

# Simulation de la Turbulence Méso-échelle dans l'Océan Global

## Simulation of Mesoscale Turbulence in the Global Ocean

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# OUTLINES

## **1 - Main Features of the Ocean General Circulation**

- Mean Ocean Circulation
- Transient Mesoscale Eddies (Turbulence)

## **2 – Eddy-Resolving Ocean General Circulation Models**

- Primitive equations
- Choosing the model resolution
- Realistic DRAKKAR global configurations
- Computational Issues

## **3 – Few model results**

## **4 – Conclusions**

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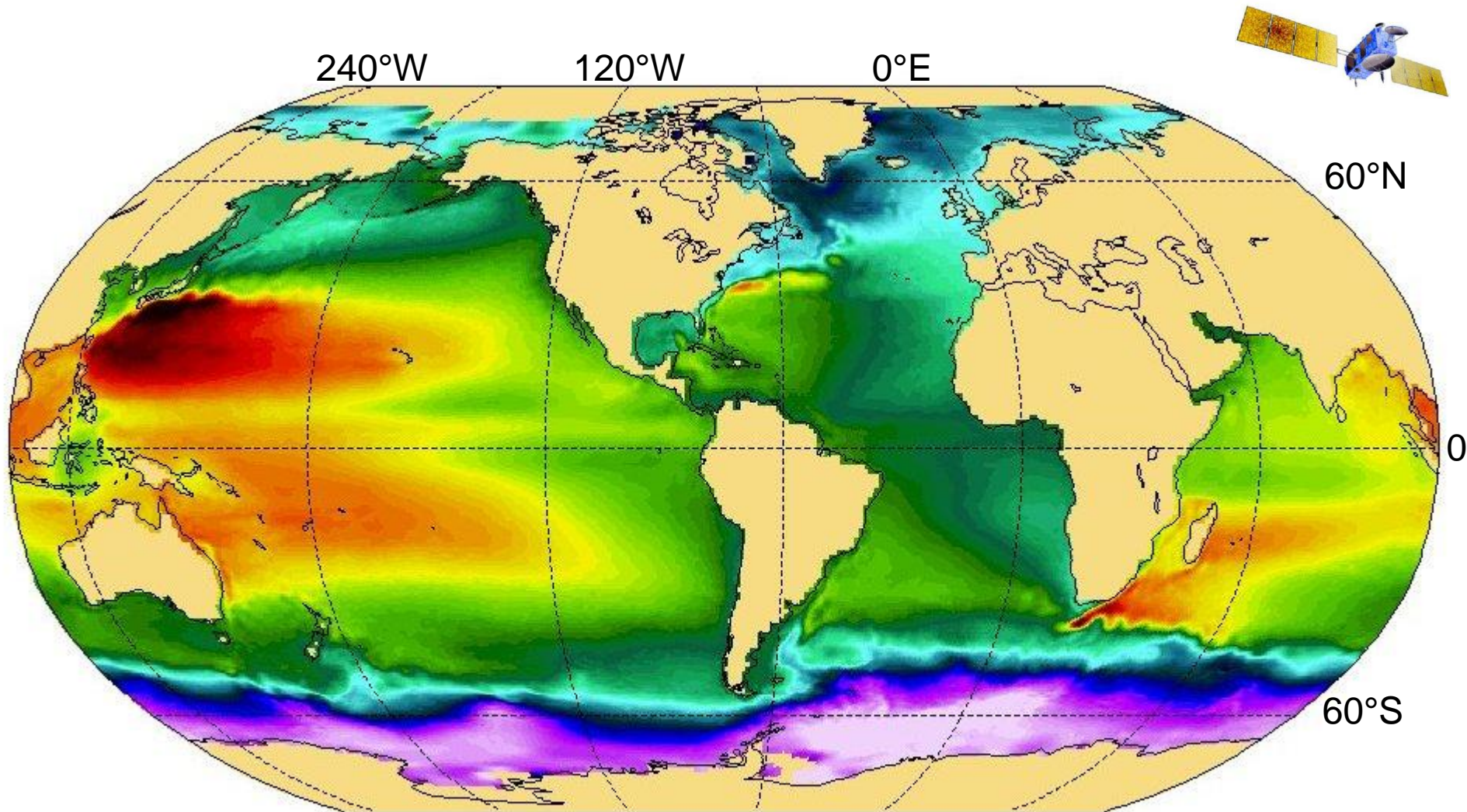
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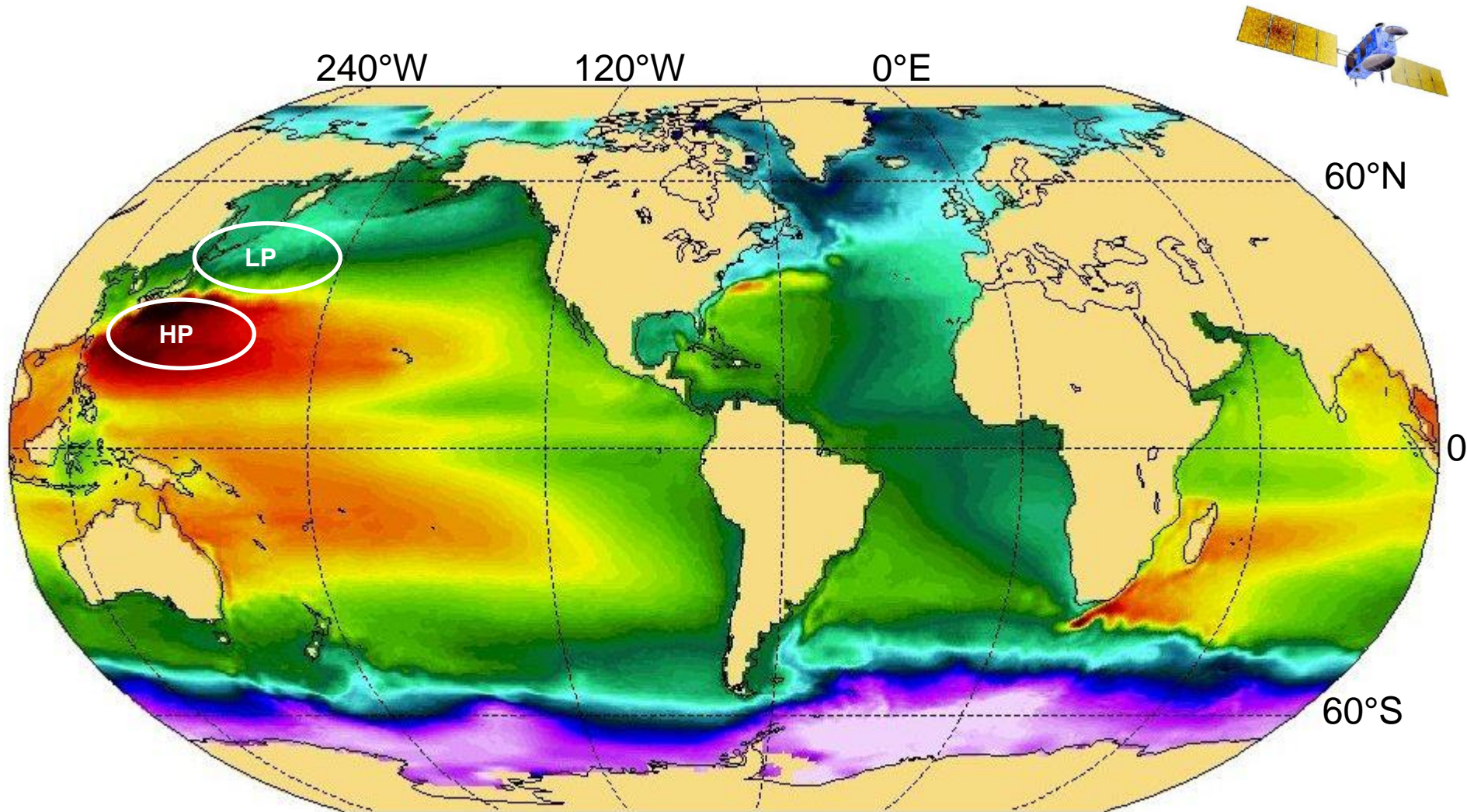
## **4 – Conclusions**

