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Energy transfers between multidecadal and turbulent variability

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ABSTRACT

One of the proposed mechanisms to explain the multidecadal variability ob-8 served in sea surface temperature of the North Atlantic consists of a large-9 scale low-frequency internal mode spontaneously developing because of the 10 large-scale baroclinic instability of the time-mean circulation. Even though 11 this mode has been extensively studied in terms of the buoyancy variance bud-12 get, its energetic properties remain poorly known. Here we perform the full 13 mechanical energy budget including available potential energy (APE) and ki-14 netic energy (KE) of this internal mode and decompose the budget into three 15 frequency bands: mean, low frequency (LF) associated with the large-scale 16 mode and high frequency (HF) associated with mesocale eddy turbulence. 17 This decomposition allows us to diagnose the energy fluxes between the dif-18 ferent reservoirs and to understand the sources and sinks. Due to the large-19 scale of the mode, most of its energy is contained in the APE. In our configu-20 ration, the only source of LF APE is the transfer from mean APE to LF APE 21 that is attributed to the large-scale baroclinic instability. In return the sinks 22 of LF APE are the parameterized diffusion, the flux toward HF APE and to a 23 much lesser extent toward LF KE. The presence of an additional wind-stress 24 component weakens multidecadal oscillations and modifies the energy fluxes 25 between the different energy reservoirs. The KE transfer appears to only have 26 a minor influence on the multidecadal mode compared to the other energy 27 sources involving APE, in all experiments. These results highlight the utility 28 of the full APE/ KE budget. 29

30 1. Introduction

The multidecadal large-scale variability of the Sea Surface Temperature (SST) is characterised 31 in the North Atlantic by an anomaly intensified in the subpolar region and by a weaker anomaly 32 of opposite sign south of the equator (Kushnir 1994; Deser et al. 2010; Zhang et al. 2019). This 33 large scale SST variability has been named Atlantic Multidecadal Variability (AMV, Kushnir 1994; 34 Schlesinger and Ramankutty 1994; Kerr 2000; Sutton et al. 2018). Cool AMV phases occurred 35 in the 1900s-1920s, 1960s-1990s and warm phases occurred in the 1930s-1960s and after 1995. 36 These cool and warm phases have been shown to be associated with several regional climate 37 impacts such as the Sahel Indian summer monsoon rainfall, Atlantic hurricanes frequency, summer 38 climate over western Europe and north America (Zhang et al. 2019), wave climate in the Atlantic 39 and Pacific Ocean (Reguero et al. 2019). Observations moreover show that more heat is released 40 from the North Atlantic ocean to the atmosphere during a positive phase of the AMV (Gulev 41 et al. 2013). Thus understanding what controls the dynamics of this variability and its potential 42 predictability have essential societal and economics implications (Sutton et al. 2018). 43

Several mechanisms have been proposed to explain the origin of the AMV and remain actively 44 debated (see for instance the recent discussion in Clement et al. 2015; Zhang et al. 2016; Clement 45 et al. 2016). Some studies suggest a direct role of the atmosphere either via stochastic heat flux 46 (Hasselmann 1976; Frankignoul and Hasselmann 1977; Clement et al. 2015) or via aerosol emis-47 sions (Booth et al. 2012), while other studies (e.g. Sévellec and Fedorov 2013; Arzel et al. 2018) 48 suggest a role for oceanic processes linked with the internal variability of the Atlantic Merid-49 ional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). In this work we focus on improving our knowledge of the 50 physics of internal ocean modes which are one of the possible explanations for the AMV. At low 51 resolution, internal interdecadal variability arises in rectangular flat bottomed single hemispheric 52

basin forced by prescribed surface heat fluxes (Greatbatch and Zhang 1995; Huck et al. 1999). This 53 internal variability is due to a large-scale baroclinic instability that gives rise to SST anomalies and 54 to geostrophically-induced Meridional Overturning Circulation variability (Colin de Verdière and 55 Huck 1999; Te Raa and Dijkstra 2002). This mode of variability and its mechanism were also 56 demonstrated to exist in global realistic configuration of an Ocean General Circulation Model 57 (OGCM) (Sévellec and Fedorov 2013), in idealized coupled models (Buckley et al. 2012; Jamet 58 et al. 2016), in climate models (Muir and Fedorov 2017) and in observations (Frankcombe et al. 59 2008). It is also shown to produce maximum SST variance in the region where the AMV signature 60 is observed (Arzel et al. 2018). 61

The mode can be damped in some models (such as in the study of Sévellec and Fedorov (2013)) 62 and self-sustained in others (Huck et al. (2015) for instance). The damped or self-sustained na-63 ture of the mode depends on different parameters such as the topography (Winton 1997), the 64 wind shape and strength, or the vertical and horizontal diffusion (Huck et al. 2001; Arzel et al. 65 2018). In the case of a damped mode, atmospheric stochastic forcing is needed to excite the 66 mode. Frankcombe et al. (2009) showed that the introduction of a North Atlantic Oscillation type 67 stochastic forcing leads to an amplitude of sea surface temperature variability comparable to obser-68 vations. Arzel et al. (2018) studied the bifurcation structure of the mode in a realistic configuration 69 forced by prescribed surface fluxes and showed that the mode becomes damped for eddy induced 70 diffusivities larger than $600 \,\mathrm{m \, s^{-1}}$. 71

In addition to available potential energy fluxes associated with the large-scale instability mechanism, ocean mesoscales eddies have been shown to be at the origin of a spatio-temporal inverse cascade of kinetic energy (Arbic et al. 2014; Martin et al. 2020). This latter mechanism has been proposed to be central to the existence of interannual-to-decadal fluctuations of sea level anomalies and surface kinetic energy in global-scale eddying simulations (Penduff et al. 2011; Arbic

et al. 2014; Sérazin et al. 2015, 2018; Martin et al. 2020) and to influence the AMOC variability 77 (Grégorio et al. 2015; Leroux et al. 2018; Jamet et al. 2019). However, realistic and global-78 scale eddy resolving simulations of multidecadal variability are still beyond reach because of the 79 long-time integration required to bring the circulation in near equilibrium with the weak interior 80 diffusive vertical fluxes. Therefore most of the studies devoted to this problem are based on simple 81 box-model geometries (e.g., Spall 2008; Huck et al. 2015; Hochet et al. 2020). How the oceanic 82 mesoscale turbulence influences the multidecadal mode that spontaneously develops under pre-83 scribed surface fluxes has been explored by Huck et al. (2015). These authors show that, in the 84 presence of mesoscale turbulence, the primary mechanism driving multidecadal-scale temperature 85 fluctuations remains the large-scale baroclinic instability mechanism. The presence of a surface 86 restoring boundary condition in Spall (2008) prevents the internal ocean mode from developing so 87 that the wind-driven gyre circulation and subsequent mesoscale instabilities play a major role. The 88 coexistence of the mode described above and mesoscale eddies was shown by Huck et al. (2015) 89 using idealized simulations at eddy-resolving resolution. In such eddying configurations and us-90 ing a frequency-domain approach, Hochet et al. (2020) have highlighted a non-linear transfer of 91 temperature variance from low to high frequencies: mesoscale eddies are a sink of temperature 92 variance for the low frequency mode. Hence low-frequencies do not arise as the result of the 93 mesoscale eddy field, as in Spall (2008) for instance, but instead draw their energy source from 94 the large-scale stratification. Sévellec et al. (2020) have also shown a similar behavior using moor-95 ing data in the Southern Ocean, but on shorter timescale. However the use of temperature variance 96 instead of an energetic framework, as in Arbic et al. (2014) or Sérazin et al. (2015, 2018) makes 97 the comparison with results from these studies difficult. Temperature variance is up to a factor 98 equal to the local definition of available potential energy (APE) ε_{APE} in a Quasi-Geostrophic (QG) 99

100 framework:

$$\varepsilon_{APE} \approx \frac{1}{2} \frac{g^2 \rho'^2}{\rho_0 N^2} \tag{1}$$

with N the Brunt-Väisälä frequency, g the acceleration of gravity parameter, ρ' the density 101 anomaly and ρ_0 the reference density. However, the internal mode described in the literature 102 cited above occurs in regions where isopycnals outcropping prevents the use of (1). Thus diagnos-103 tics and budget of temperature variance do not permit identifying the sources and sinks of energy. 104 In this article we seek to obtain the full energy budget (i.e., including both kinetic energy (KE) 105 and available potential energy) for the low frequency mode described for instance in Hochet et al. 106 (2020) and to quantify the energy transfers associated with the time mean flow and mesoscale eddy 107 field. In particular we want to compare the intensity and direction of the conversion between Low 108 Frequency (LF) and High Frequency (HF) KE and between LF and HF APE. Because the only 109 source of KE in the buoyancy forced experiment of Hochet et al. (2020) is the APE/KE conversion 110 terms, we also investigate the effect of a wind stress forcing to add a direct source of KE. 111

The main difficulty in obtaining the energy budget in different frequency bands lies in the APE 112 decomposition. Indeed, contrary to the kinetic energy, the time decomposition of the full APE 113 formula is not straightforward. Scotti and White (2014) circumvented this problem by computing 114 the fluctuating APE as the difference between the APE for the total circulation (i.e., time mean and 115 fluctuations) and the APE for the time mean circulation. This idea has been applied by Zemskova 116 et al. (2015) to an eddy permitting ocean state estimate (from the "Estimating the Circulation and 117 Climate of the Ocean", Phase II) to decompose the APE and KE budget into time mean and fluc-118 tuating components. More recently, the same method has been used by Zemskova et al. (2021) 119 to study the influence of several wind intensities over the Southern Ocean on the time mean and 120 fluctuating components of the APE and KE budget. They found that the APE budget is not signif-121 icantly affected by the surface wind stress and mainly controlled by the surface buoyancy forcing. 122

However we will show that applying this method to our configuration leads to a spurious imprint of the time-independent surface heat flux forcing on the LF and HF APE reservoirs, whereas we would instead expect the energy flux associated with the steady forcing to be entirely imparted to the background stratification. We will thus develop an alternative method that will be used to decompose the APE into mean, low frequency, and high frequency parts.

