A direct numerical simulation of rotating stably stratified turbulence: Evidence for Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling?

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A direct numerical simulation of rotating stably stratified turbulence: Evidence for Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling?

- Turbulence and waves: evidence for multiple regimes
- Stratification *versus* rotation and oceanic values
- A parametric exploration using direct numerical simulations
- The rotating stratified run at Re=55000, N/f=5, Fr=0.024
  - Temporal dynamics
  - Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling: some data
- Conclusions and questions



#### The atmosphere

Bringuier et al., 2009

Kolmogorov:

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



E<sub>V</sub>(k) ~ k<sup>x</sup>: Black: k<sup>-5/3</sup> (`SQG''): edge of major currents w. high eddy energy Dark grey: spectrum significantly steeper than -5/3: k<sup>-2</sup>? Fronts? Light grey: spectrum flatter than -5/3 but steeper than 0 White: k<sup>0</sup> or more

Xu & Fu JPO 2012

# Jason de-noised altimeter SSH 5 k<sup>-3</sup>



# Intermittency

## Skewness of temperature (ERA40 data)



#### Boundary layer over Greenland



Spectra ~ 1/k at large scale

Possibly Kolmogorov-like at smaller scales, And then much steeper

Drue Heineman, 2007

## Helicity matters: spectrum in the Planetary Boundary Layer

Flat spectrum at night (when more stable)



*Koprov*, 2005

Fig. 4. Spectra of helicity components.

## Waves matter: Energy decay (f<sub>u</sub>=0), 512<sup>3</sup> resolutions, no rotation, Re~ 3000, Fr~ 0.02, R<sub>B</sub>~1



#### Incompressible Boussinesq equations 3D cubic box, periodic boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{u} + 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u} &= -N\rho \hat{e}_z - \nabla \mathcal{P} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} \\ \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \rho &= Nw + \kappa \nabla^2 \rho , \end{aligned}$$

#### Parameters, with $f=2\Omega$ :

$$Re = \frac{U_0 L_0}{\nu}, \ Fr = \frac{U_0}{L_0 N}, \ Ro = \frac{U_0}{L_0 f}, \ Pr = \frac{\nu}{\kappa}, \qquad R_B = ReFr^2$$

The 3072<sup>3</sup> and 4096<sup>3</sup> runs:  $k_0 \sim 2.5$ , N/f= 4.95, Re= 55000, Fr= 0.024, Ro= 0.12, Pr=1, R\_B= 32

Stratification + rotation: geostrophic balance  

$$\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} - \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} = -\nabla P - Nbe_z - 2\Omega e_z \times \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{F}$$

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

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

Take the curl of GB  $\rightarrow$  thermal winds (VSHW)

Then, dot with Coriolis force  $\rightarrow$ 

$$\langle H_{\perp} \rangle_{\perp} \equiv \langle u_{\perp} \cdot \nabla \times u_{\perp} \rangle_{\perp} = \frac{N}{f} \langle b \ \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \rangle_{\perp}$$

Hide, 1976; recent DNS: Marino et al., 2013

#### Geophysical High Order Suite for Turbulence (Gomez & Mininni)

- Pseudo-spectral DNS, periodic BC cubic (also 2D), single/double precision; Runge-Kutta for incompressible Navier-Stokes, SQG & Boussinesq. Includes rotation, passive scalar(s), MHD + Hall term
- GHOST, from laptop to high-performance, parallelizes linearly up to 100,000 processors, using hybrid MPI/Open-MP (Mininni et al. 2011, Parallel Comp. 37)
- 3D Visualization: VAPOR (NCAR); and development @ OakRidge (D. Rosenberg)
- LES: alpha model & variants (Clark, Leray) for fluids & MHD
- Helical spectral (EDQNM) model for eddy viscosity & eddy noise
- NEW! Lagrangian particles (w. A. Pumir)
- NEW! Gross-Pitaevskii & Ginzburg-Landau (with M. Brachet, ENS)
- Data, forced: 2048<sup>3</sup> Navier-Stokes and 1536<sup>3</sup> & 3072<sup>3</sup> with rotation, both w. or w/o helicity. Rotating stratified turbulence w. 2048<sup>3</sup> grids
- Data, spin-down MHD:1536<sup>3</sup> random + 6144<sup>3</sup> ideal & 2048<sup>3</sup> w. T-Green symmetry
- NEW! Decaying rotating stratified flow, N/f $\sim$ 5, Re=5.5 10<sup>4</sup>, 2048<sup>3</sup>, 3072<sup>3</sup> & 4096<sup>3</sup> grids.

