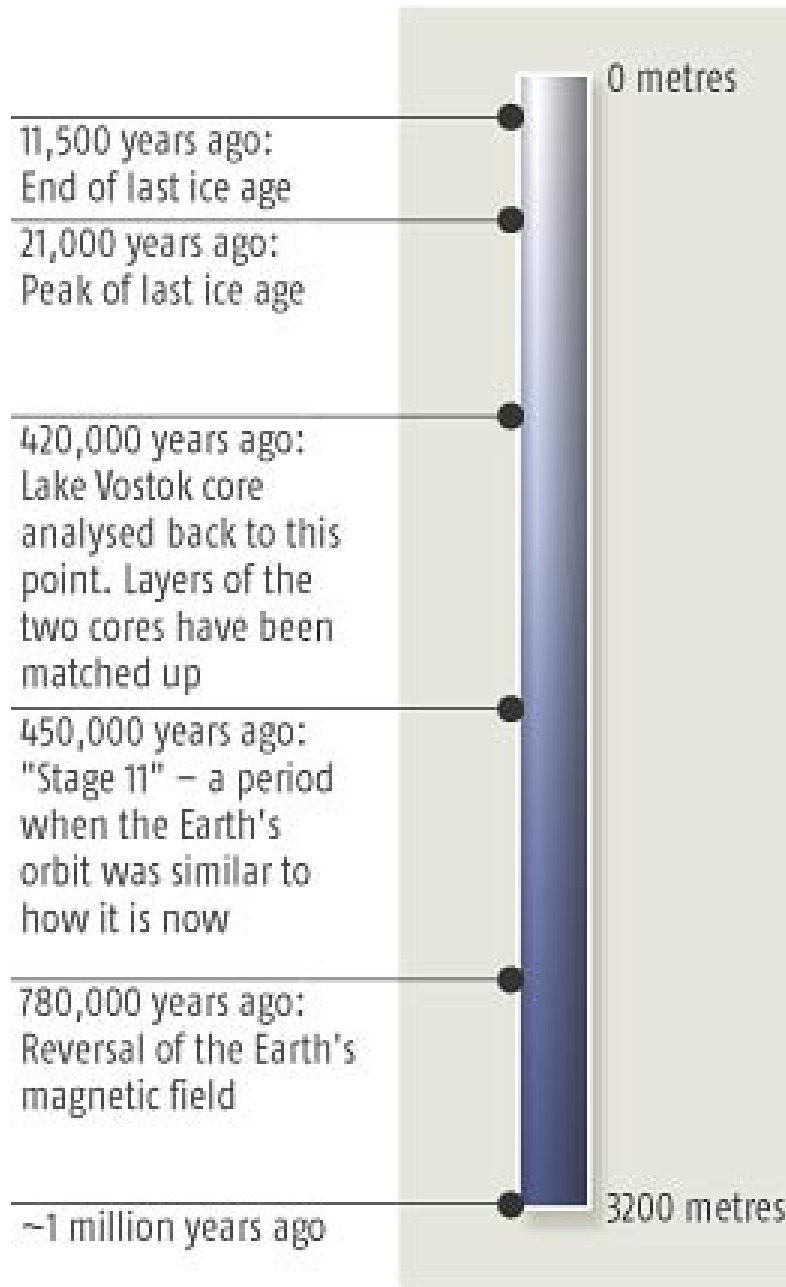


OLDEST EVER ICE CORE

Time period covered by the core (not to scale)



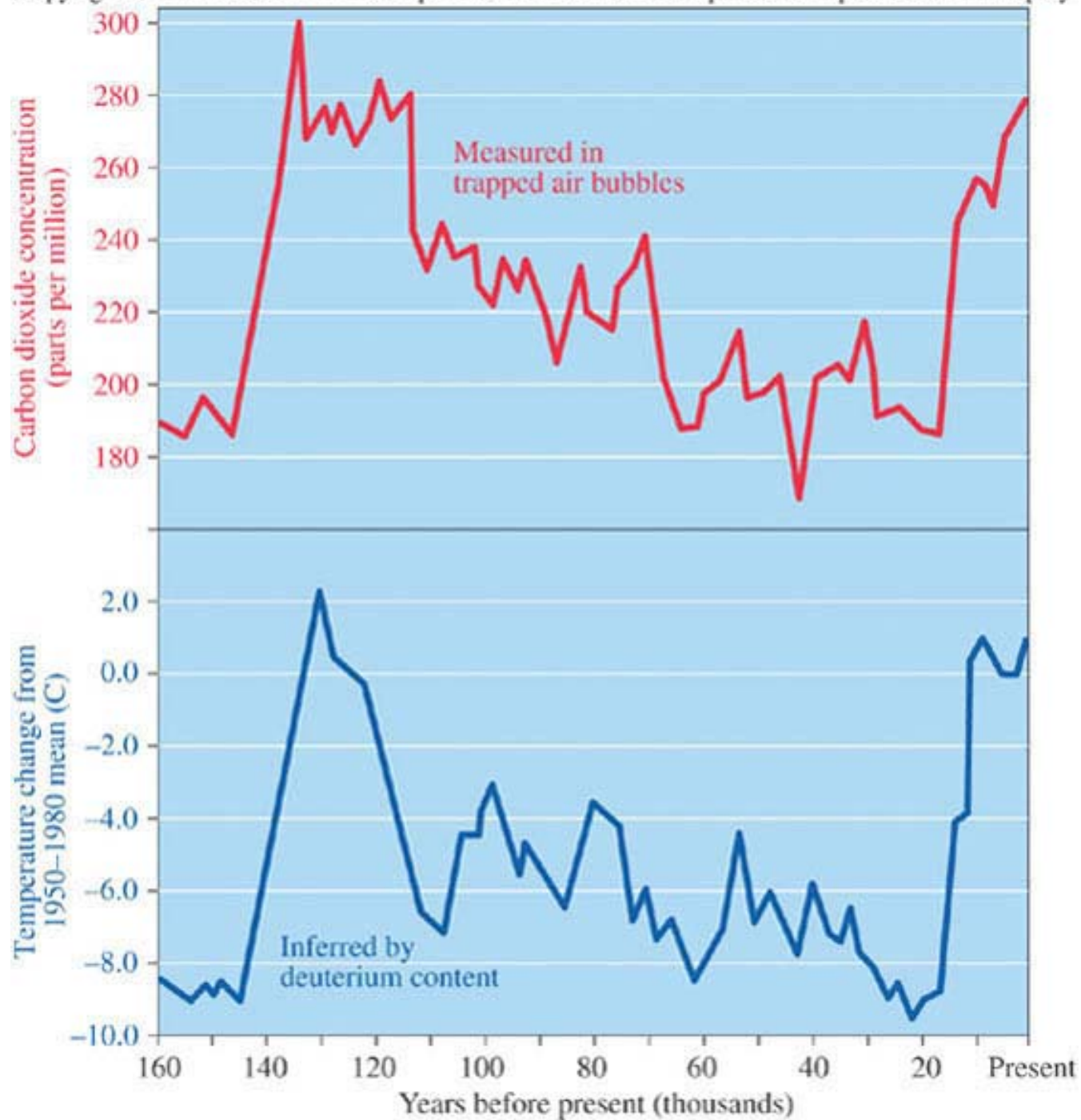
Oldest ever ice core promises climate revelations

09:30 08 September 2003

Exclusive from New Scientist Print Edition

Magdeline Pokar, Milan

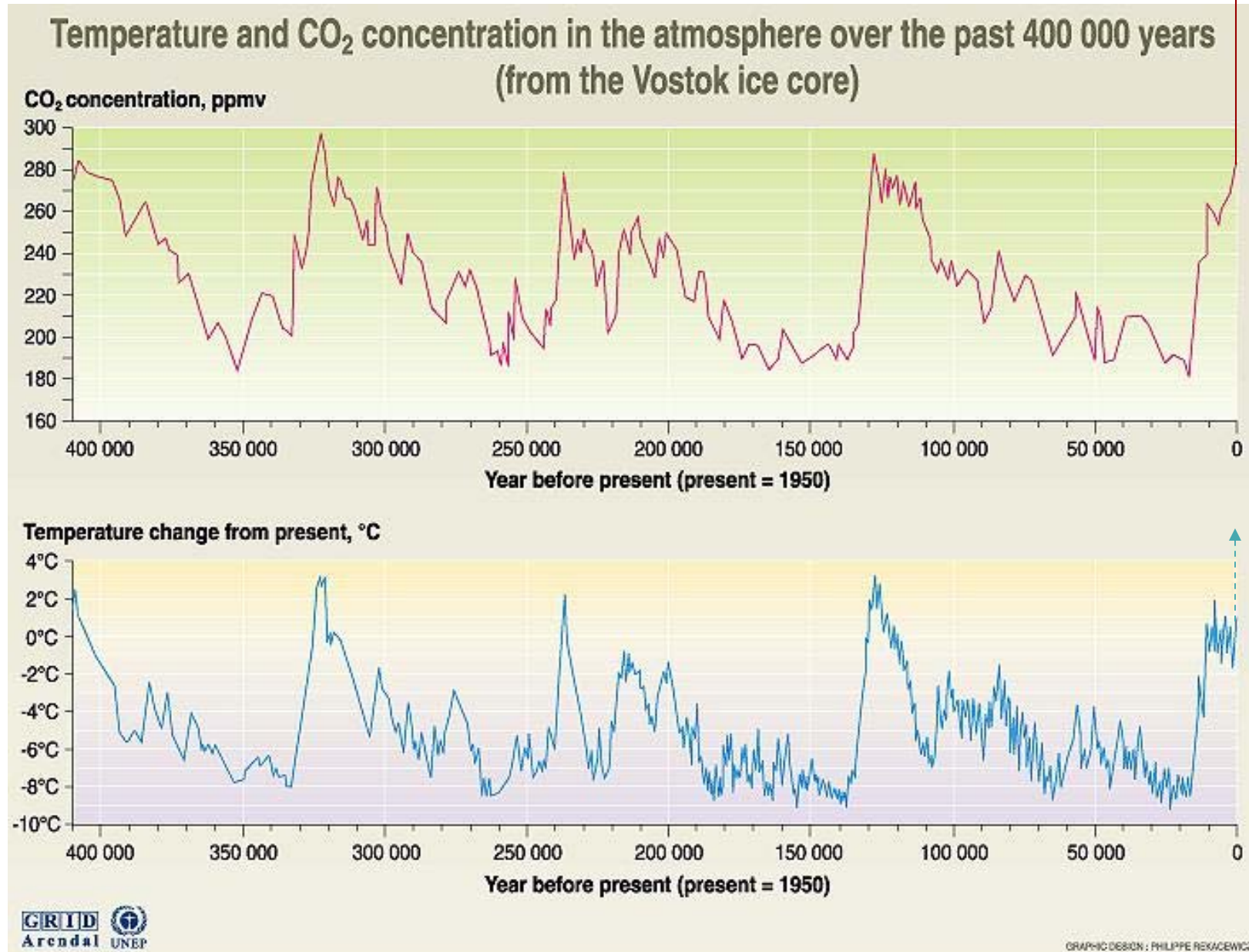
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How bad is the problem?

