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# Distinct roles of global cyclonic and anticyclonic eddies in regulating near-inertial internal waves in the ocean interior

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In this study, we examine the regulation of wind-powered near-inertial internal waves (NIWs) in the ocean interior by mesoscale eddies, using an eddy-resolving global climate model. There is an enhancement (weakening) of NIW activity within anticyclonic (cyclonic) eddies from the surface boundary layer (SBL) base down to ~4,000 m, associated with a decreased (increased) wave vertical scale. The influence of anticyclonic eddies on NIW activity is more pronounced than that of cyclonic eddies, suggesting that the net effect of mesoscale eddies is to intensify the NIWs in the ocean interior. The enhanced (weakened) NIW activity under the SBL in anticyclonic (cyclonic) eddies is ascribed to both horizontal convergence (divergence) of NIW energy flux under the SBL and increased (decreased) downward NIW energy flux from the SBL base. The former is only confined to a layer within several hundred meters under the SBL, whereas the latter becomes dominant in the deeper ocean.

## KEYWORDS

mesoscale eddies, near-inertial internal waves, turbulent vertical mixing, coupled global climate models, community earth system model

## Introduction

Turbulent diapycnal mixing affects a variety of oceanic processes and plays a significant role in regulating large-scale ocean circulations and global climate (Gregory, 2000; Wunsch and Ferrari, 2004; Saenko and Merryfield, 2005). In the ocean interior, diapycnal mixing is mainly driven by internal wave breaking with winds and tides being two major sources of energy input to the internal wave field (Munk and Wunsch, 1998; Wunsch and Ferrari, 2004). As omnipresent features in the global ocean, wind-powered near-inertial internal waves (NIWs) are suggested to play a

crucial role in furnishing the diapycnal mixing in the ocean interior, accounting for its distinctive seasonal cycle (Jing and Wu, 2010; Wu et al., 2011; Whalen et al., 2012; Jing and Wu, 2014; Whalen et al., 2015).

The wind power exerted on NIWs (denoted as  $W_1$ ) mainly occurs during the passage of synoptic storms with a horizontal scale of  $O(1,000 \text{ km})$  (D'Asaro, 1985; Alford et al., 2016). If the ocean were horizontally homogeneous, most of the excited NIWs would dissipate inside the surface boundary layer (SBL) with little energy radiating into the deep ocean to power the diapycnal mixing there, due to their small vertical group velocity. Theoretical studies suggest that the downward radiation of NIWs is strongly affected by mesoscale eddies (Kunze, 1985; Young and Ben Jelloul, 1997; Balmforth et al., 1998; Klein et al., 2004; Danioux et al., 2015). Using the WKB approximation, Kunze (1985) showed that the lower bound of the internal wave frequency band is shifted from the local Coriolis frequency ( $f$ ) by half the background relative vorticity ( $\zeta / 2$ ) to a so-called effective Coriolis frequency,  $f_{\text{eff}} \equiv f + \zeta / 2$ , despite the fact that NIWs can have a horizontal scale similar to that of mesoscale eddies. Young and Ben Jelloul (1997) relaxed the horizontal scale assumption implicit in the WKB approach and proposed a complementary framework (referred to as the YBJ model hereafter). However, the YBJ model relies on a strong dispersion approximation that is invalid for high-vertical modes. Recently, Danioux et al. (2015) pointed out that the trapping of NIWs in anticyclonic eddies (AEs) associated with a reducing spatial scale of the wave field can be understood as a direct consequence of a conservation law associated with the YBJ model, without making assumptions about the smallness of the horizontal scales of NIWs relative to mesoscale eddies (Kunze, 1985), the short evolution time of NIWs and the nature of the vorticity field (Klein et al., 2004), or the relative importance of dispersion (Young and Ben Jelloul, 1997).

Although observational and numerical studies confirm the important role of mesoscale eddies in promoting NIW activity in the stratified ocean interior (Kunze, 1985; Balmforth et al., 1998; Lee & Niiler, 1998; Zhai et al., 2005; Zhai et al., 2007; Jing & Wu, 2014; Lelong et al., 2020), several questions remain to be answered. First, AEs are well recognized as an energy conduit for NIW radiation (Lee and Niiler, 1998), yet the effects of cyclonic eddies (CEs) remain unclear and different studies do not reach a consensus (Kunze, 1985; Balmforth et al., 1998). Kunze (1985) suggests that the NIWs should be repelled from CEs due to their higher  $f_{\text{eff}}$  value than the surrounding region, resulting in reduced NIW activity in the ocean interior within CEs. In contrast, by applying the YBJ model to an idealized setting, Balmforth et al. (1998) showed that NIW activity in the ocean interior is enhanced in both AEs and CEs. Second, existing studies chiefly focus on NIW's energy rather than its energy flux. It is yet unknown to what extent the effects of mesoscale eddies on NIW energy can be used to infer their effects on NIW energy flux. In particular, is the regulation of NIW energy under the

SBL by mesoscale eddies due to the downward NIW energy flux at the SBL base or the horizontal NIW energy flux convergence/divergence under the SBL?

