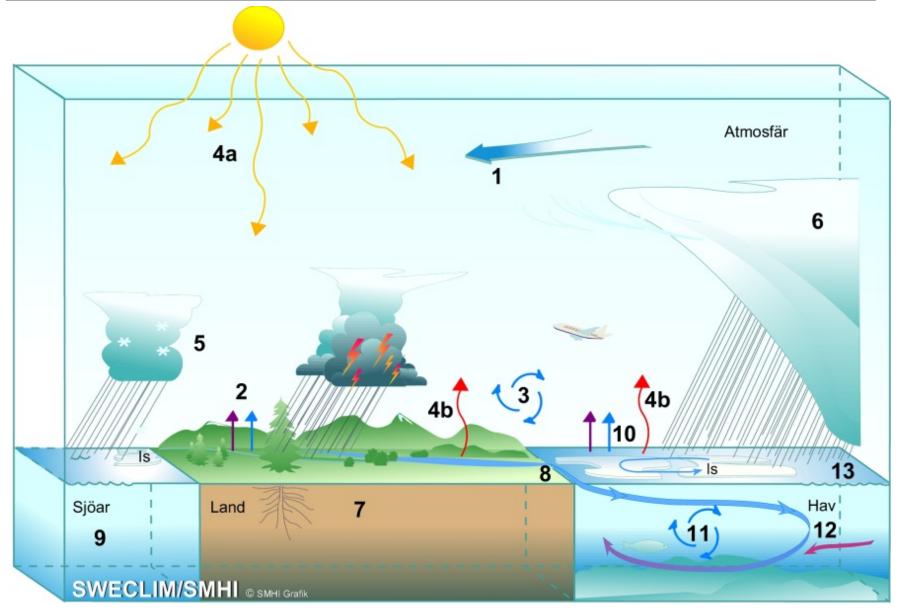
The climate system and global climate models

Lectures during the course on "Impact of climate change on the marine environment with special focus on the role of changing extremes" 25 August 2015

> Erik Kjellström, SMHI 011-4958501 (erik.kjellstrom@smhi.se)

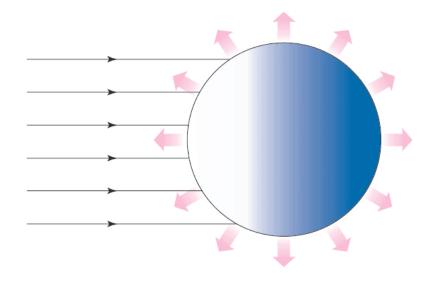
The climate system





A very simple climate model

 Assume balance between outgoing and incoming radiation on long term basis



$$\begin{split} F_E &= \sigma T_E^4 = \frac{(1-A)F_{SE}}{4} = 239.4~\mathrm{W~m^{-2}}\\ &\mathrm{Solar~constant}~(F_{SE})~\mathrm{1368~W~m^{-2}}\\ &\mathrm{planetary~albedo}~(A)~\mathrm{30\%} \end{split}$$

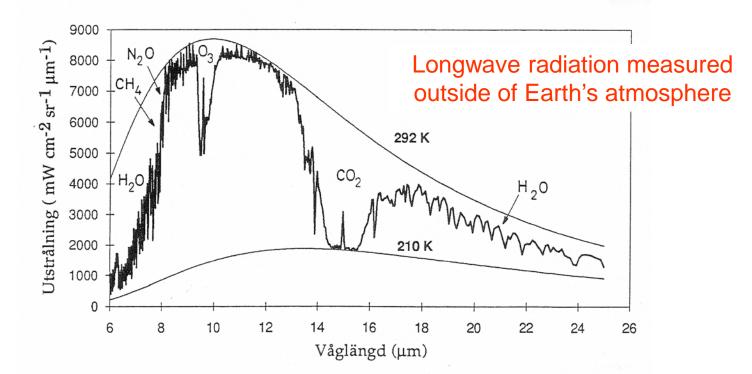
Reflection

- Incoming radiation may be reflected by clouds, particles or by the ground
- The albedo (A) is the ratio between reflected and incoming radiation
- Cloud albedo varies (50-90%)
- Global average ca 30% (including clouds)

Properties of the ground	Albedo (%)
Snow	75-95
Old snow	50-70
Ice	30-40
Sand	20-30
Grass	15-20
Forest	5-20
Water	3-10
Water (Sun close to horizon)	10-100

Longwave radiation

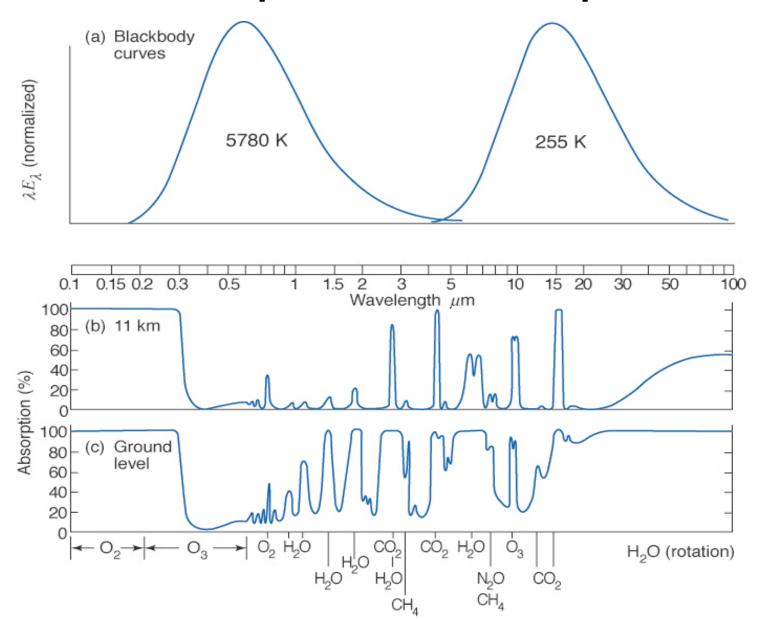
- Emitted radiation at the Earth's surface 4-100μm (maximum at around 10μm)
- Absorption in the atmosphere in wavelength bands



Gaseous constituents

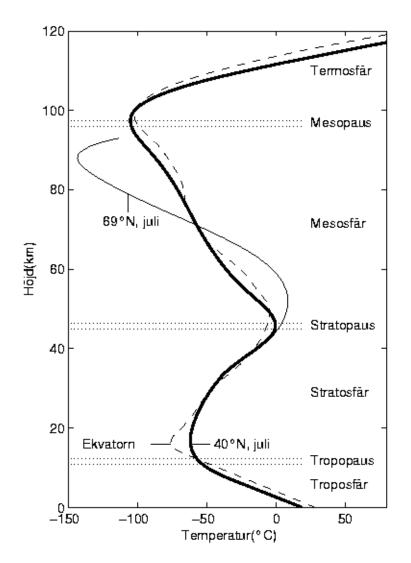
Constituent	Mol. Wt.	Conc. by vol.
Nitrogen (N ₂)	28.013	0.7808
Oxygen (O_2)	32.000	0.2095
Argon (Ar)	39.95	0.0093
Carbon dioxide (CO_2)	44.01	387 ppmv (2009)
Neon (Ne)	20.18	18
Helium (He)	4.00	5
Methane (CH_4)	16.	1.78 "
Hydrogen (H ₂)	2.02	0.5 "
Nitrous oxide (N_2O)	56.03	0.3 "
Ozone (O_3)	48.00	<i>0-0.1</i> "
In addition		
Water vapor (H ₂ O)	18.02	variable

Atmospheric absorption



Vertical distribution of temperature

- Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere and Thermosphere
- Tropopause, Stratopause, Mesopause
- Most water vapour and thereby related clouds and weather exists in the troposphere
- Ionosphere (upper part of the mesosphere and the thermosphere)



The greenhouse effect

- Most incoming solar radiation (shortwave) passes through the atmosphere
- Outgoing terrestrial radiation (longwave) is absorbed and reemitted in the atmosphere
- Reemission takes place at higher levels where temperatures are lower
- This implies that less energy escapes to space than what would be the case without an atmosphere
- The net effect is a warming of the surface

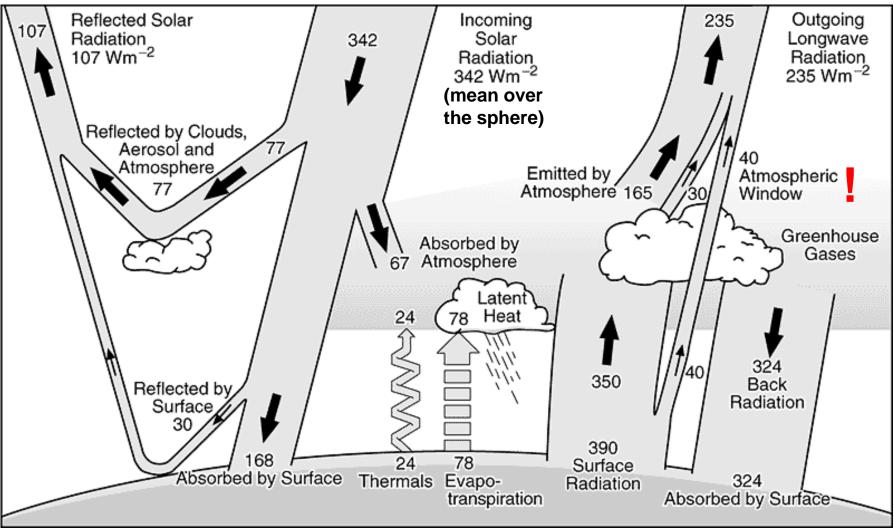
A simple model including the greenhouse effect

$$\begin{cases} \overline{S}(1-\alpha) = F_a + \tau_{lw}F_g & \text{At the TOA} \\ F_g = F_a + \tau_{sw}\overline{S}(1-\alpha) & \text{At the ground} & \text{Atmosphere } T_a \\ \hline F_g = \sigma T_g^4 = \overline{S}(1-\alpha)\frac{1+\tau_{sw}}{1+\tau_{lw}} & \overline{S}(1-\alpha) & F_a \\ \hline F_g = 342 \text{ Wm}^{-2}, \alpha = 0.31, \\ \hline \tau_{sw} = 0.71, \\ \hline \tau_{lw} = 0.10 \\ \hline T_g \approx 284\text{K} = 11^{\circ}\text{C} \end{cases}$$

Global energy balance



342-107=235!!



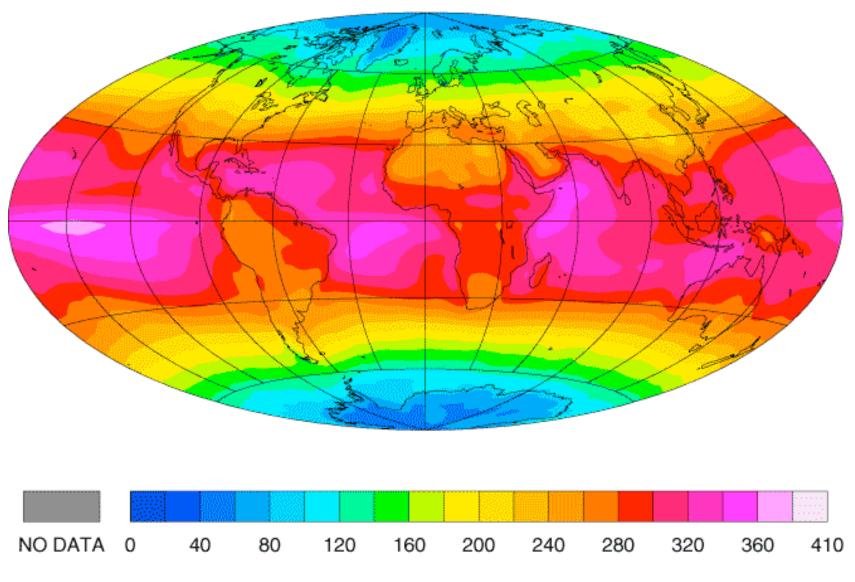
Absorberat i mark/hav=168/342=49%

168-24-78-390+324=0!!

Atmosfärens transmisitivitet (sw)=168/(342-107)=0.71

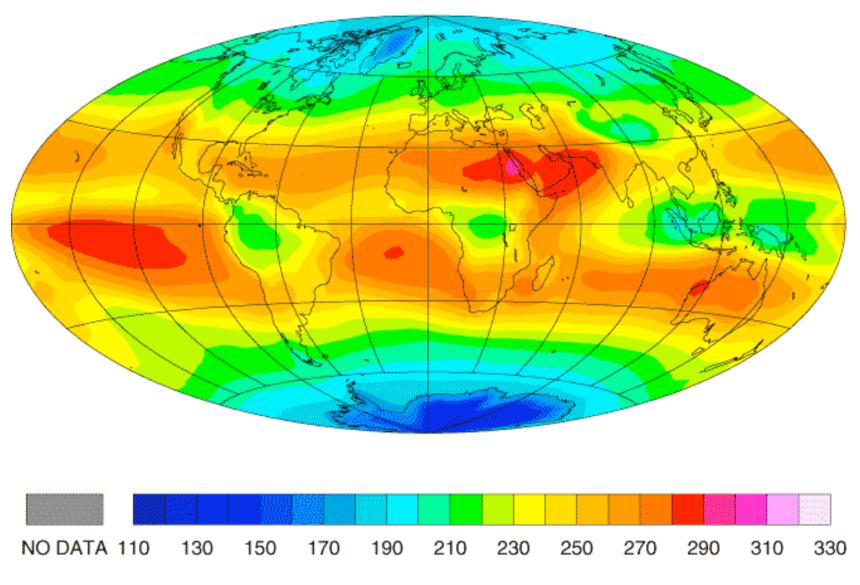
Atmospheric transmisitivitet (lw)=40/390=0.10

Absorbed Shortwave Radiation 1985-1986



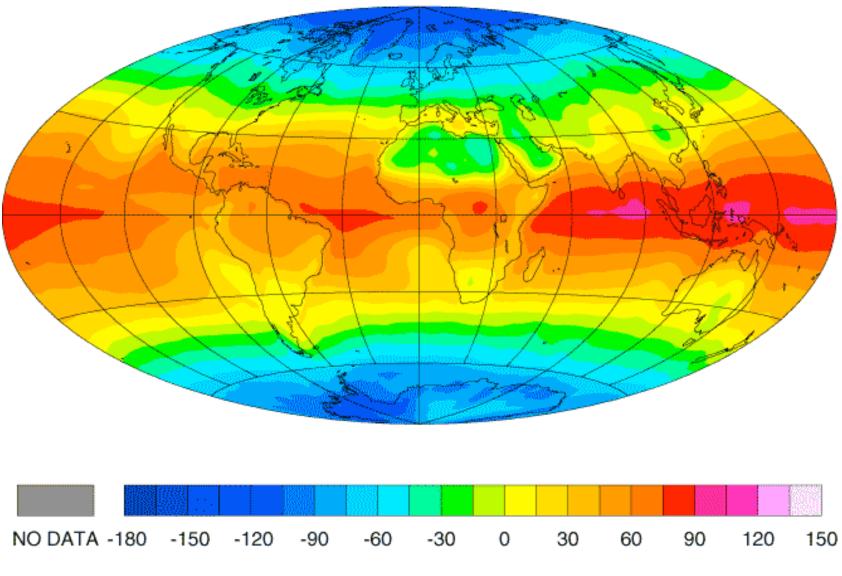
W/m**2

Outgoing Longwave Radiation 1985-1986



W/m**2

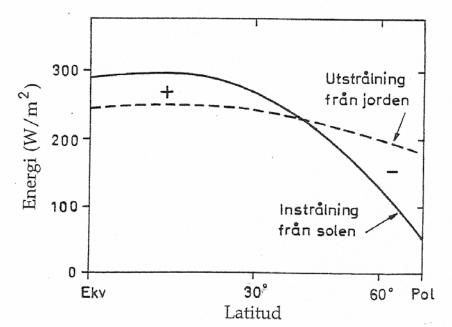
Net Radiation 1985-1986



W/m**2

Radiation balance of the Earth

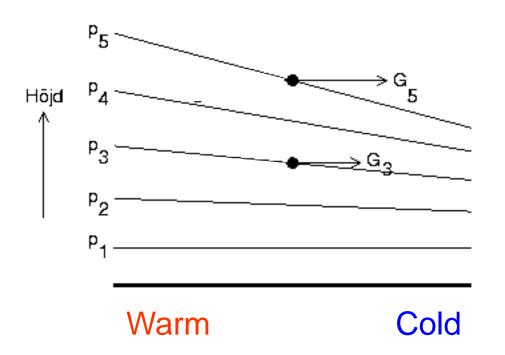
• Net energy gain (loss) at low (high) latitudes ...



 ... leads to heat transport in the atmosphere and oceans

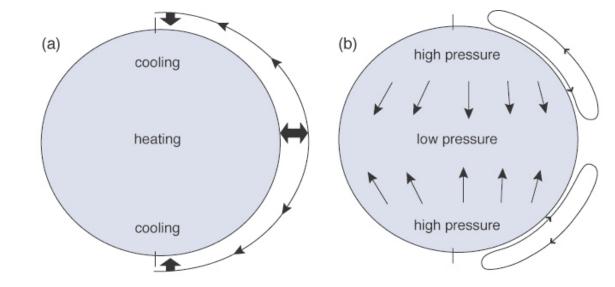
Differential heating leads to motion

Different temperature in different air masses lead to different decrease of pressure with increasing altitude (less decline with altitude in warm air). Leads to sloping pressure surfaces at height which implies increasing pressure gradient



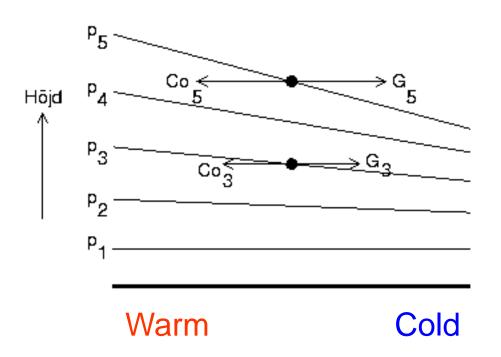
Differential heating leads to motion





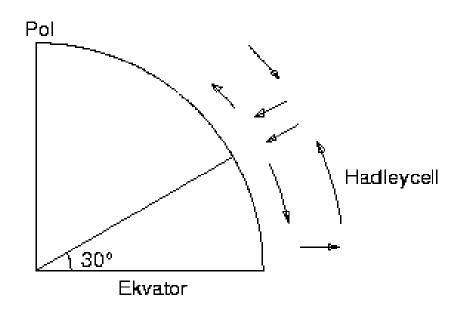
Earth's rotation deflects air motion (the Coriolis effect)

Deflection to the right of the motion in the northern hemisphere (to the left in the southern). Air moving from the equator towards the poles is deflected by the Coriolis force leading to westerly winds.

