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## **Bottom boundary condition treatment**

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# Introduction

- evolution of atmosphere is driven by set of PDE
- in order to get unique solution, proper initial and boundary conditions must be specified
- treatment of initial and lateral boundary conditions is the task for data assimilation, initialization and coupling procedures
- top boundary condition is artificial, it comes from the requirement to have vertically bounded atmosphere
- this talk will be about bottom boundary condition (BBC) in ALADIN-NH, which is the only physical boundary condition in model

## Simplifications

- in order to make analysis more transparent, two simplifications are used throughout the lecture:
  1. flat geometry (map factor = 1, no curvature terms)
  2. dry atmosphere (as a consequence, pseudovertical divergence  $d_3$  equals to true vertical divergence  $d \equiv \partial w / \partial z$ )

## Bottom boundary condition - continuous case (1)

- prognostic equations for momentum in  $\eta$  coordinate have the form ( $\tilde{p} \equiv p - \pi$  is unscaled NH pressure departure):

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -\frac{RT}{p}\nabla p - \left(\frac{\partial\tilde{p}}{\partial\pi} + 1\right)\nabla\phi + \mathcal{V}$$
$$\frac{d}{dt}(gw) = g^2\frac{\partial\tilde{p}}{\partial\pi} + g\mathcal{W}$$

- in ALADIN-NH, free slip BBC is imposed:

$$gw_S = \mathbf{v}_S \cdot \nabla\phi_S$$

- it means that air velocity at the surface is parallel to it (surface is a material boundary, so the air cannot cross it)
- as a consequence, air being initially at the surface remains attached there forever (it can only slip along)

## Bottom boundary condition - continuous case (2)

- requirement that prognostic equations are fulfilled also at bottom boundary imposes constraint on dynamical fields:

$$gw_S = \mathbf{v}_S \cdot \nabla \phi_S \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{dt}(gw_S) = \frac{d\mathbf{v}_S}{dt} \cdot \nabla \phi_S + \mathbf{v}_S \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \nabla \phi_S$$

$$\left( \frac{d}{dt}(gw) \right)_S = \left( \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} \right)_S \cdot \nabla \phi_S + \mathbf{v}_S \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \nabla \phi_S$$

$$\mathbf{v}_S \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \nabla \phi_S = \mathbf{v}_S \cdot [(\mathbf{v}_S \cdot \nabla) \nabla \phi_S] = \underbrace{\frac{\partial^2 \phi_S}{\partial x^2} u_S^2 + 2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi_S}{\partial x \partial y} u_S v_S + \frac{\partial^2 \phi_S}{\partial y^2} v_S^2}_{J_S}$$

↓

$$\left[ g^2 + (\nabla \phi_S)^2 \right] \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi} \right)_S = \left[ -\frac{RT}{p} \nabla p - \nabla \phi + \mathbf{v} \right]_S \cdot \nabla \phi_S + J_S - g\mathcal{W}_S$$

- term  $(\partial \tilde{p} / \partial \pi)_S$  cannot be specified arbitrarily, it is fully determined by surface fields  $\mathbf{v}_S$ ,  $T_S$ ,  $p_S$ ,  $\phi_S$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_S$  and  $\mathcal{W}_S$

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$$\mathbf{v}_S \cdot \frac{d}{dt} \nabla \phi_S = \mathbf{v}_S \cdot [(\mathbf{v}_S \cdot \nabla) \nabla \phi_S] = \underbrace{\frac{\partial^2 \phi_S}{\partial x^2} u_S^2 + 2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi_S}{\partial x \partial y} u_S v_S + \frac{\partial^2 \phi_S}{\partial y^2} v_S^2}_{J_S}$$

⇓

$$\left[ g^2 + (\nabla \phi_S)^2 \right] \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi} \right)_S = \left[ -\frac{RT}{p} \nabla p - \nabla \phi + \mathbf{v} \right]_S \cdot \nabla \phi_S + J_S - g\mathcal{W}_S$$

- term  $(\partial \tilde{p} / \partial \pi)_S$  cannot be specified arbitrarily, it is fully determined by surface fields  $\mathbf{v}_S$ ,  $T_S$ ,  $p_S$ ,  $\phi_S$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_S$  and  $\mathcal{W}_S$   $\Rightarrow$  force acting on air parcel at surface must deflect its trajectory by the right amount so that it does not detach from surface

## Going from vertical velocity $w$ to vertical divergence $d$

- in ALADIN-NH, prognostic equation for vertical velocity  $w$  is replaced by prognostic equation for vertical divergence  $d \equiv \partial(gw)/\partial\phi$ :

$$\frac{dd}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \left[ g^2 \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi} + g\mathcal{W} \right] - d(d + X) + Z$$

$$X \equiv -\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \phi} \cdot \nabla \phi \quad Z \equiv -\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \phi} \cdot \nabla(gw)$$

- vertical velocity  $w$  present in  $Z$ -term can be diagnosed as:

$$gw = gw_S + \int_{\phi_S}^{\phi} d d\phi' = gw_S + \int_{\eta}^1 \frac{mRT}{p} d d\eta'$$

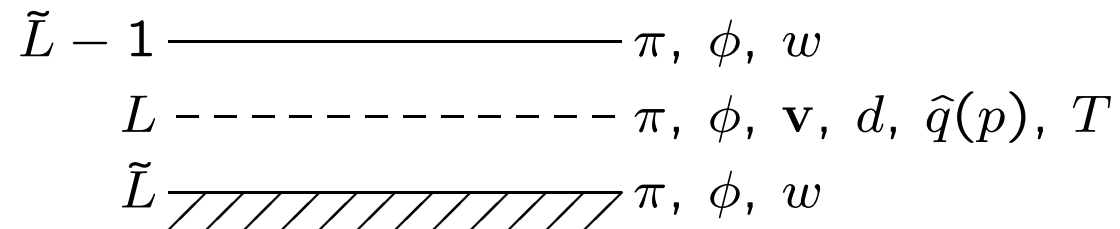
$$gw_S = \mathbf{v}_S \cdot \nabla \phi_S \quad m \equiv \frac{\partial \pi}{\partial \eta}$$

- source of future troubles is the vertical laplacian term:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \left[ g^2 \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi} \right] = -\rho g^2 \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi^2}$$

## Bottom boundary condition - vertically discretized case (1)

- in vertically discretized case situation becomes more complicated, since some model variables are not available at the surface:



- at bottom full level  $L$ , vertically discretized equation for vertical divergence  $d$  reads:

$$\left(\frac{dd}{dt}\right)_L = \frac{1}{\delta\phi_L} \left[ g^2 \left(\frac{\partial\tilde{p}}{\partial\pi}\right)_{\tilde{L}} + g\mathcal{W}_{\tilde{L}} - g^2 \left(\frac{\partial\tilde{p}}{\partial\pi}\right)_{\tilde{L}-1} - g\mathcal{W}_{\tilde{L}-1} \right] - d_L(d_L + X_L) + Z_L$$

- as in continuous case, term  $(\partial\tilde{p}/\partial\pi)_{\tilde{L}}$  must be evaluated consistently with free slip boundary condition and dynamical equations



## Bottom boundary condition - vertically discretized case (2)

- horizontal momentum equation is evaluated only at full levels  $\Rightarrow$  hypothesis  $\mathbf{v}_{\tilde{L}} = \mathbf{v}_L$  is used in free slip BBC

- using this hypothesis following diagnostic formula can be derived:

$$g^2 \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi} \right)_{\tilde{L}} = \left[ -\frac{RT}{p} \nabla p - \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi} + 1 \right) \nabla \phi + \mathbf{v} \right]_L \cdot \nabla \phi_{\tilde{L}} + J_L - g\mathcal{W}_{\tilde{L}}$$

- to be usable, term  $(\partial \tilde{p} / \partial \pi)_L$  appearing on RHS must be evaluated, but it requires NH pressure departure  $\tilde{p}$  at half levels:

$$\left( \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi} \right)_l = \frac{\tilde{p}_{\tilde{l}} - \tilde{p}_{\tilde{l}-1}}{\pi_{\tilde{l}} - \pi_{\tilde{l}-1}} \quad \tilde{p}_{\tilde{l}} = [\pi(\exp \hat{q} - 1)]_{\tilde{l}}$$

- prognostic variable  $\hat{q}$  at half levels is determined simply as:

$$\hat{q}_{\tilde{l}} = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{q}_{l+1} + \hat{q}_l) \quad \tilde{l} = \tilde{1}, \dots, \tilde{L} - 1$$

$$\hat{q}_{\tilde{0}} = \hat{q}_1 \quad \hat{q}_{\tilde{L}} = \hat{q}_L$$

## 2D tests - NLNH case

- suitable test cases for evaluation of BBC treatment are orographic flows
- any inconsistency in BBC treatment should be seen in wrong model response
- crucial test turned to be non-linear non-hydrostatic (NLNH) regime:
  - uniform background flow with horizontal wind speed  $10 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  over bell shaped mountain with half width  $a = 1 \text{ km}$  and height  $h = 1 \text{ km}$
  - background stratification with surface temperature  $293 \text{ K}$  and constant Brunt-Väisälä frequency  $N = 0.01 \text{ s}^{-1}$  up to tropopause at  $20 \text{ km}$ , isothermal above
  - background surface pressure  $101\,325 \text{ Pa}$

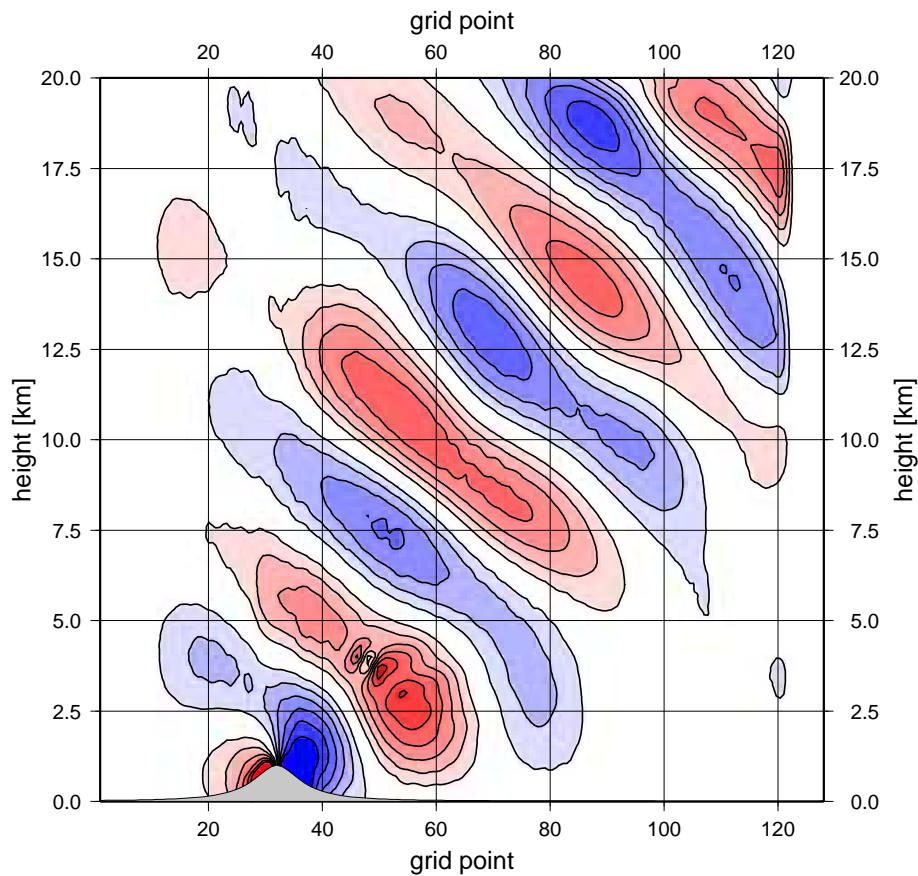
## NLNH case - model specific settings

- periodic domain with 128 gridpoints (8 points in coupling zone), horizontal resolution  $\Delta x = 200$  m
- 100 vertical levels with  $\Delta z \approx 300$  m, sponge layer between 20 and 29.5 km
- time constant LBC (coupling files identical to init file)
- no horizontal diffusion, no decentering

