The fundamental role of the surface wave in the ocean and climate systems

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Outline

1. Background
2. Surface wave in ocean models
3. Surface wave in climate models
4. Summary
1. Background
Motivation

Common problems faced by OGCM:

(1) OGCMs: Simulated SST is overheating in summertime, and mixed layer depth is too shallow while the thermocline is too weak (Martin 1985, Kantha 1994, Ezer 2000, Mellor 2003).

Observed (left) and simulated (right) MLD in Feb
Motivation

Common problems faced by climate models:

(2) Climate Models: Tropical bias for all CGCMs, such as too cold tongue, wrong Atlantic SST gradient and MLD

Observed ocean MLD (solid back) and 45 CMIP5 models MMM (dashed black)
Scientific clue: Lack of vertical mixing in the upper ocean

Ocean mixing is a problem of energy.
Surface wave: 60TW, while circulation is about 4TW.
Some related work: Breaking

1. Phillips, O. M., 1961: “Although the use of potential theory has been very successful in describing certain aspects of the dynamics of gravity waves, it is known that in a real fluid the motion can not be truly irrotational”. And Phillips (1974): Wave is proved to be too feeble for any dynamic consequence


While these studies (wave-breaking) have shown some improvements in simulation, the surface wave effects are mostly limited to the top few meters, and too weak
Some related work: Non-breaking

5. In 2004, we proposed wave-induced vertical mixing, $B_v$, as the function of wave number spectrum.

6. In 2005 and 2006 (GRL), Alex Babanin: There is accumulating evidence that in absence of wave breaking, and even wind stress, turbulence still persists through the water column and not only the boundary layers.

7. The non-breaking wave-induced mixing was measured in Lab (Babanin et al, 2009, JPO; Dai et al, 2010, JPO; Savalyev et al, 2012, JGR) and in the ocean (Huang et al, 2010, 2012).
Separate the velocity field into averaged and fluctuation components

\[ u_{zi} = U_i + u_i, \quad T_z = T + \theta, \quad S_z = S + s \]

Separate the fluctuation velocity into wave-related and current-related parts:

\[ u_i = u_{i \text{w}} + u_{i \text{c}} \]

Reynolds stress

\[ -u_i u_j = -u_{i \text{w}} u_{j \text{w}} - u_{i \text{w}} u_{j \text{c}} - u_{i \text{c}} u_{j \text{w}} - u_{i \text{c}} u_{j \text{c}} \]

Wave-induced stress

Wave Effects

Reynolds stress
\[ -u_i \theta = -u_{iw} \theta = -u_{ic} \theta \]

\[ -u_i S = -u_{iw} S = -u_{ic} S \]

Wave-induced Circulation-related
E(K) is the wave number spectrum which can be calculated from a wave numerical model. It will change with (x, y, t), so Bv is the function of (x, y, z, t). Qiao et al, GRL, 2004; OD, 2010

If we regard surface wave as a monochromatic wave,

\[ B_v = \alpha A^3 k \omega e^{(-3kz)} = \alpha A u_s e^{(-3kz)}, \]

Stokes Drift (Qiao AOS, 2008)

Bv is wave motion related vertical mixing instead of wave breaking.
Laboratory experiments:

Wave tank: 5m in length with height of 0.4m and width of 0.2m. To generate temperature gradient through bottom cooling of refrigeration tubes, and temperature sensors are self-recorded with sampling frequency of 1Hz.

(1) Temperature evolution in natural condition

(2) Temperature evolution with wave

Dai et al, JPO, 2010
Experiment results without and with waves

\[ \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( k_z \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) \]

\[ k_z = k_0 + Bv \]

Evolution of water temperature without waves.
(a) Observation; (b) simulation.
Simulation results with waves

Evolution of water temperature with waves. Left: observation; right: simulation; (a,b) 1.0cm, 30cm; (c,d) 1.0cm, 52cm;
Observation evidences in deep water of SCS

Vertical profiles of the measured dissipation rates $\varepsilon_m$ (dots), and those predicted by wave $\varepsilon_{wave}$ (black lines) and the law of the wall $\varepsilon_{wall}$ (pink lines) at Station S1~S12 (in m$^2$ s$^{-3}$). Observation is conducted in SCS during October 29 to November 10, 2010. Huang and Qiao et al, 2012, JGR
2. Surface wave in ocean models
The simulation deviation for Papa Station in 2007
We apply Bv into:

Bohai Sea
Yellow Sea
East China Sea
And
South China Sea

3-D coastal circulation model (Special Issue on JGR, 2006 at http://www.agu.org/journals/ss/CHINASEAS1/)
Observation in summer
Lin et al, 2006 JGR
3-D coastal models
POM
POM+Bv
3-D global ocean circulation models

Pacific                  Atlantic

Along 35N transect in Aug.

