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Final Report: Further implementation and refinement of the QNSE model of turbulence

ABSTRACT

QNSE theory of stably stratified turbulence was used to derive an analytical transition from the Kolmogorov to stratified subranges. The QNSE formulation was combined with EDMF to develop a model suitable for both stable and unstable stratification. This hybrid model was tested in WRF. This effort was a subject of a PhD dissertation that was successfully defended. Analytical and experimental methods were used to develop a theory of anisotropic turbulence with Rossby waves and potential vorticity monotonizing. A regime of zonostrophic turbulence discovered in our previous research was found to exist in the atmosphere of Jupiter. This result was based upon the observational data collected by the Cassini spaceship. Generally, we have made a significant progress in understanding and quantification of anisotropic turbulence on both small and large scales.

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01/23/2017	13 Semion Sukoriansky, Boris Galperin. QNSE theory of turbulence anisotropization and onset of the inverse
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01/23/2017	8 Esa-Matti Tastula, Boris Galperin, Semion Sukoriansky, Ashok Luhar, Phil Anderson. The importance of surface layer parameterization in modeling of stable atmospheric boundary layers, Atmospheric Science Letters, (): 83. doi:
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1. Galperin, B., S. Sukoriansky, N. Dikovskaya, R.M.B. Young, P.L. Read, A.J. Lancaster, and D. Armstrong, Zonostrophic macroturbulence and flow energetics on Jupiter from Cassini data. Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel, August 14, 2013.

2. Galperin, B., S. Sukoriansky, N. Dikovskaya, R.M.B. Young, P.L. Read, A.J. Lancaster, and D. Armstrong, The Regime of Zonostrophic Macroturbulence and Its Application for Characterization of Large-Scale Circulation on Jupiter and Other Giant Planets. Crossing the Boundaries in Planetary Atmospheres: From Earth to Exoplanets. The AGU Chapman Conference, Annapolis, MD, June 24-28, 2013.

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12. Galperin, B., S. Sukoriansky. An analytical theory of the Kolmogorov-buoyancy subrange transition in stably stratified turbulent flows. Turbulent Mixing and Beyond, Third International Conference The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics. Strada Costiera 11, 34014 Trieste, Italy, 21 - 28 August, 2011.

13. Galperin, B., S. Sukoriansky, J. Pergaud, Hybrid QNSE-EDKF model of PBL in WRF. NWP Workshop on Model Physics with an Emphasis on Short-Range Prediction, Washington D.C., July 26-28, 2011.

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26. Galperin, B., S. Sukoriansky, Zonal jets and nonlinear waves in turbulence with a beta-effect. Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique Ecole Normale Supérieure Paris, France, June 30, 2010.

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37. Galperin, B., S. Sukoriansky, Large-scale and small-scale mixing in turbulence with anisotropic dispersive waves. National Institute of Biology, Piran, Slovenia, July 29, 2009.

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40. Galperin, B., S. Sukoriansky, and A. Grantinger, Verification of the QNSE turbulence model in WRF. WRF PBL working group meeting, June 23, 2009, NCAR, Boulder, Colorado.

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45. Galperin, B., and S. Sukoriansky, A quasi-normal scale elimination (QNSE) theory of stably stratified turbulence. Invited presentation at the Workshop on Modeling the Ocean: Dynamics, Syntheses & Predictions. February 23-26, 2009, Taipei, Taiwan.

46. Galperin, B., S. Sukoriansky, and N. Dikovskaya, Nonlinear waves (zonons) in zonostrophic turbulence. Invited presentation at the Workshop on Modeling the Ocean: Dynamics, Syntheses & Predictions. February 23-26, 2009, Taipei, Taiwan.