# Appearance of SL chimney

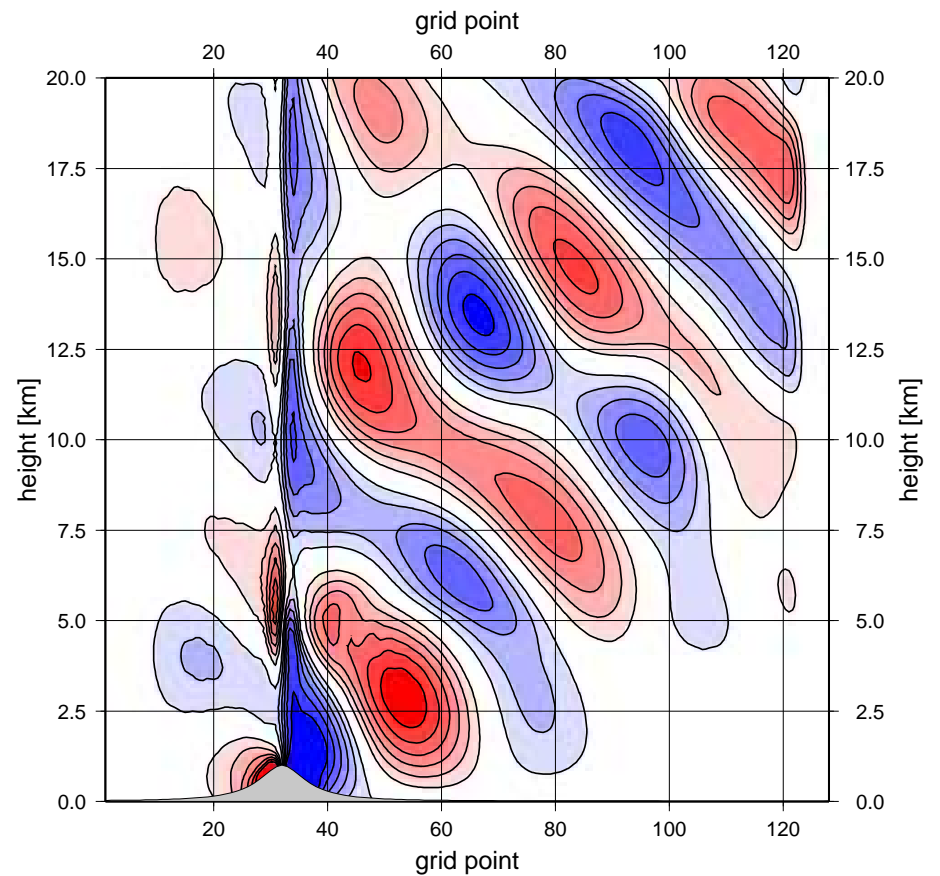
vertical velocity  $w$

euler



$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +5000$

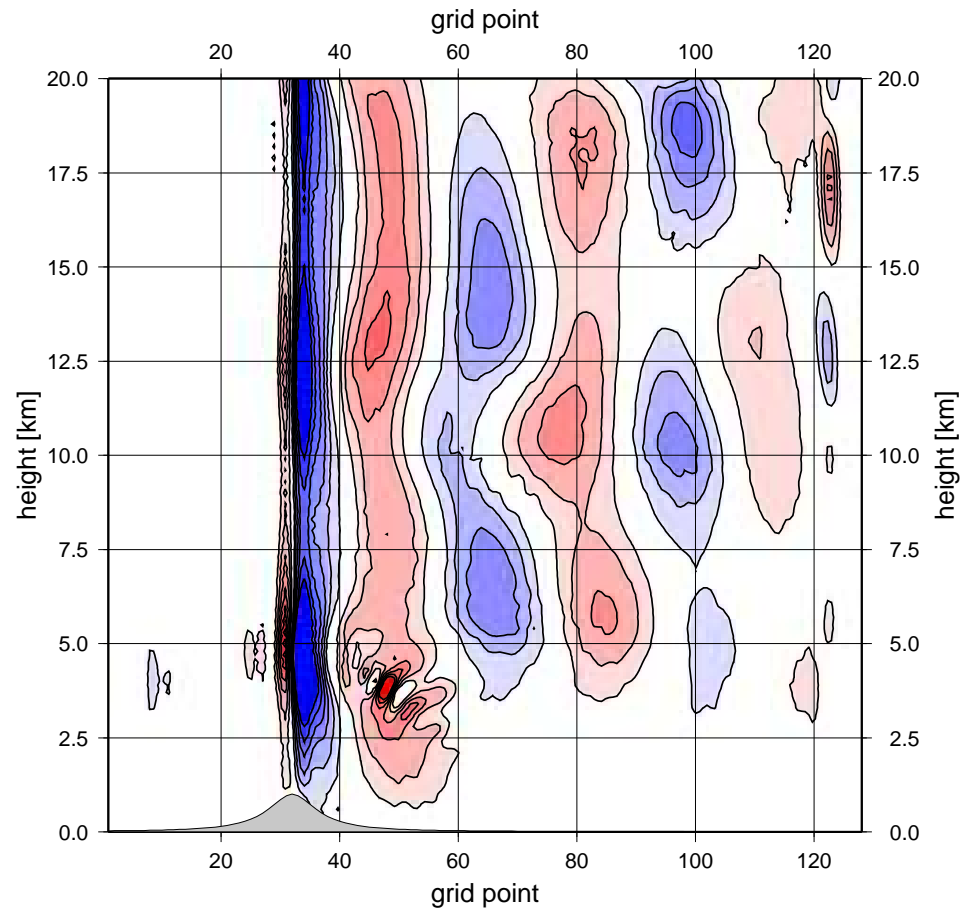
SL3TL



$\Delta t = 5 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +1000$

# Why chimney?

vertical velocity difference  $w_{\text{SL3TL}} - w_{\text{euler}}$

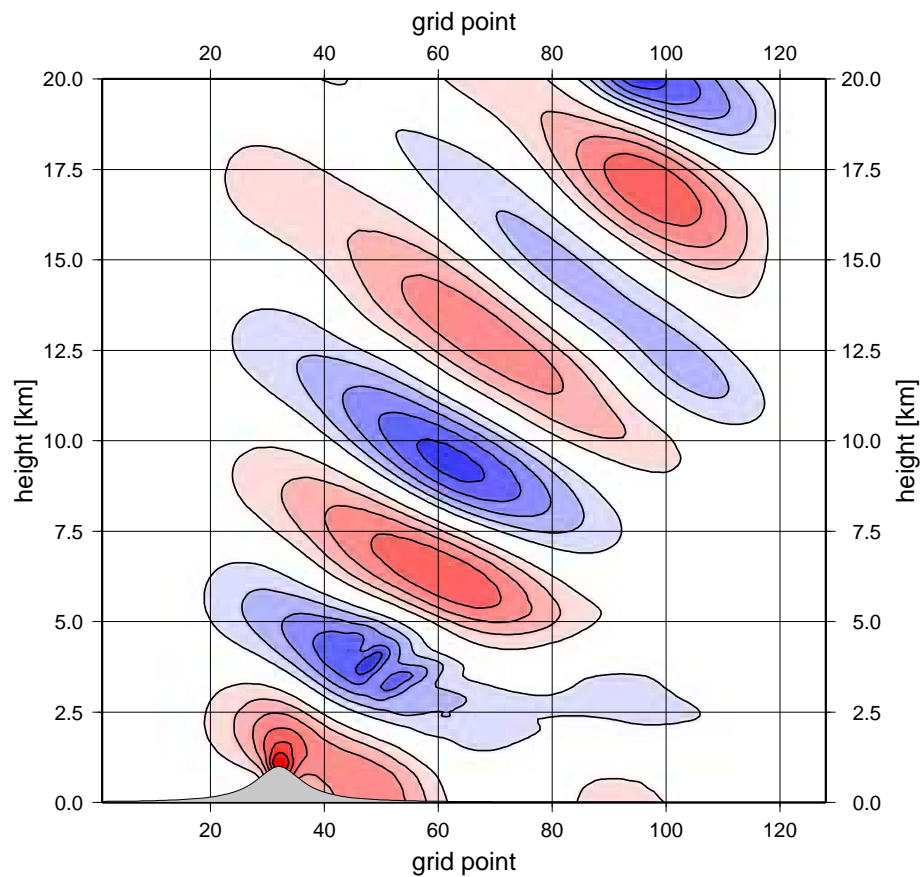


$t = 5000$  s

# What about other fields?

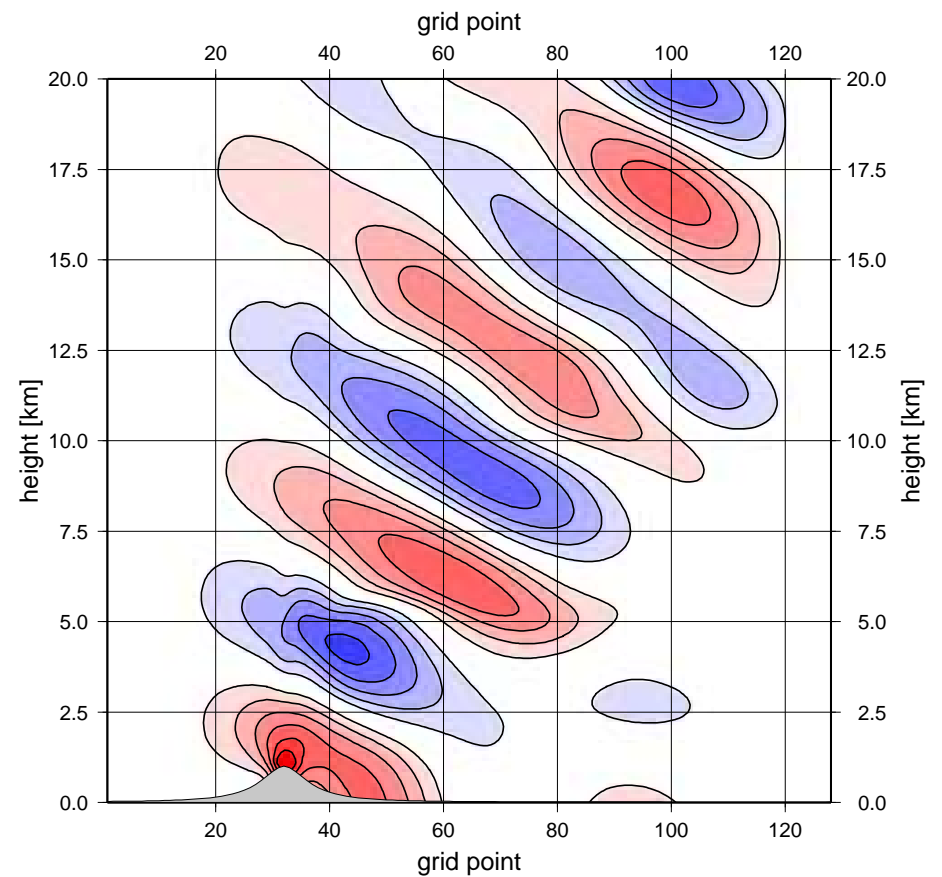
perturbation of horizontal velocity  $v'$

