### Sub-Rossby and Sub-Grid in Global Climate Models

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Below the Rossby Radius: Workshop on small-scale variability in the general circulation of the atmosphere and oceans 15.–17. September 2010 in Tremsbüttel, Germany

### With Thanks to:

Scott Bachman, Adrean Webb, Andrew Margolin, & Bradley Cooper (students)

NCAR Oceanography Section

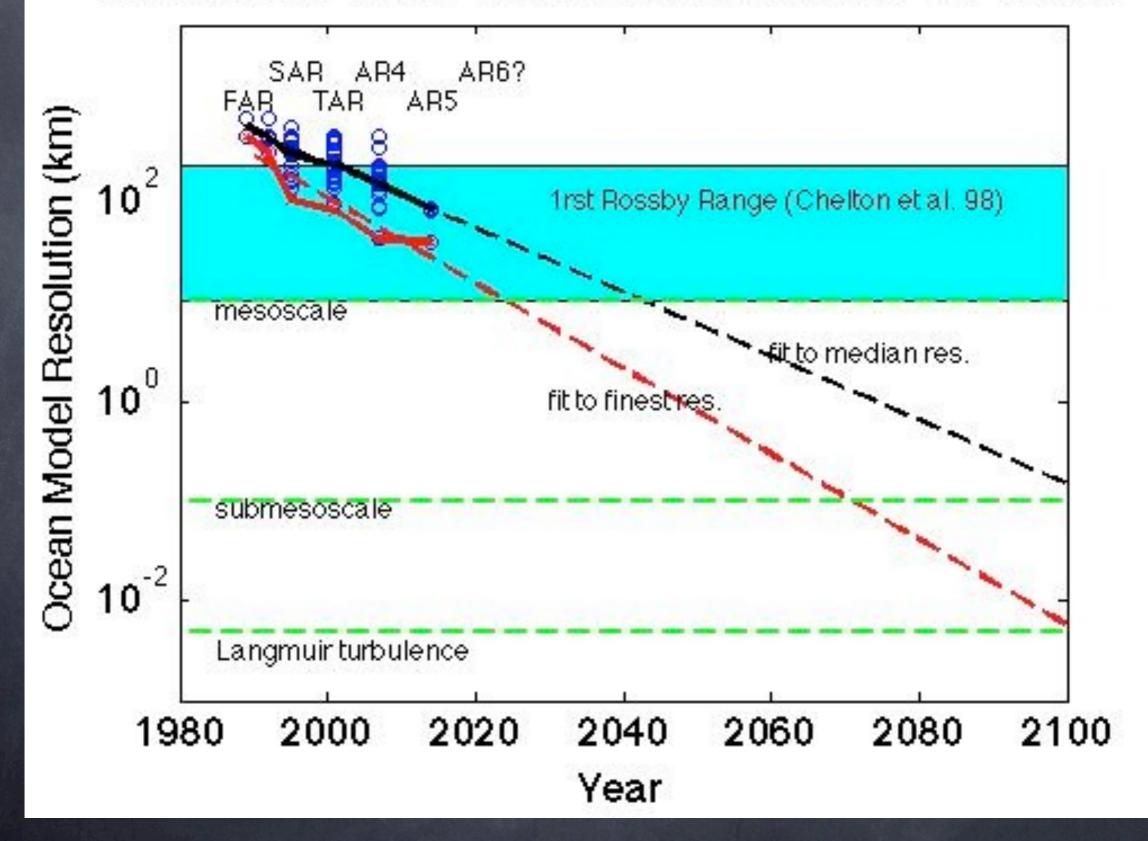
Raf Ferrari, Keith Julien

GFDL Oceanography Group

NSF (0825614, 0855010, 0934737) IBM, NASA (NNX09AF38G)

#### How Small Before Irrelevant for Climate?

#### Resolution of Ocean Component of Coupled IPCC models



## What's Smaller than First Rossby?

I: Higher Modes/Advanced Mesoscale Eddies
II: Submesoscale Eddies
III: Langmuir Turbulence
Not Today: Finestructure, IGW, SI, ...

### What Makes Small Important for Climate?

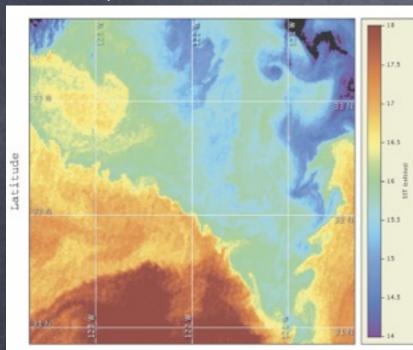
- Source Nonlinear Terms Couple Across Scales
  - Seddy Fluxes
- The Ocean is Forced at the Surface
  - Mixed Layer Eddies
  - Langmuir Mixing

 Ubiquitous/Dynamical Import (not this talk)
 Internal Waves, Deep Convection, Energy Sinks, PV Sinks & Sources

100 km

### I: Mesoscale

(Capet et al., 2008)



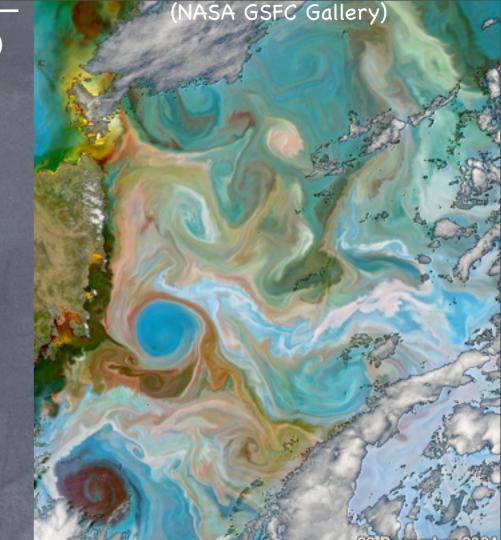
Longitude

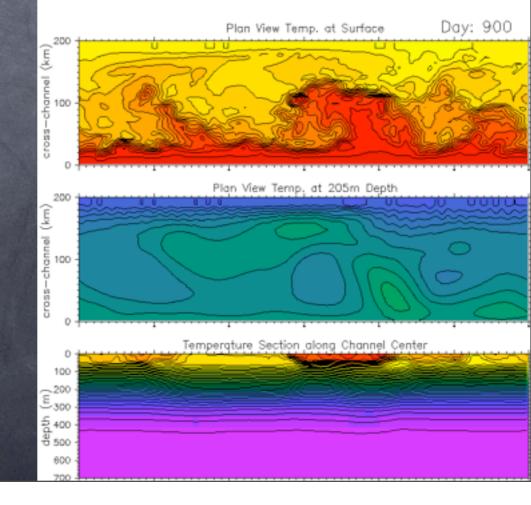
FIG. 16. Sea surface temperature measured at 1832 UTC 3 Jun 2006 off Point Conception in the California Current from CoastWatch (http://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov). The fronts between recently upwelled water (i.e., 15°–16°C) and offshore water (≥17°C) show submesoscale instabilities with wavelengths around 30 km (right front) or 15 km (left front). Images for 1 day earlier and 4 days later show persistence of the instability events.

Soundary Currents Section Eddies Ro=O(0.1) Ri=O(1000) Full Depth © Eddies strain to produce Fronts

I00km, months

Eddy processes baroclinic & barotropic instability. Parameterizations (GM, Visbeck, Eden & GB).





#### I: Mesoscale Variability

Basics of Mesoscale: Nearly Adiabatic APE-Extracting BC & BT Instab. Advanced Mesoscale Higher Modes/ Vertical Variability Horiz. Variability Flow Dependence

Rossby Modes via WKB: Chelton et al 98

$$c_m \approx c_m^{\text{WKB}} = \frac{1}{m\pi} \int_{-H}^0 N(z) \, dz, \quad m \ge 1.$$
 (2.2)

Physically, the parameter  $c_m$  is the phase speed of long, mode-*m* gravity waves in a nonrotating, continuously stratified fluid (Gill 1982; LeBlond and Mysak 1978). Outside of the Tropics, the Rossby radius of deformation for mode *m* at latitude  $\vartheta$  is determined from  $c_m$  by

$$\lambda_m = \frac{c_m}{|f(\vartheta)|}$$
 if  $|\vartheta| \ge 5^\circ$ . (2.3a)

Within the equatorial band, the Rossby radius of deformation can be defined (see Gill 1982) as

$$\lambda_m = \left(\frac{c_m}{2\beta(\vartheta)}\right)^{1/2} \quad \text{if } |\vartheta| \le 5^\circ, \quad (2.3b)$$

My Approach: Tracer Flux-Gradient Relationship  $\overline{\mathbf{u}' \tau'} = -\mathbf{M} \nabla \overline{\tau}$ 

Most subgridscale closures have this form: GM\*, Redi, FFH\*\* submesoscale, part of KPP & Langmuir mixing

Relates the eddy flux to the coarse-grain gradients locally

 ${\ensuremath{\, o r}}$  If we knew the dependence of M on the coarse-resolution flow, we'd have the optimal local closure

\*Gent & McWilliams (1990) \*\*Fox-Kemper, Ferrari, Hallberg (2008)

# $\mathbf{u}' \tau' = -\mathbf{M} \nabla \overline{\tau}$

### General Form

 $\begin{bmatrix} \overline{u'\tau'} \\ \overline{v'\tau'} \\ \overline{w'\tau'} \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} M_{xx} & M_{xy} & M_{xz} \\ M_{yx} & M_{yy} & M_{yz} \\ M_{zx} & M_{zy} & M_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{\tau}_x \\ \overline{\tau}_y \\ \overline{\tau}_z \end{bmatrix}$ Assume same M for all tracers: 3 equations per tracer 9 unknowns (components)+rot-parts (2/tracer)

BY USING 3 or MORE TRACER FLUXES, determine it!!! (a la Plumb & Mahlman `87, Bratseth `98)

# $\mathbf{u}' \tau' = -\mathbf{M} \nabla \overline{\tau}$

### Sym Part=Anisotropic\* Redi

 $\begin{bmatrix} K_{xx} & K_{xy} & \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \tilde{\nabla} \mathbf{z} \\ K_{yx} & K_{yy} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \tilde{\nabla} \mathbf{z} \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \tilde{\nabla} \mathbf{z} & \hat{\mathbf{y}} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \tilde{\nabla} \mathbf{z} & \tilde{\nabla} z \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \tilde{\nabla} \mathbf{z} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \overline{\tau}_x \\ \overline{\tau}_y \\ \overline{\tau}_z \end{bmatrix}$ 

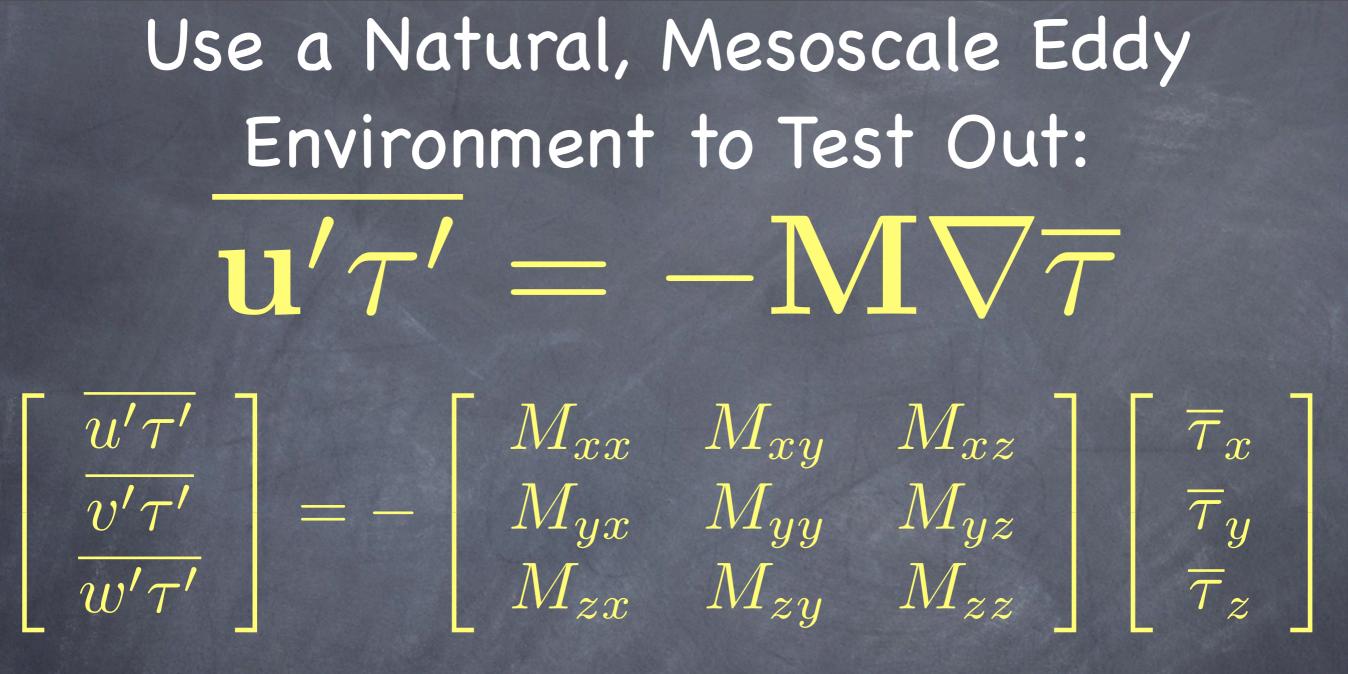
Yellow K 'are' horizontal stirring & mixing Blue factors in Redi (1982) are symmetric and scaled to make eddy mixing along neutral surfaces \*Anistropic form due to Smith & Gent 04

