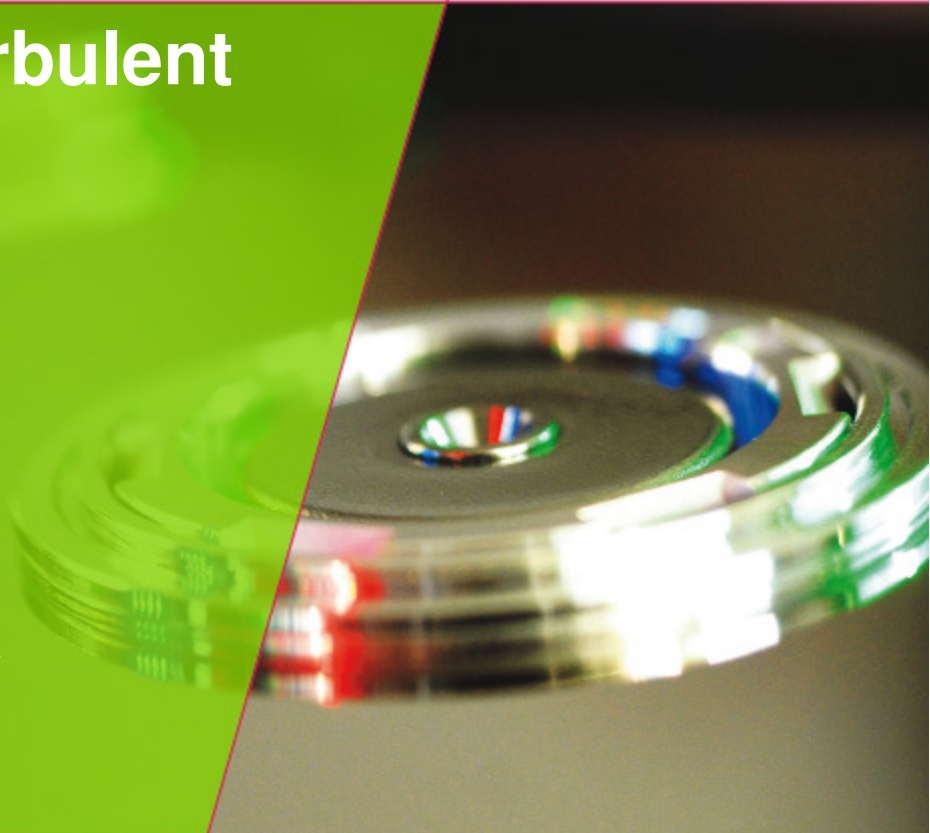


# Lagrangian Analysis of Turbulent Rotating Convection

Herman Clercx

with Hadi Rajaei and Rudie Kunnen  
Fluid Dynamics Laboratory  
Physics Department  
Eindhoven University of Technology  
The Netherlands



**J.M. Burgerscentrum**

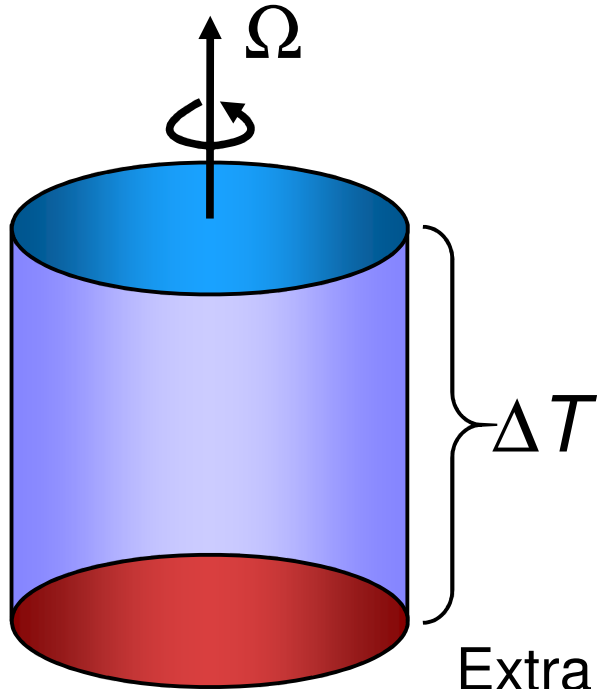


**TU/e**

Technische Universiteit  
Eindhoven  
University of Technology

Where innovation starts

# Motivation



Extra parameter:  $Ta = \left( \frac{2\Omega H^2}{\nu} \right)^2$

$$Ro = \sqrt{\frac{Ra}{\sigma Ta}}$$

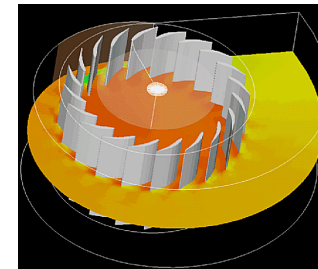
Relevant for geophysical flows:

- > atmosphere
- > oceans
- > astrophysics



and in engineering:

- > cooling in turbomachinery



buoyancy  


---

rotation

# Motivation



**Non-rotating**



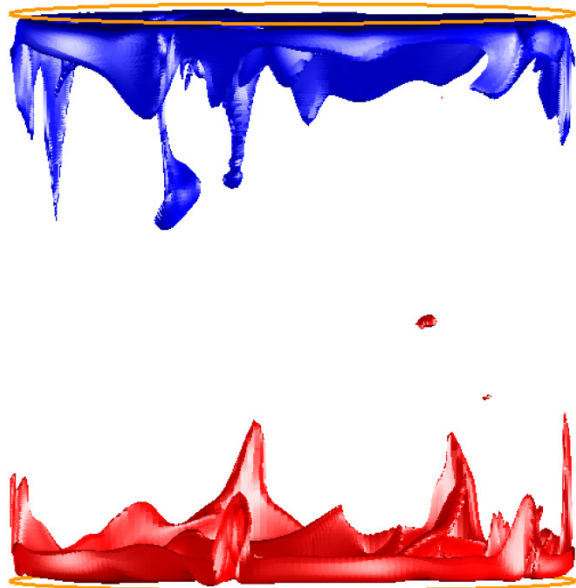
$Ro=0.09$

**Rotating**

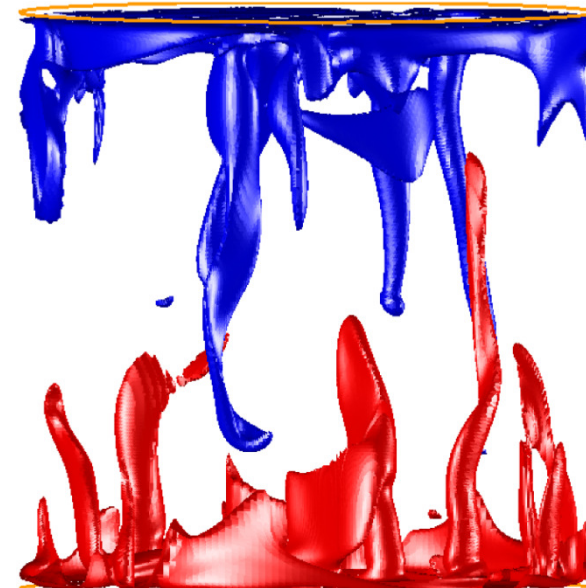
$Ra=10^8, Pr=4.38$

Movies courtesy of Susanne Horn, Imperial College, London (private communication).

