



# Habitable Planets

Much of it stolen from

**Yutaka ABE**

**University of Tokyo**



# 1. Habitability and Water

Why water?

# Importance of Liquid

Gas: highly mobile, but low material density.

Solid: high density but very low mobility.

Liquid: high density and high mobility

Habitable environments likely use a liquid.

$H_2O$  is the most abundant condensible substance in the cosmos



## 2. Water (Ocean) planets

One kind of Habitable planet  
i.e., Generalized Earth



# Caladan

An ocean planet  
where Paul Atreides  
was born

This image is from a  
video game

In this image,  
Caladan appears to  
be deep in a moist  
greenhouse

# Water (Ocean) planets

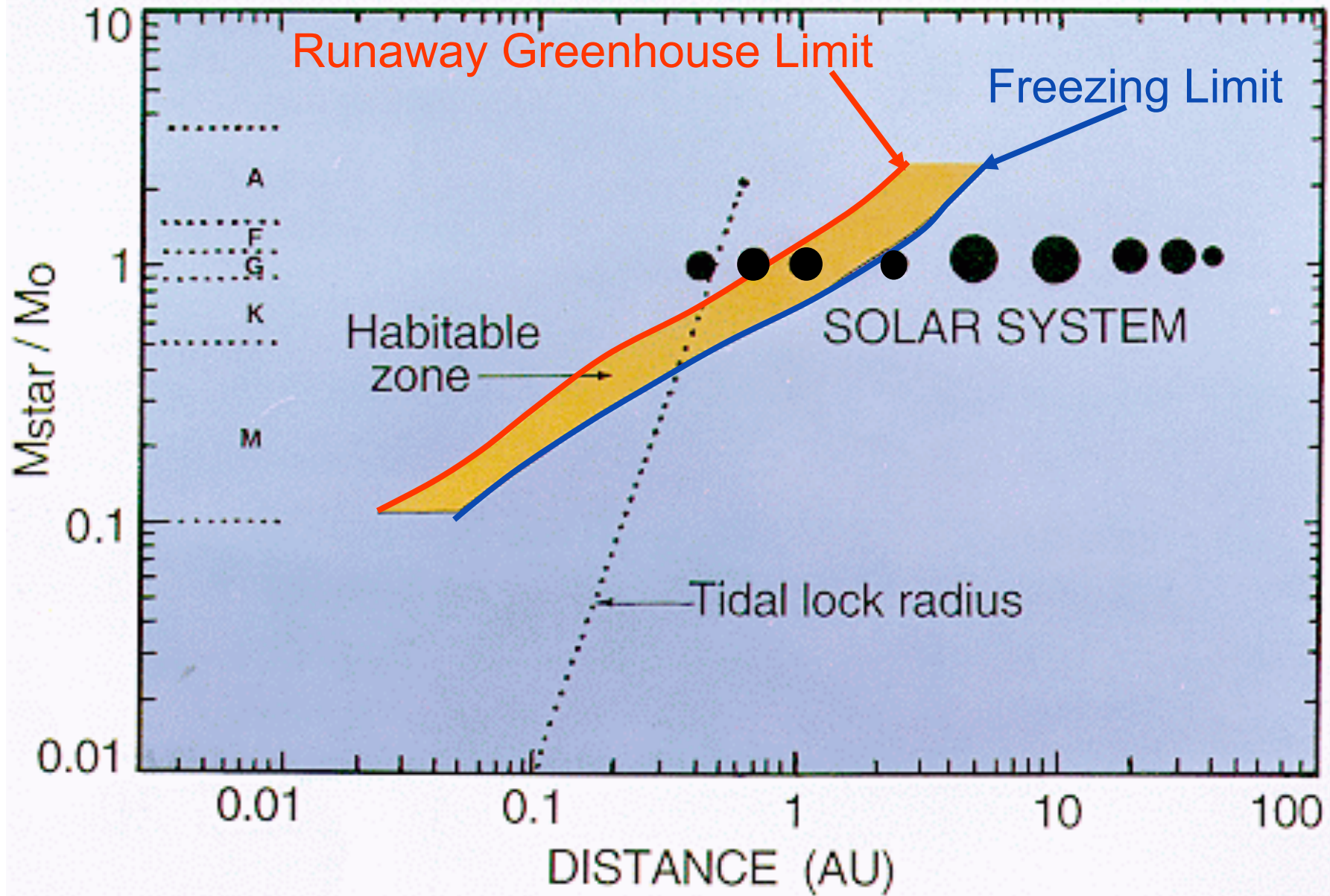
In zero dimensions

= globally averaged consideration

Bounded thermally by

- complete vaporization  
= runaway greenhouse
- global freezing

The Traditional Habitable Zone Plot (Kasting Whitmire Reynolds 1993)

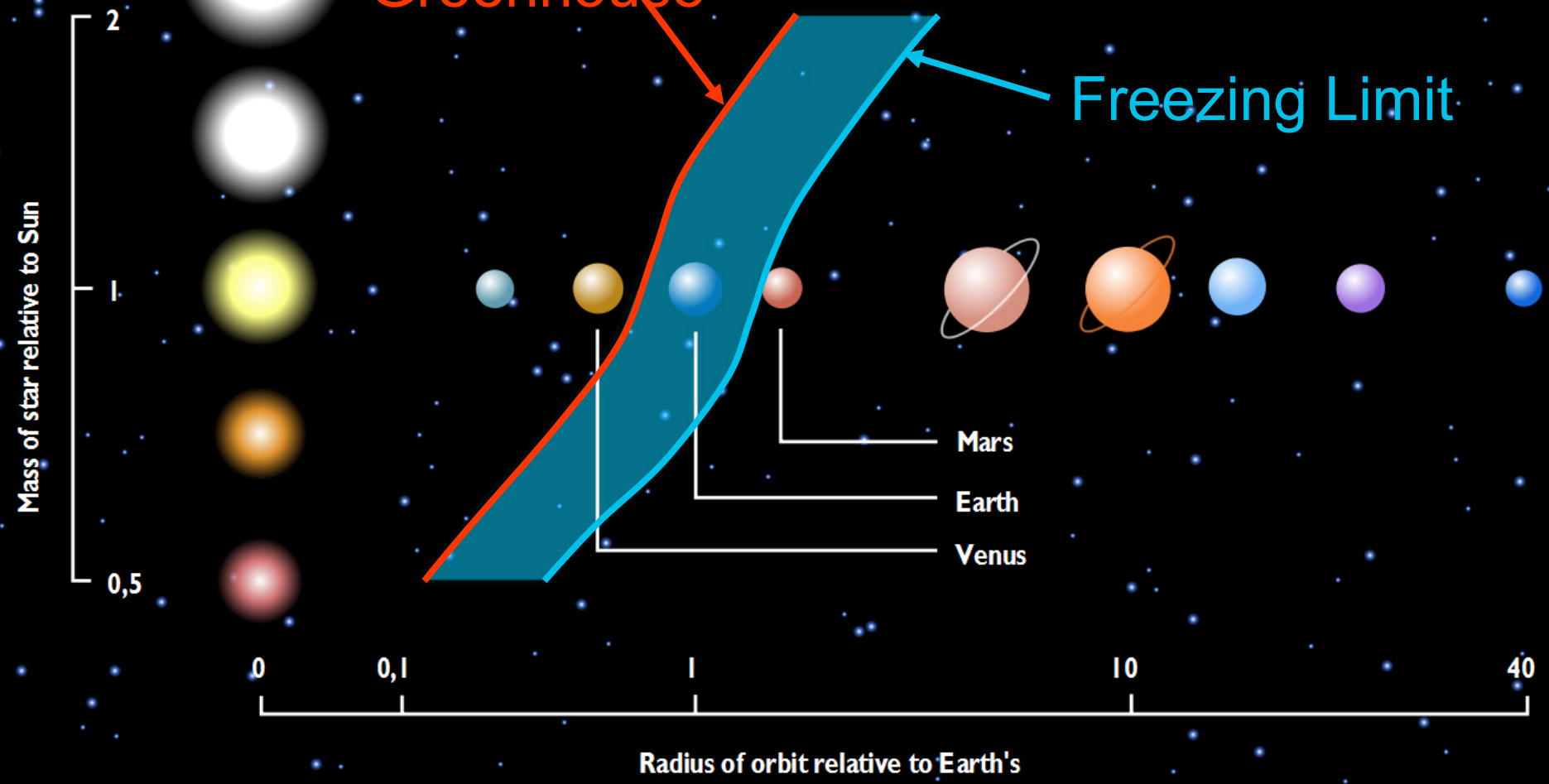


Runaway  
Greenhouse

Modern and Snazzy!

Habitable Zone

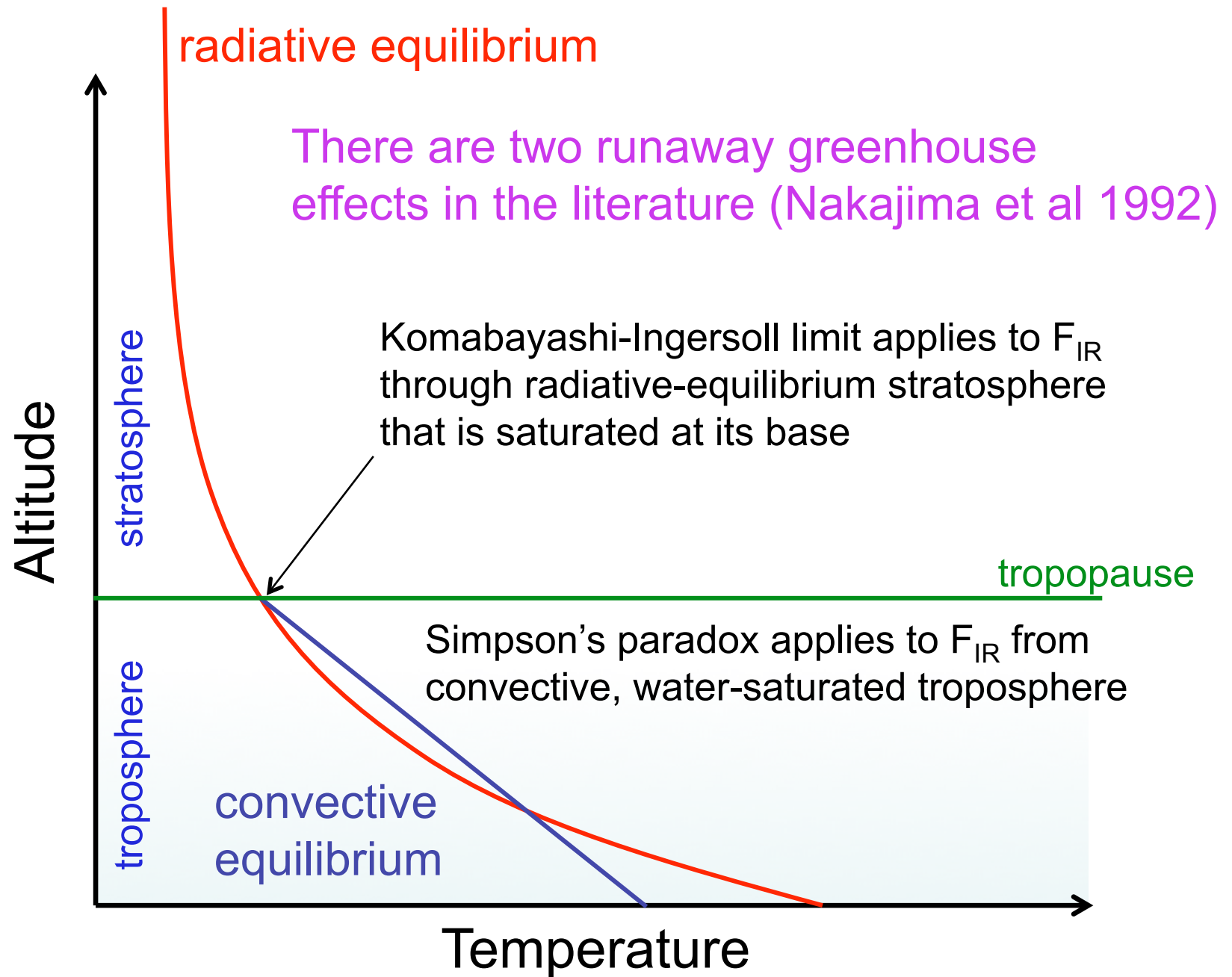
Freezing Limit





## 2.1 Runaway greenhouse

- A moist atmosphere (saturated by water vapor) has an upper limit of the outgoing infrared flux that can be emitted:
- If insolation exceeds this limit, temperature increases until complete evaporation of liquid water from the surface.
- The runaway greenhouse limit is also called the “critical flux”



## Ingersoll-Komabayashi limit

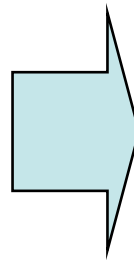
- (1) Radiative equilibrium in the stratosphere
- (2) Condensation at the tropopause
- (3) Optical depth at the tropopause

Gray Approximation:

$$(1) \quad \sigma T_t^4 = \frac{1}{2} F_{IR}^{\uparrow} \left( \frac{3}{2} \tau_t + 1 \right)$$

$$(2) \quad p^*(T) = p_0^* e^{-L/RT}$$

$$(3) \quad \tau_t = \kappa_v h p^*(T) \frac{m_v}{g\bar{m}}$$



$$\tau_t = \frac{2}{3} \left( \frac{2\sigma T_t^4}{F_{IR}^{\uparrow}} - 1 \right)$$

$$\tau_t = \frac{\kappa_v h p_0^* m_v}{g\bar{m}} e^{-L/RT_t}$$

$F_{IR}$  = planetary thermal radiation

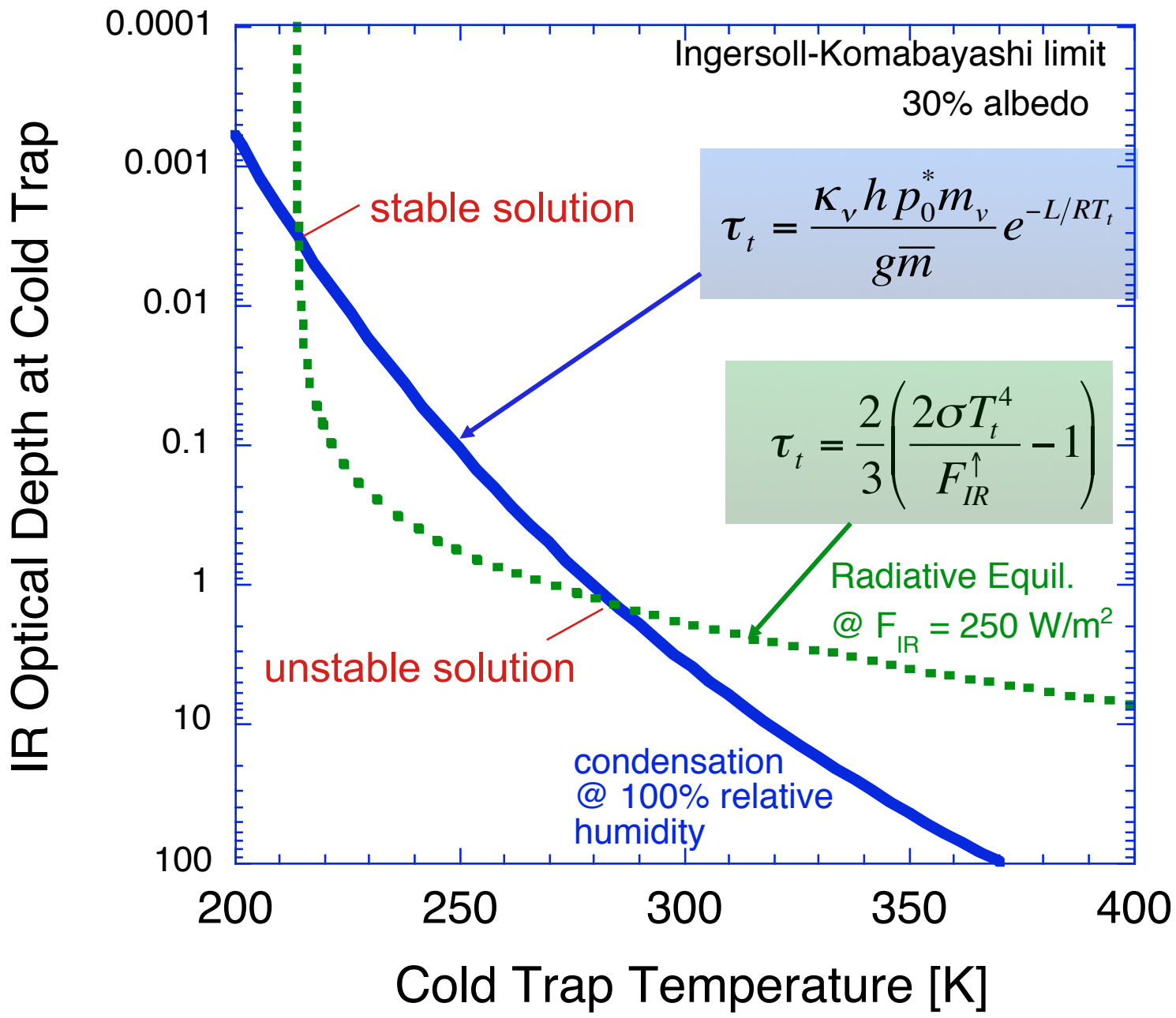
$L$  = latent heat condensation

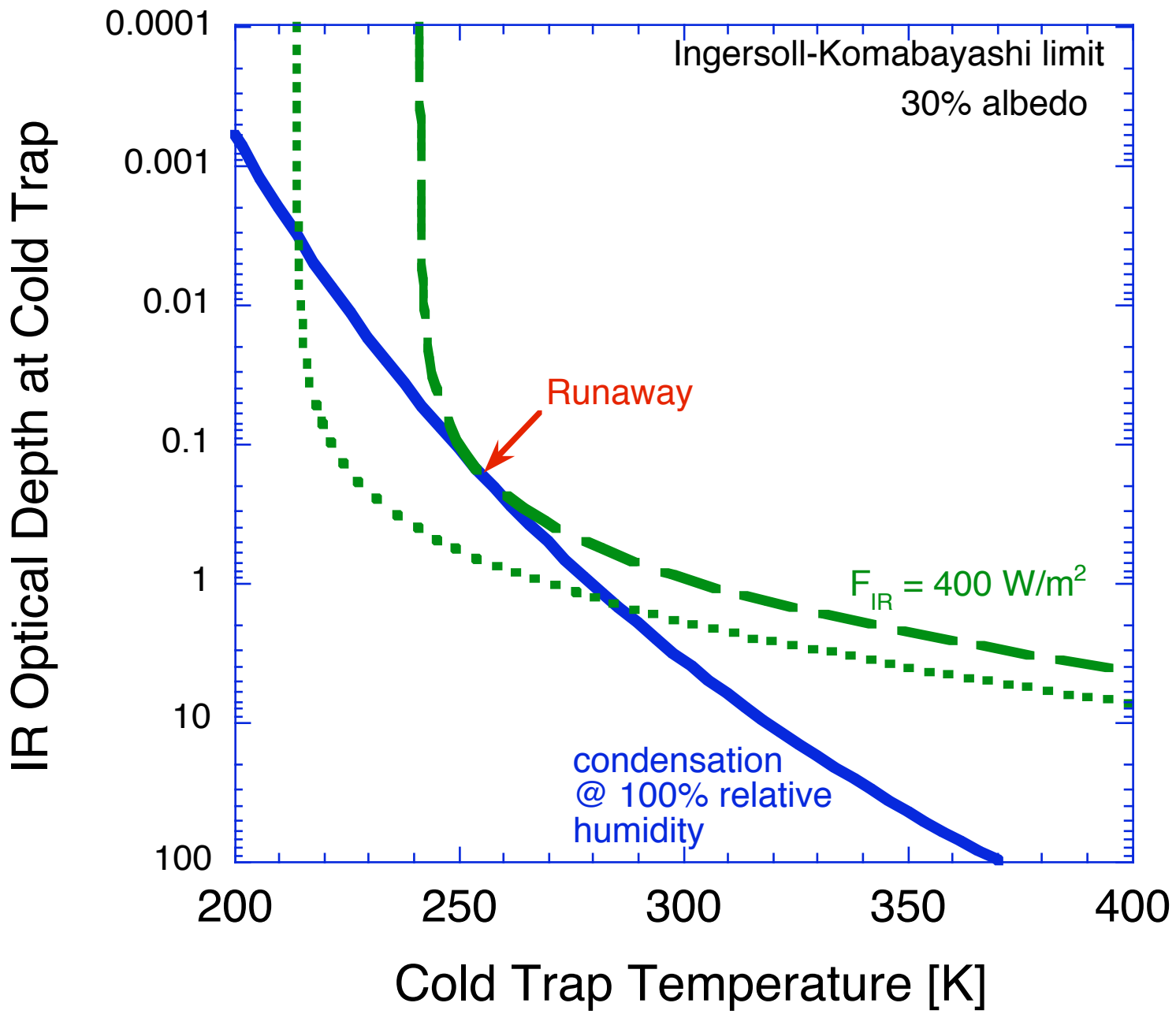
$\kappa_v$  = absorption [ $\text{cm}^2/\text{g}$ ]

