The Southern ocean dynamics and its implications for global climate

Lecture 2

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- 1. Southern Ocean role in global climate: past present and future
- 2. Impact of the Ozone hole on ocean and sea ice
- 3. Eddy-compensation problem and eddy diffusivities
- 4. Estimating eddy diffusivity with an adjoint method





SAM trend : not outside natural variability of CMIP5 models

Jet magnitude and location: outside natural variability of CMIP5 models

• Trends predicted to continue in 21st century



75

Heat and Carbon uptake

- 75% of ocean heat uptake in SO (Frolicher et al. 2015)
- Half of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions absorbed by oceans
- 40% in the SO (in observations and CMIP5 models, Sabine et al., 04)
- Southern Ocean sink could be saturating (Le Quere et al., 07, but Landschutzer et al. 15)
- Possibly because of strengthening winds





- SO warming: explained by shift of ACC fronts and of winds?
- SO warming less than other oceans: signature of the MOC?

Gille (2008)

Paleoclimate perspective

SH jet stream might have been more equatorward and/or stronger at Last Glacial Maximum





At LGM, weaker bottom MOC \rightarrow accumulation of DIC

Toggweiler et al. 2006; Toggweiler 2009; Toggweiler and Russel 2008





- 1. Southern Ocean role in global climate: past present and future
- \rightarrow How does the Southern Ocean adjust to changing winds?

2. Impact of the Ozone hole on ocean and sea ice

- 3. Eddy-compensation problem and eddy diffusivities
- 4. Estimating eddy diffusivity with an adjoint method

Collaborators:

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Southern Hemisphere Ice Concentration Trends, Autumn 1979–2007



1



Southern Ocean Sea ice cover increased over last 3 decades

- Sea Ice extent: +0.5 Million km²/30y (Parkinson and Cavalieri, 12)
- Not reproduced by models (Turner et al. 12)
- Various possible contributing factors: Goosse et al. (2009), Holland and Kwok (2012), Bintanja et al. (2013) ...



1

SST (70-50°S) DJF Fan et al. 0.6 EN3 v2 Southern Ocean SST cooled over MO ReAn 0.5 Reynolds last 3 decades 0.4 0.094 +/- 0.012 C°/dec DJF 0.3 0.5 0.2 Ů 0.1 Reynolds 0 1982-2013 -0.1 K/decade -0.2 -0.3 0.5 -0.4 1975 2005 2010 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2015 Year

Southern Ocean cooling and sea ice expansion:

- Not reproduced by models (Turner et al. 12) •
- Various possible contributing factors: Goosse et al. (2009), • Holland and Kwok (2012), Bintanja et al. (2013) ...





Link with sea ice trends ?

Is there a role for the ocean in the climate response to ozone depletion?



Ozone partial pressure (mPA) profiles at the South Pole, measured by balloon-borne ozonesondes. The profile on 2 September 1994, before depletion began, is compared with profiles for 5 October and 8 October 1994, during the minimum ozone period. **Atmospheric Trends**

Observed changes now minus pre-OH



Model response to Ozone depletion, DJF



Thompson et al. 11

7.5

4.5

3

1.5 0

-1.5 -3

-4.5

-6

-7.5

Observed decadal trend similar to a positive **S**outhern **A**nnular **M**ode, **SAM**

Westerlies

Westerlies

Mechanism from ozone depletion to a SAM-like response not fully understood

3

4

SST signature of a +SAM

Air-sea fluxes and mixed layer dynamics







The response to Ozone depletion in coupled climate models: **a sea-ice loss**

Two examples with IPCC-class coupled GCMs:

- Sigmond and Fyfe, 2010
- Bitz and Polvani, 2012 (@ 2 resolutions)
- -> SAM-like atmospheric response
 -> warming of Southern Ocean,
 -> a sea-ice loss

Bitz and Polvani 2012



Conundrum:

a) Ozone depletion <u>contributes</u> to the observed sea ice expansion

Ozone depletion:

- -> positive SAM trend
- -> cooling around Antarctica
- -> sea ice expansion

Each step backed up by observations and models

b) Ozone depletion <u>does not contribute</u> to the observed sea ice expansion: from coupled GCMs

Questions:

- Can we reconcile the coupled model response to Ozone depletion with the observed SST/SAM relationship ?
- Does Ozone depletion contribute to the observed sea ice expansion?
- Is there a role for the Southern Ocean dynamics?

