

Experimental Observation of Oceanic Forced Convection

Max Coppin, Bruno Deremble, Joel Sommeria

20 Mar 2025

Parameterizations for global dynamical models in
Climatology, Astrophysics and Planetology



Outline

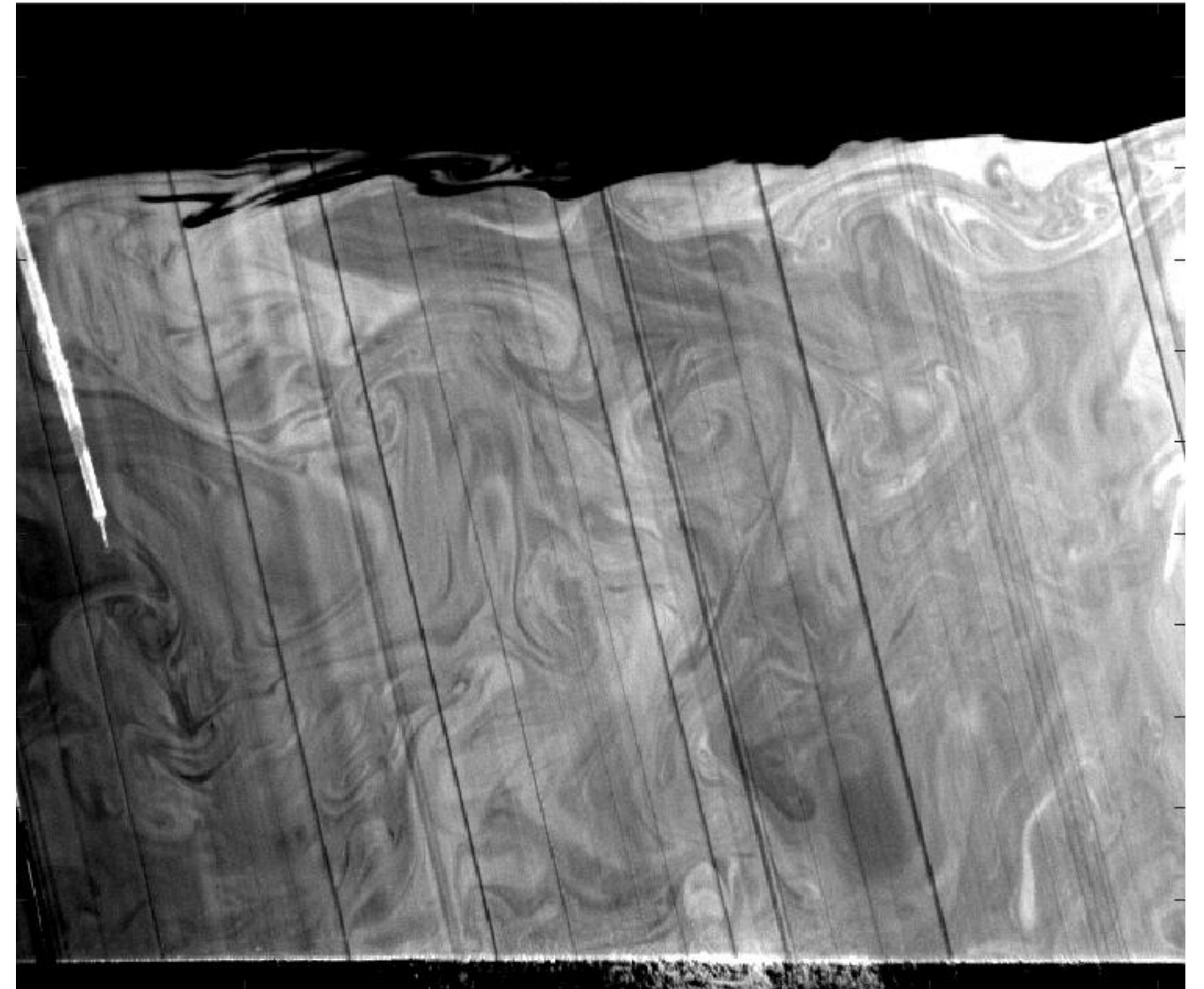
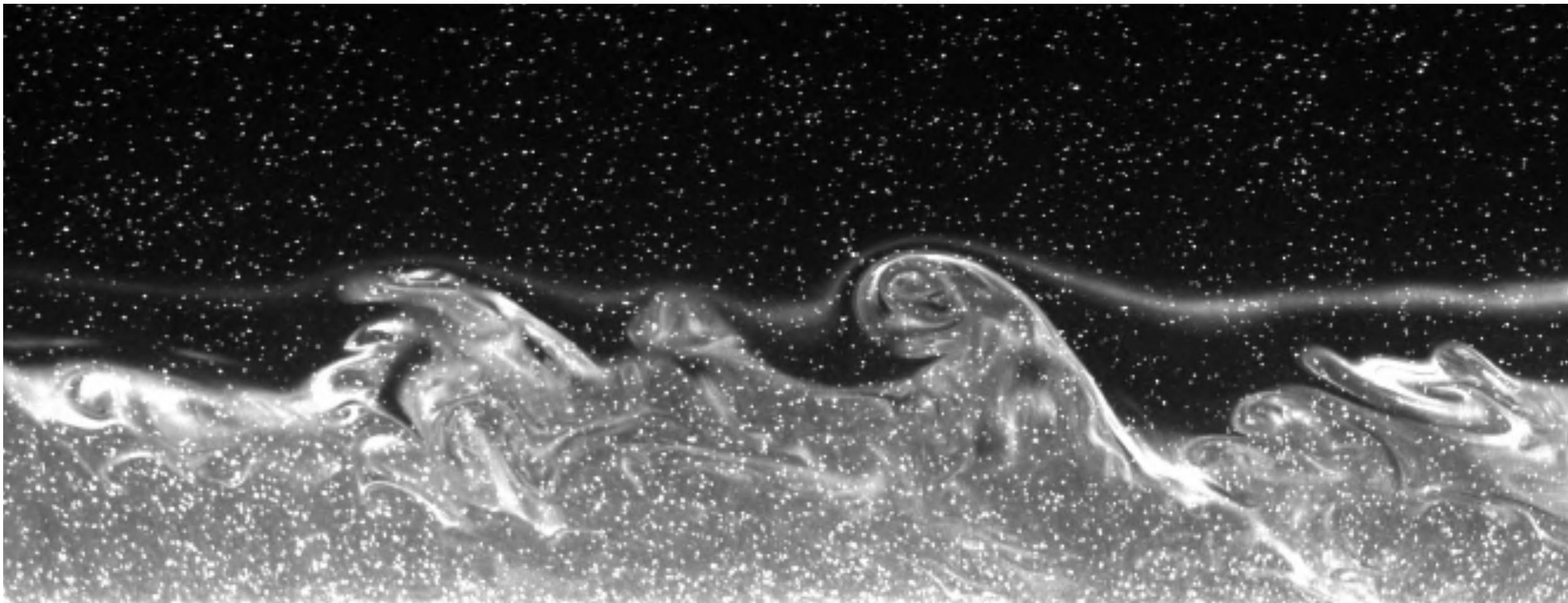
- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Wind-driven ML deepening in ocean**
- 3. Forced convection experiment**
- 4. Longer time behavior of the ML**
- 5. Conclusion**



Introduction: Definition of Convection

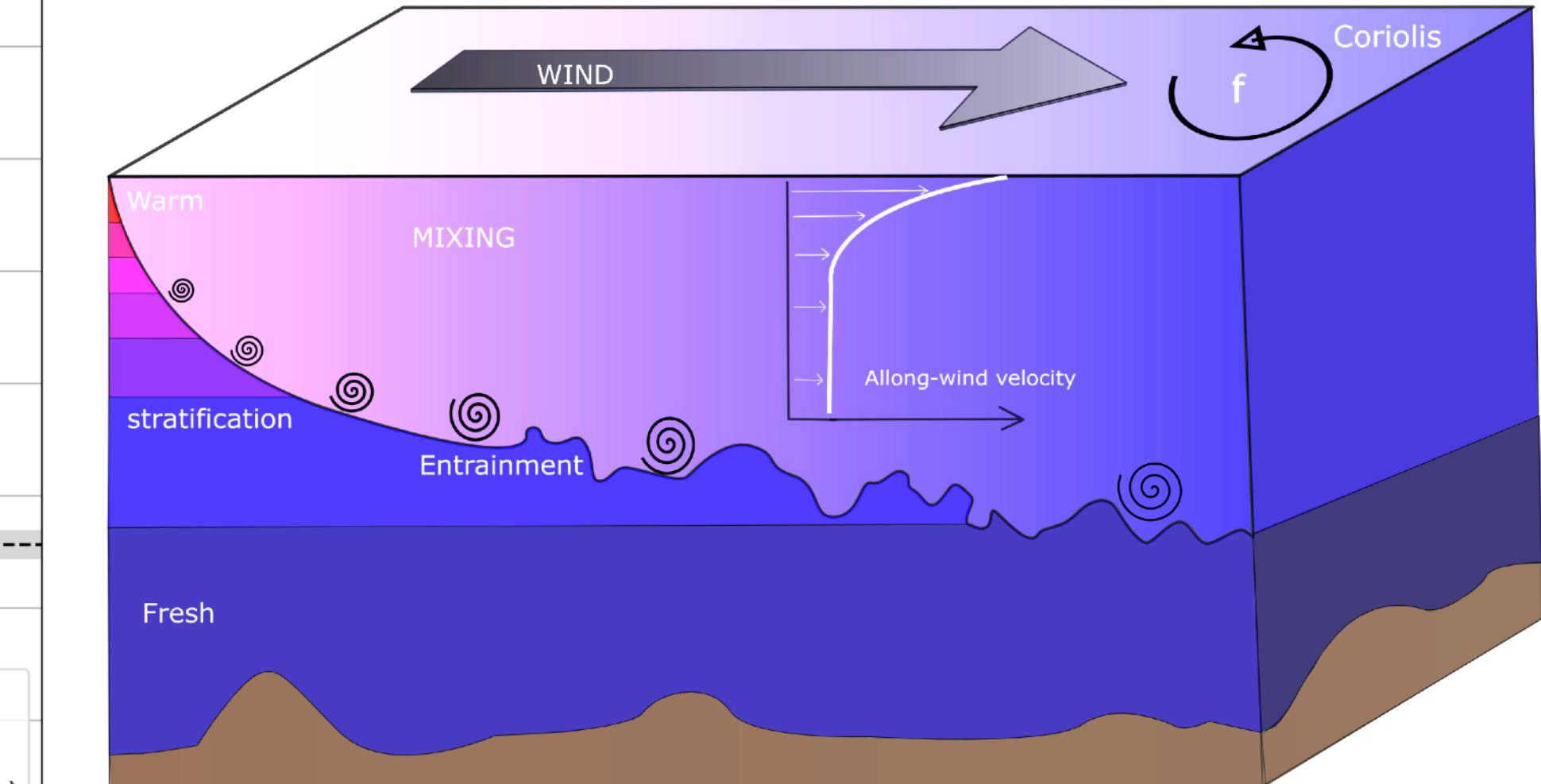
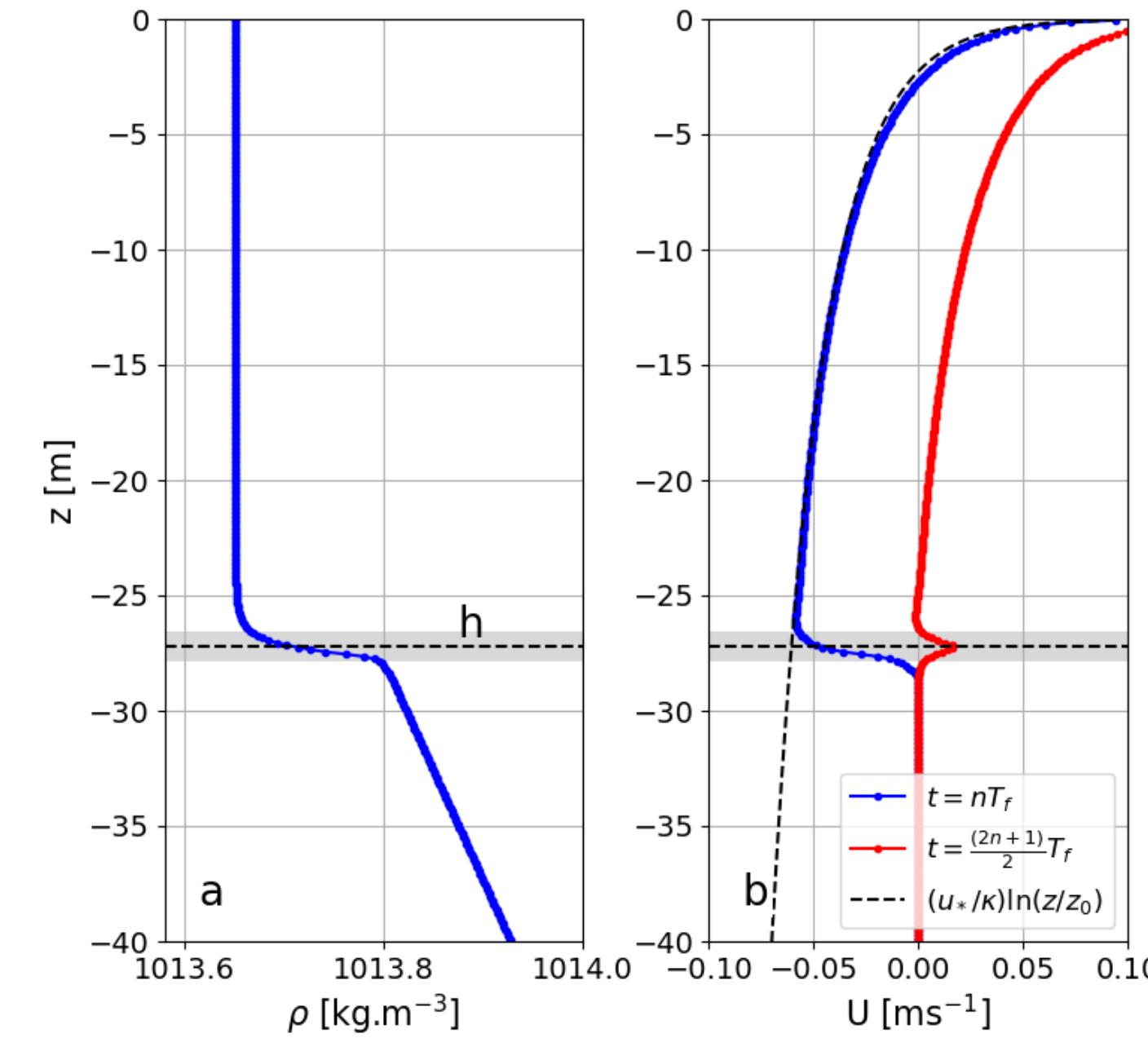
Vertical motion of a fluid parcel caused by:

- Buoyancy Force → **Free convection**
- External Force → **Forced convection**



Wind-driven Oceanic Convection : Processes

Shear stress at the surface



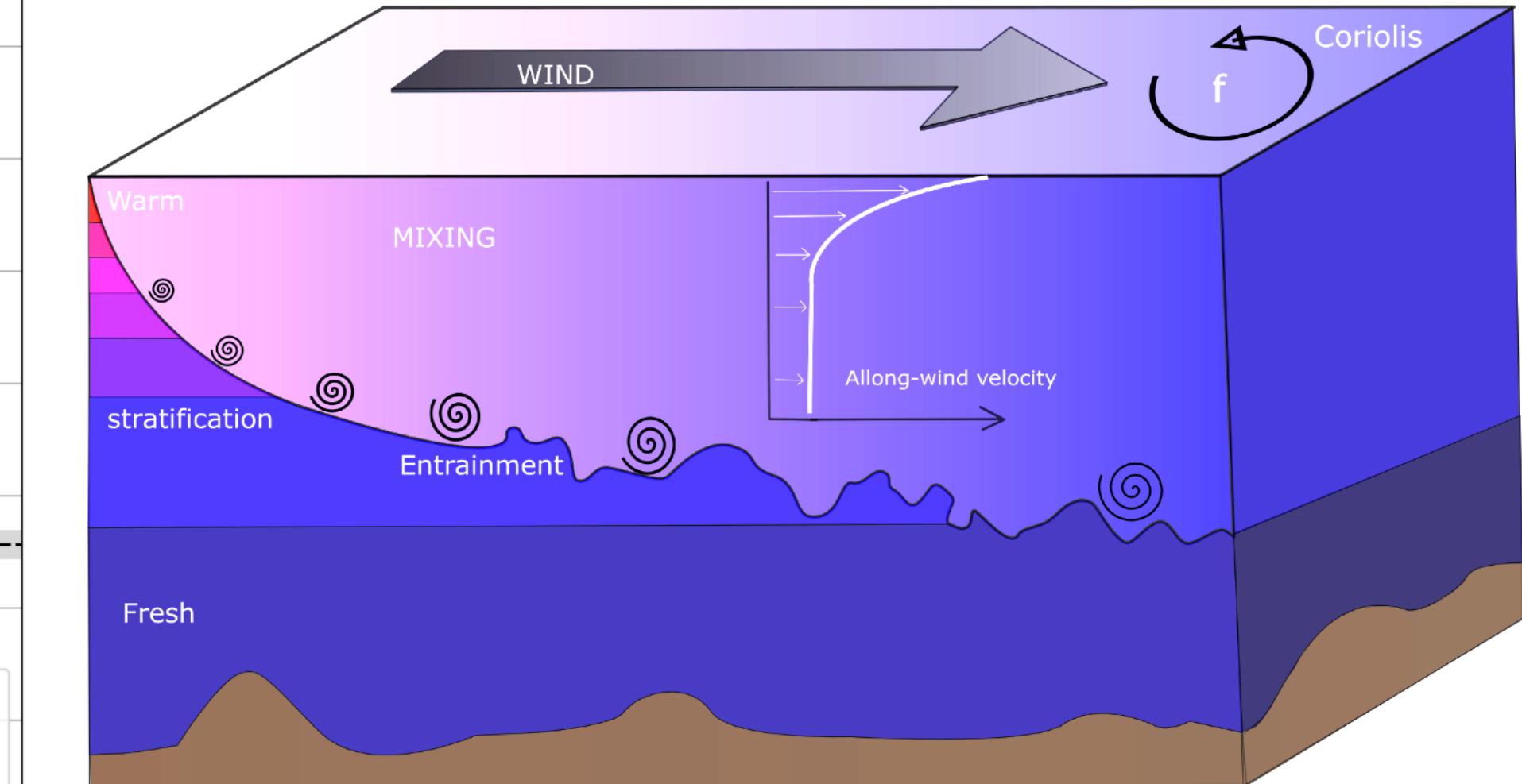
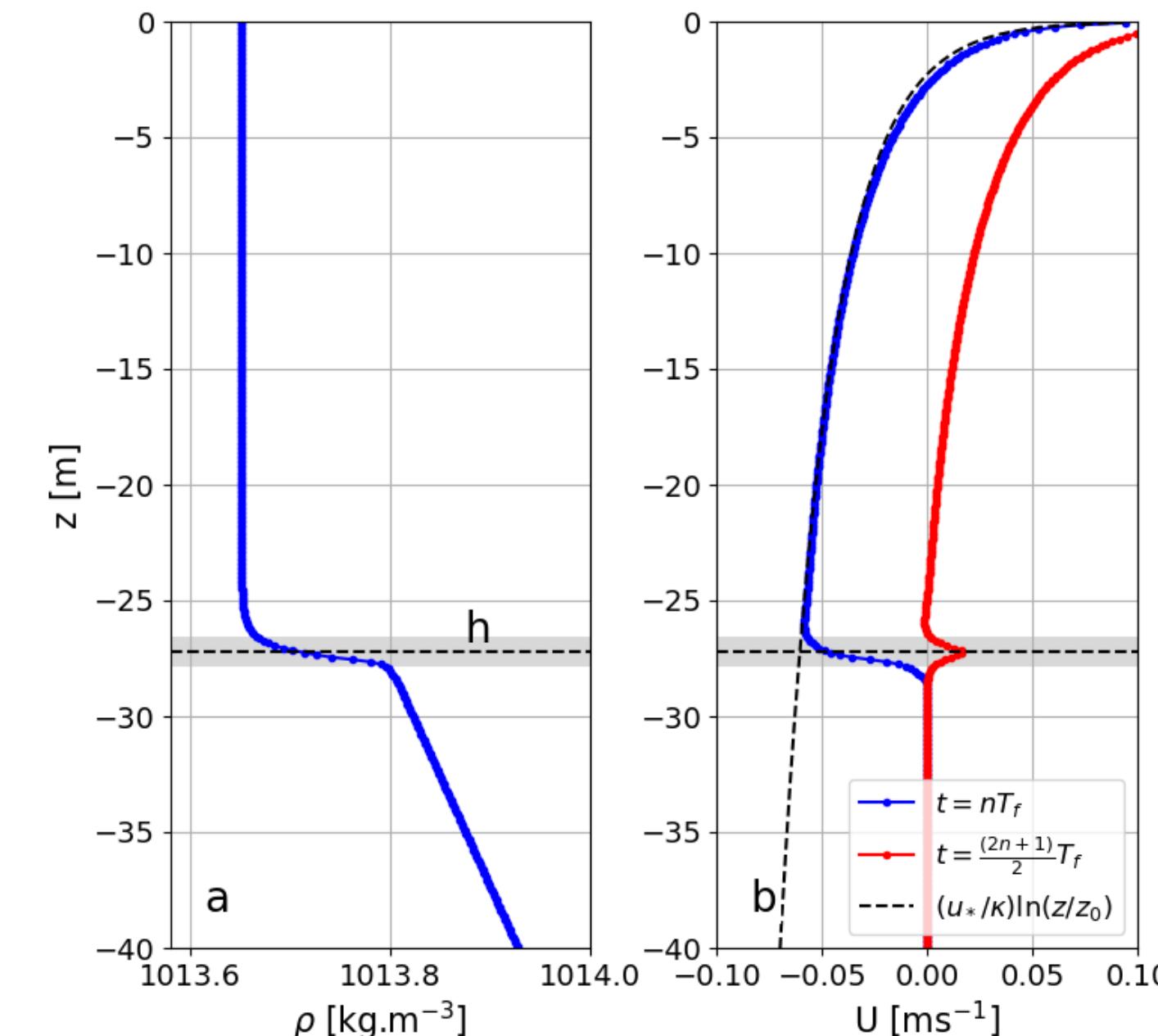
Forced Convection (Momentum Flux)

