

Earth Science, Fluid Dynamics, and Mathematics. Interactions and Methods



**La metáfora del gran cinturón de circulación oceánica:
Ventilación del océano global y la infravalorada
contribución del Pacífico**

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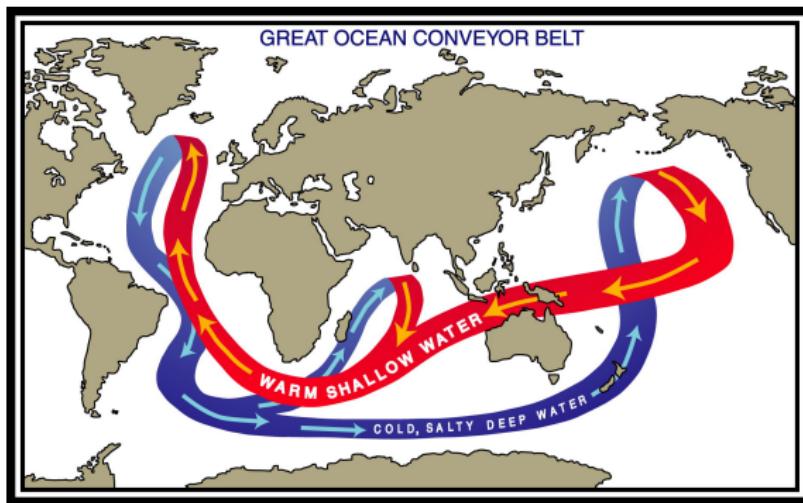
<https://enerle.github.io/rnavarro/>

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La metáfora del gran cinturón de circulación oceánica

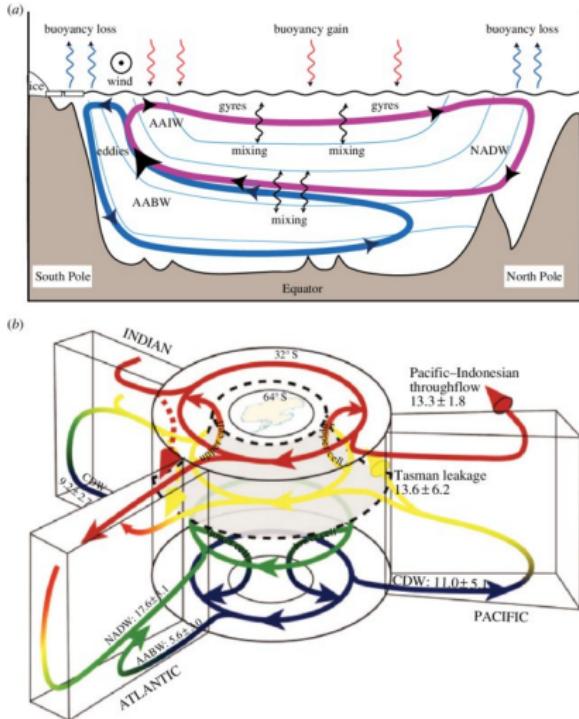
El esquema del "Great Ocean Conveyor Belt" publicado por Broecker (1987) es una metáfora de la circulación oceánica global. El esquema expresa

- ▶ el agua de la capa superior en el Atlántico Norte se enfria y se transforma en agua profunda (NADW)
- ▶ dicha agua fluye hacia el Océano Austral, el Océano Índico y el Océano Pacífico como parte de un sistema de circulación global tridimensional
- ▶ el agua fría profunda es transformada en agua mas ligera y se reintegra a niveles superficiales por medio de los océanos Pacífico e Índico
- ▶ El flujo hacia el norte (superficial) y el flujo hacia el sur de agua fría (profunda) en el Atlántico provoca el flujo de calor neto positivo

