

Essential Planetary Core Fluid Dynamics

CIDER Meeting, KITP 7/10/14

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IN POST:

- ✦ The movies shown at CIDER will be online later this summer at:
 - ✦ <https://www.youtube.com/user/spinlabucla>
- ✦ And downloadable from:
 - ✦ http://spinlab.ess.ucla.edu/?page_id=311

Talk Outline

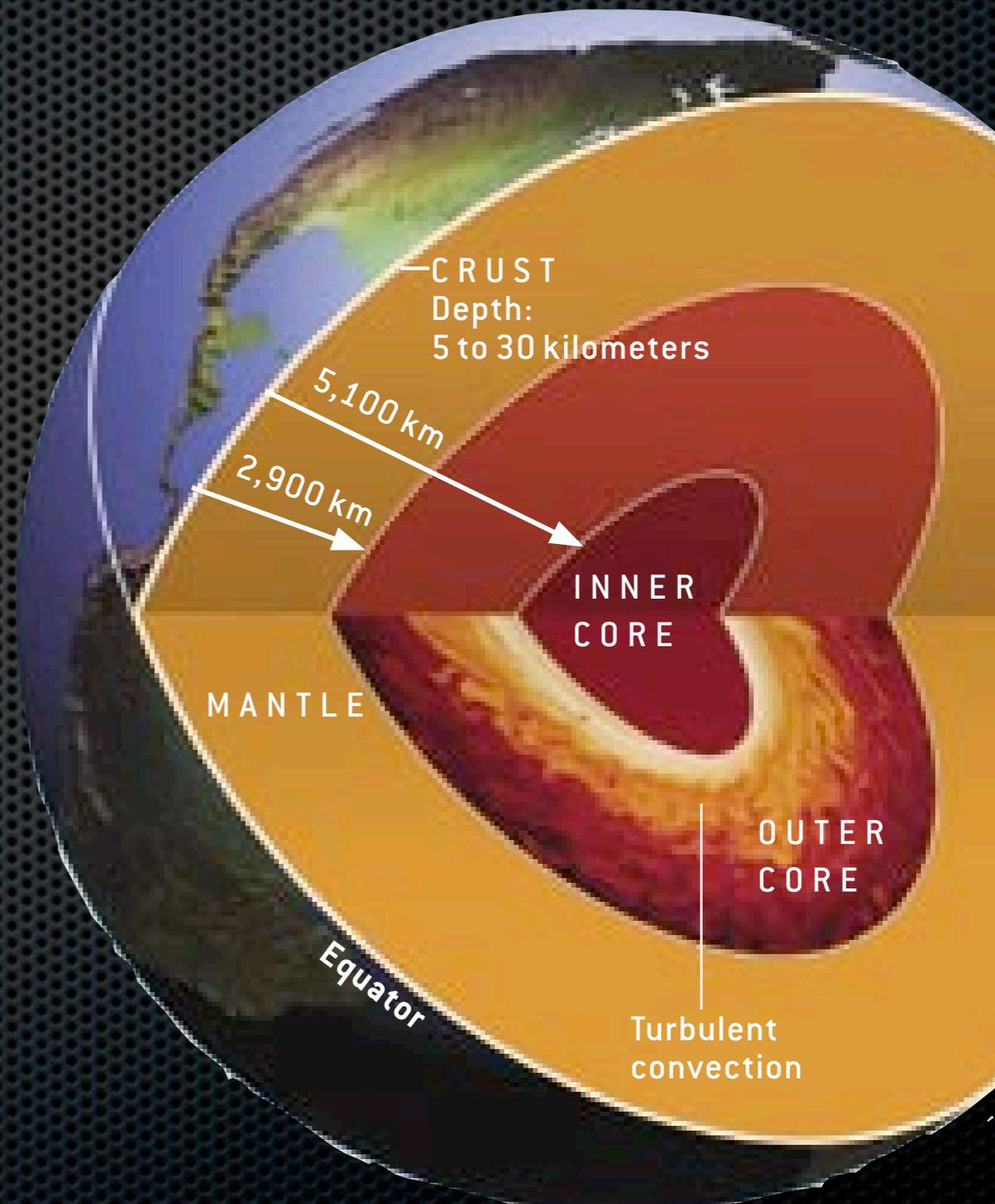
- ✦ Geodynamo Observations & Models
- ✦ Rotating Fluid Dynamics Primer
- ✦ Planetary Core-Style Flows
 - ✦ And Beyond

Talk Outline

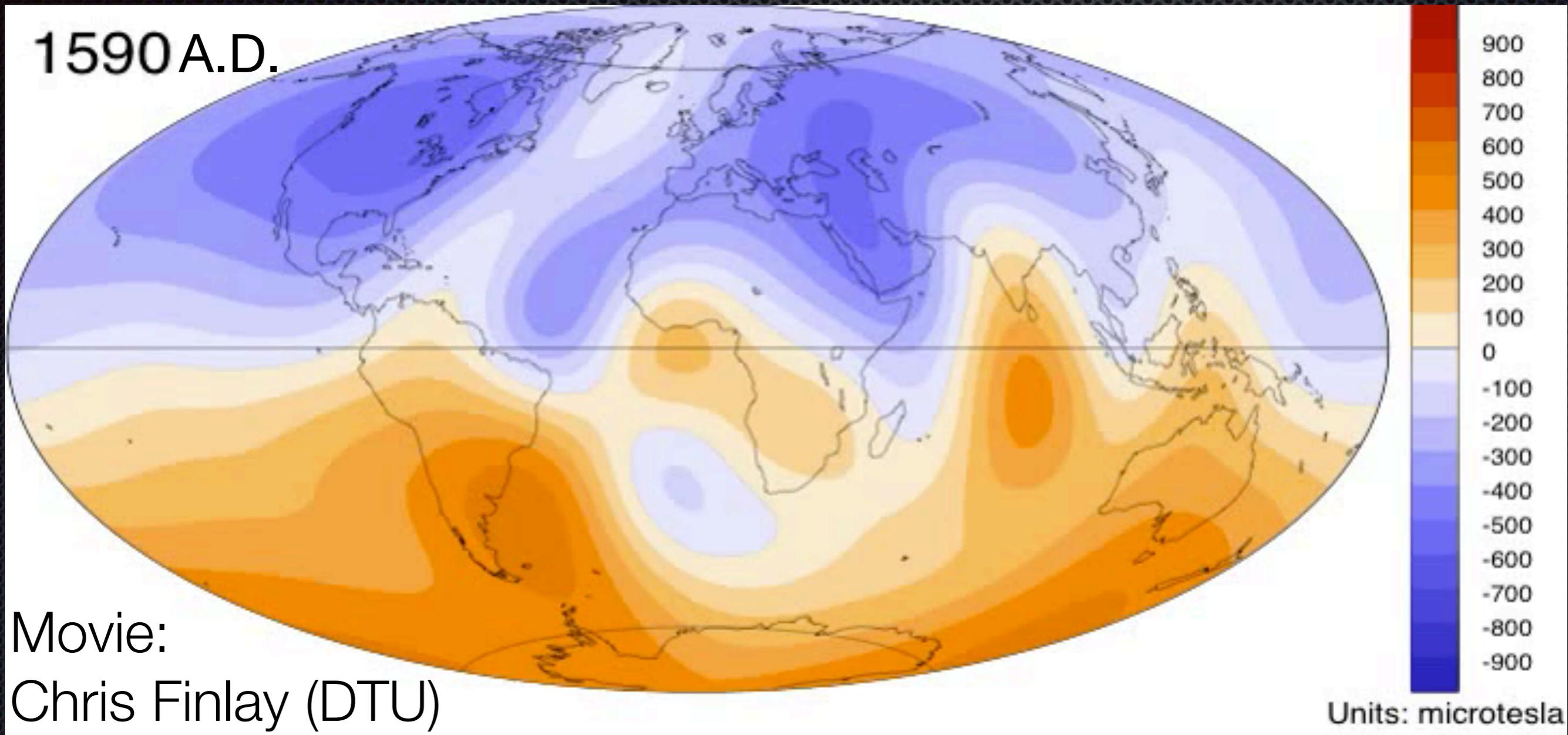
- ✦ Geodynamo Observations & Models
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- ✦ Planetary Core Columns
 - ✦ And Beyond

Dynamos

- ✦ Generates a magnetic fields and then continually regenerate that field
- ✦ Natural dynamos: galactic, stellar, planetary, asteroidal
 - ✦ Magneto-hydrodynamic processes:
 - ✦ Convert kinetic energy of flowing metals/plasmas into magnetic energy



Core-Mantle Boundary B_r



- ✦ Field changes over relatively short times
 - ✦ Only present explanation: field tied to core fluid motions

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Successful Modeling

- Navier-Stokes Equation

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla p + \alpha T \mathbf{g} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \frac{1}{\rho_0} \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$$

- Induction Equation

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}$$

- Energy Equation

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla T = \kappa \nabla^2 T + S$$

- Current Density

Ampere's Law: $\mathbf{J} = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \mathbf{B}$

- Continuity

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

Successful Modeling

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$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \nabla p + \alpha T \mathbf{g} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \frac{1}{\rho_0} \mathbf{J} \times \mathbf{B}$$

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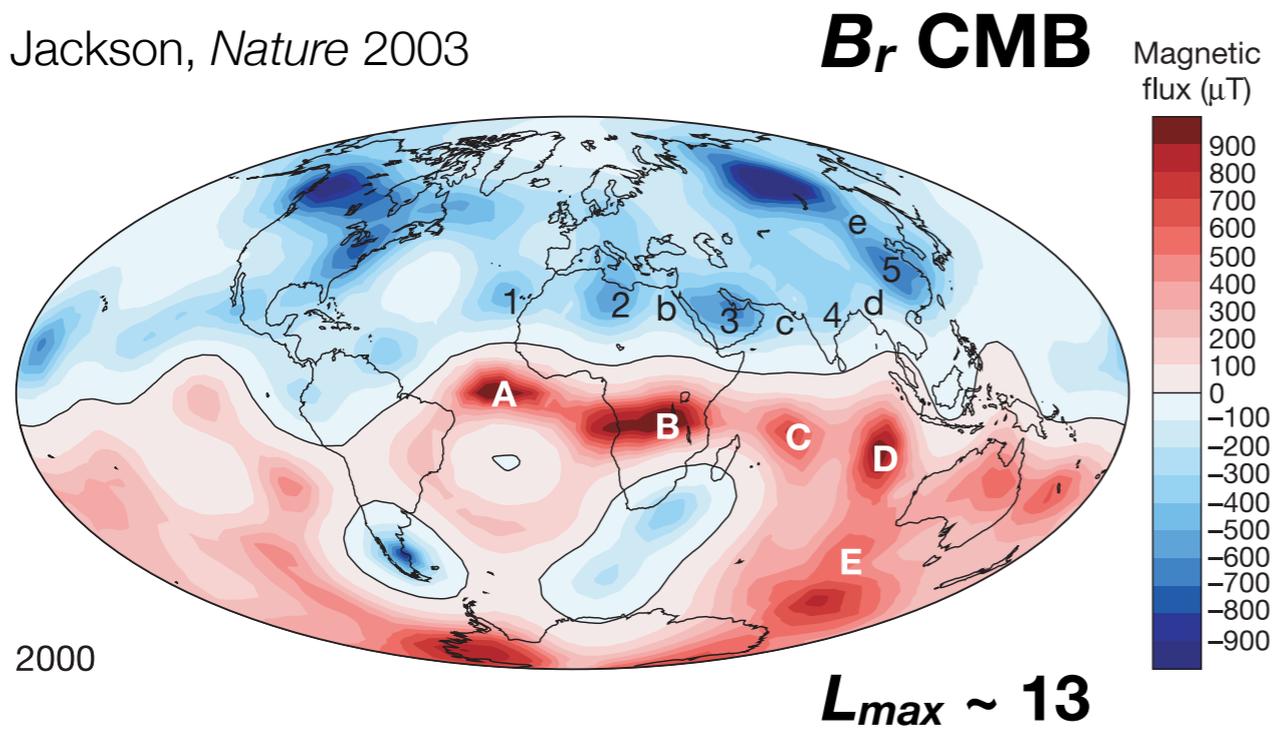
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Observations

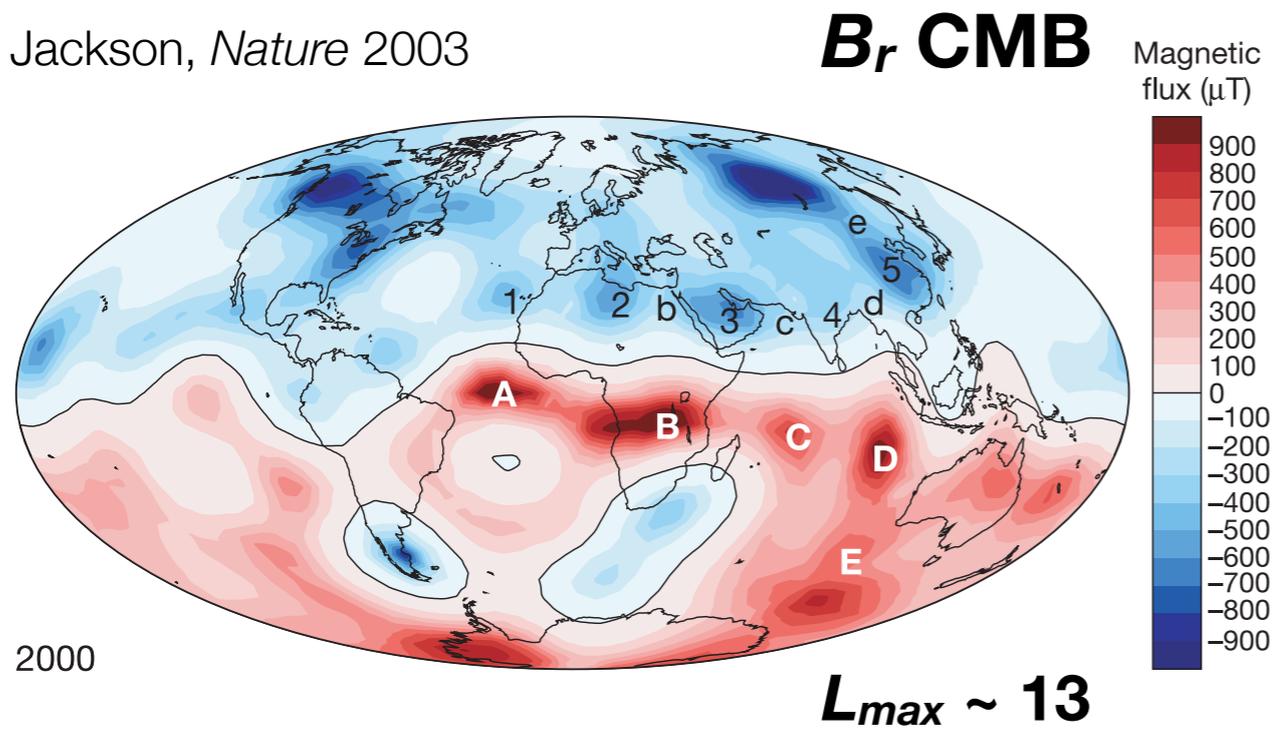
Jackson, *Nature* 2003



- ✦ Axial dipolar field
- ✦ High and low latitude large-scale flux patches

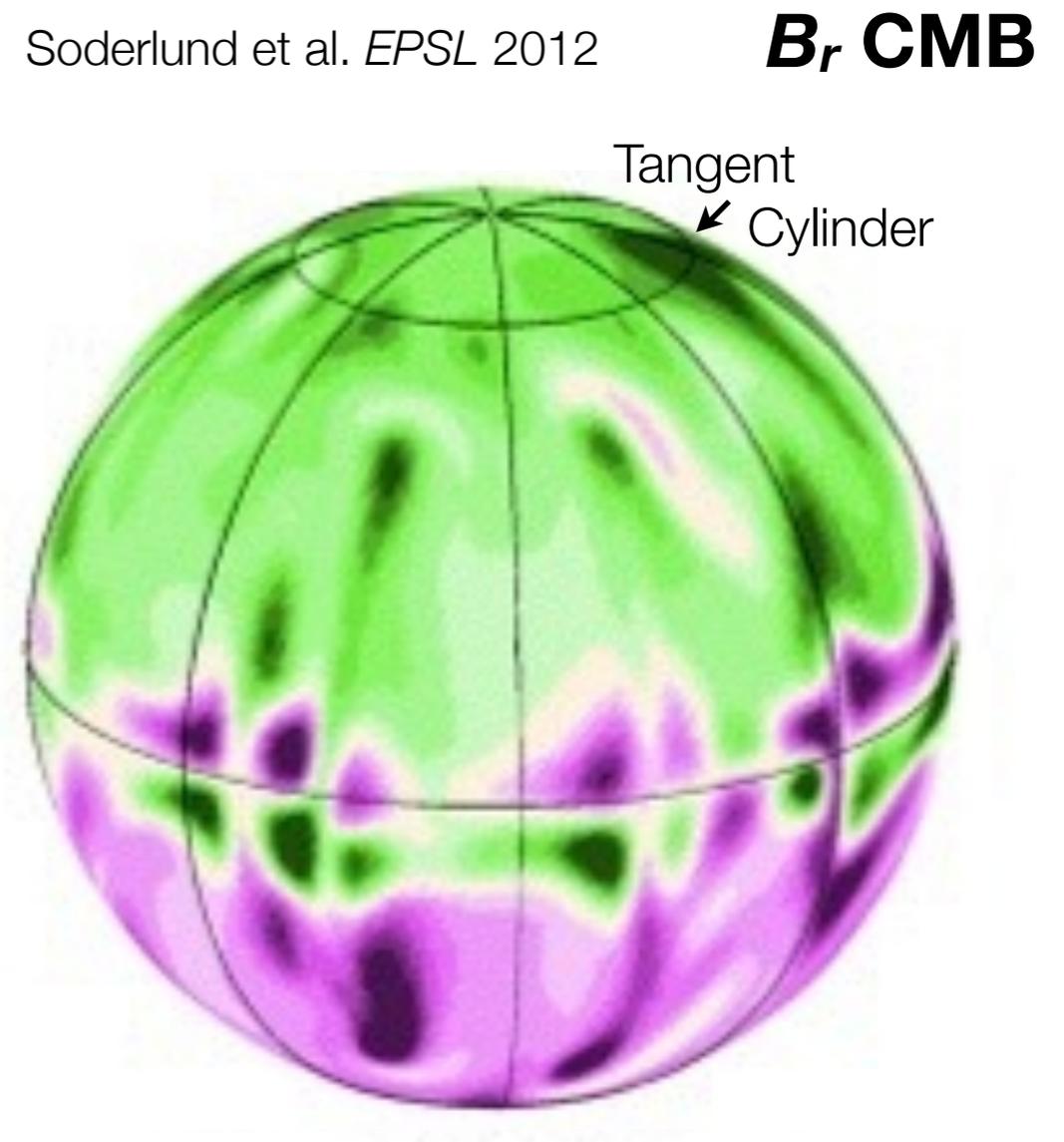
Observations

Jackson, *Nature* 2003



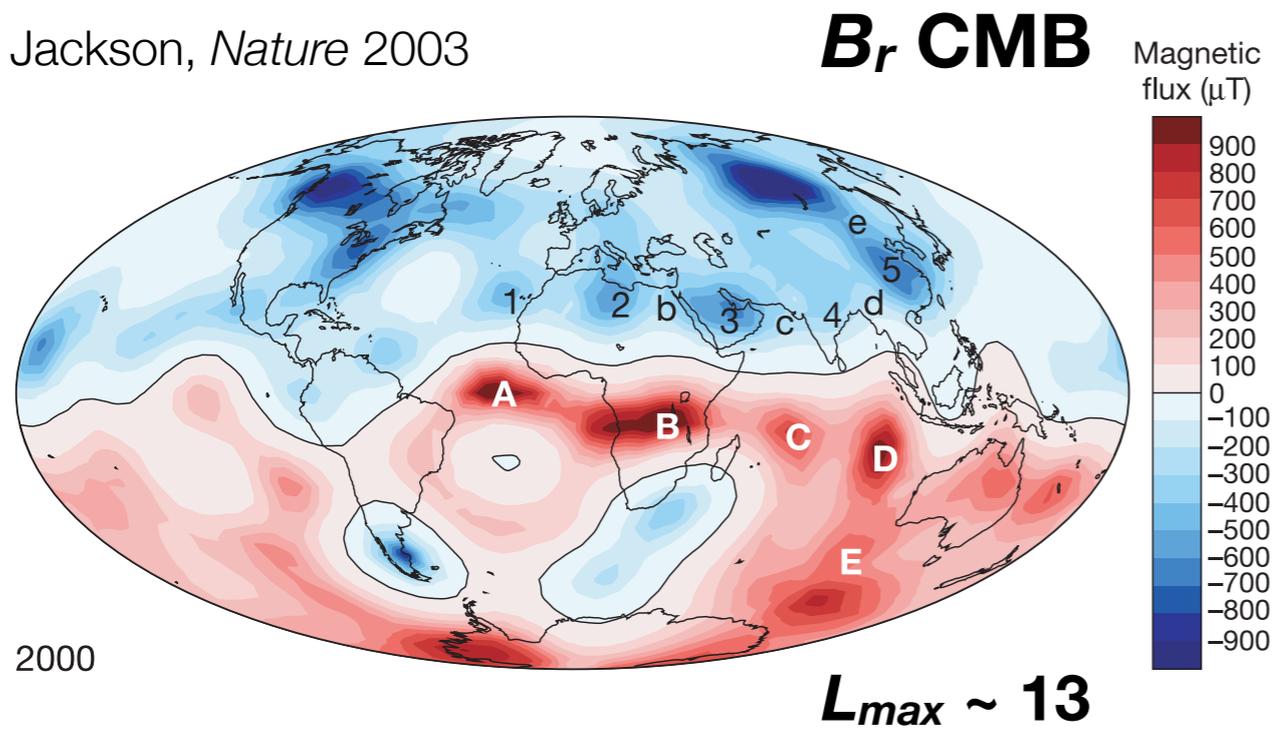
Models

Soderlund et al. *EPSL* 2012



Observations

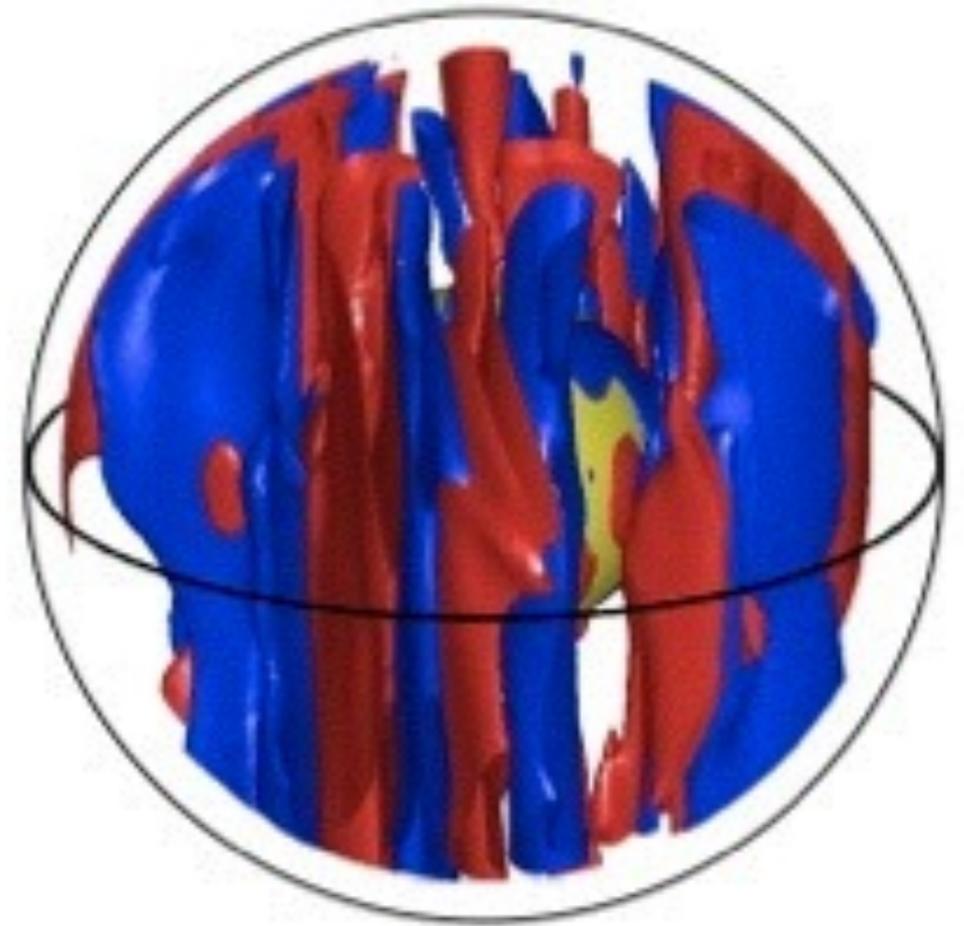
Jackson, *Nature* 2003



Models

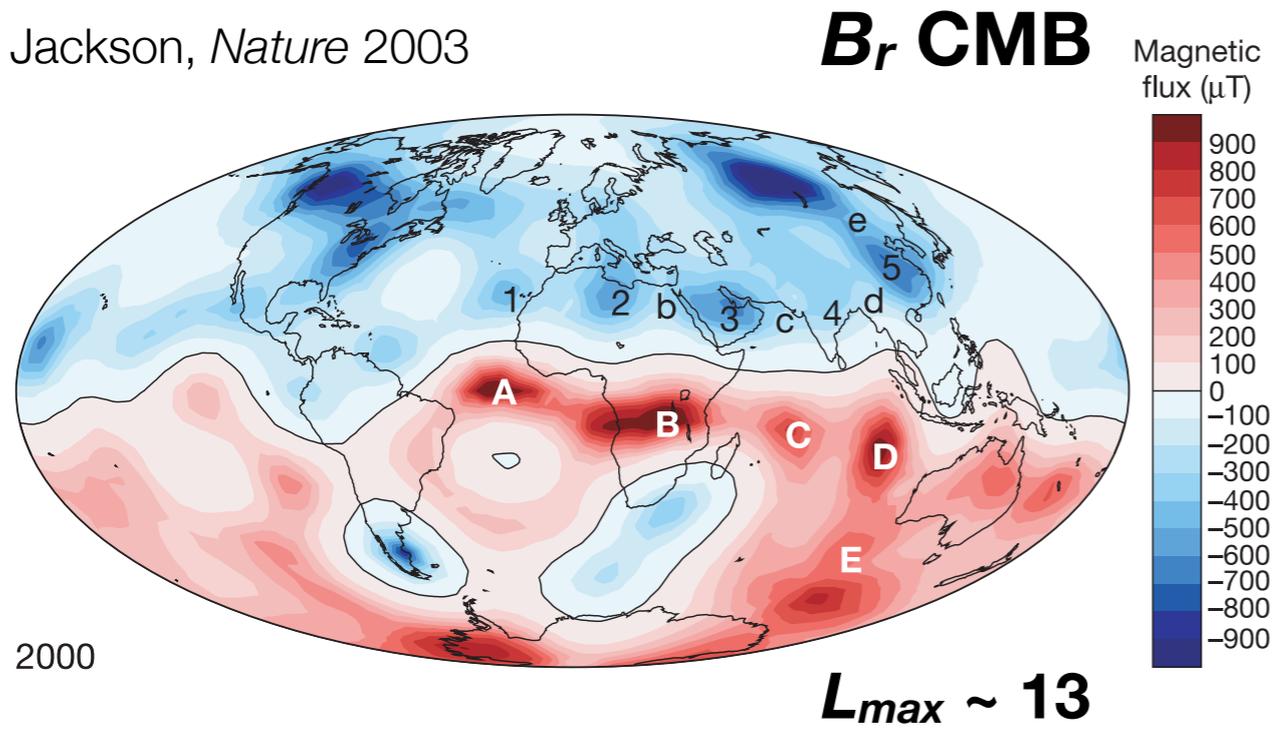
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z-vorticity