Wind-driven Oceanic Convection : Processes

Shear stress at the surface



Log layer / Ekman Layer



Forced Convection (Momentum Flux)

Wind-driven Oceanic Convection : Processes

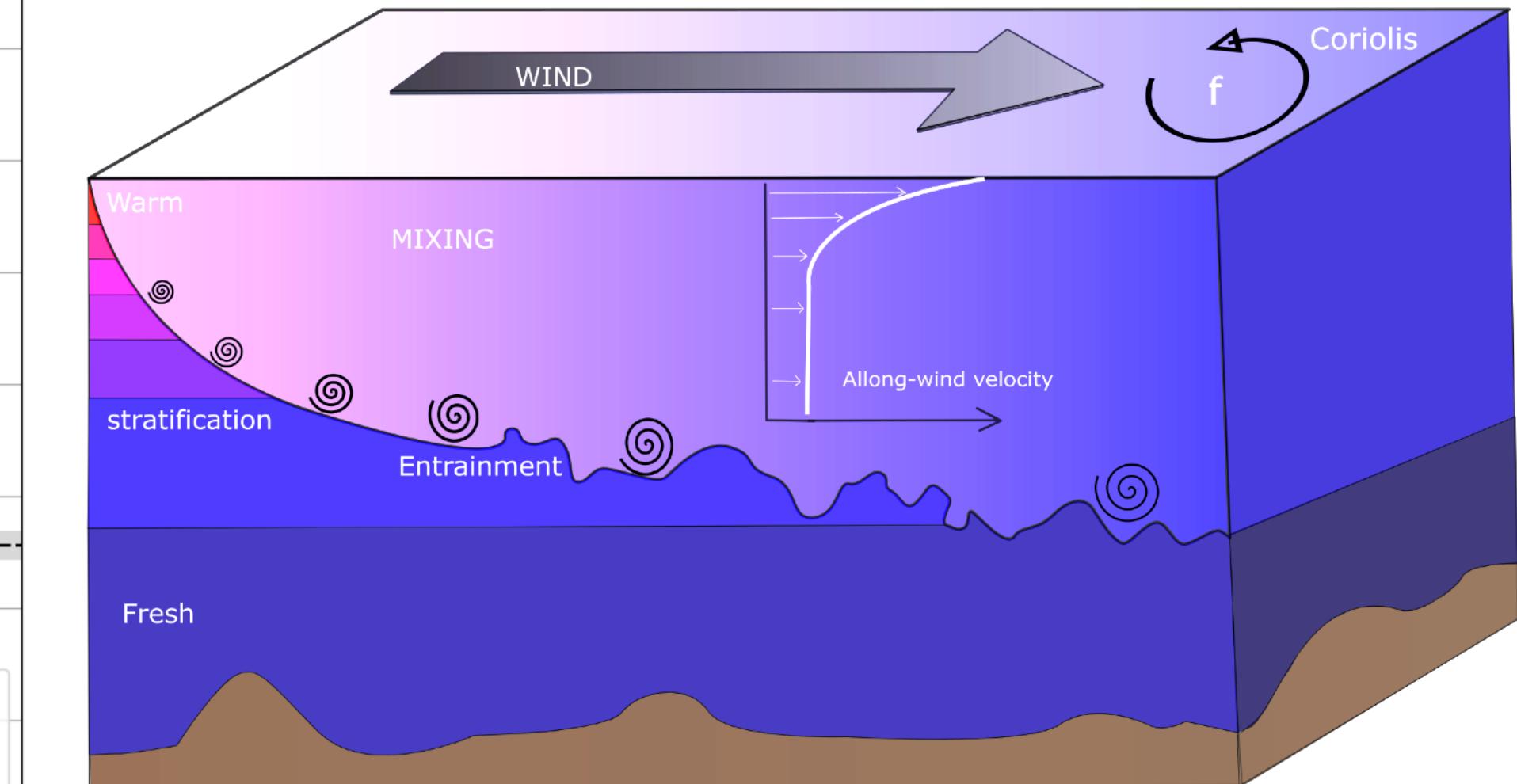
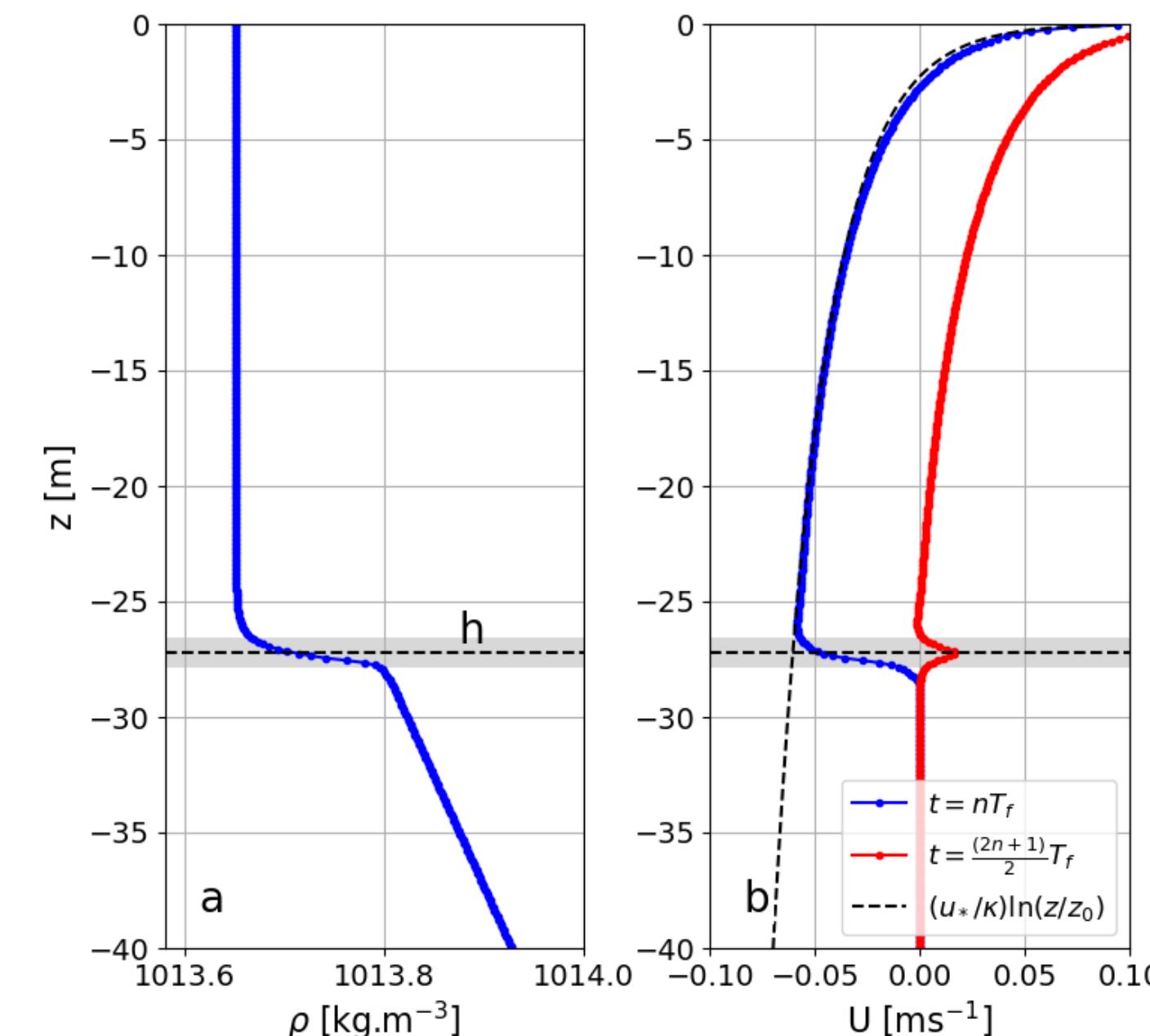
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Entrainement turbulence



Forced Convection (Momentum Flux)

Wind-driven Oceanic Convection : Processes

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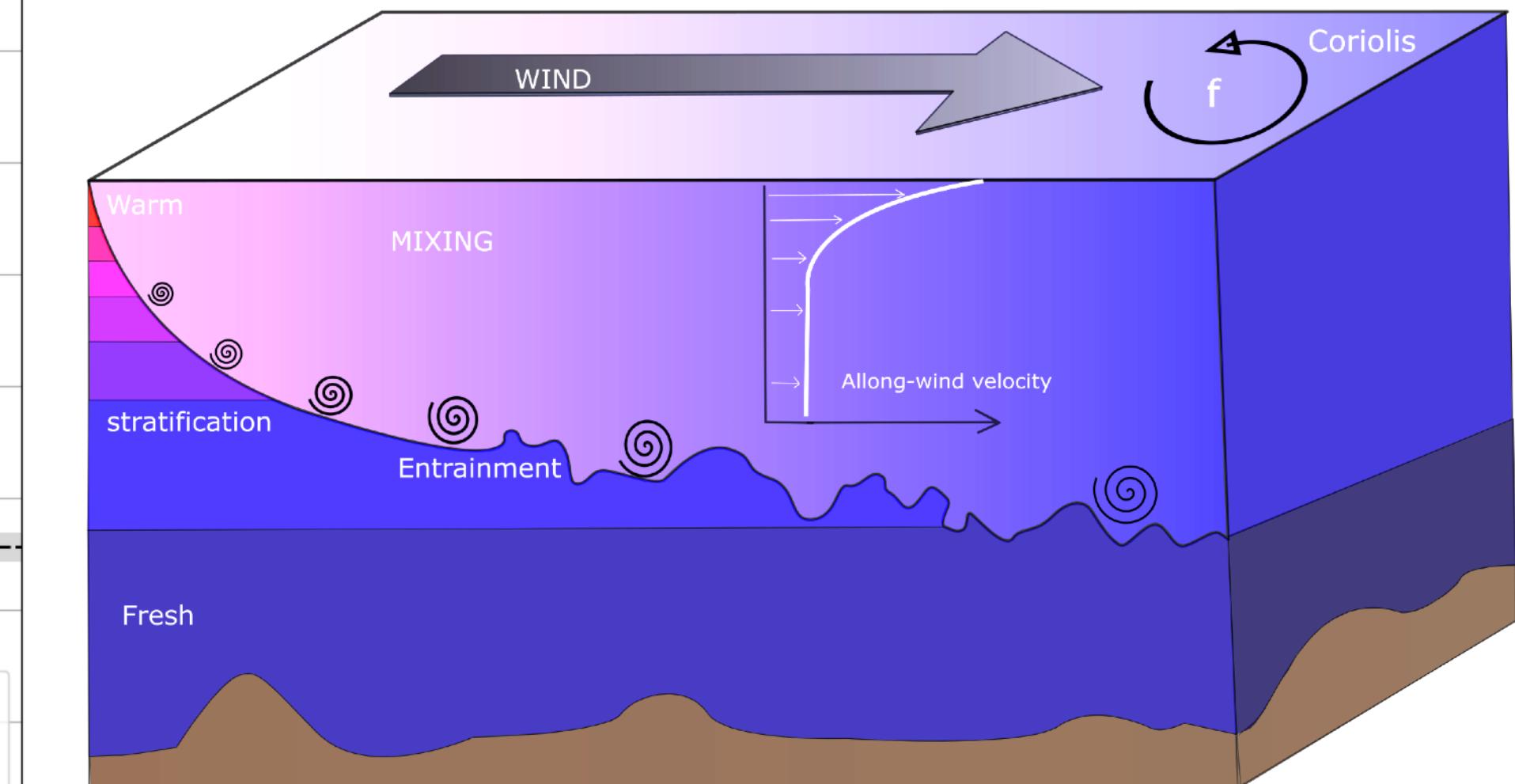
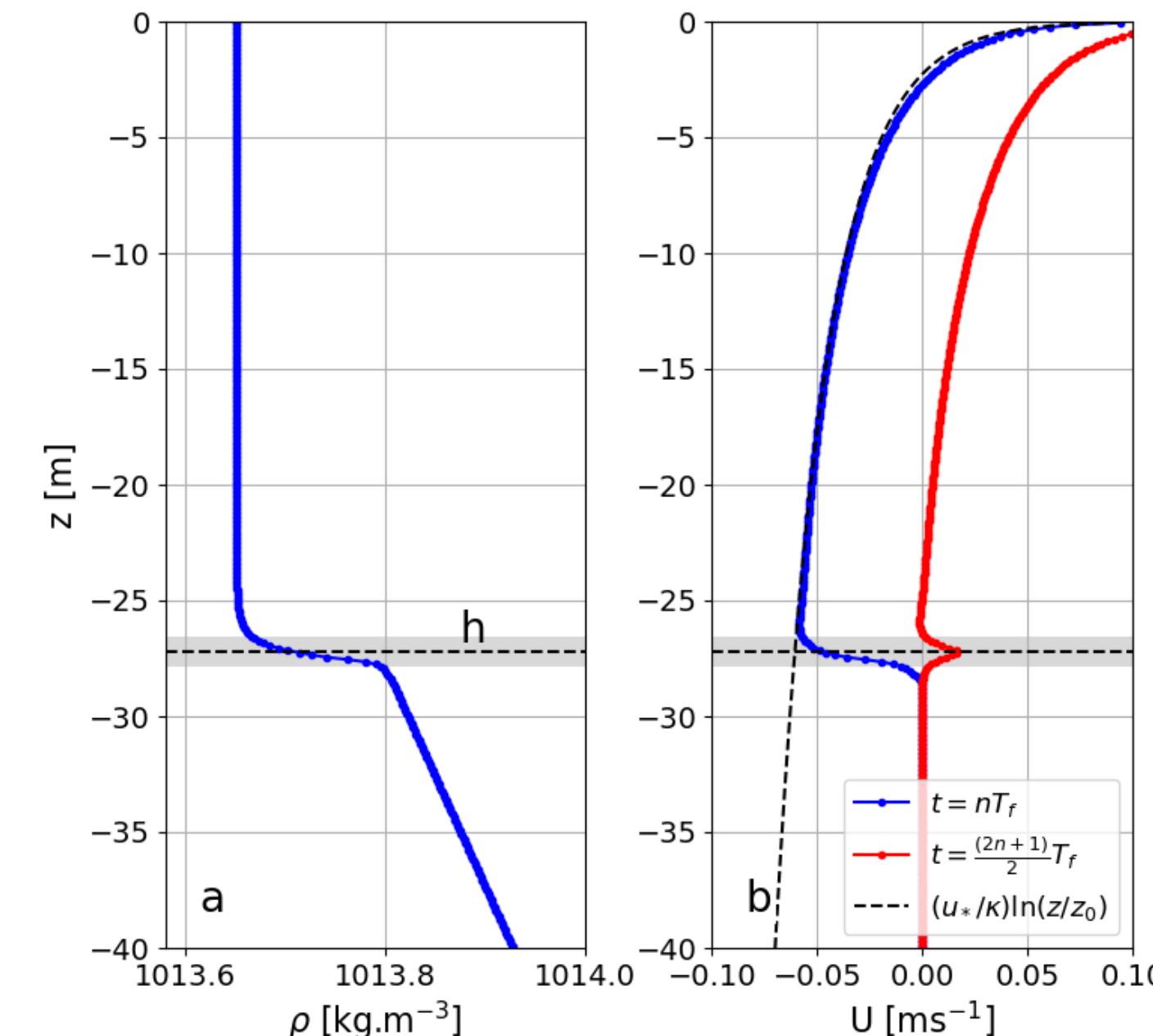
Log layer / Ekman Layer



