

Lecture 2b:

Nocturnal (Stable) Atmospheric Boundary Layers

H. J. Fernando

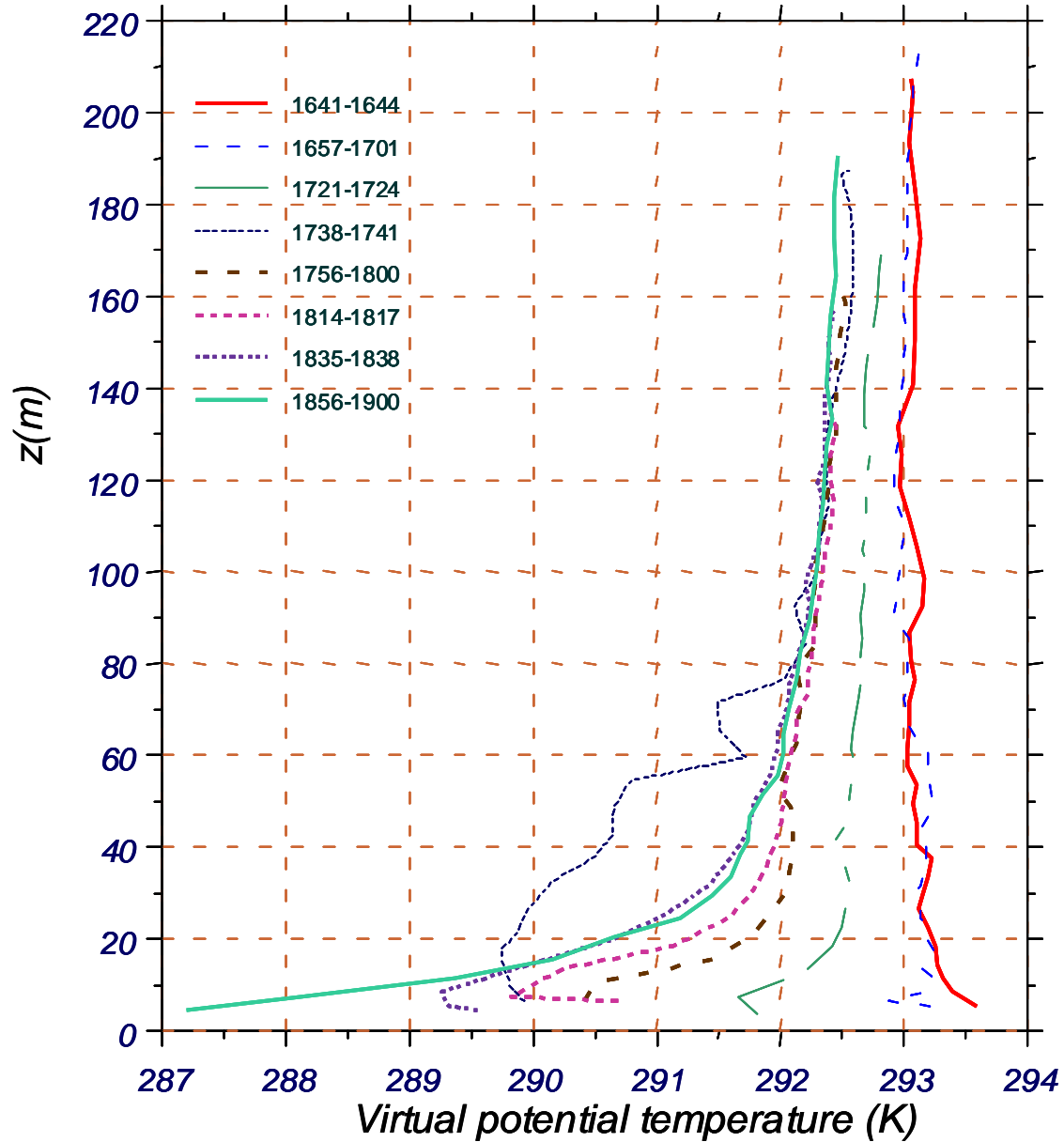
Arizona State University

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial z} < 0; \quad \frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial z} > 0; \quad \overline{b'w'} < 0$$

Stable Boundary Layer



Nocturnal PBL



Critical Values for Instabilities

$$\frac{D(TKE)}{Dt} = -\overline{u_i u_j} \frac{\partial \bar{U}_i}{\partial x_j} + \overline{b' w'} \dots$$

\downarrow
 < 0

$$Ri = \frac{N^2}{\left(\frac{d\bar{U}}{dz}\right)^2} = \frac{\left(\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial z}\right)^2}{\left(\frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial z}\right)^2} < Ri_{cr}$$

Miles & Howard (1961, JFM) ; $Ri > 0.25$ – sufficient for stability; < 0.25 necessary for unstable

Ababarnel et al. (1984, PRS); $Ri > 1$ – Stable

Miles (1987, Phys. Fluids) -- same

Stable Stratification -- Characterization

$$Ri = \frac{N^2}{\left(\frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial z}\right)} = \frac{\left(\frac{\partial \bar{b}}{\partial z}\right)^2}{\left(\frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial z}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial \bar{V}}{\partial z}\right)^2} = \frac{\frac{g}{\Theta} \left(\frac{\partial \bar{\theta}}{\partial z}\right)}{\left(\frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial z}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial \bar{V}}{\partial z}\right)^2}$$

Small Ri causes sporadic instabilities and turbulent patches

Scales

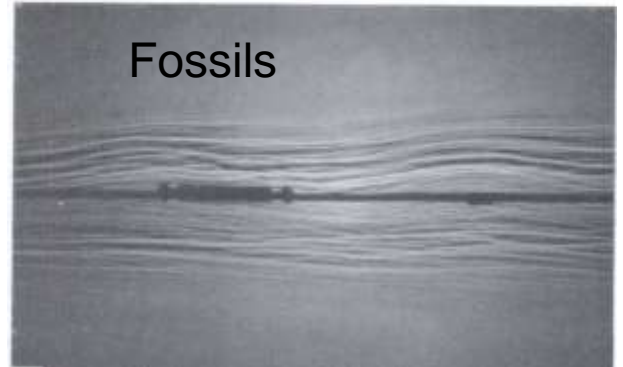
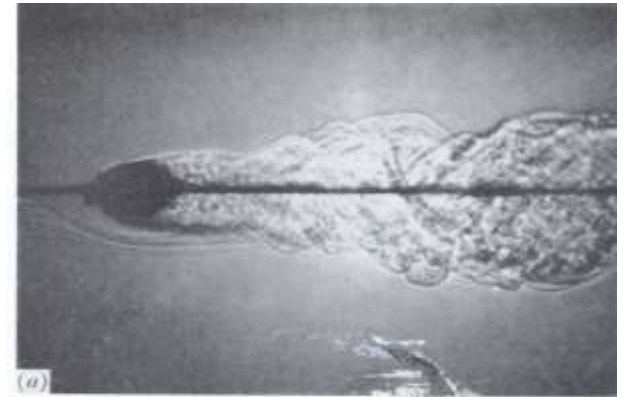
$$L_b = \frac{U_v}{N}$$

$$L_b \sim \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{N^3} \right)^{1/2} = L_R$$

Ozmidov

$$\varepsilon \sim \frac{U_v^3}{L_b}$$

$$L_R \sim L_b \sim L_K$$



Fossils

H.P. Pao/Boeing

$$\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu N^2} = 10 - 30 \approx 25$$

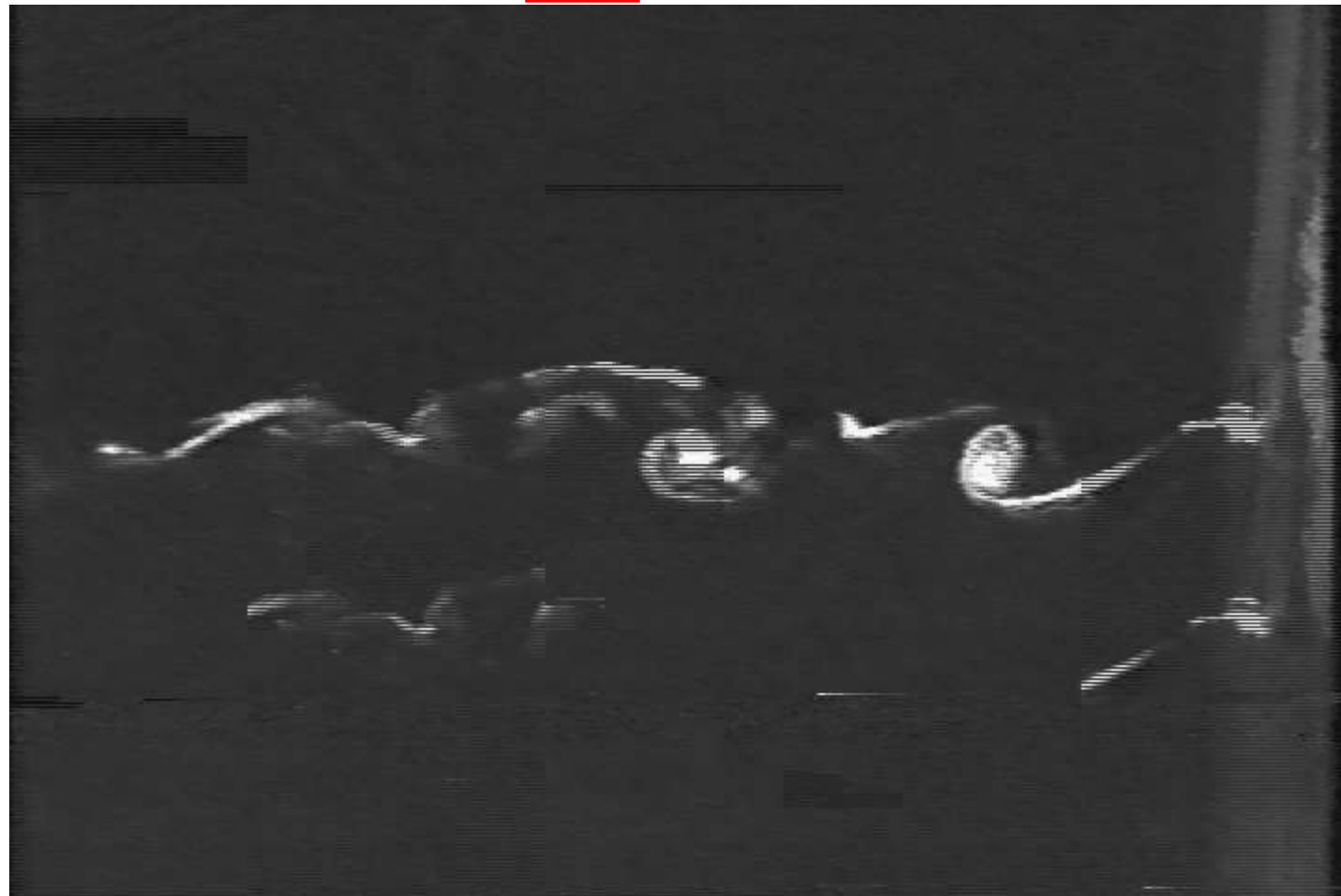
Gibson's
Fossilization

Plumes - Stable



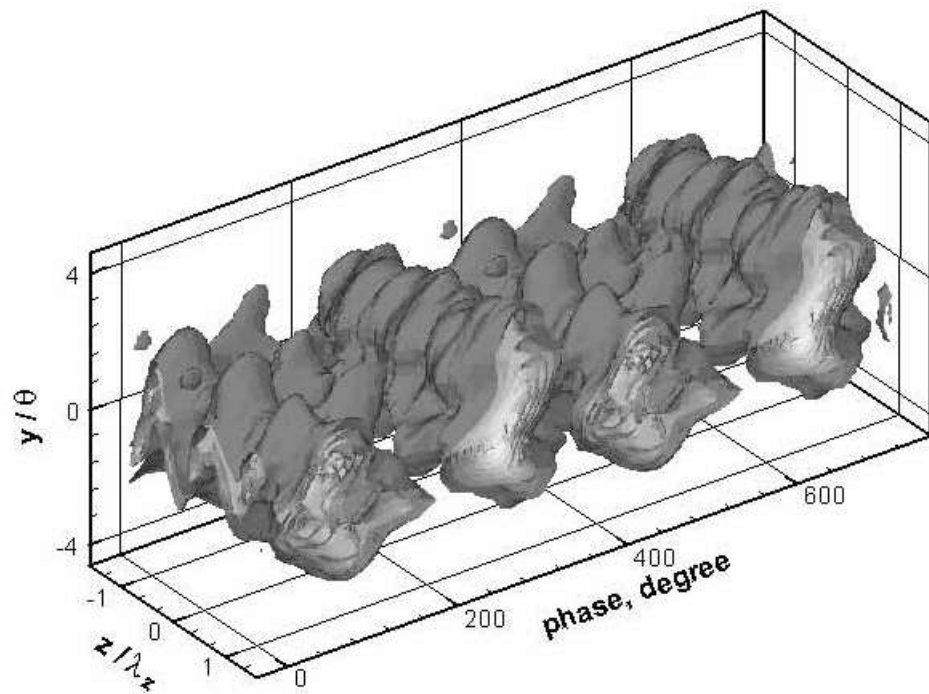
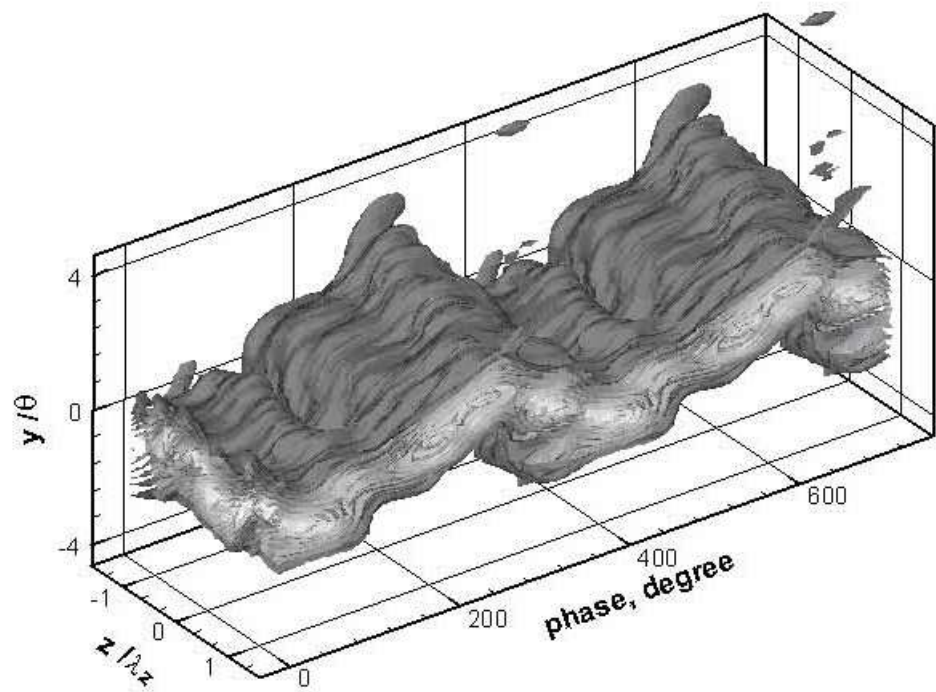
Instabilities in Stratified Shear Layers

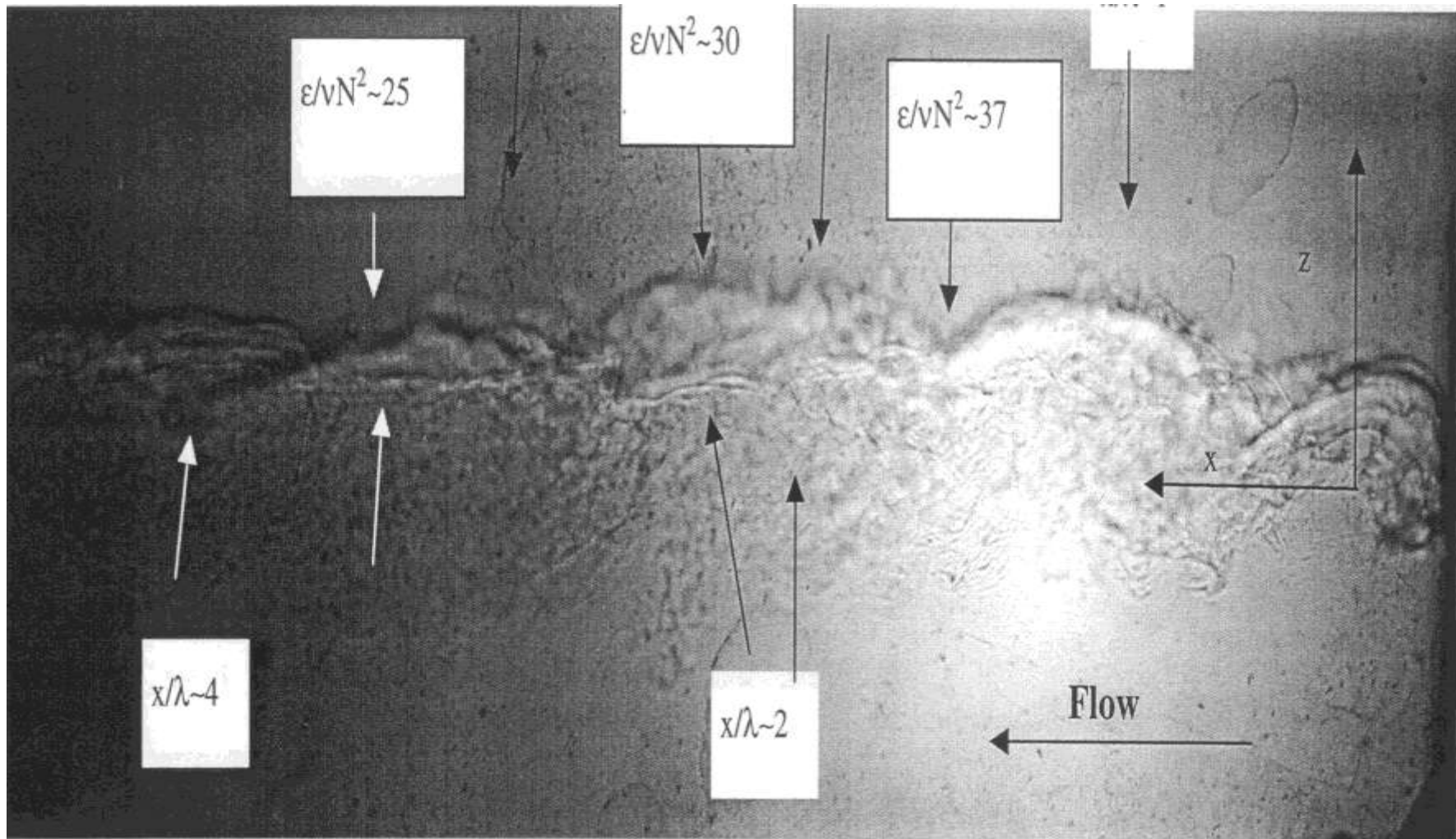
Slow

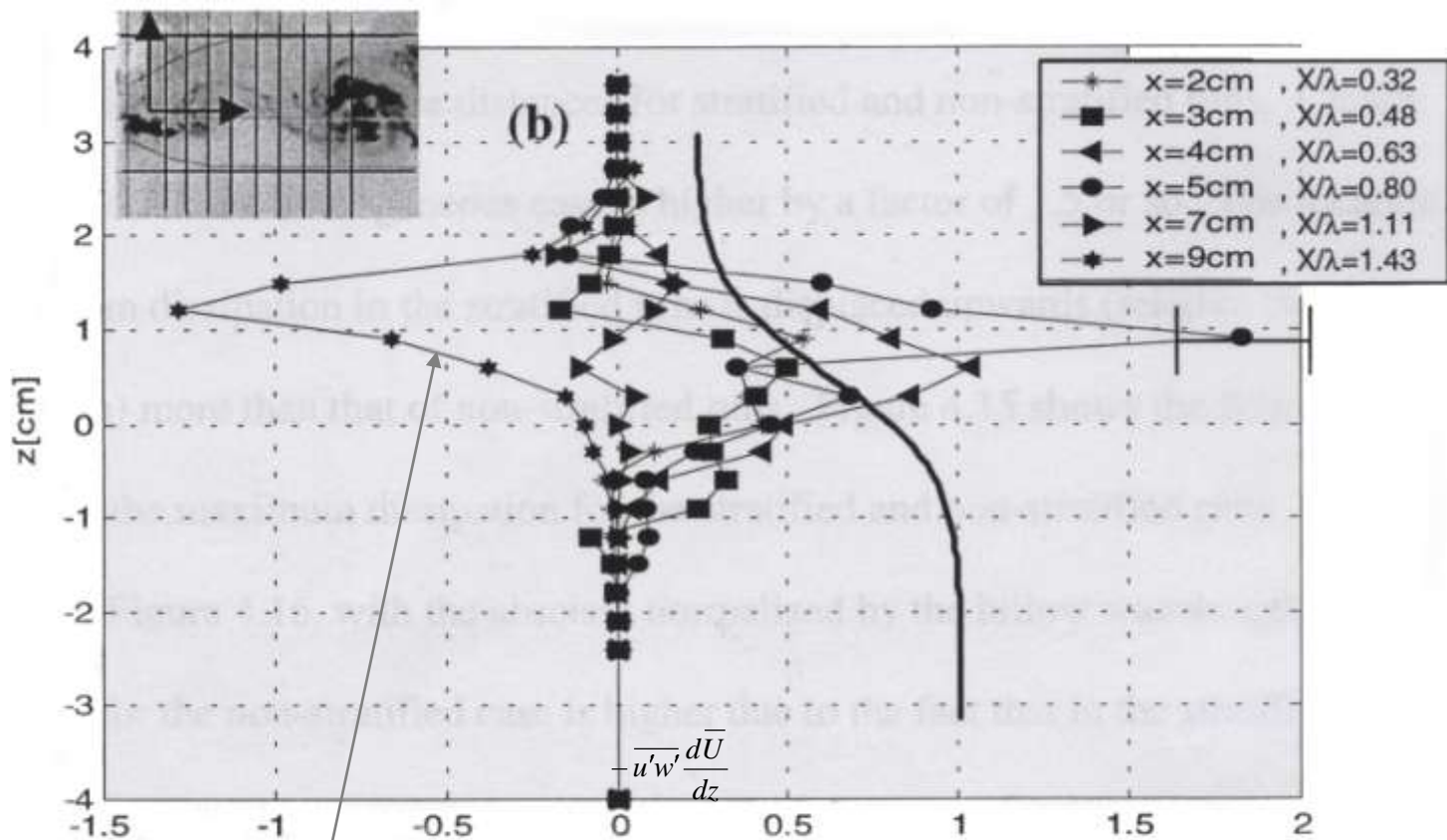
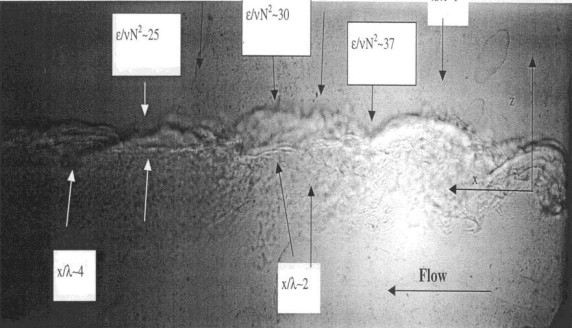


Faster

Rotter, Fernando & Kit, Physics of Fluids, 19, 2007.





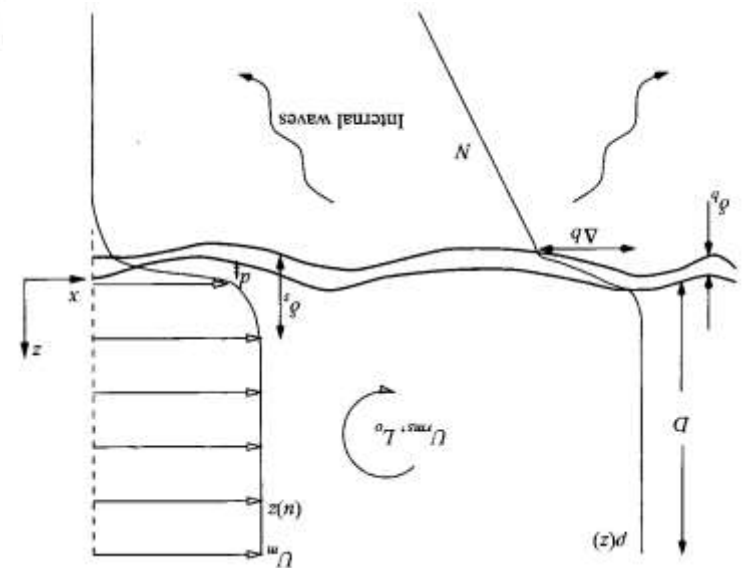
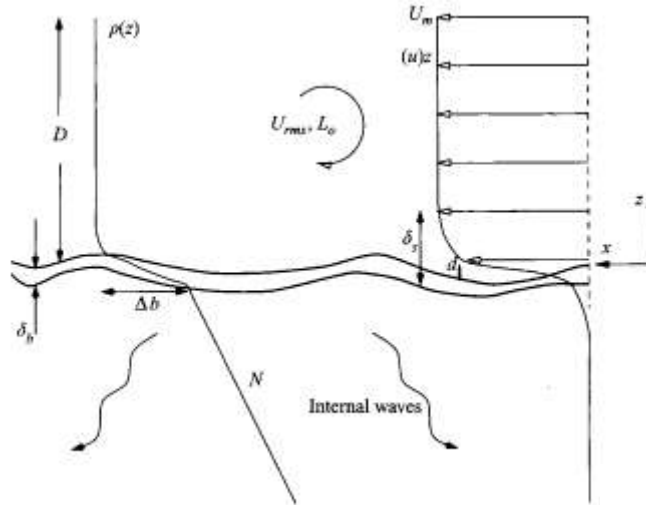


$$-u'w' \frac{dU}{dz} < 0$$

Theory/Laboratory Profiles

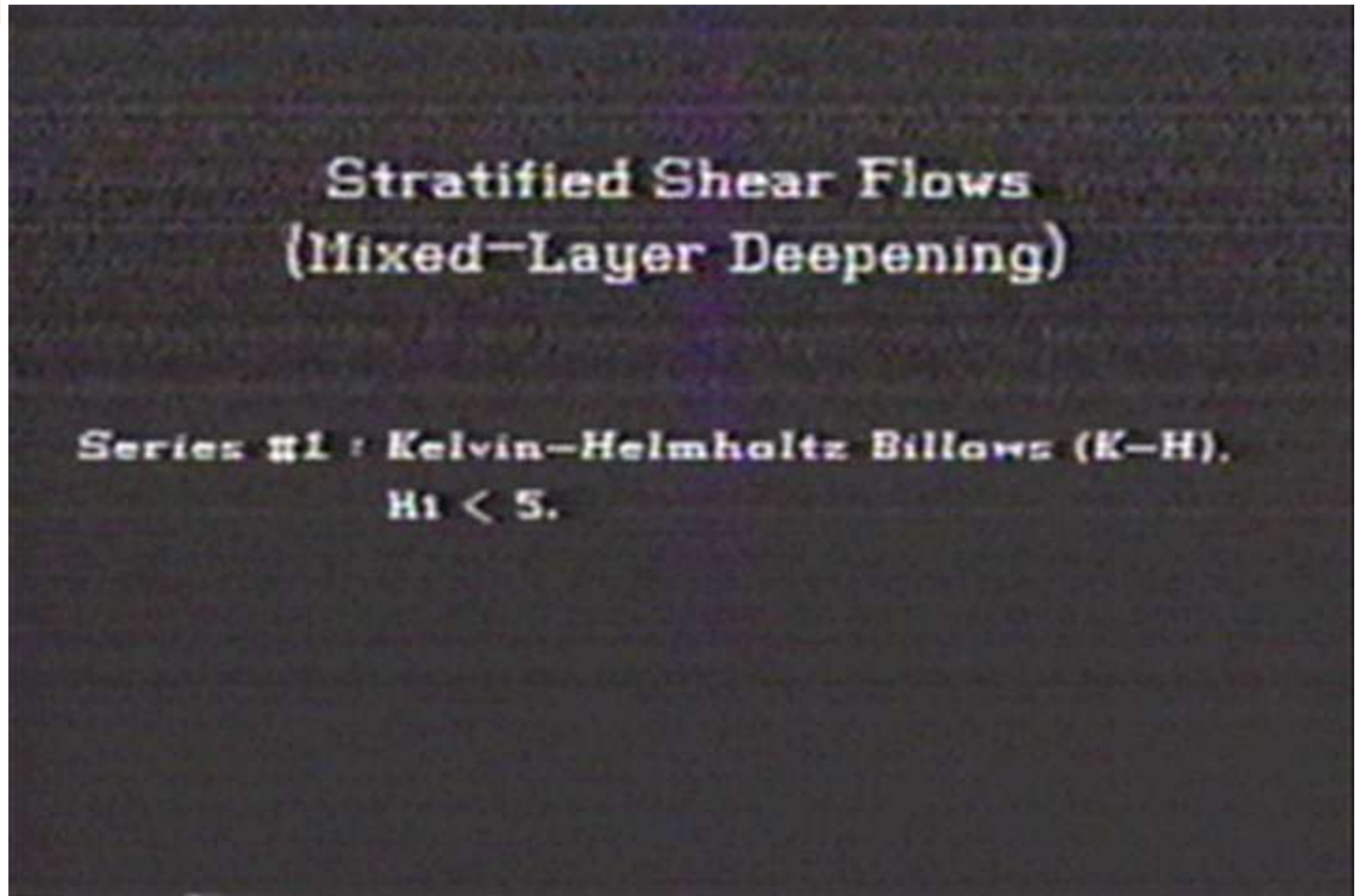
$$Ri = \frac{\Delta b D}{U^2}$$

$$\overline{Ri}_g = \frac{N^2}{(d\bar{U}/dz)^2}$$



Stratified Shear Flow (Lab)

$$Ri_g < 1$$



(Strang & Fernando, Journal of Fluid Mechanics, 2001)

Stratified Shear Flow #2

$$Ri_g \approx 1$$

Series #2 : K-H and Wave Breaking, $H_1 = 5$.

