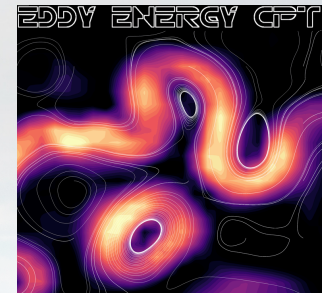


# Exploring the power of machine learning to tune tracer diffusivities offline



Gustavo Marques  
gmarques@ucar.edu

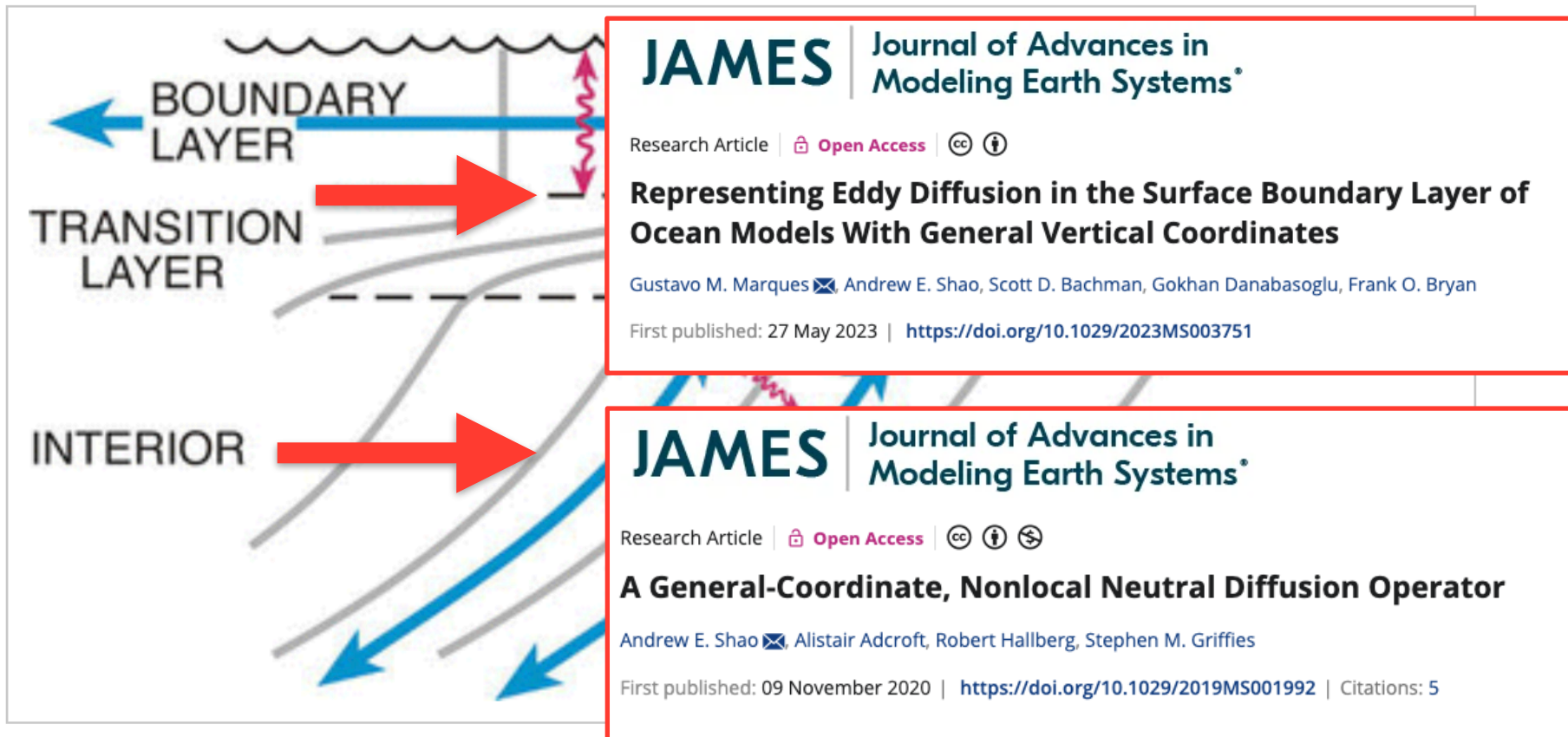


**CESM OMWG, February 8, 2024**

# Motivation: unification of mesoscale tracer mixing

The idea of (lateral) diabatic eddy fluxes near boundaries was initially proposed by Treguier et al., (1997).

Conceptual model of eddy fluxes in the upper ocean



**JAMES**

Journal of Advances in  
Modeling Earth Systems\*

Research Article | [Open Access](#) |

**Representing Eddy Diffusion in the Surface Boundary Layer of Ocean Models With General Vertical Coordinates**

Gustavo M. Marques , Andrew E. Shao, Scott D. Bachman, Gokhan Danabasoglu, Frank O. Bryan

First published: 27 May 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1029/2023MS003751>

**JAMES**

Journal of Advances in  
Modeling Earth Systems\*

Research Article | [Open Access](#) |

**A General-Coordinate, Nonlocal Neutral Diffusion Operator**

Andrew E. Shao , Alistair Adcroft, Robert Hallberg, Stephen M. Griffies

First published: 09 November 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019MS001992> | Citations: 5

From: Ferrari et al., 2008

# Defining eddy diffusivities ( $\kappa_{Redi}$ )

## 2D Mesoscale Eddy Kinetic Energy (MEKE) (Jensen et al., 2015):

**MEKE**

$$\partial_t E = \dot{E}_{bg} + \underbrace{\gamma_{GM} \dot{E}_{GM}}_{\text{Energy transferred from GM}} + \cancel{\gamma_\nu \dot{E}_\nu} - \underbrace{\left( 2 \frac{C_d}{H} |U_b| E_b \right)}_{\text{Energy lost to bottom drag}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{D}_E}_{\text{Diffusion}} \quad (1)$$

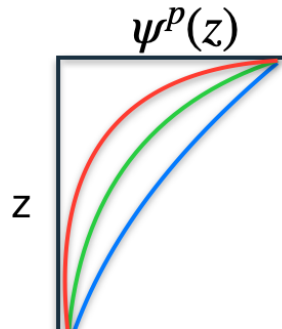
SOURCE                      SINK                      SMOOTHING

**GEOMETRIC**  $\rightarrow$   $\kappa_{GM} = \alpha E \frac{N}{|\nabla b|}$  (2)  
 (Marshall et al., 2012)

EBT

$$\kappa_{Redi}(z) = c \kappa_{GM} \psi^p(z) \quad (3)$$

This is the default option in CESM/MOM6, with  $c = p = 1$ .