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Number of Presentations: 47.00

Non Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceeding publications (other than abstracts):

Received Paper

TOTAL:

Number of Non Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceeding publications (other than abstracts):

		Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceeding publications (other than abstracts):
Received		Paper
03/14/2017	6.00	Semion Sukoriansky, Nadejda Dikovskaya, Roger Grimshaw, Boris Galperin. Rossby waves and zonons in zonostrophic turbulence, Waves and Instabilities in Space and Astrophysical Plasmas. 20-SEP-11, Israel. : ,
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	(d) Manuscripts
Received	<u>Paper</u>
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	Books
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<u>Received</u>	Book Chapter
03/14/2017 15.00	Peter L. Read, Boris Galperin, Søren E. Larsen, Stephen R. Lewis, Anni Määttänen, Arakel Petrosyan, Nilton Renno, Hannu Savijärvi, Tero Siili, Aymeric Spiga, Anthony Toigo, Luis Vázquez. The Martian planetary boundary layer, New York - Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (2017)
TOTAL:	1
	Patents Submitted
	Patents Awarded

Awards

	Graduate Stud	lents	
NAME	PERCENT_SUPPORTED	Discipline	
Esa-Matti Tastula	1.00		
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	Names of Post Do	octorates	
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	Names of Faculty S	Supported	
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Boris Galperin	0.30		
FTE Equivalent:	0.30		
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	Names of Under Graduate s	students supported	
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Number of gr	aduating undergraduates who ach	nieved a 3.5 GPA to 4.0 (4.0 max scale):	
Number of graduating	g undergraduates funded by a Dol	D funded Center of Excellence grant for Education, Research and Engineering:	
The number of undergraduates funded by your agreement who graduated during this period and intend to work for the Department of Defense			
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	Names of Personnel receiving	ng masters degrees	

NAME

Total Number:

NAME				
Esa-Matti Tastula				
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Names of ot	her research staff			
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Scientific Progress

Technology Transfer

The QNSE-based turbulence model has been implemented in WRF model at NCAR

Scientific Progress and Accomplishments

Scientific progress and accomplishments (Description should include significant theoretical or experimental advances) Plain Text Only - If you have diagrams, formula's, etc. in a Word, PDF or other document, enter "See Attachment" below and use the "Attachment" section at the bottom of the menu. This section can include, but is not limited to: (1) Foreword (optional) (2) Table of Contents (if report is more than 10 pages) (3) List of Appendixes, Illustrations and Tables (if applicable) (4) Statement of the problem studied (5) Summary of the most important results (6) Bibliography (7) Appendixes

Foreword

The project was focused on further development, improvement and testing of the QNSE (quasinormal scale elimination) theory of turbulence on small and large scales and we indeed have made a significant progress in these areas. The major results of this project are enumerated below in a logical rather than the chronological sequence.

List of the Appendixes

- Appendix 1 Formulation of the Deacon numbers
- Appendix 2 Kinetic energy spectra in Jupiter's atmosphere as derived from the Cassini data

Appendix 3 - The Nastrom & Gage spectra

Statement of the problems studied

We further developed the QNSE theory for stably stratified flows, tested it in WRF, expanded the model and paired it with the EDMF (eddy diffusivity – mass flux) approach so that the model could be used in flows with both stable and unstable stratification as required in NWP (numerical weather prediction). Along the way, it became clear that the consistency between an ABL (atmospheric boundary layer) model and near-surface parameterization is critical, and we demonstrated this using the tests based upon the Deacon numbers. One of the important characteristics of stably stratified flows is turbulence anisotropization that can be studied analytically within QNSE and so, we have developed an analytical theory of transition from Kolmogorov to stably stratified turbulence (Sukoriansky & Galperin, 2012). In parallel, we analyzed large-scale flows where turbulence anisotropization is caused by a beta-effect. We found and explored many analogies between these and stably stratified flows. There are, of course, major differences as well, one of the most significant of which is the presence of the downscale energy cascade in stratified flows and upscale cascade in rotating flows with a beta-effect. The differences have also been studies and explored.

Summary of the most important results

1. Reviewing the progress in understanding of stably stratified turbulence and turbulence with a β-effect as of 2010.

The reviews were based upon two invited presentations given at the Workshop on Modeling the Ocean: Dynamics, Syntheses & Predictions, in Taipei, Taiwan, on February 23-26, 2009, and published in *Ocean Dynamics*, see Galperin & Sukoriansky (2010) and Galperin et al. (2010).

