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Upper heat content of the North Atlantic obtained from Argo data, 1998-2007

L.M. Ivanov (1), O.V. Melnichenko (2) and T.M. Margolina (3)

(1) University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA, (2) International Pacific Research Center, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawaii, USA, (3) Naval Postgraduate School, USA (Imivanov@nps.edu / +1-831-6563257)

We present results of the reconstruction of the global heat content (1998-2007) and spatially distributed heat content (2004-2007) in 1000m upper layer of the North Atlantic on a two-degree, latitude-longitude grid. The special spectral approach is used to filtrate the Argo data, fill spatial gaps in observation coverage and detect spatial-temporal structures of the content. Levitus climatic temperature field is used as the reference level to determine a sign of anomaly of global heat content and its possible trends between 1998 and 2007. Bias and variance of the obtained estimations are presented.

Our calculations show: (1) existence of explicit positive anomaly of the heat content; (2) no linear trend in behavior of the global heat content between 1998 and 2007. That is explained by computation errors and/or the fact that temporal variability of the content is evidently much larger than the trend; (3) seasonal and bi-annual variability of the anomaly of heat content and, probably, its oscillations corresponding to periods equal or greater than 8 years.