







Will technology save us from climate change?

MIT Media Lab 23 February, 2021

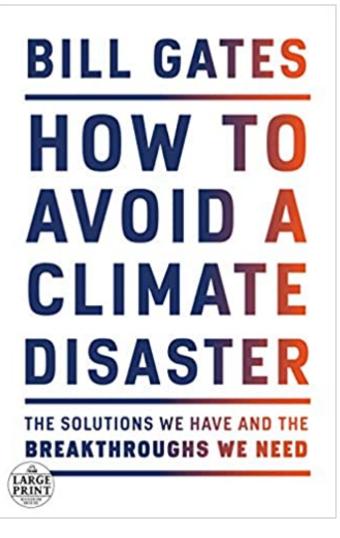
Jean-Marc Jancovici

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He said yes. Any other question?





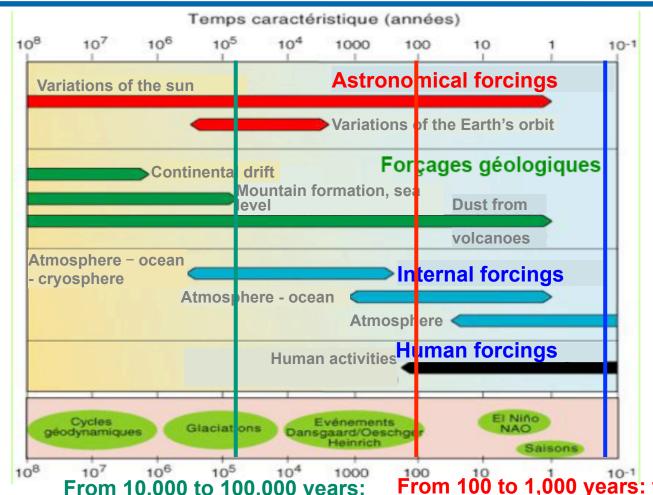






Climate change is nothing new under the sun





On a weekly time scale: the atmosphere dominates

From 10,000 to 100.000 years: From 100 to 1,000 years: the ocean dominates orbital parameters dominate

Source: Edouard Bard, Collège de France.

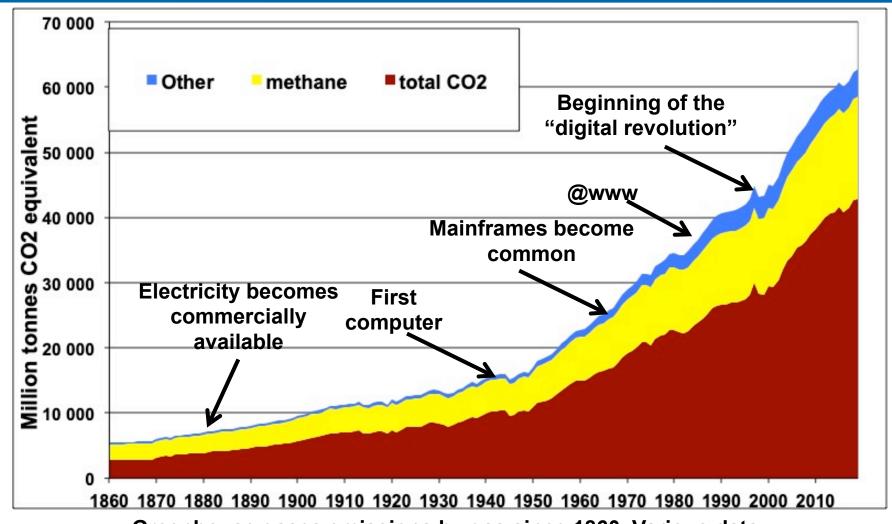






One century and a half of technology improvements, and then what?







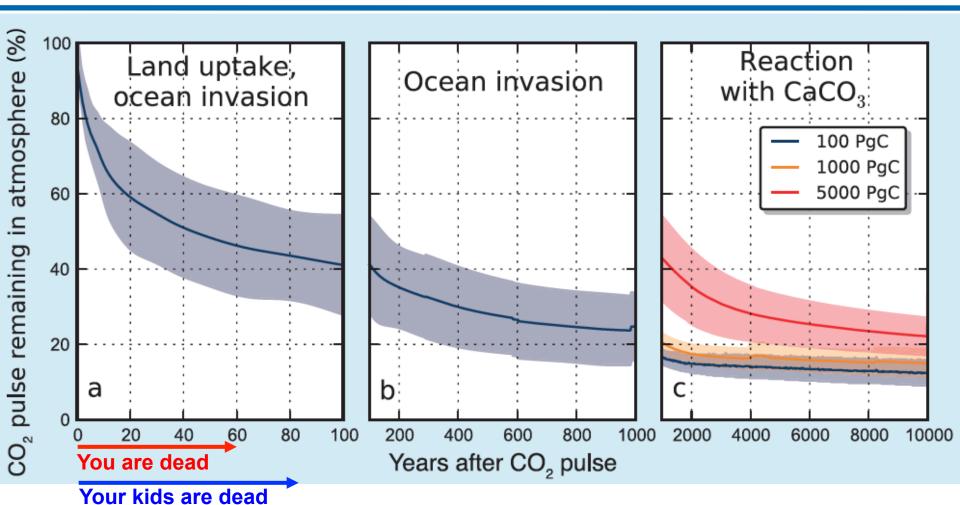






Help! Where is the reset button?