 $v'\tau'$ 

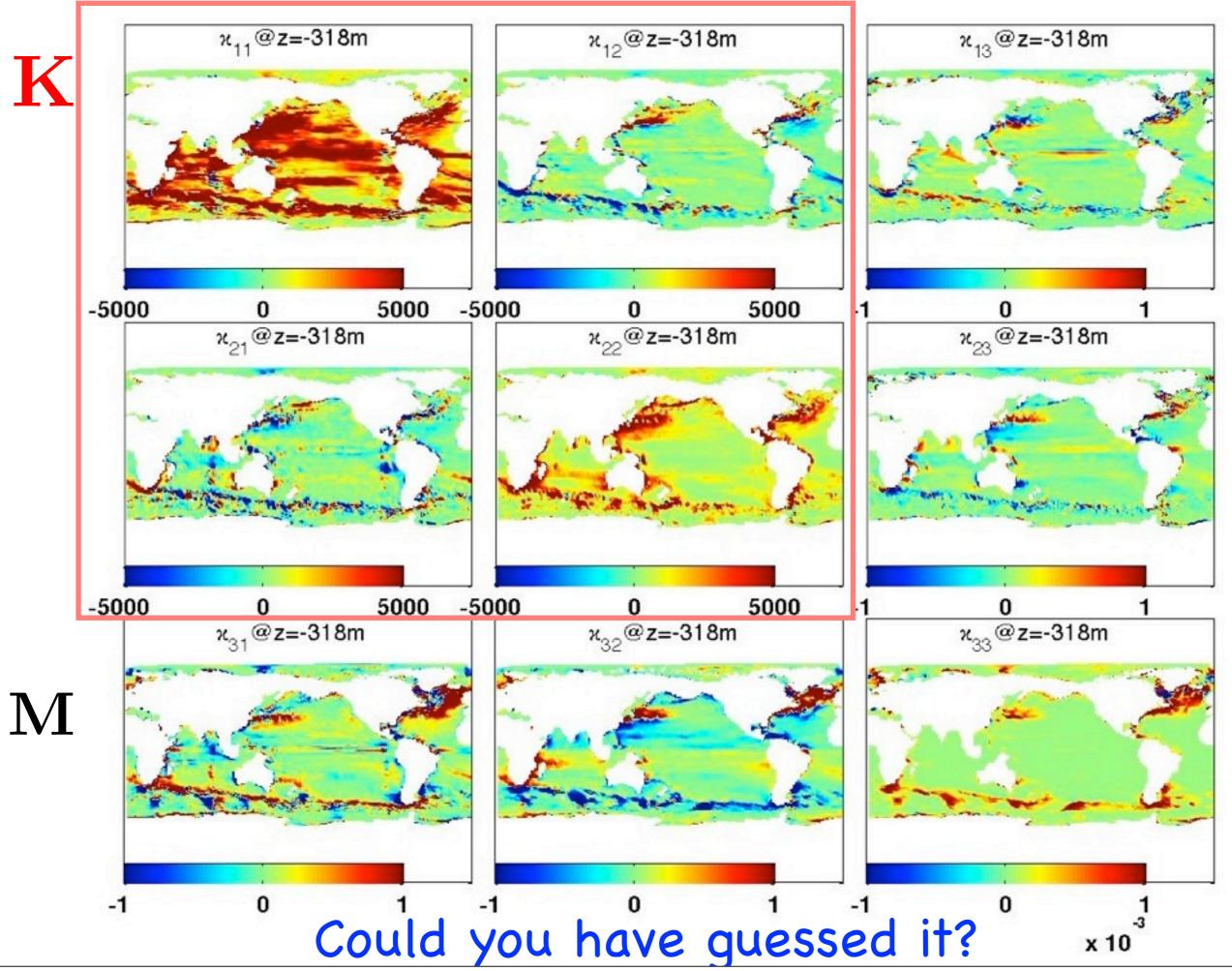
# $\mathbf{u}' \tau' = -\mathbf{M} \nabla \overline{\tau}$

AntiSym Part=Anisotropic\* GM  $u'\tau'$  $-\mathbf{\hat{x}} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{\tilde{\nabla}} \mathbf{z}$  $\mathbf{\hat{y}} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{\tilde{\nabla}} \mathbf{z}$  $\mathbf{\hat{x}} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{\tilde{\nabla}} \mathbf{z} \ \mathbf{\hat{y}} \cdot \mathbf{K} \cdot \mathbf{\tilde{\nabla}} \mathbf{z}$ Antisymmetric Elements in GM (1990) are scaled to overturn fronts, make vertical fluxes extract PE, and restratify the fluid equivalent to eddy-induced advection Q: Same horiz. mixing (K) as Redi?

\*Anistropic form due to Smith & Gent 04 \*Tensor Form (Griffies, 98)



With John Dennis & Frank Bryan, we took a POP0.1° Normal-Year forced model (yrs 16-20 for anal.)
Added 9 Passive tracers--restored to x,y,z @ 3 rates
Kept all the eddy fluxes for passive & active tracers
Coarse-grained to 2°, transient eddies, tracers to M



### Interpretation?

Isoneutral diffusion or `mixing`: symmetric with real, positive eigenvalues (neg->nonlocal)

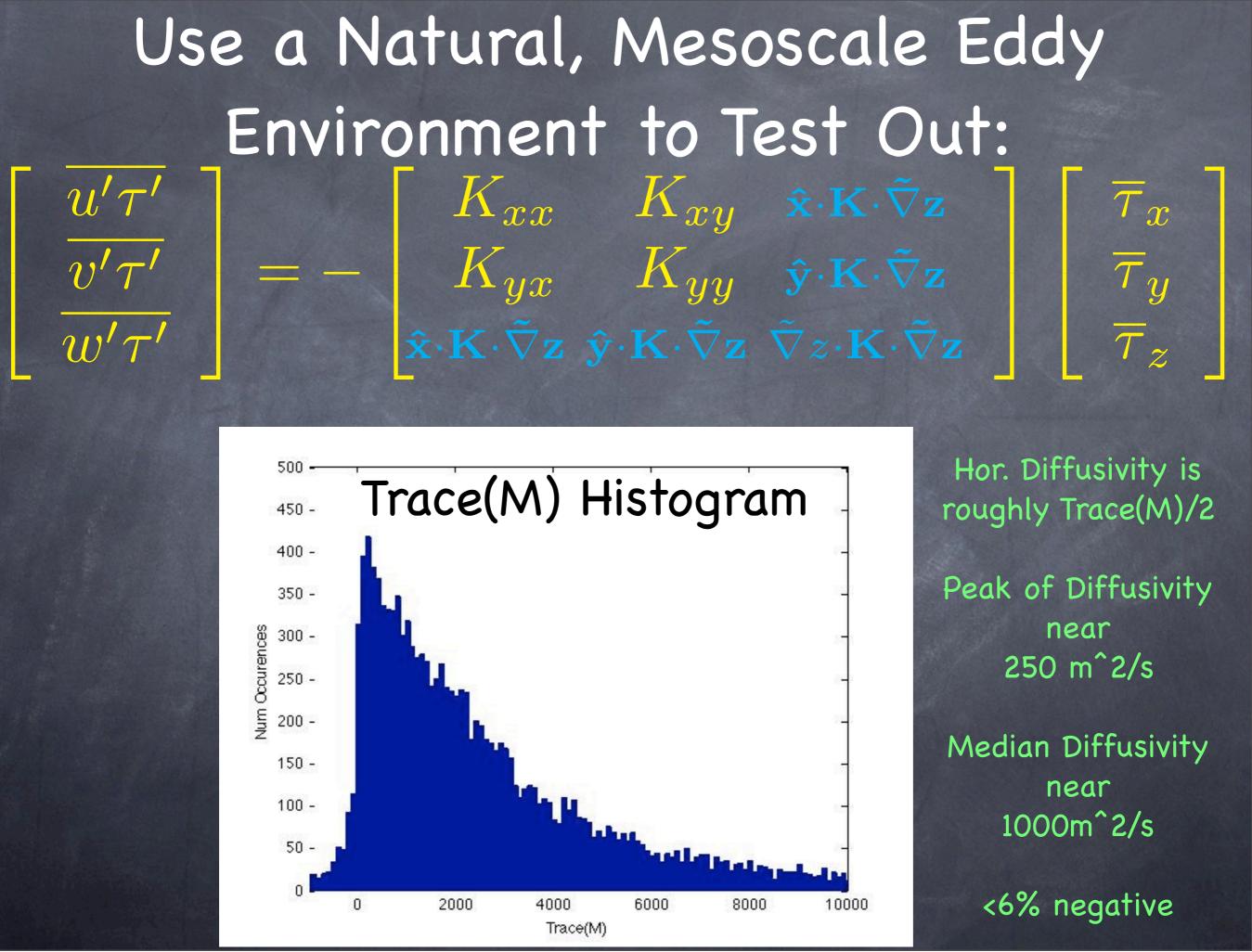
The eigenvalues of M are related, except there is one more involving the neutral to z coordinate conversion (in S&G theory, at least)

The eigenvectors give the direction of the mixing associated with each eigenvalue

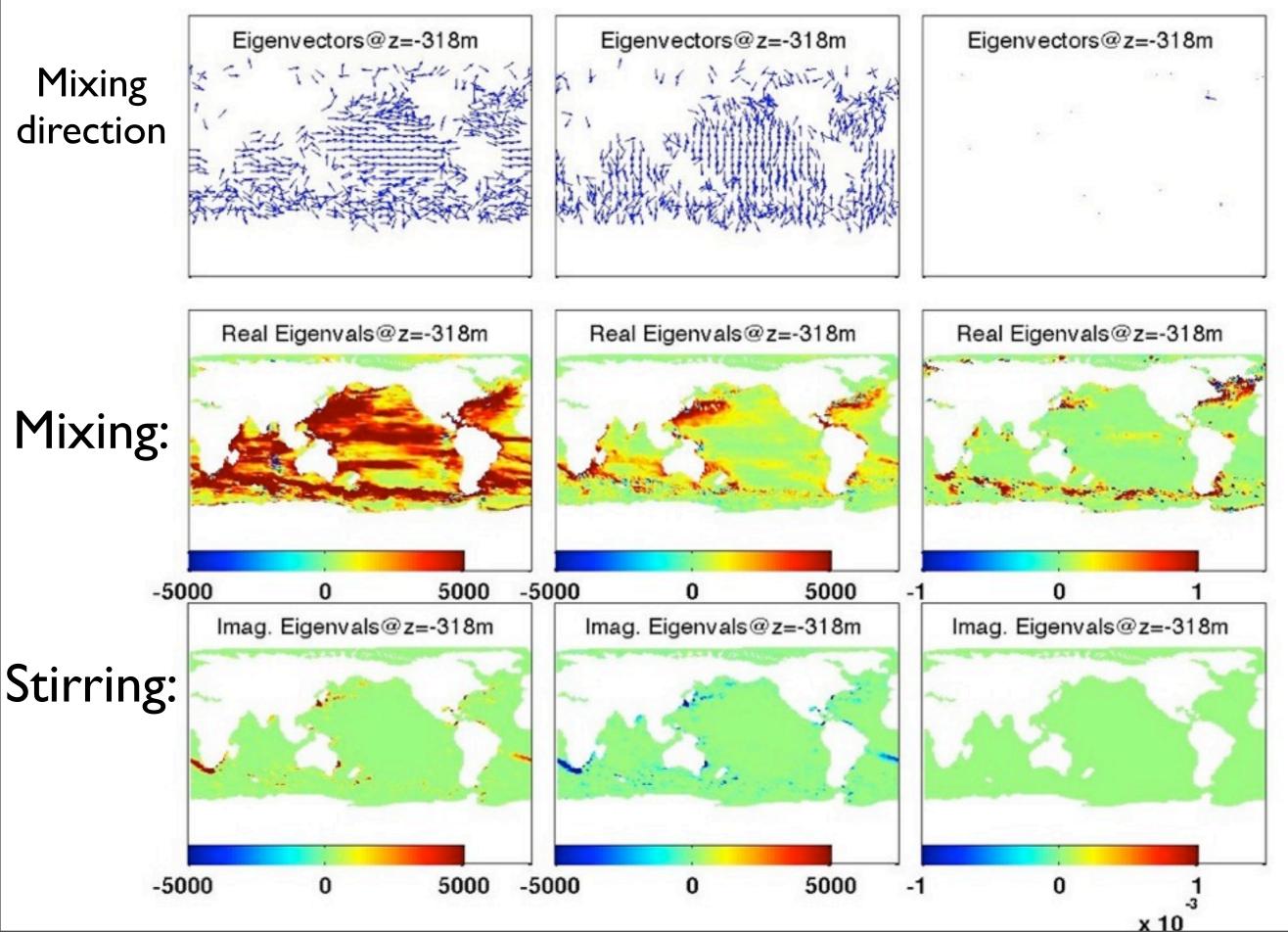
Antisymmetric K & M are stirring/ overturning by an eddy-induced (quasi-stokes) streamfunction--non-orthogonal eigenvects and imaginary eigenvalues possible!

### Basics Validated

Mesoscale Eddy Fluxes are Largely Adiabatic
 Mesoscale Eddy 'Diffusivities' are usually positive



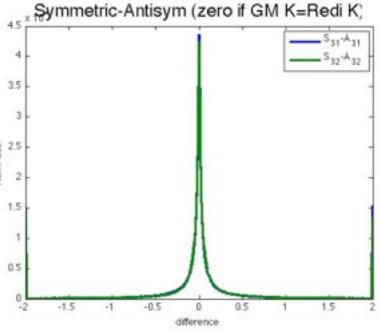
#### Result: Strong Anisotropy Along/Across Isopycnals



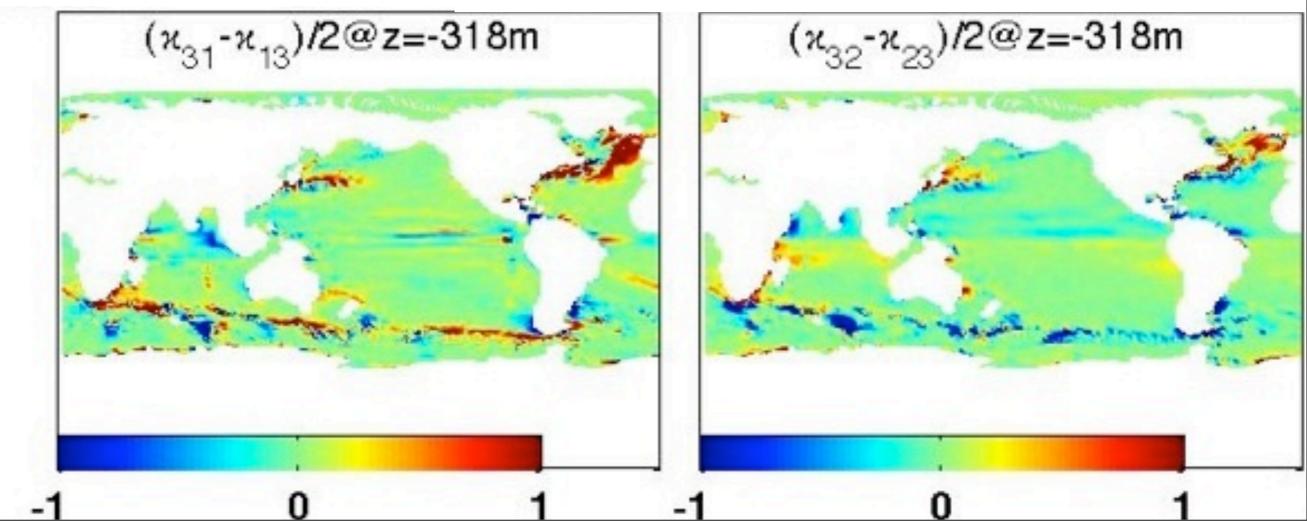
### Advanced Mesoscale

GM=Redi
Horizontal Variations
Horizontal Direction (Anisotropy)
Vertical Variations

