



V. Moisture in the Atmosphere





A. <u>The Hydrologic Cycle (or Water Cycle)</u>



- 1. A huge system powered by Energy from the Sun in which the atmosphere is the link between <u>oceans</u> and <u>continents</u>.
- 2. A continuous exchange of water among <u>oceans</u>, the <u>atmosphere</u> and the <u>continents</u>.
- **3. Water leaves Earth's surface by:**
 - a. **Evaporation** from surface water.
 - b. <u>Transpiration</u> from plants
 - c. Evapotranspiration : The combined total of evaporation and transpiration for a region is usually used in climate data.
 - d. Water returns to Earth's surface as <u>precipitation</u> (after cloud formation).

3. Water Budget (Balance)

- a. A **quantitative (mathematical)** depiction of the water cycle.
- b. Amount of water cycled through the atmosphere yearly is immense (380,000 cubic kilometers) even though the amount of water vapor in the air is a small fraction of this total water supply.
- c. Average annual precipitation over Earth is <u>equal</u> to the quantity of water evaporated.
 - (1) Over continents: precipitation is greater than evaporation
 - (2) Over oceans: <u>evaporation</u> is greater than <u>precipitation</u> (Runoff from land areas keeps the ocean level constant).

B. Change in Phase (State) of Water

- 1. Requires the <u>addition</u> or <u>loss</u> of heat
 - a.Calorie/Joule The amount of heat necessary to raise the temperature of one gram of water one degree Celsius.

Correct this in your notes

- b. Latent Heat:
 - (1) Heat exchanged between water and its surroundings when water changes phase.
 - (2) Latent refers to "hidden" heat.

2. Changes in State



- a. Melting:
 - (1) **Solid** water changes phase to **liquid**
 - (2) Requires the addition f heat which is stored as latent heat of fusion (melting)
- b. Evaporation: (is a cooling process removes heat from its environment)
 - (1) Liquid water changes phase to water vapor
 - (2) Requires the addition of heat which is stored as latent heat of vaporization

2. <u>Changes in State</u>



- c. Condensation: (Warming process- releases heat back to the environment)
 - (1) <u>Water vapor</u> changes phase to <u>liquid</u>
 - (2) Requires the loss of heat which is released as latent heat
- d. Freezing:
 - (1) Liquid water changes phase to solid (ice)
 - (2) Requires the ______ of heat (cooling processes) which is released as ______ latent heat

e. <u>Sublimation and Deposition</u>



- (1) Sublimation is a phase change in which the **liquid phase is skipped**.
- (2) Chemists use the term for:
 - (a) Solid changing phase directly to gas
 - (b) Gas changing phase directly to solid.
- (3) Meteorologists use the term sublimation only for the phase change of **solid (ice) to liquid**.

(4)

Deposition



(a) This is the term meteorologists use for gas changing phase directly to solid.

(b) Water vapor is deposited as ice on solid objects

- (i) Formation of "cold" clouds (temperatures below freezing).
- (ii) Frost

Latent Heat in the ESRT



Latent Heat in the ESRT



Latent Heat Gained or Lost Can be Calculated Using the Following Equations

Latent Heat for solid
 Liquid

$Q = m \cdot H_f$

- Where:
 - Q = Heat Lost or Gained
 - m = Mass in grams
 - H_f = Latent Heat of Fusion
- Latent Heat for liquid gas
 Q = m · H_v
 - Where:
 - H_v = Latent Heat of Vaporization

Sample Problem

- How much heat energy is required to vaporize 10 grams of ice?
 - First determine the amount of heat necessary to melt the ice.

$$Q = m_{e} H_{f}$$

 $Q = (10g)(334 J)$
 g

Grams cancel leaving calories

 Next determine how much additional heat must be added to the liquid water to change it from liquid to gas.

> $Q = m \cdot H_v$ Q = (10g)(2260 J)Q = 22,600 J

- Total Heat = Heat required to melt the ice plus the heat required to evaporate the water.
- Q = 3,340 J + 22,600 J
- Q = 25,940 J

Good Morning 🙂

- Please pass both Text HWs to the right..
- HW tonight...
 - "Atmospheric Moisture Wksht."
 - 1. Finish Part A (UPCO RB -on Dew Point # 1-15)
 - 2. READ finding Rel. Humidity using Sat. Vap. Press.
 - 3. Complete Part B. (# 1-3)

Today:

- finding Rel. Humidity using Sat. Vap. Press.
- finding Cloud Base Altitude
- Can we make a cloud?
- Why is Seattle, WA so rainy?

Heating Curve for Water



Try Properties of Water Questions (ESRT packet)

C. <u>Humidity: Water Vapor in the Air</u>

- 1. <u>Humidity</u>: The general term to describe the amount of water vapor in the air. Meteorologists use several methods to express the water-vapor content of air.
 - We will consider three methods to express the water vapor content of air
 - Mixing Ratio
 - Specific Humidity
 - Relative Humidity

a. Mixing Ratio

(1) The <u>mass</u> of water vapor in a unit of air compared to the <u>remaining mass</u> of dry air.

