temperature lapse rate

_in atmospheric chemistry_

The rate of change of temperature with altitude ($\frac{dT}{dz}$). The rate of temperature decrease with increase in altitude which is expected to occur in an unperturbed dry air mass is $9.8 \times 10^3 \, ^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$. This is called the dry adiabatic lapse rate. The lapse rate is taken as positive when temperature decreases with increasing height. For air saturated with H$_2$O, the lapse rate is less because of the release of the latent heat of water as it condenses. The average tropospheric lapse rate is about $6.5 \times 10^3 \, ^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$. The lapse rate has a negative value within an inversion layer.

Source:
PAC, 1990, 62, 2167 (Glossary of atmospheric chemistry terms (Recommendations 1990)) on page 2199