

**Response of the biological pump to perturbations  
in the iron supply: Global teleconnections  
diagnosed using an inverse model of the coupled  
phosphorus-silicon-iron nutrient cycles.**

**Benoît Pasquier and Mark Holzer**

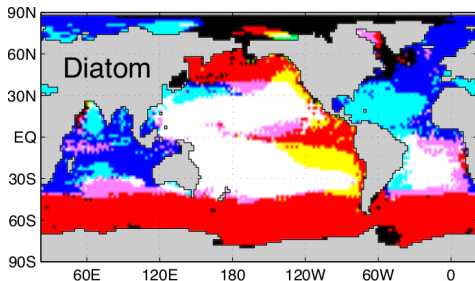
**School of Mathematics and Statistics**



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

## Motivation

- Iron is a key limiting nutrient in HNLC regions [*Boyd et al.*, 2007].



Nutrient limitation:

- dFe
- PO<sub>4</sub>
- dFe+PO<sub>4</sub>
- dFe+Si(OH)<sub>4</sub>
- PO<sub>4</sub>+Si(OH)<sub>4</sub>
- dFe+PO<sub>4</sub>+Si(OH)<sub>4</sub>

- **Question:** How do the global nutrient cycles respond to perturbations in the iron supply?
  - High-latitude control on biological productivity (dFe not modeled) [*Sarmiento et al.*, 2004; *Primeau et al.*, 2013; *Holzer and Primeau*, 2013]
  - Iron input perturbations using forward models [e.g., *Dutkiewicz et al.*, 2005; *Nickelsen and Oschlies*, 2015]
- We built a data-constrained, inverse model that couples P, Si, and Fe.

## Model: Tracer Equations

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_P} = \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^P - 1) U_c - \gamma_g (\chi_P - \bar{\chi}_P^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Si}}} = (\mathcal{S}^{\text{Si}} - 1) R^{\text{Si:P}} U_{\text{dia}} - \gamma_g (\chi_{\text{Si}} - \bar{\chi}_{\text{Si}}^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Fe}}} = & \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^{\text{Fe}} - 1) R_c^{\text{Fe:P}} U_c + s_A + s_S + s_H \\ & + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sPOP}} - 1) J_{\text{POP}} + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sbSi}} - 1) J_{\text{bSi}} - J_{\text{dst}} \end{aligned}$$

## Model: Tracer Equations

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_P} = \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^P - 1) U_c - \gamma_g (\chi_P - \bar{\chi}_P^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Si}}} = (\mathcal{S}^{\text{Si}} - 1) R^{\text{Si:P}} U_{\text{dia}} - \gamma_g (\chi_{\text{Si}} - \bar{\chi}_{\text{Si}}^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Fe}}} = & \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^{\text{Fe}} - 1) R_c^{\text{Fe:P}} U_c + s_A + s_S + s_H \\ & + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sPOP}} - 1) J_{\text{POP}} + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sbSi}} - 1) J_{\text{bSi}} - J_{\text{dst}} \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{T}$  = advective-diffusive transport  
(data-assimilated [*Primeau et al.*, 2013])

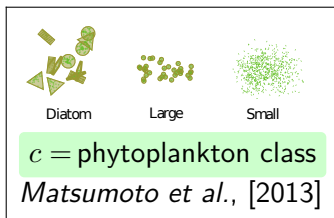
## Model: Tracer Equations

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_P} = \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^P - 1) U_c - \gamma_g (\chi_P - \bar{\chi}_P^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Si}}} = (\mathcal{S}^{\text{Si}} - 1) R^{\text{Si:P}} U_{\text{dia}} - \gamma_g (\chi_{\text{Si}} - \bar{\chi}_{\text{Si}}^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Fe}}} = & \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^{\text{Fe}} - 1) R_c^{\text{Fe:P}} U_c + s_A + s_S + s_H \\ & + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sPOP}} - 1) J_{\text{POP}} + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sbSi}} - 1) J_{\text{bSi}} - J_{\text{dst}} \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{T}$  = advective-diffusive transport  
(data-assimilated [*Primeau et al.*, 2013])



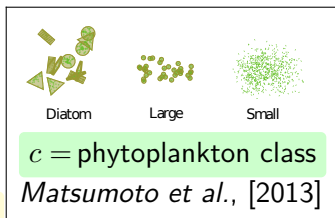
## Model: Tracer Equations

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_P} = \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^P - 1) U_c - \gamma_g (\chi_P - \bar{\chi}_P^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Si}}} = (\mathcal{S}^{\text{Si}} - 1) R^{\text{Si:P}} U_{\text{dia}} - \gamma_g (\chi_{\text{Si}} - \bar{\chi}_{\text{Si}}^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Fe}}} = & \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^{\text{Fe}} - 1) R_c^{\text{Fe:P}} U_c + s_A + s_S + s_H \\ & + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{POP}} - 1) J_{\text{POP}} + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sbSi}} - 1) J_{\text{bSi}} - J_{\text{dst}} \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{T}$  = advective-diffusive transport  
(data-assimilated [*Primeau et al.*, 2013])



