

Mixed Layer Restratiification

Baylor Fox-Kemper

Collaborators:

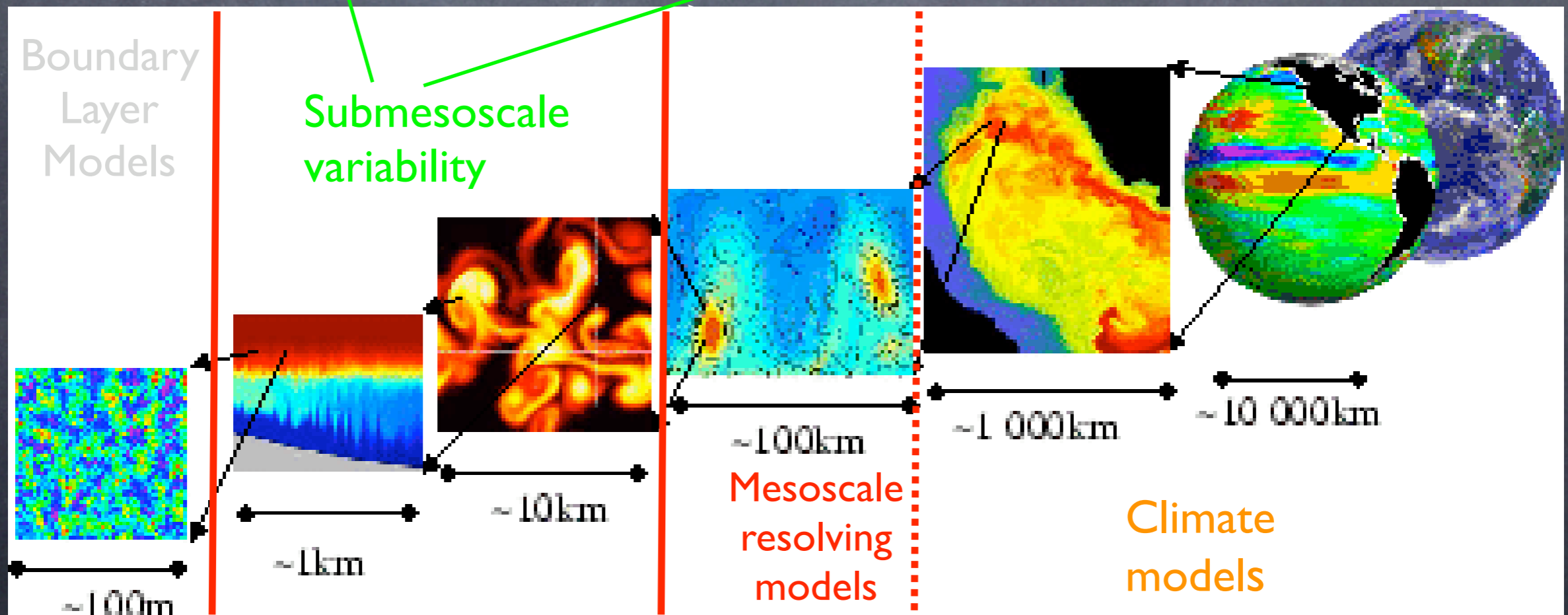
R. Ferrari, R. Hallberg, G. Flierl, G. Boccaletti and
the CPT-EMiLIe team

WHOI PO Seminar

Tuesday 2/27/07, 15:00-16:00

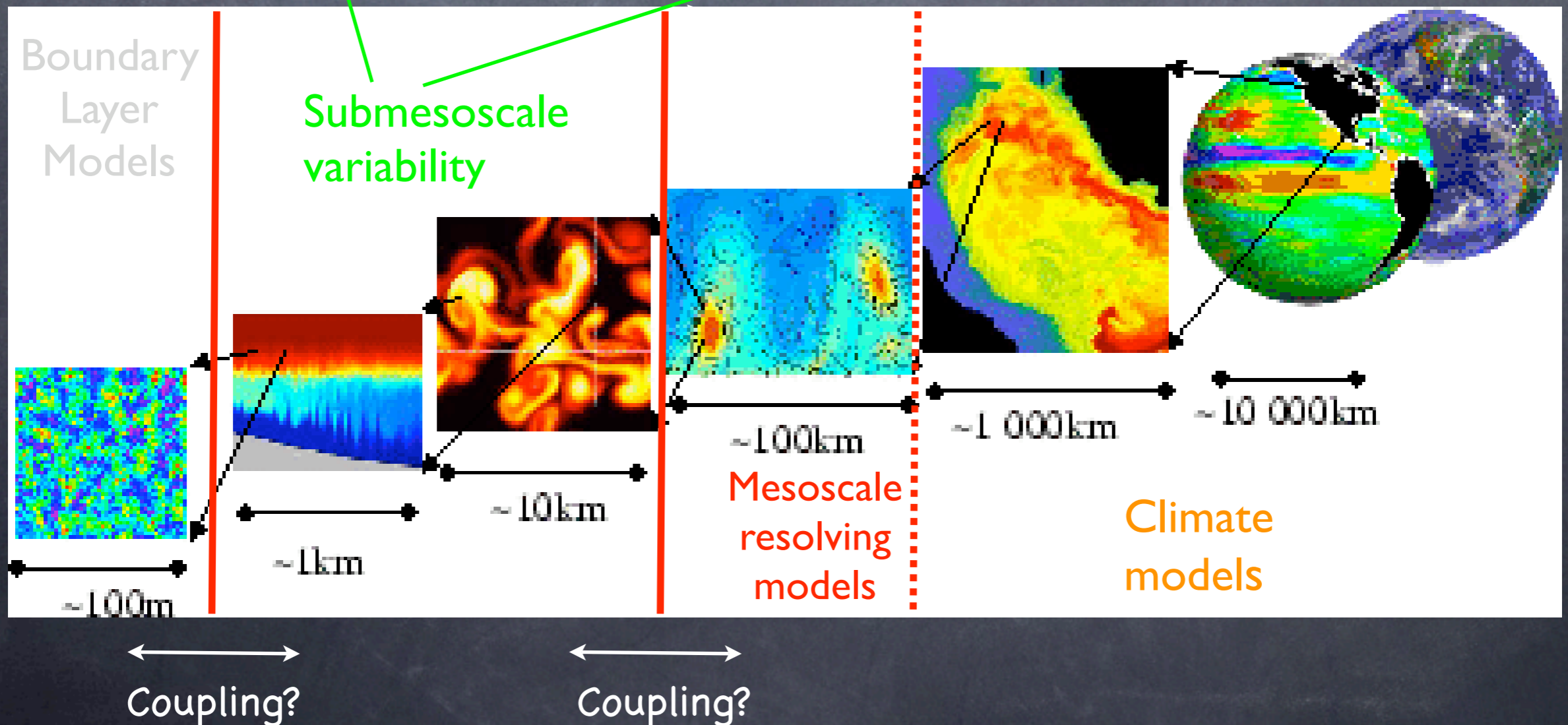
Upper Ocean in Climate Models

- Large-scale ocean circulation (100 - 10,000 km) => resolved
- Mesoscale variability (10 - 100 km) => resolved or parameterized
- Submesoscale variability (100 m - 10 km) => ignored
- Turbulent mixing (10 cm - 100 m) => parameterized

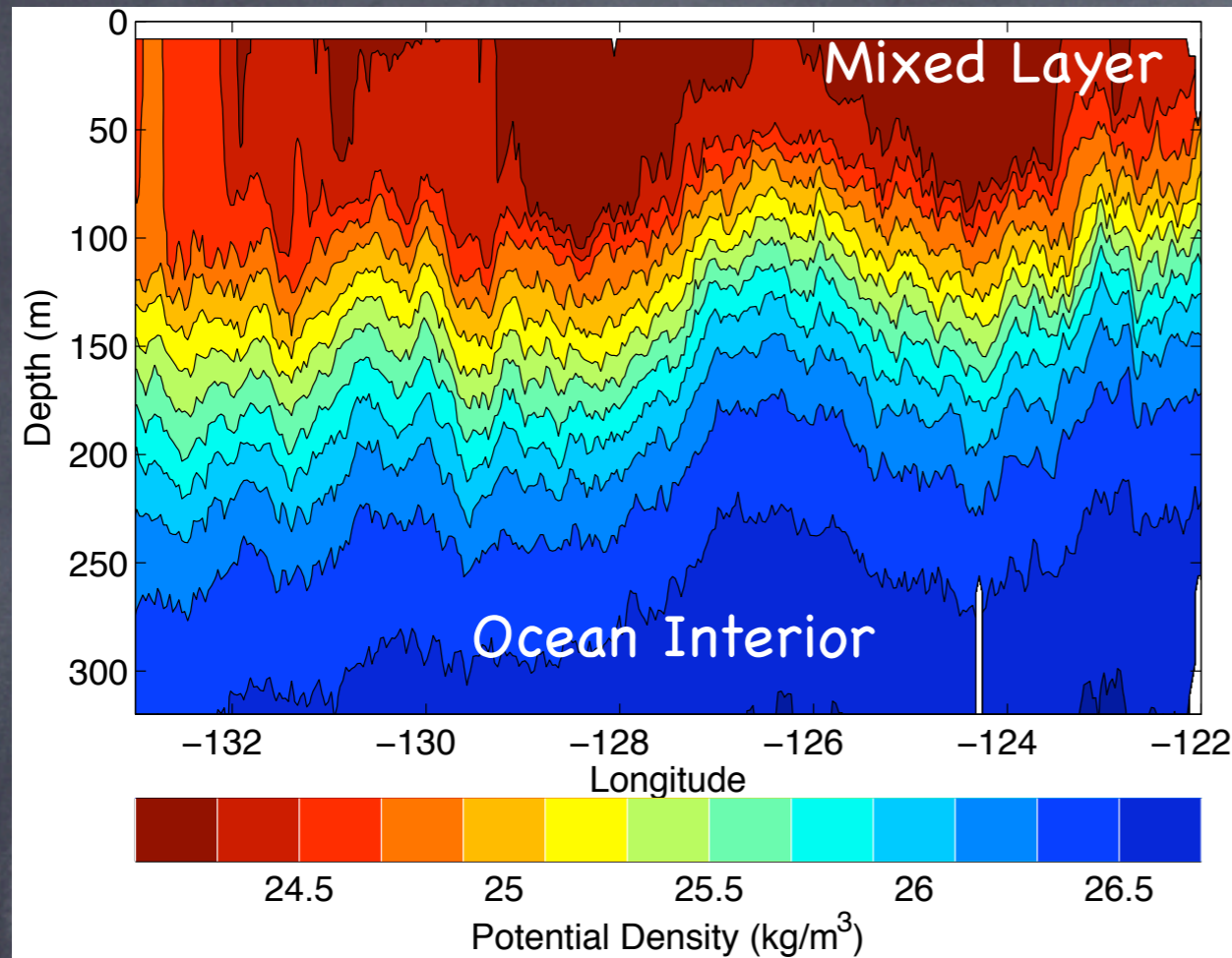


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Ocean Mixed Layer



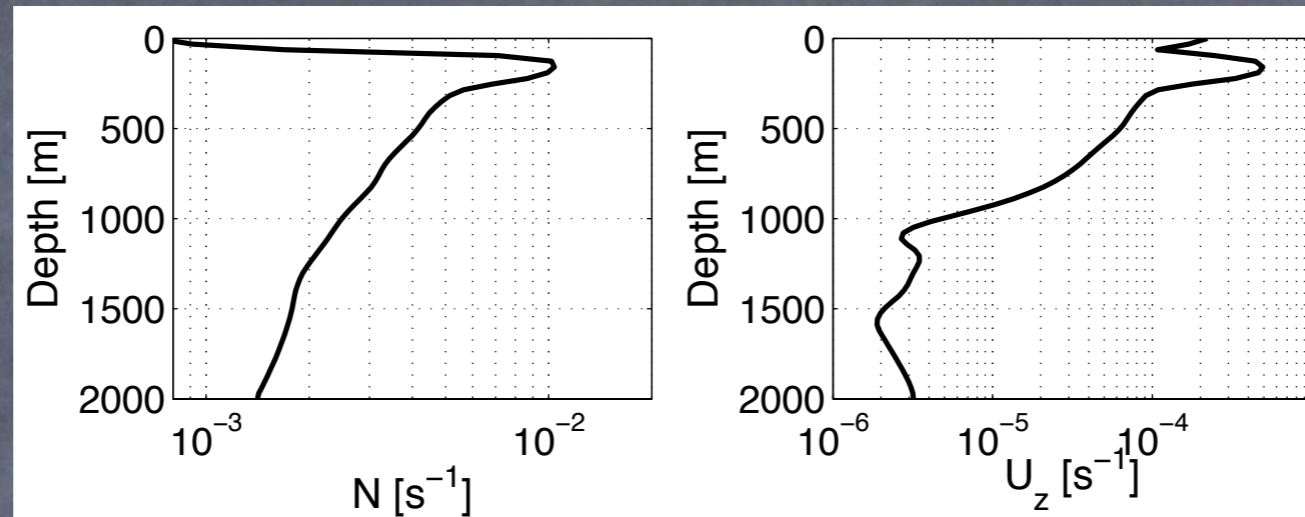
Pot'l Density measured by a Seasoar along a straight section from (32.5N, 122W) to (35N, 132W) between the CA current and the subtropical gyre. (as in Ferrari & Rudnick, 2000)

The mixed layer is not **TOTALLY** mixed. Horizontal density gradients are common.

- 1) What does its stratification imply?
- 2) How does the stratification get set?
- 3) Why do we care?

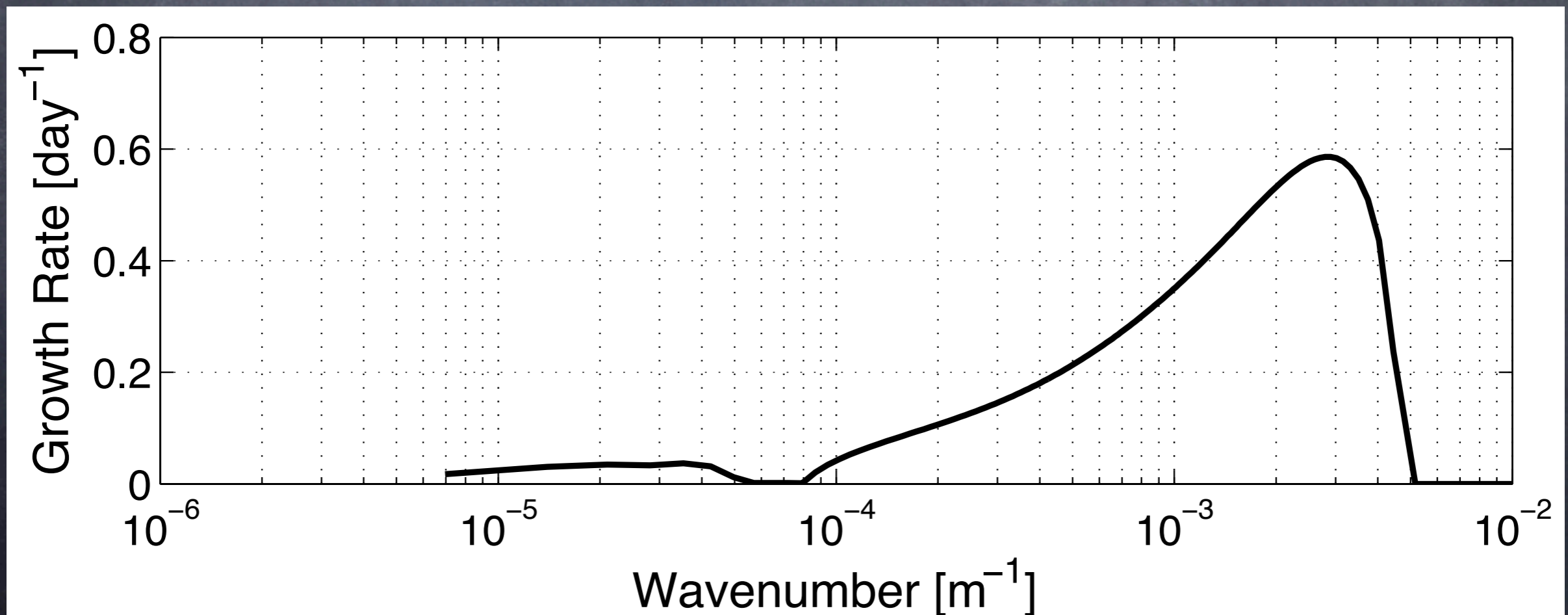
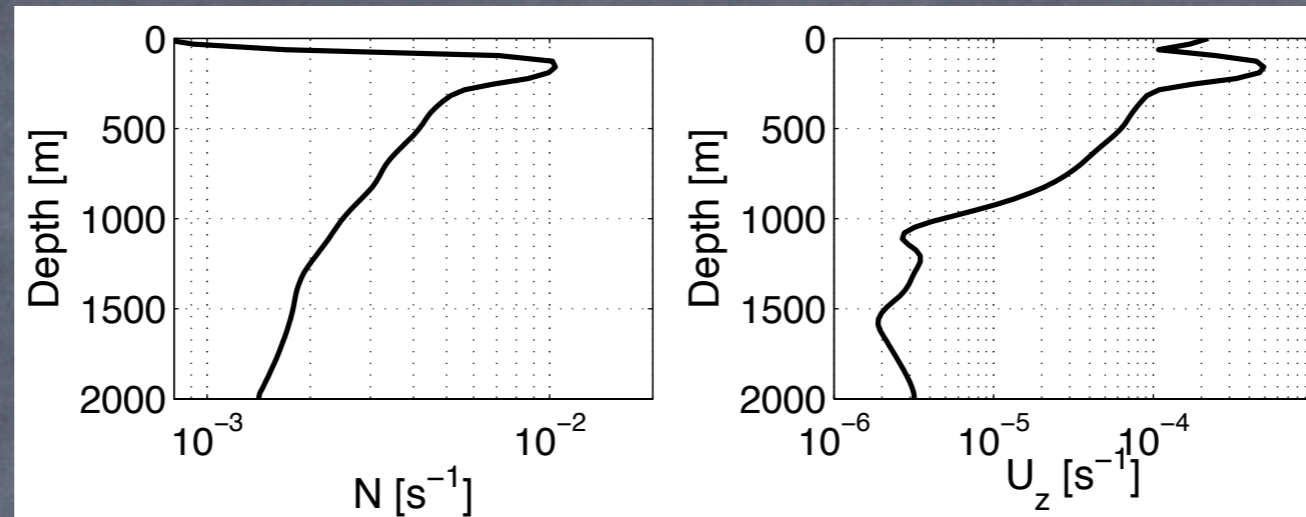
The Stratification Permits Two Types of Baroclinic Instability:

Mesoscale and **SubMesoscale** (Boccaletti et al., 2006)



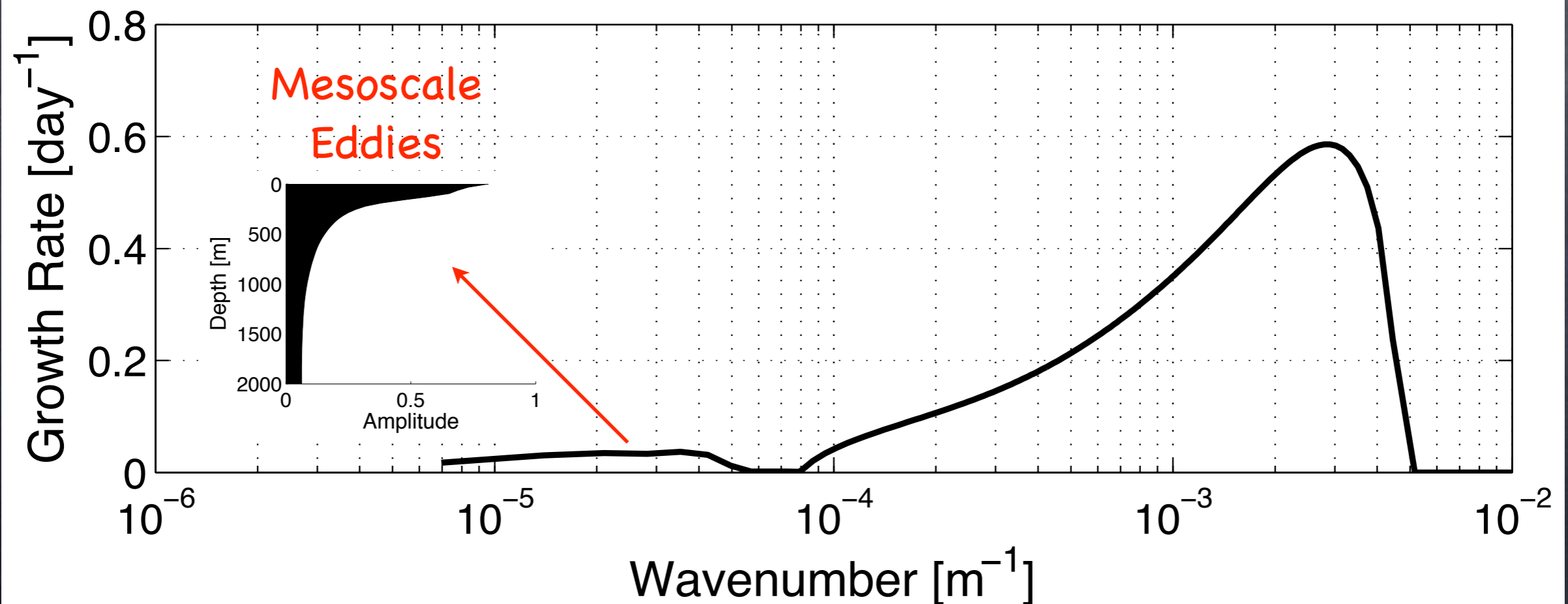
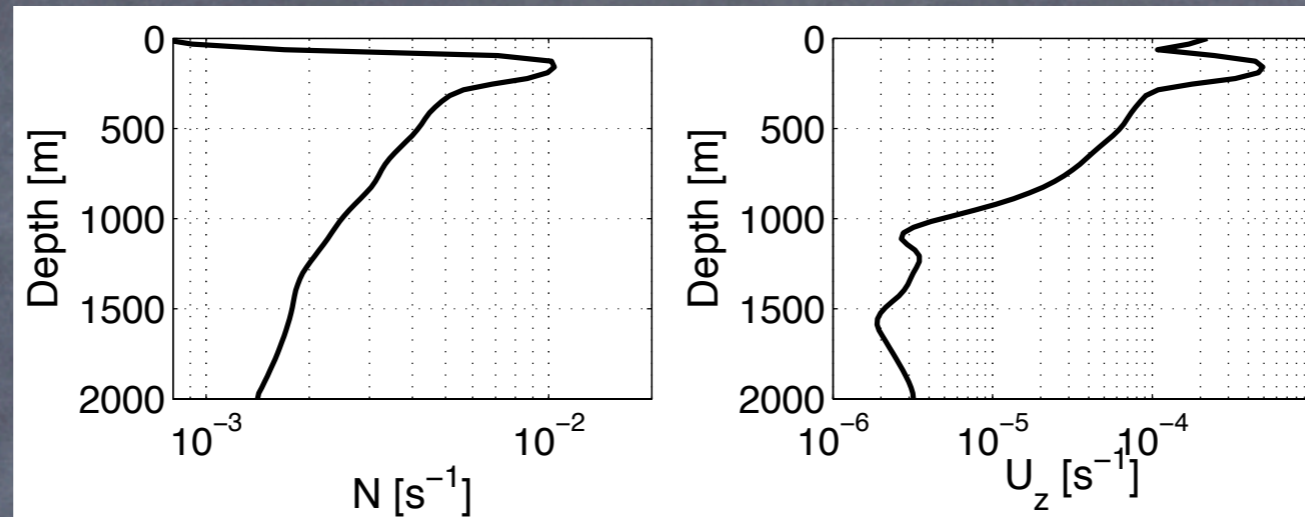
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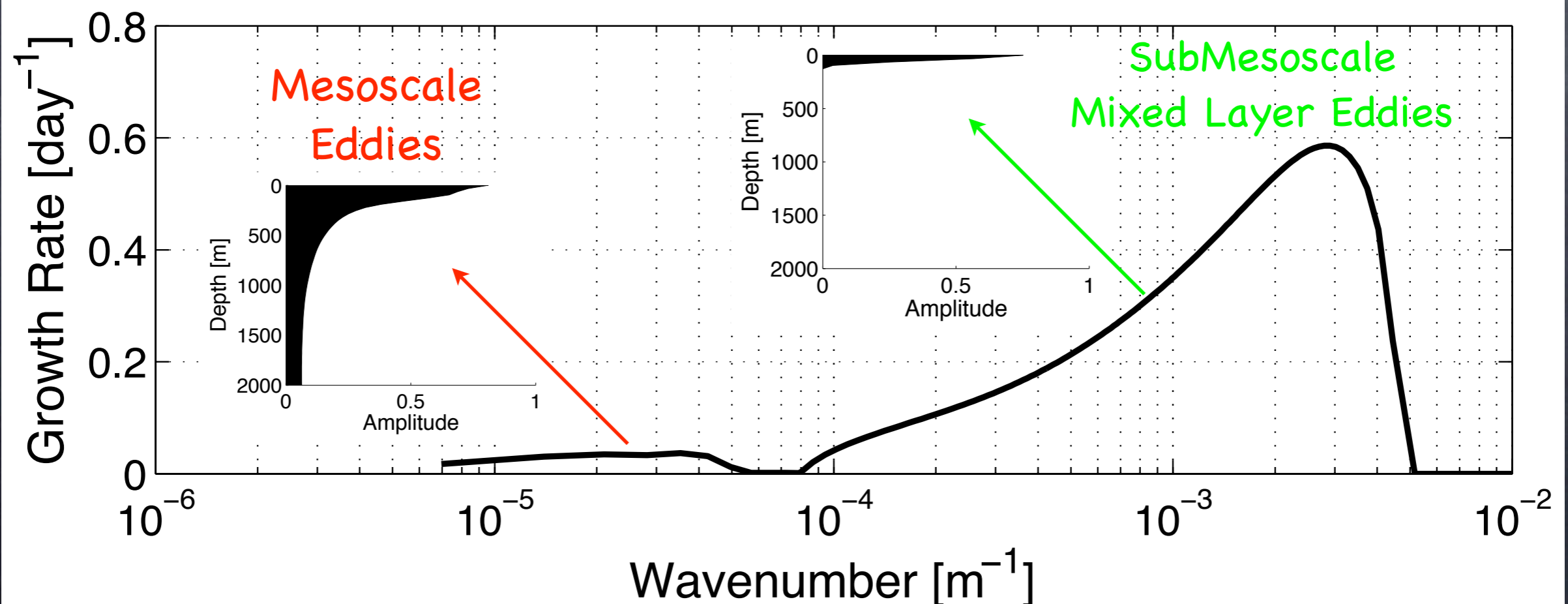
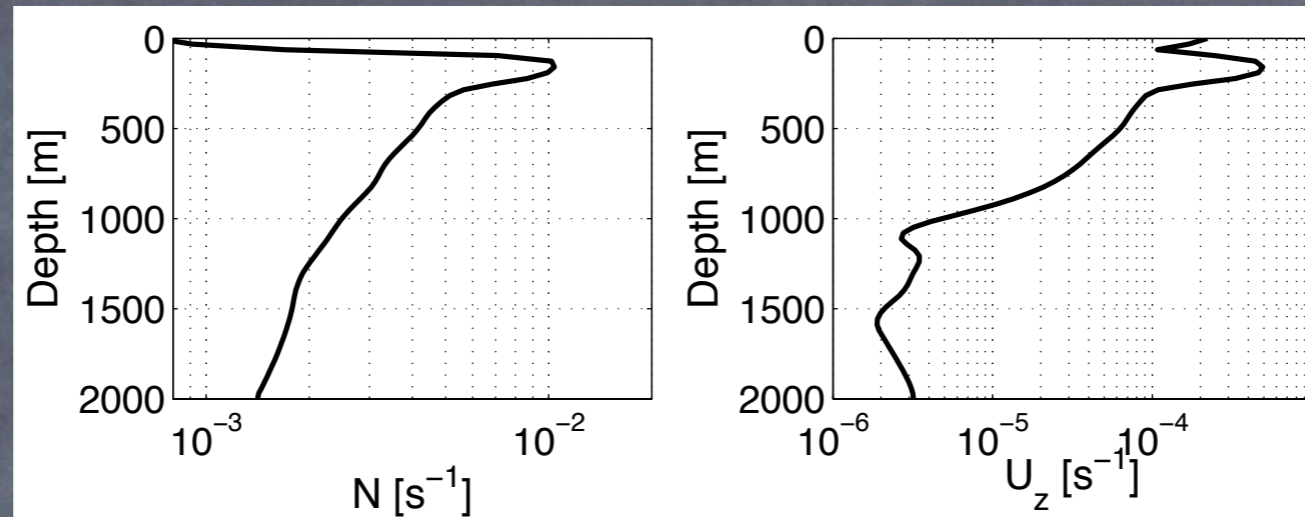
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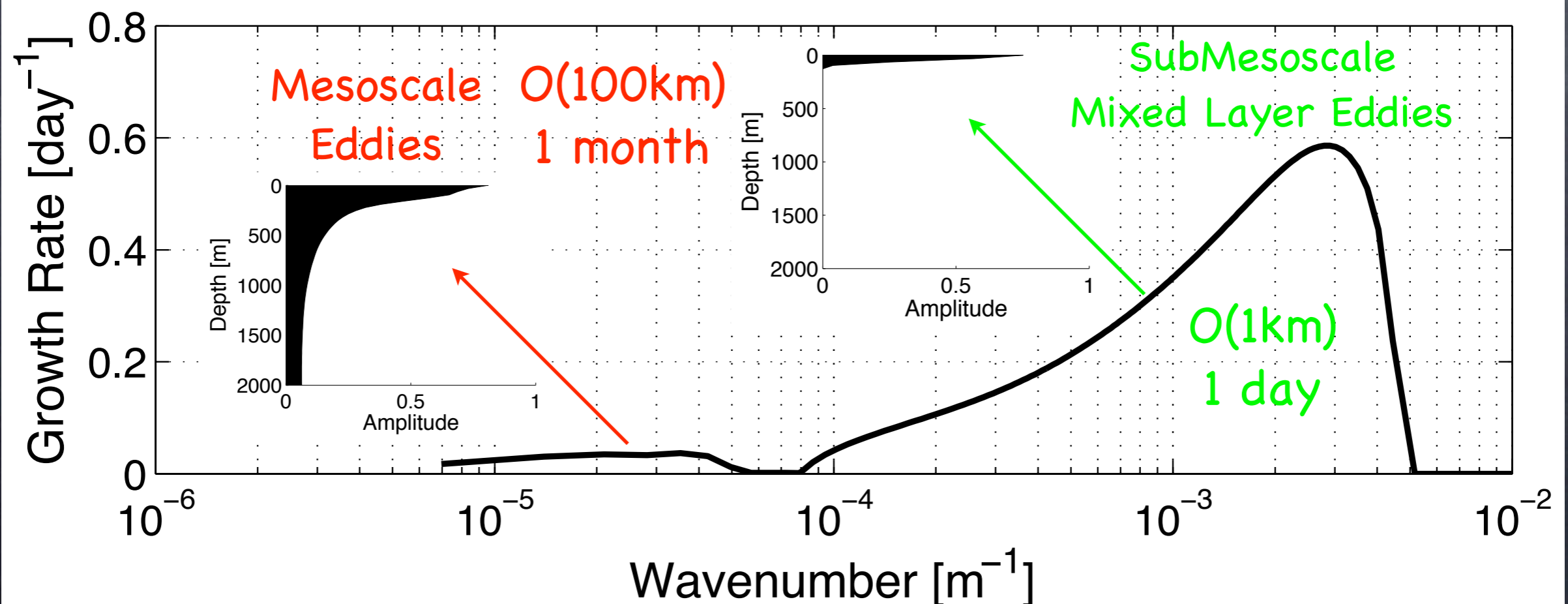
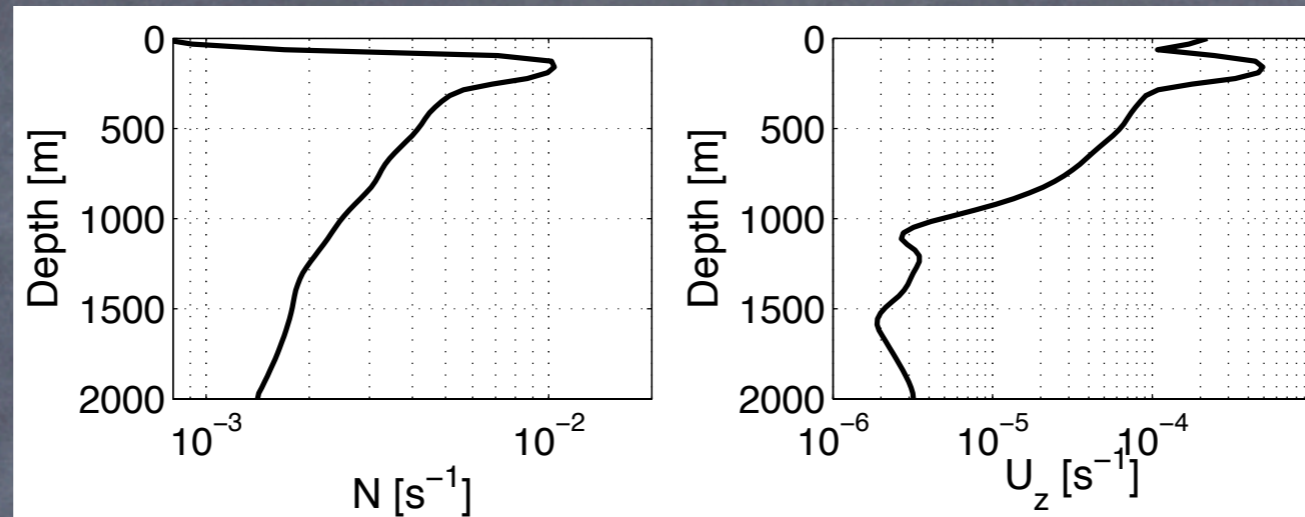
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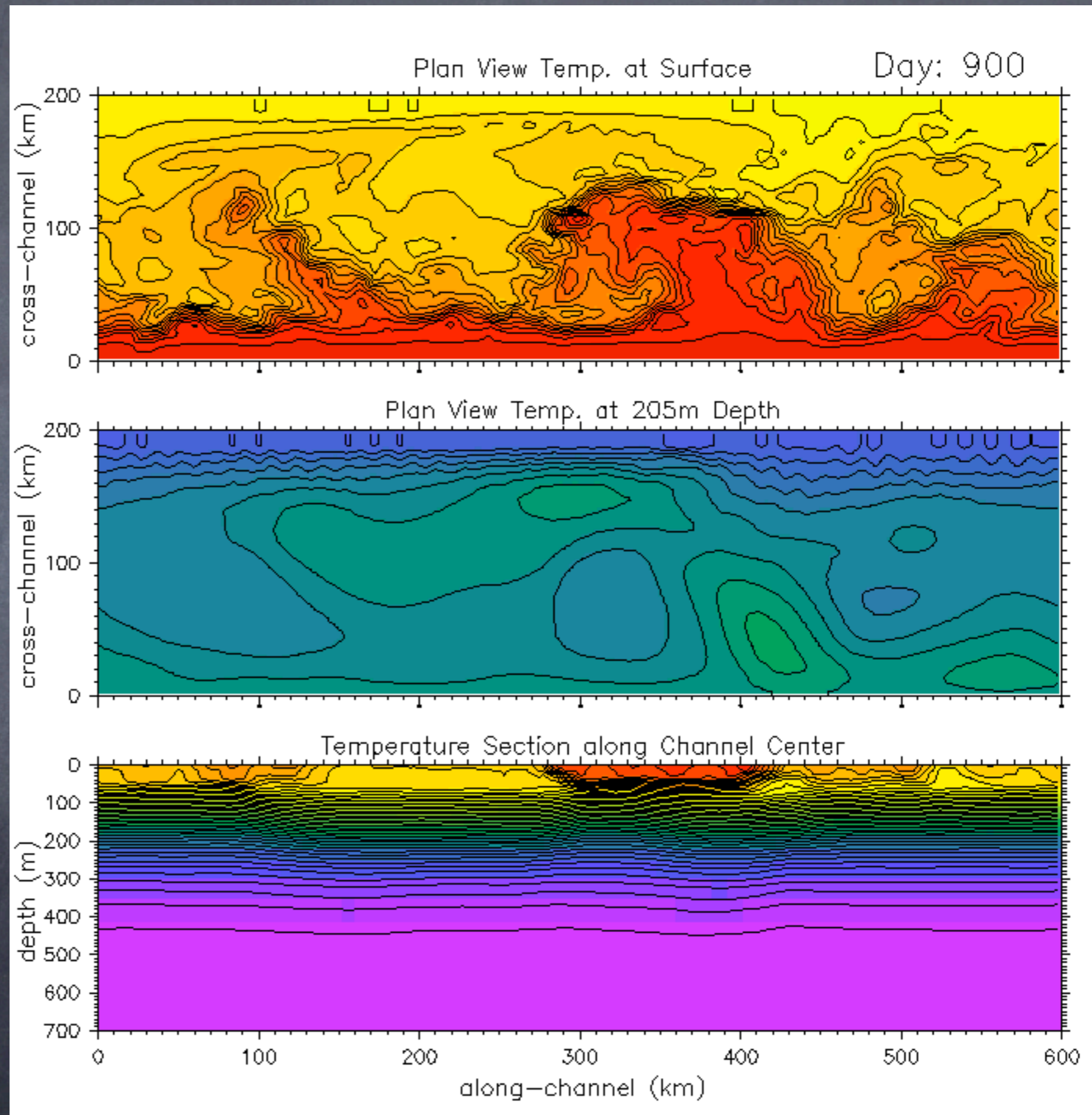
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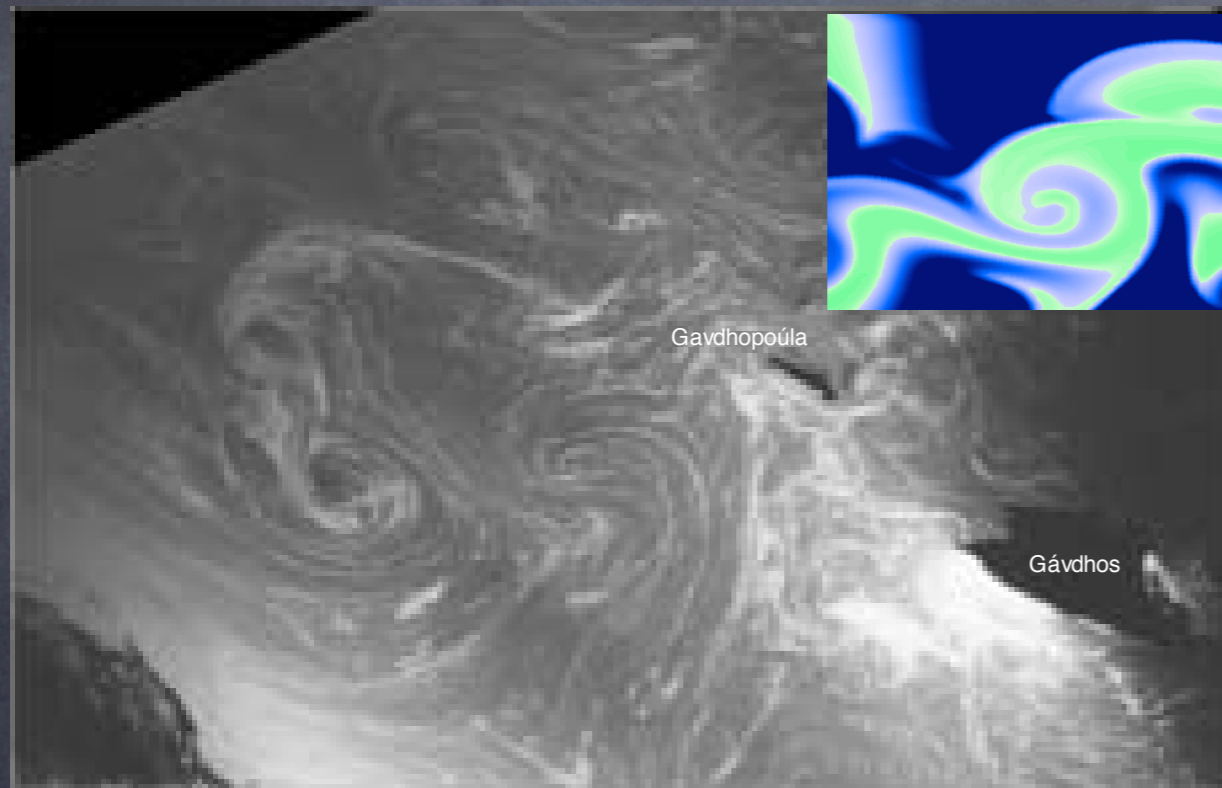
Mesoscale and
SubMesoscale
are
Coupled
Together:

ML Fronts are
formed by
Mesoscale
Straining.

Submesoscale
eddies remove
PE from those
fronts.



Observed: Strongest Surface Eddies= Spirals on the Sea?



Munk, 01

Figure 1. A pair of interconnected spirals in the Mediterranean Sea south of Crete. This vortex pair has a clearly visible stagnation point between the two spirals, the cores of which are aligned with the preconditioning wind field. 7 October 1984.

