

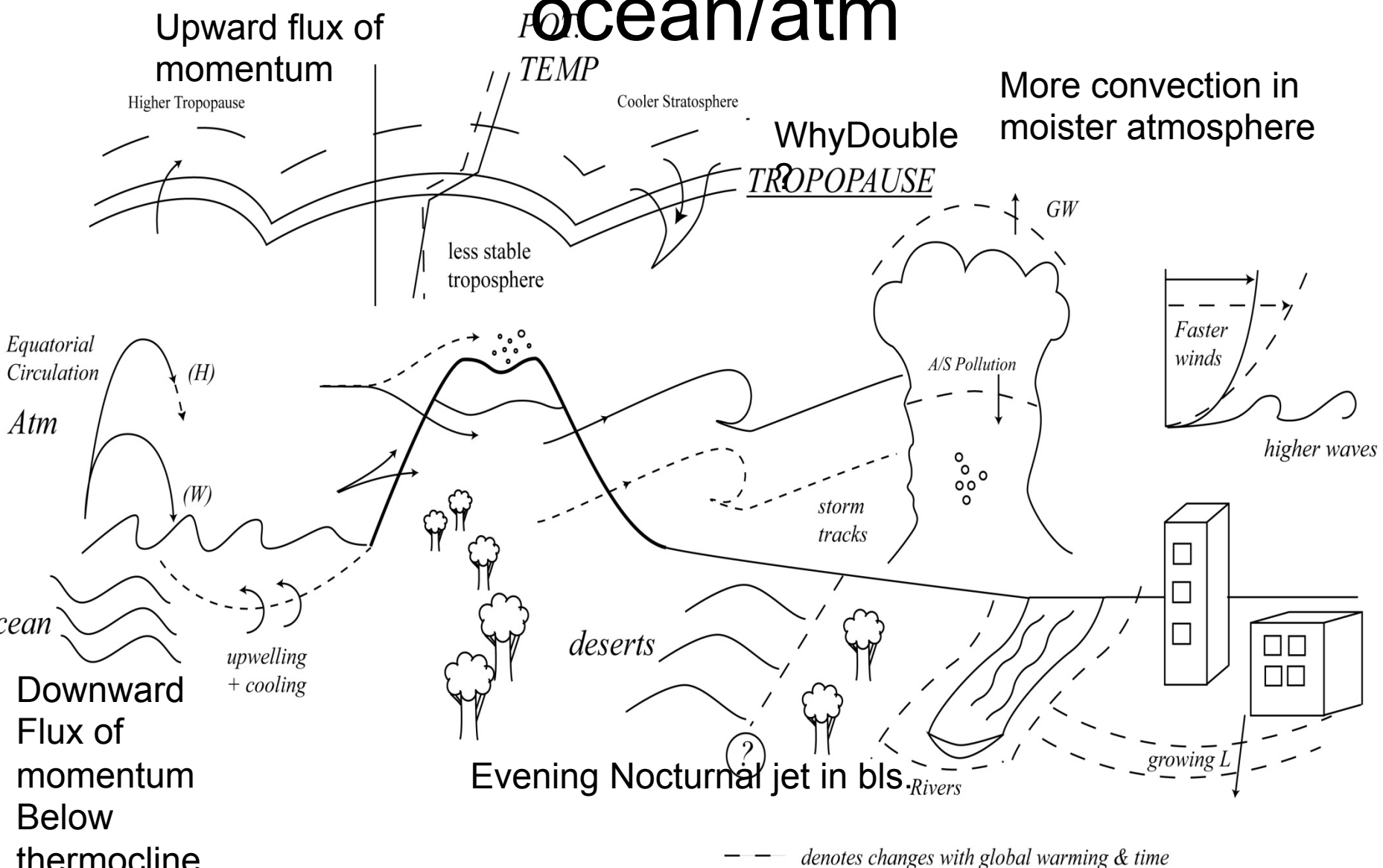
Critical roles of Interfacial  
layers in stratified /non-  
stratified turbulent flows -Emil  
Hopfinger festschrift

Julian Hunt

(with many colleagues )

UCL , and Trinity Coll, Camb

# interfaces in modelling and computation stratified layers in ocean/atm



# 3 zones –external ;interfacial layers ;internal



-stratus clouds  
Interfacial layers  
convective eddies

Turbulent/non-turbulent  
interfaces

e.g.

Bisset, et al. (2002)

Da Silva & Pereira (2005)

Westerweel, et al. (2005, 2009)

The higher the Reynolds number, the sharper the interfaces-(Hunt Ishihara Kaneda)

Classification of clouds -1802 Lamarck (French) ; 1803 Howard(Latin )  
'sport of winds' ; first description of eddies/coherent structures

Defining  
the  
location  
 $y_I$  of the  
interface  
by jump  
in  $u$   
velocity

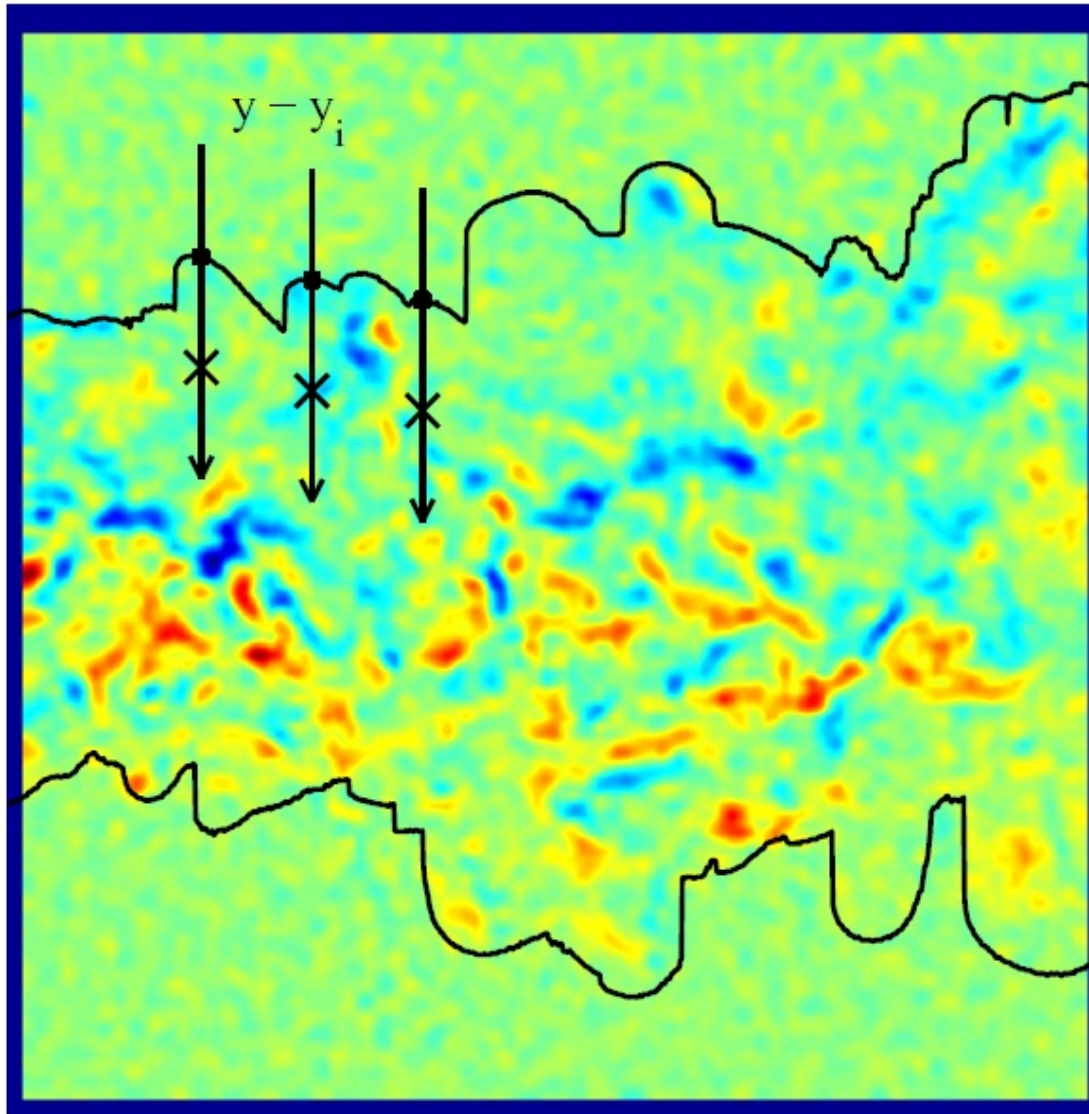


FIGURE 11. The vorticity  $\Omega_z$  and the jet outer boundary (*continuous line*).

In Figure 11 the interface in Fig. 9b is superimposed on the (interpolated) vorticity field of the velocity field in Fig. 4.

## Interfacial layers –via new approaches

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-organised internal and external(OXIL) layers (waves and fluctuations in exterior region)  
and random internal layers (RIL) (with turbulence on both sides )  
. BIL - Layers near boundaries (rigid/flexible )

-common features and differences between types of XIL  
-new computational approaches for modelling when interfaces cannot be resolved?  
(neg eddy viscosity + time delay j. steinhoff 1994 –  
POD +local modelling Braza (2016) ->new aerofoil design)

Importance for overall flow : (i) barriers between characteristic flow zones –organised and random zones  
(ii)flow processes ( transport, sound , forces on structures)-  
(iii) sensitivity to flow adjustments –eg two-phase, mhd ...

