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30 While cGENIE offers valuable insights, its limitations underscore the necessity  
31 for incorporating more complex climate models. This acknowledgment under-  
32 scores the ongoing imperative to refine Earth System Models for a comprehensive  
33 understanding of the intricate interactions that shape global ocean dynamics and  
34 climate.

35 **Keywords:** cGENIE Earth System Model, Indonesian Archipelago, Indonesian  
36 Throughflow, Thermohaline Circulation

## 37 1 Introduction

38 Indonesia asserts its prominence as the world’s largest archipelagic nation, strategically  
39 positioned at the confluence of Asia and Australia, bordered by the Indian Ocean and  
40 the Pacific Ocean. The Indonesian Archipelago (IA), comprising over 18,000 islands,  
41 traces its geological origins over 300 million years ago to intricate processes of sub-  
42 duction and collision during the Cenozoic era, resulting from the rearrangement of  
43 Gondwana fragments, extensively detailed in previous studies [1–3].

44 Within the field of climatology, the IA is commonly identified as the Maritime  
45 Continent (MC) [4], strategically located in the western Pacific region, specifically  
46 within the Indo-Pacific Warm Pool (IPWP) [5]. Recognized as a substantial source of  
47 latent heat release in the atmosphere, the MC plays a critical role in initiating deep  
48 convection processes that intricately govern both the Hadley and Walker circulations  
49 within tropical regions [6, 7]. Consequently, the region stands out for harboring the  
50 most robust monsoonal activity on Earth [8]. Additionally, the MC assumes a pivotal  
51 role in global atmosphere–ocean interactions, exerting influence over phenomena such  
52 as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) [9], Indian Ocean Dipole mode (IOD)  
53 [10], and Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) [11].

54 Oceanographically, the IA plays an important role, serving as the sole conduit  
55 for the transit of water masses from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean [12–15].  
56 This transport process is recognized as the Indonesian Throughflow (ITF), which also  
57 represents the only low-latitude current connecting major ocean basins in the present-  
58 day [16]. On an annual time scale, the ITF transfers approximately 0 - 30 Sv (1 Sv  
59  $\equiv 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>/s) of water mass, as estimated by various numerical models and observations  
60 [e. g., 12, 17–33]. Heat transfer through the ITF, based on estimates from the Global  
61 Climate Model (GCM) conducted by Hirst and Godfrey [25], is approximately 0.63  
62 PW. This value represents approximately one-third of the total heat input in the  
63 equatorial Pacific region.

64 The ITF facilitates the transfer of warm, low-salinity water masses from the west  
65 equatorial Pacific Ocean to the east equatorial Indian Ocean through a defined route  
66 encompassing the Makassar Strait, Maluku Sea, and Halmahera Sea [15, 33–36]. In  
67 this context, the Makassar Strait is recognized as the primary entry point for the ITF.  
68 The water mass originating from the North Pacific navigates through the Celebes  
69 Sea before proceeding towards the Makassar Strait and the IA. Upon entering the  
70 IA, the current from the Makassar Strait bifurcates into two branches, one traversing

71 southwest Indonesia, and the other moving towards the Indian Ocean through the  
72 Lombok Strait. Simultaneously, another branch moves eastward in the Indonesian  
73 region, specifically into the Banda Sea via the Flores Sea.

74 Within the Banda Sea, a complex mixing process unfolds as water masses origi-  
75 nating from the South Pacific, entering through the Halmahera Sea, Maluku Sea,  
76 and Seram Sea, interact. This amalgamation of water masses in the Banda Sea sub-  
77 sequently progresses towards the Indian Ocean through the Ombai Strait and Timor  
78 Gap. The Maluku Sea stands as the second pivotal gateway for the ITF. Pacific water  
79 masses traverse the Maluku Sea to reach the Seram Sea via the Lifamatola Strait.  
80 From the Seram Sea, they continue their trajectory through the Manipa Strait towards  
81 the Banda Sea.

82 The Halmahera Sea represents the third key entry point for the ITF, with South  
83 Pacific water masses transiting through this sea towards the Seram Sea and the Aru  
84 Basin. Following a mixing process with water masses originating from the Banda Sea,  
85 the combined water mass moves towards the Indian Ocean via the eastern part of the  
86 Timor Sea.

87 On intra-annual, annual, and inter-annual time scales, the ITF is influenced and, in  
88 turn, also influences tidal movements, monsoons, and atmosphere-ocean interactions  
89 such as ENSO and IOD. Additionally, the ITF may be affected by decadal variabil-  
90 ity in the Pacific [33, 34, 36]. However, on a centennial time scale, the commonly  
91 used Island Rule theory [15], employed to estimate the strength of the ITF, failed to  
92 indicate a weakening trend based on Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 5  
93 (CMIP5) multimodel simulations [37]. This limitation arises because the Island Rule  
94 solely calculates the strength of the ITF as a line integral of wind stress and Coriolis  
95 terms along a defined boundary (dominated by wind-driven forces) without accounting  
96 for the long-term circulation of heat flux and freshwater. This long-term circulation  
97 induces interior mixing of temperature and salinity, known as thermohaline circula-  
98 tion (THC). Therefore, to present a realistic centennial projection, an additional term  
99 accounting for the contribution of THC in the Pacific is necessary, as demonstrated  
100 in the Ocean Forecasting Australia Model version 3 (OFAM3) simulation [38].