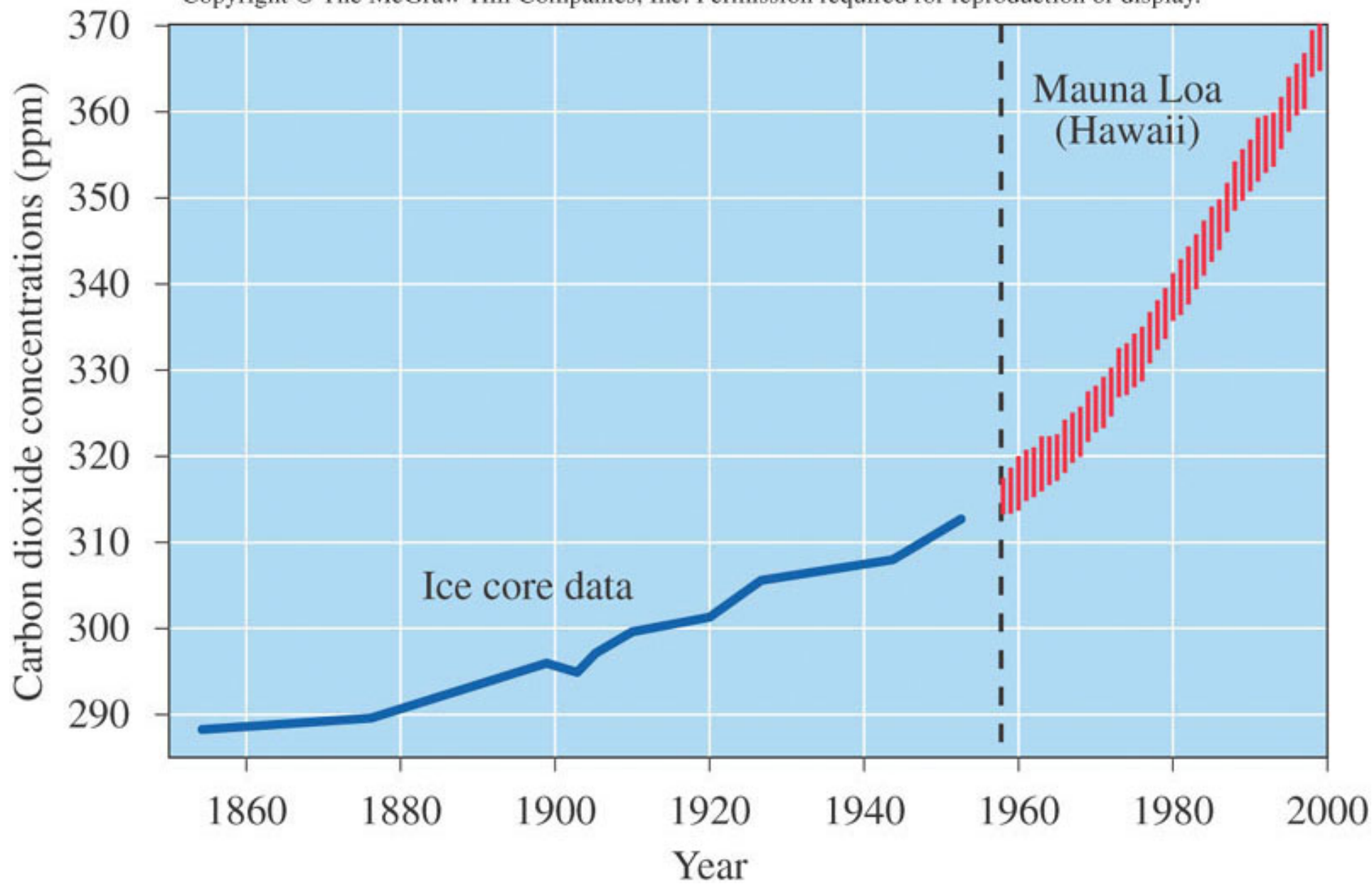
For more info, see

<http://www.geology.iastate.edu/gccourse/overview/temp.html>



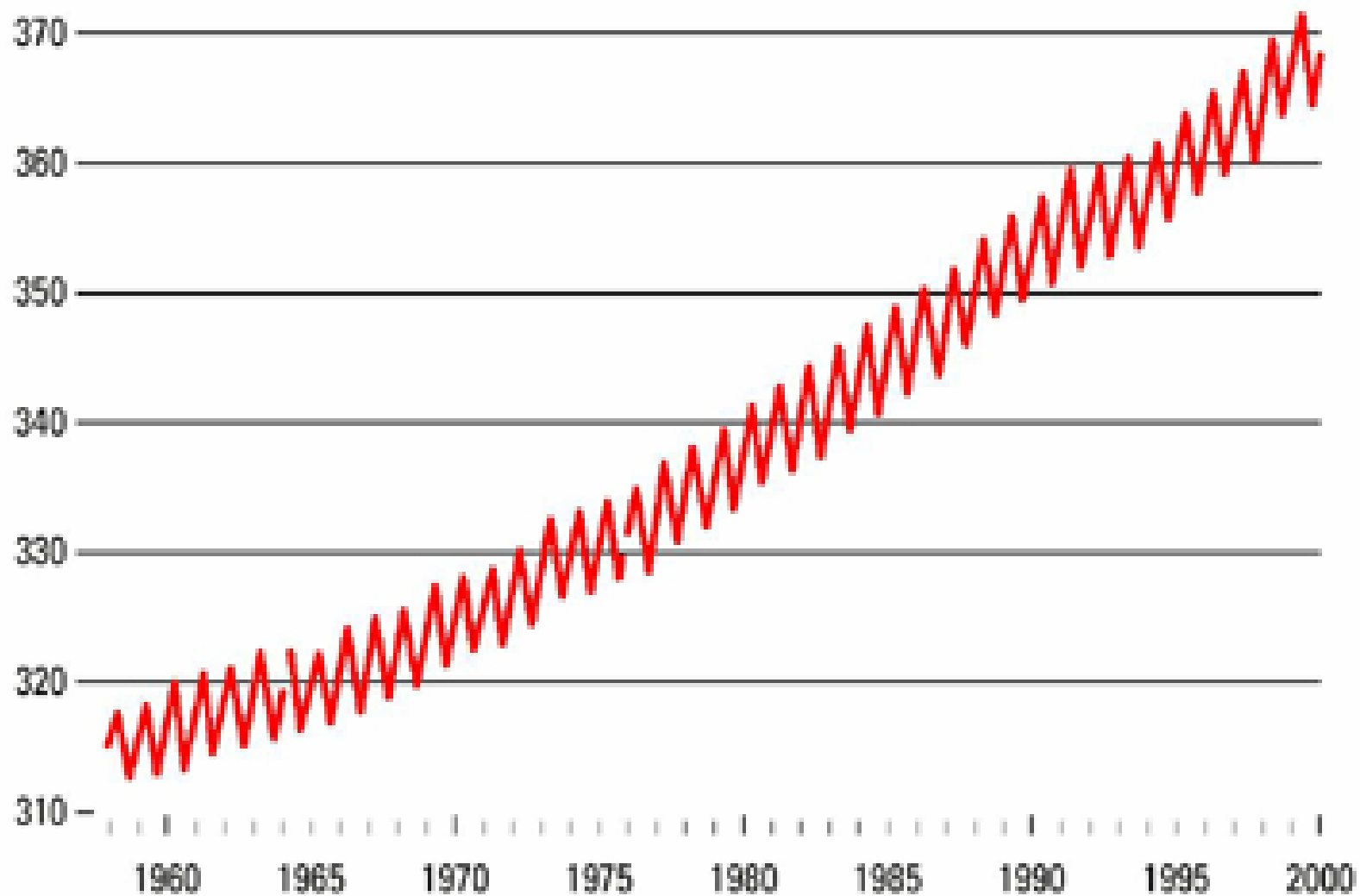
Source: J.R. Petit, J. Jouzel, et al. Climate and atmospheric history of the past 420 000 years from the Vostok ice core in Antarctica, Nature 399 (3June), pp 429-436, 1999.

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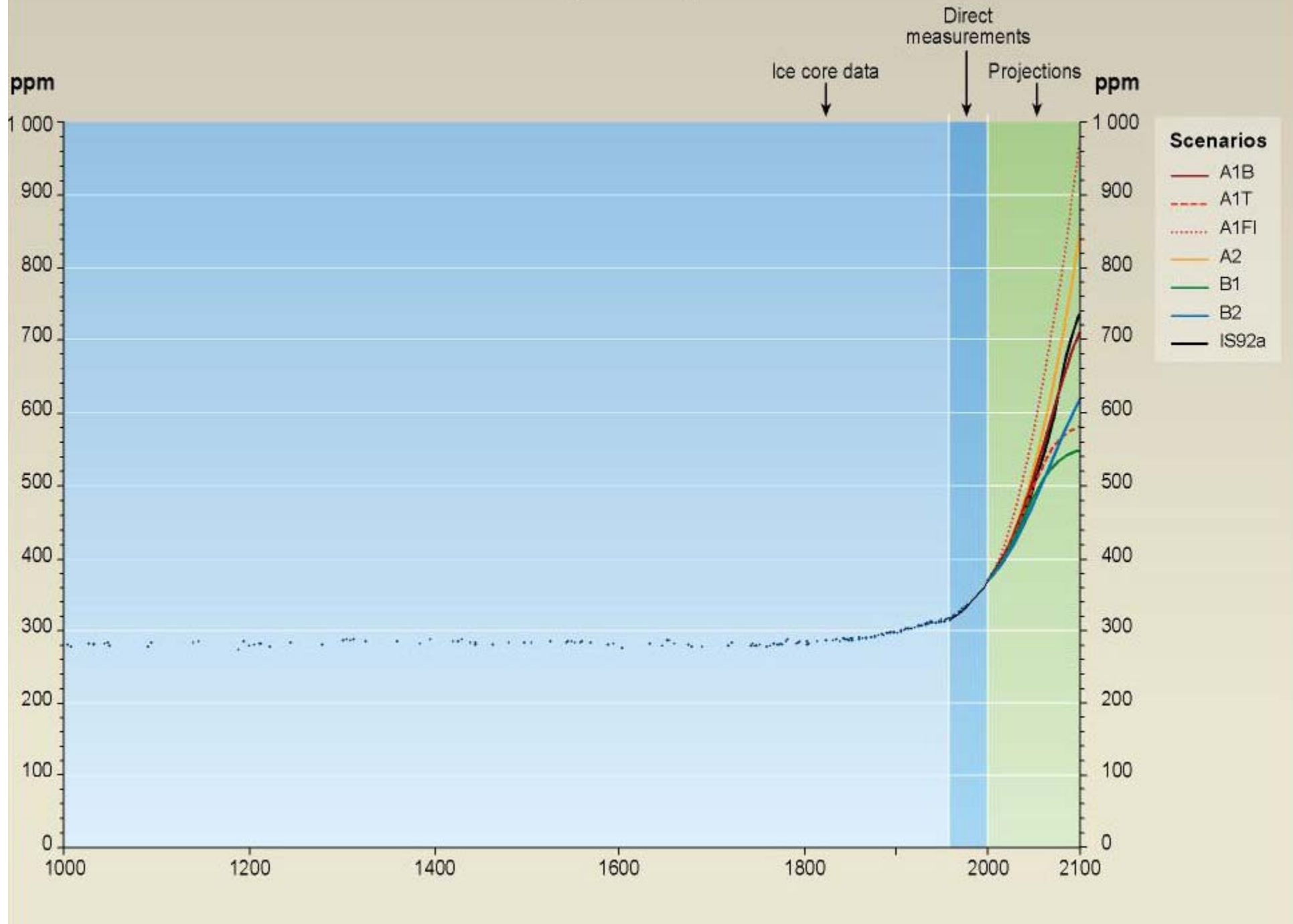


Mauna Loa CO₂ increases

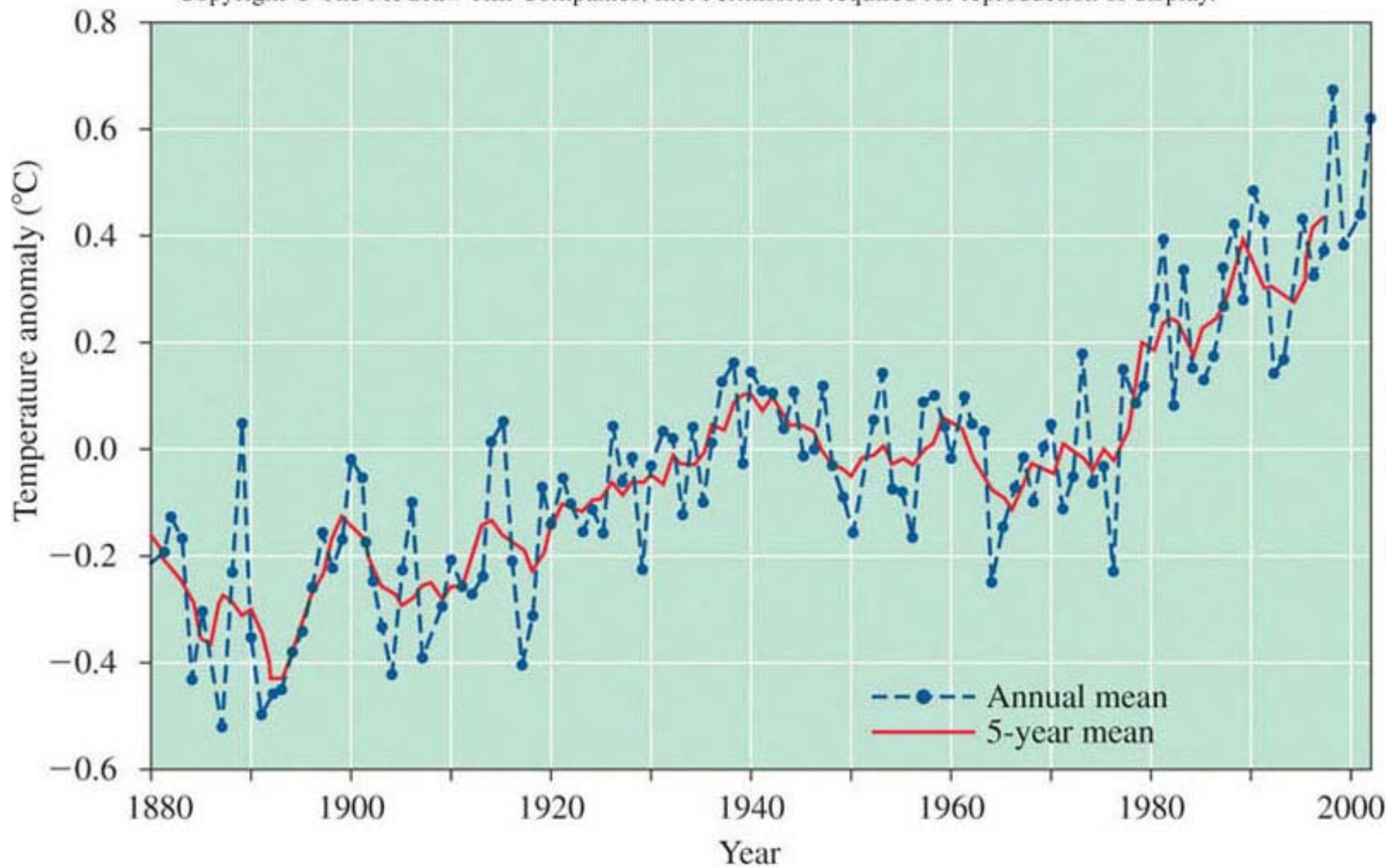
CO₂ concentration in ppmv

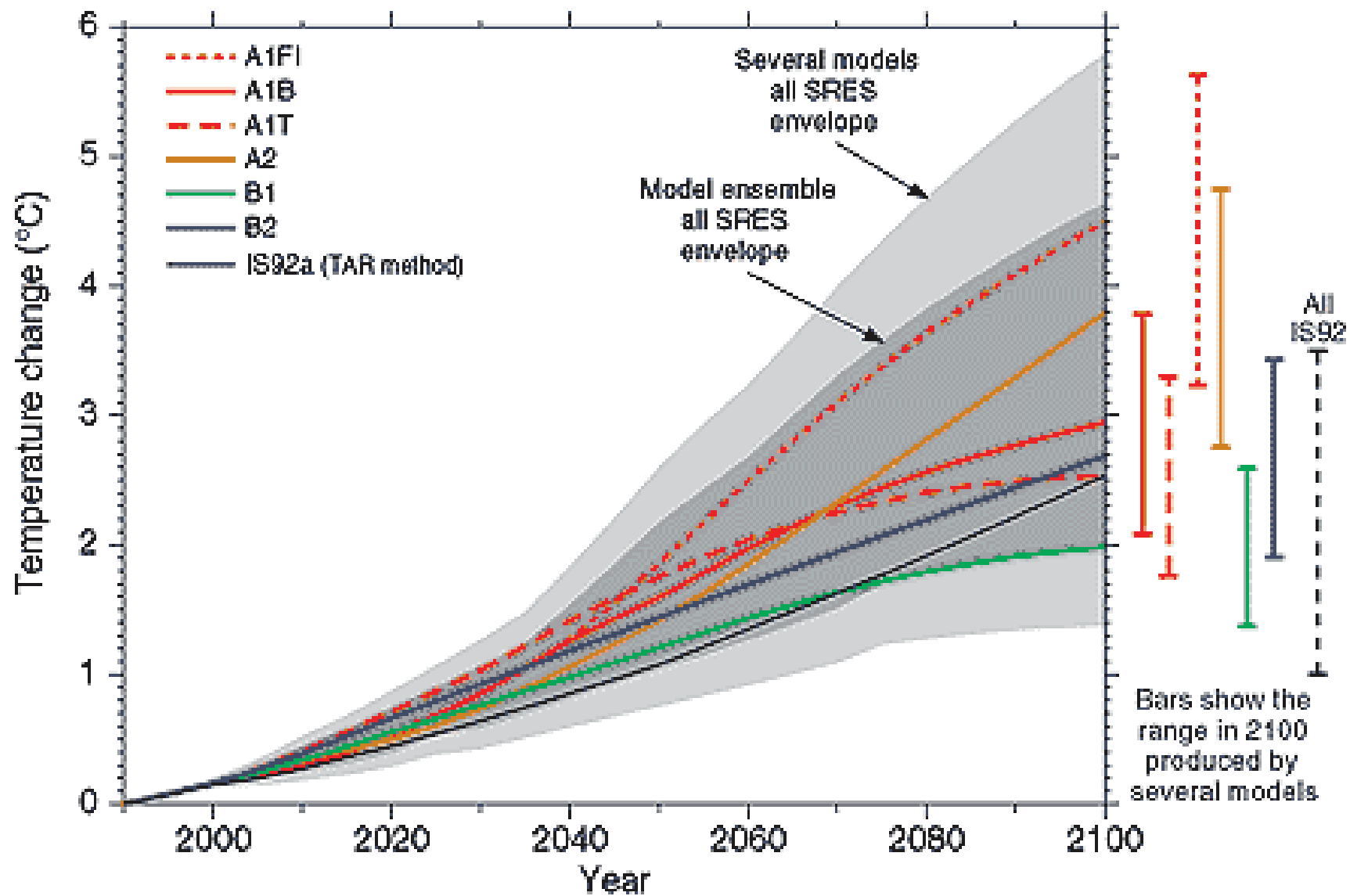


Past and future CO₂ atmospheric concentrations

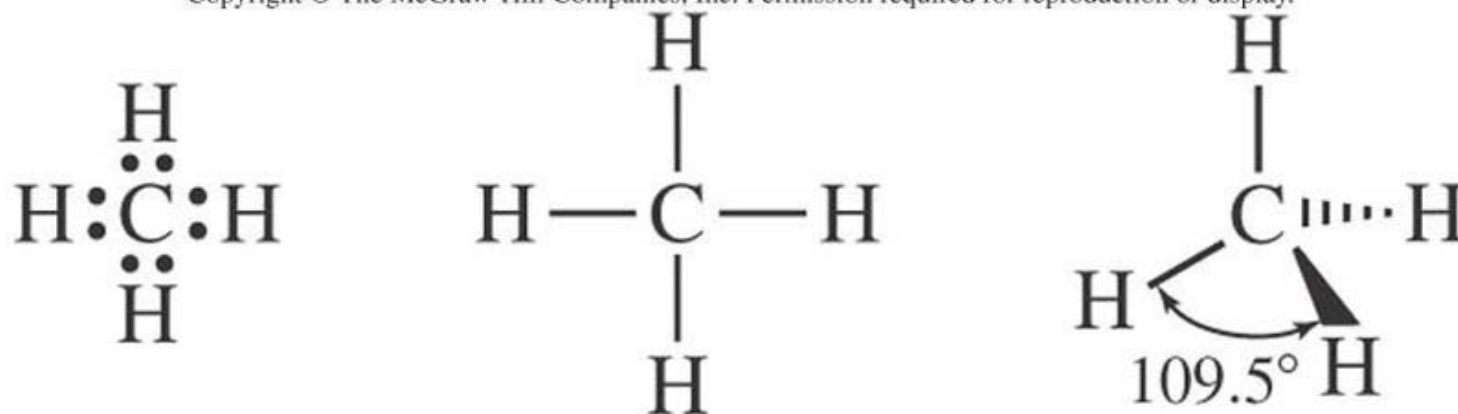


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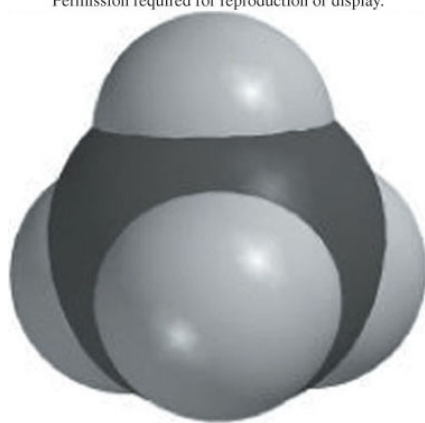


