



Stably stratified rotating turbulence

Part II

Annick Pouquet^{1,2}

Corentin Herbert³, Raffaele Marino^{4*}, Pablo Mininni⁵, Cecilia Rorai^{6*} & Duane Rosenberg⁷

1: LASP; 2: NCAR; 3: Weizmann; 4: Berkeley; 5: U. Buenos Aires; 6: Nordita; 7: OakRidge

NSF/XSEDE - ASC090050 & TG-PHY100029 and Yellowstone (ASD/NCAR); INCITE/DOE - DE-AC05-00OR22725 * NSF/CMG 1025183

What's different in rotating &/or stratified turbulence?

- *Examples of rotating stratified flows and Boussinesq eqs.*
- *Resolving characteristic scales, taking into account all parameters*
- *Direct and inverse cascades in homogeneous isotropic turbulence*
- *Bi-directional constant-flux energy cascades & oceanic mixing*
- **Development of large vertical velocity in stratified flows**
- **Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling and the role of potential energy**
- *Role of helicity (velocity-vorticity correlations)*

Kolmogorov:

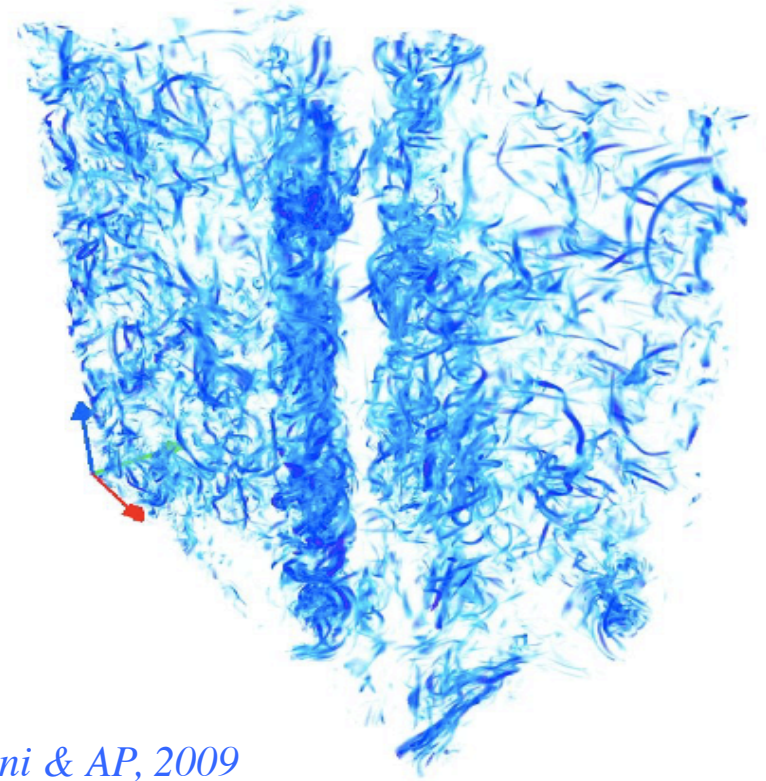
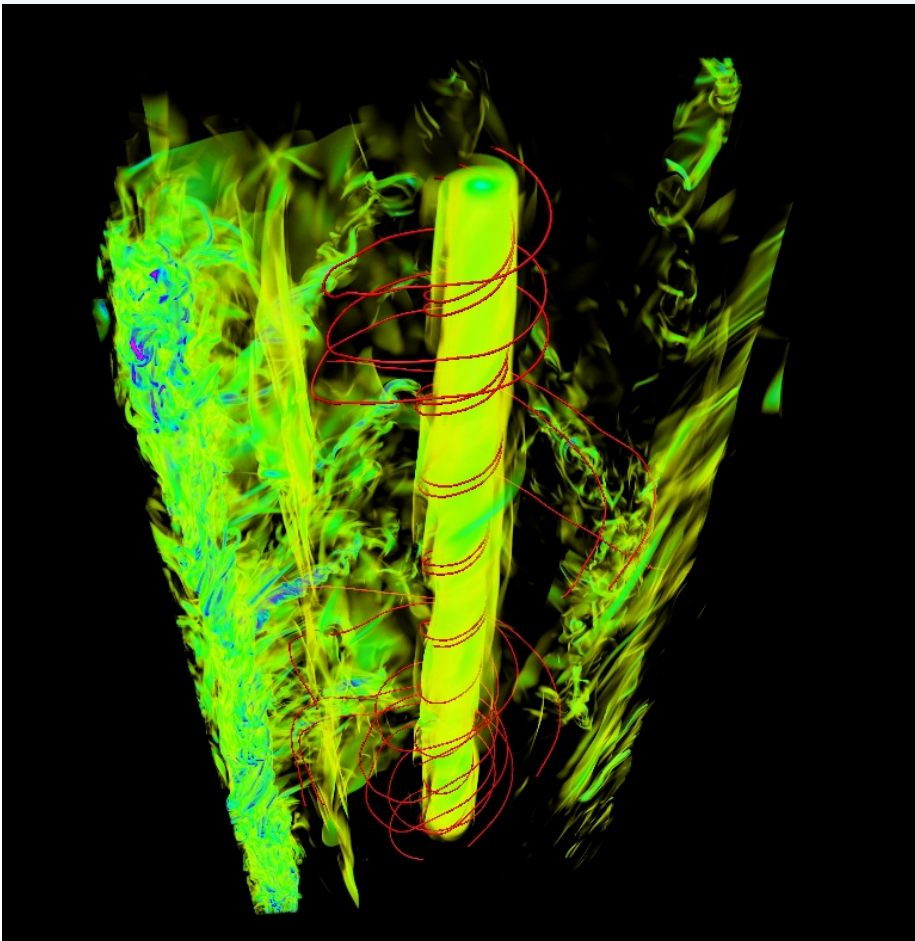
“I soon understood that there was little hope of developing a pure, closed theory*, and because of absence of such a theory the investigation must be based on hypotheses obtained on processing experimental data.”



** of turbulence*

Rotation, no stratification, vorticity

**Taylor-Green non-helical forcing,
 $k_F=4$, 512^3 grid, $Ro=0.35 \rightarrow$**



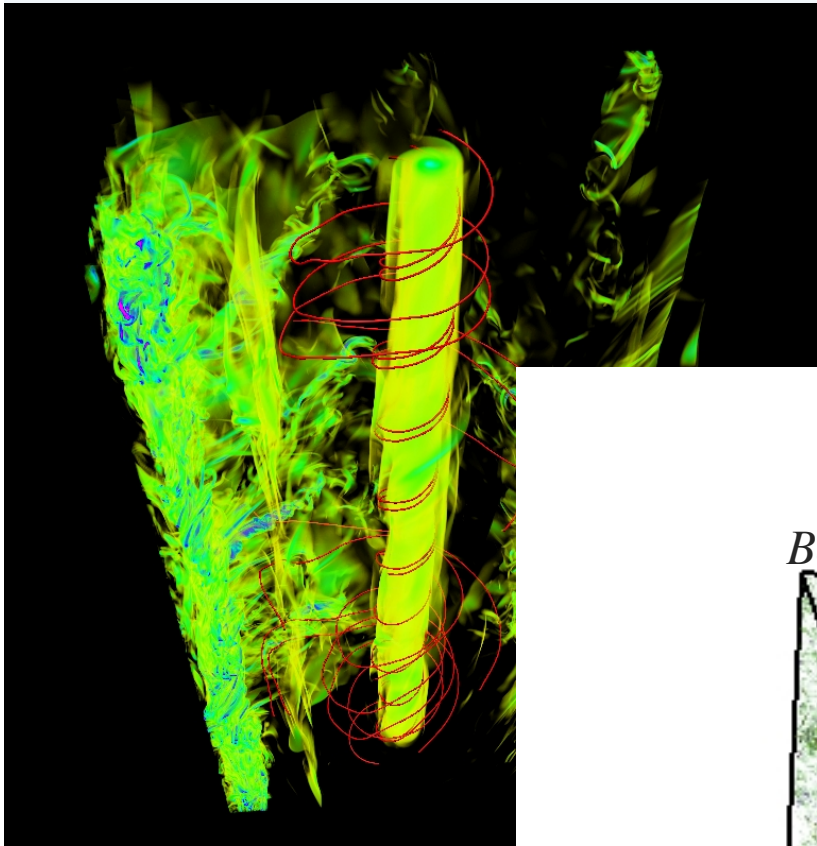
Mininni & AP, 2009

← ABC forcing, zoom

$k_F=7$, 1536^3 grid
 $Re=5100$, $Ro=0.06$

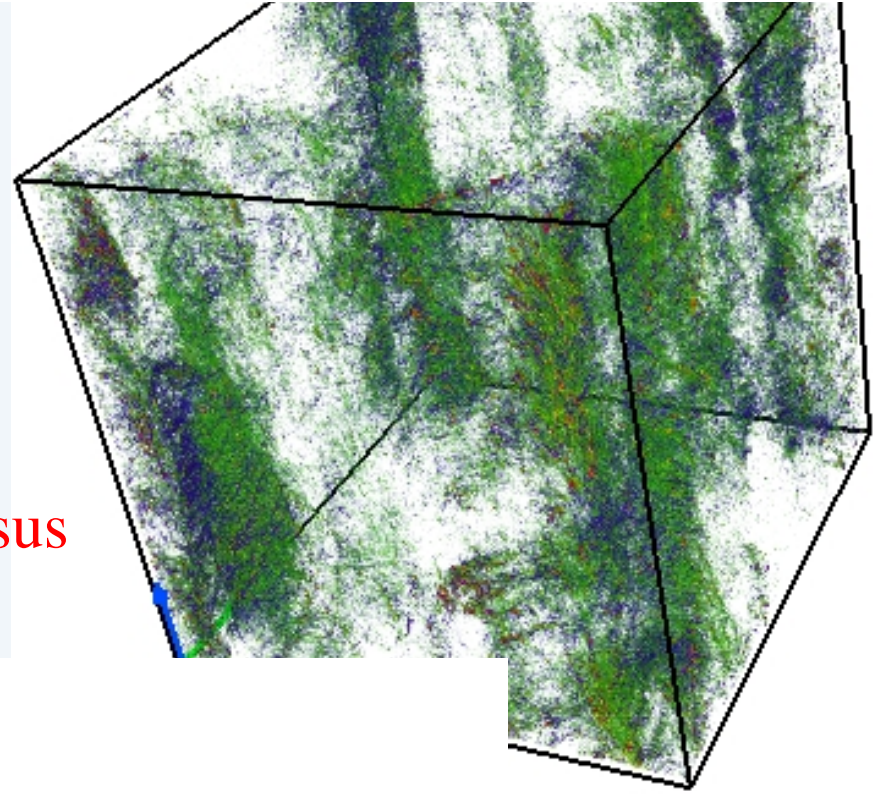
Helical ABC forcing
Mininni & AP, 2010

1536³ grid, $k_F=7$,
 $Re=5100$,
 $Ro=0.06$



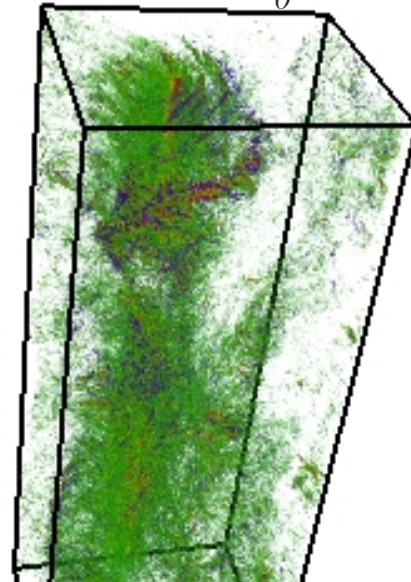
$L_\Omega \sim l_{\min}$

versus



$L_\Omega \sim 30 l_{\min}$

Box width: $L_0/8$



3072³ grid,
 $k_F=4$,
 $Re \sim 24000$,
 $Ro \sim 0.07$

Mininni et al., 2012

The emergence of strong velocity fields

“Intermittency”

Strong jumps

Stochastic wind

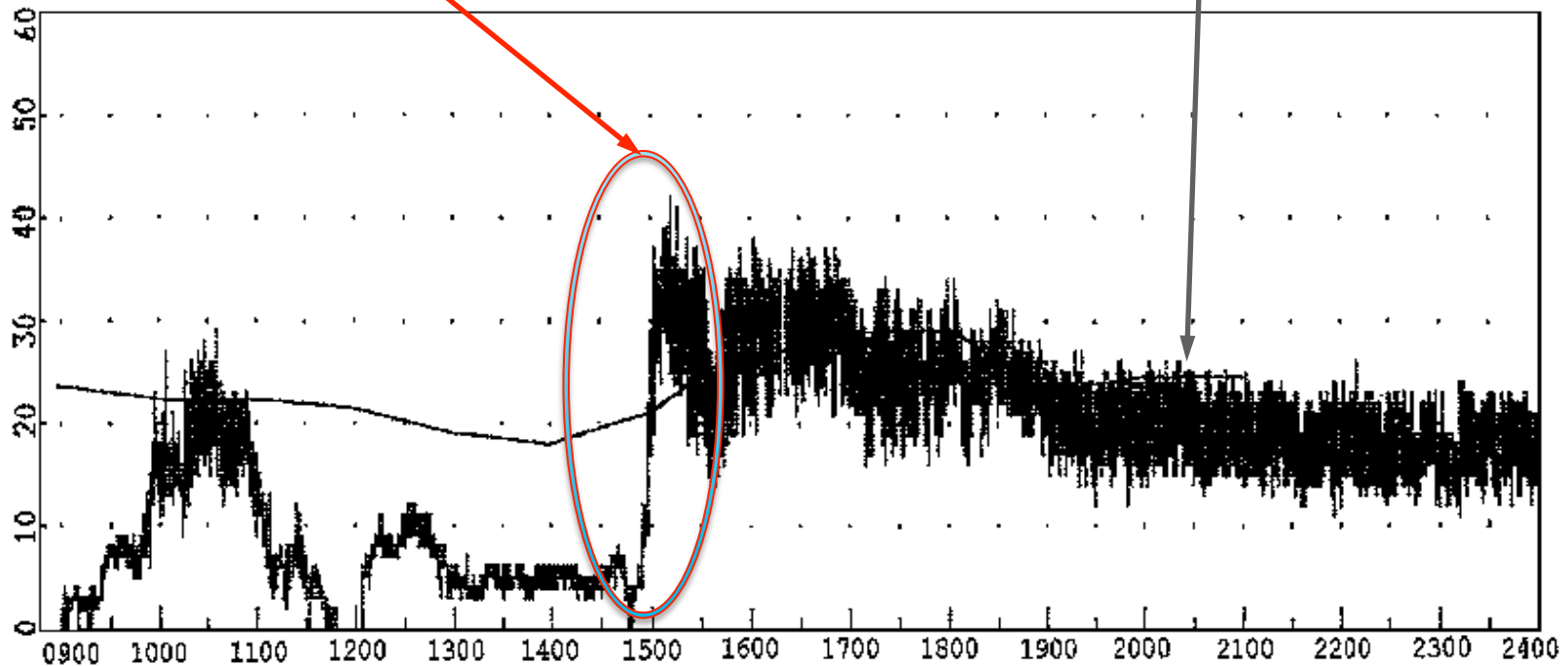
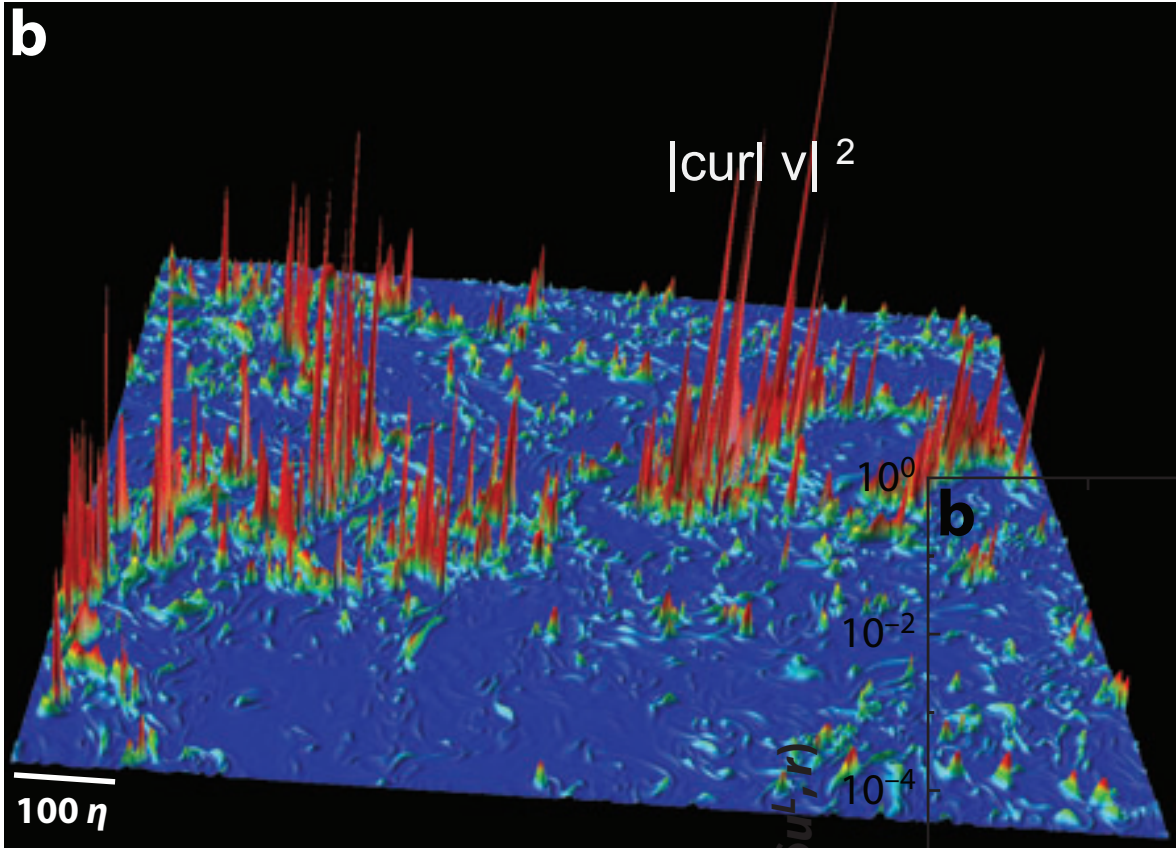
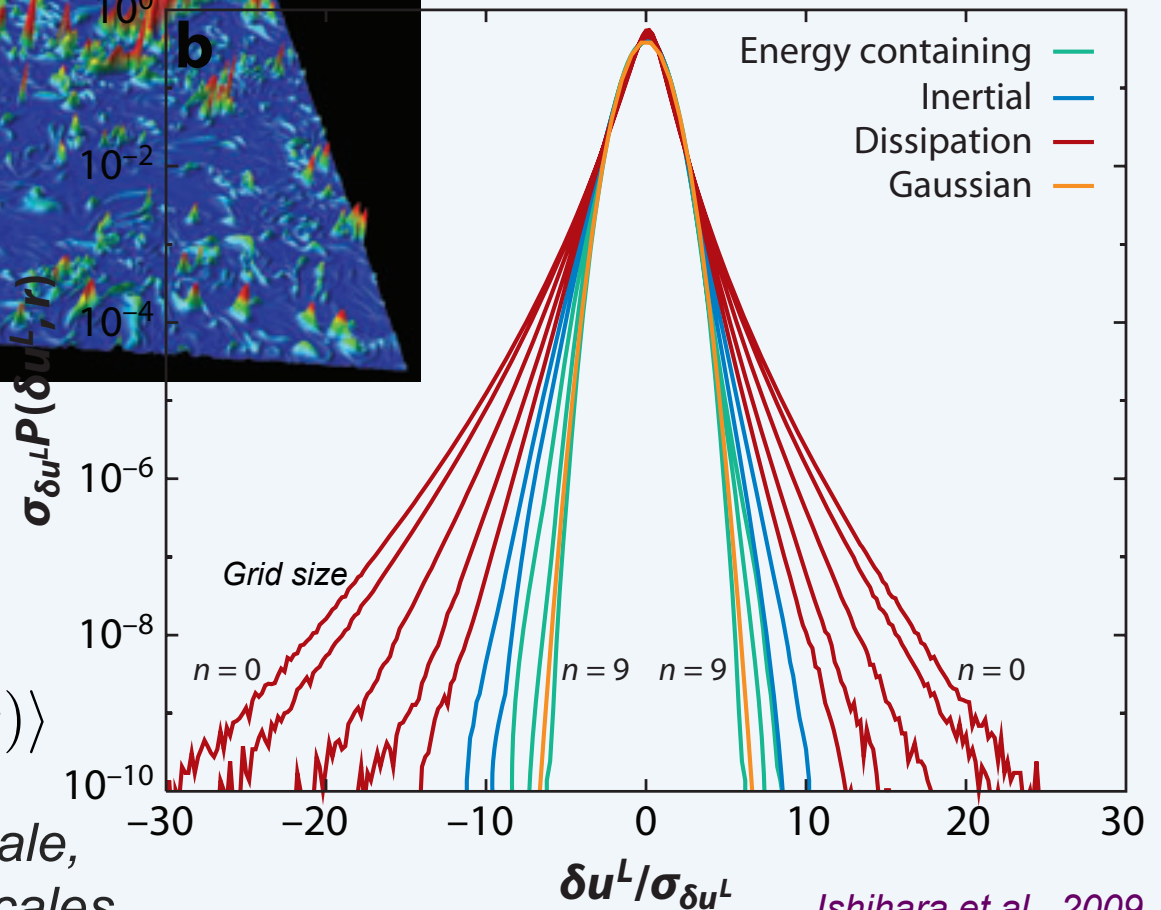


