

# The Teletherm

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D  
CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713, & a pretend number,  
2023-2024 | @pocsvox

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Santa Fe Institute | University of Vermont



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The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
1 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

## Groundhog day story things:

- Time loop movies achieves [Wikipedia list status](#)
- Also basically every video game is a Groundhog day situation.
- Trope with Trope Namer action: [“Groundhog Day” Loop](#)
- Phil Connors went through the temporal wringer for [maybe 30 to 40 years](#) ...
- Groundhog Day the Musical: Excellent.
- 2017-08-08: Bill Murray went to the see the musical on the opening night, unannounced. Took photos with the cast afterwards.
- [And then went to see it again on the second night.](#)

The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
4 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

## Living in the Big Tick Tock:

### Predictable photon delivery:

[Solstice](#) = “Sun + stand still”



The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
7 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

## Outline

Groundhog Day

Solstices

Cherry blossoms

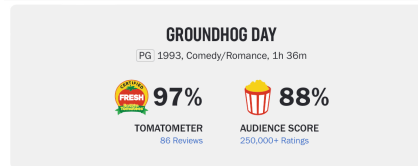
Teletherms

References

The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
2 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

### The reviews:

[Rotten Tomatoes](#)



“Generally favorable” according to metacritic: [60 to 90](#).

The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
5 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

### Solstices have some complications:

- June 20/21-ish: Northern hemisphere’s estival solstice and the Southern hemisphere’s hibernal solstice.
- December 21/22-ish: Northern hemisphere’s hibernal solstice and the Southern hemisphere’s estival solstice.
- But because of tilts and ellipses the [earliest and latest sunrises and sunsets](#) don’t happen on the solstice.
- Earliest sunset in Burlington, Vermont? 4:12 pm, December 9, 2021
- Latest sunrise in Burlington, Vermont? 7:29 am, December 30, 2021–January 9, 2022
- Varies across latitudes and planets.

The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
9 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

### The existential temporal escape room:



The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
3 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

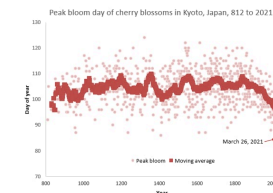
### End points:

- A [90 rating](#) on Metacritic from the Washington Post: “With a script as beautifully complex as this one, Ramis and his cast have half of their work done for them. There is a moral to the tale as well, and it even strikes an uplifting note. But, for once, the audience isn’t forced to surrender its intelligence (or its healthy cynicism) to embrace the film’s sunny resolution.”
- A [60 rating](#) on Metacritic, somehow also from the Washington Post: “The trouble is, you’ll feel like you’ve been through too many same days yourself. With its zany daily episodes, “Groundhog” gets stuck in a non-progressive repetition.”

The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
6 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

### Cherry blossoms: The 12 hundred year data set

- WaPo, 2017: [Japan’s cherry blossoms signal warmest climate in more than 1,000 years](#)
- WaPo, 2021: [Japan’s Kyoto cherry blossoms peak on earliest date in 1,200 years, a sign of climate change](#)
- Data: <http://atmenv.envi.osakafu-u.ac.jp/aono/kyophenotemp4/>



The PoCSverse  
The Teletherm  
10 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

## First leaves:

Finding the same trend towards earlier seasons, but detected using a different method—the date of first leaves in spring—and across the entire northern hemisphere:

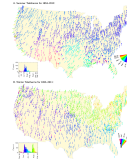


“Onset of spring starting earlier across the Northern Hemisphere”  
Schwartz, Ahas, and Aasa,  
Global Change Biology, **12**, 343–351,  
2006. [2]

The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
11 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References



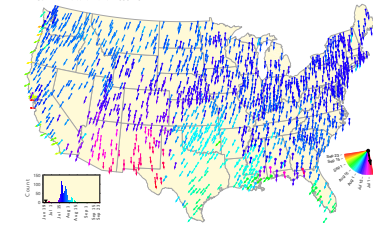
“Tracking the Teletherms: The spatiotemporal dynamics of the hottest and coldest days of the year”  
Dodds, Mitchell, Reagan, and Danforth.  
PLoS ONE, **11**, e0154184, 2016. [1]



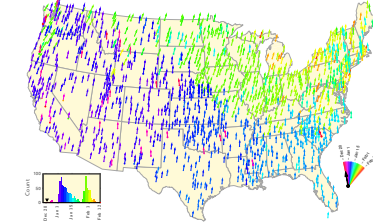
- Explore Teletherms online at <http://teletherm.org>.
- The wrongness: 6000 Figures/300MB of Supplementary Information.
- Follow @teletherm.

The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
14 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

A. Summer Teletherms for 1853–2012.



B. Winter Teletherms for 1853–2011.

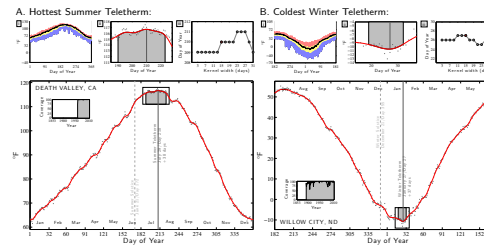


The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
17 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

