

Why complexity?



8/29/11

Chapin et al., 2011

Fig. 1.1

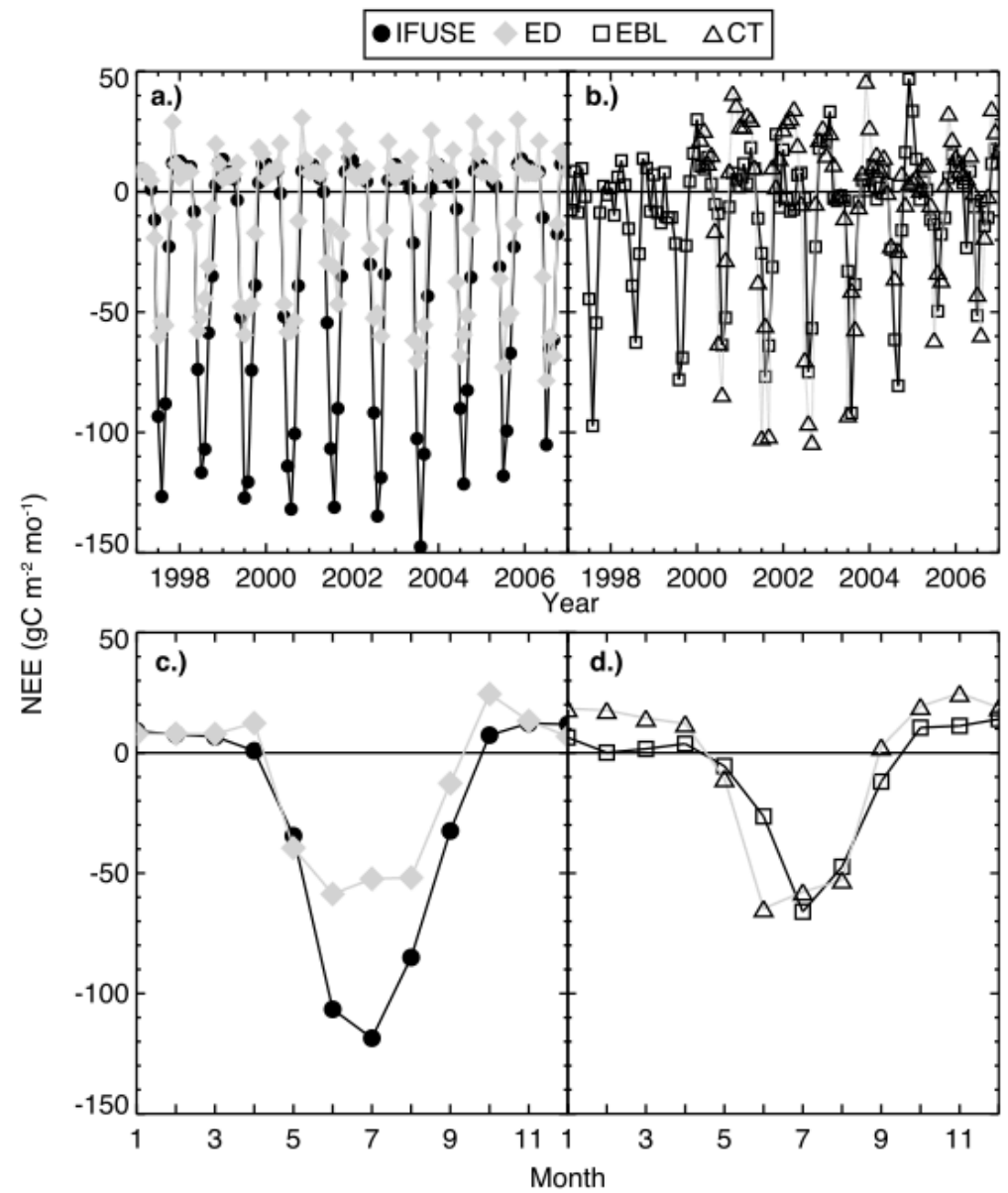


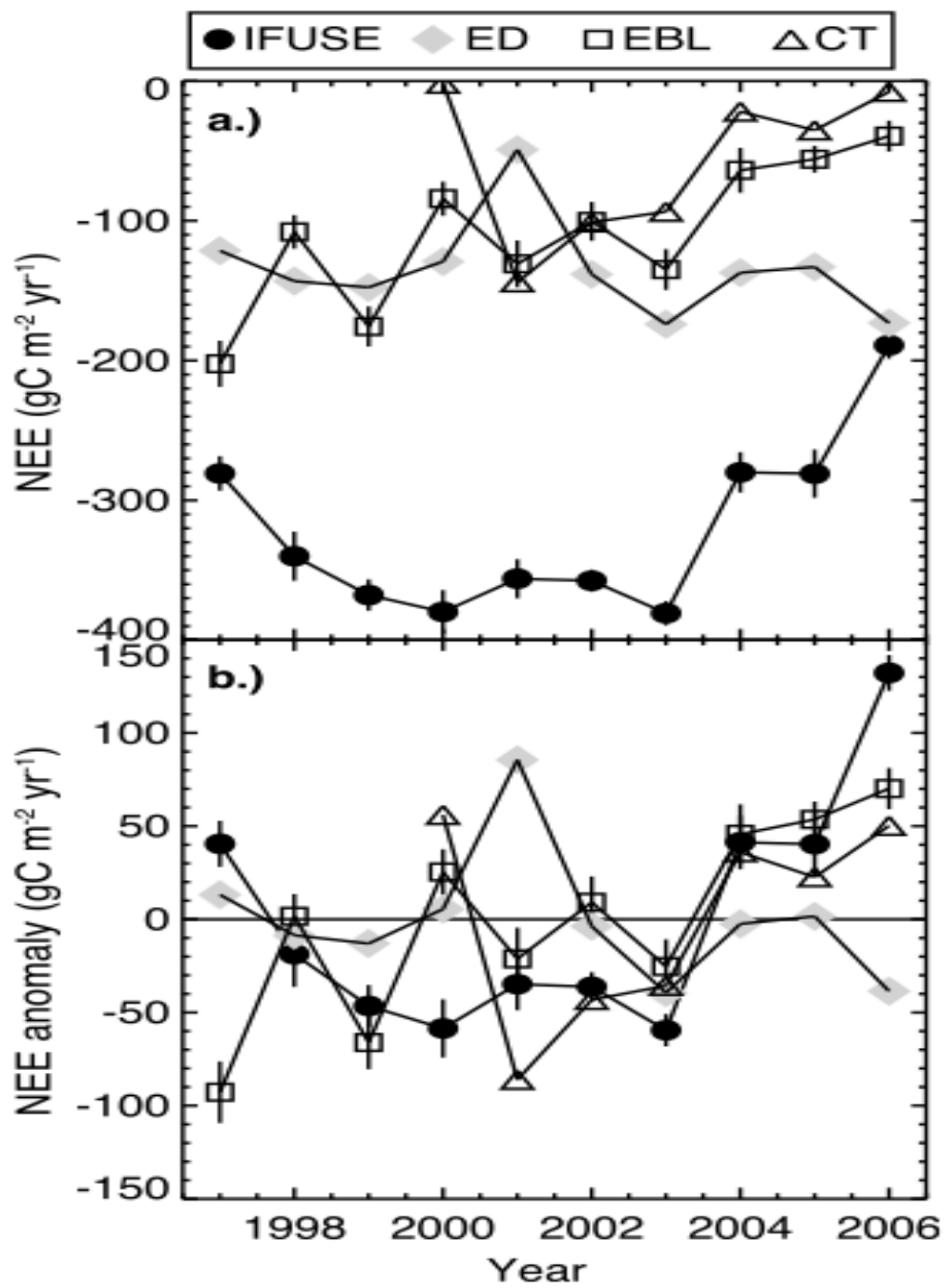






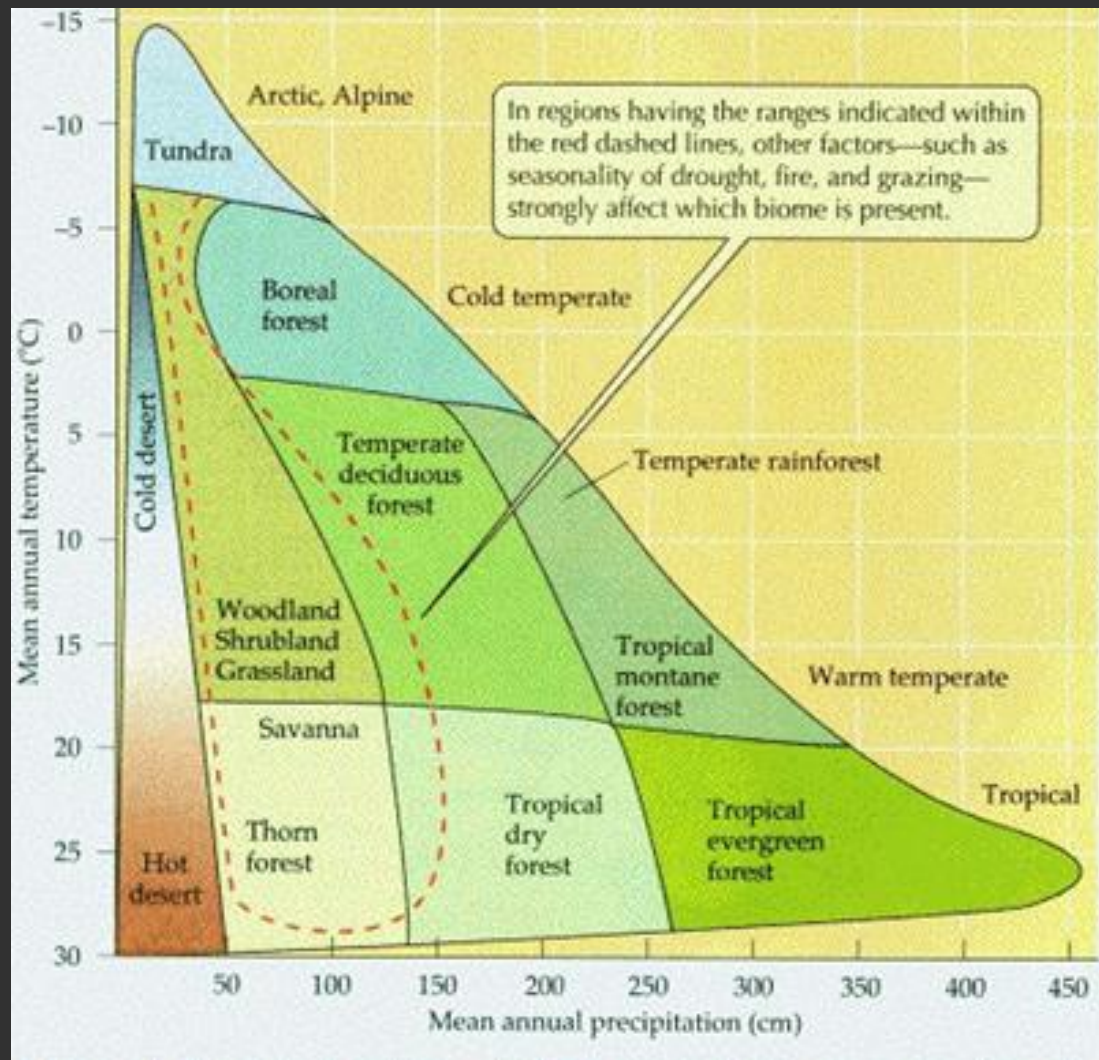
Desai et al., 2010, JGR-G





Ecosystem Ecology

- Ecosystem: Bounded ecological system of organisms (biotic) and their environment (abiotic) that interact or function together
- Structure and function of ecosystems
 - Structure: organization: physical, community, diversity
 - Function: Energy, carbon, nutrient cycling
- Biomes: Climatically or geographically defined area of ecologically similar conditions
 - Leading to dominance of certain types of ecosystems that have evolved to succeed (successfully reproduce) within a particular climate or geographic niche



a) Global ecosystem

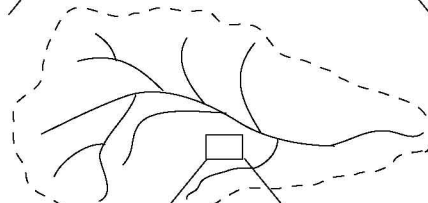
5,000 km



How does carbon loss from plowed soils influence global climate?

