

# Climate Change through the eyes of radioisotopes

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Zentralanstalt für  
Meteorologie und  
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**ZAMG**



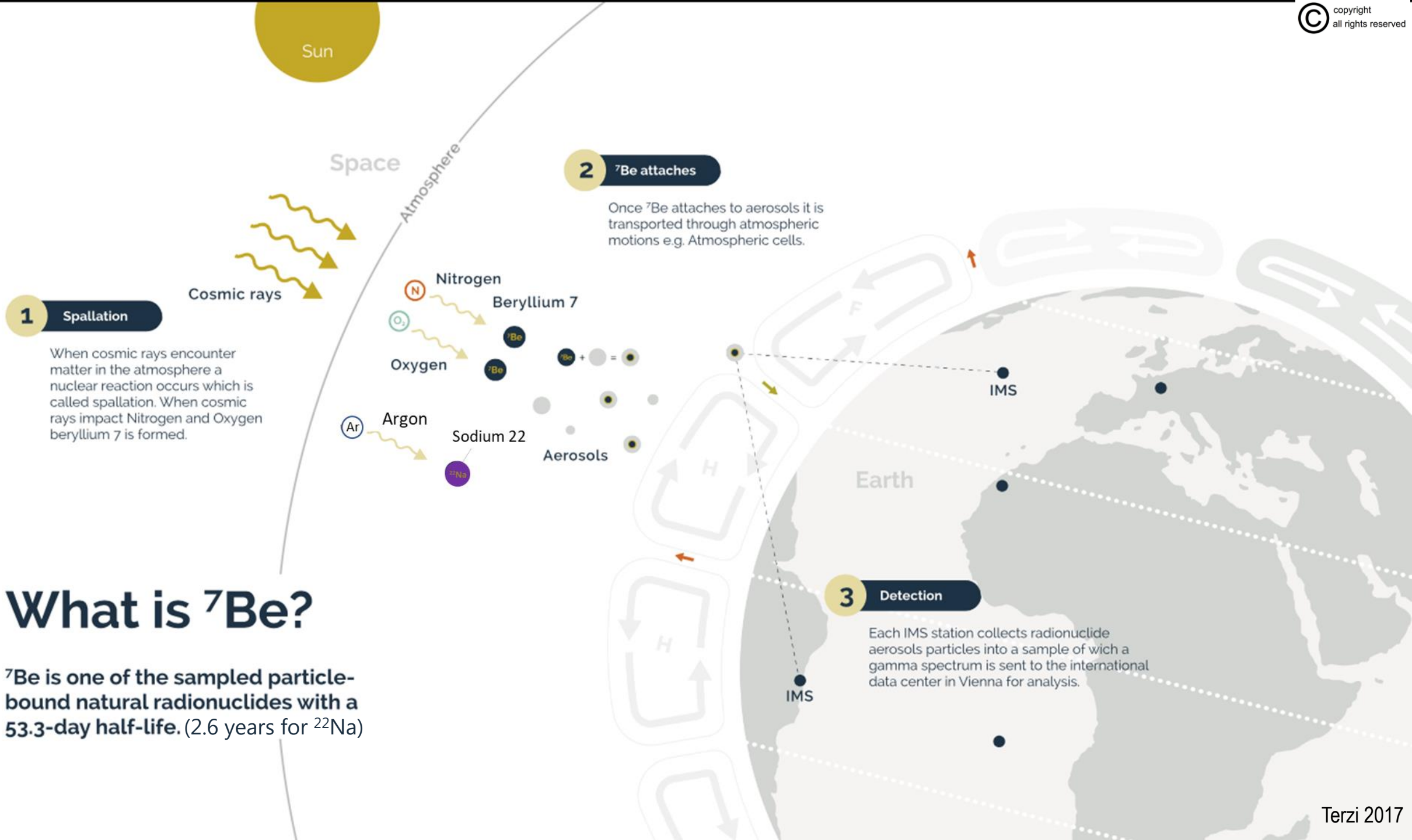
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**1 Spallation**

When cosmic rays encounter matter in the atmosphere a nuclear reaction occurs which is called spallation. When cosmic rays impact Nitrogen and Oxygen beryllium 7 is formed.

**2 <sup>7</sup>Be attaches**

Once <sup>7</sup>Be attaches to aerosols it is transported through atmospheric motions e.g. Atmospheric cells.

**3 Detection**

Each IMS station collects radionuclide aerosols particles into a sample of which a gamma spectrum is sent to the international data center in Vienna for analysis.

# What is <sup>7</sup>Be?

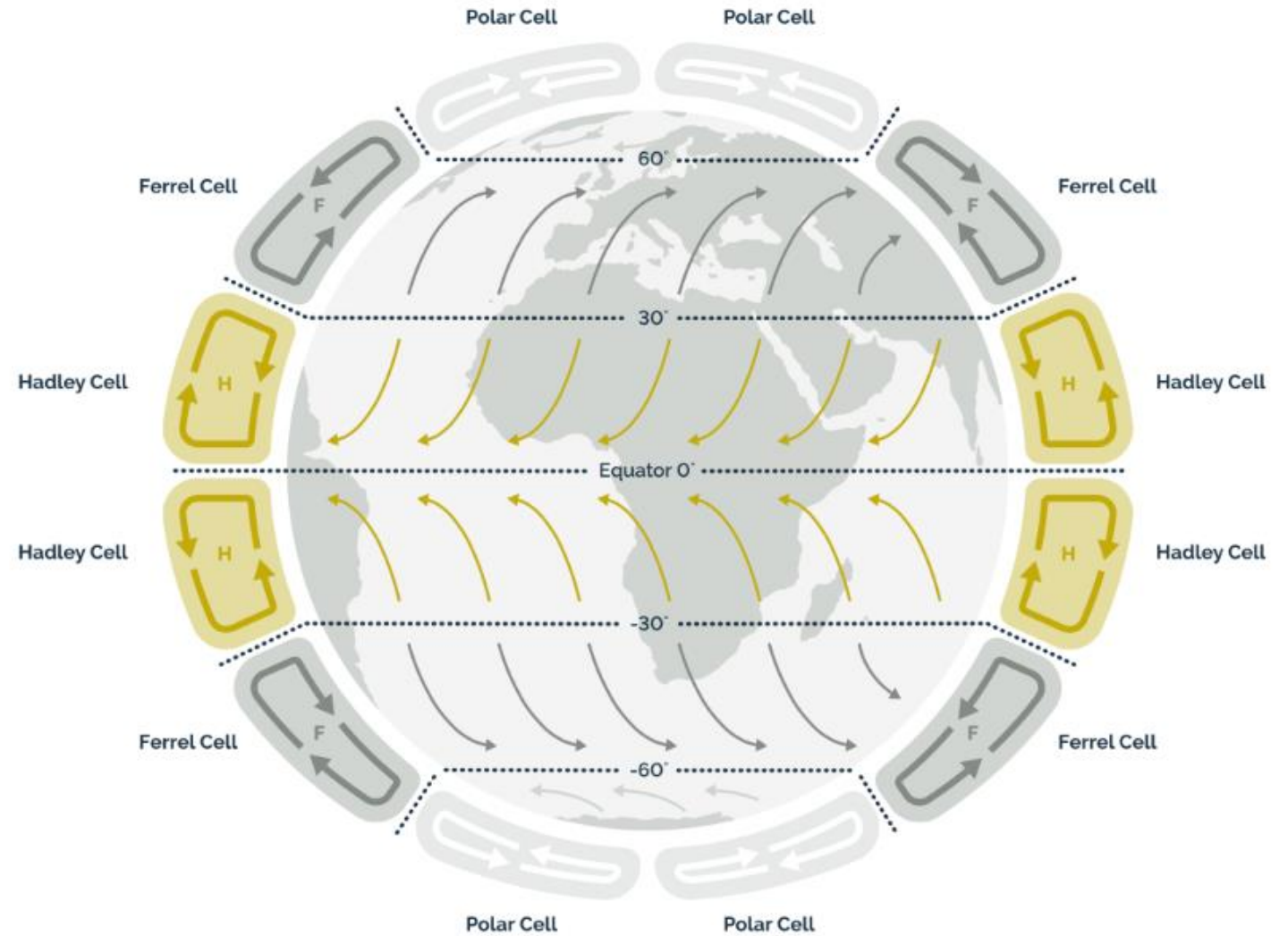
<sup>7</sup>Be is one of the sampled particle-bound natural radionuclides with a 53.3-day half-life. (2.6 years for <sup>22</sup>Na)