101 Apart from the temporal regulation of the ITF by wind-driven circulation, the THC  
102 has long been acknowledged as a contributing factor to the ITF's strength within the  
103 upper segment of the global overturning circulation scheme [13]. The trajectory of the  
104 warm surface water initiates from the North Pacific Deep Water (NPDW), extending  
105 through the IA into the Indian Ocean. Within the 10 – 20°S belt of the Indian Ocean,  
106 a complex mixing of Pacific and Indian Ocean water occurs. The southward journey  
107 then proceeds through the Mozambique Channel, where it divides into two primary  
108 flows. The dominant portion, comprising Agulhas Current system, enters the Agulhas  
109 Retroreflection into the Southern Ocean, while the remaining stream finds its way into  
110 the Atlantic.

111 Meanwhile, at the western boundary of the Indian Ocean, the convergence of  
112 northward and southward boundary currents facilitates the closure of tropical and  
113 subtropical gyres, aligning with the observations of Hughes et al. [39]. These gyres  
114 actively contribute to pumping water into the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC)  
115 and the South Atlantic Gyre, a pivotal process in the formation of North Atlantic Deep

116 Water (NADW), as detailed by Toole and Warren [24]. Notably, the ITF enhances the  
117 meridional steric height gradient, thereby influencing the strength of these gyres. The  
118 complex interplay implies that the ITF, in addition to its role in balancing the thermal and saline conditions between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, might also have a  
119 pronounced influence on the physical conditions of the distant Atlantic. This cyclical  
120 process aligns with the concept known as the great ocean conveyor belt hypothesis [40],  
121 which was deemed accountable for abrupt climate changes during glacial-interglacial  
122 periods [e. g., 41–45].  
123

124 Given the observed weakening trend in the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) [e. g., 46–49], the principal driver of the modern THC, and its  
125 potential correlation with a density-driven weakening of the ITF due to recent anthropogenic climate change [37, 38, 50, 51], a comprehensive understanding of the ITF’s  
126 role in this circulation becomes imperative. This study employs classical numerical  
127 experiments, with a focus on the blockage of the IA, aiming to unravel the geographic  
128 significance of both IA and ITF in the global meridional THC.  
129

130 In contrast to prior numerical experiments [16, 52–54] that concentrated on the  
131 short-term analysis of IA closure’s impact on the surface ocean, influencing climate,  
132 and featured a limited simulation time of up to 105 years [16], our approach prioritizes  
133 a more extended physical realization of the ocean. Although this method adopts low  
134 spatial resolution, it extends over a more extended simulation time, facilitating the  
135 attainment of quasi-steady-state conditions (equilibrium numerical solutions). This  
136 extended duration enables the analysis of the global meridional THC on a centennial  
137 time scale, providing valuable insights into the long-term dynamics of the circulation  
138 system.  
139

## 140 2 Materials and Methods

### 141 2.1 Numerical Experiments

142 This study employed the carbon-centric Grid Enabled Integrated Earth system model  
143 (cGENIE) muffin version (hereafter referred to as cGENIE) [55]. cGENIE, classified  
144 as an Earth system model of intermediate complexity (EMIC), served as a bridge  
145 between theoretical/conceptual models and GCMs [56]. EMICs prioritize computational  
146 efficiency and speed, making them well-suited for the investigation of long-term  
147 climate phenomena, like THC [57].

148 cGENIE offers the advantage of compartmentalizing each Earth system, providing  
149 flexibility for addressing specific research questions [58]. The model comprises  
150 seven components, including the GOLDSTEIN, which manages the physical dynamics  
151 of the atmosphere, ocean, and sea ice [55, 59]. Other components include BIOGEM  
152 for marine biogeochemical dynamics [60], ATCHEM for atmospheric chemistry [58],  
153 ENTS for land surface and carbon cycle processes [61], ROKGEM for terrestrial rock  
154 weathering [62], SEDGEM for ocean sedimentation [63], ECOGEM for plankton ecological  
155 dynamics [64], and GENIE-PLASIM for fully coupled intermediate complexity  
156 Atmosphere–Ocean General Circulation Model (AOGCM) [65]. The calibration of  
157 GOLDSTEIN parameters was conducted utilizing the ensemble Kalman filter (EnKF)

158 methodology [66], aligning them with annual mean climatological measurements of  
159 temperature, salinity, surface air temperature, and humidity [60].

160 The oceanic component within cGENIE employs a 3D frictional geostrophic ocean  
161 model, wherein the representation of ocean physics is based on the ocean fluid approx-  
162 imation method derived by Edwards et al. [67]. This model has undergone rigorous  
163 testing, demonstrating its capability to simulate multiple stable states of the THC  
164 [68]. Additionally, in the latest update, this model has incorporated ITF within its  
165 framework [55]. cGENIE also demonstrated the capability to produce realistic THC  
166 hysteresis features, as discussed by Lenton et al. [69].

167 The 2D Atmospheric Energy-Moisture Balance Model (EMBM), aligned with the  
168 UVic Earth system model [70] and utilizing air temperature and specific humidity as  
169 forecast tracers, comprehensively accounts for the heat and moisture balance within  
170 the atmospheric boundary layer. The exchange of heat and moisture with ocean and  
171 land surfaces, coupled with the ENTS module, is facilitated through horizontal mixing  
172 throughout the atmosphere, with precipitation triggered above a specified relative  
173 humidity threshold.

