

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> xiii
1 Overview of climate variability and climate science	1
1.1 Climate dynamics, climate change and climate prediction	1
1.2 The chemical and physical climate system	3
1.2.1 Chemical and physical aspects of the climate system	3
1.2.2 El Niño and global warming	4
1.3 Climate models: a brief overview	5
1.4 Global change in recent history	7
1.4.1 Trace gas concentrations	7
1.4.2 A word on the ozone hole	10
1.4.3 Some history of global warming studies	10
1.4.4 Global temperatures	12
1.5 El Niño: an example of natural climate variability	13
1.5.1 Some history of El Niño studies	14
1.5.2 Observations of El Niño: the 1997–98 event	19
1.5.3 The first El Niño forecast with a coupled ocean–atmosphere model	22
1.6 Paleoclimate variability	24
Notes	29
2 Basics of global climate	34
2.1 Components and phenomena in the climate system	34
2.1.1 Time and space scales	35
2.1.2 Interactions among scales and the parameterization problem	37
2.2 Basics of radiative forcing	41
2.2.1 Blackbody radiation	41
2.2.2 Solar energy input	44
2.3 Globally averaged energy budget: first glance	46
2.4 Gradients of radiative forcing and energy transports	48
2.5 Atmospheric circulation	50
2.5.1 Vertical structure	50
2.5.2 Latitude structure of the circulation	51
2.5.3 Latitude–longitude dependence of atmospheric climate features	54
2.6 Ocean circulation	58

2.6.1 Latitude–longitude dependence of oceanic climate features	58
2.6.2 The ocean vertical structure	60
2.6.3 The ocean thermohaline circulation	62
2.7 Land surface processes	63
2.8 The carbon cycle	64
Notes	69
3 Physical processes in the climate system	71
3.1 Conservation of momentum	71
3.1.1 Coriolis force	72
3.1.2 Pressure gradient force	74
3.1.3 Velocity equations	75
3.1.4 Application: geostrophic wind	75
3.1.5 Pressure–height relation: hydrostatic balance	76
3.1.6 Application: pressure coordinates	76
3.2 Equation of state	77
3.2.1 Equation of state for the atmosphere: ideal gas law	77
3.2.2 Equation of state for the ocean	77
3.2.3 Application: atmospheric height–pressure–temperature relation	78
3.2.4 Application: thermal circulations	79
3.2.5 Application: sea level rise due to oceanic thermal expansion	80
3.3 Temperature equation	81
3.3.1 Ocean temperature equation	81
3.3.2 Temperature equation for air	81
3.3.3 Application: the dry adiabatic lapse rate near the surface	82
3.3.4 Application: decay of a sea surface temperature anomaly	83
3.3.5 Time derivative following the parcel	84
3.4 Continuity equation	85
3.4.1 Oceanic continuity equation	86
3.4.2 Atmospheric continuity equation	86
3.4.3 Application: coastal upwelling	87
3.4.4 Application: equatorial upwelling	88
3.4.5 Application: conservation of warm water mass in an idealized layer above the thermocline	88
3.5 Conservation of mass applied to moisture	89
3.5.1 Moisture equation for the atmosphere and surface	89
3.5.2 Sources and sinks of moisture, and latent heat	90
3.5.3 Application: surface melting on an ice sheet	91
3.5.4 Salinity equation for the ocean	91
3.6 Moist processes	92
3.6.1 Saturation	92
3.6.2 Saturation in convection; lifting condensation level	93

3.6.3 The moist adiabat and lapse rate in convective regions	94
3.6.4 Moist convection	94
3.7 Wave processes in the atmosphere and ocean	95
3.7.1 Gravity waves	95
3.7.2 Kelvin waves	96
3.7.3 Rossby waves	96
3.8 Overview	98
Notes	101
4 El Niño and year-to-year climate prediction	103
4.1 Recap of El Niño basics	103
4.1.1 The Bjerknes hypothesis	103
4.2 Tropical Pacific climatology	104
4.3 ENSO mechanisms I: extreme phases	106
4.4 Pressure gradients in an idealized upper layer	108
4.4.1 Subsurface temperature anomalies in an idealized upper layer	109
4.5 Transition into the 1997–98 El Niño	110
4.5.1 Subsurface temperature measurements	110
4.5.2 Subsurface temperature anomalies during the onset of El Niño	111
4.5.3 Subsurface temperature anomalies during the transition to La Niña	115
4.6 El Niño mechanisms II: dynamics of transition phases	116
4.6.1 Equatorial jets and the Kelvin wave	117
4.6.2 The Kelvin wave speed	119
4.6.3 What sets the width of the Kelvin wave and equatorial jet?	120
4.6.4 Response of the ocean to a wind anomaly	121
4.6.5 The delayed oscillator model and the recharge oscillator model	123
4.6.6 ENSO transition mechanism in brief	124
4.7 El Niño prediction	125
4.7.1 Limits to skill in ENSO forecasts	127
4.8 El Niño remote impacts: teleconnections	131
4.9 Other interannual climate phenomena	136
4.9.1 Hurricane season forecasts	136
4.9.2 Sahel drought	140
4.9.3 North Atlantic oscillation and annular modes	141
Notes	142
5 Climate models	145
5.1 Constructing a climate model	145
5.1.1 An atmospheric model	145
5.1.2 Treatment of sub-grid-scale processes	147
5.1.3 Resolution and computational cost	149
5.1.4 An ocean model and ocean–atmosphere coupling	152
5.1.5 Land surface, snow, ice and vegetation	154
5.1.6 Summary of principal climate model equations	156