Currently, *in situ* observations are only available at a few sites, making them too sparse to be useful for evaluating the influences of mesoscale eddies on NIWs on global scale. Owing to the rapid increase of computational capacity, present-day state-of-the-art global ocean numerical simulations are capable of resolving mesoscale eddies, NIWs, as well as their interactions (Sun et al., 2021; Yuan et al., 2021). In this study, we systematically investigate the effects of AEs and CEs on the characteristics of NIWs (kinetic energy, shear variance, and three-dimensional energy flux) in the global ocean using an eddy-resolving Community Earth System Model (CESM). The manuscript is organized as follows. Data and methodology are described in Section 2. In Section 3, global and regional composites of NIW characteristics in AEs and CEs are presented. In Section 4, implications on the diapycnal mixing are discussed. Conclusions are given in Section 5.

## Methodology

### An eddy-resolving CESM

We perform the numerical simulation using an eddy-resolving CESM version 1.3 (Chang et al., 2020). The atmospheric model is on a  $0.25^\circ$  horizontal grid with 30 levels in the vertical, fine enough to resolve the mesoscale winds that contribute significantly to  $W_1$  (Rimac et al., 2013; Jing et al., 2016). The oceanic model is on a horizontal grid of  $0.1^\circ$  nominal resolution with 62 vertical levels, where the layer thickness increases gradually from 5 m at the sea surface to 250 m near the topography. The horizontal grids for the sea ice and land components are identical with those of the oceanic and atmospheric models, respectively. The diapycnal mixing for tracer and momentum is represented using a K-profile parameterization scheme (Large et al., 1994) except that the tracer mixing outside the SBL induced by internal wave breaking is replaced from the constant  $10^{-5} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  by that derived from the modified finescale parameterization (MFP) that parameterizes the NIW-driven diapycnal mixing in the ocean interior (Jing et al., 2016; Yuan et al., 2021).

We initialize the oceanic model of CESM using the January-mean climatology from the World Ocean Atlas (WOA; Levitus et al., 2015). The climate forcings are set as the present-day (the year 2000) conditions and repeated every year. After a spin-up of 2 years, the global kinetic energy in the upper 1,000 m shows no notable tendency, suggesting a quasi-equilibrium state for mesoscale eddies. We then integrate the model for ten more years. During the 7th model year, snapshots of the ocean velocity, potential density, wind stress, surface air pressure, SBL depth, sea surface height (SSH), and turbulent dissipation rate parameterized by the

MFP are output every 3 h for analyzing the interactions between mesoscale eddies and NIWs.

As detailed by Yuan et al. (2021), the CESM has fidelity in reproducing the observed sea surface geostrophic kinetic energy, near-inertial current amplitude, and  $W_1$  (Chaigneau et al., 2008; Liu et al., 2019). Moreover, the statistics of CESM-simulated AEs and CEs show good agreement with the observed ones (Section 3.1). Finally, the parameterized NIW-induced turbulent dissipation rate is qualitatively consistent with that inferred from finestructure measurements of Argo data, reproducing the enhancement in the Kuroshio Extension, Gulf Stream extension, and the Southern Ocean where winds input considerable amount of energy to the NIWs (Yuan et al., 2021). These consistencies lend support to the realism of CESM in simulating the interaction between NIWs and mesoscale eddies as well as its effect on diapycnal mixing.

## Computation of NIW characteristics

To extract the near-inertial velocity  $u_I = (u_I, v_I, w_I)$ , we apply a 4th-order Butterworth bandpass filter that retains the velocity components within the near-inertial band (between  $0.75f$  and  $1.25f$ ,  $f$  being the local Coriolis frequency) to the 3-h ocean velocity. Domain within  $5^\circ$  S– $5^\circ$  N is discarded for analysis to avoid the influence of the vanishing  $f$  near the equator on the results. The kinetic energy of NIWs is computed as

$$KE_I = \frac{1}{2} (u_I^2 + v_I^2) \quad 1$$

The vertical NIW shear variance is calculated as

$$S_I^2 = \left( \frac{\partial u_I}{\partial z} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial v_I}{\partial z} \right)^2 \quad 2$$

The downward NIW energy flux is computed as

$$\Phi = -w_I p_I \quad 3$$

where  $p_I$  is the pressure perturbation in the near-inertial band estimated based on the hydrostatic approximation. The horizontal NIW energy flux convergence is computed as

$$\Pi = - \left( \frac{\partial u_I p_I}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_I p_I}{\partial y} \right) \quad 4$$

