## Laboratory observations of inertia-gravity waves

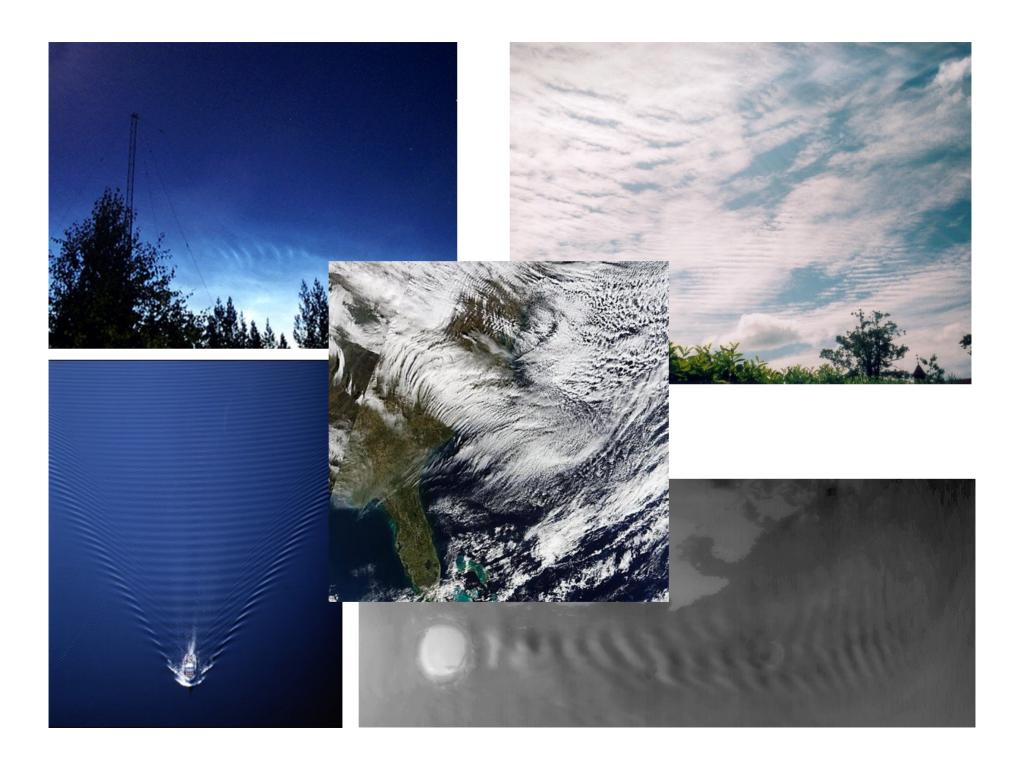
#### Paul Williams\*, Peter Read & Tom Haine

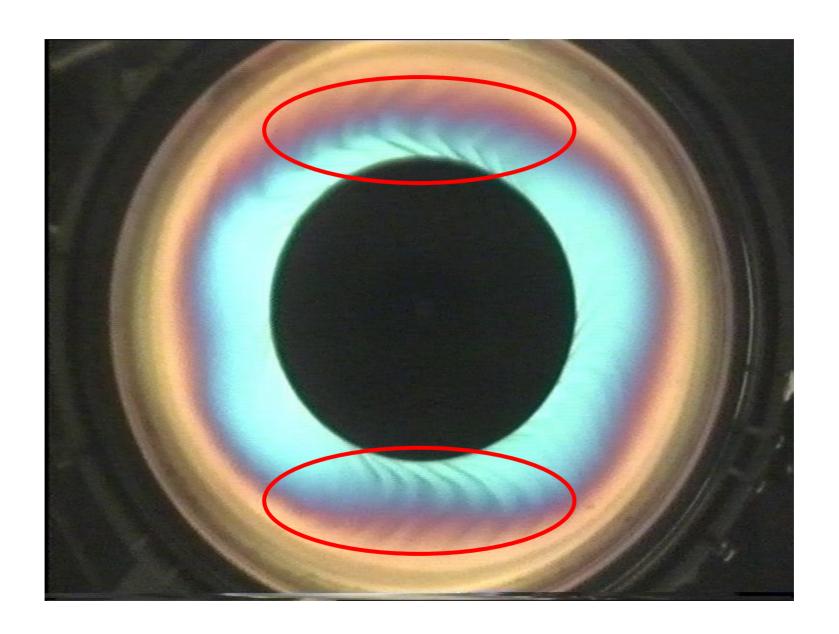
\*Walker Institute for Climate System Research, Reading University, UK



