The LMD “Generic” Global Climate Model: Application to exoplanets

François Forget, Jeremy Leconte, Benjamin Charnay, Robin Wordsworth, Ehouarn Millour, Aymeric Spiga Franck Selsis et al. …

*CNRS, Institut Pierre Simon Laplace, Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique, Paris

Modeled Cloud pattern on a tidally locked planet around a M dwarf star
LMD GCM. J. Leconte
Climate Models in the solar system
What have we learned?

**Lesson # 1:** By many measures: GCMs work

**Lesson # 2:** Why and when GCMs fail

(missing physical processes, non-linear processes and threshold effects, positive feedbacks and instability, etc…)

**Lesson # 3** Climate model components can be applied without major changes to most terrestrial planets.

A 3D “generic” Global climate model designed to simulate any atmosphere on any terrestrial planet around any star.

1) Dynamical Core: ~universal

2) Radiative transfer through gas and aerosols
   ⇒ New versatile Correlated-k radiative transfer code.

3) Turbulence and convection in the boundary layer
   ⇒ Universal turbulent scheme
   ⇒ Robust convection scheme

4) Surface and subsurface thermal balance ~universal

5) Volatile condensation on the surface and in the atmosphere:
   • Robust microphysics: Fixing mixing ratio of condensation nuclei
   • Modified thermodynamics to handle condensation of major constituents (H₂O, CO₂, N₂)

• 2-layer dynamical ocean (Codron 2011):
  - Ekman transport
  - Dynamic Sea ice
A “Generic” LMD GCM for all terrestrial atmospheres: Why simulate planets where no observations are available?

- To model ancient climates to understand geological records
  - The faint young sun paradox on early Earth ([Charnay et al. 2013](#))
- To simulate planets around other stars to design future telescopic measurements
  - Exoplanet Thermal phase curves ([Selsis et al. 2011](#))
  - Constraining hot superEarth with JWST ([Samuel et al., 2014](#))
- To address key scientific questions regarding habitability:
  - Define the habitable zone
  - What is the probability of habitable planet in the galaxy?
Which climate on extra-solar planets? A hierarchy of models for planetary climatology

1. **1D global radiative convective models**
   - Great to explore exoplanetary climates; still define the classical Habitable Zone (e.g. Kasting et al. 1993, Kopparapu et al. 2013)

2. **2D Energy balance models**…

3. **Theoretical 3D General Circulation model with simplified forcing**: used to explore and analyse the possible atmospheric circulation regime and energy transport (previous Talk by Y-Y Hayashi, see Read 2011, Showman et al. 2013, etc)

4. **Full Global Climate Models** aiming at building “virtual” planets.
Climate, Surface liquid water and life

100% vapour    Liquid water    100% ice

Climate instability: Runaway glaciation

Solar flux ↓  Temperature ↓

Albedo ↑  Ice and snow ↑
Climate Modelling: the Earth suddenly moved out by 12%  
(79% current insolation = the Earth 3 billions years ago)  
LMD Generic Climate model, with a “dynamical slab Ocean” (Benjamin Charnay et al. JGR 2013)  

ALBEDO:

year = 0.00
Climate Modelling: the Earth suddenly moved by 12%
(79% current insolation = the Earth 3 billions years ago)
LMD Generic Climate model, with a “dynamical slab Ocean” (Benjamin Charnay et al. JGR 2013)
Out of glaciation: greenhouse effect

Flux = 80% present
(~1.12 AU)

Present
Earth atmosphere

Charnay et al., JGR 2013
Out of glaciation: greenhouse effect

Flux = 80% present
(~1.12 AU)

$[\text{CO}_2] \times 2.5$

Charnay et al., JGR 2013
Out of glaciation: greenhouse effect

Flux = 80% present
(~1.12 AU)

$[\text{CO}_2] \times 250$
$[\text{CH}_4] \times 1000$

Charnay et al., JGR 2013
How far can greenhouse effect keep a planet warm?

Minimum flux to get $\langle T_s \rangle > 0^\circ C$

Pure CO$_2$ partial pressure (bar)

Kasting et al. 1993, Kopparapu et al. 2013

Rayleigh scattering > greenhouse effect
Scattering Greenhouse effect of CO$_2$ ice clouds ⇒ 0°C as far as 2.5 AU from the Sun?