## Mesoscale eddy detection and composite analysis

In this study, mesoscale eddies are detected by analyzing the 3-h snapshots of the CESM-simulated SSH from the seventh model year following Faghmous et al. (2013). Supplementary Figure 1 shows a snapshot of detected eddies, illustrating their centroids and edges. The eddy radius  $R$  is defined as the radius of the circle that has an identical area with the eddy. As the method

proposed by Faghmous et al. (2013) can only identify eddy structures at the sea surface, we assume that eddies do not tilt or only tilt slightly in the vertical. The composite analysis of some variable  $s$  is performed based on Chaigneau et al. (2011) as follows: For each eddy, we first transform  $s$  to a horizontal coordinate system in which the zonal and meridional axes are normalized by  $R$  and the origin is located at the eddy center. Then, we interpolate  $s$  onto a vertical coordinate system whose origin is located at the SBL base. The SBL depth is derived from the K-profile parameterization scheme and available in the model output (Large et al., 1994; Smith et al., 2010). The SBL depth for each eddy is set as the mean SBL depth within  $R$  from the eddy center. Sensitivity tests suggest that allowing for a spatially varying SBL depth has no noticeable influence on the results.

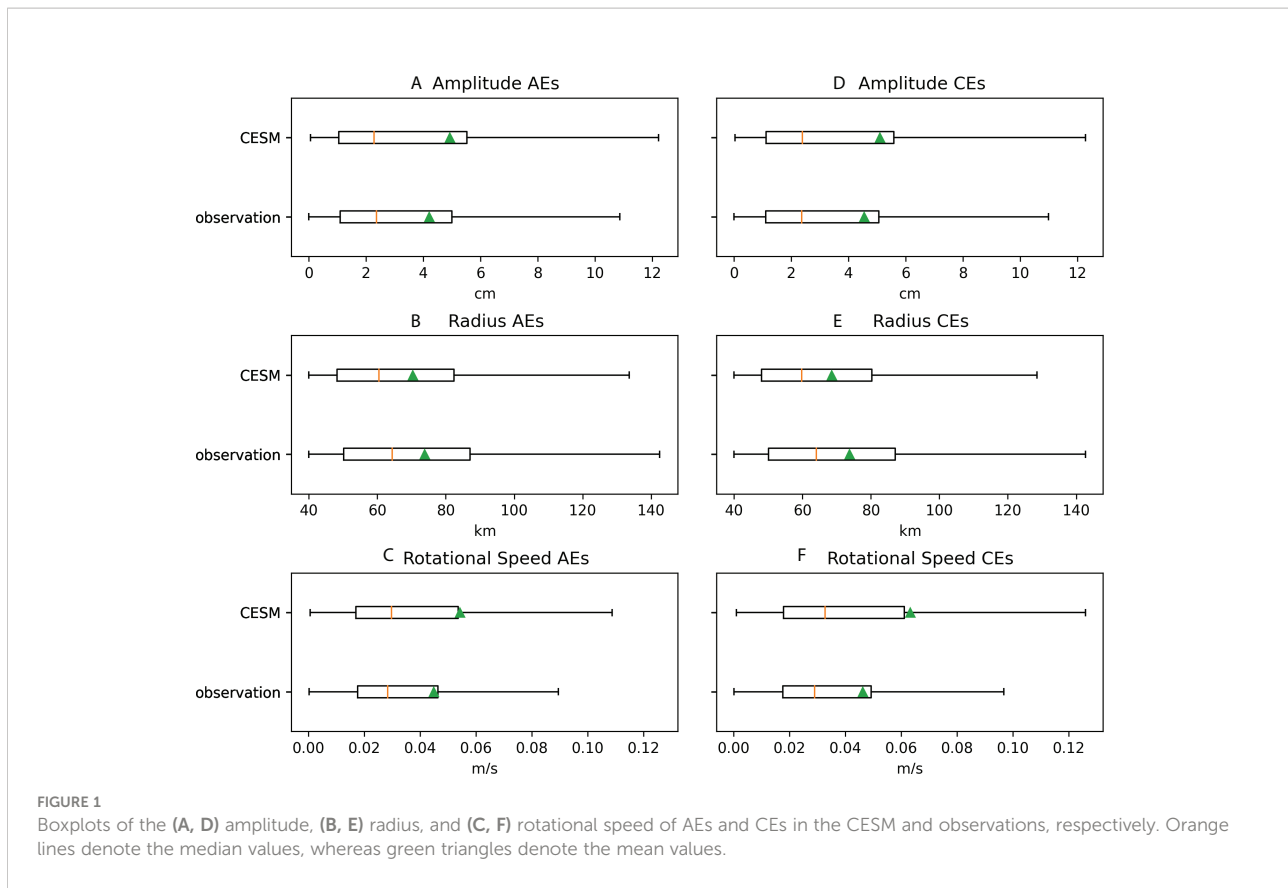
In the following analysis, we denote the mean value of  $s$  within  $R$  from the eddy center as  $\bar{s}^e$ . The background level of  $s$  in absence of eddies (denoted as  $\bar{s}^b$ ) is defined as the mean value of  $s$  outside  $2R$  from the eddy center but within the  $4R \times 4R$  square centered on the eddy center (the area occupied by any other detected eddies is excluded before calculating  $\bar{s}^b$ ). The effects of eddies on  $s$  are estimated via  $\Delta s = \bar{s}^e - \bar{s}^b$ . The statistical uncertainties in  $\Delta s$  for AEs and CE and influences of eddy detection methodology are evaluated in Supplementary Figures 2–5.