# Examples of Modelling across Interfacial Layers

## 1, Turb +stratif'n

simple linear rdt model of

turb ( $y < y_i$ ) matching

irrotational or stratified

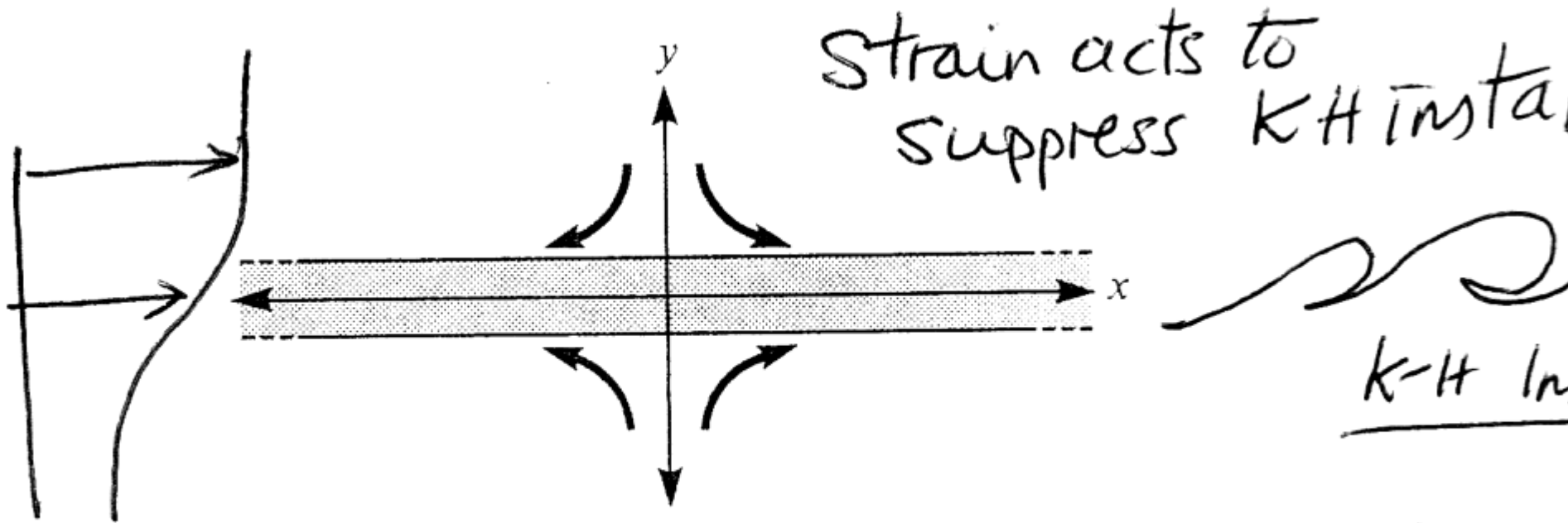
waves/rotational ( $y > y_i$ )

## 2. Turb + strat +shear

requires local dynamical

model across interface

Why do Interfacial shear layers form and persist with turbulence on one or both sides? Dritschel, Haynes et al



the simplest flow to be considered, in which a vorticity filament undergoes strain (  $\Omega = 0$  ) whilst aligned parallel to the extensional axis (  $\phi = \phi_0 = 0$  ).

Typical thickness is  $L / \sqrt{(UL / \nu)} = L / \sqrt{\text{Re}}$



# Interfacial processes: non-linear analysis



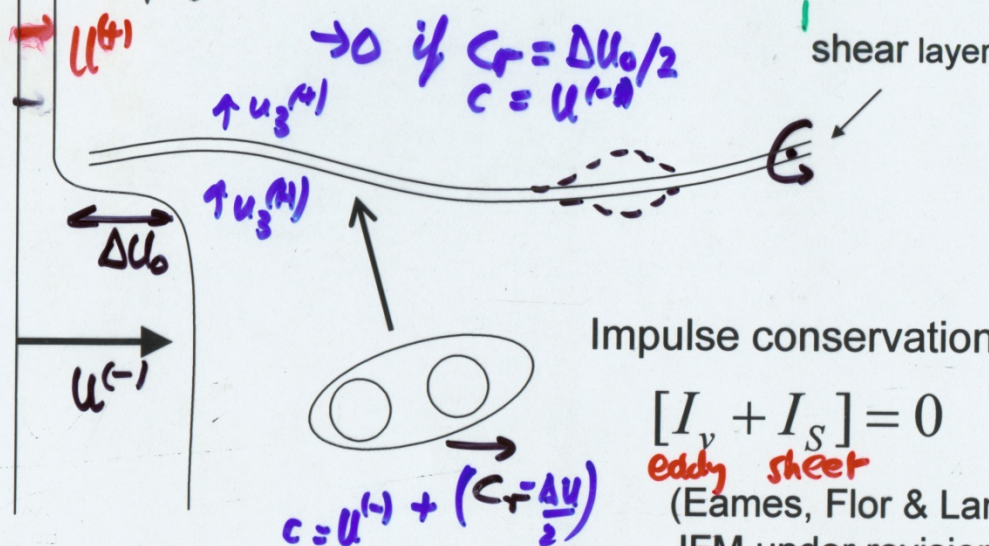
## MECHANISMS (I) SHEAR SHELTERING ACTION OF VORTEX SHEET

Non-linear processes: vortical interactions with interfaces

Linear calc

$$\frac{\sqrt{u_3^{(+)^2}}}{\sqrt{u_3^{(H)^2}}} (\hat{x}_3 \sim l) = \frac{b}{2} \left| \frac{\Delta U_0^2 - 4c_r^2}{\Delta U_0^2 + 4c_r^2} \right|$$

Hunt & Durbin 1999 Fluid Dyn Res.



- Response to disturb
- acts as a barrier if  $c = U^{(-)}$
- by thickening / thinning
- depends on speed of disturb.

Note response to ext. turb is not coupled to  $\int u_3^{(H)}$  in shear layer

$$[I_v + I_s] = 0$$

(Eames, Flor & Landeryou 2006 JFM under revision)

Sheltering versus blocking processes

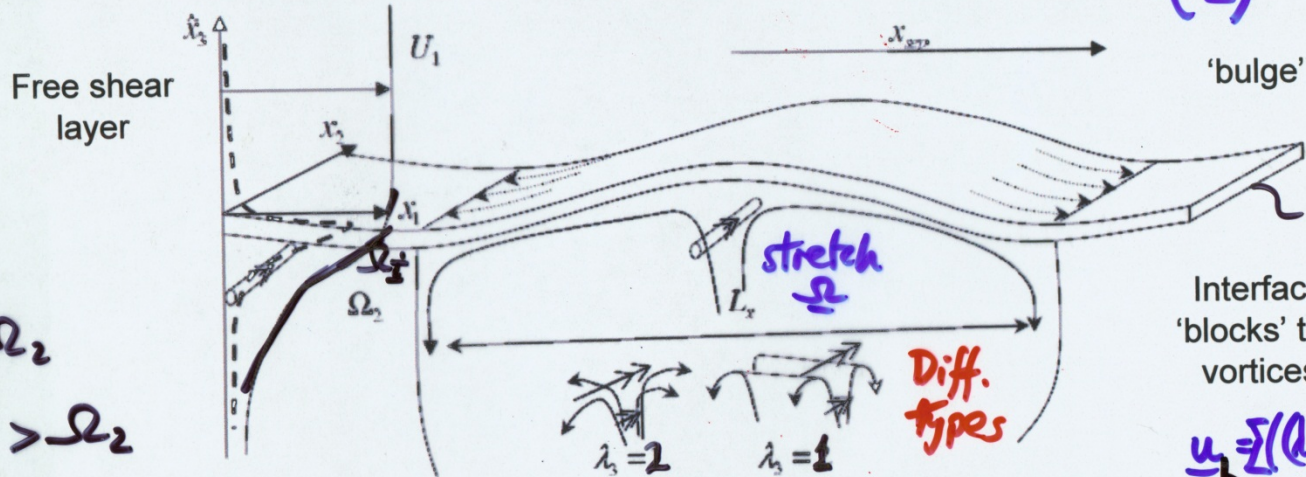
Note ; max blocking if interface is a critical layer (Drazin)



# Interfacial processes: non-linear analysis



(2) How DOES SHARP INTERFACE PERSIST?



$\Omega_1 \gg \Omega_2$

$u_0/L > \Omega_2$

$u_b = \frac{1}{2}(\Omega_2 - \Omega_1)x_1, x_2, -\lambda_3 x_3$

Weak Non-uniform shear

Flow due to impinging eddy distorts the vorticity field,  $\Omega_2$

But eddy impacts on the interface

$\Omega = \nabla \wedge u$

EDDY

$\Rightarrow d\Omega/dt = (\Omega \cdot \nabla) u_b \Rightarrow \langle \Omega_2 \rangle \propto 1/x_3$

(note average)

$\Rightarrow$  Impinging flow creates a straining flow amplifying the shear layer

(Note consistent with log layer - even at interface - (sanady))

$\frac{1}{2}(e^{lt} + e^{-lt}) \sim e^{lt}$

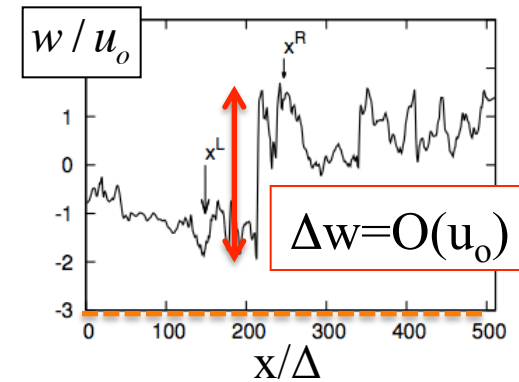
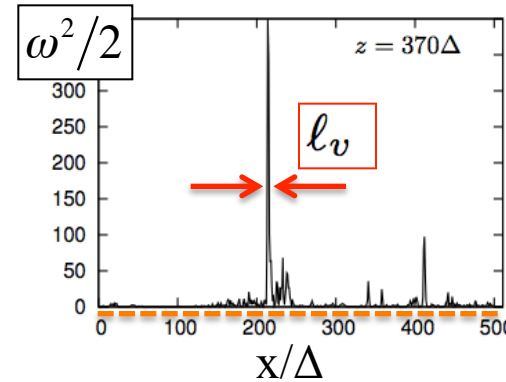
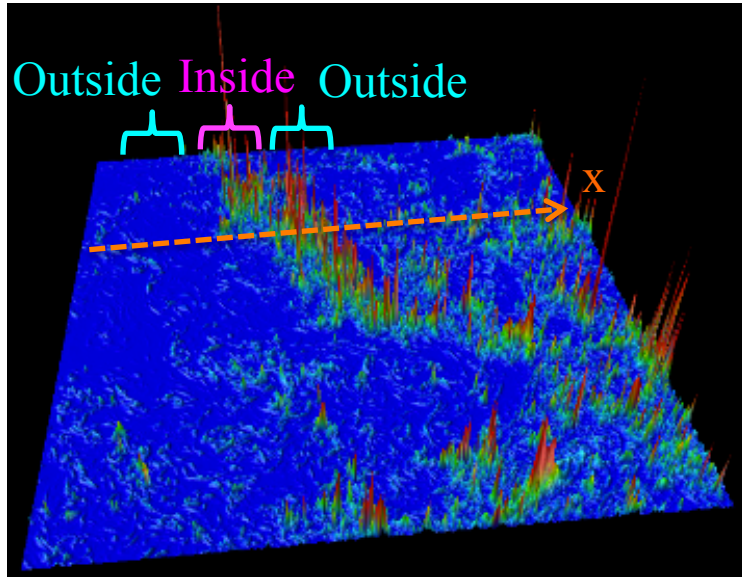
COULD BE INTRO INTO BRANS ETC

ONE SIDED (XIL) TURB INTERFACIAL LAYER - COULD BE LARGE

# Interior Interfacial layer – turb on both sides –double structure (TI,H)

Distribution of the strong vortices inside the layer

( $\Delta=2\pi/4096\sim 3\eta$ : grid spacing)