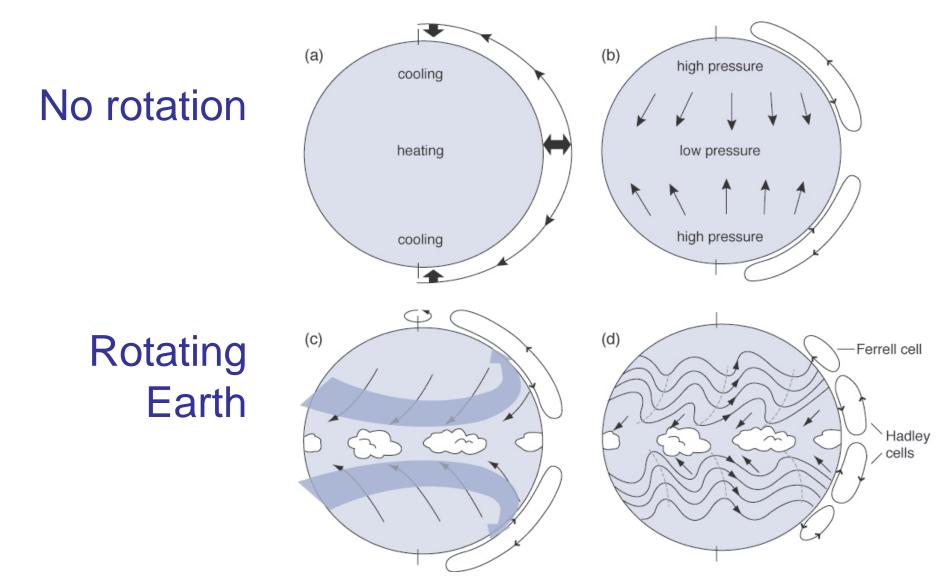


The Hadley Circulation

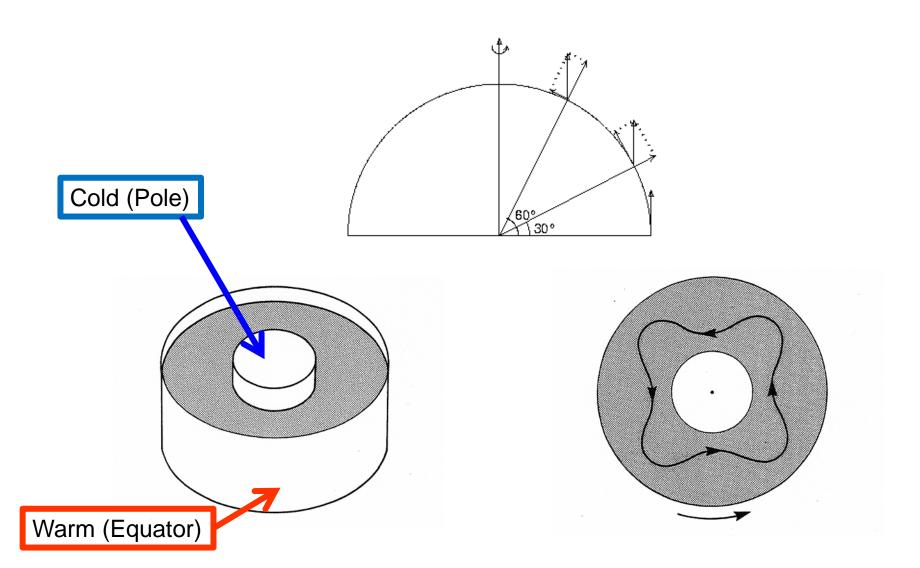
- Heating and cooling generates horizontal pressure gradients
- Winds from warm areas towards colder areas at high altitudes
- Rising air in the tropics
- Sinking air in the subtropics
- Winds towards the equator at low levels (Trade winds)
- Coriolis force is relatively small leads to a closed N-S circulation



The Hadley Cell and circulation characteristics in Mid Latitudes

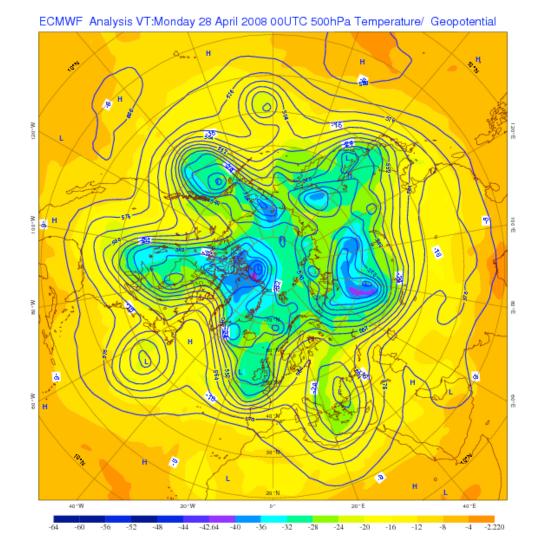


The Mid-latitudes



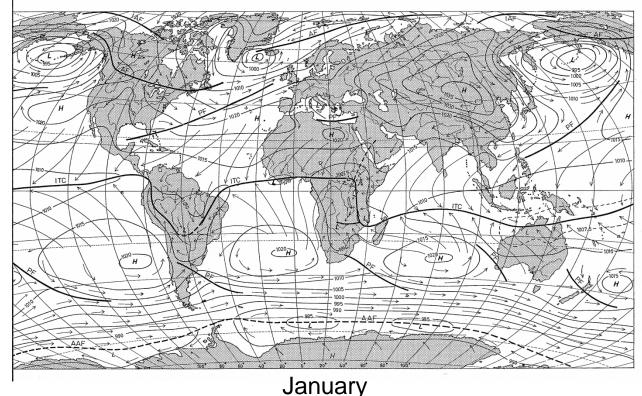
The Mid-latitudes

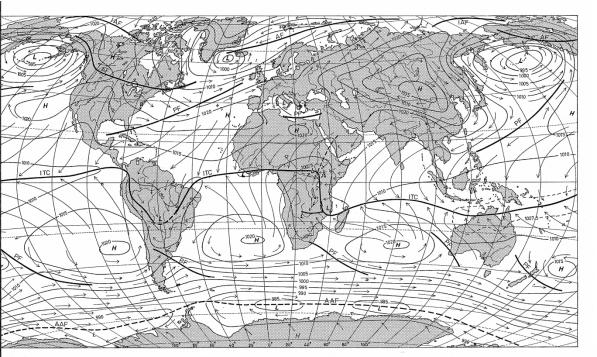
- Rossby waves
- 3-5 long waves
- Super-imposed shorter waves
- Pattern depend strongly on land-sea contrasts and orography



Climatological features

- Tradewind belts (Atlantic, Pacific)
- Intertropical convergence zone
- Monsoons (Indian Ocean sector)
- Westerly wind belts (strongest in winter)
- Subtropical anticyclones (summer)

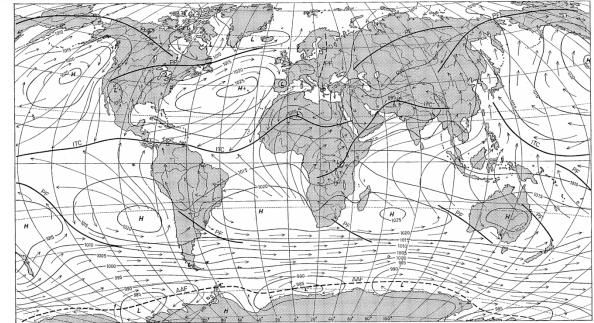




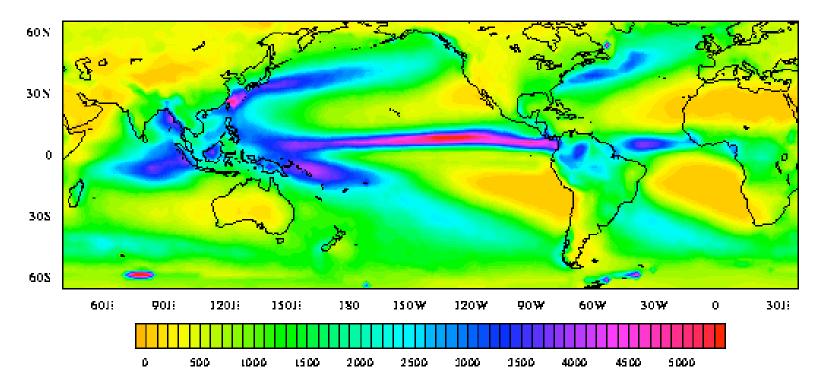
July

January

Icelandic Low and Azores High both lead to transport of maritime air towards northern Europe



Global rainfall



- Maxima along the ITCZ and in the Mid-latitude westerlies
- Minima in the subtropics

Weather systems

- Baroclinic waves.... extratropical cyclones fronts
- Tropical cyclones
- Severe convective storms

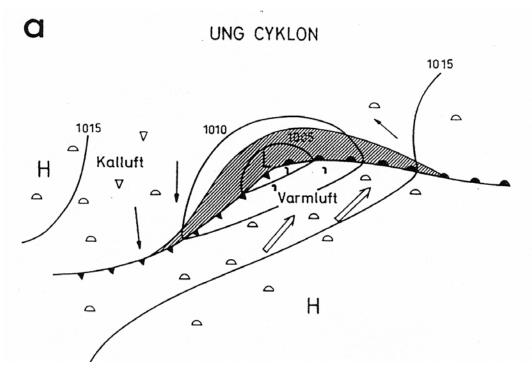






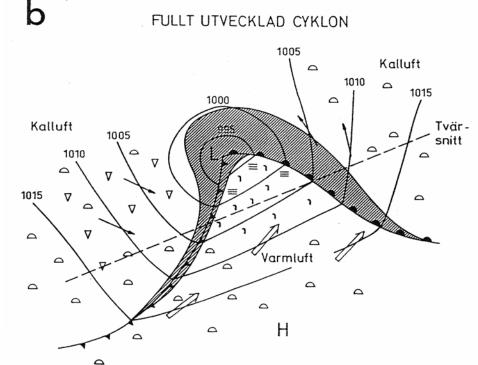
Mid-latitude cyclones

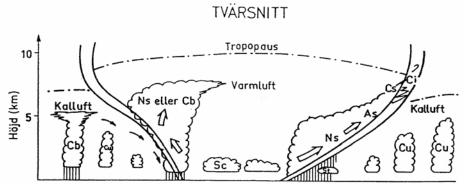
- Disturbances on the Polar front in the form of small waves lead to warm (cold) air moving towards the cold air east (west) of the low pressure
- Warm air ascends generating clouds and precipitation
- Lowering of the centre of mass of the atmosphere leads to release of potential energy (converted into kinetic energy = winds)



Cyclone development

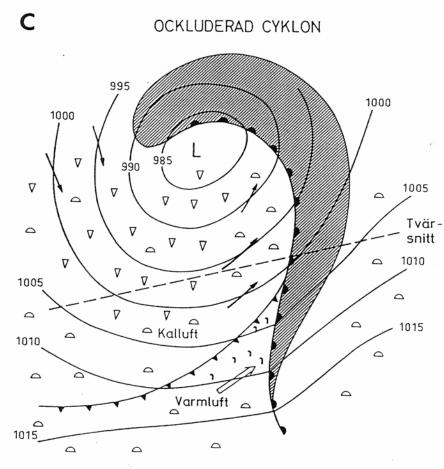
- The cold air moves faster than the warm air
- The warm sector gets smaller and the cyclone gets occluded
- Deepening as long as divergence at higher levels exceeds frictional convergence at low levels

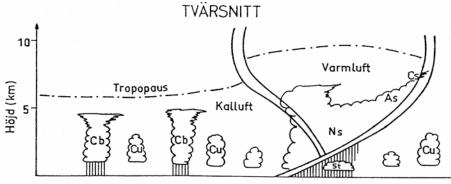




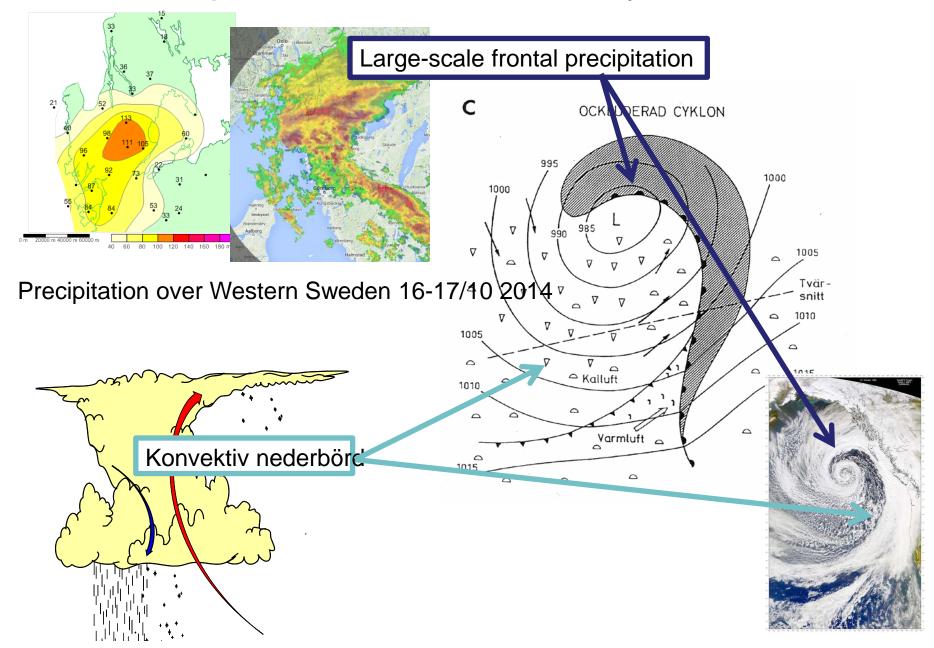
Cyclone development

- Dissolving stage
- Friction fills the cyclone
- Warm air at high levels implying that the potential energy is used
- Clouds start to dissolve

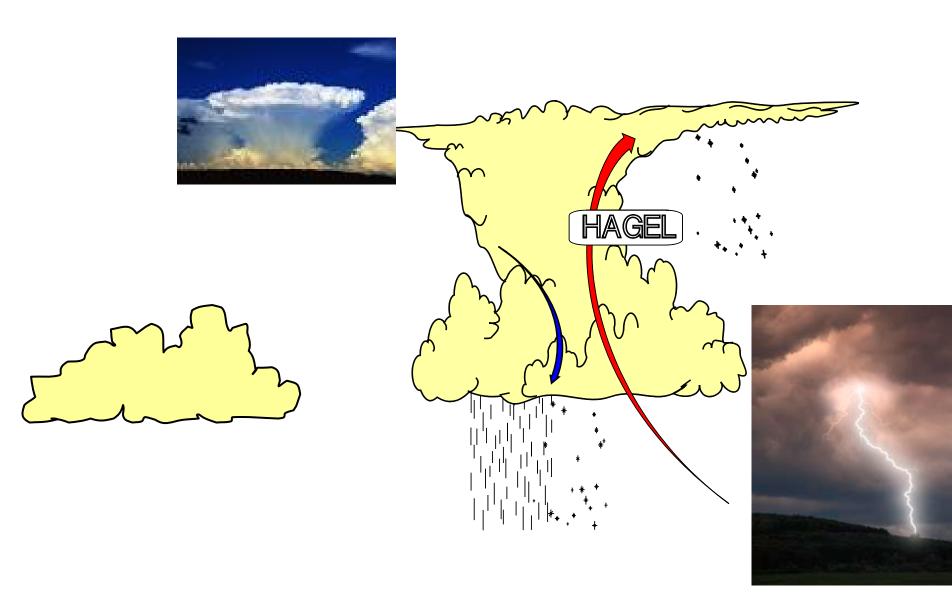




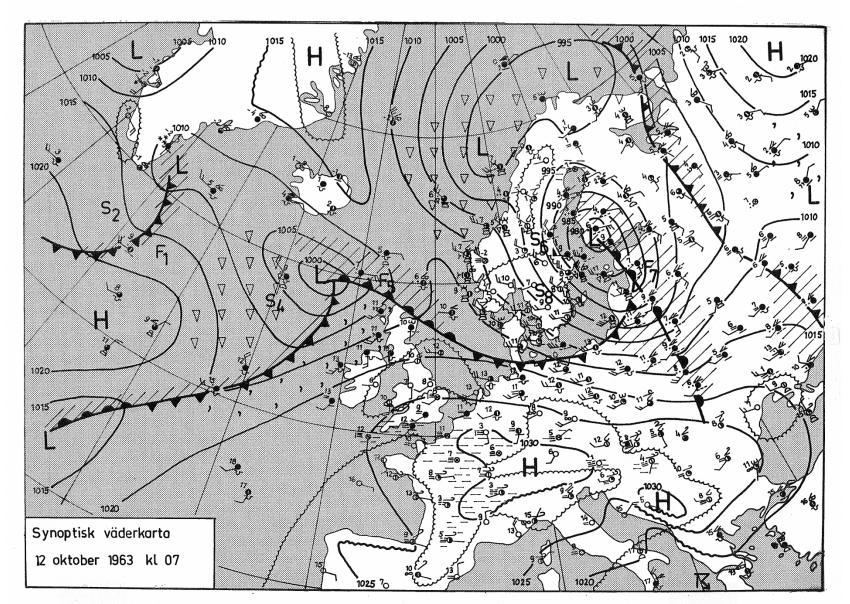
Precipitation associated with cyclones



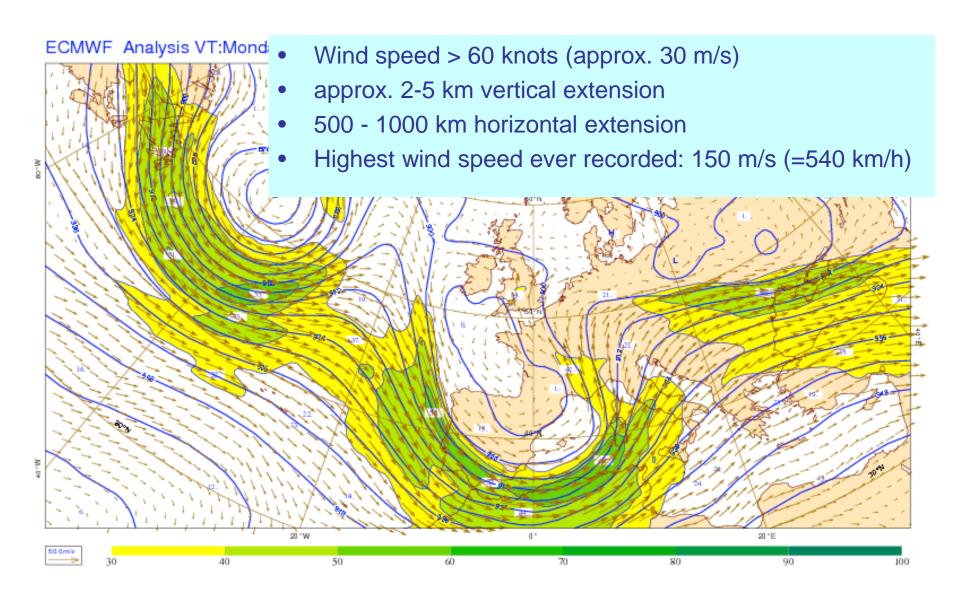
Convective storms



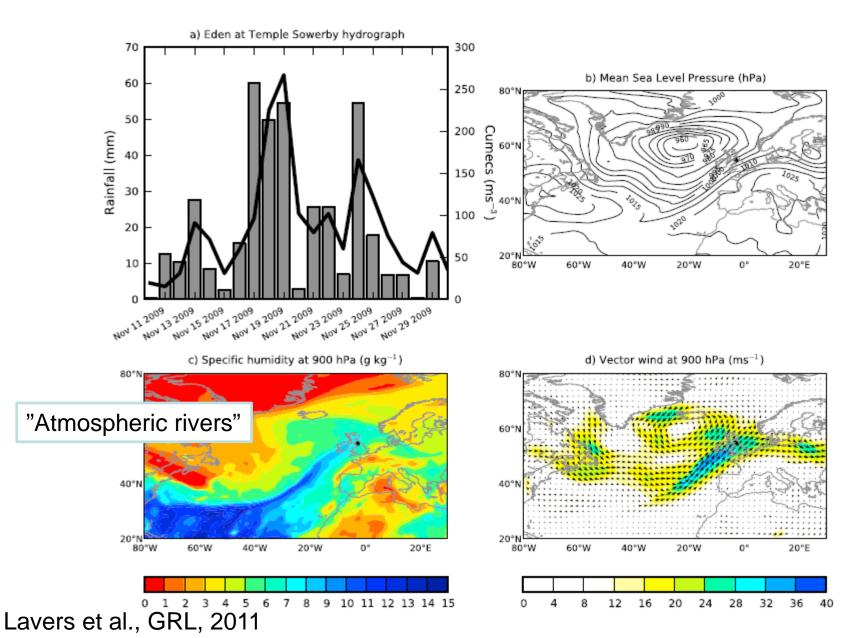
Cyclones on the Polar front



Jet streams



Can give large amounts over days

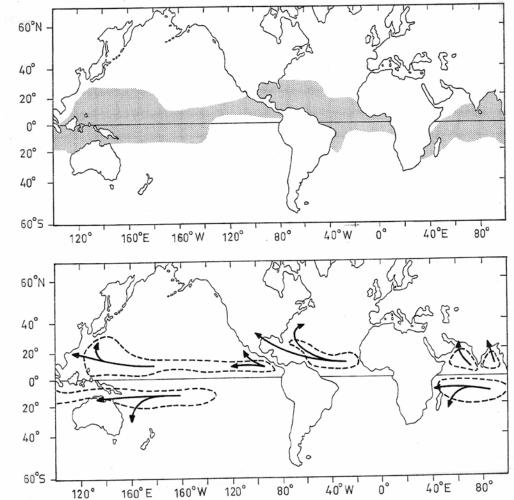


Weather in the tropics

- Trade winds, moistening and destabilization of the atmosphere from the subtropics towards ITCZ leading to deeper and deeper convective clouds (Sc, Cu, Cb)
- ITCZ, deep convection, heavy showers, thunderstorms
- Tropical cyclones
- Easterly waves
- Monsoonal circulation
- El Nino/Southern Oscillation

