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MODAL DECOMPOSITION AND ENERGY CONTENT IN 1985-1986 POEM COORDINATED SURVEYS IN THE LEVANTINE BASIN

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Objectively analysed streamfunction data sets from two FOEM coordinated cruises in 1985-1986 are decomposed into modal components using the stability frequency N² vs. depth obtained from the same surveys. The vertical structure equation is solved for these given N² profiles to determine the baroclinic modal amplitudes and the corresponding eigenvalues in terms of baroclinic Rossby The APE and baroclinic KE components of energy in the total field and within each vertical mode are investigated and plotted as a function of depth.

The vertical structure functions are different for the two seasons depending on the mean stratification. The total APE is an order of magnitude larger than the KE and peaks up at intermediate depths while the KE is a maximum at the surface layers. The first baroclinic mode is dominant, while the higher modes are not unimportant.

The stratification parameters obtained from horizontally averaged standard depth profiles and those obtained directly from individual processed profiles and averaged over the field are compared. Double diffusive regimes are demonstrated in the mean profiles.

SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

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- 2.W.11.3 Oceanography in WOCE and POEM
- 3. Prof. A.R. Robinson
- 4. -
- 5.Oral presentation



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