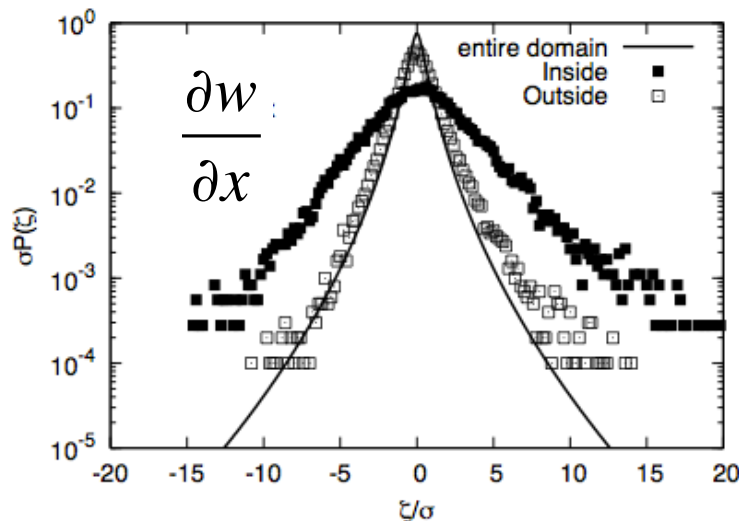
Thickness of the micro-scale vortices:  $l_v \sim 10\eta$   
(insensitive to their strength)

Very strong vorticity of  $O(u_0/10\eta)$

$$\gg u_{Kol} / \eta = 1 / \tau_{Kol} \quad (K41)$$

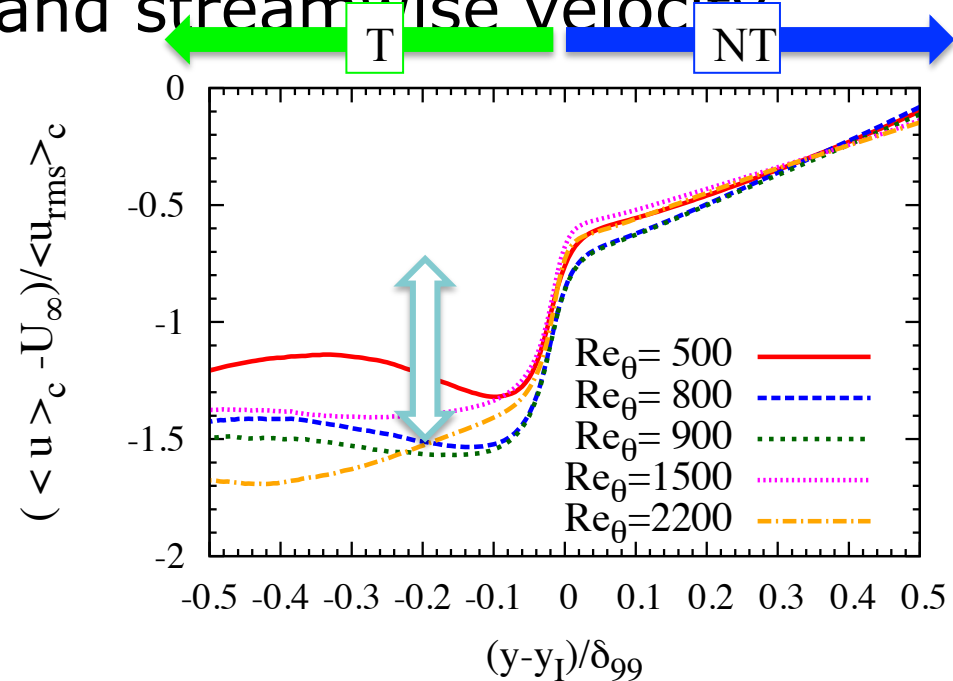
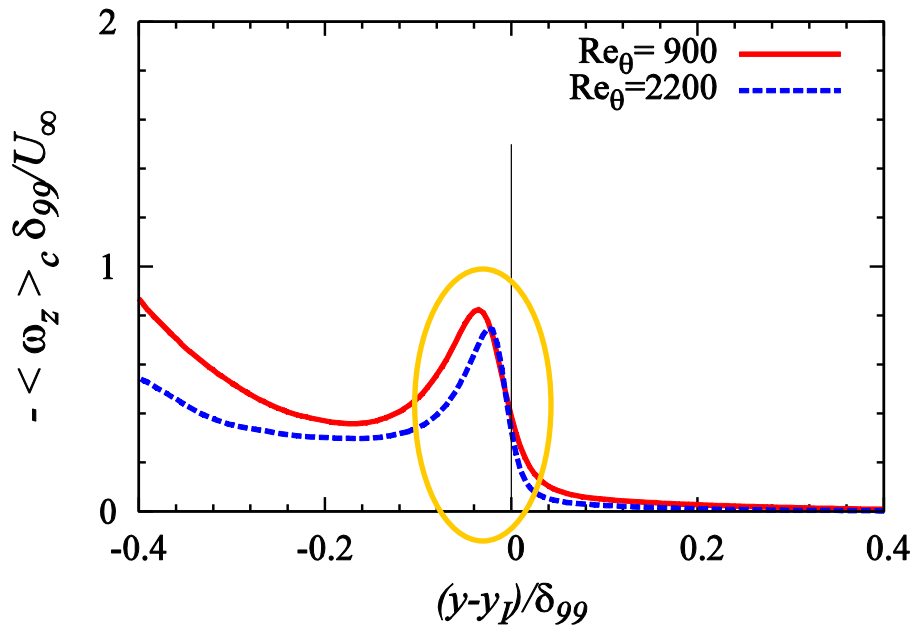
Velocity jump of  $O(u_0)$  over distances of  $O(10\eta)$

$$\gg u_{Kol} \sim u_0 Re^{-1/4} \quad (K41)$$



The layers may dominate the extreme point values of the statistical distributions of dissipation, velocity and vorticity fluctuations

# Turb bl XIL T.Ishihara DNS The conditional averages of the spanwise vorticity and streamwise velocity



Note  $\langle E'_b \cdot \Delta U' \rangle < 0$  – to be published )

$$\Delta U = O(u_{rms})$$

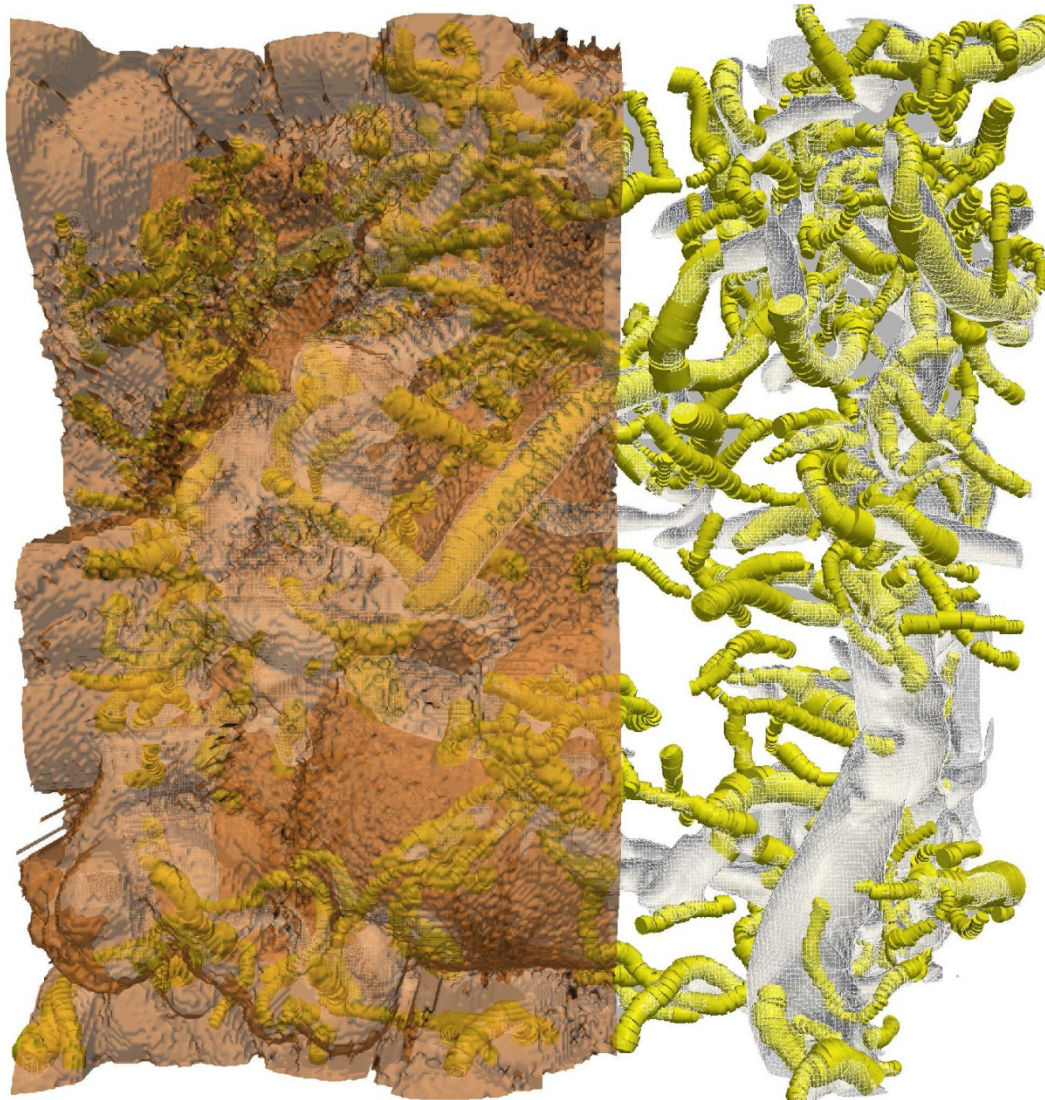
- ① Spanwise vorticity has a peak at the inside of the interface  
cf. Bisset(2002), Da Silva(2008), Westerweel(2009)
- ② There is a velocity jump near the interface  
cf. Bisset(2002)



