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Assessing the internal consistency of the CARINA data base in the Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean

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Abstract. The CARINA project is aimed at gathering and providing secondary quality control checks on carbon and carbon-relevant hydrographic and geochemical data from cruises all across the Atlantic, Arctic and Southern Ocean. In total the project gathered 188 cruises that were not previously available to the public. Of these 188 cruises, 37 are part of the Southern Ocean. Parameters from the Southern Ocean cruises, including total carbon dioxide (TCO_2), total alkalinity, oxygen, nitrate, phosphate and silicate, were examined for cruise-to-cruise consistency. pH and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are also part of the data base, but are not discussed here. This paper focuses on the quality control of the Southern Ocean data from the Pacific sector which consisted of 29 cruises of which 17 were included in a previous synthesis called GLODAP, 11 were new cruises from the CARINA dataset, and one cruise was included in GLODAP but was updated with new data and therefore also included in CARINA. The Pacific sector quality control procedures included crossover analysis between stations and inversion analysis of all crossover data. The GLODAP data were included into the analysis as reference cruises but without applying the GLODAP recommended adjustments so the corrections could be independently verified. The outcome of this effort is an internally consistent, high-quality carbon data set for all cruises, including the reference cruises.

Data coverage and parameter measured

Repository-Reference:
doi:10.3334/CDIAC/otg.CARINA.SO.V1.0
Available at:
http://cdiac.ornl.gov/ftp/oceans/CARINA/CARINA_Database/CARINA.SO.V1.0/

CARINA project main page:
http://cdiac.ornl.gov/oceans/CARINA/Carina_inv.html
Coverage: 30° S–75° S; 135° E–70° W
Location Name: Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean
Date/Time Start: November 1994
Date/Time End: March 2006

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(chris.sabine@noaa.gov)

Published by Copernicus Publications.

Data Product Parameter	Data Product Flag Name	Exchange File Parameter Name	Exchange File Flag Name	Units
station		STANBR		
day		DATE		
month		DATE		
year		DATE		
latitude		LATITUDE		decimal degrees
longitude		LONGITUDE		decimal degrees
cruiseno				
depth				meters
temperature		CTDTMP		°C
salinity	sf	SALNTY	SALNTY_FLAG_W	
pressure		CTDPRS		decibars
oxygen	of	OXYGEN	OXYGEN_FLAG_W	micomole kg^{-1}
nitrate	no3f	NITRAT	NITRAT_FLAG_W	micomole kg^{-1}
silicate	sif	SILCAT	SILCAT_FLAG_W	micomole kg^{-1}
phosphate	po4f	PHSPHT	PHSPHT_FLAG_W	micomole kg^{-1}
tco2	tco2f	TCARBN	TCARBN_FLAG_W	micomole kg^{-1}
alk	alkf	ALKALI	ALKALI_FLAG_W	micomole kg^{-1}

Table of parameters relevant for this review. For a list of all properties in the CARINA data base see Key et al. (2010).

1 Introduction

The development of a CARINA data base dedicated to carbon-relevant cruise data from the Atlantic Ocean was initiated in 1999 as an informal, unfunded project. It resulted in the assembly of a large collection of useful, previously unavailable data. In 2006, at a meeting in Laugarvatn, Iceland this effort was strongly intensified under the aegis of the EU CARBOOCEAN project and the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project (IOCCP). It was decided that the CARINA data synthesis effort should be extended to include the Arctic and Southern Ocean because of the exceptionally poor coverage in these areas in previous synthesis efforts and the recent availability of new data sets (Key et al., 2010). Because of the strong zonal structure of the Southern Ocean, it was considered most efficient to include the entire circumpolar ocean in the new synthesis effort.

During a meeting at Iceland a Southern Ocean Carbon Synthesis (SOCS) group was formed, which divided up the synthesis work. This group met three times in Kiel, Germany (March 2007); Delmenhorst, Germany (December 2007); and Paris, France (June 2008) to tune the methodology and evaluate the results. Close contact with the Atlantic and Arctic working groups was maintained throughout the process to ensure that consistent data processing and evaluation was maintained among the groups.

The need for consistent data in a large data base is growing as scientists try to address large-scale issues, not only for observational assessments, but also as a validation for large-scale modeling efforts. Moreover, the usefulness of accurate older data for time series is recognized as critical for documenting basin-scale and larger temporal changes. A major previous ocean carbon synthesis effort was called GLODAP: Global Data Analysis Project (Key et al., 2004; Sabine et al., 2005), which primarily evaluated data from the large international WOCE and JGOFS projects in the 1990s. Coincidently, a very large data base of hydrographic, nutrient and oxygen measurements collected during WOCE cruises combined with pre-WOCE historical data was constructed and quality controlled by Gouretski and Jancke (2001) and Johnson et al. (2001), so that the proposed adjustments could also be applied in GLODAP. The result was the release of a coherent dataset of carbon and related parameters which has been widely used (Key et al., 2004) and from which major results originated, e.g., the oceanic sink of anthropogenic CO_2 (Sabine et al., 2004a).

