

Fingerprinting the Climate System

Ben Santer

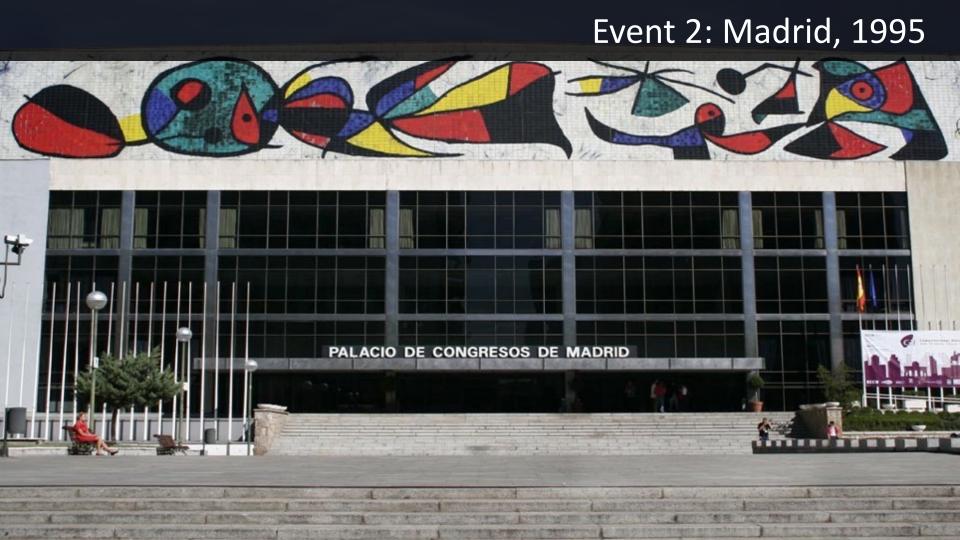
Visiting Researcher, UCLA

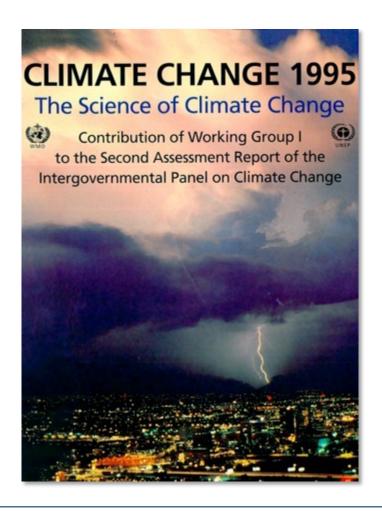
CCL meeting, Oct. 12, 2021



Event 1: Chamonix, 1977

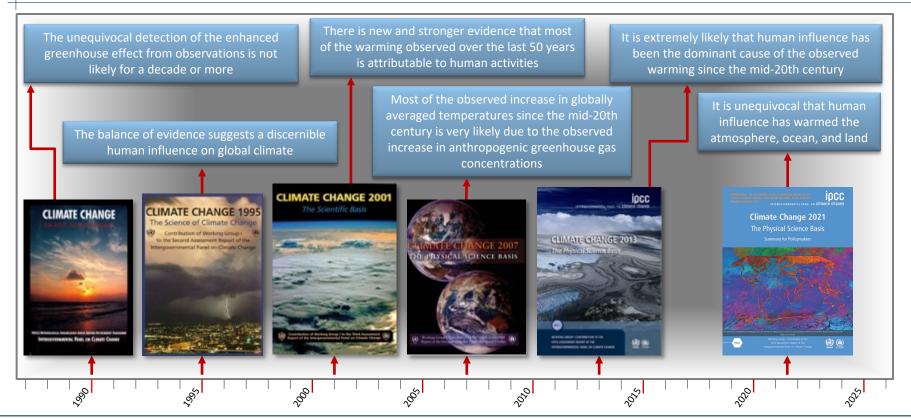






The balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate.