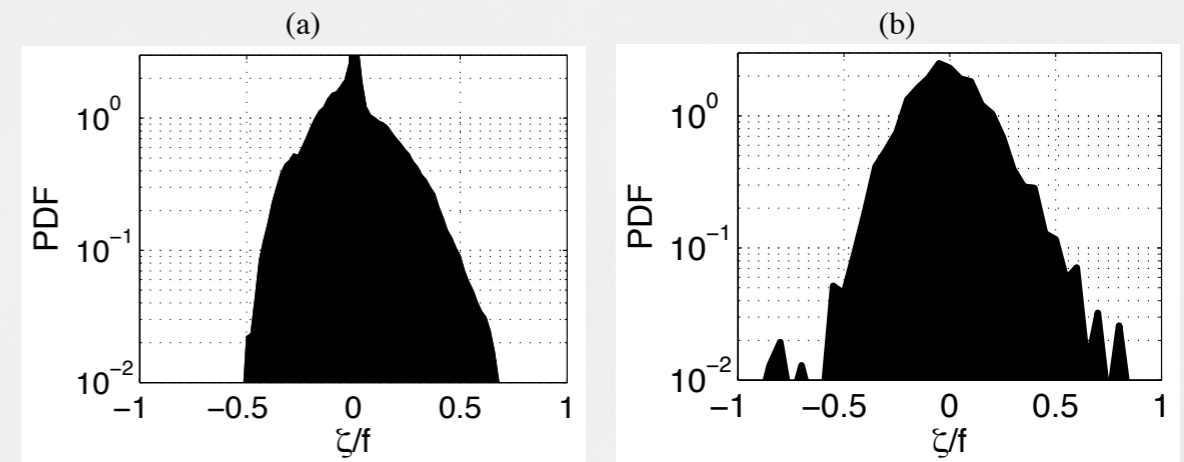


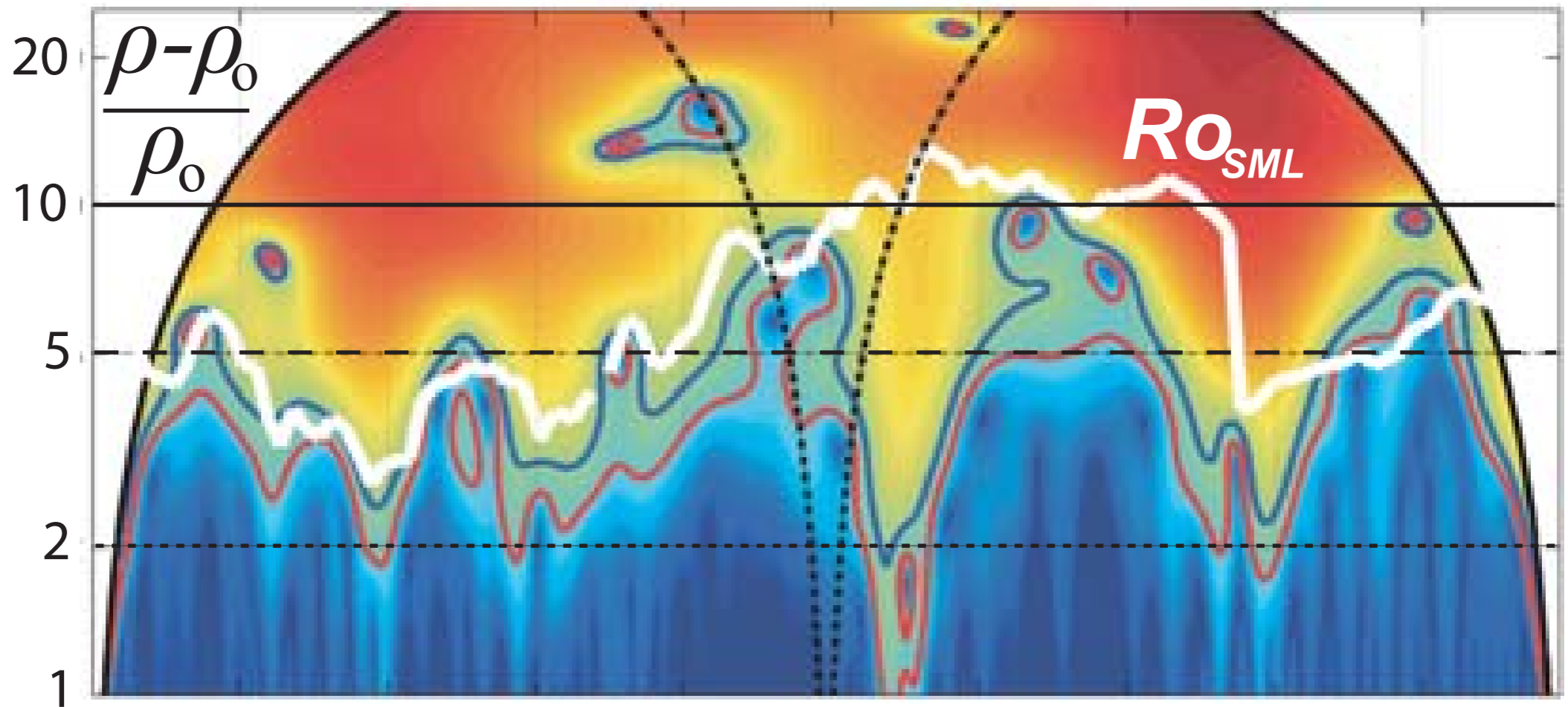
Figure 12: Probability density function of relative vorticity divided by Coriolis parameter. (a) Results from the numerical simulation of a slumping horizontal density front. ($z > 100$ only to exclude bottom Ekman layer.) The PDF is estimated using surface velocity measurements at day 25 (see also Fig. 11). A positive skewness appears as soon as the baroclinic instability enters in the nonlinear stage, and it continues to grow. Note that the peak at $\zeta/f = 0$ is due to the model's initial resting condition; that fluid has not yet been contacted by the MLI. (b) Results from ADCP measurements in the North Pacific. The PDF is calculated in bins of width 0.02.

Observed:

ML Density varies in horizontal,
only at scales larger than ML Def. Rad.
S & T vary at all scales.

b)

L (km)



Midlatitude Pacific near Hawaii: Hosegood et al. 06

Vertical fluxes are Submesoscale
and tend to restratify

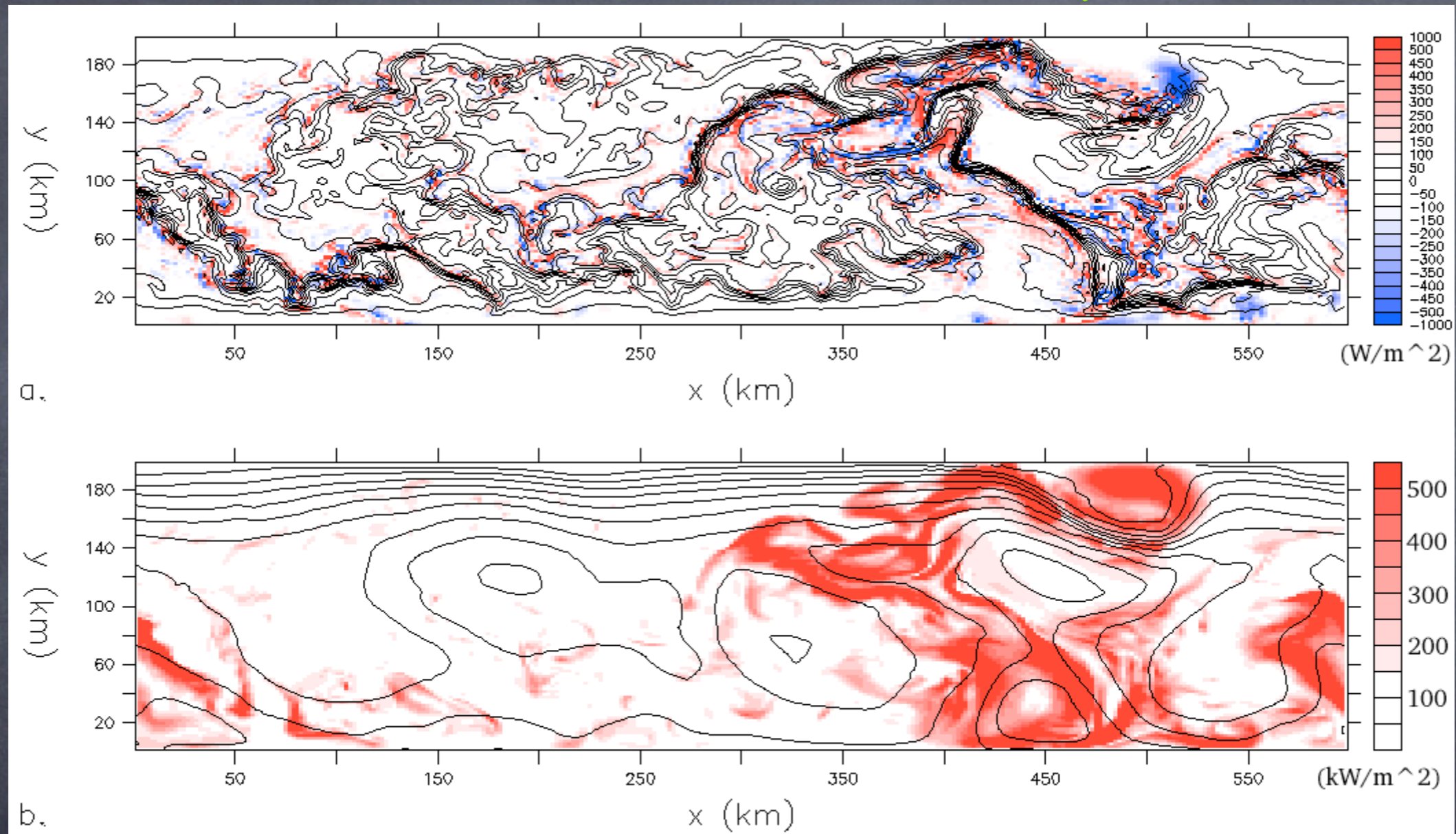
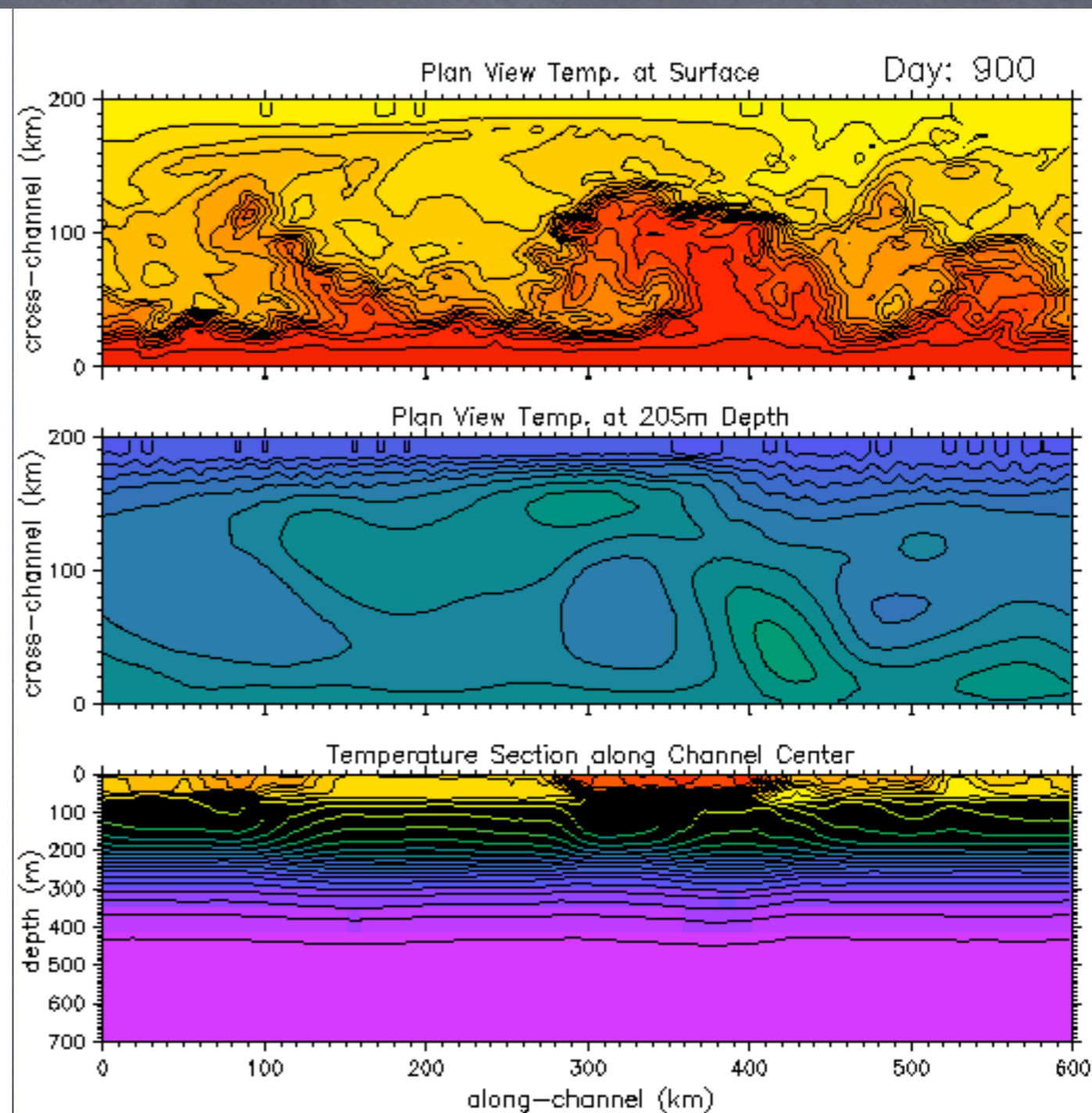
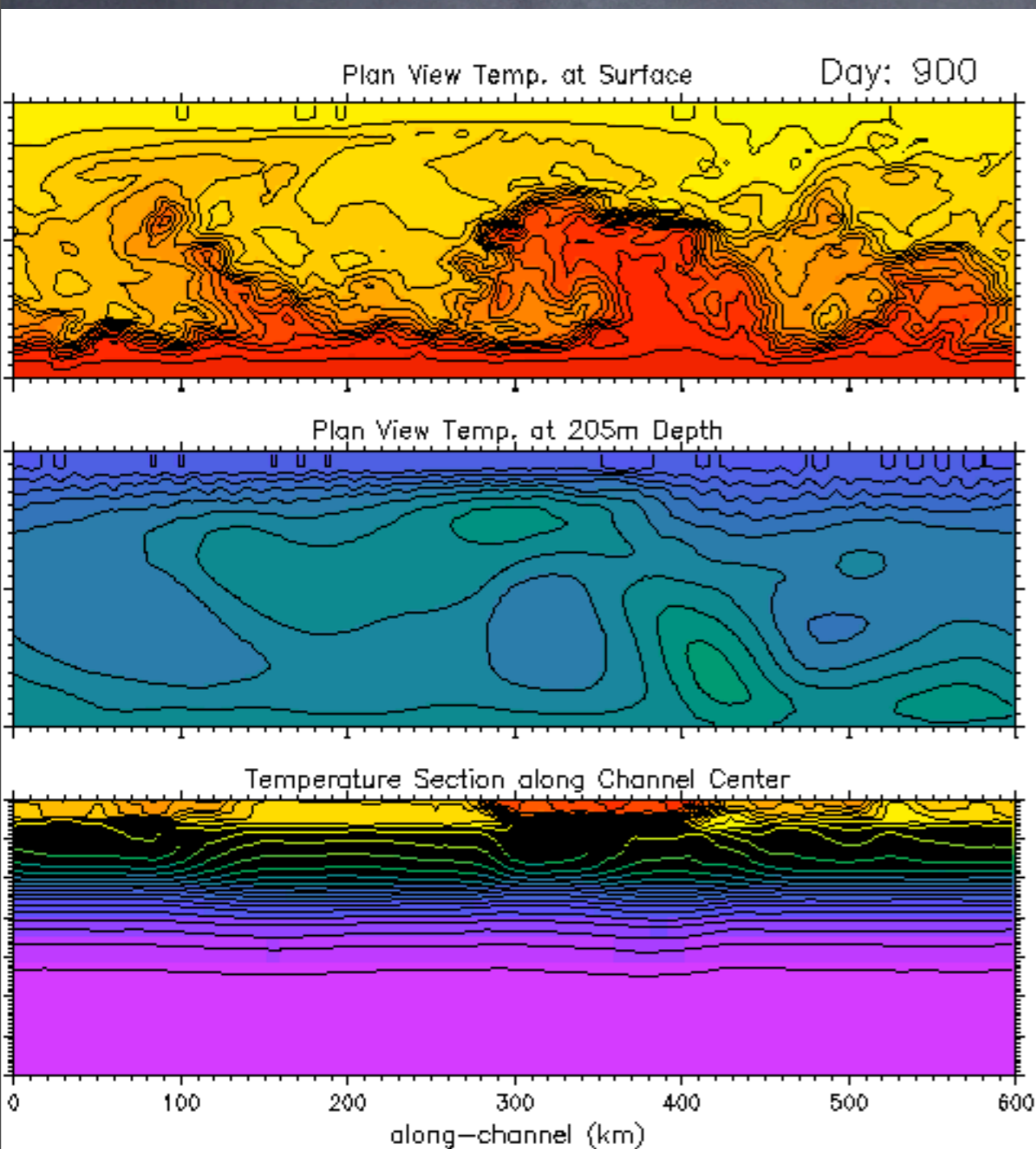


FIGURE 1: Contours of temperature at the a) surface and b) below the mixed layer base in a simulation with both mesoscale eddies and MLEs (0.2°C contour intervals). Shading indicates the value at the depth where $\overline{w'b'}$ (upper panel) and $|\overline{\mathbf{u}'_H b'}|$ (lower panel) take the largest magnitude.

Horizontal fluxes are Mesoscale
and tend to stir

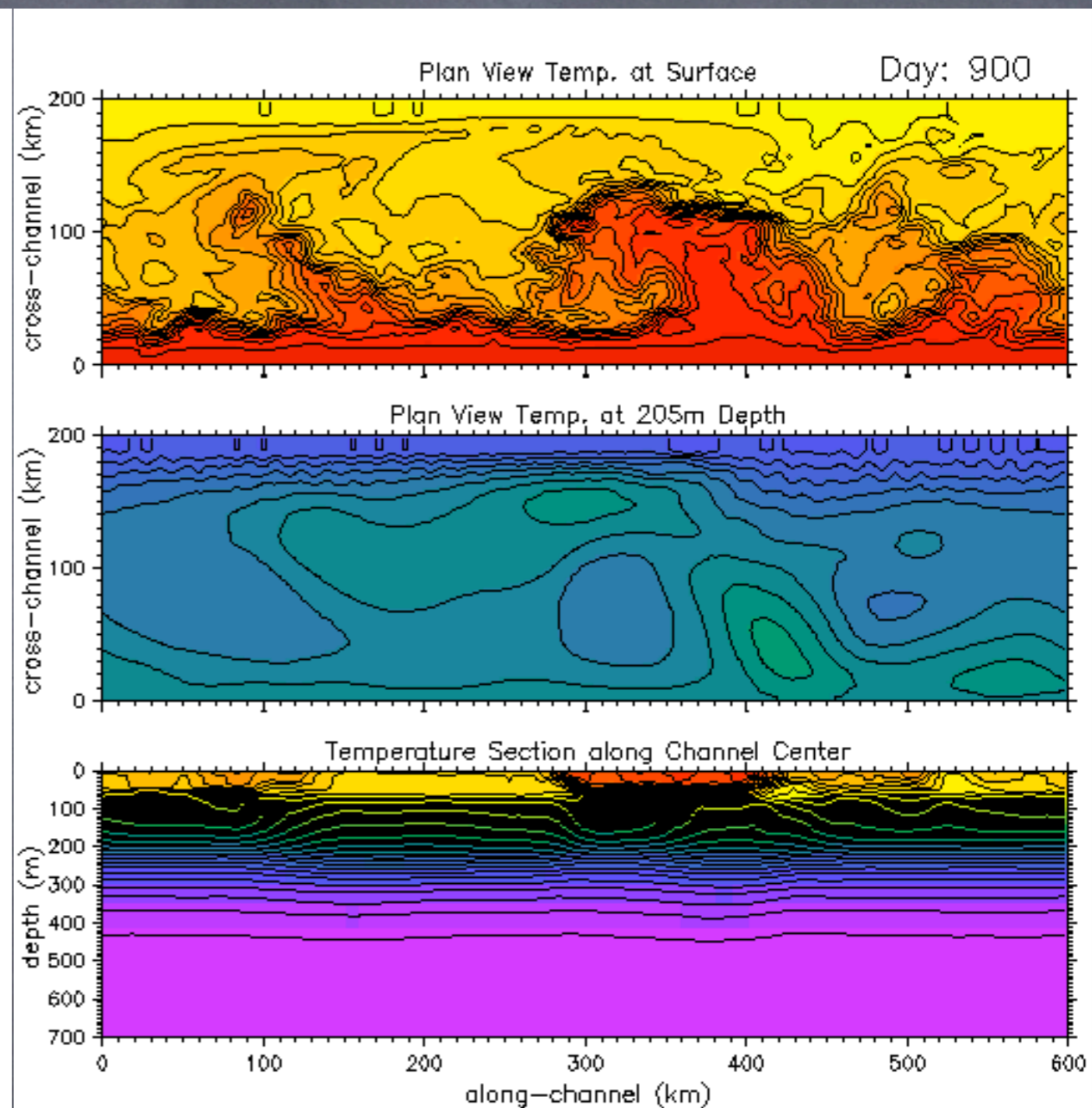
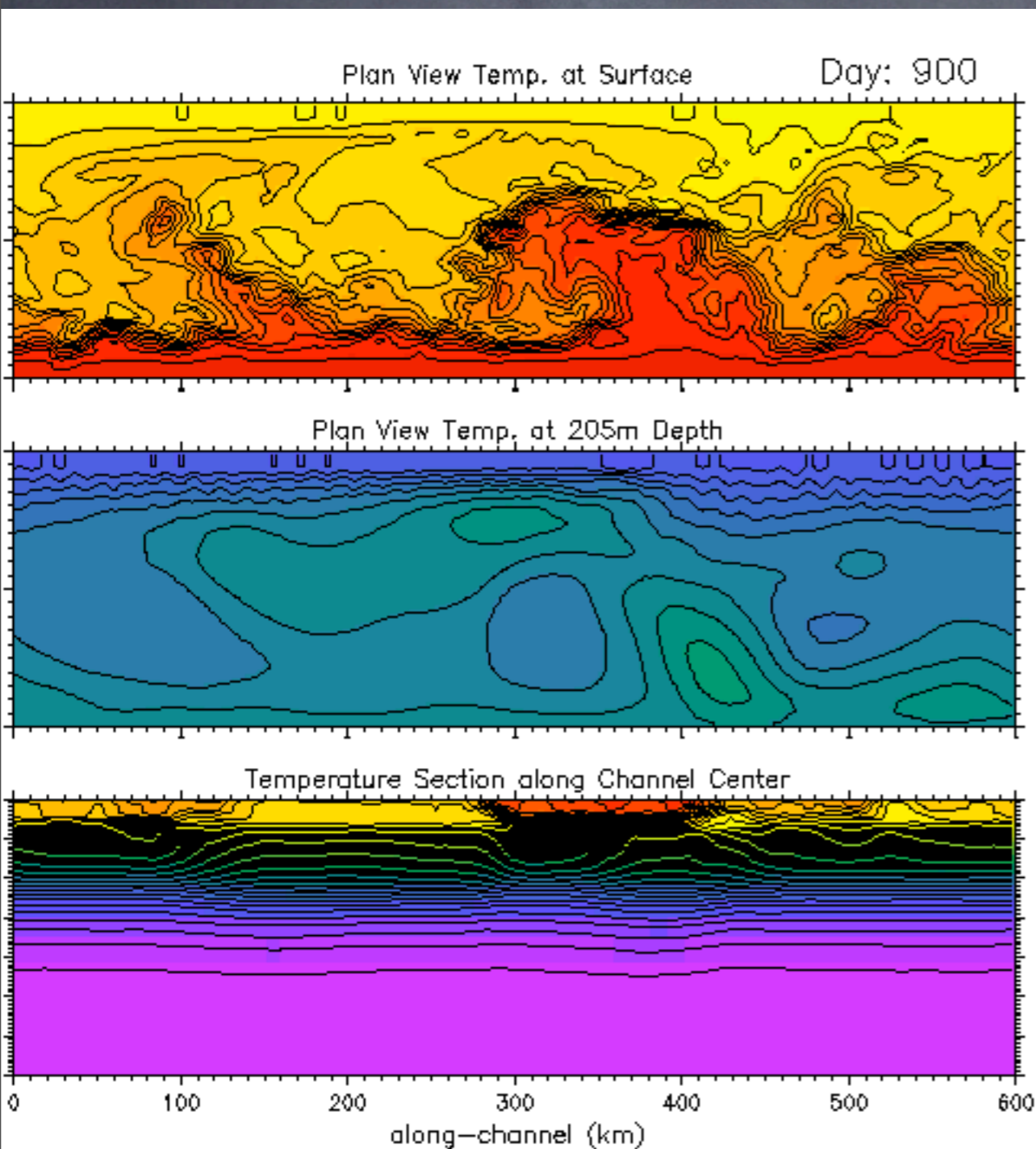
Having a Mixed Layer Counts!

The vertical buoyancy flux in the ML ($\langle w'b' \rangle$) without diurnal cycle is **not less** than with cycle (ML)



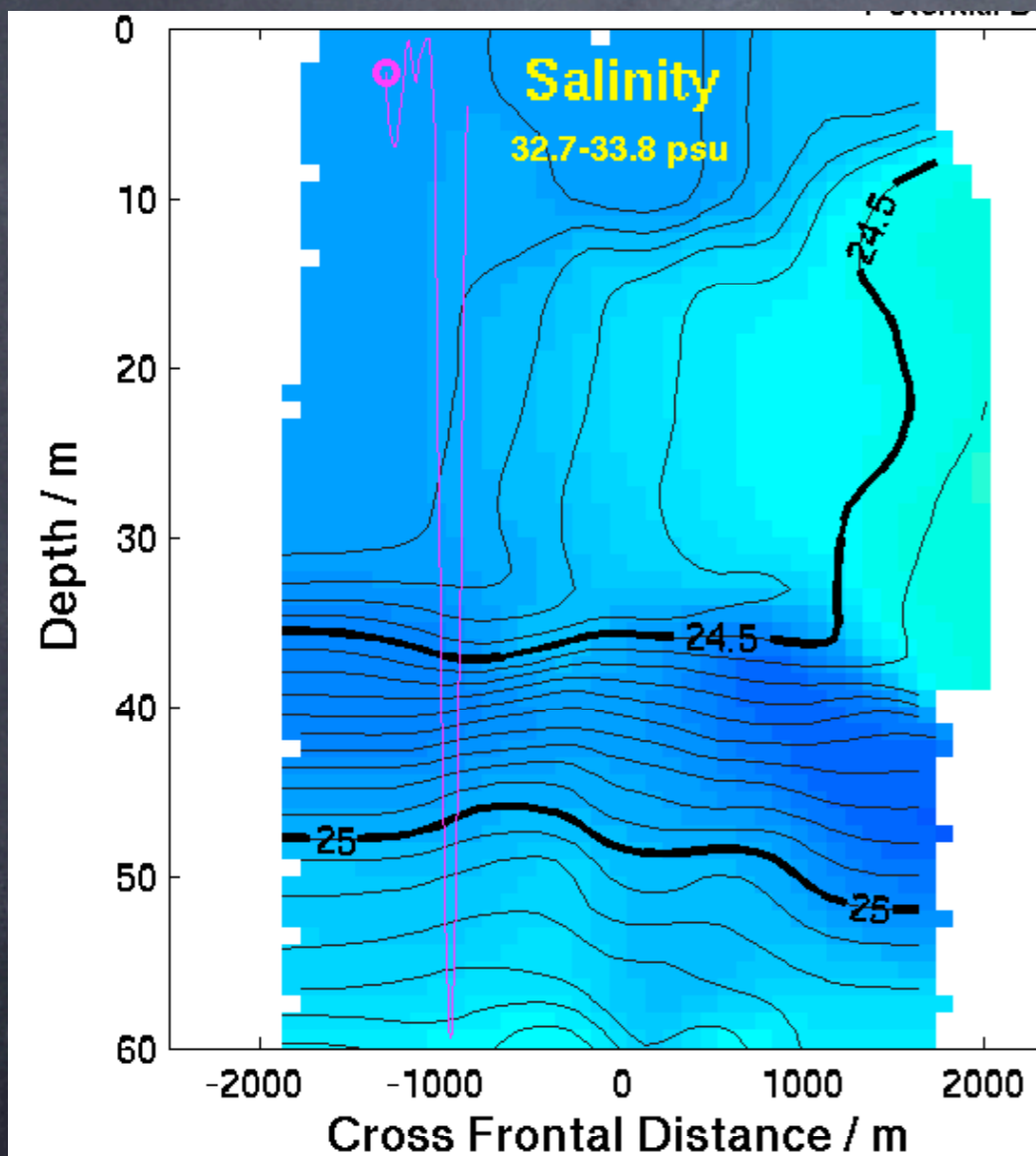
Having a Mixed Layer Counts!

The vertical buoyancy flux in the ML ($\langle w'b' \rangle$) without diurnal cycle is **4x less** than with cycle (ML)



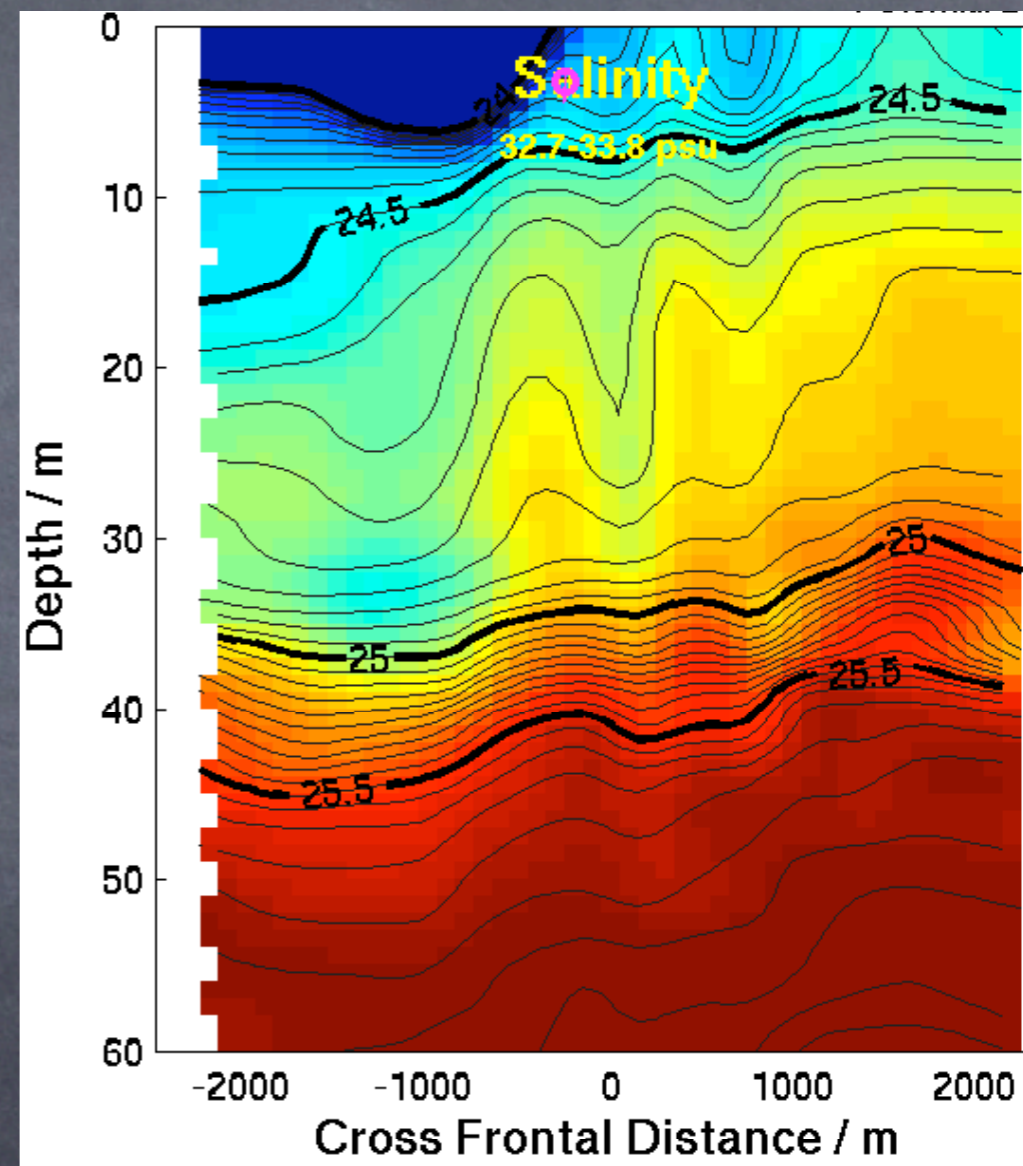
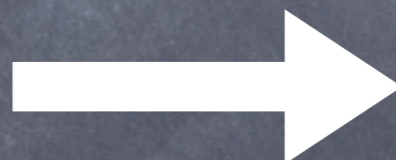
AESOP Observations of Rapid Restratification near Monterey Bay

- 1.5 days, 5-6 Aug 2006
- Mixed layer restratifies under weakening wind forcing
- Characterized mixed layer evolution in Lagrangian (float-following) frame.



30 kt wind

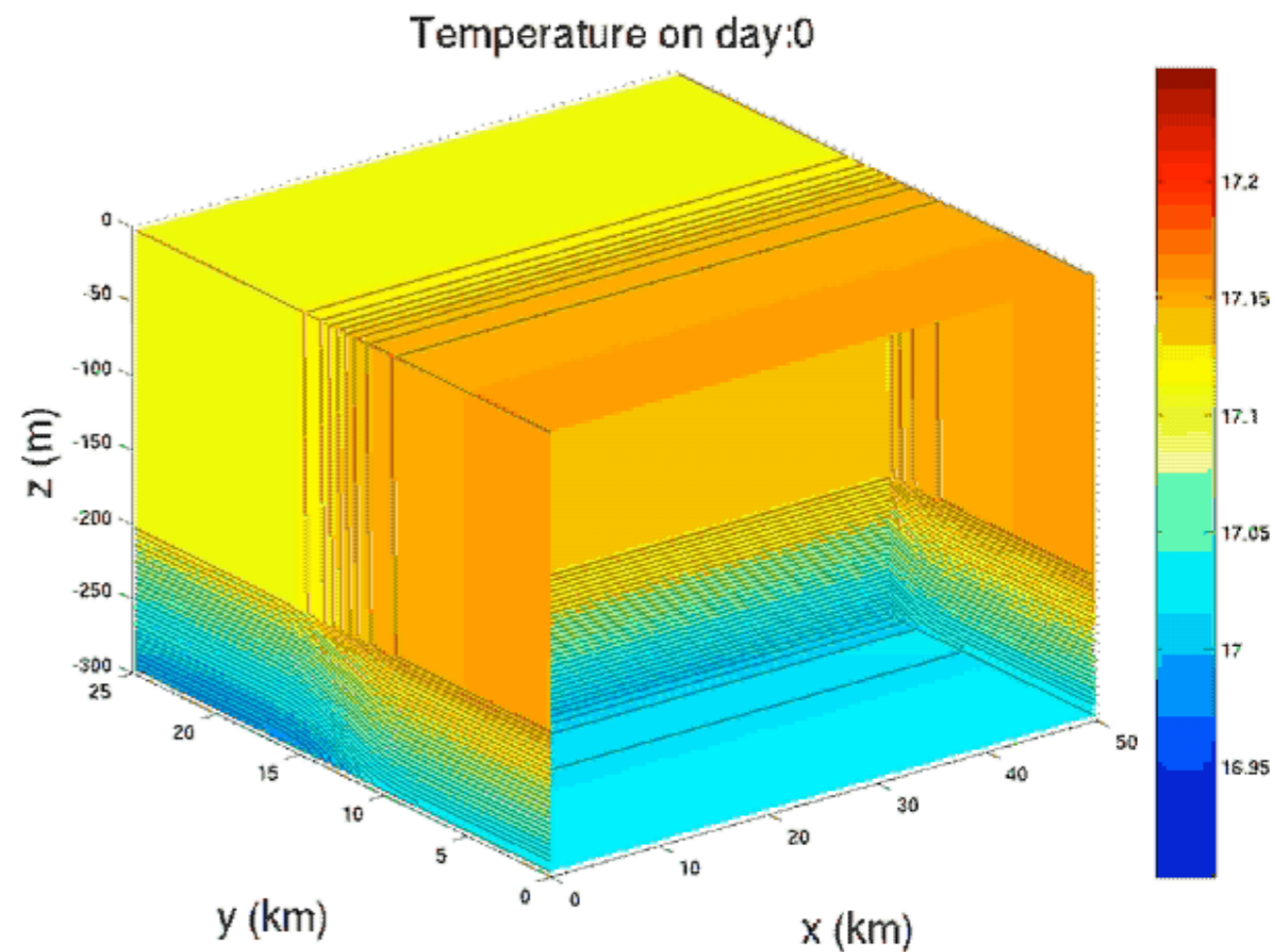
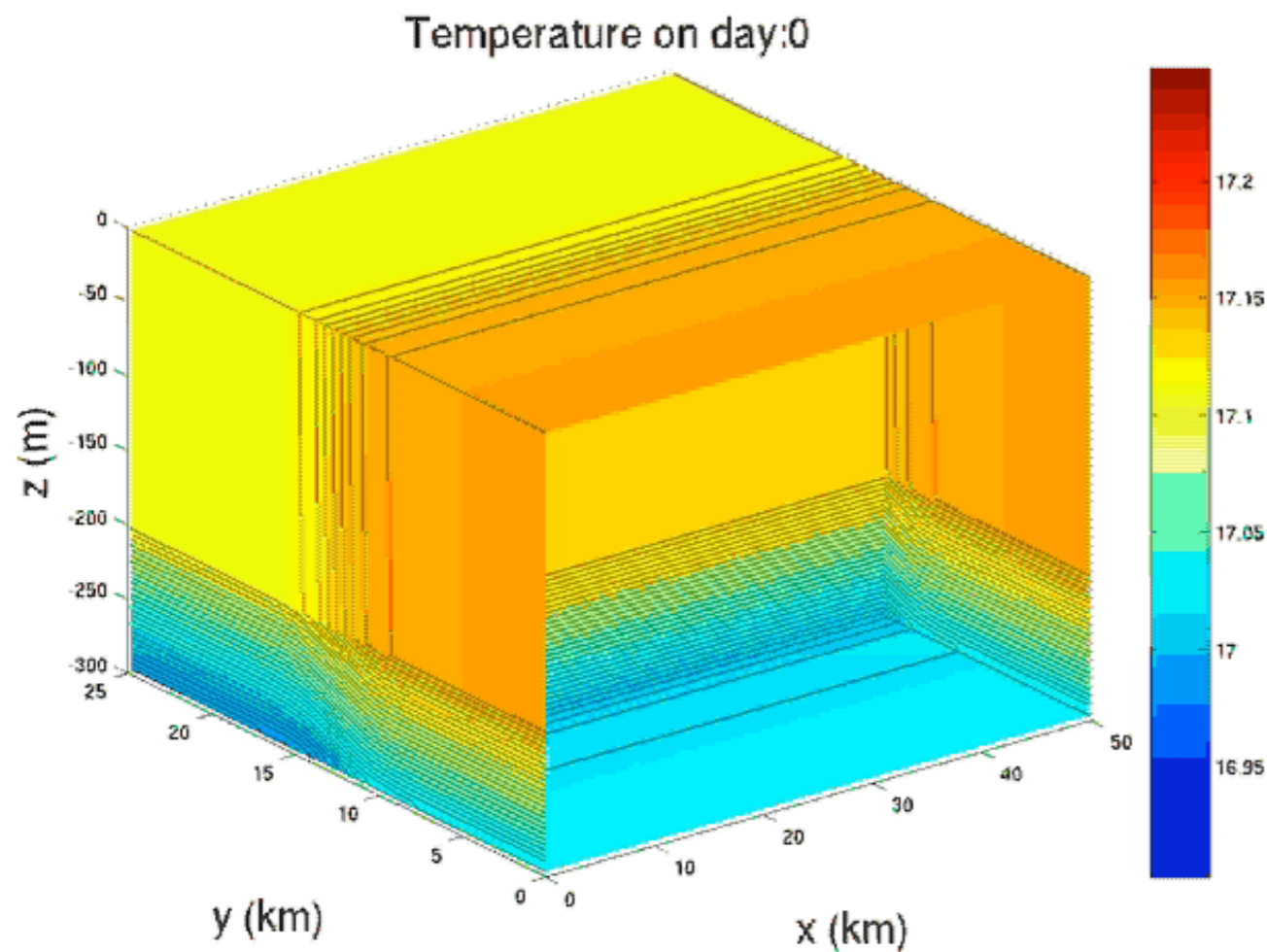
After one day