Based on **QG PV** and neglecting the Beta term (Smith and Marshall, 2008 - JPO Eq. 4.3):

$$\kappa_{Redi}(z) = \kappa_{GM}(z) + \frac{\partial_z \kappa_{GM}(z) S}{\partial_z S} \quad (4)$$

S = isopycnal slope.

Near-term plan to implement and test Eq (4).

**EBT** is the equivalent barotropic vertical structure (non-dim).  
 Option to raise EBT to different powers ( $p = 1, 2, 3 \dots$ ).

# CESM workhorse forced simulations (1 cycle JRA-55)

Exploration of  $\kappa_{Redi}$  in forced experiments (7 cases)  
by varying **c** and **p** in equation (3).

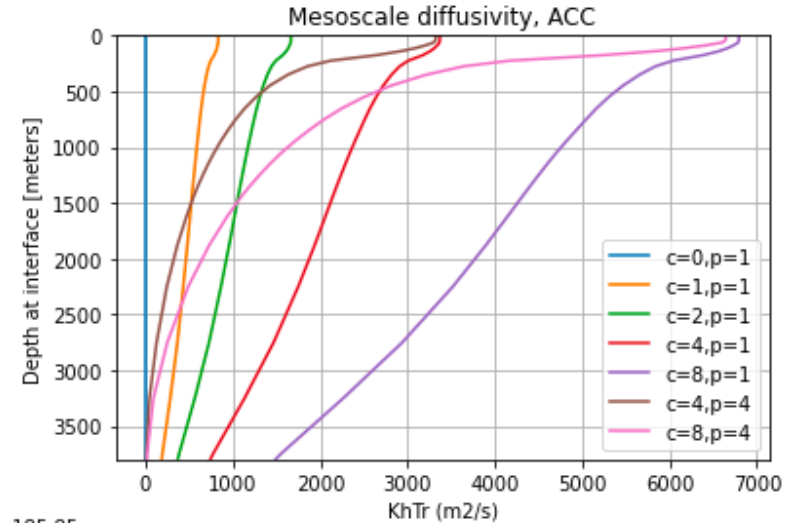
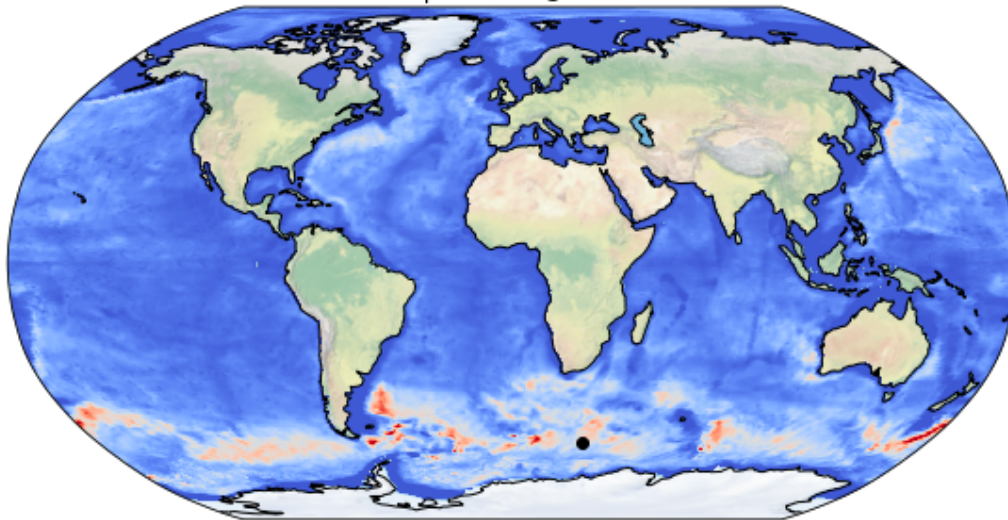
$$\kappa_{Redi}(z) = c \kappa_{GM} \psi^p(z) \quad (3)$$

Tracer diffusivity (annual mean, year 61)