## Results

### Characteristics of the detected eddies

Figure 1 shows the characteristics of the AEs and CE detected in the CESM simulation and those obtained from the merged altimetric sea level anomaly data provided by the Copernicus Marine Environmental Monitoring Service (CMEMS; <https://marine.copernicus.eu>) using the eddy detection method proposed by Faghmous et al. (2013). There are in total 12,387,430 3-h AE snapshots detected in the CESM during the seventh model year, very close to 13,033,066 for the 3-h CE snapshots.

The eddy amplitude is defined as the magnitude of the difference between the SSH extrema of the eddy and the mean SSH of the eddy's boundary. The median eddy amplitude in the CESM is about 2.3 (2.4) cm for AEs (CEs) in the global ocean, very close to 2.4 (2.4) cm obtained from the observations. The median  $R$  of AEs (CEs) in the CESM is about 60.4 (59.8) km, slightly smaller than 64.3 (64.0) km in the observations. The rotational speed of an eddy is defined as the mean geostrophic speed inside the eddy. It is found that both AEs and CE in the CESM rotate slightly faster than their observed counterparts. The median rotational speed is 3.0 cm/s for AEs and 3.3 cm/s for CE in the CESM, whereas the median rotational speeds for AEs and CE in the observations are about 2.8 cm/s and 2.9 cm/s, respectively. In conclusion, the simulated AEs



and CEs in the CESM are qualitatively consistent with the observed ones.

## NIW activities in AEs and CEs

Figures 2A–C show the composites of  $KE_1$ ,  $S_1^2$ , and squared buoyancy frequency  $N^2$  for AEs in the global ocean, respectively. Under the SBL,  $KE_1$  is enhanced around the centers of AEs. The enhancement is noticeable from the SBL base down to at least 4,000 m but is most evident between 400 and 700 m, where  $\Delta KE_1$  is about 60% of  $\overline{KE_1}^b$ . According to the WKB theory, the refraction effect due to the changing  $N^2$  alone makes  $KE_1$  and  $S_1^2$  scaled as  $N^2$  and  $N^3$ , respectively. Therefore, the elevated  $KE_1$  in AEs cannot be explained by the refraction effect due to the spatially inhomogeneous  $N^2$ , as the  $\Delta N^2$  is only 5% of  $\overline{N^2}^b$  between 400 and 700 m. Such finding lends support to the argument that AEs can pipe NIW energy down to great depth via NIW-mean flow interactions (the so-called “chimney effect”; Lee & Niiler, 1998). The spatial structure of  $S_1^2$  in AEs is qualitatively similar to that of  $KE_1$ . However, the enhancement of  $S_1^2$  within AEs is more pronounced than that of  $KE_1$ , with a  $\Delta S_1^2$  about 125% of  $\overline{S_1^2}^b$  between 400 and 700 m. The differed extent of the enhancement of  $KE_1$  and  $S_1^2$  means that the vertical scale of NIWs shrinks in AEs. Such a shrinkage of NIW vertical

scale in AEs cannot be ascribed to the refraction by the changing  $N^2$ , either. However, it is consistent with the theoretical finding derived from the ray tracing of NIWs in an idealized AE where the vertical scale shrinkage is caused by the refraction due to the spatial inhomogeneity in  $f_{\text{eff}}$  (Kunze, 1985).