K-H and Resonant waves

Stratified Shear Flow #3

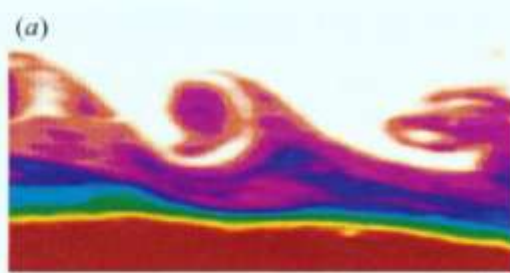
$$Ri_g > 1$$

Series #3 : Holmboe Waves, $Hi > 5$ and $\delta_s/\delta_b > 1$.

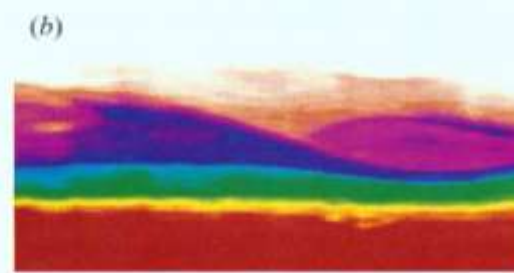
Holmboe Instabilities

Mechanisms of Entrainment

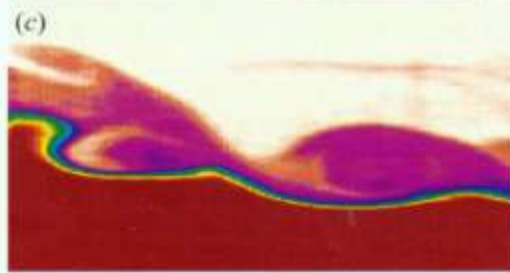
(a) $\overline{Rig} = 0.12$



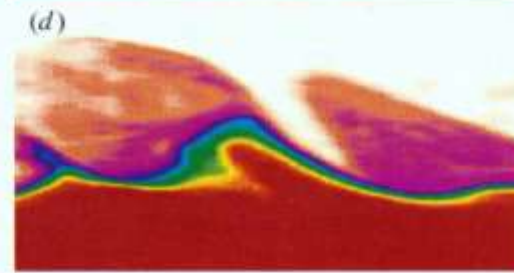
(b) $\overline{Rig} = 0.36$



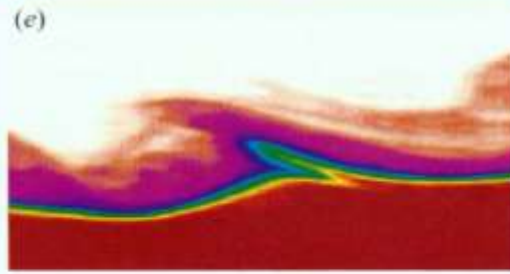
(c) $\overline{Rig} = 0.83$



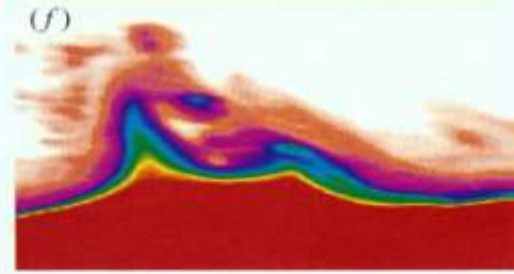
(d) $\overline{Rig} = 1.21$



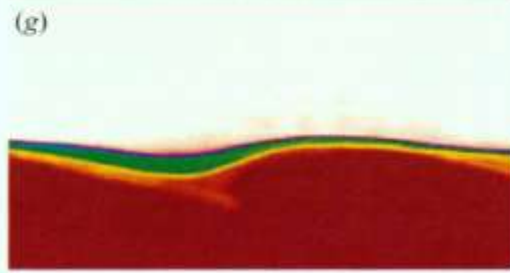
(e) $\overline{Rig} = 1.21$



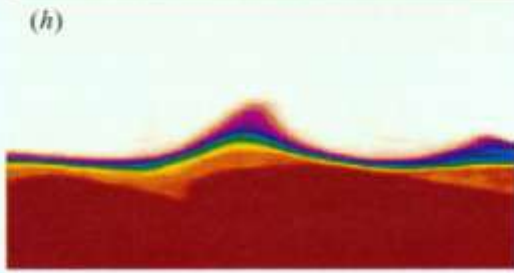
(f) $\overline{Rig} = 1.78$



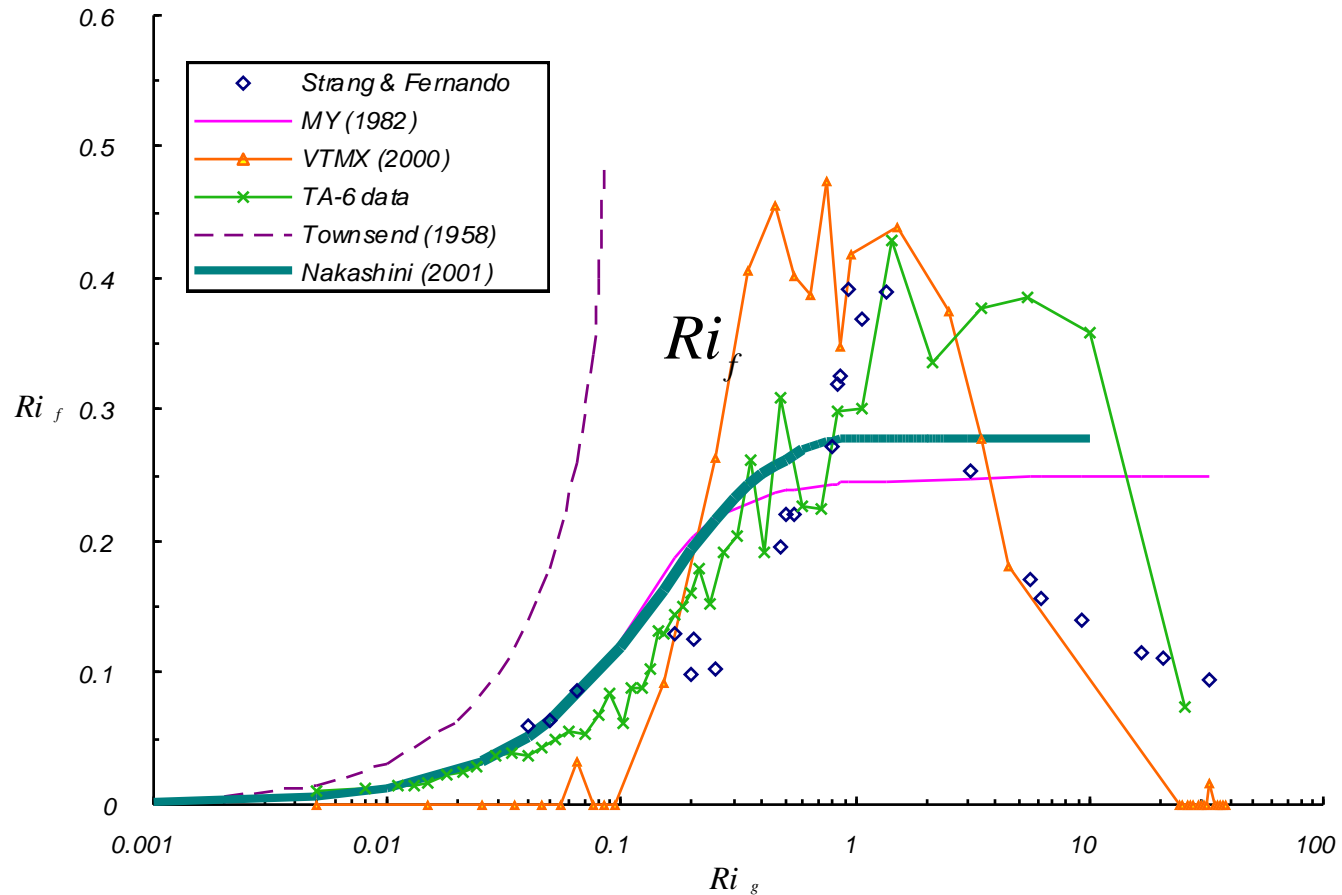
(g) $\overline{Rig} = 2.82$



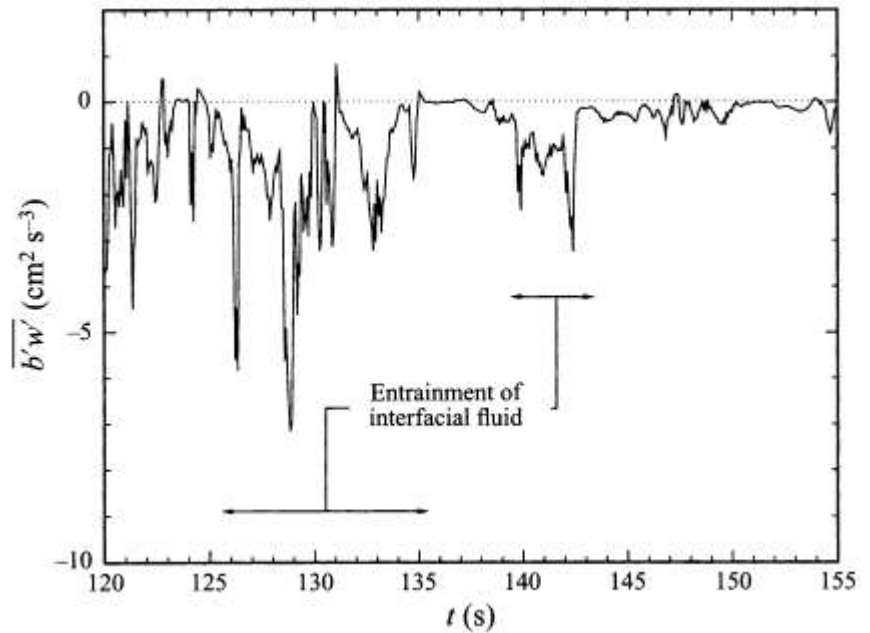
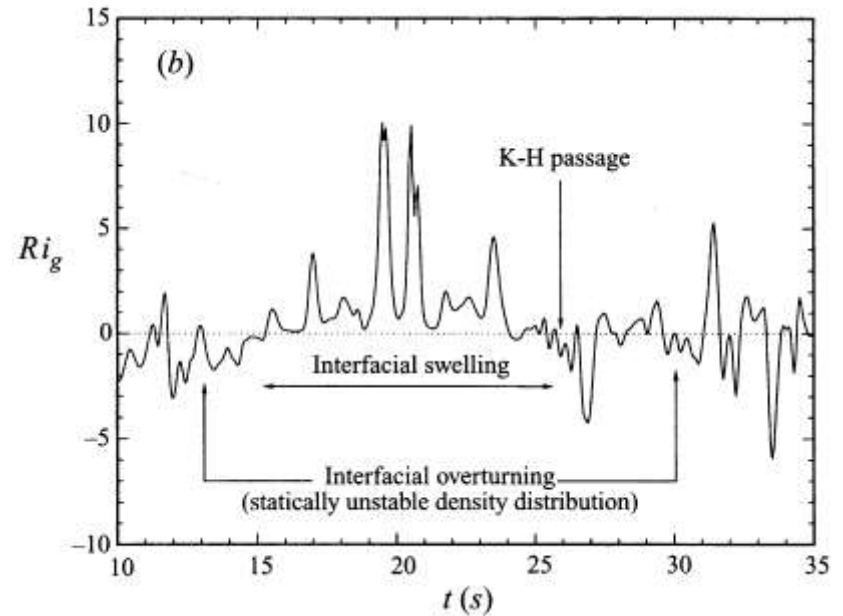
(h) $\overline{Rig} = 2.82$



Flux versus Gradient Richardson Numbers



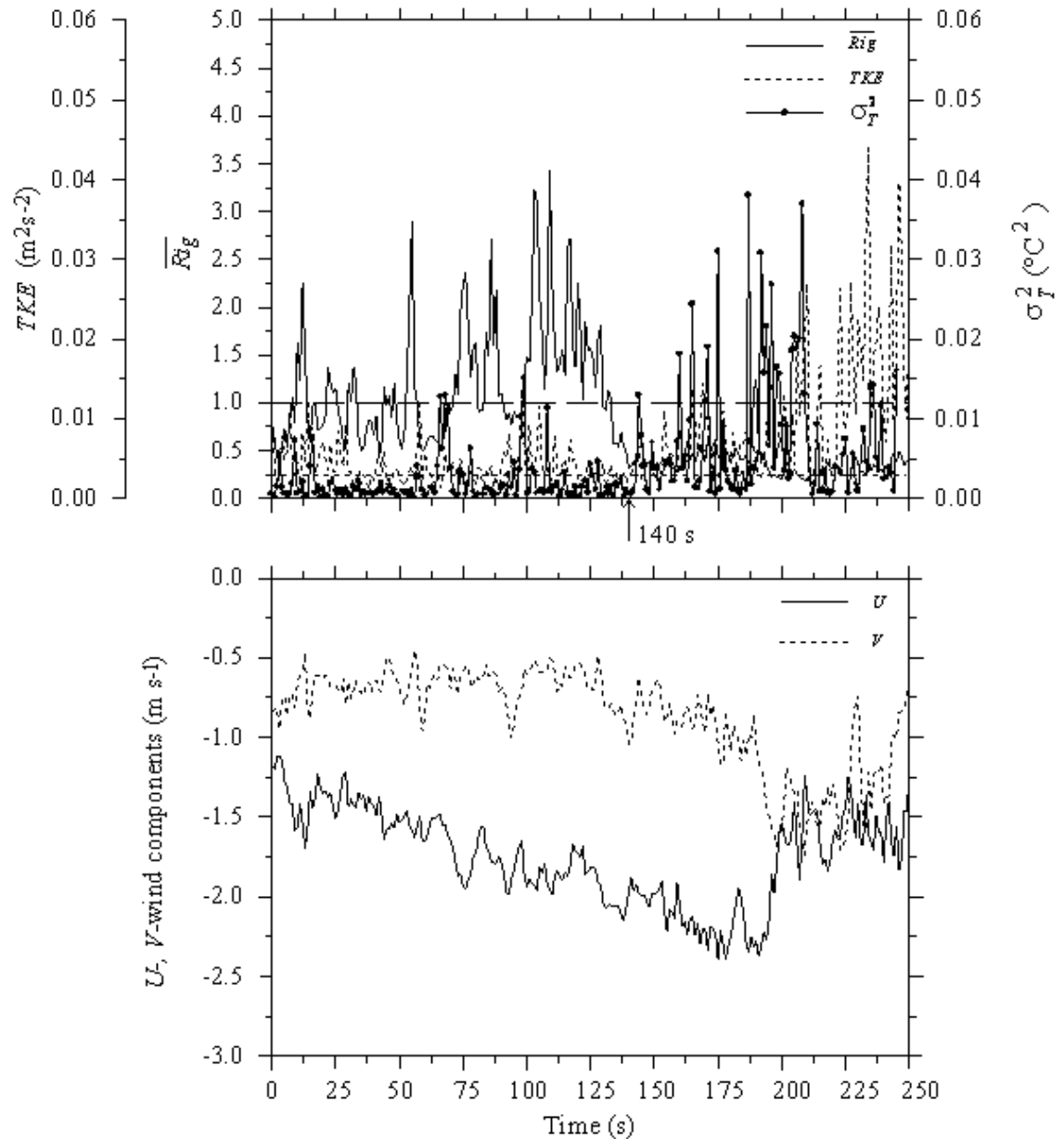
Interfacial Measurements



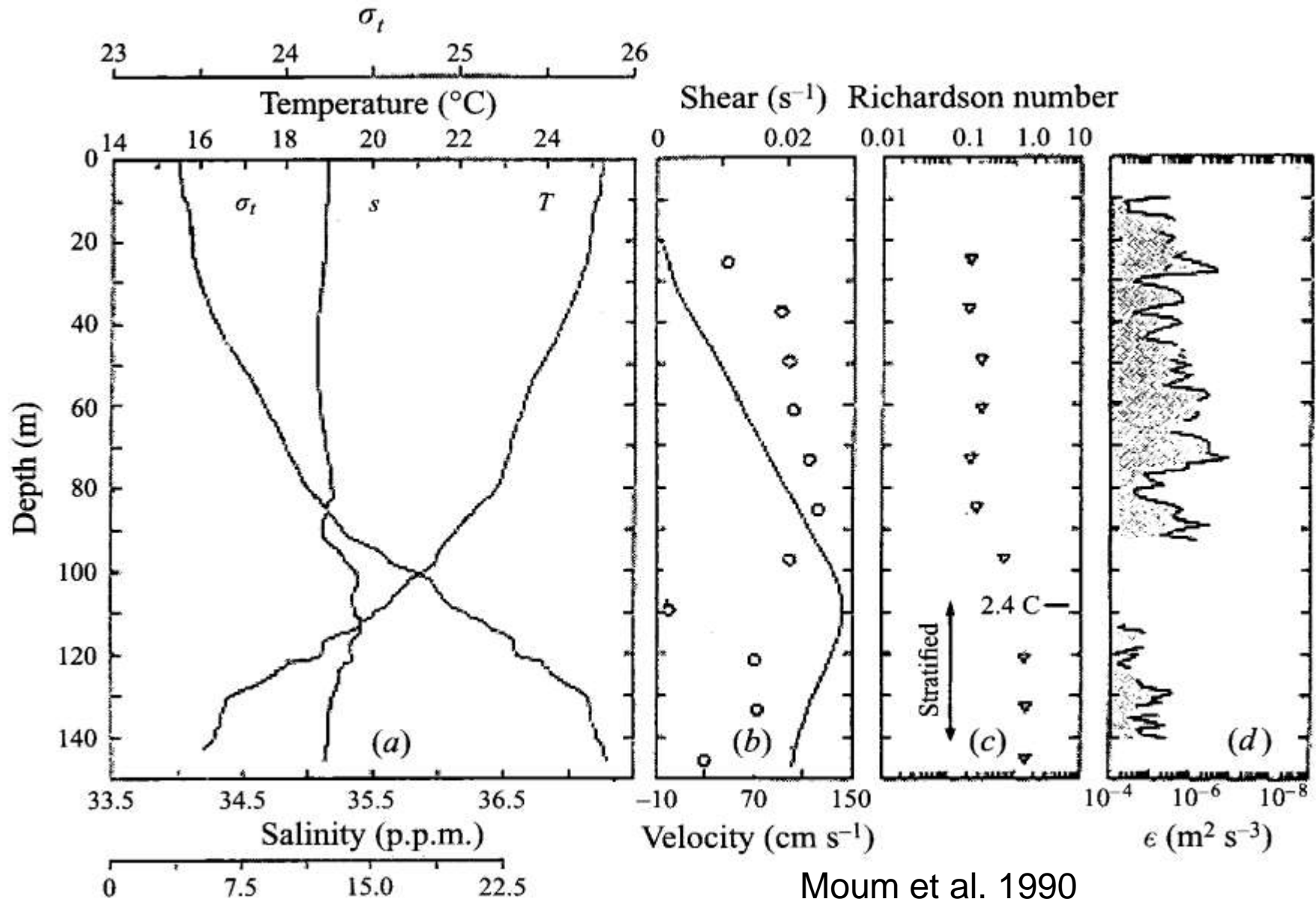
Turbulence in ABL

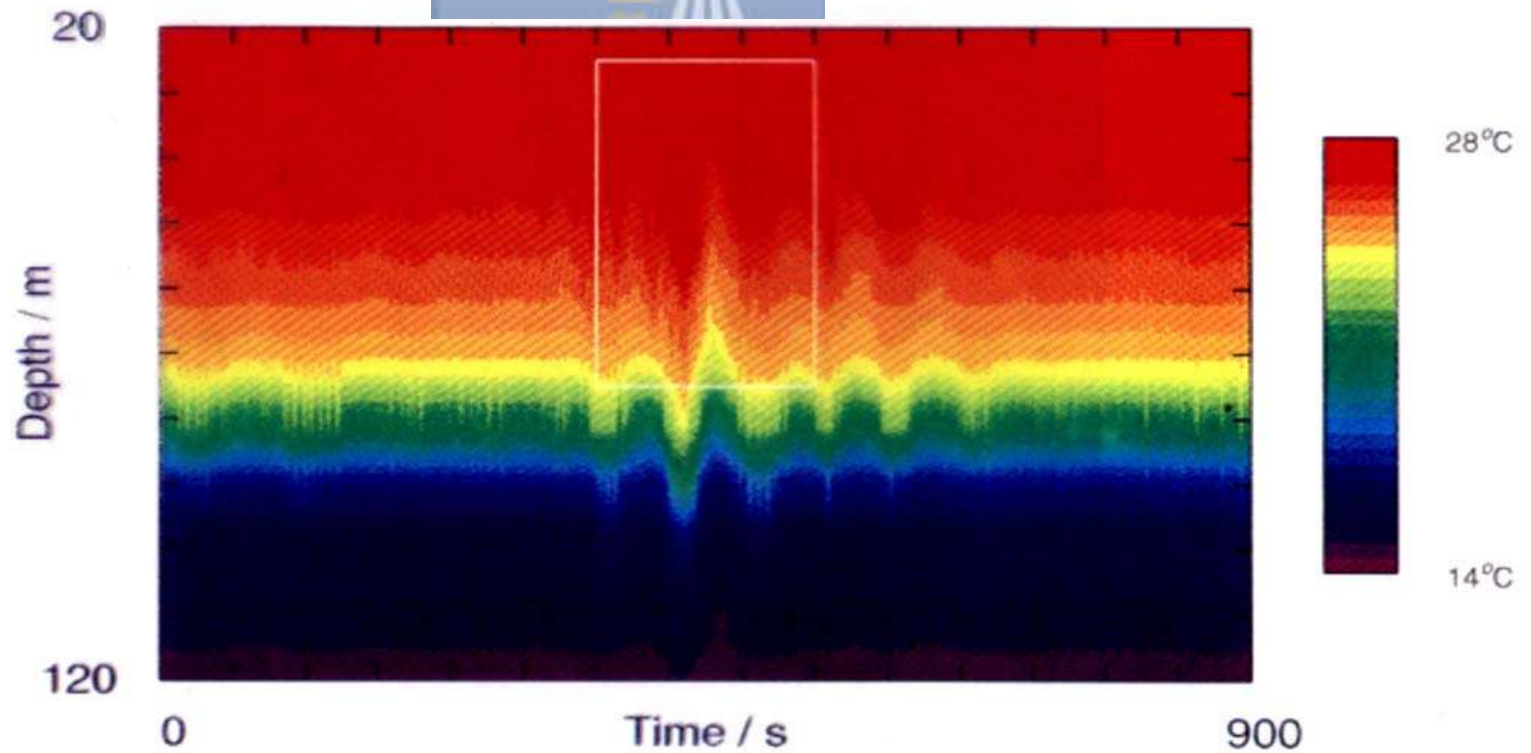


**Global
Intermittency**

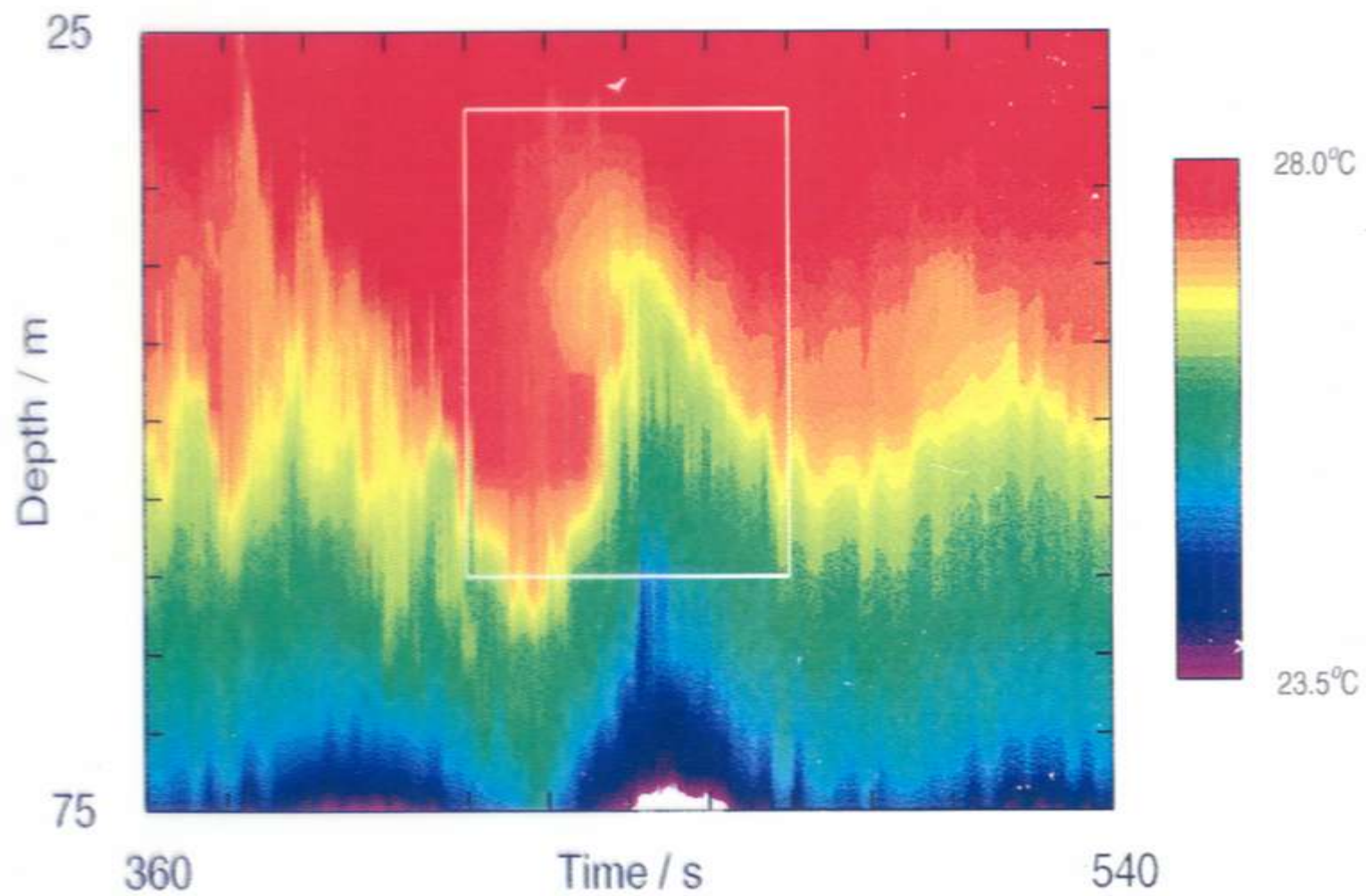


Oceans: Daytime Vertical Profile - Equatorial Undercurrent



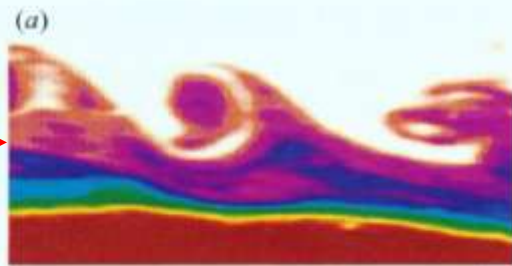
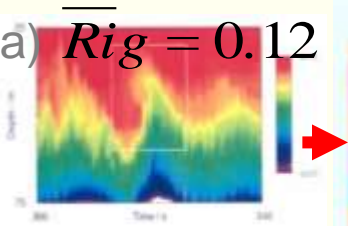