# Mean sea surface height (1993-1999) from satellite altimetry (CNES/CLS2009).

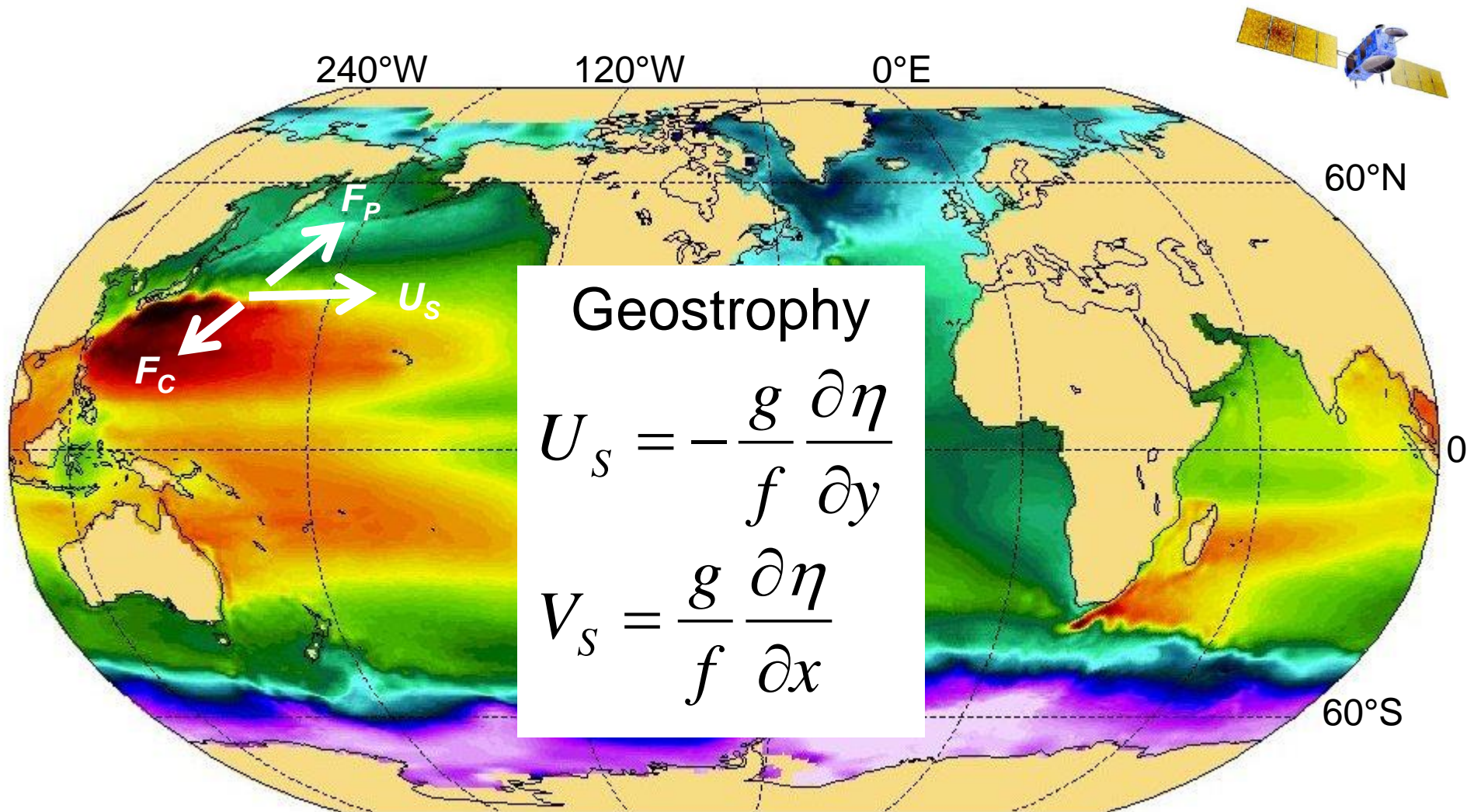




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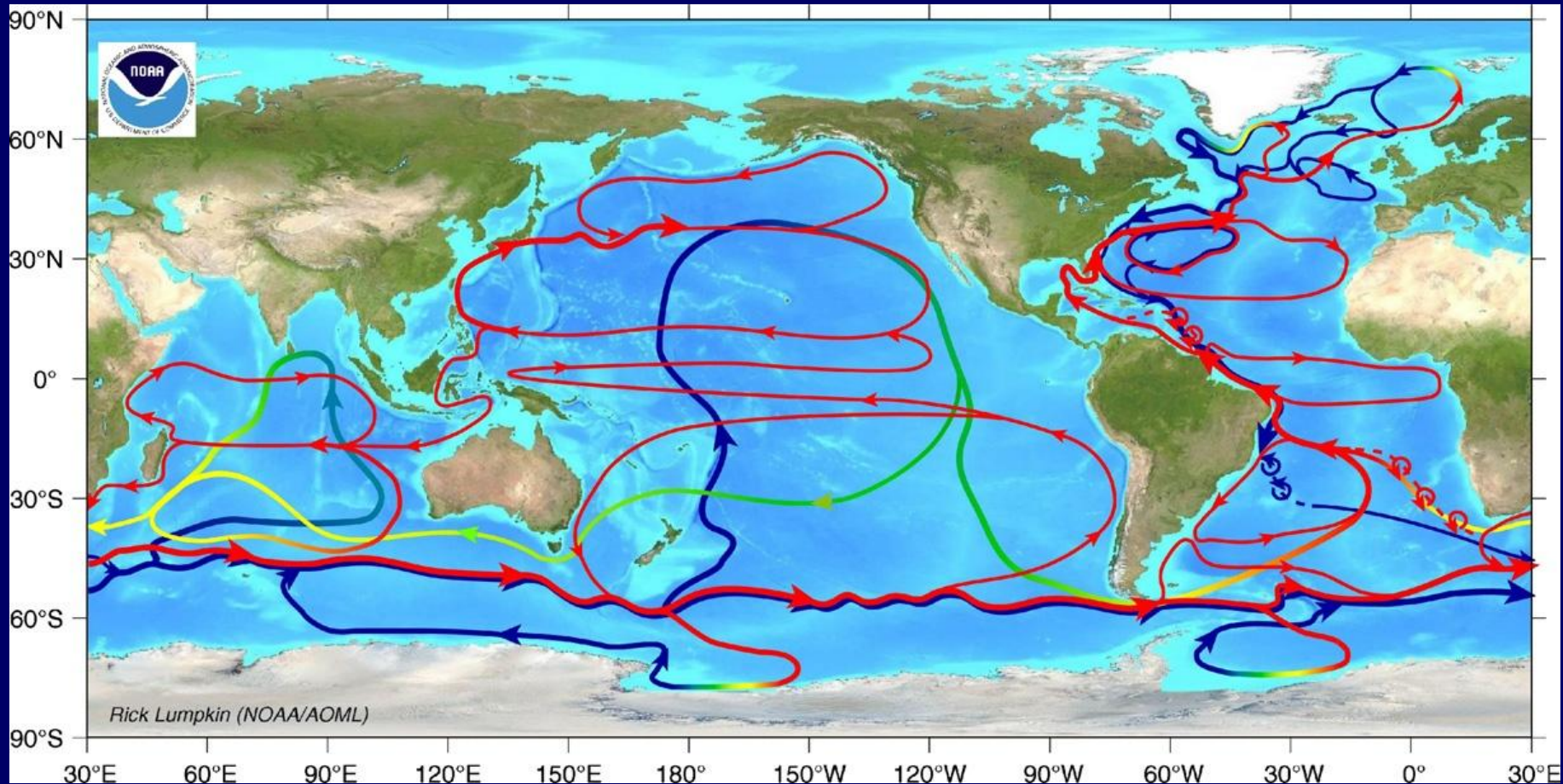


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# Schematic of the Ocean General Circulation

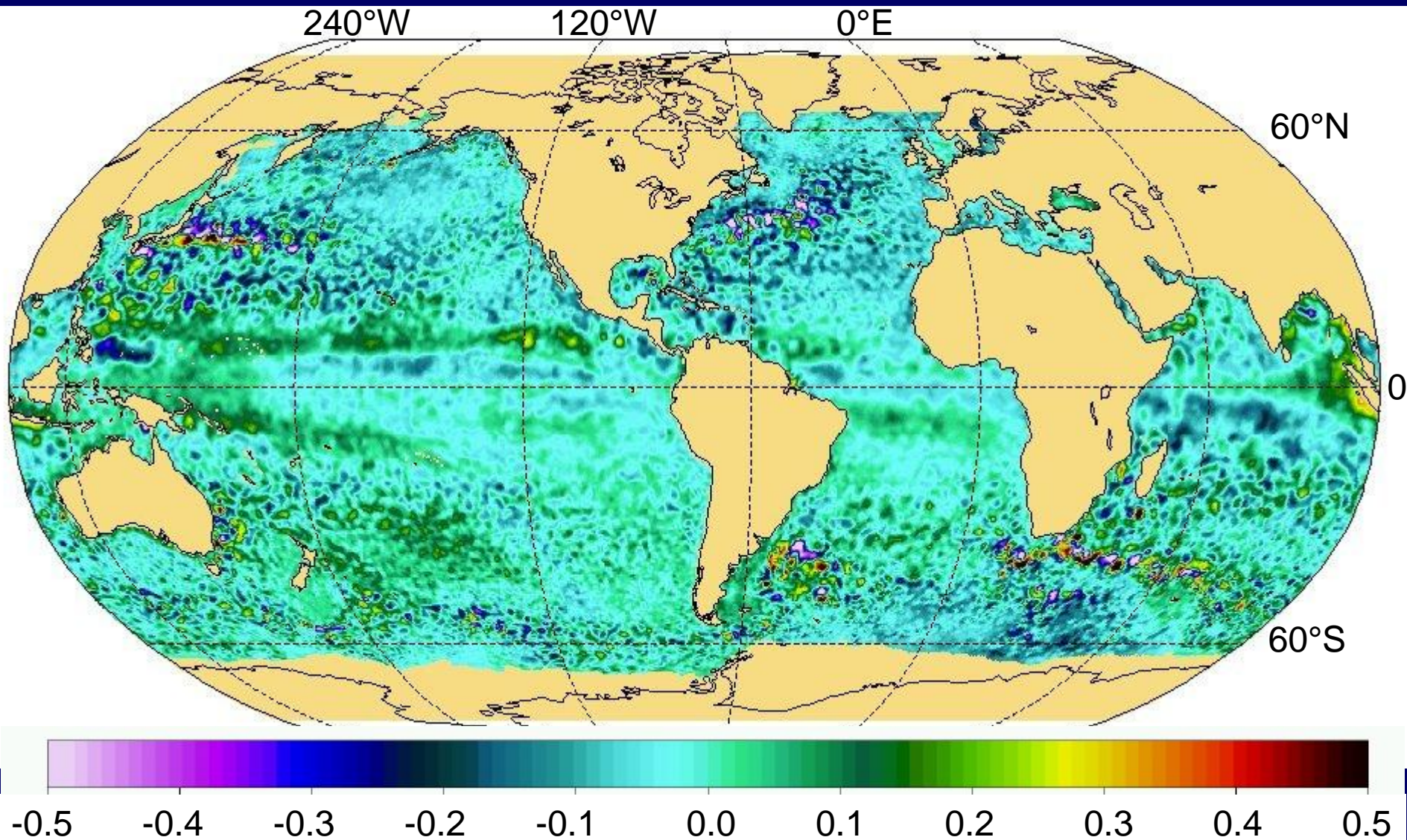


Large scale currents

- at the surface and at depth
- western intensified



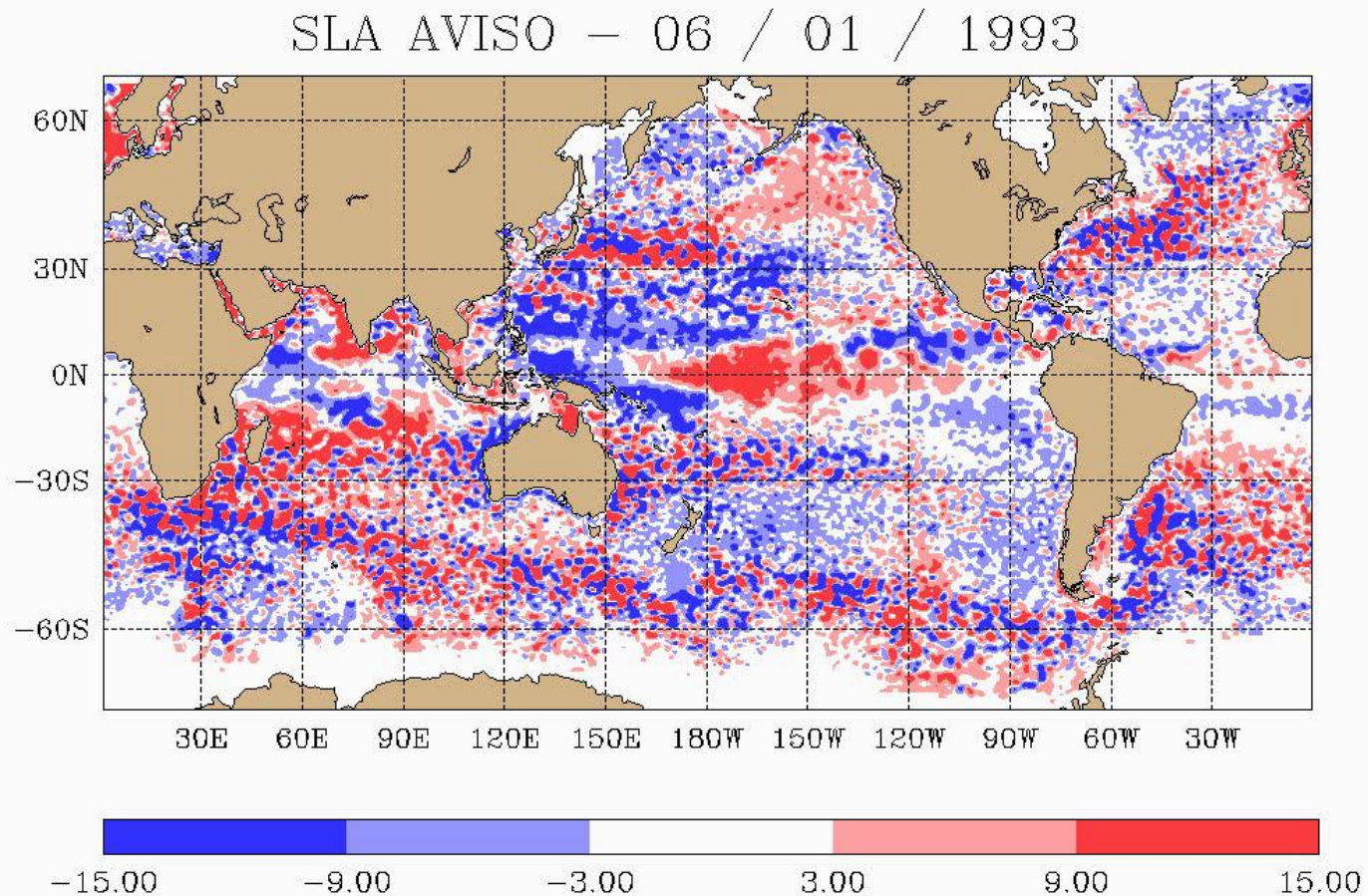
## Sea Level Anomaly (19 May 2005) from satellite altimetry (T/P+ERS Aviso product)