# Atmospheric cells

There are three atmospheric cells in the northern and southern hemisphere.

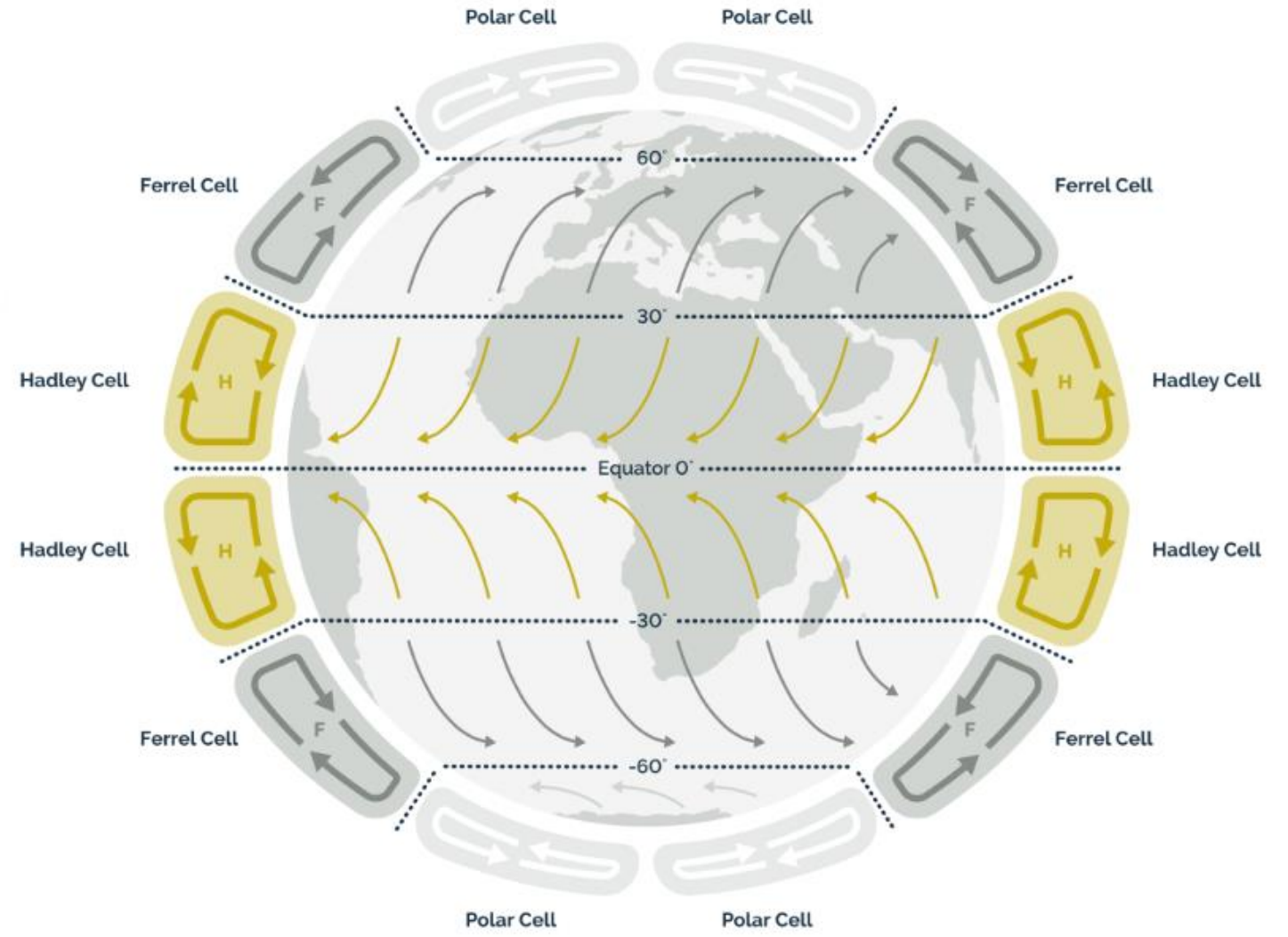
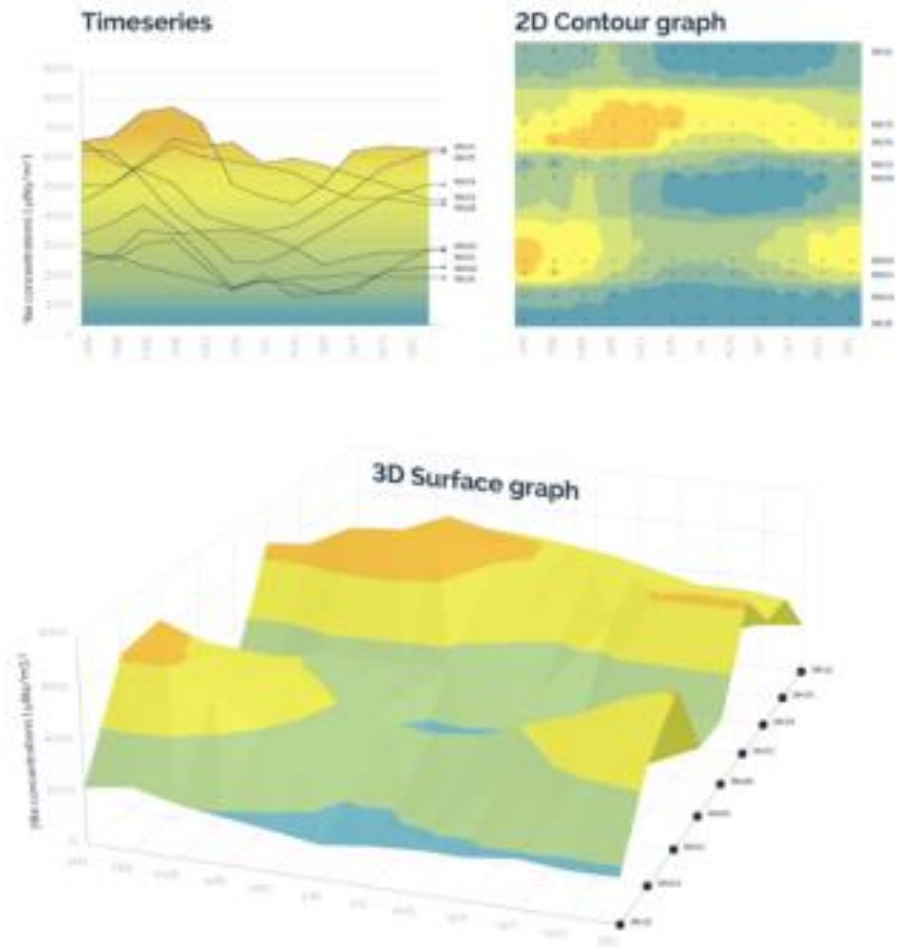
- Polar cell
- Ferrel cell
- Hadley cell

There are 3 atmospheric cells in the northern hemisphere and 3 in the southern hemisphere.

