

# Adjustments to the law of the wall above an Amazonian Forest explained by a spectral link

Gabriel Katul<sup>1,\*</sup>, Luca Mortarini<sup>2</sup>, and Marcelo Chamecki<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA;

<sup>2</sup>Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Istituto di Scienze dell'Atmosfera e del Clima (ISAC), Torino, Italy;

<sup>3</sup>Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, University of California, Los Angeles, California, USA

## Other Collaborators:

*Brazil:* Dias Jr., C.Q., Dias, N., Manzi, A., Araujo, A. (multiple institutions)

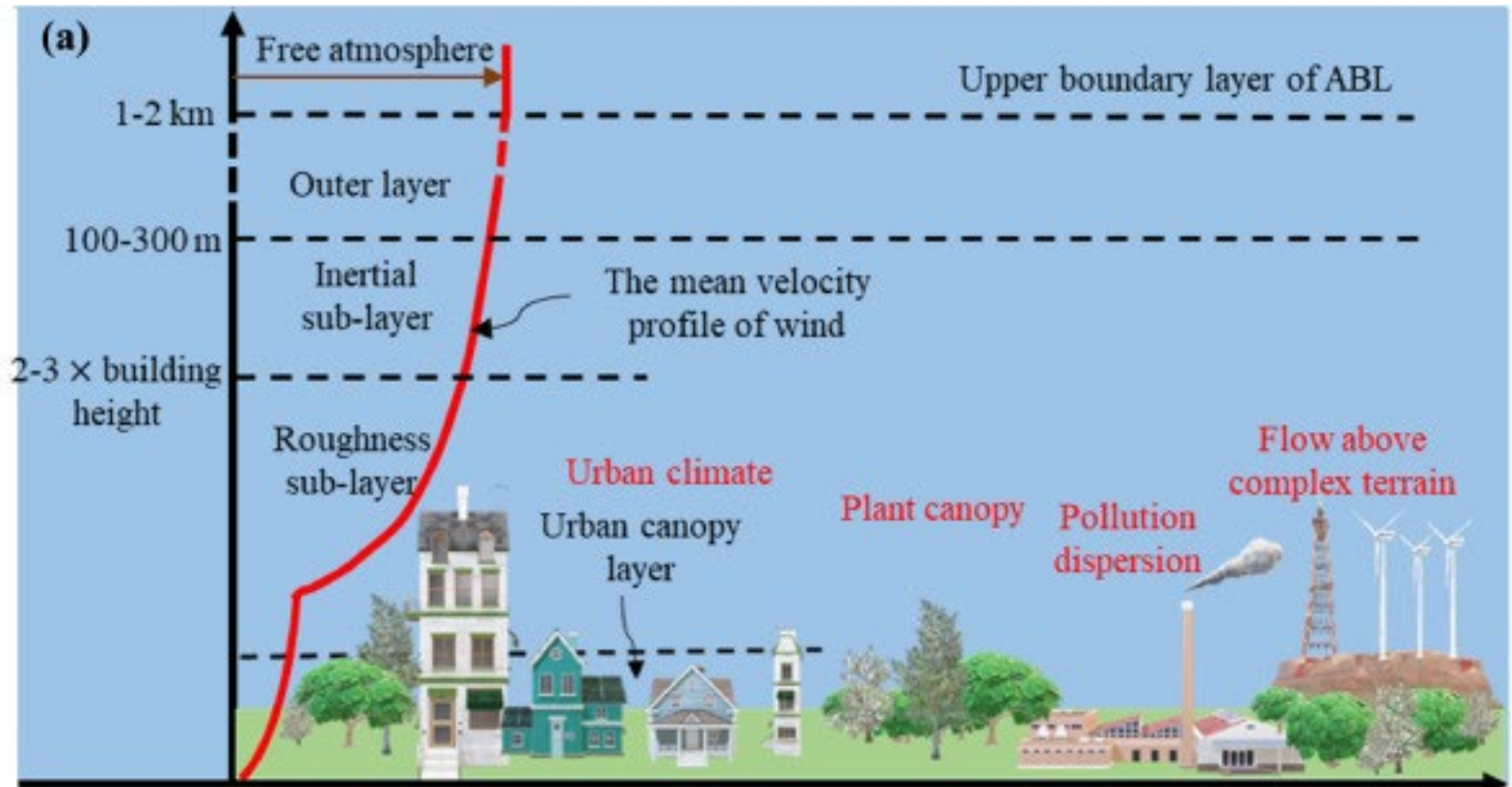
*Italy:* Cava, D. (CNR); *Germany:* Sorgel, M. (MPI)

\*Presentation for the *Warm Boundary Layer Processes* working group for the ASR program ARM/ASR - PI meeting, Washington DC, October 27, 2022 (email: [gaby@duke.edu](mailto:gaby@duke.edu)).

**Acknowledgement:** Department of Energy, Office of Science (DE-SC0022072)

# Introduction

- The significance of the *roughness sublayer* (RSL) to a plethora of physical, chemical, and biological processes is not in dispute.



# Introduction

Focus here on **RSL ABOVE CANOPIES** – where *multiple eddy types* dominate biosphere-atmosphere exchange