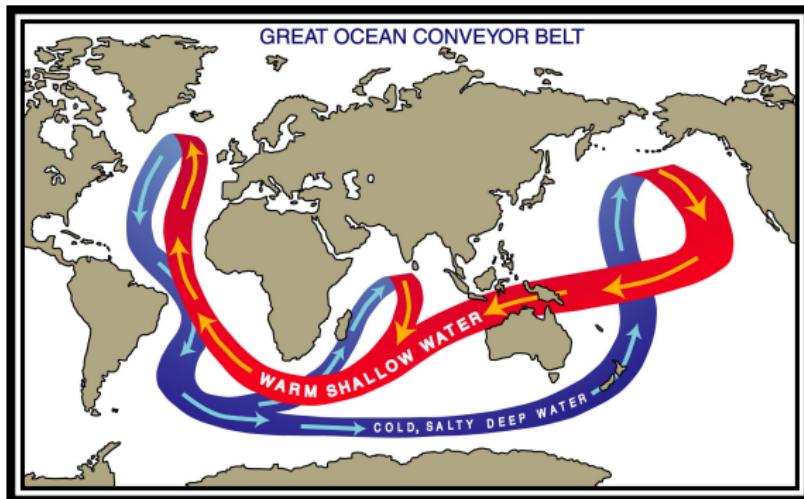


La metáfora del gran cinturón de circulación oceánica

- ▶ Es un sistema complicado de corrientes impulsadas por los vientos, flujos de densidad, evaporación, precipitación, calentamiento y el enfriamiento y por la mezcla debida a los vientos y las mareas
- ▶ Sin embargo en el modelo de Broeker la formación de aguas profundas en el norte del Atlántico Norte, es el único motor de la circulación de la cinta transportadora.
- ▶ Los esquemas más recientes muestran la verdadera complejidad del sistema, pero también se han vuelto difícil de entender ("**no aclares que oscureces**")



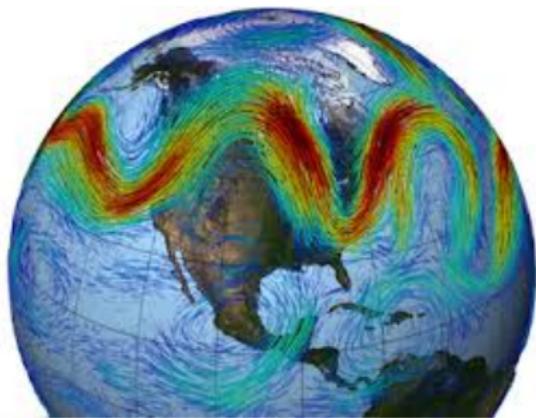
- ▶ La gran fortaleza del esquema es su representación simple y atractiva de corrientes muy complicadas, procesos físicos complicados e interacciones atmósfera-océano complicadas
- ▶ Alguien que sepa poco de oceanografía puede comprender fácilmente el concepto de una circulación oceánica global tridimensional e interconectada



(Richardson, 2008)

¿Cuánto sabemos sobre el océano?

- ▶ El papel de la dinámica de fluidos geofísicos es la comprensión del entorno natural y en particular, de la dinámica de las atmósferas y los océanos
- ▶ Es una rama de las geociencias que se ocupa de la dinámica de fluidos y que, por tradición, busca extraer la esencia "pura" de un fenómeno, omitiendo detalles cuando sea posible
- ▶ Las geociencias en general se ocupan de sistemas complejos de los que buscamos explicaciones de los fenómenos a un nivel más alto que el simple cálculo directo de las interacciones de todas las partes constituyentes
- ▶ Es decir, tratamos de desarrollar teorías o hacer modelos simples del comportamiento del sistema como un todo (Vallis, 2016)
- ▶ Ejemplo de posible interés: [The illustrated guide to a Ph.D.](#)



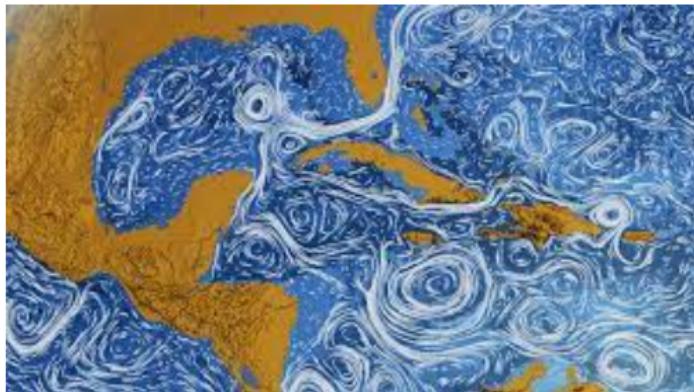
¿Cuánto sabemos sobre el océano?

Datos curiosos (y vergonzosos)

- ▶ Solo se conoce alrededor de 6% de los oceanos globales (calculo mas bien heuristico)
- ▶ Mas gente ha viajado al espacio exterior de las que han explorado el océano profundo (514 vs 3)

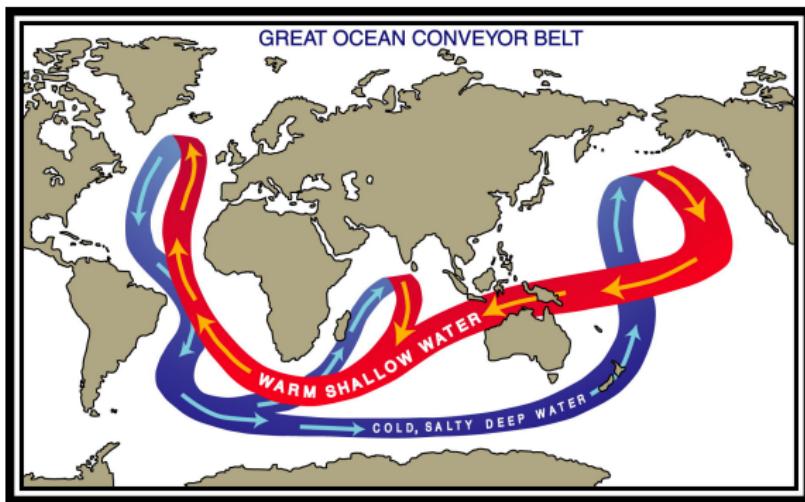
¿En verdad sabemos tan poco?