**Ubiquity of “transient features” with spatial scale of the order of a few 100 km and time scale > few weeks**



# Ubiquity of “transient features”



# How does the Ocean General Circulation look like ?

Global Ocean Reanalysis  
GLORYS

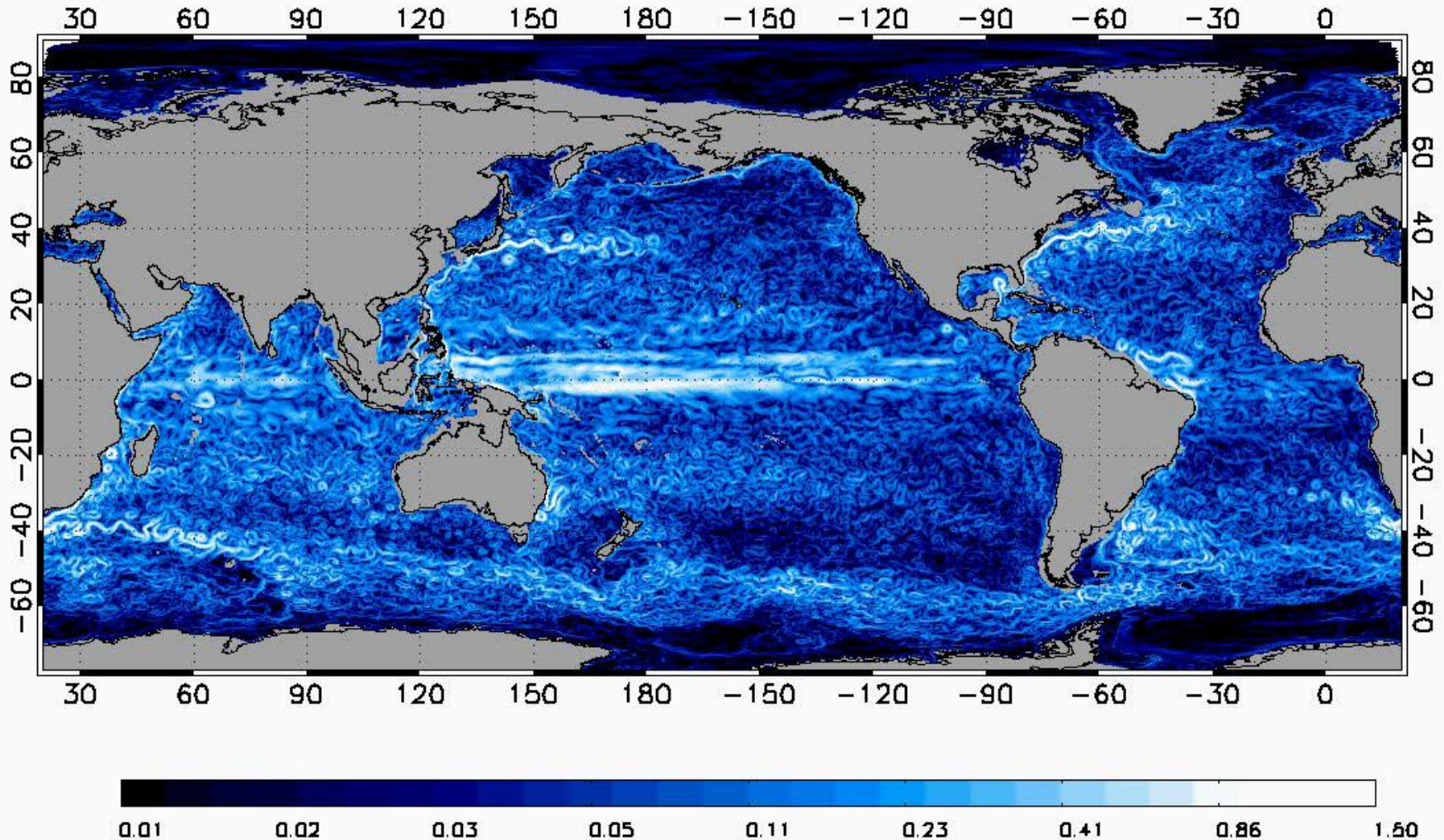
combines all in-situ and satellite observations  
with a Ocean General Circulation Model

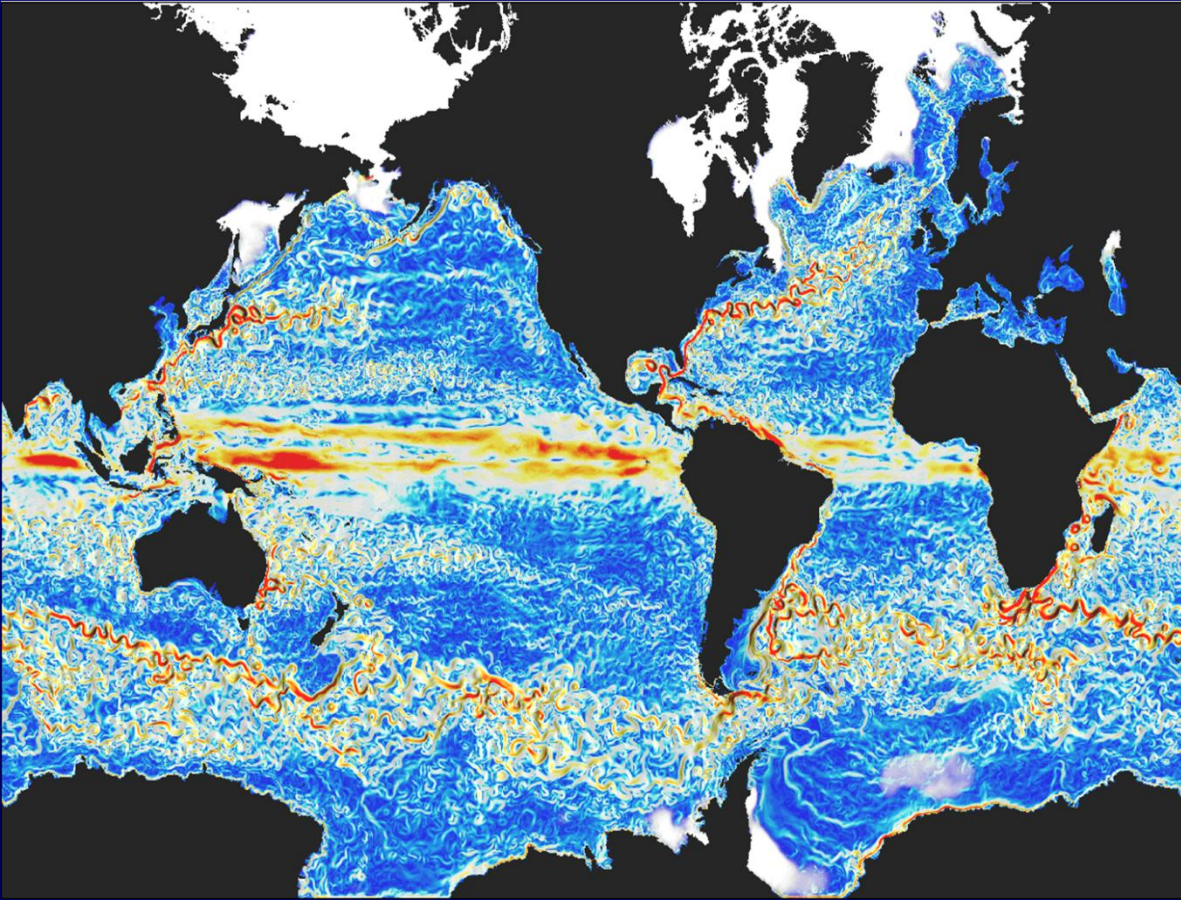


## GLORYS Reanalysis: Current Velocity (m/s) 2003-2009



GLOBAL 1/4 REANA. 20030103 module velocity 97 m





## Dominant circulation features

### Great Ocean Currents:

- basin scale
- surface and deep
- western intensified

### Mesoscale variability:

- More intense in the vicinity of the great currents.
- western propagation



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**Ocean Mesoscale variability** is often described as ...

... the "weather system" (or synoptic circulation) of the global ocean by a dynamical analogy with the **synoptic variability in the Atmosphere**.

## Dynamical properties of Ocean Mesoscale (and Atmospheric Synoptic) Eddies

- Quasi-geostrophic equilibrium
- Characteristic velocity small compared to the celerity of internal gravity waves
- They are generated by instabilities of the large scale flow, and such, are equally influenced by stratification (vertical shear) and rotation
- Hydrostatic equilibrium: Quasi 2D turbulence

**Rossby Nb**

$$R_0 = \frac{U}{fL} \ll 1$$

**Froude Nb**

$$F_r = \frac{U}{\sqrt{g'H}} = \frac{U}{NH} \ll 1$$

**Burger Nb**

$$B_u = \frac{R_0^2}{F_r^2} = \left( \frac{NH}{fL} \right)^2 = O(1)$$

**2D turbulence**



Ocean Mesoscale variability is often described as ...

... the "weather system" (or synoptic circulation) of the global ocean

by a ... sphere.

Dyna  
Syno  
ric

Characteristic length scales:  $L = \frac{NH}{f}$

• Qu

$$N^2 = \frac{g}{H} \frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho_0}$$

• Ch

com

gravity waves

$N =$  Brunt-Vaïisala frequency

$H =$  thermocline depth

$H =$  troposphere height

$$\frac{U}{\sqrt{g'H}} \ll 1$$

• They are generated by instabilities of the large scale flow, and are equally influenced by stratification (vertical shear) and rotation

$$B_u = \frac{R_0^2}{F_r^2} = \left( \frac{NH}{fL} \right)^2 = O(1)$$

Eddy Length scale :

$$L = \frac{NH}{f}$$

at mid-latitude ( $f=10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ )

### Atmosphere

$$N=10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$H=10^4 \text{ m}$$

$$L_{atm}=1000 \text{ km}$$

### Ocean

$$N=5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ and}$$

$$H=10^3 \text{ m}$$

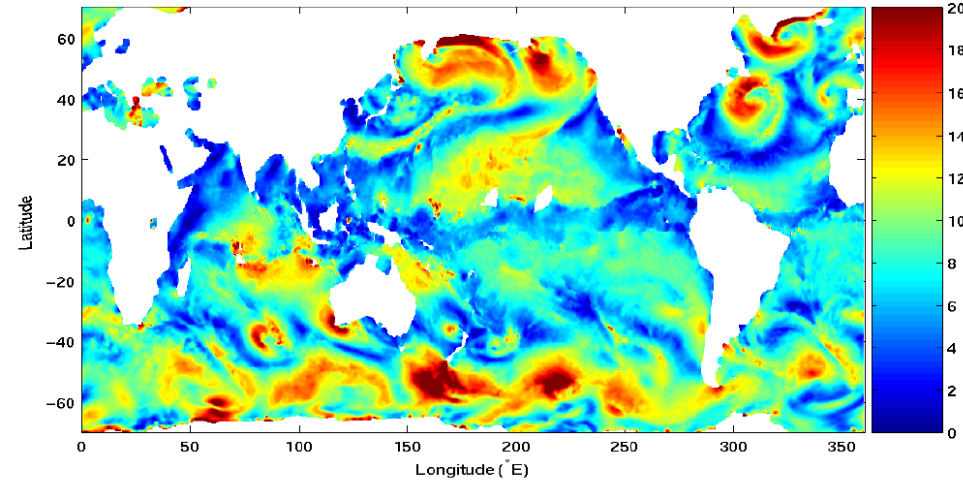
$$L_{oce}=50 \text{ km}$$

The eddy Length scale is therefore **20 times smaller** in the ocean than in the atmosphere

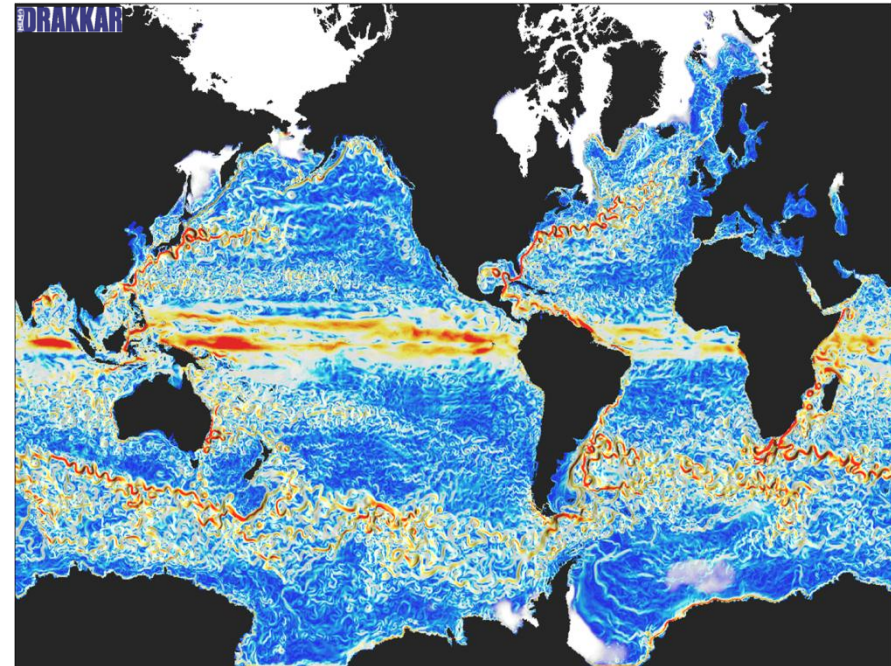
The difference in the eddy scale is so large that the **analogy with atmospheric synoptic scale does not simply hold** in terms of **“impact on the general circulation”**.

