

A dramatic landscape with a red sky, snow-capped mountains, and a body of water with ice floes.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

ANALYSES

RISKS

OPPORTUNITIES

1

MUDELSEE



1970



ABI '81

ABI81



HERR MANFRED M U D E L S E E

geboren am 6.10.1962 in HEIDELBERG

hat sich am 1.6.1990

der Diplomprüfung im Studiengang **Physik**

an der Universität Heidelberg unterzogen

und in den einzelnen Prüfungsfächern folgende Urteile erhalten:

1. Experimentalphysik

SEHR GUT-GUT

PROF. K.O. MÜNNICH

2. Theoretische Physik

SEHR GUT

PROF. H.A. WEIDENMÜLLER

3. Wahlfach (Physik)

SEHR GUT-GUT

PROF. W. ROEDEL

4. CHEMIE

SEHR GUT-GUT

PROF. G. WOLF

5. Diplomarbeit

SEHR GUT

PROF. K.O. MÜNNICH

PROF. U. PLATT

Das Thema der Diplomarbeit lautete:

ESR-DATIERUNG KARBONATHALTIGER, QUARTÄRER TIEFSEESSEDIMENTE

1992



1997



PERGAMON

Computers & Geosciences 26 (2000) 293–307

**COMPUTERS &
GEOSCIENCES**

Ramp function regression: a tool for quantifying climate transitions[☆]

Manfred Mudelsee*

Institute of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Kent, Canterbury CT2 7NF, UK

Received 16 March 1999; received in revised form 15 September 1999; accepted 15 September 1999

2003

letters to nature

.....

No upward trends in the occurrence of extreme floods in central Europe

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& Uwe Grünewald²**

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.....

2024

Journal of Water & Climate Change

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Are extreme floods on the Danube River becoming more frequent? A case study of Bratislava station

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Atmospheric and Oceanographic Sciences Library 51

Manfred Mudelsee

Climate Time Series Analysis

Classical Statistical and Bootstrap Methods

Second Edition

 Springer

www.climate-risk-analysis.com

51st Online Course
20–24 January 2025

2

MESSAGE



**CLIMATE MITIGATION
REMAINS IMPORTANT.**

**ADAPTATION BECOMES
MORE IMPORTANT.**

3

CARBON DIOXIDE



CARBON

loves bondages:
photosynthesis
combustion, CO_2

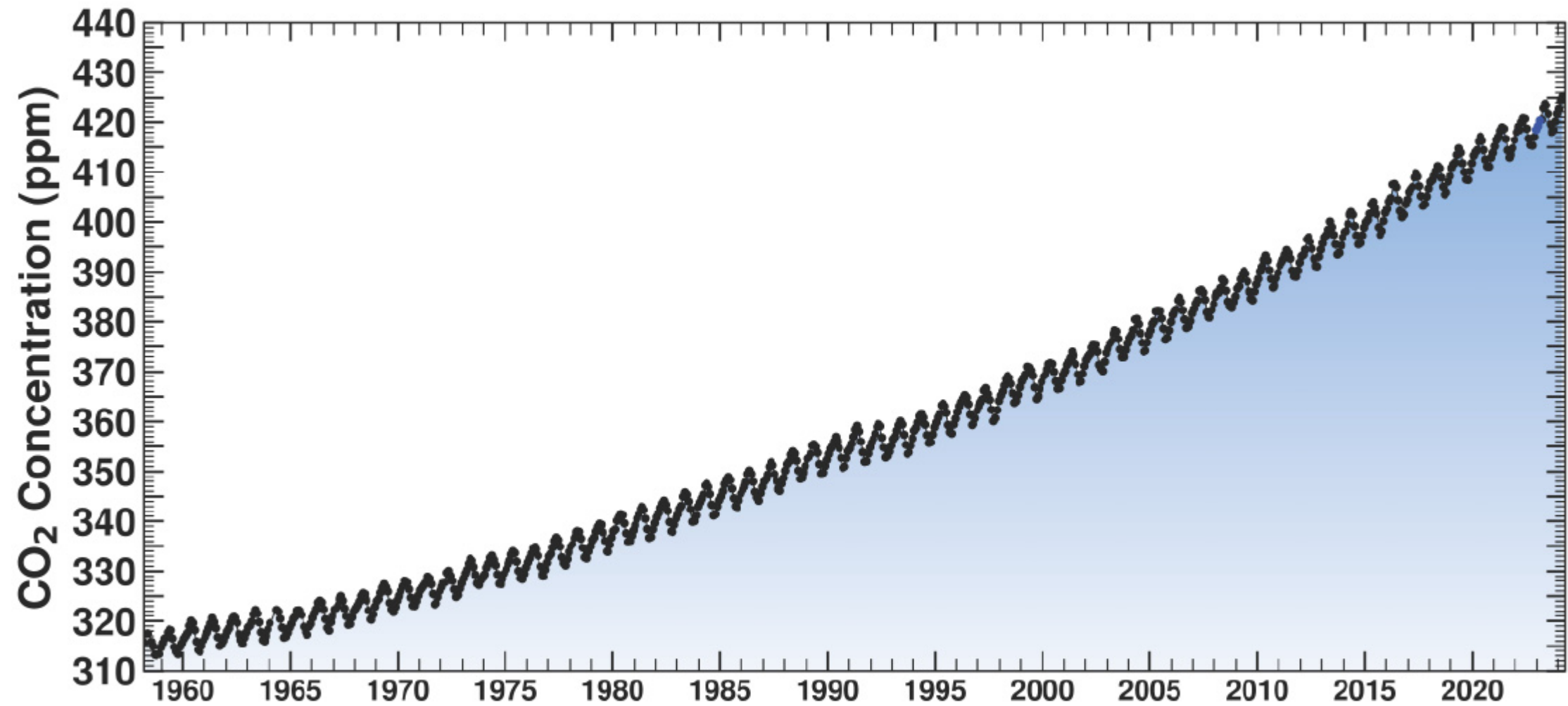
carbon dioxide = CO₂

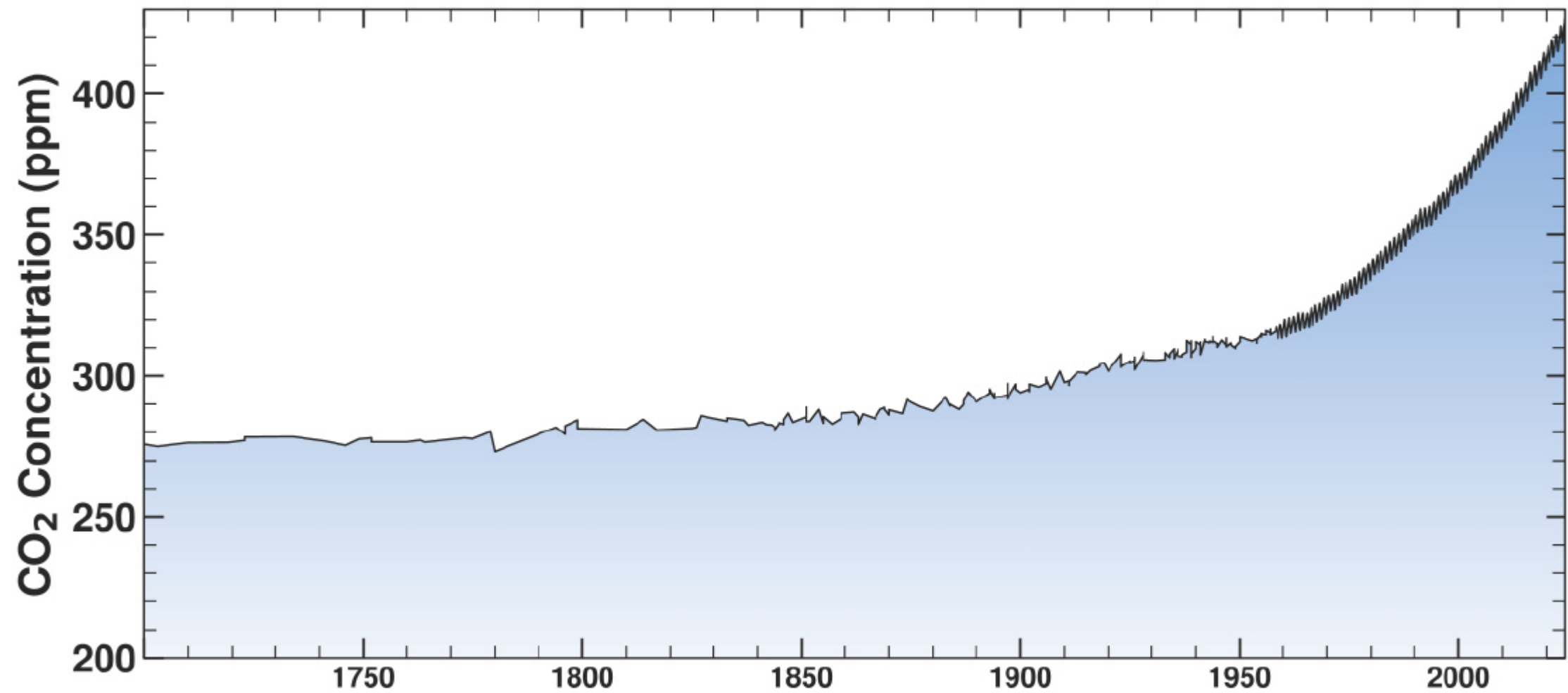
The atmospheric concentration shows

annual variations (biology)

and

decadal upwards trend (fossil fuels)





ppm = parts per million

429 ppm (April 2024):

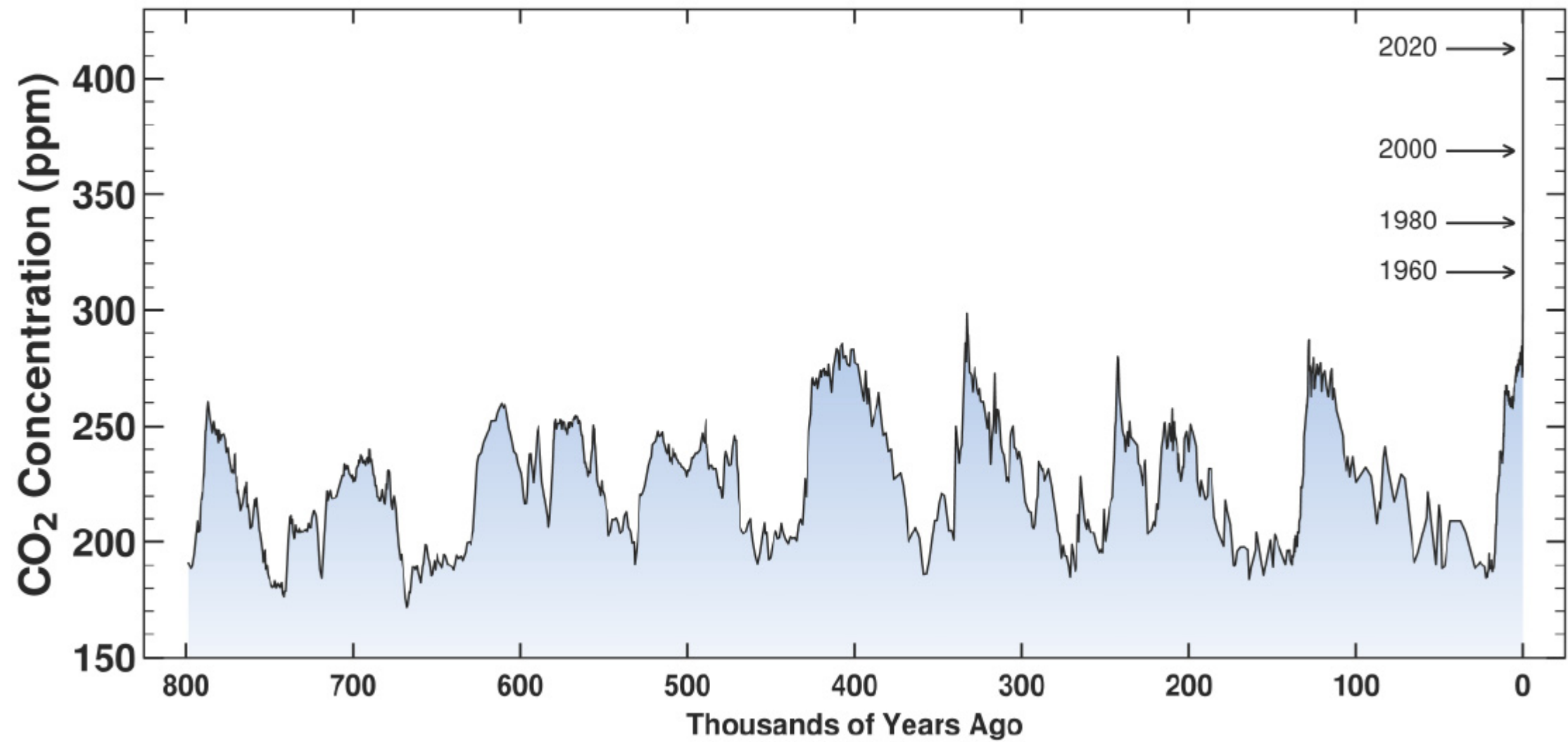
out of 1 million air particles (N_2 , O_2 , Ar, CO_2 , ...)

429 are CO_2

**The atmospheric concentration shows
on long timescales
(past 800 thousand years)**

**climatic variations (ice ages)
and also that**

**the current value of 429 ppm has by no
means ever been reached before.**





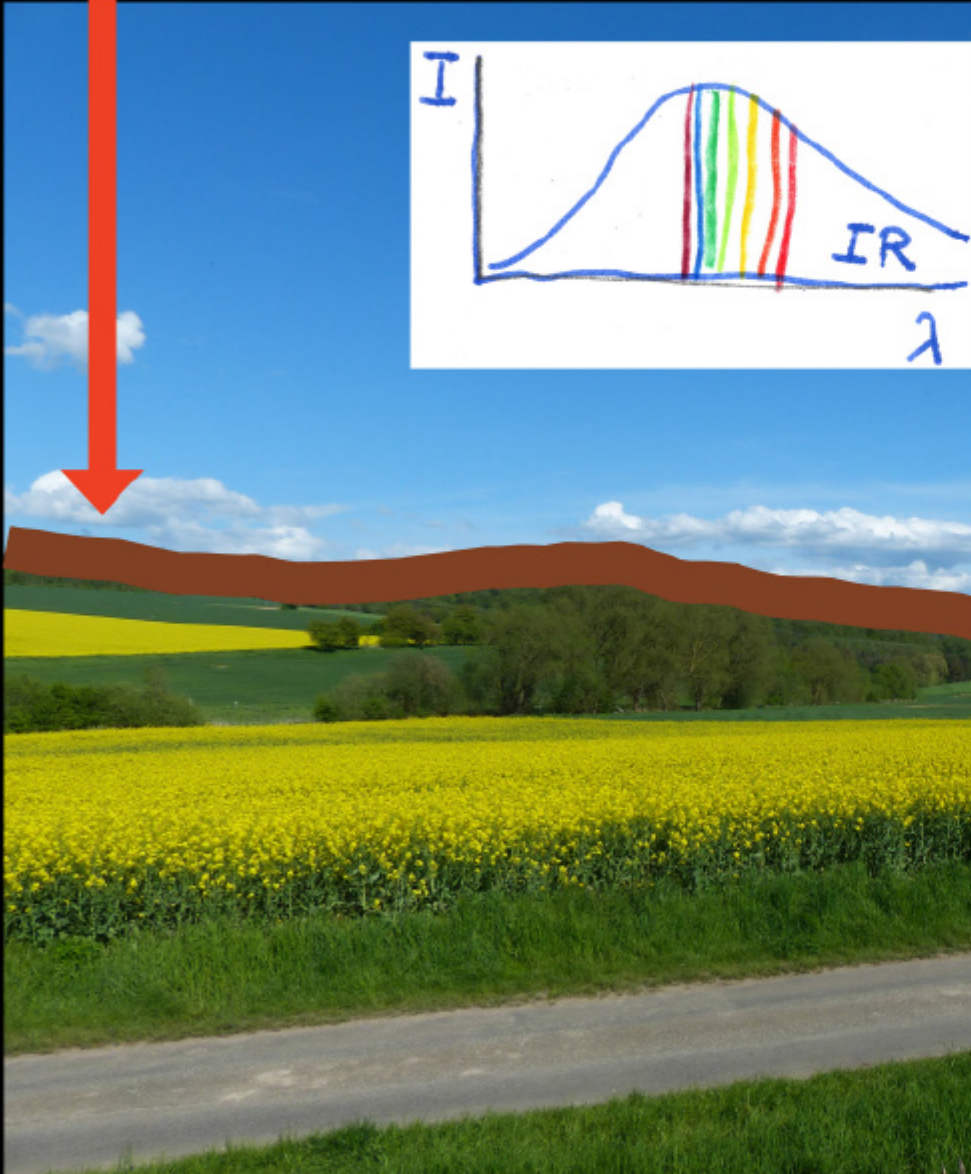
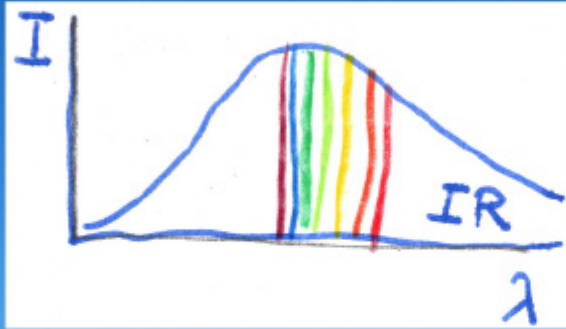
4