- ▶ Intrínsecamente las geociencias implican uso de metodología en la que se hacen las máximas simplificaciones posibles a un problema, buscando reducirlo a una esencia pura
- ▶ En contraste con algunas ramas de la ciencia donde una clara tendencia a abarcar la complejidad de la realidad mediante el uso de complicados modelos



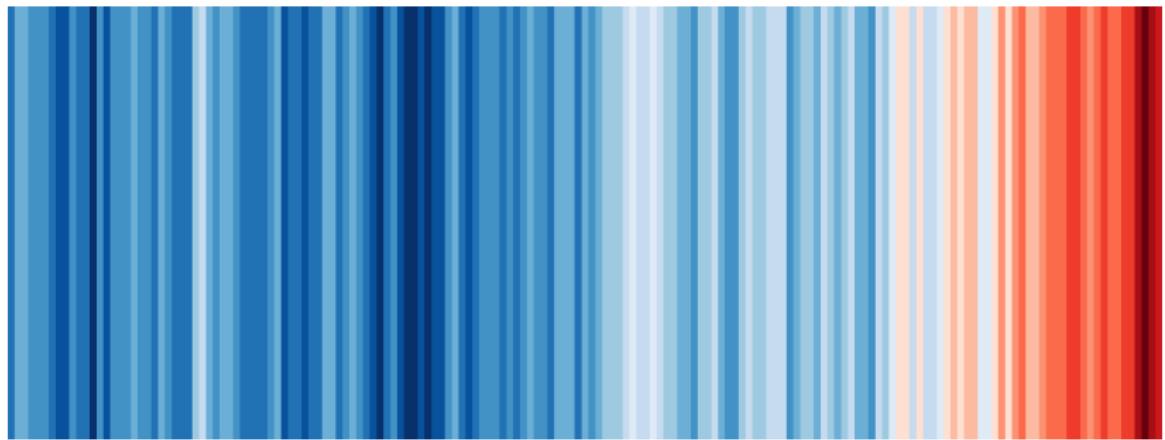
La metáfora del gran cinturón de circulación oceánica

- ▶ El esquema de la cinta transportadora "no reproduce" la circulación global real porque es demasiado complicada para un diagrama simple, pero ha servido bien al proporcionar una imagen simple a pesar de sus muchas inexactitudes y simplificaciones excesivas
- ▶ Se han realizado refinamientos del esquema para reflejar algunas de las complejidades de la circulación de vuelco,



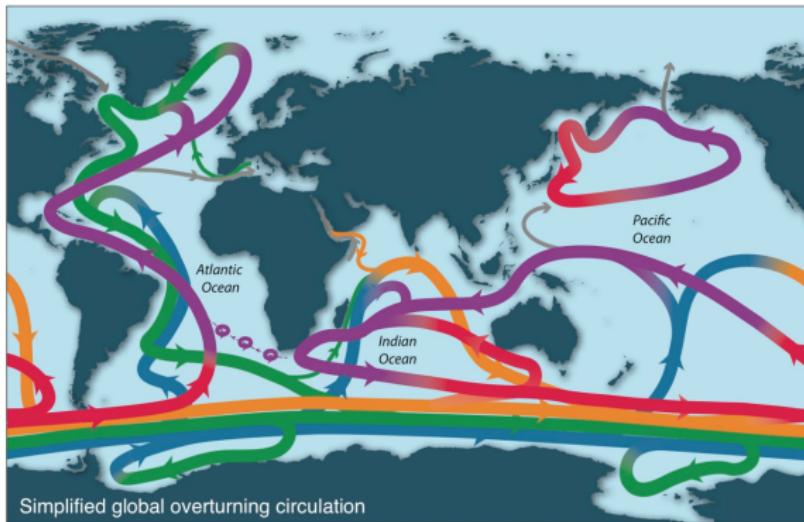
El razonamiento metafórico creativo en la ciencia

- ▶ La construcción de metáforas es especialmente importante para crear nuevos modelos científicos mediante la identificación de estructuras de razonamiento metafórico en la ciencia
- ▶ Ejemplo: [John Marshall, 3 strategies for effectively talking about climate change — TED Countdown](#)