Observations

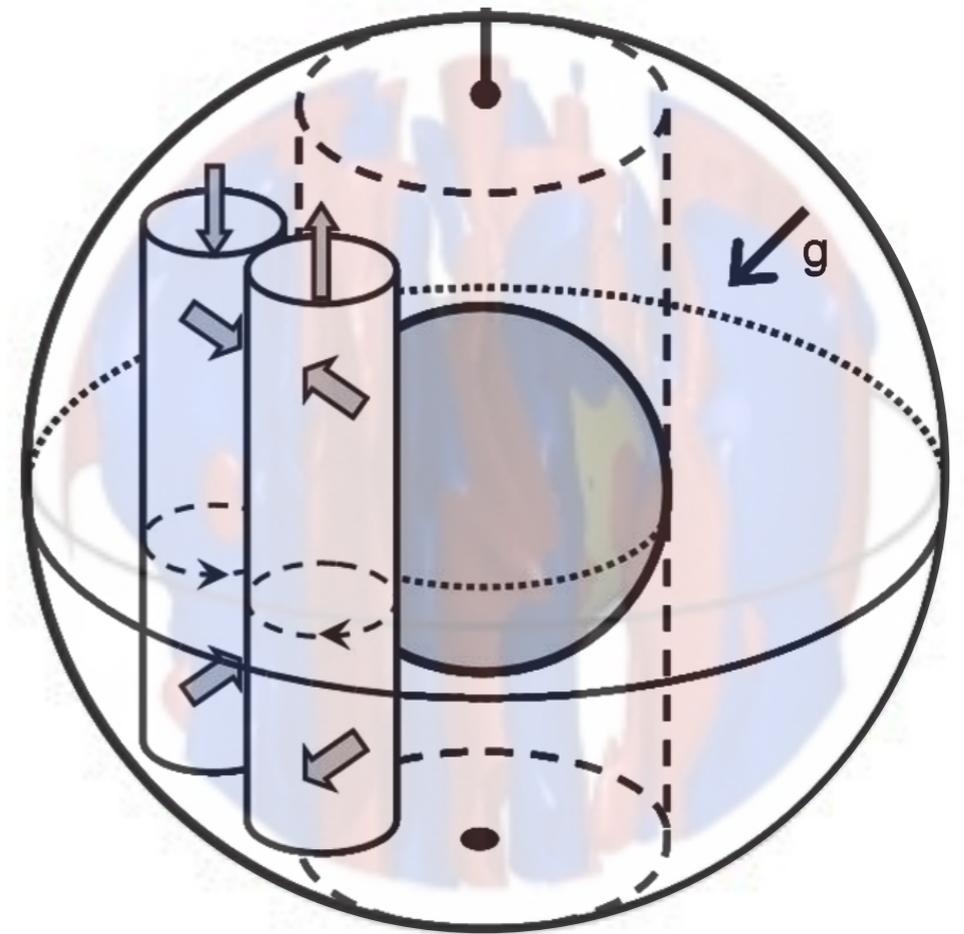
Jackson, *Nature* 2003



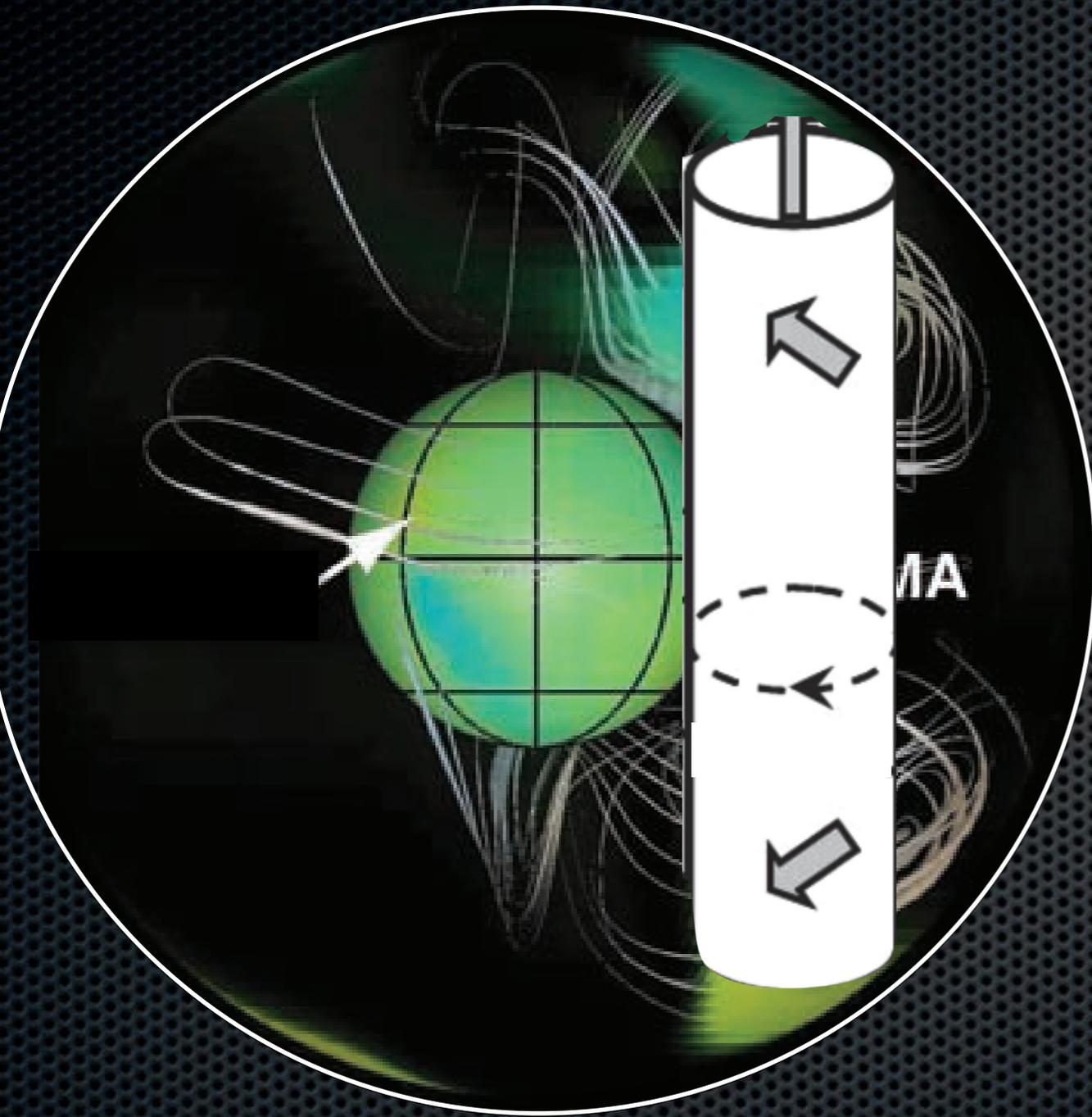
Models

Christensen, *Enc. Solid Earth Geophys.* 2011

z-vorticity

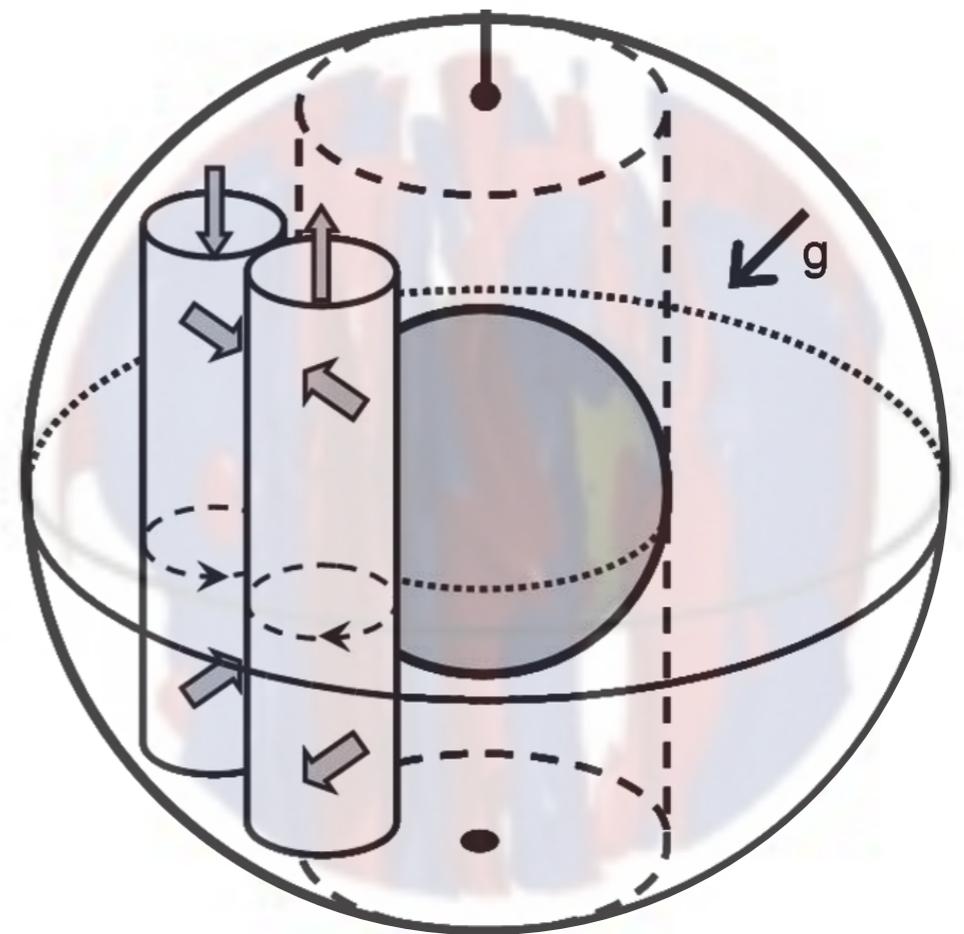


Models



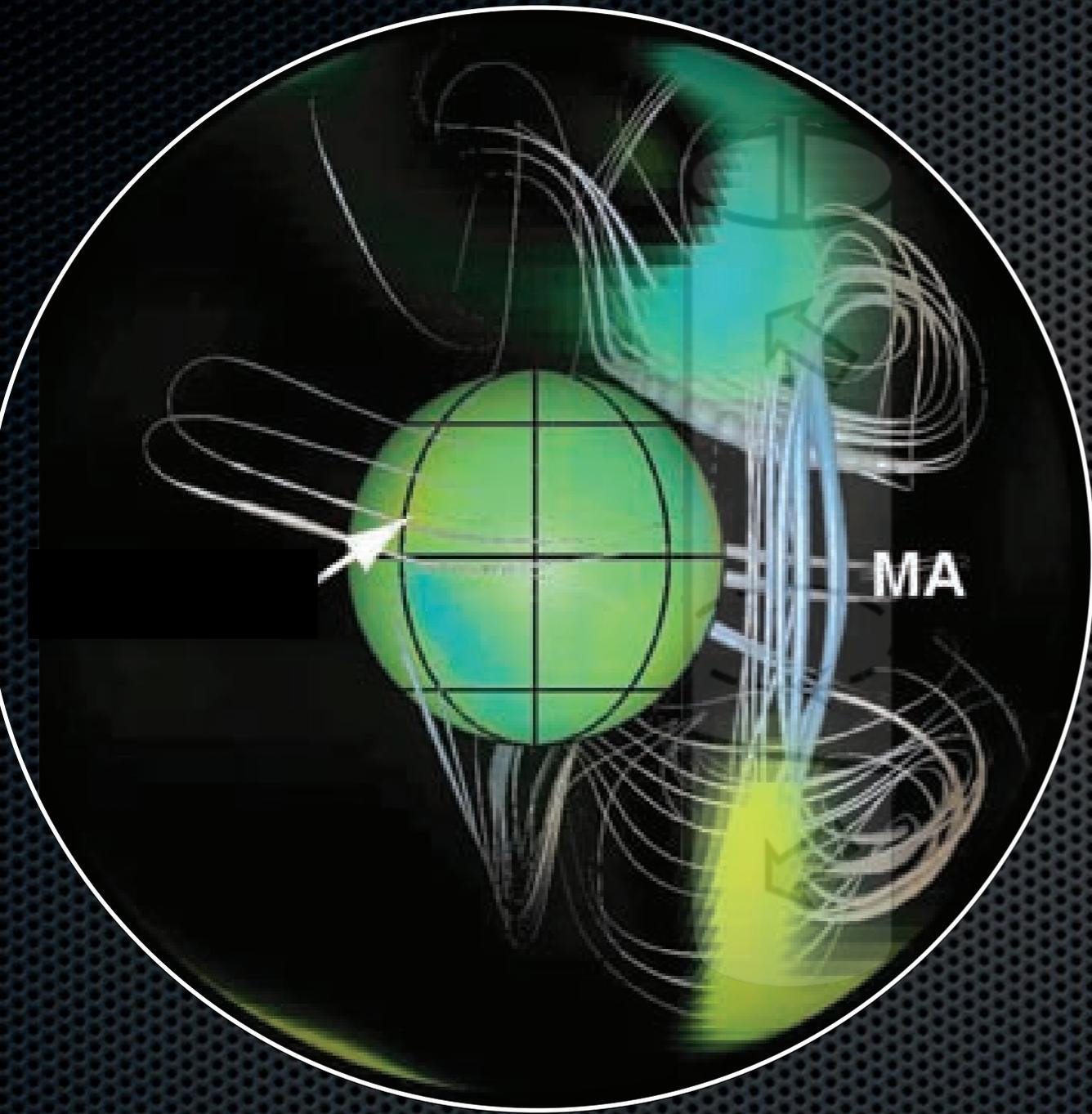
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Aubert et al. *GJI* 2008

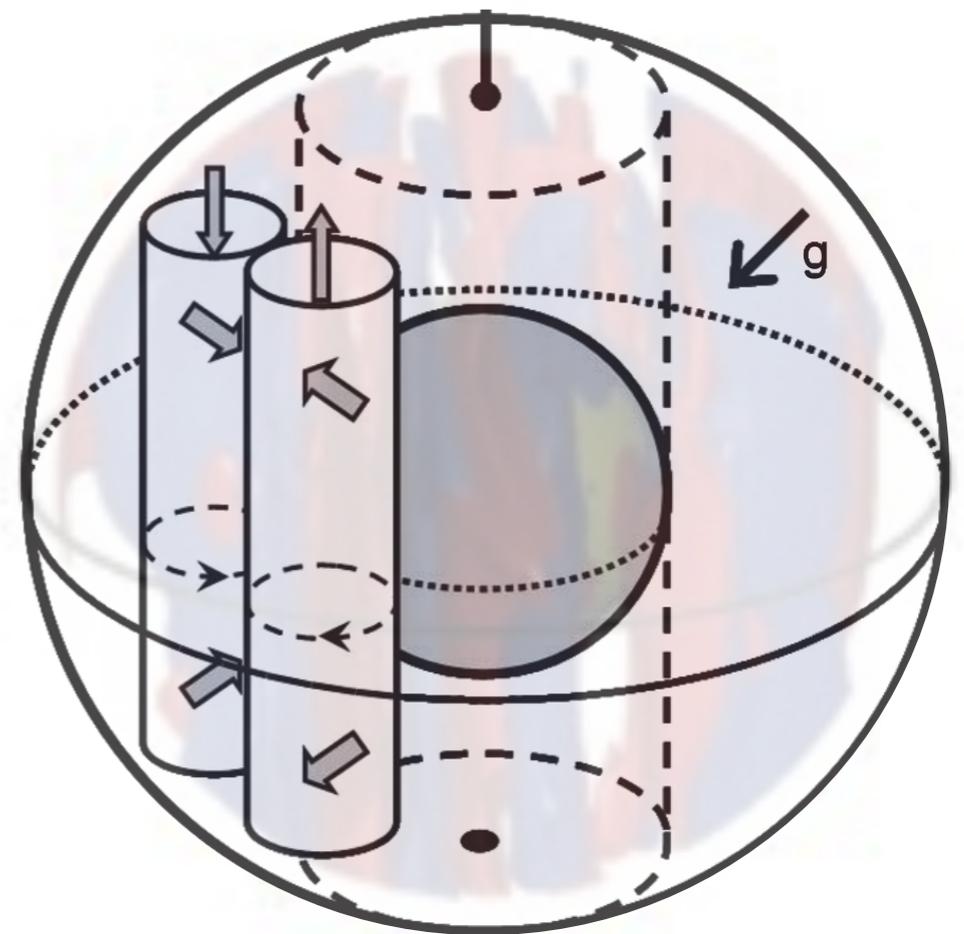
Models



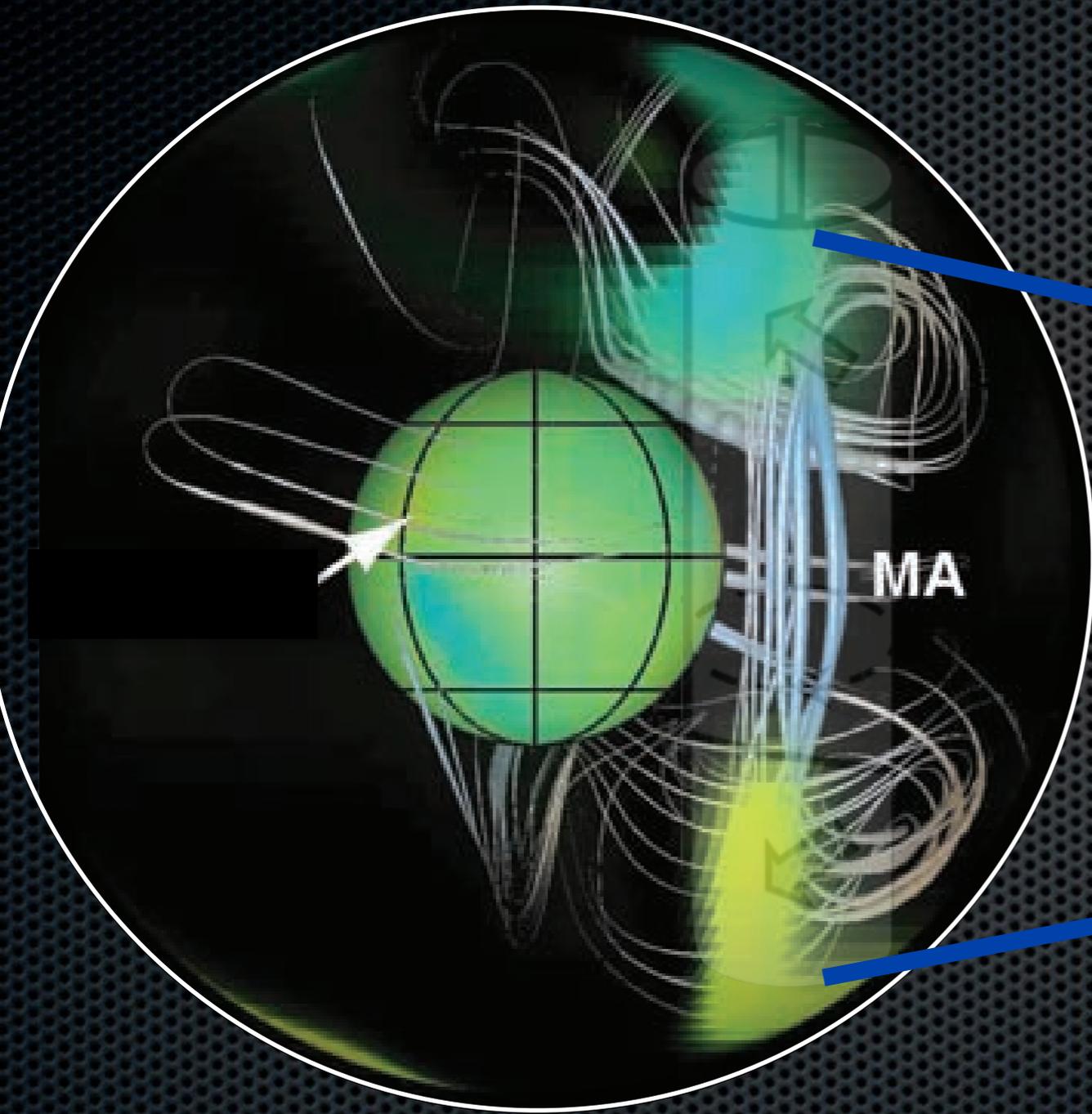
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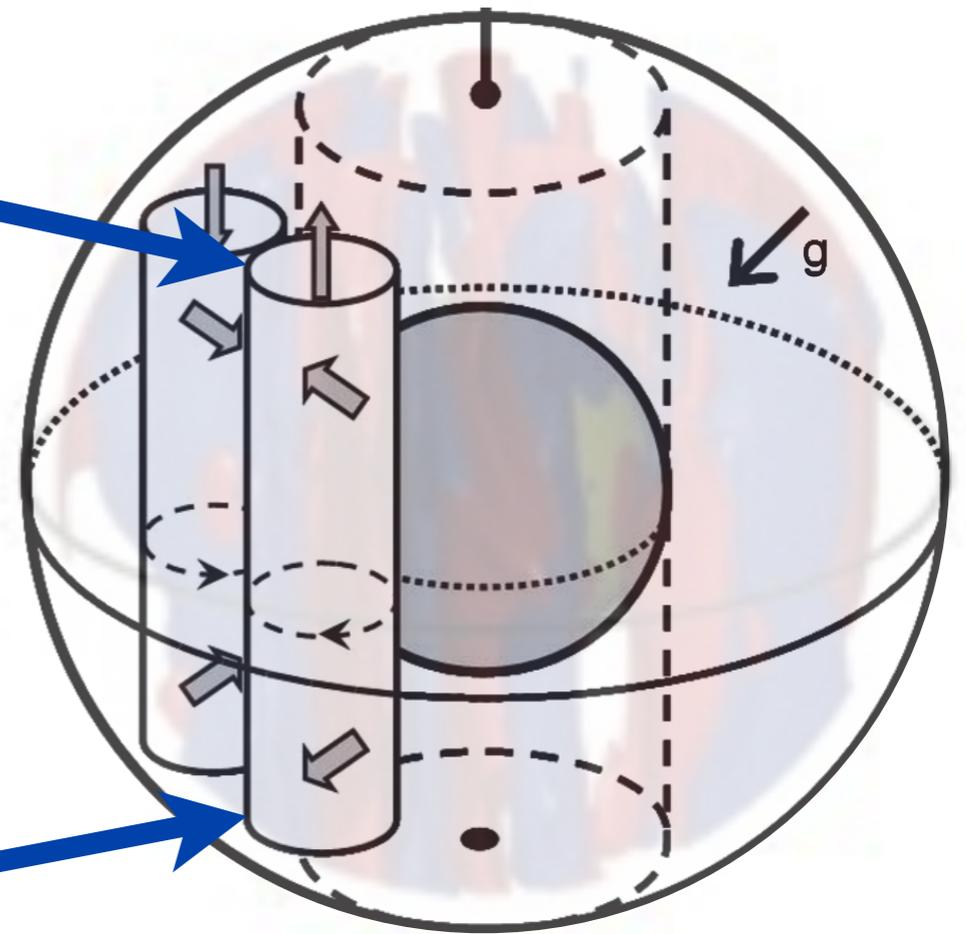