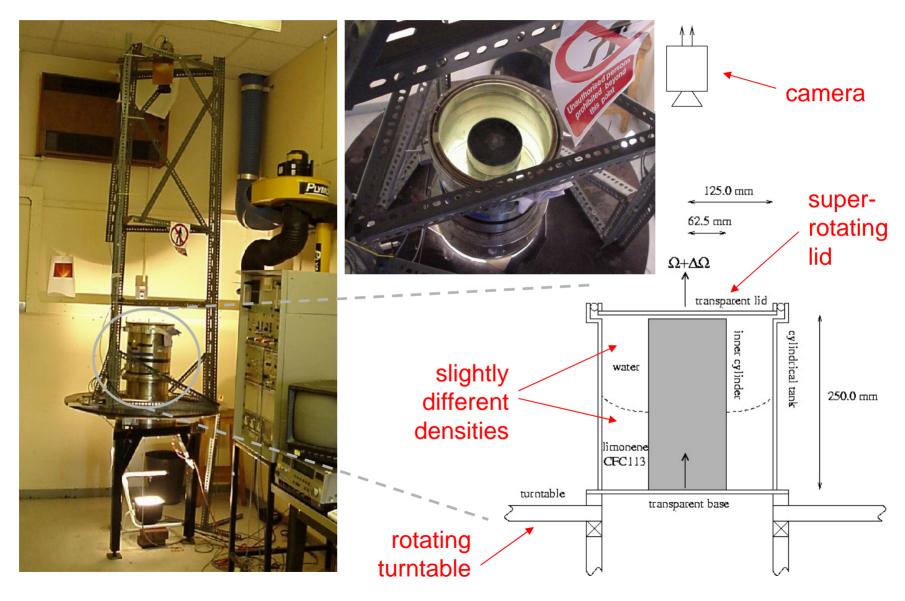


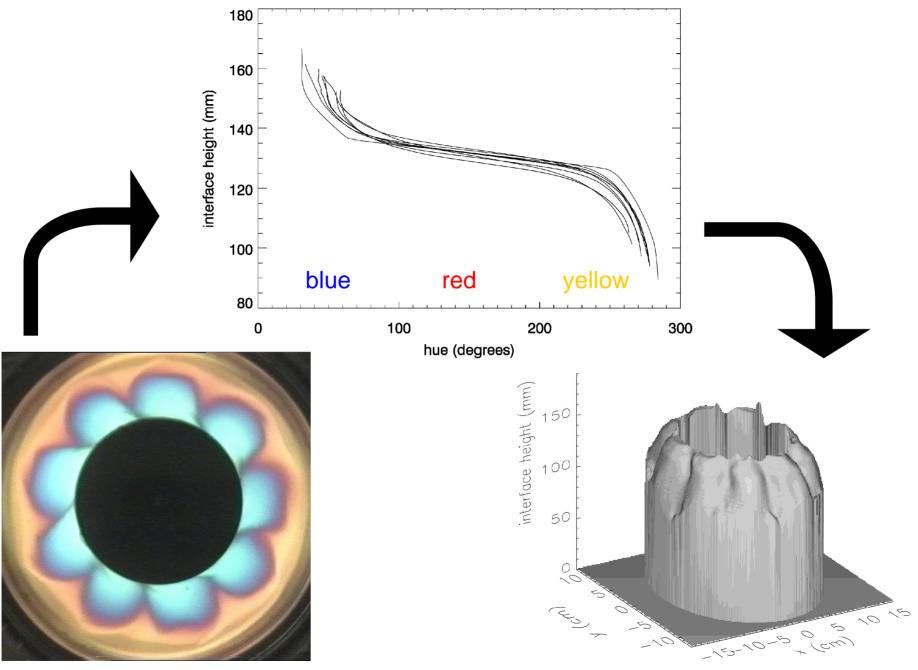






#### Rotating two-layer annulus experiment





Williams, Read & Haine (GAFD; 2004)

### A word of warning...!

 "d-limonene ... can be harmful when vaporized and breathed."

**US Environmental Protection Agency** 

 "... the primary ingredient of Citrus Burst<sup>®</sup>, d-limonene, is plant derived. It is extremely safe...

