

Pre-candidacy notes:

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1 Billant & Chomaz Papers

1.1 Experimental evidence for a new instability of a vertical columnar vortex pair in a strongly stratified fluid (2000)

- The first paper in a series of papers by Billant and Chomaz describing and investigating the properties of the so called “zigzag” instability present in the Lamb-Chaplygin vortex pair (a counterrotating vortex dipole).
- This paper demonstrated the existence of such an instability from experimental findings at sufficient stratification. For insufficient stratification $Fr \geq 0.2 \pm 0.01$, the elliptical instability appears to be the dominant instability and after its gravitational collapse, the vortex pair appears to irregularly zigzag into layer formation.
- From what can be observed from the zigzag instability is that it doesn’t perturb the horizontal cross-section structure of the vortex column, only its vertical structure. It is positted that this phenomenon may be responsible for the layering phenomenon demonstrated in many stratified flows.
- Over a long enough time frame the original vortex pair column ends up divided into pancake dipole segments in the vertical direction, obtaining what is usually described as pancake eddies in the flow.

1.2 Self-similarity of strongly stratified inviscid flows (2001)

- Posits the scaling of an intrinsic vertical length scale of strongly stratified flows, $l_z \propto U/N$.
- Third paper which describes the “Zig-Zag” instability. Two previous papers conducted linear stability analysis of the instability.
- Zig-zag instability is self-similar with respect to $k_z U/N$ which implies that the dominant vertical wavenumber of the flow is proportional to Fr .

1.3 Three-dimensional stability of vertical columnar vortex pair in a stratified fluid

- This paper conducted a numerical stability analysis on the linearized equations using mean-perturbation flow separation. They found for flows with sufficient stratification that the primary instability of the counterrotating vortex pair was the “zig-zag” instability in which the entire vortex column was destabilized and oscillated side to side with a typical scale height, later found to be proportional to the froude number. For insufficient stratification, the elliptical instability was the dominant instability.
- Among their findings is the approximate scaling that the root mean squared $u'_z \propto 1/Fr$ and $p' \propto Fr$ (normalized by the rms horizontal velocity). Furthermore, these numerical findings for the growth rate of the zig-zag instability concur with the experimental results within reasonable error.
- Their nondimensionalization involved

$$Fr = \frac{U_{\text{prop}}}{NR}$$

where U_{prop} is the propagation speed of the vortex pair, and R is given by the dipole radius. This is similar to the non-dimensionalization from Chini et al, in which the unit velocity and lengthscale are given by the typical horizontal flow (i.e. horizontal forcing which is order 1 in both U and L).

2 Hattori & Hirota Papers

2.1 Stability of two-dimensional Taylor-Green vortices in rotating stratified fluids (2023)

- Conducted a local stability analysis as well as DNS and analyzed the data using modal stability analysis.

- Linear Stability analysis is conducted on a linearized and inviscid version of the governing equations.
- Both the DNS and LSA begin with a base flow composed of Taylor-Green vortices, which are arranged in a grid lattice.
- 5 instabilities are identified from the LSA, each with a different mechanism and different instability/resonance conditions.
- Linear Stability analysis found that the pure hyperbolic instability is often the fastest growing instability as also the most realizable. Variation of the input rossby and froude numbers reveals characteristics of other secondary instabilities which vary with vertical wavenumber, and radius from vortex centers (as well as input parameters).

2.2 Modal stability analysis of arrays of stably stratified vortices (2021)

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3 Miyazaki and Fukumoto

3.1 Three-dimensional instability of strained vortices in a stably stratified fluid (1992)

- This paper conducts a linear stability analysis of “unbounded strained vortices”. The linear stability analysis is derived analytically and then solved numerically by a floquet problem. The primary investigation is into the elliptical instability of “Pierrehumbert type”. Two other instability modes are noted which depend distinctly on the buoyancy frequency N .

3.2 Elliptical instability in a stably stratified rotating fluid (1993)

- This paper studies the elliptical instability present for vortices with an aspect ratio between the major and minor axes of the ellipse created by the streamlines of the flow $\varepsilon \neq 1$.
- The problem assumed the flow is inviscid, incompressible, and nondiffusive. Their nondimensionalization relies on the following:

$$Ro = \frac{U}{\Omega L} = \frac{\gamma}{\Omega}, \quad Fr = \frac{U}{NL} = \frac{\gamma^2 L}{g}$$

the paper may have a typo in the definition for Ro

- The problem is solved numerically using a linearized mean-perturbation equation. The perturbation equations assume an ansatz of fourier modes with a floquet multiplier and then are numerically integrated to determine the growth rate for varying rotation and stratification.
- The paper divides this study into sections where first the effects of stratification are ignored (similar to the 1992 papers), and then rotation is ignored. Finally, they cover some cases where both rotation and stratification are included and characterize phenomenon of the elliptical instability.
- In the purely rotating case, specifically for strong cyclones, we see that there is a subharmonic and superharmonic mode of the elliptical instability where the superharmonic mode is very weak and exists for a very small range of vertical wavenumbers. For strong anti-cyclones, we find that the superharmonic mode disappears and the subharmonic mode becomes very realizable as horizontal disturbances destabilize the vortex.
- When the anticyclones are weaker ($|Ro|$ is larger), the elliptical instability’s growth rate resembles that for the cyclones.

- Weak cyclones/anticyclones in the presence of stratification and roation are very stable to the elliptical instablility. Roughly we can find if a particular strained vortex is unstable by seeing if its initial ε_0^* has any unstable modes. If not, it may be the case that that particular vortex is stable in a specific configuration of Fr and Ro .
- mention their conclusion

4 Linden Papers

4.1 The stability of vortices in a rotating, stratified fluid

- experimental setup where two layer vortices are created in a closed volume. A rotating tank whose center is aligned with the axis of rotation, is spun up to a steady state and then a cylinder immersed at a depth H in the center is removed which contains dye. When spun up, this cylinder will be rotating, and form a vortex in the flow (either at the surface or at the bottom according to the density regime ($\rho_1 > \rho_2$ or $\rho_1 < \rho_2$))
- These closed volume vortices lose their intial structure over time, whereby the dyed vortex will disperse radially in either an axissymmetric or non-axissymmetric manner (need to clarify what causes this)
- Essentially, the disparity between the density layers causes the vortex to become unstable and move (either upwards to downwards and then radially) according to the stratification. This movement is op-posed by the conservation of angular momentum, and we see either cyclonic or anticyclonic movements within the vortex according to whether the vortex expands or contracts radially.
- Non-axissymmtric movements are then induced due to a baroclinic instability which fueled by potential energy stored in the density gradient and by the kinetic energy contained in the horizontal shear in the flow.
- The number of vortices shed radially from the original vortex is given by a modal configuration n , which increases with the depth ratio of the vortex. That is, for smaller vortex depth ratios, the fastest growing unstable mode is $n = 2$, whereas for larger depth ratios the fastest growing unstable mode is $n = 3$ (three shed vortices).
- The shed vortices are in a dipole configuration, similar to lamb-Chaplygin vortex pairs.

5 Herring and Metias

5.1

- stuff

6 Waite and Bartello

6.1

- stuff

7 GFD Group (Garaud, Chini, Shah, Caulfield ...)

7.1 Exploiting self-organized criticality in strongly stratified turbulence (2021)

- Developed a multiscale model for strongly stratified flows wherein an aspect ratio α is used to describe scale separation of horizontal and vertical motions recovering that $l_z \propto Fr$ as posited by

7.2 Cope et al. 2020

7.3 Shah et al. 2023

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