Entrainement turbulence



Erosion of the Stratification



Forced Convection (Momentum Flux)

Wind-driven Oceanic Convection: Scaling law

Pollard et al, 1973: Assumption

- Linear stratification
- Bulk consideration
- The entire stress at the bottom of ML deepen it
- Excess of energy by wind + rate of change of TKE + Dissipation = 0

$$u_{surface} > u_{bulk}$$

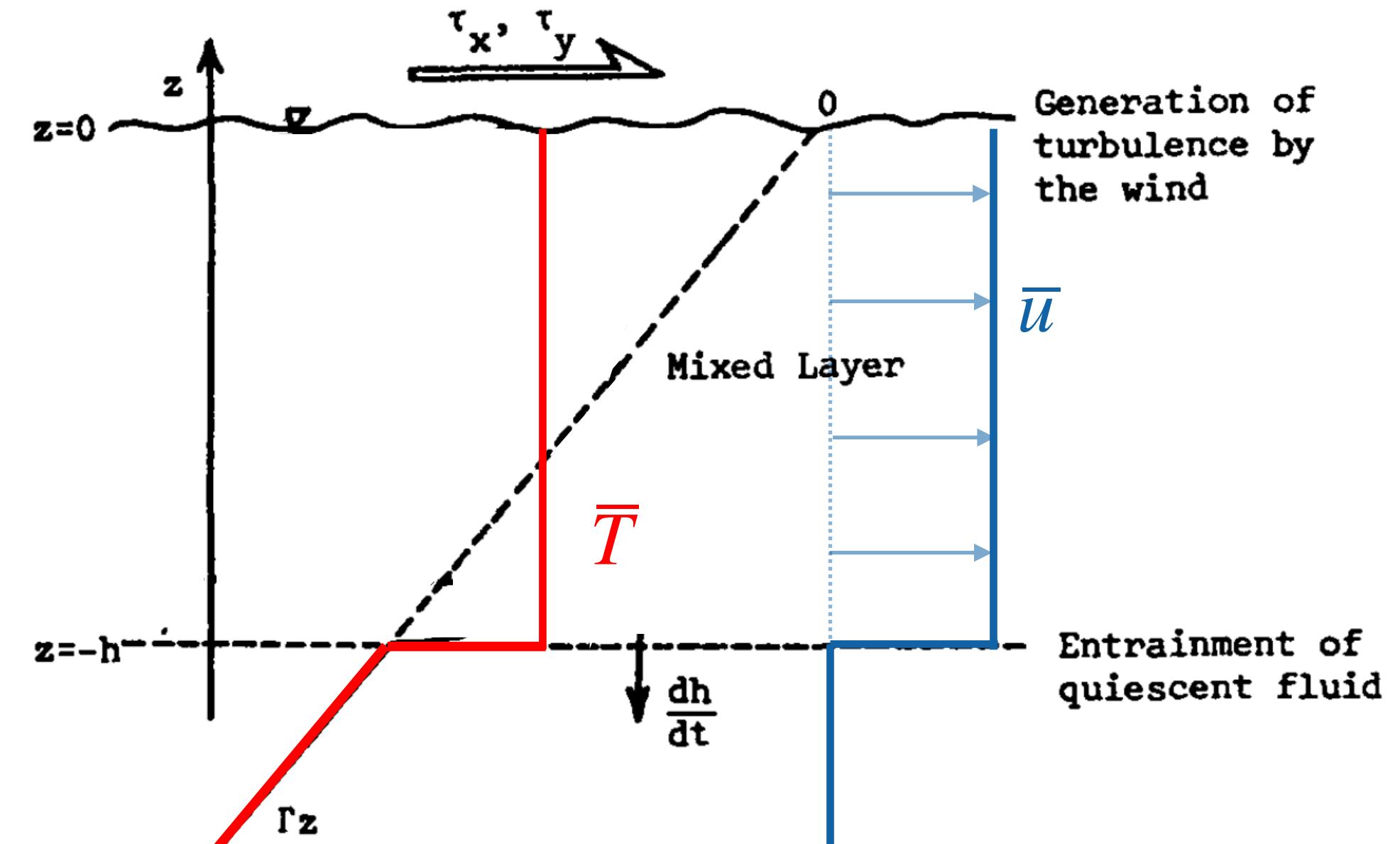


Figure modified from Cushman-Roisin, 1981

Wind-driven Oceanic Convection: Scaling law

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ML deepening scaling law

- Momentum of mixed Layer increase : $uh \propto u_*^2 t$
- Marginal stability state $\Rightarrow Ri = \frac{h^2 N_0^2}{u^2} = Ri_c$

$$h_{(t)} = \frac{u_*}{\sqrt{N_0 f}} [4(1 - \cos(ft))]^{1/4}$$

$$h_{(t)} \sim 2^{1/4} u_* \sqrt{\frac{t}{N_0}}$$

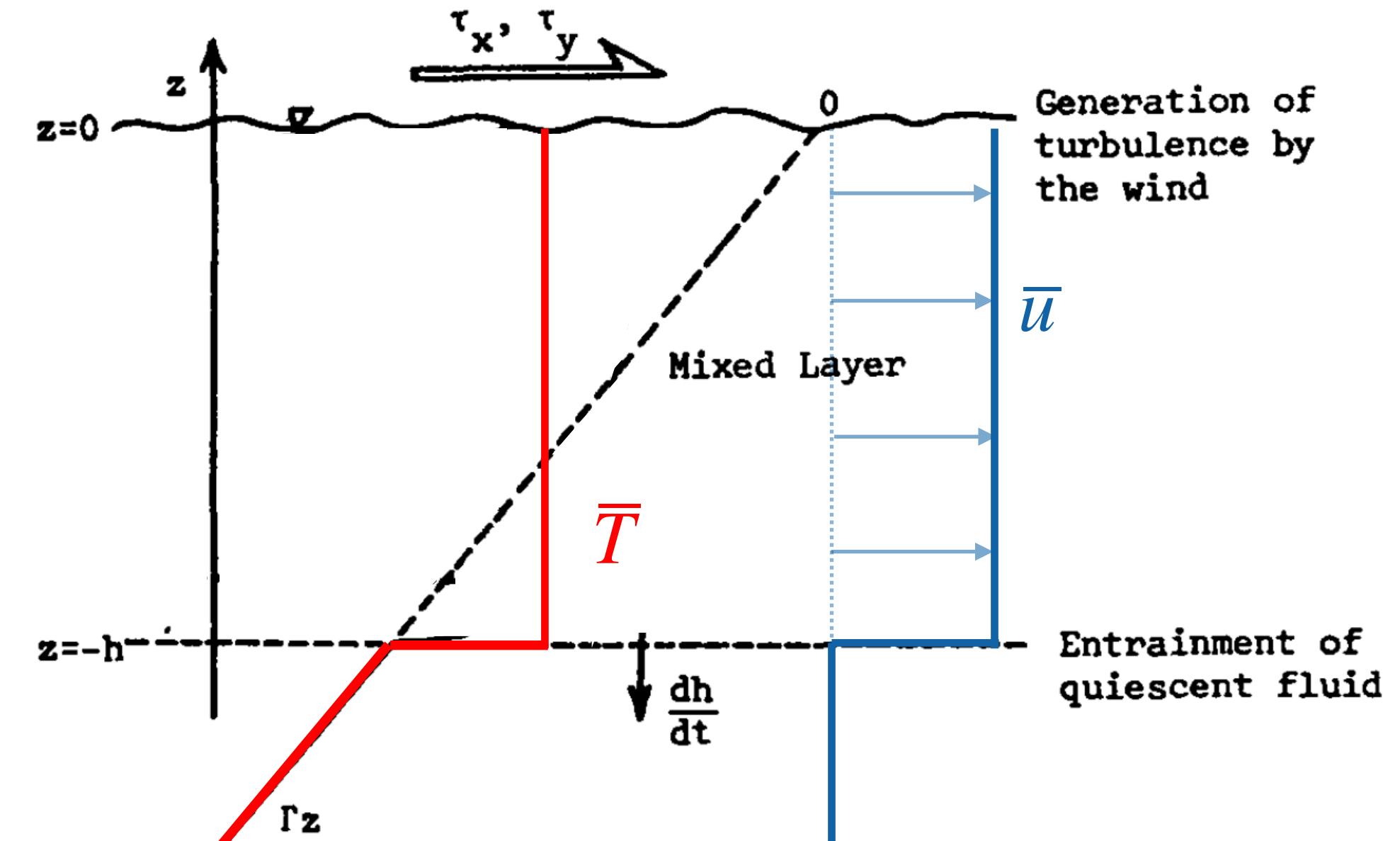


Figure modified from Cushman-Roisin, 1981

Seminal Experiments

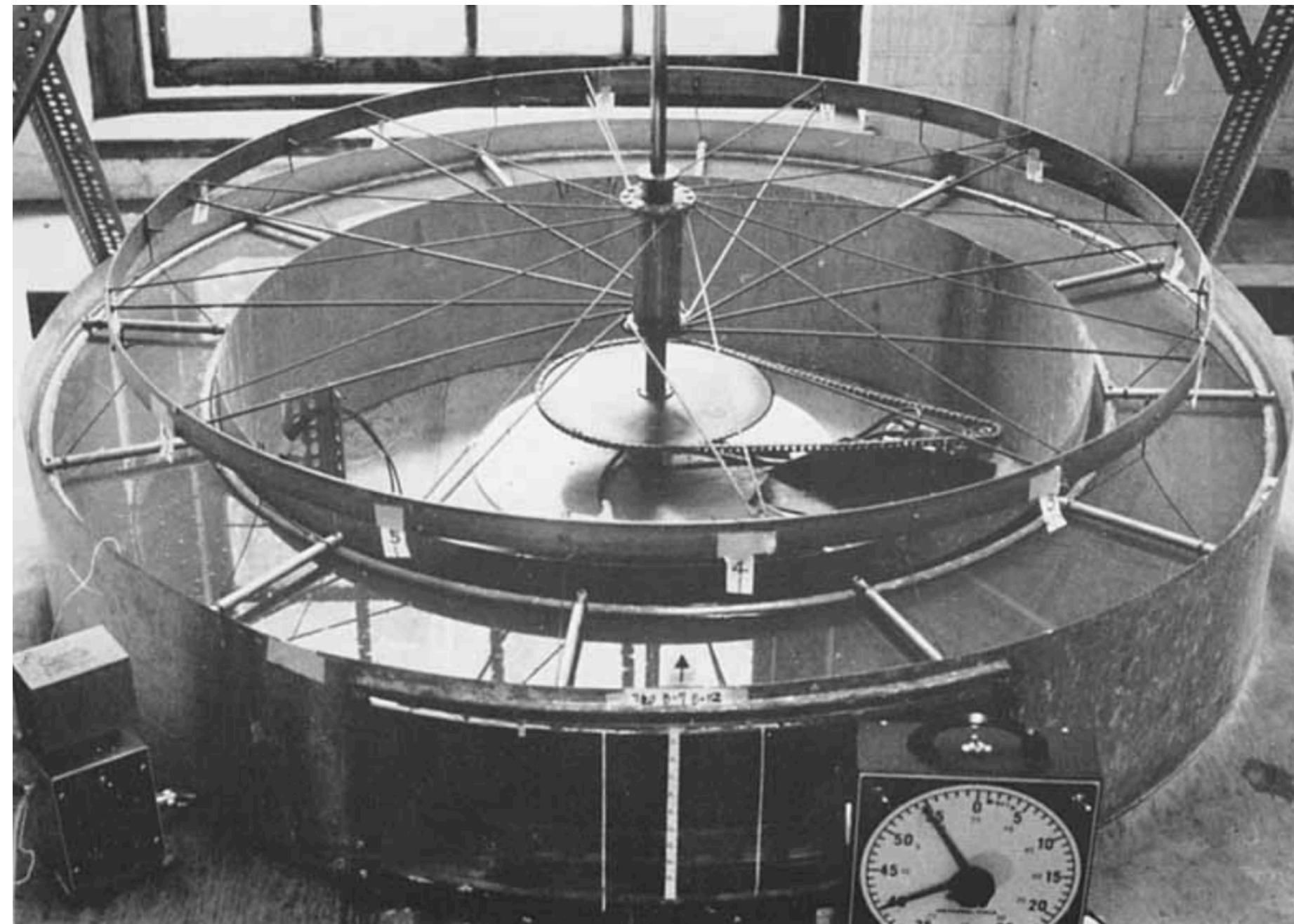


FIGURE 1. The experimental apparatus.

Kato - Philips 1969

- Mixed layer deepening rate : $h \sim t^{1/3}$
- Entrainment law : $E(Ri) = \frac{dh/dt}{u_*} = 2.5 Ri^{-1}$

- They did not consider rotational effects
- The torque applied was tuned « by hand »
- No direct measurement of the density
- No direct measurement of the velocity

Coriolis Platform

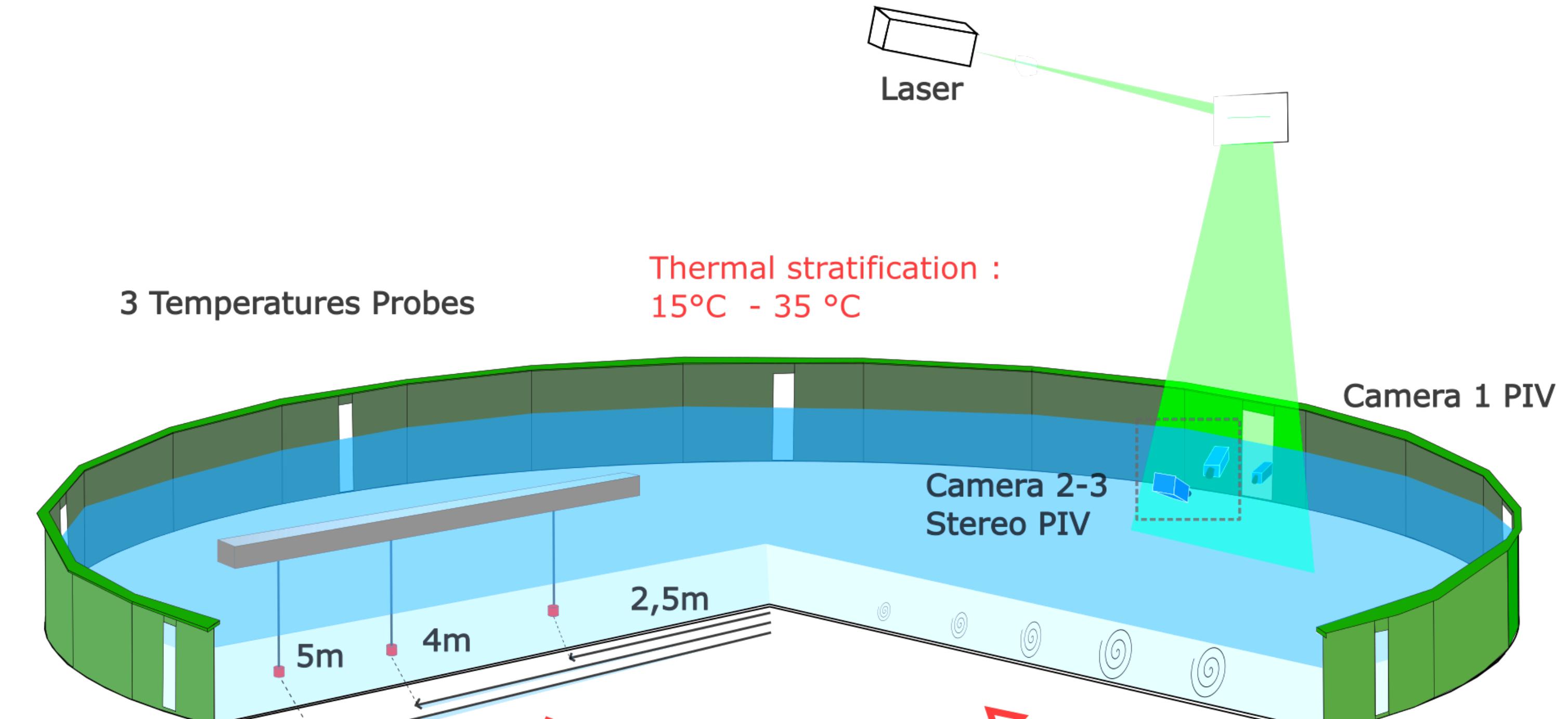


- Diameter: 13 m
- Weight : 350 Tones at full load
- Maximum Speed: 6 rpm
- Max water height: 1 m
- Volume: 132 m^3

- Rossby Number $Ro = \frac{U}{fL}$
- Froude Number : $Fr = \frac{U}{NL}$
- Reynold Number: $Re = \frac{UL}{\nu}$

Forced Convection Experiment: Apparatus

- Acceleration of rotation (Spin-Up)
- Temperature stratification
- Temperature probes
 - 3 Vertical profilers
- Vertical laser sheet (30x25)cm
 - PIV Stereo (2D - 3 components)



Control parameters

Friction : u_*

Rotation : f

Stratification $N^2 \equiv (\Delta T)$

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- Acceleration of rotation (Spin up)
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All Scalings depends on this velocity friction

