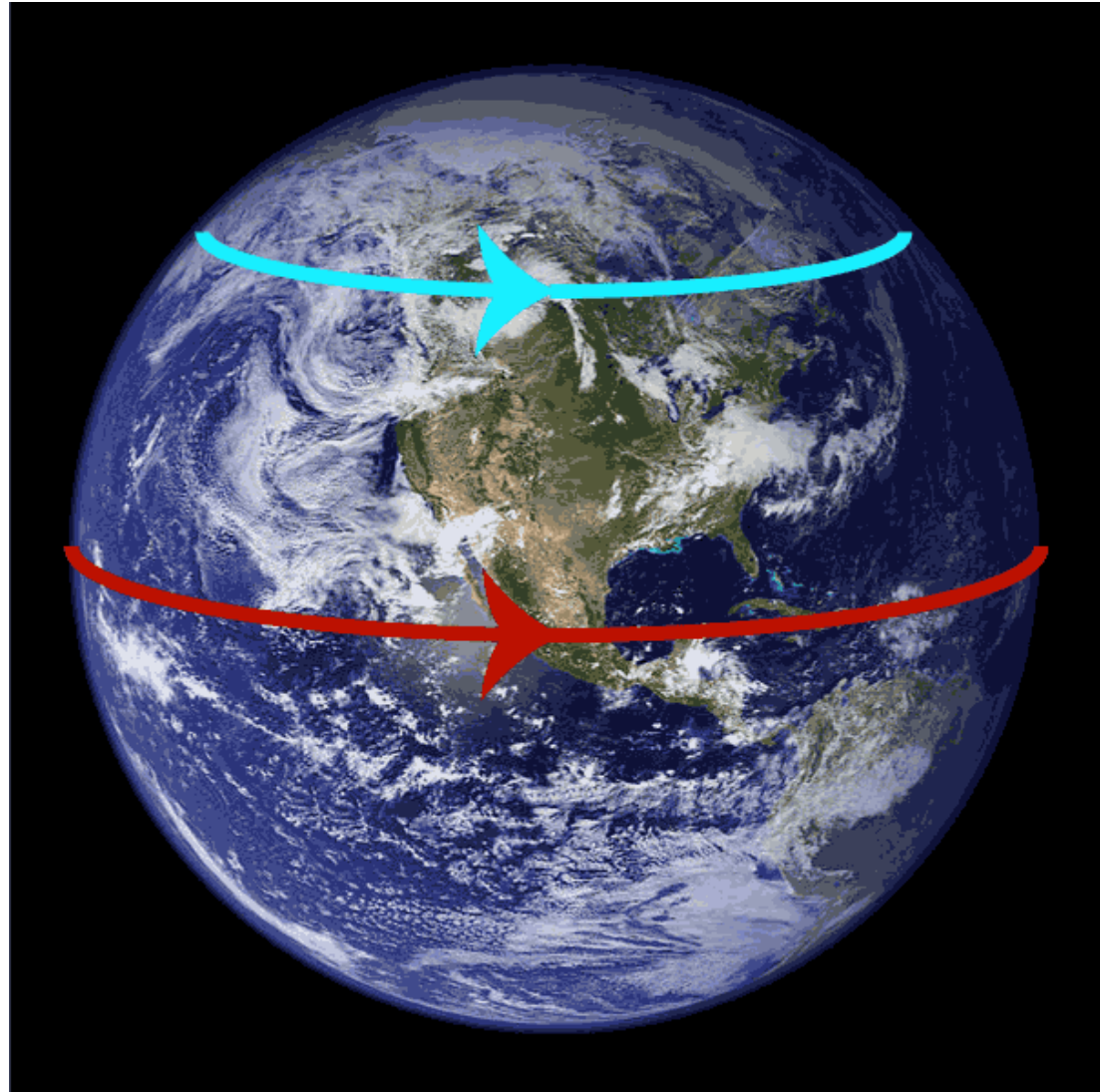
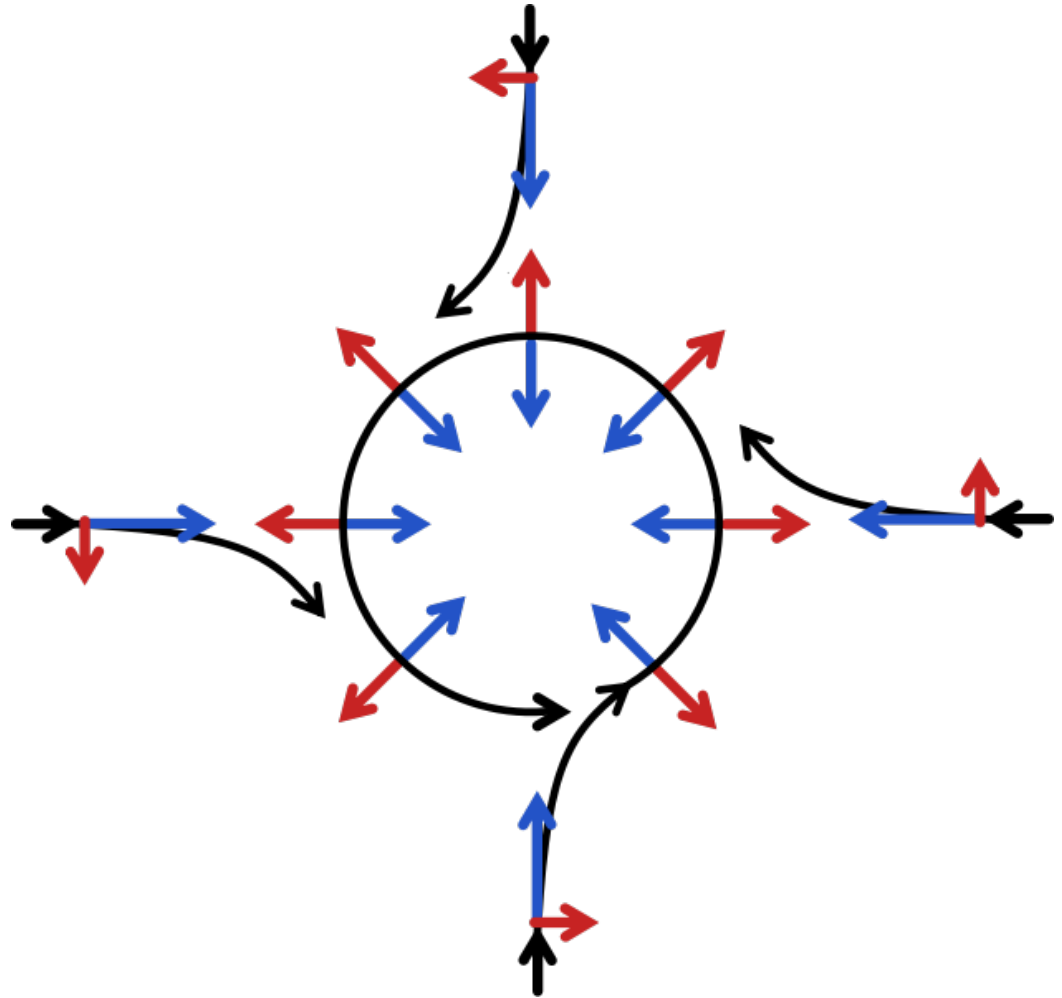


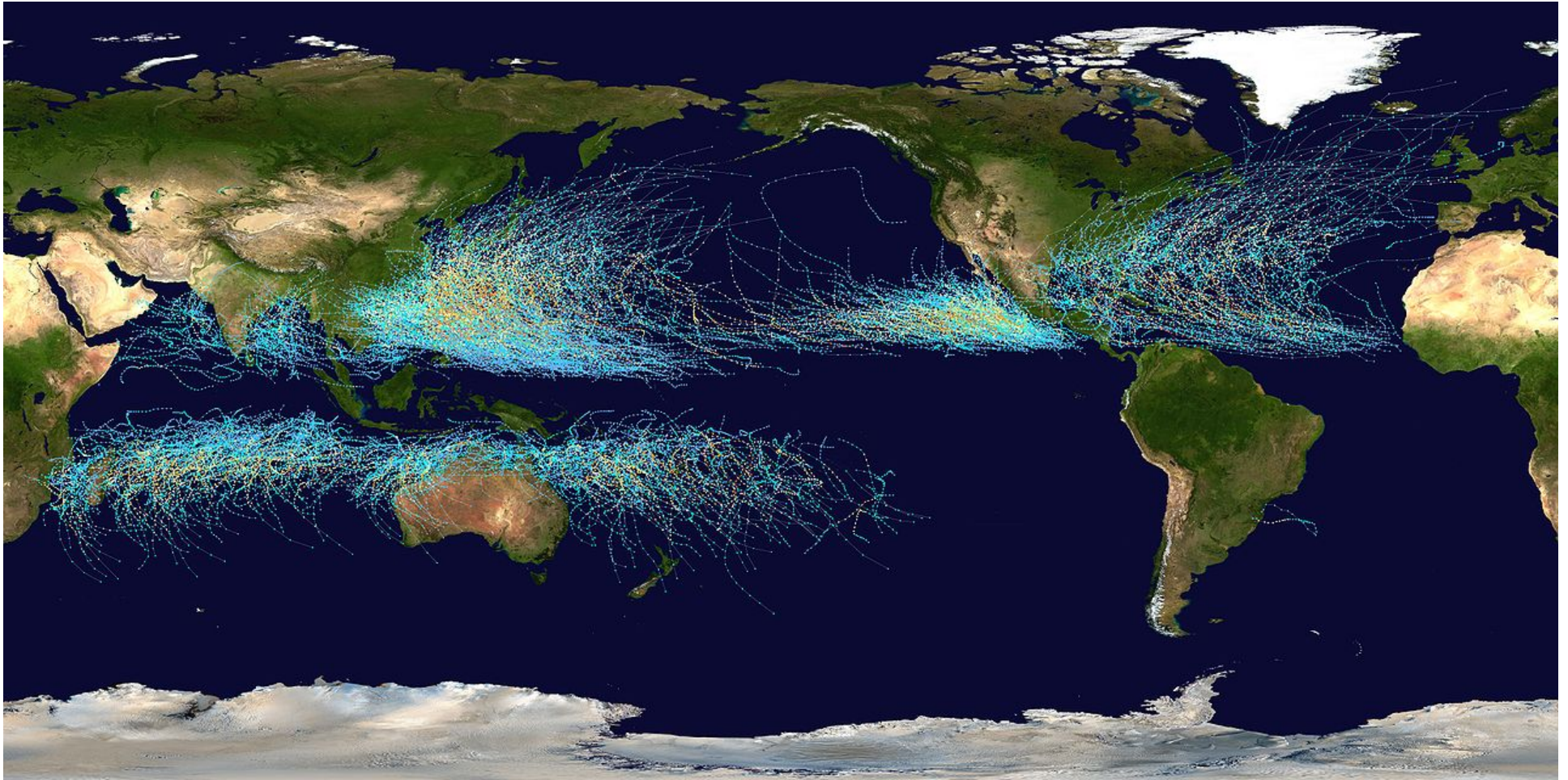
Airflow in an updraft over the ocean. A local warm spot in the ocean initiates an updraft that brings in cool air from the surrounding region. As the air rises to higher altitude it cools enough to condense the water vapor it carries. The condensation releases heat into the air, rewarming it and causing it to rise still further.

The rotating earth.
Objects at the equator rotate with the earth in a large circle (red line). An objects closer to the pole rotates in a smaller circle (cyan line).



Schematic showing the overhead view of a hurricane in the northern hemisphere. Air is drawn in towards the low pressure region at the center of the storm (blue arrows) and is deflected by the Coriolis effect (red arrows) so that the air ends up circulating in a counter-clockwise direction (black arrows). Image made available by Roland Geider ([Ogre](#)) and ([Cleontuni](#)) at http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coriolis_effect10.svg under the CC-BY-SA 3.0 license.





Map of the tracks of all tropical cyclones that formed worldwide from 1985 to 2005. The points show the locations of the storms at six-hourly intervals. Note that the storms only form more than 5 degrees away from the equator. Closer to the equator, the Coriolis effect is not strong enough to generate the circulating winds.