

# Verification and Validation in Ocean Modeling

T. Iliescu

Department of Mathematics  
ICAM  
Virginia Tech

Mathematical Methods for V&V  
Sandia, August 14-16, 2007

## 1 Gravity Currents

## 2 Direct Numerical Simulation

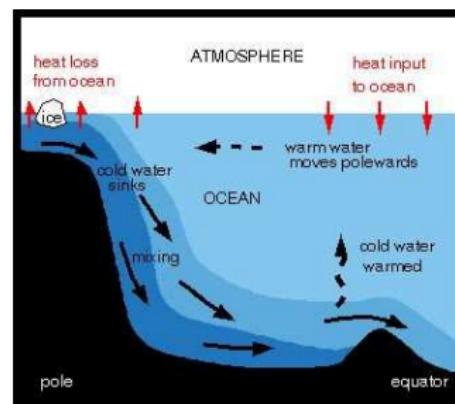
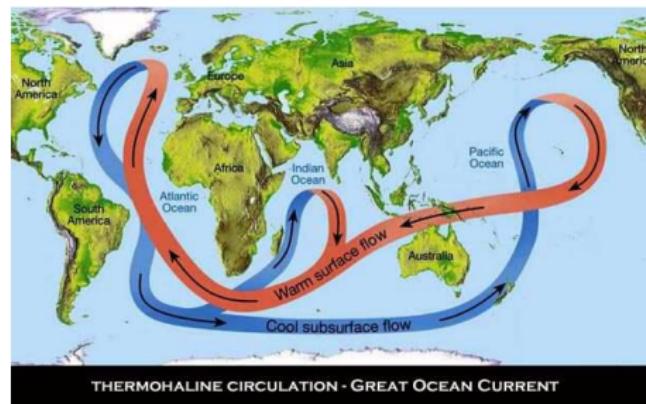
## 3 Large Eddy Simulation

## 4 Ongoing Research

## Collaborators

- Tamay Özgökmen, University of Miami
- Paul Fischer, Argonne National Laboratory
- Jinqiao Duan, Illinois Institute of Technology

# Thermohaline Circulation



# Gravity Currents

- density currents, overflows
- flow of a fluid within another fluid
- driven by the gravitational force
- Kelvin-Helmholtz rolls

# Motivation



Protection against the bore in the Qiantang river, 910 AD.

# Motivation

- importance
  - oceanic gravity currents – thermohaline circulation
  - polar seas – cooling
  - marginal seas – evaporation
- challenges
  - climate models: *Earth* –  $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ km})$
  - basin models:  $\mathcal{O}(1000 \text{ km})$  –  $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ km})$
  - regional/coastal models:  $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ km})$  –  $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ km})$

# Motivation

- laboratory tank experiments
  - continental slope –  $\mathcal{O}(1^\circ)$
  - laboratory tank –  $\mathcal{O}(10^\circ)$
  - ocean - stratified
  - laboratory tank - stratification difficult

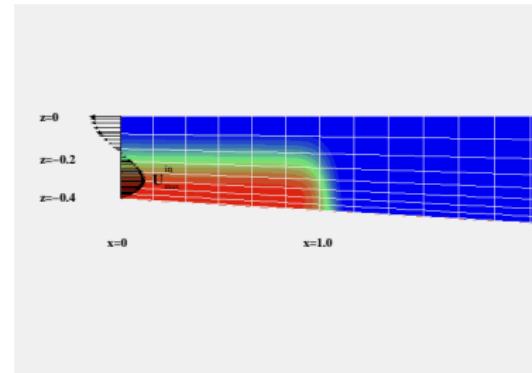
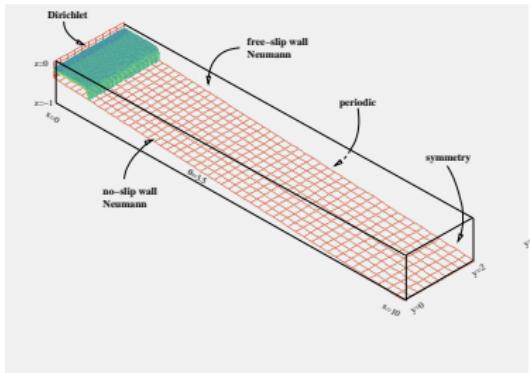
# Boussinesq Equations