# Motivation



Non-rotating ( $1/Ro=0$ )



Rotating ( $1/Ro=3.3$ )

$$Ra = 10^8, Pr = 6.4$$

Creation of vortices; Ekman pumping

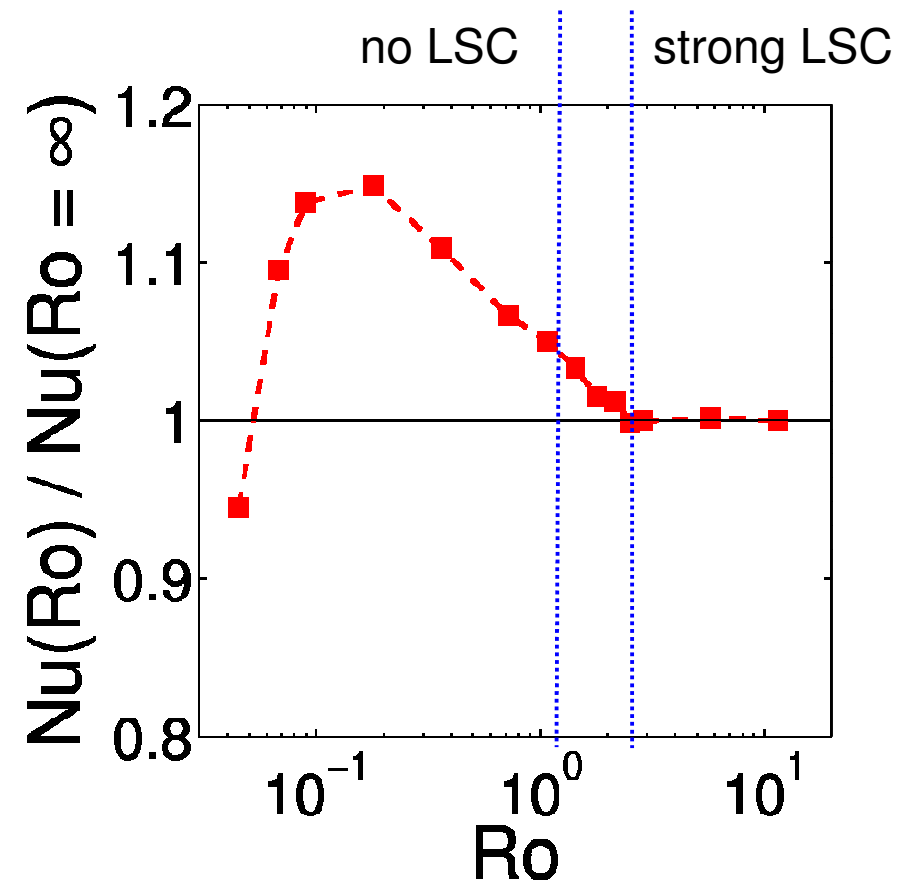
J.-Q. Zhong, R.J.A.M. Stevens, H.J.H. Clercx, R. Verzicco,  
D. Lohse and G. Ahlers, PRL **102**, 044502 (2009).

# Motivation

**Nusselt number scaled by non-rotating value at  $Ro = \infty$**

**Nu is larger in a range of Ro (no LSC effect)  $\Rightarrow$  vortical plumes!**

**At  $Ro < 0.2 \Rightarrow$  inhibition of convection by rotation**



R.P.J. Kunnen, H.J.H. Clercx, and B.J. Geurts, *EPL* **84**, 24001 (2008).

# Turbulent convection

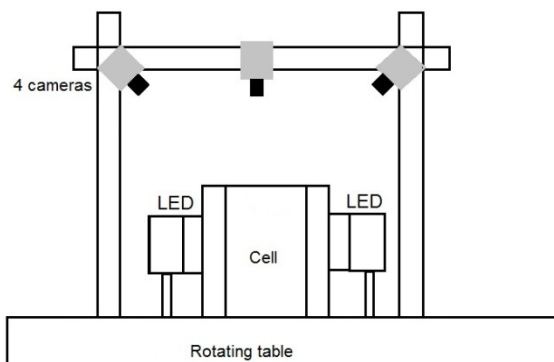
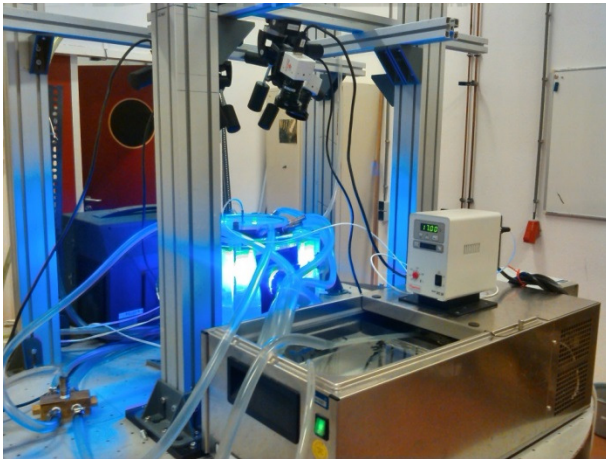
## 3D-PTV measurements

This investigation focusses on:

- Lagrangian dynamics of (fluid) particles for turbulent state characterization: LSC or vortical plumes
- transition between turbulent states at  $Ro_c$  and how it affects Lagrangian statistics of (fluid) particles

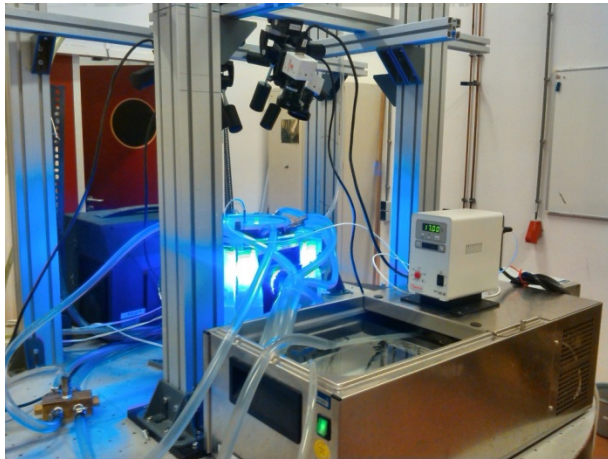
# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements

3D-PTV with 4 cameras, tracking individual neutrally buoyant particles



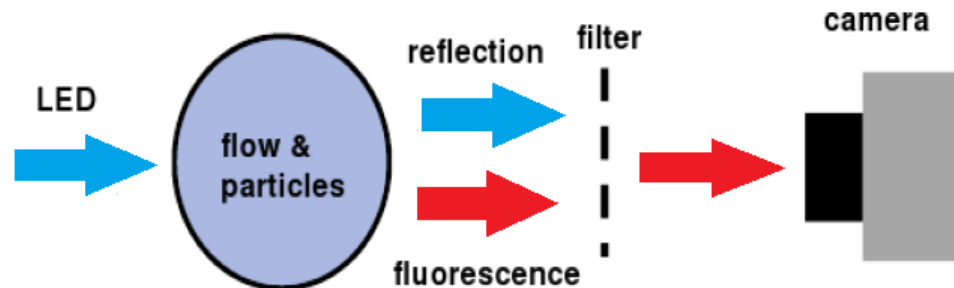
# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements

3D-PTV with 4 cameras, tracking individual neutrally buoyant particles



**Particles** : Fluorescent polyethylene,  
emission wavelength: 600nm peak,  
particle diameter: 75-90  $\mu\text{m}$   
particles density: 1002  $\text{kg}/\text{cm}^3$

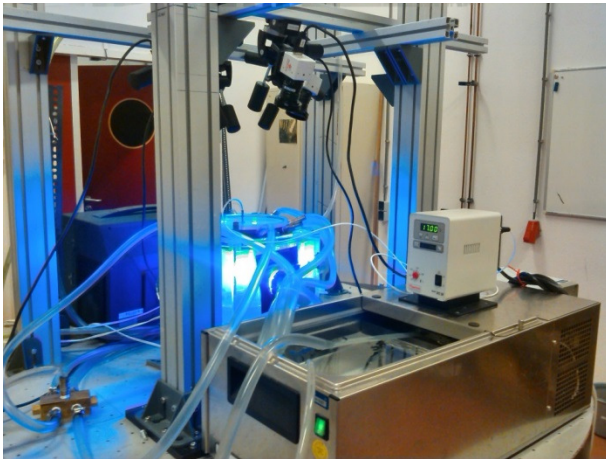
**Illumination** : blue LEDs with dominant  
wavelength of 455 nm