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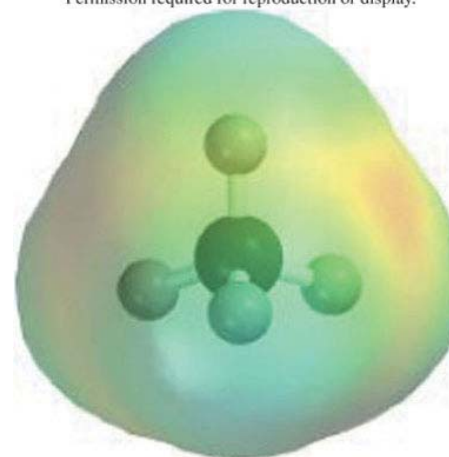
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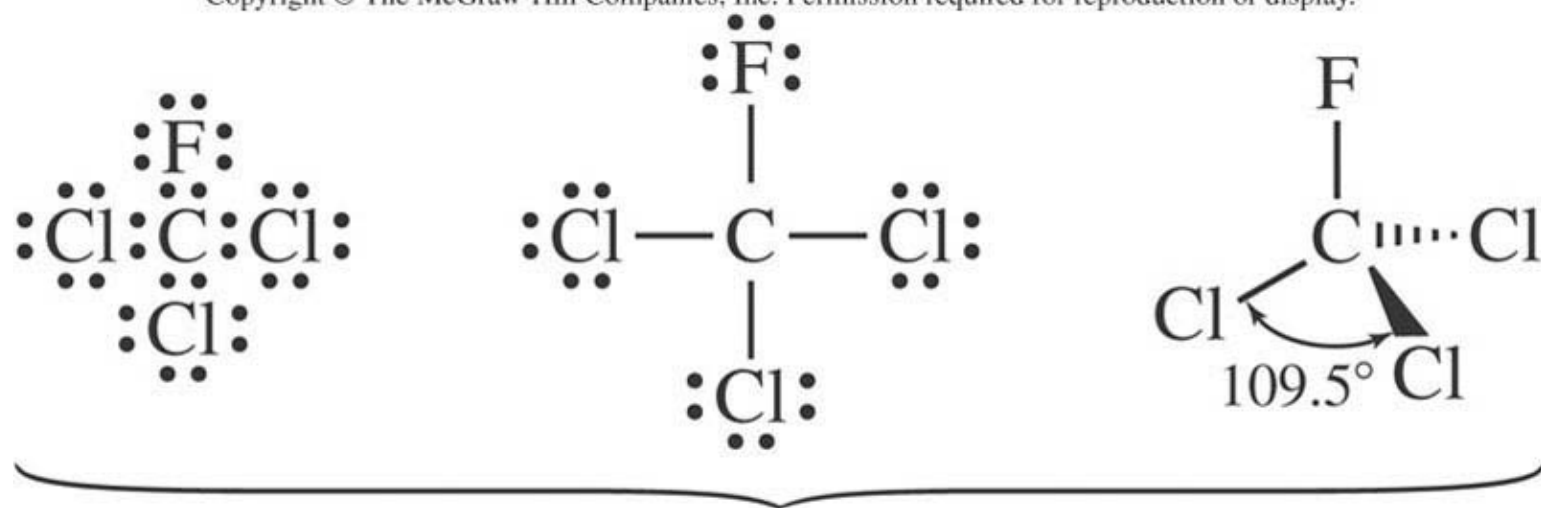
tetrahedron

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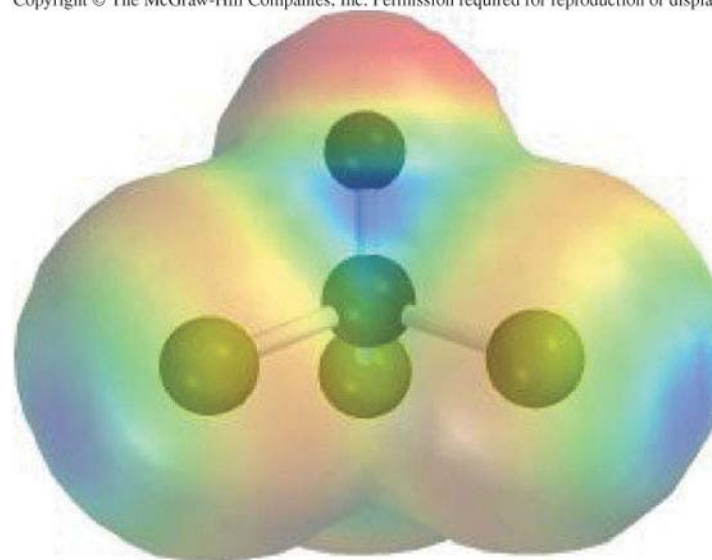
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(b)

tetrahedron

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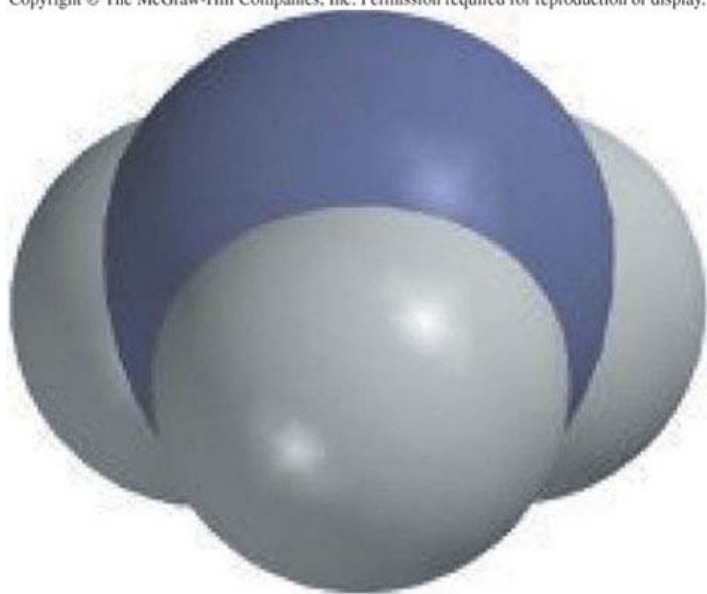


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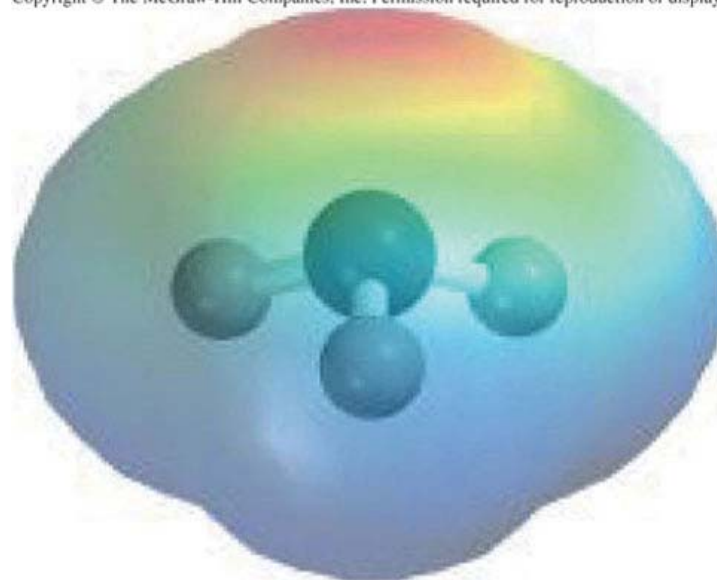
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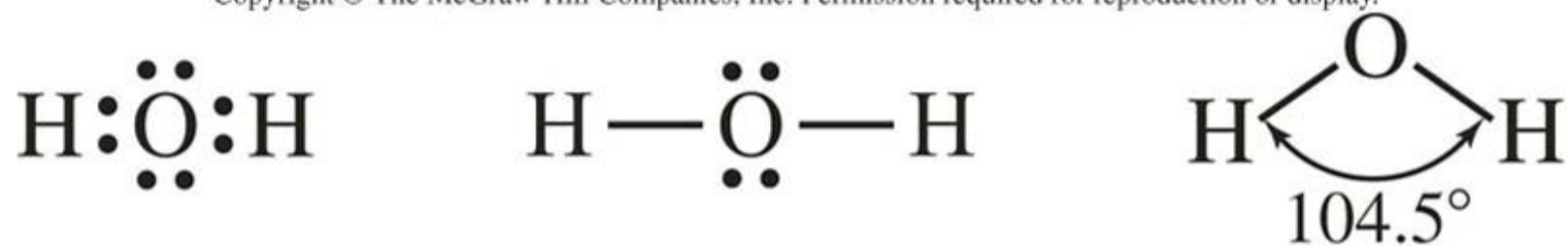
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pyramid

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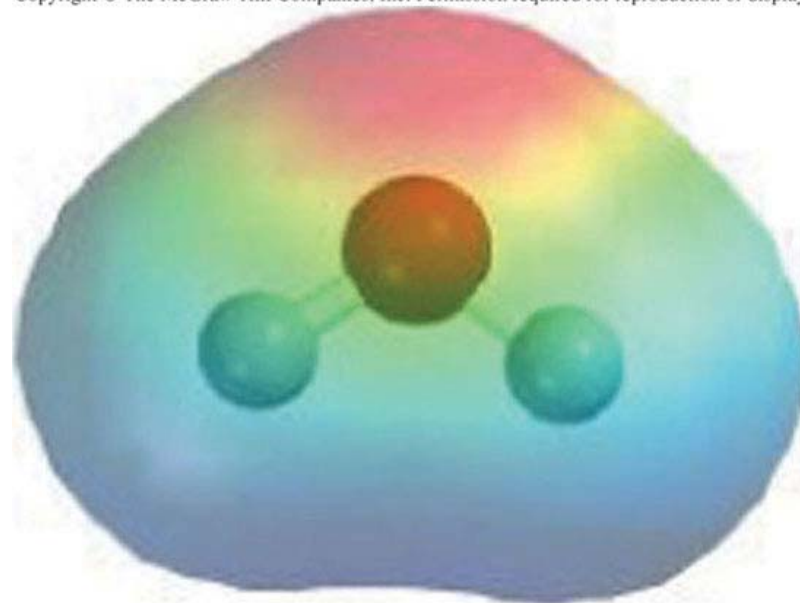
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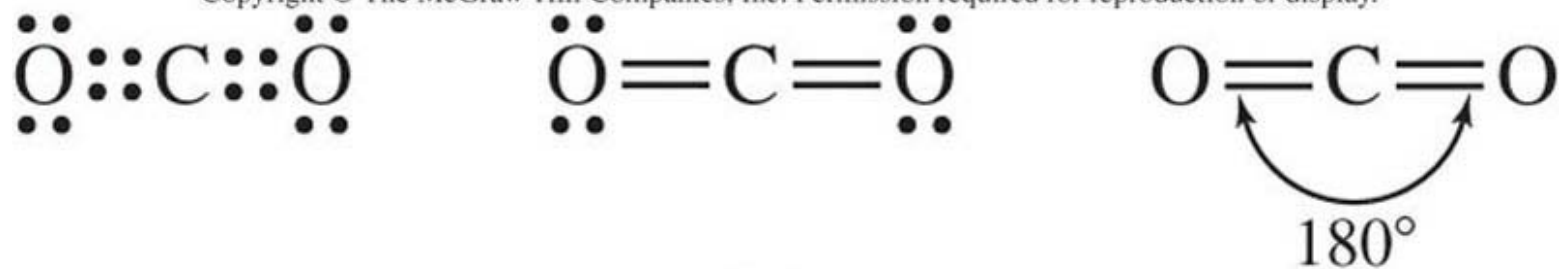
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bent