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{u}_t - \Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nabla p - Ra T \mathbf{k} &= \mathbf{f} && \text{in } \Omega \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega \\ T_t - Pr^{-1} \Delta T + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) T &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega\end{aligned}$$

Rayleigh number  $Ra := \frac{g \beta \Delta T H^3}{\nu^2}$

Prandtl number  $Pr := \frac{\nu}{k}$

# Configuration & Parameters



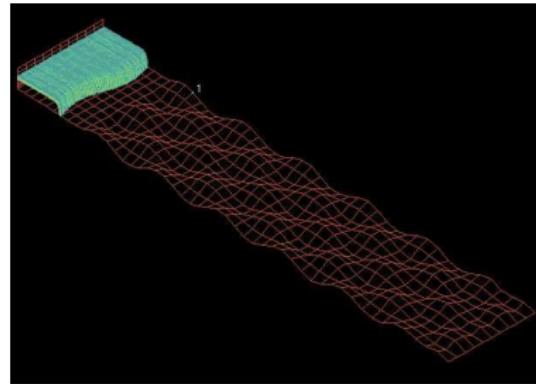
$$Ra = 5 \times 10^6, \quad Pr = 1$$

# 2D Smooth Topography



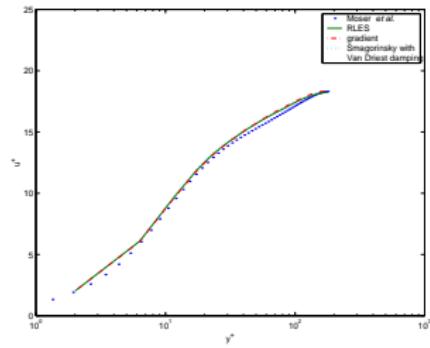
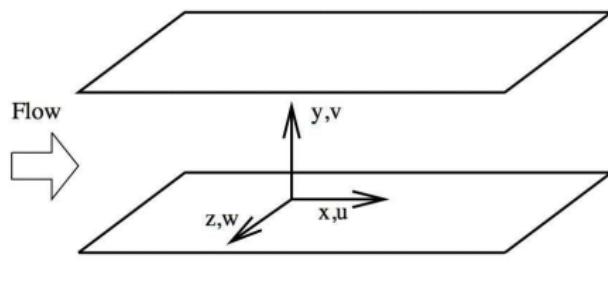
Özgökmen, Fischer, Duan, Iliescu,  
*Journal of Physical Oceanography*, 2004

# 3D Complex Topography



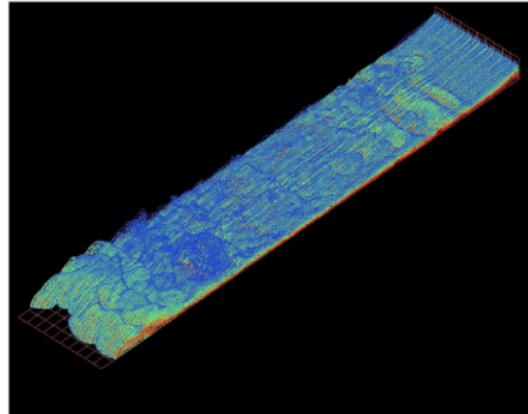
Özgökmen, Fischer, Duan, Iliescu,  
*Geophysical Research Letters*, 2004

