

Kyoto FDEPS lectures 4-7 xi 2007  
Dynamics of oceans and atmospheres

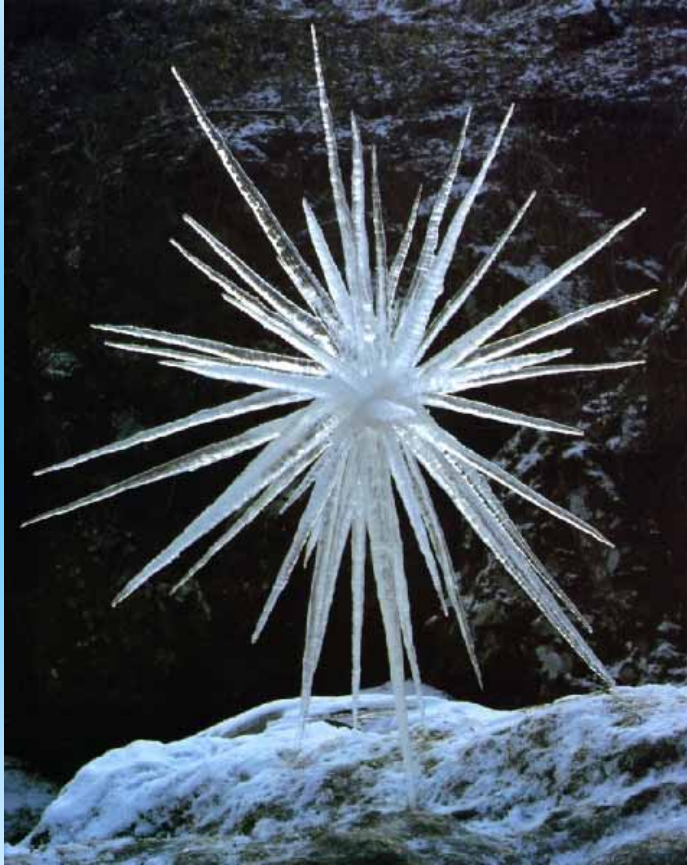
P.B. Rhines

University of Washington

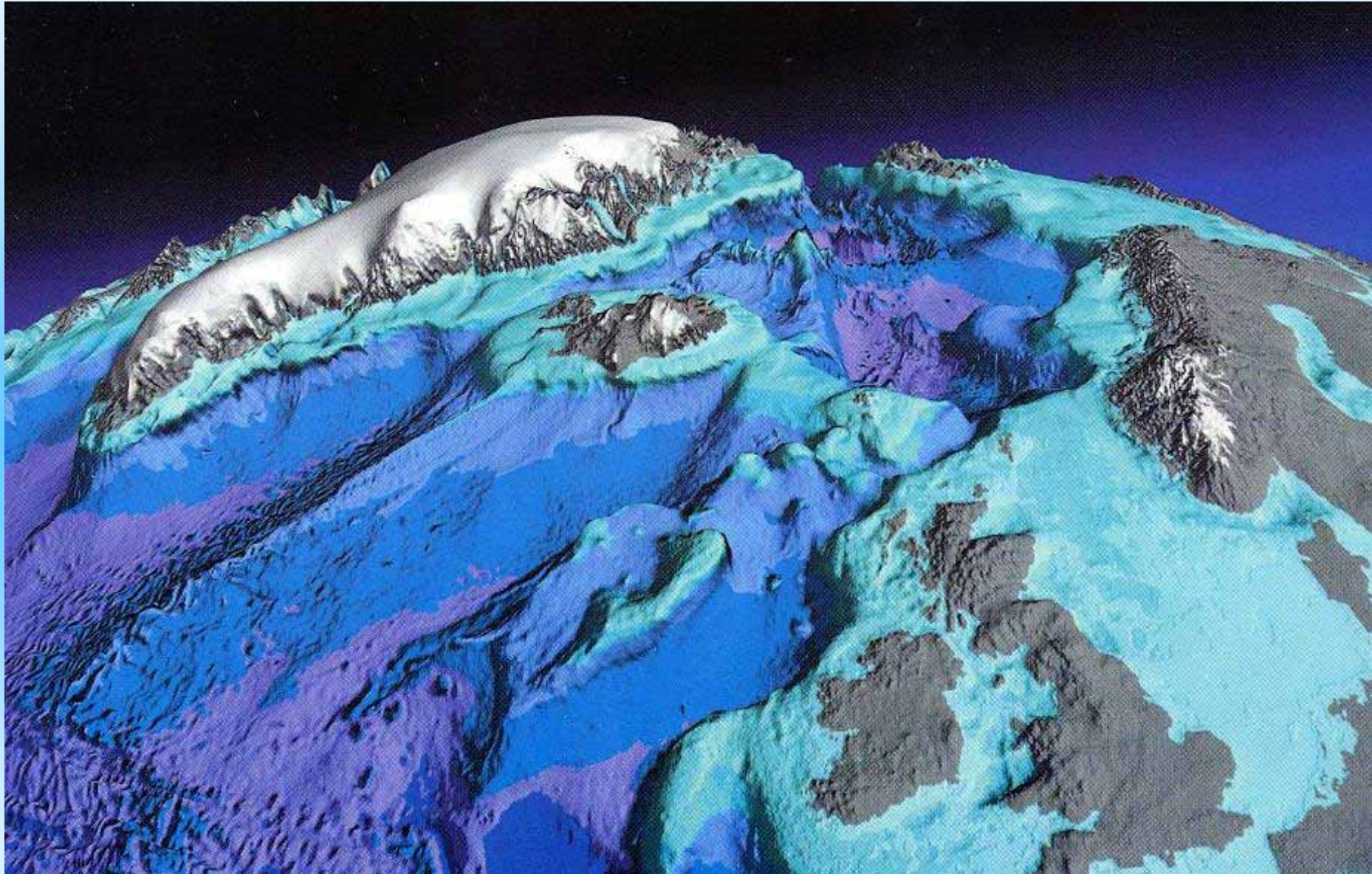
## DAY 1

- 1. rotating, stratified fluids: oceans and atmospheres
  - vorticity: a vector-tracer in classical homogeneous fluids
- geostrophic adjustment, thermal wind
- 2. wave dynamics: fundamentals, group velocity, energetics, ray theory
- potential vorticity (PV)
  - vortex stretching, Prandtl' s ratio, geography of PV
- 3. Rossby waves
- 4. instability => geostrophic turbulence; subtropical gyres: dynamics, jets and gyres
- 5. meridional overturning circulations and the thermohaline circulation
- 6. Teaching young undergraduates about the global environment
- 7. Seminar: subpolar climate dynamics observed from above and below: altimetry and Seagliders

# Texture

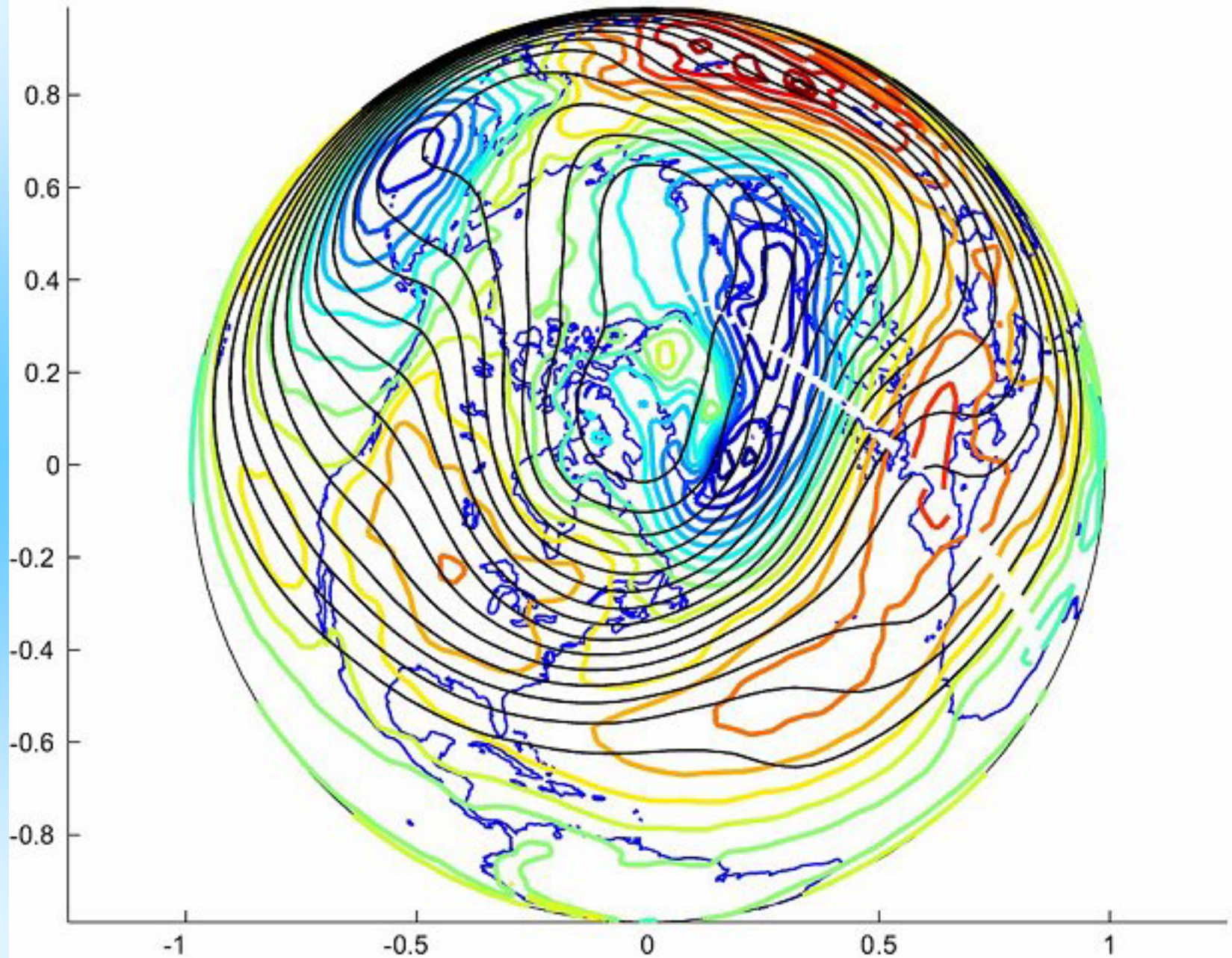


Andy Goldsworthy

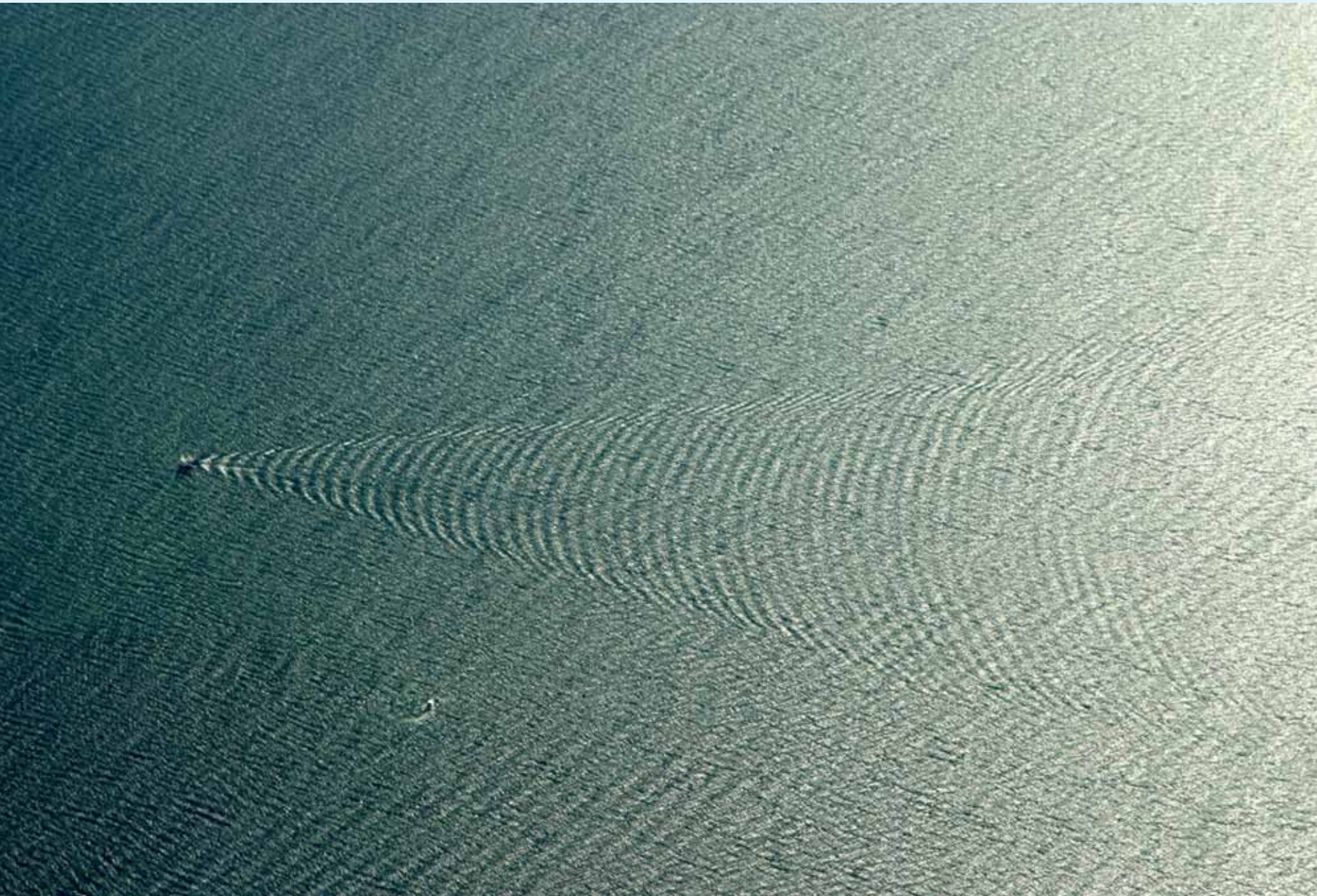


*AGU, 2003*

1993 JFM SLP and Z500







# DAY 2

Kyoto FDEPS lectures 4-7 xi 2007  
Dynamics of oceans and atmospheres

P.B. Rhines

University of Washington

**DAY 2**

- 1. rotating, stratified fluids: oceans and atmospheres
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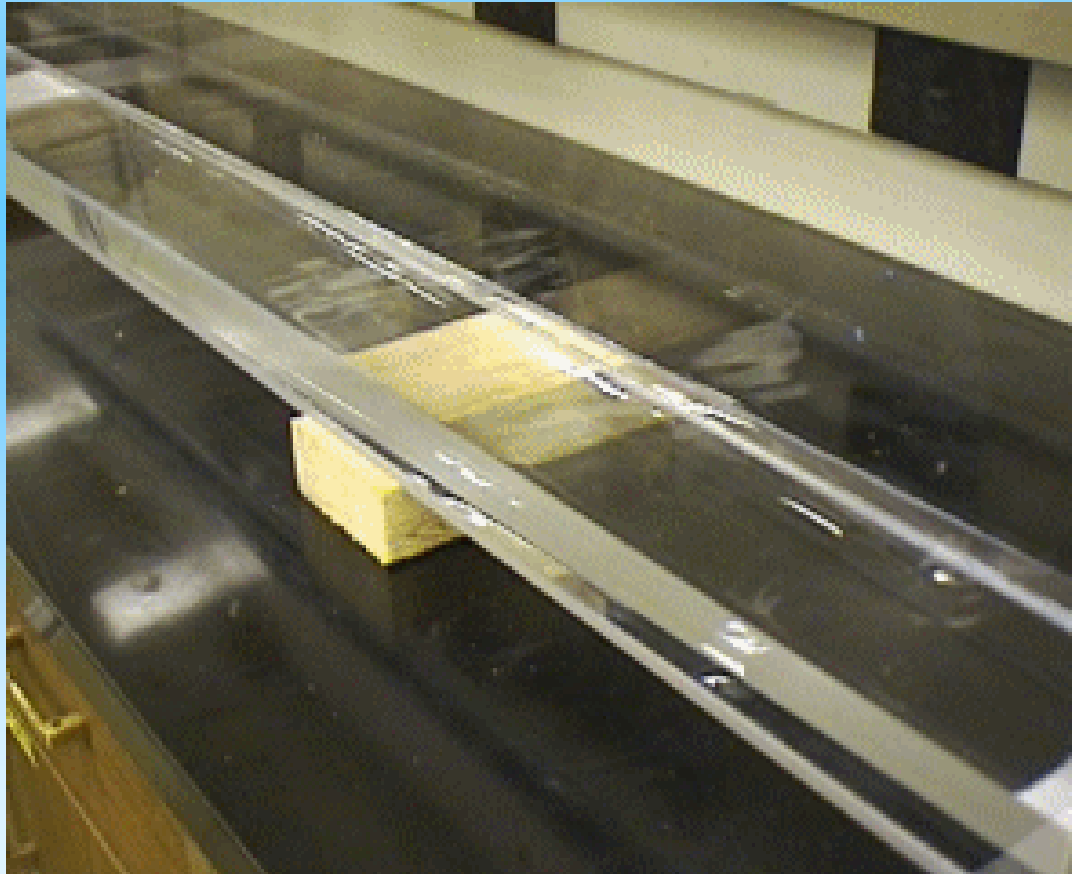


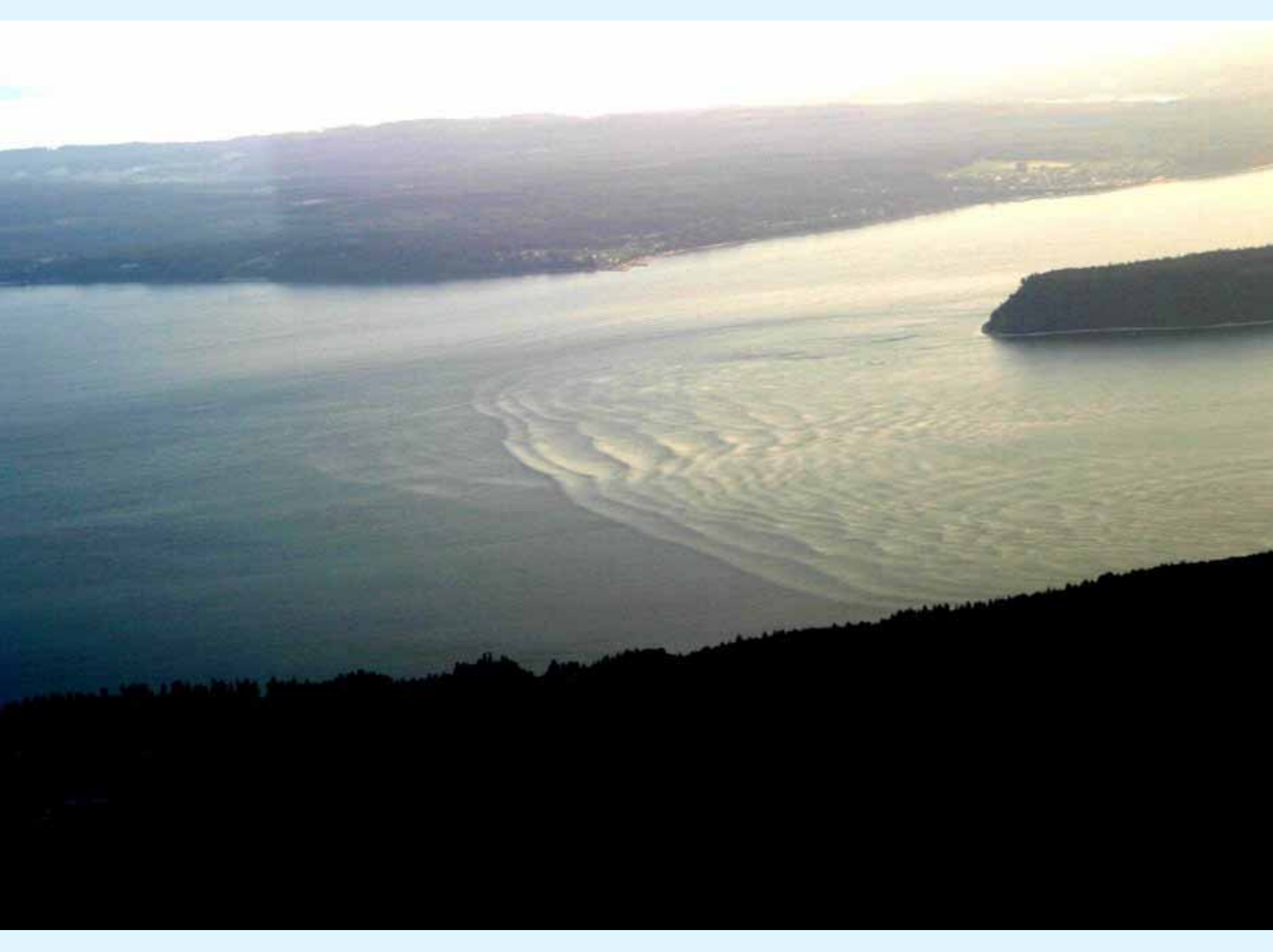
waves: more about steady radiation, group velocity:

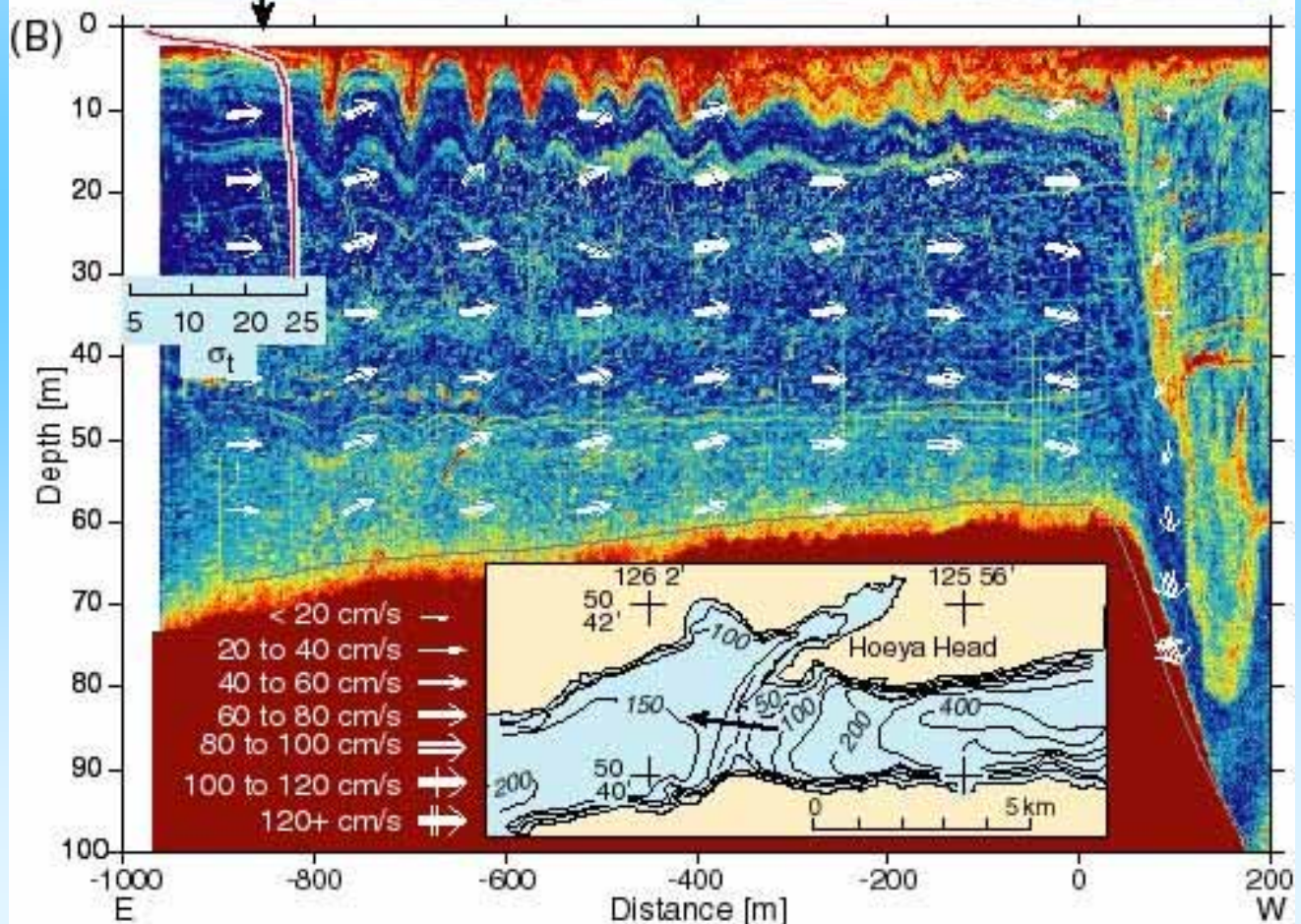
- 2 dimensional waves from an oscillating wave source
- waves generated with a mean flow (or without mean flow but with a moving wave source)
- internal gravity waves, NH/U, Rossby waves: wave patterns and blocking



In very shallow water, undular bores occur with both gravity- and capillary nature (backward and forward of the bore front, respectively); here in a 5m channel.







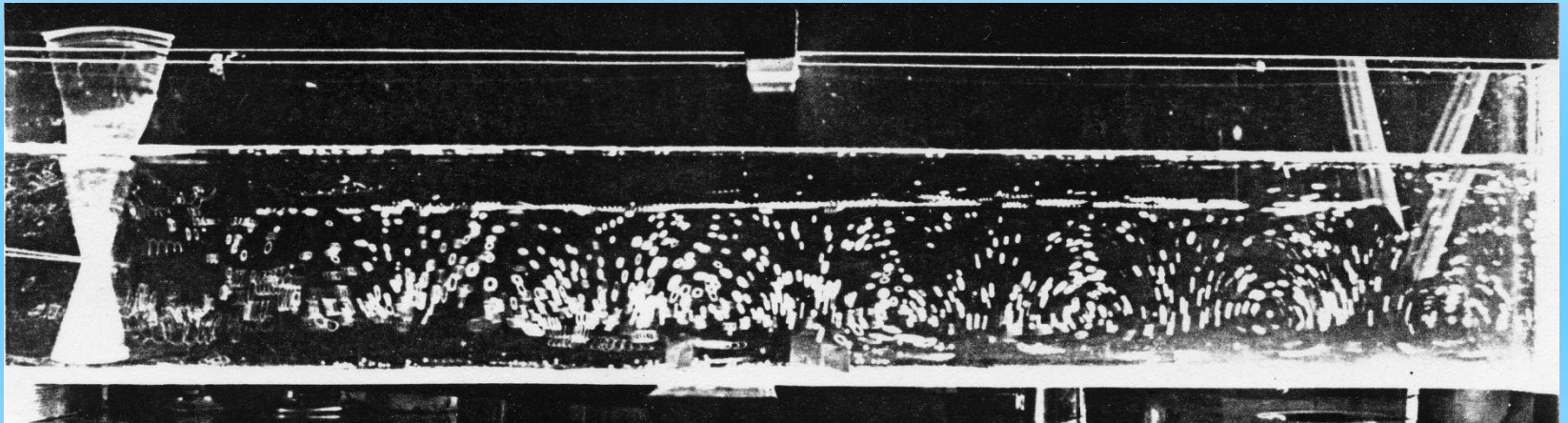




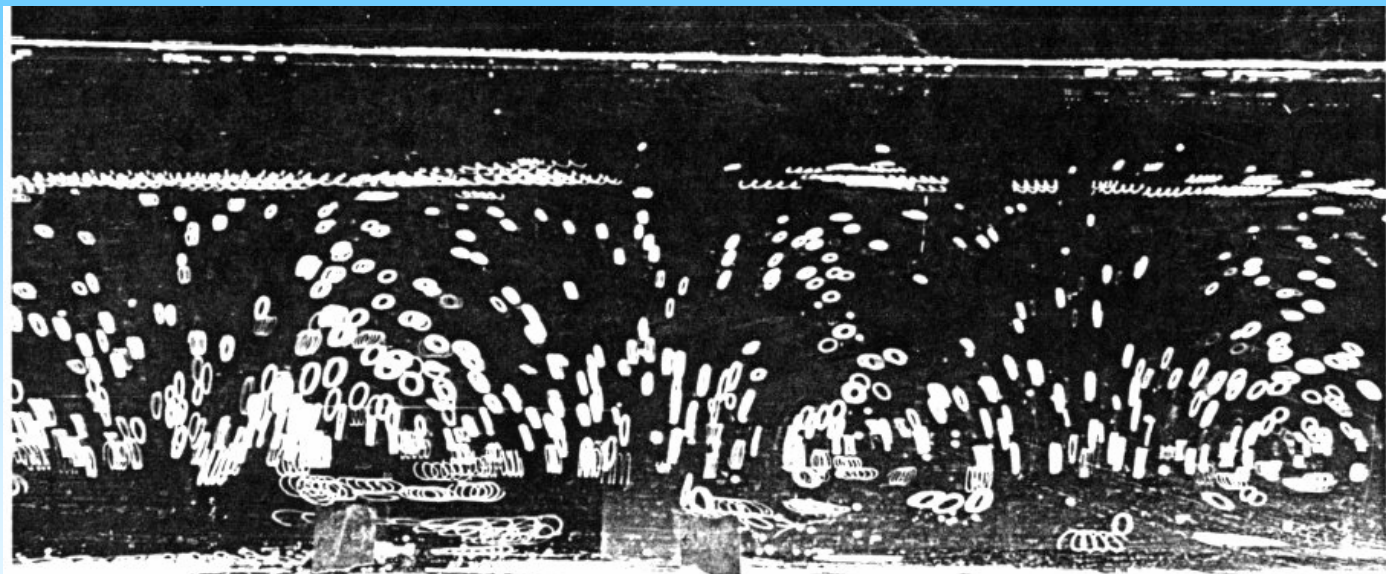
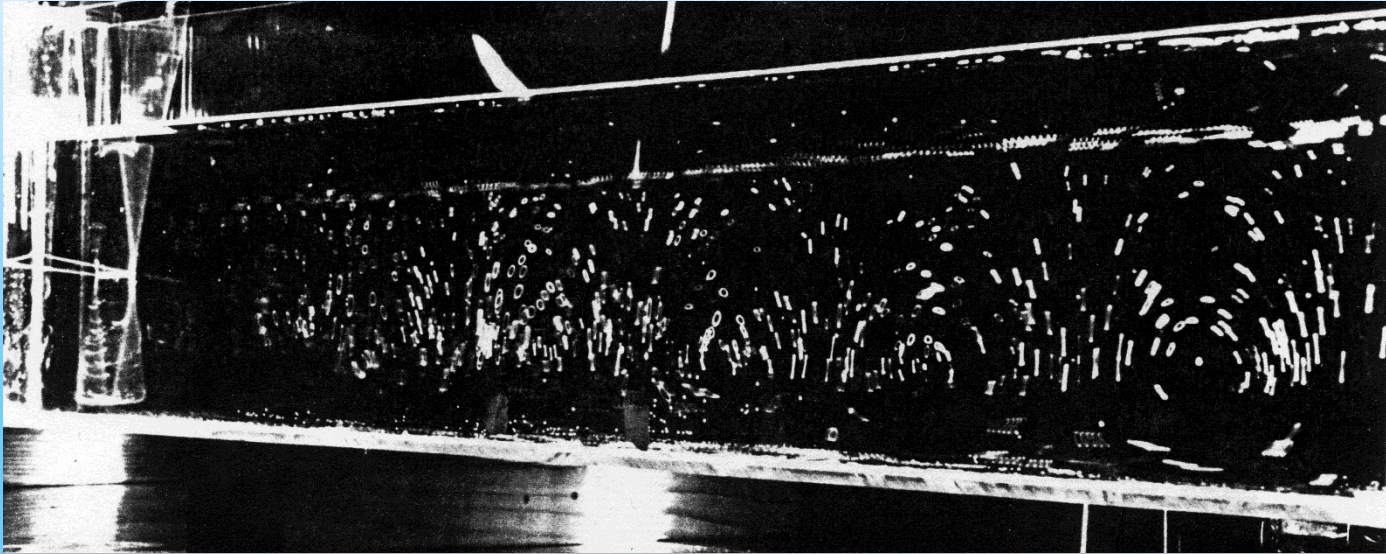


# internal gravity waves: rays and modes

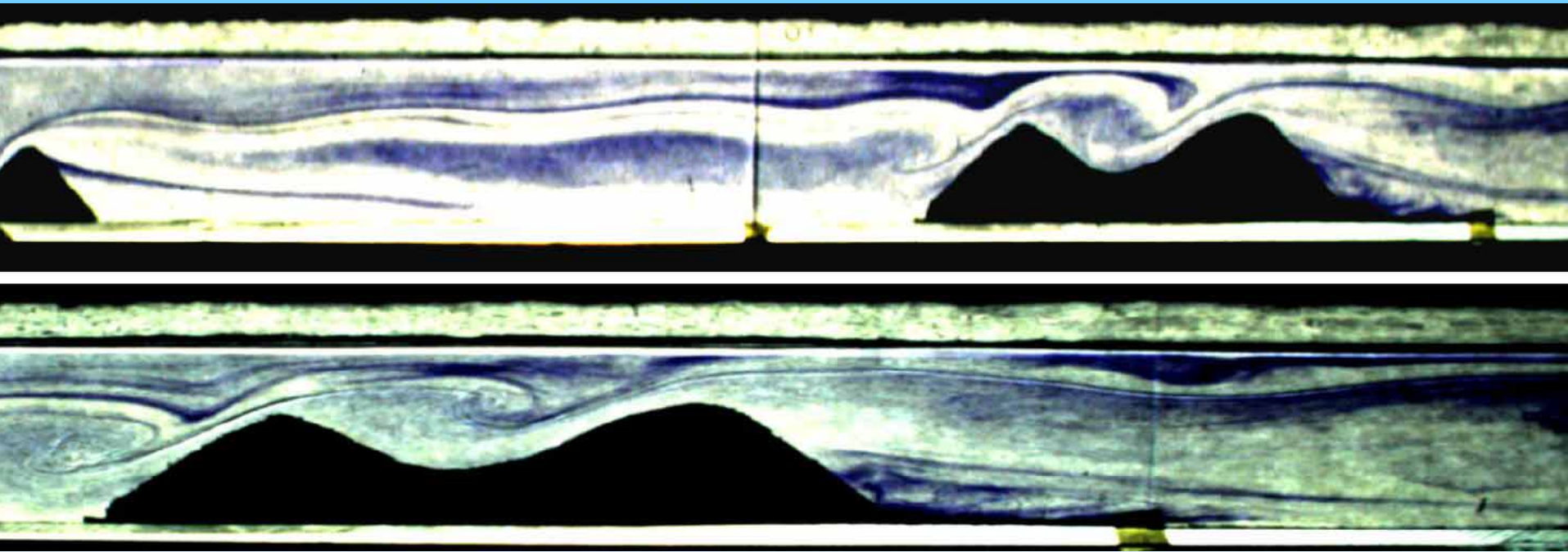
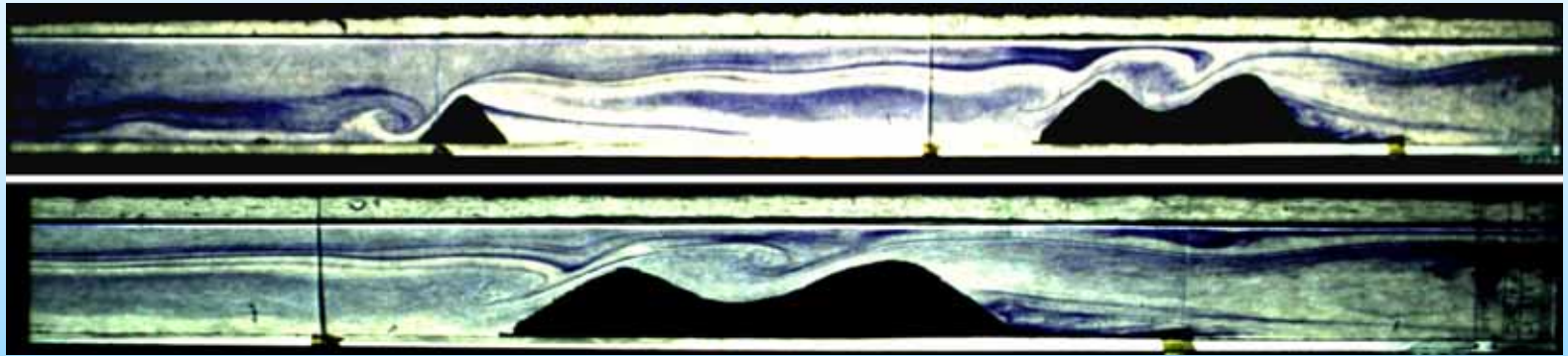
*Jim Renwick, GFD lab Univ of Washington*



Waves: modes and rays and wave/mean-flow interaction at the base of the mixed layer

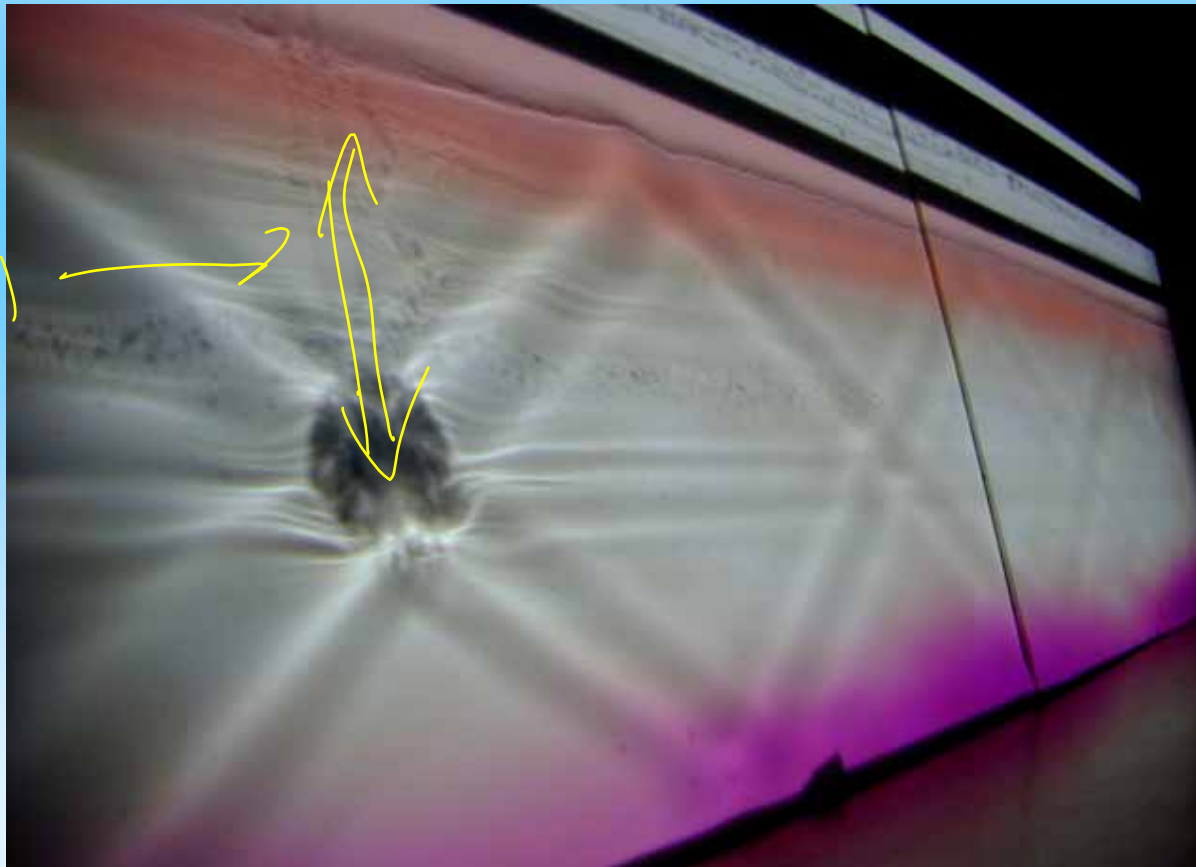




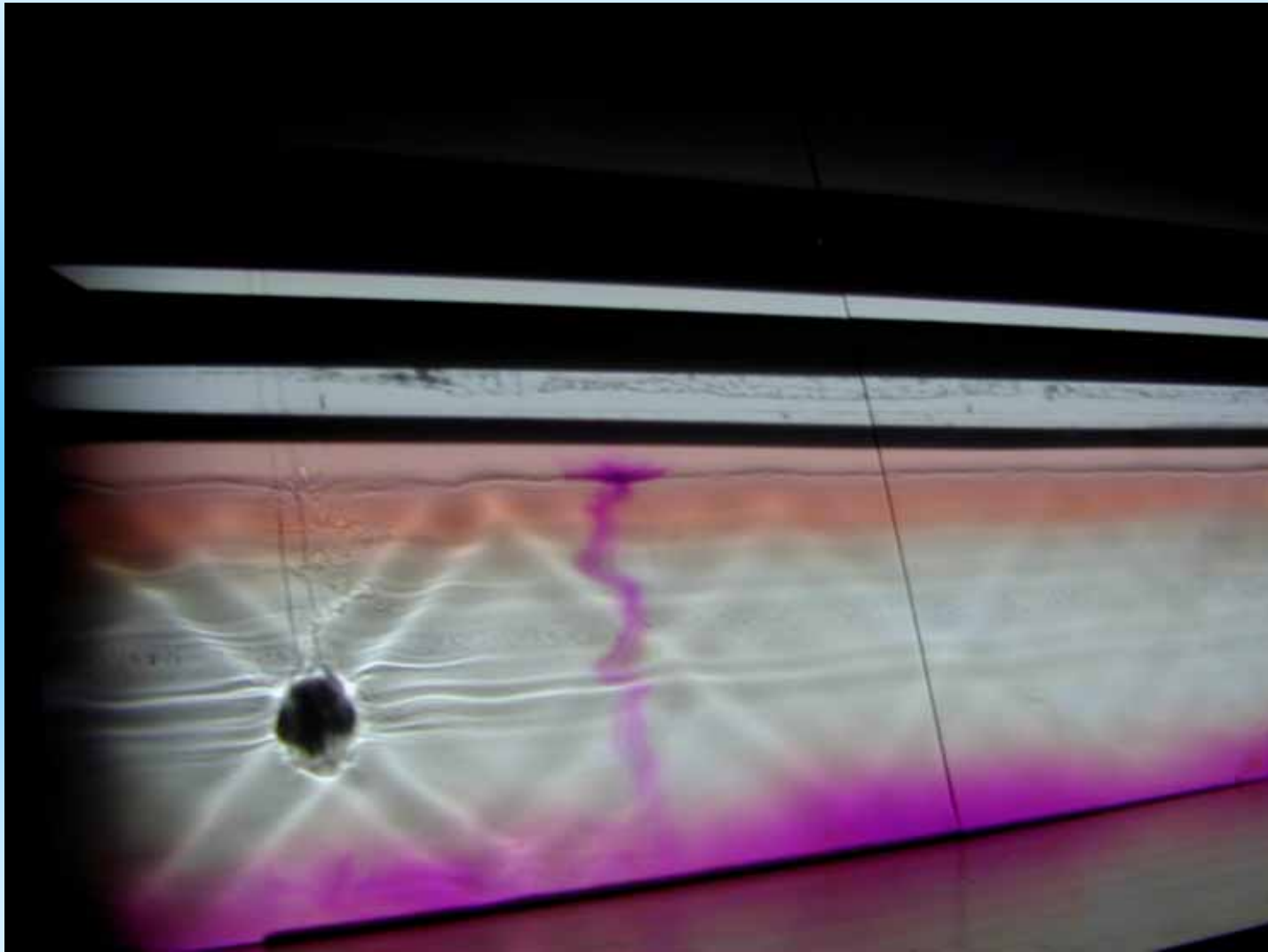


Convection in a stratified fluid sends out  
internal gravity waves driven by oscillating 2  
dimensional cylinder. Viewed with shadowgraph  
Notice reflection at base of mixed layer

*GFD Lab, Univ of Washington*



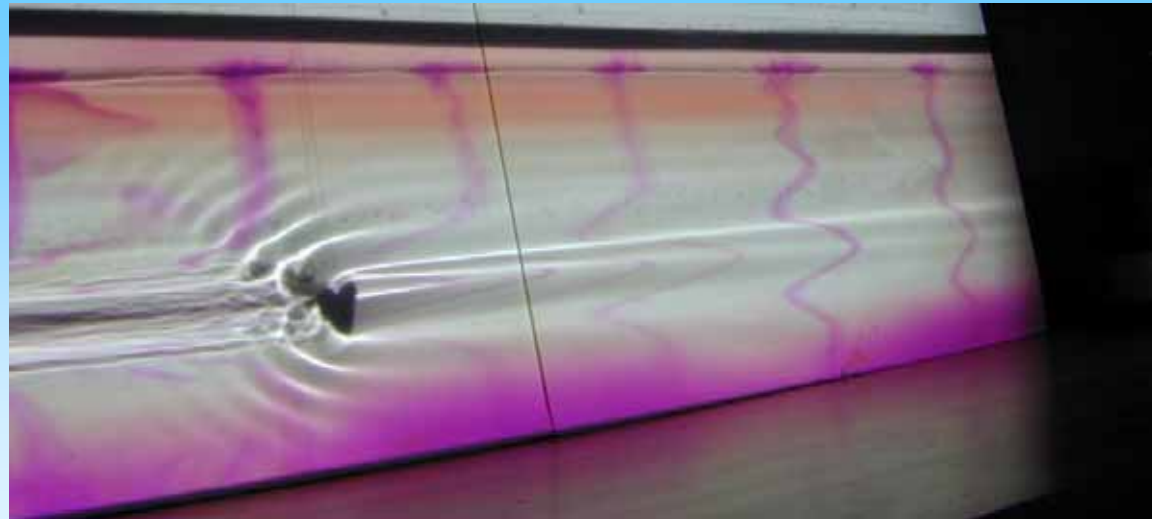
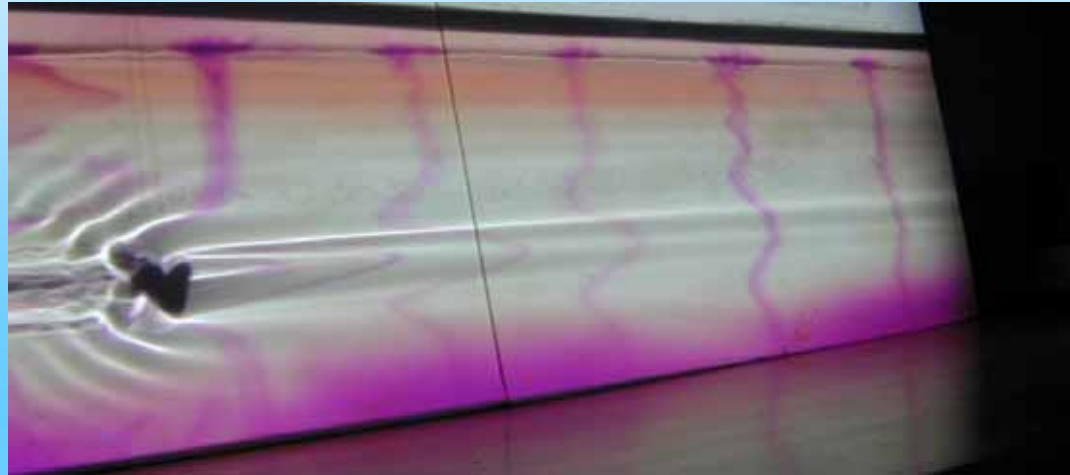
oscillating  
cylinder



frequency close to  $N$ ..some generation of harmonics  
and some turbulent mixing

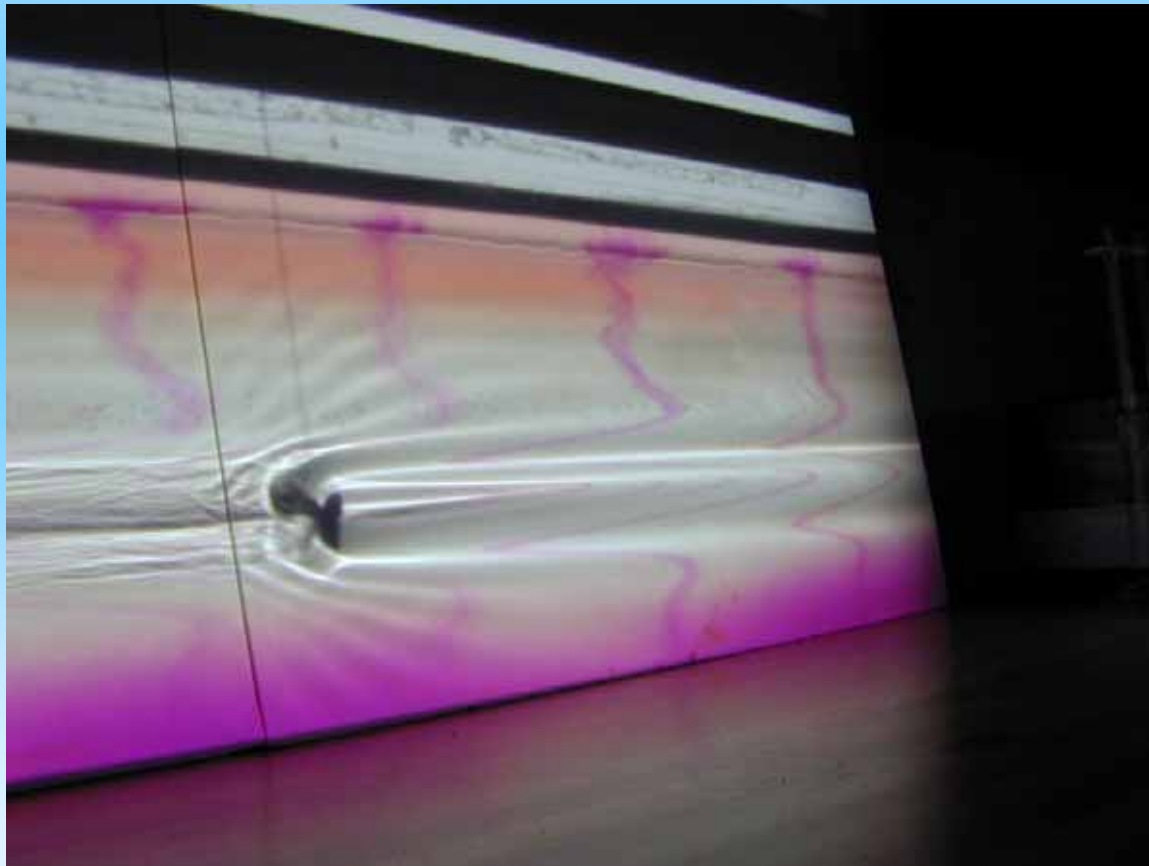


internal gravity waves: a circular cylinder moves to the right steadily, horizontally





notice the fluid which is pushed ahead of the cylinder, with too little kinetic energy to rise against the stratification. In a reference frame moving with the 'mountain' this would be blocked fluid upstream of the mountain. It is transmitted by long, low frequency gravity waves, visible in previous slide



PV dynamics (PV = potential vorticity)

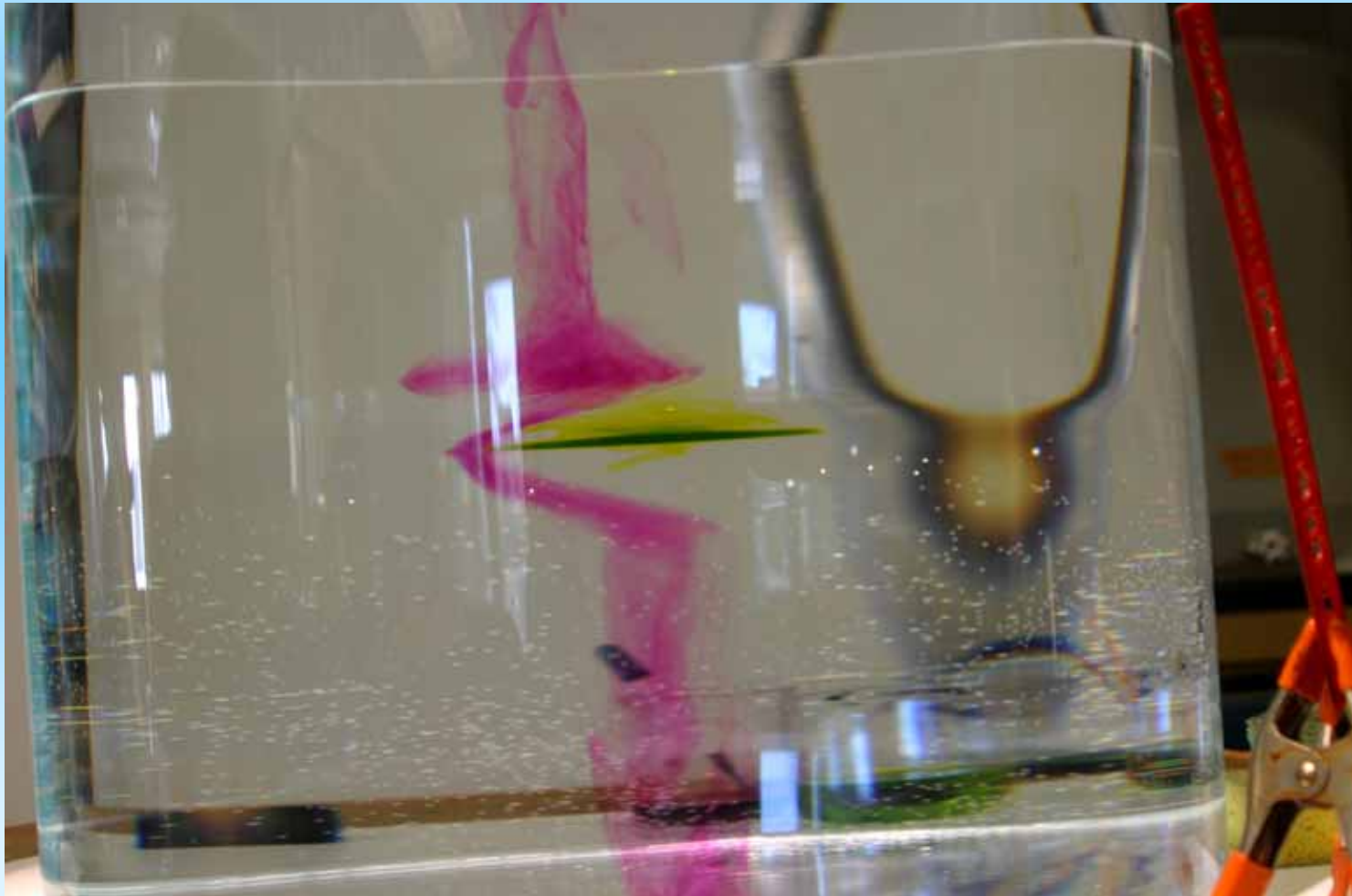
uses the vorticity conservation ('vector tracer') property, but accounting for buoyancy forces

PV conservation and flux (transport); Haynes & McIntyre JAS 1996

$\beta$ -effect, sphere

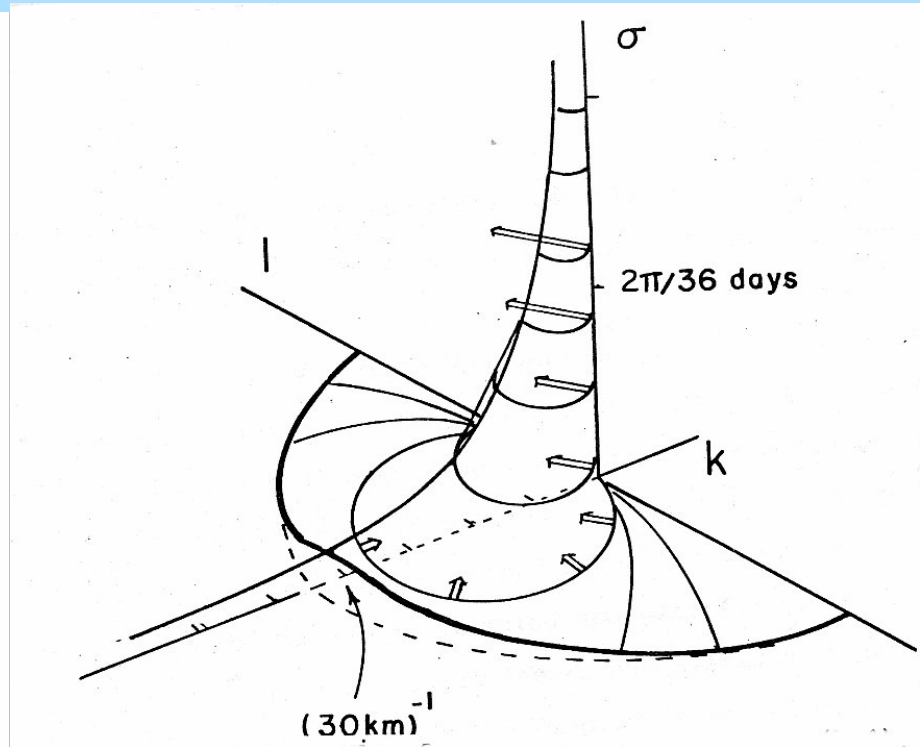
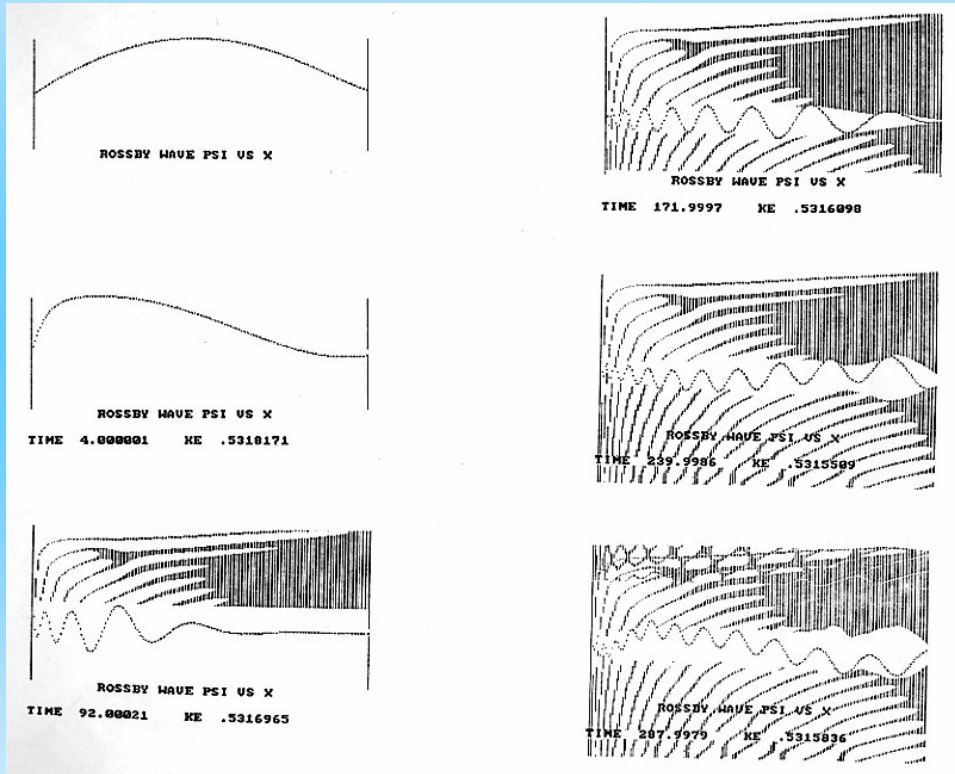


geostrophic adjustment in a cylinder with 2-layer stratification. A ball of fluid is injected at the interface and allowed to 'slump' and spin. Shall we try this during the lecture?



# Rossby waves

# Rossby waves (barotropic mode) evolving in x and time (left); dispersion relation (right)



$$\nabla^2 \psi_t + \beta \psi_x = \delta(x, y) \exp(-i\omega t);$$

$$\psi = \varphi(x, y) \exp(-i\kappa x - i\omega t) \quad \kappa = \beta / 2\omega$$

$$\nabla^2 \varphi + \kappa^2 \varphi = \delta(x, y)$$

This is a Helmholtz equation for the spatial form of oscillatory waves  
Geometry suggests cylindrical coordinates for which the solution is

$$\psi = \exp(-i\kappa x - i\omega t) H_0^2(\kappa r)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi &\sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi \kappa r}} \exp(-i\kappa x - i\omega t) \exp(-i\kappa r) \\ &\sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi \kappa r}} \exp(i\kappa(r+x)) \exp(-i\omega t) \end{aligned}$$

Parabolic wave crests, sweep westward.