# Interface structure at edge of layer

- From da silva's paper- thickness of  $l_{K01}$

Thick  
ness  
Of  
layer  
 $-l \sim \lambda$



Smallest  
Scales

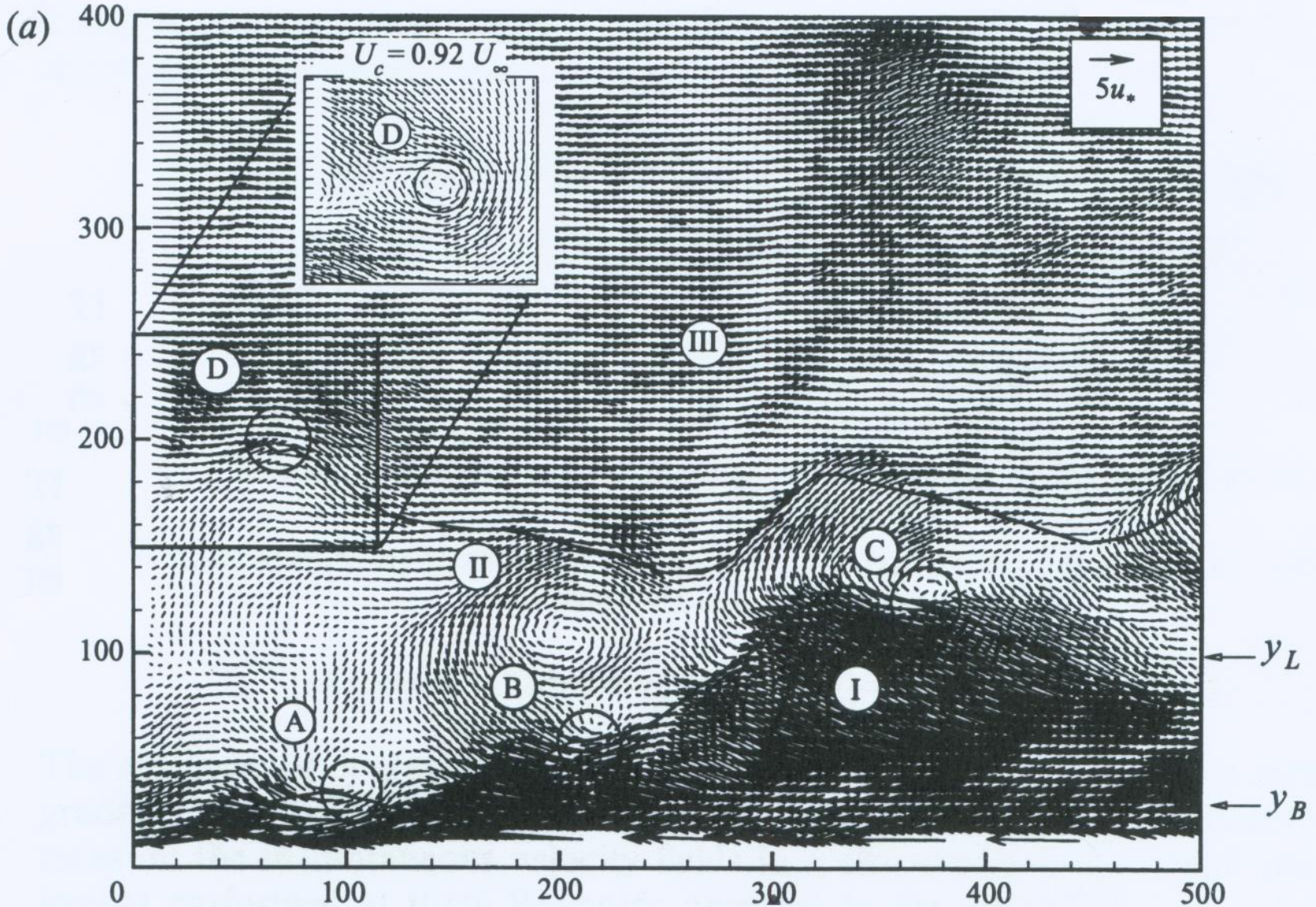
$- l_{K01}$

$l / \sqrt{R_\lambda}$



Adrian Eisma –DNS –shows interfacial shear

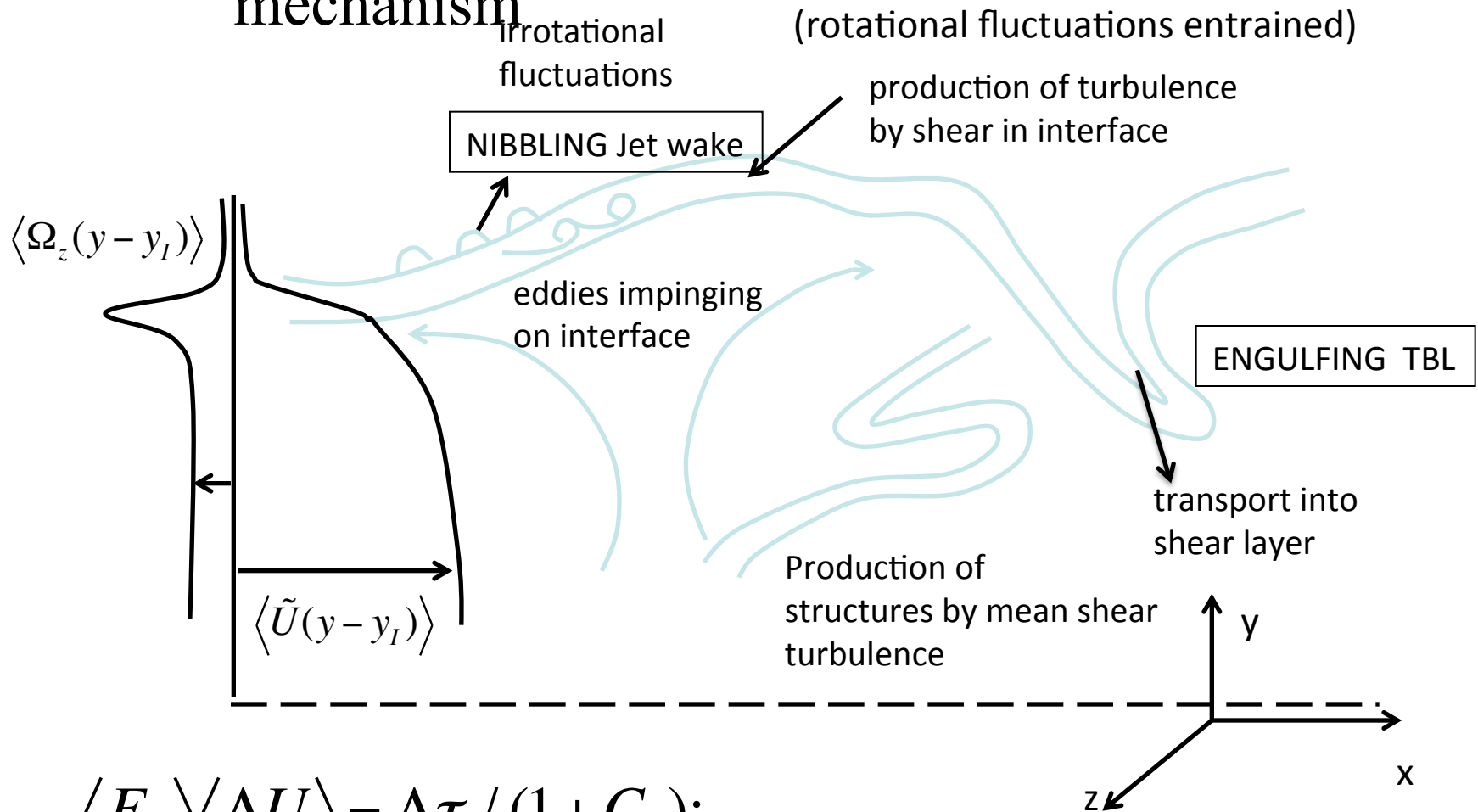
layers within turb flows *Turbulent organization in the turbulent boundary layer*



Sharp interface at top of neutral bl. (Expts- also numerical -Ishihar)



# External – Internal/ interfacial layer + local dynamics → ‘boundary entrainment mechanism’

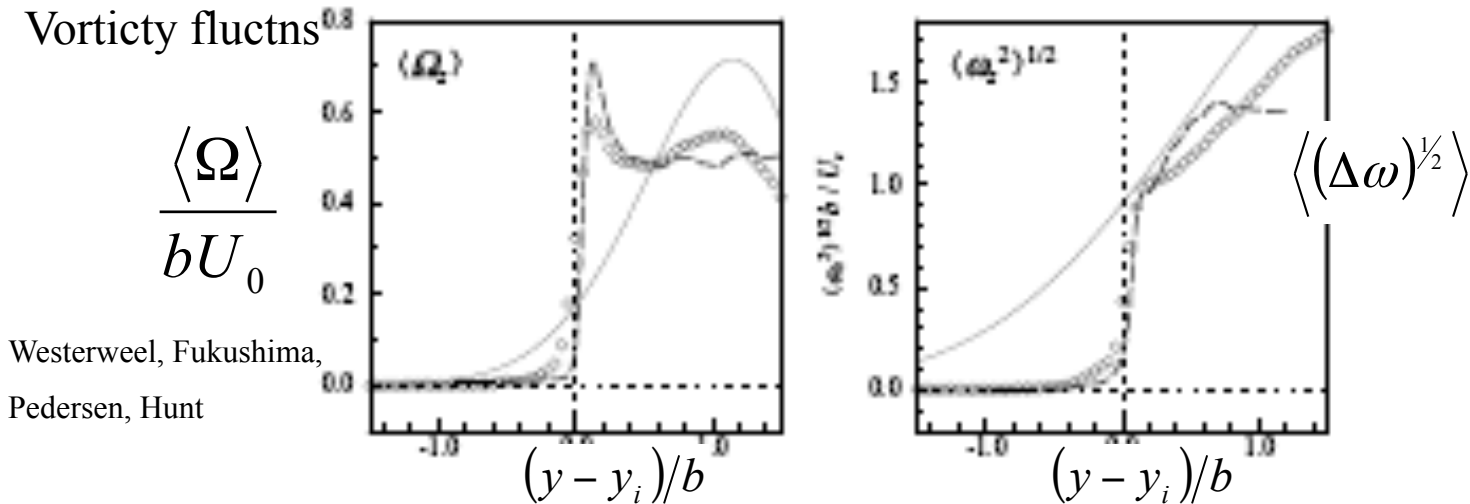
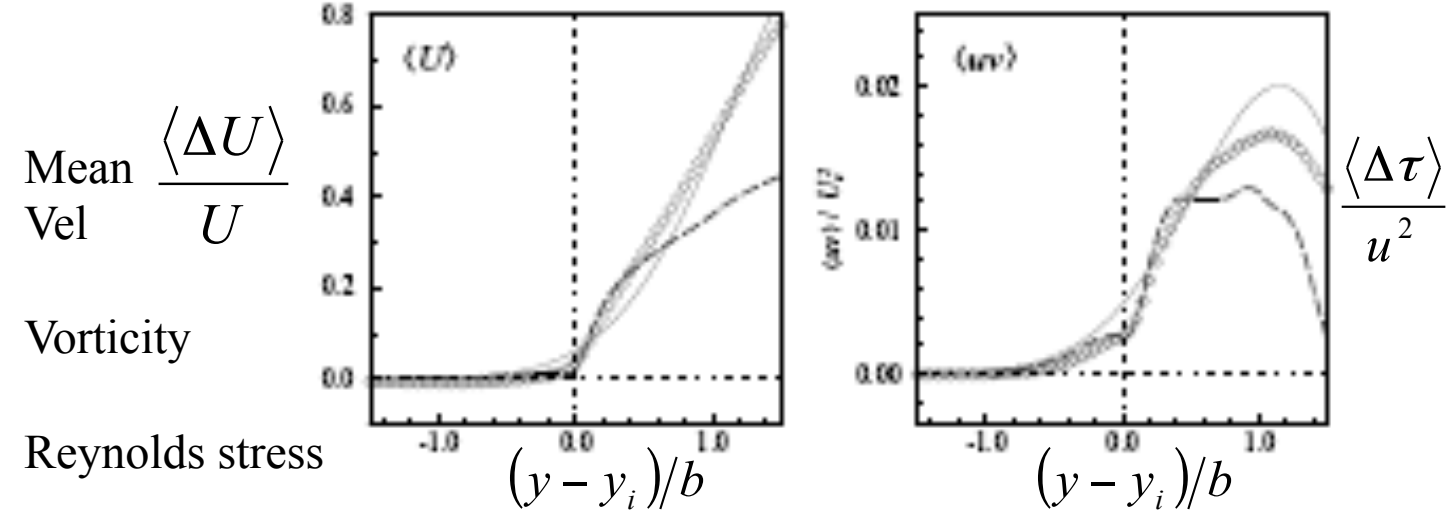


$$\langle E_b \rangle \langle \Delta U \rangle = \Delta \tau / (1 + C_e);$$

$$C_e = \langle E'_b \cdot \Delta U' \rangle / \langle E_b \rangle \langle \Delta U \rangle; \quad \text{Note } C_e < 1 \text{ in turb bl}$$

$$|C_e| \ll 1 \text{ nibbling M-B; W, } |C_e| \sim 1 \text{ engulfing; (TI)}$$

# Conditional Profiles Jet Interface



Shows Similar Cond Profiles For Jet (expt) Averaged Wake(sim)