b) Watershed

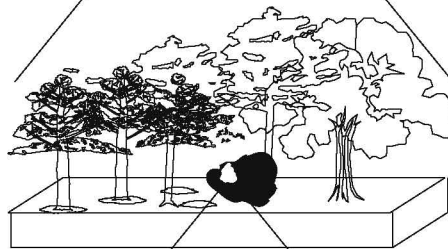
10 km



How does deforestation influence the water supply to neighboring towns?

c) Forest ecosystem

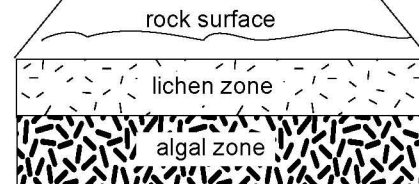
1 km



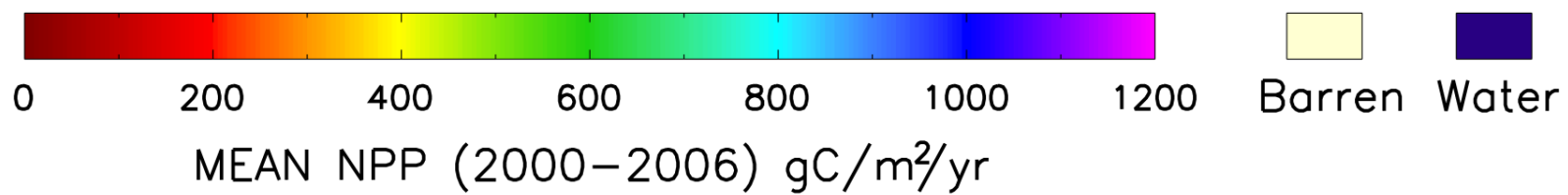
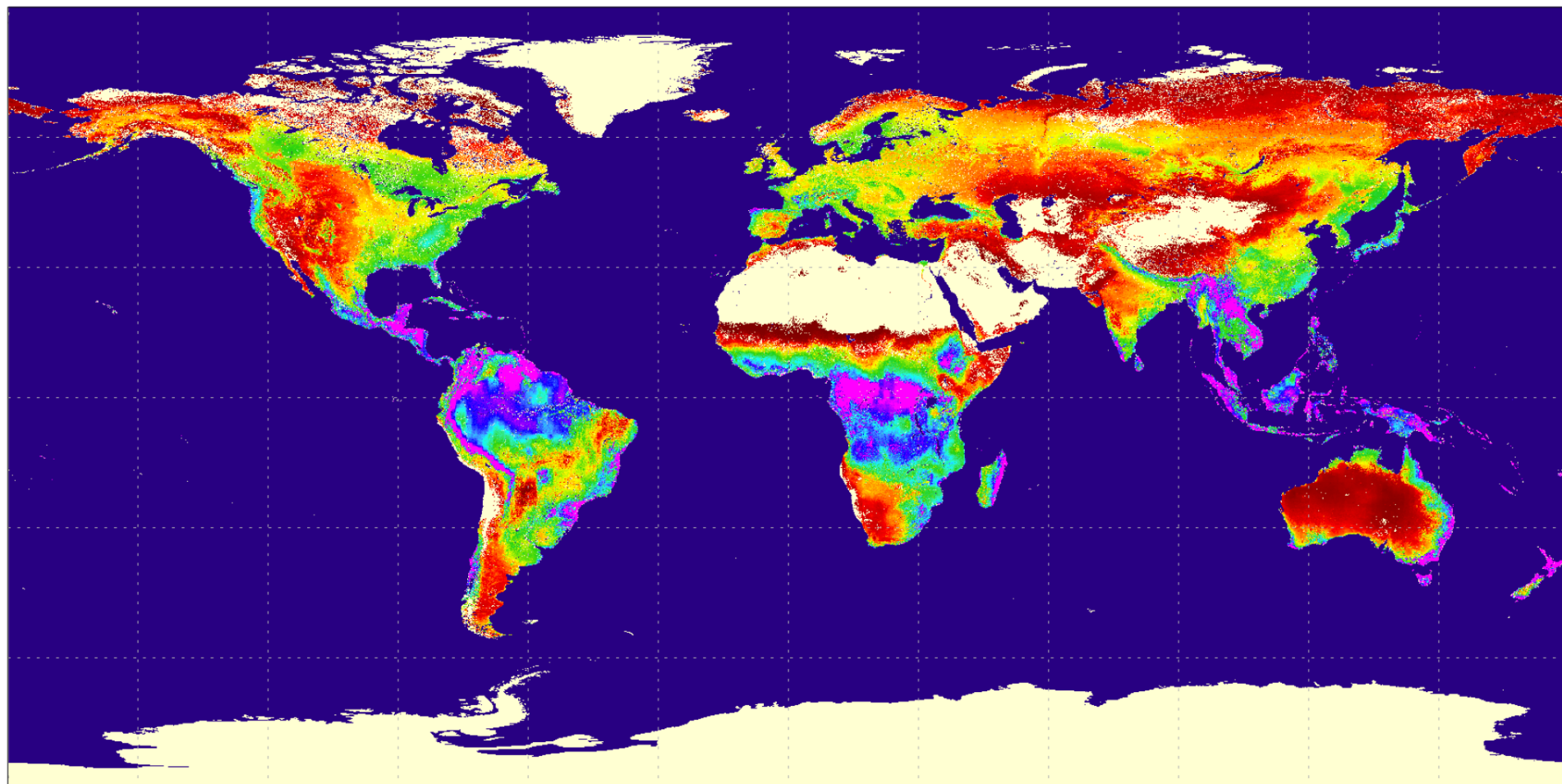
How does acid rain influence forest productivity?

d) Endolithic ecosystem

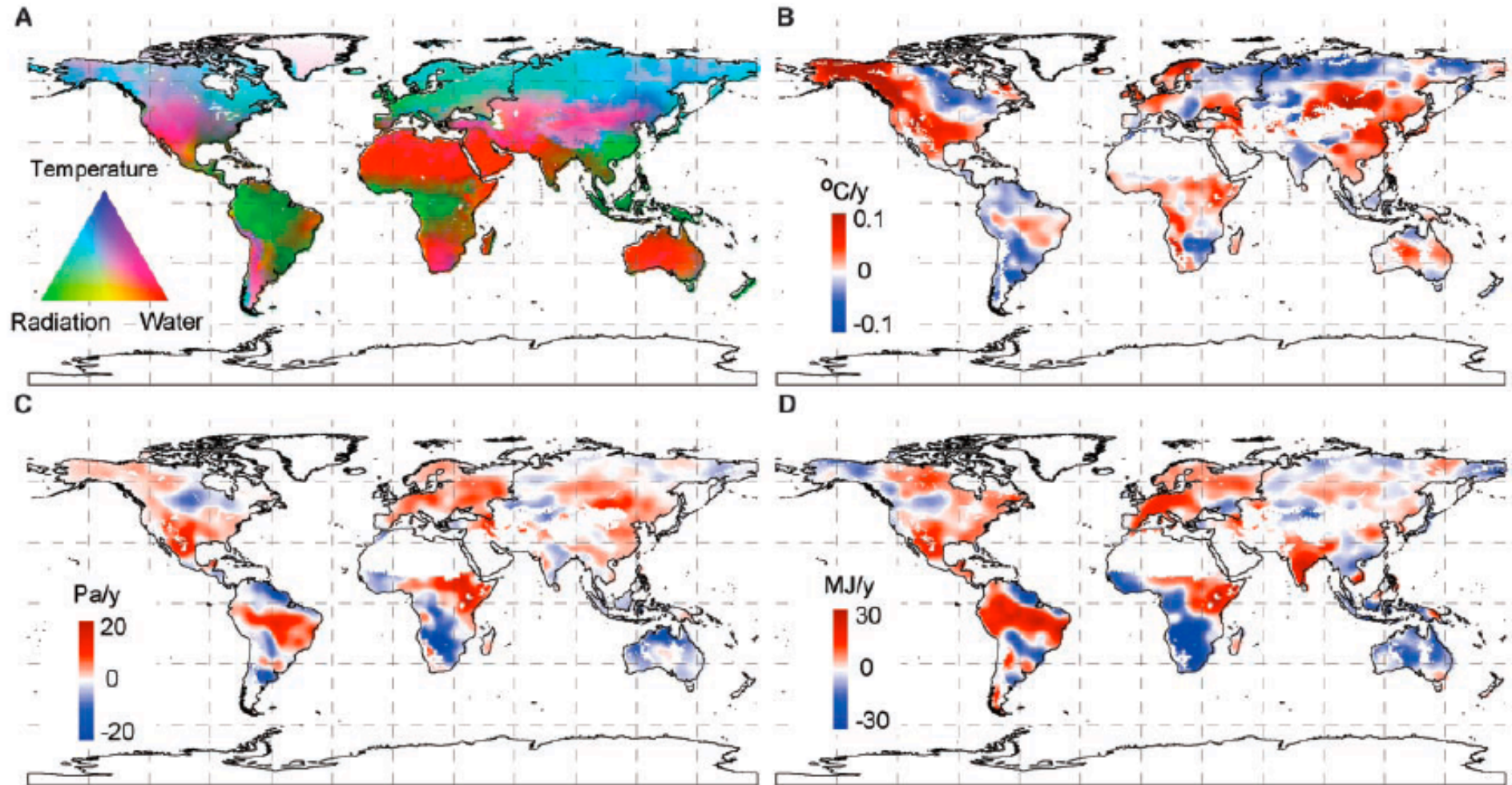
1 mm



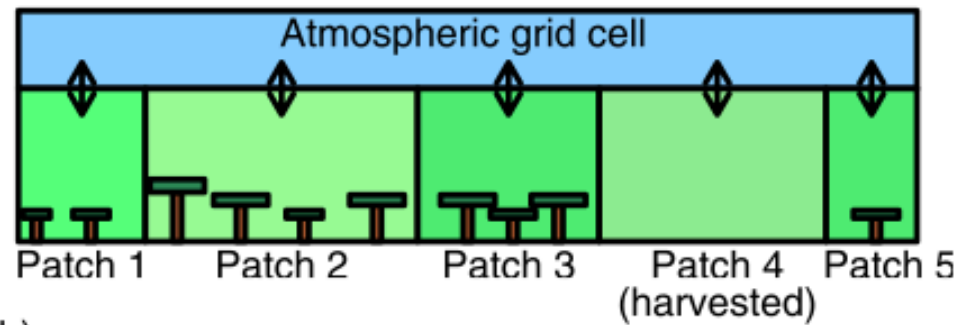
What are the biological controls over rock weathering?