We reported on progress in understanding stably-stratified turbulence based upon the quasinormal scale elimination (QNSE) theory developed by our team in the course of preceding AROfunded projects (e.g. Sukoriansky et al., 2005; Dr. Sukoriansky from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel was a subcontractor for this grant). The theory utilizes successive ensemble averaging of the velocity and temperature modes over the smallest resolved scales of motion and produces corresponding scale-dependent expressions for the eddy viscosity and eddy diffusivity. By extending the process of successive ensemble averaging to the turbulence macroscale, one eliminates all fluctuating scales and arrives at models analogous to the conventional Reynolds stress closures. The scale dependency embedded in the QNSE method reflects contributions from different processes on different scales. Two of the most important processes in stably stratified turbulence, internal wave propagation and flow anisotropization, are explicitly accounted for in the QNSE formalism. For relatively weak stratification, the theory becomes amenable to analytical processing revealing just how increasing stratification modifies the flow field via growing anisotropy and gravity wave radiation. A detailed analytical derivation of the crossover between the Kolmogorov and stably stratified turbulence was given in a later paper by Sukoriansky & Galperin (2013).

The QNSE theory yields the dispersion relation for internal waves in the presence of turbulence and provides a solid theoretical background for the Gargett et al. (1981) scaling of the vertical shear spectrum.

QNSE shows that the internal wave breaking and flow anisotropization void the notion of the critical Richardson number at which turbulence is fully suppressed and flow becomes laminarized. Most of the models being developed today do not involve the critical Richardson number.

QNSE-based formulations for the isopycnal and diapycnal viscosities and diffusivities can be expressed in the form of the Richardson diffusion laws thus providing a theoretical framework for the Okubo dispersion diagrams. Transitions in the spectral slopes are associated with turbulence- and wave-dominated ranges and have direct implications for the transport processes. We show that only quasi-isotropic, turbulence-dominated scales contribute to the diapycnal diffusivity. On larger, buoyancy dominated scales, the diapycnal diffusivity becomes scale-independent. This result underscores the well-known fact that waves can only transfer momentum but not a scalar and sheds a new light upon the Ellison–Britter–Osborn mixing model. QNSE also provides a general framework for separation of the effects of turbulence and waves even if they act on the same spatial and temporal scales. QNSE-based turbulence models have been tested in various applications including the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model and demonstrated reliable performance. These models present viable alternatives to conventional Reynolds stress closures.

Regarding rotating flows with a β -effect, they were considered in the framework of geostrophic turbulence which is a key paradigm in the current understanding of the large-scale planetary circulations. It implies that a flow is turbulent, rotating, stably stratified, and in near-geostrophic balance. When a small-scale forcing is present, geostrophic turbulence features an inverse energy cascade. When the meridional variation of the Coriolis parameter (or a β -effect) is included, the horizontal flow symmetry breaks down giving rise to the emergence of jet flows. The presence of a large-scale drag ensures that the flow attains a steady state. Dependent on the governing parameters, four steady-state flow regimes are possible, two of which are the most practically important. In one of these regimes, a flow is dominated by the drag while in the other, the recently discovered by our group regime of zonostrophic turbulence, a flow becomes strongly anisotropic and features slowly evolving systems of alternating zonal jets. Zonostrophic turbulence is distinguished by anisotropic inverse energy cascade and emergence of a new class of nonlinear waves known as zonons. In addition, meridional scalar diffusion is strongly modified in this regime.

2. The importance of the surface layer parameterization (Tastula et al., 2015b).

The accuracy of prediction of stable atmospheric boundary layers depends on the quality of parameterization of the surface layer which is usually derived using the Monin–Obukhov similarity theory. Stability functions, ϕ_m and ϕ_h , used for the surface layer must be consistent with those used in the bulk of the boundary layer. But how to achieve this consistency? Very often, stability functions in the surface later are taken from interpolating empirical data while in the bulk of ABL, the functions are derived from theoretical models. Assuming that the functions are exactly the same near the ABL surface and in its bulk, QNSE-derived stability functions were compared with several empirical models using the velocity and potential temperature Deacon numbers, D_m and D_h , as the measure of the performance, see Appendix 1. QNSE-derived and other formulations of the Deacon numbers in terms of stability functions were hindered by scatter produced by computing second derivatives from data but general tendencies could be established nevertheless. Tests utilizing *R*2 demonstrated that the QNSE theory exhibits the best overall performance. Further proof of this conclusion was provided by 1D simulations with the WRF model.