Figure 6. Anemograph trace for Bellambi Point on 26 December 1996 (wind speed in knots), taken from Batt and Leslie (1998), Fig. 7.

*Intermittency which manifests itself as heavy tails in Prob. Distrib. Fns.
→ Problem for e.g. wind farms*



Turbulence at 4096^3 resolution
 $R_\lambda \sim 1200$



Velocity differences $\delta u(l)$
 on distances $l \sim 2^n \Delta x$

$$\delta u_x(l) = \langle u_x(x+l) - u_x(x) \rangle$$

*They are Gaussian at large scale,
 and with heavy tails at small scales*

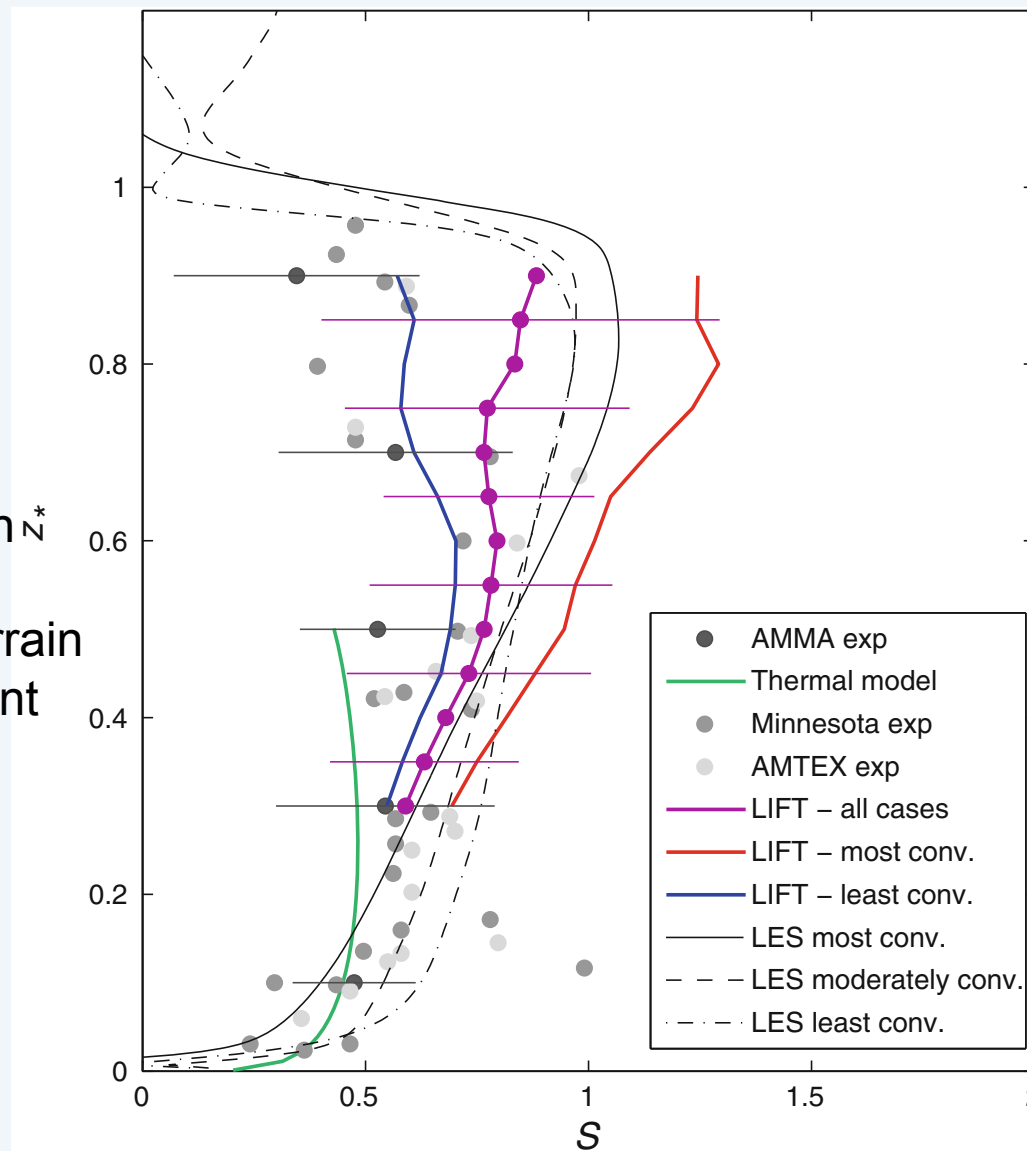
Skewness of **vertical velocity** in the convective planetary boundary layer

Z normalized by
boundary layer depth z^*

LIFT: Lidar In Flat Terrain
* Aircraft measurement

$\Delta x=30\text{m}, \Delta t=1\text{s}$

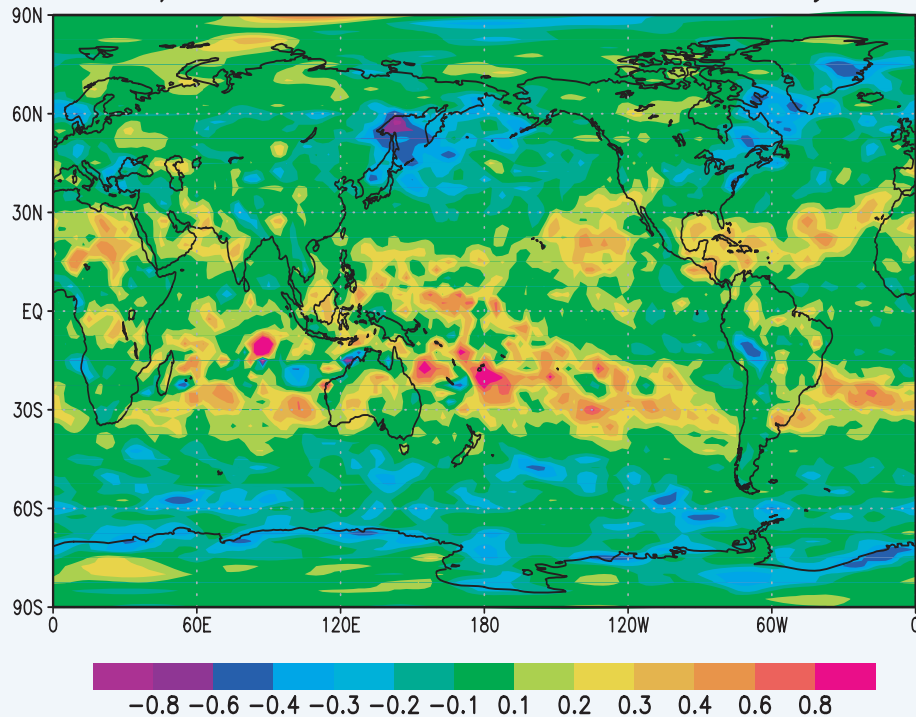
LES on 512^3 points



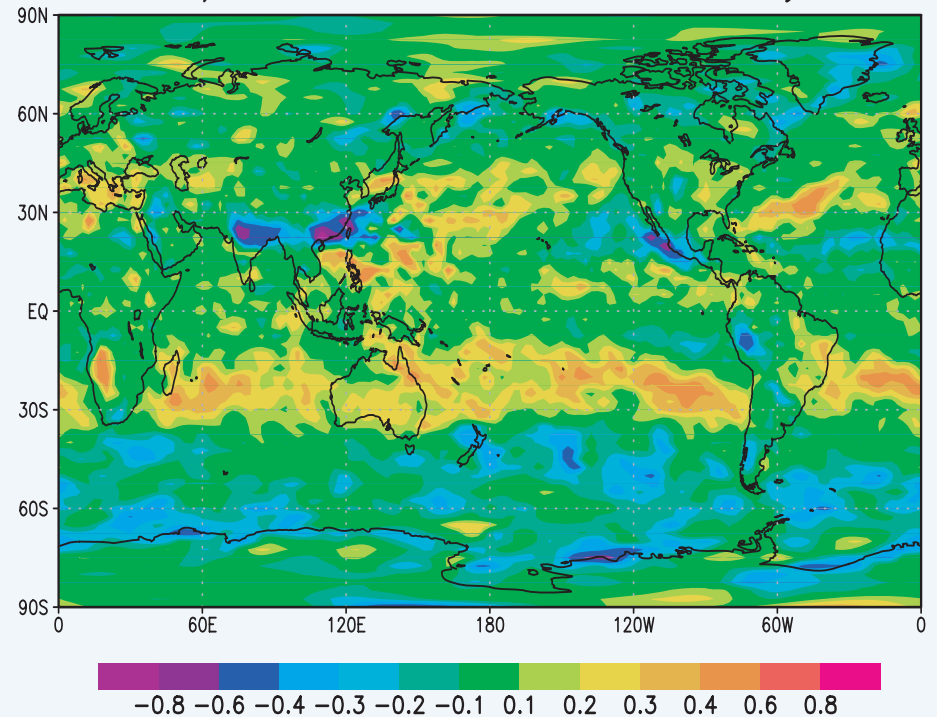
Troposphere

27 years ($Y > 1976$) daily sampled, 5 vertical levels, $\Delta x \sim 250\text{km}$ (code: 40km)

A) Skewness for 850 hPa U, January

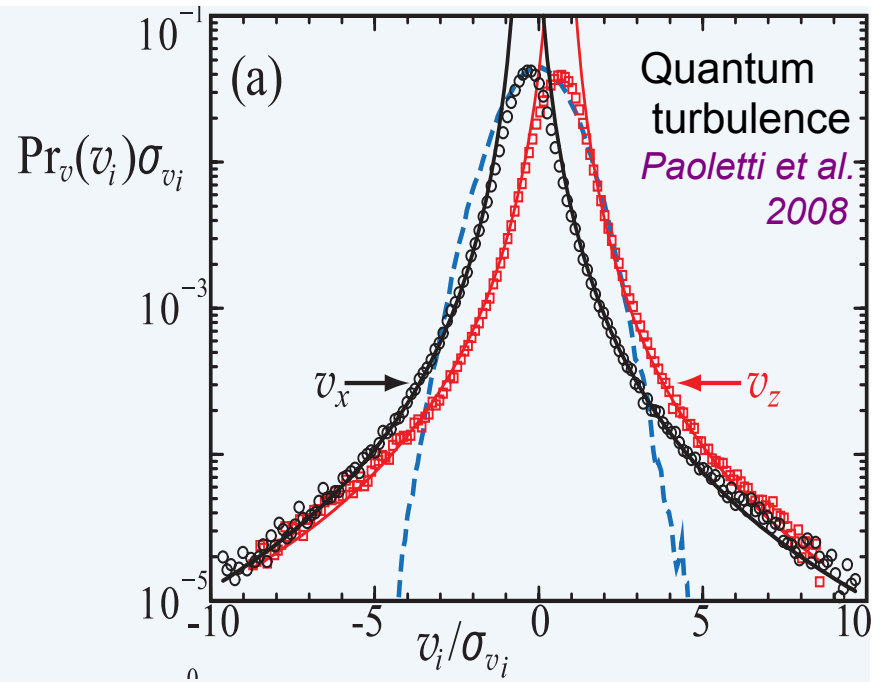
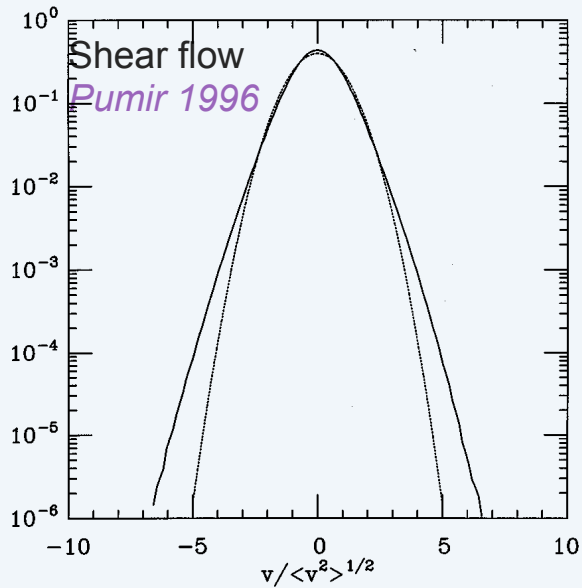


B) Skewness for 850 hPa U, July



Skewness of temperature (ERA40 data)

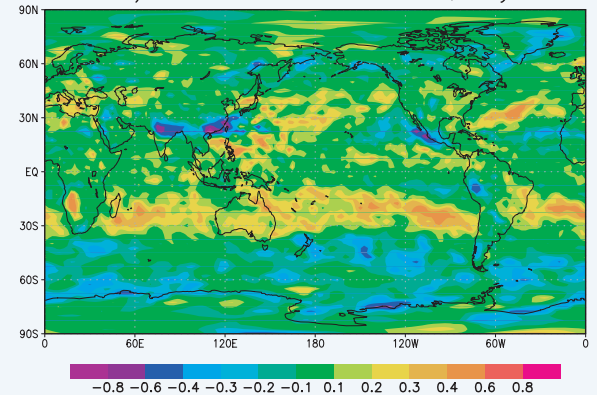
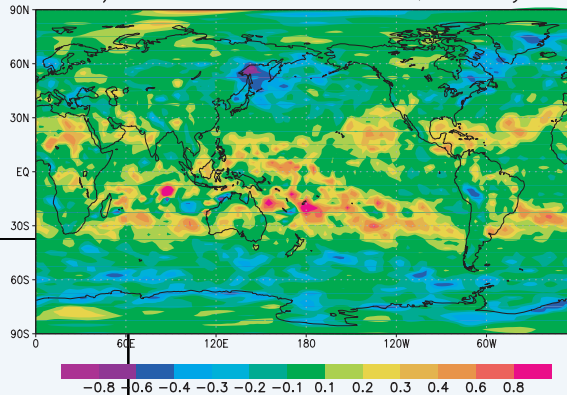
Petoukhov et al., 2008



δv_r : Solar Wind shear layers
Marino et al., 2012

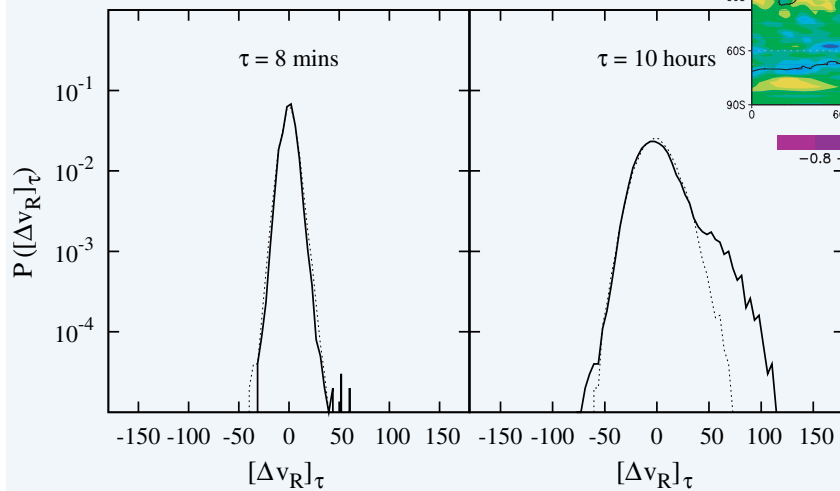
A) Skewness for 850 hPa U, January

B) Skewness for 850 hPa U, July



Skewness of temperature (ERA40 data)

Petoukhov et al., 2008



How do waves alter the dynamics?