max=2255.5  
min=50

c=1,p=1, KhTr @ surface

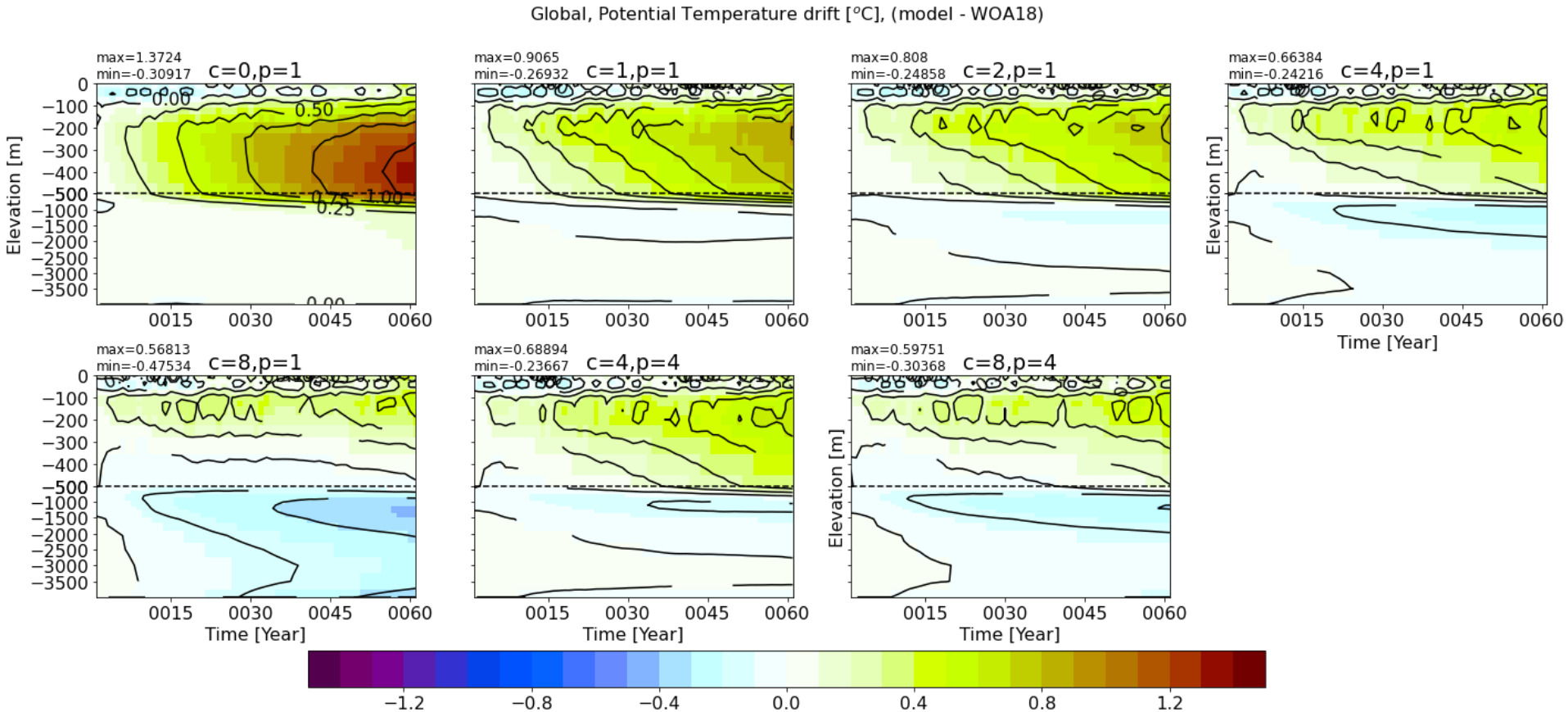
mean=246.32 sd=185.85  
ms=308.57



Overall structure does not  
change among the 7 cases;

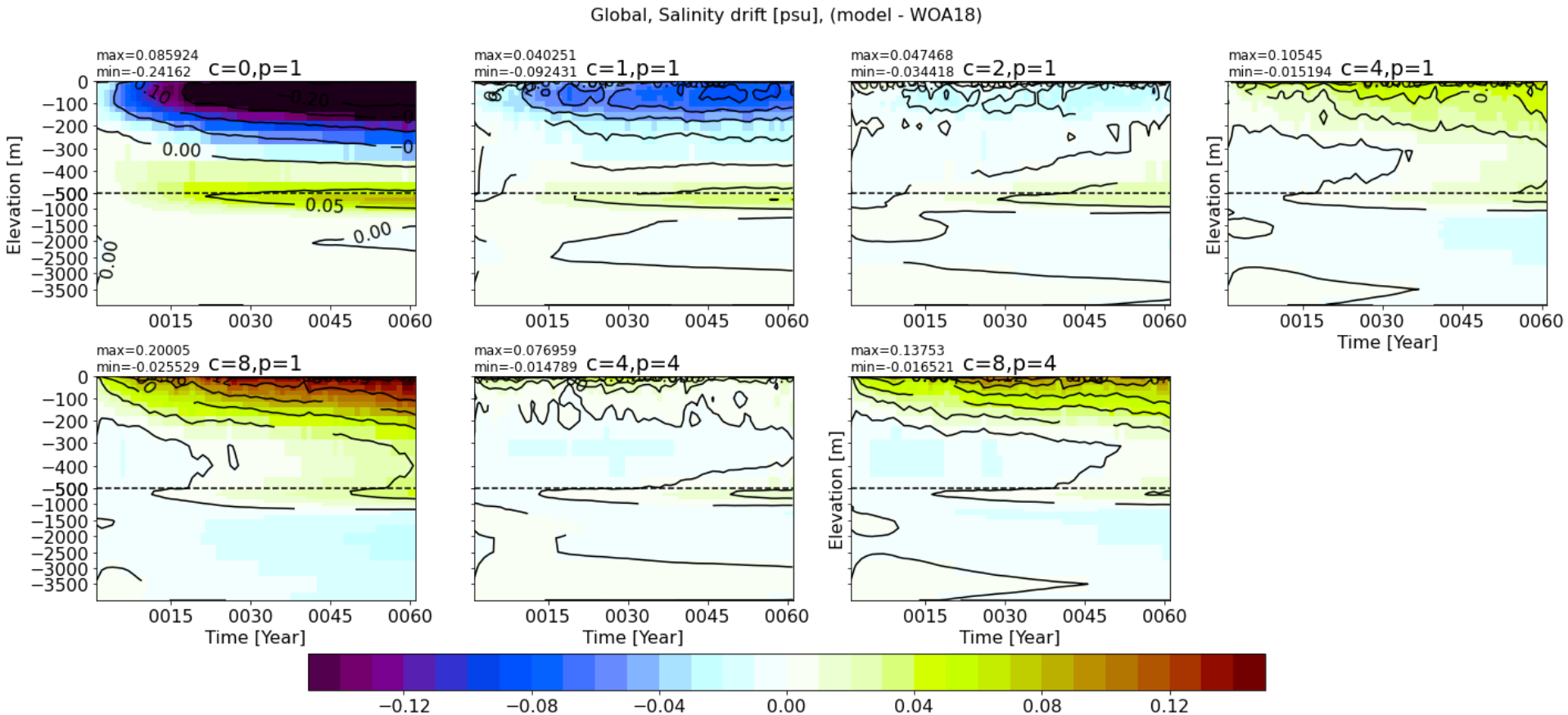
Larger values near western  
boundary currents and  
Southern Ocean.

# Sensitivity of the global temperature drift to $\kappa_{Redi}$



Changes in  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{p}$  ( $\kappa_{Redi}$ ) affect global temperature drift.