The article is organised as follows: in section 2, we decompose the mean, low- and highfrequencies and derive the budget for APE and KE. In section 3, we give a description of the model configuration used in this study. In section 4, we describe the variability in three numerical simulations with idealized North Atlantic configuration and under prescribed surface heat flux forcing with different wind forcing intensities. In Section 5, we apply the energy budgets described in section 2 on the simulation outputs. In section 6, we conclude and discuss the main findings.

¹³⁴ **2.** Theory

In this section we derive the APE and KE budgets for the mean, LF and HF circulations. We use a linear equation of state for the density ρ that is only a function of temperature: $\rho = \rho_0(1 - \alpha\theta)$ where θ is the temperature, $\alpha = 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ K}^{-1}$ the uniform thermal expansion coefficient and $\rho_0 = 1027.5 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ the reference density (consistently with the ocean model used, see section 3 for the full model description). The equation for ρ is then:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \rho = \mathbf{D} + \mathbf{F},\tag{2}$$

where $\mathbf{v} = (u, v, w)$ is the 3d velocity with u, v, w the zonal, meridional, and vertical velocities. D and F represent the dissipation and surface forcing of density, respectively, the latter being constant with time and zero below the surface (i.e. no penetrative radiation). The time independent forcing is used here to keep the problem simple, we therefore do not account for slow variation of the forcing linked for instance with climate change. Note that the generalization of the theory presented below to a time dependent F and to penetrative radiation is straightforward.

To obtain a separate budget for the low and high frequency parts of the APE and KE we decompose each field M into mean, low and high frequency parts:

$$M = \overline{M} + M^{\rm LF} + M^{\rm HF},\tag{3}$$

where M^{LF} and M^{HF} are the low and high frequency parts of M, respectively, and \overline{M} the time mean. The time mean is computed using the following formula:

$$\overline{M} = \frac{1}{T} \int_{T} M \,\mathrm{d}t \tag{4}$$

where *T* is the time length over which the integral is computed so that: M^{LF} and M^{HF} satisfy $\overline{M^{\text{HF}}} = \overline{M^{\text{LF}}} = \overline{M^{\text{LF}}M^{\text{HF}}} = 0$. To decompose into HF and LF we use a low pass Butterworth filter (cut-off frequency given in the following section). The low-pass filter is represented by $\widetilde{.}$ so that M^{HF} satisfies $\widetilde{M^{\text{HF}}} = 0$ and $\widetilde{M} = \overline{M} + M^{\text{LF}}$.

Using this decomposition in frequency bands on Eq. (2) gives the following evolution equations for the mean, LF and HF of ρ :

$$\frac{\partial \overline{\rho}}{\partial t} = -\overline{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \nabla \overline{\rho} - \overline{\mathbf{v}^{LF}} \cdot \nabla \rho^{LF} - \overline{\mathbf{v}^{HF}} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF} + \overline{D} + F$$
(5)

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$$\frac{\partial \rho^{LF}}{\partial t} = -\overline{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \nabla \rho^{LF} - \mathbf{v}^{LF} \cdot \nabla \left(\overline{\rho} + \rho^{LF}\right) + \overline{\mathbf{v}^{HF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF}} - \mathbf{v}^{HF} \cdot \overline{\nabla \rho^{HF}} + \overline{\mathbf{v}^{LF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{LF}} + D^{LF}$$
(6)

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$$\frac{\partial \rho^{HF}}{\partial t} = -\overline{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF} - \mathbf{v}^{LF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF} - \mathbf{v}^{HF} \cdot \nabla \left(\overline{\rho} + \rho^{LF} + \rho^{HF}\right) + \widetilde{\mathbf{v}^{HF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF}} + D^{HF}$$
(7)

APE is obtained as the difference between Potential Energy (PE) and Background Potential Energy (BPE). We derive expressions for PE, BPE, and APE in sections a, b and c below.

160 a. Potential Energy

Multiplying Eq. (5) by zg gives an equation for the mean PE :

$$\frac{\partial gz\overline{\rho}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \left(g\overline{\mathbf{v}}z\overline{\rho}\right) + g\overline{w}\overline{\rho} + g\overline{w}^{HF}\rho^{HF} + g\overline{w}^{LF}\rho^{LF} - \nabla \cdot \left(gz(\overline{\mathbf{v}^{HF}\rho^{HF}} + \overline{\mathbf{v}^{LF}\rho^{LF}})\right) + gz\overline{D} + gz\overline{P},$$
(8)

Integrating Eq. (8) on the volume V of the basin and time averaging results in the following equation:

$$\frac{dPE^{MEAN}}{dt} = \underbrace{\int_{V} g\overline{w}\overline{\rho}dV}_{-C(PE^{MEAN},KE^{MEAN})} + \underbrace{\int_{V} g\overline{w^{LF}\rho^{LF}}dV}_{-C(PE^{MEAN},PE^{LF})} + \underbrace{\int_{V} g\overline{w^{HF}\rho^{HF}}dV}_{-C(PE^{MEAN},PE^{HF})} + \underbrace{\int_{V} gz\overline{D}dV}_{D_{PE}}, \quad (9)$$

Note that the volume integral of the forcing term multiplied by z disappears because z = 0 at 164 the surface and \overline{F} is zero below the surface. We note C(A,B) the conversion term from A to B 165 with C(A,B) = -C(B,A), if C(A,B) > 0 then C(A,B) acts to increase B i. $C(PE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN})$, 166 $C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{LF})$ and $C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{HF})$ are respectively the conversion of mean PE to mean 167 KE, of mean PE to LF PE and of mean PE to HF PE. DPE is interpreted as the rate of con-168 version of internal energy to potential energy (e.g. Hughes et al. 2009). There is no potential 169 energy in anomalies because $\overline{gz\rho^{LF}} = \overline{gz\rho^{HF}} = 0$, therefore $PE^{LF} = PE^{HF} = 0$. However, fol-170 lowing Zemskova et al. (2015), we attribute the two terms $\int_{V} g \overline{w^{HF} \rho^{HF}} dV$ and $\int_{V} g \overline{w^{LF} \rho^{LF}} dV$ to 171 $C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{HF})$ and $C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{LF})$ so that the formal budgets for PE^{LF} and PE^{HF} are: 172

$$\frac{dPE^{LF}}{dt} = -C(PE^{LF}, KE^{LF}) + C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{LF})$$
(10)

173 and:

$$\frac{dPE^{HF}}{dt} = -C(PE^{HF}, KE^{HF}) + C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{HF})$$
(11)

From which we deduce that: $C(PE^{HF}, KE^{HF}) = C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{HF})$ and $C(PE^{LF}, KE^{LF}) = C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{LF})$.

176 b. Background Potential Energy

To obtain an equation for the BPE, we first define the reference level $z_r(\rho, t)$ which is a function of time and density and corresponds to the depth that ρ would have in the Lorenz state of minimum potential energy (Lorenz 1955), a state where isopycnal surfaces would be horizontal. Following Saenz et al. (2015), a simple relationship between ρ and its reference level z_r can be derived using the result that an adiabatic rearrangement of the fluid parcels conserves the volume:

$$\int_{V(\boldsymbol{\rho},t)} \mathrm{d}V = \int_{z_r}^0 A(z_r) \mathrm{d}z_r,\tag{12}$$

where $V(\rho,t)$ is the volume of water parcels with density ρ' lower than ρ at time t, A(z) is the 182 area of the ocean at depth z. With a non-linear equation of state for density that depends on 183 temperature, salinity and pressure, the procedure to obtain z_r is quite complex and described for 184 instance in Saenz et al. (2015). However, in this work we use two assumptions that greatly simplify 185 the calculation of z_r . The first is the assumption of a linear equation of state depending only 186 on temperature. This implies that z_r is a function of density ρ (which is itself a function of 187 temperature: $\rho = \rho_0(1 - \alpha \theta)$ and time *t*: $z_r = Z_r(\rho, t)$. The second assumption is the flat bottom 188 basin with vertical boundaries so that the basin area is independent of depth, i.e. A(z) = A. Using 189 Eq. (12), z_r is then simply: 190

$$z_r(\boldsymbol{\rho},t) = -\frac{V(\boldsymbol{\rho},t)}{A},\tag{13}$$

¹⁹¹ Note that with a depth dependent ocean area, the reference depth can easily be obtained by solving ¹⁹² Eq. (12). A schematic illustrating how the reference depth $z_r(\rho, t)$ is obtained using volume $V(\rho)$ ¹⁹³ is shown in Figure 1. This reference depth can be used to rewrite the density ρ as a function of ¹⁹⁴ z_r such that: $\rho(X,t) = \rho_r(Z_r(X,t),t)$, with $Z_r(X,t) = z_r(\rho(X,t),t)$. On this schematic and in this ¹⁹⁵ article, we call "physical space" the usual space described by X = (x, y, z) and t, and the "reference ¹⁹⁶ space" the space described by the reference depth z_r and t.