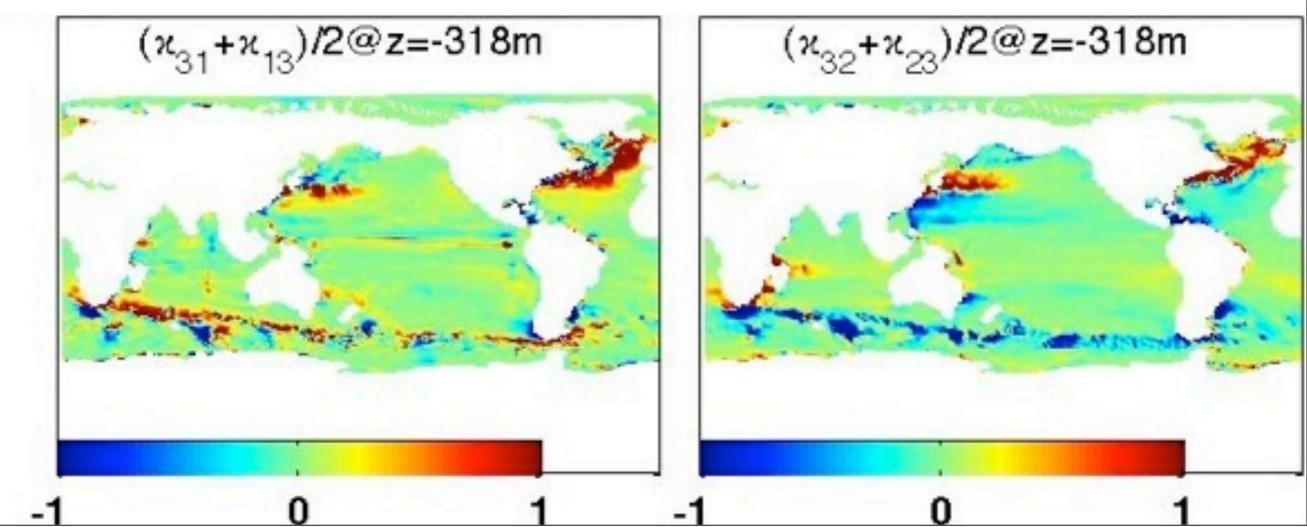
# Result: Redi K=GM K(mostly) If so these 2 components



should match in Sym & Antisym M

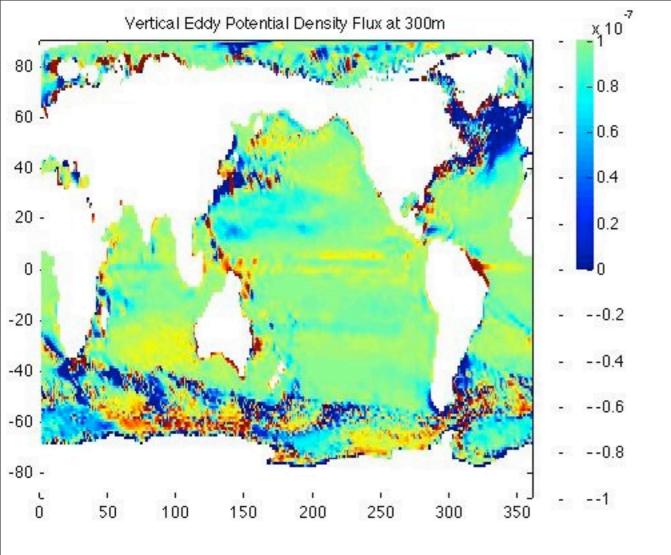


### Symmetric-Antisym (zero if GM K=Redi K) Result: Redi K=GM K(mostly) If so these 2 components should match in Sym & Antisym M



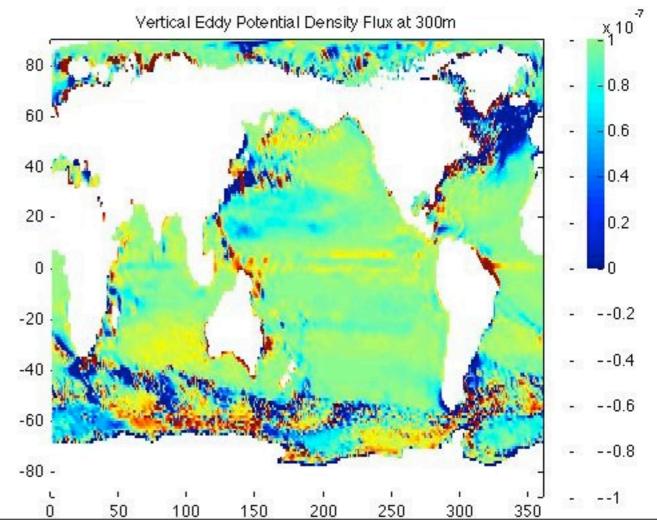
difference

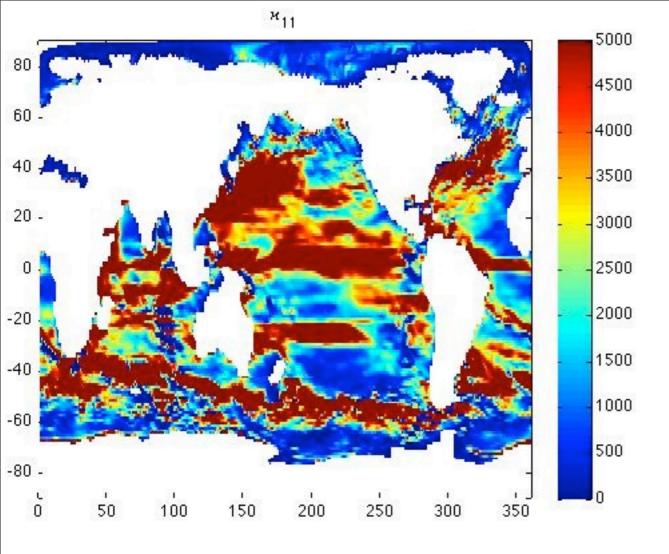
## How do we explain the Horizontal Variations and direction of K?



 Eden&Greatbatch (+others) propose that baroclinic instability's production of EKE from PE should guide M magnitude

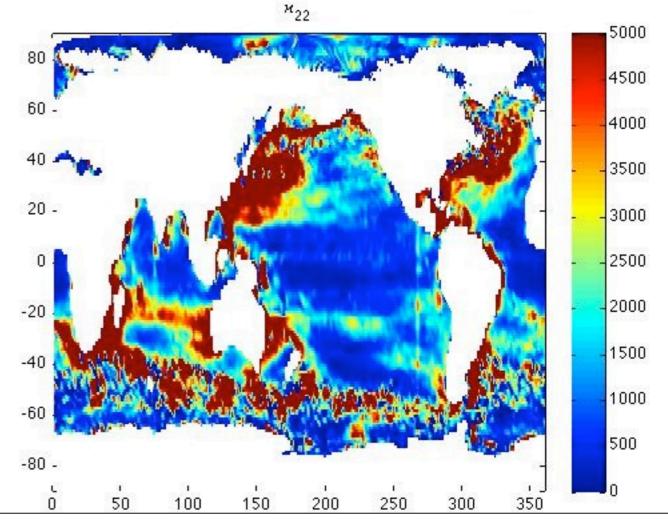
# Compare to vertical eddy density flux (PE Extraction)



