

Ocean Modeling

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Topics

Part I (today)

- Global Earth system models;
- Ocean modeling challenges and properties;
- Governing equations and approximations;
- Discretizations;
- Vertical coordinates;
- Grid examples

Part II (Thursday)

Parameterizations





A virtual laboratory for experimentation

General purposes include:

- Providing scientific understanding of the past and present observed events and changes;
- Simulating future climate change and its impacts;
- Making future predictions of climate changes and variability; and
- Providing actionable, societally-relevant information.



Small and Scheitlin



- The models use physical equations to simulate key fields and processes in the atmosphere, ocean, land, sea-ice, land-ice, ...
- Processes that remain below the grid resolution need to be parameterized.
- Build on our understanding of processes from observations and highly-detailed models (e.g., process models, large eddy simulations).







Ocean Modeling Challenges









Bathymetry

Representation in the Ocean Models

Remains rather ad-hoc with each group / model applying their own method, that is, no accepted best practice

Processes are usually not (well) documented

Once created, usually used for many many years

Involves quite a bit of trial-and-error to obtain reasonable transports across various channels, straits, etc.

Details matter

NOAA ETOPO1



Land boundaries exert strong control on ocean dynamics



NCAR and TAMU







Sea Surface Temperature (SST)

 $\Delta x = 0.1^{\circ}$

Δx = 1.0°



Mixing associated with sub-gridscale turbulence must be parameterized.



The density change from top to bottom is much smaller in the ocean than in the atmosphere: 1.02 to 1.04 gr/cm^{3.}

This makes the Rossby radius (R_d) much smaller – 100s to 10s km.





Equilibration Timescale

Mixing across density surfaces is extremely small once water masses are buried below the mixed layer base.

Scaling argument for deep adjustment time (diffusive timescale):

 $H^{2}/\kappa = (3500 \text{ m})^{2} / (1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^{2}/\text{s}) = O(4,000) \text{ years}$

Tidal mixing can reduce this time scale in certain regions.

 $k_v = k_{\rm bg} + \frac{\Gamma\varepsilon}{N^2}$

Bottom line for climate

- Performing long "equilibrium" simulations are not practical, particularly at eddy-resolving / permitting resolutions
- Must live with deep / abyssal ocean not being at equilibrium in most simulations



Approach to Equilibrium in CESM2 Fully-Coupled Simulations





Because of weak interior mixing, water masses can be named and followed around in the oceans





Some Ocean Properties

- The heat capacity of the ocean is much larger than the atmosphere. This makes it an important heat reservoir;
- The ocean contains the memory of the climate system
 — important
 implications for decadal prediction studies.
- No change of state of seawater form ice when temperature is below freezing point (as a function of salinity).
- The ocean density is a nonlinear (complicated) function of temperature, salinity, and pressure.





Languages

FORTRAN

C++

Julia





Governing Equations

7 equations in 7 unknowns:

3 velocity components potential temperature salinity density

pressure

Plus: 1 equation for each passive tracer, e.g. CFCs, Ideal Age.



Approximations

Hydrostatic: Variations in density are considered too small to affect inertia but are important in terms of affecting buoyancy, simplifying the equation for the vertical velocity component.

When vertical accelerations are small compared to the gravitational acceleration, the hydrostatic approximation is valid.

When ocean becomes statically unstable, vertical overturning should occur, but cannot because vertical tendency has been excluded. This mixing needs to be parameterized.

Boussinesq: Density differences are not important except for when they are multiplied by the gravitational acceleration. The sound waves are ignored.

Continuity (incompressible form): Cannot deform seawater, so what flows into a control volume must flow out.



Approximations

Thin-shell: The ocean depth is neglected compared to the Earth's radius.

Together with horizontal motions >> vertical motions, the thin-shell approximation of the Coriolis force results in retaining only the horizontal components due to horizontal motions.

Spherical Earth: Geopotential surfaces are assumed to be spheres.

Turbulent closures: Subgrid scale processes can be parameterized in terms of the resolved large-scale fields / features.



