Approaching Copenhagen: The state of negotiations

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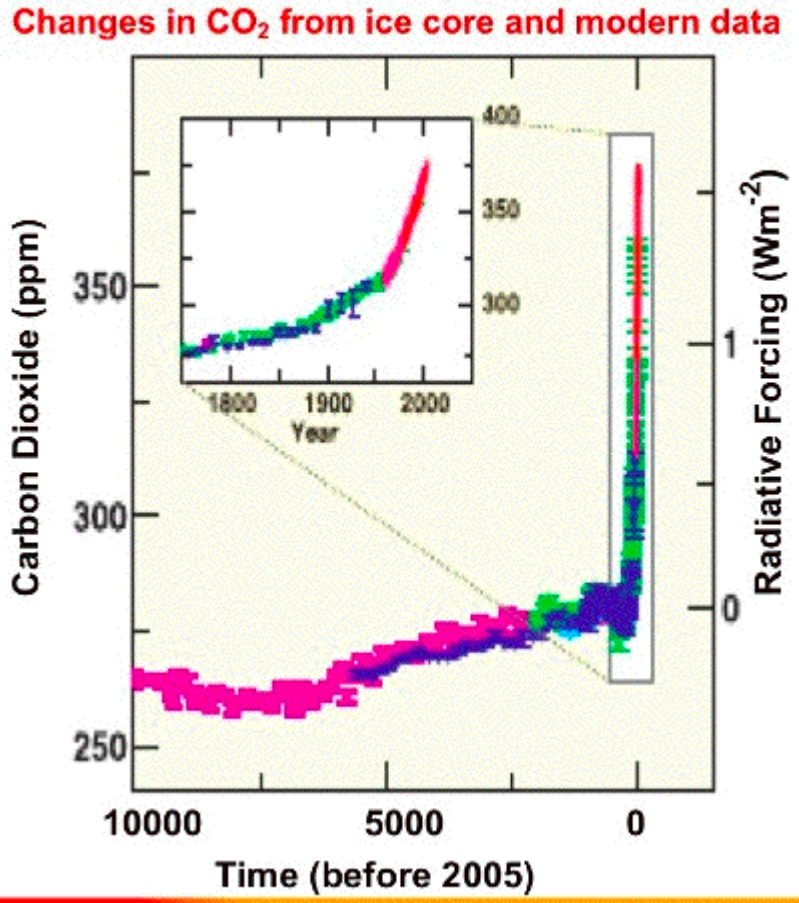
Main points

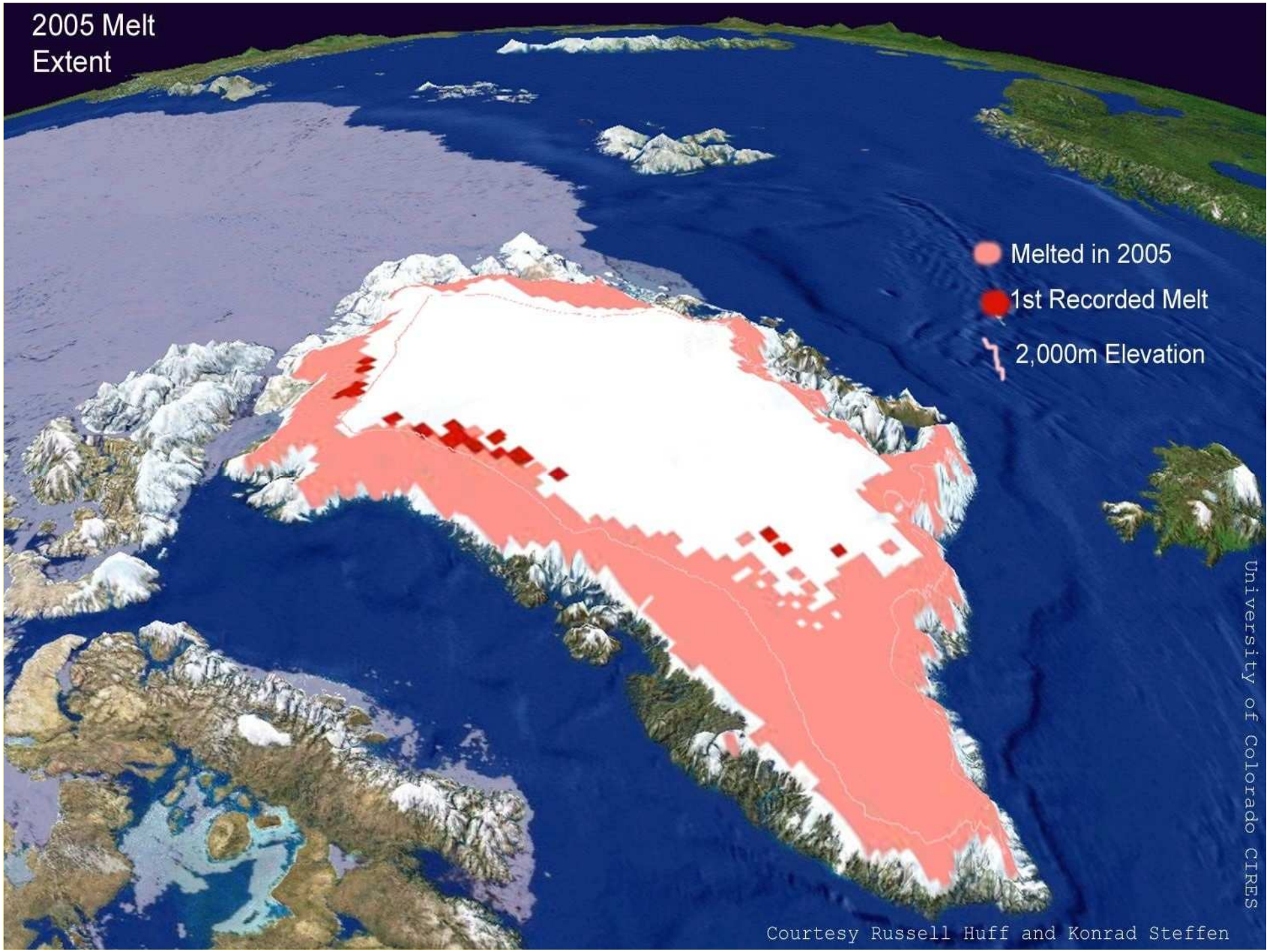
1. **Science** of climate change (3 - 7)
2. **Economics** of climate change (8 - 9)
3. **Politics** of international negotiations on climate change (10 - 11)
4. Prospects for **Copenhagen** (7-18 Dec. 2009) (12 - 15)