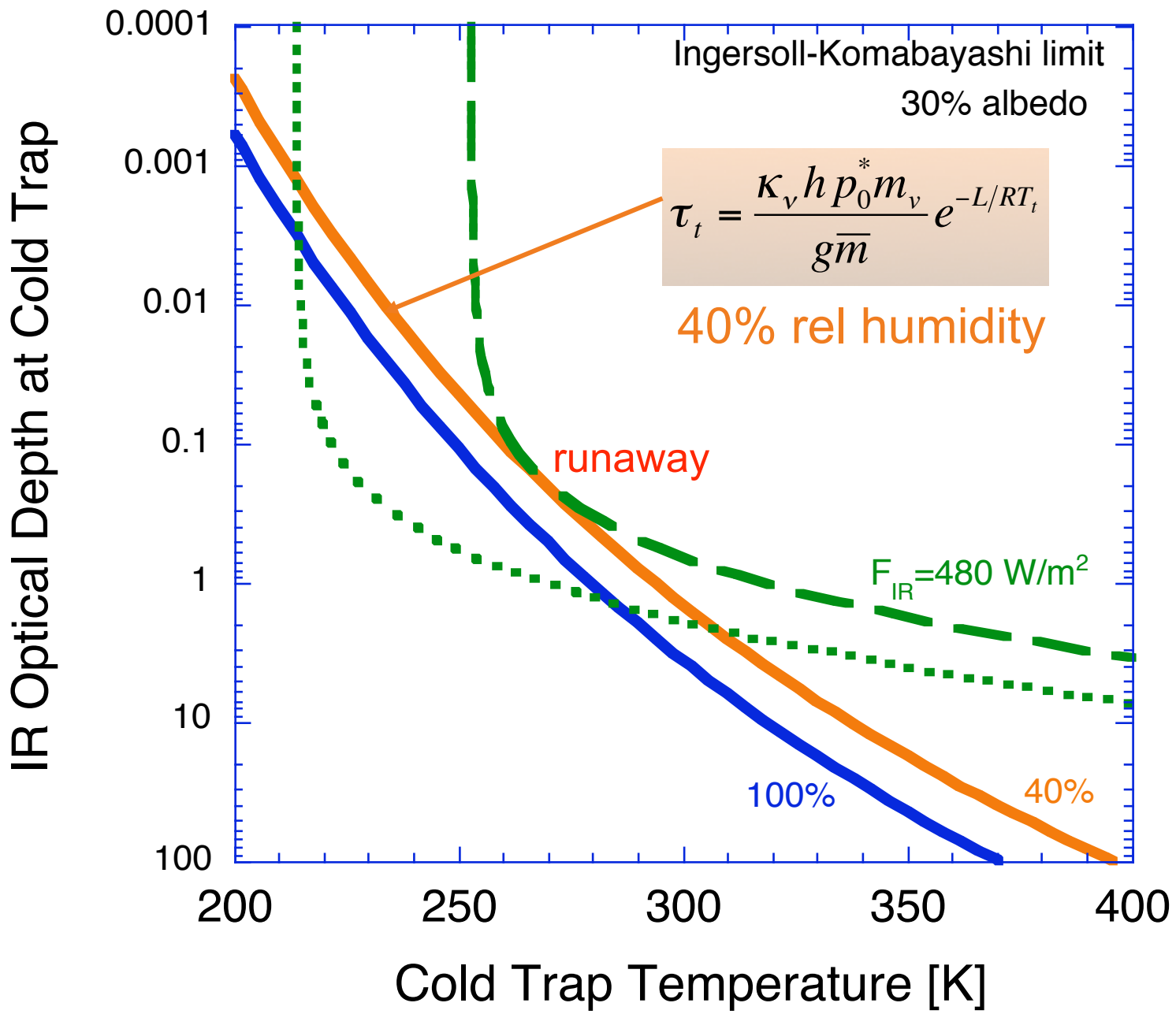
$T_t$  = Tropopause Temperature

$h$  = relative humidity

$m_v, m$  = mol weights of vapor, atm







## Simpson's Paradox (runaway in radiative-convective equilibrium)

Saturation vapor pressure  $p^*$  relates the optical depth  $\tau$  to the radiating temperature  $T$  of the moist troposphere.

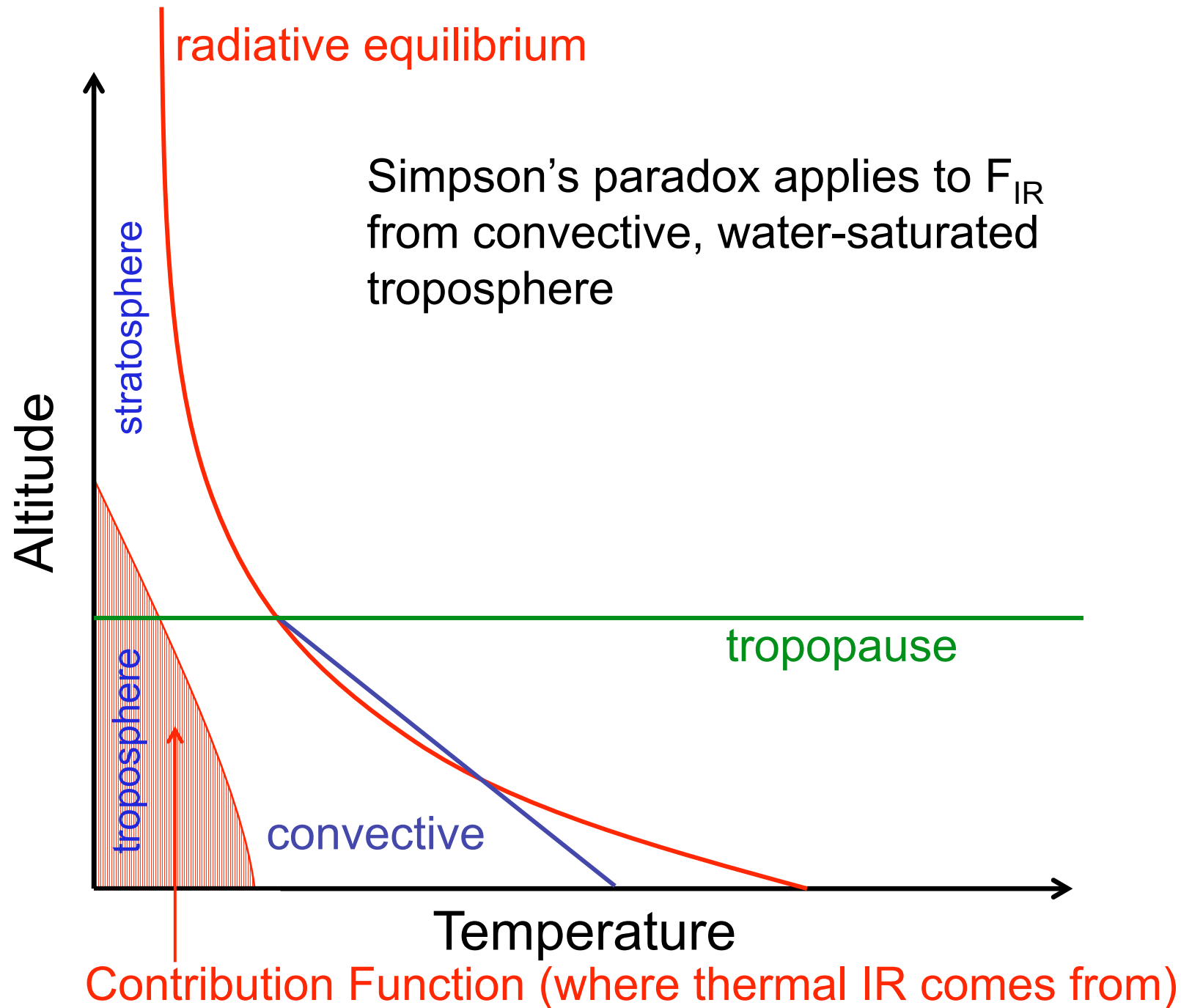
This is illustrated for a gray atmosphere:

$$F_{\text{IR}}^{\uparrow}(\tau=0) \approx \int_0^{\infty} \sigma T^4 e^{-3\tau/2} \frac{3}{2} d\tau \quad (\approx 310 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ for Earth})$$

where optical depth depends on the relative humidity  $h$  and the saturated column of water vapor

$$\tau(T) \propto \int_z h p^*(T(z)) dz$$

The critical flux depends weakly on  $g$  (roughly as  $g^{0.25}$ )



radiative equilibrium

Simpson's paradox applies to  $F_{IR}$  from convective, water-saturated troposphere

Altitude

stratosphere

troposphere

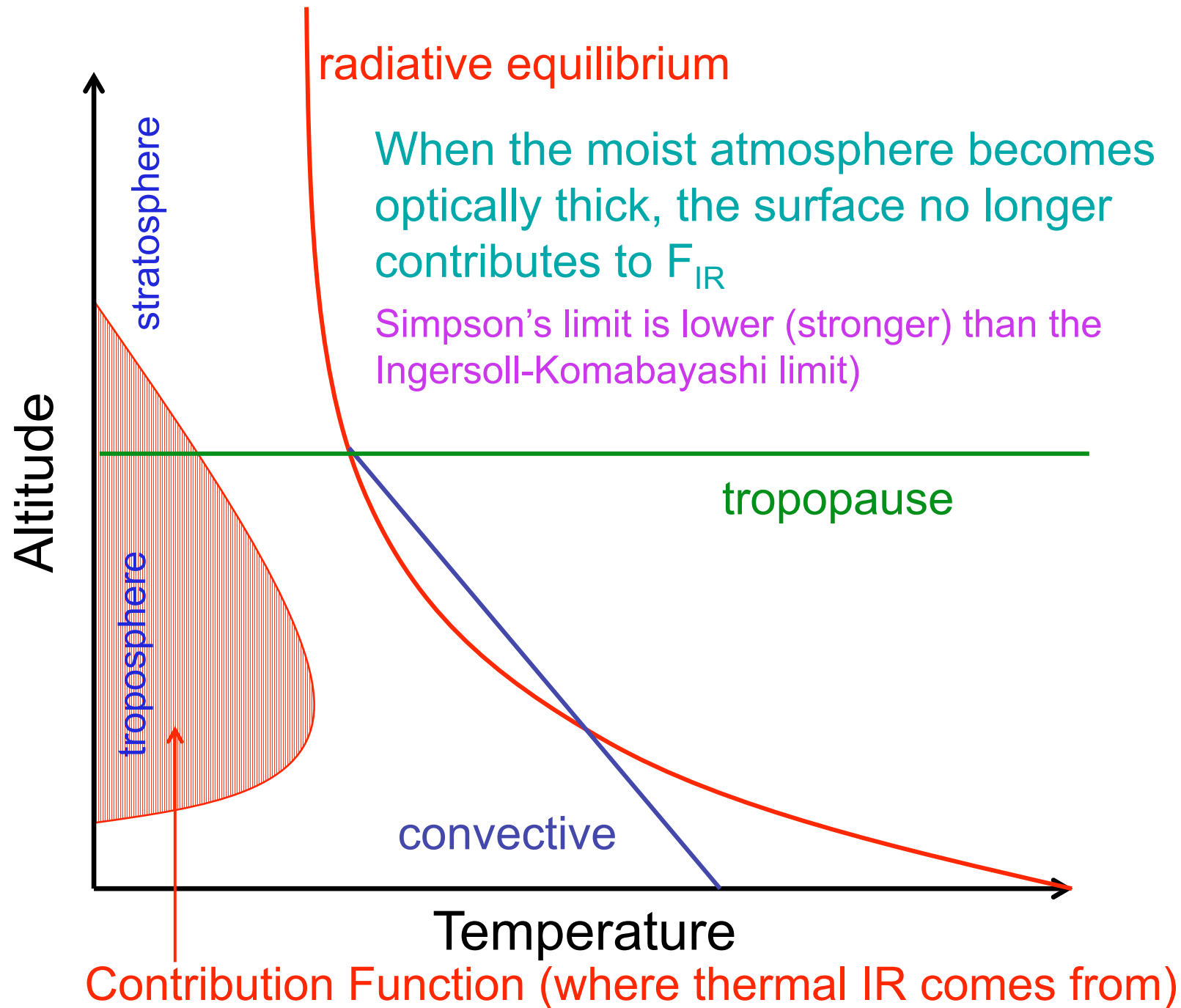
convective

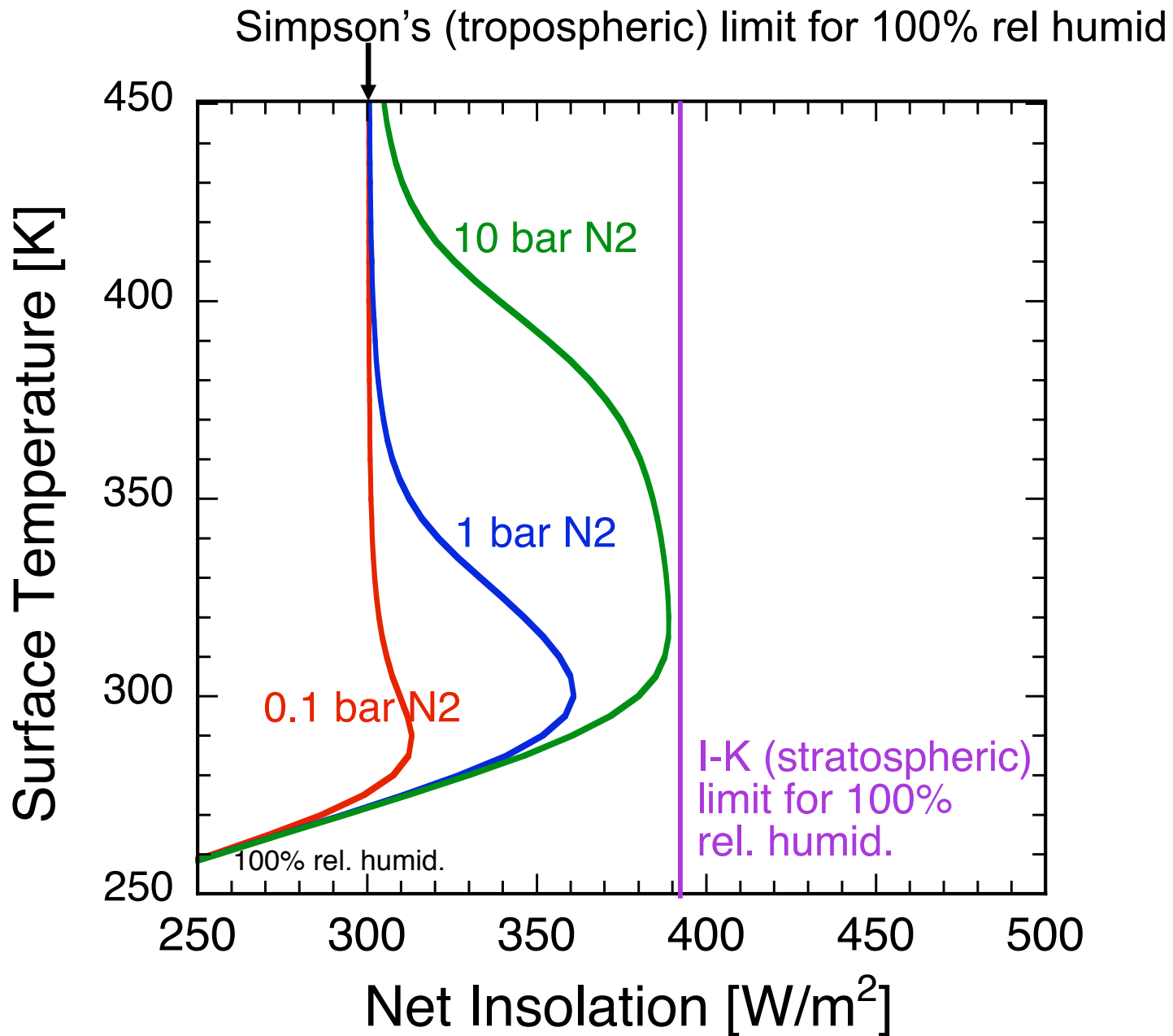
tropopause

Temperature

Contribution Function (where thermal IR comes from)

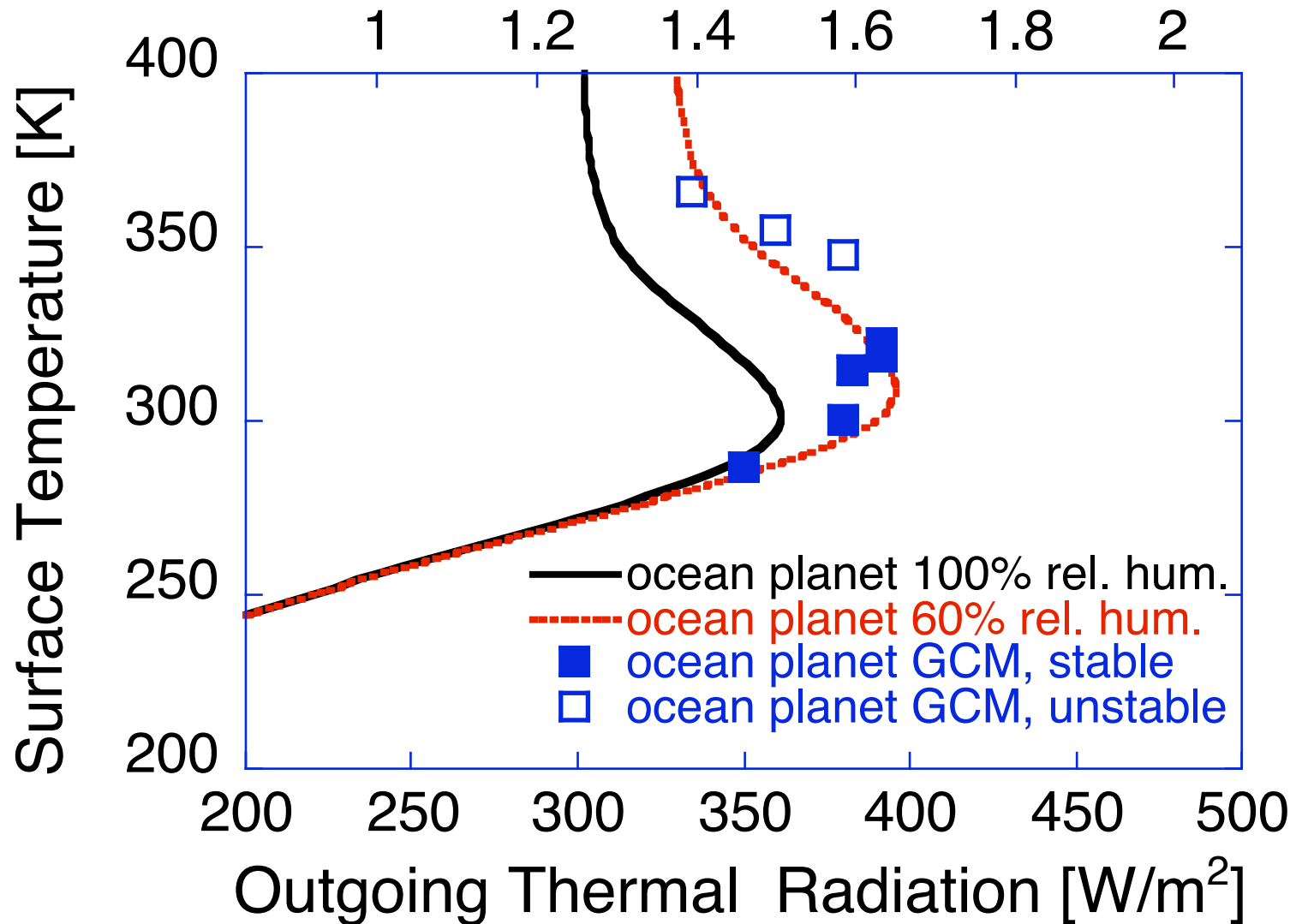






1-D follows Nakajima et al J. Atmos. Sci. (1992)

Insolation vs. Earth (constant albedo = 0.3)



1-D follows Nakajima et al J. Atmos. Sci. (1992)

GCM expts by Ishiwatari et al J. Atmos. Sci. (2002)

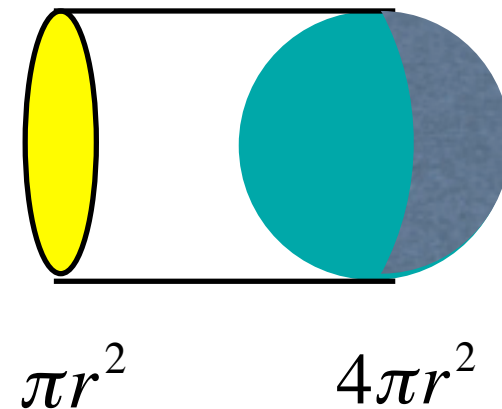
## 2.2 freezing limit

A simple global energy balance model with ice albedo feedback.