DeSilva, Fernando, Hebert & Eaton,
Earth Planetary Sci. Lett. , 1996

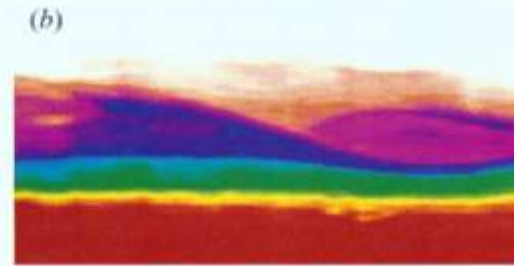


Mechanisms of Entrainment

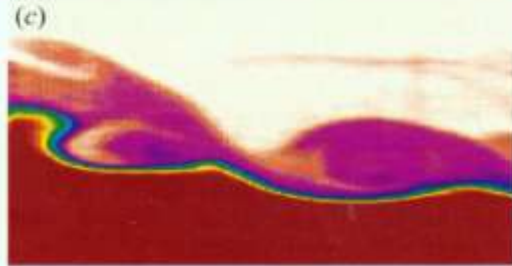
(a) $\overline{Rig} = 0.12$



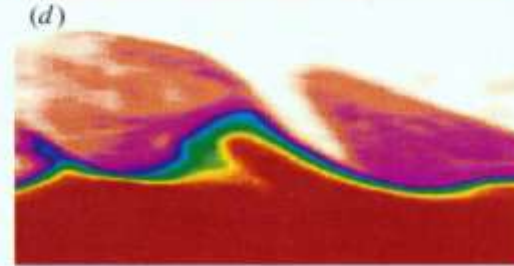
(b) $\overline{Rig} = 0.36$



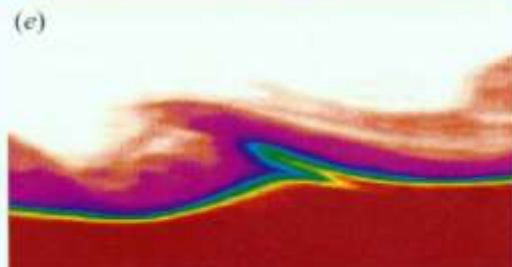
(c) $\overline{Rig} = 0.83$



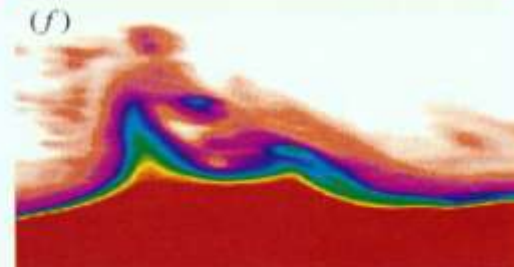
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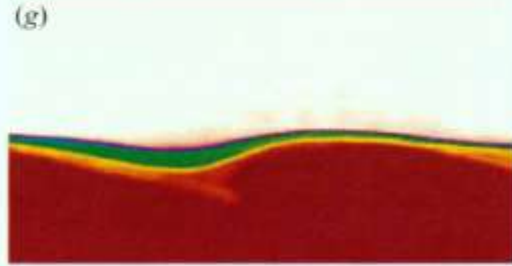
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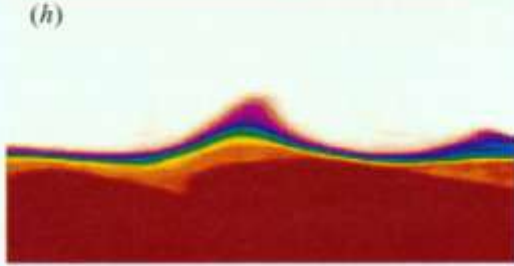
(f) $\overline{Rig} = 1.78$



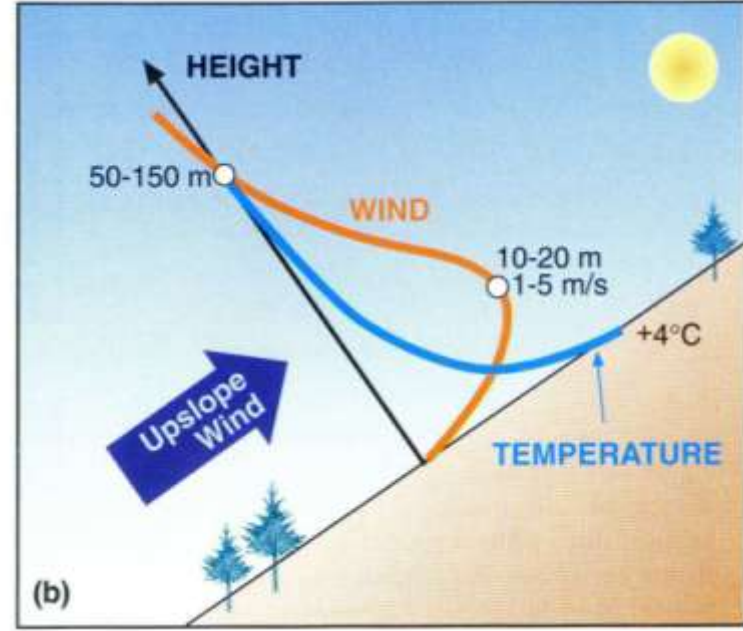
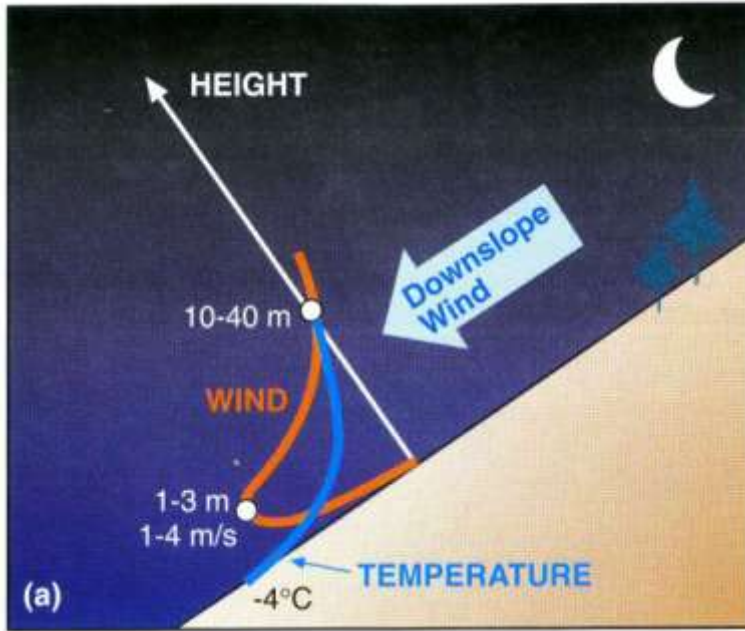
(g) $\overline{Rig} = 2.82$



(h) $\overline{Rig} = 2.82$



Complex Terrain SBL



Reproduced from *Mountain Meteorology* (2000). Courtesy of Dr. Whiteman, PNNL.

VTMX Campaign, Salt Lake City October, 2000



Desert Research Institute

Argonne National Laboratory

University of Utah

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

NOAA/Environmental Technology Laboratory

University of Massachusetts

Oregon State University

Arizona State University

National Center for Atmospheric Research

Stanford University

Brookhaven National Laboratory

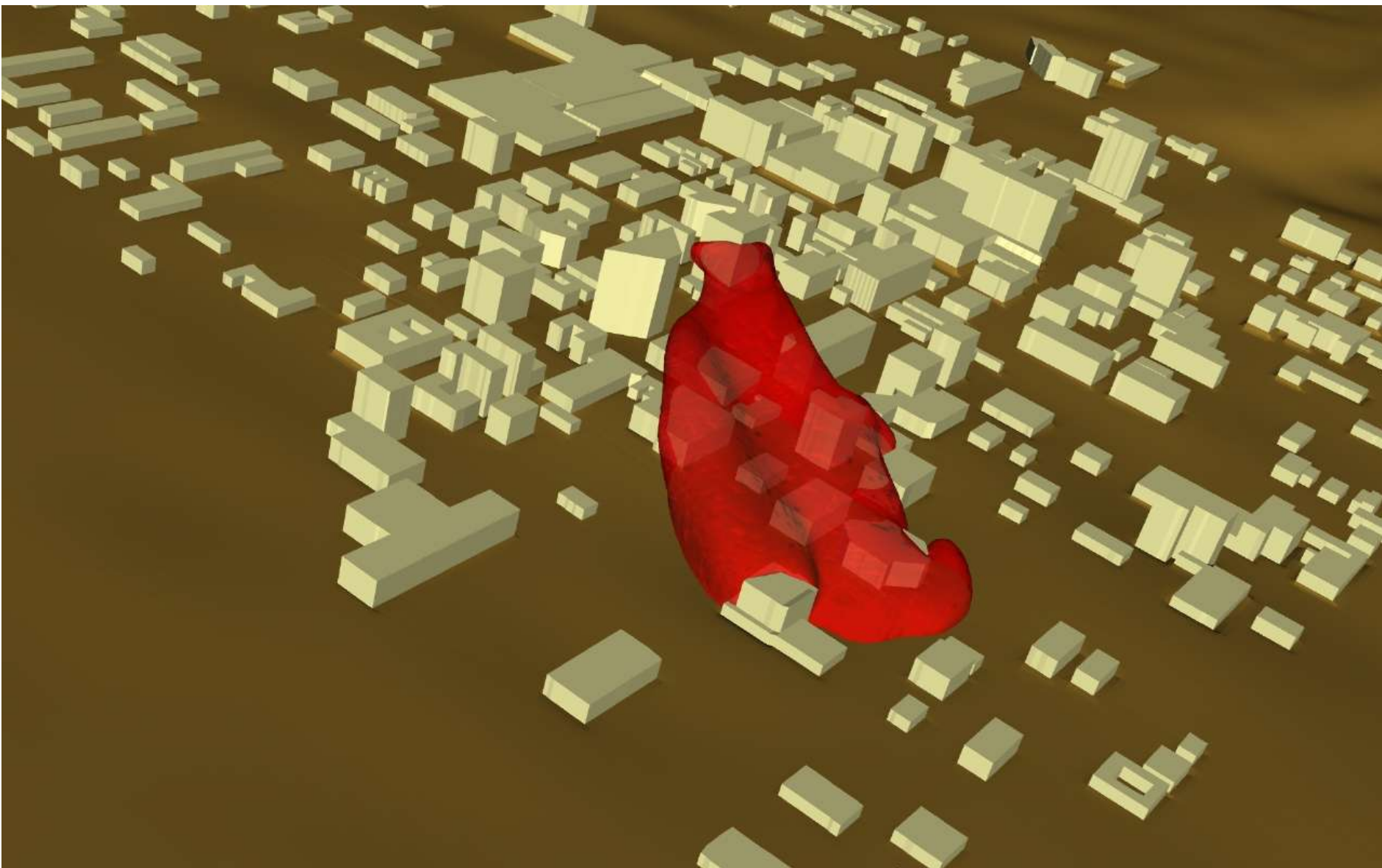
Colorado Research Associates (CoRA)

Los Alamos National Laboratory

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

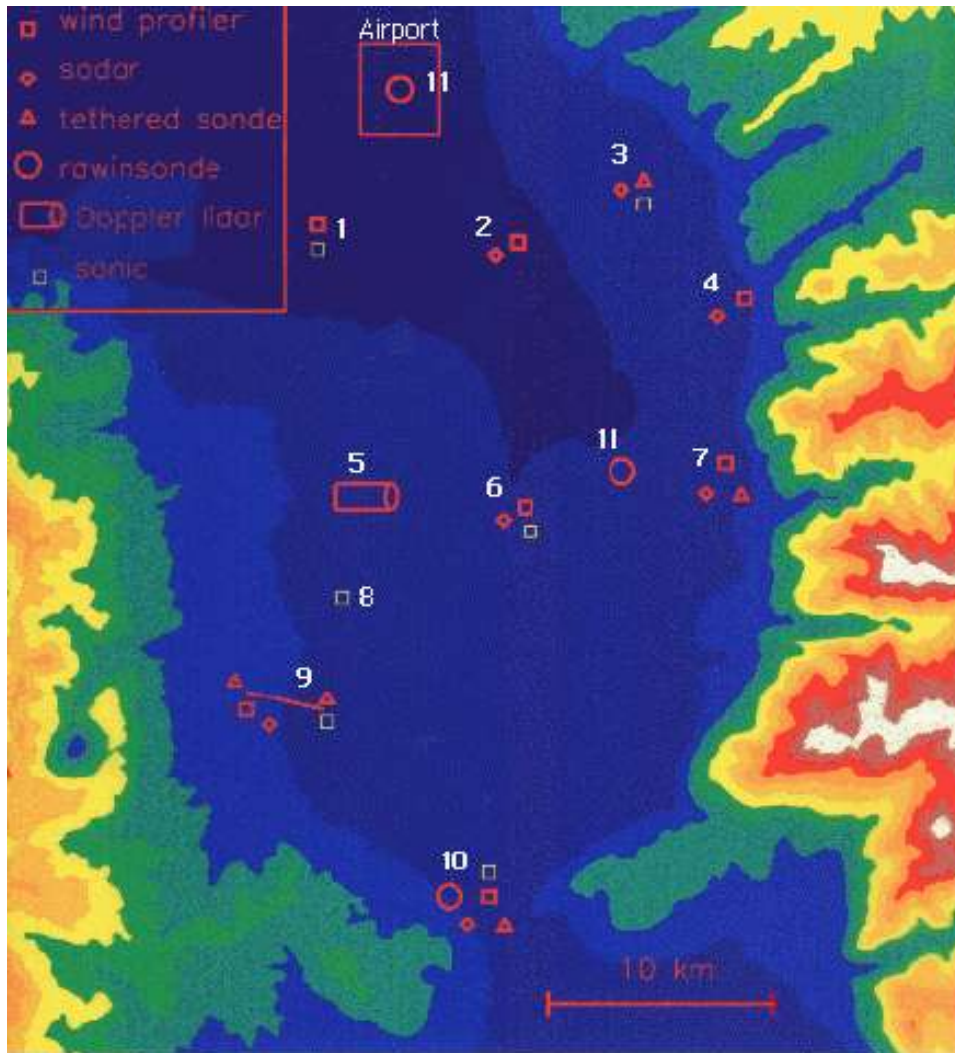
Salt Lake City





Simulated gas release in Salt Lake City. Gas plume in Red. Computer model shared with ASU by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

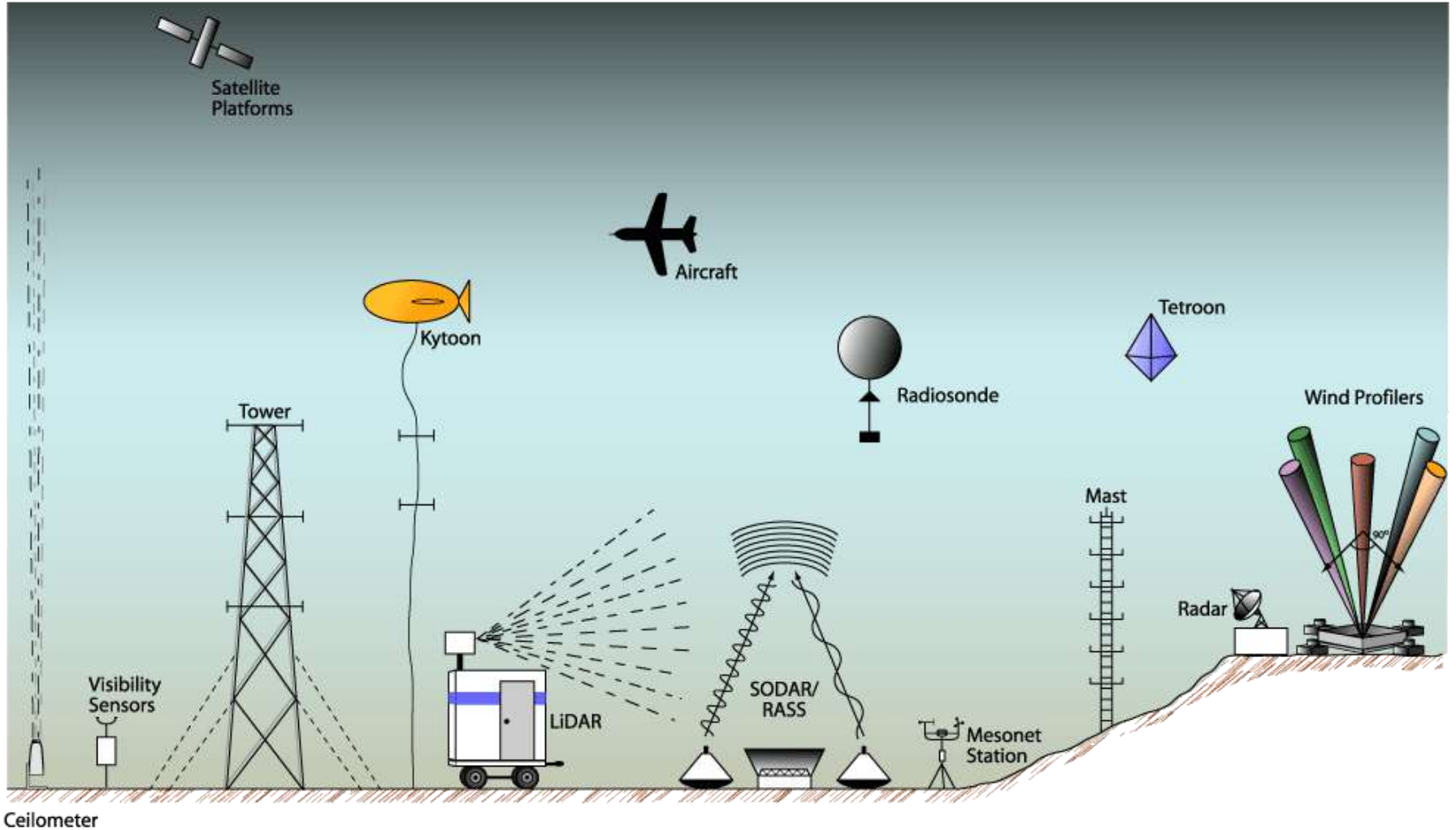
Participants and their sites



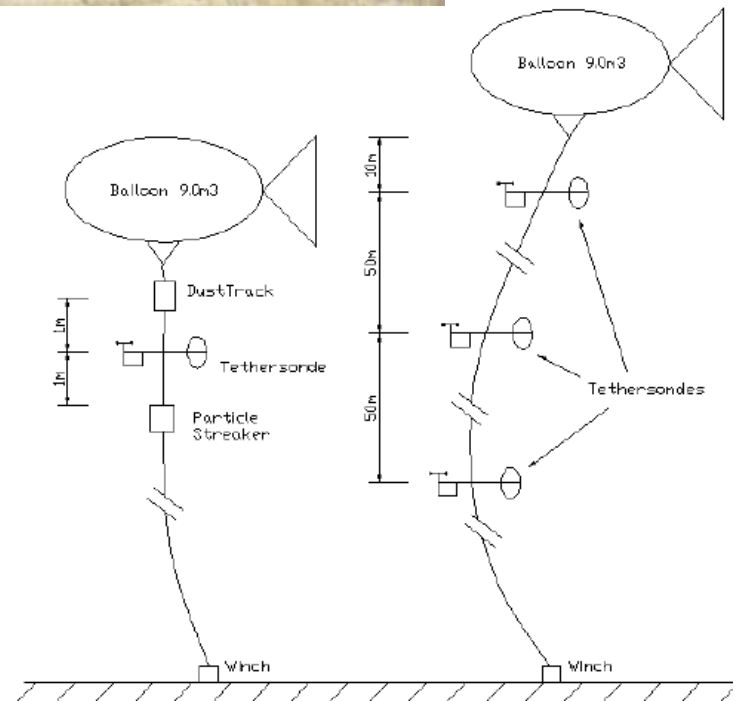
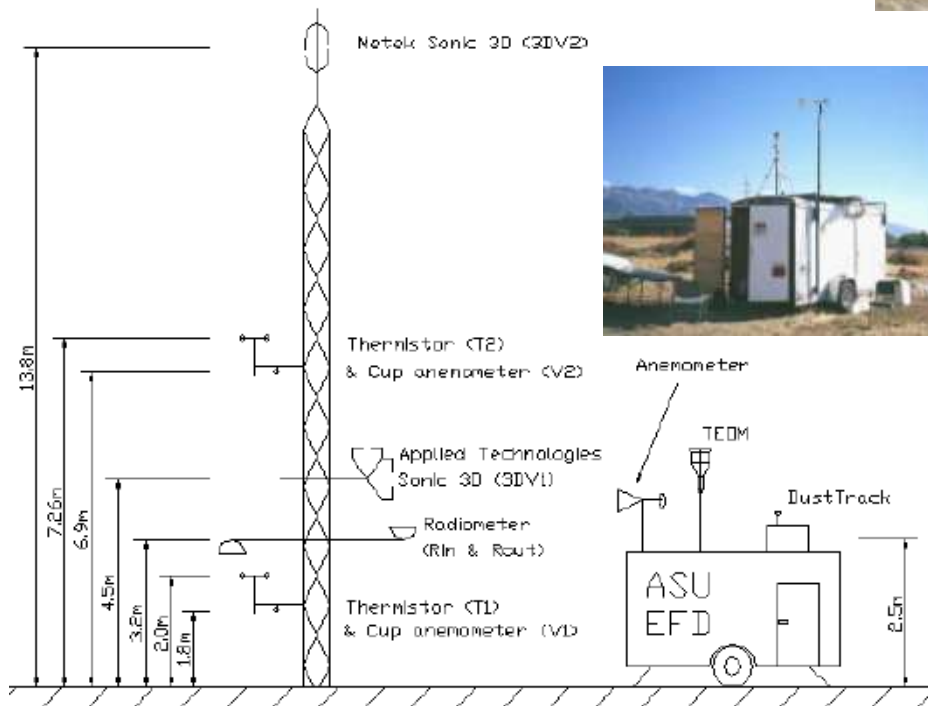
- 1- UMass
- 2- NOAA (Idaho Falls)
- 3- ASU, LLNL
- 4- LANL
- 5- NOAA (ETLab)
- 6- PNNL (Will Shaw)
- 7- ARGONNlab
- 8- NOAA (ATDD Oak Ridge)
- 9- PNNL (Dave Whiteman)
- 10- NCAR
- 11- NWS