## From found 2009 notes:

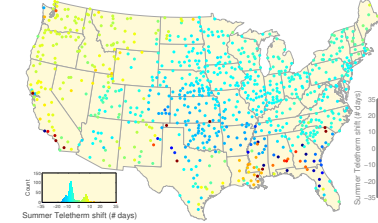
- Frigitice (winter) and Thermistice (summer)
- Conflation of measurable with important (delicate) Importance of statistical measurements. Appreciation of randomness, good to encode. The teletherm. Solstice.
- I propose that the statistically coldest and warmest days of the year be known as the teletherms, and that these days should be recognized. The word teletherm derives from the Greek roots for end or terminal (telos-) and heat (-therm), in analogy with solstice (Latin for sun-stop). The hibernal teletherm falls roughly on January 31, and the esteval teletherm on July 31.
- The solstices and equinoxes have been celebrated by human civilizations for thousands of years, and their measurement
- Equitherms.
- Groundhog day!!! February 3
- July 17 (July 16 in a Leap Year)
- January 25 = day when 50% of years have experience their coldest day for the winter.
- thermological winter
- Imbolc one of the cross-quarter days, halfway between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox
- Candlemas

The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
12 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

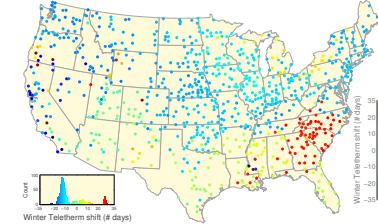


The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
15 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

A. 50 year Summer Teletherm shifts for 1963–2012 relative to 1913–1962.

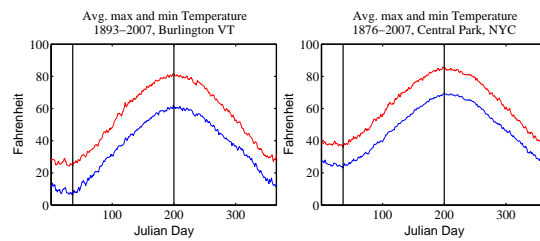


B. 50 year Winter Teletherm shifts for 1962–2011 relative to 1912–1961.

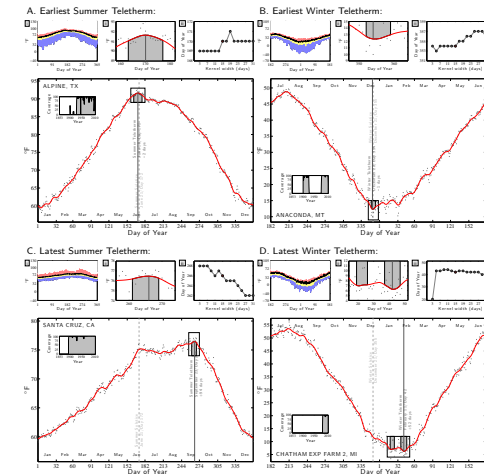


The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
18 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

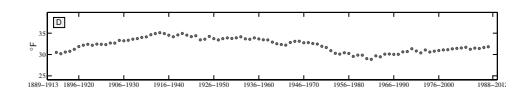
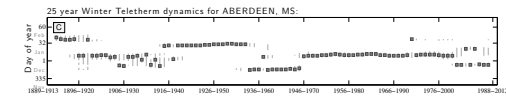
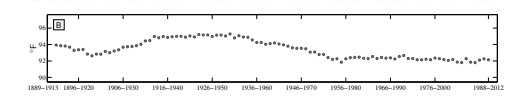
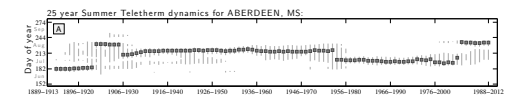
## The Teletherm, an early conception:



The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
13 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

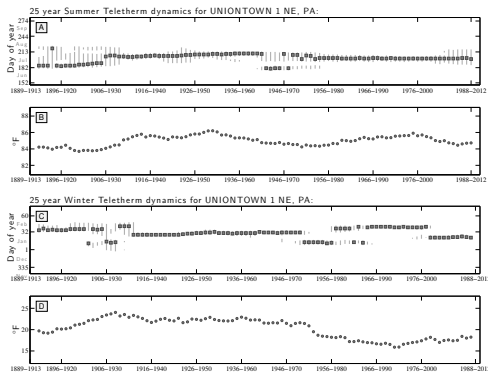


The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
16 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References



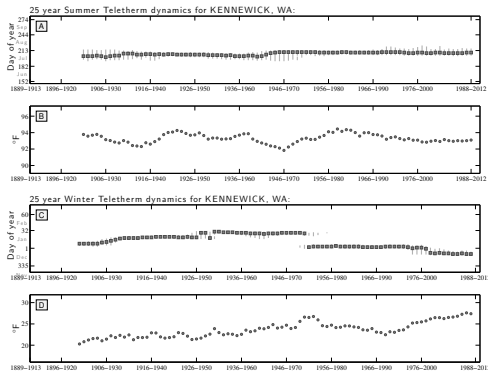
The PoCServe  
The Teletherm  
19 of 23  
Groundhog Day  
Solstices  
Cherry blossoms  
Teletherms  
References

- Hibernal Teletherm  $\approx$  February 4.
- Halfway between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox
- Bonus: [Groundhog Day](#), [Imbolc](#), ...
- Aesteval Teletherm  $\approx$  July 19 (164 days later).



### Unfinished work:

- 🔗 Teletherm switching.
- 🔗 The full site [teletherm.org](http://teletherm.org) and a paper.



## References I

- [1] P. S. Dodds, L. Mitchell, A. J. Reagan, and C. M. Danforth.  
Tracking the Teletherms: The spatiotemporal dynamics of the hottest and coldest days of the year.  
[PLoS ONE, 11:e0154184, 2016. pdf](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0154184)
- [2] M. D. Schwartz, R. Ahas, and A. Aasa.  
Onset of spring starting earlier across the Northern Hemisphere.  
[Global Change Biology, 12:343–351, 2006. pdf](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature12402)