10 kt wind

Courtesy E. D'Asaro

Prototype: Mixed Layer Front Adjustment

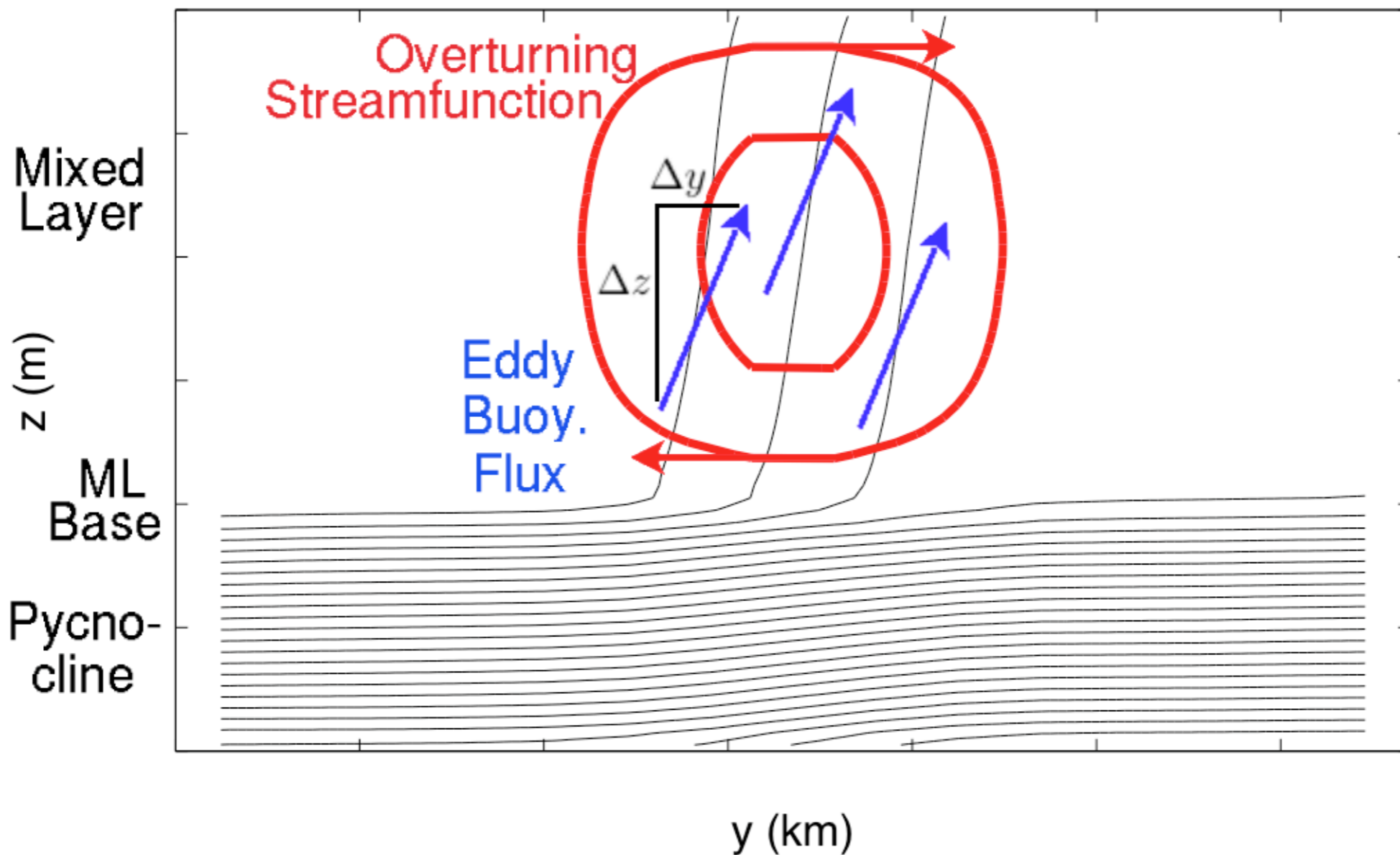


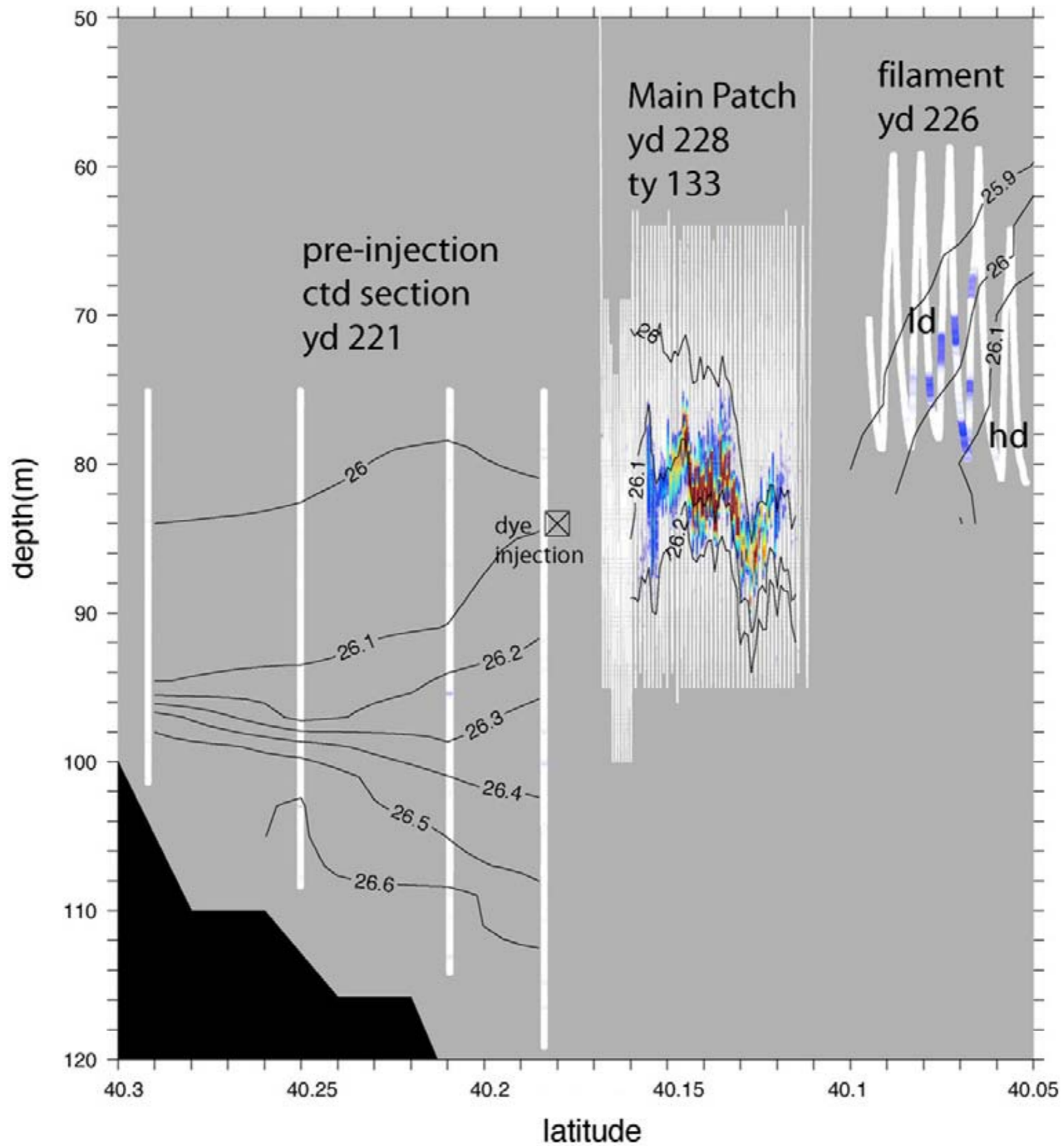
Simple Spindown

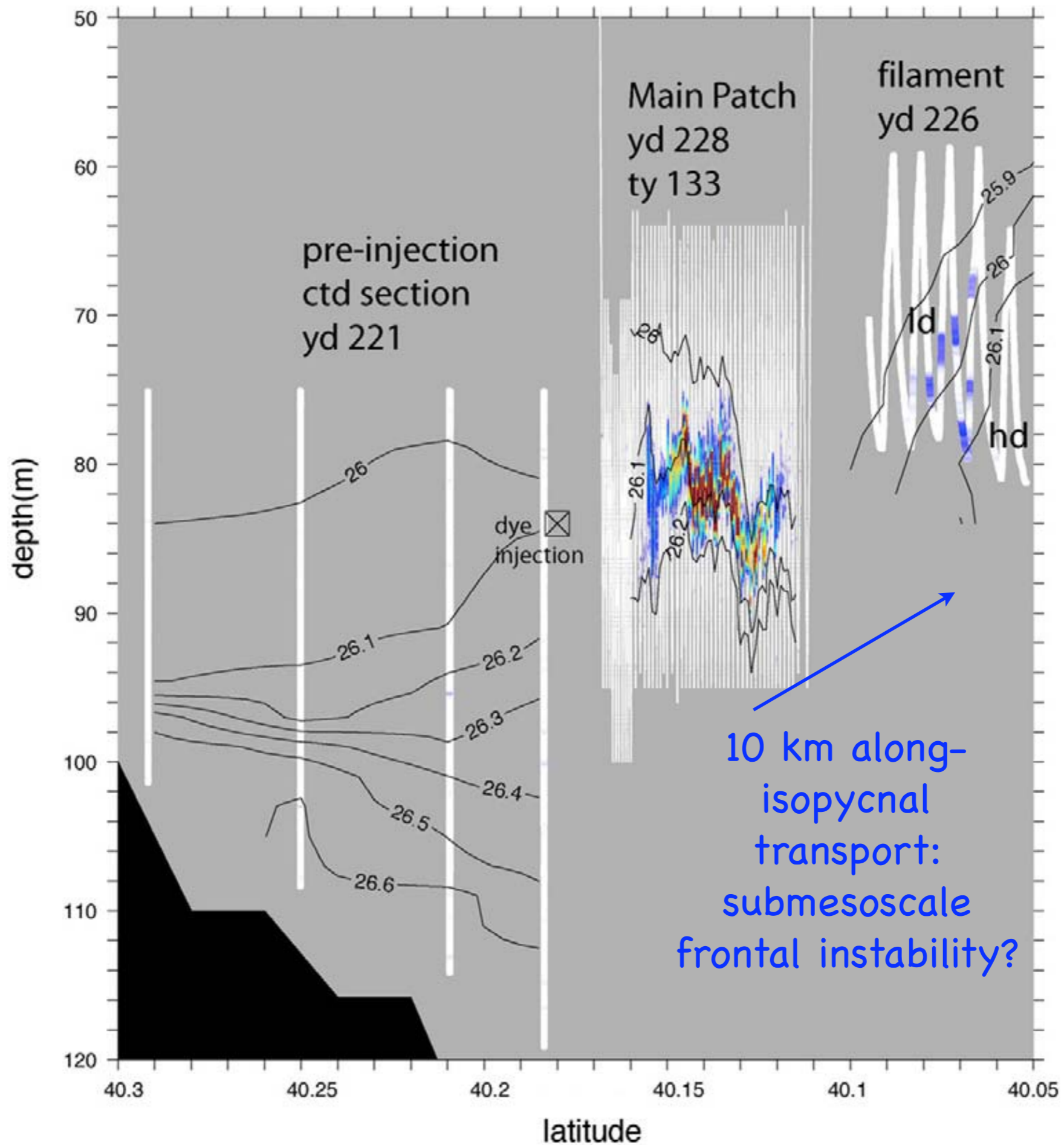
Plus, Diurnal Cycle
and KPP

Note: initial geostrophic adjustment overwhelmed by eddy restratification

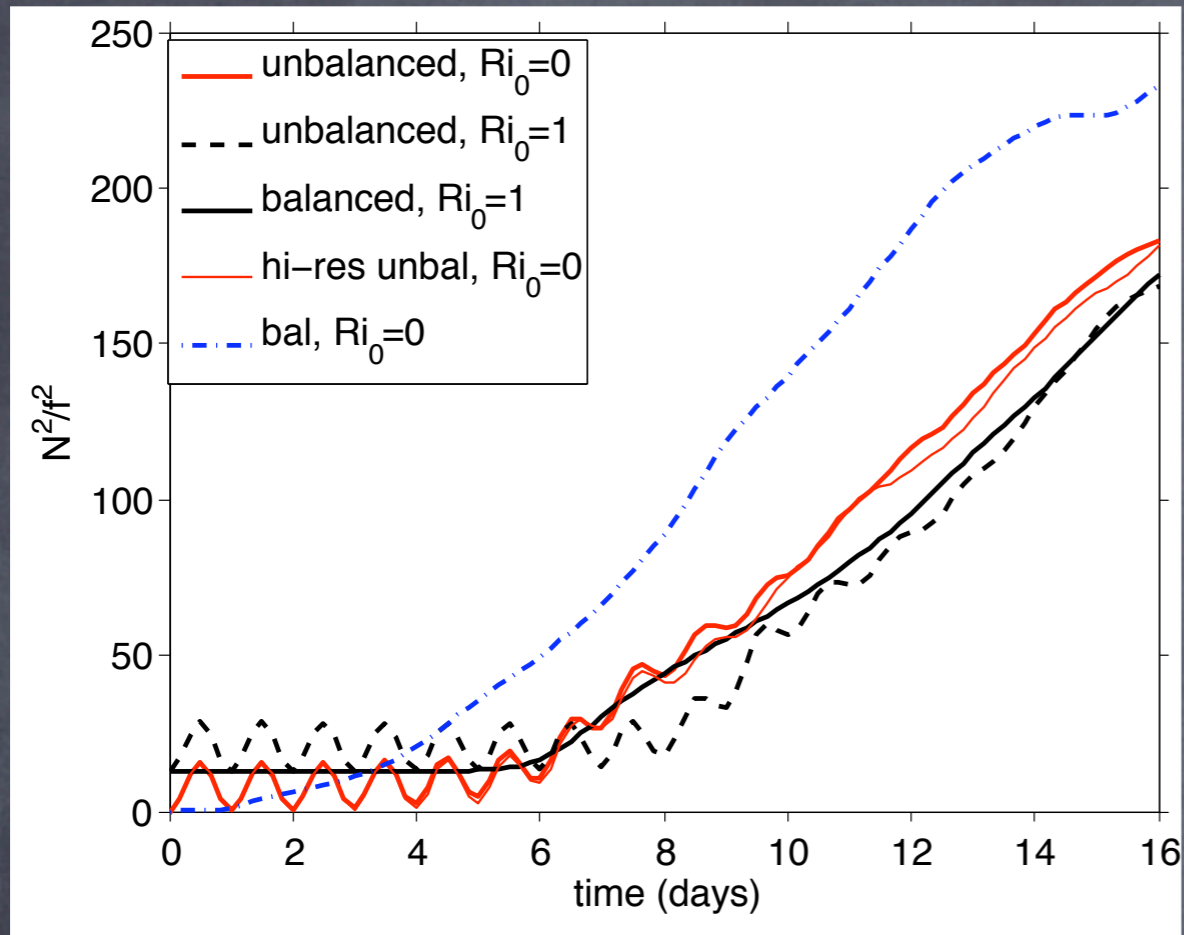
Schematic of the overturning



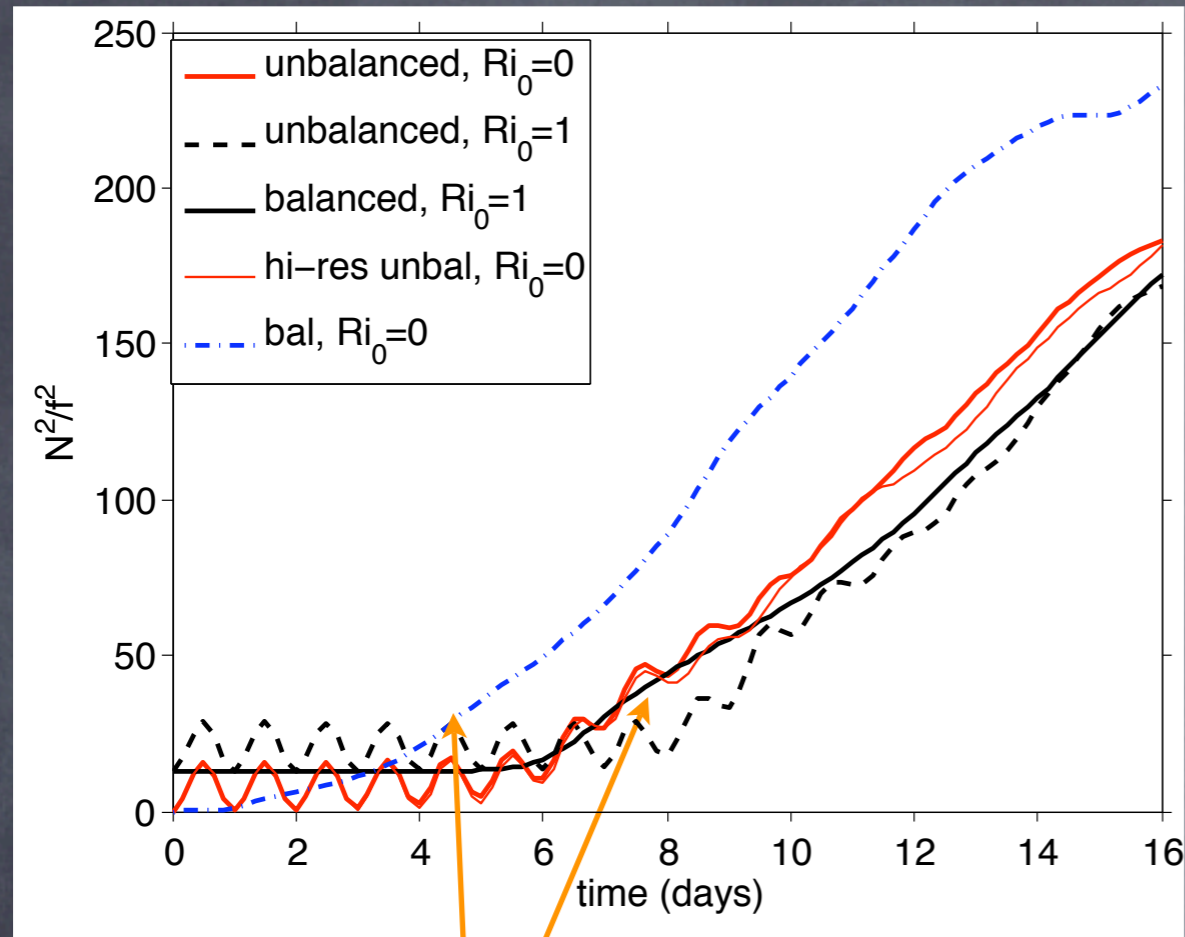




Parameterization of Finite Amp. Eddies: Ingredients

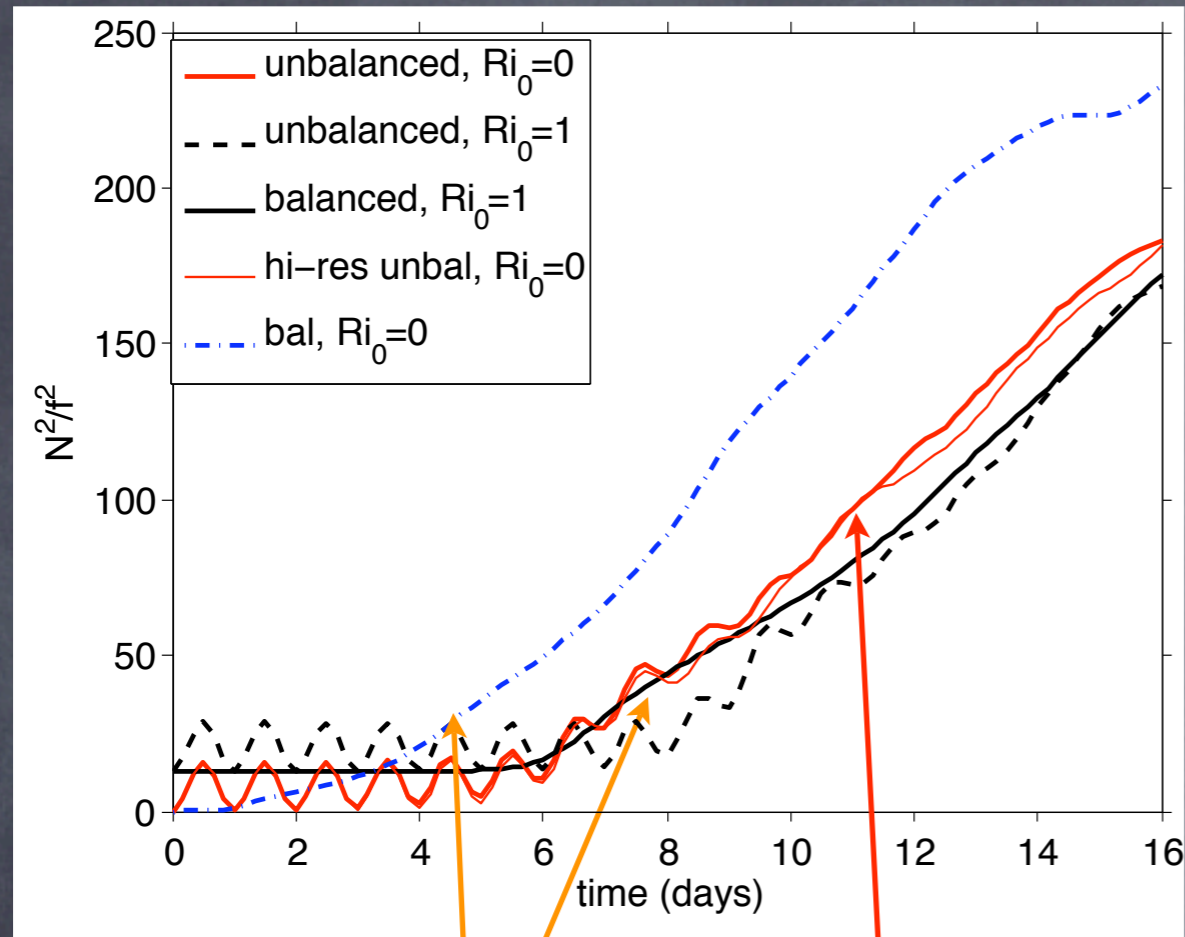


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Eddies at Finite
Amplitude

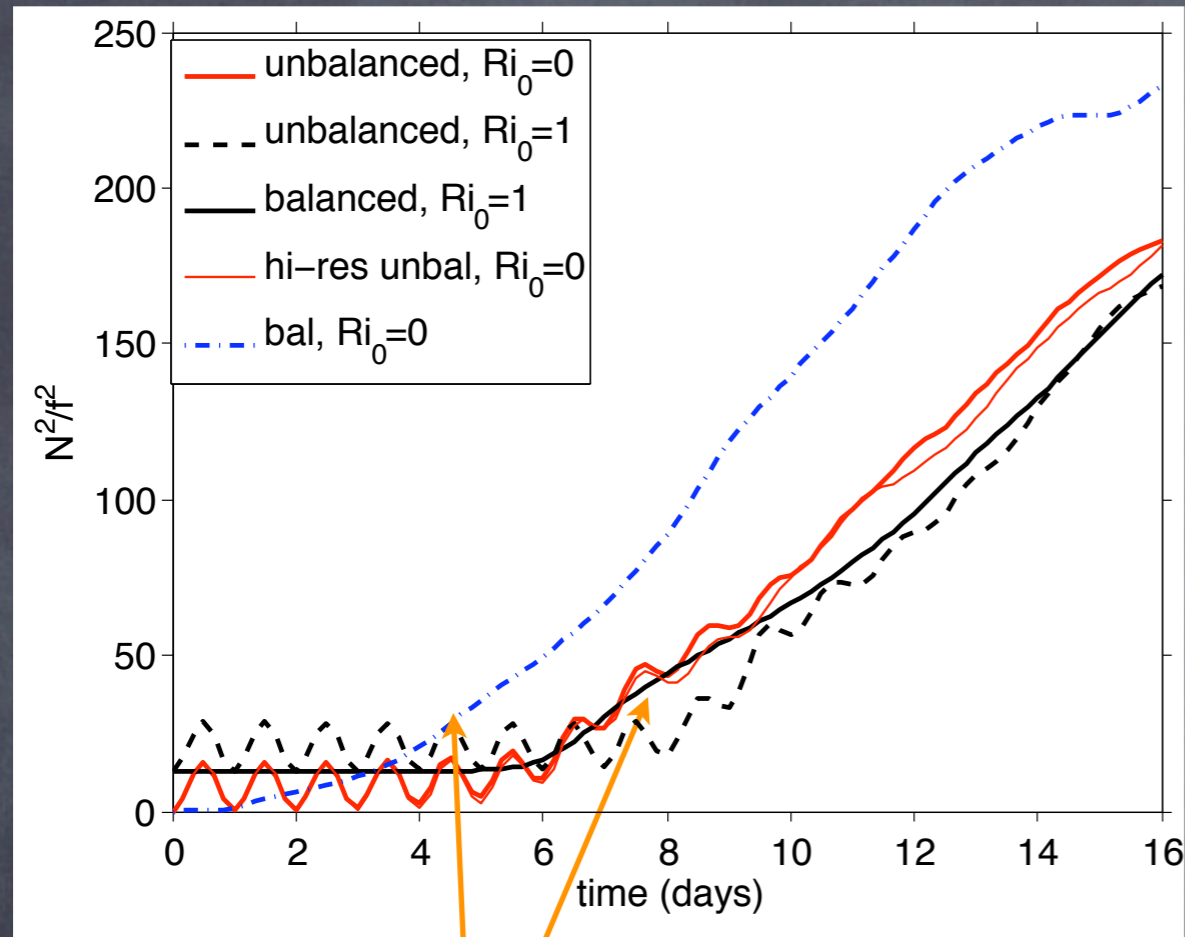
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Eddies at Finite Amplitude

Resolution Convergence

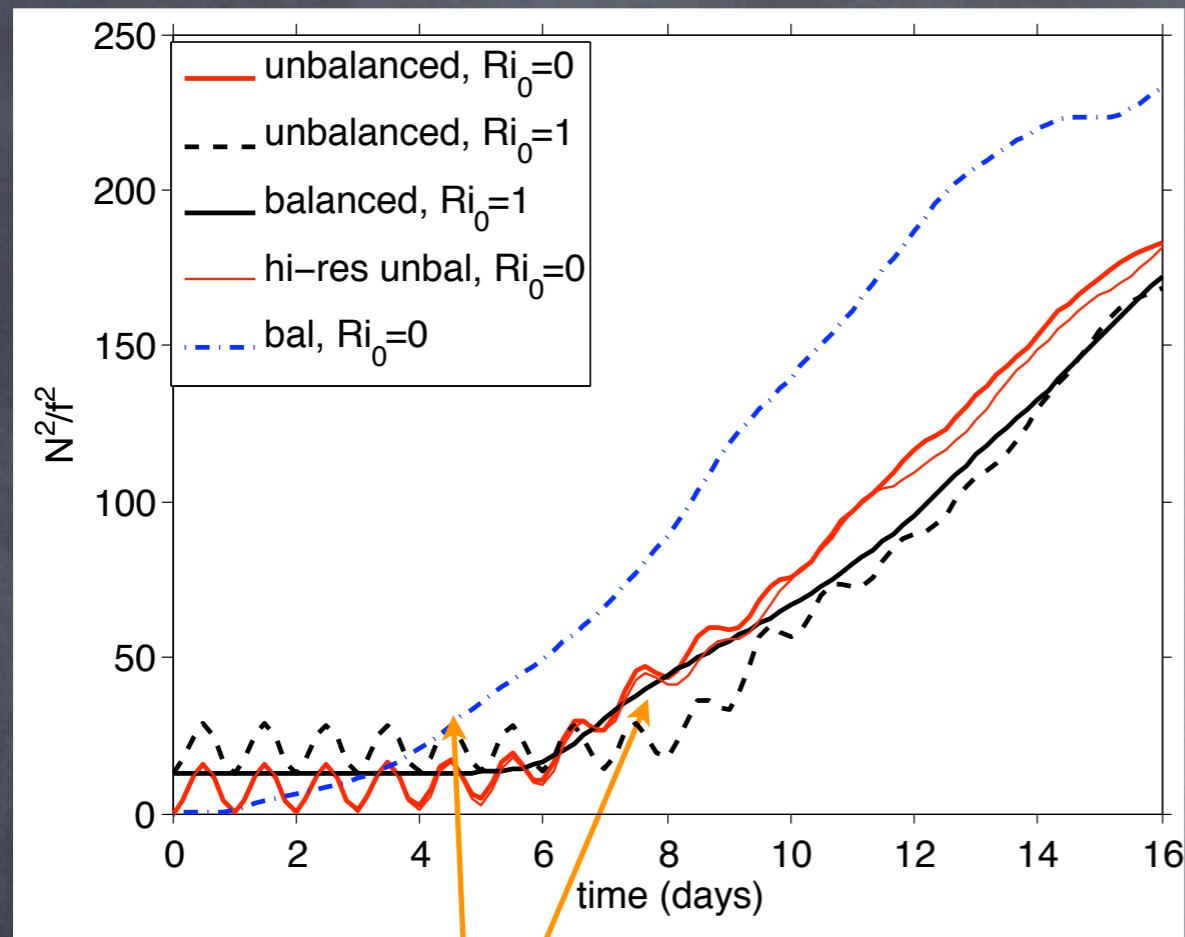
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Power Spectrum of KE

Eddies at Finite
Amplitude

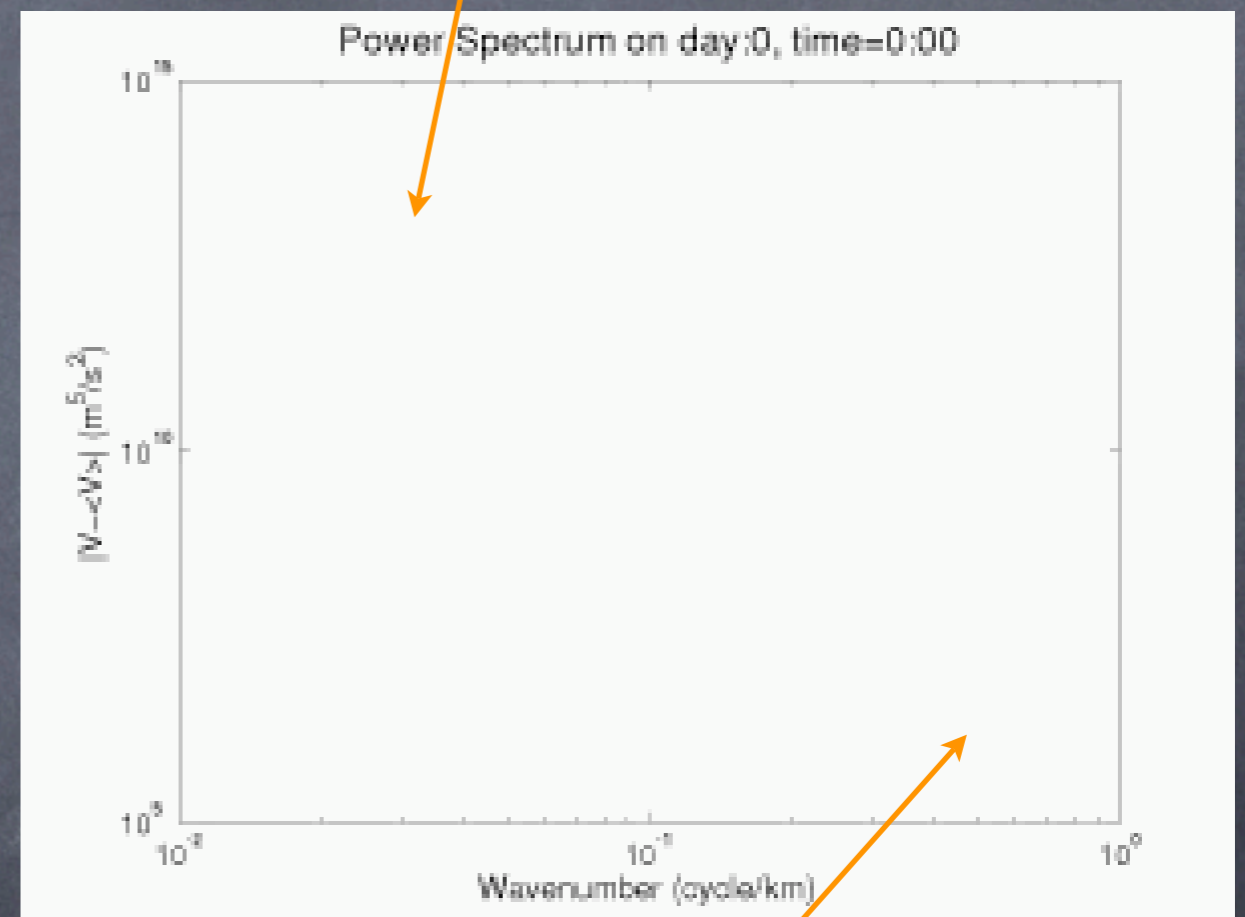
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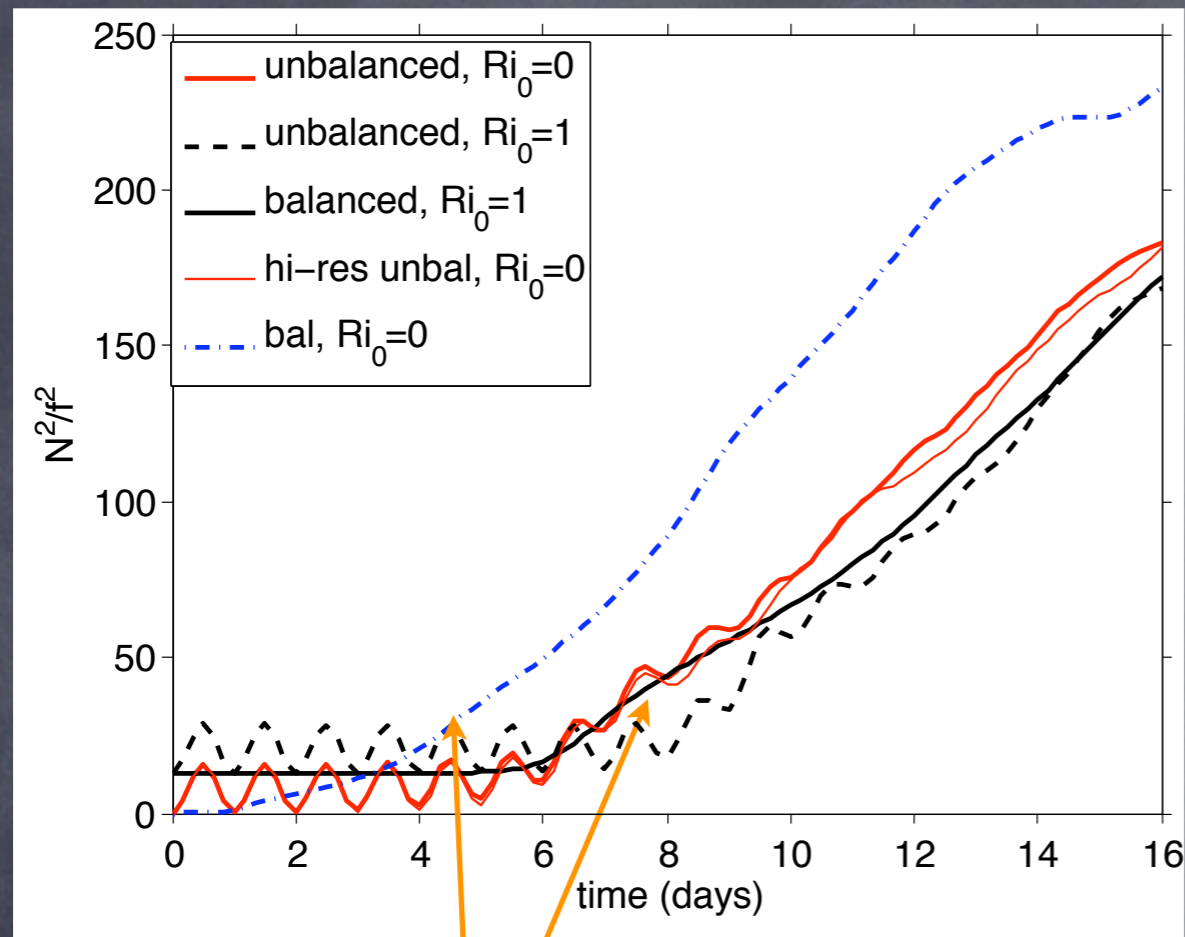
Power Spectrum of KE

At Finite Amplitude
Horizontal Scale Unclear



Initially, Linear Prediction of Lengthscale good

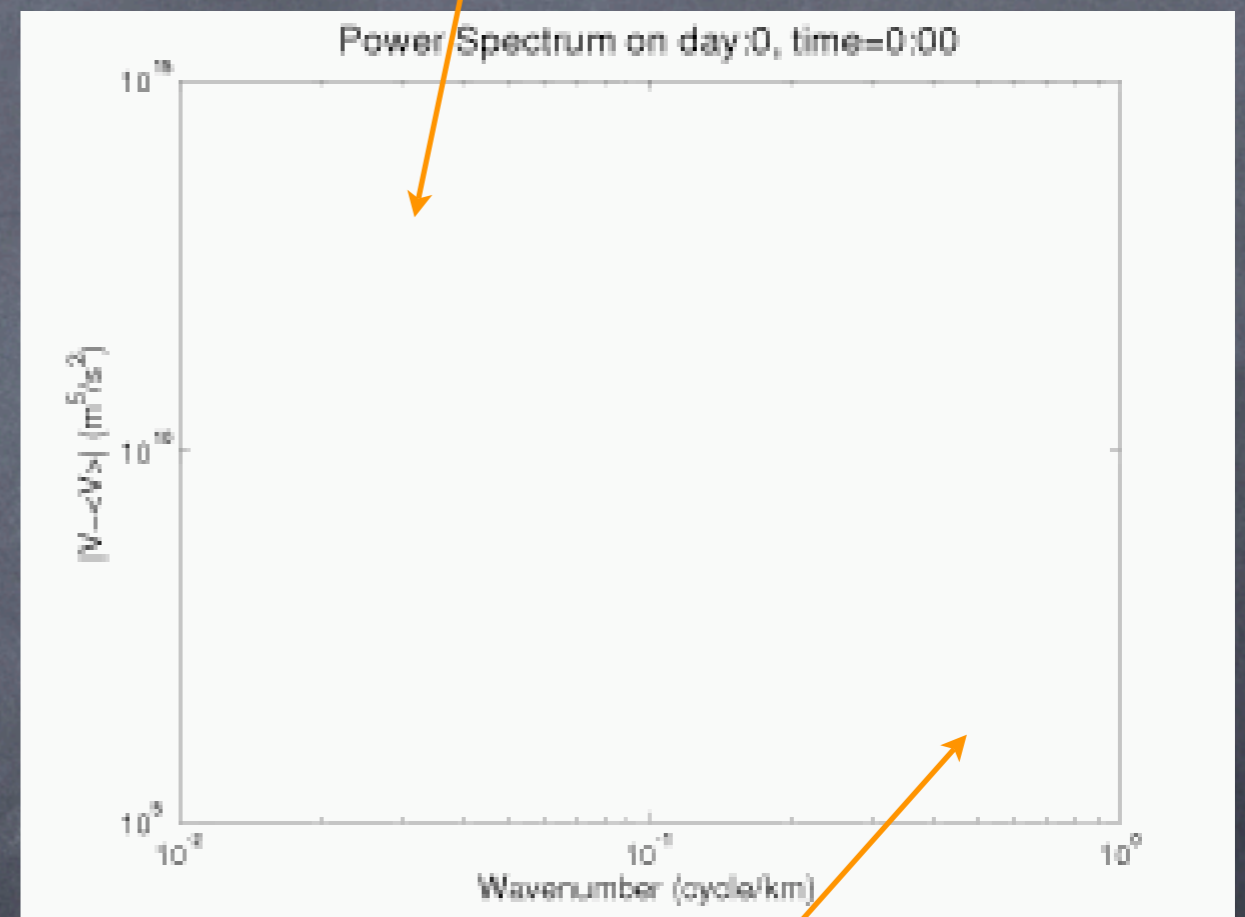
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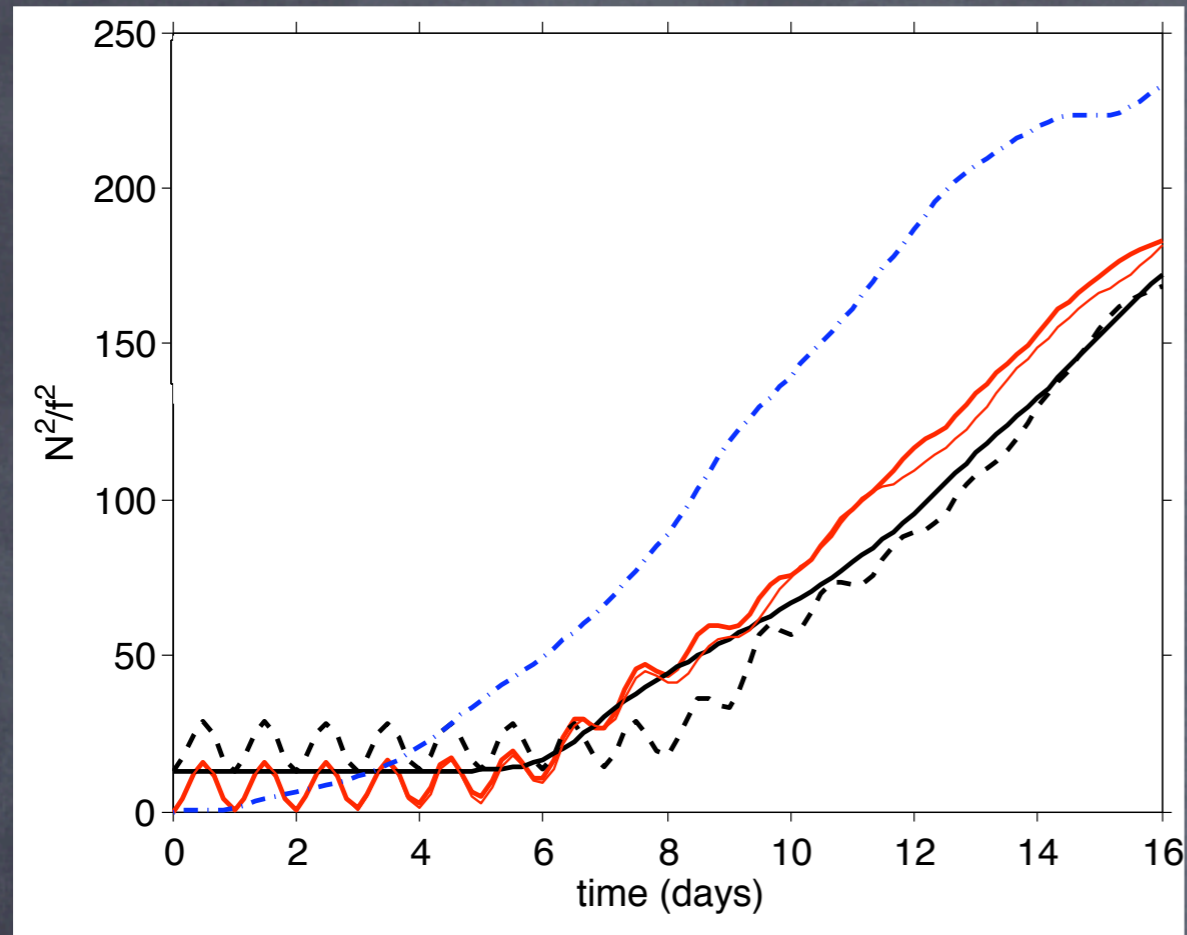
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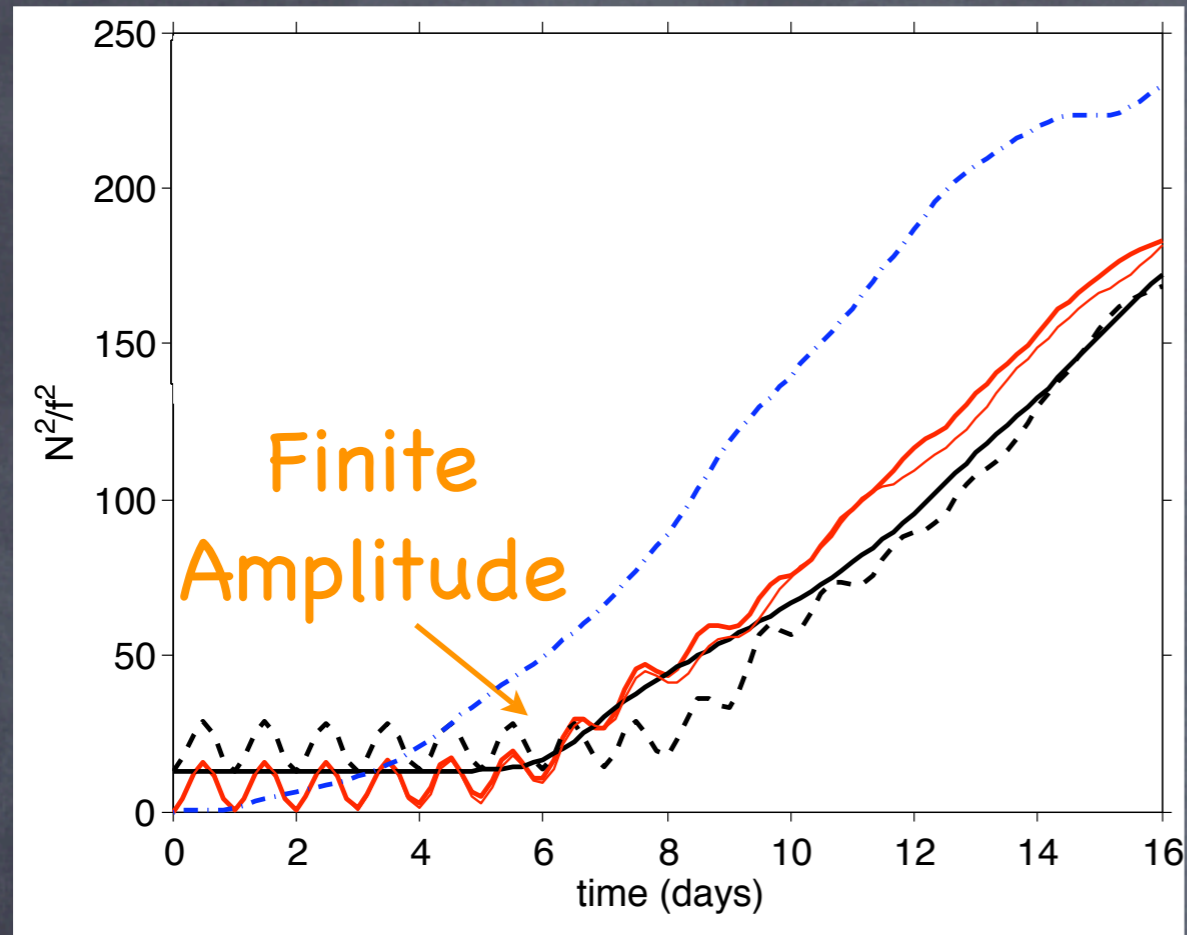
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Inverse Cascade => No Results from Linear Instability