The CARINA project made use of the experience gained through GLODAP by studying the GLODAP reports and publications as well as involving key people involved in that project. The original data that went into the GLODAP analyses were also included in the CARINA analysis. This provided an independent validation of the proposed GLODAP corrections and extended the data coverage in order to obtain enough crossover points for all the new cruises to be evaluated. In contrast to the Atlantic and Arctic groups, it was considered more efficient to divide the work into three specific Southern Ocean regions (the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific), rather than by parameters. This paper presents the quality control analysis performed with CARINA and GLODAP data from the Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean.

2 The Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean

The Southern Pacific Ocean dataset refers to data collected during cruises conducted even partially in the South Pacific Ocean (south of 30° S) between 135° E and 70° W (Fig. 1). The boundaries are shared with the Atlantic and Indian quality control analyses(Hoppema et al., 2009; Lo Monaco et al., 2010). The cruises on the boundaries were evaluated by both regional groups seperately, then compared to determine

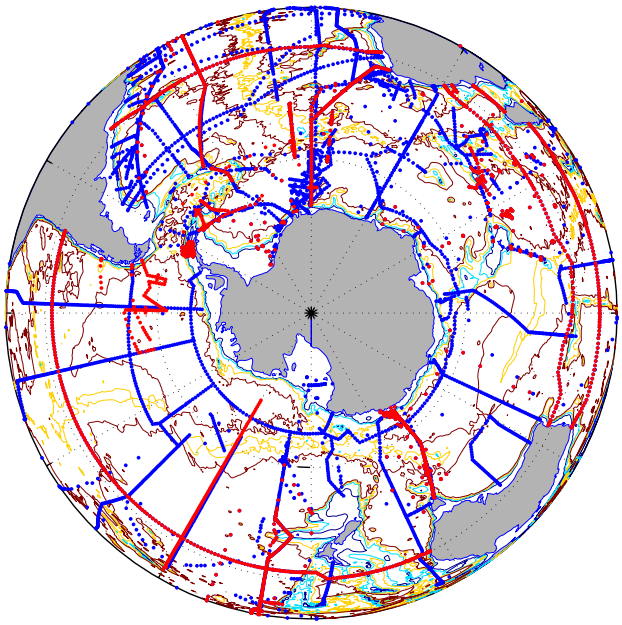

Figure 1. Map of the Southern Ocean with CARINA station positions in red and GLODAP reference cruise stations in blue.

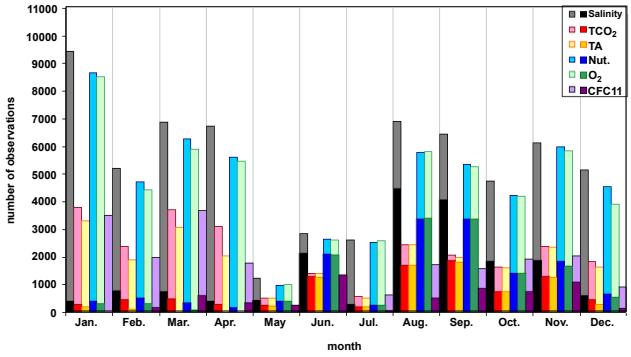

Figure 2. Distribution of Pacific sector Southern Ocean data by month for the primary measured parameters. Darker colors are for the GLODAP reference cruises. Lighter colors are for the CARINA cruises.

the most appropriate assessment. This approach also helped confirm the consistency of the evaluations by the different regional groups.

This dataset consists of 29 cruises of which 17 were included in the previous GLODAP synthesis (Key et al., 2004) and 11 were new cruises from the CARINA dataset and one cruise 09AR19960822 was included in GLODAP but was updated with new data and therefore also included in CARINA (Table 1). The CLIVAR and Carbon Hydrographic Data Office (CCHDO) provides an online interactive map of Southern Ocean cruises with the common cruise designations that is useful for identifying particular cruise tracks (http://cchdo.ucsd.edu/southern.html). The most frequently studied area in the region is along the SR3 line south of Tasmania along approximately 140° E. The second most frequently studied area is the P15S line east of New Zealand. Both of these lines are regularly occupied by Australian scientists but other countries have also run cruises in these areas. The only zonal lines that stretch all the way across the Pacific are the P06 section along 32° S at the northern boundary of the Southern Ocean study and S4P along 66° S. P06 was occupied in 1992, then again in 2003. S4P was only occupied once in 1992. Another zonal line that covered the eastern South Pacific along ~53° S was conducted as part of the P17 World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE) cruises in 1992–1993. The lack of zonal cruises relative to other ocean regions means that there are very few crossovers for evaluating the consistency of the Southern Ocean database in the Pacific.

The oldest data are the GEOchemical SECtionS (GEOSECS) cruises run in 1973–1974. Only a few of the stations fell into the Southern Ocean. Most of the GLODAP cruises are from the early 1990s with a couple of cruises in the 1996–1998 timeframe (Table 1). The CARINA cruises extend the time frame up through 2006, but also include a few cruises from the 1990s that were not available at the time of the GLODAP synthesis. The data are distributed throughout the year with the fewest samples from May through July (Fig. 2). The cruises during the Austral winter are very important for assessing the seasonal bias of the Southern Ocean dataset.