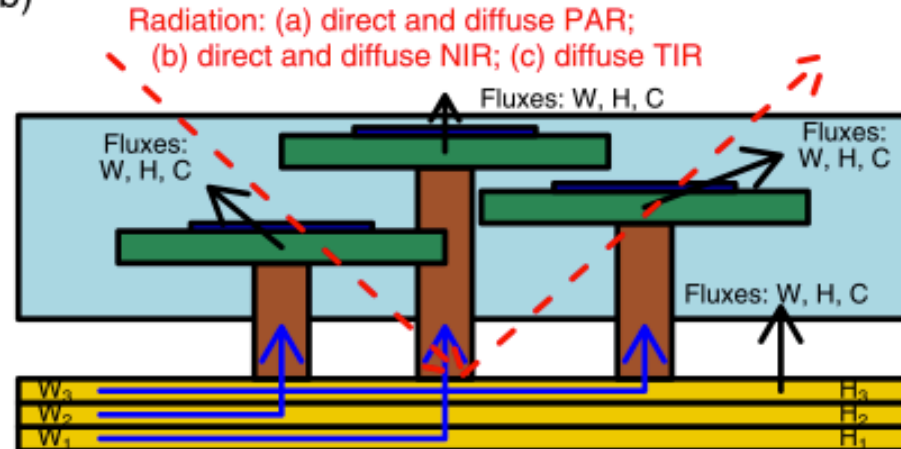
Nemani, 2003, Science



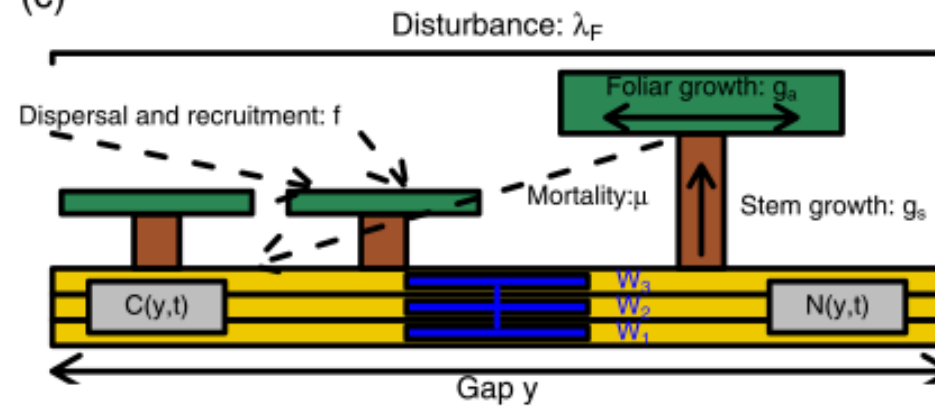
(a)



(b)

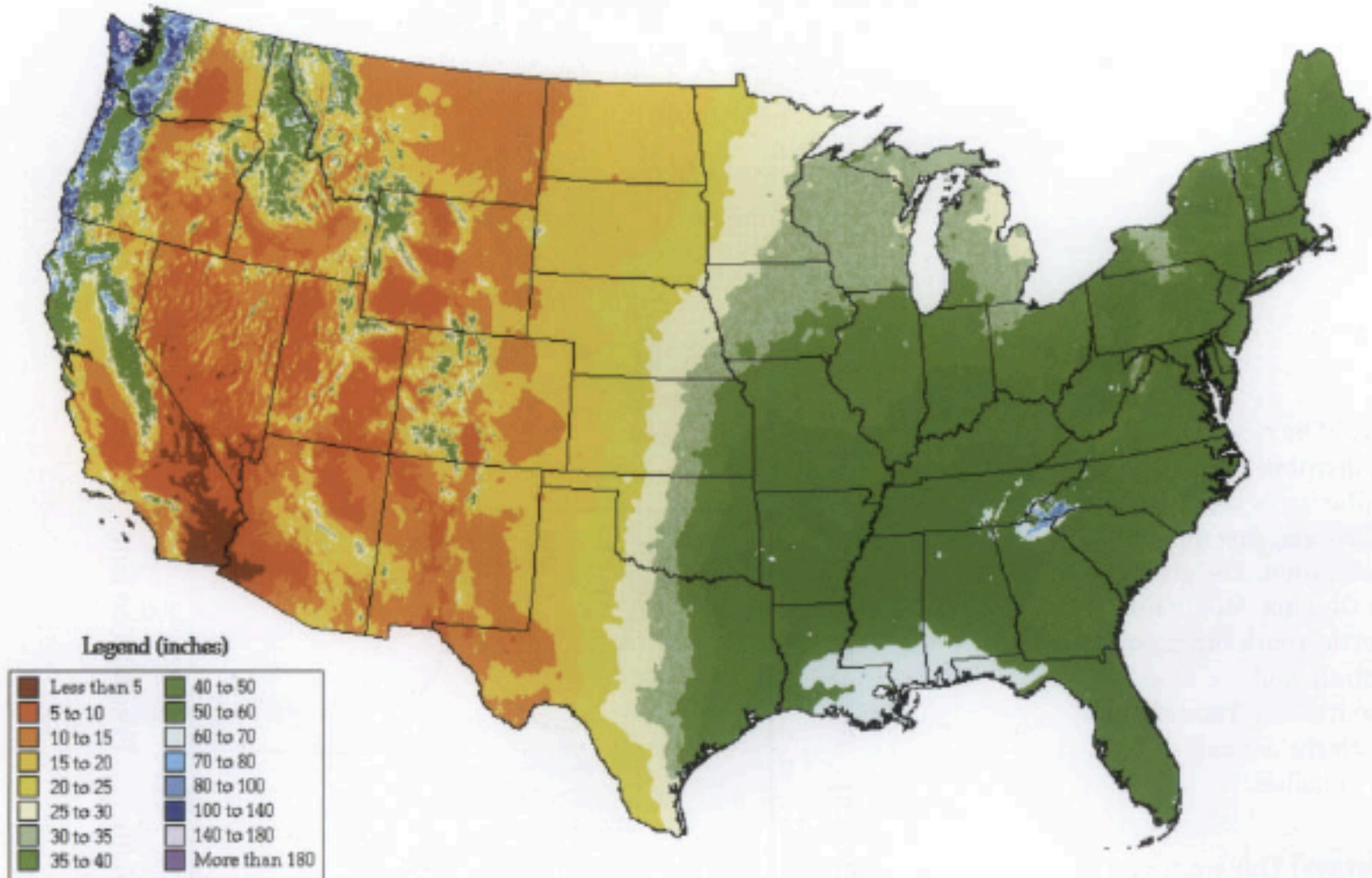


(c)



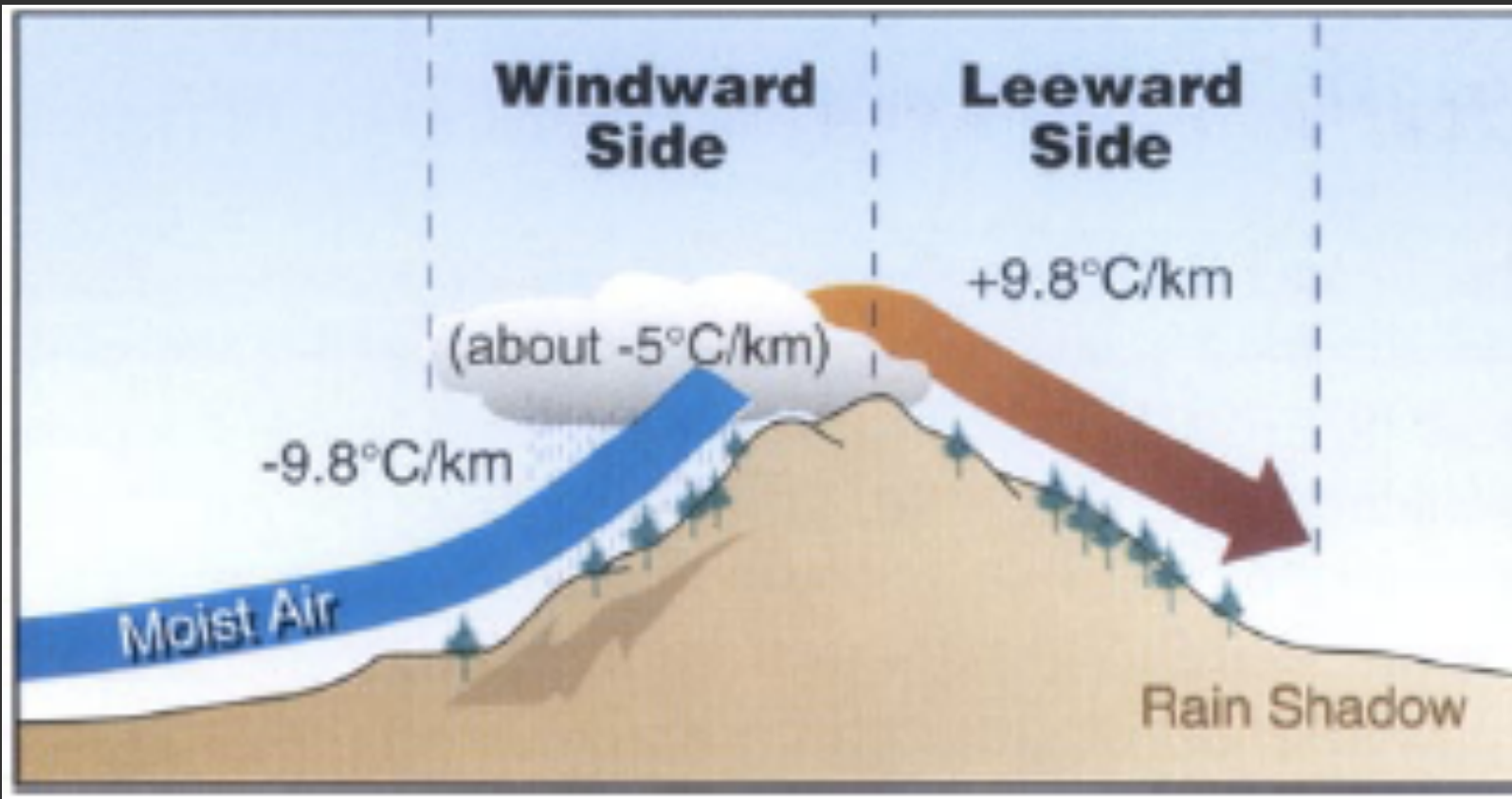
Why terrain?