TEMPERATURE

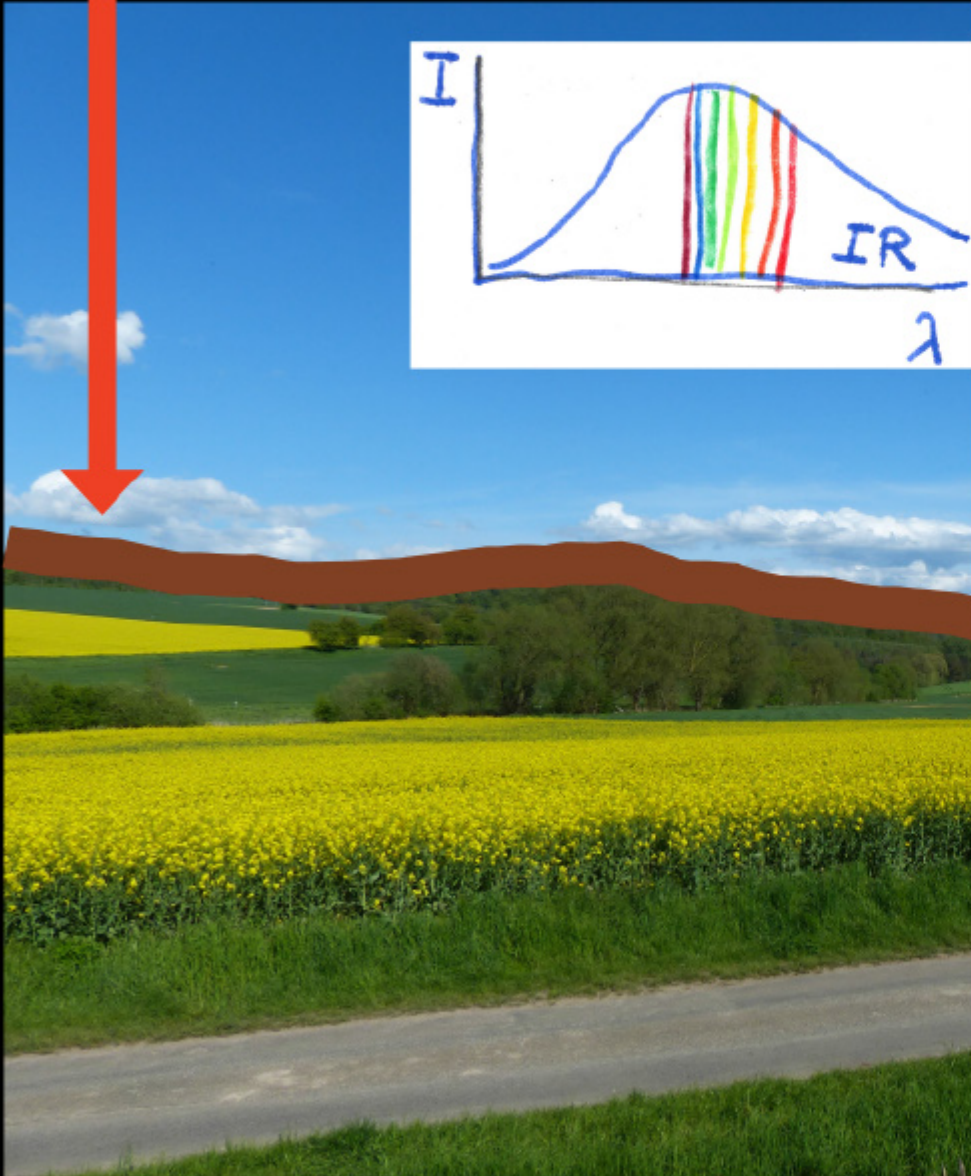




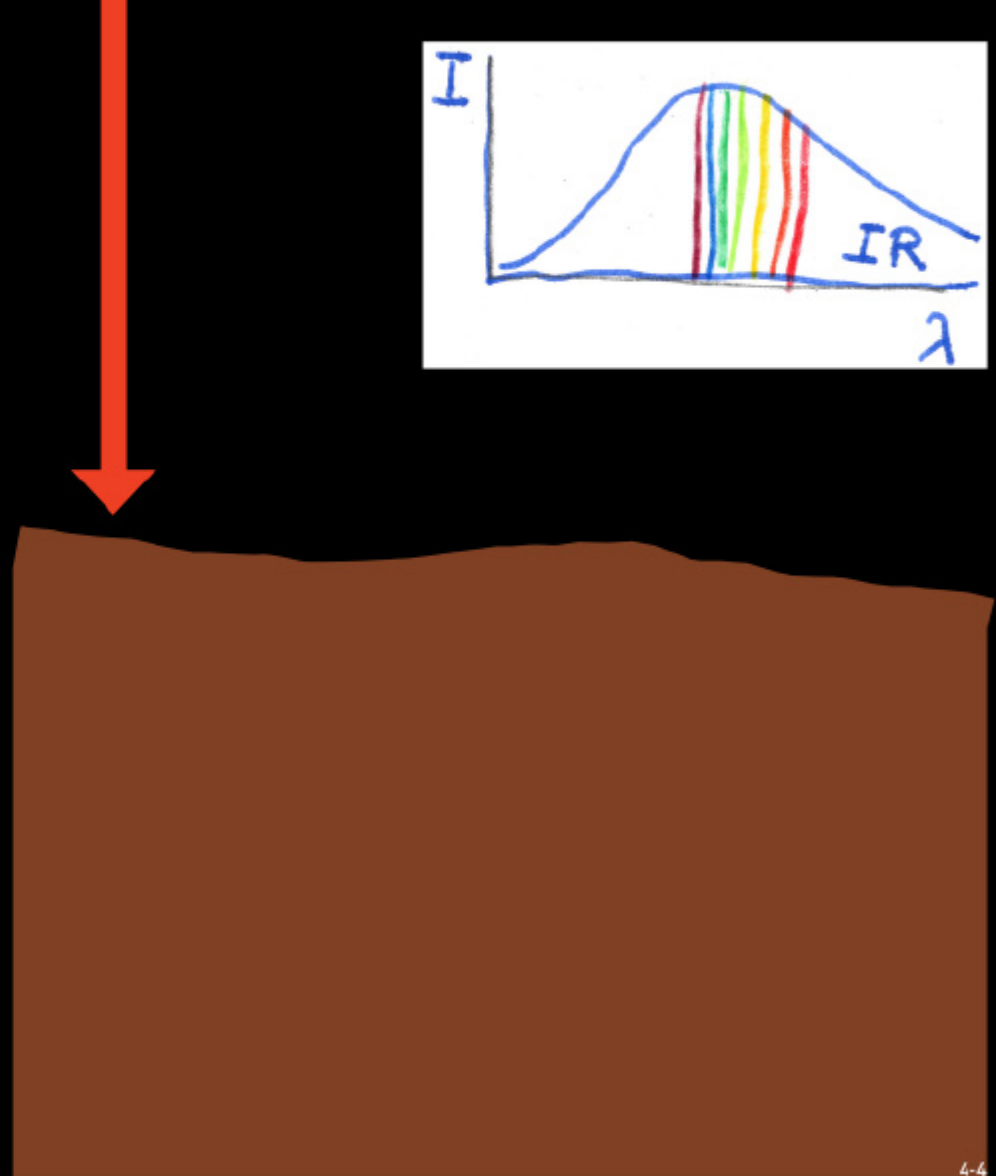
5500 °C



5500 °C

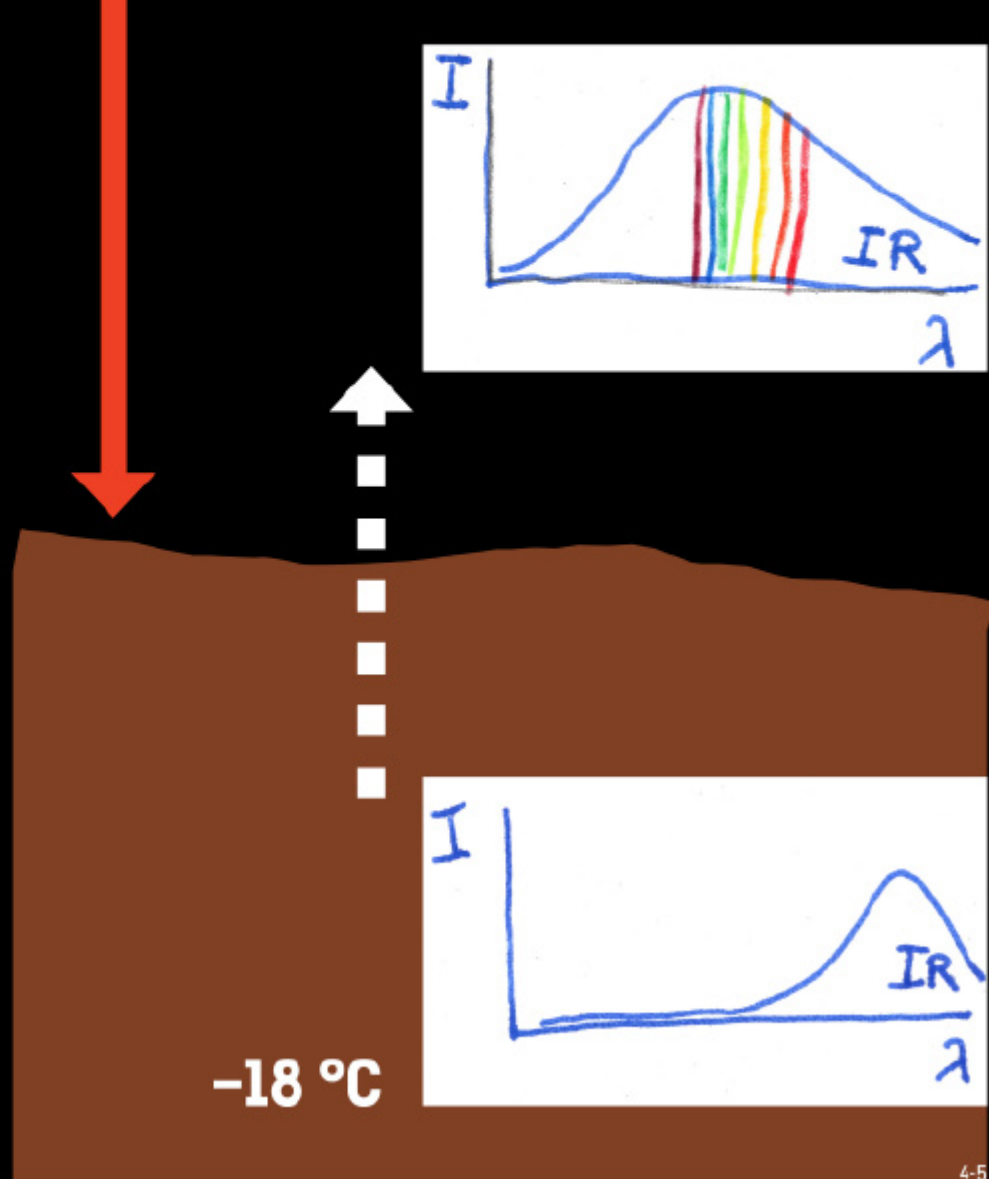
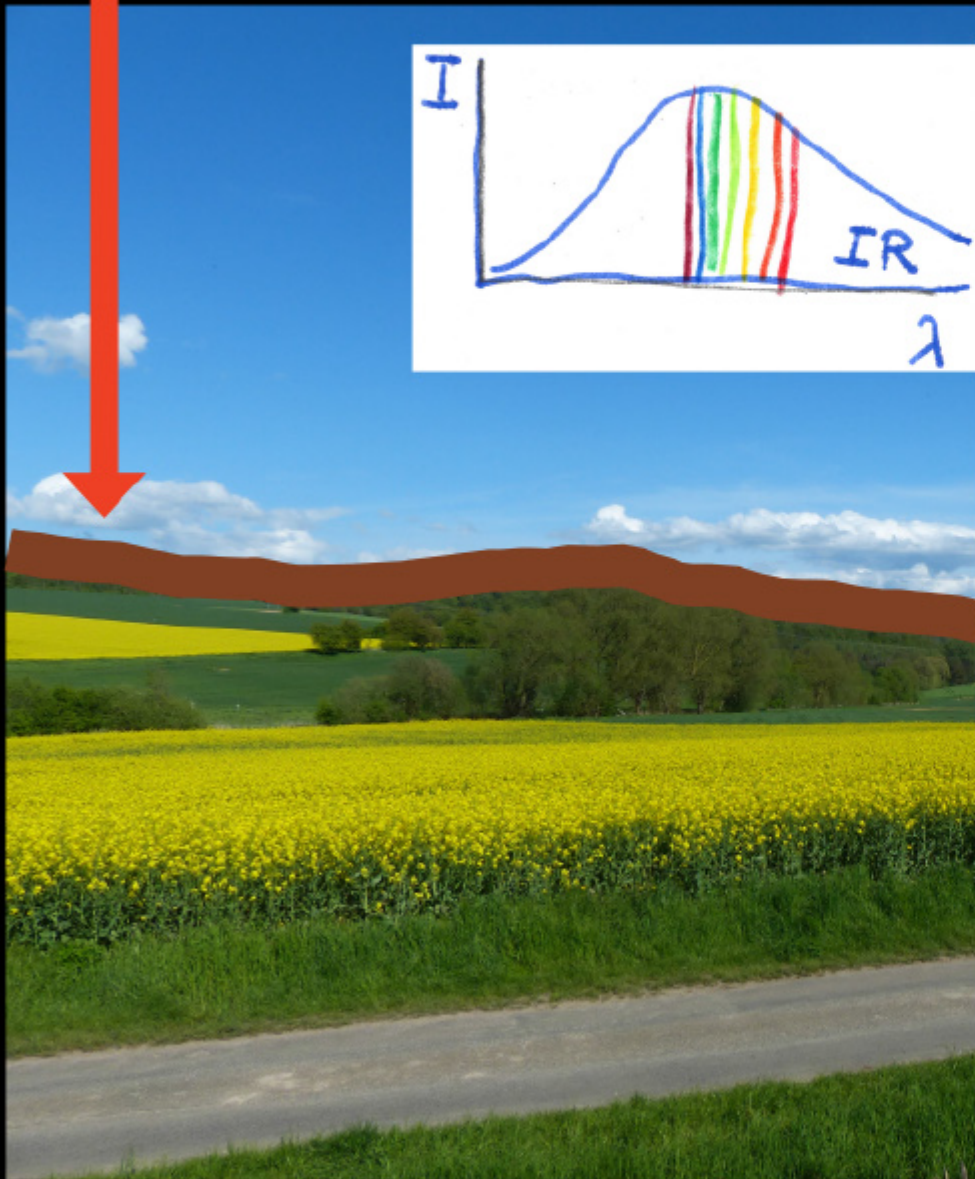


