

Unscientific response by the editor of the Journal for Geophysical Research Atmospheres

July 7, 2018

Dear Dr. Ward:

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Journal of Geophysical Research - Atmospheres. We have reviewed your manuscript within our editorial board. While I am delighted to read the background materials in your paper and I appreciate your good intention to promote rigorous science by presenting different viewpoints, I have decided to decline your paper for publication in JGR-Atmospheres. Our journal only publishes original research, but much of the content in your paper is popular science. For the discussion on the role of greenhouse gases, you simply stated what you believed. You did not substantiate your arguments with rigorous quantitative calculations or analysis of measurements. This is not enough for our journal. For example, you stated in Lines 443-445 "No matter how you propose spectral lines of energy absorbed might cause warming of air, greenhouse gases simply do not absorb heat, they do not absorb enough thermal energy to have much effect on temperature". This statement is too qualitative for our journal. Similar statements are in the paragraph starting from Line 454. These statements are in the main section of your paper from which your conclusion was drawn.

I am sorry that I cannot be more encouraging at this time. Thank you for your interest in JGR- Atmospheres.

Sincerely,

Minghua Zhang

Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Geophysical Research – Atmospheres

My Response July 13, 2018

Dear Dr. Zhang,

Thank you for considering my highly original paper *A Most Inconvenient Reality—Greenhouse Gases Cannot Physically Explain Observed Global Warming*. I am surprised that you do not give any valid scientific reason for rejecting my paper. You simply chose to label my provocative work “popular science” because my conclusions disagree with current consensus. Consensus is the stuff of politics. Debate is the stuff of science.

You clearly do not understand the science as written in this paper. In science, as you know, high-quality, direct observations of nature are much closer to the “truth” than interpretations based on some theory. Theories are proposed to explain observations based on current understanding and both observation and understanding have evolved exponentially since Arrhenius (1896).

In 1900, Max Planck derived empirically what has become known as Planck’s law, an equation that accurately describes all existing observations of the physical properties of radiation from a black body (Figure 4). A black body is clearly observed to emit a very broad continuum of frequencies of oscillation that is quite different for bodies at different temperatures as shown.

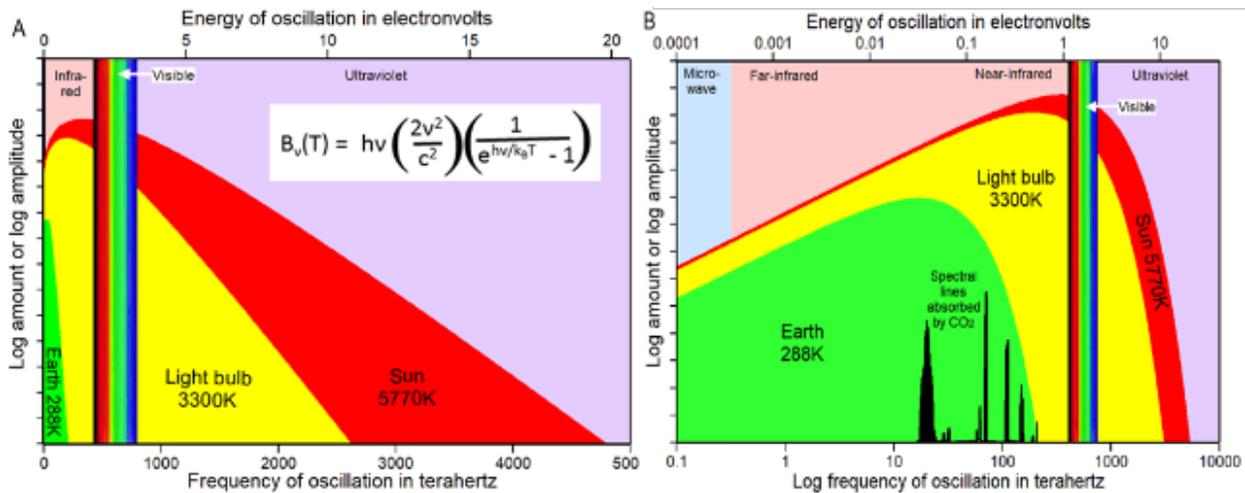


Figure 4. Planck’s law plotted with linear x-axis on the left and logarithmic x-axis on the right. The vertical black lines on the right are the frequencies of spectral lines of radiation absorbed by CO₂.