The arc of history bends towards increased scientific understanding of human effects on climate

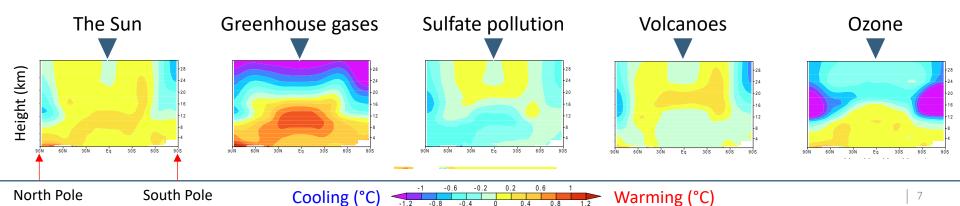


How was scientific progress made?

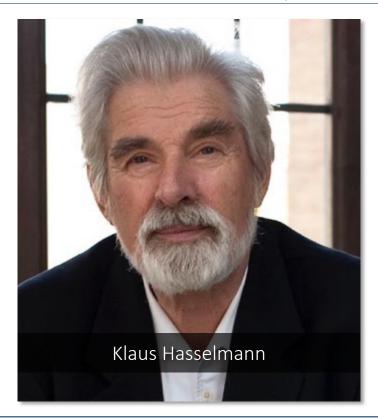
- Improved (and more) climate models
- Better understanding of "forcings" that affect climate
- Improved (and longer) observed climate records
- Community-wide analysis of climate model results
- Infrastructure for sharing climate model output
- "Climate fingerprinting"

What is "climate fingerprinting"?

- Basic idea:
 - Different influences on climate have different signatures
 - Signatures are easier to discern in patterns ("fingerprints")