On the contrary,  $KE_1$  is reduced around the centers of CEs compared with the background level (Figure 3A). The weakening is evident from the SBL base down to at least 4,000 m. The  $\Delta N^2$  is too small to account for the reduced  $KE_1$  in CEs (Figure 3C), providing evidence that the weakened NIW activity under the SBL in the CEs is due to the NIW-mean flow interactions. The  $S_1^2$  in CEs shares a similar spatial structure as  $KE_1$  but shows a more pronounced reduction than that of  $KE_1$ . For instance,  $\Delta S_1^2$  is about -40% of  $\overline{S_1^2}^b$  at 400 m, whereas the ratio is only about -29% for  $KE_1$  at the same depth, suggesting an expanded vertical scale of NIWs in CEs. Again, the expanded vertical scale of NIWs in CEs cannot be attributed to the refraction by the changing  $N^2$  (Figure 3C) but is probably due to the changes in  $f_{\text{eff}}$ . Finally, we remark that there is asymmetry between the strengthening effect of AEs and the weakening effect of CEs on NIW activity, with the former more pronounced than the latter. Accordingly, the net effect of mesoscale eddies is to promote the NIW activity in the ocean interior.

We next examine the regulation of NIW activity under the SBL by AEs and CEs in different regions including the Kuroshio

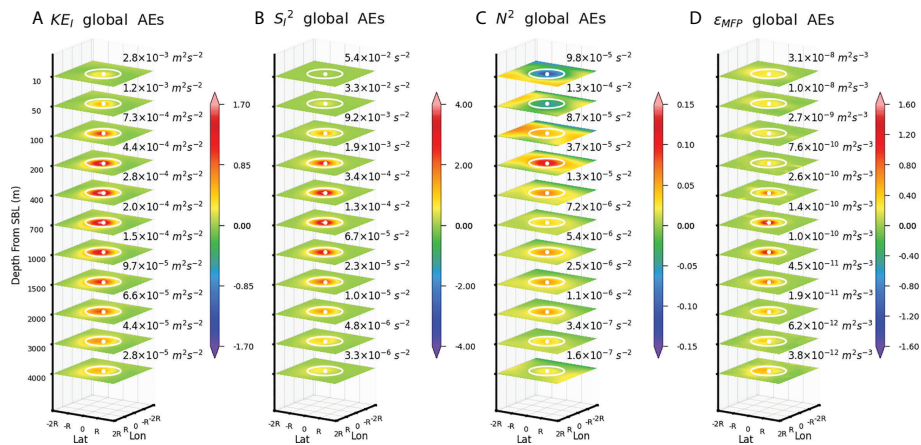


FIGURE 2

(A) Relative difference of the composite  $KE_I$  with respect to its background value,  $(KE_I - \overline{KE_I^b})/\overline{KE_I^b}$ , for AEs in the global ocean. The value of  $\overline{KE_I^b}$  is denoted above each horizontal slice. (B–D) Same as (A) but for  $S_I^2$ ,  $N^2$ , and  $\epsilon_{MFP}$ .

Extension (KE), Gulf Stream (GS), subtropical countercurrent (STCC), and the Southern Ocean (SO) (Figures 4, 5). The vertical structures of the mesoscale eddies in these regions differ significantly (Supplementary Figure 6). The enstrophy ( $\zeta^2$ ) of mesoscale eddies in the SO has an e-folding vertical scale of 566.5 m, whereas this value is reduced to 403.8 m, 273.5 m, and 145.4 m in the GS, KE, and STCC, respectively. There is a universal enhancement of  $KE_I$  around the center of AEs in different regions. However, the peaking depth and the downward penetration of this enhancement differ evidently among different regions. The enhancement of  $KE_I$  peaks at a greater depth and penetrates deeper for AEs with a larger e-folding vertical scale, suggesting that the more barotropic the AEs are, the more efficient

they are to drain the NIW energy into the abyssal ocean. As for CEs, the  $KE_I$  around the eddy center is universally weakened in different regions. In general, this weakening effect penetrates into a deeper region as the vertical e-folding scale of  $\zeta^2$  increases.

### Underlying dynamics

The enhanced NIW activity under the SBL in AEs implies an increased NIW energy flux into this region. This enhancement could result from the elevated downward NIW energy flux from the SBL base into the deep ocean (measured by  $\Delta\Phi$ ) or/and the horizontal convergence of NIW energy flux under the SBL

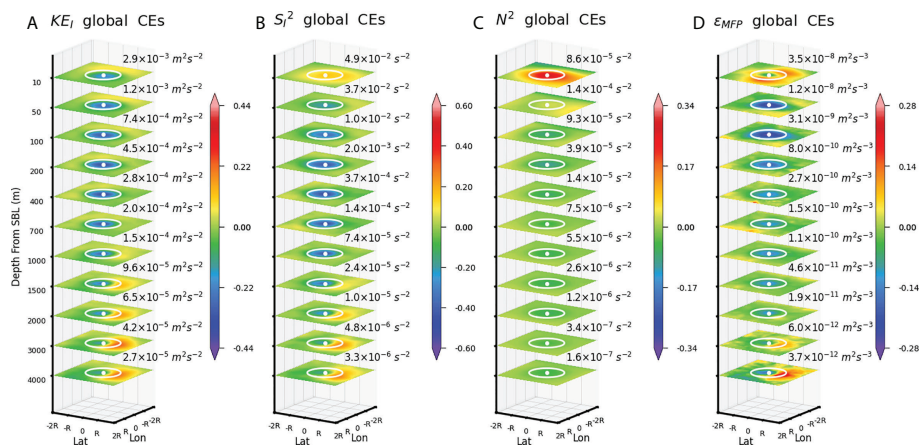


FIGURE 3

Same as Figure 2 but for CEs.

