



Michael Mishchenko was a brilliant scientist, the leading expert in light scattering by complex particles. He was an enthusiastic, inspirational person, and we miss him.

Working with China: The Aerosol Role in Climate Change

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We believe that it is important to work with our friends and colleagues in China to advance our understanding of the threat posed by human-made climate change and effective policies to achieve a propitious long-term climate. Here we simply make available the talk that Jim gave in Xi'an last week and resist the temptation to elaborate on that, for the sake of staying on our self-imposed deadline of finishing his overdue book (*Sophie's Planet*¹) this year and working on a proposal for cooperative research next year. We appreciate your support as we work toward that goal. The charts used in Xi'an and discussion of each are [here](#). Other presentations and graphs are available on our [website](#),² which is currently under construction. We are on [Substack](#)³.

Fig. 1 is an update of the horse race between 2026 and 2024. In August, 2026 gained about one length ($0.1^{\circ}\text{C} \times 1$ month) and now trails 2024 by about 5 and a half lengths.⁴ Given the lag of global temperature behind the tropics, we know that the surge of 2026 will pick up in September and 2026 annual temperature will readily exceed that of 2024 – we are sorry to say.

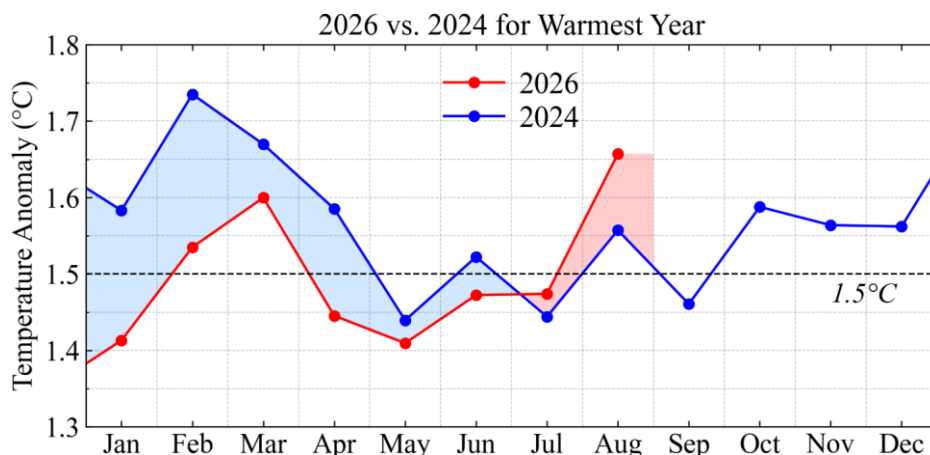


Fig. 1. Global temperature anomaly in GISS analysis⁵ including an estimate for August.

¹ The present, revised, [Preface, which provides references on this topic](#), is available. The book is expected to be finished this year and published in 2027.

² Our communications (posts) and data are available now via [Hansen's website](#) while we continue to develop and populate our websites and data pages. Figures in communications and papers that remain of current interest will be updated at appropriate intervals, usually monthly, with the most recent date of update indicated on the website.

³ <https://jimehansen.substack.com/>

⁴ We estimate that August 2026 is 0.1°C warmer than August 2024 based on preliminary data from several sources.

⁵ Temperature is from Goddard Institute for Space Studies analysis described by Hansen J, Ruedy R, Sato M *et al.* [Global surface temperature change](#), *Rev Geophys* **48**, RG4004, 2010; Lenssen NJL, Schmidt G, Hendrickson M *et al.* [A NASA GISTEMPv4 Observational Uncertainty Ensemble](#), *J Geophys Res Atmos* **129**, e2023JD040179, 2024