

COASTAL DYNAMICS

Jonathan GULA
gula@univ-brest.fr

- **Outline:**

1. Introduction
2. General equations
3. Waves
 - 3.1.Surface gravity waves
 - 3.2.Inertia-gravity Waves
 - 3.3.Coastal waves
 - 3.4.Internal Waves
4. Tides
5. Coastal circulation and responses to meteorological forcing
6. Bottom and surface boundary layers
7. Frontal dynamics
8. Estuary plumes and regimes

Presentations and material will be available at :

jgula.fr/Coastal/

Cosalal Dynamics

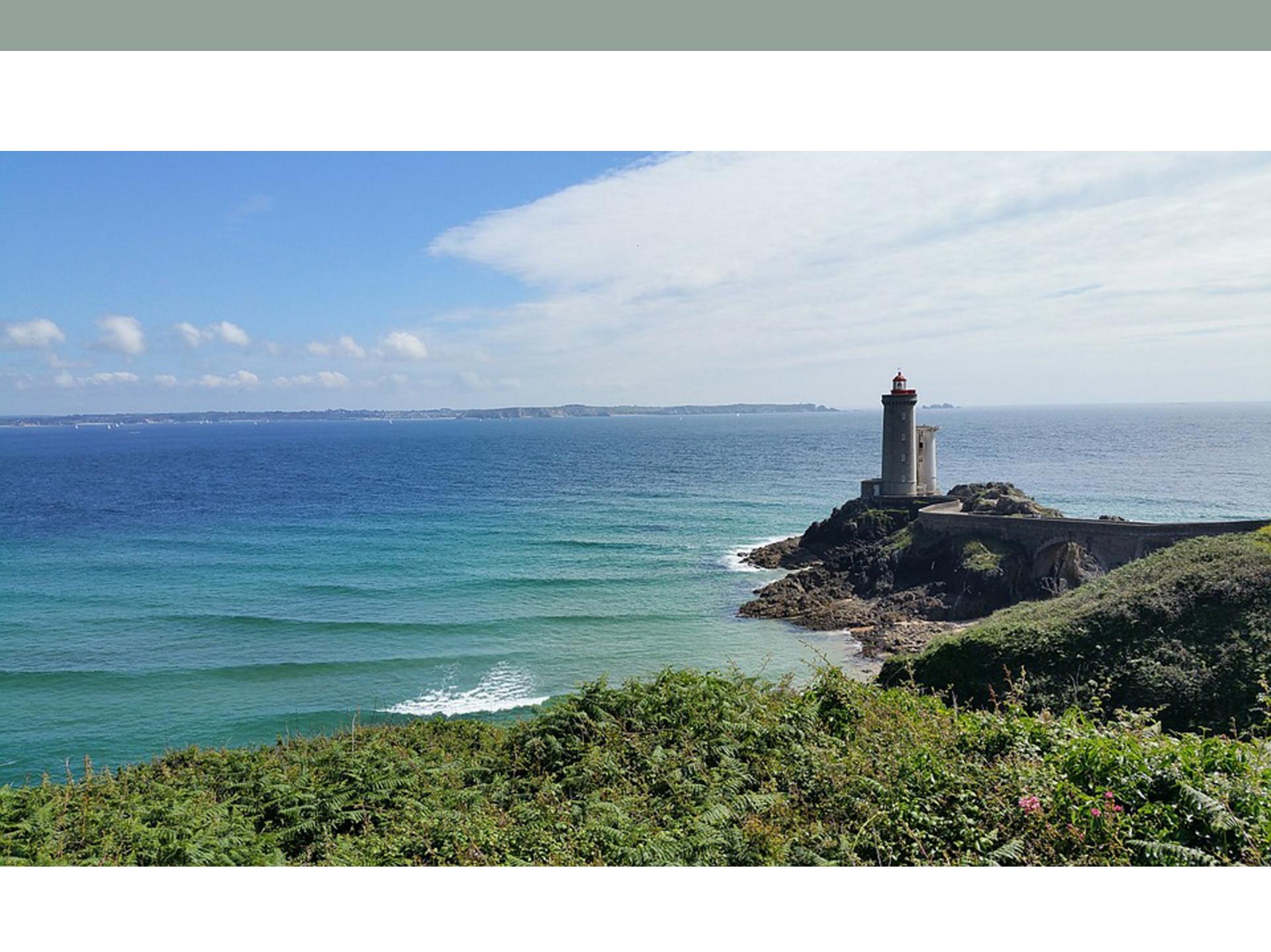
Jonathan GULA
gula@univ-brest.fr

Evaluation

- The evaluation will be based on a sitting exam on **Oct. 9**

1. INTRODUCTION

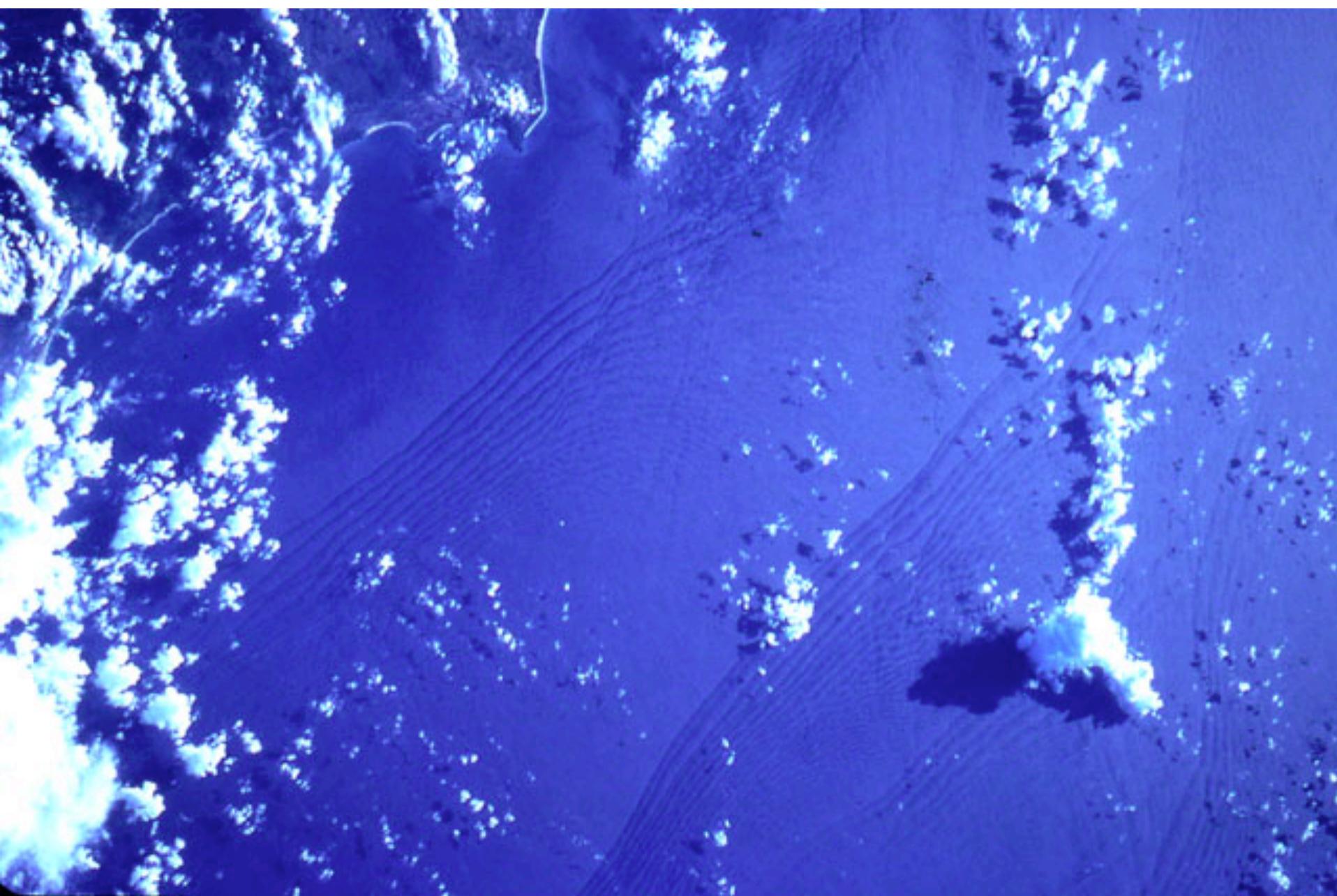
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gula@univ-brest.fr