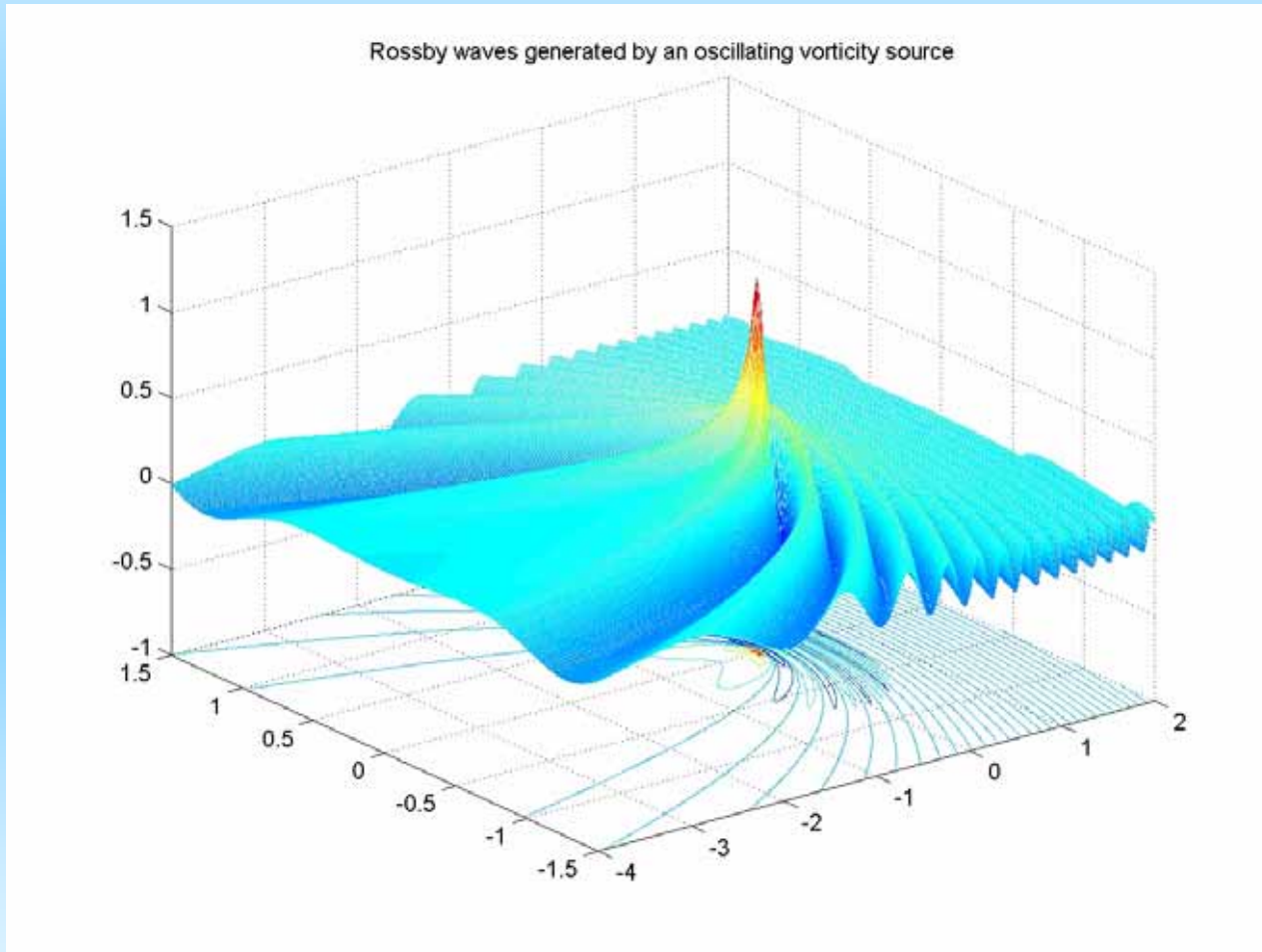
energy flux is isotropic, yet long waves all propagate west from forcing.

A western boundary can be simulated by an image Green function in the boundary, producing the full set of reflected Rossby waves of shorter wavelength.

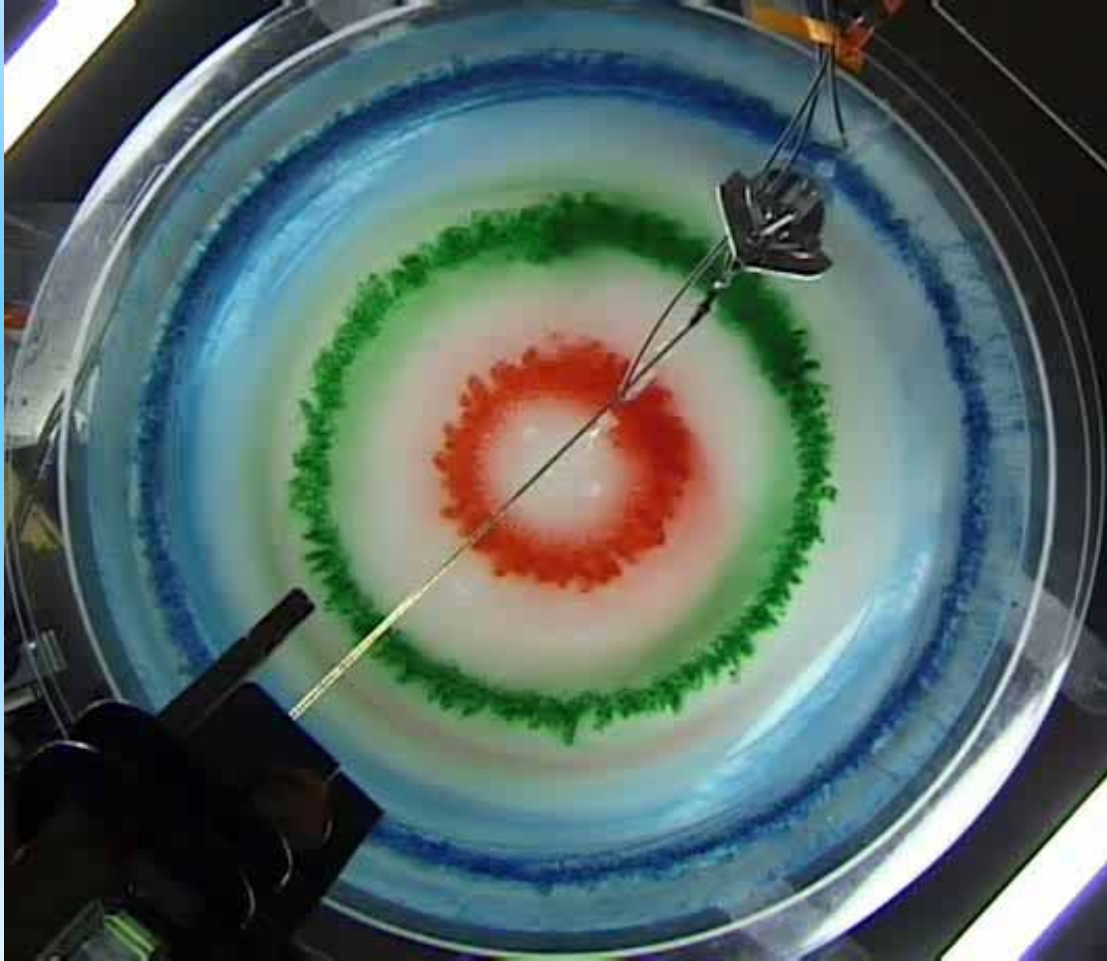
If we filter the solution by making the wavemaker finite in size (say with diameter  $L$ ) we pick out wavenumbers  $< L^{-1}$ , removing the short Rossby waves propagating east from the source.

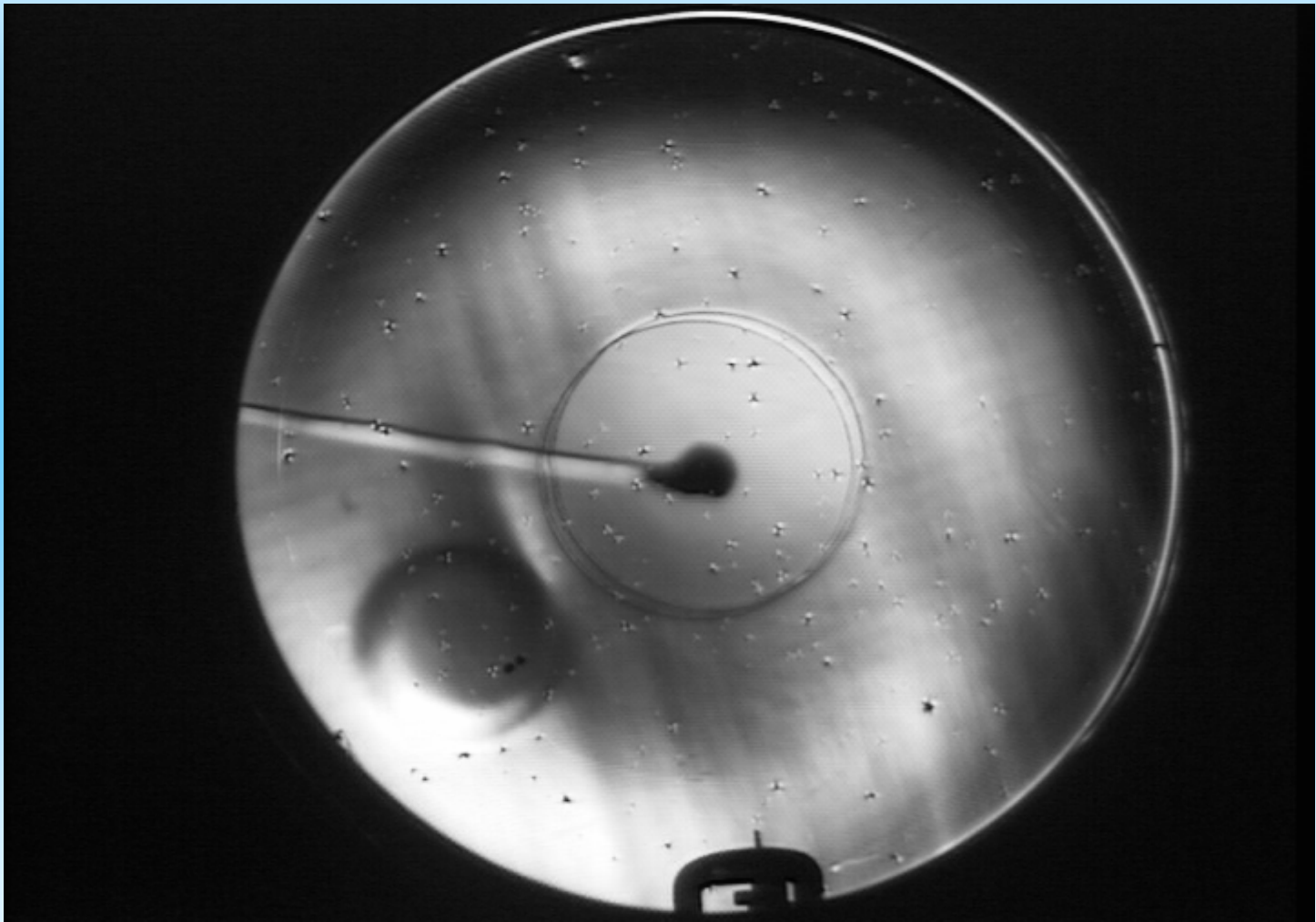
*Low frequency waves:* fix the length scale  $(k^2 + l^2)^{-1/2}$  while reducing the frequency: end up with  $k \ll 1$ , and group velocity pointing westward. This is the essence of westward influence, relative to the fluid motion, on the  $\beta$ -plane.

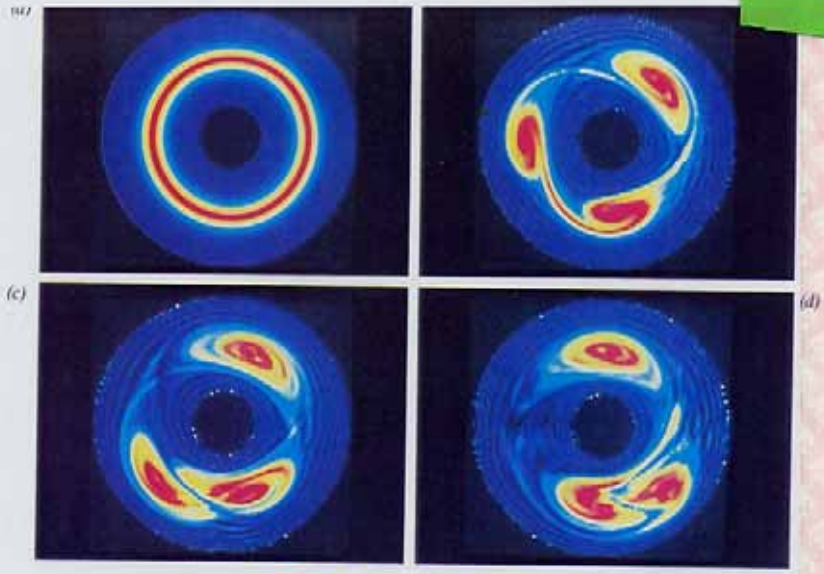
# Green function for Rossby waves driven by a compact oscillating forcing











MARCUS J. FLUID MECH 1990

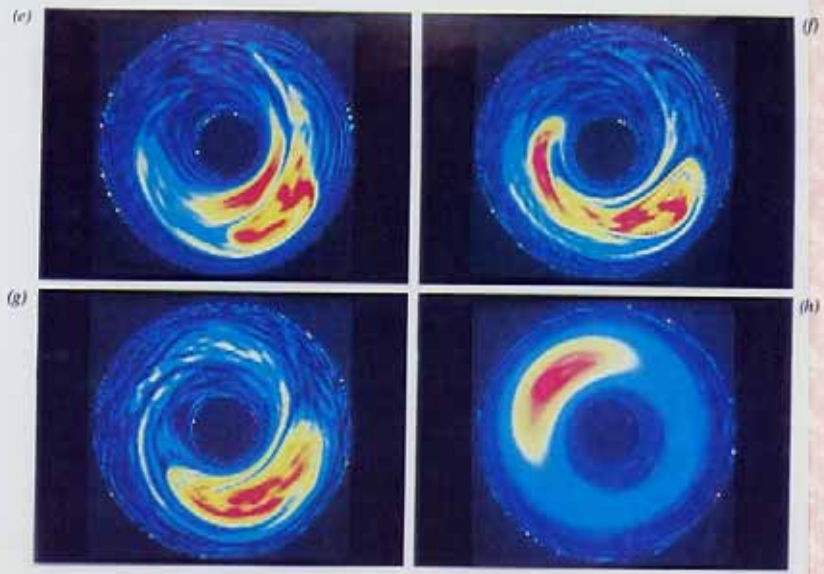


FIGURE 8. Evolution of the  $\omega$  of a linearly unstable shear layer with  $\delta/\lambda = 0.28$  and with the same axial velocity as in figure 1. The layer breaks up into a three-fold symmetric eigenmode (the most rapidly growing one). The three vortices separate from each other, merge together, and eject the irrotational (light blue and yellow) fluid entrained near the vortex centre. (a - h) After 0, 3.34, 3.82, 4.46, 5.73, 6.21, 7.64, and 29.6 turn-around times.

### Beta plume.

It is often interesting to let frequencies become complex,  $\omega \Rightarrow \omega + i\varepsilon$ .

This helps to resolve difficult issues like the radiation condition (see Lighthill, *Waves in Fluids*). When do so it simulates a *steady* circulation forced by a delta function of stress curl (a 'tweak'). The relative vorticity term is now the diffusive damping of PV by linear Ekman friction

$$R\nabla^2\psi + \beta\psi_x = \delta(x, y);$$

$$\psi = \varphi(x, y) \exp(-\alpha x) \quad \alpha = \beta / 2R$$

$$\nabla^2\varphi - \alpha^2\varphi = \delta(x, y)$$

$$\psi = \exp(-\alpha x - i\omega t) K_0(\alpha r)$$

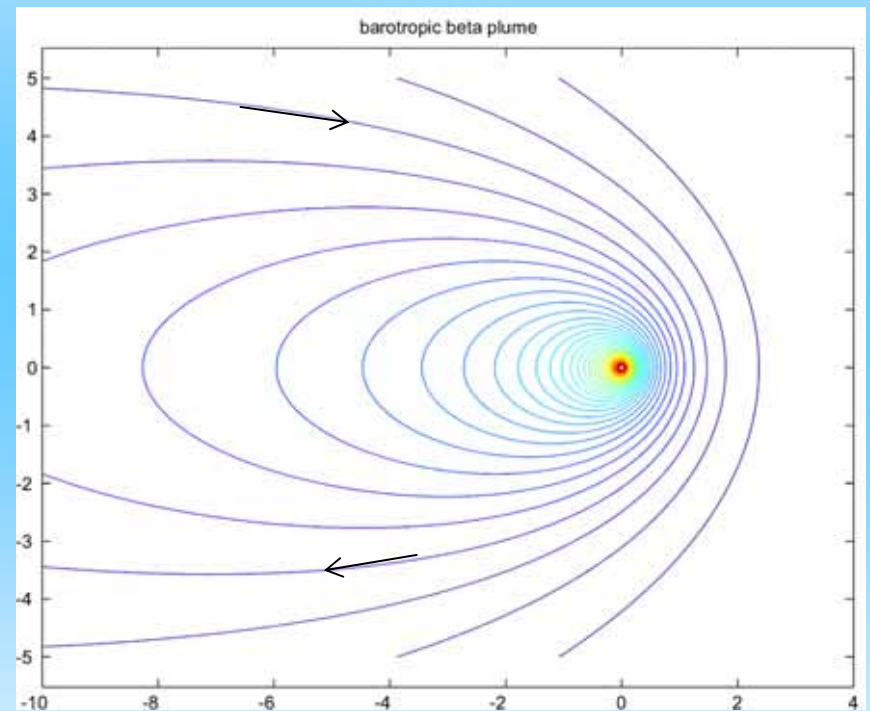
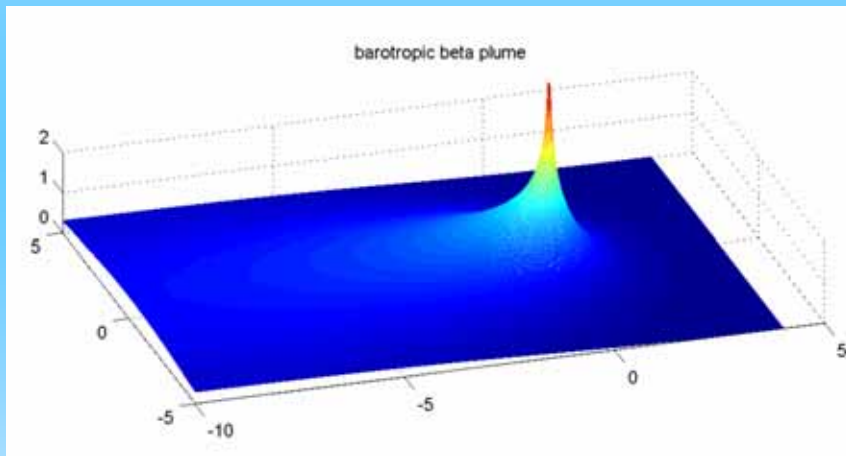
$$\psi \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi\kappa r}} \exp(-\alpha(r+x))$$

The  $\beta$ -plume is a Rossby wave arrested by friction. It is an elongated gyre extending far west from the forcing. (As above a western boundary can be added with an image Green function, showing the exponentially narrow 'Gulf Stream' boundary current of Stommel).

This plume extends the Stommel-Arons model of the deep-ocean branch of the global MOC.

# beta plume

a steady, diffusive circulation gyre driven by a delta-function of stress curl; lop-sided, extending far to the west of the forcing as in an 'arrested' Rossby wave



convection is simulated by diapycnal mass-flux; it drives an upper level cyclone and deep anticyclone, deep and shallow western boundary currents and a Stommel-Arons interior circulation; with continental-slope topography a deep topographic gyre competes with the simple poleward interior flow.

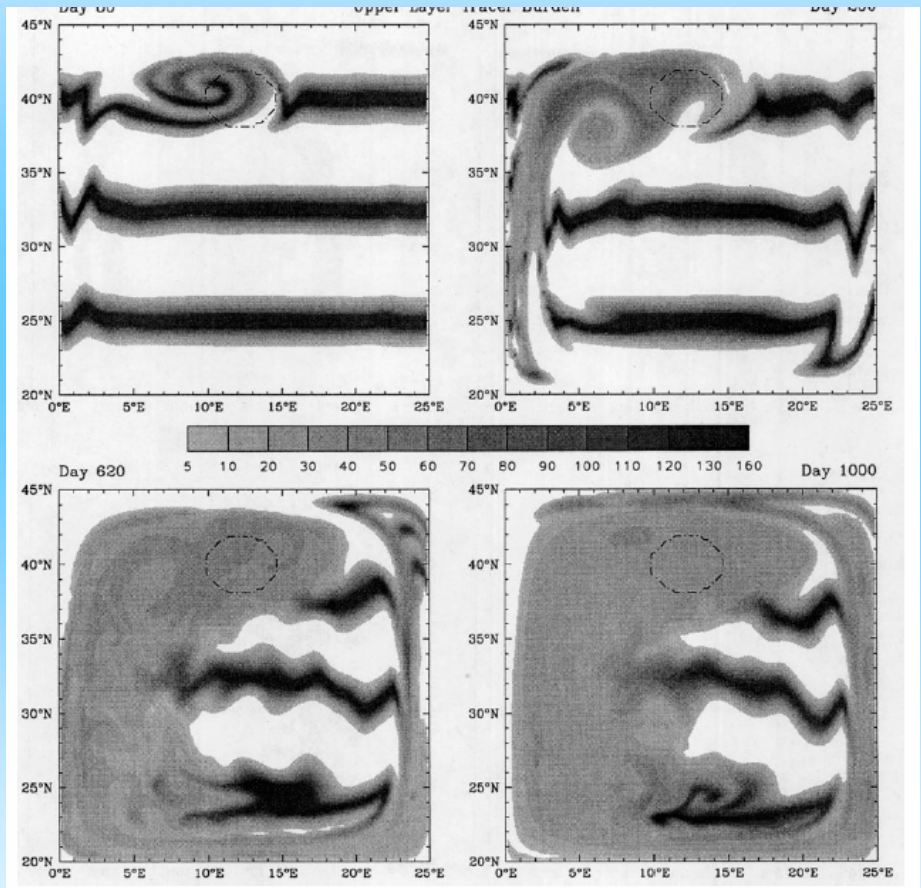
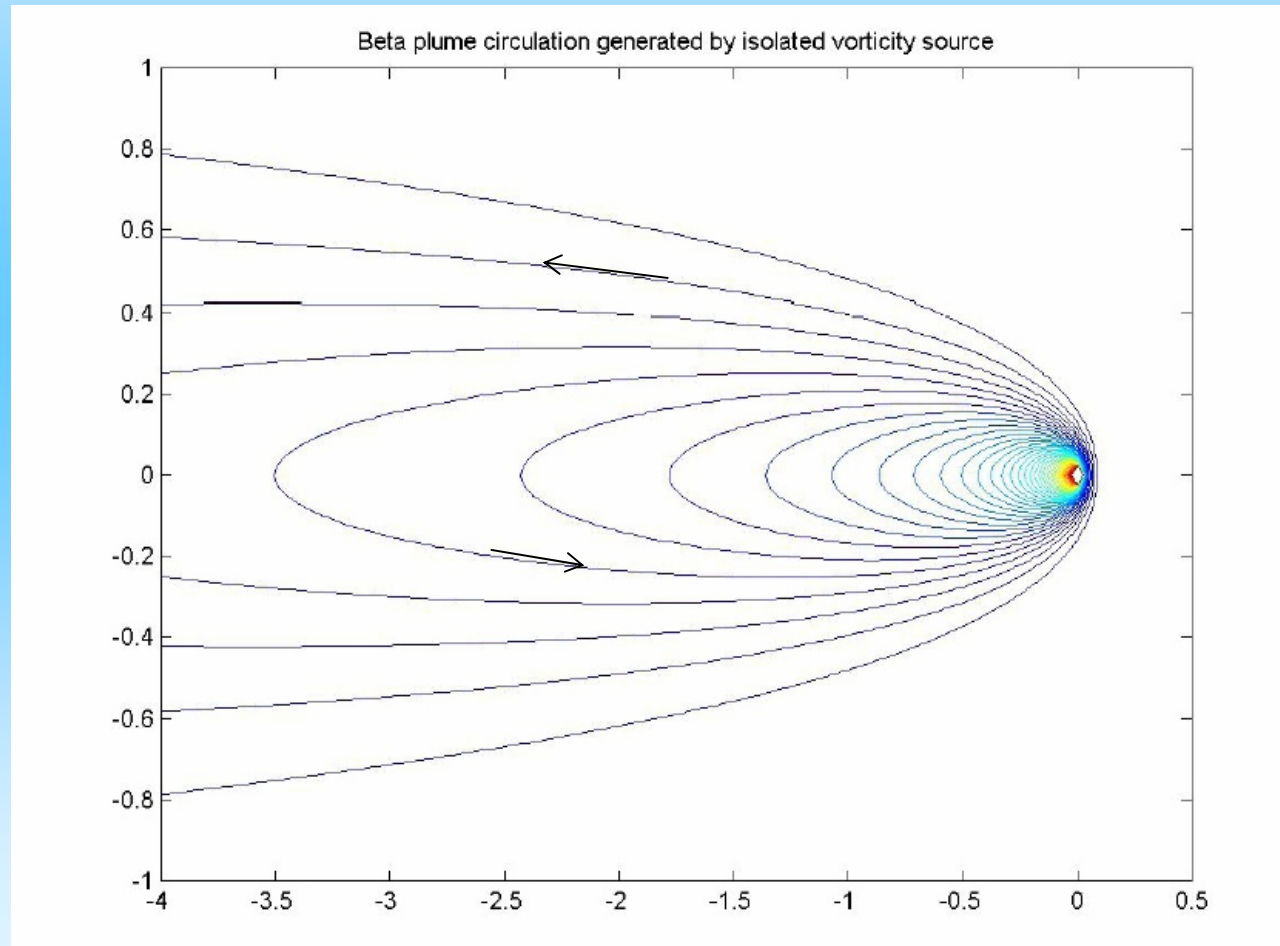
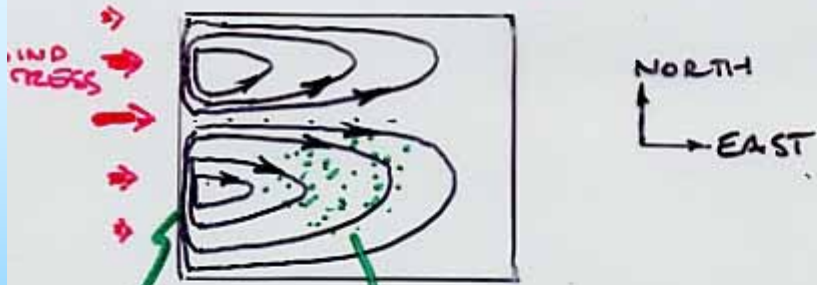


FIG. 21. Column tracer burden of the upper layer of HIAMP for days 80, 200, 620, and 1000 in arbitrary units. The dashed circles mark the forcing region.

The  $\beta$ -plume: Green function for steady, dissipative  $\beta$ -plane vorticity equation, 1-layer fluid



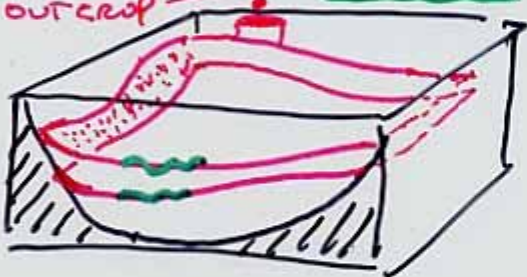
CLASSIC HOMOGENEOUS DENSITY OCEAN:



NORTH  
EAST

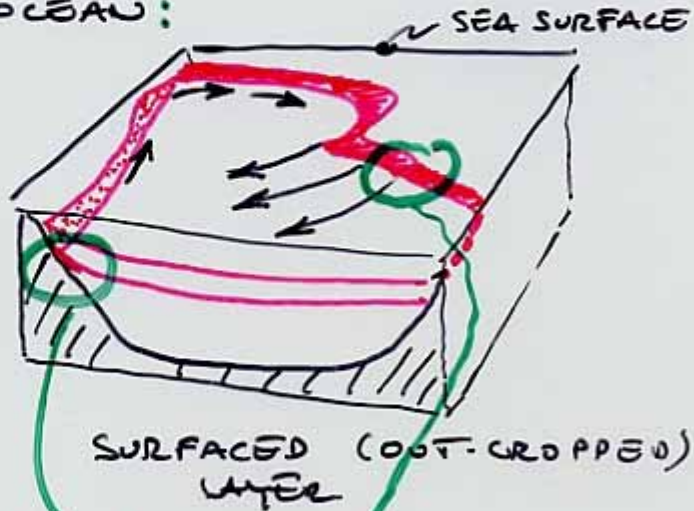
PV LOSS (WIND CURV < 0)  
PV GAIN (FRICTION)

FINE-SCALE OUTCROP STRATIFIED OCEAN:



SUBMERGED  
LAYER

UP  
NORTH  
EAST



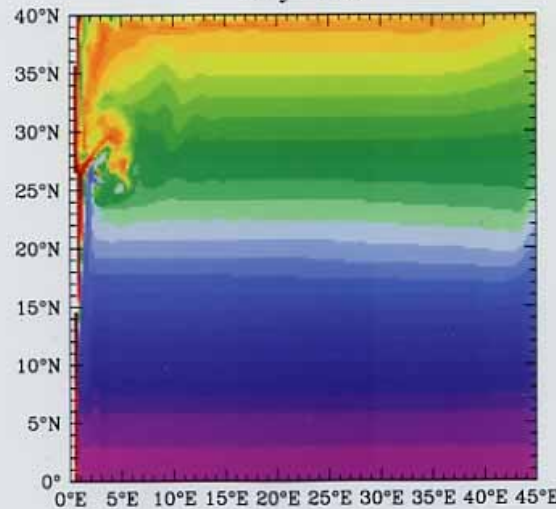
PV CONCENTRATION

ELLIP TIC VS. HYPERBOLIC  
RESPONSE TO BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

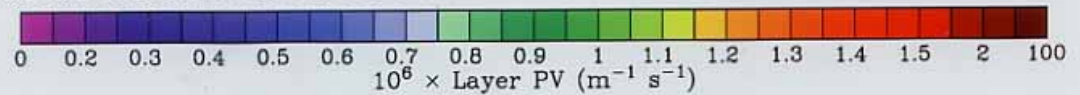
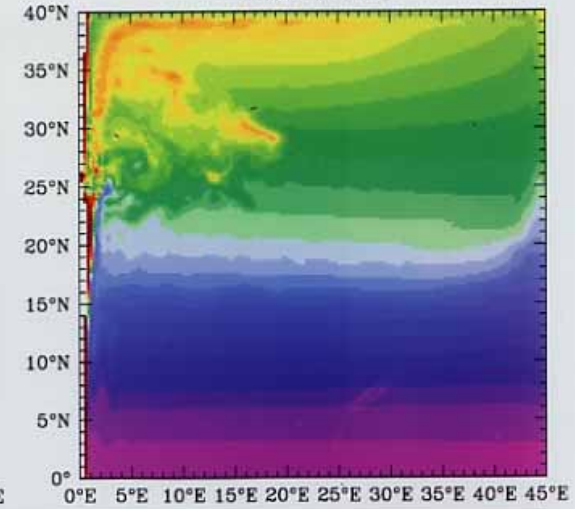


Ocean gyre  
simulations  
*Hallberg &  
Rhines 2000*

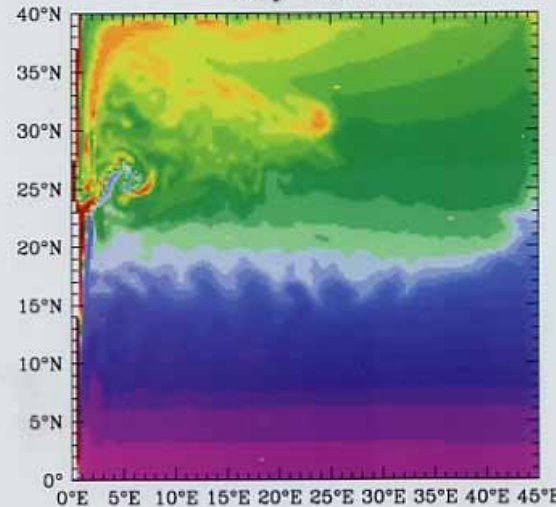
0.4% Bottom Slope Layer 8 Potential Vorticity  
Day 750



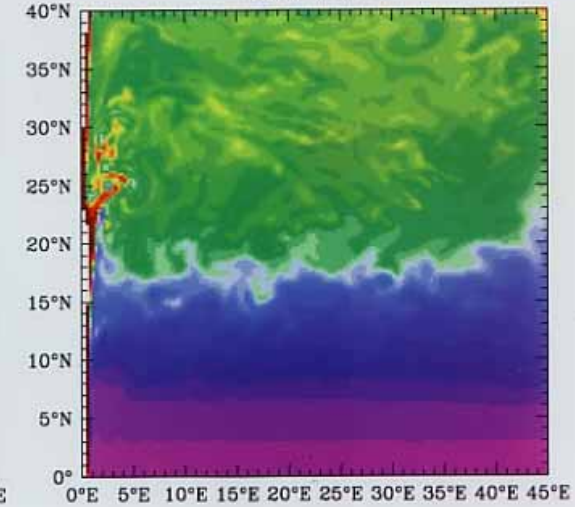
Day 1250



Day 1500

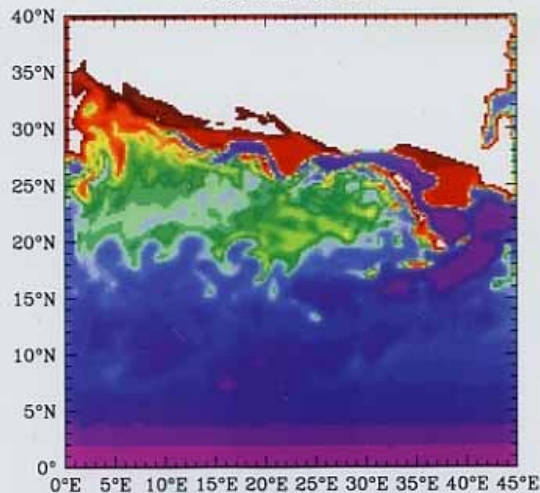


Day 3000

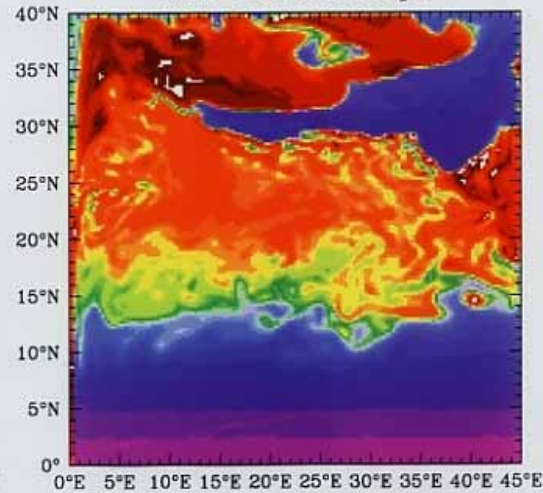


# Instantaneous Layer 6 Potential Vorticity

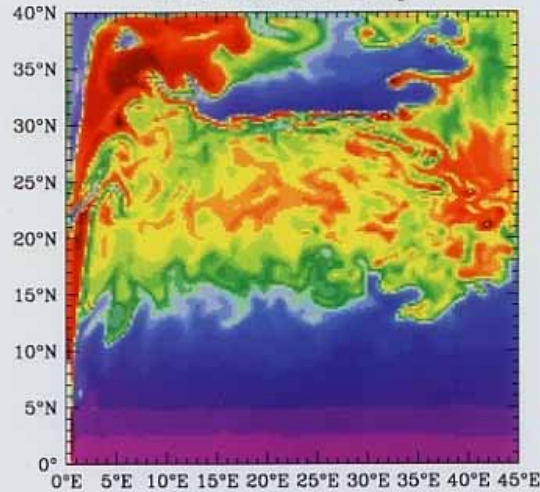
## Flat Bottom



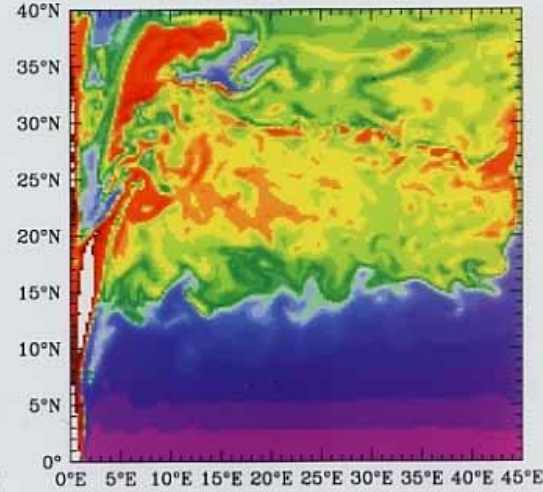
## 0.4% Bottom Slope



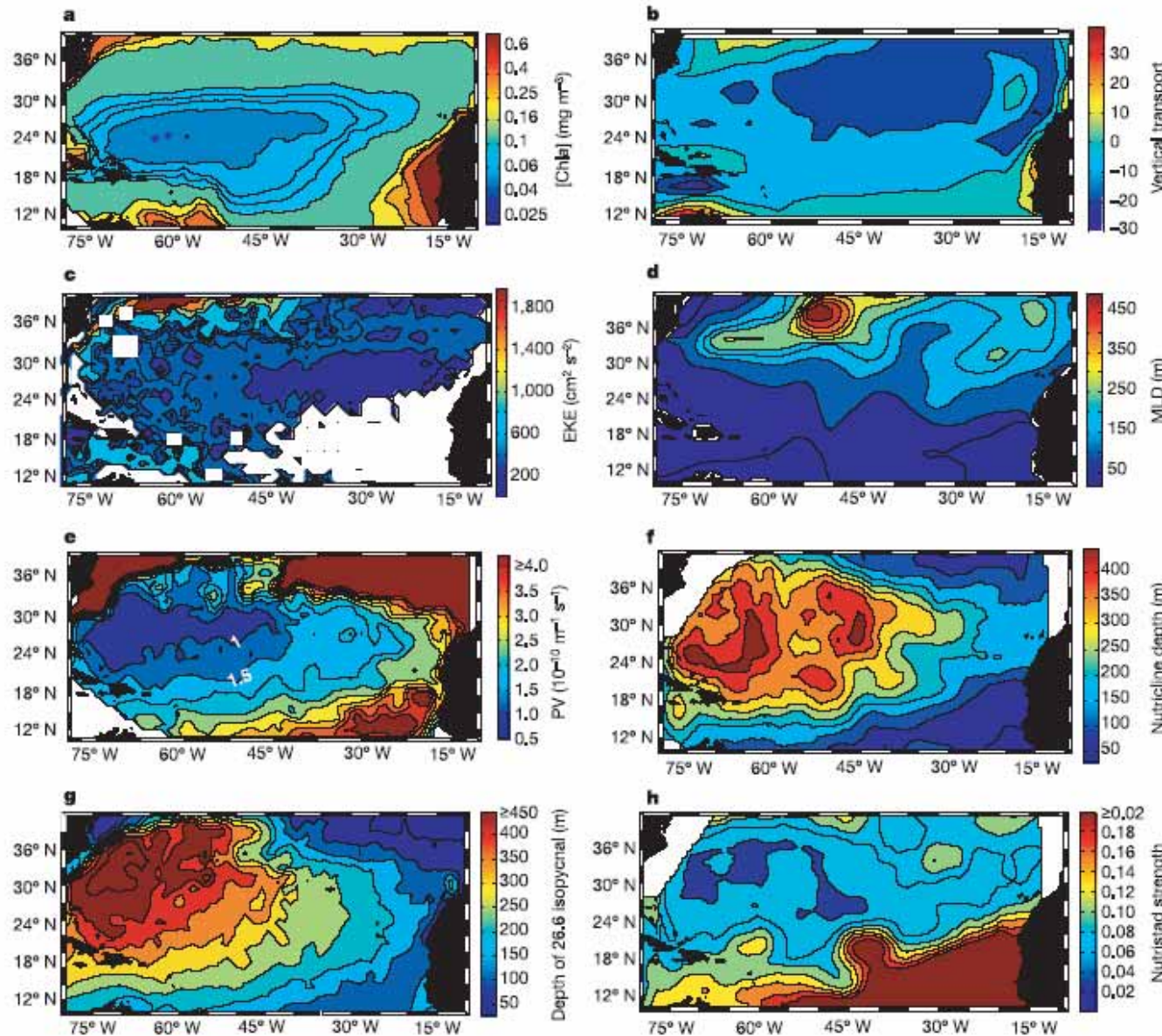
## 0.2% Bottom Slope



## 0.1% Bottom Slope



# Subtropical gyre dynamics, thermodynamics and biology



**Figure 5 | Properties of the North Atlantic subtropical gyre.** a, Annual mean SeaWiFS chlorophyll *a* concentration, [Chl<sub>a</sub>], with a log scale for the colour axis; b, vertical transport calculated from the annual mean wind stress curl<sup>25</sup>; c, climatological mean eddy kinetic energy<sup>20</sup>, EKE; d, climatological March mixed layer depth<sup>26</sup>, MLD; e, potential vorticity on

the 26.5 isopycnal, PV; f, nutricline depth, as defined by the depth of the maximum vertical nitrate gradient; g, depth of the 26.6 isopycnal, an approximation for the base of the STMW; and h, the strength of the nutrient gradient at the nutricline, showing the wedge of STMW as a depleted nutrient.

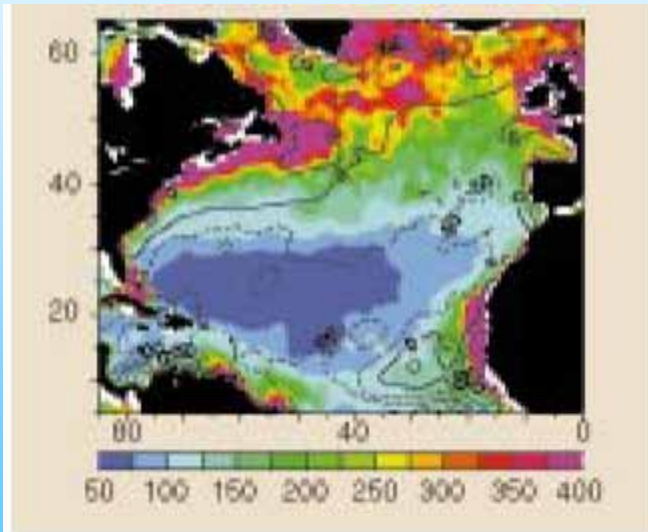
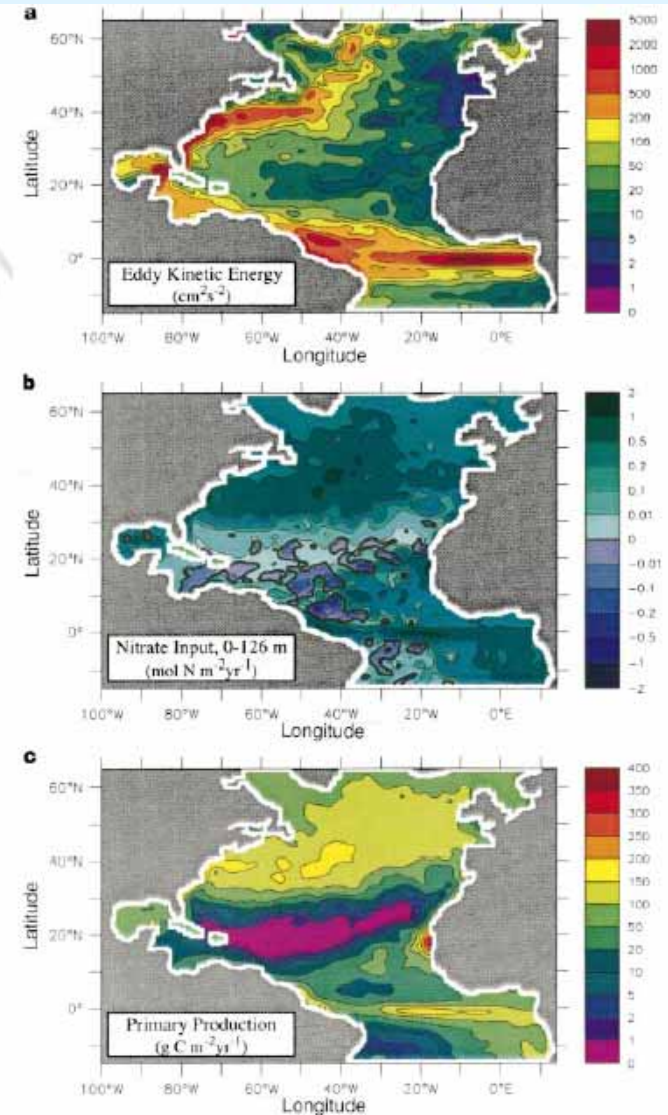


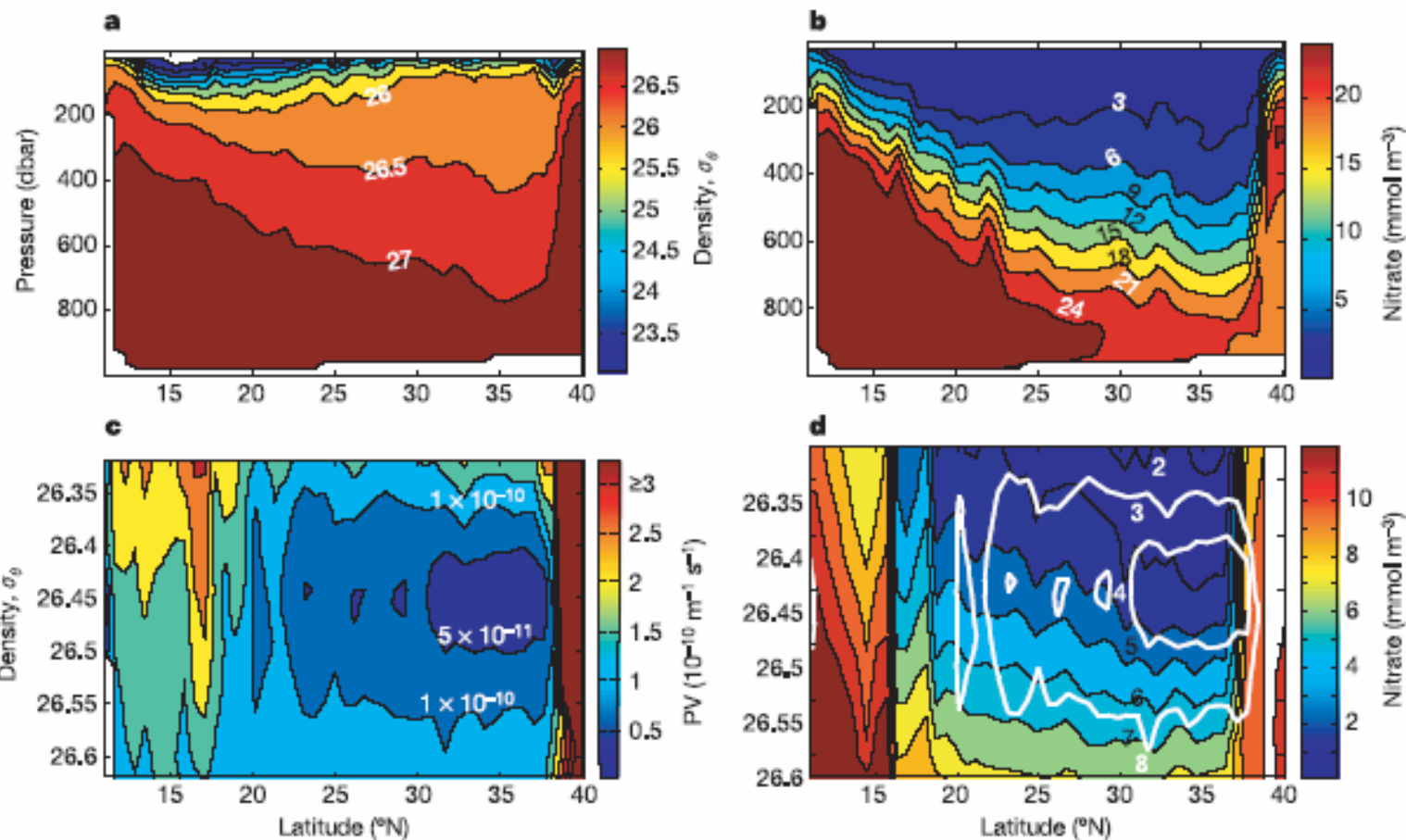
Figure 1 Annual primary productivity (coloured values in  $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ), and upwards vertical velocity of water (contoured in  $\text{m yr}^{-1}$ ) in the North Atlantic. Productivity reaches maximum values of  $400 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$  where there are high levels of nutrient input from upwelling; and it has minimum values of  $50 \text{ g C m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$  within the subtropical gyre where there is downwelling (negative contours) and comparative nutrient depletion. Previous estimates of nutrient supply seem inadequate to account for even these low values, hence the proposal<sup>1-3</sup> that eddy circulation may be responsible for supplying them. (Figure derived from satellite estimates of surface chlorophyll from ref. 4, and calculations of vertical velocity at the base of the surface wind-forced boundary (Ekman) layer<sup>6</sup>.)

*Williams,  
Follows,  
Migillicuddy  
Nature 1998*

*Oschlies,  
Garcon  
Nature  
1998*



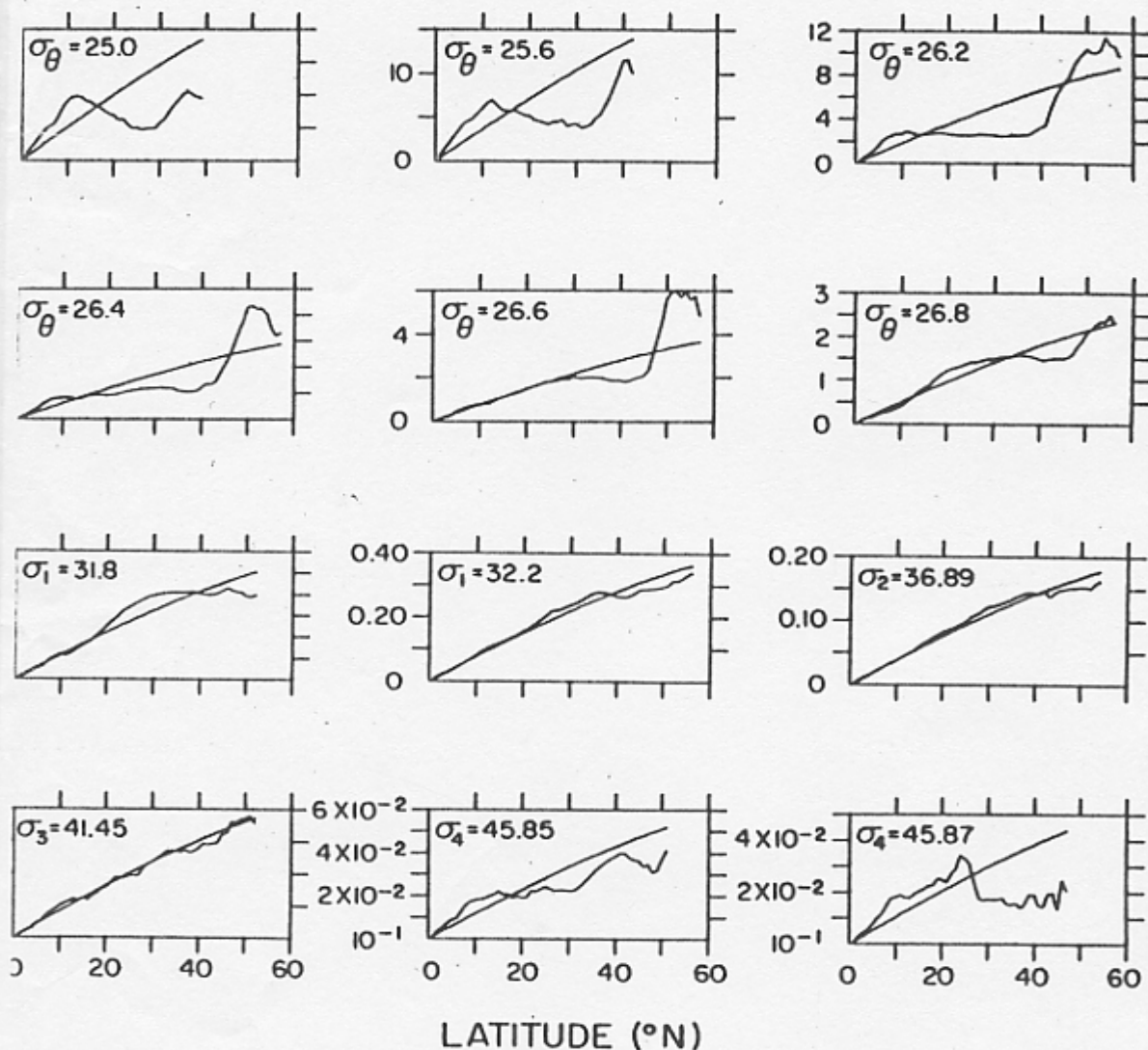
**Figure 1** Results from the assimilation experiment A. **a**, Surface eddy kinetic energy (EKE), which contains all deviations from the annual mean, computed for a depth of 60m to avoid contamination by shallow Ekman currents (in  $\text{cm}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$ ). **b**, Annual mean nitrate flux into the upper 126m, which is taken as proxy for the euphotic zone (in  $\text{mol N m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ). **c**, Annual mean primary production (in  $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ). A constant ratio of C:N=6.6 was assumed to give carbon fluxes from the model. This is a rather conservative assumption<sup>7</sup> and will give minimal estimates of carbon fluxes.



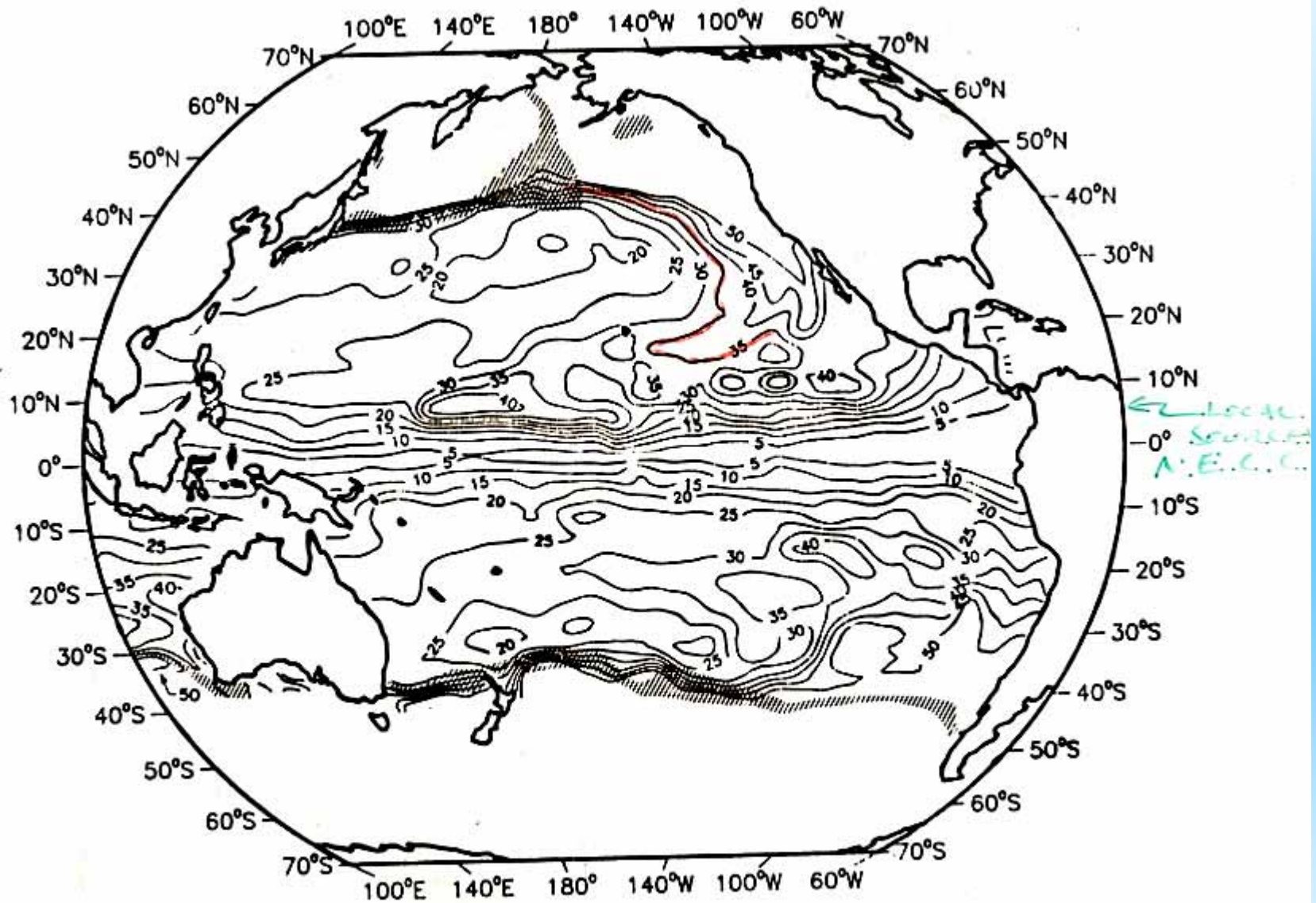
**Figure 3 | Properties of WOCE section A22 in August 1997.** a, Potential density as a function of pressure. b, Nitrate as a function of pressure. c, Potential vorticity (PV) as a function of potential density; the low-PV waters ( $\leq 1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , shaded blue) are considered the core of the

STMW. d, Nitrate as a function of potential density. The white contour lines in d represent  $PV = -0.5 \times 10^{-10}$  and  $-1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . PV was calculated using  $f/\sigma_\rho (\partial\sigma_\rho/\partial z)$ , where  $f$  is the Coriolis parameter,  $\sigma_\rho$  the reference density, and  $\partial\sigma_\rho/\partial z$  the vertical density gradient.

LYNNE D. TALLEY



1 average of potential vorticity at selected densities (jagged curves) and  $\rho^{-1}f\partial\rho/\partial z$  based on  $\rho/\partial z$  over the entire North Pacific for that isopycnal (smooth curves). Values are shown only where there was at least 45° of longitudinal coverage, although the underlying smooth curve is available at all points. Vertical scales vary for each panel.