(2) Expressed as:

Mixing Ratio = mass of water vapor (grams) mass of dry air (kg)

(3) Not affected by changes in pressure or temperature

b. Specific Humidity

(1) Mass of water vapor in a unit mass of air *including* water vapor.

(2) Amount of water vapor is usually very low, only a few percent of the total mass.

(3) Considered the equivalent of mixing ratio

Absolute Humidity

- The Ratio of mass of water vapor to the volume of air –water vapor mixture
- grams/meter³
- Absolute humidity in air ranges from zero to roughly 30 grams per cubic meter when the air is saturated at 30 °C.

Mixing Ratio vs. Absolute Humidity



 Mixing ratio is not affected by changes in pressure as the parcel of air rises and expands.

2. Vapor Pressure and Saturation



Air containing water vapor molecules

Vapor pressure may range from only 1 mb to 16 mb of the total air pressure reading.

a. Vapor Pressure:

(1) The <u>partial</u> pressure that results from the addition of water vapor molecules.

(2) The part of the total atmospheric pressure due to <u>water vapor</u> content.

b. Saturation (how does it occur?)



 Initially, many <u>more</u>molecules will leave the water surface than will <u>return</u>. (Evaporation occurs at a greater rate than condensation.)

- (2) As more water molecules evaporate and enter the air.
 - (a) Vapor pressure increases in the air above the liquid.
 - (b) This forces more water molecules to <u>return</u> to the <u>liquid (condense)</u>.



- a. The number of molecules of water returning to the liquid balances the number leaving.
- b. <u>Saturation</u> Vapor Pressure: The partial vapor pressure exerted by the motion of the water vapor molecules when the air is saturated.

(c) Saturation Vapor Pressure is Temperature Dependent



- (i) As temperature <u>increases</u>, the rate at which water molecules leave the liquid <u>increases</u>.
- (ii) Vapor pressure in the air above increases until a new <u>equilibrium</u> is reached.
- (iii) Therefore, at <u>higher</u> temperatures it takes <u>more</u> water vapor to saturate the air.

3. <u>Relative Humidity</u>

- a. Ratio of the air's <u>actual</u> water vapor content
 compared with the amount of water vapor required for <u>saturation</u> at that temperature.
- b. Saturated air has a relative humidity of <u>100</u> percent.
- c. Relative humidity can change as a result of:

(1) Changing the amount of moisture in the air

(2) Temperature change of the air

Changing the Amount of Moisture

(a) Initial condition	(b) Addition of 5 grams of water vapor	(c) Addition of 10 grams of water vap	oor							
Tempe 25°C 5 grams H ₂ O vapor	(a) Initial condition Temps 25°C Summary As the water vapor content of the air increases, the lative humidity increases Evaporation									
			Temperature	e Saturation						
1. Saturation mixing rati	o 1. Saturation mixing ratio	1. Saturation mixing ratio	°C (°F)	Mixing Ratio (g/kg)						
at 25°C = 20 grams*	at 25°C = 20 grams*	at 25°C = 20 grams*	-40(-40)	0.1						
2. H ₂ O vapor content =	2. H ₂ O vapor content =	2. H_2O vapor content =	-30(-22) -20(-4)	0.75						
5 grams	10 grams	20 grams	-10(14)	2						
3. Relative humidity =	3. Relative humidity =	3. Relative humidity =	0 (32)	3.5						
725 - 2576	720 = 50 70	720 - 10070	5 (41)	5						
Relative	Humidity = Water	/apor Content	10 (50)	7						
i conditi o	15 (59)	10								
	20 (68)	14								
	25 (77)	26 5								
	35 (95)	35								
			40 (104)	47						

Changing the Temperature of the Air



Daily Changes in Relative Humidity



Typical daily variation in temperature and relative humidity on a spring day in a middle latitude location

Dehumidifiers





Humidifiers





Heat Index

Relative Humidity (%)											With prolonged					
		40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	physical activity	
(H)	110	136													Extreme danger Heat stroke or sunstroke highly likely Danger Sunstroke, muscle cramps	
	108	130	137													
	106	124	130	137												
	104	119	124	131	137											
	102	114	119	124	130	137										
	100	109	114	118	124	129	136									
Ire (98	105	109	113	117	123	128	134							and/or heat	
Air Temperatu	96	101	104	108	112	116	121	126	132						exhaustion likely	
	94	97	100	102	106	110	114	119	124	129	135				Extreme caution Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible	
	92	94	96	99	101	105	108	112	116	121	126	131				
	90	91	93	95	97	100	103	106	109	113	117	122	127	132		
	88	88	89	91	93	95	98	100	103	106	110	113	117	121		
	86	85	87	88	89	91	93	95	97	100	102	105	108	112	Caution Fatigue possible	
	84	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	92	94	96	98	100	103		
	82	81	82	83	84	84	85	86	88	89	90	91	93	95		
	80	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	84	85	86	86	87		