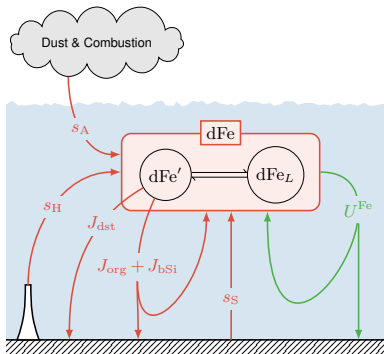
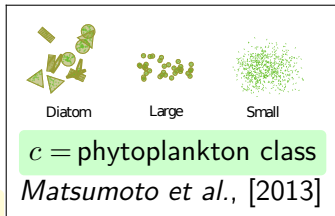
## Model: Tracer Equations

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_P} = \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^P - 1) U_c - \gamma_g (\chi_P - \bar{\chi}_P^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Si}}} = (\mathcal{S}^{\text{Si}} - 1) R^{\text{Si:P}} U_{\text{dia}} - \gamma_g (\chi_{\text{Si}} - \bar{\chi}_{\text{Si}}^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Fe}}} = \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^{\text{Fe}} - 1) R_c^{\text{Fe:P}} U_c + s_A + s_S + s_H$$

$$+ (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sPOP}} - 1) J_{\text{POP}} + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sbSi}} - 1) J_{\text{bSi}} - J_{\text{dst}}$$



$\mathcal{T}$  = advective-diffusive transport  
(data-assimilated [Primeau et al., 2013])

3 sources of iron:

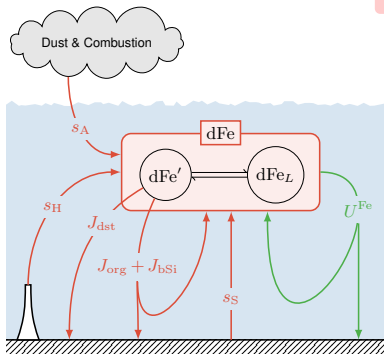
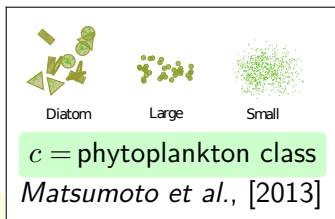
- Aeolian,  $s_A$
- Sedimentary,  $s_S$
- Hydrothermal,  $s_H$

## Model: Tracer Equations

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_P} = \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^P - 1) U_c - \gamma_g (\chi_P - \bar{\chi}_P^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Si}}} = (\mathcal{S}^{\text{Si}} - 1) R^{\text{Si:P}} U_{\text{dia}} - \gamma_g (\chi_{\text{Si}} - \bar{\chi}_{\text{Si}}^{\text{obs}})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_{\chi_{\text{Fe}}} = & \sum_c (\mathcal{S}_c^{\text{Fe}} - 1) R_c^{\text{Fe:P}} U_c + s_A + s_S + s_H \\ & + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sPOP}} - 1) J_{\text{POP}} + (\mathcal{S}^{\text{sbSi}} - 1) J_{\text{bSi}} - J_{\text{dst}} \end{aligned}$$



$\mathcal{T}$  = advective-diffusive transport  
(data-assimilated [Primeau et al., 2013])

3 sources of iron:

- Aeolian,  $s_A$
- Sedimentary,  $s_S$
- Hydrothermal,  $s_H$

3 sinks:

- POP,  $J_{\text{POP}}$
- Opal,  $J_{\text{bSi}}$
- Dust,  $J_{\text{dst}}$



## Model: Nutrient Uptake and Limitation

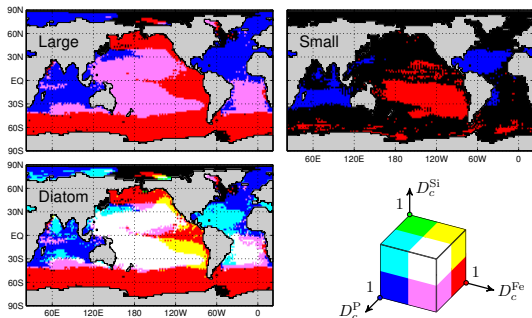
- PO<sub>4</sub>-uptake function of temperature, light and nutrient availability

$$U_c = \mu_c p_c = \frac{p_c^{\max}}{\tau_c} e^{\kappa T} \left( F_I F_{N,c} \right)^2$$