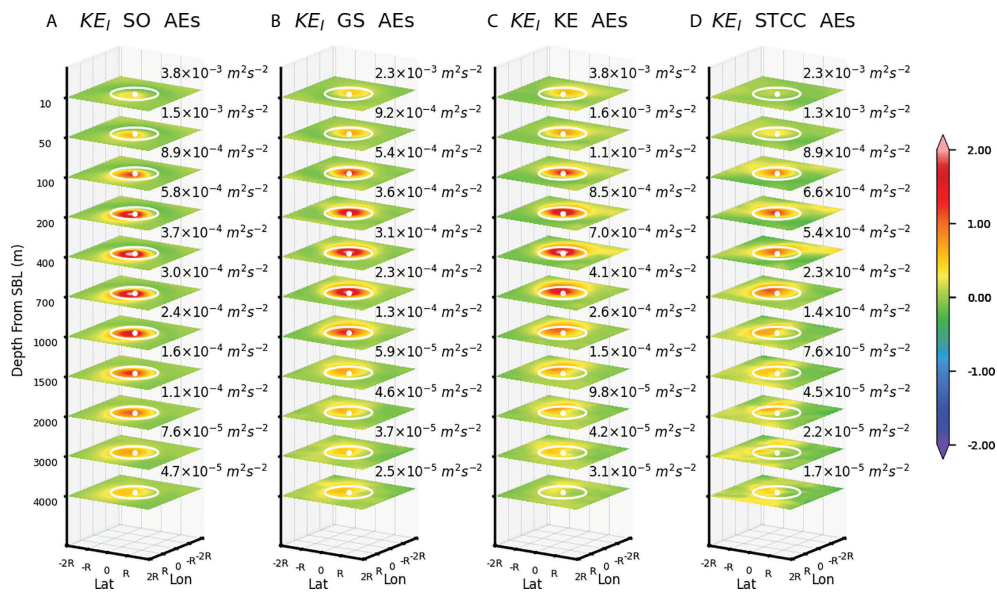


FIGURE 4 Same as Figure 2A but for AEs in the (A) Southern Ocean (SO), (B) Gulf Stream (GS), (C) Kuroshio extension (KE), and (D) subtropical countercurrent (STCC), respectively.

(measured by  $\bar{\Pi}^e$ ). Here,  $\Delta\Phi$  rather than  $\bar{\Phi}^e$  is used for comparison, because the latter contains the background downward NIW energy flux in absence of the eddies. It is found that  $\Delta\Phi$  dominates over in enhancing NIW activity from the SBL to the sea floor. In terms of the global average, the value of  $\Phi$  at the SBL base peaks around the

AE center with a positive  $\Delta\Phi$  of  $0.17 \text{ mWm}^{-2}$  (Figure 6A and Supplementary Figure 7), whereas the value of  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  integrated from the SBL base to  $\sim 4,000 \text{ m}$  is only about  $0.06 \text{ mWm}^{-2}$ . However, a large fraction of  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  is concentrated within a few hundred meters under the SBL base, suggesting that the horizontal convergence of

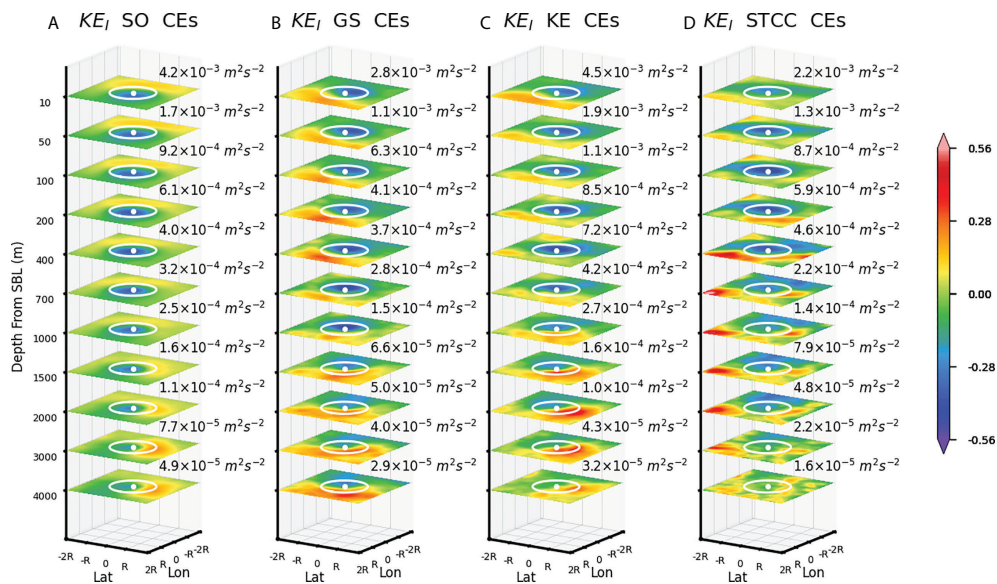


FIGURE 5 Same as Figure 4 but for CEs.