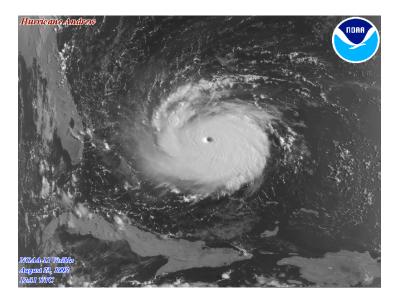
Tropical cyclones

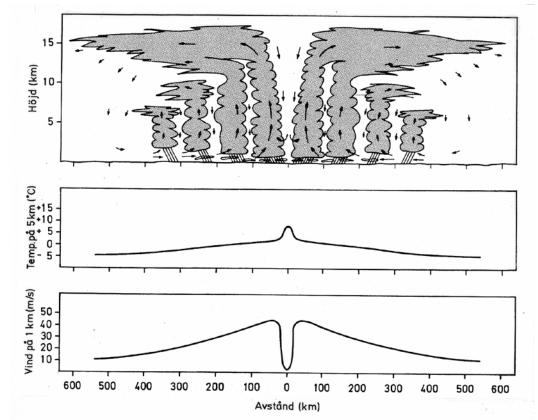
- Growing disturbance (for instance meso-scale convective systems)
- Require warm (+27C) surface water as source of moisture (energy)
- Require some rotation
- Vertical wind shear hampers cyclone formation
- Friction over land leads to dissipation



Structure of a tropical cyclone

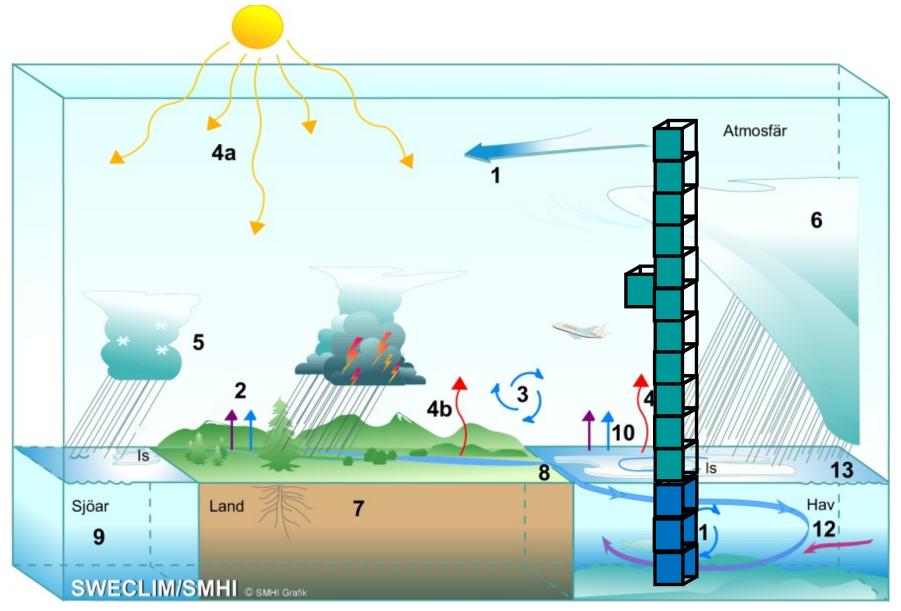
- Increasing wind speed towards centre (conservation of angular momentum)
- Strong convection close to centre
- Deep low in the centre (warm air with low density)
- Eye in the centre with descending air motion

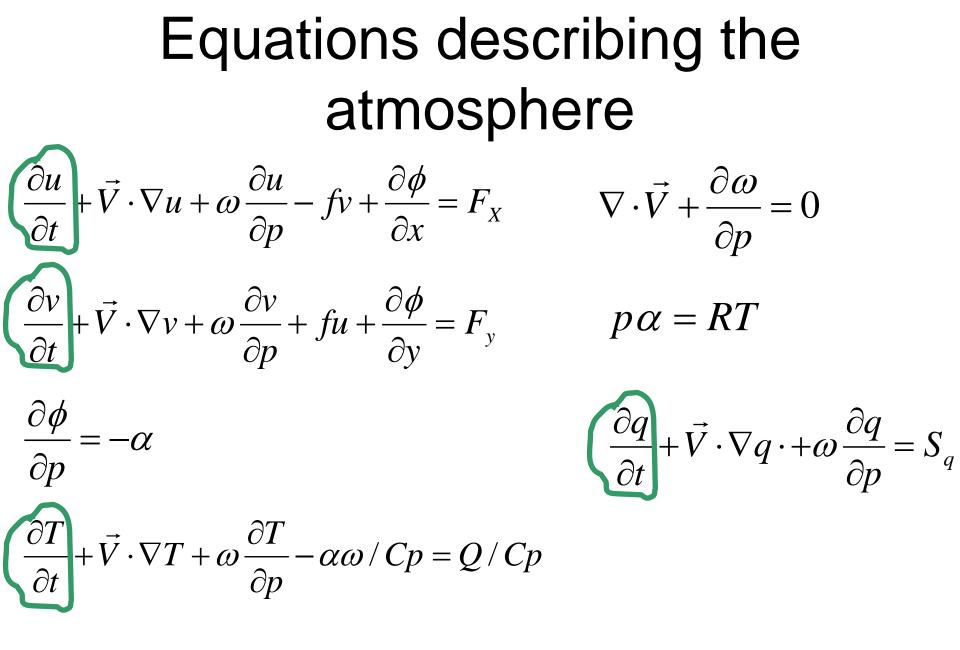


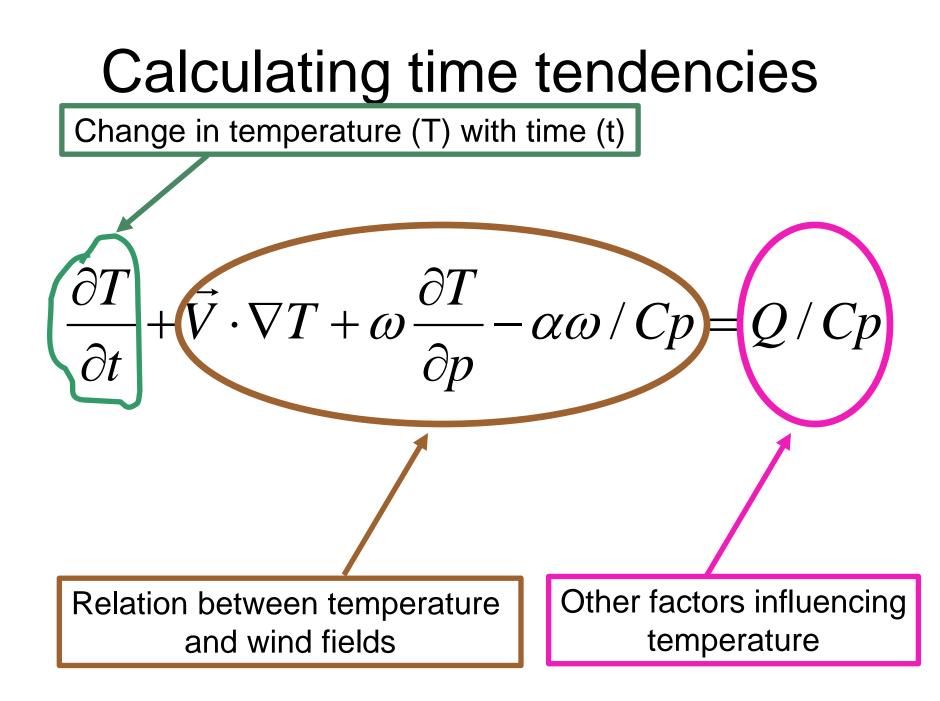


Climate models









How to run a NWP/GCM?

- Initialisation and "spin up"
- Calculate tendencies for the 3-D state as a function of
 - (present state, constraining boundary conditions, other "external" factors)
 - Apply tendensies to get a new 3-D state ∆t later
 - Repeat ...

Ex. 100 years simulation, $\Delta t = \frac{1}{2}h \Rightarrow 1,8$ million repetitions in, for instance., 5000x20 (=100 000) grid squares \Rightarrow 180 billion computations!!

Numerical models of the atmosphere

	Hor. scales	Vert. Scales	time range
• Global climate models	100-500 km	1000 m	100 years
• Global weather prediction	15-40 km	500 m	10 days
• Limited area weather pred	. 2-5 km	500 m	2 days
 Cloud resolving models 	500 m	500 m	1 day
 Large eddy models 	50 m	50 m	5 hours

Different models need different level of parametrization

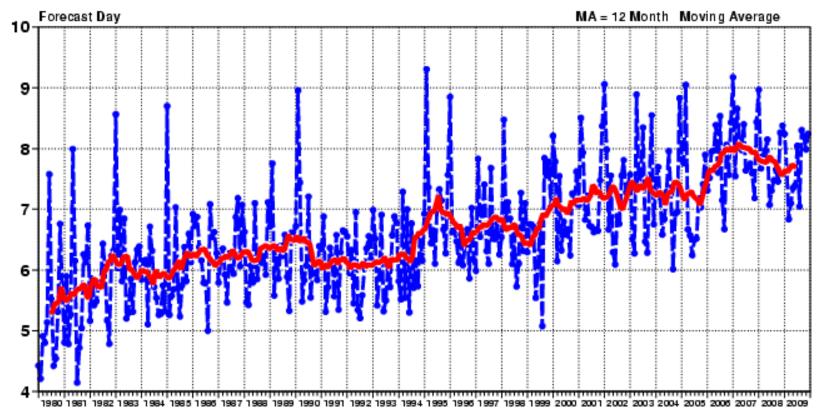
Verification and skill of forecast models

ECMWF FORECAST VERIFICATION 12UTC

500hPa GEOPOTENTIAL

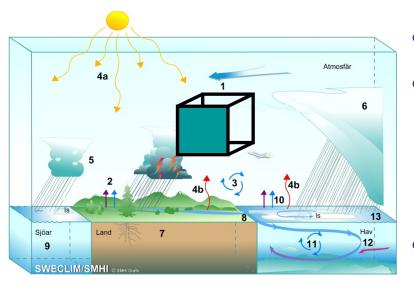
ANOMALY CORRELATION FORECAST EUROPE LAT 35.000 TO 75.000 LON -12.500 TO 42.500





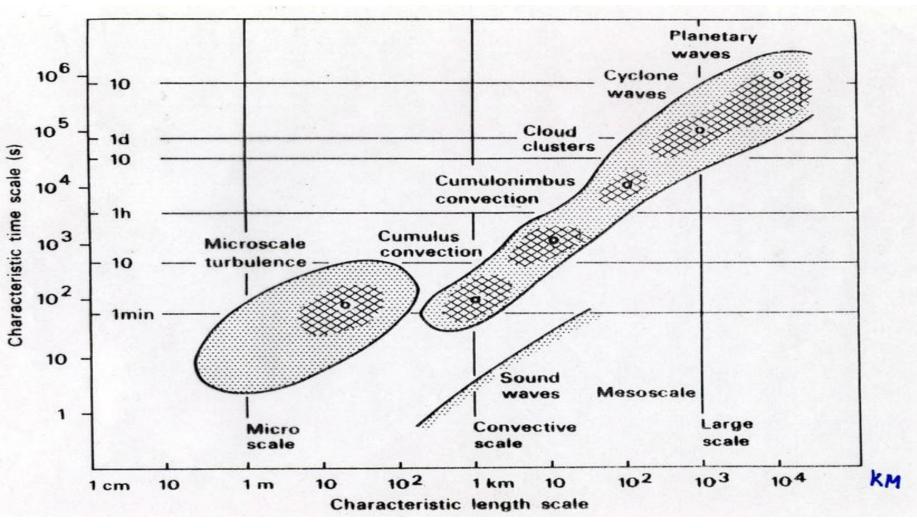
Improvement with time due to better model and observations!

Limitations of a NWP (or GCM)

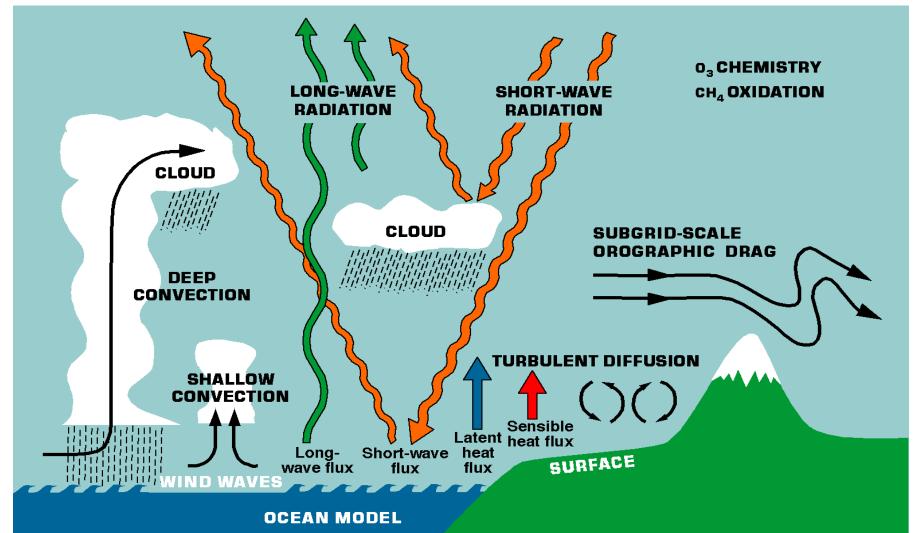


- All processes are not resolved
- Need to be described in an approximative way (e.g. turbulence, clouds and precipitation, ...)
- Parametrisations (express small scale phenomenon with large scale variables)
- NWPs (GCMs) are compromises between details in the physical description and computational speed

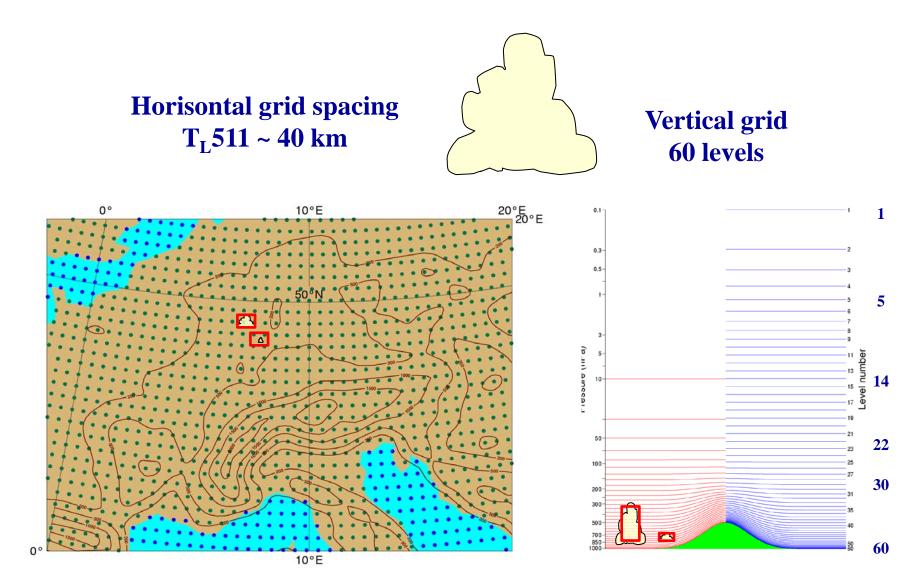
Space and time scales



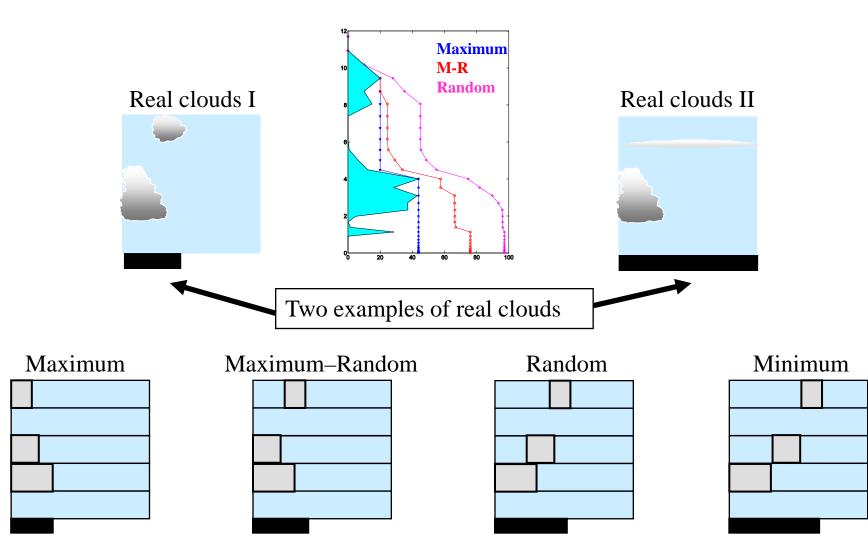
Parametrized processes in the ECMWF model



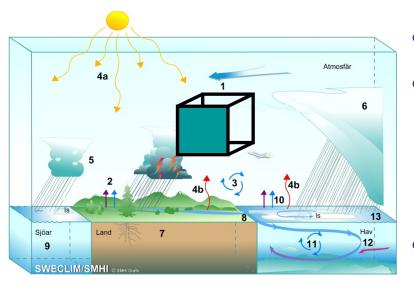
How to represent a cloud in a model?