(Derived from a logistic equation [*Dunne et al.*, 2005])

- Nutrient limitation: product of Monod factors for each nutrient  $i$

$$F_{N,c} = \prod_i \frac{\chi_i}{\chi_i + k_c^i} \equiv \prod_i (1 - D_c^i)$$



## Model: Nutrient Uptake and Limitation

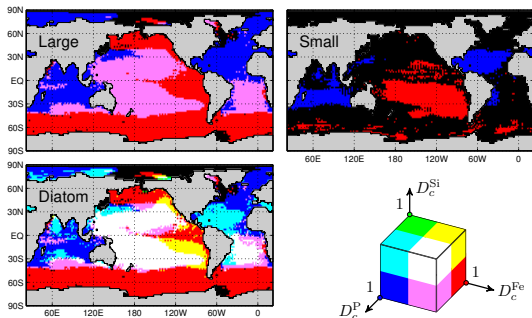
- PO<sub>4</sub>-uptake function of temperature, light and nutrient availability

$$U_c = \mu_c p_c = \frac{p_c^{\max}}{\tau_c} e^{\kappa T} \left( F_I F_{N,c} \right)^2$$

(Derived from a logistic equation [Dunne et al., 2005])

- Nutrient limitation: product of Monod factors for each nutrient  $i$

$$F_{N,c} = \prod_i \frac{\chi_i}{\chi_i + k_c^i} \equiv \prod_i (1 - D_c^i)$$

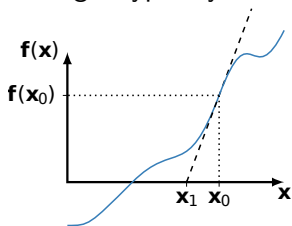


## Parameter optimization: Inverse Modelling

- 34 BGC parameters are adjusted to minimize the mismatch with observed nutrient and phytoplankton concentrations,  $\chi_i^{\text{obs}}$  and  $p_c^{\text{obs}}$ :

$$\text{cost} = \sum_i \omega_i \int dV (\chi_i^{\text{mod}} - \chi_i^{\text{obs}})^2 + \sum_c \omega_c \int dV (p_c^{\text{mod}} - p_c^{\text{obs}})^2.$$

- Parameter optimization requires to solve the tracer equations thousands of times!
- Solution: we use a Newton Solver [e.g., Kelley, 2003] to solve the discretized nonlinear equations ( $\sim 600\,000$  equations and unknowns) which converges typically in  $\sim 10$  iterations.



**No spin-up  $\Rightarrow$  fast!**

## Results: Estimates of the current state of the ocean

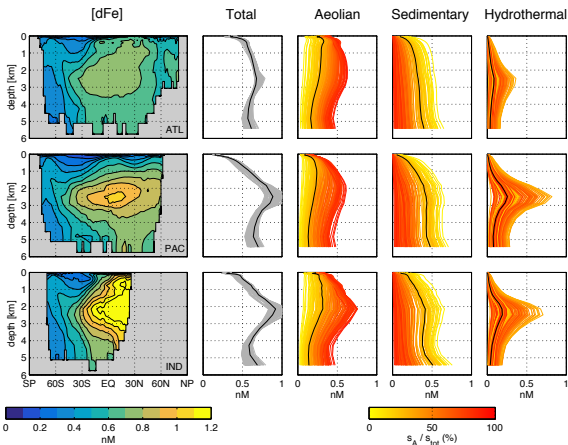
All consistent with observations:

- $\text{PO}_4$ : RMS  $\sim 0.1 \text{ mmol/m}^3$  (5%)
- $\text{Si(OH)}_4$ : RMS  $\sim 10 \text{ mmol/m}^3$  (12%)
- $\text{dFe}$ : RMS  $\sim 0.28 \text{ nM}$  (43%)

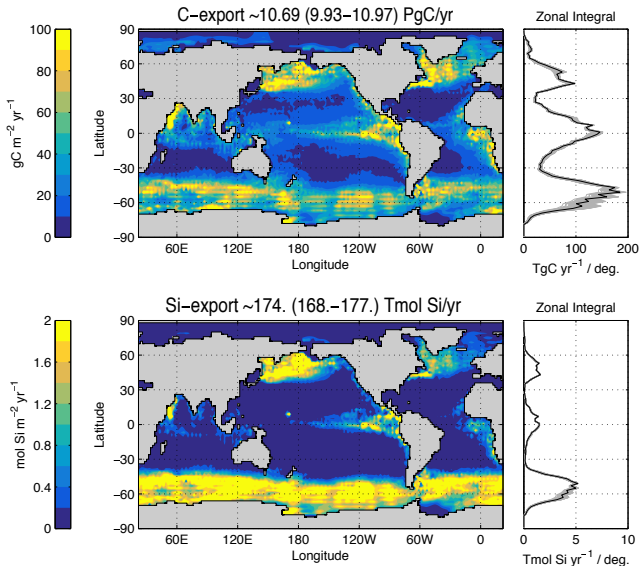
Iron sources in literature:  
2 orders of magnitude range  
[Tagliabue *et al.*, 2015]