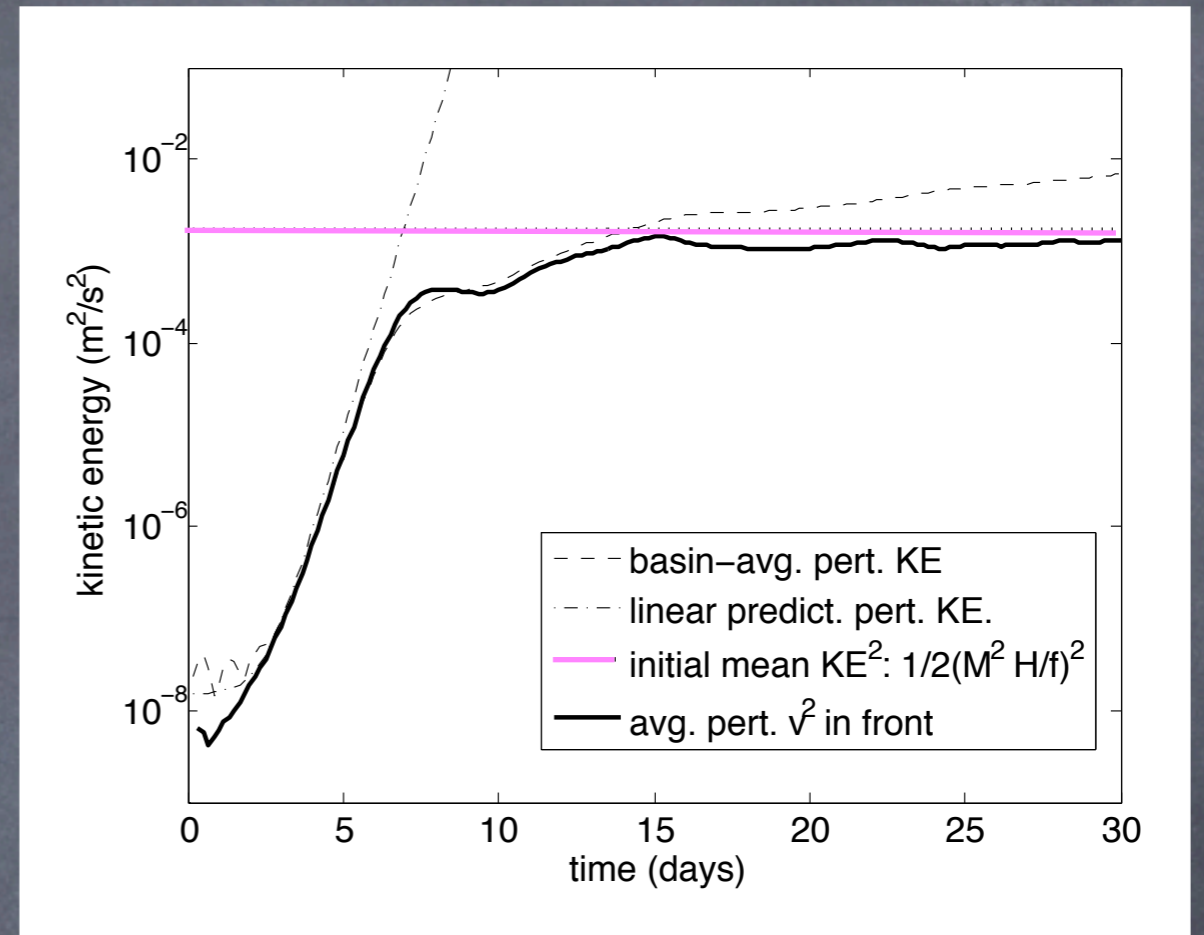
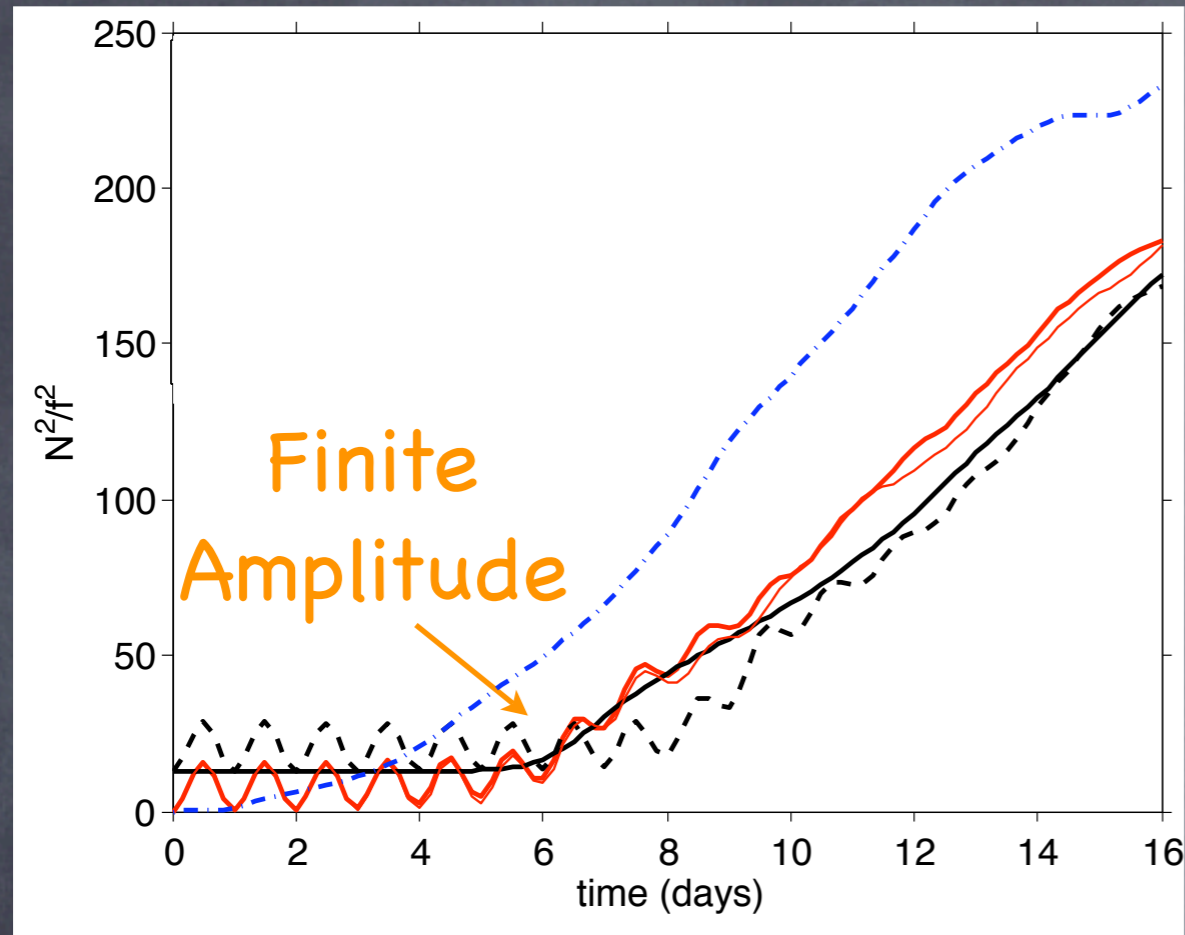
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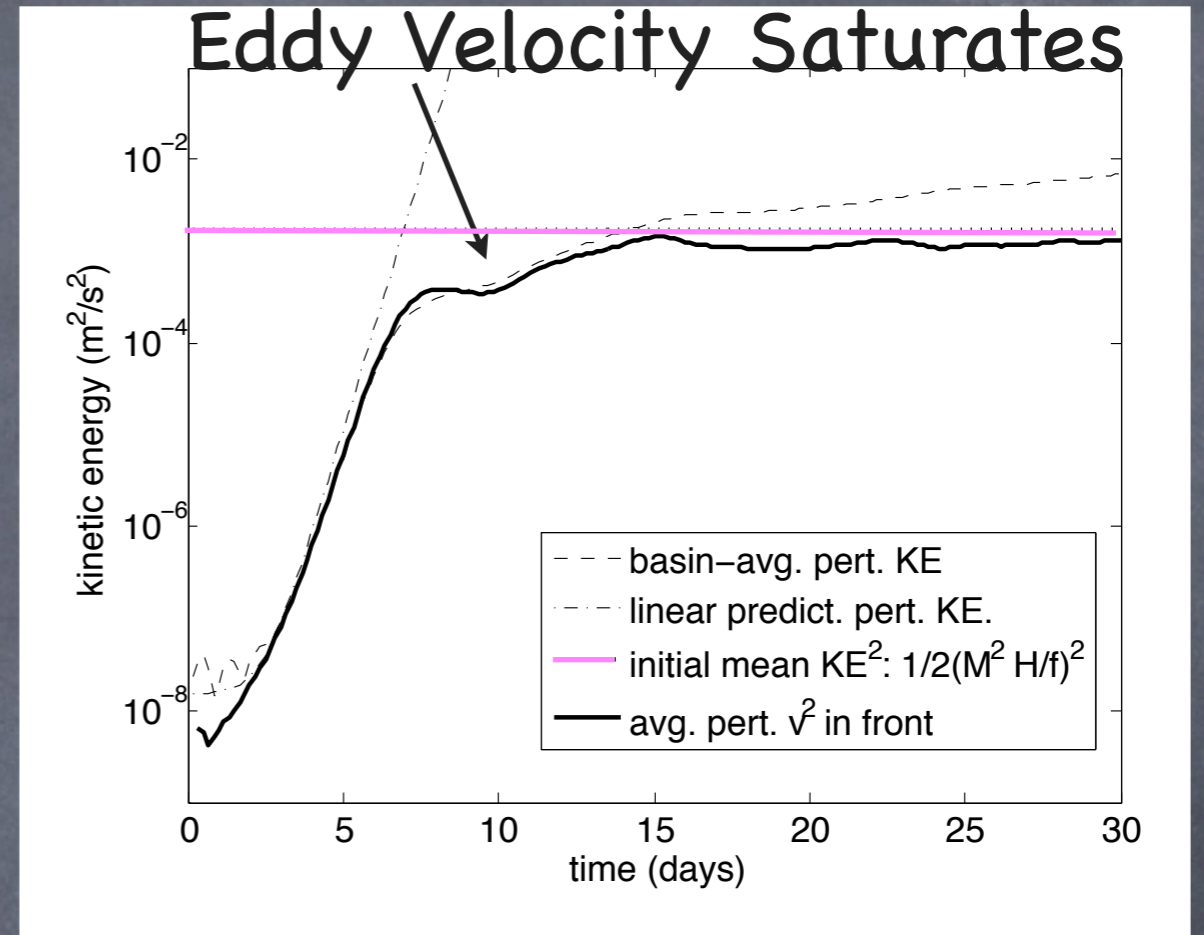
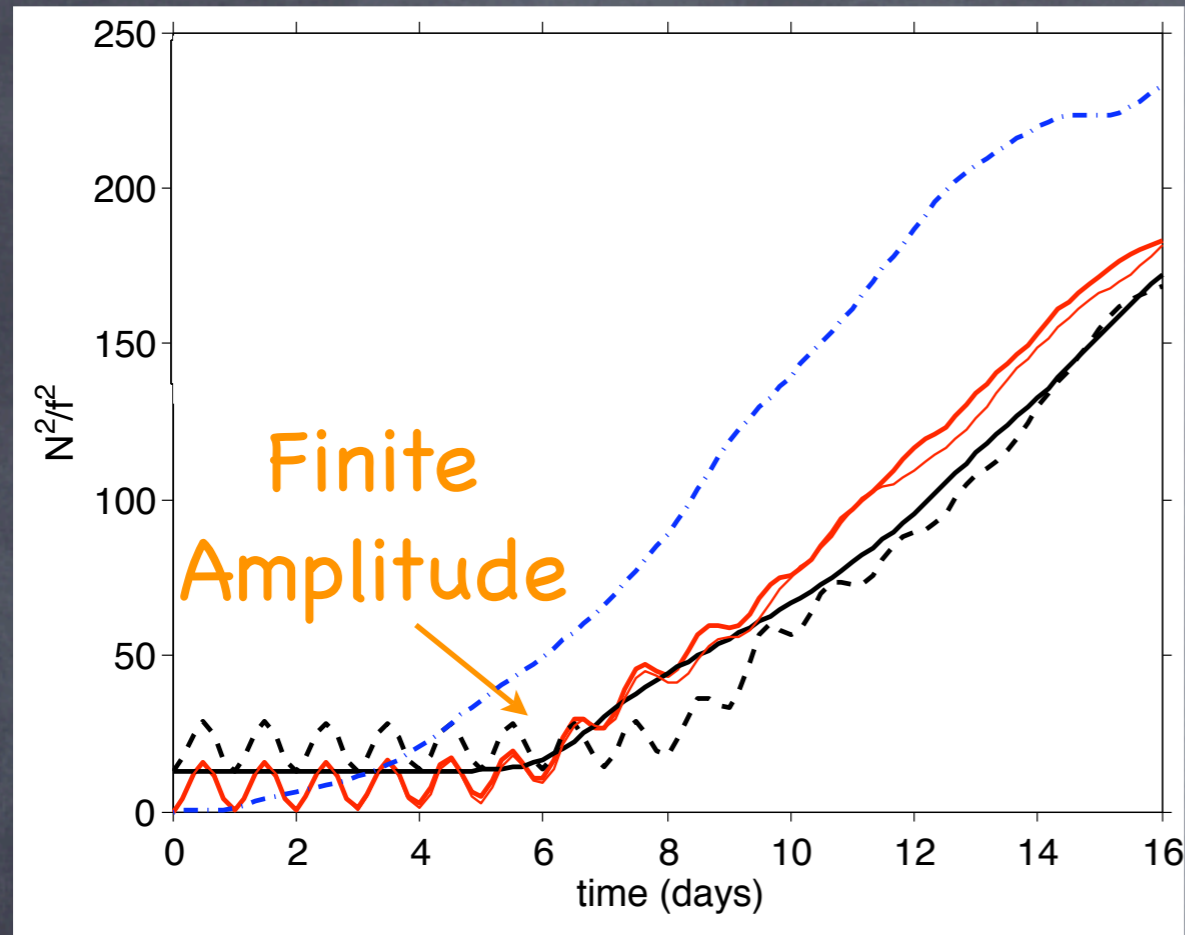
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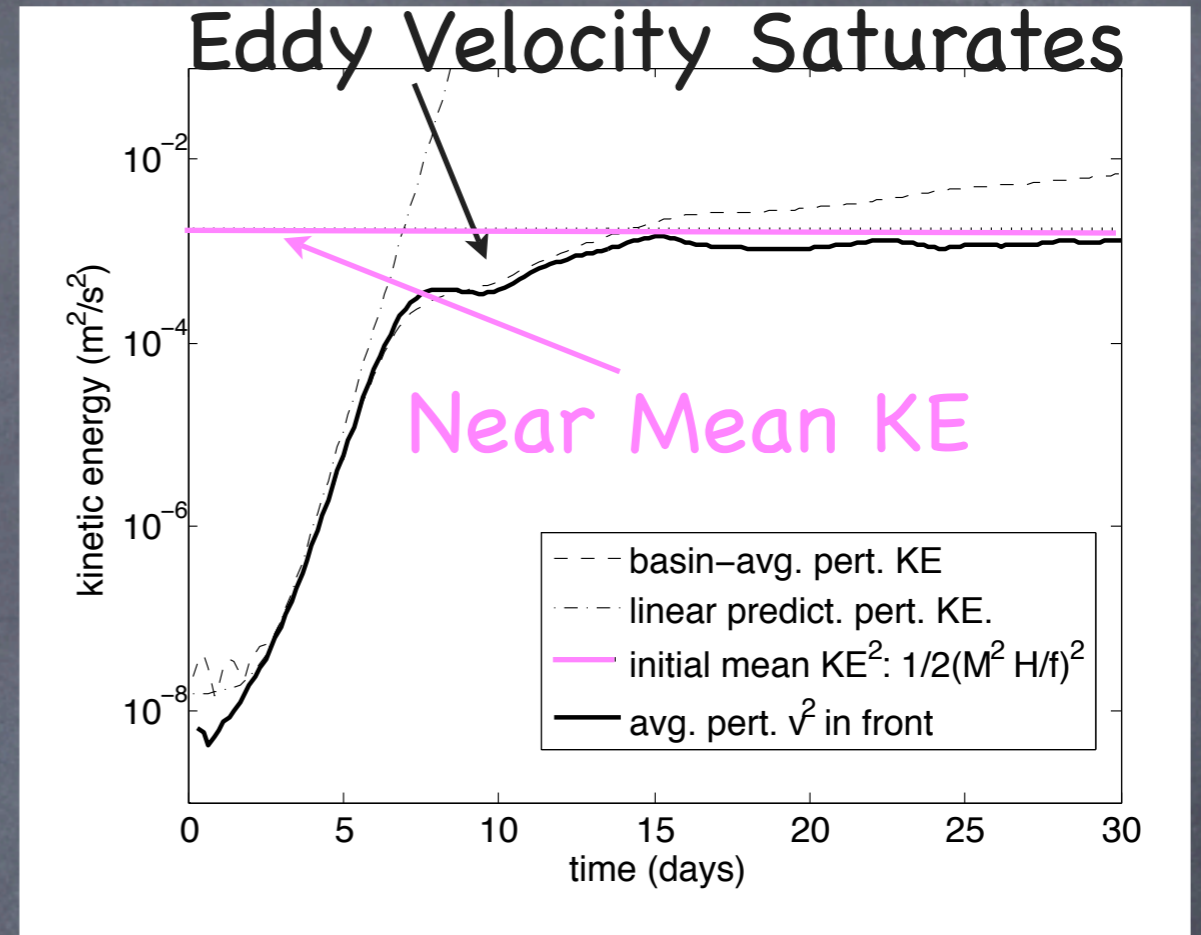
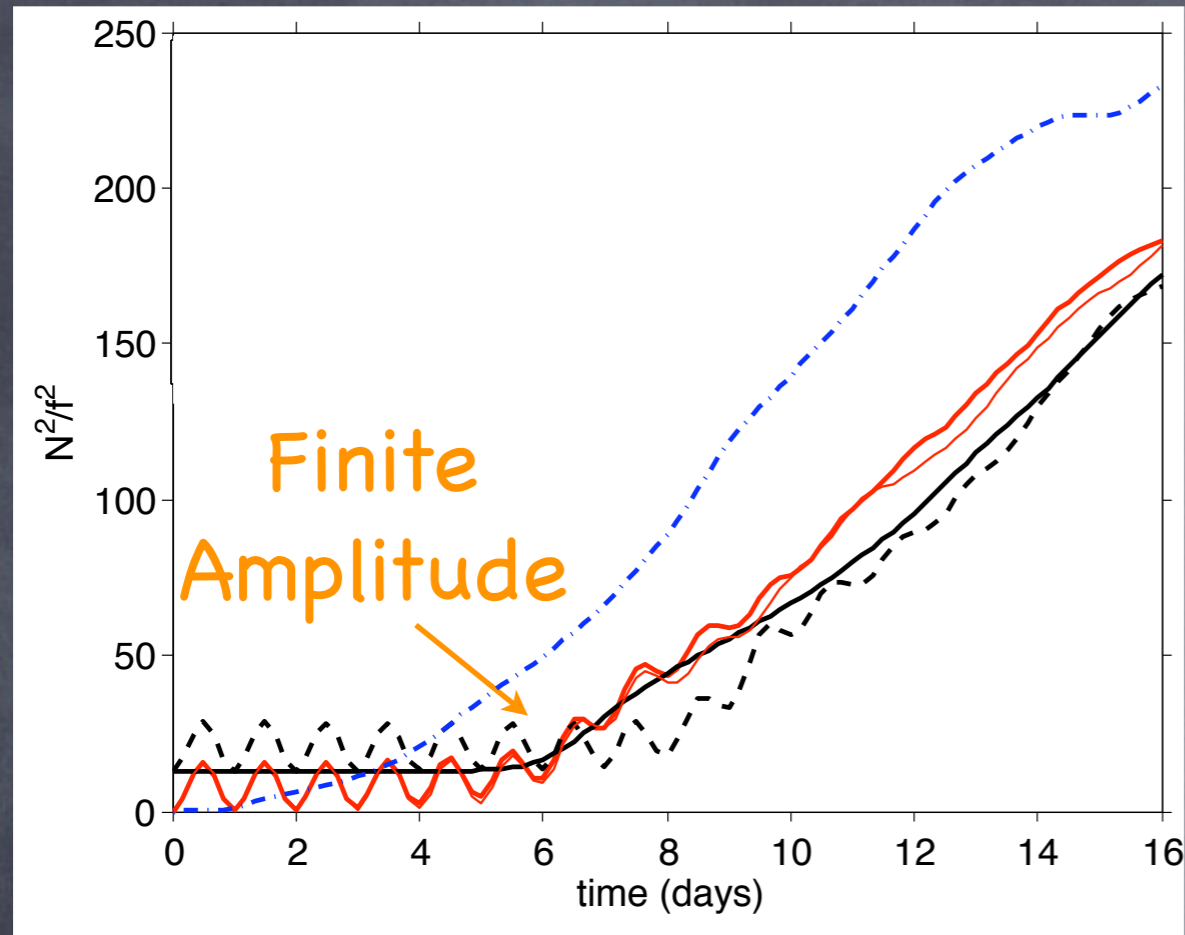
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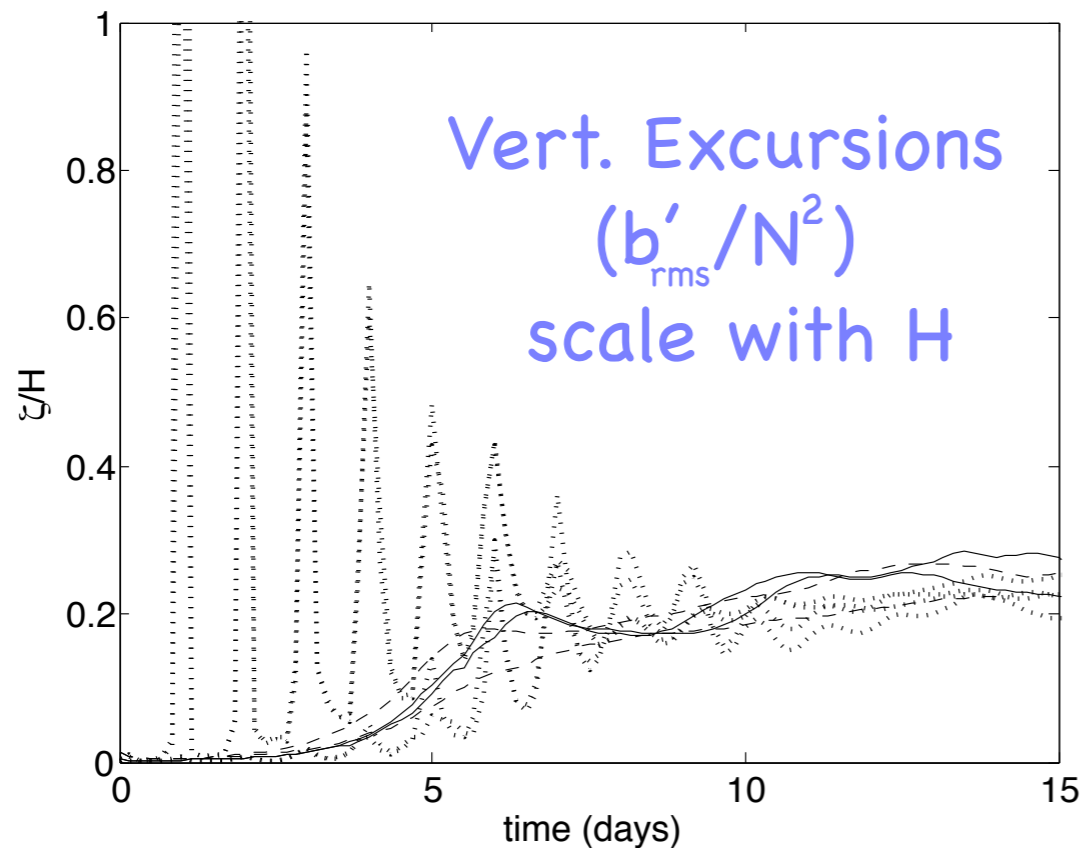
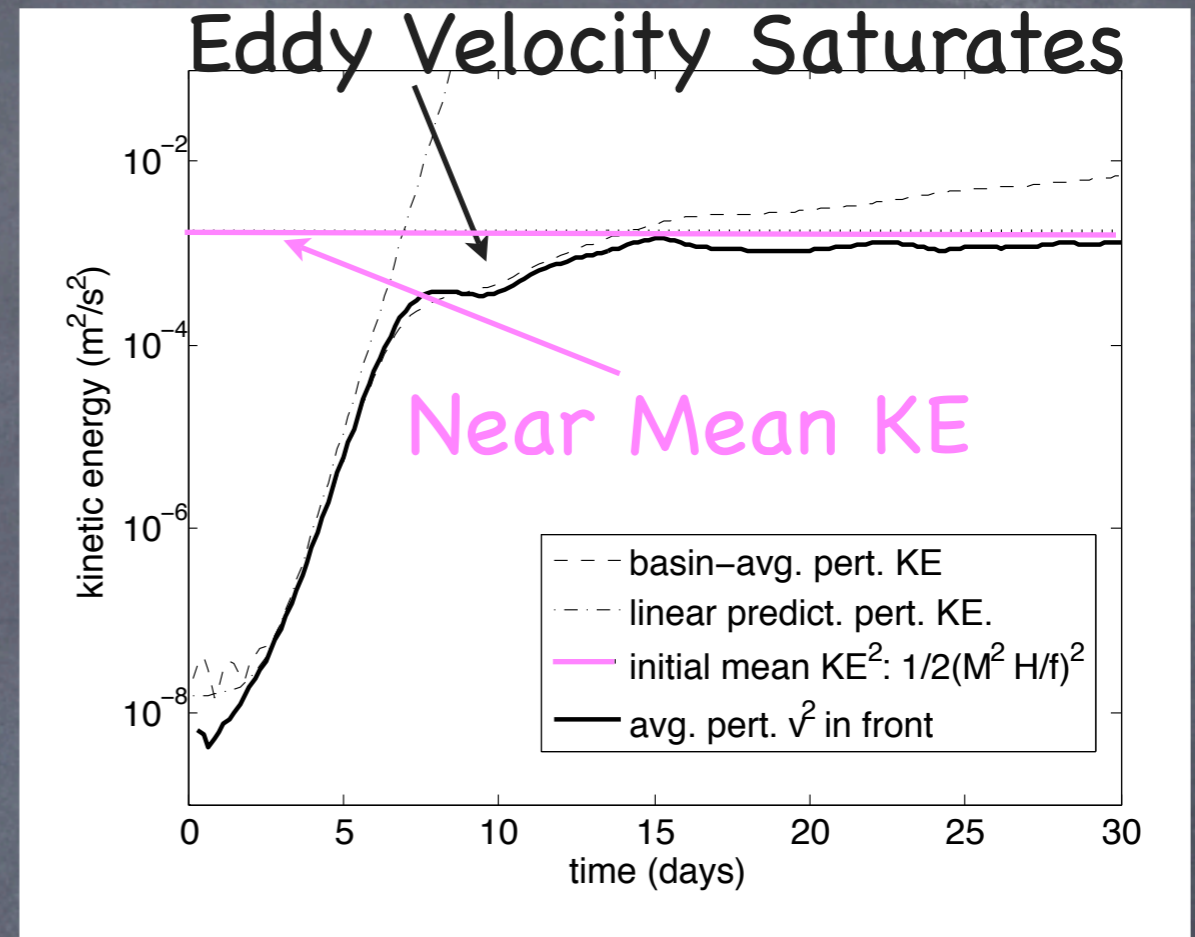
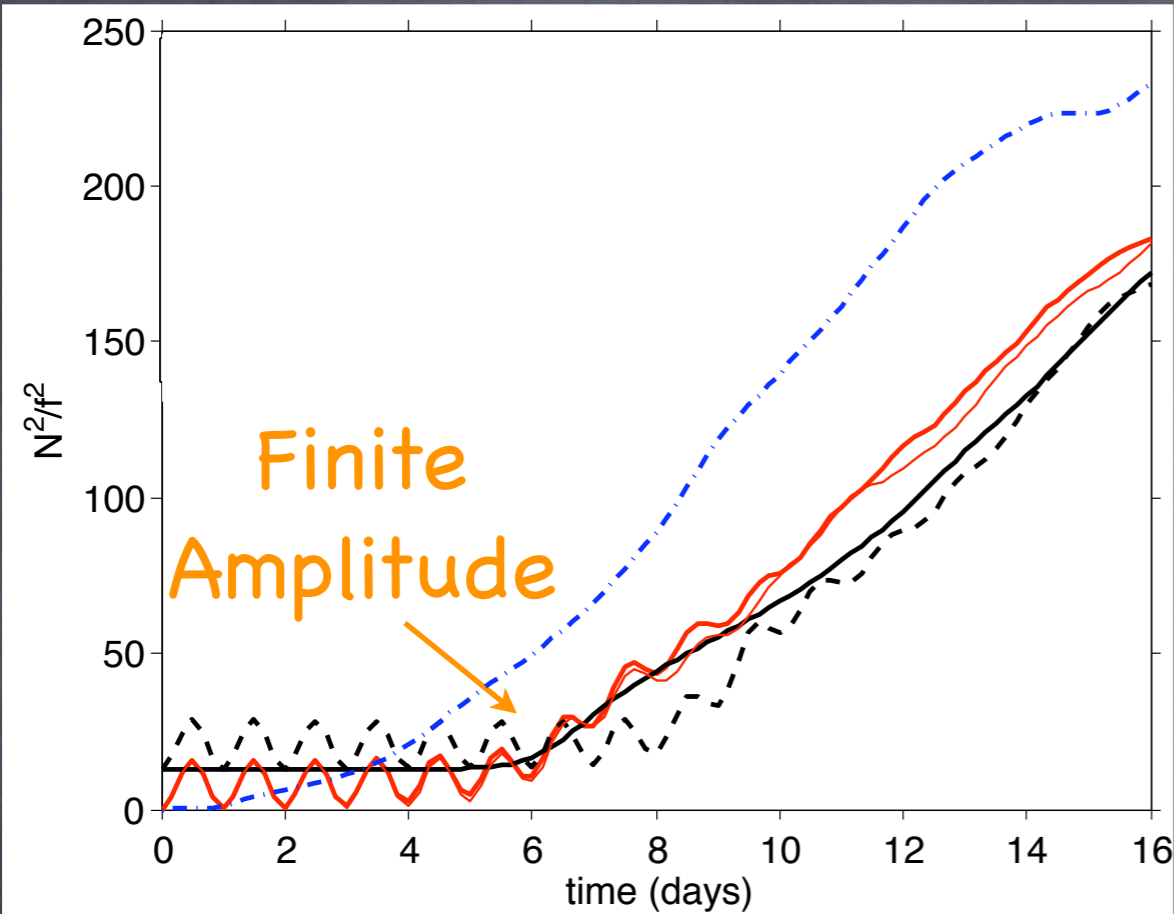
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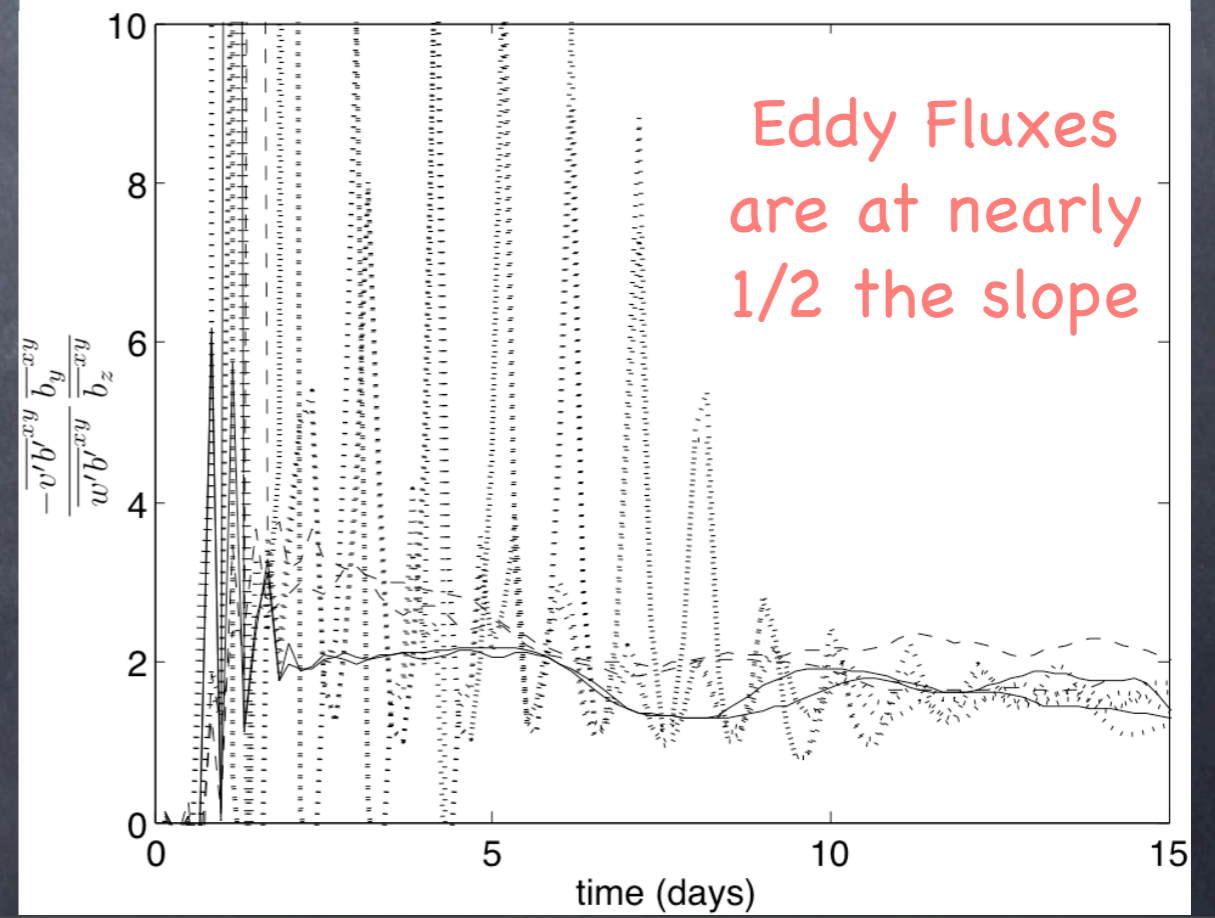
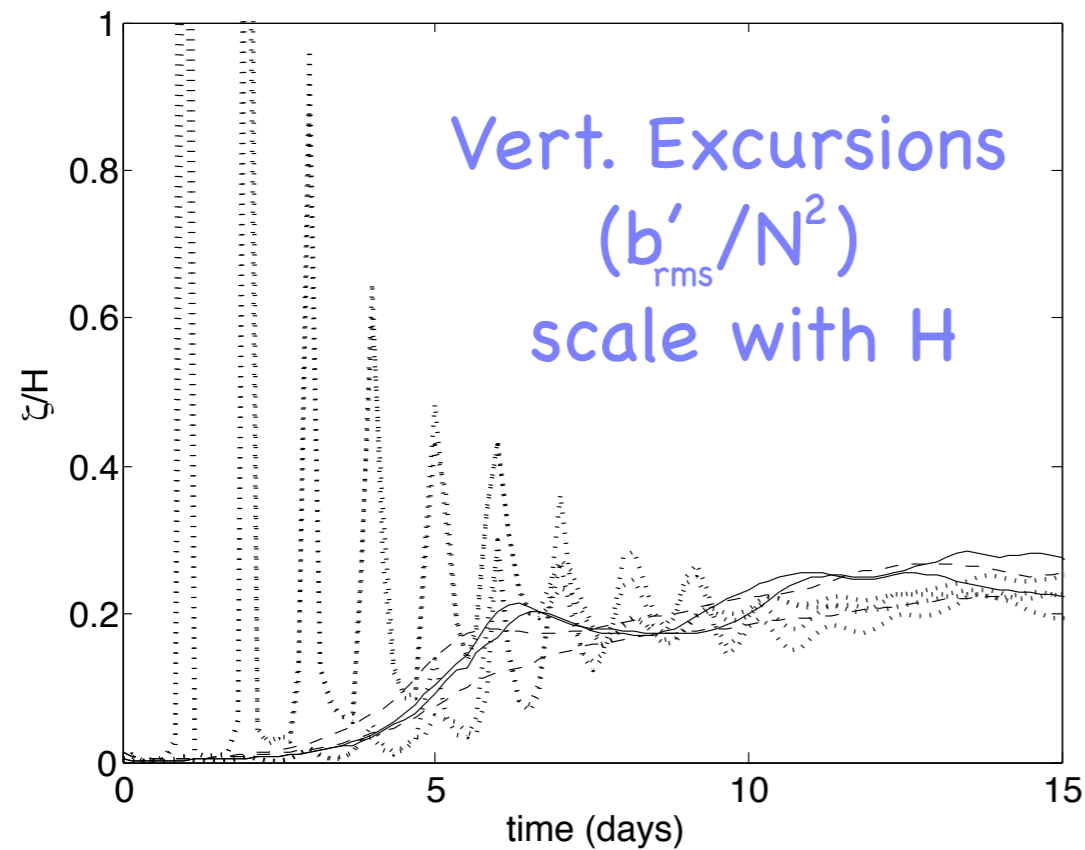
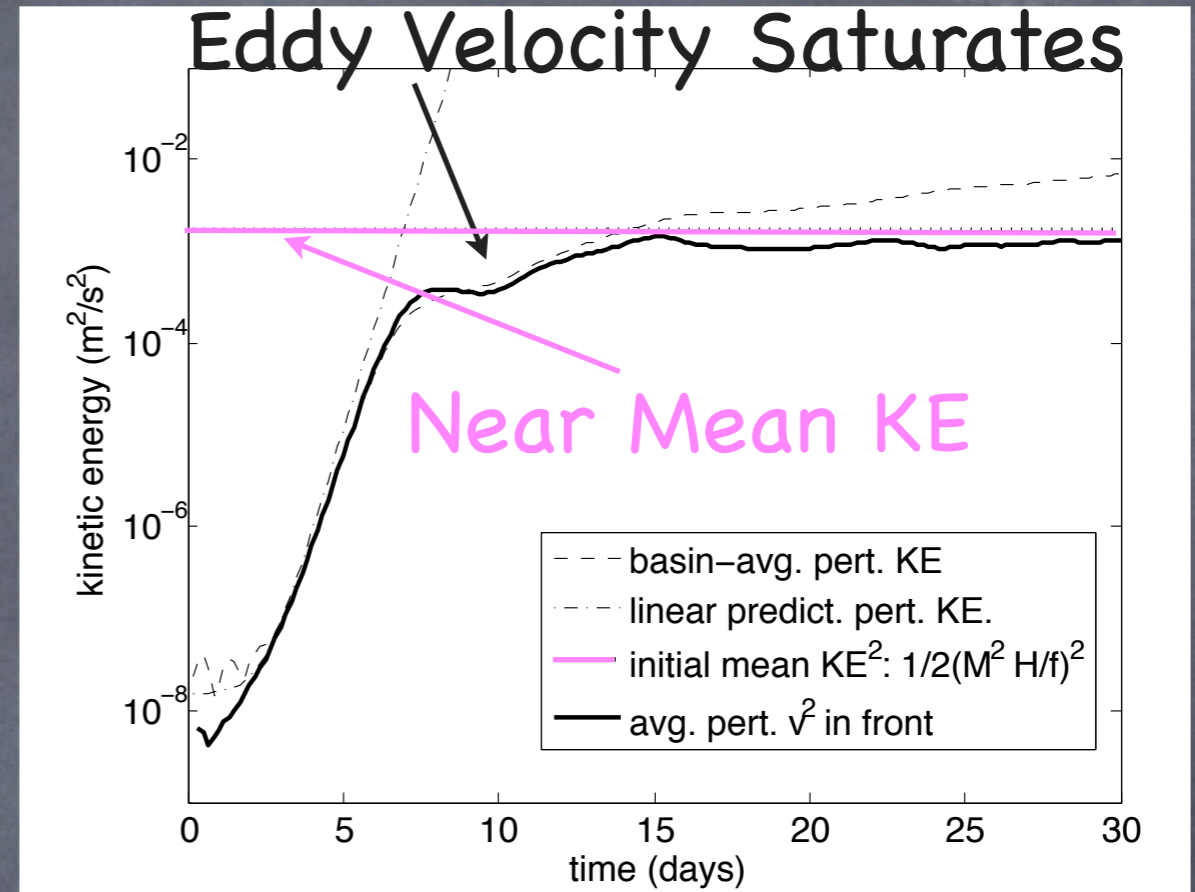
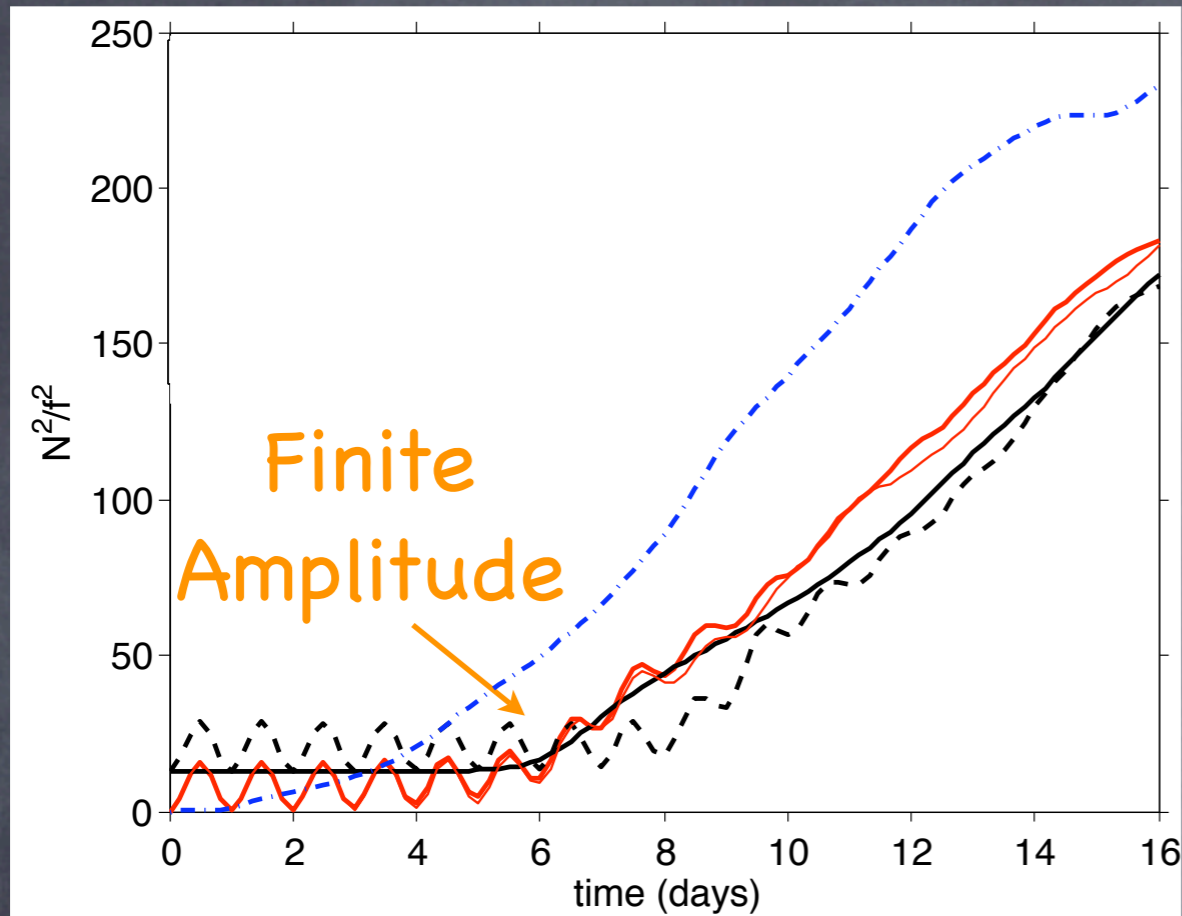
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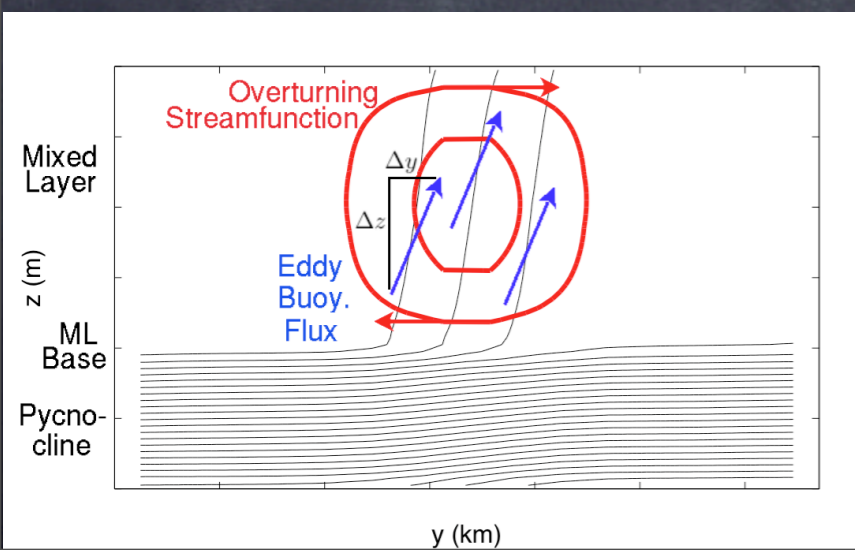
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Magnitude Analysis: Vert. Fluxes

Extraction of potential energy by submesoscale eddies:

$$-\langle wb \rangle = \frac{\partial \langle PE \rangle}{\partial t} \approx \frac{\Delta PE}{\Delta t} \propto \frac{\Delta z \Delta b}{\Delta t}$$



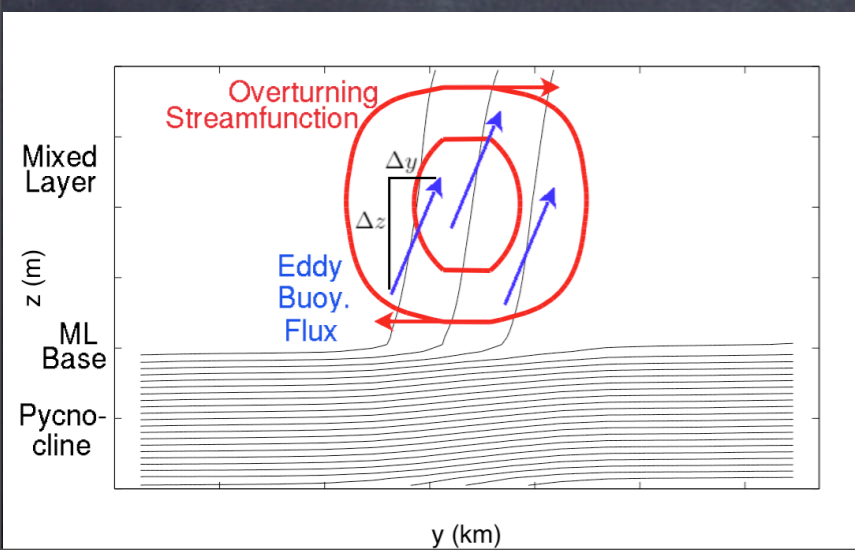
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Buoy. diff just parcel exchange of large-scale buoy.