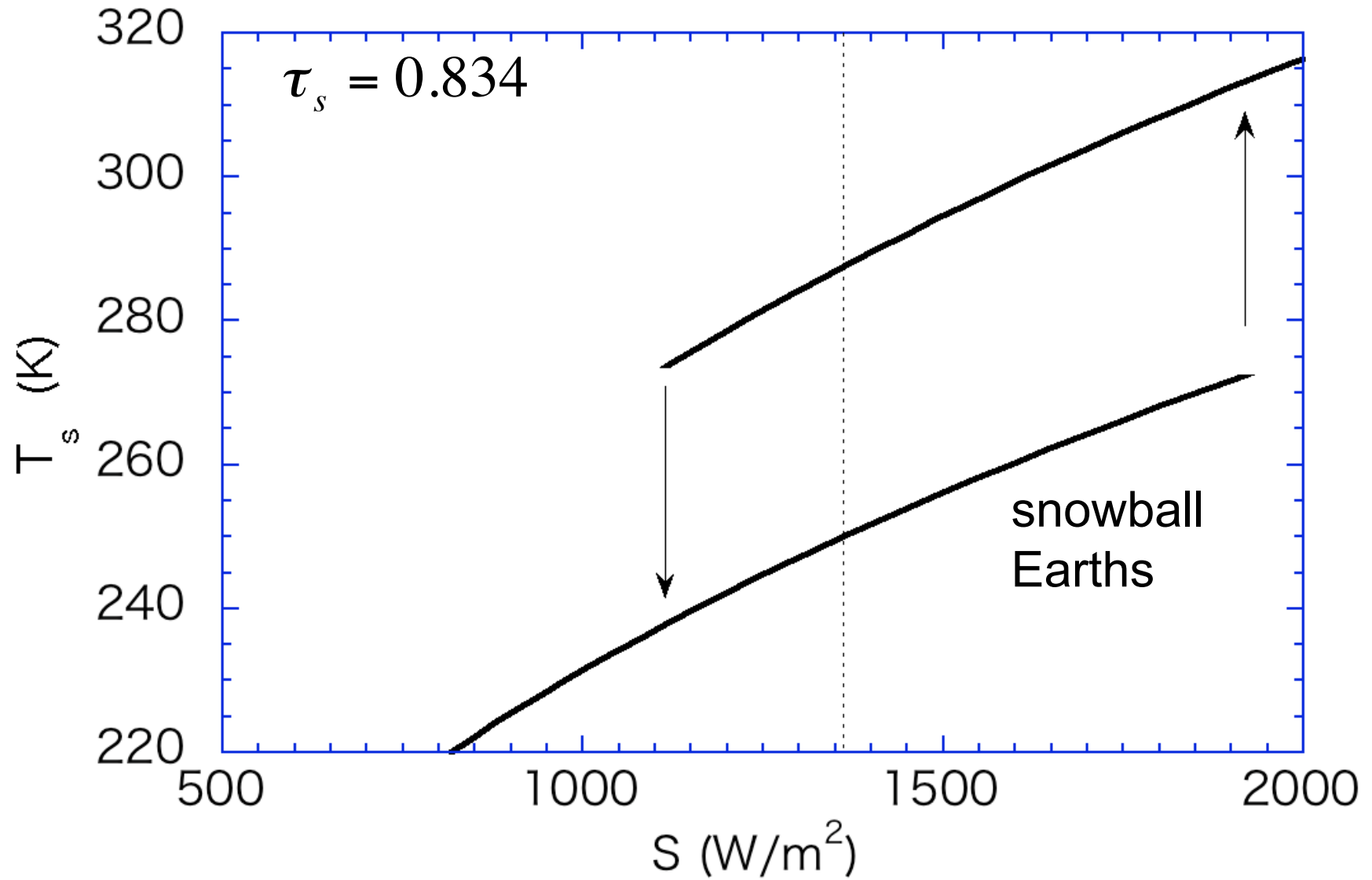
$$\pi r^2 S(1 - A) = 4\pi r^2 F$$

$$F = \frac{2\sigma T_s^4}{\frac{3}{2}\tau_s + 2}$$

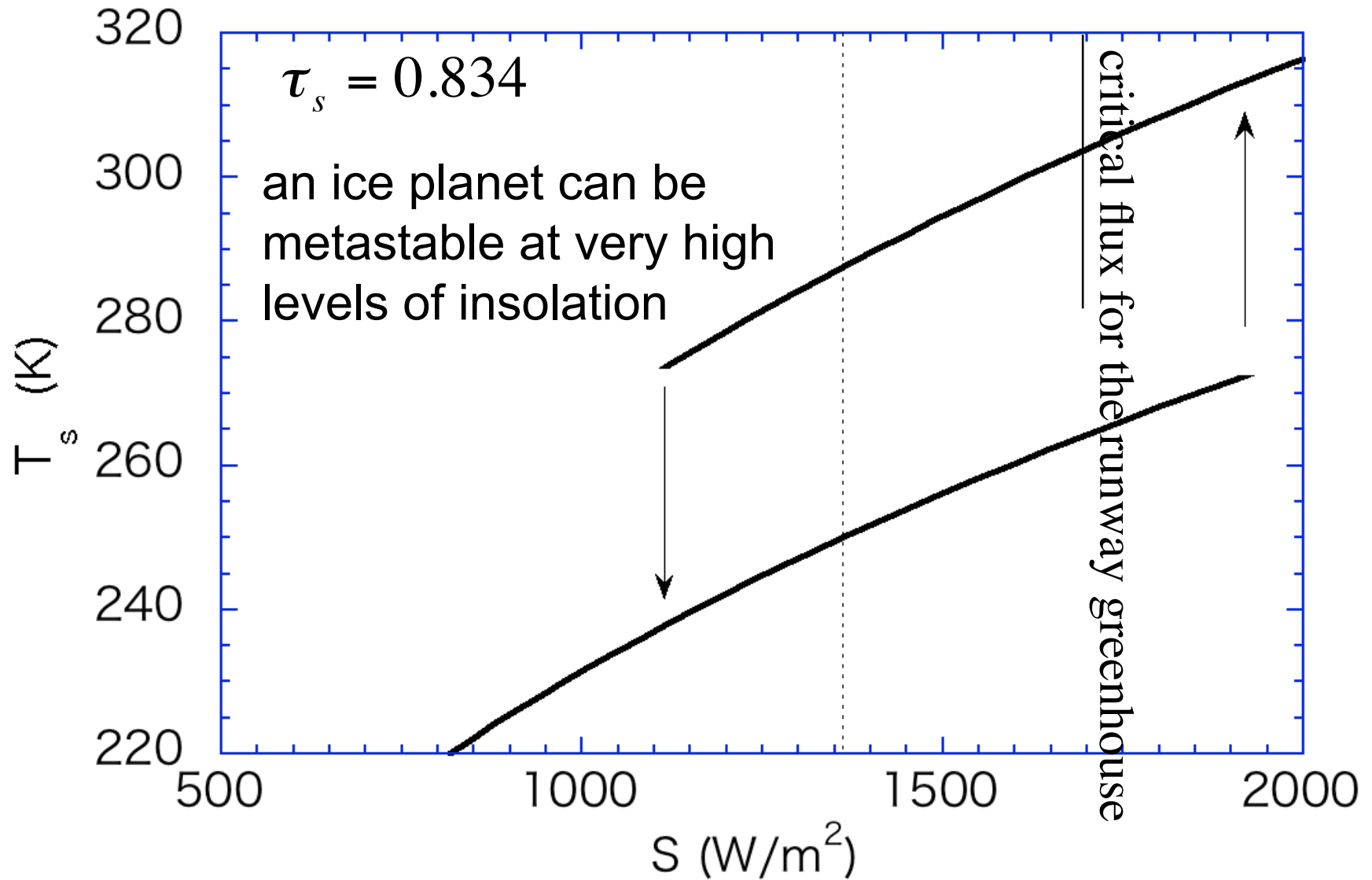
$$A = \begin{cases} 0.3 & (T_s \geq 273) \\ 0.6 & (T_s < 273) \end{cases}$$



# Multiple equilibria - snowball Earth



# Multiple equilibria

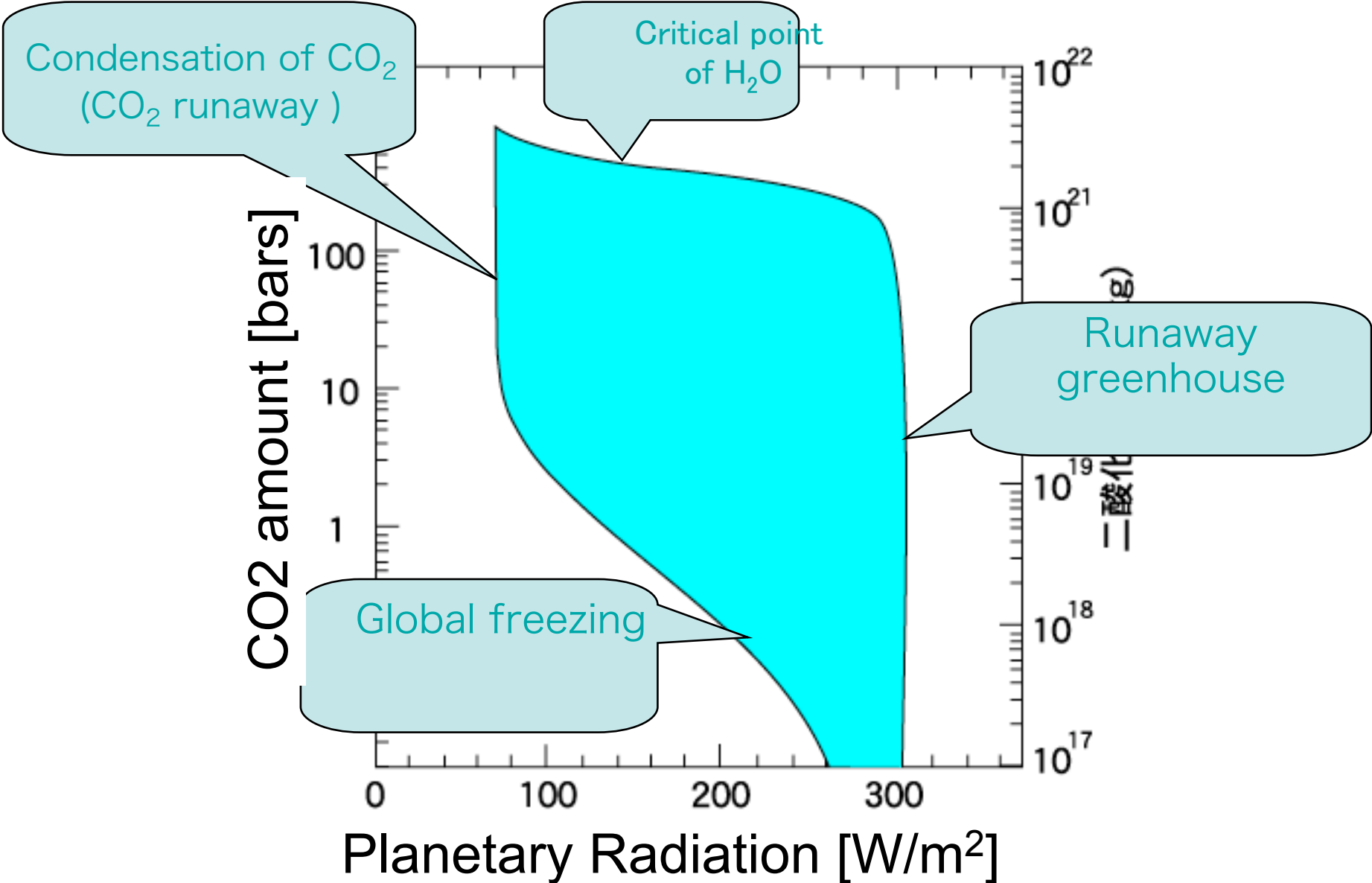


## 2.3 H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub> Planets

The HZ in 2D!

Earth is an example of an H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub> Planet,  
to first approximation

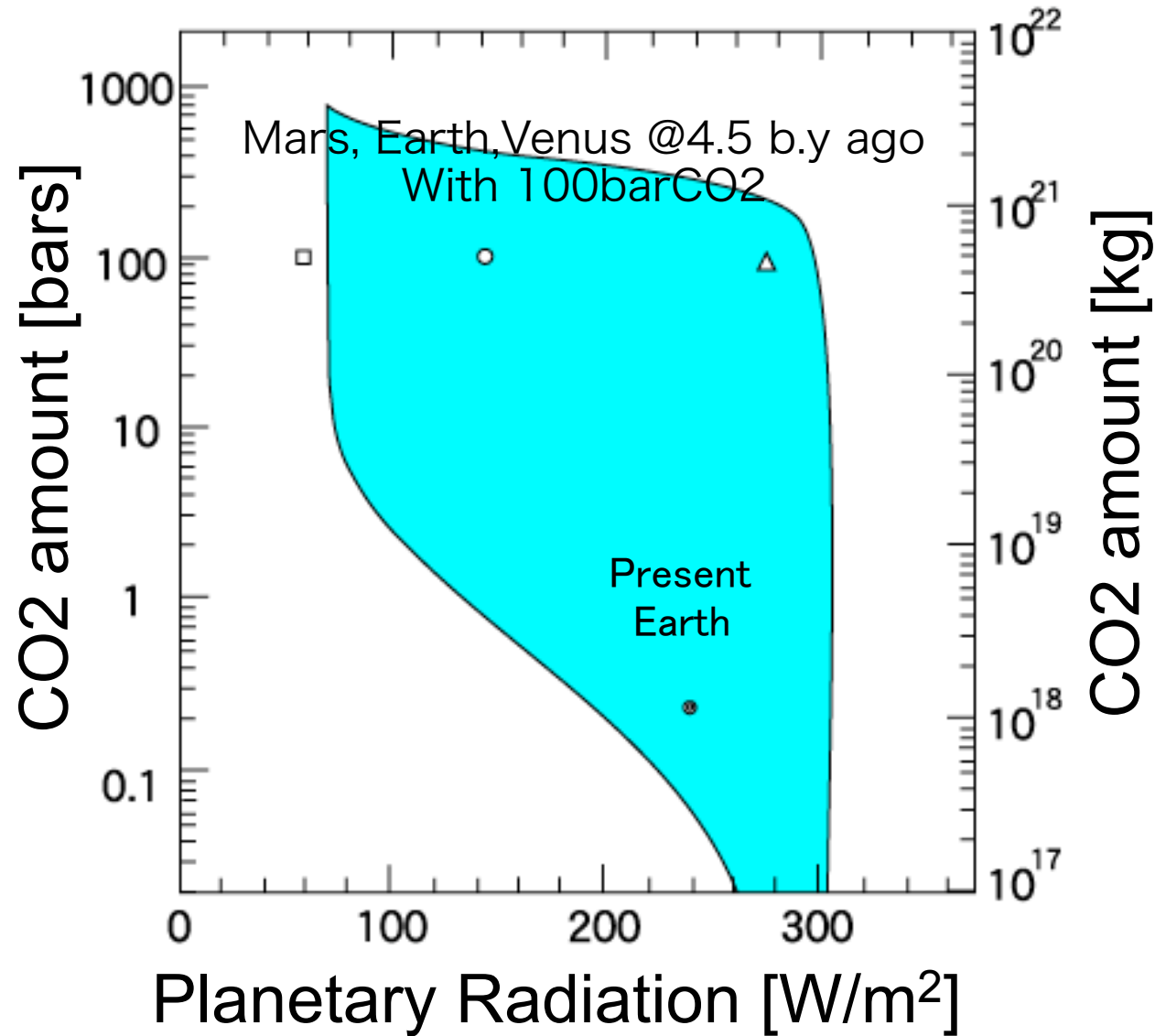
# Stability regime of liquid water



Yutaka Abe (1993)



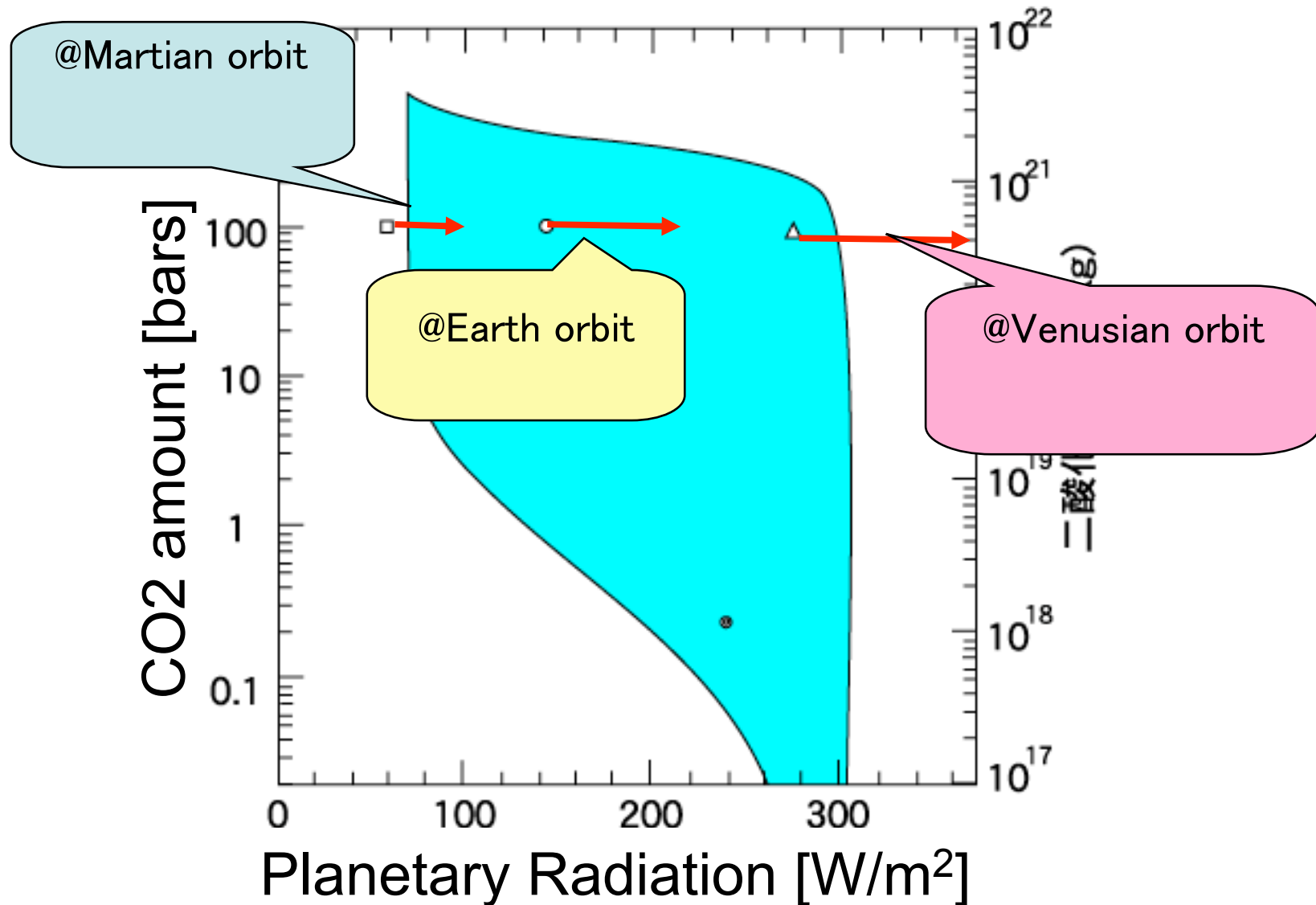
# Earth-sized planet @Mars, Venus ,Earth orbit



