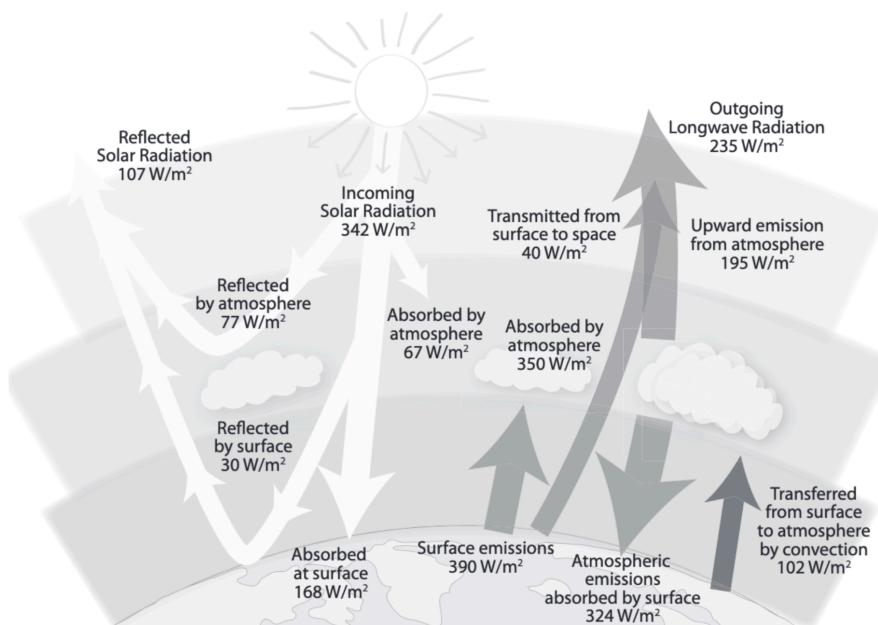


Mixing in Stratified Flows

Philippe Odier

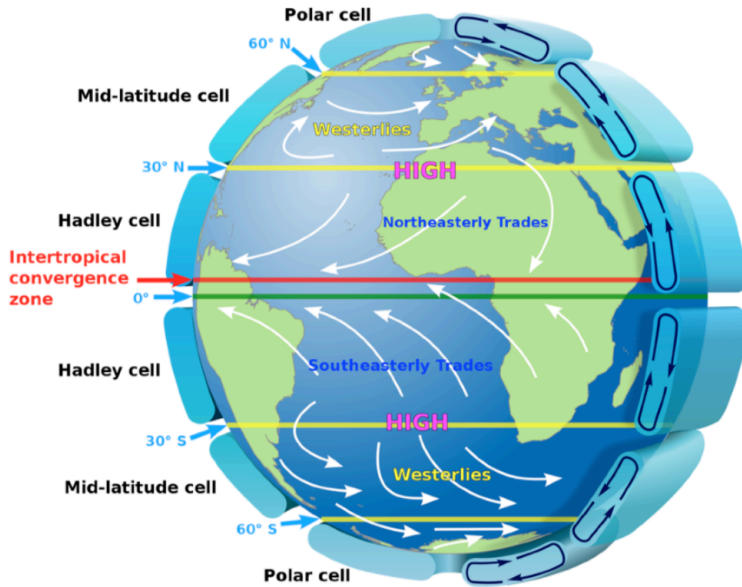
- 1) The crucial importance of stratified mixing in ocean dynamics
 - 1.1) The atmospheric heat engine
 - 1.2) Is the ocean also a heat engine ?
 - 1.3) The conveyor belt
- 2) Energetics of stratified turbulence
 - 2.1) Reynolds decomposition in turbulence: turbulent fluxes
 - 2.2) Kinetic energy balance : mean flow and turbulence
 - 2.3) Interpretation of the different terms of the TKE balance
- 3) Quantifying stratified mixing
 - 3.1) Mixing efficiency: local estimate
 - 3.2) Control parameters and relevant scales
 - 3.3) Turbulent diffusion
 - 3.4) Mixing efficiency: global estimate
 - 3.5) Shear flows: entrainment
- 4) Back to the ocean
 - 4.1) Munk's "Abyssal recipes"
 - 4.1.1) Bottom water production
 - 4.1.2) Advection/diffusion balance for density
 - 4.1.3) Advection/diffusion balance for radioactive isotopes
 - 4.2) Microstructure profilers
 - 4.3) Measured diffusivities : what is going on ?
 - 4.4) Internal waves as ocean mixers