Thickness of layer is Taylor microscale  $L / \sqrt{\text{Re}}$

but internal vortices thickness  $L / \text{Re}^{3/4} = \text{Kol microscale} - (\text{da silva DNS})$

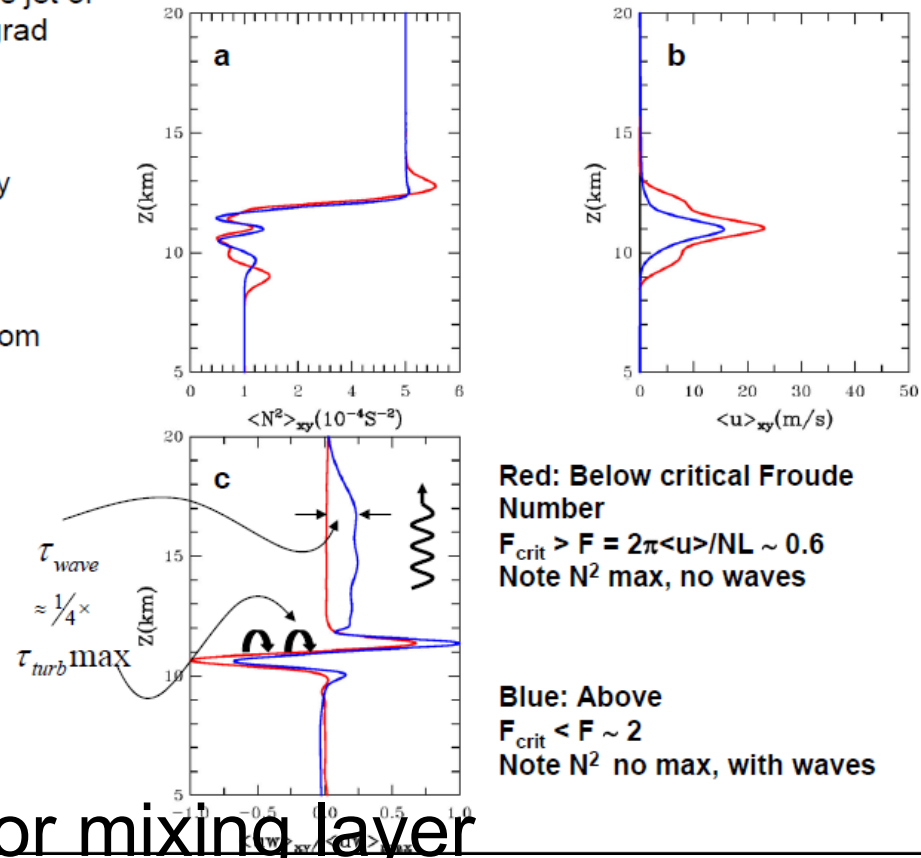
# Shear + turb. Interface below stratified layer -3D comput'n with interface approxn by M M

3-D numerical simulations: 256 and 512 procs,  $(512)^3$  and  $(2048)^2 \times 1024$ ,  $Re_T = 1000$

Profiles for atmos jet of  
(a) mean temp grad  
( $N^2$ ),

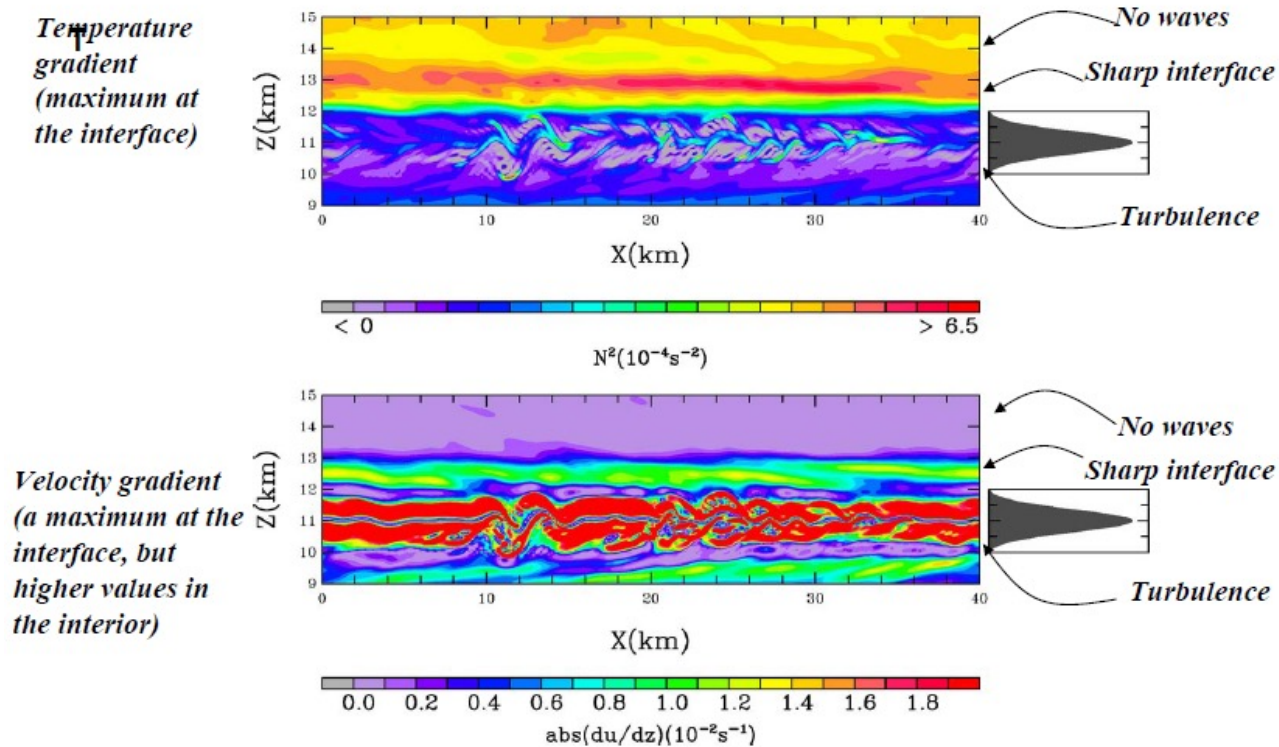
(b) mean velocity  
(decaying),

(c) turb /wave mom  
flux.



Similar results for mixing layer  
 $U(z) \sim U_0 H(z)$

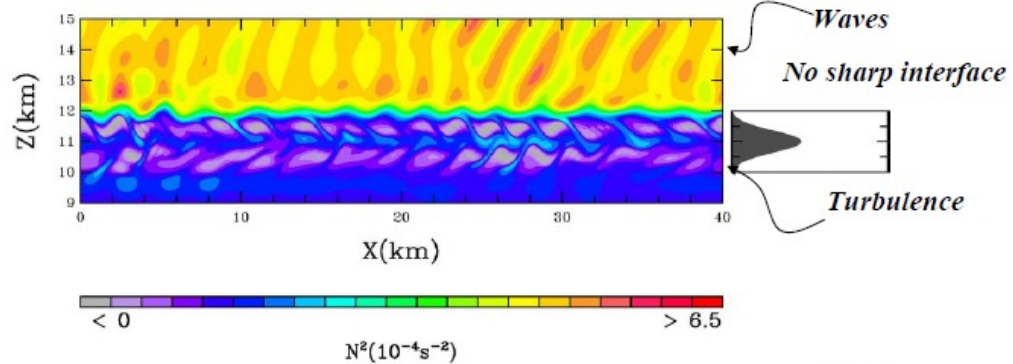
# Instantaneous fields and gradients for moderate Ri and no significant waves



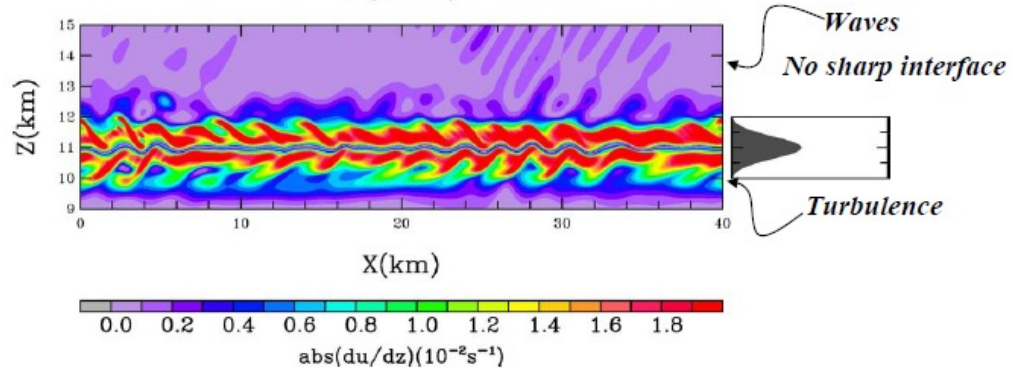
Double Inversion layer-like stratus/tropopause?