euler



$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +5000$

SL3TL

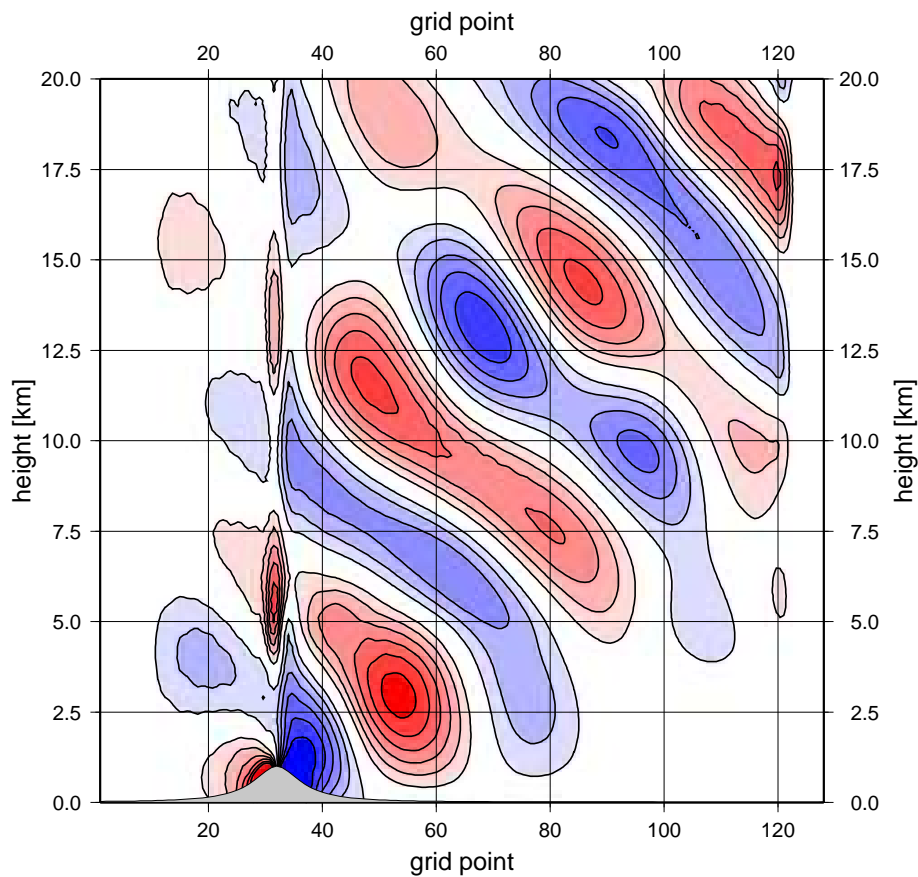


$\Delta t = 5 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +1000$

# Sensitivity to timestep - SL3TL scheme

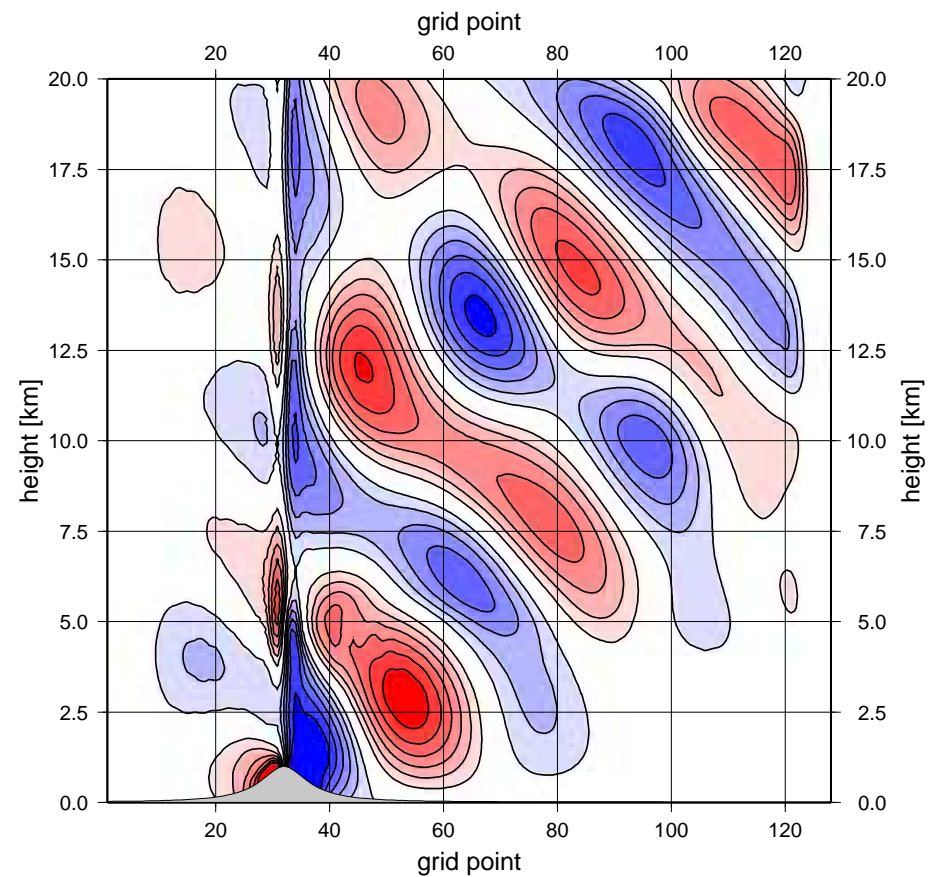
vertical velocity  $w$

eulerian timestep



$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +5000$

SL timestep

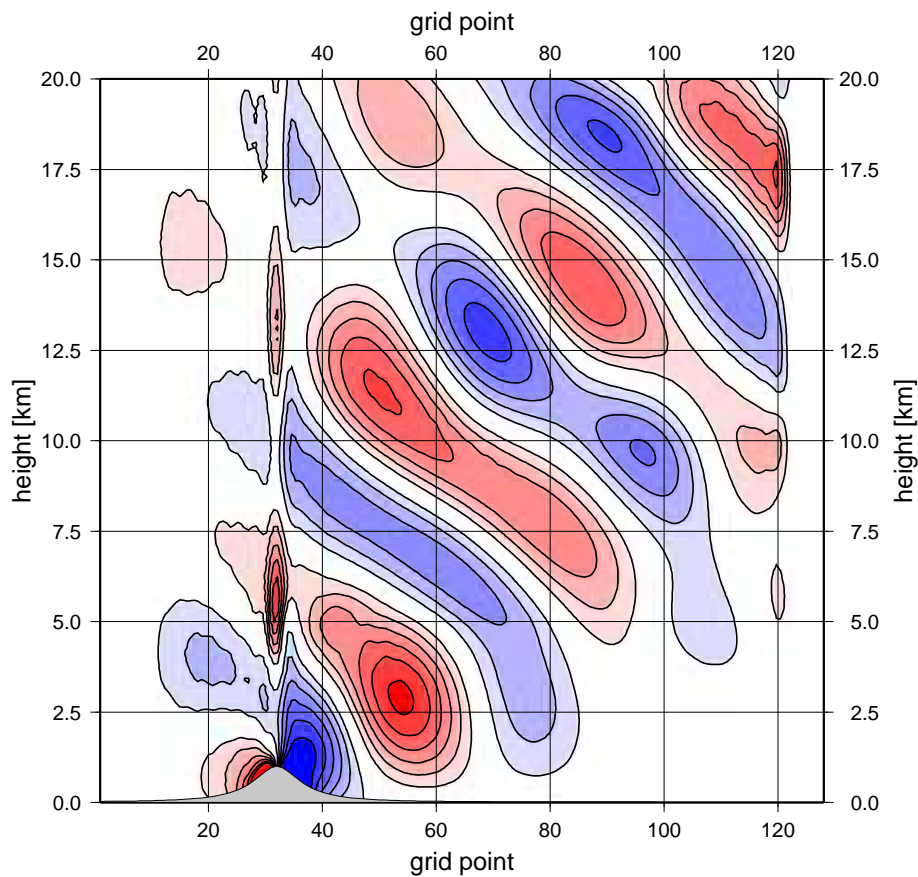


$\Delta t = 5 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +1000$

# Sensitivity to timestep - SL2TL scheme

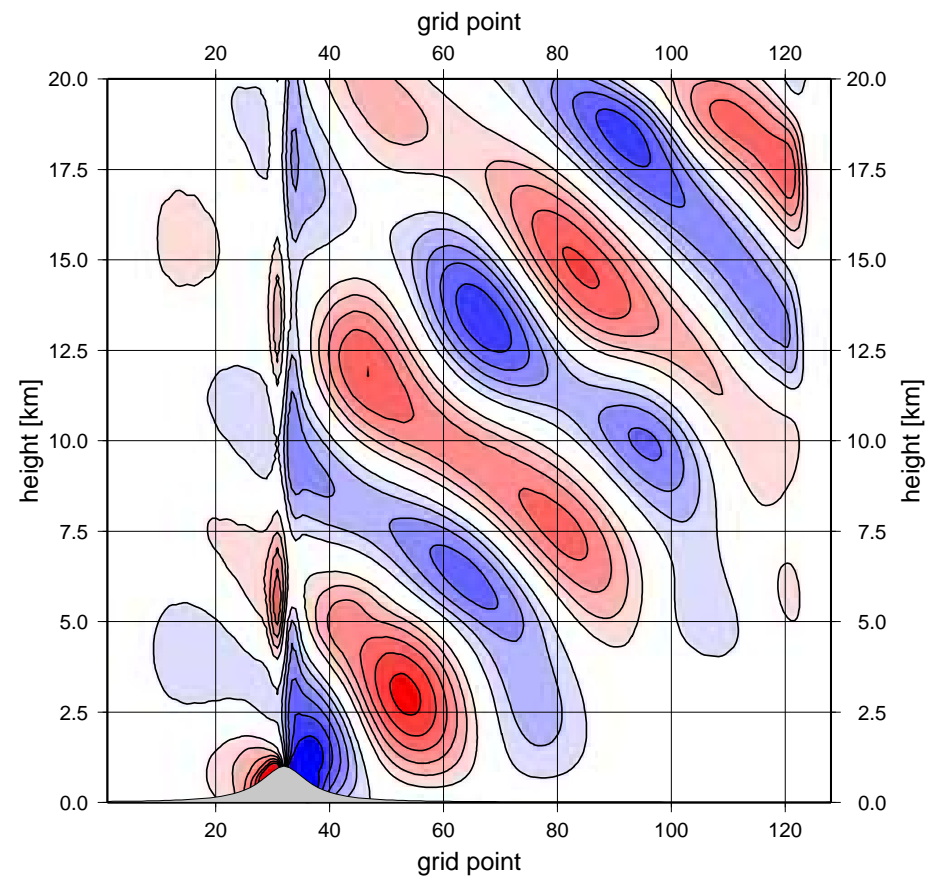
vertical velocity  $w$

eulerian timestep



$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +5000$

SL timestep



$\Delta t = 10 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0500$



## Summary of NLNH results

- eulerian scheme gives correct response, but the fields are noisy
- with semi-lagrangian scheme fields are less noisy, but chimney pattern appears in  $w$  field
- SL chimney does not disappear even with eulerian timesteps
- other fields seem to be unaffected in SL case

## Explanation of SL chimney

- every evolution of vertical divergence  $d$  implicitly evolves also surface vertical velocity  $w_{\tilde{L}}$ , since:

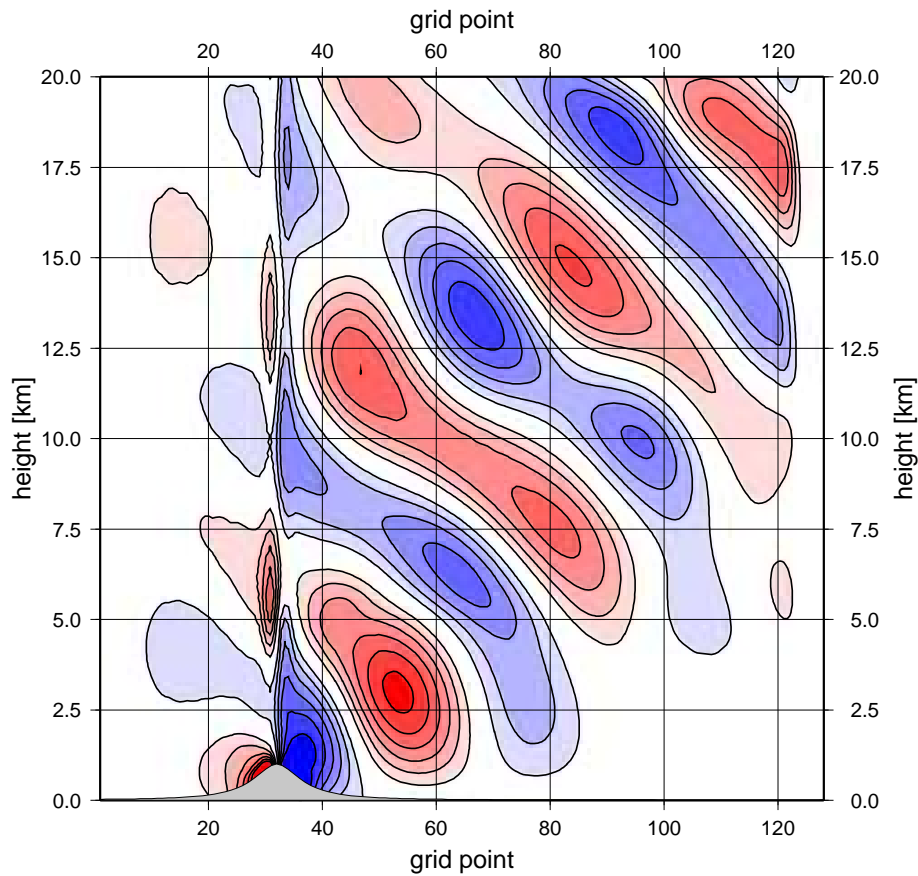
$$d_L = \frac{g w_{\tilde{L}} - g w_{\tilde{L}-1}}{\delta \phi_L}$$