*Forget and Pierrehumbert (1997)*

Example: $P_s = 10$ bar
cloud opacity = 20

![Temperature vs. Altitude Graph](Image)

- CO$_2$ condensation
- CO$_2$ ice clouds
- Warming
- IR
3D Global climate simulations of a cold CO2 atmosphere
(“Early Mars Case” distance equivalent to 1.75 UA)

Max Warming = + 15 K
(uncomplete cloud coverage)

CO2 ice Cloud optical depth

Forget et al. Icarus 2013,
Wordsworth et al. Icarus 2013
**Around other stars**

Stars in the solar neighborhood:

\[(d < 10 \text{ parsec} = 32 \text{ light years}\]
Glaciation around K & M dwarf stars:

Redder stellar spectrum
- No albedo water ice feedback (Joshi and haberle, 2012)
- Weak atmospheric Rayleigh Scattering
  ⇒ higher albedo
  ⇒ Enhanced high pressure CO2 greenhouse effect

But : Effect of tides on rotation:
- Resonnant rotation with zero obliquity
  ⇒ No insolation at the pole
  ⇒ Possible Locking with permanent night side
Side Question: Are terrestrial planets in M star habitable zone always tidally locked?

Rocky planet on circular orbit around M stars should synchronously rotating (Dole, 1964, Kasting et al. 1993) after ~1 Gyr. However:

- This does not apply to Giant planet satellites…

- Planets with eccentric orbit are likely to be in other resonance, non-synchronous resonance (like Mercury) [e.g. Correia et al. 2008]

- In presence of an atmosphere, thermal tides (resulting from solar heating of the atmosphere) can put the rotation out of synchronicity (like Venus) [Gold and Stoter, 1969, Correia and Laskar 2003, 2008, Leconte et al. 2014]
Leconte et al. Science 2014,
Example: simulating the climate on Exoplanet Gliese 581d

Super-Earth? : $M \sin i \approx 7 M_{\text{Earth}}$ around Mdwarf (0.31 Msun)

Incident Stellar flux = 27% flux on Earth  (less than Early Mars!)

Obliquity = $0^\circ$, possibly tidally locked?
Gliese 581D

- Water clouds
- CO2 ice clouds

Surface temperature (K)

Ps=10bar n12
Date = 0.00 (year)

H2O clouds mass (kg/m²)

Ps=10bar n12 wet
Date = 0.00 (year)

CO2 clouds mass (kg/m²)
Gliese 581d: conclusions

Assuming enough CO2 and H2O (which is not unlikely), Gliese 581d WOULD be habitable.

Wordsworth et al. 2011
Stellar activity masquerading as planets in the habitable zone of the M dwarf Gliese 581

Comment on "Stellar activity masquerading as planets in the habitable zone of the M dwarf Gliese 581"

Response to Comment on “Stellar activity masquerading as planets in the habitable zone of the M dwarf Gliese 581”
Climate, Surface liquid water and life

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Climate instability at the Inner edge of hab. zone

Solar flux ↑  Temperature ↑  Greenhouse effect ↑  Evaporation ↑
Runaway Greenhouse effect in 1D models
(for an Earth-like planet around a sun)

(at only 0.99 AU !)
Impact of temperature increase on water vapor distribution and escape: the « water loss limit »... at only 0.99 AU from the Sun (Kopparapu, Kasting et al. 2013)
« Water loss limit » in 1D models

Runaway Greenhouse effect in a complete 3D Global Climate model

- **Present**: Solar Flux = 341 W/m²
- **850 Million years**: Solar Flux = 371 W/m²
- **1150 Million years**: Solar Flux = 380 W/m²

~1600°C

**LMD 3D Generic Climate Model**
- Earth like planet
- 64x48x30 resolution
- Radiative transfer (correlated k)
  - 19 IR bands
  - 18 solar bands
- Special parametrization to handle H2O as a major constituent:
  - Change in Ps with condensation/evaporation ⇒ case of σ-P hybrid coordinates.
  - Coupled system [H2O]+T+Ps
Earth like Simulation with detailed radiative transfer in the upper atmosphere: no water loss limit!