5500 °C



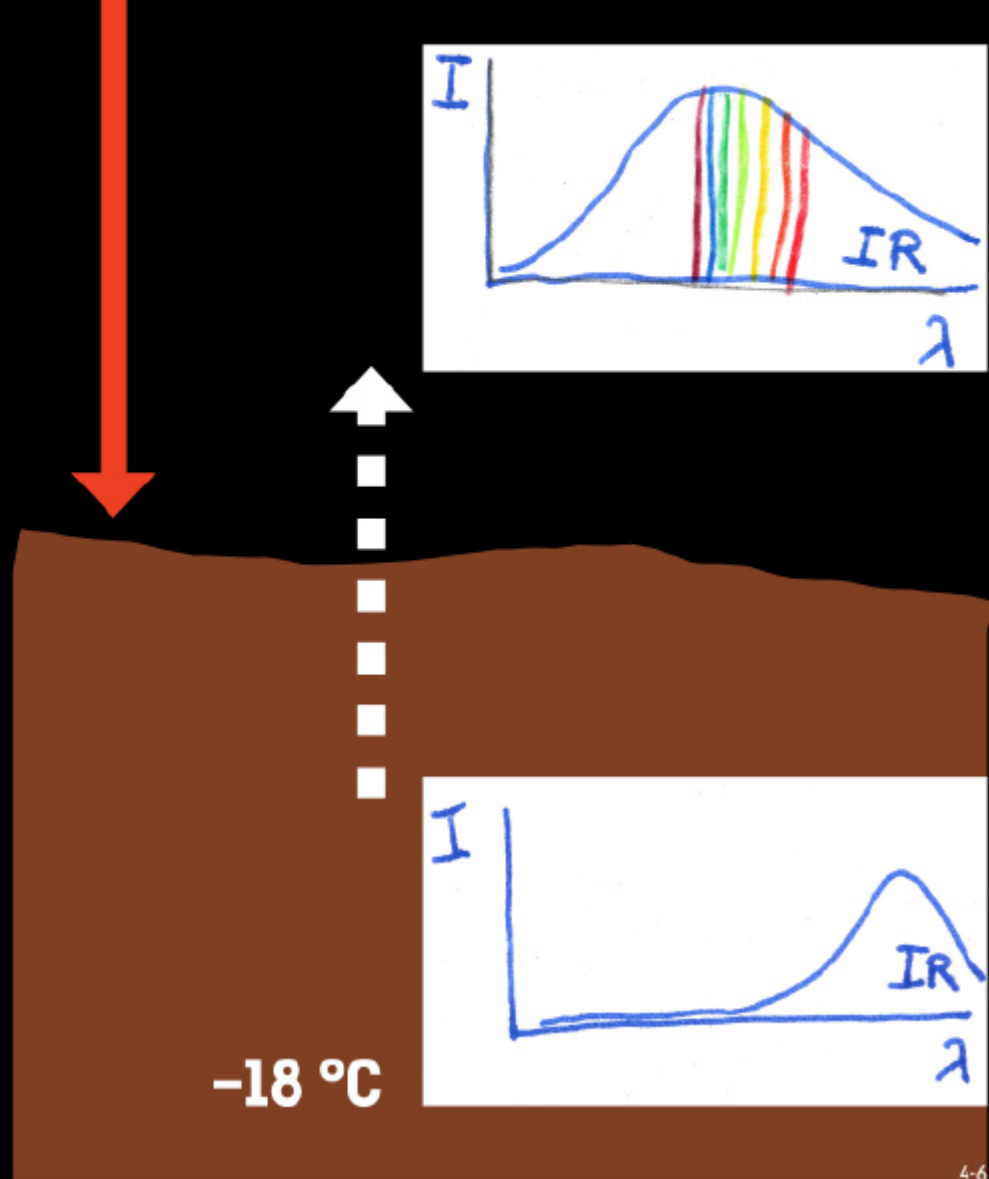
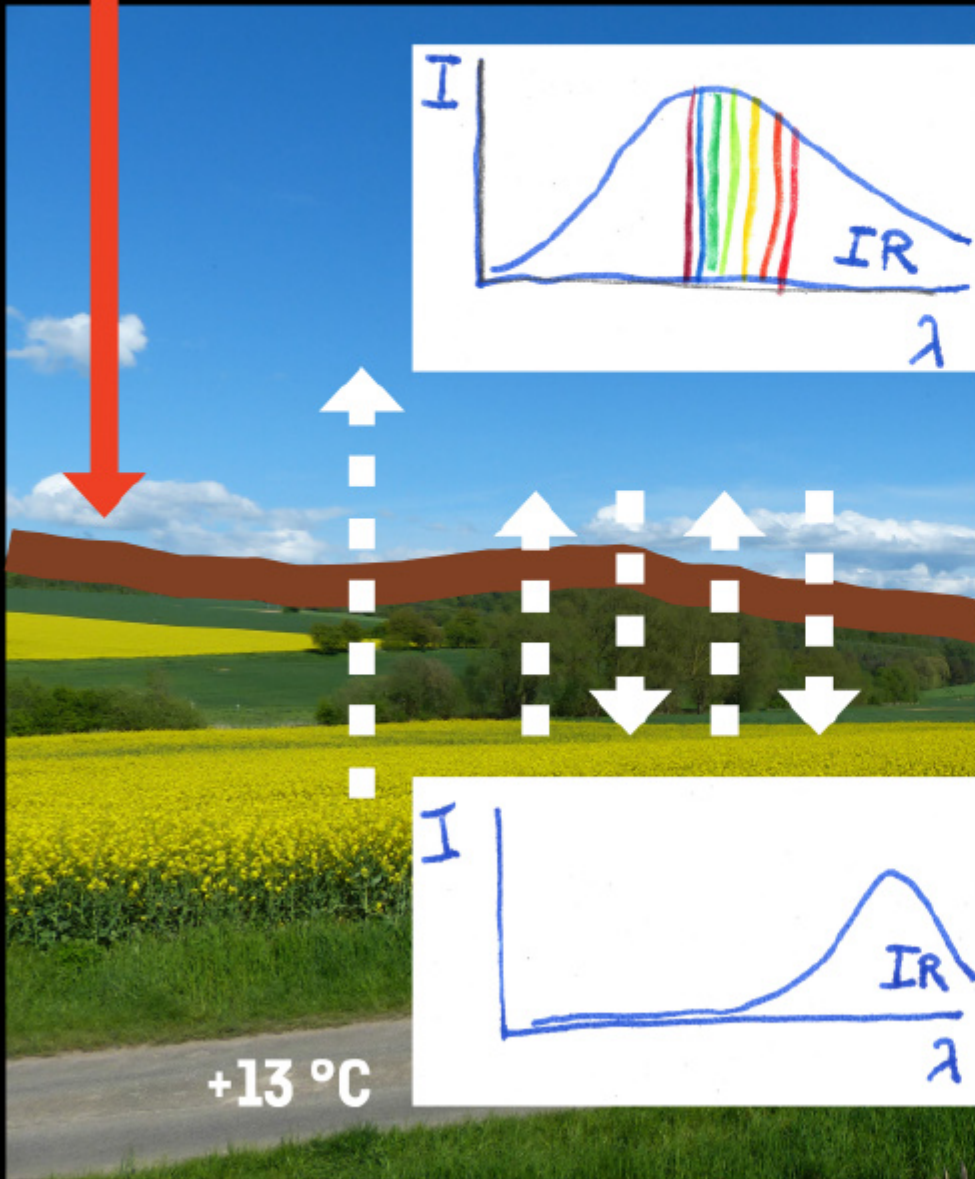
5500 °C

5500 °C

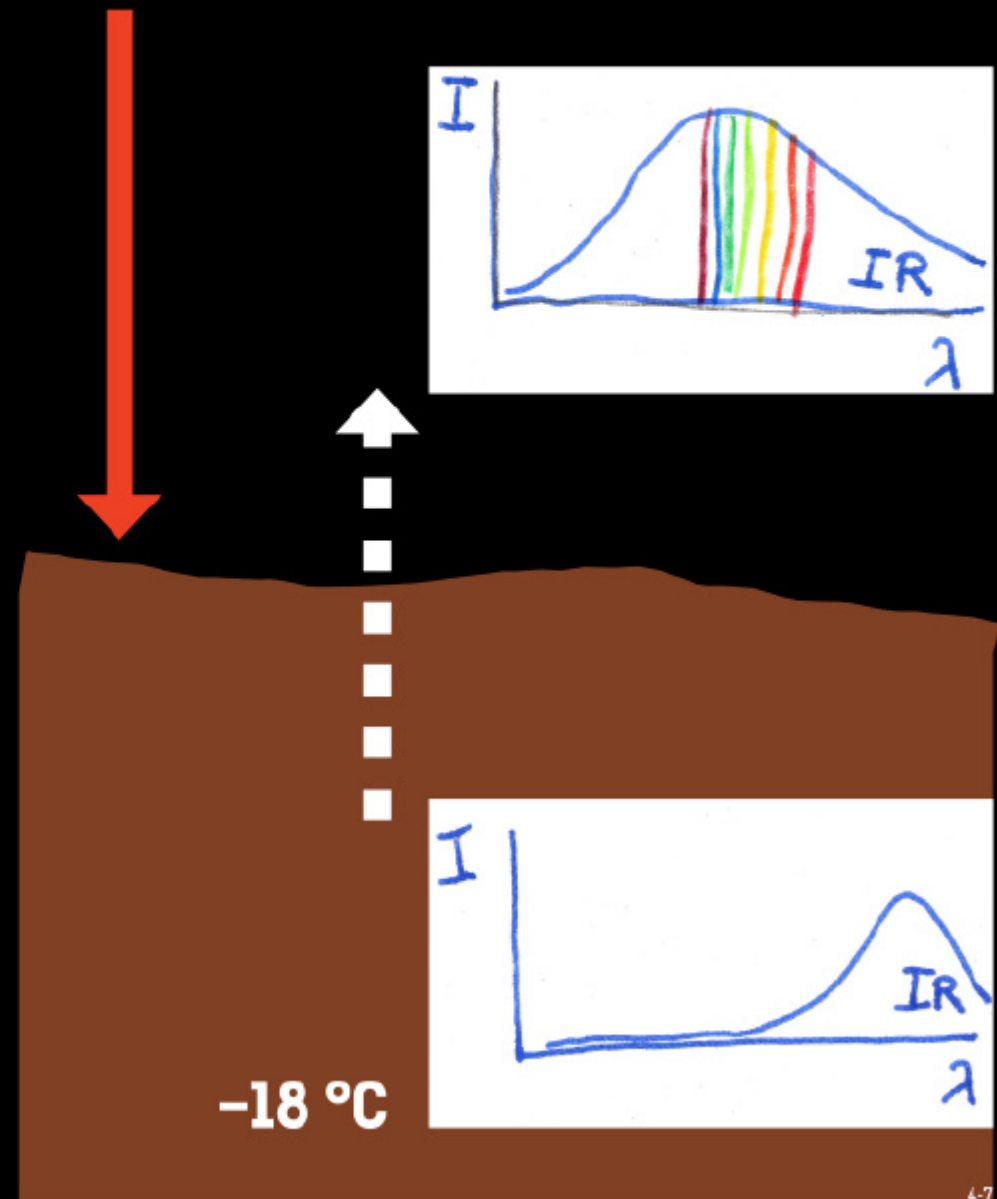
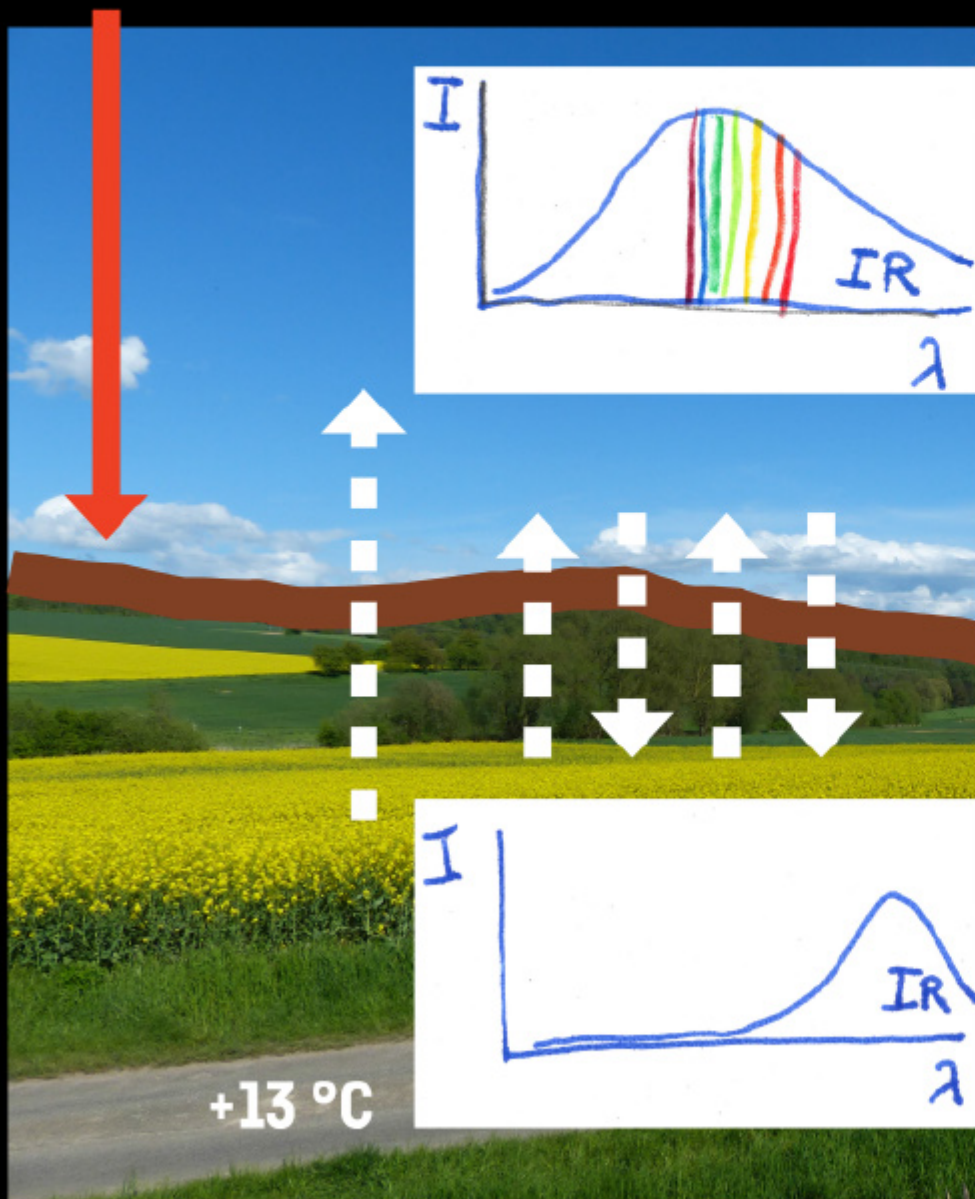


5500 °C

5500 °C



NATURAL GREENHOUSE EFFECT



NATURAL GREENHOUSE EFFECT

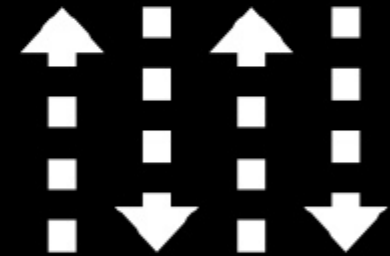
Greenhouse gases (H_2O , CO_2 , CH_4 , ...),

transparent to visible light,

barely transparent to infrared,

lead to

increased back-and-forth radiation



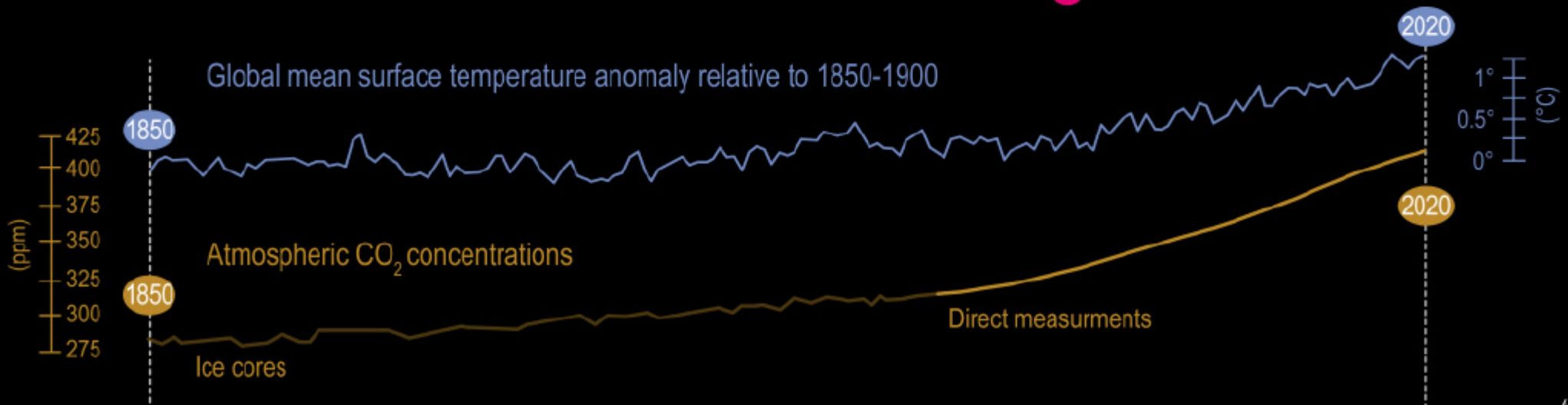
(i.e., an increase in the surface-air temperature),

until a steady state (net zero) is reached.