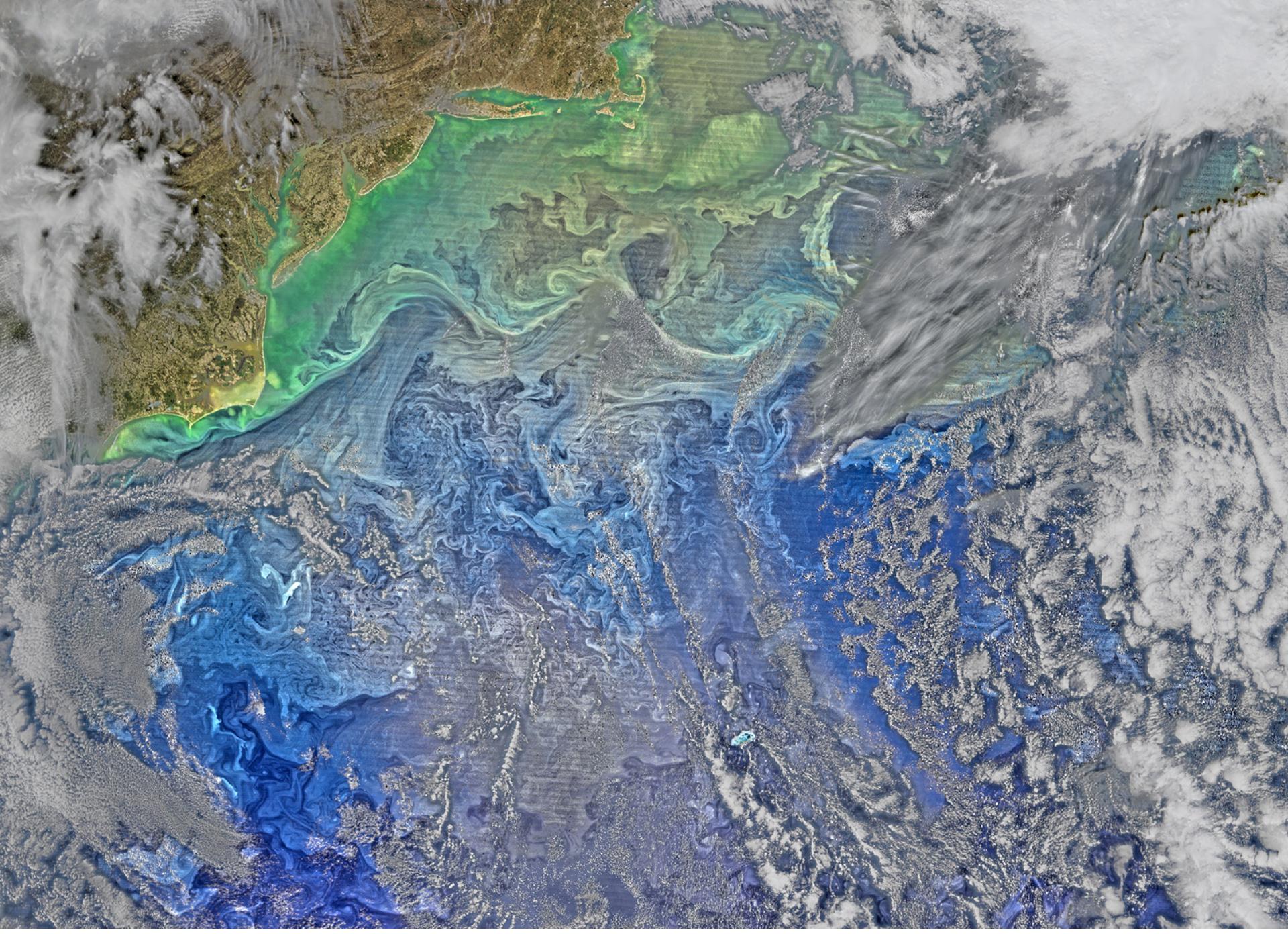








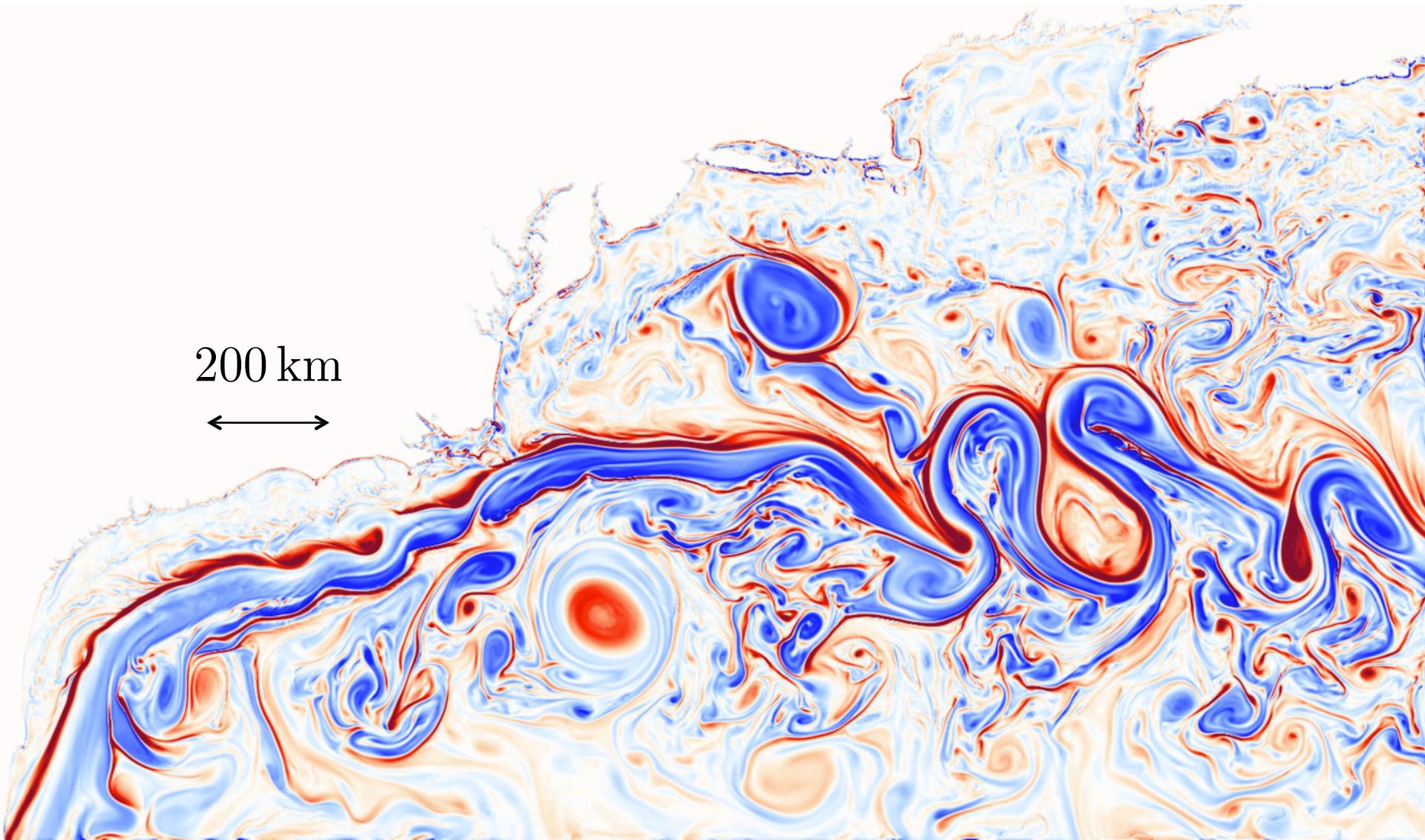




Surface relative vorticity

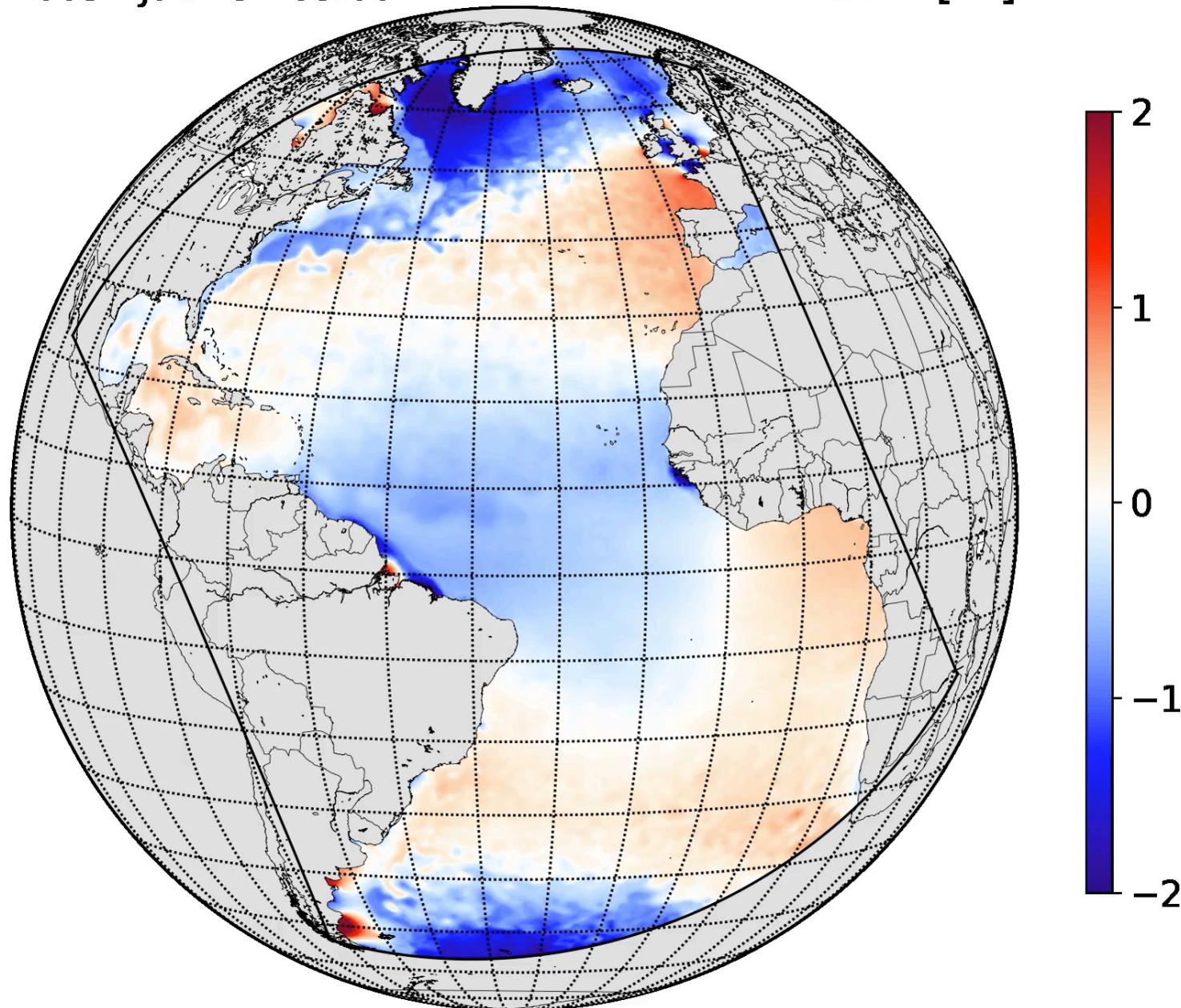
$\Delta x = 1.5 \text{ km}$

200 km



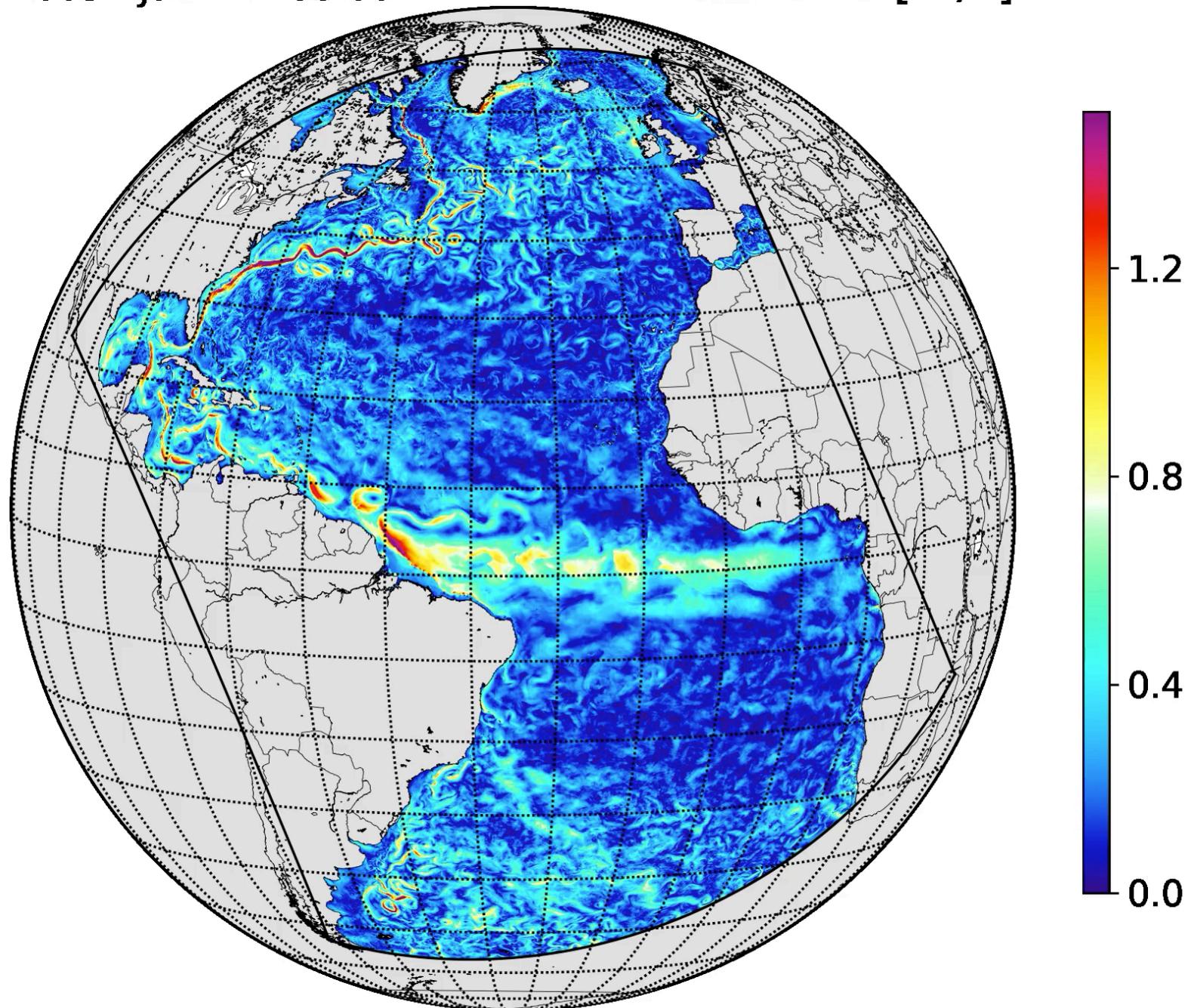
2005 - Jan 15 - 03:00

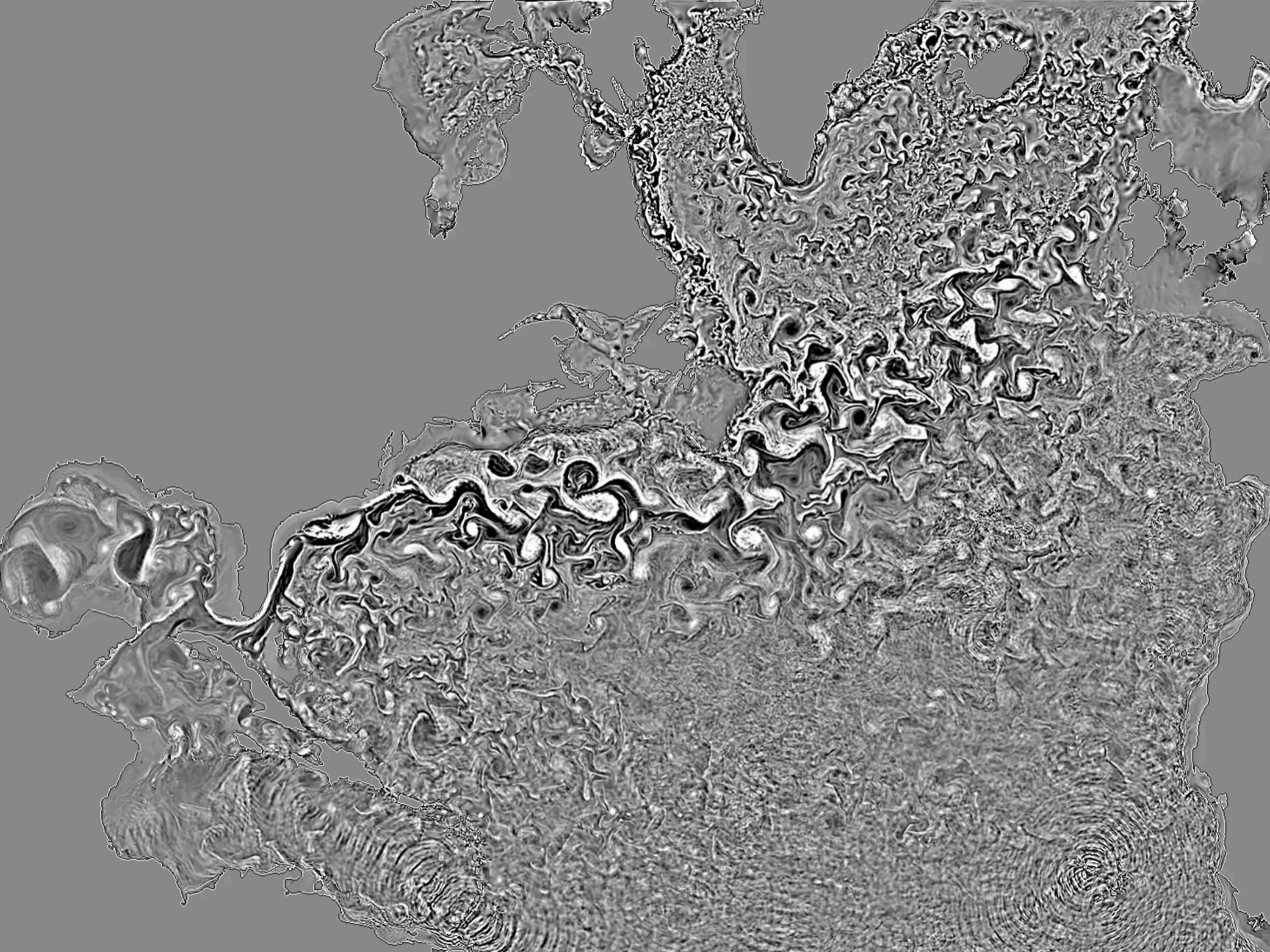
SSH [m]



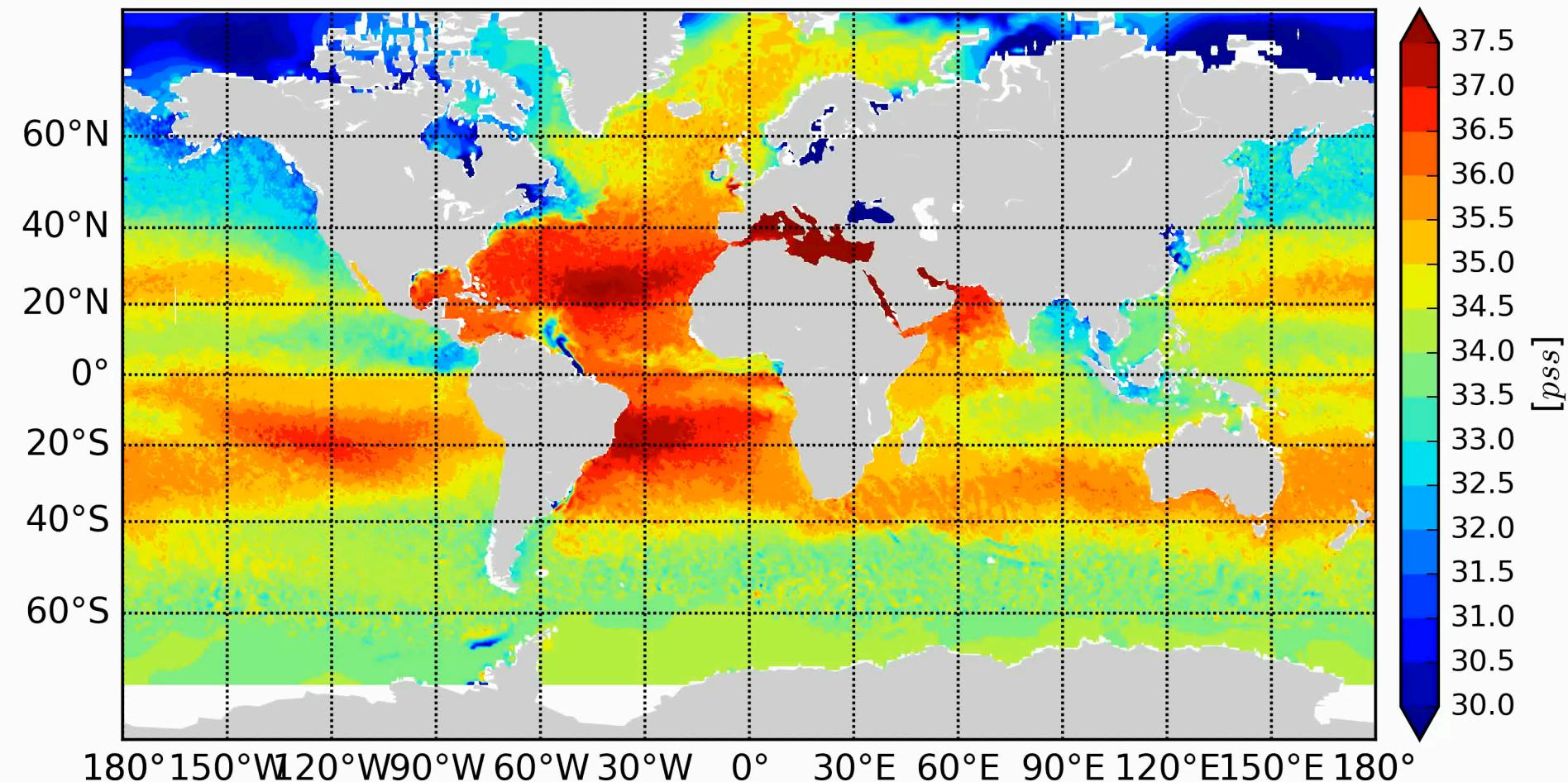
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currents [m/s]



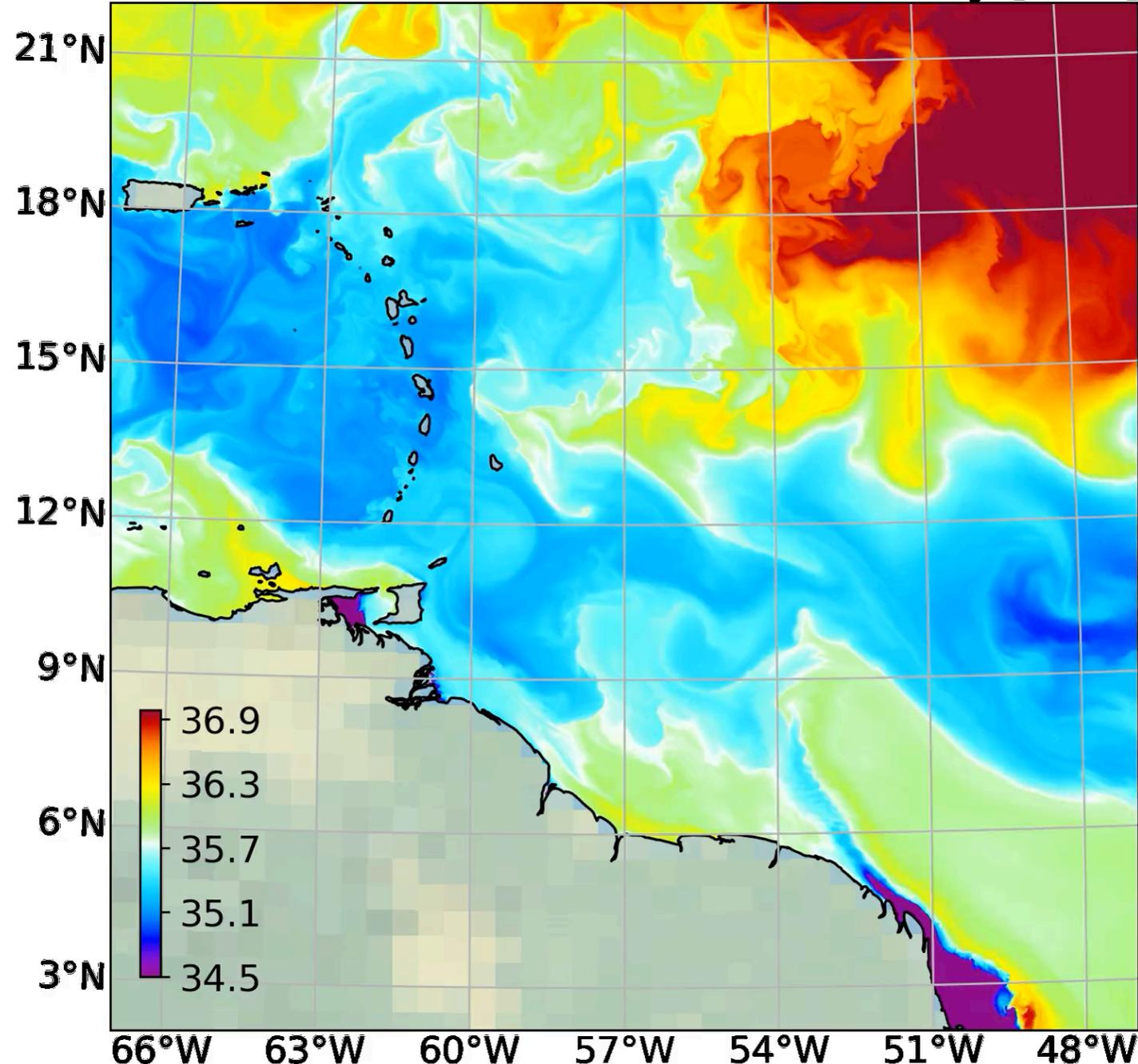


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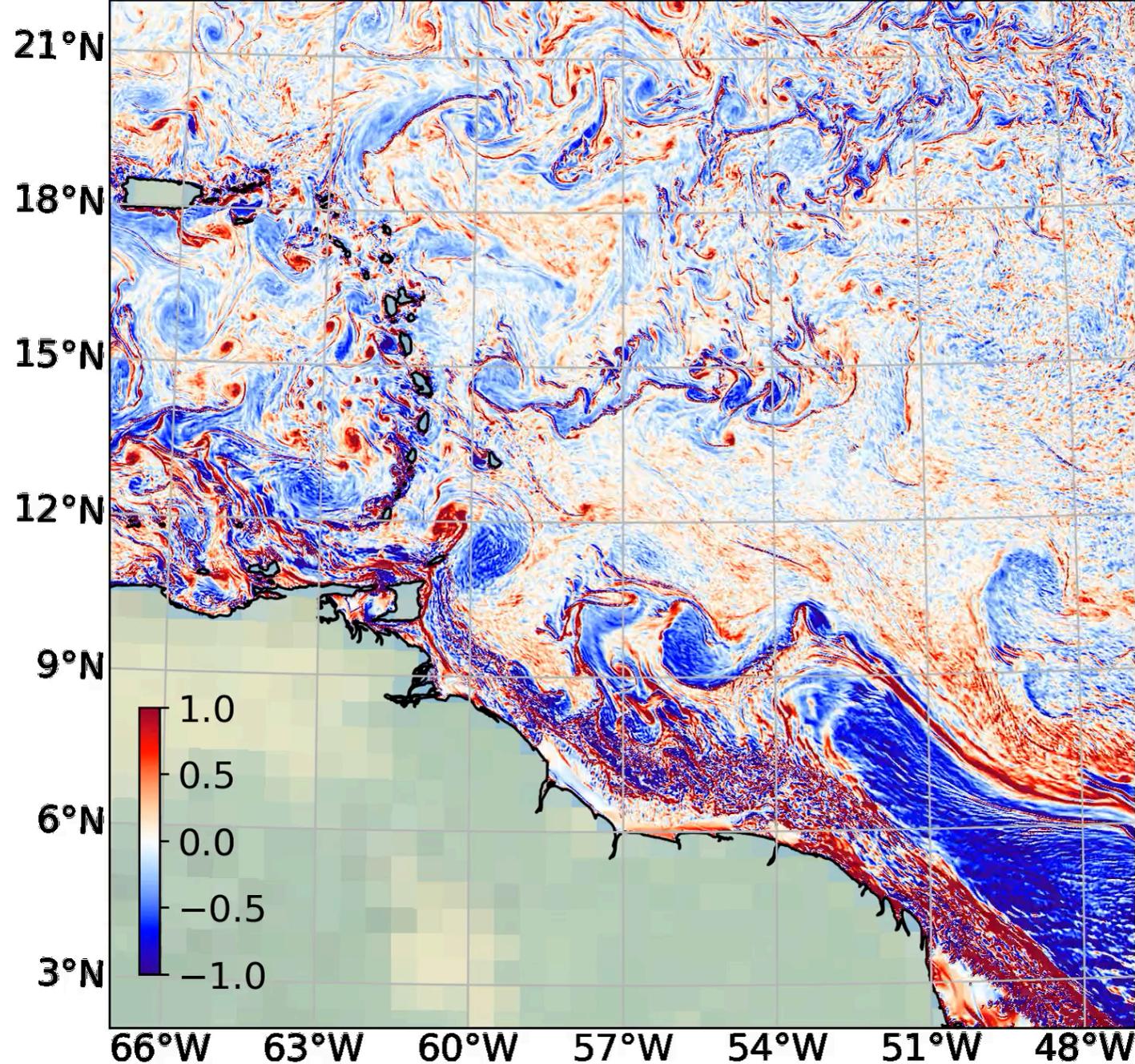
2007 - Nov 15 - 00:00