Q. ON

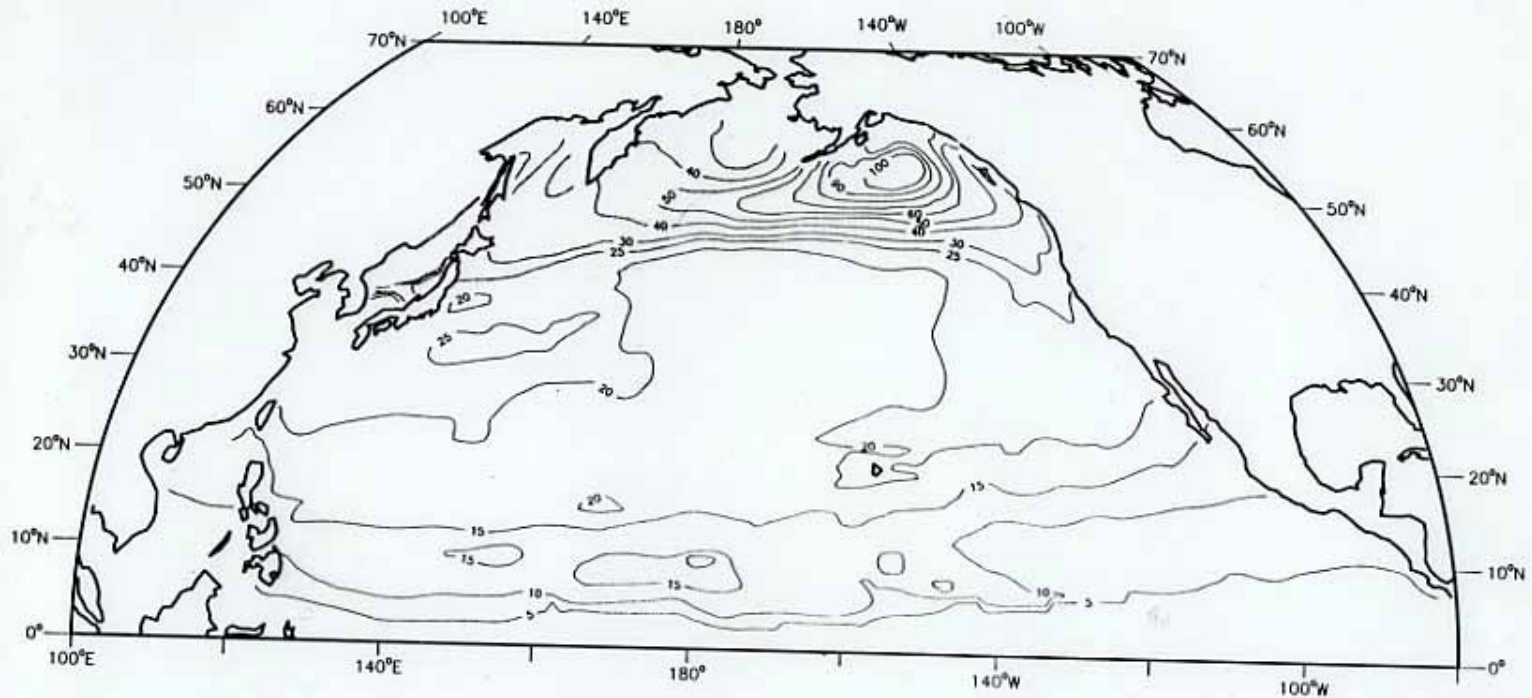
$T_0 = 26.5$

PACIFIC POTENTIAL VORTICITY

KEFFER 1985 J.P.O.

J. Physical Oceanography

# NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN PV



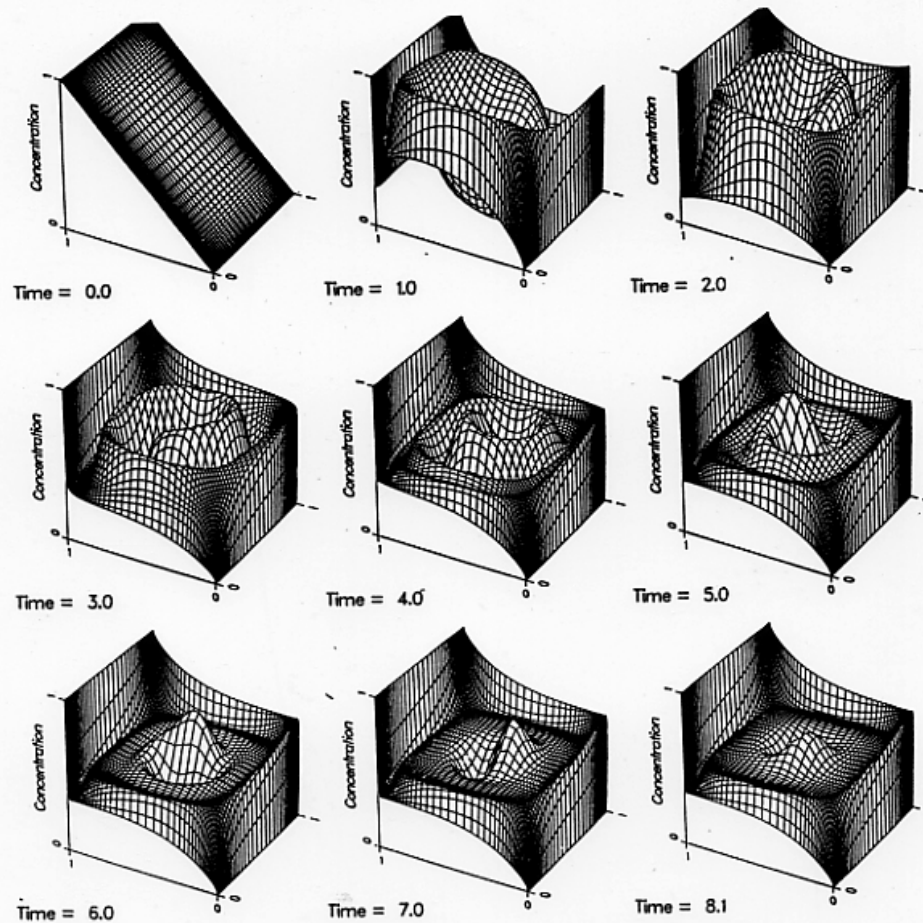
Q

$$(\sigma_{\theta} = 26.5 - 27.0)$$

(TYPICALLY 200m TO 400m DEPTH)



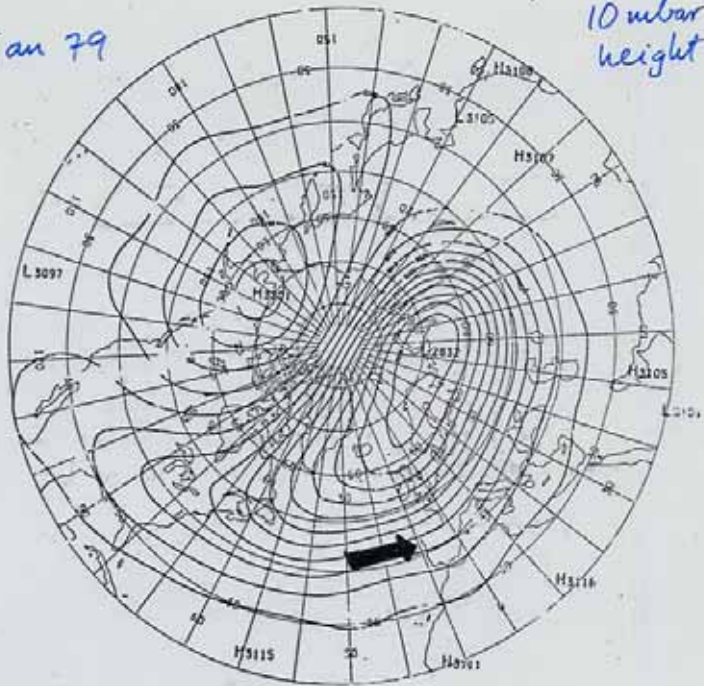
play in the oceans, where jets flow out to sea and encounter atmospheric input of tracers, heat, and (in effect) potential vorticity. Transport and exchange with the atmosphere must be sensitive to this process of forced ventilation," in addition to the direct, but modest, injection of Ekman fluid into the geostrophic interior.



*Figure 10* The spin-up of a passive tracer in a gyre circulation with Péclet number of  $2.5 \times 10^3$ , based on the basin scale and interior velocity (Musgrave 1985). The ridge of high values does not follow the streamlines but represents the winding up of the initial conditions. A weak diffusive spiral crossing  $\psi$ -lines remains in the steady state upon the homogenized plateau. The injected boundary values can be followed through the western-boundary current, but they are quickly assimilated by horizontal mixing. The large tracer flux through the system depends on thin boundary layers, which are treated with a stretched grid.

26 Jan 79

10 mbar height



$\approx$  streamfunction  $\times$  Coriolis parameter

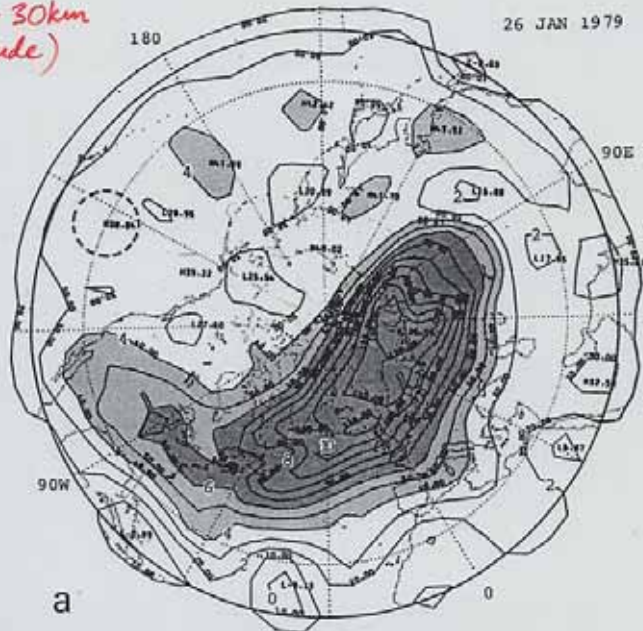
(Middle stratosphere,  $\sim 30$  km altitude)

Max. velocity  $\sim 90 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , across N. pole.

Isentropic map of Rossby-Ertel potential vorticity on  $850^\circ\text{K}$  isentropic surface

$$f^{-1}(2\Omega + \nabla \times \mathbf{u}) \cdot \nabla \theta$$

(near 30 km altitude)



a

(McIntyre & Palmer 1984 J. Atmos. Terr. Phys. 46, 825.)

Units of PV:

Max. planetary vorticity  $2\Omega$  corresponds to about 6.5 units



# Jetstreams, Storm-tracks and Subpolar Ocean gyres

Peter Rhines

PO sem 2v07

in collaboration with Thomas Jung (ECMWF),  
Sirpa Häkkinen (NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center),  
Eric Lindahl and Alex Mendez (UW)



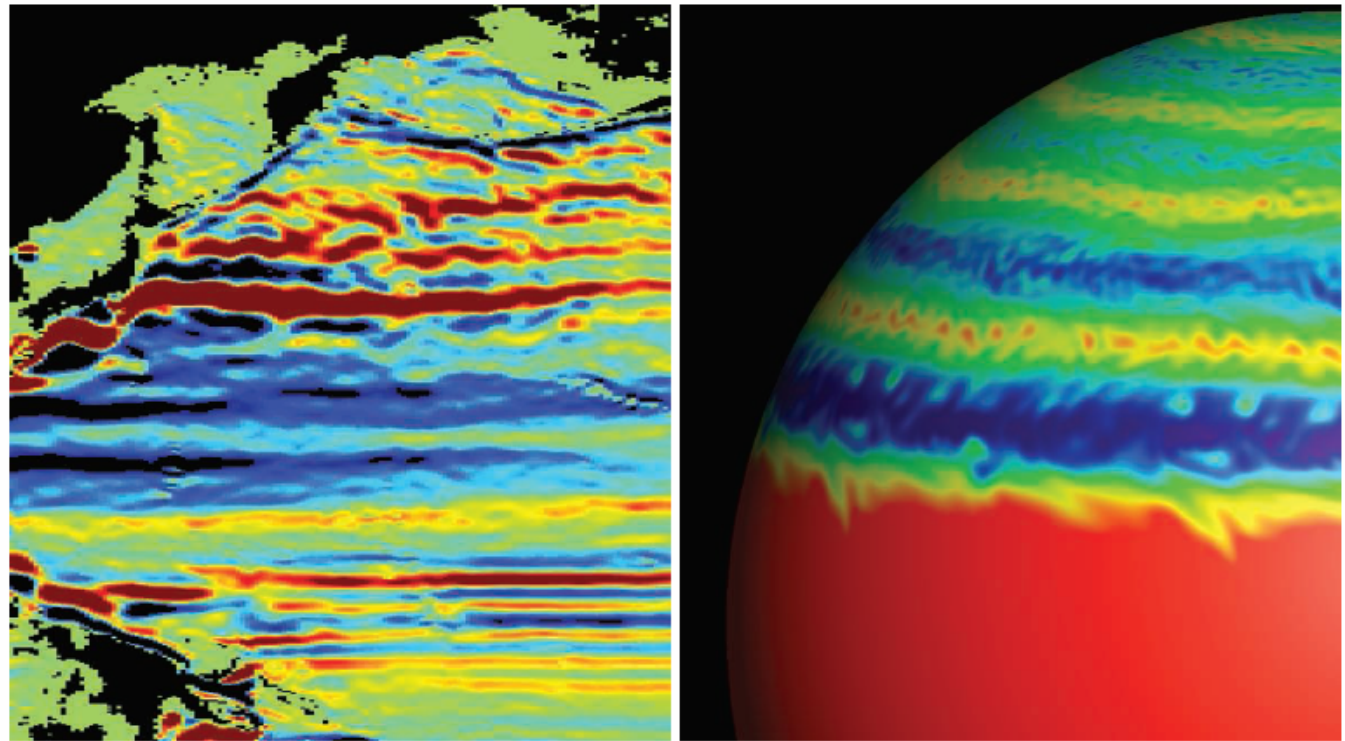
Jets, near and far

# The Jet-Stream Conundrum

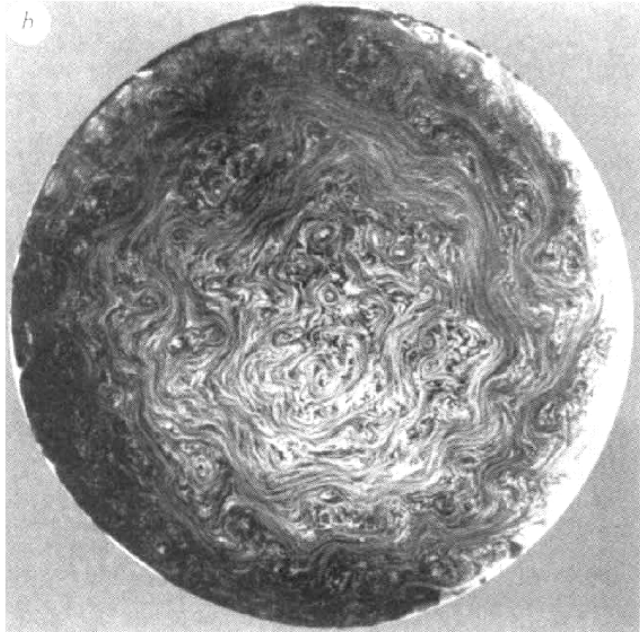
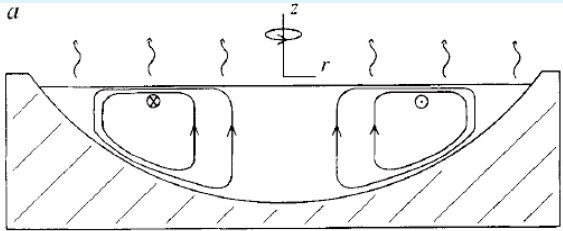
Mark P. Baldwin, Peter B. Rhines, Huei-Ping Huang, Michael E. McIntyre

*Science*, 2007

*special issue  
of JAS*, 2007



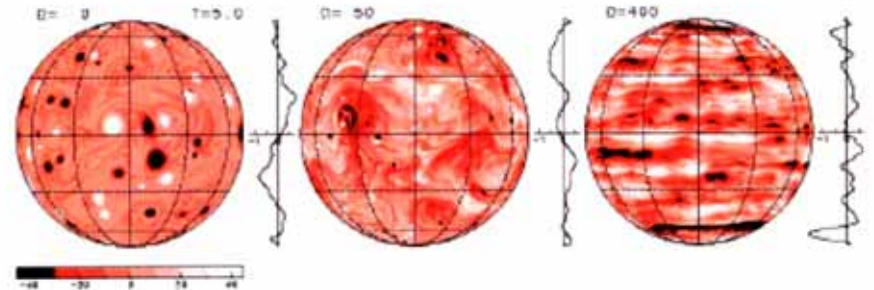
Jets near and far. (Left) Map of east-west current speeds at 400-m depth, simulated by an eddy-resolving ocean model. Red and blue indicate eastward and westward flows. [Adapted from Richards *et al.* (11)] (Right) Snapshot of a simulation for Jupiter, with red and blue indicating eastward and westward flows. [Adapted from Heimpel *et al.* (16)]



## A convective model for the zonal jets in the atmospheres of Jupiter and Saturn

Scott A. Condie\* & Peter B. Rhines†

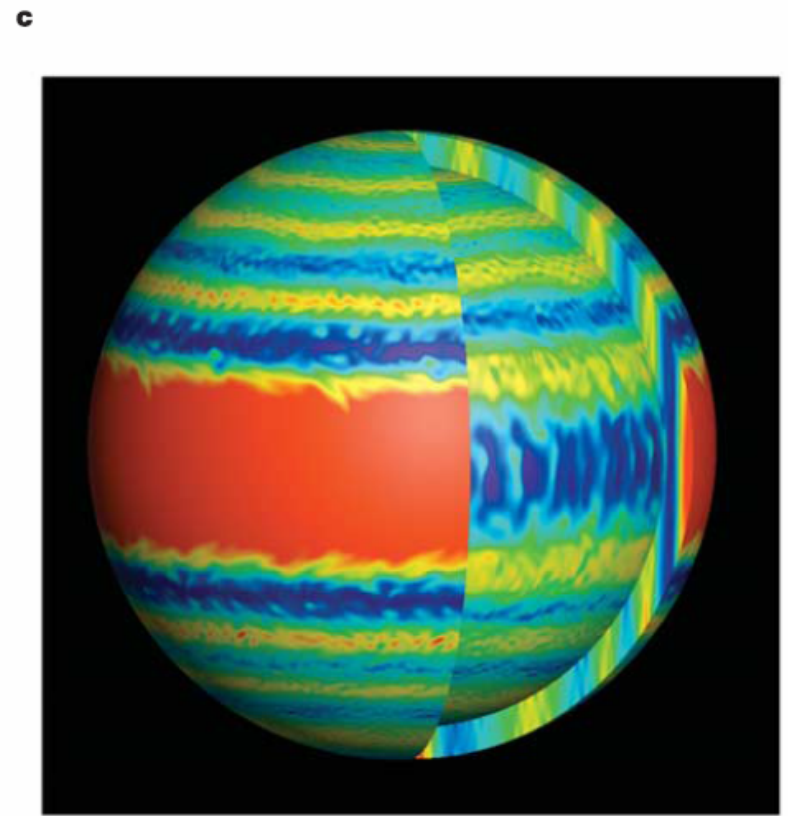
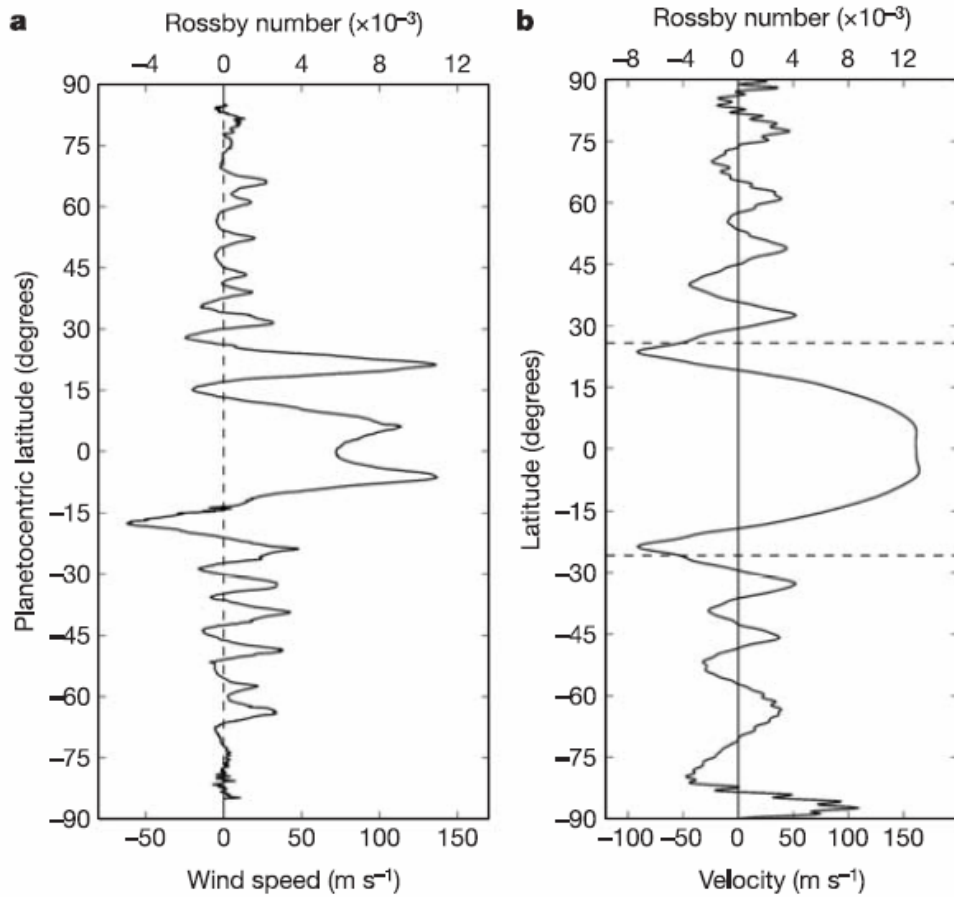
*Nature, 1994*



*G.P. Williams, JAS 1978 et seq.,  
Yoden & Yamada JAS 93*

Jets, shallow and deep:

*Heimpel, Arnou & Wicht, Nature 2005*

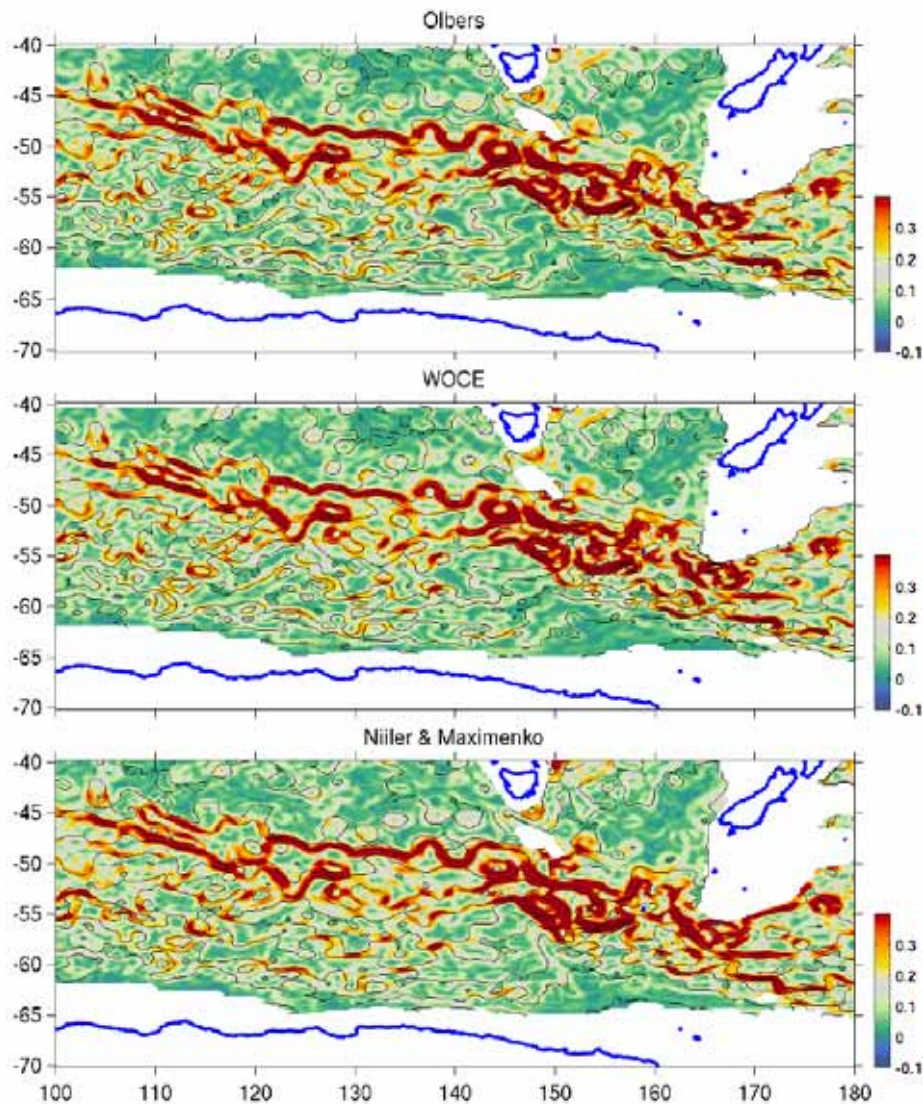


## Multiple jets of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current south of Australia

*Sokolov & Rintoul 2007:*

the three classic water-mass boundary fronts are fragmented into multiple filaments.

Sea-surface height gradient, Southern Ocean, with 3 different choices of time-averaged flow



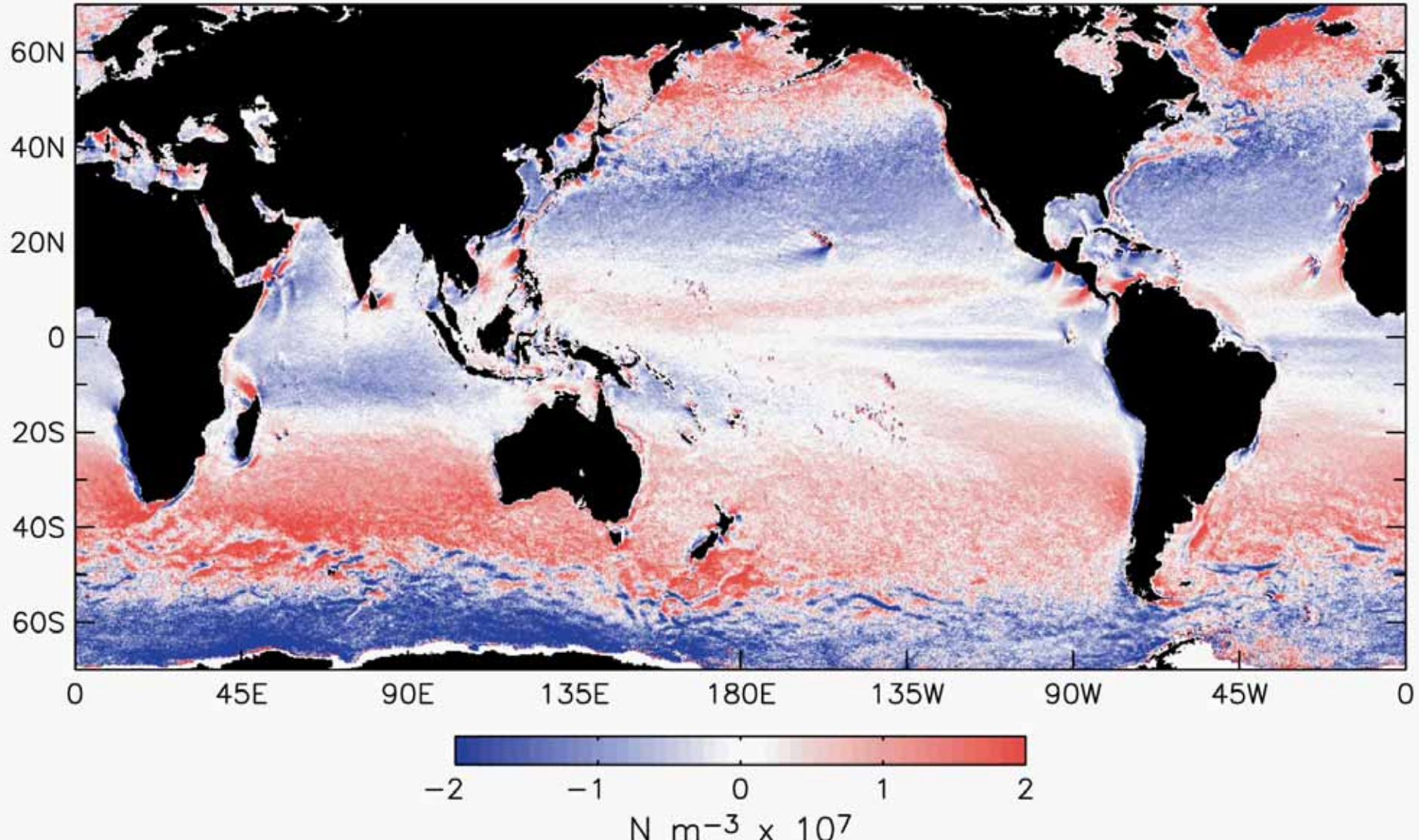
**Figure A2.** Total SSH gradient (anomaly + mean field) on 11 November 1992 using three different mean fields (color). The optimal contours  $\zeta_i$  (determined from the fits to the 12-year sequence of SSH gradient maps) are overlaid on each map (black contours).

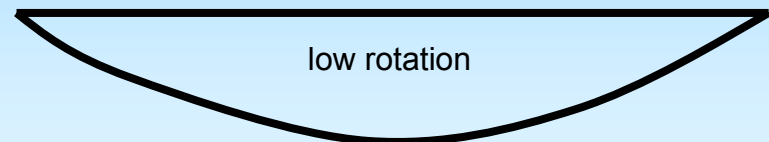
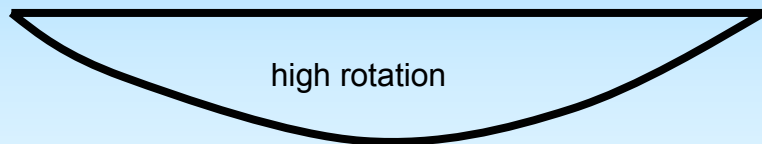
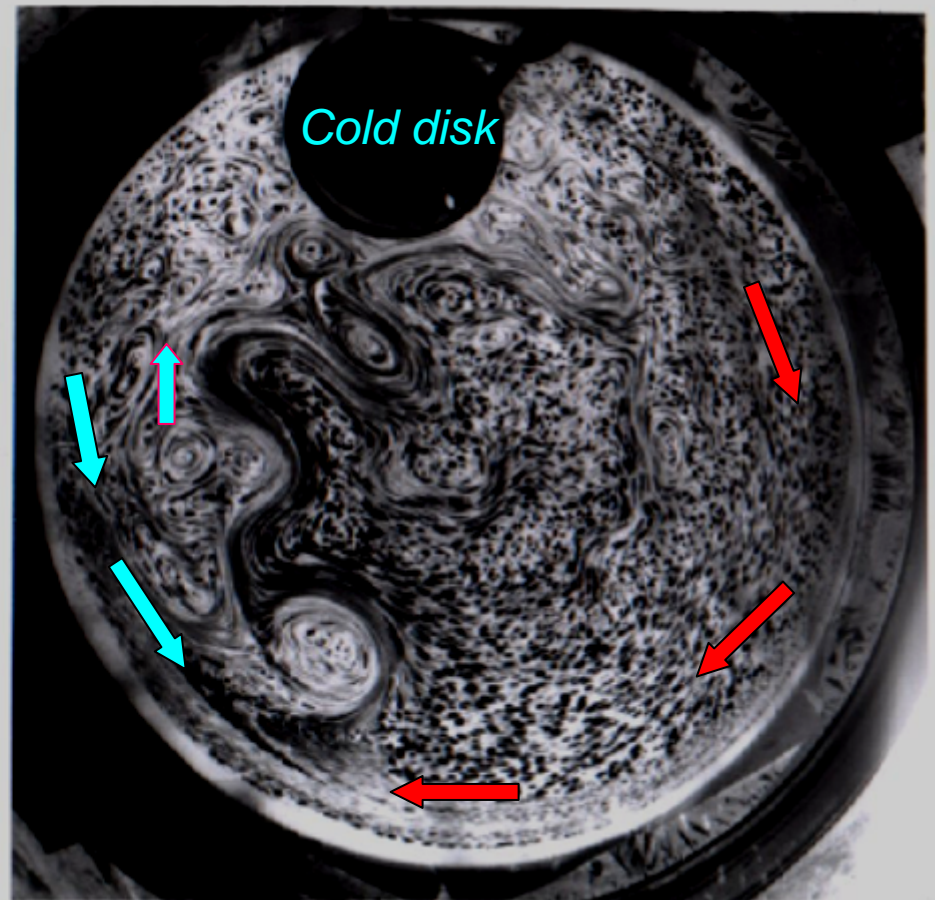
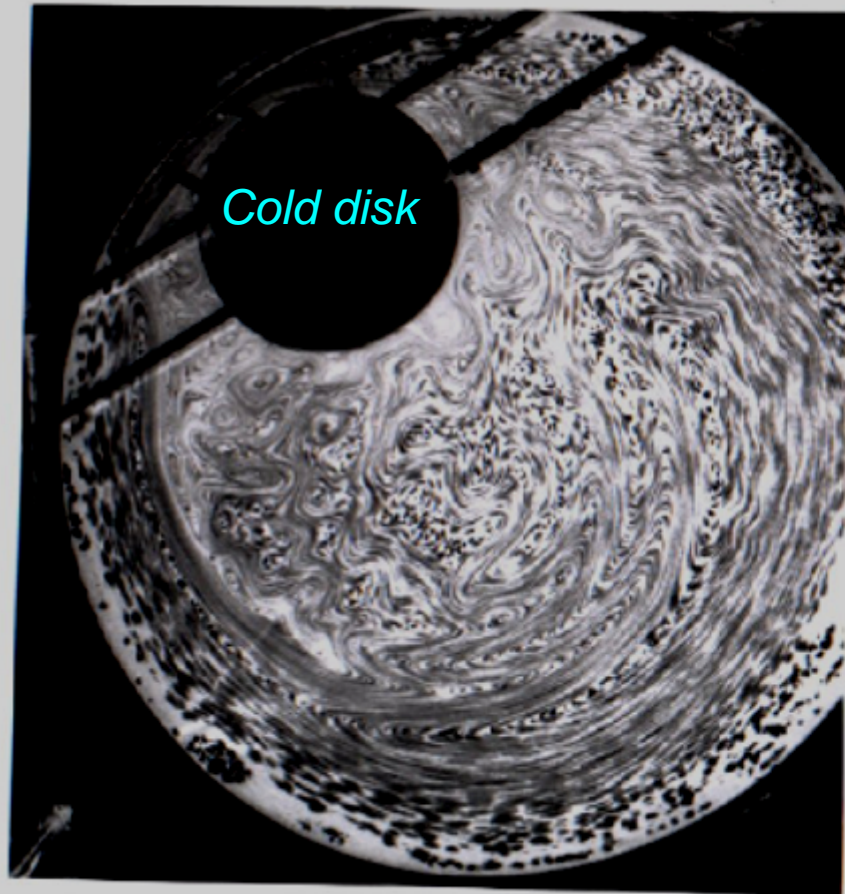


*Chelton, Schlax, Freilich & Miliff Science 2004*  
4-year mean wind curl from QuikSCAT winds:

persistent topographically related ocean frontal SST=>wind stress modification

## Wind Stress Curl





*Jets occur in rotating fluids for many reasons, here driven by thermal convection in a bowl-shaped basin. The jets in the lefthand image occur due to the very strong topographic PV gradient, at high rotation (low Rossby number).*

*Condie & Rhines 'Topographic Hadley Cells' JFM 1994; Rhines 'Jets' CHAOS 1994.*

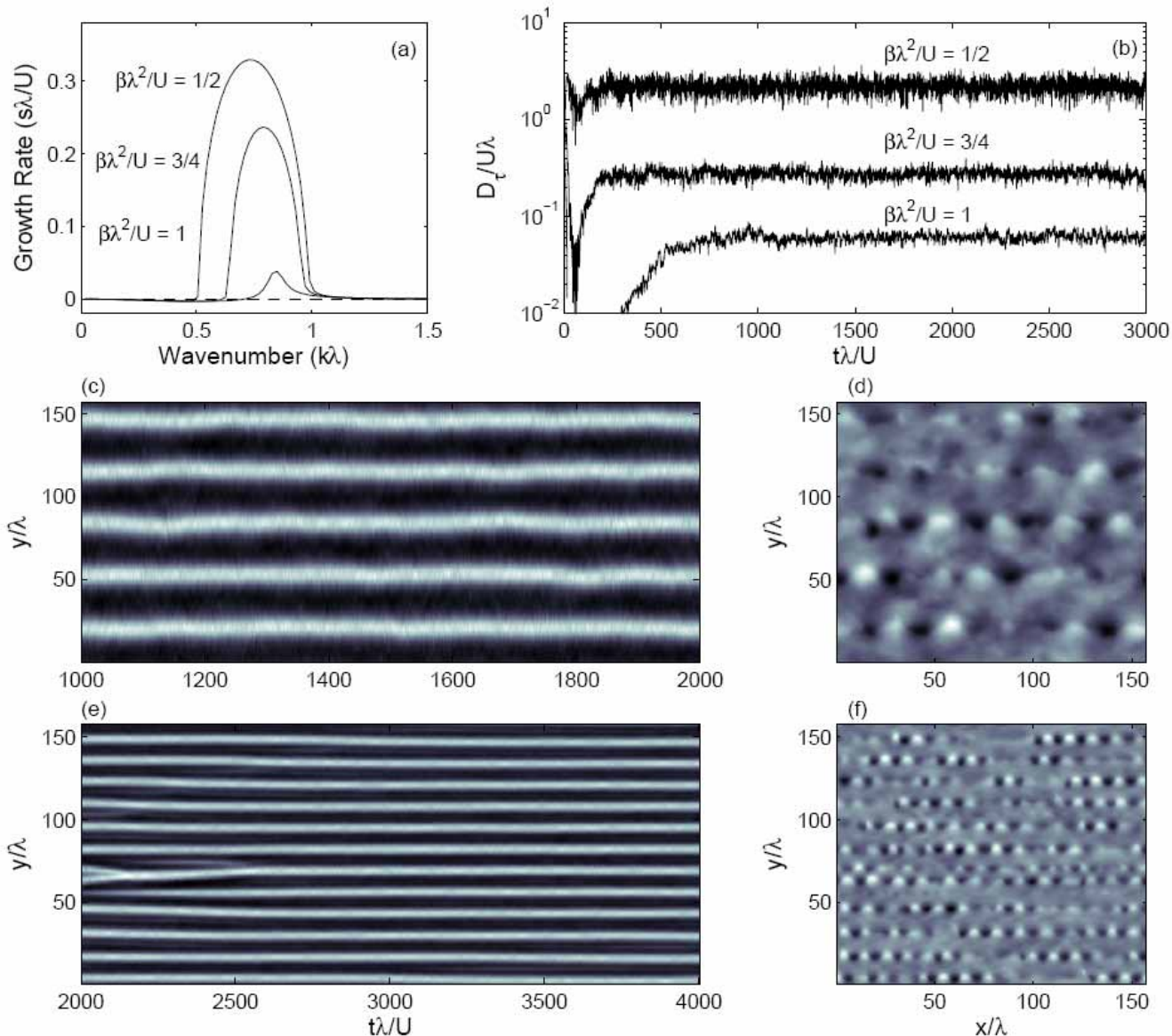
Zonal channel with  $\beta$ -effect: turbulence makes jets

2-layer model,  
*Thompson & Young*  
*JAS to appear 2007*

Bottom friction is essential in limiting amplitude of circulation and heat flux

Local inhomogeneity generated by the spontaneous formation of zonal jets limits the traditional use of turbulent diffusivities to describe domain-averaged eddy fluxes.

$\beta\lambda^2/U=1/2$  upper, 1 lower

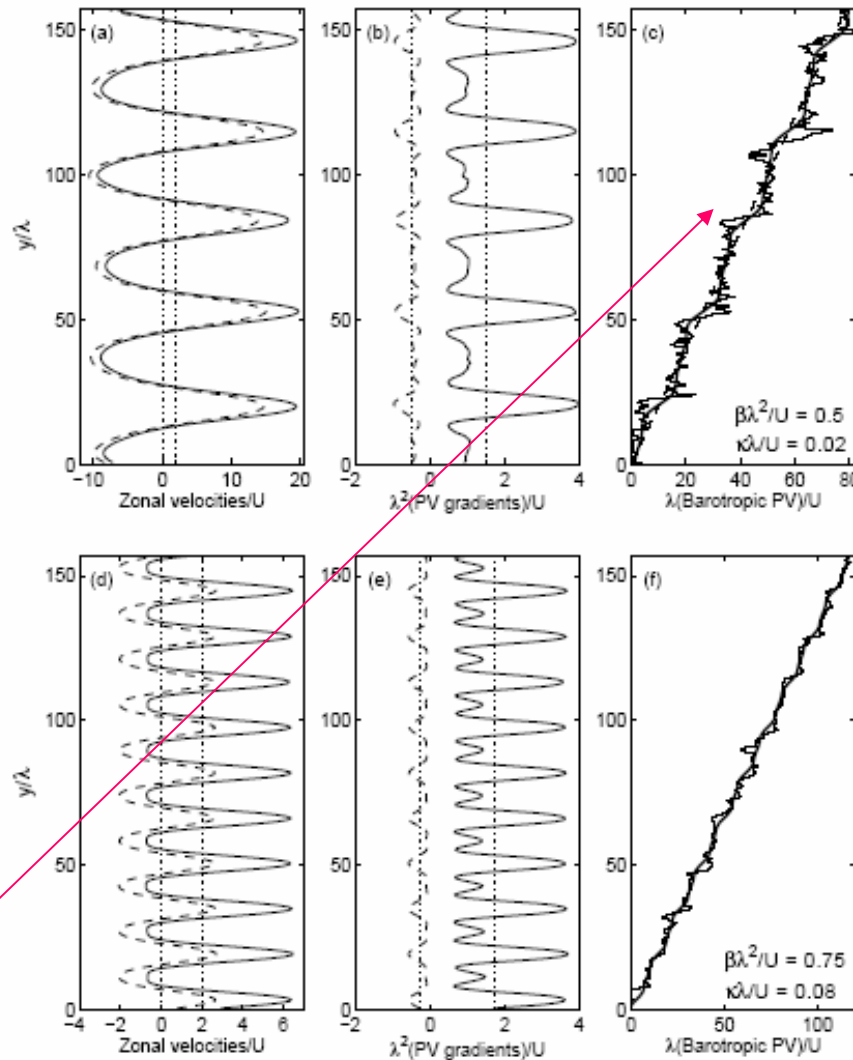


$U_1, U_2$  $d(PV)/dy$ 

PV vs. lat

zonal velocity  
and meridional  
PV structure,  
baroclinic instability  
driven 2-layer  
channel flow

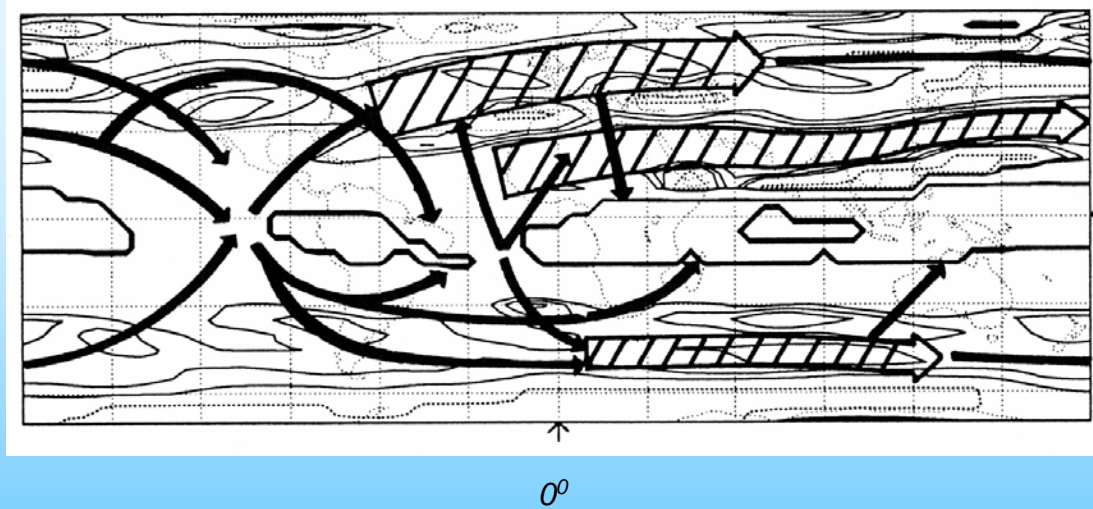
The upper layer  
is more wavelike and  
zonal jets are more  
effective barriers to  
transport at upper levels  
(Greenslade & Haynes  
2006). The lower layer,  
on the other hand, is  
more turbulent and  
allows larger excursions  
across the jet paths.



$\beta\lambda^2/U = .5$   
 $\kappa\lambda/U = .02$

$\beta\lambda^2/U = .75$   
 $\kappa\lambda/U = .08$

*PV staircase*



Hoskins+Ambrizzi  
JAS 93

15 JULY 2002

BRANSTATOR

1899

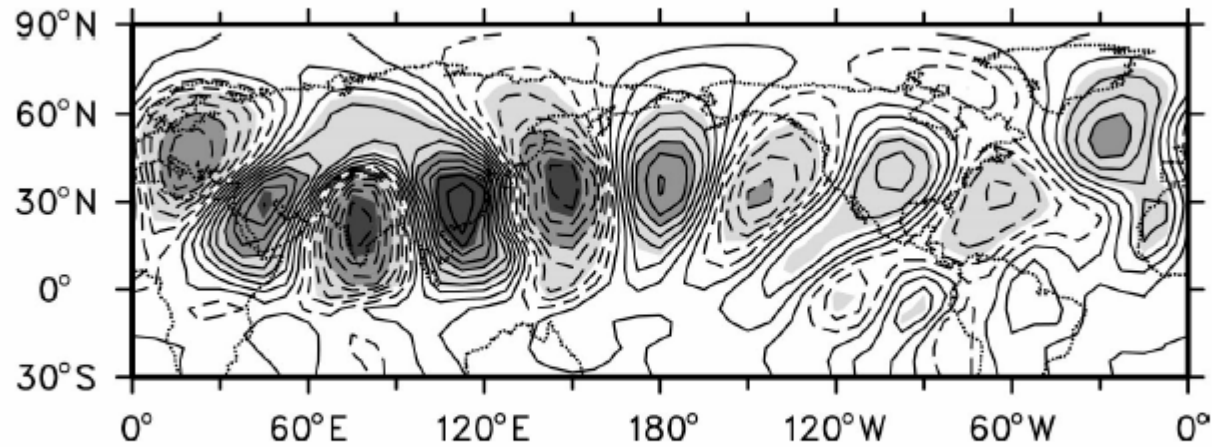


FIG. 4. One-point correlation plot for CCM3 mean Dec–Feb (DJF) 300-mb nondivergent  $v$  wind component internal variability for a base point at (28.9°N, 112.5°E). Contour interval is 0.1.

Branstator *JClimate* 02

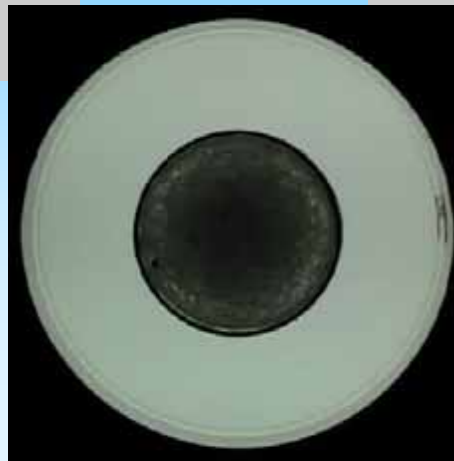
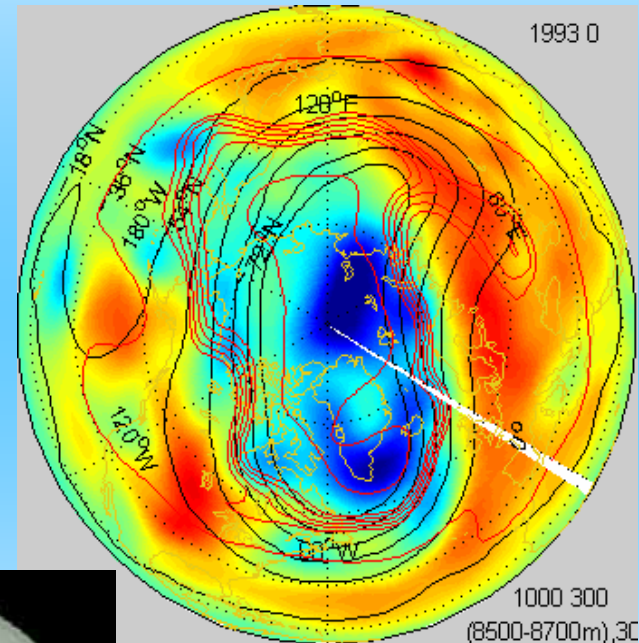
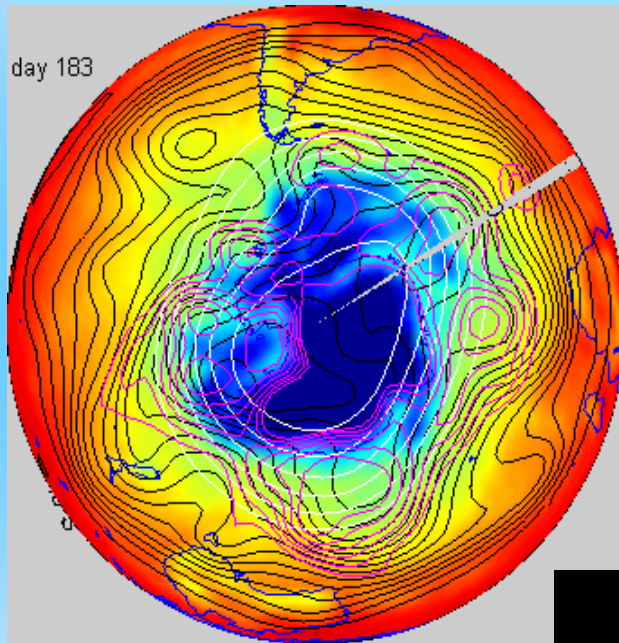
- JETS: elongated, intense, often persistent fluid flows. (from word ‘jut’ as jut out, Latin ‘jactare’, to throw or cast) .
- TRADITIONAL dynamical view: formation through baroclinic instability of a broad, tilted water- or air-mass boundary, with frontogenesis at lower boundary or tropopause.
- turbulent fluid view: stirring of potential vorticity (PV) leads to momentum flux that concentrates jets and balances with far-distant countercurrents. Spontaneous jet formation in a channel with a source of energy (wind, baroclinic instability) (*Taylor 1915, Dickinson 1969 JAS, Rhines 1977, Rhines & Holland 1979*)
- downstream development view, *Chang et al. (2004 J Clim), Hoskins & Simmons...* baroclinic wave-packets
- wavy view: Rossby wave propagation occurs on surfaces with PV gradients...due to  $\beta$ , topography, sloping isopycnal surfaces, velocity shear
- topographic view: strong mountainous topography is a PV anomaly that can focus broad zonal flows into intense jets and give zonal structure to principal annular modes (*e.g. Taguchi & Yoden 2002, Rhines 2007 JAS*)

Momentum transport by the waves sharpens jets, and barotropizes the mean flow. In fact, the basis of baroclinic instability lies in counter-propagating Rossby waves, one above the other, yet the basics of jet formation involve the reaction to PV stirring, which is nonlinear, perhaps turbulent

*FP Bretherton QJRMS 1966, Methven et al. QJRMS 2005,6, Rhines The Sea 1977, DAO 1979, Chaos 1994*

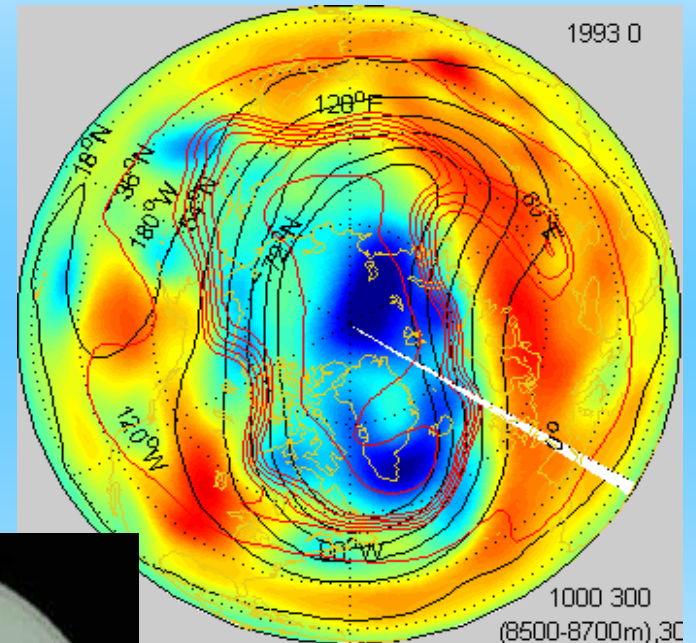
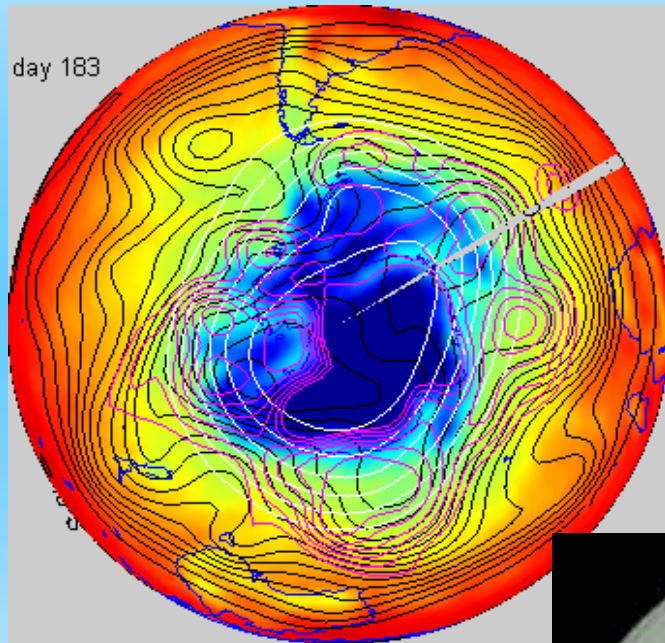
- Jetstream and storm track in the Atlantic:
  - concentration of meridional energy/moisture transport.
  - leap-frog exchange of meridional energy/moisture transport with oceanic MOC
  - long distance communication via the jet stream waveguide
  - role of standing wave field: **sybiosis of jets and eddies**
  - PV stirring and water mass boundaries: jet makers
  - topographic jet generation
  
- Atlantic subpolar ocean gyre: driven by (and driving) the atmospheric storm track and its Greenlandic focus
  - satellite altimeter view of surface circulation
    - where does the warm water flow north to reach the Nordic Seas and feed the MOC?
    - SSH : trend and eof structure showing deceleration and shrinkage of SP gyre
      - yet connection with deep MOC outflow not known
    - EKE
  - surface drifter view
    - Lagrangian and Eulerian circulation
    - ➔ hydrography, heat and fresh-water flux: the warm, saline invasion of the Nordic Seas
    - transport and transformation on the  $\theta/S$  plane

Southern hemisphere and northern hemisphere circulations:  
 (dynamic height at 1000 Hpa (colors: blue = low pressure cyclones, red=high pressure anticyclones), 300 Hpa, 30 Hpa 1993  
 (NH), 1996 (SH) winters, 100 days each



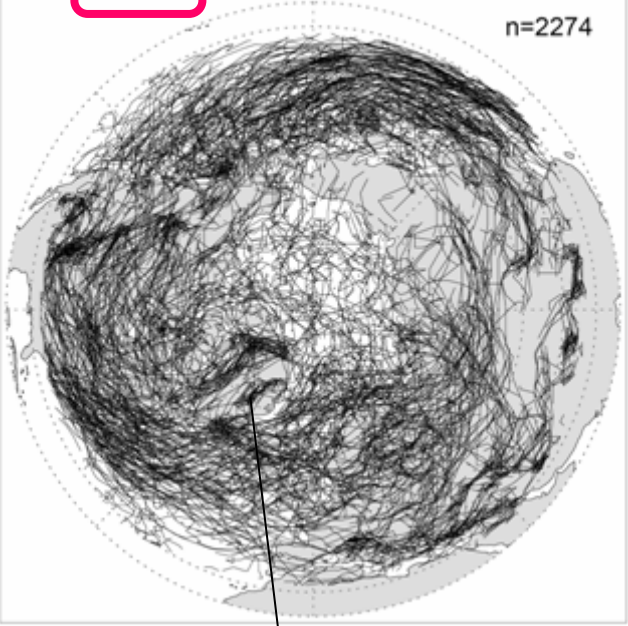


Southern hemisphere and northern hemisphere circulations:  
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(NH), 1996 (SH) winters, 100 days each



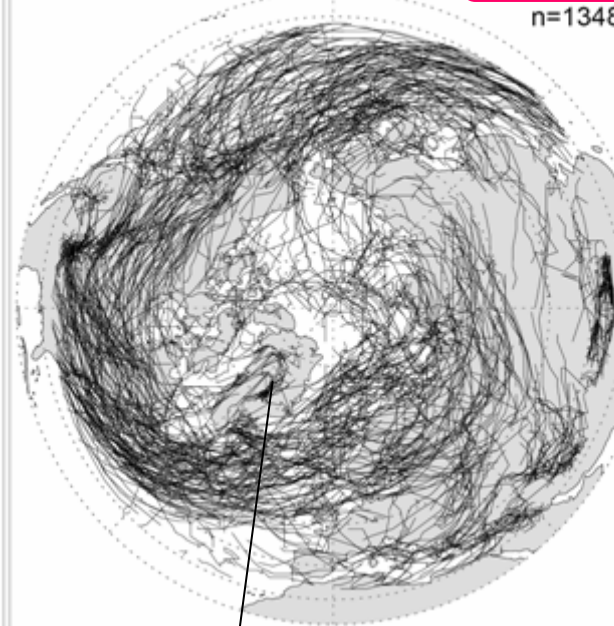
(a) ERA-40 DJFM 1998-2000 (T95L60)

n=2274



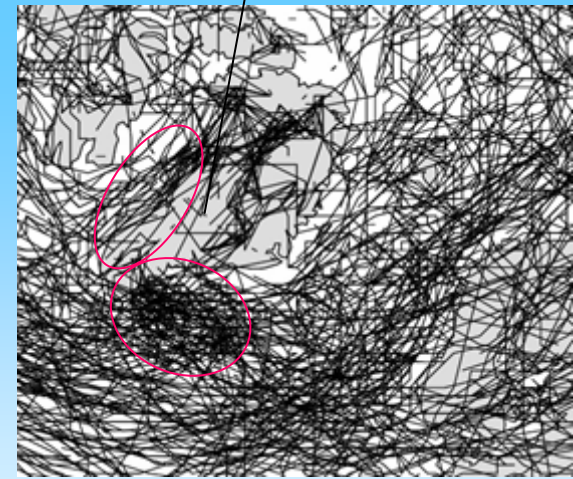
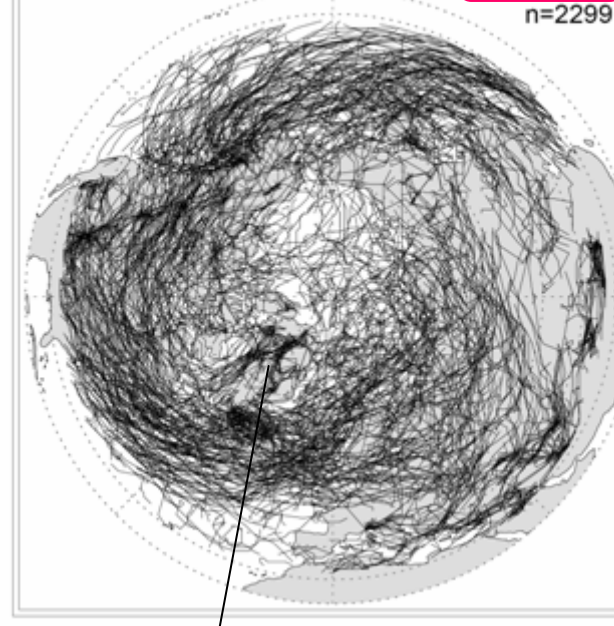
(b) Model DJFM 1998-2000 (T95L60)

n=1348



(d) Model DJFM 1998-2000 (T255L40)