from: <http://www.met.utah.edu/vtmx/>

A Typical Field Experiment



VTMX ASU Equipment



Network



sodar

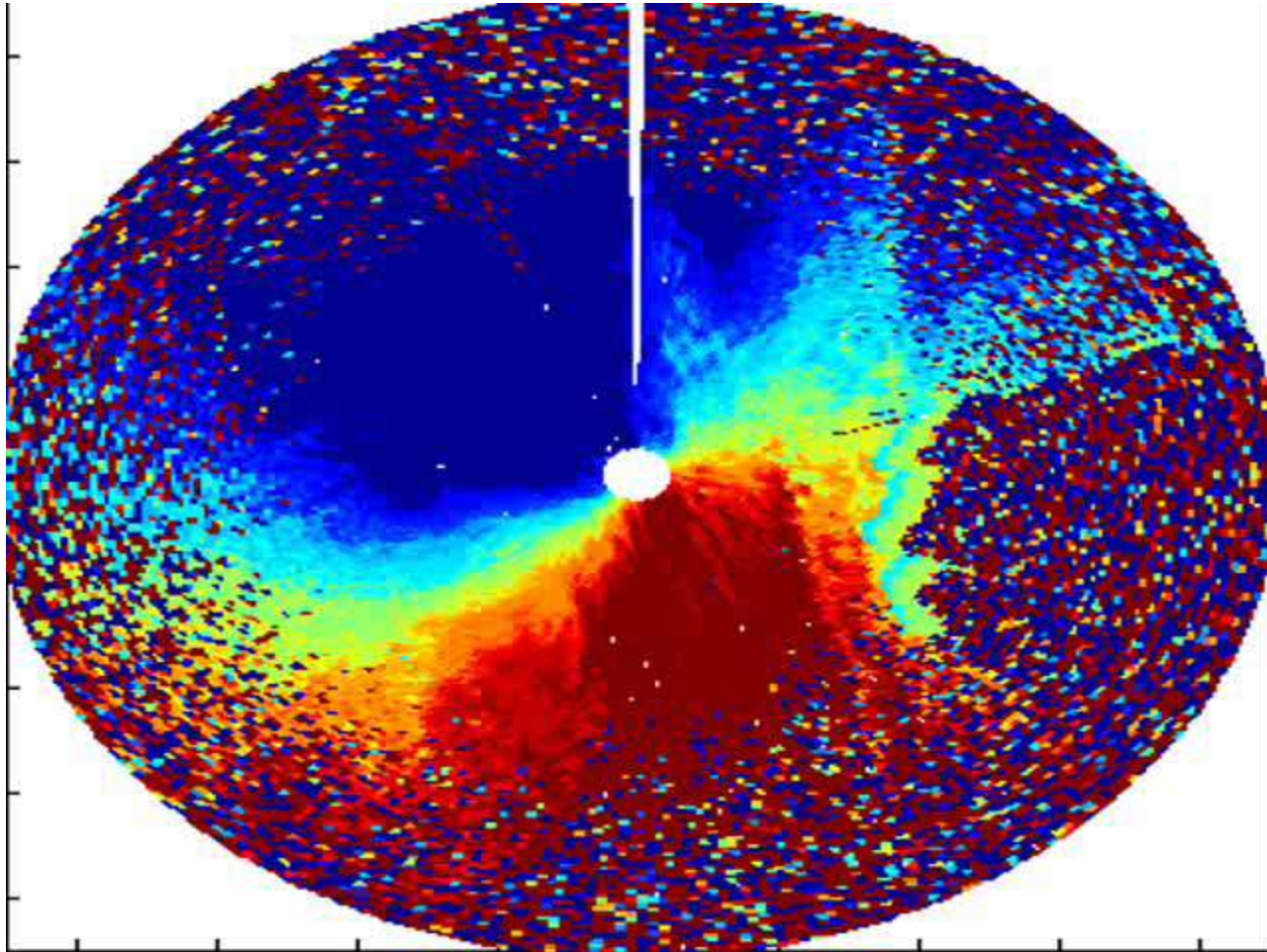
ceilometer

radar

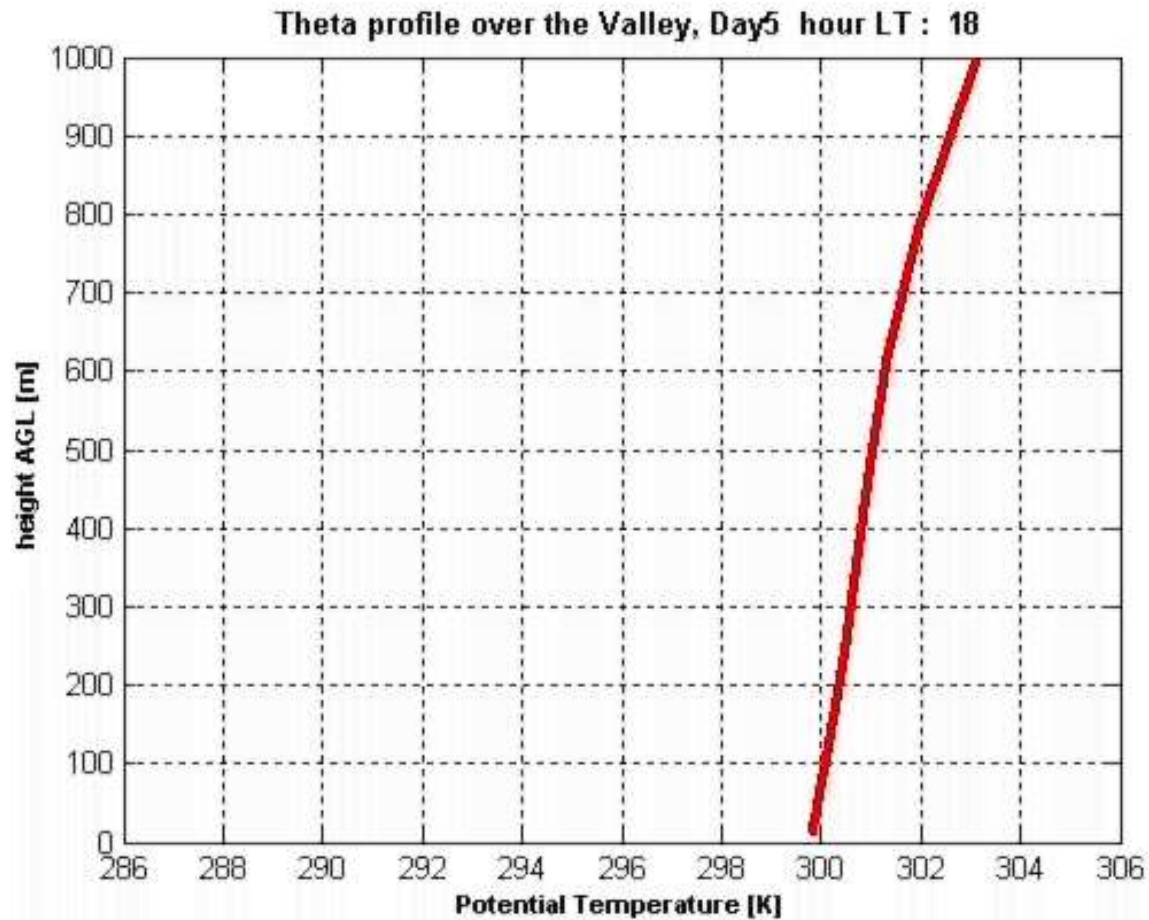
ASU Doppler Lidar



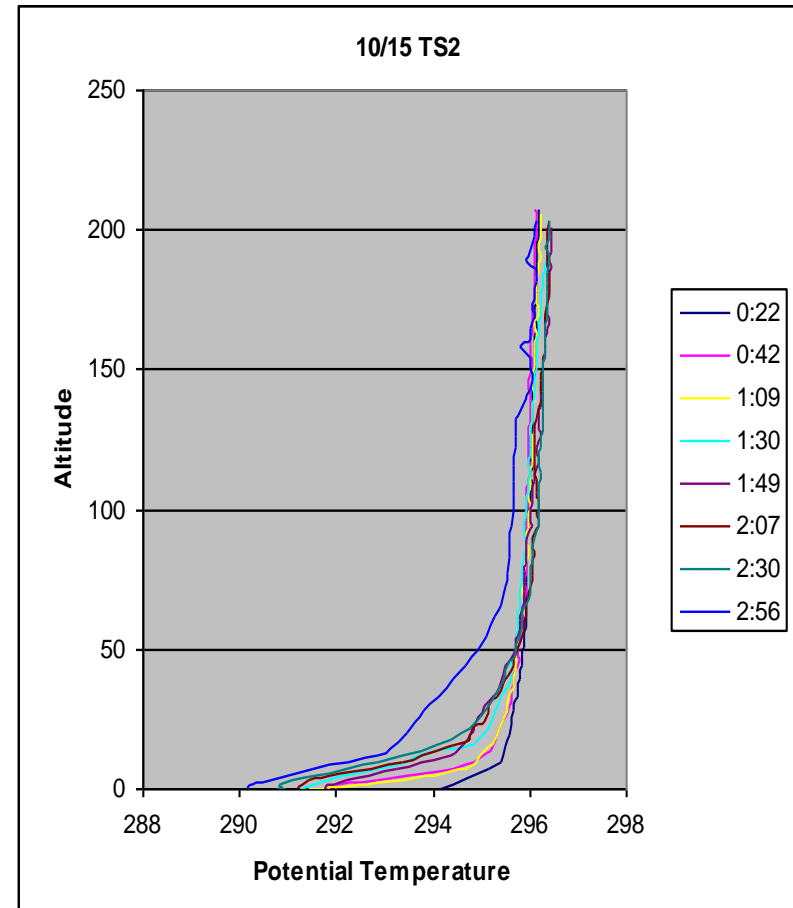
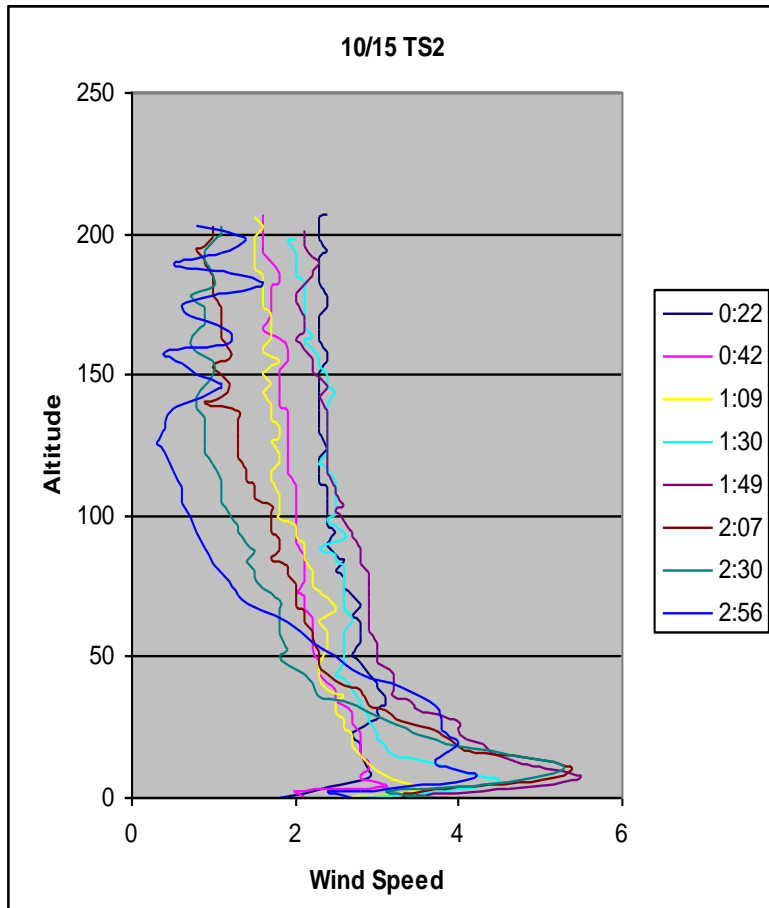
Wind Fields



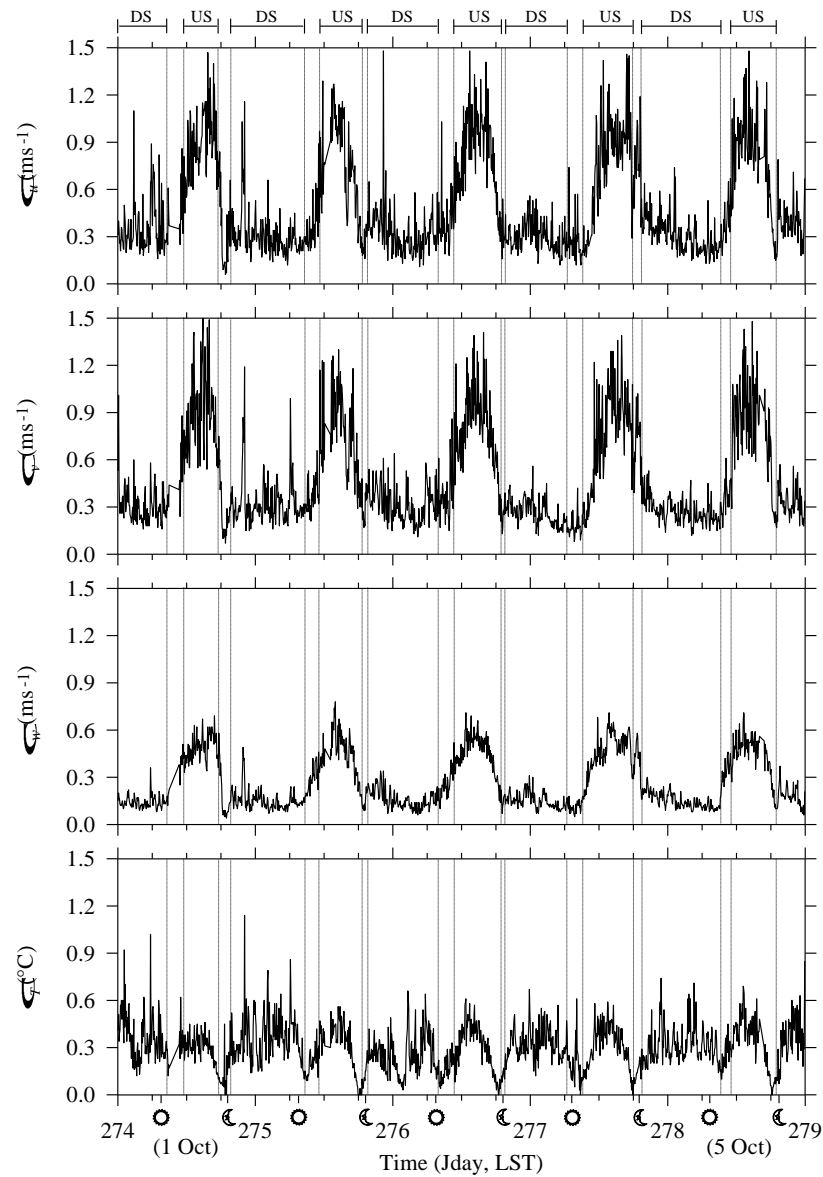
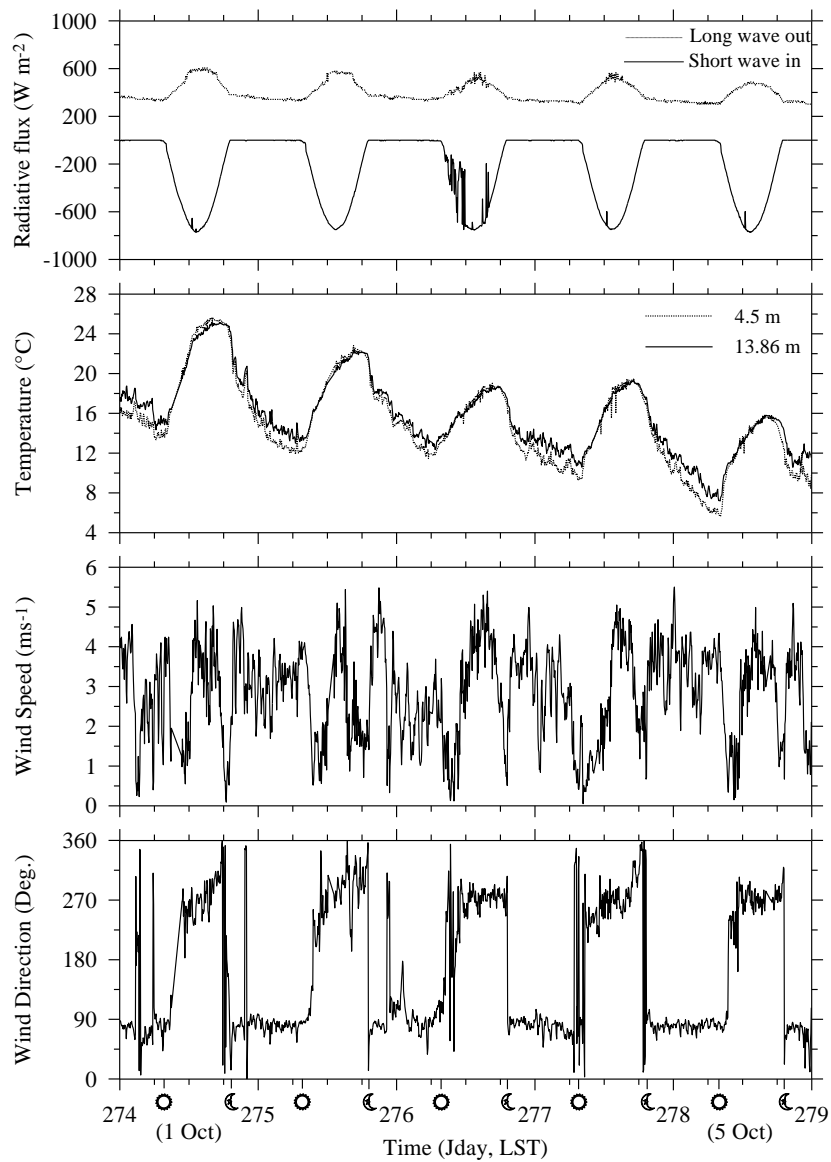
Theta profile in the valley



Downslope – Field Data



VTMX Measurements



Flow Analysis

Idealized Slope Flow Analysis

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial n} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \int_0^H u dn + w_H = 0$$

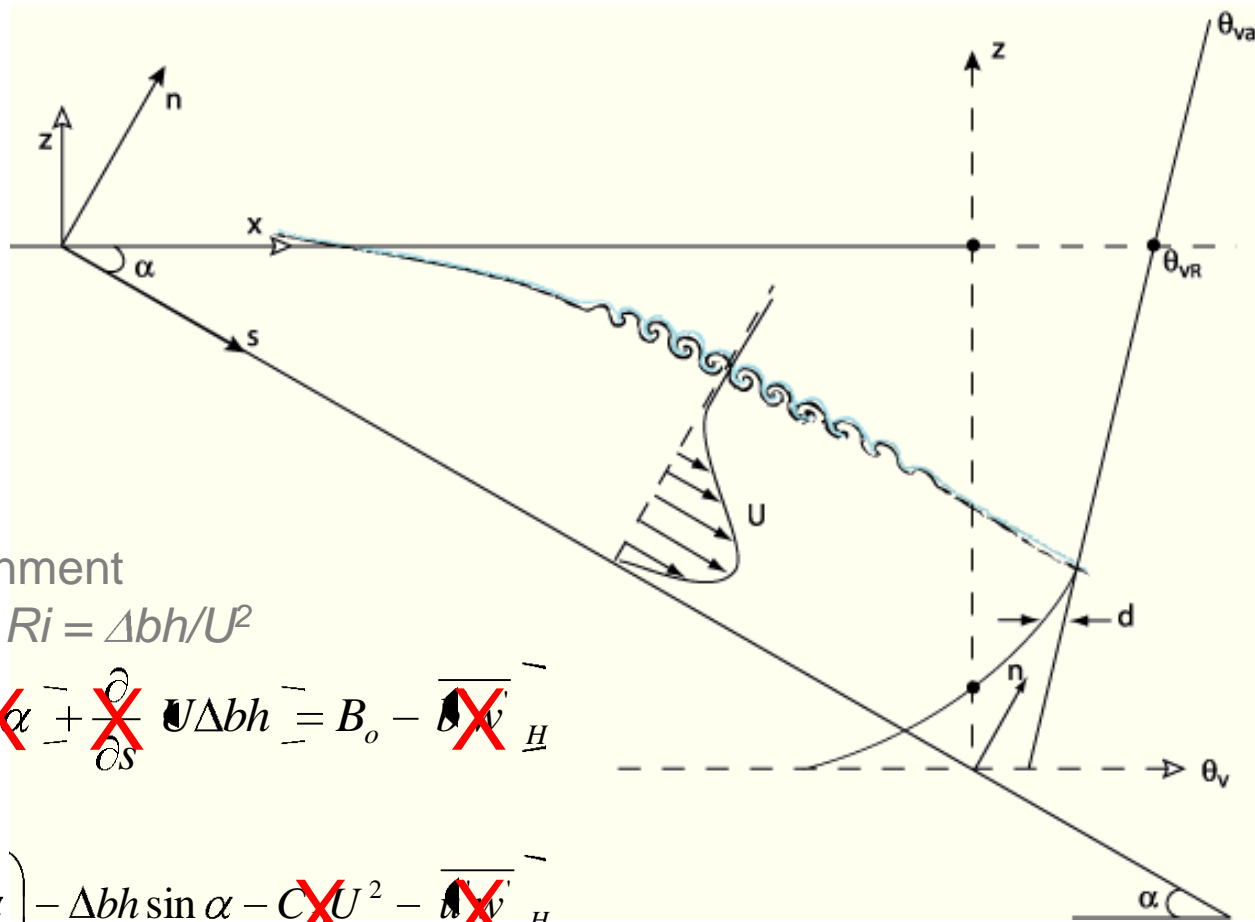
$\nearrow U_h$ $\nwarrow -EU$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} U_h = EU$$

\nwarrow Entrainment
 Coefficient, $Ri = \Delta bh / U^2$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Delta bh + U_h N^2 \sin \alpha - E \cos \alpha + \frac{\partial}{\partial s} U \Delta bh = B_o - \overline{w}_H$$

$$\frac{\partial U_h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial U^2 h}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left(\frac{1}{2} \Delta bh^2 \cos \alpha \right) - \Delta bh \sin \alpha - C_D U^2 - \overline{w}_H$$



Downslope flow - Pulsation

Linearized governing equations with neglected flux divergence and the entrainment-rate,

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} = -a\Delta b$$

$$\frac{\partial \Delta b}{\partial t} = a^2 N_E^2 U$$

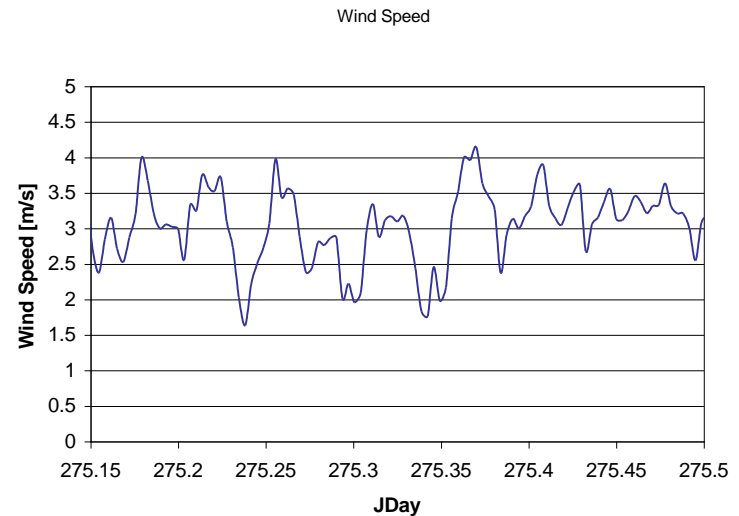
$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial t^2} + a^2 N_E^2 U = 0$$

have oscillatory solution with the frequency

$$\omega = N_E \sin \alpha$$

or period

$$T \sim \frac{2\pi}{N_E \sin \alpha}$$



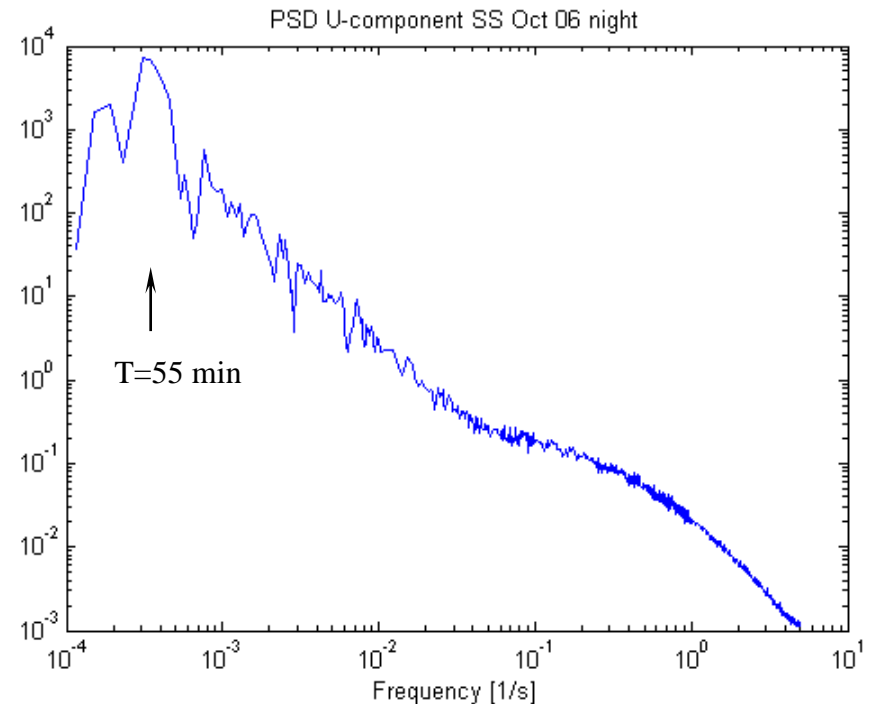
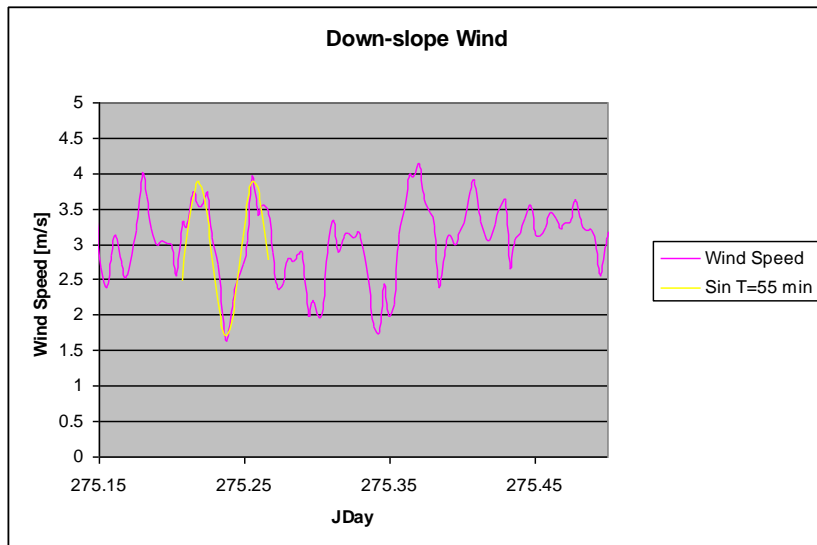
Downslope flow - Pulsation

$$T \sim \frac{2\pi}{N_E \sin \alpha}$$

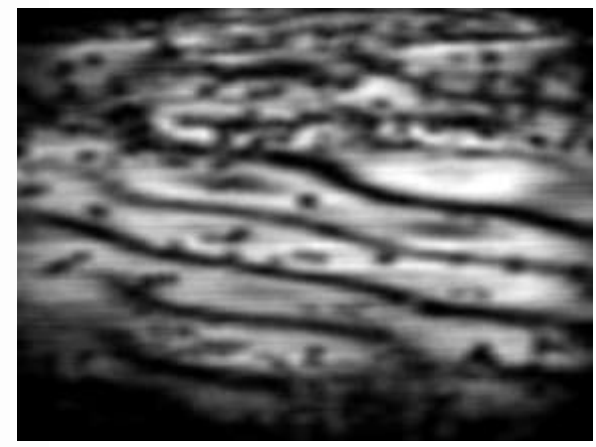
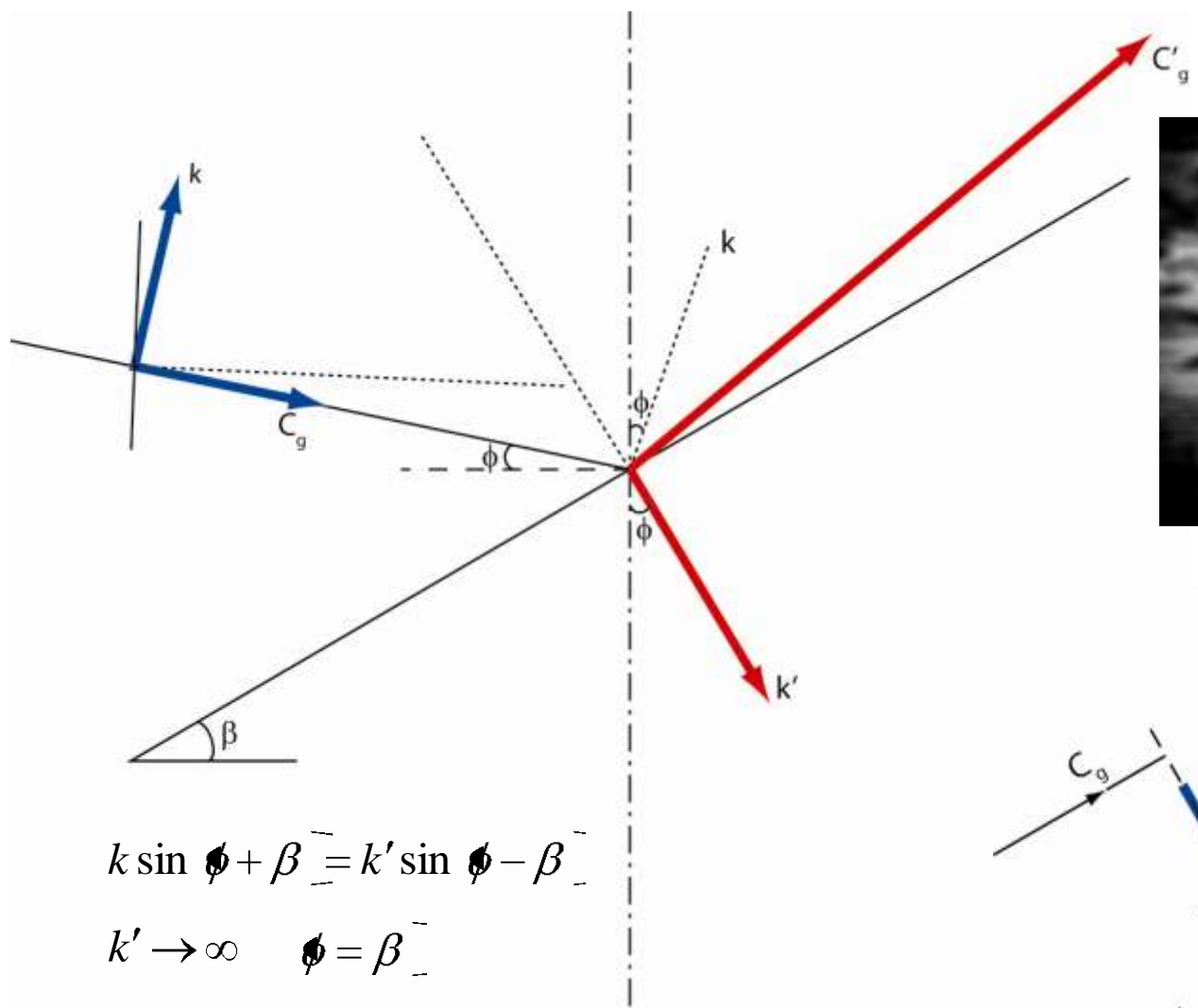
$$\omega = N_E \sin \alpha$$