# Fields and gradients with higher Ri with significant wave motion.

*Temperature gradient  
(No sharp interface  
i.e. monotonic  
increase of stability)*



*Velocity gradient  
(No sharp interface  
i.e. monotonic  
decrease)*



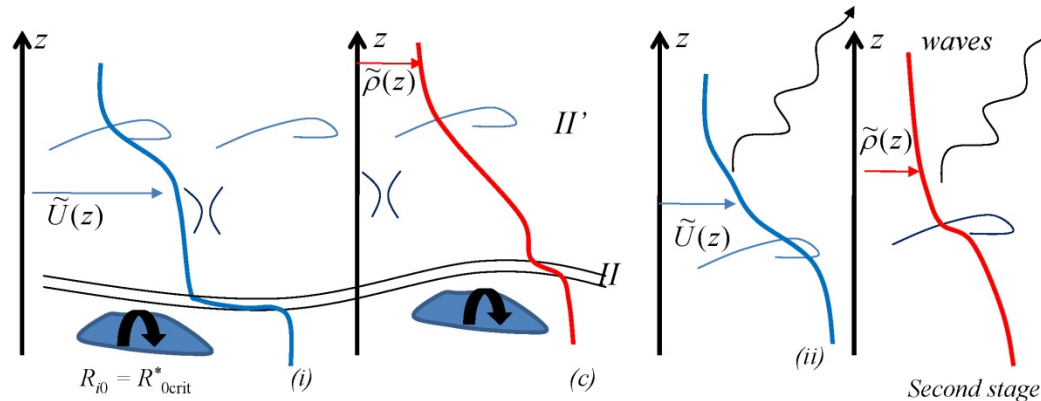
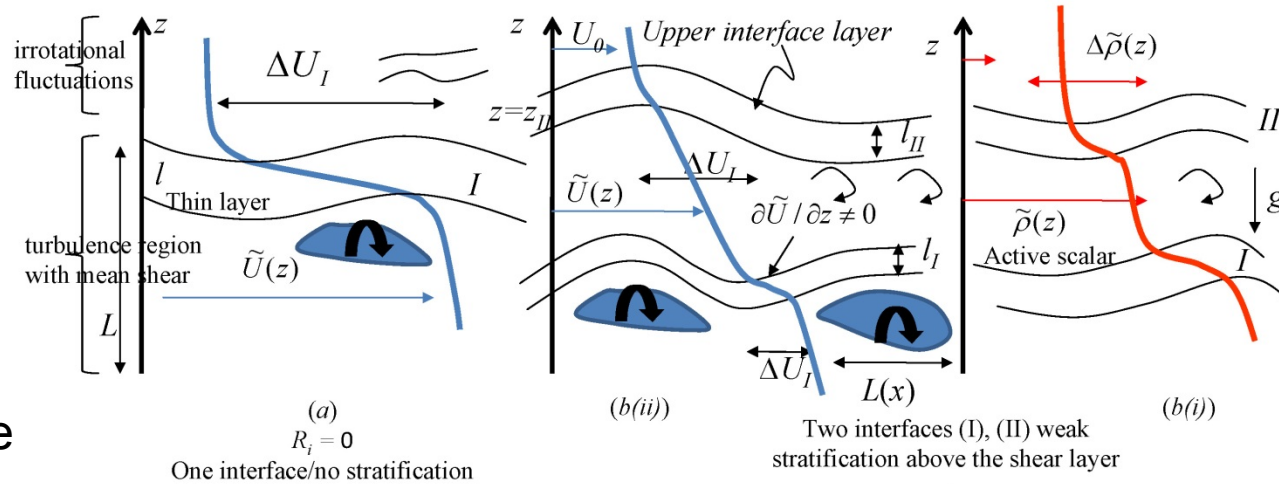
Note significant



# Weak stratification ( $Ri < Ri' = 0$ ), moderate ( $Ri' < Ri < Ri^*$ ); transition ( $Ri \sim Ri^*$ )

Randell  
Et al 2007  
Double  
Tropopause  
Trapped  
pollution

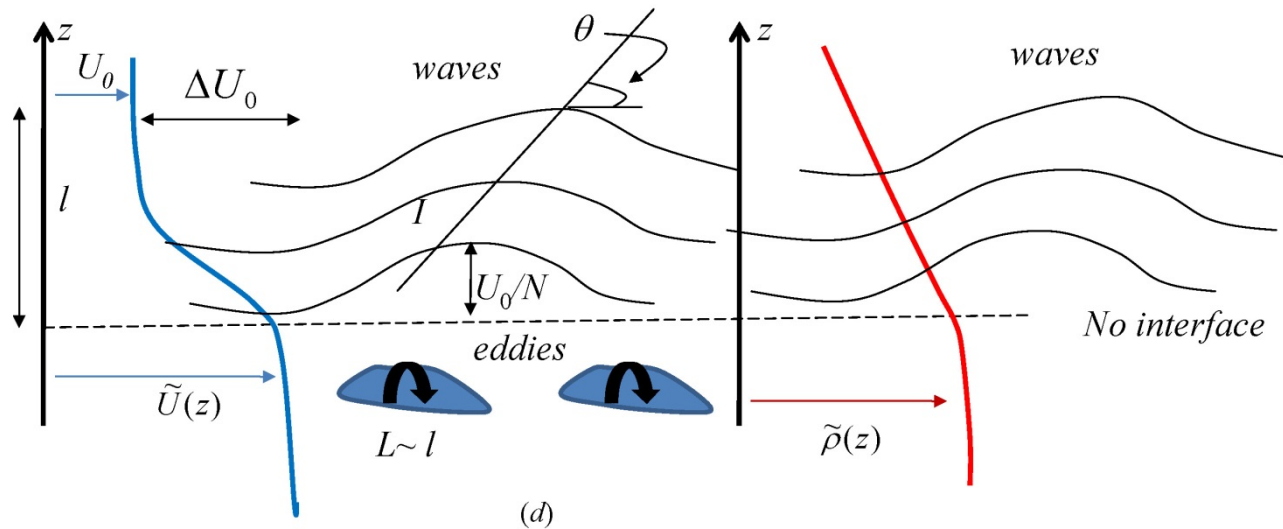
Stratus  
Layer  
Dynamics  
(add  
to thermo  
Dyn)



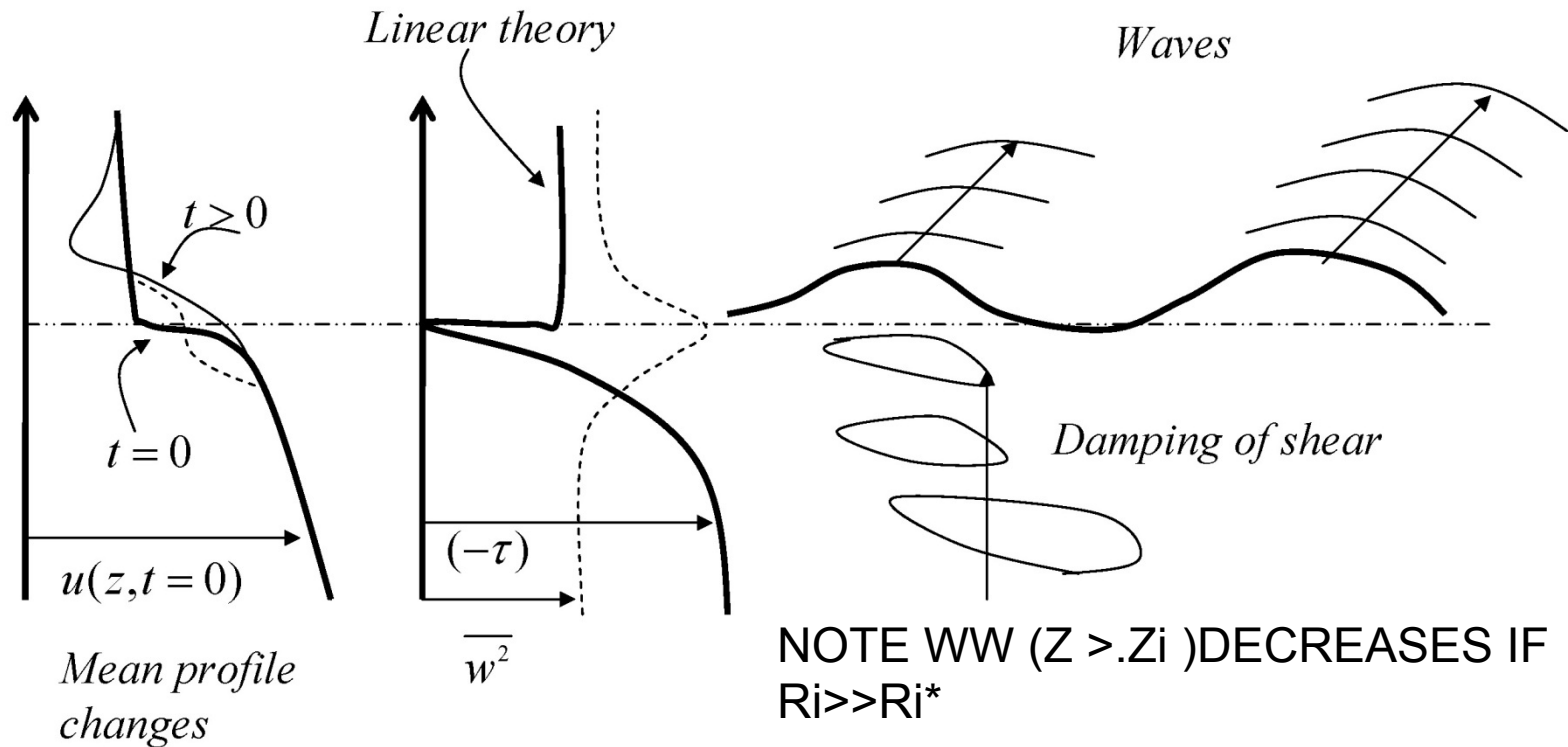
(c) Transition from strong interface to waves – stage (i) upper interface (II) breaks up  
- stage (ii) waves form above I and I thickens.

# Eddies near shear interface

$Ri > Ri^*$  - smooth turb-wave transition



# Profiles of vertical turbulence and shear stress when waves are generated in the upper region

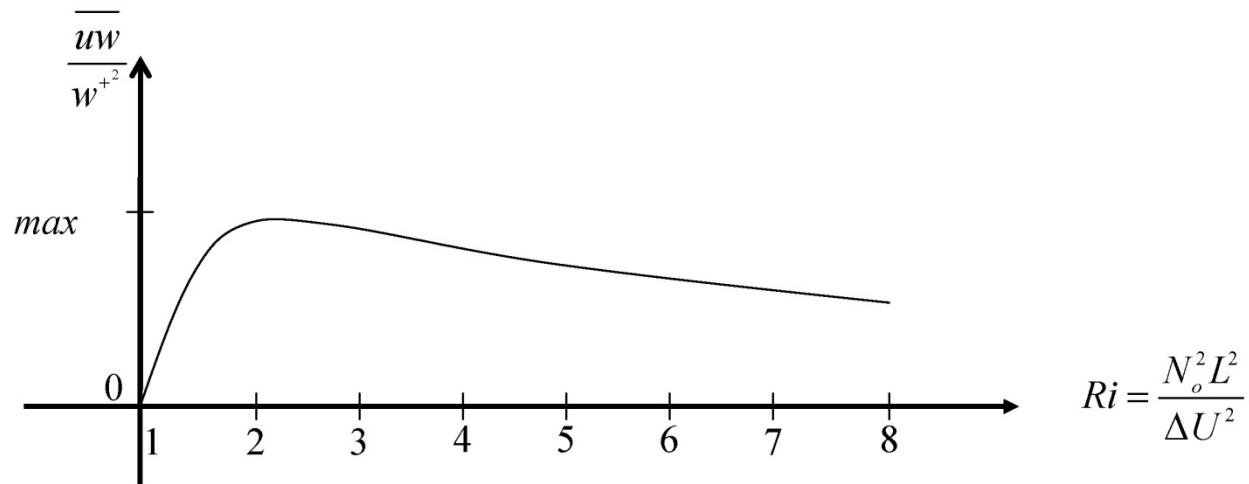


Showing the profiles of vertical turbulence and shear stress when waves are generated in the upper regions i.e.  $Ri = N_o L / \Delta U$