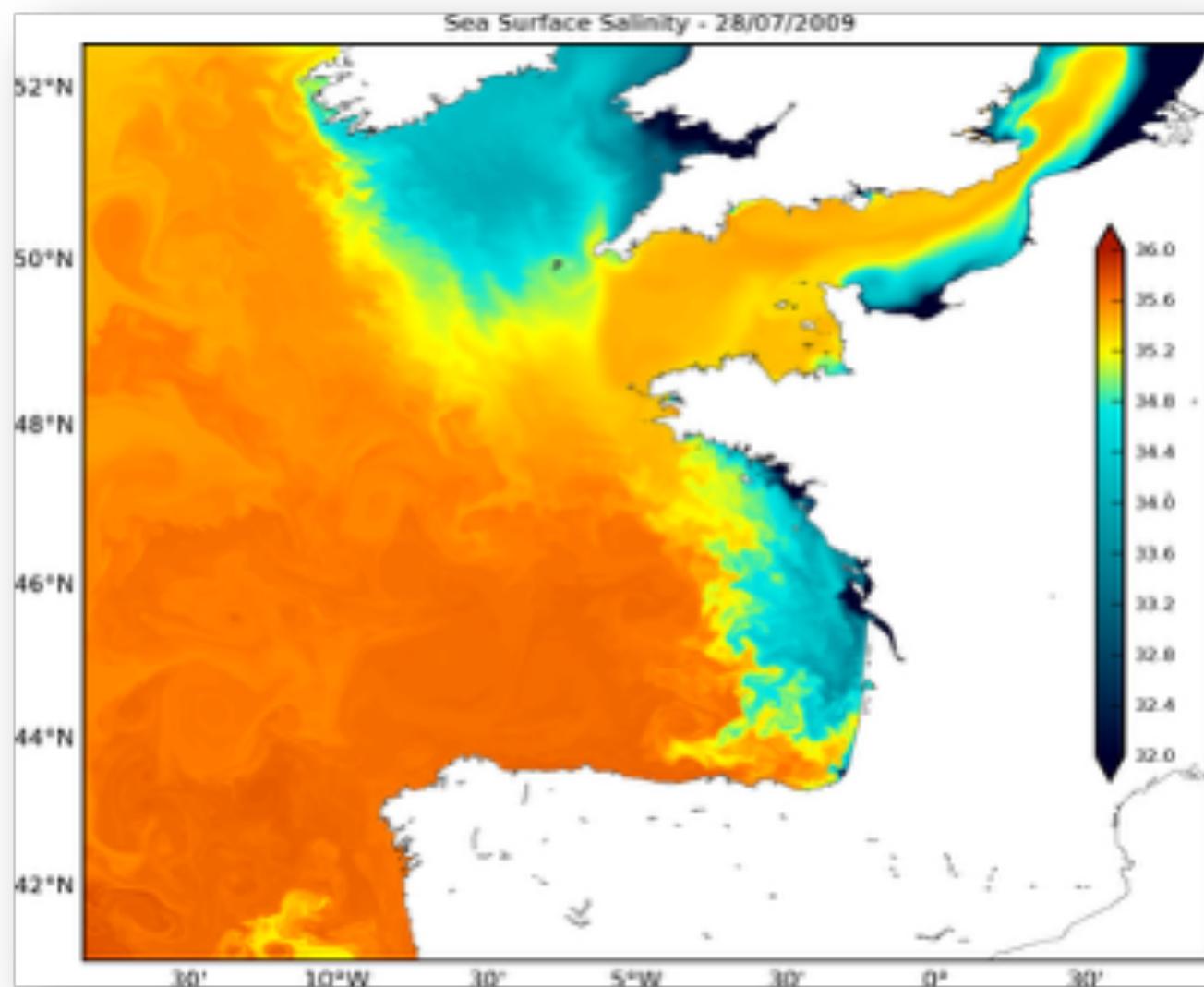
salinity [PSU]



