

# La turbulence en rotation pour les nuls

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# **Turbulence en rotation = Turbulence + Coriolis**



# Rotating turbulence: Where? and Why?

#### Motivations:

Geophysics (ocean, atmosphere, dynamo...) Astrophysics (galaxies, accretion disks) Industrial flows (turbomachines...)

-> challenge for modelling

#### Basic effects of the background rotation:

- (partial) two-dimensionnalisation
- Energy transfers inhibited, reduced decay
- Cyclone/Anticyclone symmetry breaking









### The Taylor-Proudman theorem

Navier-Stokes in a rotating frame:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\vec{u} + (\vec{u}\cdot\vec{\nabla})\vec{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\vec{\nabla}p - 2\vec{\Omega}\times\vec{u} + v\nabla^{2}\vec{u}$$

Geostrophic equilibrium :

 $\vec{u} \perp \vec{\nabla} p$ 

 $\partial(.)/\partial z = 0$  : **2D** (but **3C** !!)





Fronts et isobares pour le 16/01/2008 12hUTC (reseau: 15/01/2008 12hUTC)



Assumptions:  $|\vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \vec{u}| \ll |\vec{2\Omega} \times \vec{u}|$  (Ro =  $\frac{\omega}{2\Omega} \ll 1$ ) i.e., **non-linearities neglected** 

- Two-dimensionalisation = nonlinear mechanism
- Transition 3D-2D ≠ Taylor-Proudman

#### Origine des ondes d'inertie:

- Reférentiel fixe : conservation du moment cinétique





- Référentiel tournant : Force de Coriolis = Force de rappel



$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} = -2\vec{\Omega} \wedge \vec{u}$$

Fluide incompressible : 
$$\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \vec{\nabla} p - 2\vec{\Omega} \wedge \vec{u}$$

Ondes forcées à fréquence  $\sigma < 2\Omega$ => plan d'oscillation penché



# Ondes d'inertie

(a) 
$$\sigma \ll 2\Omega$$
  
Solutions en onde :  $\vec{u}(t) = \vec{u}_0 \exp(\sigma t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x})$   
Ondes transverses :  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{u} \perp \vec{k}$   
Relation de dispersion :  $\sigma(\vec{k}) = 2\Omega \frac{k_z}{|\vec{k}|} = 2\Omega \cos\theta$   
Vitesse de phase :  $\vec{c}(\vec{k}) = \sigma(\vec{k}) \frac{\vec{k}}{|\vec{k}|^2}$   
Vitesse de groupe :  $\vec{c}_g(\vec{k}) = \vec{\nabla}_k \sigma$   
Ondes dispersives ( $c = f(k)$ ) et anisotropes  
(Pour  $\sigma << 2\Omega$ , Taylor-Proudman retrouvé)

Phillips 1963; Lighthill



Ω

### Ondes d'inertie : observations par PIV





L. Messio, C. Morize, M. Rabaud, F. Moisy, *Exp. in Fluids* **44**, 519 (2008)

### Ondes d'inertie vs. Ondes internes





Physical Oceanography Demo Movies

at University of Rhode Island

Fréquence de Brunt-Väisälä

$$N = \sqrt{-\frac{g}{\rho}\frac{\partial\rho}{\partial z}}$$

 $\sigma = N \sin \theta$  -> « Pancakes »

Relations de dispersion

 $\sigma = 2\Omega\cos\theta$ 

-> « Colonnes de Taylor-Proudman »

$$\sigma = \sqrt{(2\Omega\cos\theta)^2 + (N\sin\theta)^2}$$

# Some background for decaying rotating turbulence



### Some background for decaying rotating turbulence







Linear: timescale Ω<sup>-1</sup> Energy propagation via inertial waves

#### Non-linear: timescale I/u'

Two-dimensionalisation process via angular energy transfer, i.e. nonlinear mode coupling.