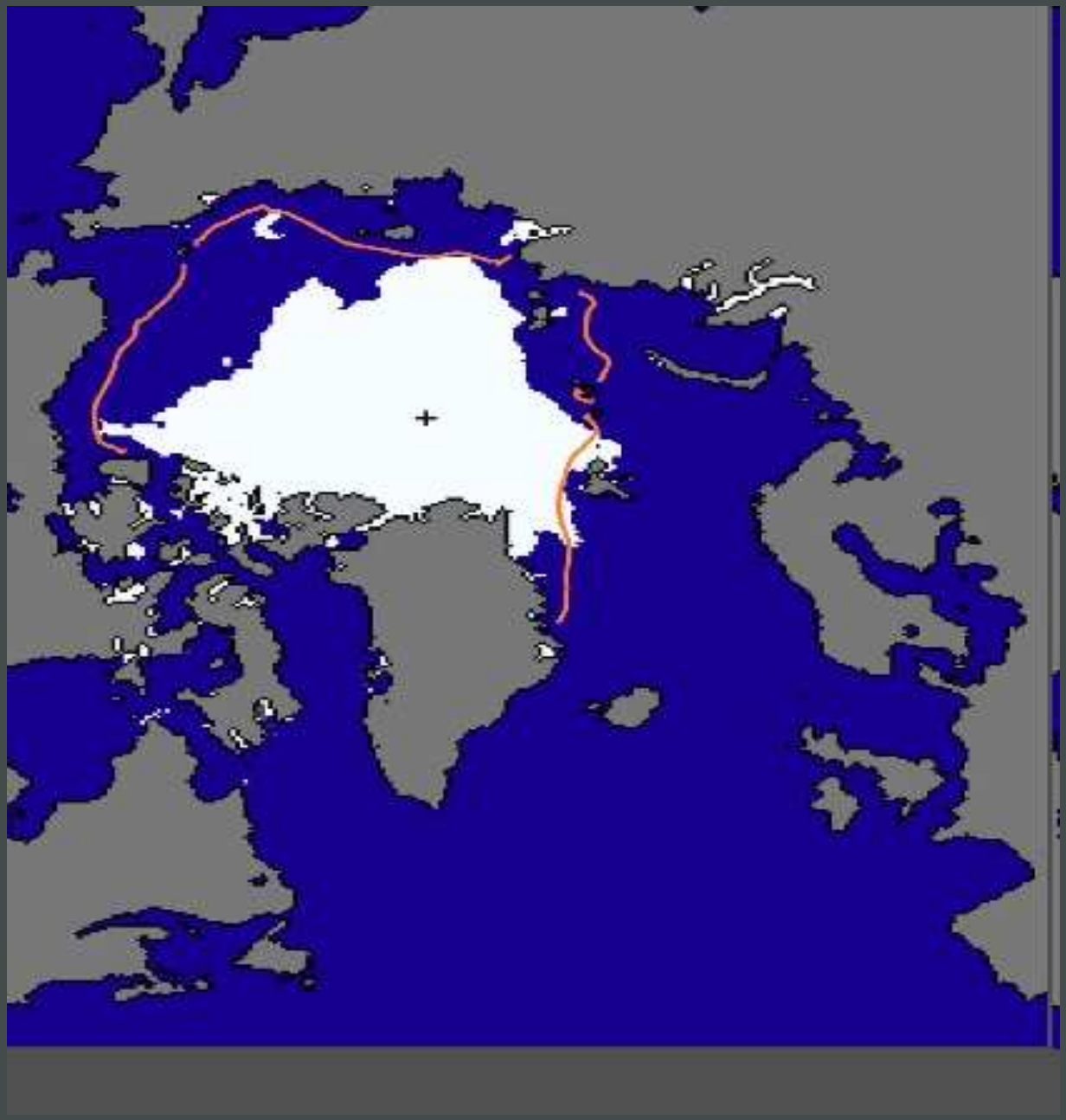
Human contribution to climate change

Global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases **increased markedly as result of human activities**