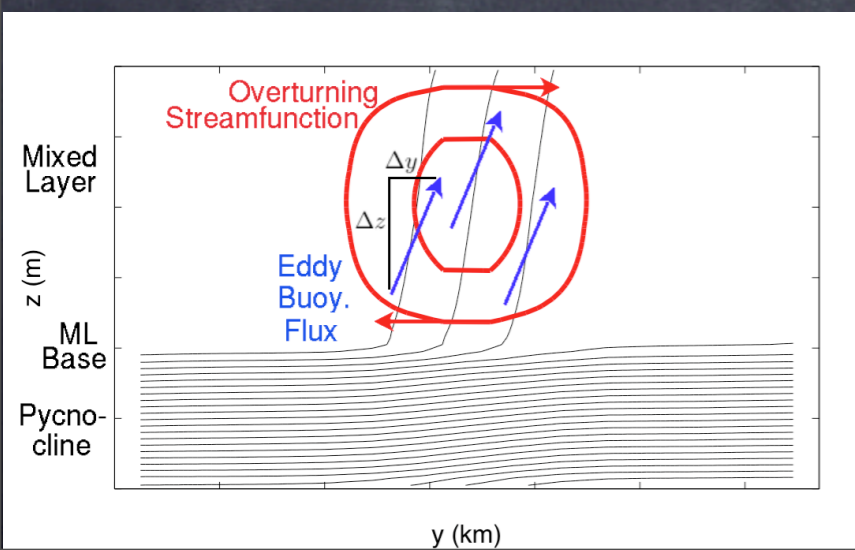
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$$\langle wb \rangle \propto \frac{-\Delta z \left(\Delta y \frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial y} + \Delta z \frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial z} \right)}{\Delta t}$$

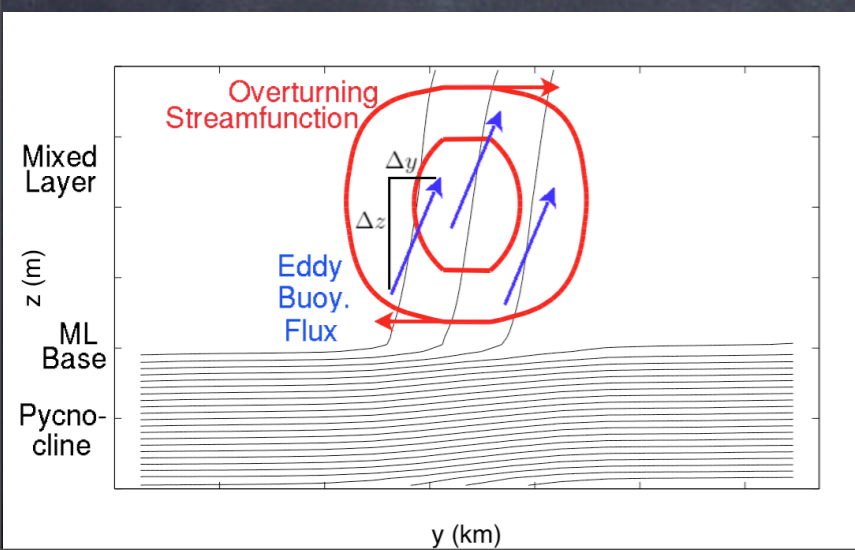
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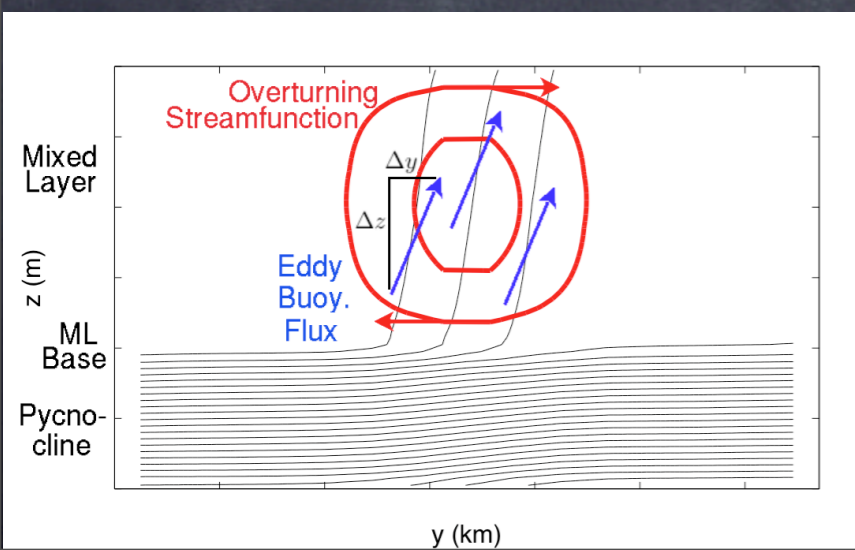
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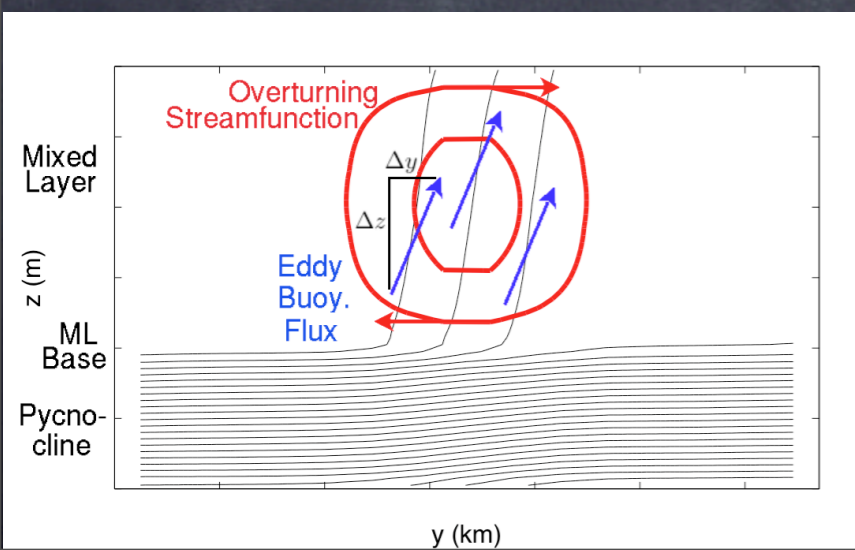
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Time scale is turnover time



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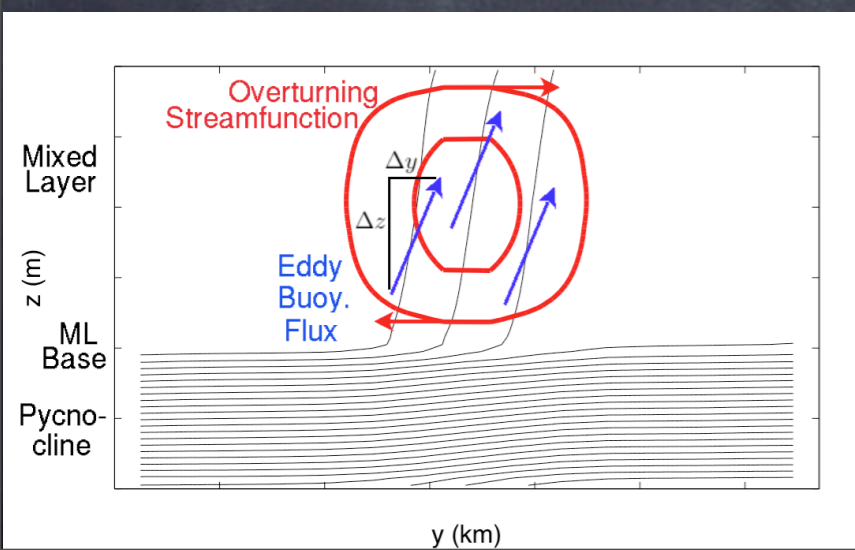
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$$\langle wb \rangle \propto \frac{\Delta z \Delta y \frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial y}}{\Delta y / V}$$

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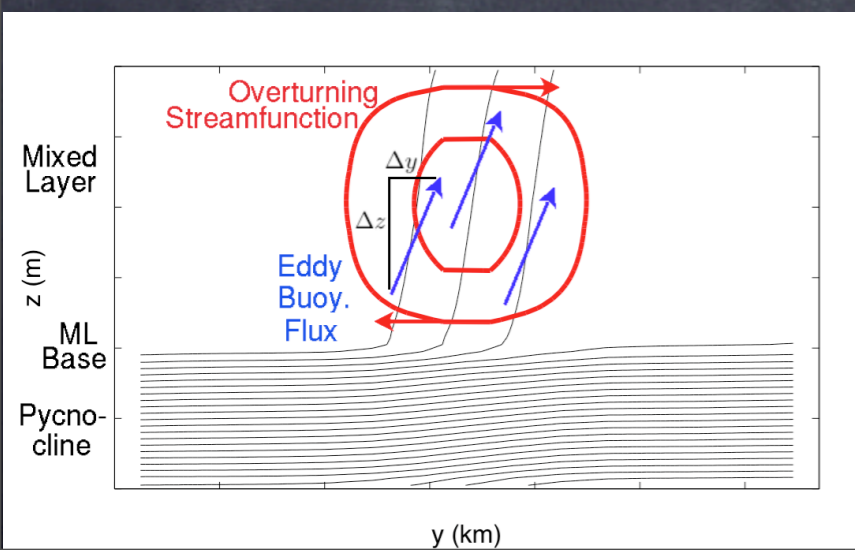
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Time scale is turnover time from mean thermal wind:



$$\langle wb \rangle \propto \frac{\Delta z H}{|f|} \left[\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial y} \right]^2$$

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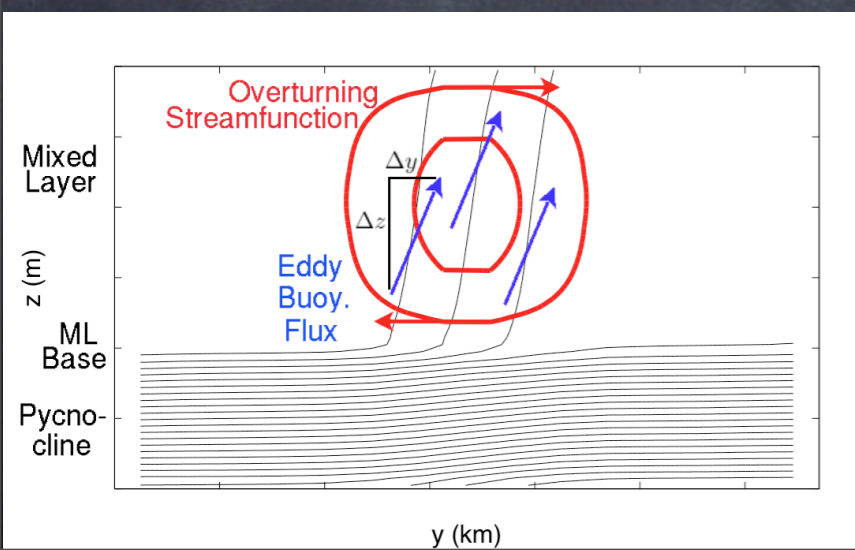
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Flux slope scales with the buoy. slope: $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta z} \propto \frac{-\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial z}}{\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial y}}$

Time scale is turnover time from mean thermal wind:

Vertical scale known: $\Delta z \propto H$



$$\langle wb \rangle \propto \frac{\Delta z H}{|f|} \left[\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial y} \right]^2$$

Magnitude Analysis: Vert. Fluxes

Extraction of potential energy by submesoscale eddies:

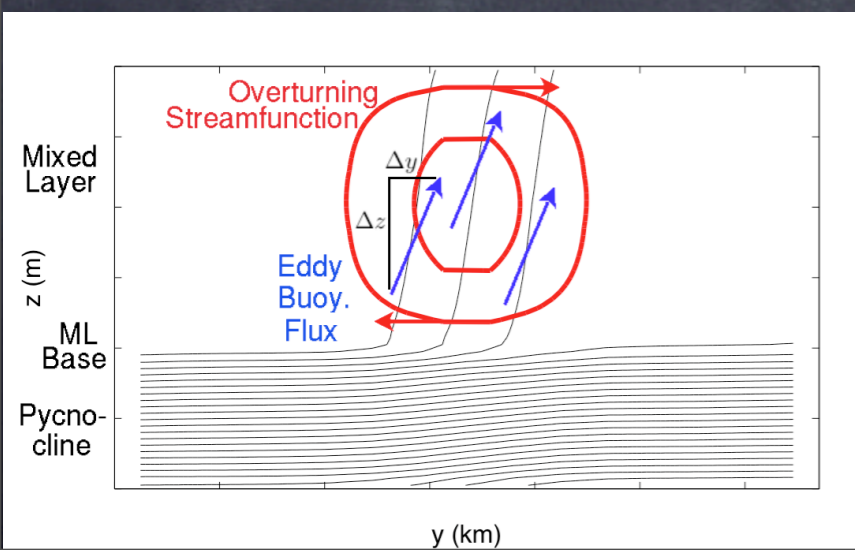
$$-\langle wb \rangle = \frac{\partial \langle PE \rangle}{\partial t} \approx \frac{\Delta PE}{\Delta t} \propto \frac{\Delta z \Delta b}{\Delta t}$$

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Vertical scale known: $\Delta z \propto H$



$$\langle wb \rangle \propto \frac{H^2}{|f|} \left[\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial y} \right]^2$$

Eddies effect a largely adiabatic transfer:
thus representable by a **streamfunction**

$$\Psi \propto \frac{H^2 \nabla \bar{b} \times \hat{\mathbf{z}}}{|f|} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{u}'b'} \equiv \Psi \times \nabla \bar{b}$$

$$\overline{w'b'} \propto \frac{H^2}{|f|} |\nabla_H \bar{b}|^2$$

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For a consistently upward,

$$\overline{w'b'} \propto \frac{H^2}{|f|} |\nabla_H \bar{b}|^2$$

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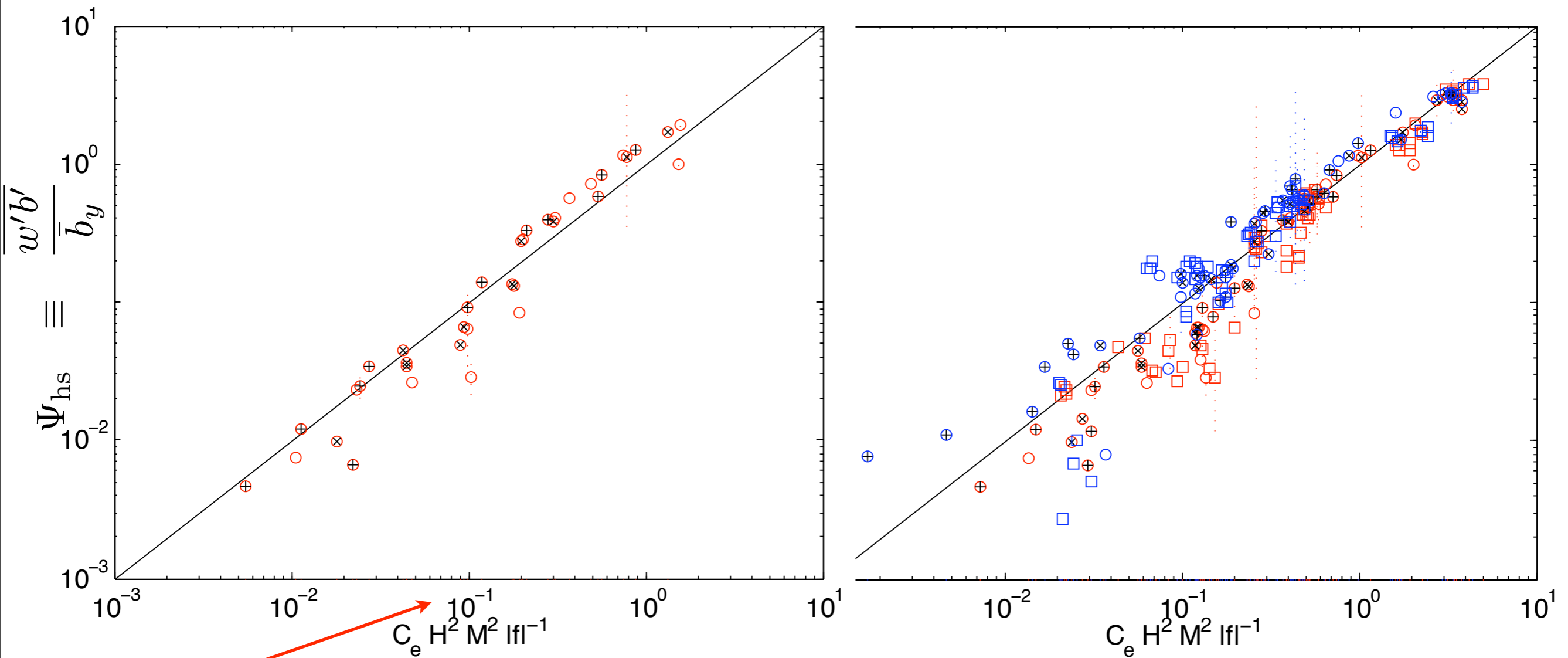
And horizontally downgradient flux.

$$\overline{\mathbf{u}'_H b'} \propto \frac{-H^2 \frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial z}}{|f|} \nabla_H \bar{b}$$

It works for Prototype Sims:

Red: No Diurnal

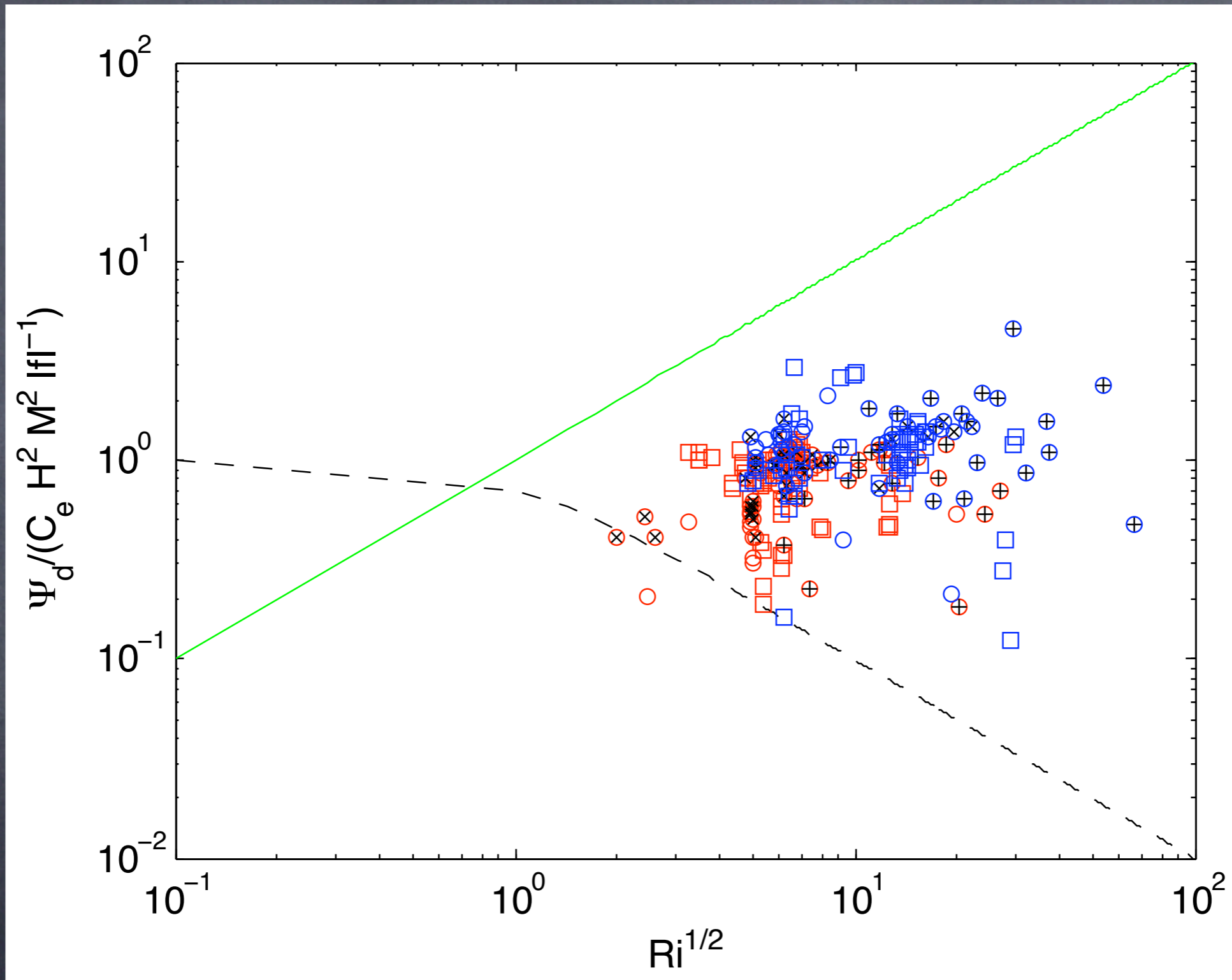
Blue: With Diurnal



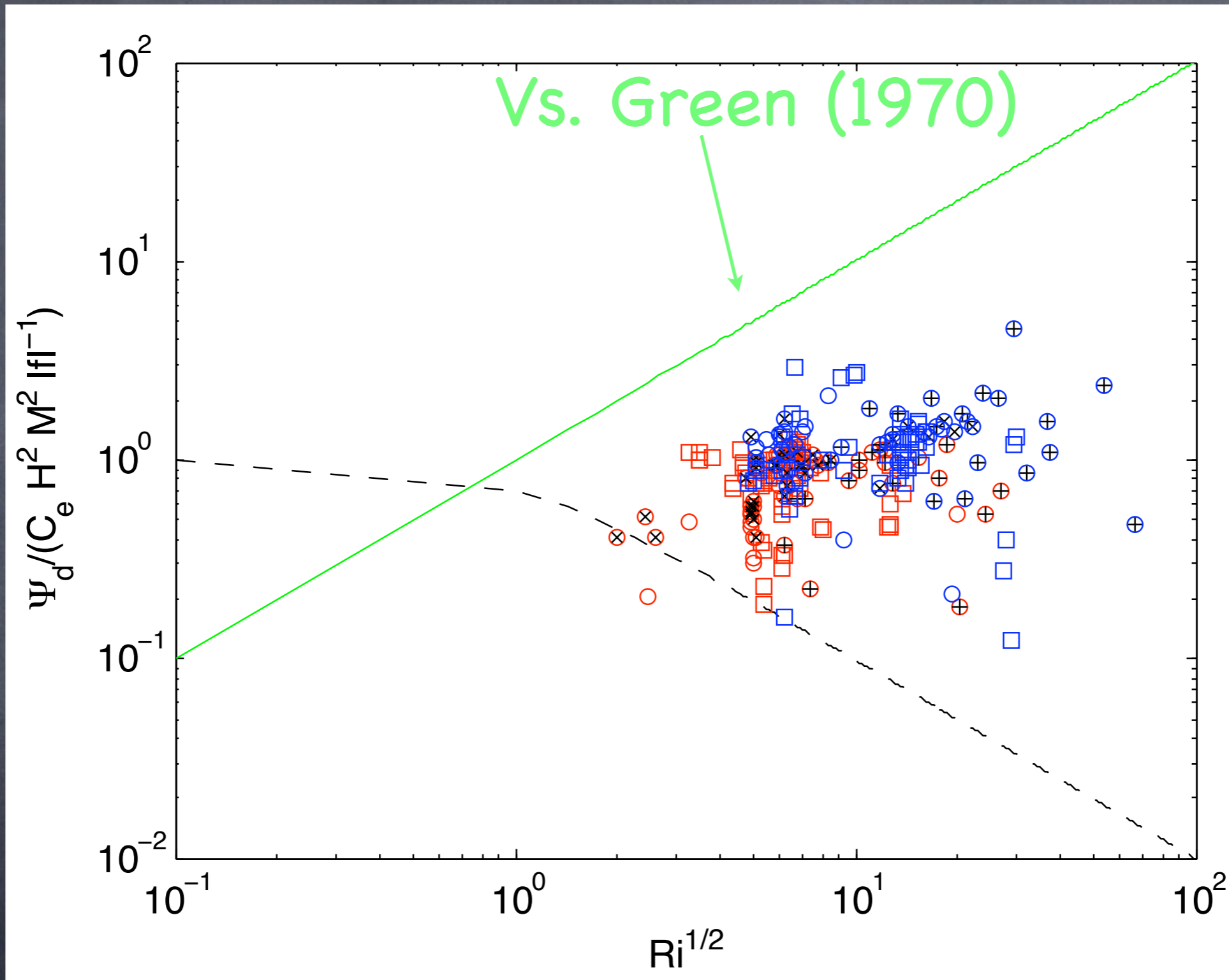
>2 orders of magnitude!

Circles: Balanced Initial Cond.
Squares: Unbalanced Initial Cond.

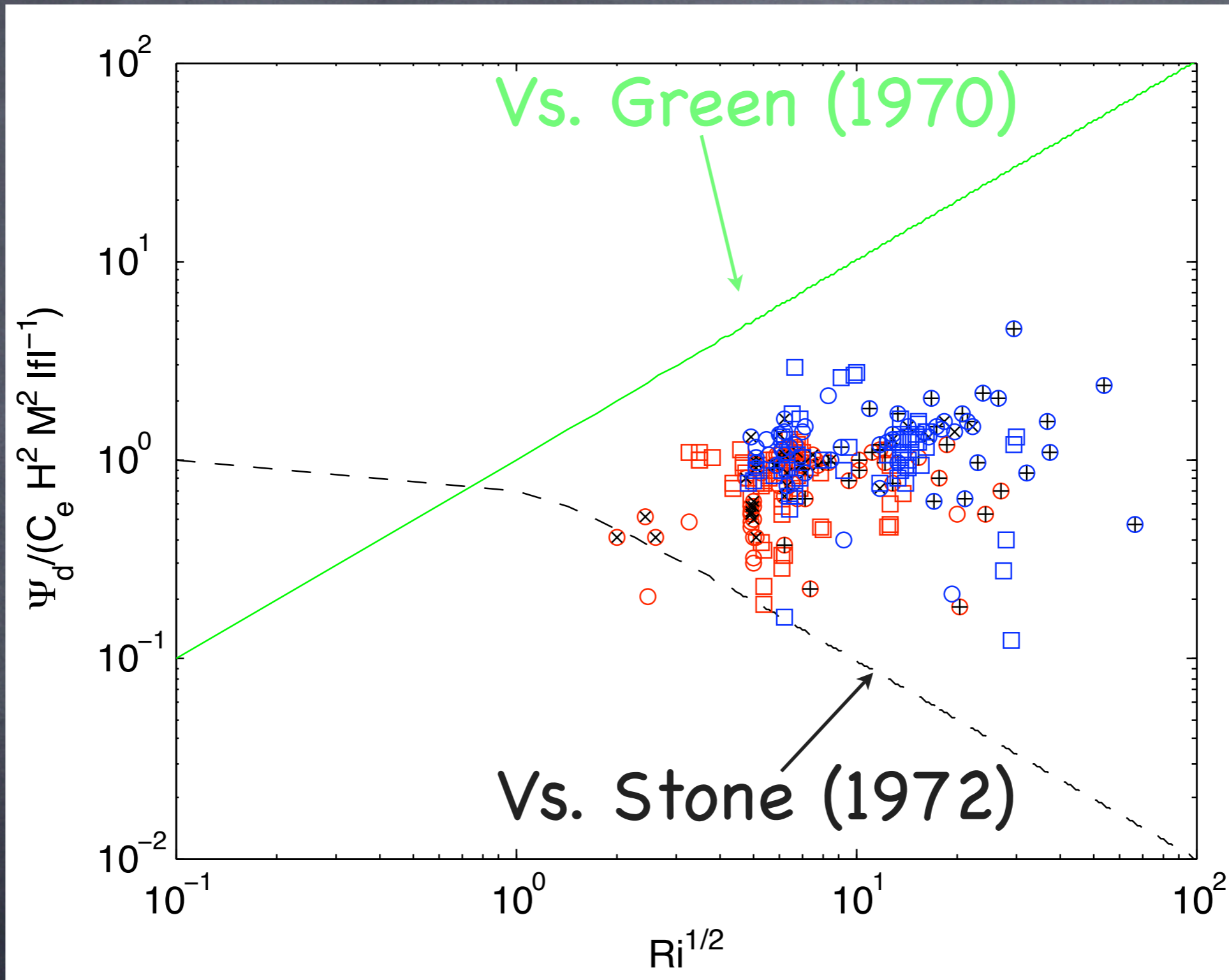
Better than the competition:



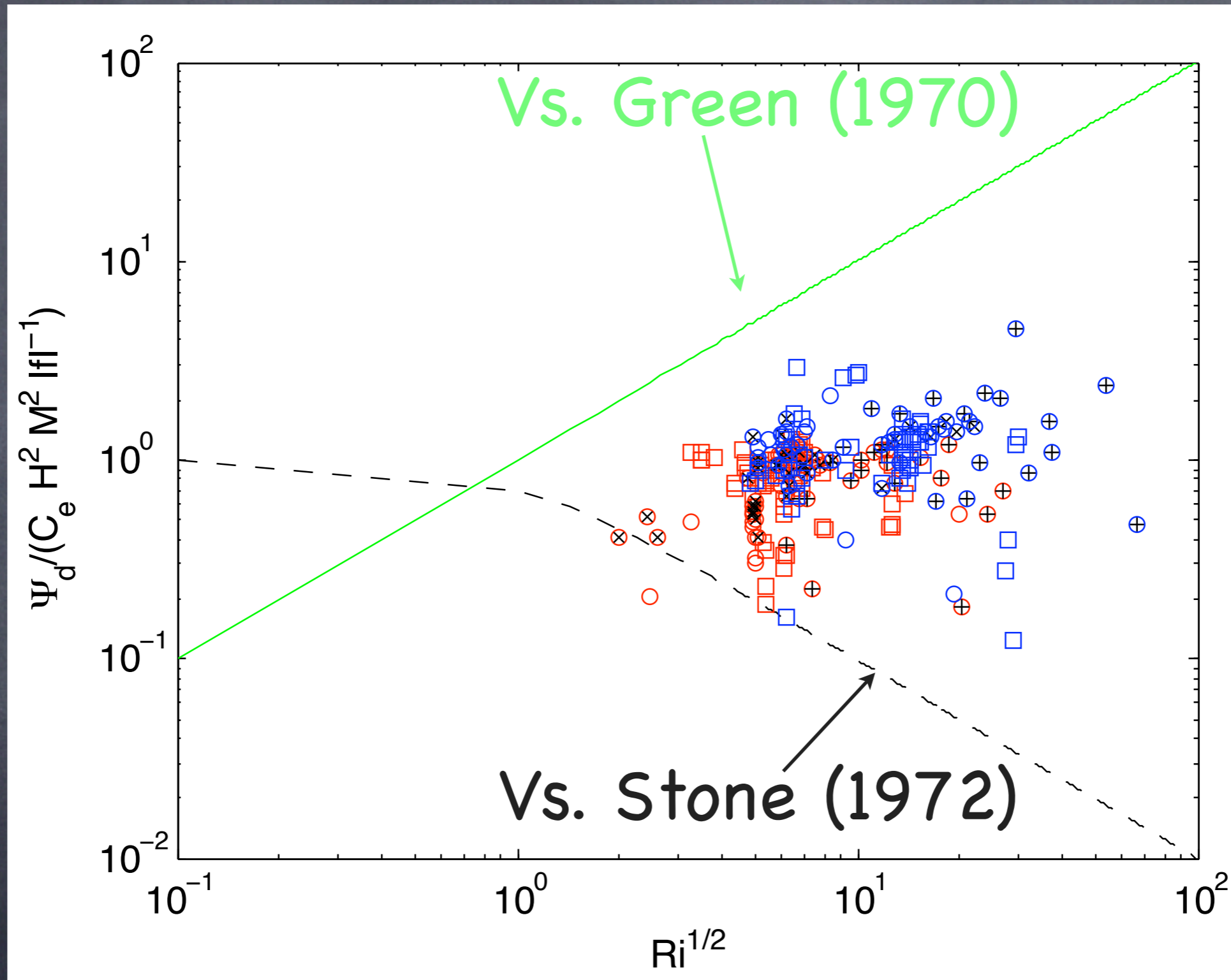
Better than the competition:



Better than the competition:

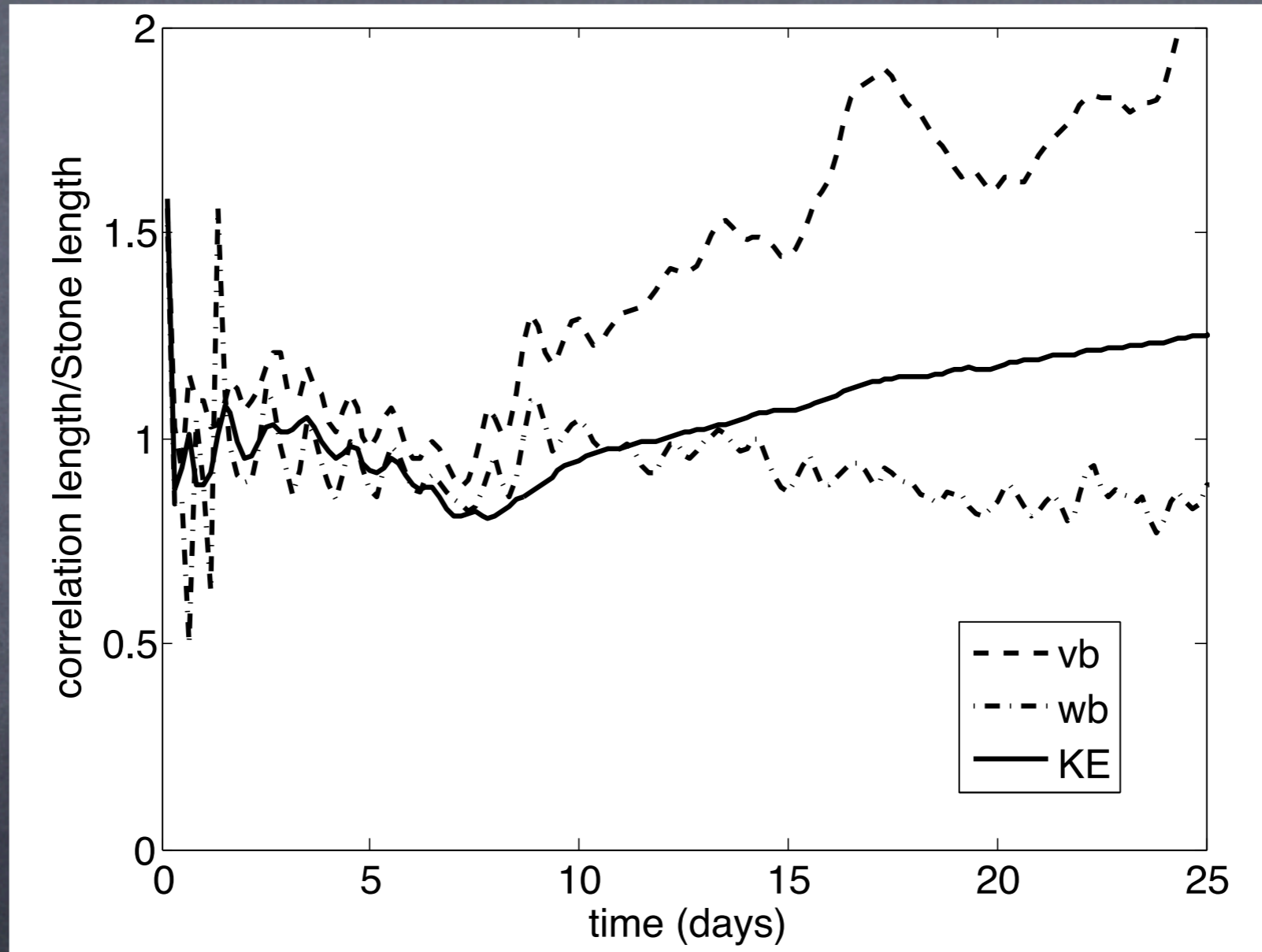


Better than the competition:

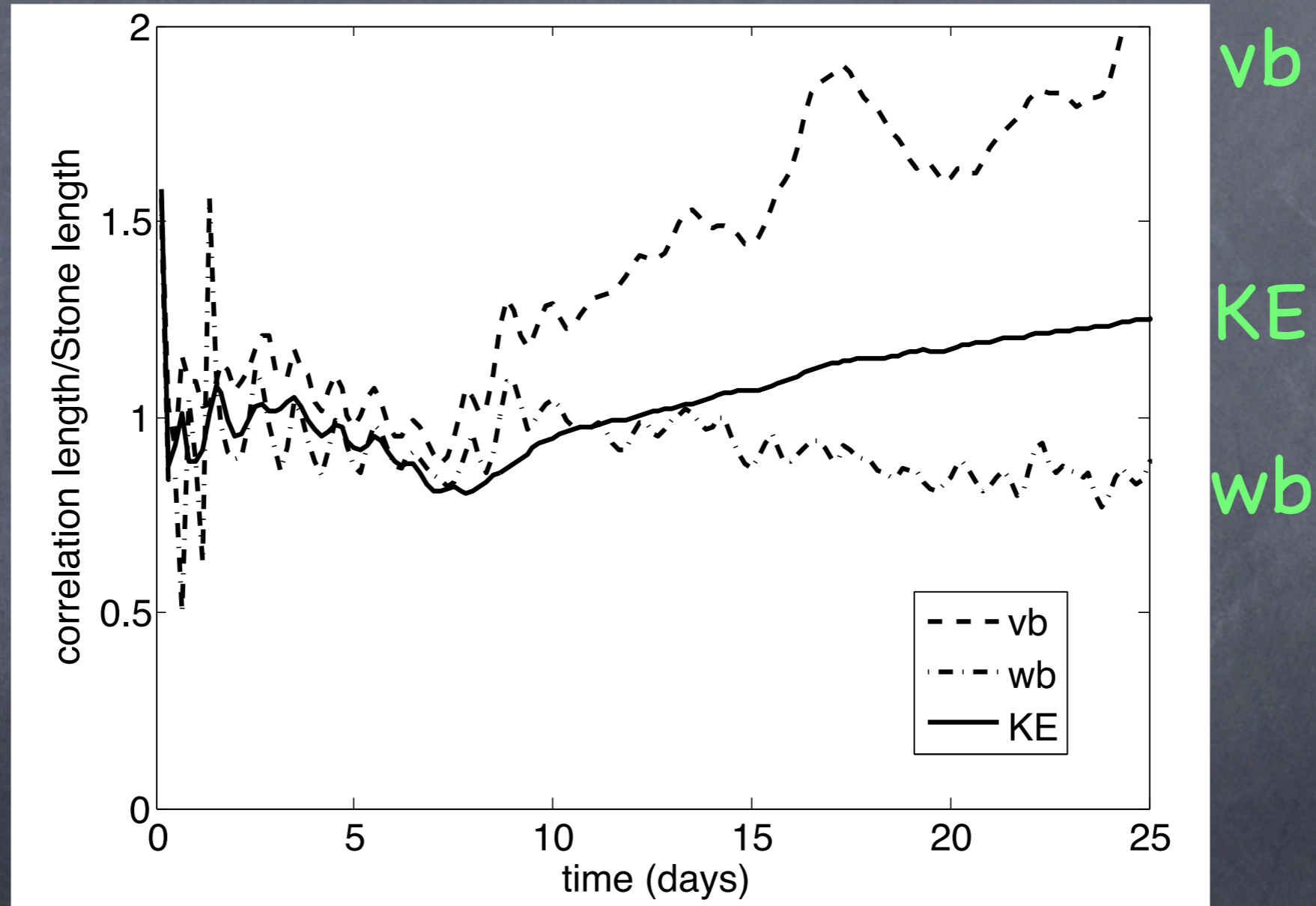


And, extends/agrees with Deep Convection Studies:
Jones & Marshall (93,97), Haine & Marshall (98)

What lengthscale dominates $\langle w'b' \rangle$?



What lengthscale dominates $\langle w'b' \rangle$?

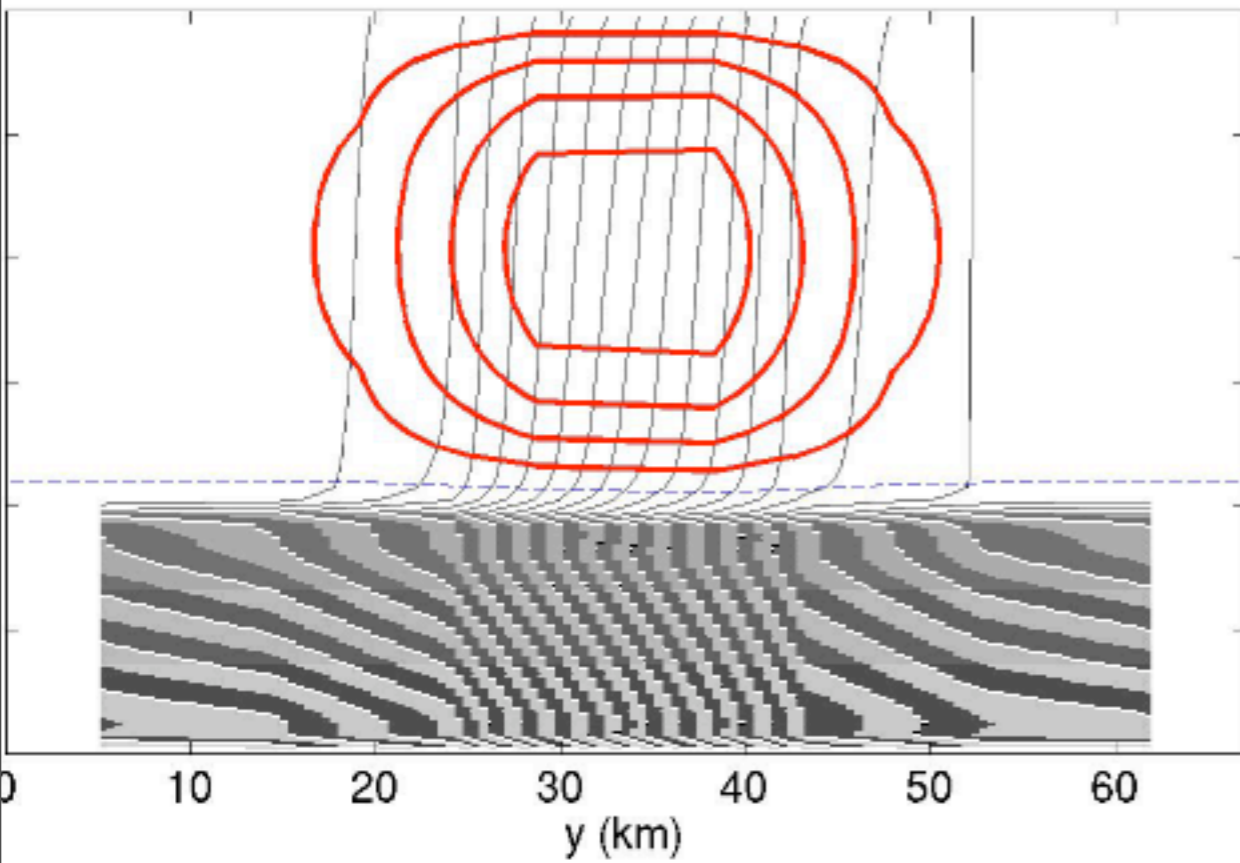


Stone fastest-mode Soln OK!