Any government is history

Source IPCC, 5th assessment report

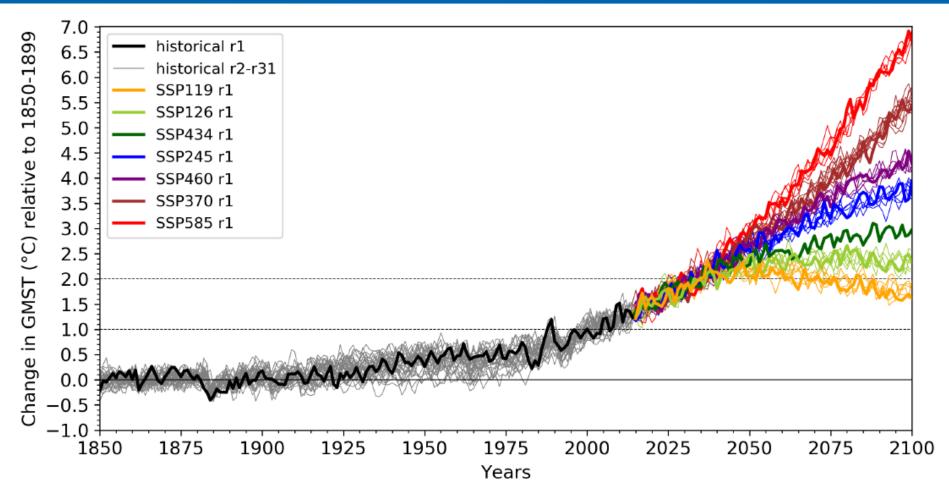






Up, or up?





Climate model IPSL-CM6A-LR Historical 1850-2014 / scenarios 2015-2100

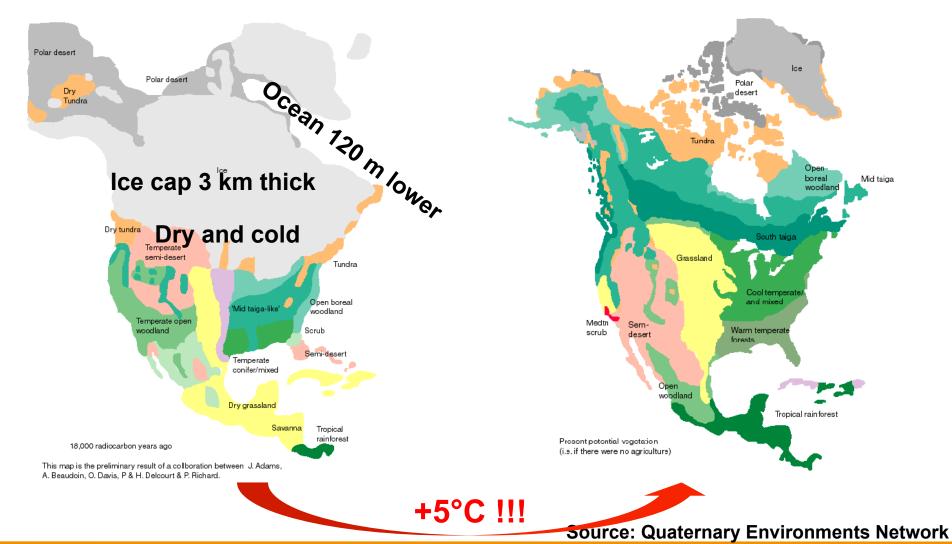






Fancy triggering a new climate era?





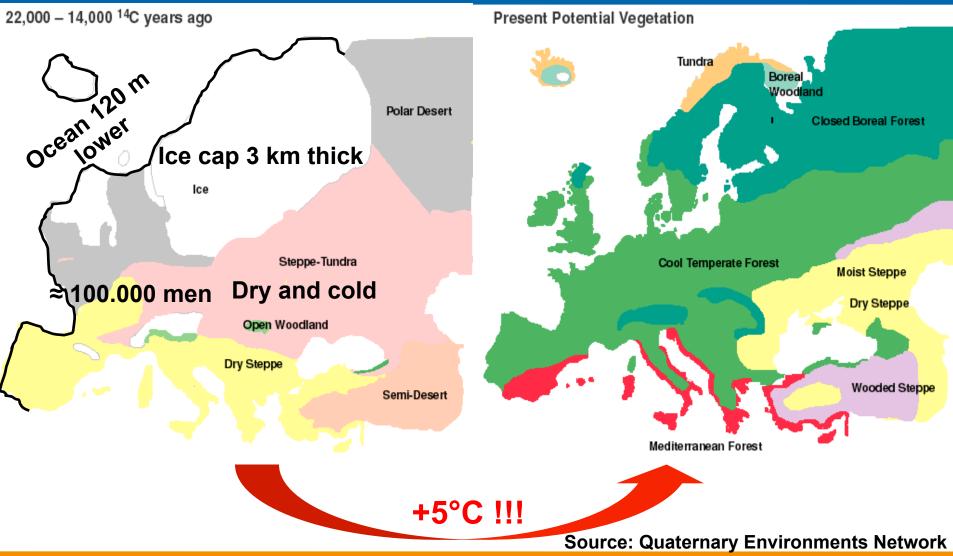






Fancy triggering a new climate era?