An example of parameterisation: Distribution of clouds



Limitations of a NWP (or GCM)

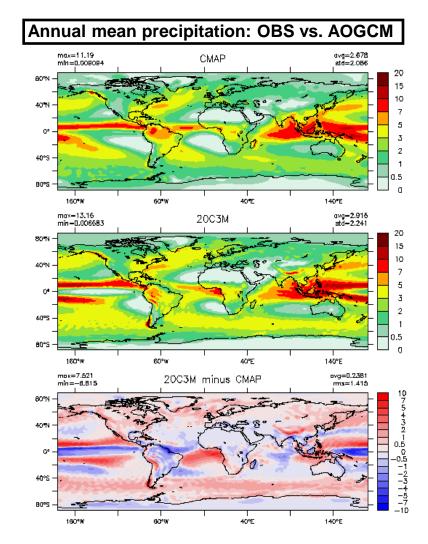


- All processes are not resolved
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- Parametrisations (express small scale phenomenon with large scale variables)
- NWPs (GCMs) are compromises between details in the physical description and computational speed

AOGCM evaluation

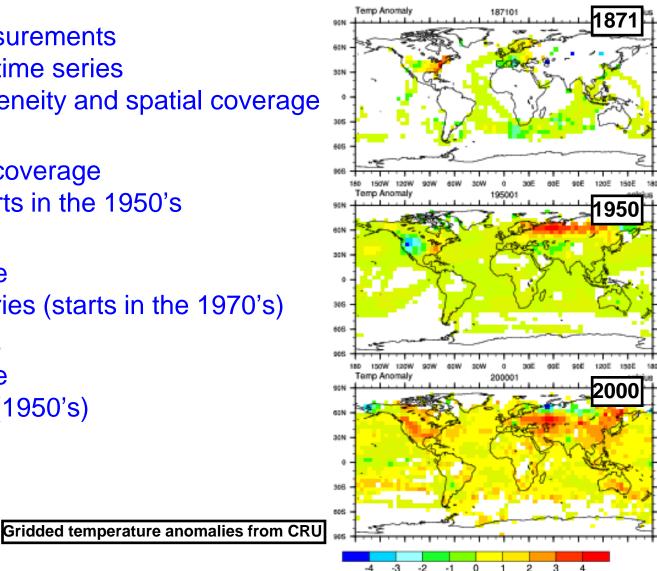
Present-day AOGCMs reproduce many features of today's climate, both in terms of means, variability and extremes

Some weaknesses with presentday AOGCMs are that they have a coarse resolution (>100km), they do not include all processes (e.g. the carbon cycle feedback), they have weaknesses in the understanding of parts of the climate system (in particular clouds are problematic)



What observational data can we compare model results with?

- Surface based measurements Relatively long time series Issue of homogeneity and spatial coverage
- Radiosondes Limited spatial coverage Time series starts in the 1950's
- Satellite data **Global coverage** Limited time series (starts in the 1970's)
- Reanalysis products **Global coverage** Limited in time (1950's)

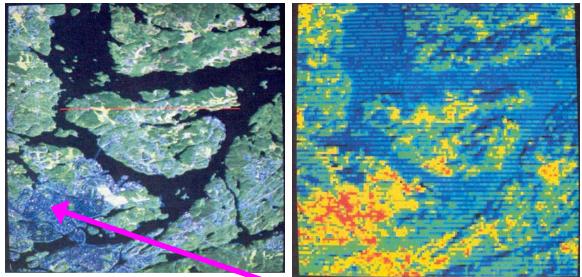


Homogeneity of observations: Spatial and temporal issues

Example from Stockholm

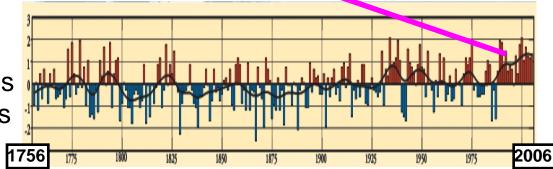
Spatial inhomogeneities

land / water forests / open areas rural / urban areas



Lunden, B., 1987. Satellite The mography a Study of a Landsat-5 Sub-Scene over Stockholm.

Geografiska Annaler. Series A, Physical Geography, Vol. 69, Nr. 3/4. 367-374.



Moberg, A., H. Bergström, J.R. Krigsman, and O. Svanered. 2002. Daily air temperature and pressure series for Stockholm (1756-1998). *Climatic Change* 53, 171-212.

Temporal inhomogeneities

Changing local conditions Relocation of instruments Changing instruments Urbanization

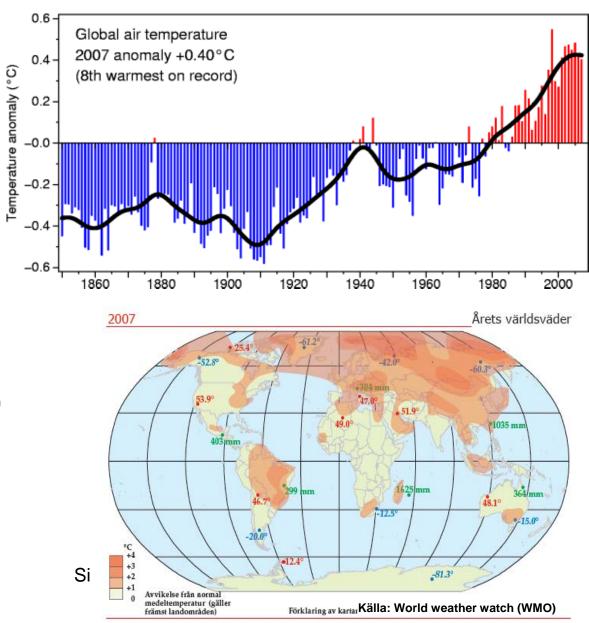
The climate is changing

New records in global mean temperature often broken

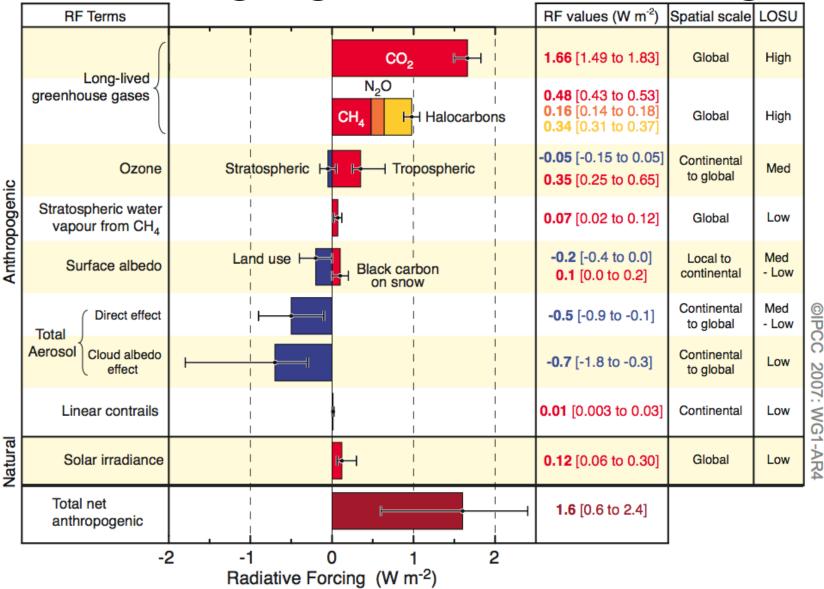
2007 was the 8th warmest year on record, since ca 1860

Exceeded only by 1998, 2005, 2003, 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2001

Source: Climate research Unit, UEA, UK



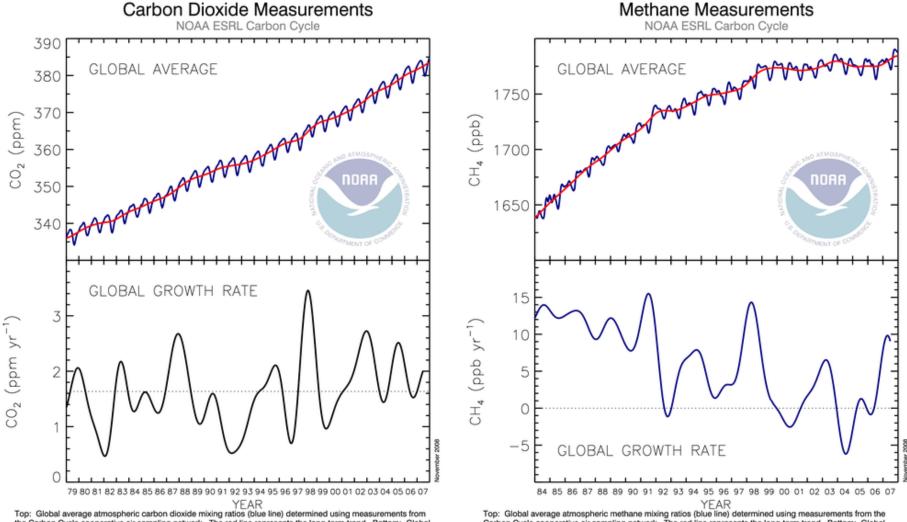
Changing radiative forcing



Compare 2005 with 1750

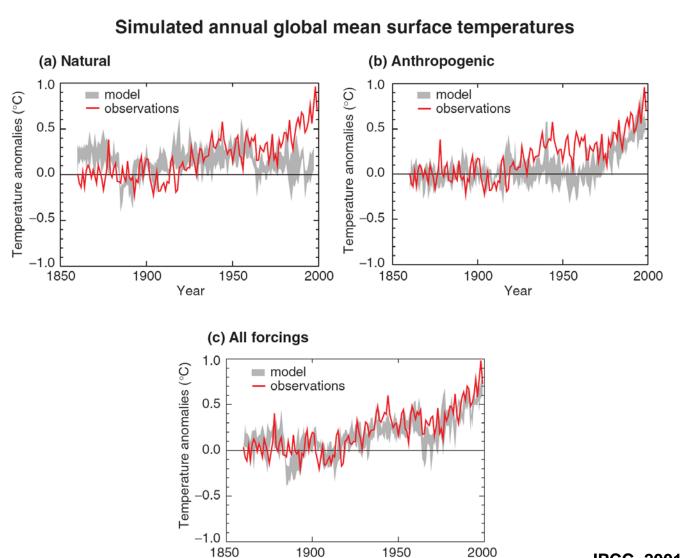
Source: IPCC, 2007

Changing concentrations



Top: Global average atmospheric carbon cloxide mixing ratios (cloue line) determined using measurements from the Carbon Cycle cooperative air sampling network. The red line represents the long-term trend. Bottom: Global average growth rate for carbon dioxide. Contact: Dr. Pieter Tans, NOAA ESRL Carbon Cycle, Boulder, Colorado, (303) 497-6678, pieter.tans@noaa.gov, http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/. Top: Global average atmospheric methane mixing ratios (blue line) determined using measurements from the Carbon Cycle cooperative air sampling network. The red line represents the long-term trend. Bottom: Global average growth rate for methane. Contact: Dr. Ed Dlugckencky, NOAA ESRL Carbon Cycle, Boulder, Colorado, (303) 497-6228, ed.dlugckencky@noaa.gov, http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gm//ccgg/.

Can GCMs simulate the evolution of climate?

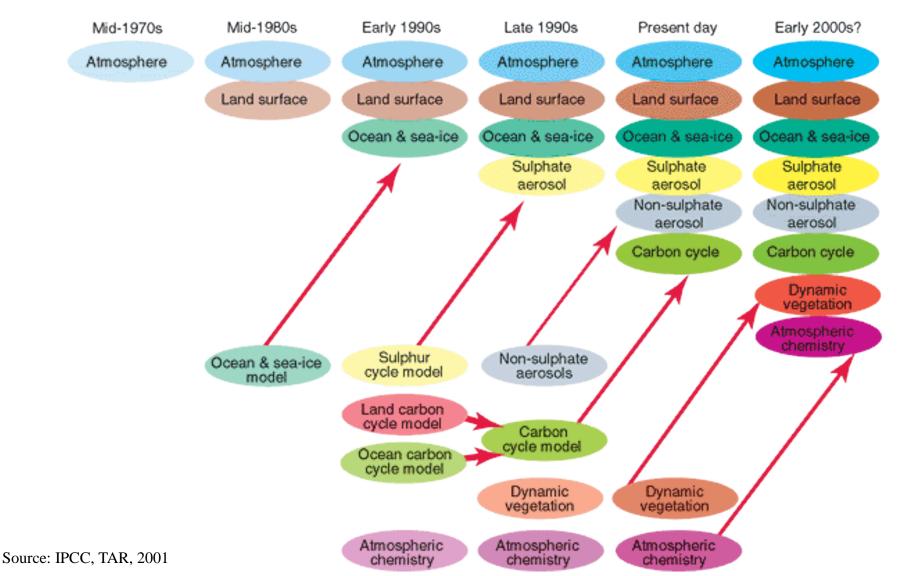


Year

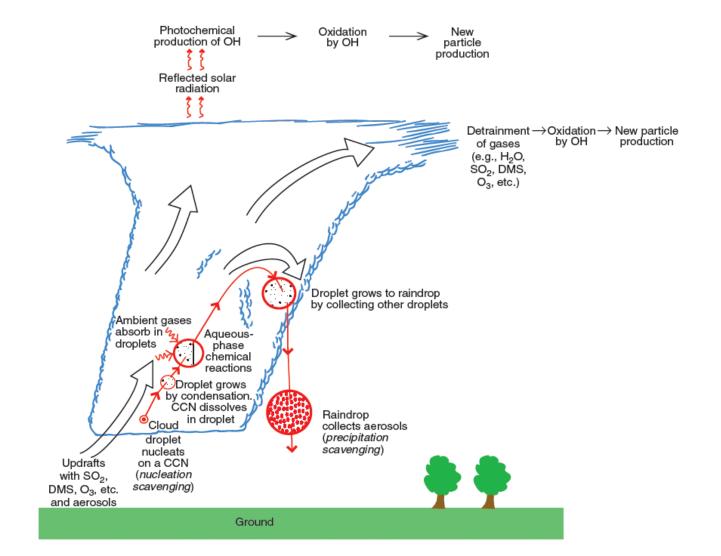
IPCC, 2001

Interacting systems

The Development of Climate models, Past, Present and Future



Cloud and precipitation processes interacts with atmospheric chemistry



Condensation and formation of cloud droplets

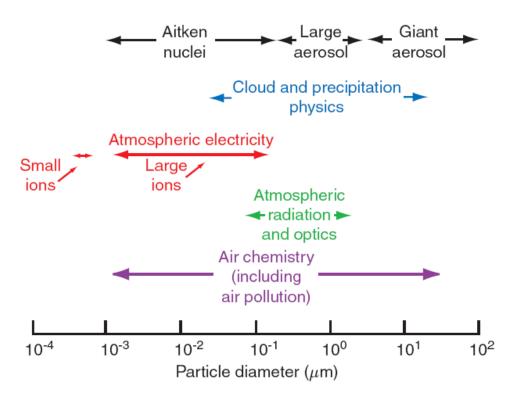
- Condensation takes place when the air gets saturated
- Curvature of droplets leads to high saturation pressure (up to 400% in clean conditions)
- Condensation starts on small particles (aerosols) consisting of various salts that lead to lower saturation pressure (small droplets can form already at 80% RH)
- Cloud properties depend on the condensation nuclei (size, number, properties)
- Droplets increase in size due to condensation and coalescence

SHIP TRACKS OFF FRANCE (From bands 1,4 and 3 of MODIS on Aqua Satellite)



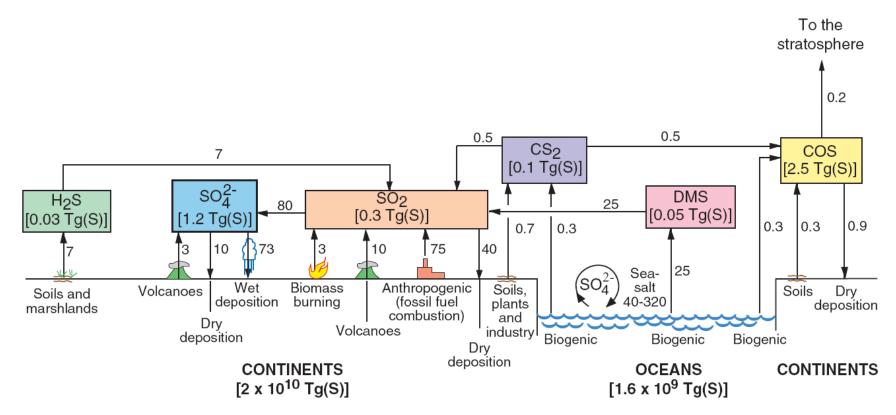
Atmospheric aerosols

- Suspensions of small solid and/or liquid particles with negligible terminal fall speeds
- Important for atmospheric processes

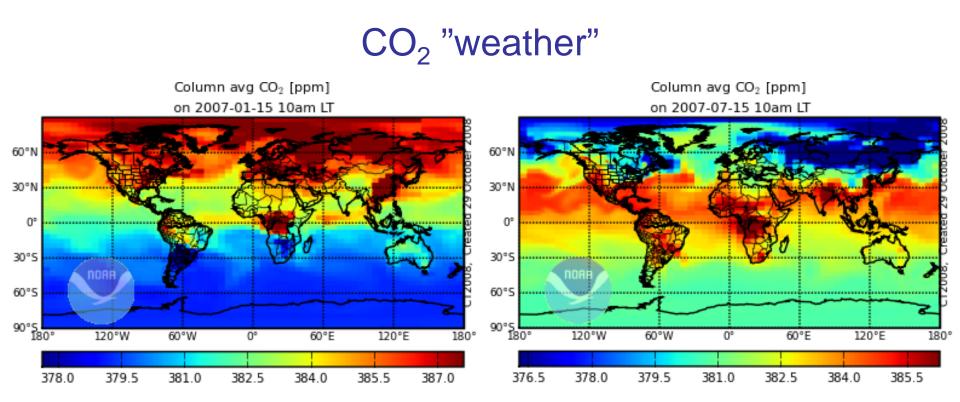


Biogeochemical cycles

- Sources and sinks at the surface, *in situ* formation and destruction determines the content of a compound in the atmosphere
- Large number of processes



Atmospheric motions transports chemical constituents



Carbon tracker (NOAA). Information from observational data and meteorological models

End of part 1!