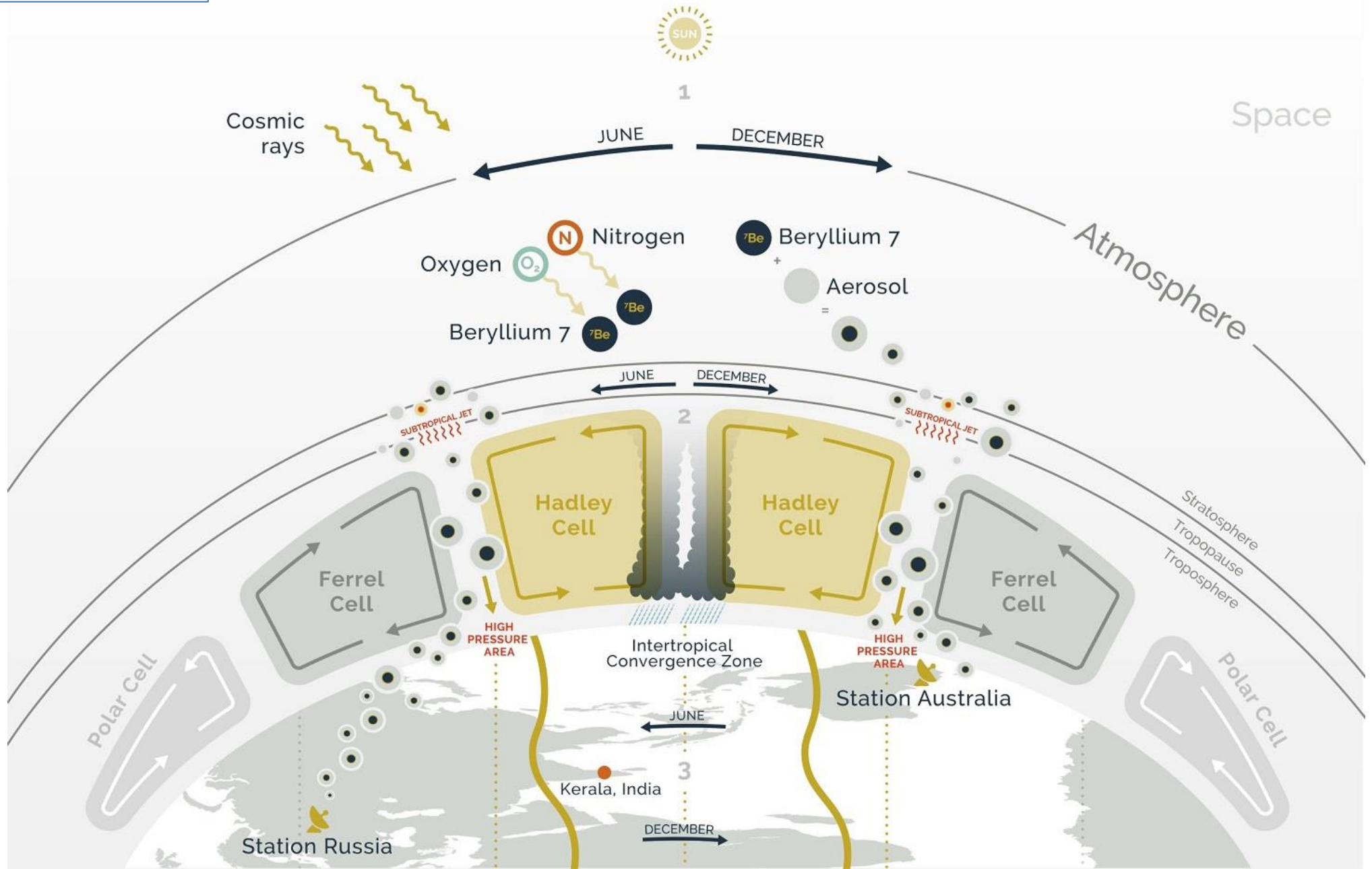


# $^{7}\text{Be}$ an indicator for atmospheric cell convergence zone position

Terzi and Kalinowski, (2017) J. Env. Rad.