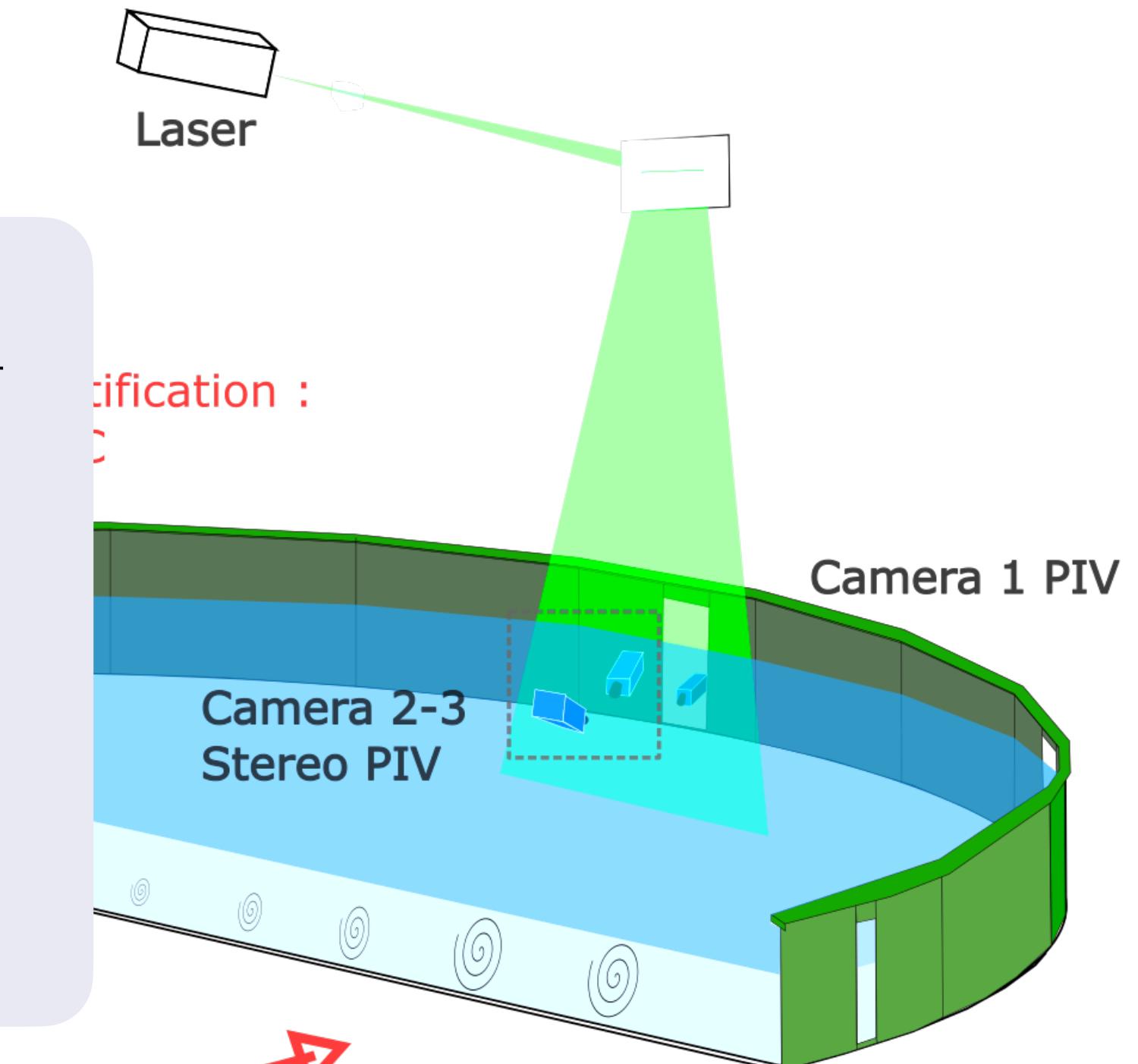
A proper characterization is needed

Control parameters

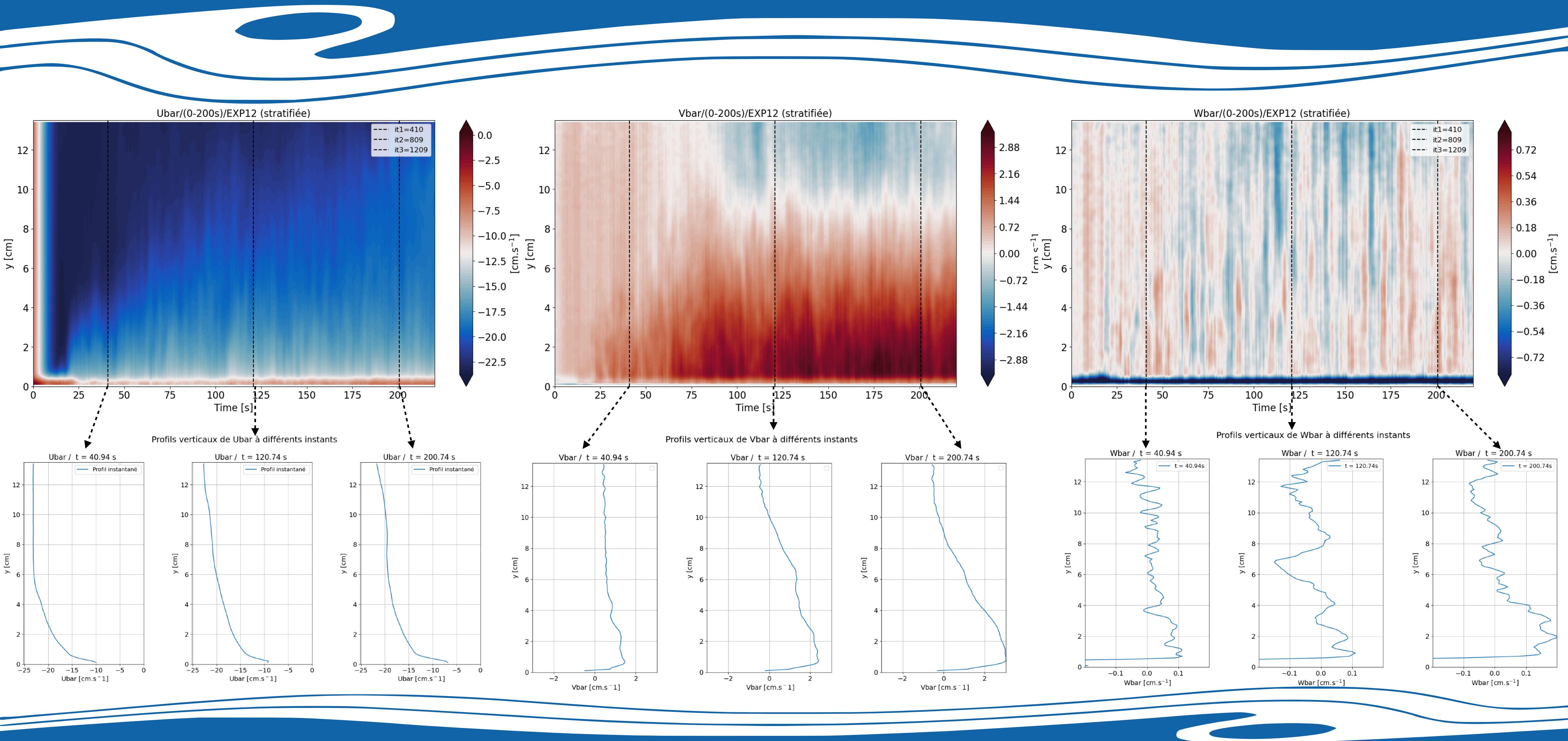
Friction : $u_* \sim 2\pi R \Omega / 20$

Rotation : f

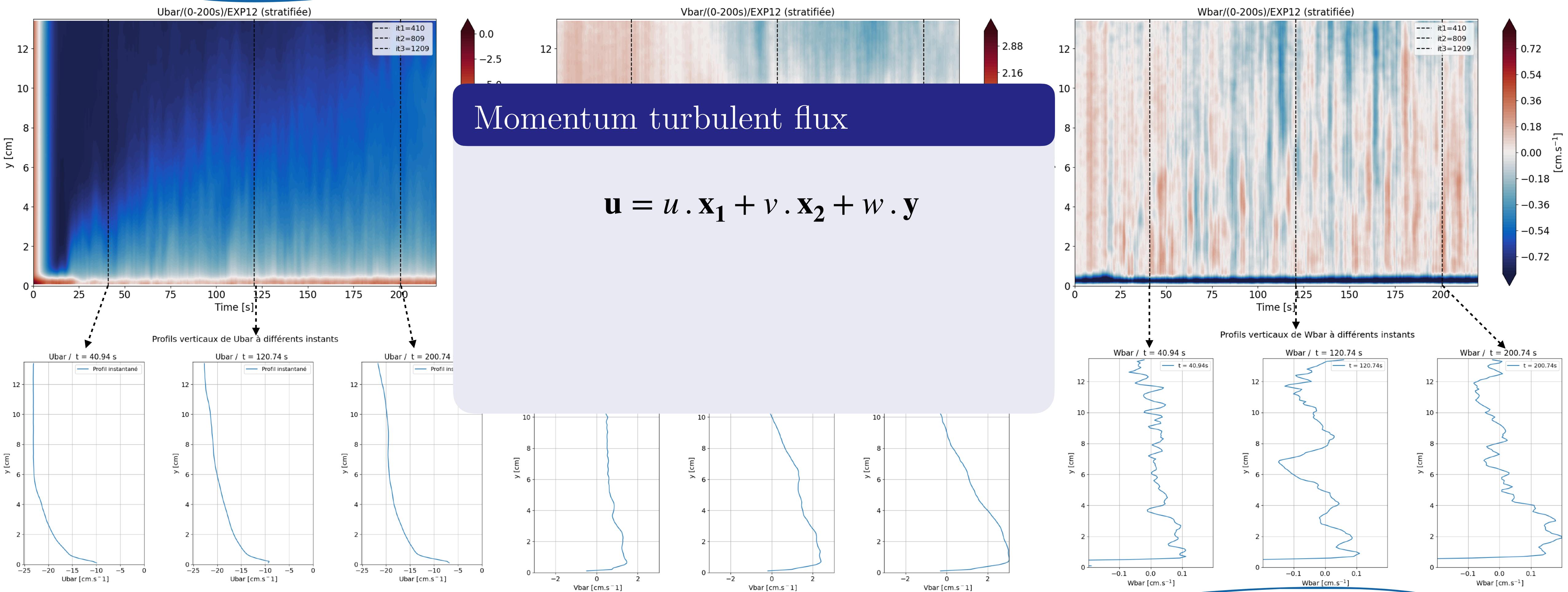
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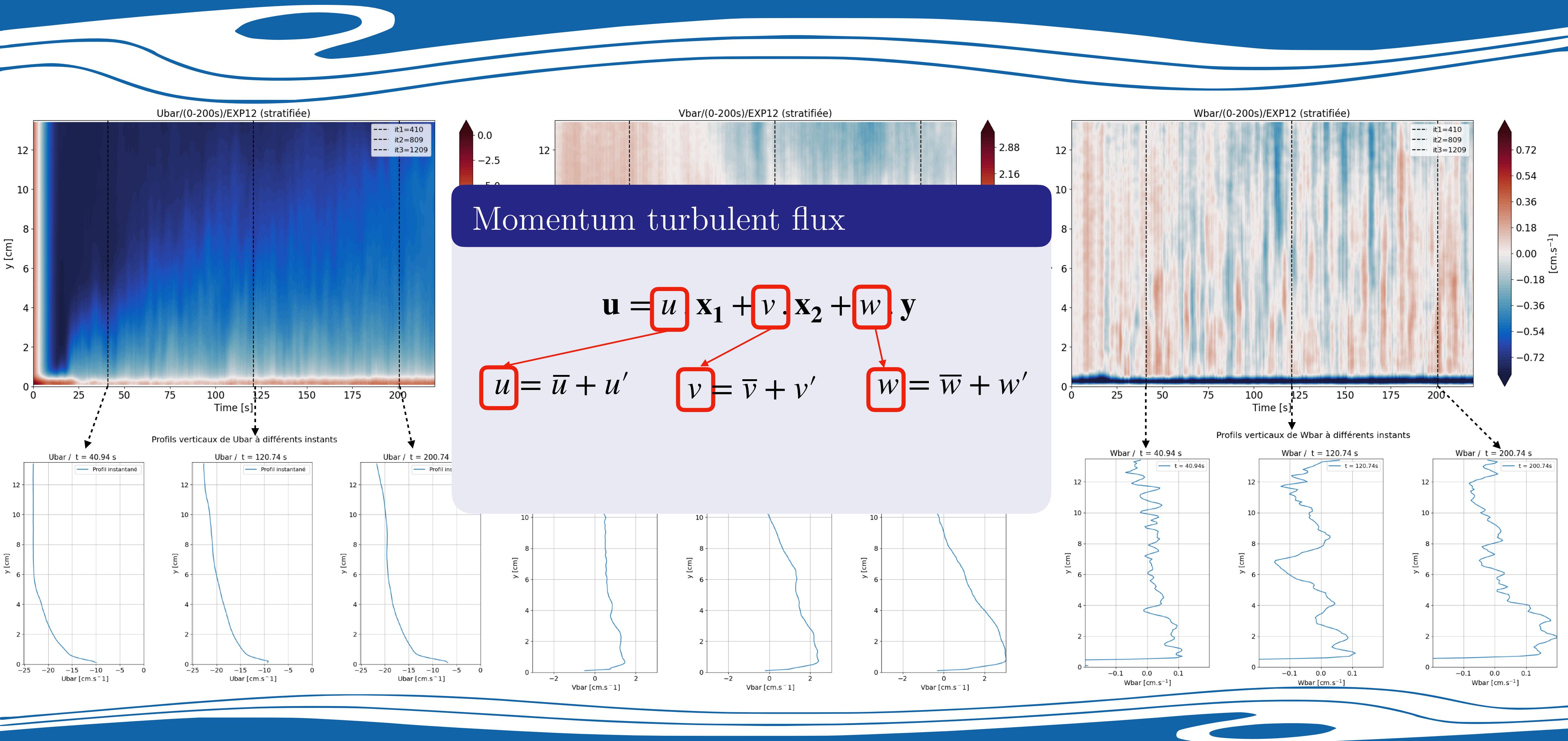
Forced Convection Experiment: Vertical profiles of velocity



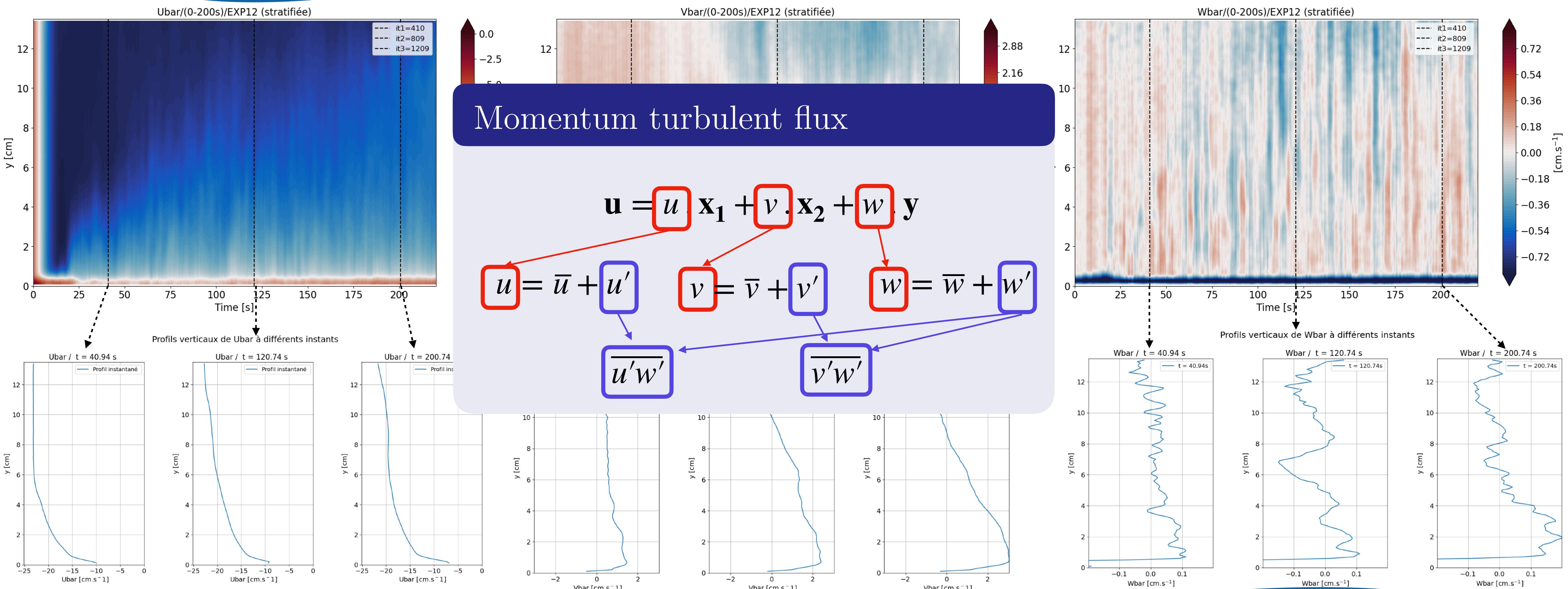
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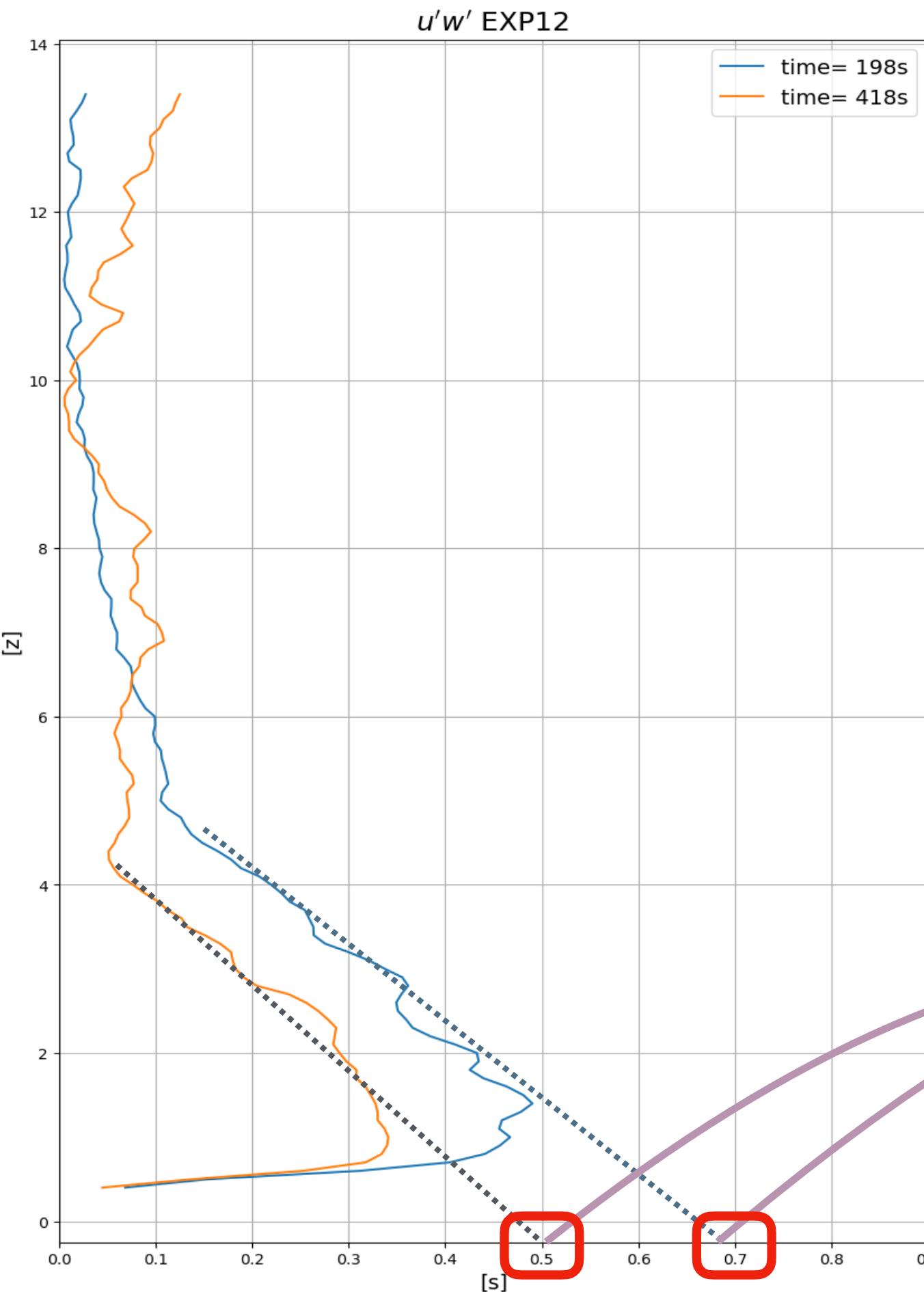
Forced Convection Experiment: Vertical profiles of velocity