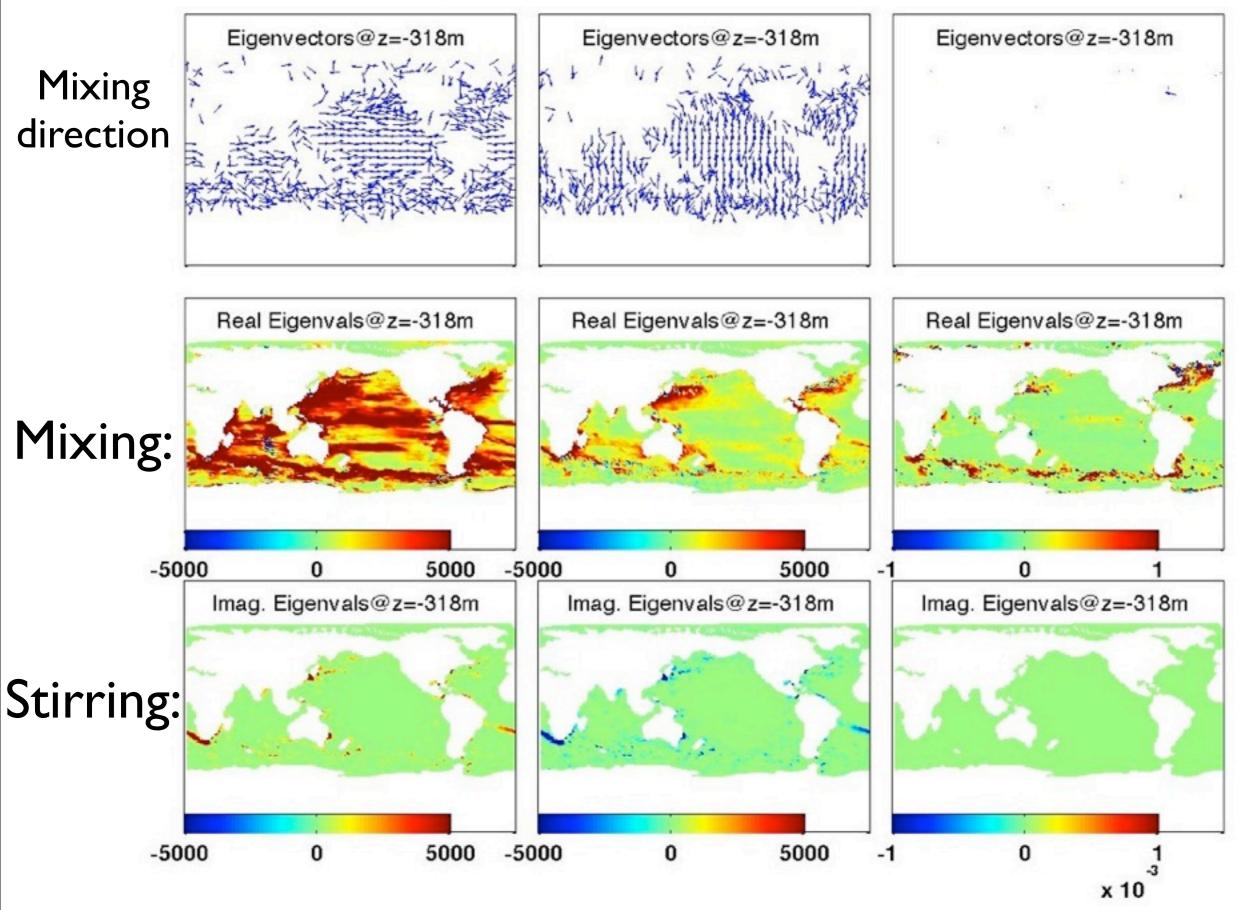


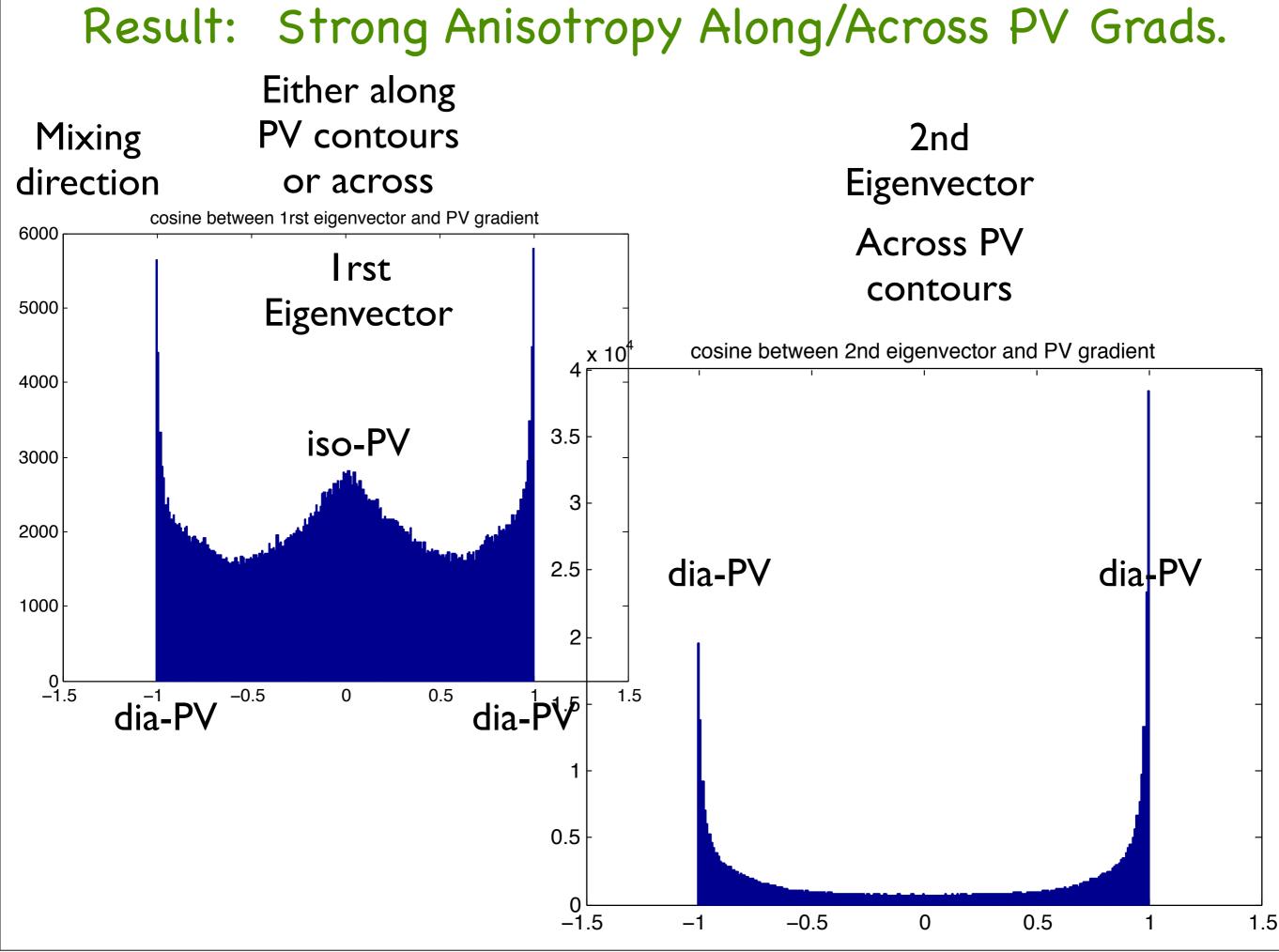
# Locations of large eigs of K

# Locations of PE extraction are



#### Result: Strong Anisotropy Along/Across PV Grads.





## How do we explain the Vertical Variations of K?

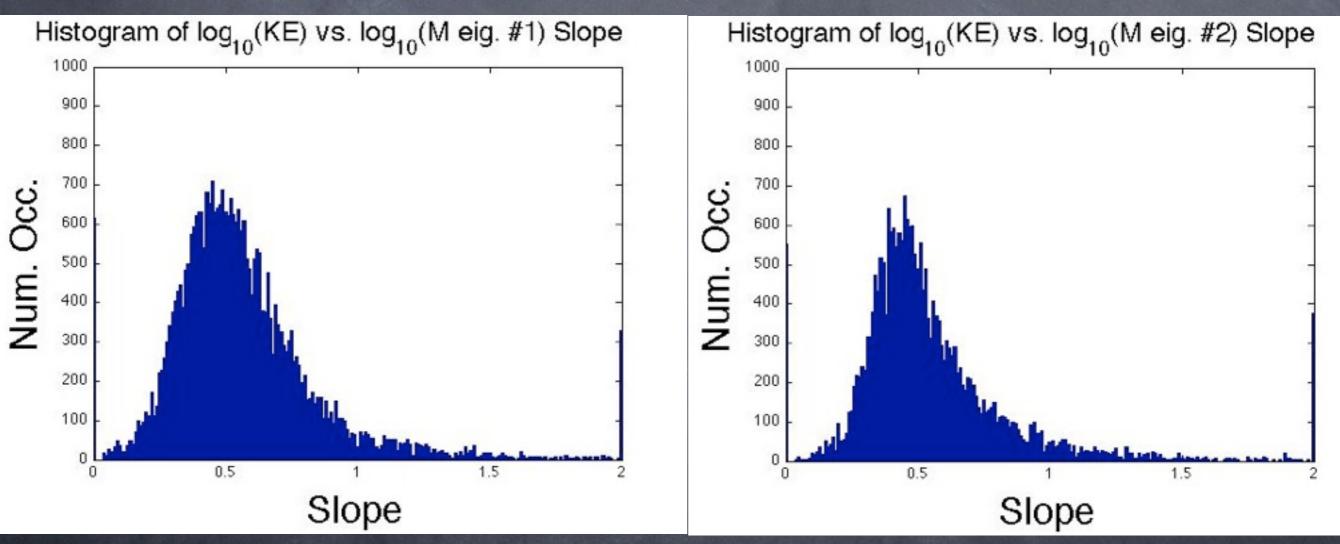
### Result: eddy KE-> vertical power law w/ M eigs?

### We expect: $K \propto \sqrt{EKE}$

### But what about: $\mathrm{K}\propto\sqrt{\langle\mathrm{KE} angle}$

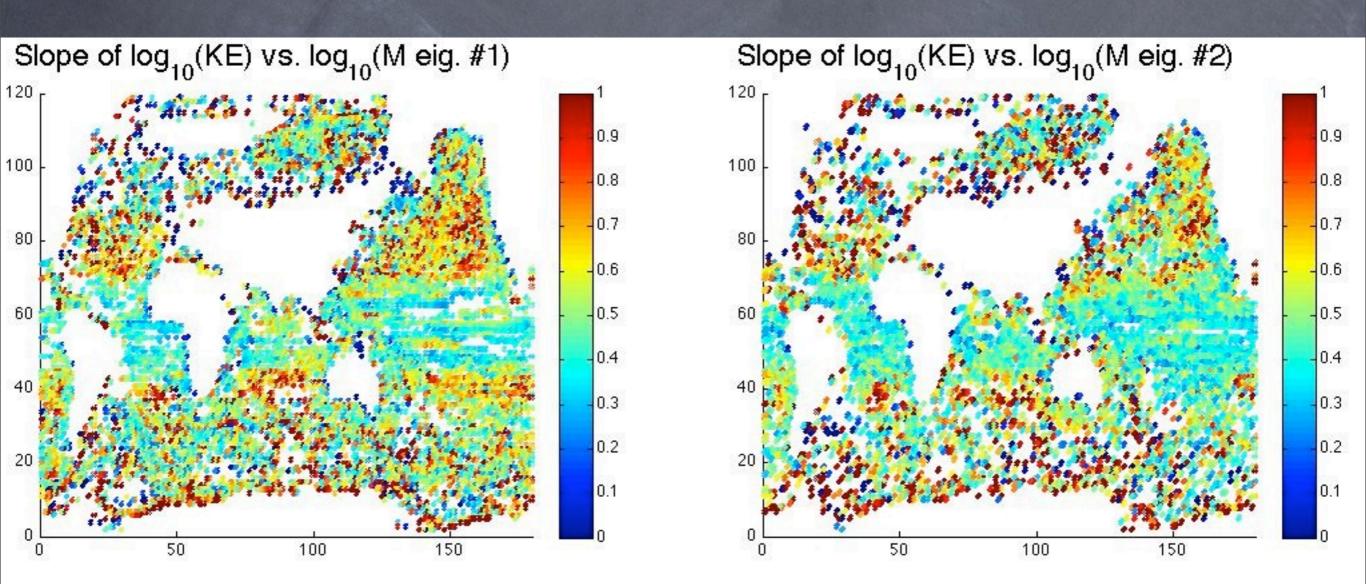
### Result: coarse KE-> vertical structure of Mixing





Even better with EKE! Note--barotropic mode is in there!

### Result: power law not `random' $K \propto \sqrt{KE}$



However, can probably do better! Slopes not random.

### Conclusions

A method for diagnosing the eddy stirring associated with fluxes represented in a 0.1° model but not a 2° model is presented

It estimates the tracer-type-independent transport of tracer uniquely

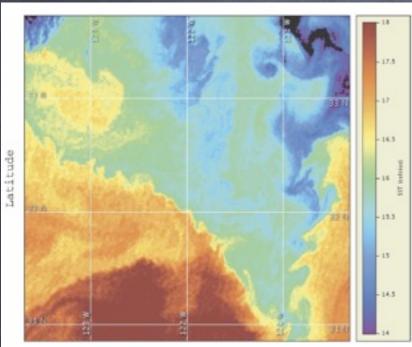
The shape and structure agrees roughly with Griffies (98) and Gent & Smith (04) analyses of GM & Redi isoneutral fluxes with \*equal\* anisotropic mixing & stirring.

No gauge/rot. fluxes are needed to eliminate negative spurious eigenvalues

10 km

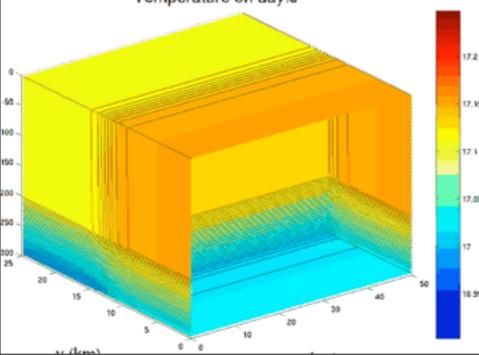
### 2. Submesoscale

(Capet et al., 2008)



Temperature on day:0

Longitude

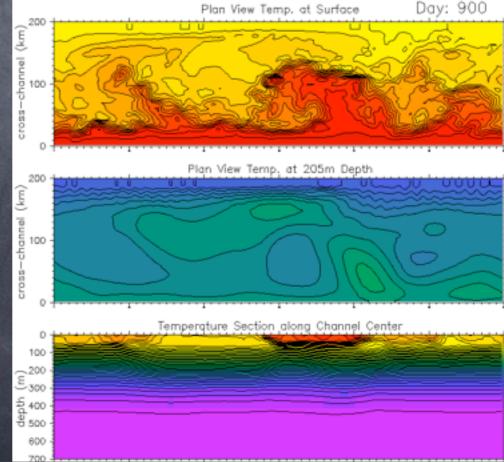


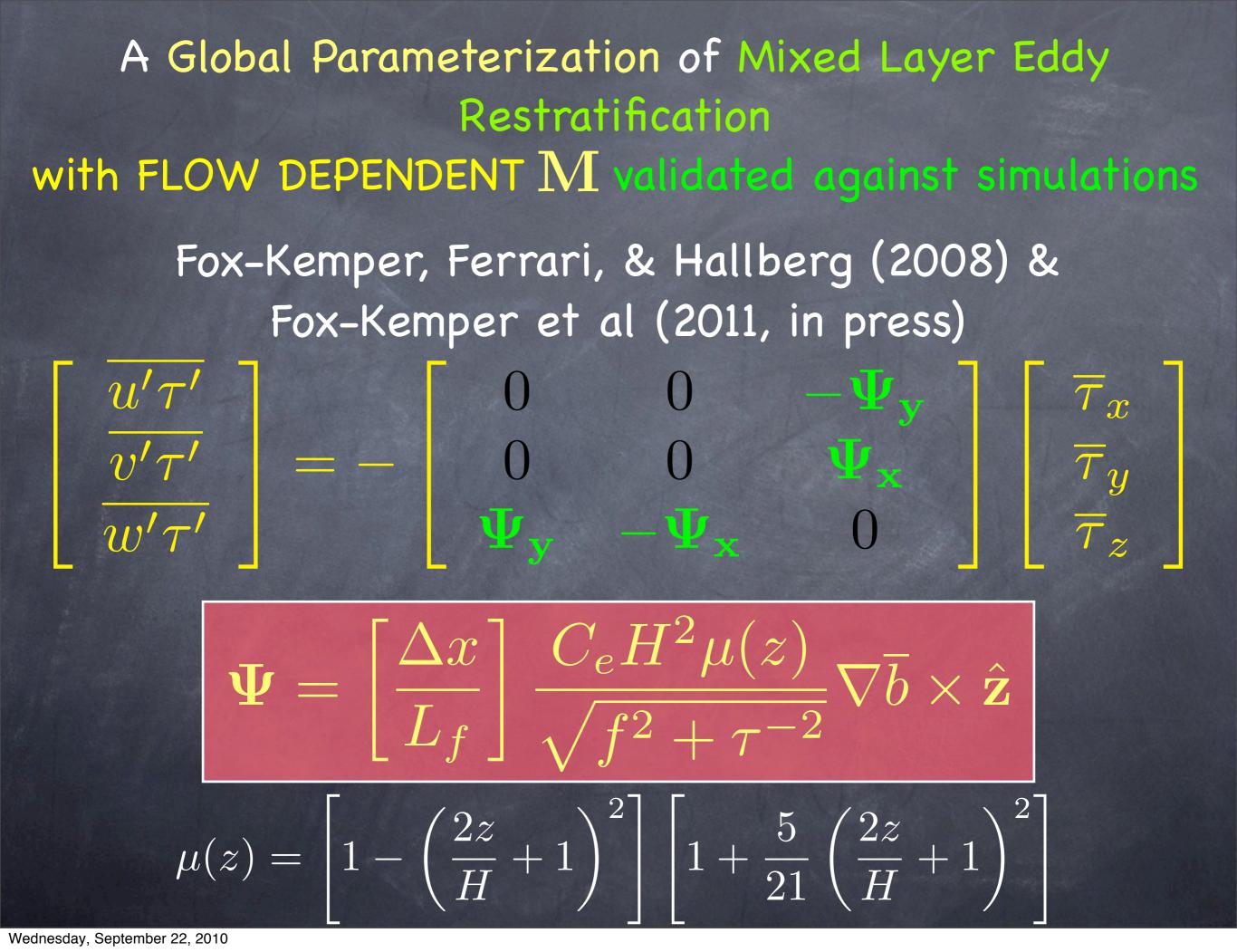
Fronts Eddies
 Eddies Ro=O(1) Ri=O(1)

near-surface

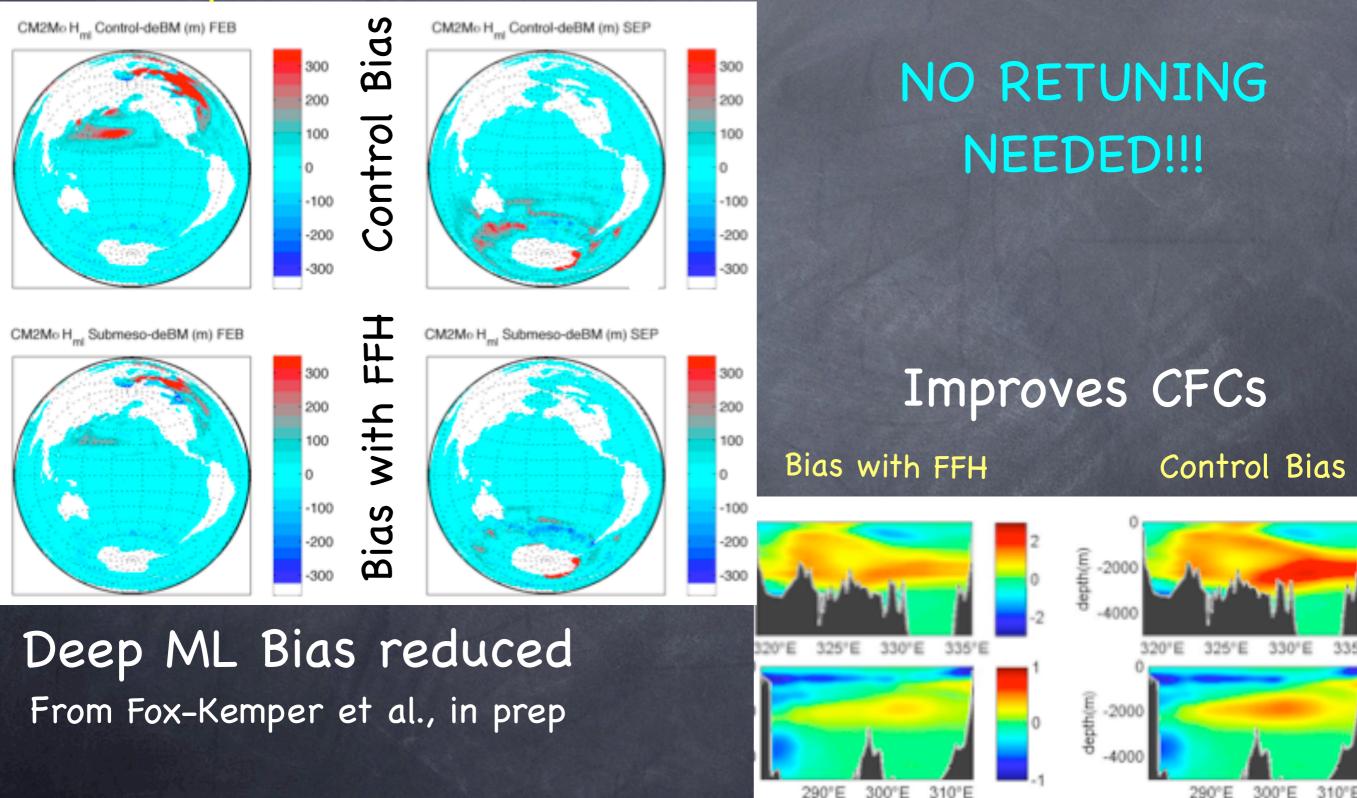
I-10km, days Eddy processes mainly 17.2 baroclinic instability (Boccaletti et al '07, 17,15 Haine & Marshall '98). Parameterizations of 17.05 baroclinic instability apply? (GM, Visbeck, FFH).