Yutaka Abe (1993)

# Evolution of the central star

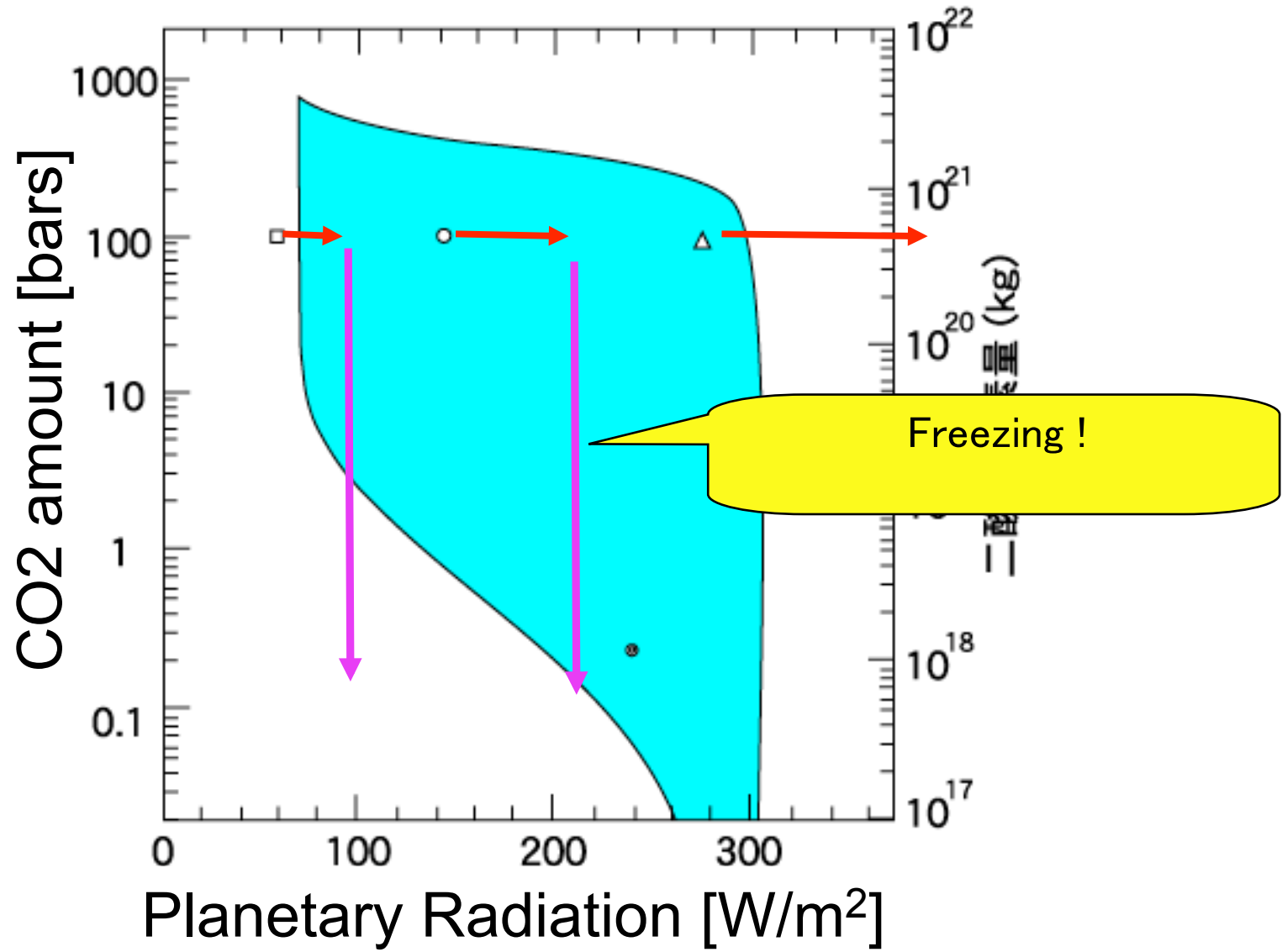
Increase of insolation: Planets move right on this diagram.



Yutaka Abe (1993)

# Effect of carbonate formation

Decrease of CO<sub>2</sub>: Planets move downward on this diagram.



Yutaka Abe (1993)

### 3. Land Planets

Dune (Herbert 1965) is a fictional example

Titan is an example in our Solar System



# “Facts” of Dune

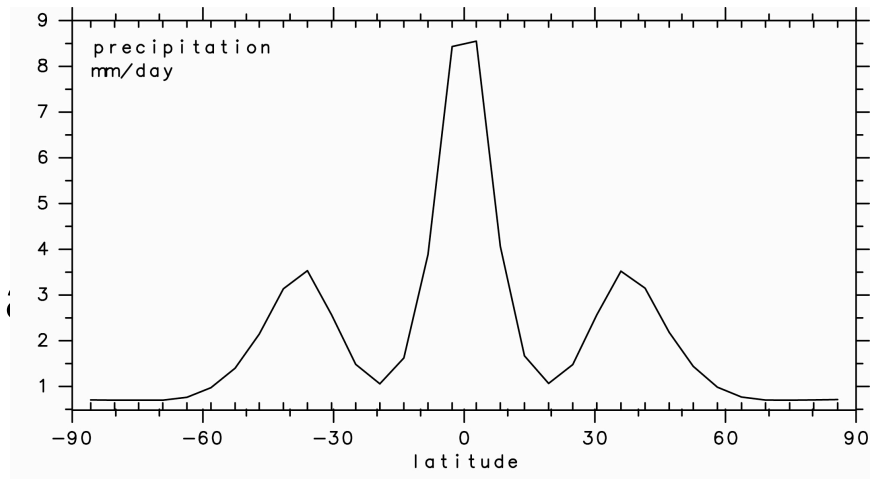


## • **Dune is dry!**

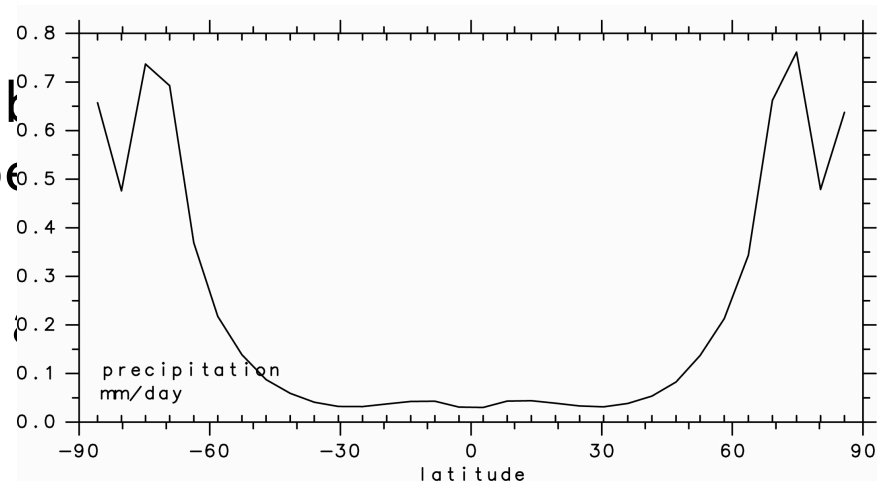
- Dune has powerful dust storms
- There are some evaporite deposits
- Nitrogen-oxygen atmosphere
- It is sparsely habitable near the poles
- the tropics are extremely dry
- small polar ice caps
- extensive polar aquifers
- there are polar dews

# Ocean planet and Land planet

- **Water Planet (ocean planet):**
- A planet with a globally wet surface.
- Precipitation and evaporation not in balance

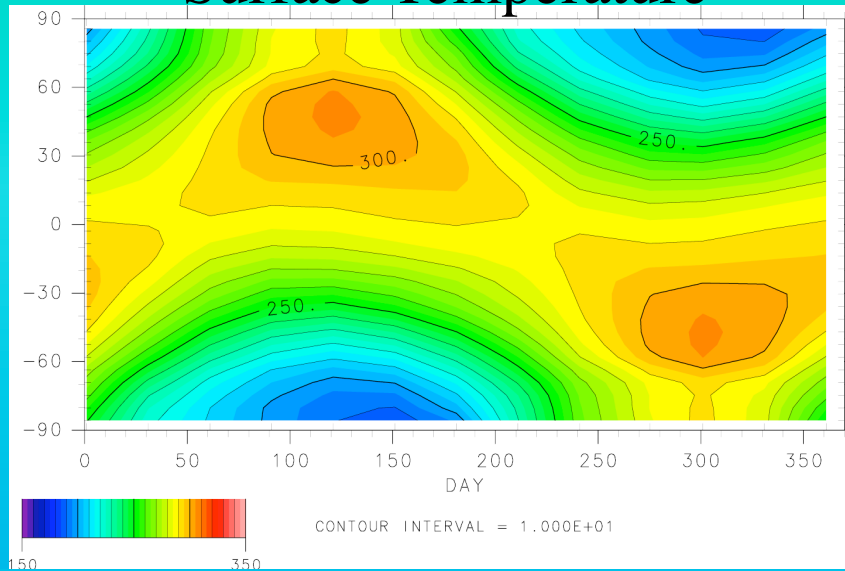


- **Land Planet:**
- A planet on which the surface water distribution is dominated by the atmospheric circulation (Abbot et al., 2005).
- Precipitation and evaporation in balance

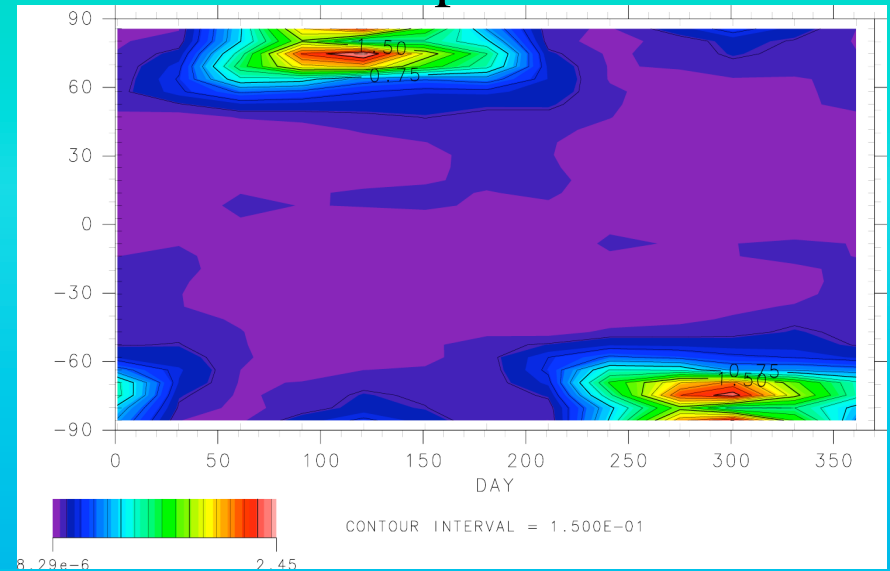


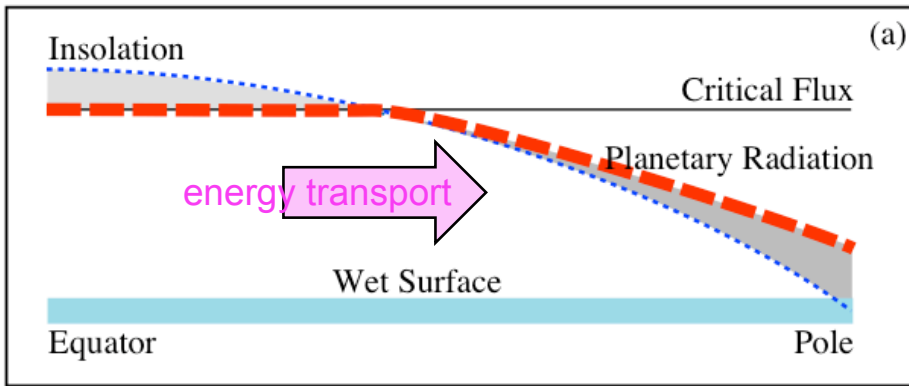
# Example of A Land Planet

## Surface Temperature

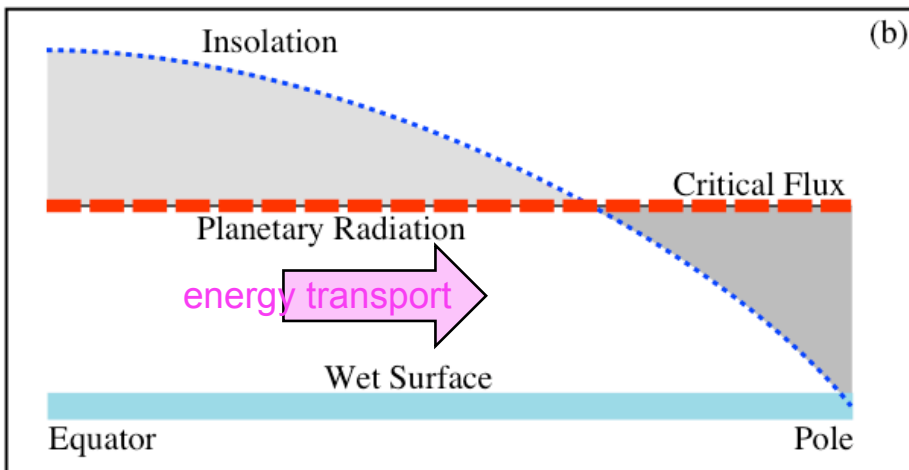


## Precipitation

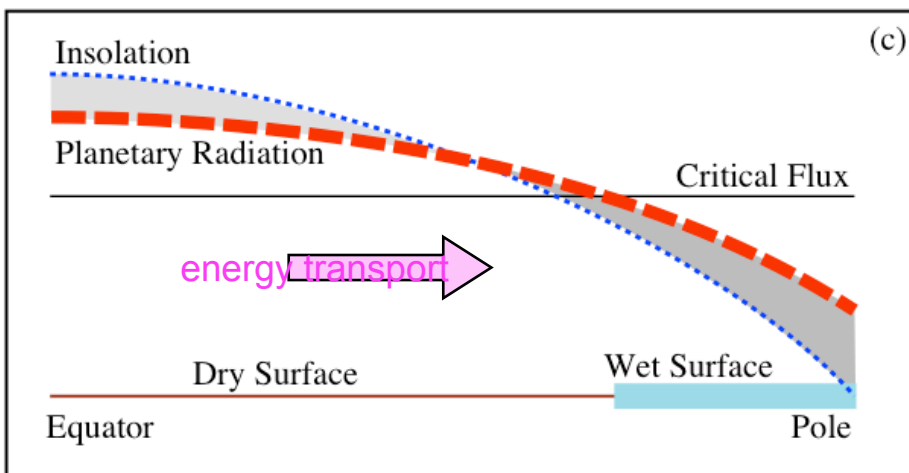




Earth: tropics are stabilized by heat transport to the poles



Ocean planet: runs away when poles cannot radiate all the heat that comes from the tropics



Land planet can radiate more efficiently from dry tropics - poles stay habitable



## Some idealized GCM experiments by Professor Abe

### Model

A general circulation model, CCSR/NIES AGCM 5.4g (T21L11 and T21L20)  
(Numaguti, 1999)

An Earth-sized planet with 1 bar air atmosphere on a circular orbit.

Fixed CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. (345 ppm)

Spin period (= a "day") is 24 hours

Revolution period around the Sun (= a "year") is 360 days.

Obliquity = 0 °

### Land Planet:

Surface parameters of desert (ground albedo 0.3), No topography.

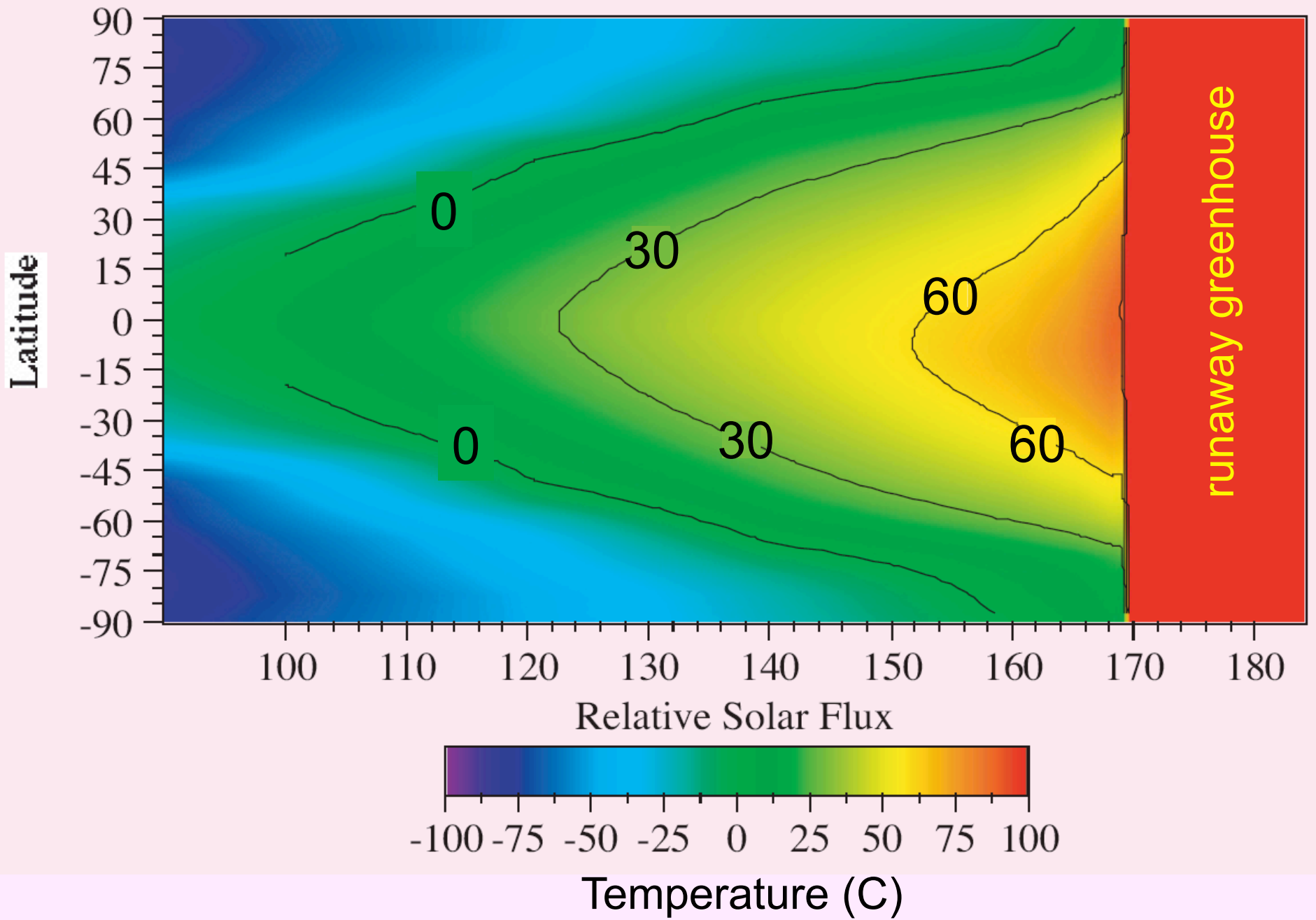
A bucket model with the saturation depth of 10 cm