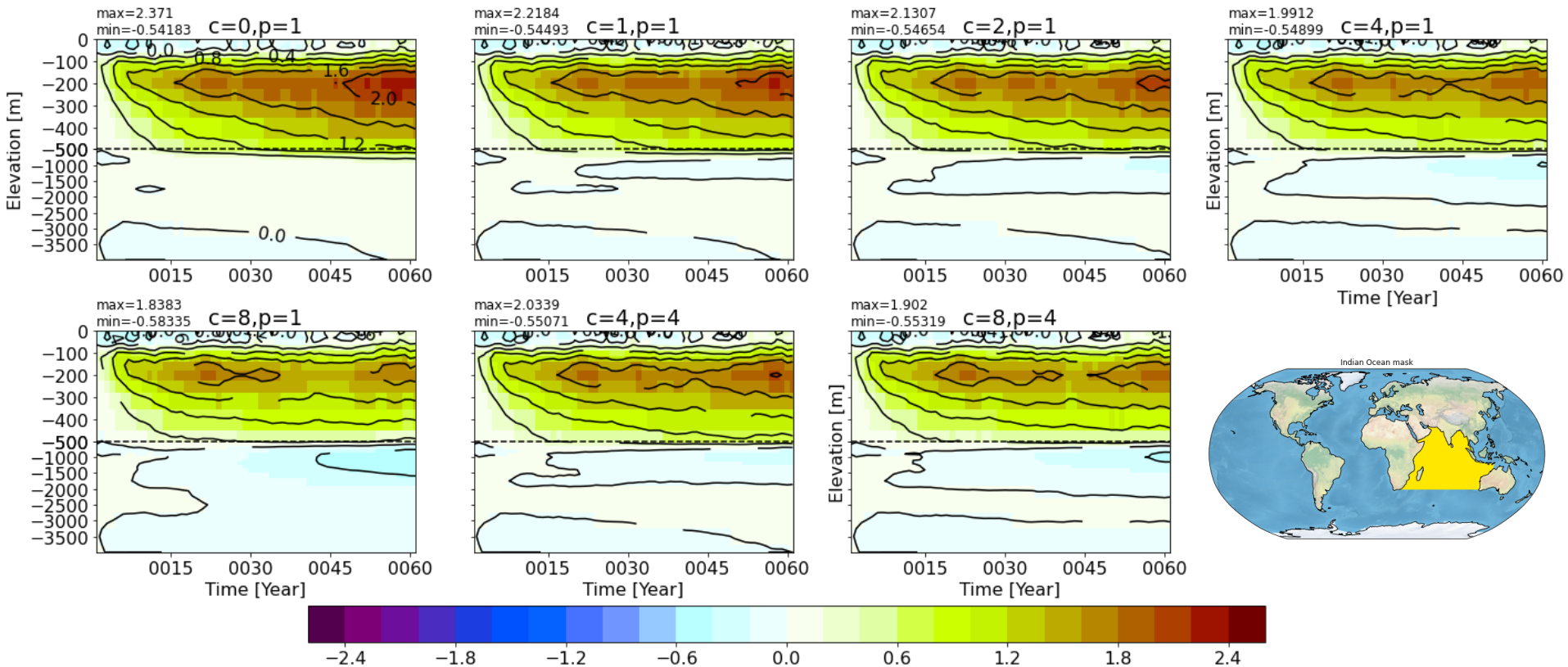
# Sensitivity of the global salinity drift to $\kappa_{Redi}$



The effect of varying  $c$  and  $p$  ( $\kappa_{Redi}$ ) on the global salinity bias is even more significant. It can flip the sign of the bias near the surface.

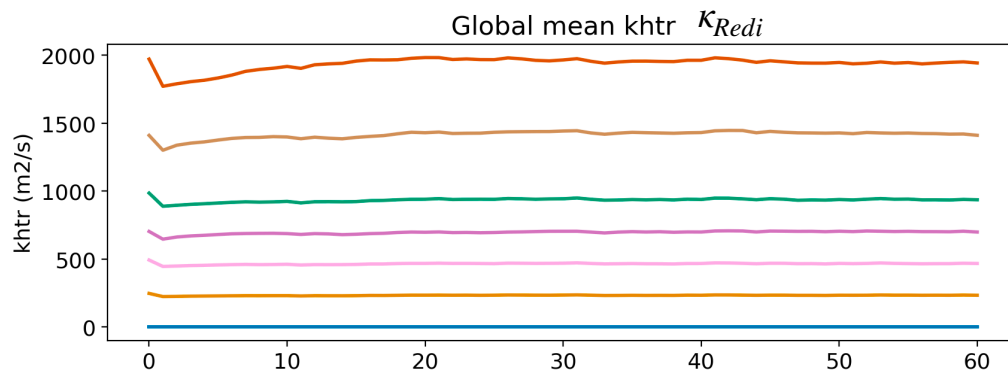
# Sensitivity of the global temperature drift to $\kappa_{Redi}$ (Indian Ocean)

IndianOcean, Potential Temperature drift [°C], (model - WOA18)



Example of where  $\kappa_{Redi}$  has little effect on the temperature bias.

# Mean T/S biases as a function of c and p (depth = 250 m)



Global mean diffusivities equilibrate after a few years and then remain constant throughout the simulations;

Mean T&S biases grow with time and do not reach an “equilibrium”;

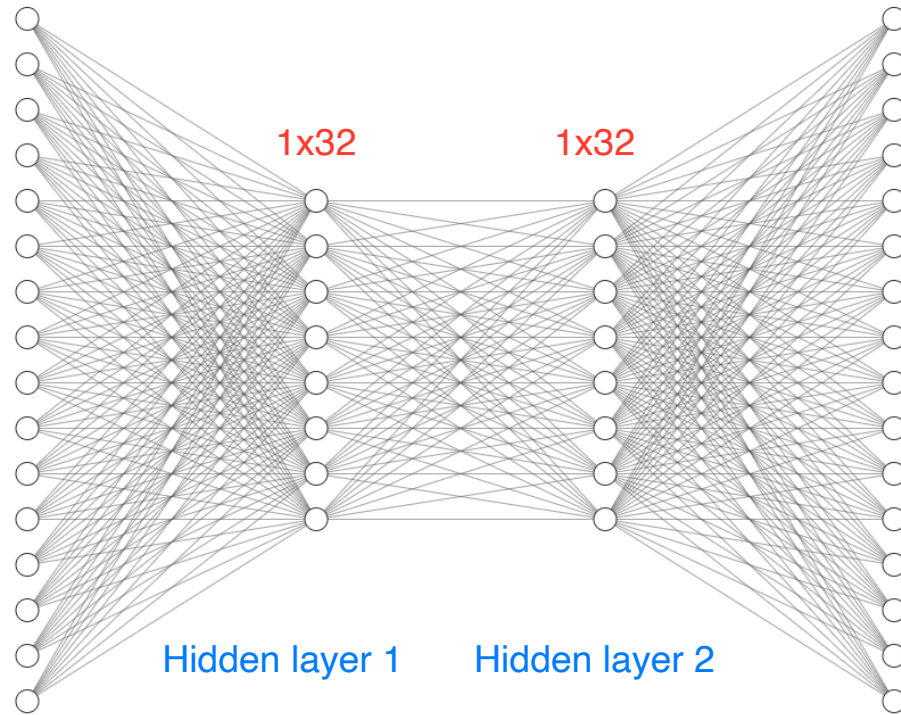
Case  $c = 2, p = 1$  is **not** used in the training/testing of the neural network (next slide).