2007 - Nov 15 - 00:00

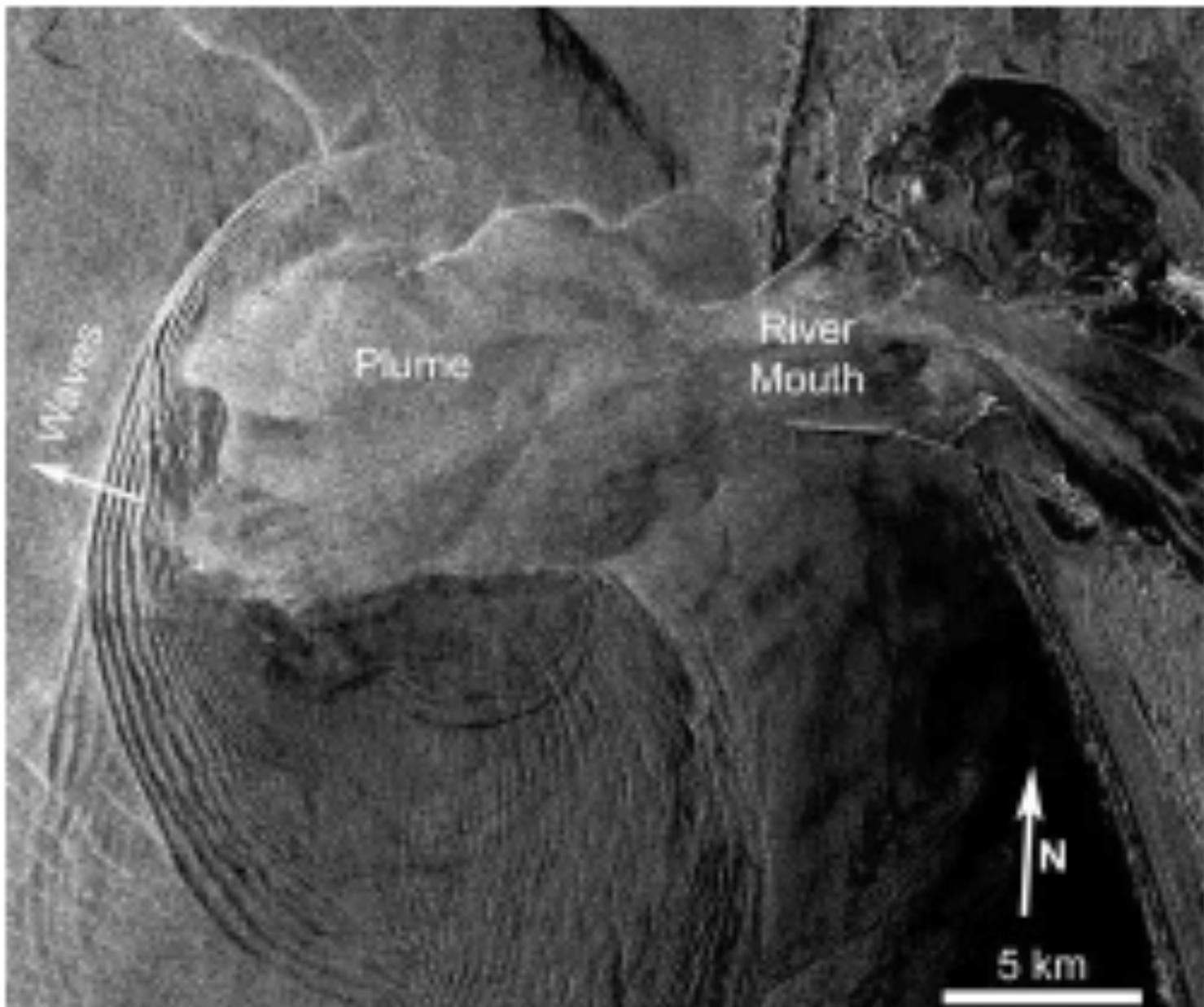
ζ/f





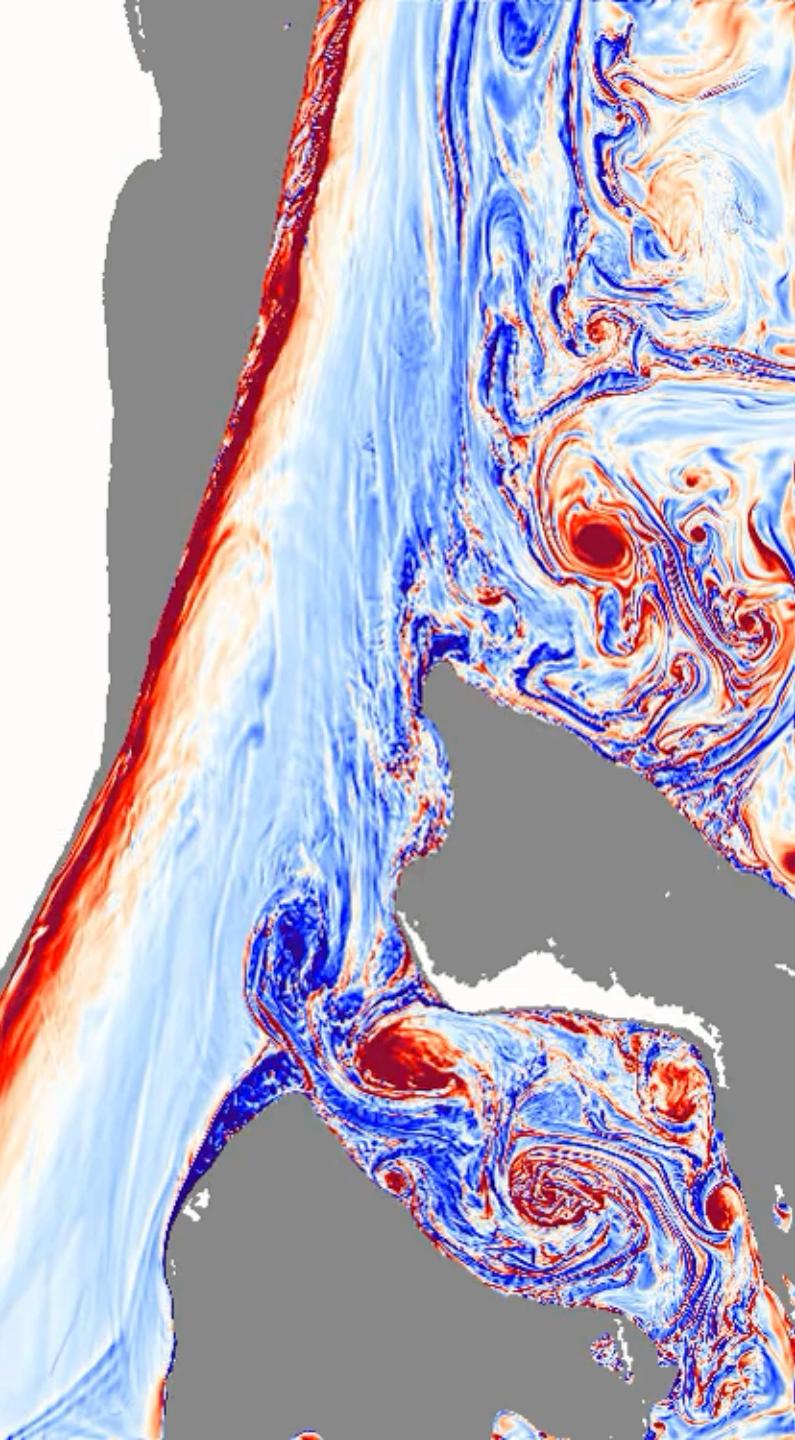


Roorda Aerial

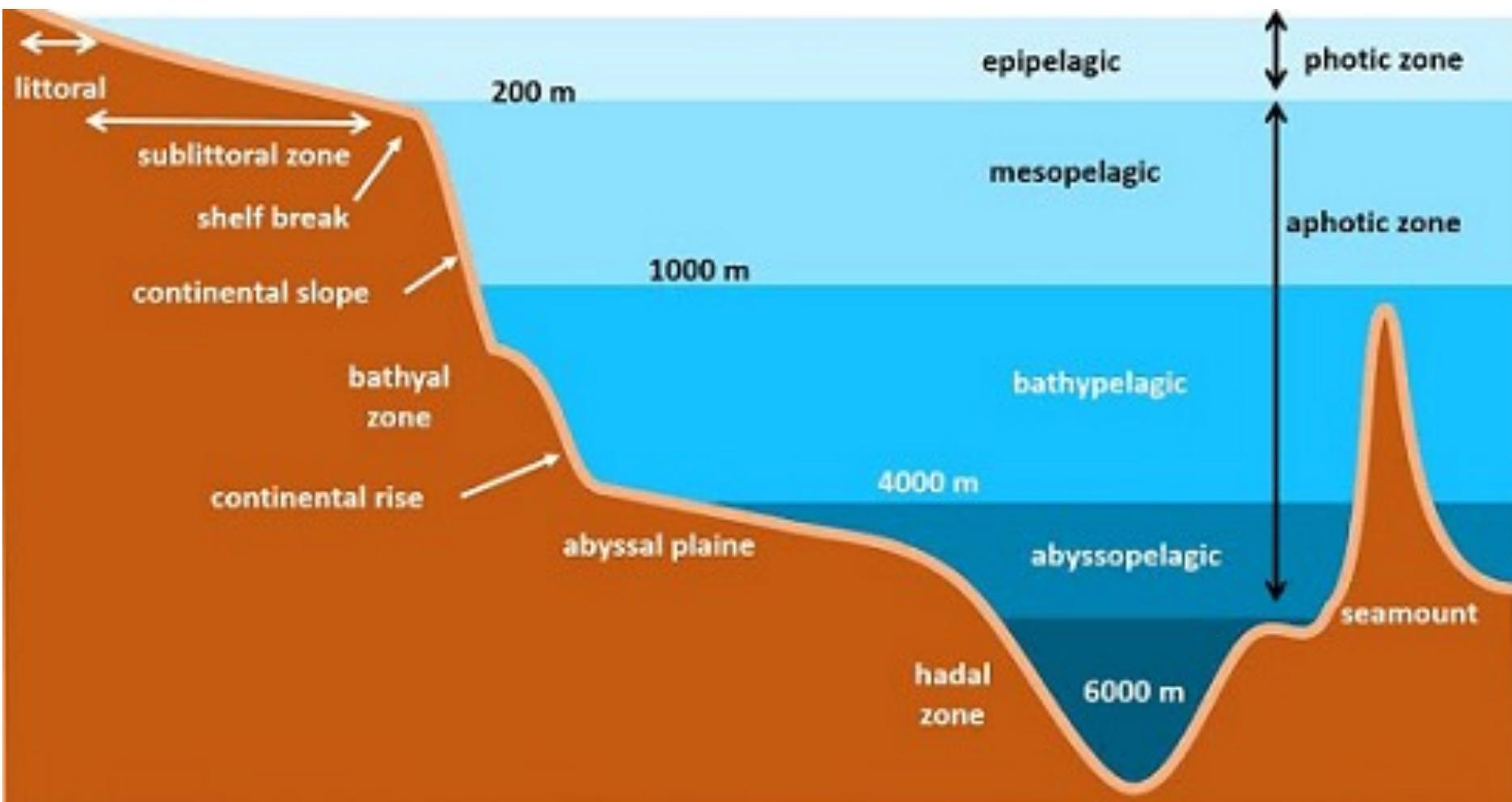




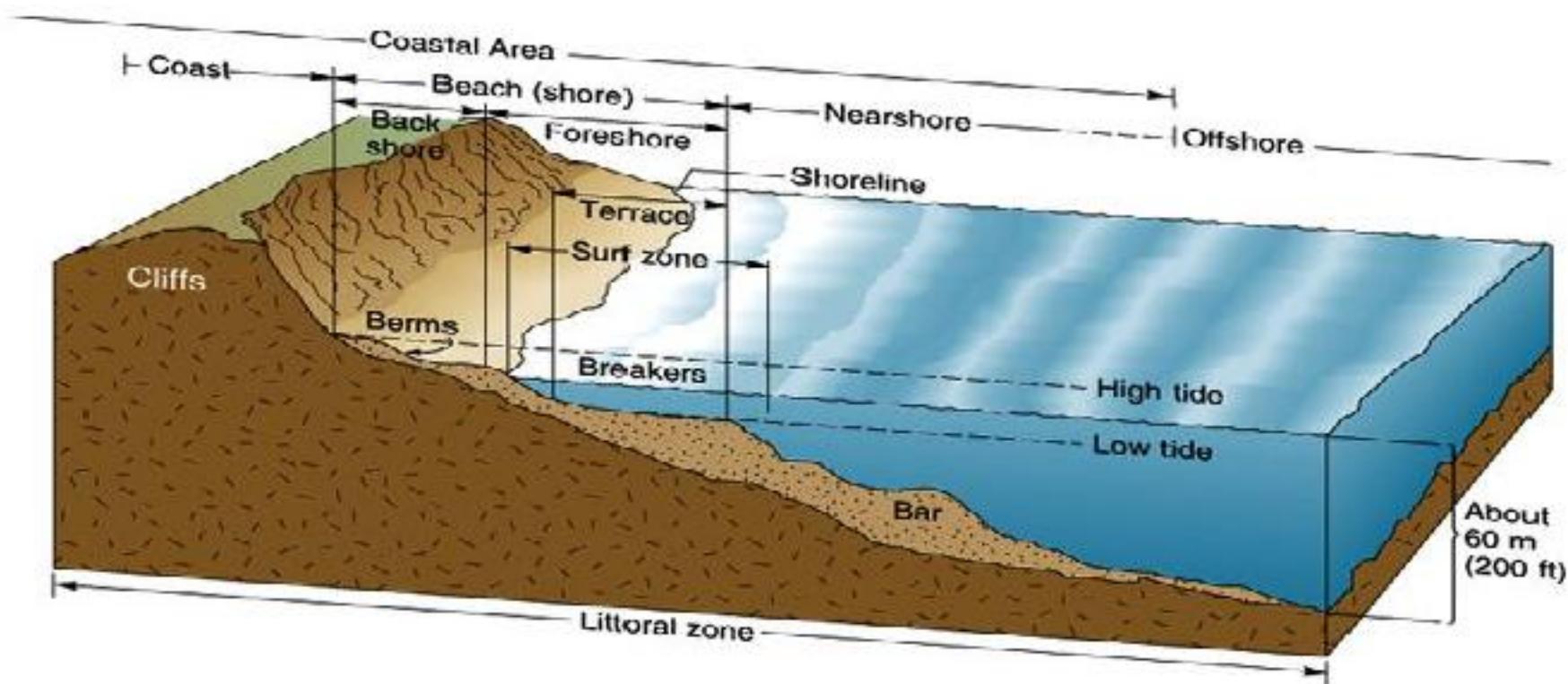




Coastal ocean



Littoral ocean



2. GENERAL EQUATIONS

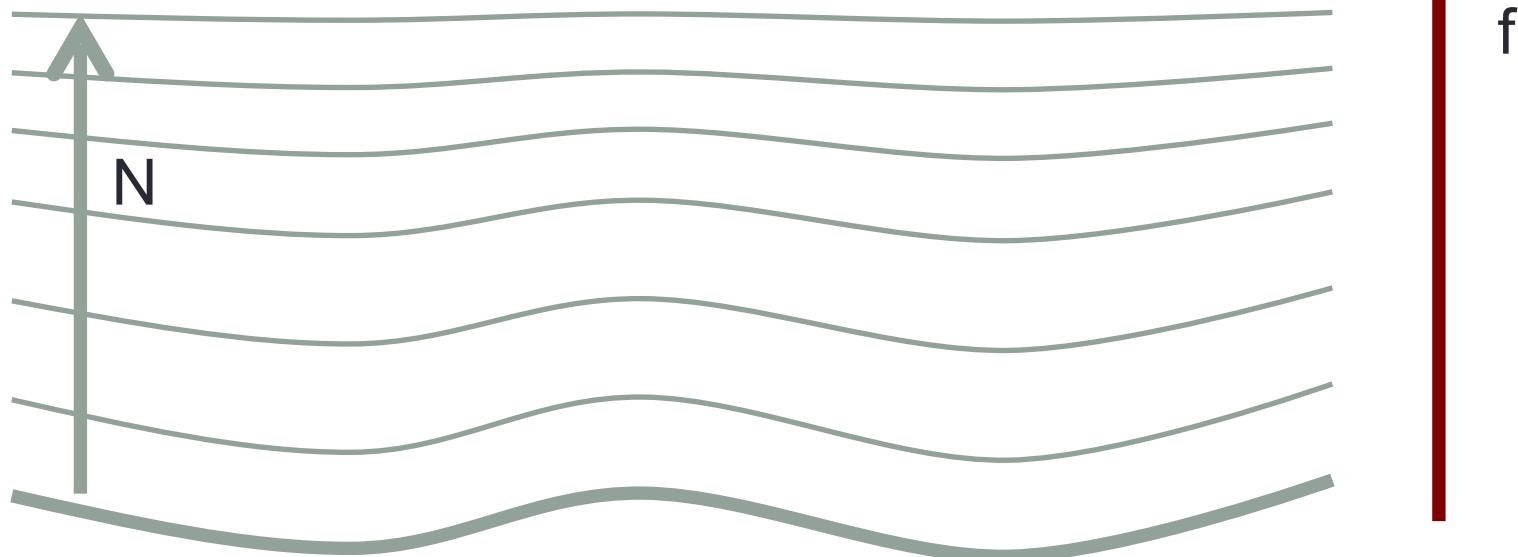
Jonathan GULA
gula@univ-brest.fr

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- Kundu-Cohen (1987). *Fluid Mechanics. Third edition*
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- Carton. *Elements de GFD*
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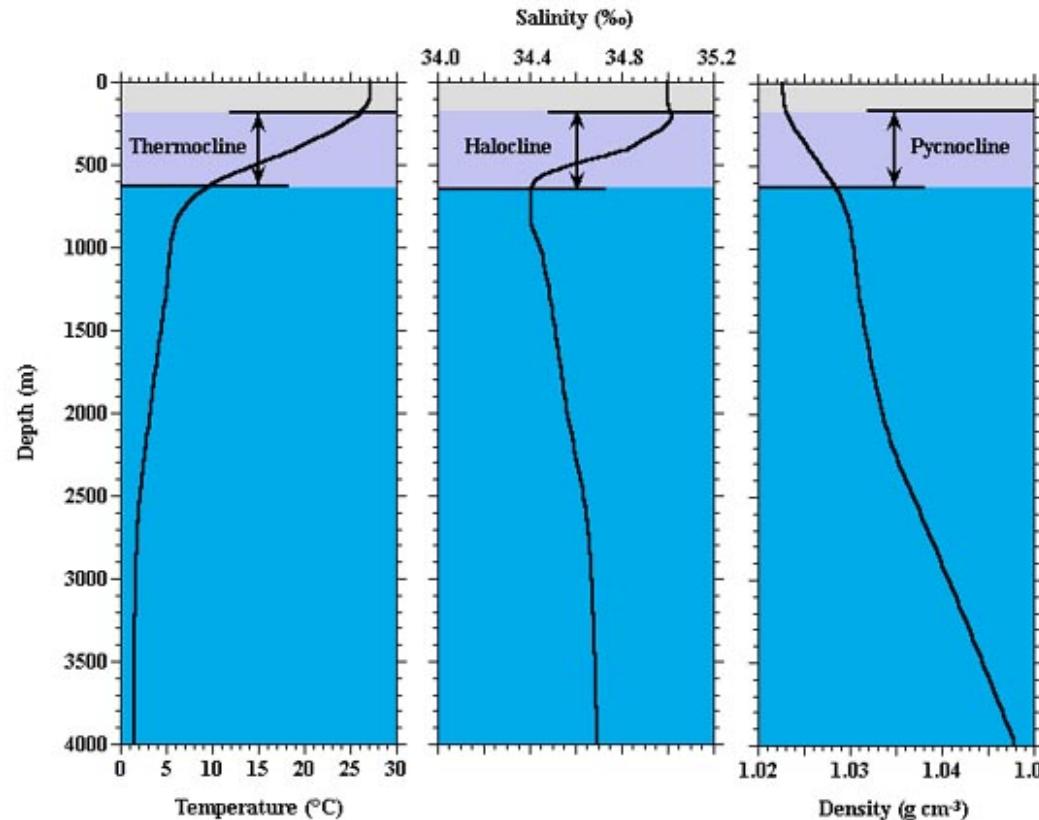
Ingredients of GFD

2 important ingredients in Geophysical Fluid Dynamics (GFD): **rotation + stratification**



Ingredients of GFD

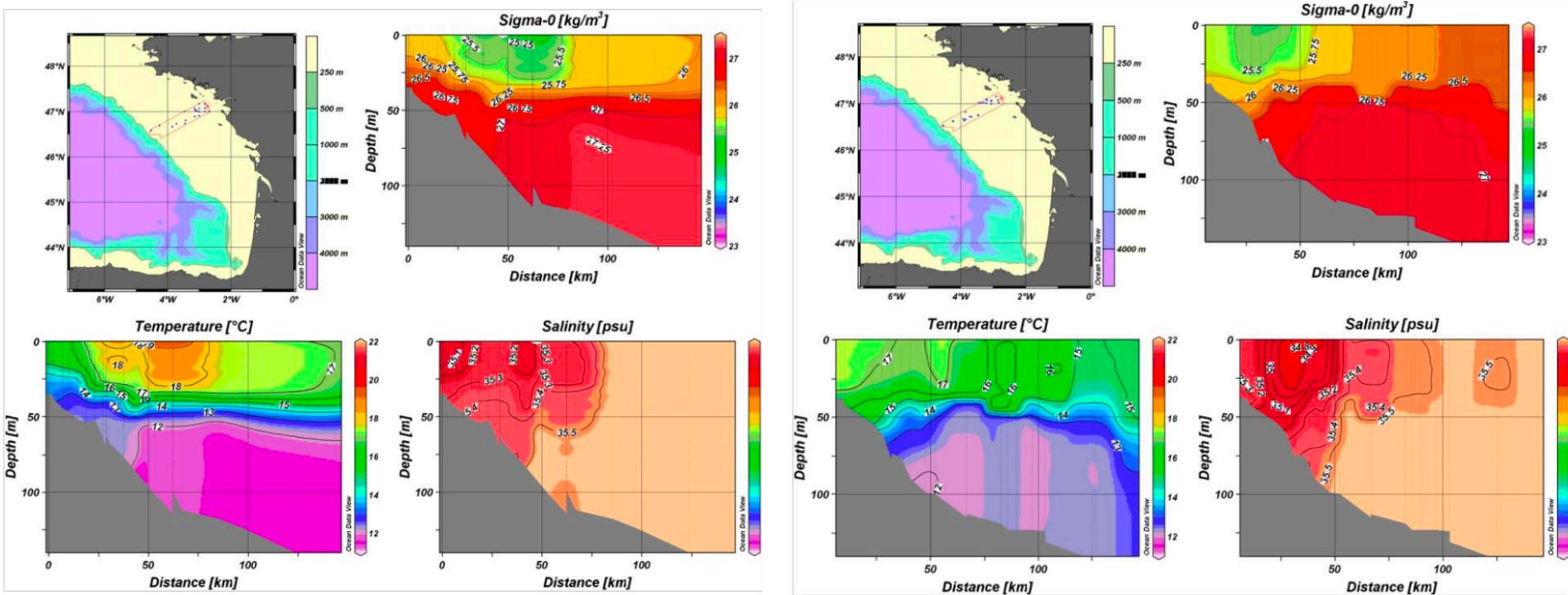
Stratification of the ocean:



with Equation of state : $\rho = \rho(T, S, p)$

Ingredients of GFD

Stratification of the ocean:



Example for the Bay of Biscay in summer/winter

Ingredients of GFD

Stratification of the ocean:

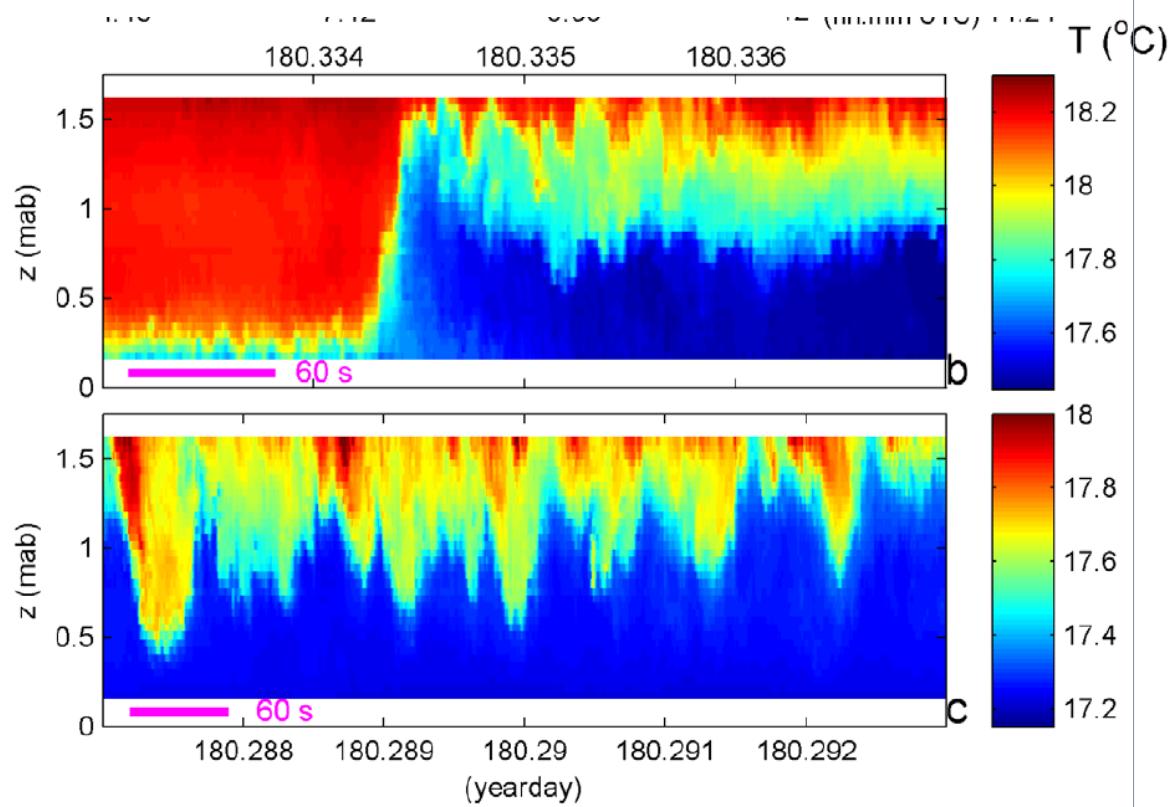
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a

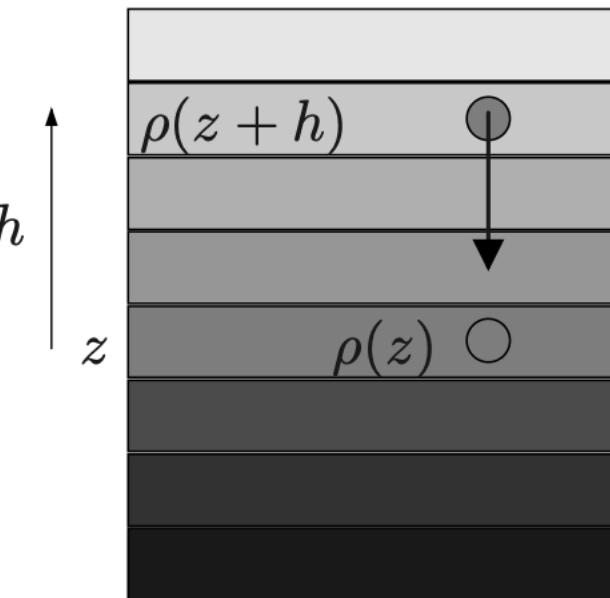


b



Ingredients of GFD

Stratification of the ocean:



An incompressible fluid parcel, displaced vertically, feels a buoyancy force:

$$g [\rho(z + h) - \rho(z)] V,$$

Newton's law then yields:

$$\rho(z) V \frac{d^2 h}{dt^2} = g [\rho(z + h) - \rho(z)] V.$$

with approx: $\rho(z + h) - \rho(z) \simeq \frac{d\rho}{dz} h.$

$$\rho = \rho_0 + \rho'(x, y, z, t) \quad \text{with} \quad |\rho'| \ll \rho_0,$$

So
$$\frac{d^2 h}{dt^2} - \frac{g}{\rho_0} \frac{d\rho}{dz} h = 0,$$

with the Brunt-Vaisala frequency :

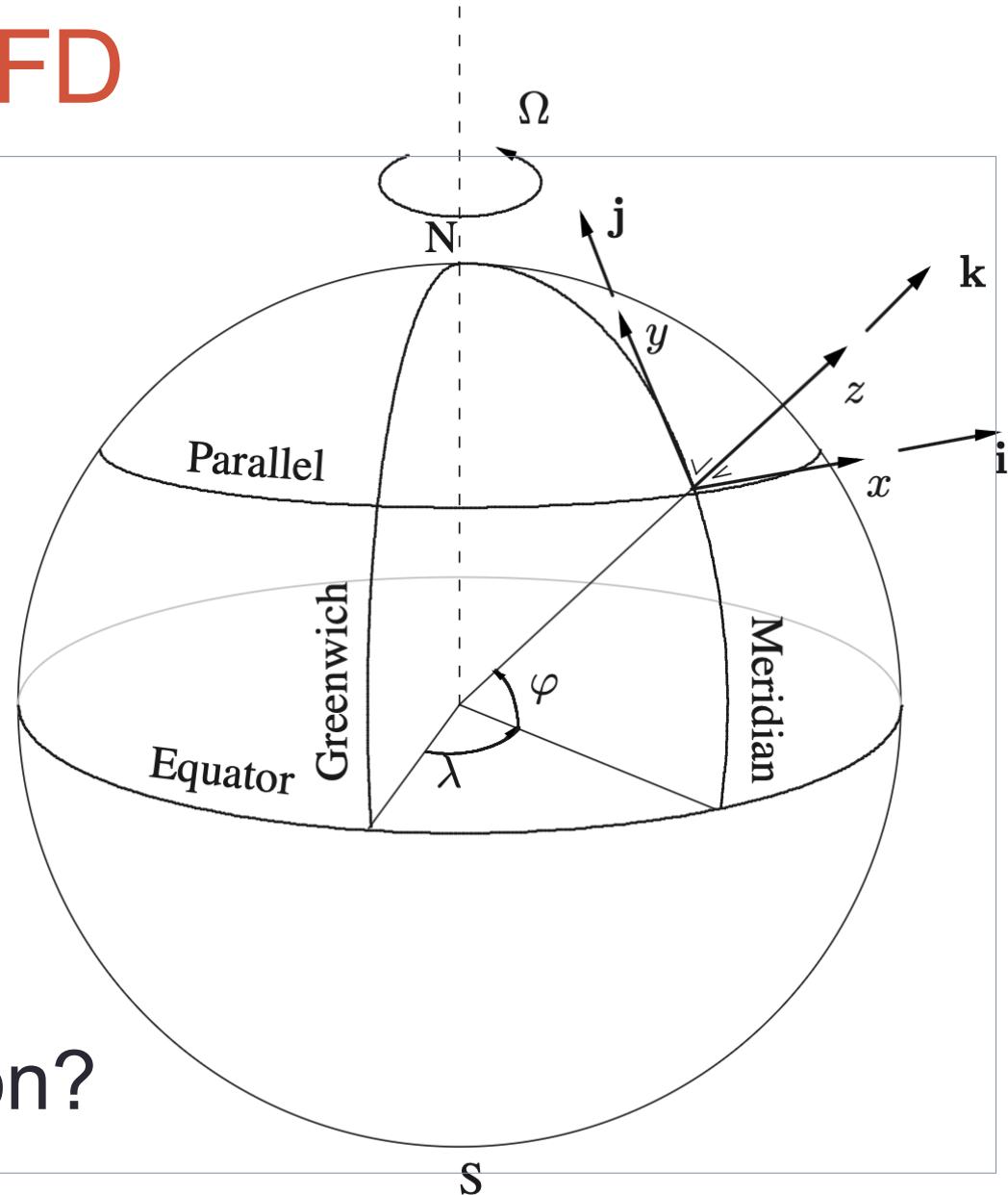
$$N^2 = - \frac{g}{\rho_0} \frac{d\rho}{dz},$$

Ingredients of GFD

For some processes, stratification can be neglected
(e.g. coastal processes with well-mixed water) =
Shallow water model

Ingredients of GFD

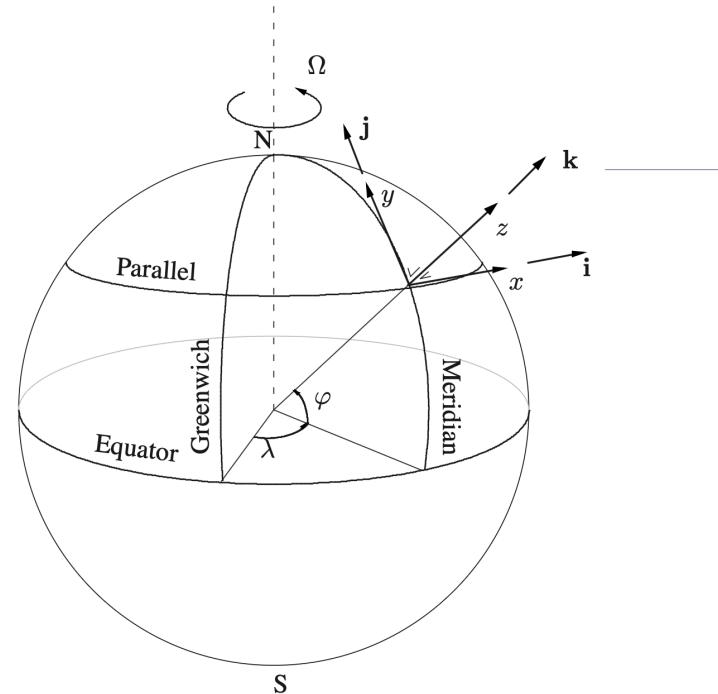
Rotation:



- Coriolis acceleration?