D. <u>Dew Point Temperature</u>

- 1. The temperature to which a parcel of air must be cooled to reach saturation _
- 2. As air cools to this temperature, condensation or deposition occurs.
- 3. Formation of <u>clouds</u>, <u>fog</u>, <u>dew</u>, or <u>frost</u>.
- 4. Dew point is a good measure of the amount of water vapor in the air.
 - a. Directly related to the <u>actual amount</u> of water vapor in the air.
 - b. It's easy to determine.
 - c. It's plotted on the weather map station model.
- 5. The closer the dew point temperature is to the <u>air temperature</u>, the higher the relative humidity.
- 6. Dew point temperature will not <u>exceed</u> the air temperature.

Dew Point Temperature on the Station Model



E. <u>Measuring Humidity</u>

Hygrometers are Instruments Used to Measure Humidity
1. Sling Psychrometer

Wet-Bulb indicates the moisture

indicates the air temperature

Content • Evapora tempera • Drier air evapora tempera



Dry bulb thermometer gives current air. temperature Wick is dipped in water Thermometers are swung around handle When swung, water evaporates from the wick, cooling the wetbulb thermometer. Drier air results in lower temperature Dry-Buib Thermometer

Hygrometer



The Hair Hygrometer



Determining Relative Humidity Using a Psychrometer and the ESRT

Dewpoint (°C)

Dry-Bulb Tempera-			Diff	ferenc	e Bet	ween	Wet-E	Bulb a	nd Dr	y-Bull	b Tem	perat	ures (C°)		
ture (°C)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
-20	-20	-33									March 1					
-18	-18	-28														
-16	-16	-24														
-14	-14	-21	-36													
-12	-12	-18	-28									-				
-10	-10	-14	-22						-							
-8	-8	-12	-18	-29									1.1.1	1	1.1.1.2	
-6	-6	-10	-14	-22												
-4	-4	-7	-12	-17	-29											
-2	-2	-5	-8	-13	-20											
0	0	-3	-6	-9	-15	-24										
2	2	-1	-3	-6	-11	-17										
4	4	1	-1	-4	-7	-11	-19									
6	6	4	1	-1	-4	-7	-13	-21								
8	8	6	3	1	-2	-5	-9	-14								
10	10	8	6	4	1	-2	-5	-9	-14	-28						
12	12	10	8	6	4	1	-2	-5	-9	-16						
14	14	12	11	9	6	4	1	-2	-5	-10	-17					
16	16	. 14	13	11	9	7	4	1	-1	-6	-10	-17				
18	18	16	15	13	11	9	7	4	2	-2	-5	-10	-19			
20	20	19	17	15	14	12	10	7	4	2	-2	-5	-10	-19		
22	22	21	19	17	16	14	12	10	8	5	3	-1	-5	-10	-19	
24	24	23	21	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	2	-1	-5	-10	-18
26	26	25	23	22	20	18	17	15	13	11	9	6	3	0	-4	-9
28	28	27	25	24	22	21	19	17	16	14	11	9	7	4	1	-3
30	30	29	27	26	24	23	21	19	18	16	14	12	10	8	5	1

Dry-Bulb			Diffe	erenc	e Betv	veen \	Net-B	ulb ar	nd Dry	-Bulb	Temp	peratu	ires (C	C°)		
ture (°C)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
-20	100	28				-										
-18	100	40														
-16	100	48														
-14	100	55	11													
-12	100	61	23													
-10	100	66	33				-									
-8	100	71	41	13												
-6	100	73	48	20												
-4	100	77	54	32	11											
-2	100	79	58	37	20	1	-									
0	100	81	63	45	28	11										
2	100	83	67	51	36	20	6									
4	100	85	70	56	42	27	14									
6	100	86	72	59	46	35	22	10								_
8	100	87	74	62	51	39	28	17	6							
10	100	88	76	65	54	43	33	24	13	4						_
12	100	88	78	67	57	48	38	28	19	10	2					
14	100	89	79	69	60	50	41	33	25	16	8	1				
16	100	90	80	71	62	54	45	37	29	21	14	7	1			_
18	100	91	81	72	64	56	48	40	33	26	19	12	6			
20	100	91	82	74	66	58	51	44	36	30	23	17	11	5		
22	100	92	83	75	68	60	53	46	40	33	27	21	15	10	4	
24	100	92	84	76	69	62	55	49	42	36	30	25	20	14	9	4
26	100	92	85	77	70	64	57	51	45	39	34	28	23	18	13	9
28	100	93	86	78	71	65	59	53	47	42	36	31	26	21	17	12
30	100	93	86	79	72	66	61	55	49	44	39	34	29	25	20	16