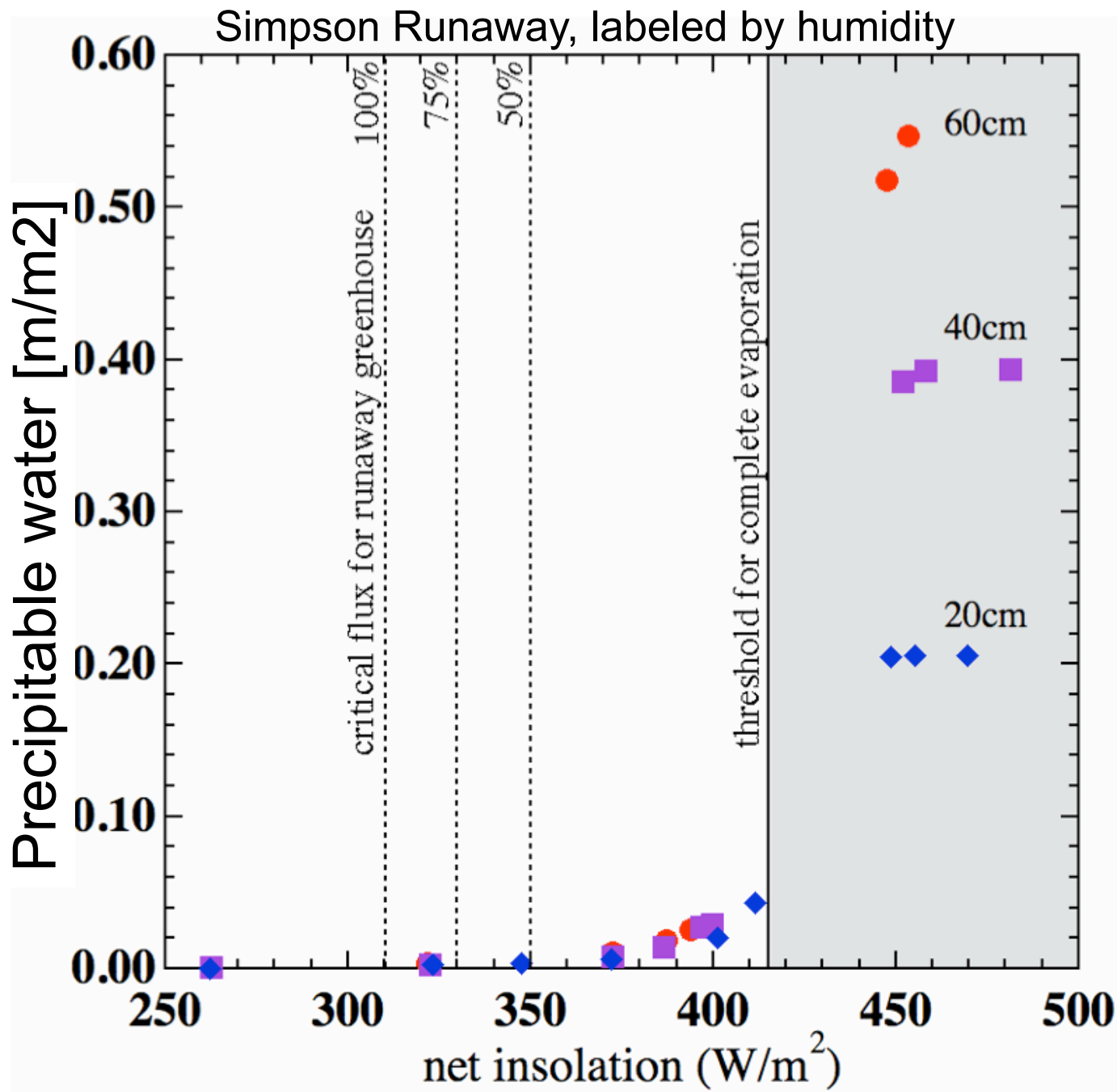
**No ground water transport: atmospheric control of water distribution**

### Ocean Planet:

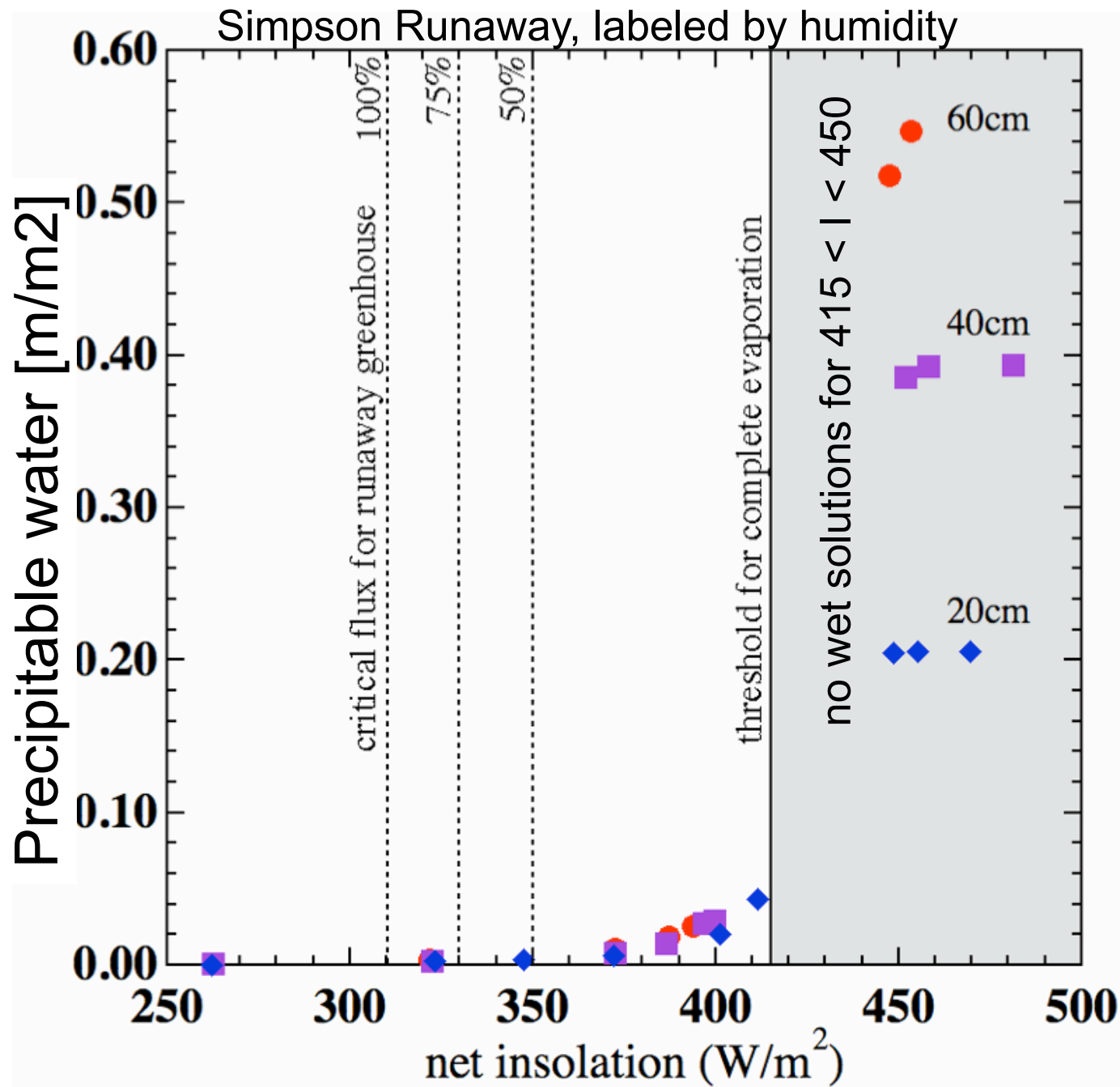
50m slab ocean

More than 100 cases are examined with various solar flux.



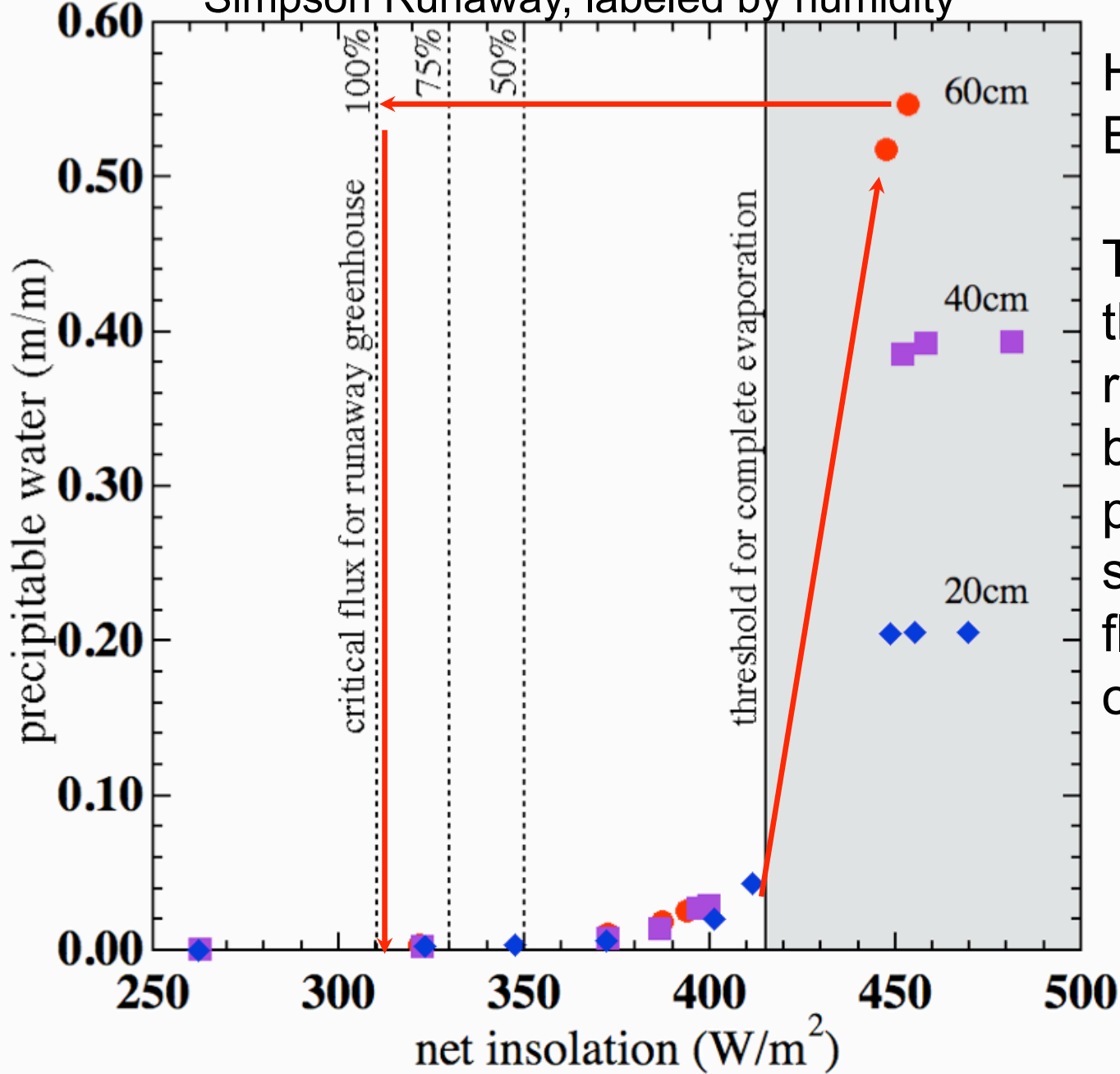


Land planet is more stable at high insolation than ocean planet



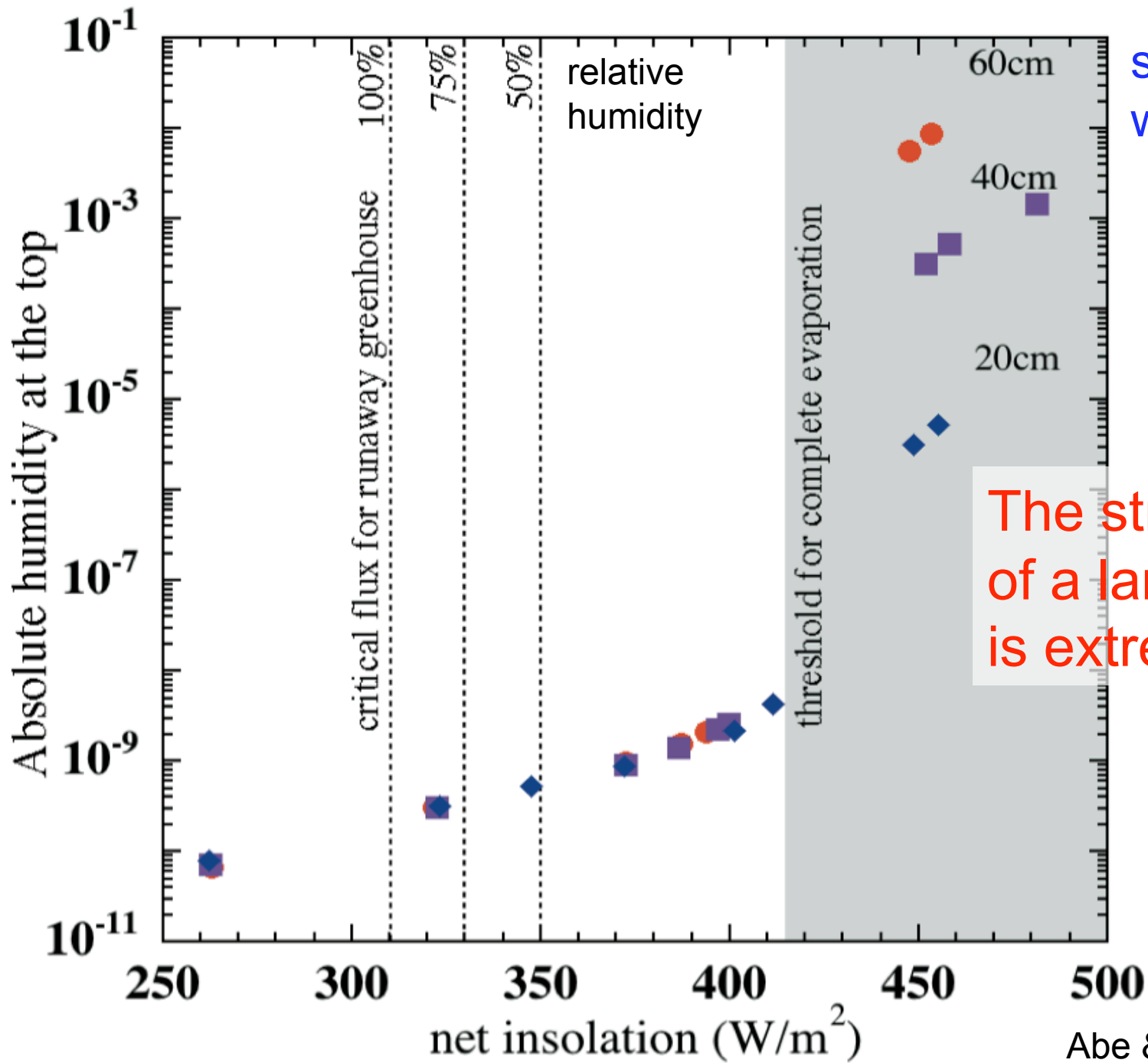
The discontinuity from  $415 \text{ W}/\text{m}^2$  to  $450 \text{ W}/\text{m}^2$  is caused by an albedo jump: clouds and polar caps disappear

Simpson Runaway, labeled by humidity



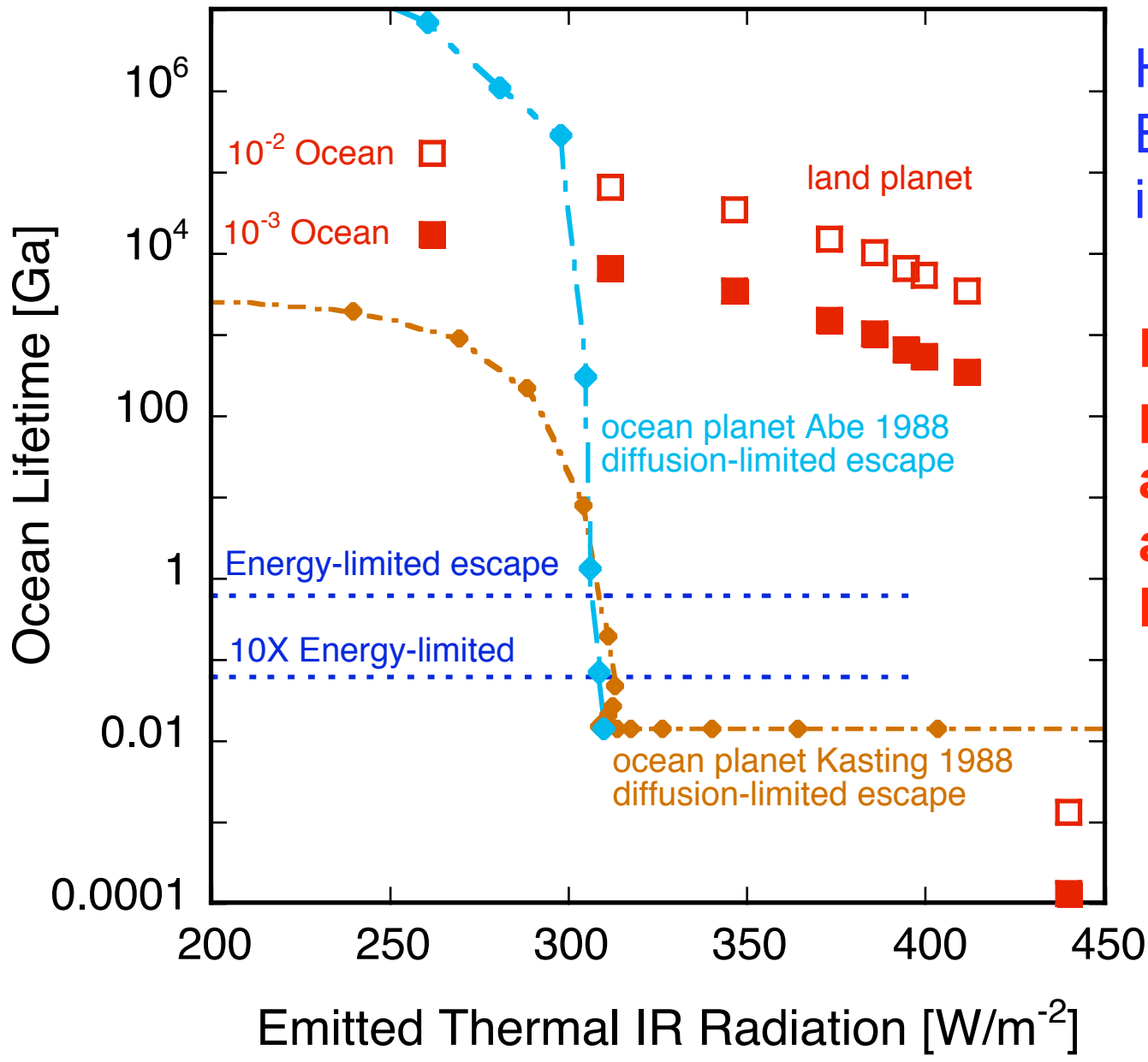
Hysteresis Effect:

To condense the water requires bringing the planet to the same critical flux as an ocean planet