Leconte et al. (Nature; 2013)
LMD Model: Earth-like planet around a sun-like star

![Graph showing temperature vs. solar flux with data points at 0.97 AU and 0.95 AU, with solar flux values of 106% and 110% of $F_0$.](image-url)
Unsaturated tropical regions reduce the greenhouse effect: « radiative fins »

Pierrehumbert (1995), Leconte et al. (2013)
Runaway greenhouse effect around K and M dwarf stars

**Redder stellar spectrum**
- Weak atmospheric Rayleigh Scaterring
  ⇨ lower planetary albedo

**Effect of tides:**
- Resonnant rotation with zero obliquity
  ⇨ Possible Locking with permanent night side

Simulation of aTidal-locked planet with surface liquid water around an Mdwarf (Jeremy Leconte, LMD climate model)

**Surface temperature (K)**

View from a distant point throughout the orbit

**Cloud opacity**

**Planetary Albedo**

**Night side**
Large scale cloud pattern on tidally locked planets

- Moist ascending region
- Dry subsiding region
- Clouds
- High albedo effect
- High local greenhouse effect

Yang et al. (2013)
STABILIZING CLOUD FEEDBACK DRAMATICALLY EXPANDS THE HABITABLE ZONE OF TIDALLY LOCKED PLANETS

JUN YANG
The Department of the Geophysical Sciences, The University of Chicago, 5734 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

NICOLAS B. COWAN
Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics (CIERA) and Department of Physics and Astronomy, Northwestern University, 2131 Tech Drive, Evanston, IL 60208, USA

AND

DORIAN S. ABBOT
The Department of the Geophysical Sciences, The University of Chicago, 5734 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

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ABSTRACT

The Habitable Zone (HZ) is the circumstellar region where a planet can sustain surface liquid water. Searching for terrestrial planets in the HZ of nearby stars is the stated goal of ongoing and planned extrasolar planet surveys. Previous estimates of the inner edge of the HZ were based on one dimensional radiative-convective models. The most serious limitation of these models is the inability to predict cloud behavior. Here we use global climate models with sophisticated cloud schemes to show that due to a stabilizing cloud feedback, tidally locked planets can be habitable at twice the stellar flux found by previous studies. This dramatically expands the HZ and roughly doubles the frequency of habitable planets orbiting red dwarf stars. At high stellar flux, strong convection produces thick water clouds near the substellar location that greatly increase the planetary albedo and reduce surface temperatures. Higher insolation produces stronger substellar convection and therefore higher albedo, making this phenomenon a stabilizing climate feedback. Substellar clouds also effectively block outgoing radiation from the surface, reducing or even completely reversing the thermal emission contrast between dayside and nightside. The presence of substellar water clouds and the resulting clement surface conditions will therefore be detectable with the James Webb Space Telescope.
Tidally locked hot planets
Tidally locked hot planet: Modeling of Gliese 581c and HD85512b

$S/4=860 \text{ W/m}^2$ (250% Earth flux!) (Leconte et al. A&A 2013)

- **A bistable climate**
  - Planet in “runaway greenhouse state”: with all water vapor in the atmosphere: super-hot climate
  - Water collapsed (frozen) on the night side.
Possibility of liquid water on tidally locked hot planet (Leconte et al. A&A 2013)
Toward a better understanding of the habitable zone with full climate models...

Adapted and modified from Kasting and Harman (2013)
Conclusions: Atmospheres, Climate and Habitability (1/2)

- Stellar insolation
- Atmospheric composition and surface volatile inventory
- Rotation (rate and obliquity)

Key problem: understanding of the zoology of atmospheric composition, controlled by complex processes:
- Formation of planets and atmospheres
- Escape to space
- Interaction with the surface & interior
- Photochemical evolution

Can we already speculate?

For given parameters and atmospheres, Global Climate Models are fit to explore the climate and habitability of terrestrial exoplanets. However, whatever the quality of the model, heavy study of model sensitivity to parameters will always be necessary (climate instabilities).
Expected dominant species in an terrestrial planet atmospheres (abiotic)

Forget and Leconte (2013), «Possible climate on terrestrial exoplanets»
Conclusions: Atmospheres, Climate and Habitability (2/2)

- Stellar insolation
- Atmospheric composition and surface volatile inventory
- Rotation (rate and obliquity)

Key problem: understanding of the zoology of atmospheric composition, controlled by complex processes:
- Formation of planets and atmospheres
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⇒ We need observations!
⇒ We can learn a lot from atmospheres well outside the Habitable zone

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