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Bernard Barnier, Thierry Penduff, Mélanie Juza

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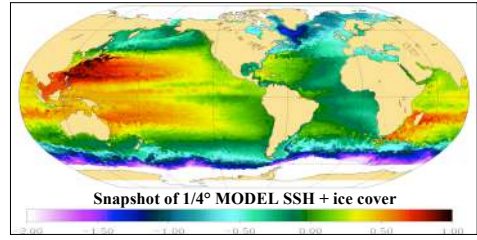


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# COMPARING SEA-SURFACE TOPOGRAPHY MODES OF VARIABILITY FROM ALTIMETRY AND GLOBAL MODELS

## DRAKKAR

The international DRAKKAR program is building a hierarchy of ocean/sea-ice/passive tracer models to simulate and study the dynamical processes involved in the oceanic variability and scale interactions. This ensemble includes 1/2° and 1/4° configurations of the Global Ocean, 1/4° and (soon) 1/12° models of the Atlantic Ocean (30°S-80°N), all forced over the period 1950's-present by various reanalysed and observed atmospheric fields through bulk formulae. Reanalyses since 1950 will be conducted at Mercator with the 1/4° global model.



## GLOBAL MODEL SETUPS

- NEMO code (OPA9 ocean + LIM sea-ice)
- Partial steps+BBL, TKE mixed layer (waves+Langmuir cells)
- Advection: enstr/energy conserv. (momentum). FCT (tracers)
- Isopycnal laplacian tracer mixing.

## 1958-2004 FORCING (Brodeau, Barnier et al)

- CORE bulk formulae. Dai & Trenberth monthly runoff.
- 6-hourly ERA40 (T,q,wind) + CORE LW/SW radiative fluxes
- No SST restoring. But SSS restoring ( $\tau=36$  days on 1<sup>st</sup> level)

**2° MODEL**  
Laplacian momentum Mixing, GM90

**1/4° MODEL**  
Biharmonic momentum Mixing + CFC/14C tracers

SAME FORCING FOR THE 2° AND THE 1/4° SIMULATIONS

## ABSTRACT

The quasi-global sea-level anomaly AVISO altimetric database (weekly SLA, 1993-present) is compared with its **collocated counterparts** simulated by the models in various wavenumber-frequency bands. This assessment concerns the structure&intensity of the leading modes of variability at global and basin scale, the part of the observed SLA variance simulated by the model (and their mutual correlation), and local investigations of the simulated and observed variabilities in selected regions. **We discuss realism of the variability simulated by the 2° and the 1/4° global models with the same forcing**, and the sensitivity to resolution is commented. More generally, this validation procedure is applied to all DRAKKAR simulations to guide physical investigations, characterize the structure of model biases, and assess the impact of numerical and physical choices.

*See the Poster by Penduff, Juza, Barnier concerning validation against hydrography*