Stable Boussinesq stratification \rightarrow *gravity waves*

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} = -\nabla P - N b e_z + F$$

$$\partial_t b + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla b - \kappa \Delta b = N w ,$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 .$$

$$\frac{\tau_{\text{dissipation}}}{\tau_{\text{nonlinear}}}$$

$$\text{Re} = U_0 L_0 / \nu$$

Reynolds number

$$\frac{\tau_{\text{wave}}}{\tau_{\text{nonlinear}}}$$

$$\text{Fr} = U_0 / [L_0 N]$$

Froude number

$$\nu = \kappa$$

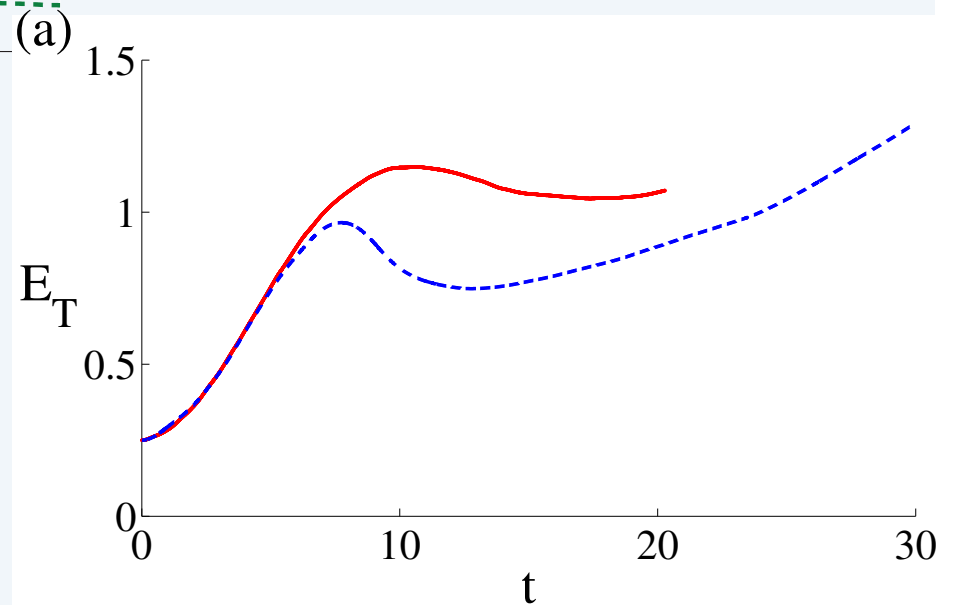
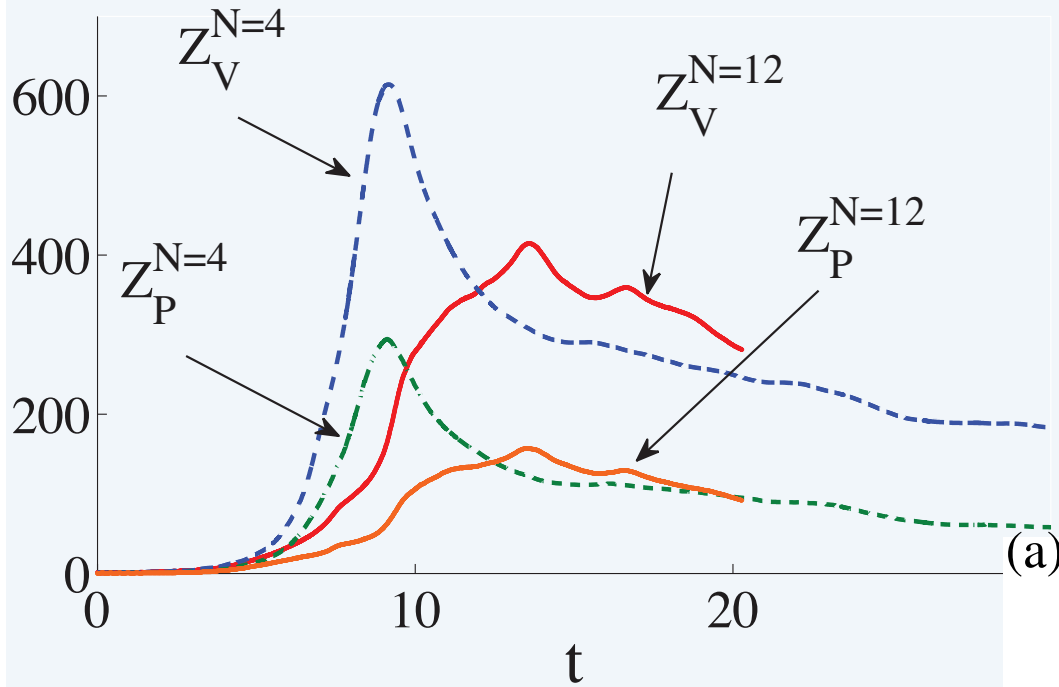
Unit Prandtl nb.

Energy and enstrophy

DNS 2048³, Re=24000

N=12, Fr=0.03, R_B=22

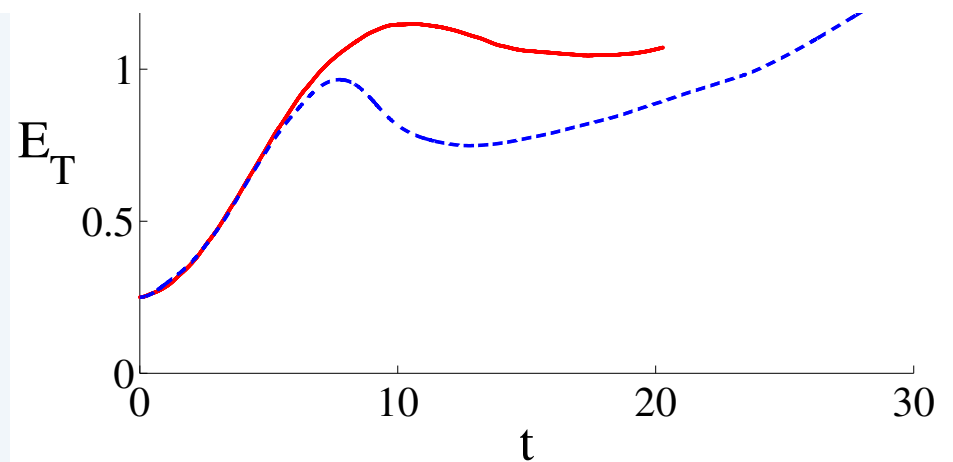
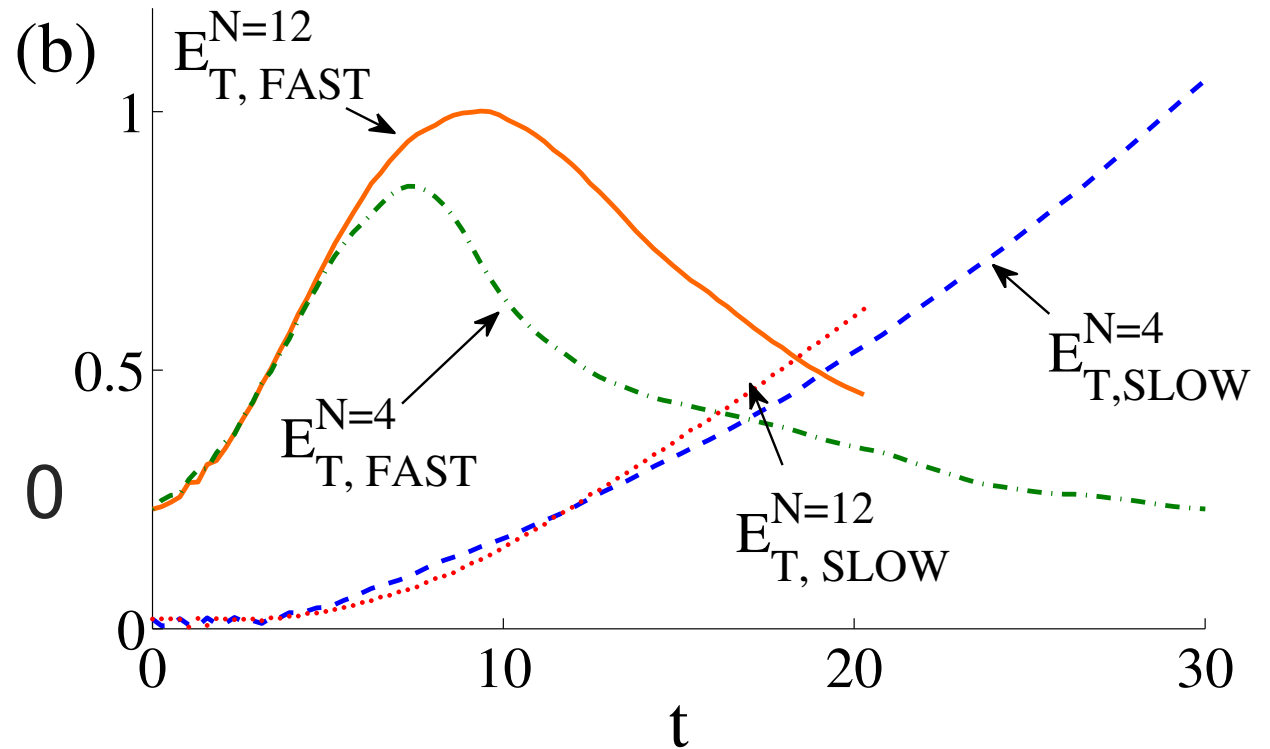
N=4, Fr=0.09, R_B=200

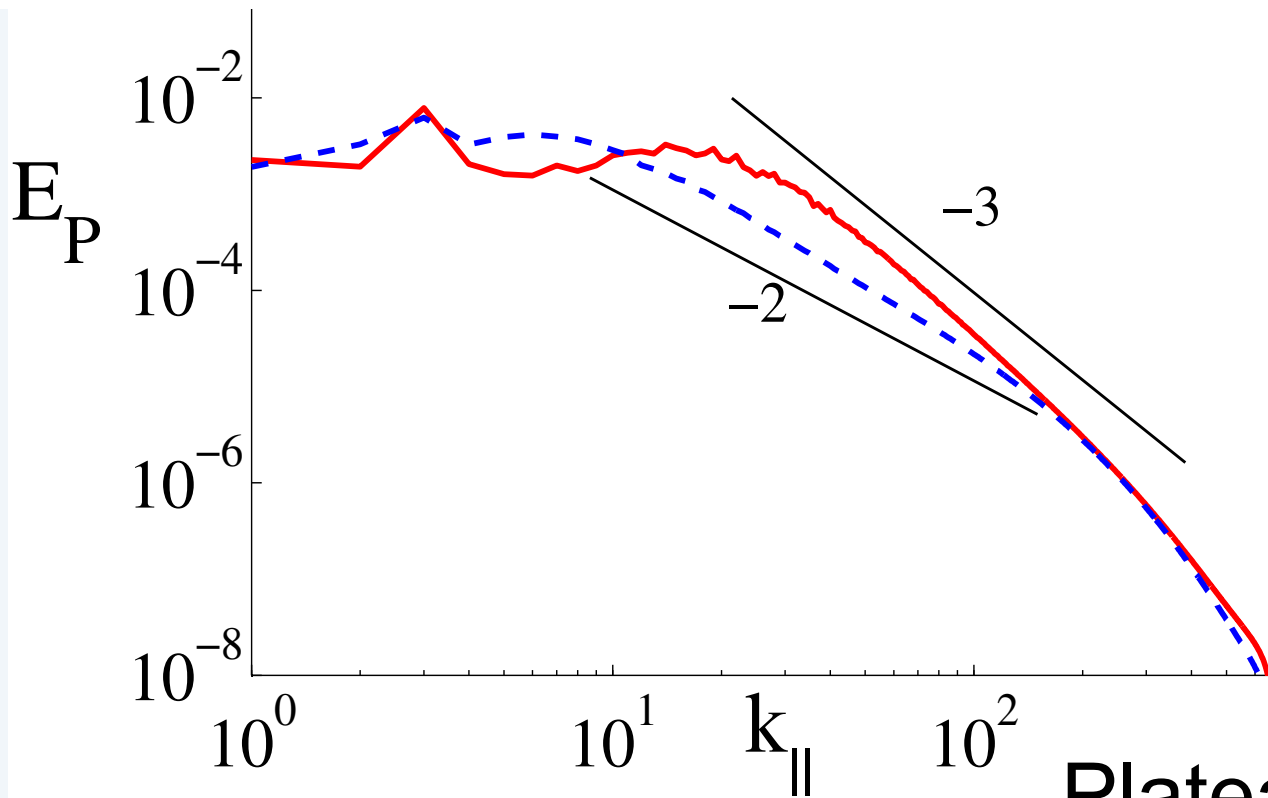


Kinetic and potential energy

$$\omega_k = N k_{\text{perp}} / k$$

Slow mode: $k_{\text{perp}} = 0$





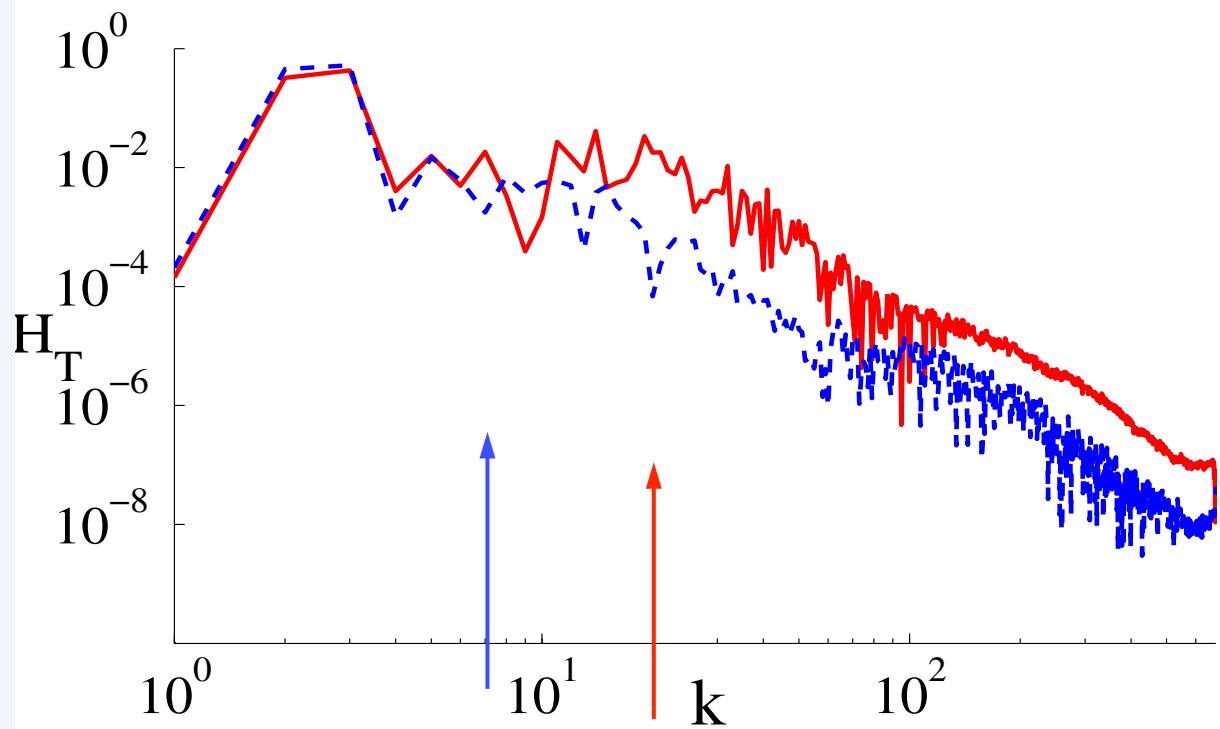
$Re \sim 2.4 \times 10^4$
 $N=4$ ($Fr \sim 0.1$)
 $N=12$ ($Fr \sim 0.03$)

Plateau until

$k_B \sim N/U$, the buoyancy wvnb

*Flat spectra with a break
 at L_B are also observed
 in oceanic and
 atmospheric data*

(D'Asaro & Lien 2000)



$Re \sim 2.5 \times 10^4$, 2048³ grids
 $N=4$ ($Fr \sim 0.1$)
 $N=12$ ($Fr \sim 0.03$)

Flat spectra of helicity
 in the atmosphere
 when very stable,
 at night in the planetary
 boundary layer

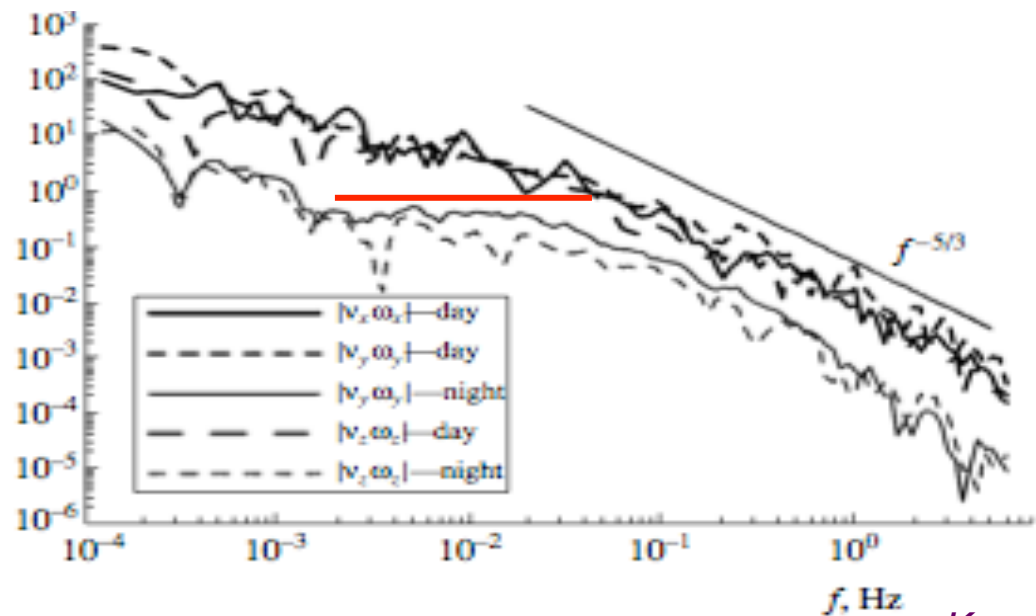


Fig. 4. Spectra of helicity components.