3 Computational analysis approach

Not all reported parameters from each cruise were evaluated. This work focuses on the evaluations of salinity, total carbon dioxide (TCO_2), total alkalinity (TA), nitrate, phosphate, silicate, and oxygen. A common quality control procedure was developed for all CARINA regions. It can be divided into three successive steps, starting with crossover analyses which consist in comparing deep measurements collected at nearby stations during two different cruises in order to detect any significant offset. The cruise-to-cruise differences (offsets) are then evaluated all together, parameter by parameter, in order to identify the cruises that could require an adjustment. Finally, the suggested adjustments are applied and crossover analyses of deep measurements are performed again in order to check the internal consistency of the dataset after correction. The quality control of the Southern Pacific Ocean dataset has been performed following these three steps, as for the other CARINA regions. Details about the common methodology can be found elsewhere (Tanhua et al., 2010). In this section only a brief description of the methods is given for the purpose of highlighting any divergence from the common procedure.

Table 1. Description of cruises included in Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean analysis.

expocode	Carina #	# stations	Date	Ship	Chief Scientist	Carbon PI
09AR19960822	33	71	8/22–9/21/1996	A. Australis	S. Rintoul	B. Tilbrook
09AR20011029	34	134	10/29–12/11/2001	A. Australis	S. Rintoul	B. Tilbrook, C. Sabine
09FA20010524	35	129	5/24/–7/72001	Franklin	S. Wijffels	B. Tilbrook, C. Sabine
316N20060130	70	101	1/30–3/14/2006	Knorr	B. Sloyan, L. Talley	
32MB19900222	80	64	2/24–4/12/1990	Baldridge	D. Wisegarver	M. Roberts, P. Murphy, R. Feely
33RR20050106	88	111	1/6–2/19/2005	R. Revelle	B. Sloyan, J. Swift	C. Sabine, A. Dickson
35MF20030123	104	10	1/23–2/17/2003	M.-Dufresne	N. Metzl	C. Lo Monaco
49HH19941213	110	11	12/13/1994–1/28/1995	Hakuho-Maru	K. Kawaguchi, M. Terazaki	M. Ishii
49HH20011208	111	18	12/8/2001–1/10/2002	Hakuho-Maru	M. Terazaki	M. Ishii
49NZ20030803	112	237	8/3–9/52003 9/9–10/16/2003	Mirai	M. Fukasawa, S. Watanabe	A. Murata
61TG20020206	149	8	2/6–3/7/2002	Tangaroa	T. Odate	M. Ishii
61TG20030217	150	11	2/17–3/12/2003	Tangaroa	T. Odate	M. Ishii
320619960830		4	8/30–9/24/1996	N. B. Palmer	R. Anderson	T. Takahashi
320619970113		28	11/13/1997–1/17/1998	N. B. Palmer	J. Marra	T. Takahashi
320619970404		17	4/4–5/12/1997	N. B. Palmer	H. Ducklow	F. Millero
09AR19910925		26	9/25–10/27/1991	A. Australis	S. Rintoul	
09AR19930404		62	4/4–5/9/1993	A. Australis	S. Rintoul	B. Tilbrook
09AR19941213		106	12/13/1994–2/2/1995	A. Australis	S. Rintoul	B. Tilbrook
09FA19930624		74	6/24–7/17/1993	Franklin	J. Church, S. Rintoul	
09FA19941112		68	11/12–12/5/1994	Franklin	M. Tomczak	
316N19920901		52	9/1–9/15/1992	Knorr	D. Roemmich	J. Downing
316N19921006		127	10/6–11/25/1992	Knorr	J. Reid	T. Takahashi
316N19921204		106	12/4/1992–1/22/1993	Knorr	J. Swift	T. Takahashi
31DS19940126		193	1/26–4/27/1994	Discoverer	J. Bullister, R. Feely, G. Johnson, B. Taft	R. Feely, F. Millero
31DS19960105		182	1/5–3/10/1996	Discoverer	J. Bullister, R. Feely	R. Feely, F. Millero, R. Wanninkhof
31WT19910716		97	7/16–8/25/1991	T. Washington	J. Swift	C. Goyet, T. Takahashi
33RR19971202		19	12/2/1997–1/3/1998	R. Revelle	R. Barber	F. Millero
90KD19920214		113	2/14–4/6/1992	A. Ioffe	M. Koshlyakov	T. Takahashi
GEOSECS_PACIFIC		147	8/25/1973–6/9/1974	Melville	H. Craig, W. Broecker, T. Takahashi, D. Spencer, R. Weiss, P. Biscaye, J. Edmond, P. Brewer	A. Bainbridge, A. Mantyla, R. Williams, T. Takahashi, R. Weiss

