

$$c_p T + gz = \text{dry static energy}$$

Adiabatic process = no heat gained or lost by system

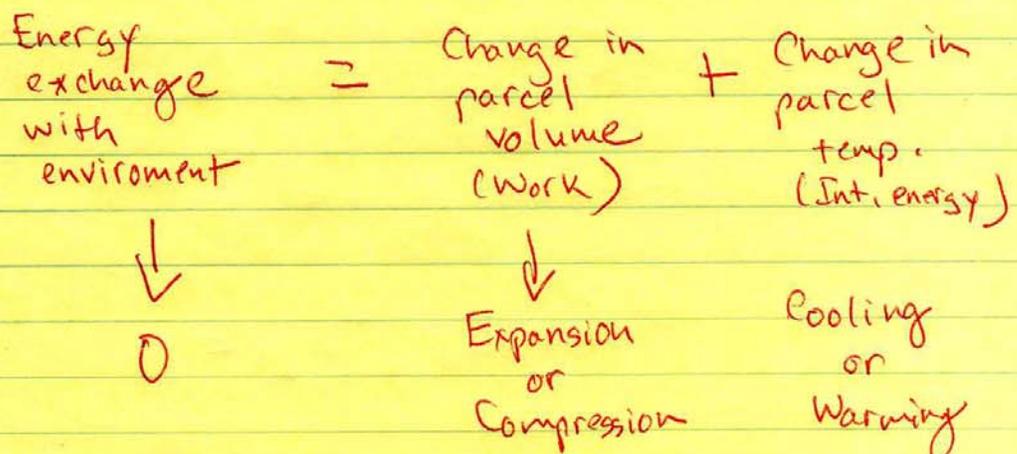
$$0 = du + dw \quad \text{Simplification of first law,}$$

Concept of "parcel of air"

- Volume expands / contracts freely
- Does not break apart
- Does not interact with surrounding environment and remains single unit
- Pressure in parcel = pressure outside

Figs. 1  
From  
NATS  
lectures.

~~1st~~ 1st law as applied to air parcel



~~1st~~  
Dry Adiabatic lapse rate: ( $\Gamma_d$ )

Using 1<sup>st</sup> law for hydrostatically balanced atmosphere.

$$dq = c_p dT + g dz = 0 \quad \text{Adiabatic.}$$

$$\boxed{-\frac{dT}{dz} = \frac{g}{c_p} = \Gamma_d}$$

$$\Gamma_d = 9.8 \text{ K/km}$$

Rate of temperature decrease with height absent heat sources/sinks.

Why does  $\Gamma_{obs}$  almost always less than  $\Gamma_d$ ?

Potential temperature ( $\theta$ )

Physically: Temperature a parcel of air would have if expanded or compressed adiabatically, as compared to a standard pressure (1000mb)

Conserved quantity for adiabatic process, so greatly simplifies conservation of energy eqn.

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = S_0 \text{ (or } dQ)$$

↑  
Sources/sinks  
of energy

What comprises  $S_0$ ? → Radiation and water phase transition.

⊖ derivation

$$c_p dT - \alpha dp = 0$$

Adiabatic,  
1st law,  
enthalpy form

Ideal gas law  $P\alpha = RT$   
 $\alpha = RT/p$

$$c_p dT - RT \frac{dp}{p} = 0$$

$$\frac{c_p}{R} \frac{dT}{T} = \frac{dp}{p}$$

Integrating downward to some ref level

$$\int_T^{T_{ref}} \frac{dT}{T} = \frac{R}{c_p} \int_p^{P_{ref}} \frac{dp}{p}$$

$$\ln \frac{T_{\text{ref}}}{T} = \frac{R}{c_p} \ln \frac{P_{\text{ref}}}{P}$$

By rules of logs

$$\frac{T_{\text{ref}}}{T} = \left( \frac{P_{\text{ref}}}{P} \right)^{R/c_p}$$

Define  $T_{\text{ref}} = \theta = \text{Potential temperature}$   
 $P_{\text{ref}} = p_0 = 1000 \text{ mb}$

$$\boxed{\theta = T \left( \frac{p_0}{P} \right)^{R/c_p}} \quad \text{Poisson's equation}$$