Koprov 2005

$Re \sim 2.5 \times 10^4$

$N = 4$

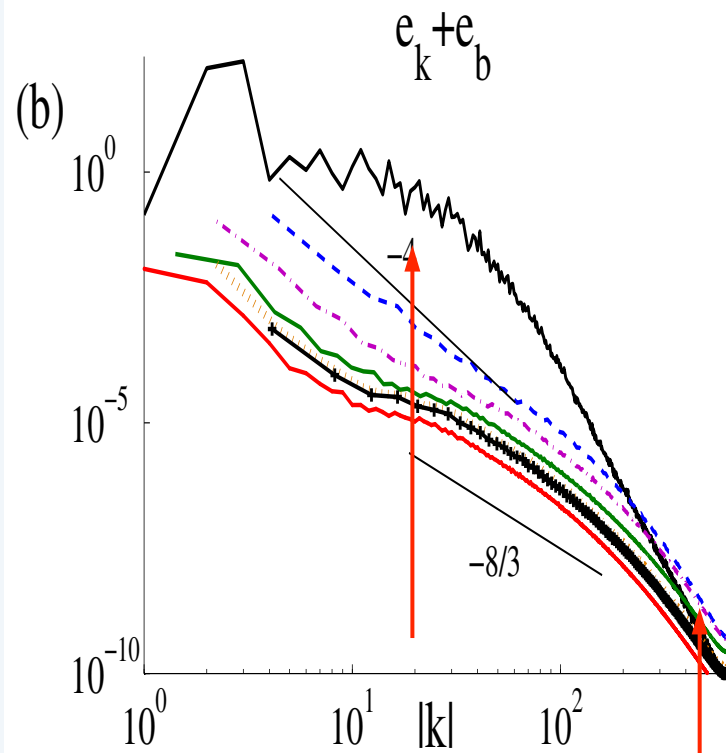
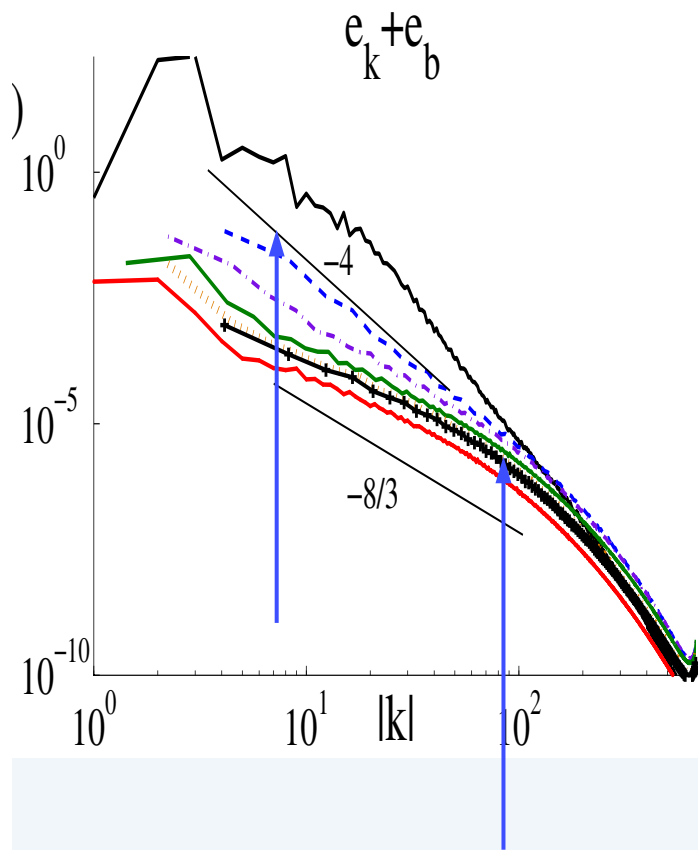
$Fr \sim 0.1$

&

$N = 12$

$Fr \sim 0.03$

2048³ grids



2d
total energy
spectra for
co-latitudes ϕ

$\phi = 0$ ($k_{//}$)

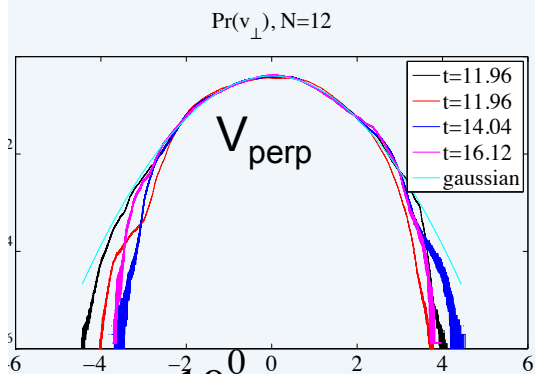
$\phi = \pi/2$ (k_{perp})

Isotropy at $k_{Oz} \sim [N^3/\varepsilon]^{1/2}$: K41 beyond the Ozmidov scale

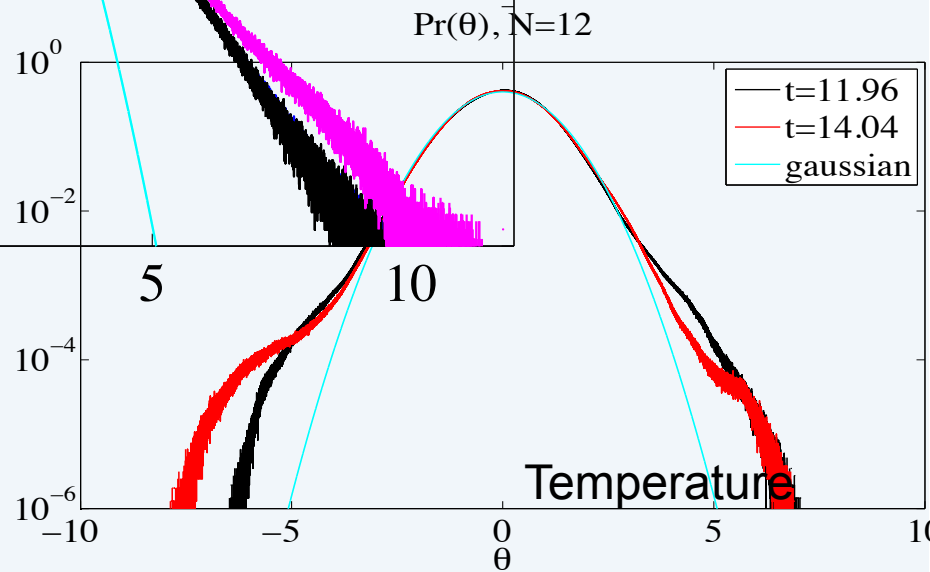
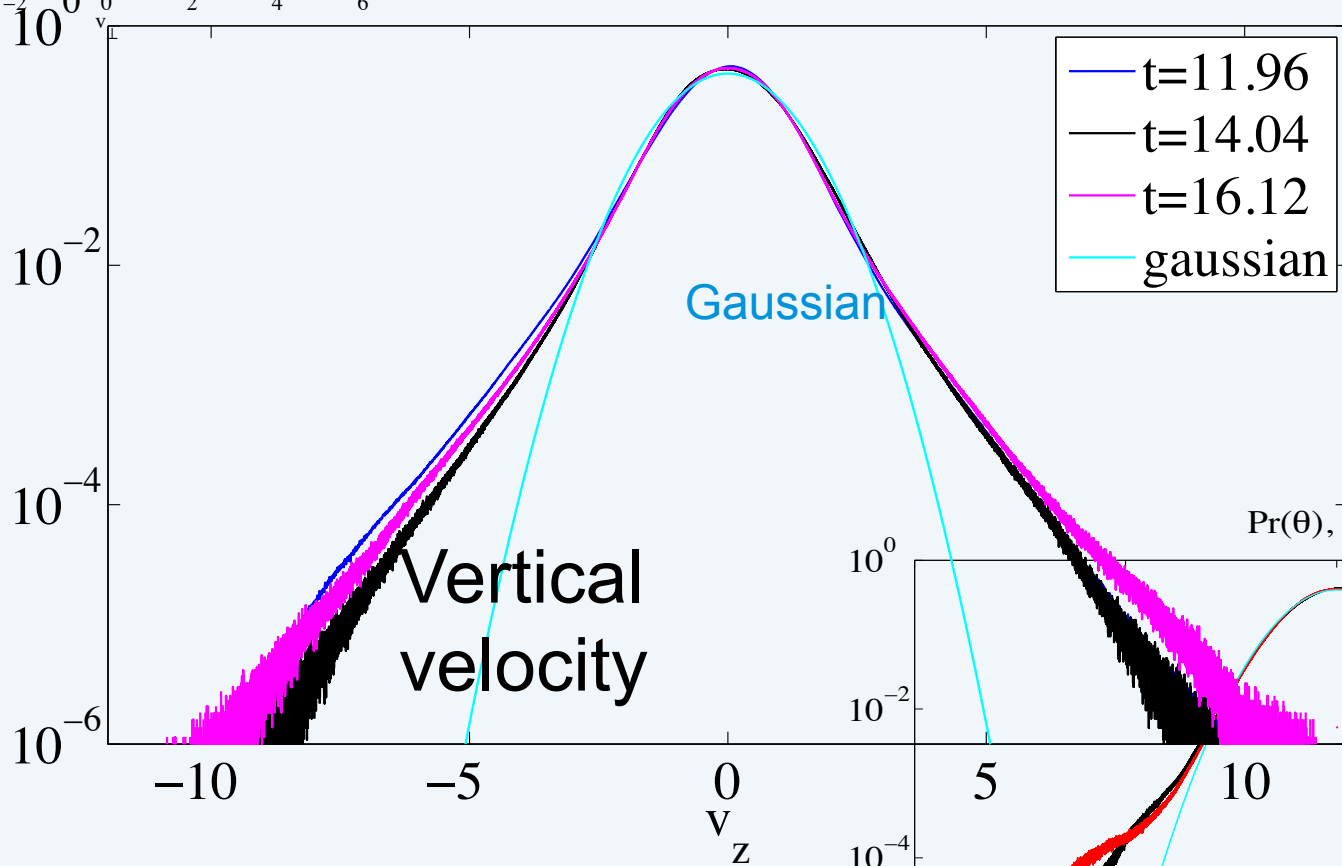
Velocity PDF, different time outputs