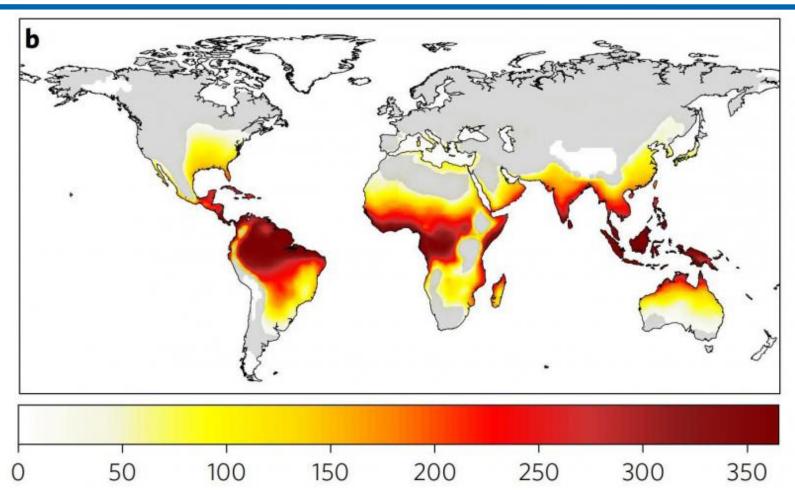






Let's feel the heat





Number of days of deadly heat in 2100 with +4°C. Source: Camilo Mora et al, Global Risk of deadly heat, Nature Climate Change

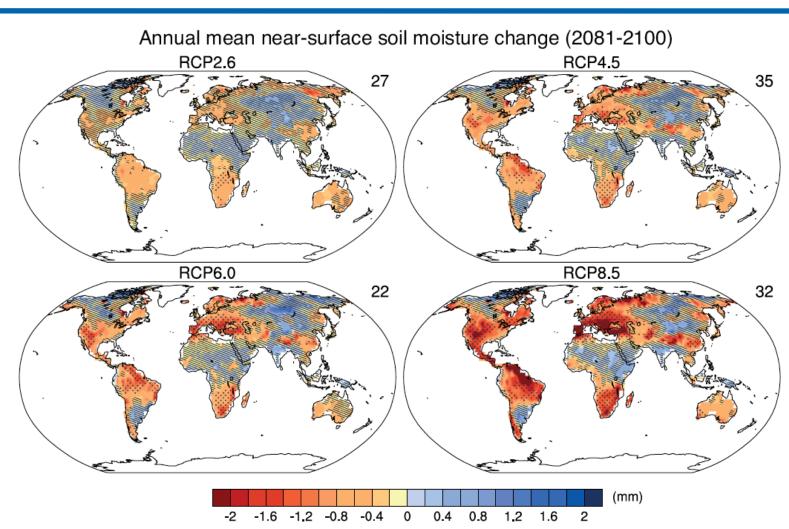






High and (very) dry…







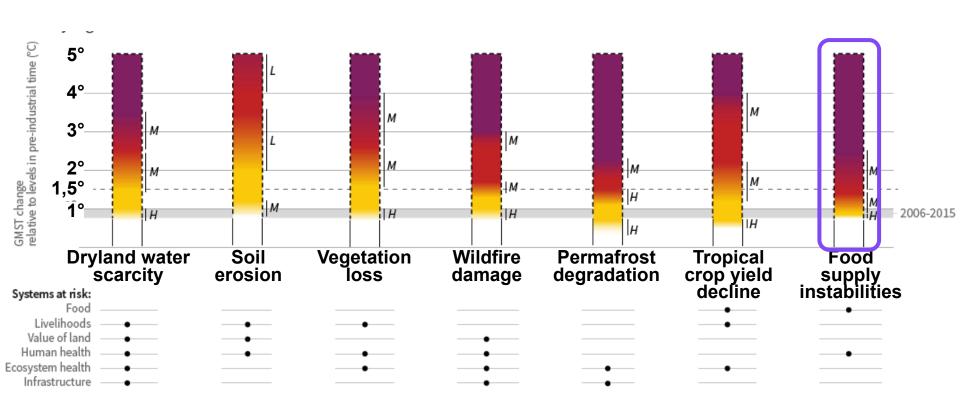






Adapting... to what exactly?





IPCC, 2019, Summary for policymakers of the report "climate change and land"