The atmospheric heat engine



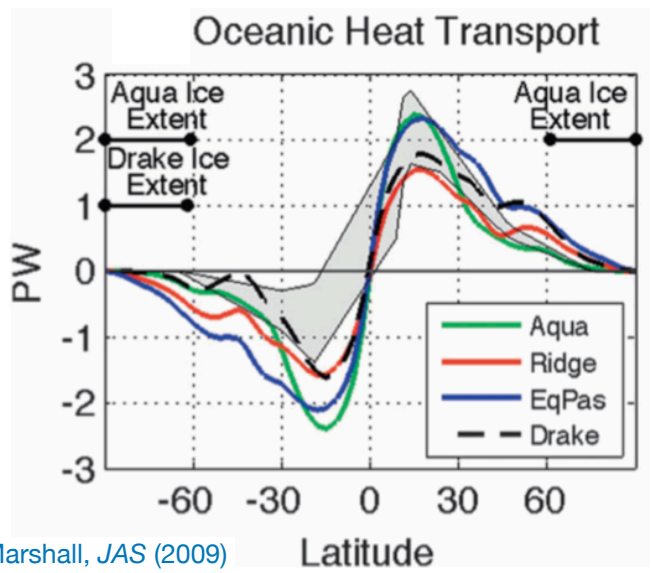
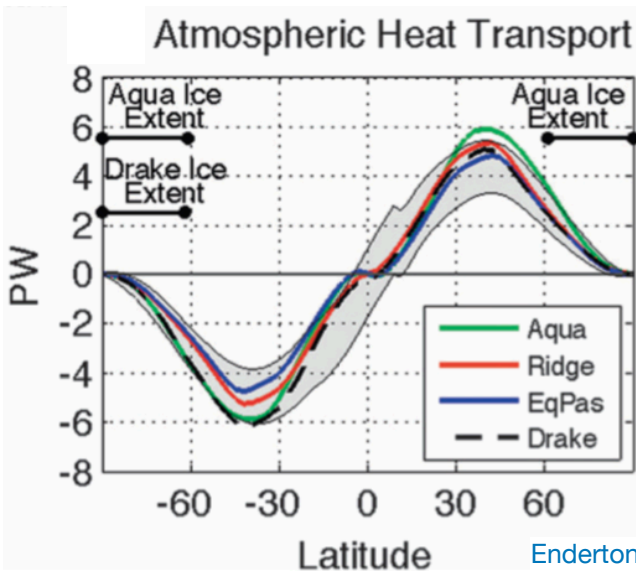
Vallis 2011, d'après Kiehl&Trenberth 1997

The atmospheric heat engine

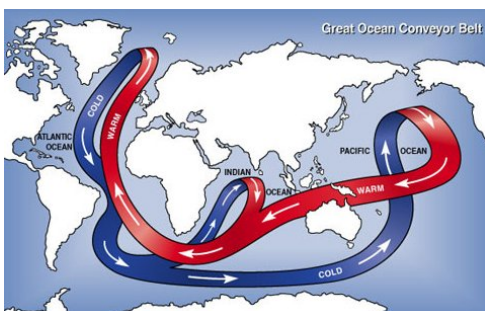


Wikipedia

The atmospheric heat engine



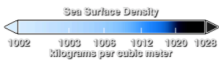
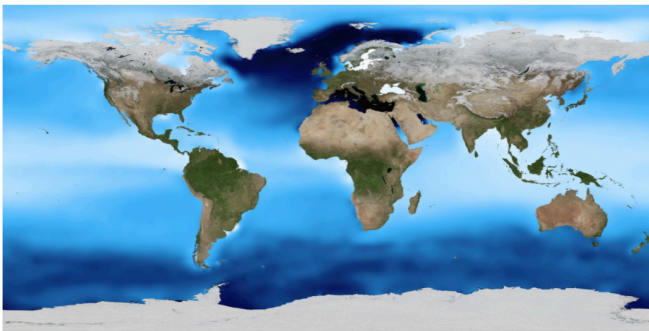
Enderton & Marshall, JAS (2009)



Is the ocean also a heat engine ?

The conveyor belt

Sea Surface Density



Annual mean

<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/3652>

<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/3652>

Energetics of stratified turbulence

$$\text{Navier-Stokes} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla(\mathbf{u}) = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla p - \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{\rho_0} g \mathbf{e}_z + \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} \\ \partial_t u_i + u_j \partial_j u_i = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \partial_i p - \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{\rho_0} g \delta_{iz} + \nu \partial_j \partial_j u_i \end{array} \right.$$

$$\text{Equ. for density} \quad D_t \bar{\rho} = K \Delta \bar{\rho}$$

$$\text{Mean-flow equ. for velocity} \quad \partial_t U_i + U_j \partial_j U_i = \frac{1}{\rho_0} \partial_j (-P \delta_{ij} + \eta \partial_j U_i - \rho_0 \overline{u'_i u'_j}) - \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{\rho_0} g \delta_{iz}$$

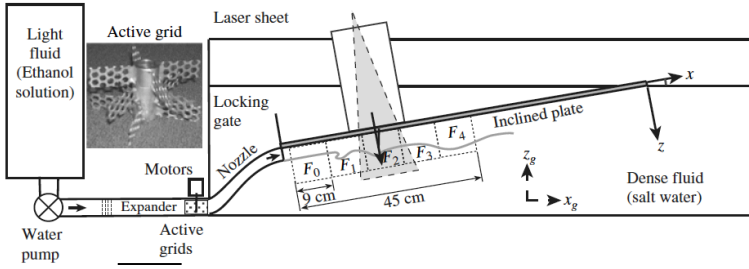
$$\text{Mean-flow equ. for density} \quad D_t \bar{\rho} = -\partial_j (\overline{\rho' u'_j}) + K \Delta \bar{\rho} = -\nabla \cdot (\overline{\rho' \mathbf{u}'}) + K \Delta \bar{\rho}$$

$$\text{Energy of the mean-flow} \quad D_t (\frac{1}{2} U_i^2) = \partial_j (-\frac{1}{\rho_0} U_j P + 2\nu U_i S_{ij} - U_i \overline{u'_i u'_j}) - 2\nu S_{ij} S_{ij} + \overline{u'_i u'_j} S_{ij} - \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{\rho_0} g W$$

$$\text{Turbulent Kinetic Energy (TKE)} \quad D_t (\frac{1}{2} \overline{u'^2}) = \partial_j (-\frac{1}{\rho_0} \overline{u'_j p'} + 2\nu \overline{u'_i s_{ij}} - \frac{1}{2} \overline{u'_i u'_i u'_j}) - \nu \overline{s_{ij} s_{ij}} - \overline{u'_i u'_j} S_{ij} - \frac{g}{\rho_0} \overline{\rho' w'}$$