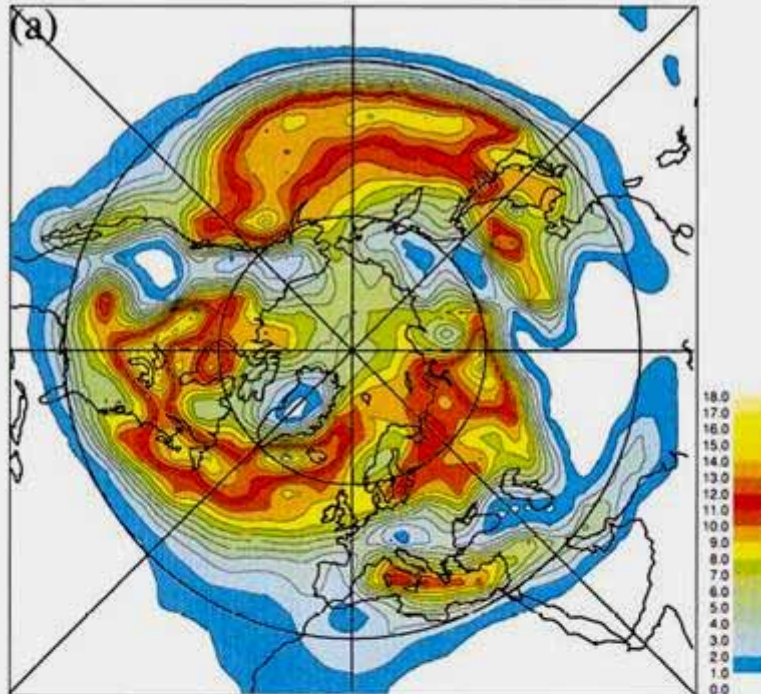
n=2299



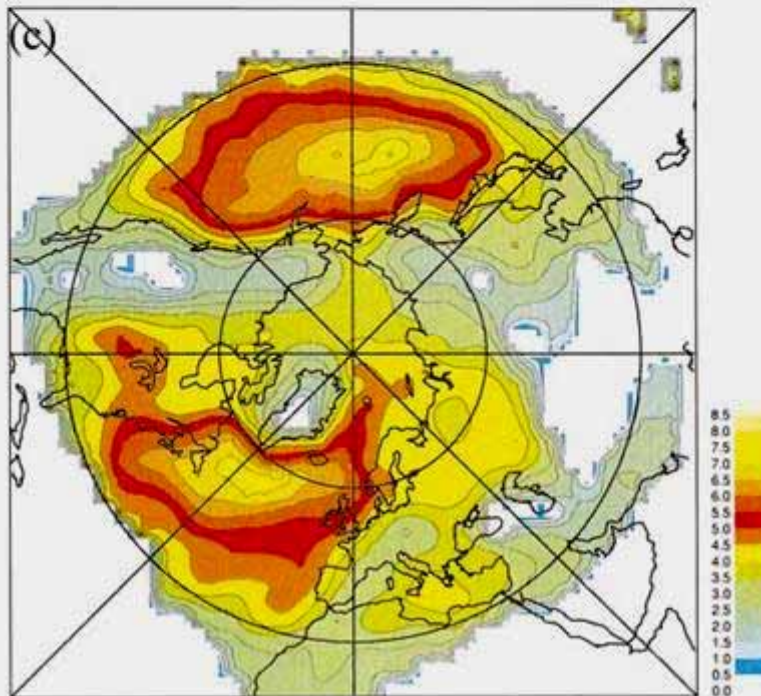
Cyclogenesis west of Greenland, lee cyclogenesis east of Cape Farewell, strong penetration of storms into the Arctic

Hoskins & Hodges  
(MWR 2003)  
storm tracks based  
on vorticity

track density



mean intensity



Annular modes with  
wavenumber-1  
sinusoidal topography

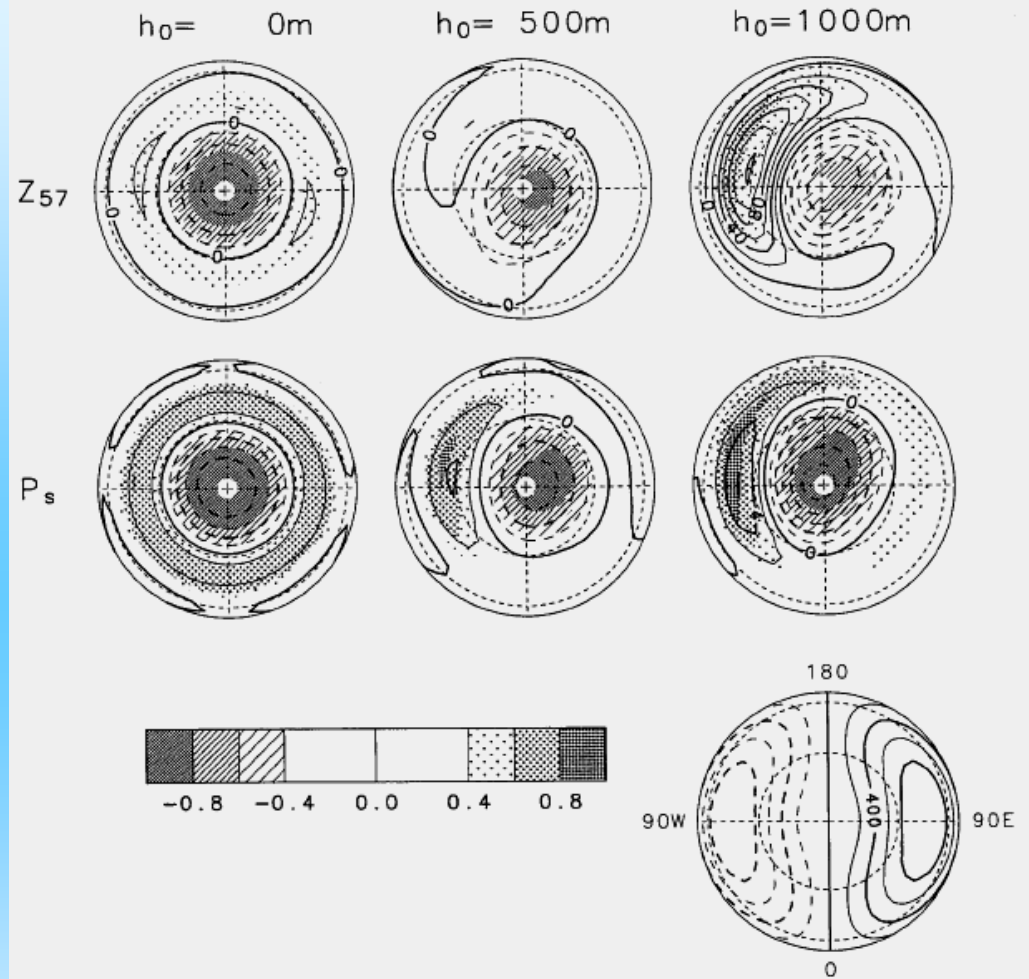
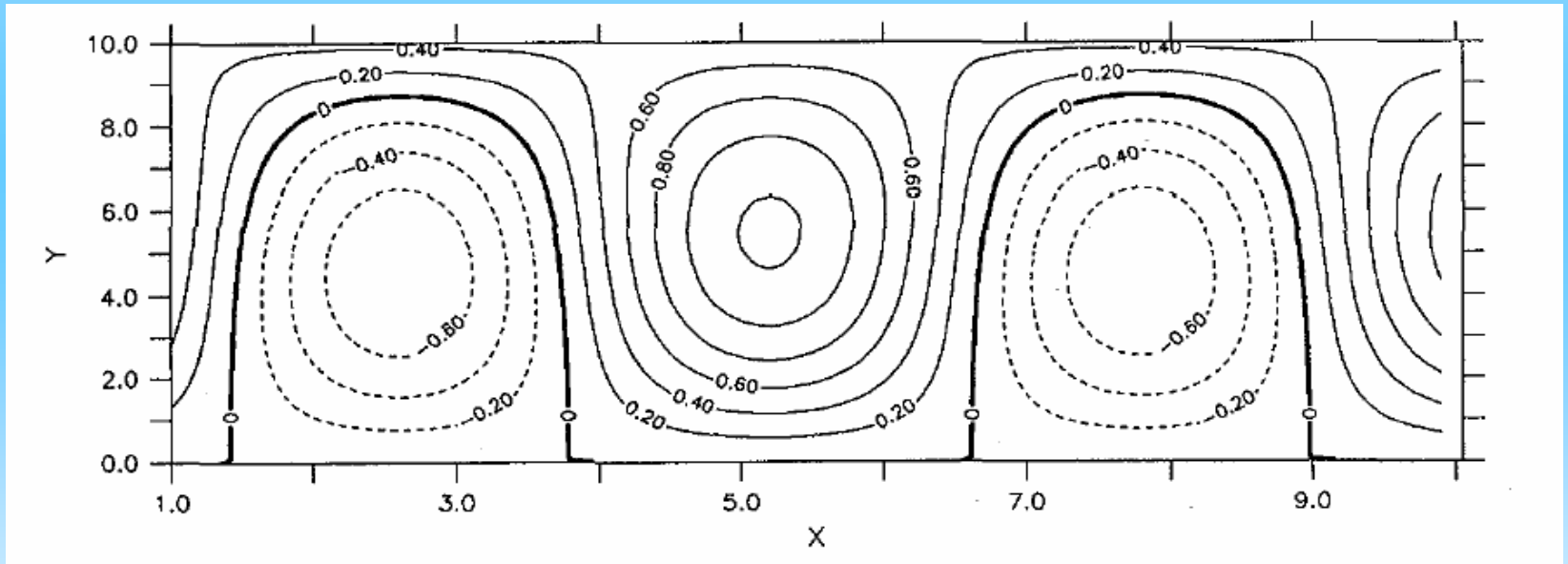
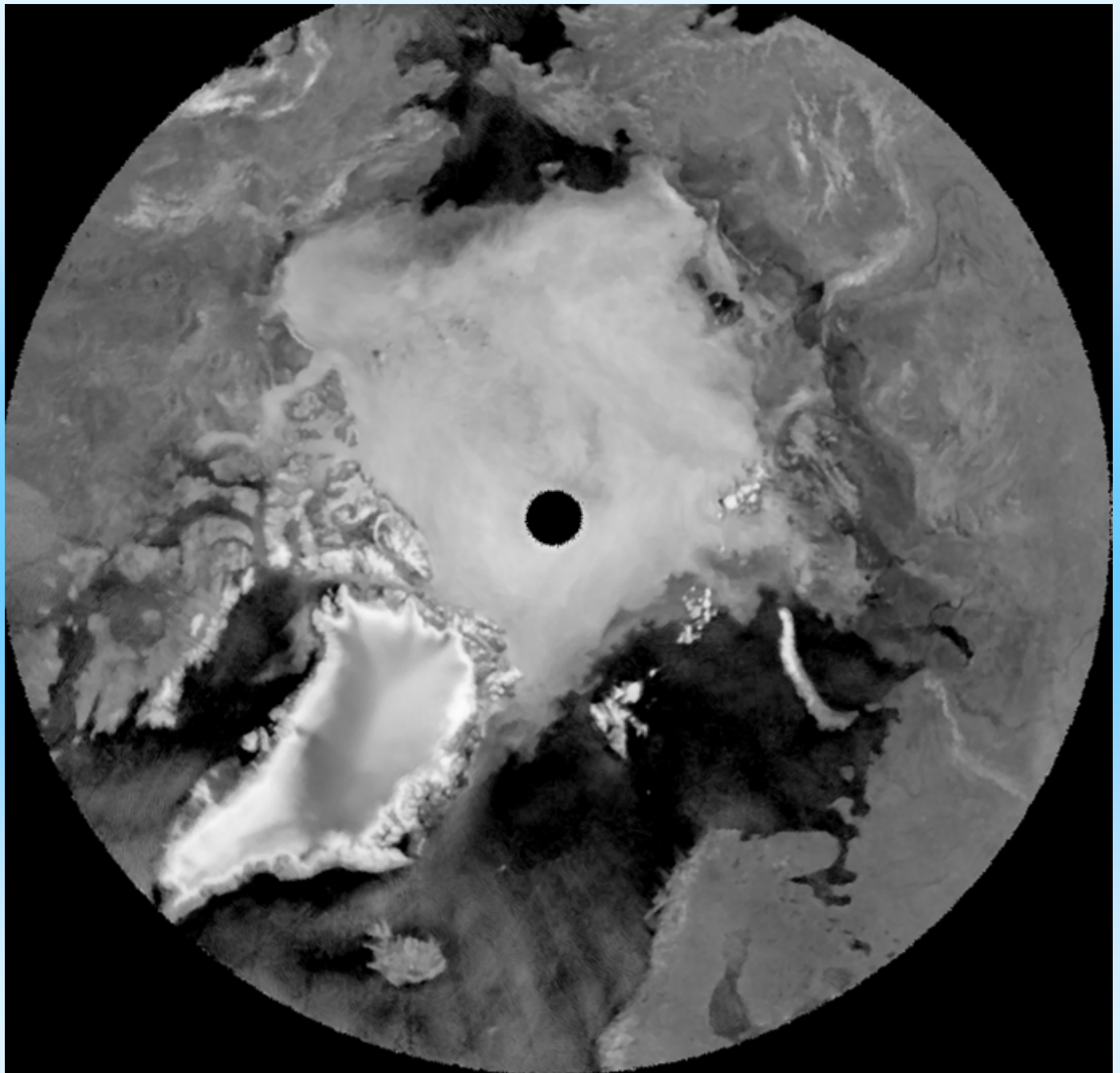


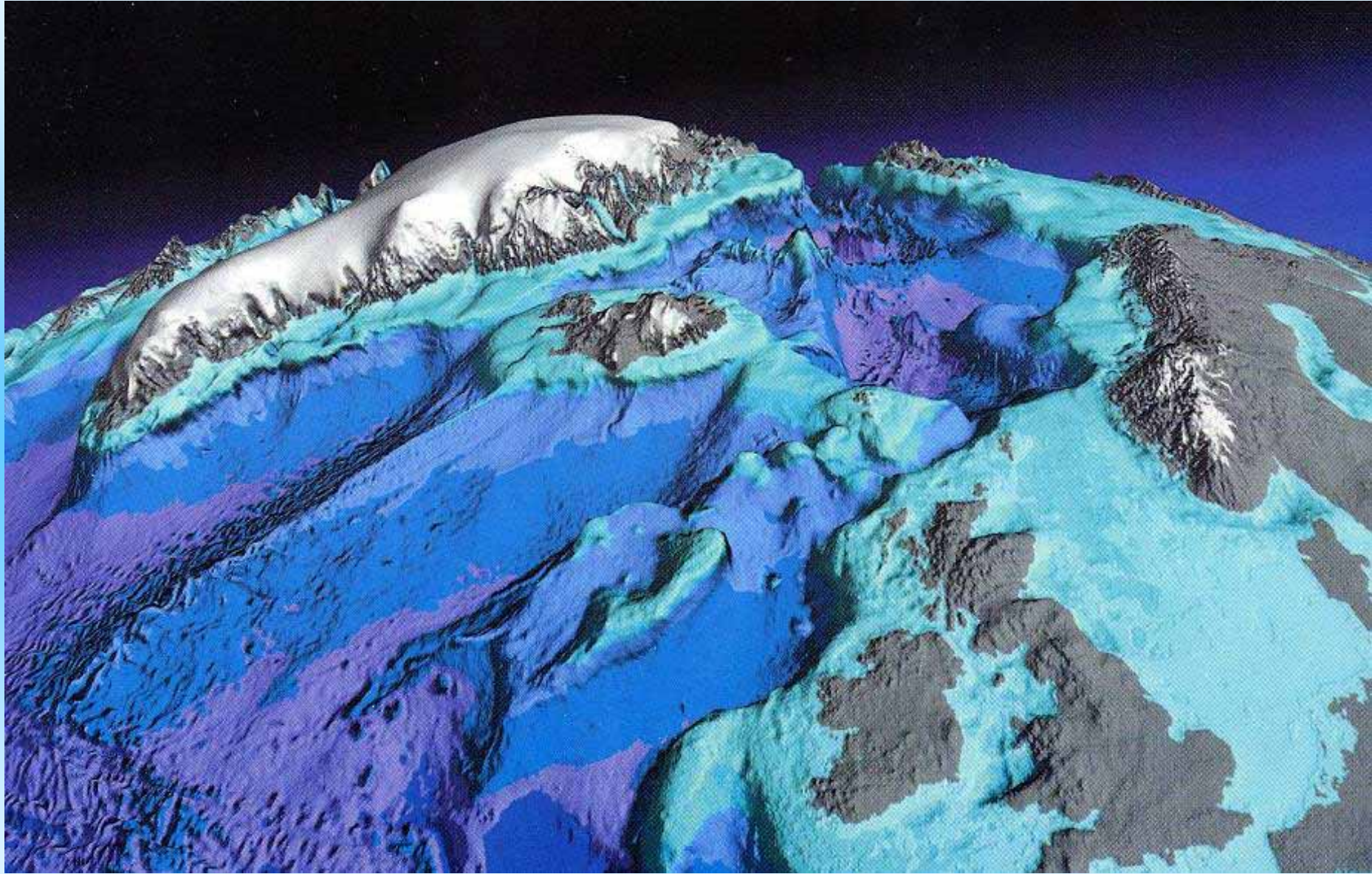
Fig. 1. Geopotential height at  $p = 57$  hPa,  $Z_{57}$  (top) and surface pressure,  $P_s$  (middle) regressed onto the AV index in the three runs of  $h_0 = 0$  m, 500 m, and 1000 m (left to right). Contour intervals are 20 m for  $Z_{57}$  and 2 hPa for  $P_s$ . Correlations with the AV index are also shown by shades. The surface topography for  $h_0 = 1000$  m is shown in the right-bottom panel, with a contour interval of 200 m. Dotted circles in each panel denote the latitudes of  $\phi = 30^\circ\text{N}$  and  $60^\circ\text{N}$ , and outermost solid circle does  $\phi = 20^\circ\text{N}$ .

kinematically, you can make a pair meandering jet by simply adding a zonal flow to a barotropic eddy train,

$$U = Az + B \cos(kx) \cos(ly)$$



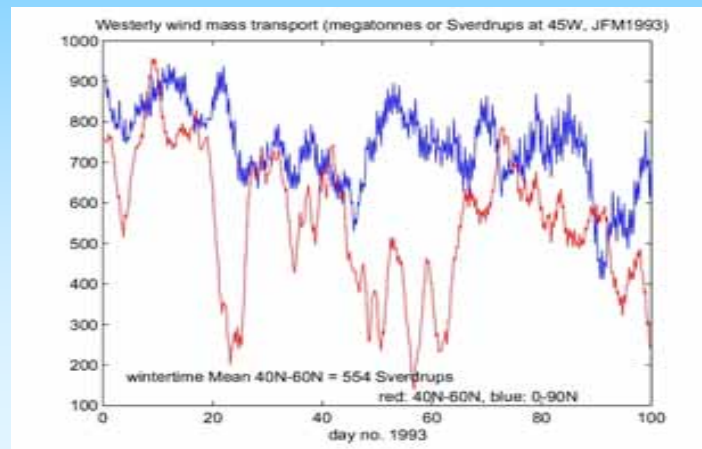
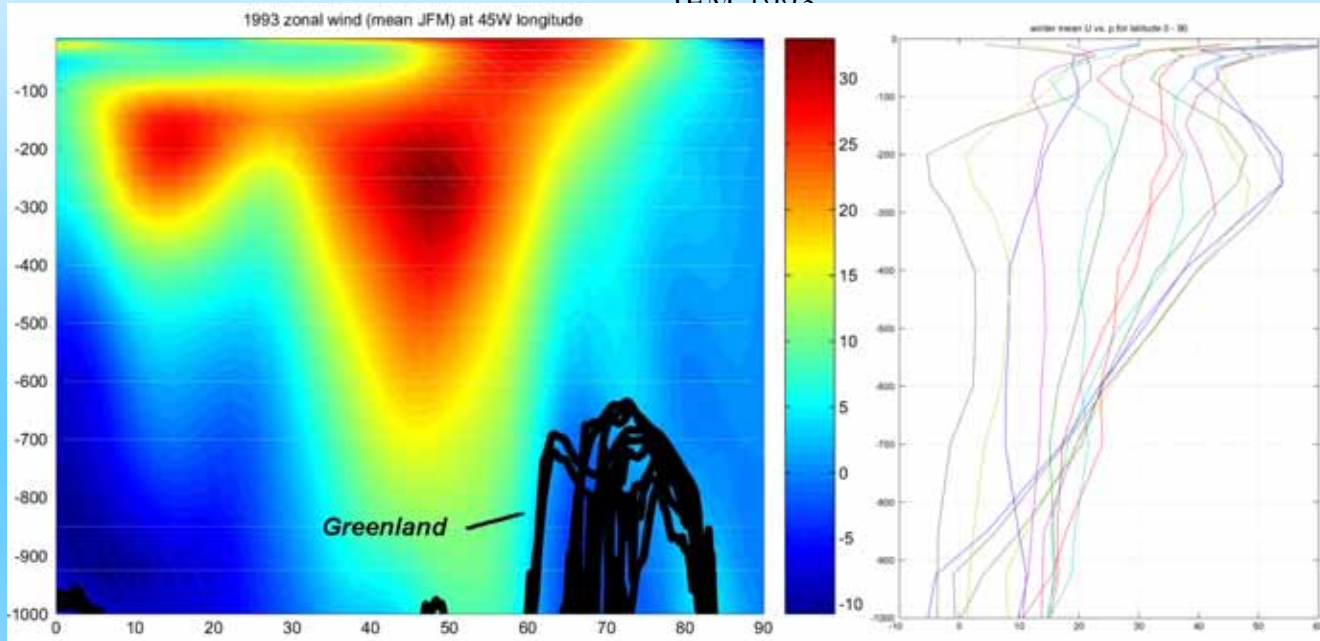




*AGU, 2003*

zonal wind (m/sec) at 45W with Greenland topography

JFM 1993



“Svairdrups”



In eddy and jet studies, the prominence of topography comes from the process of *barotropization*, the cascade of energy toward tall, nearly barotropic structures

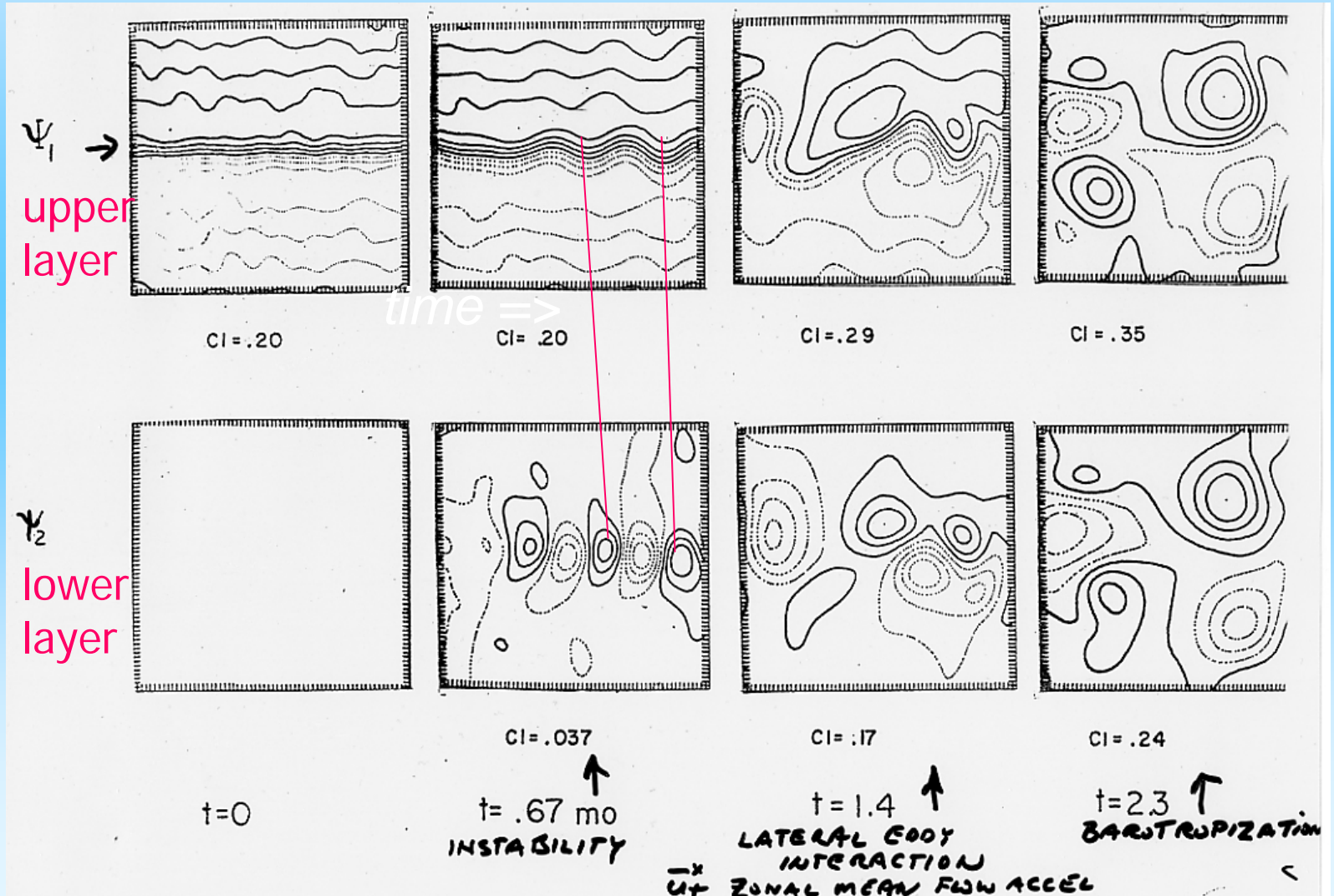
which can be viewed as a consequence of the enstrophy cascade (*the stretching of PV contours*) and/or of *merger of like-signed baroclinic vortices*. A key issue is whether fragmentation of PV continues or is terminated during the cascade (hard-core vs. soft-and-deformable vortices).

Dissipation limited: a weak dissipation example where it plays out fully is Larichev & Held, Held & Larichev (JAS 1996, JPO 1995)  $\beta$ -plane channel, yet Thompson and Young (JAS 2007 in press) argue that surface dissipation is controlling, and must appear in parameterization of meridional heat transport by jets

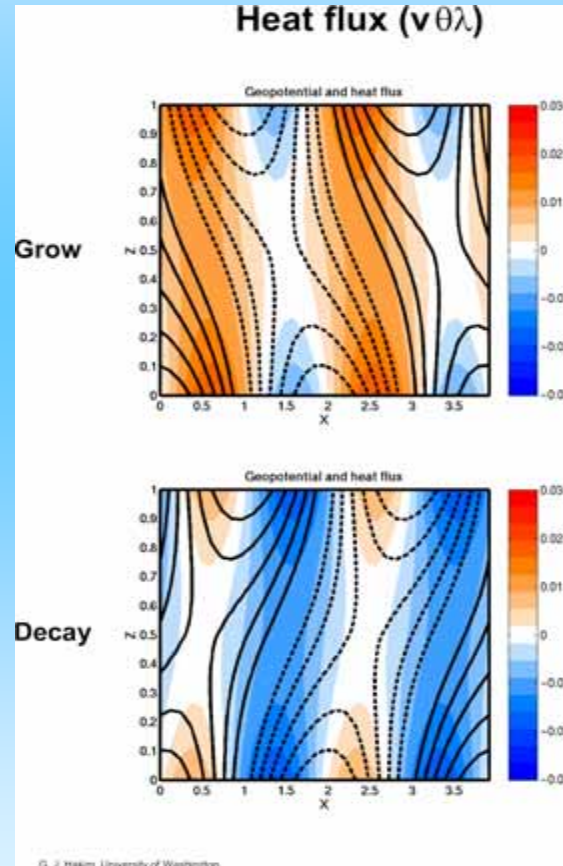
{This does not contradict the instability of columnar vortices of scale much smaller than the deformation radius (Dritschel & Ambaum Phys. Fluids 1999)  
}

*Barotropization of a two-layer zonal jet (Rhines, The Sea, 6, 1977)*

(as exemplified in EP flux analysis of 'baroclinic life-cycles' of the atmosphere); instability followed by eddy-eddy interaction, geostrophic turbulence cascade (taller, wider), *faster* barotropic Rossby wave radiation.



# Heat flux ( $v\theta\lambda$ )



© J. Hakim, University of Washington

Hakim, AS542 UW

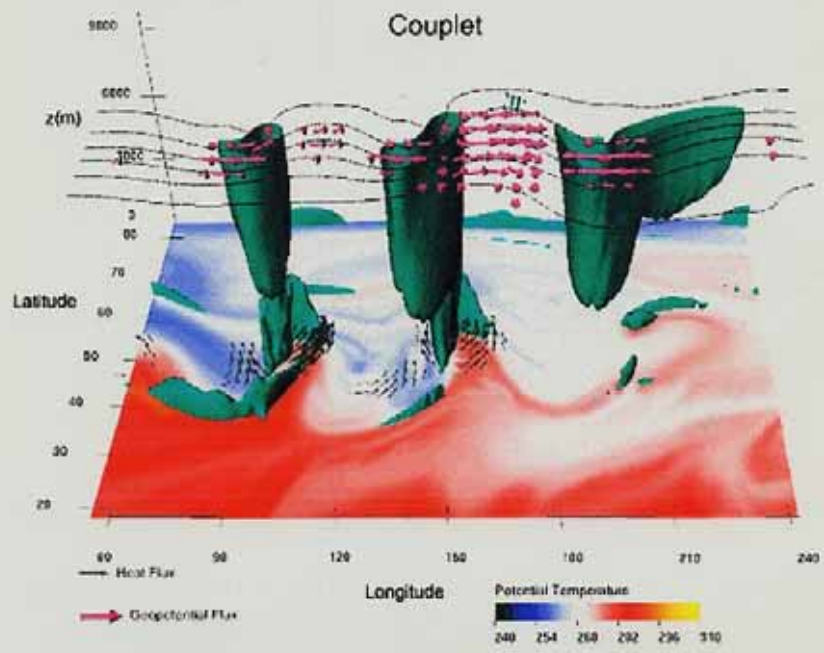
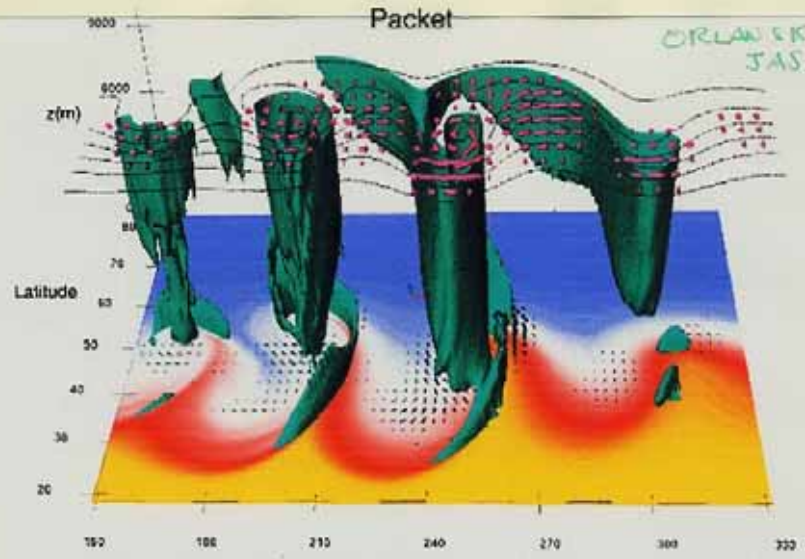


Fig. 7.1 Two distinct storm track patterns are identified: (top) the "packet" structure, in which the low-pressure center at the leading edge is organized by the geopotential flux...

Topographic flows: we now introduce the effects of mountainous topography, which owing to the 'vertical stiffness' imparted by rotation, is greatly influential. On an f-plane, the Rossby number,  $U/fL$ , topographic height and Froude number  $Nh/U$  are key parameters.

(i) 2D stratified flow over bump of height  $h$  (buoyancy freq  $N$  upstream flow  $U$ )

$Nh/U$  (ii) 3D stratified flow ...over or around

$Nh/U$  crit  $\sim 2$

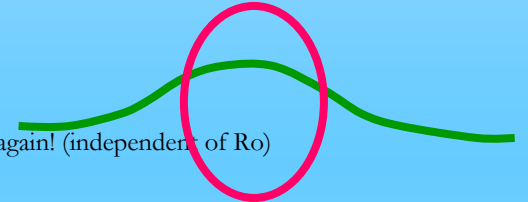
(Schaer+Durran, JAS 1997)

dispersive lee waves softens the 'sharp' hydraulic effects

(iii) f-plane rotation, unstratified: Taylor column dynamics

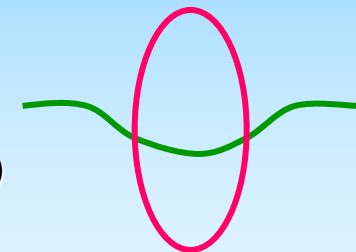
flows 'around' if  $h/H > Ro$  ( $Ro = U/fL$ ).

(iv) f-plane rotation weakens blocking ( $Nh/U$  crit  $\Rightarrow 3$ ) Taylor column  $\Rightarrow$  Taylor cone  $Nh/U > 1$  again! (independent of  $Ro$ )



## (v) $\beta$ -plane flows

- large-scale potential vorticity (PV) gradient
- contours of constant background PV ( $f/h = \text{const}$ ) bend Equatorward over a ridge, locating a *cyclone* over its crest for very slow flow
- dispersive lee waves, semi-circular wavecrests
- hydraulic structure in some limits (planetary geostrophic) where the waves are non-dispersive
- strong upstream blocking ('Lighthill mode') for  $\beta L^2/U > 1$



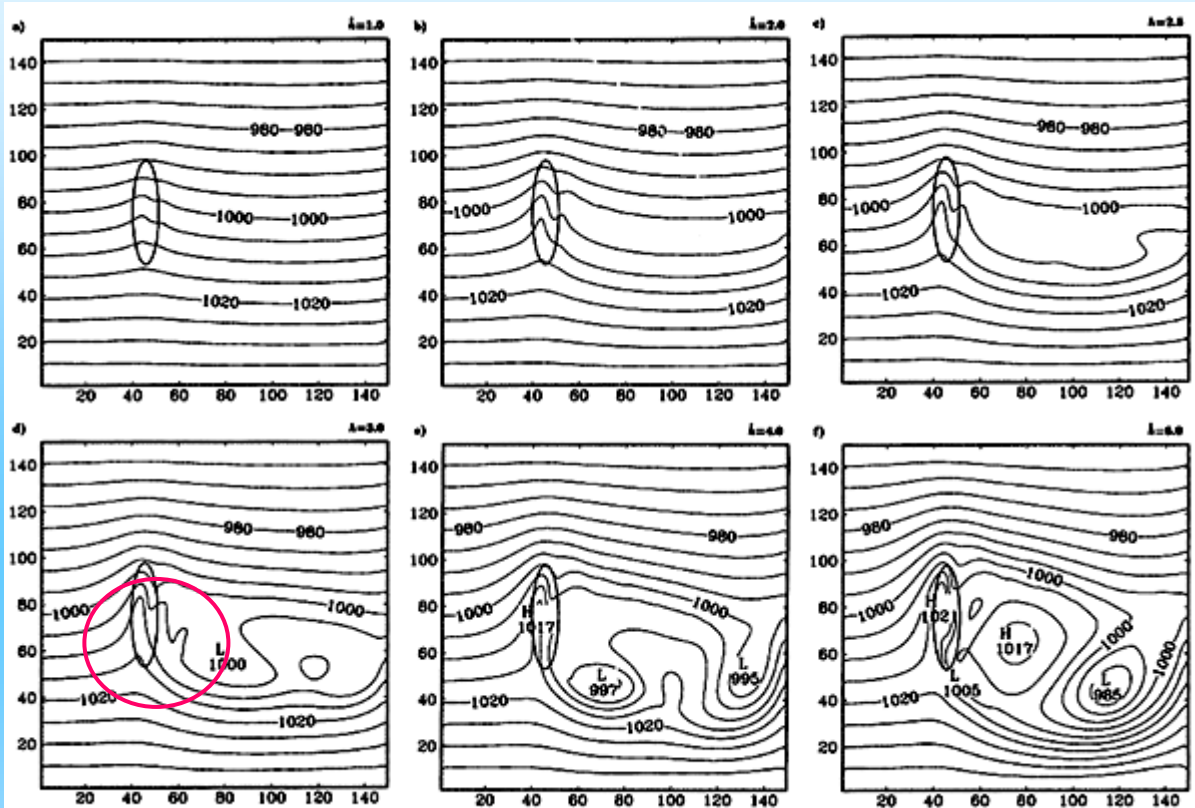


FIG. 2. The sea level pressure (hPa) for different values of  $\hat{k}$ , with  $r = 4$  and  $Ro = 0.42$ , at  $t^* = 43.2$ . (a)-(f) Values of  $\hat{k}$  at upper-right corner. Topography at  $0.35\hat{k}$ .

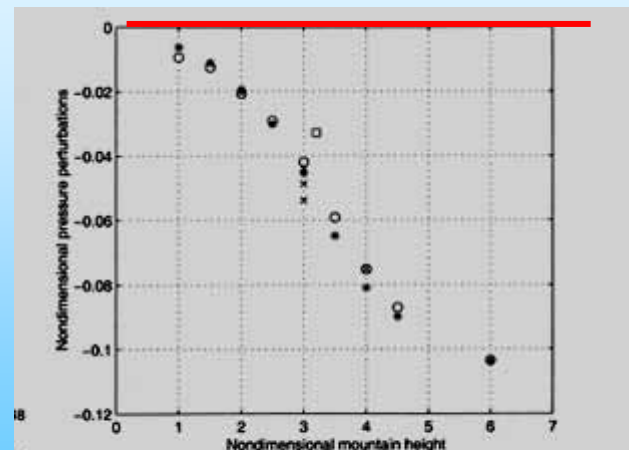


FIG. 5. Nondimensional max sea level pressure deficit downstream of the mountain as a function of  $\hat{h}$ . The perturbations are normalized by  $\rho_0 U \hat{L}_m$ , where  $\rho_0 = 1.2 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ . Simulations with  $N = 0.01 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $U = 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  (stars), with different combinations of  $N$  and  $\hat{h}$  (circles), and where  $U$  was varied (crosses) (see Table 1). The exgreen simulation (square).

$$Nh/U = 1, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 6$$

Petersen, Olafsson,  
Kristjansson  
JAS2003

**pressure drag** occurs when the anticyclone shifts upstream as wake vorticity is shed, placing the Equatorward flow over the lee downslope

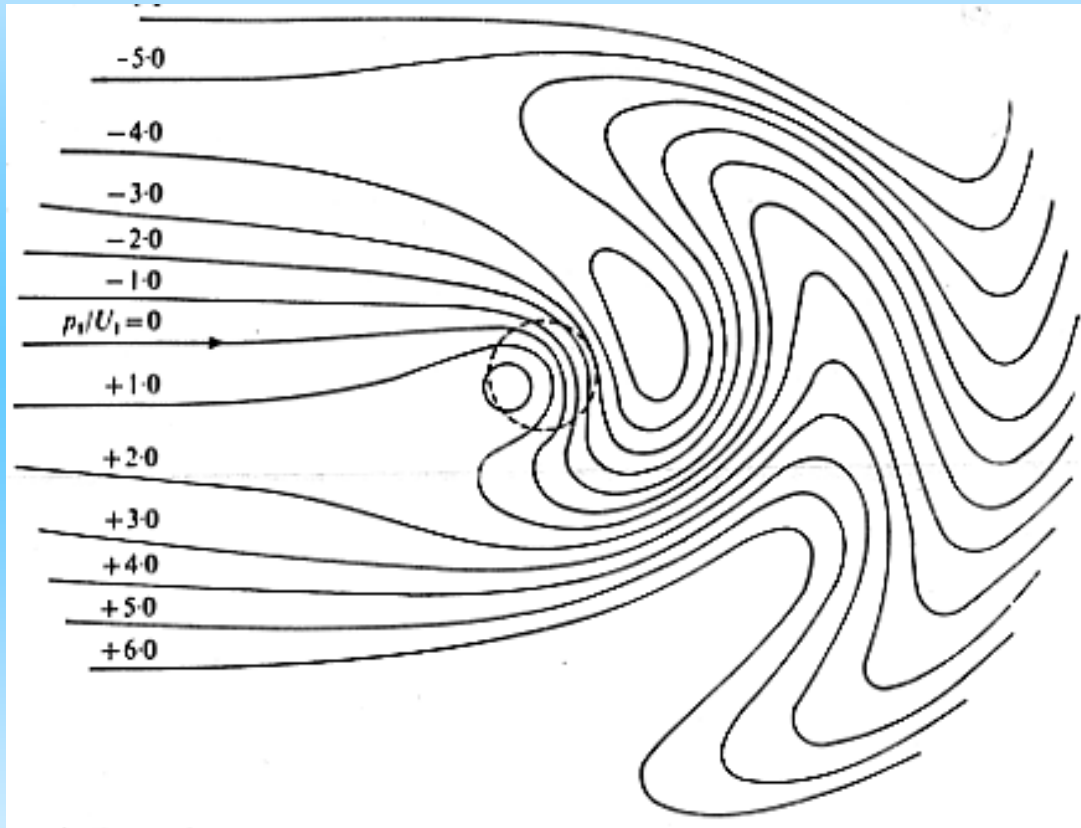
*Impulse (the time-integrated force on the solid Earth)*

is summed up by meridional PV flux:

$\langle q'v' \rangle$  which expresses the x-averaged force on

the Eulerian fluid along a latitude circle  $\sim (f/H) \langle h'v' \rangle$

Lee Rossby-waves in the wake of a cylindrical mountain (*McCartney JFM 1976*)



Rossby waves are ‘one-way’: their phase propagation has a westward component relative to the fluid: thus they exist as lee waves for an *eastward* flow but not a westward flow. Wave drag peaks at:

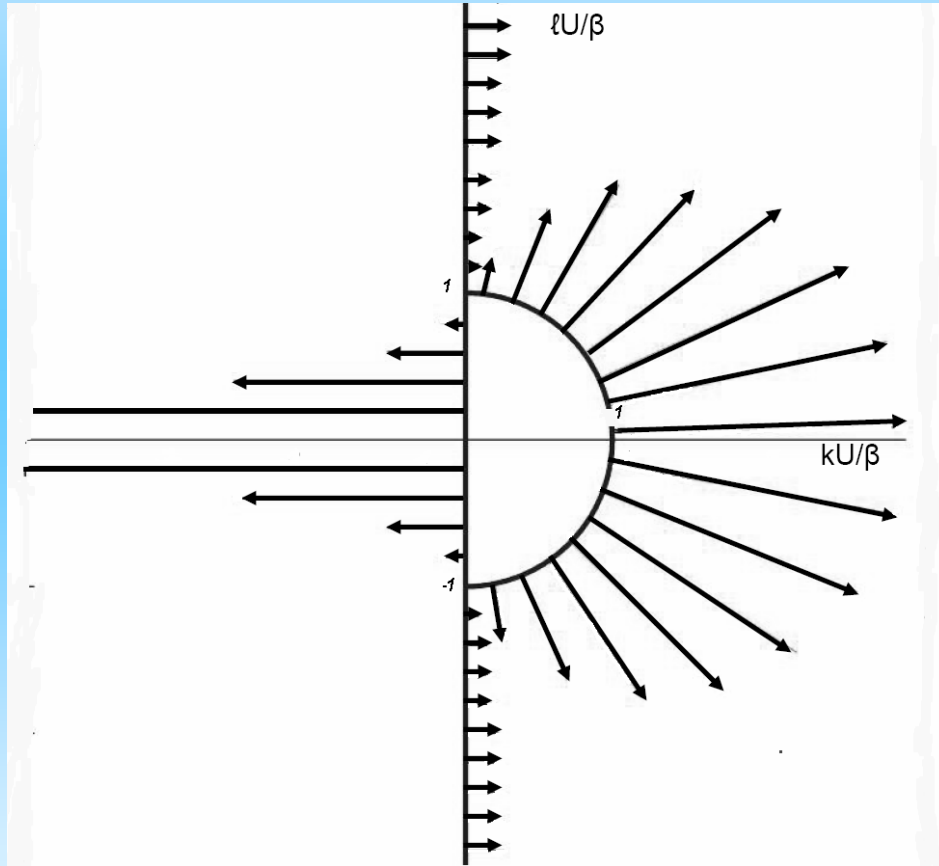
$8.2 \delta/\varepsilon$  times the ‘naive estimate’,

$$\rho f U L^2 \delta H$$

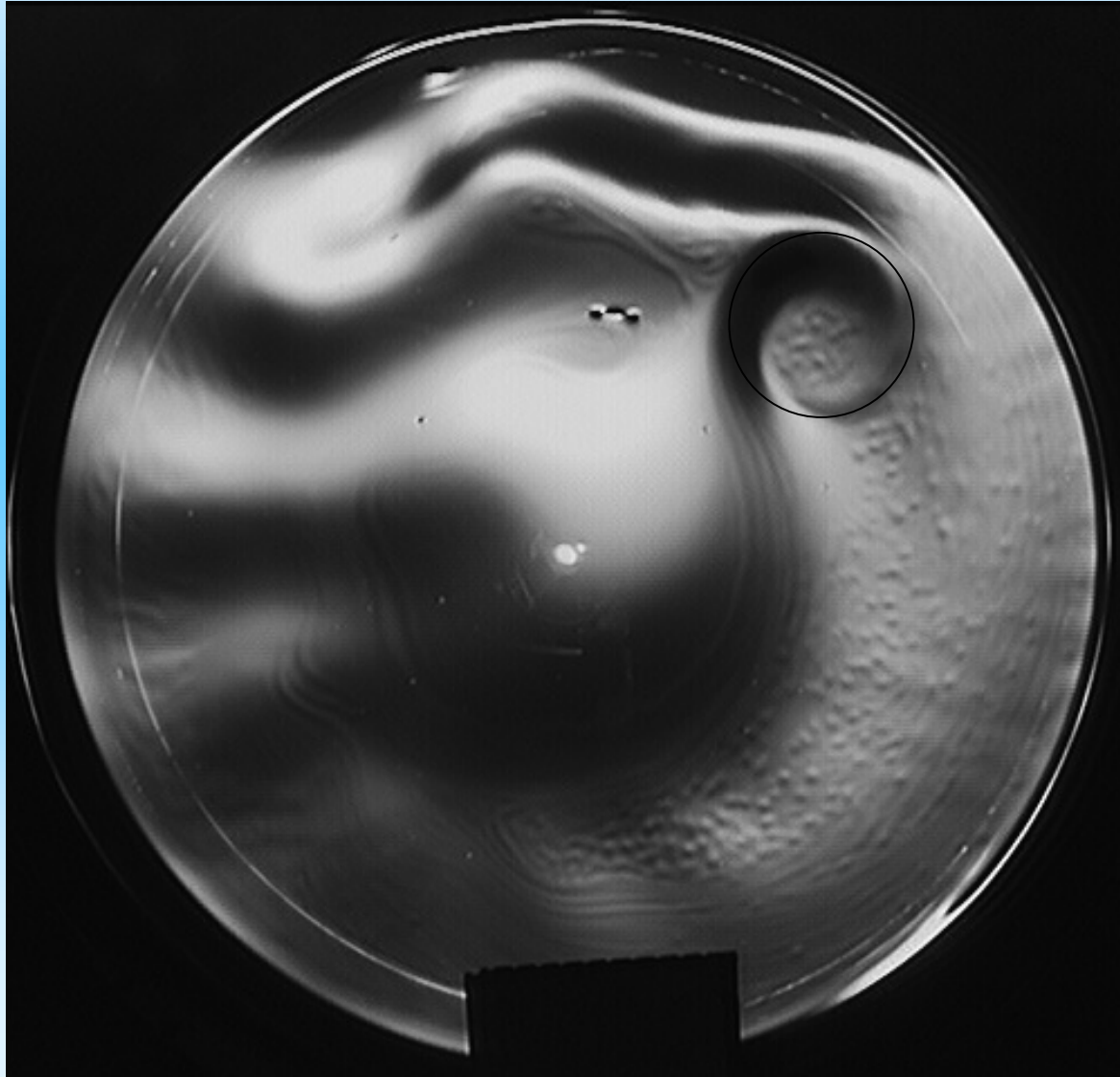
where  $\delta = h/H$  is the fractional mountain height,  $\varepsilon$  the Rossby number,  $U$  the mean flow,  $L$  the radius and  $H$  the total fluid depth

note strong correlation of meridional velocity and topographic height.....wave drag. Also note the beginnings of jet formation southeast of the mountain even in the linear theory

wavenumber diagram for Rossby waves in steady zonal westerly flow ( $U > 0$ )



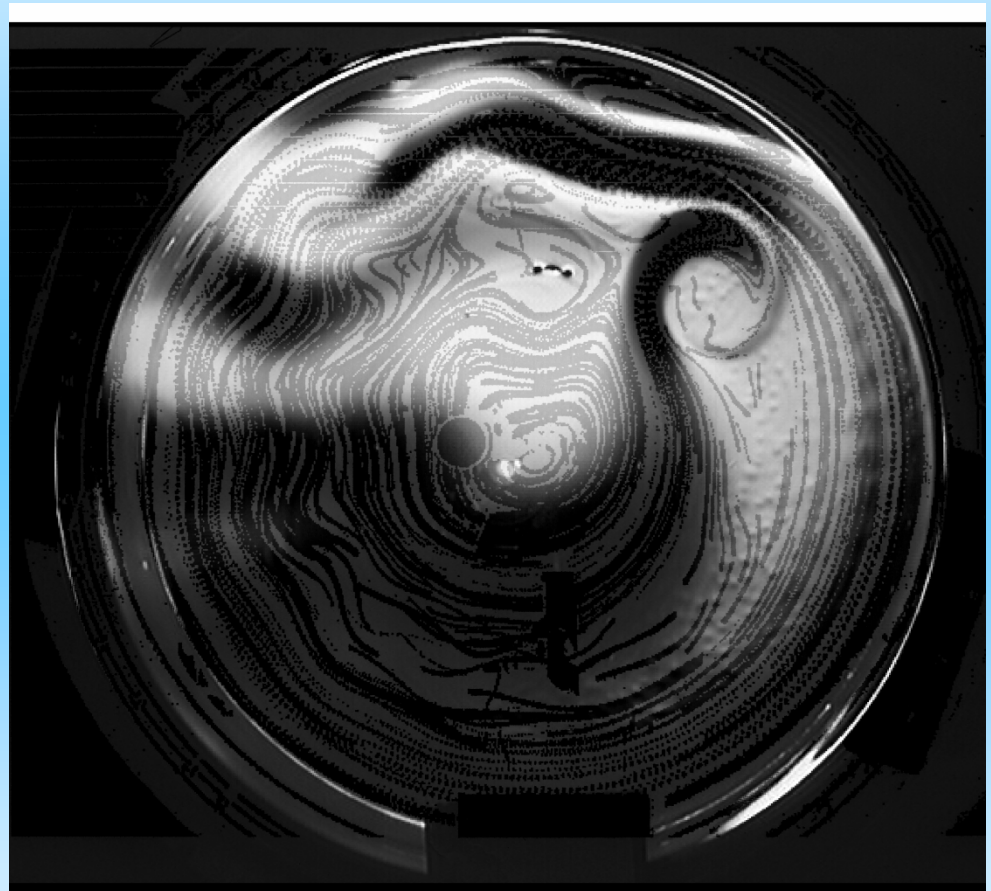


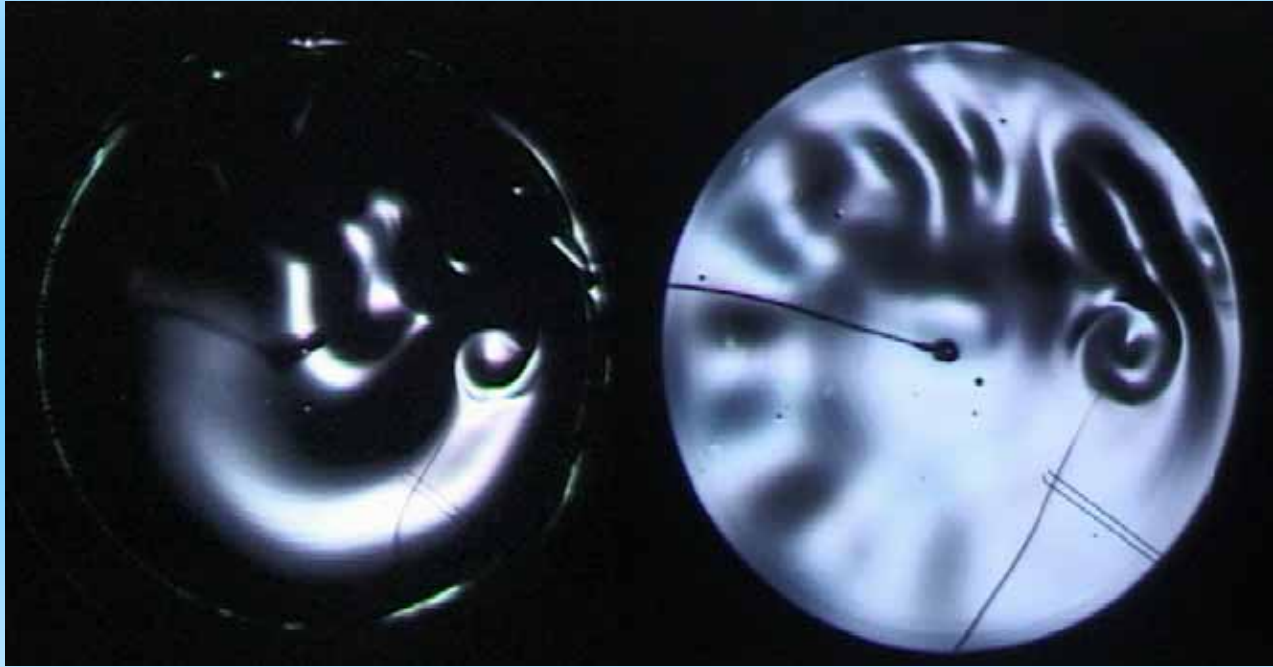


A westerly (prograde, cyclonic) zonal flow encounters a small mountain (at 2 o'clock). Rossby wave dynamics produces standing waves downwind, a convoluted lee cyclone, intense jet structure wrapping round the mountain, and a 'Lighthill block' upstream. This stagnant blocking region is (in linear, yet finite topography, theory, a Rossby wave with vanishing intrinsic frequency and upstream group velocity for merid. wavenumbers  $< (\beta/U)^{1/2}$ . Note the ruddy pressure features which are fine-scale evaporative convection cells, pillar-like cyclones. The edge of the block is outlined by convective rolls.

Here the controlling parameter  $\beta a^2/U > 1$  meaning that the wake is stable; smaller values of this parameter yield unstable wake and transient Rossby waves which ironically fill the hemisphere (they are not simple lee waves). See Polvani, Esler, Plumb JAS 1999 for a numerical study with some of these features.

Streak image of the same experiment (dots 2 sec apart) showing intensity of jets near mountain, lee Rossby waves and upstream block





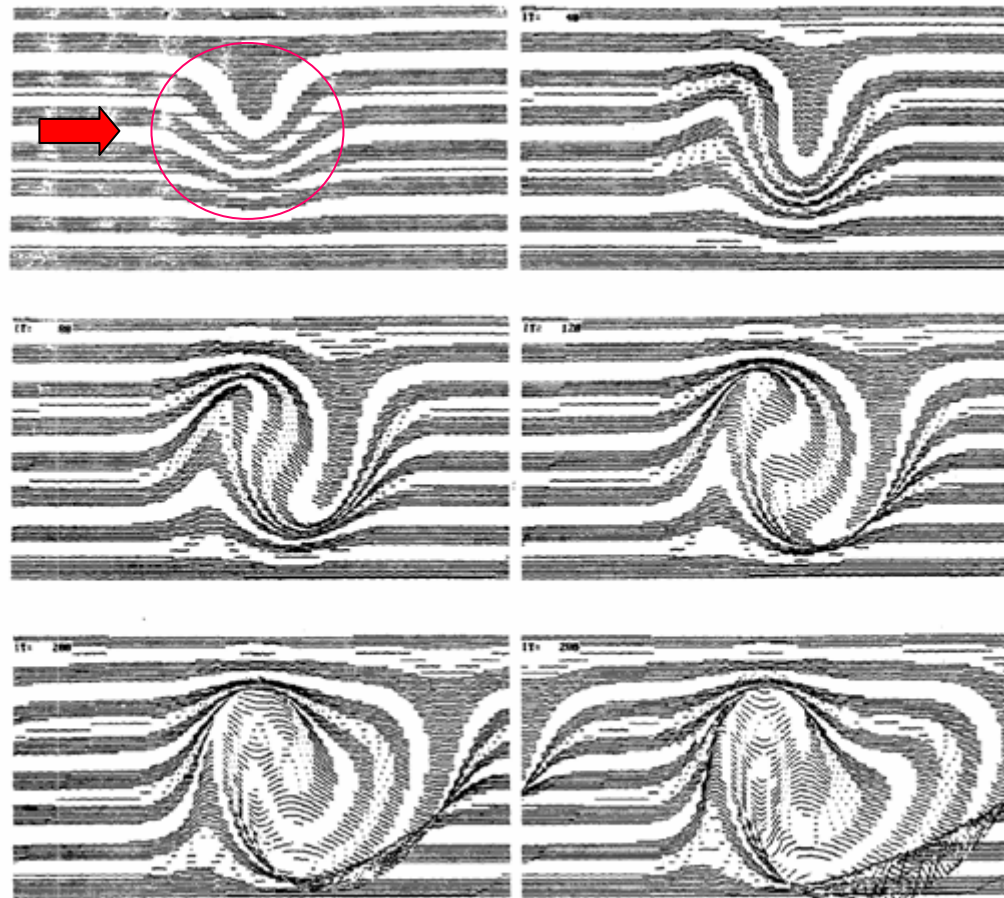
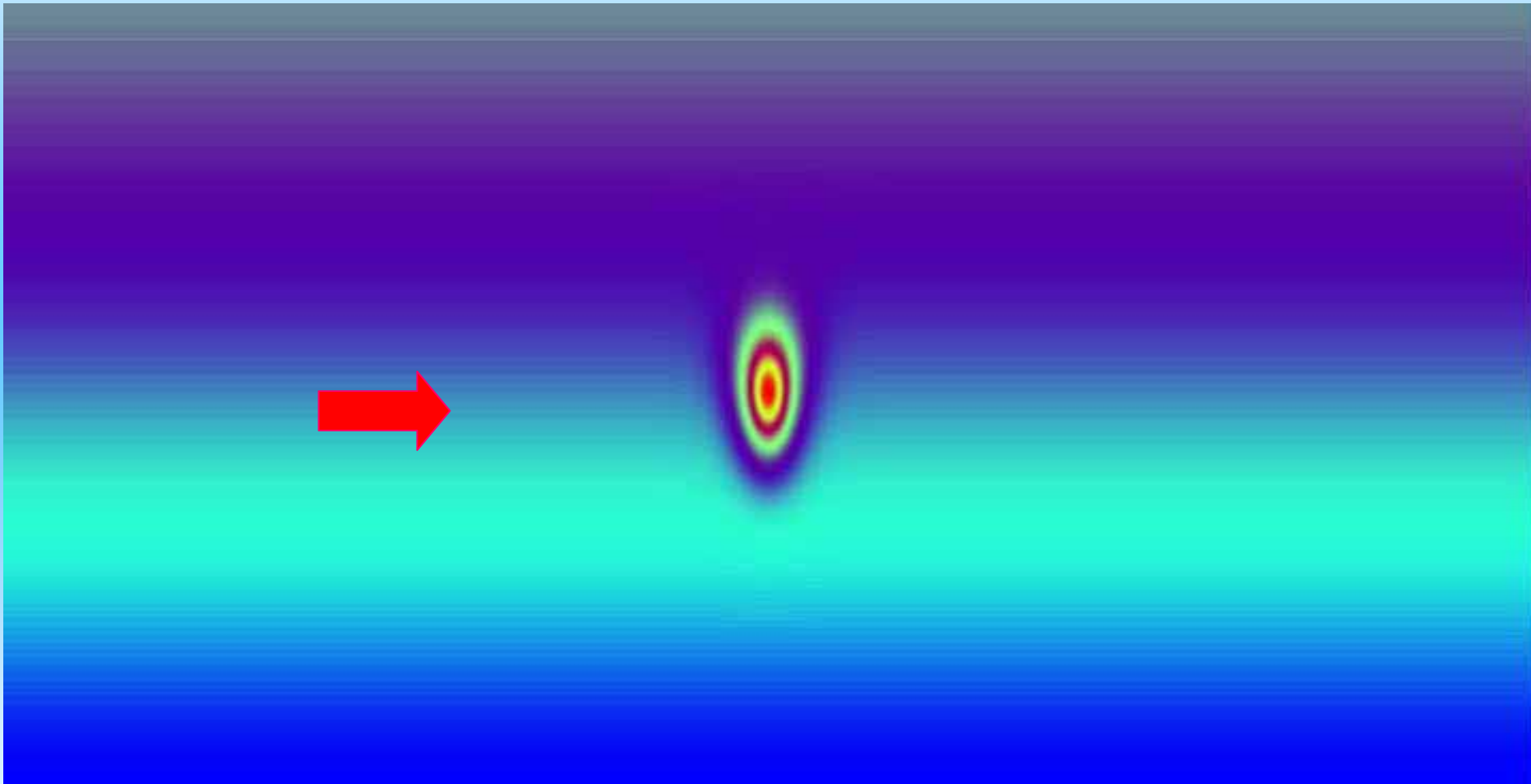


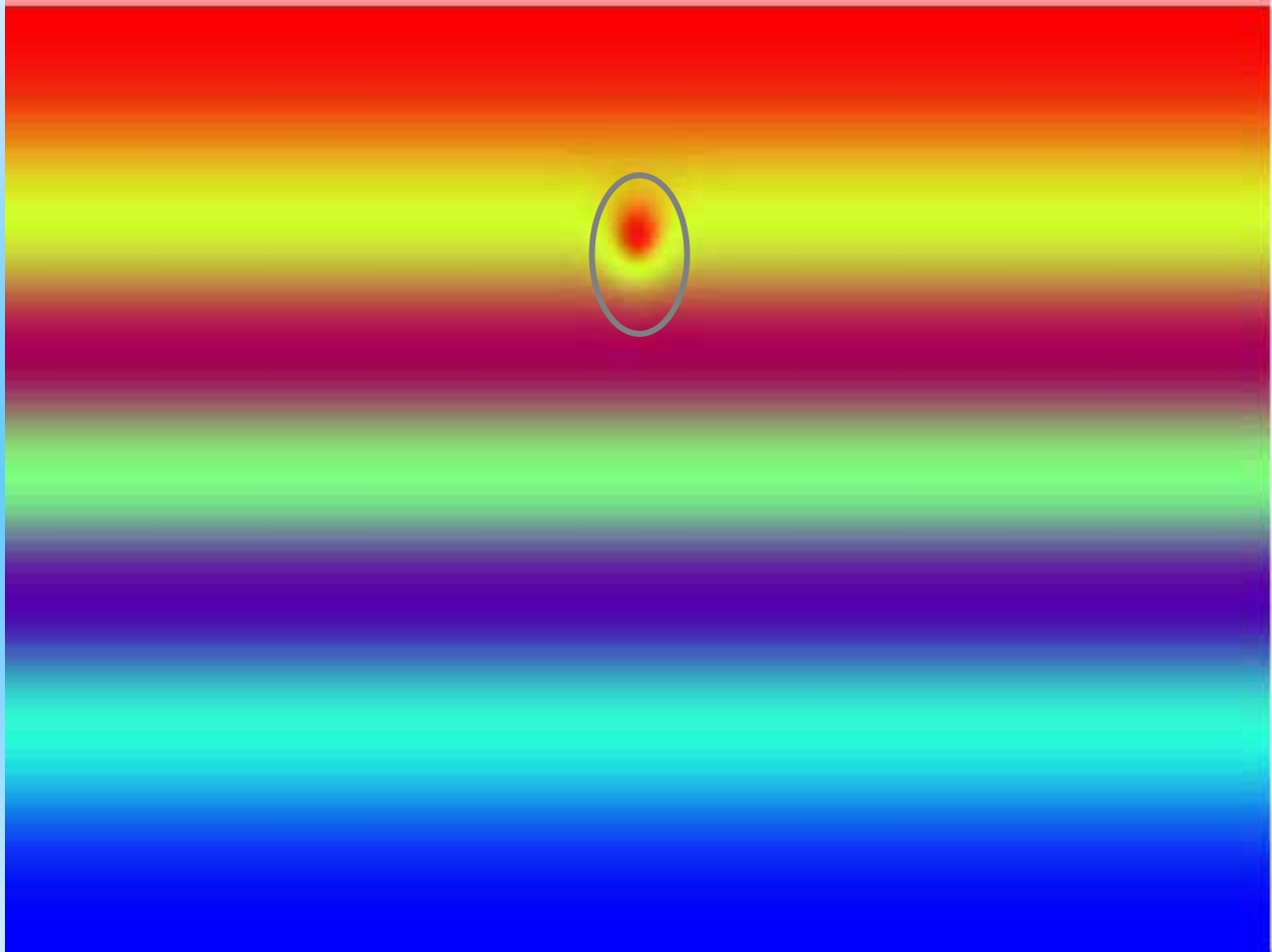
FIG. 9. *Nonlinear supercritical*. Read across, then down. Evolution of an initially uniform eastward barotropic flow over 280 days. Strong eastward flow, as in Fig. 8, except with a broader ridge (600 km half-width in the  $y$ -direction) and slightly faster flow ( $0.08 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ). Potential vorticity contours, shown as bands superimposed on the interface surface plot, are wound into the region above the ridge. The slope of  $\eta$  increases, and correspondingly, the velocity. The free vortex moving eastward is connected to the bound vortex above the ridge by a long trough, which draws in high potential vorticity fluid from a great distance poleward.