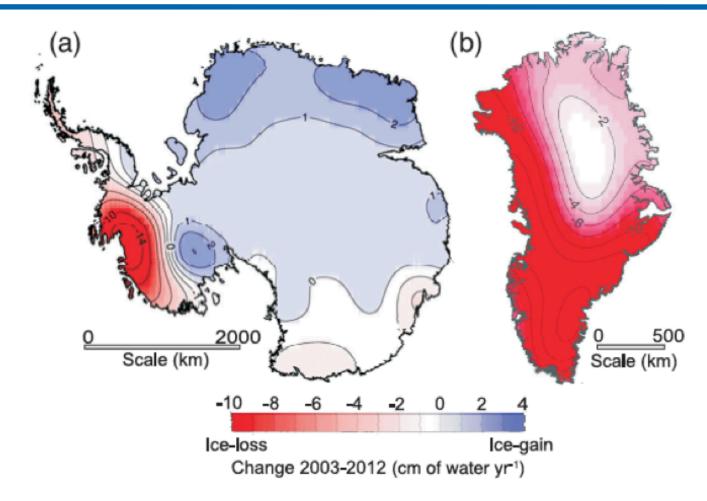






Gurgling gurgling





Ice cap change 2003-2012





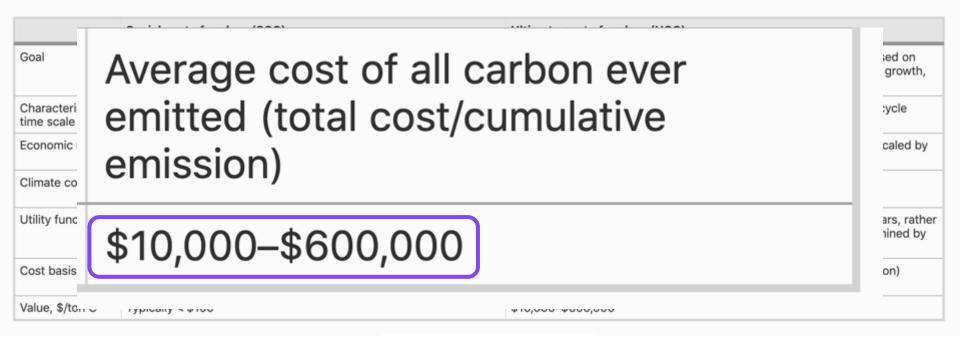


1 to 60 times the GDP!



Table 1 Comparison of the social and ultimate costs of carbon

From: The ultimate cost of carbon



Climatic Change https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-020-02785-4

The ultimate cost of carbon

David Archer 1 . Edwin Kite 1 . Greg Lusk 2,3

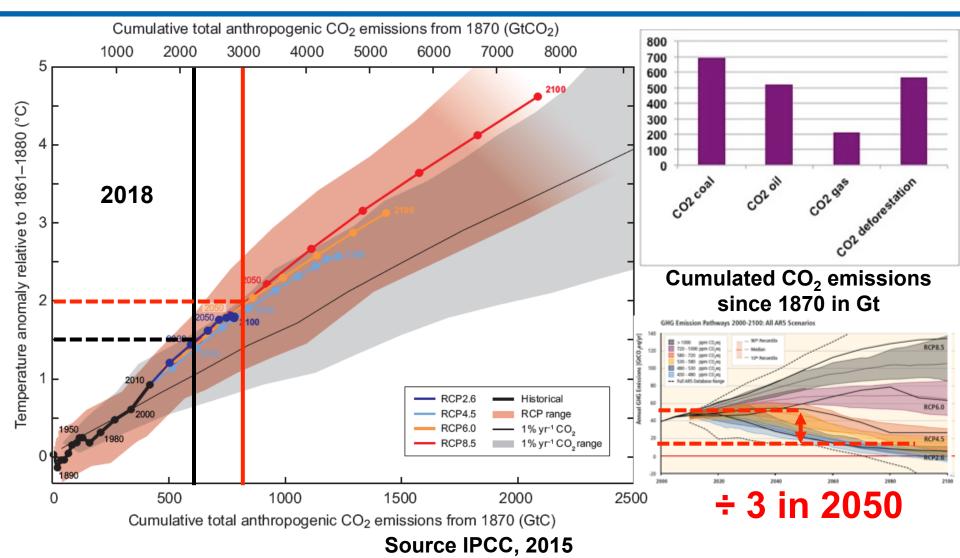






2°C, fingers in the nose?





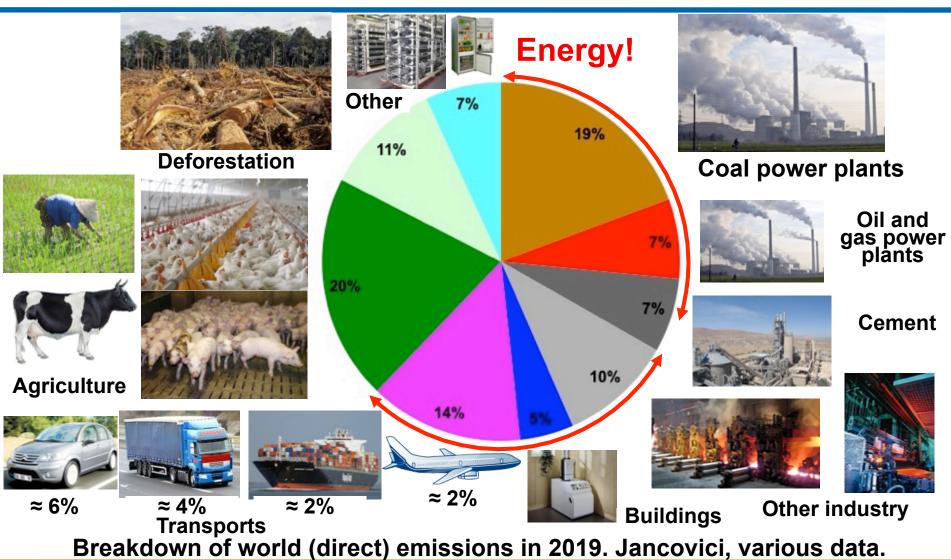






Emissions? But what for?