Figure 2 shows the reference depth z_r as a function of time for different values of temperature 197 from a simulation that will be presented in a following section. The time variation of the function 198 $z_r(\rho,t)$ cannot be neglected here because it varies by more than 500 m for the largest densities due 199 to the presence of the large-scale, low-frequency, mode. In Zemskova et al. (2015) z_r variations 200 with time are small because their study is not focused on the same timescale as ours: their time 201 mean is computed over 20 years and their temporal variability is made of inter-annual, seasonal 202 and shorter timescales while our focus is on decadal to multi-decadal timescales. Note that the 203 larger variations of reference depth at larger densities can be attributed to the stronger (weaker) 204 ρ_r gradient at shallower (deeper) reference depth. Time variation of the reference depths due to 205 seasonal variation and to the presence of eddies was also reported in Zemskova et al. (2015). 206 The background potential energy is defined as follows:

$$BPE = \int_{V} gZ_r(X,t)\rho(X,t) \mathrm{d}V = \int_{-H}^{0} Agz'_r \rho_r(z'_r,t) dz'_r, \tag{14}$$

where H is the basin depth (so that AH = V) and where the last equality is obtained from equation 208 (12) and describes the calculation of the BPE in the reference space. We now want to obtain 209 separate budgets for the mean, LF, and HF BPE. In Zemskova et al. (2015) the BPE budget is 210 computed by first calculating the BPE of the mean flow that they define as: 211

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$$BPE_Z^{\text{MEAN}} = \int_V g\overline{\rho} z_r(\overline{\rho}) dV, \qquad (15)$$

where z_r is the reference depth associated with $\overline{\rho}$. The BPE of anomalies is then defined as the 212 difference between the total BPE and the mean BPE: 213

$$BPE_Z^{\text{anomalies}} = \int_V \left(g \overline{\rho z_r(\rho, t)} - g \overline{\rho} z_r(\overline{\rho}) \right) dV, \tag{16}$$

Using this method in our simulation leads to part of the time independent heat flux forcing being attributed to $BPE_{Z}^{anomalies}$. Indeed, in this framework, the BPE forcing by heat fluxes is:

$$\int_{V} g\overline{F}\left(\overline{z_r(\rho,t)} - z_r(\overline{\rho})\right) \mathrm{d}V,\tag{17}$$

where \overline{F} is the time-independent net heat flux at the surface. Because of the non-linearity of the z_r function (and its time dependence) we have that:

$$\frac{z_r(\rho_1) + z_r(\rho_2)}{2} \neq z_r(\frac{\rho_1 + \rho_2}{2}),$$
(18)

for two different densities $\rho_1 \neq \rho_2$. Thus the term in Eq. (17) is non-zero and the time independent forcing acts on the anomalies. However an analysis in terms of density variance shows that the time independent heat flux only acts on time mean density (Hochet et al. 2020). Density anomalies are found to be forced only by the term $\overline{\rho' \mathbf{u}'} \cdot \nabla \overline{\rho}$ which is usually interpreted as the signature of a large-scale baroclinic instability (see Colin de Verdière and Huck 1999). The fact that the term in Eq. (17) is non-zero is thus at odds with this interpretation.

To circumvent this problem we develop below an alternative method to separate the BPE in frequency bands. The readers not interested in the details of the BPE decomposition may skip this section and refer to figure 3 which gives an intuitive view of the transfer between the different reservoirs.

As in the previous section, ρ is first decomposed into three frequency bands: mean, lowfrequency, and high frequency so that:

$$\rho = \overline{\rho} + \rho^{LF} + \rho^{HF}, \tag{19}$$

²³⁰ $\rho(X,t) = \rho_r(z_r,t)$ can trivially be written as:

$$\rho(z_r,t) = -\frac{1}{A} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_r} \int_{V(z_r)} \rho(X,t) \mathrm{d}V, \qquad (20)$$

where $V(z_r)$ is the volume of water with $z'_r > z_r$. This formula simply states that the average of ρ on z_r surfaces is ρ by definition of $z_r(\rho, t)$. Using Eq. (19) in Eq. (20) gives:

$$\rho = -\underbrace{\frac{1}{A} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_r} \int_{V(z_r)} \overline{\rho} dV}_{\rho_r^{MEAN}(z_r,t)} \underbrace{-\frac{1}{A} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_r} \int_{V(z_r)} \rho^{LF} dV}_{\rho_r^{LF}(z_r,t)} \underbrace{-\frac{1}{A} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_r} \int_{V(z_r)} \rho^{HF} dV}_{\rho_r^{HF}(z_r,t)}$$
(21)

where ρ_r^{MEAN} , ρ_r^{LF} , and ρ_r^{HF} are the average of ρ^{MEAN} , ρ^{LF} and ρ^{HF} , respectively, on z_r surfaces. This ensures that ρ_r^{MEAN} , ρ_r^{LF} and ρ_r^{HF} are functions of z_r (and time) and this property will be useful to obtain an evolution equation for the BPE as will become clear below. The BPE is then decomposed as follows:

$$BPE = \int_{V} \overline{\rho g z_r(\rho, t)} dV = \underbrace{\int_{V} \overline{\rho_r^{MEAN}(z_r, t) g z_r(\rho, t)} dV}_{BPE^{MEAN}} + \underbrace{\int_{V} \overline{\rho_r^{LF}(z_r, t) g z_r(\rho, t)} dV}_{BPE^{LF}} + \underbrace{\int_{V} \overline{\rho_r^{HF}(z_r, t) g z_r(\rho, t)} dV}_{BPE^{HF}}, \quad (22)$$

where BPE^{MEAN} , BPE^{LF} , and BPE^{HF} are respectively the BPE associated with the mean, LF and HF densities. The time evolution of the BPE is then the sum of the time evolution of the MEAN, LF, and HF BPE:

$$\frac{dBPE}{dt} = \frac{dBPE^{\text{MEAN}}}{dt} + \frac{dBPE^{\text{LF}}}{dt} + \frac{dBPE^{\text{HF}}}{dt},$$
(23)

²⁴⁰ The evolution equation for the mean, LF or HF, BPE is:

$$\frac{dBPE^*}{dt} = \int_V g \frac{\partial \rho_r^*}{\partial t} z_r dV + \underbrace{\int_V g \rho_r^* \frac{\partial z_r}{\partial t} dV}_{=0}, \qquad (24)$$

where * represents either MEAN, LF, or HF. The second term of the r.h.s. is zero as shown in Winters et al. (1995) and later in Tailleux (2009) because ρ_r^* is constant on z_r surfaces by construction (see Eq. (21)). The three evolution equations for the mean, LF, and HF density (i.e., Eqs. (5), (6) and (7)) are averaged on z_r surfaces using the following formula:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_r^*}{\partial t}(z_r, t) = \frac{1}{A} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_r} \left(\int_{V(z_r)} \frac{\partial \rho^*}{\partial t} dV \right), \tag{25}$$

where * represents the mean, LF, or HF density. Using Eq (25) with Eqs (5), (6), and (7), and inserting in formula (24) leads to the following relations for the three BPE budgets:

$$\frac{dBPE^{MEAN}}{dt} = -C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{LF}) - C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{HF}) + F_{BPE^{MEAN}} + D_{BPE^{MEAN}}, \quad (26)$$

$$dBPE^{LF} = C(BPE^{LF}, BBE^{LF}) + C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{LF}) + D \quad (27)$$

$$\frac{BPE^{LF}}{dt} = -C(BPE^{LF}, BPE^{HF}) + C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{LF}) + D_{BPE^{LF}},$$
(27)

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$$\frac{dBPE^{HF}}{dt} = C(BPE^{LF}, BPE^{HF}) + C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{HF}) + D_{BPE^{HF}},$$
(28)

²⁵⁰ where the conversion terms are:

$$C(BPE^{LF}, BPE^{HF}) = g \int_{V} \overline{z_r(\rho, t) \left(\mathbf{v}^{HF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF} - \overline{\mathbf{v}^{HF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF}} \right)} - \overline{z_r(\rho, t) \mathbf{v}^{LF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF}} dV, \quad (29)$$

