Pacific wind-driven circulation variability and its role in hiatus / accelerated warming decades



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Coupled Modelling and Prediction : FROM WEATHER TO CLIMATE

Venue: Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, Australia http://cawcr.gov.au/events/AWS9/

CAWCR 9th Annual Workshop 19-22 OCTOBER 2015



Pacemaker experiments for studying decadal climate variability





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Pacemaker experiments – SST forcing – full coupled model



Kosaka and Xie (2013)

Pacemaker experiments – wind-driven forcing



a West Pacific eastward wind stress



Influence of tropical wind on global temperature from months to decades

Oleg A. Saenko
1.2 · John C. Fyfe
1 · Neil C. Swart
1 · Warren G. Lee
1 · Matthew H. England
 2,3



ERA-Interim SLP and wind stress trends

England et al. 2014



AVISO sea surface height trends

England et al. 2014



HadISST sea surface temperature trends

England et al. 2014



GISS surface air temperature trends

England et al. 2014

Recent Pacific Ocean trends....



How anomalous is the trade wind acceleration....?



England et al. 2014

How anomalous is the trade wind acceleration....?



CMIP projections vs. observations



Comparison of MMM CMIP3+5 simulations with GISS SAT data

What does this mean for climate a) projections....?



England et al. 2014

What does this mean for climate projections....? a)



England et al. 2014



Warming decades

(c) All non-volcanic historical hiatuses, n=30, mean=-0.012°C/yr (d) Historical accelerated decade, n=23, mean=0.064°C/yr



(e) rcp4.5 hiatus, n=30, mean=-0.078°C/yr



(g) rcp8.5 hiatus, n=8, mean=0.00047°C/yr



(f) rcp4.5 accelerated decade, n=18, mean=0.054°C/yr



(h) rcp8.5 accelerated decade, n=8, mean=0.095°C/yr





Maher et al. 2014

What next....?

(c) Trade wind induced global SAT anomalies (°C)



OCEAN GCM, SIMPLE ATMOSPHERE



A REVERSAL OF CIRCULATION AND T ANOMALIES SEEN DURING THE HIATUS









PACIFIC TEMPERATURE TRENDS 2013-2030



What about the role of the Atlantic?

CLIMATE CHANGE

Is Atlantic holding Earth's missing heat?

New leads in the hunt to explain the global warming hiatus

By Eli Kintisch

rmchair detectives might call it the case of Earth's missing heat: Why have average global surface air temperatures remained essentially steady since 2000, even as greenhouse gases have continued to accumulate in the atmosphere? The suspects include changes in atmospheric water vapor, a strong greenhouse gas, or the noxious sunshade of haze emanating from factories. Others believe the culprit is the mighty Pacific Ocean, which has been sending vast slugs of cold bottom water to



Perspective on Chen and Tung (2014) Science

Pacemaker experiments – SST forcing – AGCM – slab ocean

nature climate change

LETTERS PUBLISHED ONLINE: 3 AUGUST 2014 I DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE2330

Recent Walker circulation strengthening and Pacific cooling amplified by Atlantic warming

Shayne McGregor¹, Axel Timmermann^{2*}, Malte F. Stuecker³, Matthew H. England¹, Mark Merrifield⁴, Fei-Fei Jin³ and Yoshimitsu Chikamoto²

MODELLED

CAM4 experiment forced by observed Atlantic Ocean SST trends (includes a Pacific mixed layer)



McGregor et al. 2014



Temp and SLP 60° N 40° N 20° N 20° N 0° 20° S 40° S 40° S 60° S 60° E 120° E 180° 120° W 60° W



Figure S1 Observed wind trends during 1992-2011. (a) Observed trends in surface wind stress (N/m²/year) shown as vectors with the strength of the zonal wind stress trend overlaid in colour shading (N/m²/year). Maximum vector scale is indicated. (b) As in (a) but showing the wind stress trends derived from a regression of the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO) index. (c) As in (a), but showing the component of the 1992-2011 wind stress trends not accounted for by typical IPO variability (i.e., panel (a) minus panel (b)). The recent observed wind trends (panel (a)) are thus seen to be significantly stronger than those typically associated with the IPO (panel (b)).