Transient adjustment to a step change in stratospheric ozone

 \rightarrow two coupled GCMs : idealized MITgcm, CCSM3.5

 \rightarrow Ozone forcing : seasonal, mid-90s depletion





A seasonal SAM-like response to Ozone depletion

Similar to that seen in other (more sophisticated) atmospheric models



Z500 climatological response



Similar to SAM pattern:

- 1st EOF of Z500 mb
- explains 34 % of variance













Follows same sequence of events of in the MITgcm



CCSM3.5 surface heat balance



- Heat flux anomaly larger than in the MITgcm around 60-50°S
- Negative SSTA around 60-50°S reverses
- But negative SSTA lingers for decades

SST

2

W/m²

-1

____2 -20

-30





Best fit parameters

	Air-sea damping				Atm. fo	λ_{sub}^{-1}	Λ_e^{-1}	$-w_{res}^{\prime}\partial_{z}\overline{T}_{sub}$			
	λ^{-1}	λ_F W m ⁻² K ⁻¹			$ ilde{F}$	$ ilde{F}_F$					
	year				$^{\circ}C$ year ⁻¹	$W m^{-2}$	year	r year °C year		C year-1	L
MITgcm	2.6		1.5		-0.18	-0.7	78	1.5		0.014	
CCSM3.5	0.59		6.7		-0.27	-1.1	6.8	0.36		0.027	
u			\bigcirc								

Cloud effect ? Zonal asymmetry ? SAM response Eddy compensation

Sources of discrepancy

1. Heat flux feedback :

- Atlantic: typically 15-20 W/m²/K locally, 5-10 W/m²/K in zonal mean (Frankignoul et al. 98, 04)
- Few estimates for SO, south of 40°S, but about 4 W/m² (Hausmann et al. 2015)
- Cloud effect associated to a SAM: 3-4 W/m² at TOA (Grise et al., 2013)

2. Shape of the wind stress response:

$$w'_{Eul} \propto \partial_y \left(\frac{\tau'_x}{\rho_0 f}\right)$$

3. Eddy parameterization:

- Both models have coarse resolution and rely on Gent and McWilliams scheme



ERA-Interim: (1995-2004) minus (1980-1989)



What does the step-function response tell us about the response to ozone hole and recovery?



→ Test this in a model by comparing linear prediction and "true" response to a time-varying forcing







Implications for Sea Ice cover



Ferreira and Marshall, in prep

CMIP5: model response to a 1σ SAM



Kostov et al. (2016, submitted)





Short timescale response







Medium-range timescale response (before equilibrium)

$$\frac{dSST'}{dt}\Big|_{t=t_{lin}} \approx -t_{lin}\gamma \frac{dT'_{sub}}{dt} \approx -t_{lin}\gamma \frac{\delta}{\rho_0} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\frac{\tau'_x}{f}\right]\right) \frac{\Delta_z \overline{[\theta]}}{Z_{sub}}$$

Observationally-constrained two-timescale response to a 1σ +SAM (annual mean)





- Ocean/Sea Ice response to abrupt ozone depletion has 2 phases: cooling and then warming
- robust, but, <u>large</u> uncertainties in transition timescale: 3 to 20 years
- No inconsistency between expectations from observed correlation and coupled GCMs' response to ozone depletion
- The two timescales emerge through <u>ocean dynamics</u>

Ferreira et al. 2015, JClim

Conclusion II

- Does ozone depletion contribute to the sea ice expansion? we don't know: depends on the 2-timescale:
 - → "fast" model (CCSM-like) : no
 - \rightarrow "slow" model (MITgcm-like) : yes
 - \rightarrow Real world? see Kostov et al. (2015) in prep.
- Ocean dynamics → multiple timescales (month-decade): goes beyond the SAM/ozone context
- Implications for interpreting observations and models: <u>Response to a SAM trend is not a trend</u> <u>Long time memory and lag in the response</u> no unique relationship SAM-SST(/sea ice) relationship on all timescales

Ferreira and Marshall, in prep; Kostov et al., 2016, Clim. Dyn.



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Hallberg and Gnanadesikan (2006)



How sensitive the SO circulation is to wind changes?