3. Methodical assessment of the differences between the QNSE and MYJ PBL schemes for stable conditions (Tastula et al., 2015)

In recent years, the constantly growing number of physics parametrization schemes adopted in numerical weather prediction (NWP) models have resulted in a proliferation of comparative studies. Many of these studies concentrated on determining which parametrization yields results closest to observations rather than analyzing the reasons underlying the differences. This study compared the performance of two 1.5-order boundary layer parameterizations, QNSE and Mellor–Yamada–Janjic (MYJ) schemes, as implemented in WRF. The objectives were to isolate the effect of stability functions on the near-surface values and vertical profiles of virtual temperature, mixing ratio, and wind speed. The results demonstrate that the QNSE stability functions yield better error statistics for 2 m virtual temperature but at higher altitudes the errors related to QNSE are slightly larger for virtual temperature and mixing ratio. A surprising finding is the sensitivity of the model results to the choice of the turbulent Prandtl number for

neutral stratification (Pr_{t0}): in the Monin–Obukhov similarity function for heat, the choice of Pr_{t0} is sometimes more important than the functional form of the similarity function itself. There is a stability-related dependence to this sensitivity: with increasing near-surface stability, the relative importance of the functional form increases. In near-neutral conditions, QNSE exhibits too strong vertical mixing attributed to the applied turbulent kinetic energy subroutine and the stability functions, including the effect of Pr_{t0} .

4. The impact of the QNSE-EDMF scheme and its modifications on boundary layer parameterization in WRF: modelling of CASES-97 (Tastula et al., 2015a)

QNSE deals with stably stratified and weakly unstable flows but needs of NWP encompass situations when unstable stratification is strong as well as daily transitions between stable and unstable stratification. Therefore, to be used in NWP, QNSE needs to be supplemented by a scheme capable of dealing with unstable stratification. In recent years, many eddy-diffusivity mass-flux (EDMF) ABL parametrizations have been introduced for this purpose. An EDMF scheme developed by Pergaud et al. (2009) was adopted for our studies, and to implement it in WRF, Julien Pergaud was hired via a subcontract with NumTech, France, where he was employed at that time. Combining QNSE and EDMF and validating this hybrid model in WRF was one of the subjects of the PhD dissertation by Esa-Matti Tastula (he defended his dissertation in 2015). Keeping in mind that most model validations have been based on idealized set-ups and/or single-column models, Esa-Matti addressed this gap in his research by focusing it on the effect of the mass-flux part on the performance of the QNSE-EDMF ABL scheme in WRF. This was achieved by comparing model results to observations from the CASES-97 field campaign. In addition, two refined versions, one introducing the parametrized clouds to the WRF radiation scheme, and the second adding a different entrainment formulation, have been evaluated. The introduction of mass flux reduced errors in the average moisture profile, but virtual temperature and wind speed profiles did not change as much. The modelled mixed-layer depth, while still low compared to observations, was closer to observed values with the addition of the mass flux. The major changes in the virtual potential temperature flux profiles were an increase in entrainment ratios and a slight decrease in surface values. Adding mass-flux-based clouds to the radiation calculation improved the time-and space-averaged modelled incoming short-wave flux.

5. Reviews of the PBL on Mars and turbulence-wave interactions in stably stratified turbulence

The PI of this project, Dr Boris Galperin, was a member of two international working groups that dealt with the Martian PBL and turbulence-wave interaction in stably stratified turbulence. Their activities resulted in two comprehensive reviews published in the Reviews of Geophysics, see Petrosyan et al. (2011) and Sun et al. (2015), to which the PI made major contributions.

6. Zonostrophic turbulence

For many years, we have been studying large-scale turbulence and its anisotropization caused by rotation and a β -effect. We have discovered a new flow regime of anisotropic turbulence which