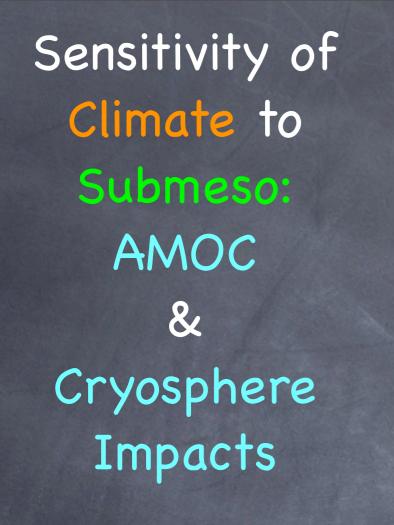






#### Physical Sensitivity of Ocean Climate to Submesoscale Eddy Restratification: FFH implemented in CCSM (NCAR), CM2M & CM2G (GFDL)





May Stabilize AMOC

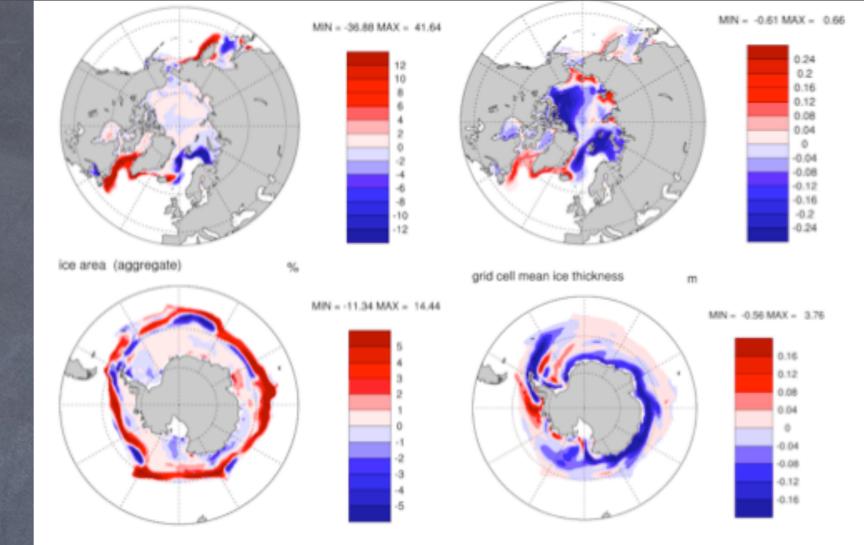


Figure 10: Wintertime sea ice sensitivity to introduction of MLE parameterization (CCSM<sup>+</sup> minus CCSM<sup>-</sup>): January to March Northern Hemisphere a) ice area and b) thickness and July to September Southern Hemisphere c) ice area and d) thickness.

#### Affects sea ice

NO RETUNING NEEDED!!!

Maximum AMOC at 45n in coupled MOM 30 28 26 ർ CM2.1 (mean=24.5, std=1.9) CM2Ma+(mean=23.9, std=1.6) 12 CM2Ma-(mean=21.5, std=2.9) 300 200 250 50 100 150 Year

These are impacts: bias change unknown

### Conclusions: 2. Submesoscale © FFH is used in at least 3 IPCC AR5 models

- Parameterization reduces bias in CFCs & Mixed Layer Depth
- Parameterization also affects ice, CFCs/Biology, & AMOC variability--need truth?
- Flow-dependent, nondimensional scalings validated against simulations \*did not require retuning\*

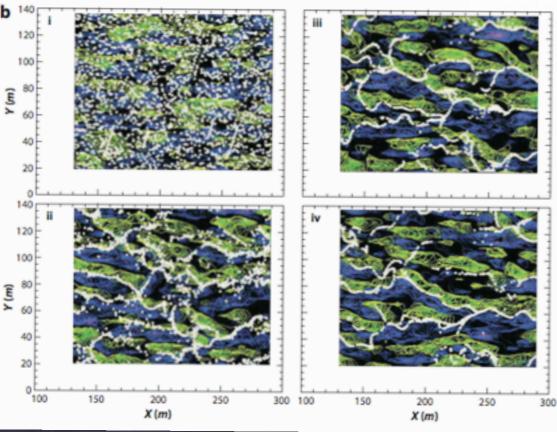
Review: Parameterization of Mixed Layer Eddies. III: Implementation and Impact in Global Ocean Climate Simulations, Fox-Kemper et al. 2011 Ocean Modelling in press for special issue

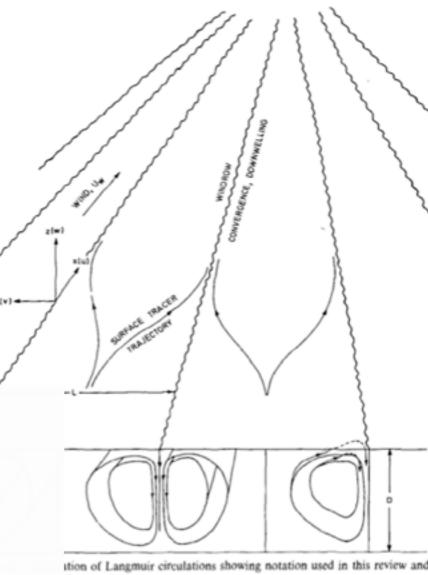
## 3: Langmuir Scale

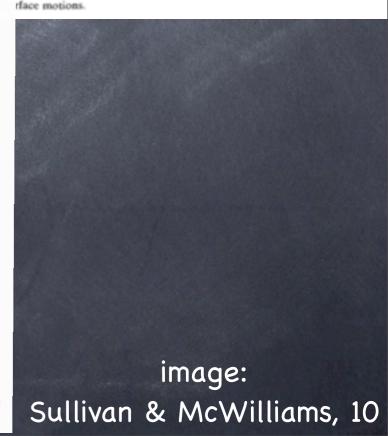
- Near-surface
- Langmuir Cells & Langmuir Turb.
- @ Ro>>1
- Ri<1: Nonhydro</p>
- @ 10-100m
- ø mins, hours
- w, u=O(20cm/s)
- Stokes drift
- Eqtns: Craik Leibovich
- unused params
   exist (M&S,01 etc)

image: Leibovich, 83





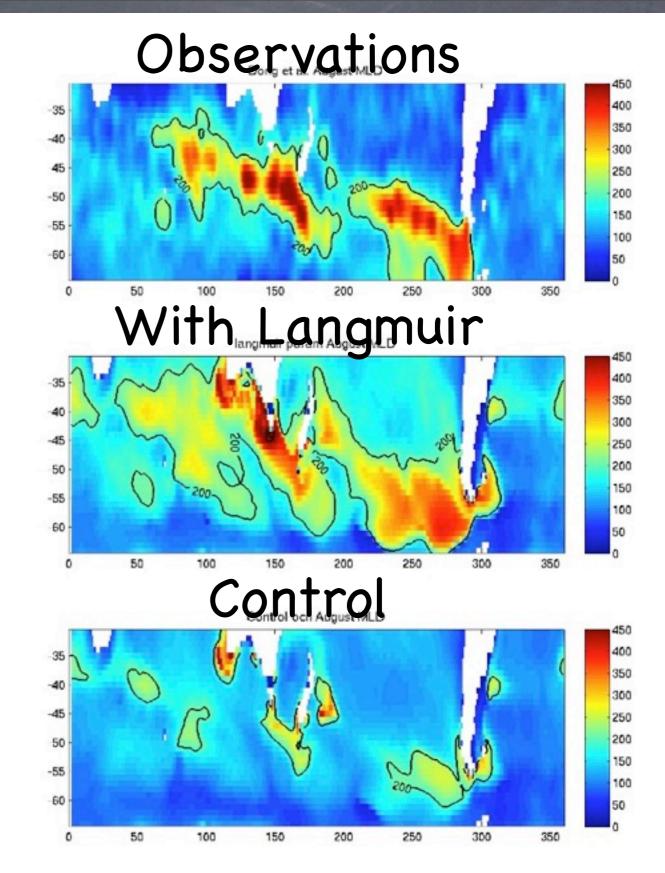




# CCSM3.5 Impact: MLD

With reasonable parameters, Langmuir mixing parameterization produces deeper mixed layers in fully-coupled global climate models

 Often reduces bias in some regions, e.g., ACC



August mixed layer depths.

# Conclusions: 3. Langmuir

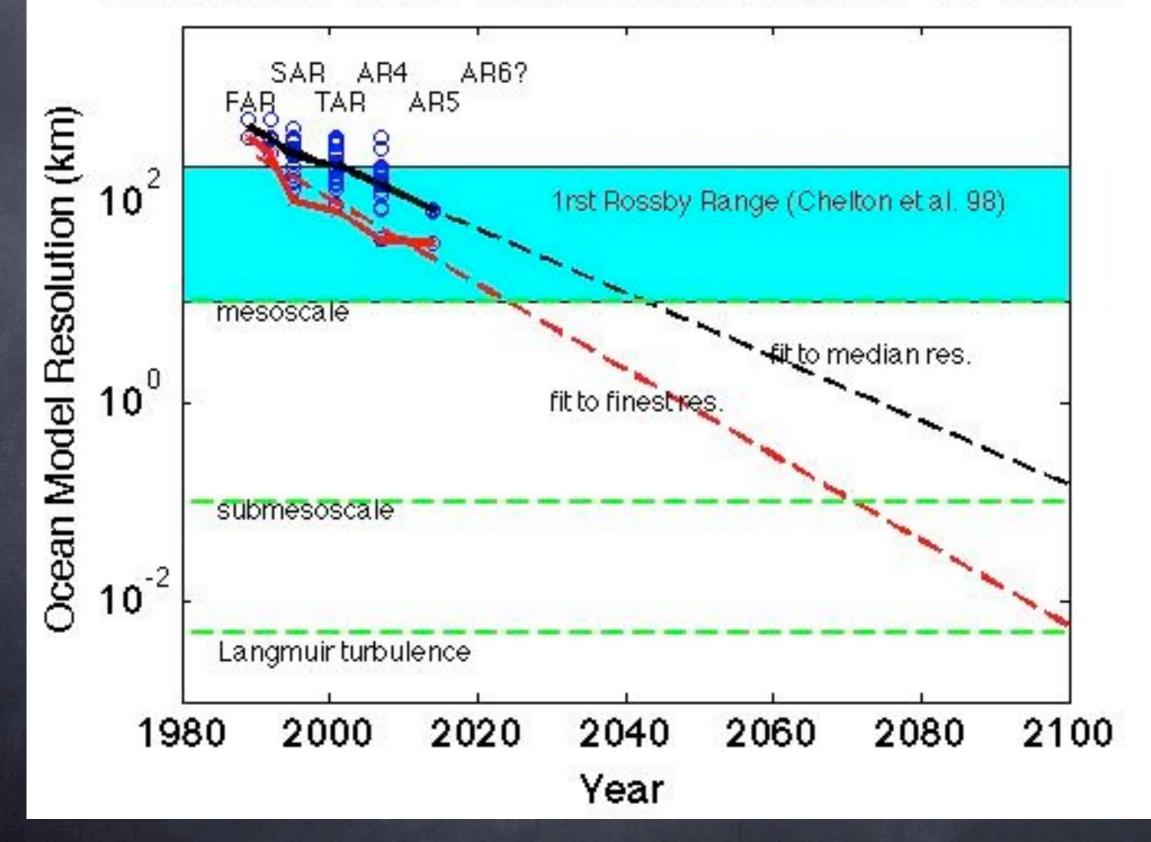
 Like Mesoscale Variability and Submesoscale Restratification--Langmuir mixing has a nontrival impact on climate models

However, we need better wave information,
 e.g., prognostic wave models as component of
 ESMs

And results are sensitive to details--need better theory, too!

