



# Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Motivation and Problem Statement . . . . .	1
1.1.1 General circulation . . . . .	4
1.1.2 Gravity waves emitted from jets and fronts . . . . .	5
1.2 Gravity waves in laboratory and numerical experiments . . . . .	7
1.3 Outline . . . . .	10
<b>2 Theoretical background</b>	<b>13</b>
2.1 Motion in a rotating fluid . . . . .	13
2.2 Motion in a stratified liquid . . . . .	15
2.3 Fundamental equations . . . . .	16
2.3.1 Geostrophic and thermal wind balance . . . . .	17
2.3.2 Quasi-Geostrophic motion . . . . .	19
2.4 Baroclinic waves . . . . .	21
2.4.1 Inviscid theory–Eady model . . . . .	22
2.5 Internal gravity waves—theory . . . . .	26
2.5.0.1 Linear equations for purely gravity waves . . . . .	27
2.5.0.2 Linear equations for purely inertial waves . . . . .	29
2.5.0.3 Linear equations for inertial-gravity waves . . . . .	30
2.6 Internal gravity waves—sources and propagation mechanisms . . . . .	30
2.6.1 Internal gravity waves sources . . . . .	31
2.6.1.1 Topography . . . . .	31
2.6.1.2 Convection . . . . .	33
2.6.1.3 Spontaneous imbalance . . . . .	34
2.6.1.4 Shear instability . . . . .	37
2.6.2 Gravity waves propagation-wave capture . . . . .	37
<b>3 Laboratory experiment set-ups</b>	<b>39</b>
3.1 Differentially heated rotating annulus - a bit of history . . . . .	39
3.1.1 From the atmosphere to the lab - dynamical similarity . . . . .	40
3.1.2 Flow regime in the rotating annulus . . . . .	42
3.2 Rotating annulus: two experimental apparatuses to study IGWs . . . . .	46
3.2.1 Barostrat . . . . .	54
3.3 MSGWs tank . . . . .	60
3.3.1 Rotation unit and water tank . . . . .	60
3.3.2 Temperature devices . . . . .	62
3.3.3 Temperature difference and heat loss through the walls . . . . .	63



3.3.4	Modified configurations . . . . .	66
3.3.4.1	Inner metallic wall . . . . .	66
3.3.4.2	Upper lid . . . . .	68
<b>4</b>	<b>Measurements techniques</b>	<b>71</b>
4.1	Temperature measurements . . . . .	71
4.1.1	Infrared thermography . . . . .	71
4.1.2	Temperature sensors . . . . .	73
4.2	Velocity measurement . . . . .	76
4.2.1	PIV set-up . . . . .	76
4.2.1.1	Camera . . . . .	76
4.2.1.2	Laser illumination . . . . .	77
4.2.1.3	PIV particles . . . . .	78
4.2.2	PIV data processing . . . . .	79
4.2.2.1	PIV error estimation . . . . .	83
4.2.2.2	PIV resolution . . . . .	85
<b>5</b>	<b>Data analysis</b>	<b>87</b>
5.1	Data analysis methods for large scale flow . . . . .	87
5.1.1	Harmonic analysis . . . . .	88
5.1.2	Empirical orthogonal functions . . . . .	89
5.2	Data analysis methods for IGWs . . . . .	90
5.2.1	Large-scale/small-scale spatial separation . . . . .	90
5.2.2	Horizontal deformation . . . . .	91
5.2.3	Spectra . . . . .	92
5.2.3.1	Two dimensional Fourier transform . . . . .	92
5.2.3.2	Energy spectra-Helmholtz decomposition . . . . .	93
<b>6</b>	<b>Barostrat experiment</b>	<b>97</b>
6.1	Set-up and measurements . . . . .	98
6.2	Propagating waves at different fluid heights . . . . .	99
6.2.1	Determination of the baroclinic wave dynamics in the two unstable layers . . . . .	103
6.3	Inertia-gravity waves . . . . .	107
6.3.1	Wave trains at $z = 94$ mm . . . . .	107
6.3.2	Wave trains at $z = 75$ mm . . . . .	113
<b>7</b>	<b>Atmosphere-like differentially heated annulus</b>	<b>117</b>
7.1	Large-scale flow . . . . .	117
7.1.1	Regime diagram . . . . .	118
7.1.2	Comparison temperature and $N$ . . . . .	120
7.1.3	Spatial structure of $N/f$ and gravity wave trapping . . . . .	123
7.1.4	First results with the modified configuration . . . . .	127
7.2	Small-scale waves . . . . .	131
7.2.1	Properties of the waves . . . . .	131
7.2.2	IGWs dispersion relation . . . . .	133
7.2.3	Wave amplitude scaling . . . . .	139
7.2.4	Generation mechanism . . . . .	141
7.2.5	Propagation and wave capture . . . . .	143



7.2.6	Comparison with numerical simulations – small-scale waves . . . . .	146
7.2.7	Energy spectra and comparison with the atmosphere . . . . .	148
7.2.7.1	Atmospheric spectra . . . . .	148
7.2.7.2	Experimental spectra . . . . .	149
<b>8</b>	<b>Conclusions</b> . . . . .	<b>157</b>
8.1	Barostrat experiment . . . . .	158
8.2	Atmosphere-like tank . . . . .	160
8.3	Open questions and future work . . . . .	162
<b>A</b>	<b>Appendices</b> . . . . .	<b>163</b>
A.1	Calculation of the determinant of the matrix . . . . .	163
A.2	Dispersion relation . . . . .	165
A.3	Ray equations . . . . .	166
A.4	Following the wave . . . . .	167
	<b>References</b> . . . . .	<b>171</b>

## List of Figures

1.1	Residual mean circulation . . . . .	3
1.2	Atmospheric general circulation . . . . .	5
1.3	Gravity waves generated by jets and fronts . . . . .	6
2.1	Local Cartesian coordinate system of reference on a spherical Earth. . . . .	14
2.2	Schematic representation of force balances. . . . .	19
2.3	Schematic depiction of jet stream . . . . .	21
2.4	Sketch of the mechanism of the sloping convection . . . . .	22
2.5	Properties of the Eady modes . . . . .	24
2.6	Satellite image from NASA Earth Observatory (2005) of atmospheric internal waves behind the Amsterdam island located in the south of Indian Ocean. . . . .	26
2.7	. . . . .	28
2.8	. . . . .	30
2.9	Schematics illustration internal waves generation processes . . . . .	31
2.10	Stationary 2D flow over a gaussian-shaped hill. . . . .	32
2.11	Gravity waves generated by rapidly rising deep convection over the ocean (picture from NASA Earth Observatory (2009)). . . . .	33
2.12	Sketch of the elastic pendulum. . . . .	35
3.1	Laboratory experiment-Earth's atmosphere analogy . . . . .	39
3.2	Dependency of the Burger number on the azimuthal wavenumber . . . . .	41
3.3	Schematic diagram of the different types of flow developing in a rotating fluid subject to axisymmetric differentially heating and cooling . . . . .	43