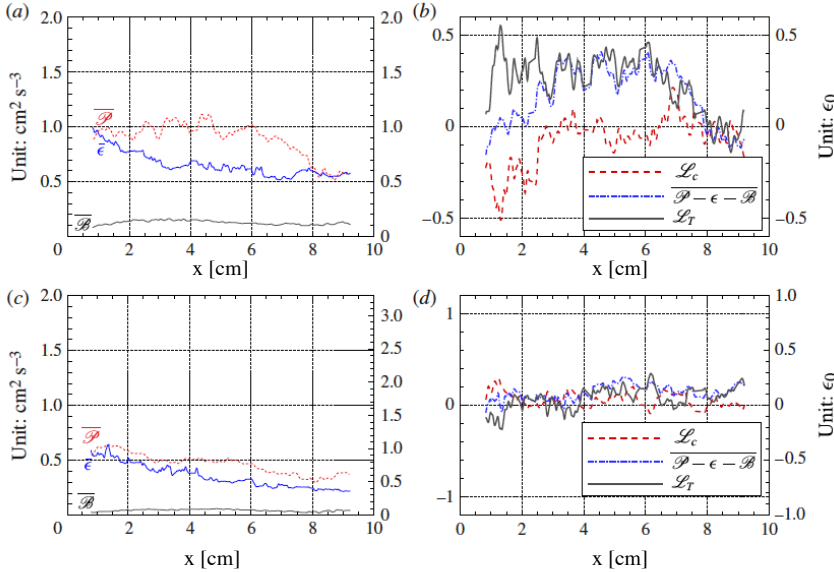
$$\text{With} \quad S_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_j U_i + \partial_i U_j) \quad s_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_j u'_i + \partial_i u'_j)$$

Energetics of stratified turbulence



Odier, Chen, Ecke,
PRL (2009)
Physics D (2012)
JFM (2014)
JFM (2017)

$$D_t \left(\frac{1}{2} \overline{u_i'^2} \right) = \partial_j \left(-\frac{1}{\rho_0} \overline{u_j' P} + 2\nu \overline{u_i' s_{ij}} - \frac{1}{2} \overline{u_i' u_i' u_j'} \right) + \varepsilon + P + B$$



$$\varepsilon \equiv -\frac{\nu}{2} \overline{(\partial_j u_i' + \partial_i u_j')^2}$$

$$P \equiv -\overline{u_i u_j} \frac{\partial_j U_i + \partial_i U_j}{2}$$

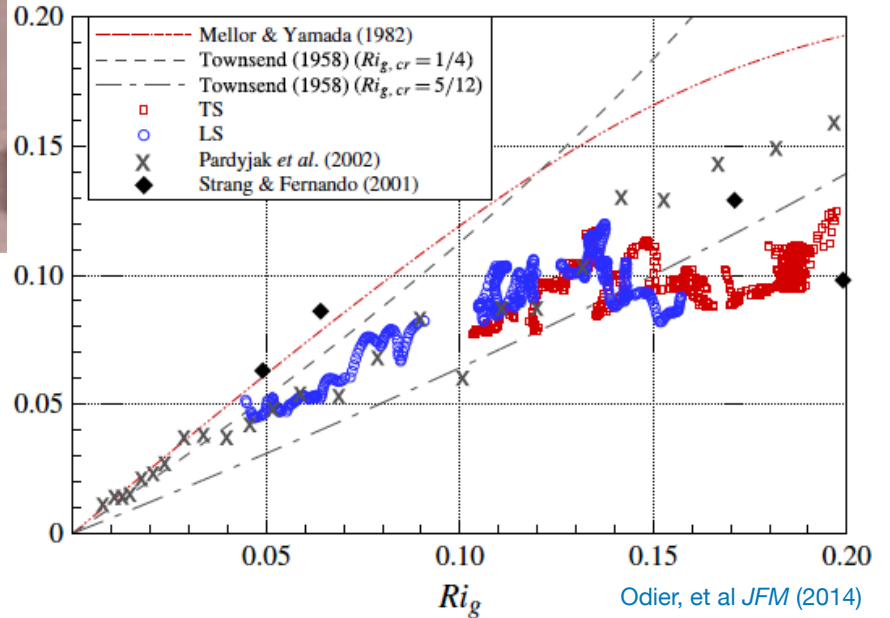
$$B \equiv -\frac{g}{\rho_0} \overline{\rho' w'}$$

Mixing efficiency: local estimate



Lewis Fry Richardson
 (english mathematician, physicist,
 meteorologist, psychologist)

Ri_f



Odier, et al *JFM* (2014)