Forced Convection Experiment: Vertical profiles of velocity



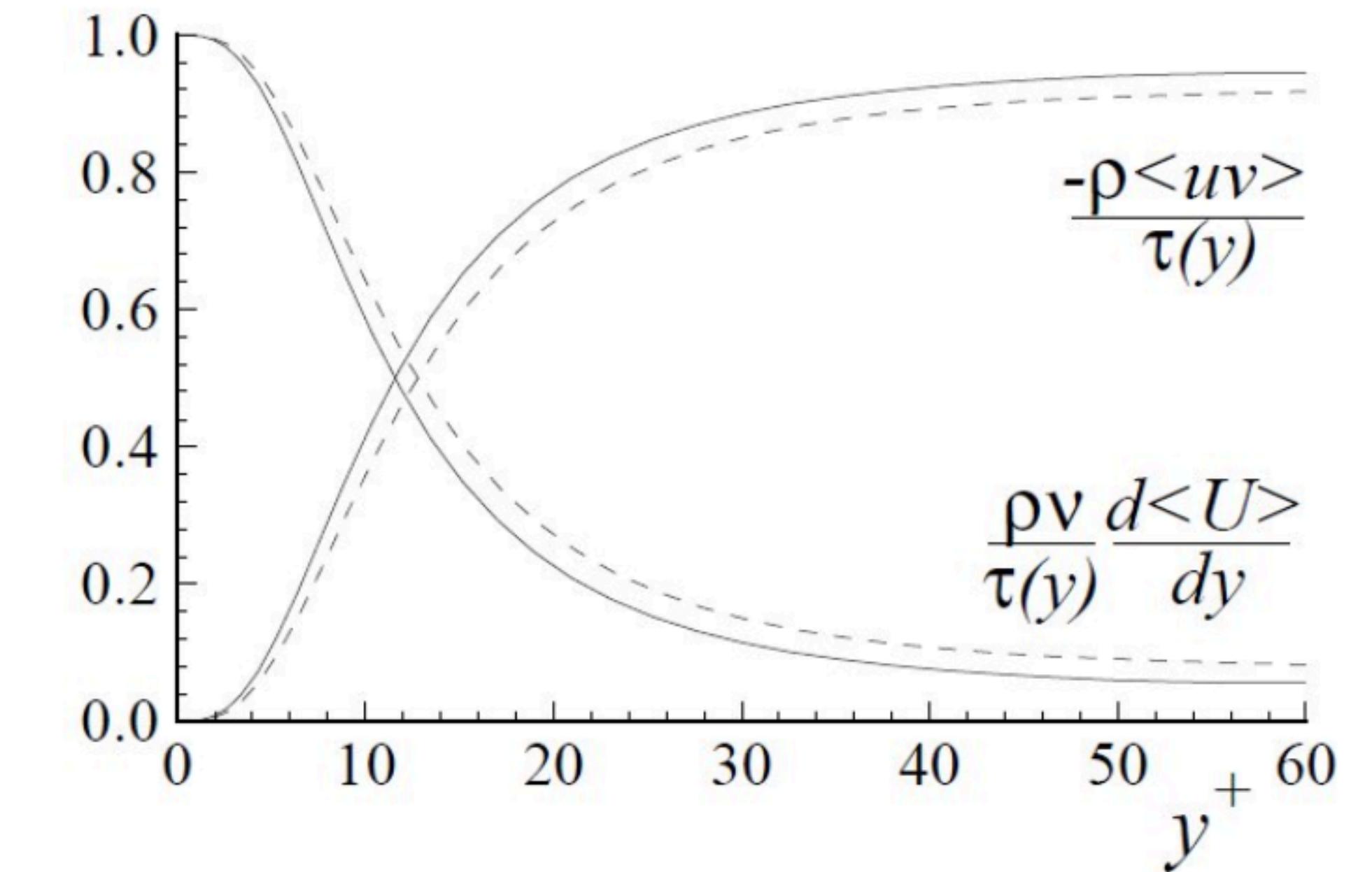
Forced Convection Experiment: Characterization of friction



Friction velocity

$$-u_*^2 = \overline{u'w'} - \nu \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial z}$$

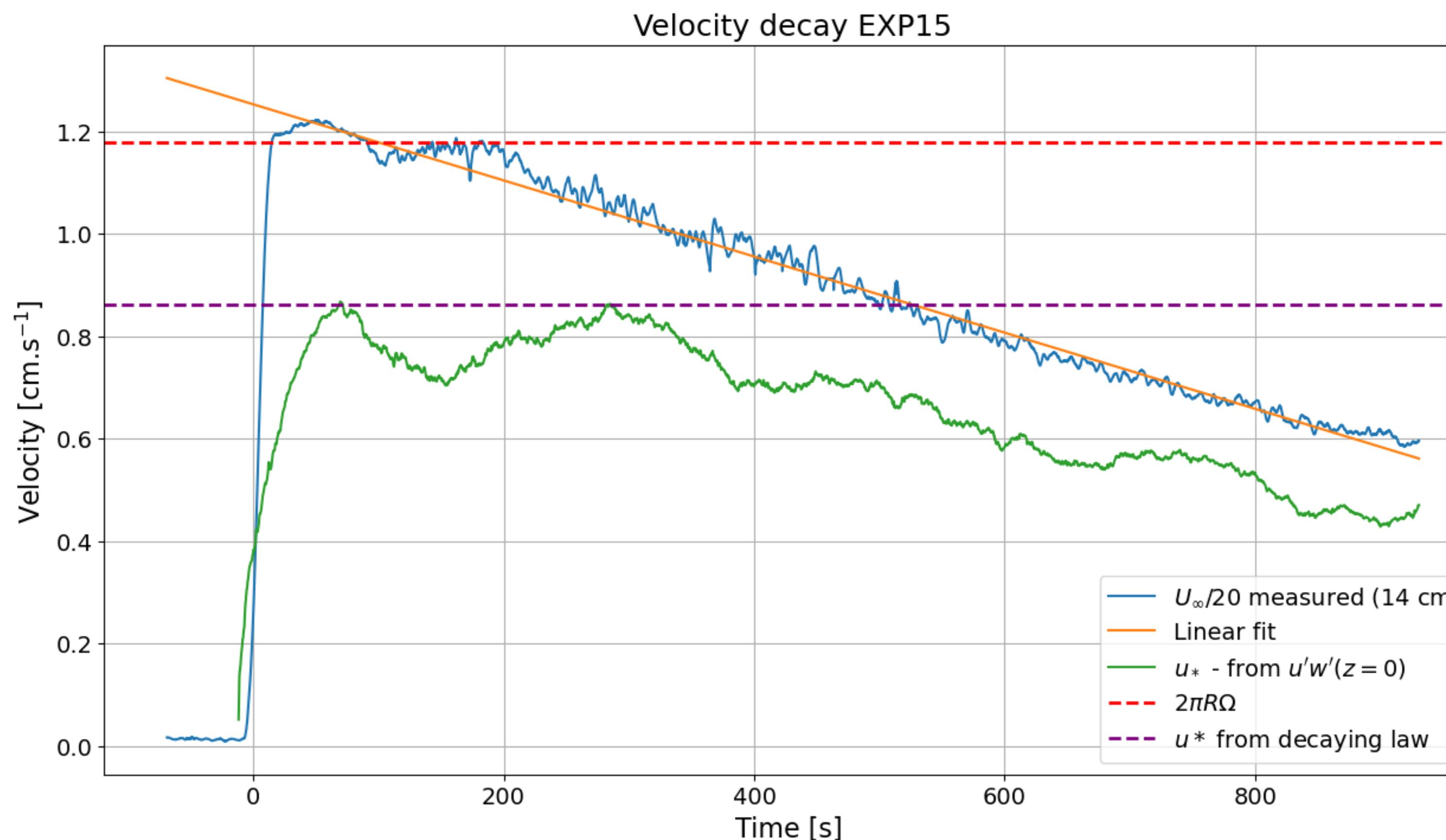
$$u_*^2(t)$$



Shear stress: turbulence + viscosity

Near the wall, the viscous and the turbulent stress sum up to a constant value (Pope, 2000)

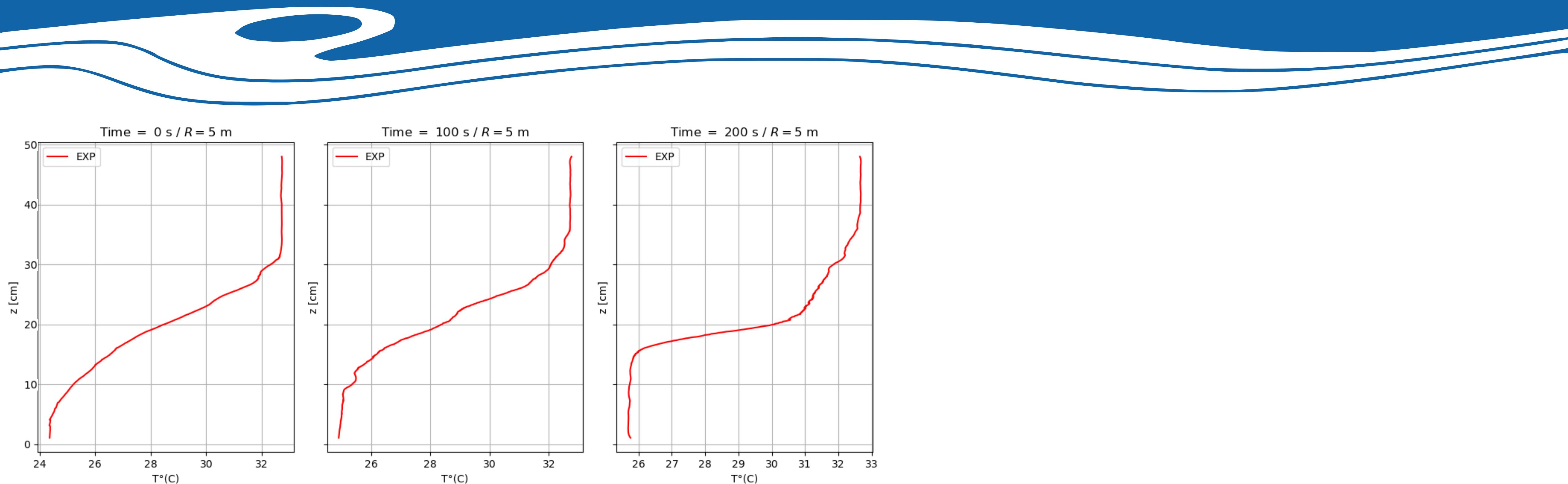
Forced convection experiment: Characterization of friction



Conservation of angular momentum

$$H \frac{dU}{dt} = - u_*^2$$

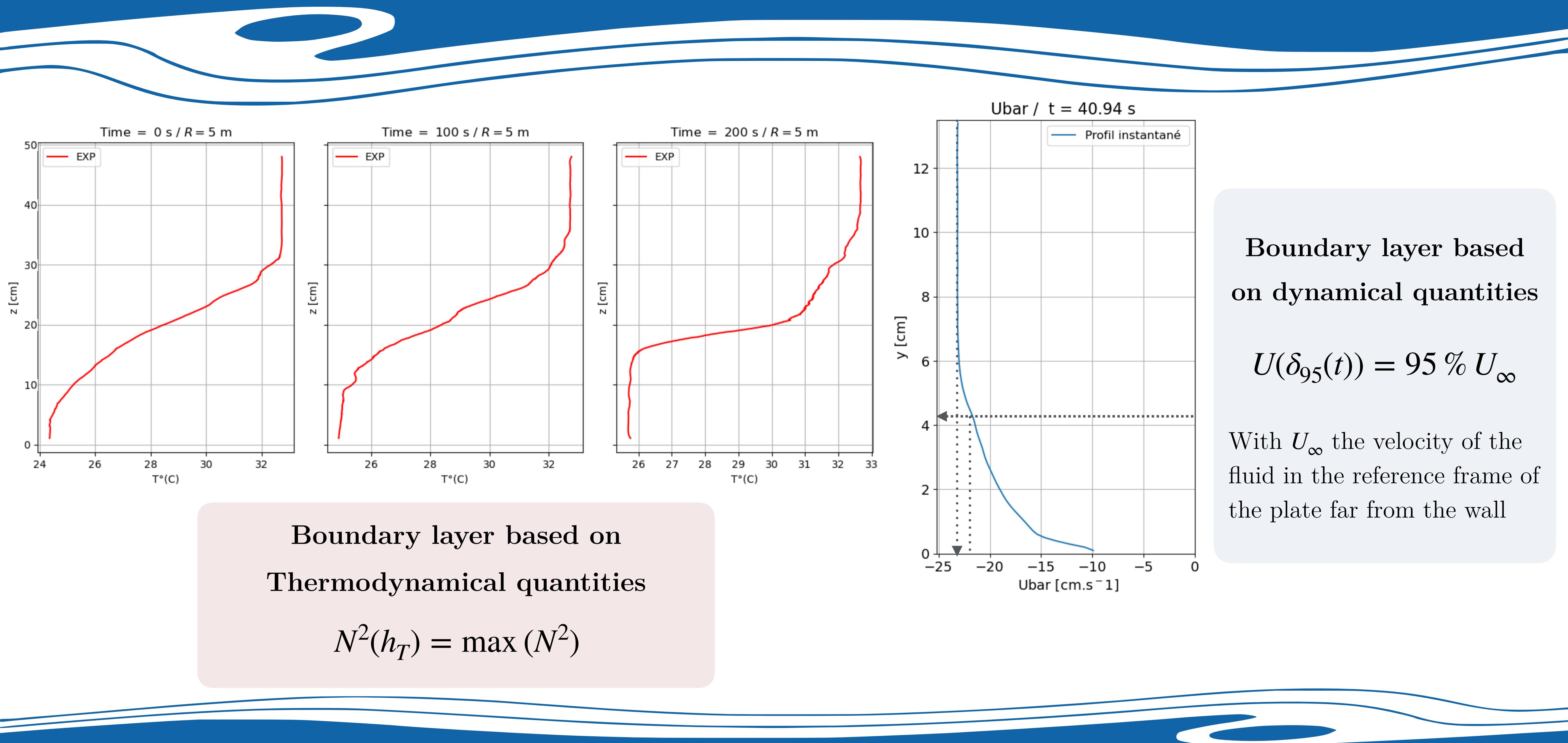
Forced Convection Experiment: Different Boundary layers



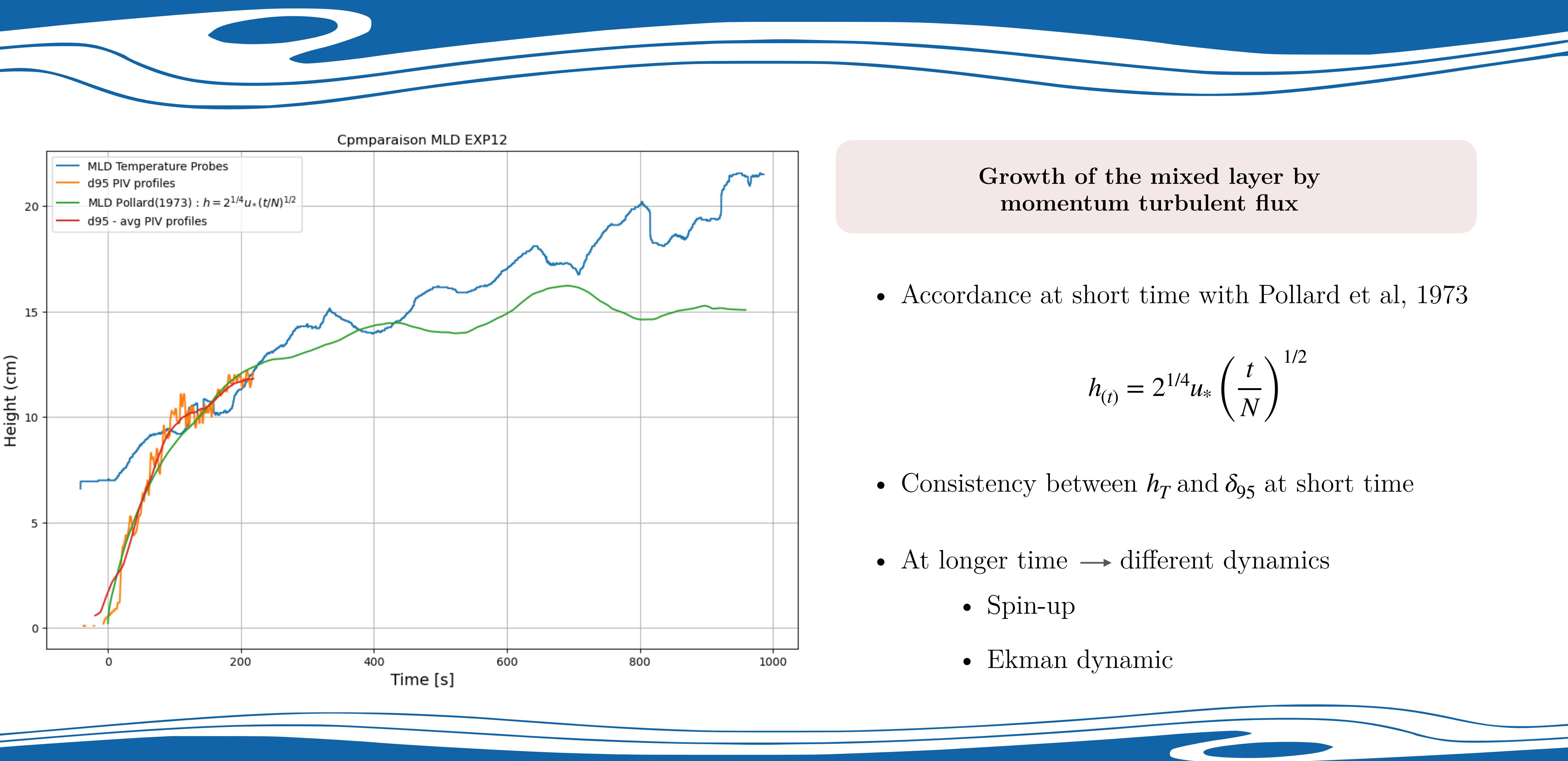
Boundary layer based on
Thermodynamical quantities