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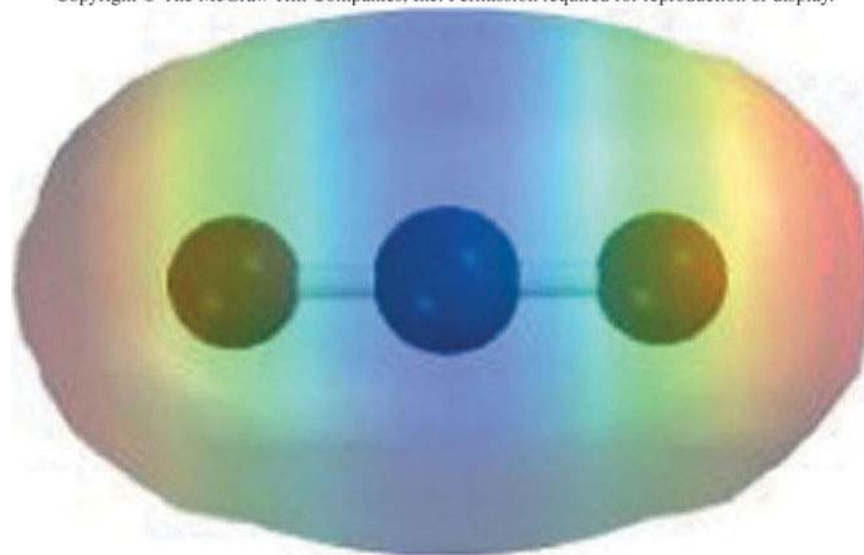
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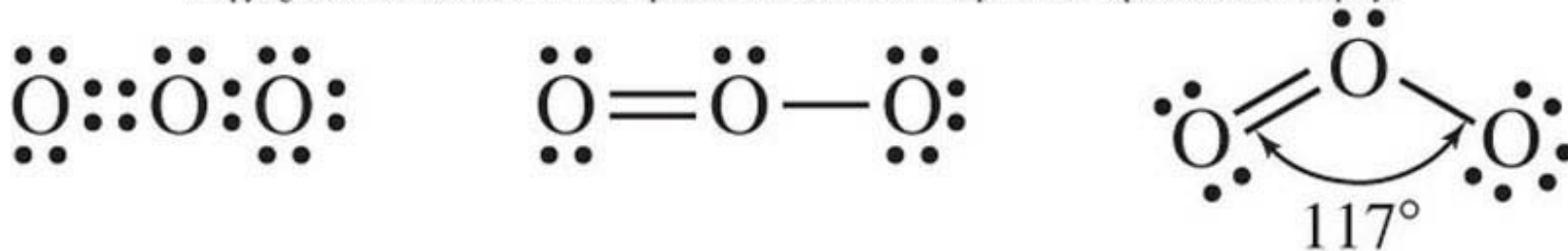
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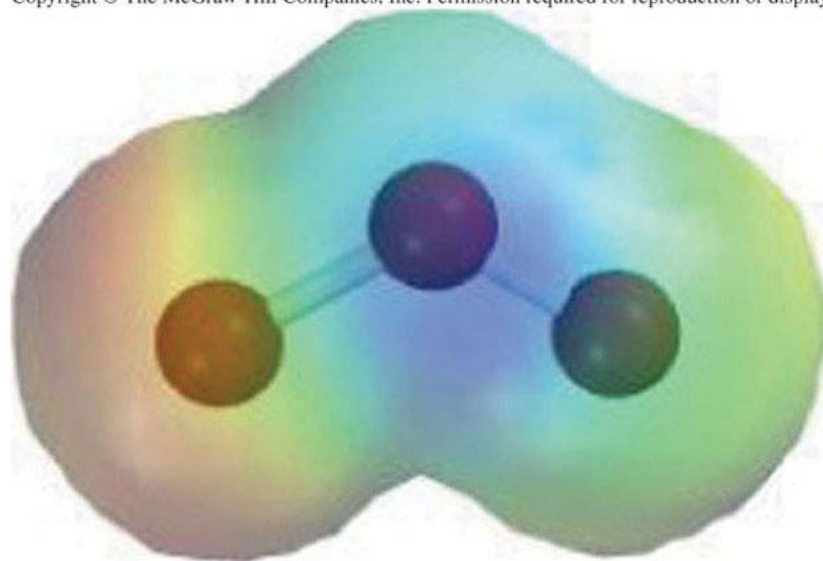
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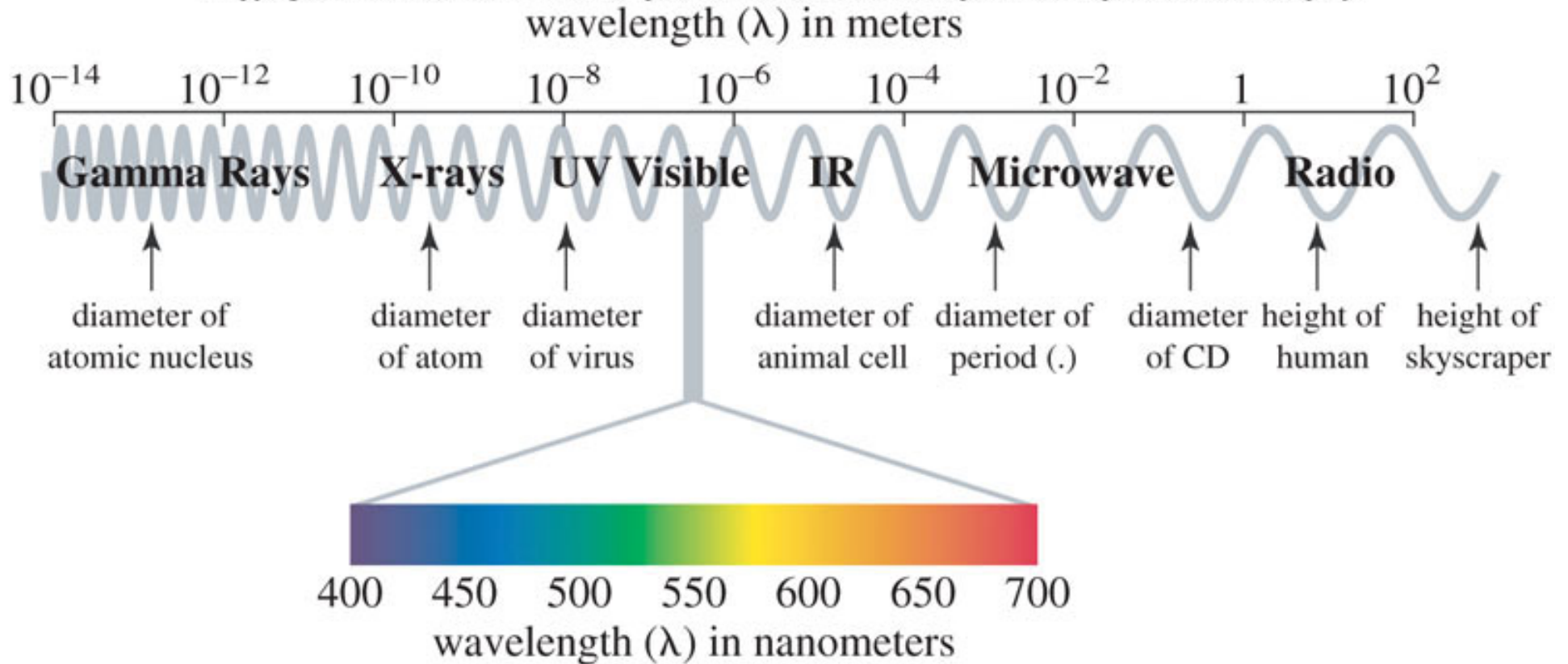
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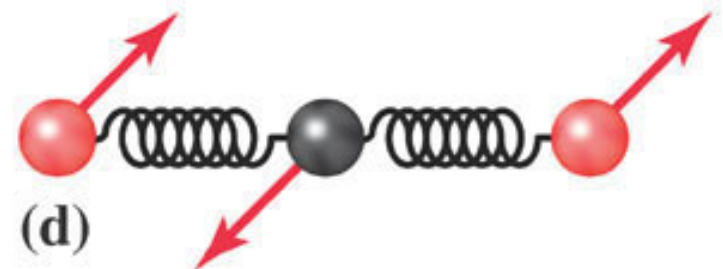
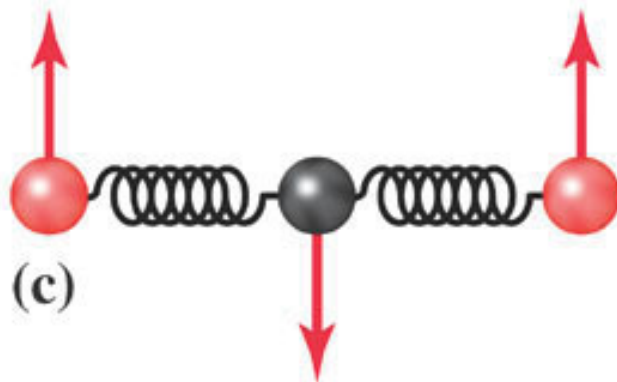
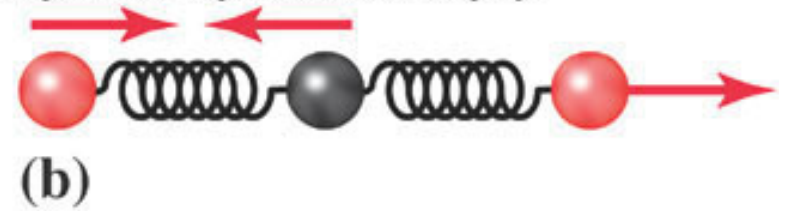
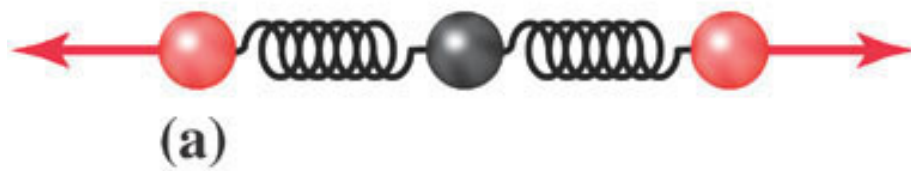
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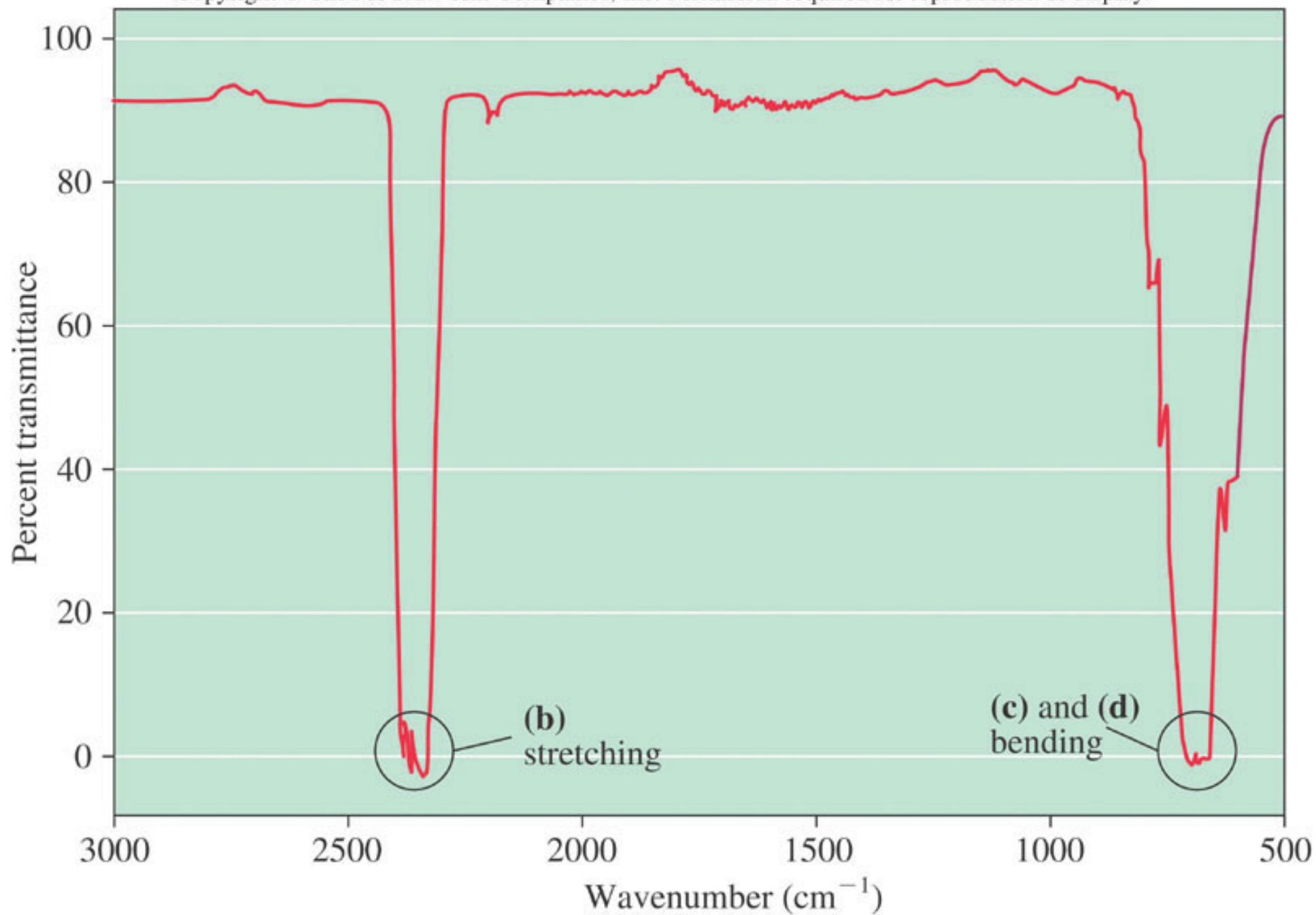
Waves of Light