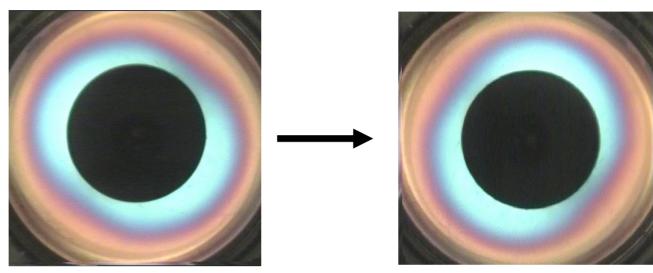
Florida Chemical Company, Inc.

# Application #1: polar vortex splits

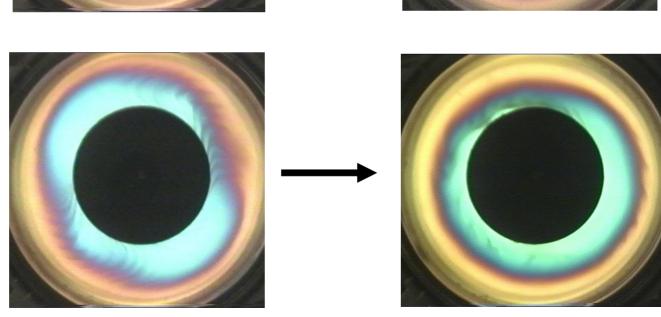
Acknowledgements: Thomas Birner

#### 'Noise'-induced transitions in the lab?

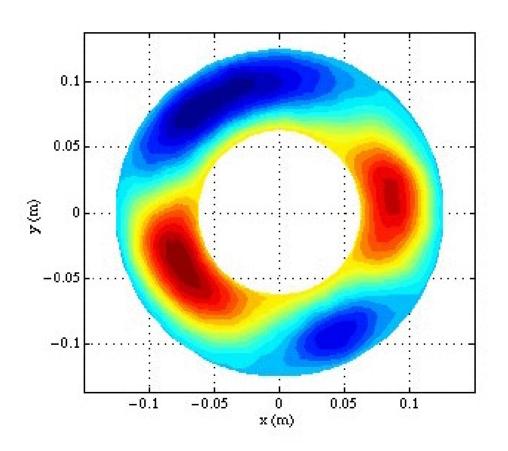
without gravity waves:



with gravity waves:

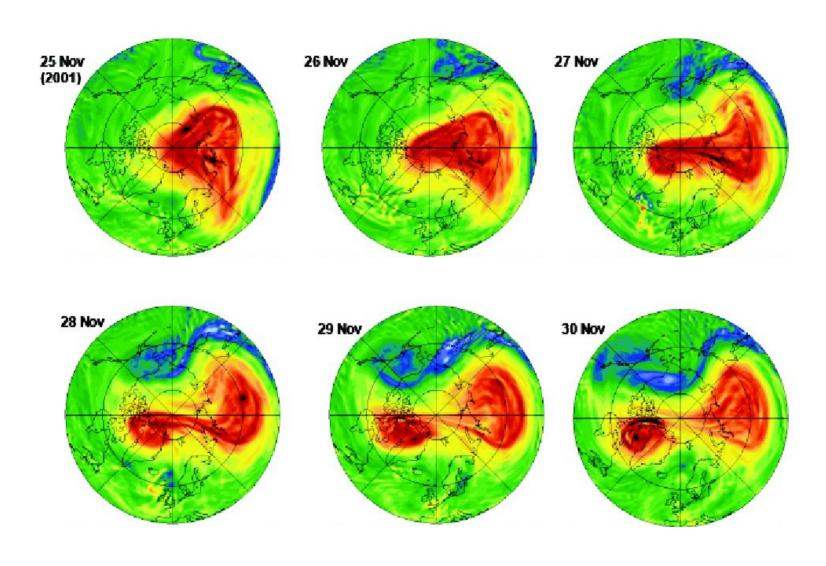


## Noise-induced transition in QUAGMIRE quasi-geostrophic model

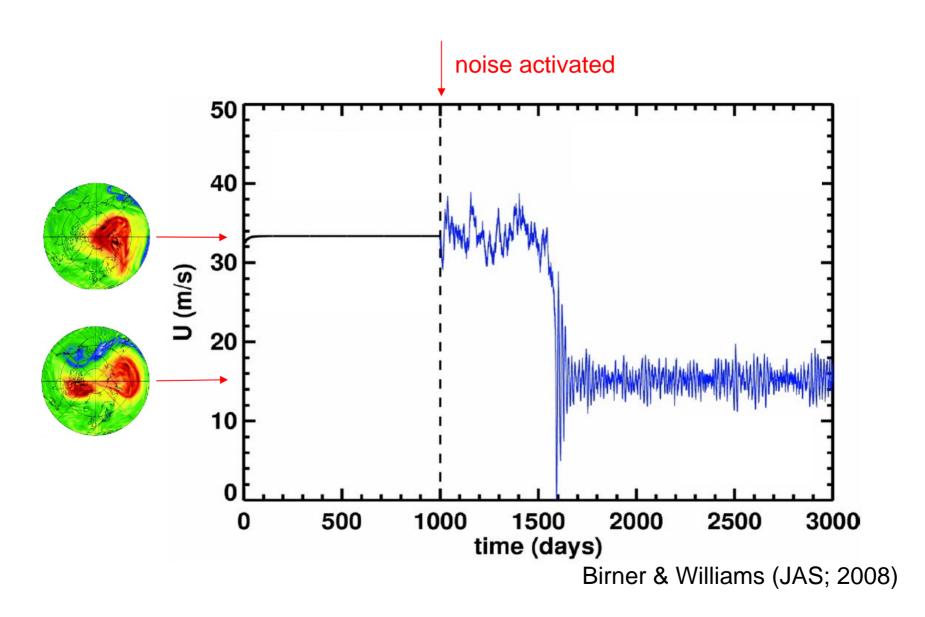


Williams, Read & Haine (GRL; 2003)

### Arctic polar vortex split



### Ruzmaikin et al. (2003) model + noise



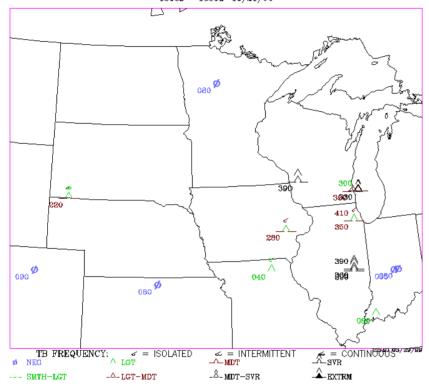
## Application #2: clear-air turbulence

Acknowledgements: John Knox & Don McCann

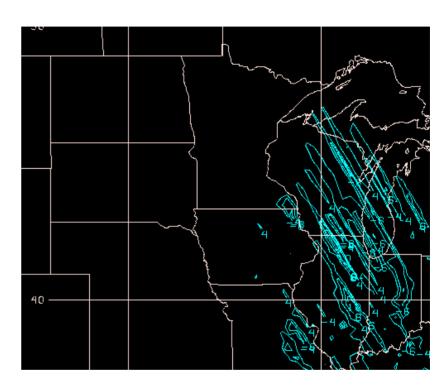
## **QUAGMIRE MODEL:** LAB: Ford (1994) interface height interface height IGW source term