$$N^2(h_T) = \max(N^2)$$

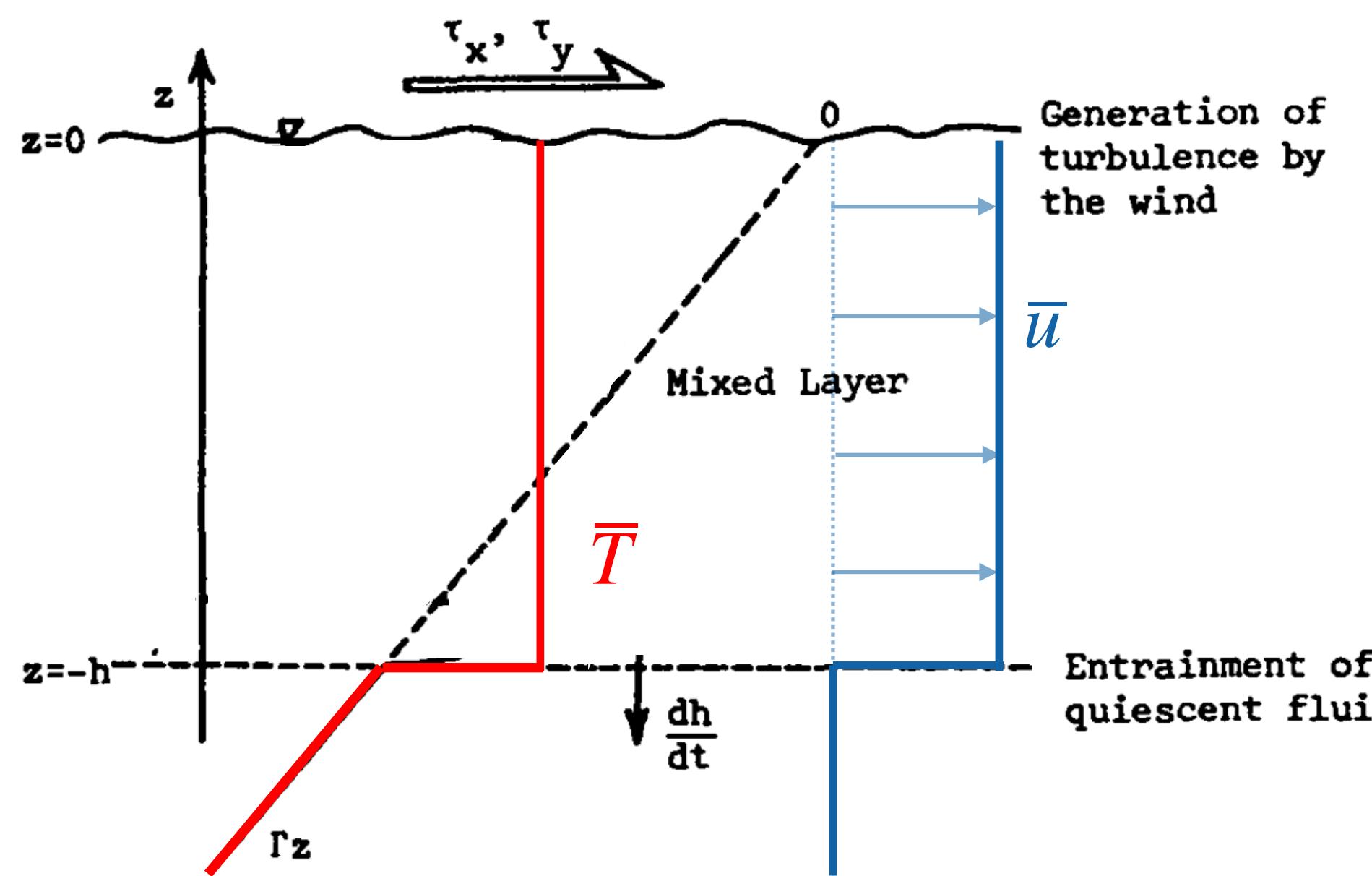
Forced Convection Experiment: Different Boundary layers



Forced Convection Experiment: Growth of the mixed layer



Longer time behavior of the ML: Slab model (Pollard et al, 1973)



- Uniform moving layer:

$$\frac{d \langle u \rangle}{dt} - f \langle v \rangle = u_*^2$$

$$\frac{d \langle v \rangle}{dt} + f \langle u \rangle = 0.$$

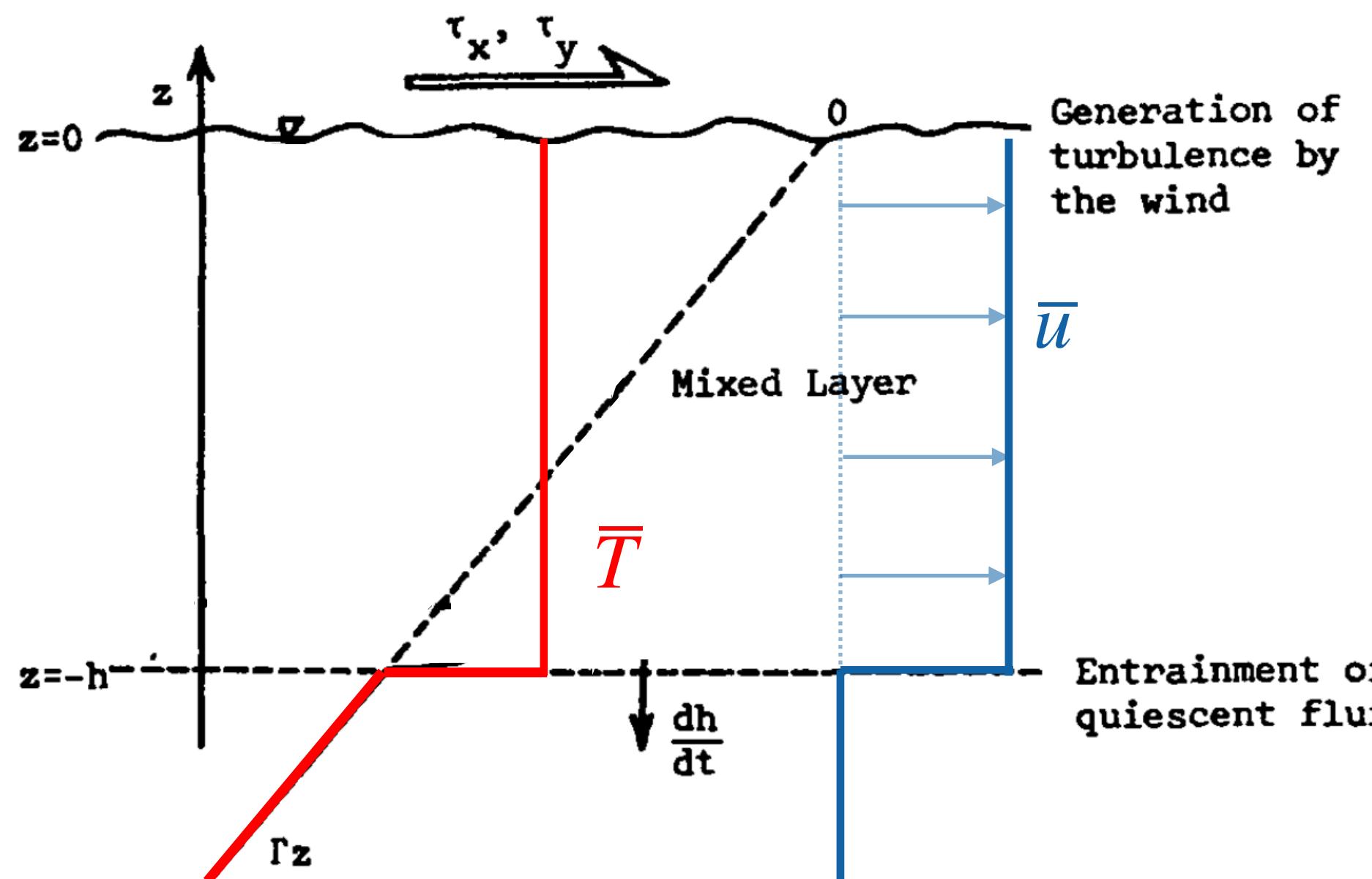
$$\langle u \rangle = \frac{u_*^2}{f} \sin(ft)$$

$$\langle v \rangle = -\frac{u_*^2}{f} (1 - \cos(ft))$$

$$E_{slab} = [\langle u \rangle^2 + \langle v \rangle^2] / 2 = \frac{u_*^4}{f^2} (1 - \cos ft)$$

$$\frac{dE_{slab}}{dt} = u_*^2 \langle u \rangle$$

Longer time behavior of the ML: Slab model (Pollard et al, 1973)



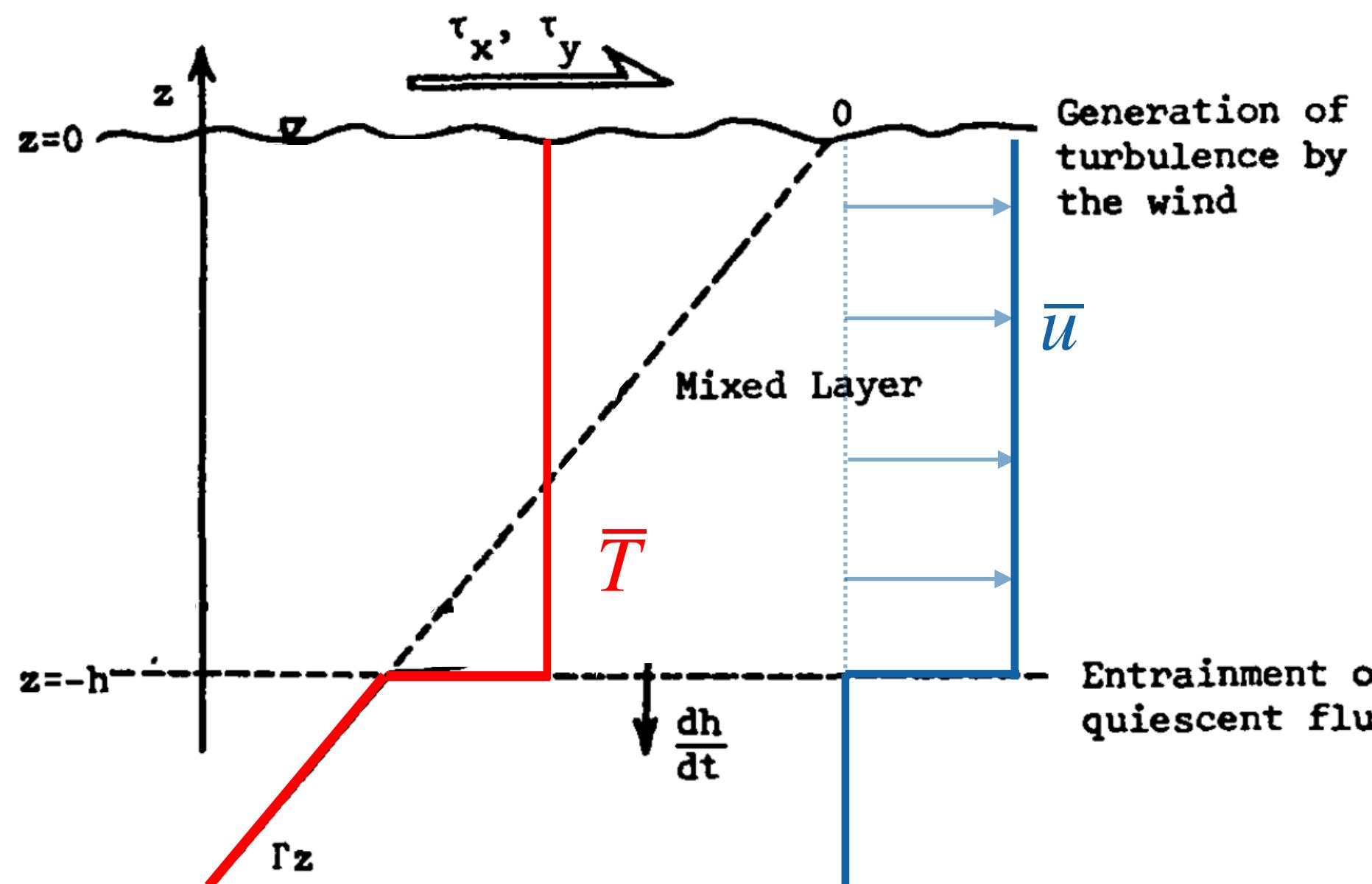
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$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\langle u \rangle}{dt} - f \langle v \rangle &= u_*^2 \\ \frac{d\langle v \rangle}{dt} + f \langle u \rangle &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad \rightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} \langle u \rangle &= \frac{u_*^2}{f} \sin(ft) \\ \langle v \rangle &= -\frac{u_*^2}{f} (1 - \cos(ft)) \end{aligned} \quad \rightarrow \quad E_{slab} = [\langle u \rangle^2 + \langle v \rangle^2]/2 = \frac{u_*^4}{f^2} (1 - \cos ft) \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{dE_{slab}}{dt} = u_*^2 \langle u \rangle$$

- Potential energy: (from geometrical considerations)

$$E_{pot} = - \int_{-H}^0 b z dz = - \int_{-H}^{-h} N_0^2 z^2 dz + N_0^2 \frac{h}{2} \int_{-h}^0 z dz = N_0^2 \left[\frac{h^3 - H^3}{3} - \frac{h^3}{4} \right]$$

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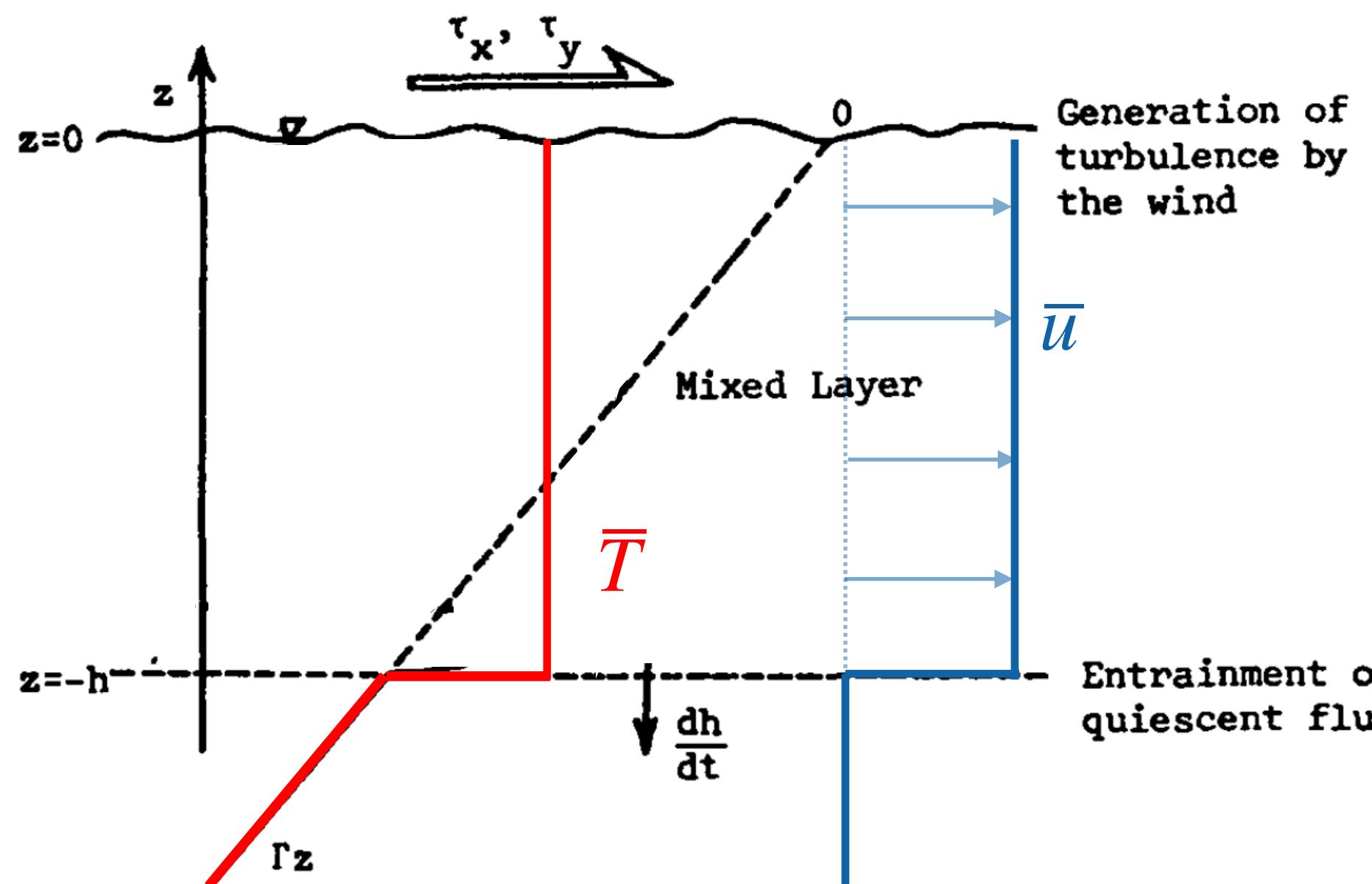
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- Kinetic energy: (Since $E_{kin} = E_{slab}/h$)

$$\frac{dE_{kin}}{dt} = \frac{dE_{slab}}{h dt} - \frac{dh}{h^2 dt} E_{slab}$$

Longer time behavior of the ML: Slab model (Pollard et al, 1973)