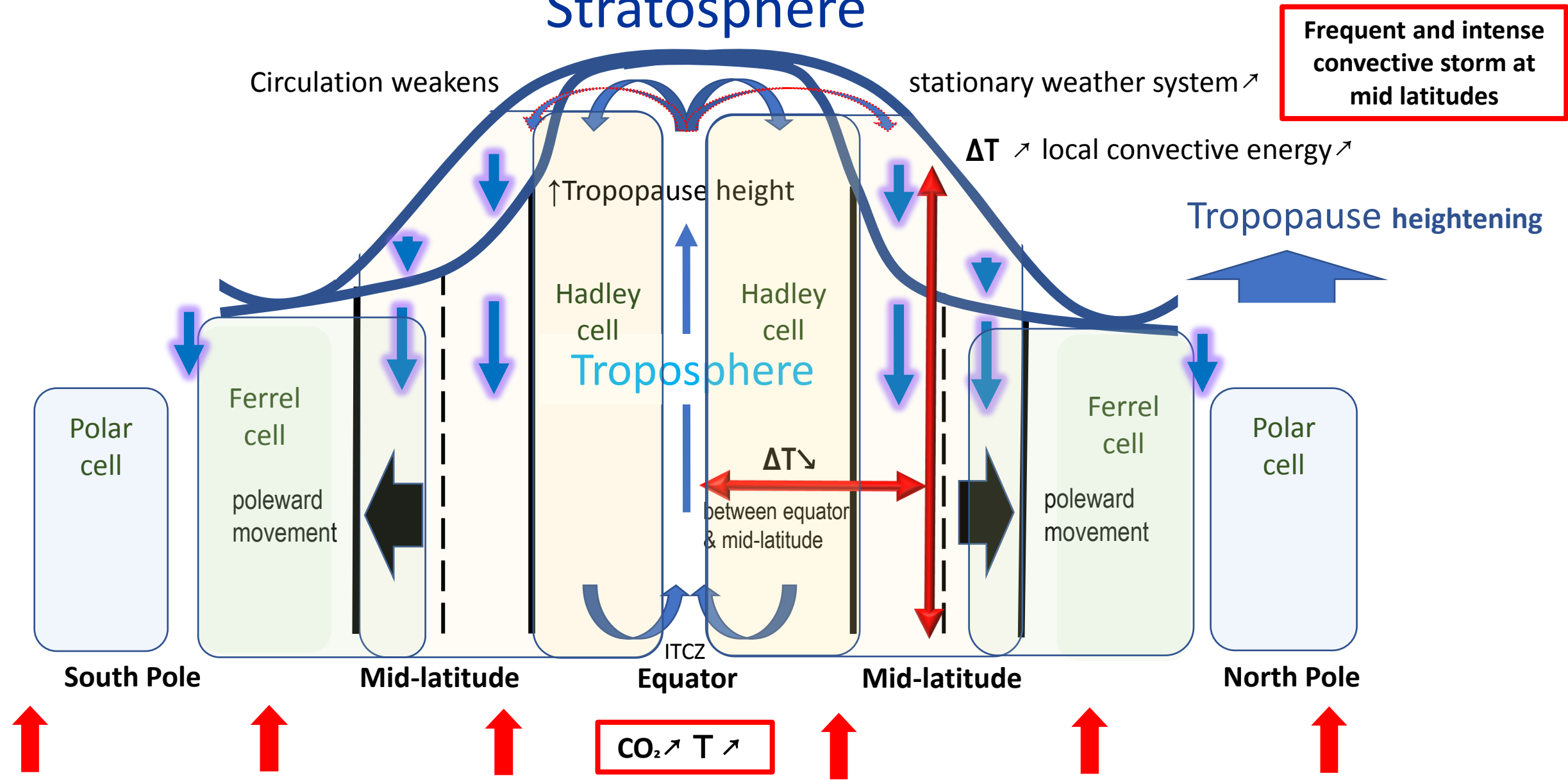


# Seasonal Weather and Monsoon prediction

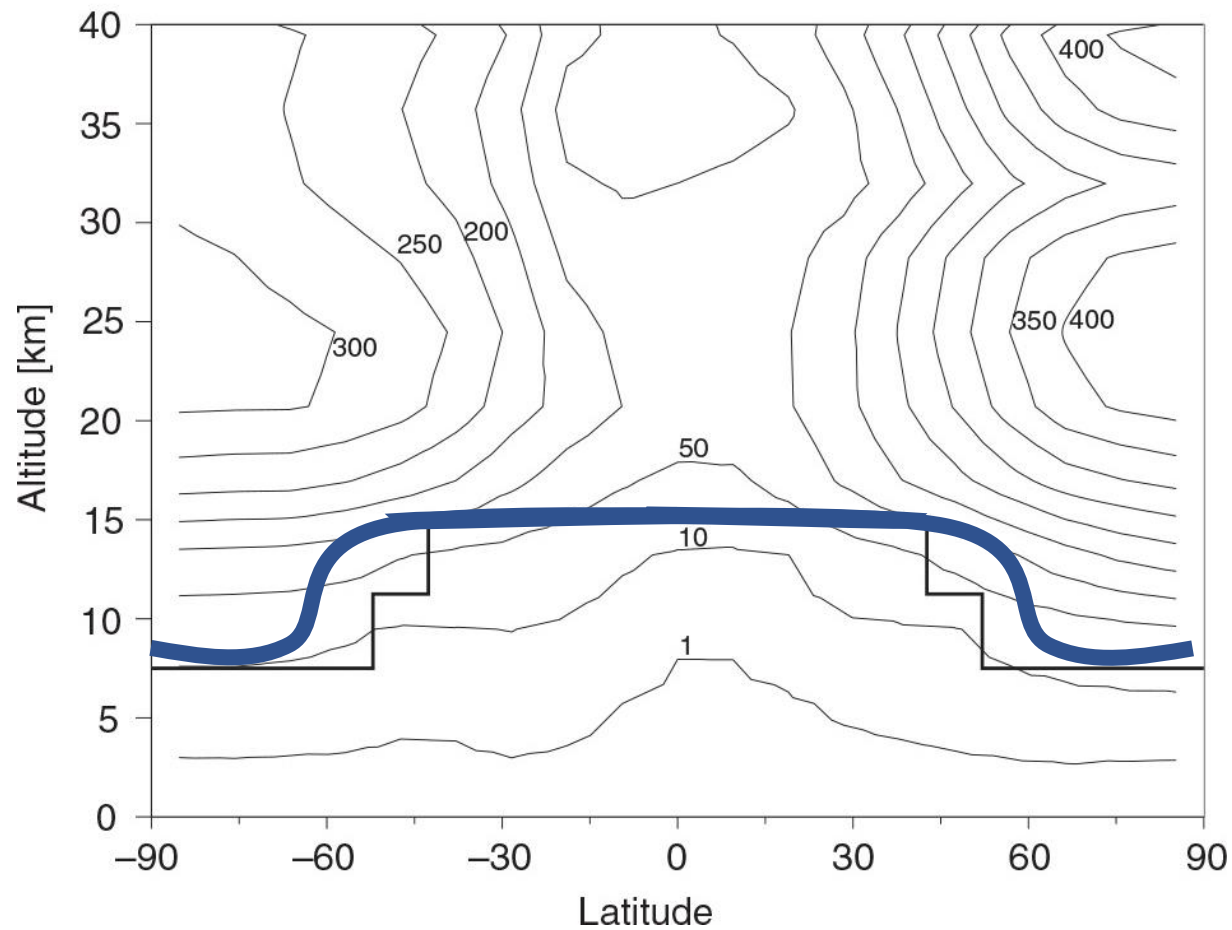


Tropopause Height is a Climate-Change Fingerprint

# Stratosphere



# Link between Beryllium 7 concentration and Tropopause profile

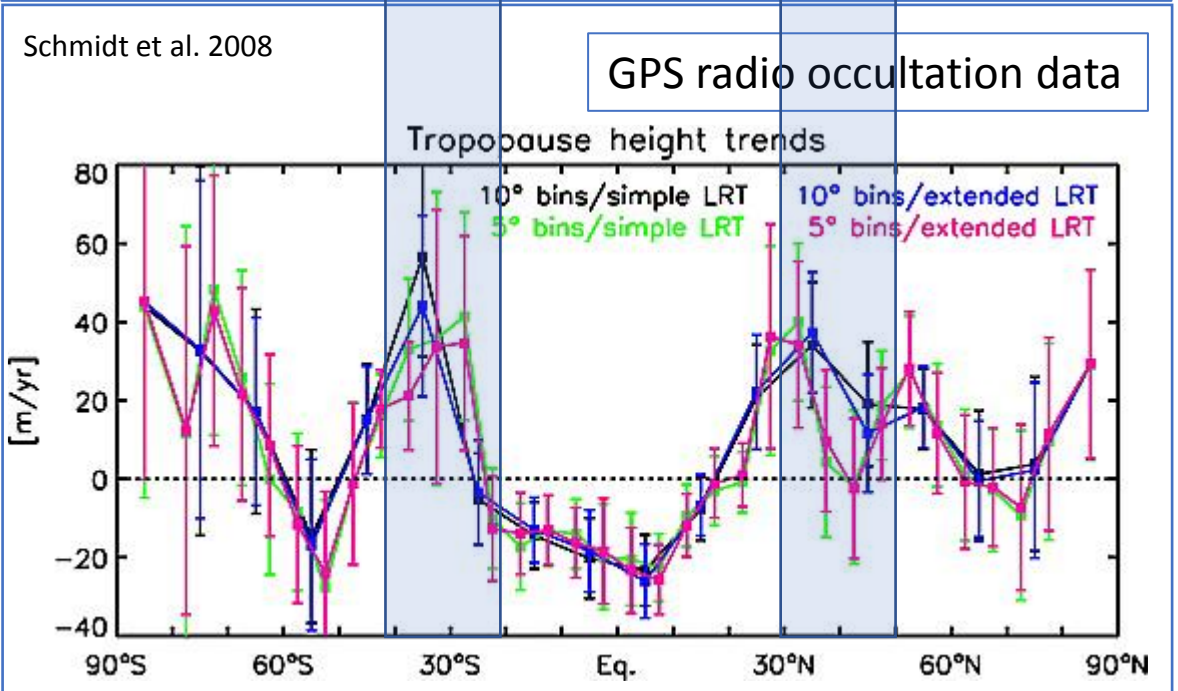
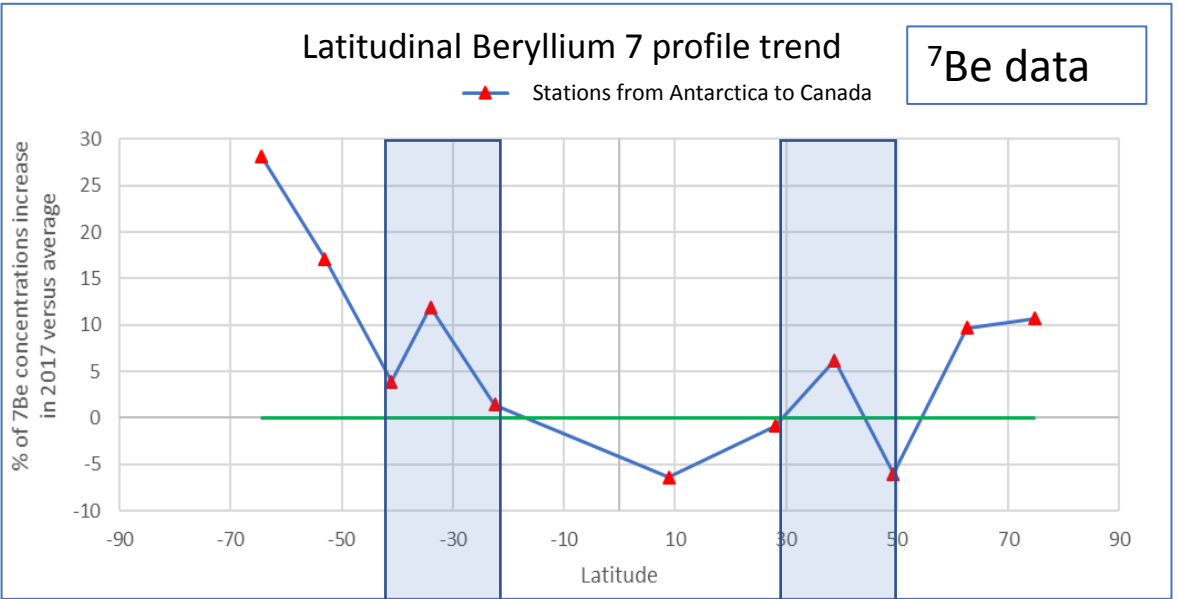


Simulated concentration of Be-7 in the atmosphere, in  $10^4$  per  $m^3$ . the thick line represent the tropopause in the model. Deleygue et al 2015.