# A "Parcel" of Air

*In the case of the atmosphere, our "object" is not a rock but a parcel of air.*

## Characteristics of air parcel

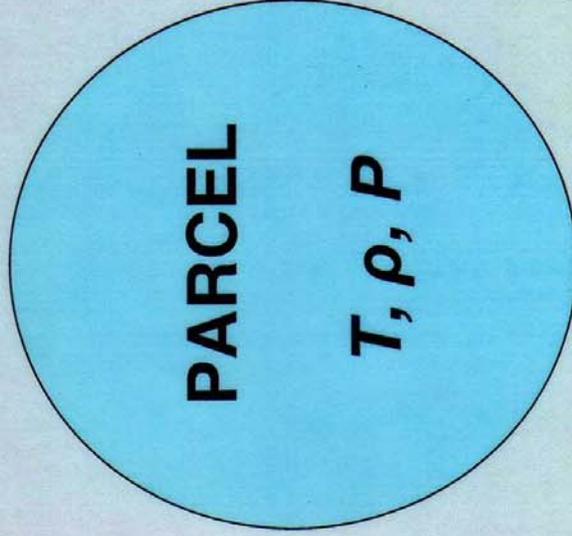
Volume which expands and contracts freely

Does not break apart

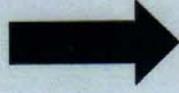
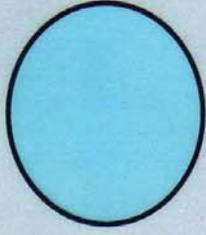
Does not interact with the surrounding environment and remains a single unit.

Parcel has temperature ( $T$ ), density ( $\rho$ ), and pressure ( $P$ )

Pressure in the parcel is equal to the pressure outside.

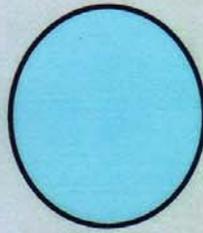
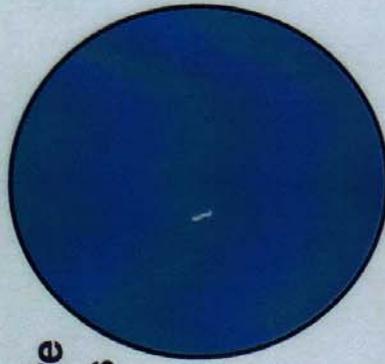