ACS $\alpha = 4.7$ deg: $T = 20 - 50$ min

SS $\alpha = 1.8$ deg: $T = 50 - 130$ min

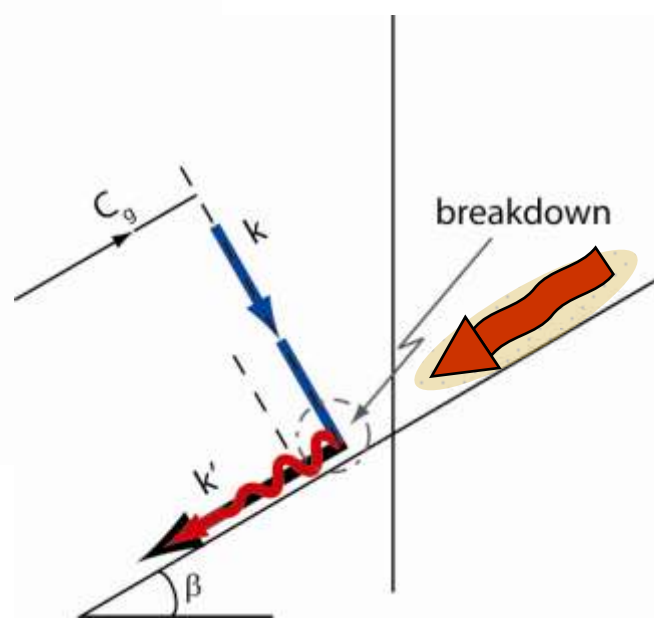


$$\omega = aN_E = N_E \sin \beta \quad \text{Critical slopes}$$



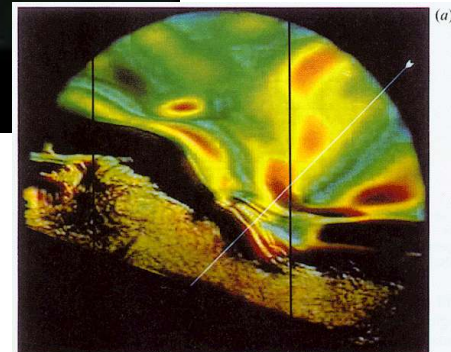
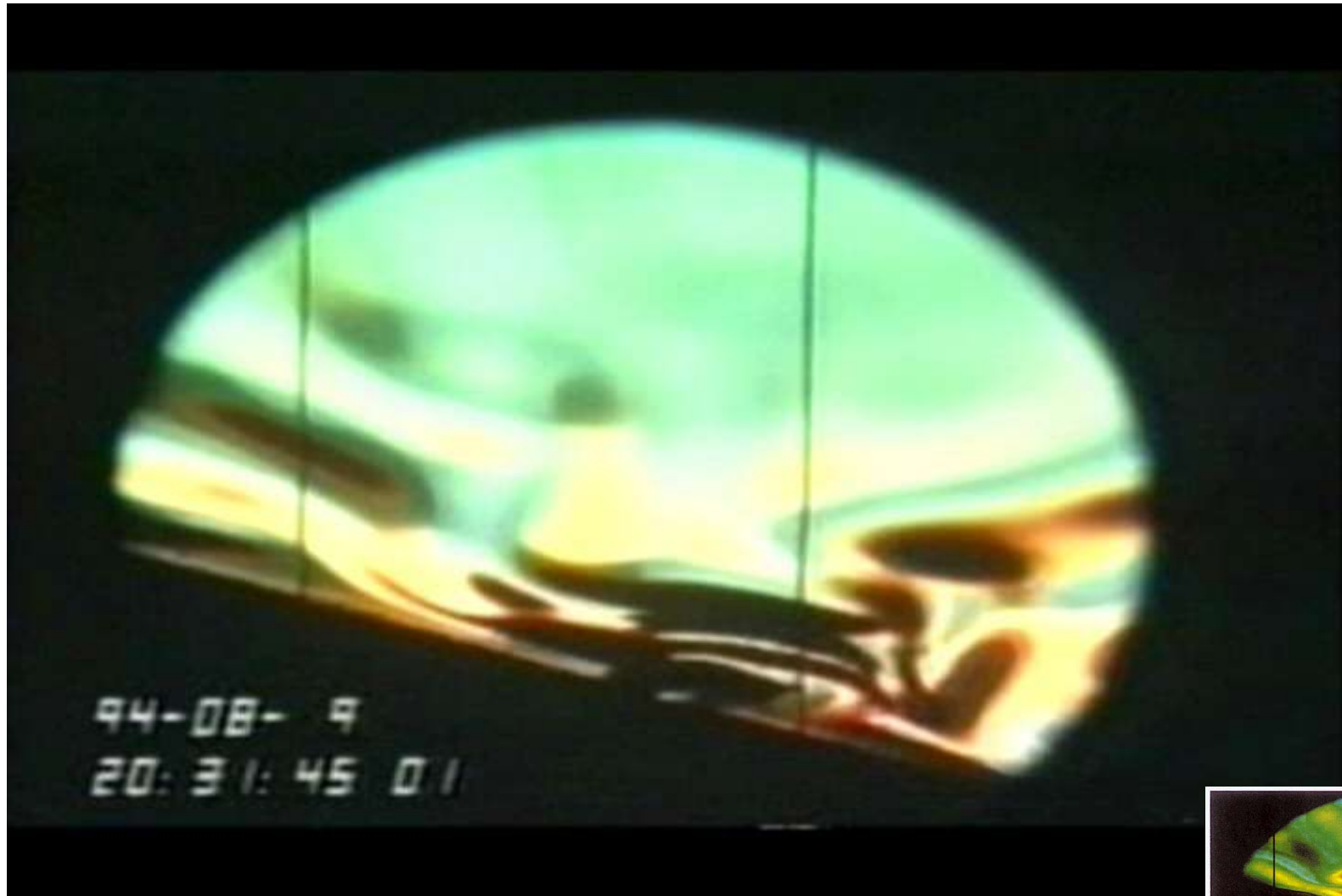
$$k \sin \phi + \beta = k' \sin \phi - \beta$$

$$k' \rightarrow \infty \quad \phi = \beta$$

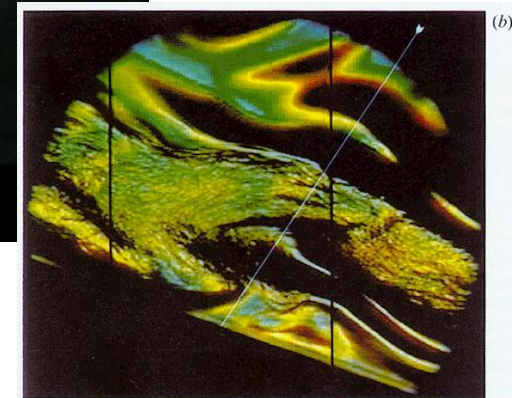


$$\omega = N \cos \theta$$

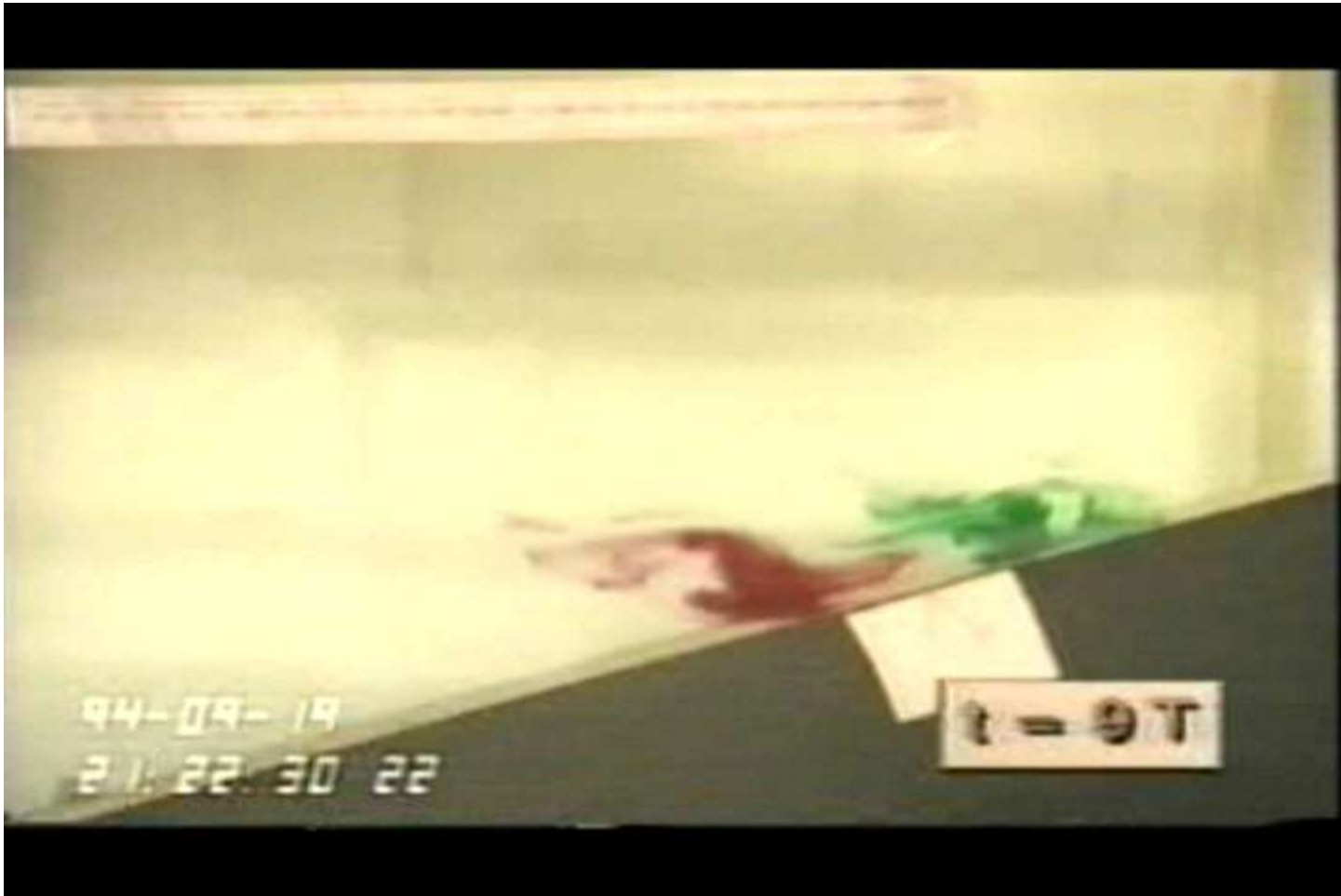
Subcritical angles

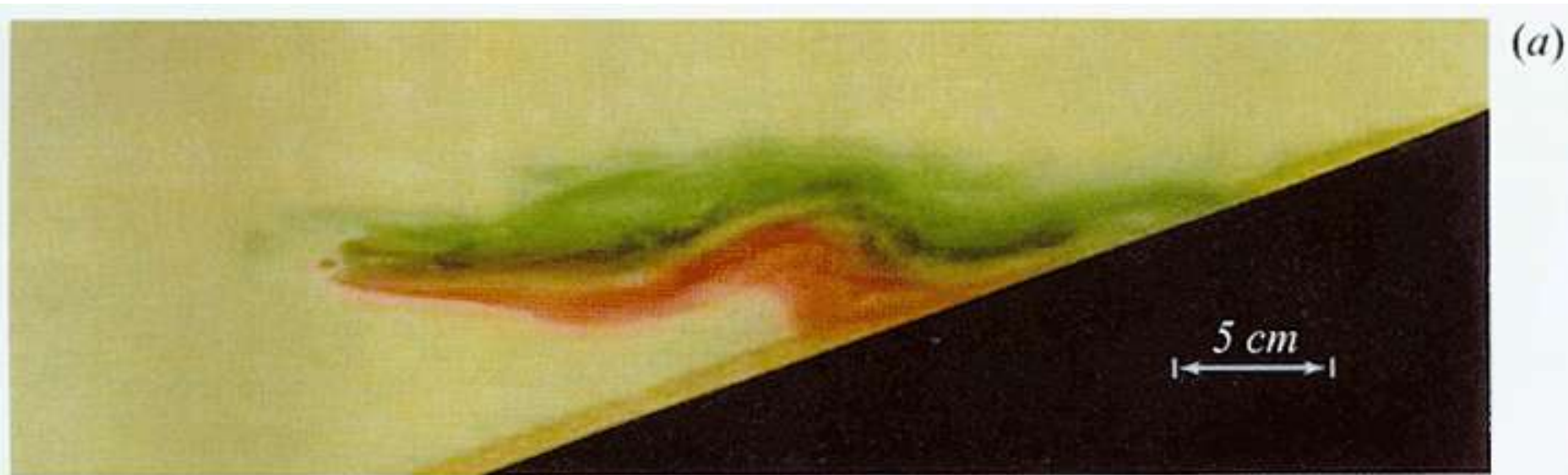


Close to critical angle

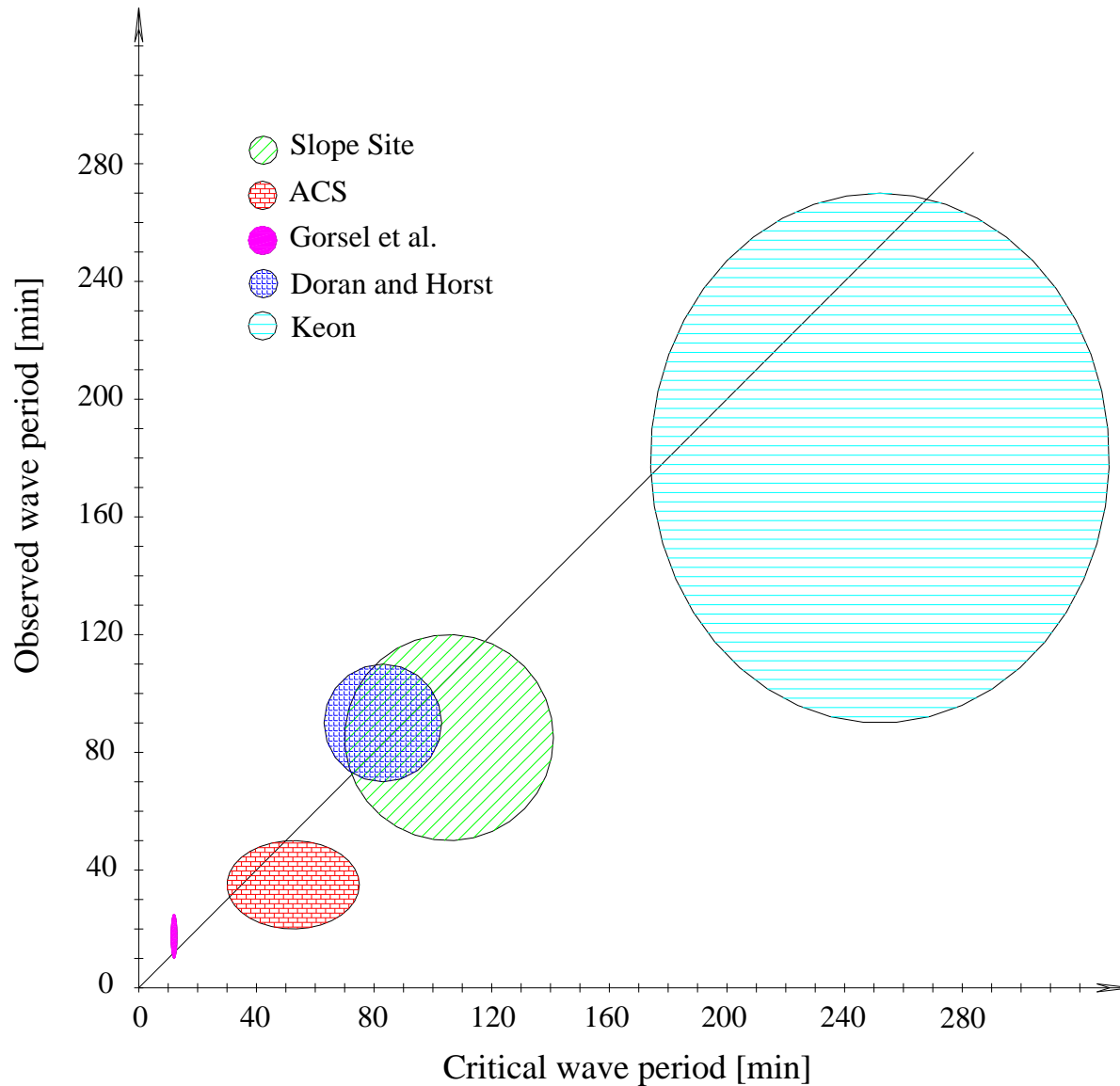


Intrusions keep BL turbulent





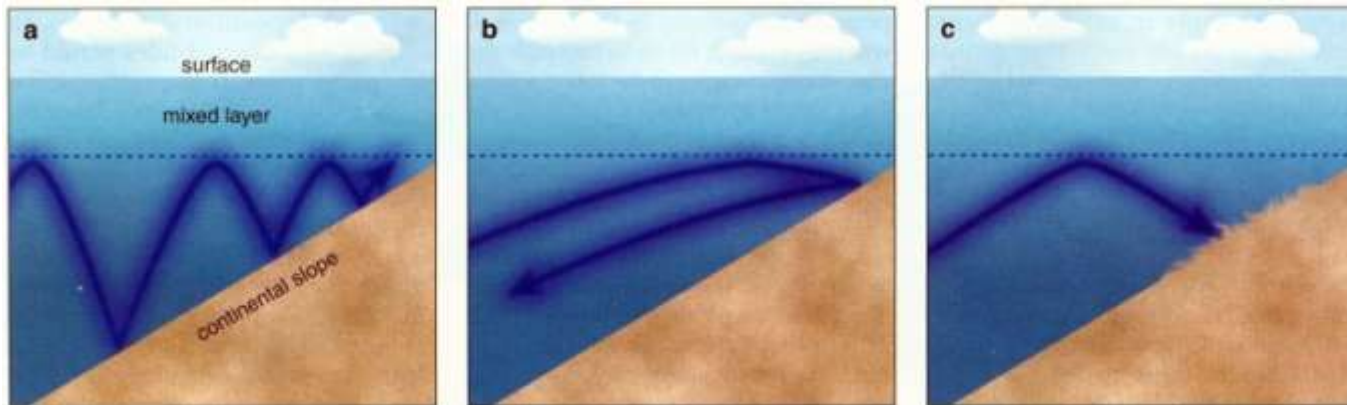
Other Observations



- the Riviera valley (Gorsel et al., ICAM/MAP proceedings, 2003)
- Cobb Mountain (Doran and Horst, JAM, 20(4), 361-364, 1981)
- Phoenix valley (Keon, Master Thesis, ASU, 1982)
- Slope and ACS sites of the VTMX campaign in Salt Lake City (Doran et al., BAMS, 83(4), 537-554).

Hypothesis --

Tidal Internal waves coursing beneath the surface of the sea may shape the margins of the world's landmasses



$$\omega = N \sin \alpha$$

Flow Velocity

$$\frac{\partial U h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial U^2 h}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left(\frac{1}{2} \Delta b h^2 \cos \alpha \right) - \Delta b h \sin \alpha - C_D U^2 - \overline{w' w'}_H$$

↙

$$U h \frac{\partial U}{\partial s} + U \frac{\partial U h}{\partial s} \quad \color{red}{\blacksquare} \quad E U^2 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \overline{U h} = E U$$

High Ri → Entrainment is Unimportant

$$U \approx \lambda_u \Delta b L_H \sin \alpha^{1/2}$$

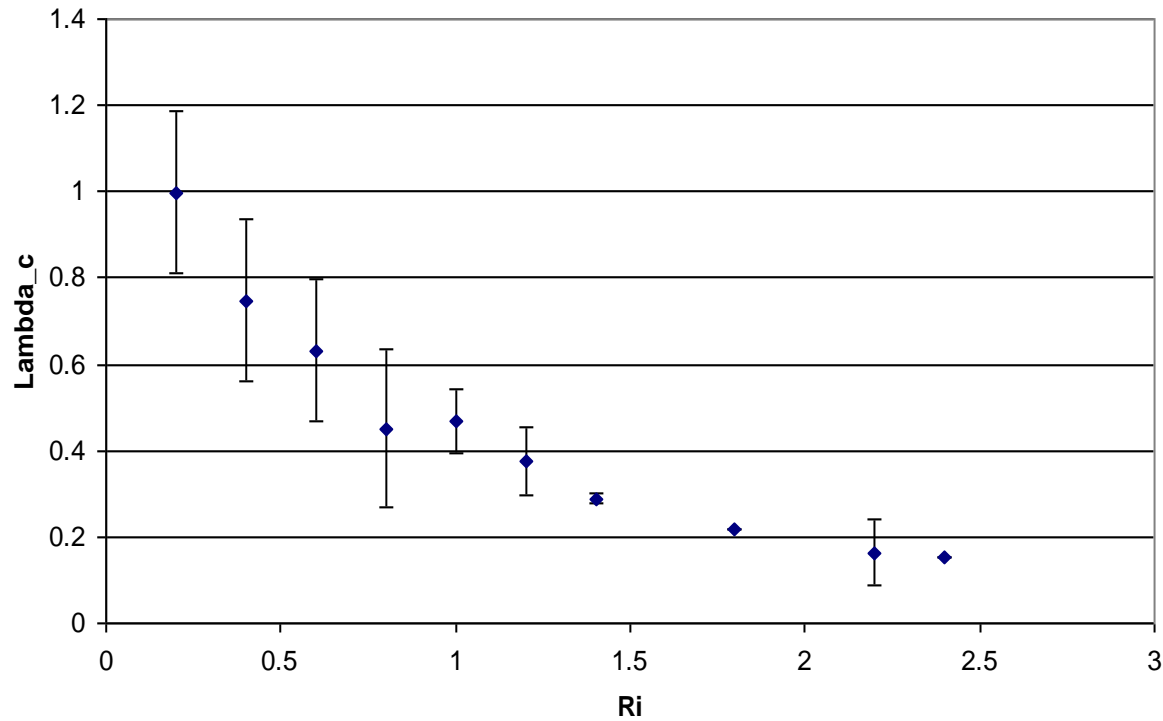
(Businger & Rao 1966)

Low Ri → Entrainment is dominant

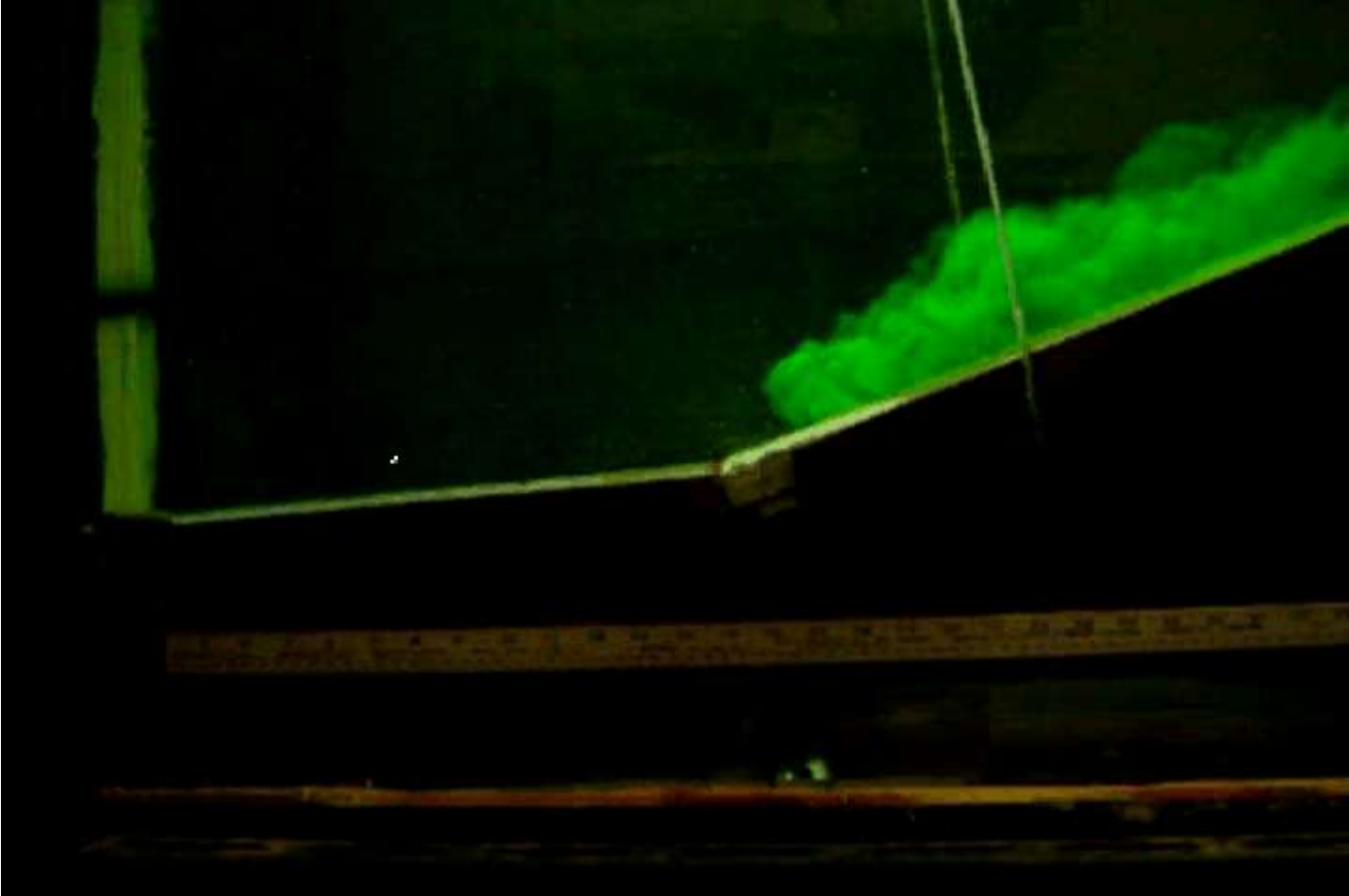
$$U \approx \lambda_{u_1} \left(\frac{\Delta b h \sin \alpha}{E} \right)^{1/2}$$

High Ri Entrainment is Unimportant

$$U \approx \lambda_u \Delta b L_H \sin \alpha^{-1/2}$$



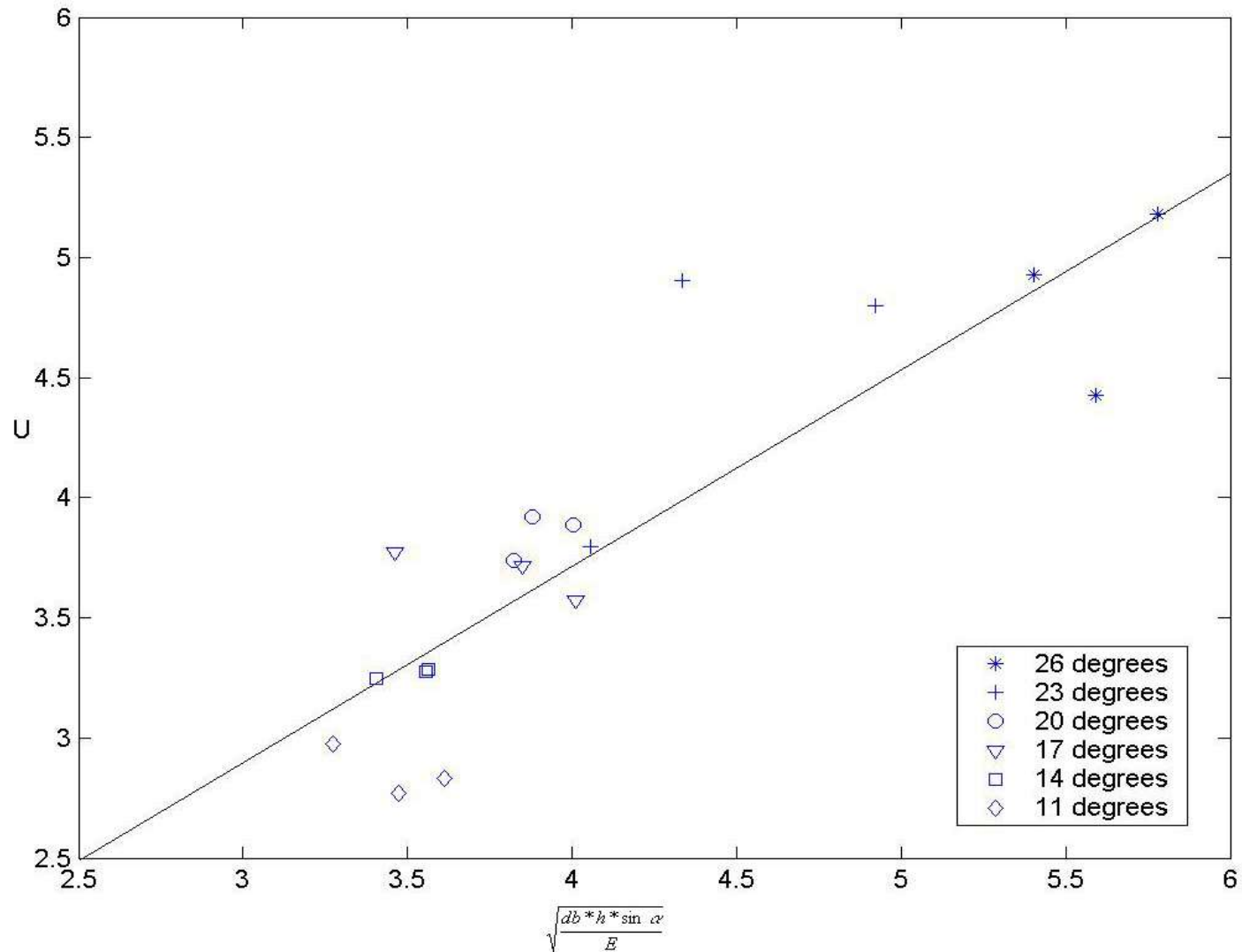
$$U \approx \lambda_{u1} \left(\frac{\Delta b h \sin \alpha}{E} \right)^{1/2}$$