- due to free slip BBC, this implicit evolution of  $w_{\tilde{L}}$  must be consistent with evolution of  $\mathbf{v}_{\tilde{L}}$
- in SL case consistency was violated, because term  $d/dt(\mathbf{v}_{\tilde{L}} \cdot \nabla \phi_{\tilde{L}})$  used in derivation of BBC for  $(\partial \tilde{p} / \partial \pi)_{\tilde{L}}$  was expressed in **eulerian** way, i.e. inconsistently with **semi-lagrangian** evolution of  $\mathbf{v}_{\tilde{L}}$

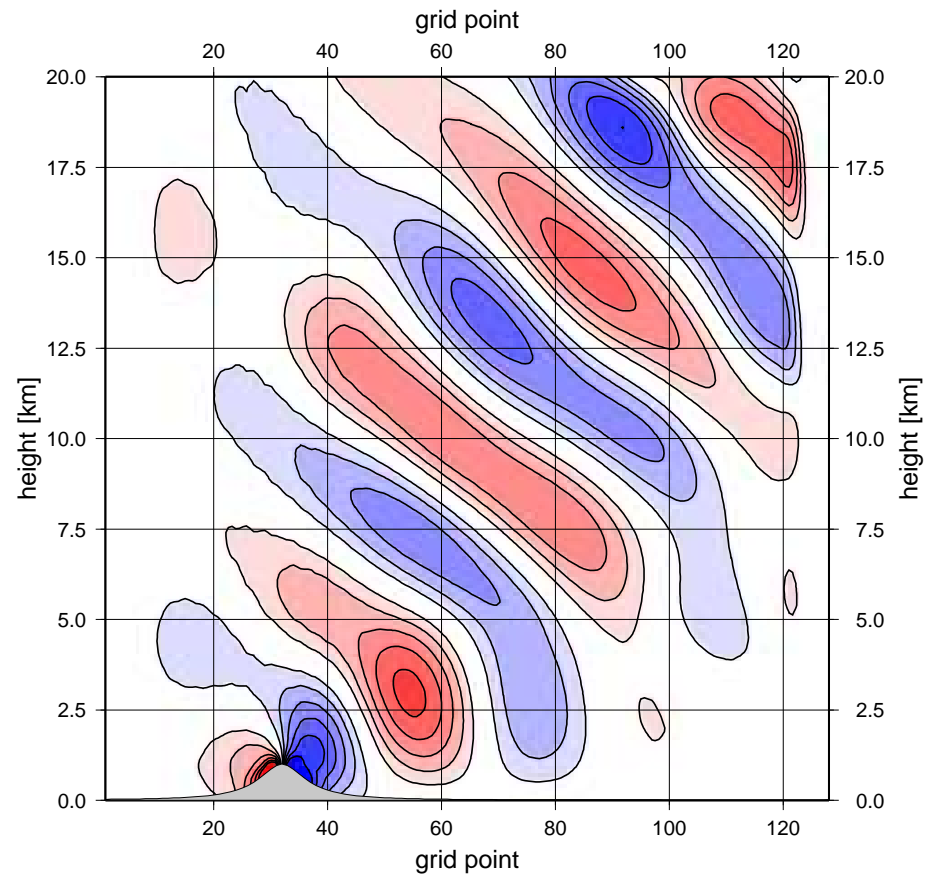
# First chimney treatment - advection of $w$

vertical velocity  $w$

SL2TL



SL2TL, LGWADV

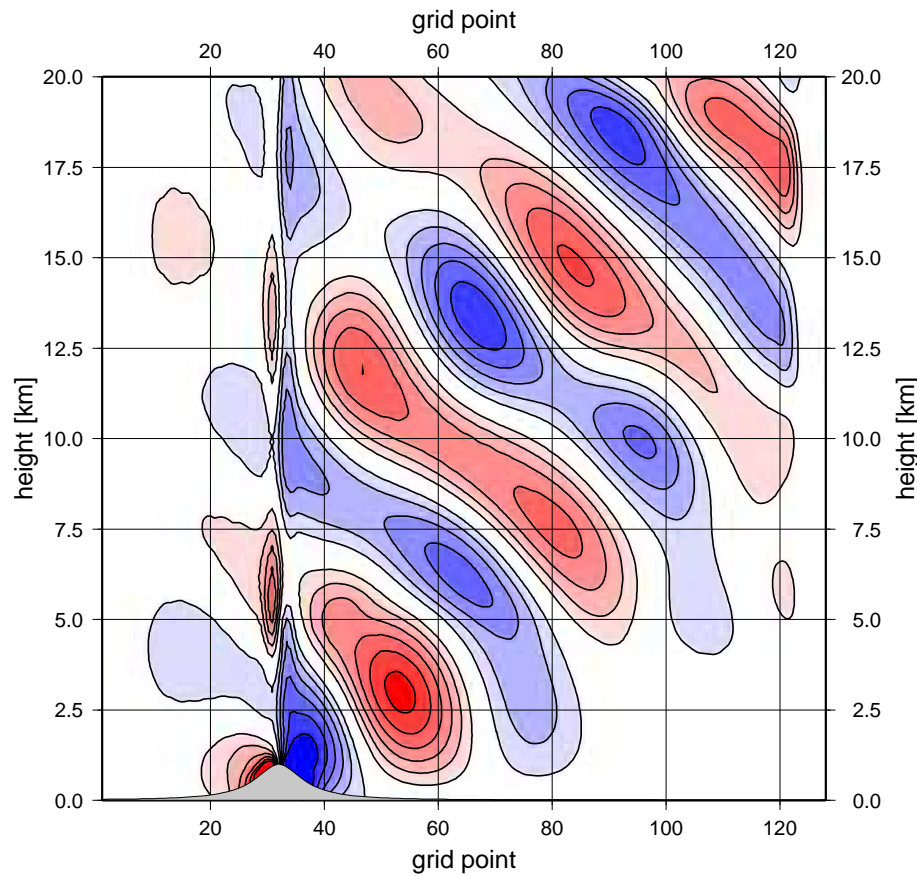


$$\Delta t = 10 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0500$$

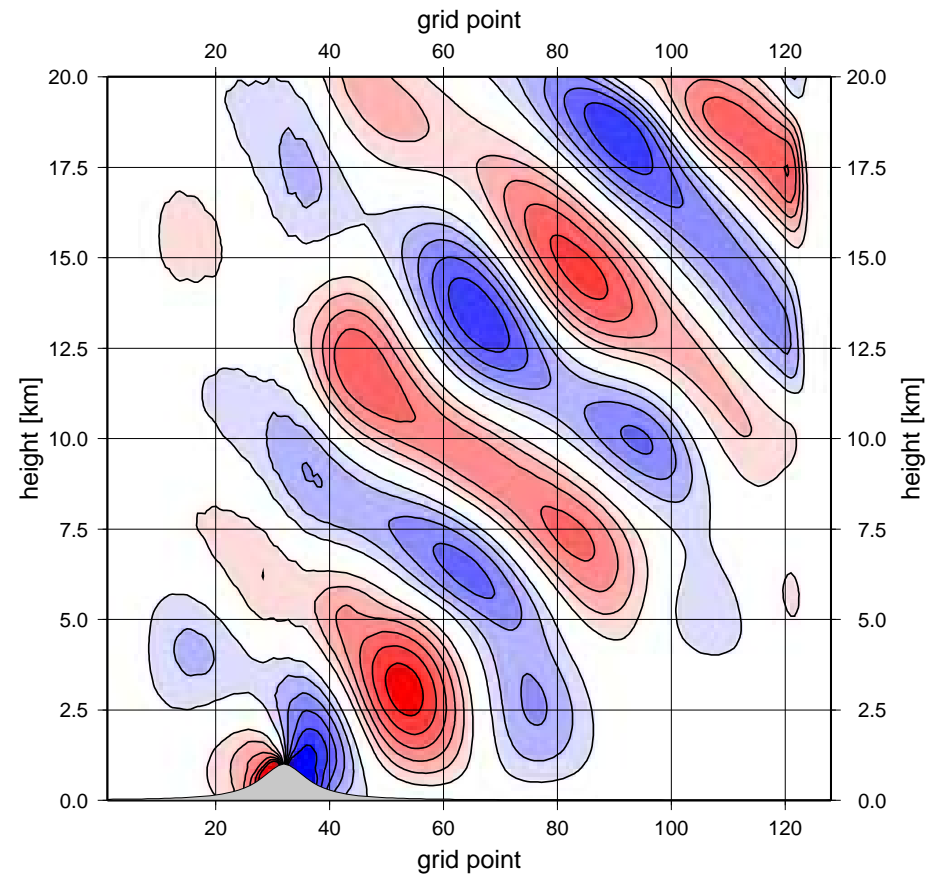
# Second chimney treatment - diagnostic BBC

vertical velocity  $w$

SL2TL



SL2TL, LRDBBC



$$\Delta t = 10 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0500$$

## Advection of $w$ – outline of the scheme (1)

- central idea is to use vertical velocity  $w$  instead of vertical divergence  $d$  in gridpoint computations  $\Rightarrow$  no need to evaluate BBC for the term  $(\partial\tilde{p}/\partial\pi)_{\tilde{L}}$
- however, for stability reasons variable  $d$  must be kept in spectral part of SI computations
- non-trivial part of the job is preparation of RHS for Helmholtz solver, because operators acting on  $w$  must be transformed into operators acting on  $d$  (transformation is non-linear)
- problem is solved by using the fact that transformation between explicit guesses  $\tilde{w}^+$  and  $\tilde{d}^+$  is very close to transformation between final quantities  $w^+$  and  $d^+$

## Advection of $w$ – outline of the scheme (2)

- in gridpoint computations prognostic equation for vertical momentum is used:

$$\left[ \frac{d(gw)}{dt} \right]_{\tilde{l}} = g^2 \left( \frac{\partial \tilde{p}}{\partial \pi} \right)_{\tilde{l}} + g\mathcal{W}_{\tilde{l}}$$

- surface tendency  $[d(gw)/dt]_{\tilde{L}}$  is not needed for evolution of  $w_{\tilde{L}}$ , since it can be diagnosed from free slip BBC
- but since SL advection is used, surface tendency  $[d(gw)/dt]_{\tilde{L}}$  might be needed for evolution of  $w_{\tilde{l}}$  at higher levels
- before performing SL interpolations, surface tendency  $[d(gw)/dt]_{\tilde{L}}$  must be initialized with provisional value diagnosed in eulerian way
- this residual inconsistency seems to be harmless for the performance of the scheme

## Diagnostic BBC – outline of the scheme

- main idea of diagnostic BBC is to express problematic surface term in semi-lagrangian way
- in case of SL3TL scheme this gives (subscript  $\tilde{L}$  is omitted):

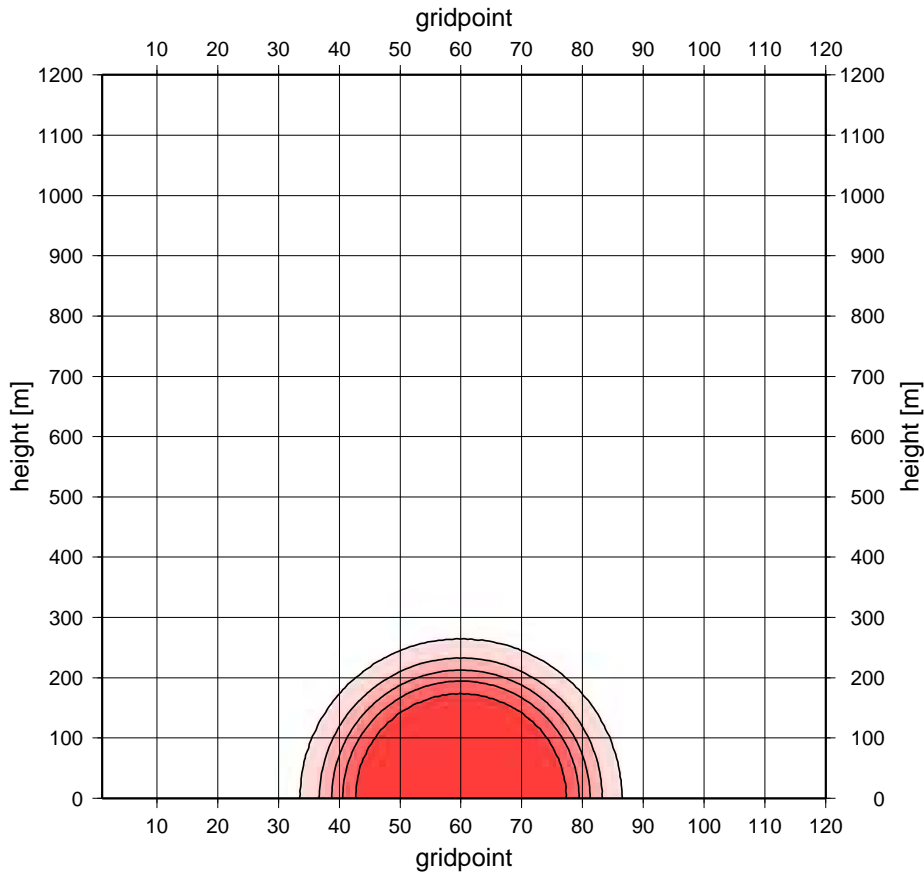
$$\left[ \frac{d}{dt} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \phi) \right]_M^0 = \frac{\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_F^+ \cdot \nabla \phi_F - \mathbf{v}_O^- \cdot \nabla \phi_O}{2\Delta t}$$