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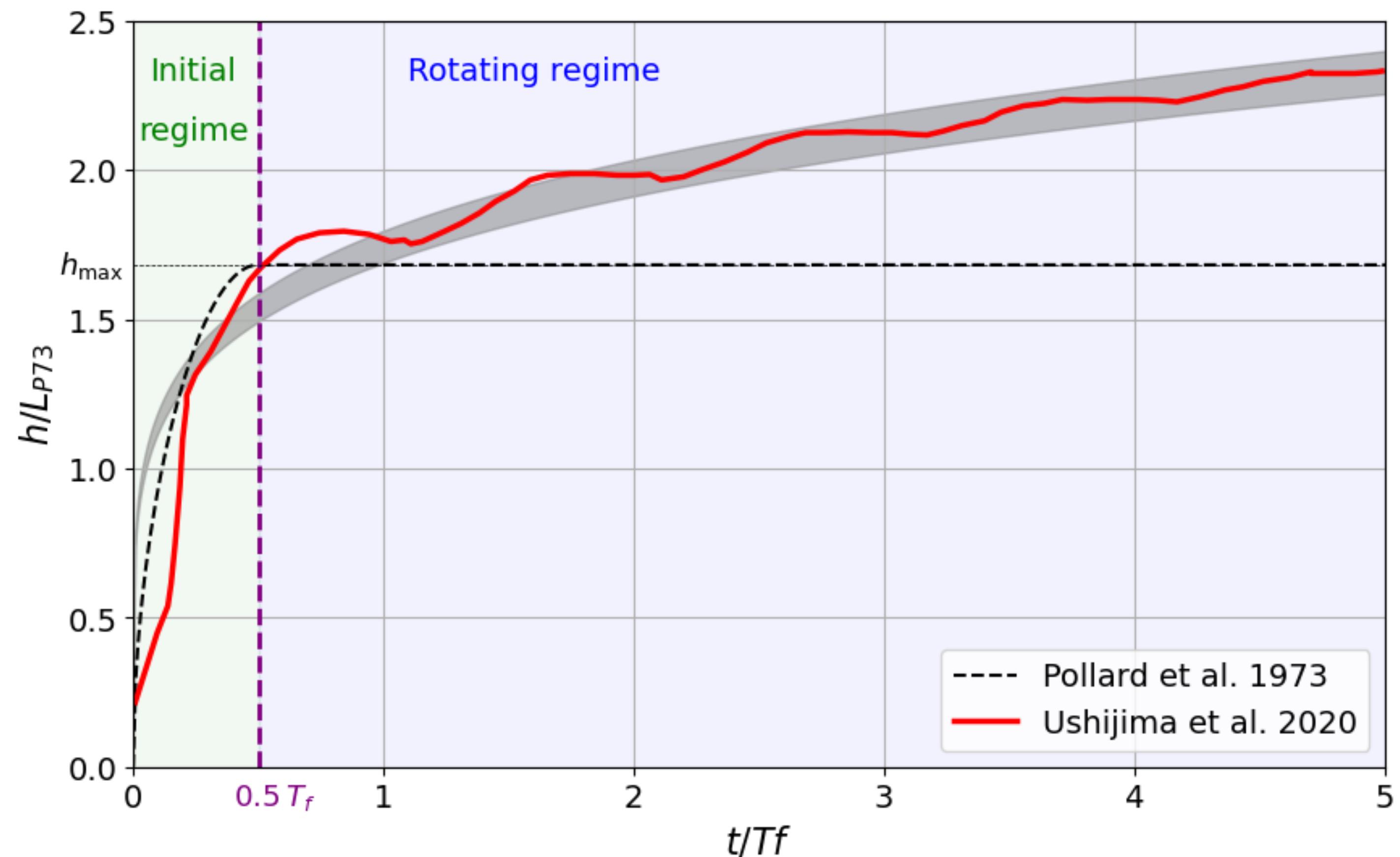
$$\frac{dE_{kin}}{dt} = \frac{dE_{slab}}{h dt} - \frac{dh}{h^2 dt} E_{slab}$$

- Equation for energy:

$$\frac{dE_{kin}}{dt} + \frac{dE_{pot}}{dt} = u_*^2 \langle u \rangle / h \quad \rightarrow \quad -E_{slab} \frac{dh}{h^2 dt} + \frac{dE_{pot}}{dt} = 0$$

$$\left[-\frac{u_*^4}{h^2 f^2} (1 - \cos ft) + N_0^2 \frac{h^2}{4} \right] \frac{dh}{dt} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \boxed{\frac{dh}{dt} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad h^4 = \frac{4u_*^4}{f^2 N_0^2} (1 - \cos ft)}$$

Longer time behavior of the ML: Slab model (Pollard et al, 1973)



At longer time deepening continue

LES:
$$h = 1.5L_{p73} \left(\frac{N_0}{f} \right)^{0.022} \left(\frac{t}{T_f} \right)^{0.18}$$

Ushijima et al, 2020

Pollard et al, 1973 fail after $1/2 T_f$

They consider at $t > \pi/f$ that

$$u_*^2 \langle u \rangle < 0$$

$$\left[-\frac{u_*^4}{h^2 f^2} (1 - \cos ft) + N_0^2 \frac{h^2}{4} \right] \frac{dh}{dt} = 0$$

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Longer time behavior of the ML: Extended Slab model

- Slab energy:

$$\frac{dE_{slab}}{dt} = u_*^2 \langle u \rangle$$

- Potential energy:

$$E_{pot} = N_0^2 \left[\frac{h^3 - H^3}{3} - \frac{h^3}{4} \right]$$

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$$E_{kin} = E_{slab}/h + u_*^2 \tilde{E}_{(h)}$$

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$\tilde{E}_{(h)}$ expresses the kinetic energy associated with the deviation of the velocity from the uniform slab velocity.

$$\tilde{E} = \frac{1}{2u_*^2} \int (\mathbf{u} - \frac{\langle \mathbf{u} \rangle}{h})^2 dz = \frac{1}{u_*^2} \left[E_{kin} - \frac{u_*^4}{f^2 h} (1 - \cos(ft)) \right]$$

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- Exact equation for energy:

$$\left[\underbrace{-\frac{u_*^2}{h^2 f^2} (1 - \cos(ft))}_{\text{SLAB}} + \underbrace{\frac{N_0^2}{u_*^2} \frac{h^2}{4}}_{\text{POTENTIAL}} \right] \frac{dh}{dt} > 0 = \overbrace{\left(u_{(z=0,t)} - \frac{\langle u \rangle}{h} \right) - \frac{\mathcal{E}}{u_*^2}}^{\text{EXTRA PROD}} + \overbrace{\frac{d}{dt} \tilde{E}}^{\text{DISSIPATION}} + \overbrace{\frac{d}{dt} \tilde{E}_{turb}}^{\text{DEVIATION}} + \overbrace{\mathcal{R}}^{\text{IMBALANCE}}.$$

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- Residual terms:

$$\mathcal{R} \simeq m_p \frac{u_*^4}{hf}$$

\mathcal{R} is a fraction m_p of the turbulent kinetic energy production in the entrainment layer

Longer time behavior of the ML: Extended Slab model

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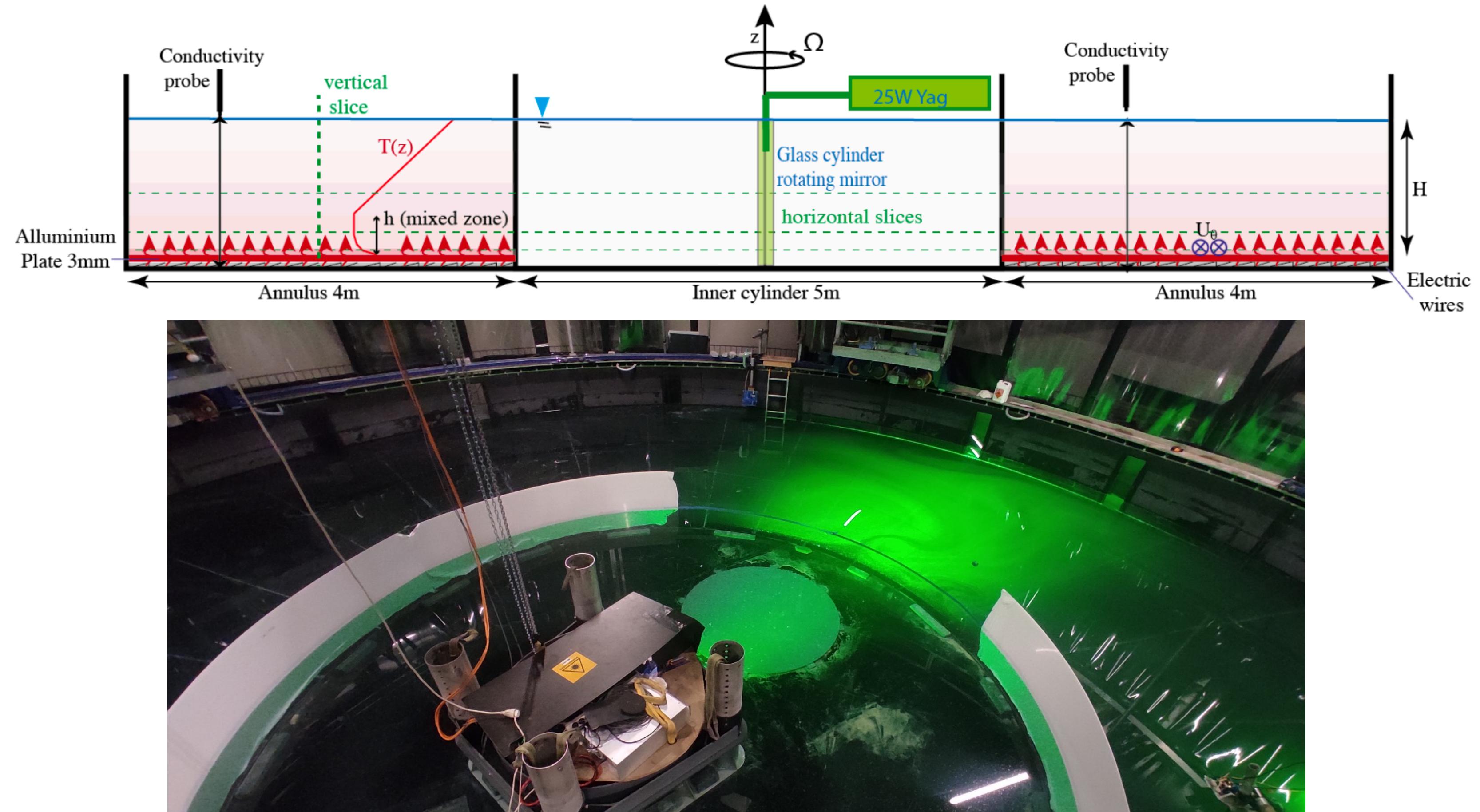
Consistent with scaling from LES

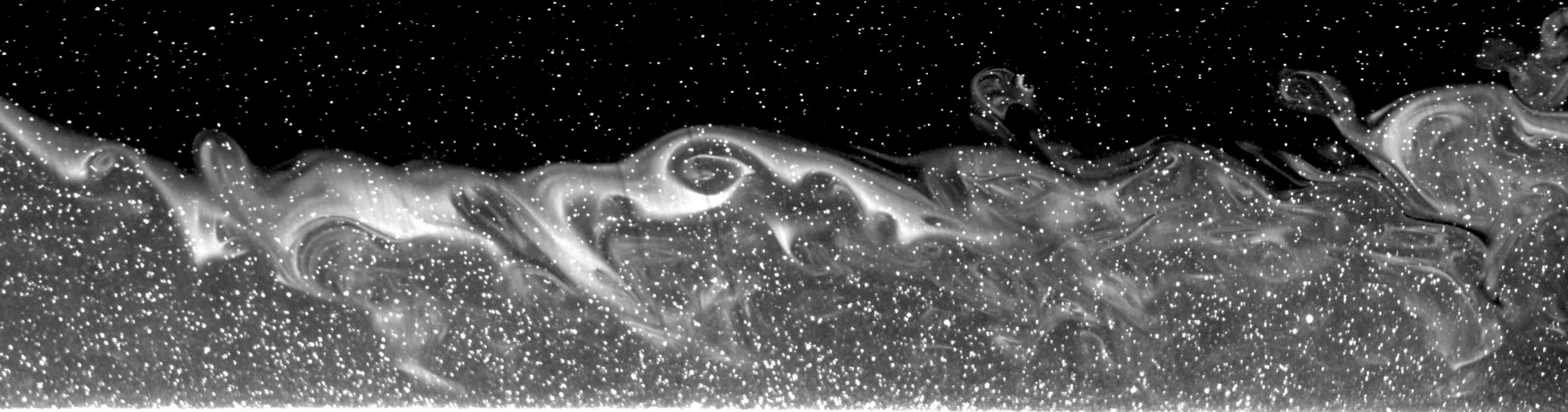
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$$h^3 \frac{dh}{dt} = 4m_p \frac{u_*^4}{N_0^2 f}$$

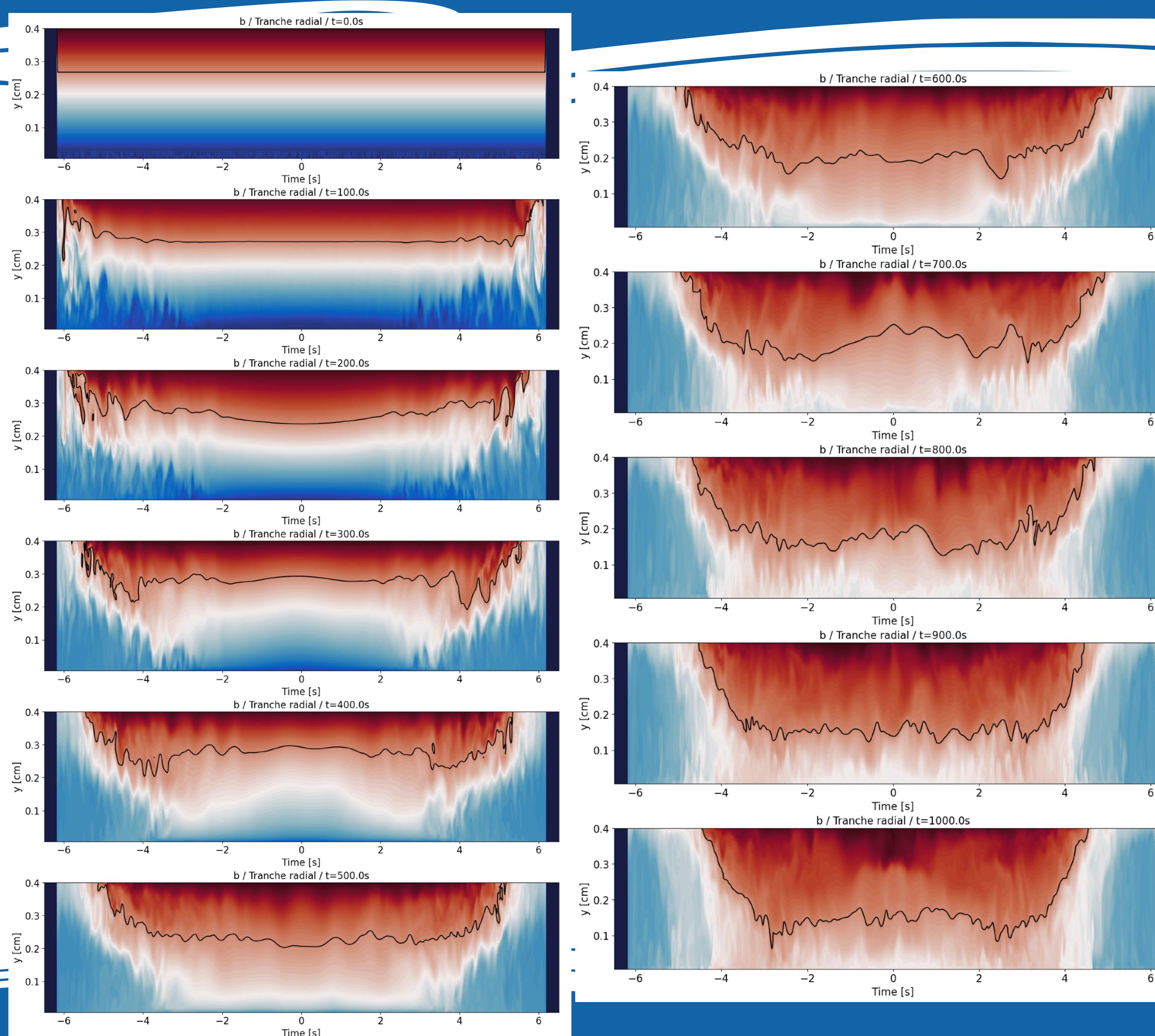
Next step : Free / Mixed Convection

- Heated floor [290-353] kW
- Inner cylinder (5m)
- Temperature probes
 - 3 Vertical profilers
 - 2 Fixed probes ($z = 0; 12\text{cm}$)
- Vertical laser sheet (30x25)cm
 - PIV Stereo
- Horizontal laser sheet (3x4)m
 - PIV ($z = 10\text{cm}$)
 - PIV in volume (multi- layer)
- IR camera (3x4)m





LES: Numerical Twins



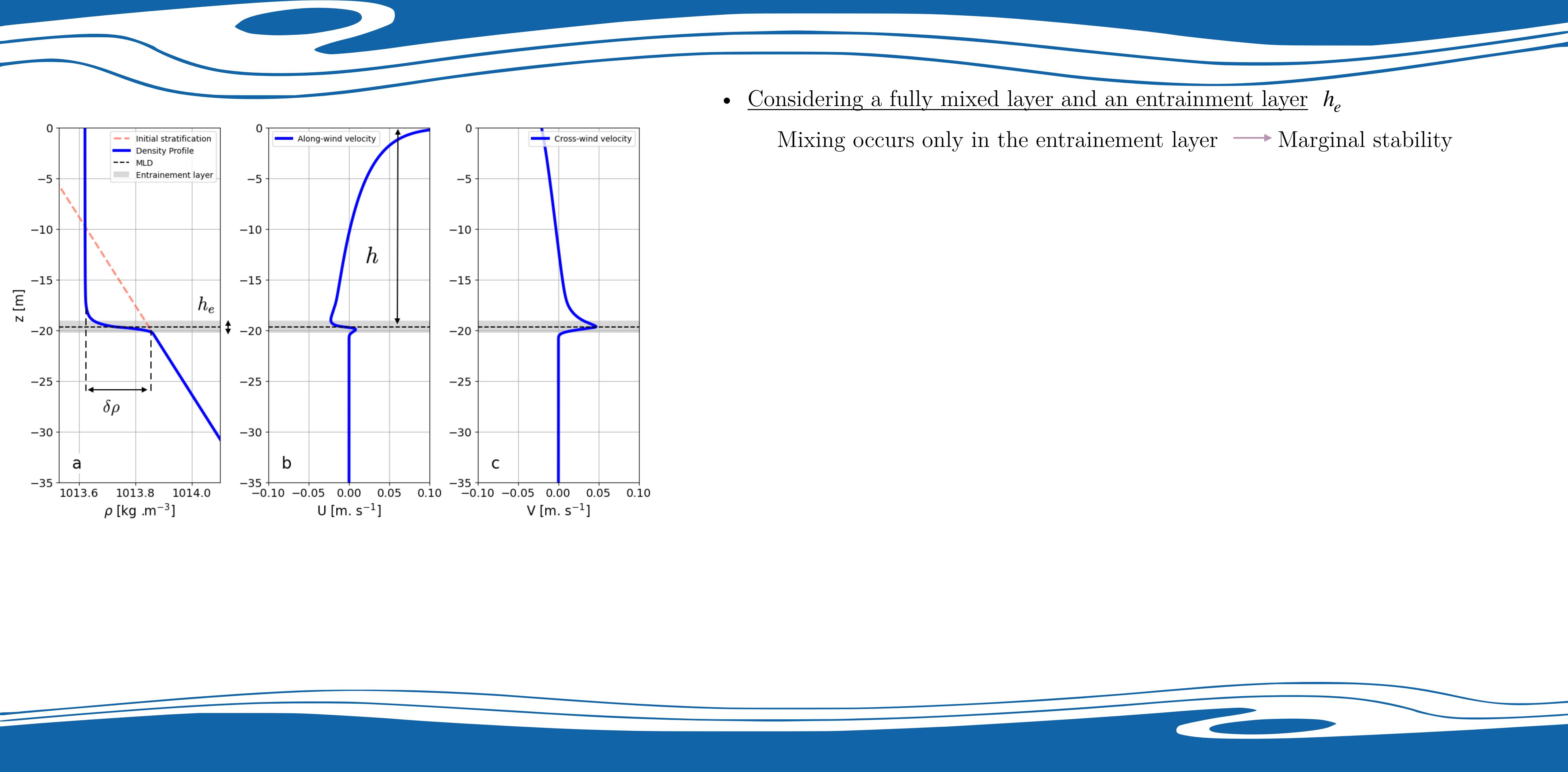
- At longer time different dynamics
 - Strong radial effects
 - Wavy dynamics