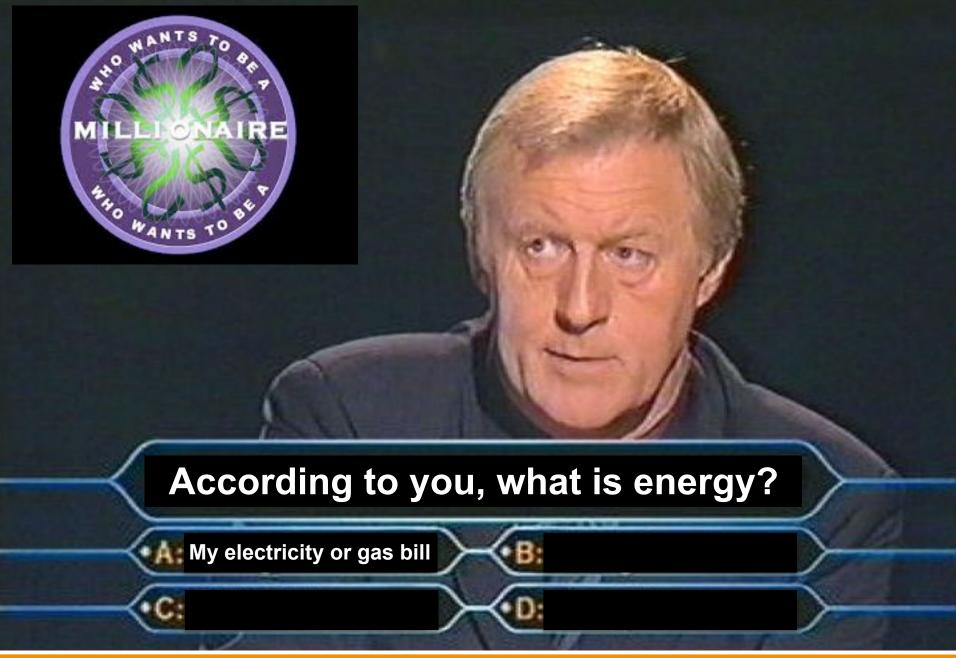


















It's only 5%!











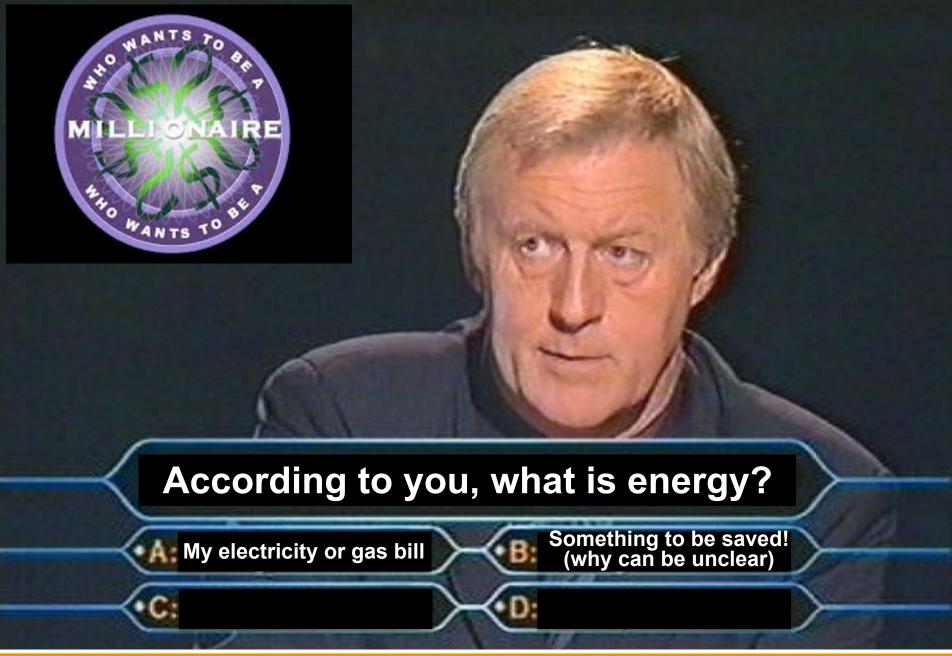
= 2%











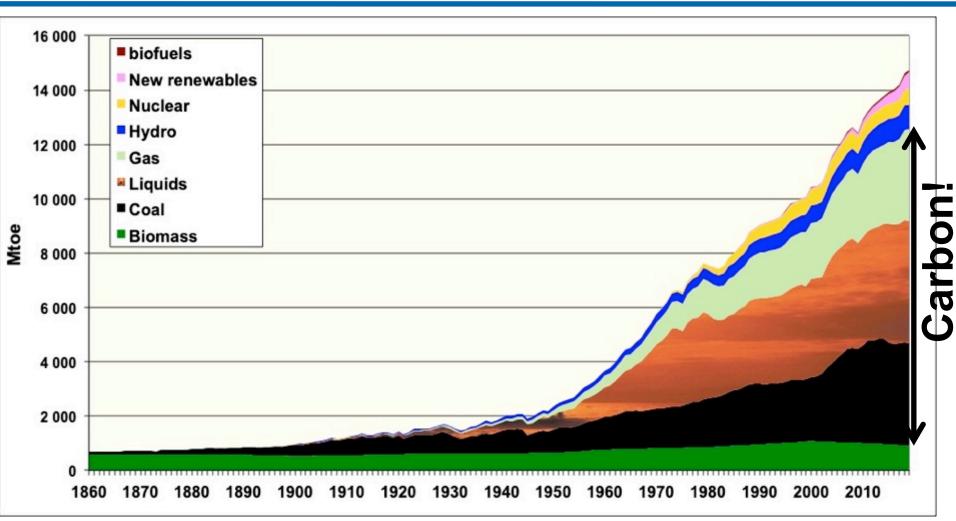






Did you say savings?