## Inertial layer (law of the wall)

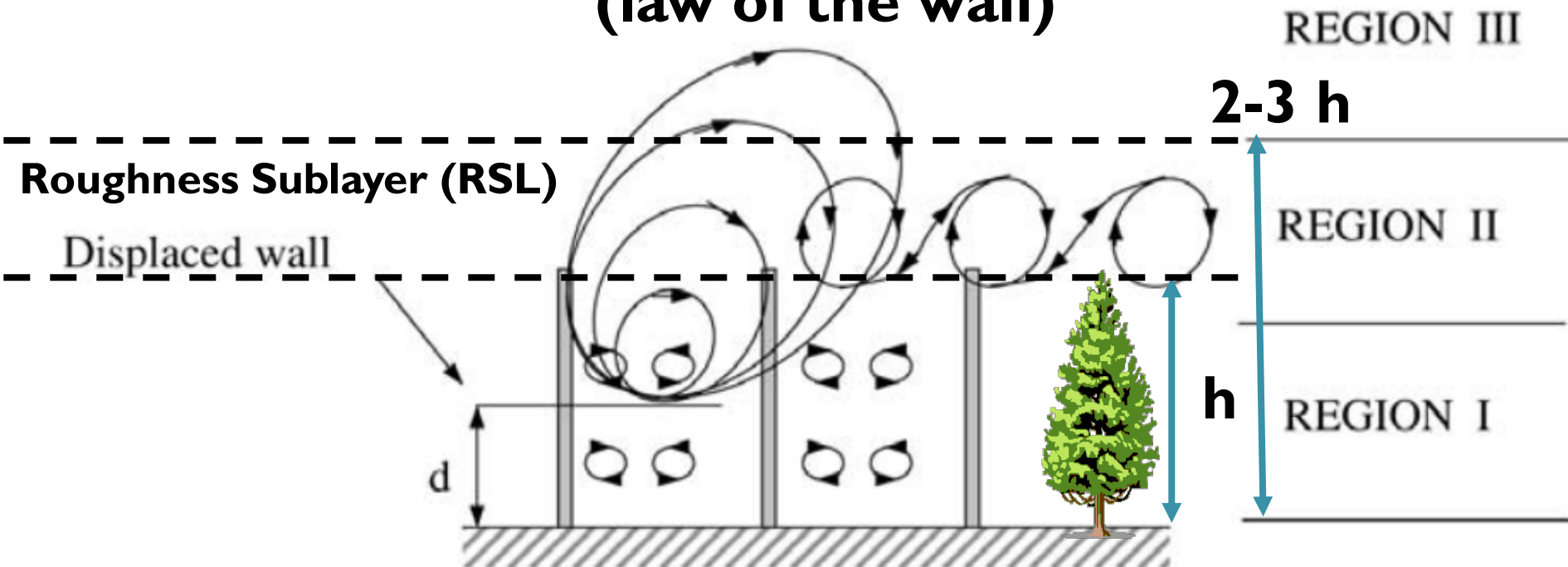
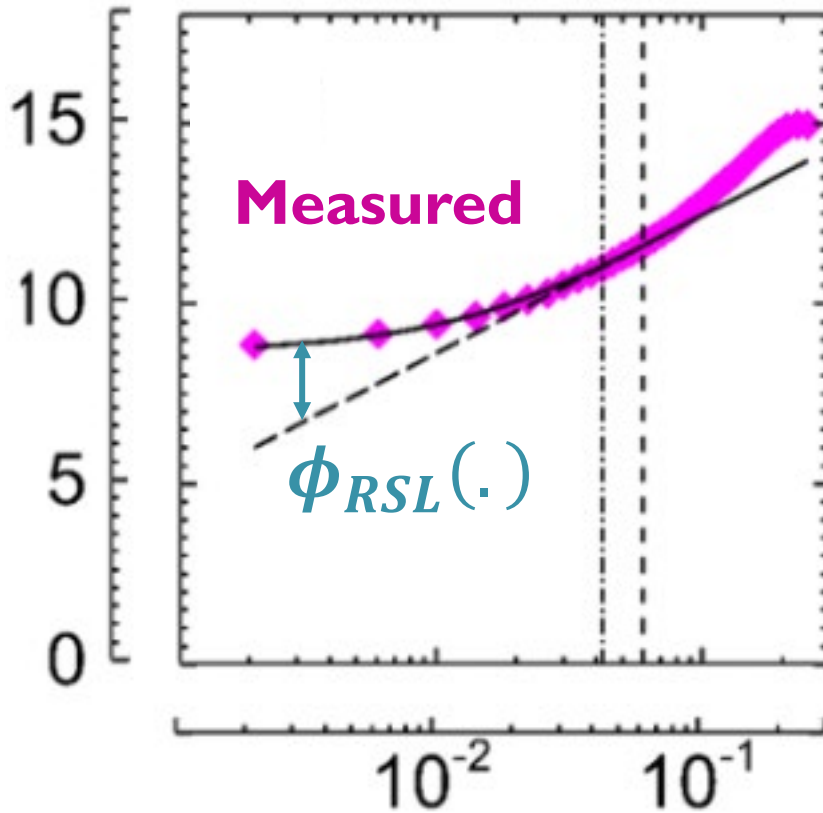


Figure revised from Poggi et al. (2004)

# Roughness sublayer correction

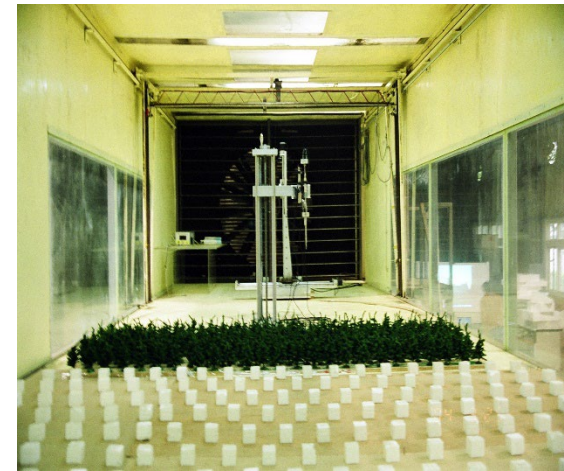
- Correction **increases** mean velocity  $U$  relative to its log-law extrapolation

$U$  (m s<sup>-1</sup>)



Log-law

Wind tunnel experiments



$z - d$  (m)

# Roughness sublayer

- Correction to the 'law of the wall':

$$\frac{dU}{dz} \frac{\kappa(z-d)}{u_*} = \phi_{RSL} \left( \frac{z}{h}, \dots \right)$$

- Log-law recovered when  $\phi_{RSL}(\cdot) = 1$

- Current approach:

$$\phi_{RSL}(\cdot) = 1 - \exp \left[ -a \left( \frac{z-d}{z^*} \right) \right]$$

Empirical  
coefficient

Thickness of the RSL

## Problem:

- Many  $\phi_{RSL}$  models proposed - but miss the key mechanism they purported to represent- **energetics of eddies.**

## Objective:

- Derive  $\phi_{RSL}$  from energetics of turbulent eddies and compare with experiments in non-ideal settings (e.g. Amazonia).