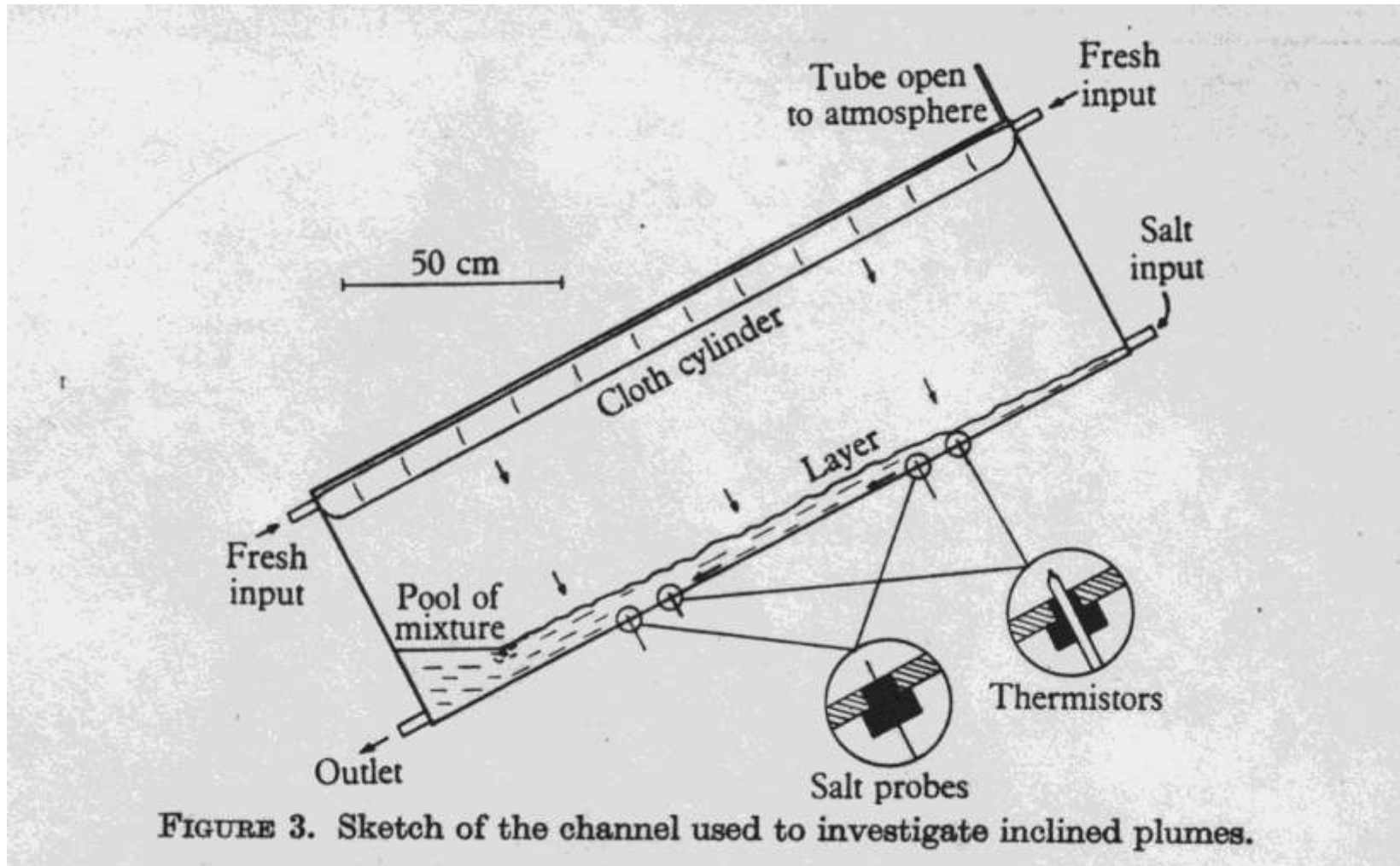
$$U \approx \lambda_{u_1} \left(\frac{\Delta b h \sin \alpha}{E} \right)^{1/2}$$

Low Ri

Entrainment is dominant

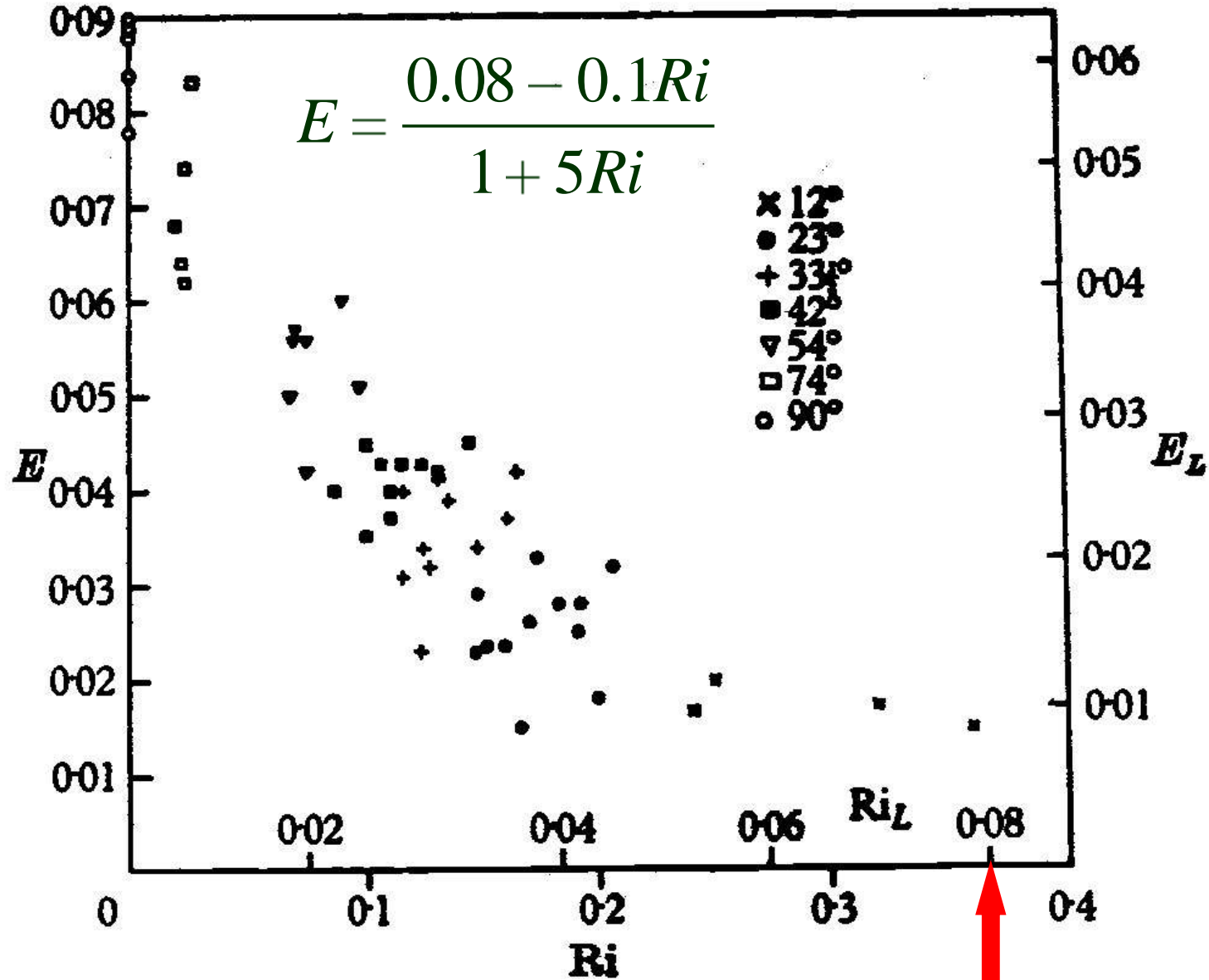


Entrainment Velocity



Ellison and Turner (1959, JFM)

Results



Mining company in Utah building new megasuburb

By Paul Foy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST JORDAN, Utah — It's a plan for development that will take more than 50 years from start to finish, on the largest piece of privately owned land next to a U.S. metropolis for an expected half-million residents.

This megasuburb, twice the size of San Francisco, will be the work of a mining company, Kennecott Utah Copper Corp., which has no experience in real-estate development.

The Utah company is a subsidiary of London-based Rio Tinto, a mining multinational and avowed convert to environmentalism, which decided to make a showcase out of its surplus Utah lands instead of just selling them off for cookie-cutter subdivisions.



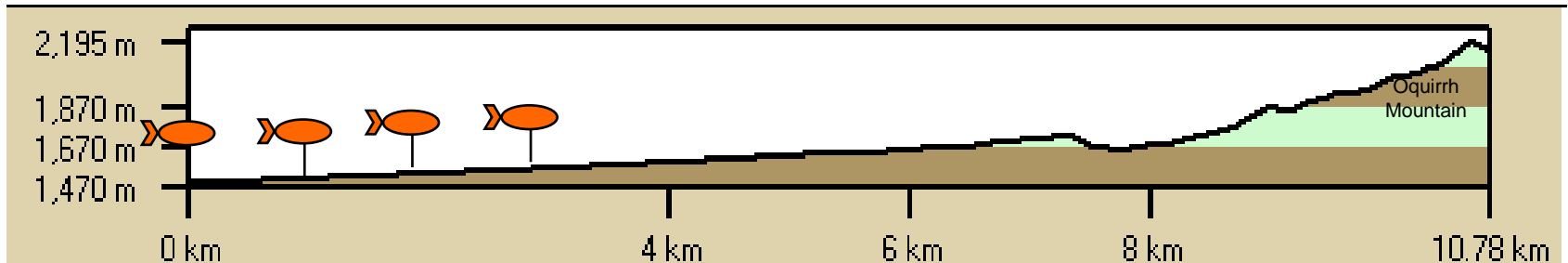
DOUGLAS C. PIZAC/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Craig and Cathy Douglass walk home through the Daybreak subdivision with the Kennecott mine in the background in South Jordan, Utah.

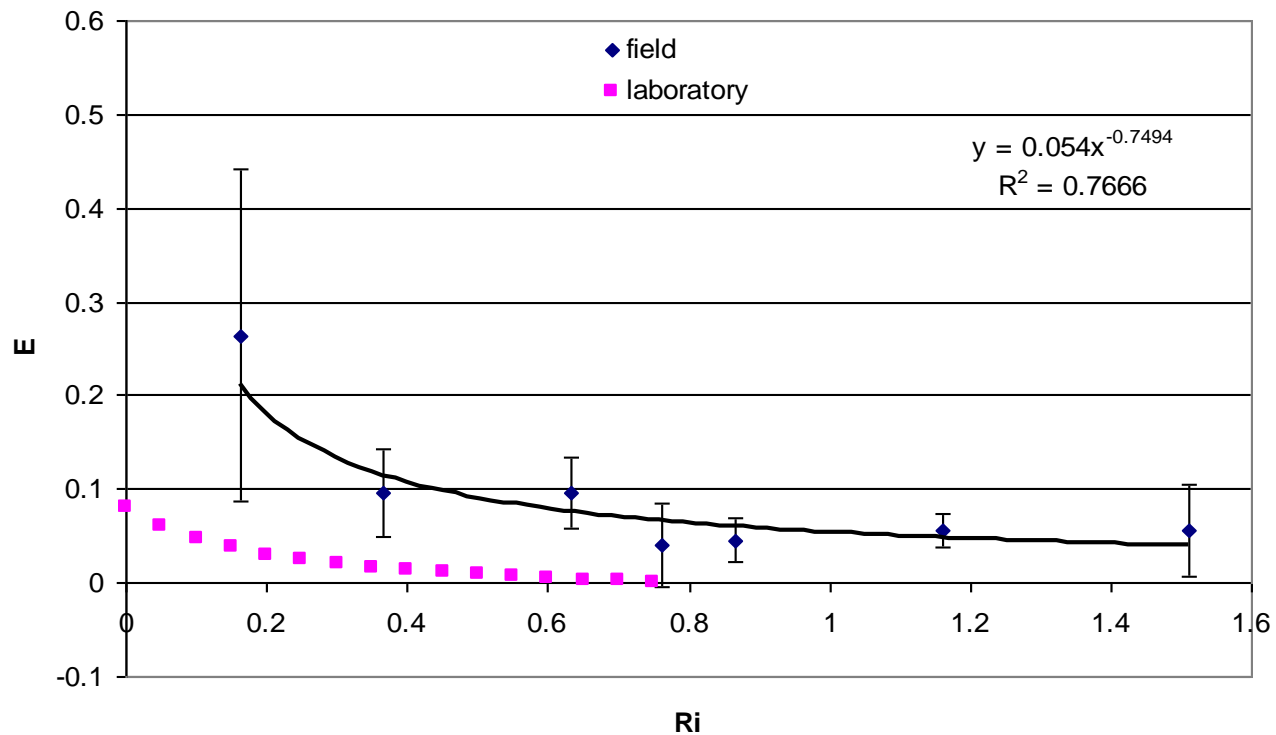
square miles of land, which ranks as the largest piece of land anywhere in the United States that's under the control of a single, private owner and

vide ground-source heating and cooling for a new elementary school and community center and contributed \$400,000 to kick-start an envi-

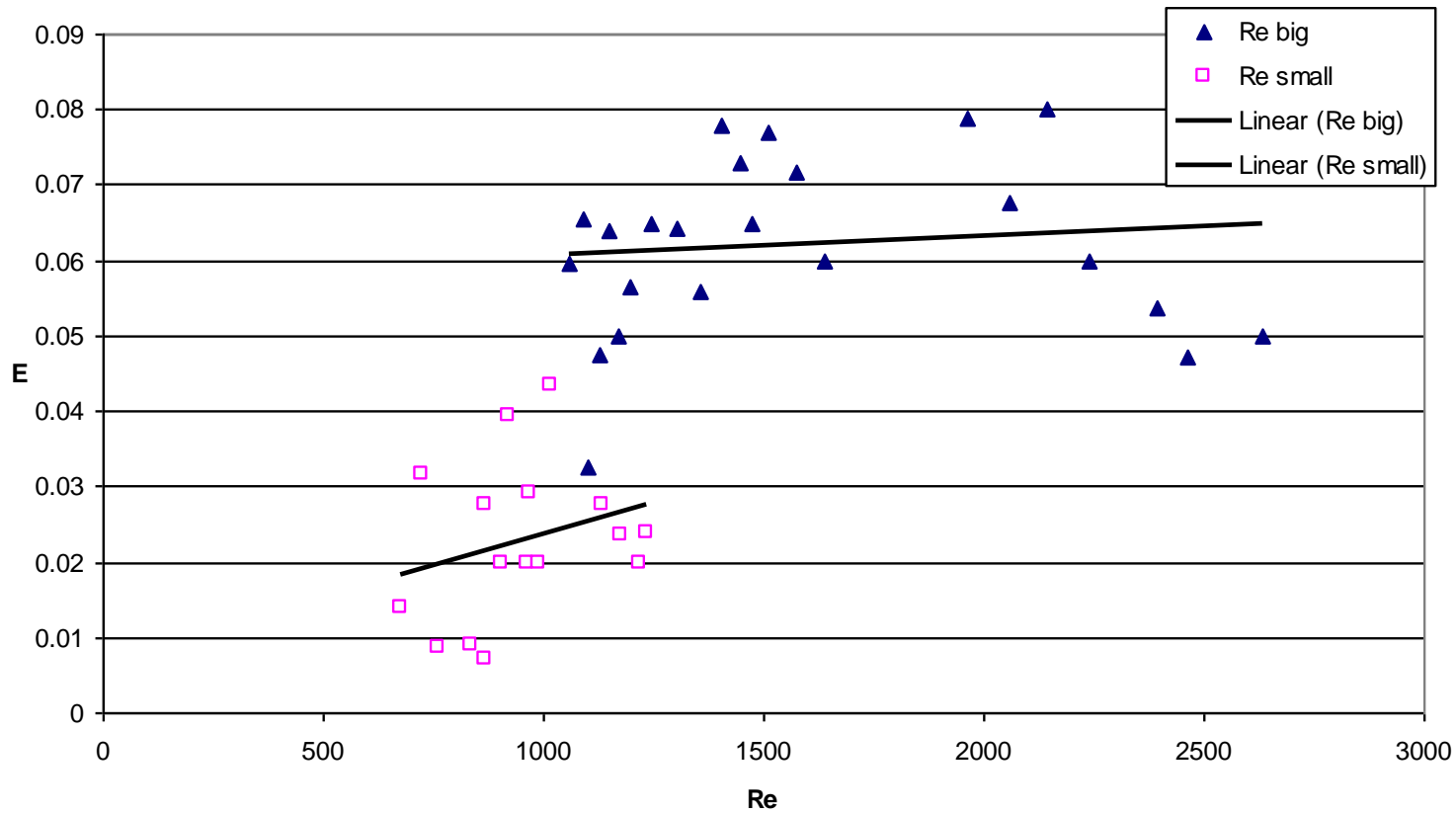
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} U_h = EU$$



Entrainment Coefficient



Re vs. E



Applications

Flow Prediction

The Fifth-generation Penn State / NCAR Mesoscale Model (MM5)

- Terrain following σ - coordinate
- Non-hydrostatic dynamics
- Four-dimensional data assimilation
- Multiple nest capability
- Physics

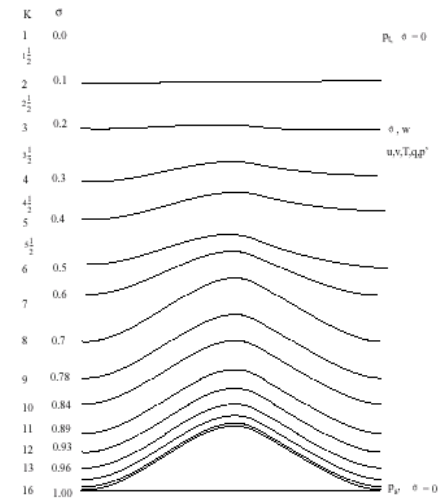
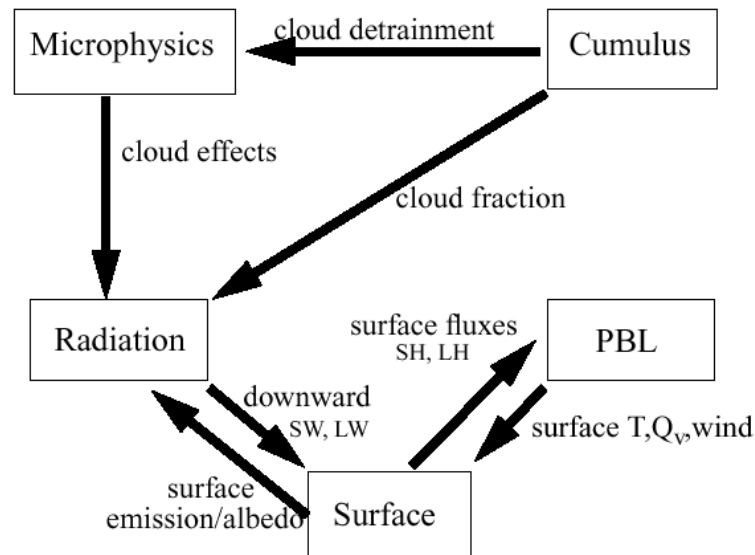


Figure 1.2 Schematic representation of the vertical structure of the model. The example is for 15 vertical layers. Dashed lines denote half-sigma levels, solid lines denote full-sigma levels.

MRF (Medium Range Forecast model)

MRF is a vertical diffusion non-local scheme in which is taken into account that the transport of mass, momentum and heat is mostly accomplished by large eddies (Troen and Mahrt 1986, Hong and Pan 1996).

The turbulence diffusion equation for prognostic variable is:

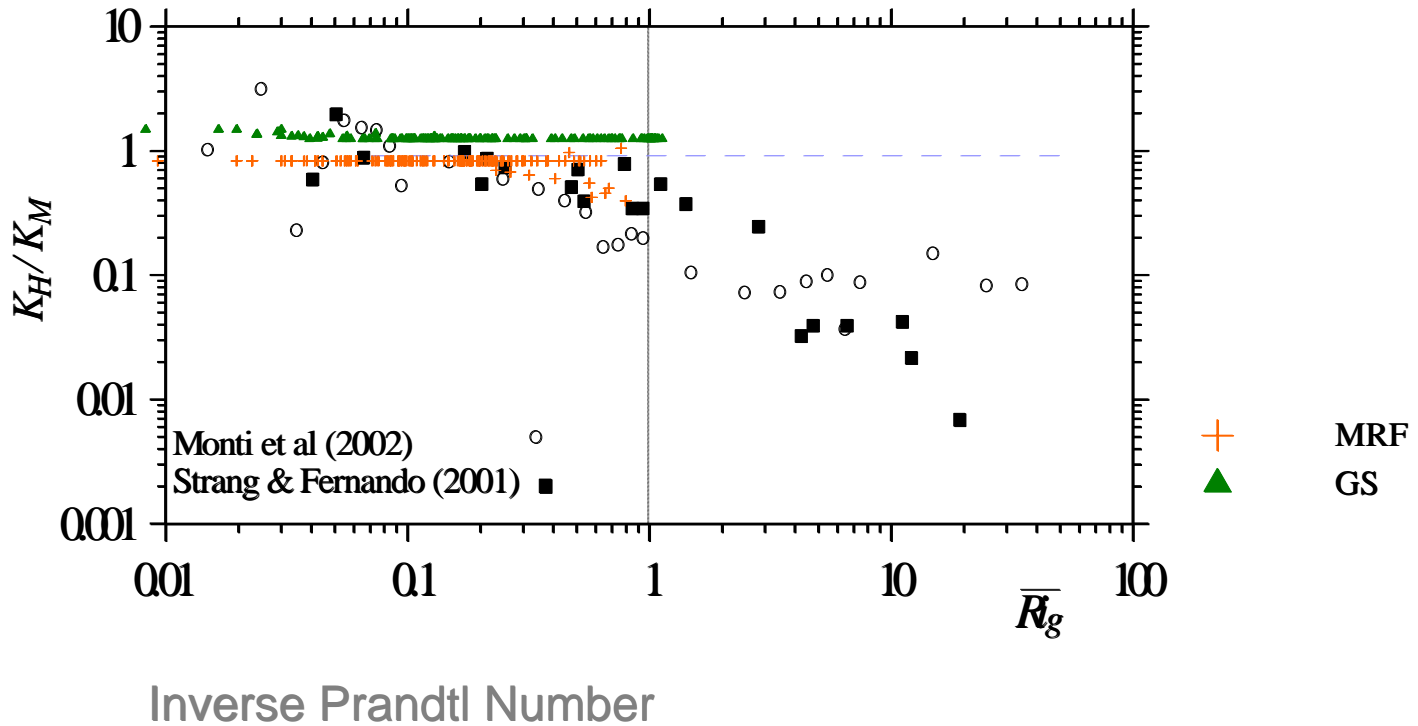
$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left[K_c \left(\frac{\partial C}{\partial z} - \gamma_c \right) \right]$$

Below the PBL:

$$K_{zm} = kw_s z \left(1 - \frac{z}{h} \right)^p \quad \frac{K_{zm}}{K_{zh}} = Pr$$

- Regime 1 =====> Nighttime Stable conditions (BR>0.2)**
- Regime 2 =====> Dumped mechanical turbulence (0<BR<0.2)**
- Regime 3 =====> Forced Convection conditions (BR=0)**
- Regime 4 =====> Free Convection conditions (BR<0)**

Eddy Diffusivity Ratio

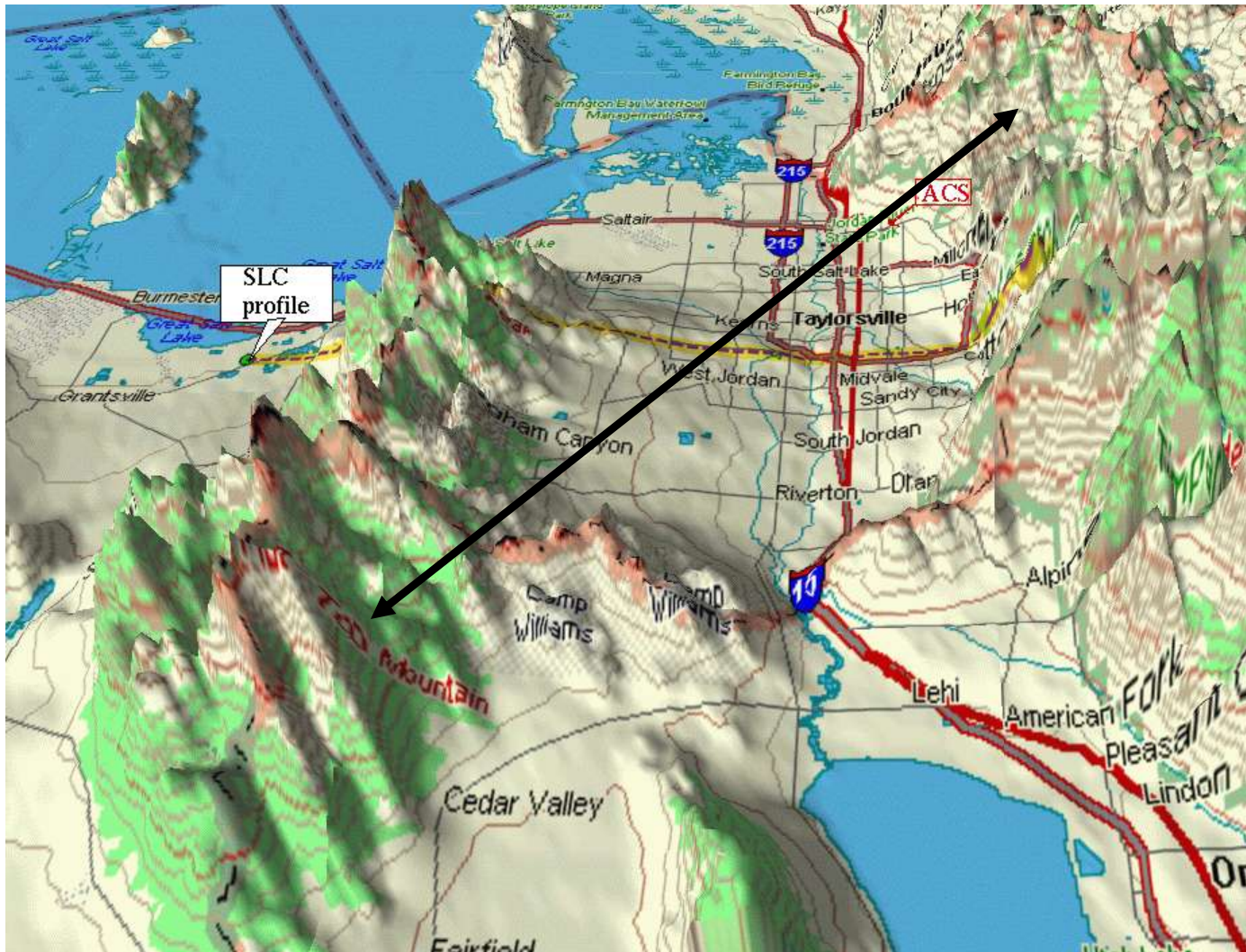


- J. Physical Oceanography 2001
- Boundary layer Meteor. 2005

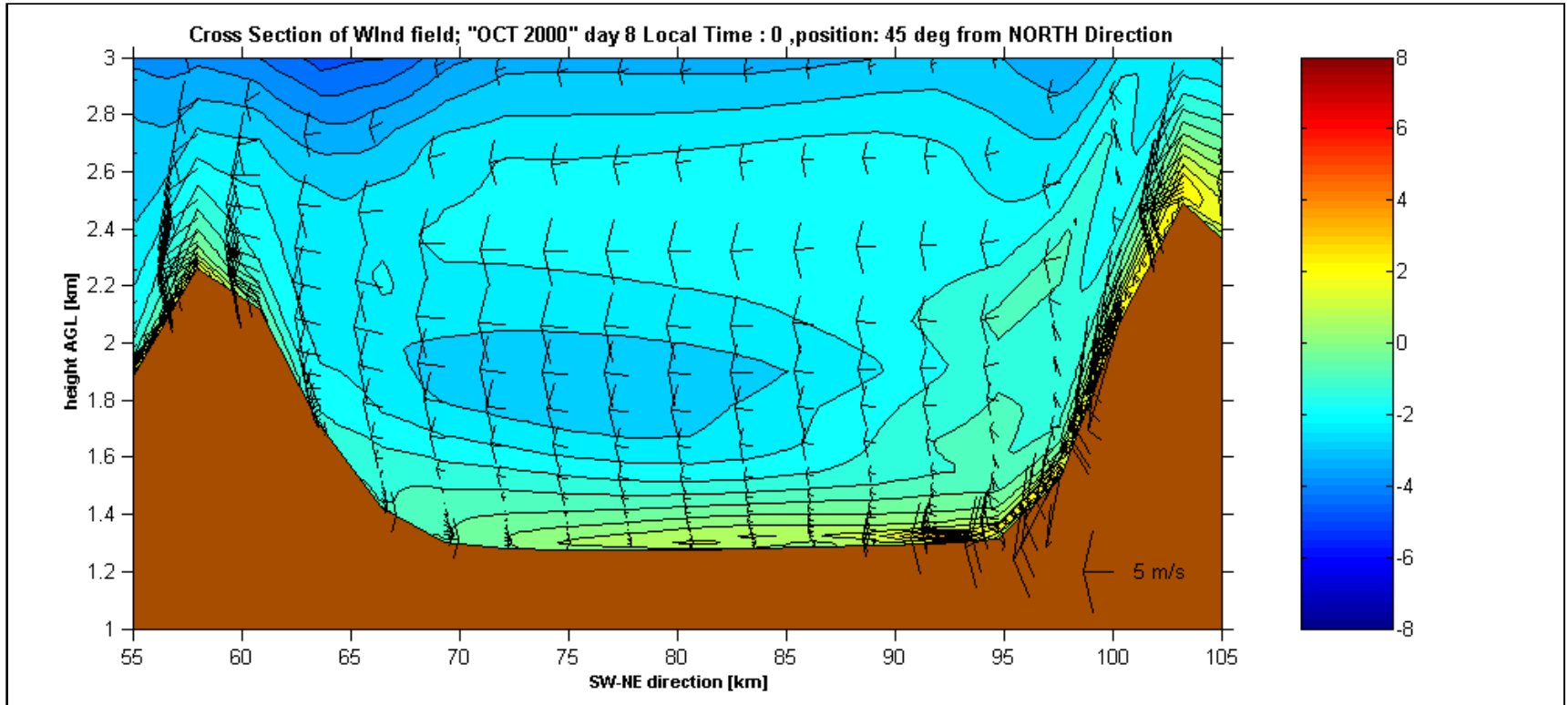
New Eddy Diffusivities

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \frac{K_m}{\sigma_w^2 / |d\tilde{V} / dz|} = (0.34) \overline{Ri_g}^{-0.02} \approx 0.34 \\ \frac{K_h}{\sigma_w^2 / |d\tilde{V} / dz|} = (0.08) \overline{Ri_g}^{-0.49} \approx (0.08) \overline{Ri_g}^{-0.5} \end{array} \right.$$