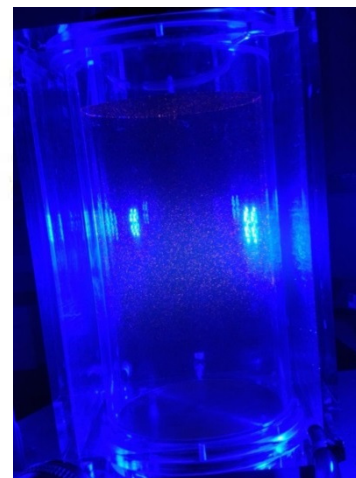
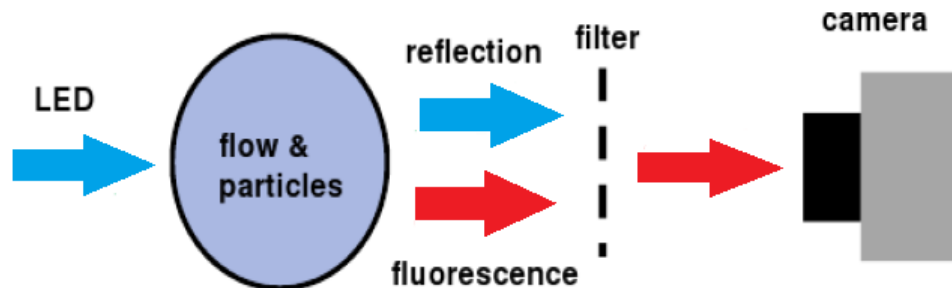
# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements

3D-PTV with 4 cameras, tracking individual neutrally buoyant particles



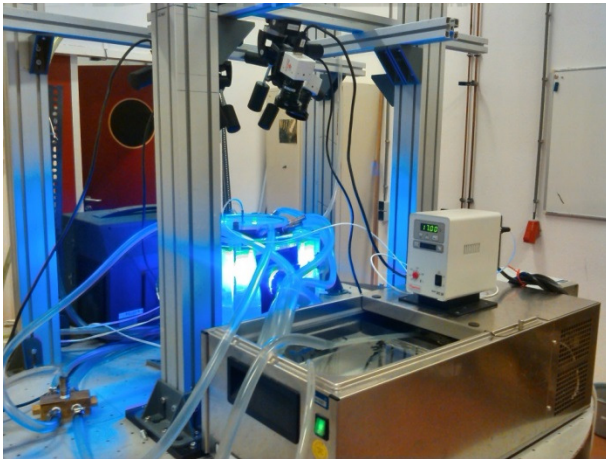
**Particles** : Fluorescent polyethylene, emission wavelength: 600nm peak, particle diameter: 75-90  $\mu\text{m}$  particles density: 1002  $\text{kg}/\text{cm}^3$

**Illumination** : blue LEDs with dominant wavelength of 455 nm



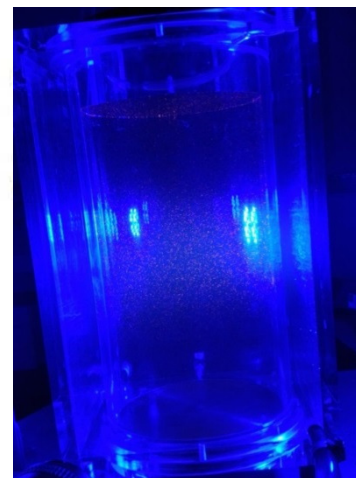
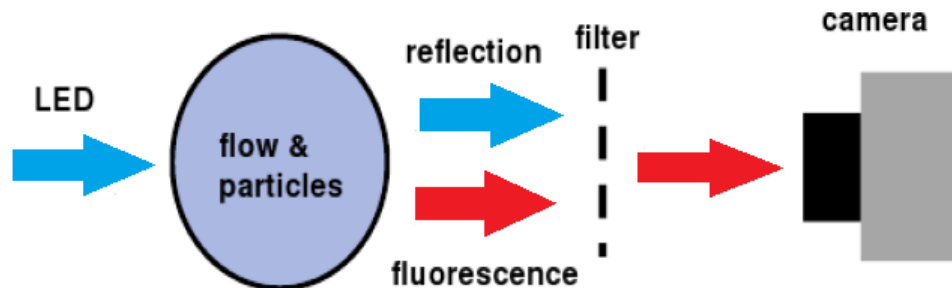
# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements

3D-PTV with 4 cameras, tracking individual neutrally buoyant particles



**Particles** : Fluorescent polyethylene, emission wavelength: 600nm peak, particle diameter: 75-90  $\mu\text{m}$  particles density: 1002  $\text{kg}/\text{cm}^3$

**Illumination** : blue LEDs with dominant wavelength of 455 nm



# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements



# Turbulent convection

## 3D-PTV measurements

### Measurements in the center of the cell and near the top lid

$Ra = 1.3 \times 10^9$  ,  $\Gamma = 1$  ,  $Pr = 6.4$

Duration of the measurement = 400 min

Frame rate = 30 Hz

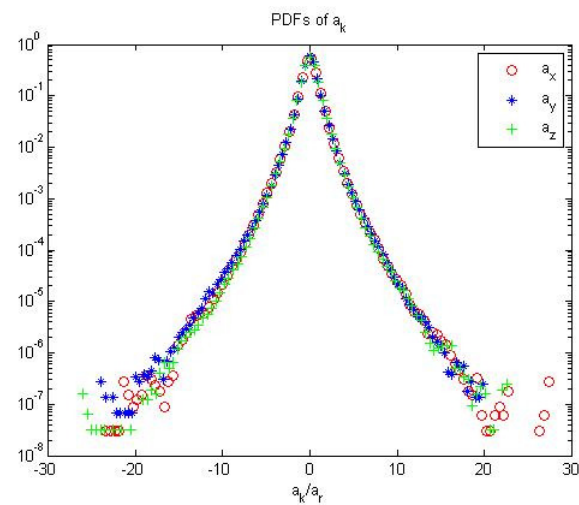
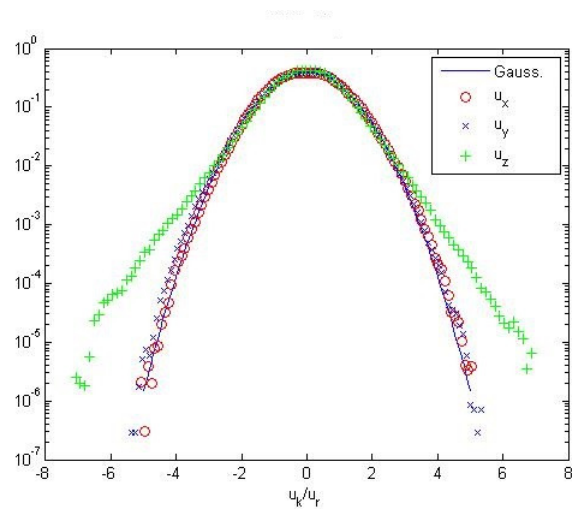
Number of data points in bulk 60-80 million; near top lid 30 million

Measurement volume:  $50 \times 50 \times 50 \text{ mm}^3$  in bulk and  $50 \times 50 \times 10 \text{ mm}^3$  near top lid