# Model Co-spectra from simplified budget

Eddy sizes or scales considered using the co-spectrum:

**TURBULENT  
STRESS**

$$\overline{w'u'} = \int_0^\infty F_{wu}(k) dk$$

**I-D Wavenumber**  
(inverse eddy size)

$$\frac{\partial F_{wu}(k)}{\partial t} + 2\nu k^2 F_{wu}(k) = 0 = \frac{dU}{dz} F_{ww}(k) + T_{wu}(k) + \pi_u(k)$$

0  
 Molecular viscosity  
 Production by mean gradients  
 Pressure Re-distribution  
 Viscous dissipation destroying  $\overline{u'w'}$   
 Vertical velocity spectrum  
 Transfer by turbulence across scales

# Two-term co-spectral budget

Simplify: High Reynolds number, stationary and equilibrium co-spectral budgets (i.e. turbulent transfer terms ignored).

Production of covariance

$F_{wu}(k)$  at scale  $k$ :

$$\frac{dU}{dz} F_{ww}(k) + \pi_u(k) = 0$$

De-correlation due to pressure - velocity interaction  
(requires closure at  $\mathbf{k}$ )



# A Rotta type closure for $\pi_u(k)$

Models the *universal* tendency of **all** turbulent flows to return to isotropy at small scales

Classical  
Rotta term  
**SLOW PART**

Isotropization  
of the production  
**FAST PART**

$$\pi_u(k) = -A_u \frac{F_{wu}(k)}{\tau(k)} - C_{Iu} \frac{dU}{dz} F_{ww}(k)$$

Production by  
mean gradients

$\tau(k)$  = Onsager (1948) relaxation time scale

$A_u$  = Rotta constant ( $\sim 1.8$ ).

$C_{Iu}$  = Coefficient related to isotropization of production

Rapid Distortion Theory predicts  $C_{Iu} = 3/5$  (Pope, 2000).



# Stationary and equilibrium solution to the two-term co-spectral budget

This simplified budget relates the **co-spectrum** to the **vertical velocity spectrum**  $F_{ww}(k)$ .

$$F_{wu}(k) = \frac{1 - C_{IU}}{A_u} \left[ \frac{dU}{dz} F_{ww}(k) \right] \tau(k)$$

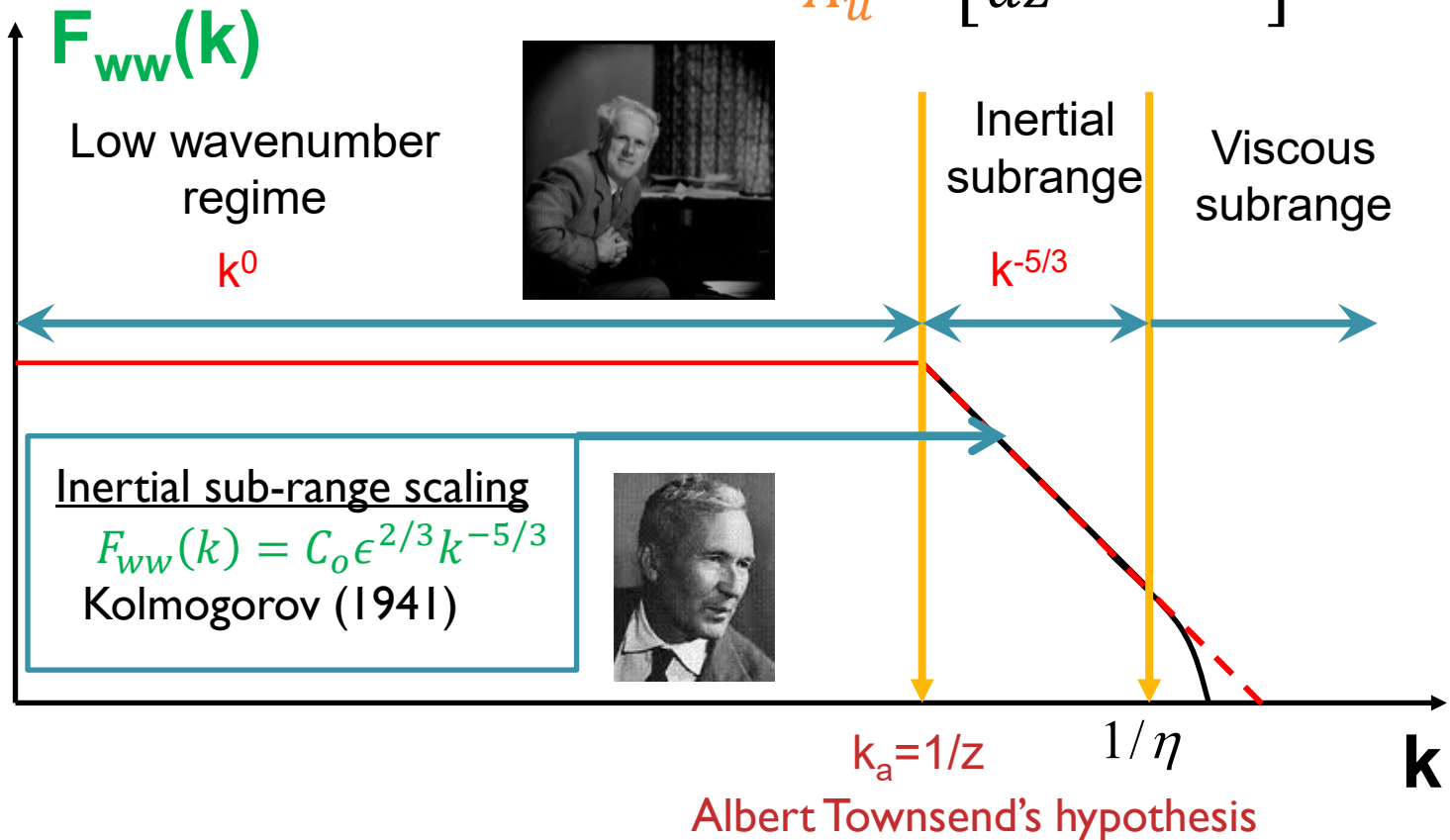
$\tau(k)$  = Onsager's (1948) relaxation time scale =  $k^{-2/3} \epsilon^{-1/3}$

$F_{ww}(k)$  = Vertical velocity energy spectrum,  
must be externally supplied (measured or assumed)

# Shape of $F_{ww}(k)$

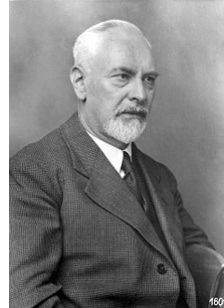
For canonical boundary layers (in the inertial layer):

$$F_{wu}(k) = \frac{1 - C_{IU}}{A_u} \left[ \frac{dU}{dz} F_{ww}(k) \right] \tau(k)$$