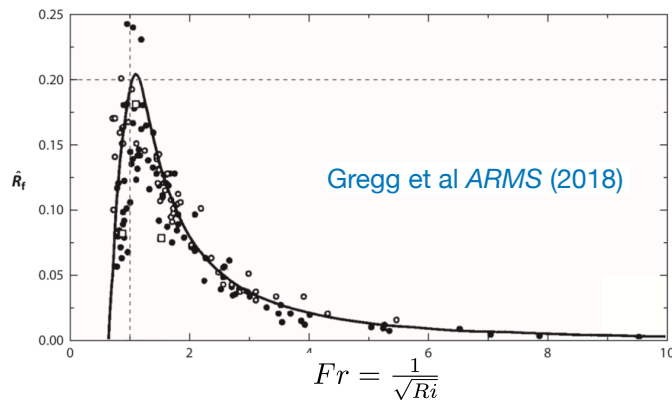
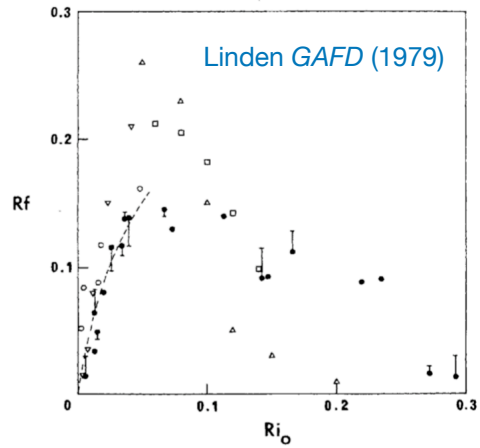
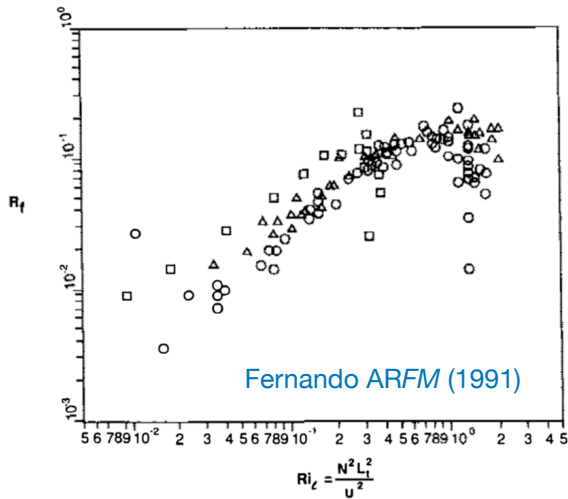
William Froude
 (english engineer, hydrodynamicist
 and naval architect)

$$Fr = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Ri}}$$

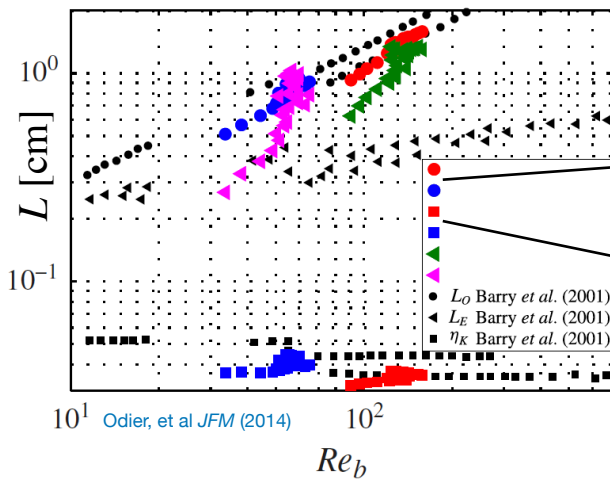
$$Ri_g \equiv \frac{N^2}{S^2} = \frac{-\frac{g}{\rho_0} \partial_z \bar{\rho}}{(\partial_z U)^2}$$

$$Ri_f \equiv \frac{B}{P} = \frac{B}{B + \varepsilon}$$

Mixing efficiency: local estimate



Mixing scales



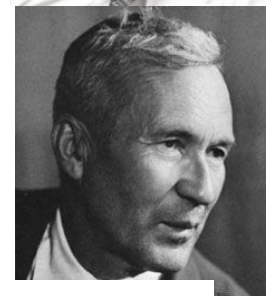
$$L_O = \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{N^3} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$L_K = \left(\frac{\nu^3}{\varepsilon} \right)^{1/4}$$

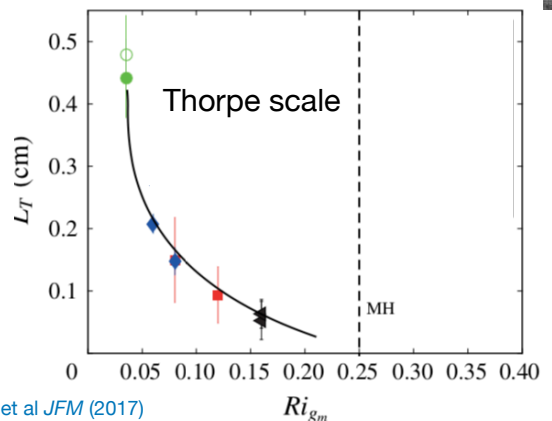
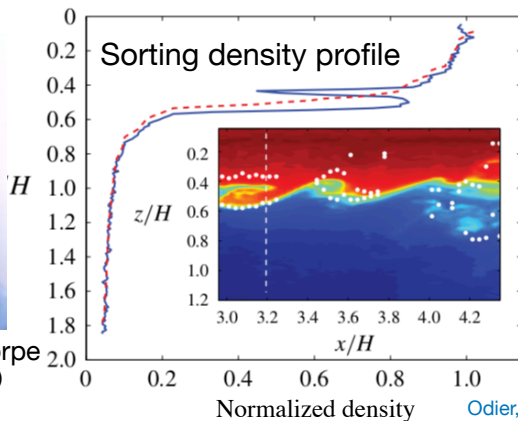
Ozmidov Rostislav Vsevolodovich
(russian oceanographer)