# A Neural Network model to predict temperature biases

1x147202 (540x480 minus land points)

1x147202

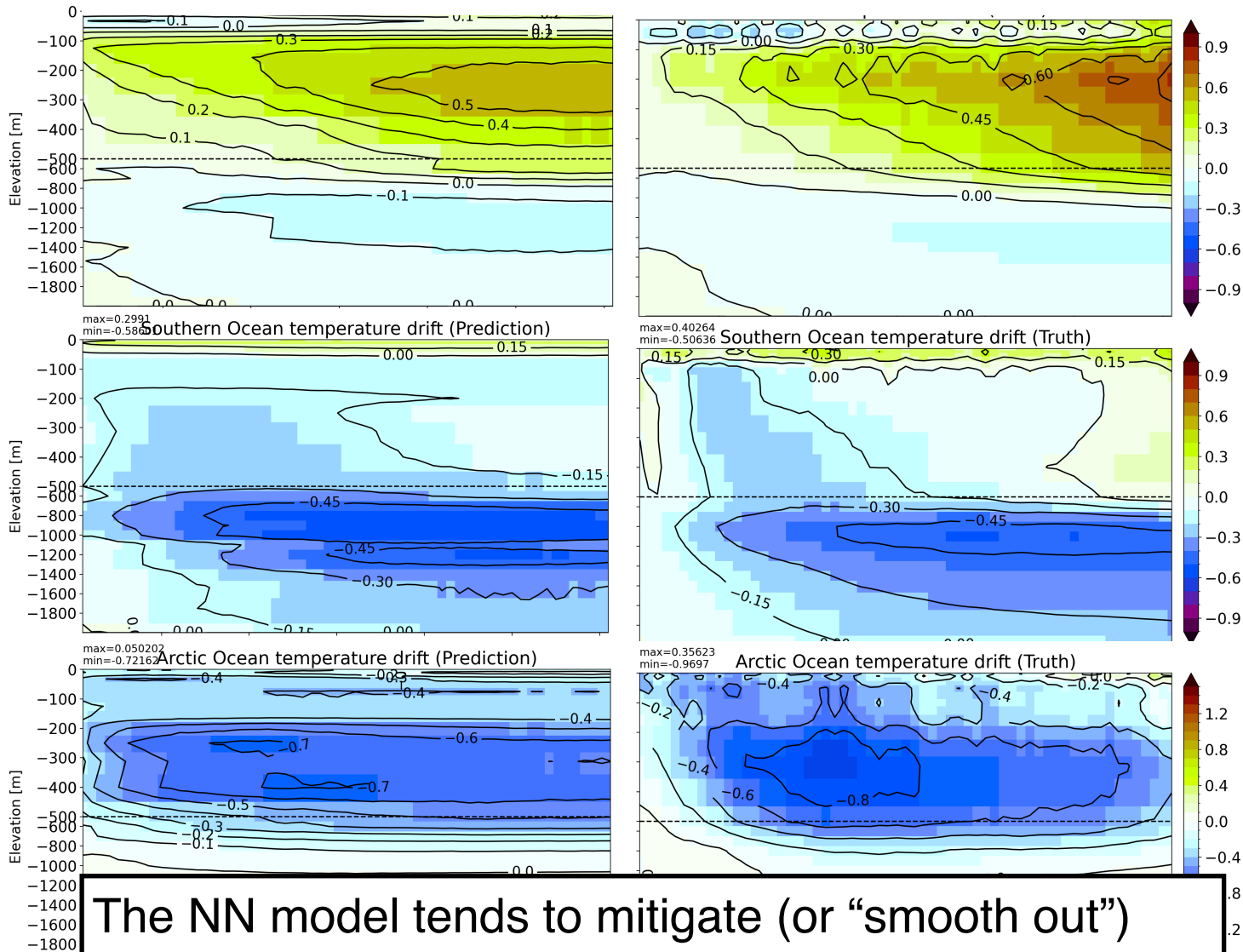


## Hyperparameters:

- **# neurons** = 32;
- **# layers** = 2;
- **Activation function** = ReLu
- **Learning rate** = 1e-4;
- **Loss function** = mean absolute error.

- Hyperparameters optimized using KerasTuner's random search and manual exploration process;
- **For each vertical level**, a neural network was created using the “Sequential” model from Tensorflow Keras. It has ~ 8 million parameters trained using 4 Nvidia A100 GPUs.

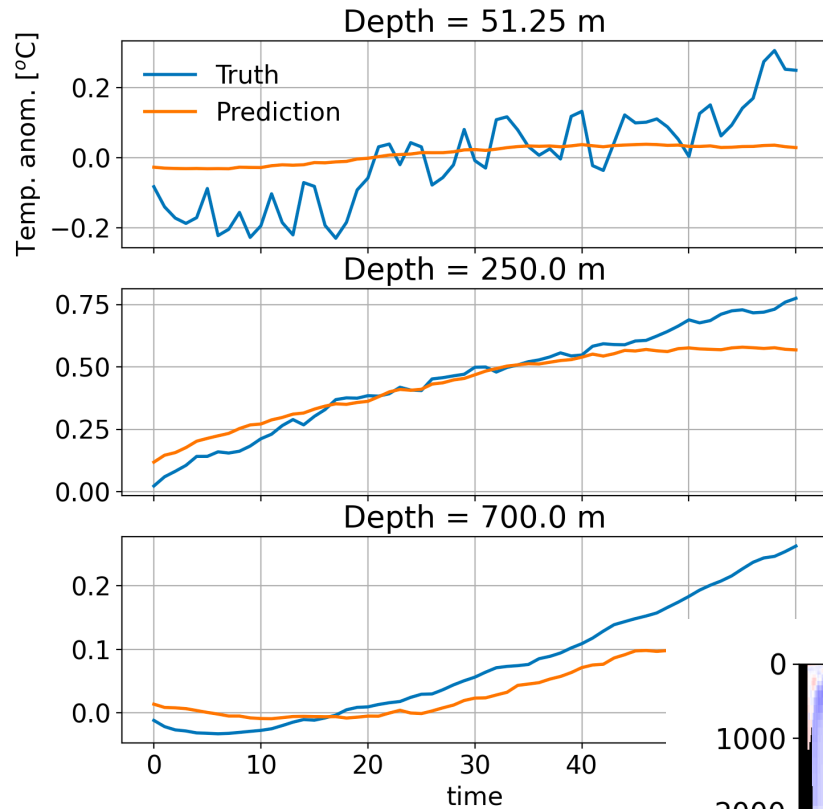
# Neural network prediction vs truth: temperature bias (°C)



The NN model tends to mitigate (or “smooth out”) biases while generally capturing the overall pattern.