**ADIABATIC  
COMPRESSION**  
*Parcel sinking*

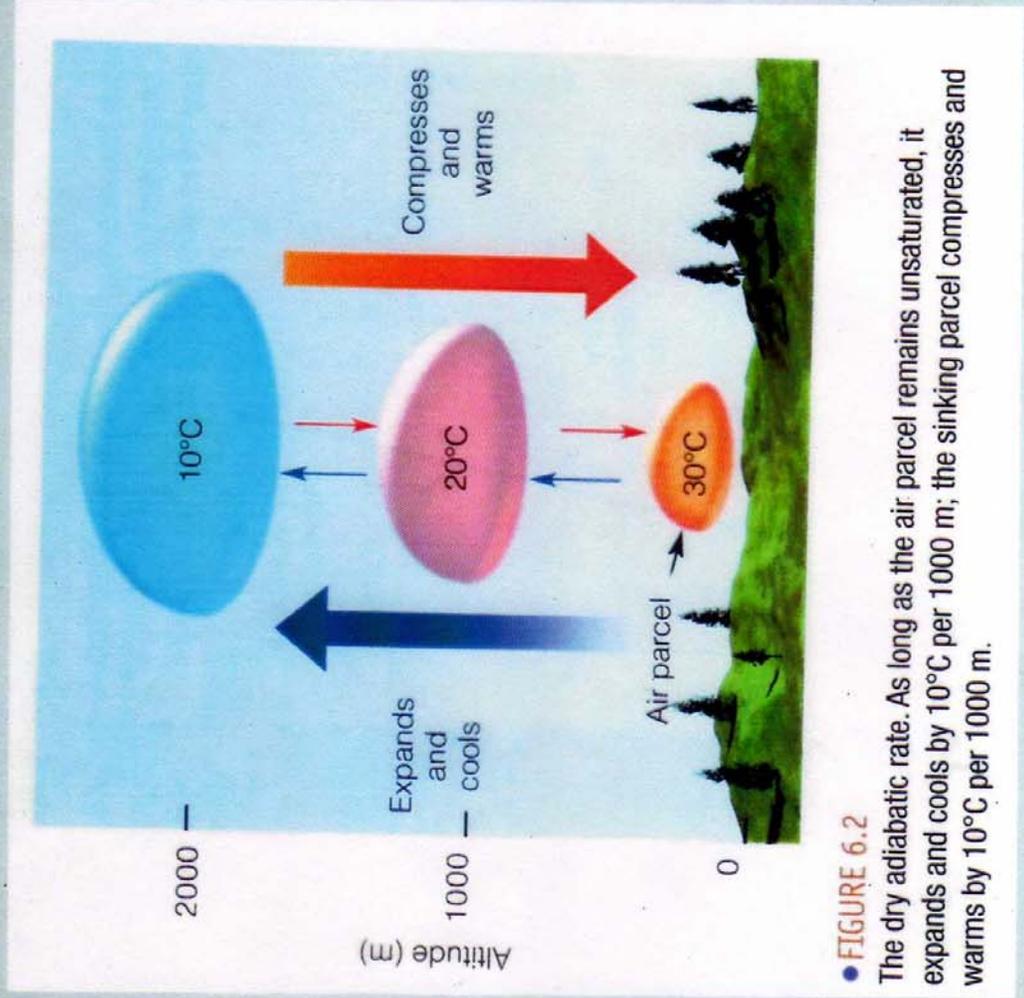


**Temperature  
increases**

**ADIABATIC  
EXPANSION**  
*Parcel rising*



**Temperature  
decreases**



• **FIGURE 6.2**

The dry adiabatic rate. As long as the air parcel remains unsaturated, it expands and cools by 10°C per 1000 m; the sinking parcel compresses and warms by 10°C per 1000 m.

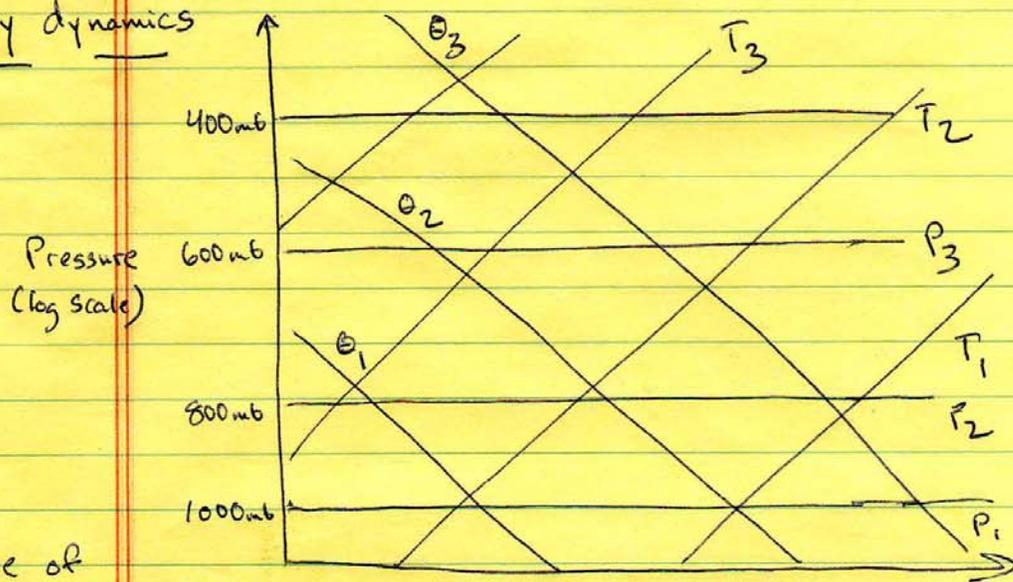


## Introduction to Thermodynamic Diagrams

Idea  $\rightarrow$  A graphical way to display meteorological information from sounding (i.e. weather balloon) in relation to its thermodynamic behavior (moist & dry)

Skew-T, log-P (standard in U.S.)