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$$C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{LF}) = g \int_{V} \overline{z_r(\rho, t)} \overline{\mathbf{v}^{LF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{LF}} - \overline{z_r(\rho, t)} \overline{\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \rho^{LF}} dV,$$
(30)

$$C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{HF}) = g \int_{V} \overline{z_r(\rho, t)} \overline{\mathbf{v}^{HF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF}} - \overline{z_r(\rho, t)} \overline{\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \rho^{HF}} \, \mathrm{d}V, \tag{31}$$

²⁵³ Note that we have used the following relation to obtain the conversion terms formulas:

$$\int_{V} \overline{z_{r}(\rho, t)} \overline{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \nabla (\overline{\rho} + \rho^{LF} + \rho^{HF}) dV = \int_{V} \overline{z_{r}(\rho, t)} \mathbf{v}^{HF} \cdot \nabla (\overline{\rho} + \rho^{LF} + \rho^{HF}) dV = \int_{V} \overline{z_{r}(\rho, t)} \mathbf{v}^{LF} \cdot \nabla (\overline{\rho} + \rho^{LF} + \rho^{HF}) dV = 0.$$
(32)

²⁵⁴ The dissipation of BPE (Hughes et al. 2009; Zemskova et al. 2015) for each frequency band * is:

$$D_{BPE^*} = \int_V g \overline{z_r(\rho, t)} D^* \mathrm{d}V, \qquad (33)$$

²⁵⁵ and the forcing of the mean BPE is:

$$F_{BPE^{MEAN}} = \int_{V} g \overline{z_r(\rho, t)} \overline{F} dV$$
(34)

The advantage of this approach compared to that of Zemskova et al. (2015) is that the time independent heat flux forcing is entirely contained in BPE^{MEAN} and that we have explicit equations for the densities associated with BPE^{LF} and BPE^{HF} .

In the three MITgcm configurations described in the following section 3, the diffusive processes increase the mean BPE ($D_{BPE^*} > 0$) and the surface heat flux forcing acts to decrease it ($F_{BPE^{MEAN}} < 0$). Because the APE varies in opposition to the BPE the above mentioned forcing and dissipation have respectively an increasing and decreasing impact on the APE. The sign of the forcing and dissipation of BPE is consistent with results from previous studies using BPE (Hughes et al. 2009; Zemskova et al. 2015).

c. Available potential energy

The mean APE budget is obtained as the difference between the mean PE (Eq. (9)) and the mean BPE (Eq. (26)) budgets:

$$\frac{dAPE^{MEAN}}{dt} = \frac{dPE^{MEAN}}{dt} - \frac{dBPE^{MEAN}}{dt} = \underbrace{-C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})}_{=-C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{LF}) + C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{LF}) = -C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{HF}) + C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{HF})}_{=-C(PE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN})} + \underbrace{D_{APE^{MEAN}}}_{=D_{PE^{MEAN}}} + \underbrace{F_{APE^{MEAN}}}_{=-F_{BPE^{MEAN}}}$$
(35)

The conversion, dissipation and forcing terms of PE and BPE are derived in the two previous sections. Because $APE^{MEAN} = PE^{MEAN} - BPE^{MEAN}$, the evolution terms of BPE^{MEAN} appear in the APE^{MEAN} budget with a minus sign. $D_{APE^{MEAN}}$ can then either be seen as the dissipation of mean APE or as the conversion between mean APE and mean BPE due to the time mean diffusive flux. Note that $D_{PE^{MEAN}}$ does not explicitly appear in the BPE budget but it can be argued (see Hughes et al. 2009) that it contributes to the BPE budget and is thus added here as part of $D_{APE^{MEAN}}$. Similarly, $F_{APE^{MEAN}}$ can be seen as the forcing of mean APE or as the conversion of (mean) BPE to APE due to surface heat flux.

Because there is no potential energy in anomalies, APE in anomalies is only made of BPE. The
LF APE budget is then:

$$\frac{dAPE^{LF}}{dt} = \frac{dPE^{LF}}{dt} - \frac{dBPE^{LF}}{dt} = \underbrace{-C(APE^{LF}, KE^{LF})}_{=-C(PE^{LF}, KE^{LF})} + \underbrace{C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})}_{=C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{LF}) - C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{LF})} \underbrace{-C(APE^{LF}, APE^{HF})}_{=C(BPE^{LF}, BPE^{HF})} + \underbrace{D_{APE^{LF}}}_{=-D_{BPE^{LF}}}.$$
 (36)

²⁷⁸ Similarly, the HF APE budget is:

$$\frac{dAPE^{HF}}{dt} = \frac{dPE^{HF}}{dt} - \frac{dBPE^{HF}}{dt} = \frac{-C(APE^{HF}, KE^{HF})}{=-C(PE^{HF}, KE^{HF})} + \underbrace{C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{HF})}_{=C(PE^{MEAN}, PE^{HF}) - C(BPE^{MEAN}, BPE^{HF})} + \underbrace{C(APE^{LF}, APE^{HF})}_{=-C(BPE^{LF}, BPE^{HF})} + \underbrace{D_{APE^{HF}}}_{=-D_{BPE^{HF}}}.$$
(37)

279 *d. Kinetic Energy*

In this subsection, the budgets for the total and low frequency kinetic energy are derived. The horizontal momentum equations are:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla u - f v = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + V_u + F_u \tag{38}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla v + f u = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + V_v$$
(39)

where *p* is the pressure, V_u and V_v are the viscous term in respectively the zonal and meridional direction, F_u is the zonal, time-independent forcing (we assume no meridional forcing) and *f* is the Coriolis parameter. Time averaging Eqs. (38) and (39), multiplying by $\rho_0 \overline{u}$ and $\rho_0 \overline{v}$ and summing ²⁸⁵ give an equation for the local kinetic energy of the time mean flow:

$$\frac{\rho_0}{2}\overline{\mathbf{v}}\cdot\nabla\left(\overline{u}^2+\overline{v}^2\right) = -\rho_0\overline{u}\nabla\cdot\overline{\left(\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{HF}}u^{HF}+\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{LF}}u^{LF}\right)} - \rho_0\overline{v}\nabla\cdot\overline{\left(\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{HF}}v^{HF}+\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{LF}}v^{LF}\right)} -\nabla\overline{\mathbf{v}}\overline{p} - g\overline{\rho}\overline{w} + \rho_0\overline{u}\overline{V_u} + \rho_0\overline{v}\overline{V_v} + \rho_0\overline{u}\overline{F_u} \quad (40)$$

The Coriolis term does not play any part in the kinetic energy budget because the Coriolis acceleration is normal to the velocity and there is no contribution from the vertical velocity because the hydrostatic approximation is used and implies no vertical acceleration (Gregory and Tailleux 2011). Integrating (40) over the entire volume gives the budget for KE^{MEAN} :

$$\frac{dKE^{MEAN}}{dt} = C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN}) - C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{LF}) - C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{HF}) + D_{KE^{MEAN}} + F_{KE^{MEAN}}$$
(41)

where:

$$C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN}) = -\int_{V} g\overline{\rho} \overline{w} dV$$
(42)

$$C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{LF}) = \int_{V} \overline{\rho_0 \overline{u} \nabla \left(\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{LF}} u^{LF} \right) + \rho_0 \overline{v} \nabla \left(\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{LF}} v^{LF} \right)} dV$$
(43)

$$C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{HF}) = \int_{V} \overline{\rho_0 \overline{u} \nabla \left(\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{HF}} u^{HF} \right) + \rho_0 \overline{v} \nabla \left(\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{HF}} v^{HF} \right)} \mathrm{d}V$$
(44)

$$D_{KE^{MEAN}} = \int_{V} \rho_0 \overline{u} V_u + \rho_0 \overline{v} V_v dV$$
(45)

$$F_{KE^{MEAN}} = \int_{V} \rho_0 \overline{u} F_u \mathrm{d}V \tag{46}$$

Proceeding similarly for the LF and HF, we obtain the following budgets for KE^{LF} and KE^{HF} :

$$\frac{dKE^{LF}}{dt} = C(APE^{LF}, KE^{LF}) + C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{LF}) - C(KE^{LF}, KE^{HF}) + D_{KE^{LF}}$$
(47)

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$$\frac{dKE^{HF}}{dt} = C(APE^{HF}, KE^{HF}) + C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{HF}) + C(KE^{LF}, KE^{HF}) + D_{KE^{HF}}$$
(48)

$$C(APE^{LF}, KE^{LF}) = -\int_{V} g\overline{\rho^{LF} w^{LF}} dV$$
(49)

$$C(APE^{HF}, KE^{HF}) = -\int_{V} g \overline{\rho^{HF} w^{HF}} dV$$
(50)

$$C(KE^{LF}, KE^{HF}) = -\int_{V} \overline{\rho_0 u^{HF} \nabla \left(\mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{HF}} u^{LF} \right) + \rho_0 u^{HF} \nabla \left(\mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{HF}} u^{LF} \right)} dV$$
(51)

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$$D_{KE^{LF}} = \int_{V} \rho_0 \overline{u^{LF} V_u^{LF} + \rho_0 v^{LF} V_v^{LF}} \,\mathrm{d}V$$
(52)

$$D_{KE^{HF}} = \int_{V} \rho_0 \overline{u^{HF} V_u^{HF}} + \rho_0 v^{HF} \overline{V_v^{HF}} \,\mathrm{d}V$$
(53)

³⁰⁰ e. Practical calculation of the APE/KE budget using model outputs

In Table 1 we describe how each term of the KE and APE budget mapped in figure 3 is computed using results from the previous subsections. Due to the very long timescales of the LF variability $(\sim 50 \text{ years})$ it would require too much storage to resolve the HF terms. However we show below that the HF budgets can be obtained as the residual of the well-resolved LF budgets. As explained above, APE forcing and dissipation can also be seen as conversion between BPE and APE reservoirs. This is shown in figure 3 by the addition of a BPE reservoir that exchanges energy with the three APE reservoirs.