DNS 2048³,
Re=24000

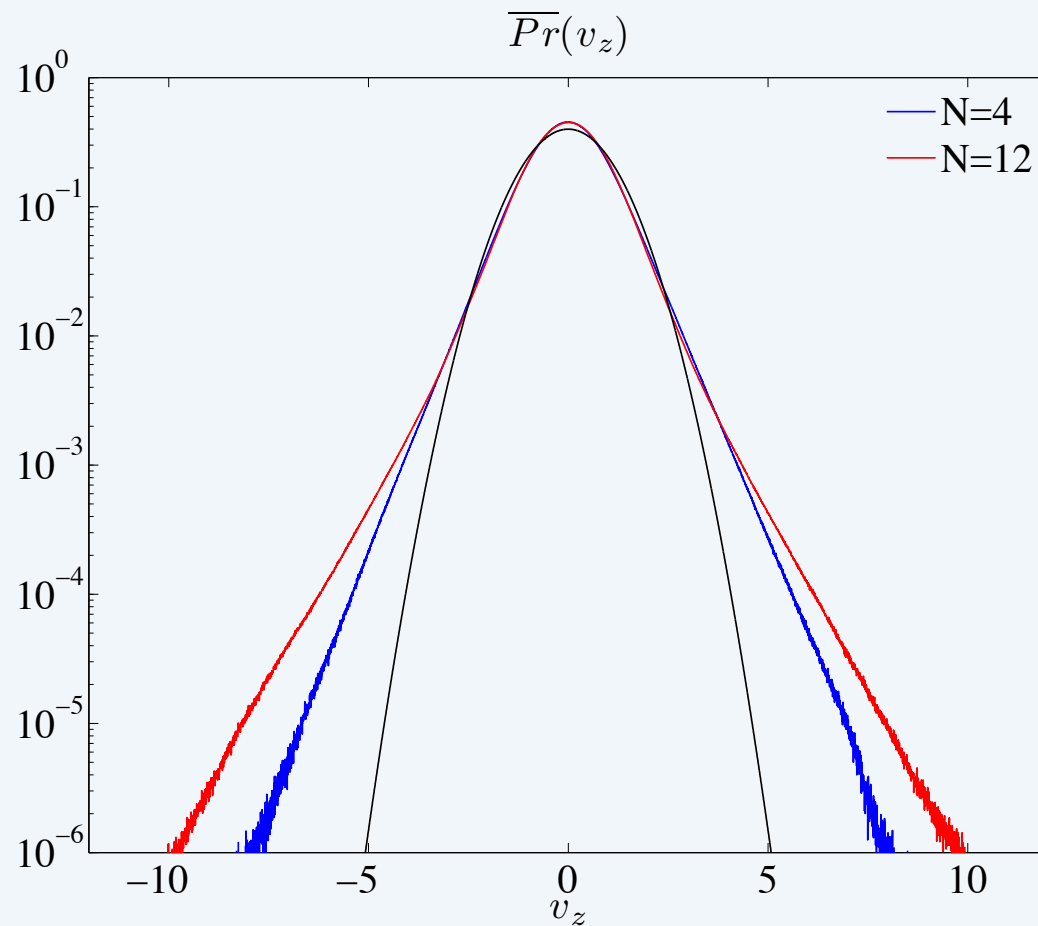
N=12,
Fr=0.03,
R_B=22



Pr(v_z), N=12

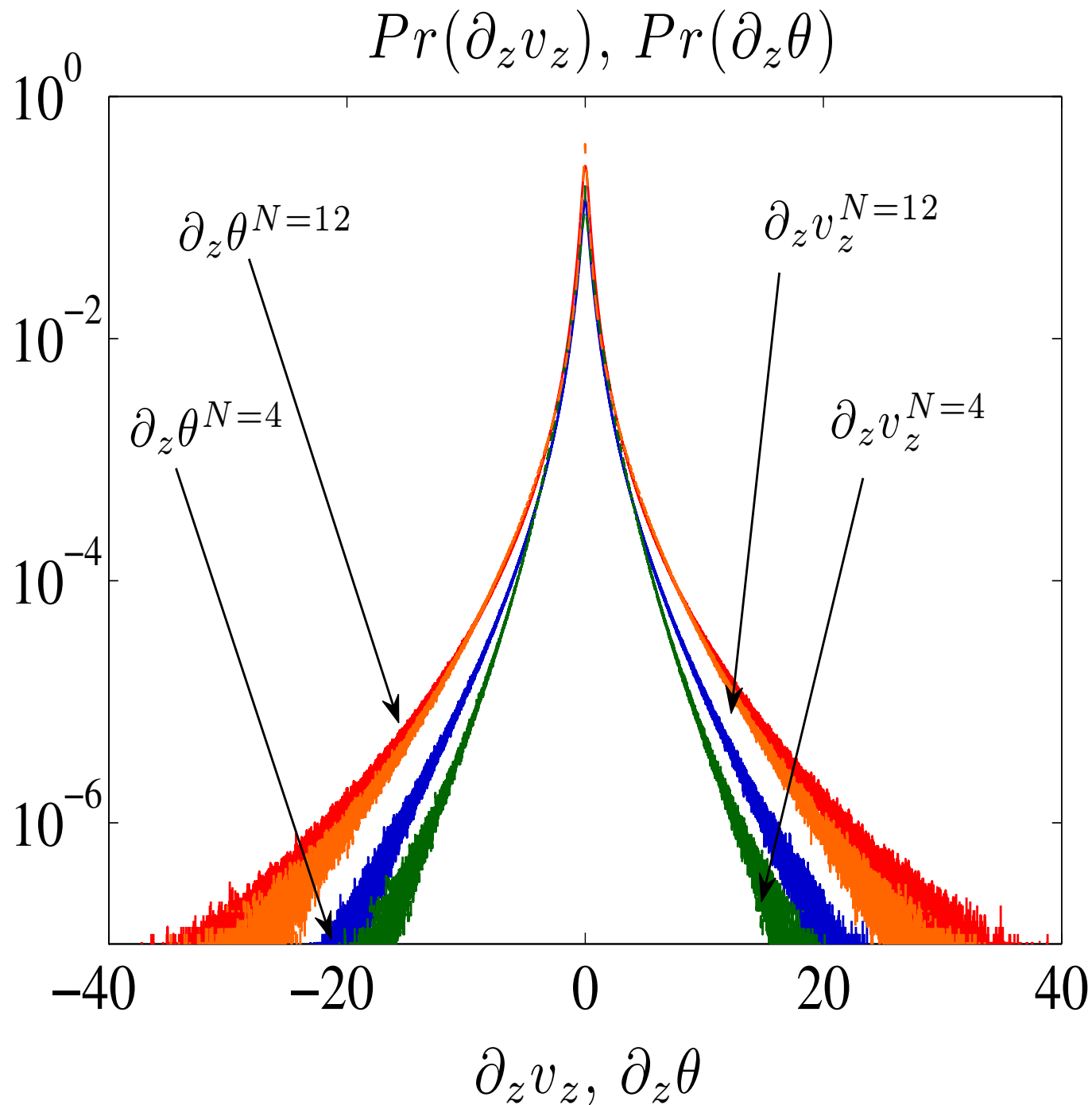


Vertical velocity Time average



DNS 2048^3 ,
Re=24000

N=12,
Fr=0.03,
 $R_B=22$

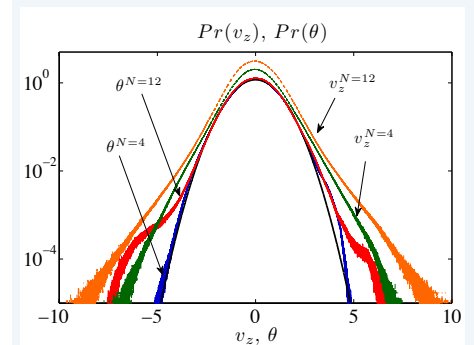


DNS 2048³

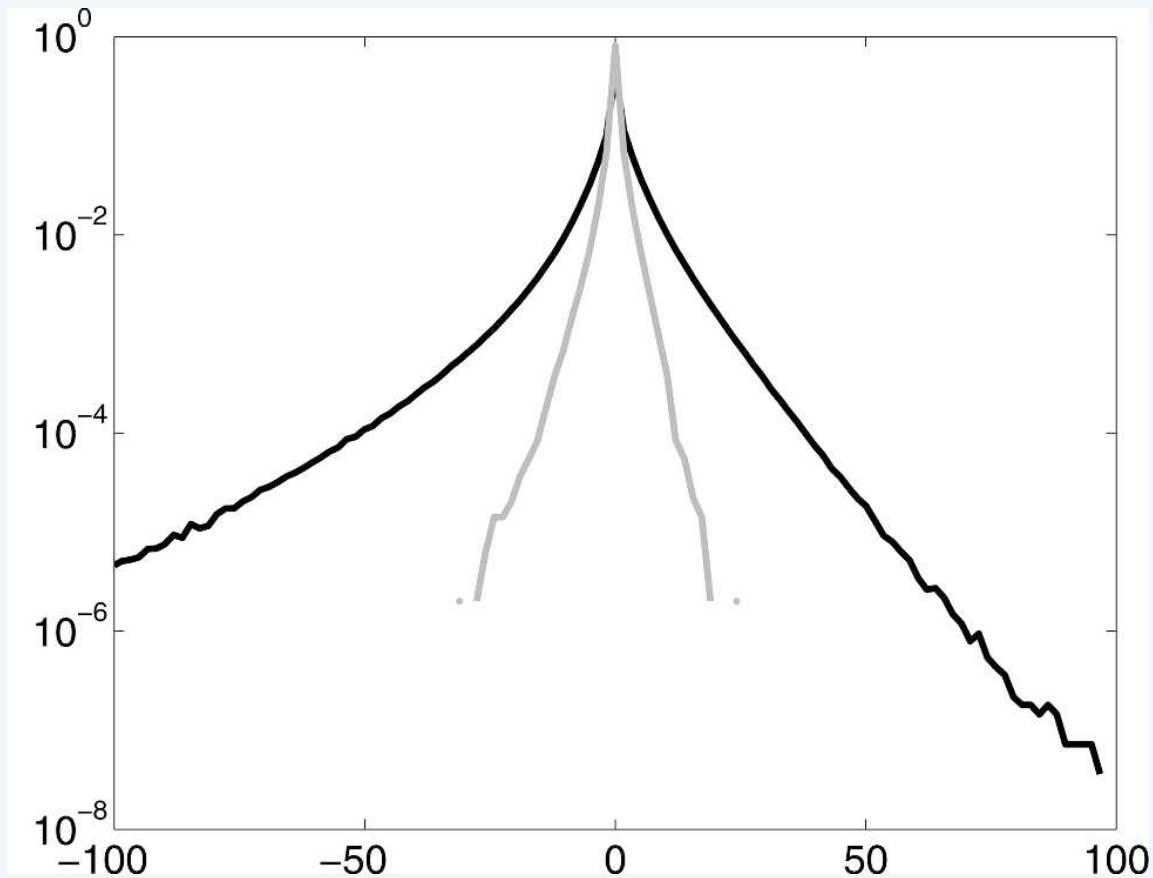
Re=24000

Fr=0.1 & 0.03

R_B=240 & 22



PdF of vertical velocity in an oceanic model



Two depths
ROMS with
atmospheric forcing
 $\sim 1000^2 \times 40$ res.
California current

*Wings associated
with frontogenesis*

A MODEL

Vitesse $\mathbf{u} = (u_x, u_y, w)$

Longitudinal differences of fluctuations of velocity over a distance l :

$$\delta u_x(l) = \langle u_x(x + l) - u_x(x) \rangle$$

$$D_t \delta u(l) = - \delta u^2 / l$$

Stratified turbulence model (N is the Brunt-Vaissala frequency):
vertical differences of fluctuations of vertical velocity w
and temperature θ over a vertical distance $l = l_{//}$

$$\frac{d\delta w}{dt} = -\frac{\delta w^2}{l} - N\delta\theta,$$

$$\frac{d\delta\theta}{dt} = -\frac{\delta w\delta\theta}{l} + N\delta w.$$

→ 3 regimes

* N large: harmonic oscillator of frequency N

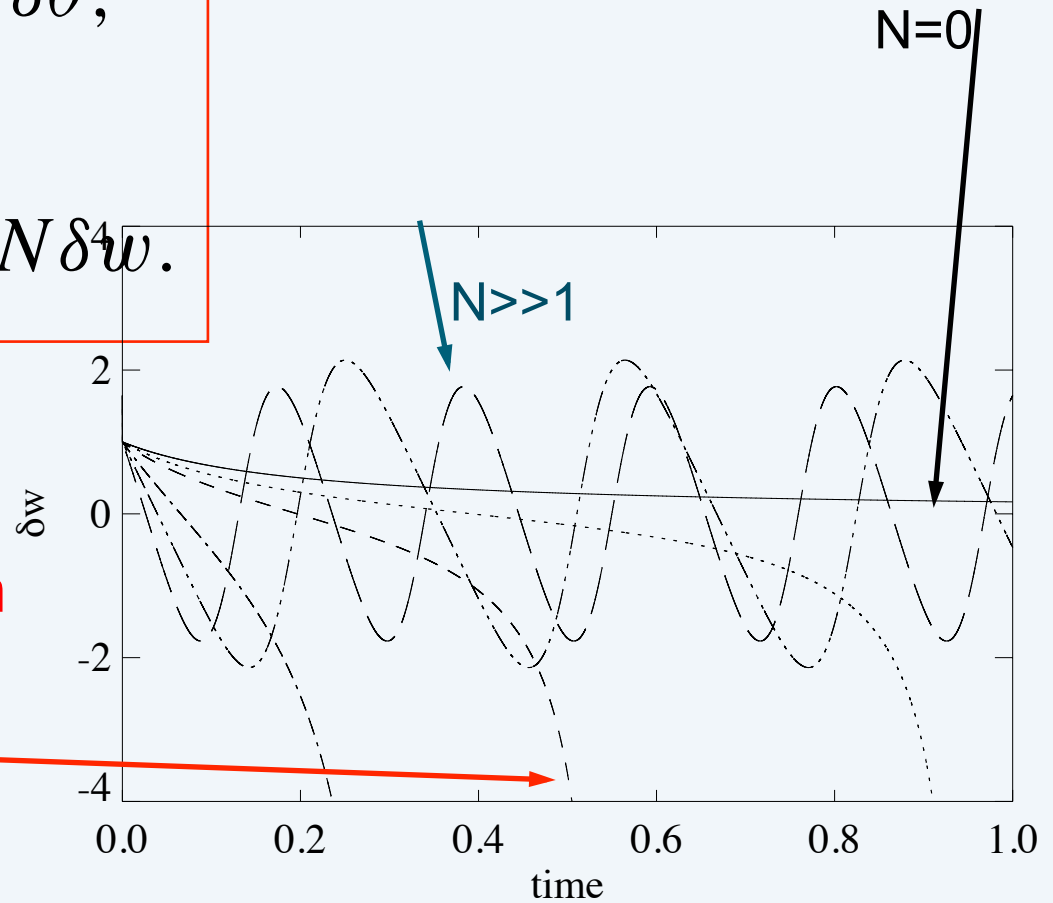
* N small: strong turbulence case

- $N\theta l_{//} \sim w^2$, $Nl_{//} \sim \theta$: balance compatible with *saturated* spectrum
 $E_w(k_{//}) \sim E_\theta(k_{//}) \sim N^2 k_{//}^{-3}$

Stratified turbulence model (N is the Brunt-Vaissala frequency):
vertical differences of fluctuations of vertical velocity w
 and temperature θ over a vertical distance $l_{//}$

$$\frac{d\delta w}{dt} = -\frac{\delta w^2}{\ell} - N\delta\theta,$$

$$\frac{d\delta\theta}{dt} = -\frac{\delta w\delta\theta}{\ell} + N\delta w.$$



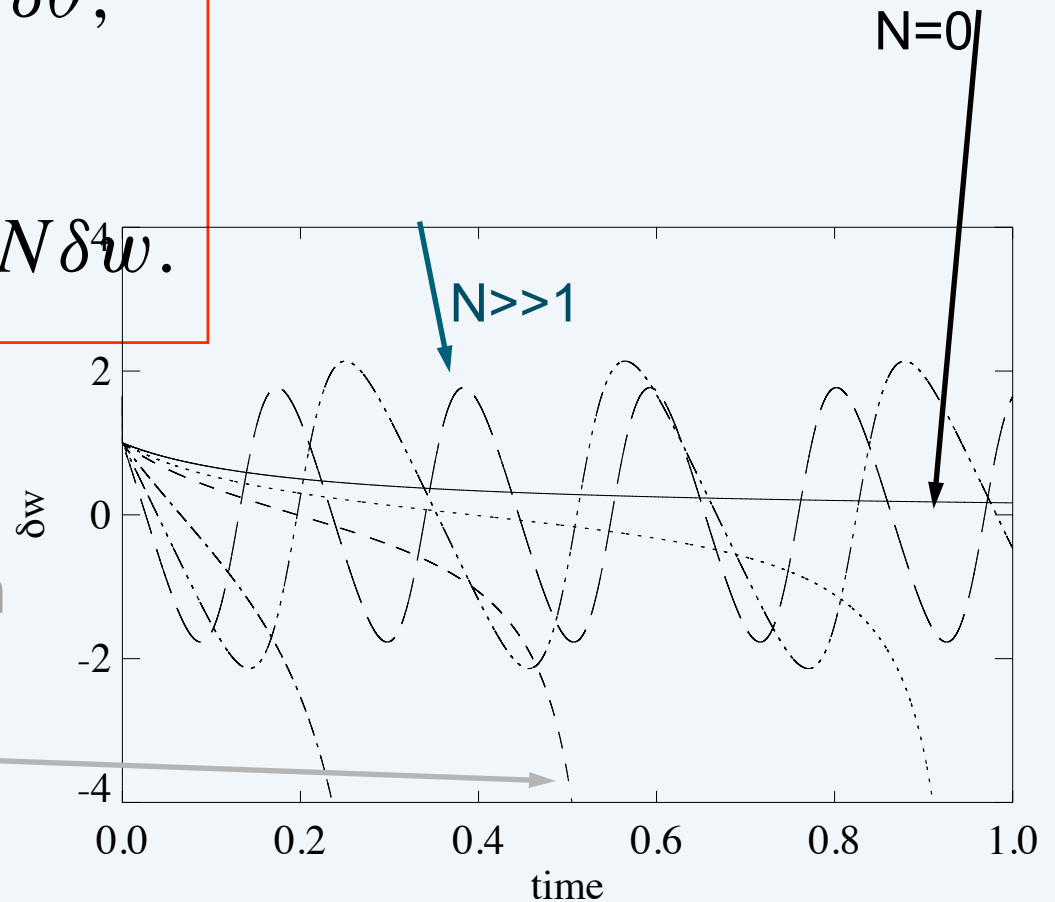
Intermediate N: faster growth
 of negative gradients
 (*saturated regime*)

Stratified turbulence model (N is the Brunt-Vaissala frequency):
vertical differences of fluctuations of vertical velocity w
 and temperature θ over a vertical distance l_{\parallel}

$$\frac{d\delta w}{dt} = -\frac{\delta w^2}{\ell} - N\delta\theta,$$

$$\frac{d\delta\theta}{dt} = -\frac{\delta w\delta\theta}{\ell} + N\delta w.$$

Intermediate N: faster growth
 of negative gradients
 (*saturated regime*)



- Add transverse velocities
- Add rotation (Li 2010), passive scalar, ...

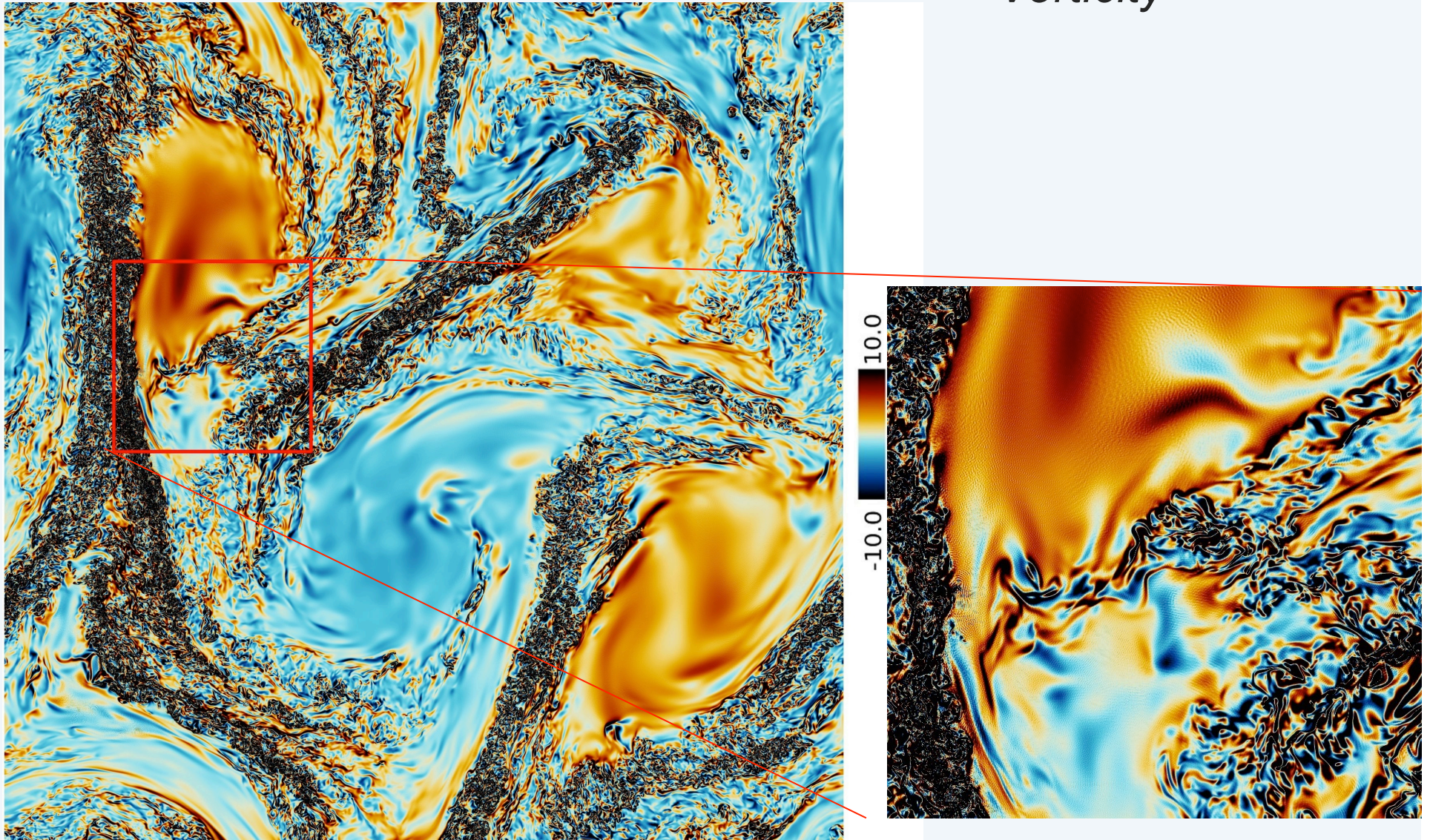
Conclusion

Turbulent flows can produce strong velocities, as observed e.g. in the nocturnal (very stable) planetary boundary layer