Ingredients of GFD

Rotation:



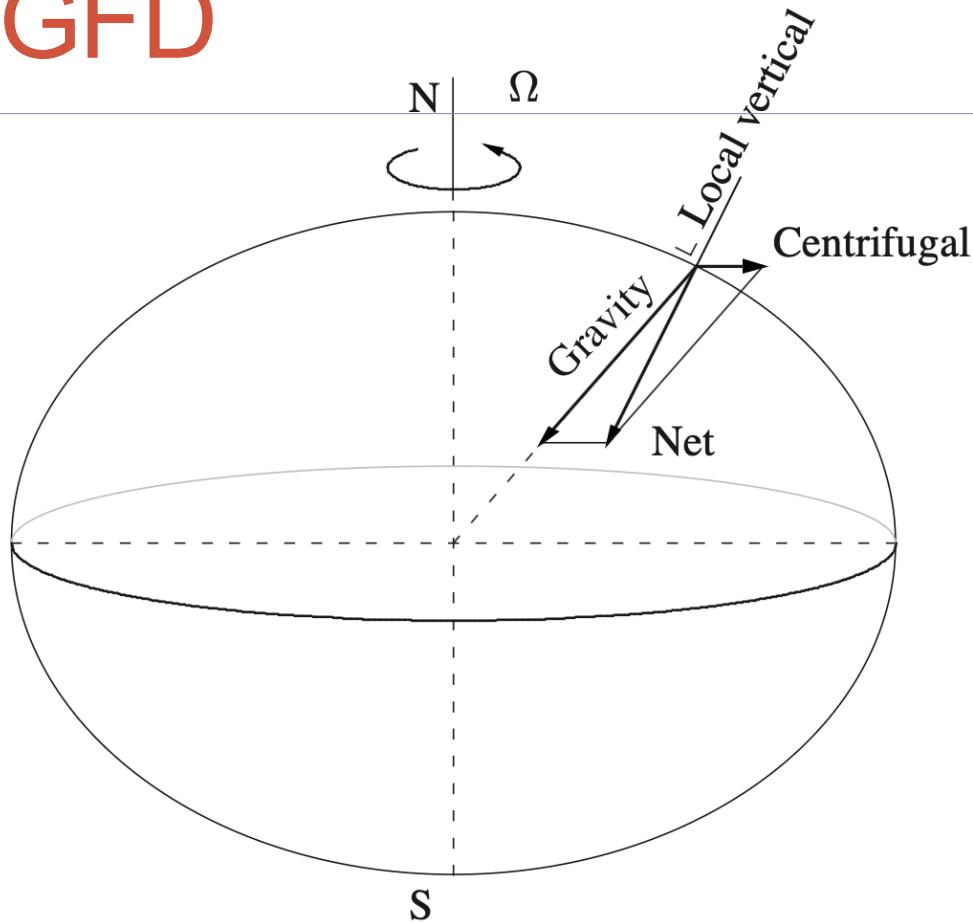
- Coriolis acceleration (or force): $2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{v}_r$

- with the Coriolis parameter
- and the reciprocal Coriolis parameter

$$\begin{aligned} f &= 2\Omega \sin \varphi \\ f_* &= 2\Omega \cos \varphi. \end{aligned}$$

Ingredients of GFD

Rotation:



- Centrifugal force included in local gravity

Ingredients of GFD

Rotation can be neglected if $T \ll \frac{1}{2\Omega} = \frac{T_E}{4\pi}$ with $\frac{L}{U} = T$

So scales in which rotation effects are important :

$L = 1 \text{ m}$	$U \leq 0.012 \text{ mm/s}$
$L = 10 \text{ m}$	$U \leq 0.12 \text{ mm/s}$
$L = 100 \text{ m}$	$U \leq 1.2 \text{ mm/s}$
$L = 1 \text{ km}$	$U \leq 1.2 \text{ cm/s}$
$L = 10 \text{ km}$	$U \leq 12 \text{ cm/s}$
$L = 100 \text{ km}$	$U \leq 1.2 \text{ m/s}$
$L = 1000 \text{ km}$	$U \leq 12 \text{ m/s}$
$L = \text{Earth radius} = 6371 \text{ km}$	$U \leq 74 \text{ m/s}$

Ingredients of GFD

Phenomenon	Length Scale	Velocity Scale	Time Scale
	L	U	T
Microturbulence	1–100 cm	1–10 cm/s	10–100 s
Internal waves	1–20 km	0.05–0.5 m/s	Minutes to hours
Tides	Basin scale	1–100 m/s	Hours
Coastal upwelling	1–10 km	0.1–1 m/s	Several days
Fronts	1–20 km	0.5–5 m/s	Few days
Eddies	5–100 km	0.1–1 m/s	Days to weeks
Major currents	50–500 km	0.5–2 m/s	Weeks to seasons
Large-scale gyres	Basin scale	0.01–0.1 m/s	Decades and beyond

Which Equations?

- Momentum equations (3d)
- Conservation of mass
- Conservation of heat
- Conservation of salinity
- Equation of state :

$$\frac{D\vec{u}}{Dt} = \dots$$

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_\rho$$

$$\frac{DT}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_T$$

$$\frac{DS}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_S$$

$$\rho = \rho(T, S, p)$$

[7 equations for the 7 variables: u,v,w,p,T,S, ρ]

Which Equations?

- Momentum equations (3d)
- Conservation of mass

$$\frac{D\vec{u}}{Dt} = \dots$$
$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_\rho$$

- Conservation of heat
- Conservation of salinity
- Equation of state :

$$\frac{DT}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_T$$
$$\frac{DS}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_S$$

$$\rho = \rho(T, S, p)$$

[7 equations for the 7 variables: u, v, w, p, T, S, ρ]

Equations for momentum/mass?

- Navier-Stokes Equations (NS)
- Non-hydrostatic Primitive Equations (NH)
- Hydrostatic Primitive Equations (PE)
- Shallow-water (SW)
- Quasi-geostrophic (QG)
- 2D Euler equations
- Etc.

Type of models

Navier
Stokes

- DNS = Direct Numerical Simulation
- LES = Large Eddy Simulation

PE

- PE = Primitive Equations models

SW

- SW = Shallow-Water models

SQG

- SQG = Surface Quasi-Geostrophic models

QG

- QG = Quasi-Geostrophic models

- Etc.

CFD

Process
studies

Ocean
Circulation
Models

Idealized
models

Equations for momentum/mass?

Navier-Stokes Equations (with rotation + forcings):

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{u} + g\vec{k} = -\frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{u} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$

Momentum equations

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \rho \vec{u} = 0$$

Mass conservation
(no source/sink)

Equations for momentum/mass?

Navier-Stokes Equations (with rotation + forcings):

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{u} + g\vec{k} = -\frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{u} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$

Time variation

Advection
(inertia)

Rotation

Gravity

Pressure gradient

Viscosity

Forcings

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \rho \vec{u} = 0$$

Mass conservation
(no source/sink)

Equations for momentum/mass?

Boussinesq Approximation:

Density perturbations small compared to mean background value:

$$\rho = \rho_0 + \rho' \quad \rho' \ll \rho_0$$

Linearize all terms involving a product with density,
except the gravity term which is already linear:

$$\rho \vec{u} \rightarrow \rho_0 \vec{u}$$

$$\rho g \rightarrow \rho g$$

Equations for momentum/mass?

Boussinesq Approximation :
[+ incompressibility or adiabatic]

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \rho \vec{u} = 0$$



Continuity equation

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

Equations for momentum/mass?

Non hydrostatic boussinesq (NH):

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{u} + \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} g \vec{k} = - \frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho_0} + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{u} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

Easier to solve than Navier-Stokes, but still requires to invert a 3d elliptic equation for P (computationally expansive)

Equations for momentum/mass?

Hydrostatic balance:

The vertical component of the Boussinesq momentum equations is

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} w - 2\Omega \cos\phi u + \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} g = -\frac{\partial_z P}{\rho_0} + \nu \nabla^2 w + \mathcal{F}_w$$

For long horizontal motions ($L \gg H$) the dominant balance is

$$\begin{aligned} H &\sim 10 \text{ m} \\ L &\sim 1 \text{ km} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = -\rho g$$

Such that pressure is just a vertical integral:

$$P = \int_z^\eta g \rho dz$$

Equations for momentum/mass?

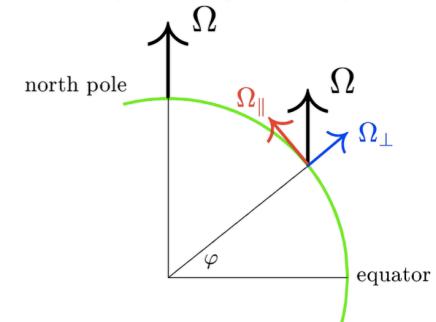
Traditional approximation

= neglect horizontal Coriolis term

$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + 2\vec{\Omega} \times \vec{u} + g\vec{k} = -\frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{u} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$



$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u} + f\vec{k} \times \vec{u} + g\vec{k} = -\frac{\vec{\nabla} P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{u} + \vec{\mathcal{F}}$$



Equations for momentum/mass?

Hydrostatic Primitive Equations (PE)

- 2d momentum with Boussinesq approximation:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} u - fv = -\frac{\partial_x P}{\rho_0} + \nu \nabla^2 u + \mathcal{F}_u$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} v + fu = -\frac{\partial_y P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 v + \mathcal{F}_v$$

- Hydrostatic:

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = -\rho g$$

- Continuity equation for an incompressible fluid:

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

Equations for PE Ocean Models

Hydrostatic Primitive Equations (PE)

- 2d momentum with Boussinesq approximation:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} u - fv = -\frac{\partial_x P}{\rho_0} + \nu \nabla^2 u + \mathcal{F}_u$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} v + fu = -\frac{\partial_y P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 v + \mathcal{F}_v$$

- Hydrostatic: $\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = -\rho g$
- Continuity equation for an incompressible fluid: $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$
- Conservation of heat and salinity $\frac{DT}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_T \quad \frac{DS}{Dt} = \mathcal{S}_S$
- Equation of state : $\rho = \rho(T, S, z)$

Ex: Geostrophic balance

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} u - fv = -\frac{\partial_x P}{\rho_0} + \nu \nabla^2 u + \mathcal{F}_u$$
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} v + fu = -\frac{\partial_y P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 v + \mathcal{F}_v$$

Ex: Linear Gravity waves

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} u - fv = -\frac{\partial_x P}{\rho_0} + \nu \nabla^2 u + \mathcal{F}_u$$
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} v + fu = -\frac{\partial_y P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 v + \mathcal{F}_v$$

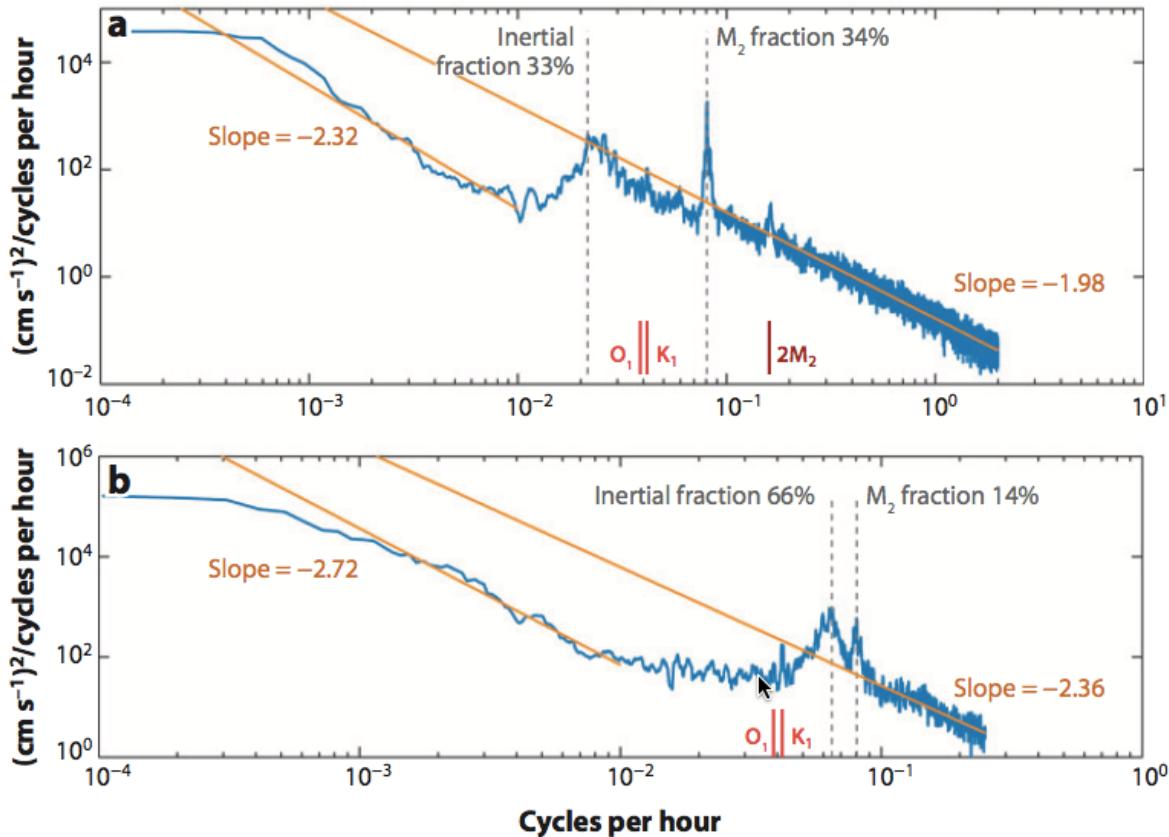
Ex: Linear Inertia-Gravity waves

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} u - fv = -\frac{\partial_x P}{\rho_0} + \nu \nabla^2 u + \mathcal{F}_u$$
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} v + fu = -\frac{\partial_y P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 v + \mathcal{F}_v$$

Ex: Inertial motions and NIW

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} u - fv = -\frac{\partial_x P}{\rho_0} + \nu \nabla^2 u + \mathcal{F}_u$$
$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} v + fu = -\frac{\partial_y P}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 v + \mathcal{F}_v$$

Ex: Inertial motions and NIW



(a) Kinetic energy estimate for an instrument in the western North Atlantic near 15°N at 500 m. (b) Power density spectral estimate from a record at 1000 m at 50.7°S , 143°W , south of Tasmania in the Southern Ocean

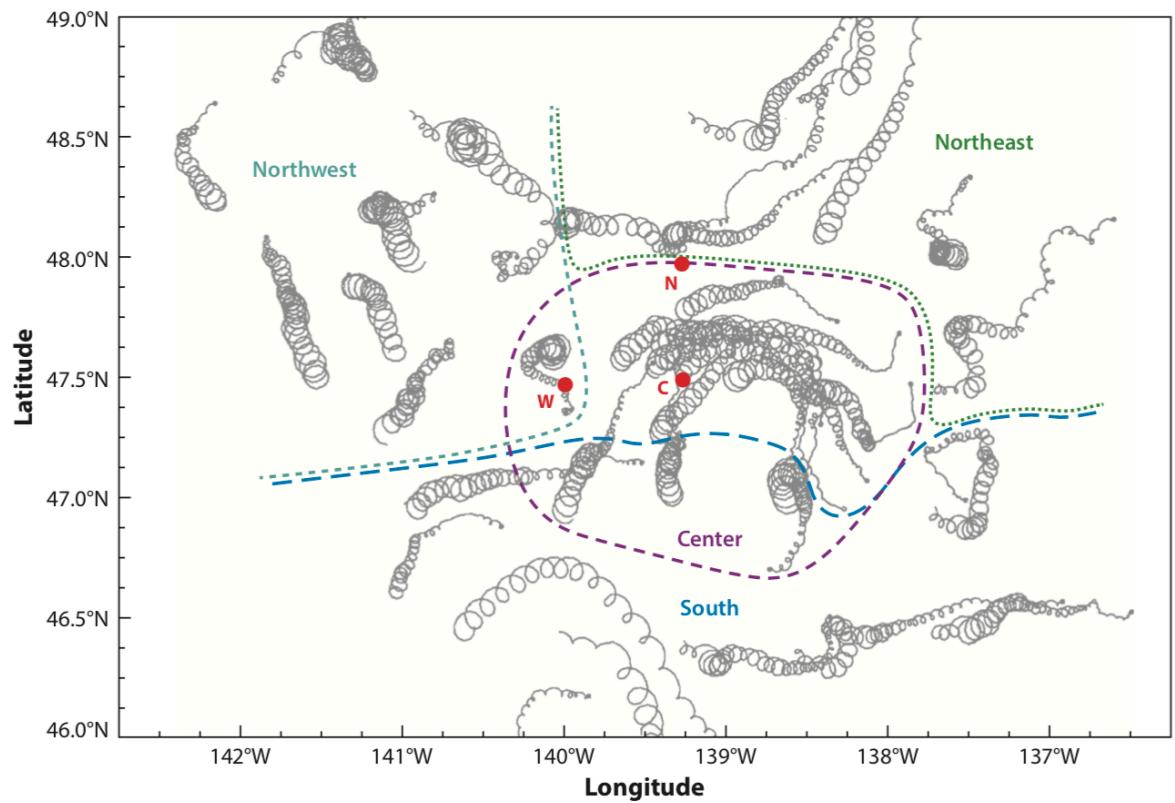
From Mackinnon 2013

Ex: Inertial motions and NIW

- Near-inertial frequencies are associated primarily with atmospheric forcing.
- The ocean selects near-inertial frequencies for amplification because the aspect ratio of the forcing is exceedingly small.
 - Storms tends to have horizontal scales of $O(100\text{-}1000 \text{ km})$
 - The ocean mixed layer is typically no deeper than 100 m
 - Storms move rapidly so that the ocean does not have time to adjust

Ex: Inertial motions and NIW

- NIW are recognizable by their characteristic circularly polarized velocities



3. WAVES

Jonathan GULA
gula@univ-brest.fr

3. WAVES

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. General properties of Wave

3.1.2. Different types of ocean waves

3.2. Surface Gravity Waves

3.2.1. Long waves

3.2.2. Short waves

3.3. Inertia-gravity Waves

3.4. Coastal waves

3.5. Internal Waves

Bibliography

- Leblond-Mysak (1977) : *Waves in the ocean*
- Whitham (1974) : *Linear and nonlinear waves*
- Cushman-Roisin. *Introduction to geophysical fluid Dynamics*
- Ardhuin (2024) [Waves in Geosciences](#)
- Gerkema- Zimmerman (2008). *An introduction to internal waves*
 - <http://stockage.univ-brest.fr/~gula/Ondes/gerkema.pdf>

3.1.1. General properties

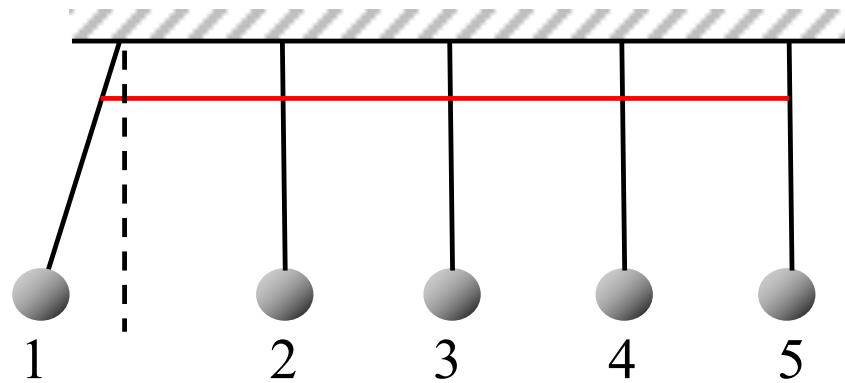
Definition of a wave:

- A wave is a recognizable signal that is transferred from one part of the medium to another with a recognizable velocity of propagation. The signal may be any feature of the disturbance, such as a maximum or an abrupt change in some quantity, provided that it can be clearly recognized and its location at any time can be determined. [Whitham: « Linear and nonlinear waves »]
-

3.1.1 General properties

Definition of a wave:

- Restoring force and a continuous medium to transport oscillation



3.1.1 General properties

Definition of a wave:

- *Restoring force and a continuous medium to transport oscillation*



3.1.1 General properties

- Mathematically two main classes of waves:

Hyperbolic waves and dispersive waves

3.1.1 General properties

Hyperbolic waves

1. **Hyperbolic waves** are formulated in terms of hyperbolic partial differential equations, for example:

$$\eta_t + c\nabla\eta = 0$$

$$\eta_{tt} - c^2\nabla^2\eta = 0$$

3.1.1 General properties

Hyperbolic waves

1. **Hyperbolic waves** are formulated in terms of hyperbolic partial differential equations, for example:

$$\eta_t + c\nabla\eta = 0$$

$$\eta_{tt} - c^2\nabla^2\eta = 0$$

- With general solutions in the form:

$$\eta = f(x - ct)$$

$$\eta = f(x - ct) + g(x + ct)$$

- Very frequent in acoustics, elasticity, electromagnetism, etc.

