

Notes on the function gsw_sigma2(SA,CT)

Potential density anomaly is defined by Eqn. (3.6.1) of IOC *et al.* (2010), namely

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^\theta(S_A, t, p, p_r) &= \rho^\theta(S_A, t, p, p_r) - 1000 \text{ kg m}^{-3} \\ &= \hat{\rho}(S_A, \Theta, p_r) - 1000 \text{ kg m}^{-3}.\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

This function, **gsw_sigma2**(SA,CT), evaluates the potential density anomaly of seawater as a function of Absolute Salinity and Conservative Temperature, and with respect to a reference pressure p_r of 2000 dbar using the 48-term expression, $\hat{\rho}(S_A, \Theta, p)$ of the GSW function **gsw_rho**(SA,CT,p). This 48-term rational function expression for density and specific volume is discussed in McDougall and Barker (2013) and in appendix A.30 and appendix K of the TEOS-10 Manual (IOC *et al.* (2010)).

References

- IOC, SCOR and IAPSO, 2010: *The international thermodynamic equation of seawater – 2010: Calculation and use of thermodynamic properties*. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Manuals and Guides No. 56, UNESCO (English), 196 pp. Available from <http://www.TEOS-10.org>
- McDougall T. J., and P. M. Barker, 2013: A computationally efficient 48-term expression for the density of seawater in terms of Conservative Temperature, and related properties of seawater. To be submitted to *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*.

Here follows section 3.6 of the TEOS-10 manual (IOC *et al.* (2010)).

3.6 Potential density anomaly

Potential density anomaly, σ^θ or σ^Θ , is simply potential density minus 1000 kg m^{-3} ,

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^\theta(S_A, t, p, p_r) &= \sigma^\Theta(S_A, t, p, p_r) = \rho^\theta(S_A, t, p, p_r) - 1000 \text{ kg m}^{-3} \\ &= \rho^\Theta(S_A, t, p, p_r) - 1000 \text{ kg m}^{-3} \\ &= g_p^{-1}(S_A, \theta[S_A, t, p, p_r], p_r) - 1000 \text{ kg m}^{-3}.\end{aligned}\tag{3.6.1}$$

Note that it is equally correct to label potential density anomaly as σ^θ or σ^Θ because both θ and Θ are constant during the isentropic and isohaline pressure change from p to p_r .