Heat is what a body must radiate to decrease its temperature and what a body must absorb to increase its temperature. Planck’s empirical law shows clearly that temperature and, therefore, heat result from a very broad continuum of frequencies of oscillation, the higher the temperature of the radiating body, the broader the continuum and the higher the amplitude of oscillation at each and every frequency. Fourier’s (1822) Analytical Theory of Heat, still relied on today, does not recognize this broad continuum. Nor does it allow for the clearly observed reality that the physical properties of heat from Sun are distinctly different from the physical properties of heat from Earth.

The green shaded areas in Figure 4 show the physical properties of heat radiated by Earth. The vertical black lines in Figure 4B show the spectral lines of radiation absorbed by CO₂, which have now been documented in considerable detail. A

molecule of CO₂ does not absorb heat, the broad continuum of frequencies. A molecule of CO₂ merely absorbs the resonant frequencies of oscillation of the bonds holding the molecule together. Knut Angstrom concluded in 1900, and it is known in much greater detail today, that less than 16% of the frequencies of oscillation radiated by Earth are absorbed by CO₂. Less than 16% of the frequencies that constitute the continuum of heat does not constitute heat, just as less than 16% of a person does not constitute a person.

My conclusion that "no matter how you propose spectral lines of energy absorbed might cause warming of air, greenhouse gases simply do not absorb heat, they do not absorb enough thermal energy to have much effect on temperature" is a statement of clearly observed physical reality. While there are now numerous scientific observations that show greenhouse-warming theory is mistaken, the clear observation that greenhouse-gases do not absorb enough heat to cause observed global warming is the simplest, completely sufficient, direct, and irrefutable observation that disproves greenhouse-warming theory.

Needless to say, the observation that greenhouse-warming theory is mistaken is the worst nightmare for most atmospheric scientists, especially at a time when they are besieged by politically or economically motivated "skeptics". Most atmospheric scientists, therefore, try to dismiss my conclusion by refusing to evaluate the very clear scientific evidence. My work will be coming out worldwide within the next year in very clear ways and I expect my conclusions to stand up to withering, truly scientific scrutiny. The main story that is developing, however, is that scientists simply refuse to evaluate or even consider the clear scientific evidence. I now have this reality documented in many ways. You, as editor of the premier journal of atmospheric science, say this clearly in your rejection letter.

My conclusions, as described very carefully in this paper and elsewhere in much greater detail, constitute, if correct, a major revolution in science. Most major scientific revolutions take years to decades to centuries to become widely accepted. The problem with climate is that time is of the essence. World leaders, on the advice of an impressive consensus of scientists and the scientific establishment, are now planning to spend a significant proportion of Global Gross Domestic Product to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Ideally scientists should promptly lead the charge to reevaluate new scientific data and to revise appropriately their advice to political leaders.

I am asking for your help in getting rigorous scientific review. Some reviewers will answer as you have, trying to avoid facing reality. Hopefully some will actually read and evaluate the science as written and offer thoughtful review.

In today's political environment, the value of science for informing sound public policy is under substantial attack. I am deeply concerned that the broad respect we scientists have earned throughout society is about to be destroyed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter L. Ward

Part of my response to a routine query by the American Geophysical Union about the review process:

This highly original paper was casually dismissed as "popular science" merely because it shows quite clearly that greenhouse-warming theory is mistaken. The Editor/Editorial Board clearly did not read or at least did not understand this paper and gave no valid scientific reason for why it should not be sent out for review. As a 52-year member of AGU, I am very disappointed by the failure of the peer review process in this case. This science is coming out very publicly in a number of ways over the next year. A major part of the story is becoming how scientists refuse to even consider the possibility that greenhouse-warming theory is mistaken, yet the evidence is overwhelming to an open, scientific mind.

If I am correct, and the scientific evidence is very strongly on my side, this paper describes one of the biggest revolutions in science at a time when science is under significant attack. Scientific revolutions have never happen smoothly and usually take time. But time, now, is of the essence because climate scientists, working overtime for decades, have convinced political leaders to spend trillions of dollars to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, something which ultimately will be shown to be a complete waste of money. The value of science for informing good public policy is on the chopping block and the editorial leadership of JGR-Atmospheres has their heads in the sands of consensus. Are scientists going to take the lead in interpreting critically important new data and insights or are they going to be dragged over the political cliff?

It is disgraceful that JGR-Atmospheres, the lead journal in the field, would not even send this paper out for review. As I explained in my cover letter, I am sure some reviewers will reject this paper merely because it does not conform to a very broad consensus, but some might actually look critically at the science explained. Consensus is the stuff of politics. Debate is the stuff of science. Science is self-correcting over time, but only when scientific minds remain open to observations and new insights.