The higher the tropopause the higher the <sup>7</sup>Be concentrations

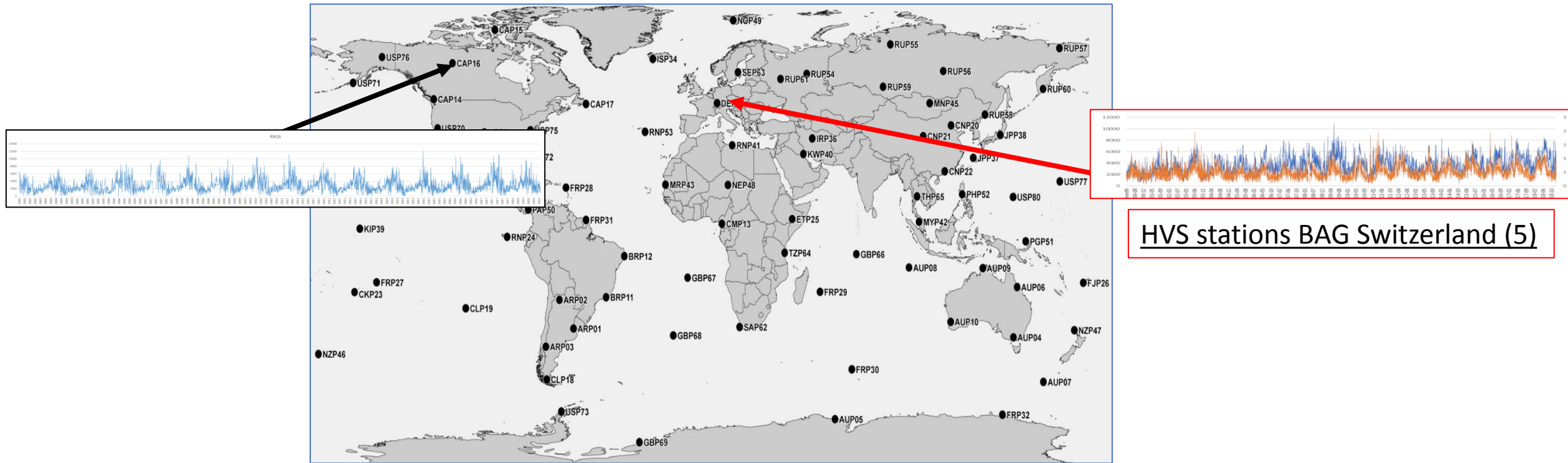
# 1. $^7\text{Be}$ a proxy for tropopause height variation

Terzi et al. (2019) draft



# Ground based continuously operated radionuclide measurement systems

## International Monitoring system (IMS) Radionuclide Network (80)



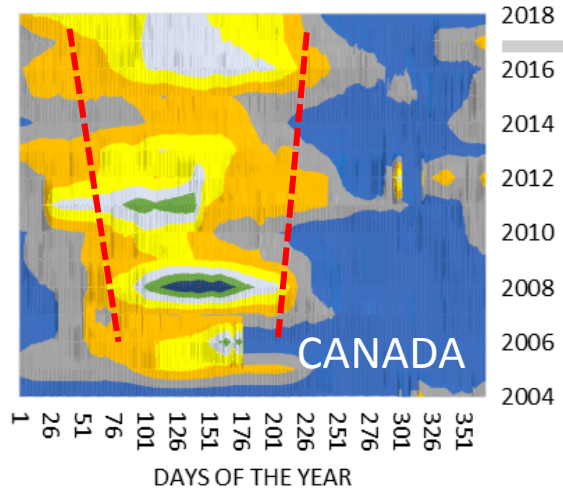
HVS stations BAG Switzerland (5)