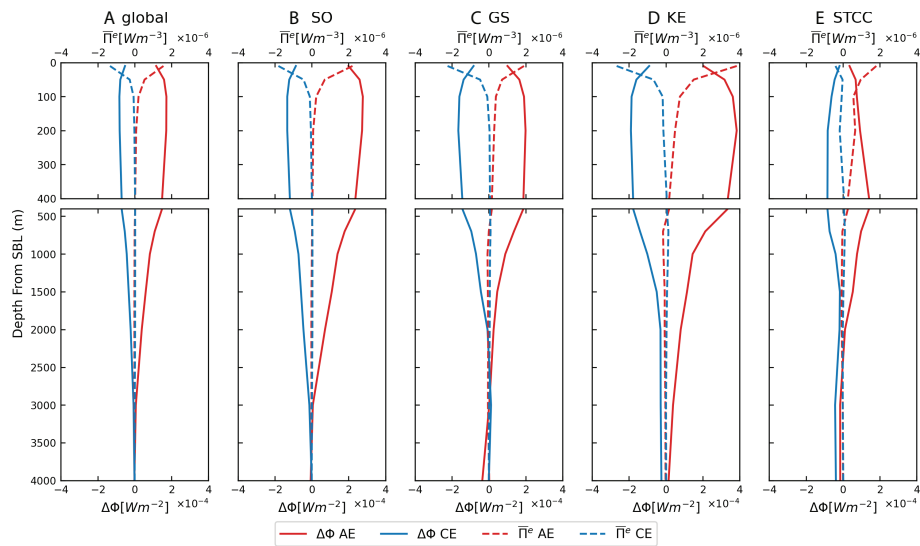


FIGURE 6 Composites of  $\Delta\Phi$  (solid lines) and  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  (dashed lines) in AEs (red lines) and CEs (blue lines) in the (A) global ocean, (B) SO, (C) GS, (D) KE, and (E) STCC, respectively.

NIW energy flux may contribute importantly to powering NIWs in this layer. This is confirmed by the vertical profile of  $\Delta\Phi$  that does not peak at the SBL base but  $\sim 150$  m further downward where the value of  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  decays to a negligible level. In the deeper ocean, the enhanced NIW activity in AEs is mostly ascribed to the increased downward NIW energy flux with the horizontal NIW energy flux convergence playing a negligible role. The vertical profiles of  $\Delta\Phi$  and  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  for AEs in different regions are qualitatively similar to their global mean profiles (Figures 6B–E), suggesting the universality of underlying dynamics for the enhanced NIW activity in AEs across the global ocean.

The vertical profiles of  $\Delta\Phi$  and  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  in CEs generally resemble those in AEs but are in opposite signs. Accordingly, the reduced NIW activity under the SBL in CEs is due to both the suppressed downward NIW energy flux from the SBL base and the horizontal divergence of NIW energy flux under the SBL. The negative  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  in CEs in combination with the positive  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  in AEs suggests a NIW energy radiation from CEs to AEs under the SBL, consistent with the theoretical prediction from Kunze (1985). Moreover, the vertical profiles of  $\Delta\Phi$  and  $\bar{\Pi}^e$  for CEs in different regions share similar features as their global mean counterparts. Finally, we note that the magnitude of  $\Delta\Phi$  in CEs is systematically smaller than that in AEs. This may account for the weaker effect of CEs than AEs on NIW activity.

## Discussion

The motivation for understanding the regulation of NIWs by mesoscale eddies roots largely from its effect on the diapycnal

mixing in the ocean interior. In this section, we estimate the influences of AEs and CEs on the NIW-induced turbulent dissipation rate  $\epsilon$  under the SBL. Here, the value of  $\epsilon$  is derived from the MFP (Jing et al., 2016; Yuan et al., 2021), denoted as  $\epsilon_{\text{MFP}}$  henceforth. The MFP relates  $\epsilon_{\text{MFP}}$  to the model-simulated  $S_1^2$  and  $N^2$ , parameterizing the NIW-induced diapycnal mixing using a finescale parameterization (Polzin et al., 2014) modified to remedy the underestimation of  $S_1^2$  induced by model's vertical resolution. Figures 2D, 3D display the composites of  $\epsilon_{\text{MFP}}$  in AEs and CEs in the global ocean, respectively. The spatial structures of  $\epsilon_{\text{MFP}}$  resemble those of  $S_1^2$ , being enhanced (weakened) around the center of AEs (CEs) from the SBL base down to at least 4,000 m. Similar to  $S_1^2$ , the effect of AEs on  $\epsilon_{\text{MFP}}$  is more evident than that of CEs, suggesting a net contribution of mesoscale eddies to intensifying the diapycnal mixing in the ocean interior.