We chose a range  
of iron sources:

- $s_A \sim 0\text{--}15 \text{ GmolFe/yr}$
- $s_S \sim 0\text{--}12 \text{ GmolFe/yr}$
- $s_H \sim 0\text{--}3 \text{ GmolFe/yr}$

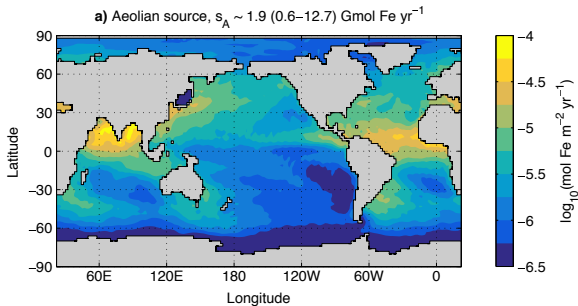


# Results: Carbon and Opal Export Productions are well constrained



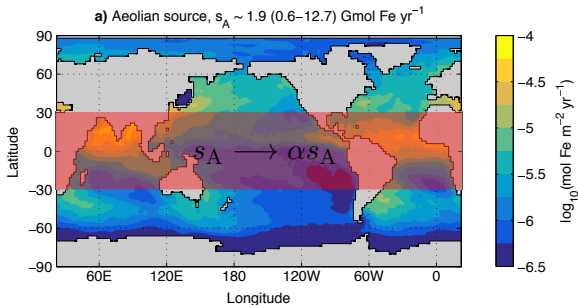
## Perturbations of the Tropical Aeolian Iron Supply

Map of aeolian iron source pattern [*Luo et al.*, 2008]:



## Perturbations of the Tropical Aeolian Iron Supply

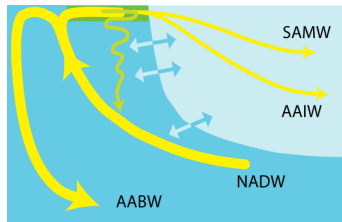
Map of aeolian iron source pattern [*Luo et al.*, 2008]:



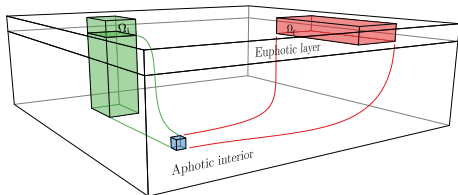
Between  $30^\circ\text{S}$  and  $30^\circ\text{N}$ , we multiply the aeolian iron source by  $\alpha$ , ranging from 0–100.

## Southern Ocean Trapping and Path Density Diagnostic

- Southern Ocean ( $< 38^\circ\text{S}$ ) nutrient trapping [Holzer et al., 2014]:
  - Preformed nutrients are “leaked” from the SO via mode and intermediate waters
  - Regenerated nutrients are remineralized within upwelling circumpolar deepwater (and trapped)



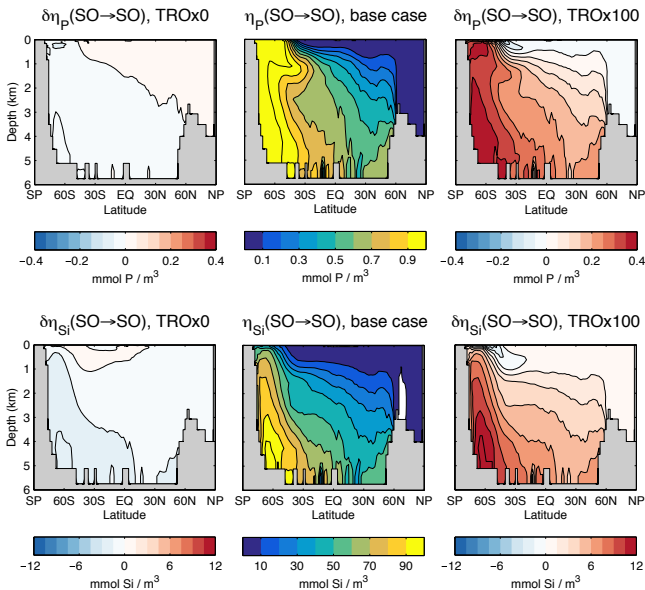
- Path Density from uptake in region  $\Omega_i$  to uptake in region  $\Omega_f$ :
  - Concentration of nutrient  $i$  last taken up in SO:  $g_i^\downarrow(\mathbf{r}|\text{SO})$
  - Fraction of nutrient to be next taken up in SO:  $f_i^\uparrow(\mathbf{r}|\text{SO})$
  - Path density of nutrient “trapped” in SO  $\rightarrow$  SO transit:



