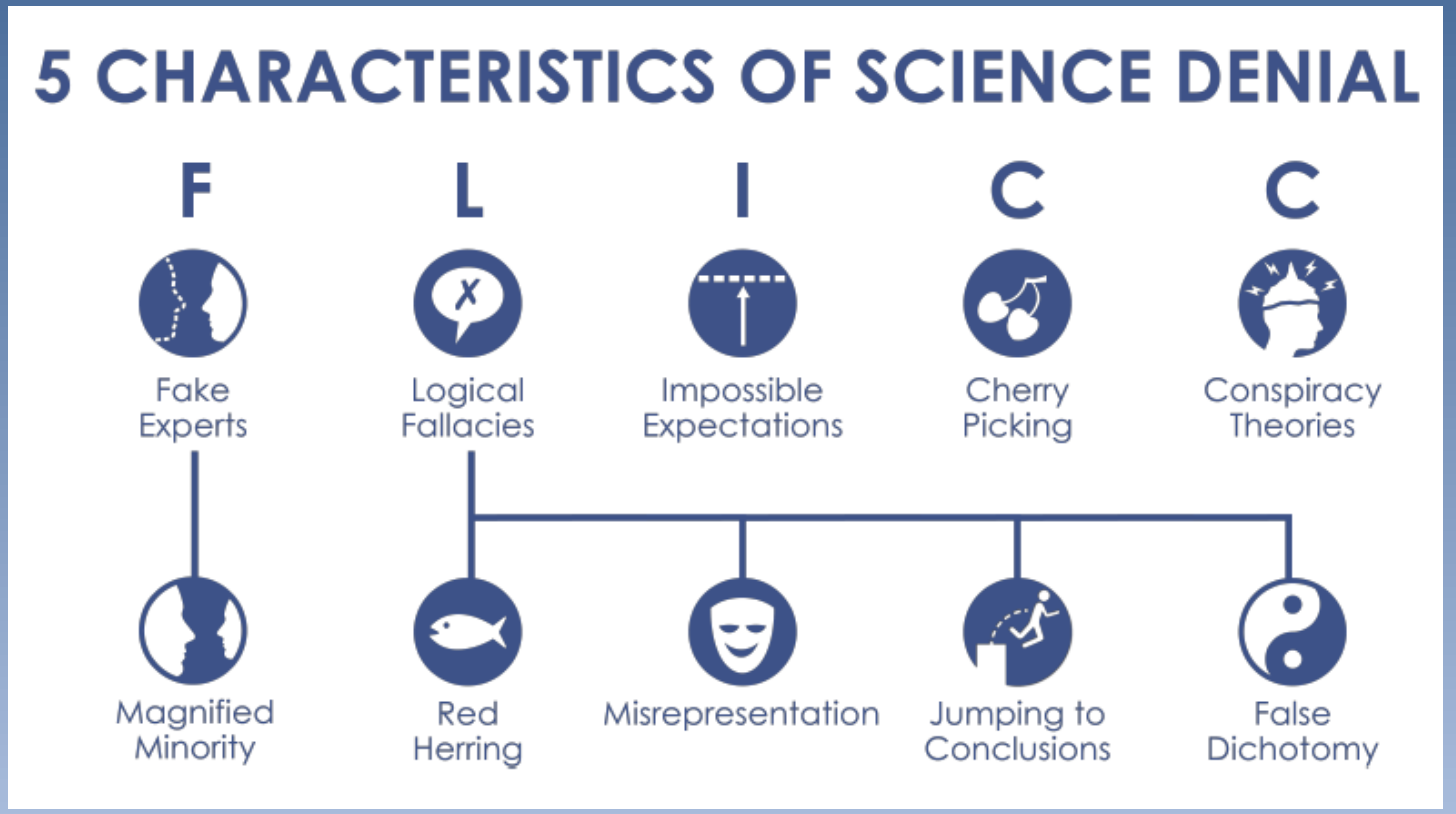
R. Norris et al., Science, 2013

Full list of Videos from Skeptical Science

http://www.skepticalscience.com/denial101x-videos-and-references.html

5. Modeling

But first – terminology you'll see being used regarding misrepresentation



Models – 2 videos

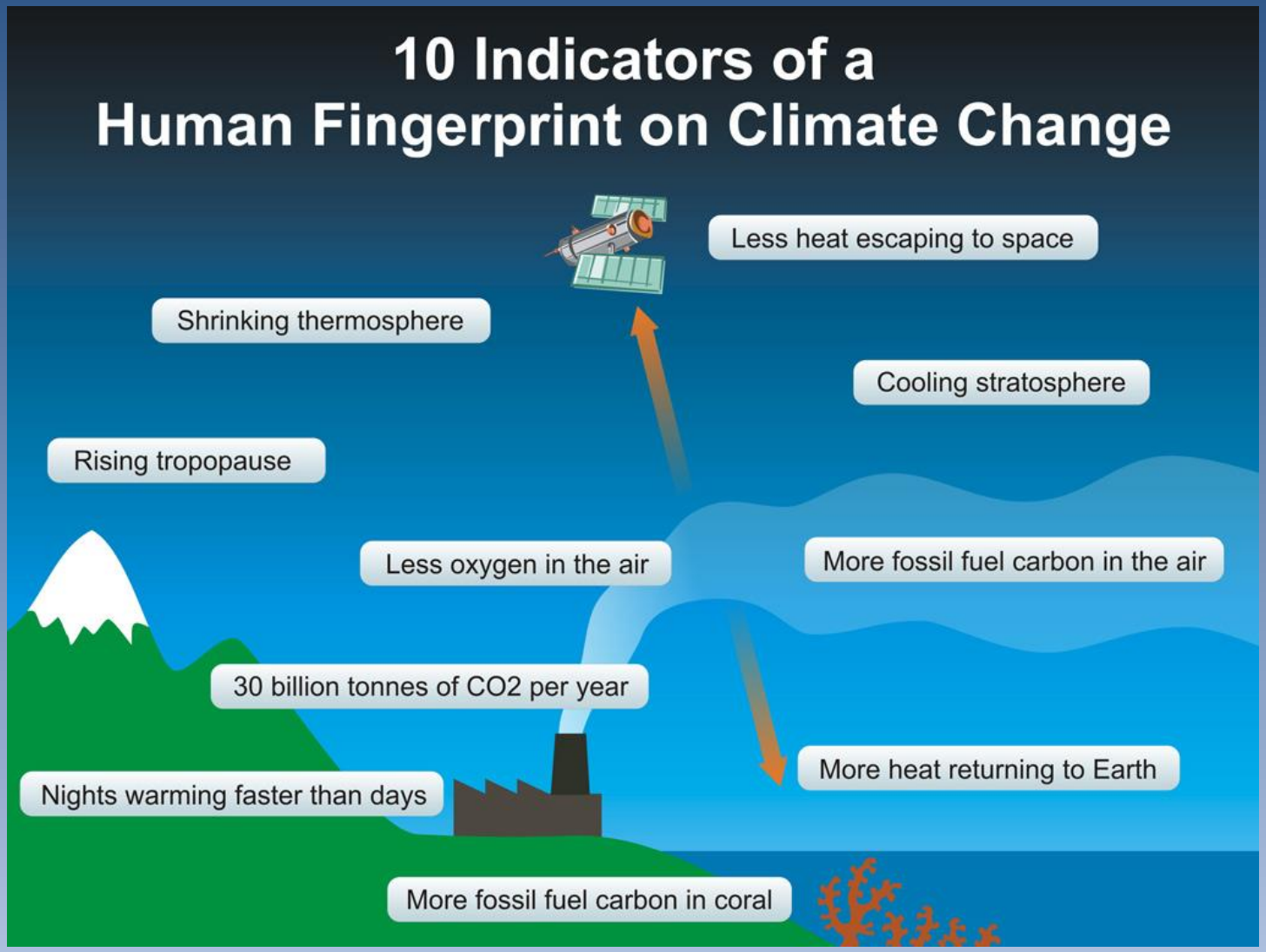
Principles that models are built on – view today
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYU2uawYPlE&feature=youtu.be

From the experts: Climate models – leaving it for you to view at your leisure:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZo1TYpsy2U&feature=youtu.be

NOAA's Science On a Sphere (SOS) http://sos.noaa.gov/What_is_SOS/index.html ; used at DMNS where I've been co-developing a climate change playlist, soon to be released. In the meantime see http://spaceodyssey.dmns.org/exhibitsprograms/interactives-exhibits/sos.aspx