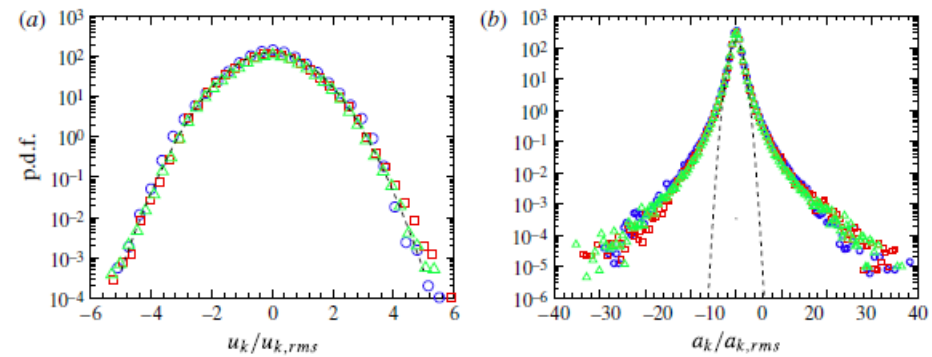
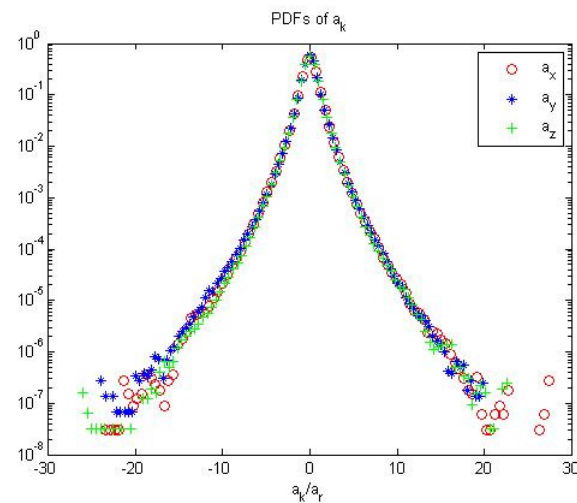
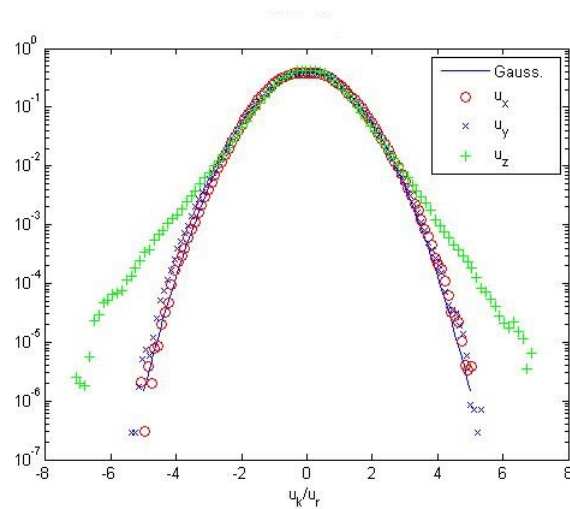
Tracked almost 1000 particles in each time step

For 8 different rotation rates between 0 and 1.65 [rad/s] (corresponds to Rossby number between  $\infty$  and 0.1)

# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements



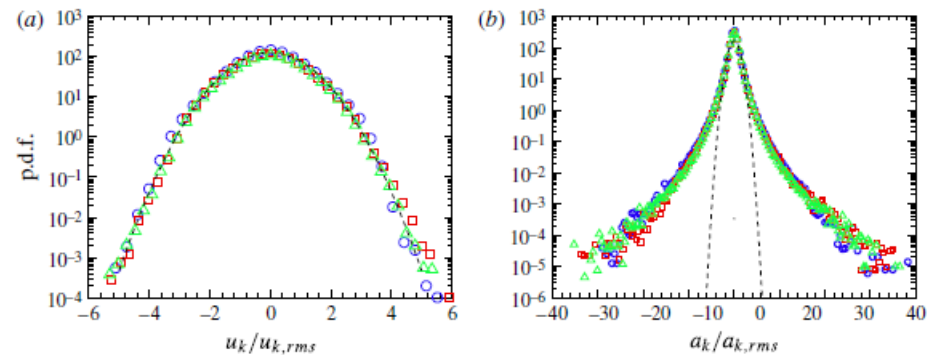
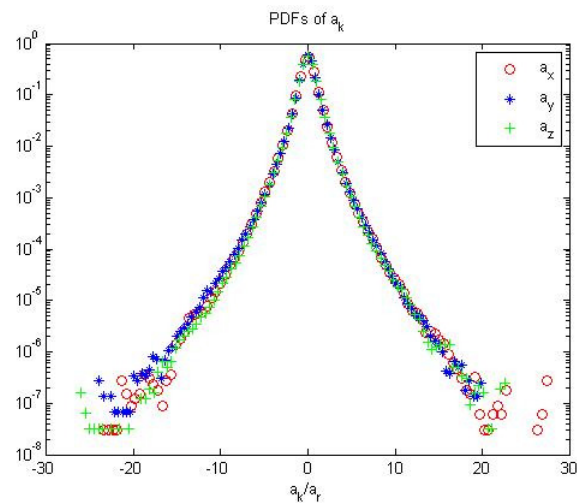
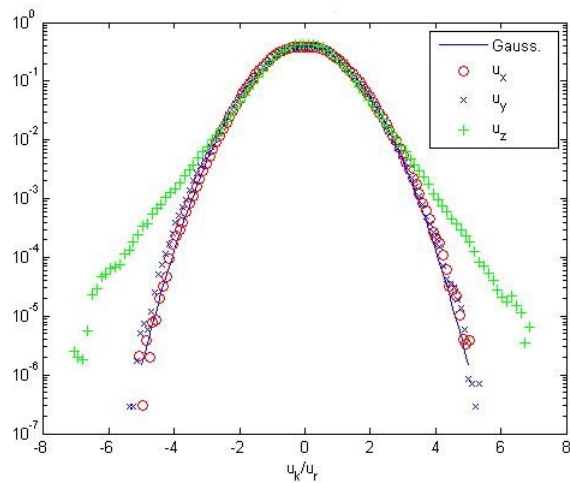
# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements



Experimental velocity and acceleration PDFs in the center of RB for  $Ra = 4.3 \times 10^9$  and  $Pr = 6$ . Circles, squares and triangles represent the z, x, and y components respectively.\*

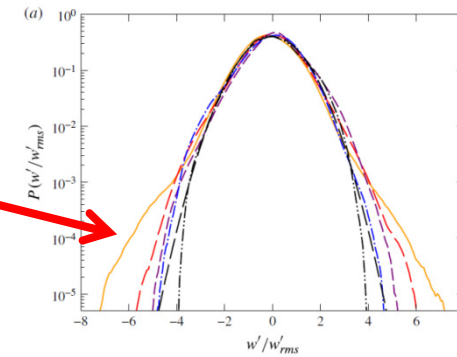
\*Ni, R. Huang, Sh. D., and Xia, K.-Q, *J Fluid Mech.* (2012), vol. 692, pp. 395-419.

# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements



Experimental velocity and acceleration PDFs in the center of RB for  $Ra = 4.3 \times 10^9$  and  $Pr = 6$ . Circles, squares and triangles represent the z, x, and y components respectively.\*

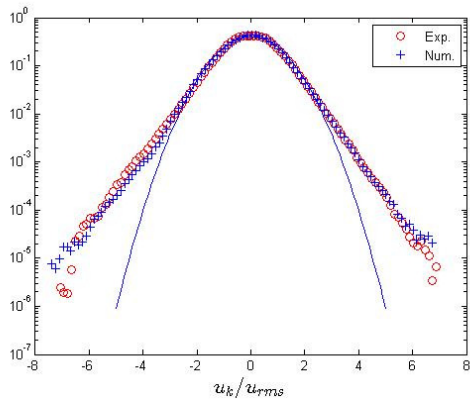
Numerical vertical velocity PDFs at the center of RB for different  $\Gamma$  ( $Ra = 10^9$ ,  $Pr = 4.38$ ). The yellow line corresponds to  $\Gamma = 1$ .\*\*



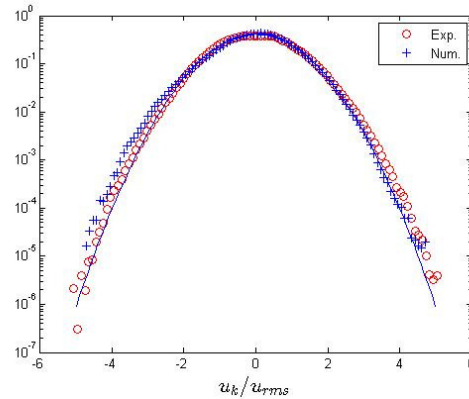
\*Ni, R. Huang, Sh. D., and Xia, K.-Q, *J Fluid Mech.* (2012), vol. 692, pp. 395-419.

\*\* Kaczorowski M., Chong K.-L., and Xia K.-Q, *J. Fluid Mech.* (2014), vol. 747, pp. 73-102.

# Turbulent convection 3D-PTV measurements



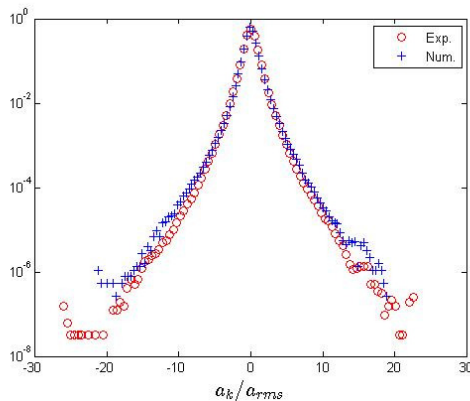
Vertical velocity PDF



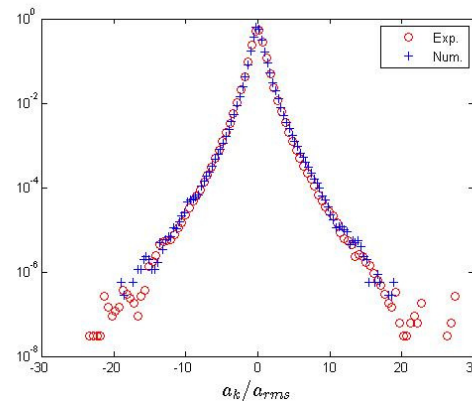
Horizontal velocity PDF



Excellent agreement between  
3D-PTV and DNS!



Vertical acceleration PDF



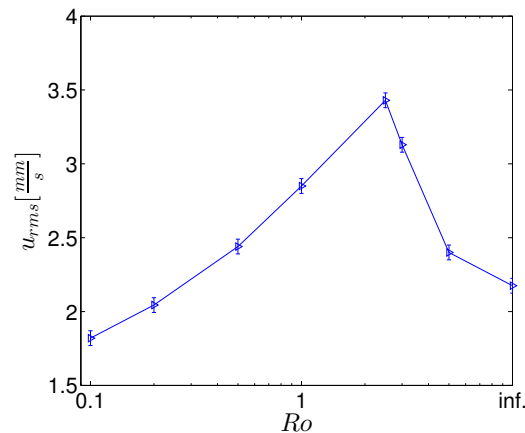
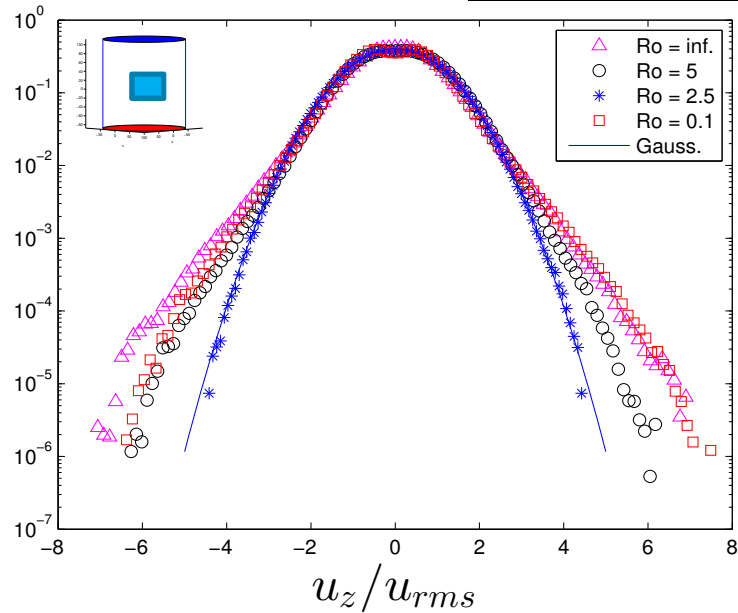
Horizontal acceleration PDF

(Verzicco-code)



# Turbulent rotating convection Lagrangian vertical velocity PDFs

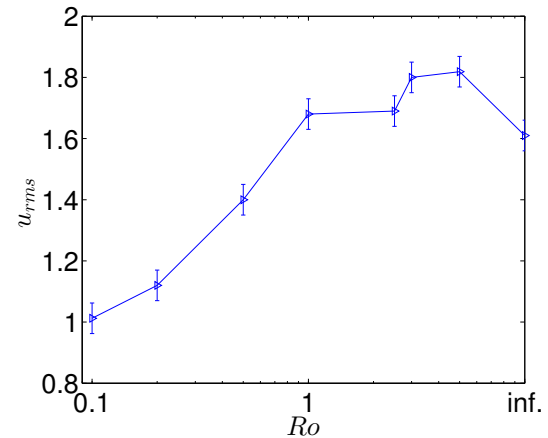
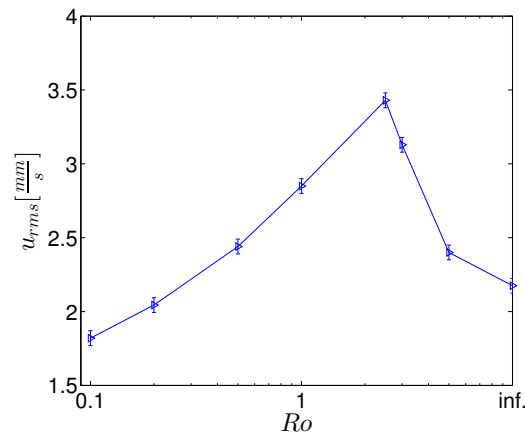
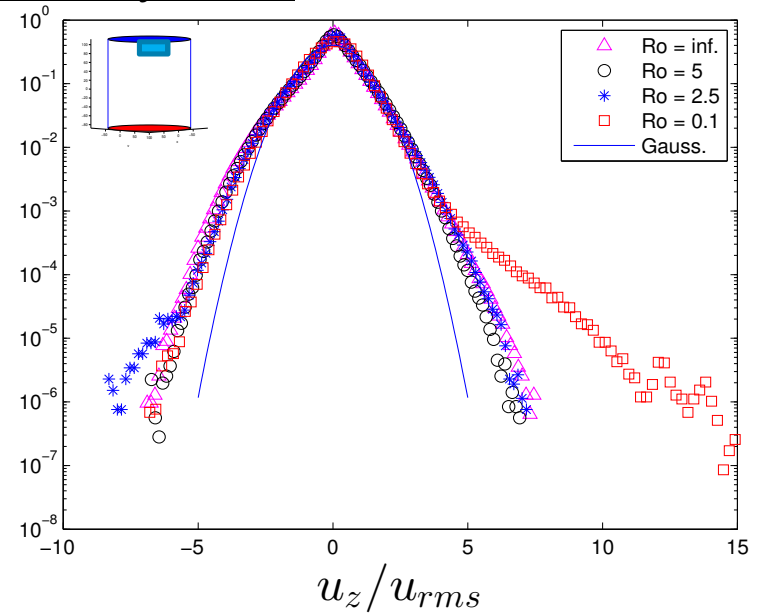
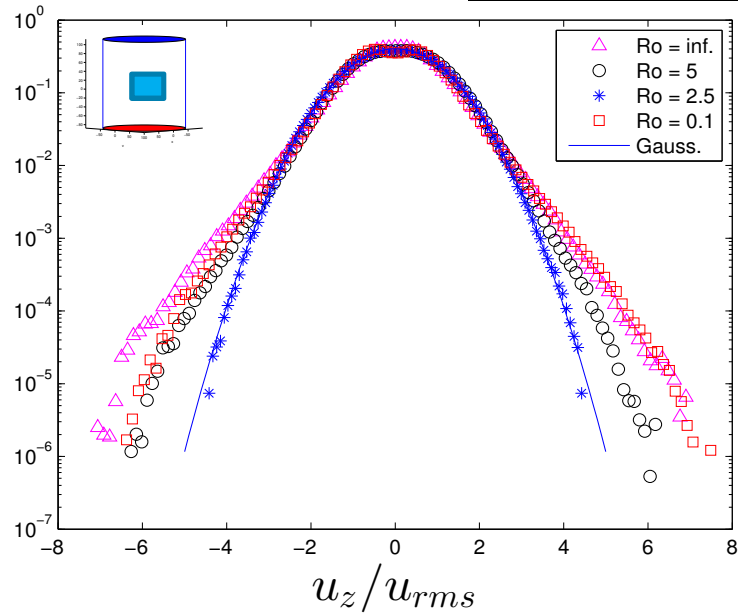
normalized vertical velocity PDFs