<https://www.ctbto.org/specials/vdec/>

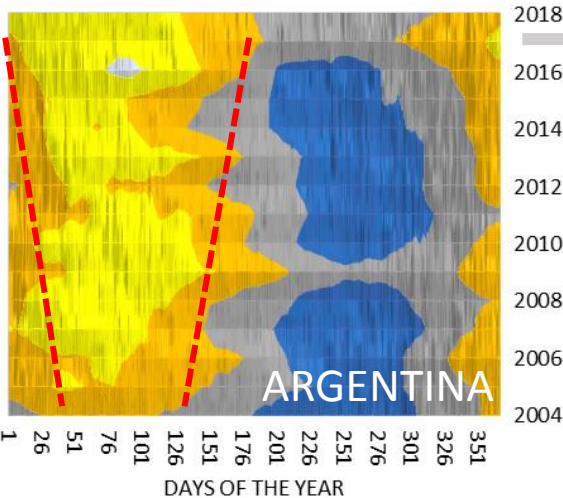
# 2. <sup>7</sup>Be a proxy for tropopause height variation and 3. poleward movement of Hadley cell

Terzi et al. (2019) draft

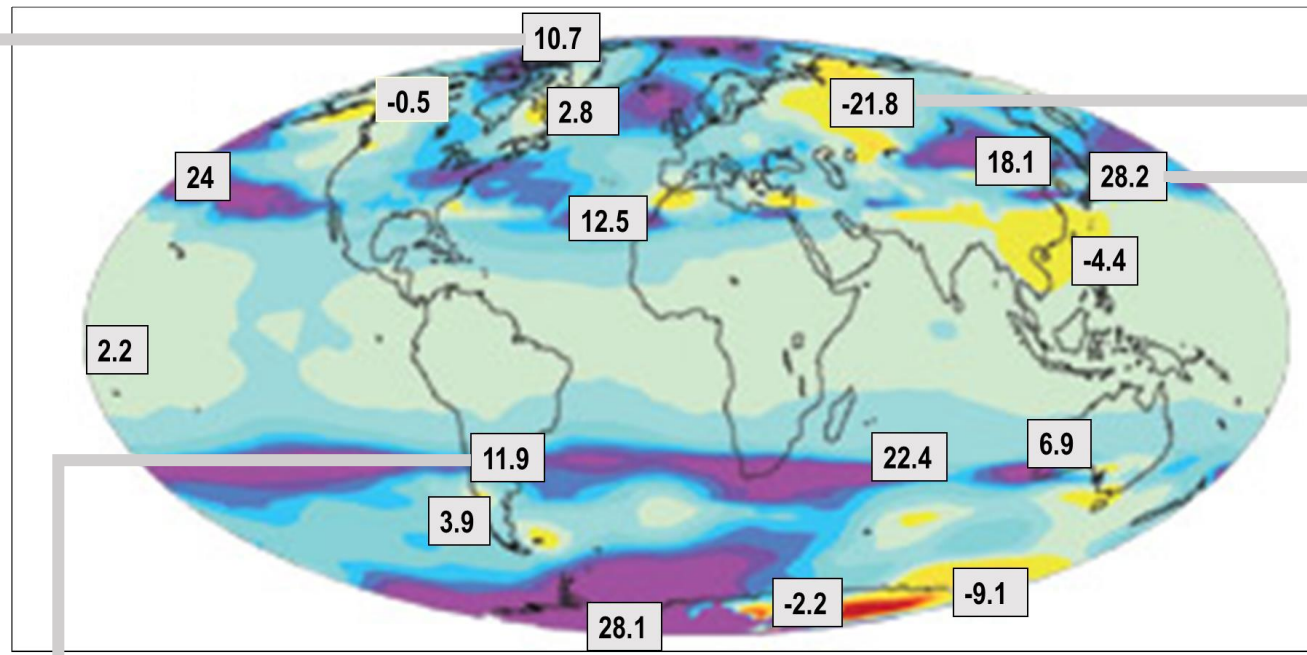
RN15 0/-120 days average normalized over all available years



RN01 0/-120 days average normalized over all available years

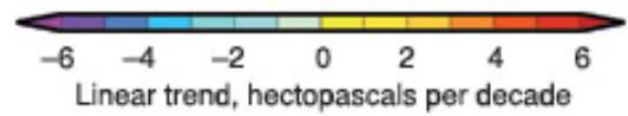


Beryllium 7 data (2004-2018) overlaying gsp radio-sonde data (1979-1999)

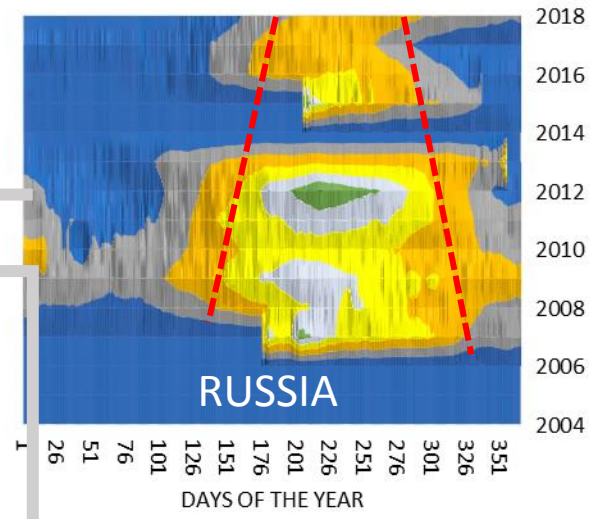


Map from Santer et al. 2004

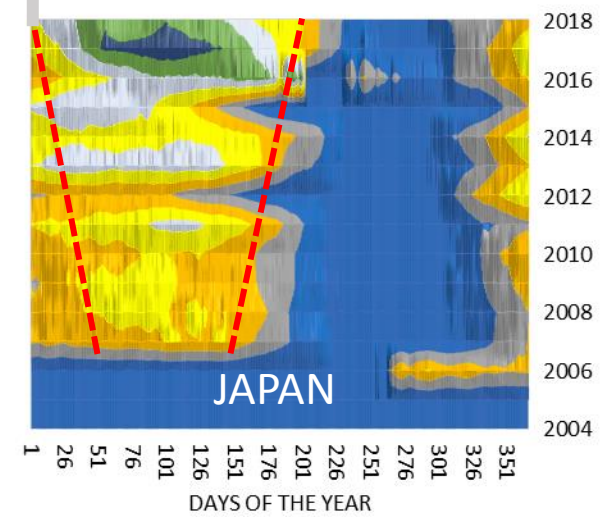
<sup>7</sup>Be % of growth



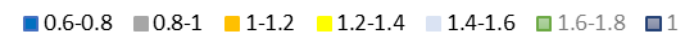
RN59 0/-120 days average normalized over all available years