Coupling between linear and non-linear effects

at  $t = t^*$ , when Ro  $(t^*) = \tau_{lin} / \tau_{nl} = O(1)$ 

### Some background for decaying rotating turbulence





From Cambon, Eur. J. Mech. B - Fluids 20 (2001)

Découplage du mode « lent » 2D ? (3C !)

# Simulations



DNS 1596<sup>3</sup>

Pouquet, Mininni (2009)

# Some passed and recent experiments (XXth century)

#### Oscillated grid in a rotating tank

Hopfinger, Browand & Gagne, JFM (1982)





#### Hot wire meas. in wind tunnel

Jacquin et al, JFM (1990)



#### Grid in a rotating channel



1-point measurement

# Some passed and recent experiments (XXIst century)

Baroud, Plapp, She and Swinney, PRL (2002)



Morize, Moisy and Rabaud, POF (2005)





Staplehurst, Davidson and Dalziel JFM (2008)



Lamriben, Cortet and Moisy...



Van Bokhoven, Clercx, van Heijst and Trieling, POF (2009)



### **Experimental setup (laboratory FAST)**





Grid velocity:  $V_g = 0.65$  m/s ( $Re_g = 2.5 \ 10^4$ ) Rotation rate: 0 - 0.7 Hz ( $Ro_g < 15$ )  $Re' = u'M/v \sim 4000$  down to 100  $Ro' = u'/2\Omega M \sim 10$  down to 0.01

Morize et al, Phys. Fluids (2005, 2006)

### PIV meas. in horizontal plane

 $v_{max}$  /  $v_{min}$  ~ 10<sup>-2</sup>

Spatial resolution: ~ 1 mm

# grille $t_1 t_2 \dots t_n \sim 200$ t (s) $t_0 dt (ms)$ $t_1 t_2 \dots t_n \sim t_n$ $t_n \sim t_n \cdots t_n$ $t_n \sim t_n \cdots t_n$

#### **Ensemble averages**

600 decays (independant realizations)20 hours of experiment





### Experimental setup: 'Coriolis' Rotating Plateform (LEGI, Grenoble)

In collaboration with J. Sommeria, H. Didelle, S. Viboud



Moisy et al, subm. J. Fluid Mech (2009)



150 tons of water

9 m x 4 m x 1 m channel

Grid (of square mesh M = 14 cm), translated at  $V_g = 0.3$  m s<sup>-1</sup>

mounted on the **13 m** diameter 'Coriolis' rotating plateform

Rotation periods: T = 30, 60, 120 s1 decay ~ 1 hour ~  $10^4 \text{ M/V}_{g}$ 

PIV measurements in horizontal and vertical planes 2000x2000 HR camera







# Vorticity field



x (mm)

Velocity and Curl (s<sup>-1</sup>), field #1, 050209\_p30\_u30\_ts000200.0\_dt250/B00001.vec

# Experimental setups: FAST vs Coriolis





	<b>FAST</b> (0.44 m)	Coriolis (9.1 m)
	$V_g$ // $\Omega$	$V_{g \perp} \Omega$
$Re_g = V_g M / v$	(3 - 6) x 10 <sup>4</sup>	4 x 10 <sup>4</sup>
$\mathrm{Ro}_{\mathrm{g}} = \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{g}} / 2\Omega \mathrm{M}$	2 20	4, 8, 16
Aspect ratios $L_1 / h$ ; $L_2 / h$	(0.8 ; 0.8)	(4;10)
	Ensemble average	Time resolved

### Velocity $(u_1, u_3) (x_1, x_3; x_2 = L/2)$ , in a 1 x 1 m<sup>2</sup> vertical plane



*T* = 60 s Ro<sub>q</sub> = 8



T = 30 s $\text{Ro}_{\text{g}} = 4$ 

050224\_p30\_u30\_ts000028.0/PIV\_Vec\_MP\_fr0+1\_(64x64\_75\_ov)\_PostProc [#1]



### Large scale flow: gravity and inertia-gravity waves



 $\boldsymbol{\Omega}=\boldsymbol{0}$ 

gravity wave,  $T_{\rm g} = (L/2) / (gh)^{1/2}$ 

#### Ω **≠ 0**

gravity wave  $T_g$ + inertia-gravity wave,  $T_i = \pi / \Omega$ 

### Vorticity $\omega_2$ ( $x_1$ , $x_3$ ; $x_2 = L/2$ ), in a 1 x 1 m<sup>2</sup> vertical plane







### **Energy decay**



Nonlinear time  $\tau_{nl}(t) \sim t$  in decaying isotropic turbulence

=> Ro =  $\tau_{lin}$  /  $\tau_{nl}$  ~ O(1) reached at *fixed* number of tank rotations !