Dry dynamics

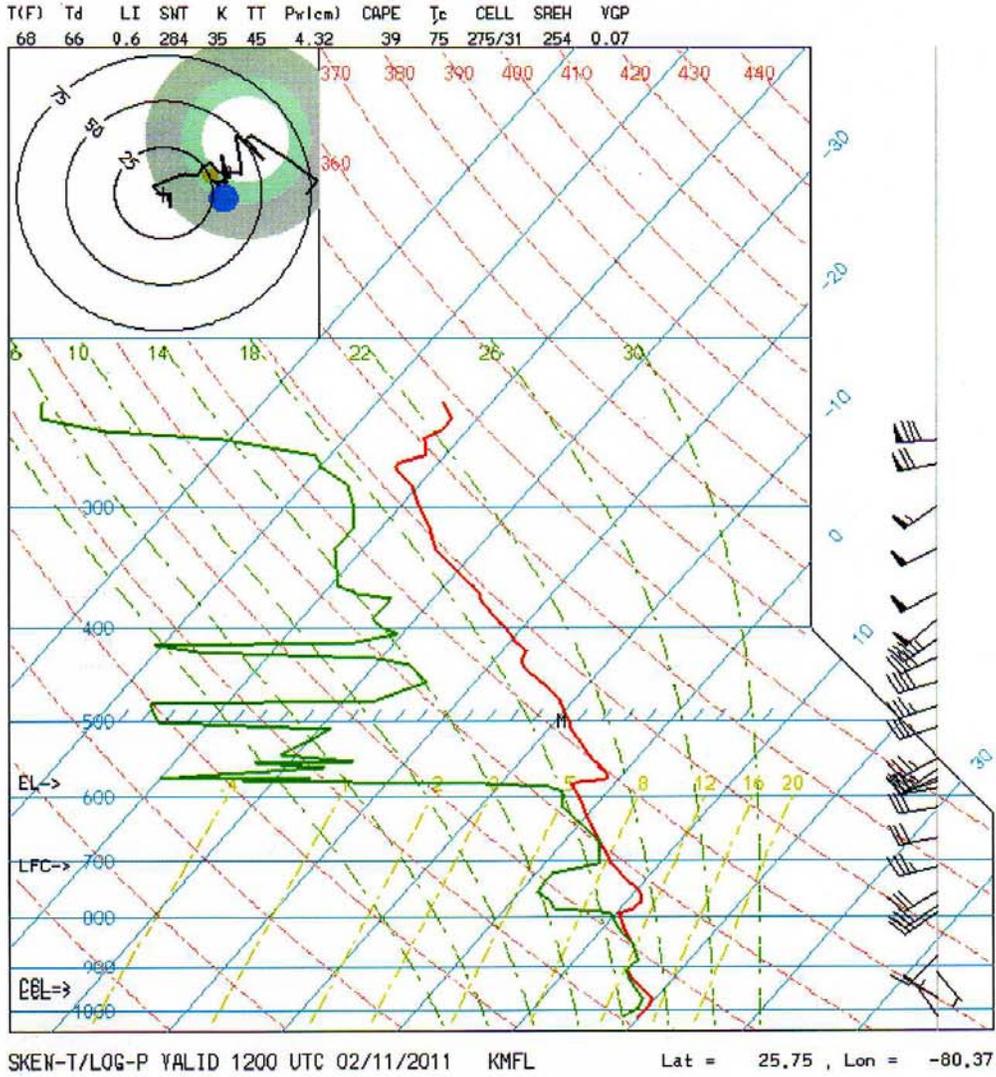


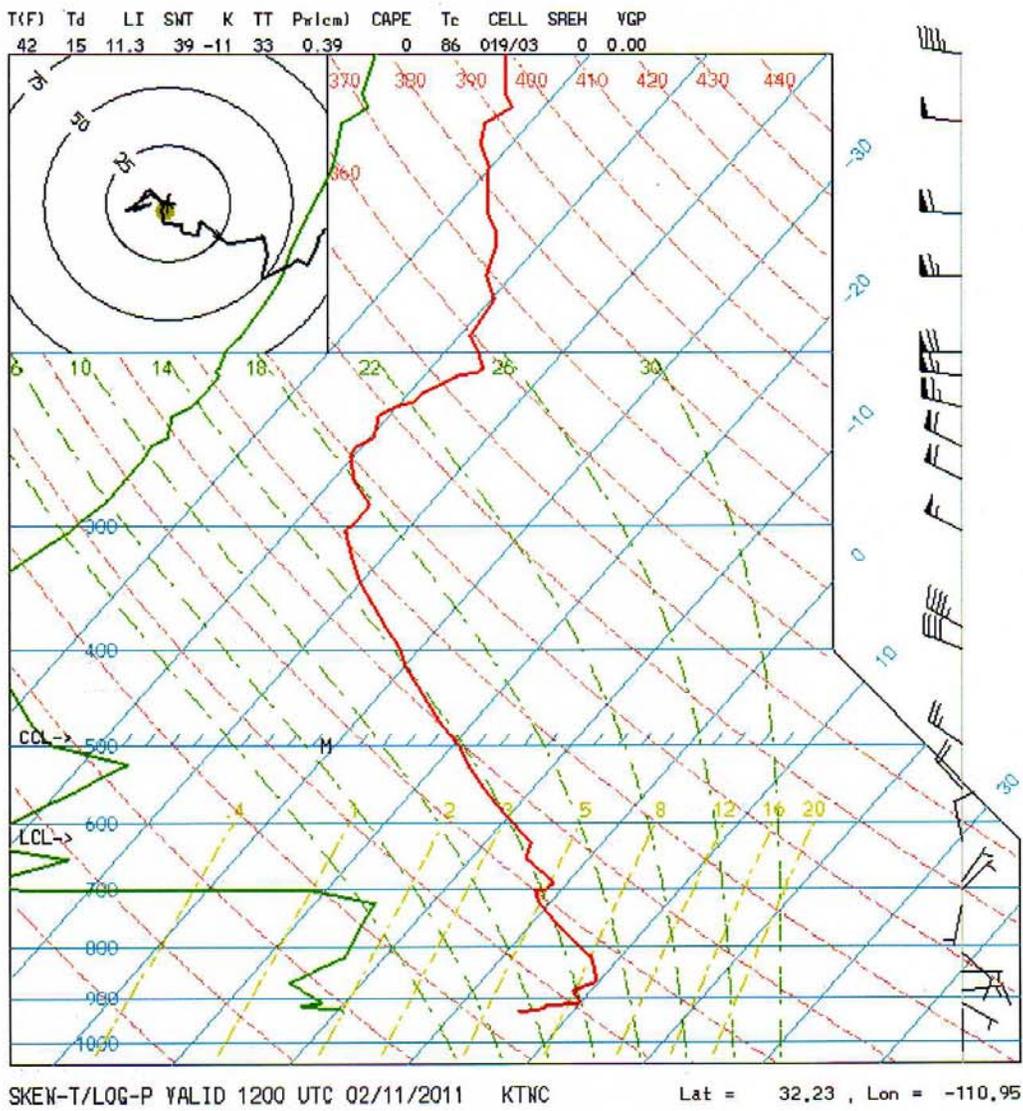
Need  
figure of  
skew-T,  
log-P.

Isobars: Lines of constant pressure  
horizontal lines

Isotherms: Lines of constant temperature  
positive slope

Dry adiabats: Lines of constant potential  
temperature ( $\theta$ )  $du + dw = 0$ .







What does traveling along dry adiabat mean?  
→ Potential temperature is conserved.

"Up" → Parcel expansion, cooling  
"Down" → Parcel compression, warming.

Other lines on chart used if moisture present.