- explicit guess  $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_F^+$  is known only after performing SL interpolations  
 $\Rightarrow$  before going to SL interpolations term  $(\partial \tilde{p} / \partial \pi)_{\tilde{L}}$  must be provisionally diagnosed in eulerian way
- afterwards tendency  $(dd/dt)_L$  is rediagnosed using SL approach, but tendencies at higher levels might remain affected by provisional BBC diagnostics
- but again, this residual inconsistency seems to be harmless

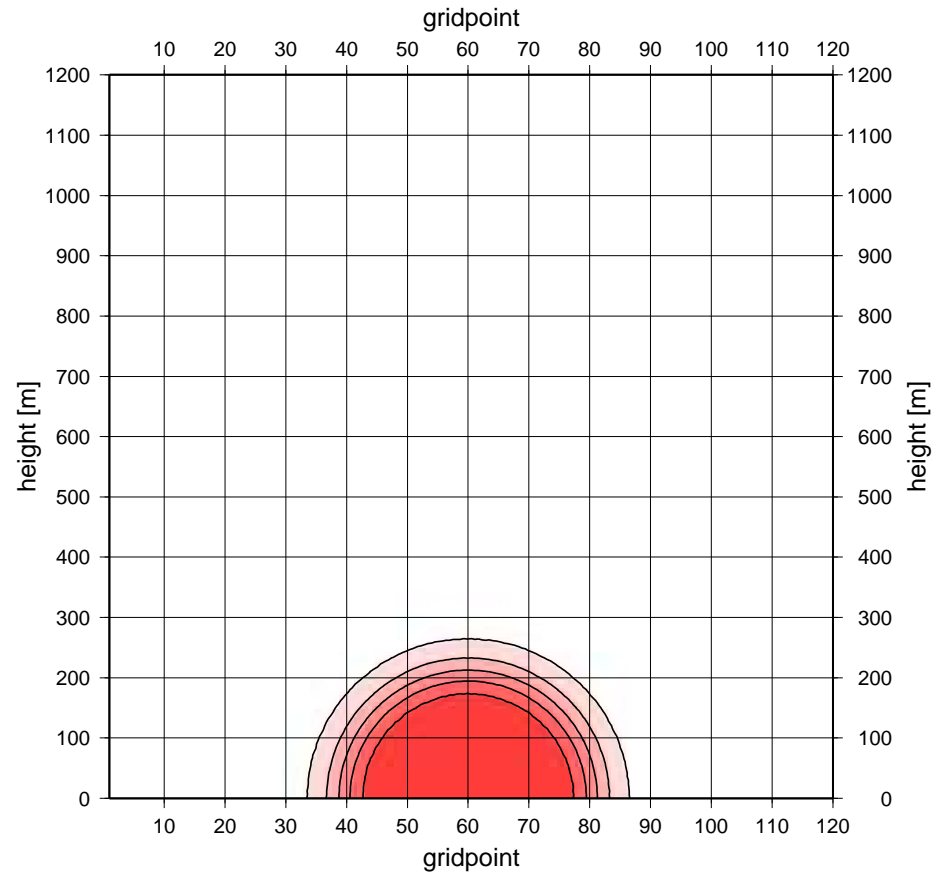
# Surprise from bubble experiment

perturbation of potential temperature  $\theta'$

SL2TL, advection of  $w$



SL2TL, advection of  $d$



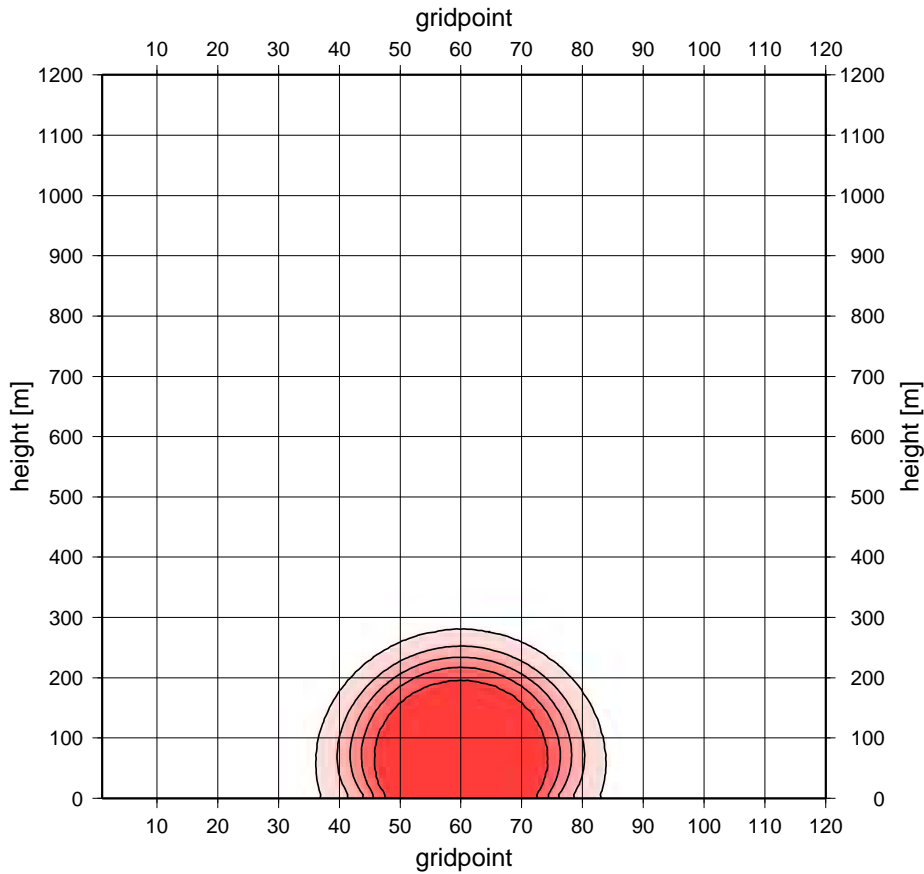
$$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0000$$



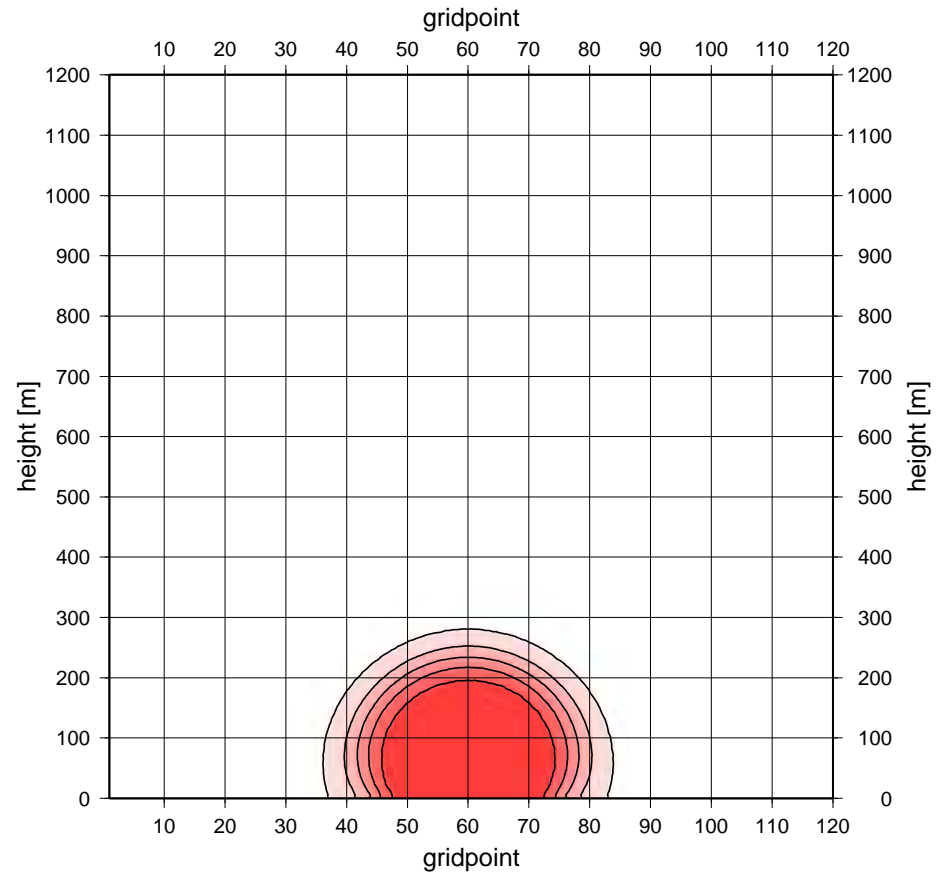
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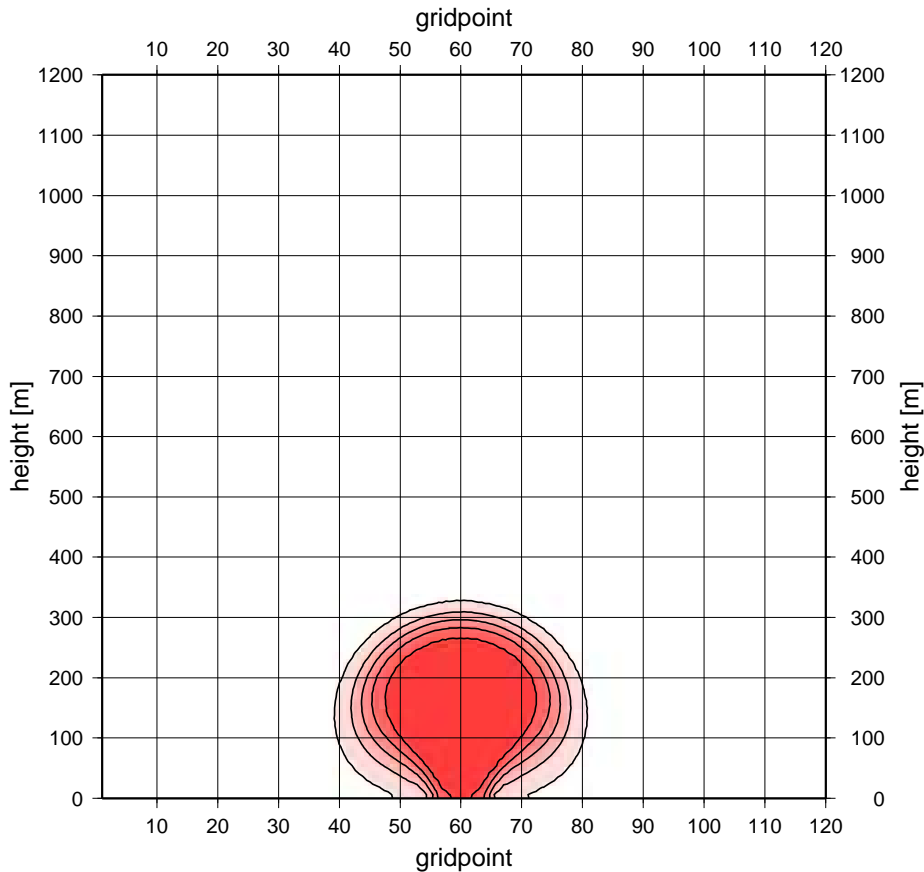