3.1 Crossover analyses of uncorrected data

The crossover analyses are objective comparisons of deep water data (>1500m) collected in the same area during two different cruises. The station distribution was such that the definition of the crossover area was variable and defined subjectively on a case by case basis: the area considered by default is a circle of 222 km radius around a sampling station, which can be decreased in frontal regions or increased in homogeneous deep waters. In some cases, when the crossover area covers different hydrological regions (e.g. repeated cruise lines), the data were separated into one or more clusters and analyzed as separate crossovers. The mean offset between two cruises is estimated by comparing the mean profiles generated for each cruise by averaging deep measurements found in a crossover area (or cluster) along isopycnal surfaces, as described by Tanhua et al. (2010). Crossover plots and statistics were first generated manually in order to allow the operator to change the settings when appropriate. Then, similar analyses were performed using an automated (objective) method (Running cluster, see Tanhua et al., 2010), but because it requires at least three stations per cruise to produce statistics not all crossovers could be evaluated this way. It should be noted also that most crossovers were evaluated using the manual routine, but not all because of the addition of more cruise data after the initial manual checks. Nevertheless it should be appreciated that the results of the manual and automatic routines are generally in good agreement (see Fig. 2 in Tanhua et al., 2010). All the manually and automatically generated crossover plots are available on the interactive CARINA website (http://cdiac.ornl.gov/oceans/CARINA/Carina_inv.html, Tanhua et al., 2010).

The 29 cruises that cover the South Pacific Ocean had a total of 57 crossovers. Crossovers could be used to evaluate all CARINA cruises for at least one parameter, but there were two GLODAP cruises (320619970113, 09FA19941112) that did not have sufficient crossovers to evaluate data quality. For those crossovers that included only one or two stations for one or the two cruises, the plots and statistics were generated manually in a slightly different way as the common method in the sense that the statistics produced are not comparable: for crossovers having at least three stations per cruise the error associated with the mean offset reflects the standard deviation around each cruise's mean profile, whereas in the other case the error is given by the standard deviation of the mean difference between the two profiles.

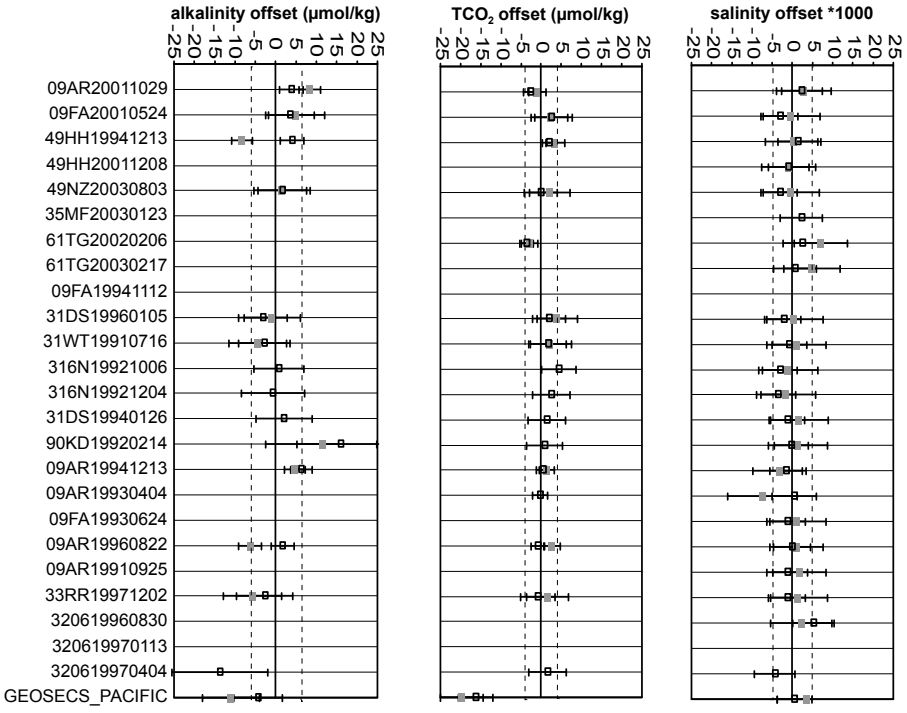

Figure 3. Results of initial inversion (grey boxes) of crossover results and for the final inversion after cruise adjustments were made (black squares) for those parameters with additive corrections. Error bars indicate one standard deviation of the inverted offset. The dashed lines indicate the minimum offsets required for an adjustment to be proposed (0.005 for salinity, 4 μmol kg^{-1} for TCO_2, 6 μmol kg^{-1} for alkalinity).