(Zhang et al., )

Blended 12-hourly Winds: 6AM, 1 April 2004



Atmospheric surface wind speed  
(12h)



Ocean current speed (model simulation, 5  
day mean)

## Meridional Heat Transport (MHT) at mid latitudes

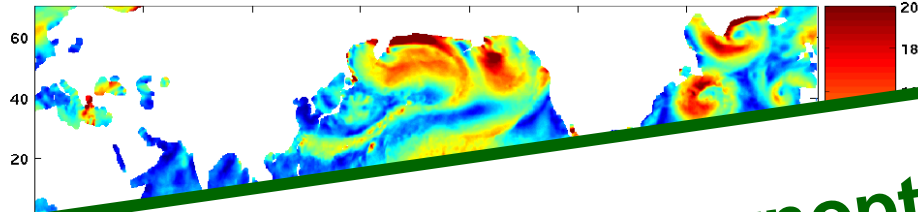
The **totality** of the MHT is done the synoptic transient features

A large part of the MHT is done by **poleward Mean Currents** flowing along continents



(Zhang et al., )

Blended 12-hourly Winds: 6AM, 1 April 2004



resolving the synoptic scales in ocean models has not been a strong case as it was for atmospheric models

At present the ocean models used in earth system modelling do not resolve eddies

The **stability** of the MHT is done the synoptic transient features

**at mid latitudes**

A large part of the MHT is done by **poleward Mean Currents** flowing along continents

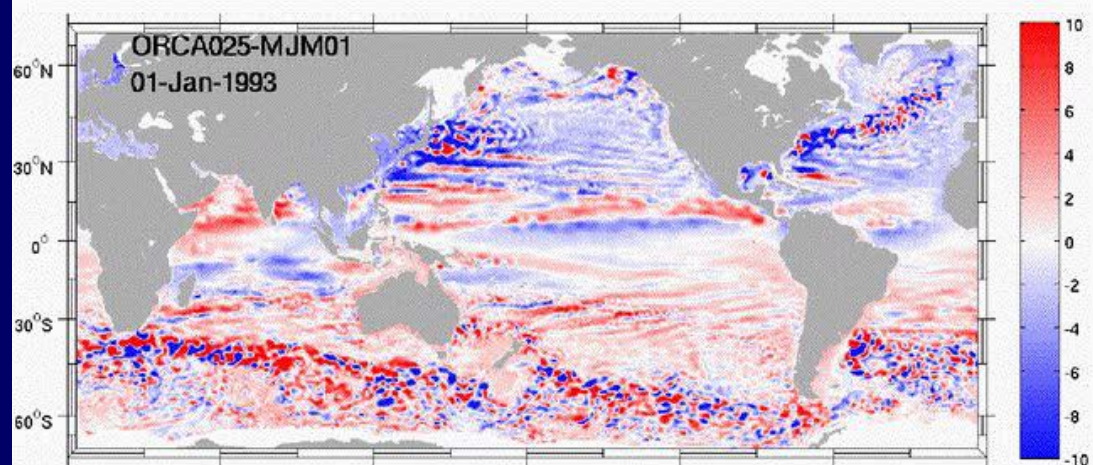
- Eddy processes/fluxes have many « potential » consequences for the ocean general circulation and climate (McWilliams, 2008)

- Maintenance of strong currents
- Dispersion and mixing (isopycnal)
- Energy cascade and dissipation
- Density re-stratification
- Ventilation, subduction
- Frontogenesis, rectification
- Topographic form stress
- Generation of intrinsic low frequency variability
- ...

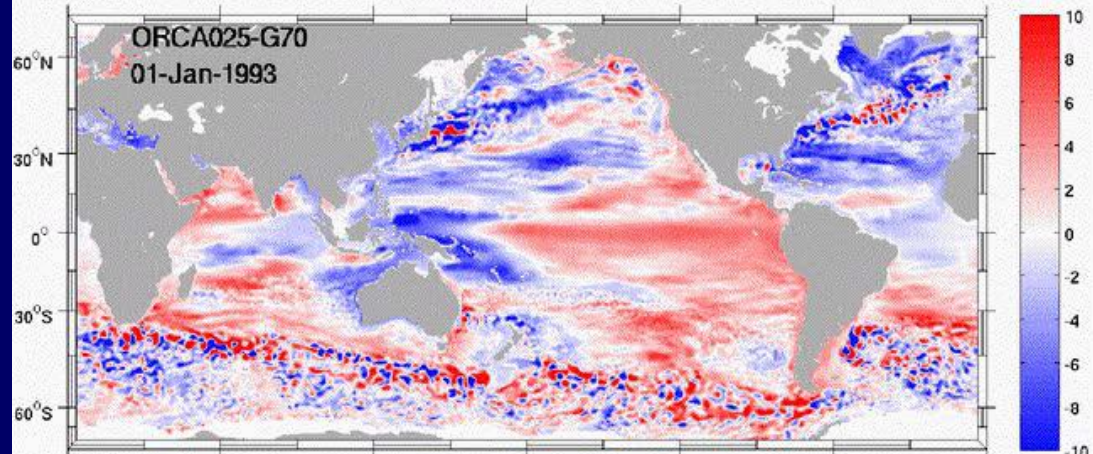
- Eddies are essential for Operational Oceanography applications

Low Frequency (> 18 months)  
SSH anomalies

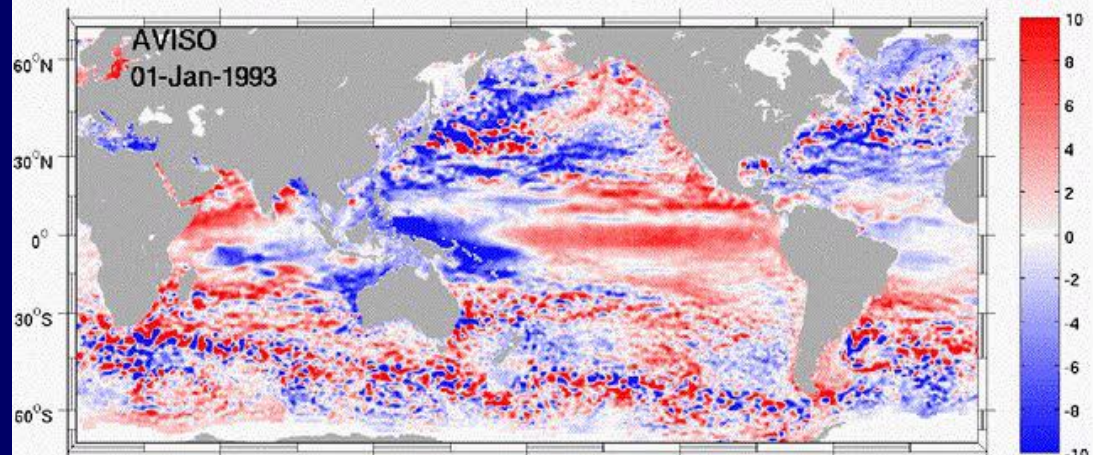
No interannual forcing



Full interannual forcing

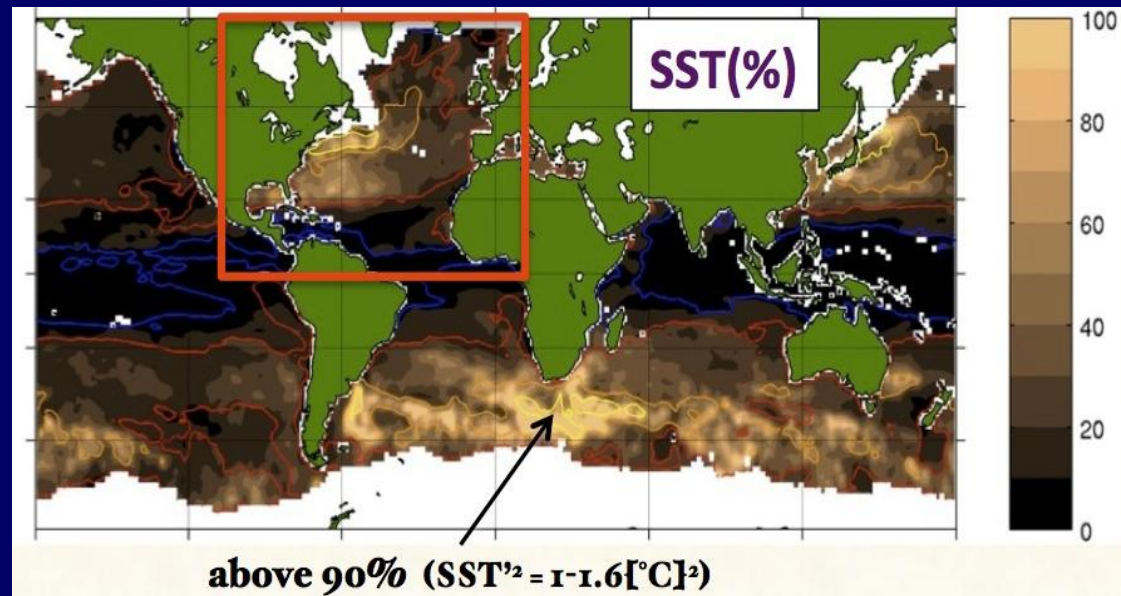
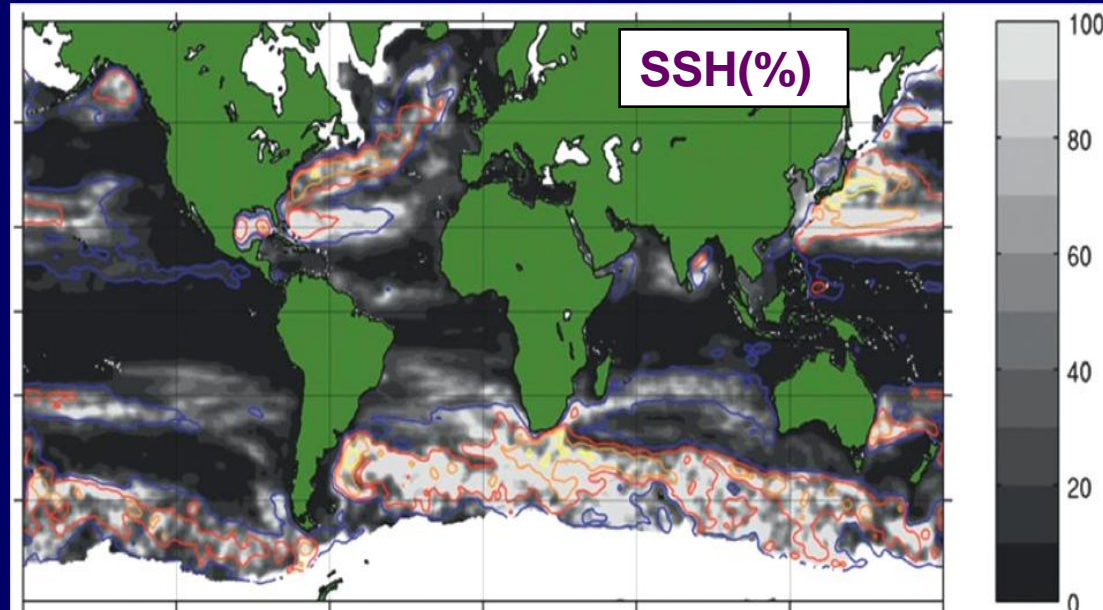


Observations (altimetry)





# % of intrinsic low-frequency variability (Penduff et al., 2011)



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Eddy-Resolving Ocean General Circulation Models are numerical systems that provides a representation of:

**- the ocean “state” variables**

Temperature, Salinity, Currents, Pressure, Sea Surface Height, sea-ice, *Biogeochemistry*...

**- their evolution and interactions at the relevant space and time scales (i.e. large and eddy scales)**

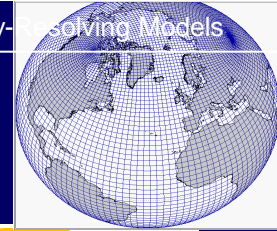
Resolve the sources of “mesoscale” instabilities

Allow the growth of “mesoscale” instabilities

Allow the propagation of mesoscale features and their interactions with their environment (large scale mean flow, topography, eddies, ...)