# Neural network prediction vs truth: temperature bias (°C)

## Global mean biases

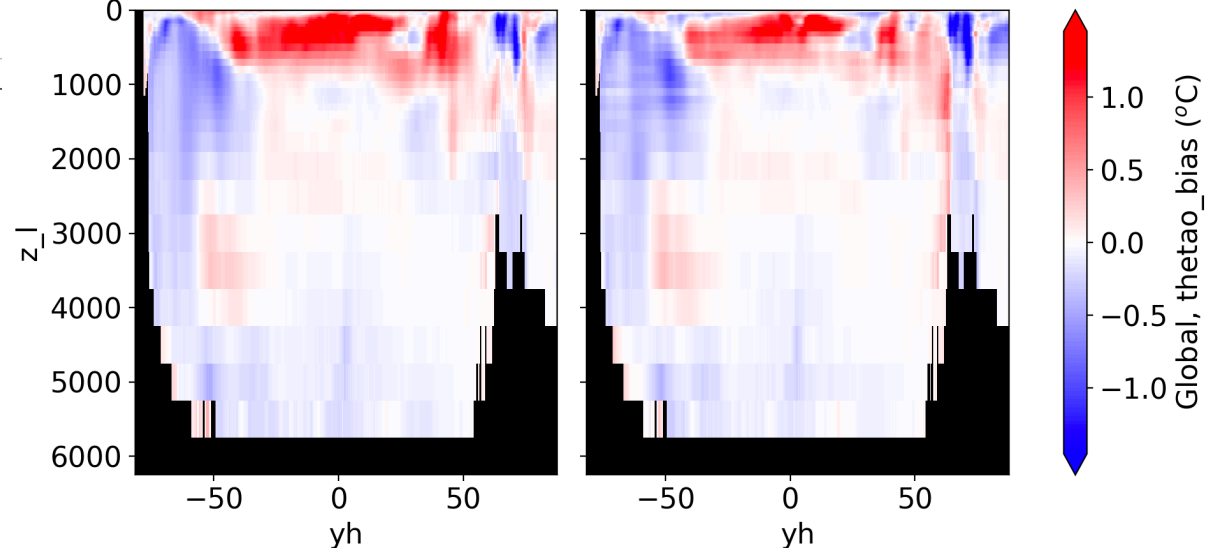


NN model does not capture near-surface variability.  $\kappa_{Redi}$  has little influence at this depth;

Extreme values are attenuated.

## Zonal mean bias at year 61

Structure of zonal mean bias at year 61 is well represented.

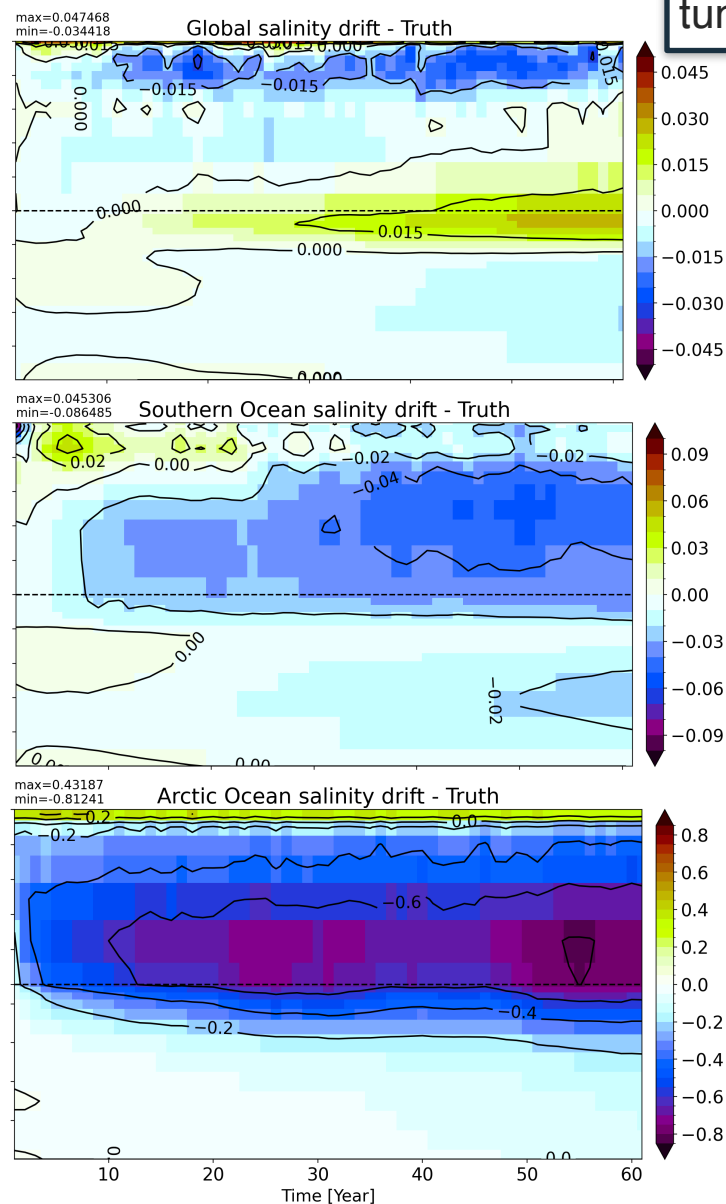
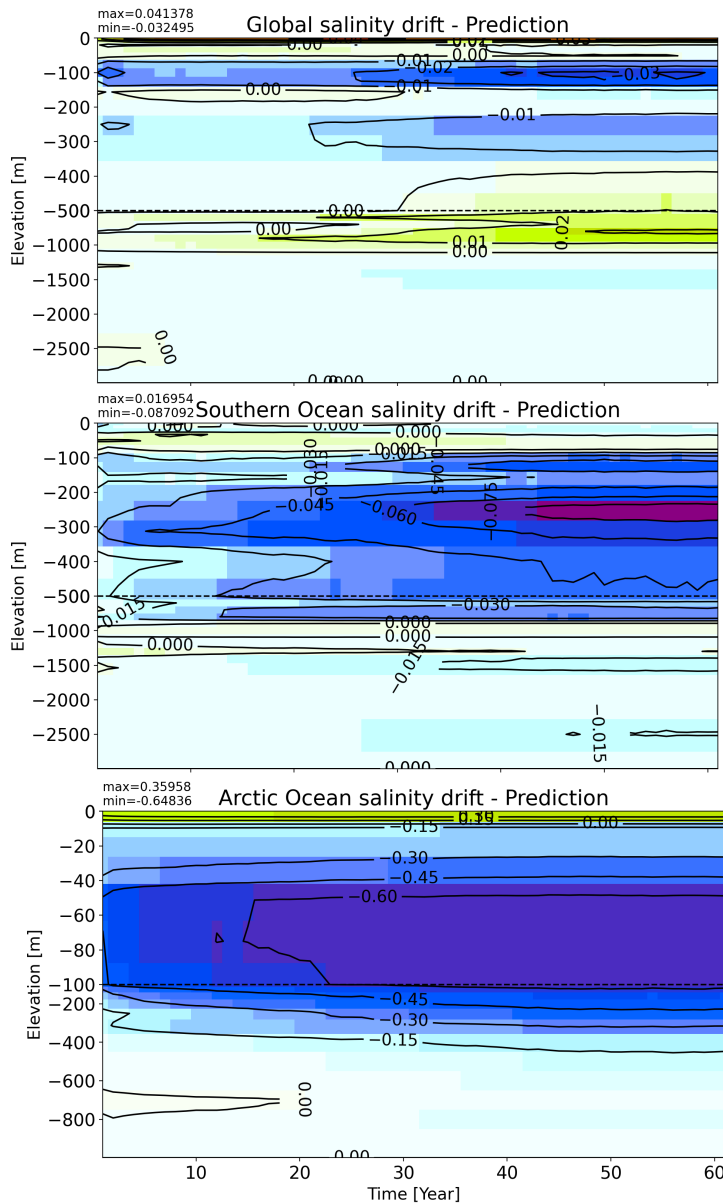