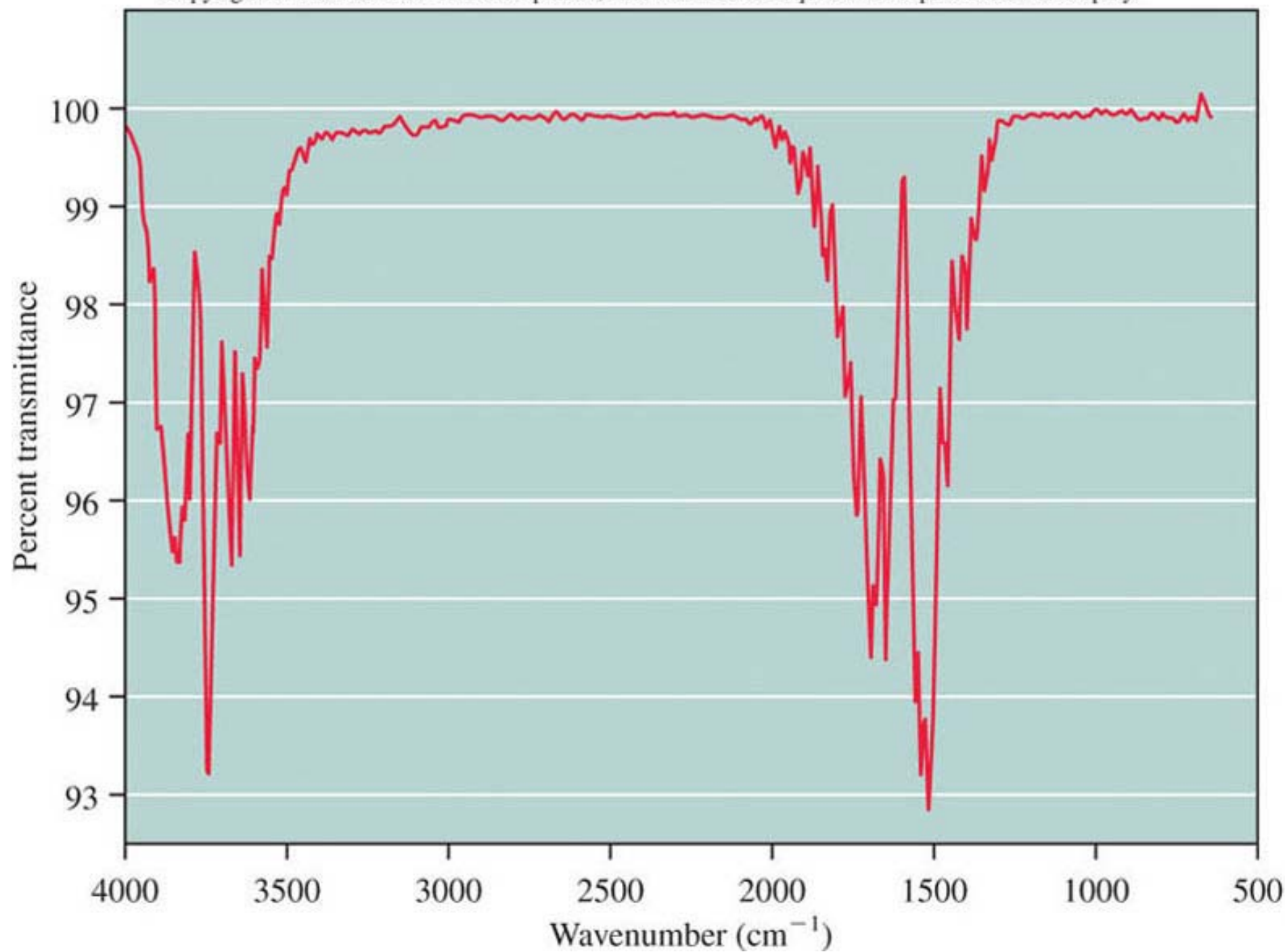
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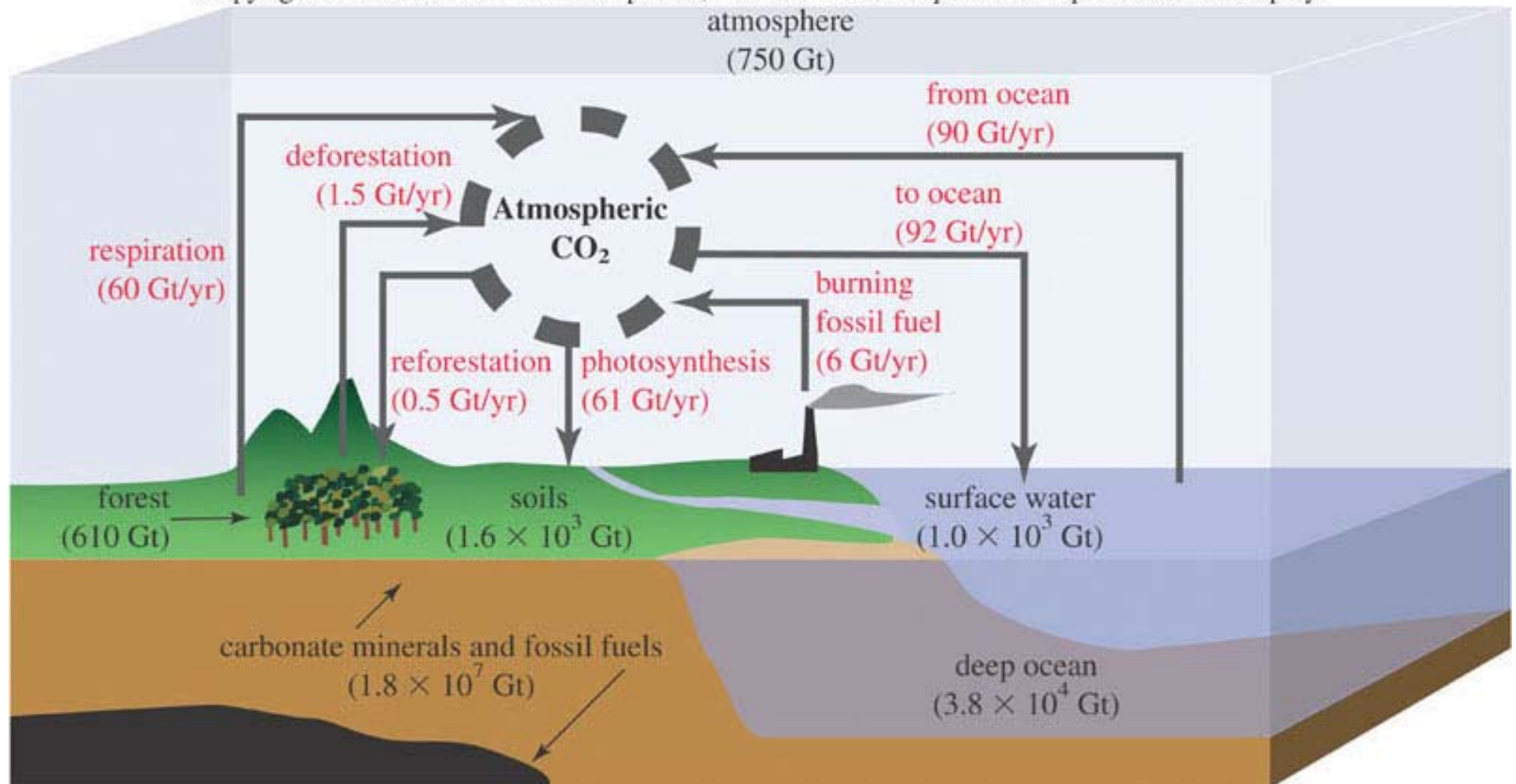


Table 3.1

The Earth's Carbon Reservoirs

	Size (Gt Carbon)
Reservoir	
Atmosphere	750
Forests	610
Soils	1,580
Surface ocean	1,020
Deep ocean	38,100
Total carbon, excluding fossil fuels	42,060
Fossil fuels	
Coal	4,000
Oil	500
Natural gas	500
Total fossil fuel	5,000
Total, all sources	47,060

Source: From James F. Kasting, "The Carbon Cycle, Climate, and the Long-Term Effects of Fossil Fuel Burning," *Consequences, The Nature & Implications of Environmental Change*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 1998. Reprinted with permission.

Table 3.2

Human Perturbations to the Global Carbon Budget

	Flux (Gt carbon/year)	
CO₂ sources		
Fossil fuel combustion and cement production	5.5	0.5
Tropical deforestation	1.6	1.0
Total anthropogenic emissions	7.1	1.1
CO₂ sinks		
Storage in the atmosphere	3.3	0.2
Uptake by the ocean	2.0	0.8
Northern Hemisphere forest regrowth	0.5	0.5
Other terrestrial sinks (CO ₂ fertilization, nitrogen fertilization, climatic effects)	1.3	1.5
Total sinks for CO₂	7.1	1.1

Source: From James F. Kasting, "The Carbon Cycle, Climate, and the Long-Term Effects of Fossil Fuel Burning," *Consequences, The Nature & Implications of Environmental Change*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 1998. Reprinted with permission.

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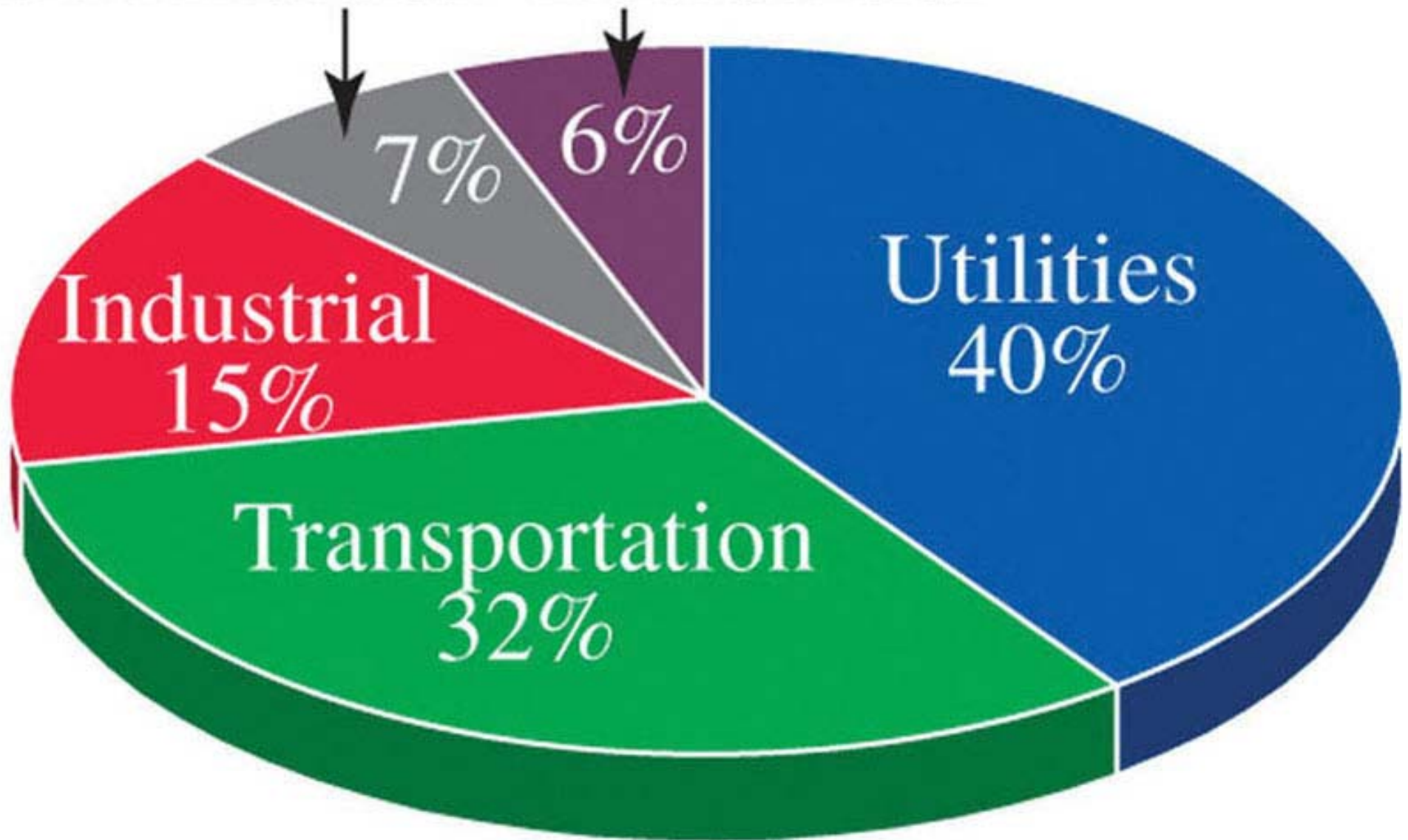


Table 3.4

Greenhouse Gases—Concentration Changes and Lifetimes

	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O
Preindustrial concentration	280 ppm	0.70 ppm	0.28 ppm
2000 concentration	370 ppm	1.8 ppm	0.31 ppm
Rate of concentration change	1.5 ppm/yr	0.010 ppm/yr	0.0008 ppm/yr
Atmospheric lifetime (yr)	5–200*	12	114

*A single value for the atmospheric lifetime of CO₂ is not possible. Different removal mechanisms take place at different rates, leading to variation in atmospheric lifetime.

Table 3.5

Global Warming Potential for Three Common Greenhouse Gases

Substance	Global Warming Potential (GWP)*	Tropospheric Abundance (%)	Tropospheric Abundance (ppm)
CO ₂	1 (assigned value)	3.75×10^{-2}	375
CH ₄	23	1.8×10^{-4}	1.8
N ₂ O	296	3.1×10^{-5}	0.31

*GWP values are given for the estimated relative direct and indirect effects over a 100-yr period.