Properly represents the effects of the “unresolved” (subgrid) scales





# The Primitive Equations of an OGCM (NEMO code, (Madec, 2008))

Approximations (rotation  $\rightarrow$  2D turbulence):

Shallow water

Boussinesq

Hydrostatic

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = -\rho g \quad \text{no } \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} \text{ term}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

$$\rho = \rho(T, S, P)$$

$$\vec{u} = (u, v, w)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + (\vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla})u - fv = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + D_u$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + (\vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla})v + fu = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} + D_v$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} T = D_T + F_T \quad \left. \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} \right|_z = \frac{1}{\Delta z} F_{SOL}(z)$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} S = D_S + F_S$$

## Surface boundary conditions

Kinematics  $\left. \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \eta = w \right]_{surf} + P + R - E$

Flux  $K_v \left. \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right]_{surf} = -\rho C_p Q_{NSOL}$   $K_v \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \right]_{surf} = 0$   $A_v \left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right]_{z=0} = \frac{1}{\rho_0} \tau_x$   $A_v \left. \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right]_{z=0} = \frac{1}{\rho_0} \tau_y$

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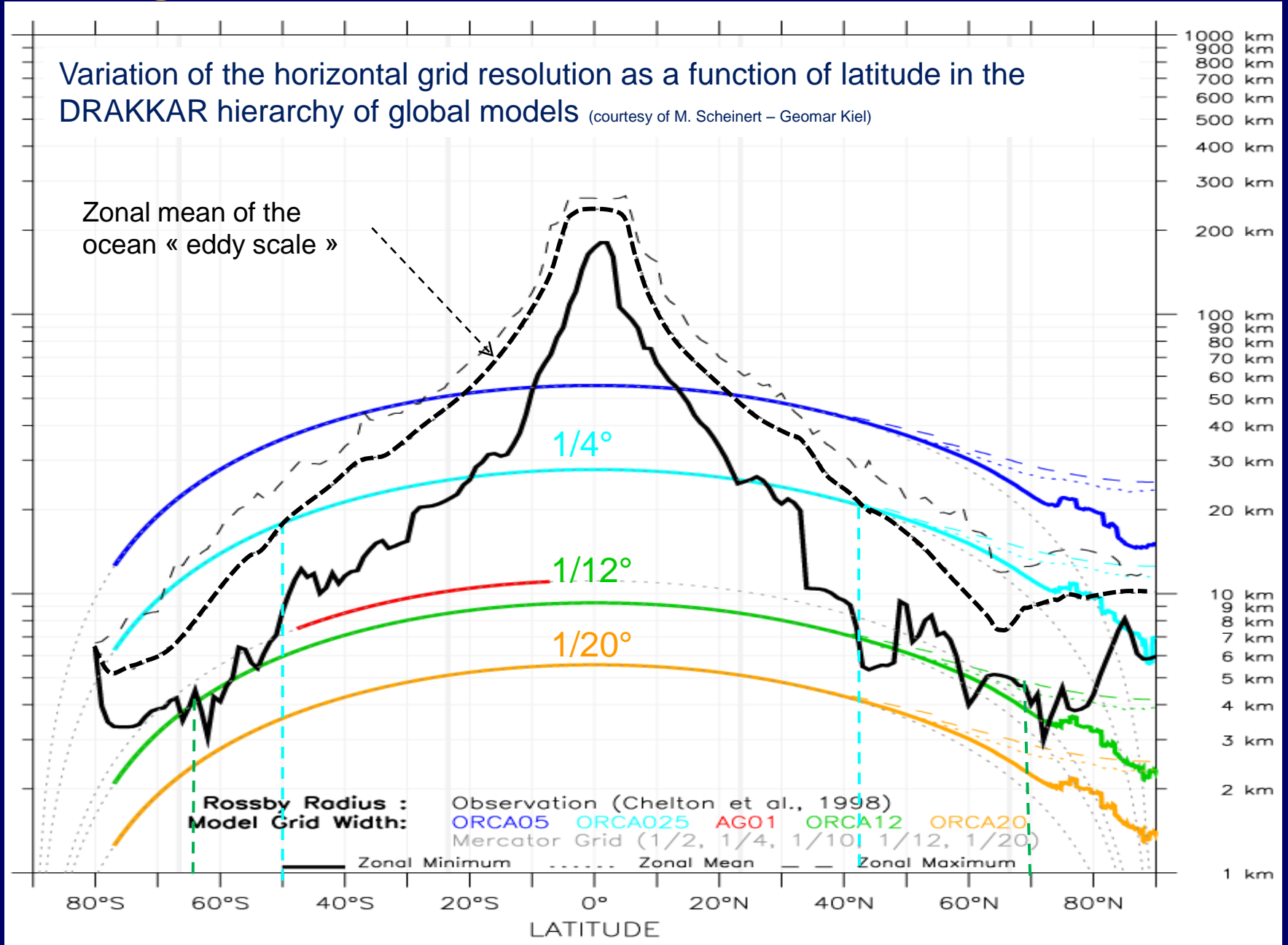
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## **3 – Few model results**

## **4 – Conclusions**

# Choosing the model resolution (i.e. the resolved scales)

Variation of the horizontal grid resolution as a function of latitude in the DRAKKAR hierarchy of global models (courtesy of M. Scheinert – Geomar Kiel)



Internal Rossby Radius of Deformation (Chelton, 1998)



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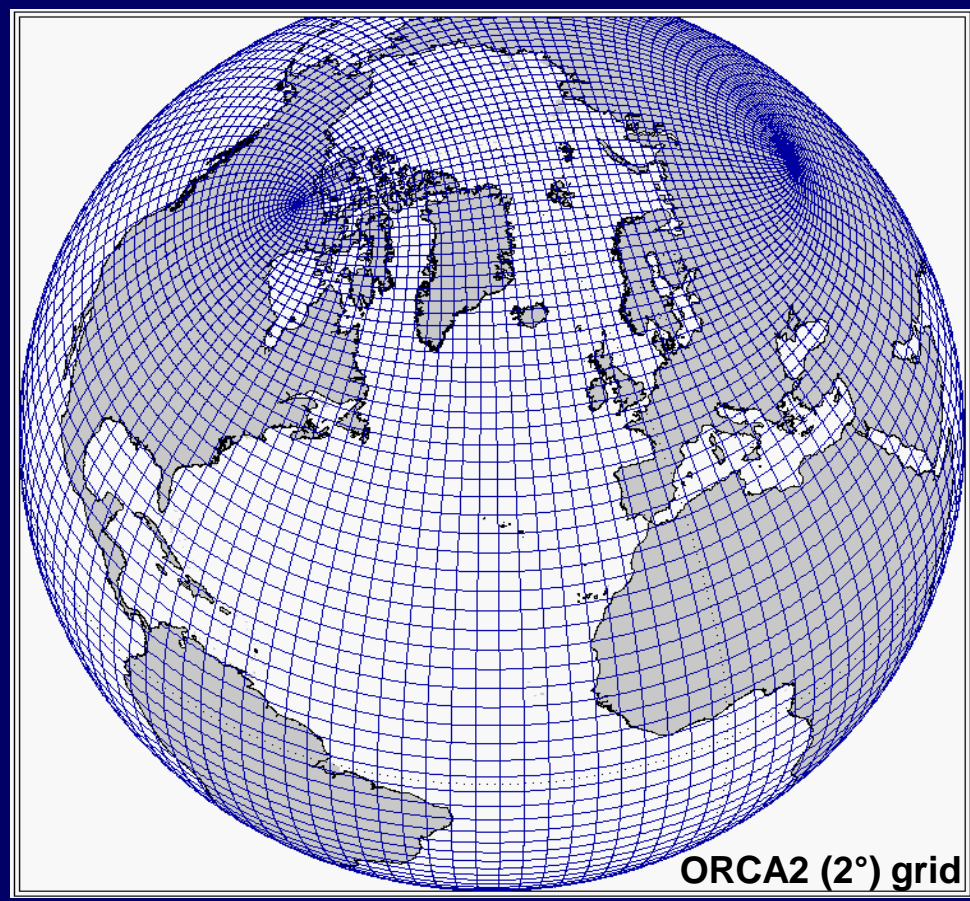
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# DRAKKAR hierarchy of global configurations

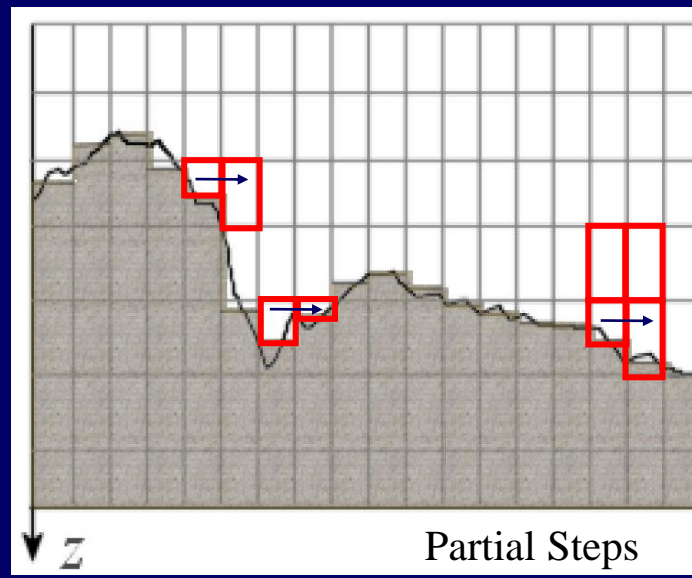
Numerical Code: NEMO (OGCM + LIM Sea-Ice mode, LOCEAN)

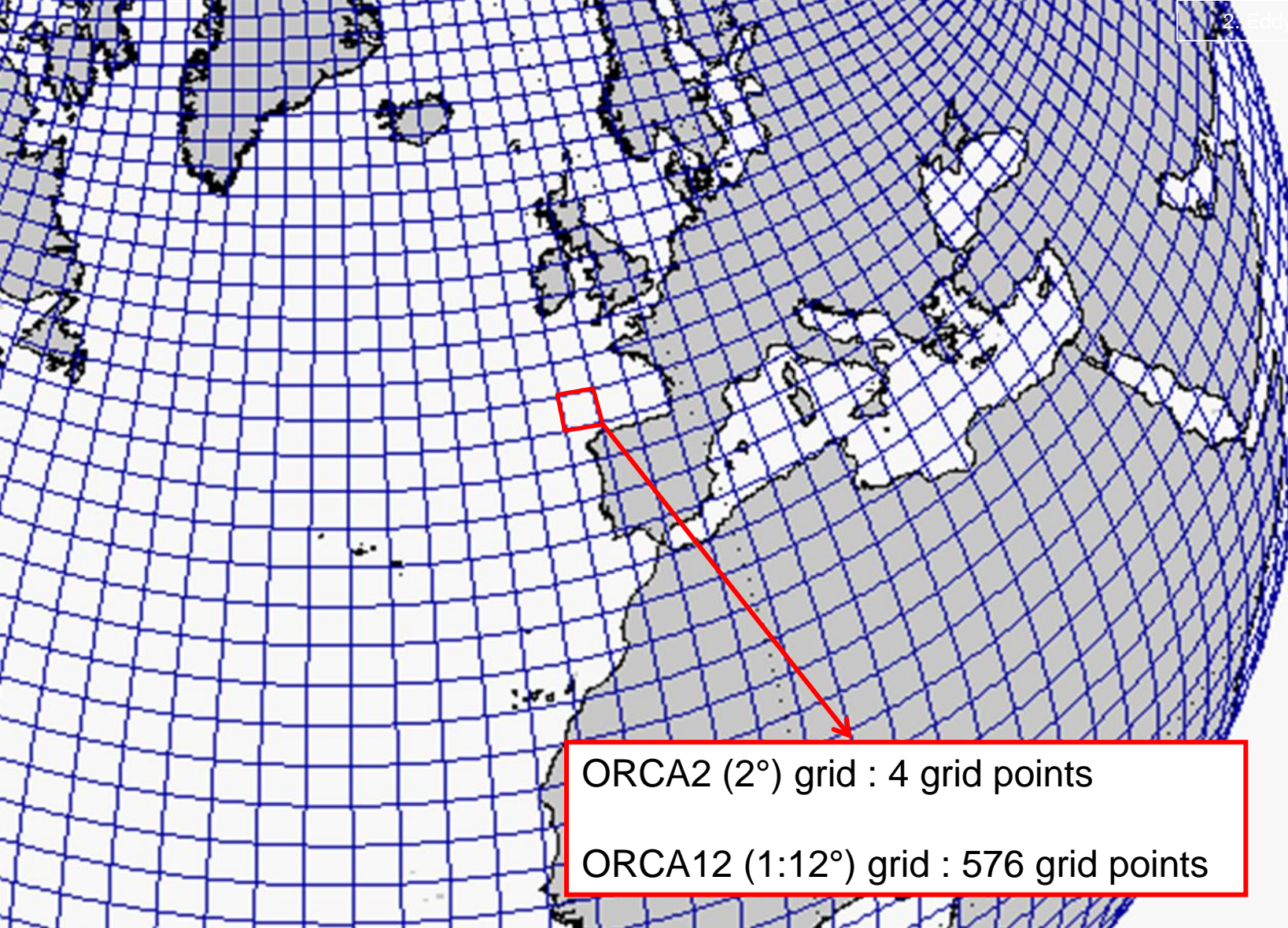
Horizontal Grid: Tri-Polar ORCA grid at resolutions of:  
1°      1/2°      1/4°      1/12°



Vertical grid:

46 to 75 levels refined at surface (1m to 250 m)  
Partial step topography







# ORCA12 numerical model

The highest resolution global ocean circulation model used in Europe for both operational (GMES/MyOcean) and research (DRAKKAR consortium) purposes.

Resolution	: 1/12° (9km to 3 km)	
Nb of hz grid points	: 4322x3059	
Nb of vertical levels	: 46, 50 or 75	(In total 600 to 1000 million grid points)
Time step	: 360 sec.	