174 The sea-ice model, designed after the sea-ice component of the UVic Earth sys-  
175 tem model, integrates ice thickness, areal fraction, and concentration as prognostic  
176 variables. This allows for the systematic tracking of horizontal sea-ice movement and  
177 the exchange of heat and fresh water with both the ocean and atmosphere. Detailed  
178 insights into the model and its coupling processes are available in Marsh et al. [55].

179 In the course of our numerical experiments, we employed an ocean model dis-  
180 tinguished by its robust configuration. The model’s specifications encompassed a  
181 resolution defined by  $36 \times 36$  equal-area grids, translating to a grid size of  $10^\circ \times 10^\circ$ .  
182 This grid architecture, characterized by uniformity in both longitude and the sine  
183 of latitude, facilitated a meticulous examination of the targeted oceanographic phe-  
184 nomena. Notably, the ocean model featured 16 logarithmically-spaced depth levels,  
185 strategically positioned to capture the nuances of the ocean’s vertical structure. These  
186 depth levels were meticulously distributed at intervals of 40.42 m, 127.552 m, 228.77  
187 m, 346.354 m, 482.949 m, 641.629 m, 825.964 m, 1040.103 m, 1288.865 m, 1577.846  
188 m, 1913.551 m, 2303.532 m, 2756.567 m, 3282.848 m, 3894.22 m, and 4604.439 m.

189 The initial conditions were established based on a resting ocean configuration with  
190 a uniform distribution of temperature and salinity, following the framework proposed  
191 by Manabe and Bryan [71], detailed by Cao et al. [72]. For boundary conditions,  
192 HadCM3 outputs [73] were utilized, coarsely regridded into cGENIE grids through the  
193 muffingen software [74]. Continental configuration was also generated using muffingen.

194 Atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  forcing was set at pre-industrial levels of 278 ppm. To calcu-  
195 late ocean ventilation age in this experiment, a transient dye tracer methodology  
196 introduced by England [75] was employed. The control experiment featured an open  
197 configuration of the IA, while the test experiment involved closing the IA. For each of  
198 these experiments, we used a 10,000-year simulation time.

199 **2.2 Data Analysis**

200 In this study, we analyzed vertical and horizontal annual density profiles, while also  
 201 examining the vertical streamfunction profile depicting the global overturning circula-  
 202 tion. Additionally, we investigated the vertical profile of ocean ventilation age. These  
 203 three variables—vertical and horizontal density profiles, along with vertical profiles  
 204 of streamfunction and ocean ventilation age—played crucial roles in estimating and  
 205 assessing the global meridional THC.

206 We utilized non-parametric statistical methods, specifically the Mann–Whitney U  
 207 (MWU) and two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) tests, to quantify the disparities  
 208 between test and control experiments. These tests were chosen for their applicability  
 209 to variables that may not adhere to a Gaussian distribution, a characteristic often  
 210 encountered in the field of oceanography [e. g., 76–78]. Notably, their effectiveness in  
 211 climate science applications has been demonstrated in prior studies [e. g., 52, 79–83].

212 Before conducting these tests, a pre-processing step involved transforming the 2D  
 213 model outputs into a 1D array using xarray [84] and NumPy [85] libraries in Python.  
 214 In this array, each member represented individual grids in the model outputs. This  
 215 approach ensured a coherent and standardized comparison between the experimental  
 216 scenarios.

217 Following data pre-processing, the MWU test was employed to compute the sum  
 218 of ranks for each group, resulting in  $U_X$  for the control dataset and  $U_Y$  for the test  
 219 dataset. The test statistic ( $U$ ) was then determined as the smaller of the two sums.

220 Under the null hypothesis, the expected value of  $U$  was given by:

$$E(U) = \frac{n_X(n_X + n_Y + 1)}{2} \quad (1)$$

221 The variance of  $U$  under the null hypothesis was calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Var}(U) = \frac{n_X n_Y (n_X + n_Y + 1)}{12} \quad (2)$$

222 Subsequently, the  $Z$ -statistic was computed:

$$Z = \frac{U - E(U)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(U)}} \quad (3)$$

223 Comparing the  $Z$ -statistic to critical values from the standard normal distribution  
 224 or converting it to a p-value, in this study we used 0.05 as the significance criteria,  
 225 facilitates the determination of the statistical significance of differences between the  
 226 control and test datasets.

227 To extend the analysis, the two-sample KS test was applied to assess the distribu-  
 228 tional differences between the control ( $X$ ) and test ( $Y$ ) datasets. The procedure began  
 229 by sorting the combined data and calculating the empirical distribution functions  
 230 (ECDFs) for both groups.

231 The KS test statistic ( $D$ ) was then computed as the maximum absolute vertical  
232 deviation between the two ECDFs:

$$D = \max |F_X(x) - F_Y(x)| \quad (4)$$

233 Under the null hypothesis that the two samples were drawn from the same dis-  
234 tribution, the distribution of the test statistic was independent of the underlying  
235 cumulative distribution functions. Consequently, critical values or p-values 0.05 were  
236 used to determine the statistical significance of the observed differences.