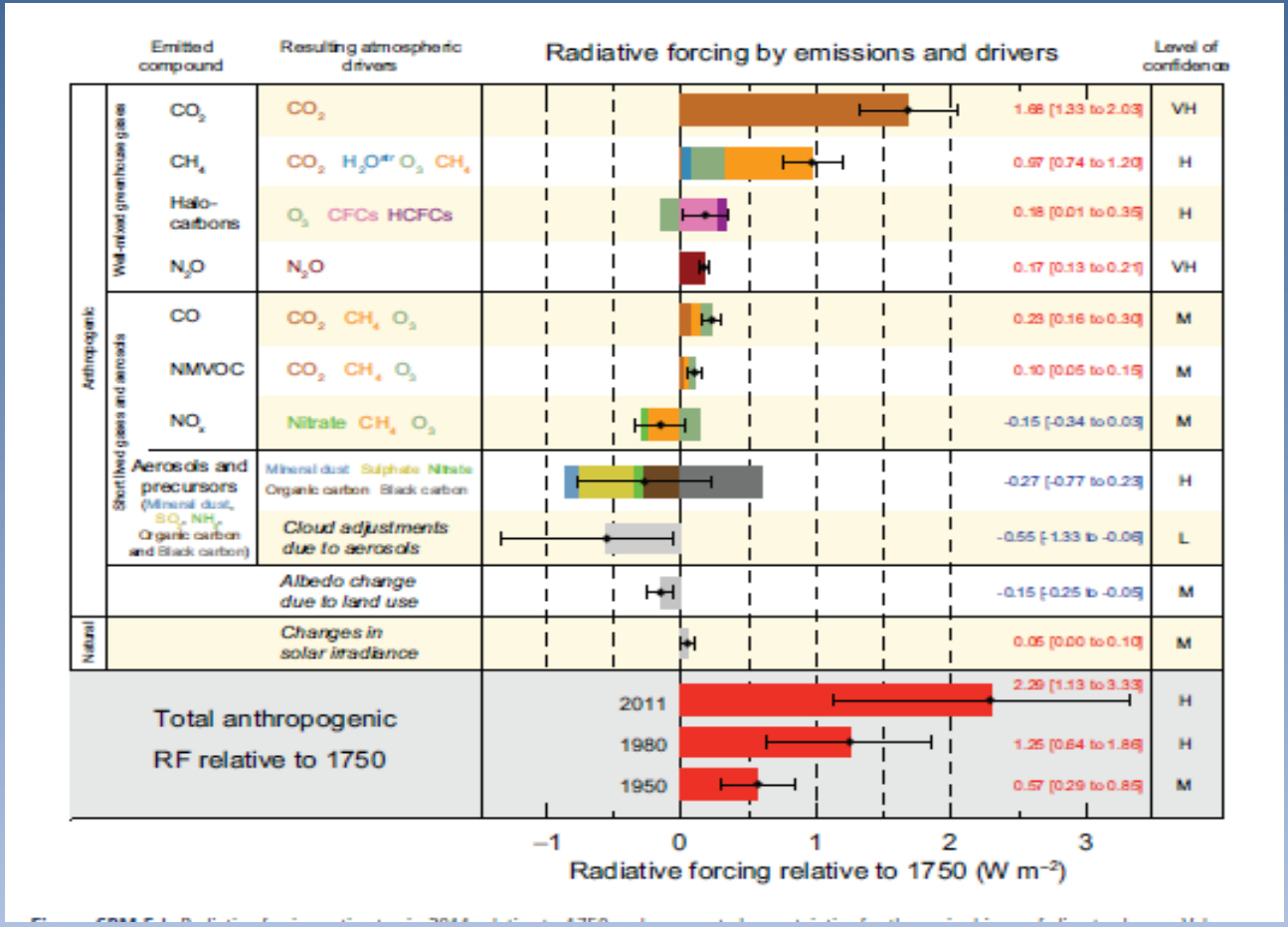
Full list of Videos from Skeptical Science

http://www.skepticalscience.com/denial101x-videos-and-references.html


10 Indicators of a
Human Fingerprint on Climate Change
Less heat escaping to space
Shrinking thermosphere
Cooling stratosphere
Rising tropopause
Less oxygen in the air
More fossil fuel carbon in the air
30 billion tonnes of CO2 per year
More heat returning to Earth
Nights warming faster than days
More fossil fuel carbon in coral