we coined zonostrophic turbulence (e.g. Galperin et al., 2010). Over a short time, this term has become widely used in geophysical fluid dynamics and even applied to non-turbulent phenomena. But due to the lack of data, it was impossible to validate our prediction going back to the papers by Huang et al. (2001) and Galperin et al. (2001) that the regime of zonostrophic turbulence is characteristic of the Jupiter atmosphere. The data was only sufficient to confirm that the zonal spectrum, $E_Z(n)$, is congruent to this regime, $E_Z(n) = C_Z (\Omega/R)^2 n^{-5}$, where C_Z is an O(1) constant, Ω and R are planetary angular velocity and radius, and n is the total planetary wavenumber (Galperin et al., 2001), but not the residual one which was predicted to preserve its Kolmogorov form, $E_R(n) = C_K \epsilon^{2/3} n^{-5/3}$, where $C_K \approx 6$ is the Kolmogorov constant. After NASA made public the Cassini data collected during the Jupiter flyby in 2000, it became possible to validate our prediction for the residual spectrum as well and it was done in Galperin et al. (2014b). Three daily-averaged two-dimensional velocity snapshots extracted from Jupiter images were used to perform spectral analysis of Jovian atmospheric macroturbulence. The analysis revealed strong anisotropy of the kinetic energy spectrum shown in Appendix 2. The zonal spectrum was very steep and most of the kinetic energy resided in slowly evolving, alternating zonal (west-east) jets, while the non-zonal, or residual spectrum obeyed the Kolmogorov-Kraichnan law specific to two-dimensional turbulence in the range of the inverse energy cascade. The spectral data was used to estimate the inverse cascade rate ε and the zonostrophy index R_{β} for the first time. The estimate of ε was in the range 0.5–1.0 x 10⁻⁵ m² s⁻³. The ensuing values of $R_{\beta} \ge 5$, well in the range of zonostrophic turbulence whose threshold corresponds to $R_{\beta} \sim 2.5$.

It was inferred that the large-scale circulation is maintained by an anisotropic inverse energy cascade. The removal of the Great Red Spot had no significant effect upon the spectra or the inverse cascade rate. The spectral data was used to compute the rate of the energy exchange, W, between the non-zonal structures and the large-scale zonal flow. It was found that instantaneous values of W may exceed ε by an order of magnitude. Previous numerical simulations with a barotropic model suggest that W and ϵ attain comparable values only after averaging of W over a sufficiently long time. Near-instantaneous values of W that have been routinely used to infer the rate of the kinetic energy supply to Jupiter's zonal flow may therefore significantly overestimate ϵ . The disparity between W and ϵ may resolve the long-standing conundrum (the so-called Suomi paradox) of an unrealistically high rate of energy transfer to the zonal flow. The meridional diffusivity K_y in the regime of zonostrophic turbulence is given by an expression that depends on ε . The value of K_v estimated from the spectra was compared against data from the dispersion of stratospheric gases and debris resulting from the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet and Wesley asteroid impacts in 1994 and 2009 respectively. Not only is K_v was found to be consistent with estimates for both impacts, but the eddy diffusivity found from observations appeared to be scale-independent. This behavior could be a consequence of the interaction between anisotropic turbulence and Rossby waves specific to the regime of zonostrophic macroturbulence.

7. Experimental research – potential vorticity monotonizing

In parallel with the theoretical, numerical and observational research on anisotropic turbulence encompassing virtually all scales, PI also engaged in the collaborative experimental research with colleagues who run a facility (rotating table) at the University of Rome (Galperin et al., 2014a, 2016). A westward propagating jet was investigated in this facility. The focus was on complex interaction between anisotropic turbulence with inverse energy cascade and Rossby waves. The energy spectrum was highly anisotropic. To diagnose turbulence characteristics, an analogy between turbulent overturns in stably stratified and quasi-geostrophic flows was explored and a novel method based upon the monotonizing of potential vorticity (PV) was developed. The RMS displacement from the monotonic PV profile yields a length scale, L_M , analogous to the Thorpe's scale used in flows with stable stratification. As the Thorpe scale is proportional to the Ozmidov scale, the scale L_M turned out to be proportional to the scale $L_{\beta} = (\epsilon/\beta^3)^{1/5}$, ϵ being the rate of the inverse energy cascade, at which the time scales of turbulent overturns and Rossby waves are approximately equal. The relationship between L_M and L_{β} , $L_M/L_{\beta} \approx 4$, was established for the first time. The method of PV monotonizing offers a simple and powerful tool for diagnosing geophysical and planetary macroturbulence, the same way as the Thorpe scale offers a simple and powerful tool to diagnose vertical mixing in the oceans and the atmospheres. The experimental research was extended further, to analyze lateral diffusion in fluids with zonal jets (Galperin et al., 2016).