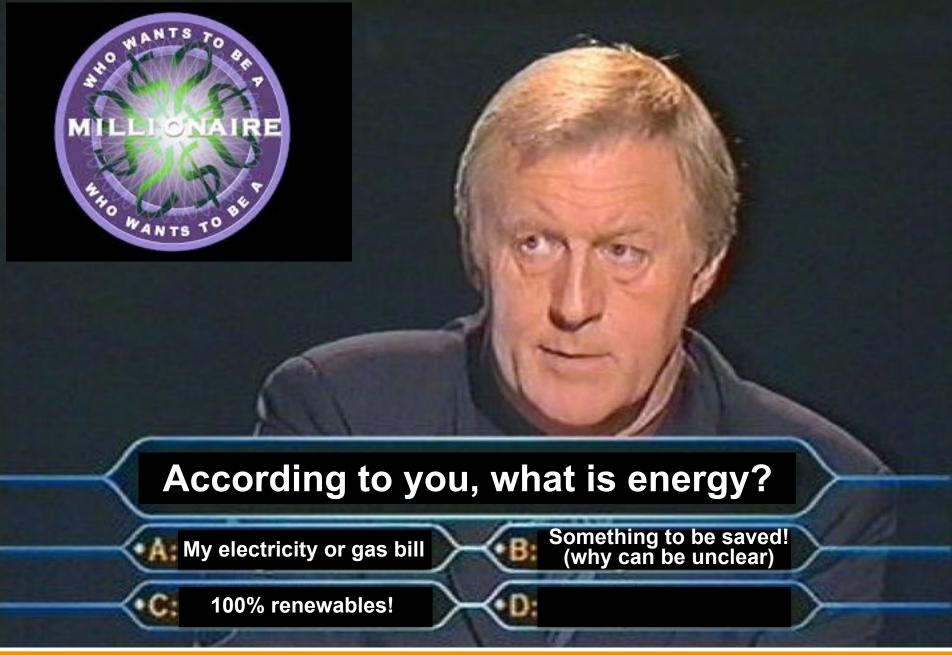


World energy use 1860-2019. Jancovici, 2020















Of course 100% renewable is possible!











Why on Earth did we waive our wonderful renewables for devilish oil?





2000 years ago

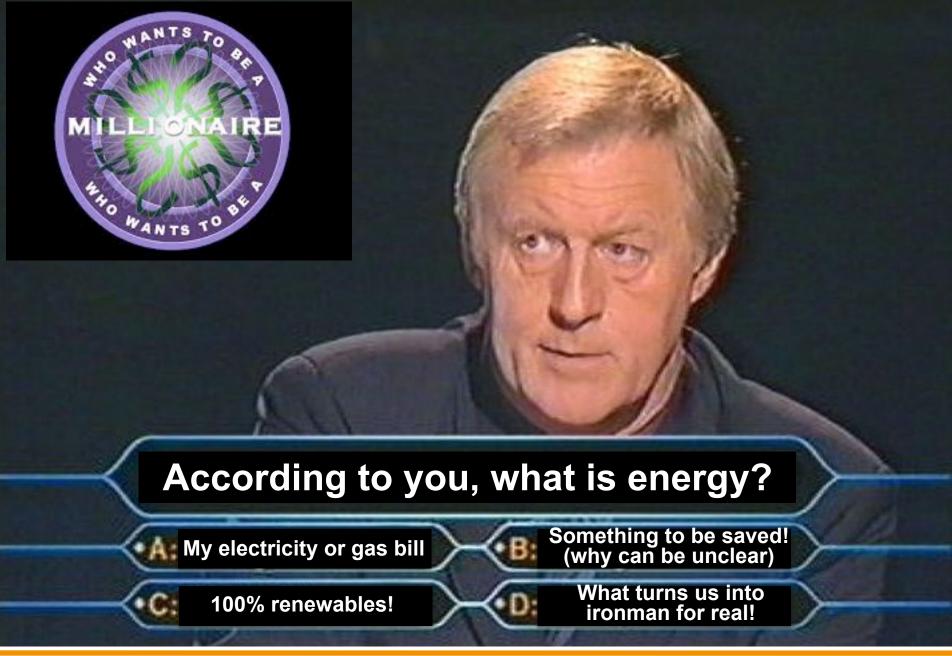


1 century ago















My left foot runs at 2000 km/h, my right arm lifts thousands tons...





















