1: THE CLIMATE IS WARMING

- **Drivers, aka forcings (causes)**



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCC

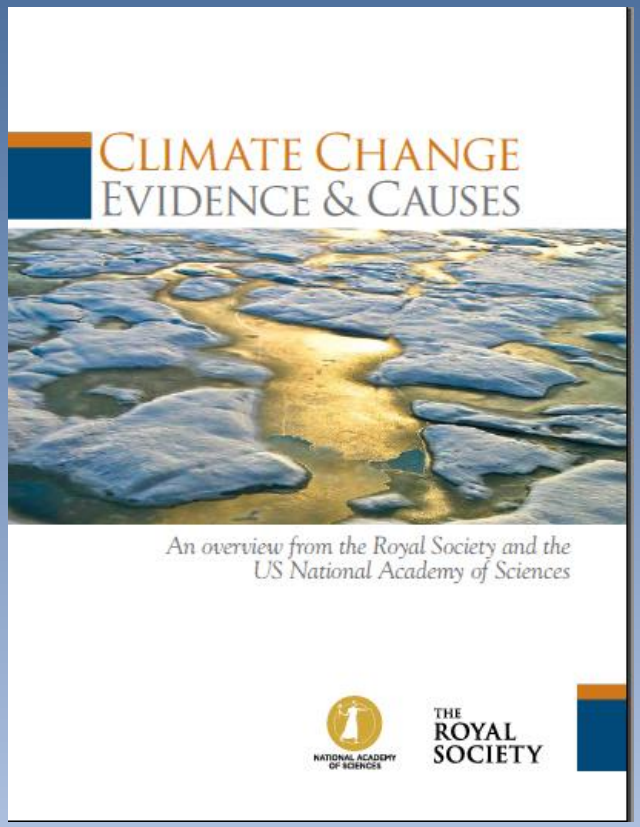
- http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/ - three working groups:
  1. WG I: Physical Science Basis – what we've been dealing with thusfar
     - Especially headlines for policy makers and chapters 5 (paleoclimate), 6 (Carbon) and 9 (models) that can be found at http://denverclimatestudygroup.com/?page_id=63
  2. WG II: Impacts, Adaptations and Vulnerability; Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects
  3. WG III: Mitigation of Climate change – in coming weeks

- Synthesis report – my other PowerPoint based on http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/

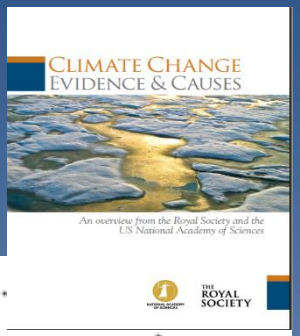
Joint U.S. National Academy of Science and Royal Society 20-point summary:

- OR: *Joint U.S. National Academy of Science and Royal Society 20-point summary: 20-point Climate-Change Summary (pdf) – summarized in the following 3 slides*

Joint U.S. National Academy of Science and Royal Society 20-point summary:



20
Q/As
to follow
this slide



1 Is the climate warming? .....

2 How do scientists know that recent climate change is largely caused by human activities? .....

3 CO_2 is already in the atmosphere naturally, so why are emissions from human activity significant? .....

4 What role has the Sun played in climate change in recent decades? .....

5 What do changes in the vertical structure of atmospheric temperature—from the surface up to the stratosphere—tell us about the causes of recent climate change? .....

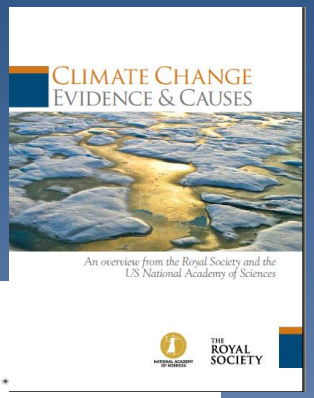
6 Climate is always changing. Why is climate change of concern now? .....

7 Is the current level of atmospheric CO_2 concentration unprecedented in Earth's history? .....

8 Is there a point at which adding more CO_2 will not cause further warming? .....

9 Does the rate of warming vary from one decade to another? .....

10 Does the recent slowdown of warming mean that climate change is no longer happening? .....



11 If the world is warming, why are some winters and summers still very cold?

12 Why is Arctic sea ice decreasing while Antarctic sea ice is not? .....

13 How does climate change affect the strength and frequency of floods, droughts, hurricanes, and tornadoes? .....

14 How fast is sea level rising? .....

15 What is ocean acidification and why does it matter? .....

16 How confident are scientists that Earth will warm further over the coming century? .....

17 Are climate changes of a few degrees a cause for concern? .....

18 What are scientists doing to address key uncertainties in our understanding of the climate system? .....

19 Are disaster scenarios about tipping points like 'turning off the Gulf Stream' and release of methane from the Arctic a cause for concern? .....

20 If emissions of greenhouse gases were stopped, would the climate return to the conditions of 200 years ago? .....

Joint U.S. National Academy of Science and Royal Society 20-point summary:

- FOR ANSWERS SEE MY OTHER PowerPoint

Joint U.S. National Academy of Science and Royal Society 20-point summary:

- OR: *Joint U.S. National Academy of Science and Royal Society 20-point summary: 20-point Climate-Change Summary (pdf) – summarized in the following 3 slides*

- If we are so concerned about leaving a national debt to our children and grandchildren, and BTW we should be, shouldn't we put the costs of climate change as part of that equation?
- For those that don't accept climate change maybe it would be a good thing to limit CO_2 into the atmosphere anyway, especially at the rates we are putting it into the atmosphere – BECAUSE OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION issues and the law of unintended consequences!

A Climate knowledge quiz:

- http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2014/0827/Climate-change-Is-your-opinion-informed-by-science-Take-our-quiz/