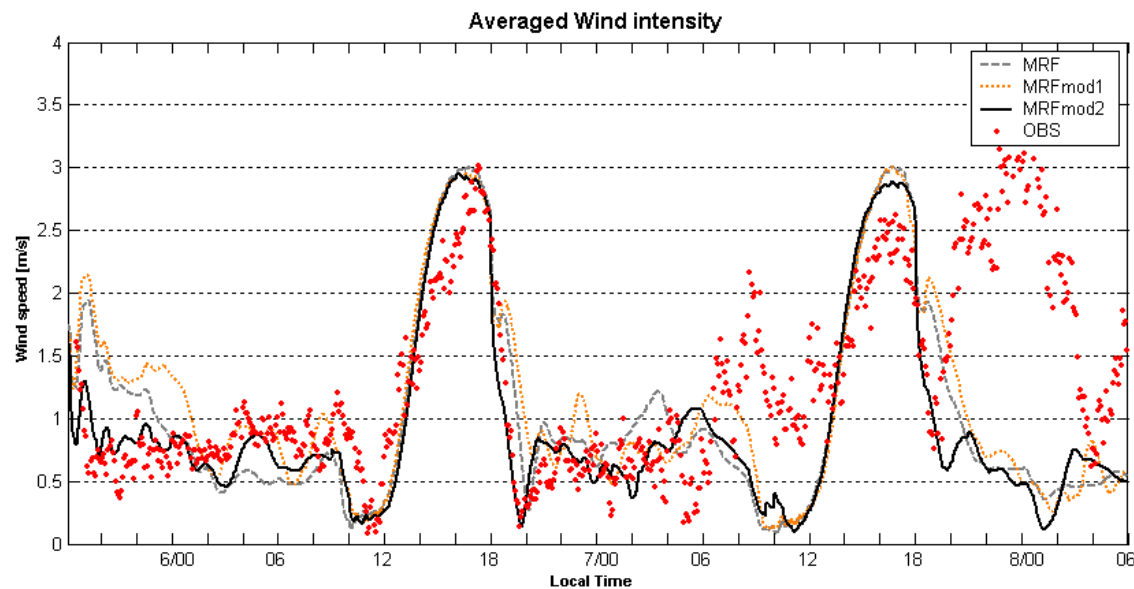
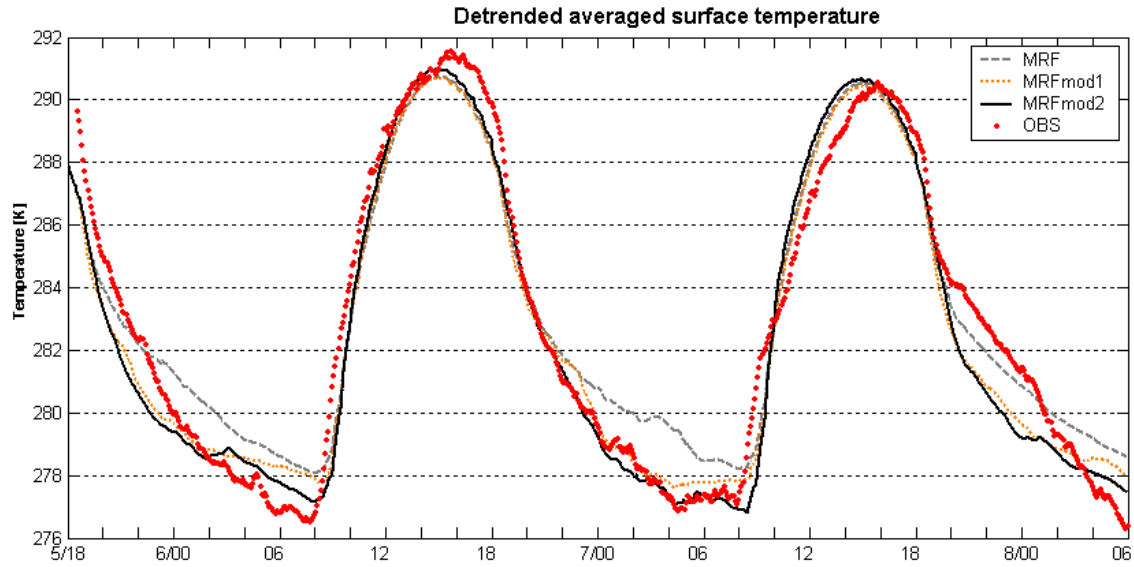
Salt Lake City

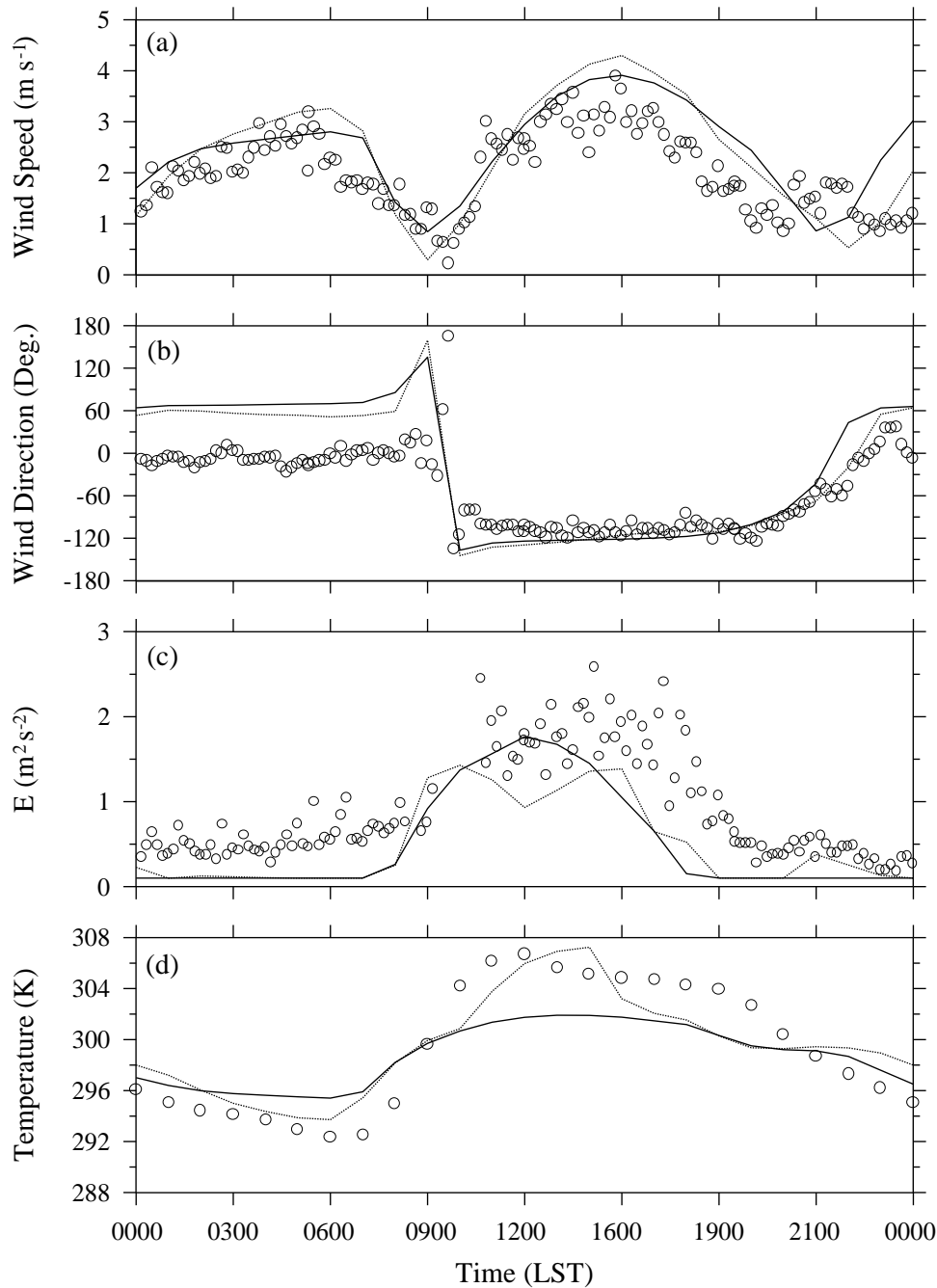


CROSS SECTION SW-NE 45 deg.



Temperature & Wind comparison



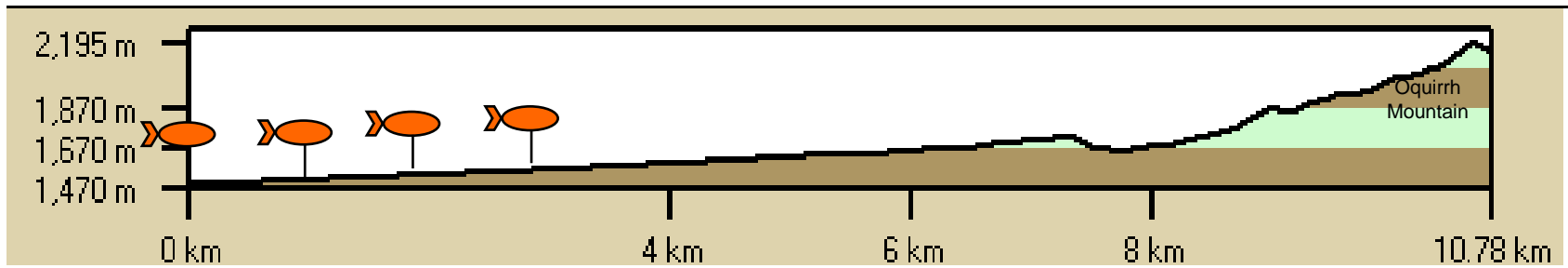


(averaged over 1-h,
at 10 km inland
versus
simulations)
RAMS uses
Therry and
Lacarrere's
(1983)
parameterization
(200x200 km
domain, including
Rome)

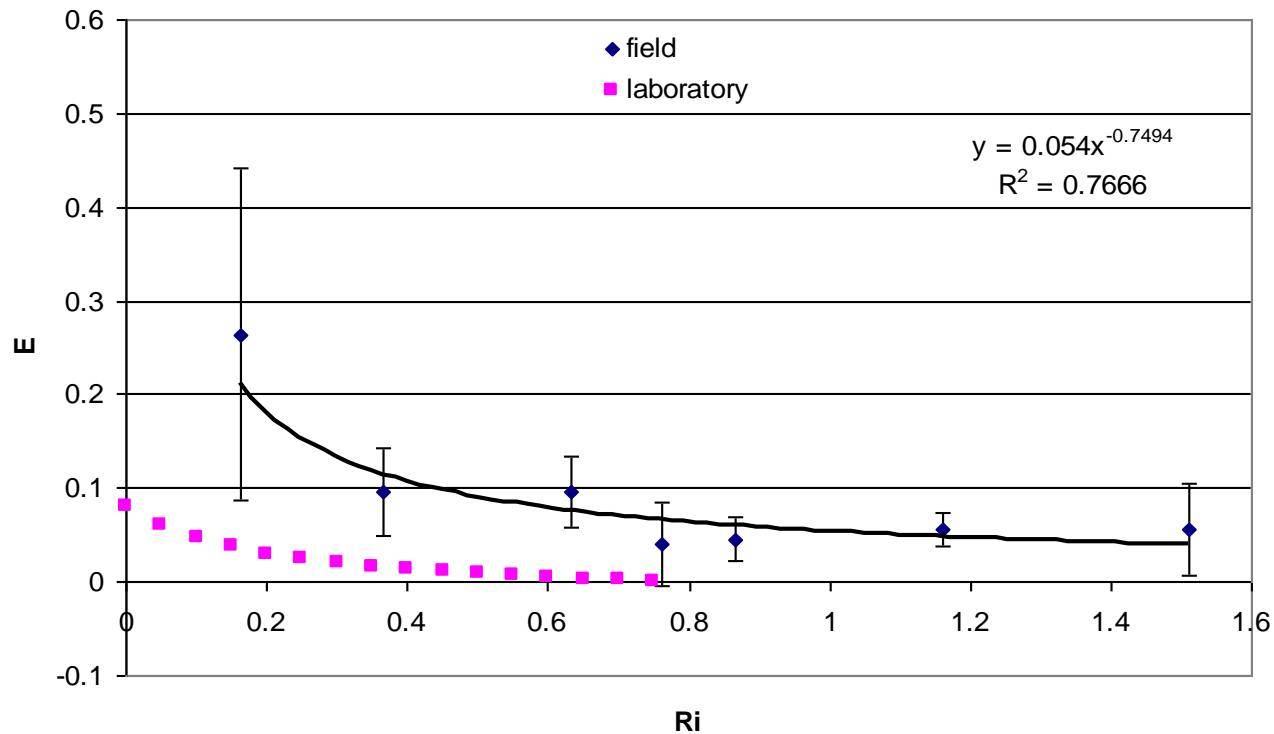


Thank You !

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \mathbf{U}h = EU$$

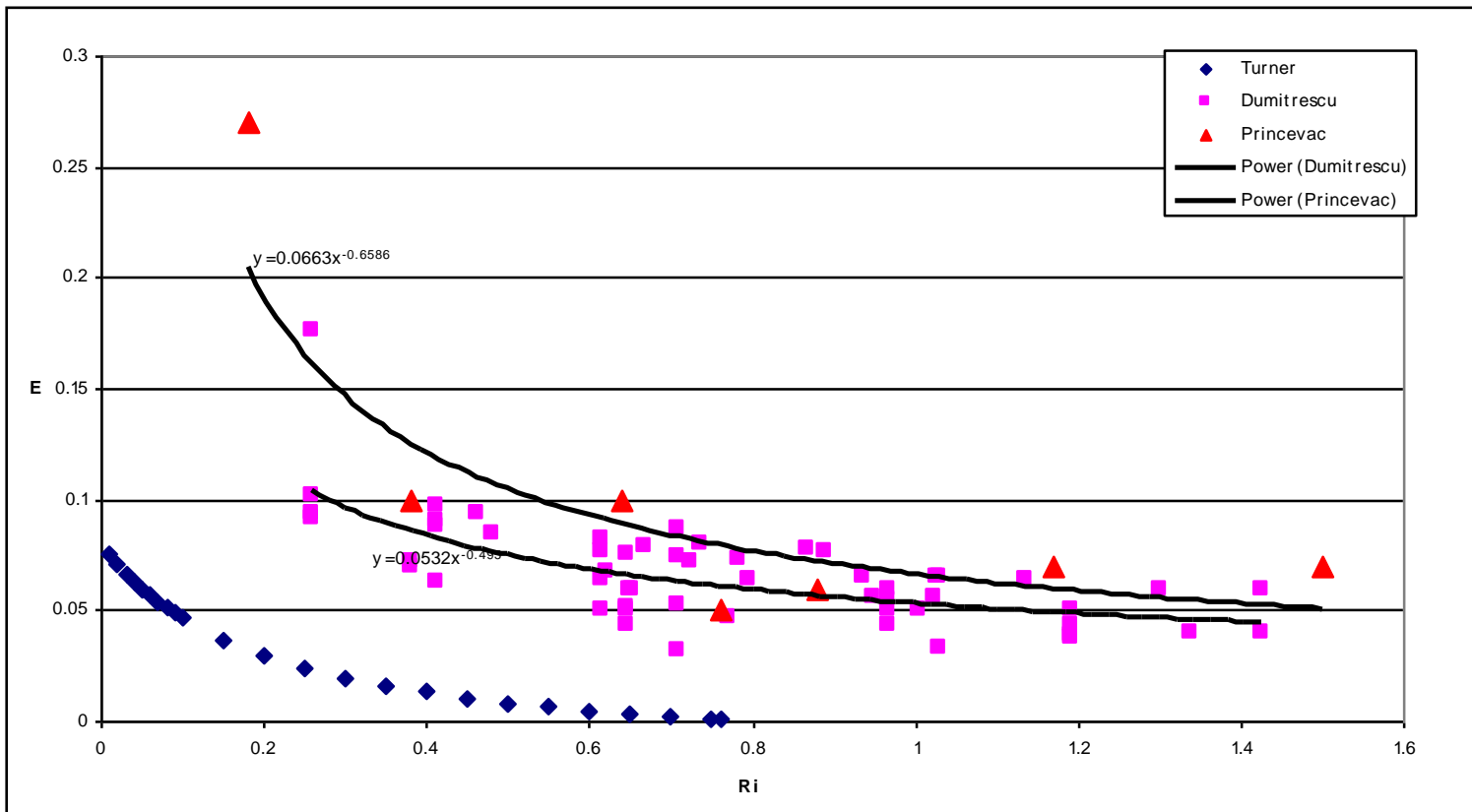


Entrainment Coefficient



Mixing Transition -- above a certain critical Reynolds number, entrainment increases

J. Fluid Mech.
2005,



Hydraulic Adjustment

$$\frac{\partial U h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial U^2 h}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \left(\frac{1}{2} \Delta b h^2 \cos \alpha \right) - \Delta b h \sin \alpha - C_D U^2 - \overline{w'}_H$$

Steady state, small angle

$$Ri < 1$$

$$\frac{d}{ds} U^2 h = \Delta b h \sin \alpha - \Delta b h \frac{dh}{ds} - C_D U^2$$

$$U = \lambda_u^* \left(\frac{\Delta b h \sin \alpha}{E} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\frac{dh}{ds} F^2 = \alpha - C_D F^2$$

$$F = \frac{U}{\sqrt{\Delta b h}} = \lambda_u^* \left(\frac{\sin \alpha}{E} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$F = \frac{U}{\sqrt{\Delta b h}}$$

$\alpha > 5$ is supercritical

Hydraulic Equation

Critical $\alpha = C_D$, when $F = 1$

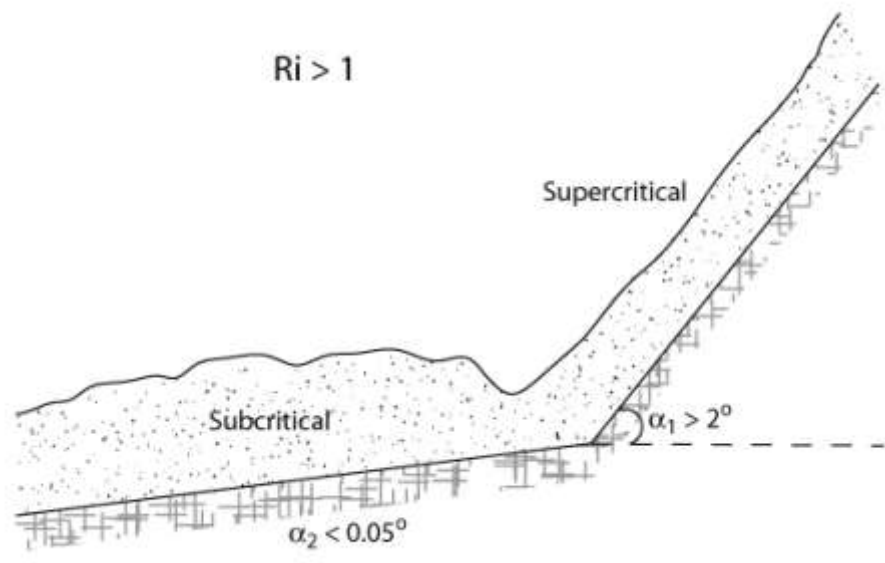
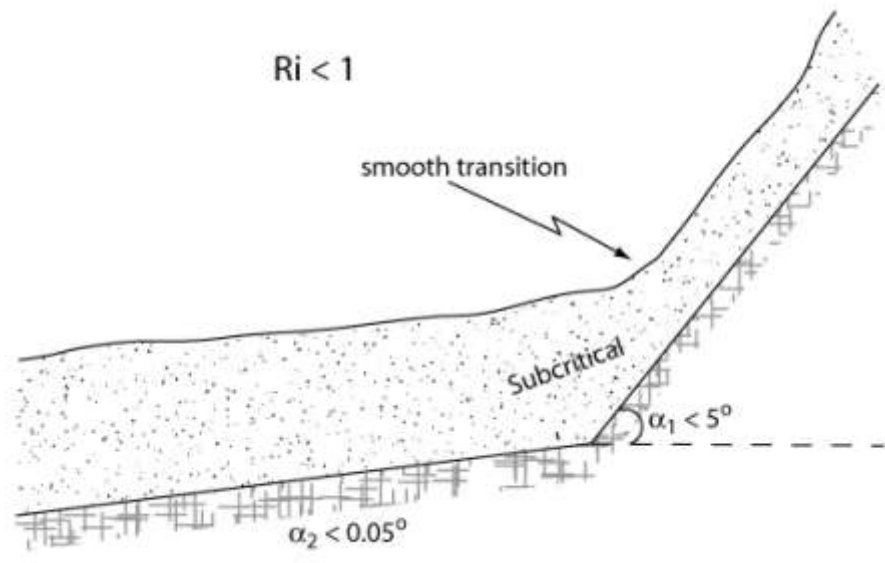
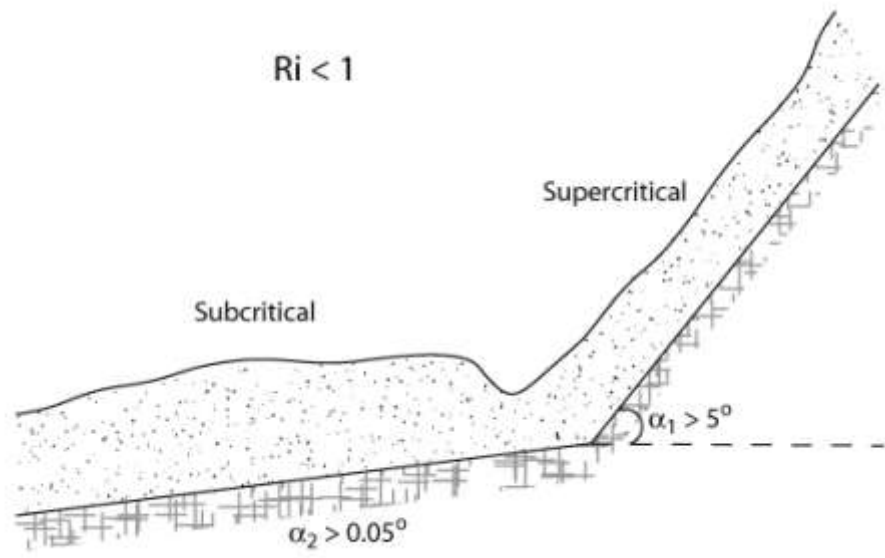
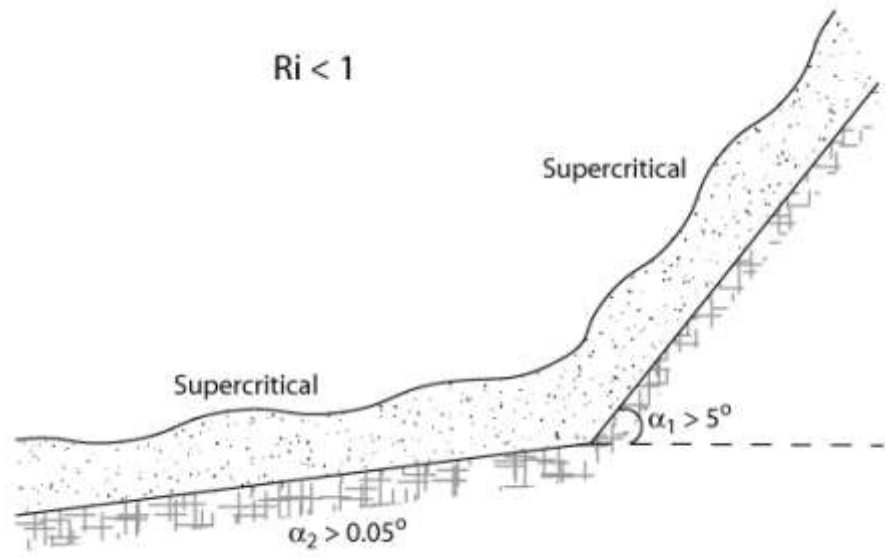
$$C_D \sim 10^{-3}$$

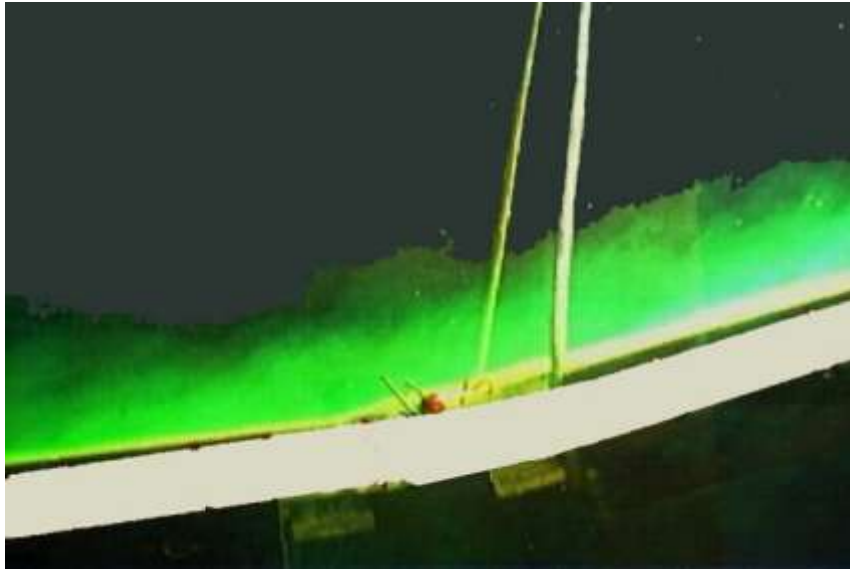
$$\alpha \approx 0.05^\circ$$

$$Ri > 1$$

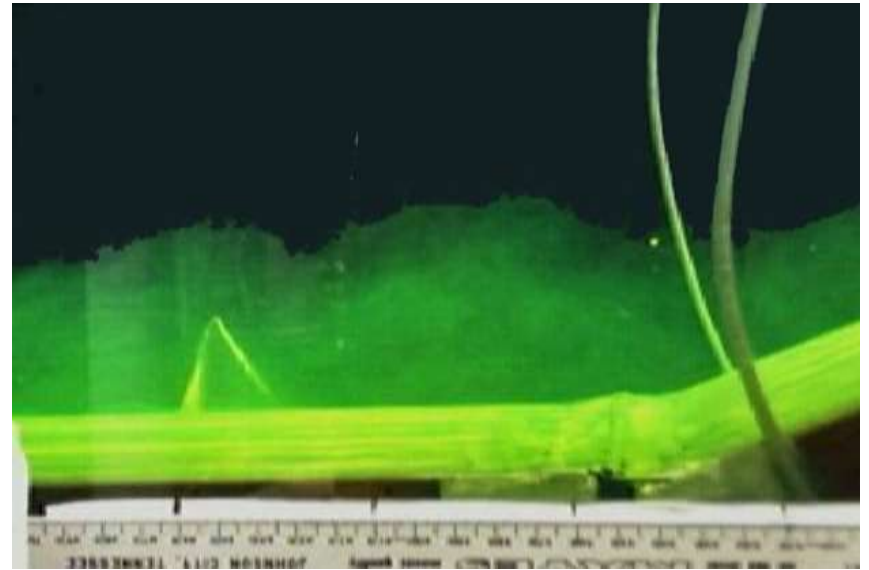
$$F = \frac{U}{\sqrt{\Delta b h}} = \lambda_u^* \left(\frac{\sin \alpha}{h/L_H} \right)^{1/2}$$