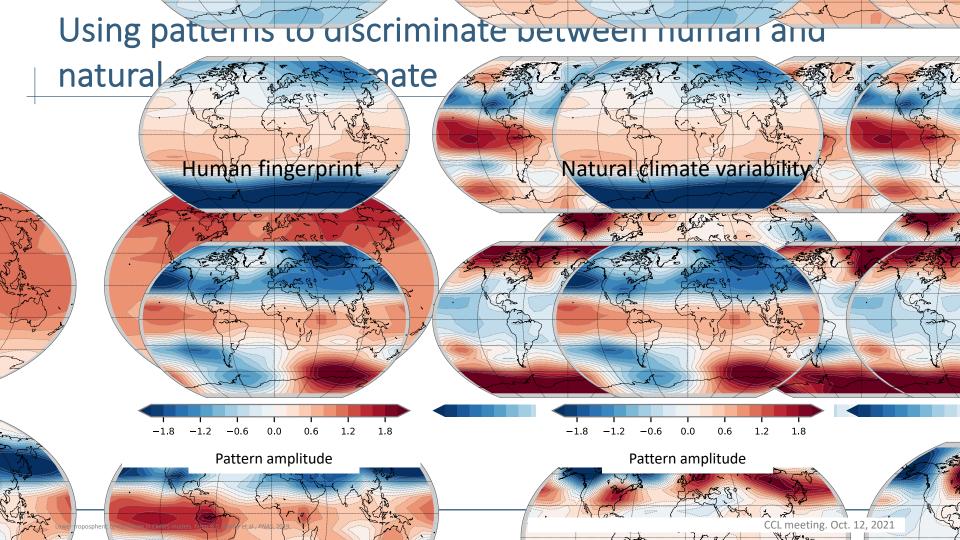


Hasselmann: The power of patterns

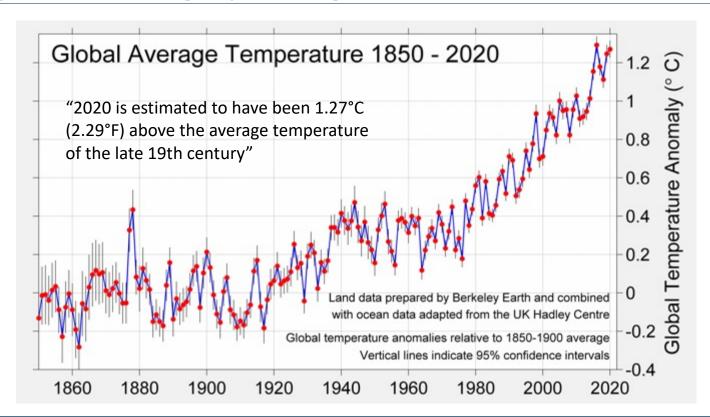




K. Hasselmann, Meteorology over the Tropical Oceans, 1979

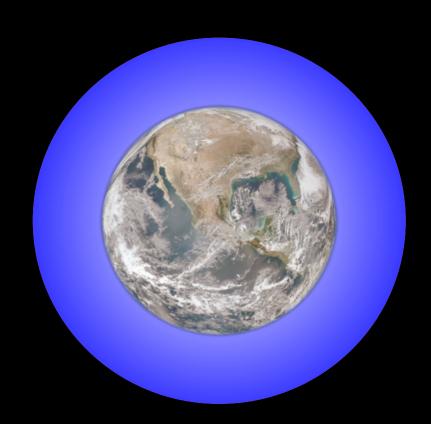


The power of fingerprinting



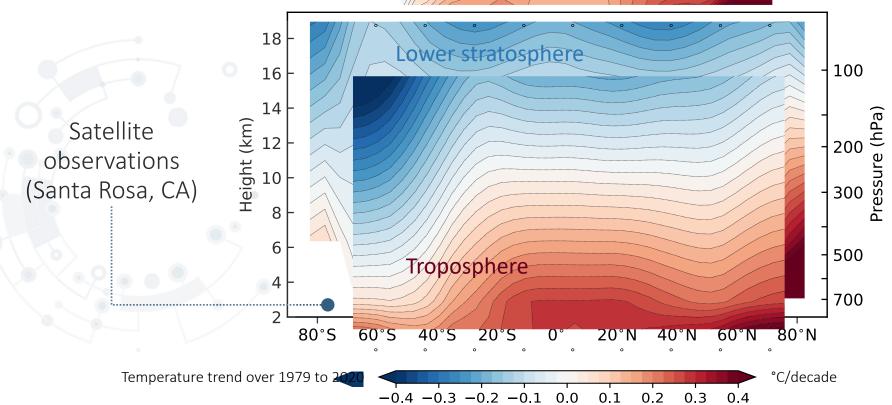
Testing claims that the surface warming of the last 140 years is all due to changes in the Sun











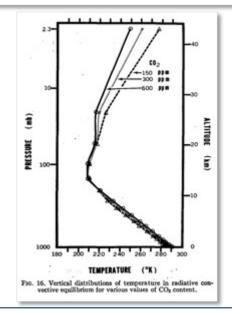
This "human influence" fingerprint on atmospheric temperature was predicted over 50 years ago



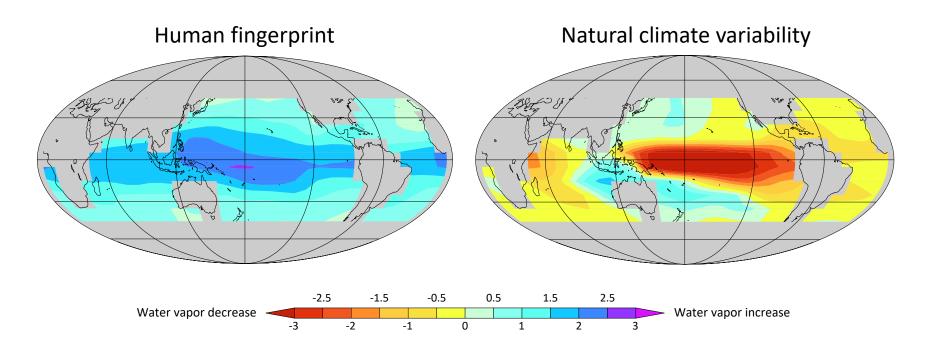
Thermal Equilibrium of the Atmosphere with a Given Distribution of Relative Humidity

SYUKURO MANABE AND RICHARD T. WETHERLAND

Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, ESSA, Washington, D.C. (Manuscript received 2 November 1966)



Moving beyond fingerprinting with temperature: the case of atmospheric water vapor





Lesson 1: Speak science to power



Image from NBC Universal CCL meeting. Oct. 12, 2021 16

Lesson 2: Declare your values