Precipitation in the US

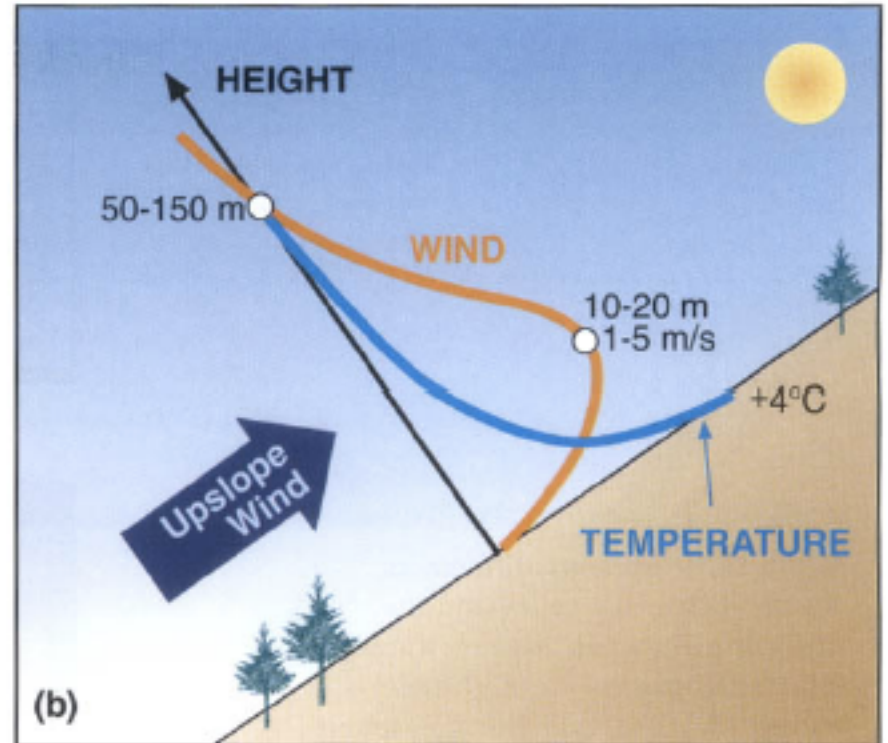
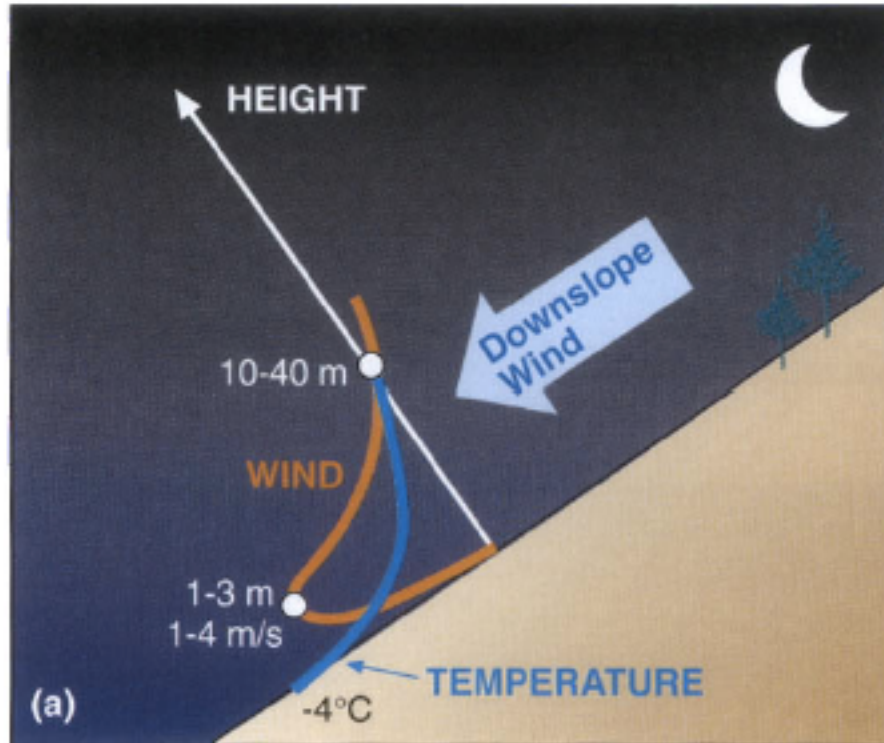


Period: 1961-1990

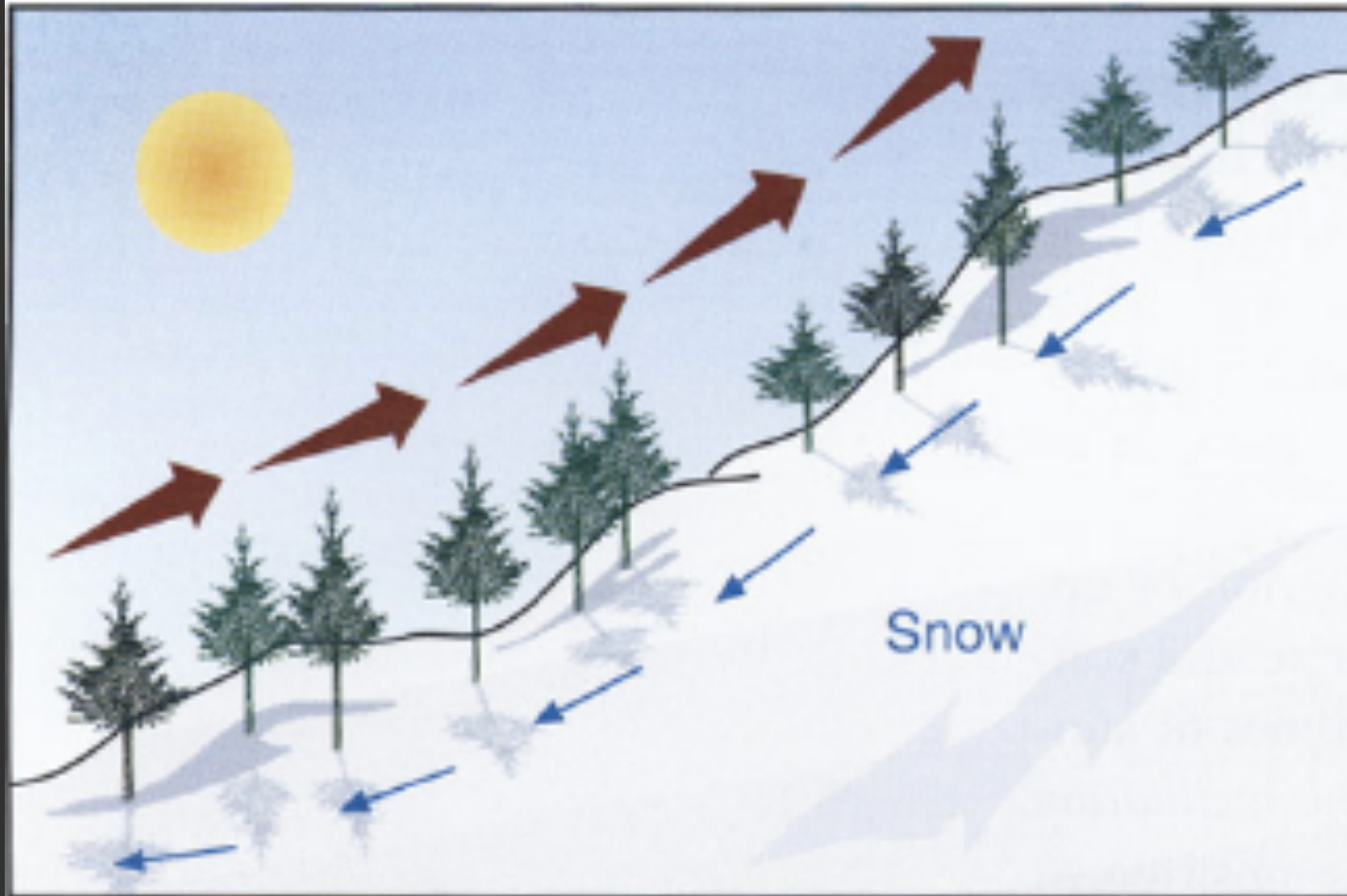
Rain Shadow



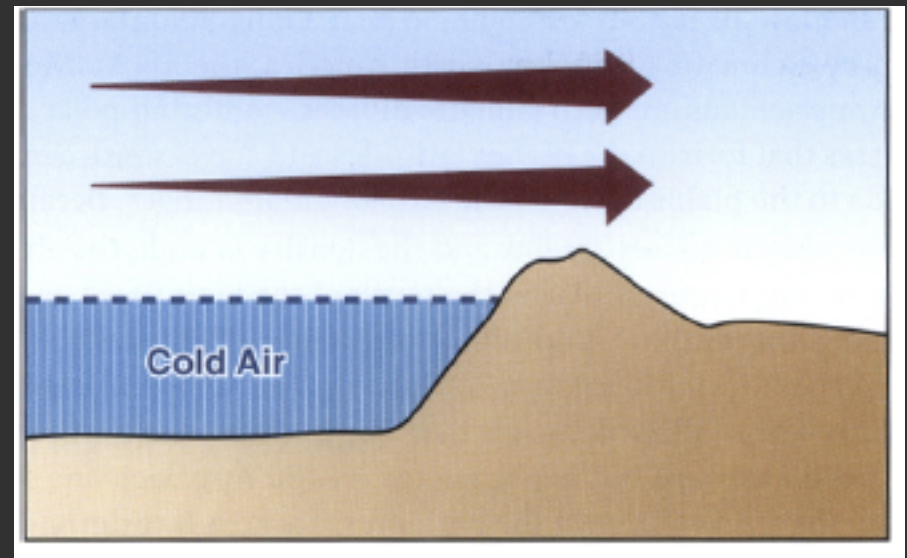
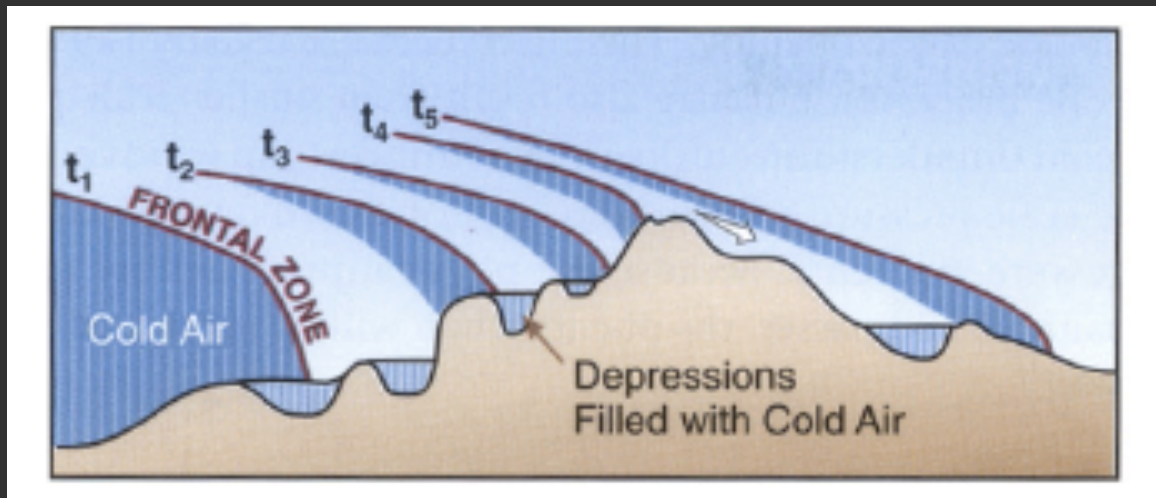
Slope winds