Governing Equations

Zonal momentum	$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}u + \mathcal{L}(u) - (uv\tan\phi)/a - fv = -\frac{1}{\rho_0 a\cos\phi}\frac{\partial p}{\partial\lambda} + \mathcal{F}_{Hx}(u,v) + \mathcal{F}_V(u)$
Meridional momentum	$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}v + \mathcal{L}(v) + (u^2 \tan \phi)/a + fu = -\frac{1}{\rho_0 a} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \phi} + \mathcal{F}_{Hy}(u, v) + \mathcal{F}_V(v)$
Advection operator	$\mathcal{L}(\alpha) = \frac{1}{a\cos\phi} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial\lambda} (u\alpha) + \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} (\cos\phi v\alpha) \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w\alpha)$
Zonal viscosity	$\mathcal{F}_{Hx}(u,v) = A_M \left\{ \nabla^2 u + u(1 - \tan^2 \phi)/a^2 - \frac{2\sin\phi}{a^2\cos^2\phi} \frac{\partial v}{\partial\lambda} \right\}$
Meridional viscosity	$\mathcal{F}_{Hy}(u,v) = A_M \left\{ \nabla^2 v + v(1 - \tan^2 \phi)/a^2 + \frac{2\sin\phi}{a^2\cos^2\phi} \frac{\partial u}{\partial\lambda} \right\}$
Divergence operator	$\nabla^2 \alpha = \frac{1}{a^2 \cos^2 \phi} \frac{\partial^2 \alpha}{\partial \lambda^2} + \frac{1}{a^2 \cos \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left(\cos \phi \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial \phi} \right)$
Vertical viscosity	$\mathcal{F}_V(\alpha) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \alpha$



Governing Equations





Boundary Conditions

Surface:

Momentum and tracer fluxes are determined by bulk formulae. Fully-coupled or surface forcing datasets

Volume conserving models convert freshwater fluxes to virtual salt fluxes.

Bottom / Lateral:

- No tracer fluxes except for geothermal heating
- No flow into rocks
- Usually no slip flow on lateral boundaries

Quadratic bottom drag





Arakawa B-grid

Used in POP2

Advantages

Naturally accommodates no-slip boundary conditions

Better dispersion of Rossby waves at coarse resolutions (than the C-grid)

Smaller truncation errors in the computation of the Coriolis terms

Disadvantages

Cannot represent single-point channels

Larger truncation errors in the pressure gradient terms





T = tracer grid / point U = velocity grid / point

Side View

т	U	т	Ų	т	Ų	т	Ų	т	υT	
w		w		w		w		w		
т	U	т	U	т	U	т	U	т		
				w		w				
Ocea	Ocean bottom			т	U	т		Ocean bottom		
				W		W				
				т	U	т				

From POP2



Arakawa C-grid



Top View

Advantages

Natural discretization for some fields Allows single-point channels

Disadvantages

Coriolis terms requires horizontal averaging, making the inertial gravity waves (related to Coriolis force) less accurate

Poorer dispersion of Rossby waves at coarse resolutions (than the B-grid)

Used in MOM6







A Discretization Example



Central advection is usually used for the momentum equations

Tracers generally employ a scheme that does not create extrema, e.g., third-order upwind scheme

 $ADV_{i,j,k} = -(u_{E} T_{*E} - u_{W} T_{*W}) / DXT - (v_{N} T_{*N} - v_{S} T_{*S}) / DYT - (w_{k} T_{*T} - w_{k+1} T_{*B}) / dz$

 $u_{E}(i) = (u_{i,j} DYU_{i,j} + u_{i,j-1} DYU_{i,j-1}) / 2$

 $v_{N}(j) = (v_{i,j} DXU_{i,j} + v_{i-1,j} DXU_{i-1,j}) / 2$

 $T_{E} = \frac{1}{2} * (T_{i+1,j} + T_{i,j})$



A Time Discretization Example



Split modes need to be occasionally eliminated via time-averaging or Robert filter time steps.