# The integrated co-spectral budget

$$\frac{dU}{dz} = \left( \frac{4}{7} \frac{1}{C_o} \frac{A_u}{1 - C_{IU}} \right)^{3/4} \frac{-\overline{(w'u')}}{z}^{1/2},$$



Upon integration yields the **Prandtl-von Karman** velocity profile:

$$U(z) = \left( \frac{4}{7} \frac{1}{C_o} \frac{A_u}{1 - C_{IU}} \right)^{3/4} u_* \log(z) + B$$



The von Karman constant can be estimated

$$\kappa = \left( \frac{4}{7} \frac{1}{C_o} \frac{A_u}{1 - C_{IU}} \right)^{-3/4} \approx 0.36$$

↓ 1.8
↓ 3/5
↑ (24/55)(1.5)

# Estimating RSL correction

**DETAILED MODEL - Measured  $F_{ww}(k)$**

$$\phi_{RSL}(\cdot) = \left( -\frac{\overline{u'w'}}{u_*^2} \right) \left( \frac{A_u}{1 - C_{IU}} \right) \frac{u_* \kappa(z - d)}{\int_0^\infty \tau(k) F_{ww}(k) dk}$$

**SIMPLIFIED MODEL:**

$$\phi_{RSL}(\cdot) = \left( -\frac{\overline{u'w'}}{u_*^2} \right) \left( \frac{A_u}{1 - C_{IU}} \right) \frac{u_* \kappa(z - d)}{\tau_{eff} \sigma_w^2}; \quad \tau_{eff} = \frac{2\sigma_w^2}{\epsilon(z)}$$

# Emergence of a 'macro-dissipation' length in $\phi_{RSL}(\cdot)$

$$\phi_{RSL}(\cdot) = \frac{1}{2} \left( -\frac{\overline{u'w'}}{u_*^2} \right) \left( \frac{A_u}{1 - C_{IU}} \right) \left( \frac{u_*}{\sigma_w} \right)^4 \frac{L_{BL}}{L_d};$$

$$L_{BL} = \kappa(z - d); \quad L_d = \frac{u_*^3}{\epsilon(z)}.$$

This is a new scale for RSL that differs from the 'canonical' shear length scale derived from *mixing layer analogy* ( $L_s$ ) put forth by Raupach, Finnigan and others.



$$L_s = \frac{U}{dU/dz}$$



# Experiments

23 March 2014 to 16 January 2015

**GOAmazon (K34)**



25 October to 25 November of 2015

**ATTO**

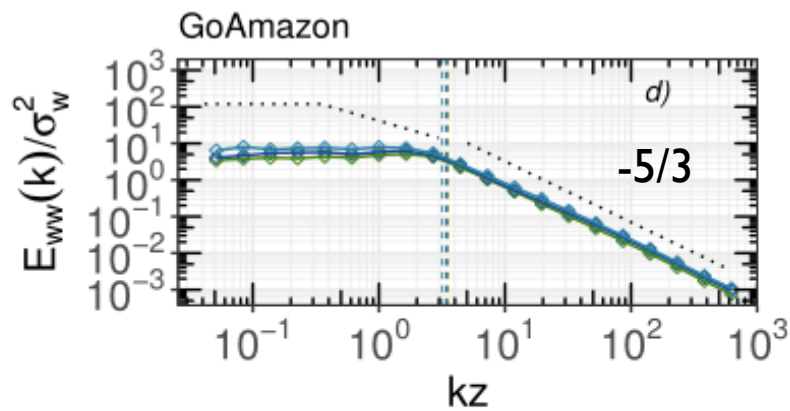
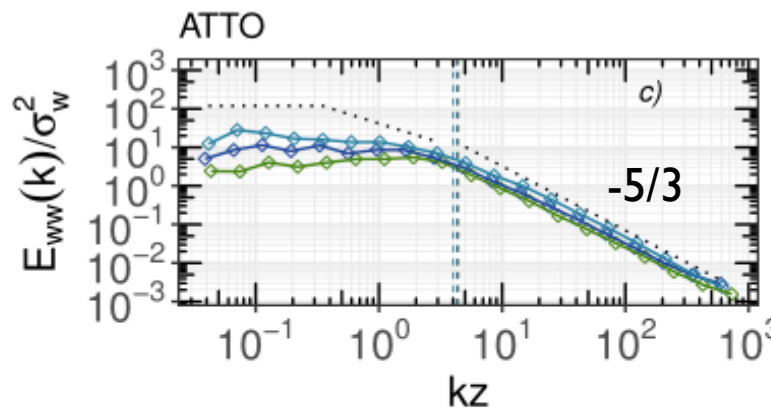


**Amazon Tall Tower Observatory**

**At both sites:  $h=35$  m and  $LAI = 6$**

GoAmazon: From Fuentes et al. (2016)

ATTO: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amazon\\_Tall\\_Tower\\_Observatory.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amazon_Tall_Tower_Observatory.jpg)