The total conversion from APE to KE can be obtained from the time mean advection of the temperature which is an output of the model:

$$C(APE, KE) = \int_{V} gz \nabla \overline{\mathbf{v}\rho} dV = \underbrace{\int_{V} g\nabla (z\overline{\mathbf{v}\rho}) dV}_{=0} - \int_{V} g\overline{w\rho} dV$$
(54)

³¹⁰ $C(APE^{HF}, KE^{HF})$ can then be deduced from the knowledge of $C(APE^{LF}, KE^{HF})$ and ³¹¹ $C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN})$:

$$C(APE^{HF}, KE^{HF}) = C(APE, KE) - C(APE^{LF}, KE^{HF}) - C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN}).$$
(55)

 $_{312}$ $D_{KE^{HF}}$ is obtained from the total KE budget:

$$D_{KE^{HF}} = -C(APE, KE) - F_{KE^{MEAN}} - D_{KE^{MEAN}} - D_{KE^{LF}}.$$
(56)

³¹³ $D_{APE^{HF}}$ is obtained using the total APE budget:

$$D_{APE^{HF}} = C(APE, KE) - F_{APE^{MEAN}} - D_{APE^{MEAN}} - D_{APE^{LF}}.$$
(57)

Similarly, $C(KE^{LF}, KE^{HF})$ is obtained from the KE^{LF} budget, $C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{HF})$ from the KE^{MEAN} budget, $C(APE^{LF}, APE^{HF})$ from the APE^{LF} budget, and $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{HF})$ from the APE^{MEAN} budget.

317 3. Model and configuration

³¹⁸ We use the MITgcm (Marshall et al. 1997) in a rectangular flat-bottom basin with a Carte-³¹⁹ sian geometry on a β -plane centered at 40 °N. The zonal and meridional extents are respectively ³²⁰ $L_x = 5000 \text{ km}$ and $L_y = 4500 \text{ km}$, and the Southern boundary is located 2000 km north of the equa-³²¹ tor. An eddy-permitting horizontal resolution of 20 km is used in both directions. This resolution ³²² is sufficient in Huck et al. (2015) to capture the main characteristics of the effect of eddy turbu-³²³ lence on low-frequency variability. The depth is H = 4500 m, there are 40 levels on the vertical ³²⁴ with grid spacing increasing from 10 m at the surface to 400 m at the bottom.

The ocean is forced by constant heat flux at the surface, decreasing linearly with latitude from 325 $50 \text{ W} \text{ m}^{-2}$ at y = 0 km to $-50 \text{ W} \text{ m}^{-2}$ at y = 4500 km, similar to Huck et al. (2015). Static instabil-326 ity is removed by strong vertical mixing of the water column. We use biharmonic horizontal eddy 327 diffusivity with a uniform value of 10^{11} m⁴ s⁻¹ and Leith implicit viscosity. The vertical viscosity 328 is $v_{\nu} = 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{m}^2 \,\mathrm{s}^{-1}$. In this single hemisphere configuration, the strength of the Meridional Over-329 turning Circulation (MOC) is a strong function of the vertical diffusivity K_v , in agreement with the 330 $K_v^{1/2}$ geostrophic scaling (Huang and Chou 1994). Here, we choose to use $K_v = 2 \times 10^{-4} \,\mathrm{m}^2 \,\mathrm{s}^{-1}$ 331 corresponding to a MOC strength close to 10 Sv. Because the primary objective of this study is 332 to establish and understand the full energy budget of the low-frequency mode in the configuration 333

³³⁴ used in previous published articles (Huck et al. 1999, 2001, 2015; Hochet et al. 2020) our main ex³³⁵ periment does not have wind forcing. However we also perform two additional experiments with
³³⁶ increasing wind forcing intensity to study the effect of a direct KE source on the energy budget.
³³⁷ The zonal wind stress used in the two wind forcing experiments varies with latitude according to
³³⁸ the following formula:

$$\tau_x(y) = \tau_0 \left(\frac{1}{4} \cos\left(\frac{y\pi}{L_y}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi y}{L_y}\right) \right),\tag{58}$$

where τ_0 is the wind stress amplitude. The meridional wind stress is zero. We chose to use a nonsymmetric zonal wind stress as it seems important to achieve a generic dynamical behavior of the double-gyre circulation (Berloff and McWilliams 1999). The three experiments use $\tau_0 = 0 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ (no wind forcing), $\tau_0 = 0.05 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ (intermediate wind) and $\tau_0 = 0.1 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ (climatological wind) (Fig. 4). All three experiments are initialized with a state of rest, the spin-up time is then 500 years and the model is run for another 400 years to produce outputs to compute the diagnostics presented below.

4. Time mean circulation and variability

In the following section we describe the time mean circulation as well as the low and high 347 frequency variability obtained for the range of surface wind-stress forcing amplitudes mentioned 348 above. Hochet et al. (2020) used exactly the same model parameters and configuration as the 349 present study with zero wind-stress forcing. The turbulent transfer of temperature variance in their 350 study was shown to act as a source of temperature variance for frequencies higher than 1/3.5 years 351 and a sink for smaller frequencies. We thus define the limit between low and high frequencies as 352 being 3.5 yr. Although it is possible that this limit is altered by the surface wind stress that we 353 use in the two other experiments, we keep the same definition of 1/3.5 years in all experiments 354 to be able to compare the three configurations. We thus associate LF with multi-decadal, decadal 355

and part of the inter-annual variability and HF with part of the inter-annual and eddy turbulence
 induced variability.

³⁵⁸ *a.* No wind forcing $\tau_0 = 0 \,\mathrm{N}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$

Note that the simulation used in this subsection (i.e. without wind forcing) is the same as that 359 described in Hochet et al. (2020), and the description of the LF variability is reproduced below. In 360 the absence of wind-stress forcing, LF variability spontaneously develops with a significant and 361 narrow peak frequency of $1/53 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Fig. 5). A detailed description of the variability developing 362 in very similar geometries can be found for instance in Huck et al. (1999) and Huck et al. (2015). 363 Here we will only give a short description of its main characteristics. Following Hochet et al. 364 (2020), we use Complex Empirical Orthogonal Function (CEOF) to describe the LF variability of 365 the three dimensional temperature field. The CEOF are calculated using 50-day average outputs 366 on a 400-year long simulation. The 400 year is chosen to obtain a statistical equilibrium of the 367 solution. Similar to the widely used empirical orthogonal function, CEOF are the eigenvectors 368 of the complex covariance matrix of a complex temperature anomaly which is calculated using 369 the Hilbert transform of the detrended temperature anomaly (Von Storch and Zwiers 2001). The 370 leading CEOF contains 60% of the temperature variance (Fig. 6). The temperature anomaly 371 associated to a CEOF can then be reconstructed using the following formula: 372

$$\theta_{\text{CEOF}}(x, y, z, t) = \text{PC}_{re}(t)\text{CEOF}_{re}(x, y, z) + \text{PC}_{im}(t)\text{CEOF}_{im}(x, y, z)$$
(59)

where *re* and *im* stand for the real and imaginary parts respectively and PC is the principal component of the corresponding CEOF. The APE is shown along with the real and imaginary part of the PC (Fig. 6). The phase of the leading CEOF is chosen to match that of the APE time variation. The APE is very well correlated with the real part of the PC and shows that APE multidecadal vari-

ations are linked with the SST pattern shown on the upper panel of figure 6. The low-frequency 377 variability takes the form of a large-scale temperature anomaly, located mainly in the northwestern 378 half and in the upper 500 m of the basin with SST anomaly larger than 3 K at some locations (Fig. 379 6). The successive positions of the positive and negative temperature anomalies as shown on figure 380 6, i.e. a negative center located at latitudes around 2500-3000km and longitude 2000km (opposite 381 of the imaginary part), followed by a negative center for latitudes between 3000 and 3500 km, 382 longitude around 2000 km (real part), then a negative center around latitude 4000 km, longitude 383 1500km (imaginary part), then a negative center in the north western corner (opposite of the real 384 part), indicate north-westward propagation of the temperature anomalies. 385

