Orgone Functions
in Weather Formation*

I am forced to follow the line which is dictated by my observations of orgone energy. It is not my purpose here to raise any meteorological problems, let alone attempt to solve them. However, the dependence of medical orgone therapy on the atmospheric energy conditions inevitably compels me to conduct observations of a meteorological and astronomical nature. Indeed, such observations sometimes throw light into the obscurity of these rather remote fields of science. Naturally, one cannot simply ignore this fact. It would not be appropriate here to examine in detail the range of theories which have been conceived over the centuries to explain the phenomena of weather formation. Orgone research brings to light such fundamentally new and different facts that we cannot avoid clashing here and there with the customary opinions expressed on the subject of weather. Let me cite just one example to demonstrate how badly you can become entangled in insoluble contradictions if phenomena such as cloud formation and lightning are approached solely with the usual theory of positive and negative electricity, and if attempts are then made to reconcile this theory with the orgonomic phenomena observed. The prevailing view is that warm air rises into the higher, colder regions of the atmosphere, taking with it the water vapor contained in the air. Once it reaches the colder regions, the water vapor is said to "condense" into extremely fine droplets. These droplets then take up "positive electricity from the air" and clouds are formed. As a result, a tension builds up between the positively charged cloud and the negatively charged earth, and this tension is discharged in lightning.

Anyone who deals with the phenomena of orgone energy has

* First version written in summer 1943. Revised and expanded in summer 1946. Translated from the German by Derek and Inge Jordan.
major difficulties in trying to understand this theory and becomes involved in insoluble contradictions. Above all, the theory fails to explain the phenomenon of lightning between two clouds which does not strike the earth. It follows from this that there must be two different sources of lightning: First, there is lightning caused by the discharge of electricity between positively charged clouds and the negatively charged earth. Second, there is lightning caused by discharges between positively and negatively charged clouds. Even if we accept such a complicated interpretation, it still leaves unexplained the phenomenon of sheet lightning in the absence of clouds. A third interpretation would be needed to explain the phenomenon of sheet lightning which takes place over wide areas of cloudless sky.

Nor does the electrical theory of cloud formation tell us anything about the origin of “positive atmospheric electricity”. The air contains only minimal quantities of free electricity and it is also an extremely good insulator. What, then, is the source of the gigantic amounts of energy - in the order of several million volts - which are discharged in a lightning flash?

We feel, therefore, that the admission by large numbers of physicists and astronomers that the phenomena of weather formation are unexplained comes much closer to reflecting the current state of our knowledge on the subject. For example, Warburg writes in his Experimental-Physik [Experimental Physics] (24th Edition, 1933, p. 222):

“In fact, lightning is an electrical current by means of which an electrically charged cloud, i.e. a thundercloud, is discharged . . . . It is (not possible) to say with certainty what is the origin of this electrical force field over the surface of the earth.”

Drawing on the fundamental properties of orgone energy which are known to us, let us now see if they can explain any weather phenomena and, if so, which ones.

There is an old rule among farmers which states that, before it rains, the mountains appear to be close by and clearly visible, without any haze. On the other hand, on fine days, which are not followed by rainfall, the mountains are shrouded in a blue-grey “haze” which gives them an overall blue-grey appearance. The mountains seem to be far away. We stumble here over the word “haze”. This haze is blue-grey in color. However, water vapor is opaque, and when it builds up as early morning mist over valleys it is grey and not blue-grey in appearance. We know that orgone is blue-grey and that water absorbs orgone. The blue haze in front of the distant mountains could therefore be water vapor containing orgone, which disappears prior to the onset of rainy weather.

This fact coincides with two other phenomena which are derived from electroscopic discharge rates. The attached graphs show three basic types of actual fluctuations in the atmospheric orgone energy tension: On a clear sunny day followed by another clear day; on a clear sunny day followed by a rainy day; and finally on three successive days with varying sunny and cloudy conditions but no rain.