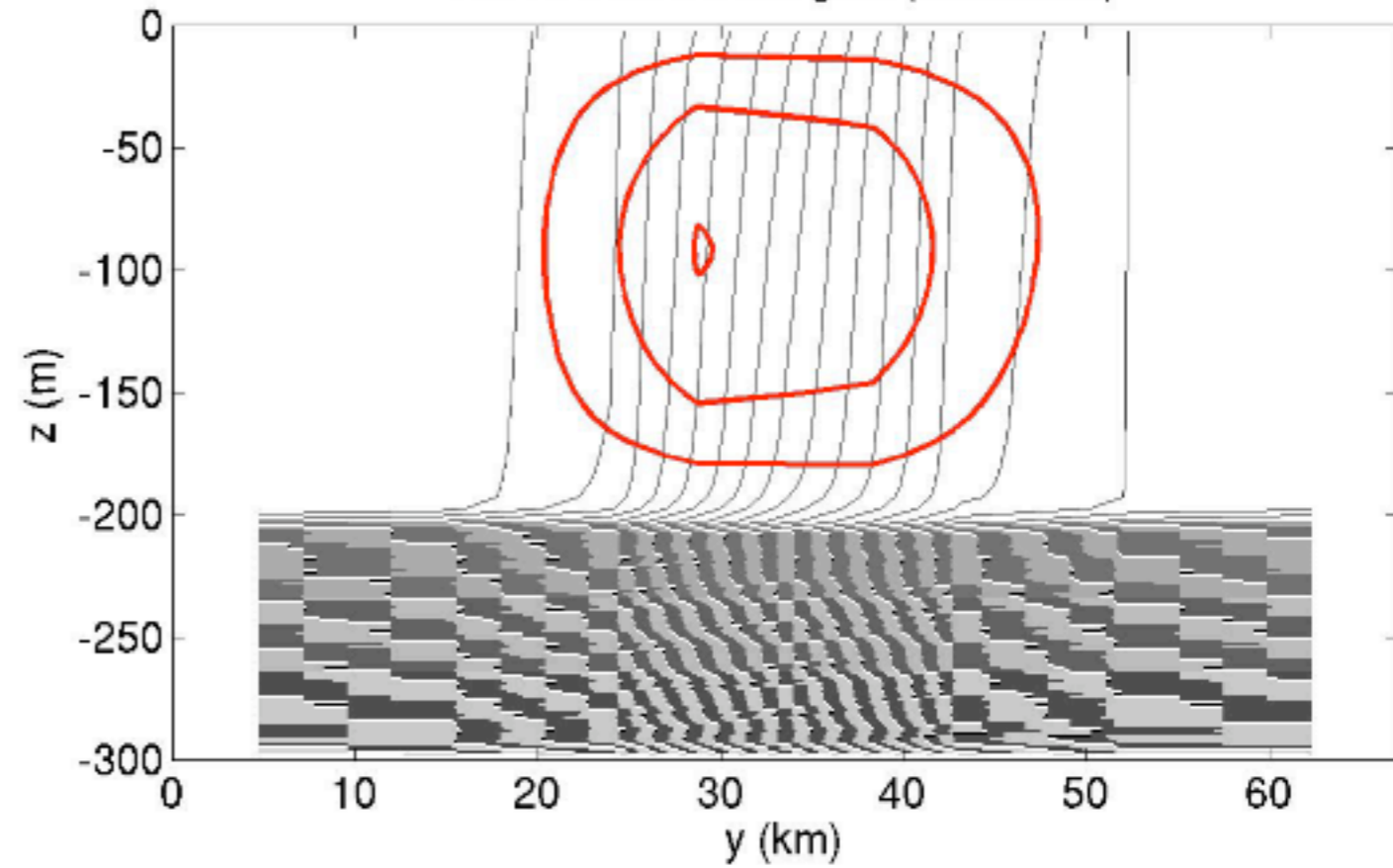
$$\mu(z) = \left[1 - \left(\frac{2z}{H} + 1 \right)^2 \right] \left[1 + \frac{5}{21} \left(\frac{2z}{H} + 1 \right)^2 \right]$$

What does it look like?

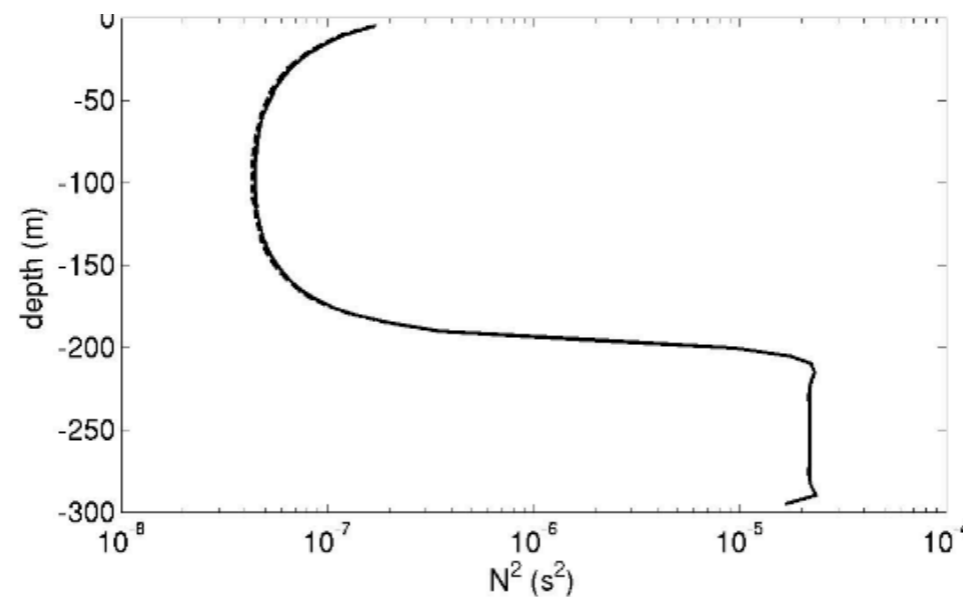
7d01h from 2d parameterization



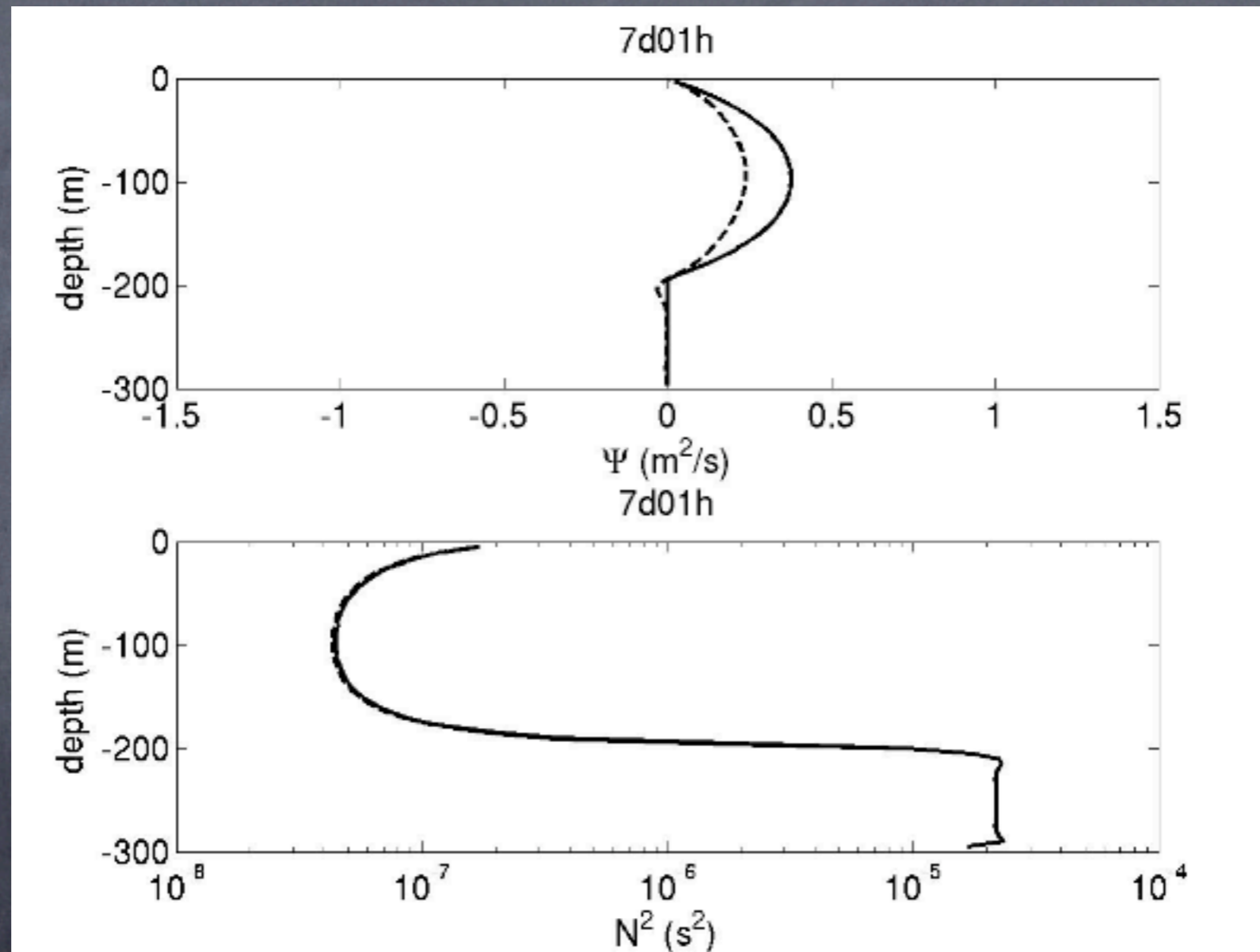
7d01h from 3d MITgcm (smoothed)



N^2



Vertical Structure: like $\langle w'b' \rangle$ from Eady solution.



Stone Solution
to $O(Ro^2)$

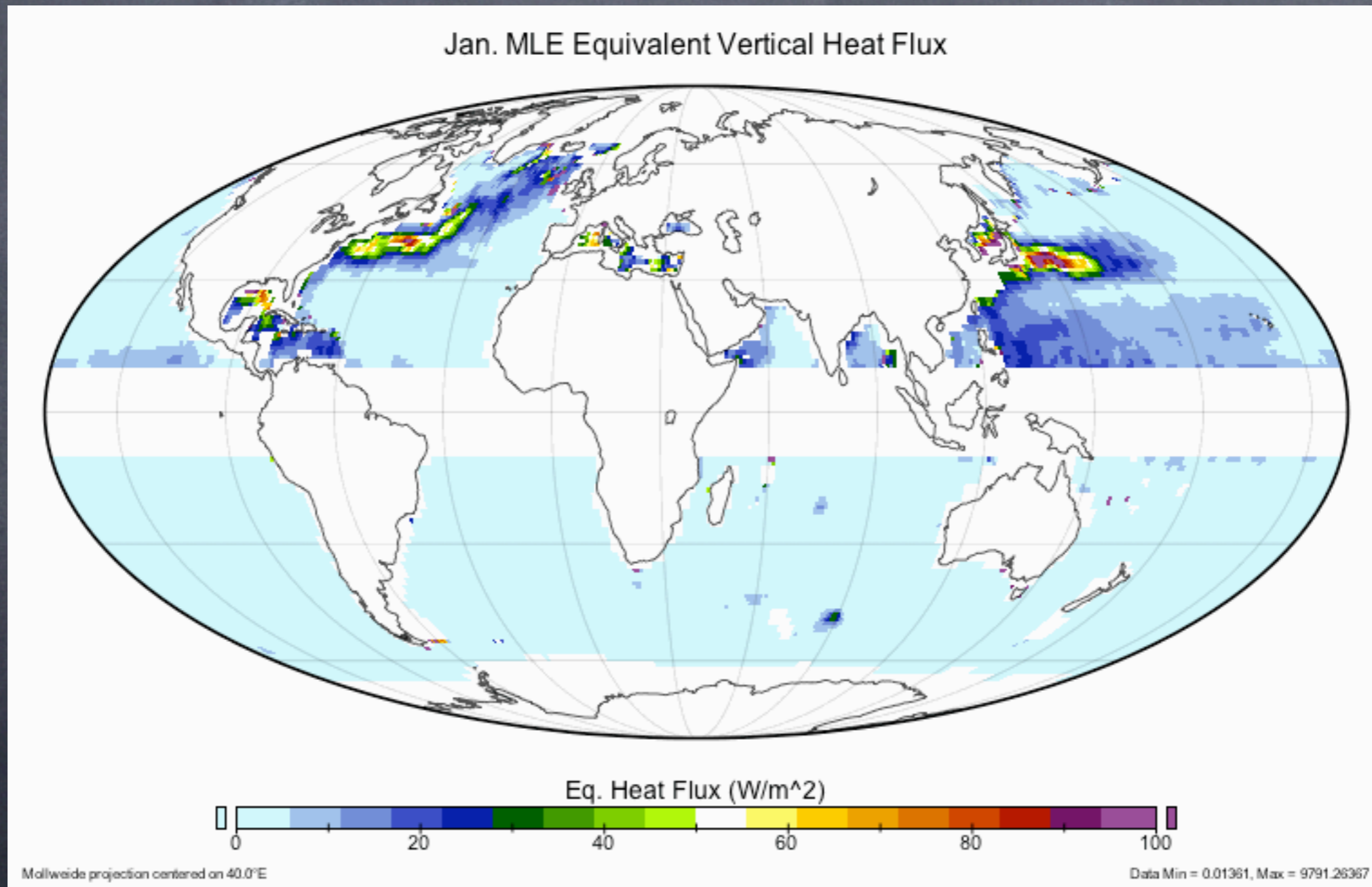
$$\mu(z) = \left[1 - \left(\frac{2z}{H} + 1 \right)^2 \right] \left[1 + \frac{5}{21} \left(\frac{2z}{H} + 1 \right)^2 \right]$$

Summary so far:

- Ocean mixed layer isn't totally mixed
- Submesoscale vertical fluxes are important in setting mixed layer stratification
- Weak mixed layer stratification makes for submesoscale eddies by baroclinic instability
- Their overturning can be parameterized

Now we turn to their impact

Where in the world are the fluxes?
(Equiv. Vert. Heat Flux from Satellite Altimetry)
Where convection makes ML deep.



Where in the world are the fluxes?

Where **convection** makes **ML deep**, which is where the ocean talks to the atmosphere

Those are the biggest MLE fluxes, but elsewhere surface fluxes are weaker, too.

Overall, MLE estimates exceed:

50% of monthly-mean surface flux climatology 25% of the time,

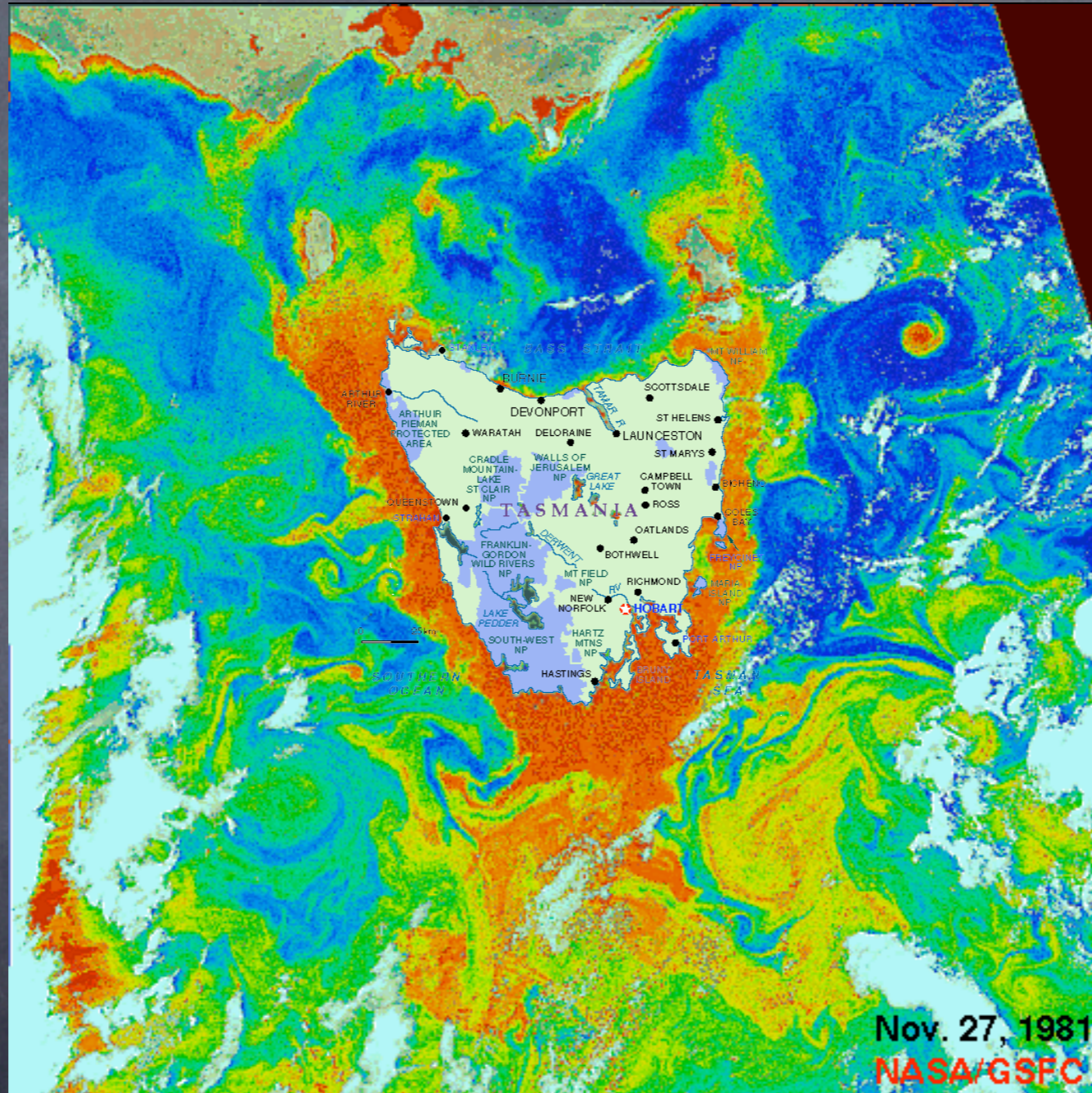
and

5% of monthly-mean surface flux climatology 50% of the time.

(compared to Grist & Josey 2003)

Biological Impact?

Ocean color image showing submesoscale structure in chlorophyll concentration near Tasmania

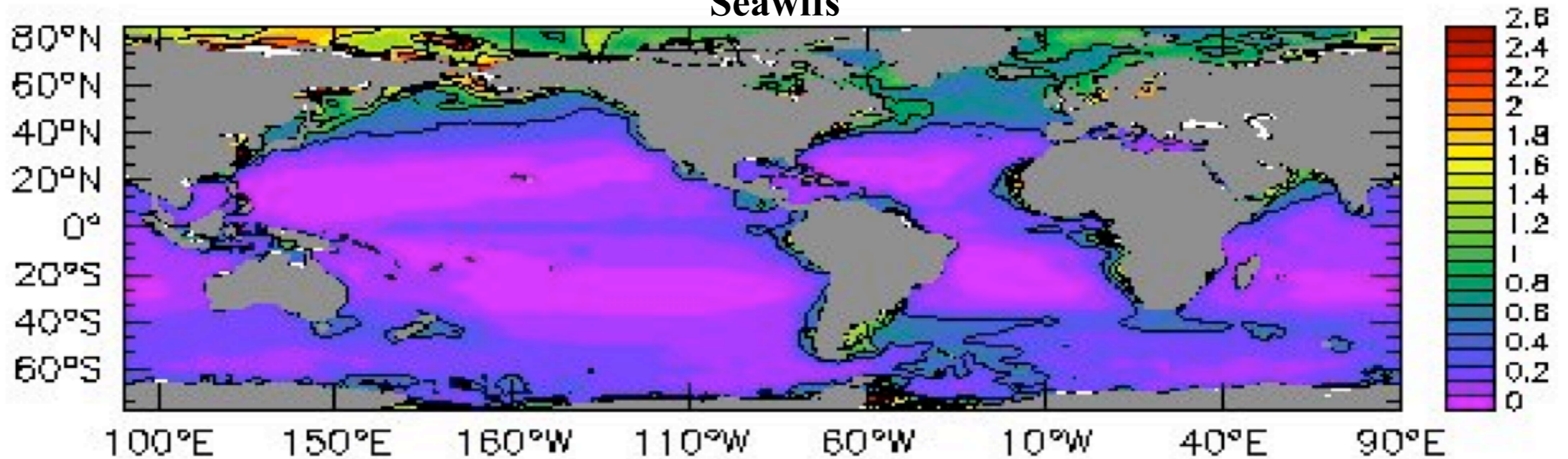


Vert.
velocity
of typical
submesoscale
eddies:
> 20 m/day

←
100 km

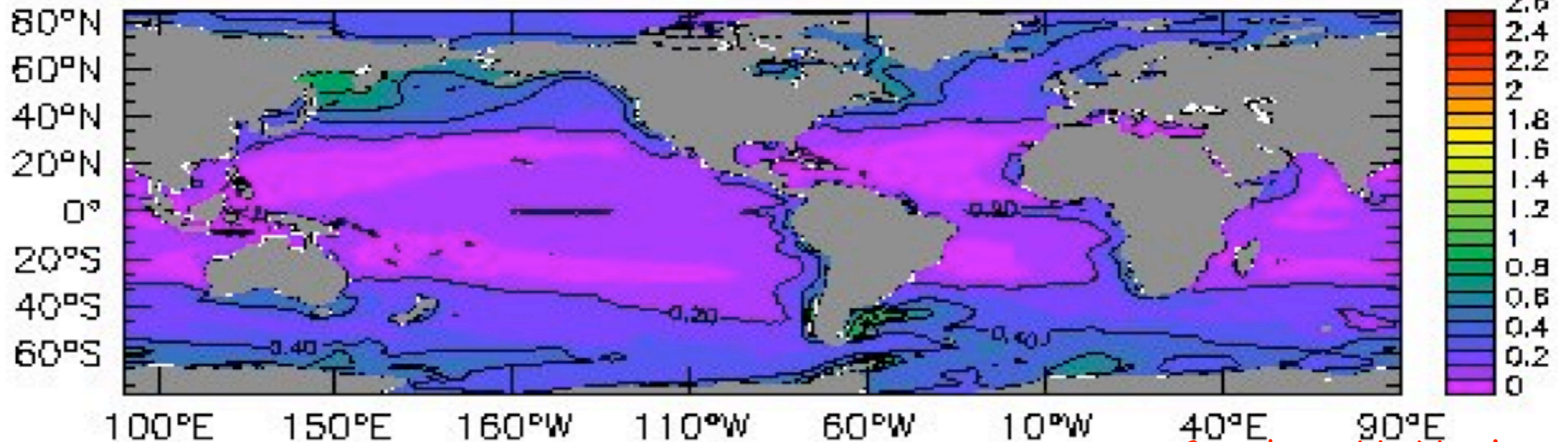
Underprediction of Biology/Chlorophyll near deep convection

Seawifs



[Chl]
mg/m³

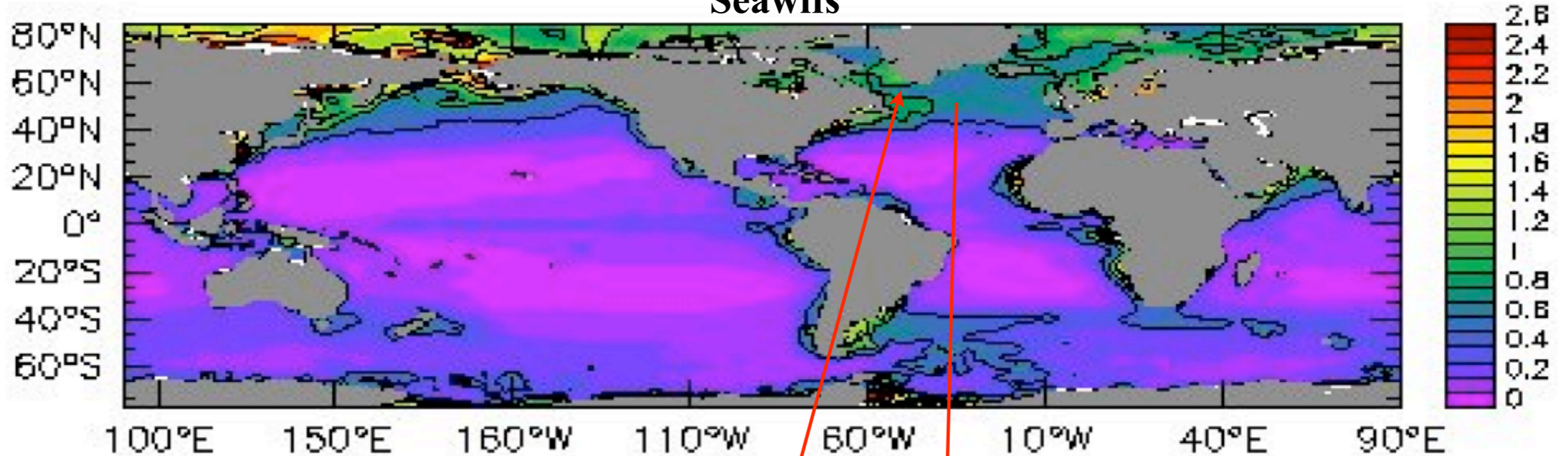
PlanktOM5



Courtesy M. Manizza

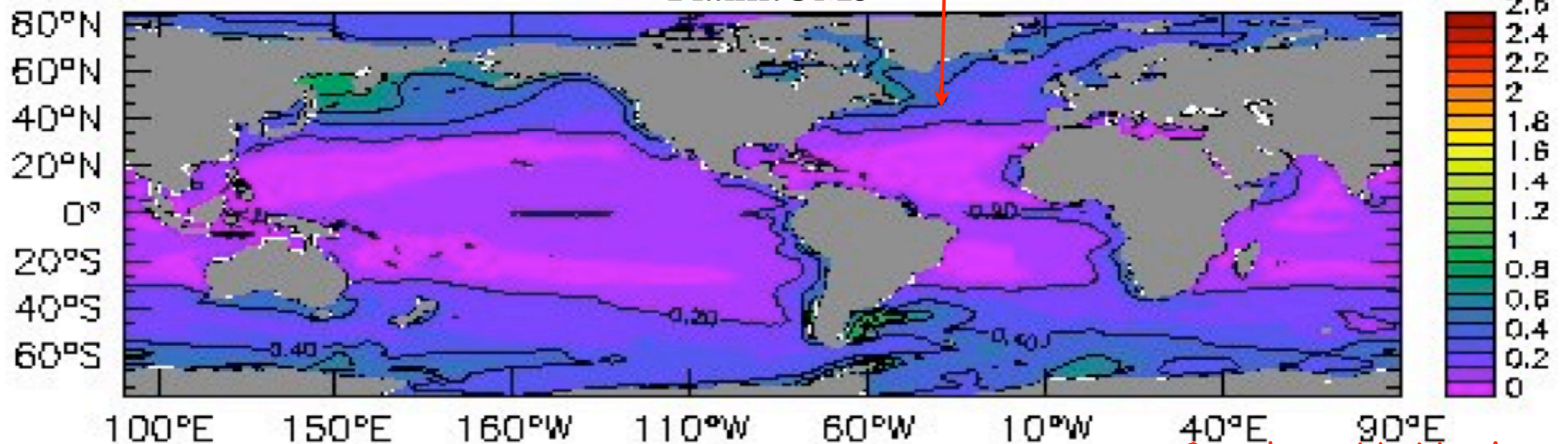
Underprediction of Biology/Chlorophyll near deep convection

Seawifs



When Light-Limited: More Stratification -> More Biomass!

PlanktOM5

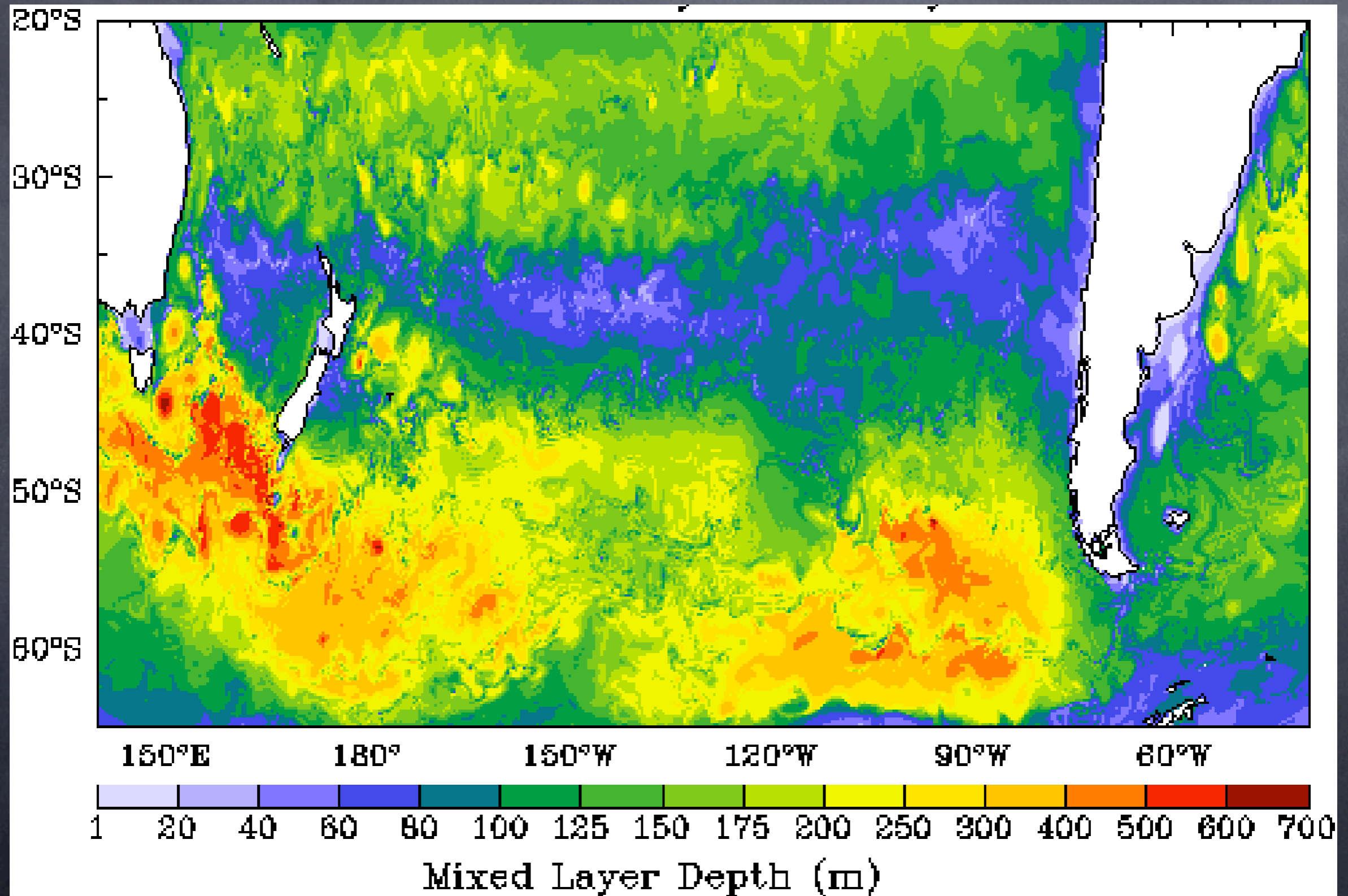


Courtesy M. Manizza

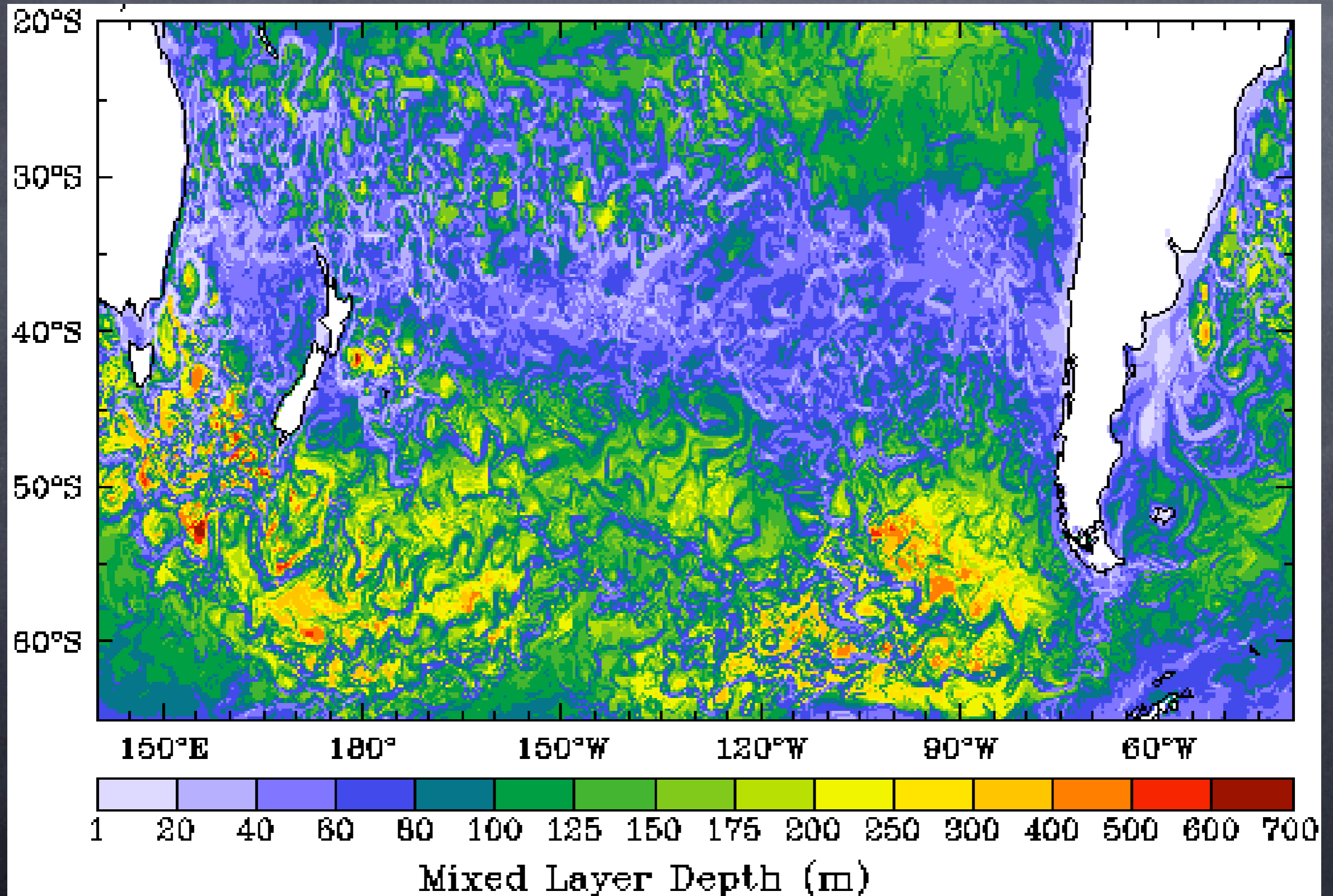
What does the new parameterization do in a GCM?

- It is already implemented in the Hallberg Isopycnal model.
- MITgcm, CCSM/POP are soon to come...

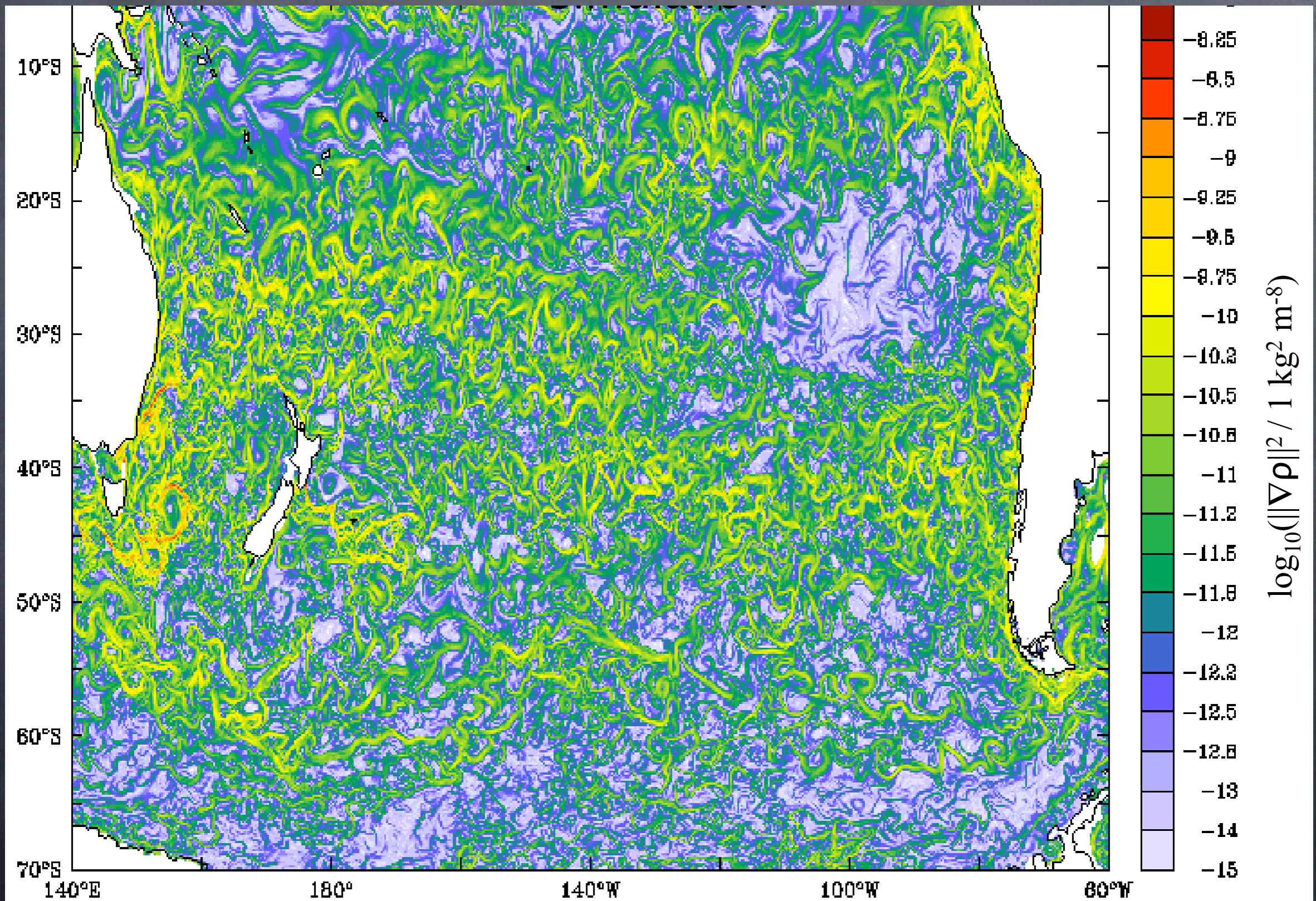
Changes To Mixing Layer Depth in Eddy-Resolving Southern Ocean Model



Changes To Mixing Layer Depth in Eddy-Resolving Southern Ocean Model



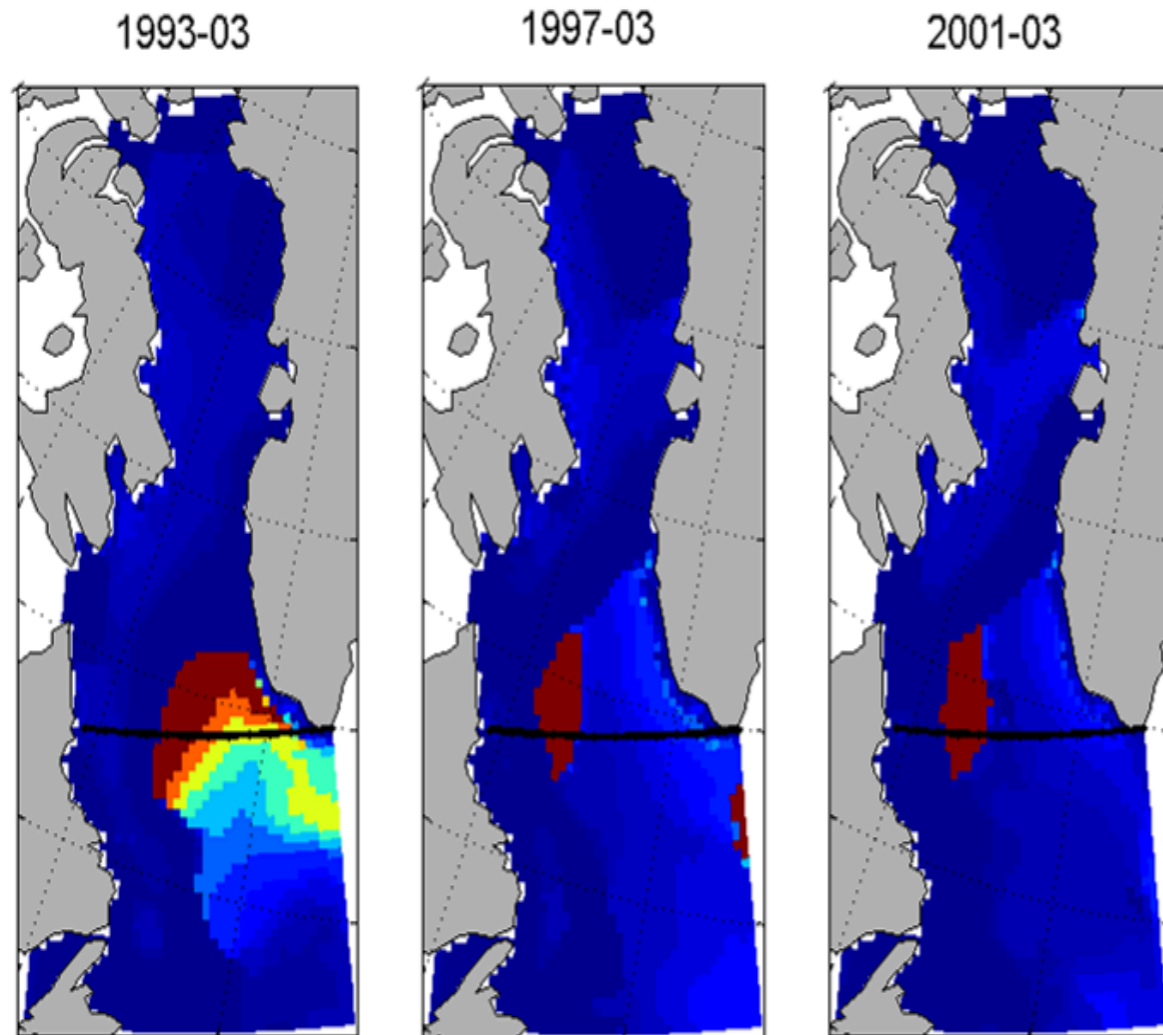
Surf. Buoy. Gradients



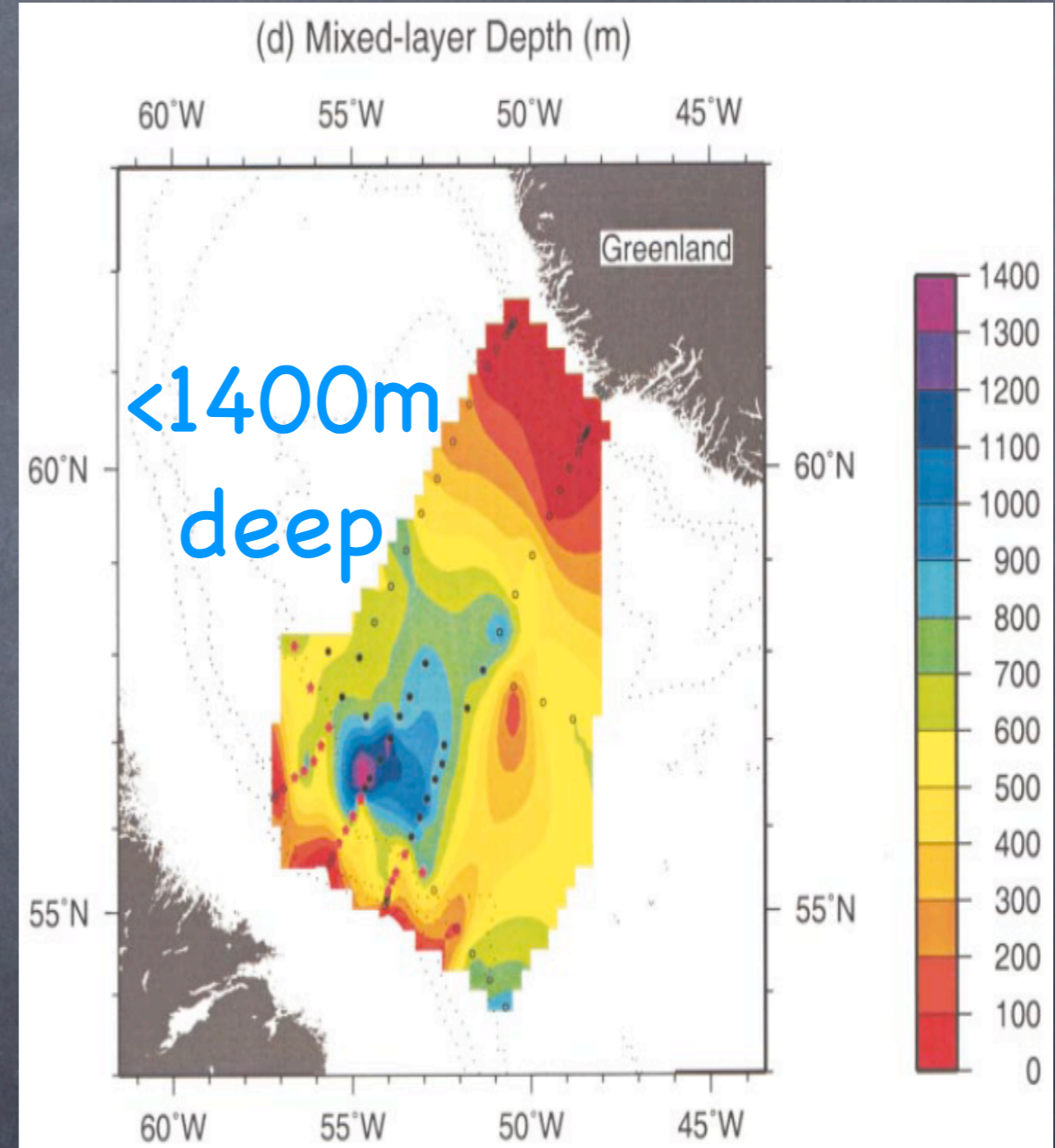
Known Deep Bias in Models

MLD: MITgcm data assim

MLD from Obs.



