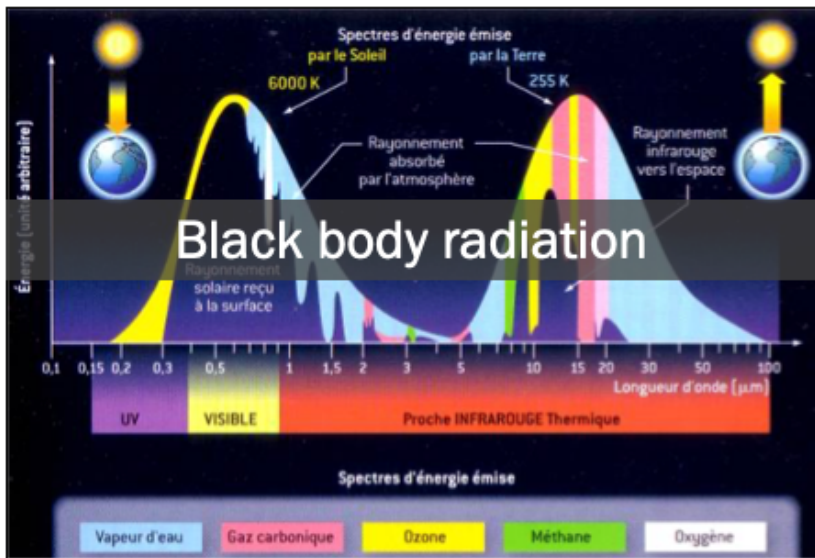


Earth radiative budget

The sun irradiates the Earth with an average flux of 340 W/m^2 in the visible range. Part of this radiation is reflected (albedo of 30%), the other part warms the Earth which then emits infrared radiation.

Part of this radiation is absorbed by greenhouse gases and re-emitted towards the ground.



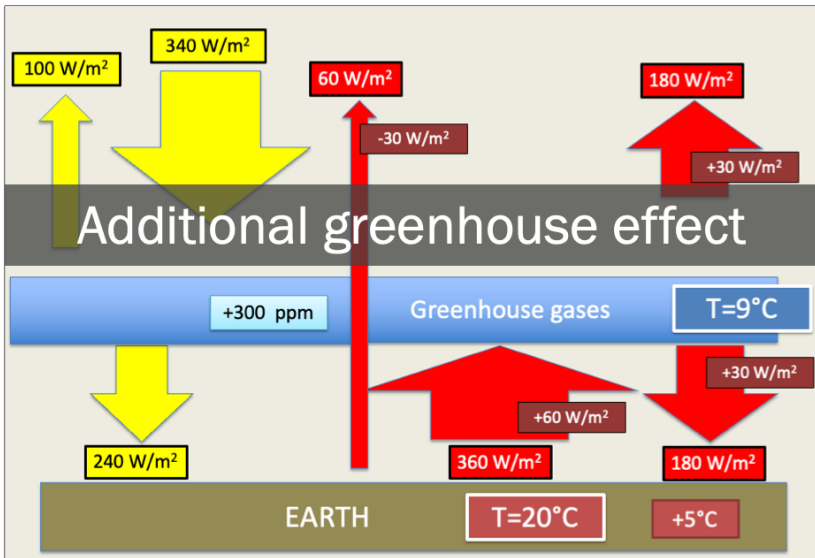
Black body radiation

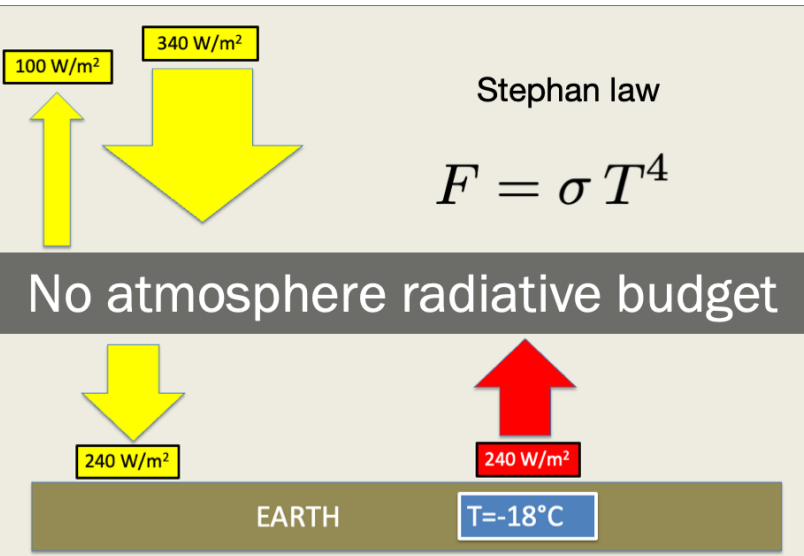
A body emits a spectrum of electromagnetic waves that depends on its temperature.

The Sun (6000 °K) emits in the visible spectrum. The Earth (288 °K) emits in the infrared spectrum.