Models

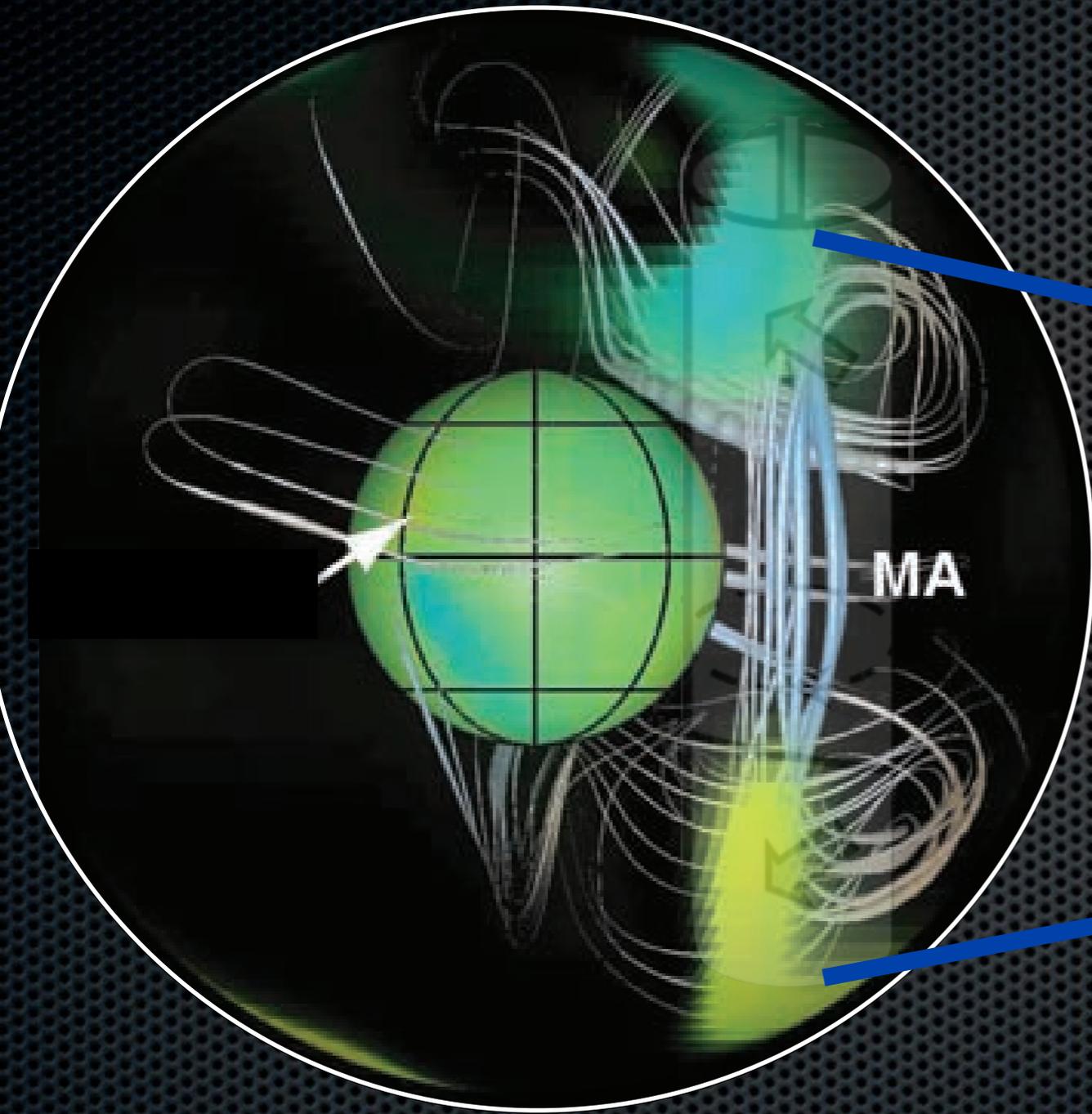


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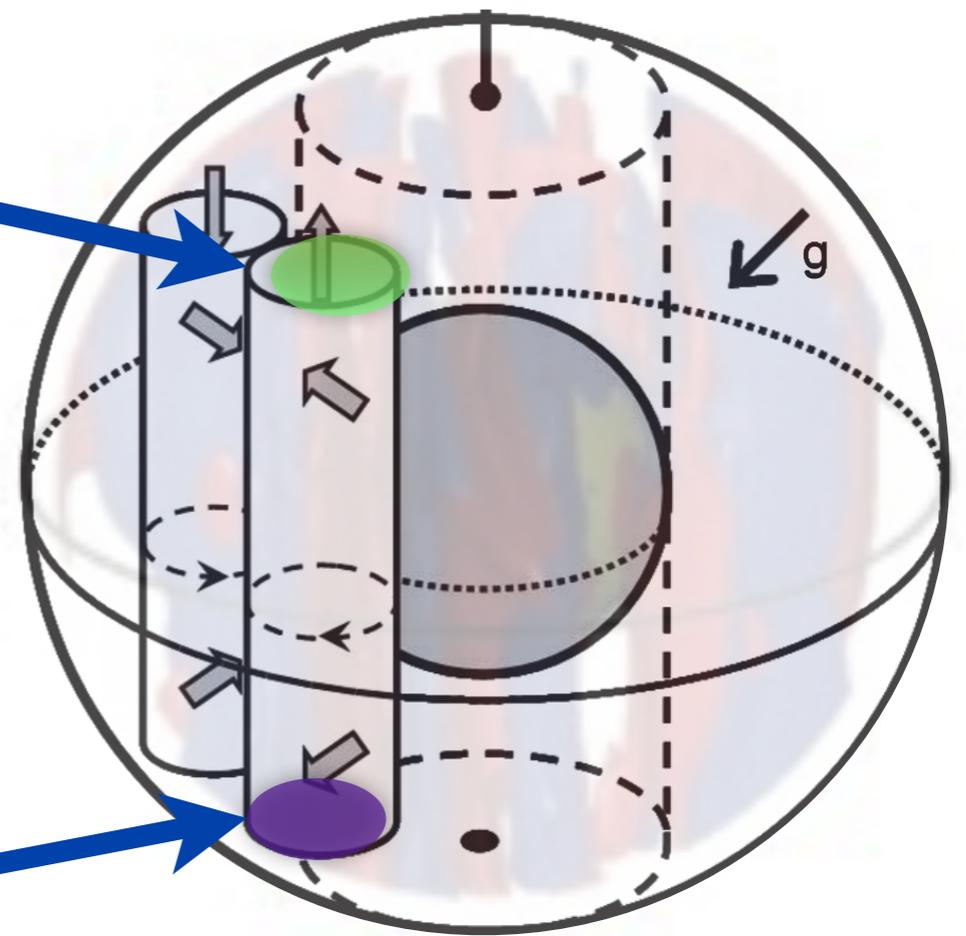


Models



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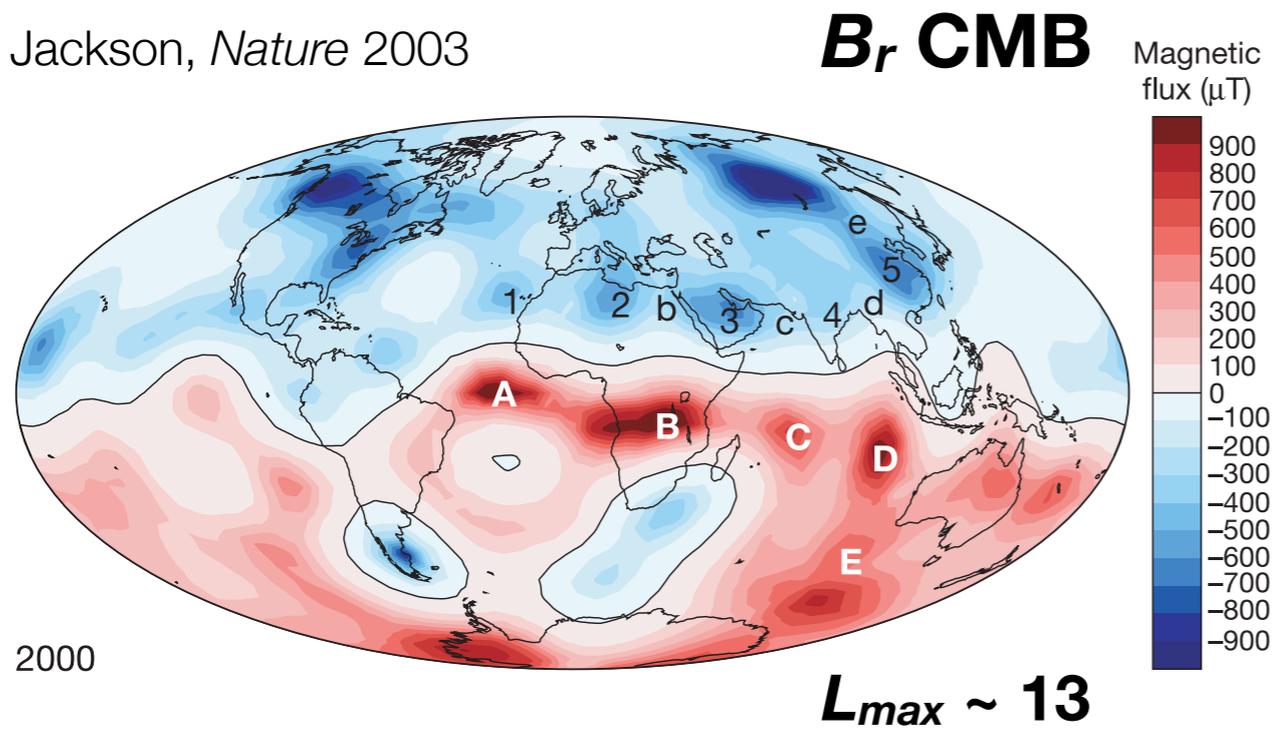
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Aubert et al. *GJI* 2008

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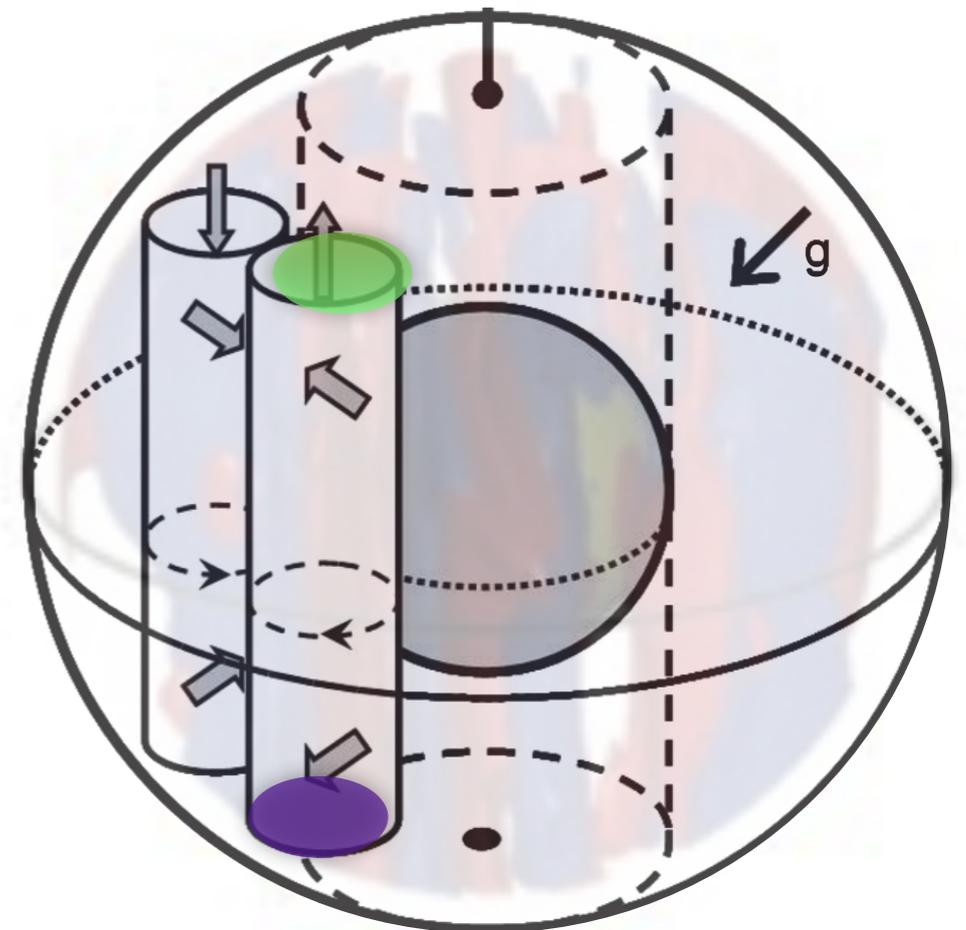
Jackson, *Nature* 2003



Models

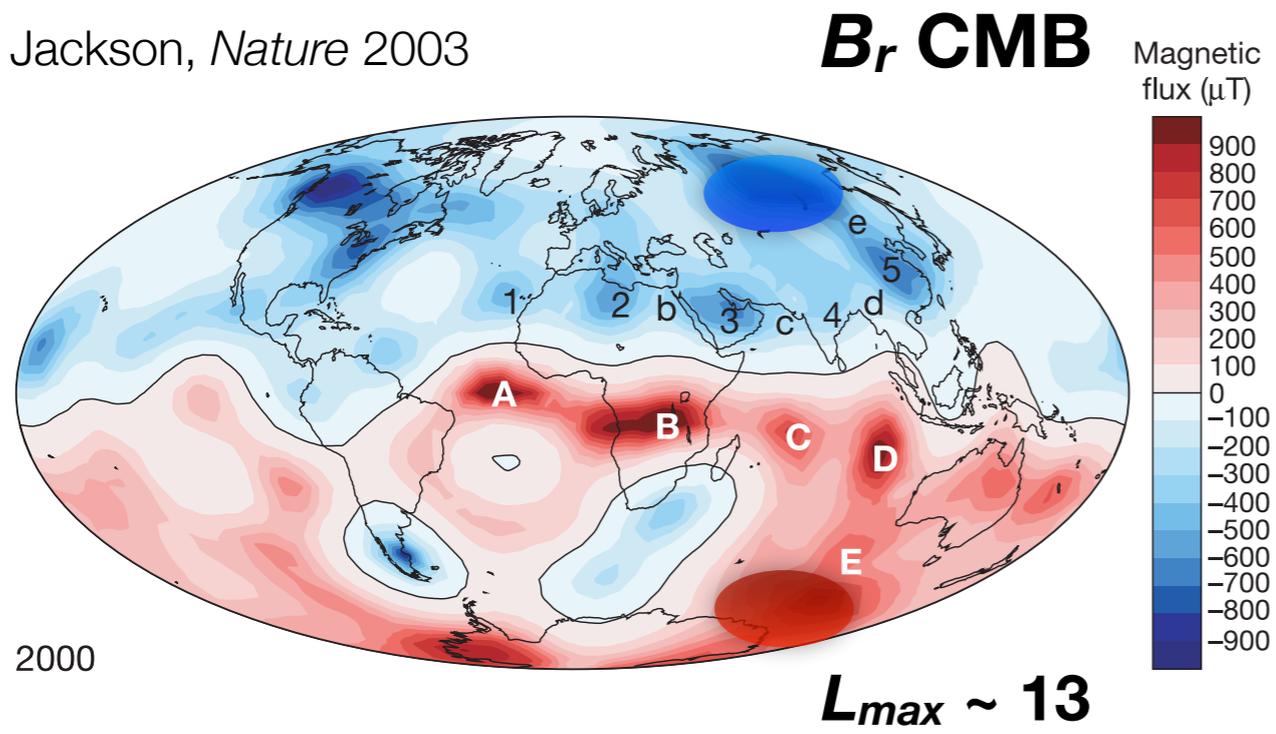
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Observations

Jackson, *Nature* 2003

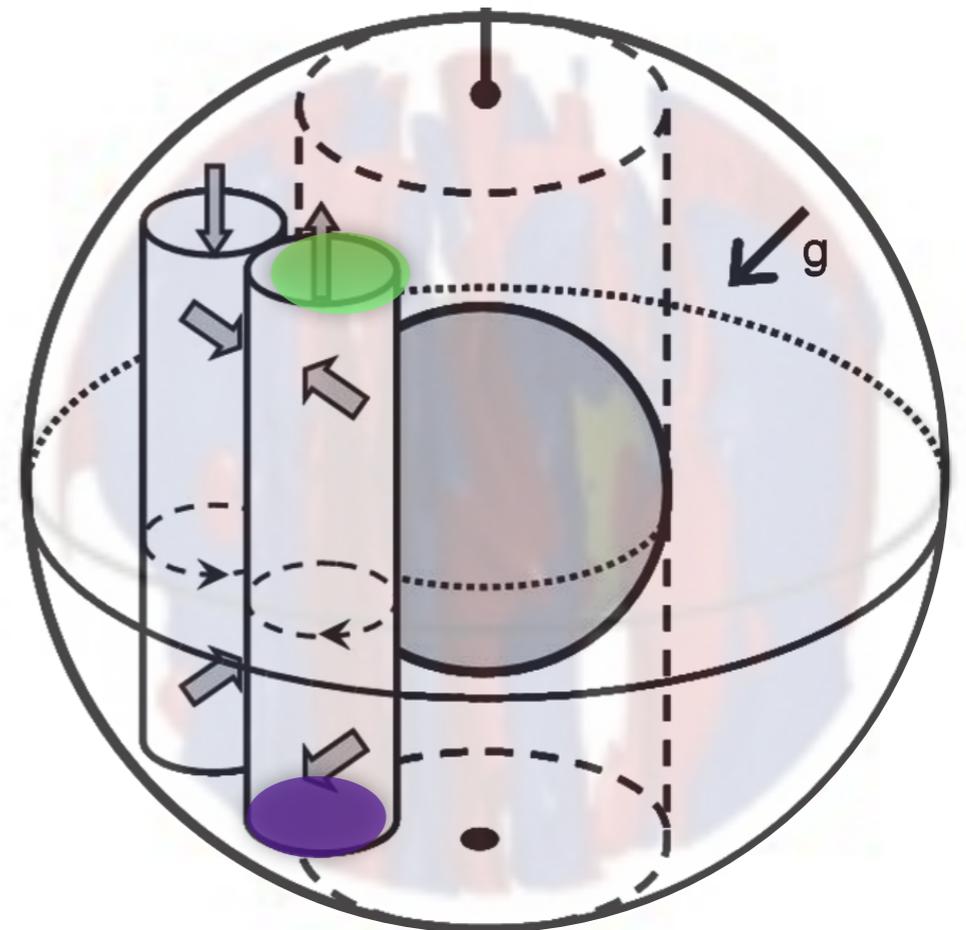


- ✦ Aligned flux patches in models & geomagnetic field

Models

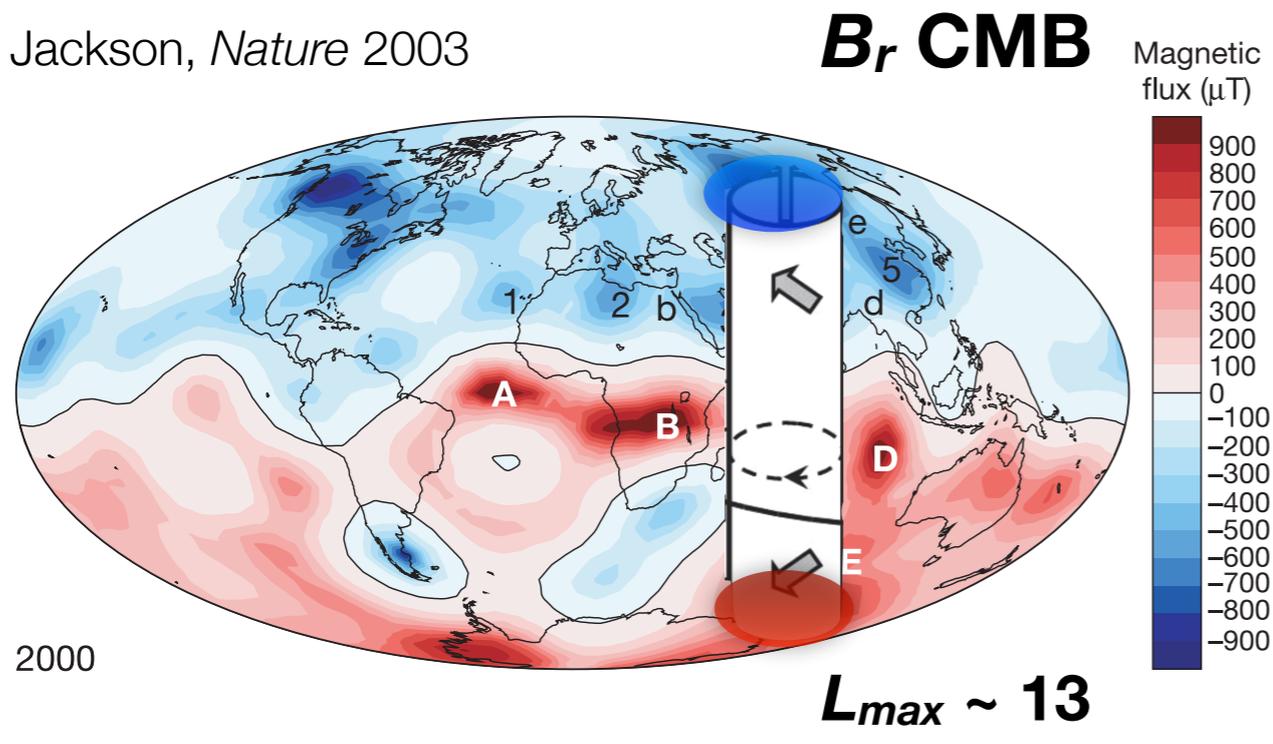
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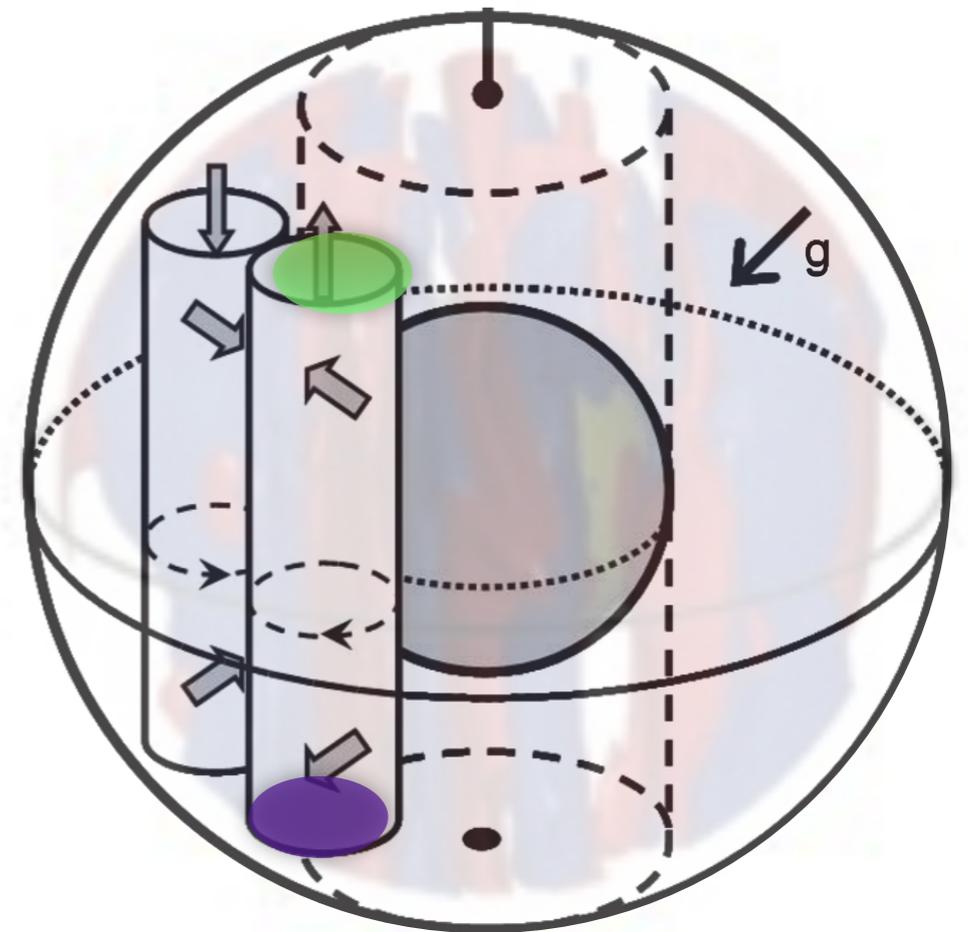
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Models

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- ✦ Aligned flux patches in models & geomagnetic field
- ✦ **Present paradigm:** columns in models extrapolate to planetary cores; explain observations