237 For our sample sizes, the asymptotic distribution of  $D$  was approximated by:

$$D \sqrt{\frac{n_X n_Y}{n_X + n_Y}} \quad (5)$$

238 , where  $n_X$  and  $n_Y$  are the sample sizes of the control and test datasets, respec-  
239 tively. The comparison of the observed test statistic to critical values or the conversion  
240 to a p-value allows for the evaluation of the statistical significance of distributional  
241 disparities between the two samples. The execution of these two statistical tests was  
242 conducted using the SciPy library [86] in Python.

### 243 3 Results and Discussion

244 In Figure 1, the annual average global surface density profiles over a 10,000-year period  
245 illustrate noteworthy patterns. With the IA open, the average surface density stands  
246 at 1025.37 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, peaking at 1027.796 kg/m<sup>3</sup> in the Bellingshausen Sea, part of the  
247 Southern Ocean near West Antarctica. Conversely, the lowest density of 1022.16 kg/m<sup>3</sup>  
248 is observed in the Maluku Sea, Indonesia. Closure of the IA induces only a marginal  
249 change, resulting in a slight decrease in the global average surface density by -0.01  
250 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

251 Notable alterations are evident with a surface density increase of 0.451 kg/m<sup>3</sup> in  
252 the Coral Sea, northeast of Australia, and a decrease of -0.666 kg/m<sup>3</sup> in the Celebes  
253 Sea, south of Mindanao, Philippines. However, statistical analyses via the MWU and  
254 KS tests fail to provide enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis, suggesting that  
255 IA closure does not significantly impact global surface density (both tests yielding a  
256 p-value > 0.05).

257 Moving to Figure 2, which presents the annual average global vertical density  
258 profile, distinct patterns emerge. In the control run, the highest average vertical density  
259 is 1027.221 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, contrasting with 1023.706 kg/m<sup>3</sup> in the test run. The location  
260 with the maximum density (1027.829 kg/m<sup>3</sup> with the IA open, and 1027.832 kg/m<sup>3</sup>  
261 with the IA closed) is found at 76.46°S and a depth of 2757 m, while the minimum  
262 density (1023.706 kg/m<sup>3</sup> with the IA open, and 1023.791 kg/m<sup>3</sup> with the IA closed)  
263 is recorded at 1.592°N and a depth of 40.42 m. Despite these variations, the global  
264 difference in vertical density following IA closure remains minute at -0.003 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

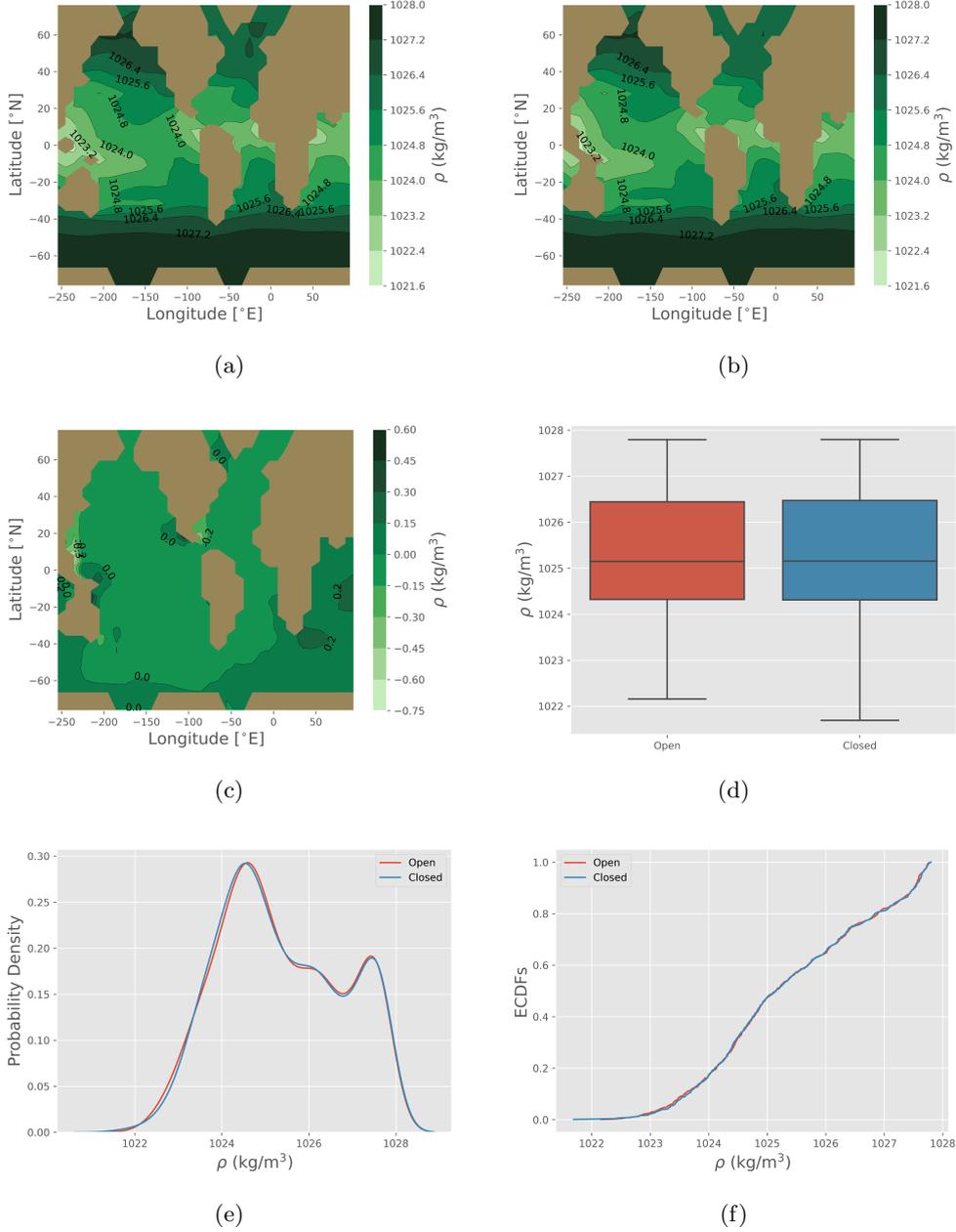
265 The most significant density increase of 0.092 kg/m<sup>3</sup> occurs at 11.21°S and a depth  
266 of 127.6 m, while the most substantial decrease of -0.072 kg/m<sup>3</sup> is noted at 21.17°N