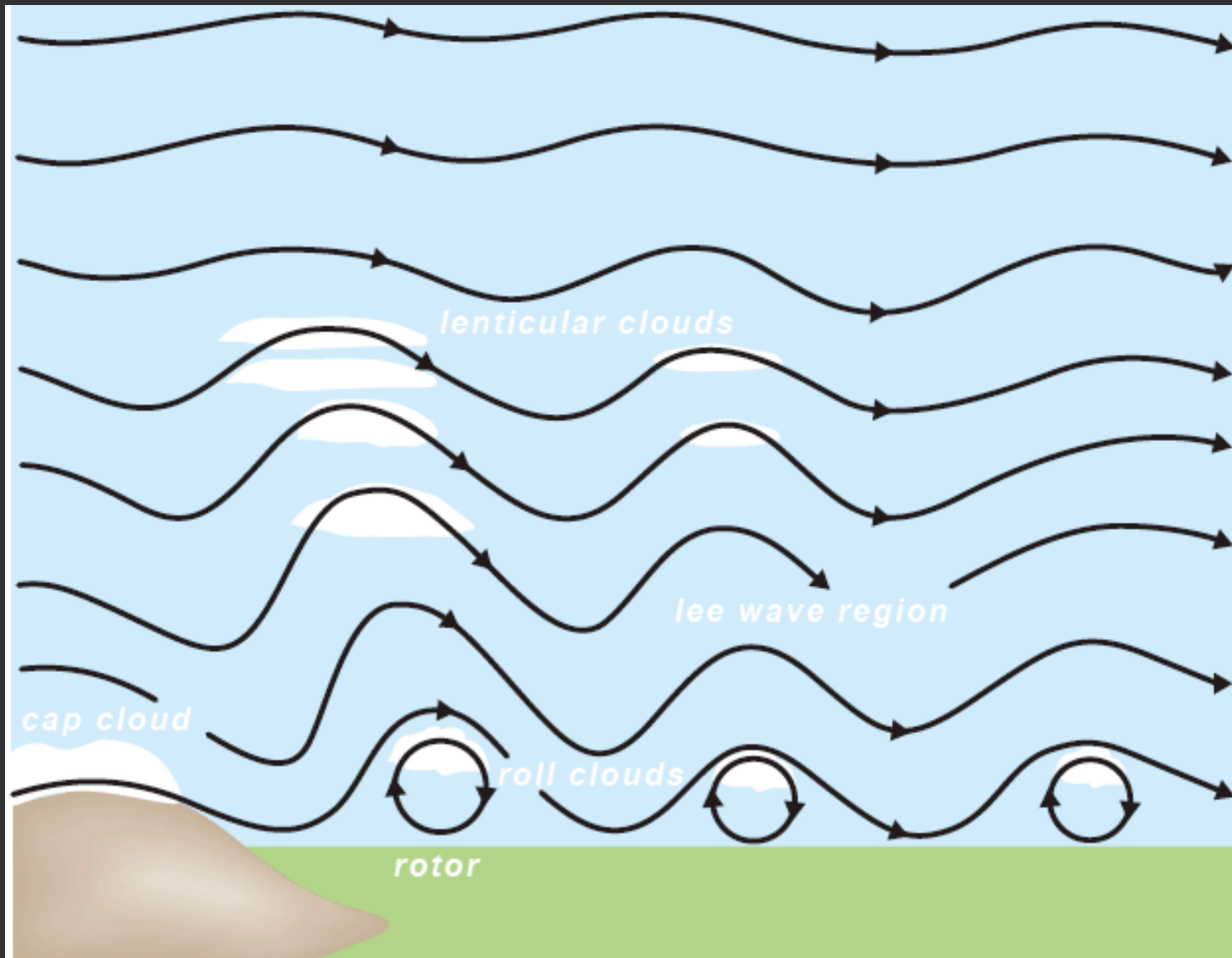
Canopy + Terrain



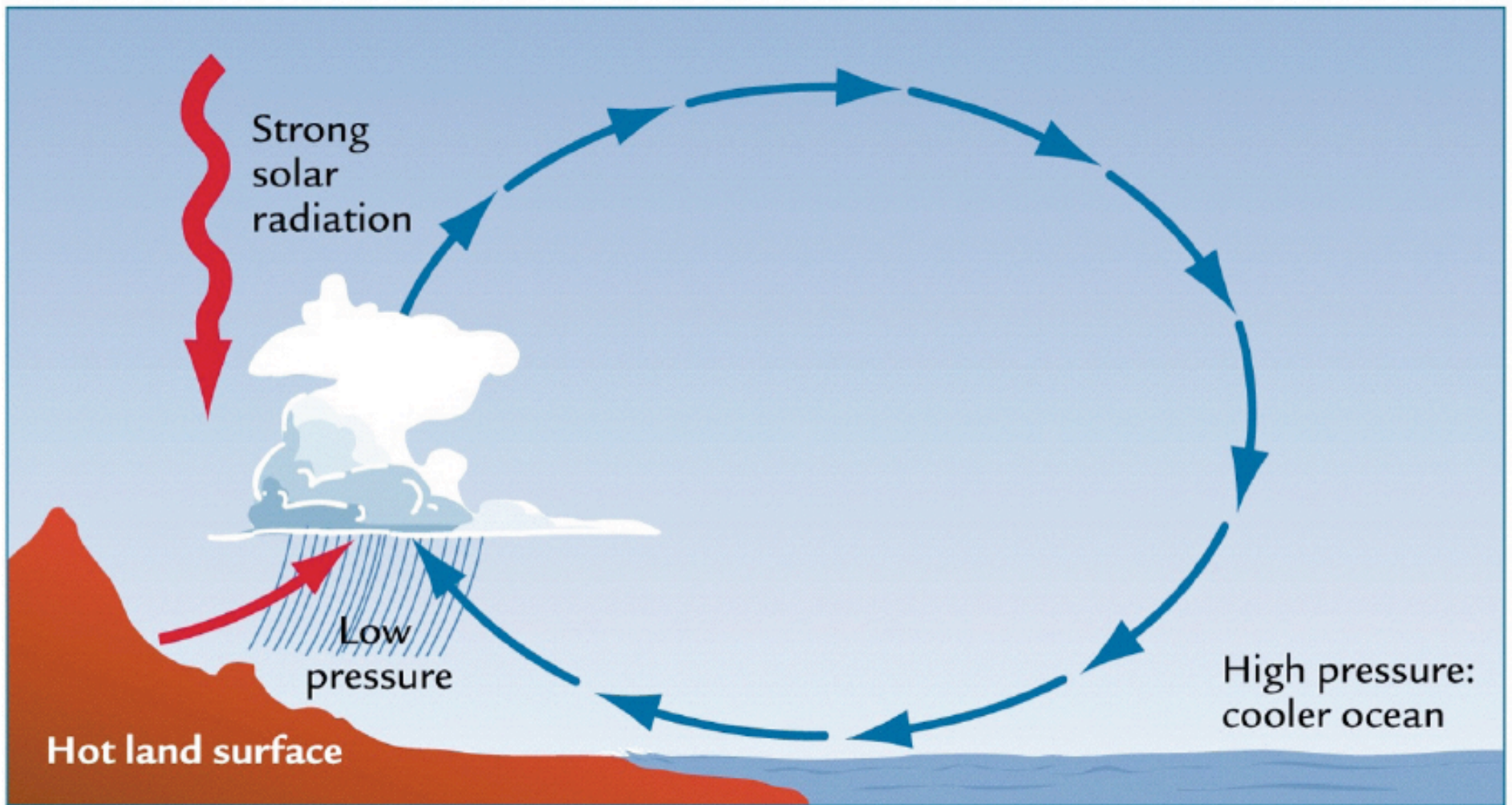
Cold Air Damming



Waves and Rotors



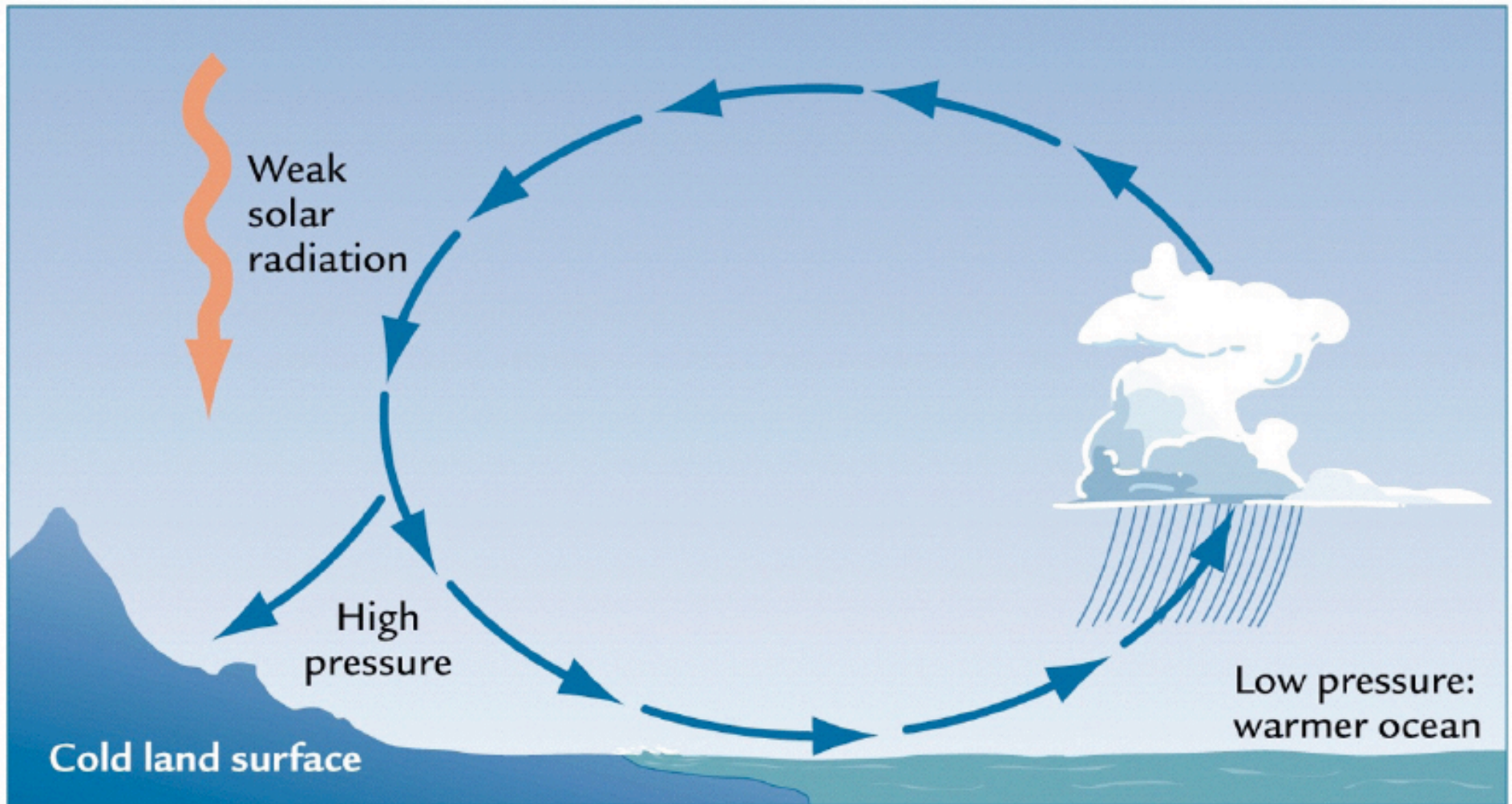
Monsoon Flow



A

Summer monsoon

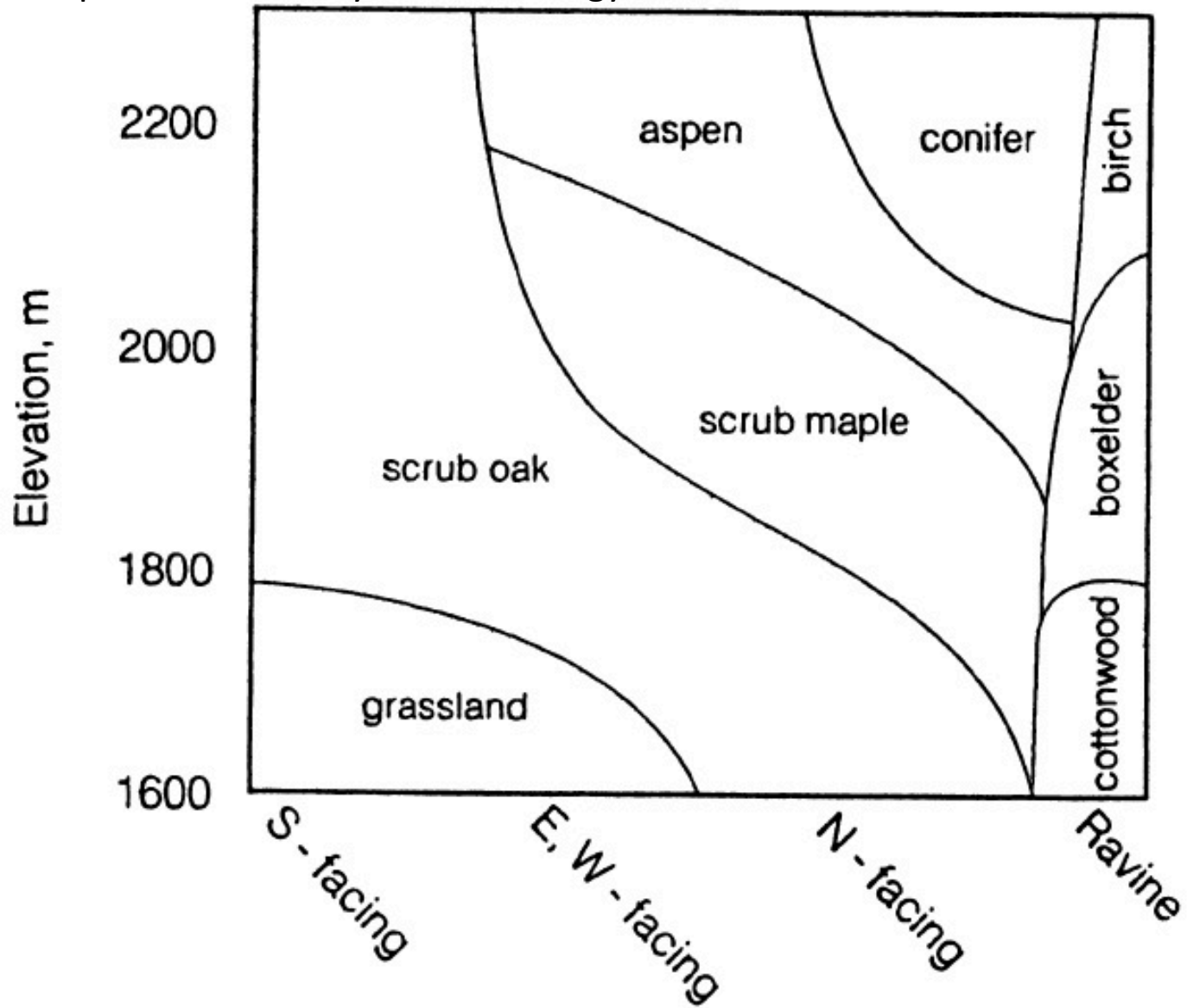
Monsoon Flow



B

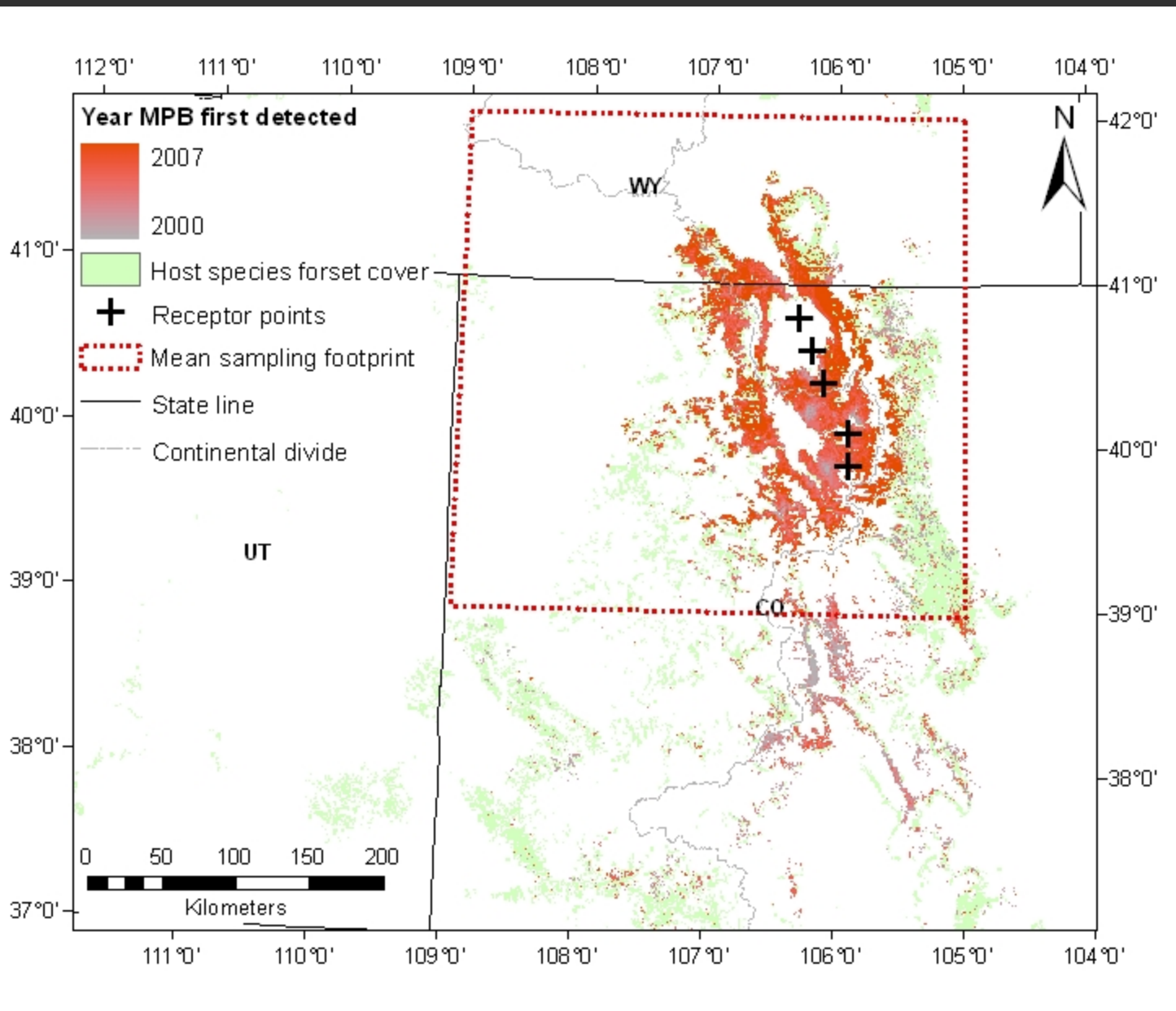
Winter monsoon

<http://redbuttecanyon.net/ecology.html>

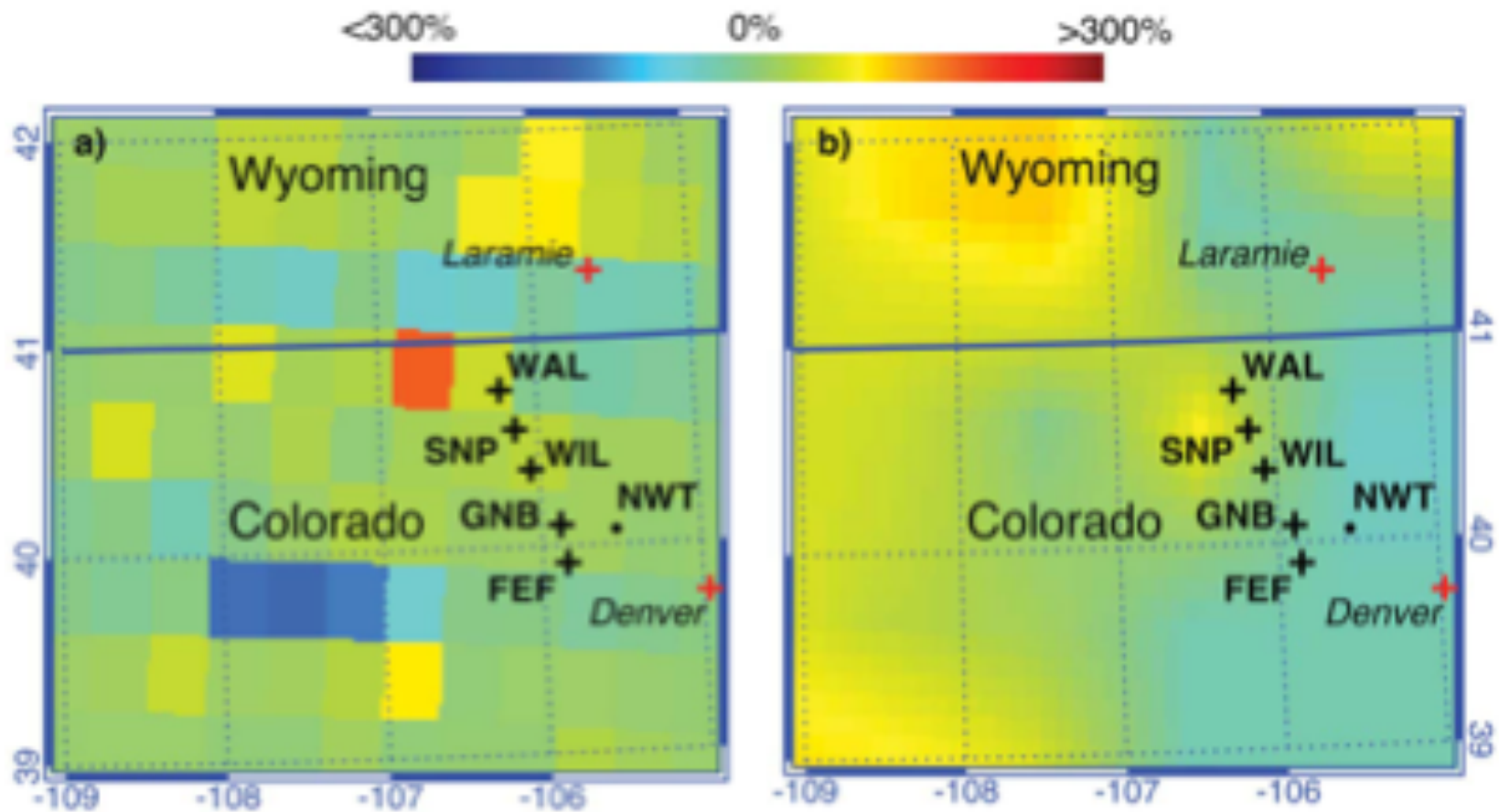