# Neural network prediction vs truth: salinity bias (psu)

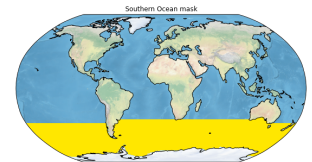
## Prediction

## Truth

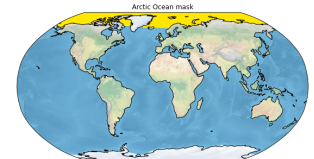
**Warning:** NN was not tuned for salinity bias



Global



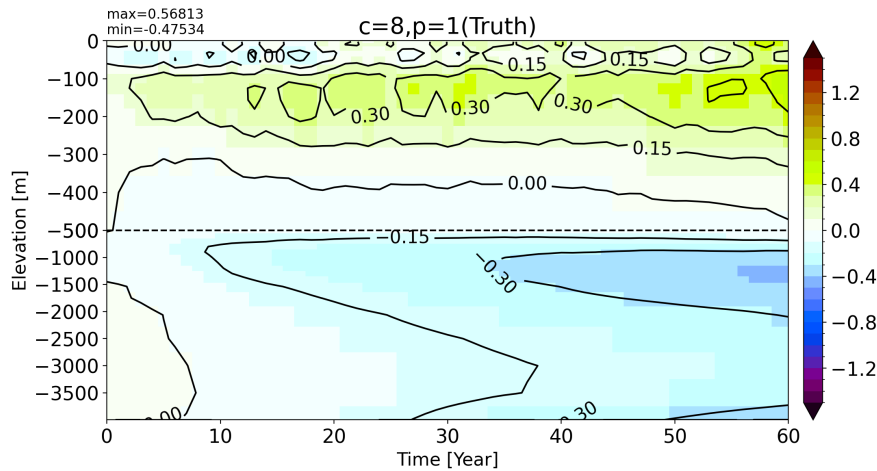
Southern Ocean



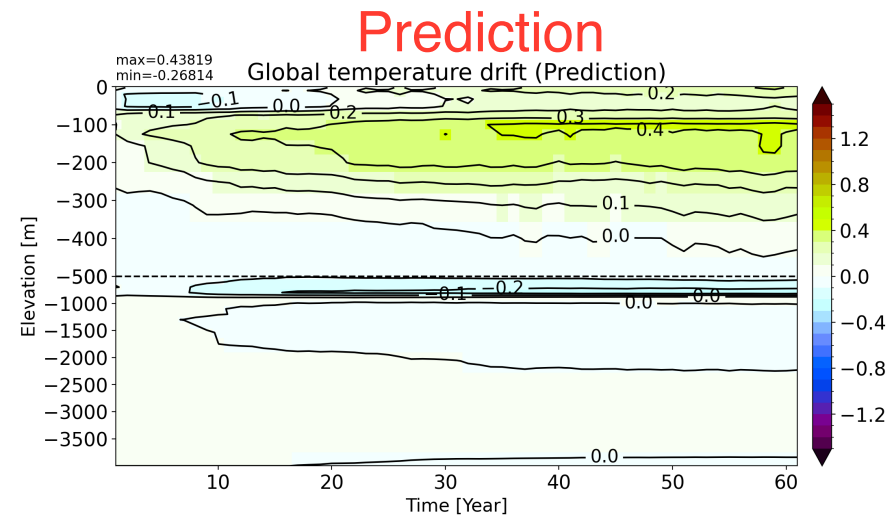
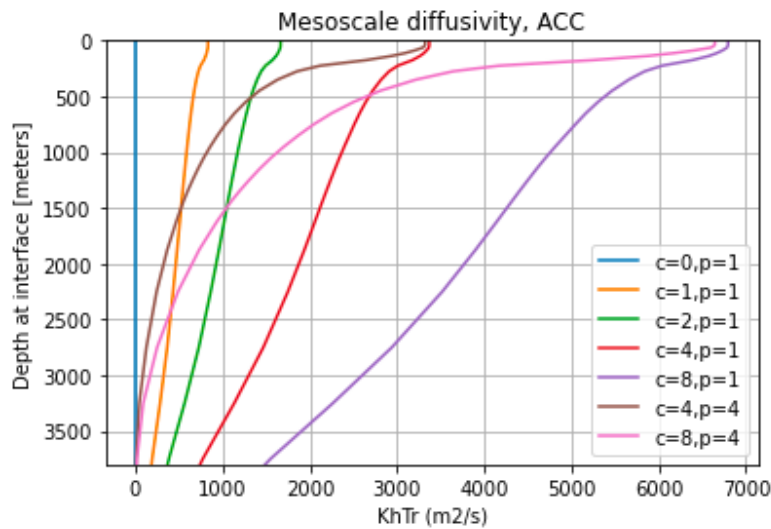
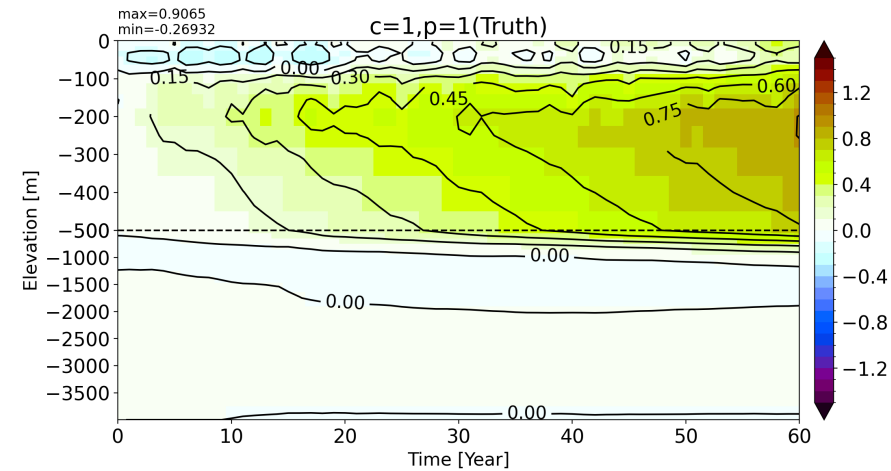
Arctic Ocean