 $\Omega t^*$  /  $2\pi = 0.4$  tank rotations



Macro-Rossby number

 $Ro' = u' / 2\Omega L$ 

Transition at Ro  $(t^*) \sim 0.25$ 



T = 60 s $\text{Ro}_{\text{g}} = 8$  $2\Omega = 0.2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ 



Cyclone / anticyclone asymmetry is a generic feature for rotating systems:

• Vortex stretching acts on <u>absolute</u> vorticity,  $\omega_a = \omega + 2\Omega$ 

 $d\omega_a/dt = (du_z/dz) \omega_a$ 

• Inertial instabilities for Ro =  $\omega_z / 2\Omega \sim O(-1)$ 

### Influence of the boundaries:

- Stabilizing vortices (of both sign) normal to the walls:
   'blocking effect'
- Viscous damping at large time (Ekman pumping)





Stegner et al, Phys. Fluids 17 (2005)



Hopfinger et al, JFM 125, 505 (1982)

# **Vorticity distributions**

Weak vorticity ( $|\omega| \sim 1-2 \omega'$ ) : Stretching / wrapping of shear layers



Intense vorticity ( $|\omega| >> \omega$ ') : Mostly cyclonic vorticity



**Anticyclones** 

Cyclones



## Vorticity skewness: cyclone/anticyclone asymmetry



Morize, Moisy & Rabaud, Phys. Fluids (2005) Moisy, Morize, Rabaud & Sommeria, subm JFM (2009) Self-similar growth of the vorticity asymmetry

For  $t > t_c$ , re-symmetrization





### Cyclone-anticyclone re-symmetrisation



### Explanations for asymmetry growth?

- instabilities of anticyclones?
- enhanced vortex stretching?

Explanations for re-symmetrisation?

- cyclone merging
- diffusion
- ... Small scale « noise »?

### Cyclone-anticyclone re-symmetrisation



At large time, small scale vorticity « noise » produced by instabilities of the vertical shear layers advected by the large-scale quasi-2D flow

### Mechanism for the vorticity asymmetry decrease







Vertical shear layers becomes thinner Production of horizontal vorticity

Re-injection of Small-scale Vertical vorticity with random sign

### Cascade shortcut:

Vertical velocity (1/3 of energy) is « stored » as a passive scalar, and reinjected directly at small scale

### Anisotropy growth: vertical organization of the flow



Velocity correlation scale



**Fast saturation of** *L*<sub>11,3</sub> :

z-invariance of horizontal velocity

Nontrivial ordering

 $L_{33,1} << L_{11,1} < L_{33,3} << L_{11,3}$ 

### Vorticity correlation scale



Simultaneous fall-off of  $L_{331}$  and  $L_{03}$ 



Large scales are strongly anisotropic  $L_{33,1} << L_{11,1} < L_{33,3} << L_{11,3}$ 

But small scales remain close to isotropy

### 3C 2D flow

- Transition at  $t^* \sim 0.4$  tank rotation,  $Ro(t^*) = 0.25$
- Cyclone-anticyclone asymmetry growth,  $S_{\omega} \sim (\Omega t)^{0.7}$  by preferrential cyclonic vortex stretching
- Resymmetrisation of  $S_{\omega}$  at large time
- 3D « noisy » small scales induced by instabilities of vertical layers originating from the initiation conditions
- 2D 3C flow at large time
- Open questions
  - Inversion of energy flux?
  - Generalisation of 4/5's law for rotating turbulence ?