Indicators of the human influence on the atmosphere during the Industrial Era

(a) Global atmospheric concentrations of three well mixed greenhouse gases

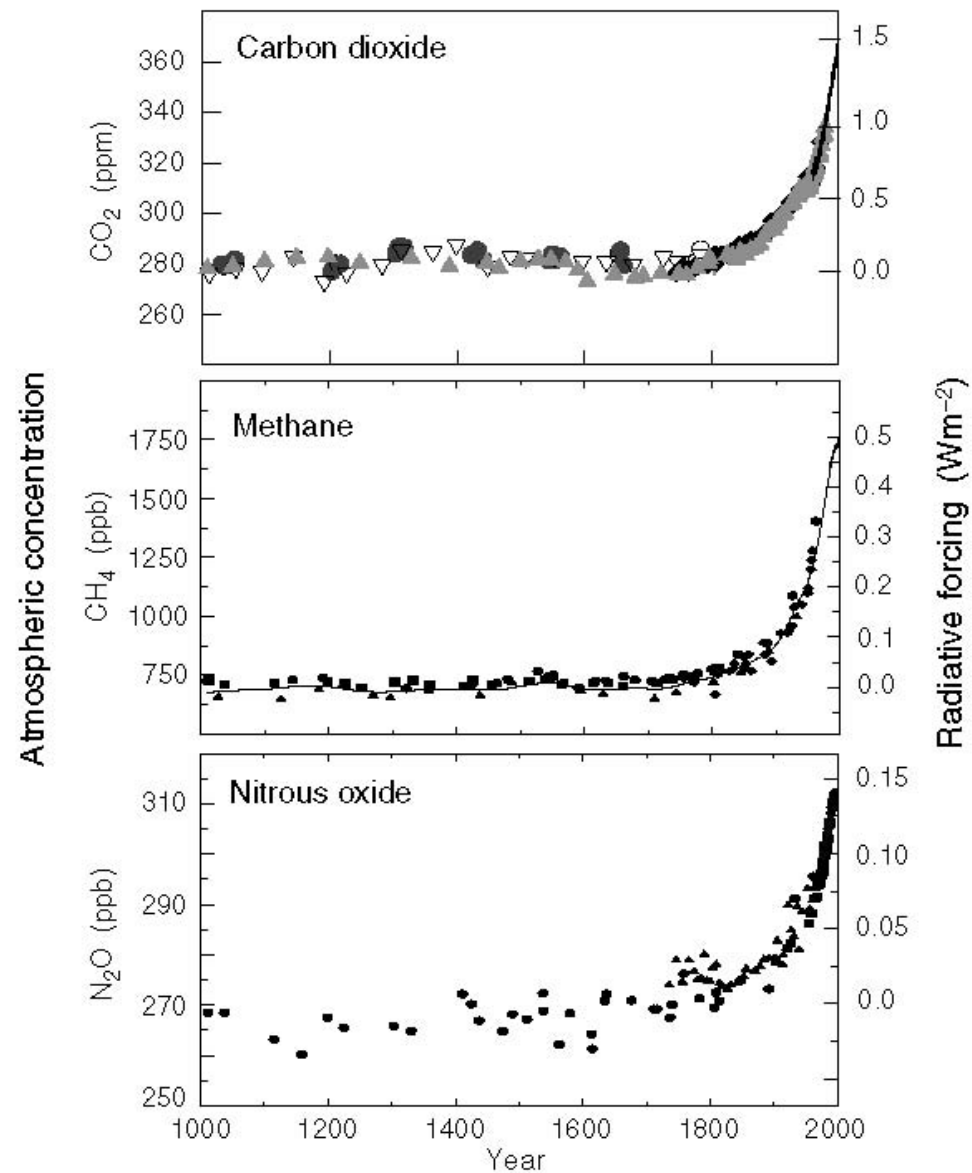


Table 3.6

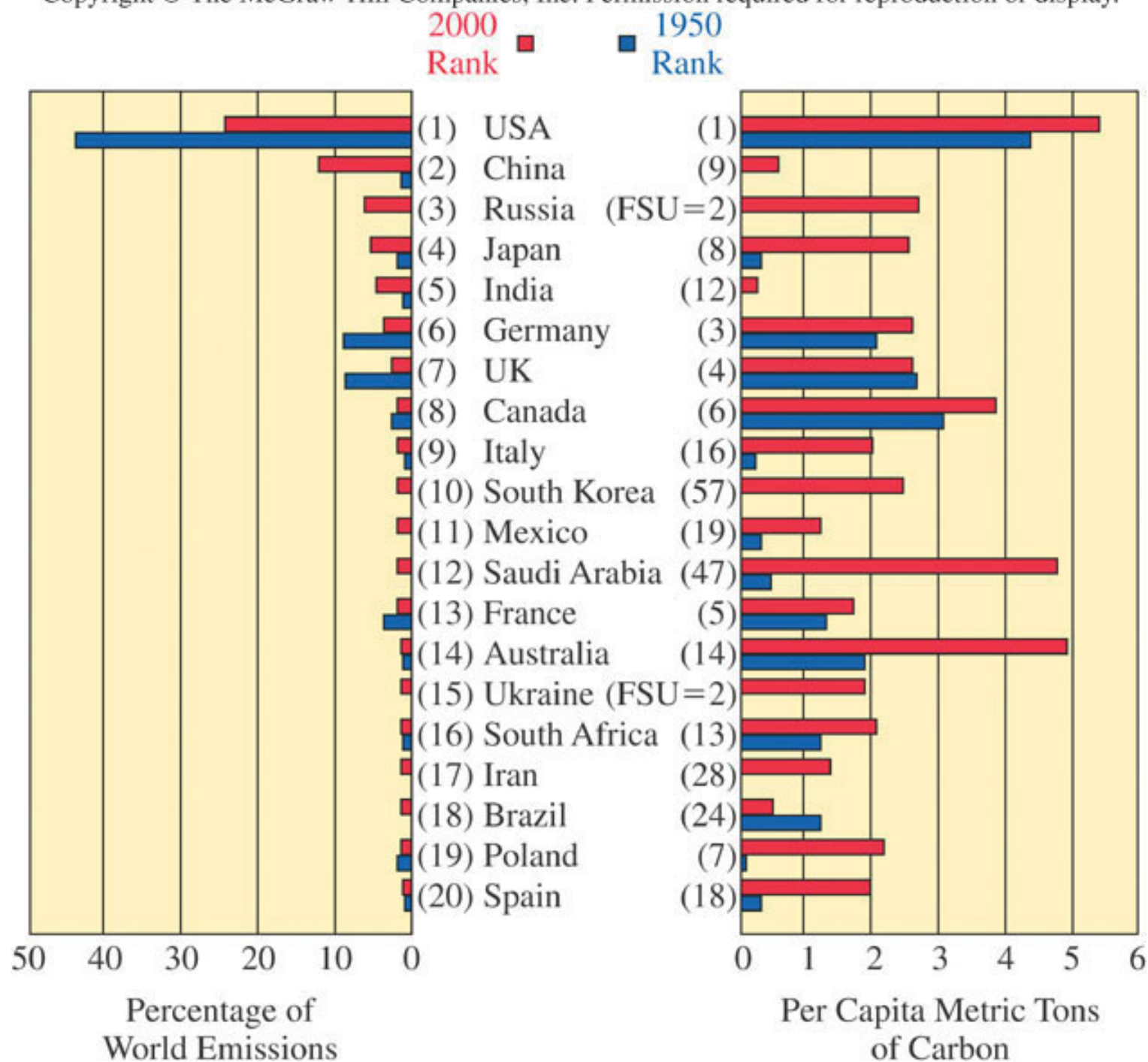
Judgmental Estimates of Confidence

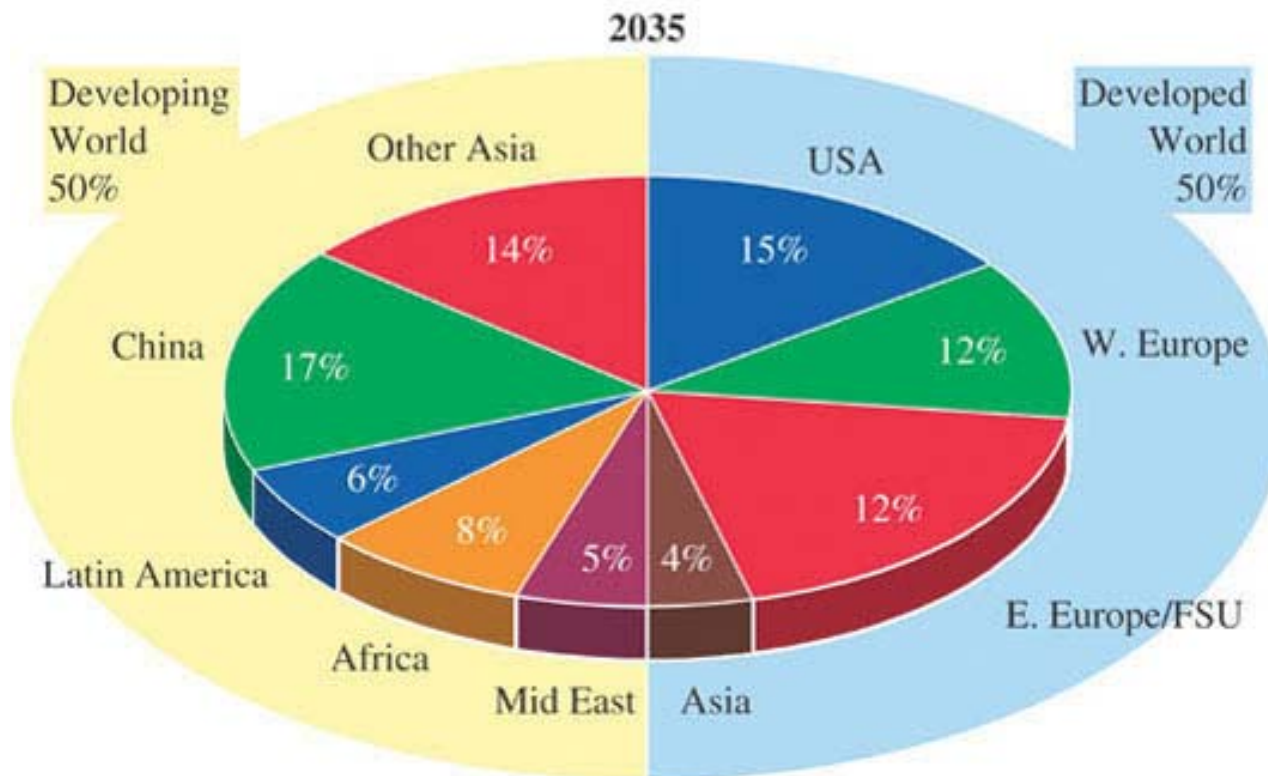
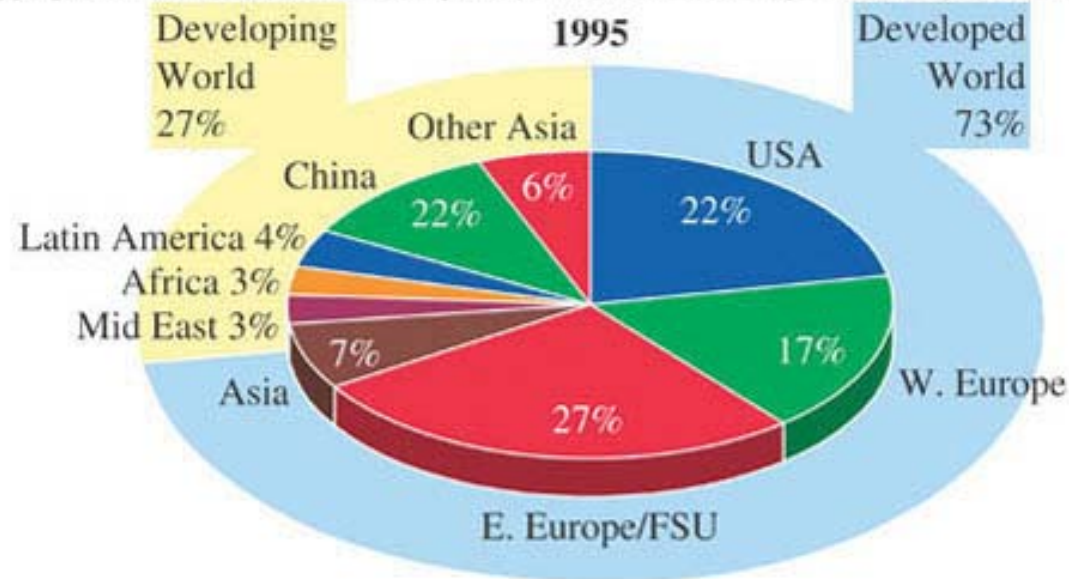
Term Used	Probability That a Result is True
Virtually certain	99%
Very likely	90–99%
Likely	66–90%
Medium likelihood	33–66%
Unlikely	10–33%
Very unlikely	1–10%

Source: *Summary for Policymakers, A Report of Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Shanghai: IPCC, January 1, 2001.

Table 3.7 **IPCC Conclusions**

Very Likely	Likely	Very Unlikely
The 1990s were the warmest decade and 1998 the warmest year since 1861.	Temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere during the 20th century are <i>likely</i> to have been the highest of any century during the past 1000 years.	The observed warming over the past 100 years is due to climate variability alone, providing new and even stronger evidence that changes must be made to stem the influence of human activities.
Higher maximum temperatures are observed over nearly all land areas.	Arctic sea-ice thickness declined about 40% during late summer to early autumn in recent decades.	
Snow cover decreased about 10% since the 1960s (satellite data); in the 20th century there was a reduction of about two weeks in lake and river ice cover in the mid- and high-latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere (independent ground-based observations).	An increase in rainfall, similar to that in the Northern Hemisphere, has been observed in tropical land areas falling between 10 N and 10 S.	
Increased precipitation has been observed in most of the Northern Hemisphere continents.	Increased summer droughts are <i>likely</i> in a few areas.	





Is the depletion of the ozone layer a main cause of climate change?

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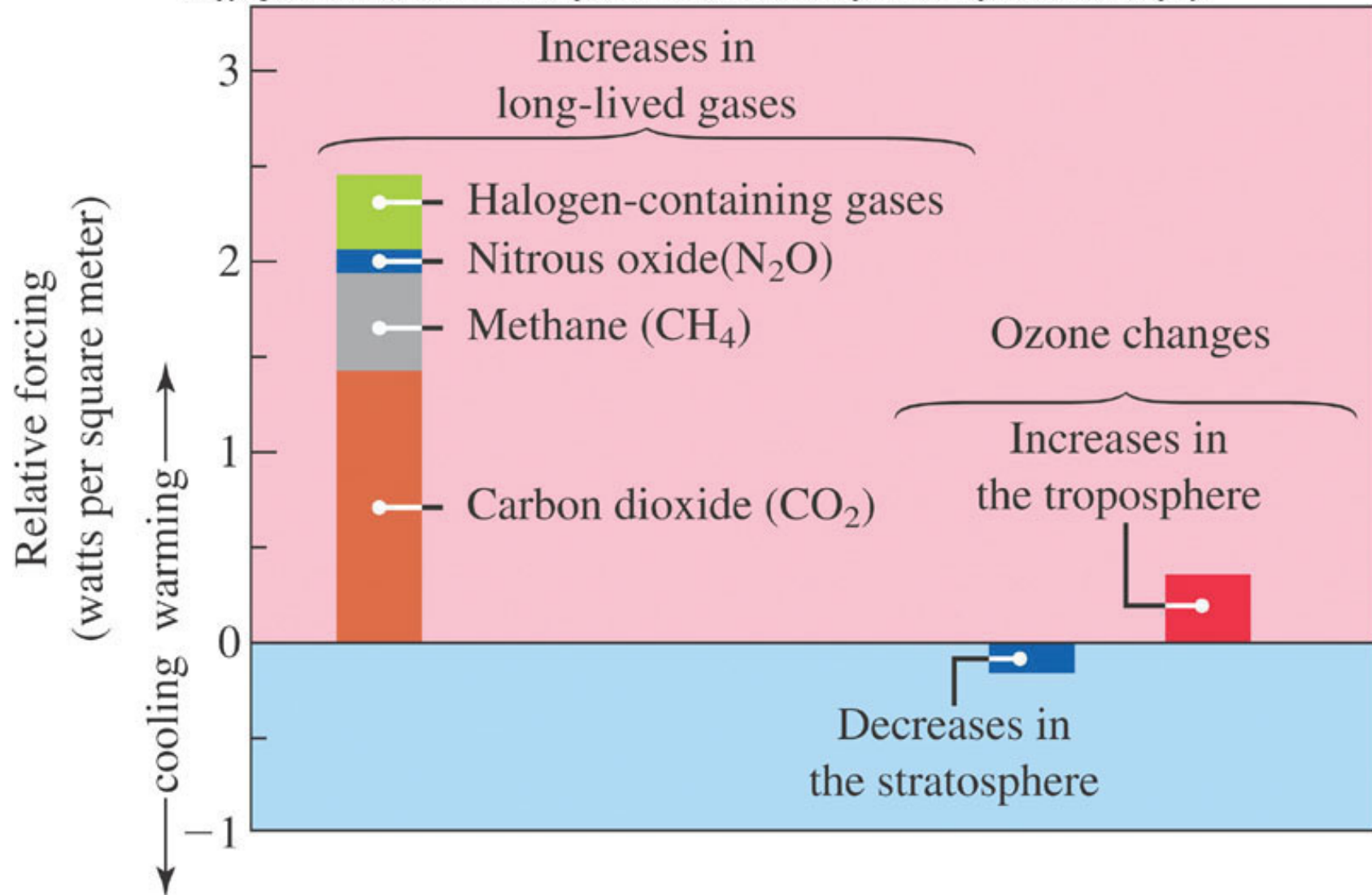
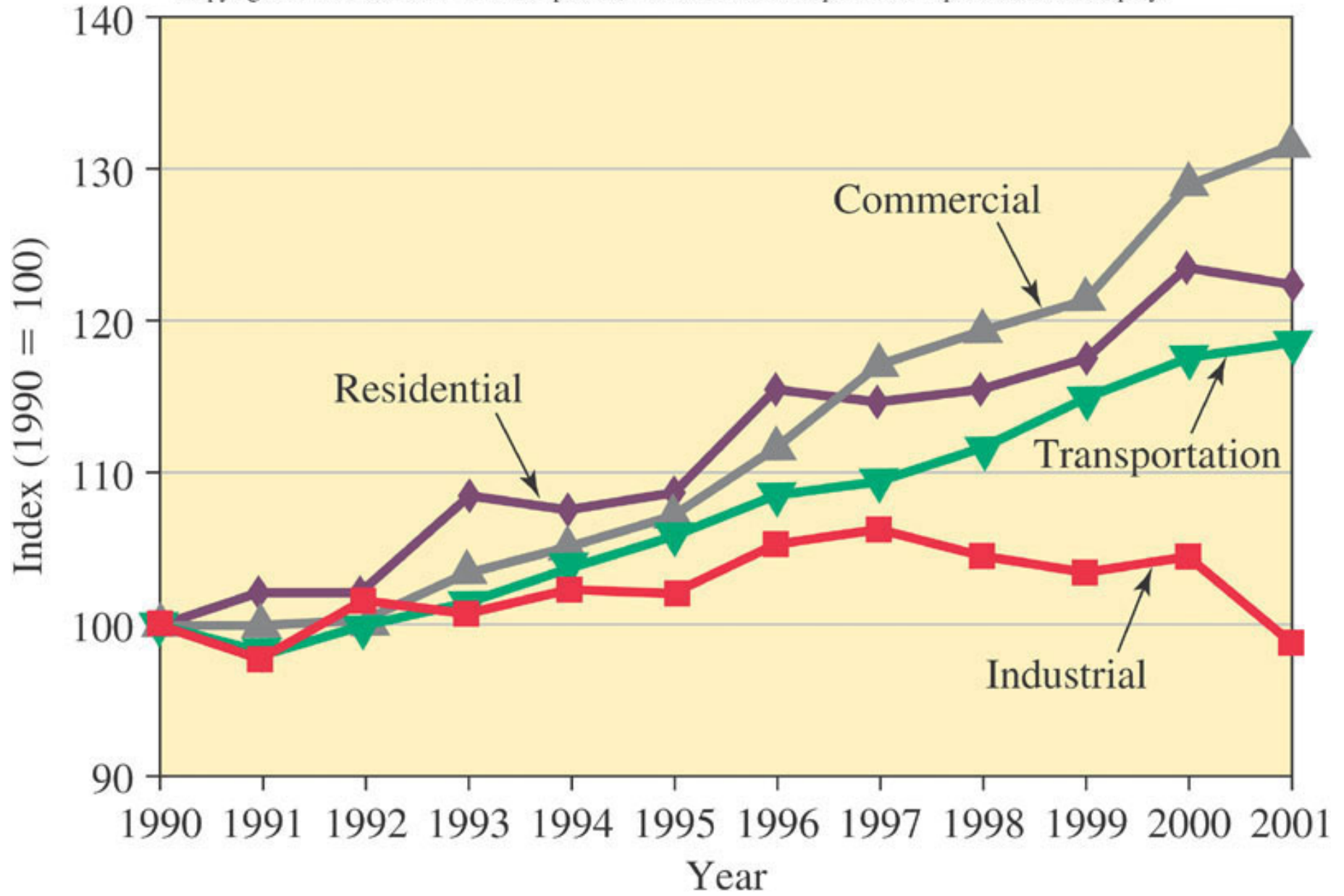
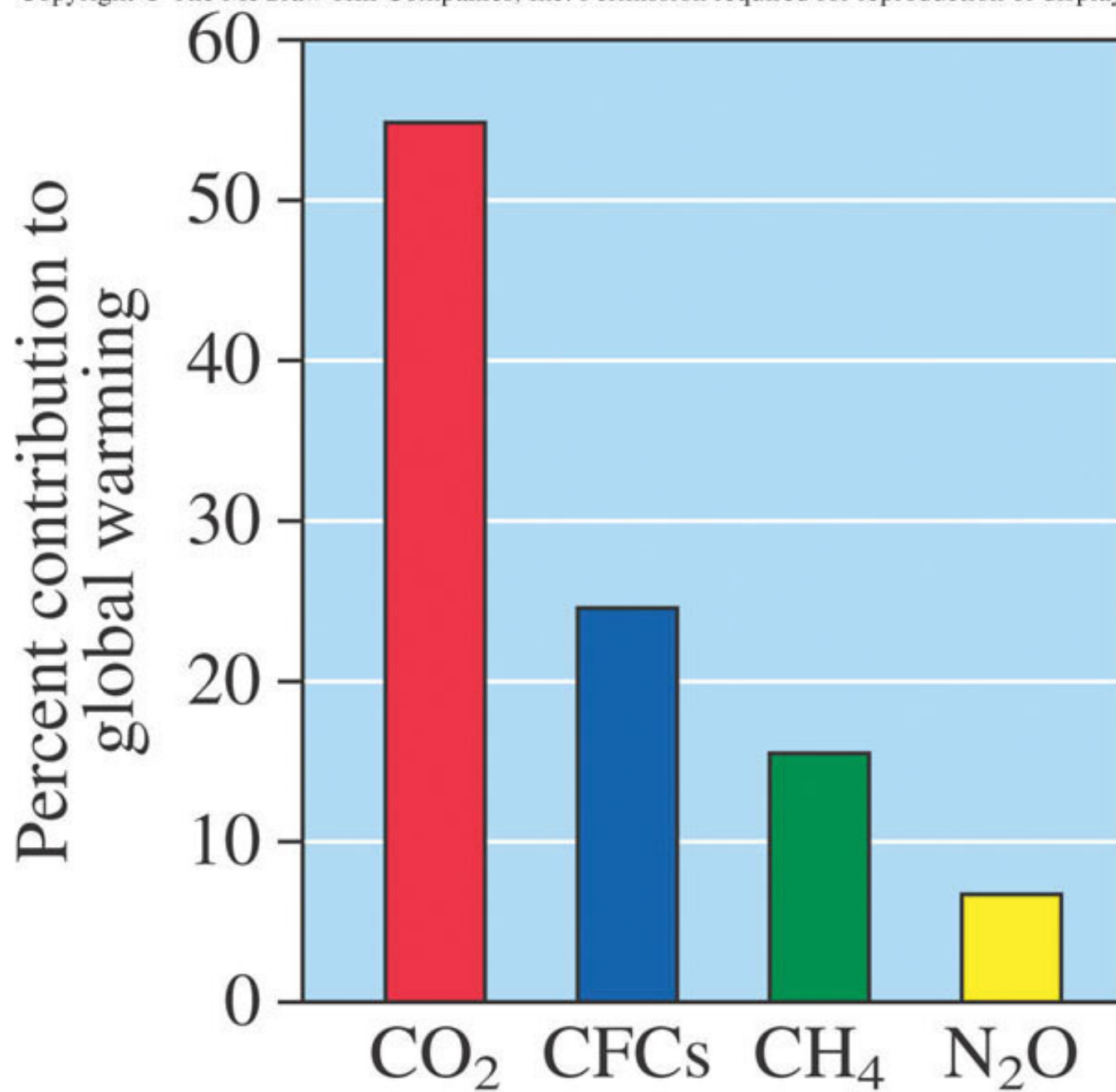