# Turbulent rotating convection

## Lagrangian vertical velocity PDFs

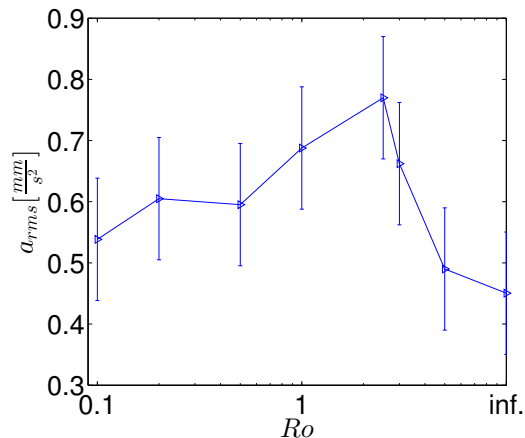
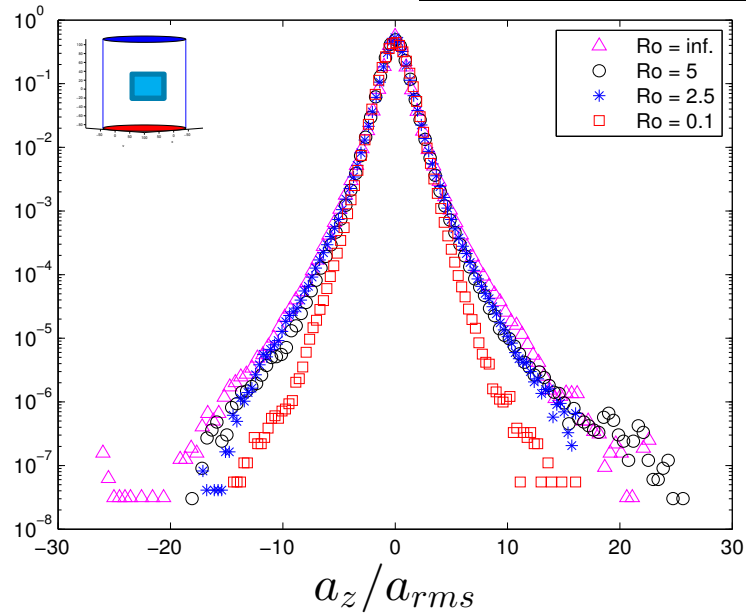
normalized vertical velocity PDFs



# Turbulent rotating convection

## Lagrangian vertical acceleration PDFs

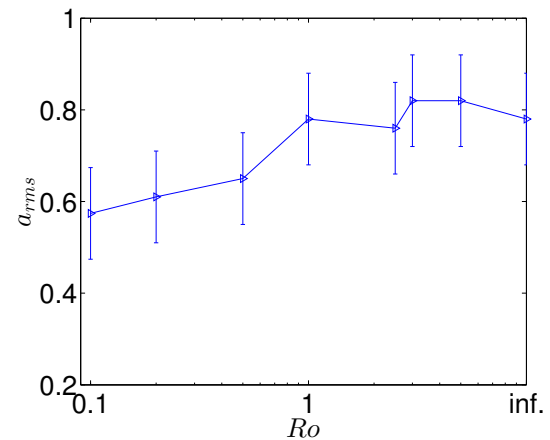
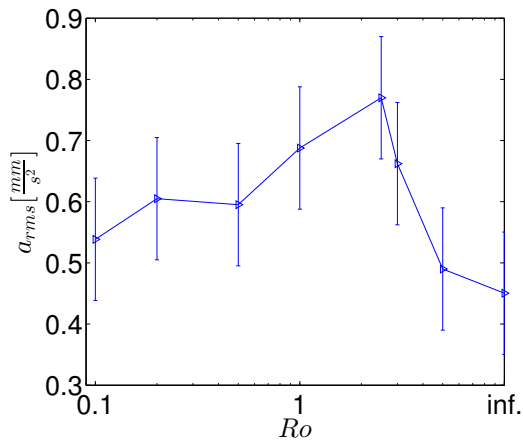
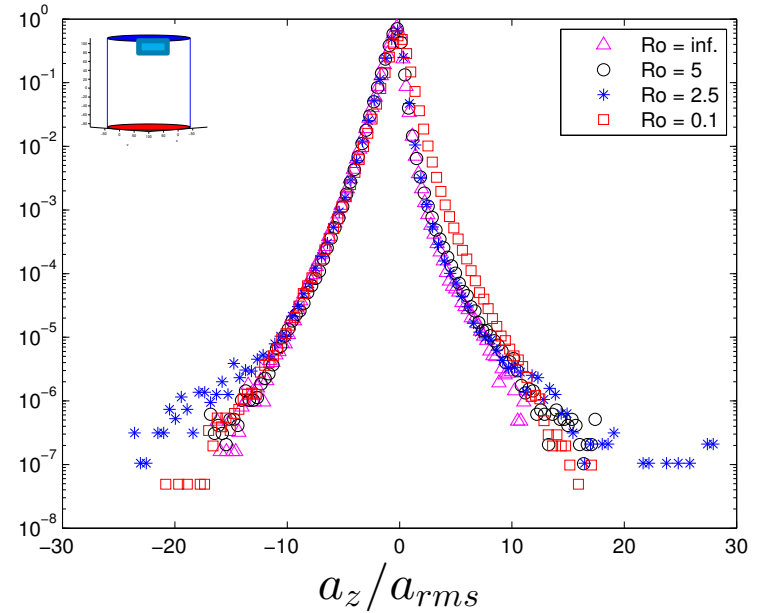
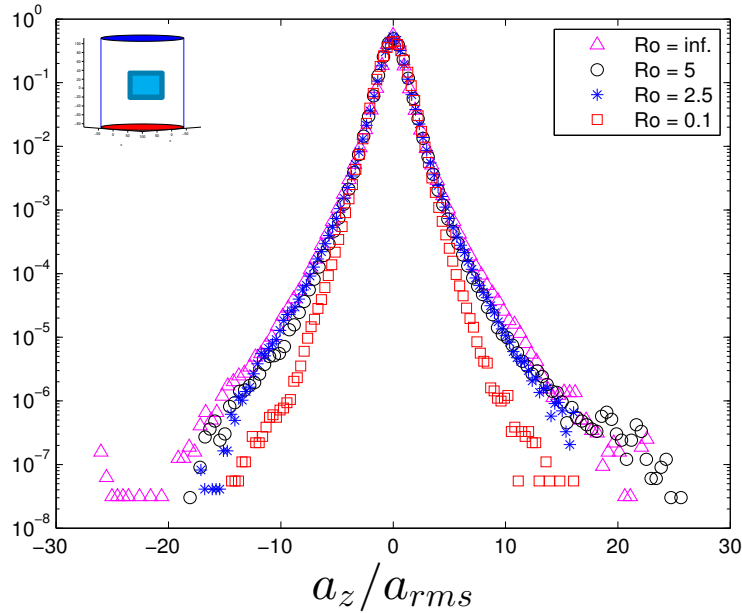
normalized vertical acceleration PDFs