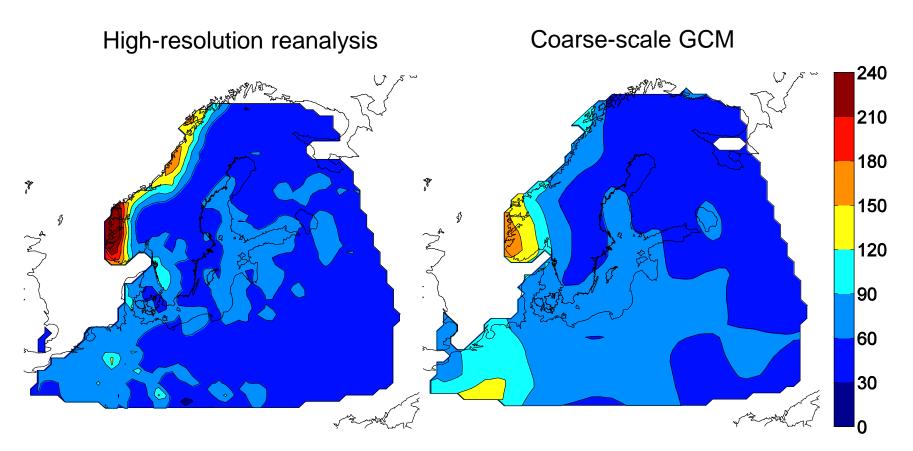
Regional climate simulations and their representation of change in the regional climate

Lectures during the course on "Impact of climate change on the marine environment with special focus on the role of changing extremes" 25 August 2015

> Erik Kjellström, SMHI 011-4958501 (erik.kjellstrom@smhi.se)

Problems with global climate models (1)

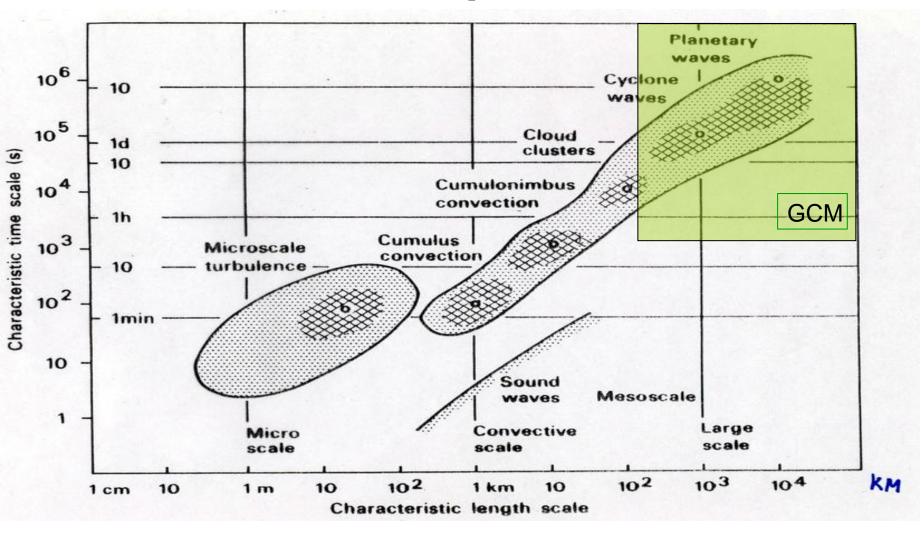
Details in precipitation are not captured: example winter (DJF)



mm/month

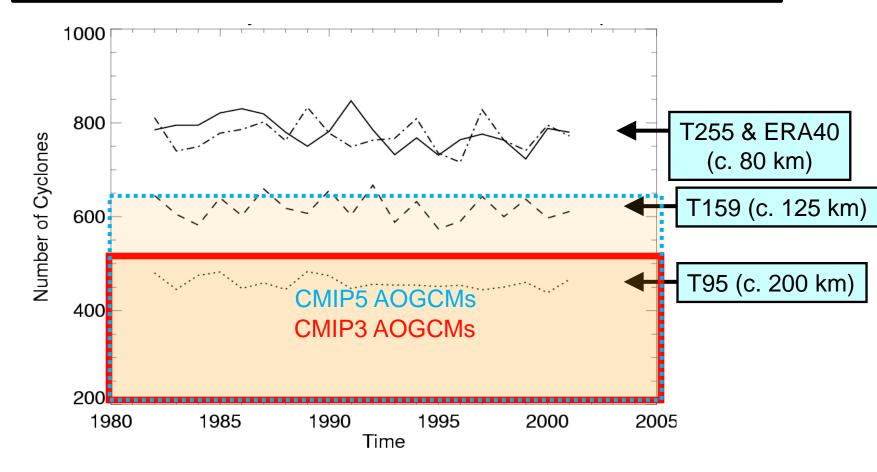
2015-08-28

Spatial and temporal scales in the atmosphere

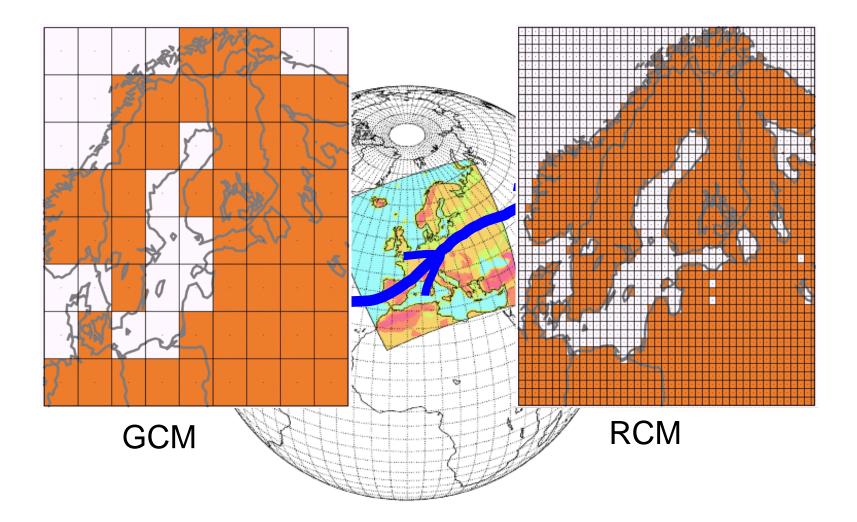


Problems with global climate models (2)

Extra-tropical cyclones over the Northern Hemisphere in winter

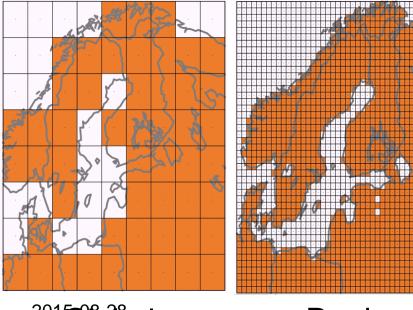


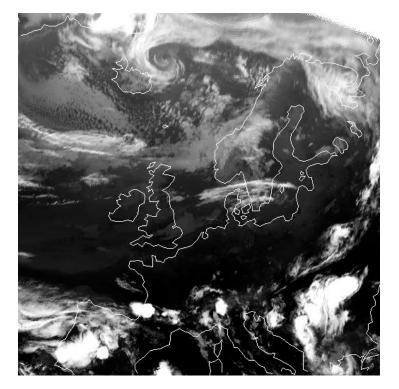
Regional climate modelling



Regional climate models: Improving global climate scenarios

Increased resolution — detailed regional forcing Greater number of explicitly resolved processes

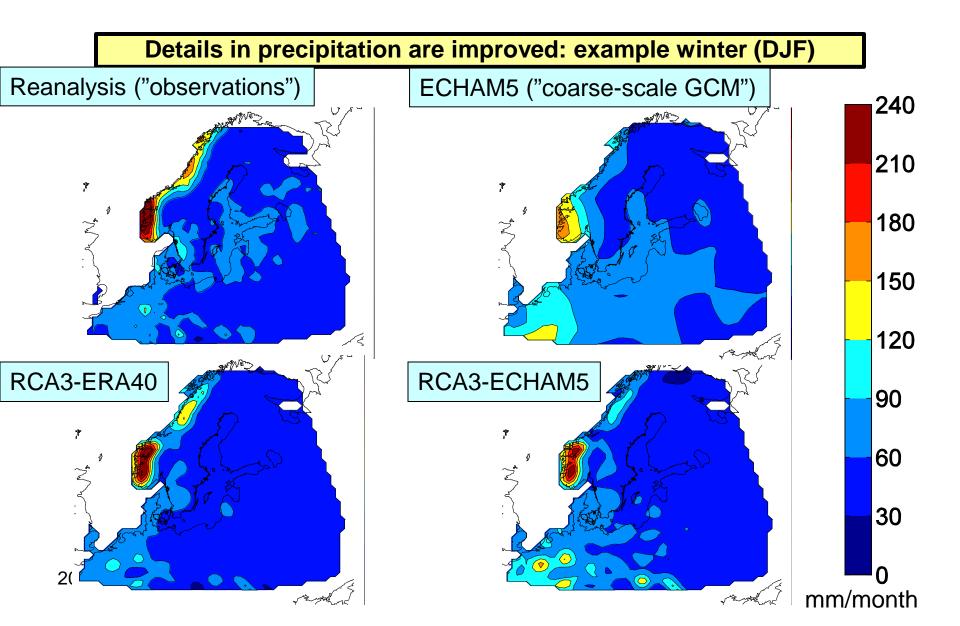




²⁰¹ 6678al

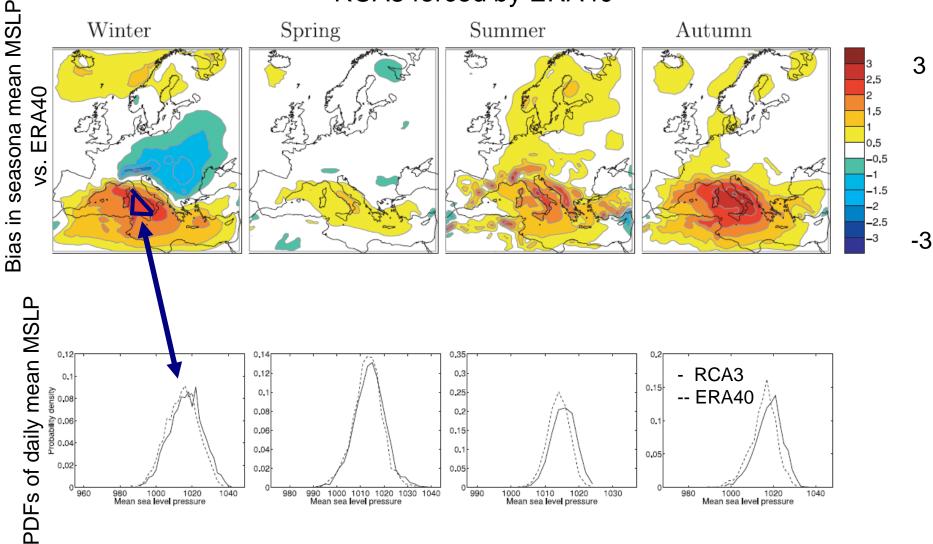
Regional

Increased resolution can help



Large-scale circulation in RCA3

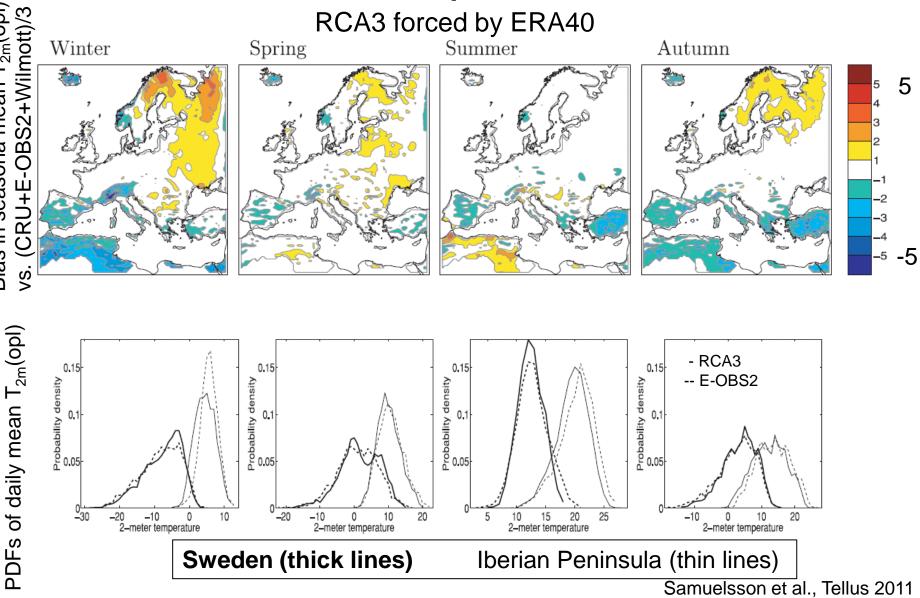
RCA3 forced by ERA40



Samuelsson et al., Tellus 2011

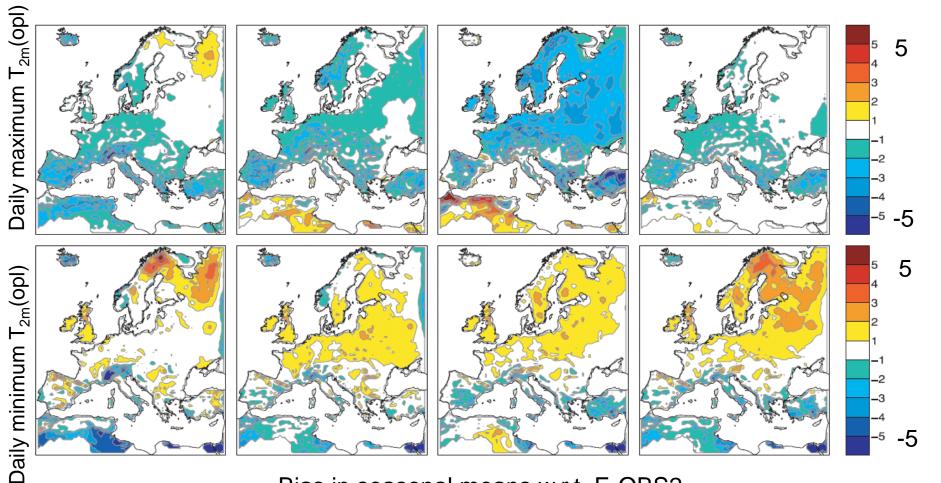
Near-surface temperature in RCA3

Bias in seasona mean T_{2m}(opl) vs. (CRU+E-OBS2+Wilmott)/3



Near-surface temperature in RCA3

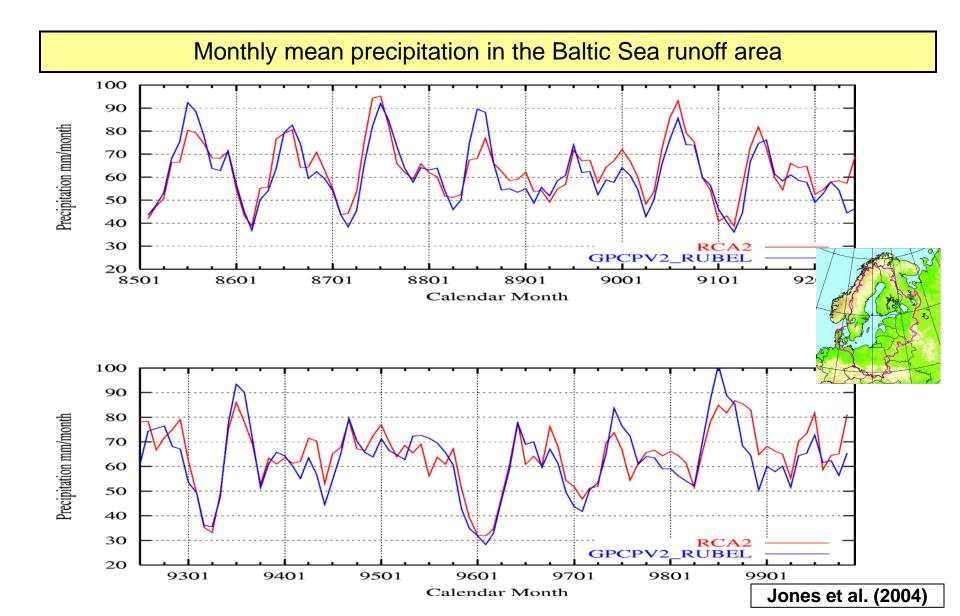
RCA3 forced by ERA40



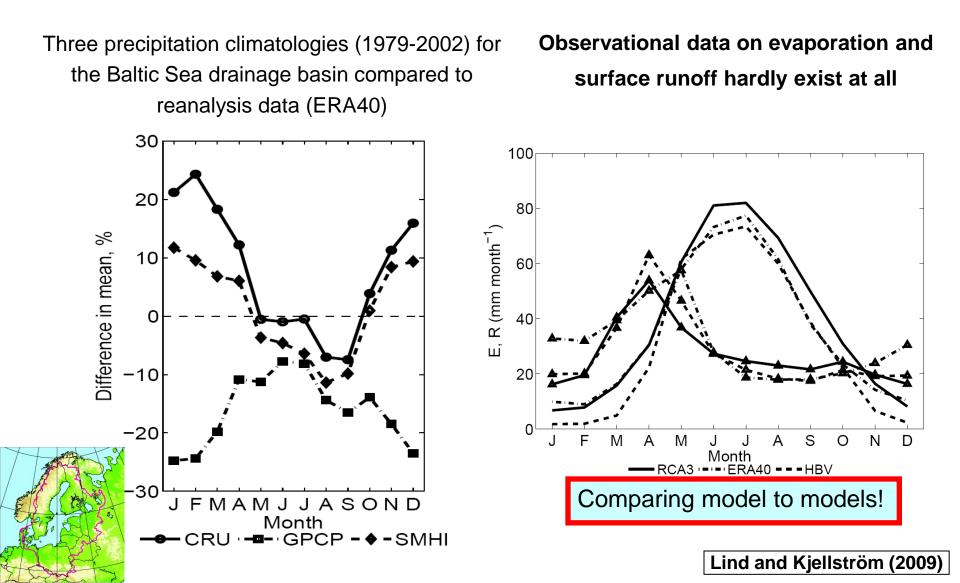
Bias in seasonal means w.r.t. E-OBS2

Samuelsson et al., Tellus 2011

Evaluation on the regional scale

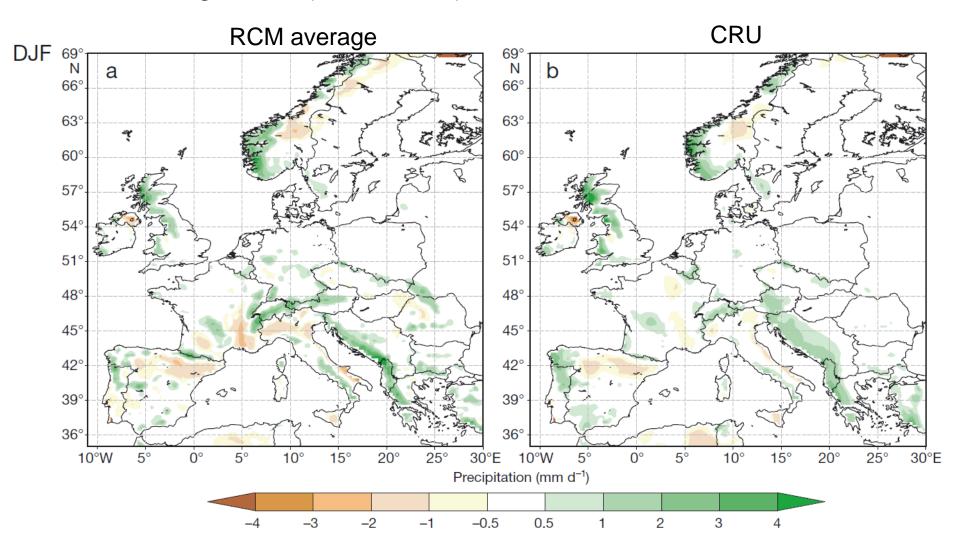


Can we trust the observational data?