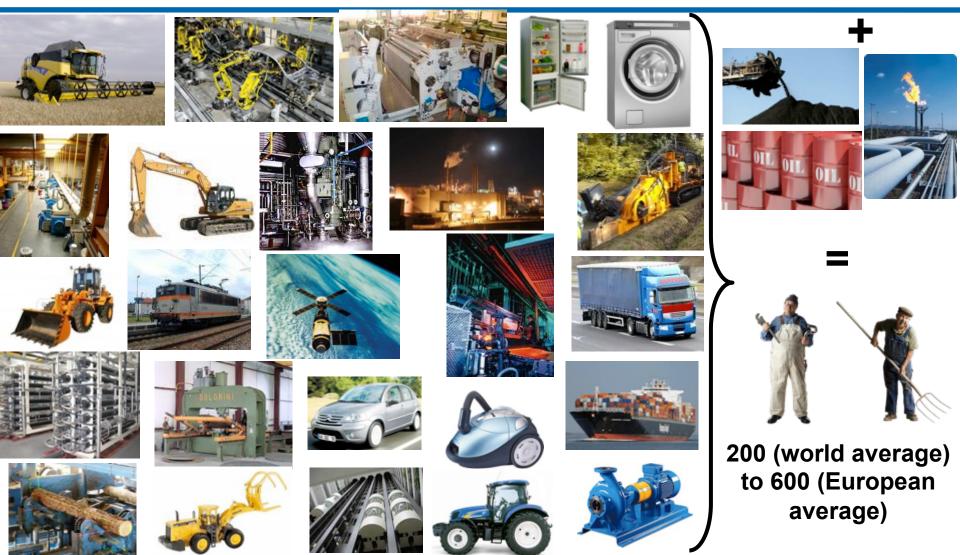






They work for us





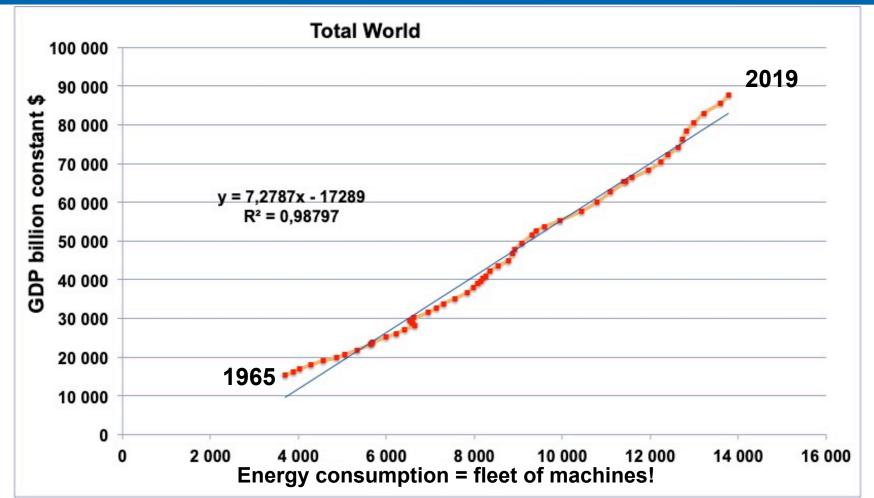






The best macroeconomic model in the world: a straight line





Energy consumption vs. GDP in constant \$. Author's calculation on World Bank 2020 for GDP, BP Statistical Review 2020 for energy

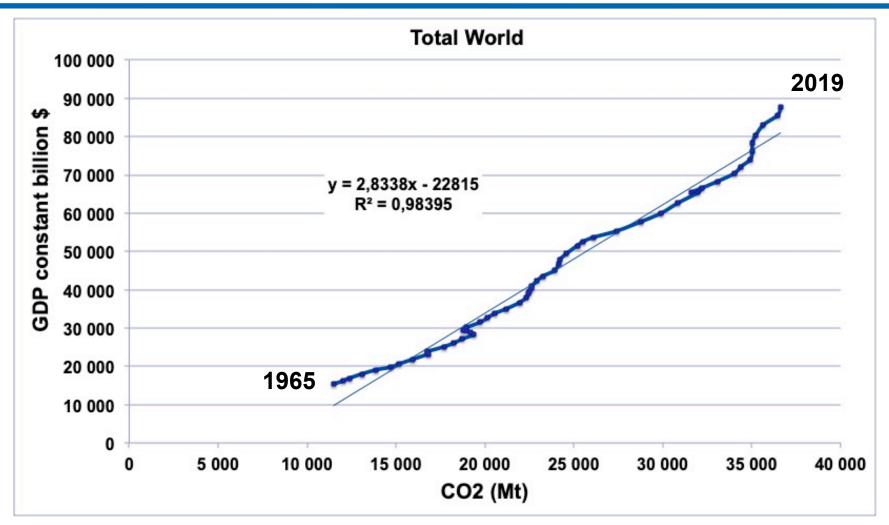






Decoupling, a piece of cake?





World CO2 emissions vs. world GDP. Jancovici, 2019

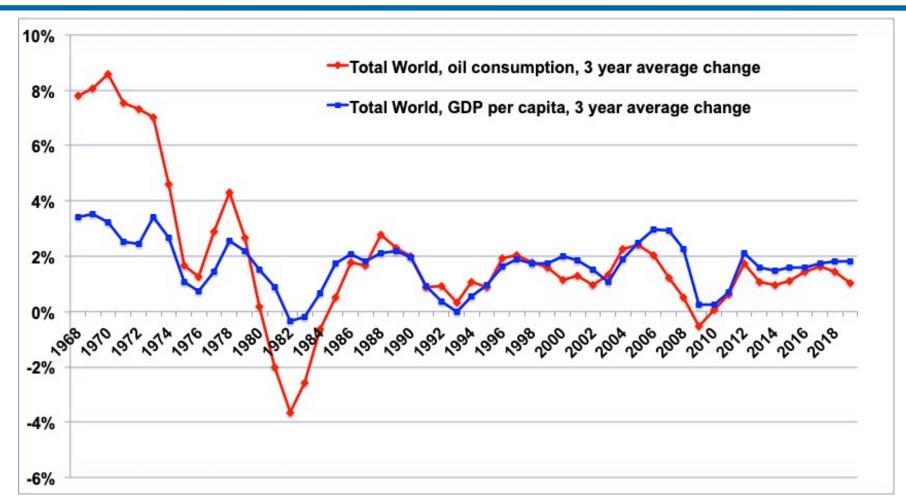






When there is no covid the first limiting factor of the economy lies in the ground





Annual change of the world oil production in volume (red) and the world GDP per capita (blue). Jancovici on World Bank 2020 for the GDP and BP Stat 2020 for oil