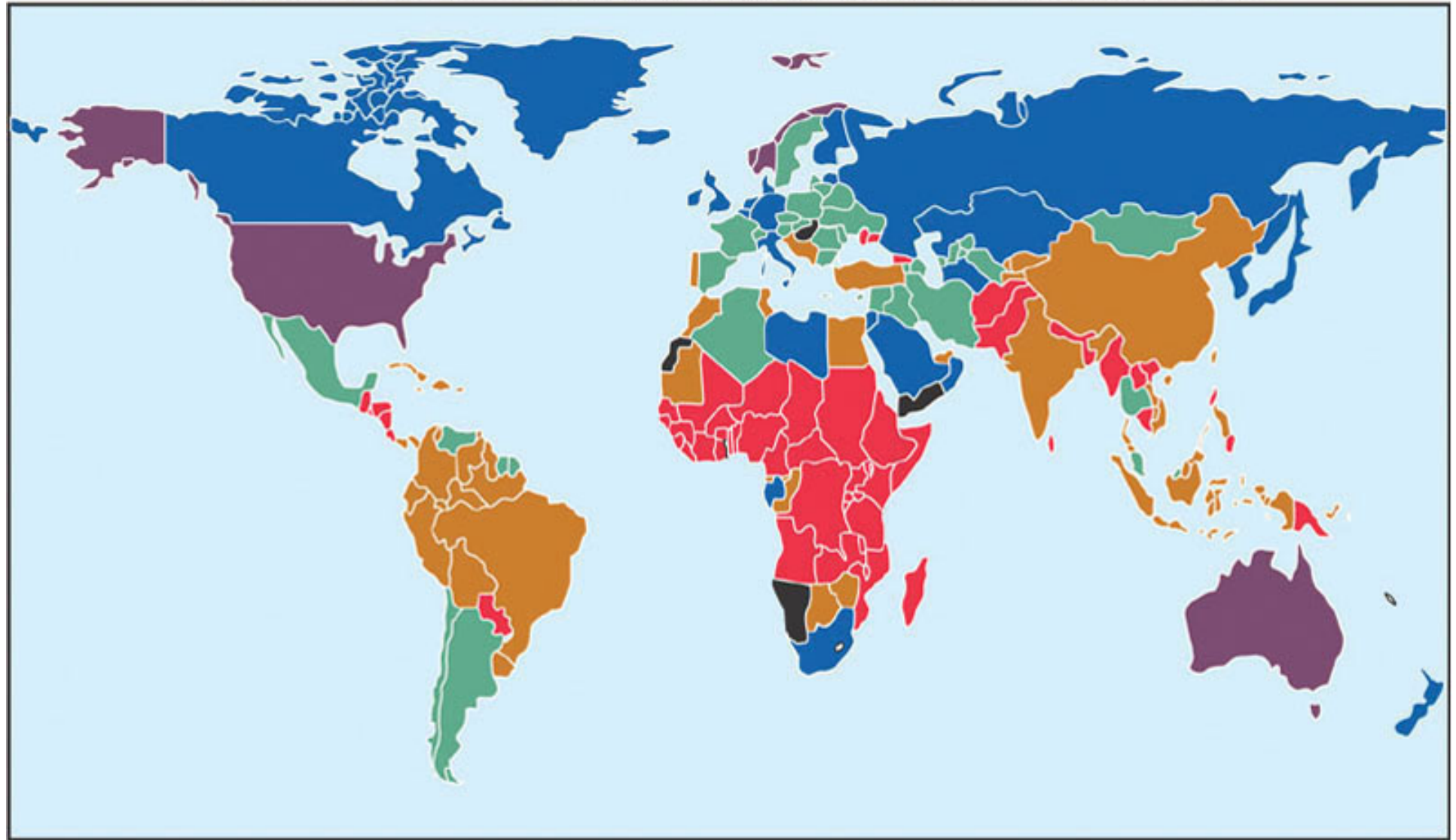
Table 3.8**Global Warming and Ozone Depletion: Some Characteristics**

	Global Warming	Stratospheric Ozone Depletion
Region of atmosphere involved	Stratosphere	Mostly troposphere
Major substances involved	H ₂ O, CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O	O ₃ , O ₂ , CFCs
Interaction with radiation	When molecules absorb IR radiation, they vibrate and return heat energy to Earth.	When molecules absorb UV radiation, they break apart into smaller molecules or atoms.
Nature of problem	Increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases are apparently increasing average global temperature.	Decreasing concentration of O ₃ is increasing exposure to UV radiation.
Major sources	Release of CO ₂ from burning fossil fuels, deforestation; CH ₄ from agriculture. Natural sources of H ₂ O	Release of long-lived CFCs from past uses as solvents, foaming agents, air conditioners. CFCs release Cl• that destroys O ₃ .
Credible consequences	Altered climate and agricultural productivity, increased sea level, effects on health	Increased incidence of skin cancer, damage to phytoplankton
Possible remedies	Decrease use of fossil fuels, slow deforestation; change agricultural practices	Eliminate use of CFCs, find suitable replacements
International response	Kyoto Protocol, 1997 and later amendments	Montreal Protocol, 1987 and later amendments
U.S. response	Signed Kyoto Protocol in 1998; not submitted to Senate for ratification, therefore not bound by its provisions; alternative proposals	Signed 1987; full participation in Protocol and its amendments

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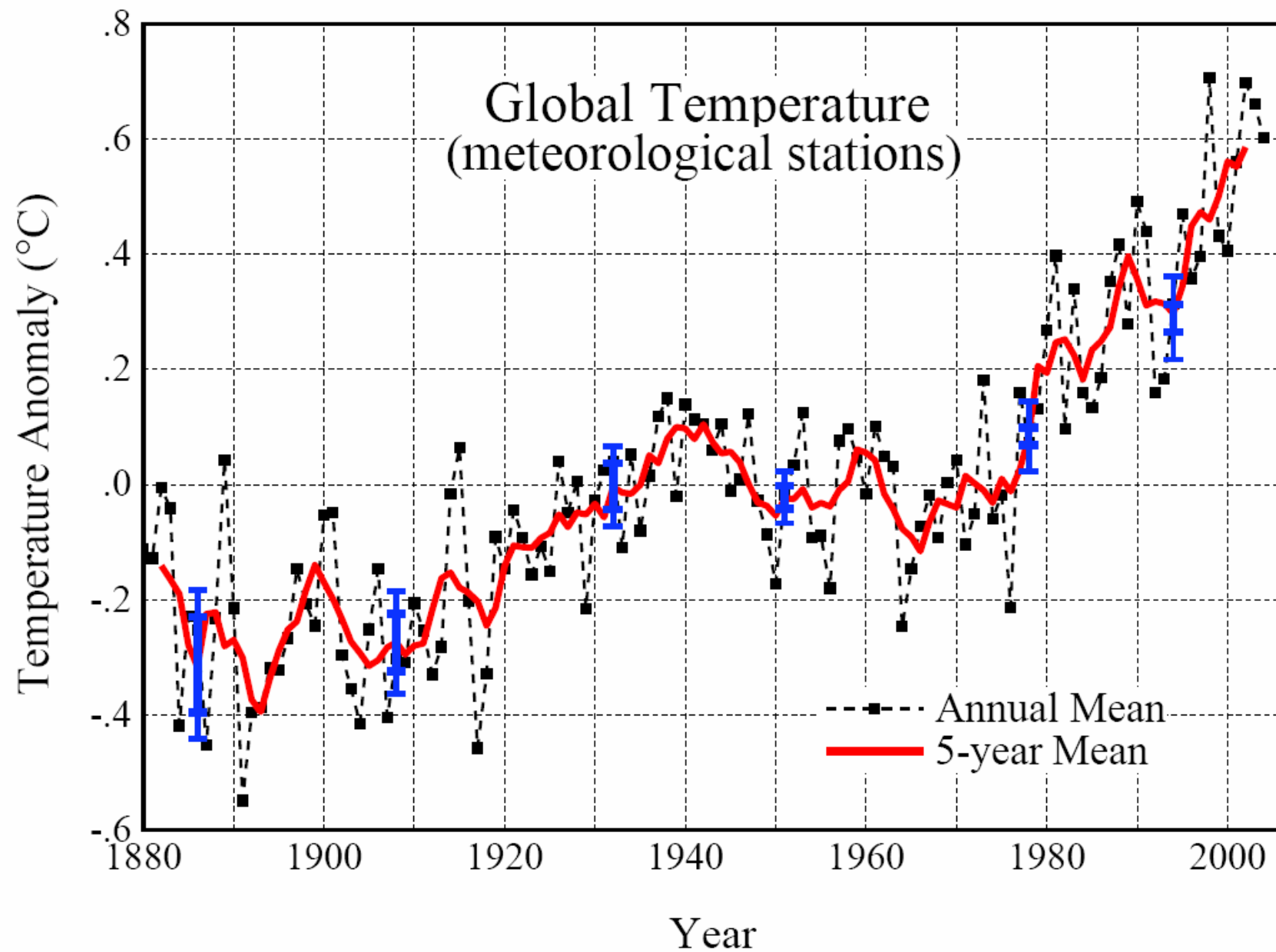