## Present rot-strat data (Marino, NCAR, & Rosenberg, OakRidge, for the \* runs)



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CPU: NSF (XSEDE & Yellowstone/NCAR); DOE

## Some of the problems in Rotating Stratified Turbulence (RST)

\* First departure from complete isotropy: helicity dynamics, conservation (pure rotation) vs. creation (in RST) [Marino et al. PRE, 2013]

# \* Identifying scales, directions, relevant diagnostics & dimensionless parameters in rotating and/or stratified turbulence

- Intermittency of the vertical velocity in stratified turbulence [Rorai et al. PRE 2014]
- Inverse energy cascade and anisotropy [Marino et al., EPL 2013, PRE 2014]
- Dual constant-flux energy cascades in rotating stratified turbulence [AP & Marino, PRL 2013]
- Restricted equilibrium and the energy cascade [Herbert et al., JFM 2014]
- Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling in RST? Rosenberg et al., ArXiv 2014

. . .. . . . . . . . . .





 $\{\partial_{z}u, \partial_{z}v\}$ 







? QG =

 $[N/f]^* \{-\partial_y \varrho, \partial_x \varrho\}$ 

#### Buoyancy

#### Re ~ 8000, $512^3$ grids,

Z

 $R_B = ReFr^2$ 





Fr ~ 0.11, Ro ~ 0.4, R<sub>B</sub> ~ 96, N/f ~ 3.6 Fr ~ 0.025, Ro ~ 0.05, R<sub>B</sub> ~ 5, N/f = 2

Marino et al., 2013



Cubic box of turbulence next to Kerguelen Plateau 45S, 60E



Figure 3-1: Buoyancy frequency (s<sup>-1</sup>) in logarithmic scale from the ALBATROSS section, Drake Passage.

Nikurashin, 2009





Peak of dissipation

N/f=4.95 Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12 Re=55000, R<sub>B</sub>=32

Spin-down K<sub>0</sub>=2.5

Triangles: 1536<sup>3</sup> grid- NSF - ---: 3072<sup>3</sup> grid- NSF ... Green: 4096<sup>3</sup> grid- DOE







Vertical velocity —

Sub-volume: 0.7 X 0.4 X 0.04

N/f=4.95, Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12 Re=55000,  $R_B$ =32 K<sub>0</sub>=2.5, spin-down









N/f=4.95 Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12 Re=55000,  $R_B$ =32 K<sub>0</sub>=2.5, spin-down

Vertical vorticity & Temperature fluctuations *Sub-volume: 0.12 X 0.1 X 0.01* 

Ζ











Ζ



## N/f=4.95 Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12 Re=55000, $R_B$ =32 $k_0$ =2.5, spin-down





#### Kinetic

#### and

#### potential energy local dissipation



N/f=4.95 Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12 Re=55000,  $R_B$ =32 K<sub>0</sub>=2.5, spin-down



Rosenberg et al. 2014

#### Stably stratified turbulence: Bolgiano-Obukhov 1959 scaling

Main hypothesis: Inertial range with a constant buoyancy flux  $u\varrho^2/\ell$ 

$$E_{V,P}(k) = f(k, \epsilon_{P}) \text{ with } \epsilon_{P} = DE_{P}/DT \text{ of dimension } m^{2}s^{-5}$$
  

$$\Rightarrow E_{V}(k) = \epsilon_{P}^{2/5} k^{-11/5}$$
  

$$\Rightarrow E_{P}(k) = \epsilon_{P}^{4/5} k^{-7/5}$$

 $\rightarrow U^2/\ell \sim \varrho$  in the momentum equation

Lohse & Xia, Ann. Rev. Fluid Mech. 2010

R. BOLGIANO, JR.



Fig. 2. Representation of energy transfer in stratified turbulence.

#### Brandenburg (1992) scalar model



Kimura & Herring (1996) 128<sup>3</sup> run, no rotation



N=10 Re=150 Spin-down

Kinetic & potential energy spectra

#### Stably stratified turbulence: Bolgiano-Obukhov 1959 scaling

Main hypotheses: \* an inertial range with a constant buoyancy flux

\* and isotropy

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

Bolgiano-Obukhov wavenumber (transition to a Kolmogorov spectrum):

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

#### Bolgiano-Obukhov scale in convective flows



Kunnen et al. 2008



#### Bolgiano-Obukhov scale in convective flows

FIG. 17. Scaling exponents  $\xi_p$  as a function of the order *p* from the ESS plots. Non-BO range: triangles are for Ra=1.11×10<sup>8</sup>, squares for Ra=3.34×10<sup>8</sup>, and circles for Ra=1.11×10<sup>9</sup>. BO range: diamonds are for Ra=1.11×10<sup>8</sup>, crosses for Ra=3.34 ×10<sup>8</sup>, and pluses for Ra=1.11×10<sup>9</sup>. The dashed line indicates the hierarchical-shell model of Ref. [40].