Vertical Coordinates

The choice of a vertical coordinate system is **one of the most important** aspects of a model's design. There are several vertical coordinate systems in use:



From: https://www.oc.nps.edu/nom/modeling/vertical_grids.html

Each one has its advantages and disadvantages, which has led to the development of **hybrid** coordinate systems.

This is an area of very active research and development in numerical ocean models.



Vertical Coordinates



z*-coordinates, 65 levels





Vertical Coordinates

The newer generation of the ocean models tend to use the Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian (ALE) method in the vertical.

ALE method provides a variety of options.

When fully Eulerian, the configuration is a level coordinate system, i.e., z-like.

When fully Lagrangian, the configuration is such that the mesh moves with the fluid and there is no "explicit" transport in the vertical.

In between, other vertical grid configurations are possible.

MOM6 and MPAS use this method.



Model Grid Examples

Displaced Pole



Climate workhorse: nominal 1°

Testing / paleo: nominal 3°

Equatorial refinement (0.3° / 0.9°)



Model Grid Examples






A Common Practice: Barotropic & Baroclinic Split

Issue: Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) stability condition associated with fast surface gravity waves.

- $u(\Delta t/\Delta x) \leq 1$
- Barotropic mode $\sqrt{gH} \sim 200 \text{ m/s}$
- Split flow into a depth averaged barotropic and a vertically varying baroclinic component
- Solve the barotropic equation implicitly
- Fast moving gravity waves are filtered out, but that's okay because they don't impact climate



A Coupling Schematic



All flux exchanges are done conservatively.



Simplified Configurations







Regional Configurations

Eastern Tropical Pacific CESM-MOM6 (1 km) Driven by MPAS-A (3 km)







Seijo et al.



Expanding the MARBL Marine Ecosystem to Link to a Fisheries Model



- Partitioning zooplankton group into microzooplankton and mesozooplankton
- Offers improved estimates of food resources for fish and other higher trophic levels



MARBL: Marine Biogeochemistry Library (Long et al. 2021, JAMES)

FEISTY: Fisheries Size and Functional Type Model (Petrik et al. 2019, Prog. Oceanogr.)





NCAR COMMUNITY EARTH SYSTEM MODEL

A / CESM Working Groups / CESM Ocean Model Working Group

Ocean Model Working Group

Overview

The goals of the Ocean Model Working Group are to support the broad scientific objectives of CESM by developing and maintaining a state-of-the-science ocean component model and to serve as a nexus for community-led curiosity-driven research in oceanographic and climate sciences using CESM.

The Ocean Model Working Group is currently transitioning from the Parallel Ocean Program (POP2) to the Modular Ocean Model version 6 (MOM6) as the dynamical ocean component model. The later will provide additional flexibility, usability, and accuracy enabling CESM to address climate research questions across a wider range of scales and interface with new components such as dynamic ice sheets and regional coastal models. Additional information can be found in the initial documentation for CESM/MOM6. For lectures and presentations on MOM6, please check the 2020 MOM6 Webinar Series.

Projects

- Linking Glimmer Ice Sheet Model to CESM
- Additional information on these projects can be viewed by visiting the CESM OMWG wiki

OMWG INFORMATION OMWG Priorities OMWG Metrics & Diagnostics CCSM POP2 Developers' Guidelines Upcoming Meetings Past Meetings Research Highlights CESM OMWG wiki CORE Forcing Responses to CESM3 Ocean Model RFI Recommendations for the Ocean Model Dynamical Core for CESM3 CESM OMUG List

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SEARCH ...



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Thank You!