Physical Setting/Earth Science Reference Tables - 2010 Edition

Determining Relative Humidity Using a Psychrometer and the ESRT

Dry-Bulb = 20° C Relative Humidity (%) Wet-Bulb = 12° C																		
Dry-Bu	ulb		<	Diff	erenc	e Bet	ween	Wet-E	Bulb ar	nd Dr	y-Bull	b Tem	perat	ures (C°)		>	
ture (°	C)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
-20		100	28			-												
-18		100	40															
-16		100	48															
-14		100	55	11														
-12		100	61	23														
-10		100	66	33														
-8		100	71	41	13													
-6		100	73	48	20													
-4		100	77	54	32	11												
-2		100	79	58	37	20	1											
0		100	81	63	45	28	11											
2		100	83	67	51	36	20	6										
4		100	85	70	56	42	27	14										
6		100	86	72	59	46	35	22	10									
8		100	87	74	62	51	39	28	17	6						-		,
10		100	88	76	65	54	43	33	24	13	4		KI			36		h
12		100	88	78	67	57	48	38	28	19	10	2						
14		100	89	79	69	60	50	41	33	25	16	8	1					
16		100	90	80	71	62	54	45	37	29	21	14	7	1				
18		100	91	81	72	64	56	48	40	23	26	19	12	6				
20		100	91	82	74	66	58	51	44	36	80	23	17	11	5			
22		100	92	83	75	68	60	53	46	40	33	27	21	15	10	4		
24		100	92	84	76	69	62	55	49	42	36	30	25	20	14	9	4	
26		100	92	85	77	70	64	57	51	45	39	34	28	23	18	13	9	
28		100	93	86	78	71	65	59	53	47	42	36	31	26	21	17	12	
30		100	93	86	79	72	66	61	55	49	44	39	34	29	25	20	16	

Determining Relative Humidity Using a Psychrometer and the ESRT

	Dry-B	v-Bulb = 20° C Relative Humidity (%)												et-B	Bulk) = '	18º	C
(Dry-Bulb Tempera-			Diffe	erenc	e Bet	ween	Wet-E	Bulb a	nd Dr	y-Bull	b Tem	perat	ures (C°)			
V	ture (°C)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	20	100	28															
	-18	100	40															
	-16	100	48															
	-14	100	55	11														
	-12	100	61	23														
	-10	100	66	33														
	-8	100	71	41	13													
	-6	100	73	48	20													
	-4	100	77	54	32	11									ei			
	-2	100	79	58	37	20	1											
	0	100	81	63	45	28	11	-							2			
	2	100	83	6/	51	36	20	6										
	4	100	85	70	56	42	27	14	10									
	0	100	86	72	59	46	35	22	10	0				-				
	0	100	87	74	62	51	39	28	04	12	1		Kł				/	
	12	100	00	70	67	54 57	43	20	24	10	10	0						
	14	100	80	70	60	60	50	/1	20	25	16	2	1					
	16	100	90	80	71	62	54	45	37	20	21	14	7	1				
	18	100	91	81	72	64	56	48	40	33	26	19	12	6				
	20	100	91	82	74	66	58	51	44	36	30	23	17	11	5			
	22	100	92	83	75	68	60	53	46	40	33	27	21	15	10	4		
	24	100	92	84	76	69	62	55	49	42	36	30	25	20	14	9	4	
	26	100	92	85	77	70	64	57	51	45	39	34	28	23	18	13	9	
	28	100	93	86	78	71	65	59	53	47	42	36	31	26	21	17	12	
	30	100	93	86	79	72	66	61	55	49	44	39	34	29	25	20	16	

Determining Dew Point Temperature Using a Psychrometer and the ESRT

Dry-Bulb		Difference Between Wet-Bulb and Dry-Bulb Temperatures (C°) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15														
ture (°C)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
-20	-20	-33									1000					
-18	-18	-28														
-16	-16	-24														
-14	-14	-21	-36													
-12	-12	-18	-28													
-10	-10	-14	-22	3												
-8	-8	-12	-18	-29									1			
-6	-6	-10	-14	-22												
-4	-4	-7	-12	-17	-29											
-2	-2	-5	-8	-13	-20										_	
0	0	-3	-6	-9	-15	-24										
2	2	-1	-3	-6	-11	-17						- 22		-		
4	4	1	-1	-4	-7	-11	-19									
6	6	4	1	-1	-4	-7	-13	-21								
8	8	6	3	1	-2	-5	-9	-14								
10	10	8	6	4	1	-2	-5	-9	-14	-28						
12	12	10	8	6	4	1	-2	-5	-9	-16						
14	14	12	11	9	6	4	1	-2	-5	-10	-17					
16	16	. 14	13	11	9	7	4	1	-1	-6	-10	-17				
18	18	16	15	13	11	9	7	4	2	-2	-5	-10	-19			
20	20	19	17	15	14	12	10	7	4	2	-2	-5	-10	-19		
22	22	21	19	17	16	14	12	10	8	5	3	-1	-5	-10	-19	
24	24	23	21	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	2	-1	-5	-10	-18
26	26	25	23	22	20	18	17	15	13	11	9	6	3	0	-4	-9
28	28	27	25	24	22	21	19	17	16	14	11	9	7	4	1	-3
30	30	29	27	26	24	23	21	19	18	16	14	12	10	8	5	1