The sea surface height (SSH) varies together with the temperature anomalies of the leading 386 CEOF (left column of Fig. 7). The amplitude of SSH anomalies (15-20 cm) is maximum along 387 the western boundary current and in its eastward extension in the northern-half of the basin. These 388 values compare well with altimetric observations (Stammer 1997). The time mean of the vertical 389 integral of the LF APE and of the LF density variance are shown in figure 7. The largest values for 390 the LF APE are located along the northern boundary. Equation (22) shows that large values of LF 391 APE (=-LF BPE) are associated with deep reference depth and thus outcropping of dense waters. 392 The location of LF APE contrasts with the location of the largest values of LF density variance 393 which are located in the northern part of the basin interior (Fig. 7). The differences between these 394 two quantities further demonstrate that the APE cannot be approximated by the density variance 395 in these configurations in contrast with QG theory. 396

³⁹⁷ b. Intermediate wind forcing $\tau_0 = 0.05 \,\mathrm{N}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$

³⁹⁸ When wind-stress forcing is present the temperature variability is significantly reduced com-³⁹⁹ pared to the previous case and consists of a broad band of low-frequency signals with a peak frequency of about $1/22 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Fig. 5). Huck et al. (2001) explained this effect of the wind forcing on the low frequency variability by the damping effect of the Ekman pumping on the large-scale anomalies. To explain this effect, Huck et al. (2001) assumed that the following formula describes the effect of wind stress on the temperature anomalies (their equation (14)):

$$\frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial t} = -W_E \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial z} \tag{60}$$

where θ' is the temperature anomaly, and W_E the Ekman pumping. Then if θ' is further assumed to have an exponential profile with depth, $\theta' \propto \exp(-W_E kt)$ with *k* of the order of 500 m⁻¹. The temperature anomaly decreases where W_E is positive which is in the Northern half of the basin in our configuration.

The surface signature of the leading CEOF of temperature variability, explaining 28% of the 408 spatially integrated variance, shows that the variability now occurs predominantly along the eastern 409 boundary and along a narrow latitudinal band extending across the width of the basin just south 410 of the intergyre boundary (Fig. 8). The large-scale anomaly emanates from the eastern boundary 411 and propagates to the west along the mean temperature contours. SSH variability is no longer 412 collocated with SST variations, as was the case with zero wind-stress forcing, but instead mostly 413 occurs along a region centered about the intergyre (at y = 2000 km) along the western boundary 414 (Fig. 7, second row). The LF density variance is now almost entirely located on the eastern 415 boundary as also shown by the CEOF (Fig. 8). The LF APE is in the northeastern corner of the 416 basin in the region where dense waters outcrop. 417

418 c. Climatological wind forcing $\tau_0 = 0.1 \,\mathrm{N}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$

⁴¹⁹ Increasing the amplitude of the zonal surface wind-stress forcing up to realistic values has ⁴²⁰ the effect of further decreasing (increasing) the temperature variance on interdecadal (monthly to interannual) timescales compared to the case with $\tau_0 = 0.05 \,\mathrm{N \,m^{-2}}$. Indeed the volume averaged LF (HF) temperature spectrum (defined as frequencies lower than $\frac{2\pi}{3.5 \,\mathrm{years}}$) is weaker for $\tau_0 = 0.05 \,\mathrm{N \,m^{-2}}$ than for $\tau_0 = 0.1 \,\mathrm{N \,m^{-2}}$ (Fig. 5).

The leading CEOF of temperature variability now represents only 7% of the spatially-integrated variance and is mostly apparent south of the intergyre boundary (Fig. 9). This pattern of variability differs from the previous case with $\tau_0 = 0.05 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ (Fig. 8) for which SST variability was also present along the eastern boundary. SSH variability however shares the same pattern and amplitude as that obtained for $\tau_0 = 0.05 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ with enhanced variability along the western boundary current. The LF APE is now located in the northwestern part of the basin with a much smaller amplitude than in the two previous cases.

431 **5. Energy budget**

We now describe the mean, LF, and HF KE, APE and BPE budgets for the three experiments described above, summarized in figures 10,12, and 13 following the schematic given in figure 3. Table 2 gathers the transfer values obtained for the three experiments.

435 a. No-wind forcing $\tau_0 = 0 \,\mathrm{N}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$

In the absence of surface wind-stress there is no external source for the KE reservoir and the main energy pathways are located within the APE part of the budget (Fig. 10). Among the 119 GW of conversion between BPE and APE due to surface heat flux 32 GW is converted into KE (mainly at HF) where it is dissipated by viscous forces. The remaining 87 GW are mainly transferred from HF APE to BPE because of dissipation (53 GW from APE HF to BPE, 16GW from LF APE to BPE and 18 GW from mean APE to BPE).

Despite the differences between BPE and density variance shown in figure 7, Hochet et al. (2020) 442 found a similar pathway for the temperature variance. The surface heat flux is the only source of 443 mean temperature variance and LF temperature variance is forced through a transfer of temperature 444 variance from the mean flow, this transfer is interpreted as the result of baroclinic instability of the 445 mean flow. The conversion from mean APE to LF APE is 49GW which is the largest conversion 446 term in this experiment. The main sink of LF APE is the conversion to HF APE (29 GW), whereas 447 the dissipation removes 16GW. Because the direction of the LF/HF APE transfer is from LF to HF 448 and because LF are associated with large scales and HF with mesoscale eddies, we deduce that 449 mesoscale eddy turbulence is a sink of energy for the low-frequency variability which is one of the 450 main result of this study. It confirms previous findings of Arbic et al. (2014) who demonstrated the 451 existence of a direct temporal APE cascade along with the inverse temporal KE cascade under QG 452 approximation. Conversion between kinetic energy reservoirs is small compared to conversion 453 between APE reservoirs. There is however a substantial energy transfer (20 GW) between HF 454 APE and HF KE. This input of HF KE is balanced by the sink linked with viscous terms. The 455 only source of mean KE is the conversion of mean APE to mean KE (8GW) and the conversion 456 between LF and HF KE is negligible. The ratio of LF KE to LF APE is of 0.3% showing that the 457 low frequency variability is predominantly found in APE in this simulation. 458

The two left columns of Fig. 11 show the spatial pattern of $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{HF})$, $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})$ integrated vertically over the water column. Strong positive values of these two terms are generally located close to the northern boundary, where the convection is the strongest. Positive values of $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{HF})$ are located in the eastern part of the northern boundary and follows closely the values of mean APE forcing (last column of Fig. 11). Negative values are located in the southern part of the basin interior. The mean APE forcing term is large in regions where the reference level is the deepest i.e. where dense waters outcrop at the surface.

 $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})$ (Fig. 11, middle-left column) has its largest values close to the northern and 466 eastern boundary. The vertical integral of the term $-\overline{\mathbf{u}^{\mathrm{LF}}\rho^{\mathrm{LF}}}\cdot\nabla\overline{\rho}$ which represents the transfer 467 from the mean to the LF density variance (see Colin de Verdière and Huck 1999, for instance) 468 is shown on the third column of figure 11 and is very different from $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})$. This 469 could be expected from the difference between the variance of the LF density and the LF APE 470 already shown in figure 7: the transfer from mean APE to LF APE occurs in the convection region 471 where dense waters outcrop whereas the LF density variance transfer occurs in the basin interior. 472 $C(APE^{LF}, APE^{HF})$ is not shown but follows closely the variation of $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})$. 473

₄₇₄ b. Intermediate wind forcing $\tau_0 = 0.05 \,\mathrm{N}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$

With an intermediate zonal wind stress at the surface, the LF variability becomes weaker and 475 shifts to mid-latitudes as explained in section 4 b. The energy budget (Fig. 12) shows a decrease 476 of the energy fluxes from mean APE and LF APE. The transfer of BPE to mean APE is the same 477 as that obtained for the no-wind experiment (119GW). Part of this mean APE energy input is 478 transferred back to BPE by parametrized diffusive flux (30GW) whereas most of it is converted 479 into HF APE (61GW). The conversion of LF APE to HF APE is approximately half the value 480 obtained for the no-wind case (14GW against 29GW). The total transfer (i.e. KE+APE) is still 481 directed from LF toward HF. There is now a small direct forcing of mean KE (7GW) which adds 482 to the conversion from mean APE to mean KE (5GW) to create a source of 12GW of Mean KE. 483 8GW is directly dissipated by viscous forces, the remaining is mainly transferred to HF KE. The 484 conversion between LF KE and HF KE is negligible. 485

The ratio of LF KE and LF APE has increased compared with the no wind simulation (the ratio is now 1%), however LF KE remains negligible compared to LF APE. We explain the predominance of APE over KE in the LF by the larger scales found at these frequencies. It is indeed known from QG theory that the ratio KE over APE decreases with larger scales (Vallis 2017). Using the ECCO2 ocean state estimate, Zemskova et al. (2015) found that there is approximately 10 times more APE than KE in anomalies but do not discriminate between frequency bands which make the comparison with our results difficult.

⁴⁹³ With wind forcing, the $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{HF})$ conversion increases by 17GW (Table 2), its pos-⁴⁹⁴ itive values follow the northern boundary of the basin (Fig. 11) and the mean APE forcing (last ⁴⁹⁵ column of Fig. 11). The largest values of $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})$ are now almost entirely located ⁴⁹⁶ in the northeastern corner where the SST anomalies seem to originate from.