5.1.7 Climate system modeling	157
5.2 Numerical representation of atmospheric and oceanic equations	158
5.2.1 Finite-difference versus spectral models	158
5.2.2 Time-stepping and numerical stability	161
5.2.3 Staggered grids and other grids	163
5.2.4 Parallel computer architecture	165
5.3 Parameterization of small-scale processes	166
5.3.1 Mixing and surface fluxes	166
5.3.2 Dry convection	168
5.3.3 Moist convection	169
5.3.4 Land surface processes and soil moisture	171
5.3.5 Sea ice and snow	172
5.4 The hierarchy of climate models	175
5.5 Climate simulations and climate drift	177
5.6 Evaluation of climate model simulations for present-day climate	179
5.6.1 Atmospheric model climatology from specified SST	179
5.6.2 Climate model simulation of climatology	181
5.6.3 Simulation of ENSO response	188
Notes	191
6 The greenhouse effect and climate feedbacks	193
6.1 The greenhouse effect in Earth's current climate	193
6.1.1 Global energy balance	193
6.1.2 A global-average energy balance model with a one-layer atmosphere	194
6.1.3 Infrared emissions from a layer	194
6.1.4 The greenhouse effect: example with a completely IR-absorbing atmosphere	195
6.1.5 The greenhouse effect in a one-layer atmosphere, global-average model	196
6.1.6 Temperatures from the one-layer energy balance model	197
6.2 Global warming I: example in the global-average energy balance model	198
6.2.1 Increases in the basic greenhouse effect	198
6.2.2 Climate feedback parameter in the one-layer global-average model	199
6.3 Climate feedbacks	201
6.3.1 Climate feedback parameter	202
6.3.2 Contributions of climate feedbacks to global-average temperature response	203
6.3.3 Climate sensitivity	204
6.4 The water vapor feedback	205
6.5 Snow/ice feedback	207
6.6 Cloud feedbacks	208
6.7 Other feedbacks in the physical climate system	210

6.7.1 Stratospheric cooling	210
6.7.2 Lapse rate feedback	211
6.8 Climate response time in transient climate change	211
6.8.1 Transient climate change versus equilibrium response experiments	211
6.8.2 A doubled-CO ₂ equilibrium response experiment	215
6.8.3 The role of the oceans in slowing warming	215
6.8.4 Climate sensitivity in transient climate change	217
Notes	219
7 Climate model scenarios for global warming	221
7.1 Greenhouse gases, aerosols and other climate forcings	221
7.1.1 Scenarios, forcings and feedbacks	221
7.1.2 Forcing by sulfate aerosols	222
7.1.3 Commonly used scenarios	222
7.2 Global-average response to greenhouse warming scenarios	225
7.3 Spatial patterns of warming for time-dependent scenarios	229
7.3.1 Comparing projections of different climate models	232
7.3.2 Multi-model ensemble averages	235
7.3.3 Polar amplification of warming	237
7.3.4 Summary of spatial patterns of the response	238
7.4 Ice, sea level, extreme events	238
7.4.1 Sea ice and snow	238
7.4.2 Land ice	240
7.4.3 Extreme events	243
7.5 Summary: the best-estimate prognosis	244
7.6 Climate change observed to date	246
7.6.1 Temperature trends and natural variability: scale dependence	246
7.6.2 Is the observed trend consistent with natural variability or anthropogenic forcing?	248
7.6.3 Sea ice, land ice, ocean heat storage and sea level rise	250
7.7 Emissions paths and their impacts	252
7.8 The road ahead	256
Notes	260
<i>Glossary</i>	263
<i>References</i>	267
<i>Index</i>	280