NOTE  $Ri > Ri^*$  ; profiles change with non-linear effects –see DNS results

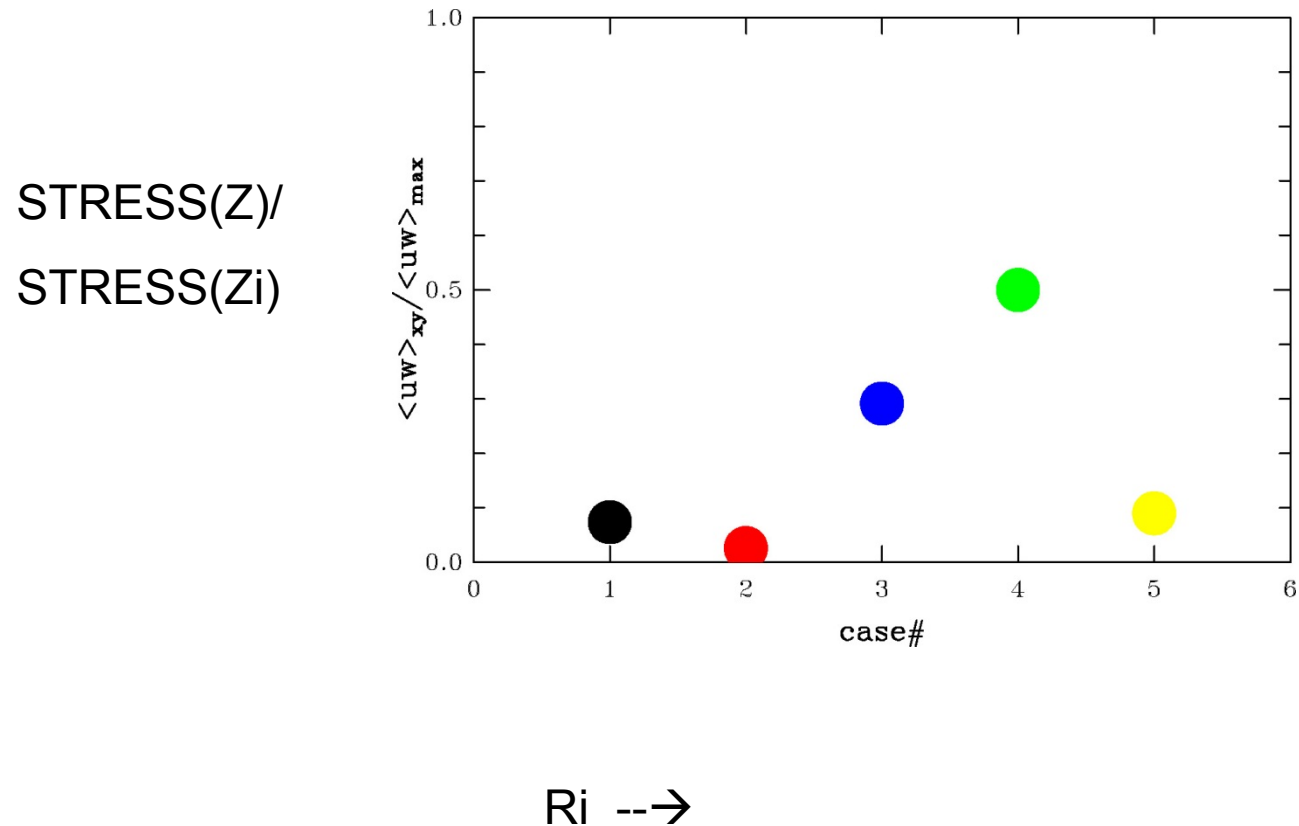
# Wave shear stress-normalised on turb in shear layer-RDT model

$\sim \mu / (1 + \mu^2) ; \mu = \text{sqrt}(Ri/Ri^* - 1)$



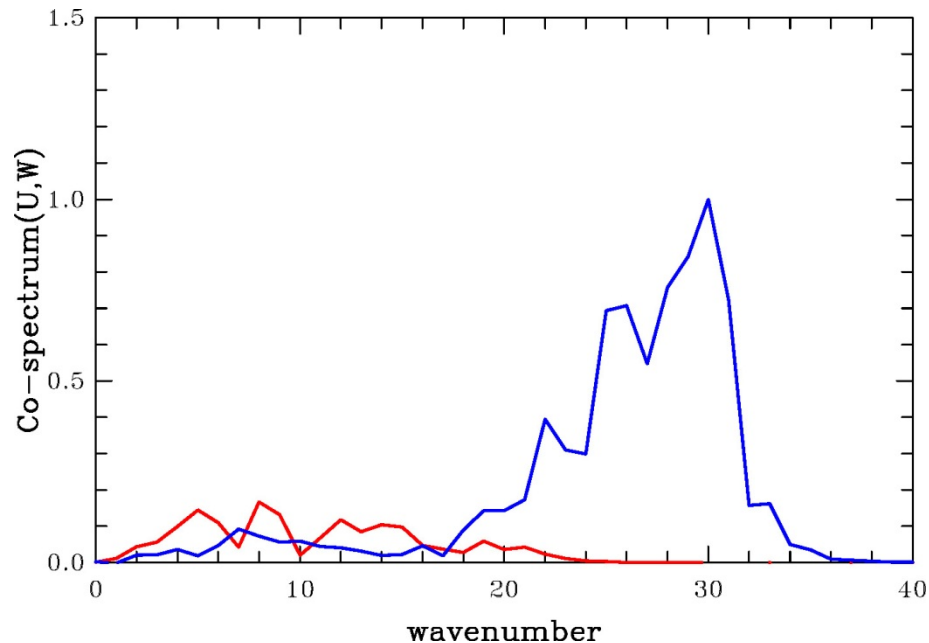
*Variation of the normalized wave Reynolds stress with  $Ri$  for  $Ri > Ri^* = 1$*

Shear stress in wave region above shear layer as  $Ri$  ( $> Ri^*$ ) increases.  
Note peak value at certain  $Ri$ .



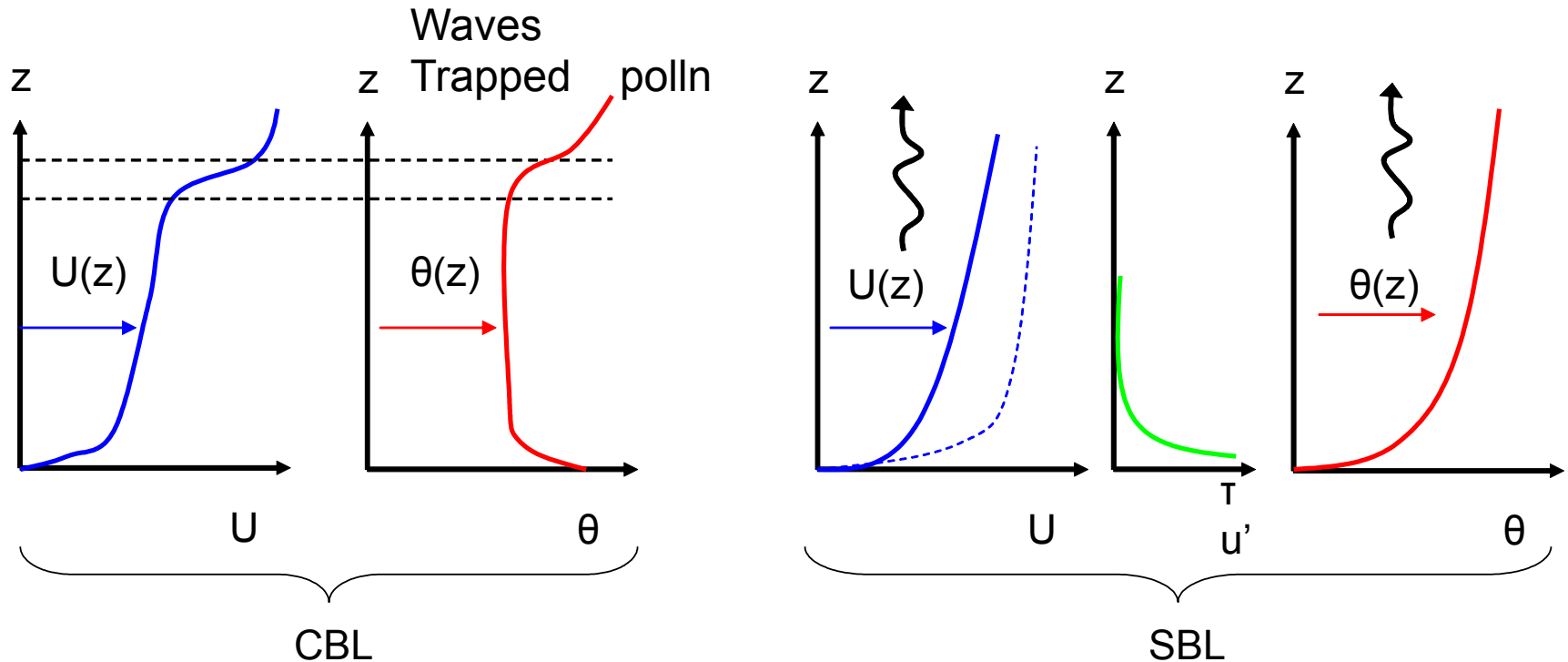


# Cospectrum of shear-stress waves for moderate and strong stratification ( $Z > Z_i$ ) as $Ri$ changes



$Ri < Ri^*$  -red –no significant waves;  $Ri > Ri^*$  ( $\times 4$ ) waves on scale of shear layer