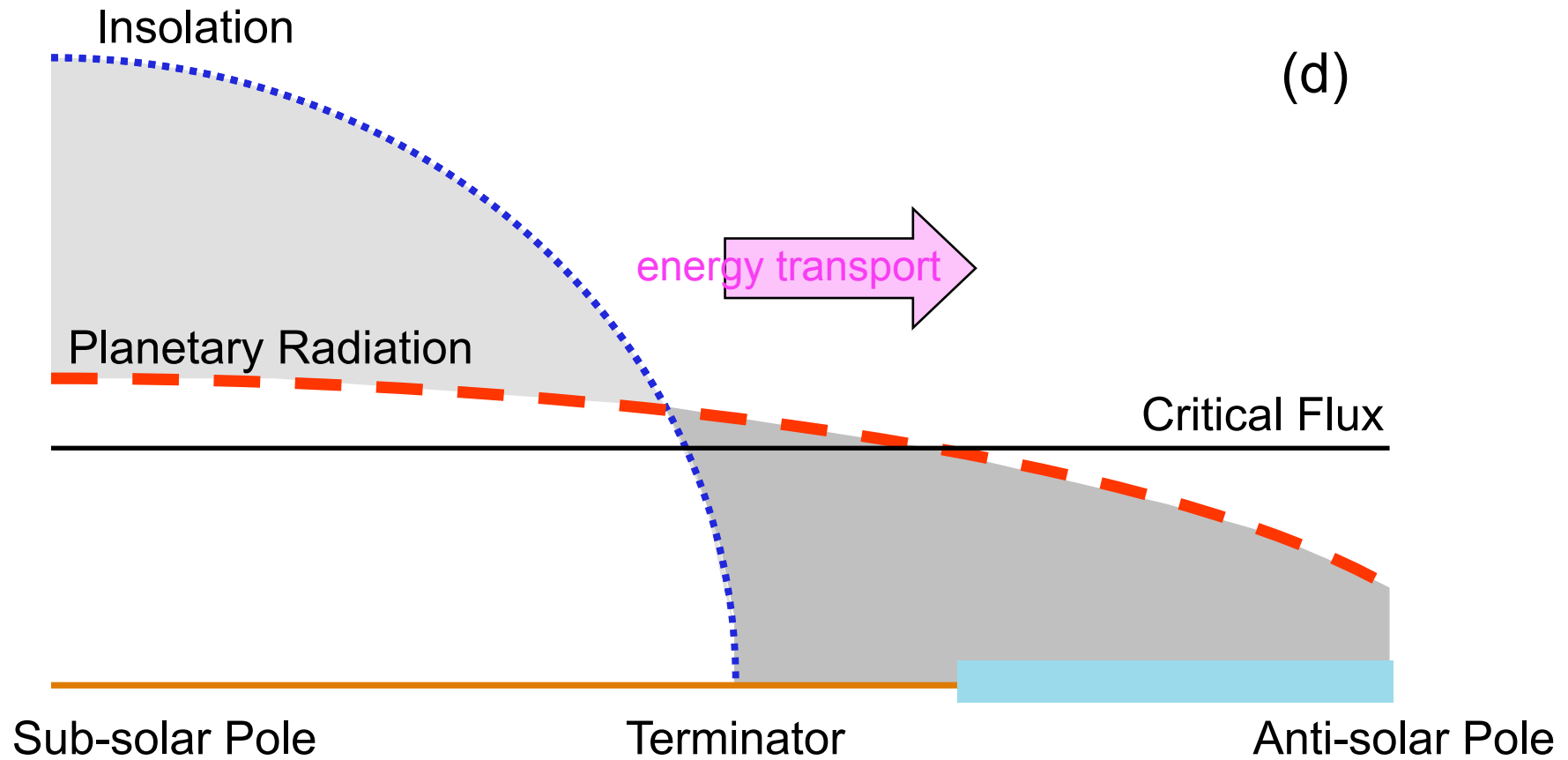
stratospheric water vapor

The stratosphere of a land planet is extremely dry



Hydrogen  
Escape is  
inhibited

**Land  
planets  
are stable  
against  
H escape**



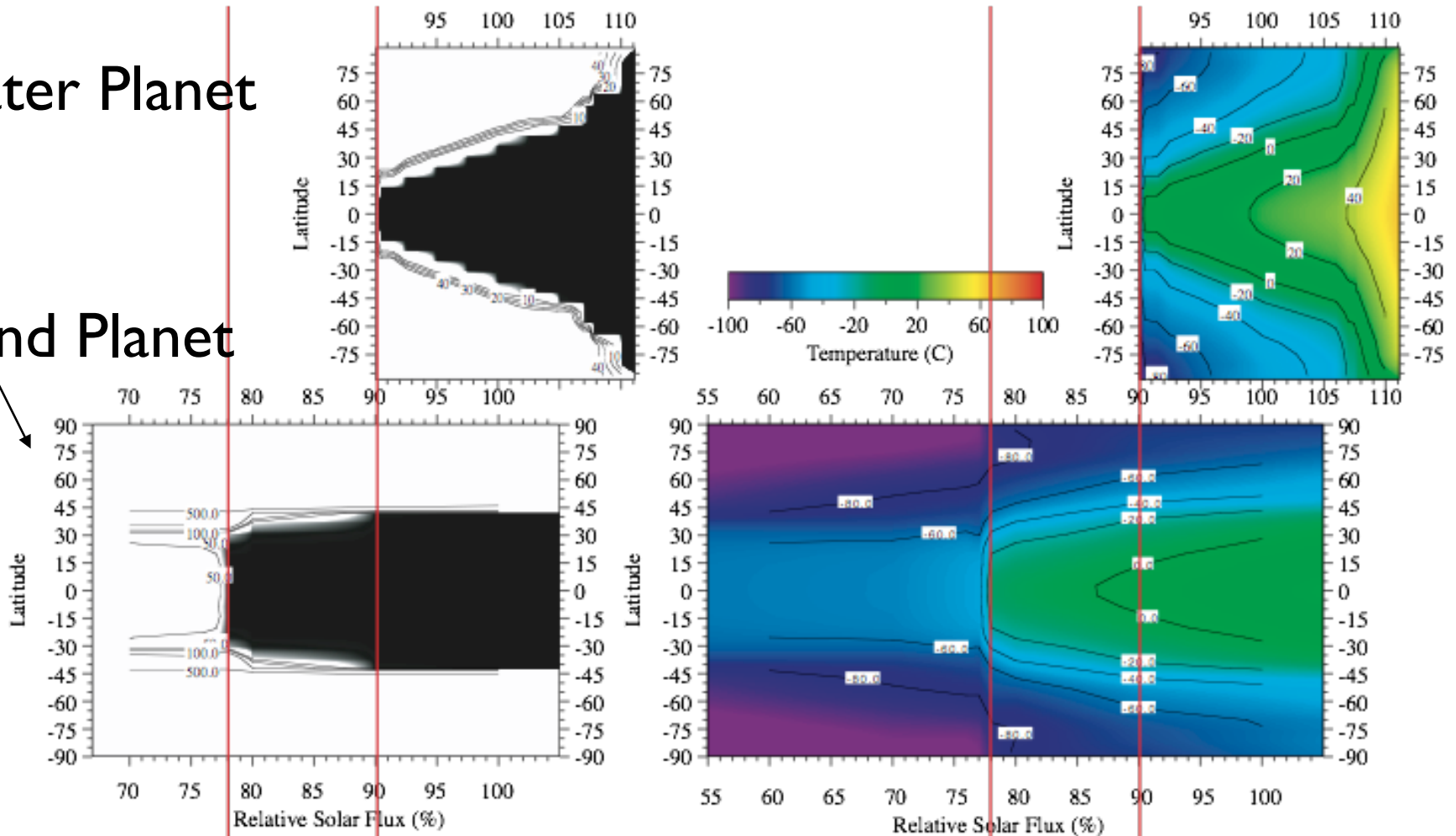
A dry synchronous M-dwarf planet is another form of land planet: the dry hemisphere radiates away most of the sunlight



# 3.2 Different Freezing limits, too

Water Planet

Land Planet

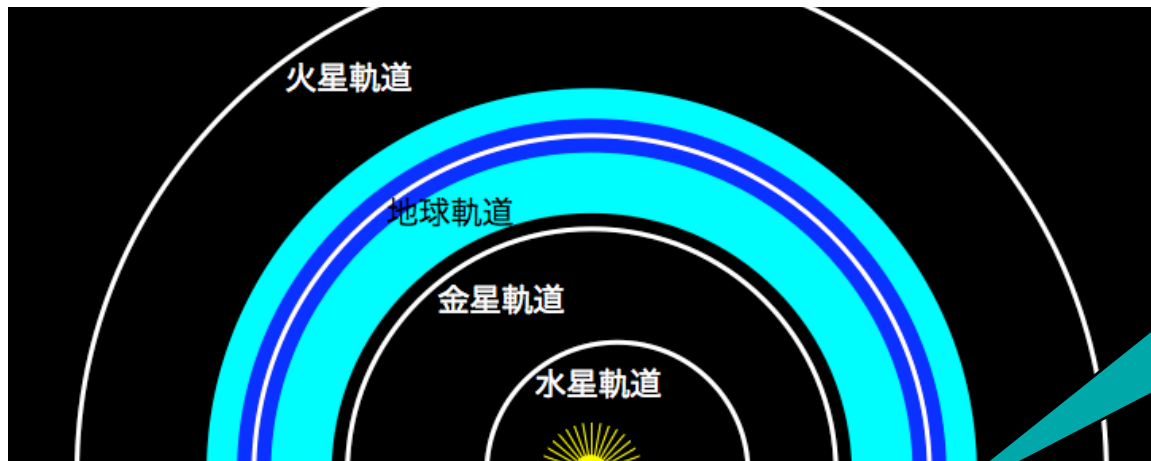


freezing of  
land planet      freezing of  
ocean planet

freezing of  
land planet      freezing of  
ocean planet

Land planets are harder to freeze than water planets.

## 3.3 Land Planet vs Water Planet



Stability region of  
Liquid water

Aqua  
Planet

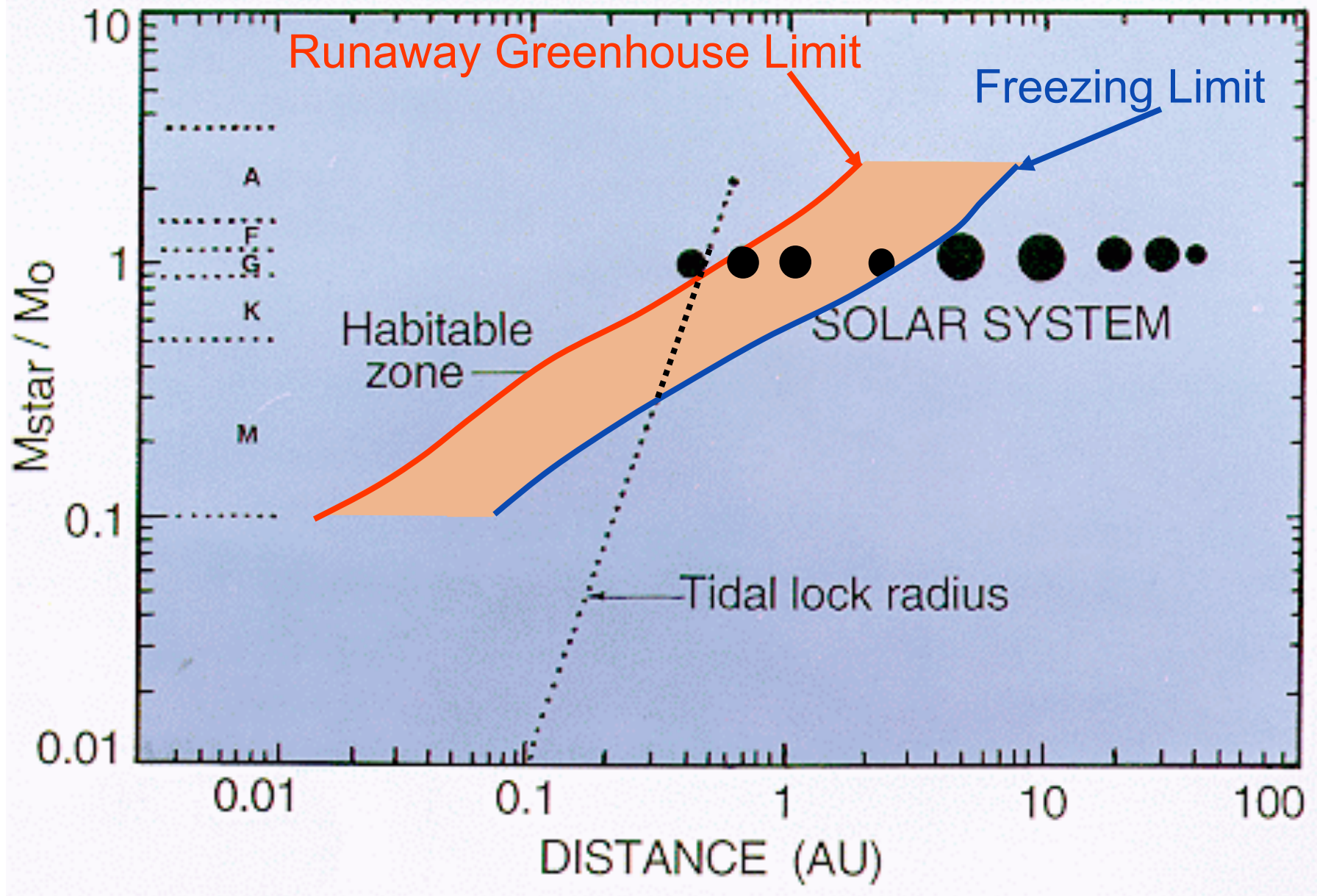
Stability region of Liquid water

Aqua : 90~110% Land

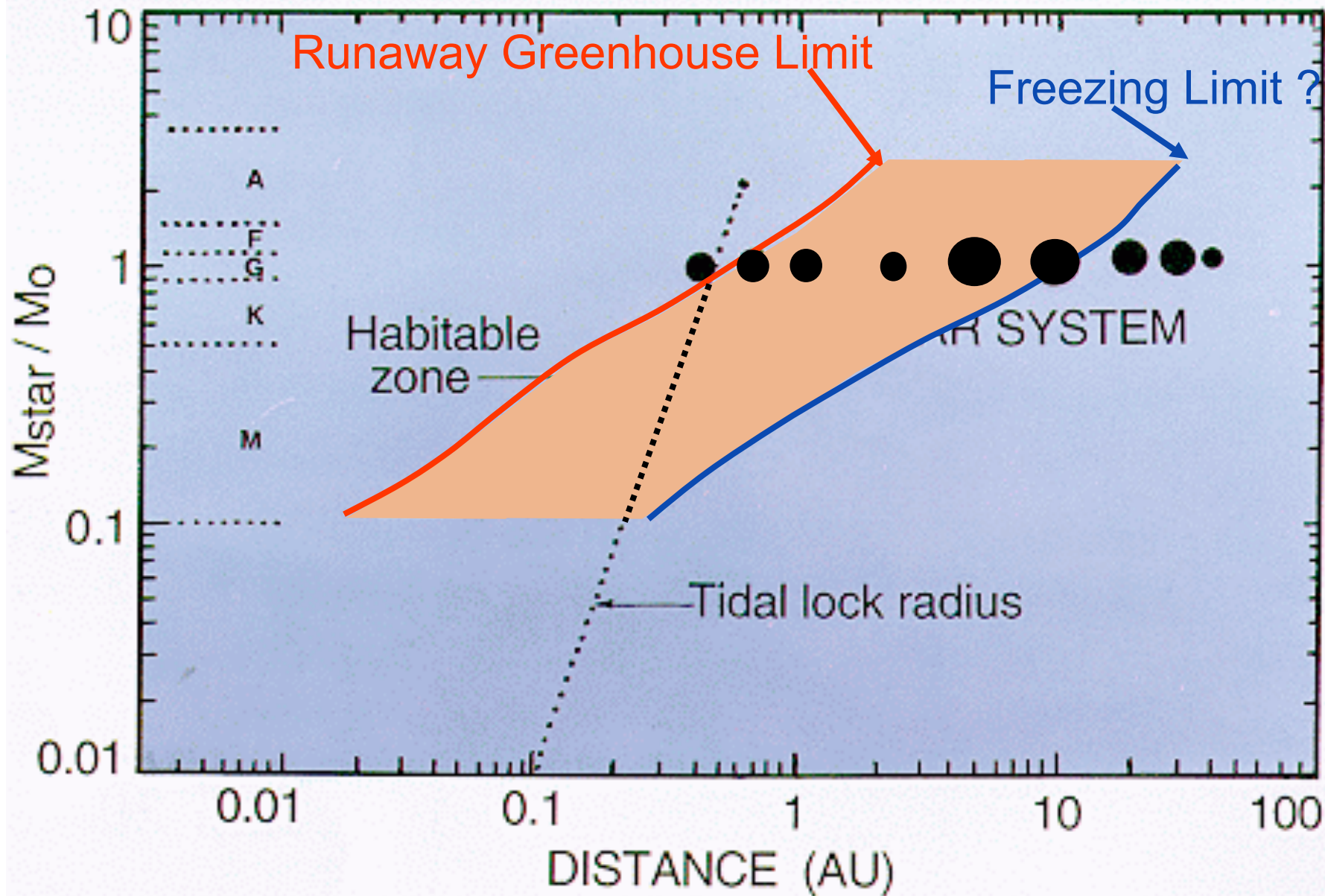
Land : 77~170% Planet

For the same atmospheric conditions, the stability region of liquid water is narrower for Aqua planet than Land planet  
~ by factor 3 !!