₄₉₇ c. Climatological wind forcing $\tau_0 = 0.1 \,\mathrm{N \, m^{-2}}$

In this experiment the zonal wind forcing is twice as strong as in the previous experiment, close 498 to the climatological amplitude. The wind stress adds 34GW to the mean KE reservoir and 15 GW 499 is directly dissipated by viscous forces (Fig. 13). The conversion from mean APE to mean KE is 500 now negative (i.e. from mean KE to mean APE) which is in line with what is calculated in OGCM 501 (e.g. Toggweiler and Samuels 1998; Gnanadesikan et al. 2005; Gregory and Tailleux 2011). The 502 remaining 8GW are all converted to HF KE. The conversion of BPE to mean APE due to heat flux 503 has slightly increased compared to the two other experiments (128GW). The BPE to mean APE 504 conversion formula $-g \int_V \overline{z_r(\rho,t)} \overline{F} dV$ shows that the value of this conversion mainly depends on 505 the position of the deepest reference depths and thus on the circulation in the Northern half of the 506 basin. An explanation for the (small) increase in BPE to mean APE conversion could thus be that 507 only the climatological wind substantially modifies the circulation in this region. The conversion 508 from mean APE to HF APE is now much larger than the conversion from mean APE to LF APE 509 (84GW vs 13GW), 42 GW is directly dissipated. The energy in the LF KE reservoir has increased 510 compared to the two other simulation and now represents 10% of LF APE. 511

With this realistic amplitude of wind forcing, positive values of the conversion $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{HF})$ continue to extend along the northern boundary (Fig. 11 bottom line) and is particularly intense in the northwestern corner. $C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})$ intensity is weaker than before and almost entirely located in the northwestern corner.

⁵¹⁶ Sohail et al. (2018) and Zemskova et al. (2021) report that the input of KE obtained by increas-⁵¹⁷ ing the wind stress over the Southern ocean results mainly in an increase of the KE dissipation ⁵¹⁸ term, rather than an increase in APE dissipation. These results are in line with what is found in ⁵¹⁹ our experiments: the total dissipation of KE ($D_{KE^{MEAN}} + D_{KE^{LF}} + D_{KE^{HF}}$) has increased by 65% ⁵²⁰ between the no-wind and climatological wind experiment and by 24% for the total dissipation of ⁵²¹ APE ($D_{APE^{MEAN}} + D_{APE^{LF}} + D_{APE^{HF}}$): most of the additional mean KE forcing is directly dissi-⁵²² pated by KE total dissipation.

523 6. Conclusion

In this article we have derived the mechanical energy budget for the large-scale, internally gener-524 ated, low-frequency ocean mode that was studied extensively in previous works (Colin de Verdière 525 and Huck 1999; Huck et al. 1999; Huck and Vallis 2001; Huck et al. 2001, 2015; Arzel et al. 2018; 526 Hochet et al. 2020). The mechanical energy budget is decomposed into mean, low-frequency, and 527 high-frequency parts to study the effect of the large-scale baroclinic instability of the mean circu-528 lation and the effect of the eddy field on the LF mode. One of the main achievements of this work 529 is the new way of decomposing the background potential energy into frequency bands that allows 530 us to correctly attribute the source and sink terms associated with each reservoir. 531

The energy budget of the no wind experiment shows that the energy of this multidecadal mode is mostly contained in the LF APE rather than in the LF KE because of its large-scale. Using ECCO v2, Zemskova et al. (2015) also found that the energy is mostly contained in the fluctuating

APE rather than in the fluctuating KE, but with a smaller ratio of approximately 10 (compared to 535 a LF APE over LF KE ratio of approximately 300 in our no wind experiment). This difference is 536 probably due to our use of a single hemispheric basin and thus to the omission of the strong wind 537 forcing over the Southern ocean. The source term for the LF APE is the conversion from the mean 538 APE to the LF APE. In agreement with Hochet et al. (2020) where the budget was made in terms 539 of temperature variance, the sink term of the mode is attributed to the parametrized diffusion (\sim 540 36 %) and to the transfer of APE to higher-frequencies linked with mesoscale eddy turbulence (\sim 541 64 %). In the experiment with no wind forcing, the only source of kinetic energy is the conversion 542 from APE at all frequencies. The transfer of KE between high and low-frequencies which is 543 shown to be an important source of low frequency variability in other experiments (Arbic et al. 544 2014; Sérazin et al. 2018) appears negligible in our configuration compared to all the other energy 545 fluxes. Recognising that this might be due to the absence of any direct source of kinetic energy we 546 performed two other experiments with a time independent zonal wind forcing at the surface that 547 drives the classical wind-driven double gyres. 548

With the addition of a wind forcing at the surface, a source term for the mean kinetic energy 549 appears. The structure of the LF mode is modified with intermediate wind strength and almost 550 disappears with climatological wind. With increasing wind forcing, the LF APE and all its asso-551 ciated conversion terms decrease. Indeed there is a decrease in the values of the conversion terms 552 from mean APE to LF APE and of LF APE to BPE (linked with diffusive flux), of LF APE to 553 HF APE and of LF APE to LF KE for the sink terms. Meanwhile, the energy in the HF APE 554 increases as well as the conversion from mean APE to HF APE. This larger conversion is balanced 555 mostly by a larger conversion of HF APE to BPE due to diffusive flux. The energy contained in 556 the mean APE increases as well as the conversion from BPE to mean APE due to heat flux. This 557 increase is balanced by a larger conversion to BPE due to diffusive flux and by a larger conversion 558

to HF APE. The conversion of mean APE to mean KE becomes negative which is in agreement with what is usually calculated in more realistic models such as in Zemskova et al. (2015). The conversion between LF KE and HF KE remains negligible or very small compared to other conversions, nonetheless, it is directed from HF to LF for the climatological wind experiment which is in agreement with the temporal inverse KE cascade found in Arbic et al. (2014).

For all wind stress intensities studied here, the energy and conversion terms remain mainly con-564 tained in the APE. There is however a non-negligible transfer of APE to KE at HF where it is 565 dissipated by viscous forces. The fact that most of the transfers of energy occur between the dif-566 ferent APE and BPE reservoirs rather than between PE or KE reservoirs outline the importance of 567 the APE budget to study large-scale and low frequency variability. In contrast, Arbic et al. (2014); 568 Sérazin et al. (2015, 2018) found a predominant role for the temporal inverse KE cascade, but we 569 attribute this difference for the most part to our focus on multidecadal variability as compared to 570 their focus on shorter inter-annual variability. The transfer from LF APE to HF APE demonstrates 571 the damping role of the mesoscale eddy turbulence for the large scale variability, even for realistic 572 wind intensities. This transfer of APE from LF to HF is very similar to the QG APE direct tempo-573 ral cascade of APE that has been observed (along with the inverse temporal cascade of KE) in the 574 idealized simulation of Arbic et al. (2014). Temperature variance budget gives similar pathway 575 for the sources and sinks of the low frequency mode (Hochet et al. 2020). However, we have shown 576 that the locations of the APE and of its associated transfers differ significantly from that of the den-577 sity variance. Large values of APE are indeed linked with the outcropping of dense waters at the 578 surface due to convection that occurs along the northern boundary in our configuration, whereas 579 there is no significant link between large values of density variance and convective regions. The 580 APE budget is therefore more accurate in identifying regions where energy conversions are the 581 most important. 582

This study is limited by several approximations, the first being the representation of the North 583 Atlantic ocean with a simplified geometry and a flat bottom. In particular, the wind forcing over 584 the Southern Ocean is thought to play an important role in setting the mean stratification, in par-585 ticular the stratification in the North Atlantic (e.g. Nikurashin and Vallis 2011, 2012) and might 586 therefore influence the dynamic of the low frequency mode. Moreover, using energy budget of 587 a global ocean-sea ice model Hogg et al. (2017) have shown that wind change over the South-588 ern Ocean leads to change of APE and stratification in the North Atlantic. However, it has been 589 shown in Arzel et al. (2007) that the addition of a re-entrant channel representing the Antarctic 590 Circumpolar Current acts to reduce the low frequency variability in the Southern Hemisphere but 591 does not suppress the internal variability in the Northern Hemisphere. Moreover, the physical 592 mechanism giving rise to the internal mode studied in this single hemispheric configuration is also 593 found to give rise to low-frequency variability in realistic ocean-only configuration (e.g. Sévellec 594 and Fedorov 2013; Arzel et al. 2018; Arzel and Huck 2020) and in ocean-atmosphere coupled 595 configuration (e.g. Ortega et al. 2015; Gastineau et al. 2018). The omission of salinity and the use 596 of a linear equation of state for density certainly has an influence on the APE budget. Indeed, it 597 is known that non-linearities of the equation of state are in general not negligible (e.g. Klocker 598 and McDougall 2010; Nycander et al. 2015). Nonetheless, it has been shown in a realistic setup 599 (Sévellec and Fedorov 2013) that the mode is largely controlled by temperature variation in the 600 upper ocean. Our study as well as previous studies of the internal mode (e.g. Sévellec and Fe-601 dorov 2013; Huck et al. 2015; Arzel et al. 2018) assume that external forcing is either constant or 602 made of natural variability such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (Frankcombe et al. 2009; Arzel 603 and Huck 2020). This assumption is helpful to understand the physics and the mechanisms of the 604 mode. However, with its multi-decadal variability, the internal mode might be affected by anthro-605

⁶⁰⁶ pogenic forcing which act on the same time scales and modifies the characteristics of the ocean ⁶⁰⁷ stratification (Levitus et al. 2012).