Additional greenhouse effect

If the concentration of greenhouse gases increases, more of the Earth's infrared radiation is re-emitted to the ground. The temperature rises to reach a new equilibrium in the radiation balance between the incident solar flux and the infrared flux sent to space.

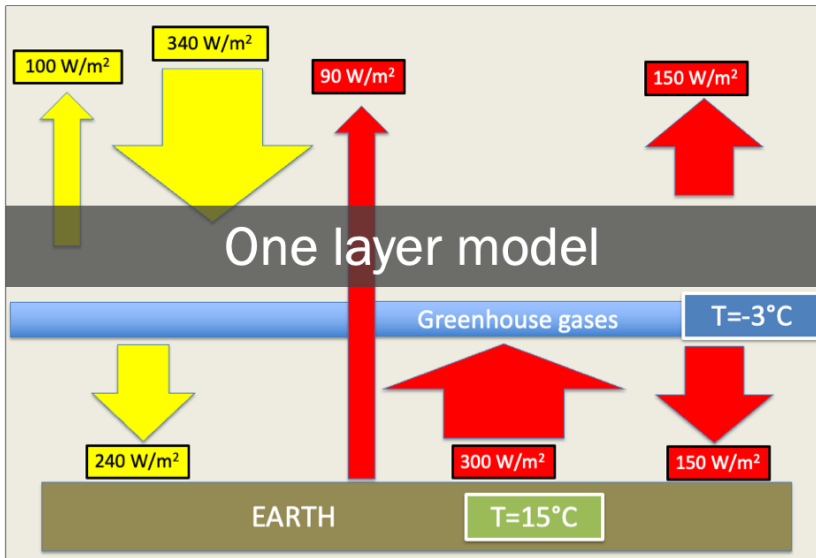




No atmosphere radiative budget

In the absence of an atmosphere, the Earth's temperature would be $T=255^{\circ}\text{K}$ according to Stephan's law for black bodies.

The solar radiation absorbed by the Earth (240 W/m^2) is re-emitted as infrared radiation.



One-layer model

In this simplistic model, much of the Earth's infrared radiation is absorbed by greenhouse gases and then re-emitted in equal amounts to the ground and to space.

The ground temperature is warmer for this balance.

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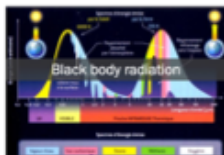


Mini-fresk based on the
concept of serious games:



Additional greenhouse effect

This mini-fresk describes the greenhouse effect and the warming of the Earth due to the increase in greenhouse gases.



Additional Greenhouse Effect

The diagram shows the greenhouse effect. Solar radiation (orange arrow) hits the Earth's surface. The surface emits longwave radiation (red arrow). The atmosphere emits back-radiation (red arrow) back to the surface, warming it. A thermometer on the right shows a temperature increase from $15^\circ C$ to $17^\circ C$. The logo for FNEER is visible.

CO₂, or carbon dioxide, is the main anthropogenic (produced by human activities) greenhouse gas in terms of emissions. These emissions come from our use of fossil fuels and from deforestation.

1001

No atmosphere radiative budget

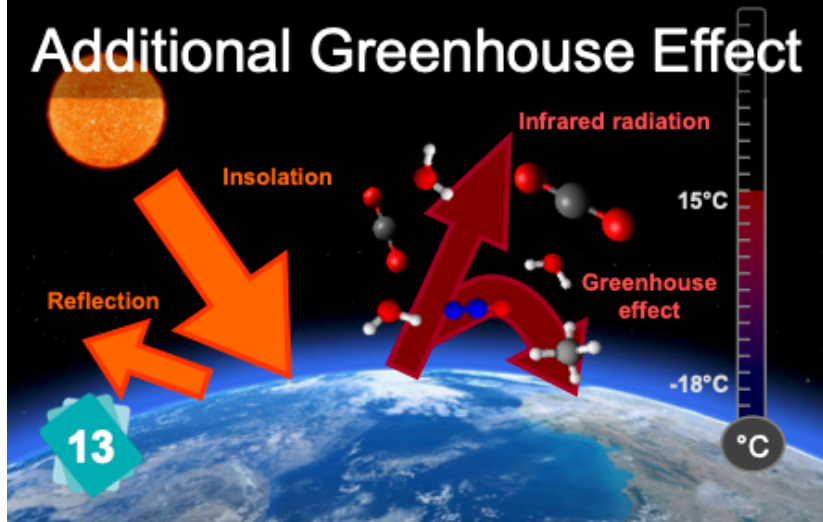
Loi de Stefan

$$F = \sigma T^4$$

The diagram shows a surface with no atmosphere. Incoming solar radiation (yellow arrow) is $340 W/m^2$. Outgoing longwave radiation (red arrow) is $340 W/m^2$. The surface temperature is T_{surf} .



Additional Greenhouse Effect





The greenhouse effect is a natural phenomenon - incidentally, the most common GHG is water vapour. Without the greenhouse effect, the planet would be 33°C colder and life as we know it would not be possible. But CO₂ and other GHGs related to human activities amplify the greenhouse effect and unbalance the climate.