>2000m deep!

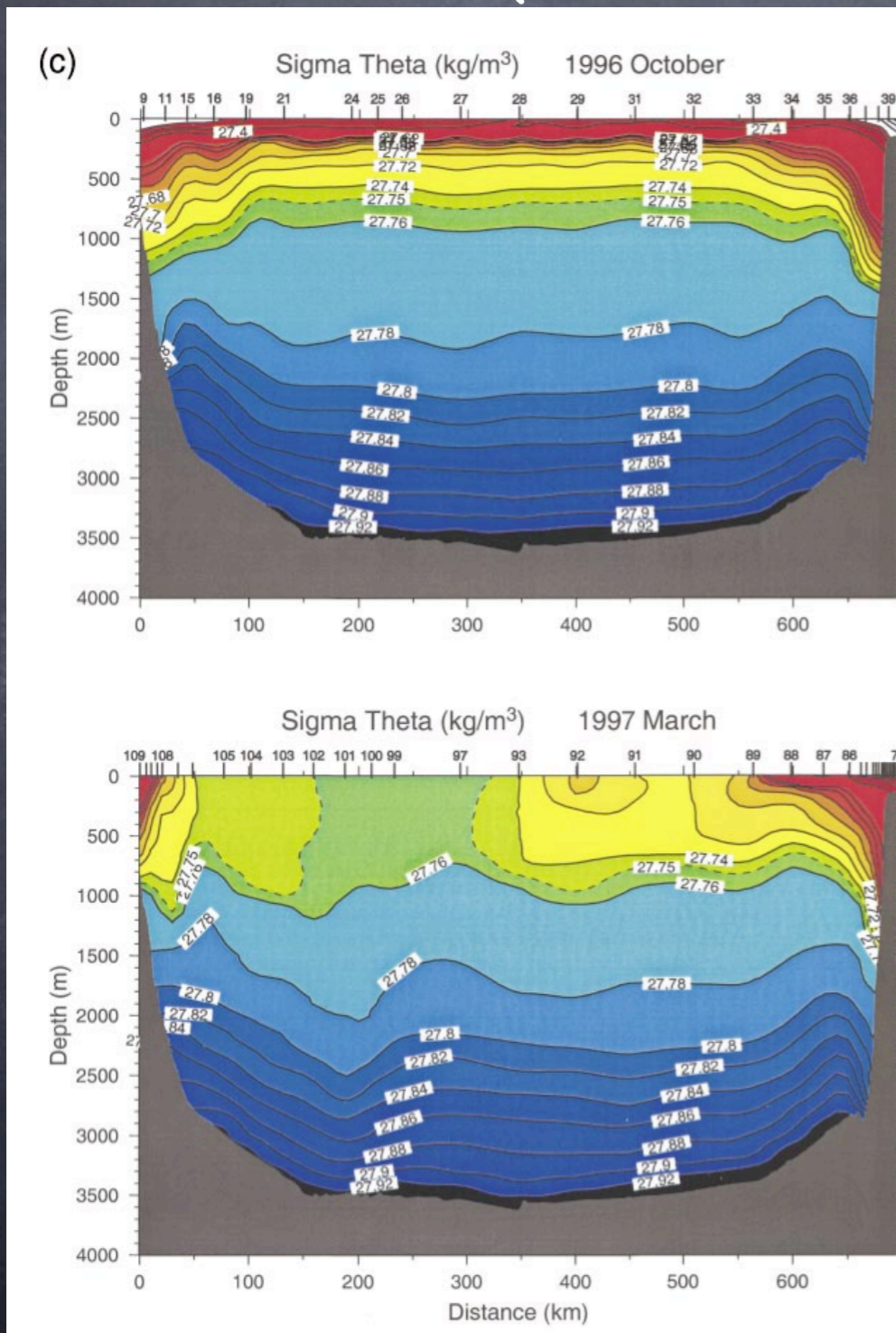


Hydrography of the Labrador Sea during Active Convection

ROBERT S. PICKART AND DANIEL J. TORRES

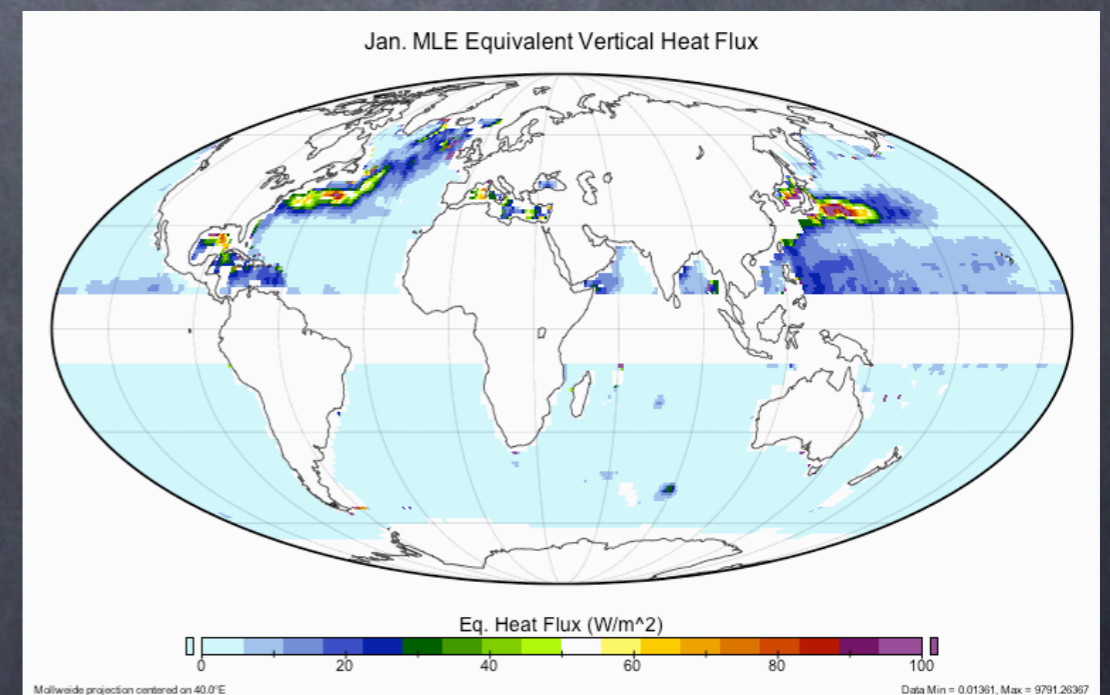
Courtesy I. G. Fenty

Deep Bias Partly Convection, but also total absence of restratification, (GM can't do it because of tapering)

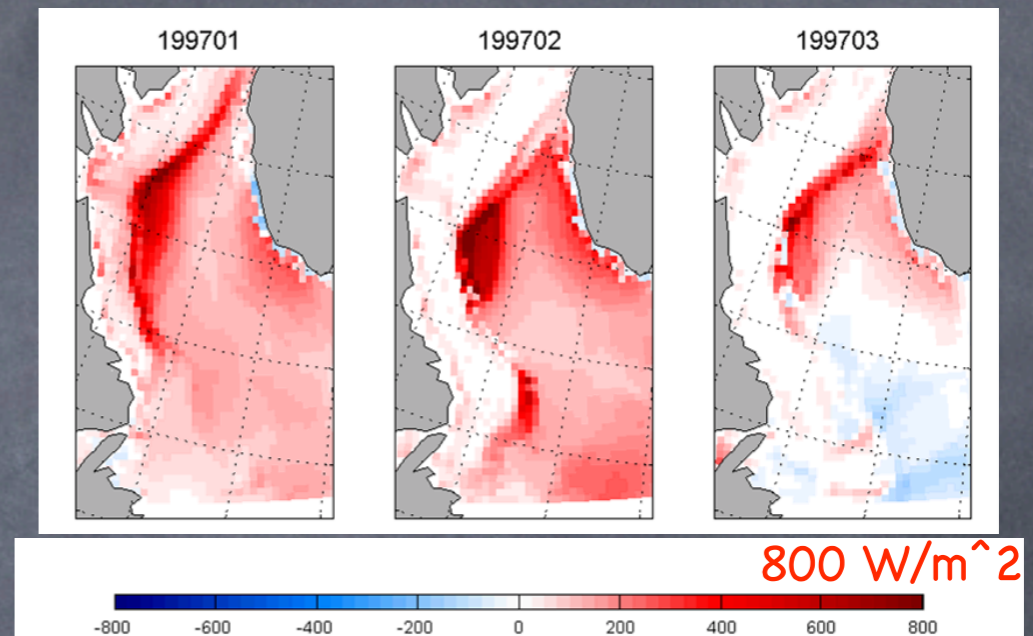
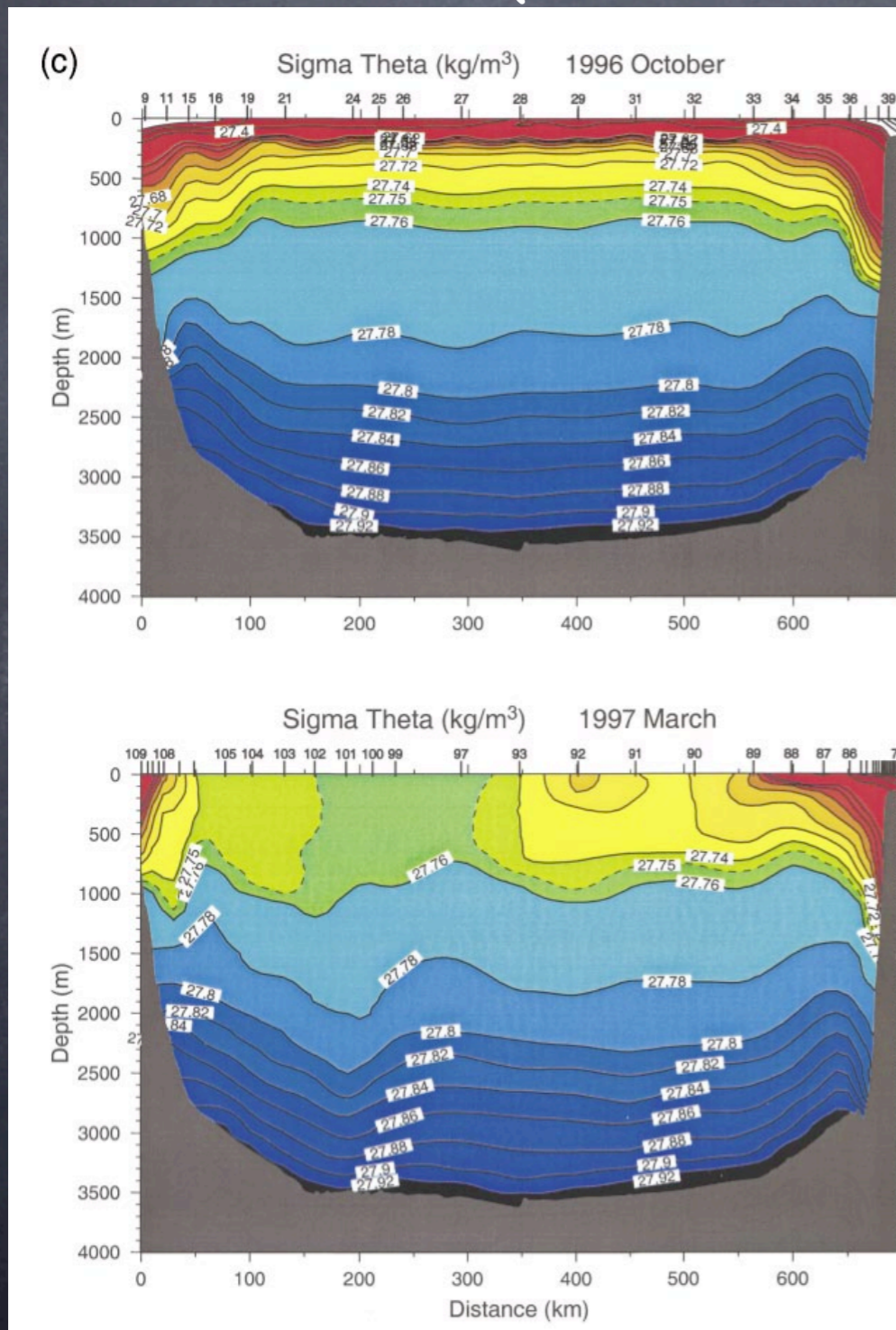


Pickart et al 02.

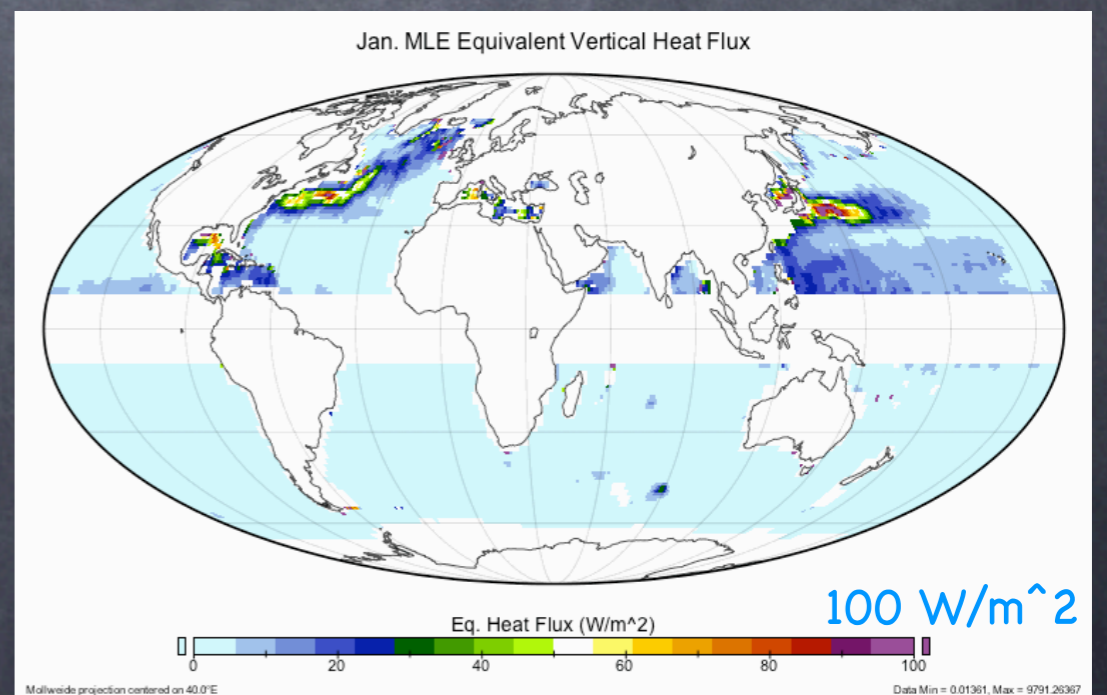
Fenty/MITgcm



Deep Bias Partly Convection, but also total absence of restratification, (GM can't do it because of tapering)



Fenty/MITgcm

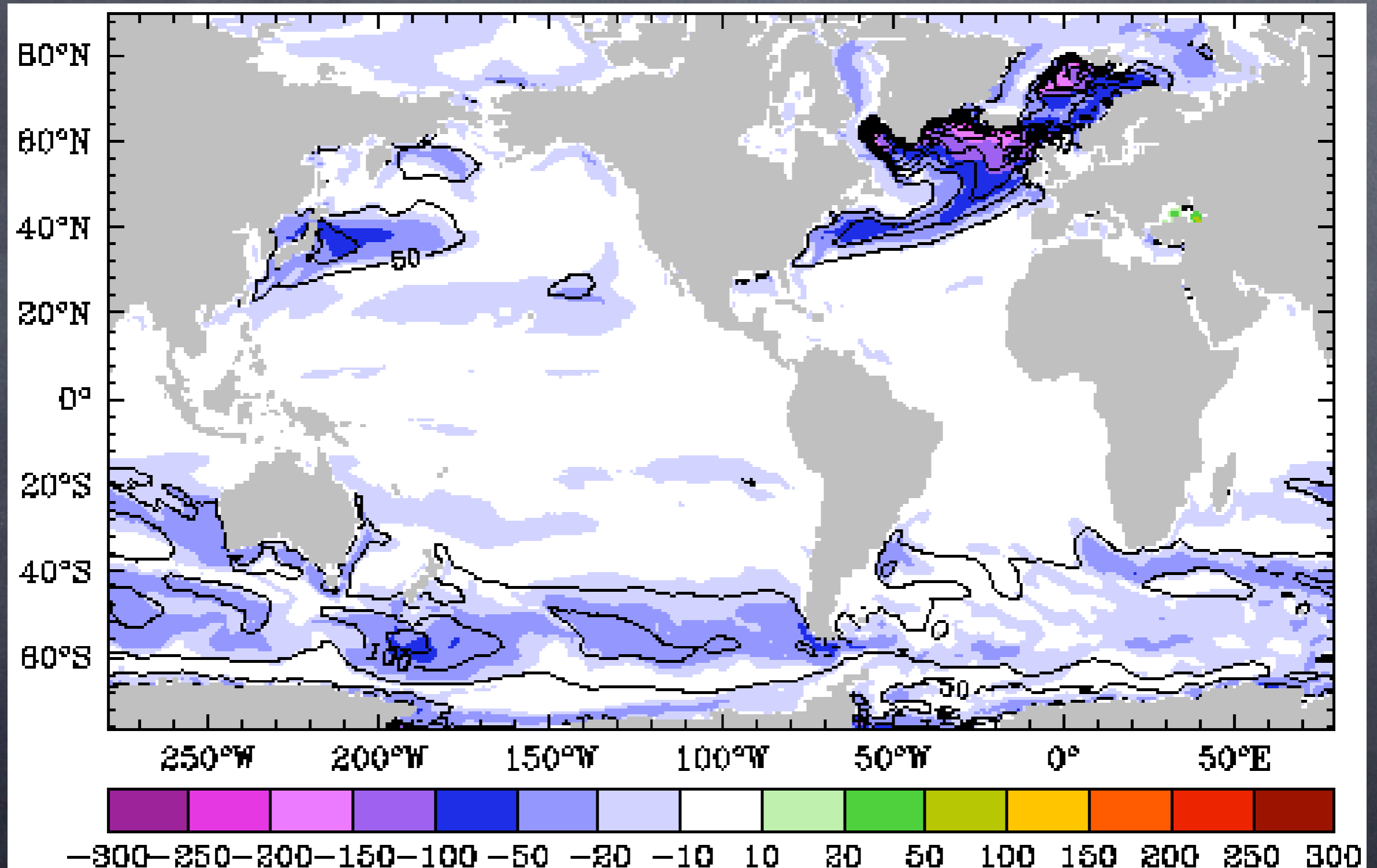


Pickart et al 02.

Equator ($f \rightarrow 0$) and coarse resolution (up to 1 deg) are manageable

Improves Restratification after Deep Convection

Note: param. reproduces Haine&Marshall (98) and Jones&Marshall (93,97)



Contoured: 5-yr mean mixing layer depth (m) in HIM.

Shaded: change (m) with parameterization

Conclusion:

- Submesoscale features, and mixed layer eddies in particular, exhibit large vertical fluxes of buoyancy that are presently ignored in climate models.
- A parameterization of mixed layer eddy fluxes as an overturning streamfunction is proposed. The magnitude comes from extraction of potential energy, and the vertical structure resembles the linear Eady solution.
- Many observations are consistent, and model biases are reduced. Biogeochemical effects are likely, as vertical fluxes and mixed layer depth are changed.
- In HIM, soon to be in MITgcm and CCSM.
- How to add effects of frontogenesis and friction??

Conclusion:

- Submesoscale features, and mixed layer eddies in particular, exhibit large vertical fluxes of buoyancy that are presently ignored in climate models.
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- Many observations are consistent, and model biases are reduced. Biogeochemical effects are likely, as vertical fluxes and mixed layer depth are changed.
- In HIM, soon to be in MITgcm and CCSM.
- How to add effects of frontogenesis and friction??

Ask Leif and Mike!

The Parameterization:

$$\Psi = \frac{C_e H^2 \mu(z)}{|f|} \nabla \bar{b} \times \hat{z}$$

$$\mu(z) = \left[1 - \left(\frac{2z}{H} + 1 \right)^2 \right] \left[1 + \frac{5}{21} \left(\frac{2z}{H} + 1 \right)^2 \right]$$

- The horizontal fluxes are downgradient:

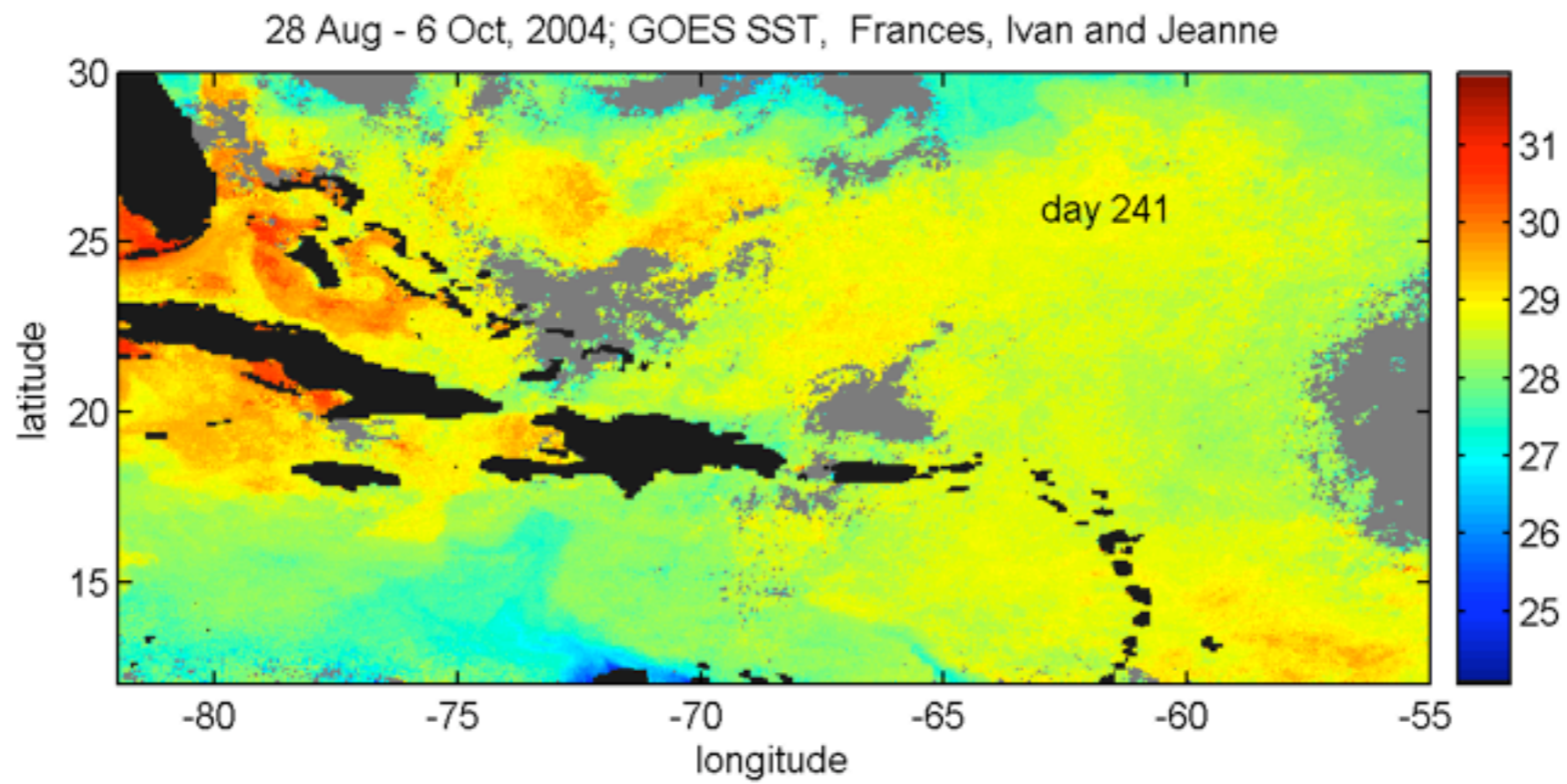
$$\overline{\mathbf{u}'_H b'} = - \frac{C_e H^2 \mu(z) \frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial z}}{|f|} \nabla_H \bar{b}$$

- Vertical fluxes always upward to restratify:

$$\overline{w' b'} = \frac{C_e H^2 \mu(z)}{|f|} |\nabla \bar{b}|^2$$

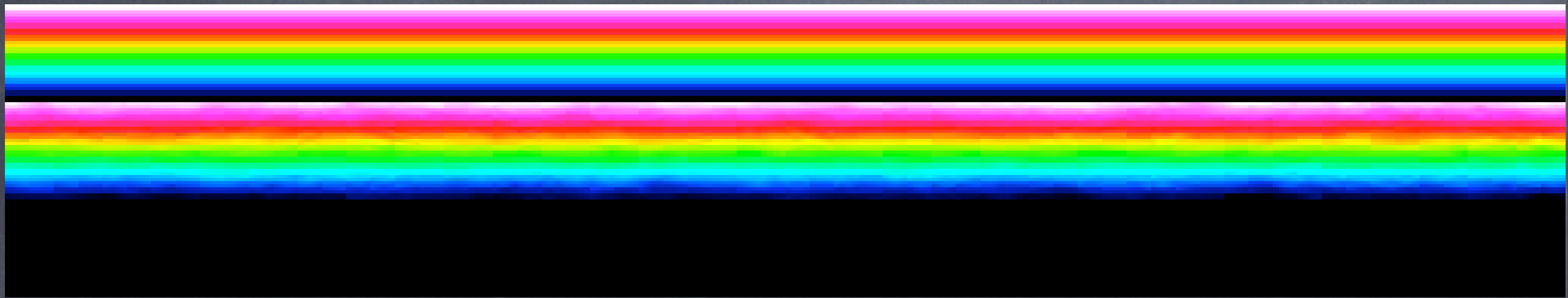
- Adjustments for coarse resolution and $f \rightarrow 0$ are known

More to come on this...



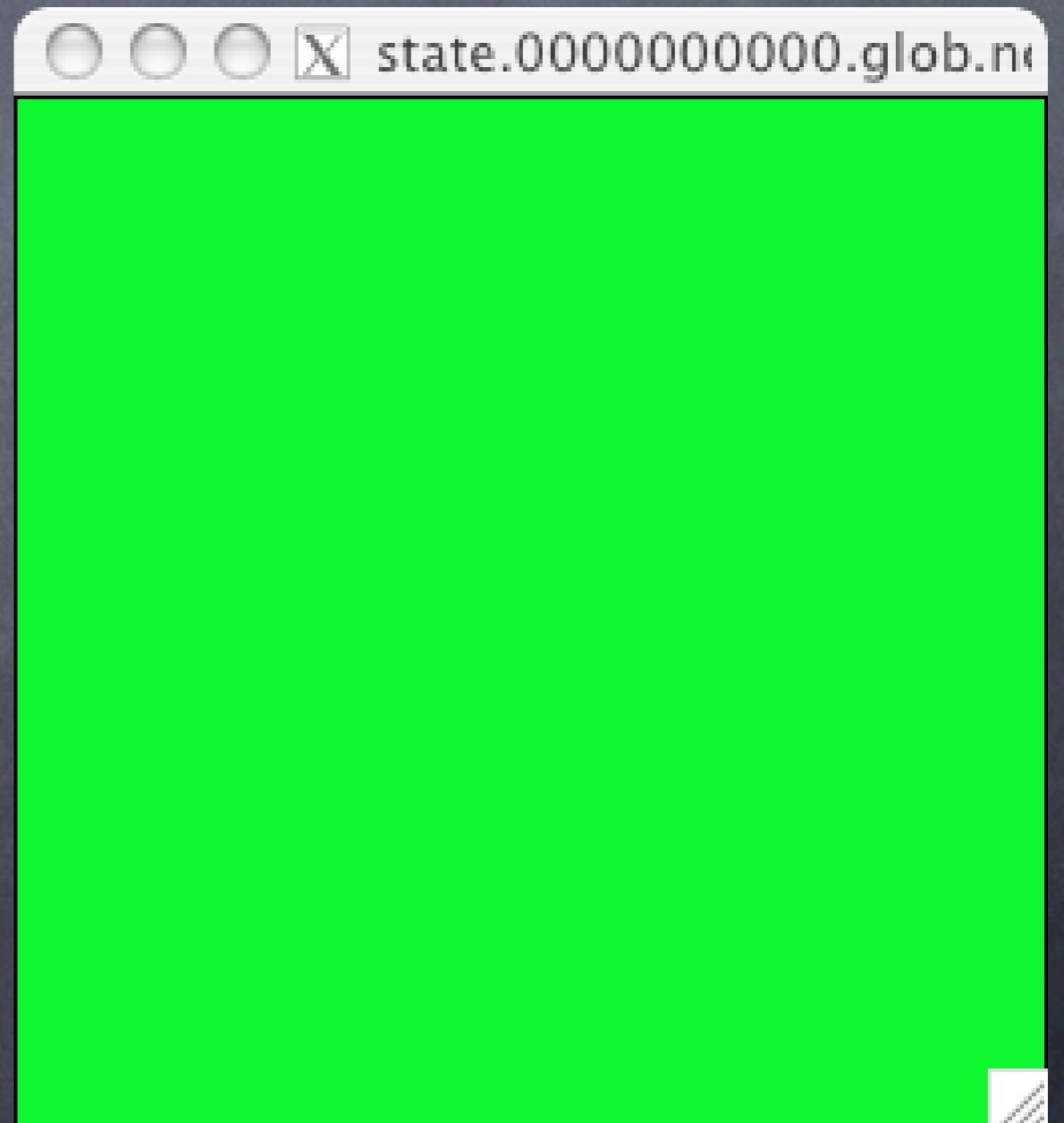
Coupling to turbulence?

T
U
V

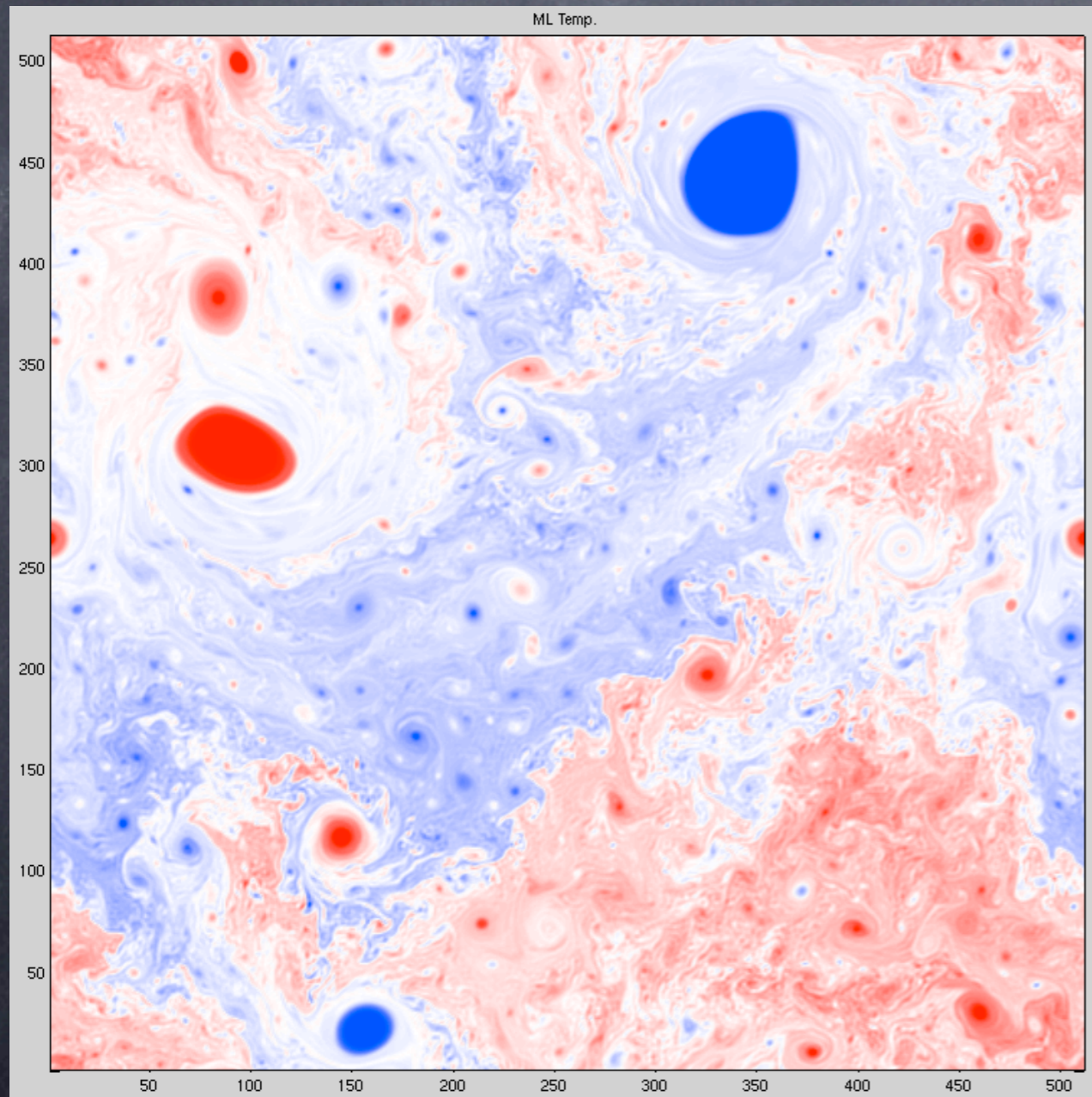


We saw little effect of KPP/diurnal on MLEs, but...

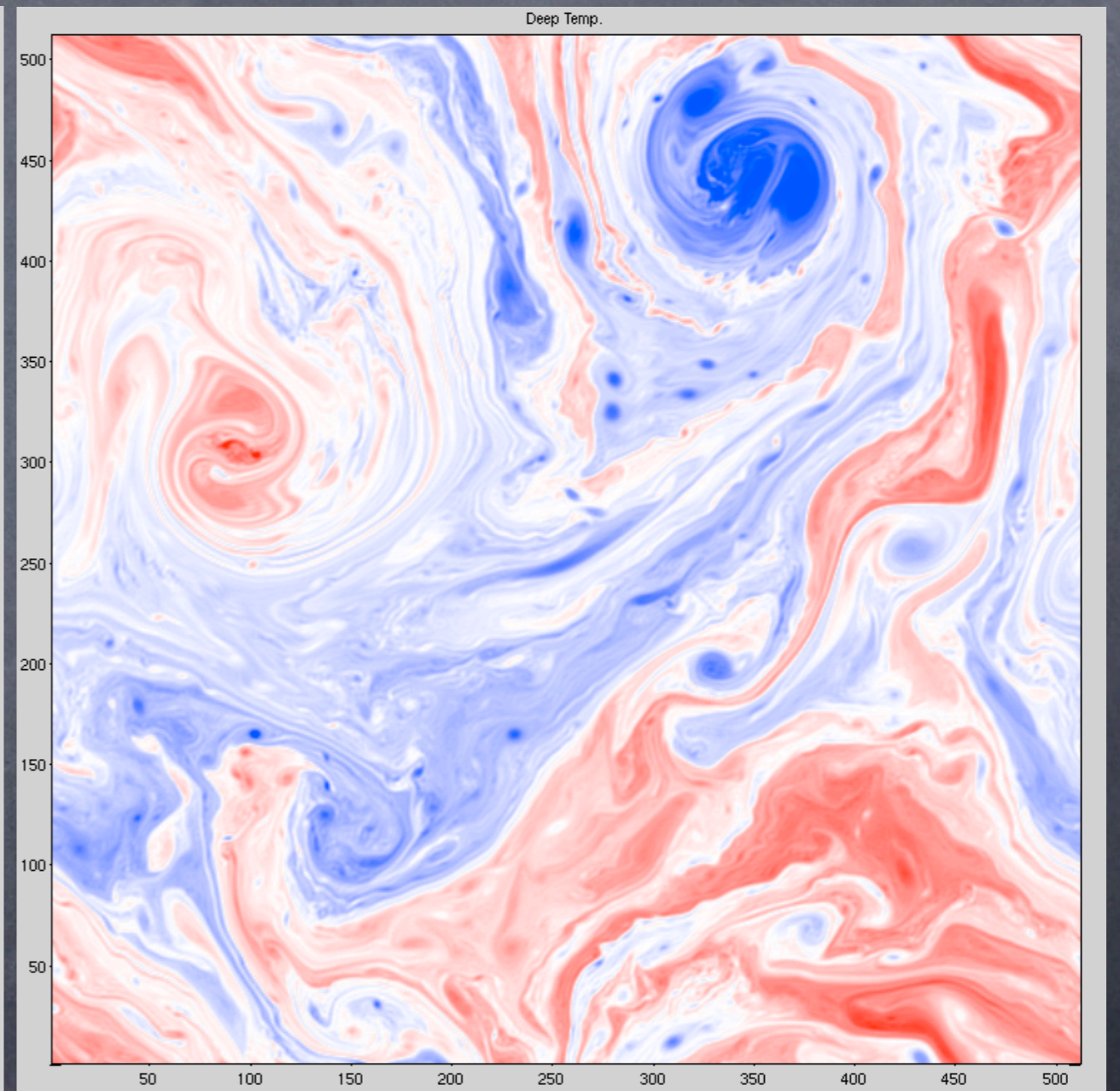
Plan View of T



A Blumen multi-SQG model allows an approximate coupled run to equilibrate.