3.1.1 General properties

Hyperbolic waves

1. Examples of Hyperbolic waves

- Flood wave, tidal bores



- Shock wave

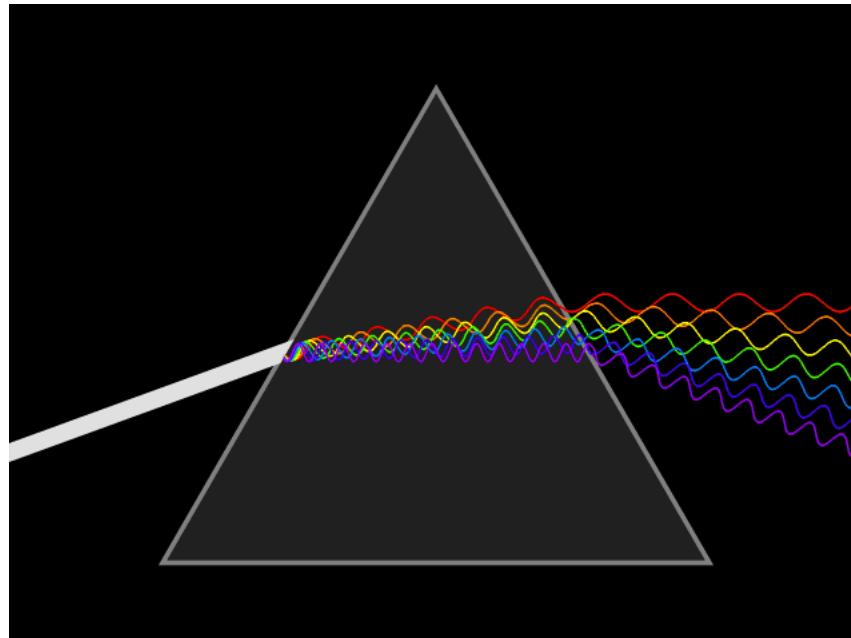


3.1.1 General properties

Dispersive waves

- **Dispersive waves** come from a variety of PDEs and are characterised by their dispersion relation $\omega = f(k, \text{environment})$, with ω their frequency and k their wavenumber. They are observed as the superposition of waves where the Fourier components (corresponding to specific ω) propagate at different speeds.

The wave (phase) speed is $c_\phi = \frac{\omega}{k}$ and the group speed is $c_g = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k}$.



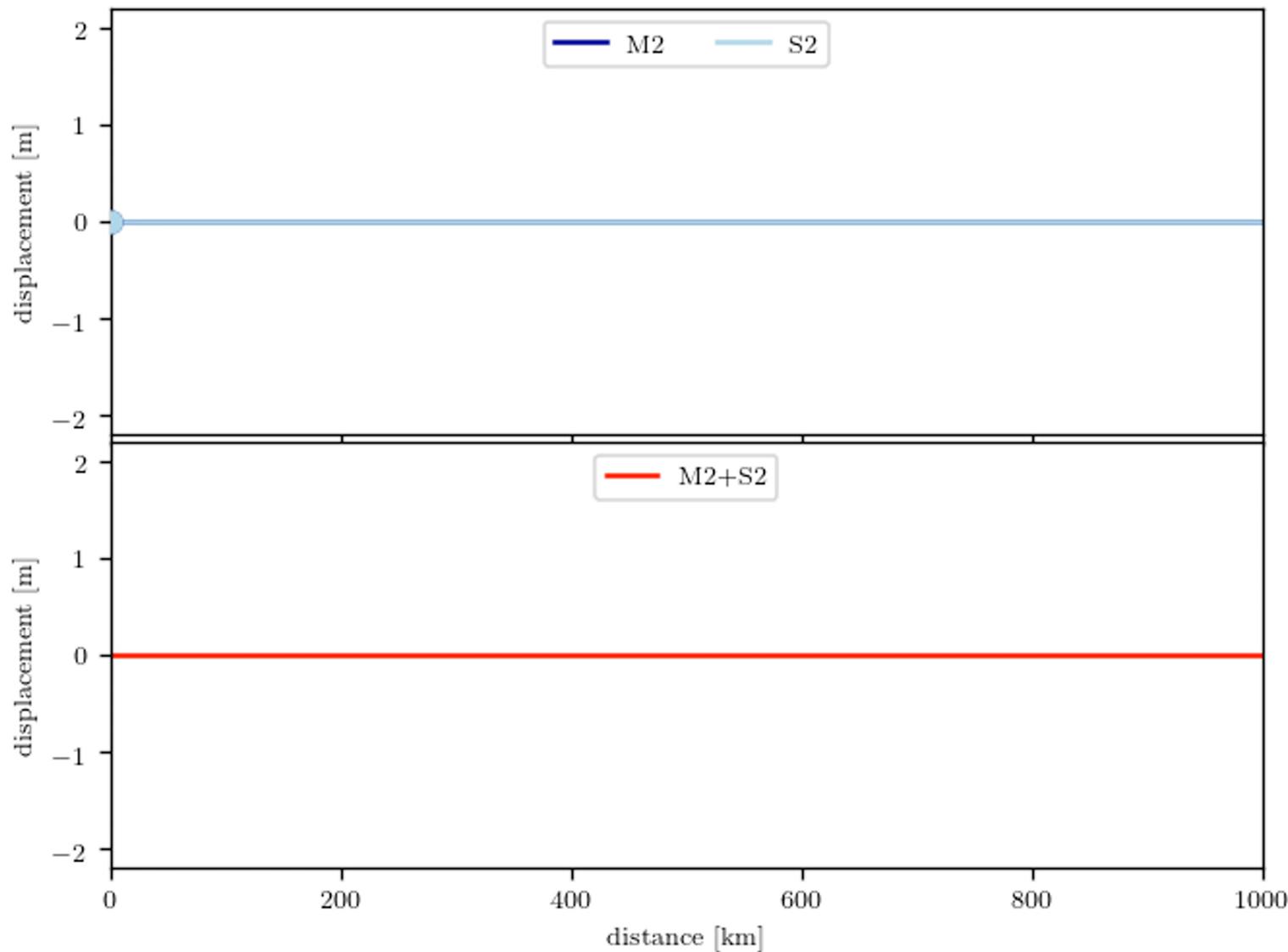
Dispersive waves

- **Dispersive waves** in the ocean: superposition of tidal waves,

$$\text{“M2 wave” (M=Moon): } \eta_{M2} = A_{M2} \exp(i(\omega_{M2}t - k_{M2}x))$$

$$\text{“S2 wave” (S=Sun): } \eta_{S2} = A_{S2} \exp(i(\omega_{S2}t - k_{S2}x))$$

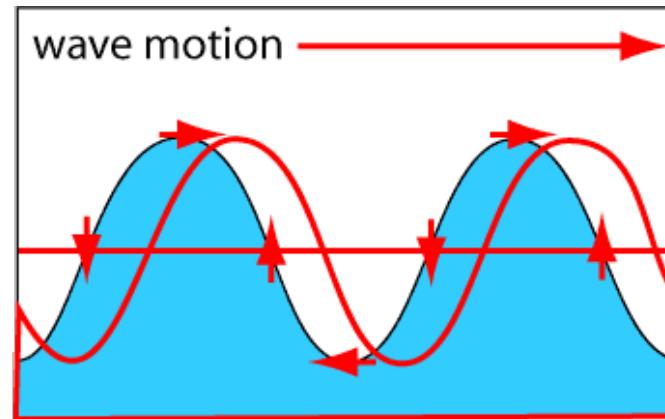
3.1.1 General properties



3.1.2 Ocean Waves

Ocean Waves

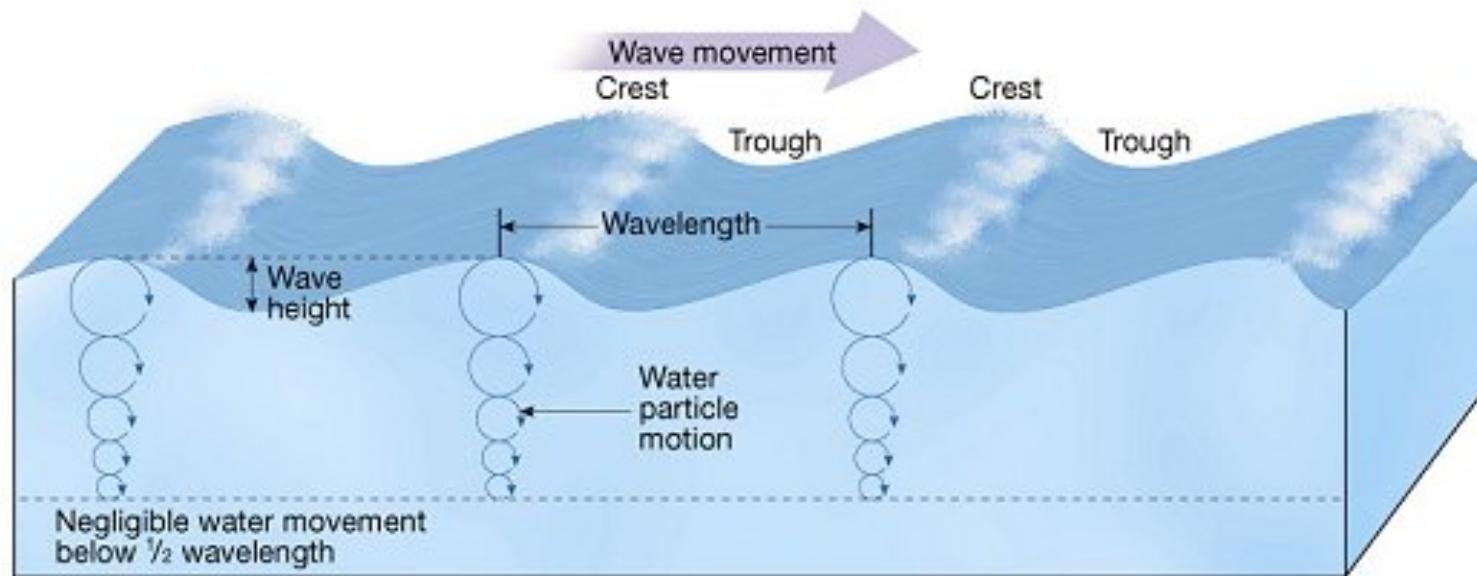
- A wave results when fluid is displaced from a position of equilibrium.
- The restoration of the fluid to equilibrium will produce a movement of the fluid back and forth, called a wave orbit.



3.1.2 Ocean Waves

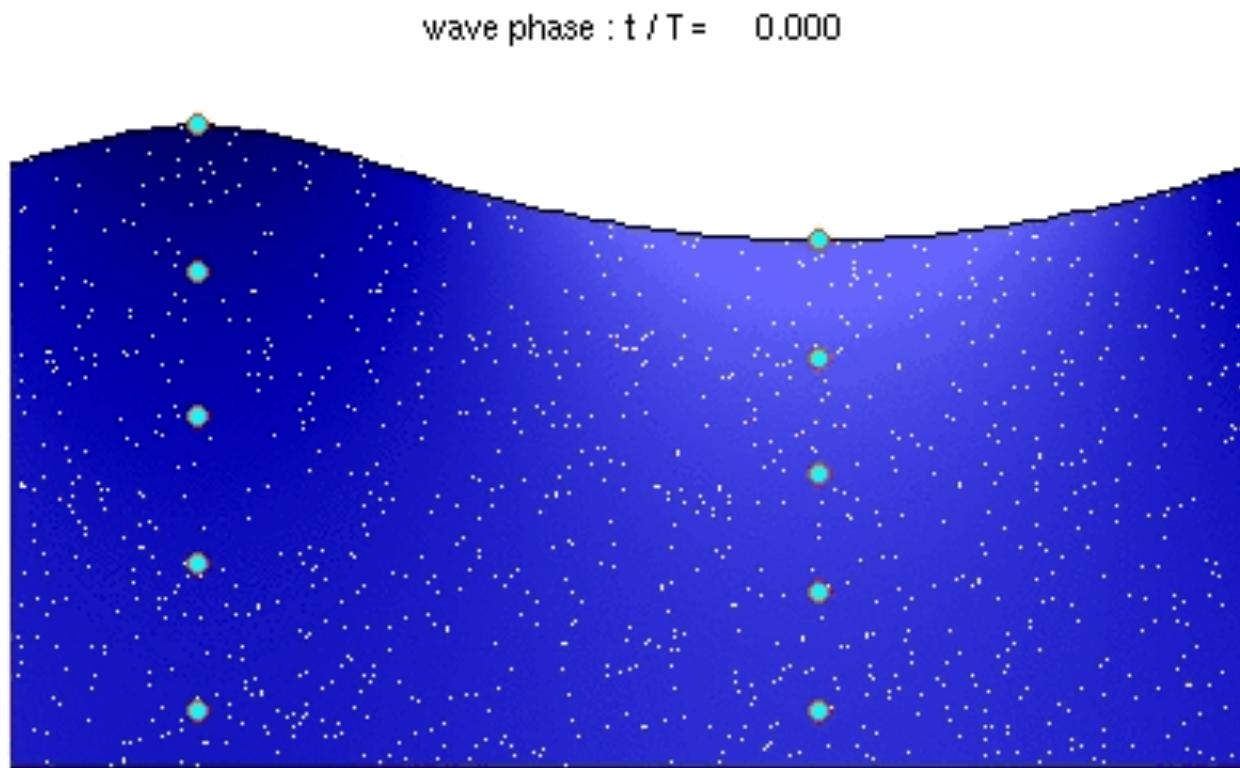
Ocean Waves

- Waves propagates energy but do not transport water



3.1.2 Ocean Waves

Ocean Waves

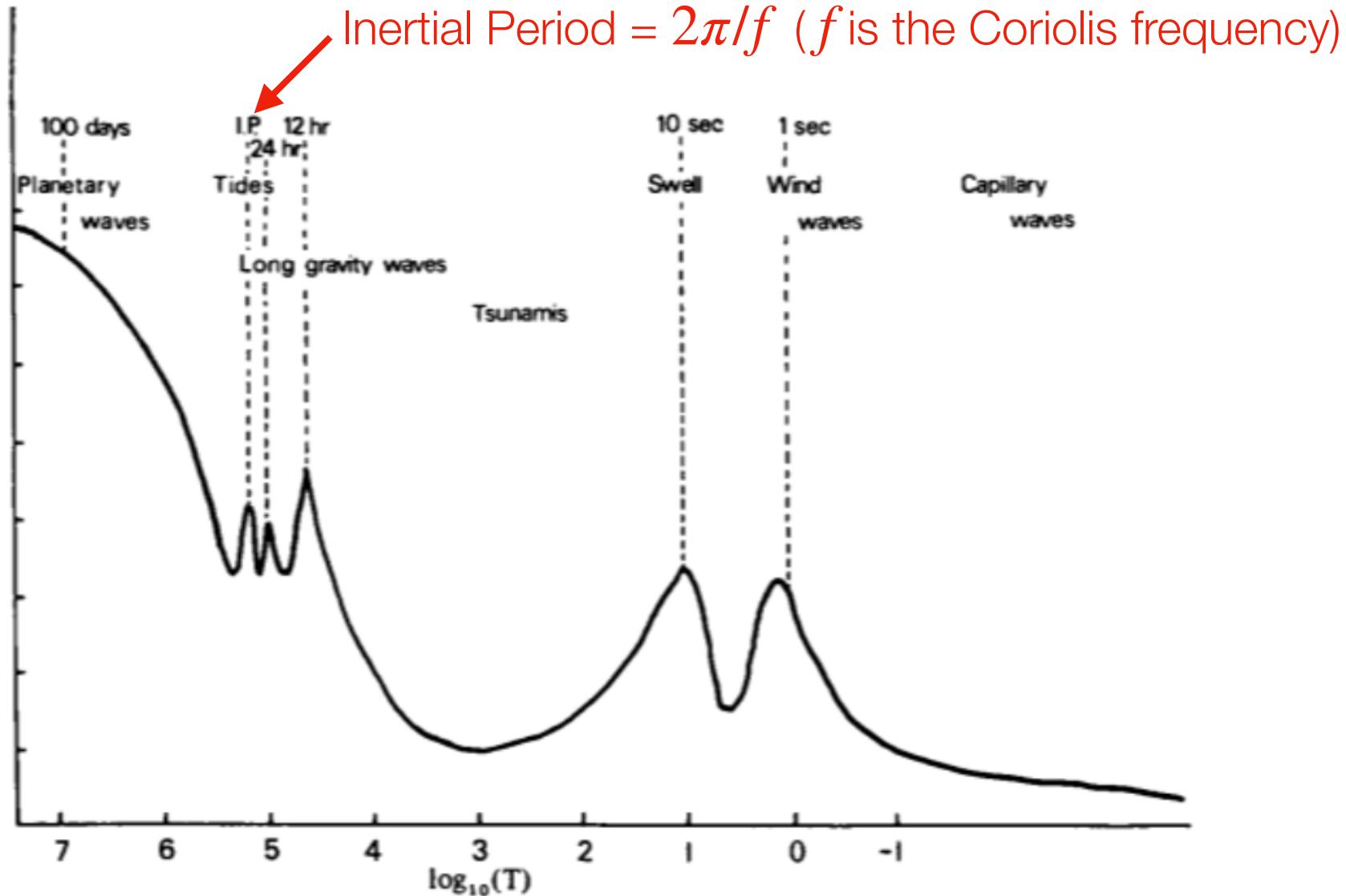


A **nonlinear wave** also carries energy and can lead to a net transport of material
(for example, Stokes drift at the ocean surface)

Animation from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_wave

3.1.2 Ocean Waves

Ocean Waves



Schematic energy spectrum of ocean variability [Leblond & Mysak]

3.1.2 Ocean Waves

Ocean Waves

Different type of waves are classified on the basis of:

- Disturbing force
- Restoring force
- Properties: wavelength, frequency, amplitude, ...
- Freely propagating vs forced wave

3.1.2 Ocean Waves

Type of waves	Disturbing force	Restoring force	Horizontal wavelength	Period
Acoustic wave				
Capillary wave				
Surface gravity wave				
Rossby wave				
Kelvin wave				
Internal wave				

3.1.2 Ocean Waves

Type of waves	Disturbing force	Restoring force	Horizontal wavelength	Period
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Capillary wave				
Surface gravity wave				
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Internal wave				

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Kelvin wave				
Internal wave				

