

SOERE CTDOZ  
Laboratoire Atlantique

# The case of very low [O<sub>2</sub>] area

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Workshop on Interoperability Technologies and Best Practices in Environmental Monitoring  
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The very low [O<sub>2</sub>] areas

Open ocean (dark blue) and coastal (red) deoxygenated marine zones

Why?

↑ OMZ f([O<sub>2</sub>])

Climate variability + Ecosystems

PP/Fisheries Biodiversity/Shift

GHGS

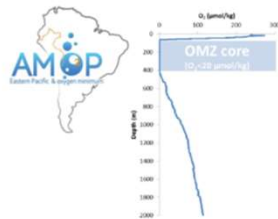
→ Key-role on: - climate (CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>, DMS, ...);  
- ecosystems («Respiratory barrier», nitrogen loss)

→ Sensitive to changes of the:  
- climate (warming; ENSO); environment (fertilizations)

**Outline:**

- I. WINKLER: analyses of the O<sub>2</sub> measurement quality in a Oxygen Minimum Zone (OMZ): detection limit, reproducibility
- II. O<sub>2</sub>-CTD ADJUSTMENT WITH WINKLER: the OMZs issues
- III. ULTRA-LOW [O<sub>2</sub>] ADJUSTMENT: O<sub>2</sub>-CTD using O-STOX reference

**PACOP**  
Plateforme d'Analyse en Conditions Oxygènes Perturbées



**Illustration based on the AMOP project**

(Activities of research dedicated to the Minimum of Oxygen in the eastern Pacific):

[www.legos.obs-mip.fr/recherches/projets-en-cours/amop](http://www.legos.obs-mip.fr/recherches/projets-en-cours/amop)

**AMOP: PROJECT DEDICATED TO LOW O<sub>2</sub>**

157 profiles with a sampling focussed on the O<sub>2</sub> parameter, >5000 measurements:

- 5 platforms with O<sub>2</sub>: CTD (2), FR-CTD (1), drifting line (9), Argo-floats (3), mooring (5), on board from Niskin (3);
- 4 measurement techniques: Winkler (potentiometry, photometry), electrochemistry (SBE43, SE63, STOX), optodes.

Focus on the OMZ (Core & Oxycline).

Chemical method of reference with indirect standard [O<sub>2</sub> fixation, and titration, blanks & titration of the Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (Winkler, 1888)]. Use of automatic titrator.

> 1800 measurements with systematical triplicates for all the stations and incubations.

**I. WINKLER: analyses of the O<sub>2</sub> measurement quality in an OMZ**

- Goal: to analyze the Winkler method quality for the specific O<sub>2</sub> distribution in an OMZ

- 1) Limit of Detection (LOD)
- 2) Reproducibility

Surface (supersaturation)  
OXYCLINE (extreme gradient)  
CORE (O<sub>2</sub> < limite of detection)  
LOWER O<sub>2</sub> GRADIENT (LOG)

**1.1) Limit Of Detection (LOD)**

**WHICH CONTAMINATION AT THE NISKIN SAMPLING?**

**Experiments with 15 replicates**

**1) WINKLER SAMPLING & FIXATION**



**2) REFERENCE FOR LOW [O<sub>2</sub>]**

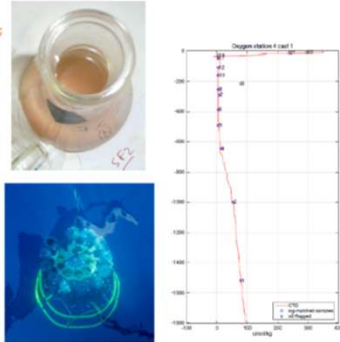
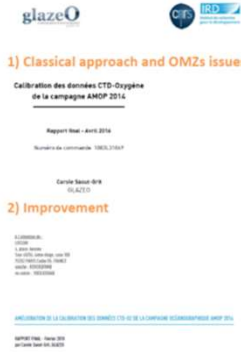


**STOX (Switchable Trace Oxygen sensor with nano-/pico-molar LOD) AS "0"**

Revsbech NP, Larsen LH, Gundersen J, Dalgaard T, Ullaa O, Thomsen B. Determination of ultra-low oxygen concentrations in oxygen minimum zones by the STOX sensor. *Limnol Oceanogr Methods*. 2009; 7: 371-381.