England et al. 2014

Pacemaker experiments – wind-driven forcing

Pacemaker experiments – SO wind-driven forcing

Mechanism for circulation changes and rapid warming in the Southern Ocean

65°S

60°S

Jet Stream

500-

1000-

1500-

70°S

Depth (m)

Spence et al. GRL 2014

Pacemaker experiments – other variables

Arctic sea-ice trends / variations

Screen et al. 2013

Pacemaker experiments – other variables

Land clearing prescribed expts

Pacemaker experiments – surface salinity / E-P forcing

Pacemaker experiments for studying decadal climate variability

Motivations:

- Improving mechanistic understanding of OBS
- Improving understanding of models, model biases
- Improve understanding of interbasin forcing
- Improved prediction skills

Toward Pacemaker MIPs:

- Start as ad-hoc simulations
- Something interesting is found
- Community interest gathers
- Coordinated experiments get discussed
- MIPs formally proposed

So many options....

- Full coupled model
- AGCM coupled to slab ocean
- OGCM coupled to 'slab' atmosphere

Pacemaker specified via

- SST override / SST restoring / SST via fluxes
- wind stress / wind impact on fluxes...
- SSS restoring / E-P / MW perturbations
- Sea-ice
- Combinations of the above // regional selection

Additional Pacific wind pacemaker experiments?

SST pacemaker.....

- heat / energy not conserved
- GMST oversensitivity to E-Pac SST?
- + well-observed
- + atmospheric response
- SST restoring / override / enter via fluxes

WIND pacemaker.....

- + heat / energy conservation
- sensitivity to E-Pac winds
- less well-observed
- + oceanic response
- wind stress / evaporative fluxes, ML deepening etc?

DCPP Component C: Predictability, Mechanisms and Case Studies

Table 1.

Component C1: Haitus+: Accelerated and retarded rates of global temperature change

Objectives: To investigate the role of eastern Pacific and North Atlantic sea surface temperatures in the modulation of global surface temperature trends and in driving regional climate variations.

#	TIER	Experiment	Notes	# of years			
Pacemaker experiments							
C1.1	1	Coupled model restored to observed anomalies of sea surface temperature in the tropical Pacific	Follow the experimental design of Kosaka and Xie (2013). Time period: 1950 to 2015 Ensemble size: 10 members Restoring timescales: 10 days for 50m deep mixed layer suggested Climatological period for computing anomalies: 1950-2015	66x10=660 years	0		
C1.2	1	As above but for the North Atlantic	As C1.1 but restored to observed sea surface temperature anomalies in the North Atlantic, 0°N to 60°N Time period: 1950 to 2015 Ensemble size: 10 members Restoring timescales: as for C1.1	66x10=660 years	10		

DCPP Component C: Predictability, Mechanisms and Case Studies

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Component C1: Haitus+: Accelerated and retarded rates of global temperature change

Objectives: To investigate the role of eastern Pacific and North Atlantic sea surface temperatures in the modulation of global surface temperature trends and in driving regional climate variations.

#	TIER	Experiment	Notes	# of years			
Pacemaker experiments							
C1.1	1	Coupled model restored to observed anomalies of sea surface	Follow the experimental design of Kosaka and Xie (2013).	of 66x10=660 years			
			Time period: 1950 to 2015	& 1920 – 20	15 runs		
		temperature in the tropical Pacific	Restoring timescales: 10 days for 50m deep mixed layer suggested Climatological period for computing anomalies: 1950-2015	r 5			
C1.2	1	As above but for the North Atlantic	As C1.1 but restored sea surface temperatur in the North Atlantic, (mid 1990s subpolar NA warm)				
			Time period: 1950 to 2015 Ensemble size: 10 members Restoring timescales: as for C1.1				

Conclusions

- Recent observed trade wind trend unprecedented
- Beyond the variability seen in CMIP models
- Cooling impact can account for the hiatus
 - Ocean heat uptake
 - Teleconnections from cool East Pacific SST
- 2000 2005 The Atlantic plays a role – but via a teleconnection to PO
- Warming out of hiatus likely rapid and likely to be +ve IPO-like

1995

2010 2015 2020

nature climate change

Robust warming projections despite the recent hiatus Matthew H. England, Jules B. Kajtar and Nicola Maher

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