267 and a depth of 40.42 m. Statistically, no significant differences are detected in the  
268 vertical density profile, with both the MWU and KS tests yielding a p-value  $> 0.05$ .

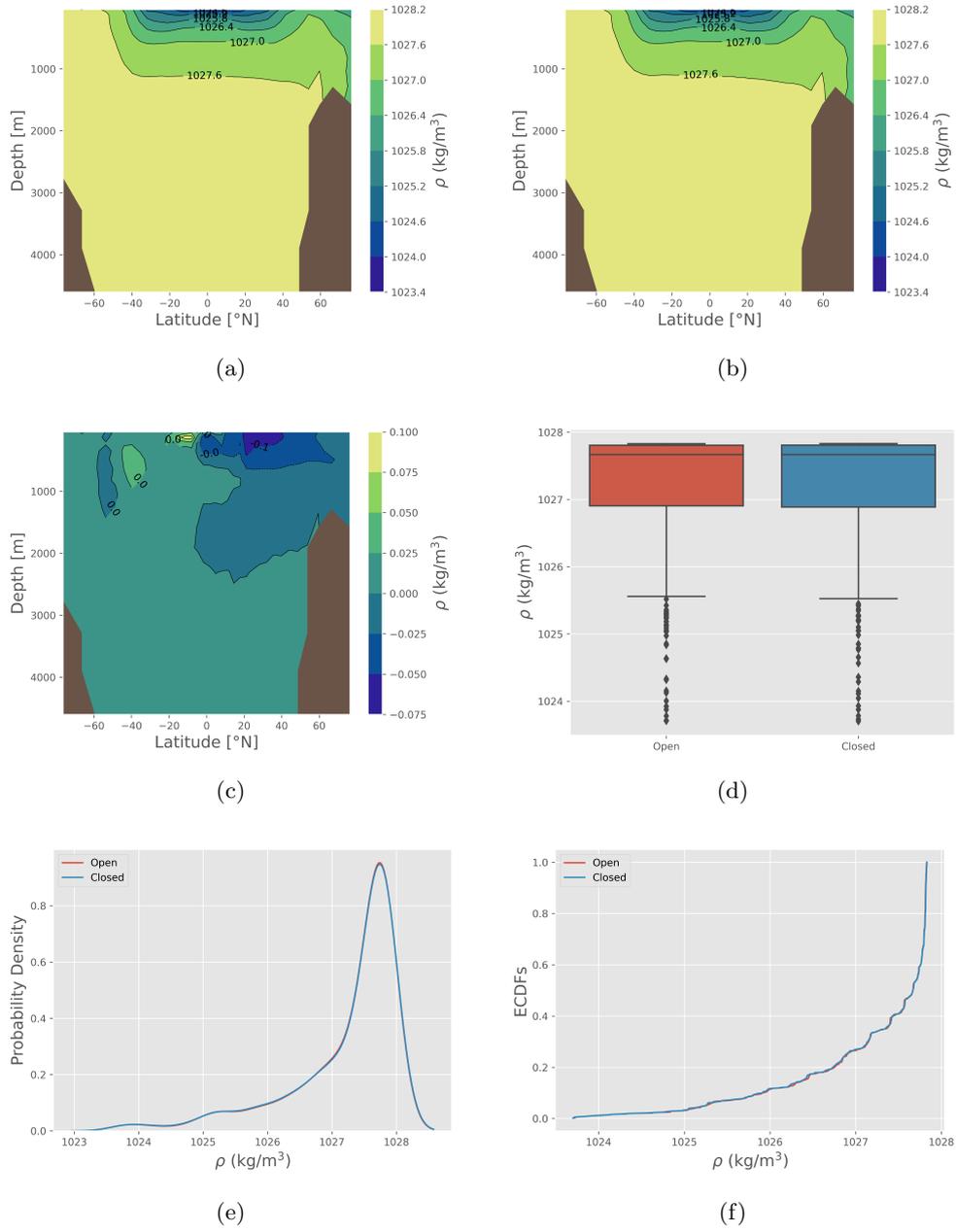
269 Transitioning to Figure 3, an in-depth examination of the average annual global  
270 overturning circulation profiles with varying IA states is presented. In the open IA  
271 state, the average circulation is quantified at 0.997 Sv, reaching a maximum of 53.913  
272 Sv at  $41.81^{\circ}\text{S}$  and a depth of 80.84 m, and a minimum of  $-42.034$  Sv at  $12.84^{\circ}\text{S}$   
273 and the same depth. Upon IA closure, a discernible average increase in global overturning  
274 circulation is recorded, totaling 0.245 Sv. This increase is most pronounced at  $46.24^{\circ}\text{S}$   
275 and a depth of 1426 m, reaching 2.906 Sv. In contrast, the most significant decrease  
276 is noted at  $56.44^{\circ}\text{S}$  and a depth of 2520 m, registering  $-2.802$  Sv. It is noteworthy  
277 that positive values denote counterclockwise circulation, while negative values signify  
278 clockwise circulation.