La metáfora del gran cinturón de circulación oceánica

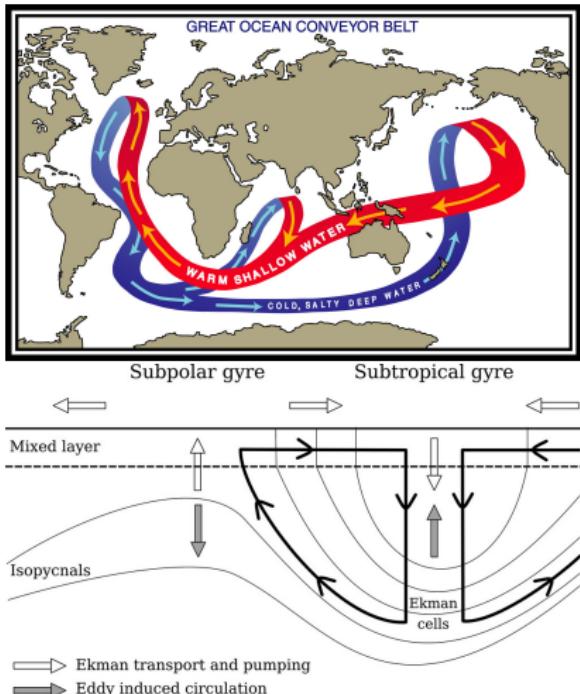
- ▶ El gran cinturón de circulación oceánica es una importante componente del sistema climático global, así como la principal vía de redistribución de masa y energía entre las diferentes cuencas y capas oceánicas
- ▶ Es una muy útil simplificación del complejo sistema oceánico que logra compaginar infinidad de procesos y escalas temporales en una simple metáfora del movimiento "perpetuo" del océano



(Richardson, 2008)

El infravalorado Océano Pacífico

- ▶ El afloramiento desde las aguas profundas hasta la parte superior del océano es un componente importante del balance de calor en los océanos Índico y Pacífico
- ▶ El principal contraste entre el transporte de calor de vuelco profundo del Atlántico

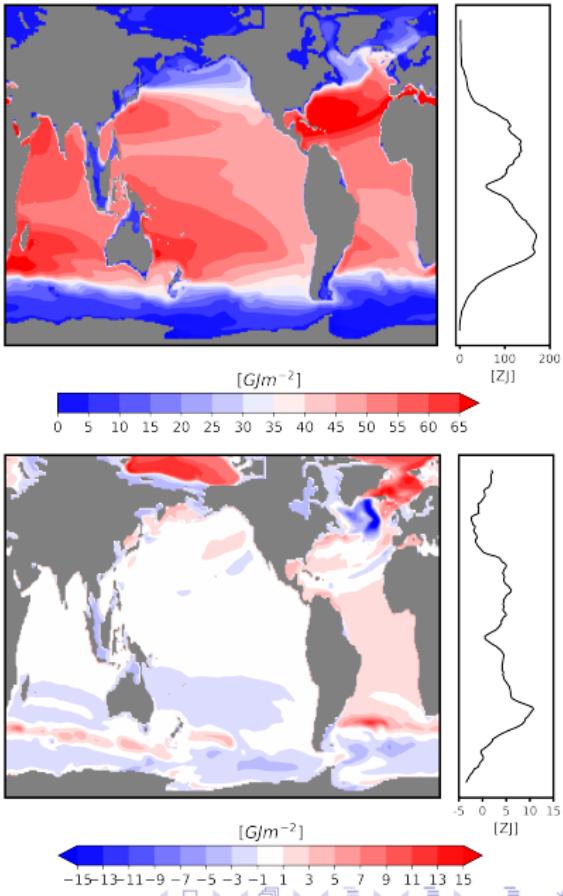


The role of the wind-driven shallow overturning circulation in the heat budget of the tropical Pacific

- ▶ Surface circulation dominates most of the heat transport through the shallow overturning circulation branch

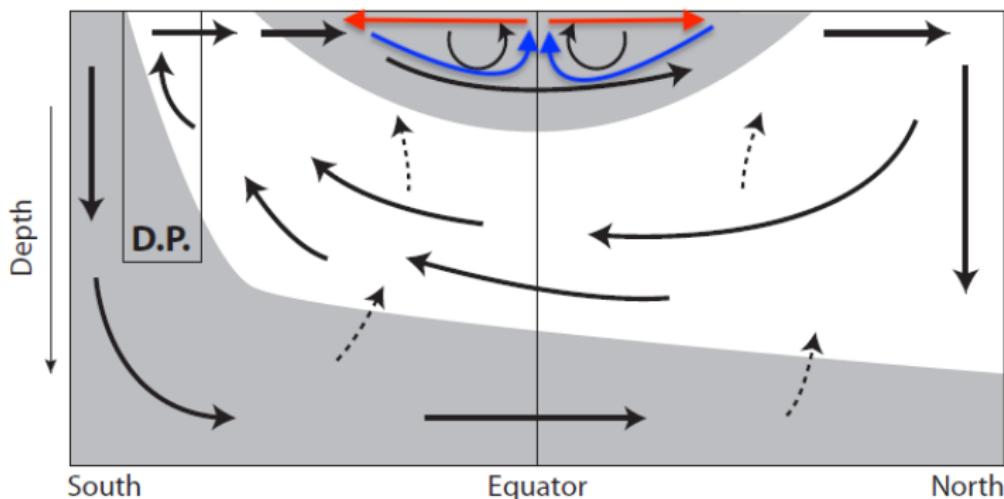
Ocean heat content and ocean heat uptake