3.1.2 Ocean Waves

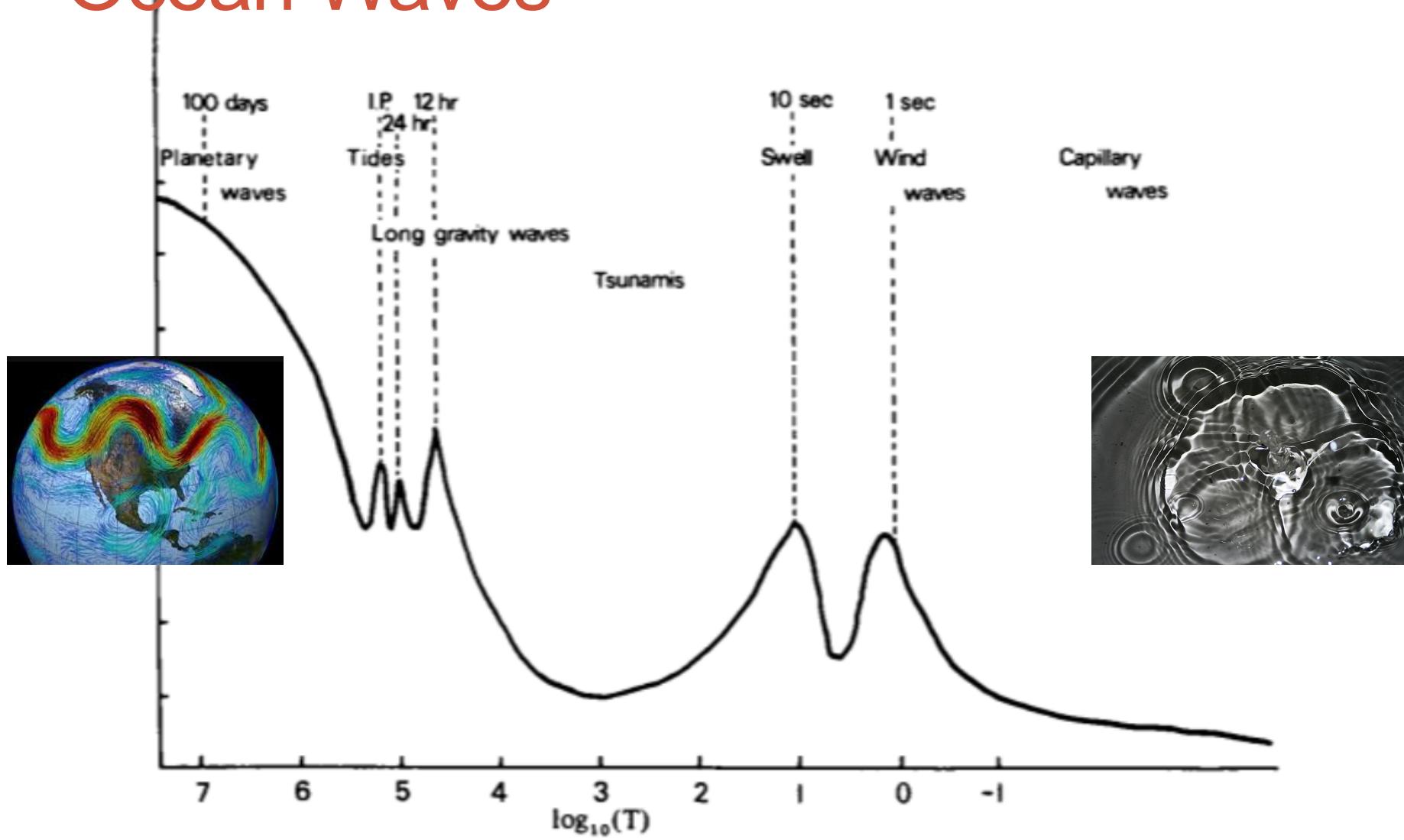
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Kelvin wave	Atmospheric forcing	Pressure gradient + Coriolis	10 km - 100 km	Days - months
Internal wave	Tides, winds, current instability, ...	Gravity (stratification) + Coriolis	1 m - 100 km	10 s - 1 day

3.1.2 Ocean Waves

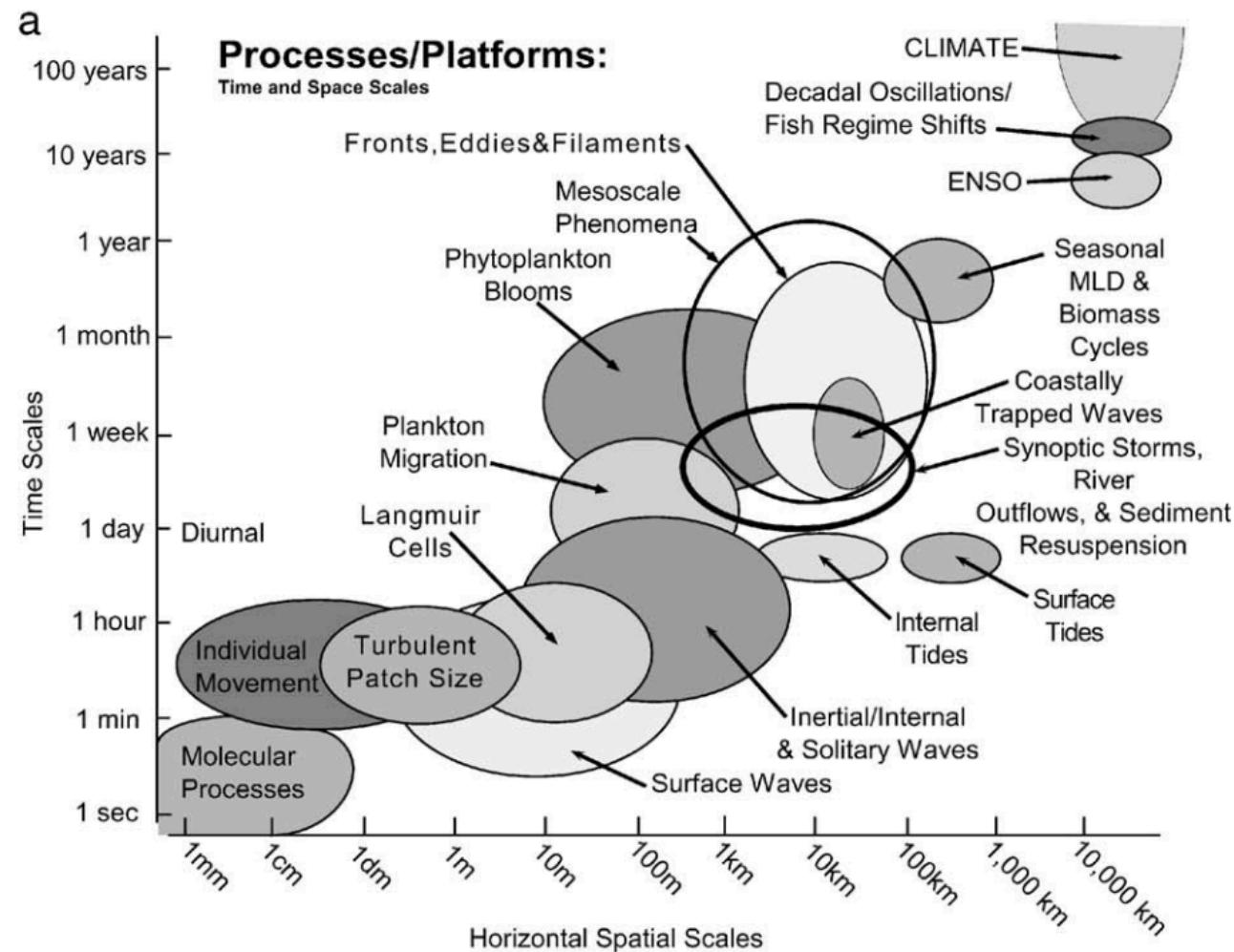
Ocean Waves



Schematic energy spectrum of ocean variability [Leblond & Mysak]

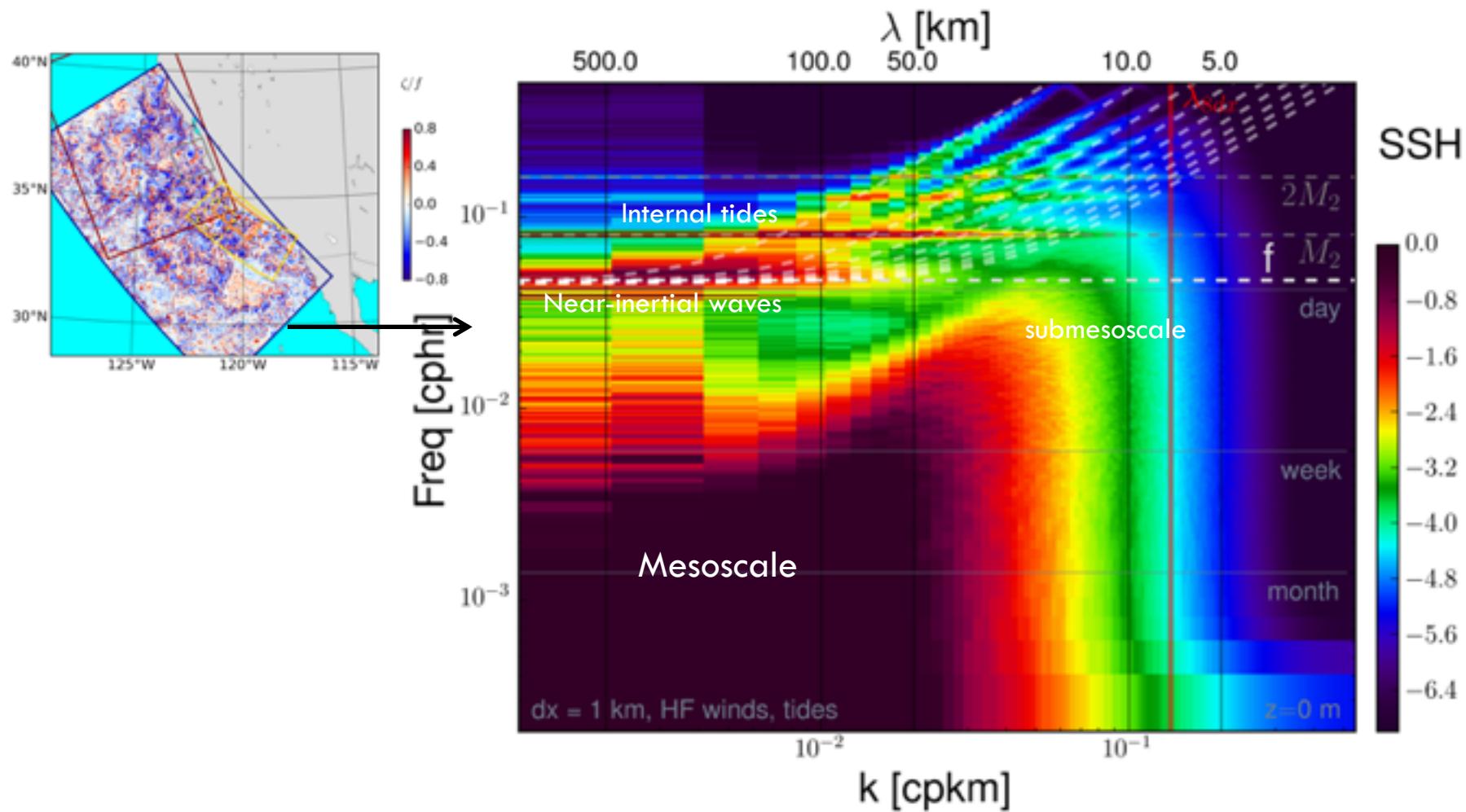
3.1.2 Ocean Waves

Ocean Waves



3.1.2 Ocean Waves

Ocean Waves



Azimuthally-averaged 2D frequency-wavenumber spectra for SSH in California Current

3. WAVES

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. General properties of Wave

3.1.2. Different types of ocean waves

3.2. Surface Gravity Waves

3.2.1. Long waves

3.2.2. Short waves

3.3. Inertia-gravity Waves

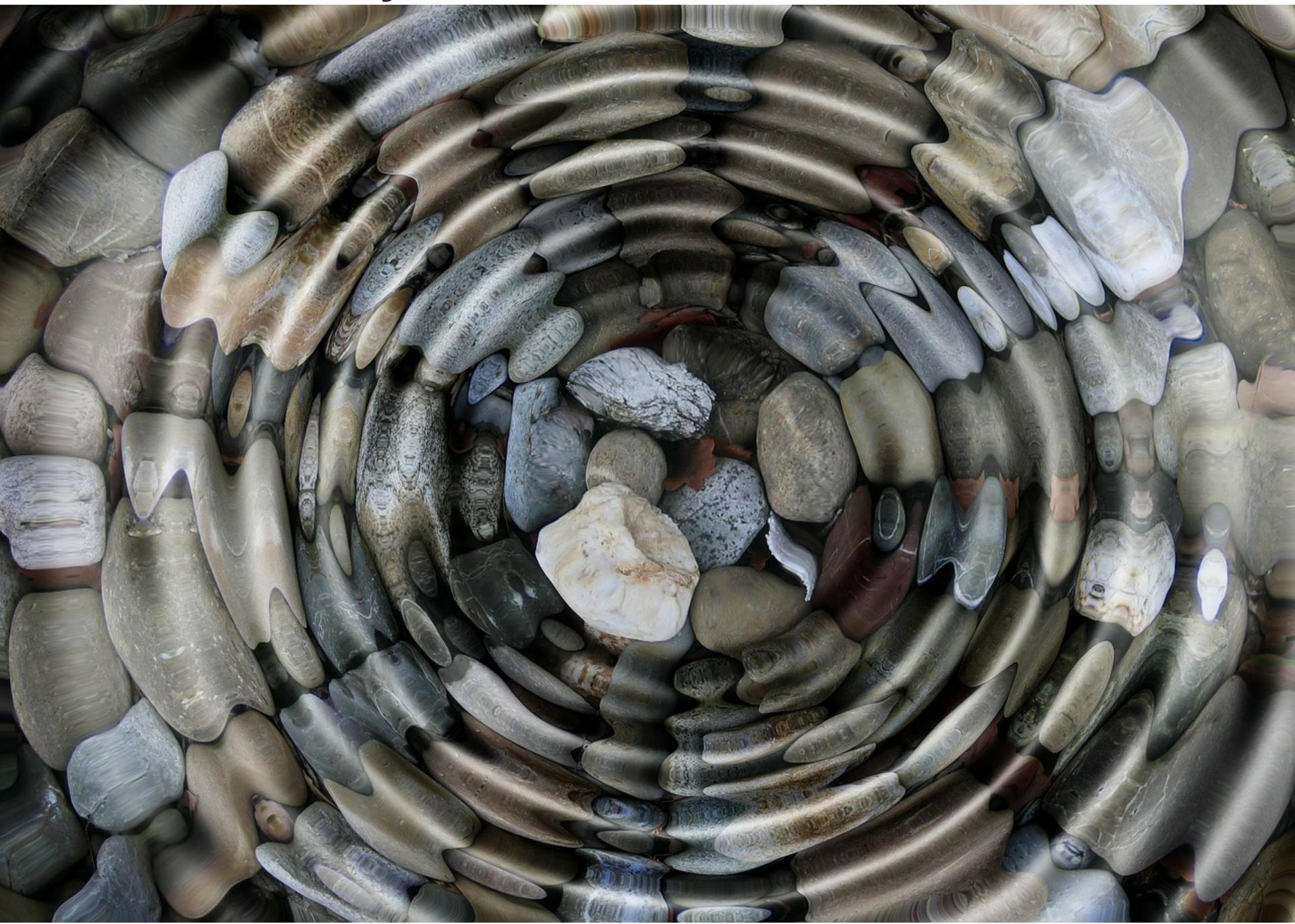
3.4. Coastal waves

3.5. Internal Waves

3.2 Surface Gravity Waves



3.2 Surface Gravity Waves



3.2 Surface Gravity Waves

Short waves

Long waves

Type	Period	Wavelength	Main Forcing
Capillary–Gravity	< 0.1 s	~cm	Wind, surface tension
Wind waves	1–10 s	m–100 m	Local wind
Swell	10–30 s	100–500 m	Remote wind
Infragravity	30–300 s	100s m–km	Wave–wave interaction
Seiche	minutes–hours	Basin-scale	Resonance
Tsunami	10 min–hours	100–200 km	Seismic, landslides
Storm surge	hours–days	Basin-scale	Wind + pressure
Tide	12–24 h	Ocean-basin	Moon & Sun gravity

3.2 Surface Gravity Waves

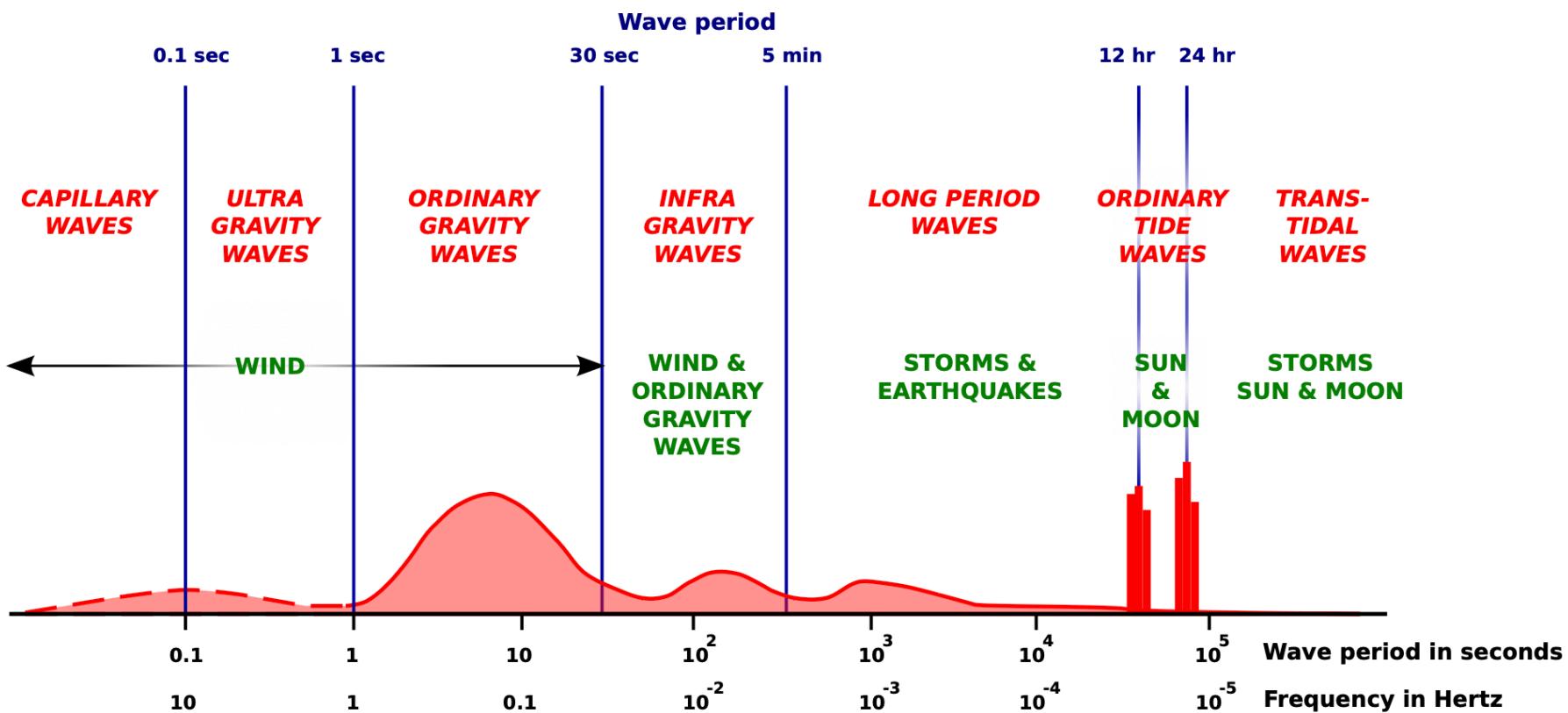


Figure 1.1: Classification of ocean surface waves with usual names in red, as a function of wave periods (x-axis), with dominant forcing mechanisms in green. Adapted from Munk (1950).

