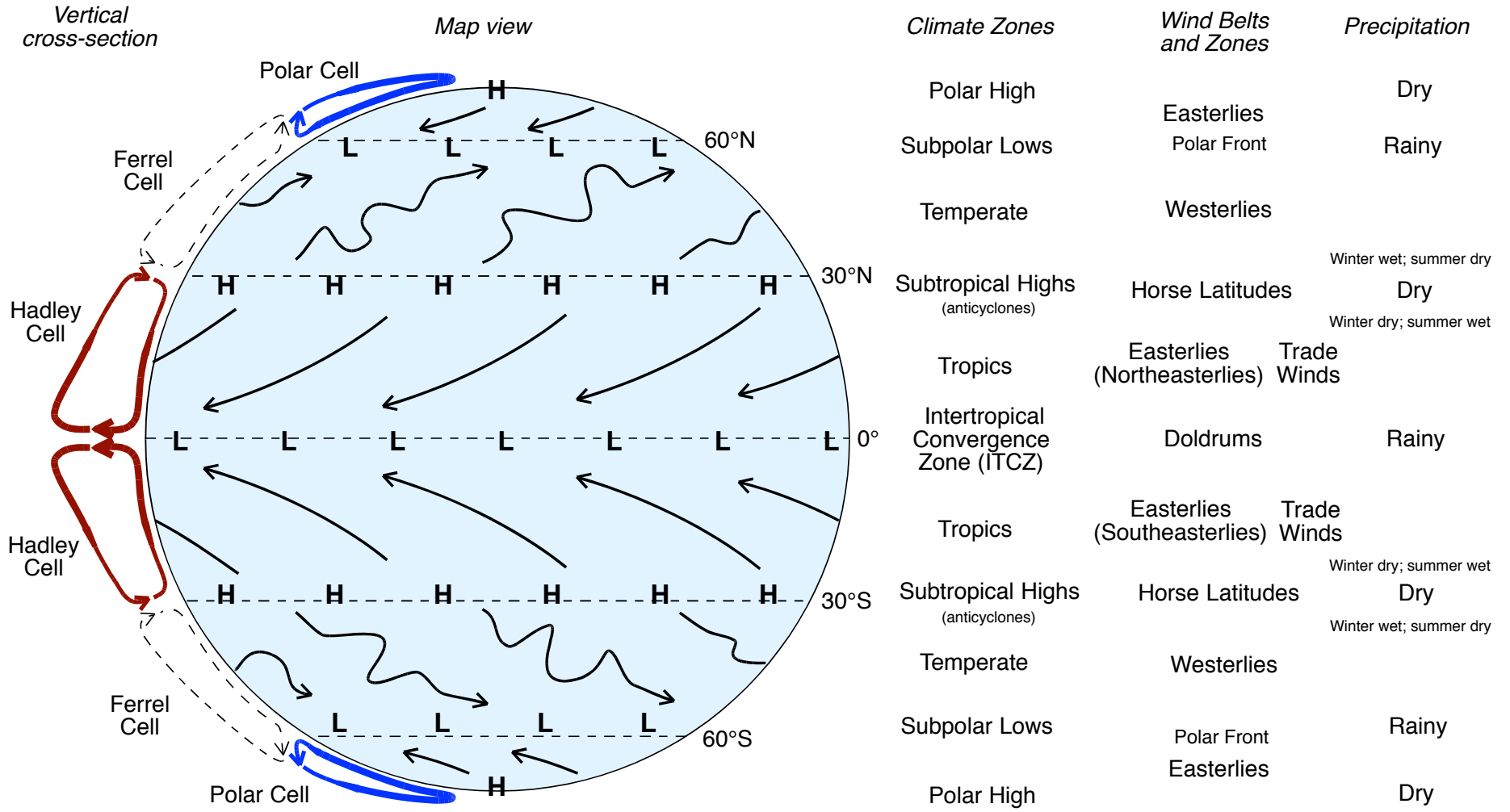


Global climate zones II: an idealized simple view, with weather



Part I of this series showed a schematic pattern of atmospheric circulation on Earth. This page changes that presentation by suggesting some variability of the westerly winds. That variability is shown here as variation through space, but it is also a variability through time: it is the weather of the westerlies belt.

Earth's easterlies are relatively constant because they are driven by the constant heating (and low pressure) at the equator, and by the constant cold (and high pressure) at the poles. The westerly winds, as the Earth-surface expression of the more secondary or ancillary Ferrel Cells,

are more variable. The westerlies' changes in flow, as transient highs and lows move through the middle latitudes, give the variable weather that characterizes the middle latitudes.