ANTHROPOGENIC GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Additional, greenhouse gas concentrations
[CO₂, CH₄, ...],
which have increased since industrialization,
lead to

additional warming.



COMMUNITY

Isaac Newton 1643–1727
Light, Spectrum



Friedrich Wilhelm Herschel 1738–1822
Infrared light



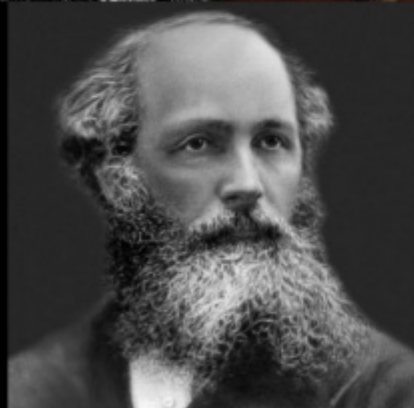
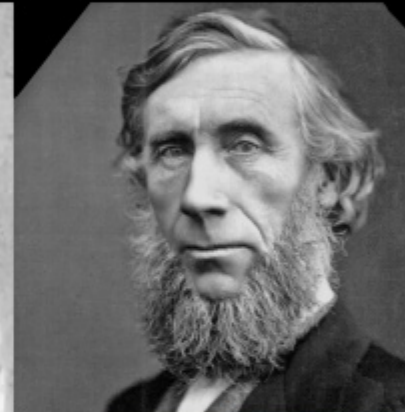
Joseph Fourier 1768–1830
Greenhouse analogy, Radiation balance



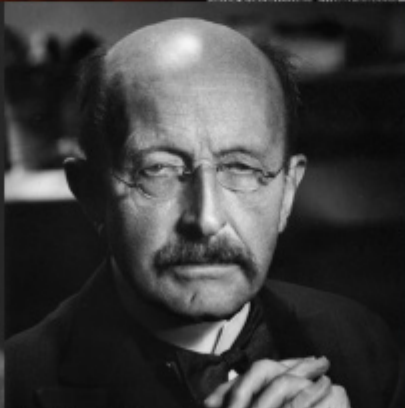
Eunice Newton Foote 1819–1888
Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas



John Tyndall 1820–1893
Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas in the infrared



James Clerk Maxwell 1831–1879
Electrodynamics



Max Planck 1858–1947
Radiation law



Svante Arrhenius 1859–1927
Calculations of climate sensitivity, Ice ages



Guy Stewart Callendar 1898–1964
Measurements of climate sensitivity, Prediction



Valerie Masson-Delmotte 1971–
IPCC, Prediction



IPCC

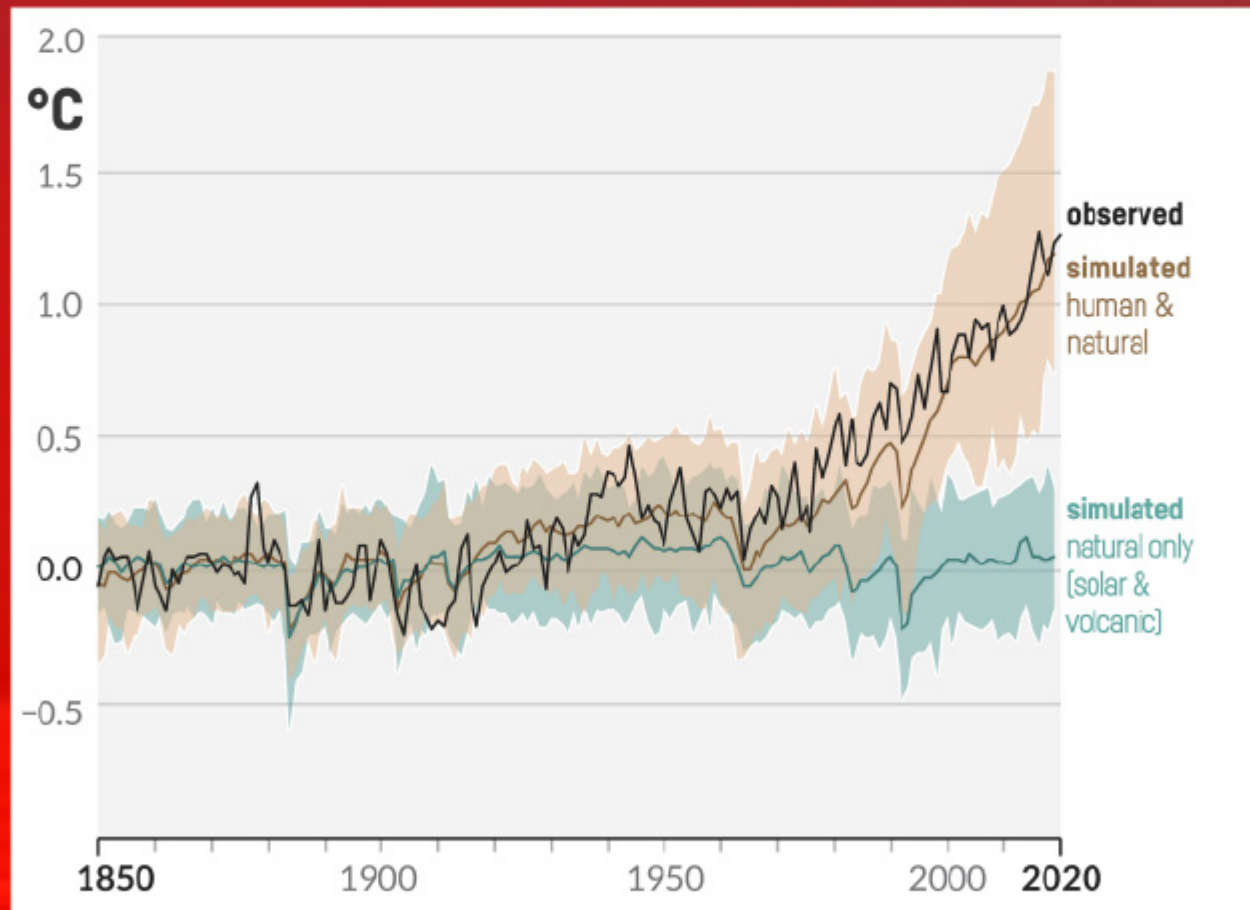
GLOBAL WARMING

**THERE ARE FURTHER NATURAL
TEMPERATURE CHANGES:**

**solar insolation
volcanic activity
internal variations**

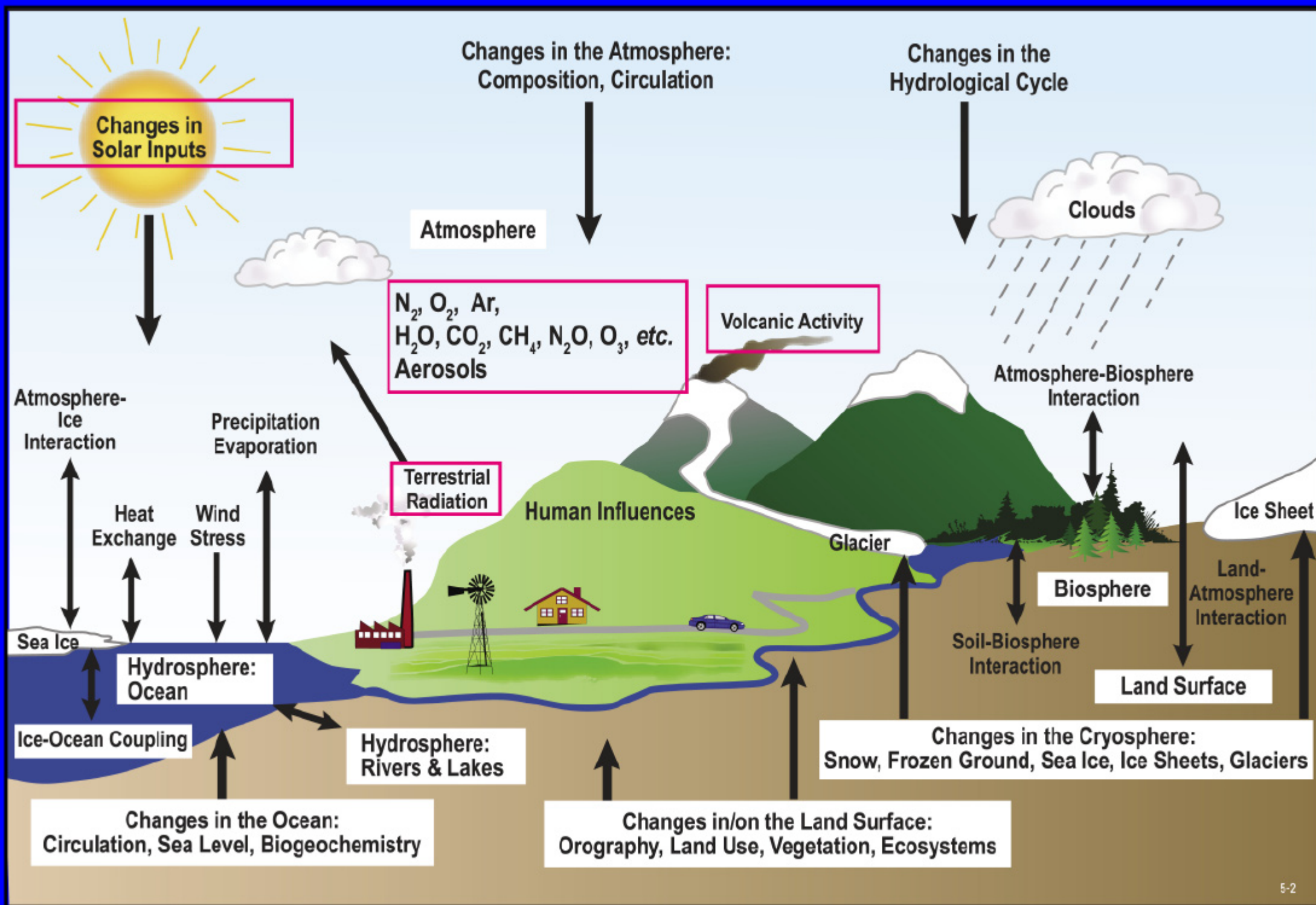
GLOBAL WARMING

Global mean surface air temperature anomaly relative to 1850–1900



5

CLIMATE CHANGE



MODERN VIEW (CLIMATE)

SYSTEM (NOT JUST ATMOSPHERE)

**Climate variables: CO₂, Temperature,
Precipitation,
Wind speed,
Runoff, ...**

MODERN VIEW (CLIMATE)

SEPARATION WEATHER-CLIMATE (30 YEARS)

ARBITRARY/IRRELEVANT

MODERN VIEW (CLIMATE)

VARIATIONS AT ALL SCALES

Space: global, regional, local

Time: deep time (back to 4.55 billion years)
instrumental period (since 1659)
future

Indices: average, extremes, ...



6

ANALYSIS I

FLOODS

An aerial photograph of a large body of blue water, likely a lake or reservoir, with a sandy beach visible at the bottom right. The water has a textured, rippled surface. The date '17 August 2002' is overlaid in large white text at the top.

17 August 2002



17 August 2002

Dresden, Elbe

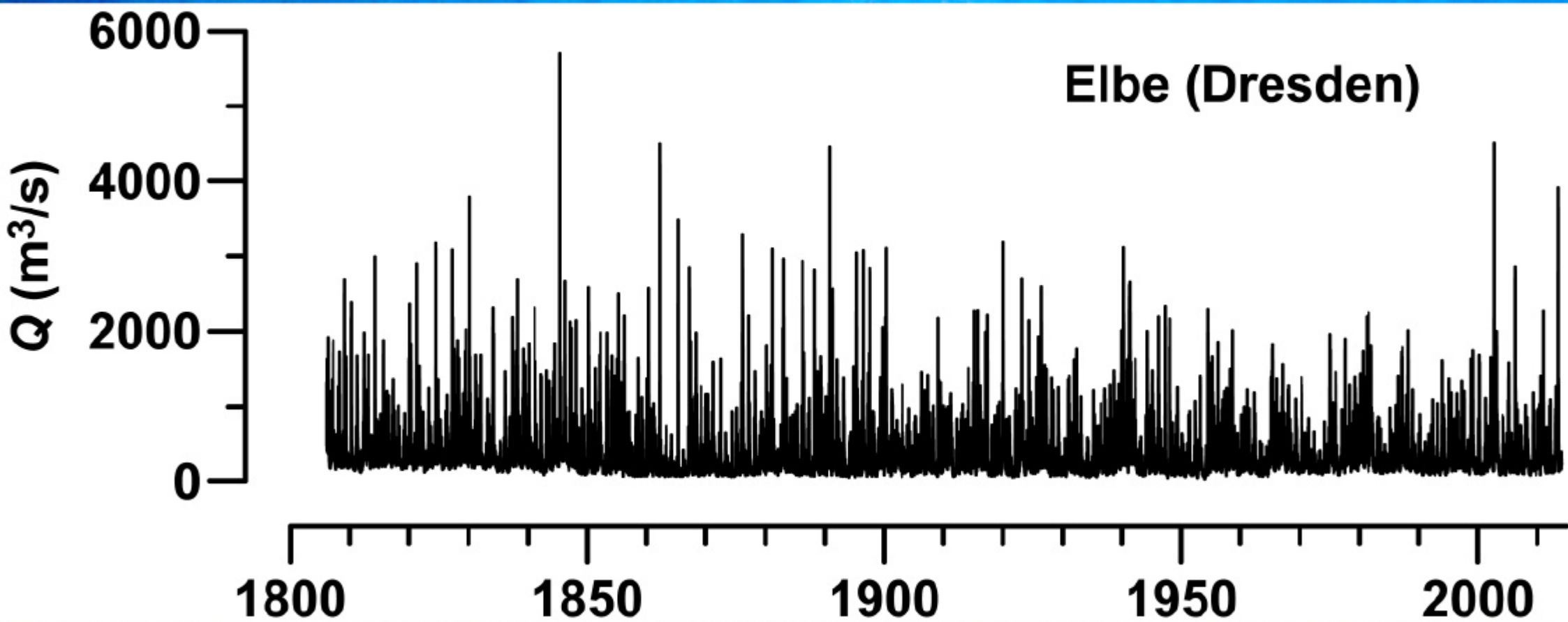
$Q = 4500 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$

August 2002

Germany

€11.6 billion





**How was it like further
back in the past?**

**Historical climate
documents**

1784 & 28. - 29. Febr. & Meißen & Elbe: Eisgang u. Überschwemmung & & 1 & I, 5: 370 (2934)

Elbe. 28. Febr. 11 Uhr abends brach das Eis und trieb anfänglich bey zwar ziemlich heranwachsendem Wasser, welches am folgenden Tag [= 29. Febr.] früh schon hier und da in die Stadt trat, ganz ruhig, obgleich sehr gedrange fort, ..., bis um 9 Uhr, um welche Zeit auf einmal die reissende Fluth mit dem Eise, und was sie sonst bei sich führte, durch die Vorstadt zum Fleischer- und Jüdenthore in die Stadt hinein brach, und so über den kleinen Markt durch die Gassen, ..., rauschte. Diese traurige Periode hielt zunehmend bis um 11 Uhr des Vormittags an, in welcher Zeit die großen Eisschollen auch schon der Brücke, ..., dermaßen zusezten. Der Wasserwuchs dieser wüthenden Fluth dauerte, wie gesagt, bis 11 Uhr, alsdann fiel solcher wieder, bis des Nachmittags um 4 Uhr 1 Elle 12 Zoll, aber in einer Stunde darauf stellte sie sich von neuem, und fast noch schneller ein, ... Das Wasser stund aller Orten 3, 4, 5-6 Ellen hoch. Beyde Vorstädte, sowohl vor dem Fleischer- und Jüden- als vor dem Wasserthore, die Wasserburg und die Fischergasse, ..., stunden völlig, ..., zu 4-6 Ellen hoch unter Wasser ..., der Fleischersteg genannt, über die Triebisch, ward bald von der wilden Fluth eingestürzt. Die Stadt selbst stund außer dem großen Markte, der Burggasse und der Rosengasse bey der Stadtkirche, völlig eben so hoch unter Wasser. Das Jüdenthor bedeckte es völlig, und wenigstens noch eine Elle darüber. [9 Personen ertrunken]. **Größte Höhe der Fluth: 12 Ellen 10 Zoll.** Das Wasser stand in der Kirche 1 reichliche Elle höher als drittehalbe Ellen.