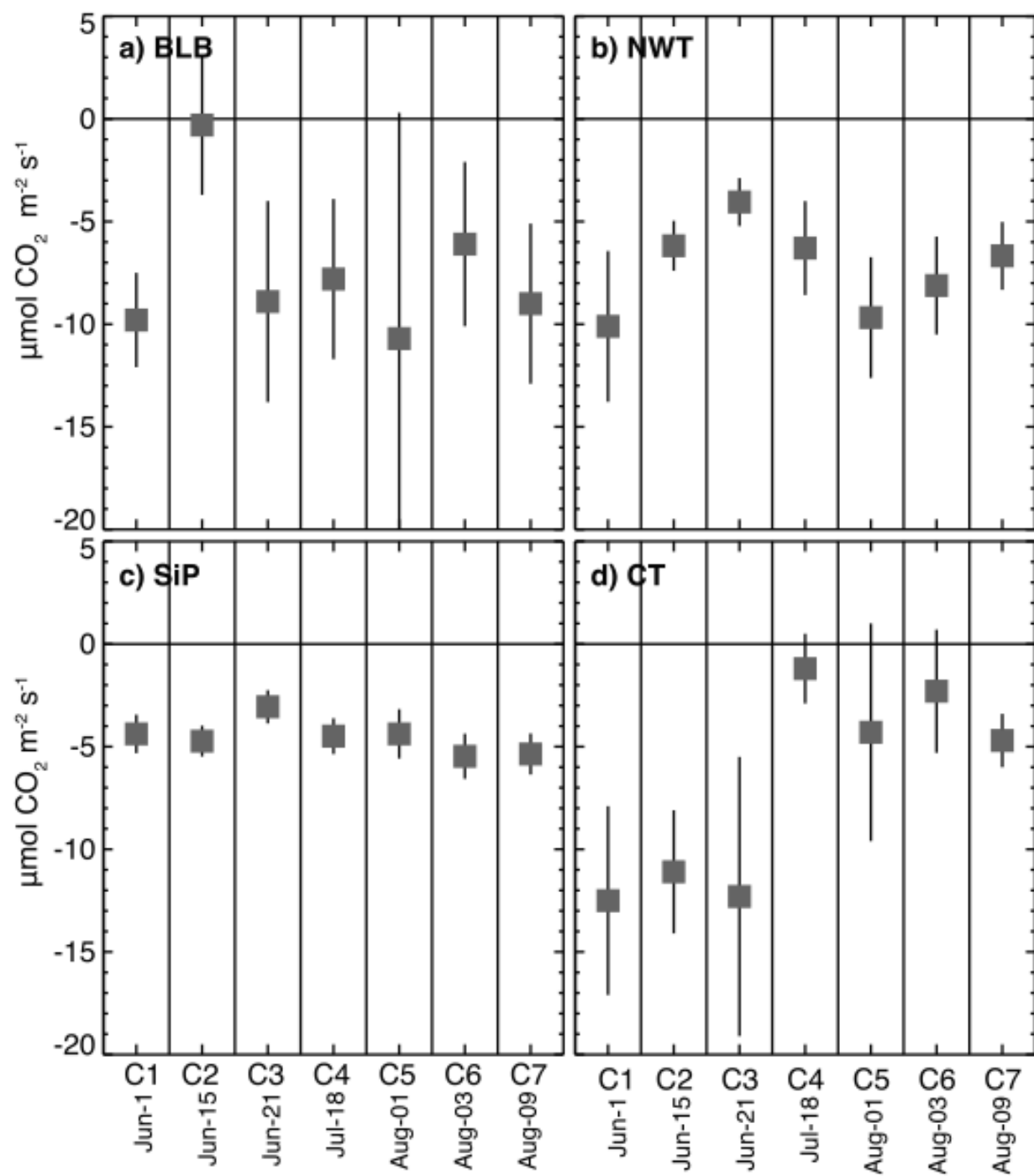
Western US Closeup

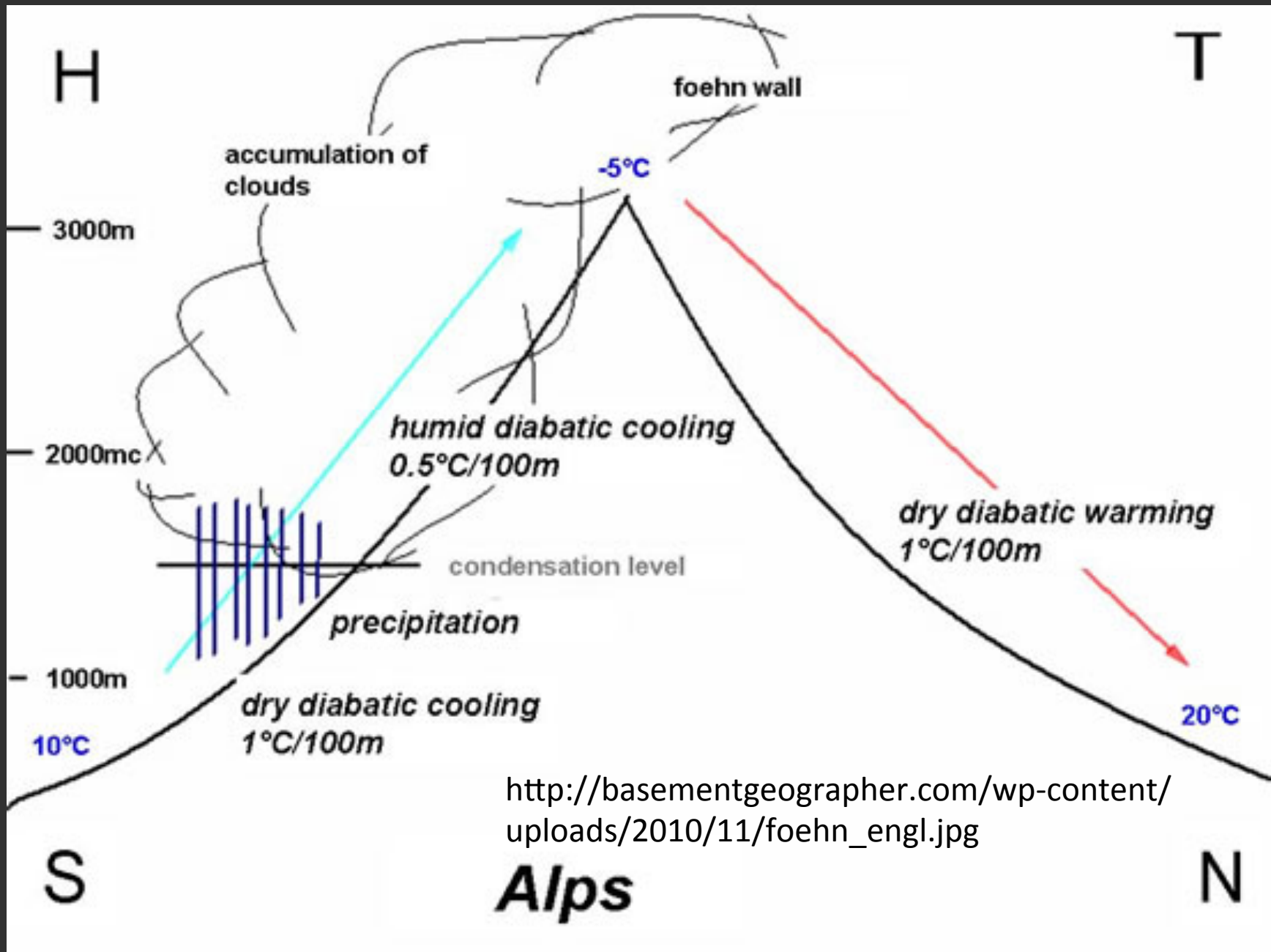




- Desai et al., 2011 JGR-G



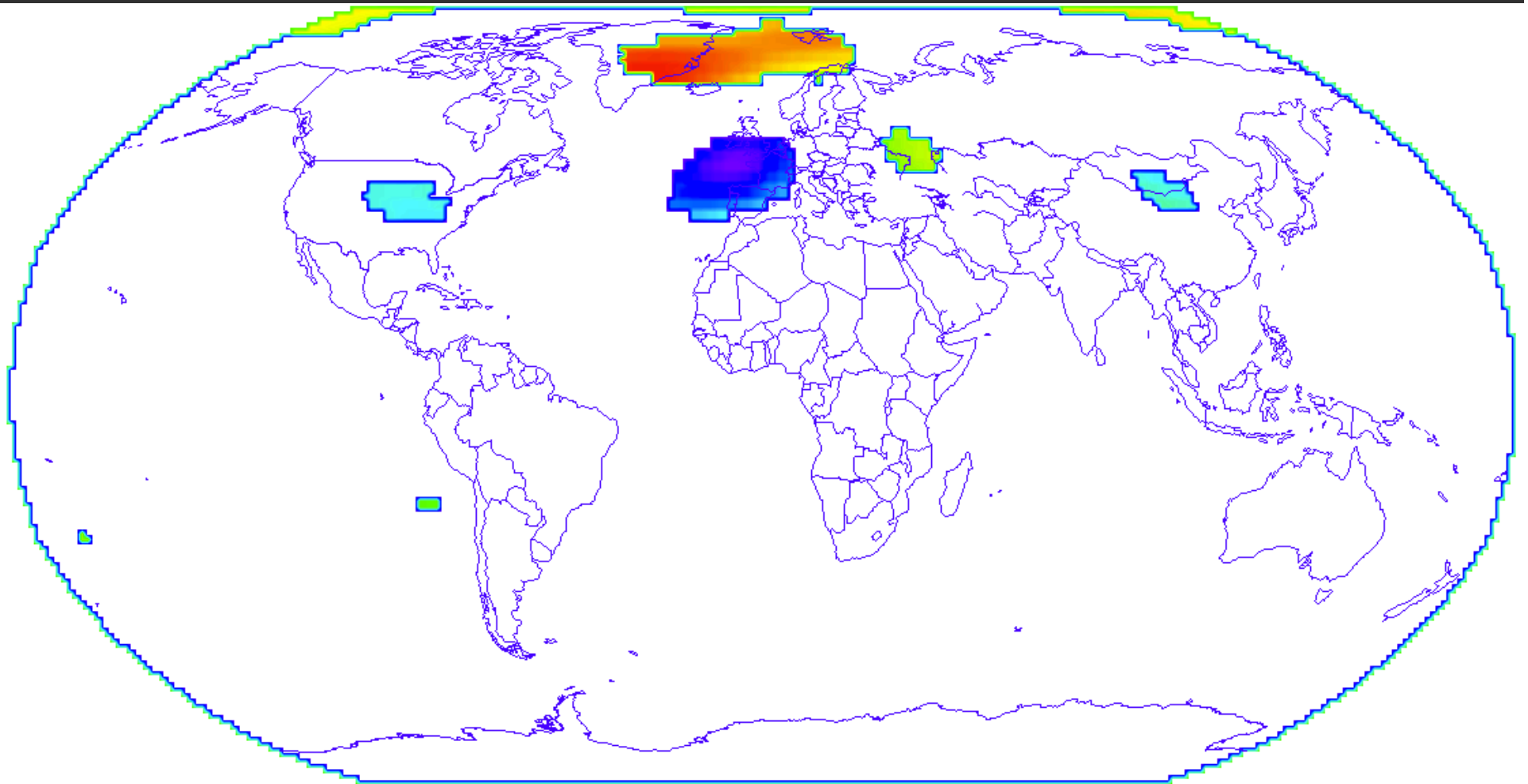


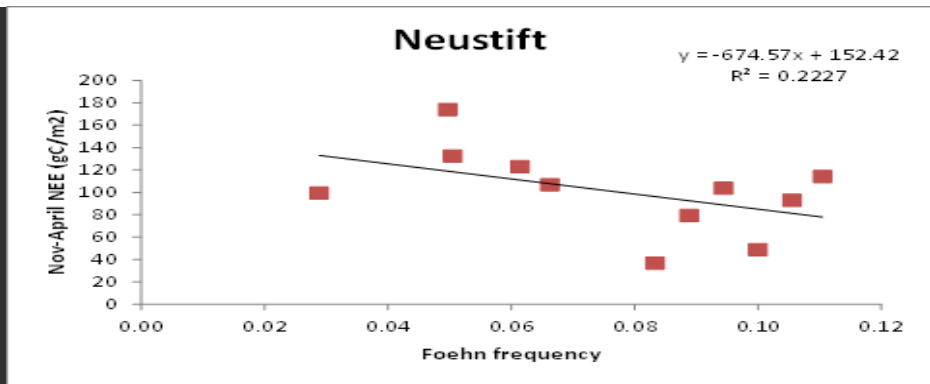
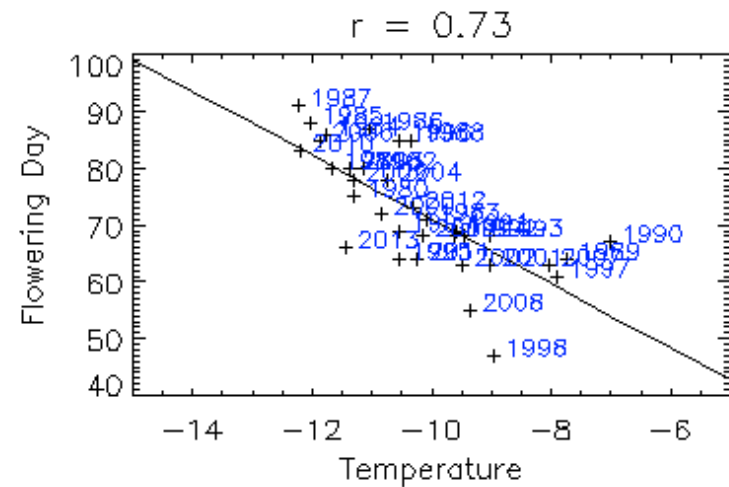
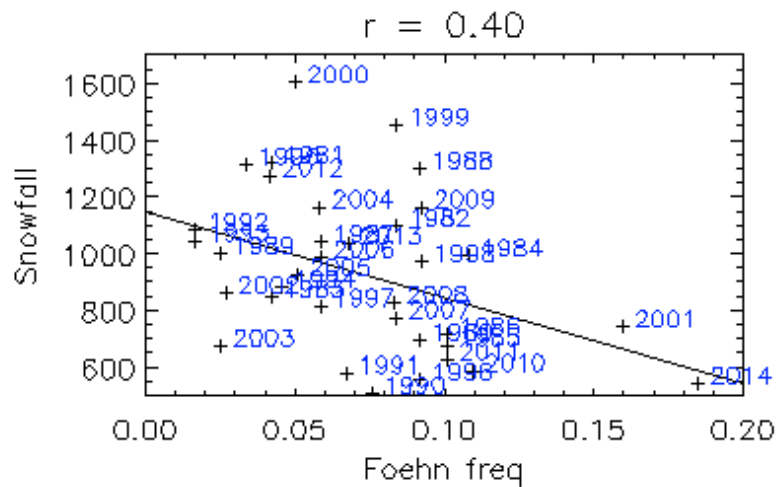
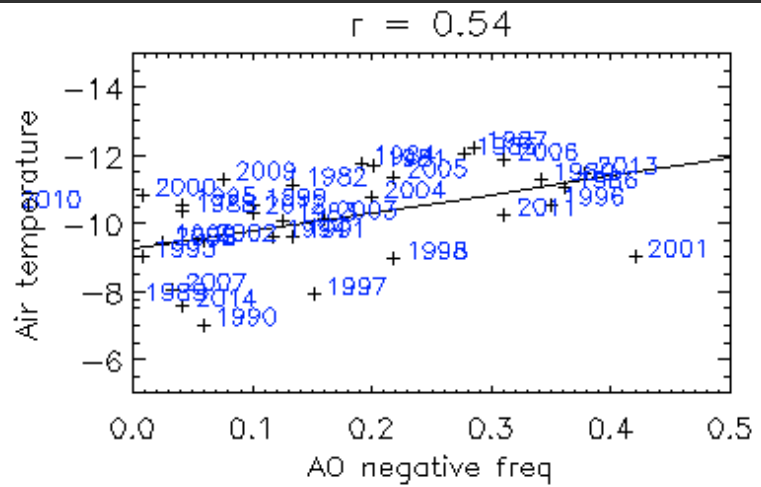
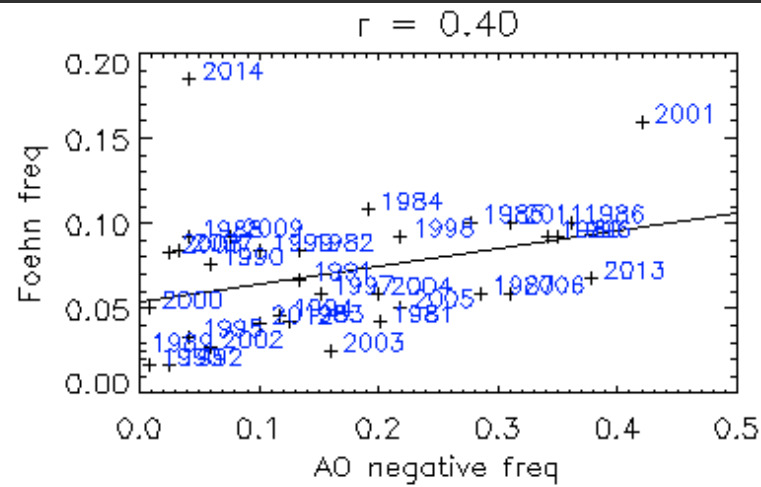