- ▶ Oceans are Earth's largest thermal reservoir
- ▶ The rate of global warming is determined by the rate at which the ocean takes up surface heat flux anomalies
- ▶ The ocean heat uptake involve: ocean ventilation, stratification, and the circulation changes
- ▶ Between 80-90% of the earth radiation imbalance due to anthropogenic forcing has been absorbed by the ocean (Levitus et al., 2000,2005)



Ocean Circulation and heat budget

- ▶ Based on water mass ventilation the global ocean could be divided into shallow, intermediate, and deep contributions (Talley, 2003)
- ▶ Given the various advective regimes along the column, the surface component could be associated with the wind-driven subtropical gyre, while the rest of the ocean is to the deep branches of the meridional overturning circulation



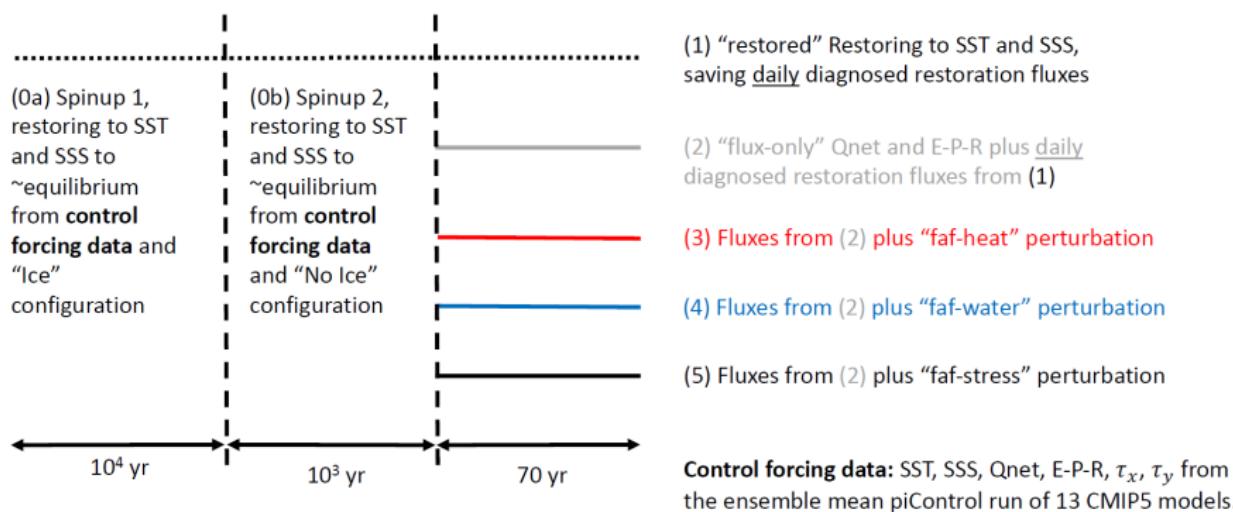
(Vallis, 2012)

Outline

- ▶ Ocean response is evaluated using an ocean general circulation model
- ▶ A set of simulations are performed in which perturbations to the surface fluxes are applied
- ▶ Both unperturbed and transient climate conditions are evaluated
- ▶ Relevant physical processes are represented by a set of temperature tendency diagnostics
- ▶ The total heat budget is partitioned into the contributions coming from the wind-driven shallow circulation and the deep unventilated ocean