# Validation & Verification



Iliescu, Fischer,  
*Physics of Fluids*, 2003

# Validation

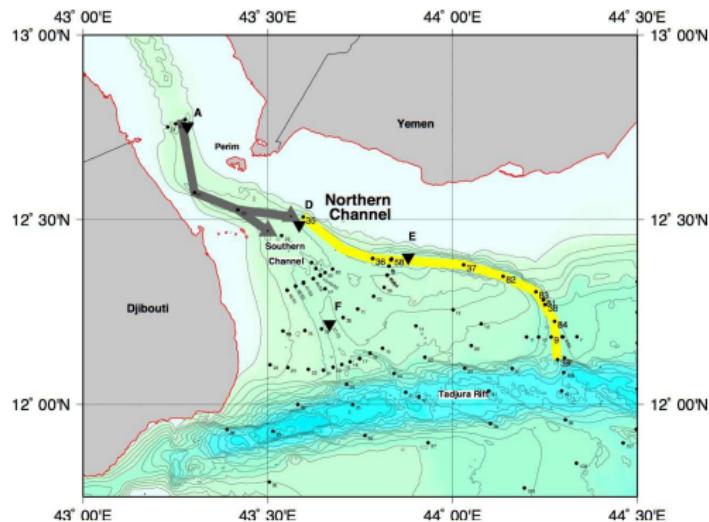


Laboratory experiments (left), numerical results (right).

# Validation & Verification

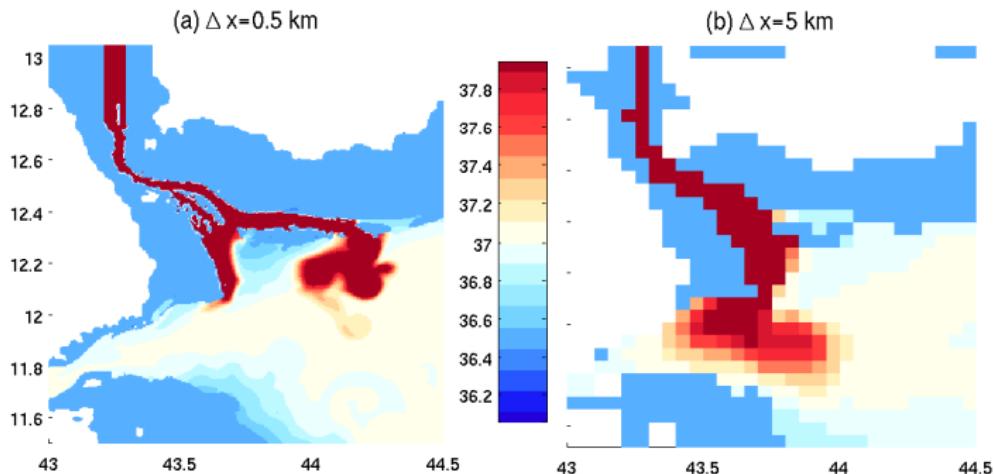
- Compared
  - 2D numerical results
  - 3D numerical results
  - laboratory experiments
- Criteria
  - propagation speed
  - growth rate of gravity current head
  - entrainment
- Conclusions
  - 2D, 3D – different
  - 3D, laboratory experiments – similar

# Red Sea



REDSOX winter cruise: topography and plume survey stations.

# Red Sea



Red Sea overflow with HYCOM.

# Computational Cost

- *all scales*
- $N \sim \mathcal{O}(Re^{9/4})$
- $U \sim 1 \text{ m/s}, \ L \sim 100 \text{ m} \implies Re_{GC} \sim 10^8$
- $N_{GC} \sim \mathcal{O}(Re_{GC}^{9/4}) \sim 10^{18}$
- alternatives needed

# Large Eddy Simulation

- approximate *large* scales
- model *small* scales
- spatial filter  $g_\delta$
- $\bar{\mathbf{u}} := g_\delta * \mathbf{u}$
- $g_\delta * \text{NSE}$

# Navier-Stokes

- closure problem: *model*  $\tau := \overline{\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}} - \overline{\mathbf{u}}\overline{\mathbf{u}}$
- Smagorinsky

$$\tau = -(C_S \delta)^2 \|\mathbb{D}(\overline{\mathbf{u}})\|_F \mathbb{D}(\overline{\mathbf{u}})$$