Relative Humidity (%)

Dry-Bulb Tempera-		Difference Between Wet-Bulb and Dry-Bulb Temperatures (C°) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15														
ture (°C)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
-20	100	28				-										
-18	100	40														
-16	100	48														
-14	100	55	11													
-12	100	61	23													
-10	100	66	33													
-8	100	71	41	13												-
-6	100	73	48	20					-							
-4	100	77	54	32	11											
-2	100	79	58	37	20	1	-									
0	100	81	63	45	28	11										
2	100	83	67	51	36	20	6									
4	100	85	70	56	42	27	14									
6	100	86	72	59	46	35	22	10								
8	100	87	74	62	51	39	28	17	6							
10	100	88	76	65	54	43	33	24	13	4						_
12	100	88	78	67	57	48	38	28	19	10	2					
14	100	89	79	69	60	50	41	33	25	16	8	1				
16	100	90	80	71	62	54	45	37	29	21	14	7	1			
18	100	91	81	72	64	56	48	40	33	26	19	12	6	_		
20	100	91	82	74	66	58	51	44	36	30	23	17	11	5		
22	100	92	83	75	68	60	53	46	40	33	27	21	15	10	4	
24	100	92	84	76	69	62	55	49	42	36	30	25	20	14	9	4
26	100	92	85	77	70	64	57	51	45	39	34	28	23	18	13	9
28	100	93	86	78	71	65	59	53	47	42	36	31	26	21	17	12
30	100	93	86	79	72	66	61	55	49	44	39	34	29	25	20	16

Physical Setting/Earth Science Reference Tables - 2010 Edition

Determining Dew Point Temperature Using a Psychrometer and the ESRT



Determining Dew Point Temperature Using a Psychrometer and the ESRT

	Dry-l	Bul	b =	= 20	• C		Dev	wpo	int	(°C)			We	t-B	ulb) = 1	<mark>8</mark> 0
	Dry-Bulb Tempera-				ierend	e Bet	ween	Wet-E	Bulb a	nd Dr	y-Bul	b Tem	perat	ures (C°)		
	ture (°C)	0	•	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	-20	-20	-3				55 G.					5					
	-18	-18	-28														
L	-16	-16	-24														
L	-14	-14	-2	-36													
L	-12	-12	-18	-28							_						
	-10	-10	-14	-22					JE		e						
L	-8	-8	-12	-18	-29												
	-6	-6	-10	-14	-22												
L	-4	-4			_17	-29											
L	-2	-2	- 5	-8	-13	-20											
L	0	0	-:	-6	-9	-15	-24										
	2	2		-3	-6		_17										
L	4	4		1	-4	-7	-11	-19									
┝	6	6	4	1	1	-4	-7	-13	-21								
	8	8	6	3	1	-2	-5	-9	-14	4.4	- 00						
-	10	10	5	6	4	1	-2	-5	-9	-14	-28						
\vdash	14	12	1	8	6	4	1	-2	-5	-9	-10	17					
┝	14	14	12	12		0	4		-2	-5	-10	-17	17				
\vdash	10	10	14	15	12	9	/	4	1	-1	-0	-10	-1/	10			
F	20	20	10	17	15	14	12	10	7	1	2	_2	5	_10	_10		
ŀ	20	20	2	17	17	16	1/	12	10	4	5	-2 -2	1	-10	_10	_10	
F	24	24	2	21	20	18	16	1/	12	10	2	6	2		5	_10	_18
F	26	26	2	23	22	20	18	17	15	13	11	9	6	3	0	_4	_0
F	28	28	2	25	24	22	21	19	17	16	14	11	9	7	4	1	-3
	30	30	29	27	26	24	23	21	19	18	16	14	12	10	8	5	1
	••		`					- '									

• Find the relative humidity and dew point outside with the student psychrometers.

Finding Relative Humidity Using Saturation Vapor Pressure

- Vapor pressure increases as relative humidity increases.
 - Air with a relative humidity of 25%
 - Has 25% as many water vapor molecules as when it's saturated
 - If the vapor content doubles to 50%
 - Vapor pressure also doubles to 50%

Finding Relative Humidity Using Saturation Vapor Pressure

- Relative humidity is a measure of how close the air is to saturation.
 - It's expressed as a ratio of:
 - water vapor content in the air to
 - the maximum amount of water vapor it could hold at a given temperature.
- Relative humidity can be calculated if we know the:
 - Actual Vapor pressure (determined by the vapor present in the air) at a given temperature
 - Saturation Vapor Pressure at that temperature.