A lot if thinking (e.g. Toggweiler and others) based on Ekman dynamics But not so much if eddies are included in the picture.





Southern Ocean Overturning

Eddy buoyancy flux are adiabatic

- \rightarrow Advective effect
- \rightarrow Eddy-induced circulation



In short :

- Surface winds put potential energy into the Southern Ocean
- Eddies remove potential energy

→ net MOC = small residual betweenwind-driven and eddy-induced MOCs

Andrews and McIntyre (1978), Treguier et al. (1997), Marshall and Radko (2003)

Large Scale Ocean Dynamics

Momentum :

$$\frac{D}{Dt}\overline{u} + \dots = \frac{\partial \tau_x^w}{\partial z} - \partial_y(\overline{u'v'})$$
Buoyancy:

$$\frac{D}{Dt}\overline{b} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\left(k_b\frac{\partial\overline{b}}{\partial z}\right) + Q_{dia} - \nabla \cdot (\overline{v'b'})$$
along isopycnal flux in ocean interior

• Eddies appear as a forcing on the rhs of both the momentum and the buoyancy equation

• Eddy buoyancy fluxes are nearly adiabatic

Large Scale Ocean Dynamics

Andrews and McIntyre (1978)

The mean buoyancy equation:

$$\frac{\partial \overline{b}}{\partial t} + \overline{\mathbf{v}}.\nabla \overline{b} = -\nabla.\overline{\mathbf{v}'b'}$$

$$\nabla . \overline{\mathbf{v}'b'} = \mathbf{v}^* . \nabla \overline{b} + \nabla . \mathbf{F}_{res}$$

where

$$= - \nabla \times \Psi^*_{\text{and}}$$

$$\Psi^* = \left(\frac{\overline{v'b'}}{\overline{b}_z}, -\frac{\overline{u'b'}}{\overline{b}_z}, 0\right)$$

Residual mean buoyancy equation

*

$$\frac{\partial \overline{b}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v}_{res} \cdot \nabla \overline{b} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}_{res} \quad \text{where} \qquad \mathbf{V}_{res} = \mathbf{V}^* + \overline{\mathbf{V}}$$



Framework for eddy effects on large-scale ocean dynamics

$$\partial_{t} \overline{C} + (\overline{\mathbf{v}} + \mathbf{v}^{*}) \cdot \nabla \overline{C} = \nabla \cdot (K \nabla \overline{C}) \qquad \text{C is a tracer}$$
Eddy effect in Advective effect along isopycnal
$$\mathbf{v}^{*} = -\vec{k} \times \nabla \Psi^{*} \qquad \text{K : symmetric tensor}$$

$$\underline{\text{Gent and McWilliams scheme:}} \qquad \Psi^{*} = \frac{\overline{v'b'}}{N^{2}} = \frac{-K_{GM}}{N^{2}} = K_{GM} \times S_{y}$$

Redi isopycnal mixing:

Mixing in the ocean is mainly along isopycnal

$$\nabla .(K\nabla C) = \nabla .(K_{iso}\nabla_{\rho}C)$$





Equilibrium response to wind changes



Equilibrium response to wind changes

$$\delta \Psi^* = \delta(K_b \times S_y)^{\underline{\widehat{g}}}$$

$$\Psi^* = \frac{v'b'}{N^2} = K_b \times S_y$$

 $S_{y} \times \delta K_{b}$

Residual-mean MOC nearly constant

because the diffusivity *increases*:

$$K_{b} \propto \sqrt{\tau} \propto \sqrt{EKE}$$

and nearly constant slopes

Abernathey et al. 2012

$$K_b \times \delta S_y$$



0

50

-50





Spatial variations of effective eddy diffusivity



Green (1970), Abernathey et al. (2010, 2013), Ferrari and Nikurashin (2011)

Isopycnal mixing varies with wind stress too



Green (1970)

→ Does matter for uptake of tracer along isopycnal
 → Could be strong enough to overcome advective effects

Abernathey and Ferreira (2016)

Effect on idealized ventilation tracer

C=0 at t=0 C \rightarrow 1 at surface



What do current ocean models do ?