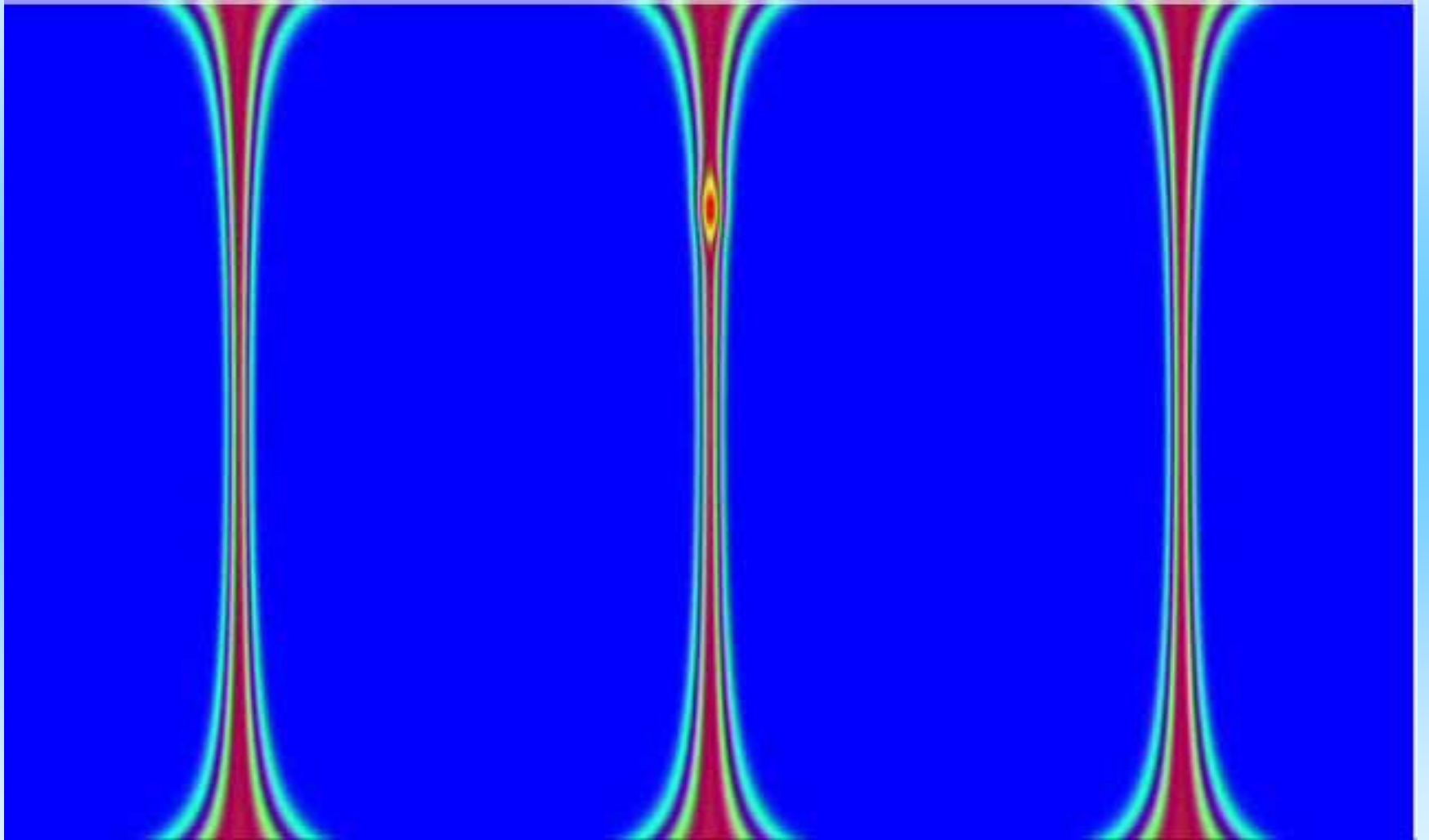
pressure field  
and (stripes)  
PV field

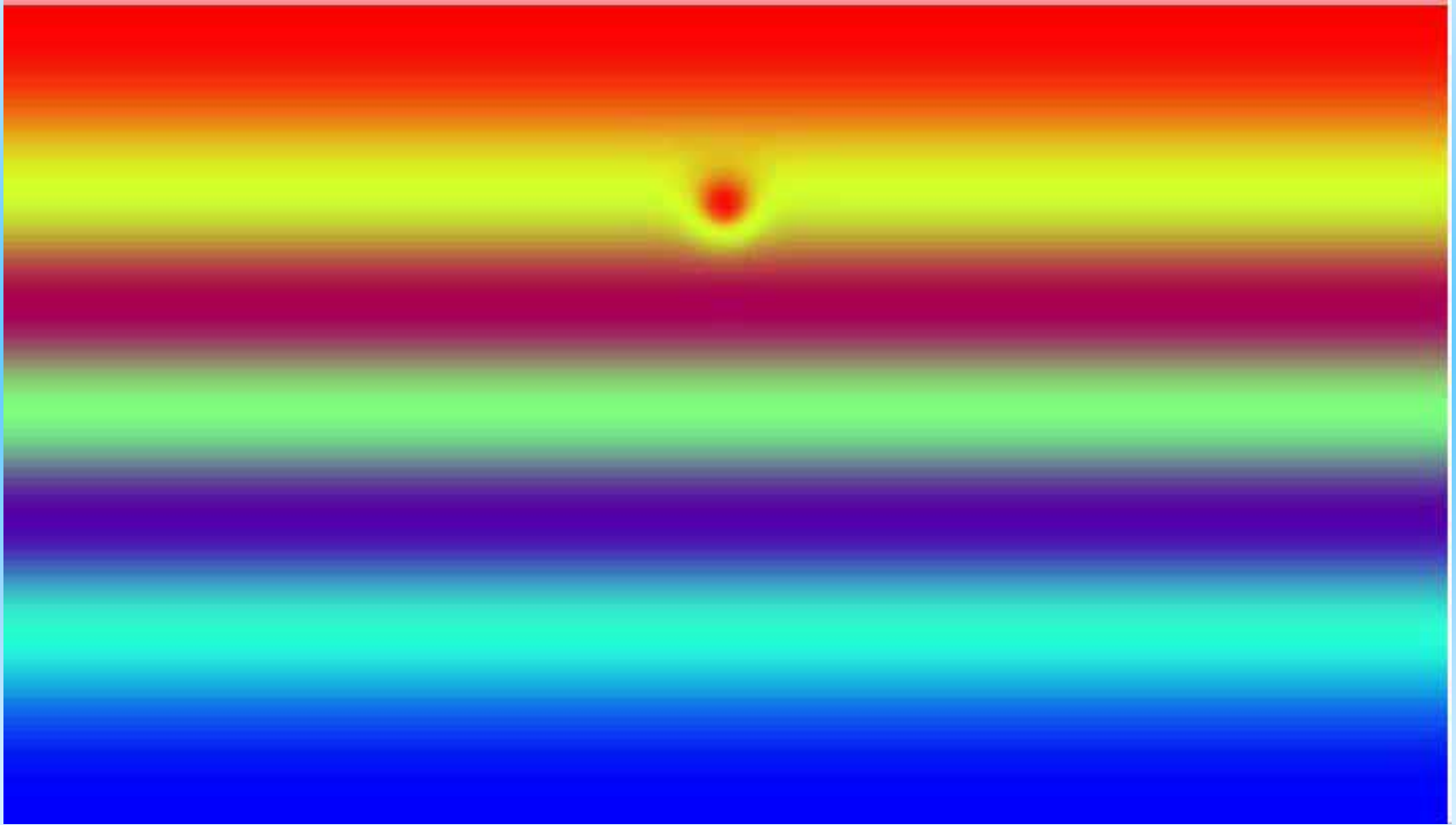
Planetary-geostrophic regime: exact solution by integration along  
time-dependent characteristics *Rhines, JPO 89*

Eastward (westerly) flow over a mountain, barotropic single layer, spherical shallow-water model; Northern Hemisphere only. Note winding of PV into spiral above topography, concentrating wake into jet. Cyclonic gyre in wake reaches north almost to Pole

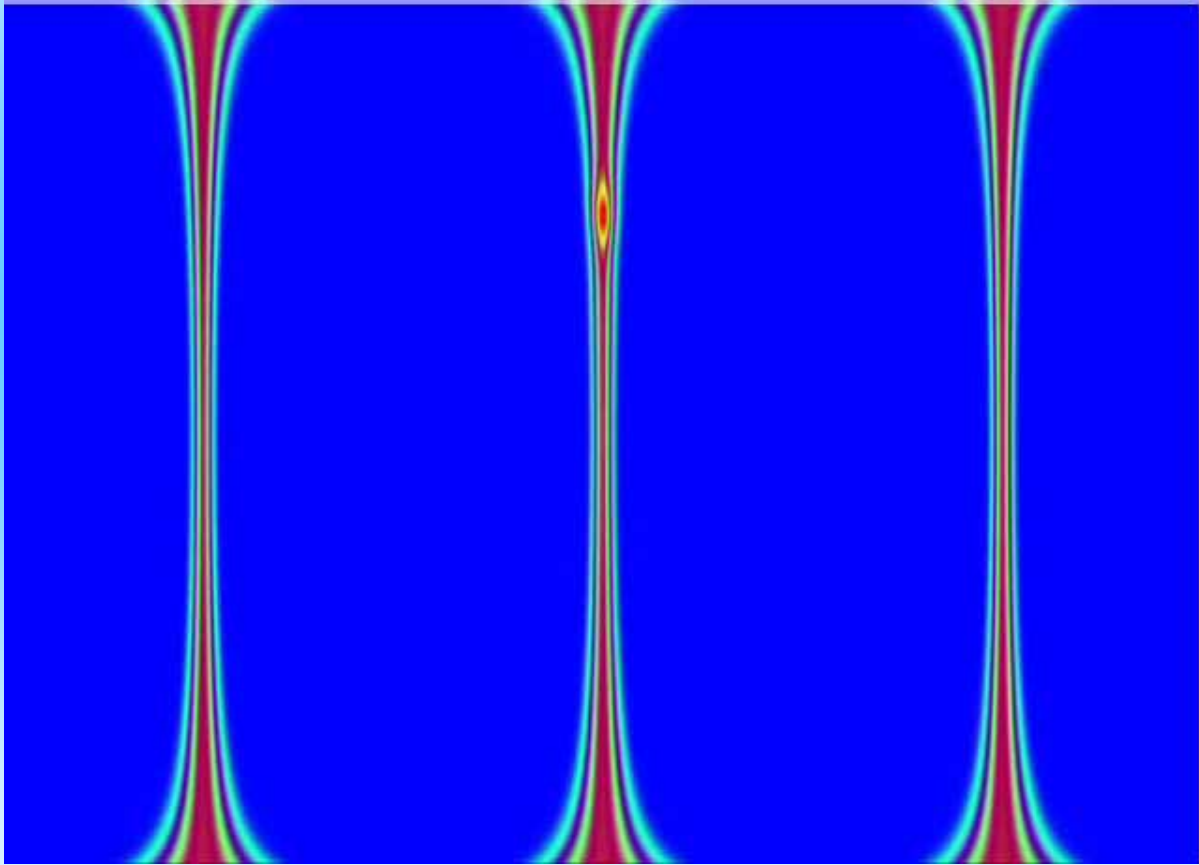






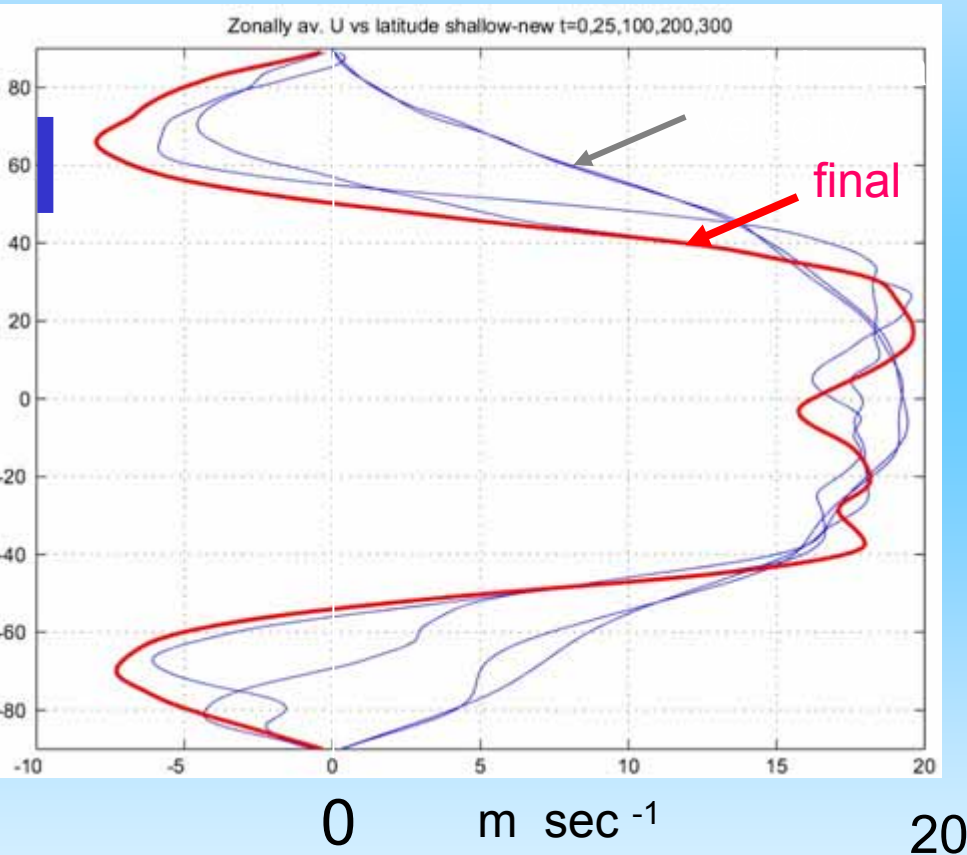




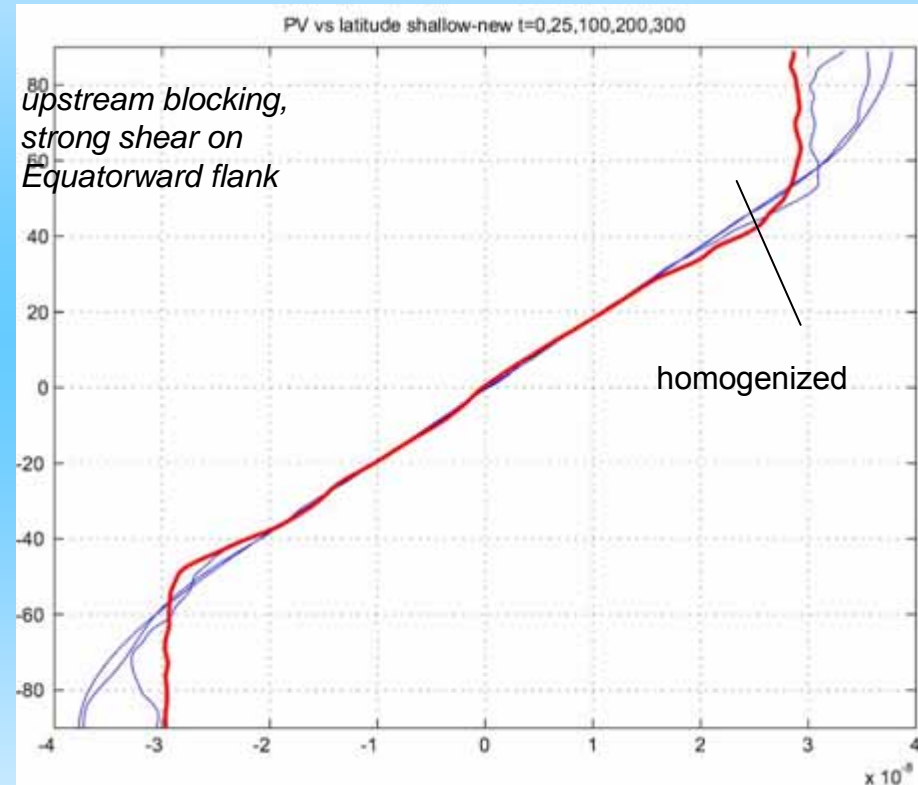


Shallow water on a sphere: T127 model: zonally averaged zonal flow and PV: (initially **uniform super-rotation**). Here the blocking / wake instability parameter  $\beta a^2/U$  is 0.36-1.4 depending on whether  $a$  is chosen as radius or diameter

## U(latitude)



## PV



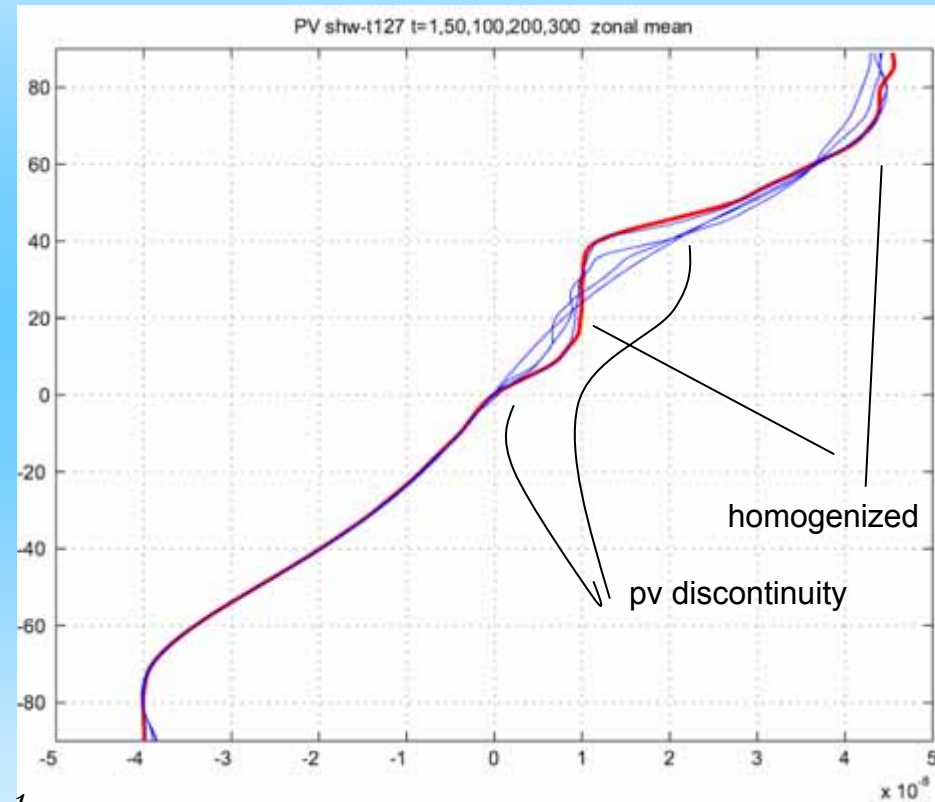
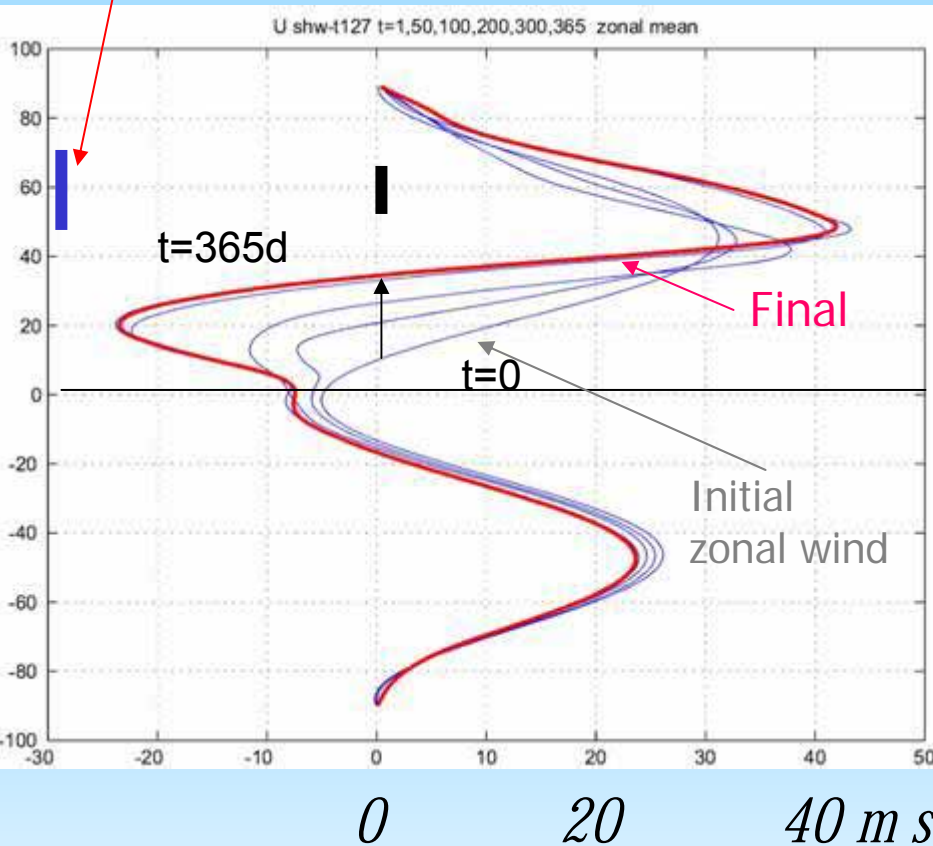
*both hemispheres are filled with wave activity; after initial linear lee Rossby wave generation, upwind blocking suppresses Rossby-wave wake. There is a considerable life cycle when, as here, the frictional damping is very weak.*

# migrating critical layer produces staircase PV field (mountain at 60N, easterly/westerly **initial zonal flow with critical layer** for stationary waves)

mountain

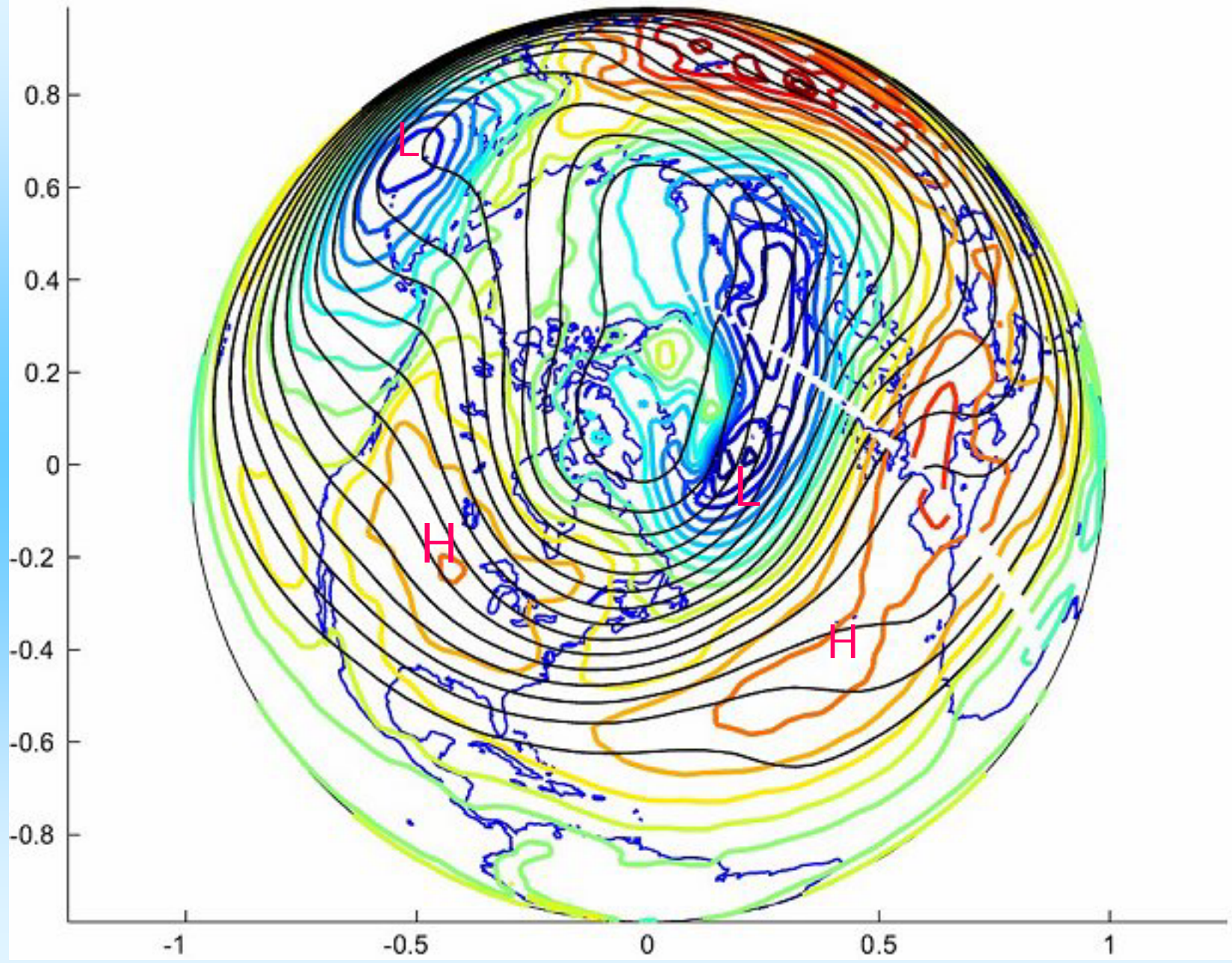
zonal veloc (zonal average)

PV



note strengthening of both eastward and westward zonal flow...particularly the westward low-latitude jet; the polar anticyclones are gone!

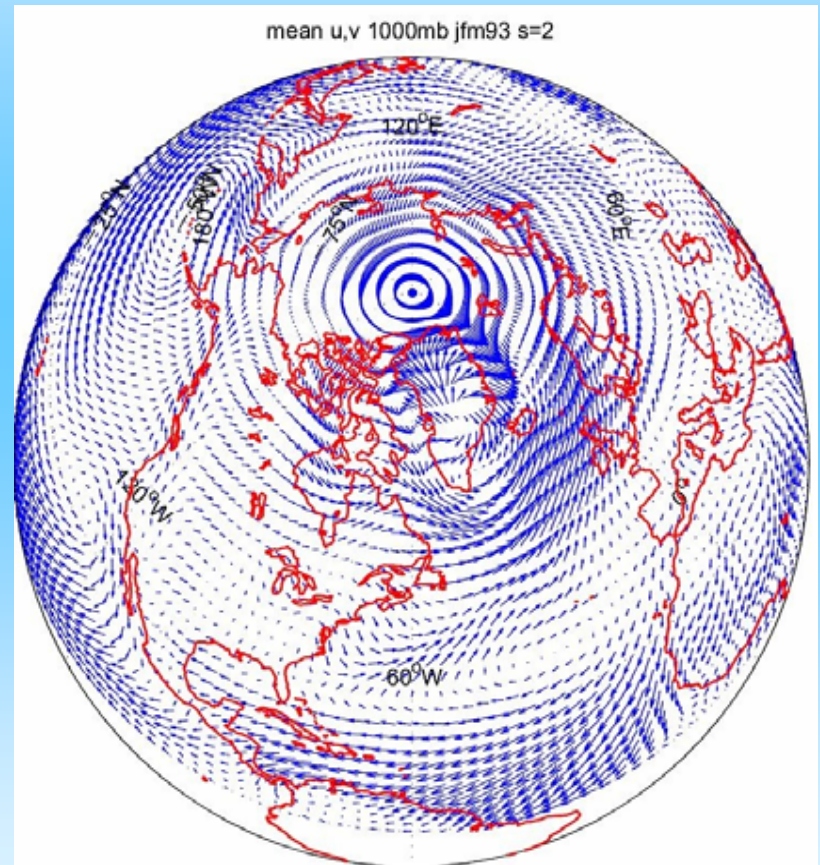
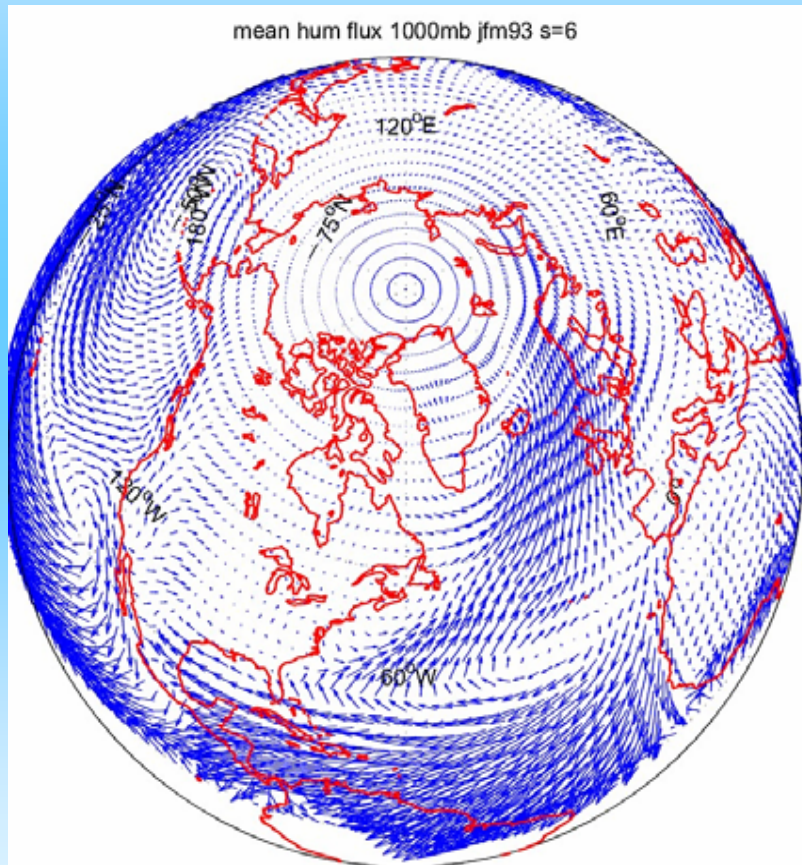
1993 JFM SLP and Z500



Moisture flux during high and low NAO: concentration in the high-latitude storm tracks of the ~ 2 petawatts of latent heat flux ... which is ~0.7 Sverdrup (0.7 megatonnes/sec) of freshwater flux

1993 JFM

1996 JFM



Mountain drag is associated with a strong northerly flow rounding the high ground anticyclonically, setting a lee cyclone at the *beginning* of the wake....as in a downwind-displaced f/h contour.

This is the dominant flow round the Rocky Mts. but is not characteristic of the flow round Greenland.

Role of cold-air outbreaks....

Direct thermal forcing of the wintertime Arctic forces a high latitude easterly flow and *anticyclonic* polar vortex at low levels; Rossby wave radiation from low latitude does the same.

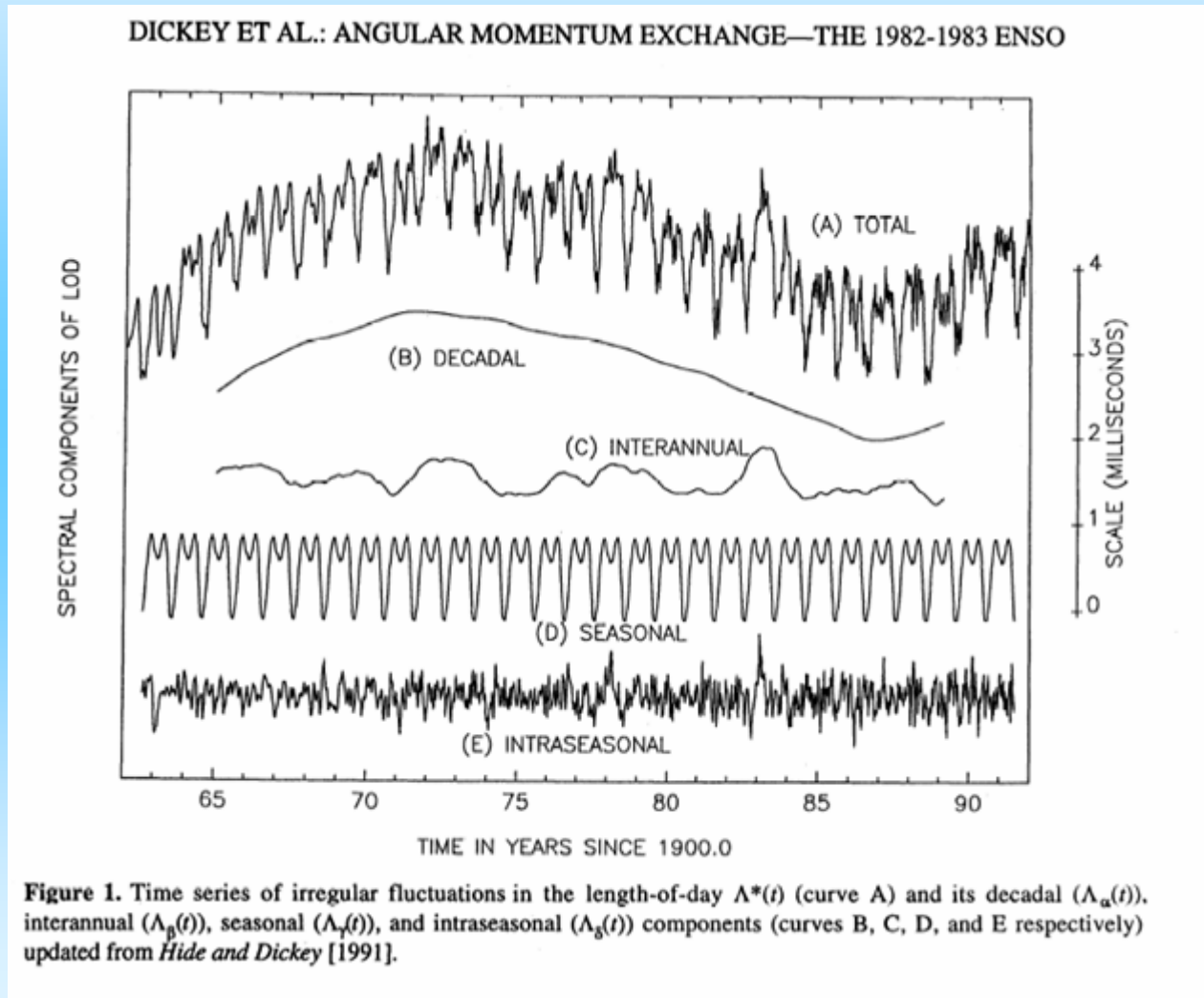
*Cyclonic* Arctic circulation comes thermal forcing and from invasive cyclones: bodily poleward transport of PV.

## Pressure drag on Greenland

- These flows generate waves and wakes, and in doing so exert forces on the topography, with virtually equal and opposite reaction forces on the atmosphere. Taken together, the pressure drag on all the Earth's topography, plus the frictional stress at the base of the turbulent boundary layer, exerts a zonal force which changes the angular momentum of the solid Earth...the length of the day. About 90% of this pressure drag comes from the atmosphere, the remainder from the ocean.

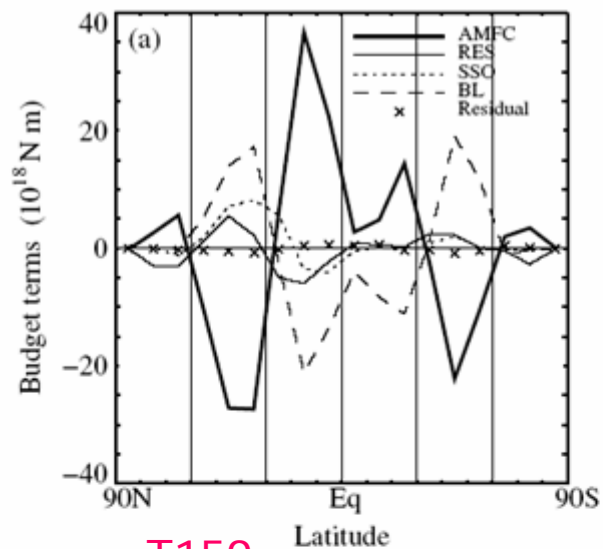
In this manner, our wrist-watches become virtual instruments to measure atmospheric angular momentum and the drag forces that alter it.

The length of the day varies seasonally by  $\sim 1$  millisecond, largely due to the change in atmospheric angular momentum.

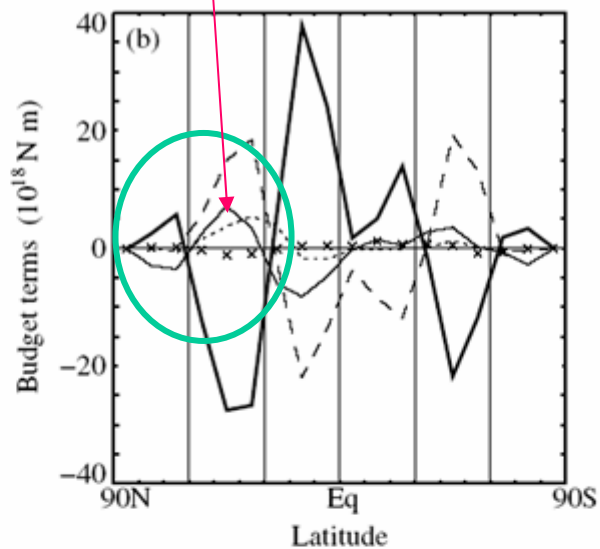




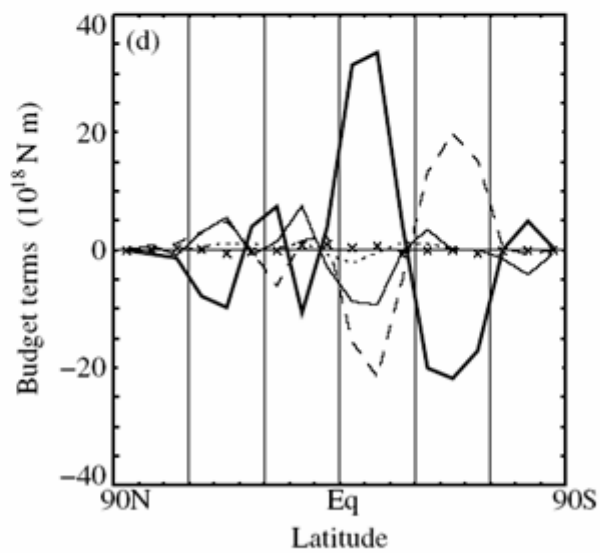
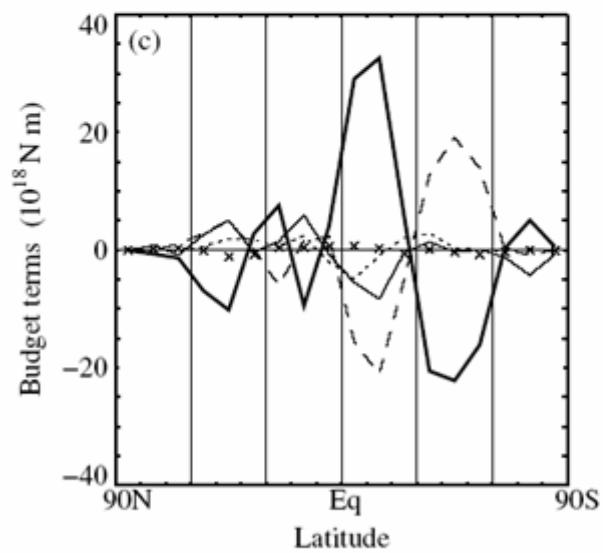
mountain pressure drag



T159



T511



Jan 2001

July 2001

*Brown, QJRMS 2004*

Figure 1. Relative angular momentum budgets for January 2001 at resolutions (a) T159 and (b) T511. In each case the terms in the budgets (see Eq. (1) and text for definitions) have been integrated over  $10^\circ$  latitude bands and averaged over the first 24 hours of each of 31 forecasts. (c) and (d) are as (a) and (b), but for July 2001.

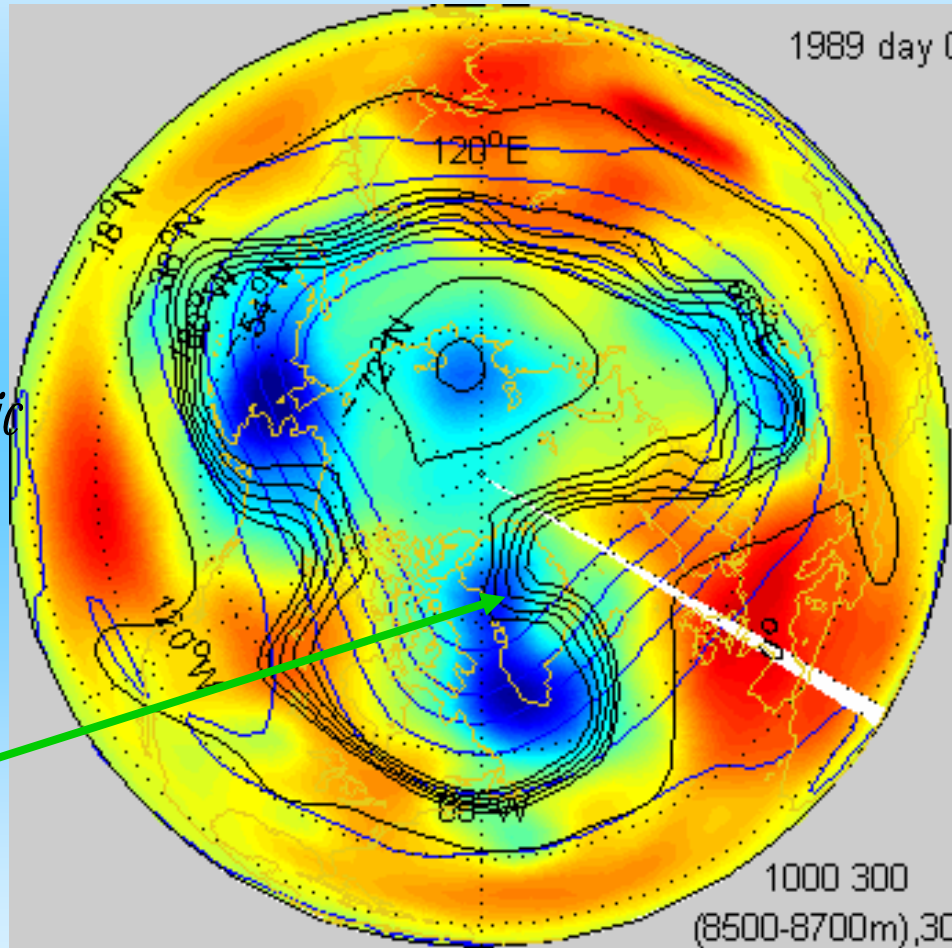
1989 JFMA:

NAO index **positive**

colors: 1000 hPa near-surface dynamic height  
(blue=low pressure, red=high)

contours:

jet stream level 300 hPa, stratosphere 30 hPa



*Synoptic storm tracks are beneath stratospheric polar vortex*

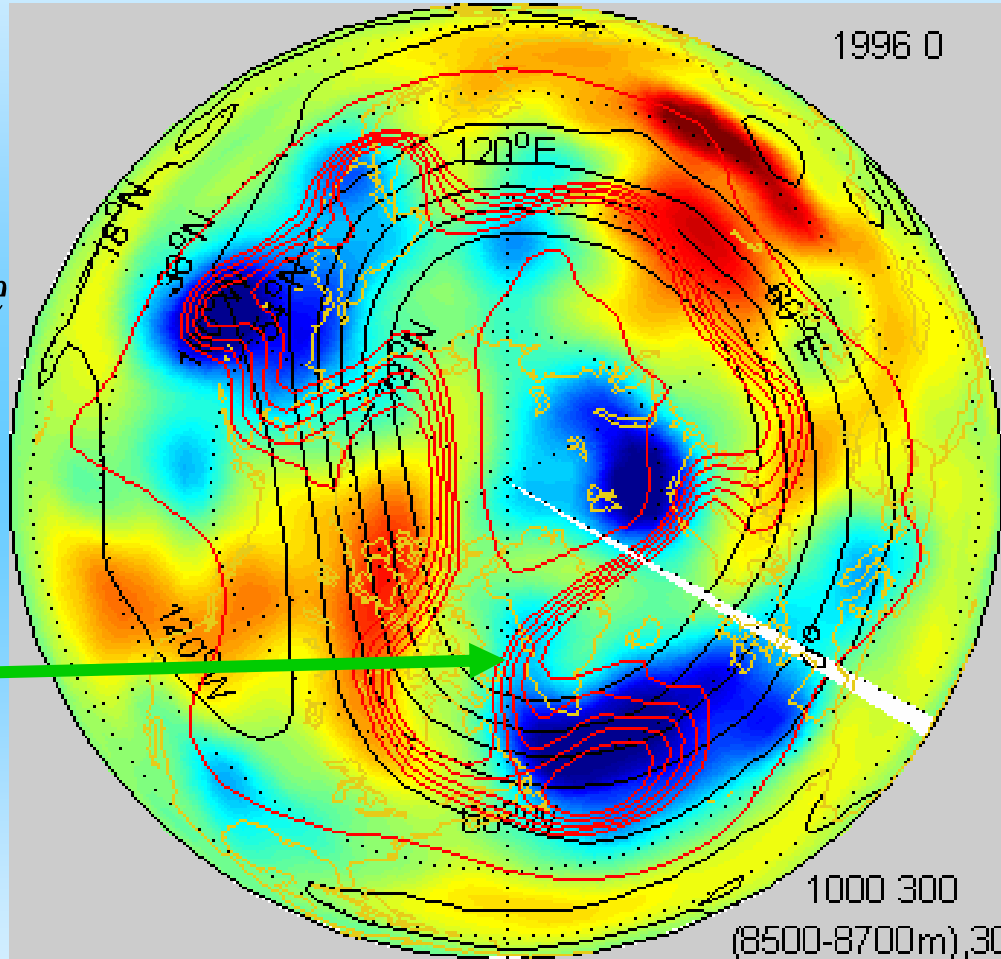
Greenland

1996 JFMA  
(NAO index  
very **negative**)

colors: 1000 HPa  
red contours: 300 HPa  
black contours: 30 HPa

*Storm tracks are usually south of stratospheric polar vortex*

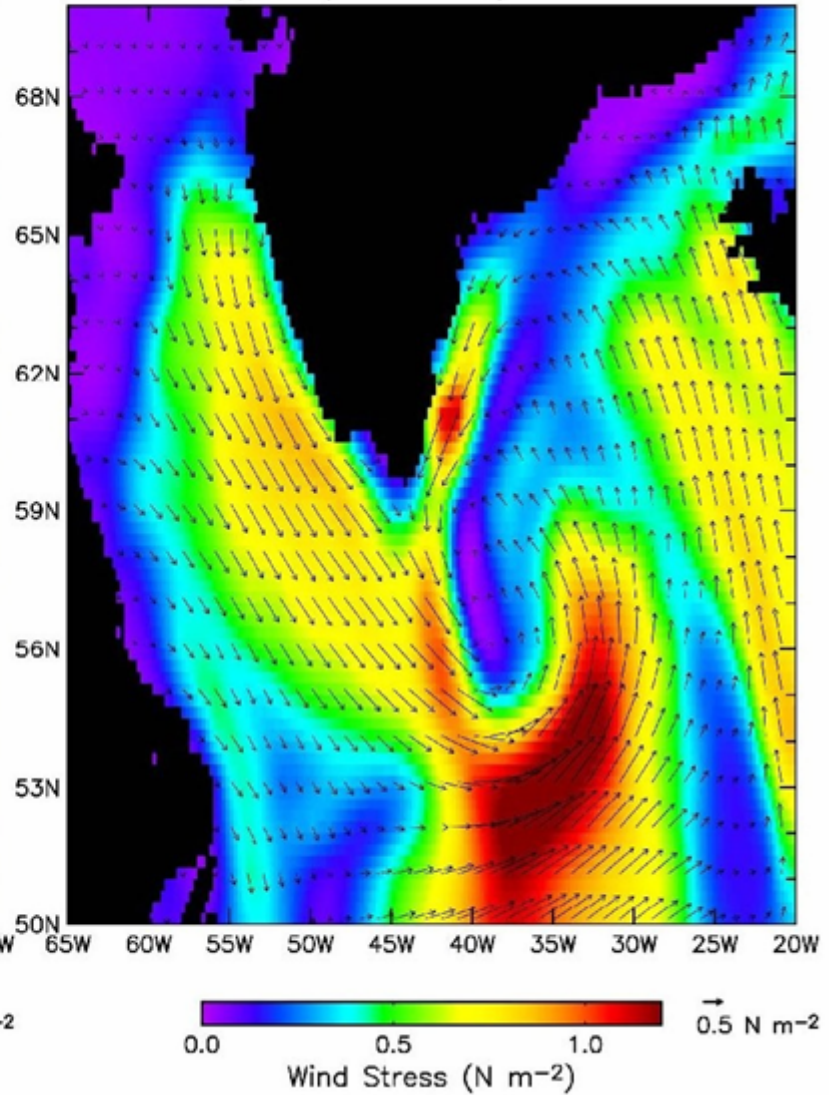
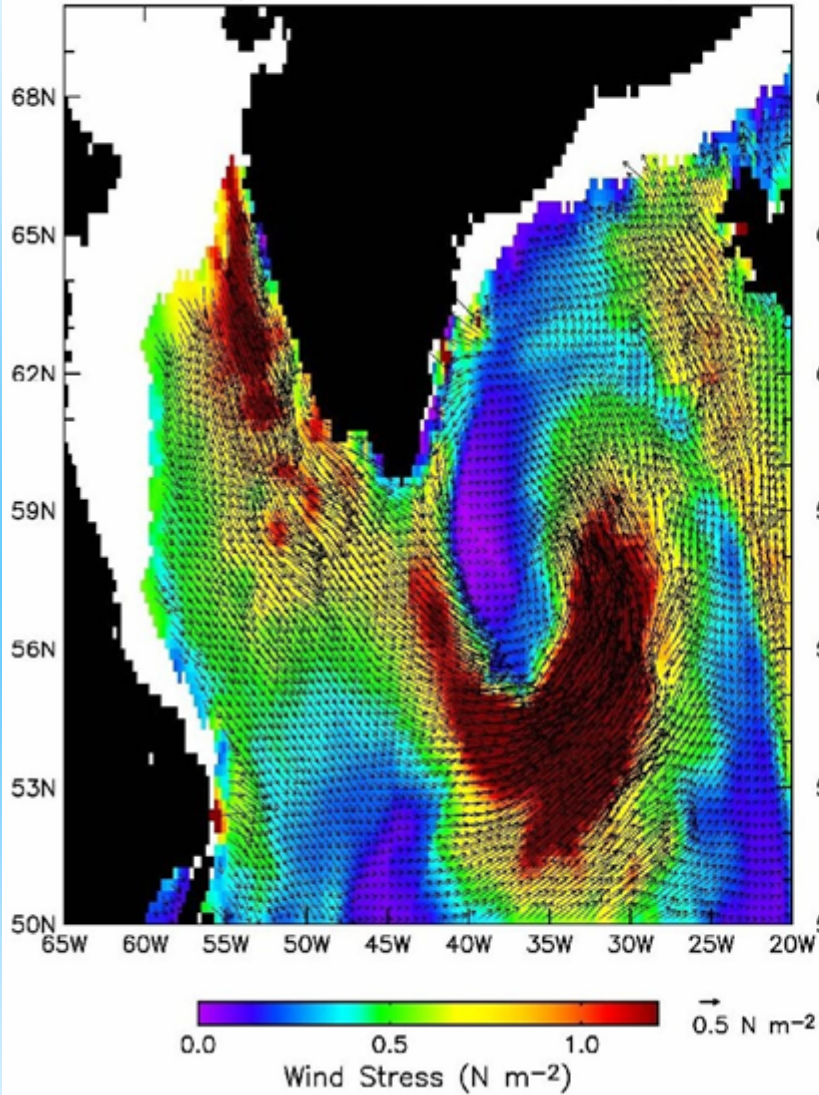
Greenland



# Wind Stress January 12 2001

QuikSCAT (2005 GMT and 2247 GMT)

NCEP Analysis (1800 GMT)



## Greenland Tip Jet:

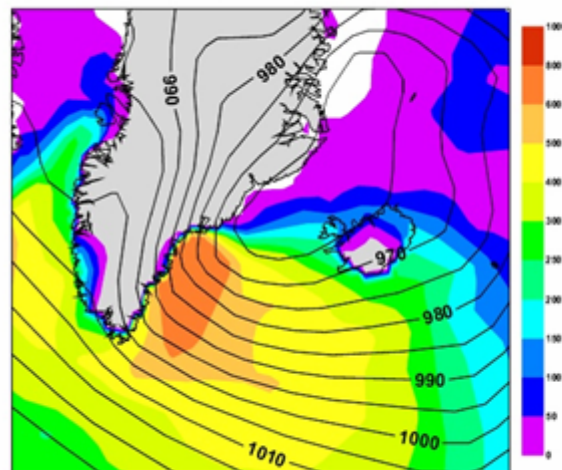
*Doyle & Shapiro Tellus 1999; Pickart et al. Science 2003, Moore & Renfrew J Clim 2005*

T95

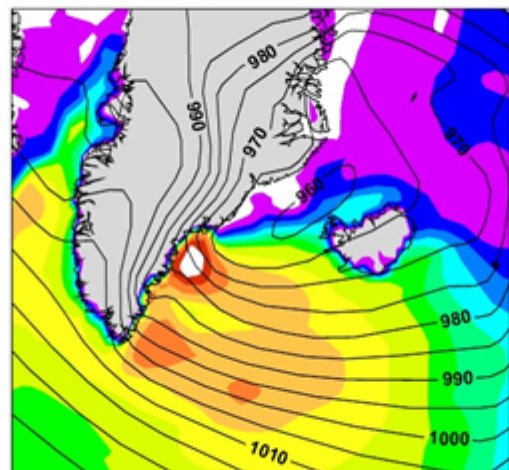
T285

T799

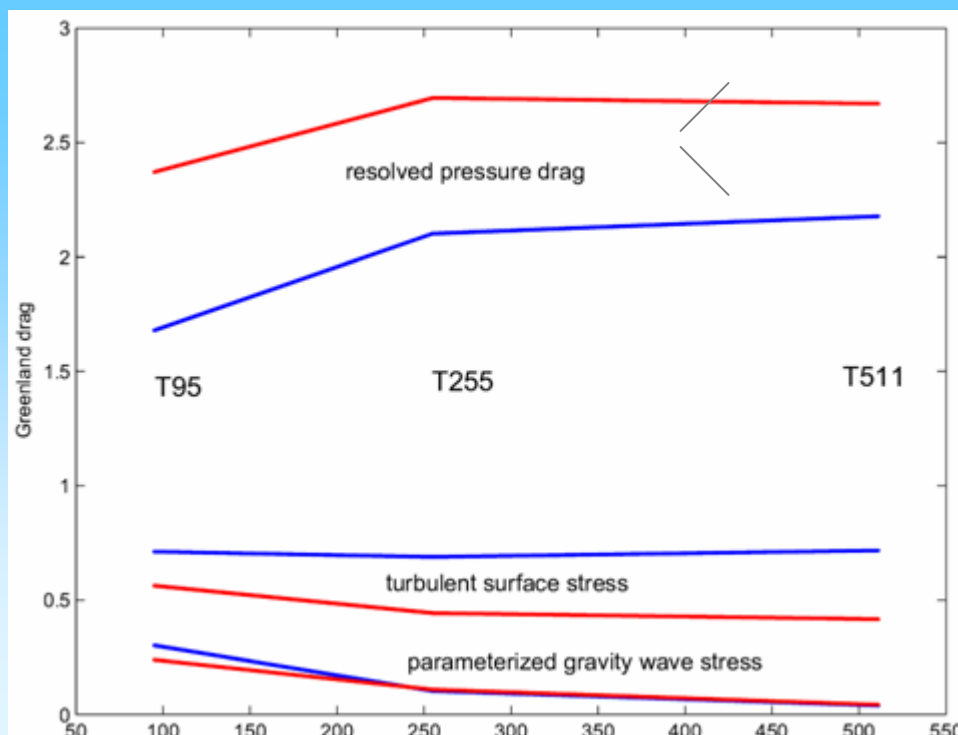
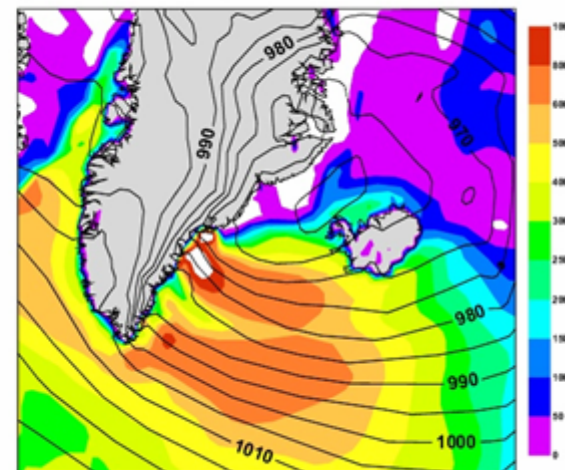
(a) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T95)



(b) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T255)



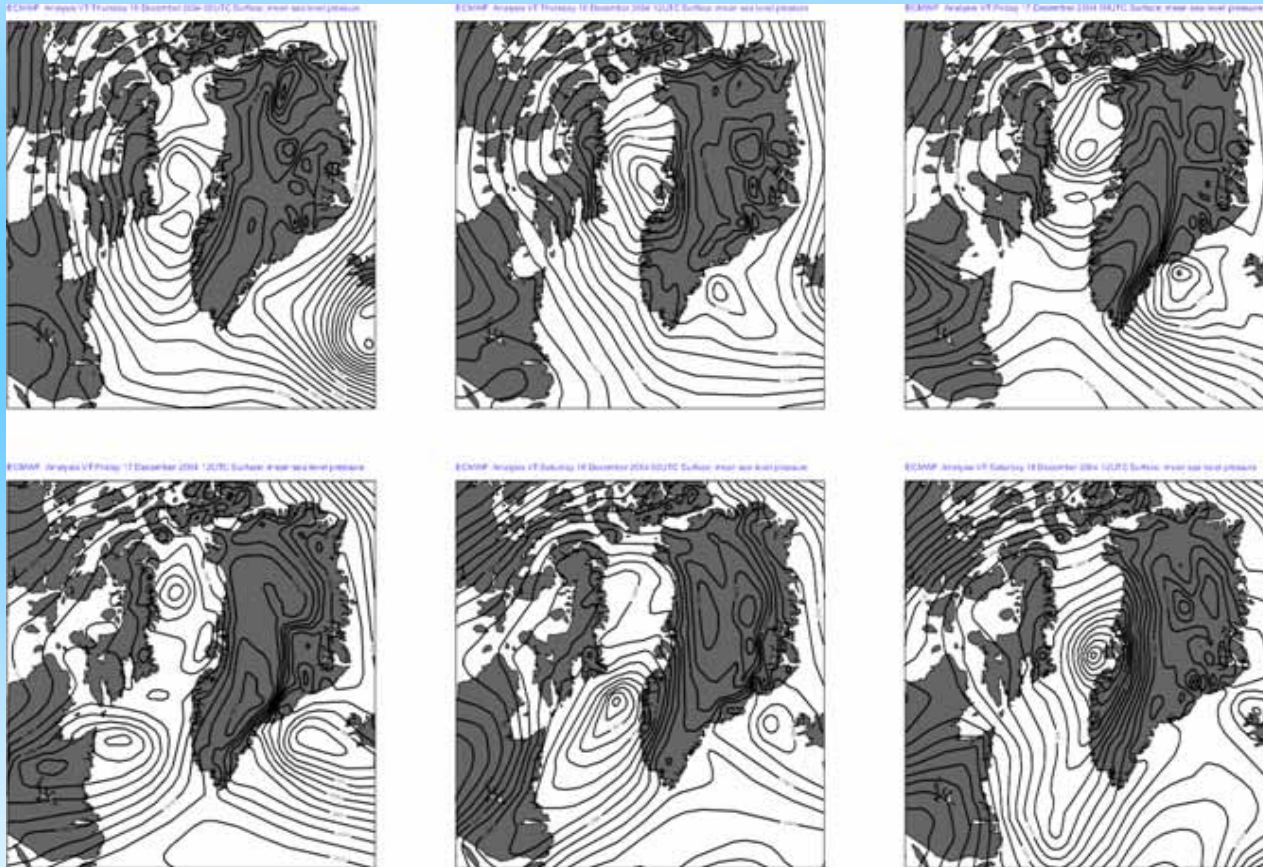
(c) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T799)



Air Sea Heat flux  
at various resolutions

Drag at various  
resolutions (two  
case studies,  
20041226, 20050207)

Interesting cyclogenesis begins to appear in Baffin Bay at high resolution.  
time sequence of SLP. This is prominent in the storm track spaghetti diagram in the next slide.

