Climate model wind stress biases in the northern low latitudes from a momentum balance perspective.

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Surface Wind Stress

- CMIP5 variable (tauu) = surface downward eastward wind stress (excluding gravity wave drag surface stress)
- ERA-Interim variable = Eastward turbulent surface stress. (i.e. not including GWD surface stress)

Sign Convention: will show the downward stress i.e. -1 x forcing on the atmosphere









Seasonal evolution of low latitude wind stress differences

ERA-Interim vs multi-model mean



What can we learn about these zonal mean surface wind stress differences from the vertically integrated momentum balance?

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = fv - \frac{1}{a\cos\varphi} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \lambda} - \frac{1}{a\cos^2\varphi} \frac{\partial(uv\cos^2\varphi)}{\partial \varphi} - \frac{1}{a\cos\varphi} \frac{\partial(uu)}{\partial \lambda} - \frac{\partial(u\omega)}{\partial p} + F_u + X$$















$$[\,.\,] = \frac{1}{g} \int_0^{p_s(\lambda,\varphi,t)} (\,.\,)dp$$

Then take the zonal mean.

Tendency from other parameterizations (GWD, horizontal diffusion etc)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = fv - \frac{1}{a\cos\varphi} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \lambda} - \frac{1}{a\cos^2\varphi} \frac{\partial(uv\cos^2\varphi)}{\partial \varphi} - \frac{1}{a\cos\varphi} \frac{\partial(uu)}{\partial \lambda} - \frac{\partial(u\omega)}{\partial p} + F_u + X$$

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$$[fv] - \left[\frac{1}{a\cos\varphi}\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial\lambda}\right] - \left[\frac{1}{a\cos^2\varphi}\frac{\partial(uv\cos^2\varphi)}{\partial\varphi}\right] - \left[\frac{1}{a\cos\varphi}\frac{\partial(uu)}{\partial\lambda}\right] - u_s\omega_s = \tau_u$$

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Mountain Torque (M)

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Upon taking the zonal mean...
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Resolved Dynamics Terms

$$[fv] - \left[\frac{1}{a\cos\varphi}\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial\lambda}\right] - \left[\frac{1}{a\cos^2\varphi}\frac{\partial(uv\cos^2\varphi)}{\partial\varphi}\right] - \left[\frac{1}{a\cos\varphi}\frac{\partial(uu)}{\partial\lambda}\right] - u_s\omega_s = \tau_u$$
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Mountain Torque (M)





Calculated using the 17 standard CMIP5 pressure levels

Vertical integral performed on monthly mean fields using monthly mean surface pressure.

Momentum fluxes calculated using 6 hourly instantaneous fields.



Simpson, Shaw and Seager (2014)



13 models — Multi-model mean







CMIP5 momentum budget as a function of season



CMIP5 momentum budget as a function of season



ERA-Interim Budget


CMIP5 momentum budget as a function of season



ERA-Interim Budget



Does the surface wind stress differ because the vertically integrated tendency from the large scale circulation differs?

CMIP5 momentum budget as a function of season



ERA-Interim Budget



CMIP5 momentum budget as a function of season



ERA-Interim Budget





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Surface wind stress













Why the residual in ERA-Interim?





Why the residual in ERA-Interim?







Why the residual

in E

We can't explain the difference in surface wind stress between the CMIP5 models and the reanalysis with any of the terms in the vertically integrated budget. The budget doesn't add up in ERA-Interim



Why the residual in ERA-Interim?





Why the residual in ERA-Interim?







♠

u



















DJF analysis increments





Are these increments present throughout the full 1979-2012 time period?

900hPa zonal mean zonal wind



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900hPa zonal mean zonal wind







Lat-lon structure of analysis increments in DJF



-1 -0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 U (m/s)













The surface stress field is accumulated over the 12h hour forecast

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Surface Wind Stress

Lowest model level zonal wind



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Surface Wind Stress

Lowest model level zonal wind Assimilation of observations is providing a clear tendency to reduce the low level zonal mean easterly flow creating an imbalance in the vertically integrated momentum budget.
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- The assimilation is correctly constraining the flow at low levels and is accounting for something going wrong in the forecast model.











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An understanding of this may help to understand issues in the CMIP models as well.









Assimilation weakens the low level easterlies, but strengthens the Hadley circulation





Dominant Balance in the Free troposphere:

 $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = fv + UV_{conv}$















Where might things be going wrong? Free troposphere or Boundary Layer?



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If we are missing a westerly forcing in the upper troposphere...



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How would we expect things to evolve over the forecast?

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = fv + UV_{conv} + Z$$
$$0 \quad W \quad E \quad W$$



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Imbalance $\longrightarrow E$














The opposite of what you'd expect in the absence of a westerly forcing in the upper troposphere The increments are not consistent with the missing westerly forcing being in the upper troposphere

cast)

Zo

(Analy



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Zo

(Analy



What you'd expect in the absence of a westerly forcing in the lower troposphere

The increments are not consistent with the missing westerly forcing being in the upper troposphere

cast)

Zo

(Analy



What you'd expect in the absence of a westerly forcing in the lower troposphere















Analysis increments are needed to weaken the low level easterlies and strengthen the Hadley circulation again.