Part III

The emergence of Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling in rotating stratified turbulence

Vorticity

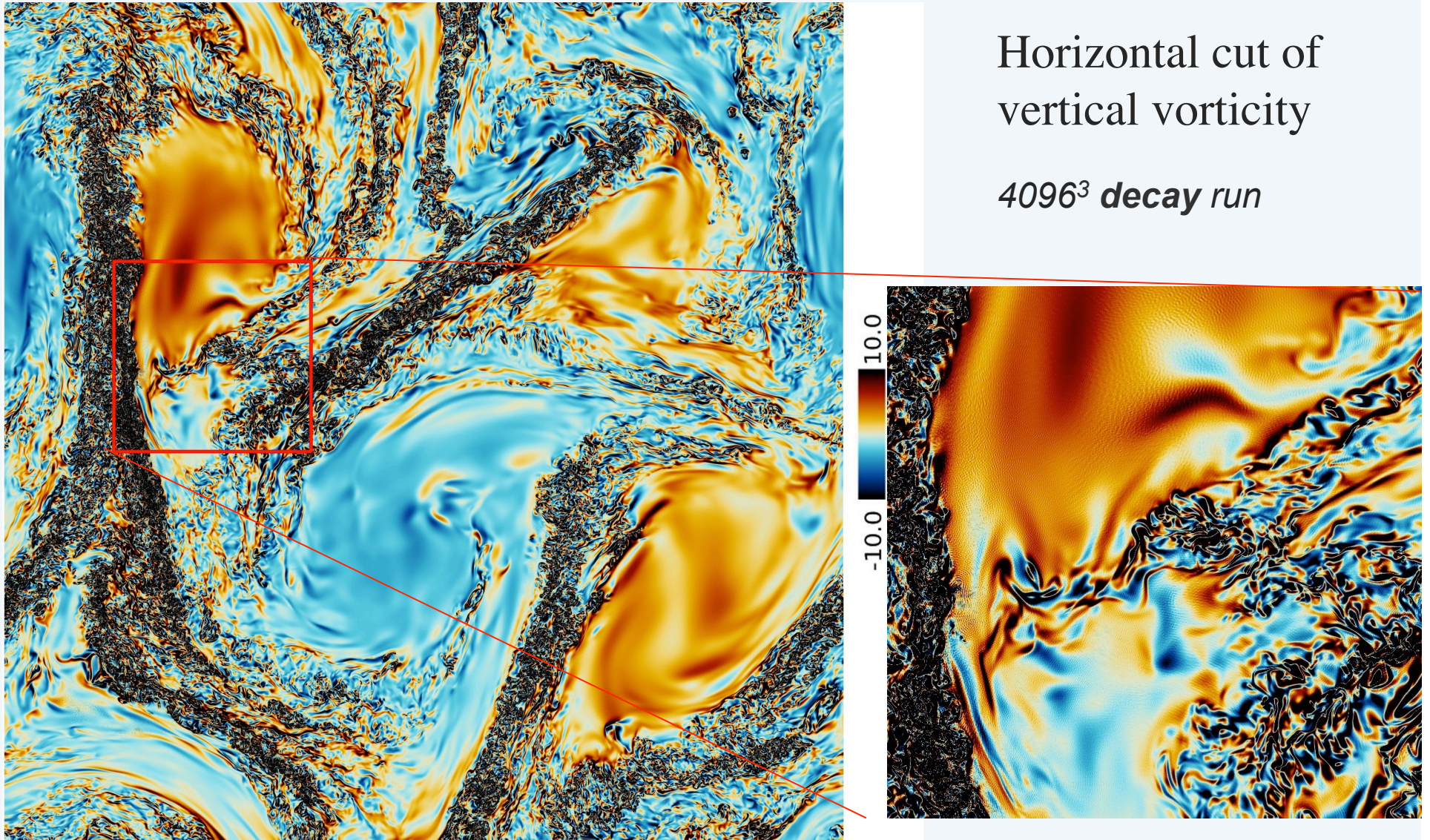


Rosenberg, OakRidge, 2015

Rotating stratified flow

Horizontal cut of
vertical vorticity

4096^3 *decay run*



Rosenberg, OakRidge, 2015

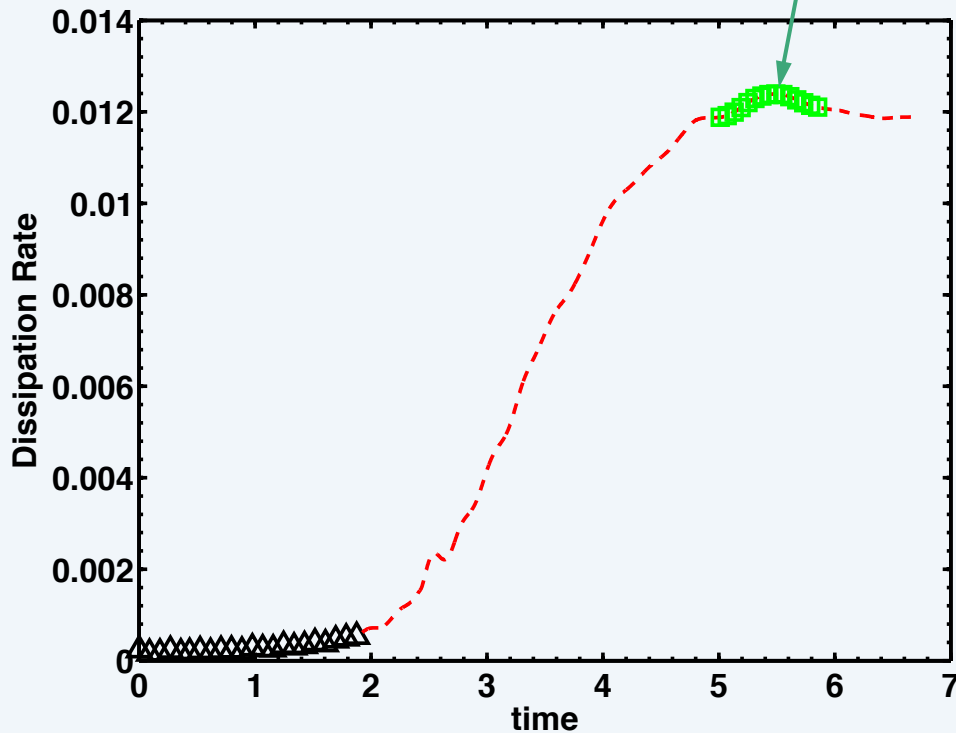
The short 4096³ run

Peak of dissipation

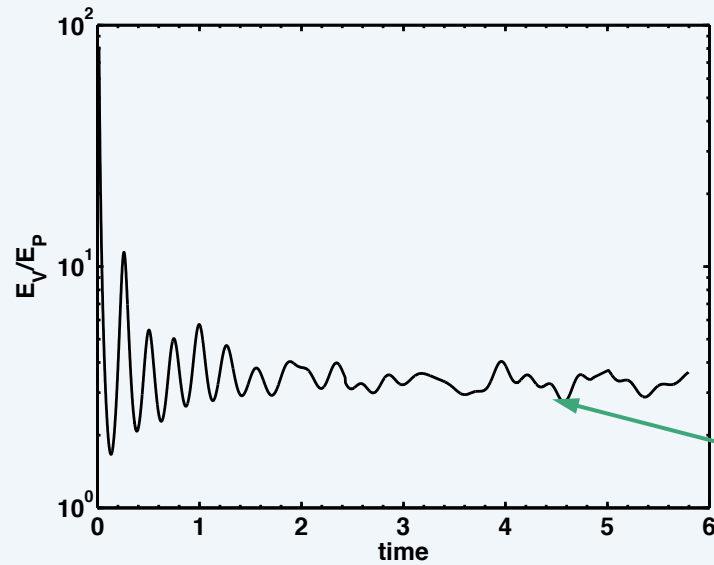
$N/f=4.95$
 $Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12$
 $Re=55000, R_B=32$

Decay, $k_0=2.5$

Triangles: 1536³ grid
- - - : 3072³ grid
... Green: 4096³ grid



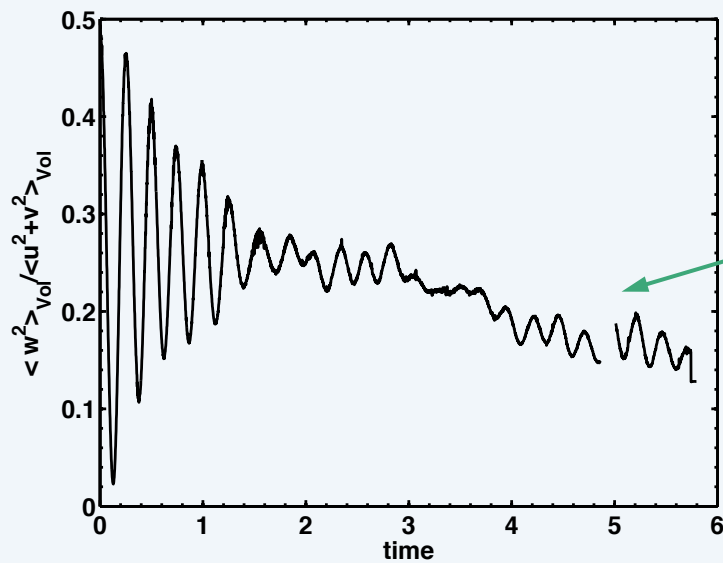
Energy ratios

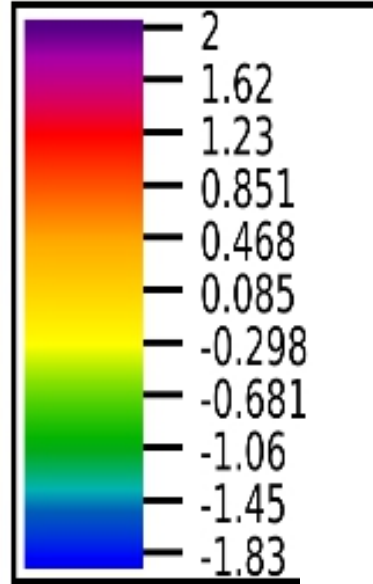
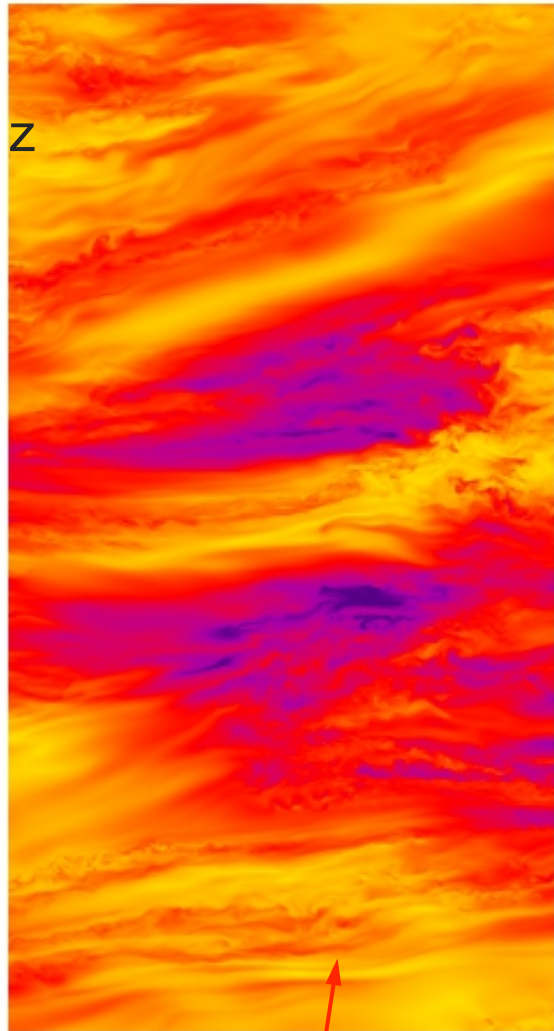


Kinetic to potential: ~ 3

And

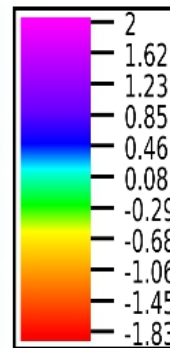
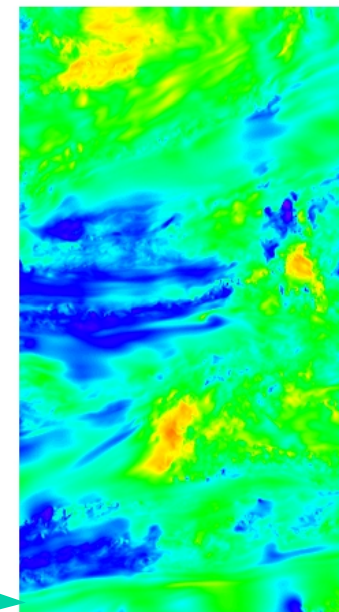
Vertical to horizontal: ~ 0.12





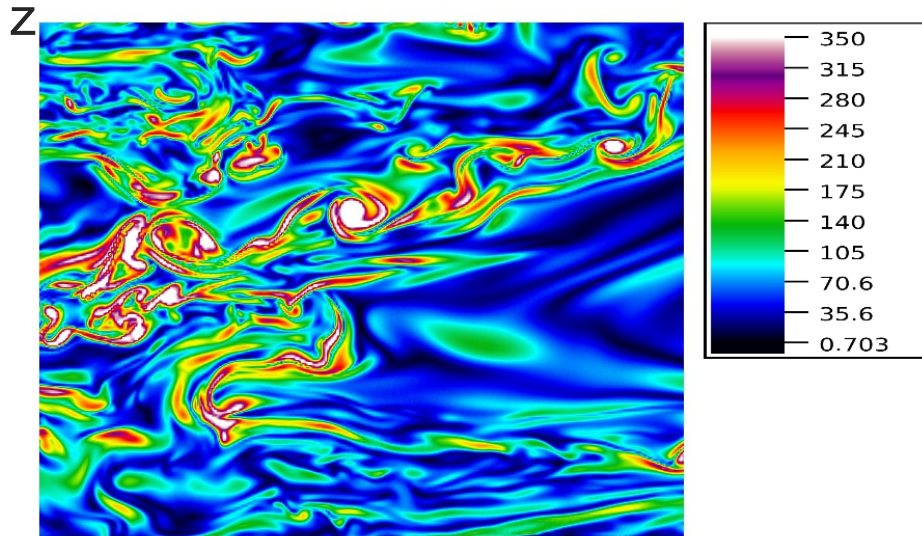
$N/f=4.95$, $Fr=0.024$
 $Ro=0.12$
 $Re=55000$, $R_B=32$
 $K_0=2.5$, decay

Vertical cuts
 Sub-volumes



Perpendicular
 & Vertical velocity

Sub-volume: $0.7 \times 0.4 \times 0.04 L_{box}^3$

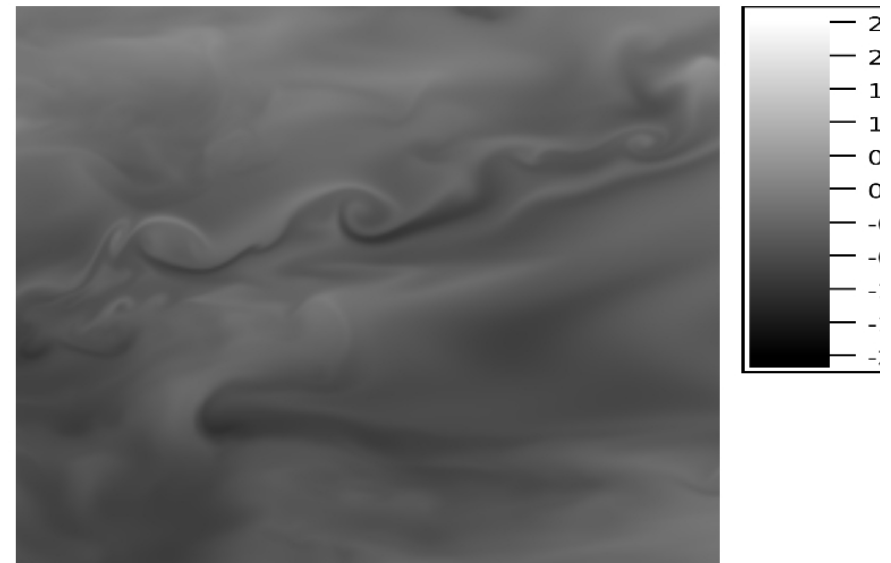


$N/f=4.95$
 $Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12$
 $Re=55000, R_B=32$
 $K_0=2.5, \text{decay}$

Vertical vorticity

Sub-volume: 0.12 X 0.1 X 0.01

Temperature fluctuations



Stably stratified turbulence: Bolgiano-Obukhov 1959 scaling

Main hypotheses: * Energy source for cascade is a constant buoyancy flux

* Isotropy

Kinetic & potential energy: $E_{V,P}(k) = f(k, \varepsilon_P)$
with $\varepsilon_P = DE_P/DT$ of dimension L^2T^{-5}