The eddy-permitting resolution of 20 km used here is not sufficient to entirely resolve the eddy 608 field, however similar experiments at 10 km with no wind forcing were conducted in Huck et al. 609 (2015) and no qualitative differences were found. Lastly we set the limit between LF and HF to be 610 3.5 years based on the results from Hochet et al. (2020) that showed that in the same configuration 611 without wind forcing, non-linear transfers of temperature variance are a source (sink) term for 612 periods longer (shorter) than 3.5 years. To be able to compare the three configurations studied in 613 this article we kept this limit fixed, however, with the addition of a wind forcing at the surface, we 614 expect a change in this limit and possibly a modification of the LF/HF transfers. The study of the 615 dependence of this limit on external parameters is left to future work, as well as the implementation 616 of this full energy budget in realistic eddy-resolving models. 617

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793	Table 1.	List of all terms in the energy budget shown in figure 3
794	Table 2.	Transfer values for all terms in the energy budget for the no wind ($\tau_0 =$
795		0Nm^{-2}), intermediate wind $\tau_0 = (0.05 \text{Nm}^{-2})$ and climatological wind ($\tau_0 =$
796		$0.1 \mathrm{Nm^{-2}})$ experiments

KE and APE Dissipation			
D _{KE^{LF}}	$\rho_0 \int_V \overline{\left(u^{LF} V_u^{LF} + v^{LF} V_v^{LF} \right)} \mathrm{d}V$		
D _{KEMEAN}	$ ho_0 \int_V \left(\overline{u} \overline{V_u} + \overline{v} \overline{V_v} \right) \mathrm{d}V$		
$D_{KE^{HF}}$	$-F_{KE^{MEAN}} - C(APE, KE) - D_{KE^{LF}} - D_{KE^{MEAN}}$		
$D_{APE^{LF}}$	$-\int_V g \overline{z_r(\boldsymbol{ ho},t)} D^{LF} \mathrm{d}V$		
D _{APE} MEAN	$\int_V g z \overline{D} dV - \int_V g \overline{z_r(\rho, t)} \overline{D} dV$		
$D_{APE^{HF}}$	$-F_{APE^{MEAN}} - D_{APE^{LF}} - D_{APE^{MEAN}} + C(APE, KE)$		
	KE and APE Forcing		
F _{KE} MEAN	$ ho_0 \int_V \overline{u} \overline{F_u} \mathrm{d}V$		
F _{APE} MEAN	$-\int_V g \overline{z_r(\rho)} \overline{F} dV$		
	Conversion between reservoirs		
$C(KE^{LF}, KE^{HF})$	$C(APE^{LF}, KE^{LF}) + C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{LF}) + D_{KE^{LF}}$		
$C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{LF})$	$\rho_0 \int_V \left(\overline{u} \nabla \cdot \overline{(\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{LF}} u^{LF})} + \overline{v} \nabla \cdot \overline{(\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{LF}} v^{LF})} \right) \mathrm{d}V$		
$C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{HF})$	$F_{KE^{MEAN}} + C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN}) + D_{KE^{MEAN}} - C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{LF})$		
$C(APE^{LF}, APE^{HF})$	$-C(APE^{LF}, KE^{LF}) + C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF}) + D_{APE^{LF}}$		
$C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})$	$-\int_{V} g \overline{\rho^{LF}} w^{LF} dV - g \int_{V} \overline{z_{r}(\rho, t)} \mathbf{v}^{LF} \cdot \nabla \rho^{LF} - \overline{z_{r}(\rho, t)} \overline{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \nabla \rho^{LF} dV$		
$C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{HF})$	$-C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF}) - C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN}) + D_{APE^{MEAN}} + F_{APE^{MEAN}}$		
$C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN})$	$-\int_V g\overline{ ho}\overline{w}\mathrm{d}V$		
$C(APE^{LF}, KE^{LF})$	$-\int_V g \overline{\rho^{LF} w^{LF}} \mathrm{d}V$		
$C(APE^{HF}, KE^{HF})$	$C(APE, KE) - C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{LF}) - C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN})$		
C(APE, KE)	$\int_V g z \overline{\nabla \mathbf{v} \boldsymbol{\rho}} \mathrm{d} V$		

TABLE 1. List of all terms in the energy budget shown in figure 3

	$\tau_0 = 0 \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^{-2}$	$\tau_0 = 0.05 \mathrm{N}\mathrm{m}^{-2}$	$\tau_0 = 0.1 \mathrm{N m^{-2}}$	
	KE and APE D	Dissipation		
D _{KE^{LF}}	-5 GW	-3 GW	-2 GW	
D _{KEMEAN}	-5 GW	-8 GW	-15 GW	
$D_{KE^{HF}}$	-22 GW	-22 GW	-36 GW	
$D_{APE^{LF}}$	-16 GW	-7 GW	-5 GW	
D _{APE} MEAN	-18 GW	-30 GW	-42 GW	
$D_{APE^{HF}}$	-53 GW	-56 GW	-62 GW	
	KE and APE	Forcing		
F _{KE^{MEAN}}	0 GW	7 GW	34 GW	
F _{APE} MEAN	119 GW	119 GW	128 GW	
Со	Conversion between reservoirs			
$C(KE^{LF}, KE^{HF})$	0 GW	0 GW	-1 GW	
$C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{LF})$	1 GW	1 GW	0 GW	
$C(KE^{MEAN}, KE^{HF})$	2 GW	3 GW	8 GW	
$C(APE^{LF}, APE^{HF})$	29 GW	14 GW	7 GW	
$C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{LF})$	49 GW	23 GW	13 GW	
$C(APE^{MEAN}, APE^{HF})$	44 GW	61 GW	84 GW	
$C(APE^{MEAN}, KE^{MEAN})$	8 GW	5 GW	-11 GW	
$C(APE^{LF}, KE^{LF})$	4 GW	2 GW	1 GW	
$C(APE^{HF}, KE^{HF})$	20 GW	19 GW	29 GW	
C(APE, KE)	32 GW	26 GW	19 GW	

TABLE 2. Transfer values for all terms in the energy budget for the no wind ($\tau_0 = 0 \,\mathrm{N}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$), intermediate wind $\tau_{0} = (0.05 \,\mathrm{N}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2})$ and climatological wind ($\tau_0 = 0.1 \,\mathrm{N}\,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$) experiments.

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FIG. 1. Schematic showing how the reference depth z_r associated with a given density ρ is calculated. Left: meridional section of the physical space where volume V_1 (coloured in red) above the isopycnal $\rho = const$. is shown. Right: adiabatic rearrangement where the previous isopycnal is horizontal with the same volume of water V_1 above it. $z_r(\rho)$ is the depth of this isopycnal after the rearrangement.



FIG. 2. Time evolution (in years) of the reference depth (in m) of several isotherms (in °C) in the experiment without wind forcing.



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FIG. 5. Volume average of the temperature spectrum as a function of frequency calculated from 5 days (orange line) and 50 days (blue line) average outputs for $\tau_0 = 0 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ (top left panel), 0.05 Nm⁻² (top right panel) and 0.1 Nm⁻² (bottom panel). The black vertical lines on each panel show the peak magnitude for each experiment and the red vertical lines show the LF/HF 3.5 year separation.



FIG. 6. First Complex EOF calculated on 1 year averaged 3D temperature outputs (°C) of the $\tau_0 = 0 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ run, accounting for 60% of the variability. Top left: real part of the SST, top right imaginary part of the SST. Middle left: CEOF real part along the meridional section (longitude = 800 km) shown by a red line on the top left and right panels, middle right: imaginary part along the same section. Black contours show isotherms of the time mean temperature. Bottom: real (red solid) and imaginary (red dotted) part of the principal component of the first CEOF. The blue line shows the time evolution of the APE (in EJ).



⁸⁷⁸ FIG. 7. Left column: Sea Surface height standard deviation (m) calculated from 50 days average and time ⁸⁷⁹ mean (black contours), middle column: vertical integral of the time mean LF density variance (kg² m⁻⁵), right ⁸⁸⁰ column: time mean of the vertical integral of the LF APE (J m⁻²). $\tau_0 = 0$ N m⁻², 0.05 N m⁻² and 0.1 N m⁻² are ⁸⁸¹ respectively shown on the first, second and third line. Note that the colorscale is different for each figure.



FIG. 8. Same as in Figure 6 but for an intermediate double gyre wind forcing of $\tau_0 = 0.05 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$. The leading CEOF accounts for 28% of the temperature variance. The red line on the two top figures shows the same meridional section as in Fig. 6 used to plot the two figures in the middle.



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