World Ocean Atlas

Along 35S transect in Feb.
Along 35N transect in Aug.

Vertical Temperature Distributions

Pacific                  Atlantic                 Indian         Pacific   Atlantic

Along 35S transect in Feb.

With wave-induce mixing

Without wave-induce mixing

World Ocean Atlas
How about to close the shear-induced mixing?

\[
\frac{D}{Dt} \left( \frac{q^2}{2} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[ K_q \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{q^2}{2} \right) \right] = P_S + P_b - \varepsilon,
\]

(Mellor and Yamada, 1982)

Numerical experiments for closing the shear-related vertical mixing
POM covering 72°S -65°N is selected;
Zonal resolution 1°, while meridional resolution is 1/3° between 10°S-
10°N, and gradually increases to 1° by 20°N and 20°S;
32 sigma levels;
The background mixing of $1 \times 10^{-4}$ m$^2$ s$^{-1}$ ($K_{m0}$) for viscosity and
$1 \times 10^{-5}$ m$^2$ s$^{-1}$ ($K_{h0}$) for diffusivity.

Experiment A: MY(Ps) + MY(Pb) + Bv + BG
Experiment B: MY(Ps) + MY(Pb) + BG
Experiment C: MY(Pb) + Bv + BG
Temperature deviations from the climatology averaged in August along the dateline

- Too cold subsurface temperature in Exp B
- Temperature difference in Exp C is very similar as that in Exp A

Temperature deviations from the climatology averaged in August along 30°N
FIO wave-circulation coupled model with resolution of 0.1 degree
3. Surface wave in climate models

In tropical area, Bv has no much improvements for the ocean circulation model compared with mid- and high latitudes. For full coupled climate model, it is a different story because of the feedback and nonlinearity.

(1) FGCM0, LASG
(2) CCSM3, NCAR
(3) FIO-ESM
Summertime oceanic mixed layers are biased shallow in both the GFDL and NCAR climate models (Bates et al. 2012; Dunne et al. 2012, 2013). This scheme (Qiao et al., 2004) has most impact in our simulations on deepening the summertime mixed layers, yet it has minimal impact on wintertime mixed layers.
Time evolutions of global mean SSTs simulated in Exp. N (blue line for without Bv) and Exp. W (pink line for with Bv), and that from the WOA01 climatology (black line). Huang et al, AOS, 2008
Water vapor transport in Australian-Asian Monsoon area

Song and Qiao et al, 2012, JAS
Tropical bias – too cold tongue (CCSM3)

CCSM3+Waves

CCSM3: 251–300a

WOA

The isotherm of 27°C
50a averaged SST (251-300a).

Up: Exp1-Levitus, Down: Exp2-Exp1

Exp1: CCSM3 without Bv

Exp2: with Bv

Song et al, JGR, 2012
FIO-ESM for CMIP5 (Qiao et al, JGR, 2013)
Descriptions of the FIO-ESM

Physical models
● ATM: CAM3.0, T42L26
● LND: CLM3, T42
● OCN: POP2, 1.1°*0.3~0.5°, 40 vertical layers
● ICE: CICE4, 1.1°*0.3~0.5°
● WAV: MASNUM wave model, 2°*2°
● Wave-circulation coupling: based on the wave-inducing mixing
SST evolution in historical climate simulations during 1850-2005. 45 Models are compared with HadSST.
Arctic sea ice evolution in historical climate simulations during 1979-2005. 45 Models are compared with satellite data.
Centurial Future Projections

RCP85
RCP60
RCP45
RCP26
Historical run

3.9°C
Time series of Arctic sea ice extent from RCP run.  
Unit: m²
Conclusions

- The non-breaking surface wave-induced vertical mixing (Bv) plays a key role in improving OGCMs. Even excluding shear-induced mixing, ocean circulation model can work quite well, which suggests that Bv plays much more important role than that of shear-induced mixing.

- Bv can much improve the climate model. Our validations give us some confidence that surface waves, although so small scale, should be important for climate system.
Thanks for your attention