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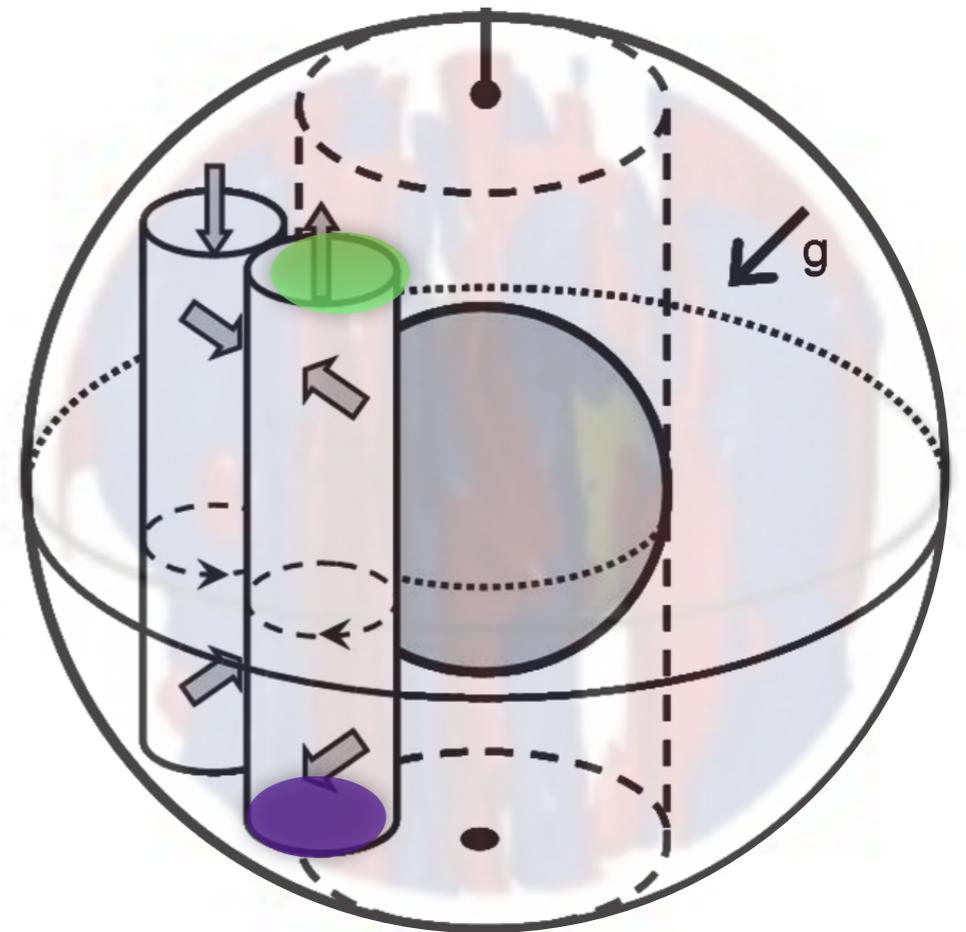
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Fluids Primer

- ✦ Goal: Understand present columnar paradigm for core flows
- ✦ Rotating fluid dynamics

Christensen, *Enc. Solid Earth Geophys.* 2011

z-vorticity



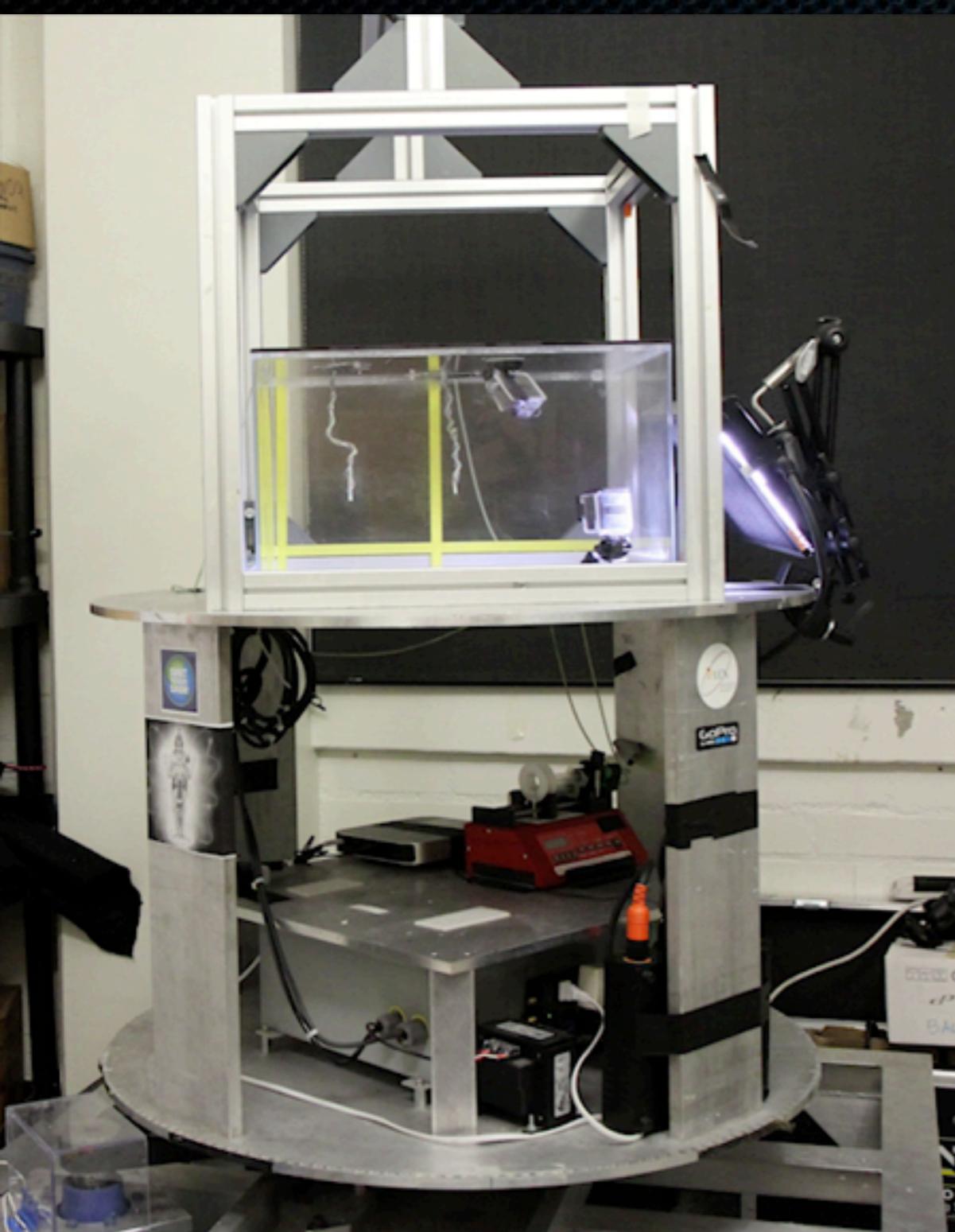
“Differencing” Experiments

- Step through a set of four related laboratory experiments
- Discuss relevant dynamics at each step
 - & build/take apart rotating Navier-Stokes...

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \rho \mathbf{g} - \nabla p + \rho \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \rho \mathbf{u} \times 2\boldsymbol{\Omega} + \rho \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \boldsymbol{\Omega} \times \mathbf{r}$$

- Heuristic approach: shortest time-scale process ~ largest acceleration ~ dominates

The Rig:



spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

Jon Bridgeman, Mike Lavell, Steve Tomlinson
& Eric King

“Differencing” Experiments

- ✦ Isolated droplets/particles (empty tank)
 - ✦ 1. Stationary vs. 2. Rotating
- ✦ Fluid Layer (water-filled tank)
 - ✦ 3. Stationary vs. 4. Rotating

Experiment 1

Stationary “Empty” Tank

**Air | Water
Non-Rotating**

Real Time

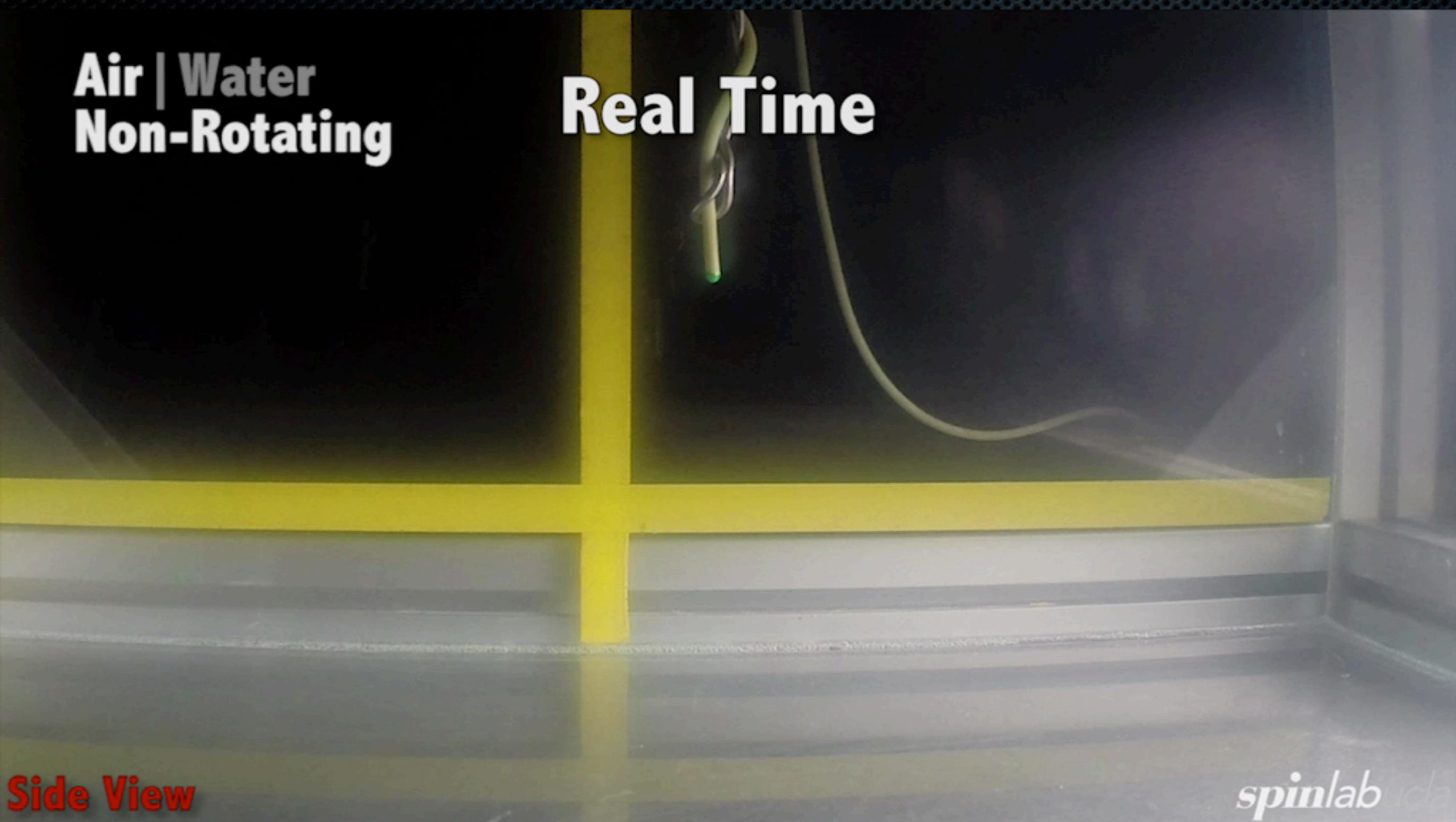
Side View

spinlab icla

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} =$$

**Air | Water
Non-Rotating**

Real Time



Side View

spinlab icla

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \rho \mathbf{g}$$

**Air | Water
Non-Rotating**

Real Time

Side View

spinlab icla

$$\rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \rho \mathbf{g}$$

**Air | Water
Non-Rotating**

Real Time

Side View

spinlab icla

$$\rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \rho \mathbf{g}$$

$$u \sim \sqrt{gH} \rightarrow \tau \sim \sqrt{H/g}$$

**Air | Water
Non-Rotating**

Real Time

Side View

spinlab icla

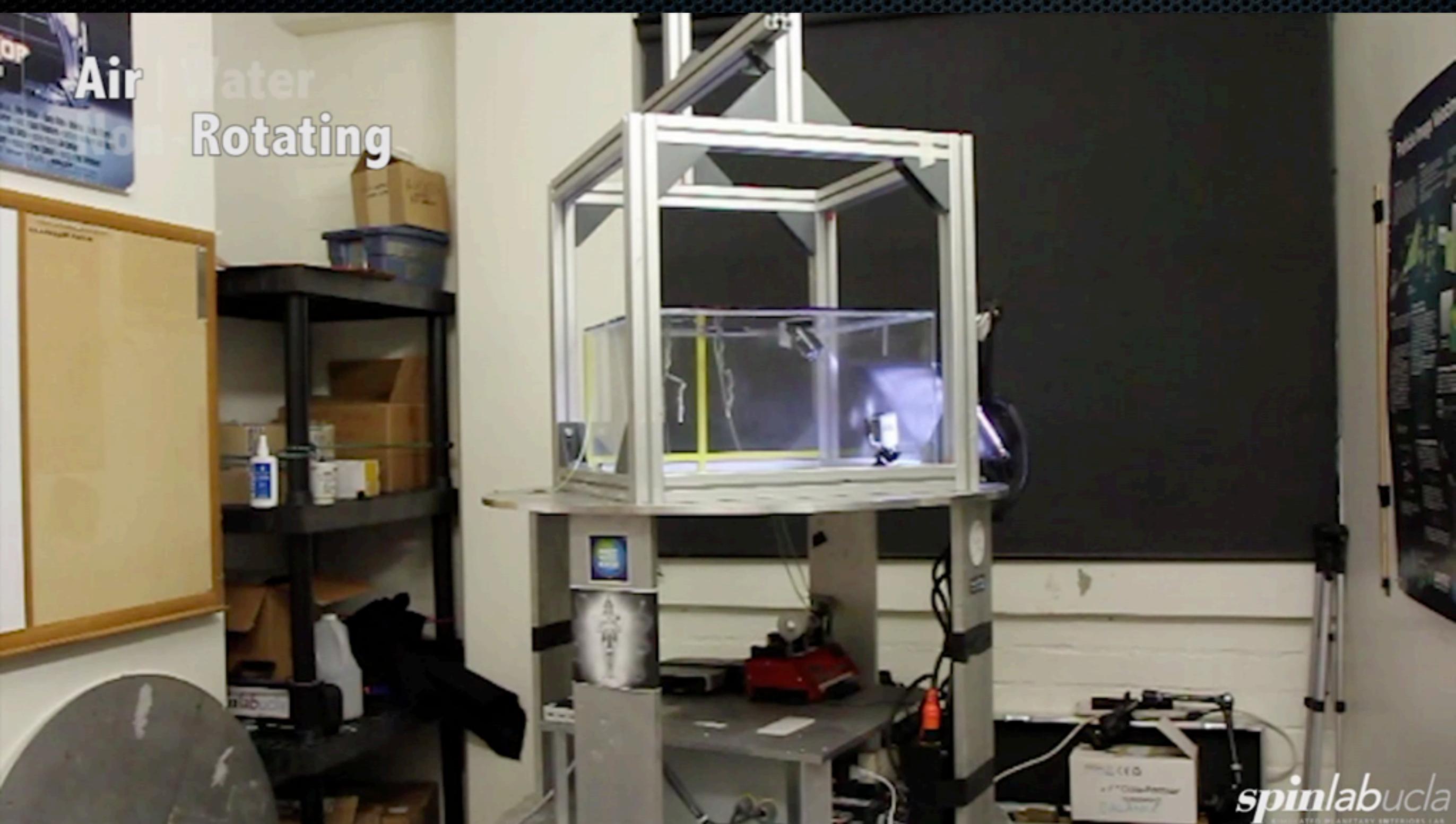
$$\rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \rho \mathbf{g}$$

$$u \sim \sqrt{gH} \rightarrow \tau \sim \sqrt{H/g} = \mathbf{0.12 \text{ s}}$$

Free-Fall Estimates

Experiment 2

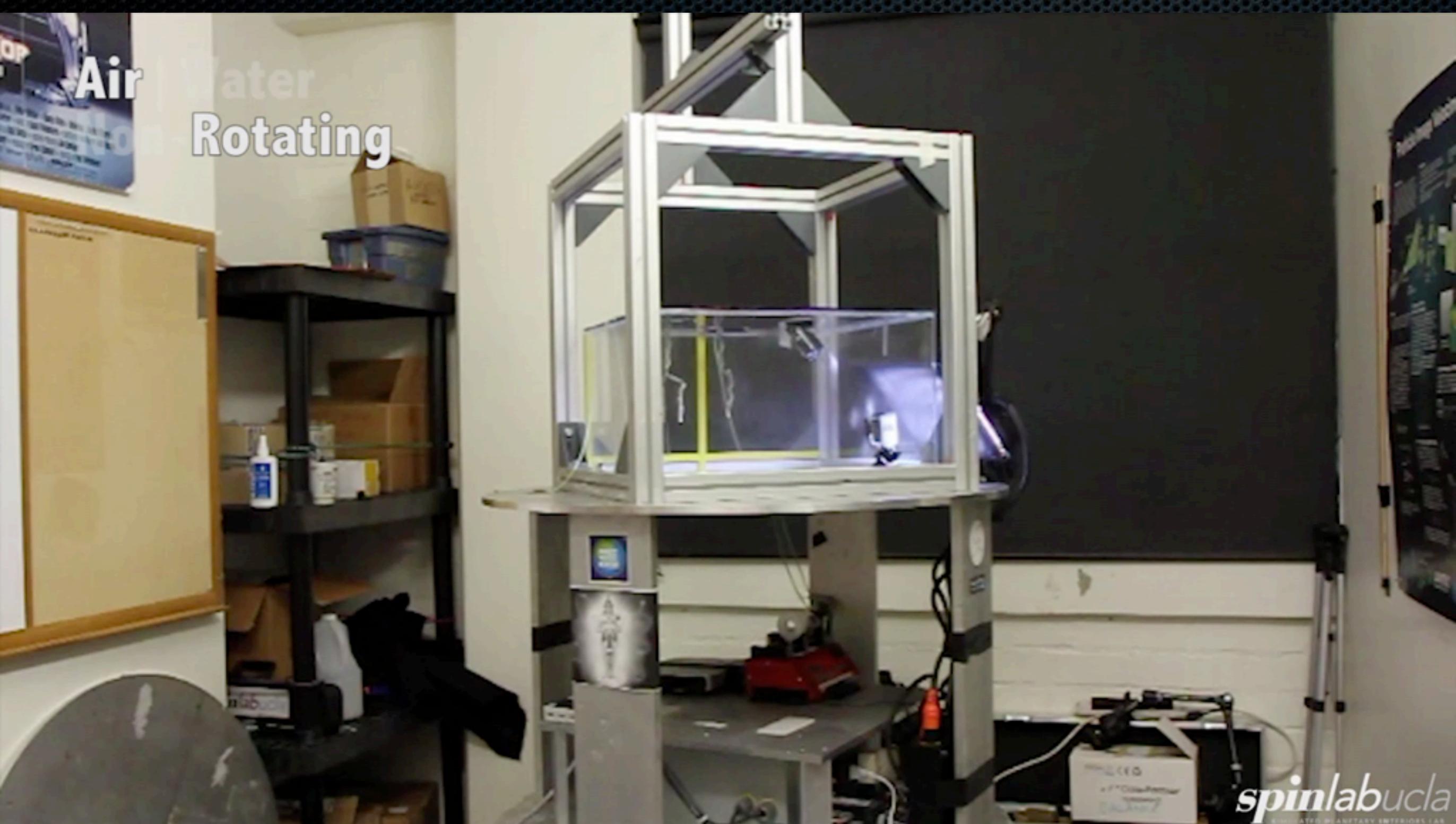
Rotating “Empty” Tank



Air Water
Rotating

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SIMULATED PLANETARY ENVIRONMENTAL LAB

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\rho g \hat{z} + \rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s} + \rho \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega$$

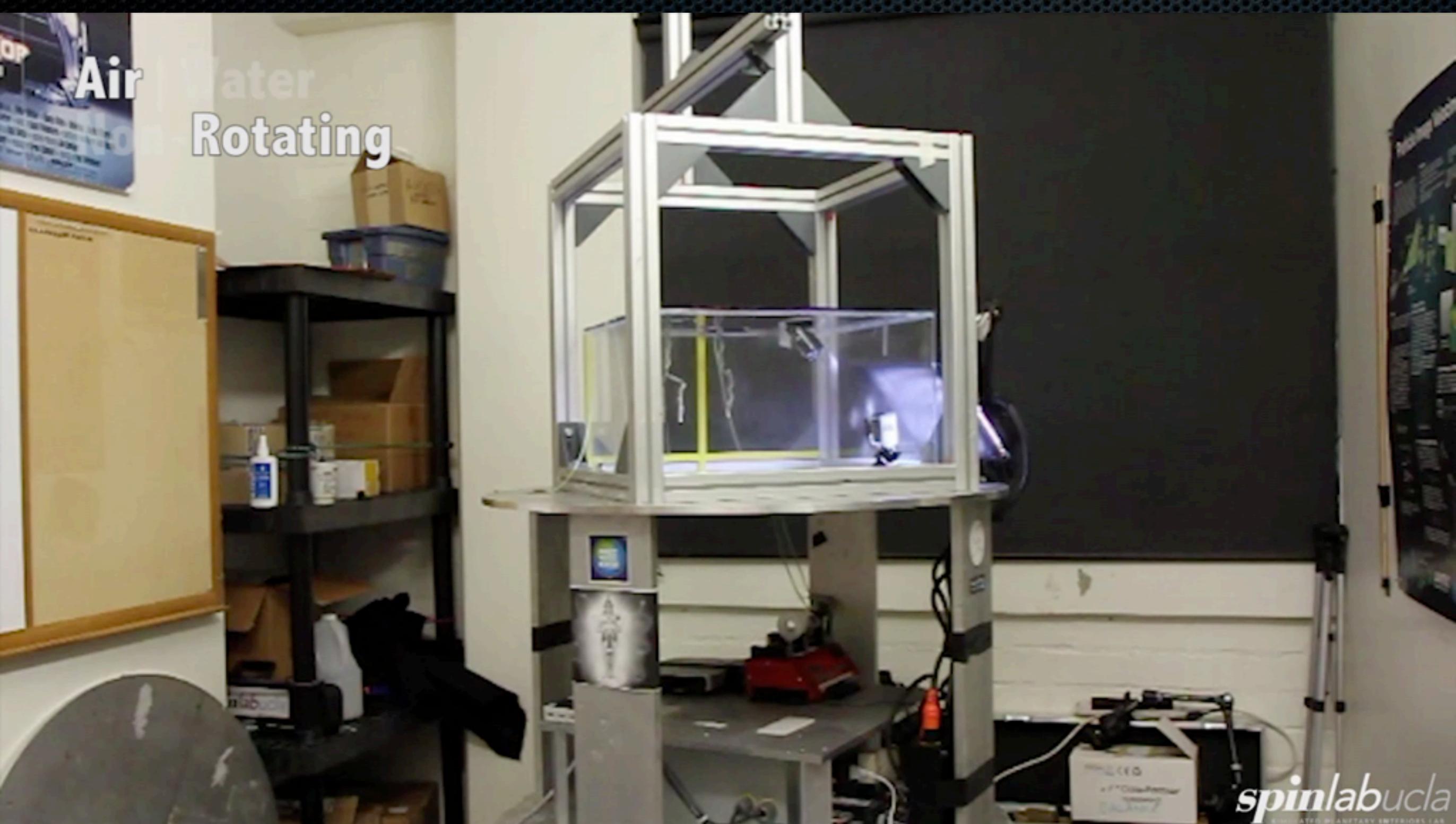


Air Water
Rotating

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SIMULATED PLANETARY ENVIRONMENTAL LAB

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\rho g \hat{z} + \underbrace{\rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}}_{\text{Non-inertial Forces}} + \rho \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega$$

Non-inertial Forces



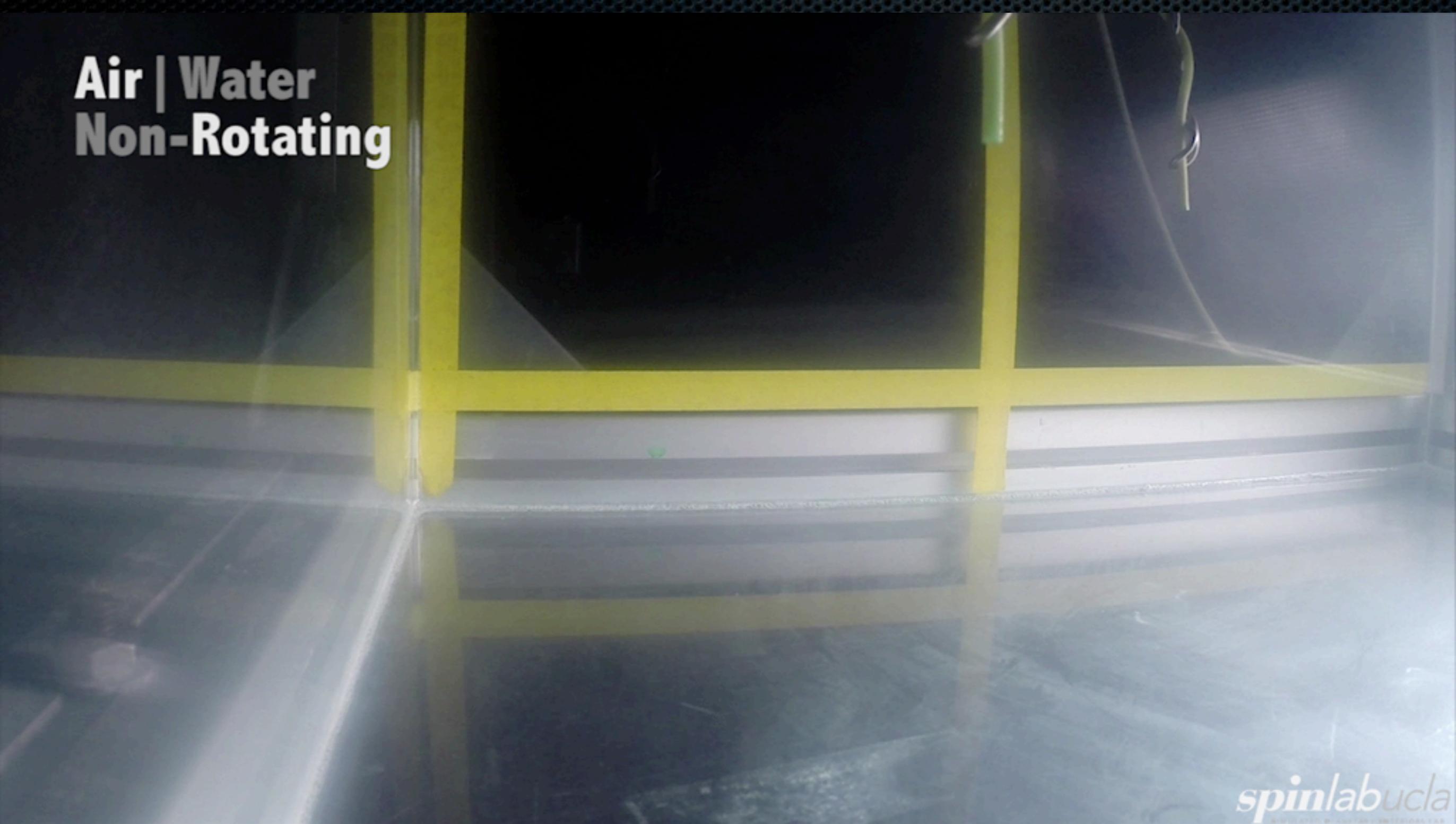
Air Water
Rotating

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SIMULATED PLANETARY ENVIRONMENTAL LAB