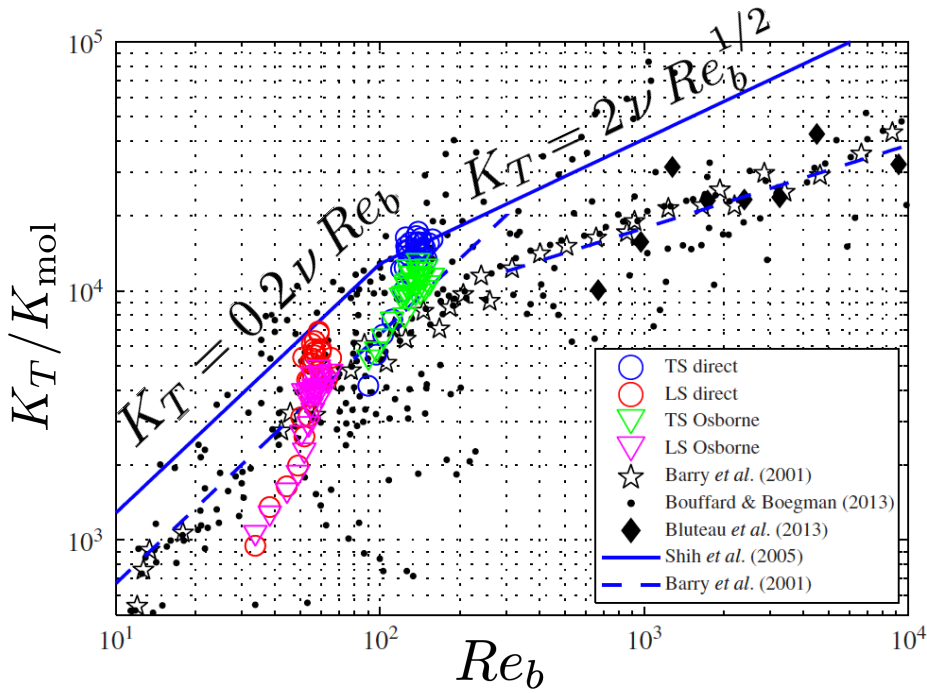
Andrey Nikolayevich Kolmogorov
(russian mathematician)



Stephen Austen Thorpe
(british oceanographer)

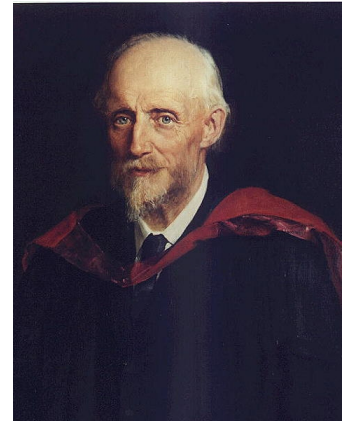


Turbulent diffusion



$$K_T \equiv \frac{\overline{\rho' w'}}{\partial_z \bar{\rho}}$$

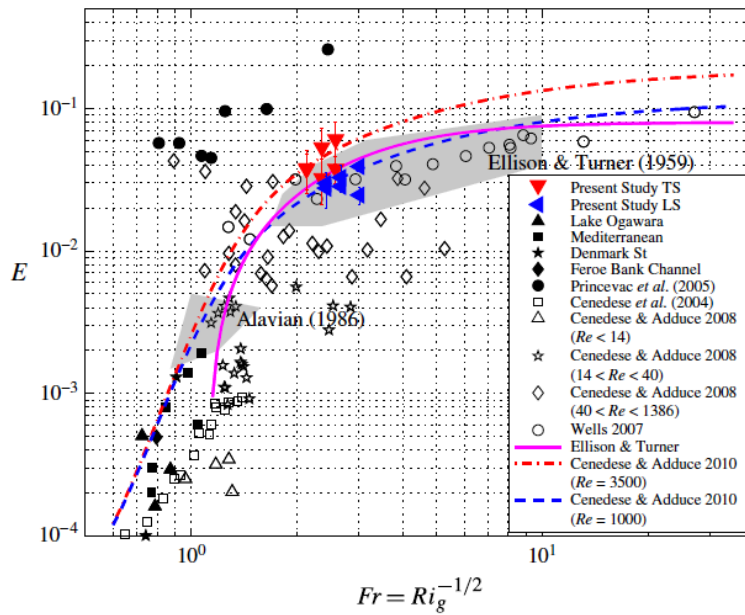
$$Re_b \equiv \frac{\varepsilon}{\nu N^2}$$



Odier, et al *JFM* (2014)

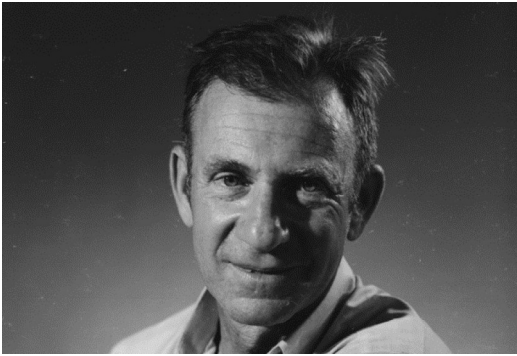
Osborne Reynolds
(Irish-born professor of engineering)

Shear flows: entrainment



Odier, et al *JFM* (2014)

Walter Munk: "Abyssal recipes"



Deep-Sea Research, 1966, Vol. 13, pp. 707 to 730. Pergamon Press Ltd. Printed in Great Britain.