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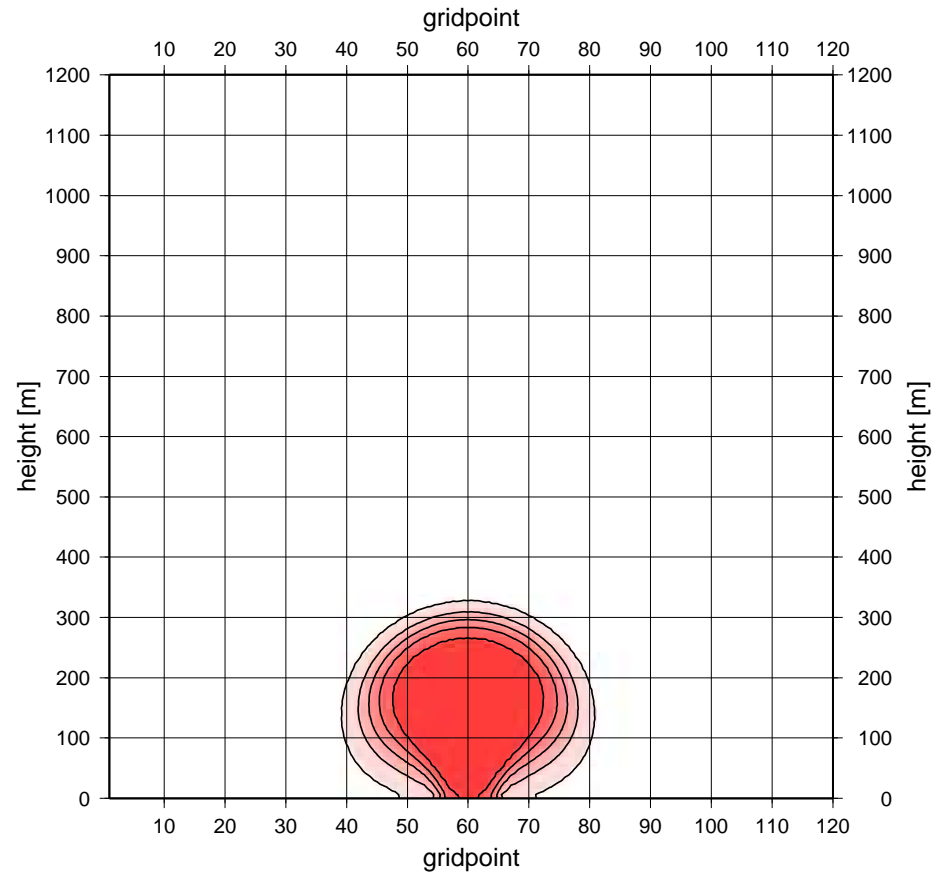
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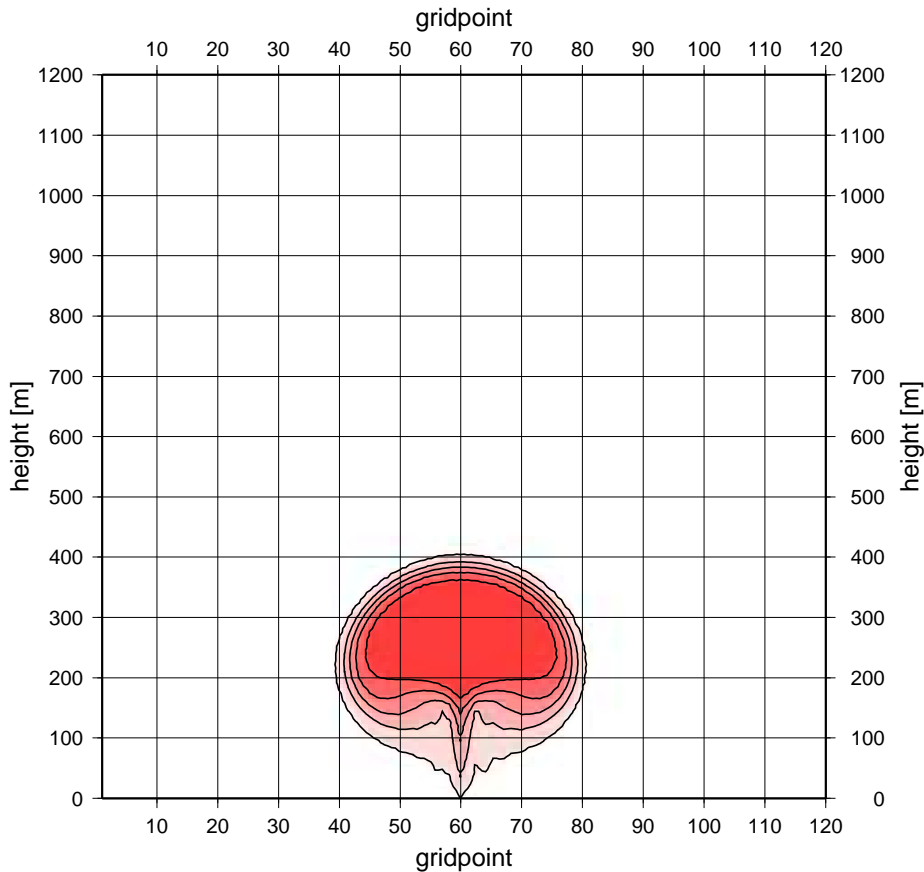


$$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0200$$

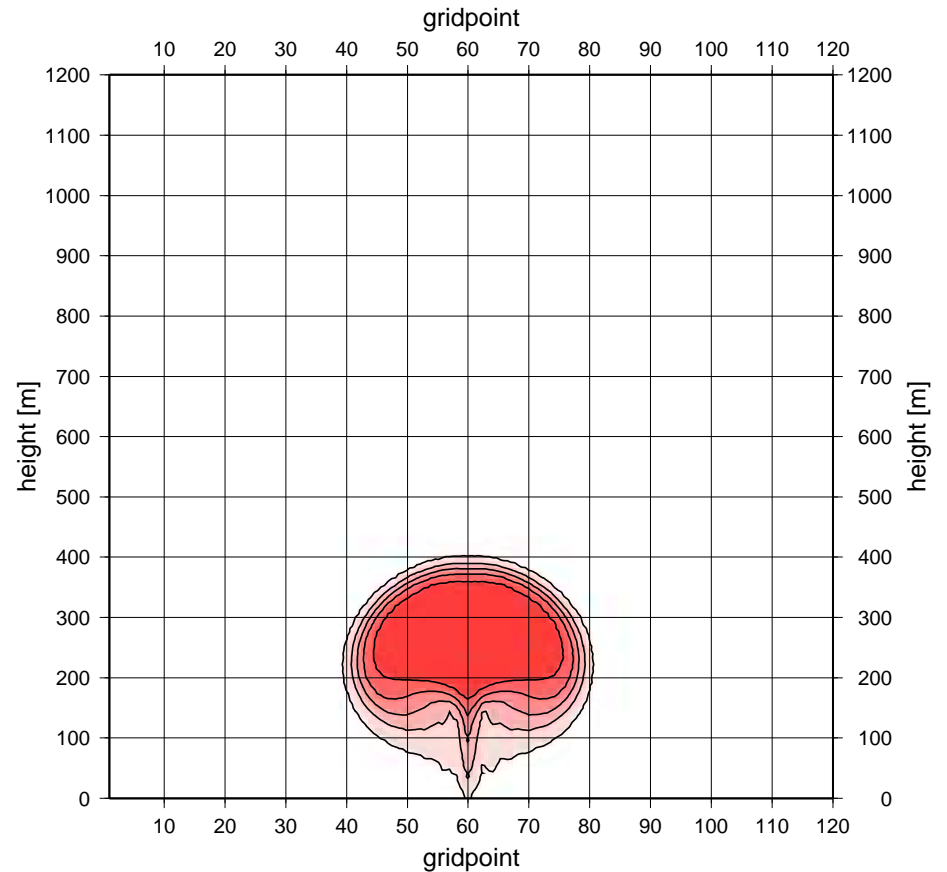
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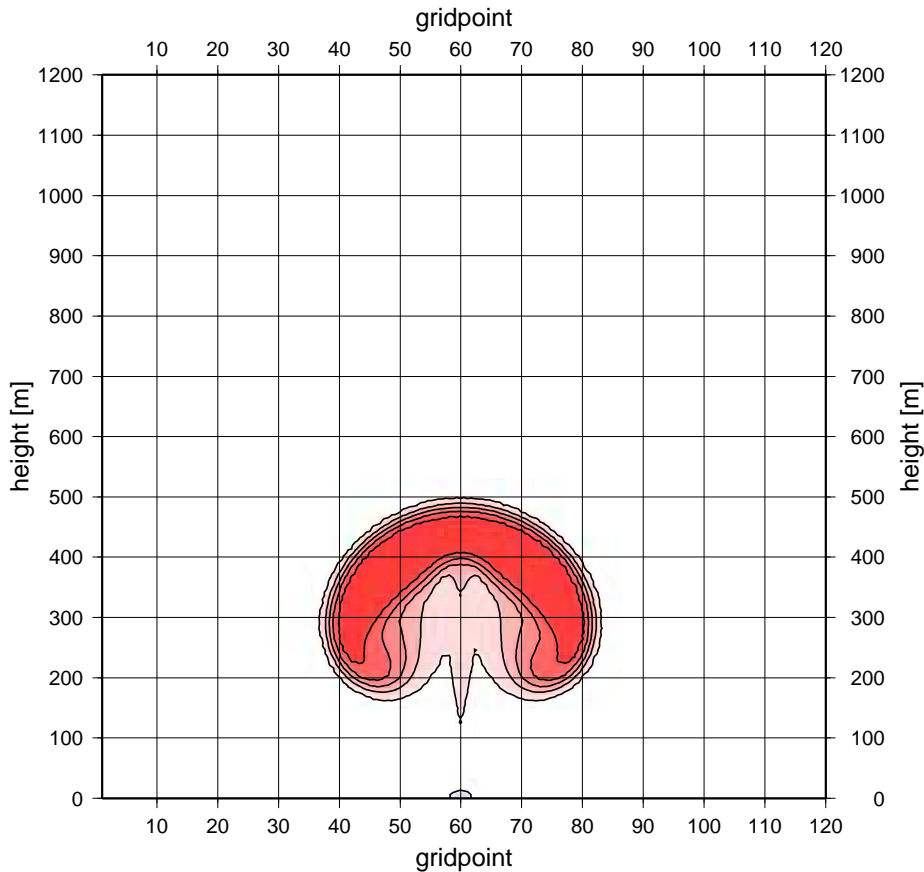