### Atmospheric Moisture Measures

1) Mixing ratio  $(w)$  =  $\frac{\text{mass of H}_2\text{O}(v)}{\text{mass of dry air}}$

2) Specific humidity  $(q)$  =  $\frac{\text{mass of H}_2\text{O}(v)}{\text{total mass air}}$

3) Vapor pressure  $(e)$  = Partial pressure due to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}(v)$

4) Virtual temperature  $(T_v)$  = Apparent temp. accounting for  $\text{H}_2\text{O}(v)$

Public measure → 5) Dewpoint  $(T_d)$  = Temp to chill air to reach saturation ~~at~~ (at const. pressure)

6) Wet bulb  $(T_{wb})$  = Related to heat required to evaporate water at given  $T$  &  $T_d$

Public  
measure →

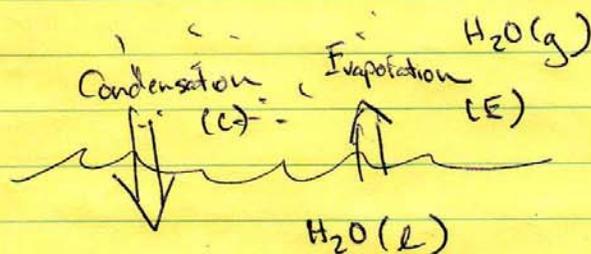
$$7) \text{ Relative humidity (RH)} = \frac{\text{Vapor pressure}}{\text{Saturation vapor pressure}} = \frac{e}{e_s}$$

8) Equivalent potential temp ( $\theta_e$ ) = Potential temp. air would have if all  $H_2O(v)$  condensed out.

Exercise p. 80

Show  $e = \frac{w}{w + \epsilon} P$  and  $T_v = (1 + 0.61w)$

Concept of saturation



Water vapor molecules above flat plane of liquid water.

Condensation =  $H_2O(g)$  ~~at~~ molecules convert from gas to liquid phase

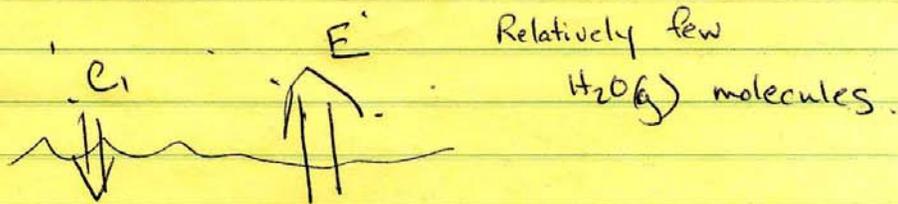
Evaporation =  $H_2O(l)$  molecules convert from liquid to gas phase

Balance of  $C$  and  $E$  depends on the vapor pressure

1) Saturation  $C = E$

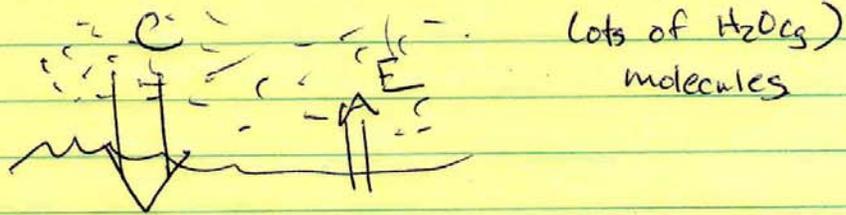
- No net change in water vapor molecules
- Air holds as much  $H_2O(v)$  as possible
- Vapor pressure ( $e$ ) = Saturation vapor pressure ( $e_s$ )
- $RH = 100\%$

2) Undersaturation  $C < E$



- Vapor pressure  $<$  Saturation vapor pressure  
 $(e) < (e_s)$
- Liquid water evaporates over time, more the drier the air is.
- $RH < 100\%$

3) Super saturation :  $C > E$



- Surplus of  $H_2O(g)$  will cause water to start condensing (if condensing sfc.)
- $C > E$
- Occurs at dew point temperature.

**Note the range in of water vapor pressure here...**

**It approximately is between 0 mb and 70 mb.**

**Compared to the average mean sea level pressure (1013 mb), water vapor can potentially contribute between 0 and 7% of the total atmospheric pressure.**

**we'll derive this formally later ...**

**Clausius - Clapeyron equation.**