Abyssal recipes

WALTER H. MUNK*

(Received 31 January 1966)

Munk DSR (1966)

Abstract—Vertical distributions in the interior Pacific (excluding the top and bottom kilometer) are not inconsistent with a simple model involving a constant upward vertical velocity $w \approx 1.2 \text{ cm day}^{-1}$ and eddy diffusivity $\kappa \approx 1.3 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ sec}^{-1}$. Thus temperature and salinity can be fitted by exponential-like solutions to $[\kappa \cdot d^2/dz^2 - w \cdot d/dz] T, S = 0$, with $\kappa/w \approx 1 \text{ km}$ the appropriate "scale height." For Carbon 14 a decay term must be included, $[\kappa \cdot d^2/dz^2 - w \cdot d/dz - \lambda] {}^{14}\text{C} = \mu {}^{14}\text{C}$; a fitting of the solution to the observed ${}^{14}\text{C}$ distribution yields $\kappa/w^2 \approx 200$ years for the appropriate "scale time," and permits w and κ to be separately determined. Using the foregoing values, the upward flux of Radium in deep water is found to be roughly $1.5 \times 10^{-21} \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$, as compared to $3 \times 10^{-21} \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ from sedimentary measurements by GOLDSTEIN and KOIDE (1963). Oxygen consumption is computed at $0.004 \text{ (ml/l) year}^{-1}$. The vertical distributions of $T, S, {}^{14}\text{C}$ and O_2 are consistent with the corresponding south-north gradients in the deep Pacific, provided there is an average northward drift of at least a few millimetres per second.

How can one meaningfully interpret the inferred rates of upwelling and diffusion? The annual freezing of $2.1 \times 10^{19} \text{ g}$ of Antarctic pack ice is associated with bottom water formation in the ratio 43 : 1, yielding an estimated $4 \times 10^{20} \text{ g year}^{-1}$ of Pacific bottom water; the value $w = 1.2 \text{ cm day}^{-1}$ implies $6 \times 10^{20} \text{ g year}^{-1}$. I have attempted, without much success, to interpret κ from a variety of viewpoints: from mixing along the ocean boundaries, from thermodynamic and biological processes, and from internal tides. Following the work of COX and SANDSTROM (1962), it is found that surface tides are scattered by the irregular bottom into internal modes with an associated energy flux of $4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ ergs g}^{-1} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ (one sixth the total tidal dissipation). Such internal modes can produce shear instability in the Richardson sense. It is found that internal tides provide a marginal but not impossible mechanism for turbulent diffusion in the interior oceans.

Fitting T and S advection/diffusion equation to ocean measurements

$$K_T \partial_z^2 \partial_z(T, S) - W \partial_z(T, S) = 0$$

$$\frac{(T, S)_{\text{top}} - (T, S)_{\text{bottom}}}{(T, S)_{\text{top}} - (T, S)_{\text{bottom}}} = \frac{\exp(WH\xi/K_T) - 1}{\exp(WH/K_T) - 1}$$

$$H = z_{\text{top}} - z_{\text{bottom}}$$

$$\xi = \frac{z - z_{\text{bottom}}}{z_{\text{top}} - z_{\text{bottom}}}$$

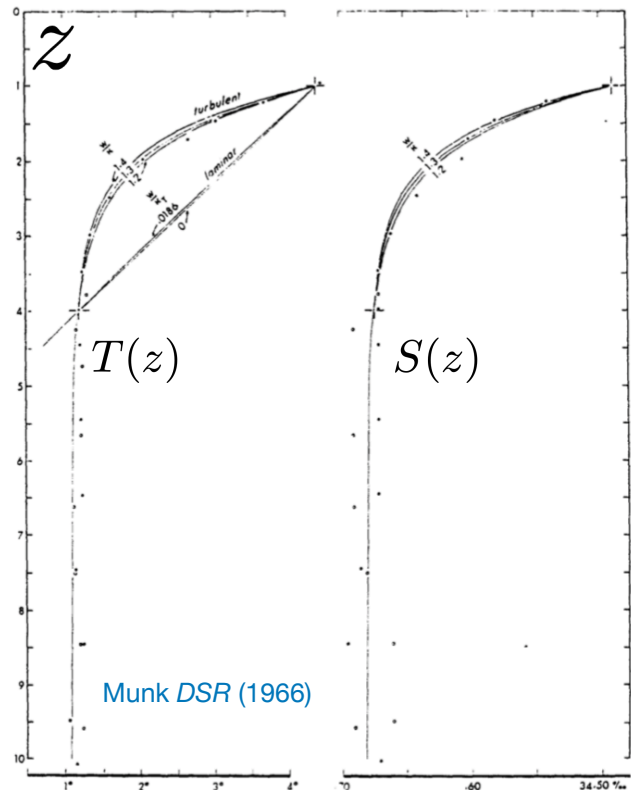


Fig. 1. Potential temperature and salinity as functions of depth (km) at stations *Snellius* 1930 : # 262, 9° 41'N, 126° 51'E, (closed circles) and *Galathea* 1951 : # 433, 9° 51'N, 126° 51'E, (open circles). Curves labeled w/κ (in units km^{-1}) are based on equations (1) and (2) for turbulent and laminar diffusion, respectively.