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\rho g \hat{z} + \underbrace{\rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}} + \rho \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega$$

Effective Gravity

**Air | Water
Non-Rotating**



spinlabucla
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\rho g \hat{z} + \underbrace{\rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}}_{\text{Effective Gravity}} + \rho \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega$$

Effective Gravity

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Real Time

Oblique View

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SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\rho g \hat{z} + \underbrace{\rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}}_{\text{Effective Gravity}} + \rho \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega$$

Effective Gravity

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Slow Motion

Drop Time
min sec ms
00:00:278 ± 0.033

Side View

spinlabucla
MITIGATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$\text{Rossby, } Ro = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{fall}} \sim \frac{u}{\Omega H} \sim 5.4 \quad \underline{\text{Gravity dominates}}$$

Experiment 3

Stationary Water-Filled Tank

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Real Time

Drop Time
min sec ms
00:06:200 ± 0.033

Side View

spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY EXTERIORS LAB

$$\rho_w \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho_w \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\rho_w g \hat{z}$$

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Real Time

Drop Time
min sec ms
00:06:200 ± 0.033

Side View

spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$0 = -\rho_w g \hat{z}$$

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Real Time

Drop Time
min sec ms
00:06:200 ± 0.033

Side View

spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$0 = -\rho_w g \hat{z} - \nabla p_{hs} \quad \text{hydrostatic balance}$$

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Real Time

Drop Time
min sec ms
00:06:200 ± 0.033

Side View

spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$0 = -\rho_w g \hat{z} - \nabla p_{hs}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{\rho_c - \rho_w}{\rho} g \hat{z} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p_d$$

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Real Time

Drop Time
min sec ms
00:06:200 ±0.033

Side View

spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$0 = -\rho_w g \hat{z} - \nabla p_{hs}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{\rho_c - \rho_w}{\rho} g \hat{z} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p_d$$

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Real Time

Drop Time
min sec ms
00:06:200 ± 0.033

Side View

spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$0 = -\rho_w g \hat{z} - \nabla p_{hs}$$

$$u \sim \sqrt{(\delta\rho/\rho)gH} \rightarrow \tau \sim \sqrt{H/(\delta\rho/\rho)g}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{\rho_c - \rho_w}{\rho} g \hat{z} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p_d$$

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Real Time

Drop Time
min sec ms
00:06:200 ±0.033

Side View

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SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$0 = -\rho_w g \hat{z} - \nabla p_{hs}$$

$$u \sim \sqrt{(\delta\rho/\rho)gH} \rightarrow \tau \sim \sqrt{H/(\delta\rho/\rho)g}$$

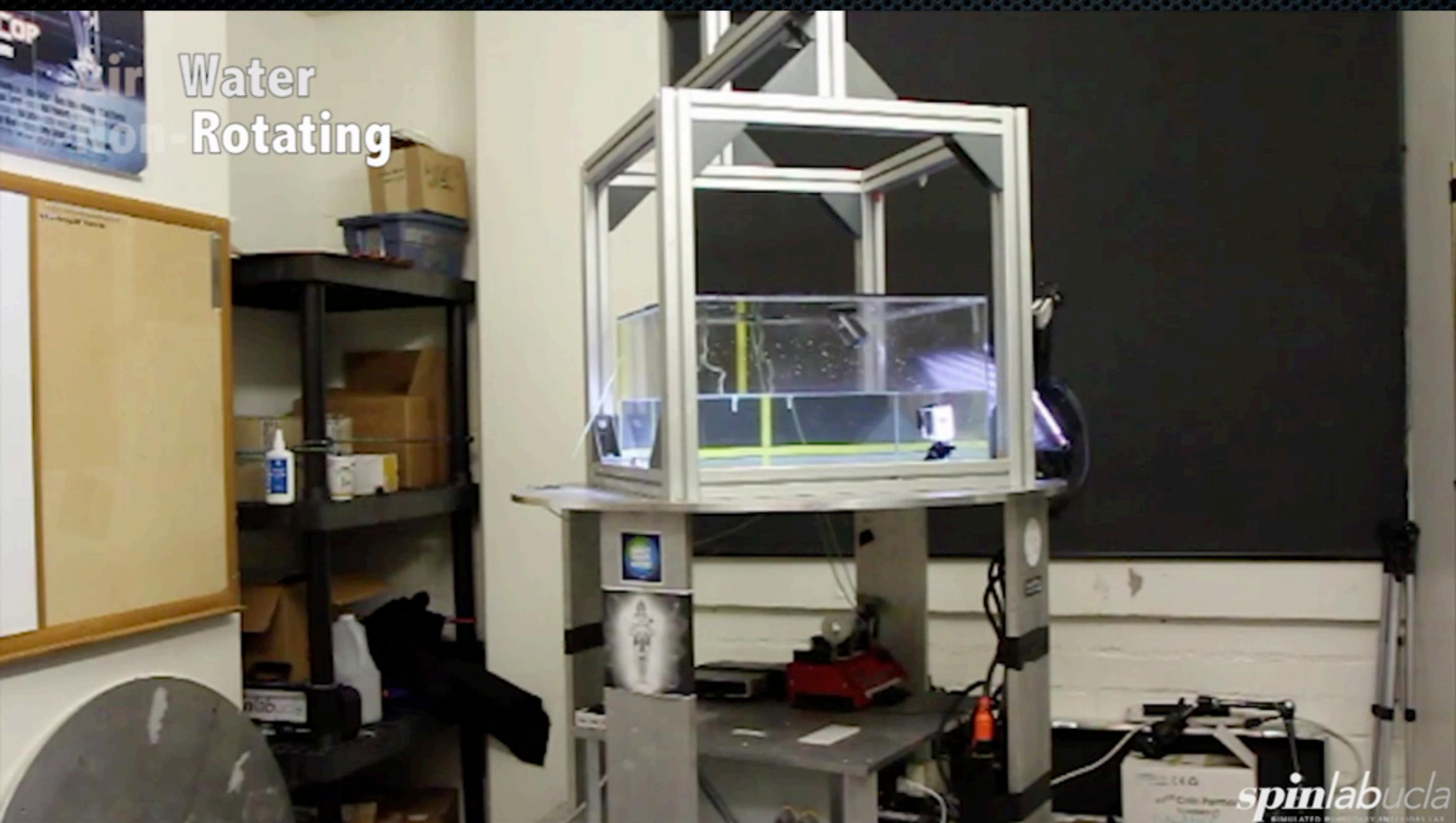
$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\frac{\rho_c - \rho_w}{\rho} g \hat{z} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p_d$$

= 0.9 s

Experiment 4

Rotating Water-Filled Tank

Water Rotating



$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = \rho \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} - \nabla p - \rho g \hat{z} + \rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s} + \rho \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega$$

Spin-up by viscous & pressure terms (~ 10 minutes)

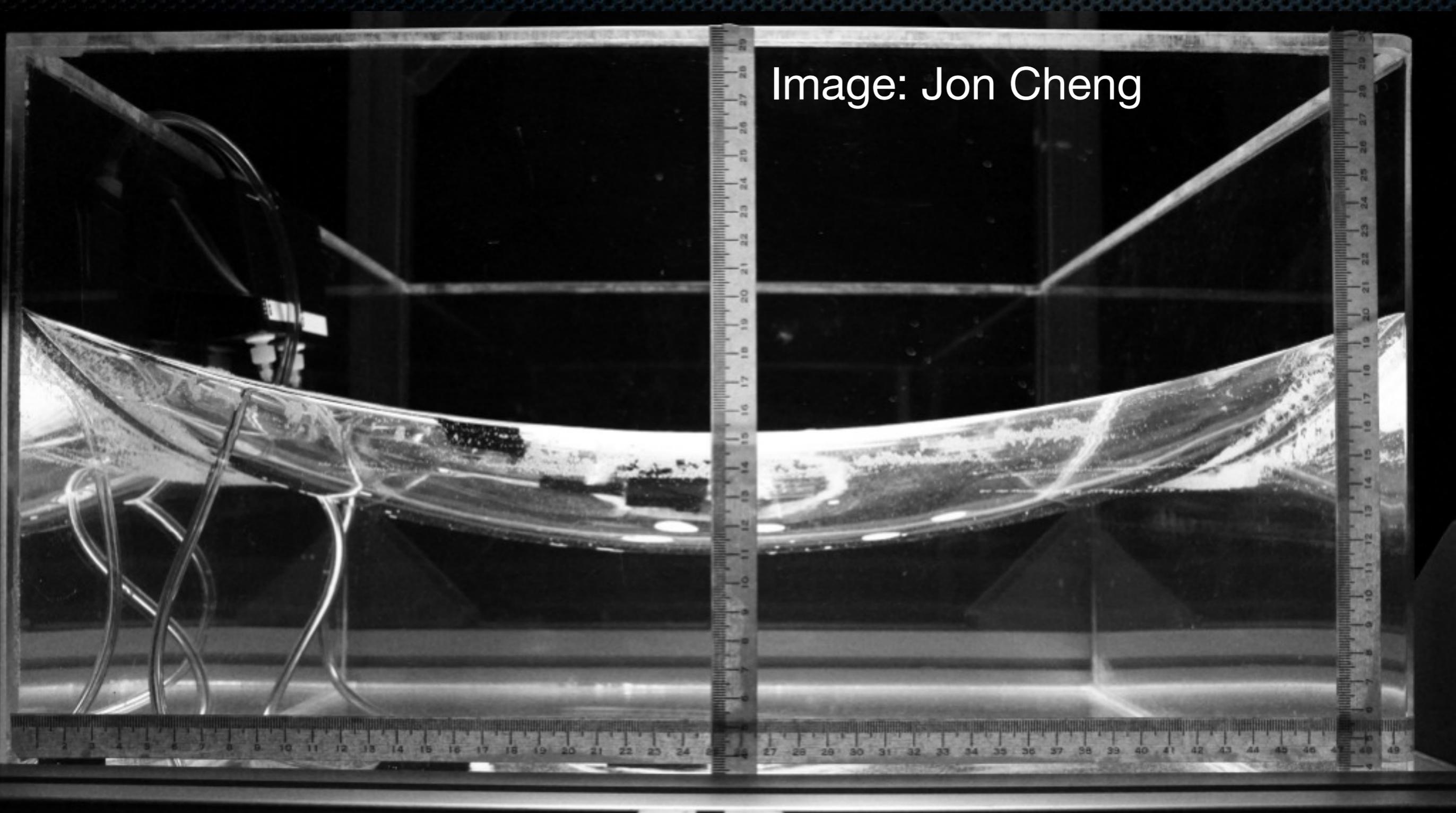


Image: Jon Cheng

hydrostatic balance: $0 = -\nabla p - \rho g \hat{z} + \rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}$

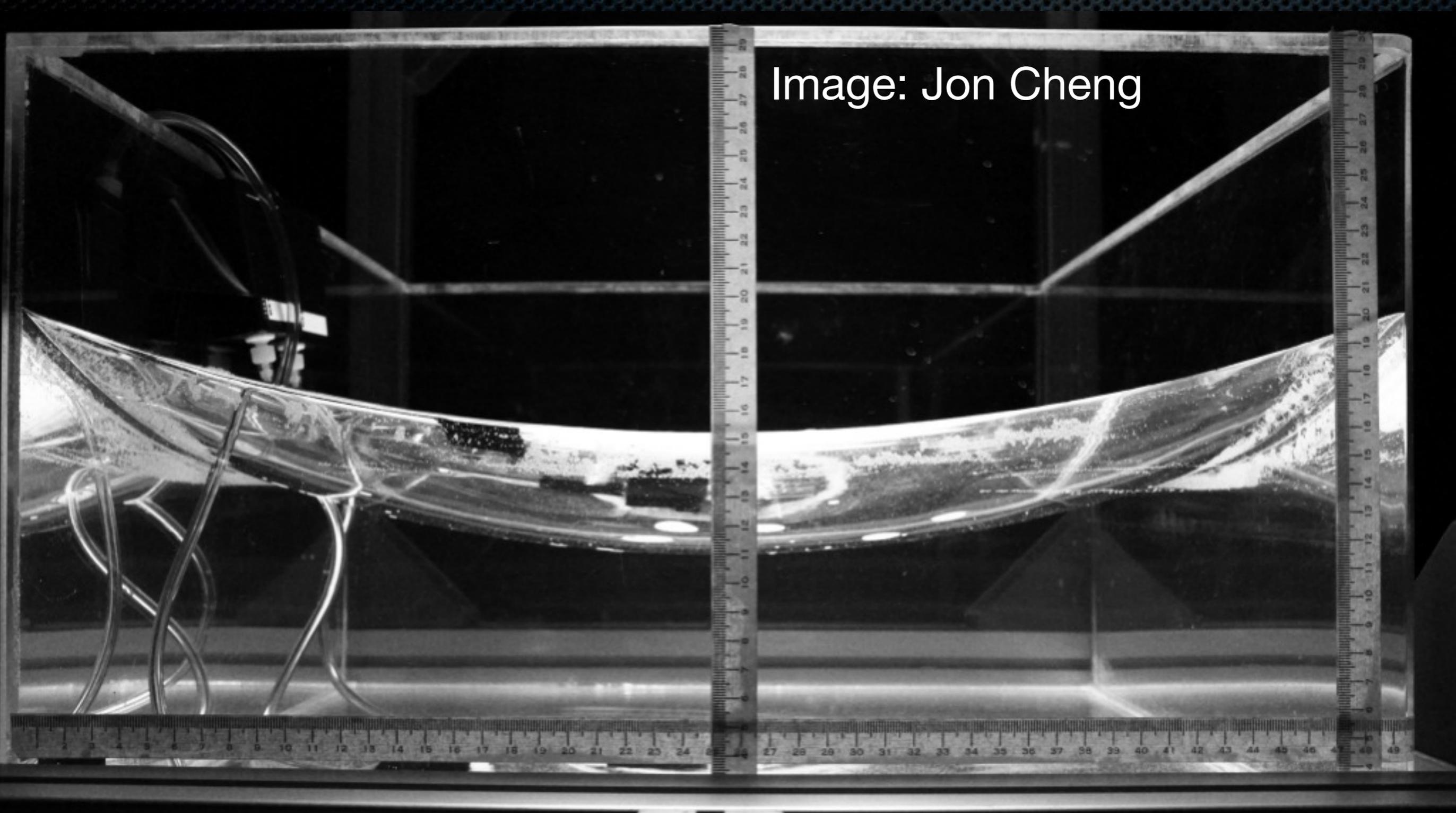


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hydrostatic balance: $0 = -\nabla p - \rho g \hat{z} + \rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}$

$$\partial p / \partial z = -\rho g$$

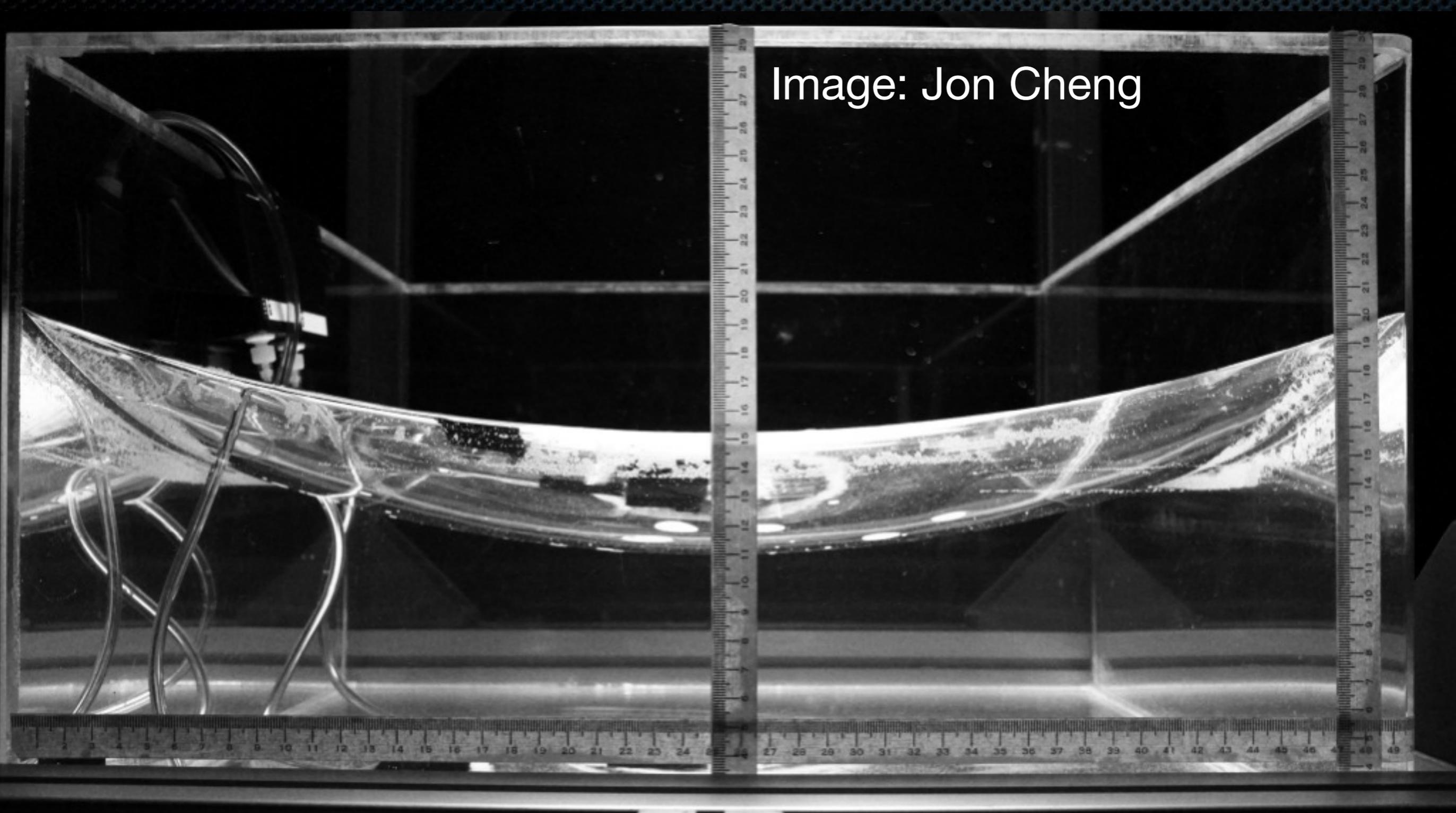


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hydrostatic balance: $0 = -\nabla p - \rho g \hat{z} + \rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}$

$$\partial p / \partial z = -\rho g$$

$$p = p_{atm} + \rho g H(s)$$

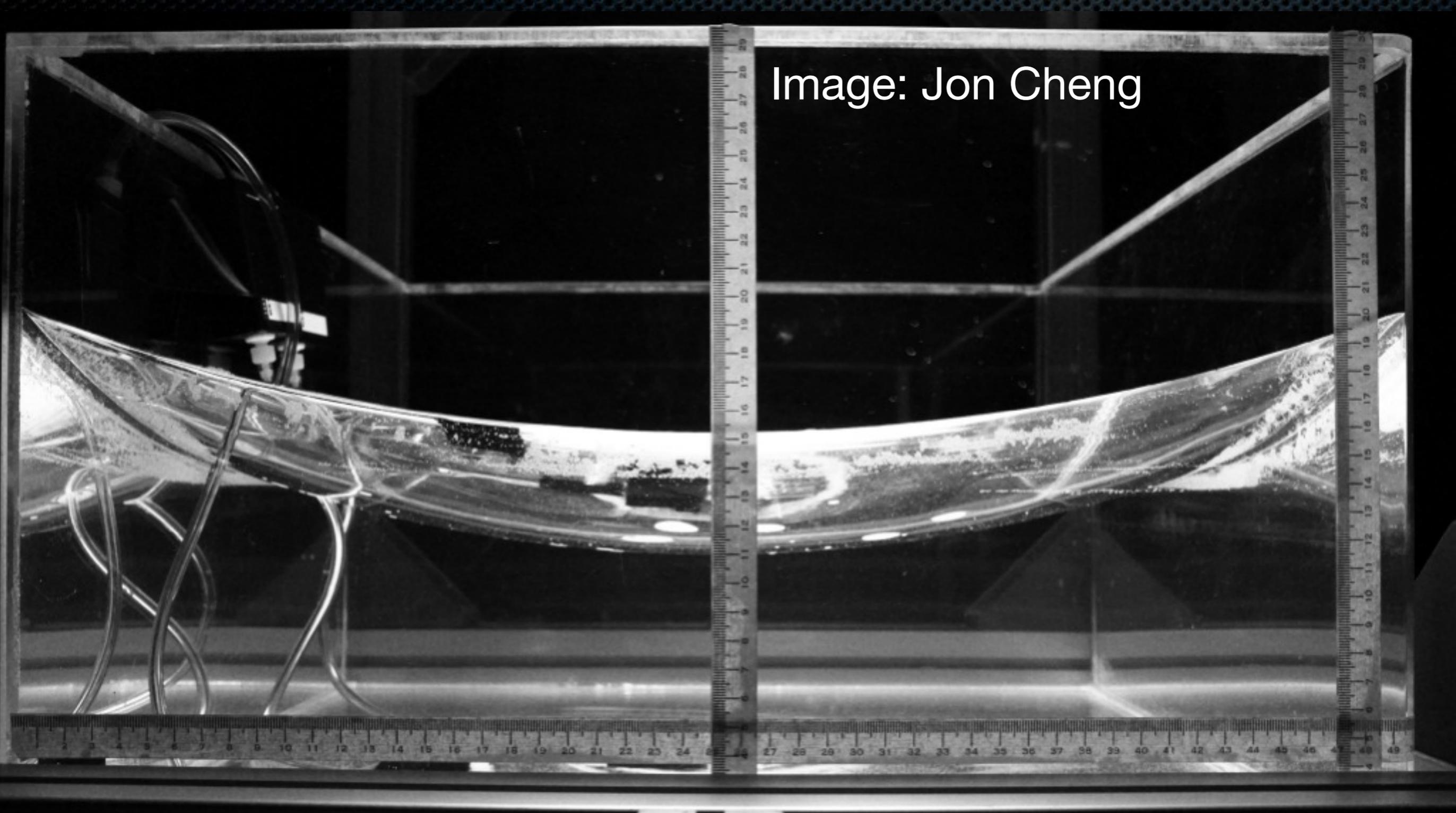


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hydrostatic balance: $0 = -\nabla p - \rho g \hat{z} + \rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}$