- Advective effect: Gent and McWilliams 90, buoyancy diffusivity K_{GM} : $\Psi^* = K_{GM} \times S$
- Often K_{GM} is constant and uniform (~500 to 2000 m²/s)
- Some exceptions:
 - Visbeck et al. (1997): K_{GM} scales as Eady Growth rate
 - CCSM4: K_{GM} scales as N² (Ferreira et al., 2005)
- Isopycnal mixing for tracer other than buoyancy, K_{iso} = K_{GM} but not genrally true
 - → OGCMs cannot reproduce the *equilibrium* "eddy-compensation" response to wind changes
 - \rightarrow Likely they are also unfit for the *transient* (interannual to decadal) response



Summary

- SO MOC is *weakly* sensitive to wind changes because of the counter-acting advective effect of eddies
 →Associated eddy diffusivity scales with EKE or wind
- Isopycnal mixing is *very* sensitive to wind changes
- The state of the SO is likely strongly sensitive to winds changes, but in the way it was initially envisioned
- Feedbacks on carbon and heat uptake is unclear
- Eddy parameterizations do not have the proper physics



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ightarrow Eddy are very difficult to observe in the ocean (requires high rate of sampling in both time and space

- \rightarrow Satellite only provides information for the surface ocean
- \rightarrow Eddies are everywhere



Residual Mean Formulation

Buoyancy:

 $\frac{\partial b}{\partial t} + (\overline{\underline{\mathbf{v}}} + \vec{\underline{\mathbf{v}}}^*) \cdot \nabla \overline{b} = Q_{dia}$

Andrews and McIntyre (1976)

What are the optimal Eddy Stresses ?

Momentum :

$$\frac{\partial \vec{\mathbf{v}}_{res}}{\partial t} + \vec{\mathbf{v}}_{res} \cdot \nabla \vec{\mathbf{v}}_{res} + \dots = \frac{\partial \vec{\tau}_{wind}}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial \vec{\tau}^e}{\partial z}$$

In the ocean interior:

$$\tau^{e} = (\tau_{x}^{e}, \tau_{y}^{e}) = \rho_{o} f\left(\frac{\overline{v'b'}}{\overline{b_{z}}}, -\frac{\overline{u'b'}}{\overline{b_{z}}}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \tau_{x,y}^{e}\Big|_{bottom}^{top} = 0$$

Equations have a familiar form but :

- interpretations of terms is different
- eddies appear as a stress in the momentum equation
- → Adiabatic eddy forcing

Opttimization Procedure to estimate eddy effects: MITgcm 4x4 degree

Cost Function :

$$J = \frac{1}{N} \sum \frac{(\overline{T}_{Mod} - T_{Lev})^2}{\sigma_T^2} + \frac{\lambda}{N} \sum_{|\tau^e| > 0.4} (|\tau^e| - 0.4)^2$$

Control parameters :

 $\tau_x^e(x, y, z) \\ \tau_y^e(x, y, z) \begin{cases} \tau_{x, y}^e \Big|_{bottom}^{top} = 0 \end{cases}$

First Guess : a GM-like eddy stress

$$\tau_x^e = + f \rho_o \kappa S_y \qquad \kappa = 1000 \text{ m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$$
$$\tau_y^e = -f \rho_o \kappa S_x$$

Optimization procedure:



After 60 iterations, the solution converges and the cost function is decreased by 80 %





Cost Function : departure from observations



MIT GCM at 4x4 degree

Ferreira et al. 2005, JPO



$K \text{ in m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$

Inferred eddy diffusivity

$$(\tau_x^e, \tau_y^e) = \rho_o fK(S_y, -S_x)$$

The eddy diffusivity is:

- surface intensified,
- large on the equator flank of the ACC.



Eddy closure



Implicit N² -dependent diffusivity $K \varpropto N^2$

Test with the MIT GCM at 2.8 degree resolution

Eulerian model (with GM

Zonal mean temperature error (C)





Summary

- Residual mean ocean in which the resolved circulation is the sum of the Eulerian and eddy-induced circulations: Eddy terms appear as an eddy stress in the residual momentum equation and a residual flux in the buoyancy equation.
- We can estimate subgrid scale processes using adjoint technics,
- Eddy diffusivity is surface intensified,
- A simple eddy closure: the vertical divergence of the eddy stress is parameterized as a vertical mixing of momentum.
- N^2 -dependent eddy diffusivity in the Gent and McWilliams scheme

$$K = K_{ref} \; \frac{N^2}{N_{ref}^2}$$