$\alpha > 2^\circ$ is supercritical





a) $\alpha = (10^\circ, 20^\circ)$



b) $\alpha = (0^\circ, 26^\circ)$

Applications

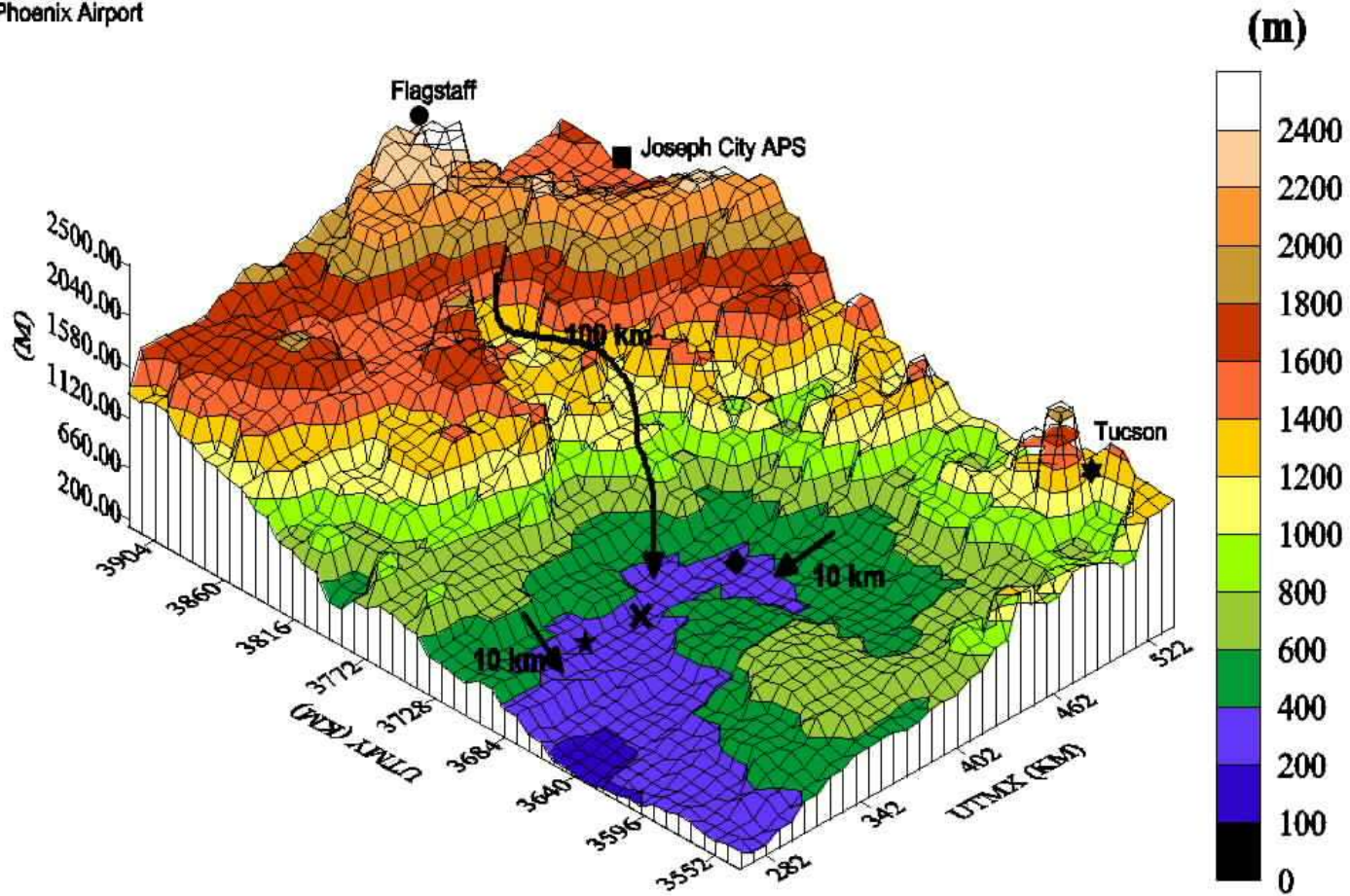
Power plant emissions

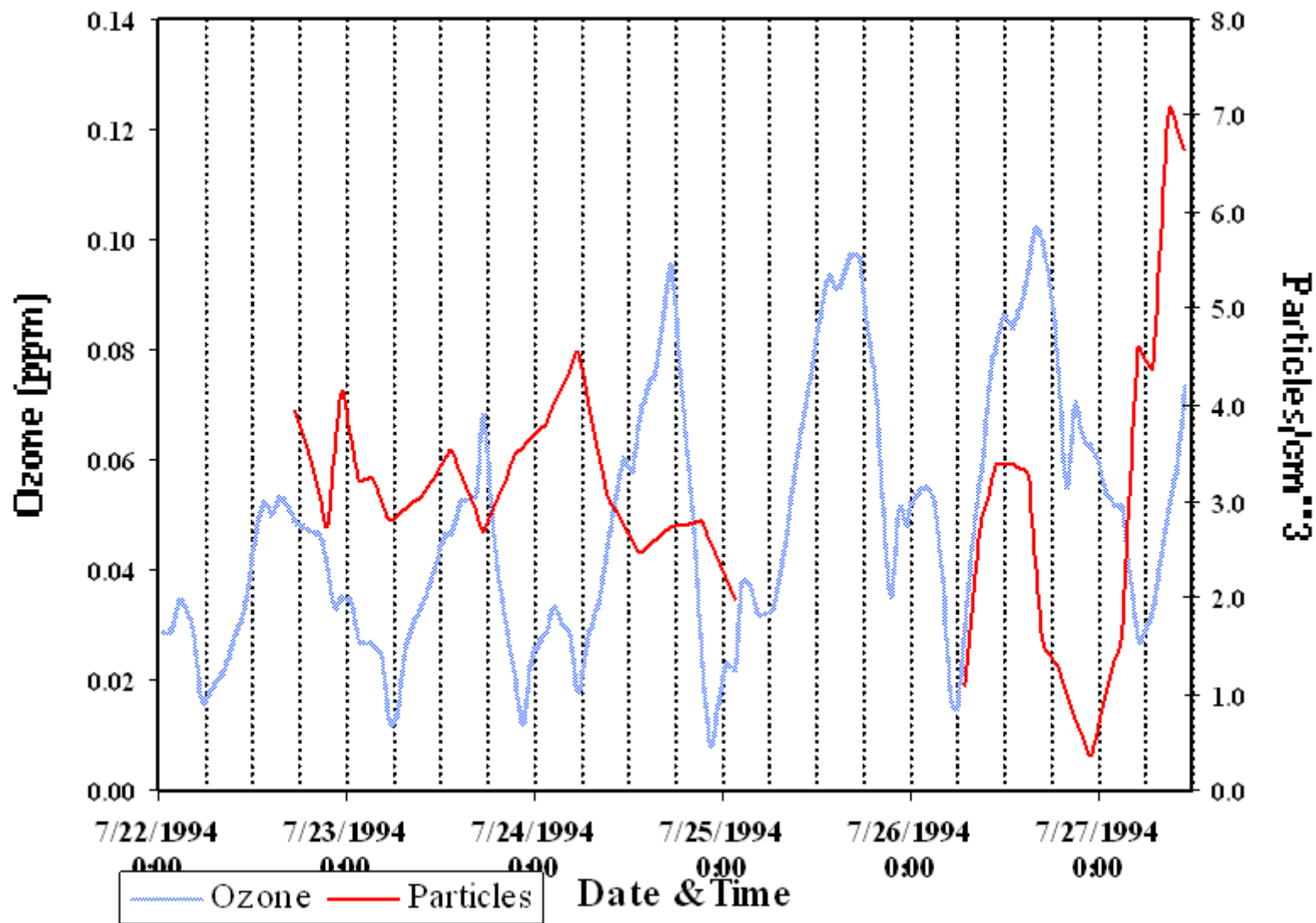
Phoenix Terrain

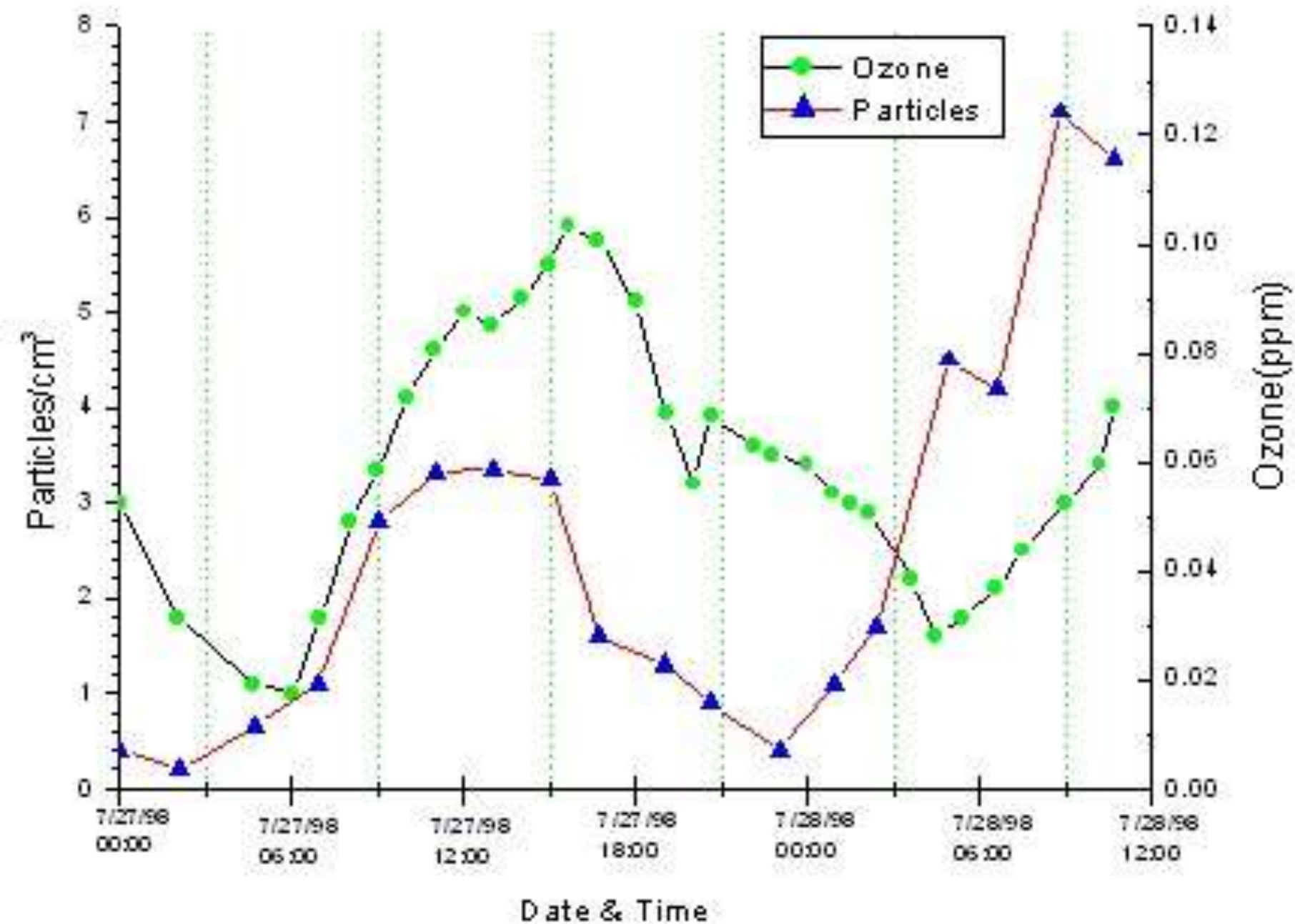
★ -Grand Canyon University Site (PAFEX I)

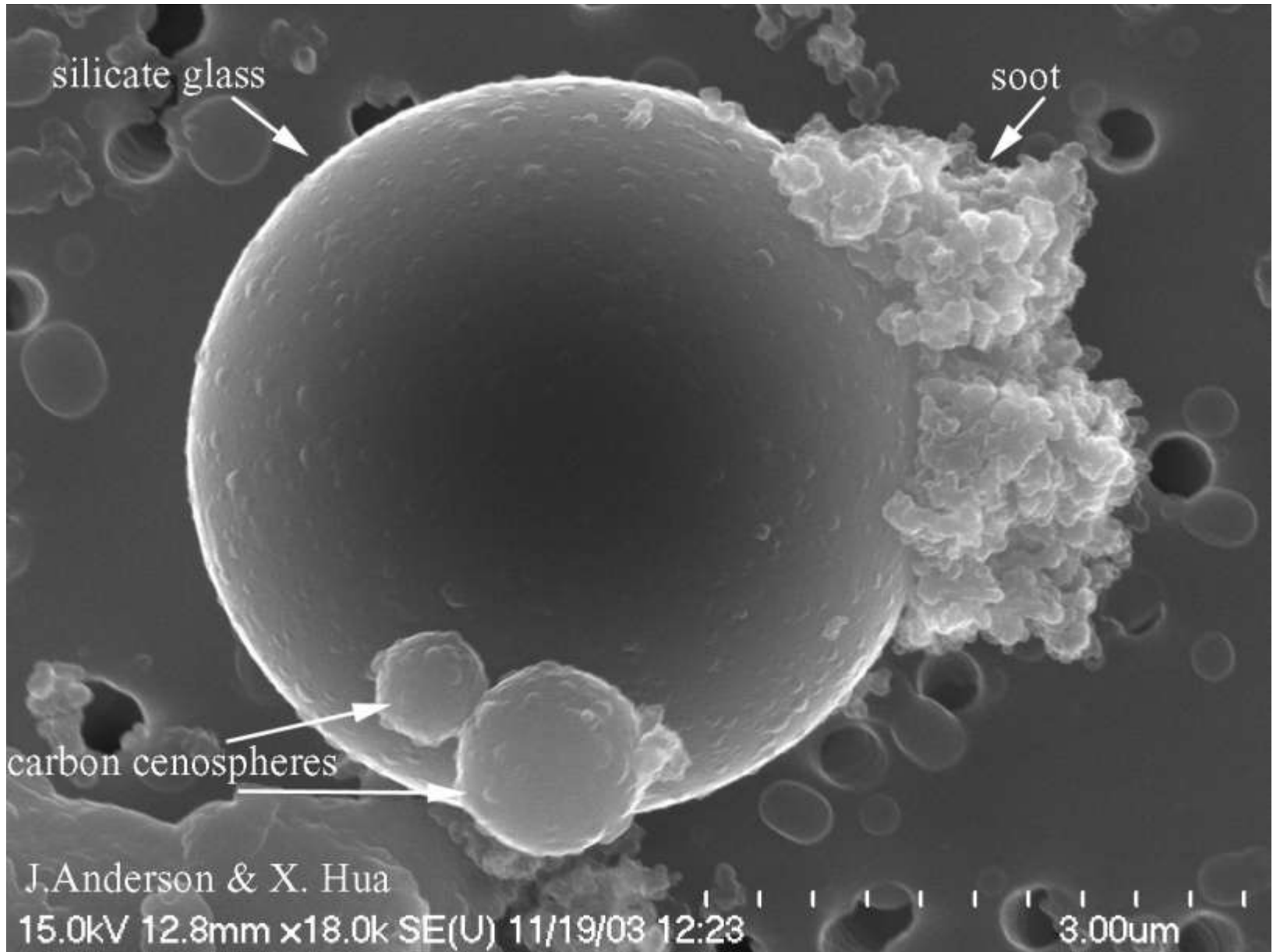
◆ -Falcon Field Site (PAFEX II)

✕ -Phoenix Airport



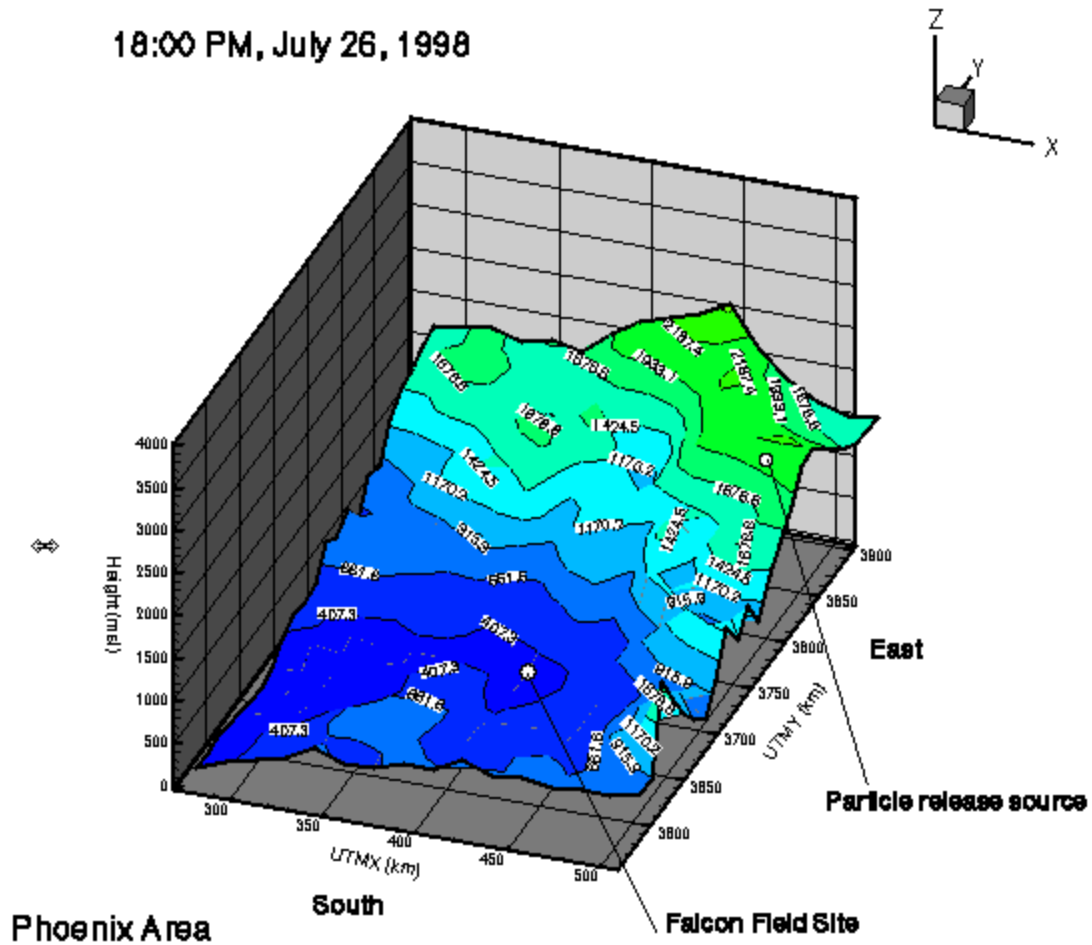




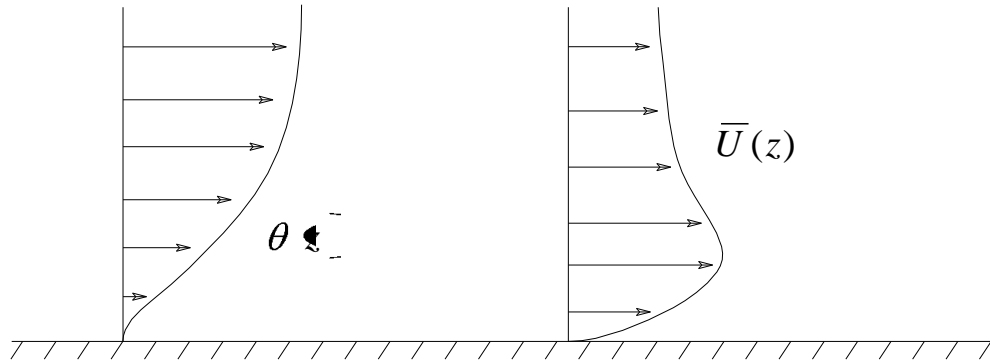


Dispersion of Air Pollutants

18:00 PM, July 26, 1998



Parameterization of Vertical Mixing



$$\frac{\partial \overline{q^2}/2}{\partial t} + U_j \frac{\partial \overline{q^2}/2}{\partial x_j} = \underbrace{-\overline{u_i u_j}}_P \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j} + \underbrace{\overline{b w}}_B - \underbrace{\frac{\partial \left(\overline{u_j q^2/2 + p u_j} \right)}{\partial x_j}}_D - \varepsilon$$

Flux Richardson Number

$$R_f = \frac{-\overline{b w}}{-\overline{u_i u_j} \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j}}$$

Gradient Richardson Number

$$R_{ig} = \frac{N^2}{\left(\frac{\partial \overline{U}}{\partial z} \right)^2}$$

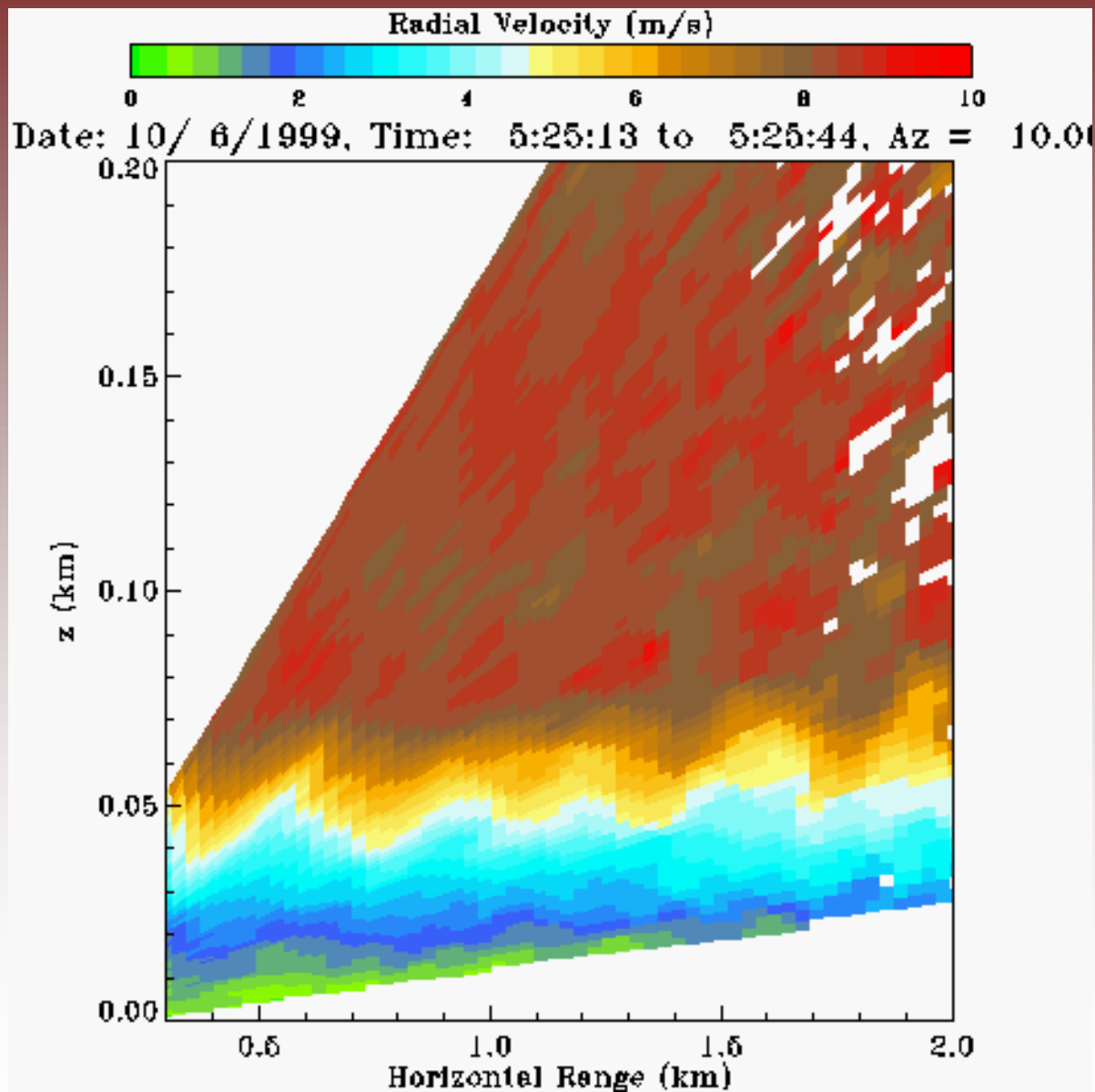
Diffusion Coefficients

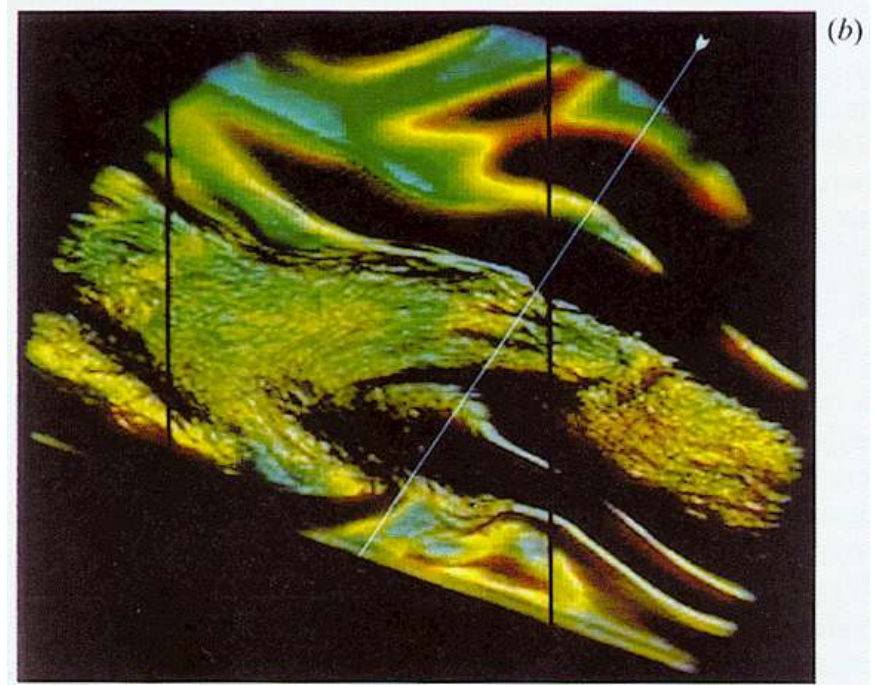
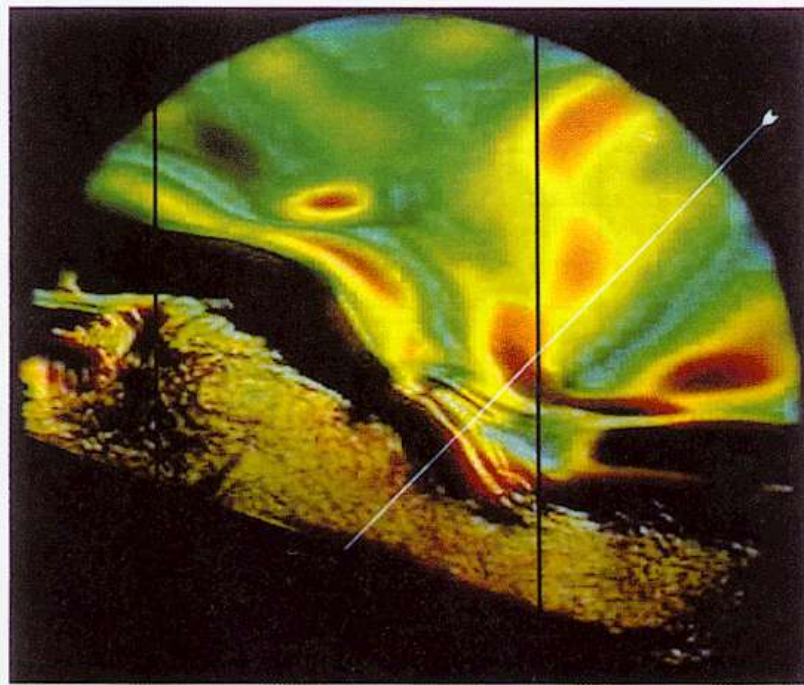
$$-\overline{u_i u_j} = K_m \left(\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial x_i} \right)$$

$$-\overline{b u_i} = K_h \left(\frac{\partial \overline{b}}{\partial x_i} \right)$$

e.g.. $-\overline{u w} = K_m \frac{\partial \overline{U}}{\partial z}$

ENTRAINMENT





Schlieren video images showing the on-slope and off-slope initiation of instabilities depending on γ . The experimental conditions are $a^* = 2$ cm, $N = 0.921$ rad s⁻¹, $\mathcal{R} = 20$. (a) $\alpha = 45$, $\gamma = 2.07$; (b) $\alpha = 56$, $\gamma = 2.43$. The vertical lines in each figure are 10 cm apart. The oblique thin white line indicates the centre-line of the incident wave ray. From De Silva et al. (1997, JFM, 350,1-27)