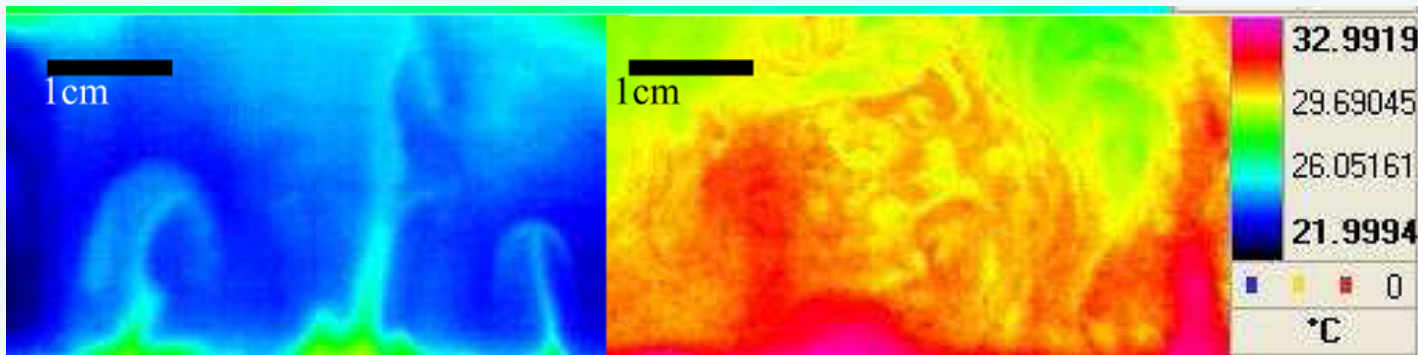
$$\rightarrow E_V(k) = \varepsilon_P^{2/5} k^{-11/5}$$

$$\rightarrow E_P(k) = \varepsilon_P^{4/5} k^{-7/5}$$

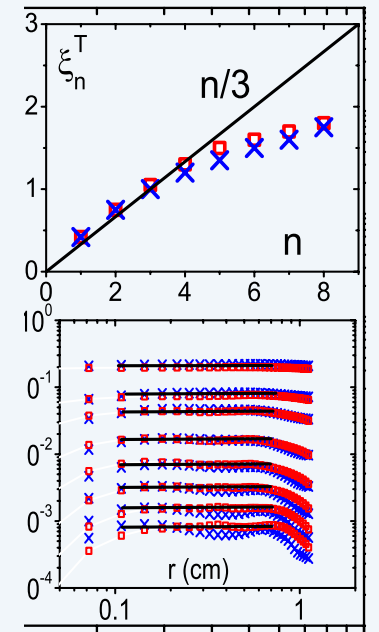
\rightarrow Recovery of a Kolmogorov spectrum for $K_{BO} \sim \varepsilon_P^{3/4} \varepsilon_V^{-5/4}$

Seychelles et al. (2010) 2D soap bubble experiment

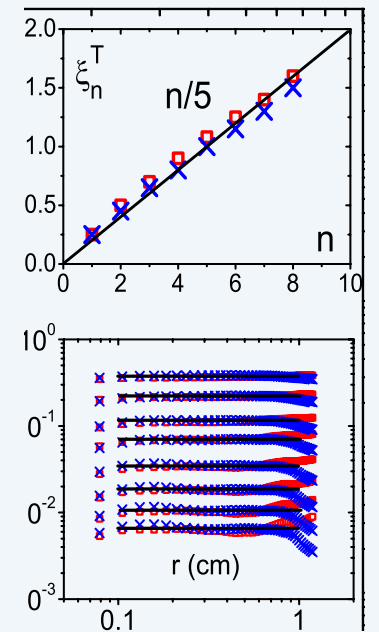
Temperature structure functions



$\Delta T =$ 21C or 50C



10



Boffetta et al. (2012): DNS of Rayleigh-Taylor turbulence, quasi 2D: 4096x128x8192

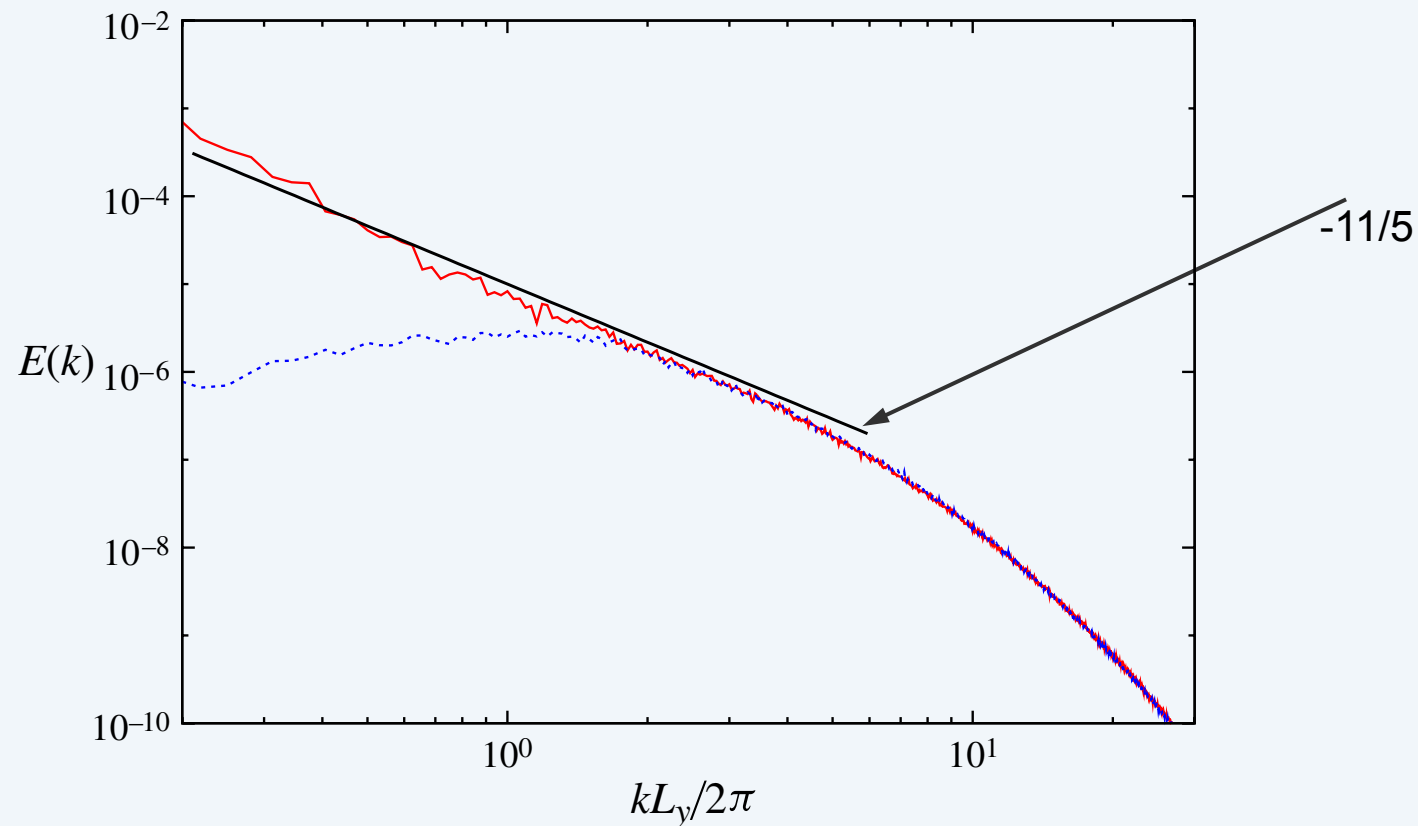
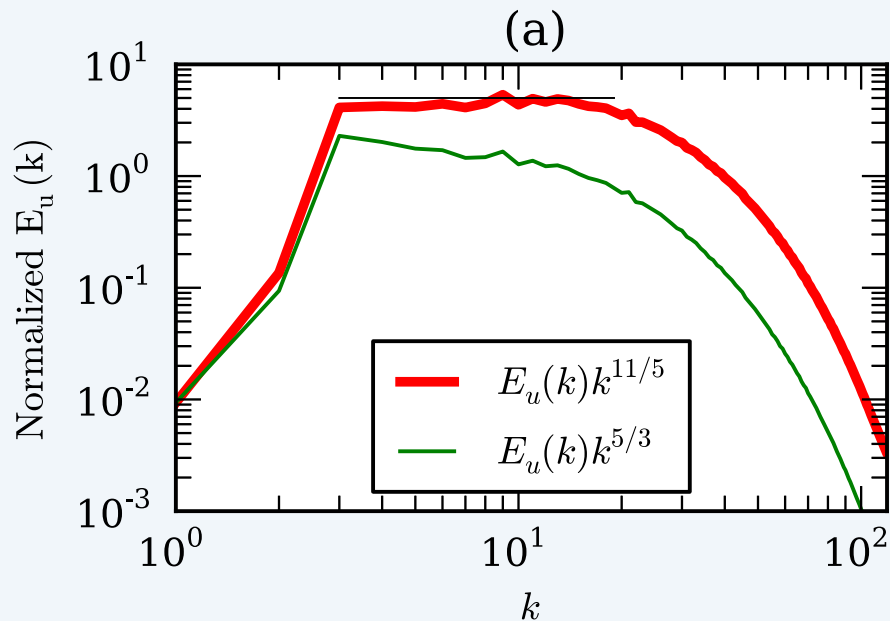


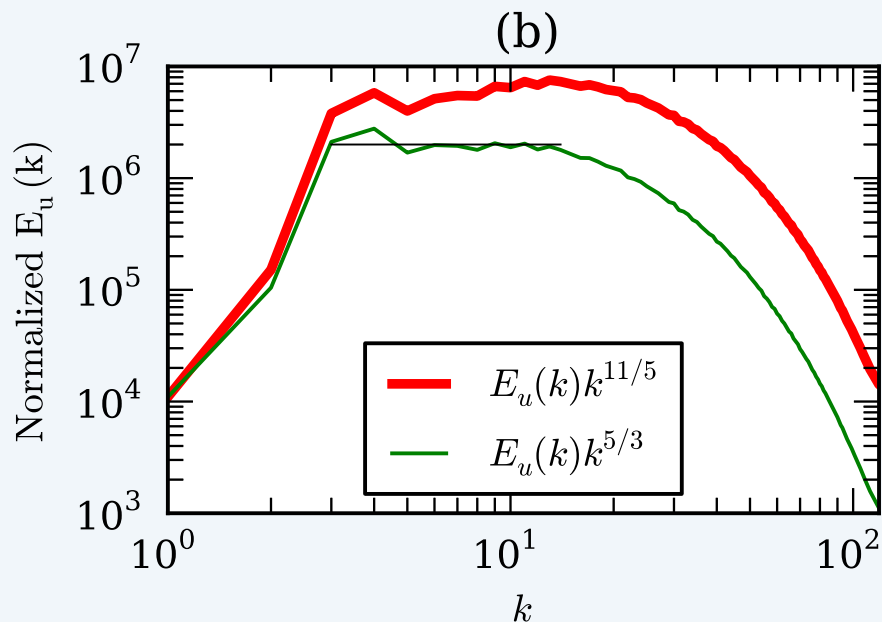
FIGURE 9. (Colour online) Kinetic energy spectra computed at $t = 35\tau$. The thin continuous line represents the components $E_u(k) + E_w(k)$, the dotted line is $E_v(k)$. Spectra are computed by 2D Fourier transforming the velocity field on (x, z) -planes and by averaging over the y -direction. The straight line represents Bolgiano scaling $k^{-11/5}$.

1024³ run, no rotation, Re=650, forced at large scale

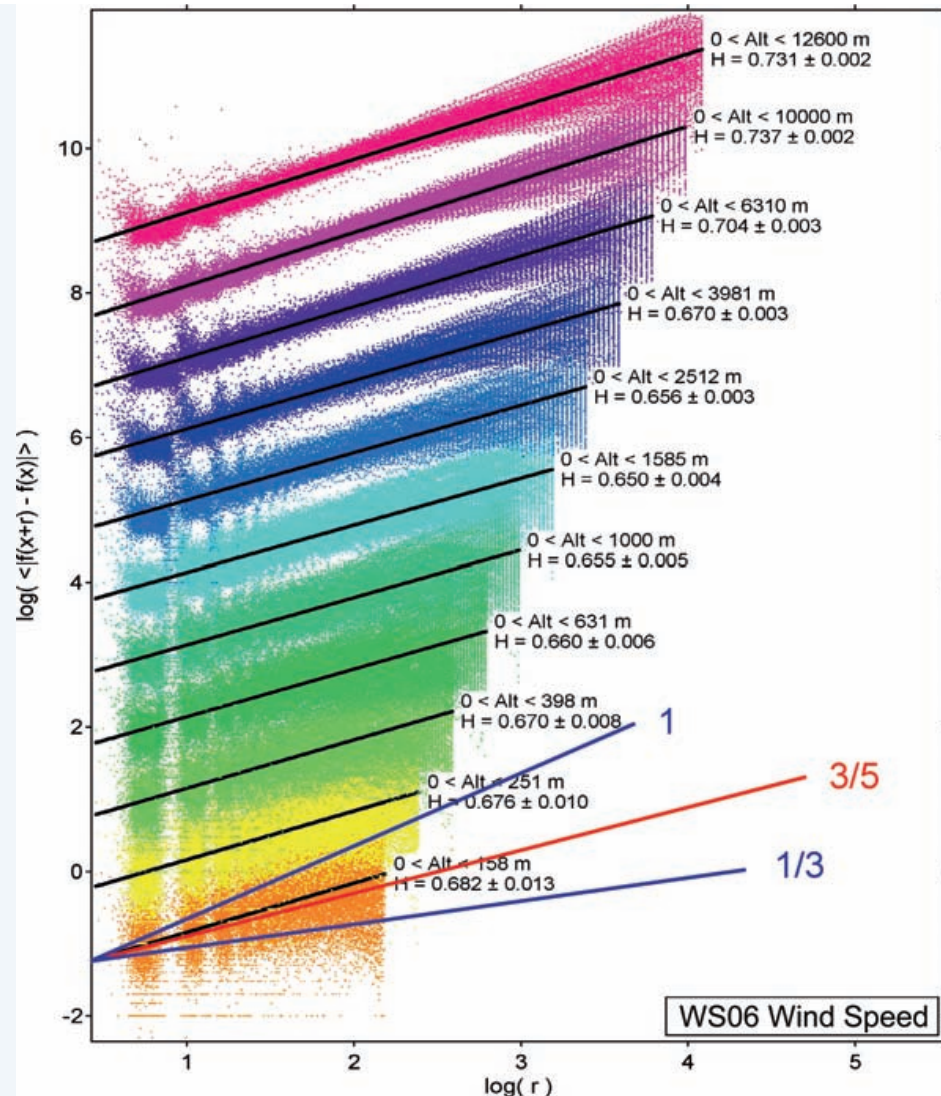


Kinetic energy spectra
compensated by
K41 (5/3) & **BO (11/5)**

← $Ri=1/Fr^2 = 4 \times 10^{-7}$
 $R_B \gg 1$



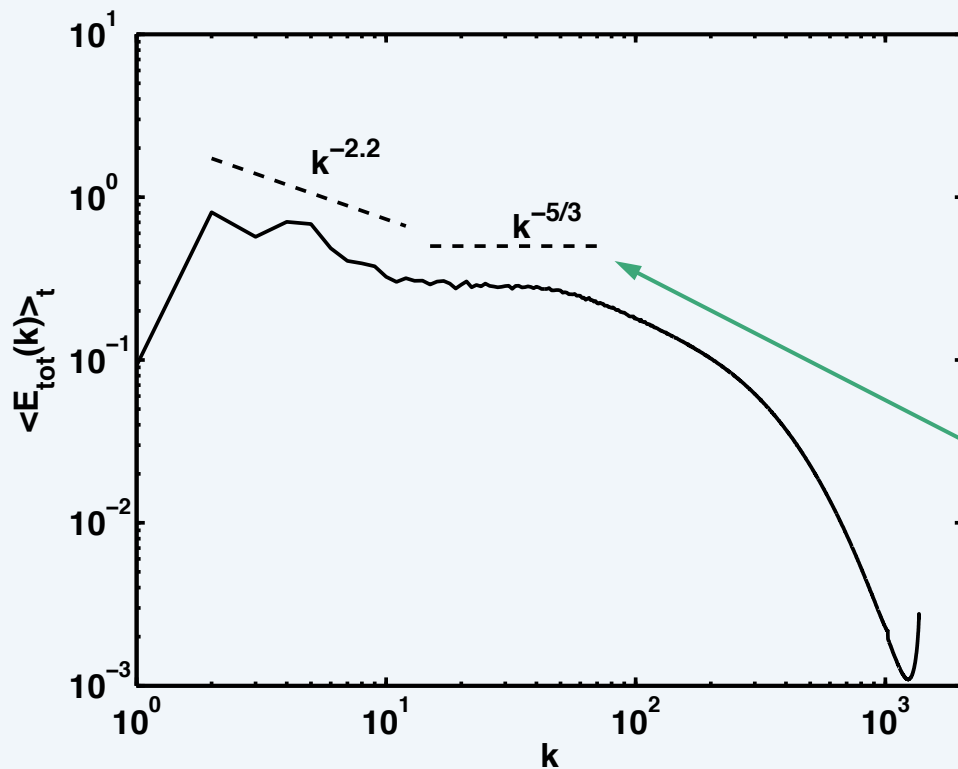
← $Ri=1/Fr^2 = 0.5$
 $R_B=1300$



Hurst exponents from dropsondes in the troposphere for horizontal wind varying in the vertical

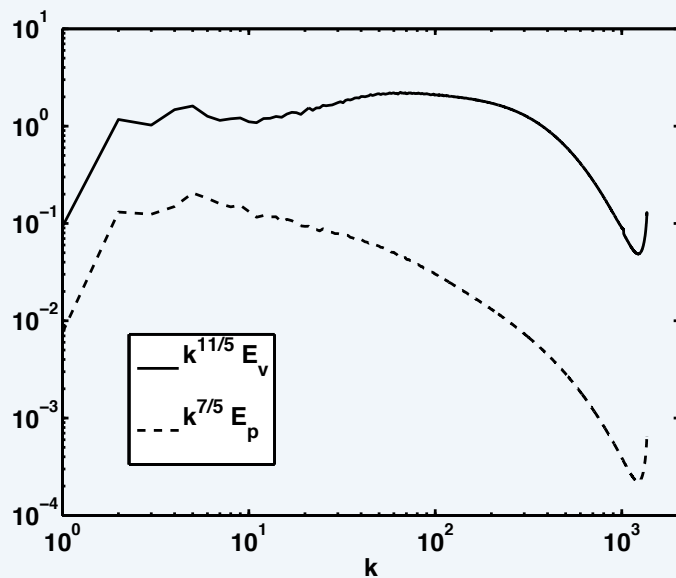
H=1: gravity waves
H=3/5: Bolgiano-Obukhov
H=1/3: Kolmogorov 1941

Figure 12. Total of 315 dropsondes dropped during Winter Storms 2006, in the area 21°N–60° N, 128° W–172° W. The vertical scaling of the horizontal wind is shown. The fits are rms to the vertical shears across layers of thickness increasing logarithmically upwards. The reference lines have slopes corresponding to $H_v = 1$ (gravity waves), $H_v = 3/5$ (BO) and $1/3$ (Kolmogorov). The H_v corresponding to each rms fit is given. The data for each level are offset by 1 order of magnitude to aid legibility. While BO is a good fit in the lower troposphere, in the upper troposphere the presence of jet streams leads to a systematic increase when the upper troposphere is included. In any event, isotropic turbulence is always precluded. See Lovejoy *et al.* (2007) and Tuck (2008). Note: rms, root mean square; BO, Bolgiano–Obukhov.