## Parameterization is Here to Stay!

#### Resolution of Ocean Component of Coupled IPCC models



Wednesday, September 22, 2010

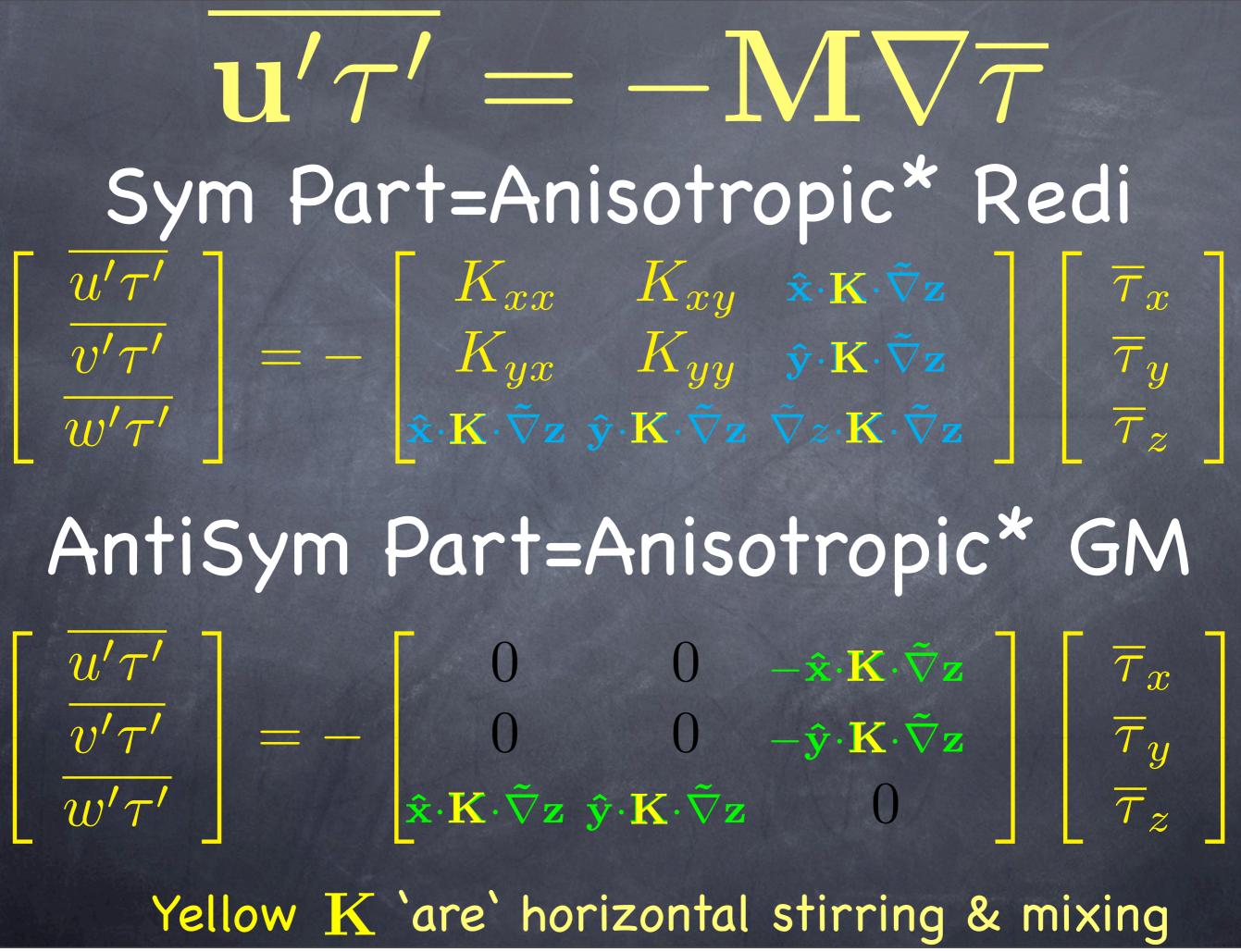
## A Crude Scaling for Langmuir Depth/Entrainment: (Li & Garrett, 1997) CAM

related to CAM u\* by WW3 Climatology

$$Fr = \frac{\omega}{NH} \approx 0.6$$
  $\omega \approx \frac{V}{1.5} \approx \frac{\sqrt{u^* u_s}}{1.5}$ 

The Algorithm Use Fr to determine H If H is deeper than KPP Boundary Layer depth, use H

Large came up with clever choices for N, H that lead to a robust implementation in KPP With these choices, H and BLD converge over time.



# 0. Climate Scale

- Gyres, MOC,ENSO
- Ro=O(0.01):geostropic
- Ri=O(1000):hydrostatic
- near-surface flux control
- full-depth
   transport
- 10,000km,decades
- Eqtns: PG, GCMs, Box Models

#### Ocean Energy Flux Ima

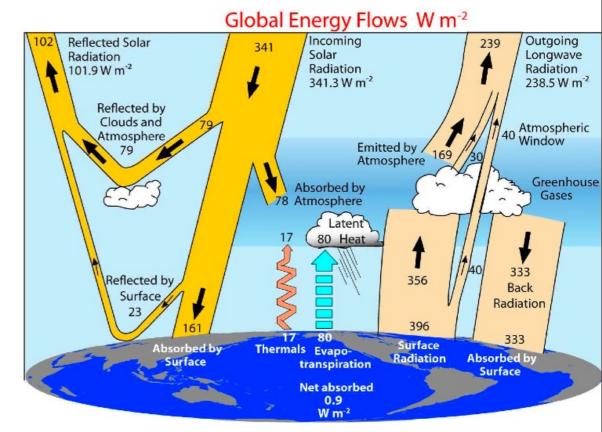
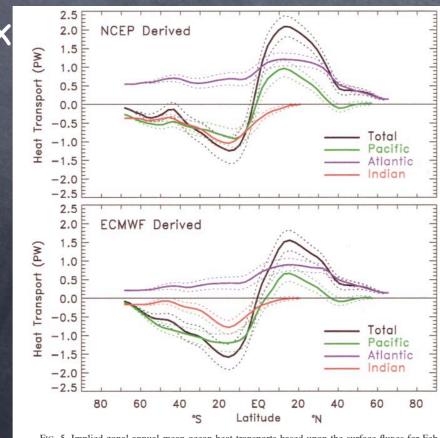


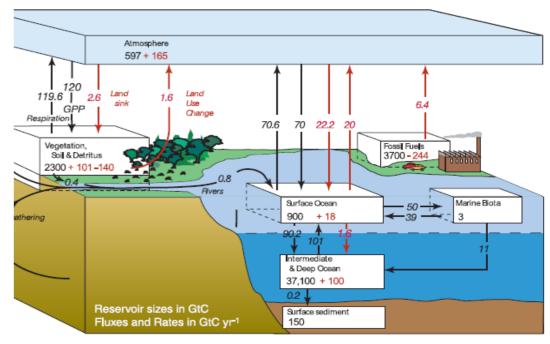
Figure 2.19: Estimate of the Earth's annual and global mean energy balance for the March 2000 to May 2004 period in W  $m^{-2}$ . Figure from Trenberth et al. (2009). Copyright 2009 American Meteorological Society (AMS).

#### Images: Trenberth & Caron, IPCC AR4

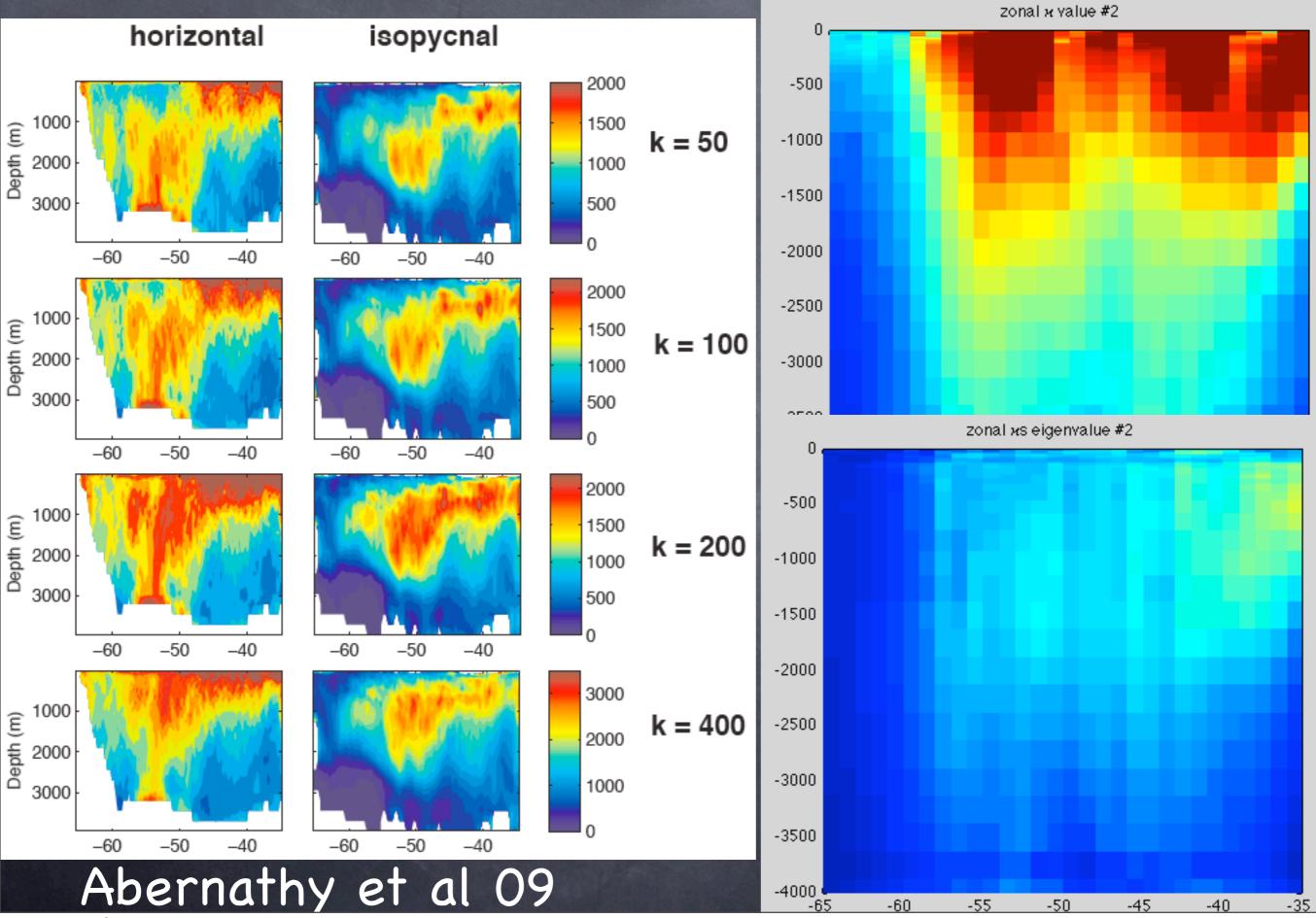


#### FIG. 5. Implied zonal annual mean ocean heat transports based upon the surface fluxes for Feb 1985–Apr 1989 for the total, Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific basins for NCEP and ECMWF atmospheric fields (PW). The 1 std err bars are indicated by the dashed curves.

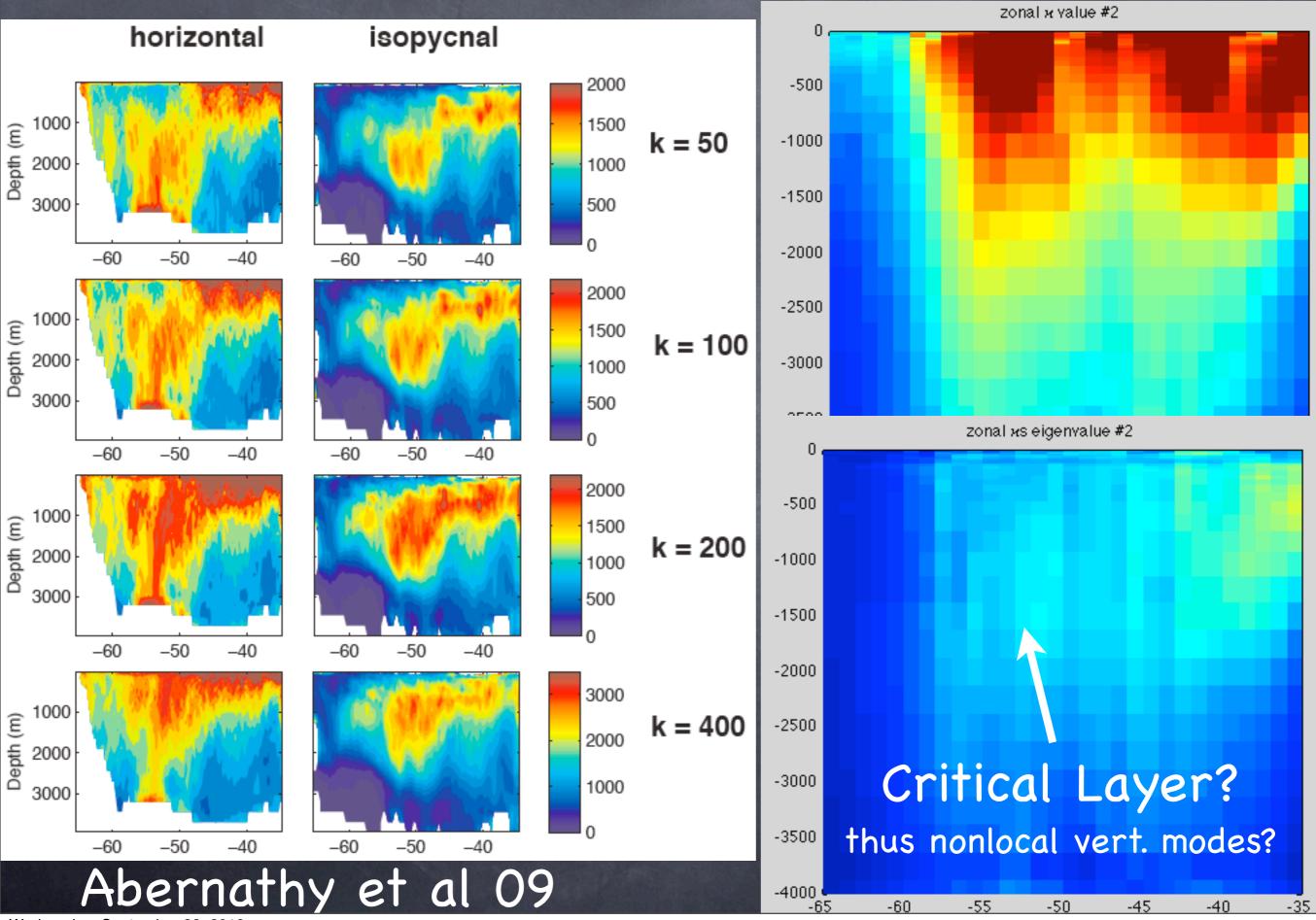
### Ocean Carbon Uptake



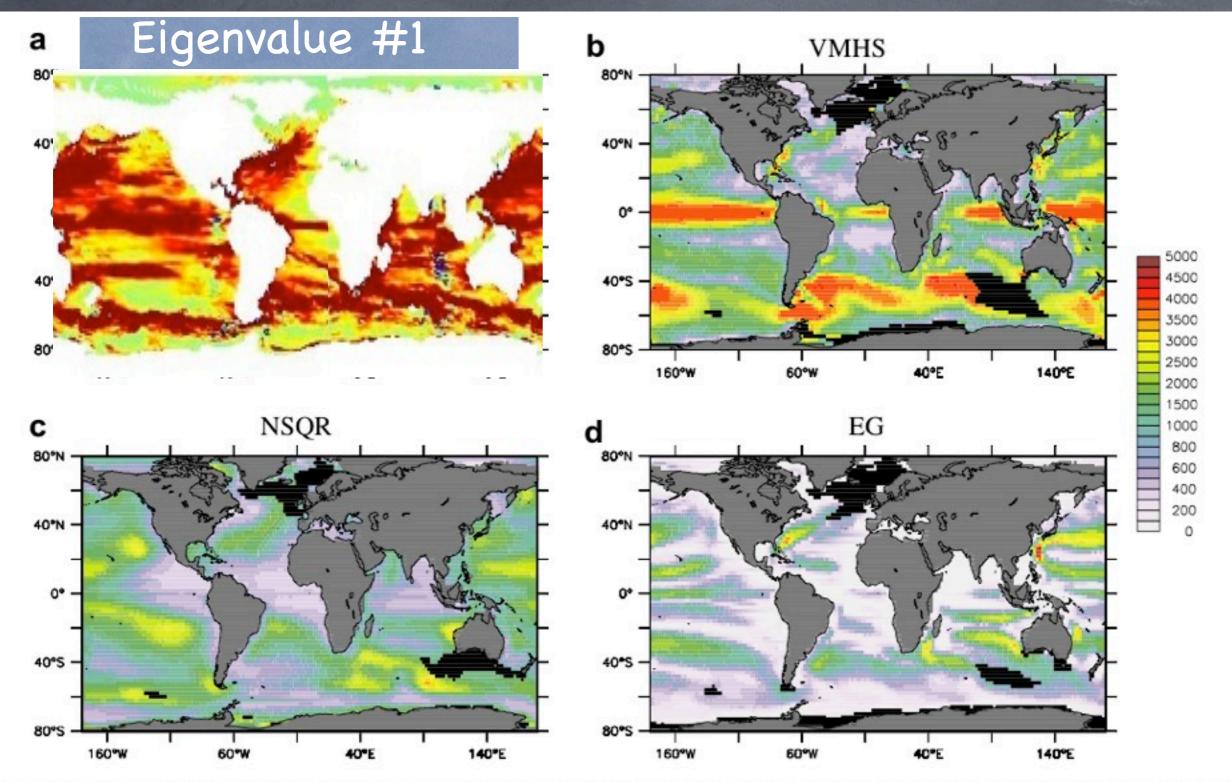
### Comparisons with Marshall et al.