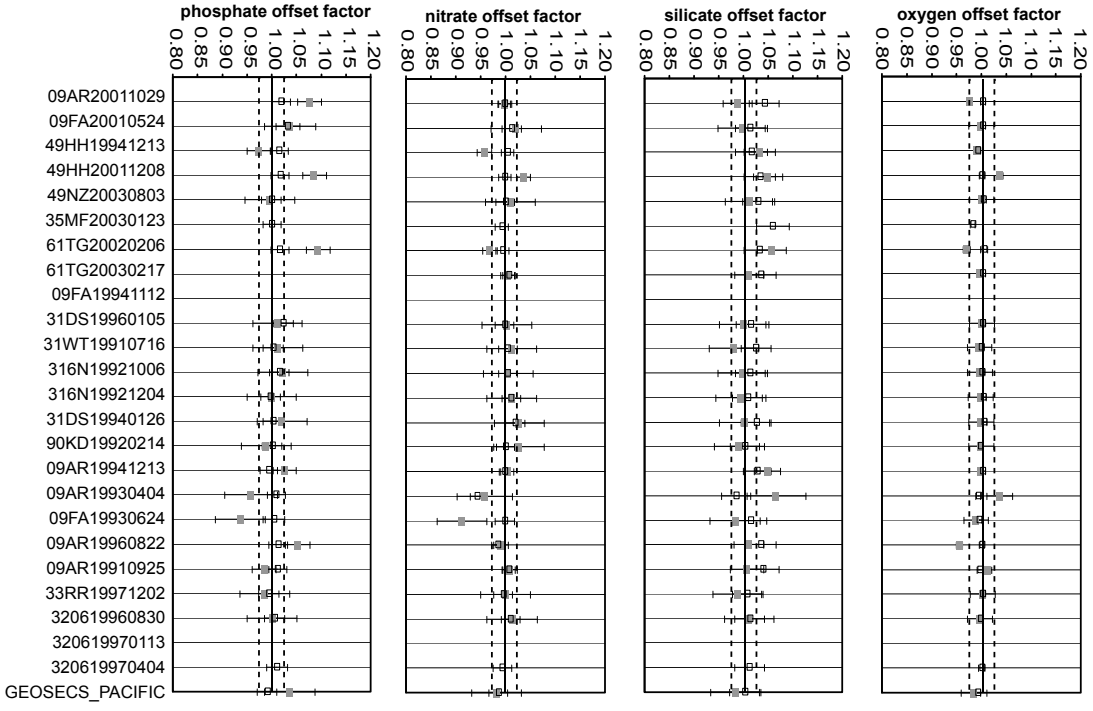

Figure 4. Results of initial inversion (grey boxes) of crossover results and for the final inversion after cruise adjustments were made (black squares) for those parameters with multiplicative corrections. Error bars indicate one standard deviation of the inverted offset. The dashed lines indicate the minimum offsets required for an adjustment to be proposed (2% for nutrients and 1% for oxygen).

Table 2. Proposed adjustments for cruises included in Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean analysis. A "−999" indicates that the parameter was not reported and a "−888" means that the parameter was measured but not evaluated.

expocode	Carina #	cruise line	Salinity [+]	TCO2 [+]	Alkalinity [+]	Nitrate [x]	Phosphate [x]	Silicate [x]	Oxygen [x]
09AR19960822	33	SR3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.96
09AR20011029	34	SR3	0	0	0	1	1.03	0.98	0.98
09FA20010524	35	P15S	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
316N20060130	70		−888	−999	−999	1	1	−888	−888
32MB19900222	80	P15S	0	6	−999	−888	−888	−888	−888
33RR20050106	88	P16	−888	−888	−888	1	1	−888	−888
35MF20030123	104	SR3	−0.011	0	0	1	1.1	1.14	1
49HH19941213	110	SR3	0	0	−16.1	0.96	0.93	1.03	1
49HH20011208	111	P15 SR3	0	−888	−999	1.04	1.04	1.03	1.04
49NZ20030803	112	P06	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
61TG20020206	149	SR3	0	0	−999	0.98	1.05	1.05	0.97
61TG20030217	150	SR3	0.005	−999	−999	1	−999	1	1
320619960830		NBP96_4	0	−888	−999	1	1	1	1
320619970113		NBP97_1	−888	−888	−999	−888	−888	−888	−888
320619970404		NBP97_3	0	0	−999	1	1	1	1
09AR19910925		SR3	0	−999	−999	1	0.93	1	1.02
09AR19930404		P11A	−0.01	0	−999	1	0.98	1.07	1.03
09AR19941213		S3 S4	0	0	0	1	1	1.03	1
09FA19930624		P11S	0	−999	−999	0.92	0.95	0.98	0.99
09FA19941112		S05	−888	−999	−999	−888	−888	−888	−888
316N19920901		P14C	0	−888	−888	1	1	0.98	0.99
316N19921006		P16A 17A	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
316N19921204		P17E 19S	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
31DS19940126		P18	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
31DS19960105		P14S 15S	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
31WT19910716		P16S 17S	0	0	0	1	1	0.97	1
33RR19971202		KIWI-7	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
90KD19920214		S4P	0	0	−888	1.02	1	1	1
GEOSECS_PACIFIC		Geosecs	0	−23	−12	1	1.03	1	1

3.2 Identification of cruises to be adjusted

A crossover results in an offset for the cruise of interest (cruise A) relative to another cruise (cruise B), i.e. offset = cruise A/cruise B. Thus if the offset is less than unity, the values from cruise A are lower than those from cruise B. Similarly, if the average of all crossovers for cruise A is less than unity, the values from cruise A are lower than the values from other cruises in the area. The information deduced from crossover analyses can be synthesized by the mean of an inverse method in order to determine the adjustments required for improving coherence of the dataset (Johnson et al., 2001). Results from the automatically generated crossovers were used to perform a global Southern Ocean inversion, i.e. including the Atlantic and Indian sectors (Hoppema et al., 2009; Lo Monaco et al., 2010), as described in Tanhua et al. (2010). The inversion process results in a suggestion for a correction to cruise A. If cruise A is lower than other cruises in the area, the correction will most likely be larger than unity, i.e. the data from cruise A will have to be corrected upwards for consistency with other cruises. When we discuss adjustment, we refer to the correction that was actually applied to the data.