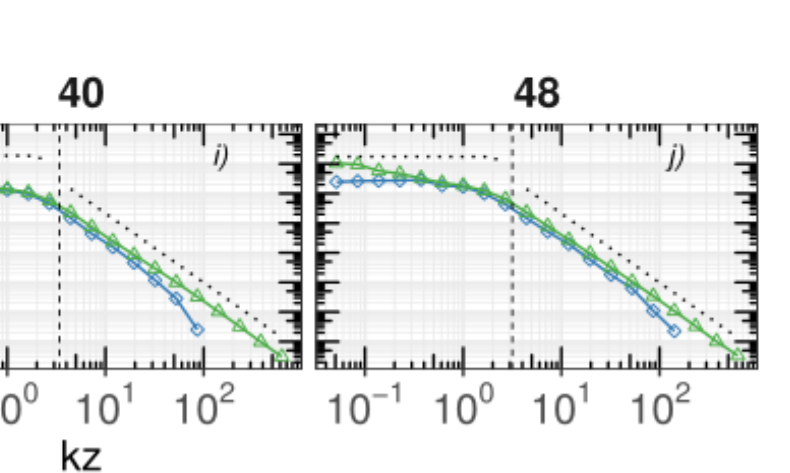
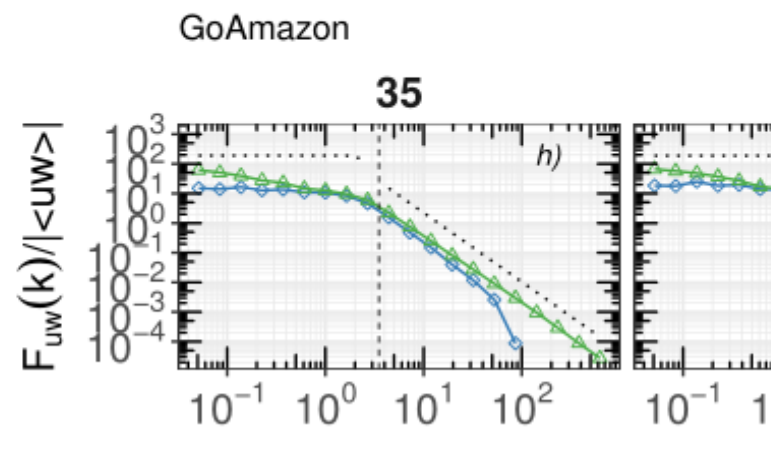
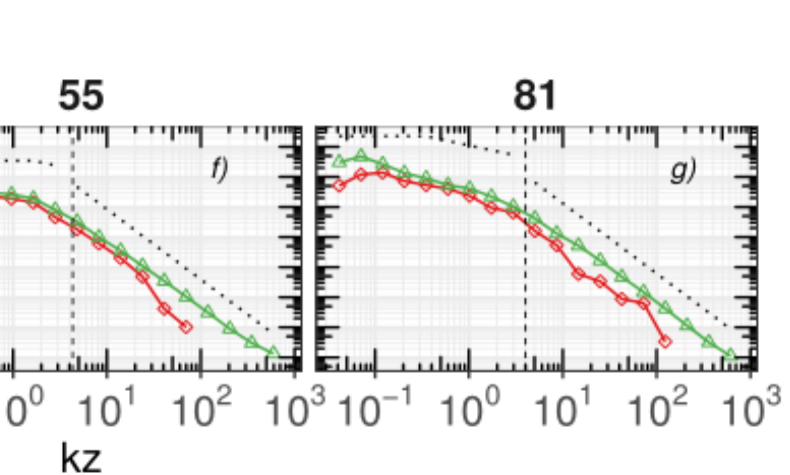
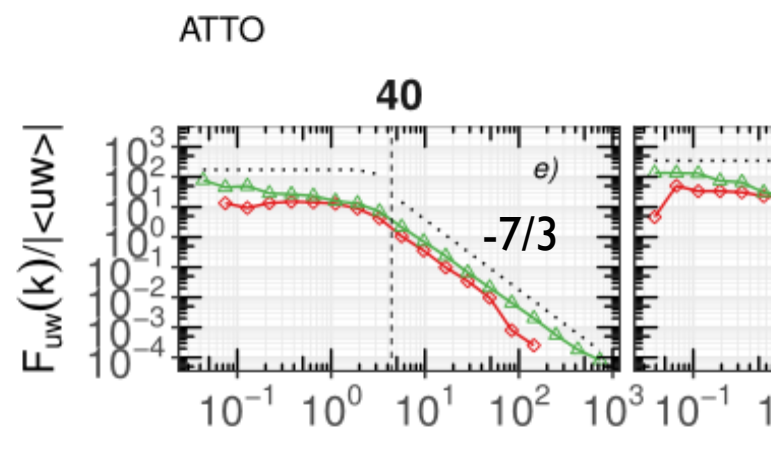
ATTO

- 40
- 55
- 81

GoAmazon

- 35
- 40
- 48

- ATTO
- GoAmazon



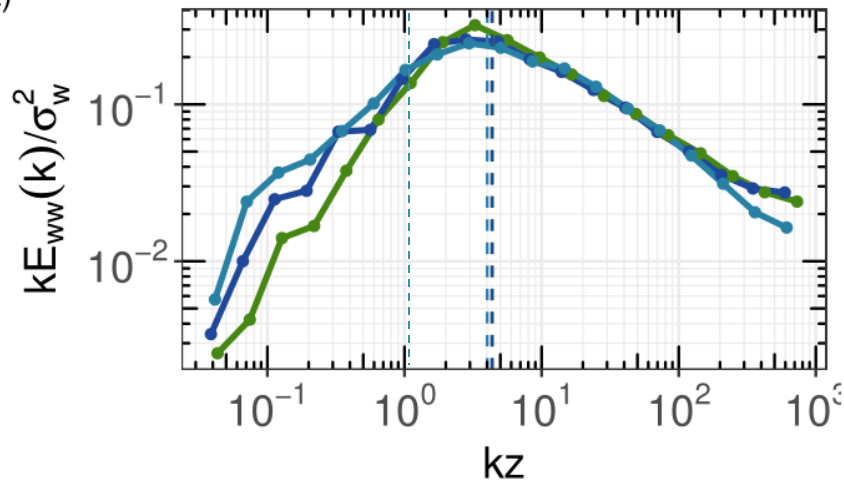
- ATTO
- GoAmazon



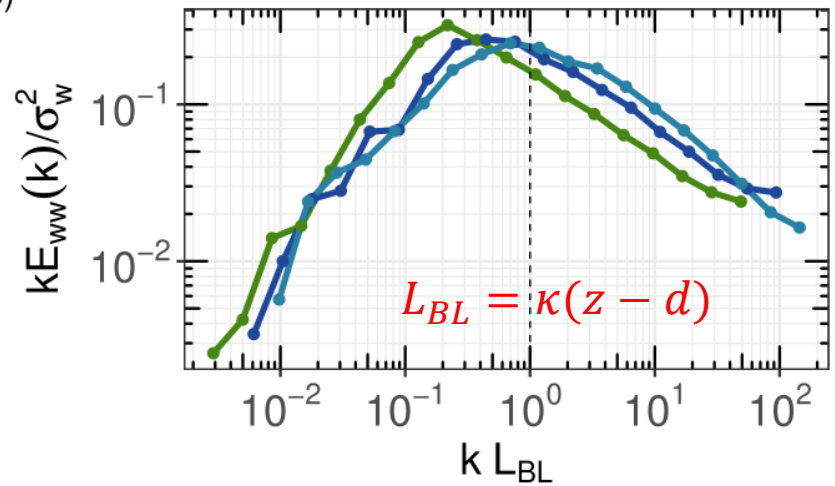
# Breakpoints in spectra (ATTO)