- $\mathbb{D}(\overline{\mathbf{u}}) = (\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T)/2$  deformation tensor
- $C_S \sim 0.17$  Smagorinsky constant
- $\delta$  filter radius
- energy cascade  $\implies$  eddy-viscosity LES models

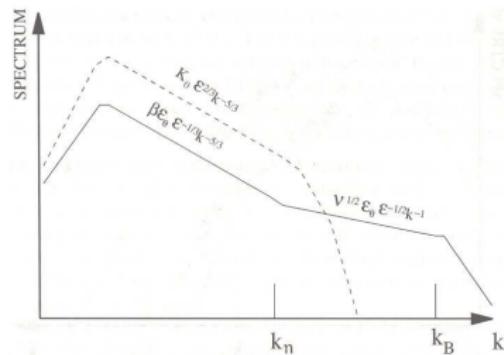
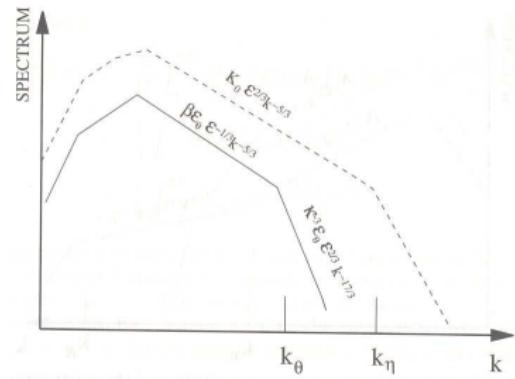
# Boussinesq

- closure problem: *model*  $\sigma := \overline{\mathbf{u} T} - \overline{\mathbf{u}} \overline{T}$
- Smagorinsky

$$\sigma = -(\tilde{C}_S \delta)^2 \|\mathbb{D}(\overline{\mathbf{u}})\|_F \mathbb{D}(\overline{T})$$

- $\mathbb{D}(\overline{\mathbf{u}}) = (\nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}} + \nabla \overline{\mathbf{u}}^T)/2$  deformation tensor
- $\tilde{C}_S \sim ?$
- $\delta$  filter radius
- energy cascade ????

# Energy Cascade



Low  $Pr$  (left), large  $Pr$  (right).

# Stratification

- Richardson number
- $Ri = \frac{\frac{g}{T_0} \frac{\partial T}{\partial z}}{\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial z}\right)^2}$
- $Ri$  = buoyancy / vertical shear
- $Ri$ -dependent LES models
- anisotropy

# LES models

- LES model A: classic Smagorinsky
- LES model B:  $Ri$ -dependent vertical diffusivity
- LES model C:  $Ri$ -dependent vertical viscosity
- LES model D:  $Ri$ -dependent vertical diffusivity and viscosity

# Boussinesq Equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{u}_t - Re^{-1} \Delta \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nabla p + Fr^{-2} \rho' \mathbf{k} &= \mathbf{f} && \text{in } \Omega \\
 \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega \\
 \rho'_t - Re^{-1} Pr^{-1} \Delta \rho' + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \rho' &= 0 && \text{in } \Omega
 \end{aligned}$$

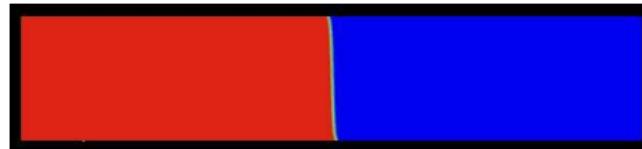
Reynolds number       $Re := \frac{U L}{\nu}$