# Case study: reduce near-surface global temperature bias

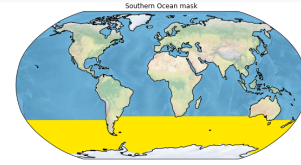
$K_{Redi}$  from case  $c=8, p=1$  for depth = 0 to 800 m



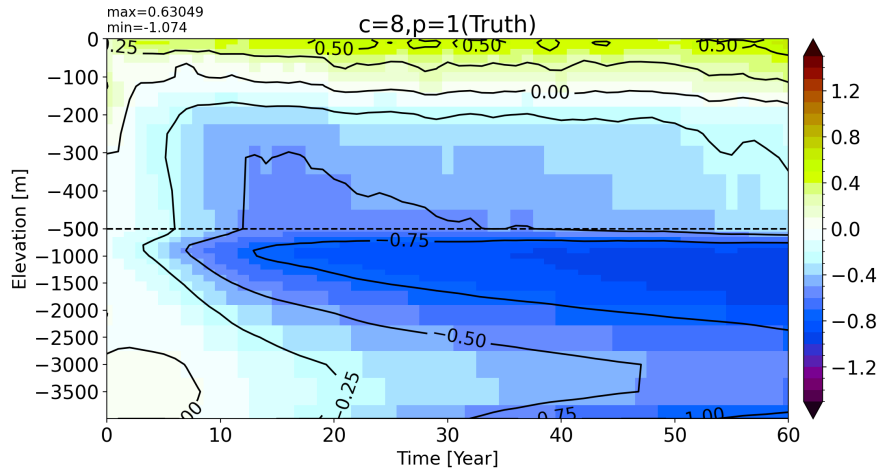
$K_{Redi}$  from case  $c=1, p=1$  for depth > 800 m



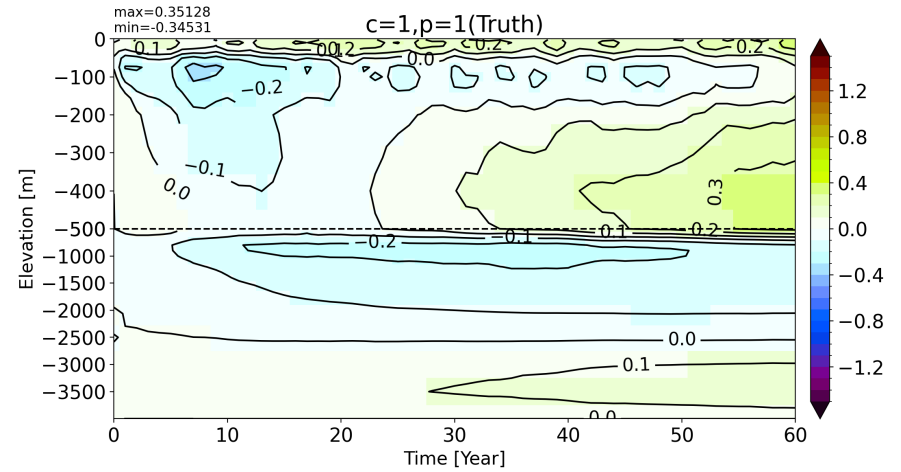
# Case study: Southern Ocean temperature bias



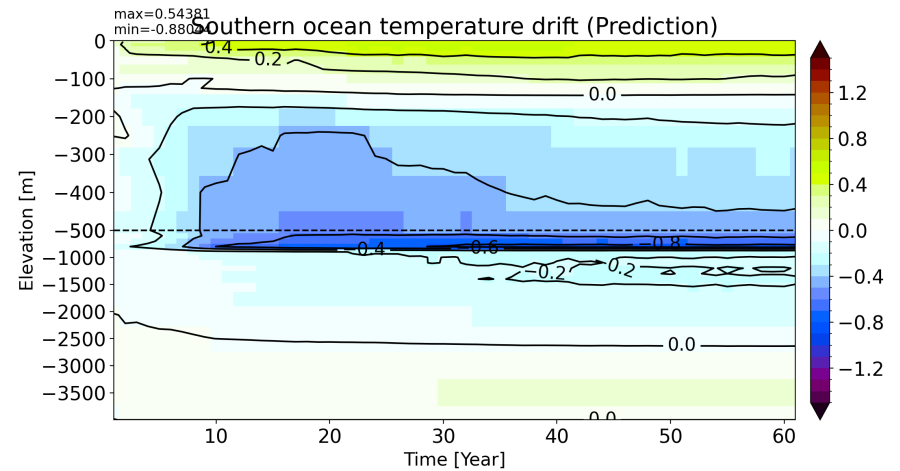
## Case $c=8, p=1$



## Case $c=1, p=1$



## Prediction



# Summary

## Machine learning (ML) for offline model tuning (emulator):

- Neural network (NN) model to predict/emulate temperature biases using mesoscale diffusivities as input (work in progress);
- NN model tends to attenuate (or “smooth out”) biases while generally capturing the overall pattern (good qualitatively);

## Future work:

- Improve predictions by using more data and input “features”;
- Try other ML techniques (convolutional NN, generative adversarial networks, random forest, gaussian process models);
- Apply this approach to emulate other metrics.

**Thanks to LEAP NSF for the course on Machine Learning for Environmental Science by Pierre Gentine at Columbia University!**

Thank you!      gmarques@ucar.edu

# Mean T/S biases as a function of c and p (depth = 51.25 m)