RN37 0/-120 days average normalized over all available years



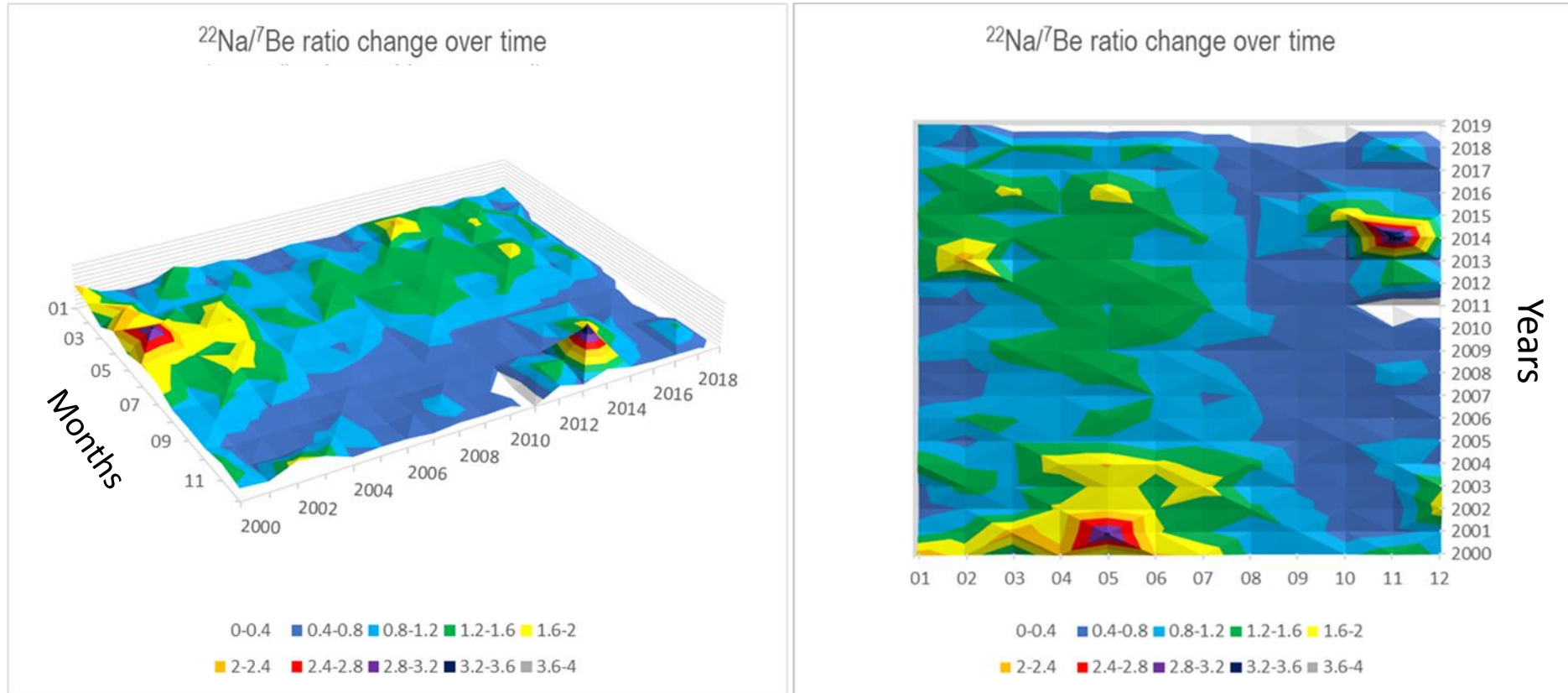
The cone shape Hp: the longer the warm air, the higher the tropopause, the more extended is the period of <sup>7</sup>Be growth.



### 3. $^7\text{Be}$ indicator for progression speed of Atmospheric cell convergence zone

Terzi et al. (2019) draft

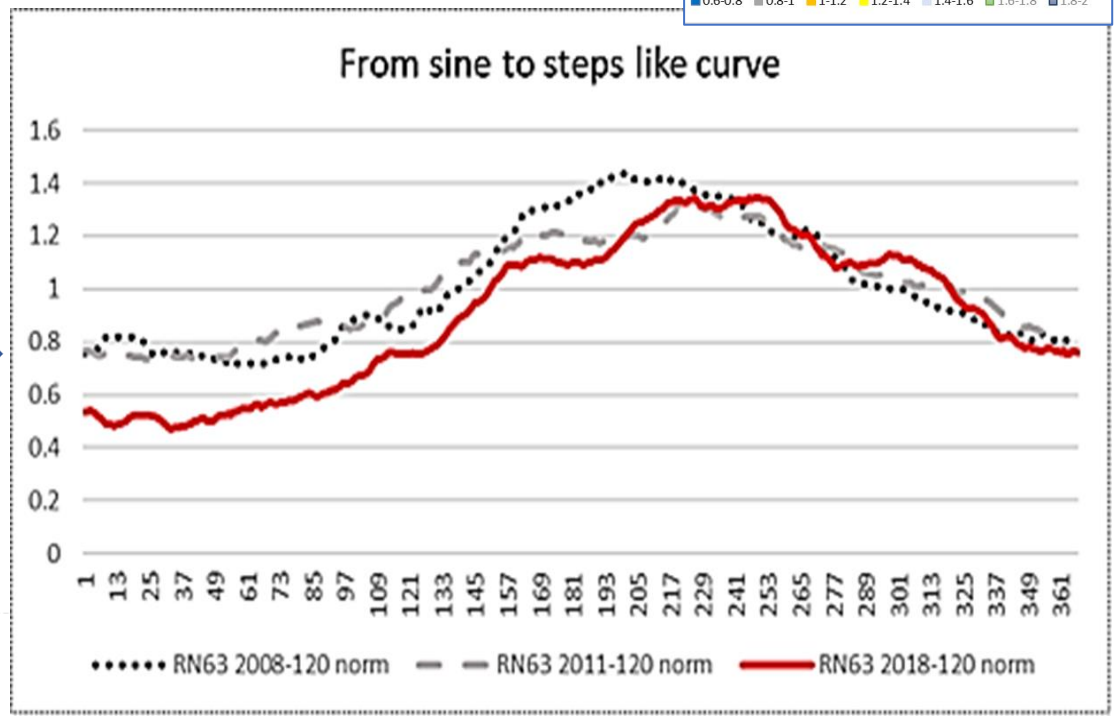
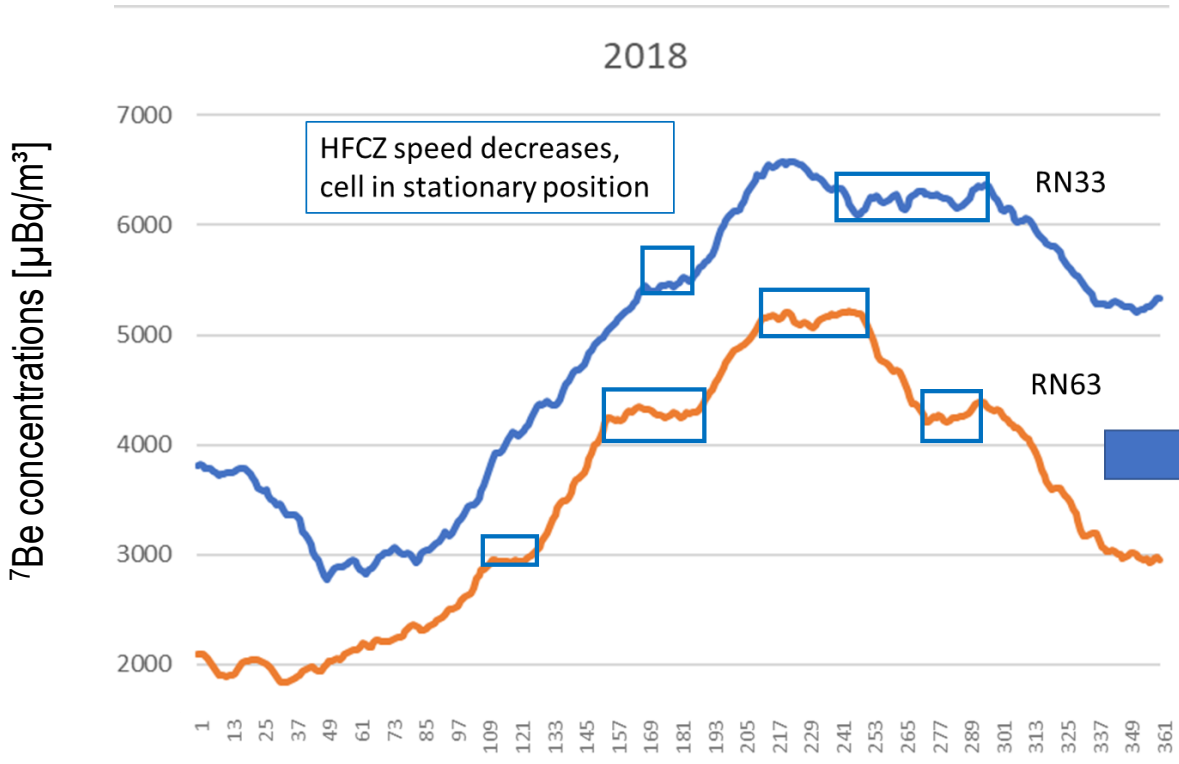
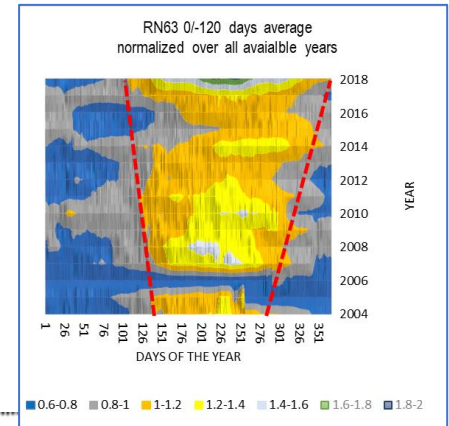
Change of atmospheric cells progression visible through isotopic ratio change over time