$$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0300$$

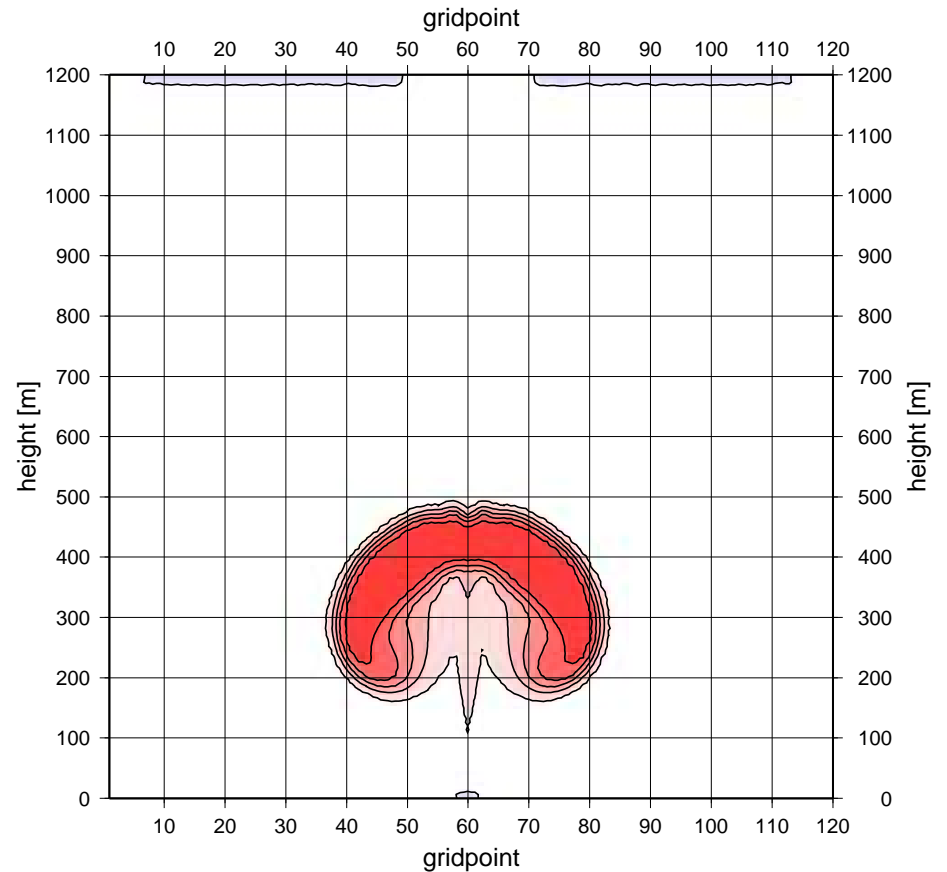
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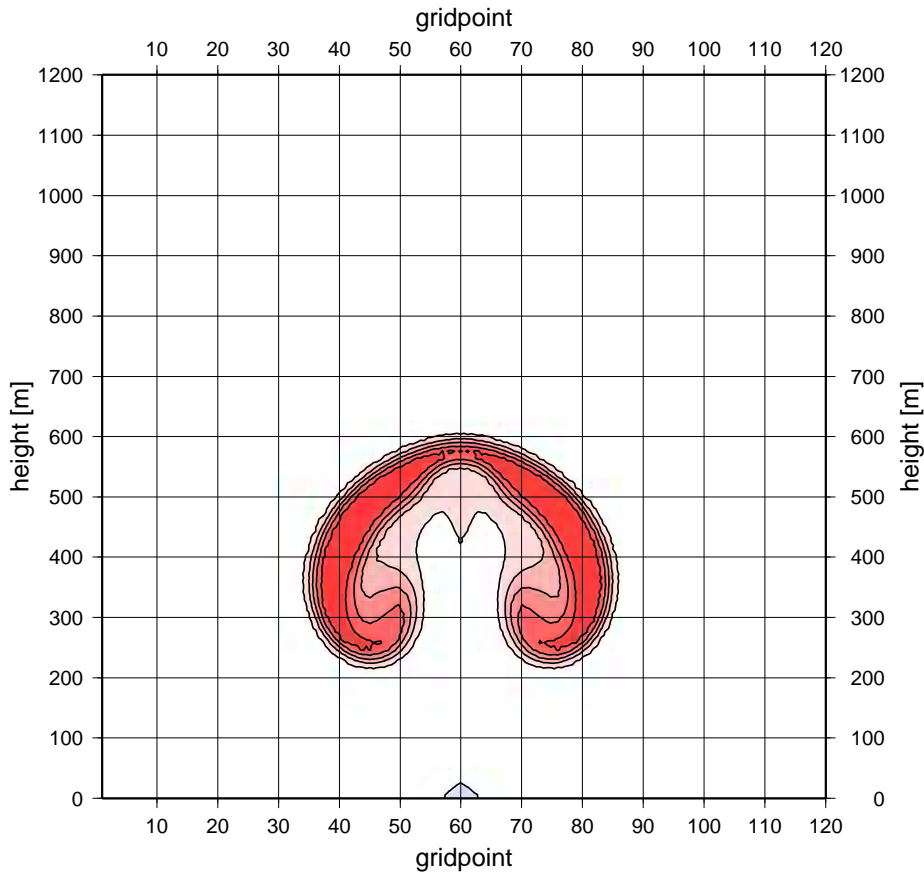


$$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0400$$

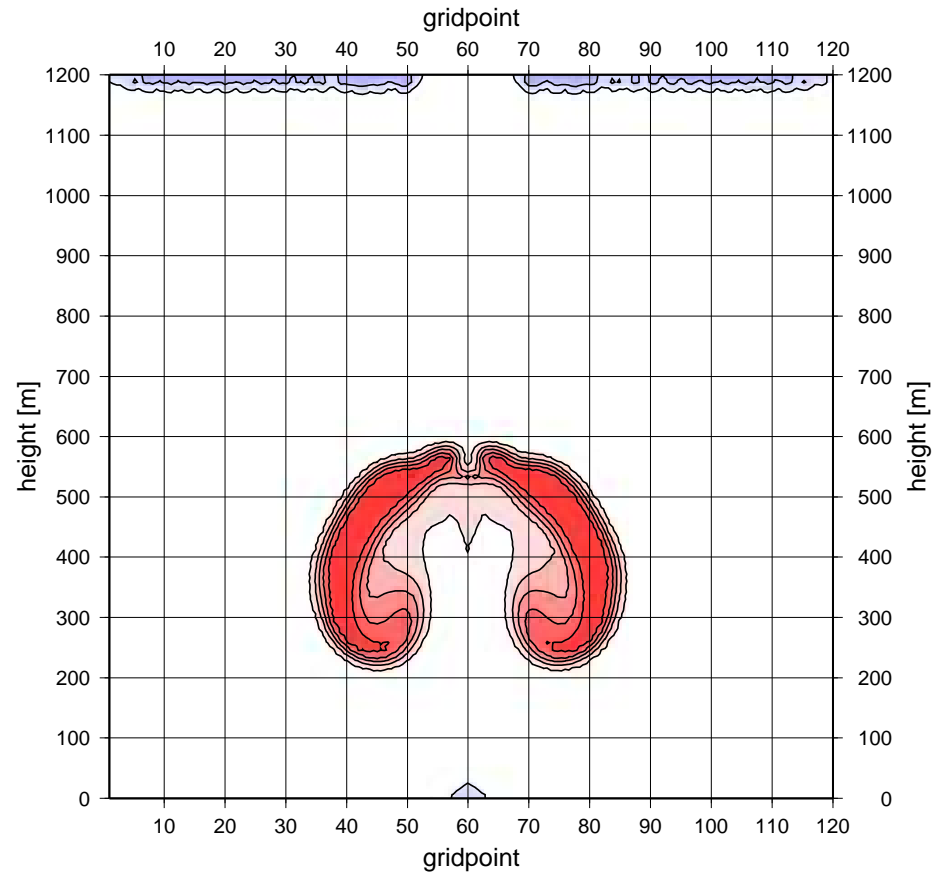
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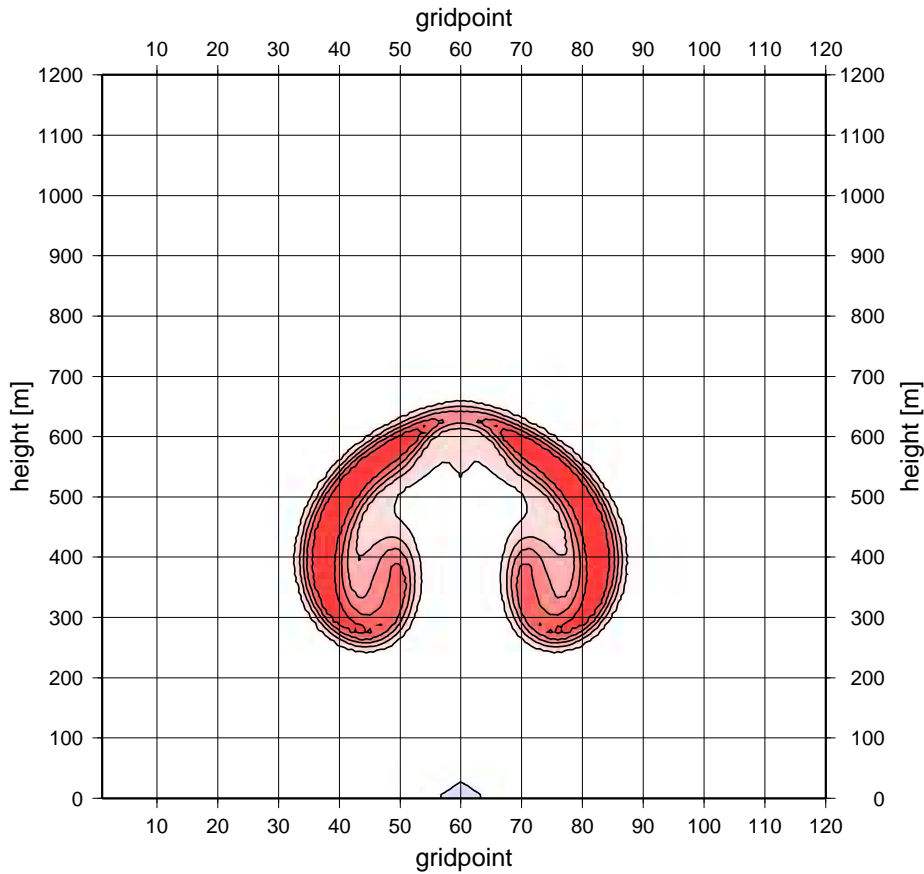


$$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0500$$

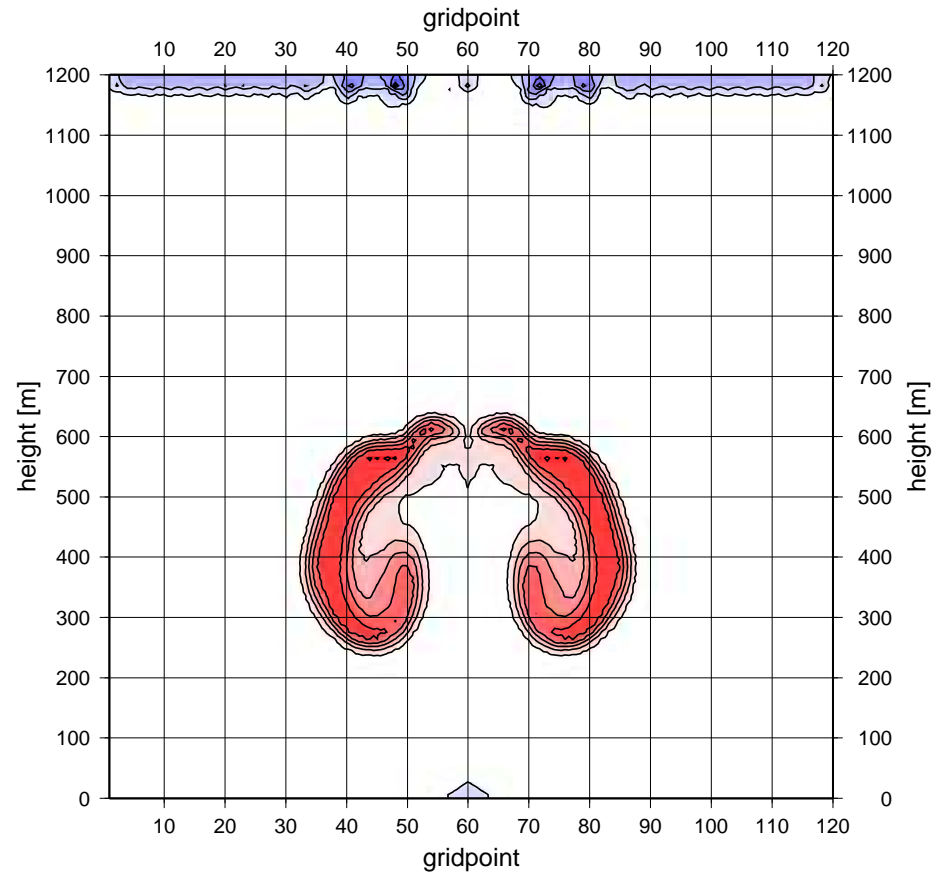
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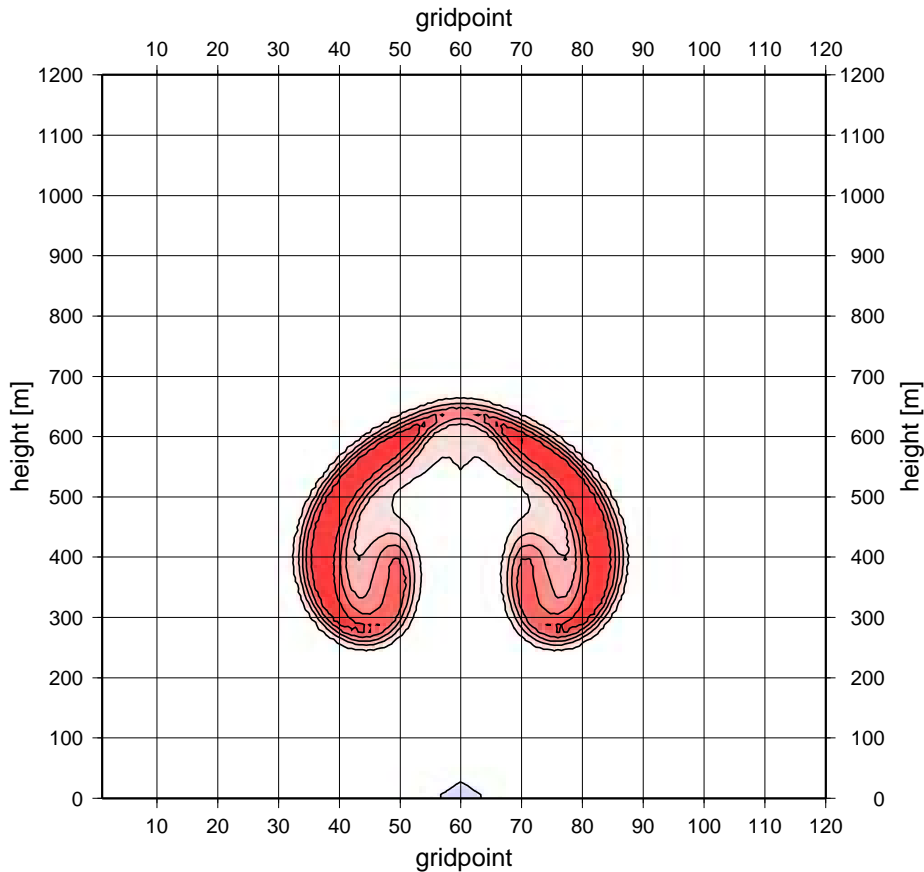