Johnson et al. (2001) presented three types of inversions: Simple Least Squares (SLSQ), Weighted Least Squares (WLSQ), and Weighted Dampened Least Squares (WDLSQ). The first method being considered as too simple for the CARINA dataset, only the two other methods were used. The adjustments proposed by these two inversions were evaluated by comparison with the information deduced from manually generated crossovers (results not shown). This showed a better agreement with results from the WDLSQ inversion for which a priori assumptions on the quality of the data are made, compared to the slightly less complex WLSQ method that uses the standard deviation associated with each crossover to weight the inversion. Consequently, only the results from the WDLSQ inversion were considered for further analyses. Figures 3 and 4 show the results of the WDLSQ inversion for the Pacific sector cruises based on the crossovers of the initial cruise data and from an inversion of the data after adjustments were made. Note that the offsets for salinity, TCO_2 and alkalinity are additive (i.e. add the proposed inversion result to the originally reported value). The other parameters are multiplicative offsets (i.e. multiply the proposed inversion value by the originally reported value). The advantage of using an inversion

to identify the cruises that could require an adjustment is that the whole Southern Ocean dataset was treated at once. A major problem is that because the inversion is performed from automatically generated crossovers it does not include crossovers with less than three stations per cruise.

Corrections to be applied to the CARINA dataset were determined by comparing deductions from the manual crossovers with the results of the WDLSQ inversion when possible. Parameters were evaluated cruise by cruise, and only adjustments above a defined threshold were considered for correction (0.005 for salinity, 4 μmol kg^{-1} for TCO_2, 6 μmol kg^{-1} for alkalinity, 2% for nutrients and 1% for oxygen). In a few cases when the crossover fits appeared to be of poor quality or when there was contradictory evidence for an adjustment, a decision was made not to adjust the data (−888 in Table 2).

3.3 Crossover analyses after data adjustment

The last step consists in evaluating the improvement in data coherence after the suggested adjustments had been applied. This was done by performing new crossover analyses of deep data after adjustment using the automatic running cluster routine. The results are compared to those obtained before data adjustment again using the inversion method as above (see Figs. 3 and 4). In some few cases there was a need for modifying the adjustment, so they were only considered final after this last check.

4 Results and recommendations

Table 2 summarizes the adjustments recommended for the CARINA and GLODAP cruises. Figures 5 and 6 show the same information graphically. Note that since the offsets reported above for salinity, TCO_2 and alkalinity were additive, the corrections for these parameters are also additive (i.e. add the proposed correction to the originally reported value). The other parameters are multiplicative adjustments (i.e. multiply the proposed correction by the originally reported value). Below, we discuss the adjustments for each of the parameters examined.

4.1 Salinity

Salinity was measured on all the cruises assembled in the CARINA-GLODAP merged dataset. Salinity was generally determined on discrete samples collected from Niskin type bottles and measured using a salinometer. These samples routinely have a high accuracy due to widely accepted use of international standards (IAPSO seawater). On samples where discrete salinity values were not reported, the salinity was taken from the electronic Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) device. Since these instruments are calibrated against the discrete samples, they are also very reliable.

Three cruises were not evaluated (316N20060130, 320619970113, 09FA19941112) due to lack of crossovers or other complications. Good agreement (<±0.005) from the crossover analyses was obtained for all but three the cruises. CARINA cruise 61TG20030217 south of Tasmania had an offset of −0.005 based on 10 crossovers and 35MF20030123 had an offset of 0.011 based on 9 crossovers. One GLODAP cruise, 09AR19930404, had 9 crossovers indicating a correction of −0.01 which was applied to the data. This is similar to the correction of −0.0065 determined during the GLODAP analysis. Figure 3 shows that after correction, all but one cruise were within the 0.005 crossover envelope.

4.2 TCO_2

TCO_2 was measured on all but 5 of the cruises (Table 2). For cruises conducted before the use of Certified Reference material (CRM, introduced by A. G. Dickson, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, in 1991), such as GEOSECS, a significant offset is sometimes observed. We propose a correction of −23 μmol kg^{-1} for the GEOSECS Pacific TCO_2 data. This is slightly smaller than previously proposed adjustments to the GEOSECS Pacific data (Takahashi et al., 1982; Sabine et al., 2004b, Takahashi, personal communication) but this work only considers relatively few stations in the southern portion of the Pacific. Only one CARINA cruise had an adjustment (32MB19900222=6 μmol kg^{-1}). Four cruises were not evaluated (49HH20011208, 320619960830, 320619970113, 316N19920901) due to lack of crossovers or other complications. Figure 3 shows that after adjustment, all cruises were within the crossover envelope of 4 μmol kg^{-1}.

