# Imprint of the Southern Annular Mode on the coupled ocean-atmosphere-ice system

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#### Stouffer et al., 1989



Annual-mean temperature change predicted for around 2050 in the GFDL coupled climate model experiment. Interhemispheric asymmetry in climate response to a gradual increase of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>

R. J. Stouffer, S. Manabe & K. Bryan

#### IPCC First Assessment Report (1990)





(b) The equilibrium response of surface air temperature (°C) in the atmosphere-mixed-layer ocean model to a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Observed surface air temperature trends....



1970 – 2010 trends in annual mean SAT

http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/maps/

### Observed SAT trends....



http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/maps/

### Observed SAT trends....



http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/maps/

Trend in ocean surface temperature (°C, 1959 - 2008)



*Figure 15.* Long-term 50-year change in sea surface temperature (SST) during 1959-2008 calculated by fitting a linear trend to 50 years of monthly SST data at each grid point. The SST fields are from the Hadley Centre data set as described by Rayner et al. (2006). England et al. (2009; Copenhagen Diagnosis)

#### Marked sea-ice trends across the hemispheres



Average sea-ice 1979–2006 and then in 2007



Annual SIC trends 1979–2013

Purich et al. 2016

#### Marked geometry contrast across the hemispheres



SOUTH AGULHAS ATLANTIC CURRENT  $\bigcirc$ AGULHAS CURREN RETROFLECTION SOUTHERN EDDEL **A**CC SUBANTARCTIC SUBANTARCTIC FRONT FRONT GYRE LEEUWIN CURRENT ACÈ POLAR FRONT 120° SOUTH PACIFIC CURRENT EAC 180

North Pole: Ocean + sea-ice Surrounded by land South Pole: Land mass + Land ice Surrounded by oceans

#### Marked geometry contrast across the hemispheres





North Pole: Ocean + sea-ice Surrounded by land

South Pole: Land mass + Land ice Surrounded by oceans

#### Due to trends in the Southern Annular Mode...?



**Figure 3 | Time series of the southern annular mode from transient experiments forced with time-varying ozone-depleting substances and greenhouse gases.** Results are from experiments published in ref. 28.

#### Signatures of the Antarctic ozone hole in Southern Hemisphere surface climate change

David W. J. Thompson<sup>1+</sup>, Susan Solomon<sup>2,3</sup>, Paul J. Kushner<sup>4</sup>, Matthew H. England<sup>5</sup>, Kevin M. Grise<sup>1</sup> and David J. Karoly<sup>6</sup>

#### Imprint of wind trends on Southern Ocean circulation...?



#### Ocean-atmosphere imprint of the Southern Annular Mode



Surface fluxes, Ekman transport and MLD changes act in concert to produce SST response. Eddy heat fluxes act in the opposite sense



FIG. 13. Regressions on the SAM index of (a) mixed layer temperature (°C), (b) sum of mixed layer heat budget terms (°C s<sup>-1</sup>), (c) net surface heat flux term (°C s<sup>-1</sup>), and (d) meridional heat advection term (°C s<sup>-1</sup>). Color scaling is identical in (b)–(d).

#### Ocean-atmosphere imprint of the Southern Annular Mode



Surface fluxes, Ekman transport and MLD changes act in concert to produce SST response. Eddy heat fluxes act in the opposite sense

### Interhemispheric asymmetry...?

 How much of a role does the DP effect / subduction / deep MLs north of the ACC have?



Maximum mixed layer depth during the year, based on monthly means

### Eddy compensation...?

• What is the role of ocean eddies now and into the future...?



Observed 2 year lagged correlation between monthly EKE and the SAM

And also Meredith, Hogg, Morrison, Dufour, Delworth, Gent, Spence, Farneti, ....

#### Eddies compensate Ekman mass flux but not upper ocean heat fluxes



Sen Gupta and England (2006)



FIG. 6. Depth structure of the changes in meridional transport at 53°S in the  $1/12^{\circ}$  simulation as a result of wind stress doubling from  $\tau = 0.12 \rightarrow 0.24 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ . Only the portion of the overturning above the depth of topography is shown. The top bar in each figure shows transport in the bulk mixed layer, while lower bars show transport in interior isopycnal layers. Positive values reflect northward transport. a) The zonally averaged, residual meridional transport  $(\overline{vh})$ . b) Theoretically calculated Ekman transport at 53°S  $(\tau/\rho f)$ . c) Net eddy-induced overturning  $(\overline{vh} - \tau/\rho f)$ .

Morrison and Hogg (2013)

#### Eddies compensate Ekman mass flux but not upper ocean heat fluxes



#### **Imprint of wind trends on Southern Ocean T-S...?**



#### **Imprint of wind trends on Southern Ocean T-S...?**



### Salinity trends 1950-2000



#### **Durack and Wijffels (2010)**

### Salinity trends 1950-2000



#### **Durack and Wijffels (2010)**

#### Adding FW anomalies also has a cooling effect





Purich et al. (2016)







Fast response (≈ year) Slow response (≈ decade)





#### Ferreira et al. 2014



## Southern Ocean warming delayed by circumpolar upwelling and equatorward transport

Kyle C. Armour<sup>1\*</sup>, John Marshall<sup>2</sup>, Jeffery R. Scott<sup>2,3</sup>, Aaron Donohoe<sup>4</sup> and Emily R. Newsom<sup>5</sup>



#### SST, SAT, wind and sea-ice trends 1979-2014



#### Variability is also playing a significant role....





Purich et al. (2016)

#### Variability is also playing a significant role....



### Conclusions

- Interhemispheric asymmetry in SAT response to GHG ① is progressing as predicted
- Along with deep mixed layers north of the ACC, the Southern Annular Mode has made a major contribution to recent high-latitude cooling
- In addition: warming and/or freshening of the surface Southern Ocean also produces cooling. This occurs due to a reduction of open ocean convection and increased stratification.
- Interannual decadal variability is also likely a significant player, via the IPO / ENSO / Atlantic
- ?? Why is the fast time-scale response persisting so long ??





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