# Boundary layers with stably stratified inversion layers

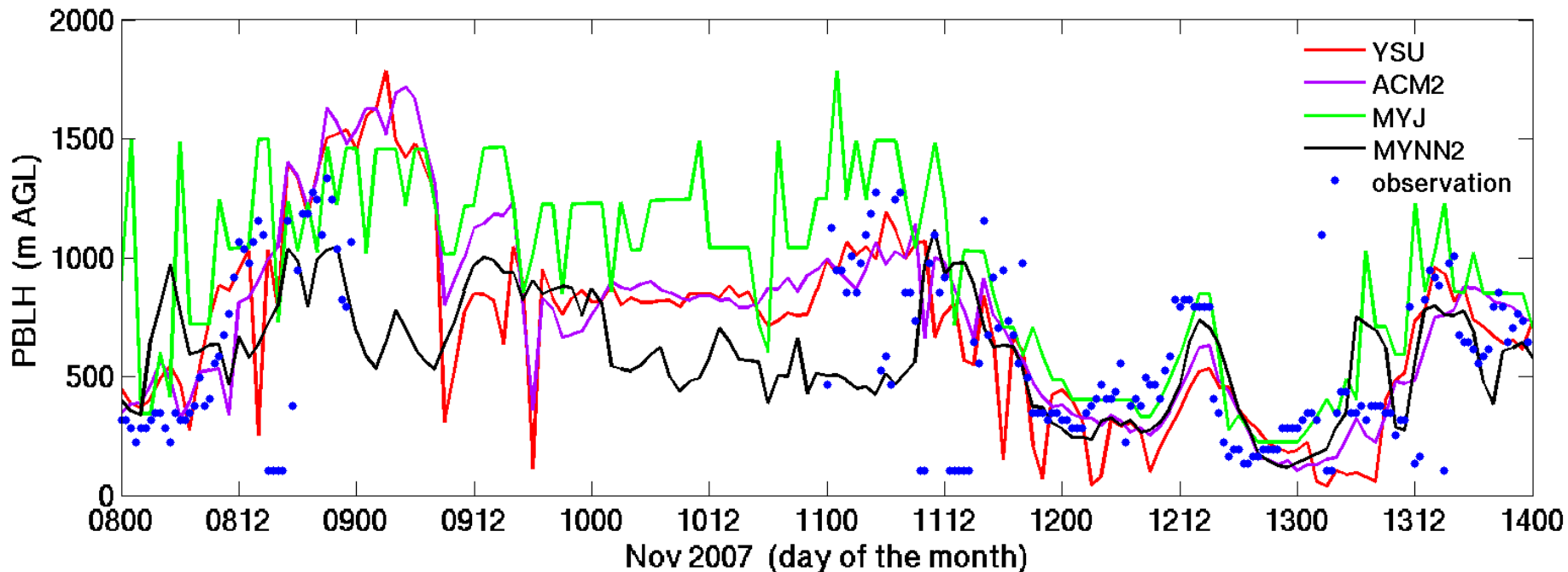


ATM BL –TURB SHEAR LAYER BELOW  $z_i$  ; STABLE REGION ABOVE  $z_i$ -  
 DRIVEN BY PRESSURE FIELD –BUT AFFECTED BY WAVES-IN  
 STRATOSPHERE.---ALSO AVALANCHES

OCEAN ML-TURB SHEAR LAYER ABOVE  $z_i$ ; STABLE REGION BELOW  
 $z_i$ ;DRIVEN BY INTERNAL WAVES FROM SHEAR LAYER( NOT IN GCM ?!)

- Interfacial layer - Mixing height  $h$  for Atm BL large changes in diurnal structure ; critical for dispersion and concentration. ( numerical modelling; BT Tower obs )

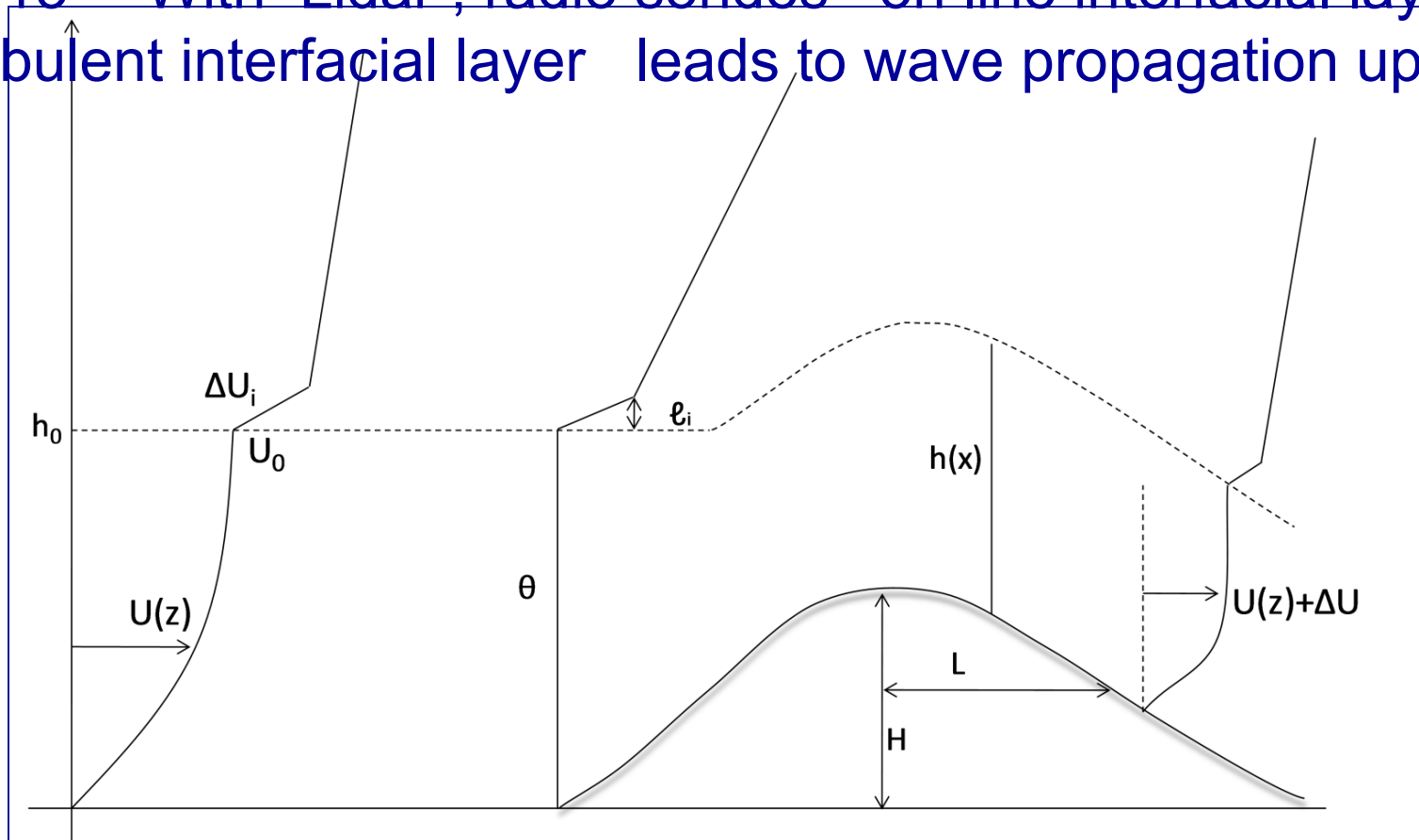
Time series of PBLH in central London



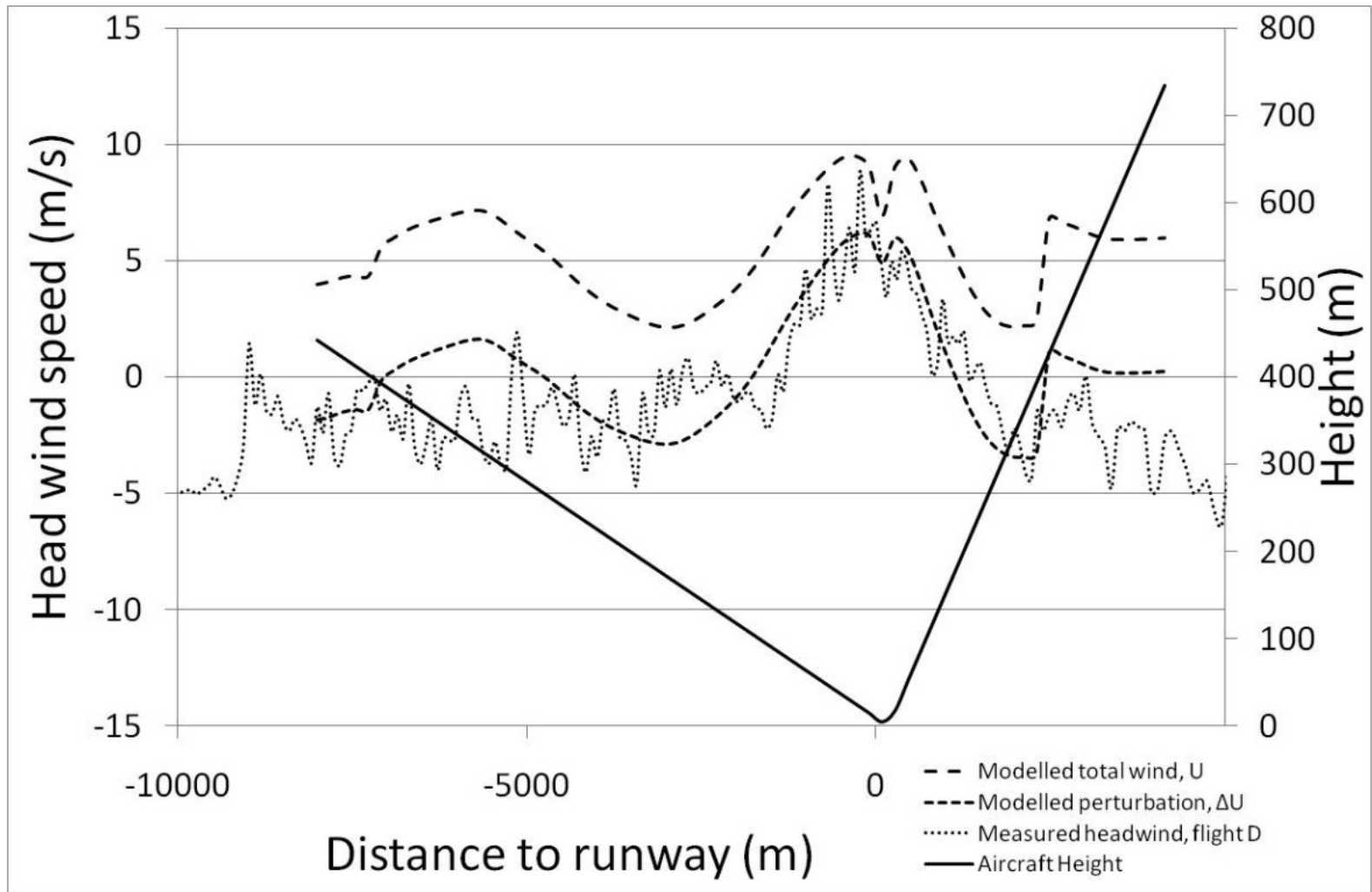
Essential concept of adms, aermol is to represent  
 abl parameters as functions of  $z/h$  and  $h/L_{MO}$  ; Xie  
 bo et al 2013 (cerc, hk, reading) J Geo Res (atm) 118

Schematic of Inversion /shear layer flow over mountains:  
 application of idealised (thin layer) perturbation modelling for  
 800 m terrain near Hong Kong International airport Carruthers et  
 al 2013 -\*With Lidar , radio sondes –on line interfacial layer

\*Turbulent interfacial layer leads to wave propagation upwards



Perturbation to head wind speed and total head wind compared to Aircraft Measurement  $\phi = 140^\circ$ ,  $h_0=400\text{m}$ ,  $\Delta T=7.19^\circ\text{C}$ - on line application



Modelling and computation of flow within  
and near interfaces