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Topics

Part I (Tuesday)

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- Ocean modeling challenges and properties;
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- Discretizations;
- Vertical coordinates;
- Grid examples

Part II (Today) Parameterizations







Parameterizations

- Accomplish physical effects of unresolved subgrid scale processes, usually expressed in terms of resolved fields;
- Physically-based and justified;
- As simple as possible / as inexpensive as possible; and
- As few parameters as possible
 - Development,
 - Implementation,
 - Verification,
 - Impacts



Parameterizations in Ocean Models

- Mesoscale eddies (tracers)
- Horizontal viscosity (momentum)
- Vertical mixing (momentum and tracers)
 - surface boundary layer,
 - interior (tidal mixing)
- Overflows
- River runoff & estuaries
- Submesoscale eddies (tracers)
- Solar absorption
- Langmuir circulation associated with surface waves
- Bottom boundary layer



Mesoscale Eddy Parameterization



Land boundaries exert strong control on ocean dynamics



NCAR and TAMU



Mixing of Tracers



Ocean observations suggest mixing along isopycnals is $\sim 10^7$ times larger than across isopycnals.

Horizontal mixing causes spurious diapycnal mixing.



Mixing of Tracers



Redi (1982), Cox (1987)



Mesoscale Mixing Parameterization Gent & McWilliams (1990; GM90)

GM90 proposed that eddies advect, as well as diffuse, tracers.

The form of the eddy-induced velocity, u*, v*, w*, was chosen because it ensures a global sink of potential energy.

In the above equations, *T* is a generic tracer, **s** is the 2D isopycnal slope vector, and K is the isopycnal diffusion tensor.

There are two diffusivities: A_{I} : isopycnal in K; A_{ITD} : thickness



Mesoscale Mixing Parameterization Gent & McWilliams (1990; GM90)

Mimics effects of unresolved mesoscale eddies as a sum of

- diffusive mixing of tracers along isopycnals (Redi),
- an additional advection of tracers by a divergence-free eddy-induced velocity,

Valid for the adiabatic ocean interior,

Flattens isopycnals, thereby reducing potential energy,

Eliminates any need for horizontal diffusion.



The Role of Mesoscale Tracer Transports in the Global Ocean Circulation

Gokhan Danabasoglu,* James C. McWilliams, Peter R. Gent

Ocean models routinely used in simulations of the Earth's climate do not resolve mesoscale eddies because of the immense computational cost. A new parameterization of the effects of these eddies has been implemented in a widely used model. A comparison of its solution with that of the conventional parameterization shows significant improvements in the global temperature distribution, the poleward and surface heat fluxes, and the locations of deepwater formation.

The oceans play important roles in regulating the Earth's climate and must be included when the effects of increasing greenhouse gases such as CO_2 are assessed. Sea-surface temperature largely dictates the heat flux between the atmosphere and ocean. The salinity of the upper ocean is also important in determining where deepwater formation occurs by convection. This deep-water formation drives the global thermohaline circulation, sometimes called the ocean conveyor belt (1), which controls the horizontal transports of heat and fresh water and the absorption of increasing CO_2 in the atmosphere.

The most energetic oceanic motions occur on the mesoscale, with length scales of 10 to 100 km. The ubiquitous mesoscale eddies are important in the transports of heat, salt, and passive tracers such as radiocarbon and freon in all parts of the world's oceans. Their importance has been documented from observations in the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) (2) and the

*To whom correspondence should be addressed. SCIENCE • VOL. 264 • 20 MAY 1994

National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder,

CO 80307, USA

1123

270°

360°

Deep Convection



Sensitivity of the Global Ocean Circulation to Parameterizations of Mesoscale Tracer Transports

GOKHAN DANABASOGLU AND JAMES C. MCWILLIAMS

National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado

(Manuscript received 4 October 1994, in final form 24 March 1995)



4°x3°x20L ocean model



Near-Surface Eddy Flux (NSEF) Scheme

GM90 is valid only in the quasi-adiabatic ocean interior, therefore the usual practice has been to taper both A_I and A_{ITD} to zero as the surface is approached.



NSEF replaces the usual approach of applying near-surface taper functions for the diffusivities.

Ferrari et al. (2008, J. Climate), Danabasoglu et al. (2008, J. Climate)



Spatially Varying Eddy Diffusivities

Observations indicate that mesoscale eddies are upper-ocean intensified.