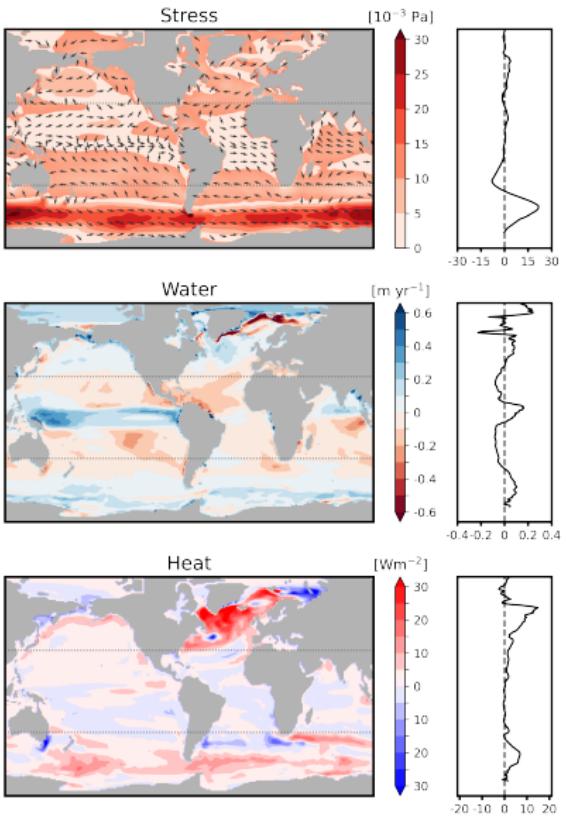
Forcing protocol

- ▶ Model: NOAA-GFDL Modular Ocean Model (MOM) version 5
- ▶ Integration following multicentinal CORE-I (Griffies et al., 2009) and FAFMIP ocean-only protocols (Gregory et al., 2016)



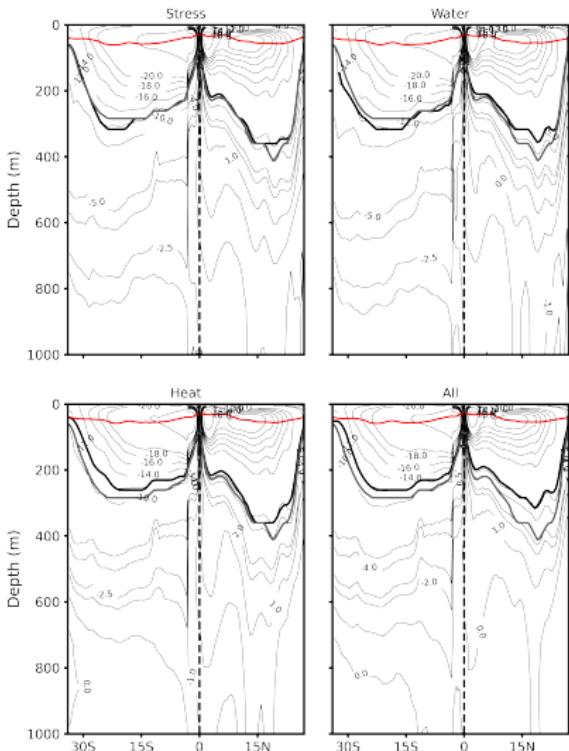
Surface fluxes perturbations

- ▶ Defined as positive downwards from the atmosphere to the ocean
- ▶ The surface flux perturbations are derived from a set of 13 CMIP5 AOGCs
- ▶ Each surface flux representing the transient response of climate system for doubled CO₂ concentration under 1pctCO₂ scenario (Gregory et al., 2016)
- ▶ Computed as the difference between the climatological monthly time means of years 61-80 of 1pctCO₂ and corresponding 20 years of piControl



Shallow and interior ocean heat budgets

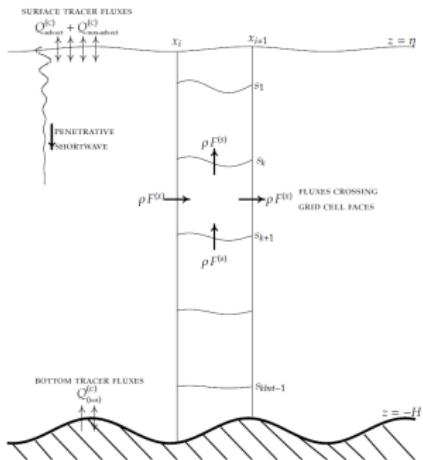
- ▶ Vertical division considering the shallow and deep overturning circulation regimes (depth-dependent integrals decomposition)
- ▶ The Interior ocean is defined as the region of the water column below the deepest vertical limit of the shallow overturn
- ▶ Determination of base of the shallow overturn vertical limit by detection of the maximum subducting level



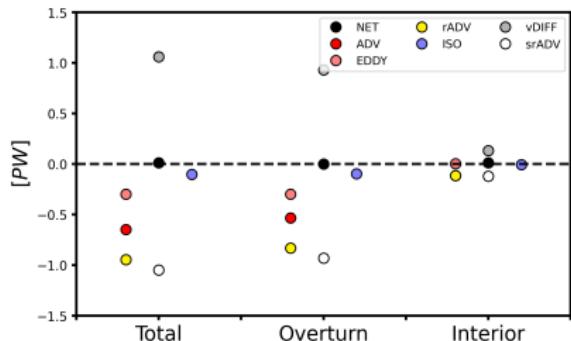
Diagnostic accounting for the ocean heat budget