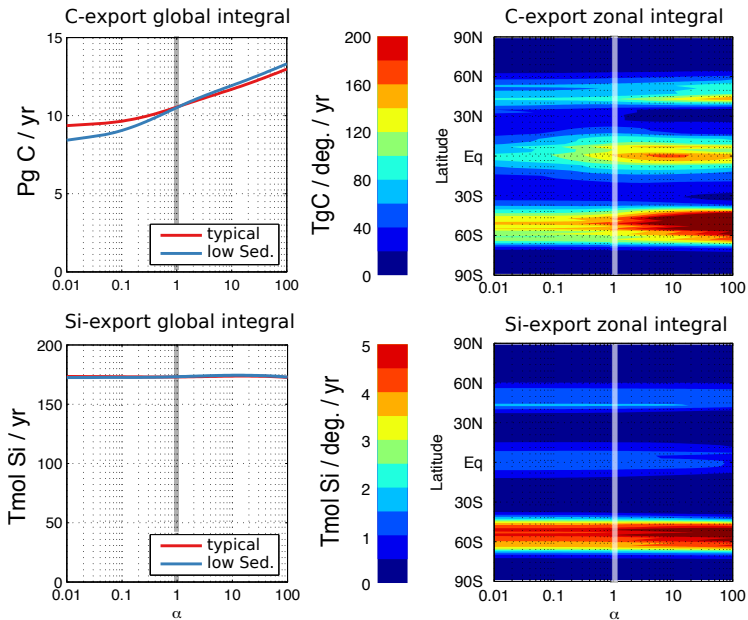
$$\eta_i(\mathbf{r}|\text{SO} \rightarrow \text{SO}) = g_i^\downarrow(\mathbf{r}|\text{SO})f_i^\uparrow(\mathbf{r}|\text{SO})$$



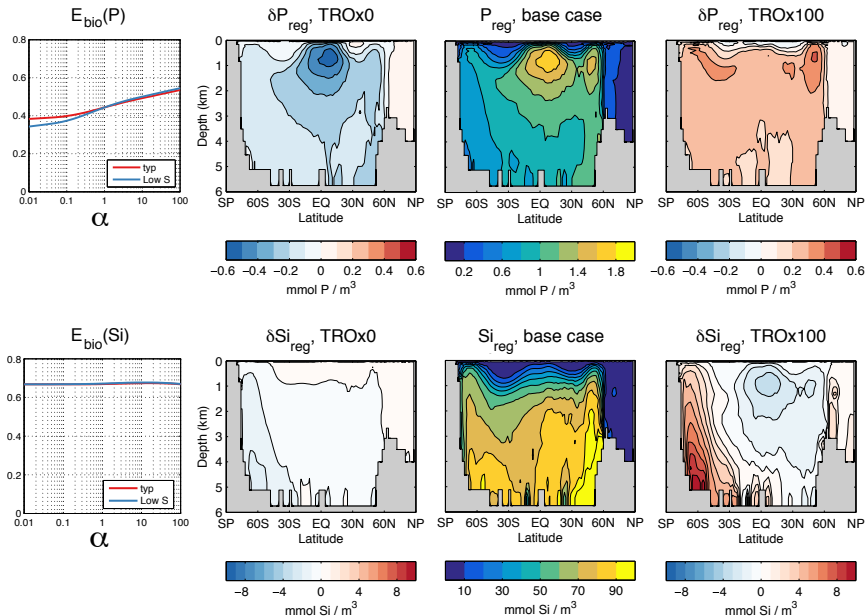
# Perturbations: Increased iron input $\Rightarrow$ Increased SO Trapping



# Perturbations: Export Production Response



# Perturbations: Regenerated Nutrient Response



## Summary and Conclusions

- We have an efficient model coupling the P, Si, and Fe cycles, embedded in a data-assimilated steady circulation:
  - Computational efficiency allows for optimization of BGC parameters (inverse modelling) and for numerous perturbation experiments.
  - The current sparse dFe observations are consistent with a large range of iron source strengths.
- Global response to tropical perturbations of the aeolian iron input:
  - The initial state of the unperturbed iron cycle (e.g., low sedimentary source) determines the sensitivity of nutrient cycles to perturbations.
  - Tropical perturbations have a strong high-latitude influence, particularly for Southern Ocean productivity and nutrient trapping.
  - Increased tropical aeolian Fe input plugs the Southern Ocean leak of the biological pump.
  - The Si-cycle is less sensitive to iron perturbations than the P-cycle because changes of the Si:P uptake ratio compensates changes in export production.

