Motivation

The coupling and feedback between the ocean surface currents and the atmospheric wind stress has primary and secondary impacts on the circulations within both the upper ocean and throughout the atmosphere. With high resolution coupled model simulations over the Gulf Stream region, we are able to examine these impacts with respect to the Gulf Stream current. The primary circulation in the ocean is related to the ocean surface relative vorticity. The secondary circulation in the ocean consists of ocean surface convergence/divergence and corresponding downward/upward vertical motion. Including the current feedback in coupled model simulations results in a reduction of both the mean and eddy kinetic energy from the atmosphere to the ocean, which acts to control the Gulf Stream path. Additionally, when the current feedback is included, the ocean submesoscale vertical heat flux (which is representative of part of the ocean secondary circulation) has enhanced upward motion to the right the Gulf Stream extension and enhanced downward motion to the left of the Gulf Stream extension. The magnitude of the submesoscale vertical heat flux daily average is shown to be comparable to the magnitude of the latent heat flux daily average. These results will have further implications on vertical mixing and weather.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiments</th>
<th>Simulation Name</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Wind Input for Surface Stress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exp 1</td>
<td>a2o2</td>
<td>2 km ocen, 2 km atm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exp 2</td>
<td>a6o6</td>
<td>6 km ocen, 6 km atm</td>
<td>$\Delta U$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exp 3</td>
<td>a2o2+6b</td>
<td>2 km ocen, 2 km atm</td>
<td>$\Delta U = \Delta U_{av}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exp 4</td>
<td>a6o6+6b</td>
<td>6 km ocen, 6 km atm</td>
<td>$\Delta U = \Delta U_{av}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conceptual Diagram of Kinematic Coupling

This conceptual diagram depicts the wind vector component moving in the same direction as the current, over the Gulf Stream extension. The ocean circulations will exist regardless of the feedback; however, the atmospheric circulations are determined by the inclusion of the kinematic coupling.  
1. To the right of the Gulf Stream extension
   - negative ocean relative vorticity is the primary horizontal circulation
   - secondary circulation in the ocean of ocean surface divergence and corresponding upward motion
   - ocean surface divergence acts to compress the Gulf Stream current and subsequently leads to stronger currents and gradients.
2. To the left of the Gulf Stream extension
   - positive ocean relative vorticity is the primary horizontal circulation
   - secondary circulation in the ocean of ocean surface convergence and corresponding downward motion
   - ocean surface convergence acts to stretch the Gulf Stream current and subsequently leads to weaker currents and gradients.

Acknowledgements

- Some of this work described here is built upon prior research by Zhan Su al., Peter Gaube et al., Hydadee Seo et al., Lionel Renault et al., and much earlier work in the atmosphere and ocean related to Ekman transport.
- We thank ONR for largely funding this work, and support for MAB from NASA and NOAA.