Munk DSR (1966)

Fitting radioactive elements advection/diffusion equation to ocean measurements

$$K_T \partial_z \partial_z x_{C_{14}} - W \partial_z x_{C_{14}} = \mu_c x_{C_{14}}$$

$$x_{C_{14}} = C^+ \exp\left(\frac{WH}{K_T} \left(1 + \frac{4K_T \mu_c}{W^2}\right) \xi\right) + C^- \exp\left(\frac{WH}{K_T} \left(1 - \frac{4K_T \mu_c}{W^2}\right) \xi\right)$$

$$H = z_{\text{top}} - z_{\text{bottom}}$$

$$\xi = \frac{z - z_{\text{bottom}}}{z_{\text{top}} - z_{\text{bottom}}}$$

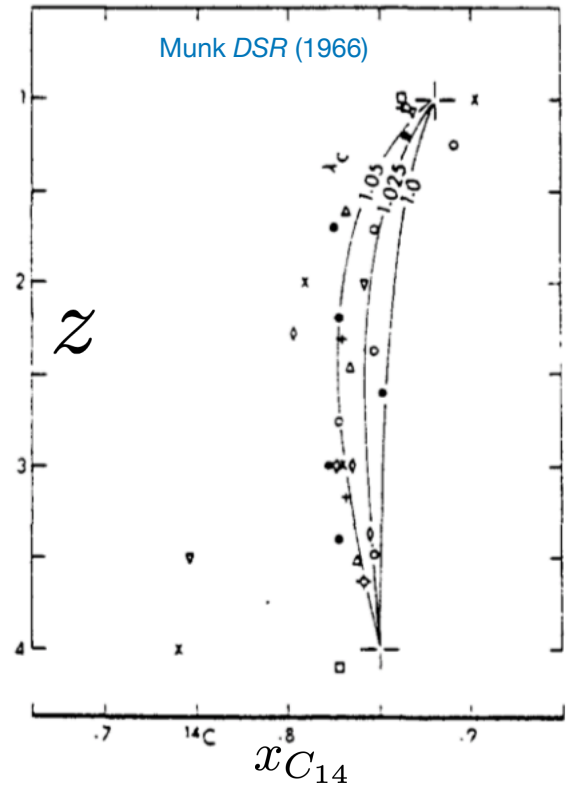
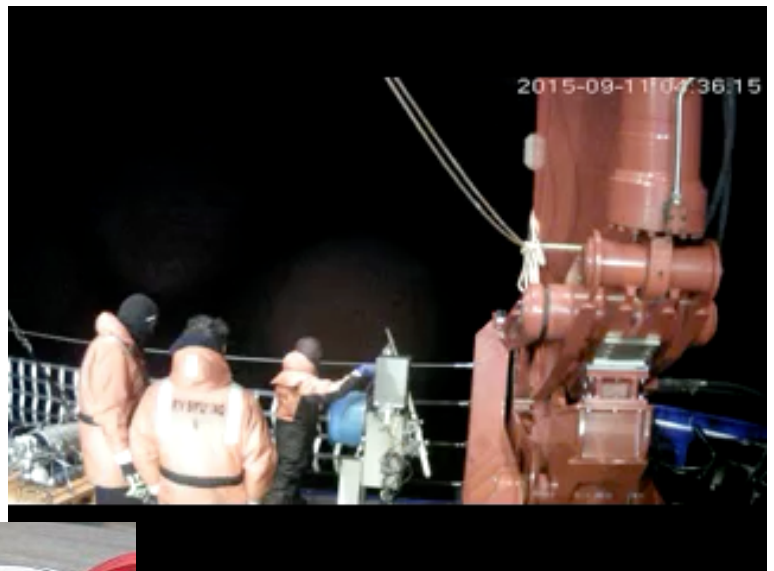
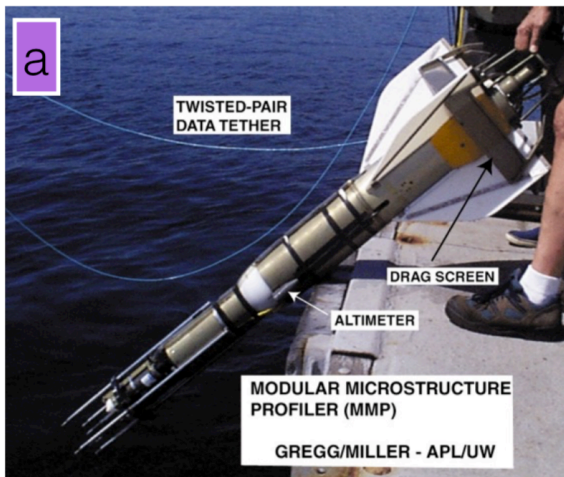


Fig. 5. ^{14}C (relative units) as function of depth (km) (from BIEN, RAKESTRAW and SUESS, 1965). Symbols represent various Pacific stations. Curves are based on equation (6) for $\gamma = 3.3$, and for indicated values of λ_c .

