
Preface

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Graduate students in Atmospheric Science come from a wide variety of undergraduate backgrounds. My own advisees have come from Meteorology, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Geology, and various branches of Engineering. One brave soul came from Romance Languages. Needless to say the skill sets of such students are very diverse. Some are superbly prepared; others, not so much.

These QuickStudies essays are designed to provide brief, readable, and accessible summaries of selected background topics for the classes that I teach. The essays stand alone, for the most part, although they do reference each other in some cases. I think of them as “appendices” to my class notes. I try to keep them short and to the point, which means that I have to resist the urge to add content to individual essays.

I acknowledge that, in the parlance of the 60s, I have liberated the title “*QuickStudies*” from *Physics Today*, which currently uses it for two-page primers near the end of each issue; earlier I called my essays “Nuggets,” but the new, borrowed title is much more accurately descriptive.