Froude number       $Fr := \frac{U}{\sqrt{\frac{g \Delta \rho' L}{\rho_0}}}$

Prandtl number       $Pr := \frac{\nu}{k}$

# Dam Break

- computational domain



- boundary conditions

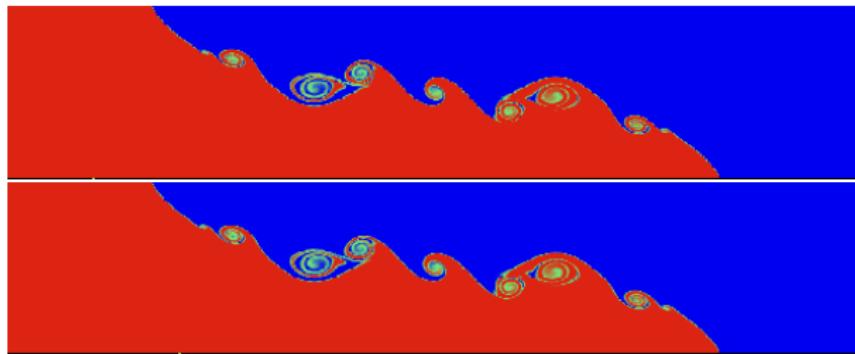
- $\frac{\partial u}{\partial \mathbf{n}} = 0; \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial \mathbf{n}} = 0; \quad (u, v, w) \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0$
- $\frac{\partial \rho'}{\partial \mathbf{n}} = 0$

- spatial resolution:  $N = 7500 \dots 10^6$

# DNS

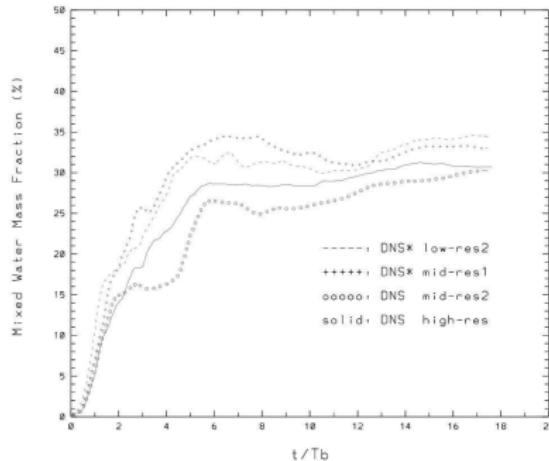
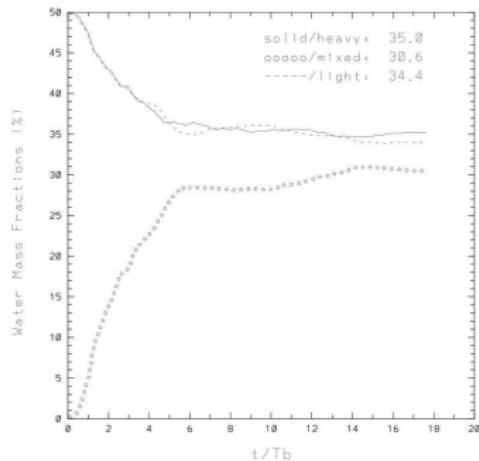
- $Re = 2800 \quad N = 2.7 \times 10^5$
- $Re = 4300 \quad N = 10^6$
- $Pr = 7$

# Verification



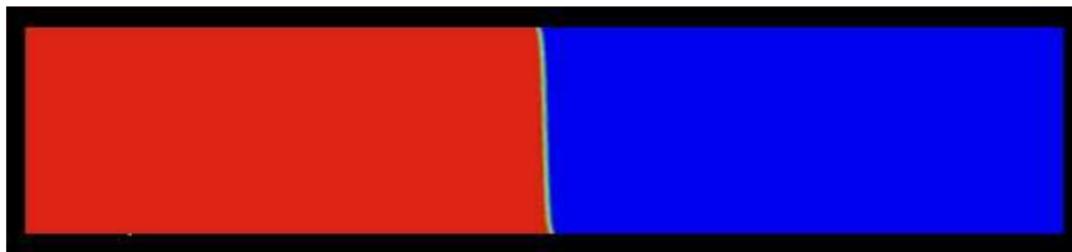
$Re = 4300$ ,  $N = 2.7 \times 10^5$  (top),  $N = 10^6$  (bottom).

# Criterion



$Re = 2800$ , time evolution of water mass fractions (left), different resolutions (right).