## Discretized PDE

- The tracer equation is  $\partial_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $\mathbf{x}$  represents the (3-dimensional) concentration fields of the 3 nutrients, rearranged into a single column vector of size  $n \sim 600,000$

## Discretized PDE

- The tracer equation is  $\partial_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $\mathbf{x}$  represents the (3-dimensional) concentration fields of the 3 nutrients, rearranged into a single column vector of size  $n \sim 600,000$
- The function  $\mathbf{f}$  combines the **advective-eddy-diffusive transport**

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = - \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T} & & \\ & \mathbf{T} & \\ & & \mathbf{T} \end{bmatrix}}^{\text{transport (linear)}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p} \\ \mathbf{s} \\ \mathbf{f} \end{bmatrix}}_{\parallel \mathbf{x}}$$

## Discretized PDE

- The tracer equation is  $\partial_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $\mathbf{x}$  represents the (3-dimensional) concentration fields of the 3 nutrients, rearranged into a single column vector of size  $n \sim 600,000$
- The function  $\mathbf{f}$  combines the **advective-eddy-diffusive transport**, the **biological cycling** (and biogenic transport)

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = - \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T} & & \\ & \mathbf{T} & \\ & & \mathbf{T} \end{bmatrix}}^{\text{transport (linear)}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p} \\ \mathbf{s} \\ \mathbf{f} \end{bmatrix}}_{\parallel \mathbf{x}} + \overbrace{\sum_c \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_c^{\text{P}} \\ \mathbf{b}_c^{\text{Si}} \\ \mathbf{b}_c^{\text{Fe}} \end{bmatrix}}^{\text{biology (nonlinear)}}$$

## Discretized PDE

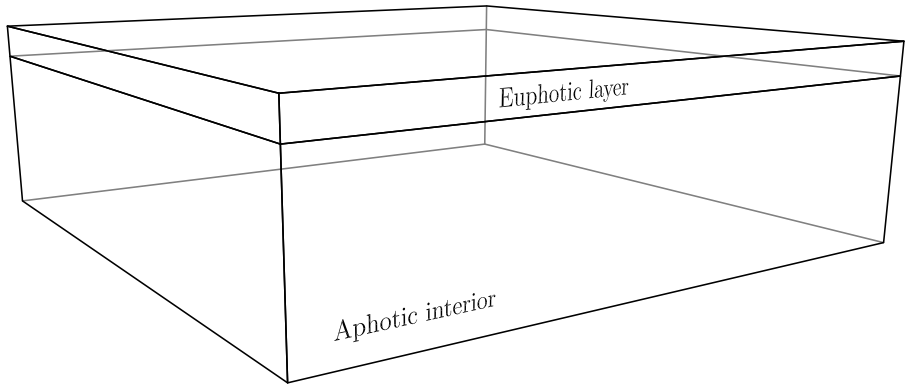
- The tracer equation is  $\partial_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $\mathbf{x}$  represents the (3-dimensional) concentration fields of the 3 nutrients, rearranged into a single column vector of size  $n \sim 600,000$
- The function  $\mathbf{f}$  combines the **advective-eddy-diffusive transport**, the **biological cycling** (and biogenic transport), and the **iron sinks and external sources**

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = - \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T} & & \\ & \mathbf{T} & \\ & & \mathbf{T} \end{bmatrix}}^{\text{transport (linear)}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p} \\ \mathbf{s} \\ \mathbf{f} \end{bmatrix}}_{\parallel \mathbf{x}} + \overbrace{\sum_c \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}_c^{\text{P}} \\ \mathbf{b}_c^{\text{Si}} \\ \mathbf{b}_c^{\text{Fe}} \end{bmatrix}}^{\text{biology (nonlinear)}} + \overbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{s}_A + \mathbf{s}_H + \mathbf{s}_S - \mathbf{j}_{\text{sc}} \end{bmatrix}}^{\text{sources and sinks (nonlinear)}}$$

- We solve the steady state equation  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$  using Newton's Method, i.e. we solve 600,000 equations in 600,000 unknowns!

