

## 0) Rationale: why are we interested in Atmospheric Science

### 1) Introduction and Basic Concepts

- a. Composition: gases and particles
- b. Gravitation: Newton's law,  $g$ , satellite orbits
- c. Mass density
- d. Barometers and pressure
- e. Hydrostatic equation
- f. Gas law and temperature
- g. Scale heights

### 2) Thermodynamics and Kinetic Theory of gases

- a. Temperature, Heat and Energy
  - i. Thermodynamic Definition of  $T$
  - ii. 1st and 2nd laws of thermodynamics (entropy)
  - iii. Intro to kinetic theory – temperature, heat and internal energy (forms of energy)
  - iv. Measurements of temperature – demonstrations
  - v. Vertical, meridional, diurnal, seasonal, + climatic variations in Temperature
- b. Pressure, and Work
  - i. Pressure as  $F/A$  and isotropic nature
    1. Newton's laws
    2. Work-energy theorem.
  - ii. Hydrostatic approximation
    1. Gravitation
    2. Geopotential Height
  - iii. Kinetic explanation of pressure and work
    1. Impulse momentum Theorem
  - iv. 1st law of thermodynamics revisited
    1. Isothermal and Adiabatic processes
    2. Heat capacity at const pressure (thermodynamic equilibrium and equipartition theorem)
    3. Potential temperature
    4. Adiabatic lapse rate
    5. Adiabatic pressure profiles
  - v. Buoyancy
  - vi. Barometers
  - vii. Observed variations in pressure – quick deference to 541a,b
- c. Humidity (Titan as an example)
  - i. Quantifying humidity
    1. Methods of defining humidity: specific humidity, relative humidity, etc.
  - ii. Effects on ideal gas law
  - iii. Effects on heat capacity
  - iv. Latent heat
  - v. Clausius clapeyron equation (entropy and chemical potential)
  - vi. Moist adiabatic lapse rate
  - vii. Buoyancy revisited (planetary examples)
  - viii. Distributions of humidity
  - ix. The convective heat engine
  - x. Measuring humidity
  - xi. Distributions of surface heat & moisture fluxes

### 3) Atmospheric Chemistry

- a. Chemical reactions in the atmosphere
- b. Equilibrium and rate equations
- c. Kinetic theory and the frequency of 2-body and 3-body collisions
  - i. Mean free path
  - ii. Collisional cross-section

- d. Stratospheric photochemistry: Ozone + Chapman mechanism
  - i. Basics of photochemistry – actinic fluxes + cross-sections – analogy with kinetic theory
  - ii. Importance of nitrogen
  - iii. Importance of CFCS
- e. Tropospheric chemistry: NO<sub>x</sub>, OH and VOCs
- f. Water and why homogeneous nucleation of droplets won't happen (as segue)
- 4) Diffusion + Condensation (Under cloud physics and chemistry umbrellas)
  - a. Using kinetic theory for diffusion of species
  - b. Continuous diffusion equation and applications
    - i. Connection to heat transfer equation
  - c. Diffusion to a sphere
  - d. Heat diffusion vs. vapor diffusion
  - e. Droplet growth equation – sans Köhler theory
- 5) Basic fluid mechanics
  - a. Navier-Stokes Equations (briefly)
  - b. Acoustics (briefly)
  - c. Stress tensor
  - d. Kinetic formulation for dynamic (and kinematic) viscosities as diffusion of momentum
  - e. Kinematics of fluid motion
  - f. Dimensional analysis
  - g. Reynolds's # + Stokes flow
  - h. High-Reynolds's # flow
    - i. Bernoulli's equation
    - ii. Basics of turbulence – Kolmogorov lengthscale, power-laws
    - iii. Turbulent diffusion coefficients
- 6) The atmospheric aerosol + Particle mechanics
  - a. Survey of aerosols in atmosphere
  - b. Formality of size distributions – moments, etc.
  - c. 2-phase flow mechanics –
    - i. Drag forces + particle motion
    - ii. Diffusion Coagulation
    - iii. Gravitational and Shear-induced coagulation
- 7) Cloud microphysics
  - a. Köhler theory + CCN
  - b. Growth of a population of droplets
  - c. Cloud dynamics
  - d. Ice
  - e. Precipitation
- 8) Radiation
  - a. The electromagnetic spectrum
  - b. Measures of radiation and solid angle
  - c. Blackbody laws
  - d. Transitions and lines / Broadening / Atmospheric Spectra
  - e. 2-stream IR radiative transfer + greenhouse effect
  - f. The sun
  - g. Single-Scattering
    - i. Formal Rayleigh scattering
    - ii. Mie Scattering/absorption
    - iii. Geometric approximation
  - h. Plane parallel Applications
    - i. Aerosols / Optical depth
    - ii. Clouds
    - iii. Variation of sky radiance for thin atmosphere
    - iv. 2-stream multiple scattering solutions - conservative
    - v. 2-stream multiple scattering solutions – non-conservative + semi-infinite atmosphere approx.

## 9) Radiation budget + climate

- a. Simple radiation budget
- b. Equilibrium models
- c. Convection
- d. Advection
- e. Radiative Forcing + Feedback
- f. Geological records + Milankovich cycles
- g. Role of oceans
- h. Role of surface ice
- i. The true Gordian knot – feedbacks with biosphere