(C. G. Poetzsch 1784 "Chronolog. Geschichte d. großen Wasserfluthen d. Elbstroms etc." S. 150/53 u. 159.)

1784 & 28. - 29. Febr. & Dresden & Elbe: Eisgang u. Hochwasser & & 1 & I, 5: 370 (2935)

Elbe. Vormittags rührte sich auch das Eis hinter der Brücke und schob sich sehr ruhig, bis unter die Stadt hinunter; allein oberhalb derselben blieb es noch unbeweglich stehen. Des Nachmittags fiel sogar das Wasser wieder 9 Zoll, folglich bis an 1 Elle 15 Zoll herunter. 9 Uhr abends erfolgte der Aufbruch. Dieser gewaltige Aufbruch mit einem fast unglaublich schnellen Anwuchse des Wassers war erschrecklich.

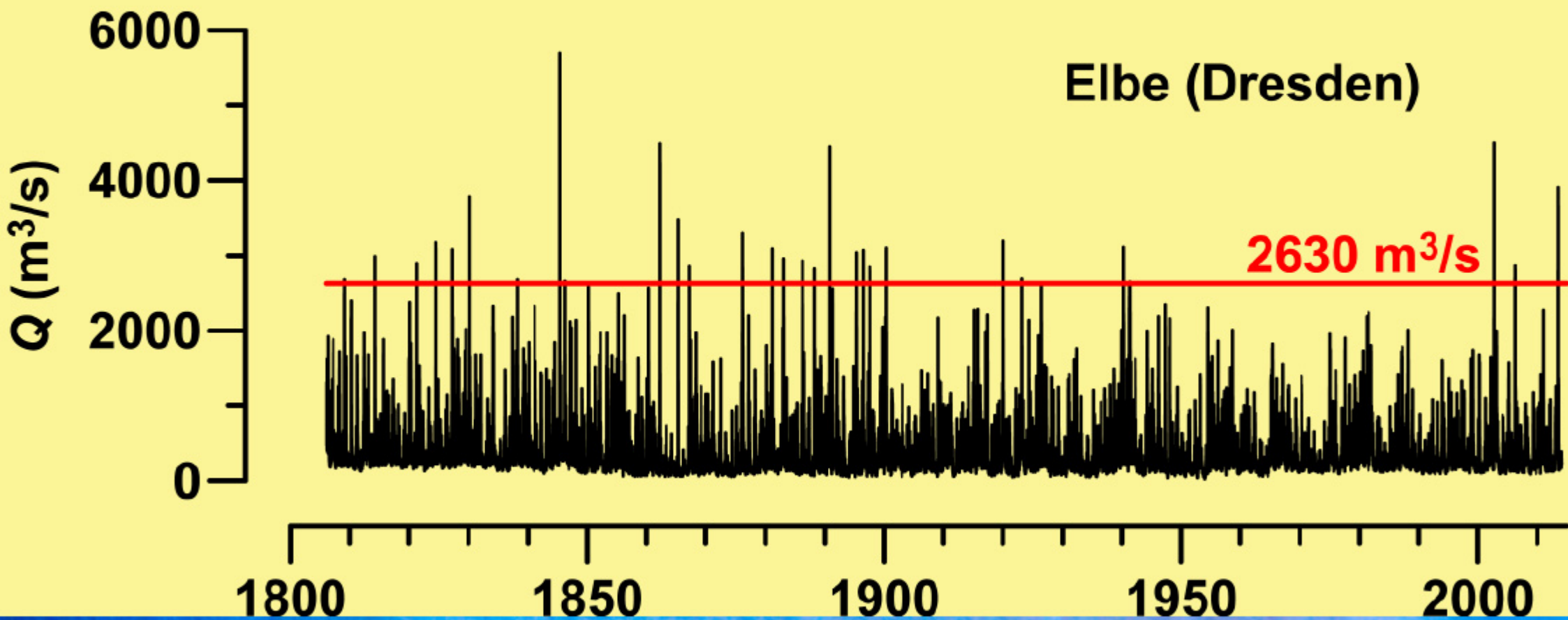
(C. G. Poetzsch 1784 "Chronolog. Geschichte d. großen Wasserfluthen d. Elbstroms etc." S. 117 u. 136.)

1784 & 28. - 29. Febr. & Dresden & Elbe: Eisgang u. Hochwasser & & 2 & I, 5: 370 (2936)

Es bricht die Elbe auf und wächst von 3 auf 9 Ellen Höhe mit unbegreiflicher Schnelligkeit.

(Dr. G. Klemm "Chronik d. etc. Residenzstadt Dresden", edid. P. G. Hilscher 1837. II. S. 513.)

(Fr. W. Pohle 1886 "Chronik von Loschwitz" S. 77. u. S. 79.)



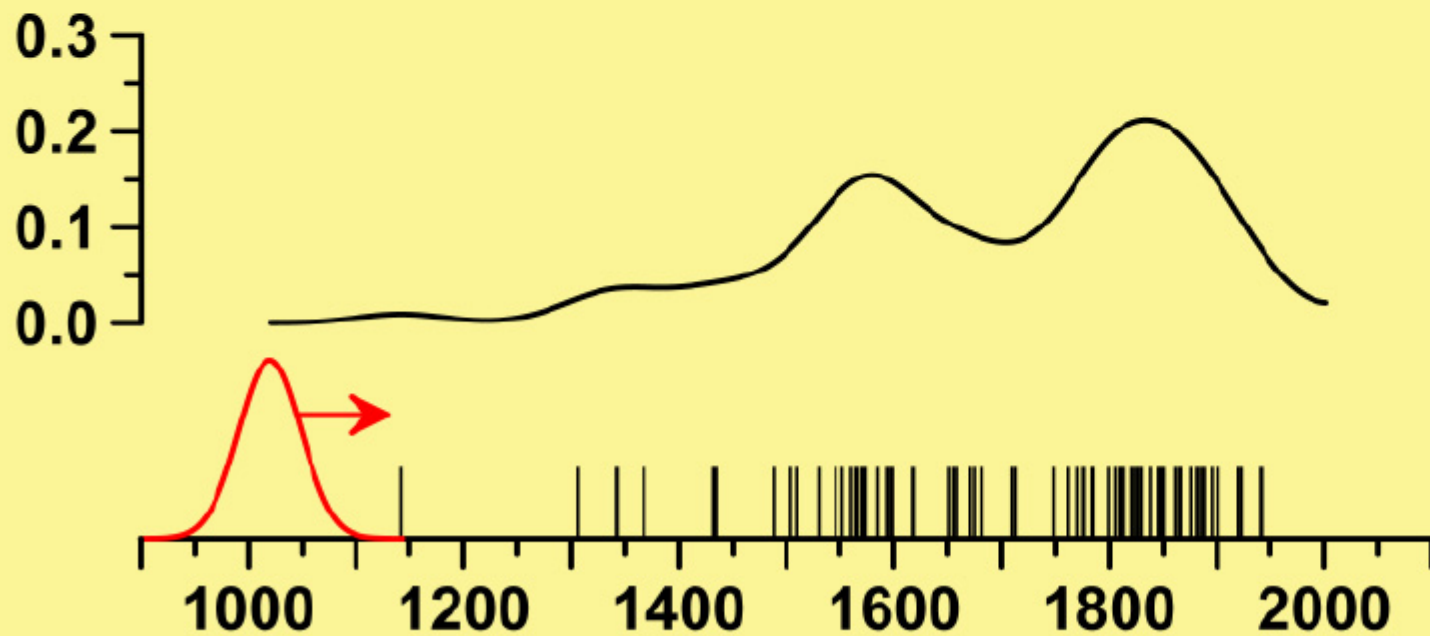
Middle Elbe

Heavy floods (above 2630 m³/s)

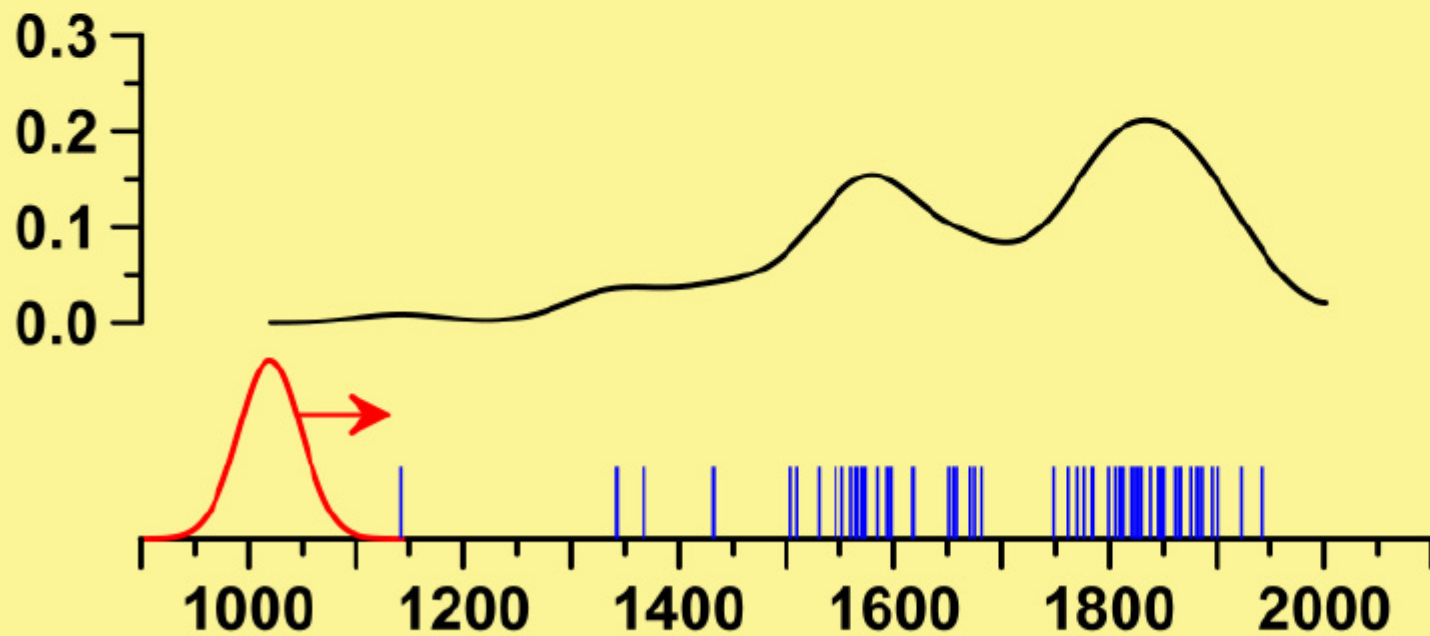
Winter (November to April)



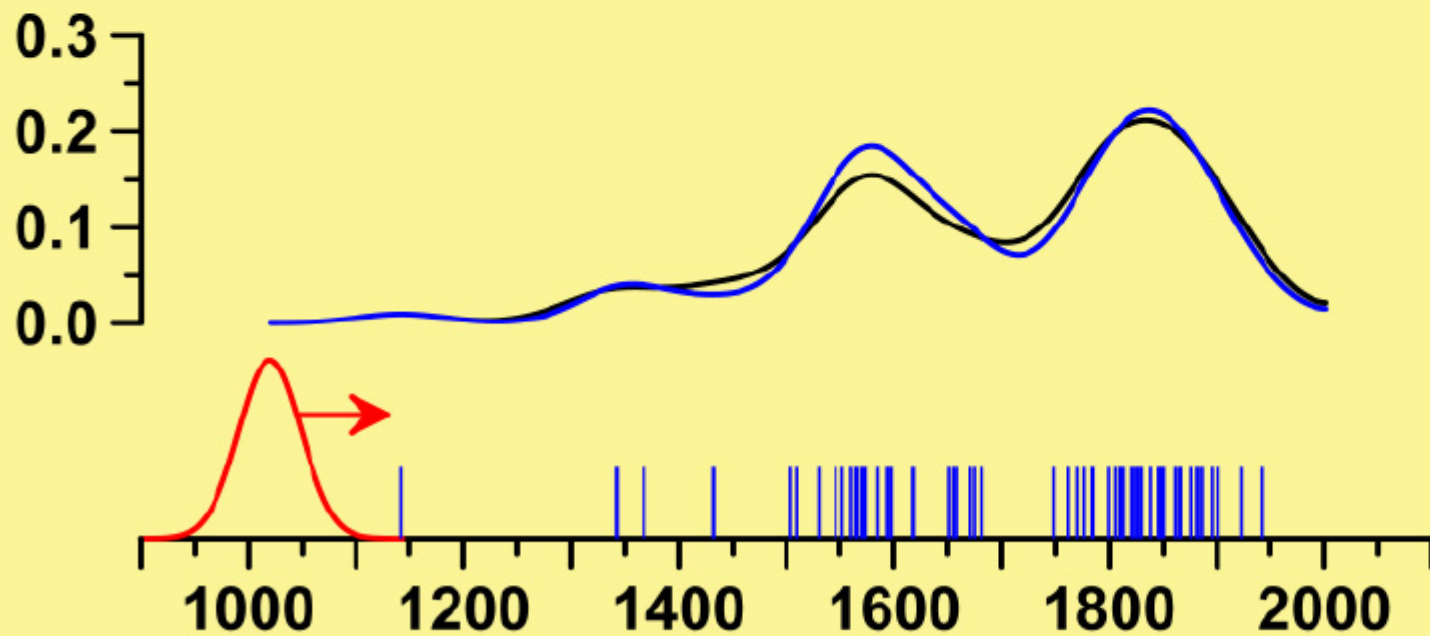
Flood occurrence rate (# events per year)