# Turbulent rotating convection

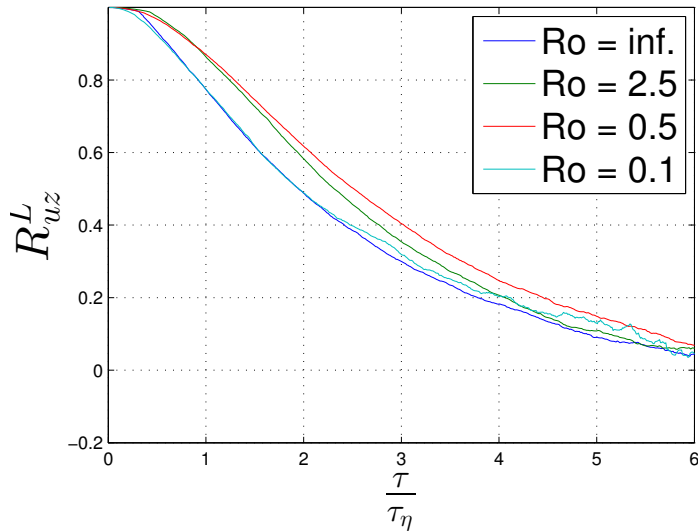
## Lagrangian vertical acceleration PDFs

normalized vertical acceleration PDFs

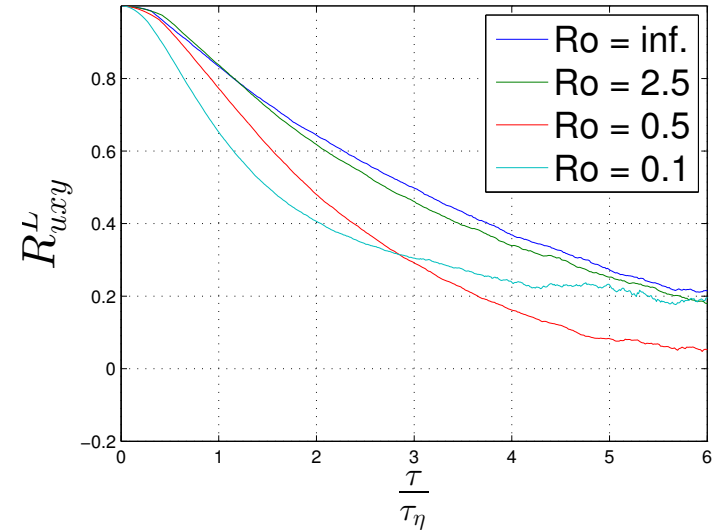


# Turbulent rotating convection

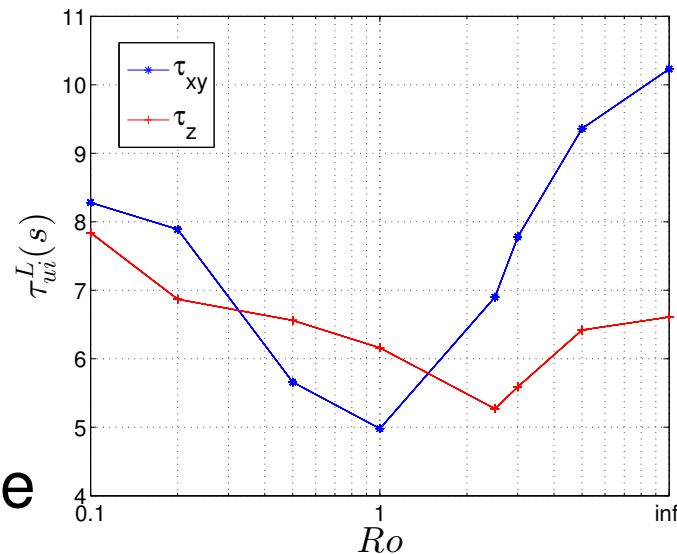
## Lagrangian velocity autocorrelation



Vertical-velocity autocorrelation



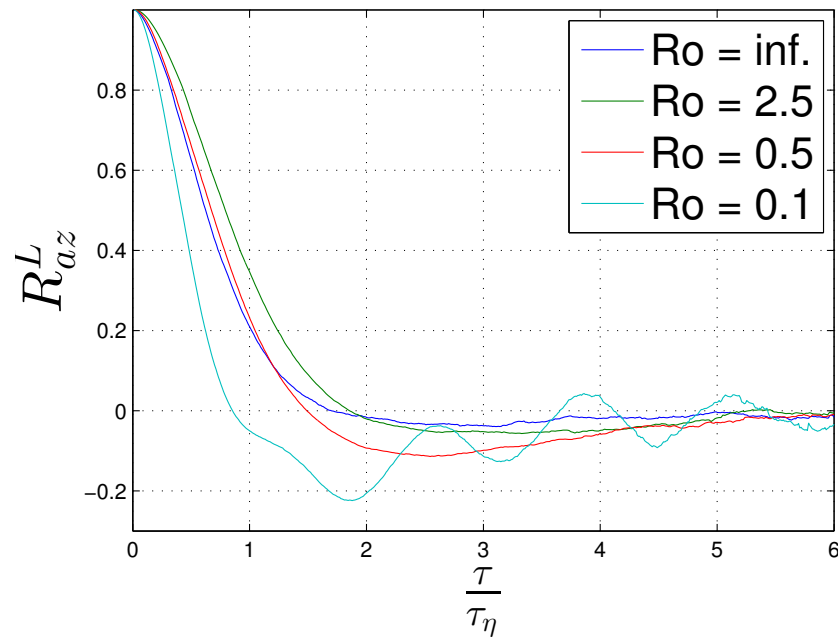
Horizontal-velocity autocorrelation



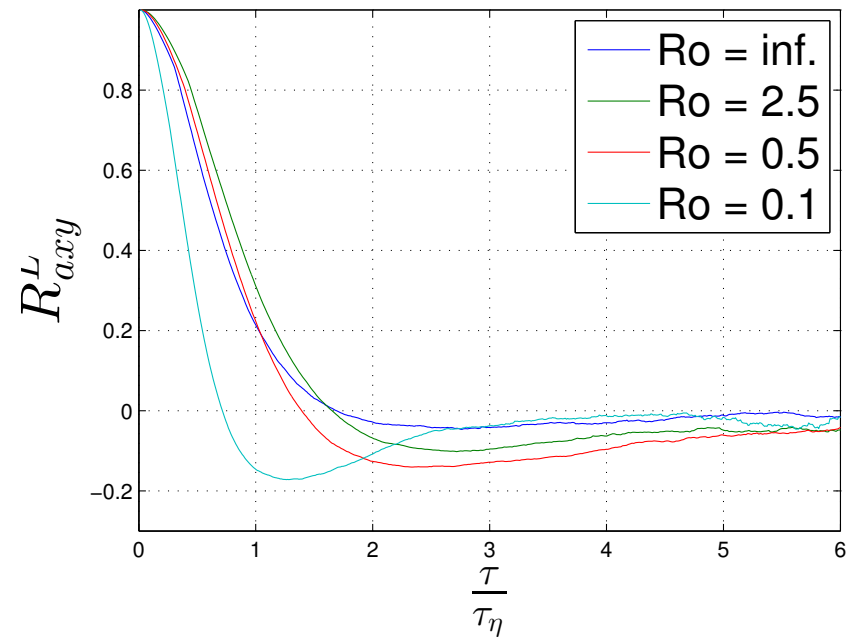
Integral time scale

# Turbulent rotating convection

## Lagrangian acceleration autocorrelation



Vertical-acceleration  
autocorrelation



Horizontal-acceleration  
autocorrelation

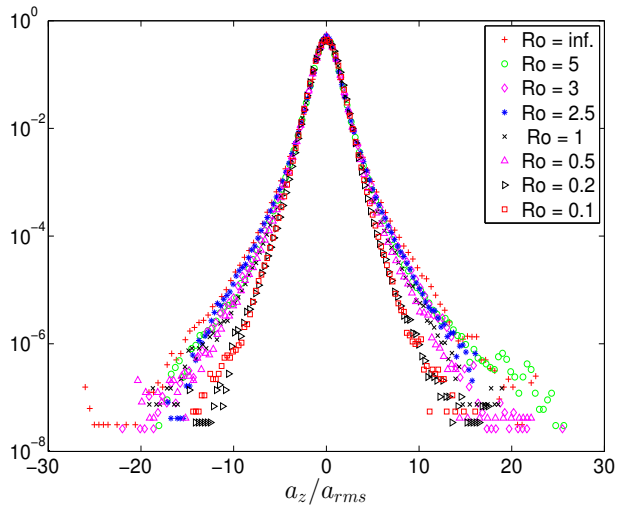
Inertial waves ?

# Conclusions

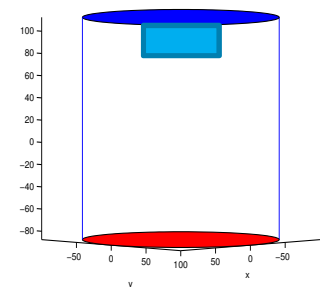
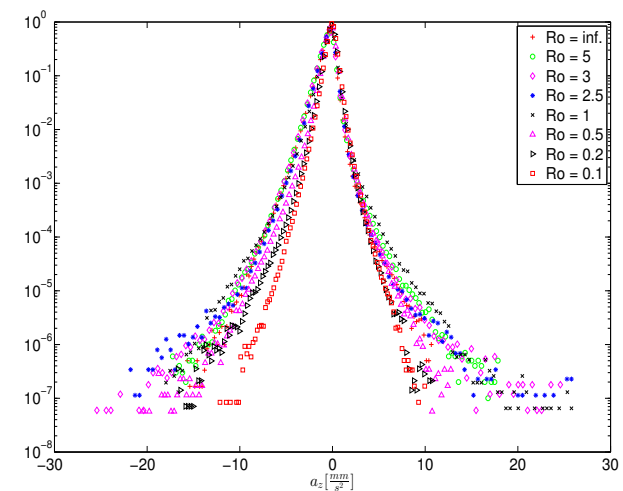