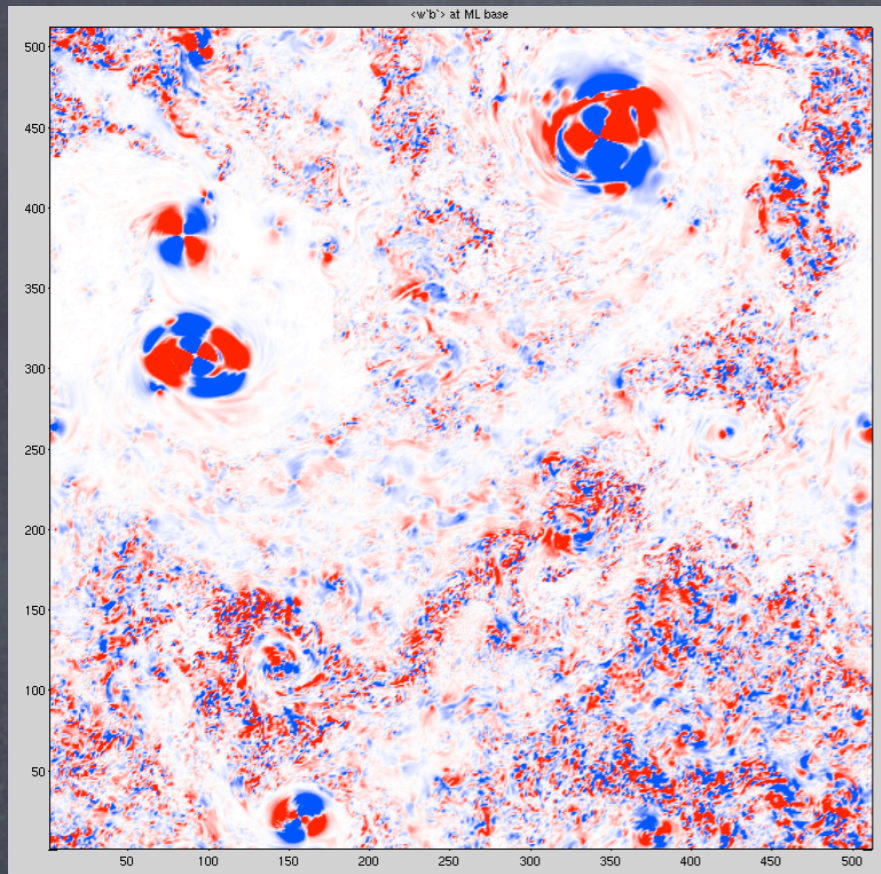


Surface Temp

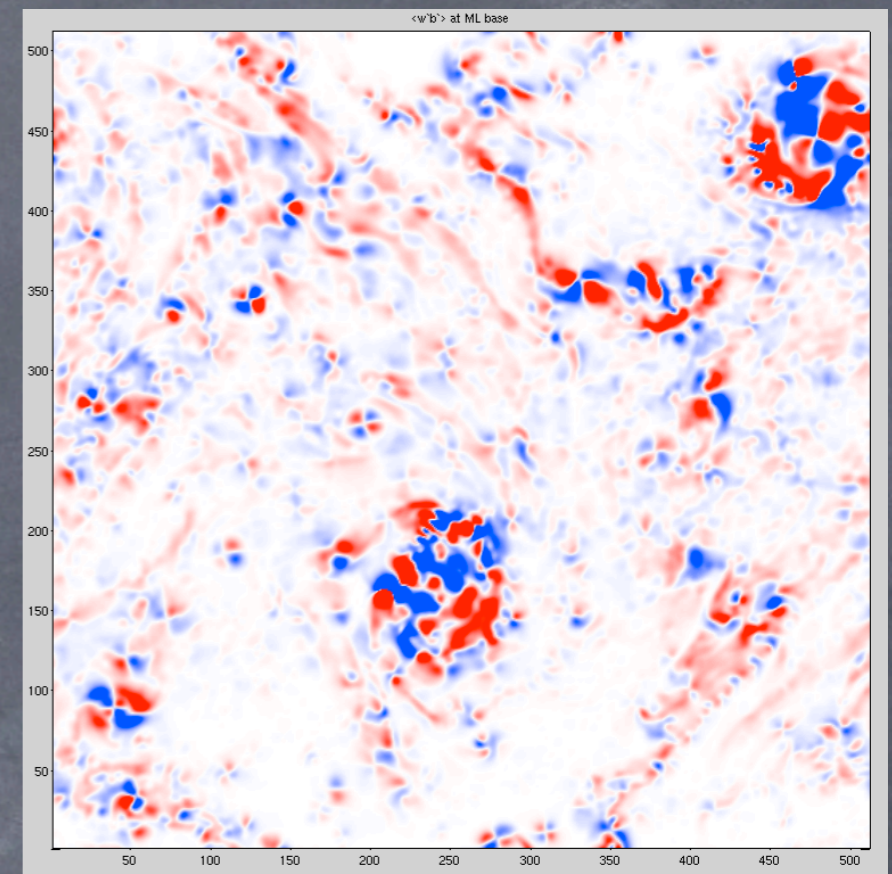


Bottom Temp

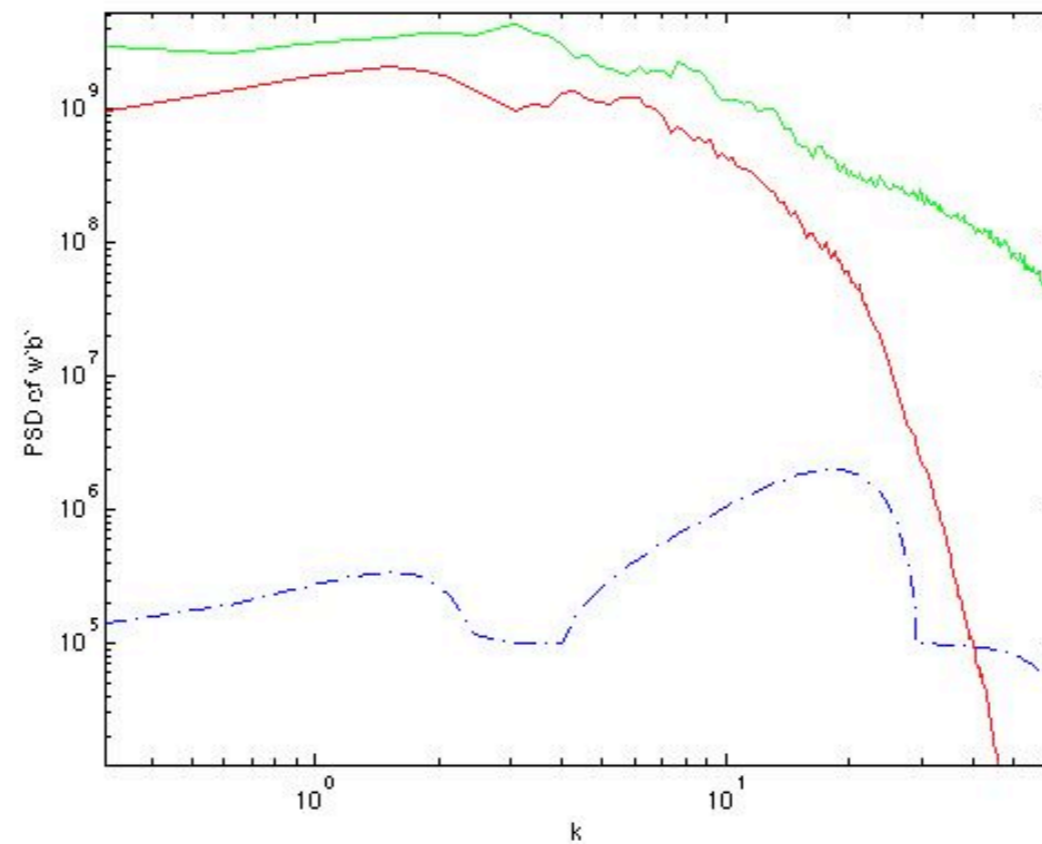
WB With a ML



WB Without a ML



Spectra

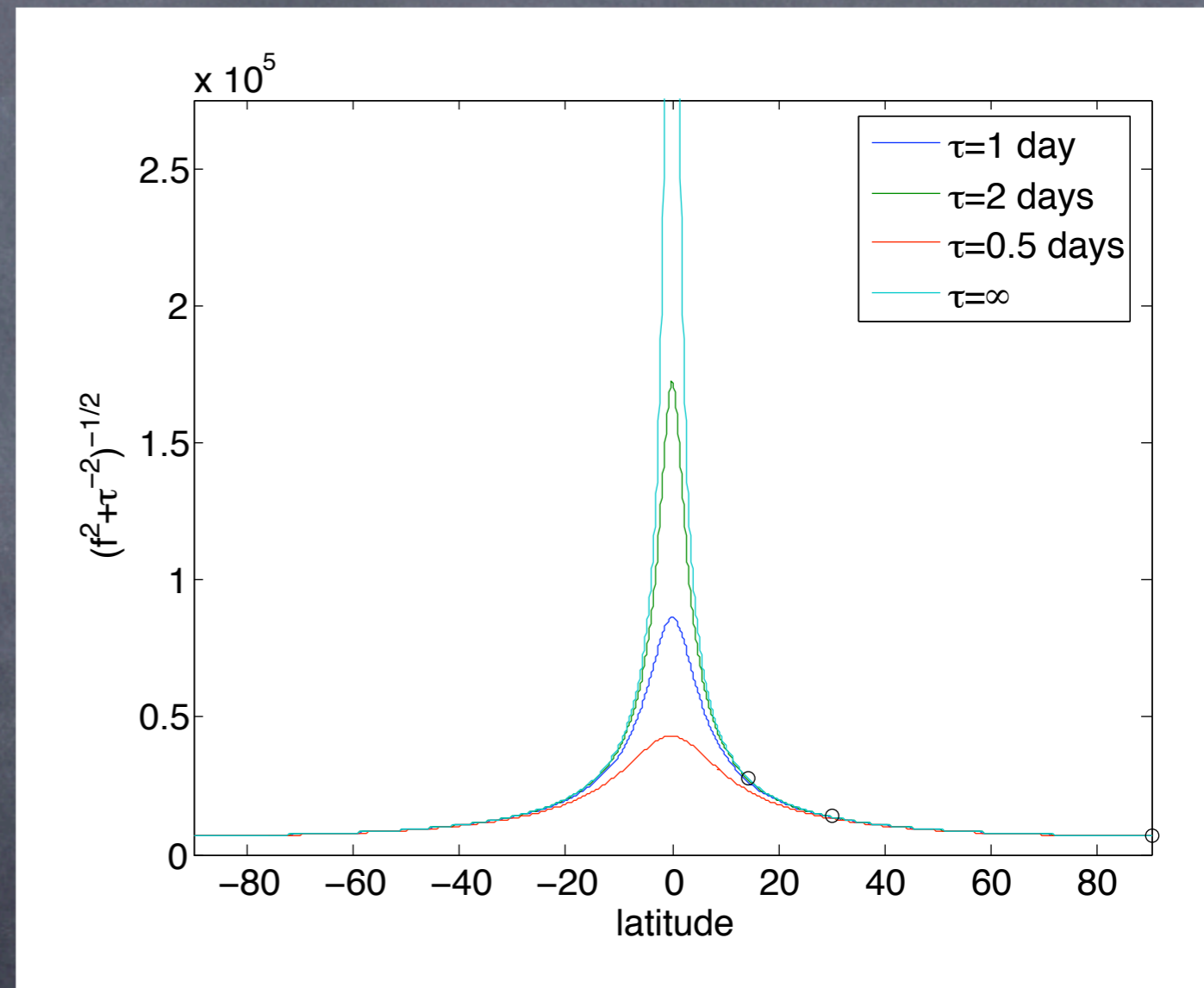


Taper to SML at Equator

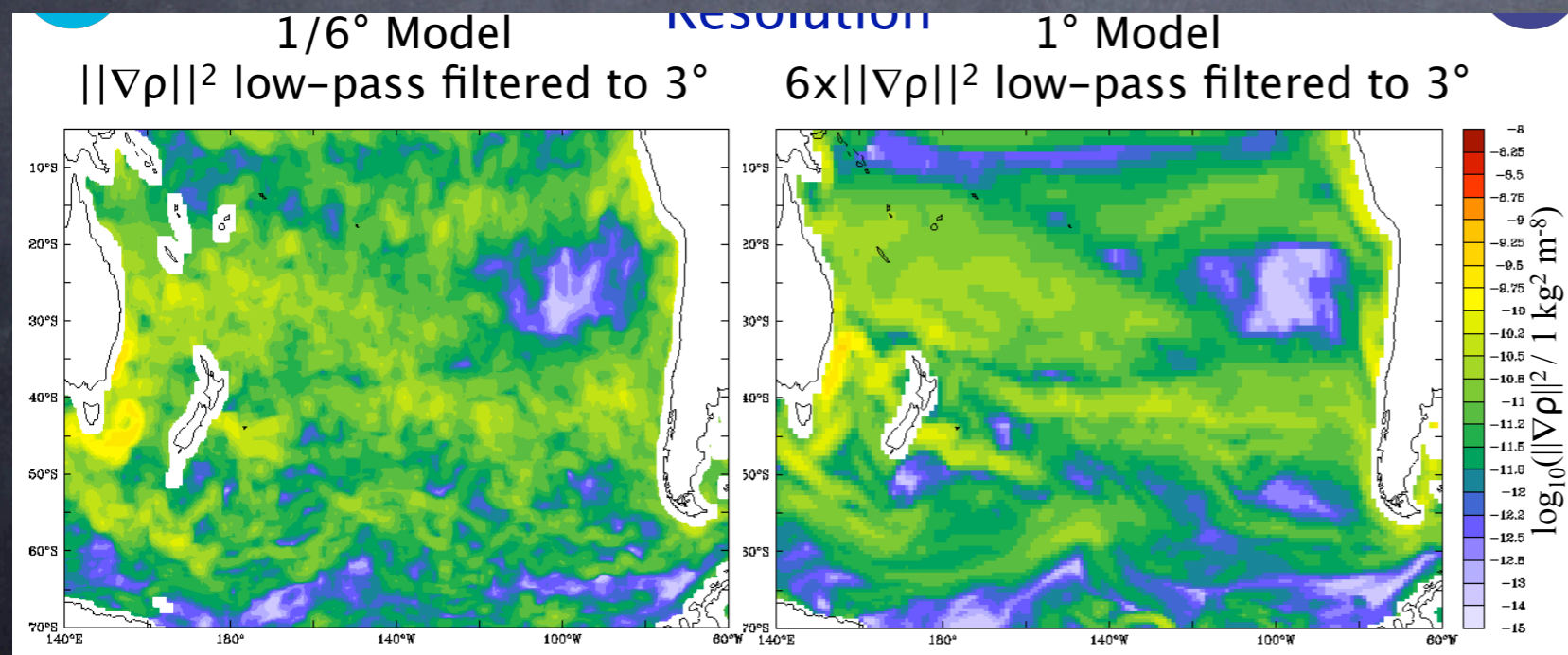
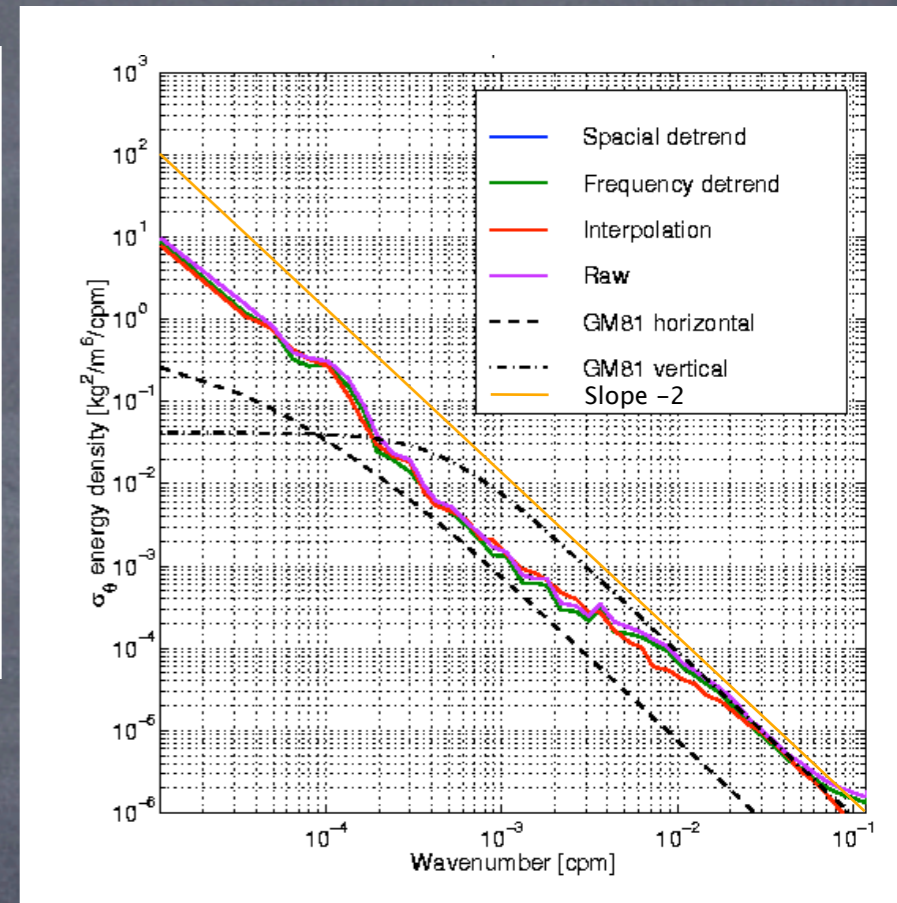
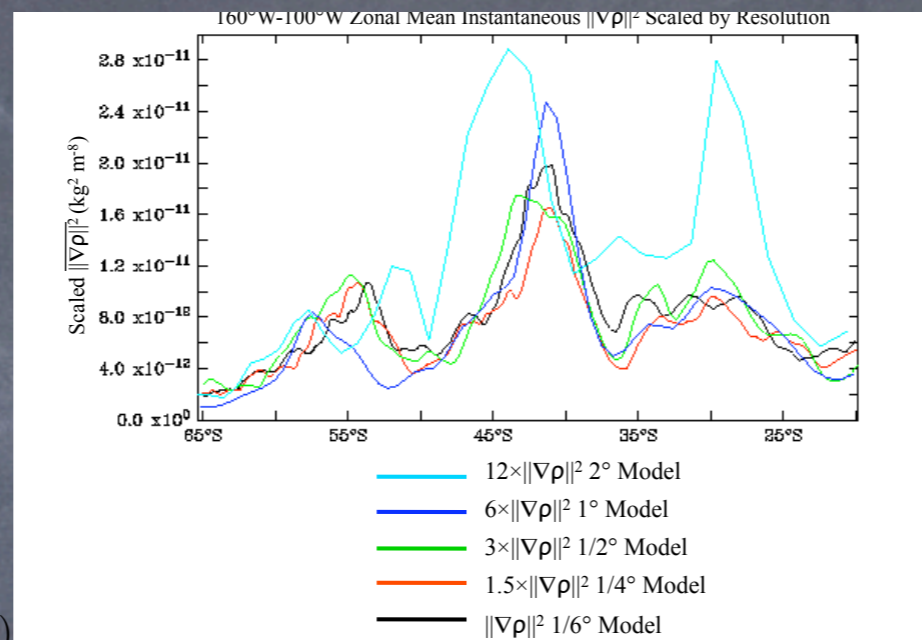
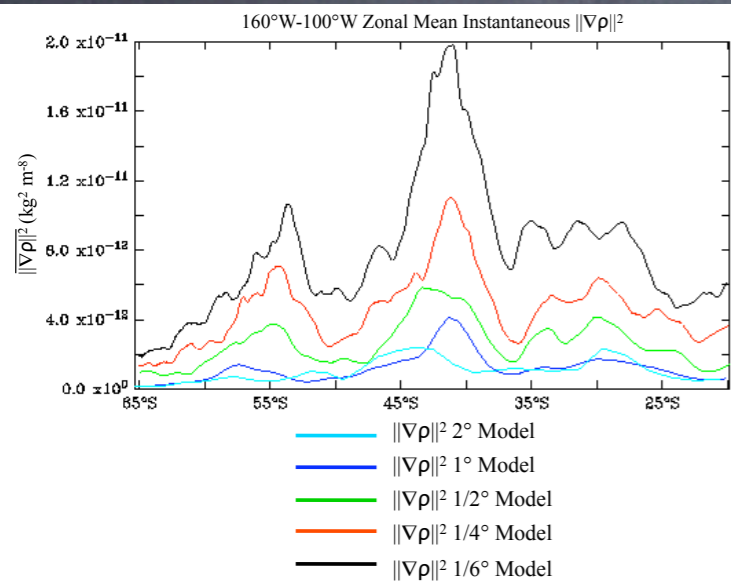
$$\Psi = \frac{C_e H^2 \mu(z)}{|f|} \nabla \bar{b} \times \hat{z}$$

$$\Psi = \frac{C_e H^2 \mu(z)}{\sqrt{f^2 + \tau^{-2}}} \nabla \bar{b} \times \hat{z}$$

Converges to Young (1994)
Subinertial ML Approx.
at equator, which is gravity
waves interrupted by mixing



Coarse Resolution Adjustment



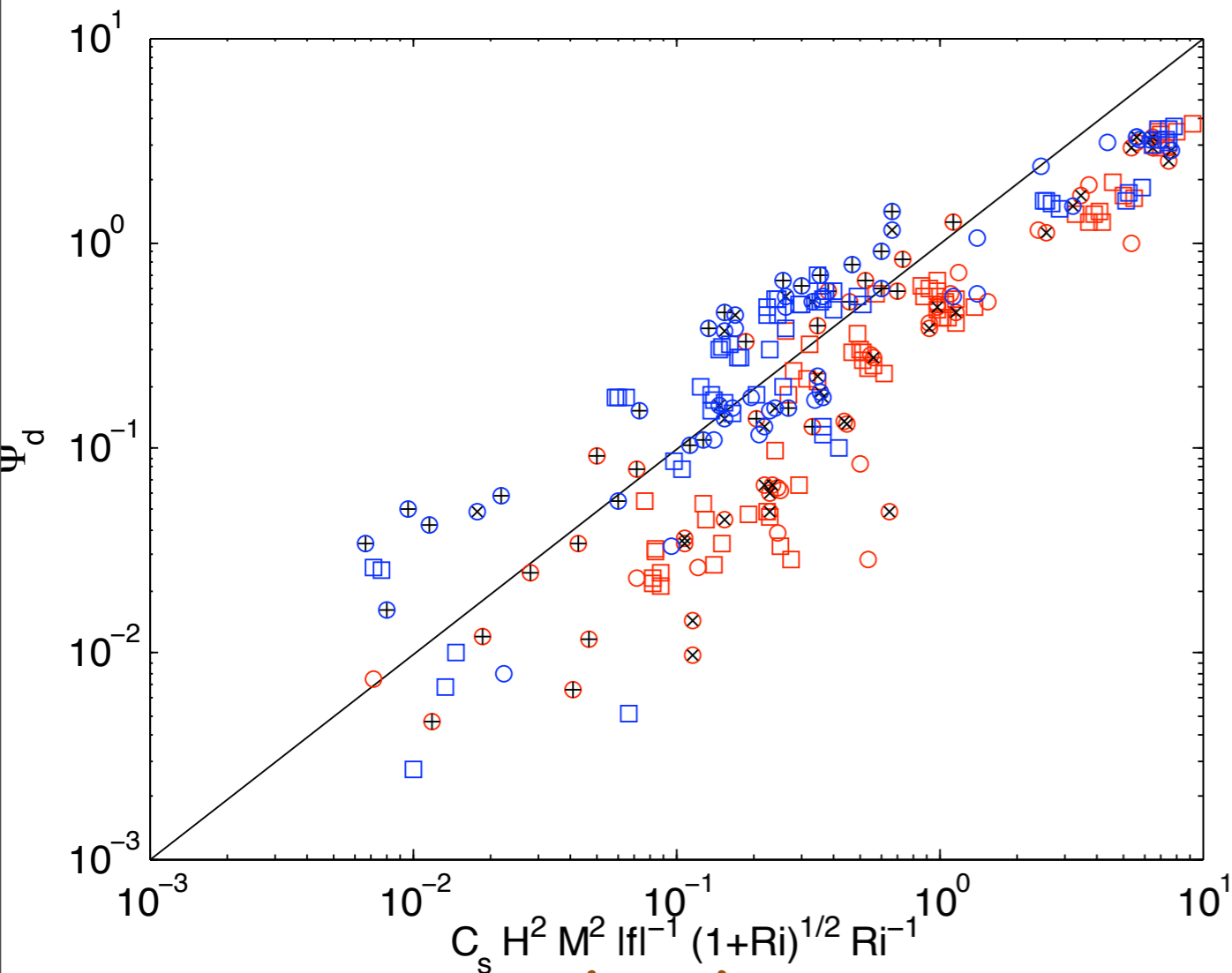
$$\overline{w'b'} = \frac{C_e H^2 \mu(z)}{|f|} |\nabla \bar{b}|^2$$

$$C_e \rightarrow C_e \frac{\Delta x}{L_d}$$

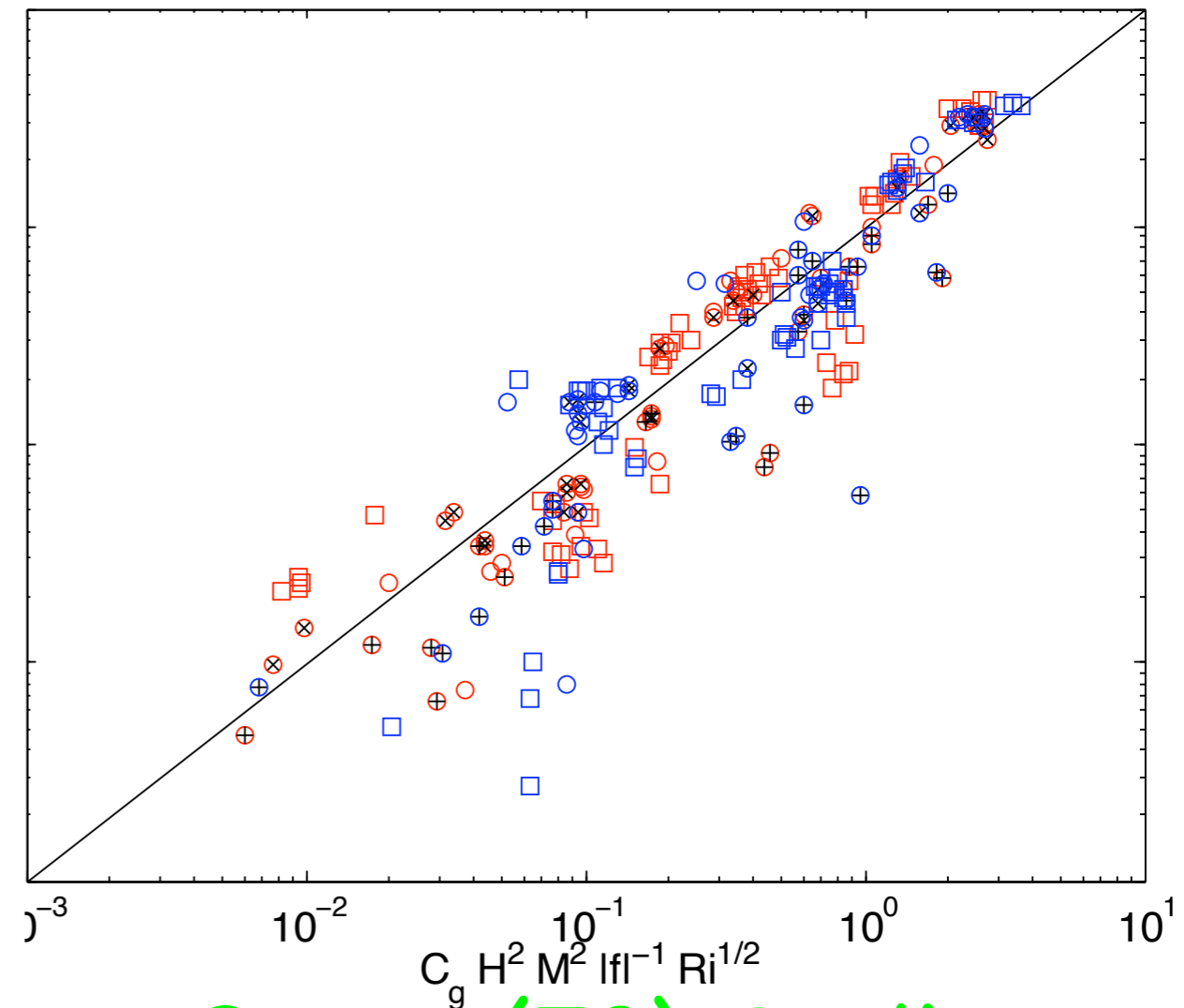
Better than the Competition:

Red: No Diurnal

Blue: With Diurnal



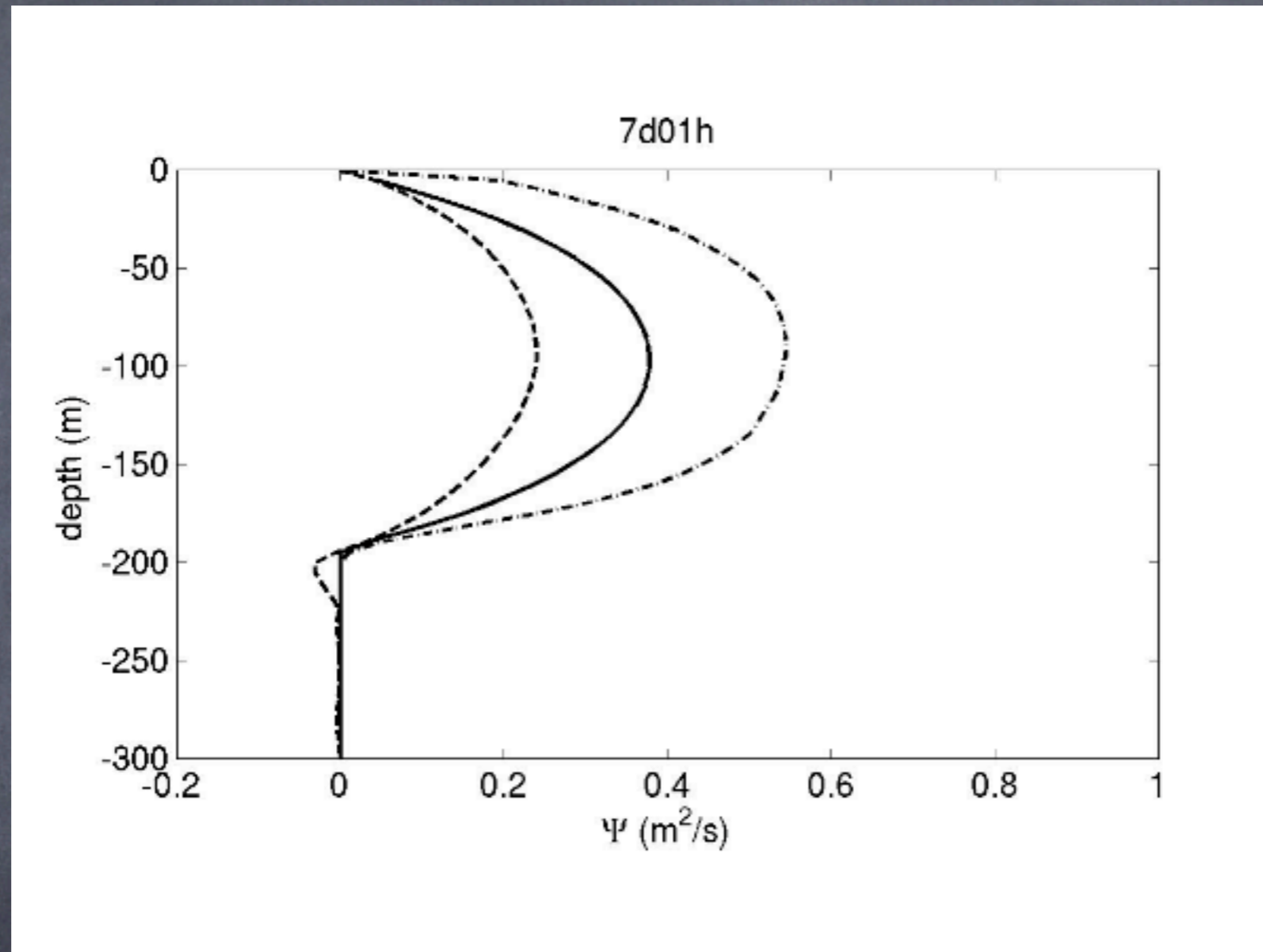
Stone (72) Scaling



Green (70) Scaling

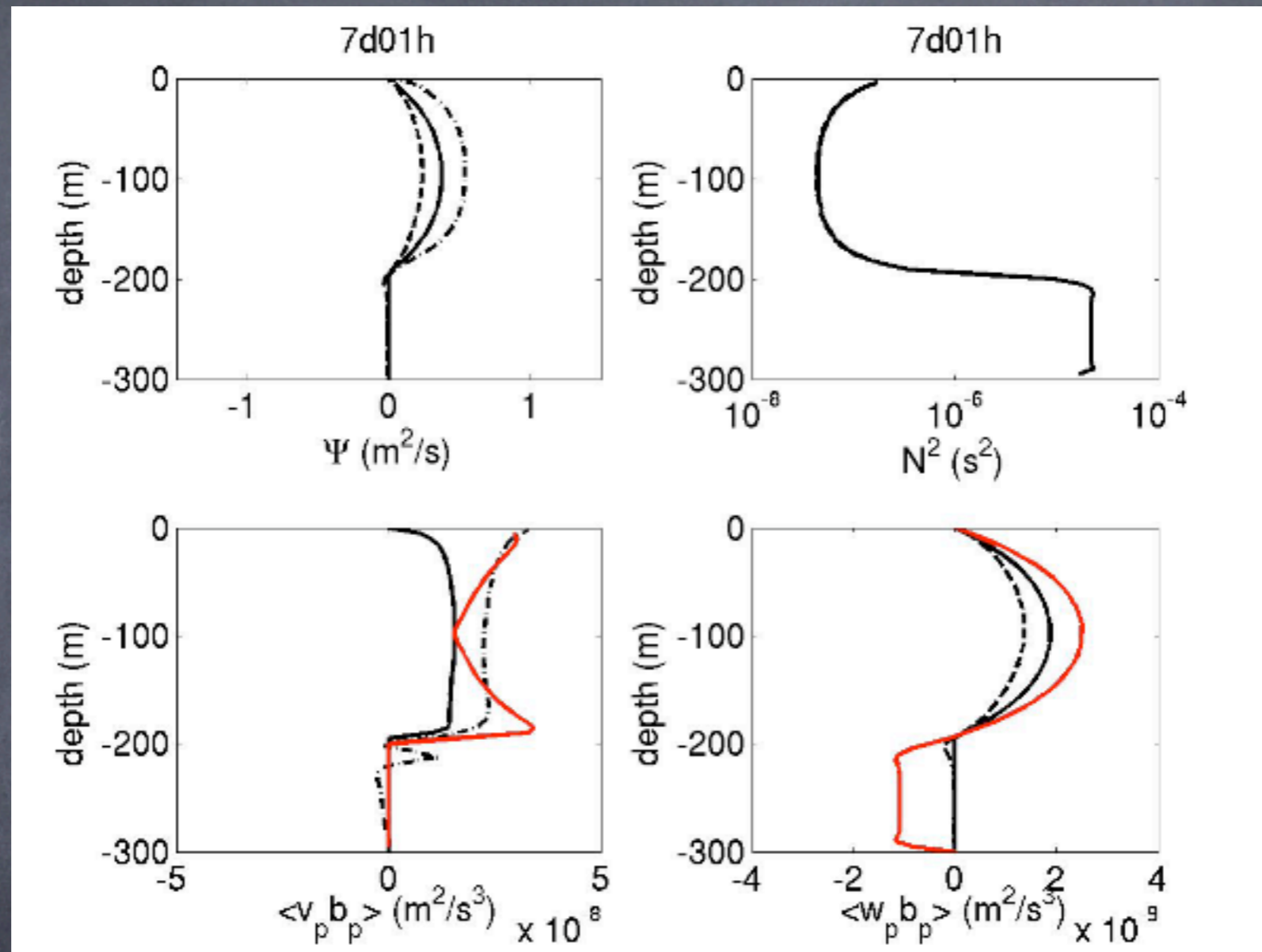
But, Agrees with Deep Convection Studies:
Jones & Marshall (93,97), Haine & Marshall (98)

'Diffusive' Corrections



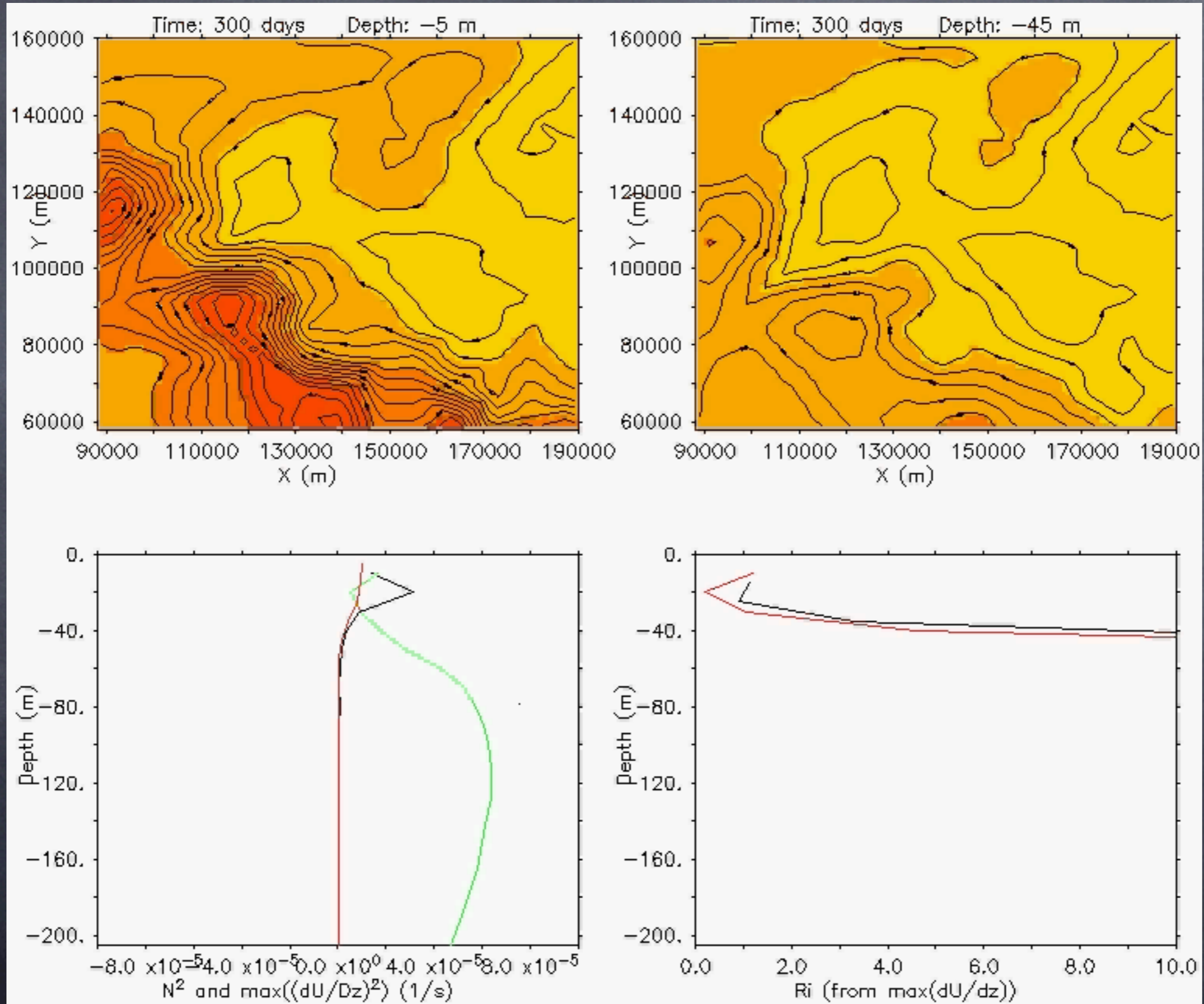
- Horiz. gives leftovers (vb only).
- Vert. reduces ML base density jump (mostly wb)

'Diffusive' Corrections



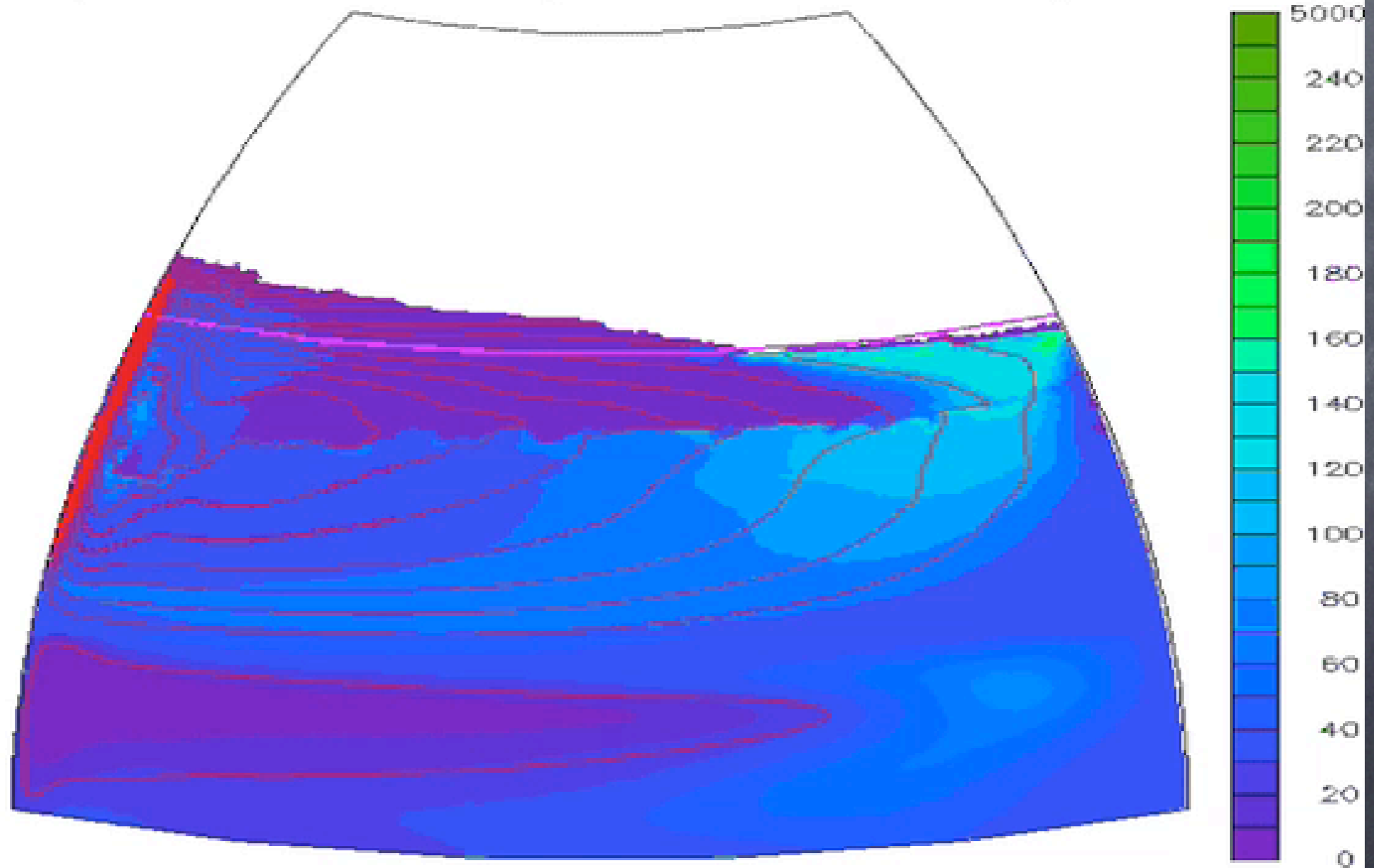
- Horiz. gives difference in Streamfcts (vb only).
- Vert. reduces ML base density jump (wb only).

Zooming In

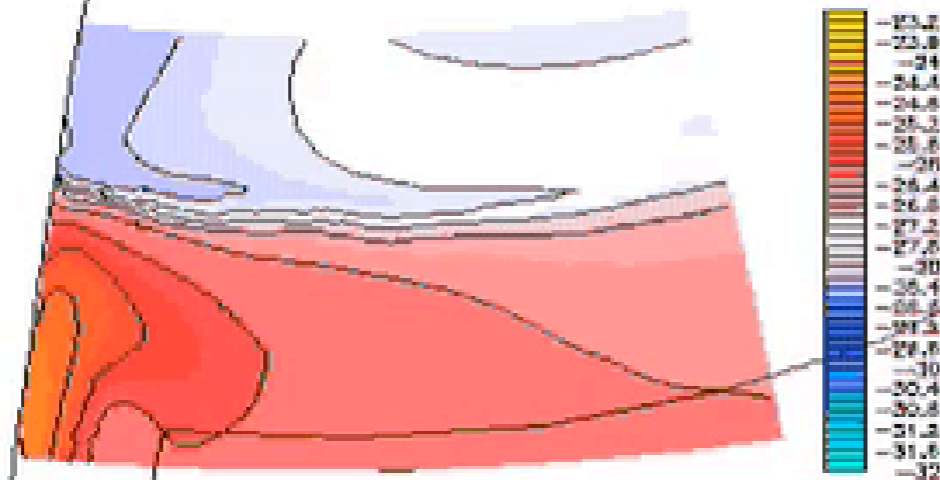


How I got into ML Stuff

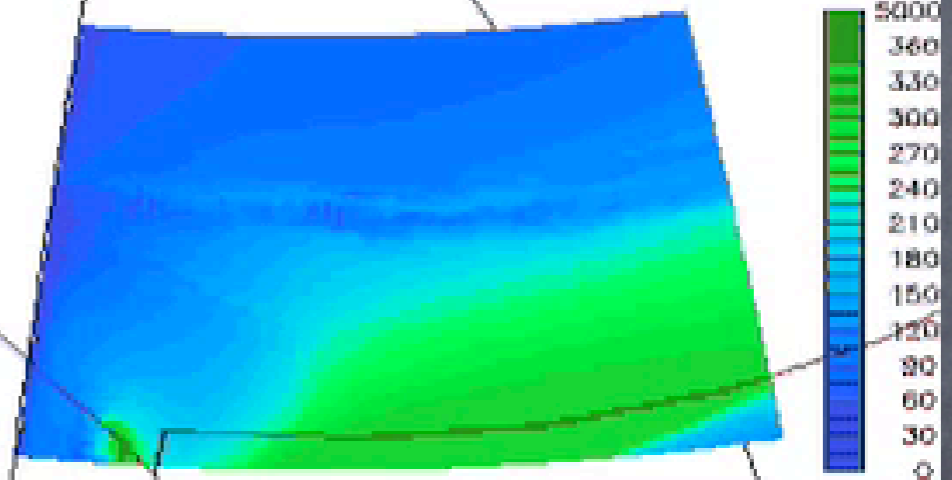
Layer 9, $T=750.08$ yrs., $\text{Rho}=1026.6\text{kg m}^{-3}$



How I got into ML Stuff



Buoyancy Forcing, $T=750.08$ y



Flux out of ML, $T=750.08$ y