In 2005 concentration of CO_2 **exceeded by far the natural range** over the last 650,000 years




2005 Melt Extent
Melted in 2005
1st Recorded Melt
2,000m Elevation
Courtesy Russell Huff and Konrad Steffen
University of Colorado CIRES



Arctic sea ice 12 Sept 2008

(NSIDC, Boulder CO)

1979-2000

Key scientific messages
(IPCC 2007)

- Human-induced climate change is **unequivocal**
  - = major factor in global warming
- Impacts **generally negative** …
  - Water stress - but food +/- up to 2°C
  - Extreme weather (heat waves, storms, floods)
  - Sea-level rise, melting glaciers & ice-caps
  - Spread of tropical diseases, species extinction
- And **inequitable**
  - Hitting vulnerable and poor people, countries
  - Driving climatic refugees

Key science-based judgments

- **+2°C** = limit of “safety”
  - tolerable with assistance to those most vulnerable
- **450** ppm GHG concentrations (380 ppm)
- Global emissions should **peak by 2020**
- And fall by **50%** by **2050**
- BUT science does **not** tell us **who** should reduce by **how much**!

Key economic messages

(IPCC 2007, Stern Review, IEA, "Project Catalyst" …)

- **Challenge: global transition to low-emission production and consumption**

- **Pathway to "safety" is affordable (IPCC)**
  - Global GDP growth <0.12% per annum to 2030
- Energy saving can make a major contribution
- Many efficiency options have negative cost
  - And/or collateral benefits (e.g. clean air)
- Forestry and agriculture = low-cost options

Economic messages (contd.)

- Tough transitions:
  - Power generation (coal)
  - Transport (oil)
  - Buildings
- Policies and incentives needed to overcome inertia
- Delay raises costs, locks in old technologies
- **Prevention is cheaper than cure (Stern)**
  - If we value future generations!

Negotiating dynamics: from divergences …

- **Motivation to act is highly variable**
  - Difference between cause and effect
  - Difference in capacity to cope
  - Difference in assessment of costs & benefits (cf. Arctic)
- **Conventional traps (finger-pointing)**
  - Responsibility: for past or for future
  - Emissions metrics: aggregate or per head
- **NB. Emissions per head**
  - USA = 2.5 x EU = 2.5 x China = 2.5 x India

… to shared vision

- **Change mode - from burden-sharing to shared vision of cooperation**:
  - Against common threat
  - For shared opportunities
  - Towards fair outcomes
- Differentiated commitments (developed/developing)
  - Reflecting circumstances, capabilities
- Common framework of accountability & trust

Copenhagen process: two tracks

The Convention track (AWG-LCA)

- Adaptation
- Mitigation commitments by non-Kyoto developed countries - **i.e. USA**
- Mitigation actions by **developing countries**
  - including REDD-plus
- Finance
- Technology

The Kyoto track (AWG-KP)

- **Mitigation commitments beyond 2012**
  - Scope (gases), rules (LULUCF), mechanisms

NB. Other processes: MEF, G.20

Copenhagen issues: 1. Adaptation

- Main interest of majority of developing countries
  - Least-developed, islands …
  - But most vulnerable people live elsewhere
- Main issue: finance (additional to ODA)
  - For adaptation plans and actions
  - Source(s), governance. Eligibility, access
- Up-front commitment in Copenhagen

2. Mitigation by developed countries

- Global goal (minus 50% by 2050)
- Medium-term commitments
  - Comparability: Kyoto Parties & USA
  - Domestic efforts & offsets
- **25 - 40% below 1990 by 2020**
  - EU: 20 => 30
  - Japan: 8 => **25**?
  - USA: 0 => ??
  - Russian Fed: no reduction
  - **Total: [11-15]**

3. *Enabling* mitigation by developing countries

- **Actions or plans**
- **NB. REDD-plus**
- **Technology**
  - 2020 peak: efficiency + current technologies
  - Incentives for transfer in key sectors
  - 2050 goal: new technologies => shared remedies => cooperative R&D
- **Finance**
  - Private sector: Green FDI
  - More public finance
    - New sources that do not hit tax-payer
    - Delivery mechanisms of required scale
    - Governance beyond donor-recipient mentality

Political postscripts

- CC = not unique => failure of markets, social responsibility, governance
- CC => bigger picture => policy coherence
- Integrate CC in economy, sustainable development
- War on two fronts: poverty & climate change
  - Energy access for bottom billion(s)
- Targeted strategy
  - Don’t ignore climate change losers
  - Don’t subsidize development winners

For more information

www.ipcc.ch

www.unfccc.int

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