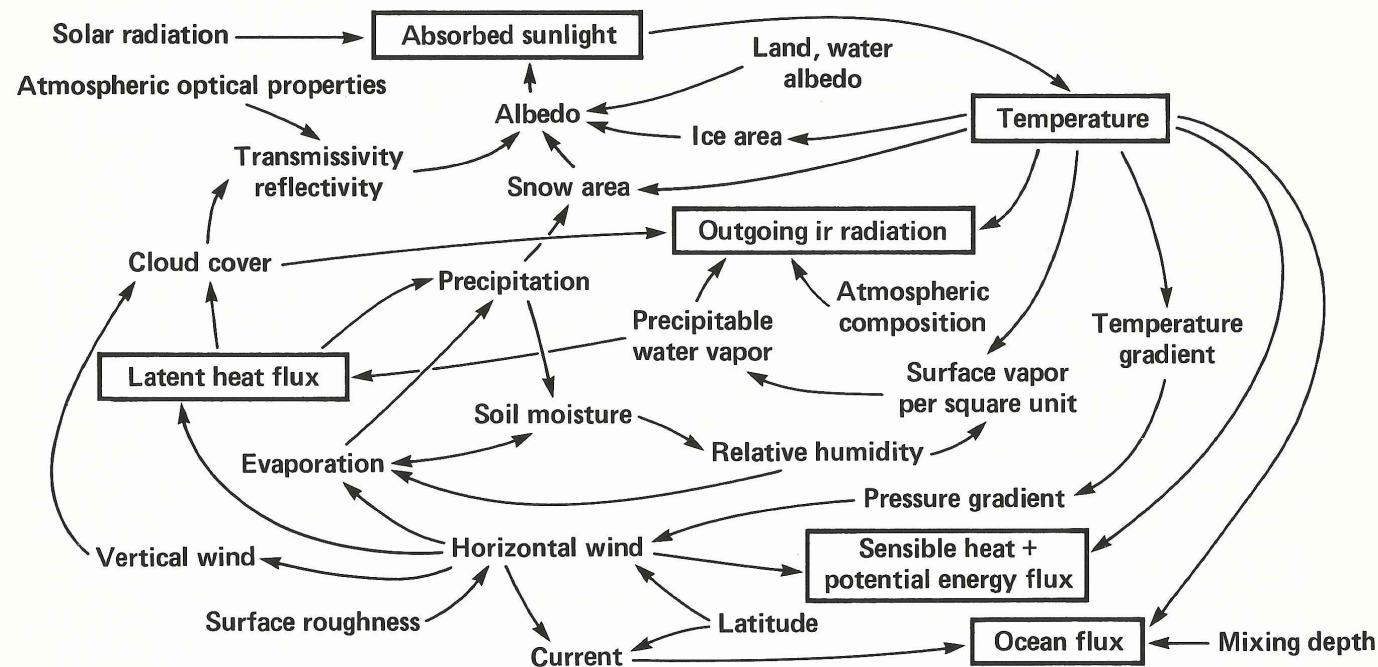


Some climate slides from yore
(that led to Rube Goldberg comparison)

Michael MacCracken

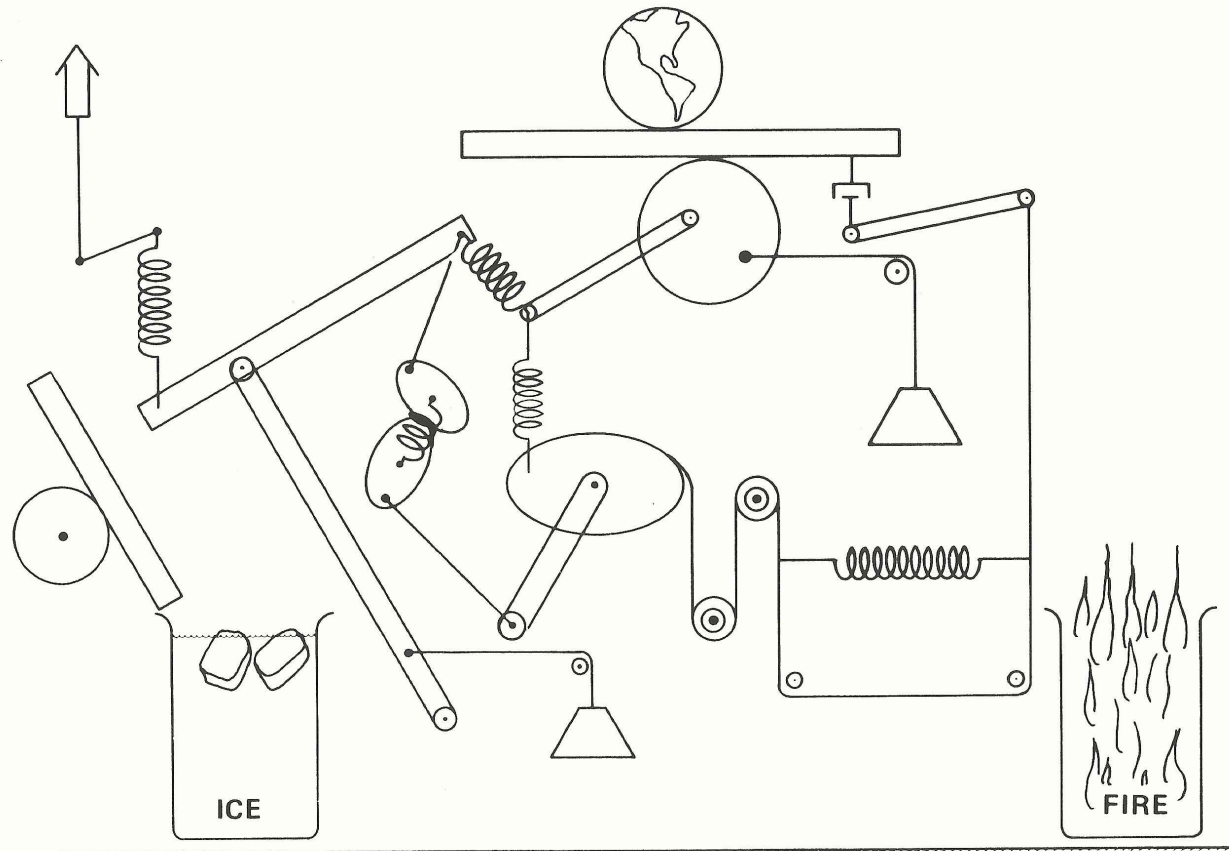
An early diagram of climate feedbacks (by William D. Sellers, in 1970s)

CLIMATIC CAUSE-AND-EFFECT (FEEDBACK) LINKAGES



Source: Sellers

... led me to imagine a physical model of the global climate



This diagram provoked the following quote: *“The feedbacks are enormously complicated,”* says Michael MacCracken, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. *“It’s like a Rube Goldberg machine in the sense of the number of things that interact in order to tip the world into fire or ice.”* [From “The Heat is On,” Michael Lemonick, Time Magazine cover story, October 19, 1987. Much of the second sentence appeared in “What’s wrong with our weather,” Lowell Ponte, Reader’s Digest, November 1988. Slightly modified, the full comment also appeared in *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben, 1989, p. 26.]