4.3 Total alkalinity

Alkalinity was measured on 17 of the 29 cruises. Two of the 17 cruises (316N19920901, 90KD19920214) could not be evaluated because of lack of crossovers. CRMs were used for alkalinity measurements during most of WOCE and post-WOCE cruises, but because most of the TA data was collected prior to their use, offsets between cruises are expected. Thirteen cruises had no recommended adjustments, but an adjustment was applied to one CARINA cruise (49HH19941213=−16.1 μmol kg^{-1}). No GLODAP cruises had proposed corrections in agreement with the GLODAP analysis. The crossover analyses indicated that the Pacific GEOSECS alkalinity data needed a correction of −12 μmol kg^{-1}. Figure 3 shows that after adjustment, a couple of cruises remained outside the crossover envelope of 6 μmol kg^{-1}, but manual examination of the crossover results indicated that the corrections proposed by the inversion for these cruises could not be justified.

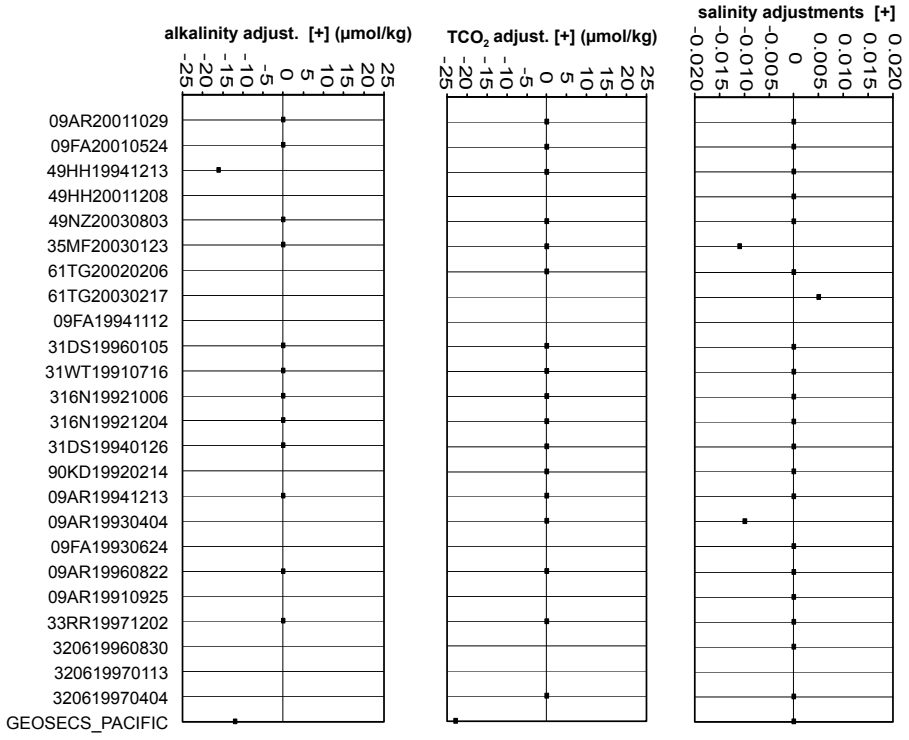

Figure 5. Additive adjustments made to alkalinity, TCO_2 and salinity data.