ATTO

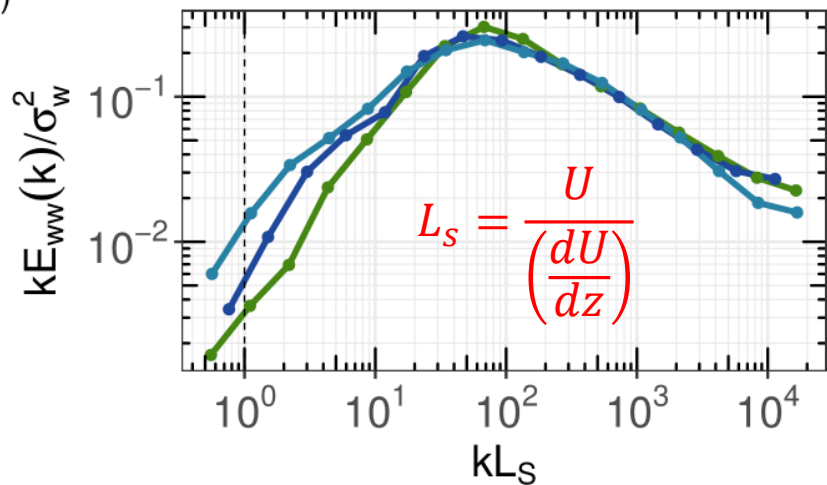
a)



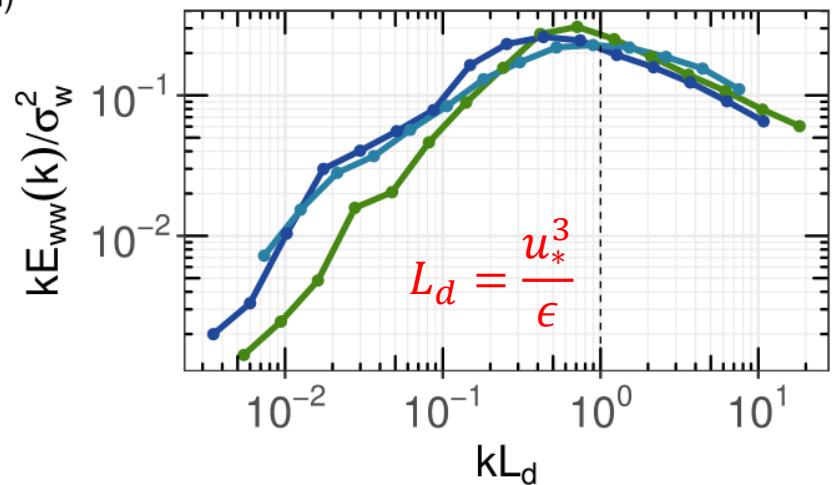
b)



c)



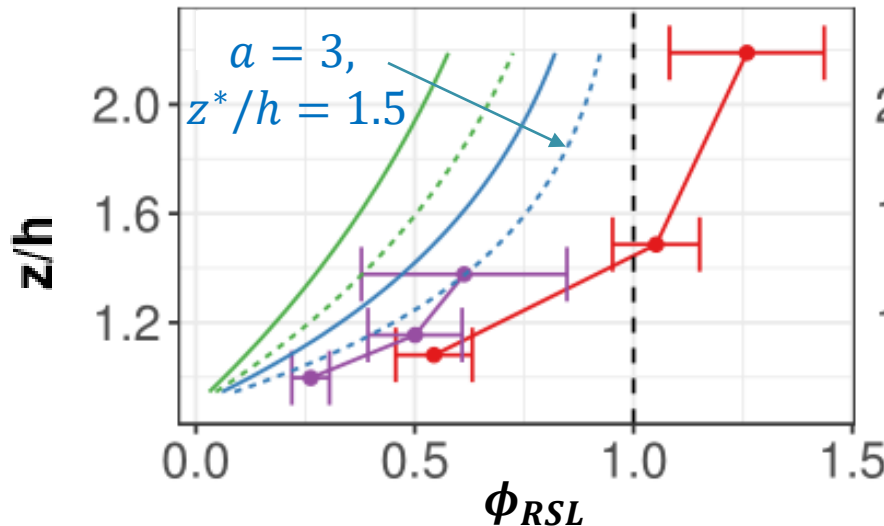
d)



40  
55  
81

# Model comparisons

$$\frac{dU}{dz} \frac{\kappa(z-d)}{u_*} = \phi_{RSL}$$



## Lines-EMPIRICAL MODEL

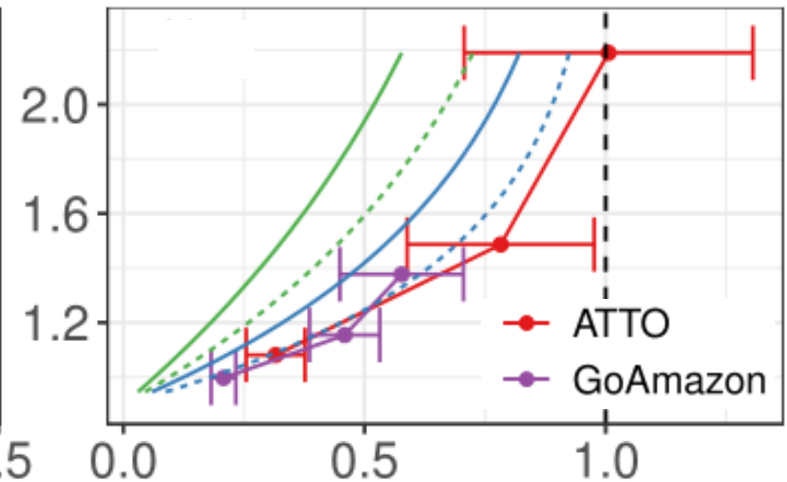
with  $a \in [2, 3]$  and  $\frac{z^*}{h} \in [1.5, 3]$