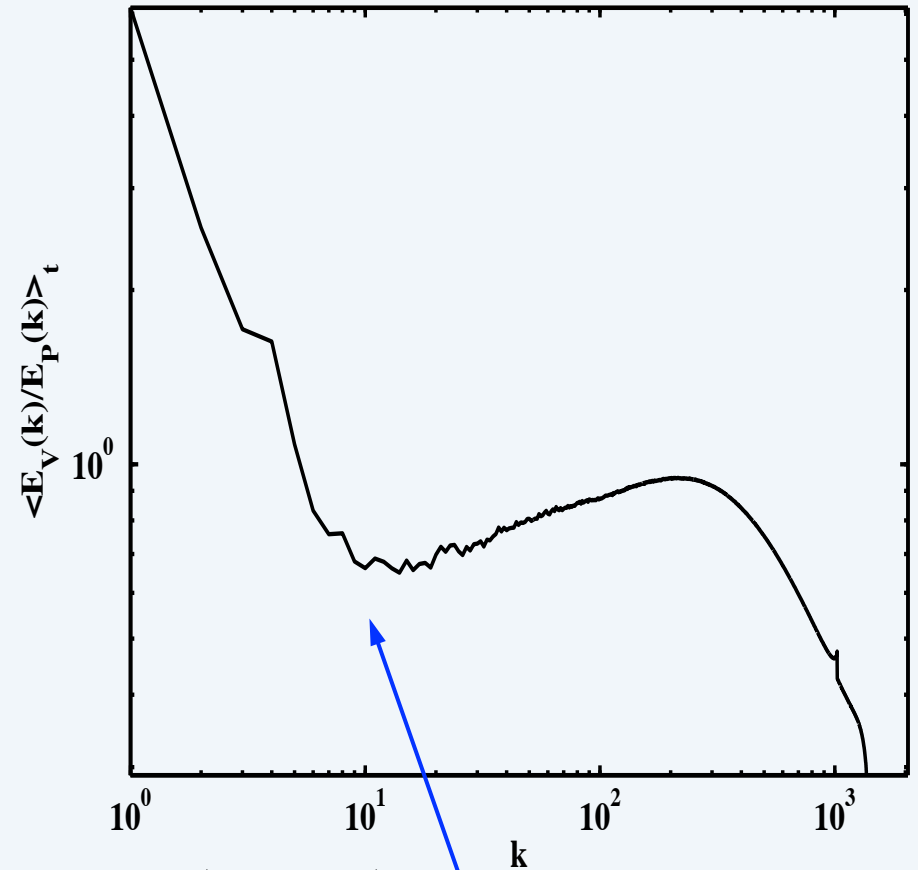
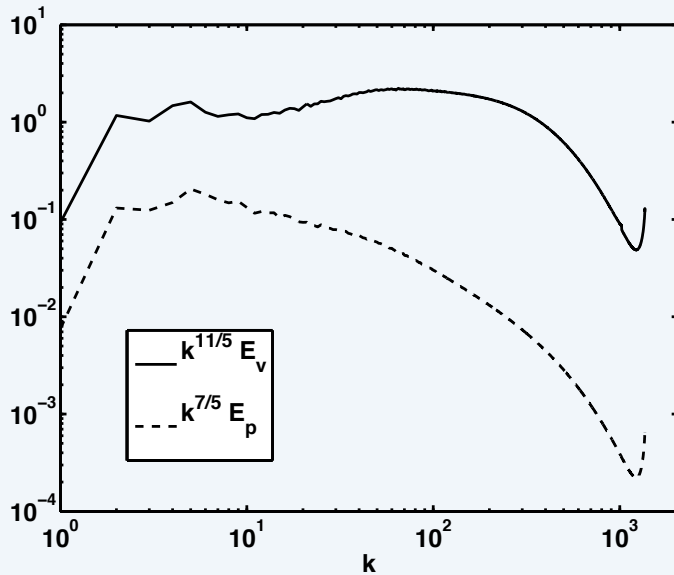
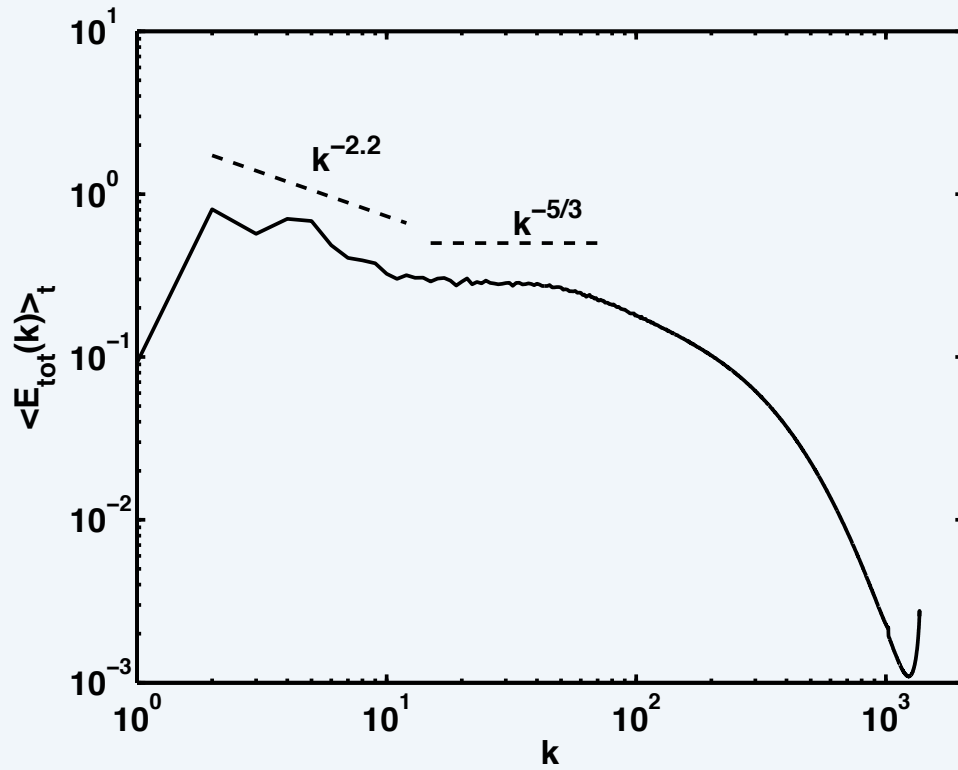
$N/f=4.95$
 $Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12$
 $Re=55000, R_B=32$
 $K_0=2.5, \text{decay}$

5/3-compensated
 total energy
 isotropic spectrum



Energy spectra:
 kinetic (___) or
 potential (- - -)
compensated
by 11/5 or 7/5:
 Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling

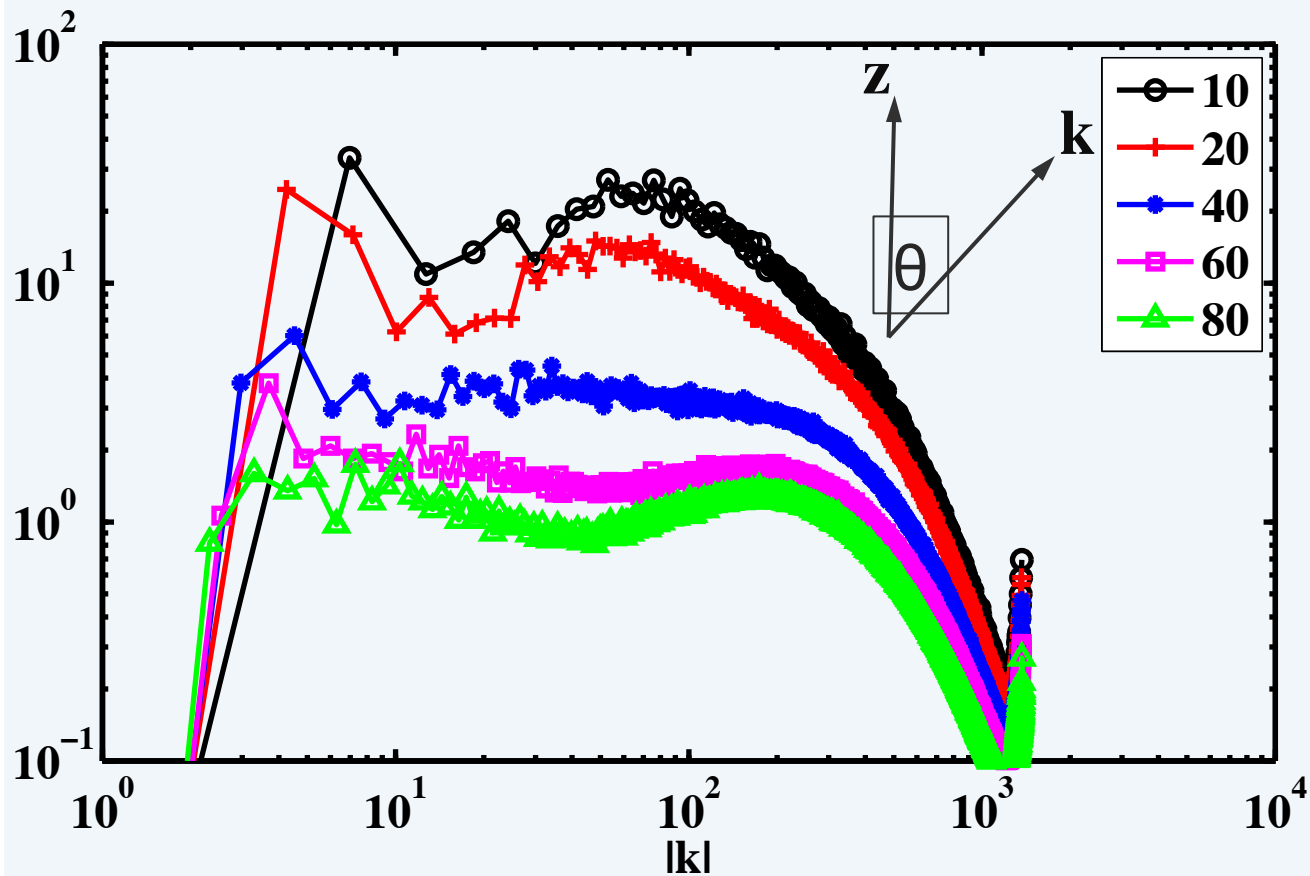
Ratio of spectra of potential & kinetic energy $\sim k^{-4/5}$



$$K_{BO} \sim \varepsilon_P^{3/4} \varepsilon_V^{-5/4} \sim 11$$

Compensated total energy angular spectra

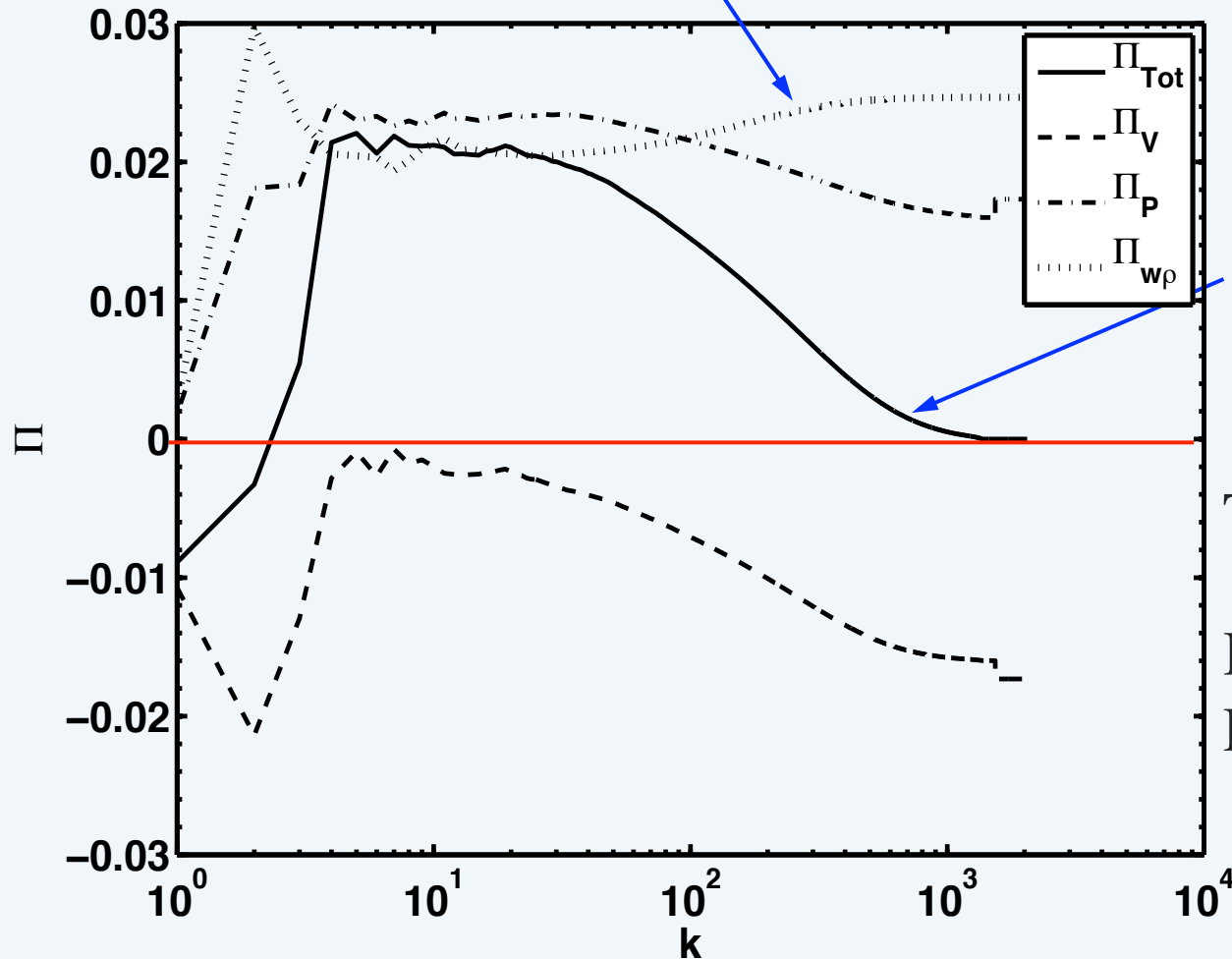
$N/f=4.95$
 $Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12$
 $Re=55000, R_B=32$
 $K_0=2.5, \text{decay}$



$e(|k|, \theta)$ with $E(k) = \int e(|k|, \theta) d\theta$

Vertical buoyancy flux:

$$\Pi_{w\rho}(k) = \sum_{k'=0}^{k'=k} \sum_{k' < |k''| < k'+1} \text{Re}(\hat{w}(\mathbf{k}'') \hat{\rho}(\mathbf{k}'')^*) ,$$



4096³ data, N/f=4.95

Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12

Re=55000, R_B=32

K₀=2.5, decay

Isotropic energy flux
and its components

Total (—): $\Pi_{\text{T}} \sim \Pi_{\text{V}} + \Pi_{\text{P}}$

Kinetic (---): $\Pi_{\text{V}} \sim \mathbf{u} \cdot (\mathbf{u} \cdot \text{grad } \mathbf{u})$

Potential (-.-.): $\Pi_{\text{P}} \sim \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \text{grad } \rho$

Buoyancy flux $\Pi_{\text{w}\rho}$:

Bolgiano, Marseille meeting, 1962

“Important progress appears likely in the next few years.”

Conclusion

Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling taking into account the potential energy input can be observed in some cases including with geostrophically-balanced initial conditions

Forced case?