279 Statistically, results from both the MWU and KS tests indicate no significant  
280 change in overall global overturning circulation, with each test yielding a p-value  
281  $> 0.05$ .

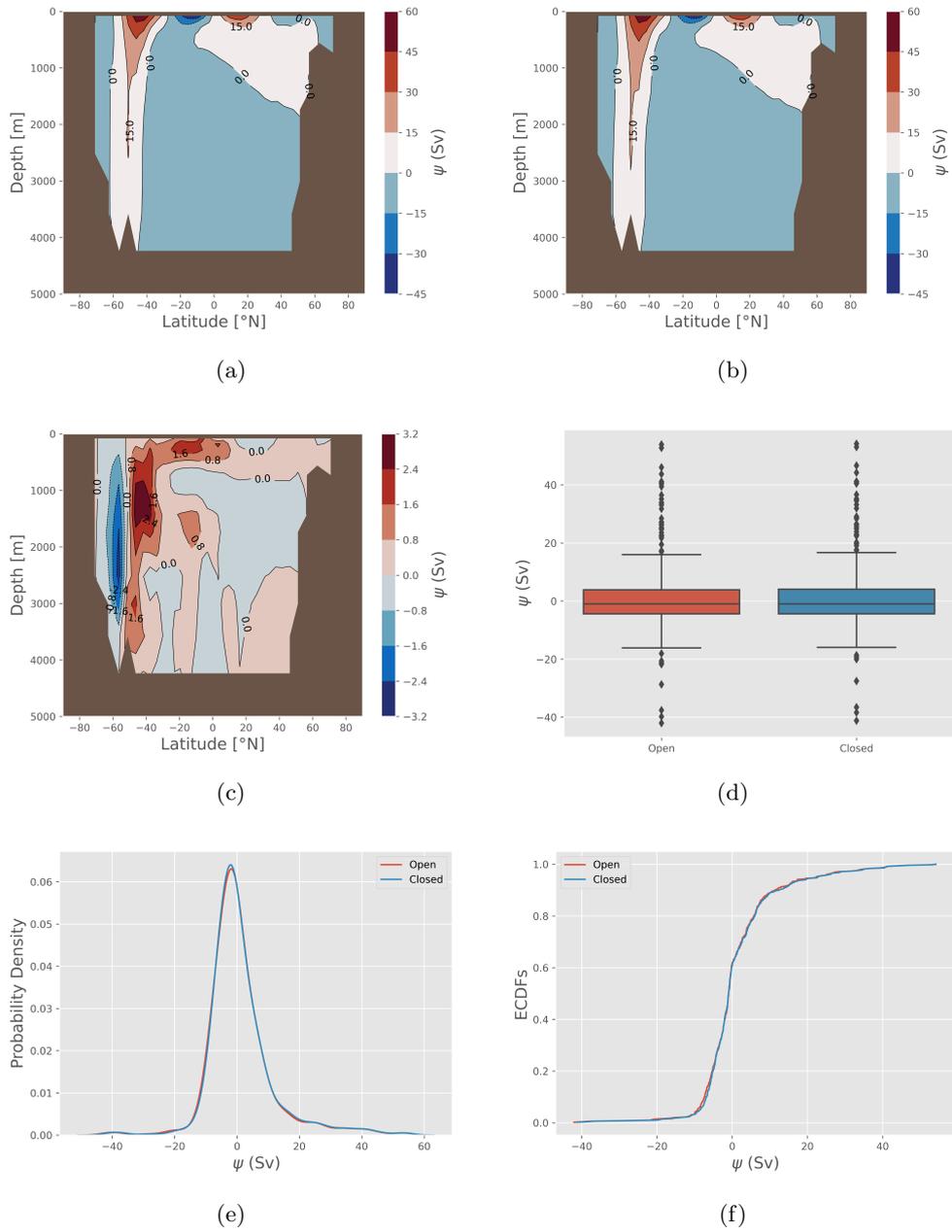
282 Figure 4 provides insights into the dynamics of annual ventilation age transects  
283 under different IA states. In the open IA state, the average ventilation age is 393.67  
284 years, peaking at 1167.713 years at  $59.44^{\circ}\text{N}$  and a depth of 1578 m, and reaching a  
285 minimum of 0.04 years at  $21.17^{\circ}\text{N}$  and a depth of 40.42 m. Upon IA closure, the global  
286 average ventilation age decreases by  $-13,924$  years. The most significant increase in  
287 ventilation age, amounting to 15,225 years, occurs at  $14.48^{\circ}\text{S}$  and a depth of 641.6 m.  
288 Conversely, the most substantial decrease of  $-62,673$  years is observed at  $7.984^{\circ}\text{S}$  and  
289 a depth of 1578 m. However, no significant difference is detected in vertical ventilation  
290 age conditions, as neither the MWU nor KS tests reveal a statistically significant  
291 distinction (p-value  $> 0.05$ ).