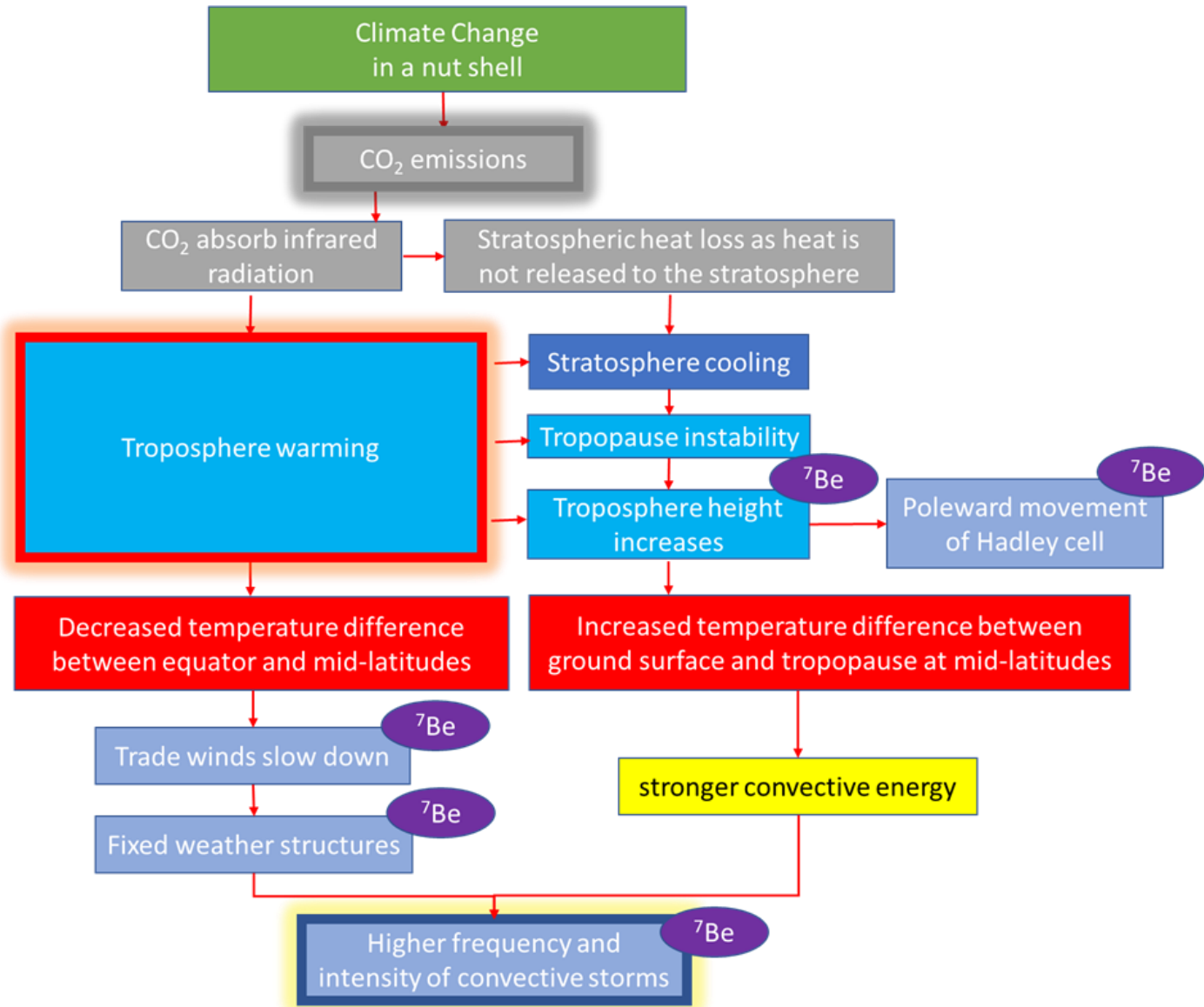
# 4. <sup>7</sup>Be indicator of fixed weather pattern

Terzi et all. (2019) draft

Fixed weather pattern in Northern Central Europe may be related to the slowing down of Hadley cell circulation (weakening of trade winds due to smaller temperature difference between Equator and mid latitudes)



# Cosmogenic radionuclide as possible indicator for Climate change



**Legend**

- CO<sub>2</sub>
- Cosmogenic radionuclide
- Troposphere
- Stratosphere
- Atmospheric Circulation
- Temperature gradient
- Convective energy

# Studying meteorological phenomena with $^7\text{Be}$



# Thank you