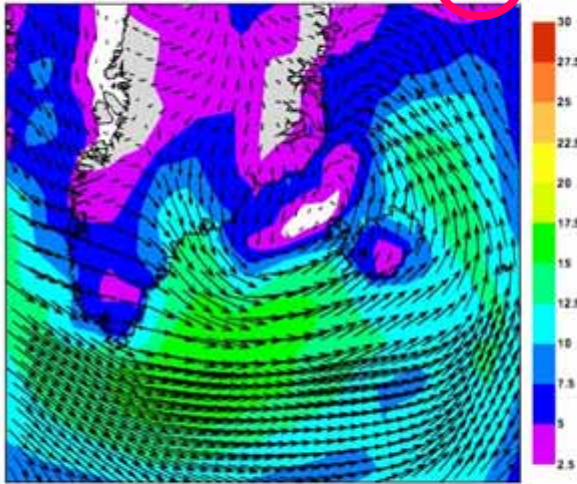


- In a series of numerical experiments at ECMWF, the flow in the Atlantic sector has been examined as a function of model resolution.

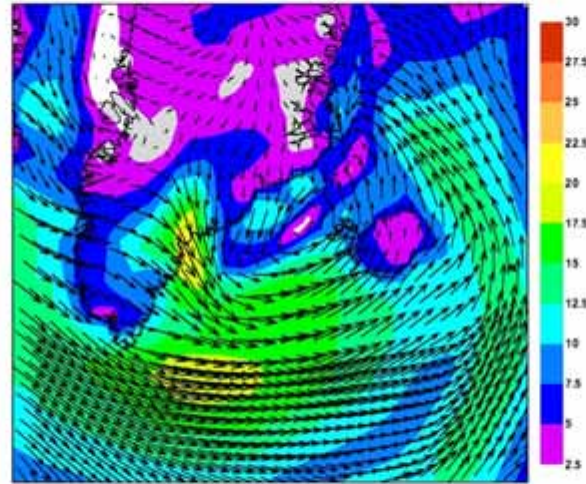
*(Jung & Rhines, JAS 2007 in press)*. Greenland's 3km high topography generates strong downslope-jet activity which spills out over the Greenland Sea; this is not resolved by typical resolutions but begins to appear at about T255. Mesoscale model simulations (e.g., of Bromwich, and Shapiro and colleagues) capture such features, but here they are present in a global simulation.

Note the impact of resolution on the lee cyclone in the next images.

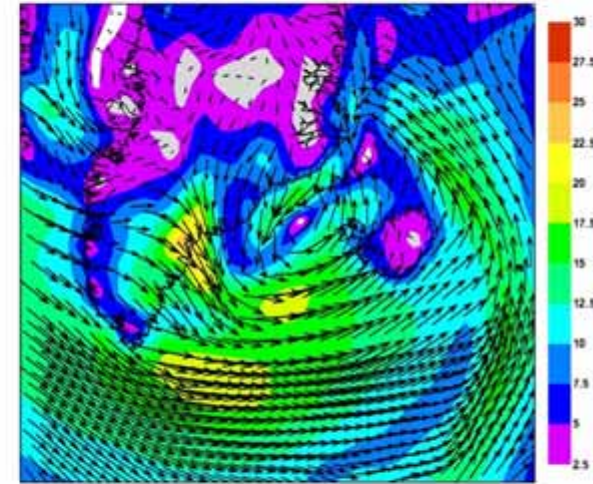
Near-Surface Winds: 20031123 0z FC+24h (T95)



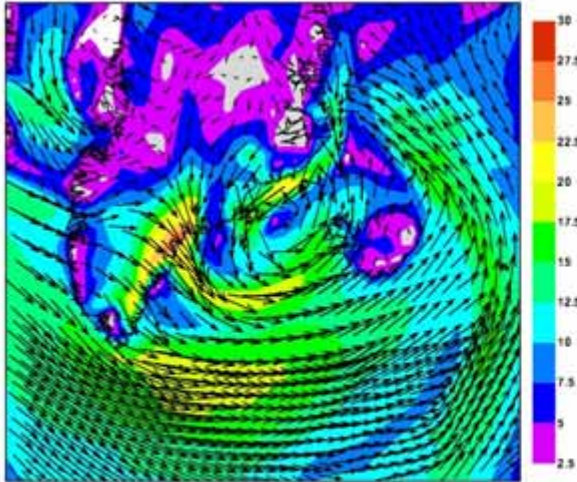
Near-Surface Winds: 20031123 0z FC+24h (T159)



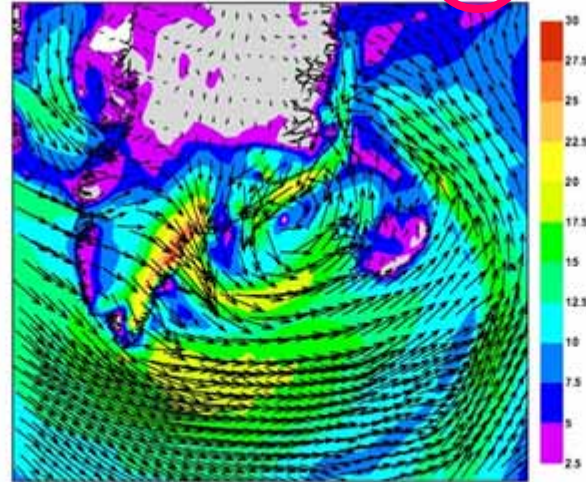
Near-Surface Winds: 20031123 0z FC+24h (T255)



Near-Surface Winds: 20031123 0z FC+24h (T511)



Near-Surface Winds: 20031123 0z FC+24h (T799)





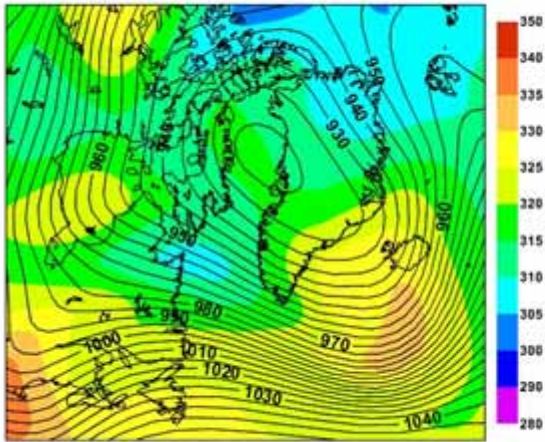
250 HPa level case study for high drag (short integration)

T95

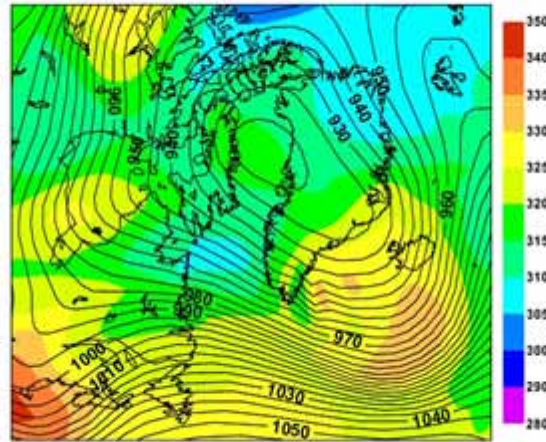
T255

T799

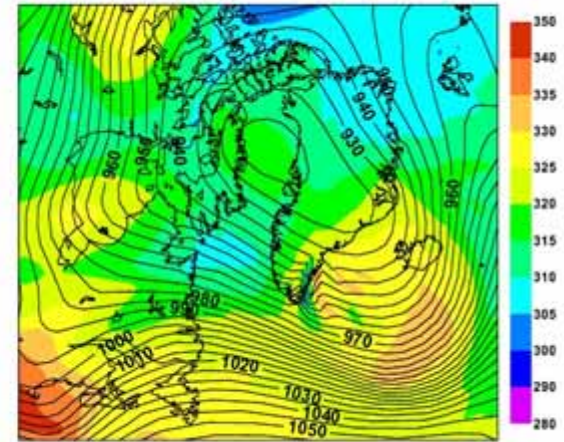
(a) Z250 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T95)



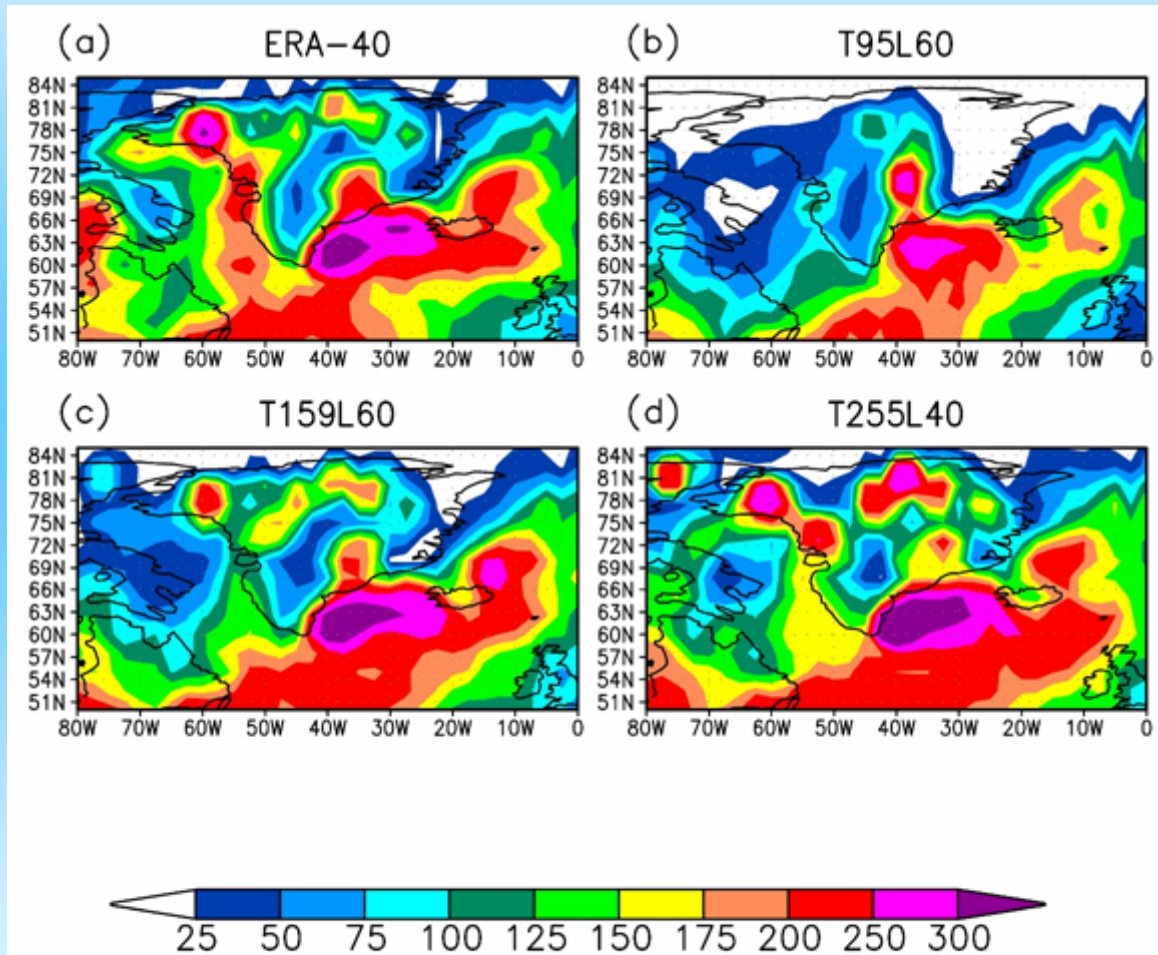
(b) Z250 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T255)



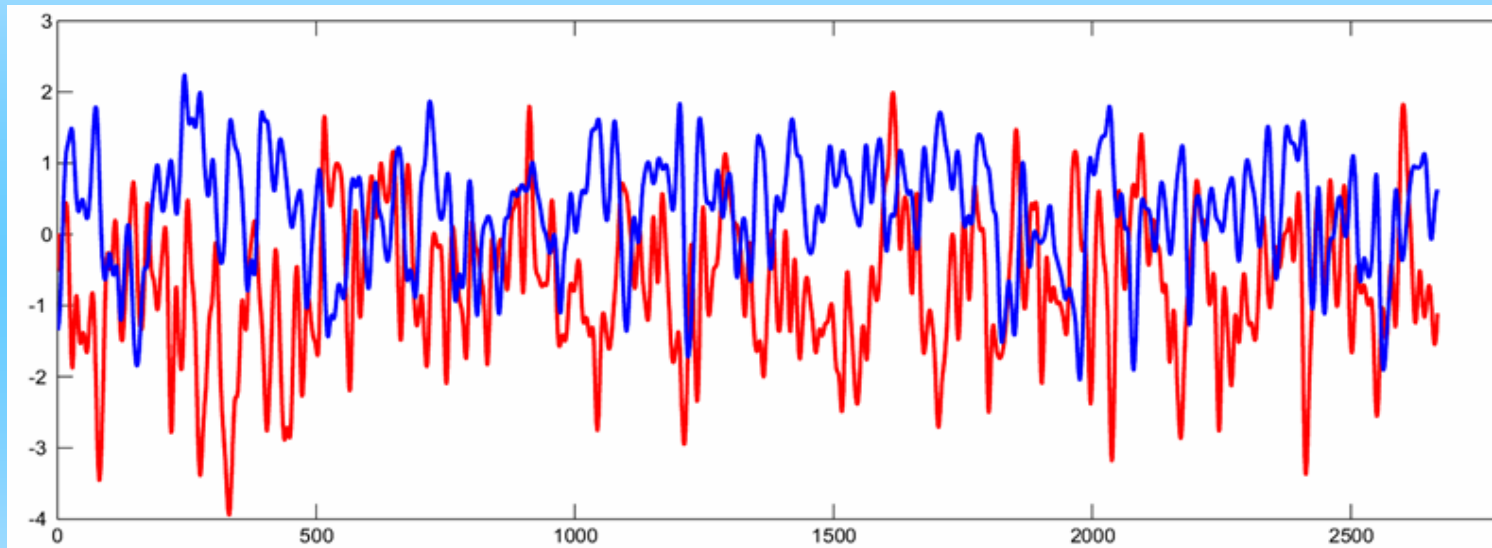
(c) Z250 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T799)



cases of cyclogenesis: resolution has a notable effect on an Eulerian measure of cyclogenesis



We explore the east-west component of pressure drag on Greenland.  
pressure drag (red) and NAO index  
15-day smoothed



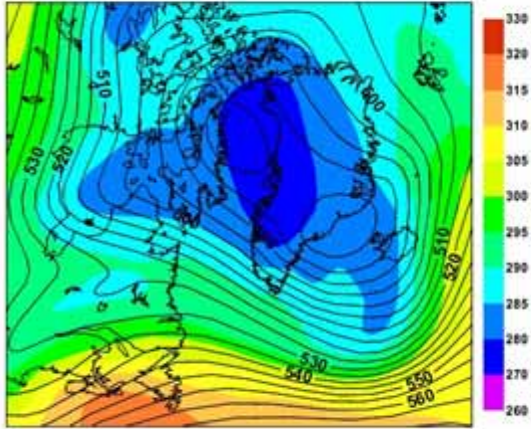
1980

2002

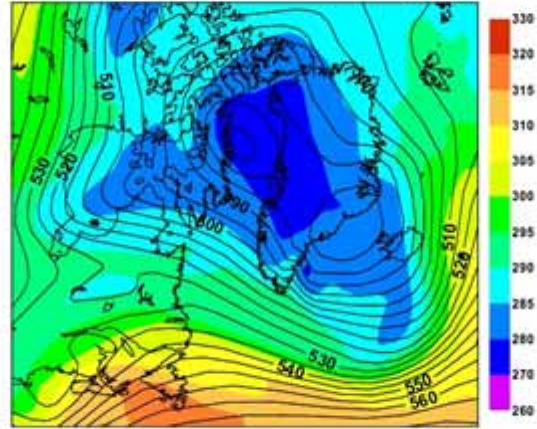
The 1000 hPa dynamic height fields that correspond to periods of high pressure drag on Greenland are shown next, at lags of -4, -2, 0, +2, +4 days. The pattern is quite local, dominated by a low east of Greenland, with a lobe of high pressure farther to the southeast. West of Greenland the pressure anomaly is surprisingly small. It suggests a relation with the Atlantic storm track more than the deflection of a wind from the west, for in fact the westerly zonal flows are peaking south of this latitude.

- The next figures are animations of the northern hemisphere circulation for a high-NAO (1989) and low NAO (1996) winter, respectively. They show many things, including strong vertical interaction between clusters of cyclones and the stratospheric polar vortex. Synoptic activity is felt in the stratosphere! A strong sudden warming is seen in 1989.

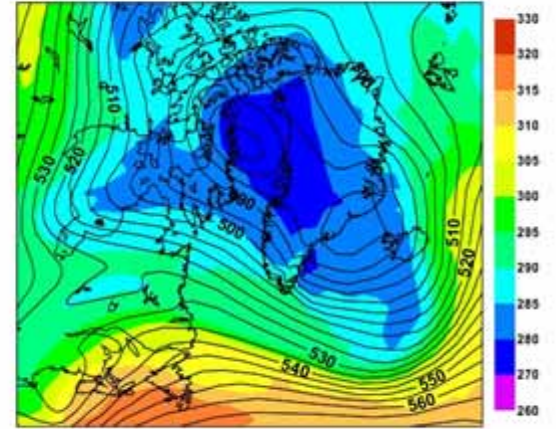
(a) Z500 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T95)



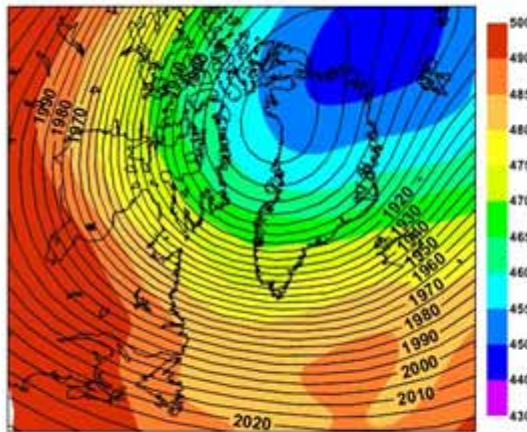
(b) Z500 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T255)



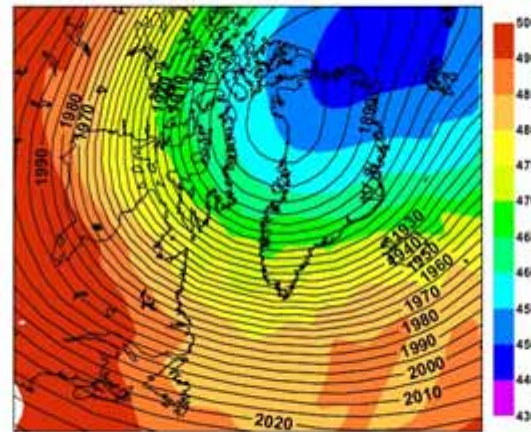
(c) Z500 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T799)



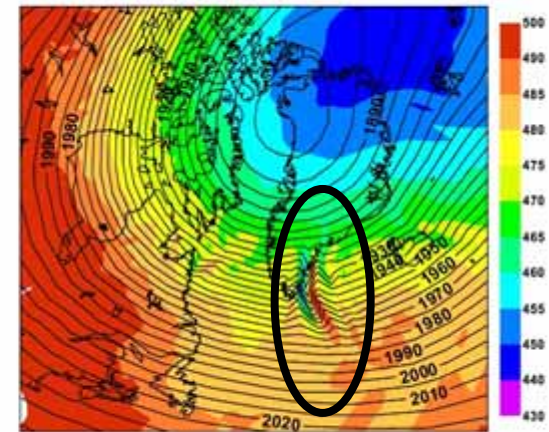
(a) Z50 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T95)



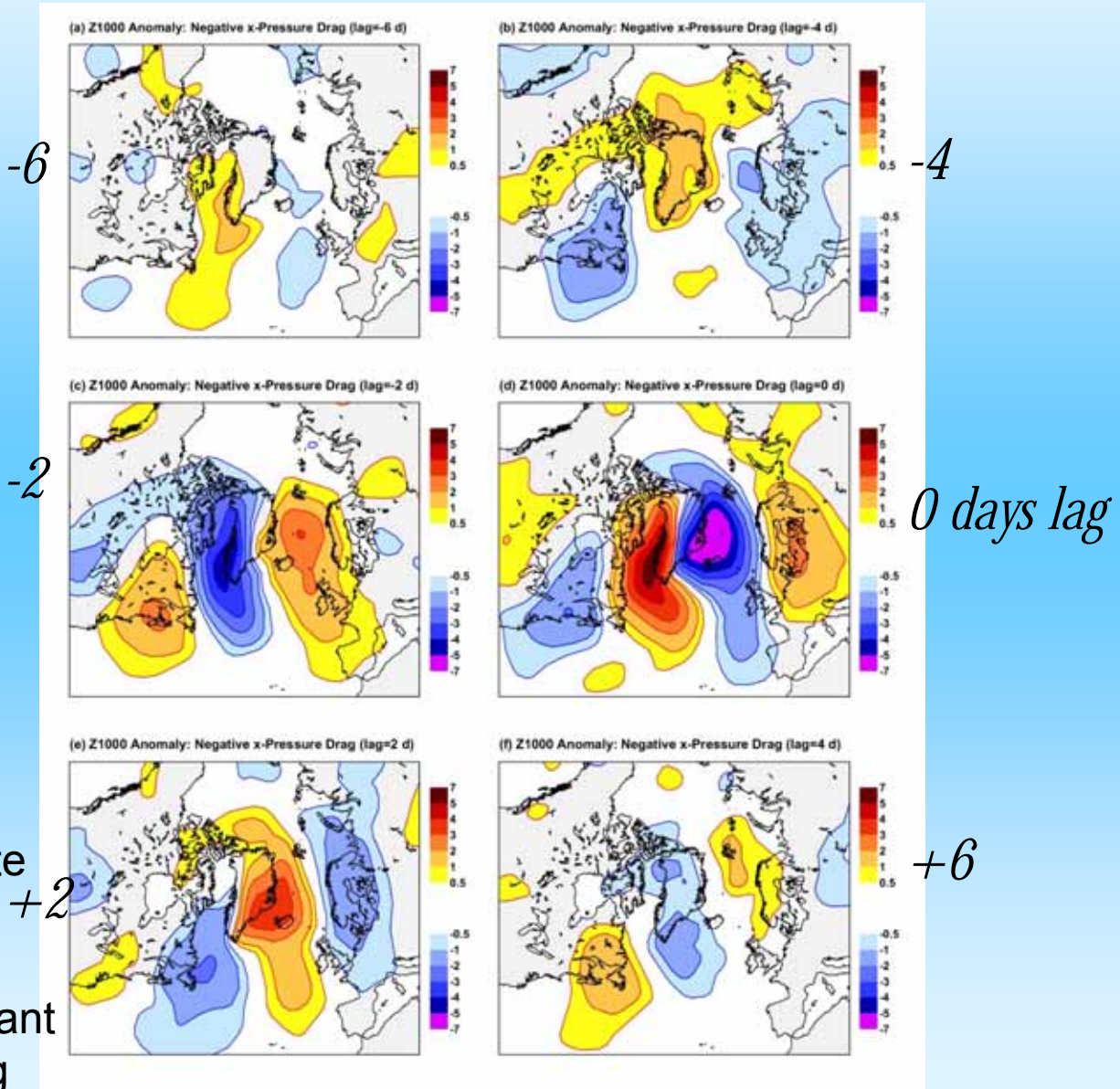
(b) Z50 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T255)



(c) Z50 and Potential Temperature: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T799)







-6

-4

-2

0 days lag

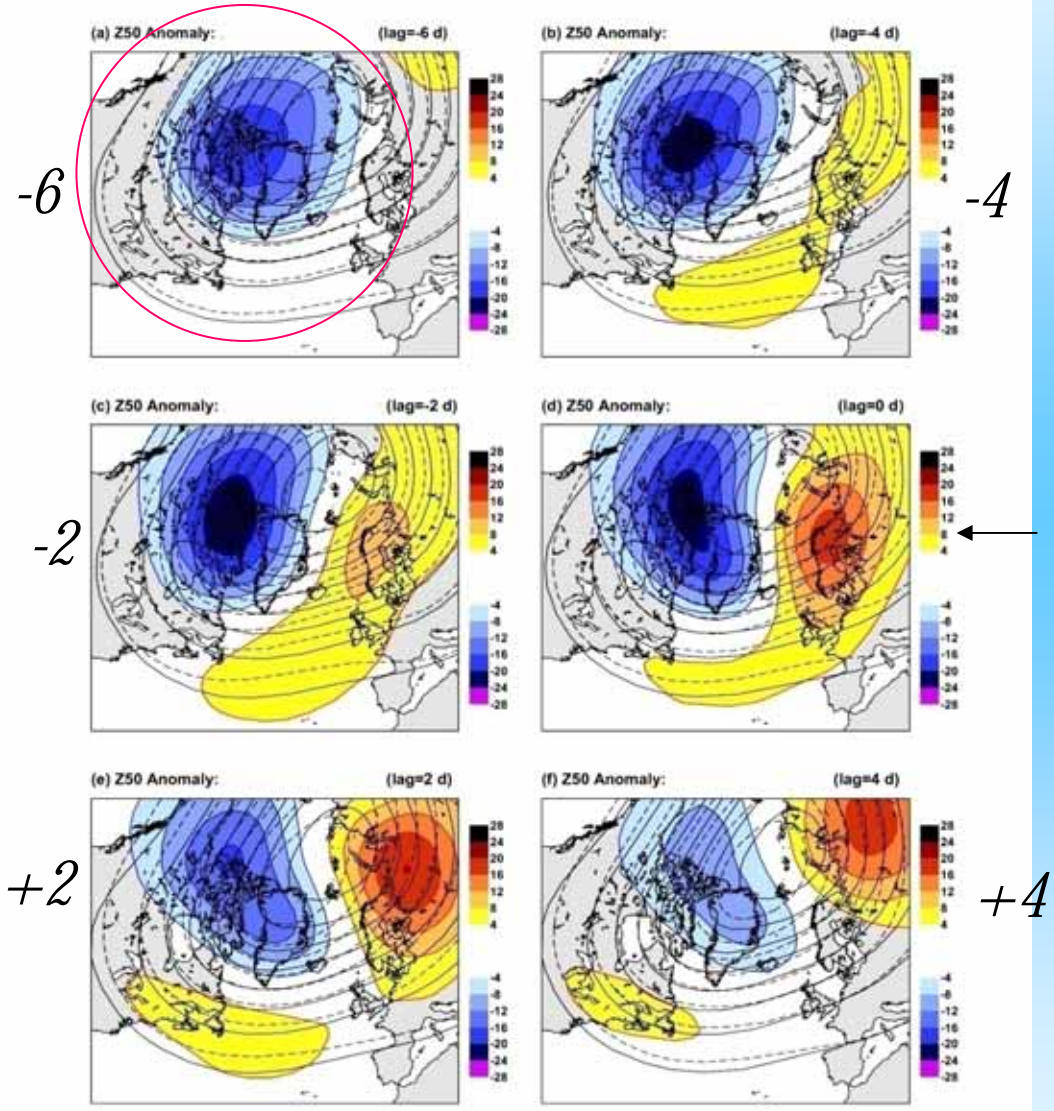
+2

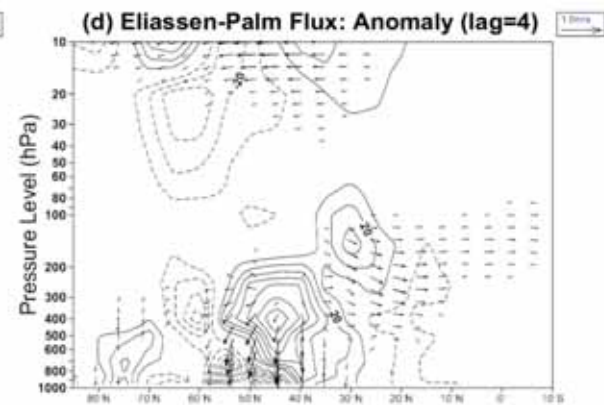
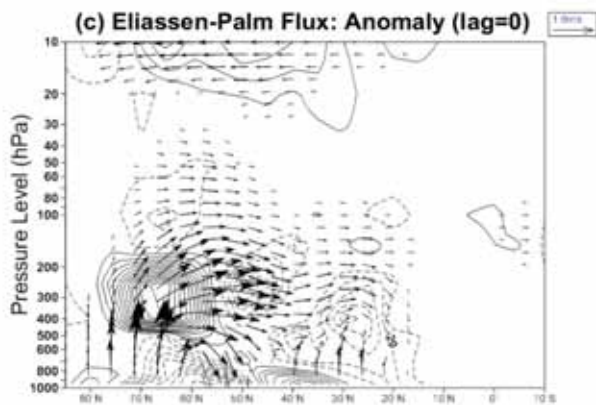
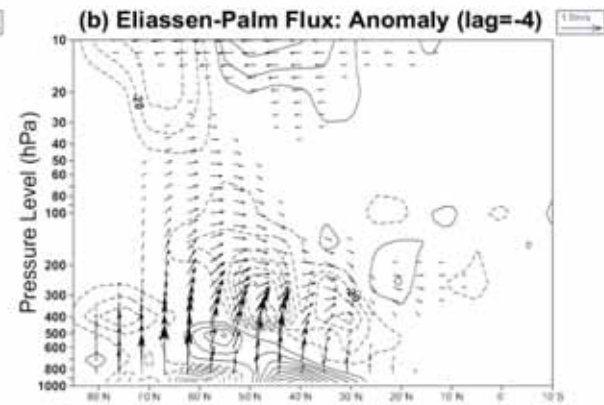
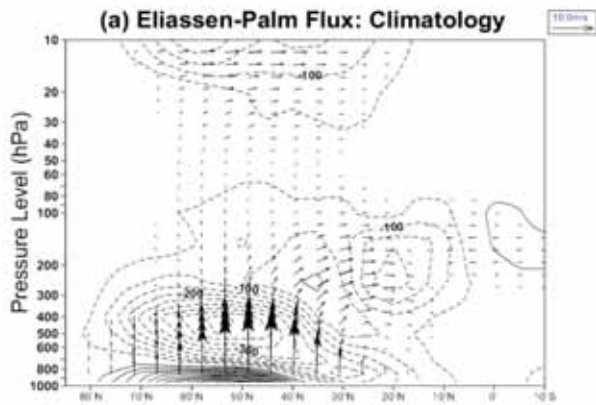
+6

high frequency  
variance composite  
maps: 1000 hPa  
level showing  
storm track covariant  
with pressure drag  
on Greenland



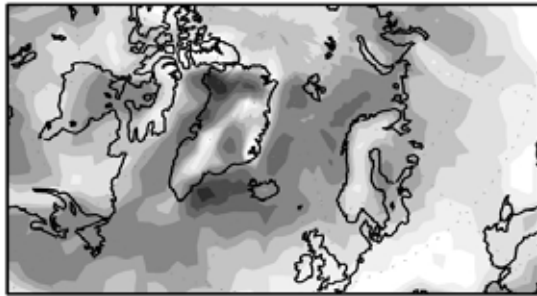
Z50  
stratospheric  
polar vortex level



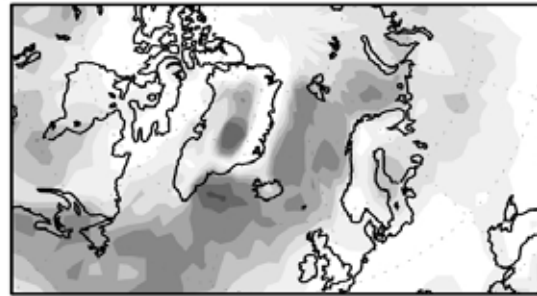


number of cyclones in winter...observations (ERA-40) and various model resolutions T95 = 210 km grid; T799 = 25 km grid

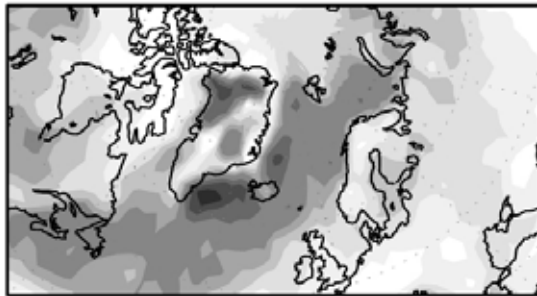
(a) ERA-40



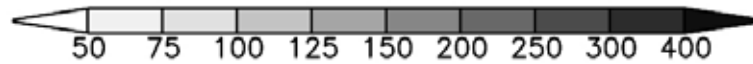
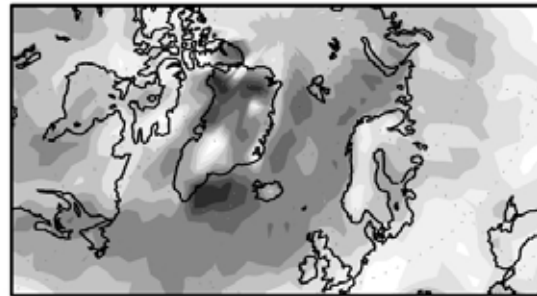
(b) T95L60



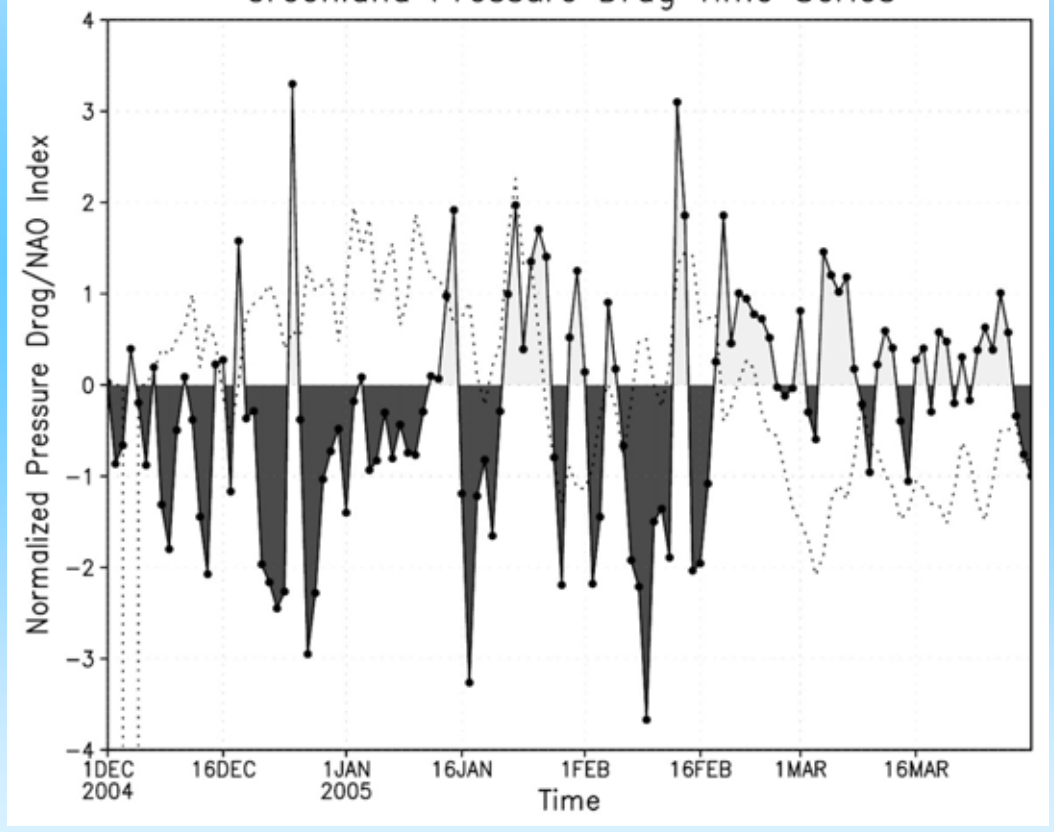
(c) T159L60



(d) T255L40

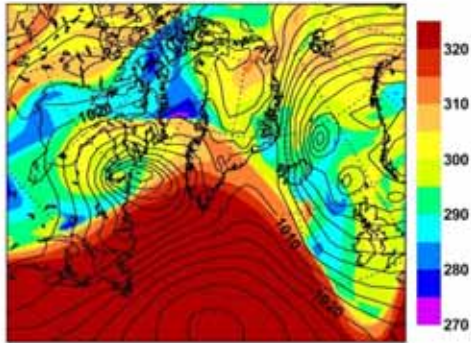


Greenland Pressure Drag Time Series

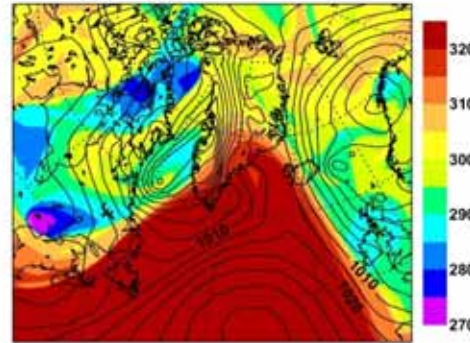


potential  
temperature  
at tropopause  
PV2 surface  
and sea level  
pressure

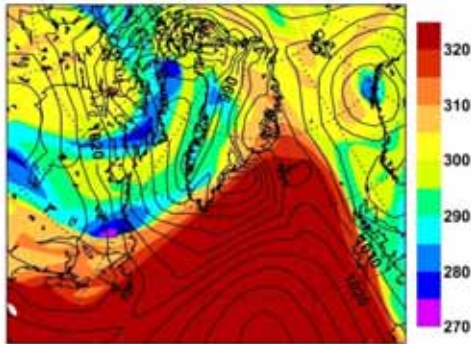
(a) Analysis (20041225 0z)



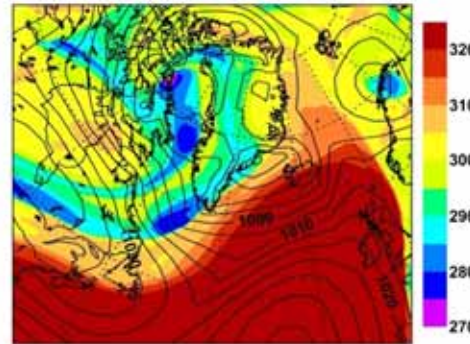
(b) Analysis (20041225 12z)



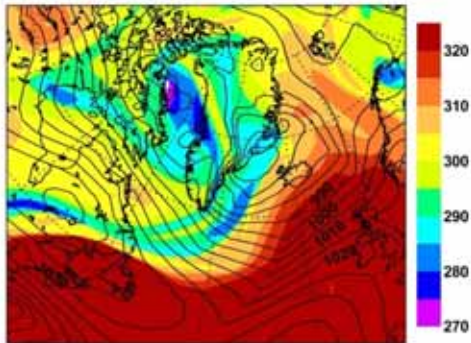
(c) Analysis (20041226 0z)



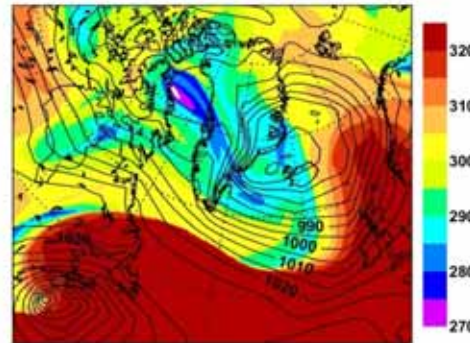
(d) Analysis (20041226 12z)

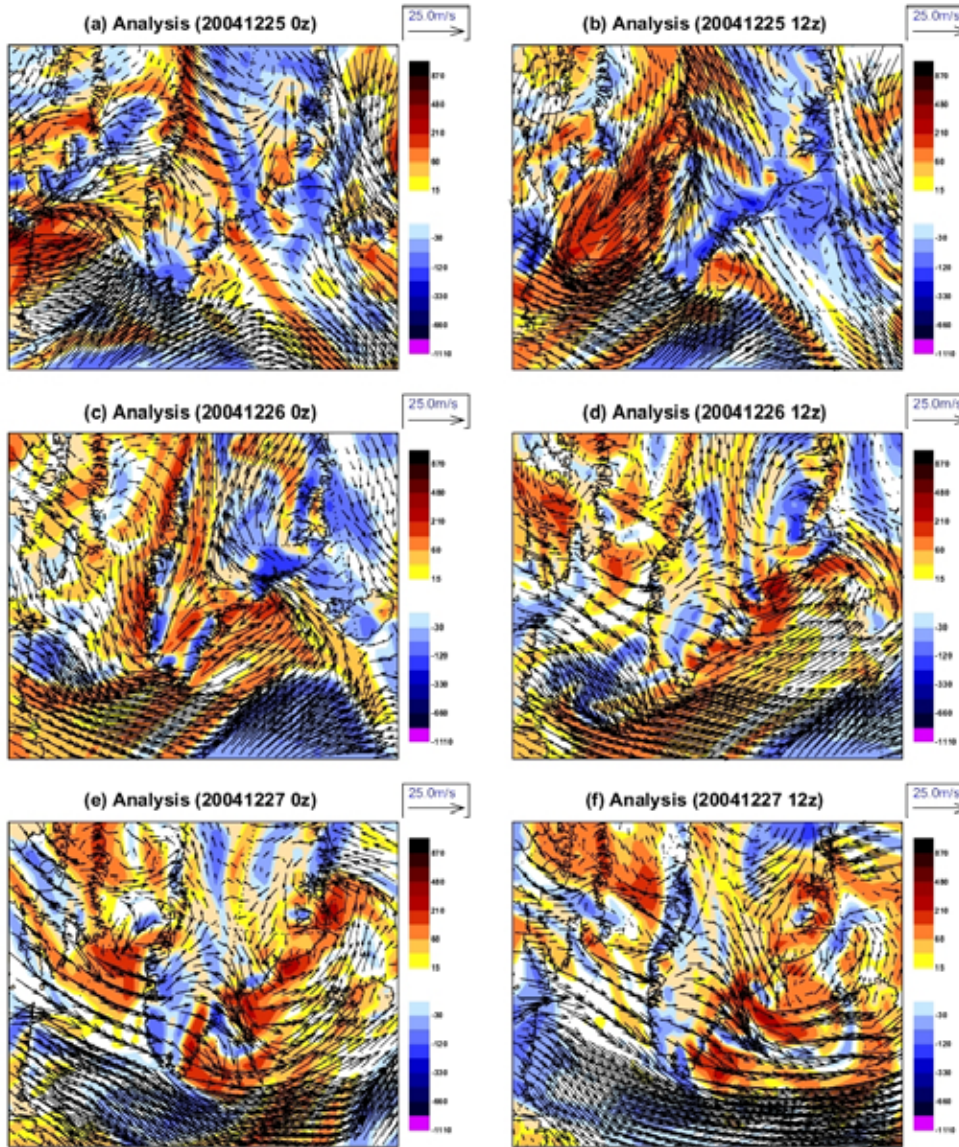


(e) Analysis (20041227 0z)

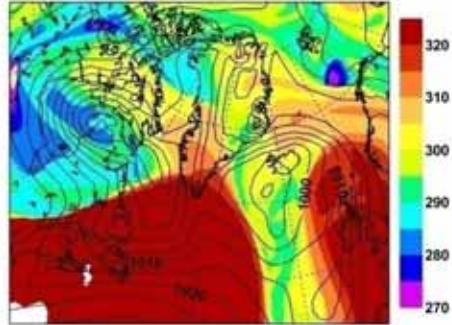


(f) Analysis (20041227 12z)

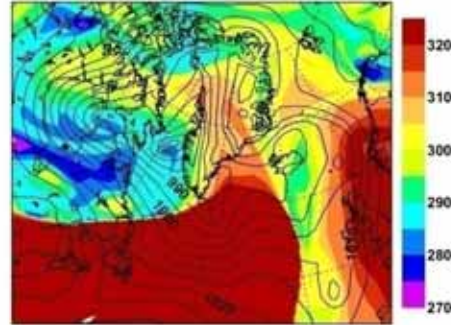




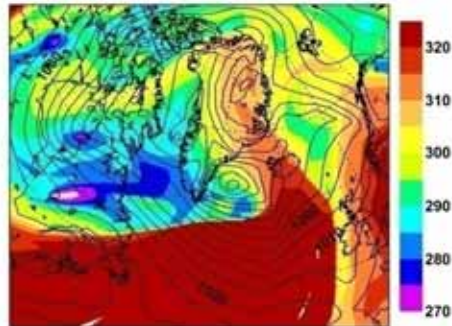
(a) Analysis (20050115 0z)



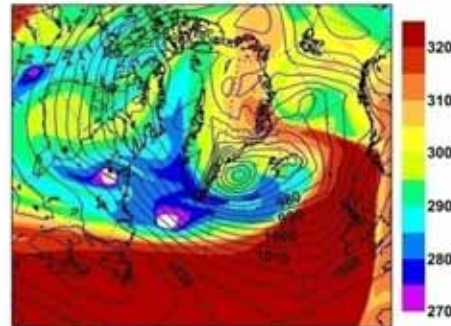
(b) Analysis (20050115 12z)



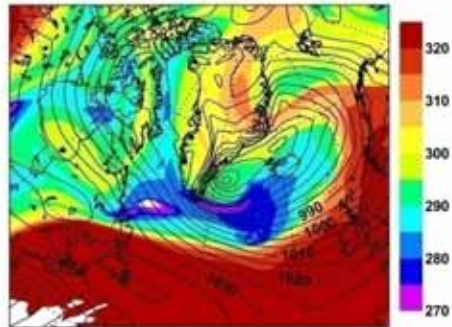
(c) Analysis (20050116 0z)



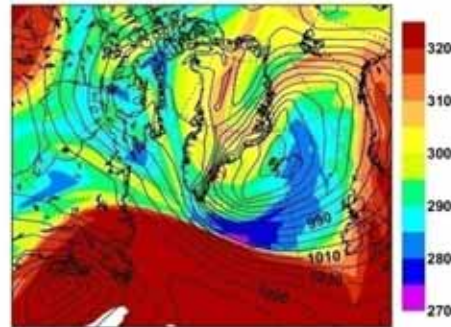
(d) Analysis (20050116 12z)

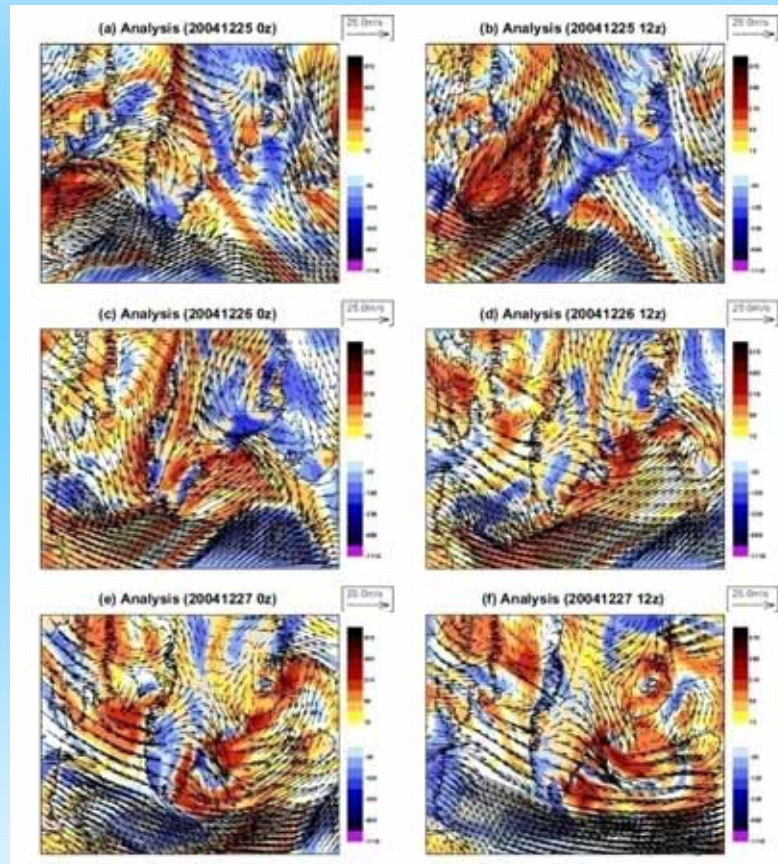


(e) Analysis (20050117 0z)

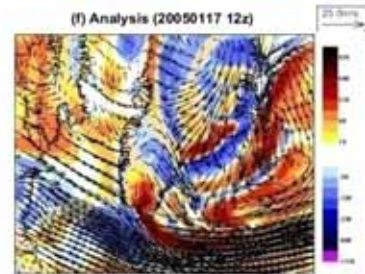
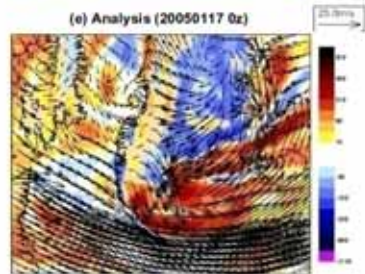
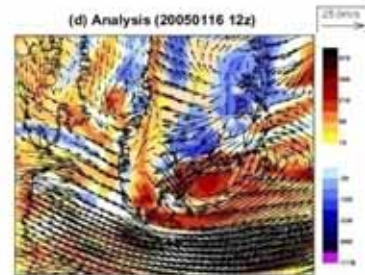
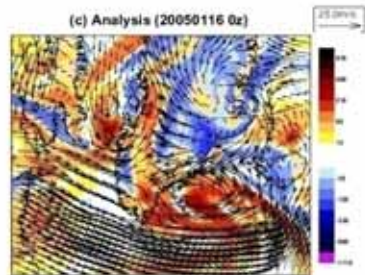
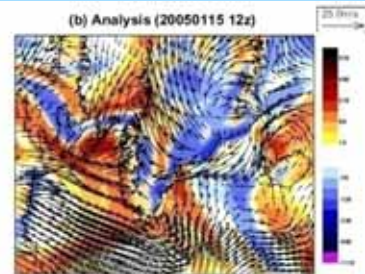
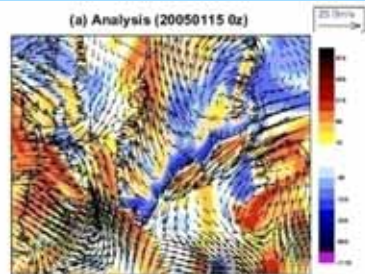


(f) Analysis (20050117 12z)

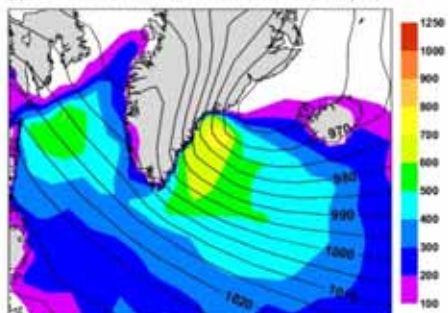




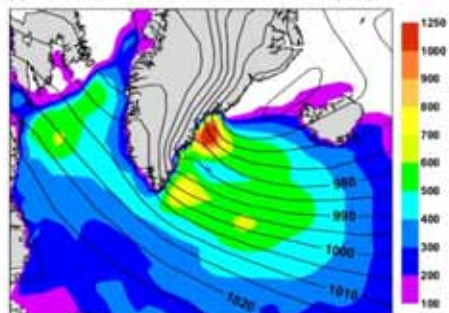




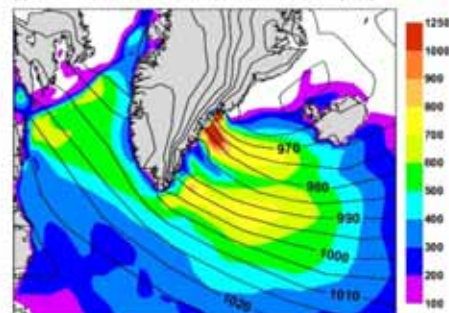
(a) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T95)



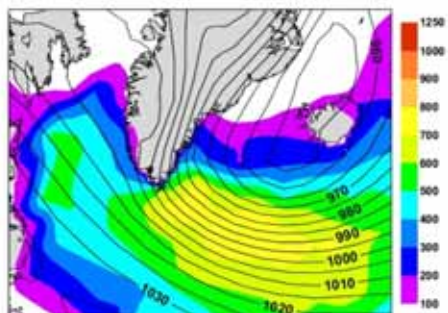
(b) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T255)



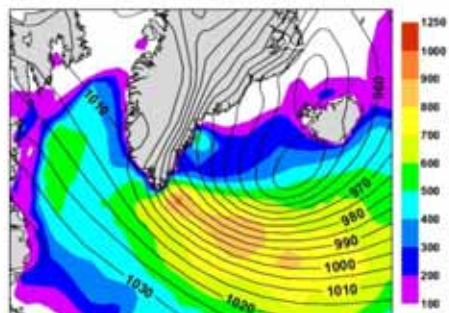
(c) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20041226 12z FC+24h (T799)



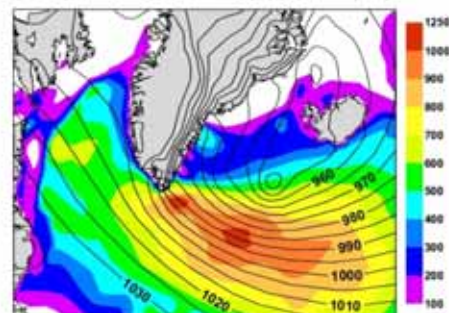
(d) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20050116 12z FC+24h (T95)



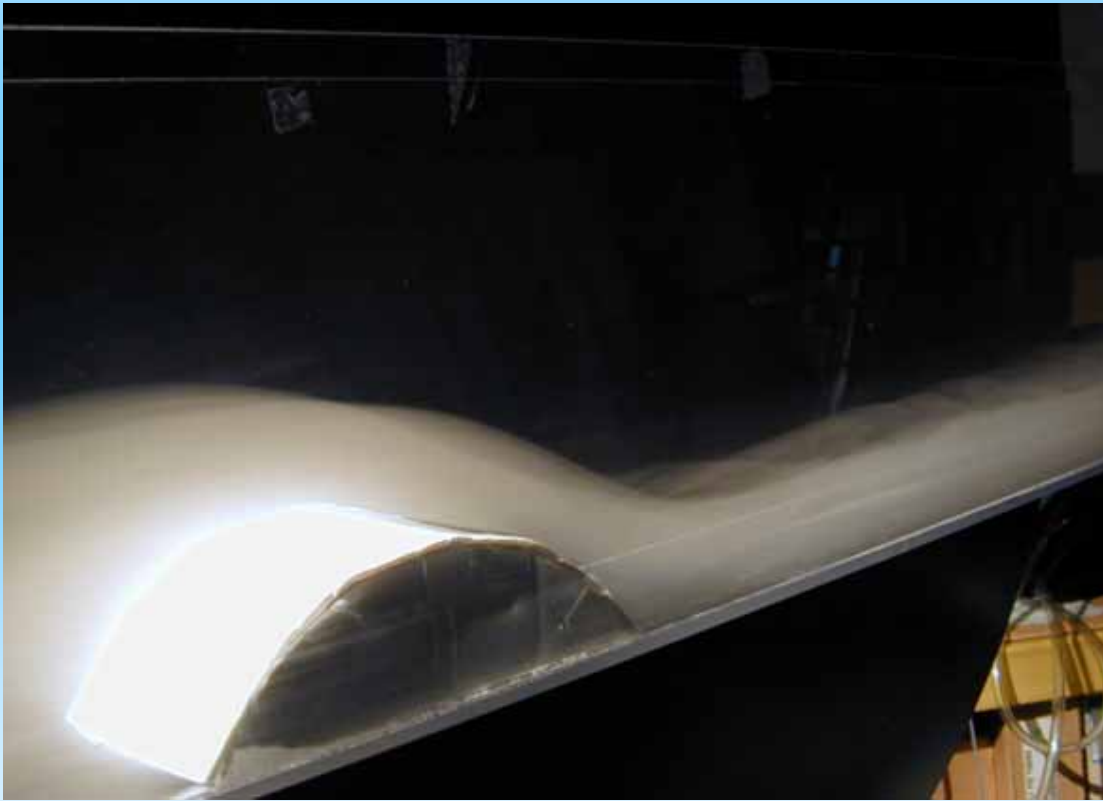
(e) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20050116 12z FC+24h (T255)