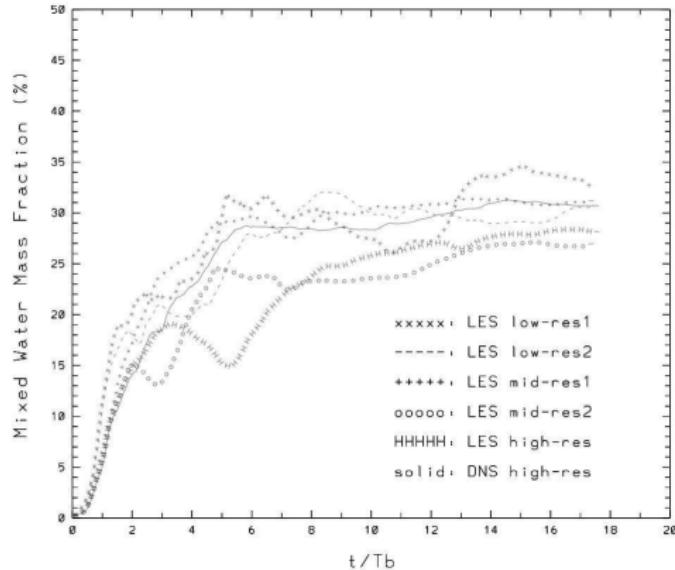
# DNS



Özgökmen, Iliescu, Fischer, Srinivasan, Duan  
*Ocean Modelling*, 2006

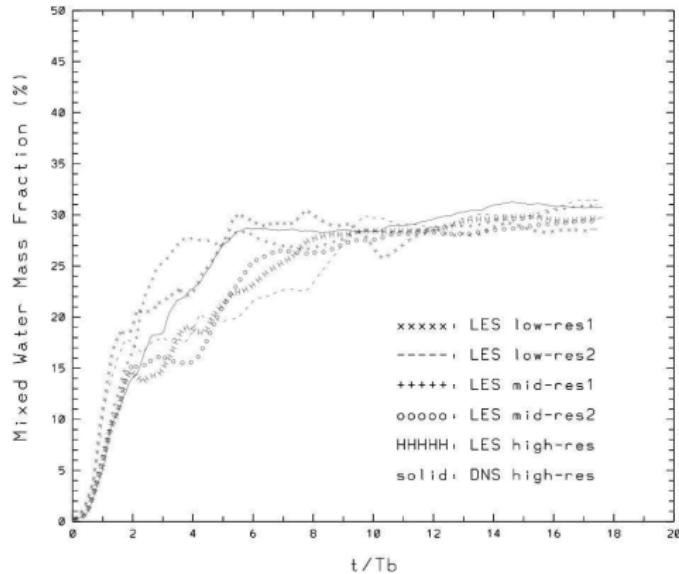
$$Re = 4300, Pr = 7, N = 10^6.$$

# LES



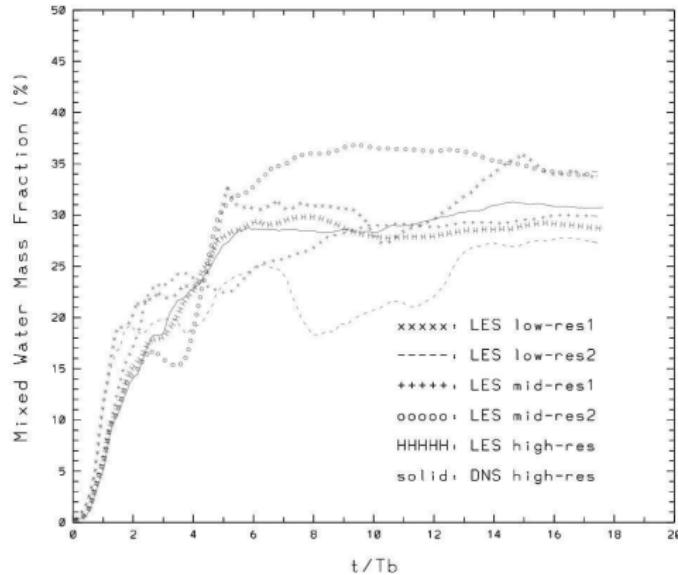
$Re = 2800$ , time evolution of water mass fractions, LES model A.

