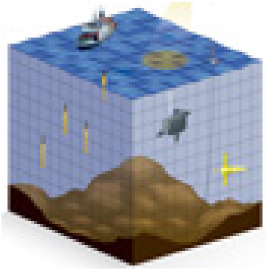

Contribution ID: **52**

Type: **Poster presentation**

Leveraging Hessian Uncertainty Quantification to Design Ocean Climate Observing Systems

Designing effective ocean observing networks warrants deliberate, quantitative strategies, given the heavy cost and logistical challenges of ocean observing. We leverage Hessian uncertainty quantification (UQ) within the ECCO (Estimating the Circulation and Climate of the Ocean) data assimilation framework to explore a quantitative approach for ocean climate observing systems. Here, an observing system is considered optimal if it minimizes uncertainty in a set of investigator-defined design goals or quantities of interest (QoIs), such as oceanic transports or other key climate indices. Hessian UQ unifies three design concepts. (1) An observing system reduces uncertainty in a target QoI most effectively when it is sensitive to the same dynamical controls as the QoI. The dynamical controls are exposed by the Hessian eigenvector patterns of the model-data misfit function. (2) Orthogonality of the Hessian eigenvectors rigorously accounts for complementarity versus redundancy between distinct members of the observing system. (3) The Hessian eigenvalues determine the overall effectiveness of the observing system, and are controlled by the sensitivity-to-noise ratio of the observational assets (analogous to the statistical signal-to-noise ratio). We illustrate Hessian UQ and its three underlying concepts in a North Atlantic case study. Sea surface temperature observations inform mainly local air-sea fluxes. In contrast, subsurface temperature observations reduce uncertainty over basin-wide scales, and can therefore inform transport QoIs at great distances. This research provides insight into the design of effective observing systems that maximally inform the target QoIs, while being complementary to the existing observational database.

Which theme does your abstract refer to?

Ocean and coupled reanalysis

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Session Classification: Poster session 1

Track Classification: Ocean and coupled reanalysis