 $A = A_{REF} (N^2 / N^2_{REF})$

N²: Local buoyancy frequency,

 N^{2}_{REF} : Reference buoyancy frequency just below the transition layer,

A_{REF}: Constant reference value of A within the surface diabatic region.



Ferreira et al. (2005, JPO)



Spatially Varying Eddy Diffusivities



Danabasoglu & Marshall (2008, Ocean Modelling)



Horizontal Viscosity Parameterizations



Horizontal Viscosity

Spatially uniform, isotropic, Cartesian, Δ =250km grid for illustration

$$D(U) = A U_{xx} + A U_{YY}$$
$$D(V) = A V_{xx} + A V_{YY}$$

Grid Re (Diffuse Noise) \rightarrow A > 0.5 V Δ = 100,000 m²/sResolve WBC (Munk Layers) \rightarrow A > $\beta \Delta^3$ = 80,000 m²/sDiffusive CFL \rightarrow A < 0.5 $\Delta^2 / \Delta t$ = 8000,000 m²/sRealism (EUC, WBC) \rightarrow A ~ physical = 1,000 m²/s



Anisotropic Horizontal Viscosity (A ≠ B)

Need to have B very small near the equator where there are fast, thin zonal currents; e.g. the equatorial undercurrent.

If B is too large, then this current becomes too wide and slow.

Guiding principle: Minimally Numerically Viscous; Maximally Physically Viscous

Large et al. (2001, JPO), Jochum et al. (2008, JGR)



Anisotropic Horizontal Viscosity

Grid Re (Diffuse Noise) \rightarrow Live with the "noise" Resolve WBC (Munk Layers) \rightarrow A = B = β Δ³, only near WBC

elsewhere:

Realism (EUC, WBC) \rightarrow A = 300 m²/s

- $B = 300 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ in the tropics
 - = 600 m²/s polewards of 30°





Anisotropic Horizontal Viscosity



Pacific Equatorial Undercurrent





Vertical Mixing Parameterizations



Vertical Mixing Parameterization K-Profile Parameterization (KPP)

Large, McWilliams, and Doney (1994, Rev. Geophys.)



Van Roekel et al. (2018, JAMES)



Vertical Mixing Parameterization K-Profile Parameterization (KPP)

Large, McWilliams, and Doney (1994, Rev. Geophys.)

A first-order turbulent closure scheme

$$\partial_t X = -\partial_z \overline{w'X'}$$

$$\overline{\mathbf{w}'\mathbf{X}'} = -\mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{x}} \partial_{\mathbf{z}}\mathbf{X}$$

where K_x is a vertical eddy diffusivity / viscosity

KPP involves three high-level steps:

- 1. Determination of boundary layer depth,
- 2. Calculation of interior diffusivities,
- 3. Evaluation of boundary layer diffusivities.



K-Profile Parameterization

The boundary layer depth, h, is determined based on a bulk Richardson number,

$$Ri_{b} = \frac{(b_{sl} - b(z))(-z + \eta)}{|\mathbf{u}_{sl} - \mathbf{u}(z)|^{2} + V_{t}^{2}(z)}$$

b_{sl}: near-surface buoyancy,

b(z): boundary layer buoyancy profile,

u_{sl}: near-surface reference horizontal velocity,

u(z): boundary layer horizontal velocity profile,

V²_t : velocity scale of turbulent (unresolved) velocity shear

h is equated to the smallest value of -z at which the bulk Ri equals Ri_{cr}=0.3.



K-Profile Parameterization

Interior Mixing

- Shear instability: K_X^{s}
- Internal wave breaking: $K_X^{\ w}$
- Double diffusion: K_X^{d}
- Local static instability (convection): K_X^{c}
- Tidal mixing: K_X^{t}

 $K_{X}(\text{interior}) = K_{X}^{s} + K_{X}^{w} + K_{X}^{d} + K_{X}^{c} + K_{X}^{t}$



K-Profile Parameterization

 $K_X(I) = h w_X(I) G(I)$

with

I = d / h,

 $w_{X}(I)$: turbulent velocity scale,

G(I): cubic shape function.