# LES



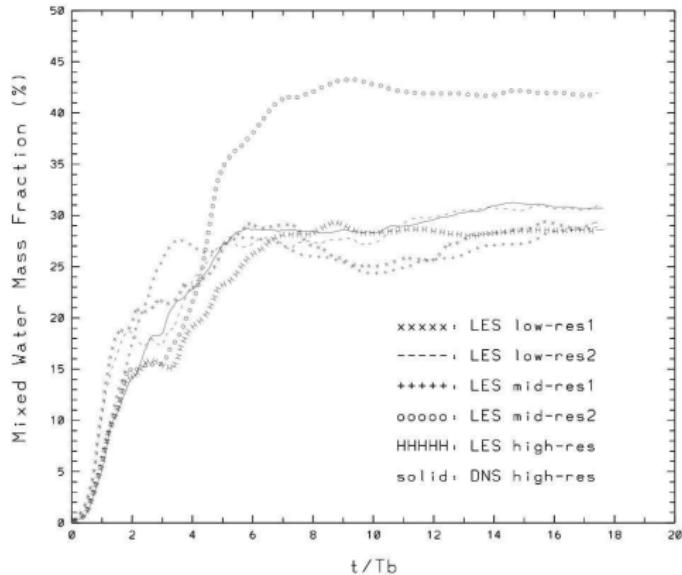
$Re = 2800$ , time evolution of water mass fractions, LES model B.

# LES



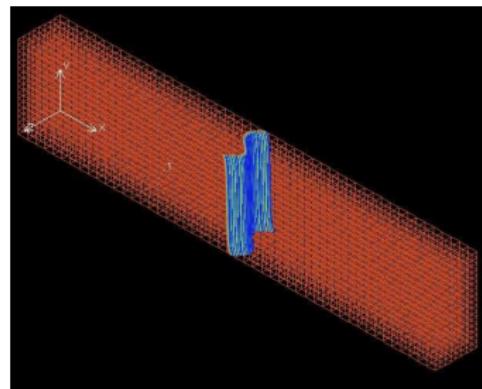
$Re = 2800$ , time evolution of water mass fractions, LES model C.

# LES



$Re = 2800$ , time evolution of water mass fractions, LES model D.

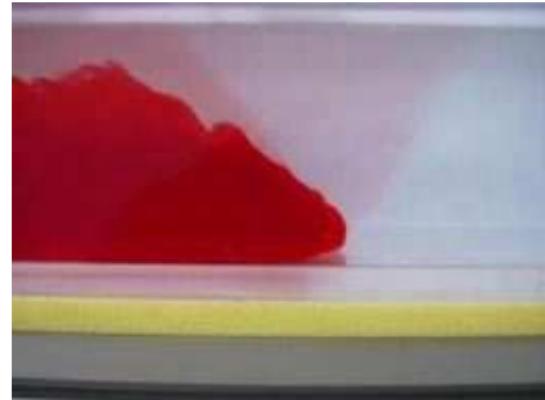
# LES



Özgökmen, Iliescu, Fischer, Srinivasan, Duan  
*Ocean Modelling*, 2006

$$Re = 2800, Pr = 7, N = 1.3 \times 10^6.$$

# Validation



<http://www.meteo.physik.uni-muenchen.de/~robert/meteorologielabor/labor.html>

# Supercomputer



Virginia Tech's System X.

# Modeling

- Multidomain/Multiresolution Modeling
- Reduced-Order Modeling
- Stochastic Modeling

# Funding

- **National Science Foundation** DMS-0209309

*3D Numerical Investigation of Density Currents*

2002 - 2006      \$94,829.

- **National Science Foundation** OCE-0620464

*A New Modeling Framework for Nonhydrostatic  
Simulations of Small-Scale Oceanic Processes*

2006 - 2009      \$147,861.