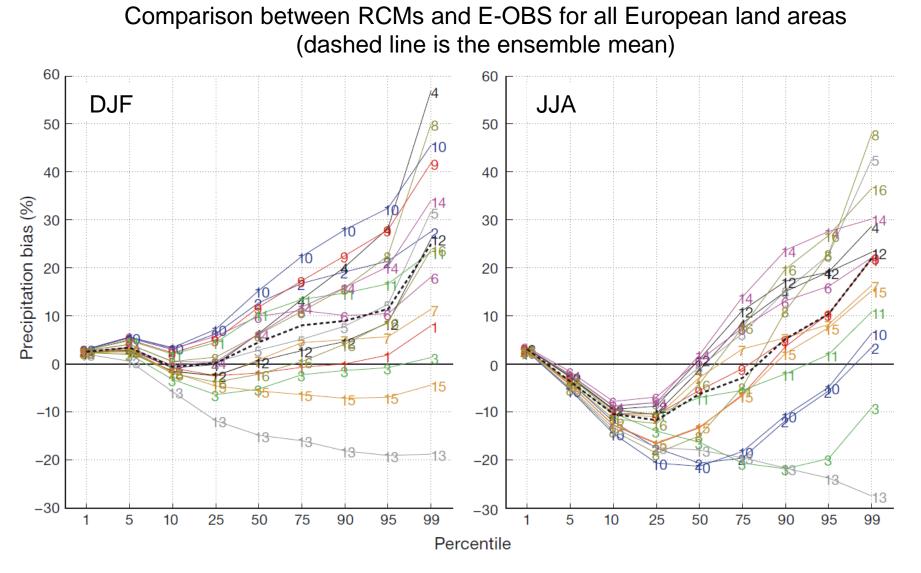
Reproduction of "meso-scale" features in RCMs

Large-scale (200-250 km) features have been filtered out



Coppola et al., special issue Climate Research, 2010

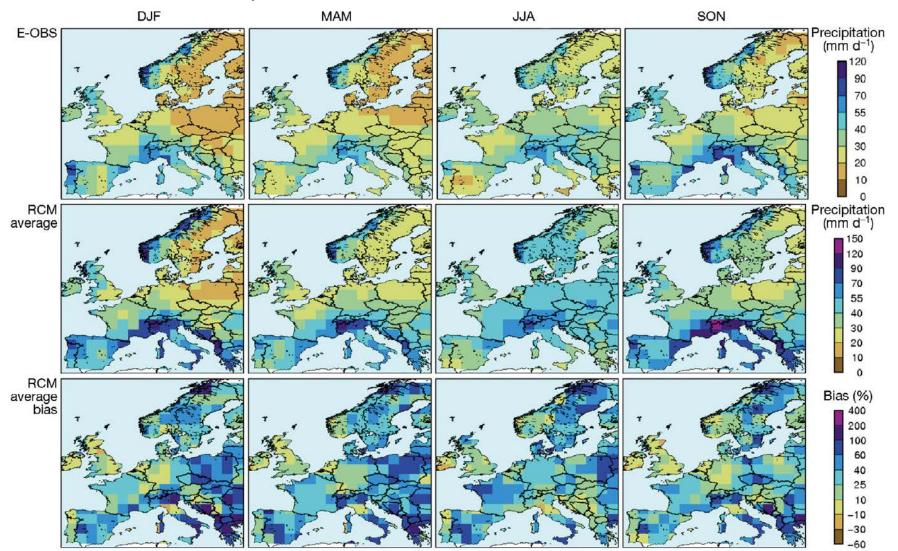
How good are RCMs at reproducing statistics of daily precipitation?



Kjellström et al., special issue Climate Research, 2010

How good are RCMs at reproducing extremes of daily precipitation?

Comparison between RCMs and E-OBS for P99.9

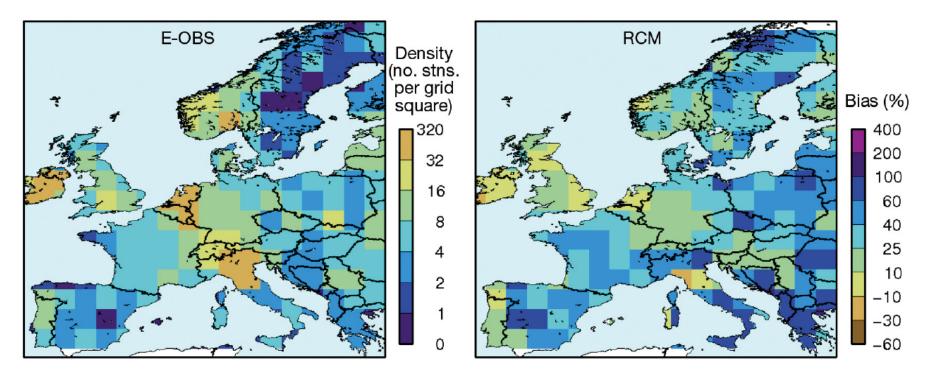


Lenderink, special issue Climate Research, 2010

Are biases a pure model problem?

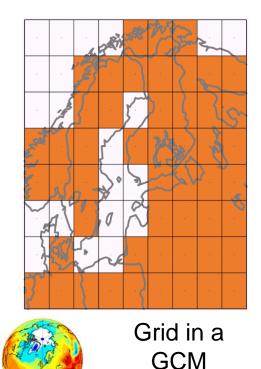
Station density in E-OBS

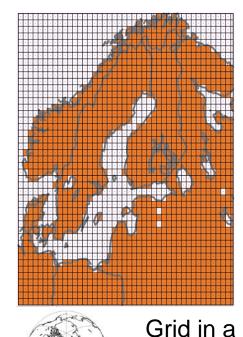
Bias in P99.9



Is model resolution high enough?

Details (i.e. land/sea distr., mountains)
 Processes that need explicit description



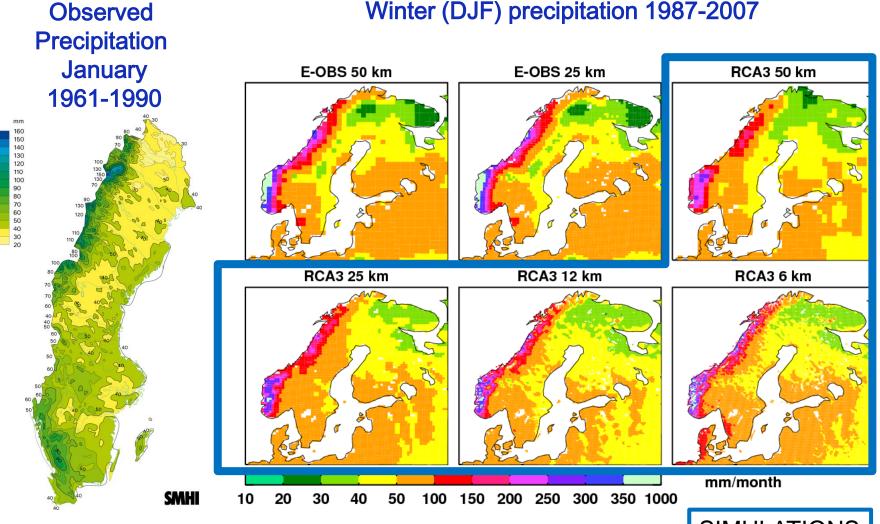


RCM



Compromise with computational power

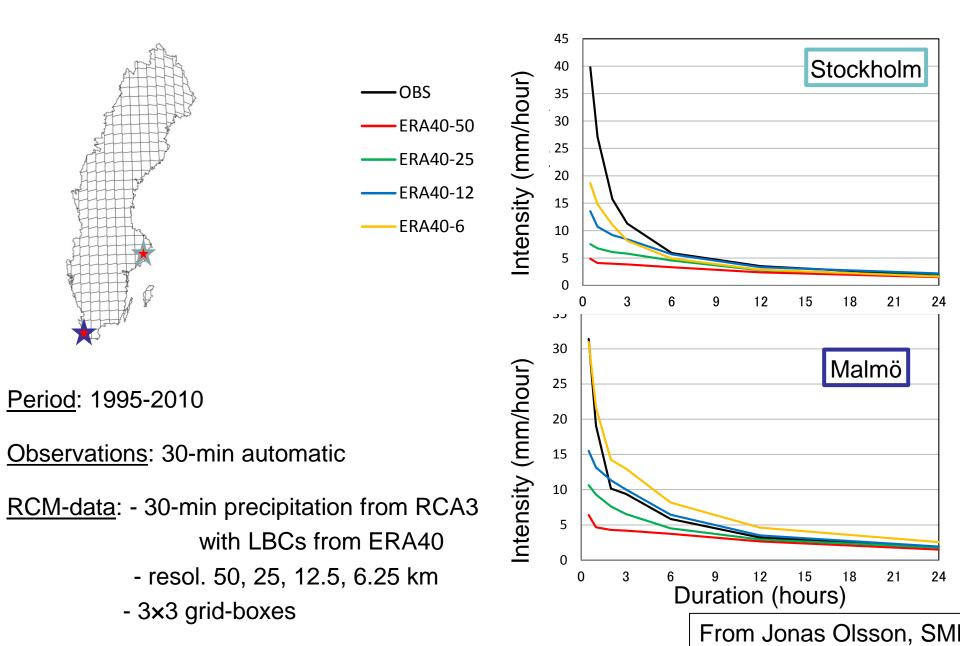
Towards higher resolution



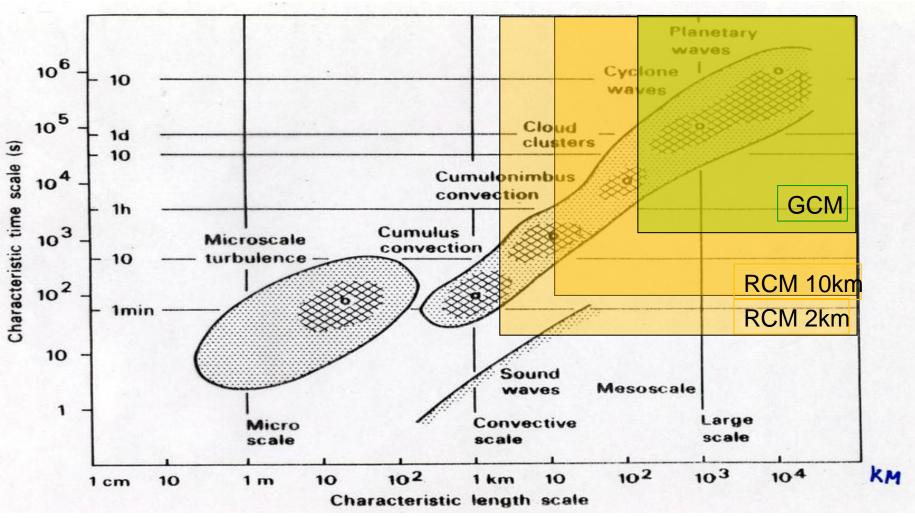
Winter (DJF) precipitation 1987-2007

SIMULATIONS

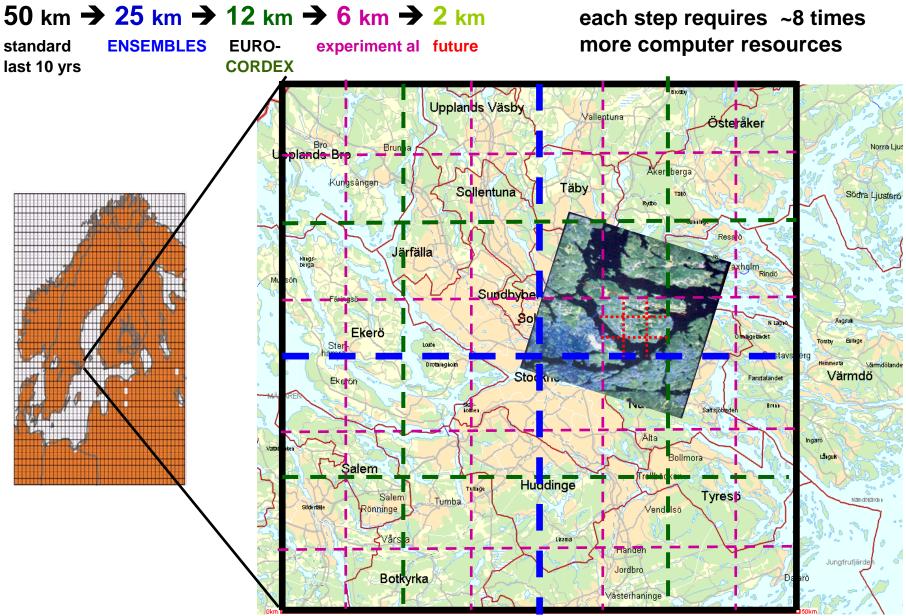
Intensity and duration



Spatial and temporal scales in the atmosphere



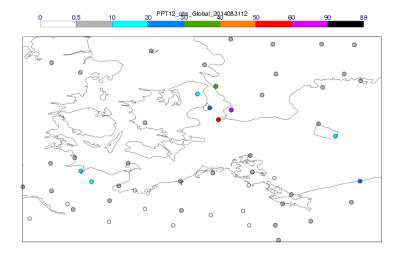
Towards higher spatial resolution



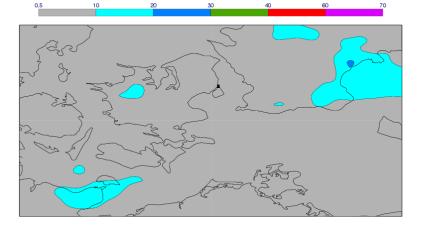
"Modellutveckling: mot lokal skala"

"Malmöregnet" 31/8 2014 (0200-1400)

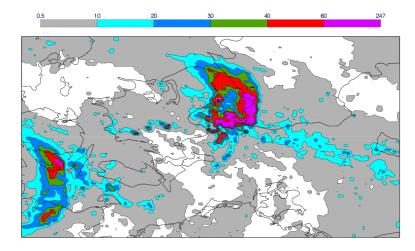
Observed precipitation



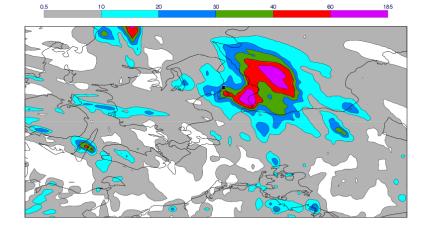
Fcst from global NWP (16 km resolution)



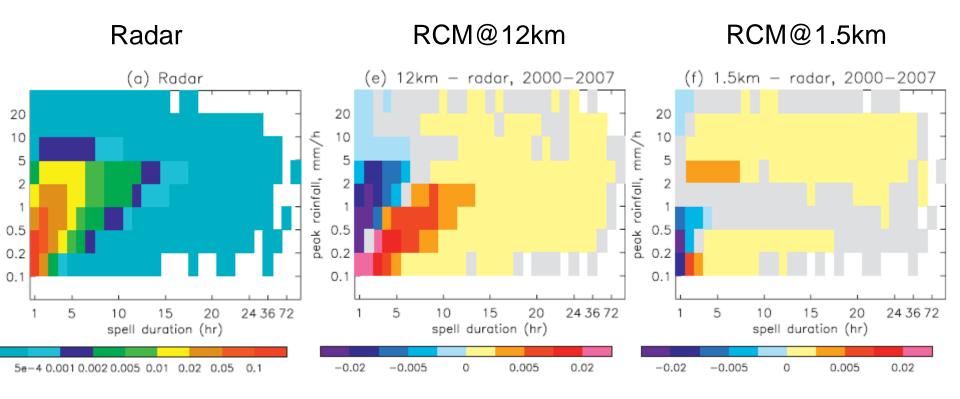
Precipitation from weather radar



Fcst from the SMHI regional NWP (2.5 km resolution)



Precipitation in southern Britain (1)

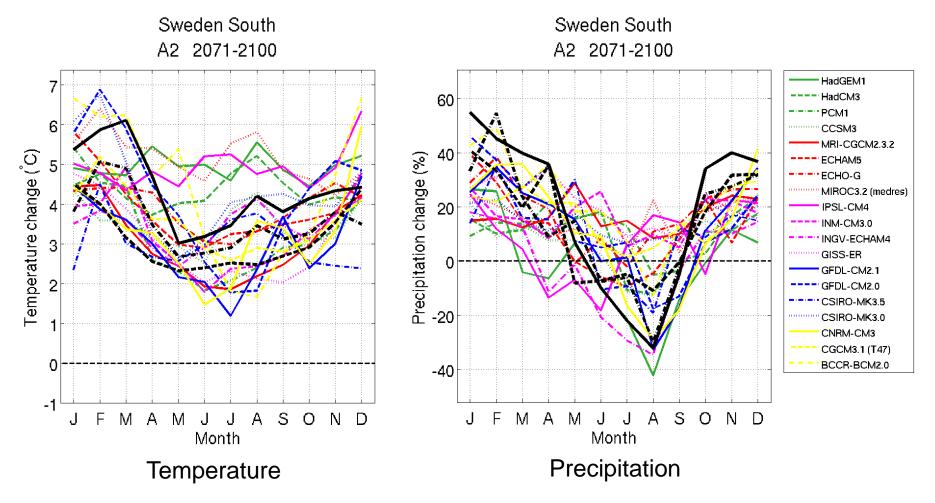


- High-resolution RCMs better capture intense precipitation
- In particular for convective precipitation

Use of RCMs for climate change studies

Different signals from different GCMs

Example for southern Sweden (2071-2100 vs 1961-1900)



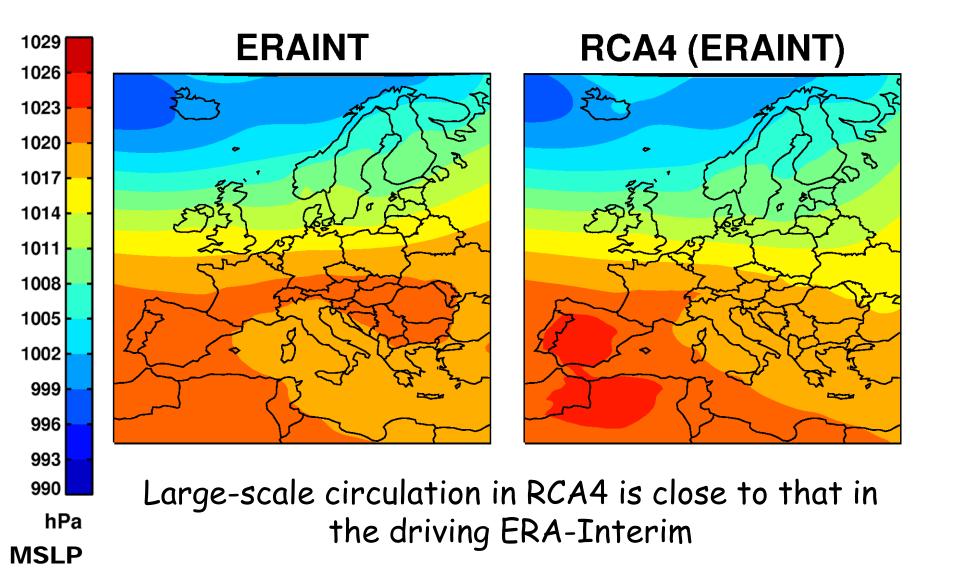


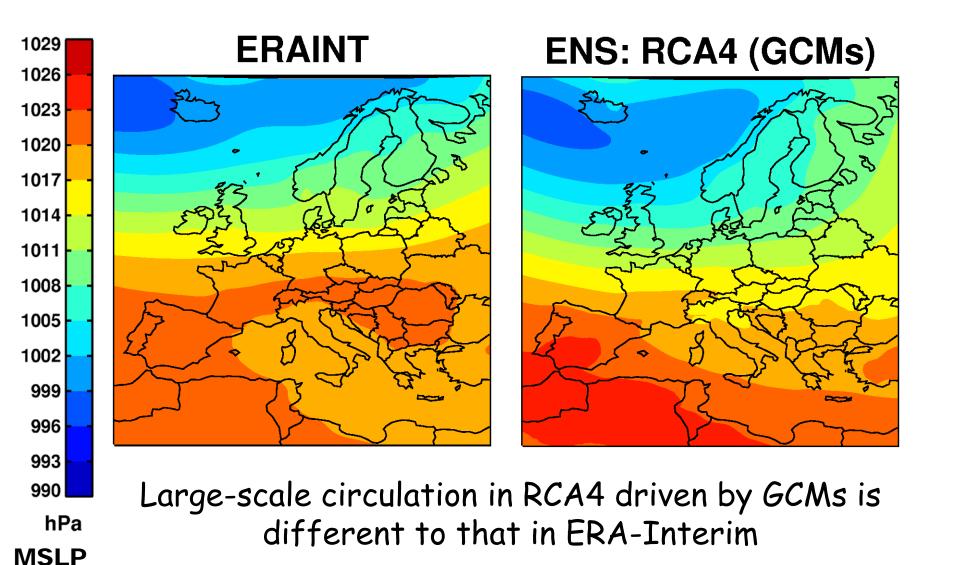
RCA4 set up on the Euro-CORDEX domain at 0.44° (~50 km) and 0.11° (~12.5 km) horizontal resolution. ERA-Interim and GCM driven simulations