# The Land Planet HZ

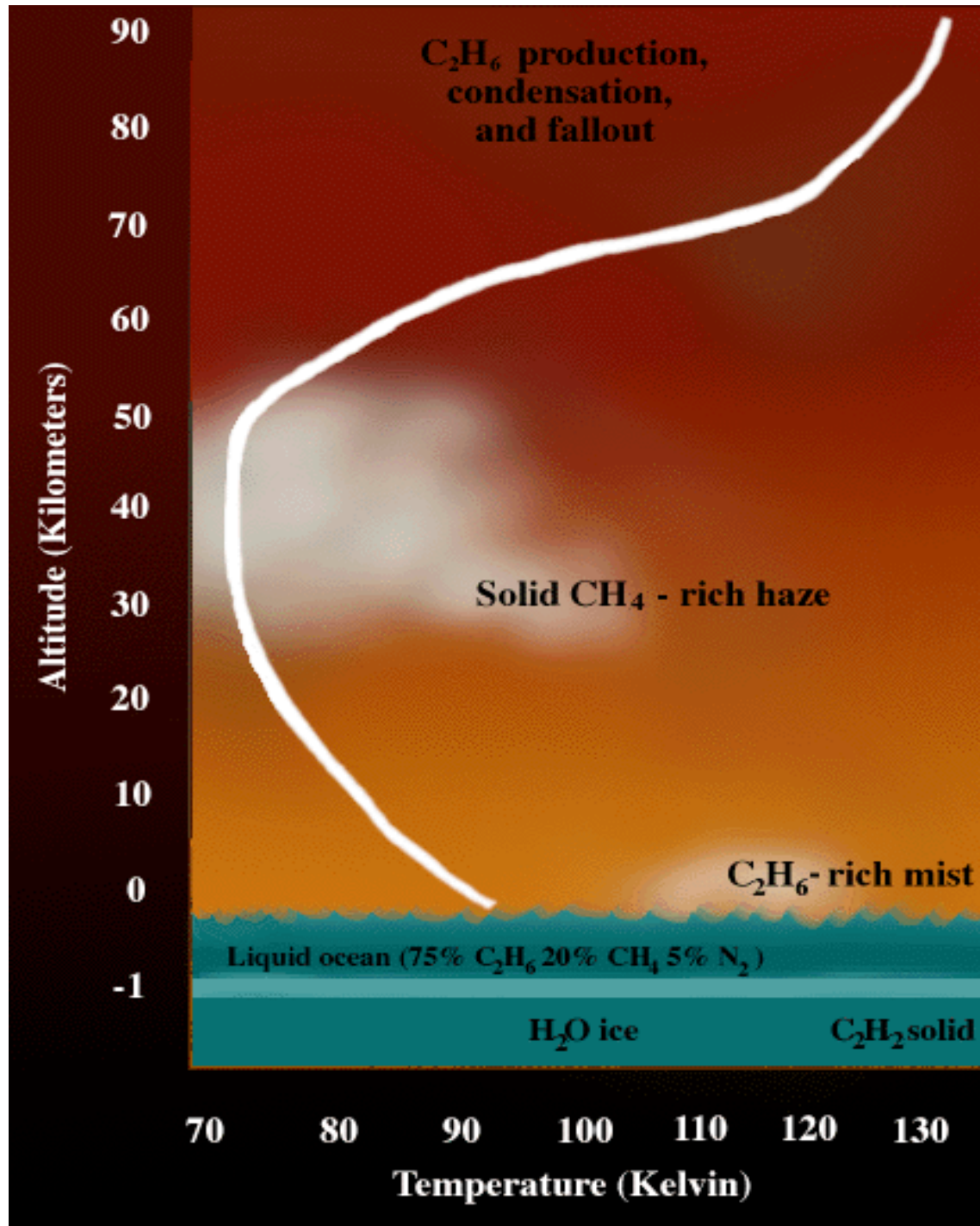


# 4. Is there really an Outer Limit??

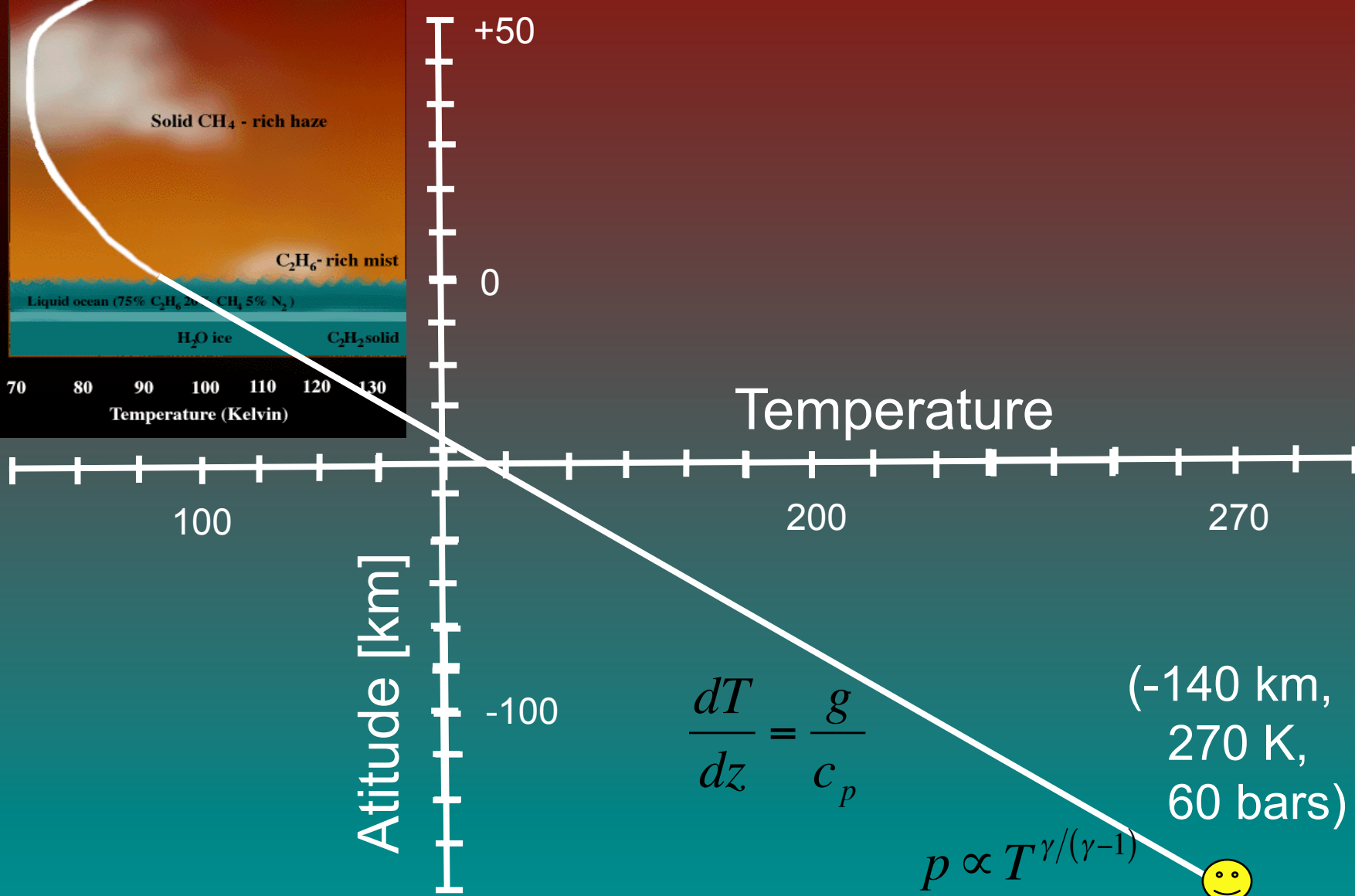
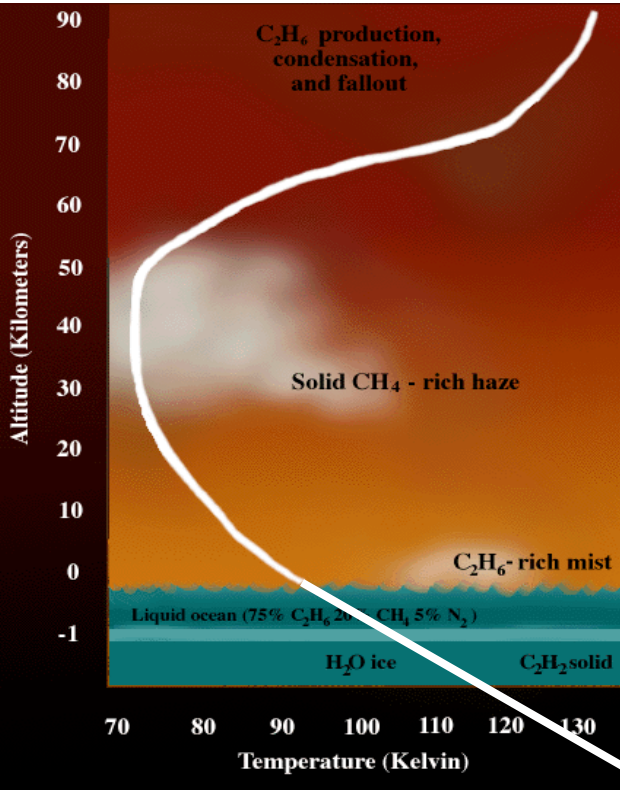


# Titan

## Temperature profile



It takes merely the will to do it



$$\frac{dT}{dz} = \frac{g}{c_p}$$

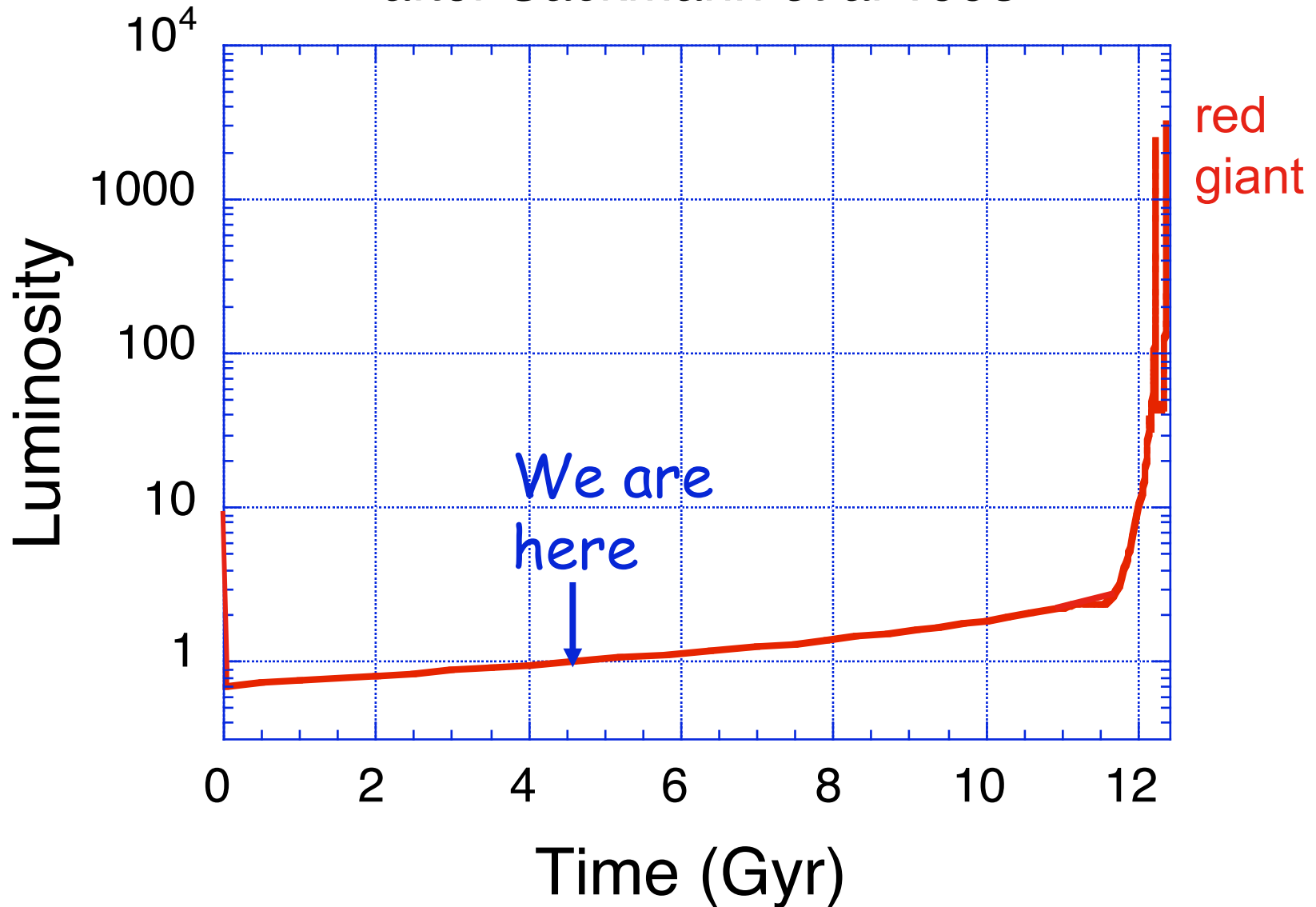
$$p \propto T^{\gamma/(\gamma-1)}$$

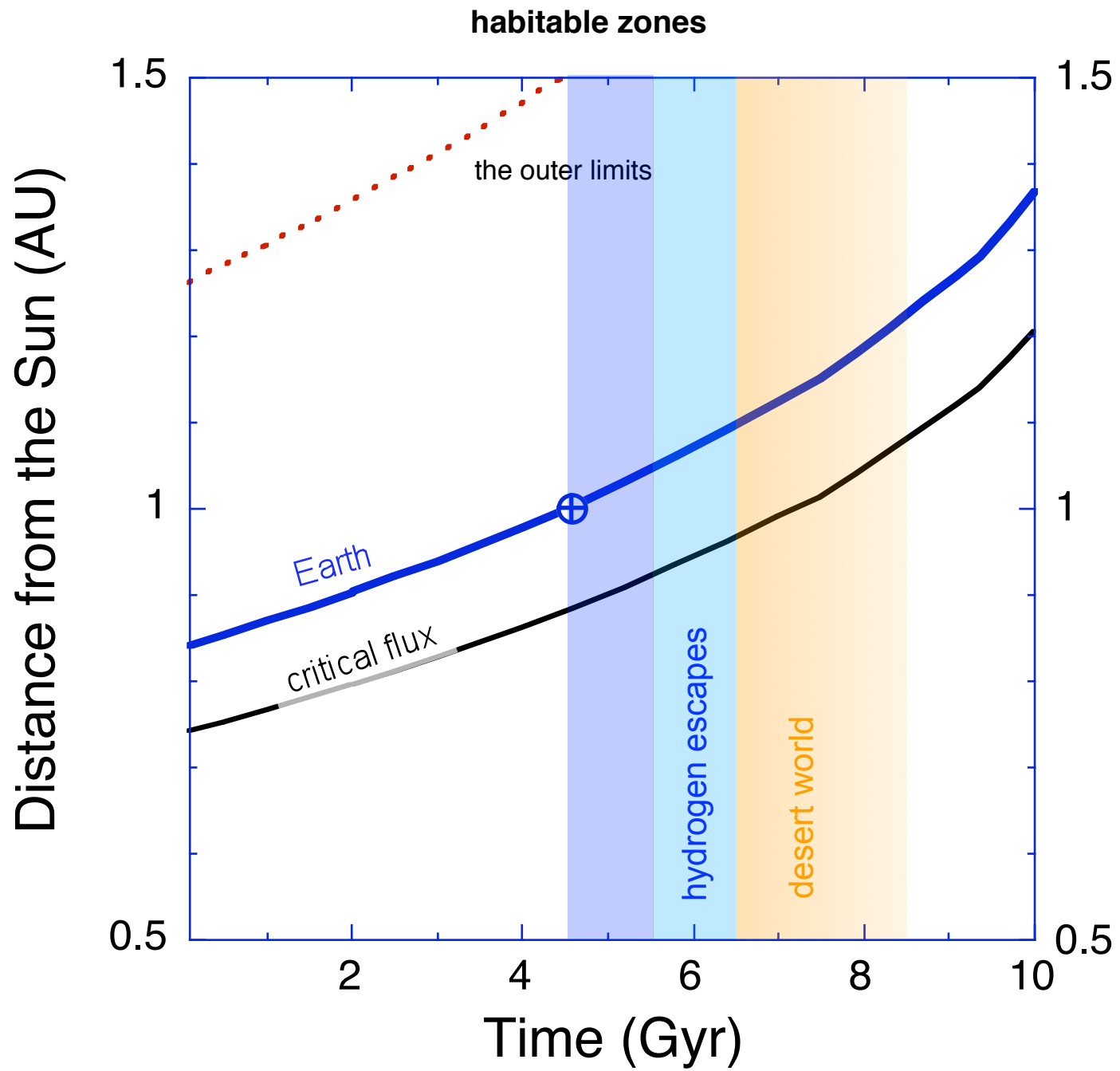
(-140 km,  
270 K,  
60 bars)