http://basementgeographer.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/foehn_engl.jpg

Alps

500 hPa heights





Does complexity matter?

- Depends on the question you are asking
- Here we are interested in questions about scaling magnitudes of fluxes and processes/drivers
- We investigated the global scale problem and then spent time in the field and lab to understand methods for scaling, sampling, and modeling with chambers, towers, remote sensing, Bayesian inverse methods, and climate models in complex terrain at plot (chambers, greenhouse, spectral) to ecosystem (flux towers) to landscape scale (airborne, models)

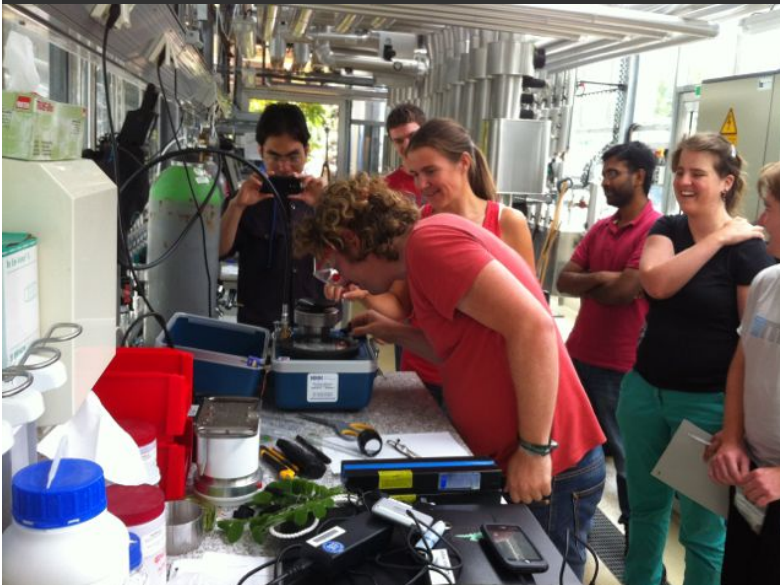
Know thy site*

*Ray Leuning

Know thy scale

**Know thy bottom-up and top-down
methods, observation tools, model
assumptions, and experiments**

Be a scientist!



Thanks!