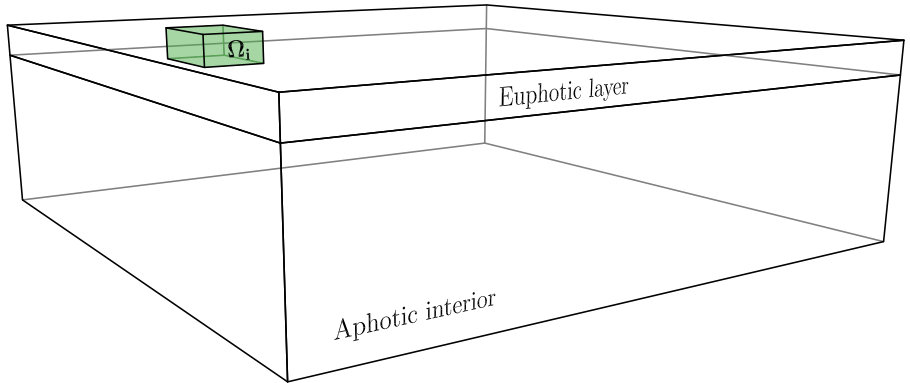


## Path densities: Definition



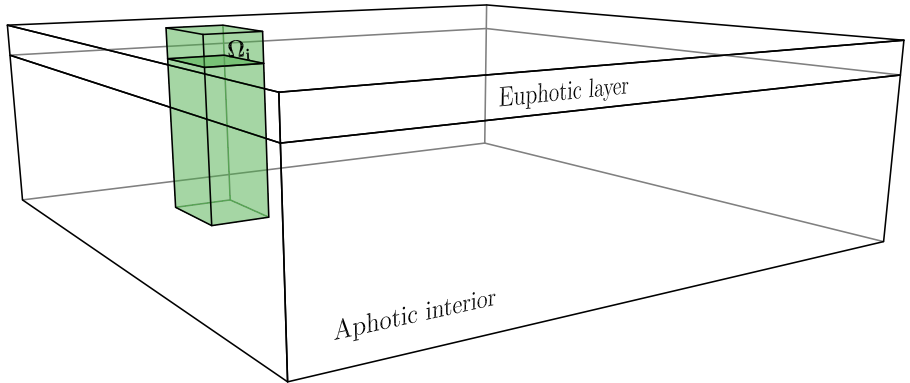
- Regenerated nutrient = remineralized at depth that has not yet reemerged in the euphotic zone
- The path density  $\langle \eta_{\text{reg}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$  is the concentration of regenerated nutrients at  $\mathbf{r}$  last taken up  $\Omega_i$  that is destined to reemergence in  $\Omega_f$

## Path densities: Definition



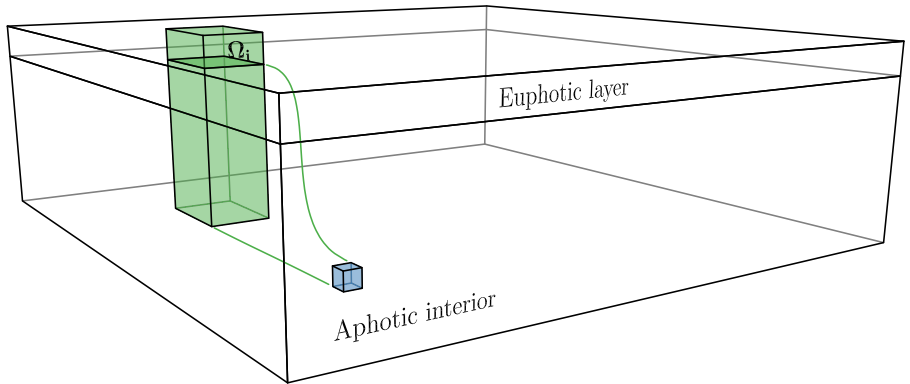
- Regenerated nutrient = remineralized at depth that has not yet reemerged in the euphotic zone
- The path density  $\langle \eta_{\text{reg}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$  is the concentration of regenerated nutrients at  $\mathbf{r}$  last taken up  $\Omega_i$  that is destined to reemergence in  $\Omega_f$

## Path densities: Definition



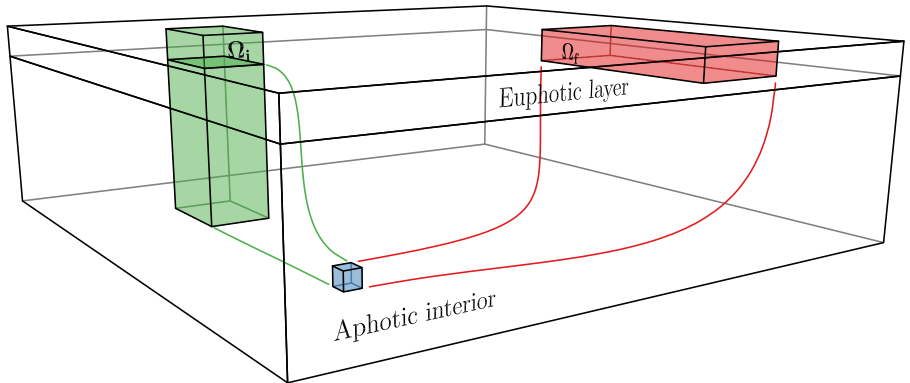
- Regenerated nutrient = remineralized at depth that has not yet reemerged in the euphotic zone
- The path density  $\langle \eta_{\text{reg}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$  is the concentration of regenerated nutrients at  $\mathbf{r}$  last taken up  $\Omega_i$  that is destined to reemergence in  $\Omega_f$

