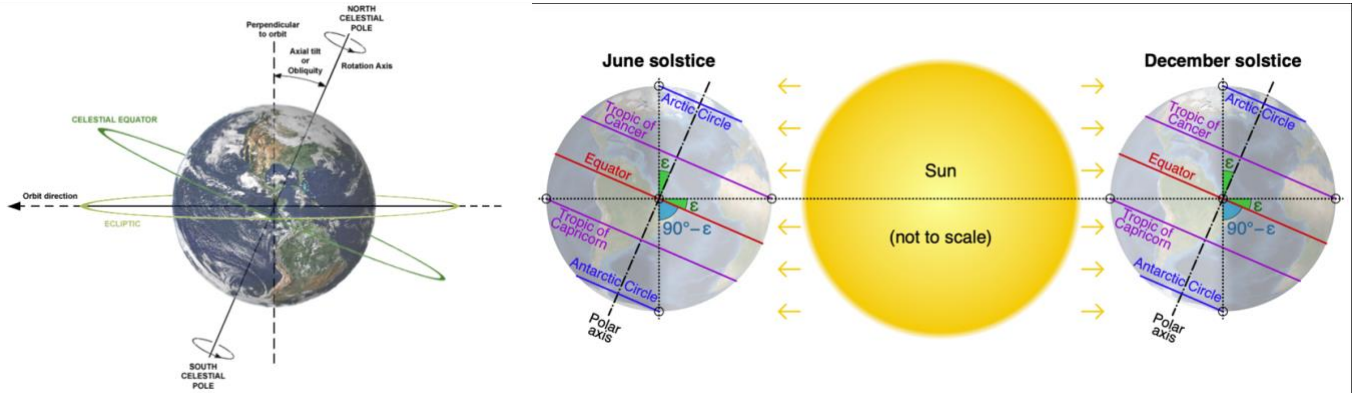


*** tilt ***

As it follows its elliptical orbit around the sun, Earth's axis is tilted 23.5 degrees from perpendicular to the orbital plane. Because of this, there are seasonal changes which dramatically affect life on the planet.



Many animals have adapted to these recurring weather extremes, but some migratory birds have developed physiological and behavioral adaptations which seem outrageous from a human perspective.

Going the Distance

Aided by new technology, scientists gain insight into long-distance bird migrations—and explore a growing list of threats the animals face along the way.

Hudsonian godwits, red knots and other shorebirds funnel into Tierra del Fuego near the southern tip of Chile, where they will spend the winter. The red knots have migrated more than 9,000 miles from their Arctic breeding grounds.

[source](#)