Sea ice variability across timescales in CESMx and observations

Ed Blanchard Wrigglesworth (University of Washington)

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PCWG/NCAR (Marika Holland, Dave Bailey, Pat Callaghan)

Jen Kay





Investigate coupling of sea ice/atmos at 'short' timescales (sub-monthly)

These timescales have been less studied than seasonal/annual/decadal

But important to stakeholders, likely can have high forecast skill of atmos/sea ice

Can be a 'clean' timescale to study sea ice/atmos coupling (can ignore ocean), also more degrees of freedom in observations



Persistence of monthly SIA anomalies



Models too persistent in Arctic (especially winter) mixed in Antarctica

High frequency variability of sea ice

Standard deviation of high-filtered SIE timeseries (3 to Y-axis days)

Arctic







JanFebMarAprMayJun JulAugSepOctNovDec

10









0	50	100	150	200

High frequency variability of sea ice

Standard deviation of high-filtered SIE timeseries

Antarctica











Obs/model mean ratio (%)



High frequency variability of sea ice

Distributions of standard deviation of high-filtered SIE timeseries for 3-30day variability



High frequency variability of sea ice Standard deviation of regional high-filtered SIE timeseries Arctic: (obs-model mean)/obs*100%



JarFebMaApMayunJuAugepOckloDec



JarFelMaApMayunJuAugepOcNoDec





JarFebMaApMayunJuAugepOctooDec



JarFelMaApMayunJuAugepOckloDec



JarFelMaApMayunJuAugepOckloDec



JarFelMaApMayunJuAugepOckloDec



JarFelMaApMayunJuAugepOckloDec



JarFeb/JaApMayunJuAugepOckloDec

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High frequency variability of sea ice Standard deviation of regional high-filtered SIE timeseries Antarctic: (obs-model mean)/obs*100%









=no sea ice var



Results part I

CESM models capture inter annual variability and mean state reasonably well, but show too little variability in winter at sub-monthly timescales both in the Arctic and Antarctica

This bias is seen at the regional level

Is the bias originating in the atmosphere? in atmosphere/sea ice coupling? or in sea ice model? (missing mechanisms)

Part II

Nudge CESM1-CAM5 to observed winds, see what happens

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Nudge U and V winds to 6-hr ERA Interim, 1979-2018

Over 45N-90N and 45S-90S (in same run)

Take CESM-LENS initial conditions from 1980, run with same forcing as CESM-LENS

Annual SIA



Trends



Interannual variability



Interannual variability



Influence of initial conditions on trends



Minimal influence of 1979 ICs

Results part II

Observed winds help explain interannual variability, but not trends

Arctic better explained than Antarctica (why? reanalysis winds too uncertain in antarctica, or Antarctic sea ice inherently less constrained by winds? Or model physics better in Arctic than Antarctica?

40-year Trends not influenced by ICs (can't explain positive Antarctic trend)