### Comparisons with Marshall et al.

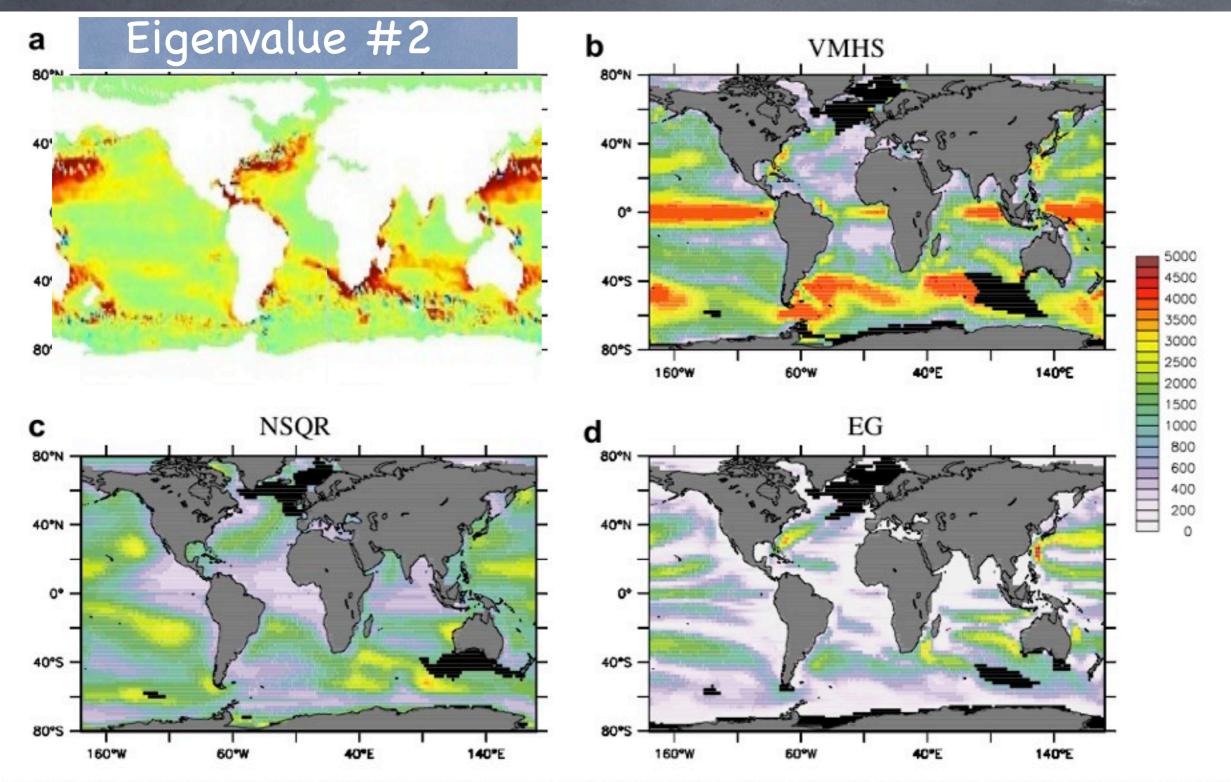


Compare with Eden, Jochum, Danabasoglu compilation of present parameterizations

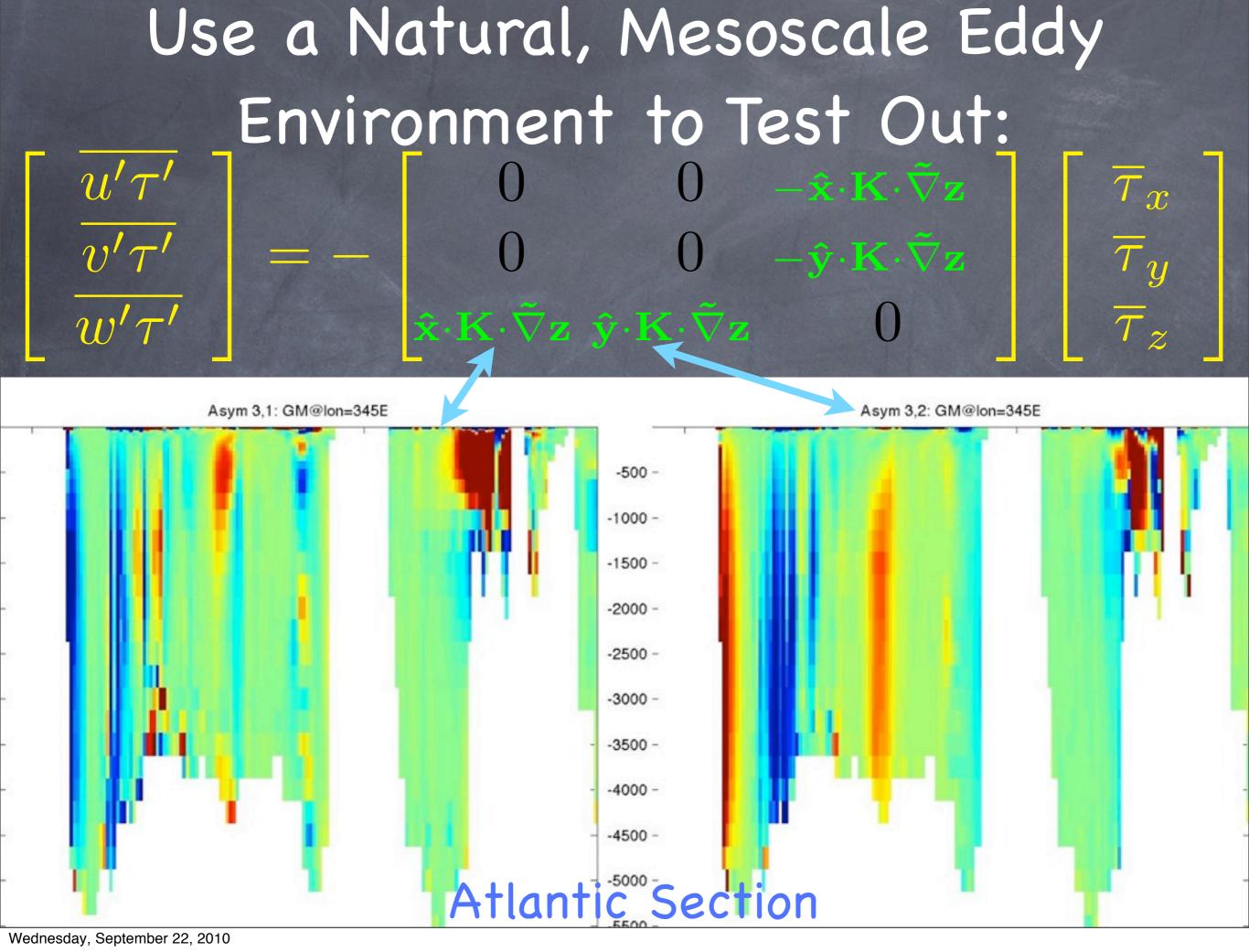


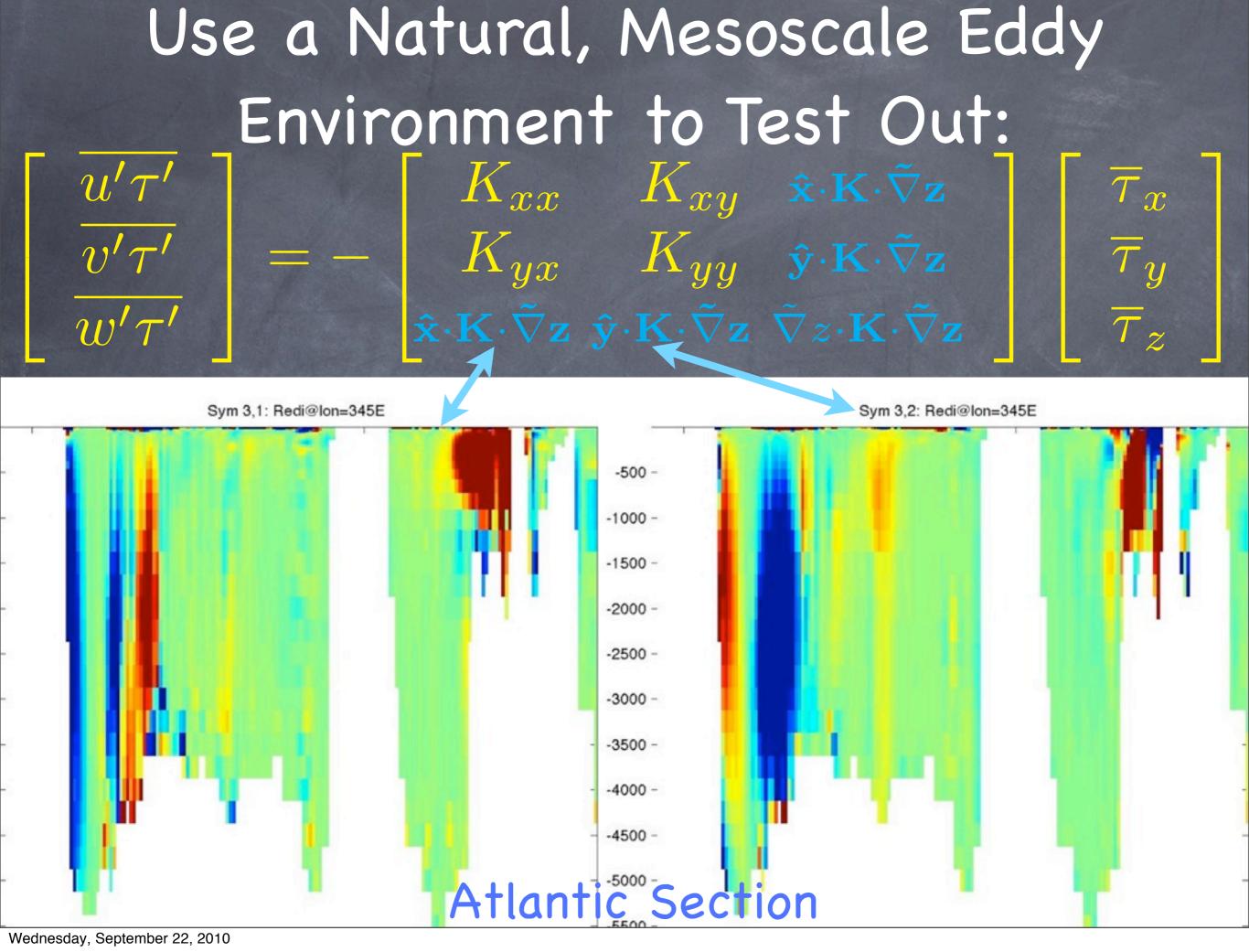
g. 1. Annual mean thickness diffusivity (K) in m<sup>2</sup>/s at 300 m depth in experiment CONST (a), VMHS (b), NSQR (c) and EG (d) after 500 years integration. Values of K are own for the interior region only, i.e. values of K in the (seasonal maximum) diabatic surface and transition layer are not shown and shaded black. Note the non-linear colour ale for the thickness diffusity. Note also that the data have been interpolated from the model grid to a regular rectangular grid of similar resolution prior to plotting. The non-linear k in the figure (taken from Smith and Sandwell (1997)) differs therefore slightly from the model's land mask.