Interior mixing at the base of the boundary layer influences the turbulence throughout the boundary layer.

There is also a non-local counter-gradient term: $\overline{w'X'} = -K_x (\partial_z X - \gamma_x)$



Tidal Mixing







[based on Jayne & St. Laurent (2001, GRL); St. Laurent et al. (2002, GRL); Simmons et al. (2004, Ocean Modelling)]

Vertical diffusivity due to background and tidal mixing:

$$k_v = k_{\rm bg} + \frac{\Gamma\varepsilon}{N^2}$$

where *N*: buoyancy frequency,

 Γ (=0.2): canonical mixing efficiency of turbulence.

$$\varepsilon = \frac{q E(x, y) F(z, H)}{\rho} \qquad F(z, H) = \frac{e^{-(H-z)/\zeta}}{\zeta (1 - e^{-H/\zeta})}$$
with $\zeta = 500$ m

where q (=1/3): local dissipation efficiency,

ρ: density,

E: energy flux out of the barotropic tide,

F: vertical distribution (decay) function



Dissipation Energy Flux from the Barotropic Tides

Jayne & St. Laurent (JS01): Estimated using a barotropic tide model with parameterized internal wave drag; 8 tidal constituents



Egbert & Ray (ER03): Estimated from assimilation of satellite altimetry data into a hydrodynamic model; 4 tidal constituents







Green & Nycander (GN13): Estimated using a highresolution (1/8° x 1.8°) barotropic tide model with parameterized internal wave drag; 4 tidal constituents


Tidal Constituents (TCs)

Four TCs:

- Semi-diurnal lunar and solar tides, M2 and S2, respectively, with q = 1/3,
- Diurnal tides K1 and O1 with q = 1 polewards of 30° latitude

$$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{\rho} \sum_{z'>z}^{H} \sum_{\text{TC}} q_{\text{TC}} E_{\text{TC}}(x, y, z') F(z, z')$$

The 18.6-year Lunar Nodal Cycle can be represented.



Regularization of Tidal Diffusivities

$$k_v = k_{\rm bg} + \frac{\Gamma\varepsilon}{N^2}$$

- Limit minimum value of N², e.g., 10⁻⁸ s⁻²
- Limit k_v using $k_v = \min(k_v, k_{max})$, e.g., $k_{max} = 100 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$
- Limit both

•



Overflow Parameterization



Gravity Current Overflows



from Jim Price







Gravity Current Overflow Parameterization



Based on Price & Yang (1998); described in Briegleb et al. (2010, NCAR Tech. Note) and Danabasoglu et al. (2010, JGR)



Overflow Parameterization Schematic



Equatorward Volume Transports

Ocean-only Simulations

σ _o ≥	44°W 27.80	49.3°W 27.80	49.3°W 27.74	69°W 27.80	
no overflows	5.3	3.5	17.3	0.2	
with overflows	10.7	9.3	26.7	2.0	
observations	13.3	14.7	26 ± 5	12.5	
	Dickson and Brown(1994)	Fischer et al. (2004)	Fischer et al. (2004)	Joyce et al. (2005)	

All in Sv



Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)





Temperature and Salinity Differences from Observations at 2650-m Depth



Obs: Levitus et al. (1998), Steele et al. (2001)



Estuary Parameterization



River Runoff and Estuary Box Model



Surface freshwater flux

Sun et al. (2017, Ocean Modelling)



River Runoff and Estuary Box Model



Sun et al. (2017, Ocean Modelling)



GUI & Tools to Support CESM Specialized and Flexible Models Configurations

Graphical user interface (GUI) guides users through the process of creating CESM cases

New metadata and logic module to check compatibility of compsets and grids

Custom MOM6 grid and bathymetry generator

Land model tools to facilitate creating surface datasets for custom grids and configurations

Altuntas, Bachman, Simpson, Danabasoglu, Vertenstein, & Dobbins

Initialization Time	: √ 1850	√ 2000 √	HIST			
mponents:						
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Thank You!

Contact: gokhan@ucar.edu