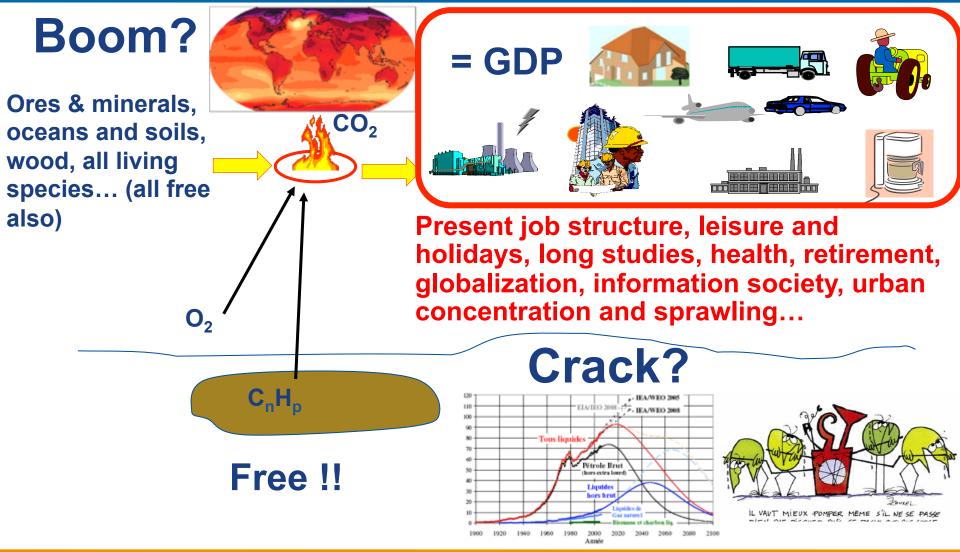






The fire age, perpetual growth and two questions





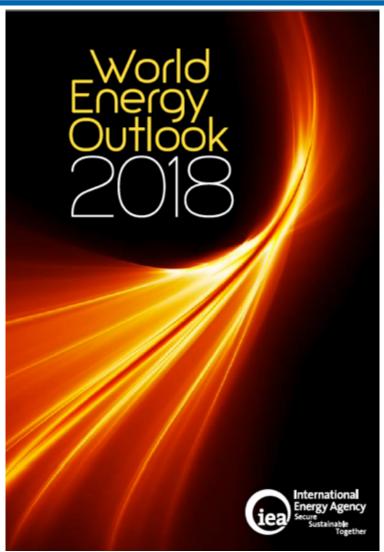






The wolf is here?





« Global conventional crude oil production peaked in 2008 at 69.5 mb/d and has since fallen by around 2.5 mb/d »

The average level of new conventional crude oil project approvals over the last three years is only half the amount necessary to balance the market out to 2025 (...). US tight oil is unlikely to pick up the slack on its own. (...) US tight oil (...) would need to more than triple in order to offset a continued absence of new conventional projects.







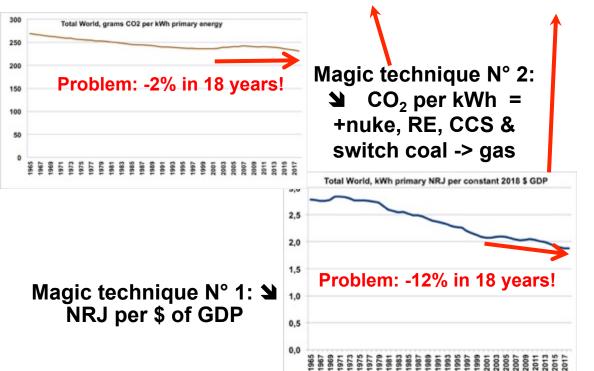
Fancy a little rule of three?

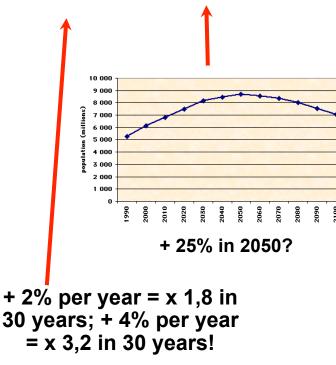


The Kaya identity:

To be divided by 3 by 2050... $CO_2 = \frac{CO_2}{TOE} * \frac{TOE}{GDP} * \frac{GDP}{POP} * POP$

CO₂ = Carbon content of * Energy intensity * Production * Population the energy of economy per person * Population











Fancy a little rule of three?



The Kaya identity:

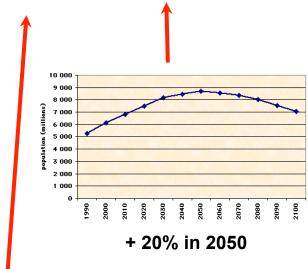
Is divided by 3 in 2050

$$CO_2 = \frac{CO_2}{TOE} * \frac{TOE}{GDP} * \frac{GDP}{POP} * POP$$

CO₂ = Carbon content of * Energy intensity * Production * Population emissions = the energy of economy per person

-2% per year (80 coal power plants replaced by nuke each year)

-1,5% per year (cars, homes, machinery...)



-0,5% per year (but divided by 4 to 5 on the US if equal conditions everywhere)

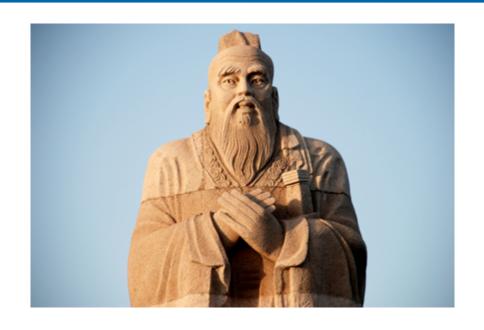






Achieving wisdom is an old story





By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.







Any questions?



