

## Preformed and regenerated controls on the oceanic silicon stable isotope distribution

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Diatoms fractionate the stable isotopes of silicon (Si) when they form their opaline frustules, making the stable isotope composition of dissolved Si in seawater (expressed as  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$ ) different from that of the diatoms. We present results from an ocean general circulation model simulation that deconvolves the physical and biological controls on the oceanic  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  distribution. We also demonstrate that the importance of regionally dynamic Si cycling thus helps explain the observed strong physical control on the oceanic  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  distribution. Our results thus provide a mechanistic explanation for the observed  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  distribution that emphasises the dominant importance of the Southern Ocean in the marine Si cycle.

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