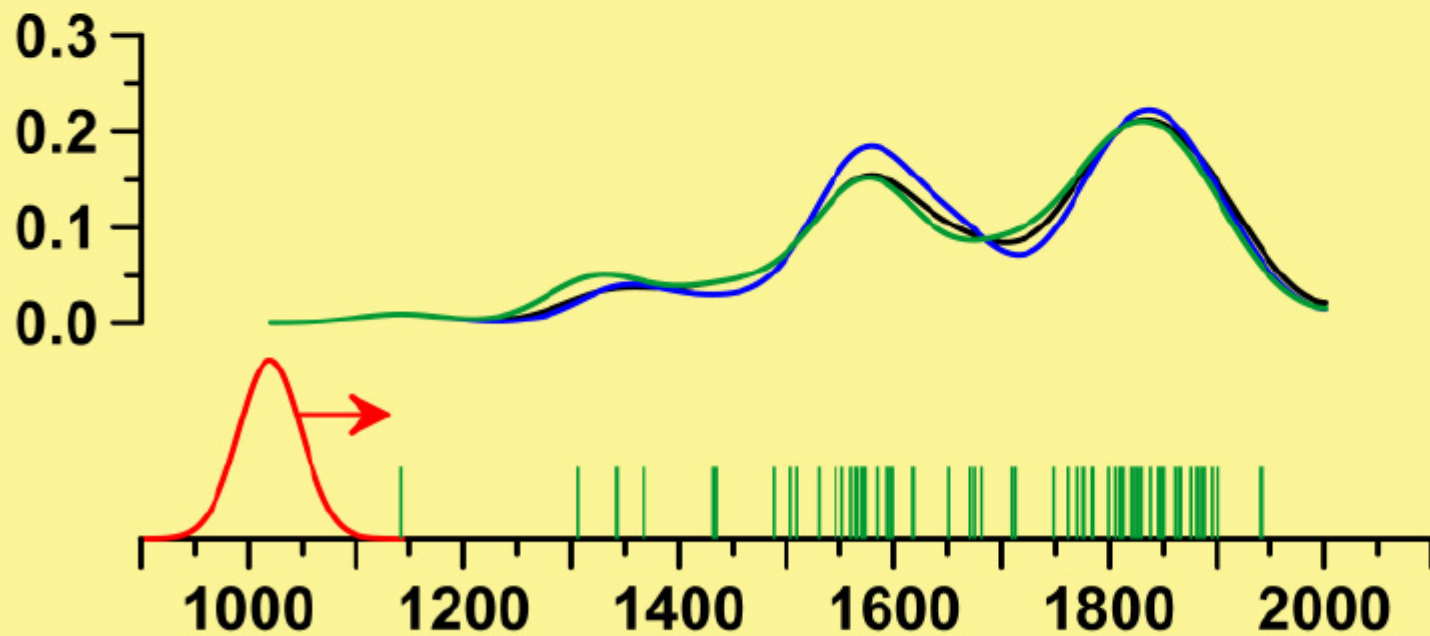
Flood occurrence rate (# events per year)



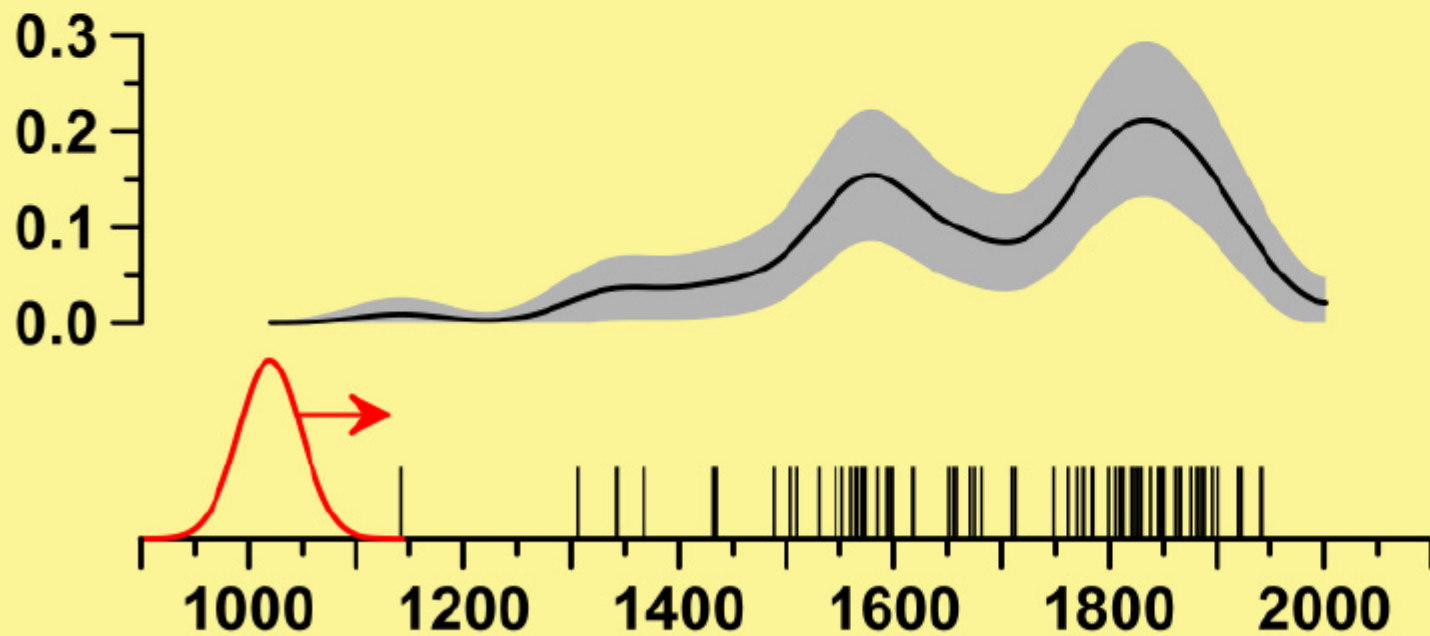
Flood occurrence rate (# events per year)



Flood occurrence rate (# events per year)

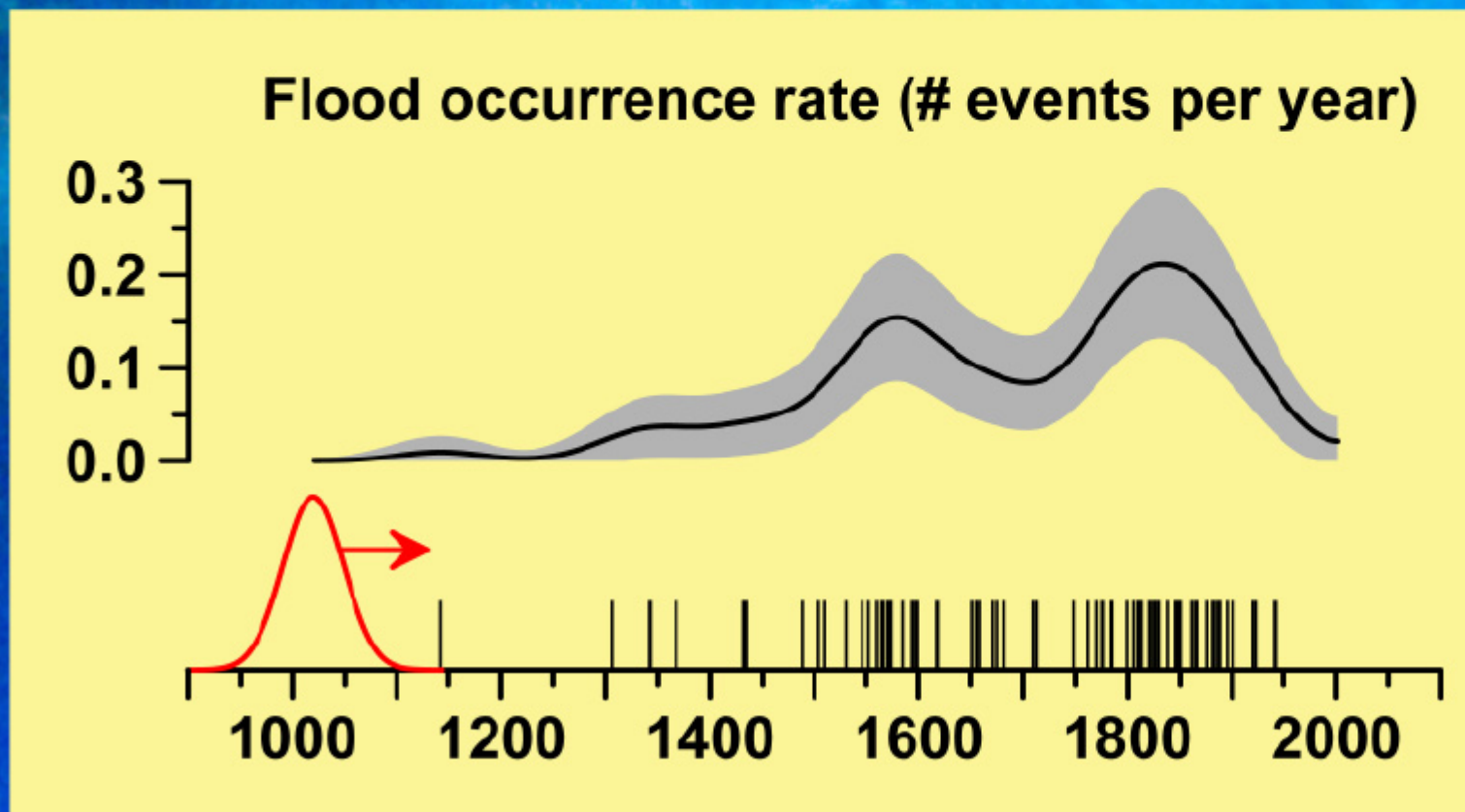


Flood occurrence rate (# events per year)



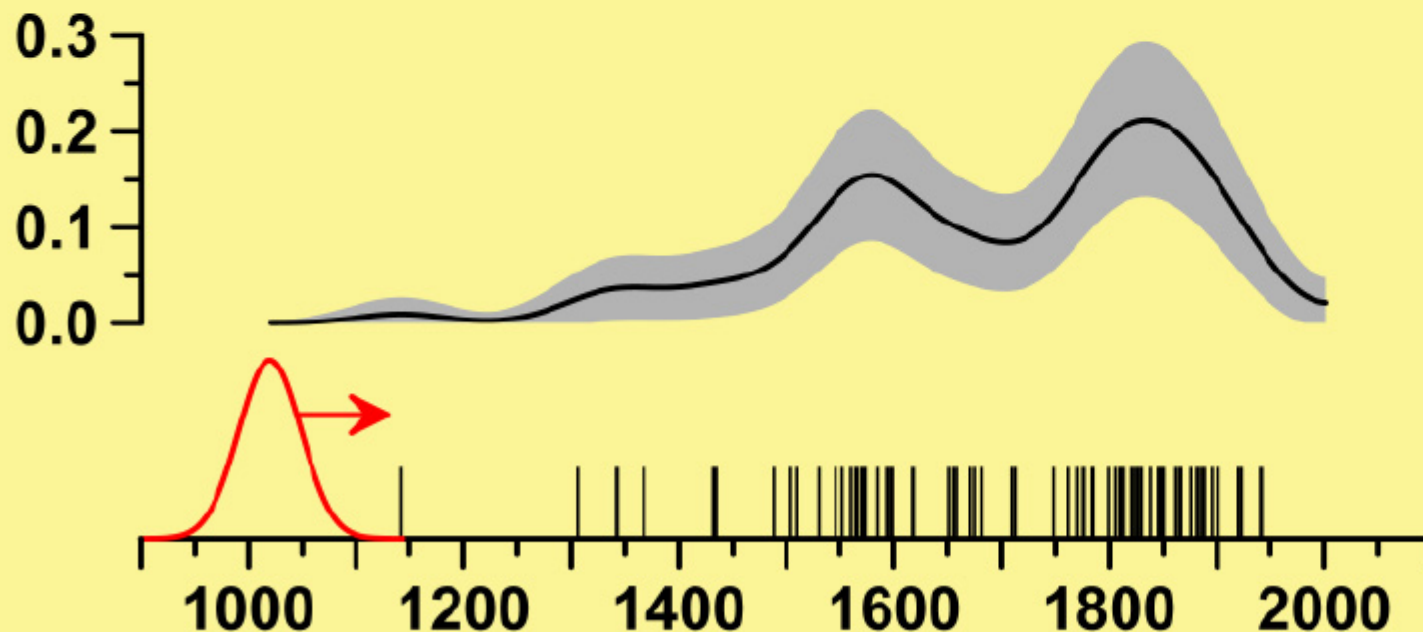
Statistical estimation

Computer simulations to determine
estimation uncertainties



Heavy Elbe winter floods: downwards trend since about 1820 fewer freezing events (warming)

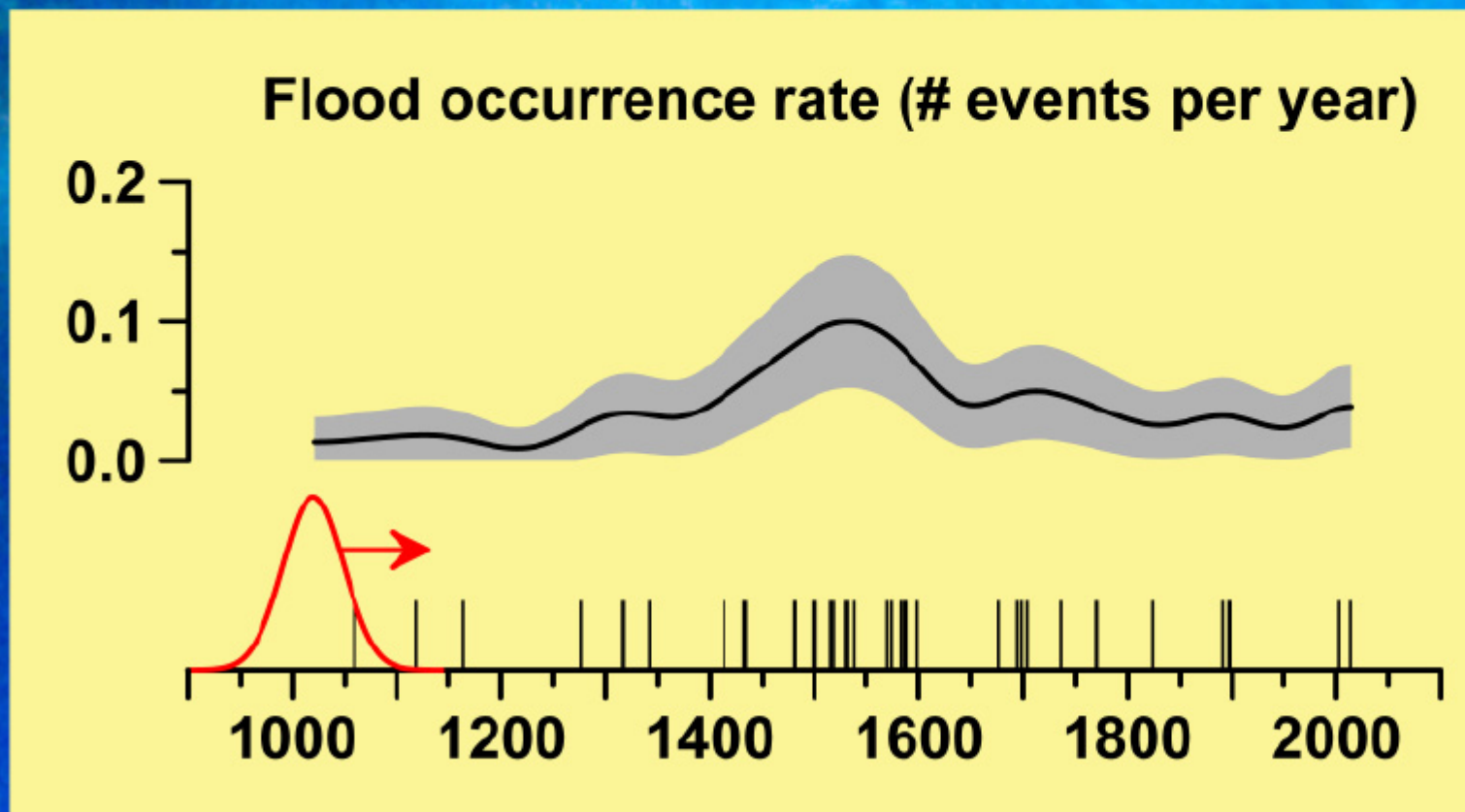
Flood occurrence rate (# events per year)



“Opportunity”

Heavy Elbe summer floods: no clear trend since about 1650

increased water vapour absorption (warming) not yet proven



“Risk”?