Application of the MFP requires resolving both the mesoscale eddies and NIWs, which is possible for the eddy-resolving CESM but beyond the capacity of coarse-resolution coupled global climate models (CGCMs). Currently, the parameterizations applied to coarse-resolution CGCMs typically assume a constant fraction of  $W_1$  radiating downward into the stratified ocean interior (e.g., Jochum et al., 2013; Olbers and Eden, 2013, 2017; Eden and Olbers, 2014; Pollmann et al., 2017). However, observations and modeling studies suggest that this fraction is not a constant in global range (Furuichi et al., 2008; Zhai et al., 2009; Alford et al., 2012; Jing and Wu, 2014; Voelker et al., 2020; Sun et al., 2021). The composite  $\bar{W}_1^e$ , maximum downward NIW energy flux under the SBL base  $\bar{\Phi}_{\text{max}}^e$ , and their ratio  $r = \bar{\Phi}_{\text{max}}^e / \bar{W}_1^e$  for AEs and CEs in the global ocean and different regions are summarized in Table 1. We find that the value of  $r$

**TABLE 1** Composites of  $\overline{W_I^e}$ , maximum downward NIW energy flux  $\overline{\Phi_{max}^e}$  under the SBL base, and their ratio  $r = \overline{\Phi_{max}^e}/\overline{W_I^e}$  for AEs and CEs in the global ocean and different regions.

		Global	SO	GS	KE	STCC
$\overline{W_I^e}$ (mWm <sup>-2</sup> )	AEs	1.02	1.48	1.17	1.95	1.15
	CEs	0.91	1.31	1.06	1.67	0.94
$\overline{\Phi_{max}^e}$ (mWm <sup>-2</sup> )	AEs	0.44	0.66	0.53	0.96	0.44
	CEs	0.19	0.29	0.23	0.38	0.25
$r$ (%)	AEs	43.15	44.59	45.77	49.17	38.57
	CEs	20.77	21.69	21.39	22.98	26.92

differs substantially between AEs and CEs. In terms of the global average, the value of  $r$  for AEs is about 43.2%, more than twice of 20.8% for CEs. Similar is the case for eddies over different regions. It thus suggests that the diapycnal mixing should be different between AEs and CEs. Moreover, our analysis suggests that the mesoscale eddy-induced horizontal NIW energy flux convergence/divergence under the SBL base plays a key role in regulating NIW activity in the ocean interior. Such an effect is overlooked in previous studies but needs further consideration to improve the parameterization of NIW-induced diapycnal mixing in coarse-resolution CGCMs.

## Conclusions

In this study, we evaluate the effects of CEs and AEs on NIW characteristics under the SBL in the global ocean, using an eddy-resolving CESM. The main conclusions are as follows:

1. In terms of the global average,  $KE_I$  is increased (decreased) and the vertical scale of NIWs is shrunk (enlarged) within AEs (CEs) probably due to the NIW-mean flow interactions. The enhanced (weakened) NIW activity in AEs (CEs) is noticeable from the SBL base down to at least 4,000 m but is most prominent between 400 and 700 m under the SBL. The effect of AEs on NIW activity is more evident than that of CEs, indicating a net strengthening of NIWs in the ocean interior by mesoscale eddies.
2. The enhanced (weakened) NIW activity under the SBL in AEs (CEs) is due to both the horizontal convergence (divergence) of NIW energy flux under the SBL and the increased (decreased) downward NIW energy flux from the SBL base into the ocean interior. The former effect attenuates rapidly with the increasing depth, confined to a layer several hundred meters under the SBL, whereas the latter's effect becomes dominant in the deeper ocean.
3. The regulations of NIWs by AEs (CEs) are qualitatively similar in different regions, suggesting a universal enhancement (weakening) of NIWs in the ocean interior by AEs (CEs) across the global ocean.

## Data availability statement

The datasets presented in this study can be found in online repositories. The names of the repository/repositories and accession number(s) can be found in the article/[Supplementary Material](#).

## Author contributions

All authors listed have made a substantial, direct, and intellectual contribution to the work and approved it for publication.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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## Supplementary material

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