Williams, Haine & Read (JFM; 2005)

Pilot Reports (PIREPs) of Turbulence 1303z - 1359z 10/21/96



pilot reports of CAT

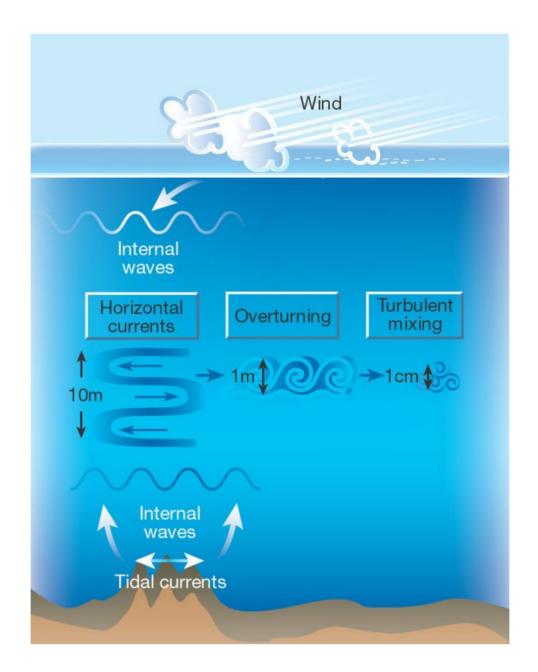


Ford source term calculated using the North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR)

Knox, McCann & Williams (JAS; 2008)

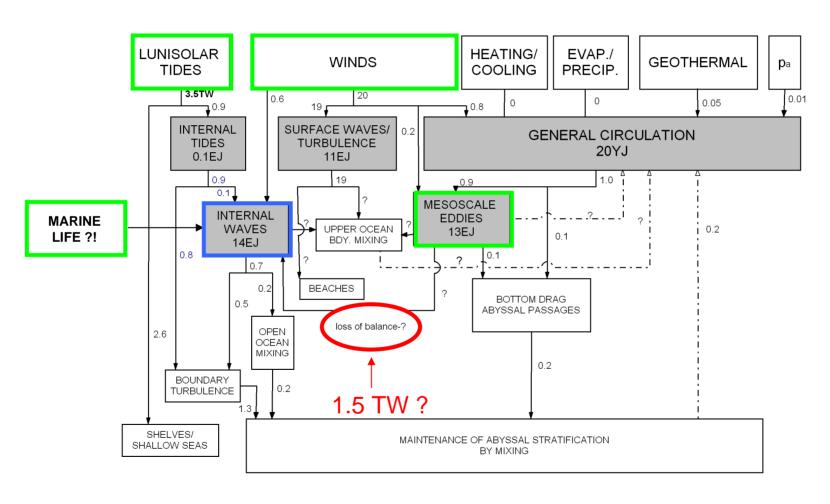
# Application #3: deep ocean mixing

Acknowledgements: Tom Haine & Peter Read



Garrett (Nature; 2003)

#### Energy budget for global ocean circulation



Wunsch & Ferrari (2004) Williams, Haine & Read (JAS; 2008)

### Conclusions

- Laboratory observations of IGWs have inspired new insights into:
  - the dynamics of polar vortex splits
  - the prediction of clear-air turbulence
  - the energetics of deep ocean mixing
- ... and may have a useful role when explaining these phenomena in the classroom