The first graph was plotted on July 21, 1941 in Oquossoc, Maine. We can see that until about 5:30 p.m. the electroscopic discharges increased in a more or less uniform curve, i.e., they took place more and more slowly. From 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. the curve declines again in a uniform manner and the electroscopic discharges occur slightly more rapidly as measurements are carried out each hour. On July 22 and 23 the weather was sunny and clear. The type of curve is the same on both days,
except that a small amount of precipitation occurred on July 22 at approximately 8:30 a.m. during a brief period of ten second-org tension. No measurements had been taken the night before, so it can only be assumed that the tension had declined. We can deduce from these curves that throughout the day the orgone is uniformly distributed in the atmosphere; there are no differences in the concentration. On the other hand, the uniform rise and fall in the daily curves indicates that the density of the orgone generally increases and decreases everywhere. Until 5:30 p.m. orgone levels build up in the atmosphere and they become "thinner" again as the sun sets. The decline in the rate of electrosopic discharge in the hot hours around midday runs counter to the view that the energy involved is electrical, because if the more intense solar radiation is supposed to bring about a greater accumulation of electrical energy in the air, the electrosopes would discharge more rapidly and not more slowly during the midday hours. In order to explain the curve in the first graph, it would be nonsensical to assume that the amount of electricity contained in the air is greatest in the early morning and late in the evening and drops to its lowest level at midday when the sun is at its strongest. On the other hand, these measurements coincide with the differences in orgone tension measured inside and outside the orgone accumulator.

The orgone concentration in the air depends directly on the intensity of the solar radiation. This is also confirmed by the sharp rise in the temperature difference To-T0 measured in the ground and the fact that the weighing pan drops.

The second graph presents an entirely different picture. On July 16, 1941, the weather conditions at Oquossoc, Maine, were clear and sunny all day, just as they were on July 21. But, in this case, after a steady rise in the curve until 4 p.m., we see a rapid and complete drop from 14 minute-org to 10 second-org within a period of half an hour. After that, the orgone tension curve no longer rises but fluctuates at the 10 second-org level until late in the night. Eight hours after the sudden drop in the curve a heavy rain shower occurred which lasted all night and the following day. At 8 a.m. on July 17 the atmospheric energy tension was only around 1 second-org. It remained at this low concentration until 10 a.m. and then rose to the amount of 4 minute-org at 4 p.m., while from 5 to 9 p.m. it dropped back to 1 minute-org. This means that orgone energy disappeared from the vicinity of the electroscope, i.e., from the areas close to the ground, at about 4:30 p.m., and then reappeared at midnight in local concentrations at higher levels as charged storm clouds. As the atmosphere clears, the original uniform and denser concentration of the orgone reappears and this is reflected in correspondingly higher daily curves.

Alternatingly sunny and cloudy weather prevailed on three successive days from August 1 to 3, 1941. The daily fluctuations of the orgone tension are irregular. In each case, there was a sudden drop of tension which does not occur on consistently sunny days. At the same time, or soon after this drop occurs, clouds form. The curve always rises when, or slightly before, the sun breaks through; and it always drops when the skies are already cloudy or clouds form.

Taken together with all the other observations, there is only one interpretation which satisfies all these phenomena: The formation of clouds goes with the removal of free orgone from the lower layers of the atmosphere. The tension curve must therefore drop because the concentration is reduced at the surface of the

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1An enclosure constructed of alternating layers of metallic and non-metallic materials so as to accumulate orgone energy. [Eds.]

2To-T0 refers to the difference between the temperature in the orgone accumulator and in the surrounding atmosphere. [Eds.]
condensation of water vapor cannot be the factor responsible for cloud formation.

But nor can it be electricity which builds up in the water content of the clouds. Rainwater contains absolutely no mineral salts; it is “soft” compared with the “hard” salt-laden water found in rivers and seas. It is difficult to imagine how electrical charges should build up in salt-free water because such charges can only attach themselves to atoms in the form of ions. The water itself is not dissociated into H and O in the cloud and it cannot therefore be the carrier of electrical charges. And it is totally inconceivable that the cloud has a “positive electrical” charge because then the positively charged H would have to dissociate from the O. There could not be any rain, because rain consists of neutral H₂O.

The assumption that electrons attach themselves to water particles also fails to stand up to scrutiny because, first, it is highly improbable that such attachment would take place; second, in that case the water particles in the clouds would have to be negatively charged. They could not be positively charged because then there would be no lightning, since it is assumed that the earth is also negatively charged. Or is it possible that positrons become attached to non-dissociated water particles? In short, the entire concept that clouds carry a positive electrical charge is incorrect and confused.