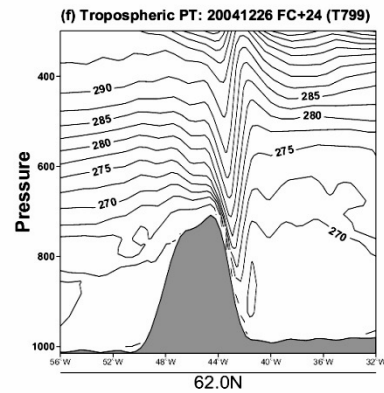
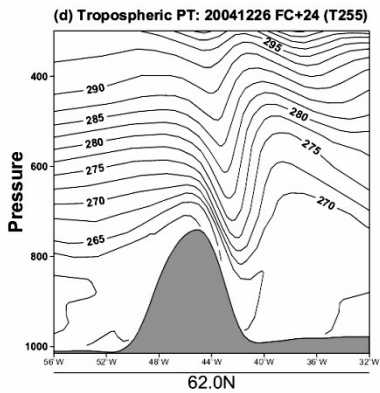
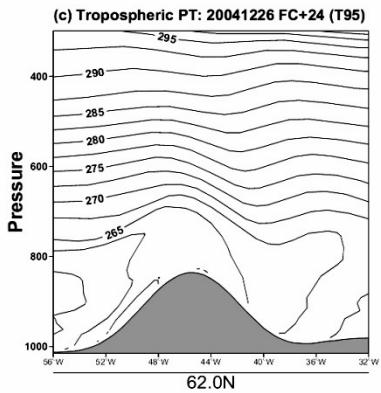
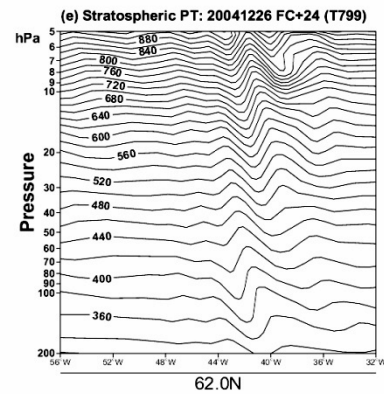
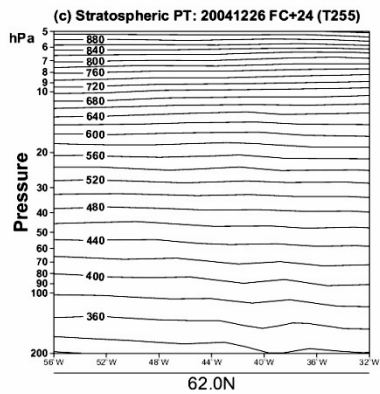
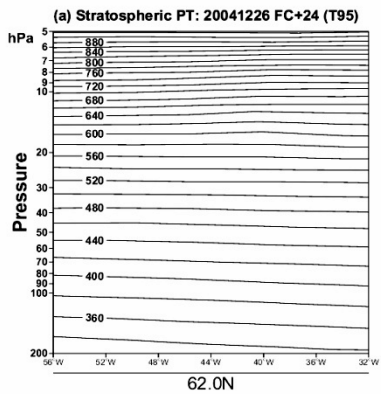


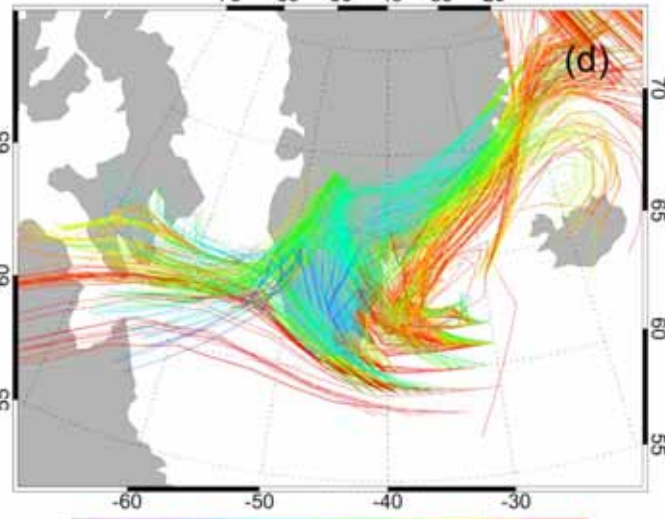
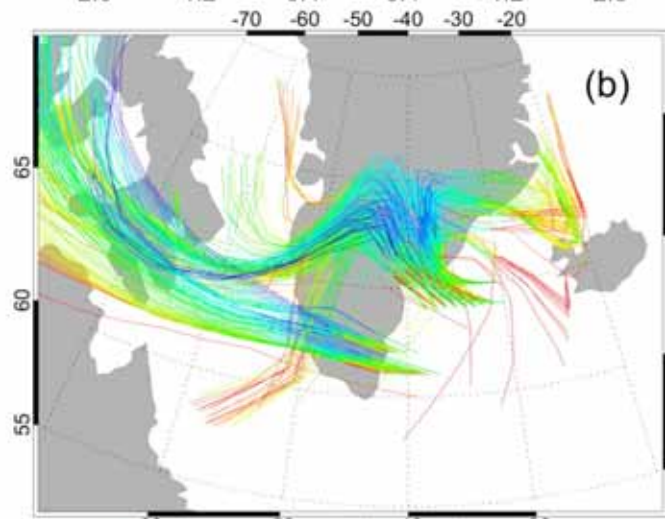
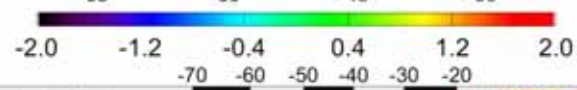
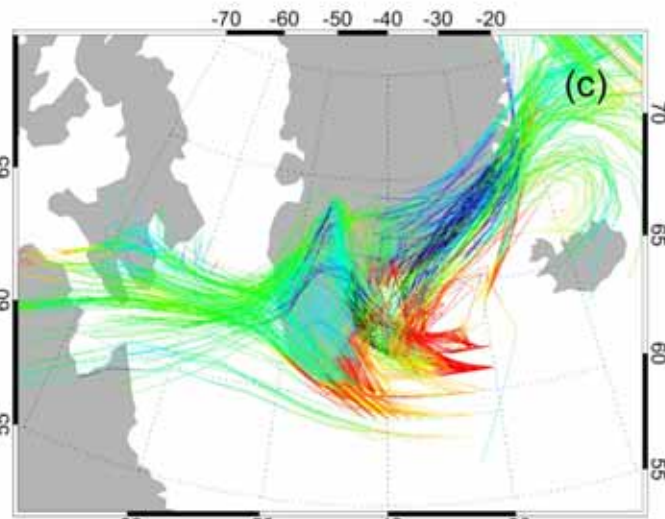
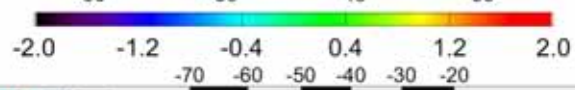
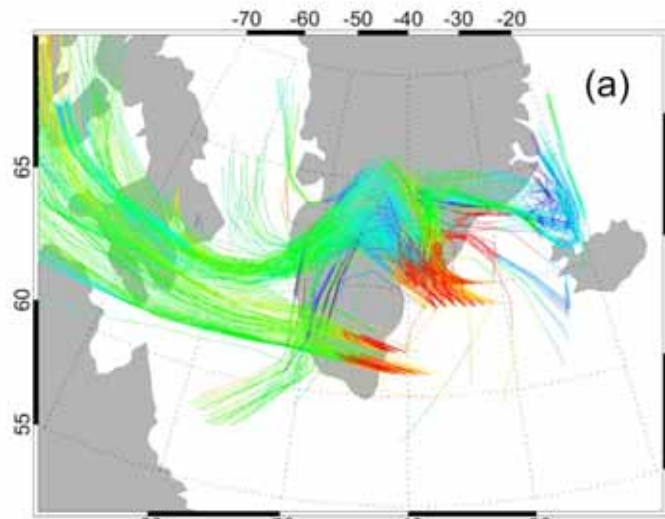
(f) SLP and Turbulent Heat Fluxes: 20050116 12z FC+24h (T799)



Downslope winds increase wavedrag (by Bernoulli) here in a layer of CO<sub>2</sub>







Mel Shapiro's Greenland flights

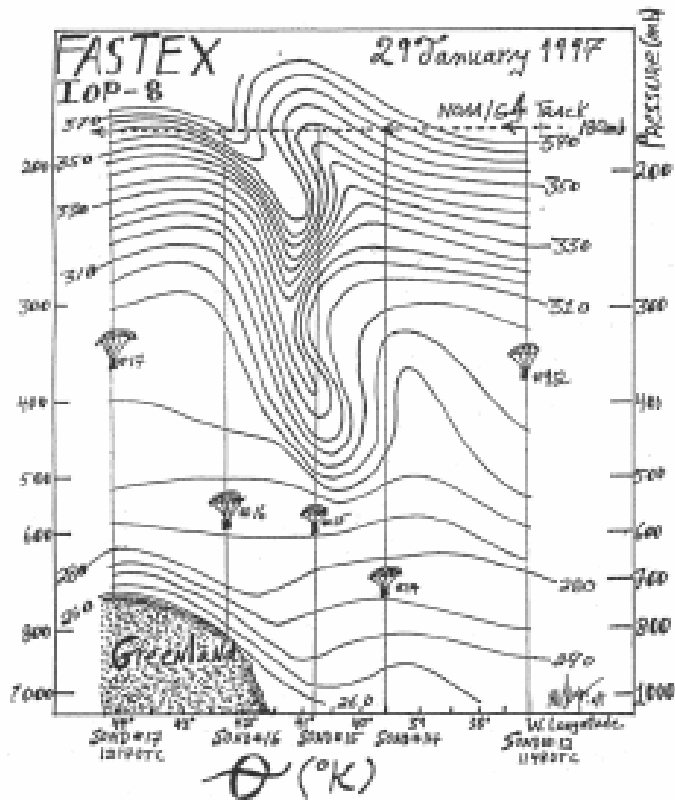


Fig. 5. Cross section of potential temperature (K) at ~1200 UTC 29 January 1997 derived from dropsondes (numbered 12-17) from the NOAA/G-4 aircraft.

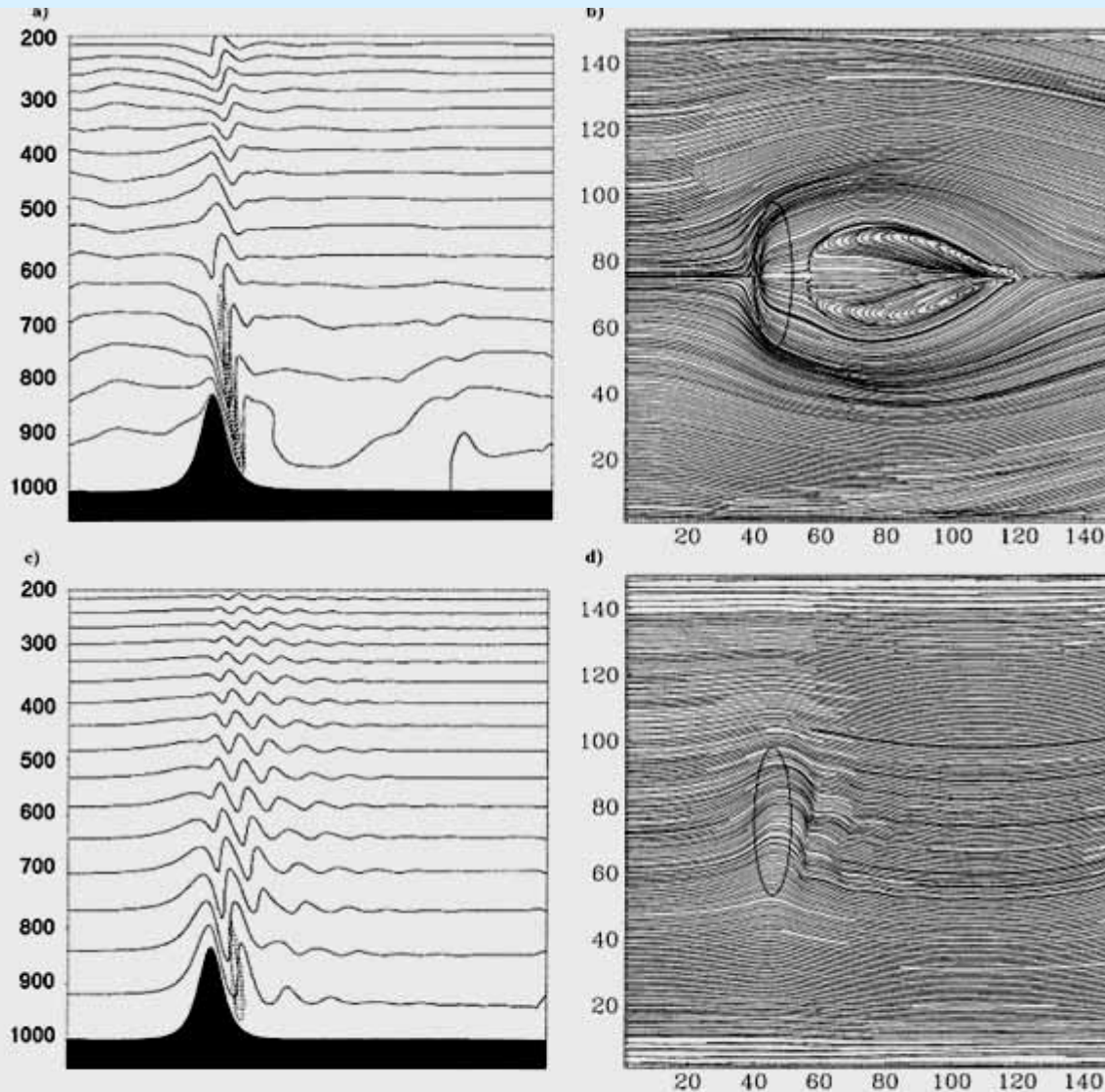


FIG. 1. Comparison of simulations excluding and including the Coriolis force. (a) A cross section of a flow with  $\hat{h} = 1.5$  and  $Ro = \infty$ , taken at the axis of symmetry at  $t^* = 34.56$  showing potential temperature (K, solid) and turbulent kinetic energy ( $J\ kg^{-1}$ , dashed). The isentropes contour interval is 2 K and the TKE contour interval  $1\ J\ kg^{-1}$ . (b) Streamlines at the surface at the same time. The topography is shown at  $0.35h$ . (c), (d) As in (a), (b) but with  $Ro = 0.42$ .

$Ro =$   
 $Nh/U = 1.5$

$Ro = 0.42$   
 $Nh/U = 1.5$

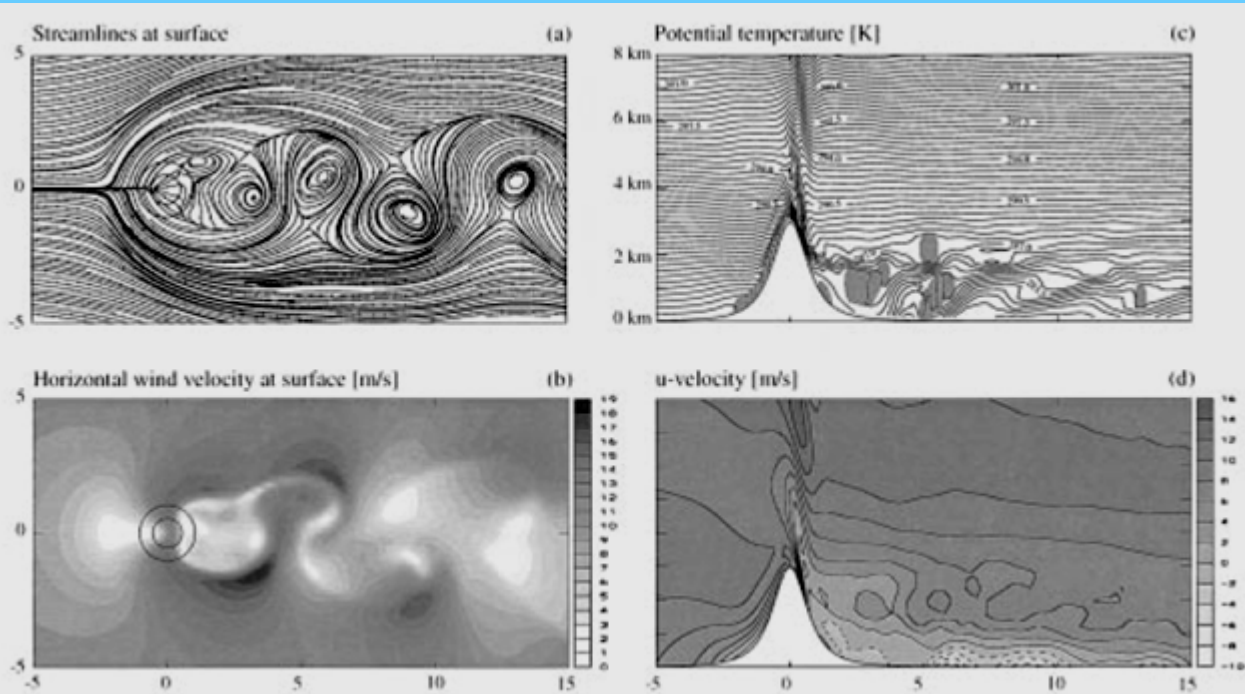
*Petersen, Olafsson,  
 Kristjansson  
 JAS2003*

Schär (*JAS 93*): PV is transported along the intersections of the Bernoulli-function and isentropic surfaces in a statistically steady flow....

$$PV \text{ flux: } \vec{J} = \nabla \theta \times \nabla B$$

$$B = \text{enthalpy} + \frac{1}{2} |\vec{u}|^2 + \Phi$$

$$\approx c_p T + \frac{1}{2} |\vec{u}|^2 + gz$$

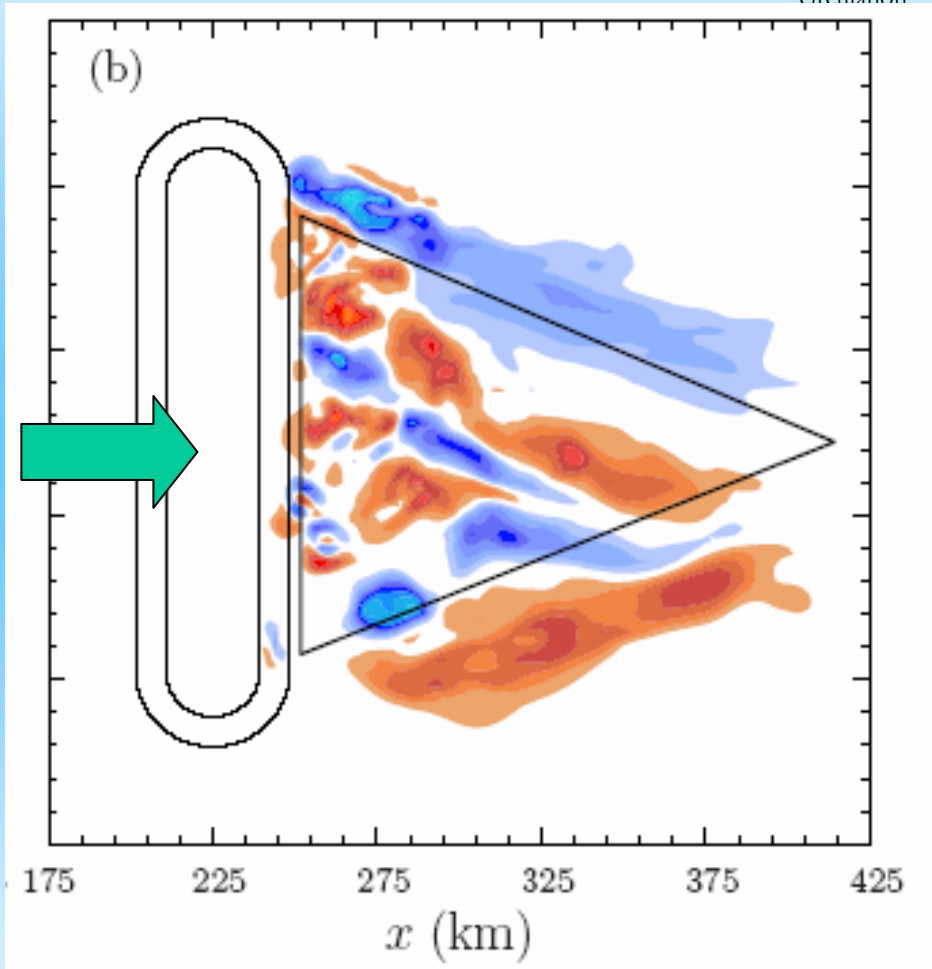


*Schär & Durran  
JAS 97*

also: tip horiz  
vorticity to make  
vertical vorticity  
*Rottuno et al. JAS  
99*



Ertel potential vorticity generation by breaking lee gravity waves. The PV generation as well as the gravity-wave momentum flux alter the geostrophic circulation.



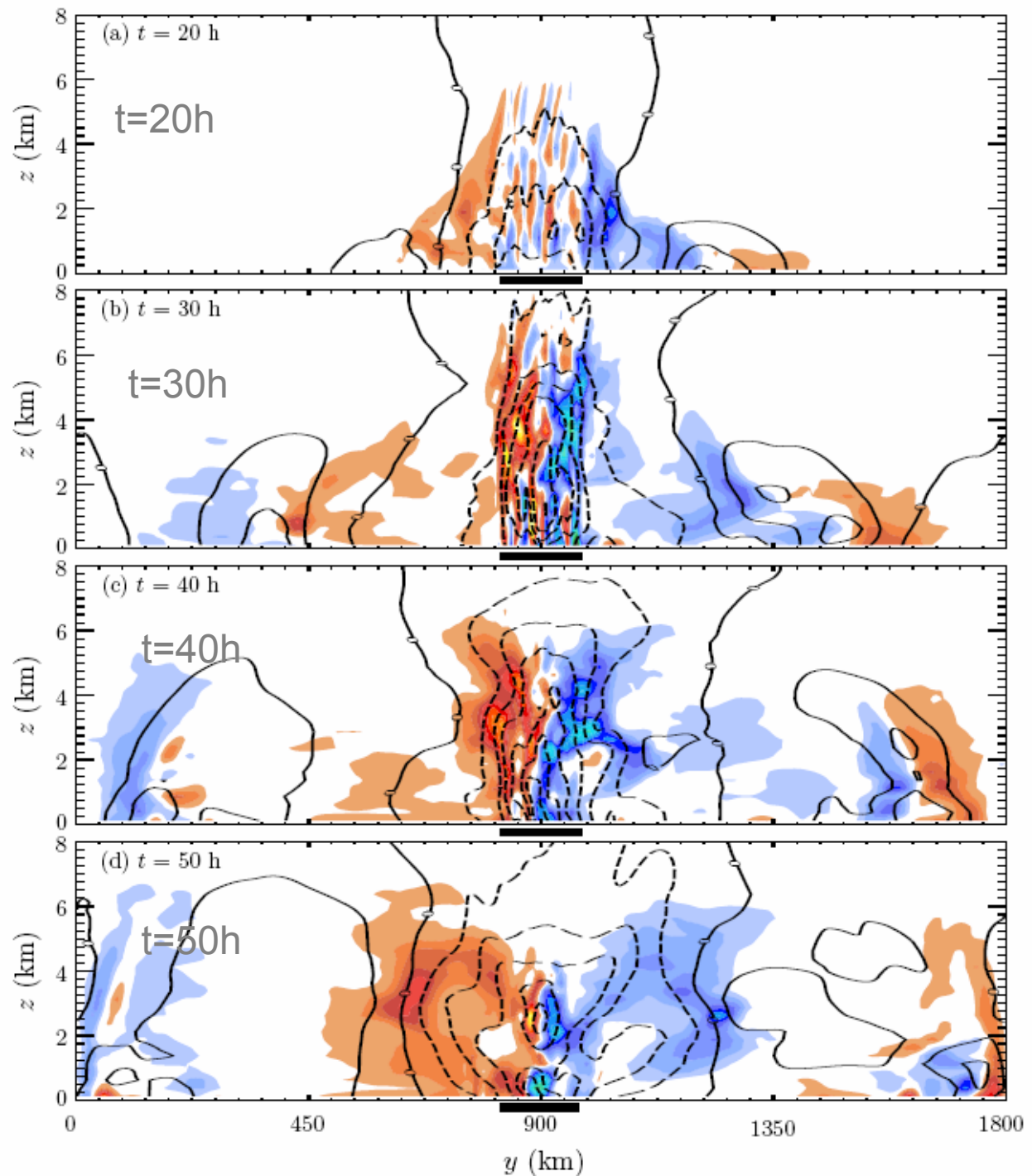
$$\frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} = 0,$$

$$\mathbf{J} = \nabla \theta \times \nabla B,$$

PV and zonal flow generation in flow over a 1.5 km high mountain

(dipole of PV, decelerated wake)

*Chen, Hakim & Durran,  
JAS 2007 in press*



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*Orographic gravity waves over Greenland observed:  
 Limpasuvan et al. JGR 2007*

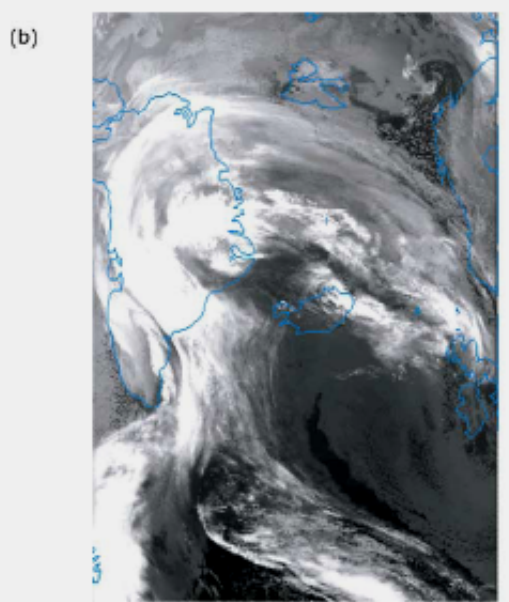
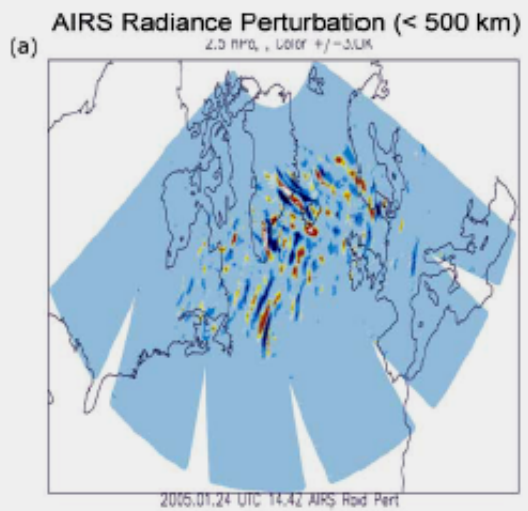
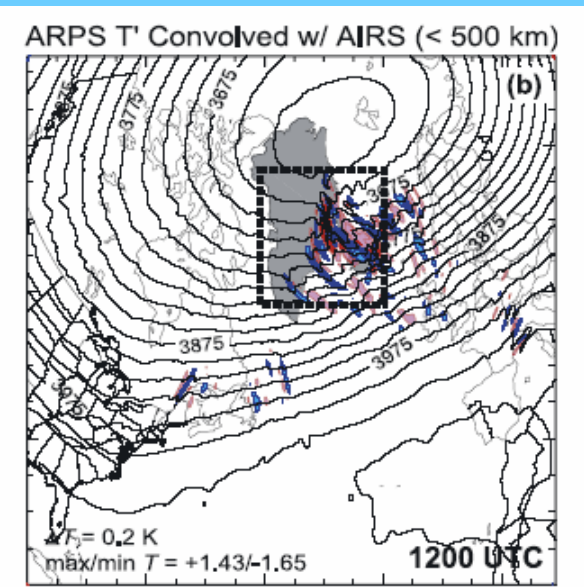
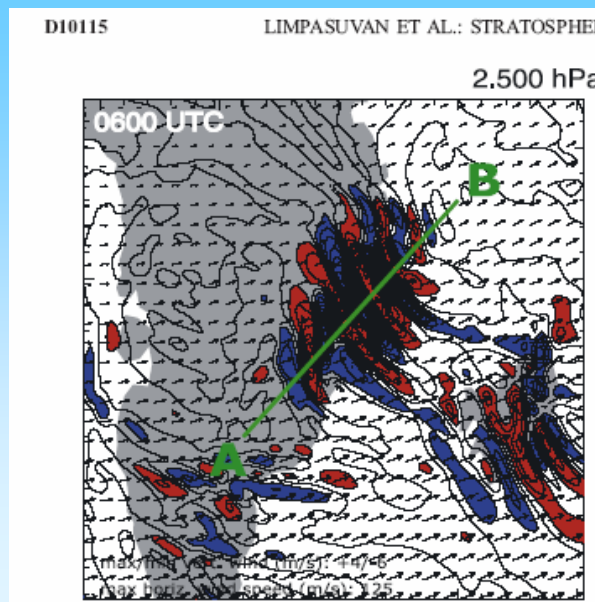


Figure 1. (a) AIRS observations (ascending orbits) at 2.5 hPa of radiance perturbations (of horizontal scales shorter than 500 km). The approximate equivalent temperature amplitude is noted in the subtitle. (b) Infrared image from the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program at 0913 UTC 24 January 2005.



perturbations simulation at 2.5 hPa (contour interval





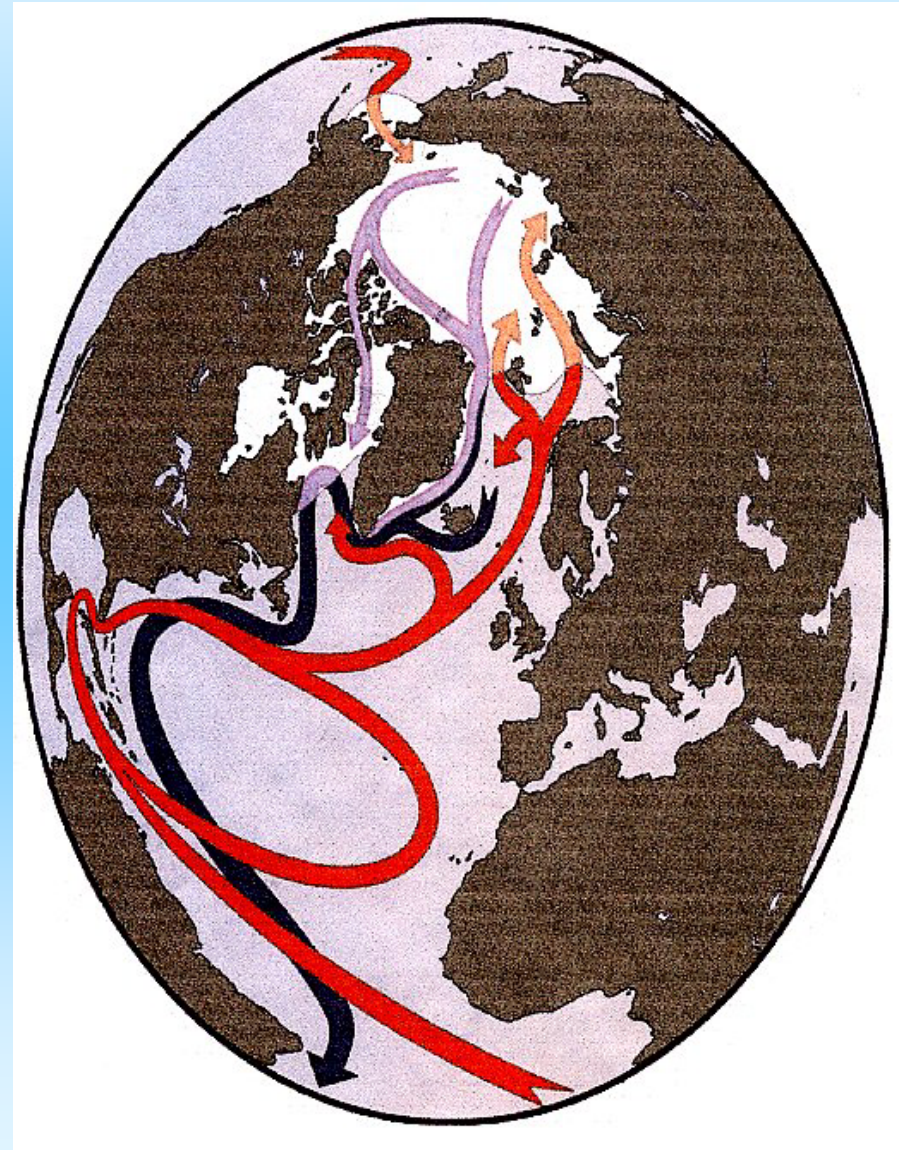
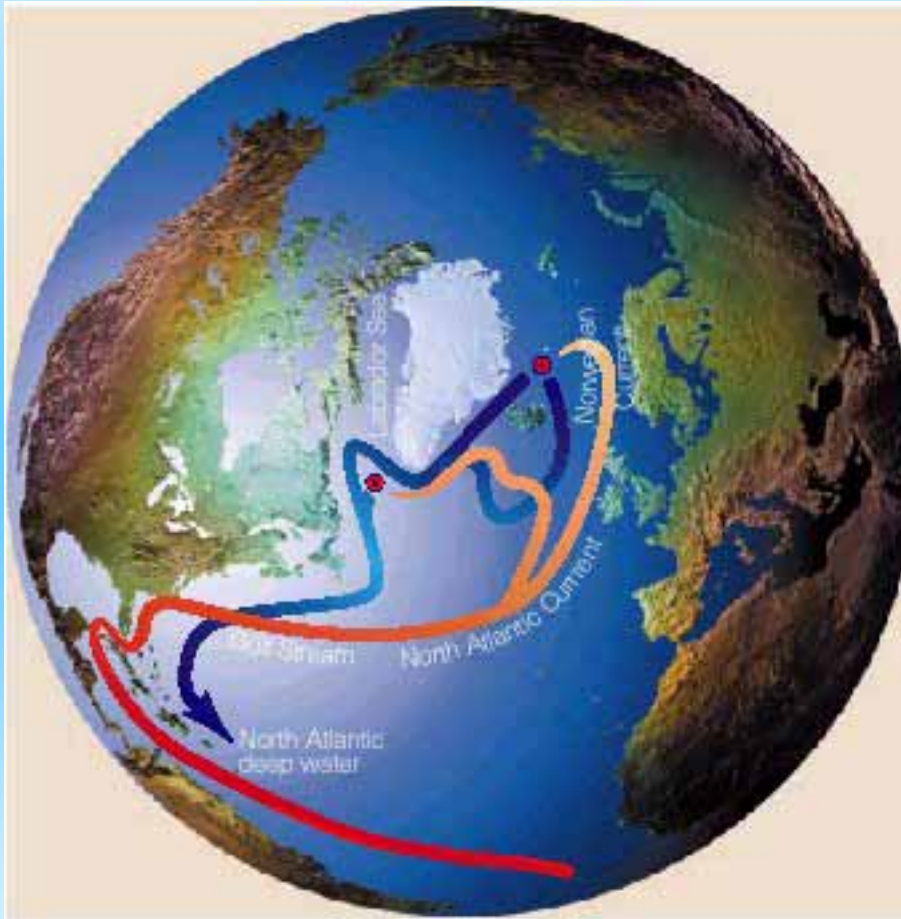




# Overtaking circulations

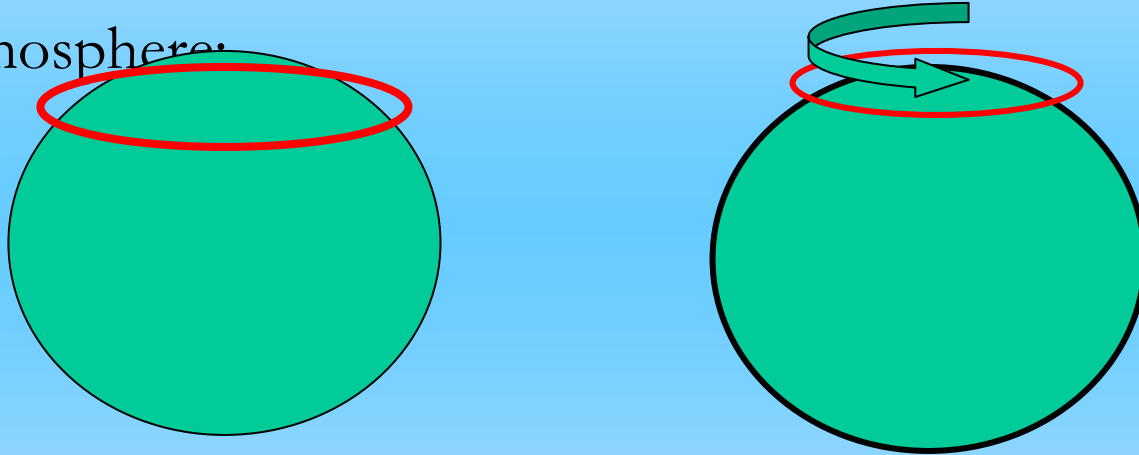
-

Oceanic overturning circulations: coexisting with 'horizontal gyres of wind-forced circulation





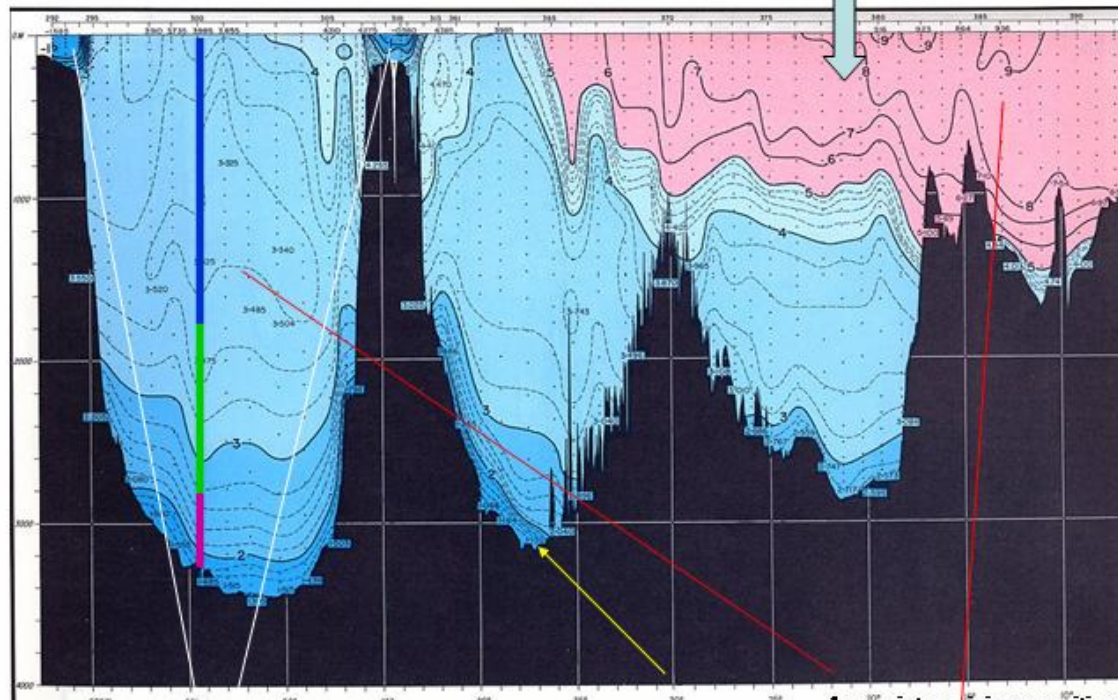
- MOCs have an easier time in the oceans than in the atmosphere:



*a ring of air moved 1000 km north gains westerly velocity of  $100 \text{ m sec}^{-1}$  There is not enough energy available to utilize this mode: the Hadley cell is limited in north-south extent. Forces (eddy momentum flux from PV stirring) and non-symmetric circulation are required to support extensive meridional excursion.*

# channels and conduits for heat- and fresh-water transport

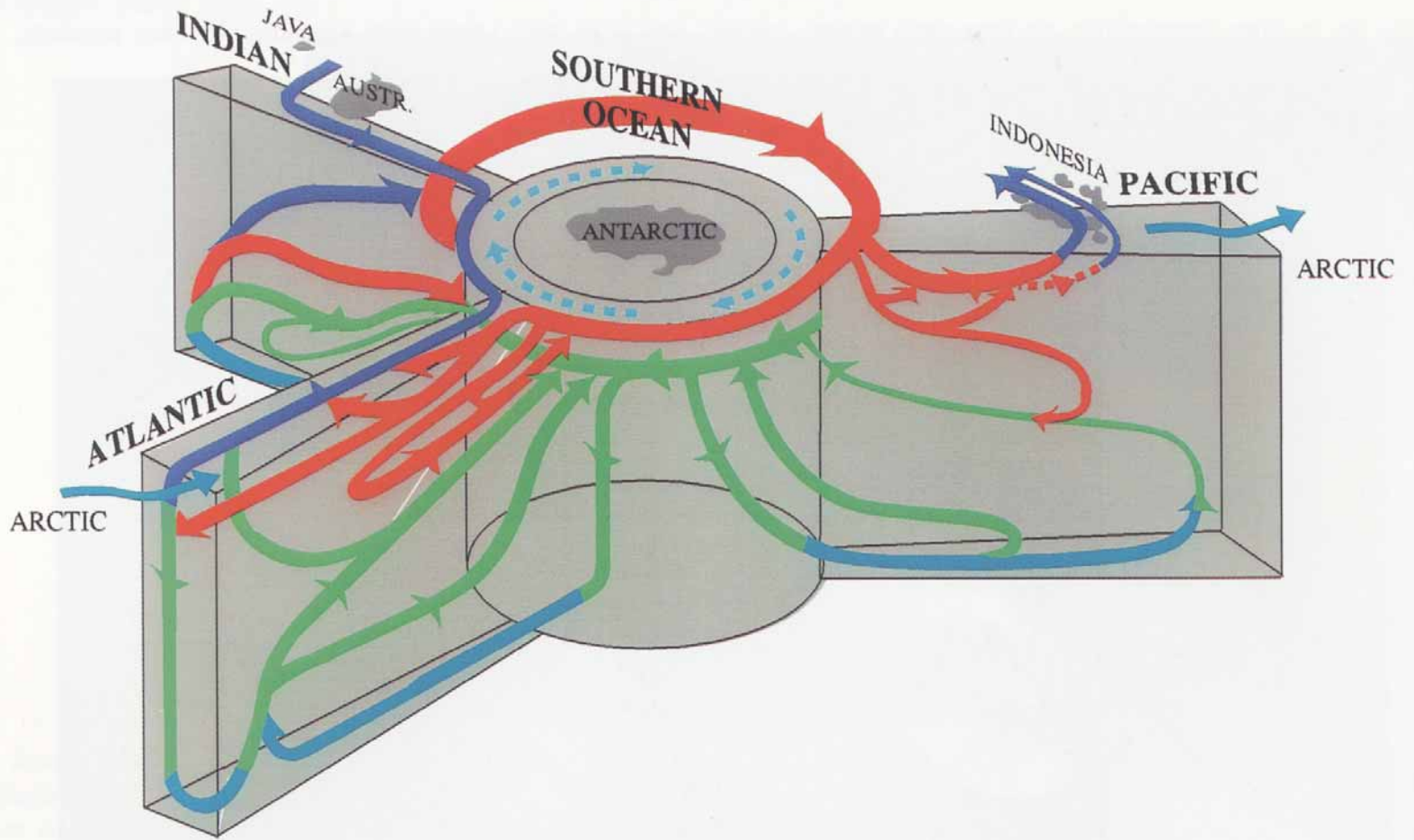
Erika Dan temperature section, 60°N  
Labrador-Greenland-Rockall-Ireland  
Worthington+Wright, 1970



Shallow continental shelf circulation provides shallow southward flow and FW transport. *Global climate models do not have continental shelves!*

Deep boundary current less on Greenland's continental slope: Denmark Strait Overflow Water

deep winter mixing, sensitive to upper ocean low-salinity waters



Lateral penetration of convected water masses: Gradual diffusive closure of nearly balanced circulations:

(o) the linear heat-up problem

(i) geostrophic adjustment followed by

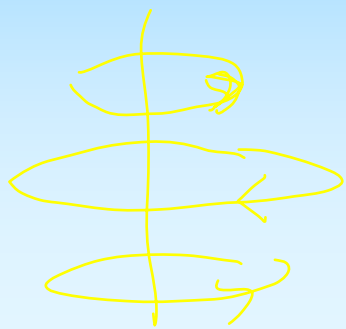
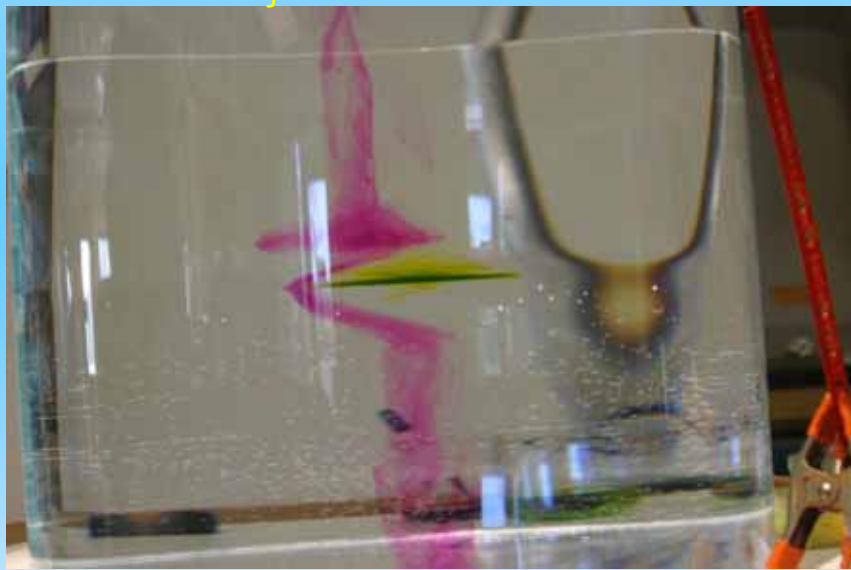
(ii) Eliassen-Sawyer overturning

(iii) ~ 'slow diffusion'

(iv)  $\beta$ -plumes

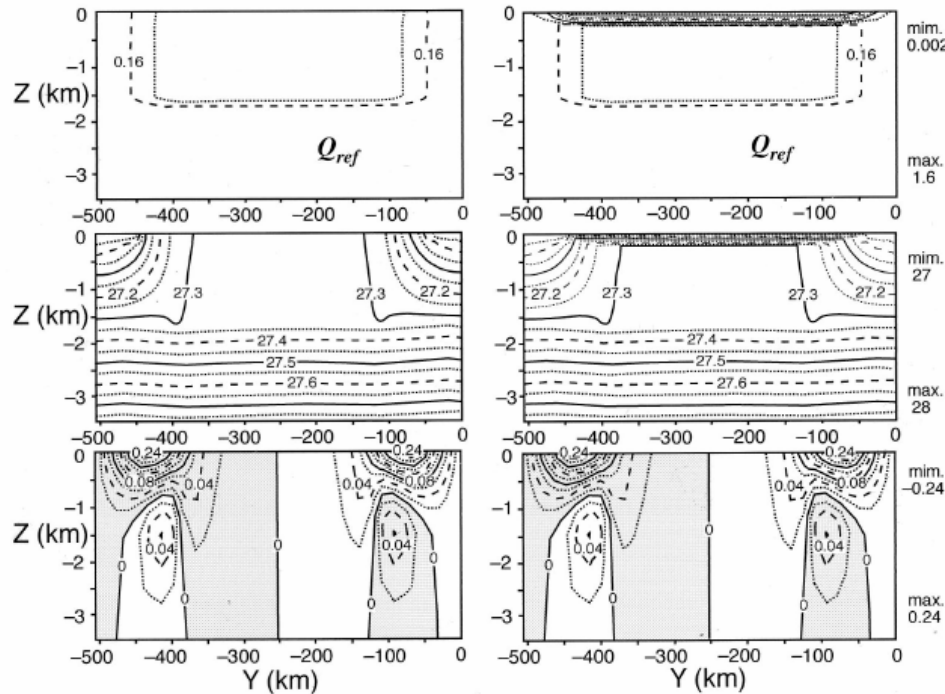
A baroclinic vortex created by injecting water at mid-depth into a stratification  
Note purple dye shows a azimuthal velocity exists above and below the water mass:

The MOC (meridional cell) driving 3 vortices



cyclone  
anticyclone  
cyclone

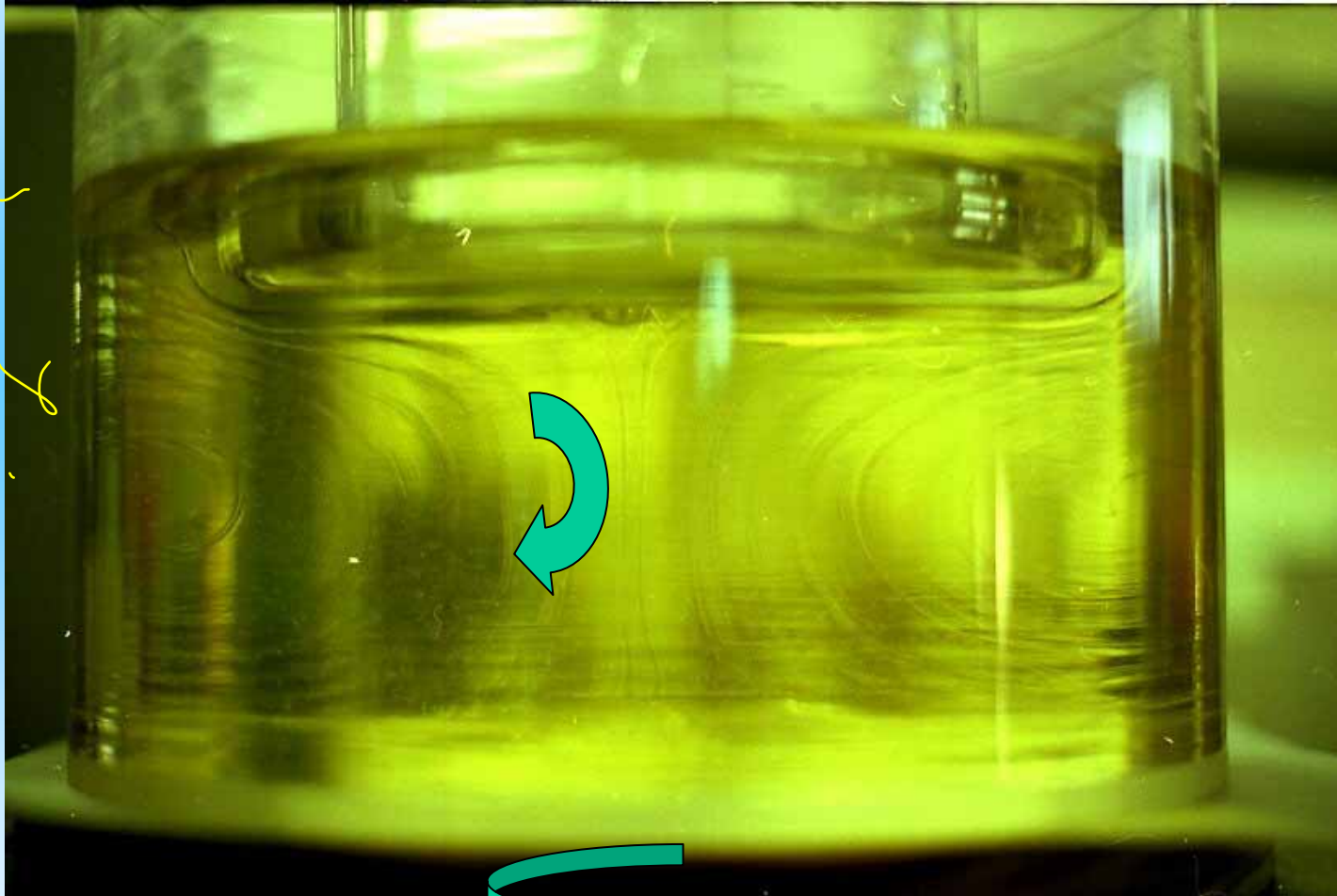
PV inversion: using a model of convective destruction of PV. The modelled or diagnosed PV field is associated with a field of azimuthal circulation, displaced mass, and interacts with the meridional overturning circulation



**Figure 37.** PV inversion for a mixed patch with (a) inhomogeneous and (b) homogeneous boundary conditions at the surface. PV distribution, isopycnals, and currents are plotted. In Figure 37a the potential density at the sea surface is specified and an idealized interior PV anomaly inverted to give the hydrography and azimuthal velocity of a baroclinic vortex. In Figure 37b an interior PV field identical to that of Figure 37a is used, but now the cold surface is represented by a sheet of high PV just beneath the upper boundary, which is prescribed to be an isopycnal surface. Note that in Figure 37b, unlike Figure 37a, the isopycnals cannot cut the upper surface, which itself is an isopycnal.

viscous overturning in a rotating cylinder:

the radial/vertical plane transmits stress from the top plate (which is at rest in the laboratory frame) and the bottom of the cylinder (which is rotating)



The Ekman layers are very thin.

sugar  
syrup

Overturning cells in an annulus of fluid between concentric cylinders (the inner cylinder is rotating, the outer cylinder is stationary (Taylor-Couette flow).

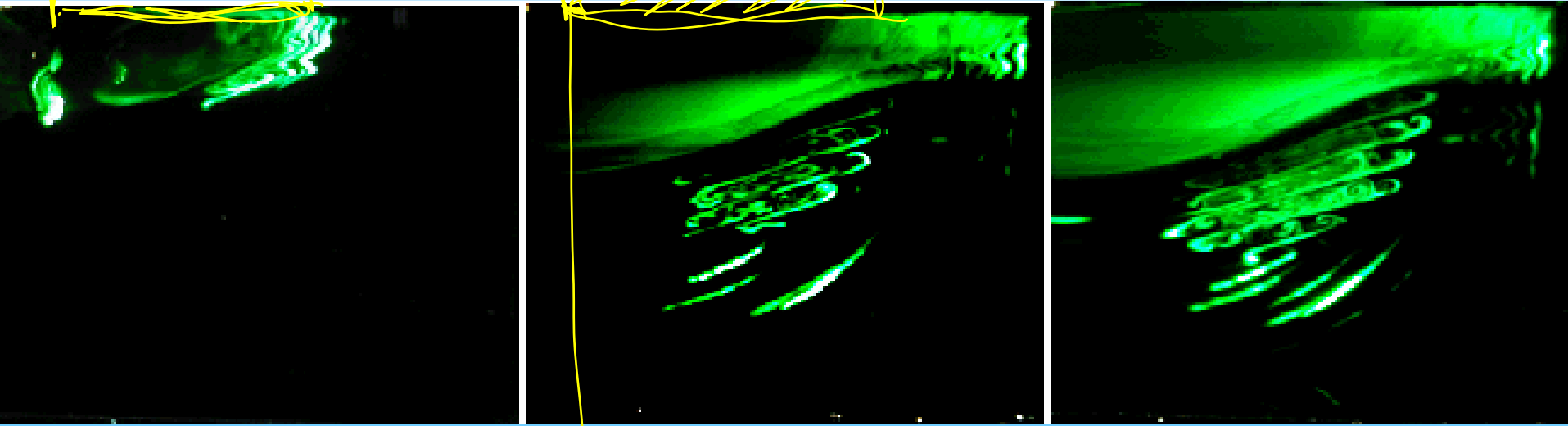
The cells transmit torque between the solid cylinders more strongly than would pure viscous diffusion.

(The same 2D equations govern thermal convection, and the Nusselt number expresses the analogous increase in heat flux above the diffusive rate).