- ▶ The procedure may allow us to determine which processes are in charge of setting the overall heat balance
- ▶ The ocean heat budget is expressed as a semi-discrete finite volume formulation within the grid cell (as Griffies et al., 2016)
- ▶ Schematically rewritten in terms of the time-dependent diagnostics

$$\partial_t T_{net} = \partial_t T_{advection} + \partial_t T_{eddy} + \partial_t T_{isopycnal} + \partial_t T_{diapycnal}$$

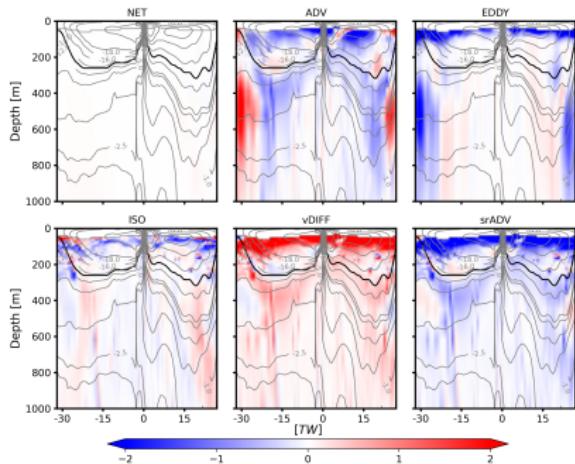


Heat budget for the steady state (unperturbed climate)



Volume-integrated heat budgets for the Northern Hemisphere tropical Pacific

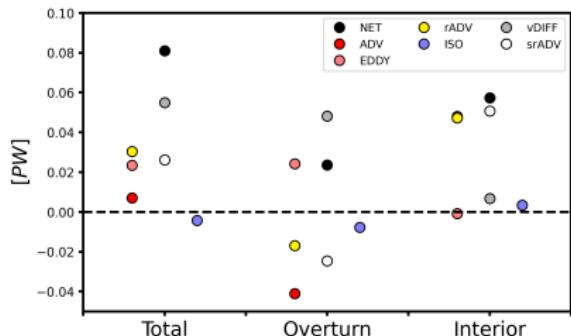
- ▶ The heat budget is dominated by advective cooling and vertical diffusive warming
- ▶ The shallow ocean holds nearly around 90% of the total budget
- ▶ Overall budget arrangement summarized by the advective super-residual framework



Zonally-integrated heat budgets

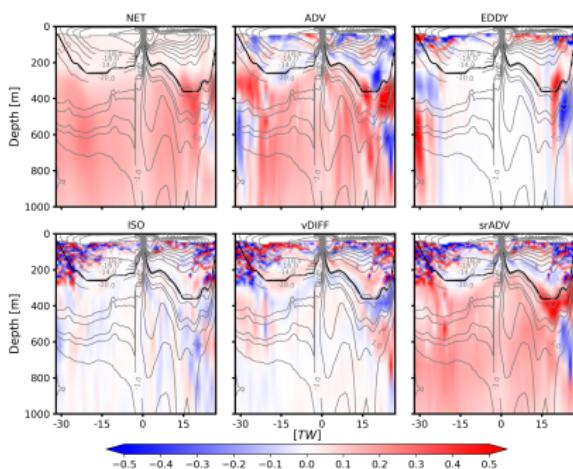
- ▶ Overall advection cooling is coming both mean and eddy components
- ▶ To note the strong mixed layer contribution

Heat budget transient response (heat flux perturbation)



Volume-integrated heat budgets for the Northern Hemisphere tropical Pacific

- ▶ Both regions account for the overall warming
- ▶ The shallow ocean contribution is rather secondary since the interior ocean accounts for most of the overall imbalance (approx. 70%)
- ▶ The advective super-residual framework summarize overall budget imbalances



Zonally-integrated heat budgets

- ▶ Near compensation between mean and eddy advective components inside the overturn; overall warming by vertical diffusive mix
- ▶ Interior ocean warming nearly determined by mean advection anomalies alone