Kunnen et al. 2008



#### Boffetta et al. (2012): shell model of quais 2D turbulence



FIG. 3. Absolute value of the third order structure function  $|S_3(k_n)|$  for the velocity u (circles), and temperature  $\theta$  (squares), for  $n_h = 20$  (black symbols) and  $n_h = 26$  (empty symbols).  $S_3^{\theta}$  has been multiplied by a factor  $10^{-3}$  for plotting purposes.

## $Ri=1/Fr^{2} = 0.5 \& 4x10^{-7}$ Kumar et al. (2014) 1024<sup>3</sup> run, no rotation Re~500, forced at large scale





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





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

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





Ζ





XZ

## Maps of L<sub>BO</sub> In our 4k data





XY

 $L_{BO}$ 

Rosenberg et al. 2014

Normal mode decomposition of the total energy spectrum at peak,  $R_B=32$ 



Susan Kurien, private communication, 2014









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

5/3-compensated total energy isotropic spectrum

Energy spectra: kinetic (\_\_\_) or potential (- - -) <u>compensated</u> <u>by 11/5 or 7/5</u>: Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling



#### Vertical buoyancy flux: 4096<sup>3</sup> data, N/f=4.95 k' = k $\Pi_{w\rho}(k) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty}$ $\sum$ $Re(\hat{w}(\mathbf{k}'')\hat{\rho}(\mathbf{k}'')^*)$ , Fr=0.024, Ro=0.12 $k' = 0 \ k' < |k''| < k' + 1$ $Re=55000, R_B=32$ 0.03 $K_0=2.5$ , spin-down Π Tot' ---<sup>П</sup>v 0.02 ---<sup>1</sup> ······ Π**\_**γ Isotropic energy flux 0.01 and its components Total (\_\_\_\_): $\Pi_{\rm T} \sim \Pi_{\rm V} + \Pi_{\rm P}$ -0.01 Kinetic (---): $\Pi_{V} \sim \mathbf{u}.(\mathbf{u}.\text{grad }\mathbf{u})$ -0.02 Potential (-. -.): $\Pi_{\mathbf{P}} \sim \varrho(\mathbf{u}.\text{grad }\varrho)$ لیا Buoyancy flux: ..... -0.03<sup>L</sup> $3-0^{0}$ 10<sup>2</sup> k 10<sup>3</sup> **10**<sup>1</sup>



# Conclusions and questions

- Large resolutions allow for scale separation ... and thus to distinguish between multiple regimes within a flow
- Evidence for Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling at large scale and complex interplay between velocity and buoyancy modes & fluxes
- Local instabilities and strong local variations (dissipation, PV, ...)
- Waves and eddies partition
- Local small-scale dynamics
- Role of rotation *in the Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling?*
- Role of inverse cascade in the Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling?
- Role of walls and B.C. *in the Bolgiano-Obukhov scaling?*
- Role of forcing (3D vs. 2D, vortices vs. waves, ...)
- Role of non-local interactions
- Role of large-scale friction in the presence of forcing

Bolgiano, Marseille meeting, 1962

``Important progress appears likely in the next few years."

## Thank you for your attention!

Rosenberg et al., ArXiv:1409.4254

#### Some recent references of ours

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 $\nabla$ 

 $\Gamma \Delta \Lambda \Pi \Sigma \Phi \Psi \Omega$ 

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 $\leq \geq \neq \partial \pm \infty \sqrt{1/2} \sqrt{1/3} \sqrt{1/3} \sqrt{1/4} \sqrt{1/4} \sqrt{1/4} \sqrt{1/5}$ 

 $T_{\text{transfer}} \sim T_{\text{NL}} * [T_{\text{NL}}/T_{\text{W}}]$ à á é è ç É È ô î ê æ  $\Delta \sum \Omega \sqrt{\approx \partial}$ 

"In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late ... We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is adamant to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residue of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words: "Too late". " *Martin Luther King Jr, 1967, After Clive Hamilton, Utopias in the Anthropocene, American Sociological Association 2012* 

Thank you for your attention