3. WAVES

3.1. Introduction

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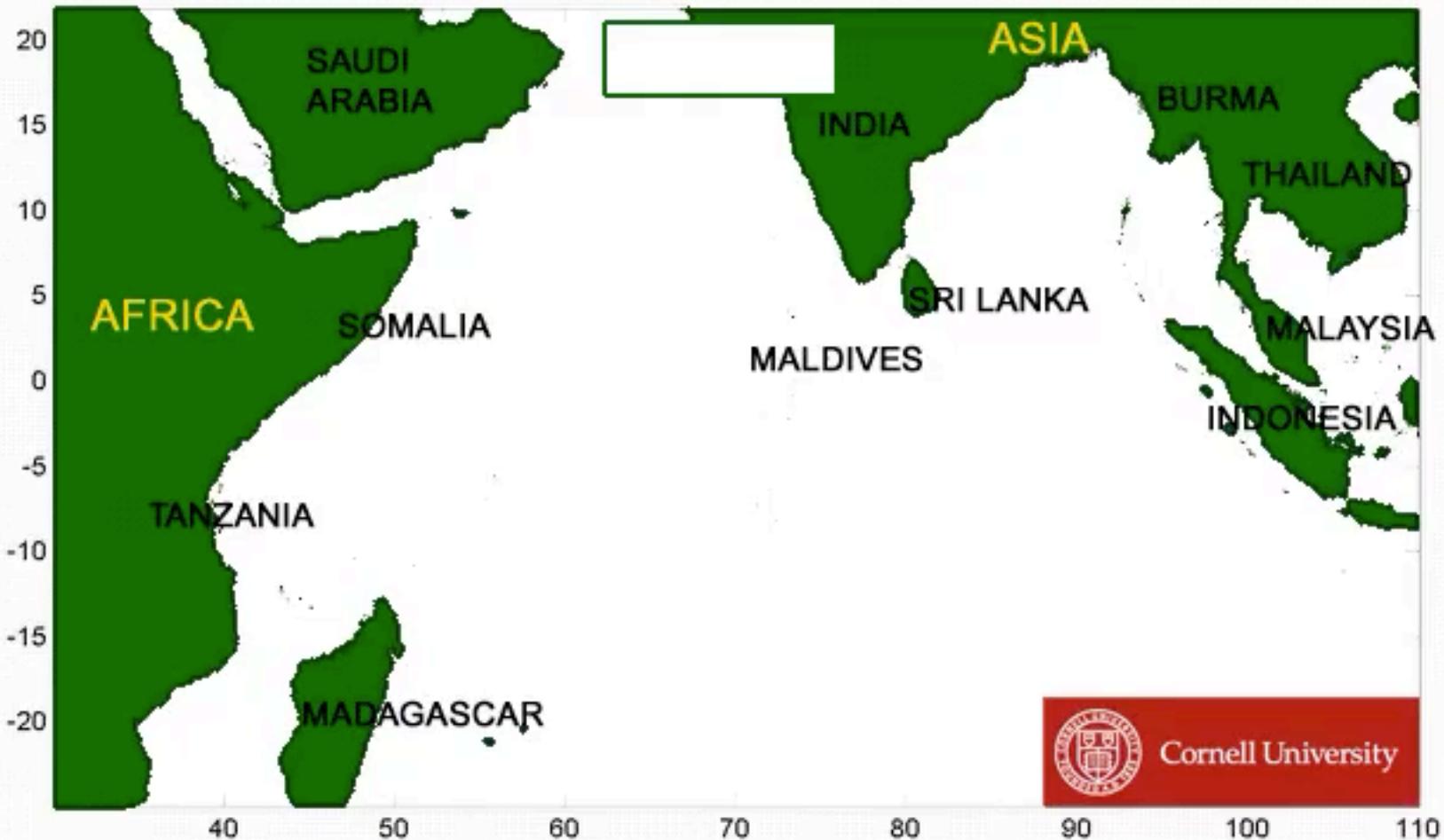
3.2.1 Long waves

3.2.1 Long waves

Example of long waves:

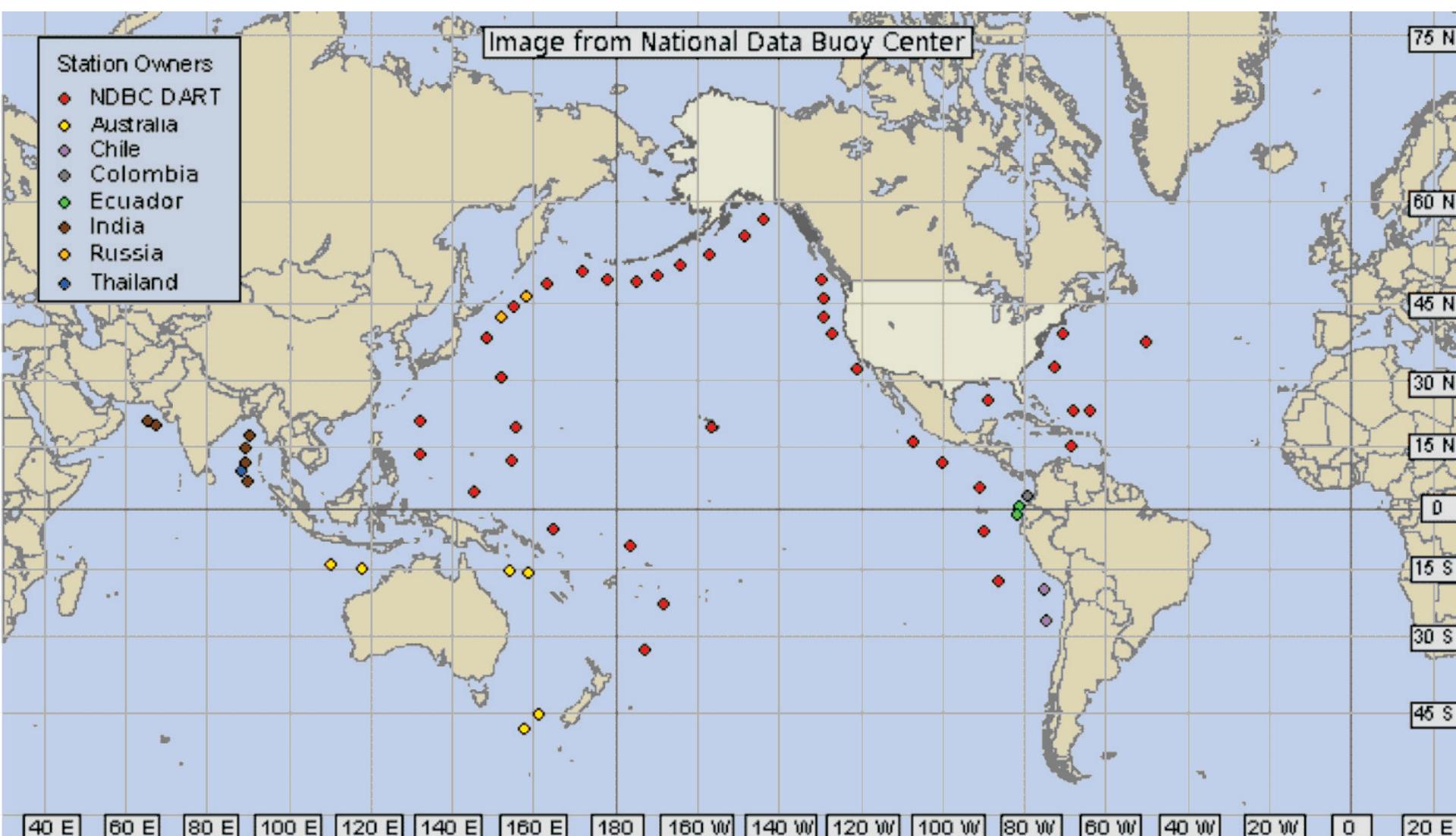
- **Tsunamis**
- **Tidal bores**

3.2.1 Long waves



Cornell University

3.2.1 Long waves



Tsunami detection buoys have been placed around many tectonically active locations. Map is from NOAA Tsunami Detection website <http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/dart.shtml>

3.2.1 Long waves

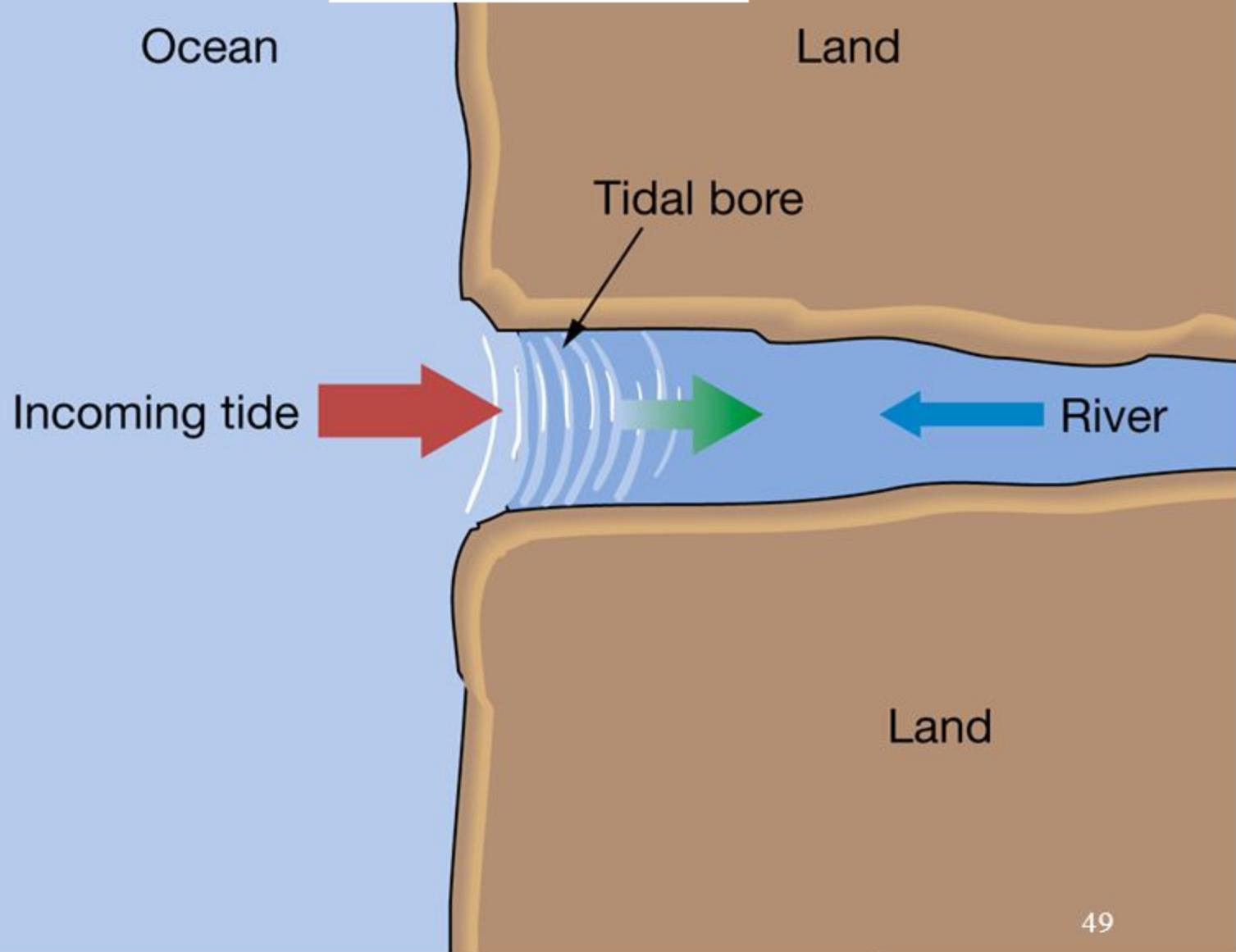
3.2.1 Long waves

Example of long waves:

- **Tsunamis**
- **Tidal bores**

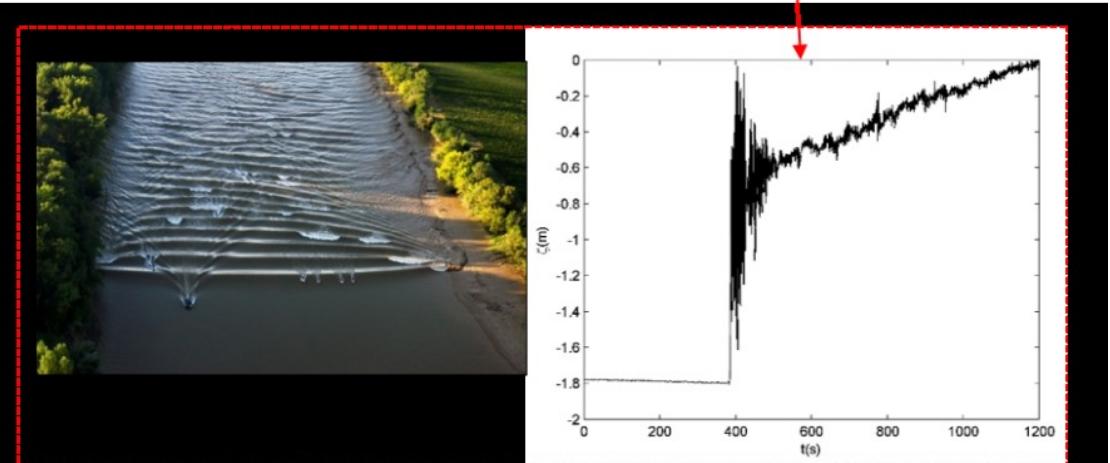
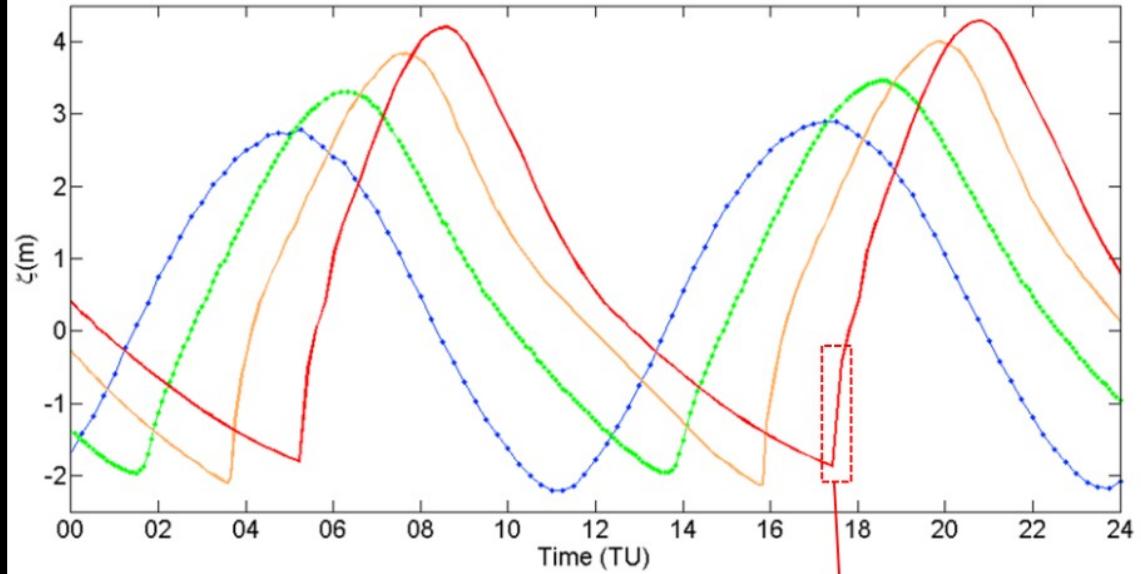
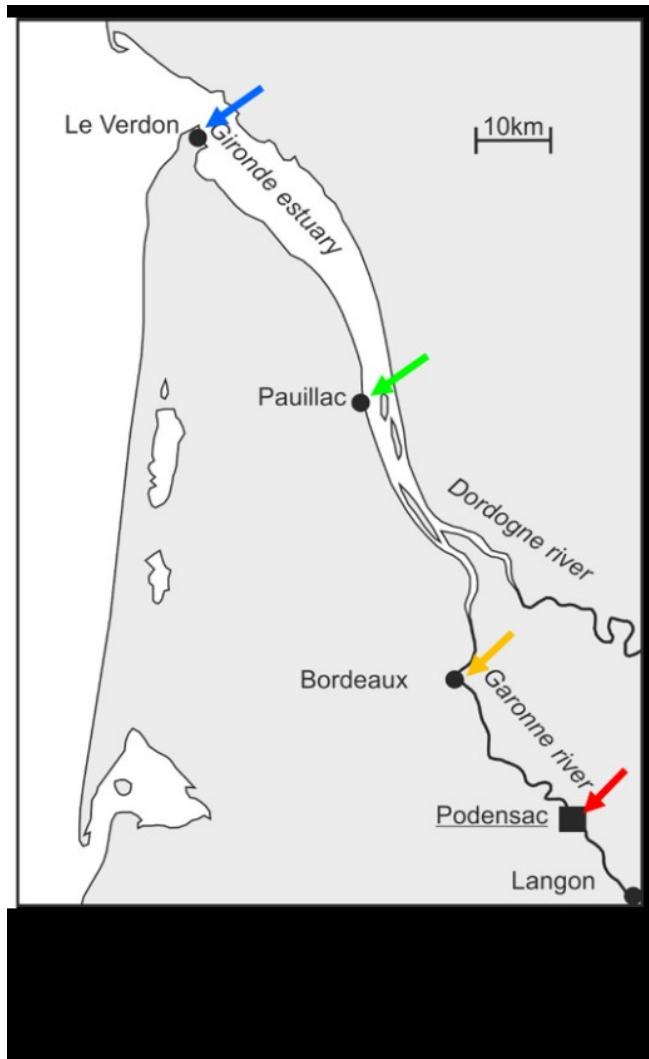
Tidal Bore

A tidal bore is a wall of water that surges upriver with the advancing high tide.



3.2.1 Long waves

Tidal bores



3.2.1 Long waves



3.2.1 Long waves



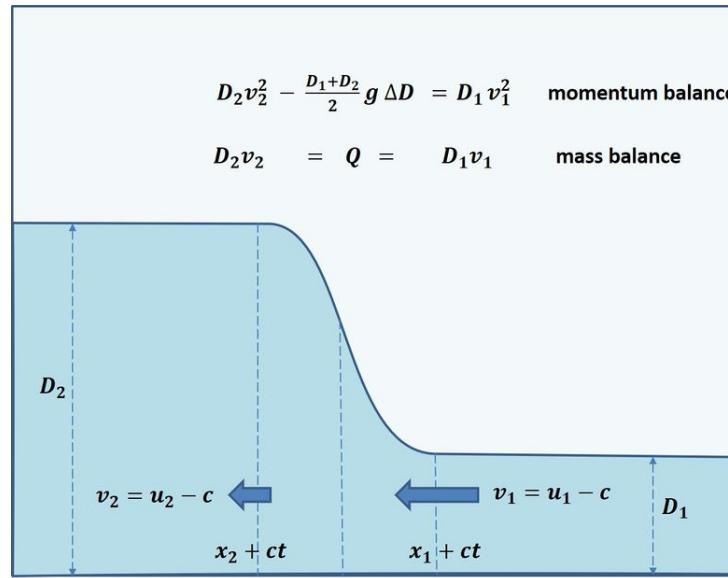
A group of surfers ride the bore tide at Alaska's Turnagain Arm in July 2014. Alaska's most famous bore tide occurs here in the lower arm of the Cook Inlet where waves can reach 6 to 10 feet (1.8 to 3 meters) tall and move at 10 to 15 mph (16 to 24 kph).

3.2.1 Long waves

3.2.1 Long waves

Tidal bores

Tidal bores are non-linear and require non linear shallow water equations.



Solutions of the propagation of a bore/solution can described by a Korteweg-deVries (KdV) type equation:

$$\partial_t u + \partial_x^3 u + 6u\partial_x u = 0$$