On the other hand, the fact that water absorbs orgone avoids such contradictions. The impossible assumption that isolated positive electrical charges occur in non-dissociated water can then be replaced by the theory that water particles bearing qualitatively identical charges are attracted to each other. This is a process which coincides with the basic properties of the orgone. Each cloud in itself forms an organotic system made up of orgone-charged water particles which fuse. The clouds associate, flow together, and merge. In the process, the orgone charges become concentrated.

Once two or more clouds have merged, the differences in size and density are lost in a more or less uniform blue-grey mass. If lightning was emitted as the individual cloud systems merged, the lightning gradually ceases as the sea of clouds becomes a
uniform mass, i.e., there are no longer any individual orgonotic systems which can combine with each other while generating flashes of light.

Thick, heavy storm clouds have a deep grey-blue color which is not imparted by the blue of the sky. The blue sky behind the clouds is in fact obscured, and the clouds are too dense to allow us to see it. The grey-blue of the thunder clouds must therefore be due to their orgone charge.

We are now in a position to understand, without any difficulty, not only the phenomenon of sheet lightning but also the lightning flash occurring between two cloud systems. If the cloud empties its water content onto the ground, the orgone charges are released. Before the orgone energy is uniformly distributed throughout the atmosphere and fine weather conditions are restored, differences must exist here and there in the concentration of the free orgone which are equalized by the development of strong lightning flashes. Sheet lightning is fundamentally nothing more than an extremely intense manifestation of the normal flashing of orgone energy which is visible in the dark sky on clear nights. It is thus not a separate and peculiar phenomenon which occurs only under special circumstances. In fact, we can say that the phenomenon which we call sheet lightning is taking place all the time, but at such a reduced level of intensity that we cannot discern it with the naked eye during the day, and at night we need to use the orgonoscope in order to see it. With equal ease, we can explain the flash of storm lightning between two clouds as the transfer of energy between two orgonotic systems as they come into contact with each other. The difference between sheet lightning, which spreads across the sky, and the flash of lightning which takes place in a thunderstorm is determined solely by the extent to which the orgone is concentrated per unit volume of space. The lightning flash corresponds to the development of extremely large quantities of orgone within a very small space. Sheet lightning corresponds to the equalization of differences in the orgone concentration over wide areas of the atmosphere.

A lightning flash between a cloud and the earth obeys the same law: The earth is one orgone system and the cloud is the other, smaller system. It is no longer necessary to assume that the two systems are oppositely charged. We already know that the orgone has the property, which is not shared by any other form of energy, of creating a large concentration by attracting small quantities of orgone. The orgone energy of the earth thus attracts the orgone energy of the cloud in the same way that a large cloud attracts a small one. Flashes of lightning thus occur between clouds and the earth in the same way as between two clouds. The amounts of energy involved are enormous. According to available calculations, each lightning flash contains millions of volts. This reminds us that our static electroscope, which we can charge easily with a single stroke of our hair, requires several hundred electric volts to be charged to the same level. There is thus agreement between these two sets of facts. It cannot be electricity but rather orgone which operates in thunderstorms.

The process of cloud formation has taught us to recognize two opposite functioning directions which we may refer to as the antithetical states or functions of the orgone. The densening or concentration of orgone is contrasted with the thinning or dissociation of orgone. We will come across these two orgone functions again in the sphere of the living.

THE FORMATION OF THE GAP IN THE ORGONE ENVELOPE OF THE EARTH

The movement of the atmospheric orgone, i.e., of the orgone envelope of the planet earth, is also linked with the formation of clouds. In my provisional report on the demonstration of a physical orgone phenomenon, I described, among other things, the west-east direction of movement of the atmospheric orgone. This undulating motion is easy to observe with a good telescope capable of magnifying 60 to 180 times. When clouds begin to form in the west, the normal west-east motion is reversed and runs from east to west. There are several distinct

3Presented in the spring of 1946.
phases in this reversal. The west-east motion at first slows down, then stops, at which point the orgone movement is no longer visible. Soon after that the direction of movement is reversed to east-west. Once the rainfall is over and the weather has cleared, the movement returns to its original west-east direction.