spanning the literature for forests

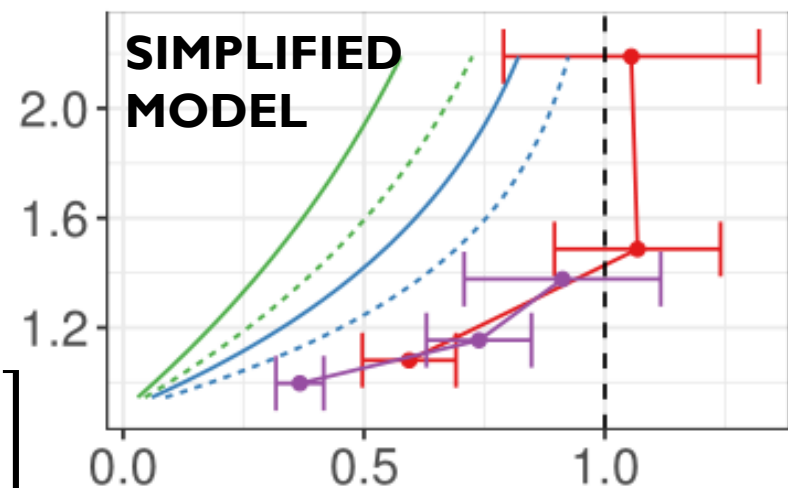
$$\phi_{RSL}(\cdot) = 1 - \exp \left[ -a \left( \frac{z-d}{z^*} \right) \right]$$

## DETAILED MODEL

Uses measured  $F_{ww}(k)$



## SIMPLIFIED MODEL



# Conclusions

- An eddy viscosity that accommodates energetics of turbulence - analogous to the **fluctuation-dissipation theorem** in statistical mechanics

$$\nu_t = \left( \frac{1 - C_{IU}}{A_u} \right) \int_0^\infty \tau(k) F_{ww}(k) dk.$$

- Emergence of a macro-scale dissipation length ( $L_d$ ) that explains transitions in  $F_{ww}(k)$  as well as RSL correction functions ( $\phi_{RSL}$ ).
- Derived  $\phi_{RSL}$  appears robust to non-ideal conditions at the two forested sites in Amazonia.
- Future work: include thermal stratification



# EXTRA SLIDES

# Integration of co-spectrum across all k

$$F_{wu}(k) = \frac{1 - C_{IU}}{A_u} \left[ \frac{dU}{dz} F_{ww}(k) \right] \tau(k)$$

Integration limit applicable for  $Re_* \rightarrow \infty, \eta \rightarrow 0$

$$\overline{w'u'} = \int_0^\infty F_{wu}(k) dk = \int_0^{k_a} F_{wu}(k) dk + \int_{k_a}^\infty F_{wu}(k) dk$$

Large scales  
(attached)

Inertial scales  
(detached)

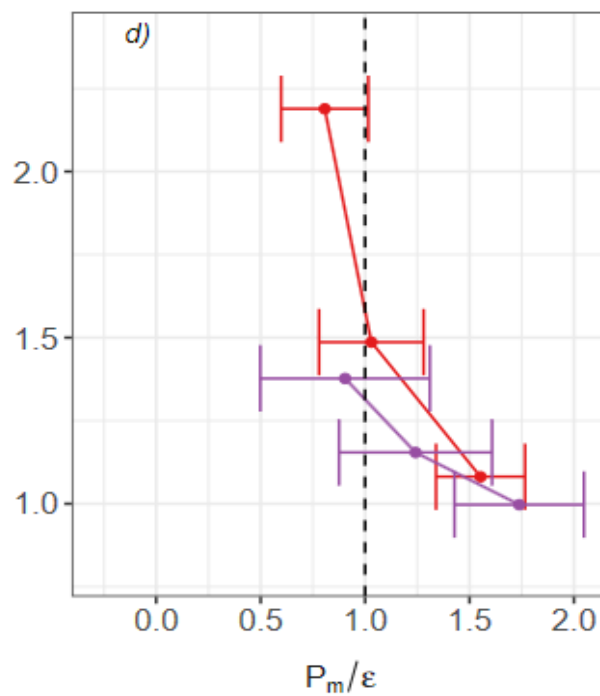
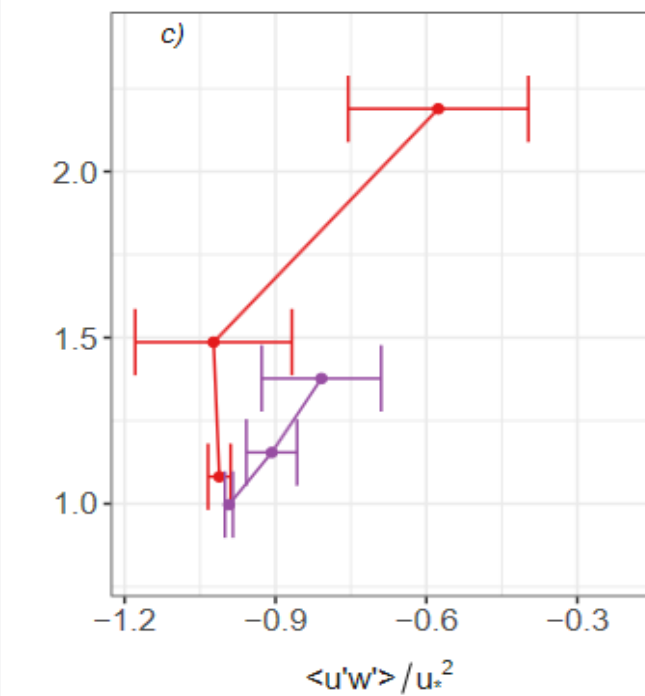
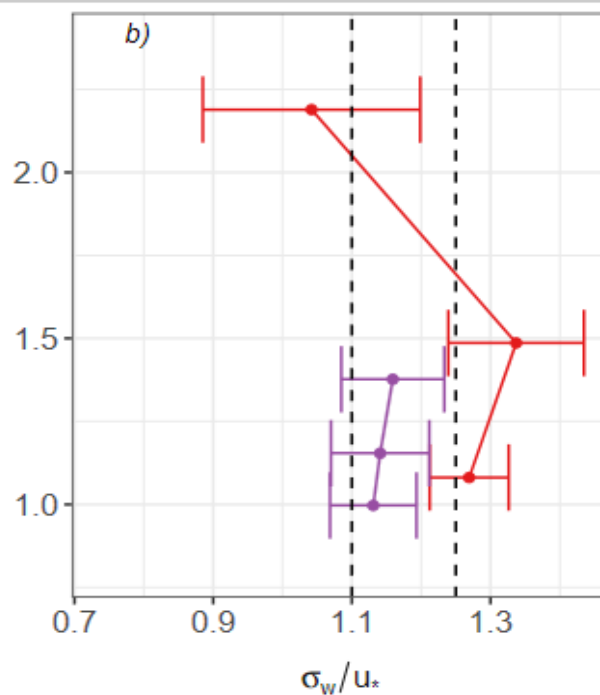
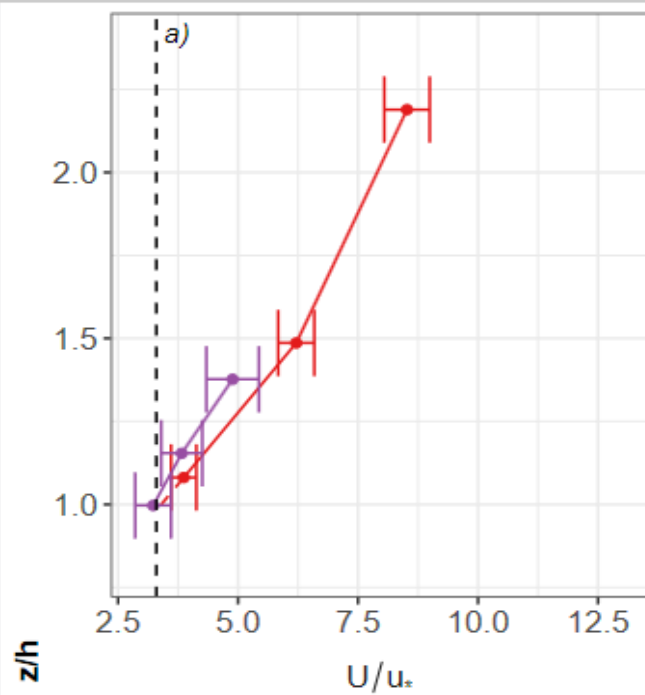
$$F_{ww}(k) = C_o \epsilon^{2/3} k_a^{-5/3}$$