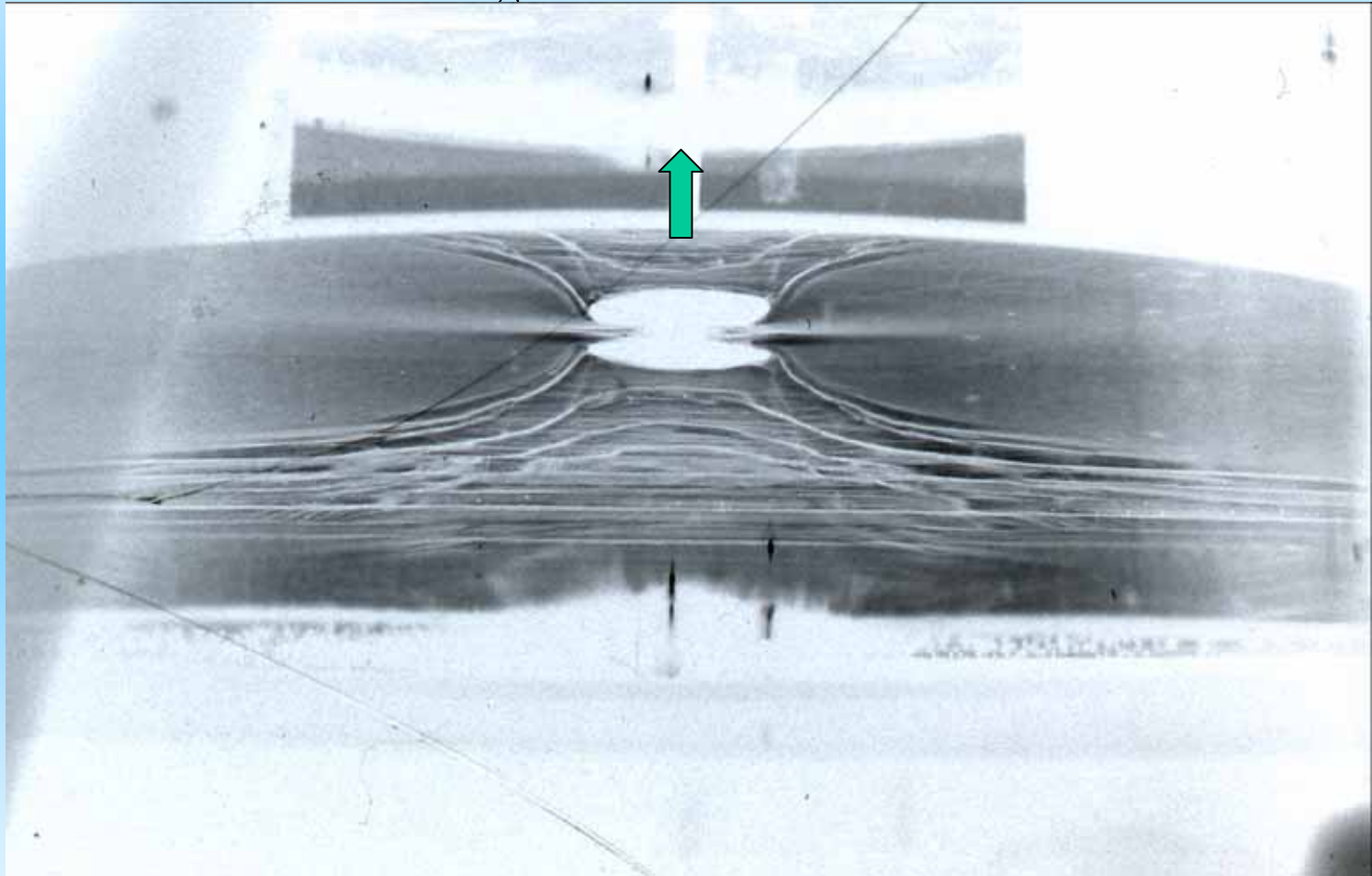
MOCs organized by double diffusion  
SPINNING DISK



CENTER

disk drives an anticyclone  
(warm eddy) in uniformly  
stratified fluid

Sink-driven flow in a rotating, stratified fluid: the cyclonic spin of the fluid would be resisted by bottom Ekman friction (and all radial inflow concentrated there in this tornado vortex); However, stable stratification resists and forces continuing MOC within the fluid. The azimuthal velocity

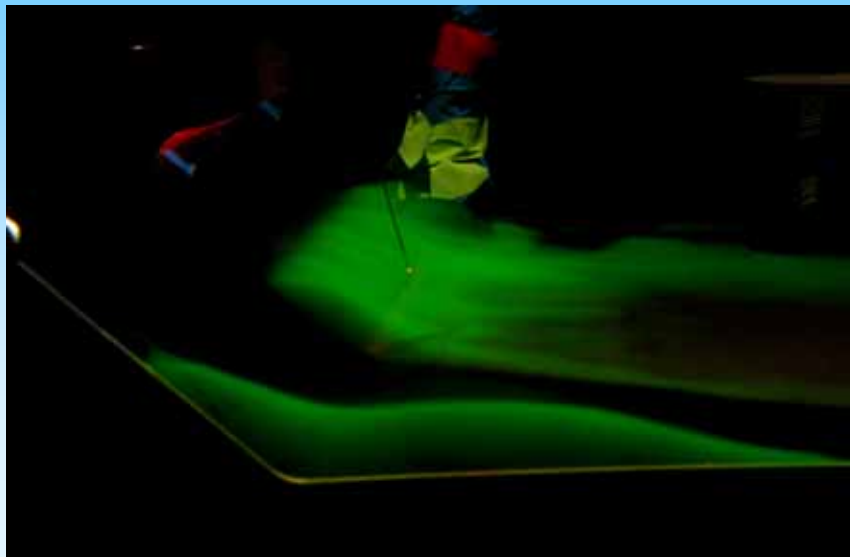


*GFD lab, Univ of Washington*

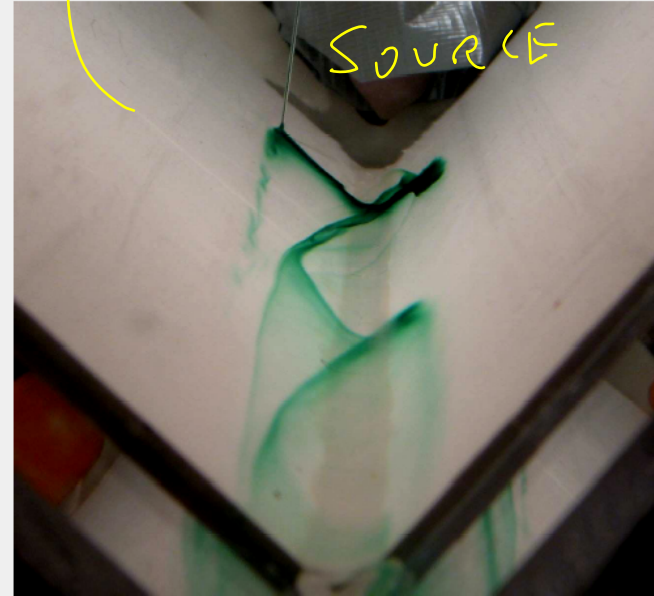
Dense plume flowing down a sloping valley in a rotating fluid  
(model of dense downslope flows in the Weddell Sea)

Elin Darelius, Univ of

*particle paths are helical,  
with Ekman driven meridional  
overturning transmitting the  
boundary stress into the  
fluid. (Looking up the sloping  
valley)*



a)



b)

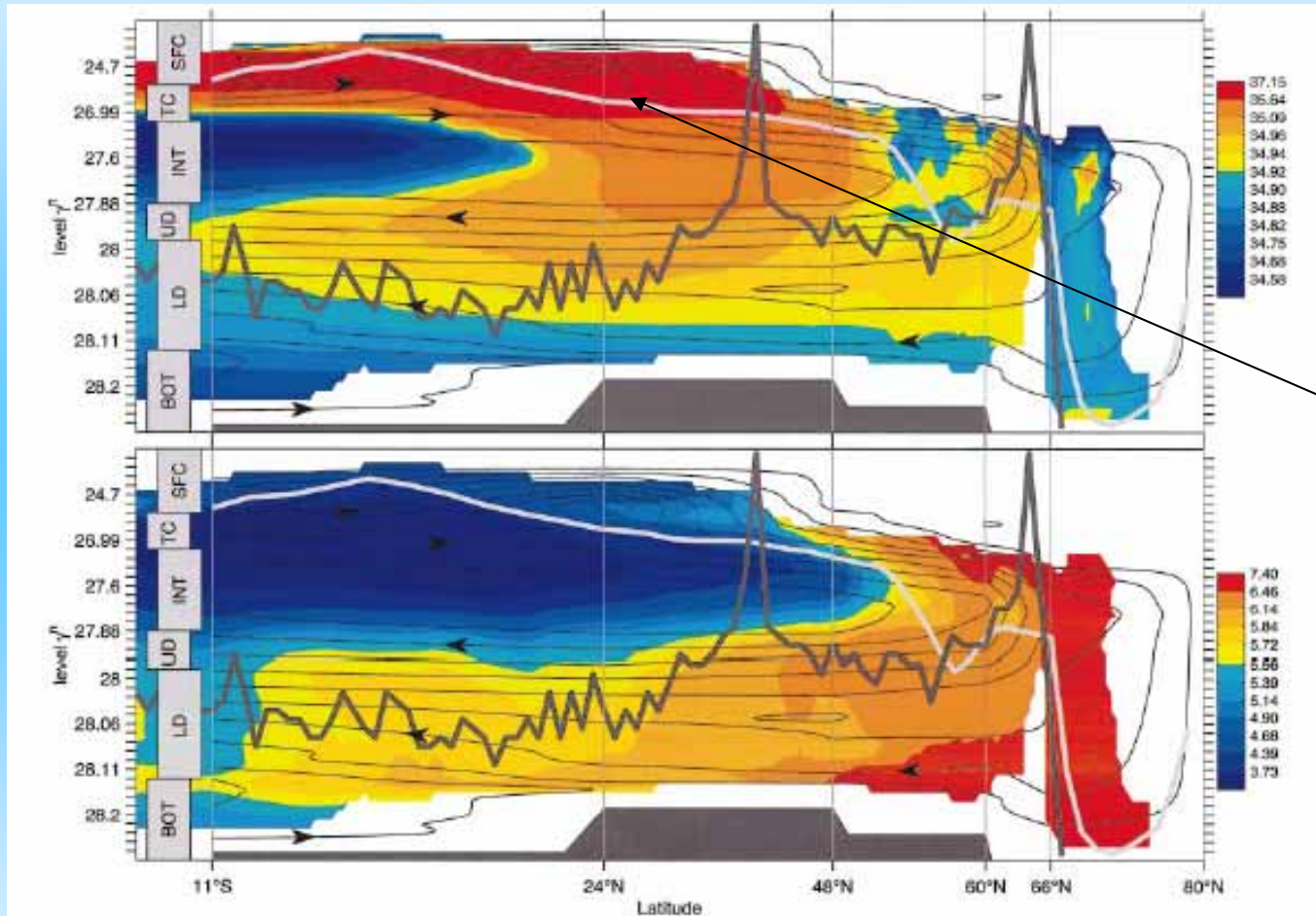


Figure 17: The "Ekman Helix" traced out by dye injected in the bottom boundary layer seen a) up the canyon and b) from above. The secondary circulation causes a particle to follow a helix like path down the canyon.

*Lumpkin & Speer's* JPO 03 discussion of the Atlantic MOC, here plotted against potential density and latitude. Even though we know there is much east-west structure (boundary currents, horizontal gyres as in Reid's maps) the zonally averaged MOC 'looks like' the simple 2-dimensional box models, for example Winton's

$S$

$O_2$

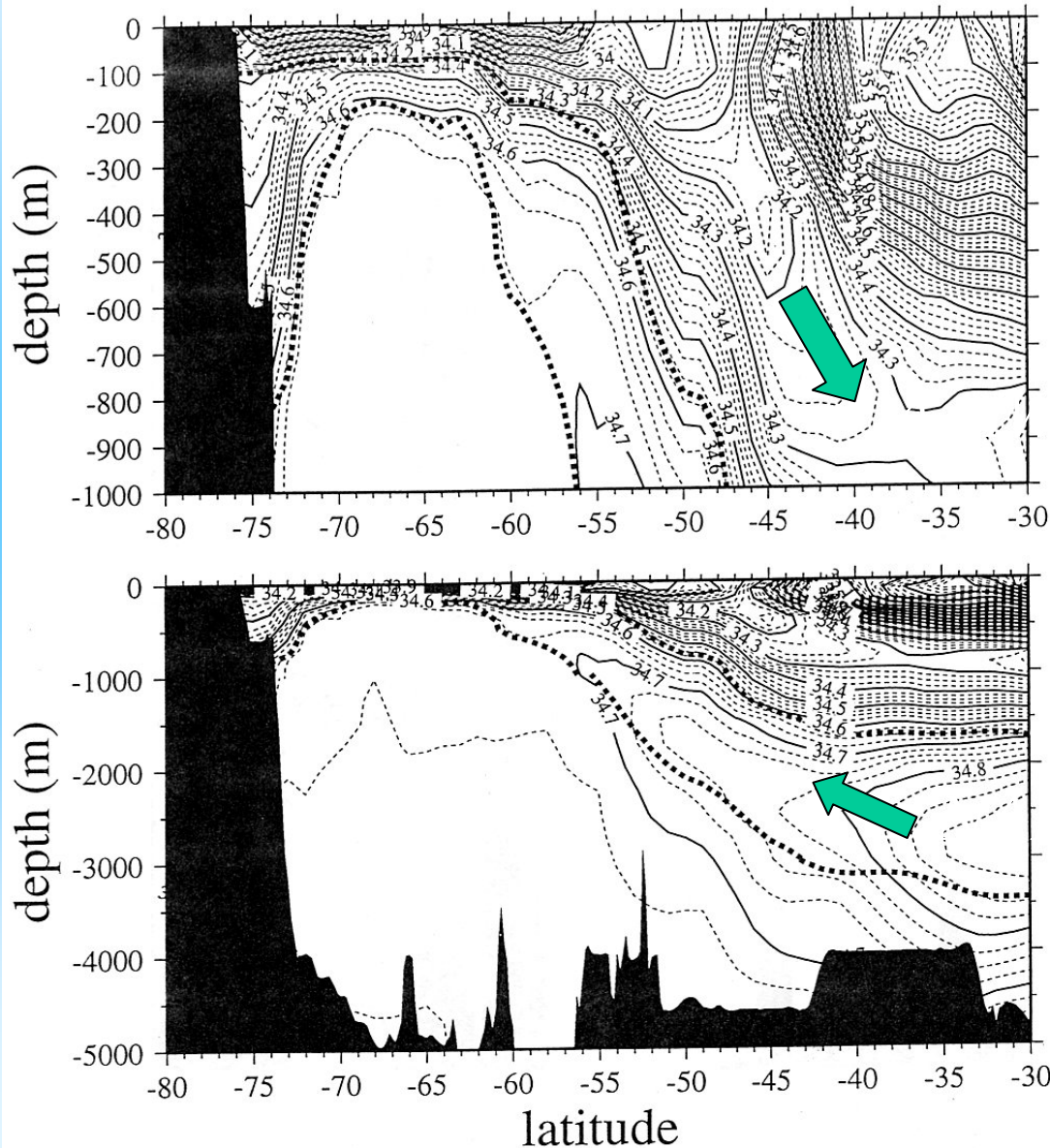


*sea surface*

FIG. 9. Side view of the North Atlantic meridional overturning, contoured in 2-Sv intervals, superimposed on zonally averaged (top) salinity and (bottom) oxygen ( $\text{mL L}^{-1}$ ) calculated from climatology (Gouretski and Jancke 1998). Light gray curve: densest outcropping layer, estimated from COADS climatology. Dark gray curve: crest of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, including the Azores Plateau and Iceland.

*Lumpkin & Speer JPO 2003*

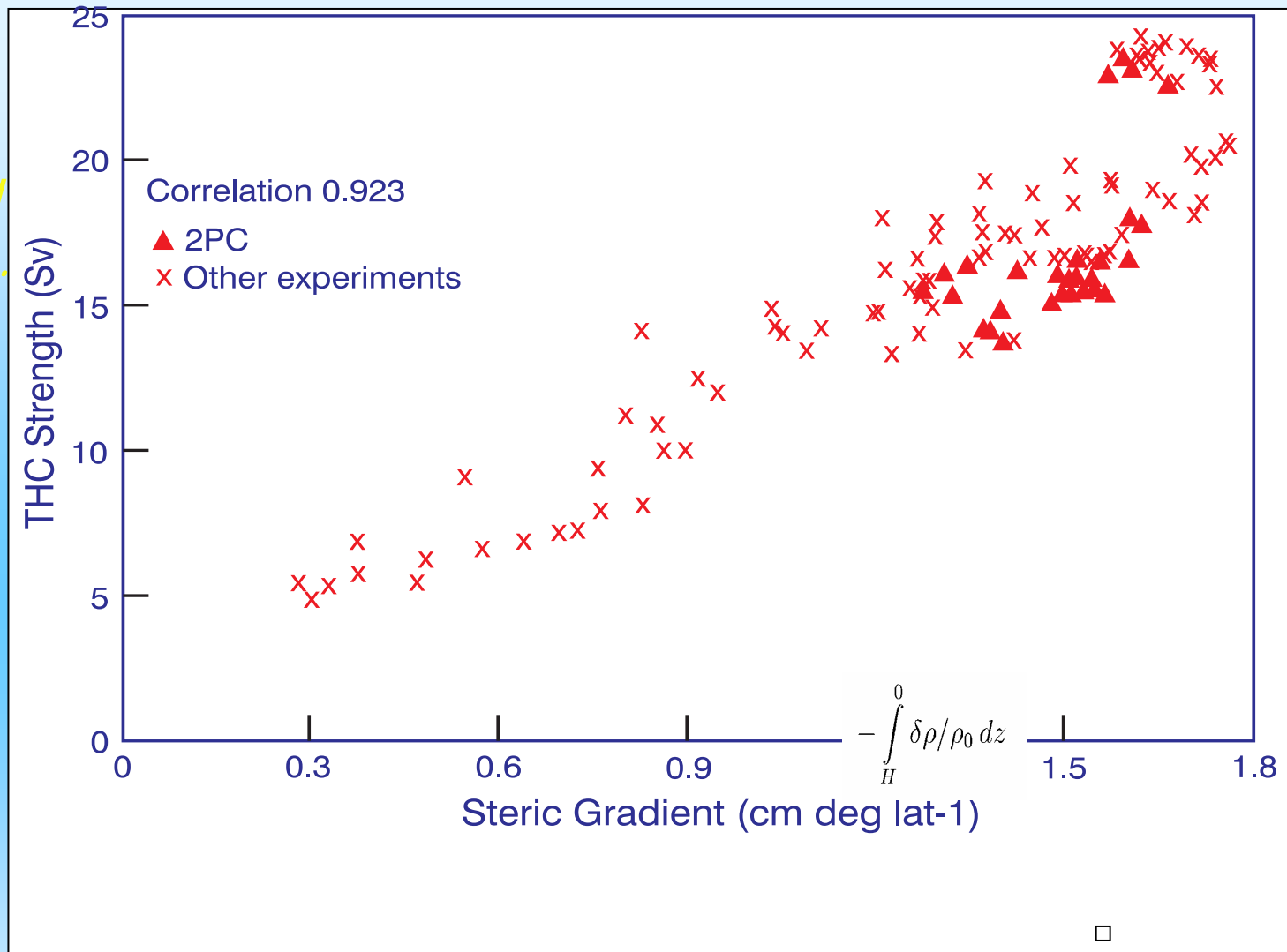
Figure 4. Vertical-meridional section of salinity at 24°W in the South Atlantic. Data sources are as in Fig. 2, and the heavy dashed lines are the potential density surfaces highlighted in that figure. The salinity minimum diving down at 52°S and heading north is AAIW. The salinity maximum below that, starting from the South Atlantic and rising and growing weaker into the Weddell Sea is NADW. The highlighted density surfaces were chosen to include this salinity maximum.



*The ACC is the only ocean current with The Problem (how to flow meridionally, given the absolute angular momentum constraint)..yet it has ample topographic bottom slopes to lean on: these clearly balance the zonal wind stress that drives this greatest of all ocean currents*

*meridional circulation implied by tracers in the Antarctic Circumpolar Current  
MacCready & Rhines*

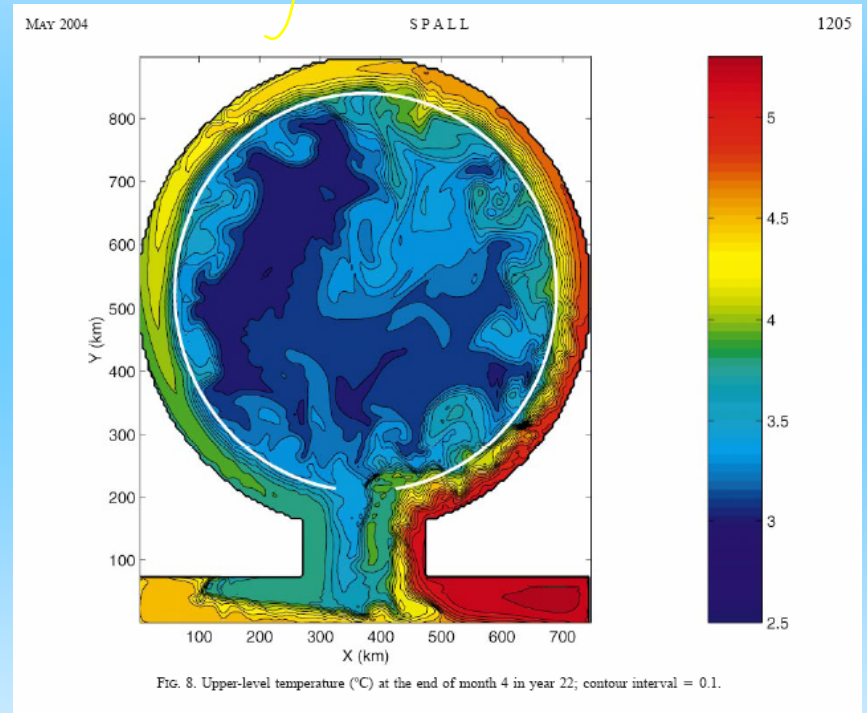
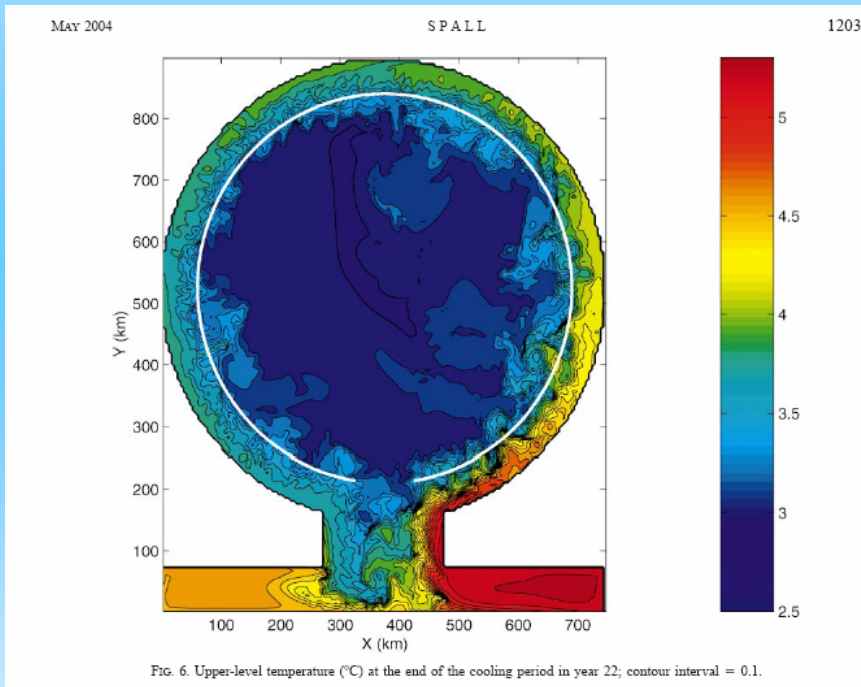
*Oceanic meridional overturning strength vs. meridional baroclinic dynamic height gradient in HadCM3*



*A change in the MOC transport may be associated with some measurable change in the meridional density gradient. HadCM3 finds a very close correlation between Atlantic overturning rate and the S-N gradient of steric height from 30S - 60N through the W Atlantic. But, there is a possible oversensitivity of models to subpolar buoyancy/Labrador Sea described next.*

Spall, JPO 2004 Cooled Basin with shelf forced by inlet dense water plume:  
the 'MOC' of the basin is largely achieved with eddy mixing from the shelf-edge/  
*HERE THE MOC (AVERAGED AROUND*

*CIRCLE!) IS DOMINATED BY EDDY FLUXES*



The connection between primary horizontal circulation and the meridional overturning for a symmetric vortex or 2D circulation is expressed by the Eliassen-Sawyer equation (see Hoskins & Draghicci, 1972)



*As with the equations for Rayleigh-Benard convection, the overturning streamfunction and horizontal vorticity is of interest. In an axi-symmetric or 2D 'zonal channel' simulation the connection between primary horizontal circulation and the meridional overturning*

*for a symmetric vortex or 2D circulation is expressed by the Eliassen-Sawyer equation*

$$f \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z^2} + N^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial z \partial y} + F_2^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} \right) = Q_2^g \quad (5)$$

where  $N^2 = b_z$ ,  $S_2^2 = -b_y = f u_{gz}$ ,  $F_2^2 = f(f - u_{gy})$ , and  $Q_2^g$  is the  $y$ -component of the  $Q$ -vector

$$\mathbf{Q}^g = (Q_1^g, Q_2^g) = \left( -\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_g}{\partial x} \cdot \nabla b, -\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_g}{\partial y} \cdot \nabla b \right) \quad (6)$$

introduced by *Hoskins et al.* [1978]. A geostrophic flow with a nonzero  $Q$ -vector will modify the magnitude of the horizontal buoyancy gradient following the equation

$$\frac{D}{Dt} |\nabla_h b|^2 = \mathbf{Q}^g \cdot \nabla_h b \quad (7)$$

*Hoskins, Draghici & Davies QJRMS 78*

*Thomas, Tandon & Mahadavon, Revs Geophys to appear 2007*

Green's function for the E-S equation (*see Thomas et al. op cit.*)

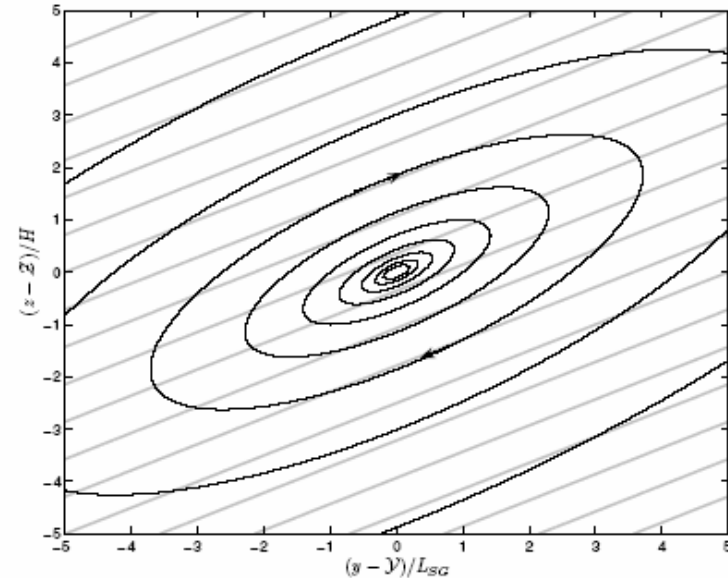
This is one of a class of 'slow diffusion' equations in which a compact region of convection or mixing propagates outward through an interactive adjustment of the thermal balance a

like a series of geostrophic adjustment problems

$$G = \frac{1}{4\pi\sqrt{fQ_2D}} \log|\text{Arg}|$$

where

$$\text{Arg} = \frac{[(y - \mathcal{Y}) - (z - \mathcal{Z})S_2^2/F_2^2]^2}{L_{SG}^2} + \frac{(z - \mathcal{Z})^2}{H^2}$$



**Figure 3.** Ageostrophic secondary circulation  $G$  driven by a negative point source  $Q$ -vector,  $Q_2^g < 0$ , at  $y = \mathcal{Y}, z = \mathcal{Z}$ . Isopycnals (gray contours) slant upward to the north due to a southward buoyancy gradient. For this frontogenetic forcing,  $\mathbf{Q}^g \cdot \nabla_h b > 0$ , the circulation is thermally direct and tends to restratify the fluid.

# 3D frontal instability induced by wind leads to downwelling by bolus flux, PV destruction

*Thomas et al. 2007 Revs Geophys submitted*

$$\int_{z=z_b}^{z=z_t} \int_{x=x_b}^{x=x_t} q''v'' dz dx \sim \iint_A \nabla_h b \times \mathbf{F} \cdot \hat{k}|_{z=0} dy dx, \quad (27)$$

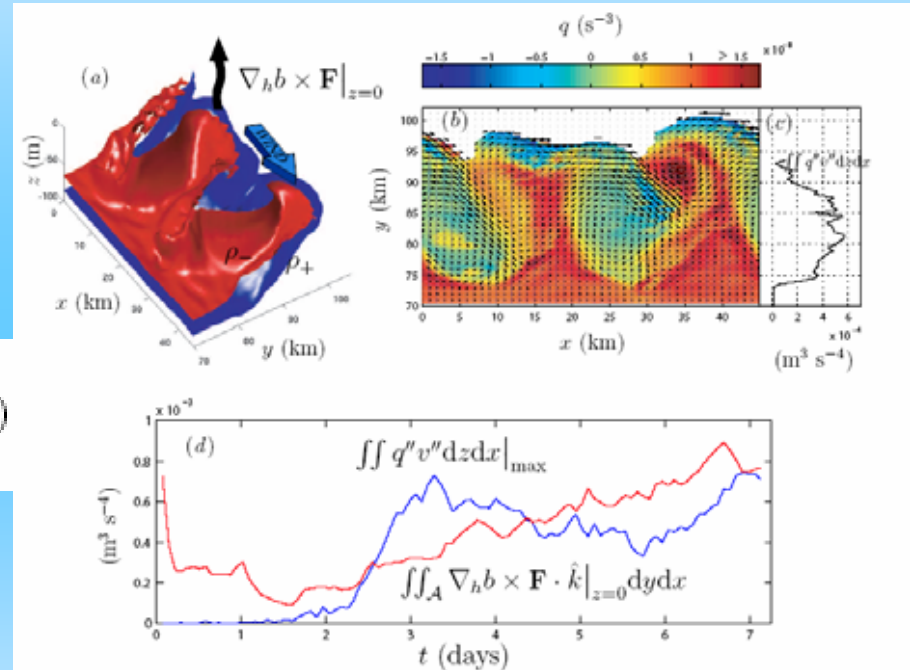
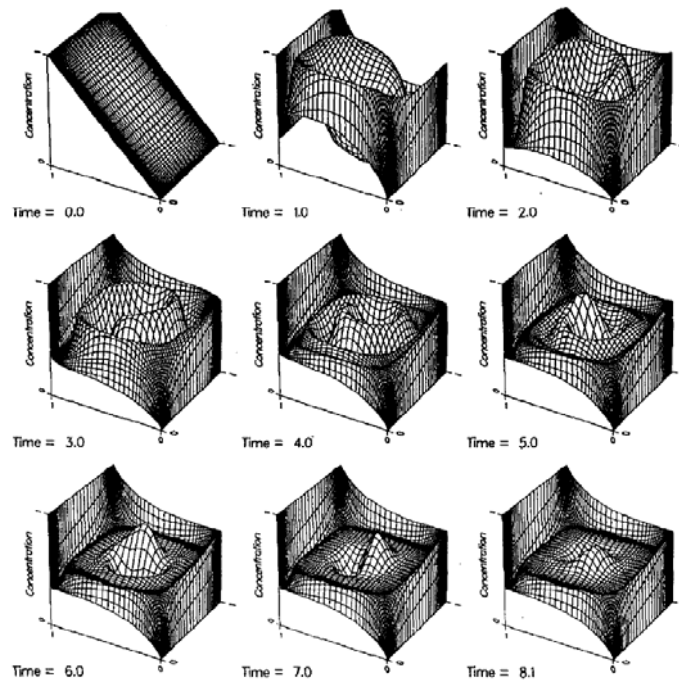


Figure 5. An example of submesoscale eddy PV fluxes driven by winds. (a) Down-front winds of strength  $0.2 \text{ N m}^{-2}$  forcing a front induce an upward frictional PV flux, triggering frontal instabilities that distort the bounding frontal isopycnal surfaces  $\rho_-$  (red) and  $\rho_+$  (blue) ( $\Delta\rho = \rho_+ - \rho_- = 0.2 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ ), shown here  $t = 4.1$  days after the onset of the winds. (b) Isopycnal map of the PV (shades) and velocity (vectors) averaged in the vertical over the isopycnal layer shown in (a), illustrates the manner in which the instabilities subduct low PV from the surface while upwelling high PV from the pycnocline. (c) The correlation of the velocity and PV fields results in a net positive meridional eddy PV flux along the isopycnal layer  $\iint q''v'' dz dx > 0$ . (d) A timeseries of the maximum value of the eddy PV flux with respect to  $y$  (blue) and the frictional PV flux integrated over the outcrop area (red) reveal that the two fluxes scale with one another after the initial growth of the instabilities, i.e.  $t > 3$  days.









*Figure 10* The spin-up of a passive tracer in a gyre circulation with Péclet number of  $2.5 \times 10^3$ , based on the basin scale and interior velocity (Musgrave 1985). The ridge of high values does not follow the streamlines but represents the winding up of the initial conditions. A weak diffusive spiral crossing  $\psi$ -lines remains in the steady state upon the homogenized plateau. The injected boundary values can be followed through the western-boundary current, but they are quickly assimilated by horizontal mixing. The large tracer flux through the system depends on thin boundary layers, which are treated with a stretched grid.

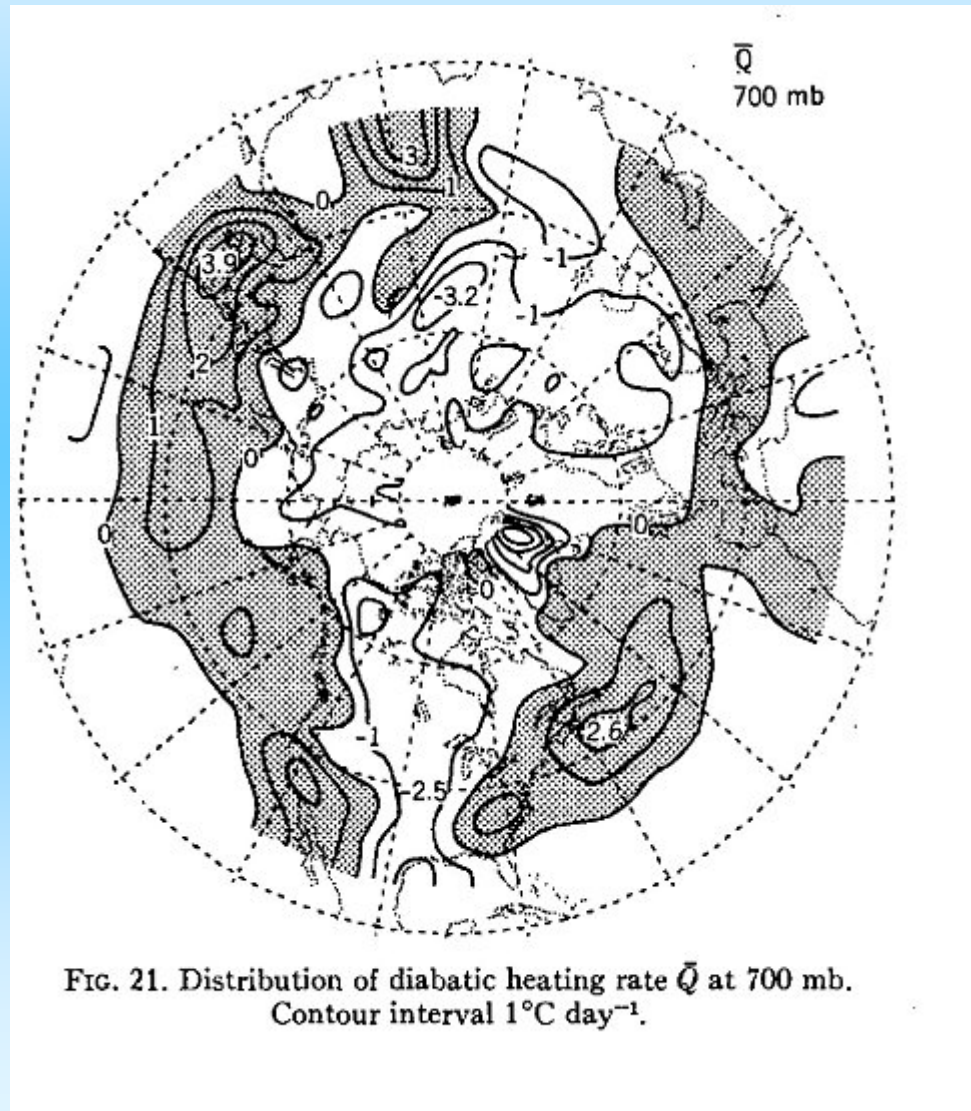
Atmosphere-ocean coupling: heat, moisture fluxes, wind-stress

Meridional energy transport in the climate system

Is the ocean heat transport important to climate?



*Lau's JAS 1979* winter diabatic heating of the 700mb-1000mb lower atmosphere. Peak values are 100-150 watts/m<sup>2</sup> in the subtropical storm track regions



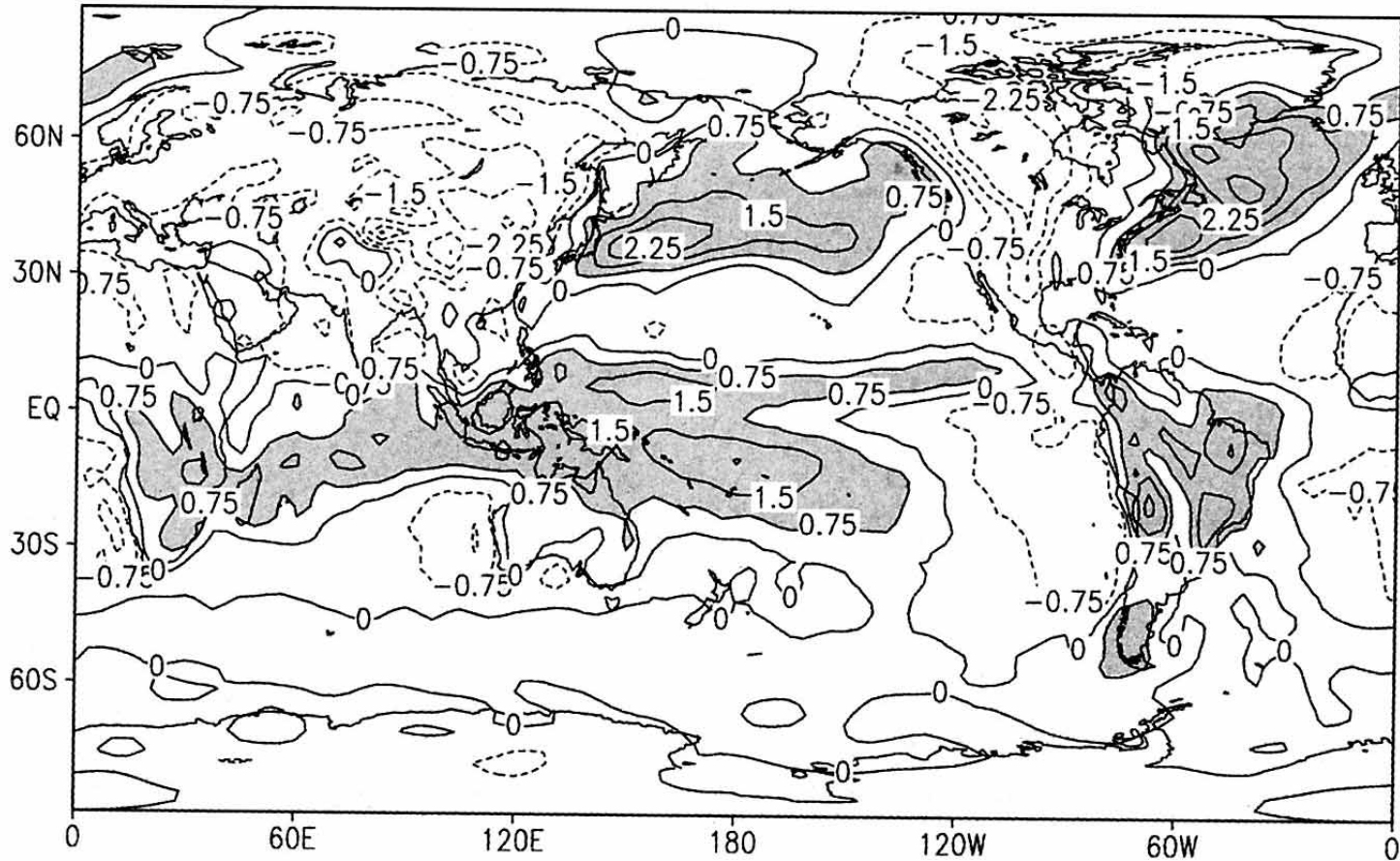
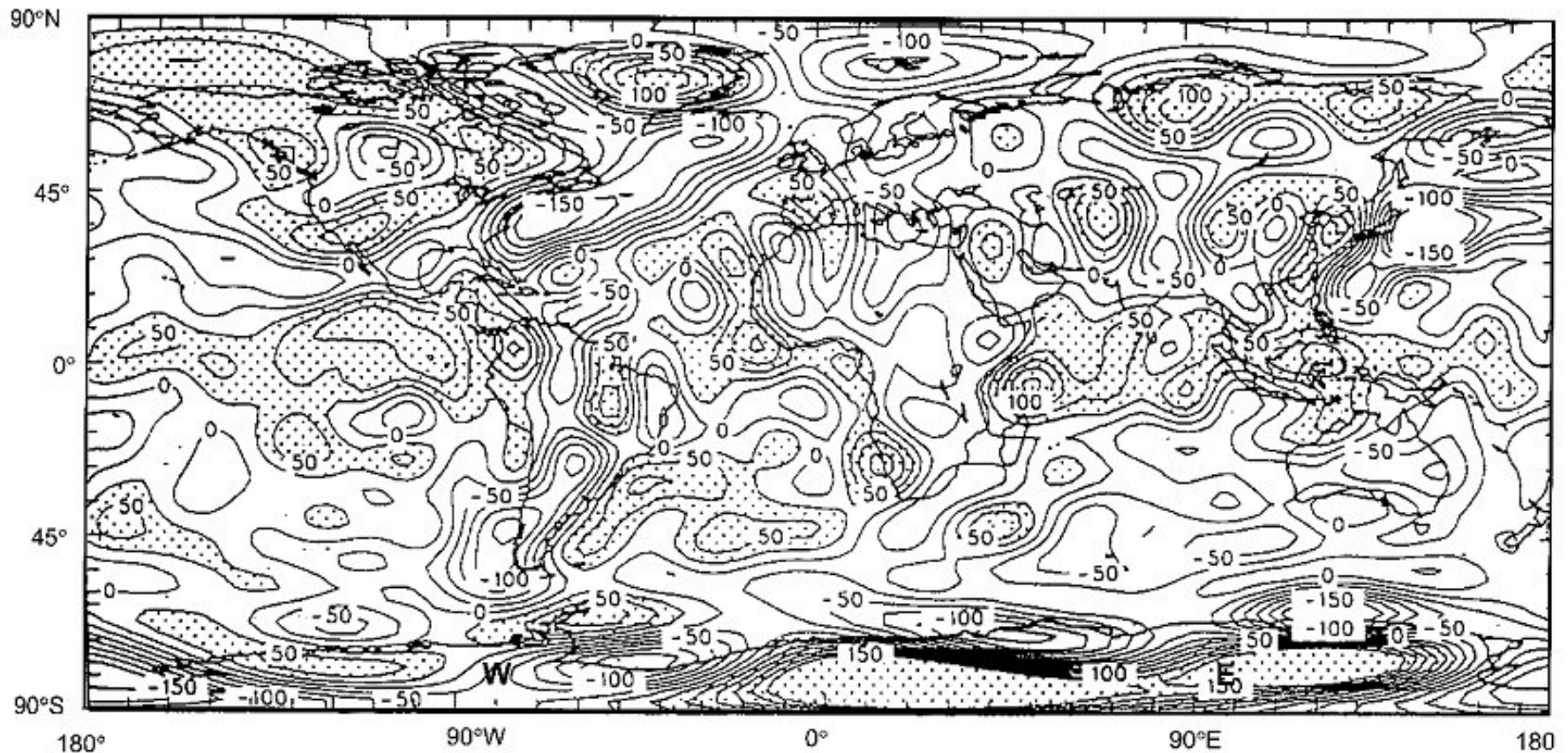


FIG. 8. The column-averaged diabatic heating field in Jan obtained from the NCEP-NCAR reanalysis as described in the appendix. The contour interval is  $0.5 \text{ K day}^{-1}$ .

Qnet, net atmosphere-ocean heat flux, watts/m<sup>2</sup> (Keith Tellus 95)  
(annual average)



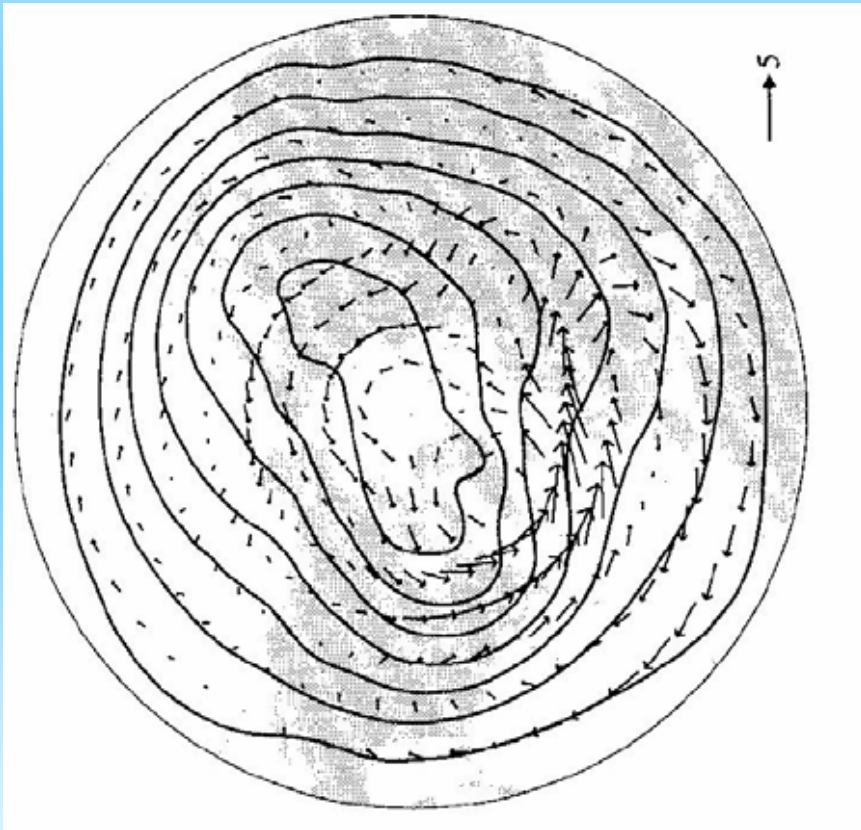
It should be noted that because the sun heats the ocean, O, but does not cool the atmosphere, A, the most useful maps of Qnet for A will differ those for O by the short-wave insolation.

(from *Thompson+Wallace J Clim 2000*)

30 year trend in advection of time-averaged  
winter temperature (925-500 Hpa av.)

..anomalous velocity and advection, cooling the ocean while warming the land in both  
Atlantic and Pacific sectors. Could these oceanic advective heat sources be the root cause of  
this contribution to global warming over Eurasia?

$$U \partial T / \partial x$$





## THE END



An evacuated glass vessel with water in it illustrates the Clausius-Clapyron relation between vapor pressure of water and temperature. The water is pushed from the vessel in my hand to the 'cold ball', and the vapor pressure difference between the two ends is close to the hydrostatic pressure measured by the column's vertical displacement. One can fill out the curve and see the greater sensitivity (to temperature) of water vapor production at high, 'tropical' temperature. This all works because we shake the vessel so that a thin film of water lies under my warm hand. It illustrates a key variable in the climate system.

When shaken this water 'clinks' like metal, vapor cavities opening up and slamming shut.

- **FDEPS Lectures, November 2007**
- P.B. Rhines, Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington
- [Rhines@ocean.washington.edu](mailto:Rhines@ocean.washington.edu)
- [www.ocean.washington.edu/research/gfd](http://www.ocean.washington.edu/research/gfd)

These lectures will address the dynamics of oceans and atmospheres, as seen through theory, laboratory simulation and field observation. We will look particularly at high latitudes and climate dynamics of the ocean circulation coupled to the atmospheric storm tracks. We will emphasize the dynamics that is difficult to represent in numerical circulation models. We will discuss properties of oceans and atmospheres that are both fundamental, unsolved questions of physics, and are also important, unsolved problems of global environmental change.

- **Lecture 1:**

- Is the ocean circulation important to global climate? Does dense water drive the global conveyor circulation? Fundamental questions about oceans and atmospheres that are currently under debate.

- The field theory for buoyancy and potential vorticity.

- Basic propagators: Rossby waves and geostrophic adjustment.

- Potential vorticity: inversion and flux.

- **Lecture 2:**

- How do waves and eddies shape the general circulation, gyres and jet streams?

- Almost invisible overturning circulations.

- Lessons from Jupiter and Saturn.

- The peculiar role of mountains, seamounts and continental-slope topography.

- **Lecture 3:**

- Dynamics of ocean gyres and their relation with the global conveyor circulation.

- Water-mass transport, transformation and air-sea exchange of heat and fresh water.

- Ocean overflows and their mixing.

- Decadal trends in the global ocean circulation.

- **Lecture 4:**

- Heat, fresh-water, ice: convection in oceans and atmospheres and the texture of geophysical fluids.

- **Lecture 5:**

- Teaching young students about the global environment using the GFD laboratory: science meets energy and environment in the lives of Arctic natives

- **Seminar:**

- *Exploring high-latitude ocean climate with Seagliders and satellites*

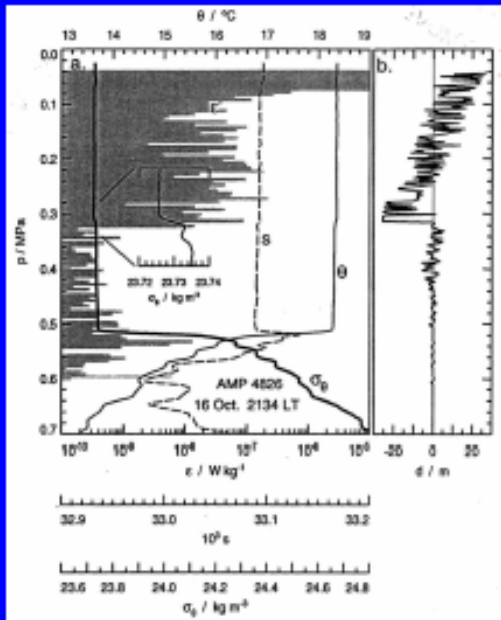
Kelvin waves, inertial waves in shallow rotating fluid





# geostrophic adjustment: scenes from the North Pacific subtropical front region: Gregg, Brainerd, Hosegood, Alford

## Mixing Versus Mixed Layers



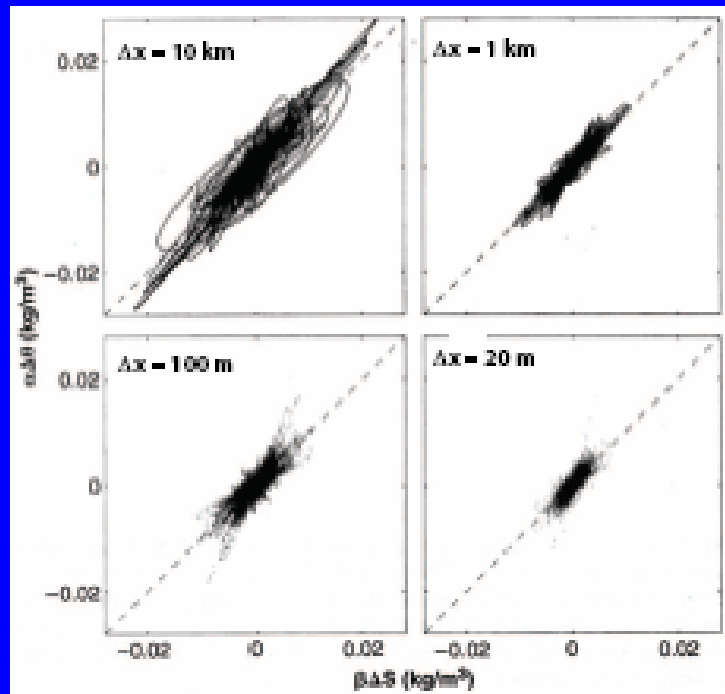
- **Mixed Layers:** Relatively homogeneous relative to deeper water, e.g.,  $\Delta\sigma_\theta \leq 0.1 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$
- **Mixing Layers:** active turbulence generated at the surface, e.g.,  $\Delta(\log_{10} \epsilon) \leq 2$
- In this example, mixing drops where  $\Delta\sigma_\theta \approx 0.001 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$
- Mixed layers may not have been mixing for hours to days
- To compare with Ferrari & Rudnick, we considered mixed layers

Brainerd & Gregg (1993)

3

- Because insolation accounted for only  $\approx 60\%$  of restratification during a diurnal ML cycle observed with continuous microstructure profiling, Brainerd & Gregg (1993) inferred that observed  $\theta S$  changes resulted from 'slumping'
- Rudnick & Ferrari (1999) and Ferrari & Rudnick (2000) reported that 20 m to 10 km ML  $T$  &  $S$  gradients have compensating density effects

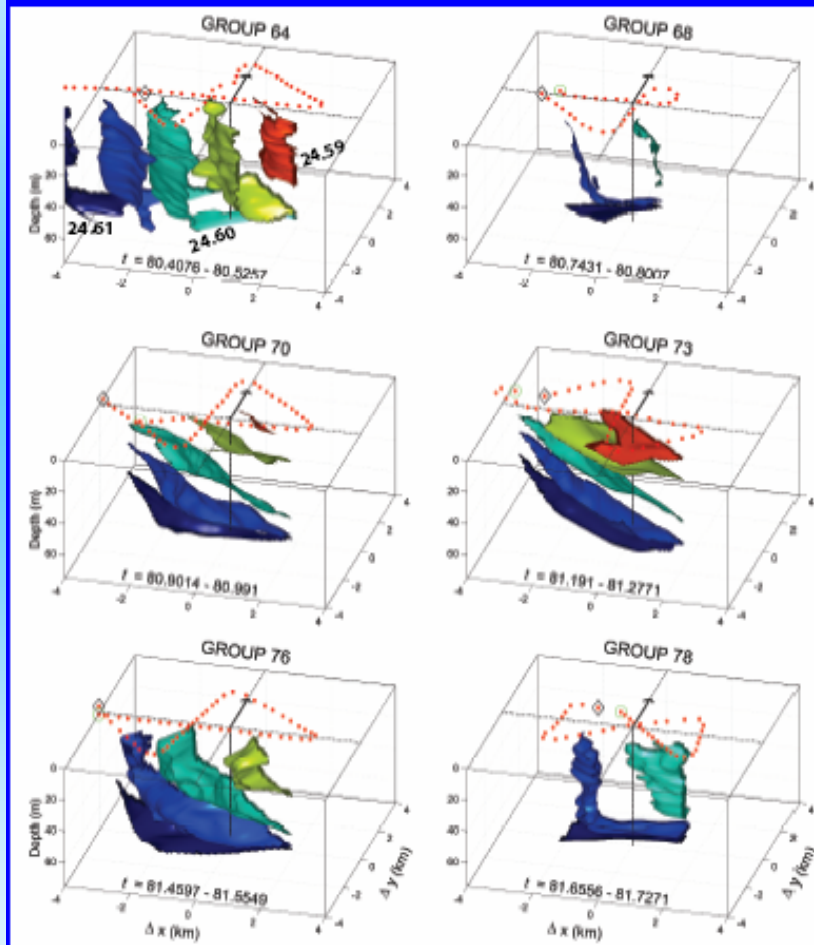
## Rudnick & Ferrari (1999) Wavelet Coefficients



Rudnick & Ferrari (1999)

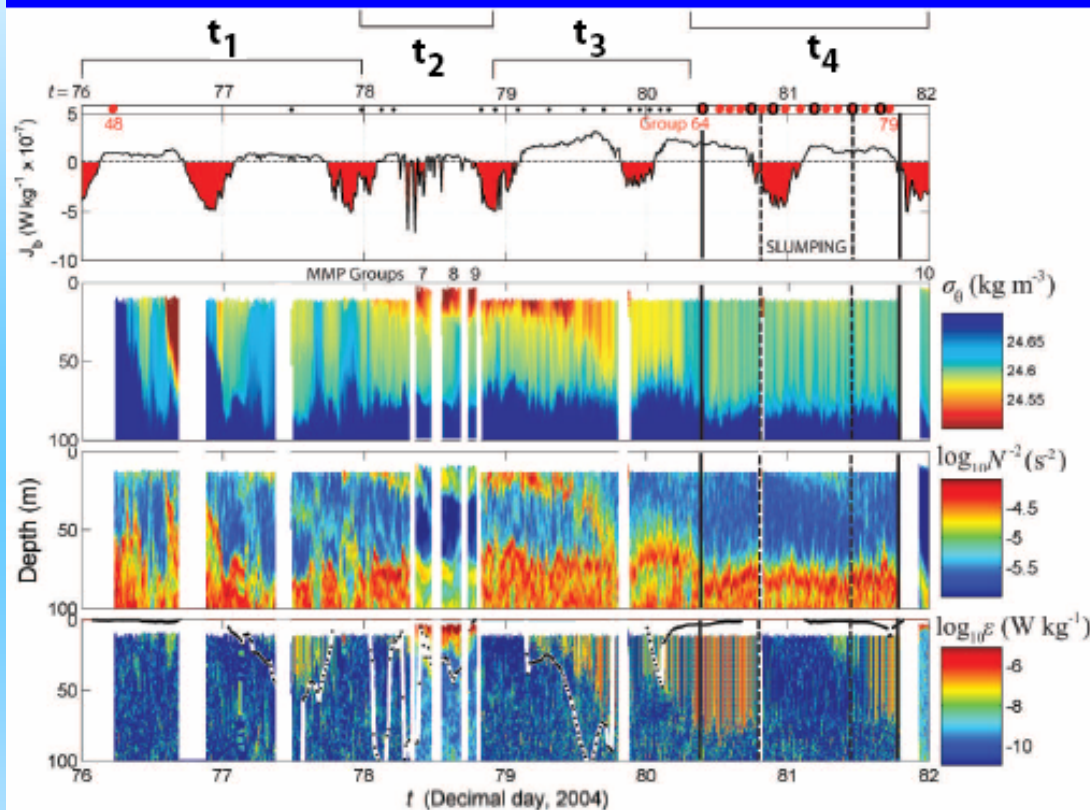
- Morlet wavelet:  $e^{(i\pi^2/2)\sigma^2\sqrt{2}\pi j\sigma}$
- Constant-depth run at 50 m
- Max variability  $0.02 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$
- All are close to  $R_p = 1$ , density compensation

## Evolution of Density Surfaces in Float-centered Coordinates



- Group 64: Convecting with vertical isopycnals
- Group 68: Slumping began just before convection ended
- Group 70: Mixed layer restratified 5.2 hours after convection ended
- Group 73: Light water added at surface
- Group 76: 8 hrs of convection homogenized top half of ML
- Group 78: 12 hrs of convection homogenized all of ML

## Mixed Layer Evolution at 28 °N



- $t_1$ :  $h_m = 20 - 80$  m, light winds, weak convection
- $t_2$ : Heavy rain capped remnant ML
- $t_3$ : Winds & cold air deepened ML to 80 m
- $t_4$ : ML 'slumped' without rain or wind

Hosegood, Gregg, Alford (2007)

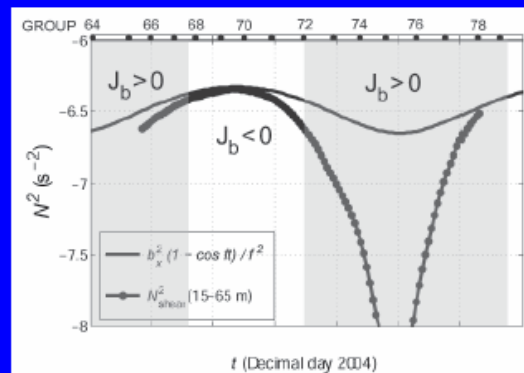
- $\epsilon$  estimated from scales of density overturns
- SWIMS data available below 15 m, missed restratification start during  $t_4$

### Comparison with Tandon & Garrett (1994, 1995)

- Storm-driven homogenization of surface water with a horizontal buoyancy gradient,  $b_x$ , leaves a mixed layer with vertical isopycnals
- Geostrophic adjustment after the storm generates near-inertial motions that displace the isopycnals about their average position

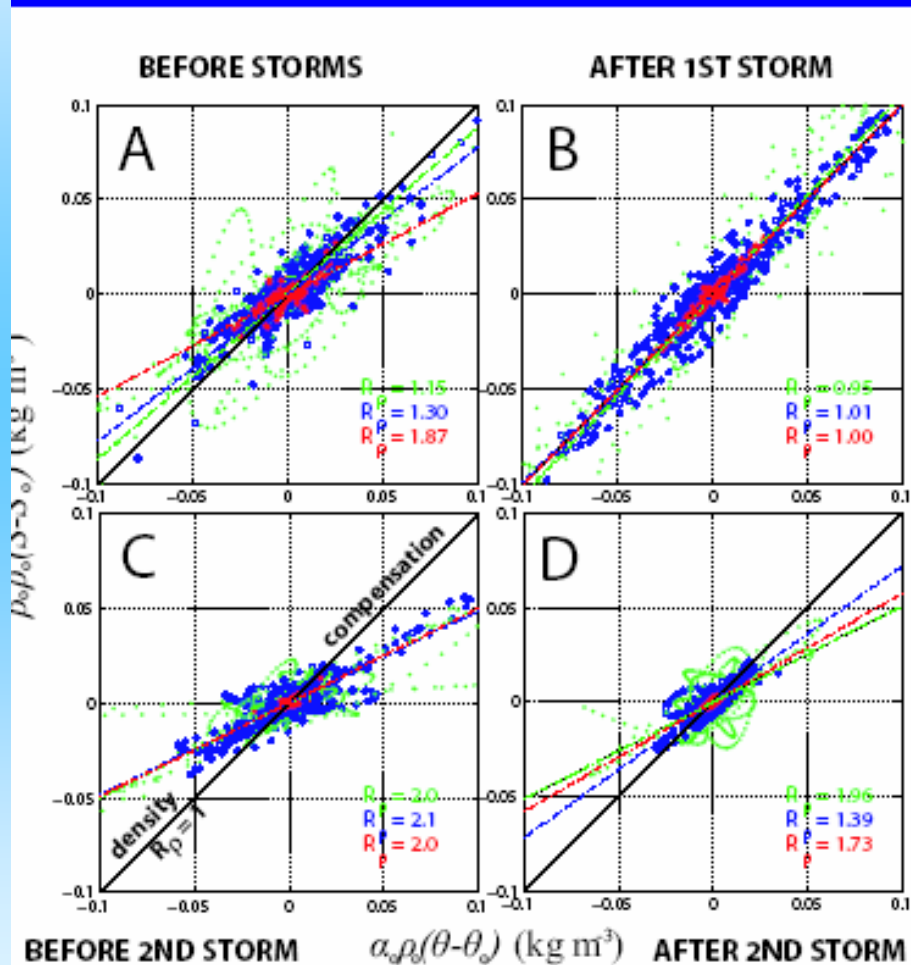
$$\zeta = \frac{b_x(z + H/2)}{f^2}(1 - \cos ft)$$

- Resulting in an oscillating stratification:  $N^2 = \frac{b_x^2(1 - \cos ft)}{f^2}$



– The model does not consider a diurnal cycle after the storm

## Wavelet Coefficients Scaled by Density Contribution of $T'$ , $S'$



- Morlet wavelet:  $e^{(x^2/2)} e^{2\sqrt{2}\pi j x}$
- Data interpolated to 20 m
- Scales are 2 km (red), 5 km (blue) and 10 km (green)
- Dash-dot lines are fits with slopes at lower right
- A & B tend to  $R_{\rho} = 1$ , consistent with northern front
- C & D tend to  $R_{\rho} = 2$ ,  $T$ -dominated, consistent with southern front
- D conditions closest to those of Ferrari & Rudnick