Basilics

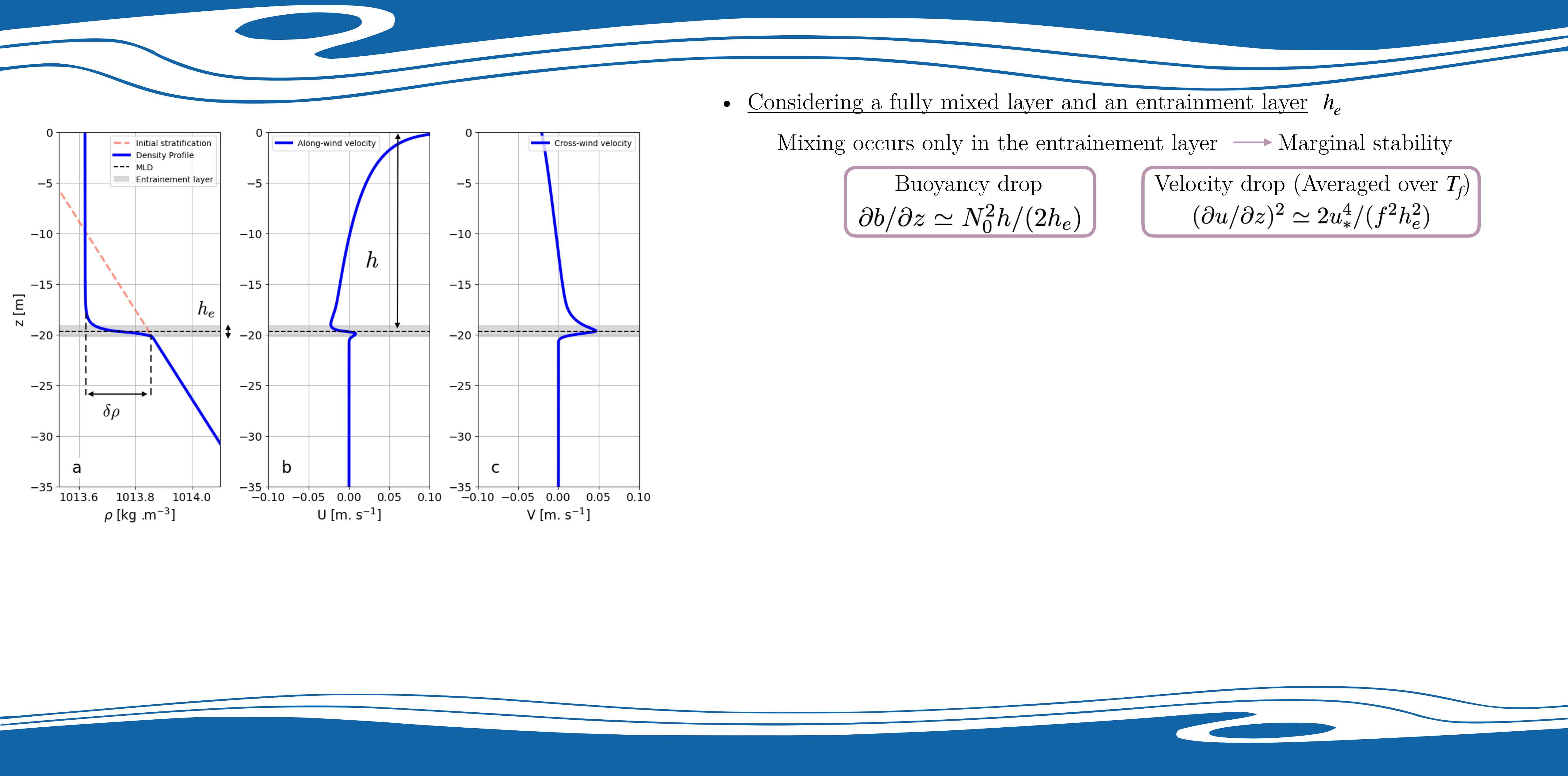
LES - 1024 x 1024 x 32



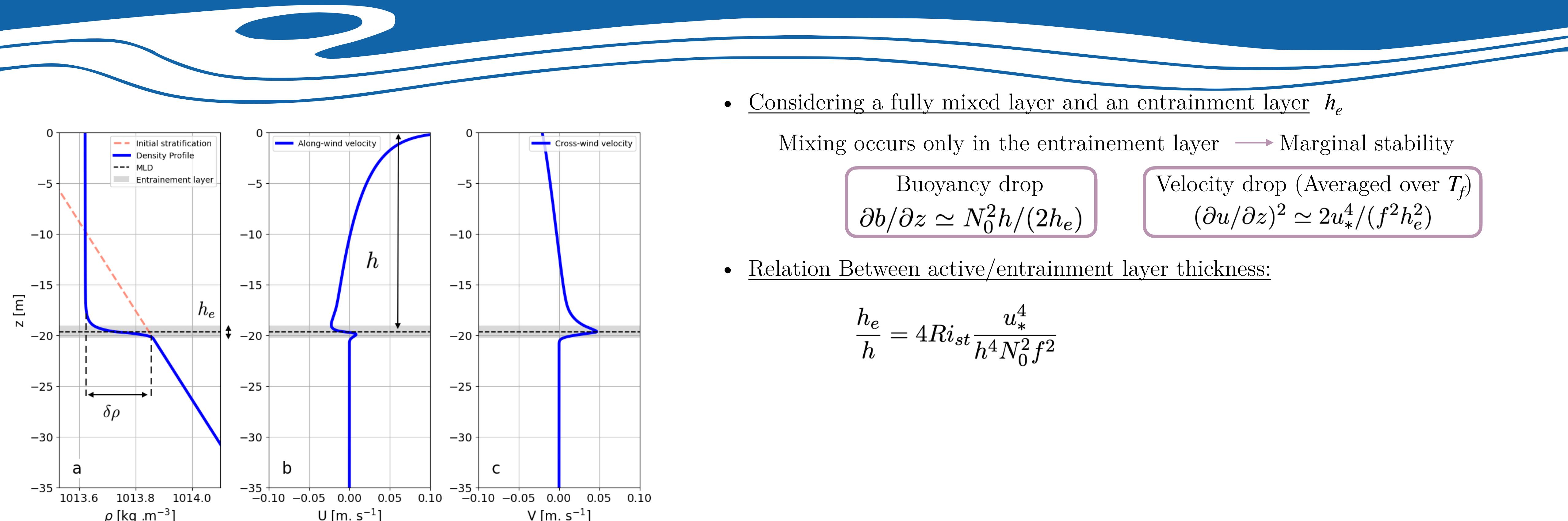
Longer time behavior of the ML: Entrainment layer model



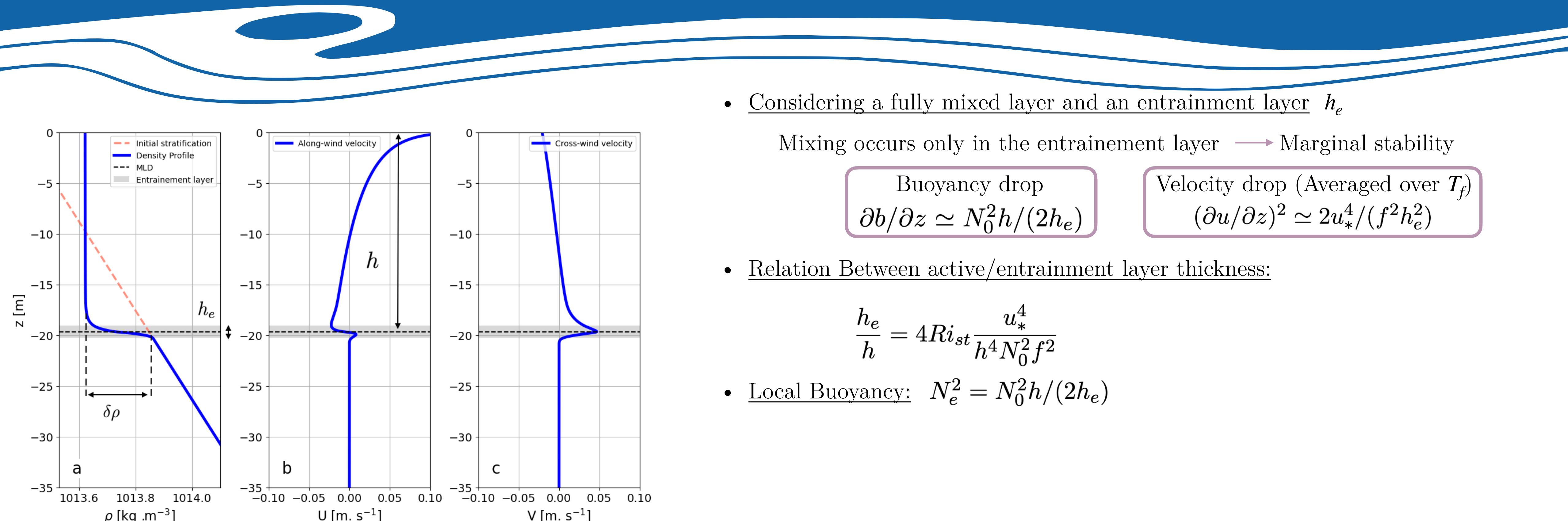
Longer time behavior of the ML: Entrainment layer model



Longer time behavior of the ML: Entrainment layer model



Longer time behavior of the ML: Entrainment layer model



- Considering a fully mixed layer and an entrainment layer h_e

Mixing occurs only in the entrainment layer \rightarrow Marginal stability

Buoyancy drop

$$\partial b / \partial z \simeq N_0^2 h / (2h_e)$$

Velocity drop (Averaged over T_f)

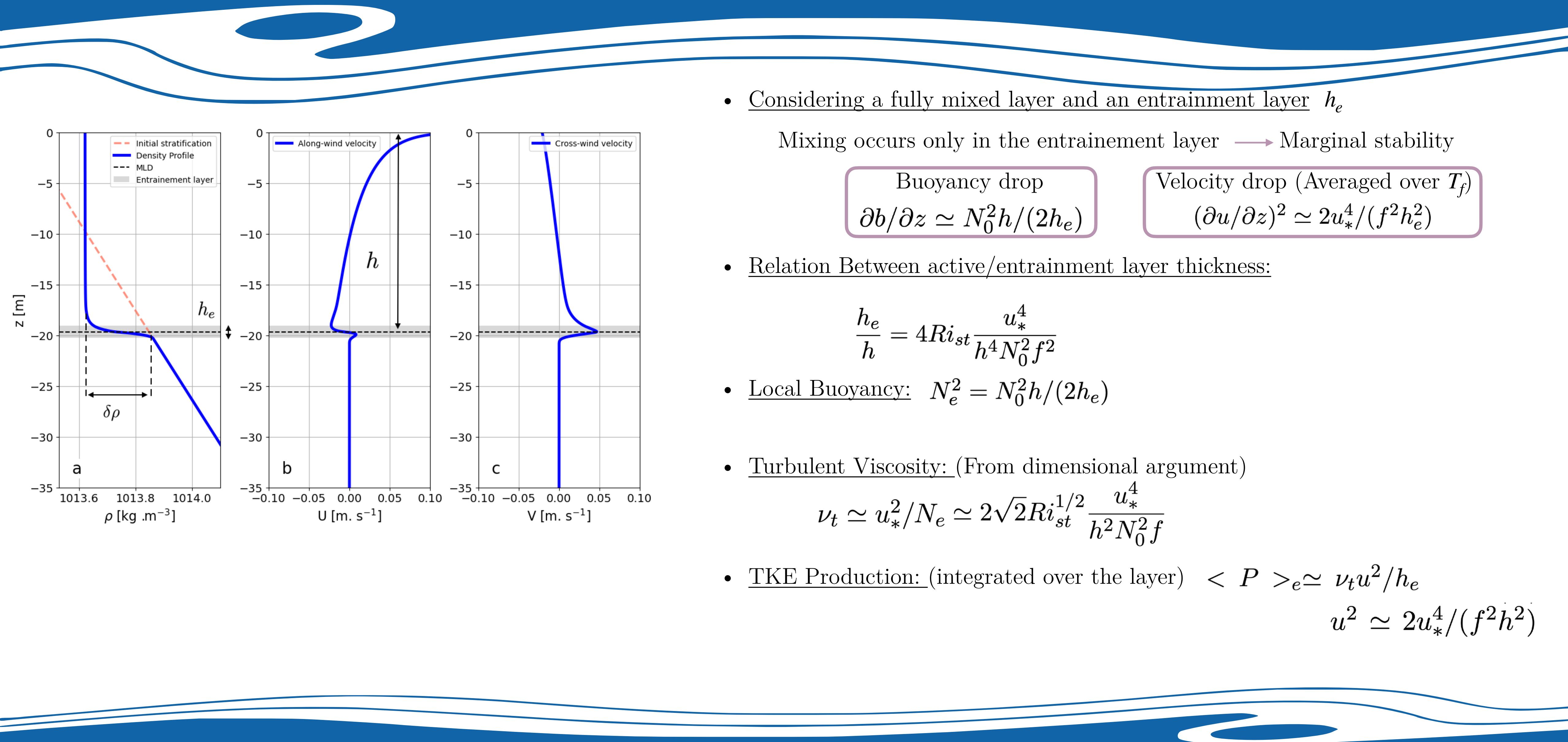
$$(\partial u / \partial z)^2 \simeq 2u_*^4 / (f^2 h_e^2)$$

- Relation Between active/entrainment layer thickness:

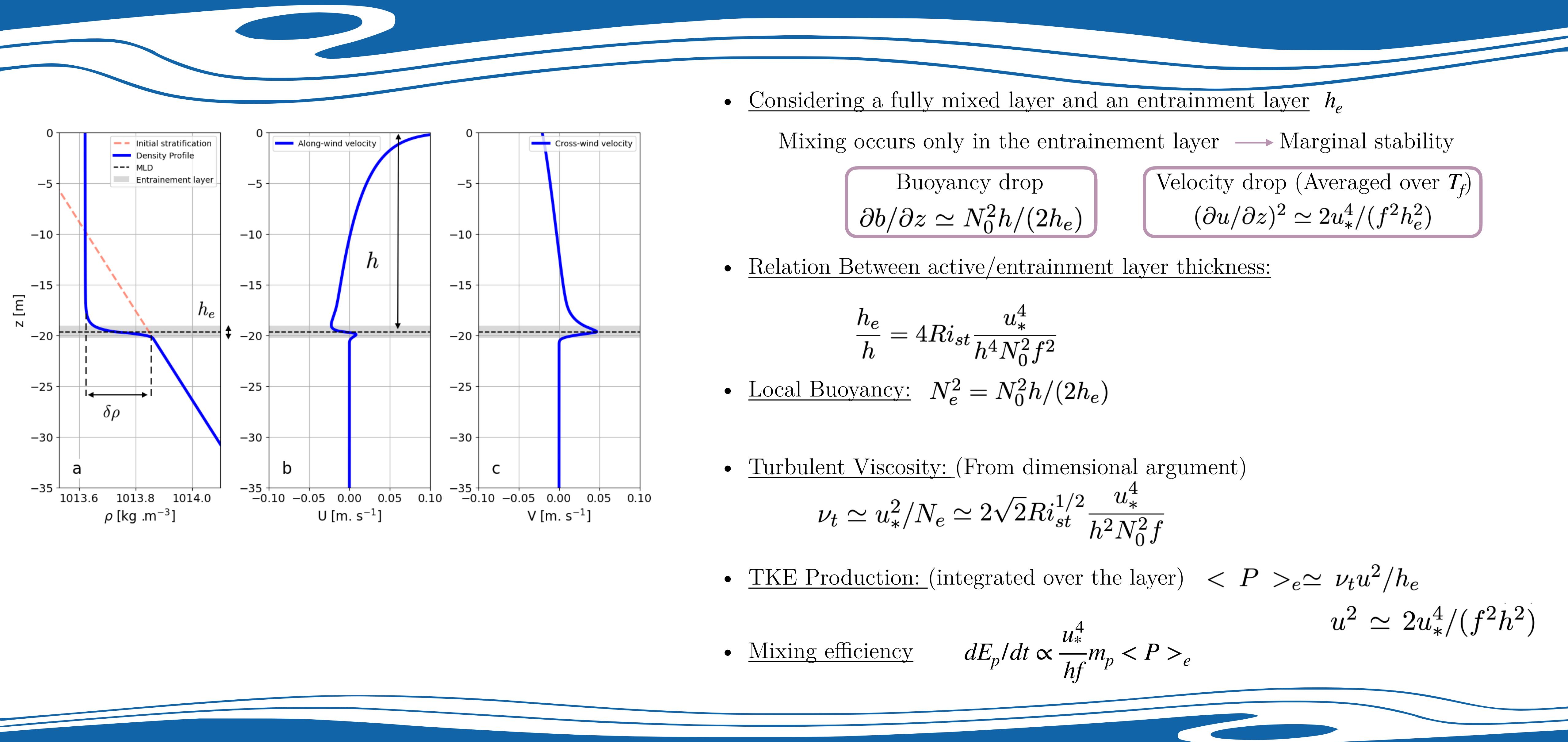
$$\frac{h_e}{h} = 4Ri_{st} \frac{u_*^4}{h^4 N_0^2 f^2}$$

- Local Buoyancy: $N_e^2 = N_0^2 h / (2h_e)$

Longer time behavior of the ML: Entrainment layer model



Longer time behavior of the ML: Entrainment layer model



Longer time behavior of the ML: Entrainment layer model