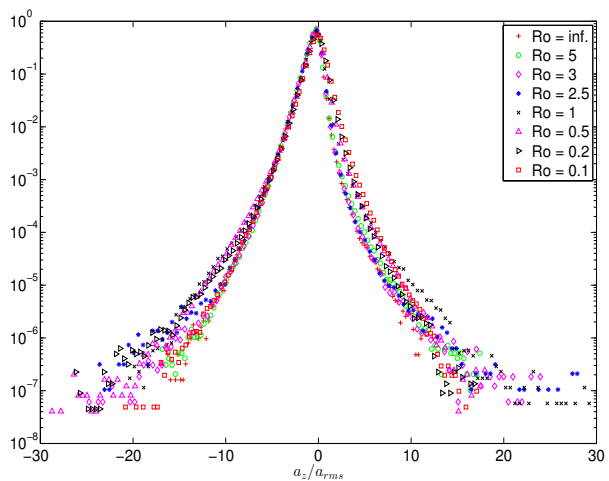
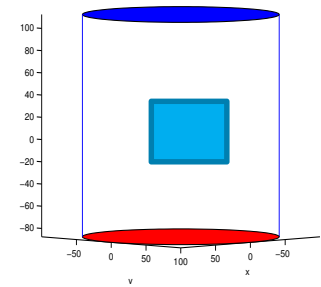
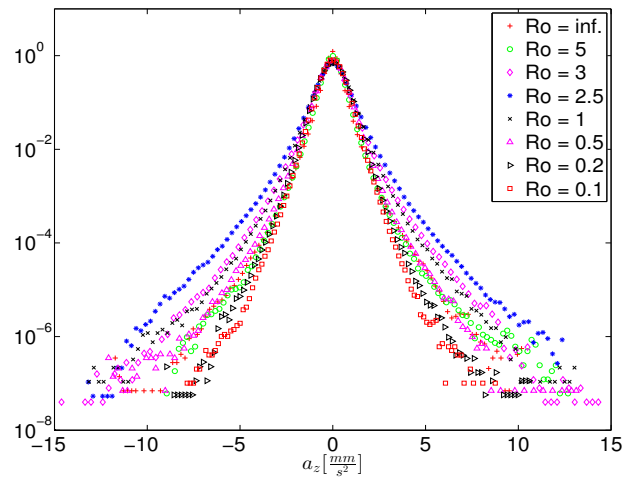
- Lagrangian acceleration and velocity measurements at the center and close to the top lid of a rotating Rayleigh-Bénard cell have been carried out
- At the center, the vertical velocity pdf has slightly wider tails for stationary and high rotation rate cases (coherent structures); approaches Gaussian distribution for intermediate  $Ro$  (nearby transition)
- Increasing rotation results in less intermittency in vertical acceleration of RB
- Indications of presence of internal waves

# Lagrangian vertical-acceleration PDFs

Normalized



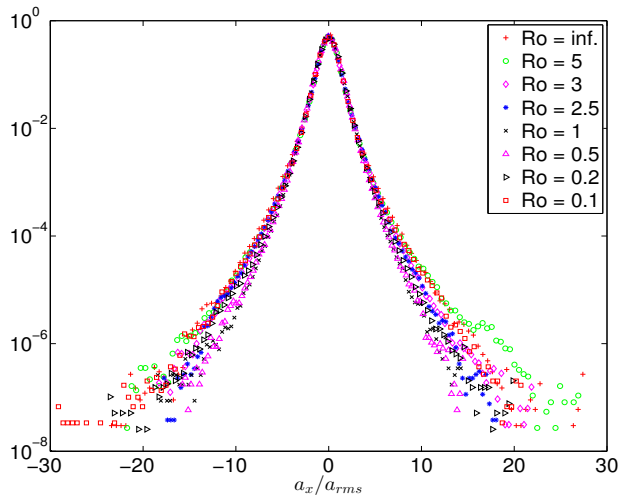
Magnitude





# Lagrangian horizontal-acceleration PDFs

Normalized



Magnitude