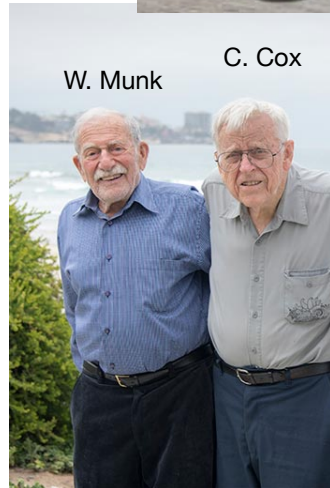
Microstructure profiler



Measured diffusivities: what is going on?



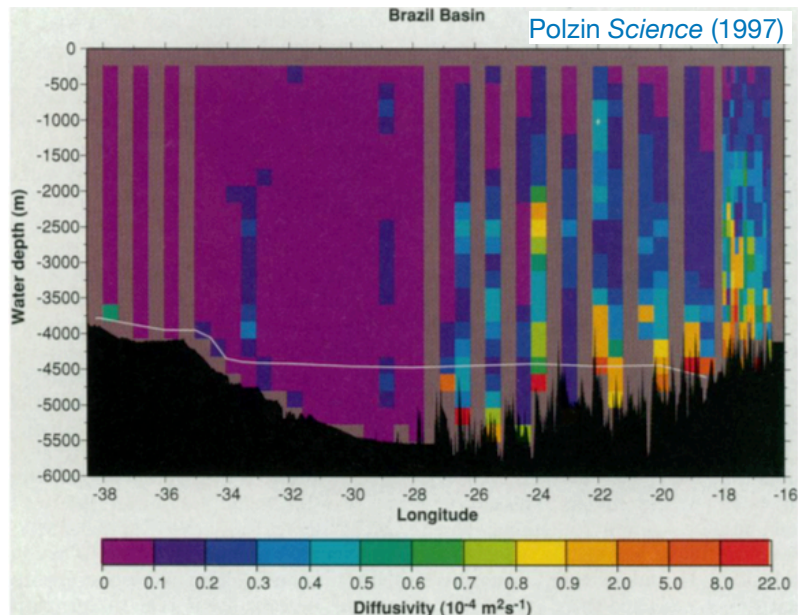
Charles "Chip" Cox



W. Munk

C. Cox

Measured diffusivities: what is going on?



Until the processes giving rise to diffusion and advection are understood, the resulting differential equations governing the interior distribution, and their solutions, must remain what they have been for so long : a set of **recipes**.

Concluding sentence of Munk *DSR* (1966)

Textbooks, seminal and review articles

- [1] C.-C. P. CAULFIELD. Open questions in turbulent stratified mixing: Do we even know what we do not know? *Phys. Rev. Fluids*, vol. 5 (2020), no. 11.
- [2] W. MUNK AND C. WUNSCH. Abyssal recipes ii: energetics of tidal and wind mixing. *Deep Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers*, vol. 45 (1998), no. 12, pp. 1977 – 2010.
- [3] W. H. MUNK. Abyssal recipes. *Deep Sea Research and Oceanographic Abstracts*, vol. 13 (1966), no. 4, pp. 707–730.
- [4] T. OSBORN. Estimates of the local-rate of vertical diffusion from dissipation measurements. *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, vol. 10 (1980), no. 1, pp. 83–89.
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Suggested additional reading

- [1] C. CAULFIELD. Layering, instabilities, and mixing in turbulent stratified flows. *Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics*, vol. 53 (2021), no. 1.
- [2] R. FERRARI AND C. WUNSCH. Ocean circulation kinetic energy: Reservoirs, sources, and sinks. *Annual Reviews in Fluid Mechanics*, vol. 41 (2009), pp. 253–282.
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- [6] W. PELTIER AND C. CAULFIELD. Mixing efficiency in stratified shear flows. *Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech.*, vol. 35 (2003), pp. 135–167.

Origin of Illustrations

- [1] T. DAUXOIS, S. JOUBAUD, P. ODIER, AND A. VENAILLE. Instabilities of Internal Gravity Wave Beams. *Ann. Rev. of Fluid Mech.*, vol. 50 (2018), pp. 131–156.
- [2] Y. DOSSMANN, ET AL. Mixing by internal waves quantified using combined PIV/PLIF technique. *Exp. Fluids*, vol. 57 (2016), no. 8.
- [3] Y. DOSSMANN, F. POLLET, P. ODIER, AND T. DAUXOIS. Mixing and formation of layers by internal wave forcing. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*, vol. 122 (2017), no. 12, pp. 9906–9917.
- [4] D. ENDERTON AND J. MARSHALL. Explorations of atmosphere–ocean–ice climates on an aquaplanet and their meridional energy transports. *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, vol. 66 (2009), no. 6, pp. 1593 – 1611.
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- [10] P. ODIER, J. CHEN, M. K. RIVERA, AND R. E. ECKE. Fluid mixing in stratified gravity currents: the Prandtl mixing length. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, vol. 102 (2009), no. 13, p. 134504.
- [11] P. ODIER, J. CHEN, AND R. E. ECKE. Entrainment and mixing in a laboratory model of oceanic overflow. *J. Fluid Mech.*, vol. 746 (2014), pp. 498–535.
- [12] P. ODIER AND R. E. ECKE. Stability, intermittency and universal Thorpe length distribution in a laboratory turbulent stratified shear flow. *J. Fluid Mech.*, vol. 815 (2017), pp. 243–256.
- [13] K. POLZIN, J. TOOLE, J. LEDWELL, AND R. SCHMITT. Spatial variability of turbulent mixing in the abyssal ocean. *Science*, vol. 276 (1997), no. 5309, pp. 93–96.