Analysis increments are needed to weaken the low level easterlies and strengthen the Hadley circulation again.

Lat-Lon structure of the analysis increments

Is there something special about the NH low latitudes in winter?





Also a general tendency to oppose the climatological winds in other regions.



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Also a general tendency to oppose the climatological winds in other regions.

U (m/s)

But not in the SH higher latitudes, maybe a lack of observations?

U (m/s)

950hPa U, JJA, Analysis



950hPa U, JJA, Analysis 950hPa U, JJA, Analysis - Forecast

Less zonal symmetry in the NH low latitudes, but still a tendency for the increments to oppose the climatological flow.



950hPa U, JJA, Analysis 950hPa U, JJA, Analysis - Forecast

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950hPa U, JJA, Analysis 950hPa U, JJA, Analysis - Forecast

Less zonal symmetry in the NH low latitudes, but still a tendency for the increments to oppose the climatological flow.

Increments oppose the SH zonally symmetric low latitude easterlies.



Lat-Lon structure of the analysis increments

Is there something special about the NH low latitudes in winter?

No, the increments act to oppose the low level flow in general.

(1) An incorrect formulation of the surface drag. Should have a stronger surface drag for a given low level flow.

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This would mean that the surface drag output from the reanalysis is incorrect. It should be more easterly in the NH low latitudes.

The surface drag in the CMIP models would be more correct, but they're getting it for the wrong reasons. They're getting it with a low level flow that's too strong.

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We're just compensating for this missing process with the analysis increments.

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Then the near surface winds and the surface wind stress from the reanalysis would be correct.

We're just compensating for this missing process with the analysis increments.

In that case, both the near surface winds and the surface drag in the CMIP models would be incorrect.

All (?) global estimates of surface stress rely on assumptions about the drag coefficient.

 $\tau = \rho C_D \vec{v}_{10} |\vec{v}_{10}|$
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$$\tau = \rho C_D \vec{v}_{10} | \vec{v}_{10}$$

How confident are we in the drag coefficient?



All (?) global estimates of surface stress rely on assumptions about the drag coefficient.

$$\tau = \rho C_D \vec{v}_{10} | \vec{v}_{10}$$

How confident are we in the drag coefficient?

Or do we need to explain the missing low level tendencies with some other physics?



Thanks!





Extra Slides



Seasonal evolution of low latitude wind stress differences

ERA-Interim vs multi-model mean



MERRA vs multi-model mean



CMIP5 momentum budget as a function of season



MERRA Budget



(Analysis - Forecast) vs Forecast Ocean points north of 30S, 950hPa





JJA



Negative correlation \rightarrow assimilation of observations acts to reduce the climatological low level winds.

950hPa U, DJF, Analysis 950hPa U, DJF, Analysis - Forecast



950hPa V, DJF, Analysis

950hPa V, DJF, Analysis - Forecast





950hPa U, JJA, Analysis

950hPa U, JJA, Analysis - Forecast





950hPa V, JJA, Analysis



950hPa V, JJA, Analysis - Forecast



Ocean Currents



Figure 2. Mean current speeds (colors, in cm s⁻¹) from near-surface drifter data with streamlines (black lines). Streamlines are calculated from spatially smoothed currents to indicate flow direction and qualitatively illustrate large-scale circulation features, including surface divergence. Light gray areas have less than 10 drifter days per bin (0.8 per square degree). In addition, only bins with mean current speeds statistically different from zero at one standard error of the mean are shaded. Inset (top left) shows histogram of mean current speed (cm s⁻¹, horizontal axis, from 0 to 100 at 3.125 cm s⁻¹ intervals) versus number of bins (in kilobins, vertical axis, from 0 to 25,000 bins).

Lumpkin and Johnson (2013)



Jungclaus et al (2006)

All of these wind stress estimates rely on some formulation of the drag coefficient

$$\tau = \rho C_D \vec{v}_{10} | \vec{v}_{10} |$$



FIG. B1. The wind speed dependence of drag coefficients for neutrally stabile conditions: the 1994 modified Large and Pond formulation described in the appendix of Large et al. (1994) (thick solid line); the 1990 modified Large and Pond formulation described by Trenberth et al. (1990) (dotted line); the Smith (1980) formulation (dashed line); and the COARE 3.0 formulation presented by Fairall et al. (2003) (thin solid line).

Risien and Chelton (2008)



















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JFMAMJ



BUDGET, ERA

SONDJFMAMJ

JFMAM

J





10N



Seasonality of v Analysis - Forecast differences



Contributors to the budget in the CMIP5 models



Contributors to the budget in the CMIP5 models





900hPa zonal mean zonal wind





Forecast Evolution compared to Analysis Evolution = (Forecast - Analysis)





Forecast Evolution compared to Analysis Evolution = (Forecast - Analysis)



Forecast Evolution compared to Analysis Evolution = (Forecast - Analysis)