Saturation Vapor Pressure

Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)	Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)	Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)
30	41.9	13	14.8	-4	4.3
29	39.7	12	13.9	-5	4.0
28	37.6	11	13.0	-6	3.8
27	35.5	10	12.2	-7	3.5
26	33.4	9	11.4	-8	3.2
25	31.4	8	10.7	-9	2.9
24	29.6	7	10.0	-10	2.6
23	27.8	6	9.3	-11	2.4
22	26.1	5	8.7	-12	2.2
21	24.6	4	8.1	-13	2.0
20	23.2	3	7.5	-14	1.8
19	21.8	2	7.0	-15	1.7
18	20.5	1	6.5	-16	1.5
17	19.2	0	6.1	-17	1.4
16	18.0	-1	5.6	-18	1.3
15	16.9	-2	5.1	-19	1.1
14	15.8	-3	4.7	-20	1.0

Finding Relative Humidity Using Saturation Vapor Pressure

 The ratio of the actual water vapor content to it's saturation vapor pressure can be expressed using the following equation:



- The dew point temperature is used to find the actual vapor pressure.
 - Dewpoint is determined by the water vapor content of the air at a given temperature.

Sample Problem

- <u>Given</u>:
 - Air temperature = 20° C
 - Dewpoint temperature = 15° C
- <u>Step 1</u>: Find the actual vapor pressure.
 - Use the saturation vapor pressure of the dewpoint temperature.
 - From the chart, this value is 16.9 mb.

Saturation Vapor Pressure

Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)	Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)	Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)
30	41.9	13	14.8	-4	4.3
29	39.7	12	13.9	-5	4.0
28	37.6	11	13.0	-6	3.8
27	35.5	10	12.2	-7	3.5
26	33.4	9	11.4	-8	3.2
25	31.4	8	10.7	-9	2.9
24	29.6	7	10.0	-10	2.6
23	27.8	6	9.3	-11	2.4
22	26.1	5	8.7	-12	2.2
21	24.6	4	8.1	-13	2.0
20	23.2	3	7.5	-14	1.8
19	21.8	2	7.0	-15	1.7
18	20.5	1	6.5	-16	1.5
17	19.2	0	6.1	-17	1.4
16	18.0	-1	5.6	-18	1.3
15 >	16.9	-2	5.1	-19	1.1
14	15.8	-3	4.7	-20	1.0

Sample Problem Continued...

- <u>Step 2</u>: Find the saturation vapor pressure of the actual air temperature.
 - This will indicate what the vapor pressure would be if the air was saturated.
 - From the chart, this value is 23.2 mb.

Saturation Vapor Pressure

Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)	Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)	Temperature (°C)	Saturated Vapor Pressure (mb)
30	41.9	13	14.8	-4	4.3
29	39.7	12	13.9	-5	4.0
28	37.6	11	13.0	-6	3.8
27	35.5	10	12.2	-7	3.5
26	33.4	9	11.4	-8	3.2
25	31.4	8	10.7	-9	2.9
24	29.6	7	10.0	-10	2.6
23	27.8	6	<u>9</u> .3	-11	2.4
22	26.1	5	8.7	-12	2.2
21	24.6	4	8.1	-13	2.0
20	23.2	3	7.5	-14	1.8
19	21.8	2	7.0	-15	1.7
18	20.5	1	6.5	-16	1.5
17	19.2	0	6.1	-17	1.4
16	18.0	-1	5.6	-18	1.3
15	16.9	-2	5.1	-19	1.1
14	15.8	-3	4.7	-20	1.0

Sample Problem Continued...

• <u>Step 3</u>: Substitute the values determined in steps 1 and 2 into the equation for relative humidity.



Sample Problem Continued . . .

• <u>Step 3</u>: Substitute the values determined in steps 1 and 2 into the equation for relative humidity.

Relative Humidity =
$$\frac{16.9 \text{ mb}}{23.2 \text{ mb}}$$
 X 100

Relative Humidity = 73% (rounded to the *nearest whole number*)

F. Adiabatic Changes and Cloud Formation

1. Adiabatic changes

- a. Temperature changes without <u>exchange</u> of heat with the surroundings.
 - Temperature rises without the addition of heat.
 - Temperature falls without the loss of heat.

Adiabatic Cooling



b. Expansion of air:

- (1) Causes gas molecules to move <u>less rapidly</u>.
- (2) Air temperature decreases
- (3) Caused by air <u>expanding</u> (as it rises) and the <u>decreasing</u> air pressure around the parcel of air.

Adiabatic Heating



b. Compression of air:

- (1) Gas molecules more <u>more rapidly</u>
- (2) Air temperature increases
- (3) Caused by air being <u>compressed</u> (as it sinks) by the <u>higher</u> air pressure around the parcel of air.

Adiabatic Temperature Change



2. Dry Adiabatic Lapse Rate

- a. Applies to **unsaturated** air
- b. Ascending air <u>expands</u> causing <u>cooling</u> at 10° C/km.