Decomposition in 3584 domains on ADA

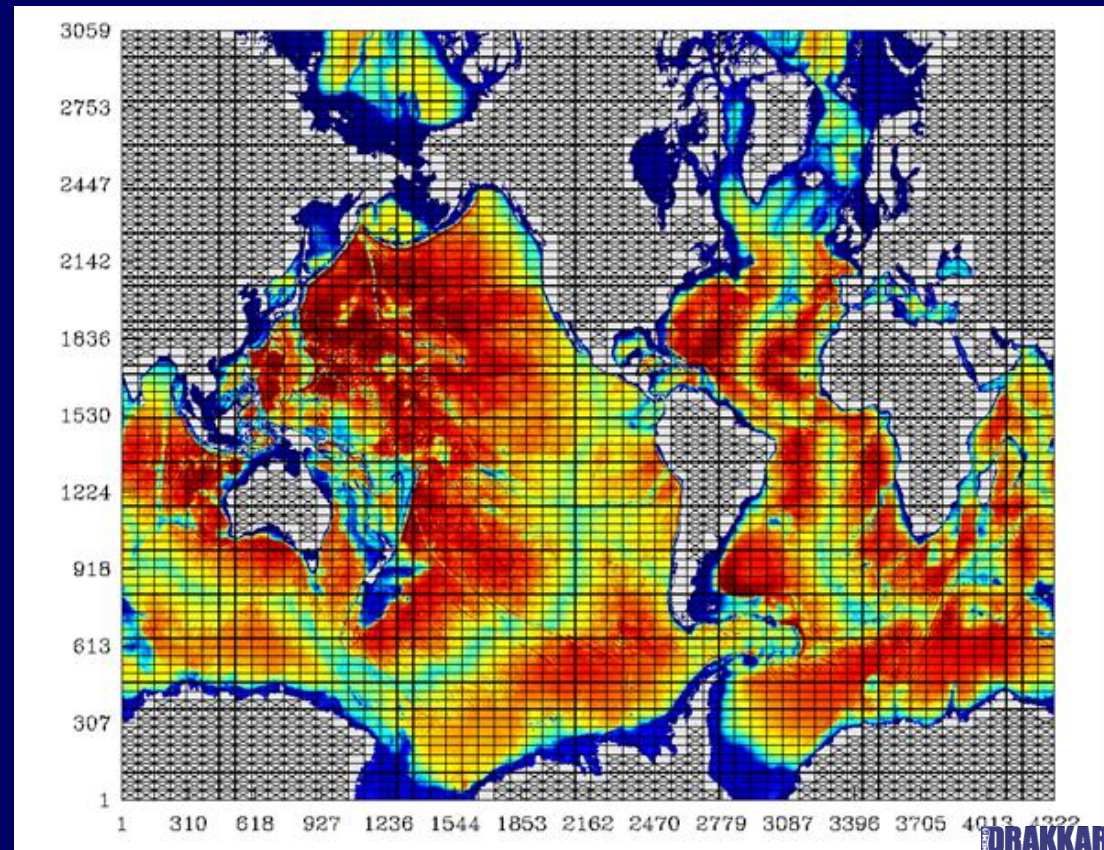
## Domain decomposition

JADE : 2056 (257x8) cœurs  
in production mode

ADA : (112x32) 3584 cœurs  
in Grand Challenge mode

Pure MPI version

**DRAKKAR consortium:**  
France, Germany, UK  
to coordinate Eddy Resolving Modelling in  
Europe



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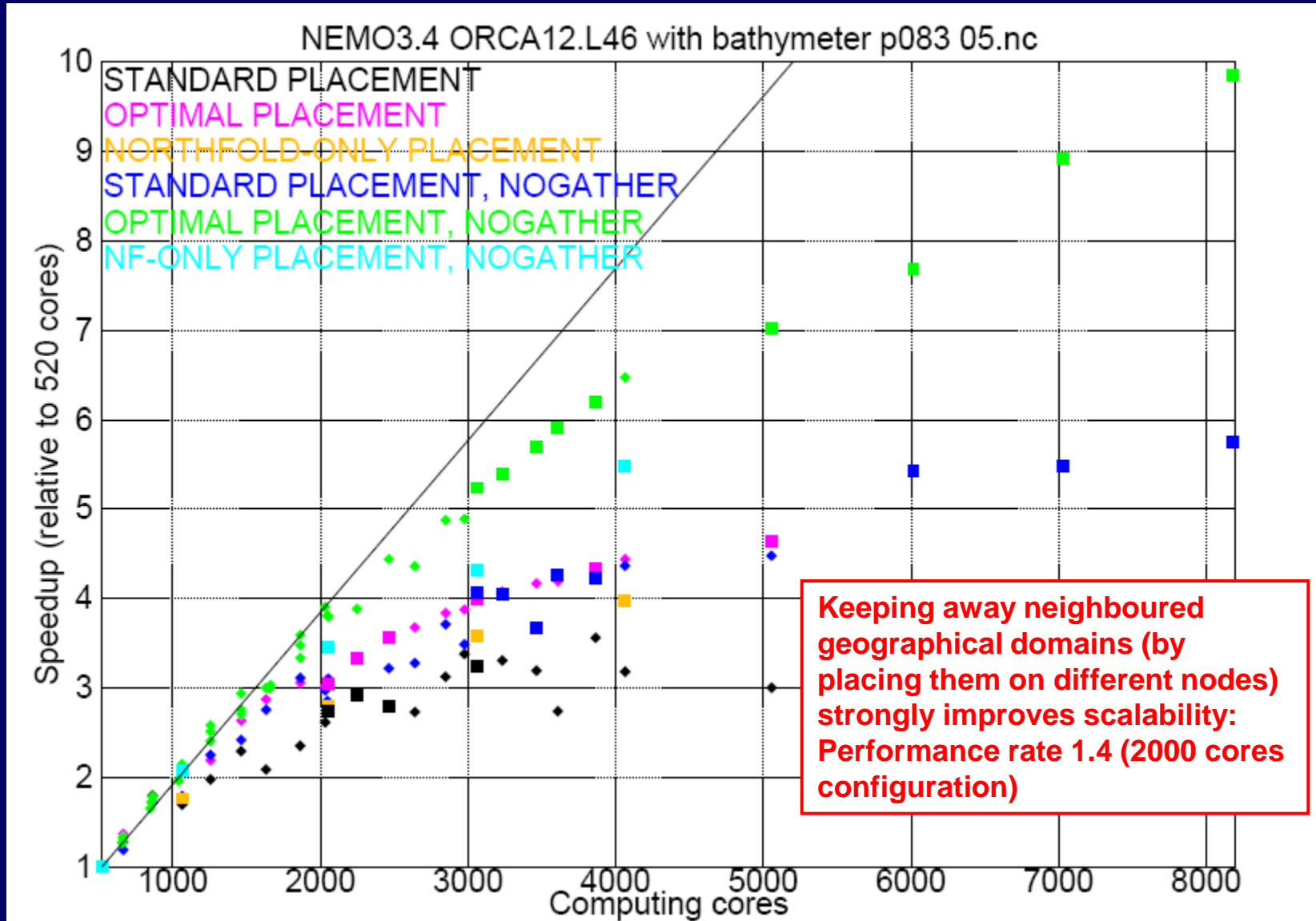
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# Scalability (JADE2) requires professional help



# The ORCA12 numerical model

Resolution : 1/12° (9km to 3 km)  
 Nb of grid points : 4322x3059x46  
 Nb of vertical levels : 46, 50 or 75  
 Time step : 360 sec.

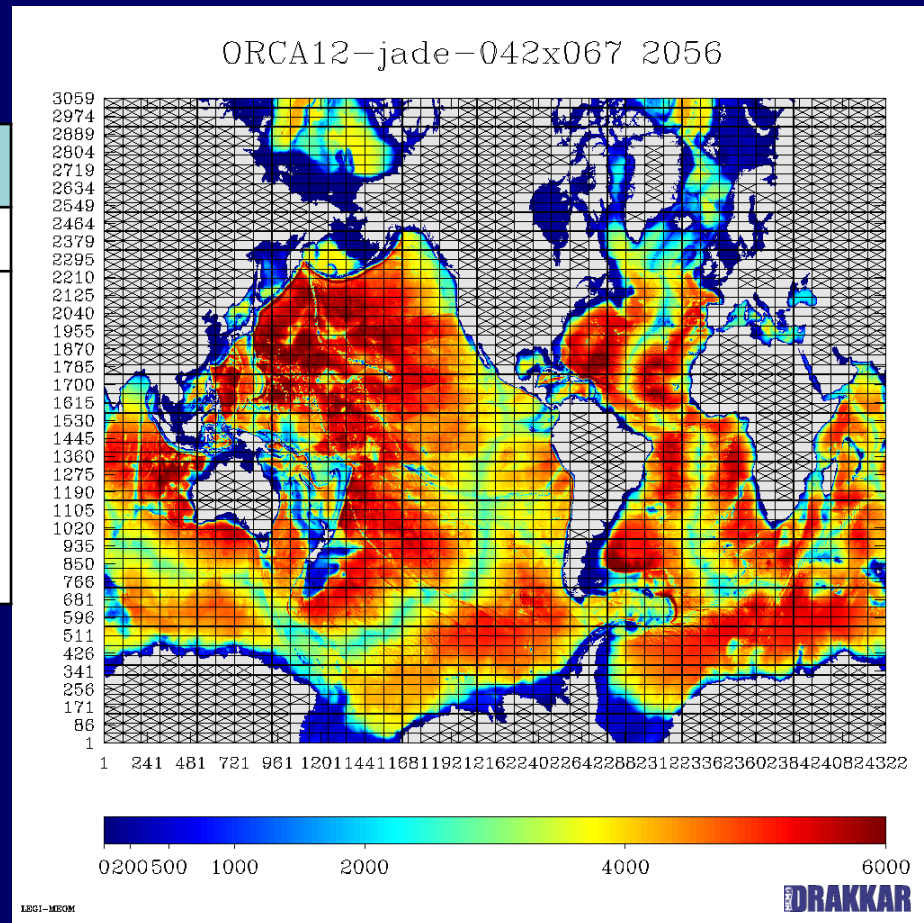
1 noeud nehalem : 90 Gigaflops  
 2056 coeurs = 257 noeuds = 23 Teraflops

1 year simulation	Nb of Procs	Elapsed Time	CPU cost	Storage (5 days)
<b>ORCA12.L46</b>				
<b>JADE2</b> (CINES) (thin nodes)	<b>2056</b>	<b>27h</b>	<b>55,000 h</b>	<b>2100 GB</b>
<b>IBM Power 6</b> (DKRZ)	<b>512</b>	<b>78h</b>	<b>40,000 h</b>	-----
<b>CRAY</b> (NERSC)	<b>1784</b>	<b>104 h</b>	<b>184,000 h</b>	-----

Typical 60 years of simulation at CINES (JADE2) 1958-2012

2 months full time 2,750,000 hcpu

Storage: The whole simulation is needed at 5 day interval  
**105 TB** and a **stable file system** is necessary