If the reversal of direction lasts several days, with bad weather prevailing all the time, then the clearing phase is sometimes followed by a strong wind blowing west-east. The following assumption seems best able to explain this wind. Obviously a “hole” or “gap” is created by the reversal of the direction of motion at the point where the eastward-moving part is separated from the westward-moving part.

![Diagram](image)

- E = East
- OE = Orgone envelope
- O = Observer
- ES = Earth's sphere
- R = Reversal to E → W
- T = Thunderclouds
- W = West
- "Thinning" of orgone envelope

In this way, the orgone envelope thins out at the point of separation between the west-east and east-west directions. The reversal in direction itself is easy to understand. *Since the stronger orgone system always attracts the weaker system, the clouds attract orgone from the surrounding areas, thereby increasing in size as more water vapor is concentrated. The “gap” is revealed by the electrosopic reaction. The discharges of the electroscope accelerate to a few units of second-org, which corresponds to a low concentration of orgone.*

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We therefore find that four major functions of rain formation coincide:
1. A drop in the temperature difference, T₀–T;
2. An acceleration in the electrosopic discharges down to the level of one second-org;
3. A reversal in the direction of motion of atmospheric orgone in the areas to the east of the cloud formation;
4. Cessation of the spontaneous oscillations of the pendulum; disturbances in the Geiger-Müller reaction until it completely disappears.⁴

These phenomena are functionally linked and point to the formation of the *orgone gap* as a result of the densening of atmospheric orgone in the bank of clouds.

I do not have anything more to say about the problem at present. But it is quite clear that a door has now been opened for much more detailed studies to be performed on the formation of weather conditions.

*⁴ Cf. Reich, *The Cancer Biopathy and The Oranur Experiment.* [Eds.]

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*Did you see the other night how the sheet lightning was like the phenomena in the darkroom? Alternating soft long flashes with sudden sparks of light? It's very important to observe the same natural phenomena that you see in the laboratory outside in nature.*

Wilhelm Reich
Projeto Arte Org
Redescobrindo e reinterpretando W. Reich

Caro Leitor

Infelizmente, no que se refere a orgonomia, seguir os passos de Wilhelm Reich e de sua equipe de investigadores é uma questão bastante difícil, polêmica e contraditória, cheia de diferentes interpretações que mais confundem do que ajudam. Por isto, nós decidimos trabalhar com o material bibliográfico presente nos microfilmes (Wilhelm Reich Collected Works Microfilms) em forma de PDF, disponibilizados por Eva Reich que já se encontra circulado pela internet, e que abarca o desenvolvimento da orgonomia de 1941 a 1957.

Dividimos este “material” de acordo com as revistas publicadas pelo instituto de orgonomia do qual o Reich era o diretor.

01- International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research (1942-1945).
02- Orgone Energy Bulletin (1949-1953)
03- CORE Cosmic Orgone Engineering (1954-1956)

E logo dividimos estas revistas de acordo com seus artigos, apresentando-os de forma separada (em PDF), o que facilita a organizá-los por assunto ou temas.

Assim, cada qual pode seguir o rumo de suas leituras de acordo com os temas de seu interesse.

Todo o material estará disponível em inglês na nuvem e poderá ser acessado a partir de nossas páginas Web.

Sendo que nosso intuito aqui é simplesmente divulgar a orgonomia, e as questões que a ela se refere, de acordo com o próprio Reich e seus colaboradores diretos relativos e restritos ao tempo e momento do próprio Reich.

Quanto ao caminho e as postulações de cada um destes colaboradores depois da morte de Reich, já é uma questão que extrapola nossas possibilidades e nossos interesses. Sendo que aqui somente podemos ser responsáveis por nós mesmos e com muitas restrições.

Alguns destes artigos, de acordo com nossas possibilidades e interesse, já estamos traduzindo.

Não somos tradutores especializados e, portanto, pedimos a sua compreensão para possíveis erros que venham a encontrar.

Em nome da comunidade Arte Org.
Textos da área do funcionalismo orgonômico

Texts from the area of Orgonomic Functionalism.

International Journal of Sex Economy and Orgone Research

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Orgonomic Functionalism

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01 Theodore P. Wofe. The Sex-Economic Concept of Psychosomatic Identity and Antithesis 1942
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