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = -\rho g$$

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial s} = \rho \Omega^2 s$$

$$p = p_{atm} + \rho g H(s)$$

Image: Jon Cheng



hydrostatic balance: $0 = -\nabla p - \rho g \hat{z} + \rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}$

$$\partial p / \partial z = -\rho g$$

$$p = p_{atm} + \rho g H(s)$$

$$\partial p / \partial s = \rho \Omega^2 s$$

$$H(s) = H_{s0} + (\Omega^2 / 2g) s^2$$

Image: Jon Cheng



hydrostatic balance: $0 = -\nabla p - \rho g \hat{z} + \rho \Omega^2 s \hat{s}$

$$\partial p / \partial z = -\rho g$$

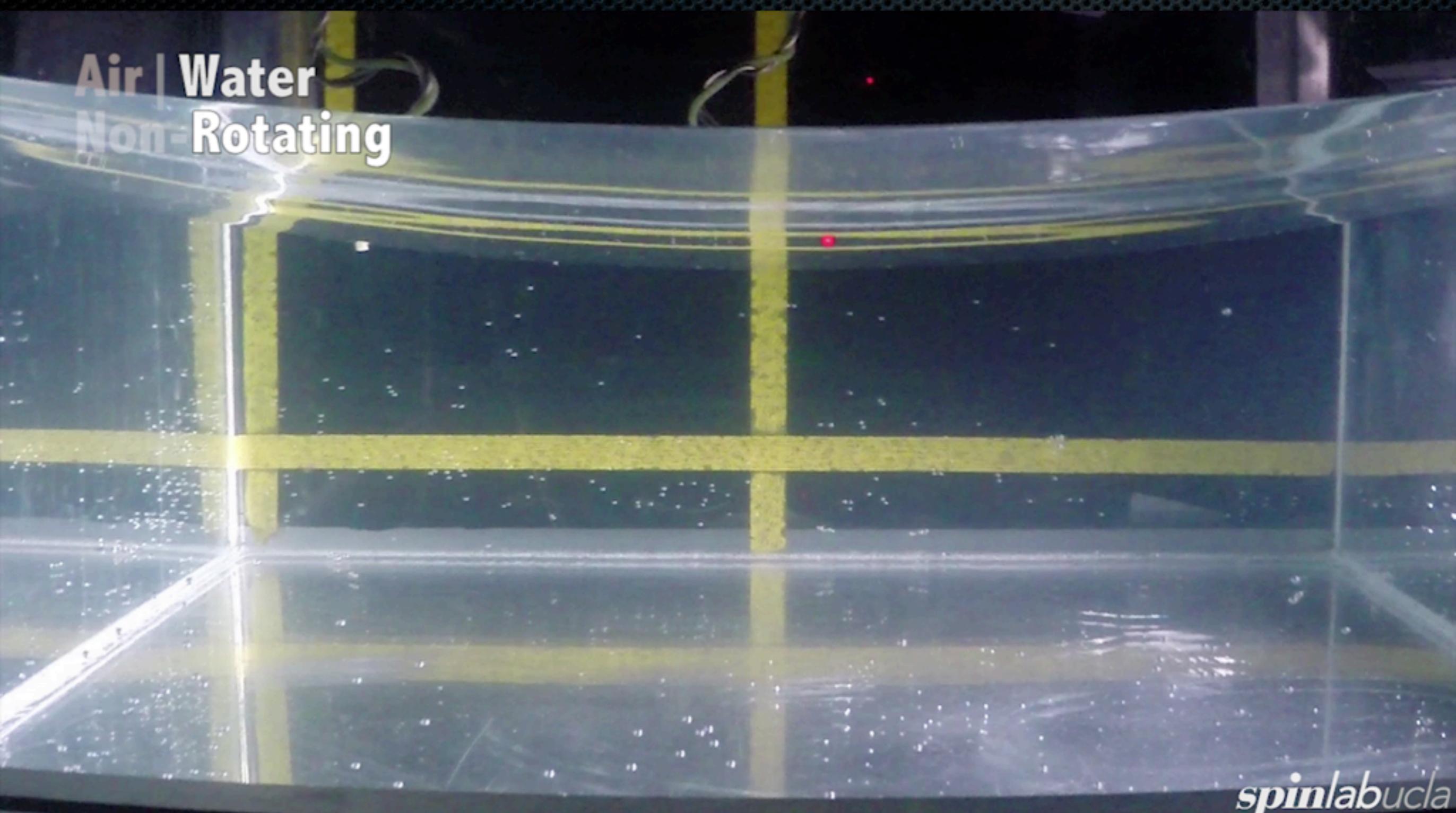
$$p = p_{atm} + \rho g H(s)$$

$$\partial p / \partial s = \rho \Omega^2 s$$

$$H(s) = H_{s0} + (\Omega^2 / 2g) s^2$$

**Parabolic
equipotential
surfaces**

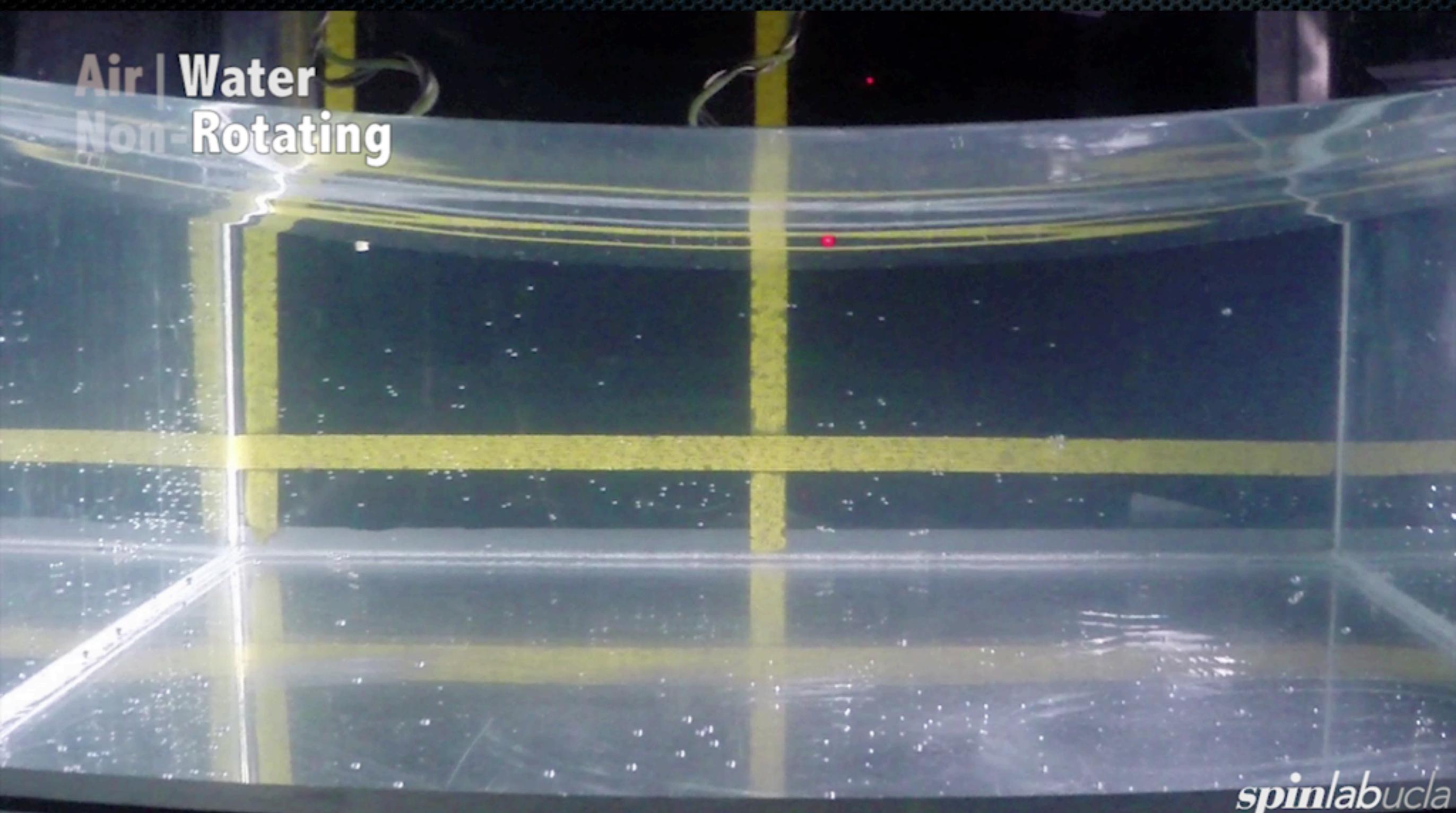
Air | Water
Non-Rotating



spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = (\delta \rho / \rho) \mathbf{g}_{eff} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega$$

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

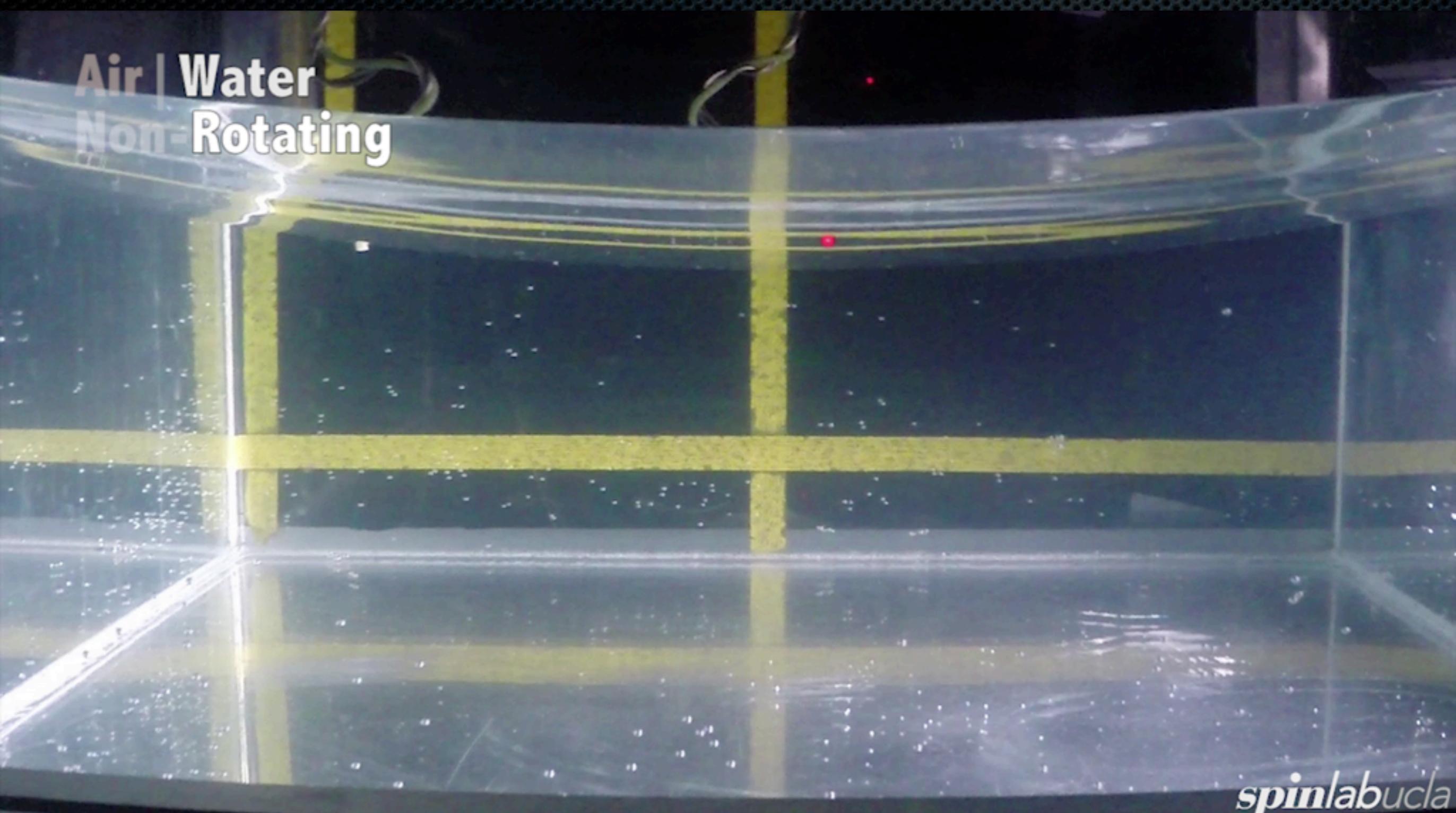


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$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = (\delta \rho / \rho) \mathbf{g}_{eff} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega \quad \text{Rossby, } Ro = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{fall}} \simeq 0.3$$

Coriolis dominates

Air | Water
Non-Rotating



spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$0 = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega$$

Geostrophic Balance

$$\text{Rossby, } Ro = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{fall}} \simeq 0.3$$

Coriolis dominates

Geostrophic Flows

- Invariant along rotation axis

$$\nabla \times \left(-\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega \hat{z} \right) = 0$$

$$\Omega \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = 0$$

Taylor-Proudman
Theorem

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} = 0$$

Air | Water
Non-Rotating

Side View

spinlabucla
SIMULATED PLANETARY INTERIORS LAB

$$Ro = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{fall}} \simeq 0.3; \quad Ro_{core} \sim 10^{-6}$$

Talk Outline

- ✦ Geodynamo Observations & Models
- ✦ Rotating Fluid Dynamics Primer (Movies)
- ✦ Planetary Core Columns
 - ✦ And Beyond

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Rotating Convection Columns

- **Ekman number, E**
 - Scaled viscous force

$$E = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{visc}} = \frac{\nu}{\Omega L^2}$$

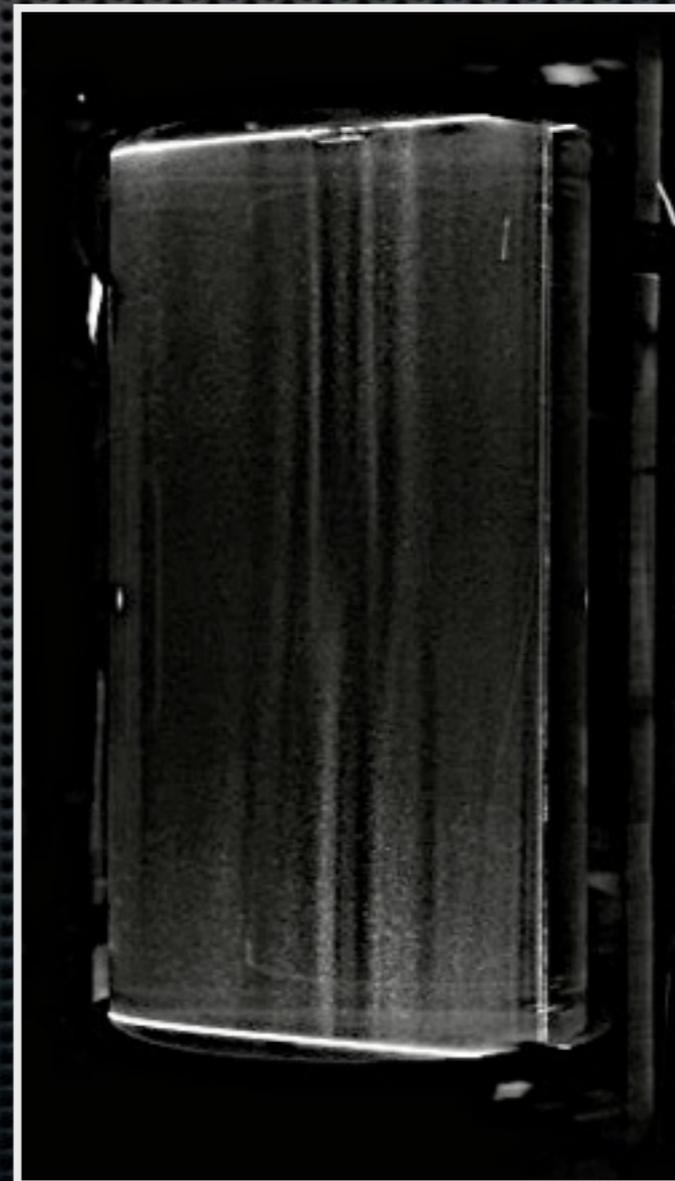


Image:
J. Cheng

Rotating Convection Columns

- **Ekman number, E**
 - Scaled viscous force
- **Rayleigh number, Ra**
 - Scaled buoyancy force

$$E = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{visc}} = \frac{\nu}{\Omega L^2}$$

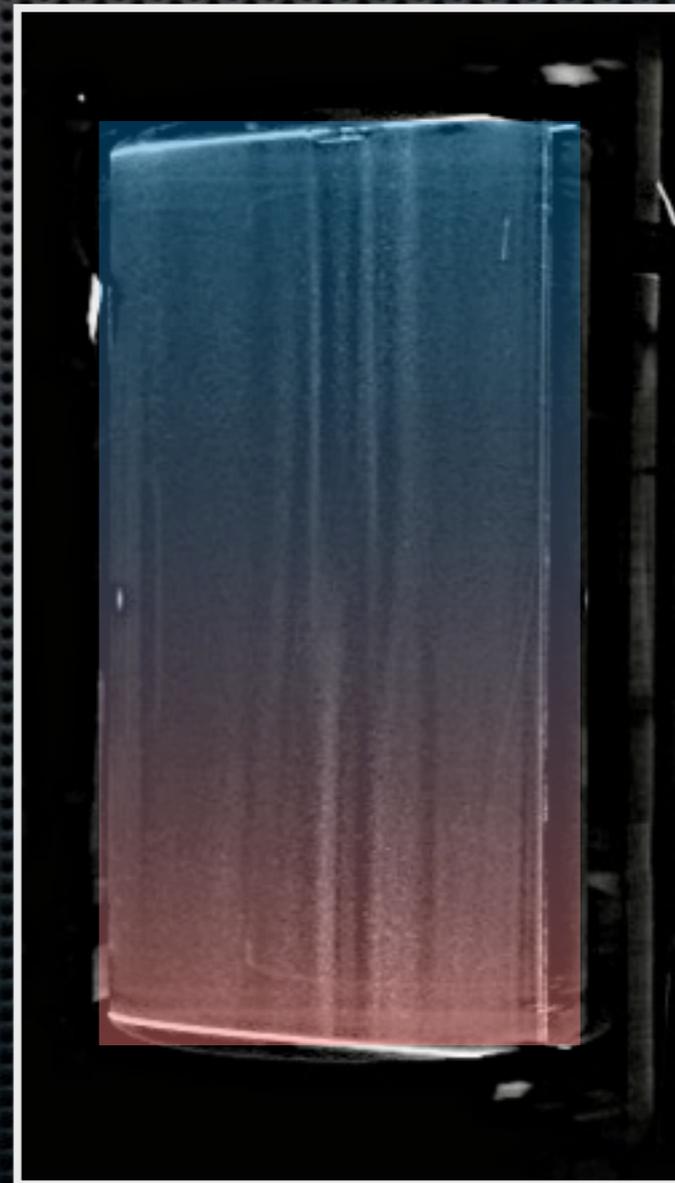


Image:
J. Cheng

Rotating Convection Columns

- **Ekman number, E**
 - Scaled viscous force
- **Rayleigh number, Ra**
 - Scaled buoyancy force
 - Onset Forcing:

$$Ra_C \sim E^{-4/3}$$

$$E = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{visc}} = \frac{\nu}{\Omega L^2}$$

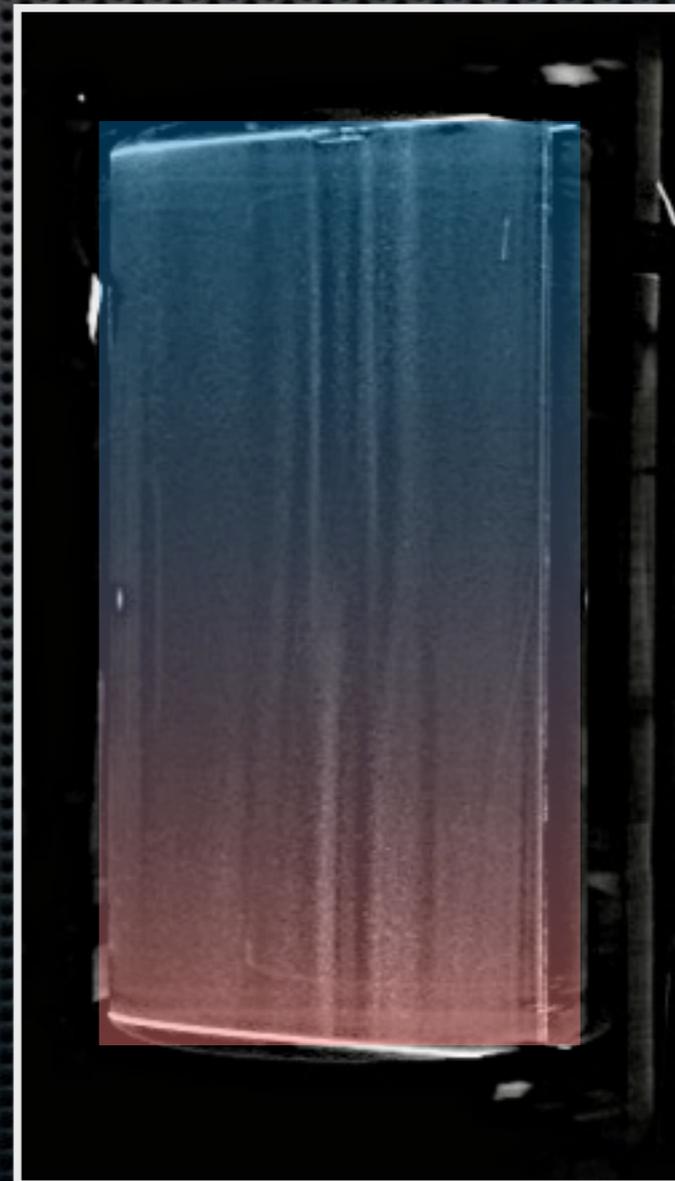


Image:
J. Cheng

Rotating Convection Columns

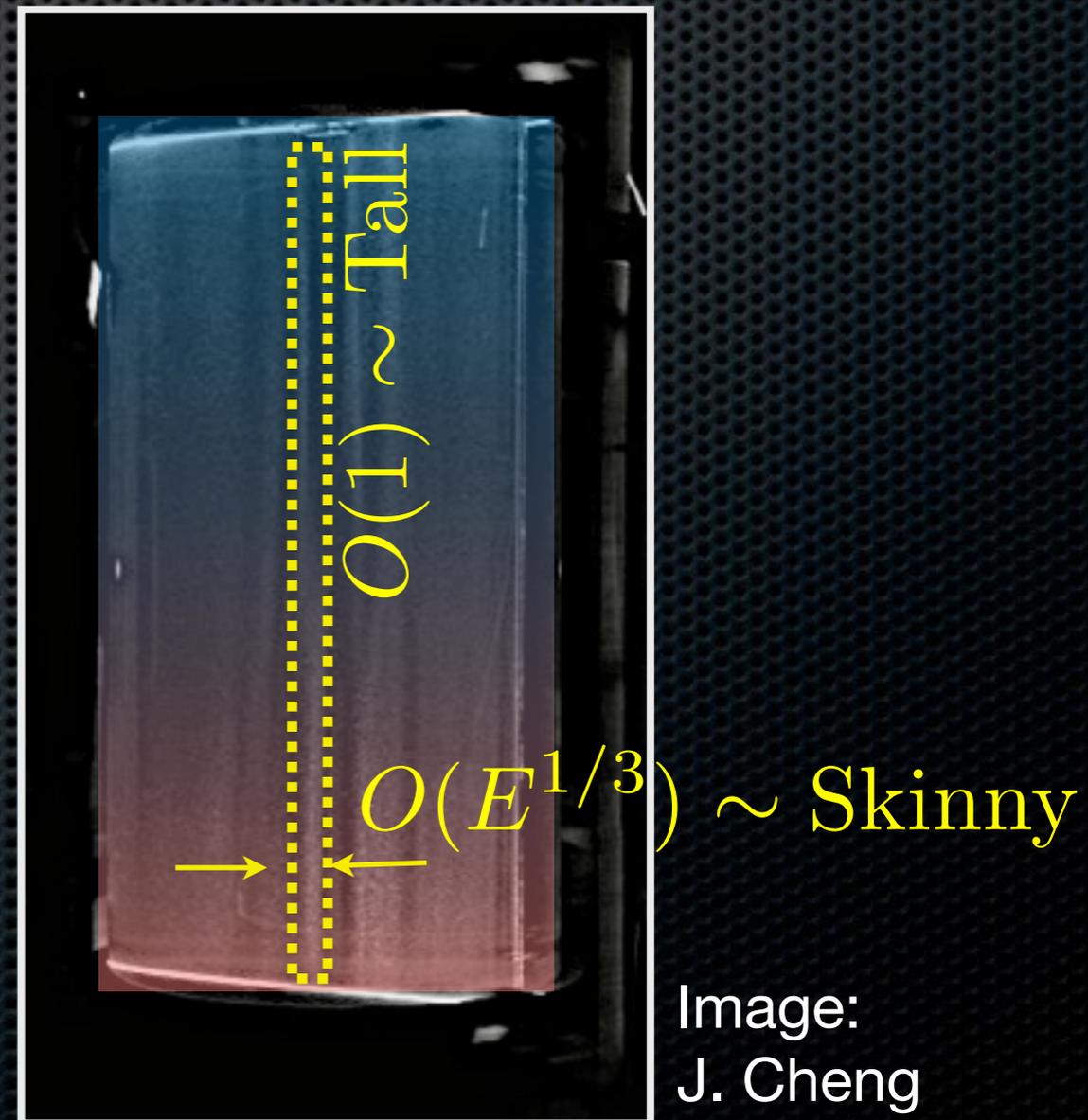
- **Ekman number, E**
 - Scaled viscous force
- **Rayleigh number, Ra**
 - Scaled buoyancy force
 - Onset Forcing:

$$Ra_C \sim E^{-4/3}$$

- **Onset column width:**

$$l_C \sim E^{1/3}$$

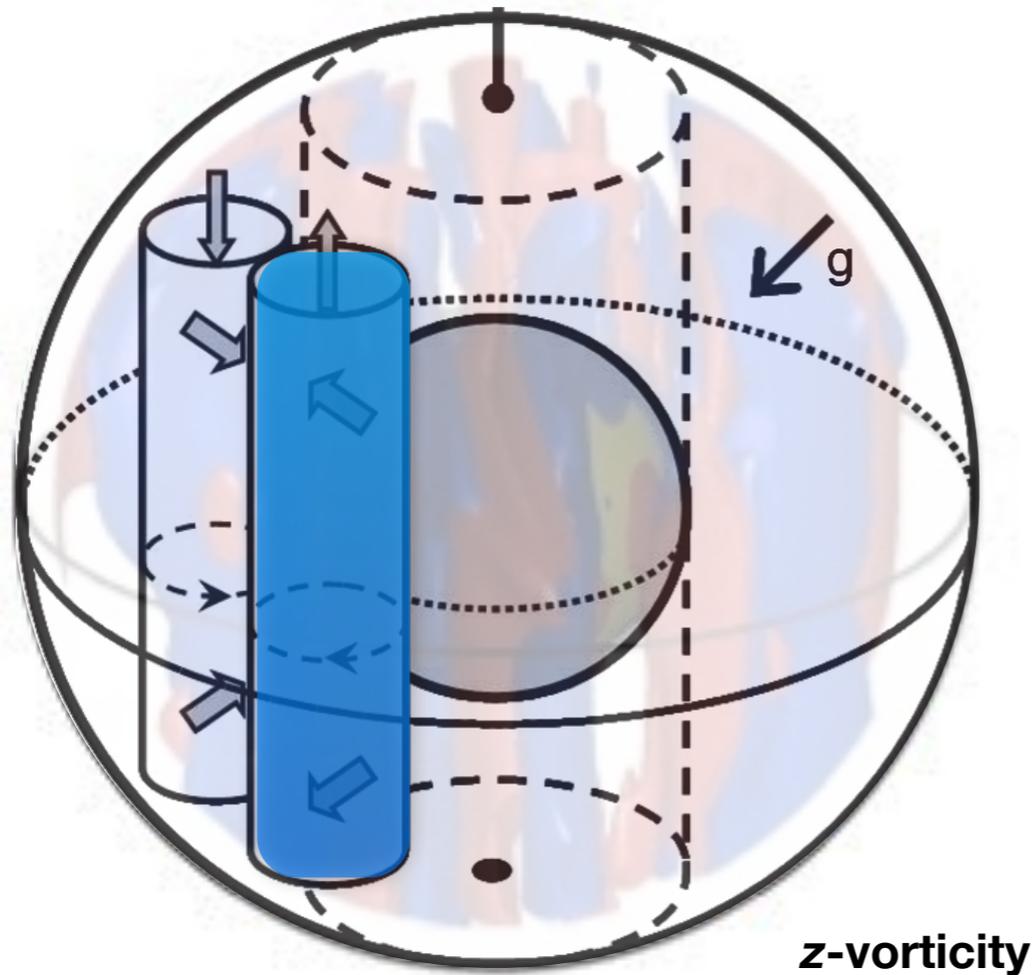
$$E = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{visc}} = \frac{\nu}{\Omega L^2}$$