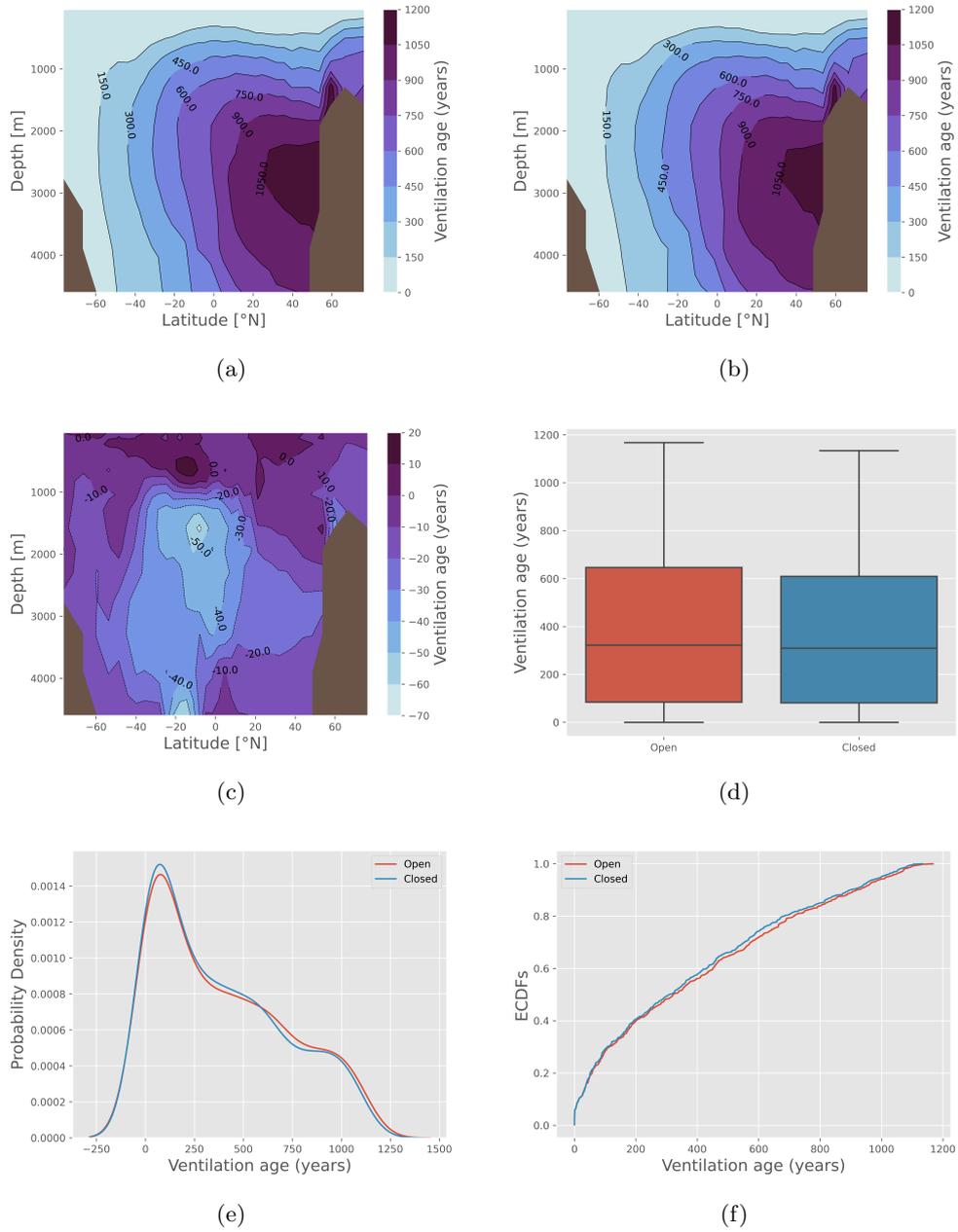
**Fig. 1:** Global sea surface density profiles under two distinct states: (a) the open IA state representing the control experiment and (b) the closed IA state depicting the test experiment. The disparities between these two scenarios are visually highlighted through various components: (c) field anomalies presenting the differences (test - control), (d) box plots offering a statistical overview of the density differences, (e) Kernel Density Estimates (KDEs) providing a smoothed distribution of the density differences, and (f) ECDFs illustrating the cumulative probability distribution of the density differences. These graphs were processed using Matplotlib[87] and seaborn [88] libraries in Python.



**Fig. 2:** Same as Figure 1, but for zonally averaged vertical density profiles.



**Fig. 3:** Same as Figures 1 and 2 but for global overturning circulation. Streamfunctions exhibiting a counterclockwise rotation are denoted by positive values, whereas those with a clockwise rotation are assigned negative values.