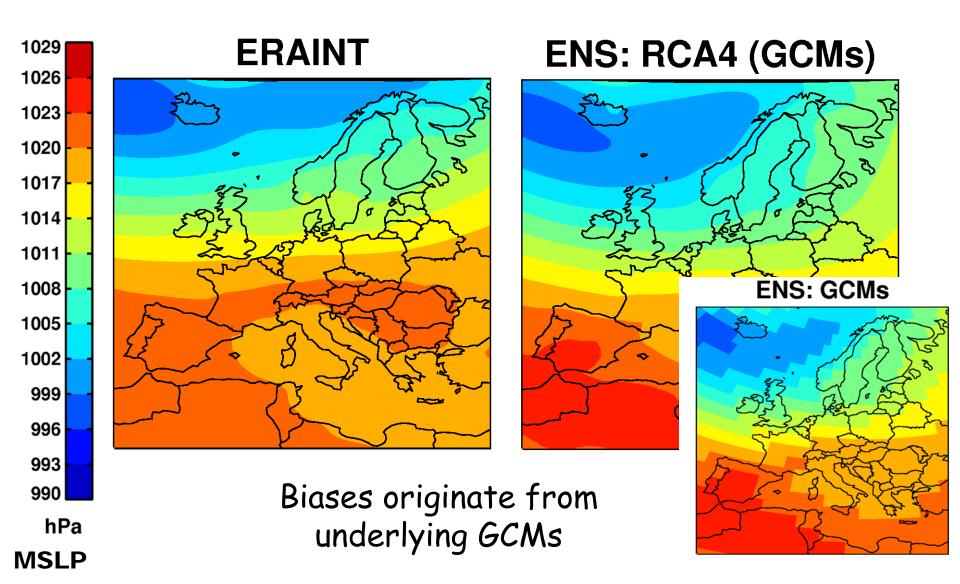
RCA4 nested in (GCM name)	RCP2.6	RCP4.5	RCP8.5
CanESM2		X	X
CNRM-CM5		XX	XX
EC-EARTH	XX	XX	XX
GFDL-ESM2M		X	X
HadGEM2-ES		XX	XX
IPSL-CM5A-MR		X	XX
MIROC5		X	Х
MPI-ESM-LR		X	XX
NorESM1-M		X	X
	1 (1)	9 <mark>(3)</mark>	9 (5)



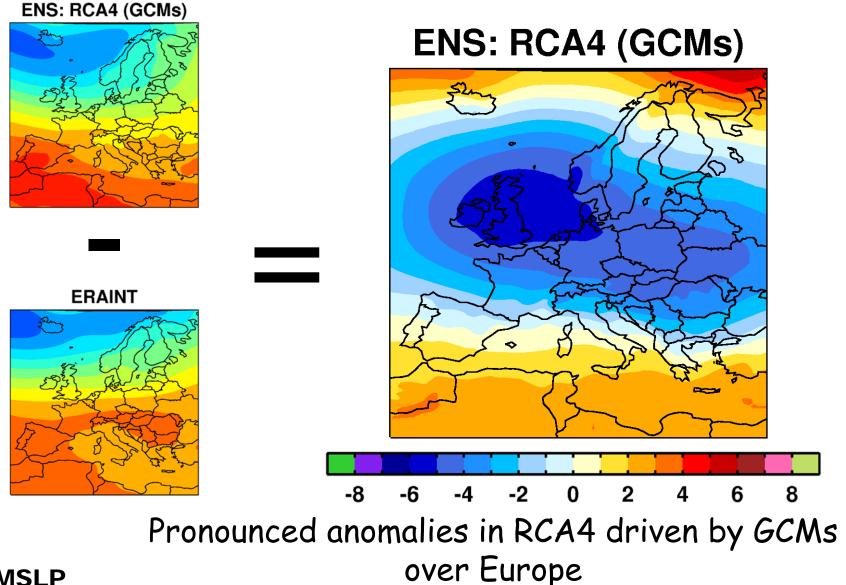
Historical simulations





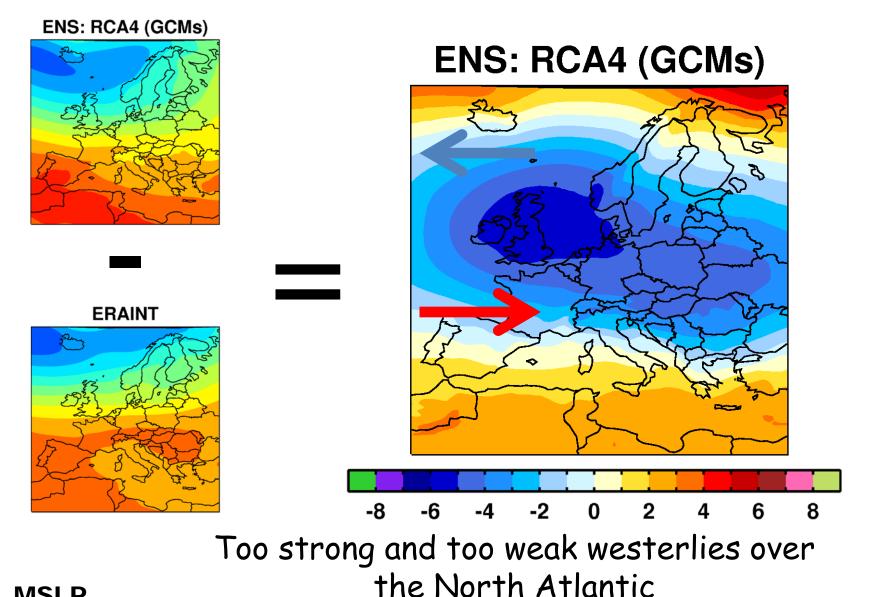


SM



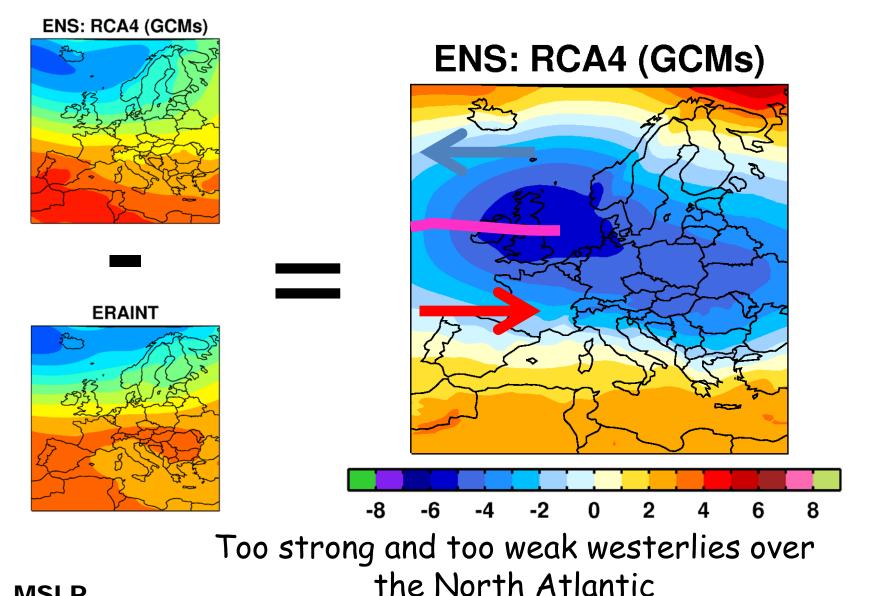
MSLP

SM



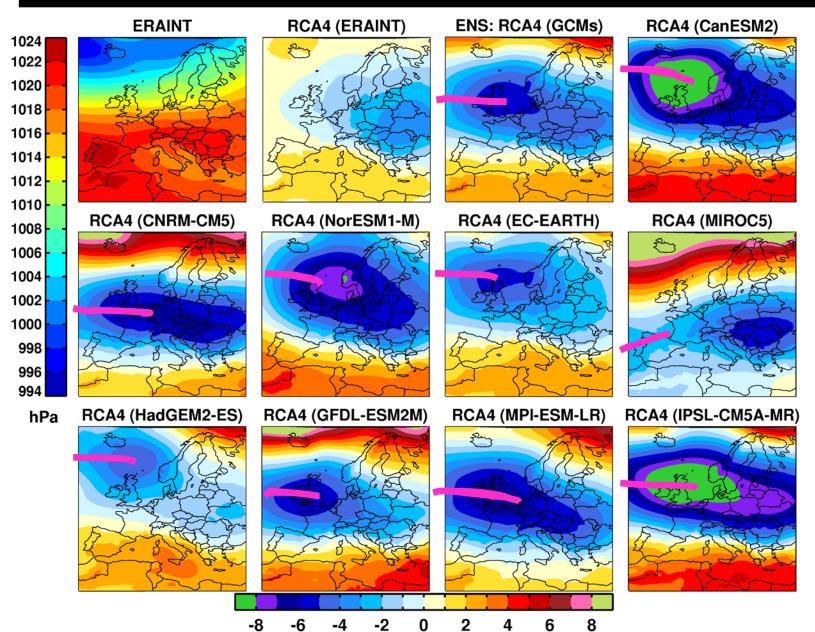
MSLP

SM



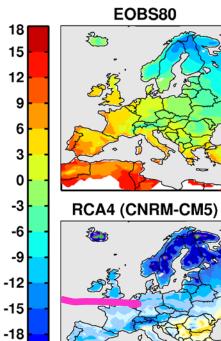
MSLP

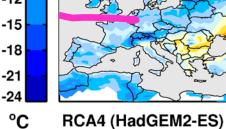
SMH

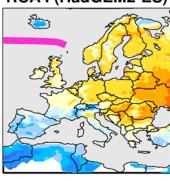


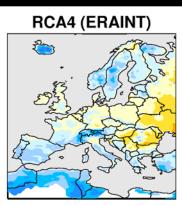
2m temperature (DJF)



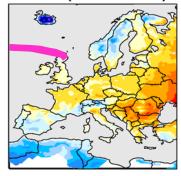




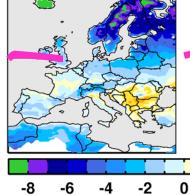


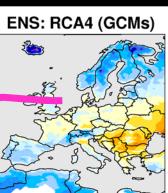


RCA4 (NorESM1-M)

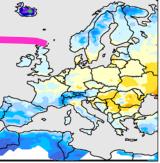


RCA4 (GFDL-ESM2M)

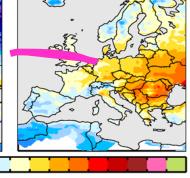




RCA4 (EC-EARTH)



RCA4 (MPI-ESM-LR)

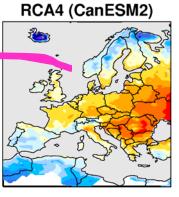


4

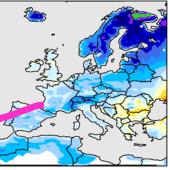
6

8

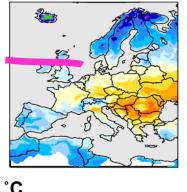
2



RCA4 (MIROC5)

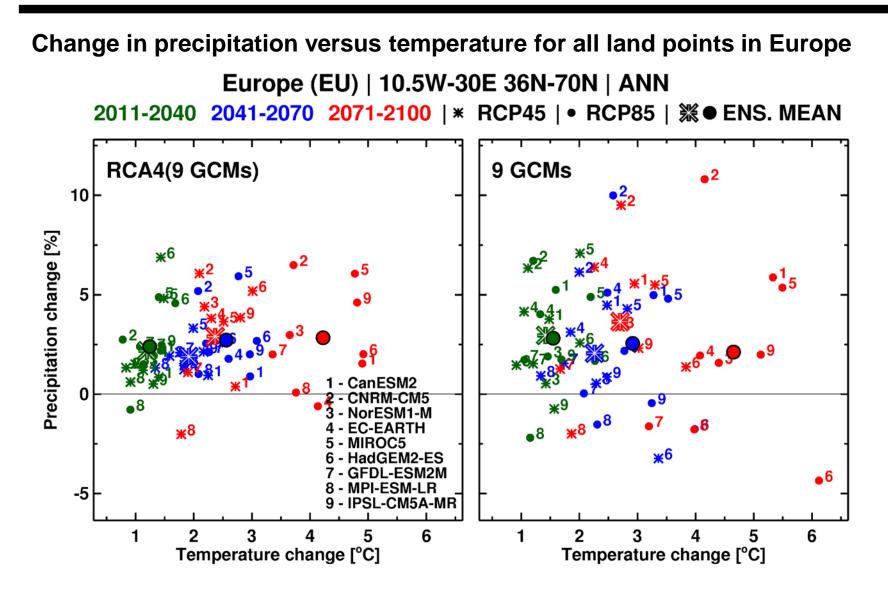


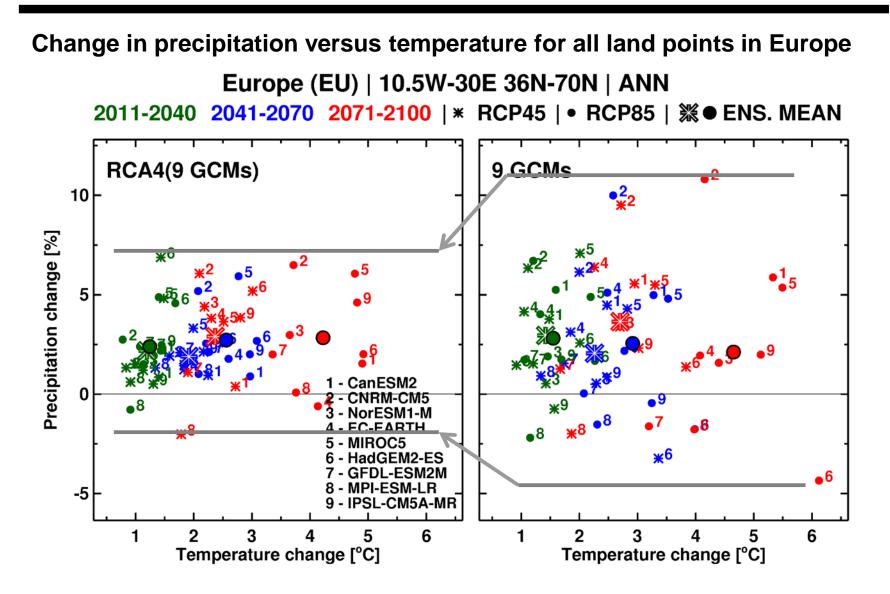
RCA4 (IPSL-CM5A-MR)