3. Wet Adiabatic Lapse Rate



- a. As saturated air rises latent heat is <u>released</u> by condensation.
- b. The added heat <u>slows</u> down the rate of cooling as the air rises
- c. The wet adiabatic lapse rate varies with <u>moisture</u> content (varying amounts of latent heat released)

4. Lifting Condensation Level or (Cloud Base Altitude)

a. Altitude at which rising air has cooled to its <u>dew point</u> temperature.

b. The lifting condensation level will be the altitude of the <u>cloud base</u>.













5. Requirements for Cloud Formation

- a. <u>Humid</u> air
- b. <u>Condensation</u> (hydroscopic) Nuclei
 Salt particles from ocean spray, volcanic dust, pollen, smoke, etc.
- c. <u>Cooling</u> temperatures: Most often caused by unstable air.
- So, what is the difference between <u>unstable</u> air and <u>stable</u> air?

(1) Unstable Air

The lowermost portion of the atmosphere is warmed to a higher temperature than the air aloft.



- (a) Air that has a tendency to rise
- (b) It will rise until it reaches an altitude where its temperature is equal to that of the surrounding air.
- (c) As it rises it will cool adiabatically.





 (a) Tends to <u>remain</u> in its original position or if forced to rise will tend to sink.

(b) It's cooler (and denser) than the surrounding air
(3) Causes of Lifting



(a) Localized Convective Lifting

- (i) **Unequal** heating of Earth's surface causes pockets of air to become warmer than its surroundings.
- (ii) The parcels rise, causing thermals.

(b) Convergence



(i) Air in the lower troposphere flows <u>together</u>(ii) Lifting results as air piles up.

(c) Orographic Lifting



- (i) Mountain barriers force air to rise on the <u>windward</u> side.
- (ii) Air becomes unstable .
- (iii) Air descends on the <u>leeward</u> side and heats by compression (dry adiabatic rate)
- (iv) **Rainshadow** deserts result on the *leeward side*.

(d) Frontal Wedging



- (i) **Boundaries (fronts)** produced by collision of warm and cold air masses.
- (ii) Warm air forced <u>over</u> cooler air, forming middlelatitude cyclones (*wave cyclones*).

Warm Air is Forced to Rise Along a Frontal Boundary



- The parcel of air is cooler than the surrounding air up to nearly 3,000 m and has a tendency to sink (stability)
- Above 3,000 m the parcel is warmer than the surrounding air and will rise. (It's unstable.)
- The result can be towering cumulus clouds.

6. <u>Classification of Clouds</u>

a. **Classification by Cloud Form**

(1) Cirrus

- (a) High altitude clouds made primarily of ice crystals.
- (b) Are thin and white due to small amount of water vapor at high altitudes.
- (2) Cumulus
 - (a) Individual masses and often form on clear days.
 - (b) Often develop into vertical domes or towers.
- (3) Stratus
 - (a) A uniform layer that frequently covers much of the sky.
 - (b) Layered clouds due to horizontal air flow

6. Classification by Height

- a. <u>High</u> Clouds: Above 6000 meters (20,000 ft): Clouds in this "family" are thin, white, and composed primarily of ice crystals due to small amounts of water vapor and low temperatures
- b. <u>Middle</u> Clouds: Altitude range of 2000 to 6000 meters (6500 to 20,000 ft)
- c. Low Clouds: Base below 2000 m (6500 ft)
- d. Clouds of <u>Vertical</u> Development
 - (1) Do not fit into any of the three height families of clouds
 - (2) Bases are low and tops extend to the middle or high altitude range and are associated with unstable air.



- 1. A cloud with its base at or very near the ground.
- 2. Physically, there is <u>no</u> difference between fog and a cloud.
- 3. The basic difference is the <u>method</u> and place of <u>formation</u>.
 - a. Clouds form when air rises and cools <u>adiabatically</u>.
 - b. Fog forms from <u>cooling</u> or the addition of enough water vapor to cause <u>saturation</u>

Radiation Fog

Radiation Fog Further radiational cooling at top of fog layer, deepens it. Heat radiating from the Fog forms first at

Heat radiating from the surface at night, cools the bottom air until it reaches saturation Fog forms first at the surface, thickening as cooling continues.

- Results from radiational cooling.
- Occurs at night.
- Requires clear skies and a high relative humidity
- The cold and dense air tends to flow downslope and is often thickest in mountain valleys
- After sunrise it dissipates (often said to "lift" or "burn off"). Fog evaporates from the bottom up (due to heating of the ground).





Advection Fog



- Results from warm air being blown over a cold surface.
- Common in San Francisco, Cape Disappointment, Washington, winter months in central eastern North America

Upslope Fog





Rocky Mountains

- Formed when humid air moves up a gradual sloping plain or a steep mountain slope.
- The upward movement of the air causes it to expand and cool adiabatically. (This is the only type of fog that forms adiabatically.)