**Fig. 4:** Same as Figures 1, 2, and 3, but for zonally averaged ventilation age profiles.

292 Upon scrutinizing the four variables, our analysis discerned subtle differences that  
 293 did not reach statistical significance. One plausible explanation for this outcome lies in

294 the regional impact of the ITF. Notably, the ITF exerts a substantial influence on heat  
295 flux in specific regions, including the waters around Australia, the southern Indian  
296 Ocean, and the North and South Pacific [15, 17, 33]. Intriguingly, the heat transport  
297 generated by the ITF seems to dissipate into the atmosphere upon traversing the  
298 southwest Indian Ocean [15, 89].

299 This regional influence on surface oceanography becomes apparent in the strongest  
300 surface density anomalies observed after the closure of the IA, particularly in south-  
301 ern Mindanao (the ITF entry point from the North Pacific) and eastern Australia,  
302 where the ITF traditionally plays a pivotal role in shaping the East Australian Cur-  
303 rent (EAC) system [25, 33]. The vertical transect of the global density anomaly further  
304 highlights this, revealing a reduction in density at coordinates 21.17°N, possibly indi-  
305 cating the accumulation of surface flow from the North Pacific, impeded by the closure  
306 of the IA in the Philippine Sea. Similarly, the diminished vertical density anomaly at  
307 coordinates 11.21°S may be attributed to a reduced supply of warm and freshwater,  
308 a consequence of IA closure impacting the Indian Ocean.

309 Moving to the global overturning circulation, while no statistically significant  
310 changes were identified, anomalies in vertical transport, both clockwise and counter-  
311 clockwise, were observed in the Southern Ocean, particularly around 40° - 60°S. These  
312 anomalies may be linked to a potential reduction in upwelling intensity from Indian  
313 Deep Water (IDW), Pacific Deep Water (PDW), NADW, and Antarctic Bottom Water  
314 (AABW) [90]. Furthermore, a reduction in ocean ventilation age in the same area  
315 suggests a potential decrease in the Agulhas Current intensity, subsequently impact-  
316 ing Agulhas Leakage and contributing to a slight reduction in NADW formation to  
317 the north [91]. It's essential to note that these speculations are limited by statisti-  
318 cal insignificance and the constraints of cGENIE, an EMIC that does not account for  
319 mesoscale eddies influencing deep and intermediate water formation [92–94].

320 Drawing a comparison with the study conducted by Di Nezio et al. [95], where the  
321 Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) setting in the Community Earth System Model version  
322 1.2 (CESM1) was employed, our findings provide additional nuances. Di Nezio et al.  
323 [95] identified a minimal reduction in the ITF, specifically 1.5 Sv, under conditions  
324 where the IA is nearly closed, allowing only ITF passage through the Makassar Strait  
325 and the Timor Gap.

326 It is noteworthy that transient interbasin exchange, a factor influencing energy  
327 transfer from the Indo-Pacific to the Atlantic [50, 96], was not incorporated into the  
328 numerical experiments we conducted. This aspect, albeit not explored in our study,  
329 has been acknowledged as a potentially pivotal contributor to the dynamics of the  
330 global THC. The intricate interplay of these transient interactions could unveil addi-  
331 tional layers of complexity in understanding the broader implications of IA closure on  
332 global processes.

## 333 4 Conclusion

334 In conclusion, our 10,000-year simulation using the cGENIE Earth System Model  
335 reveals subtle regional variations in surface density, vertical profiles, global overturn-  
336 ing circulation, and ventilation age following IA closure. However, statistical analysis

337 indicates that these changes lack global significance. The study highlights the regional  
338 impact of ITF in areas such as southern Mindanao and eastern Australia.

339 Regarding NADW and AABW, our findings suggest potential alterations in  
340 upwelling and downwelling intensities and Agulhas Current dynamics in the Southern  
341 Ocean. However, these observations are speculative due to statistical insignificance  
342 and model constraints. The limitations of cGENIE are acknowledged, emphasizing the  
343 need for more sophisticated climate models. The study underscores the ongoing chal-  
344 lenge of refining Earth System Models for a comprehensive understanding of complex  
345 interactions in global ocean dynamics and climate.

## 346 **Declarations**

347 **Acknowledgments.** We express profound gratitude to Andrew J. Ridgwell and  
348 Raden D. Susanto for enriching discussions and invaluable guidance in refining the  
349 numerical experiment setup.

350 **Funding.** This study received financial support from the Dean’s Distinguished Fel-  
351 lowship at the University of California, Riverside, and the ITB Research, Community  
352 Service, and Innovation Program (PPMI-ITB).

353 **Conflicts of interest/Competing interests.** The authors declare no competing  
354 interests.

355 **Data and Code availability.** Explore the open-source Python code, cGENIE  
356 base and user configurations, and model outputs at [https://github.com/sandyherho/  
357 globITFPhysGENIE](https://github.com/sandyherho/globITFPhysGENIE). Obtain the cGENIE muffin version at [https://github.com/  
358 derpycode/cgenie.muffin](https://github.com/derpycode/cgenie.muffin).

359 **Author Contributions.** All authors reviewed the manuscript and contributed  
360 equally to the manuscript.

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