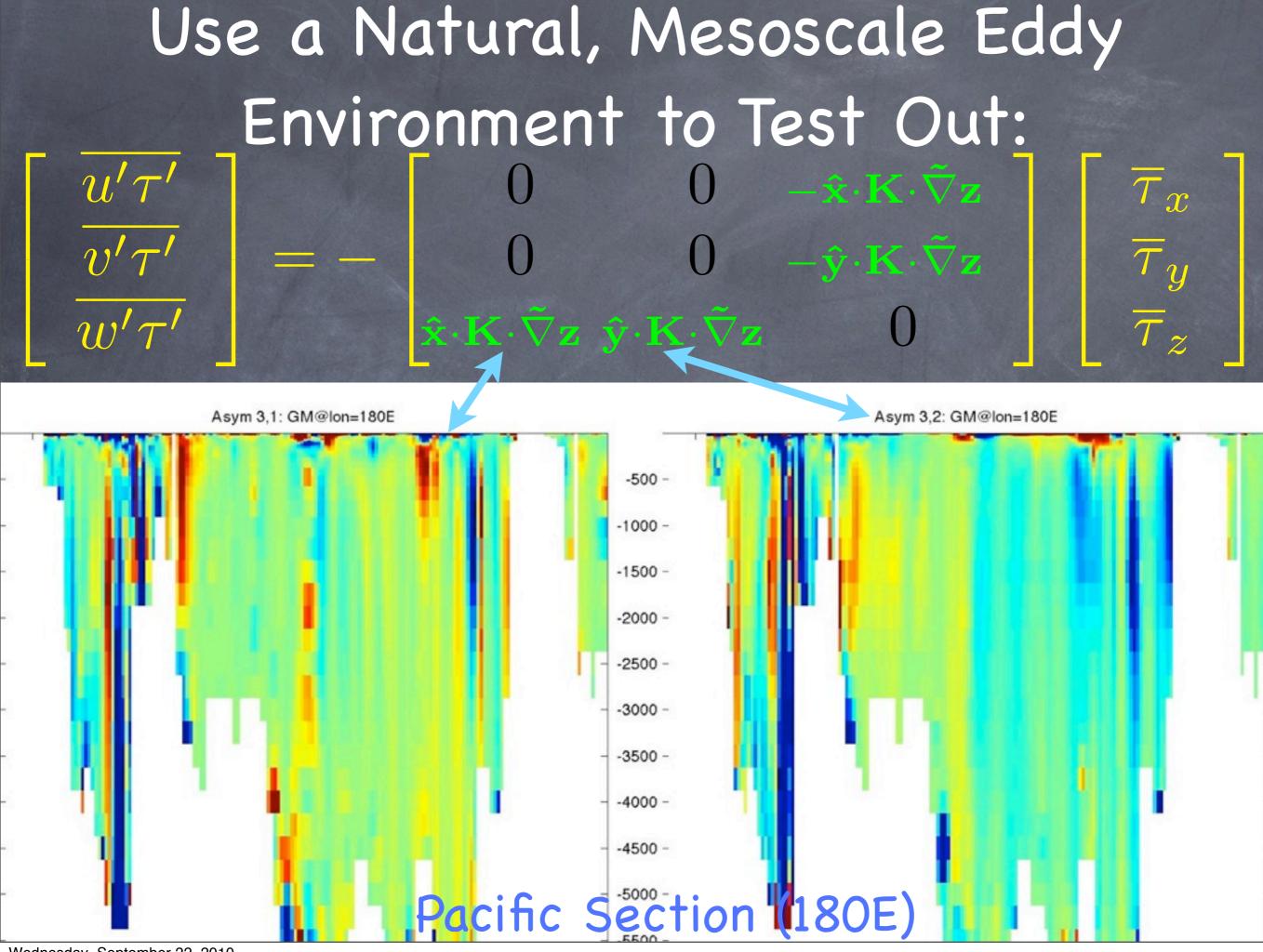
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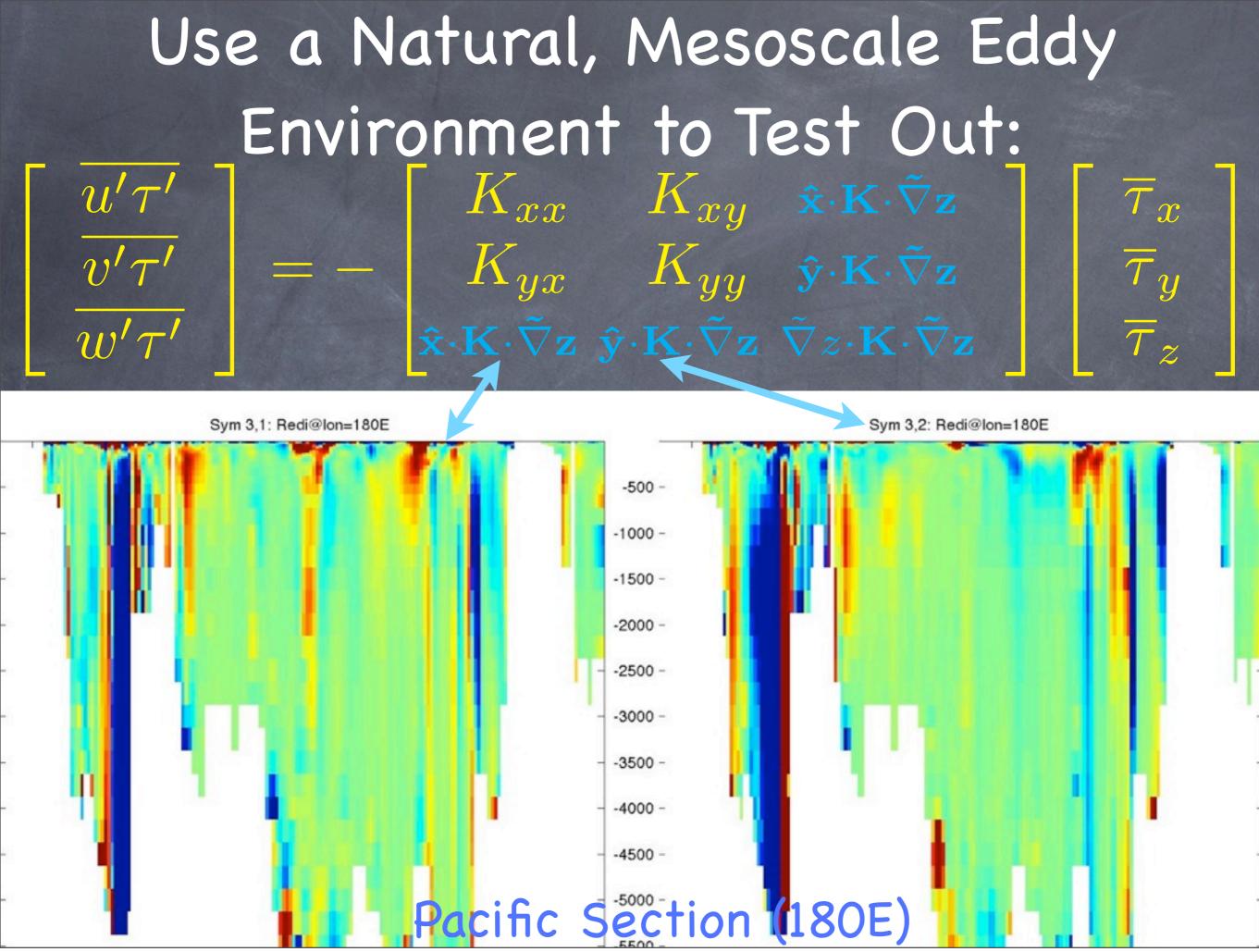


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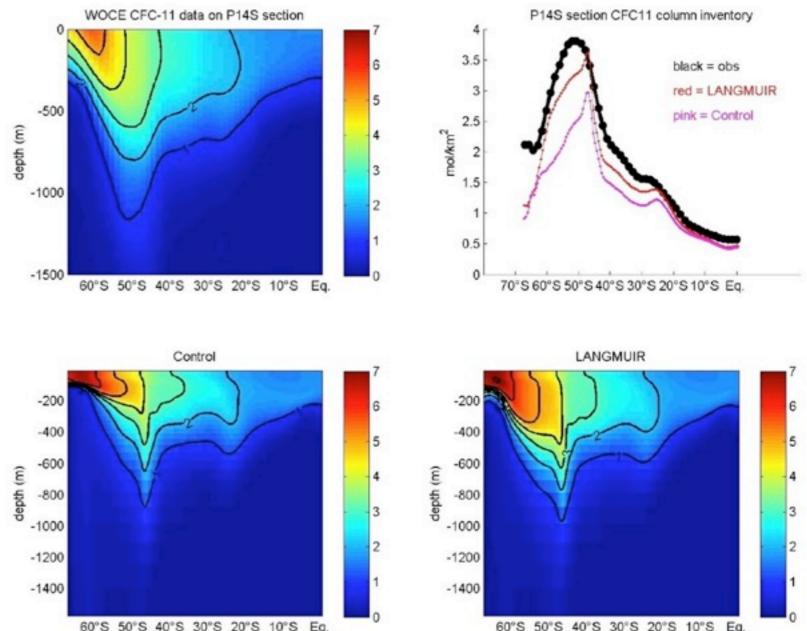


### CCSM3.5 Langmuir Impact on Climate: CFCs

With reasonable parameters, Langmuir affects **CFCs** 

S Langmuir reduces bias in some regions, e.g., ACC versus WOCE

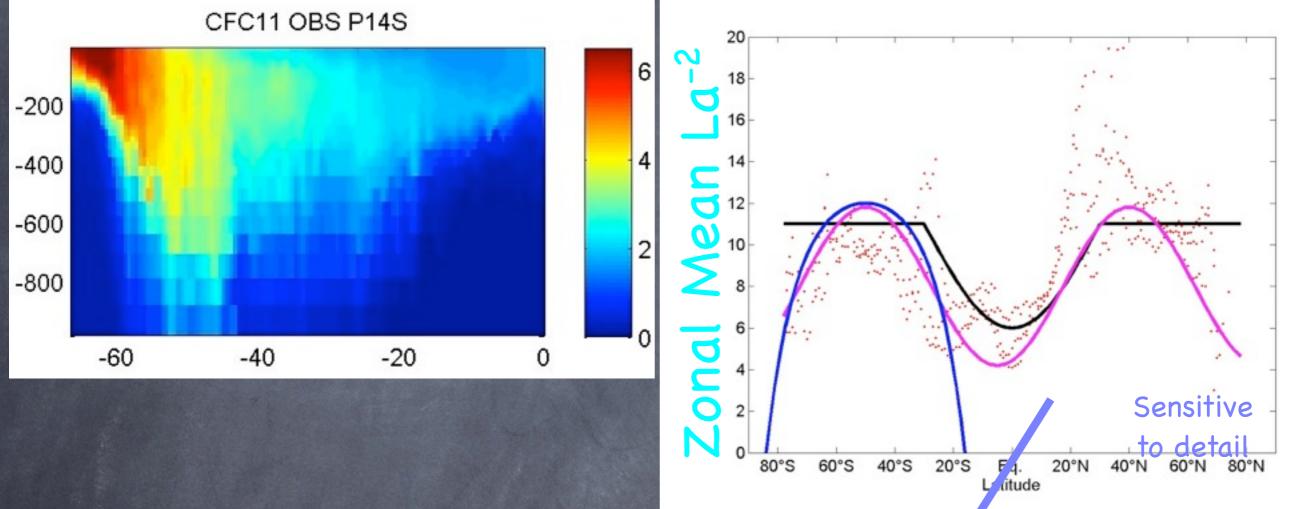
Potentially large impact, change as large as bias

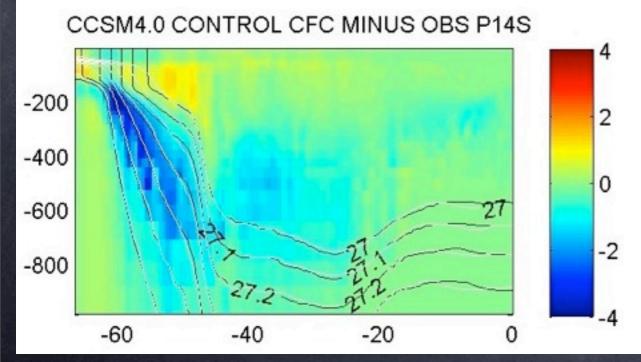


50°S 40°S 30°S 20°S 10°S Eq.

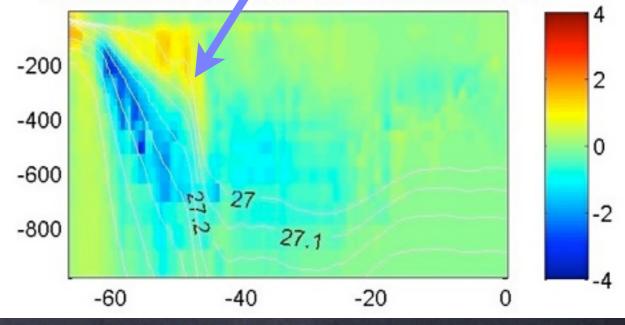
#### CFC in CCSM & P14S WOCE observations.

## Nuance--CCSM3.5 and CCSM4.0

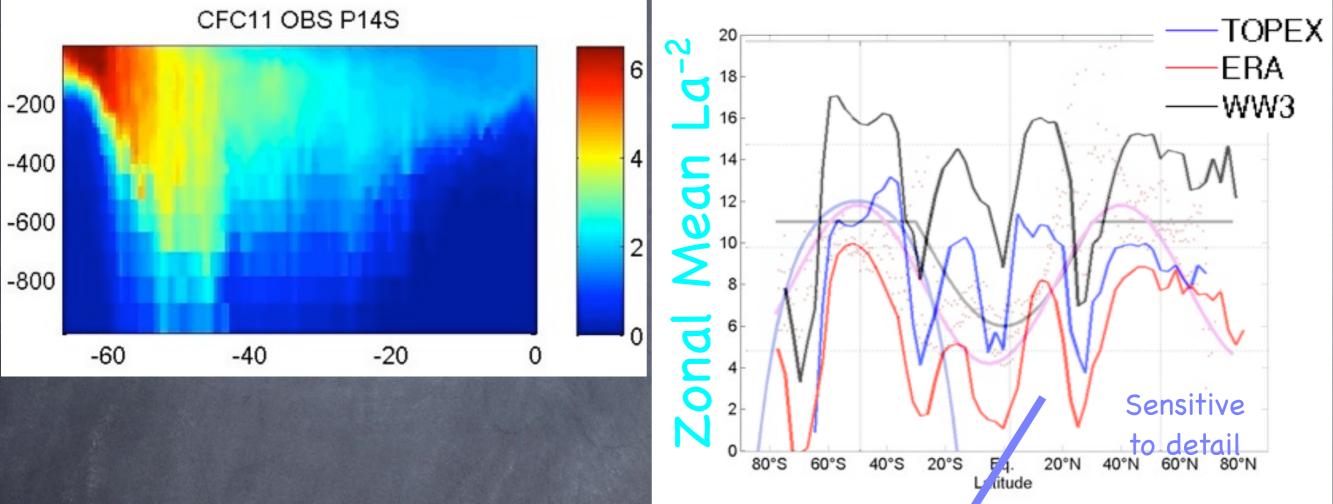


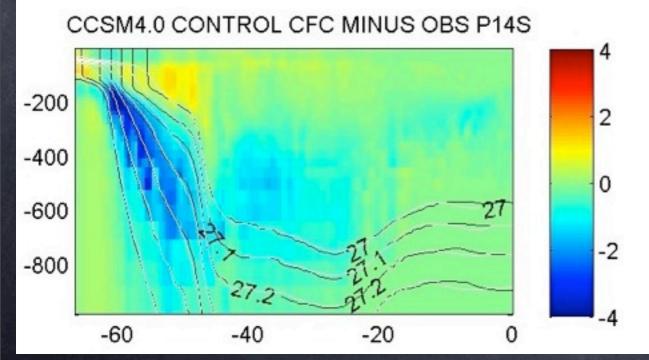


CCSM4.0 LANGMULY.006 CFC MINUS OBS P14S



## Nuance--CCSM3.5 and CCSM4.0





CCSM4.0 LANGMULX.006 CFC MINUS OBS P14S