7

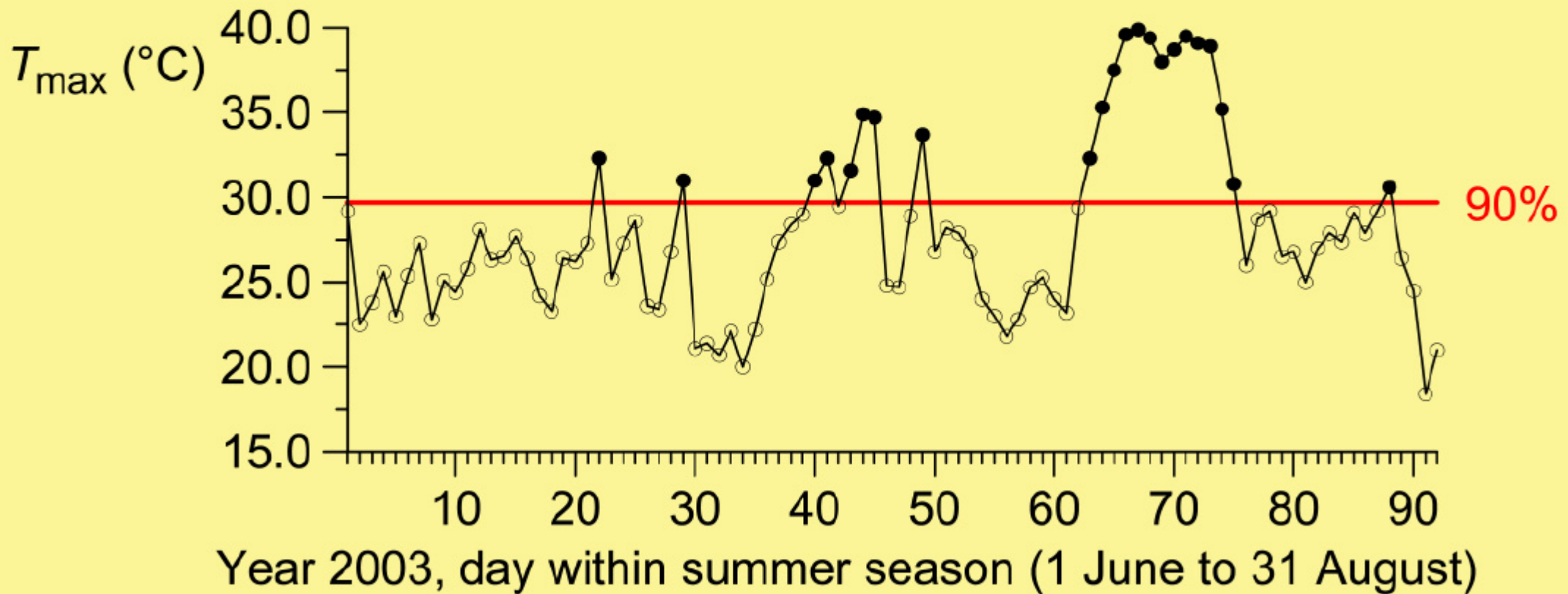
ANALYSIS II

HEATWAVES

Orléans



Orléans



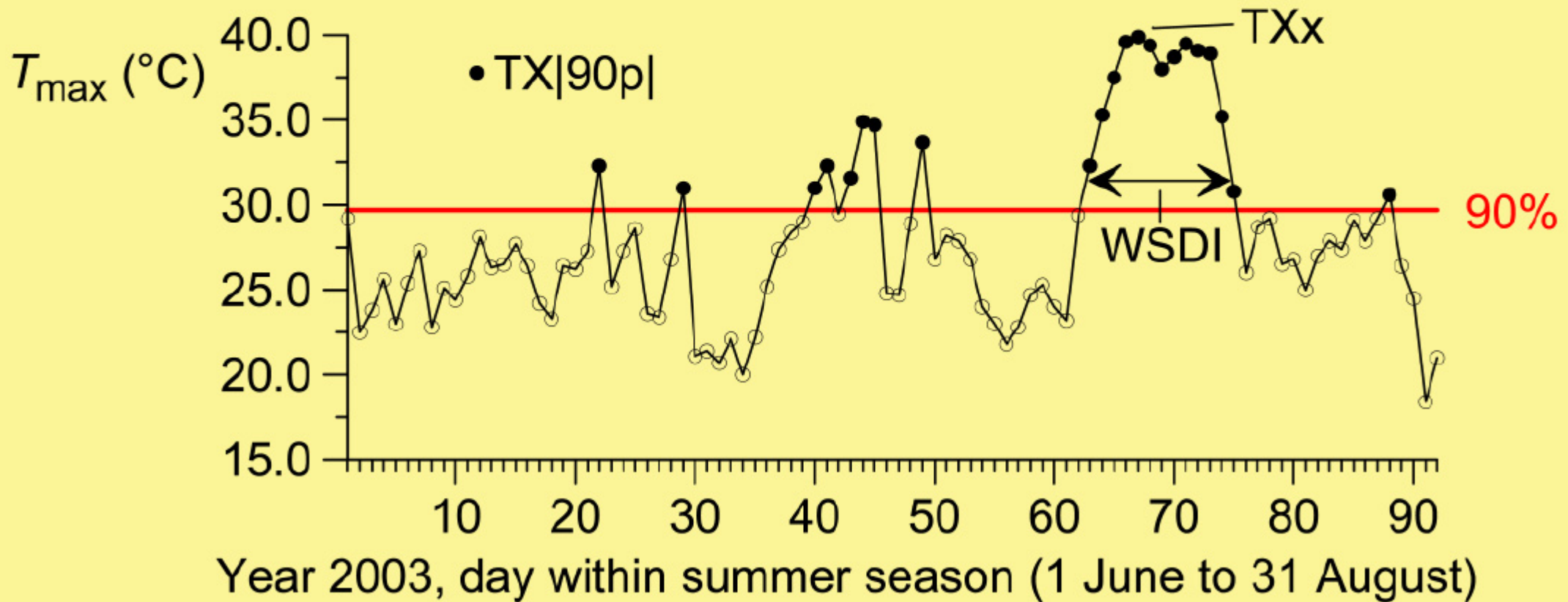
August 2003

France

Excess mortality:

15000 deaths

Orléans



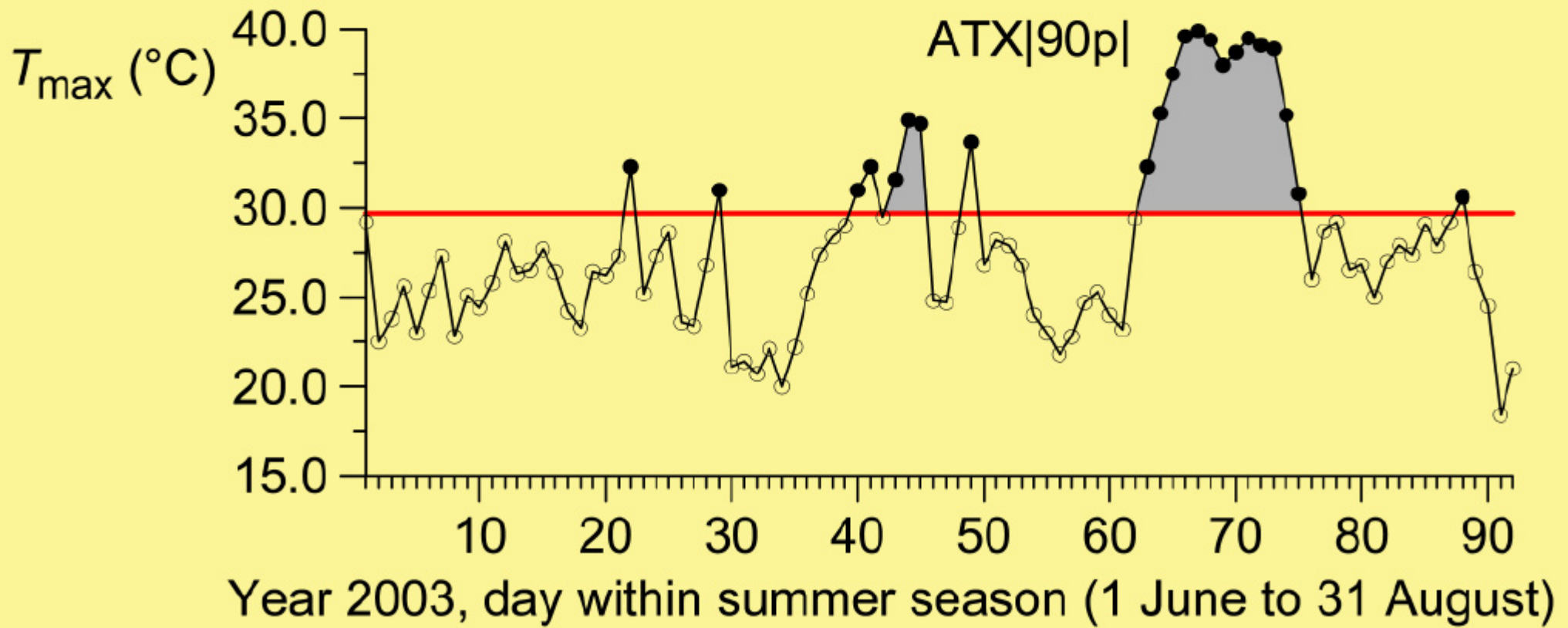
T_{\max}
TX|90p|

maximum daily temperature;
number of days within summer season with $T_{\max} > 90\%$ percentile;

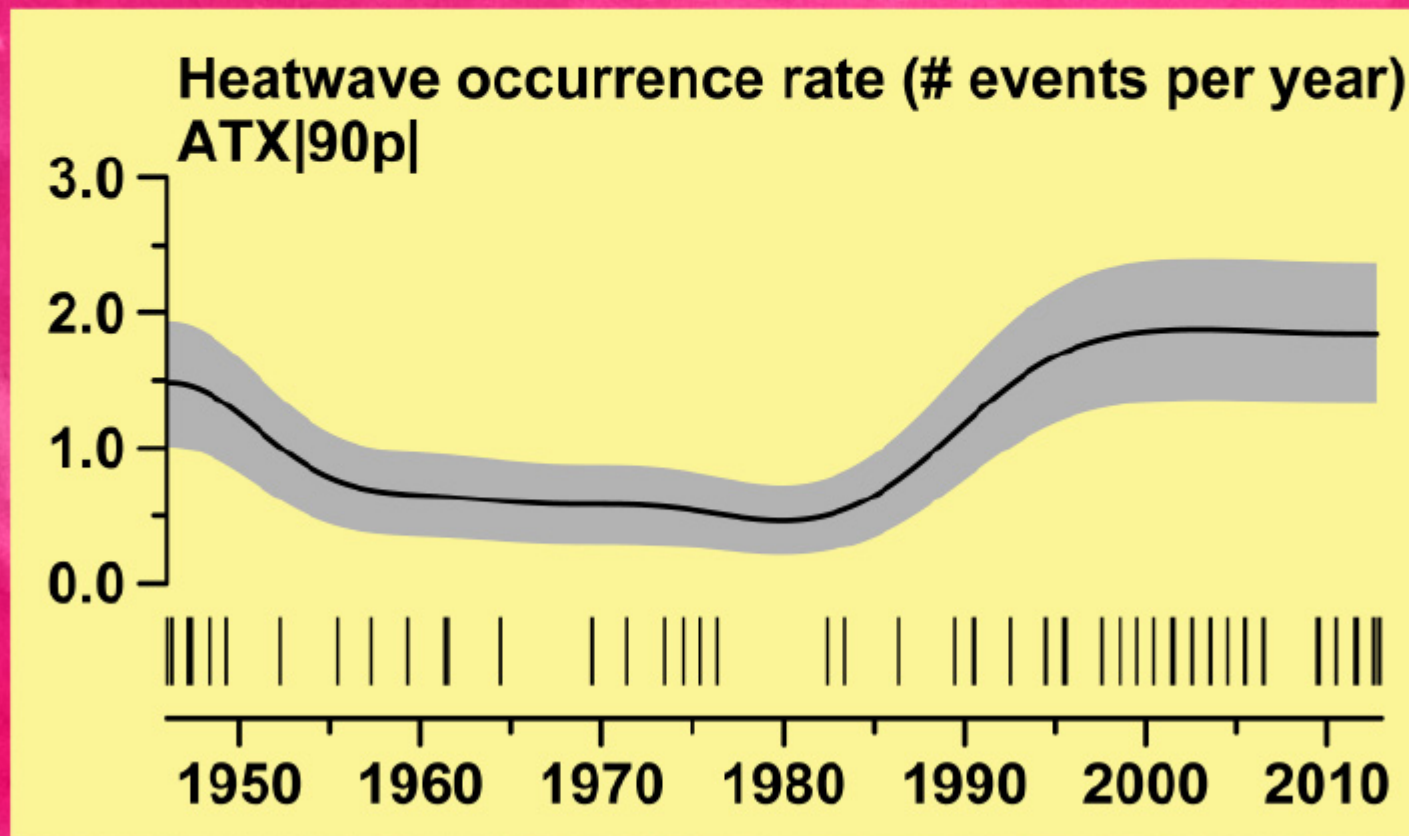
TXx,
WSDI,

maximum of T_{\max} within summer season;
number of days within summer season with $T_{\max} > 90\%$ percentile on at least 6 consecutive days

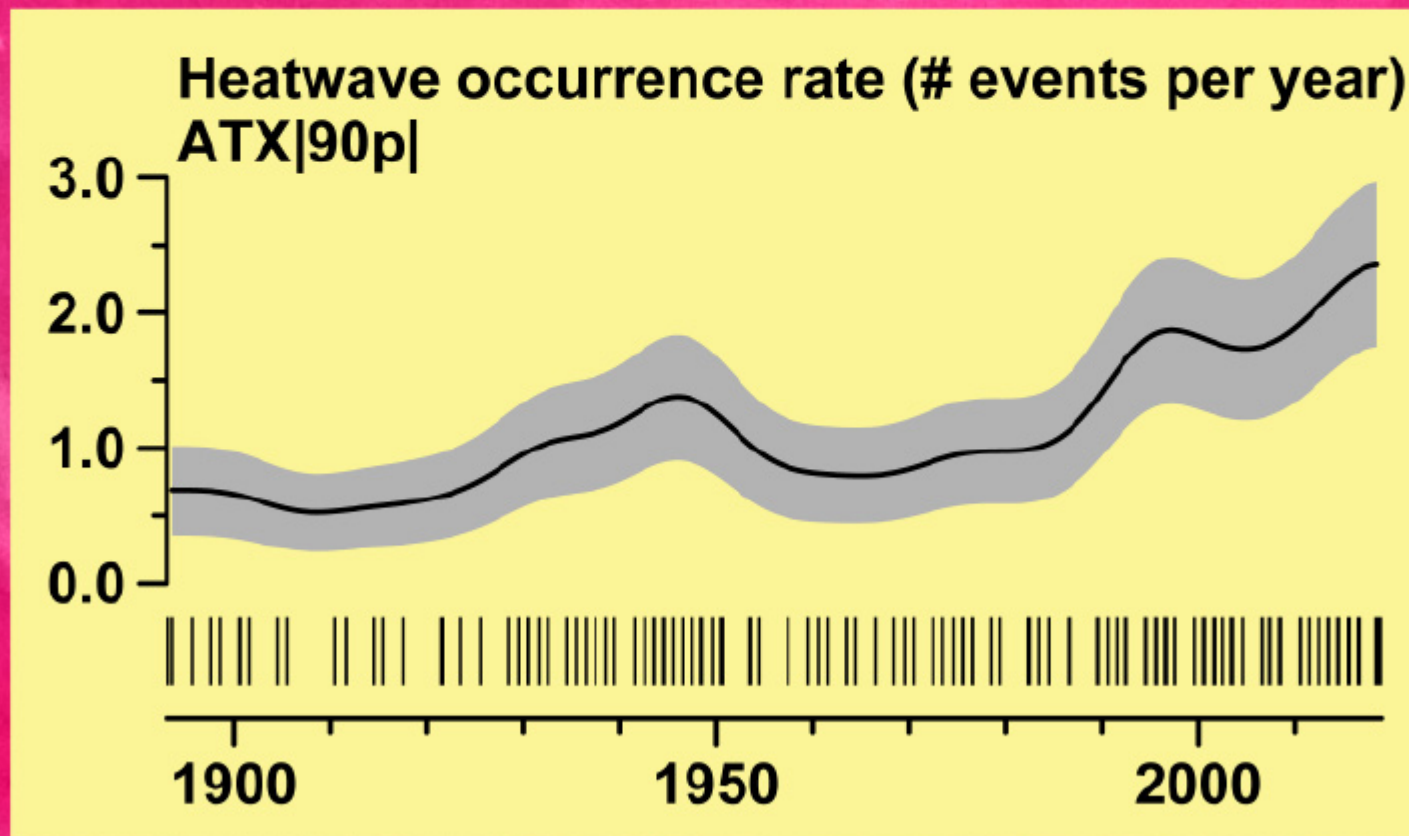
Orléans



Orléans



Potsdam



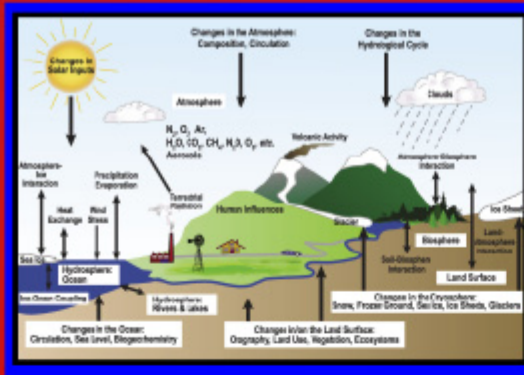
8

ASSESSMENT

Climate Change:

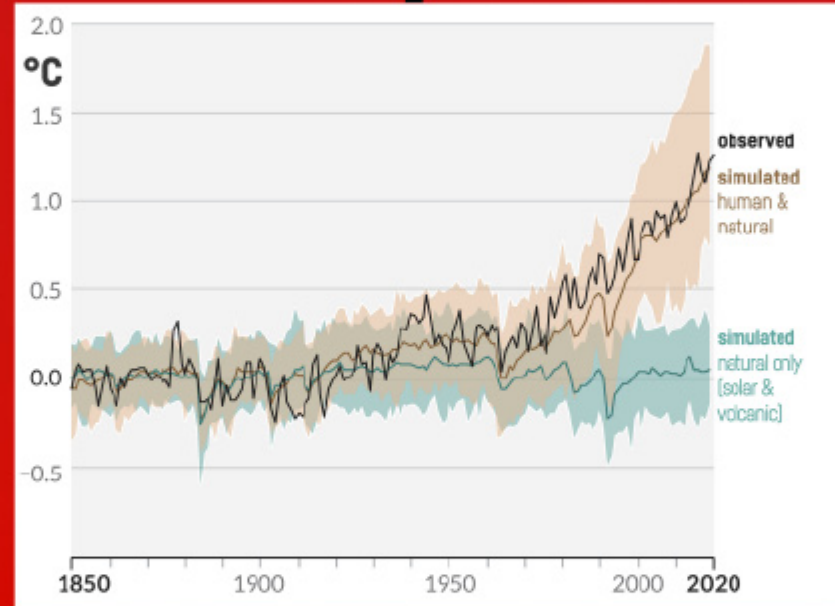
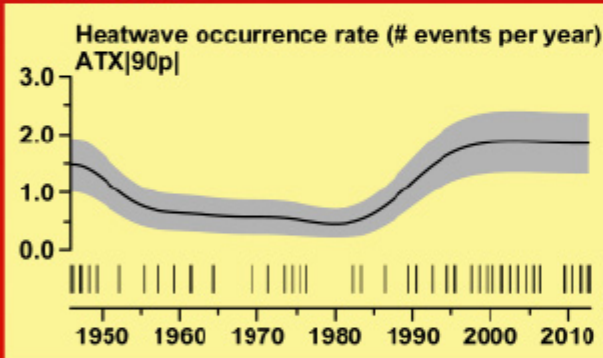
Analyses, Risiks, Opportunities

Climate system

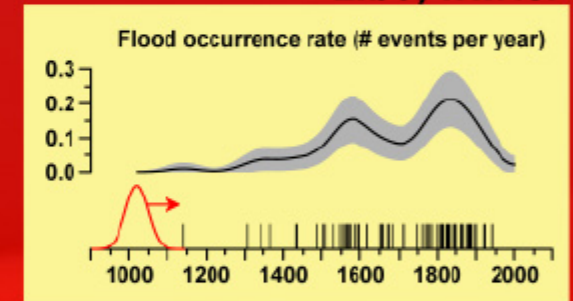


Temperature

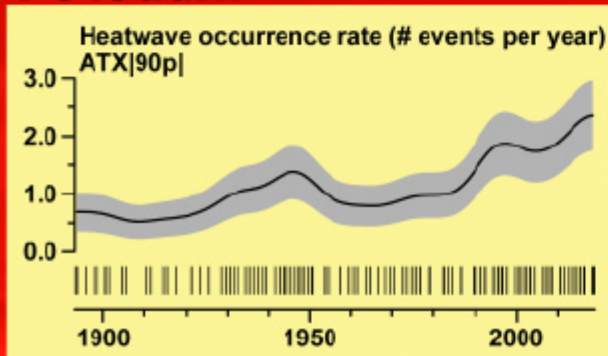
Orléans



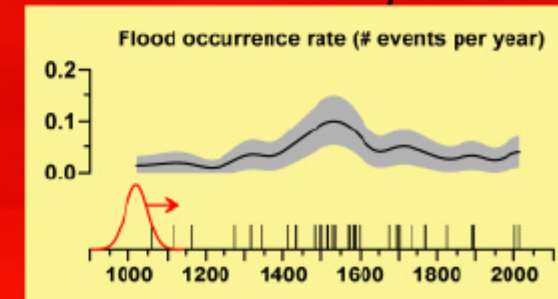
Elbe, winter



Potsdam



Elbe, summer



TEMPERATURE RISKS

easier to detect, since “closer to CO₂”

heatwaves

temperature records

coral bleaching

4th global event February 2023 to April 2024

PRECIPITATION RISKS

“further away from CO₂”

higher spatial variability than temperature

floods

extreme rainfall events

droughts

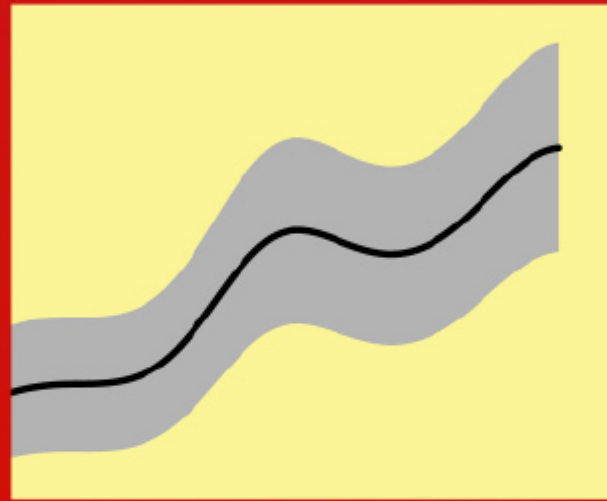
often difficult/not detectable

UNCERTAINTIES

Error bars

Confidence bands

***P*-Values**



Communication is a must!

9

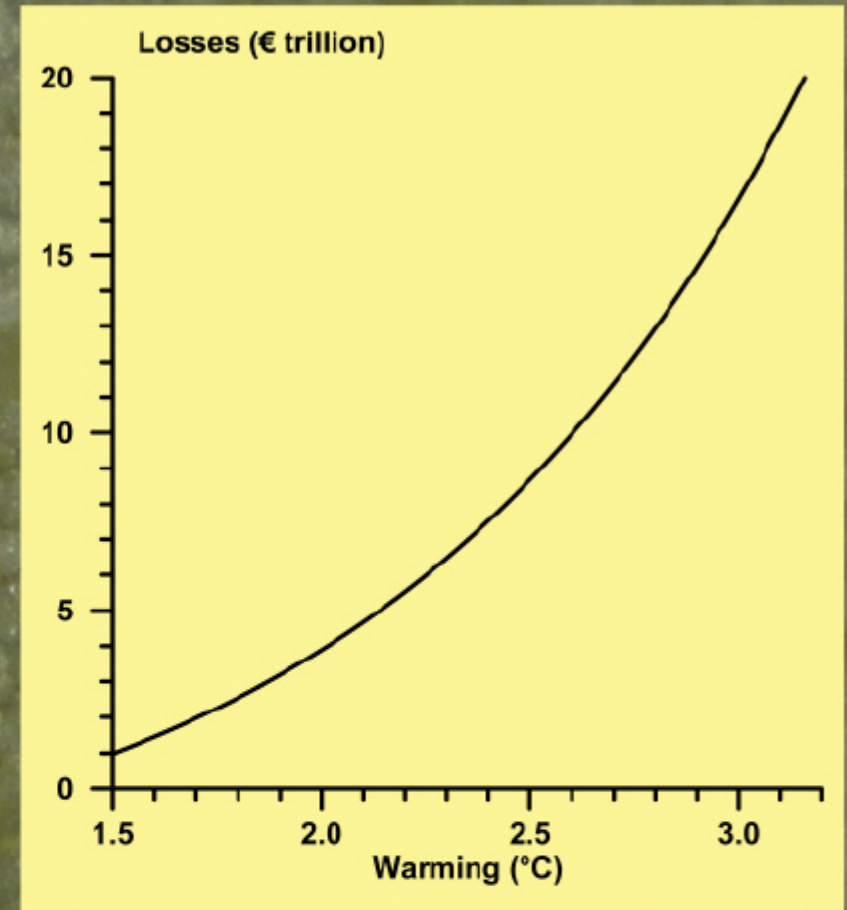
OPTIONS FOR ACTION

“I thought knowledge leads to action” (M. Latif)

Focus on Germany (M. M.)

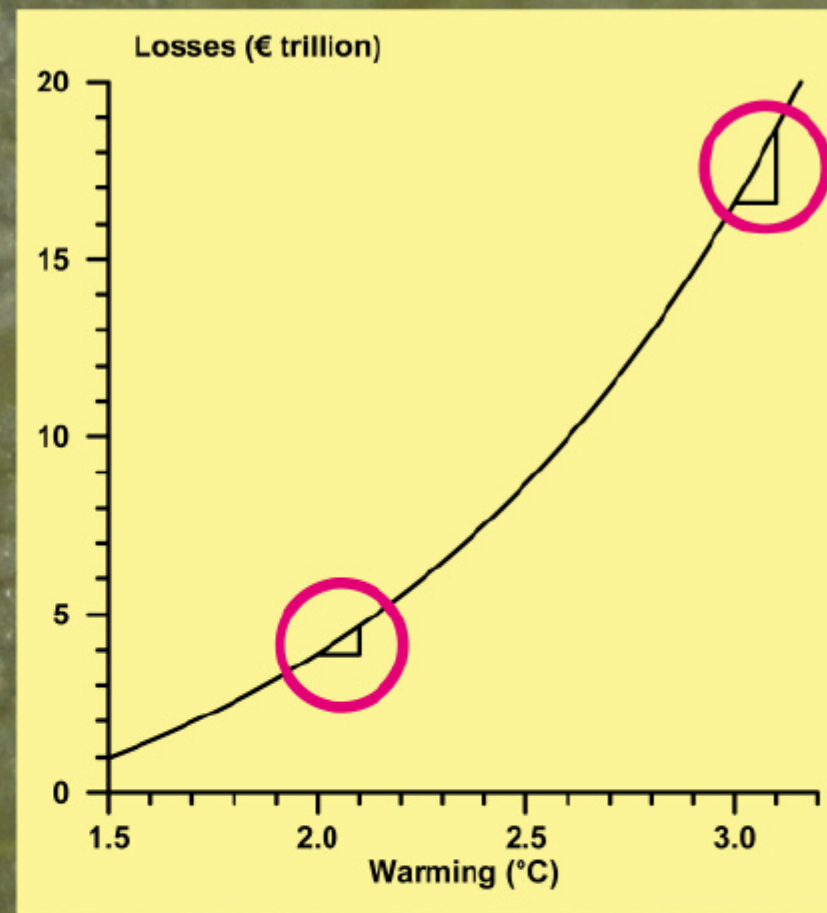
Option 1 Doing nothing

expensive



Option 2 Climate mitigation

every tenth
of a degree counts



Option 2 Climate mitigation

**nuclear power, speed limit,
*Verbrenneraus***

Option 2

Climate

mitigation

carbon capture & storage,

mirrors in outer space

Option 2

Climate

mitigation

afforestation,

rewetting of peatlands

Option 2

Climate mitigation

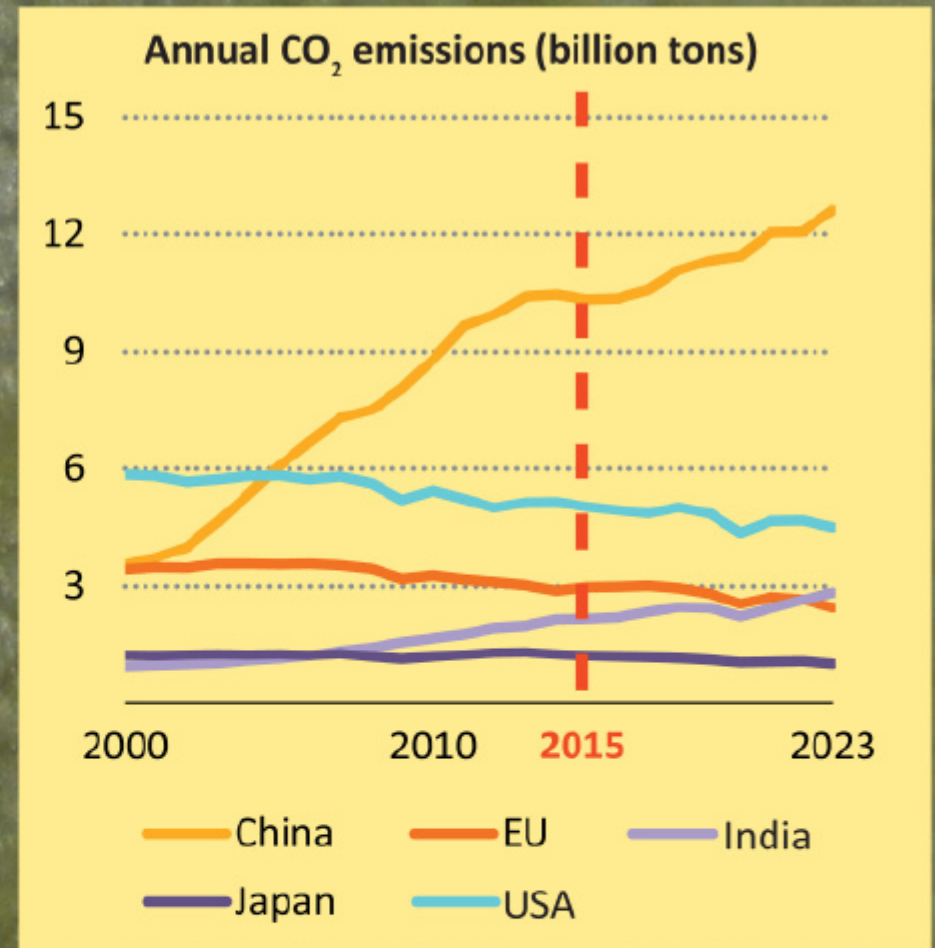
(a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;

Paris, 12 December 2015

Option 2 Climate mitigation

inertia

"The 1.5-degree target has failed." (J. Marotzke)



Option 3

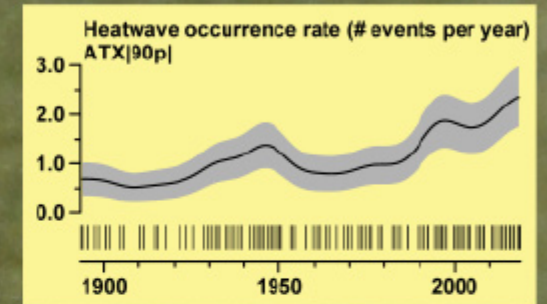
Climate adaptation

(b) Increasing the **ability to adapt** to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and

Paris, 12 December 2015

Option 3

Climate adaptation



Analyses: minimize losses

It must pay off!

**Nationally implementable
(still a role model).**

**CLIMATE MITIGATION
REMAINS IMPORTANT.**

**ADAPTATION BECOMES
MORE IMPORTANT.**



A

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The first time I gave this talk (in German) was at the Wiesloch Lions Club on 13 May 2024; I would like to thank President Armin Wolf for the invitation. The first time in English was as an invited keynote at the International Conference *Climate Change Adaptation in Rail Traffic Systems*, held online on 7 November 2024.

My colleague Scott St. George advised me on the question of how interested laypeople can be reached through creative means; and my colleague Han Dolman gave an online lecture on carbon dioxide in 2023, which I attended. I am very grateful to both of them for the insights they gave me.

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Bad Gandersheim, 7 November 2024

Manfred Mudelsee

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United Nations (2015) Paris Agreement (Article 2) (text elements highlighted)

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**Press Conference, Extreme Weather Conference, Hamburg, 27
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