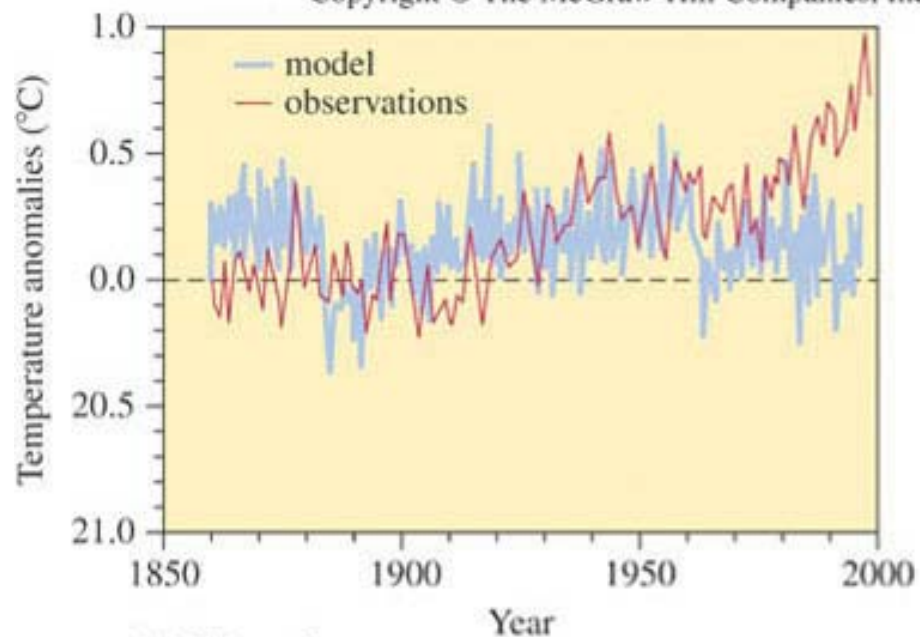




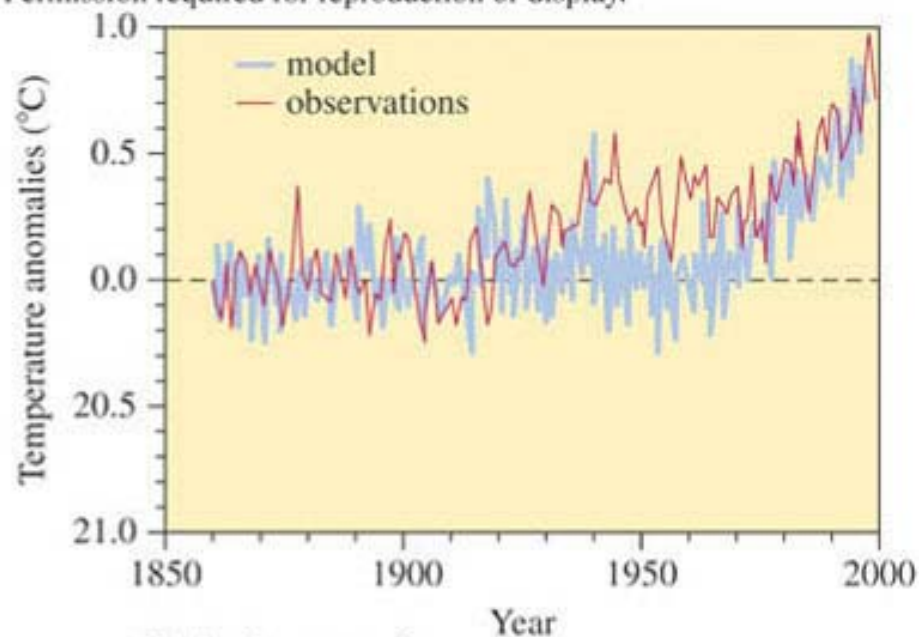
■ <1.0 ■ 1.0–2.9 ■ 3.0–6.9 ■ 7.0–14.9 ■ >15.0 ■ no data

Metric tons per person

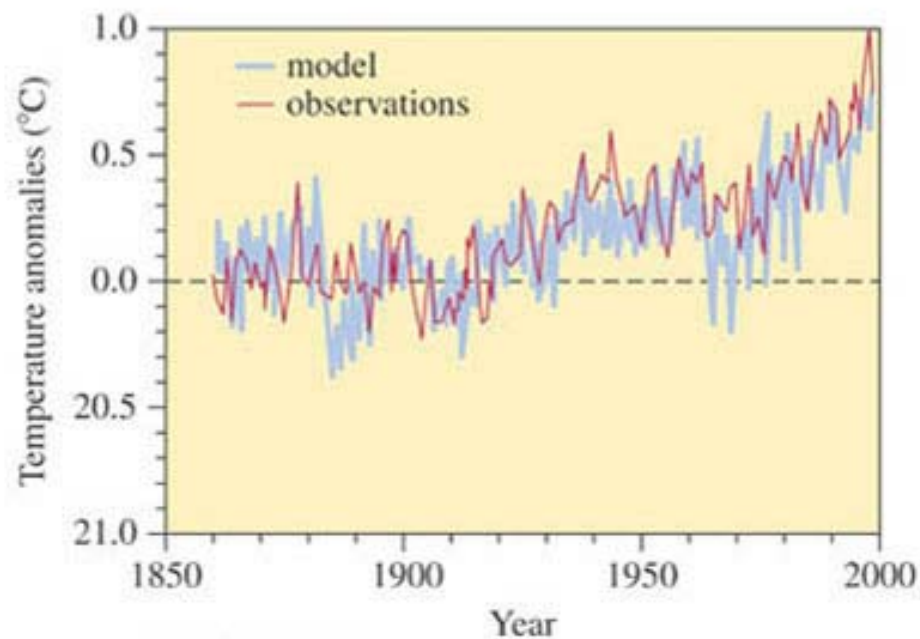




(a) Natural

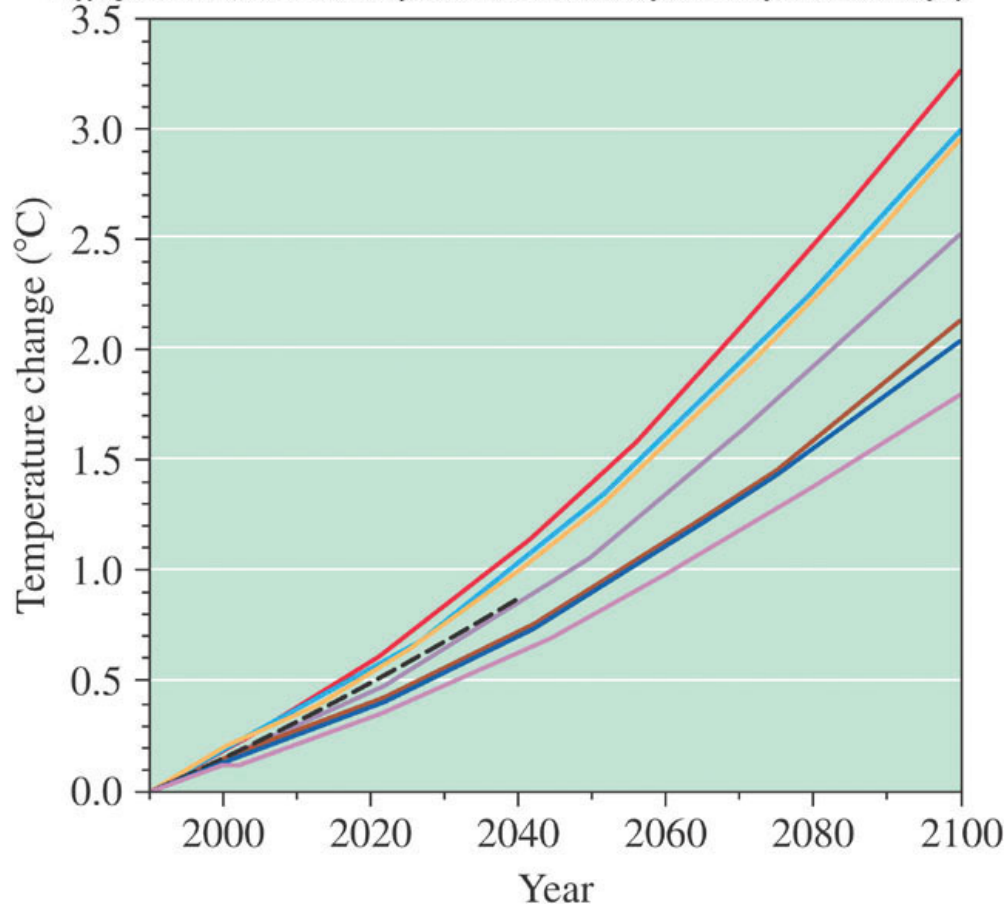


(b) Anthropogenic



(c) All forcings

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- Low end prediction
 - 2100 population of 6.4 billion
 - annual economic growth rate of 1.2 %
- Mid level prediction
 - 2100 population of 11.3 billion
 - annual economic growth rate of 2.3 %
- High end prediction
 - 2100 population of 11.3 billion
 - annual economic growth rate of 3.0 %

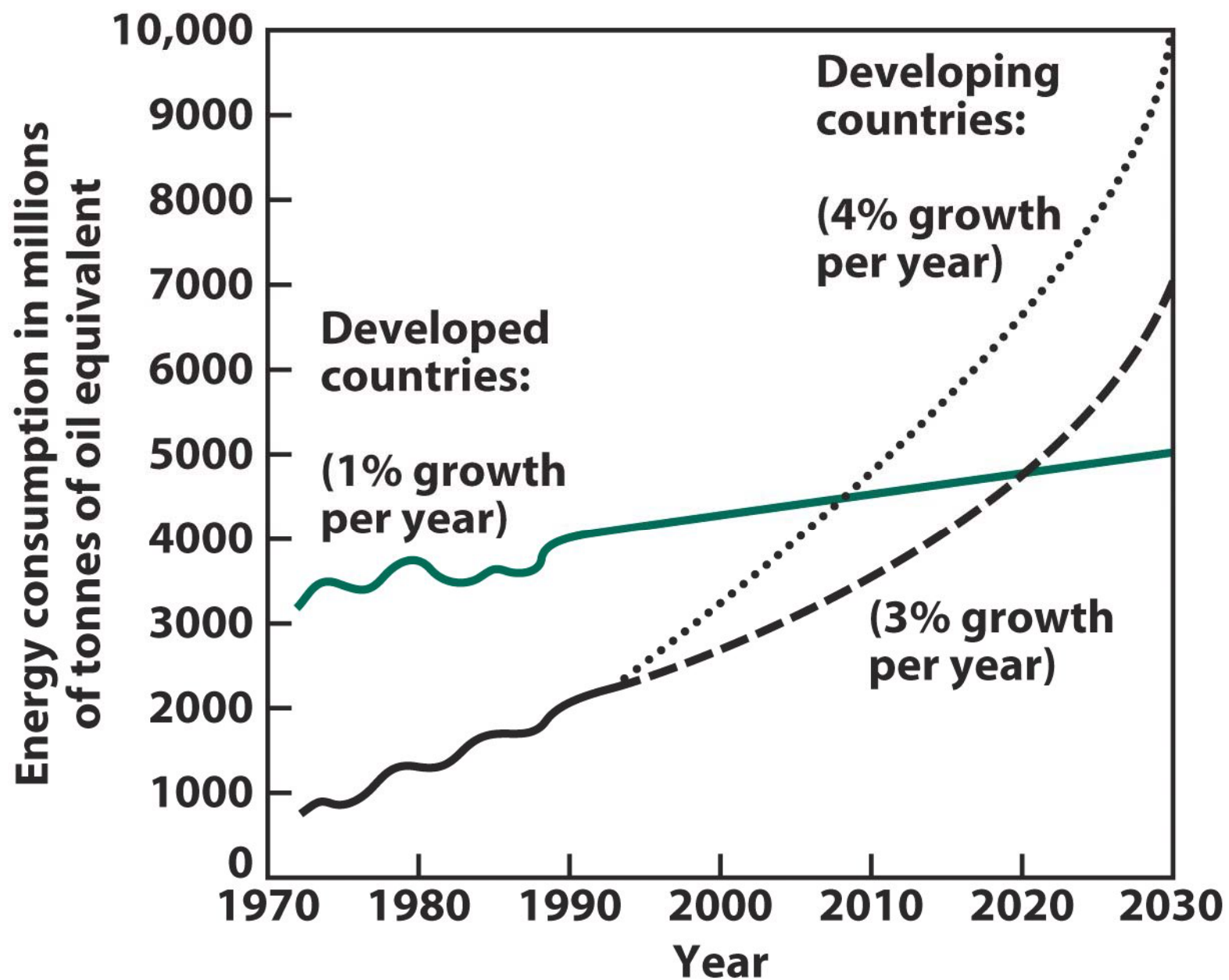


Figure 5-3
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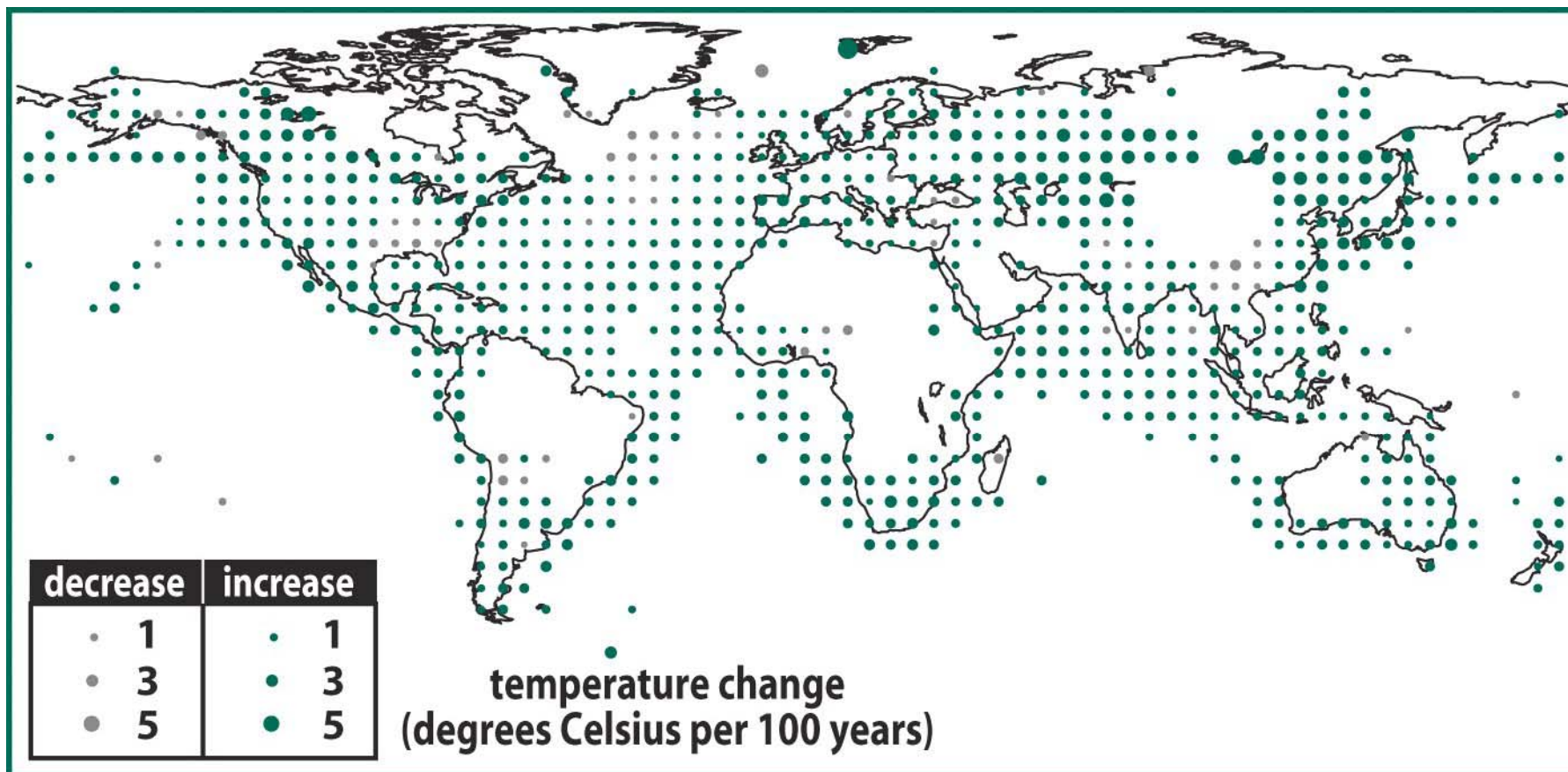


Figure 4-23
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