Rotating Convection Columns

Christensen, *Enc. Solid Earth Geophys.* 2011

Soderlund et al. *EPSL* 2012



$$E = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{visc}} = \frac{\nu}{\Omega L^2}$$

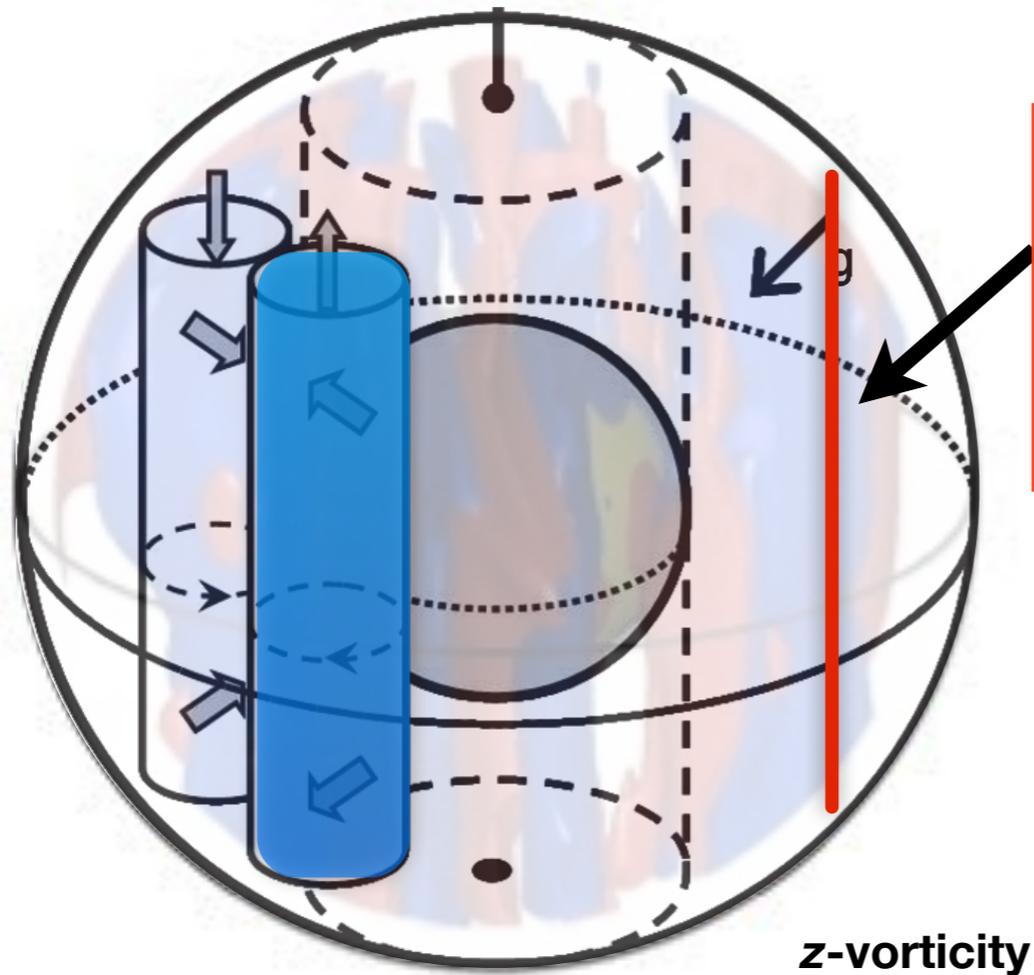
▪ **Models:**

$$E \sim 1e-4; l_c \sim 0.1$$

Rotating Convection Columns

Christensen, *Enc. Solid Earth Geophys.* 2011

Soderlund et al. *EPSL* 2012



**10³
too
wide**

$$E = \frac{\tau_{rot}}{\tau_{visc}} = \frac{\nu}{\Omega L^2}$$

Models:

$$E \sim 1e-4; l_c \sim 0.1$$

✦ **Earth's Core:**

$$E \sim 1e-15; l_c \sim 1e-5$$

(i.e., 10⁴ x smaller than scale of flux patches)

Columns: Models vs. Cores

- ✦ **Model** $E^{1/3}$ columns: generate large-scale flux patches
- ✦ **Planetary Cores** $E^{1/3}$ columns: ~10 m wide
 - ✦ Tall and wafer thin; local $Rm \ll 1$ (aka, non-inductive)
 - ✦ **Unobservably small**: Cannot explain large-scale **core** flux patches
 - ✦ **Model-style columns** magnetically ineffective in **planetary cores**

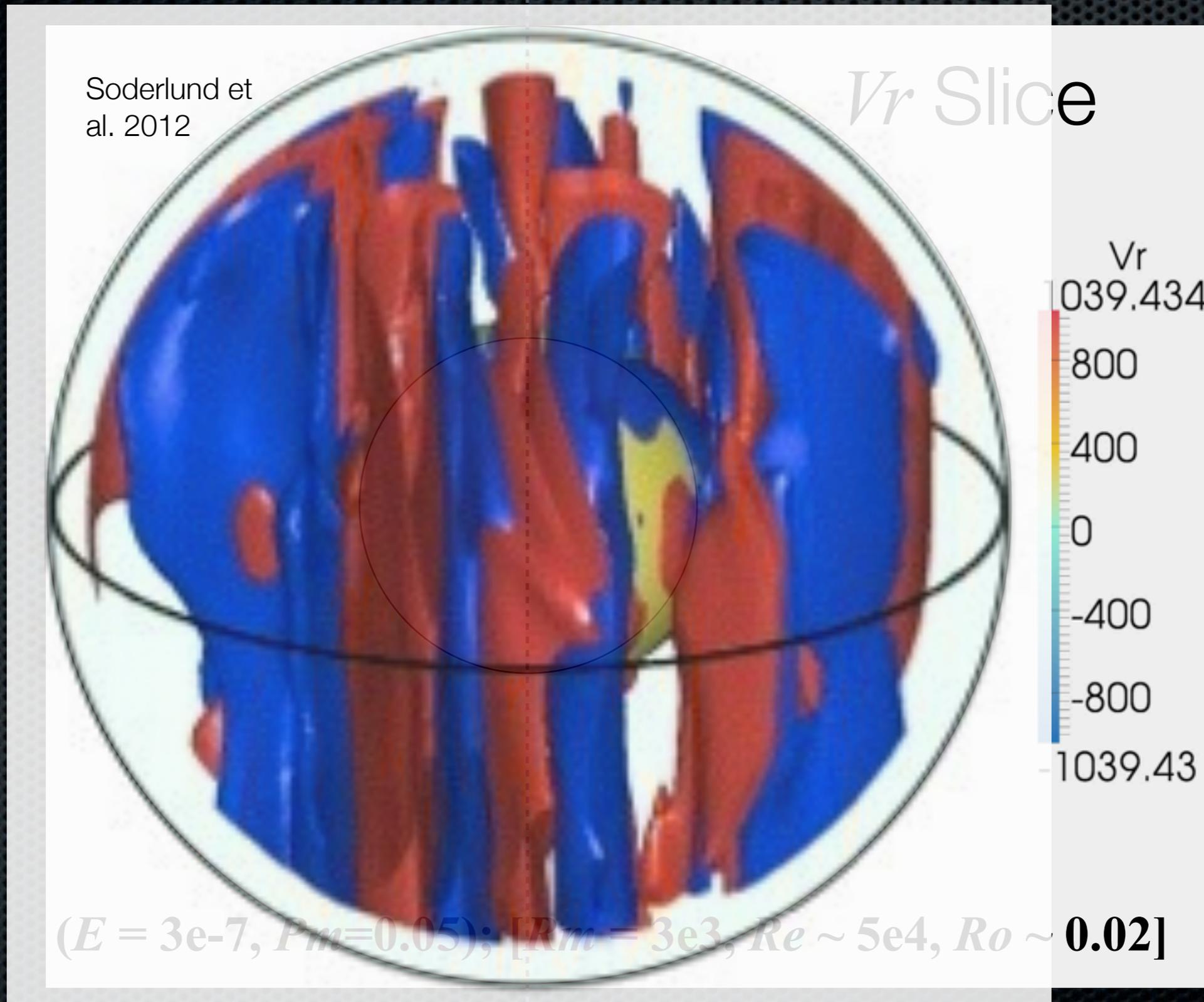
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Talk Outline

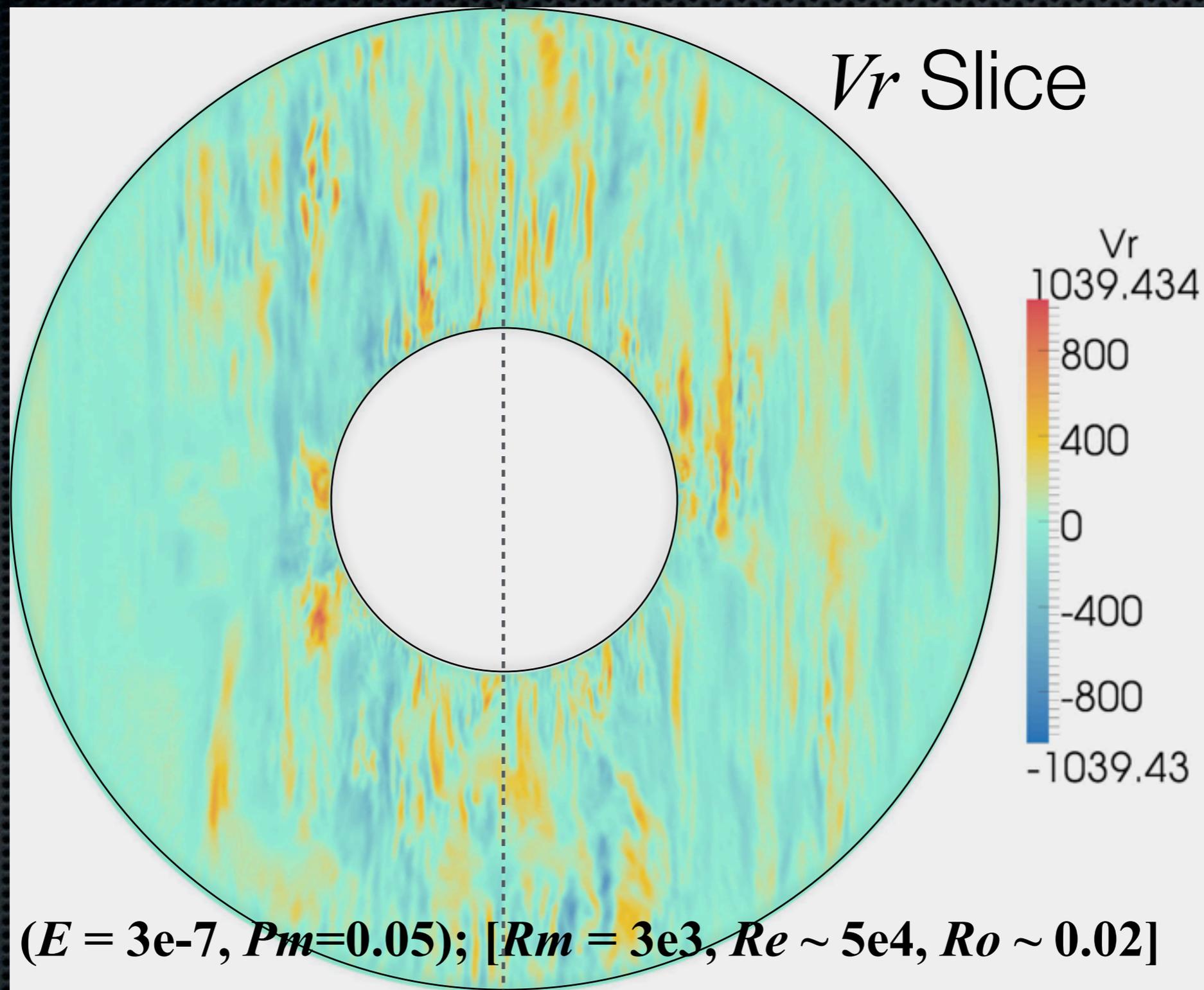
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Sheyko's Turbulent Dynamo



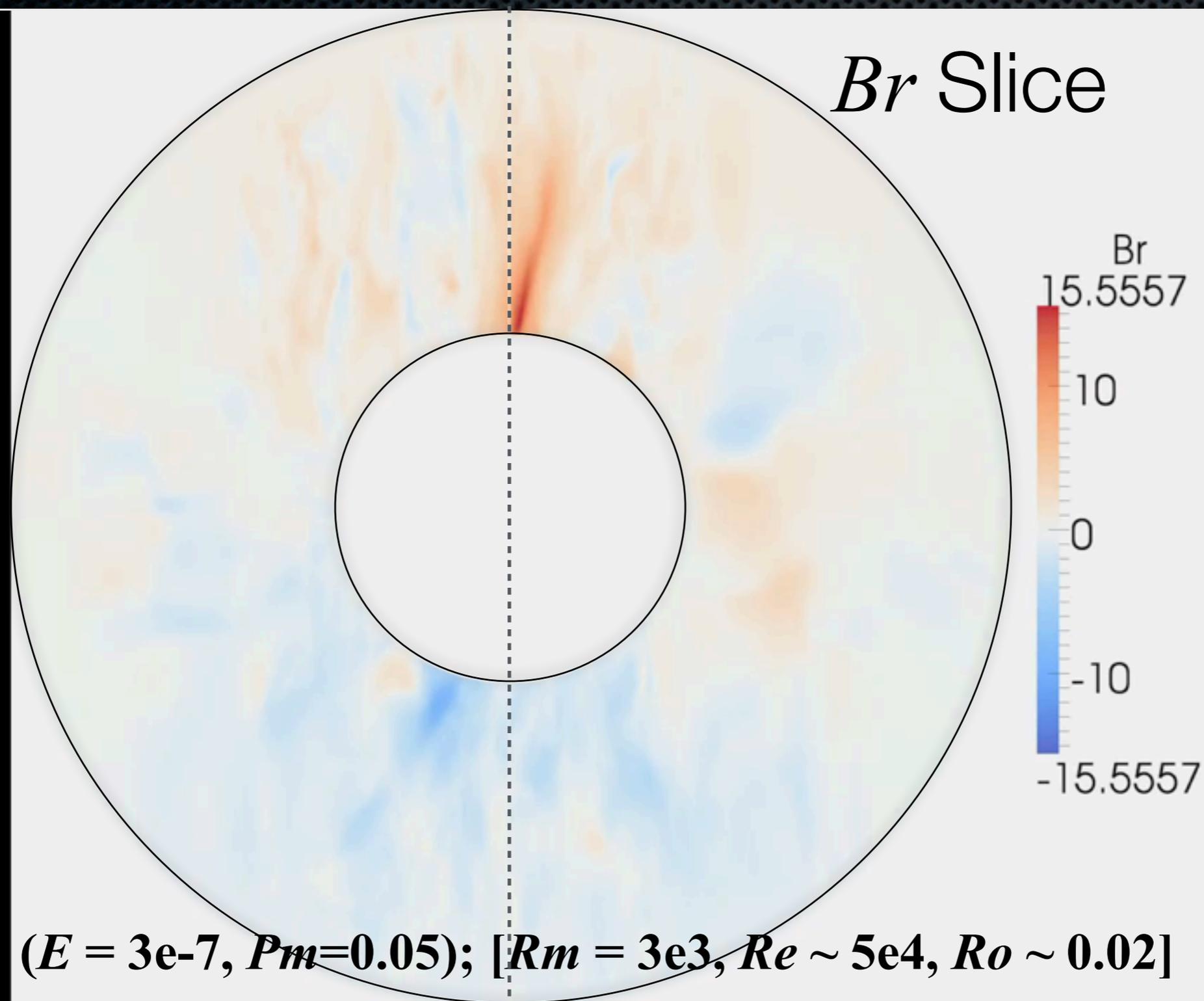
Andrey Sheyko et al., in prep. (2014)

Sheyko's Turbulent Dynamo



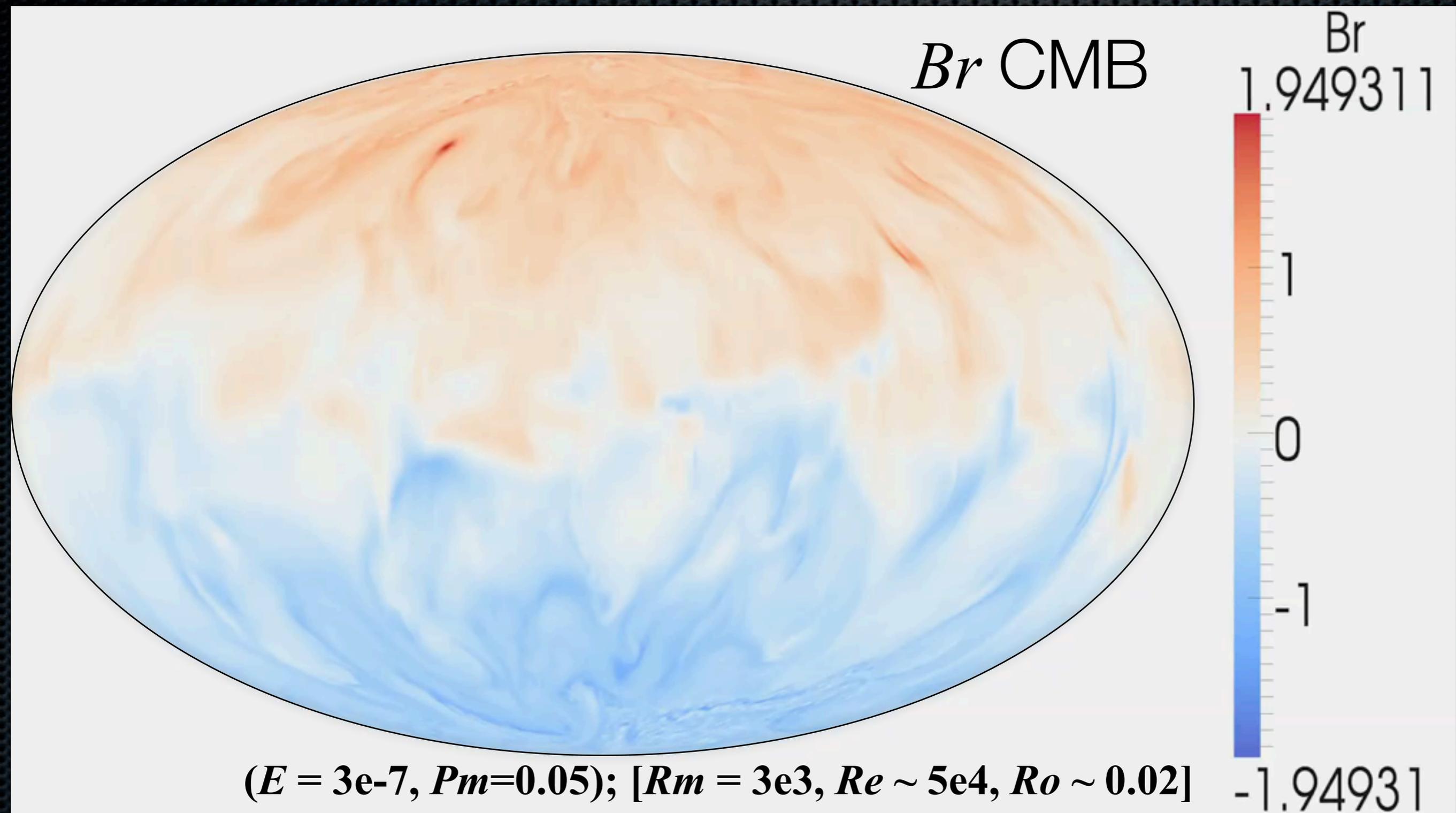
Andrey Sheyko et al., in prep. (2014)

Sheyko's Turbulent Dynamo



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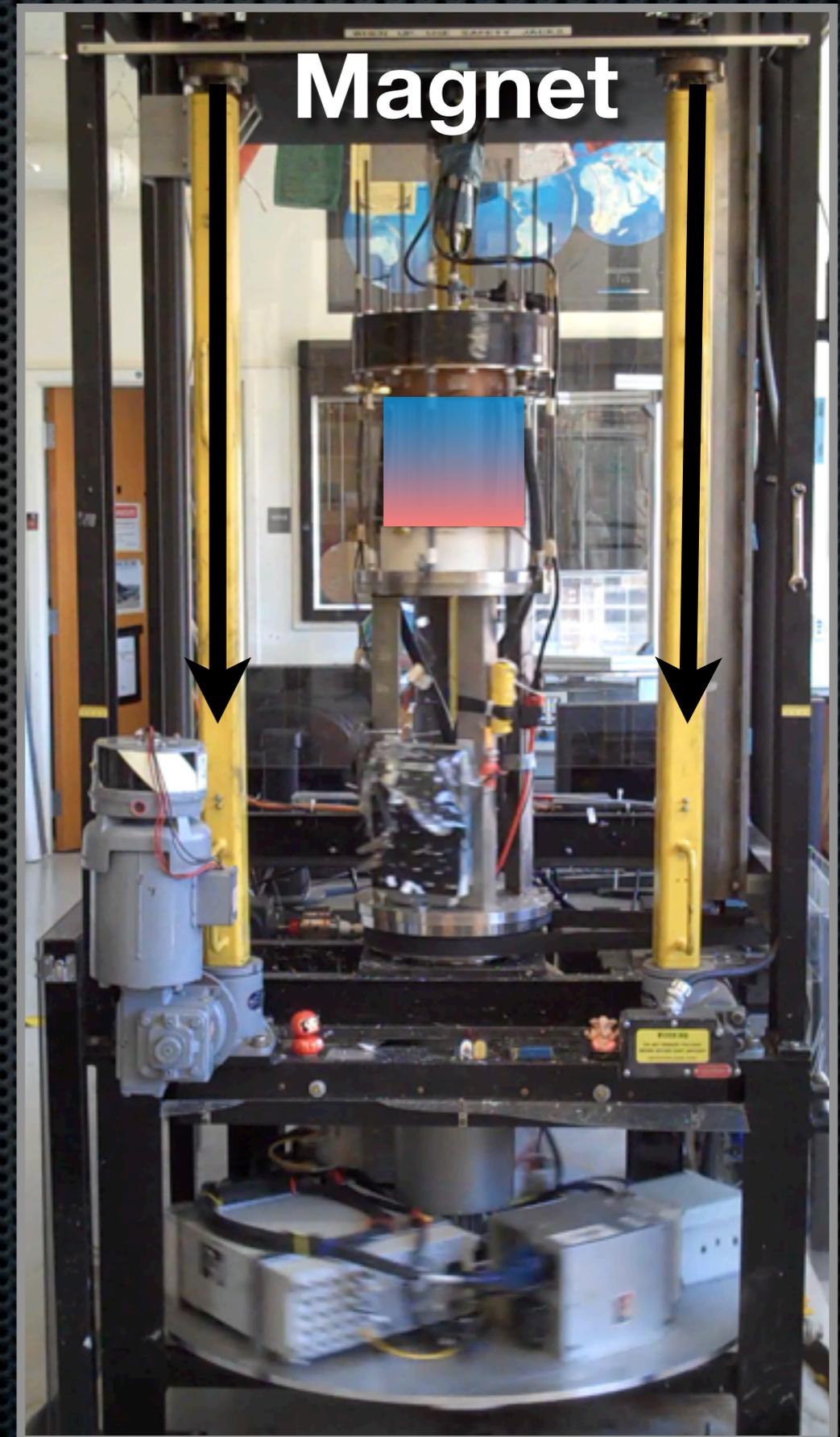
Sheyko's Turbulent Dynamo