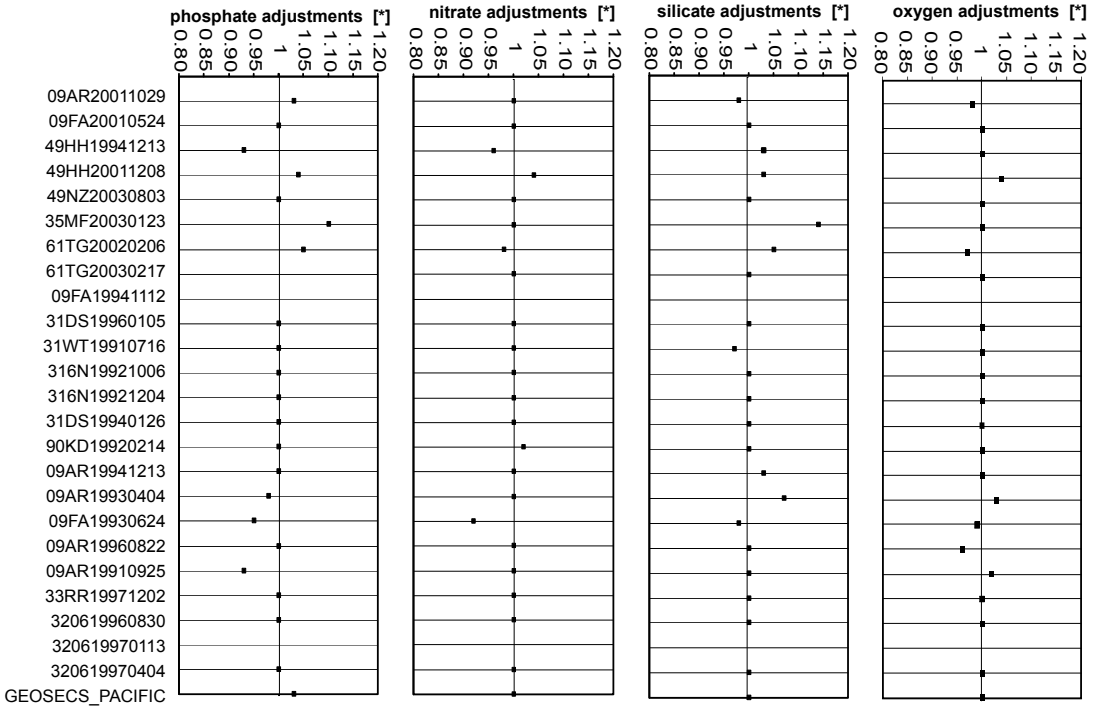

Figure 6. Multiplicative adjustments made to nutrient and oxygen data.

4.4 Nutrients

Nitrate, phosphate, and silicate were measured on all cruises. No international standard existed for nutrients measurements at the time of these cruises, therefore offsets were detected in several crossovers. Four of the cruises could not be evaluated due to lack of crossovers (316N20060130, 320619970113, 09FA19941112, 32MB19900222). Nitrate corrections were suggested for 5 cruises: 49HH19941213=0.96, 49HH20011208=1.04, 61TG20020206=0.98, 90KD19920214=1.02, 09FA19930624=0.92. Phosphate corrections ranging from 0.93 to 1.1 were suggested for nine of the cruises (see Table 2 for details). Silicate corrections ranging from 0.97 to 1.14 were suggested for ten cruises. The suggested corrections for the GLODAP cruises were in reasonable agreement with the GLODAP correction factors as determined by Gouretski and Jancke (2001), but the GLODAP data were not adjusted here. The corrections recommended for the CARINA cruises were applied to the final CARINA dataset. Figure 4 show that after adjustment, almost all the cruises are within the acceptable 2% crossover envelope.

4.5 Oxygen

Oxygen was measured on all cruises. International standards exist for oxygen measurements, but they are not commonly used. Therefore, offsets were detected in several crossovers. Four of the cruises could not be evaluated due to lack of crossovers (316N20060130, 320619970113, 09FA19941112, 32MB19900222). Corrections ranging from 0.96 to 1.04 were suggested for nine of the cruises. See Table 2 for details. The proposed corrections for the GLODAP cruises were in reasonable agreement with the GLODAP correction factors. Figure 4 shows that after adjustment, almost all the cruises are within the acceptable 1% crossover envelope.

5 Concluding remarks

The inversion results performed before and after adjustment show that the adjusted data set is much more internally consistent than the original cruise results. This improvement can be quantified by considering the weighted mean (WM) of the inversion results. The WM was calculated for each parameter using the absolute value of the offset (D) of L crossovers with the uncertainty (σ):

$$\mathrm{WM}=\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{L} D(i)/(\sigma(i))^2}{\sum_{i=1}^{L} 1/(\sigma(i))^2} \quad (1)$$

Based on this analysis the internal consistency of the TCO_2 data improved from an uncertainty of 7.4 μmol kg^{-1} for the uncorrected data to about 2.3 μmol kg^{-1} after the corrections were applied. The alkalinity data improved from an uncertainty of 12.9 to about 5.1 μmol kg^{-1} after correction. The final salinity, nutrient and oxygen data have an estimated consistency of: 0.002 for salinity, 0.8% for oxygen, 1.1% for nitrate, 1.3% for phosphate and 1.2% for silicate. Since The core cruises are believed to have accurate measurements and the majority of cruises did not indicate a meaningful difference relative to the core cruises, we take these internal consistency estimates t o also represent estimated accuracies for the data.

The CARINA database consist of essentially two parts: The first part is the individual cruise files where all the data that was measured, and their flags, are stored. These files are in WHP exchange format where the first lines consist of the condensed metadata. There are no calculated nor any interpolated values in the individual cruise files, and no adjustments have been applied to the values. In many cases there are more reported parameters in the individual cruise files than have been included in the secondary quality control analysis presented here (e.g. ^{14}C, ^{13}C, SF_6). The second part of the CARINA database is the merged data. There are three merged data files, one of which is the Southern Ocean data. This file includes: Interpolated values for nutrient, oxygen, salinity, TCO_2 and alkalinity if those data are missing and if interpolation can be made according to criteria described in Key et al. (2010); Calculated carbon parameters (i.e. if TCO_2 and alkalinity was measured, pH and pCO_2 is calculated). Calculated and interpolated values have the quality flag "0". All the values in the merged data file have been adjusted according to the values in Table 2.

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