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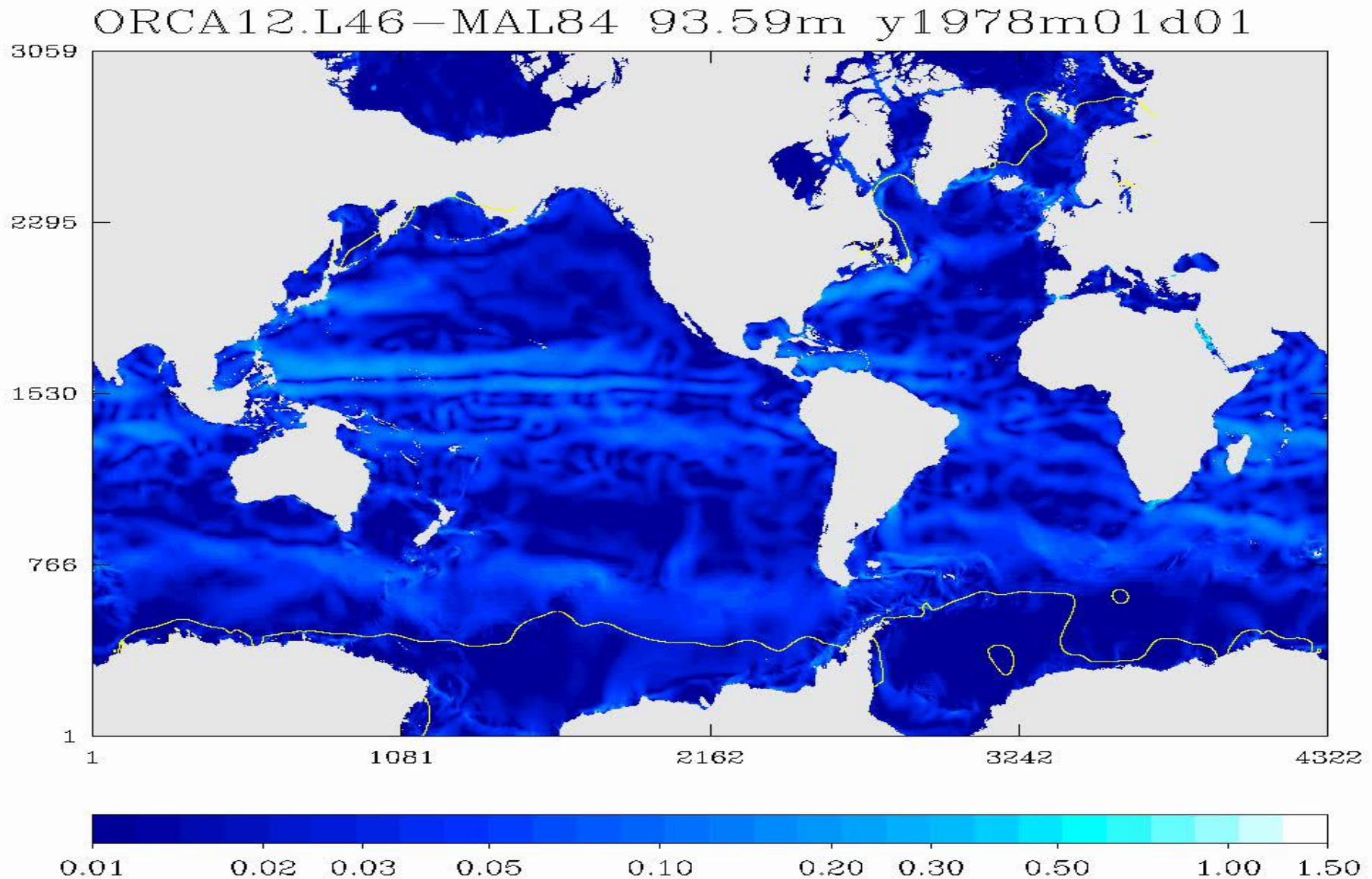
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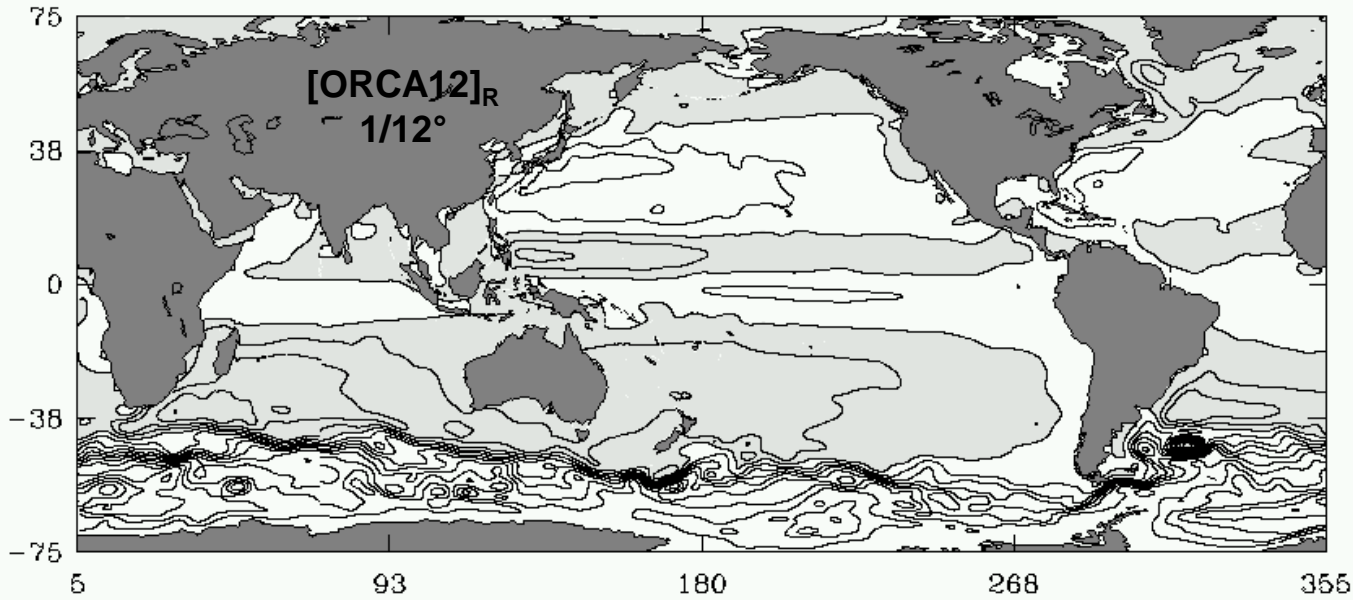
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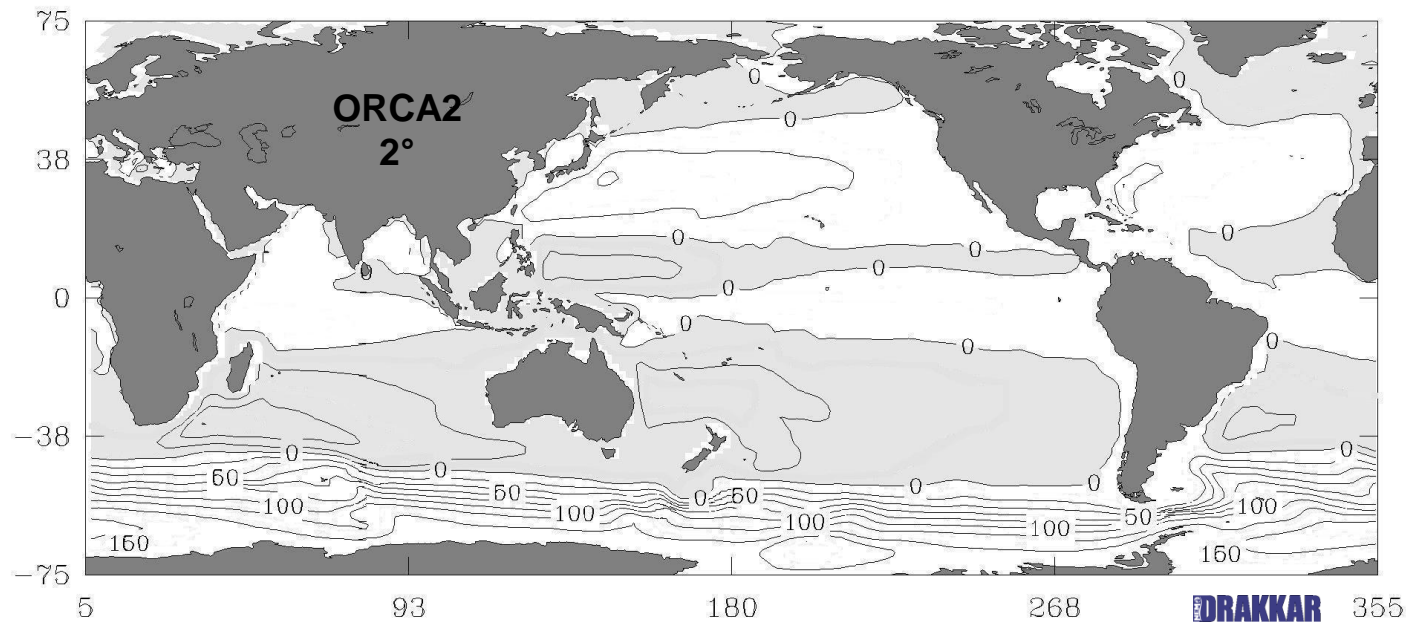
**DRAKKAR 1/12° model simulations** (model initialised with observations, forced at the surface by atmospheric reanalysis data) 1978 -1992 (5 day snapshots)



# Large scale flow patterns



**CI: 20 SV**



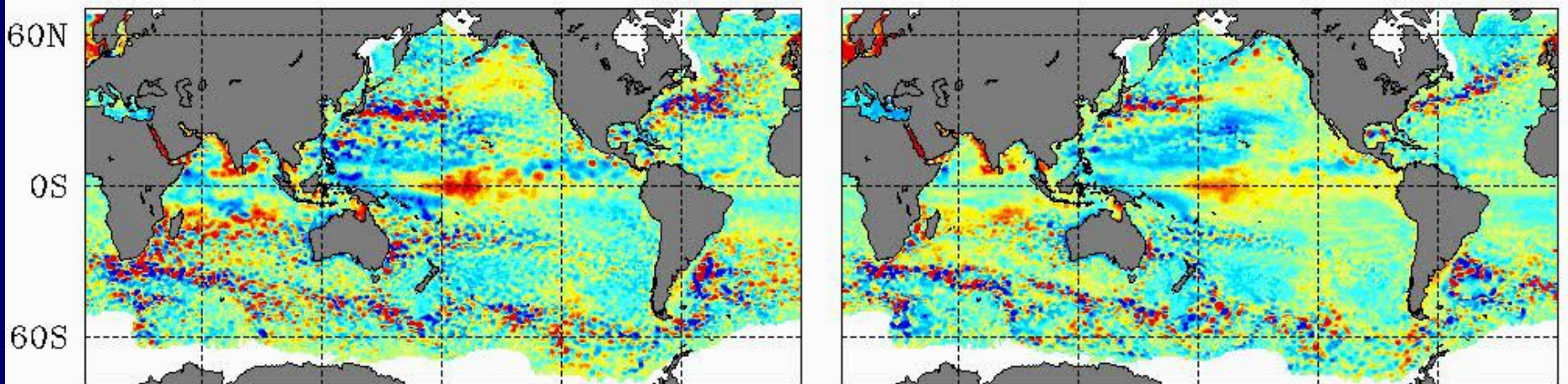
**CI: 20 SV**



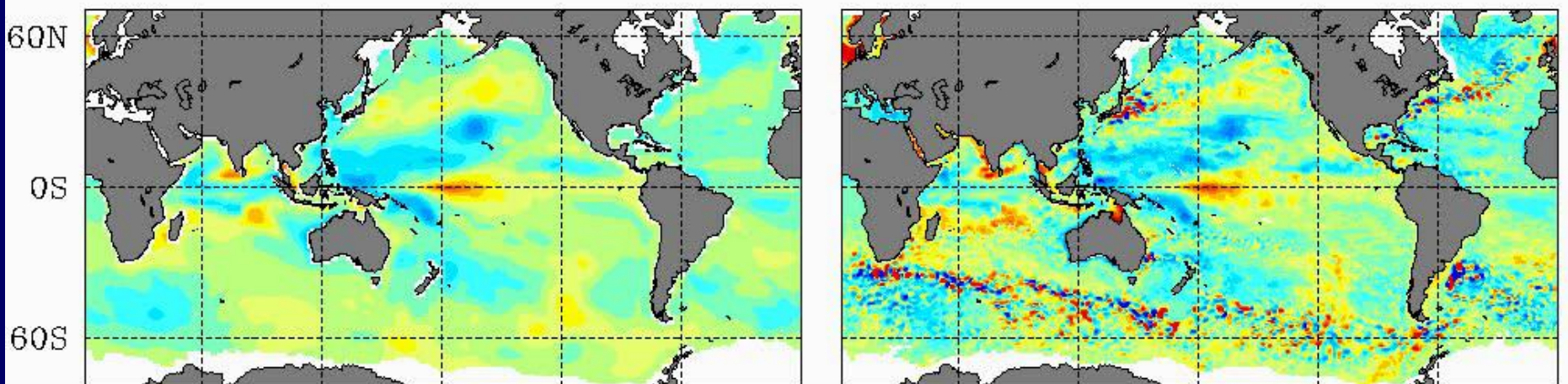
# Sea Level Anomalies

Observation (altimetry)

ORCA12 (1/12°, operational forecasting)



06 / 01 / 1993



60E 120E 180E 120W 60W

60E 120E 180E 120W 60W

ORCA2 (2°, IPCC like resolution)

ORCA025 (1/4°, next IPCC resolution)