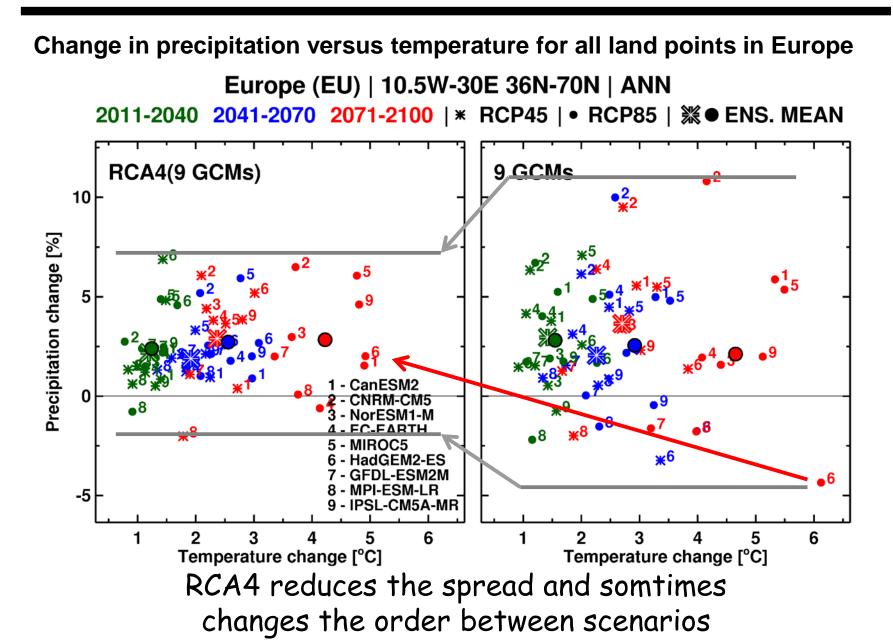




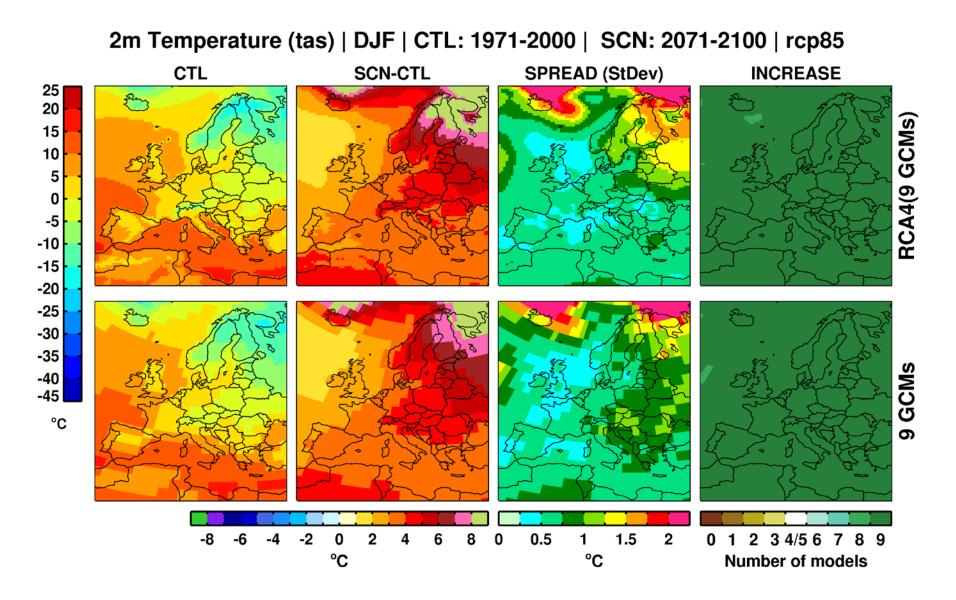
Climate change simulations



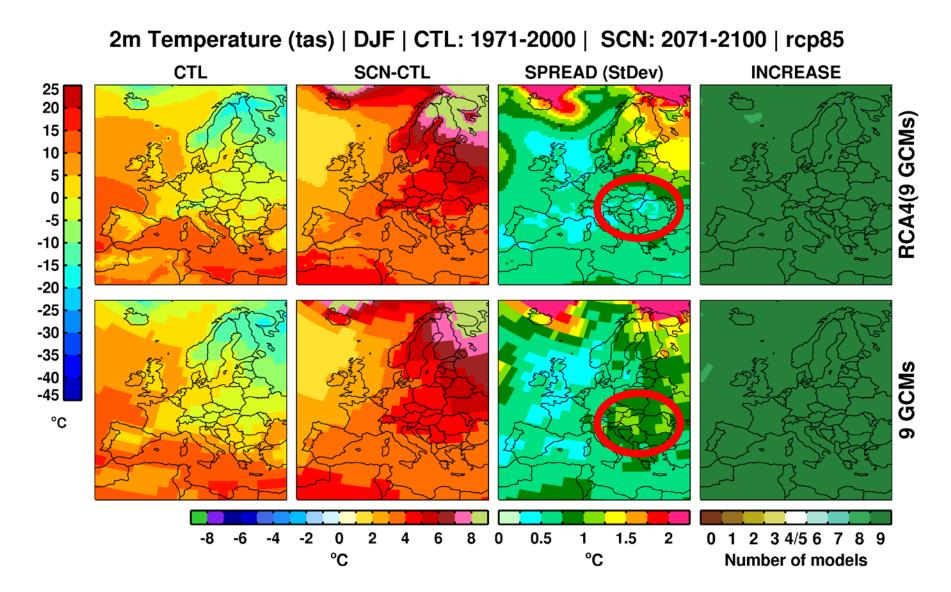




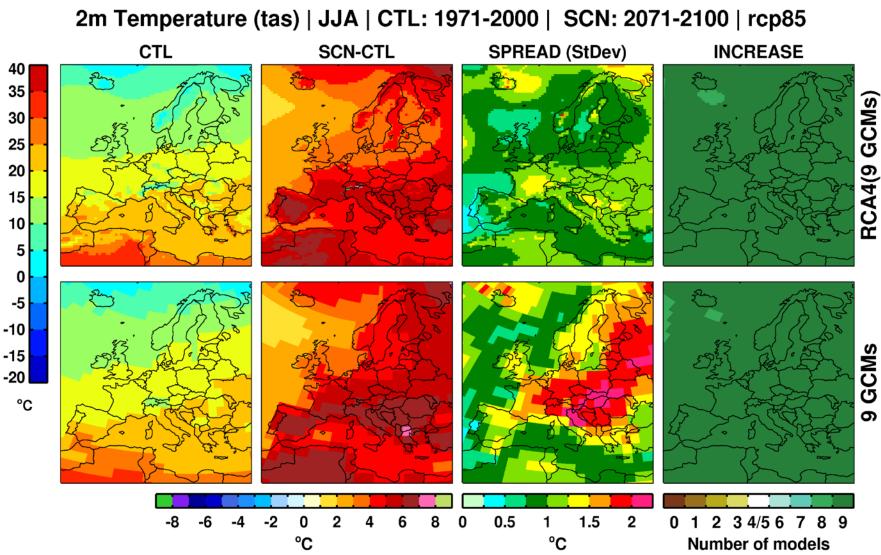
Changes in winter (DJF) temperatures



Changes in winter temperatures



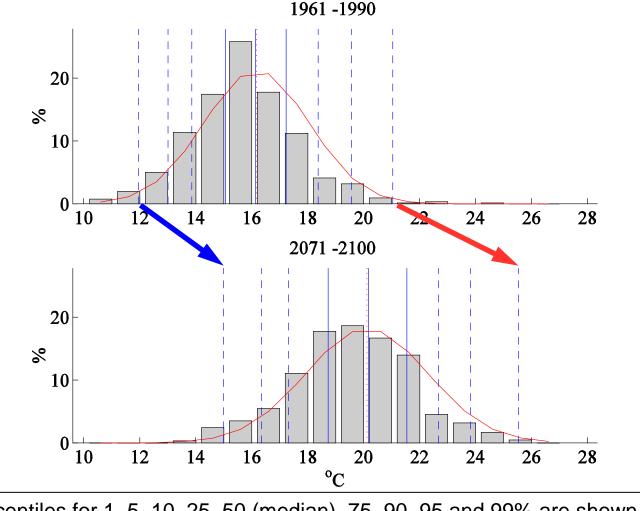
Changes in summer temperatures



SMHI

GCMs

Simulated summertime (JJA) temperature climate in Stockholm



Percentiles for 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 (median), 75, 90, 95 and 99% are shown

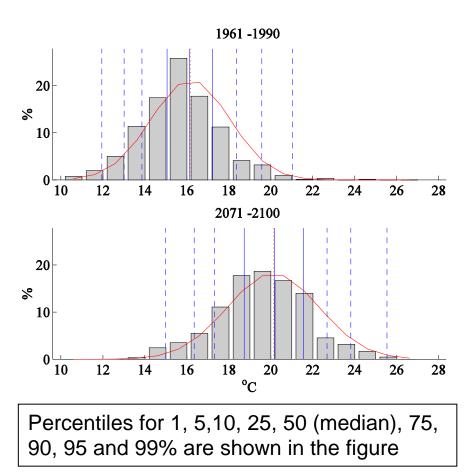
Temperature climate during summer (JJA)

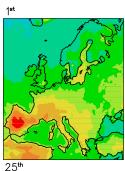
In Stockholm ...

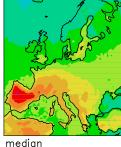
... and in Europe

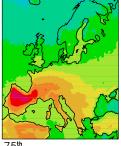
10th

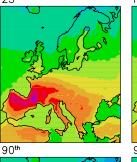
Difference between 2071-2100 and 1961-1990

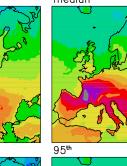


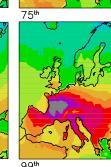


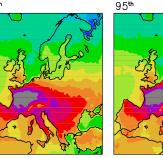


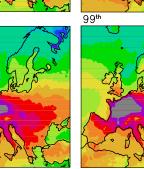










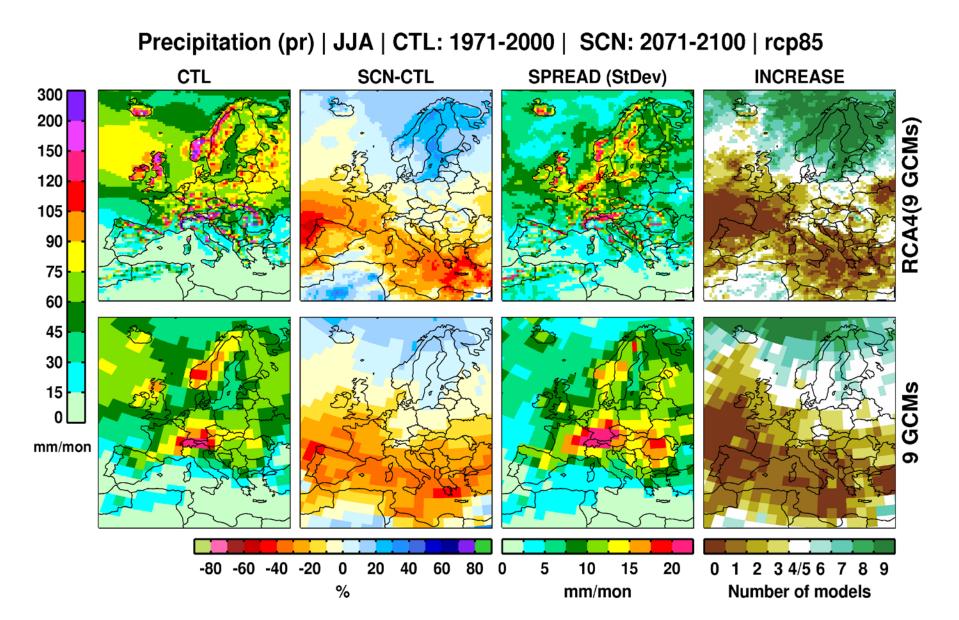


11 °C 10

Kjellström, E., 2004. Recent and future signatures of climate change in Europe. Ambio, 33(4-5), 193-198.

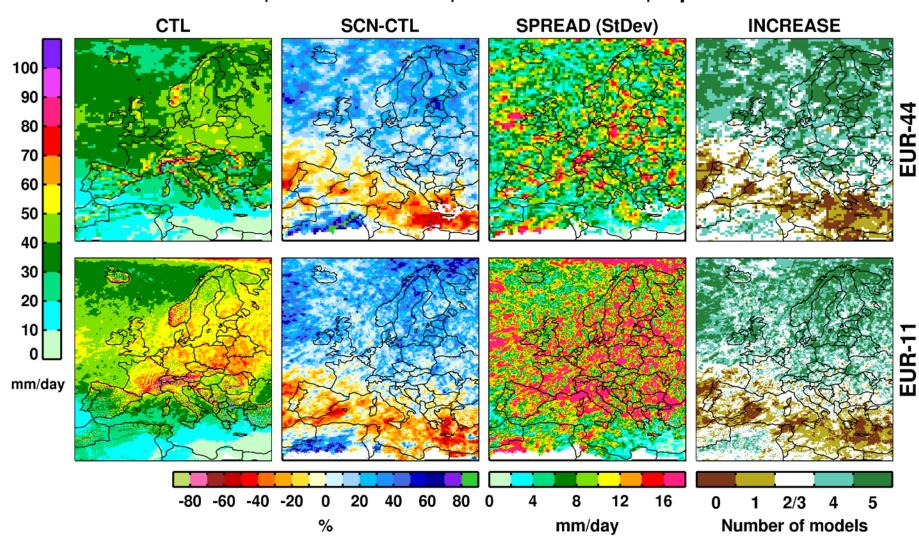
Changes in JJA mean precipitation



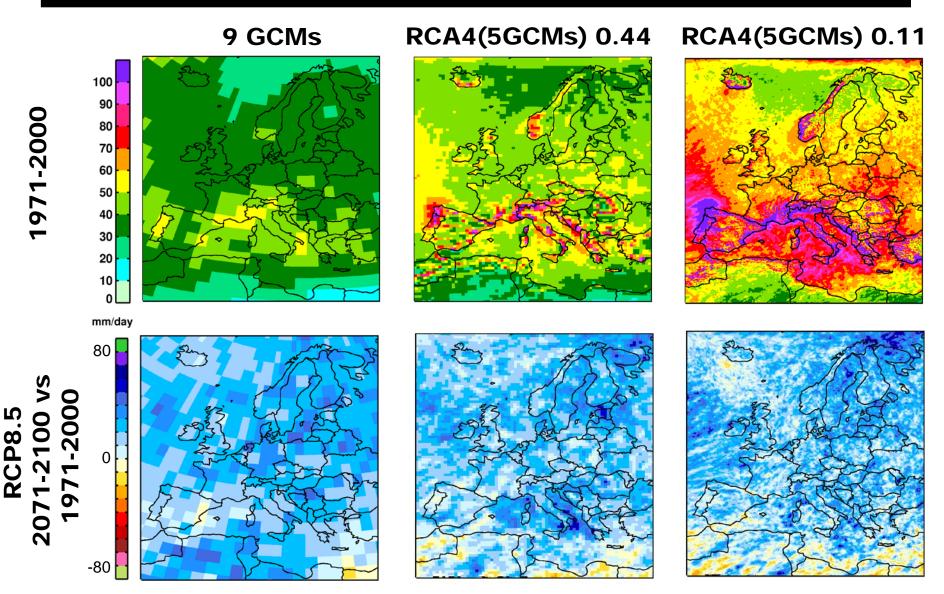


Changes in JJA extreme precipitation

RCA4(5 GCMs) | 20-yr ret. values of Daily Precipitation (pr) JJA | CTL: 1971-2000 | SCN: 2071-2100 | rcp85

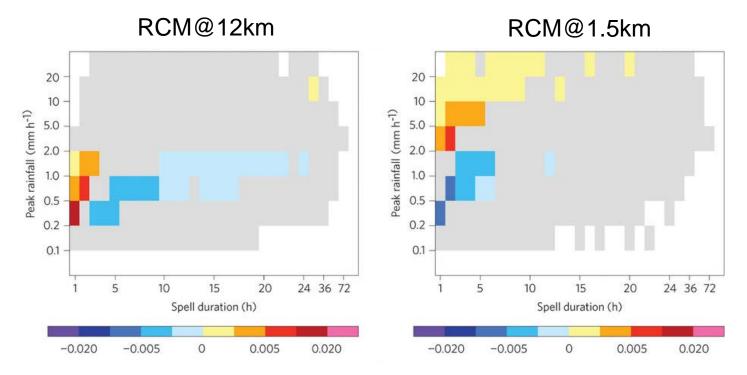


Extreme precipitation (20-yr return level) SMH



Precipitation in southern Britain (2)

Climate change (end of 21st C compared to end of 20th C under SRES A2)

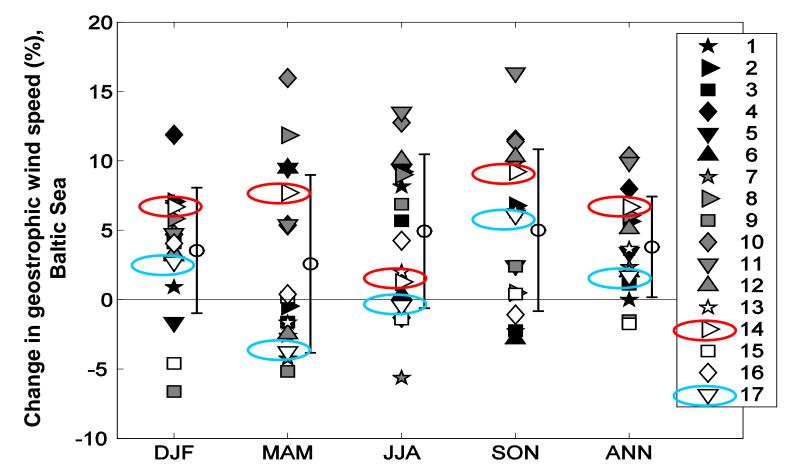


Really high-res models show a larger increase in the most intense precipitation compared to what is "standard high resolution" in todays models

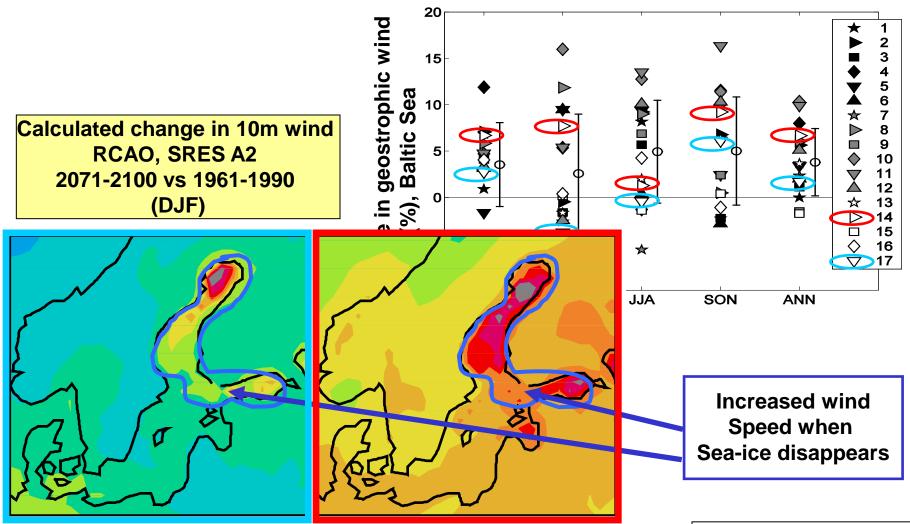
Kendon et al., Nature Climate Change, 2014

Wind speed changes

17 CMIP3 models at the time of CO2 doubling

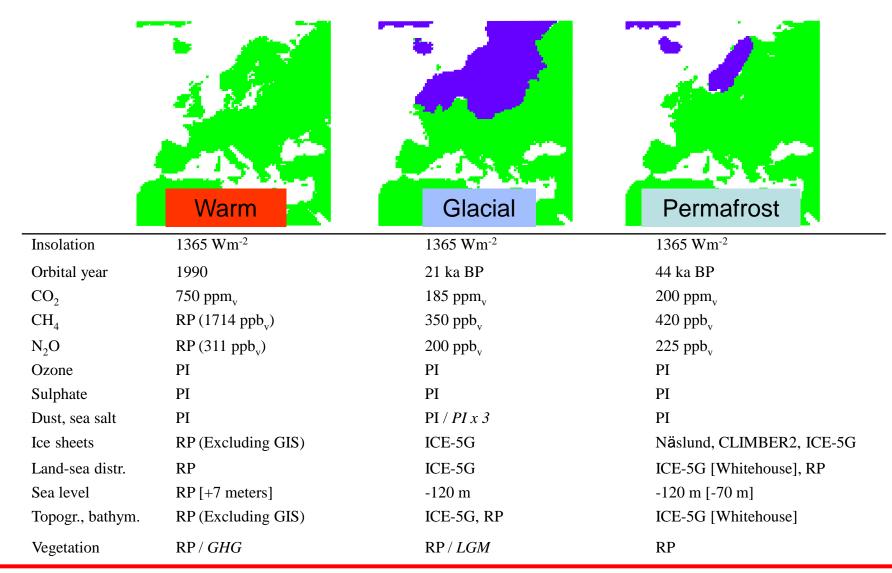


RCMs may help identifying robust results on the regional scale



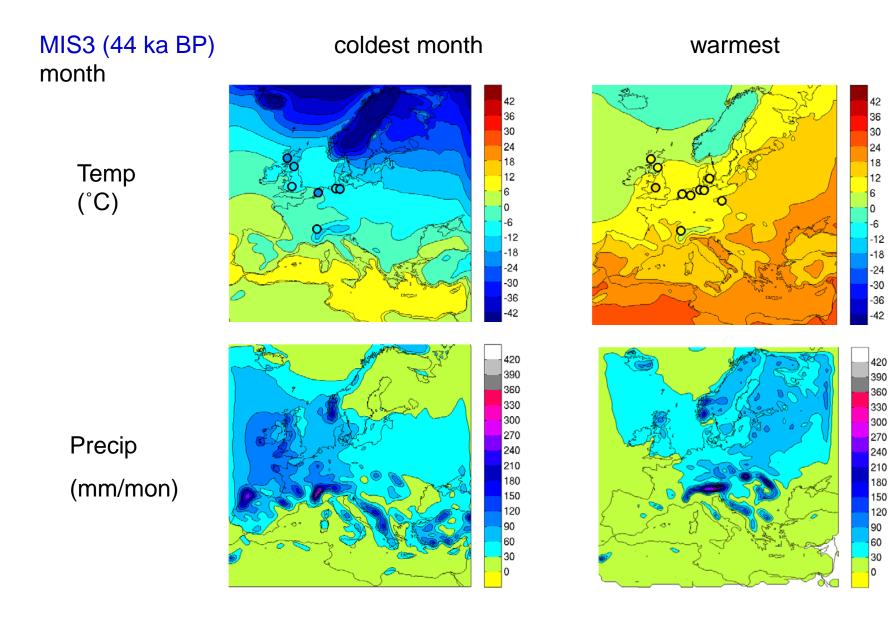
Meier et al., RMK109, 2006

Ex. of set up of a RCM for past climates



Kjellström, E., Brandefelt, J., Näslund, J.O., Smith, B., Strandberg, G. and Wohlfarth, B, 2009: Climate conditions in Sweden in a 100,000 year time perspective. Svensk Kärnbränslehantering AB, report TR-09-04, Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management, SE-10124 Stockholm, Sweden, 139 pp.

Results from the regional model





Thanks for your attention!