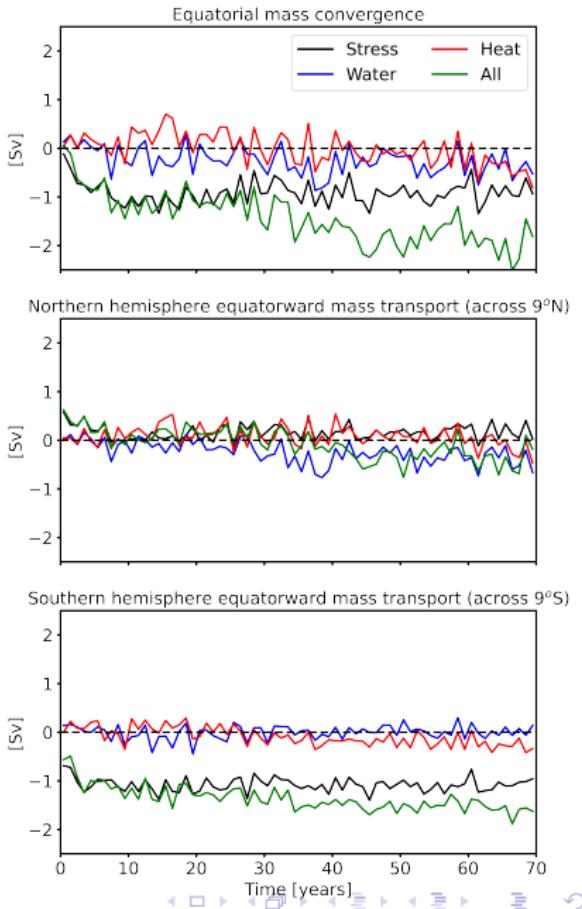
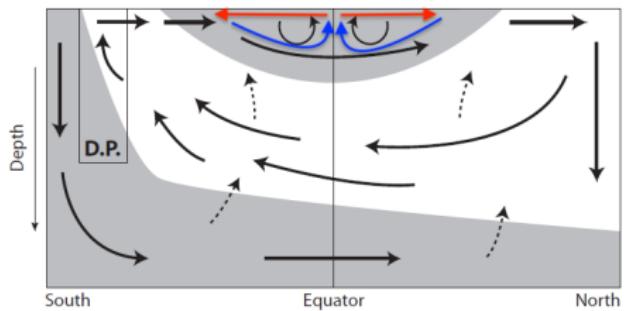
Summary

- ▶ Total heat budget is partitioned into the contributions related to the shallow and interior ocean
- ▶ Heat budget is dominated by advective cooling and vertical diffusive warming (super-residual advection framework)
- ▶ Shallow ocean holds nearly around 90% of the total balance
- ▶ Under perturbed climate conditions both regions account for the overall warming
- ▶ Shallow ocean contribution is rather secondary
- ▶ Interior ocean accounts for most of the overall imbalance (approx. 70%)
- ▶ Observed warming tendencies are explained in terms of tropical and subtropical circulation changes (ongoing work)

Ongoing work: Tropical and Subtropical circulation

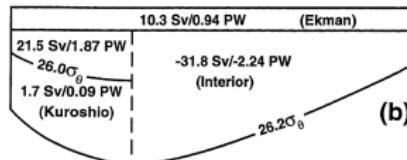
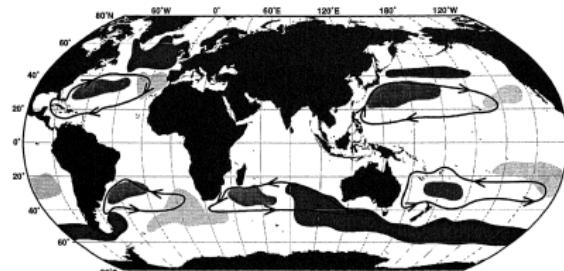
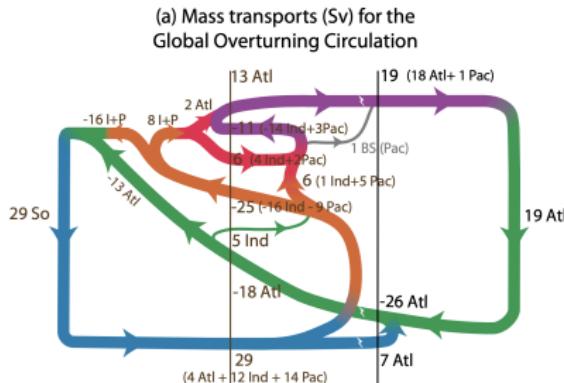
Regional heat budgets are discussed in terms of changes in the,

- ▶ Meridional equatorward mass transport
- ▶ Meridional heat transport by the wind-driven shallow overturning circulation
- ▶ Intermediate and deep water mass production rates



Mass balance in the subtropical cell (as Talley, 2003)

- ▶ Estimate the contribution to the overturning transport due to shallow, intermediate and deep components
- ▶ Procedure is by water masses identification, based on the isopycnal distribution and ventilation rates
- ▶ Velocities adjusted to allow real balance to include Ekman transport



(c)

	Northward volume transport (Sv)	Upwelling transport (Sv)	Heat transport (PW)
surface	10.3	Ekman	-10.3
26.2 σ_0	-8.6	thermocline	0.57
27.0 σ_0	-3.0	NPIW	0.05
27.6 σ_0	4.1	AAIW	-1.7
36.96 σ_2	-0.6	PDW	1.3
45.84 σ_4	0.6	PDW	-0.01
45.88 σ_4	-5.9	PDW	-2.8
bottom	3.1	CDW	0.03
			3.1
			-0.002