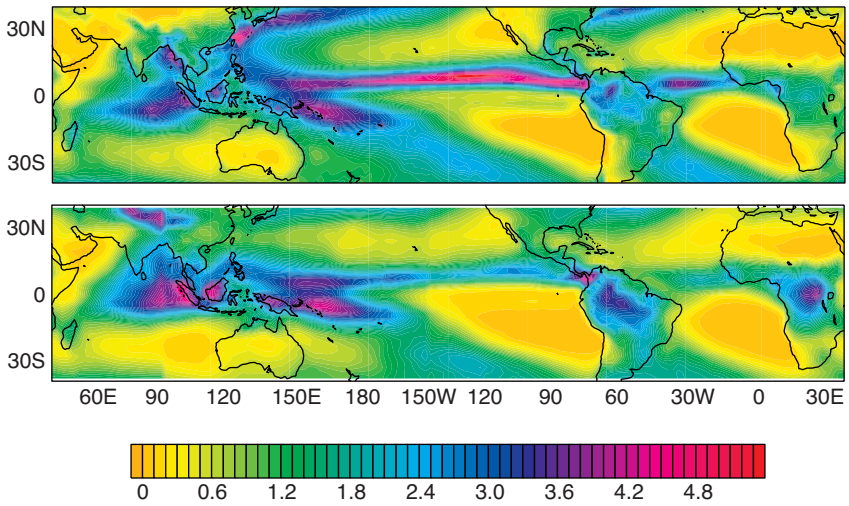

Figure 1. Annual mean precipitation over the tropics, as inferred from different data sources. The upper panel is based on the microwave sounding unit over the ocean and a land climatology compiled from station data. The lower panel shows the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite precipitation index (GPI) inferred from high-resolution imagery of outgoing longwave radiation. The bands of heavy precipitation over the tropical Pacific and Atlantic are the oceanic ITCZs. Quantitative estimates of precipitation in meters per year can be inferred from the color bar at the bottom.