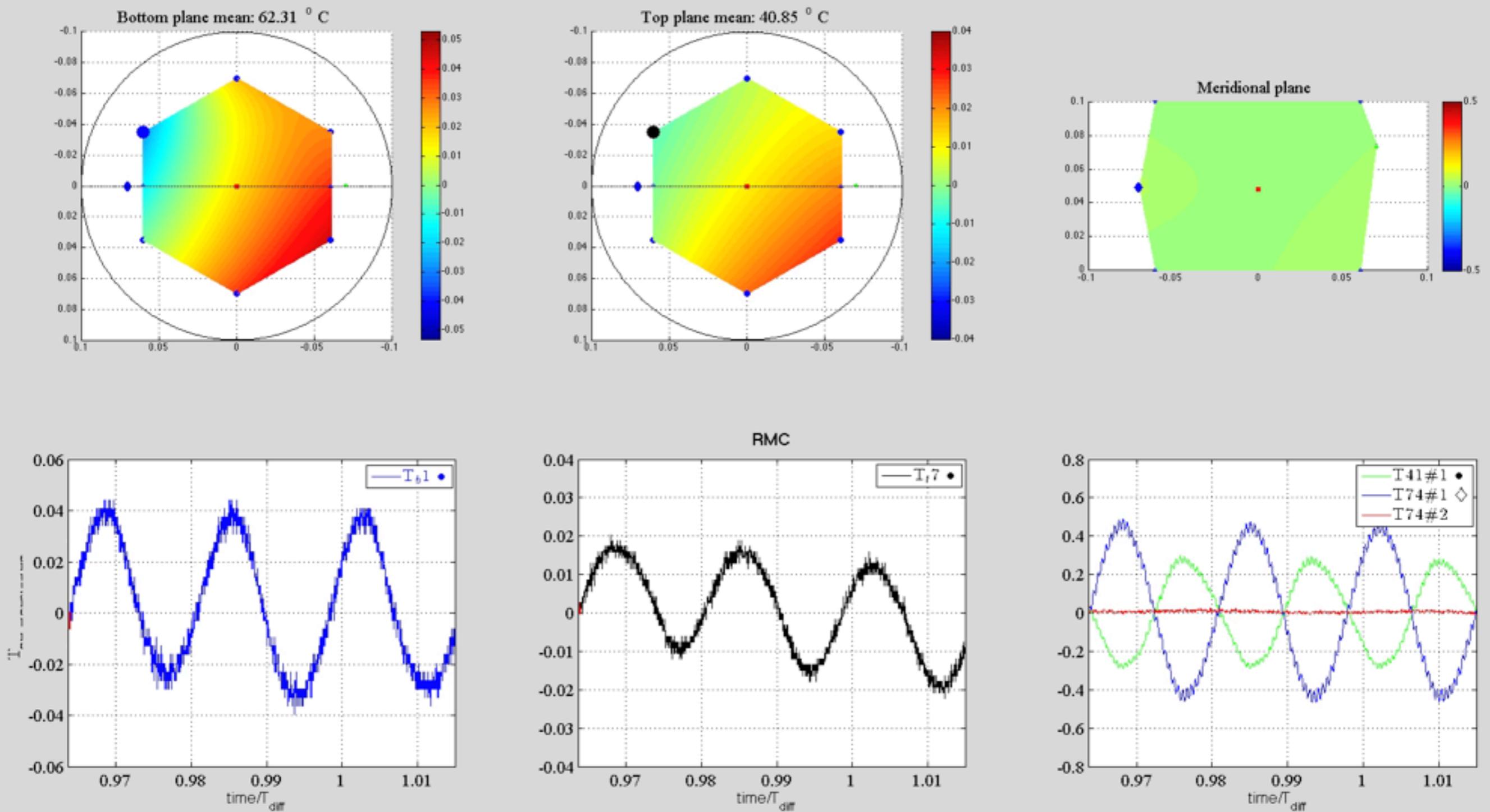
- ✦ Fully turbulent model: magnetic flux bundles no longer directly tied to columns (scale separation)
- ✦ Axialization still essential

MHD Experiments

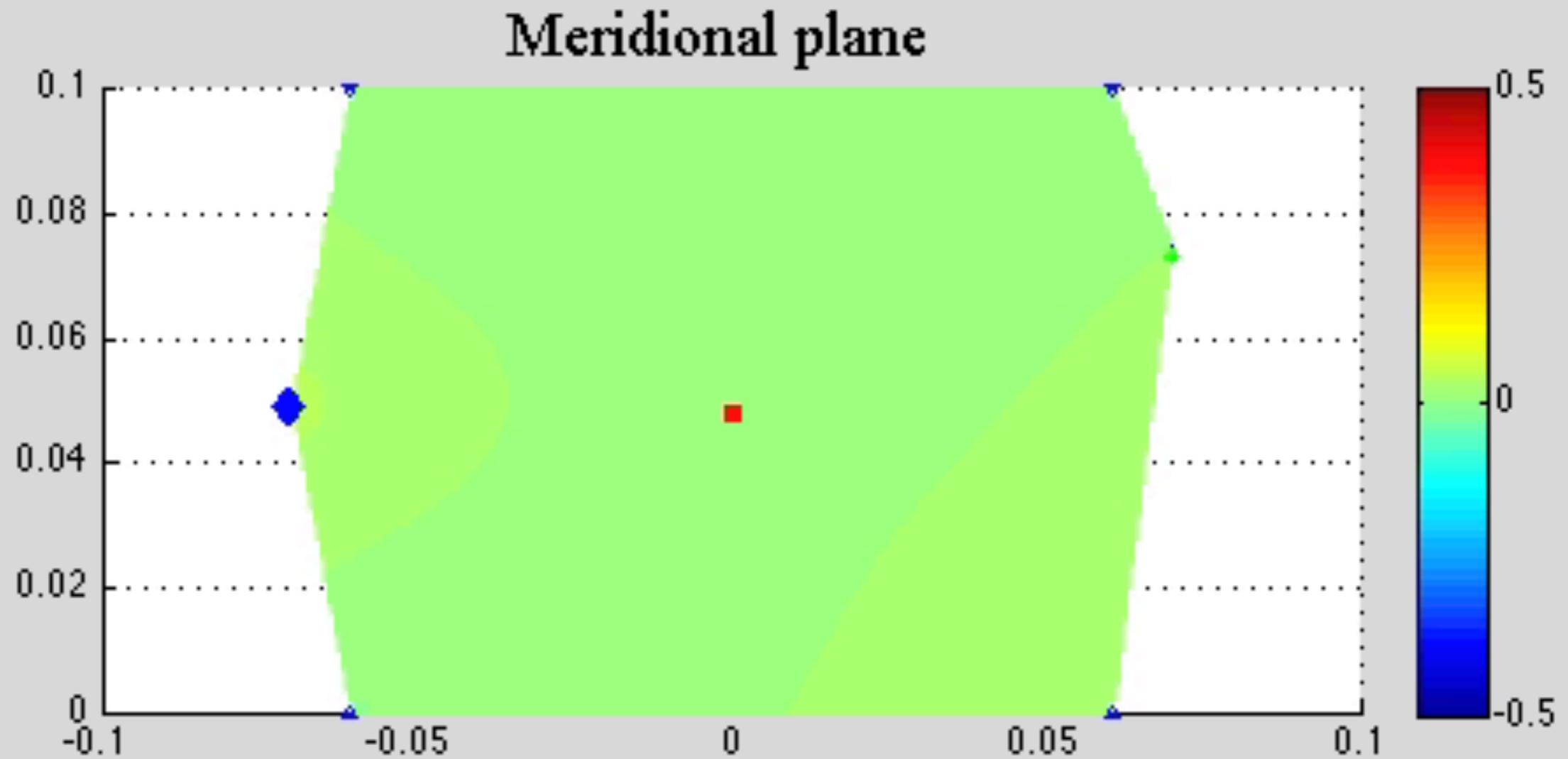
- ✦ Rotating magneto-convection in liquid gallium
- ✦ Strong magnetic field can balance Coriolis
- ✦ Fundamentally different behaviors predicted

Adolfo Ribeiro, Guillaume Fabre





✦ Dominant mode: $m=1$ precessing structure



- ✦ Dominant mode: $m=1$ precessing structure

Lab MHD Experiments

- ✦ In liquid metal, columns not found when imposed fields provide Lorentz \sim Coriolis
- ✦ Dominant container-scale precessing wave mode
 - ✦ Fundamentally different physics than exists in present dynamo models...

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Summary

- ✦ Successful present-day models
 - ✦ Large-scale columns generate axial field with large flux patches
- ✦ Axialized flows in Coriolis-dominated systems
- ✦ Need for lower viscosity, liquid metal dynamo models, requiring HPC efforts

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THANKS...

Appendix

Geostrophic Flows

- Perpendicular to pressure gradients
- Invariant along rotation axis

$$0 = \hat{z} \times \left(-\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \mathbf{u} \times 2\Omega \hat{z} \right)$$

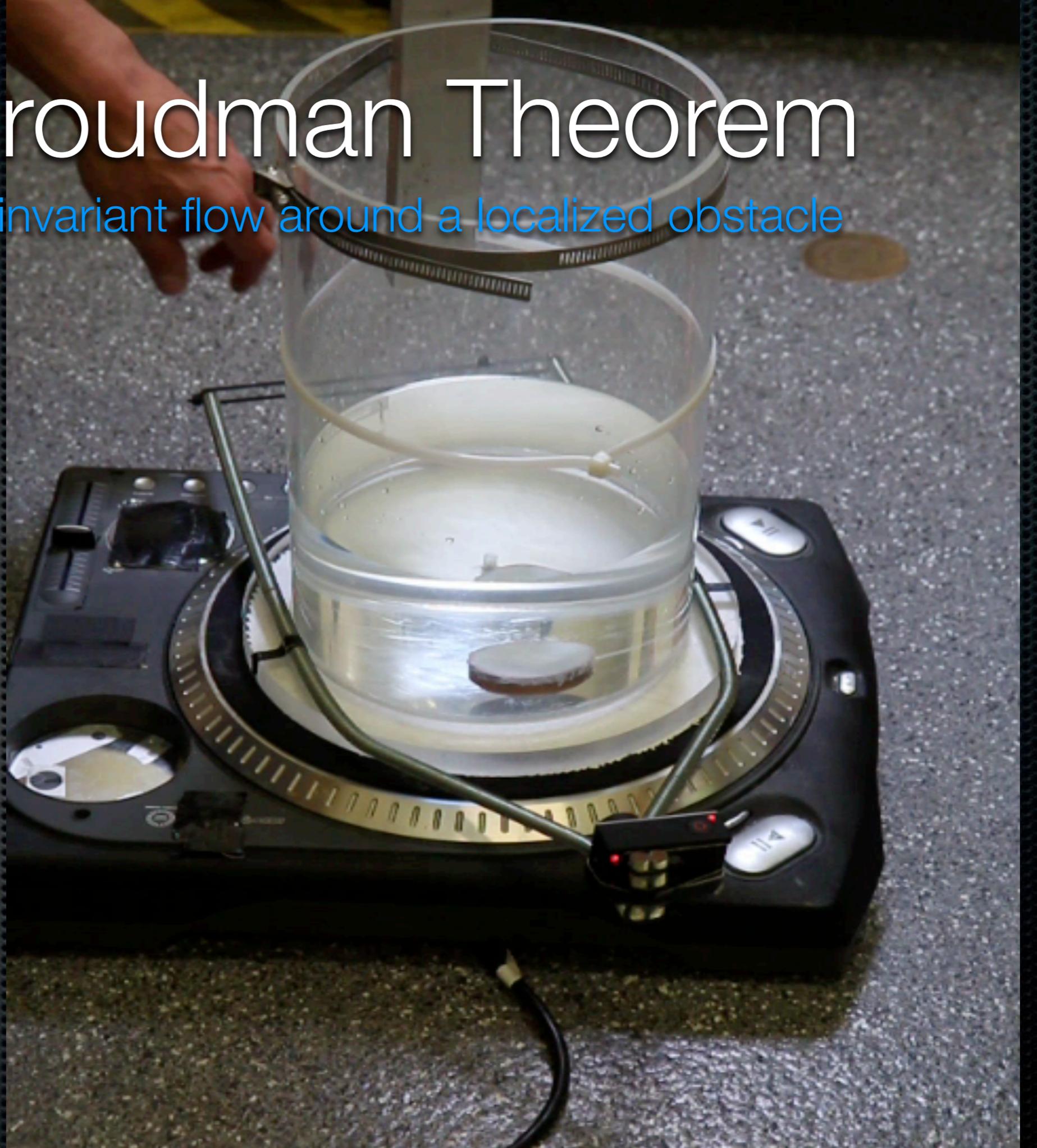
$$\mathbf{u}_H = \frac{1}{2\rho\Omega} (\hat{z} \times \nabla p)$$

$$(u_x, u_y) = \frac{1}{2\rho\Omega} \left(-\frac{\partial p}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \right) \quad \text{Horizontally non-divergent flow}$$

$$\partial_z(u_x, u_y) = 0 \quad \text{for hydrostatic balance in } z$$

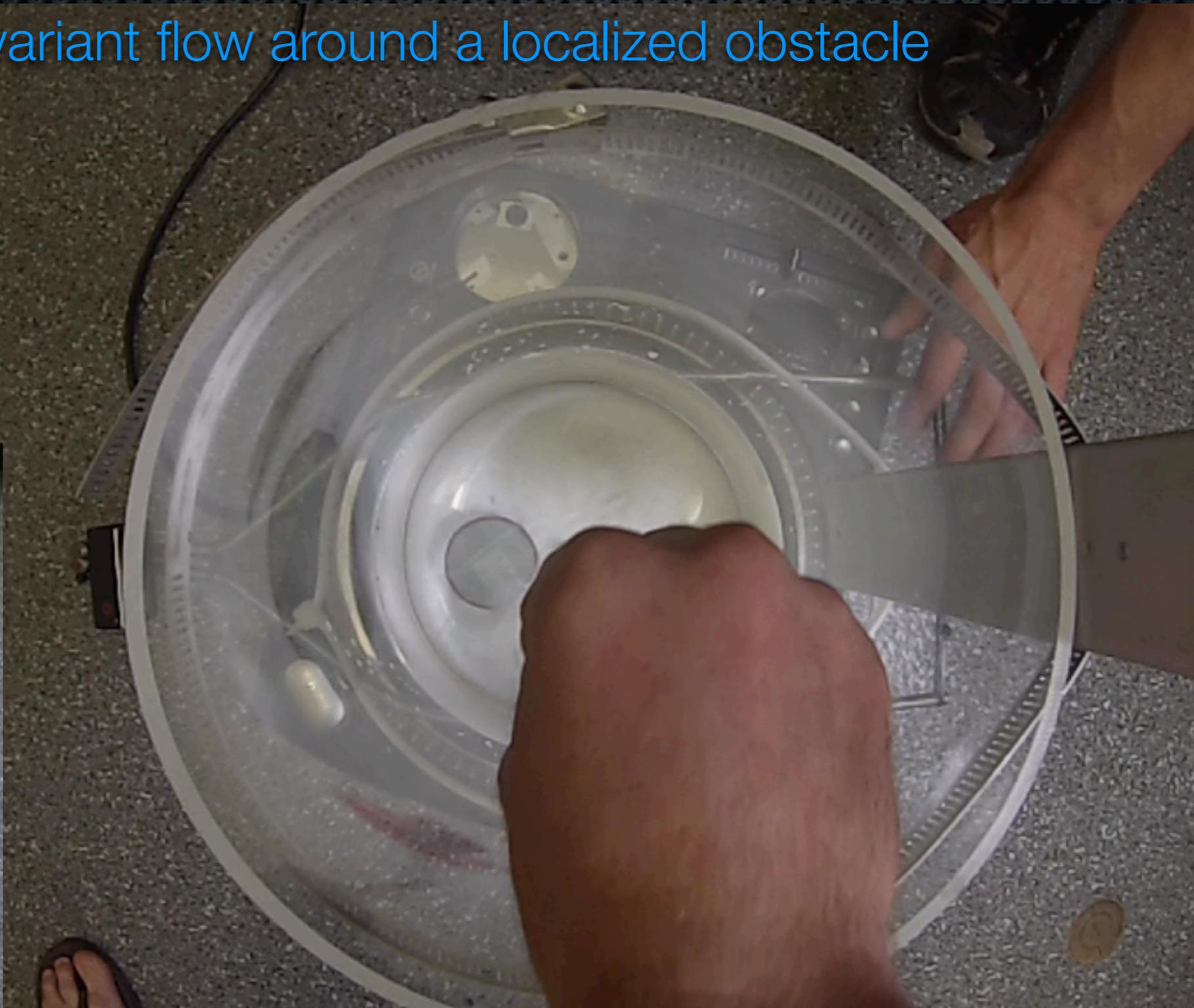
Taylor-Proudman Theorem

- Requires axially invariant flow around a localized obstacle



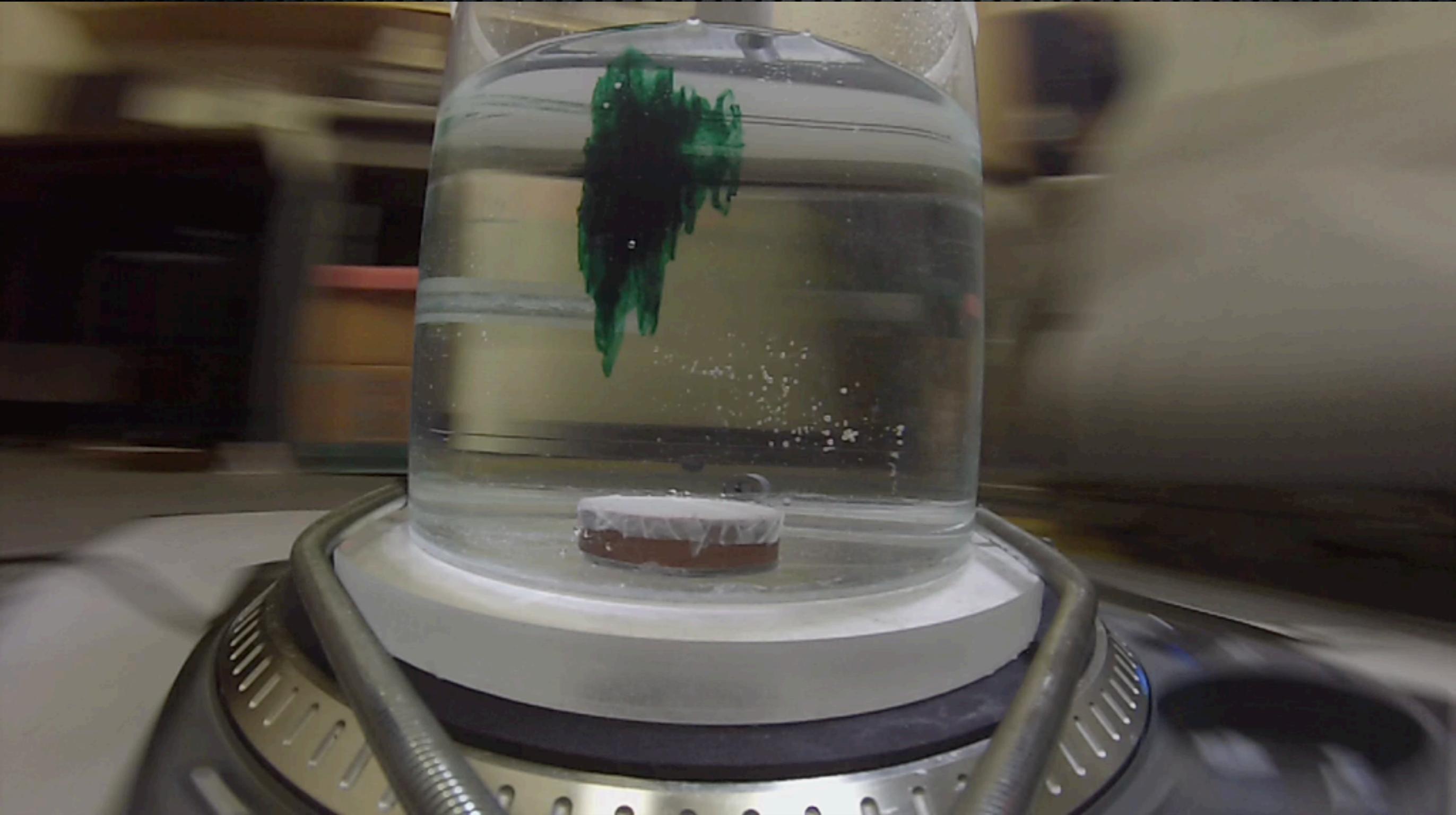
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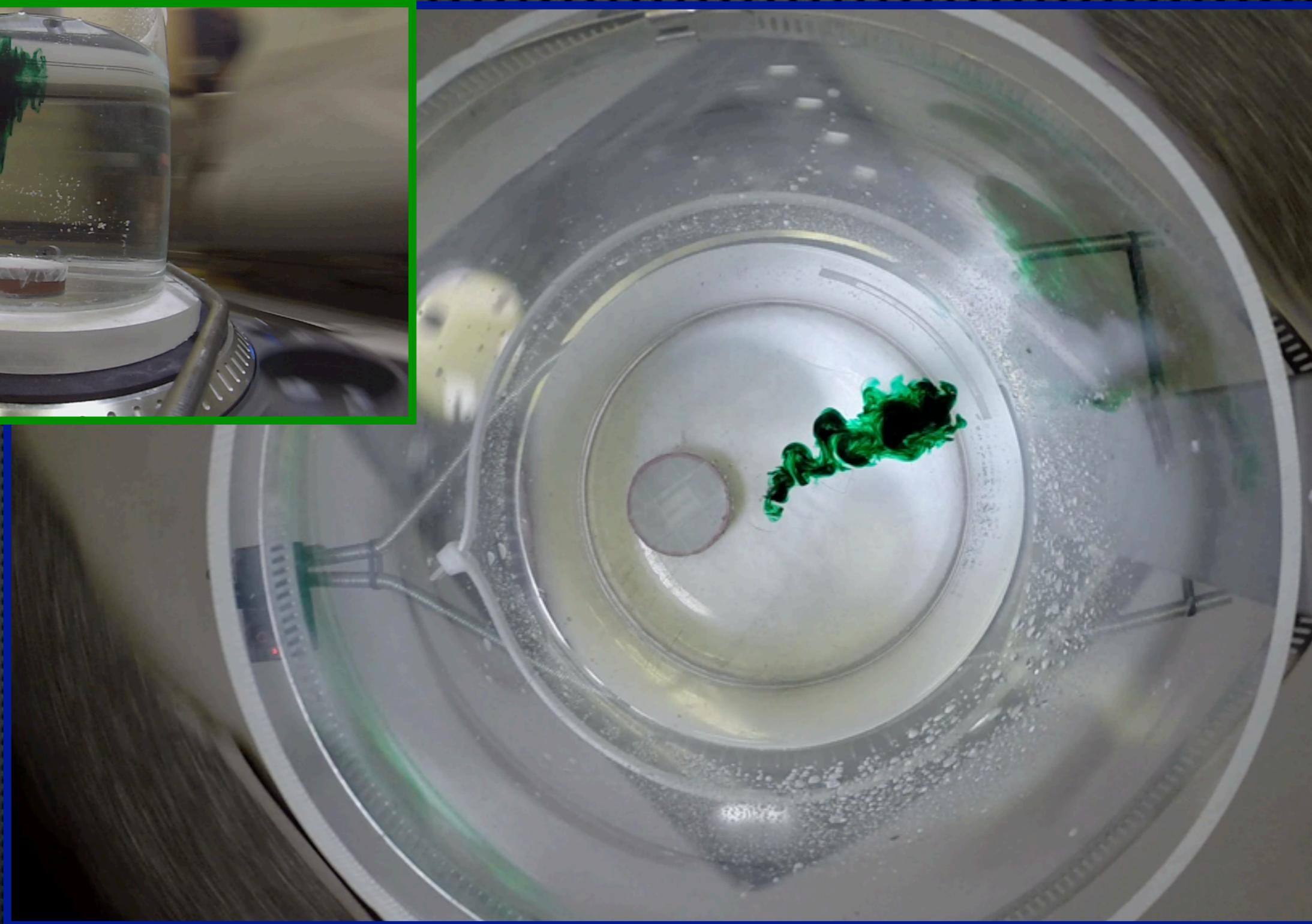
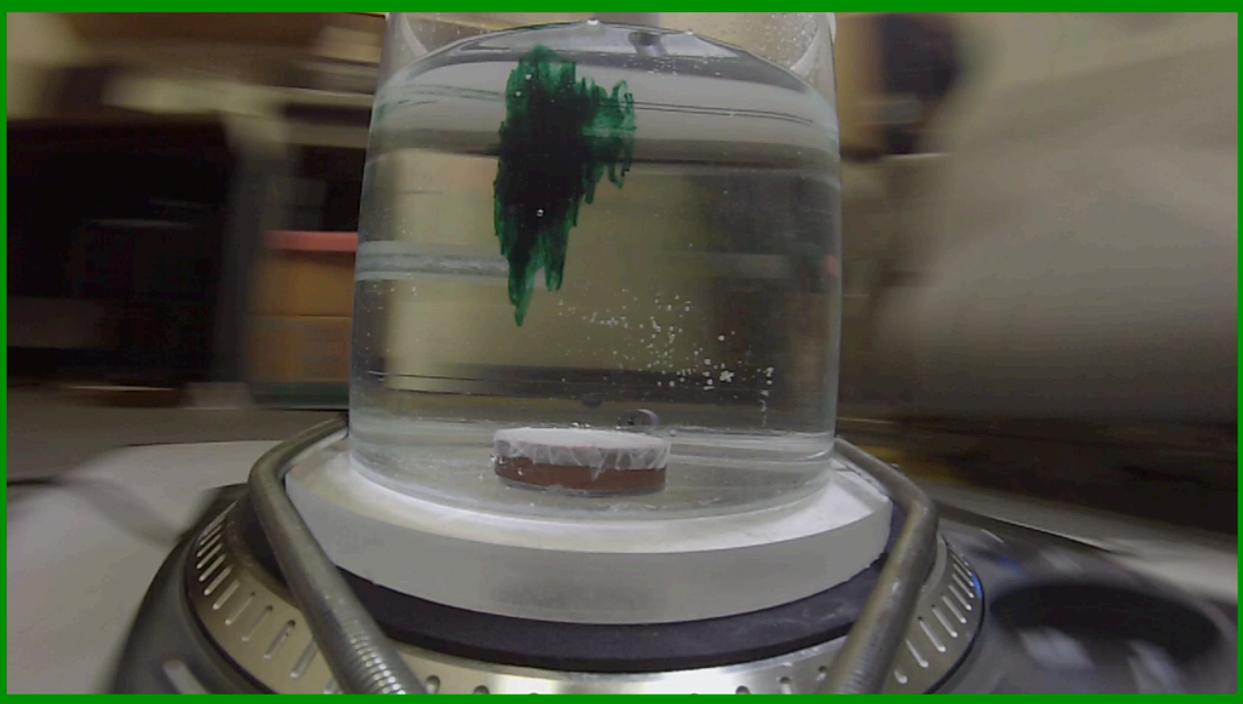
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Taylor-Proudman Theorem

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Taylor-Proudman Theorem

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