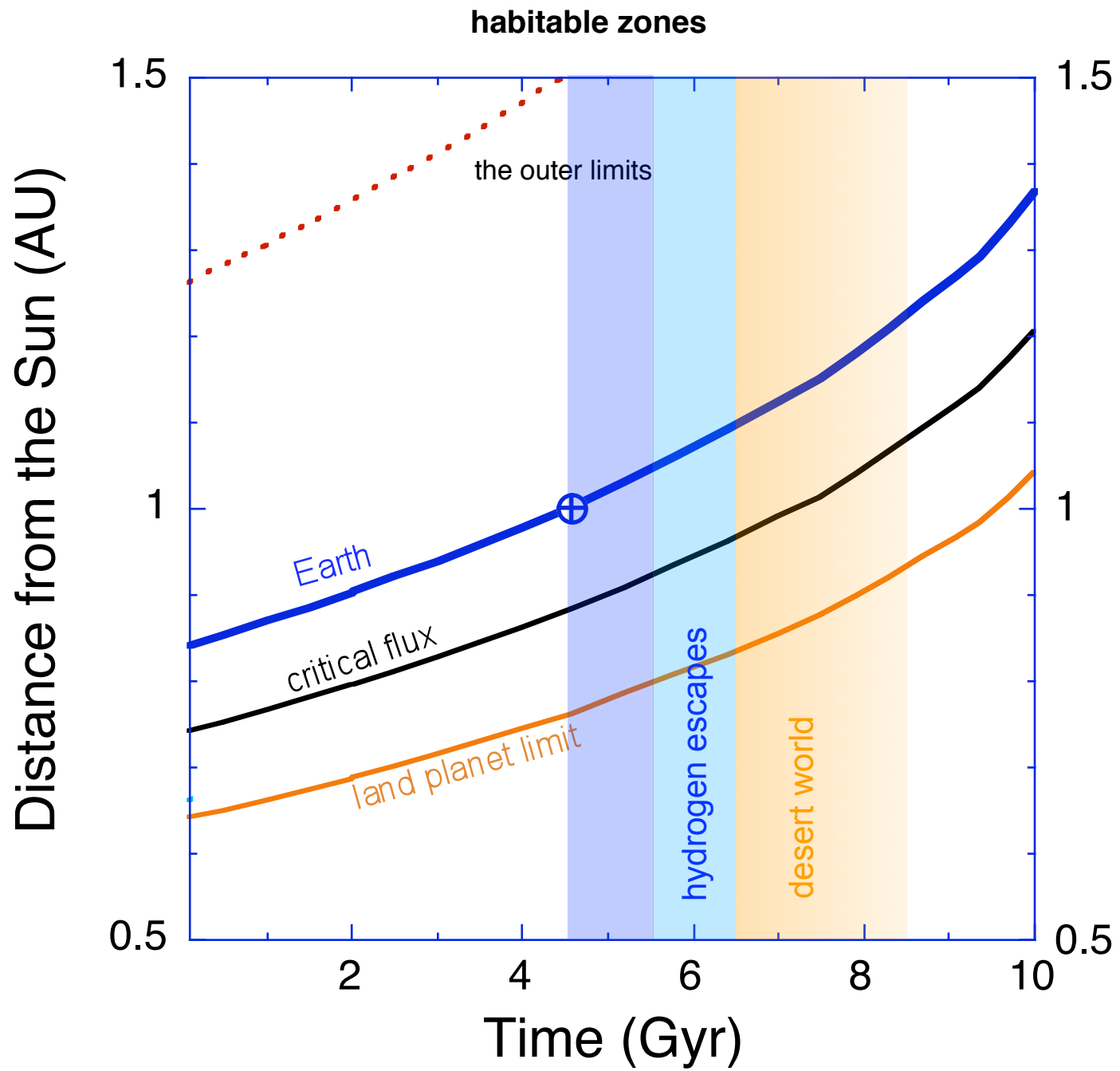
# 5. The Evolving Sun

after *Sackmann et al 1993*

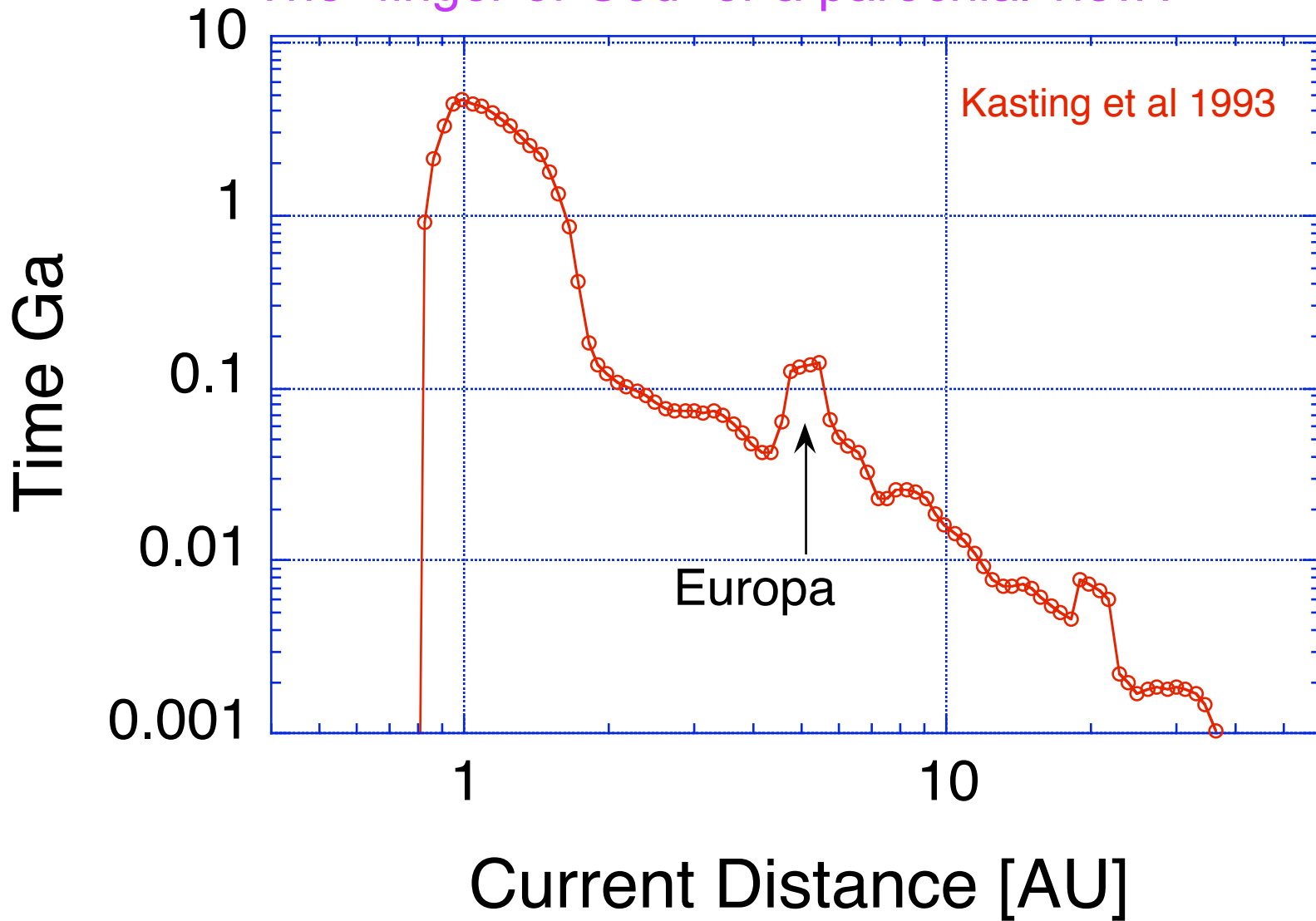






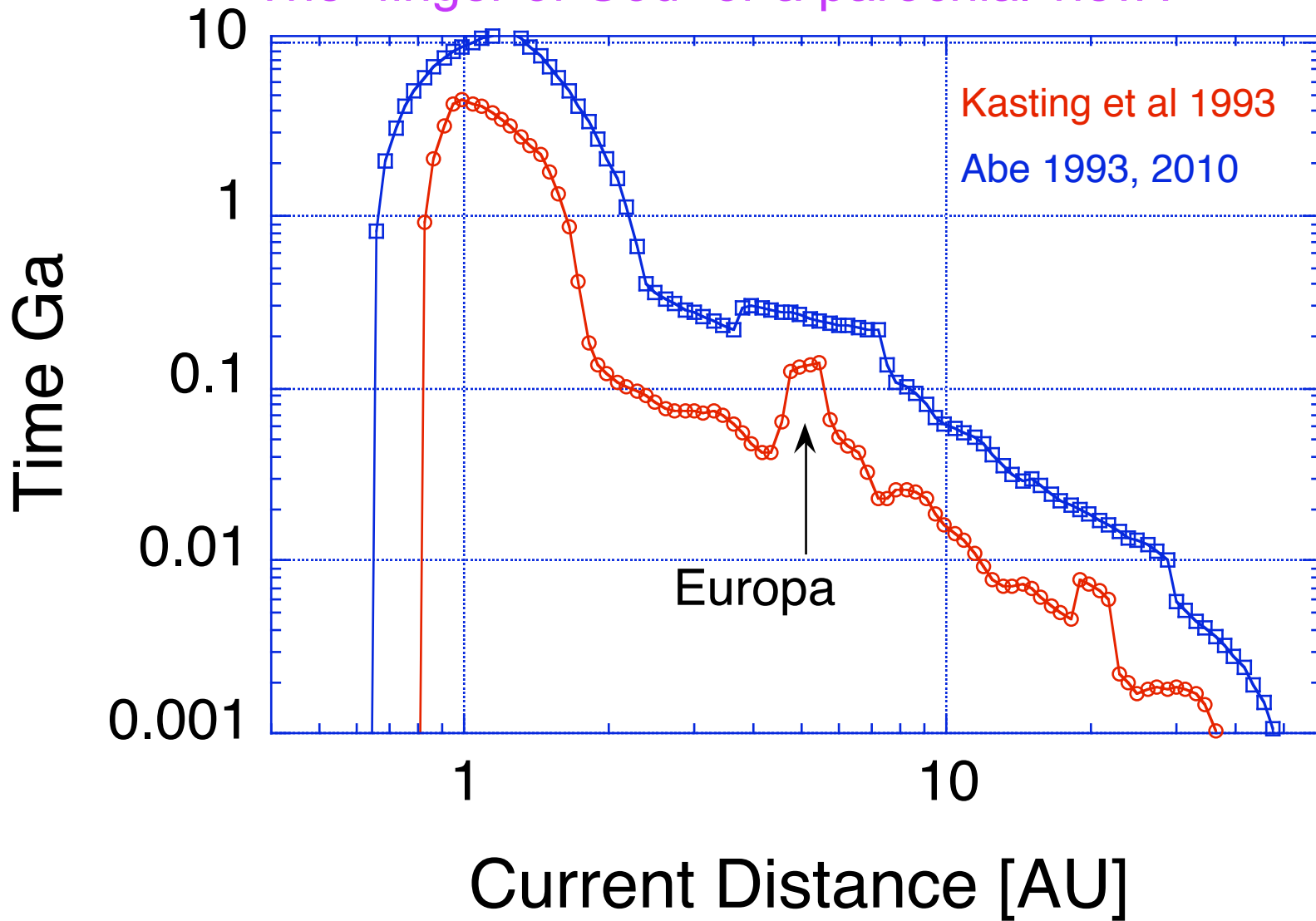


# The "finger of God" or a parochial view?



How long a planet at a given current distance from the Sun remains "habitable."

# The "finger of God" or a parochial view?



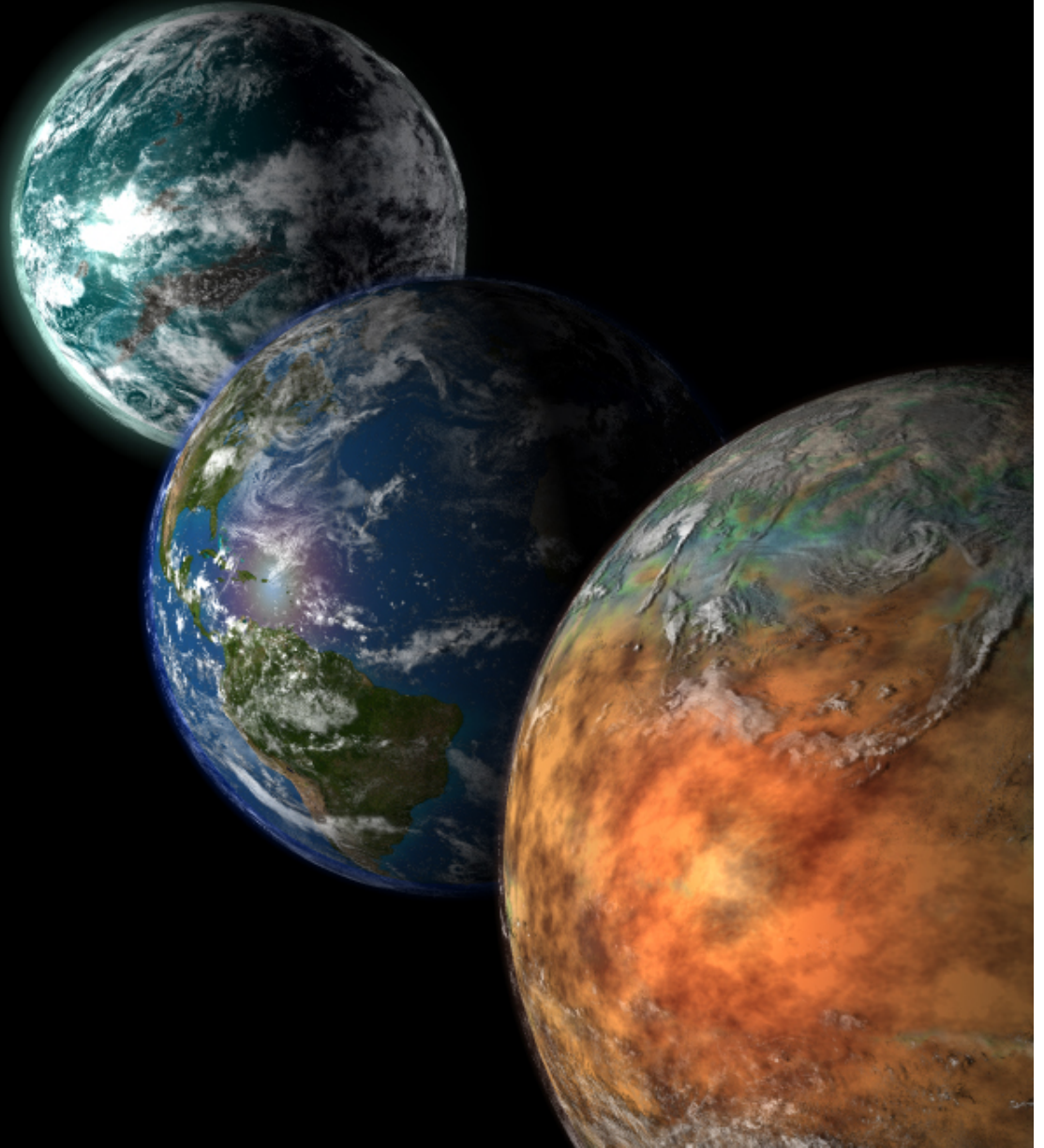
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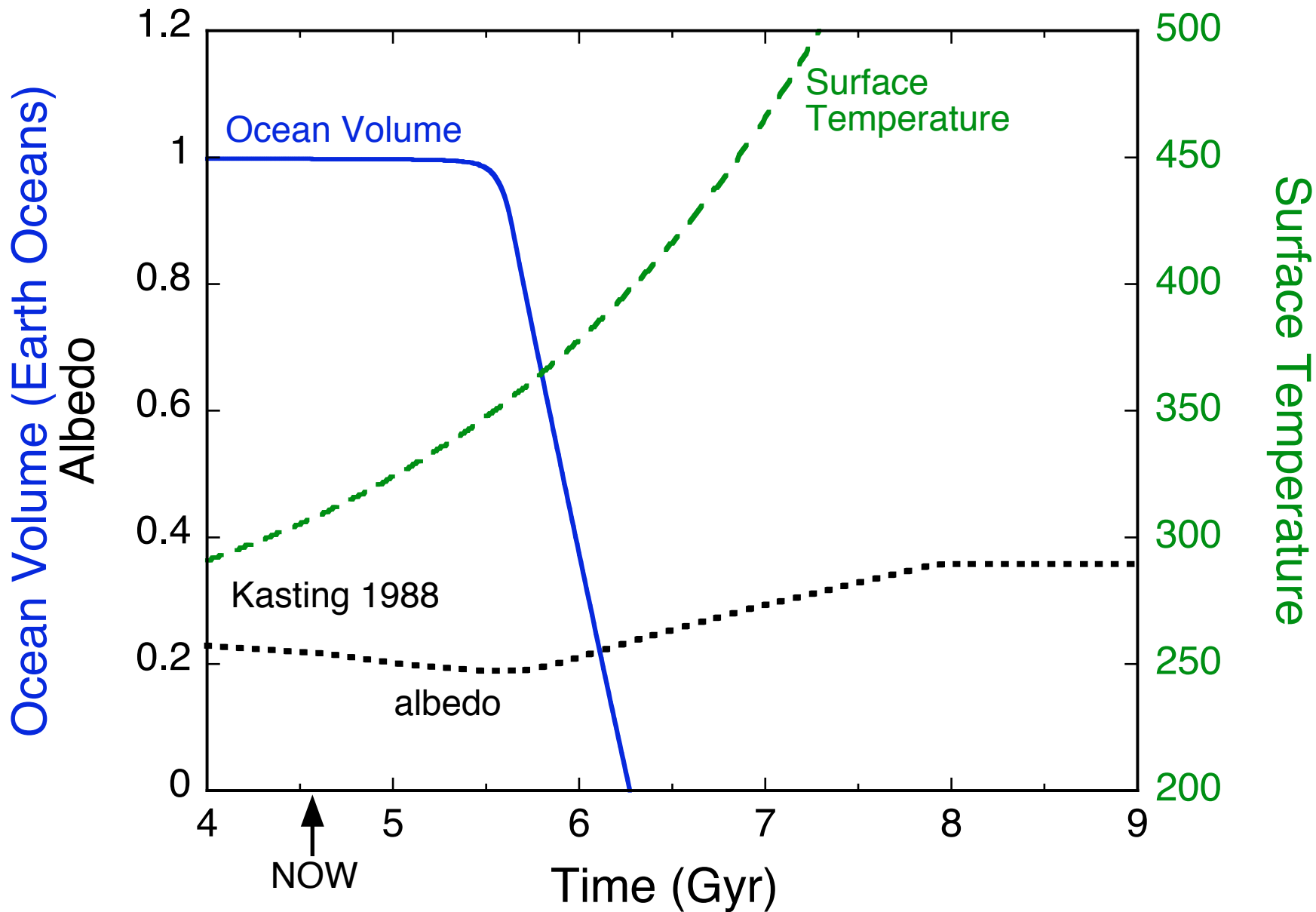
# Europa under the HB Sun

(butterfly metaphor)

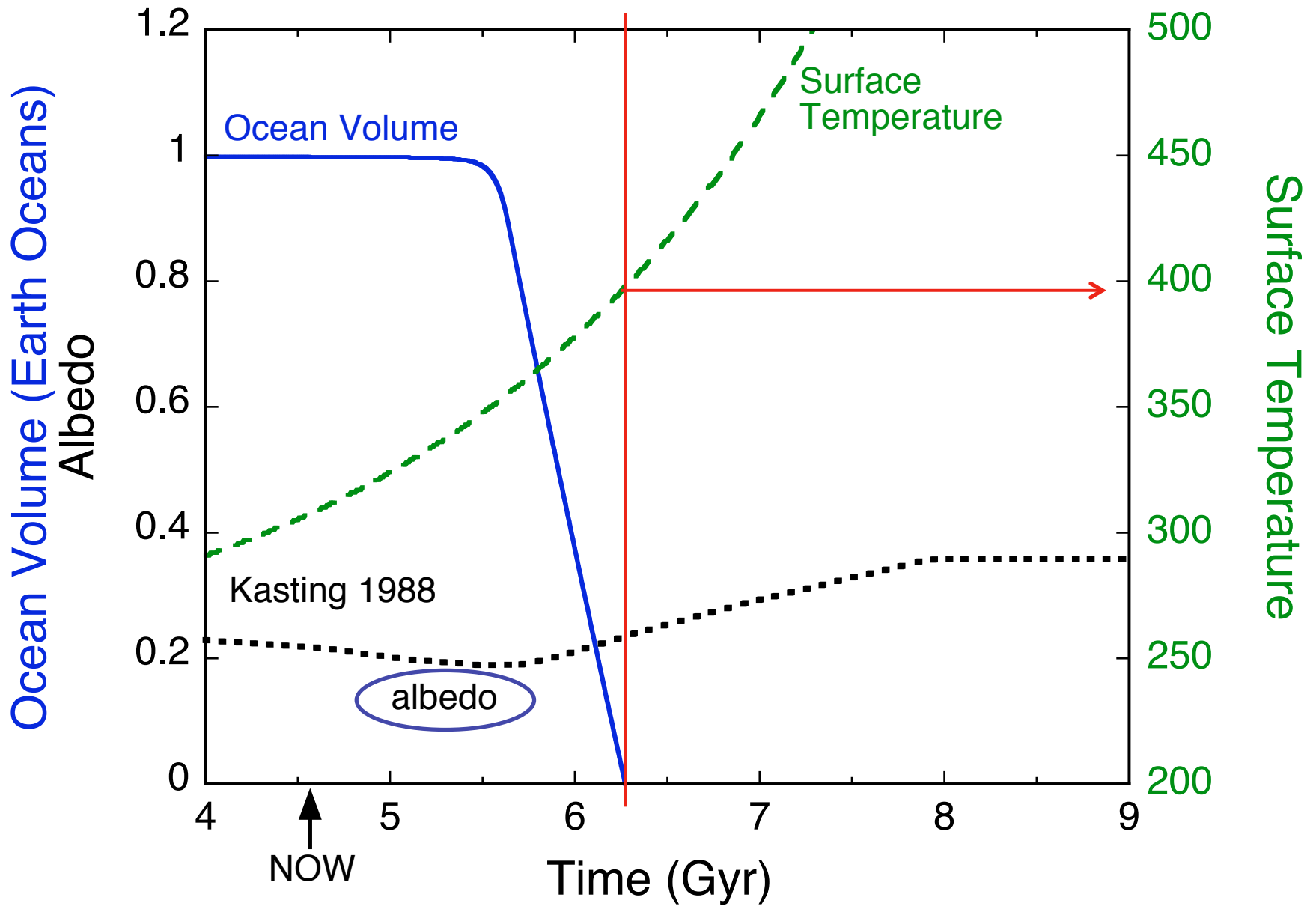
6. Creation myths:  
how a Dune  
might evolve



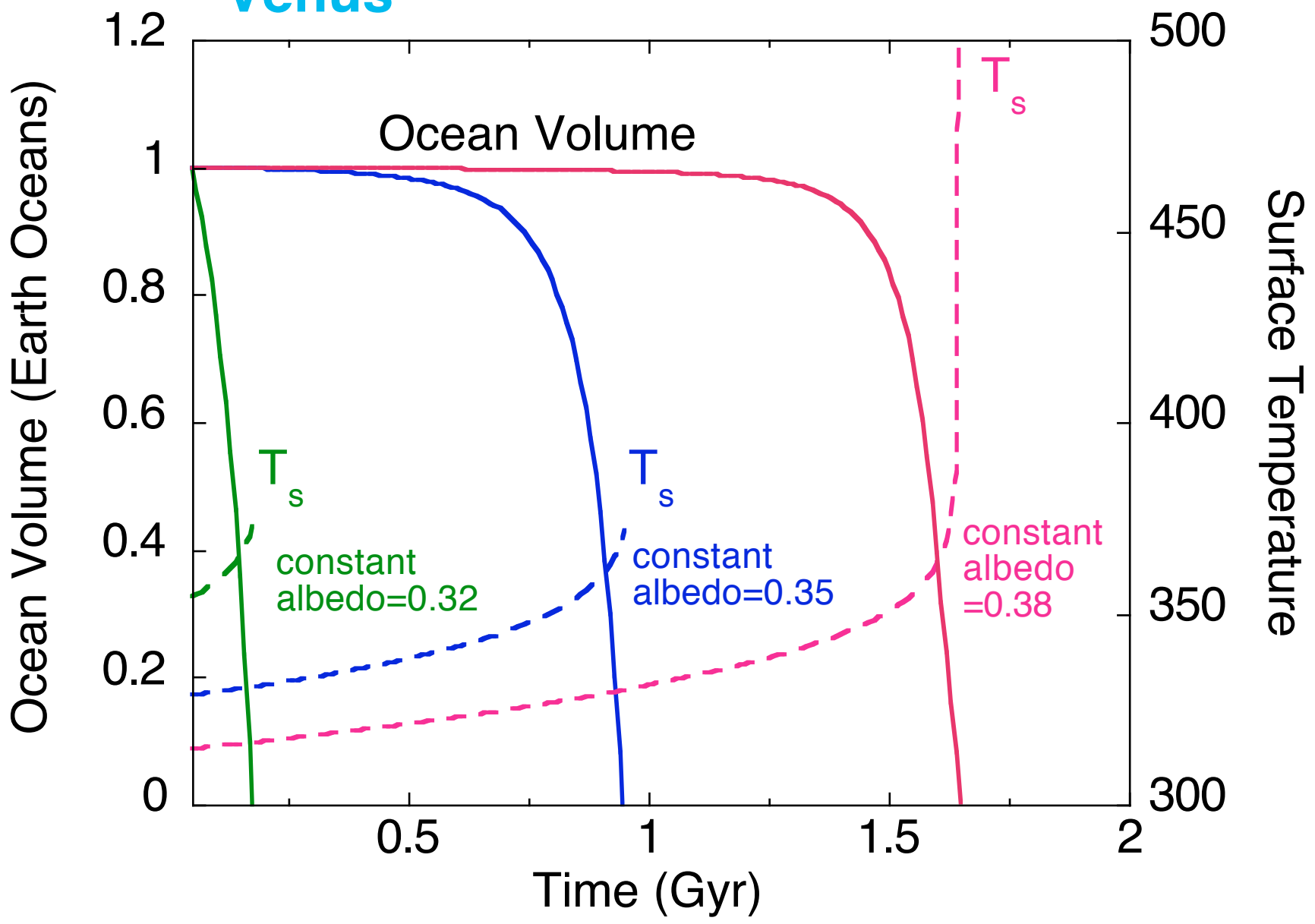
Kasting's (1988) moist greenhouse model (I've added the H escape)



Surface T is ~400 K when the ocean evaporates... Works better with a thin atmosphere



# "Venus"





# Some Words

- A habitable land planet appears to be more stable against the runaway greenhouse effect than an ocean planet like Caladan or Earth
- The inner edge of the HZ for land planets was inside of Venus's orbit when the Sun was young
- Land planets are also more stable against ice-albedo runaway
- There is no obvious outer limit to the HZ
  - other greenhouse gases can contribute
  - soluble greenhouse gases work better for land planets
- land planets will be among the first extrasolar habitable planets to be discovered in transit
- tidally-locked planets of M dwarfs have excellent prospects for providing habitable, Dune-like conditions

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