# Agulhas Rings

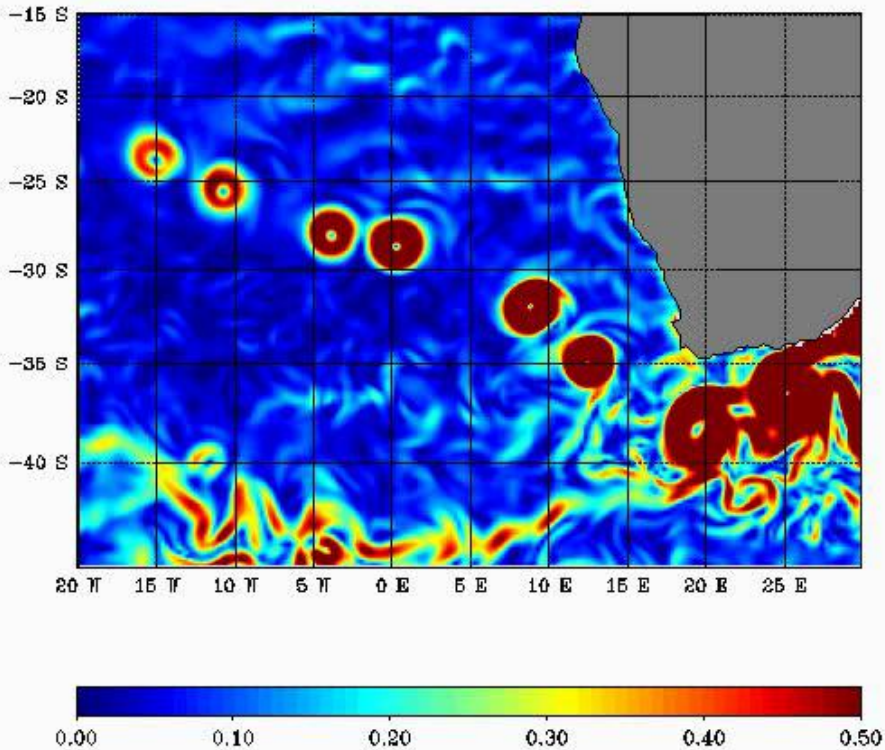
## Sensitivity to momentum advection scheme

**ENS**

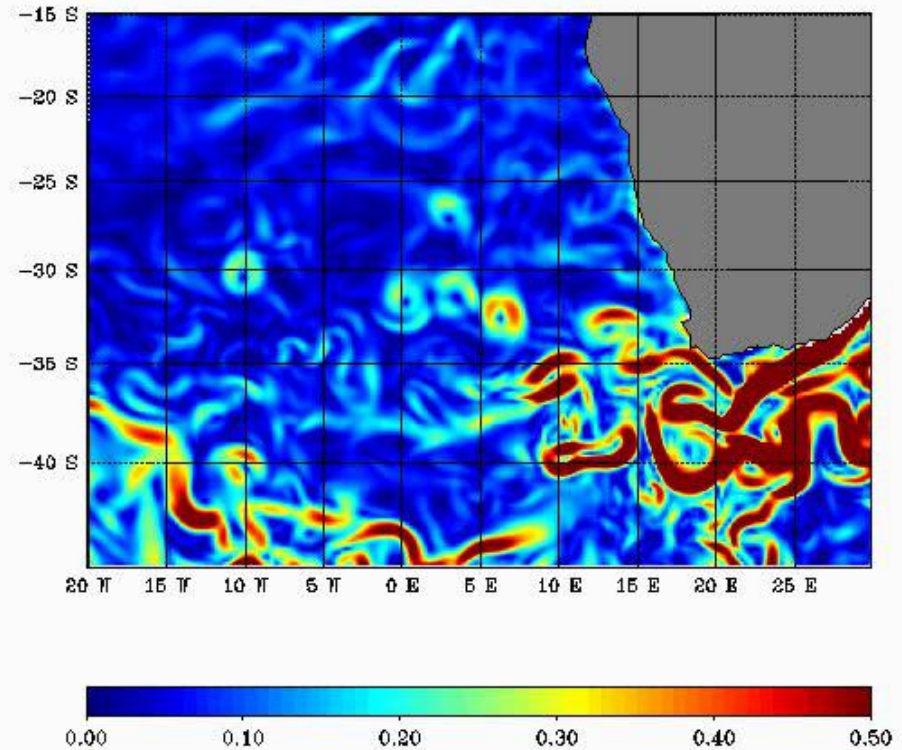
Current velocity at 20 m

**EEN**

Velocity at 20 m ORCA025-G04 y0005m01d03



Velocity at 20 m ORCA025-G03 y0005m01d08



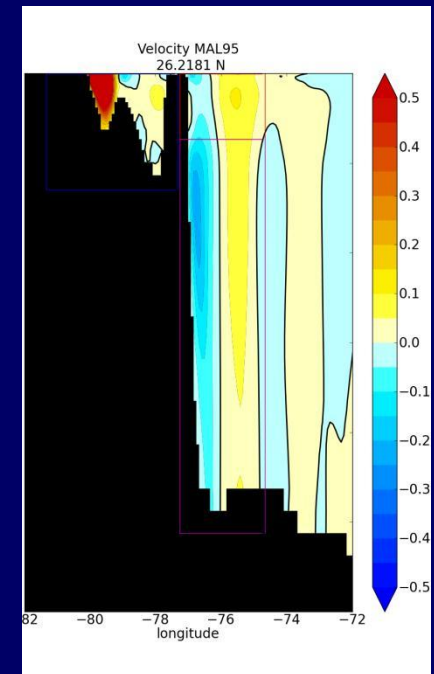
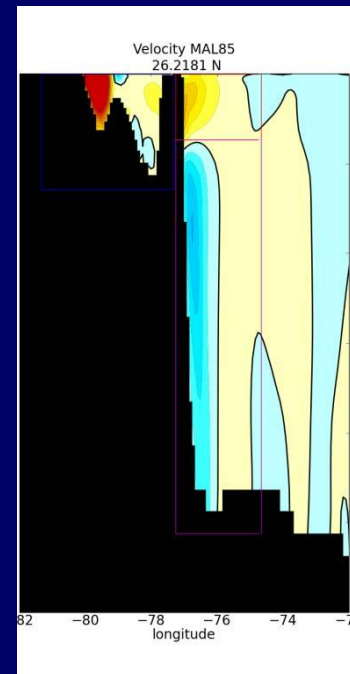
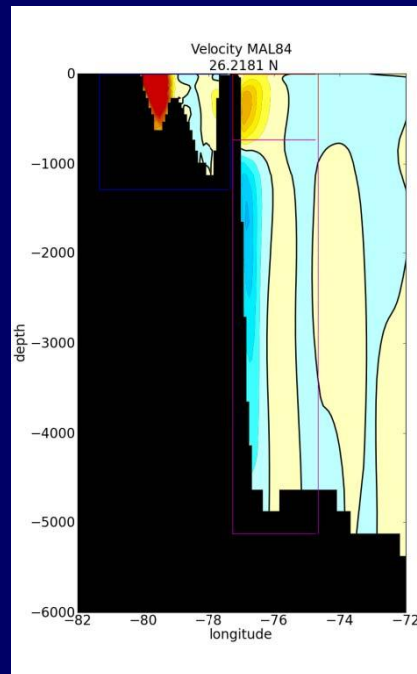
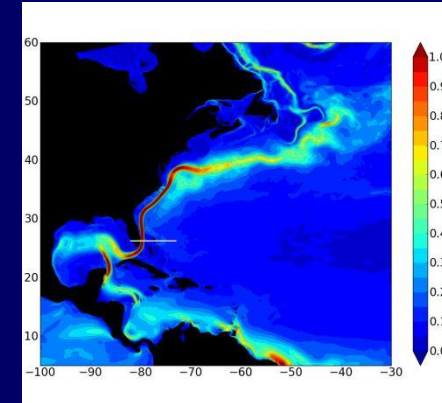
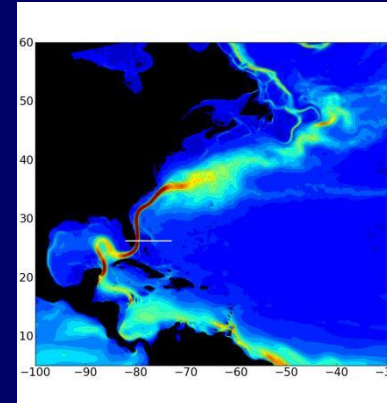
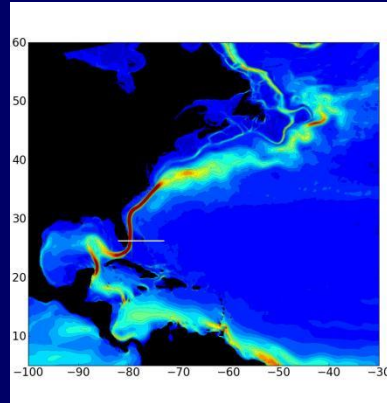
# Current Speed

Side wall friction:  
Advection scheme:

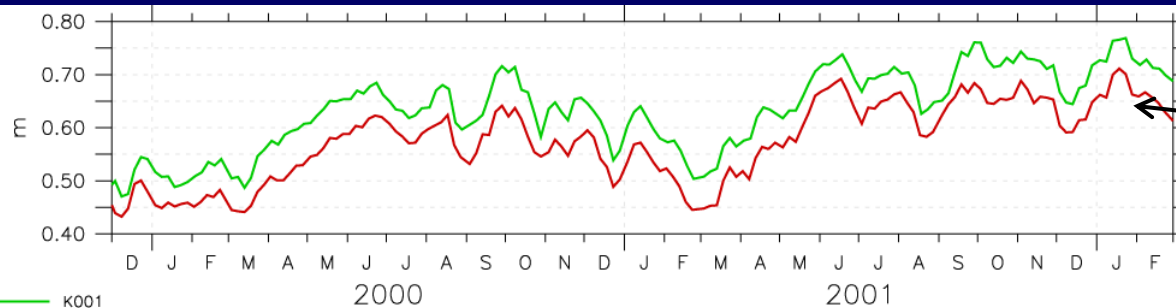
Free slip  
EEN

Free slip  
FLX

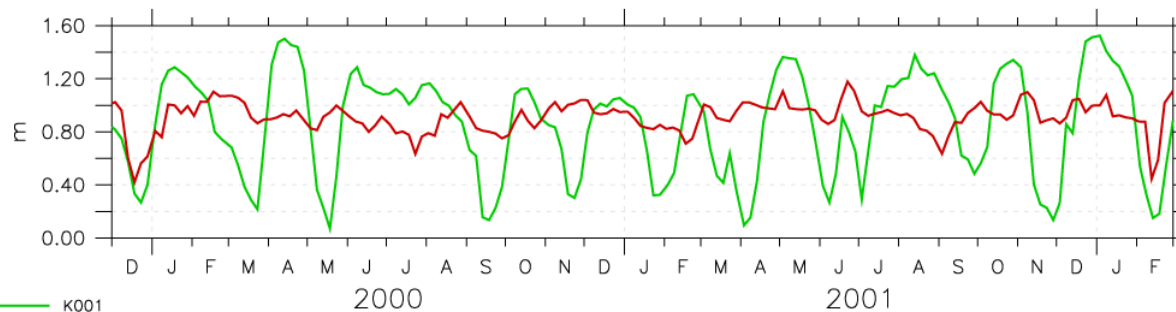
Partial Slip  
EEN



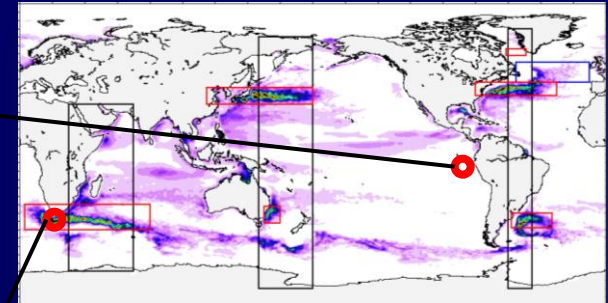
# Sensitivity to hyper viscosity



SSH: eq. East Pacific



SSH: Agulhas



**K001** :  $1.25 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$

**K003** :  $0.50 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$

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## Eddy scale models

- can be validated by direct comparison to observation
- still show great sensitivity to numerical schemes and sub-griscale parameterisation
- improvements should be searched simultaneously through
  - resolution increase
  - improved numerical schemes
  - Appropriate parameterisations

# The cost of ocean models is still an issue

ORCA2 (2° - No eddy) can be run intensively

A few 1000s of years of simulation can be run each year (IPCC)

ORCA025 (1/4° - Eddy permitting) can now be used “routinely” :

several sensitivity experiments

or long runs (few 100 years)

can be run each year – **Being included in most recent earth system models**

ORCA12 (1/12° - Eddy resolving)

Eddy resolving models are still in an exploratory phase - Operational model

**ADA grand challenge: 3584 coeurs – 60 jours – 5 000 000 hcpu – 85 years**

## Eddy-resolving resolution at global scale is still in a exploratory phase

- $1/12^\circ$  is not fully eddy-resolving beyond  $50^\circ\text{N}$ - $50^\circ\text{S}$
- sensitivity of eddy resolving models is not known
- parameterisation of unresolved scales (submesoscale) is not yet converged
- Model cost and storage still very high (for present super-computers)

### Storage must not be overlooked

- Volume
- I/O overhead
- stability of file system

From eddy-permitting to fully resolving is the challenge of the next 10 years (objective  $1/36^\circ$  - 3 km à 1.5 km).