$$F_{ww}(k) = C_o \epsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$$

Assume turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) budget is in equilibrium so that

$$\epsilon = -\overline{w'u'} \frac{dU}{dz}$$

Dissipation of TKE = Production of TKE



- ATTO
- GoAmazon

# Solution for the inertial subrange

(known in ISR)

$$F_{ww}(k) = C_o \epsilon^{2/3} k^{-5/3}$$

$$\tau(k) = k^{-2/3} \epsilon^{-1/3}$$

$$F_{wu}(k) = \frac{1 - C_{IU}}{A_u} \left[ \frac{dU}{dz} F_{ww}(k) \right] \tau(k)$$

$$F_{wu}(k) = \left( C_o \frac{1 - C_{IU}}{A_u} \right) \left[ \frac{dU}{dz} \right] \epsilon^{1/3} k^{-7/3}$$



## NOTES:

If spectrum of *vertical velocity* scales as **-5/3**, then the co-spectrum scales as **-7/3** – consistent with experiments and Lumley's (1967) arguments.

Also suggestive that turbulent transfer term  $T_{wu}(k)$  may be less important if a -7/3 power-law prevails in co-spectrum.

# Comparison to Lumley (1967)

$$F_{wu}(k) = C_{uw} \left[ \frac{dU}{dz} \right] \epsilon^{1/3} k^{-7/3}$$

Lumley's result  
Dimensional analysis

$$F_{wu}(k) = \left( C_o \frac{1 - C_{IU}}{A_u} \right) \left[ \frac{dU}{dz} \right] \epsilon^{1/3} k^{-7/3}$$

Co-spectral budget

Accepted range

$$C_{uw} = 0.15 - 0.16 = \left( \frac{1 - C_{IU}}{A_u} C_o \right) = 0.145$$

$\begin{matrix} 3/5 & (24/55)(1.5) \\ \downarrow & \swarrow \\ & C_o \\ \uparrow & \\ A_u & \\ \uparrow & \\ 1.8 & \end{matrix}$

This result establishes a link between the similarity constant in the *Lumley's co-spectrum* and the 'collage' of well-established constants in turbulence.



# Support for the -7/3 co-spectral exponent

## Field Experiments (Kansas)

## Lab Experiments (NASA)

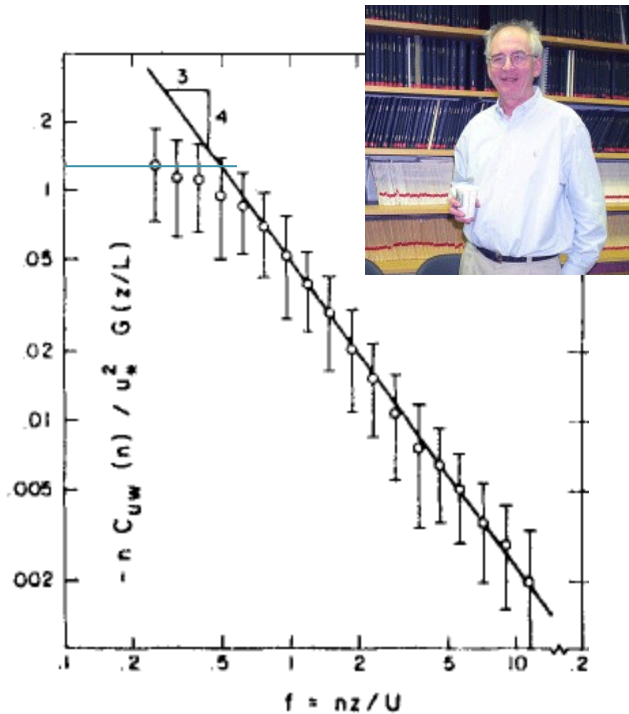
Quart. J. R. Met. Soc. (1972), 98, pp. 590-603

551.510.522 : 551.551.8

Cospectral similarity in the atmospheric surface layer

By J. C. WYNGAARD and O. R. COTÉ

Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Bedford, Massachusetts



J. Fluid Mech. (1994), vol. 268, pp. 333-372

333

Copyright © 1994 Cambridge University Press

## Local isotropy in turbulent boundary layers at high Reynolds number

By SEYED G. SADDOUGHI  
AND SRINIVAS V. VEERAVALLI†

Center for Turbulence Research, Bldg 500, Stanford University, CA 94305, USA and NASA  
Ames Research Center, CA 94035, USA.

(Received 15 June 1993)