## Path densities: Definition



- Regenerated nutrient = remineralized at depth that has not yet reemerged in the euphotic zone
- The path density  $\langle \eta_{\text{reg}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$  is the concentration of regenerated nutrients at  $\mathbf{r}$  last taken up  $\Omega_i$  that is destined to reemergence in  $\Omega_f$

## Path densities: Definition

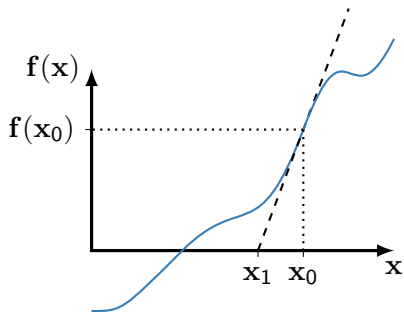


- Regenerated nutrient = remineralized at depth that has not yet reemerged in the euphotic zone
- The path density  $\langle \eta_{\text{reg}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$  is the concentration of regenerated nutrients at  $\mathbf{r}$  last taken up  $\Omega_i$  that is destined to reemergence in  $\Omega_f$

## Newton PDE solution

- steady state:  $\partial_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$
- use Newton's Method (generalized zero search)  
linear approximation:

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_1) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) + \mathbf{Df}(\mathbf{x}_0) (\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_0) + o(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_0\|)$$



where  $\mathbf{Df}$  is the Jacobian,  
a  $n \times n$  sparse matrix  
where  $n \sim 600,000!$

To get  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_1) \sim \mathbf{0}$ ,  
we take

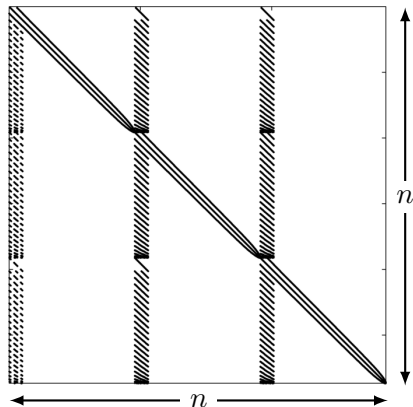
$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{Df}(\mathbf{x}_0)^{-1} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

*Kelley, 2003*

## Newton PDE solution

- steady state:  $\partial_t \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$
- use Newton's Method (generalized zero search)  
linear approximation:

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_1) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0) + \mathbf{Df}(\mathbf{x}_0) (\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_0) + o(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_0\|)$$



where  $\mathbf{Df}$  is the Jacobian,  
a  $n \times n$  sparse matrix  
where  $n \sim 600,000!$

To get  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_1) \sim \mathbf{0}$ ,  
we take

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{Df}(\mathbf{x}_0)^{-1} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

*Kelley, 2003*

## Path densities: Computation

1. Extract nutrient's regenerated source:  $\mathbf{s}_{\text{reg}}^X(\mathbf{x})$  where e.g.,  $X = \text{Si}$ .
2. Linear labelling/unlabelling equation:  $(\partial_t + \mathbf{T} + \mathbf{L}_0)\mathbf{x}_{\text{reg}} = \mathbf{s}_{\text{reg}}^X$
3. Use Green function to propagate from source on  $\Omega_i$ :

$$(\partial_t + \mathbf{T} + \mathbf{L}_0)\mathbf{g}_{\text{reg}}(t) = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{g}_{\text{reg}}(0) = \text{diag}(\mathbf{s}_{\text{reg}}^X)\Omega_i$$

4. Use Adjoint Green function to propagate to reemergence on  $\Omega_f$ :

$$(-\partial_t + \tilde{\mathbf{T}} + \mathbf{L}_0)\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{reg}}(t) = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{reg}}(0) = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{L}_0\Omega_f$$

5. Time integral by direct inversion:

$$\langle \mathbf{g}_{\text{reg}} \rangle = (\mathbf{T} + \mathbf{L}_0)^{-1} \text{diag}(\mathbf{s}_{\text{reg}}^X)\Omega_i$$

$$\langle \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{reg}} \rangle = (\tilde{\mathbf{T}} + \mathbf{L}_0)^{-1} \mathbf{V}\mathbf{L}_0\Omega_f$$

6. Combine into path density:

$$\langle \boldsymbol{\eta}_{\text{reg}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = \langle \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{reg}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \times \langle \mathbf{g}_{\text{reg}}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$$

(element-wise multiplication)