## II. O<sub>2</sub>-CTD ADJUSTEMENT WITH WINKLER

❖ Collaborations with GLAZE from 2015 to 2018 in 2 steps:



## III. ULTRA-LOW [O<sub>2</sub>] ADJUSTMENT: O<sub>2</sub>-CTD using 0-STOX reference

❖ After the adjustment with the Winkler reference (out of the core),  
USE of a REFERENCE for the ULTRA-LOW [O<sub>2</sub>] in the OMZ core  
(e.g. STOX/LUMOS with nano-/pico-molar detection limit)



### TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

#### 1) WINKLER MEASUREMENT

a) In the OMZ core, not relevant as a reference

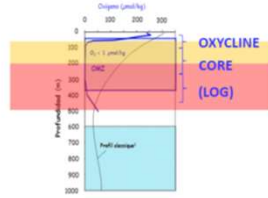
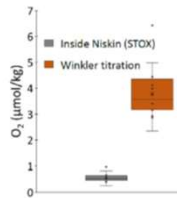
Limit of detection > 4 µM due to:

- O<sub>2</sub> release by the polymers in the Niskin bottle: 0.3<1 µM;
- Winkler sampling and fixation process: 2<7 µM

b) Reproducibility affected in the upper highest OMZ O<sub>2</sub> gradient (oxycline-core interface):

Lower core & LOG: ~80% better reproducibility compared to

the lower oxycline & upper core



### TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

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a) In the OMZ core, not relevant as a reference

Limit of detection > 4 µmol/kg

b) Reproducibility affected in the upper highest OMZ O<sub>2</sub> gradient (oxycline-core interface):

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#### 2) ADJUSTEMENT OF O<sub>2</sub>-CTD WITH WINKLER

a) Presence of very localized outliers, at the:

- surface → strong natural temporal variability
- oxycline → negative concentrations

b) Focus on the upcasts, & on the calibration parameters for downcasts (without Tau20 → smoothed profiles)

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#### 3) ADJUSTMENT OF O<sub>2</sub>-CTD FOR LOW [O<sub>2</sub>]

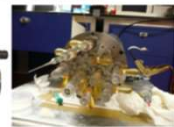
a) Requirement of a «anoxic» reference: STOX/LUMOS, historical

b) Limit of detection x~50 better than with Winkler: ~60 nmol/kg

### NEXT:

1) Proposition to write a Paper of Recommendations according to the protocols of O<sub>2</sub> sampling, measurements and adjustment in O<sub>2</sub>-perturbated regions (e.g. OMZs) in order to:

- share the results of those methodological studies;
- allow inter-comparisons between data, assessing and increasing the quality of the global datasets
- improve key-observations in terms of low O<sub>2</sub> concentrations and variability;



**NEXT:**

**2) Importance to have connections between our communities and the international initiatives:**

- **GO<sub>2</sub>NE** (Global Ocean Oxygen Network), IOC-Unesco WG;
- **IOCCP** (International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project), SCOR/IOC-Unesco;
- **VOICE project** (Variability in the Oxycline and its Impact on the Ecosystems), outcome of IMSOO (Implementation of Multi-disciplinary Sustained Ocean Observations)/GOOS (Global Ocean Observing System), IOC-Unesco, WMO (World Meteorological Organization), UN Environment, ISC (International Science Council)

<http://www.ioccp.org/oxygen>



Variability in the Oxycline and Its Impacts on the Ecosystem (VOICE) Science Plan Workshop, 13-15 September 2017, Monterey, CA, USA

<http://mel.xmu.edu.cn/summerschool/go2ne/>  
**Application closes: November 15, 2018**

