

Inertial waves

A Laboratory Experiment with an astrophysical perspective

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A Laboratory Experiment: that other, other side of the screen

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Dynamo action:



Almost always present whenever there is an electrically conducting fluid in some state of rotation

If it is so ubiquitous, let's see if we can make it in the lab!



The Liquid Sodium Experiments at Maryland



30 cm device



60 cm device





The magnetic field here is passive, it only aids the imaging of the mode

Kelley, Triana, et al., GAFD 101, Nos. 5-6, 2007

Inertial waves, very peculiar!



$$\mathbf{u} \propto e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$$

Plane wave solution

 $\boldsymbol{\omega} = \pm 2\mathbf{\hat{k}} \cdot \mathbf{\hat{z}}$ Dispersion relation

$$\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{g}} = \pm \frac{2}{k} \, \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times (\hat{\mathbf{z}} \times \hat{\mathbf{k}})$$

Inertial modes: Coriolis-restored oscillations





In a full sphere

In the Earth's atmosphere

The 3-meter Experiment







20 Tonnes, 2x 350 Hp motors, 135 Km/h at the equator

Inertial waves in the 3 meter system



Pressure spectrograms

 $Ro \equiv \frac{\Delta\Omega}{\Omega}$

Inertial waves revisited



How are these modes excited?

Why are they retrograde? Why are they equatorially antisymmetric? Why do we see only the ones we see? Why do they appear in that order?

Why in that order?

m = 1

0.3

0.35

0.25

0.2



Matsui et al., PEPI 188, Issues 3-4, Pages 194-202, 2011

Mode frequency varies slightly with the amount of differential rotation



Inverse problem: differential rotation from frequency shifts Rieutord, Triana, et al., PRE 86, 026304, 2012

Nonlinear self-interaction of an inertial modes: Zonal flow generation

A. Tilgner, PRL 99, 194501 (2007) C. Morize et al., PRL 104, 214501 (2010)



Zonal wind contour plot



Shear cylinders, resonant tidal forcing

Geostrophic velocity $\sim E^{-3/10}$

Sodium experiments!

The fill







The external coils

Inertial mode imaged magnetically

(Just as in the 60cm experiment)



l = 4, m = 1 $\Lambda = 0.001, Rm = 268, E = 5.6 \times 10^{-8}$

Damping/detuning with applied field



Strong field

Midlat Spectrogram, Ro = -4.3, Rm = 255, $E = 1.5 \times 10^{-7}$



New mode, an MC mode?



Time Series, Ro = -4.3, $\Lambda = 0.433$, Rm = 255, $E = 1.5 \times 10^{-7}$

Mean Internal Fields, Ro = -4.3, Rm = 255, $E = 1.5 \times 10^{-7}$





Internal field





Now some acoustics: we can use asteroseismic tools to quantify the amount of differential rotation in experiments





$$\delta \omega_{nlm} = m \int_0^R \int_0^{2\pi} K_{nlm}(r, heta) \Omega(r, heta) r \ dr \ d heta$$







Summary and outlook

- Although dynamo action has not been achieved yet in a planetary configuration, we've learned many other things.
- Differential rotation excites inertial modes. The precise mechanism is still not well understood.
- Non-linear self interactions of inertial modes can redistribute angular momentum.
- Physics behind inertial mode excitation might help elucidate the origin of Coriolis-restored modes in stars (observed for the first time very recently).
- Gravito-inertial modes have great asteroseismic potential in rapidly rotating stars.





Why do we see only the ones we see?



They seem to be the least damped in a shell

More water experiments: Bistability



 $G = \frac{T}{\rho \nu^2 a}$

More water experiments: Bistability



Zimmerman, Triana & Lathrop, PoF 23, 065104, 2010

Lets look at the equations of motion for an electrically conducting fluid:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + Ro(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} + 2\Omega \times \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p + E\nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \frac{\Lambda}{Rm} \left(\nabla \times \mathbf{B}\right) \times \mathbf{B}$$

$$\frac{1}{Ro} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{u} \times \mathbf{B}) + \frac{1}{Rm} \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}$$

These are dimensionless, with no reference to a specific fluid system. (The Buckingham-Pi Theorem)

Ekman number
$$E \equiv \frac{\nu}{\Omega L^2}$$
Viscous forces
Coriolis forcesRossby number $Ro \equiv \frac{U}{\Omega L}$ Inertial forces
Coriolis forcesMagnetic Reynolds $Rm \equiv \frac{UL}{\eta}$ Fluid advection
Magnetic diffusivityMagnetic Prandtl $Pm \equiv \frac{\nu}{\eta}$ Viscosity
Magnetic diffusivityElsasser number $\Lambda \equiv \frac{\sigma B_o^2}{\rho \Omega}$ Lorentz forces