Steam Fog



- Air just above warm water becomes saturated as cool air moves over it.
- Air has a "steaming" appearance and is shallow (it re-evaporates in unsaturated air above)
- Arctic Sea Smoke is steam fog formed in winter when cold air moves off continents and ice shelves of the north into the open ocean.

H. Dew and Frost

1. **Dew**

- a. Temperature next the ground cools to its dew point
- b. Water condenses on surfaces

2. Frost

- a. Air temperature is **below** freezing.
- b. Deposition occurs on surfaces.









Precipitation: Moisture falling to Earth's <u>surface</u> from clouds. **1. Formation**

I

a.Collision-Coalescence in <u>Warm</u> Clouds (above freezing)



- (1) Larger drops <u>collide</u> with smaller ones, therefore growing in size
- (2) Drop has to survive water loss due to frictional drag (function of surface tension).
- (3) Large drops may <u>splinter</u> into small ones which in turn grow by collision and coalescence.



b. Bergeron Process in Cold Clouds (Below Freezing) Ice crystals grow at the expense of supercooled water drops.

- (1) <u>Supercooled Drops</u>: A liquid below its standard freezing point will crystallize in the presence of a seed crystal or nucleus around which a crystal structure can form. However, lacking any such nucleus, the liquid phase can be maintained.
 - (a) Pure water drops suspended in air freeze at -40° C (-40° F)
 - (b) Freeze on contact with solid particles with a crystal structure resembling ice (called *freezing nuclei*)
 - (c) Between 0° C and -10° C clouds consist of mainly supercooled water because freezing nuclei are sparse and don't become active until -10° C or lower.
 - (d) Between -10° C and -20° C supercooled drops coexist with ice crystals



The Bergeron Process

- proposed by the Swedish meteorologist Tor Bergeron
- takes place when ice crystals form high in the cloud tops.
- microscopic ice crystals attract more water vapor, causing them to increase in size.
- as the ice crystals increase in size, the vapor pressure drops (relative humidity decreases).
- this allows surrounding water droplets to evaporate, becoming smaller and smaller as the ice crystals grow.
- eventually these ice crystals become large and heavy enough that they begin to fall towards the Earth's surface.
- they pass through the lower warmer portion of clouds, attracting even more water vapor, and growing larger still.

2. Saturation Vapor Pressure of Supercooled Water vs. Ice Crystals

- (a) Ice crystals have a lower saturation vapor pressure above them.
- (b) Supercooled water drops loose water molecules at a greater rate than ice crystals which are solid.
- (c) When air is saturated with supercooled liquid droplets it is supersaturated with respect to ice crystals.
- 3. Ice serve as freezing nuclei (Similar to condensation nuclei for condensation)



- (a) Become heavy and fall, break up (air movement) and form more crystals
- (b) Become large snowflakes that usually melt before they reach the ground resulting in rain.

2. Forms of Precipitation





- a. Rain
 - (1) Liquid drops with a diameter of at least 0.5 mm (usually not larger than 5 mm)
 - (2) Often begins as <u>**snow</u>** at high altitudes</u>
- b. **Drizzle** is composed of uniform droplets with diameters less than 0.5 mm.



- (1) **Ice Crystals** that have grown as they traverse the cloud.
- (2) At temperatures greater than about -5° C, crystals usually stick together forming snowflakes







- (1) Transparent or translucent, quasi-spherical ice (diameter less than 5 mm)
- (2) Originate either as raindrops or snowflakes that have melted en route to the ground and are frozen as the move through a cold air layer near the ground.

e. Freezing Rain (Also Called glaze)



- (1) Rain or drizzle that freezes on impact with the ground or objects.
- (2) Subfreezing air near the ground is not thick enough for liquid drops to freeze although the liquid drops become supercooled.

F.<u>Hail</u>: Formed in large cumulonimbus clouds



- (1) Small balls or chunks of ice with a diameter of 5 to 75 mm (largest on record fell in Coffeyville, Kansas on Sept. 3, 1970 and was 140 mm in diameter).
- (2) Produced by successive accretion of water drops around a small kernel of ice moving through a thick cloud. Produces several layers resulting in an onion-like cross section

3. Measuring Precipitation a. Rainfall



Standard Rain Gauge

Tipping Bucket Rain Gauge



b. Snow Records





(1) <u>Snow depth</u> is measured (2) <u>Liquid</u> equivalent is determined





(1) Specific wavelengths are reflected by larger raindrops, ice crystals, or hailstones (penetrate small cloud droplets.
 (2) Echo results (reflected signal)

(2) Echo results (reflected signal)

Radar Images





Conventional Radar

Conventional radars can show the intensity of a storm, but only in regards to precipitation.

The Doppler radar measures the <u>speed</u> and direction of the wind in addition to precipitation, and receives a more comprehensive view of a storm.