



**Figure. 2.** The Earth must be in radiative (energy) balance within a very small fraction of  $1 \text{ W/m}^2$  averaged over the current interglacial period as well as during the peak of the last ice age 20,000 years ago. The changes in atmospheric composition and surface properties, indicated here, which maintained a global temperature difference of  $5 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  between the ice age and the interglacial period, are known accurately. They imply that climate sensitivity is  $\frac{3}{4}^\circ\text{C}$  per  $\text{W/m}^2$ , which corresponds to  $3 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  for a doubled  $\text{CO}_2$  forcing of  $4 \text{ W/m}^2$  (Hansen, et al., *Natl. Geogr. Res. & Explor.* 9, 141-158, 1993).