8. Turbulence anisotropisation and Nastrom & Gage spectra in rotating flows

Under the action of solid body rotation, homogeneous neutrally stratified turbulence undergoes anisotropisation and onset of the inverse energy cascade. These processes were investigated using the QNSE theory (Sukoriansky & Galperin, 2016). The effect of rotation increases with increasing scale and manifests in anisotropisation of the eddy viscosities, eddy diffusivities, and kinetic energy spectra. Not only the vertical and horizontal eddy viscosities and eddy diffusivities become different but, reflecting both directional and componental anisotropisation, there emerge four different eddy viscosities. Three of them decrease relative to the eddy viscosity in non-rotating flows while one increases. This behavior is indicative of increasing redirection of the energy flux to larger scales. On scales comparable to the Woods scale, L_{Ω} = $[\varepsilon/(2\Omega)^3)^{1/2}$, ε being the rate of the viscous dissipation and Ω is the rate of the angular velocity of system rotation (by construction, L_{Ω} is the rotational analogue of the Ozmidov length scale in stably stratified flows), the horizontal viscosity rapidly decreases, and in order to keep it positive, a weak rotation limit is invoked. Within that limit, an analytical theory of the transition from the Kolmogorov to a rotation-dominated turbulence regime is developed. The dispersion relation of linear inertial waves is unaffected by turbulence while all one-dimensional energy spectra undergo steepening from the Kolmogorov -5/3 to the -3 slope. The theoretical expressions for the horizontal kinetic energy spectra recover the famous observations of the atmospheric spectra by Nastrom & Gage as shown in Appendix 3. The theoretical spectra are in a remarkable agreement with observational and numerical data. The theory explains the latitudinal dependence of the Nastrom & Gage spectra and confirms that the energy flux is downscale throughout all scales. QNSE theory explains the physical nature of the Nastrom & Gage spectra for the first time and provides a unique tool for validation of numerical models.

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Appendix 1.

Formulation of the Deacon numbers

The Deacon numbers are defined based upon the profiles of mean velocity and mean potential temperature, U and Θ , as well as the corresponding stability functions, ϕ_m and ϕ_h ,

$$D_{m} \equiv -z \frac{d^{2}U}{dz^{2}} / \frac{dU}{dz} = 1 - \frac{\zeta}{\phi_{m}(\zeta)} \frac{d\phi_{m}(\zeta)}{d\zeta} = 1 - \frac{d \ln \phi_{m}(\zeta)}{d \ln \zeta},$$
$$D_{h} \equiv -z \frac{d^{2}\Theta}{dz^{2}} / \frac{d\Theta}{dz} = 1 - \frac{\zeta}{\phi_{h}(\zeta)} \frac{d\phi_{h}(\zeta)}{d\zeta} = 1 - \frac{d \ln \phi_{h}(\zeta)}{d \ln \zeta},$$

where $\zeta = z/L$, L being the Monin-Obukhov length scale. Instead of ζ , one can use the gradient Richardson number,

$$Ri_{g} \equiv \frac{g}{\Theta_{0}} \frac{d\Theta}{dz} \left(\frac{dU}{dz}\right)^{-2} = \frac{\zeta \phi_{h}(\zeta)}{\phi_{m}^{2}(\zeta)}.$$

Appendix 2.





Zonal and residual kinetic energy spectra on Jupiter computed from Galperin et al. (2014b) data with grid spacing of 0.5° (blue) and from the Choi & Showman (2011) data with grid spacing of 0.3° (black). (a): Three-day averaged zonal spectra $E_Z(n)$; the dashed line corresponds to the equation given earlier with $C_Z=2$. (b): spectra from (a) smoothed using a moving box algorithm with a five point stencil. (c): same as (a) but for the residual spectra $E_R(n)$; the dashed line corresponds to the Kolmogorov spectrum above. (d): Compensated residual spectra $C_R=E_R(n) n^{5/3}$ derived from (c).

Appendix 3.

The Nastrom & Gage spectra



Comparison of the kinetic energy spectra in the troposphere and stratosphere in the latitudinal band 25° N - 50° N with the theoretical QNSE predictions shown by the red and blue lines. Straight black lines show Kolmogorov's -5/3 slope.