$$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0550$$

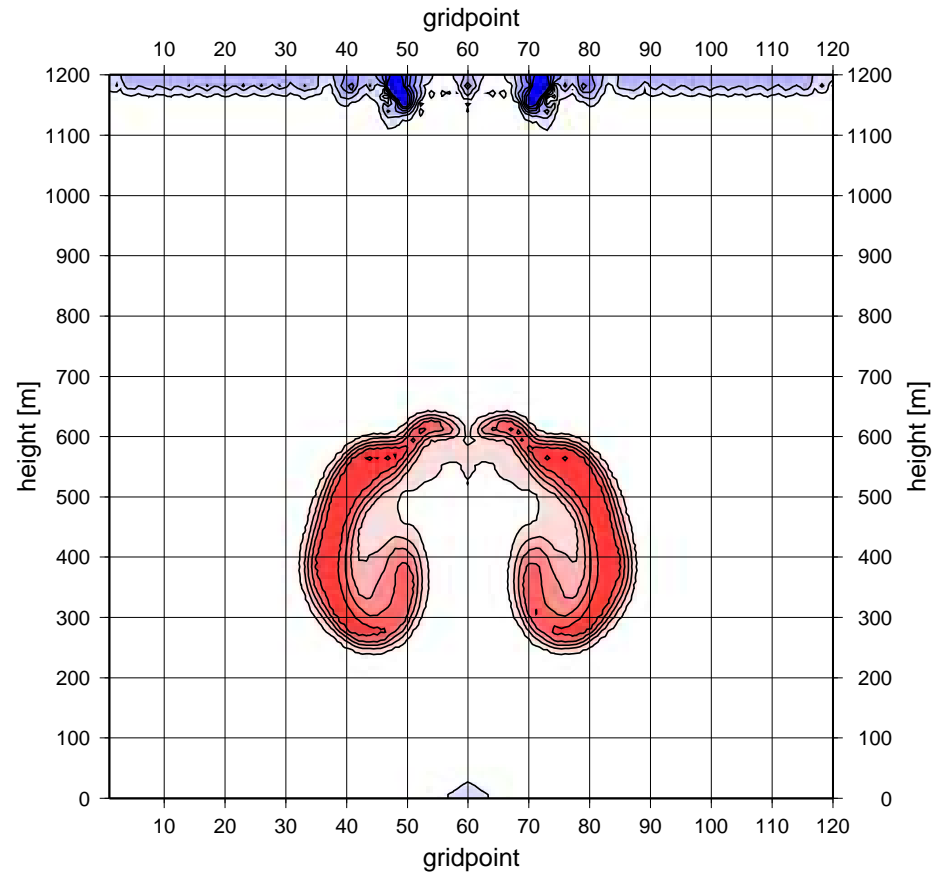
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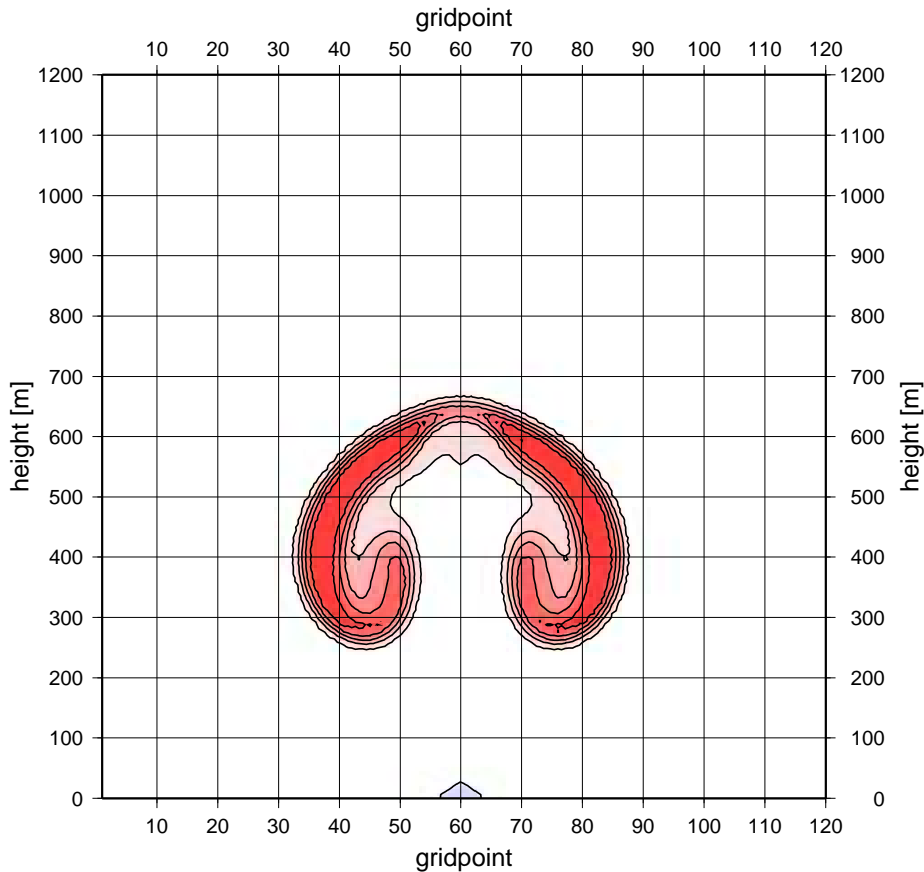


$$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0555$$

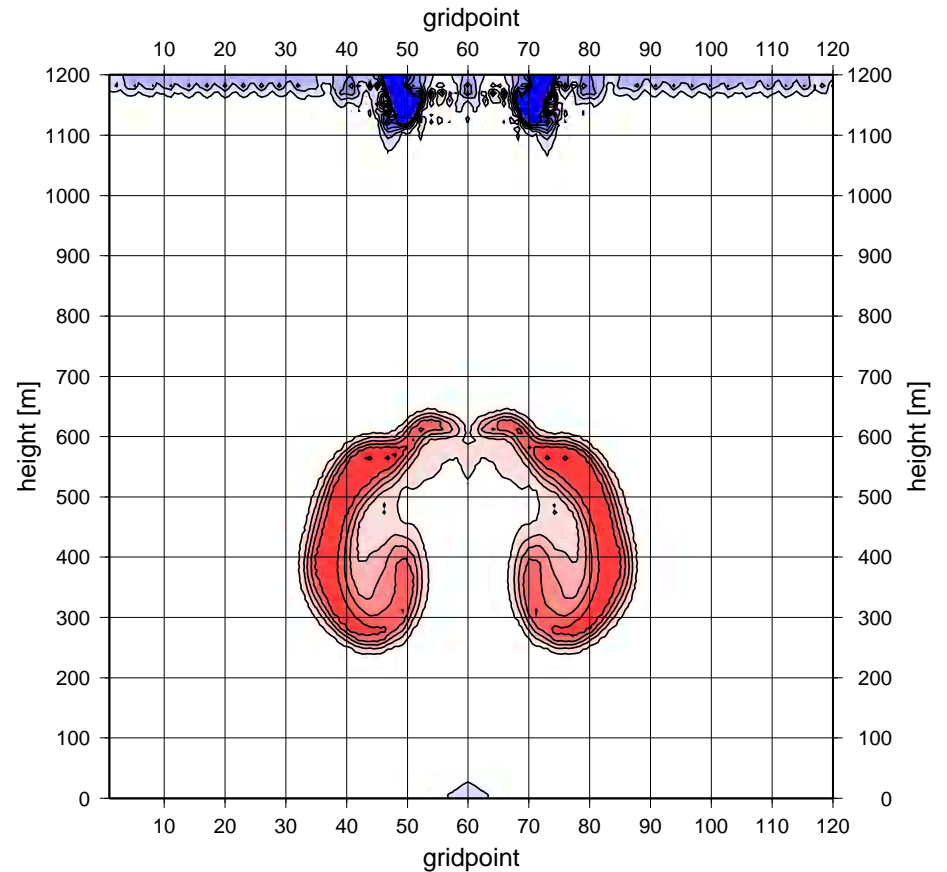
# Surprise from bubble experiment

perturbation of potential temperature  $\theta'$

SL2TL, advection of  $w$



SL2TL, advection of  $d$



$$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0558$$

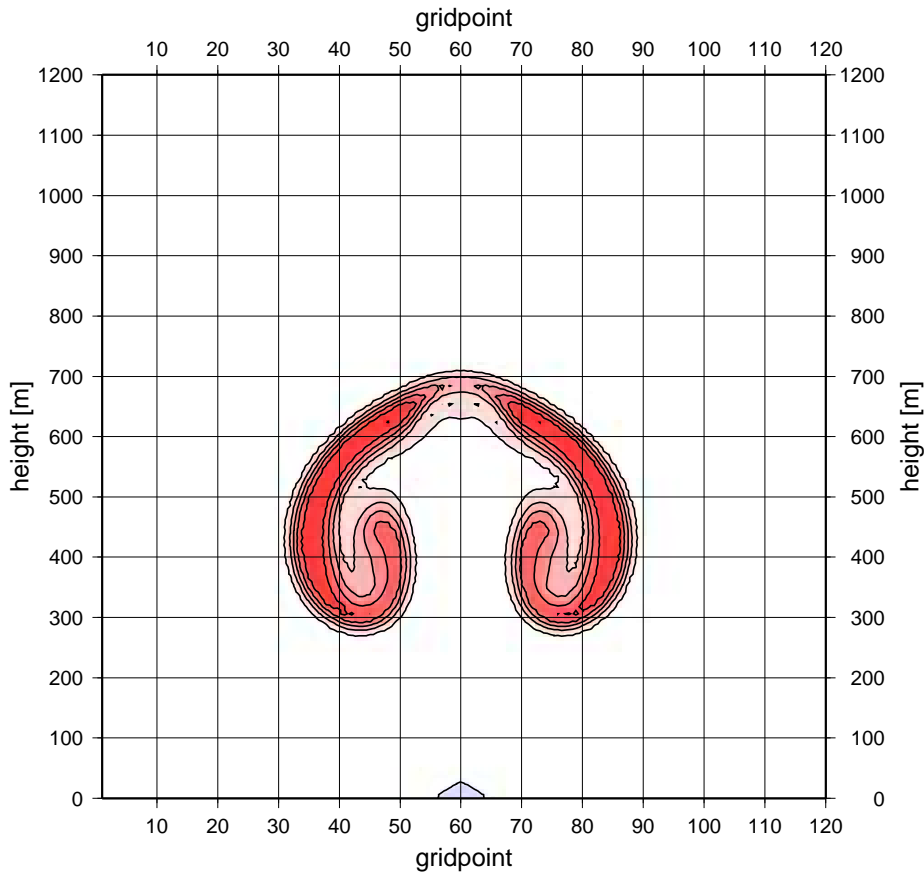


# Surprise from bubble experiment

perturbation of potential temperature  $\theta'$

SL2TL, advection of  $w$

SL2TL, advection of  $d$



exploded at  $N_{\text{step}} = +0560$

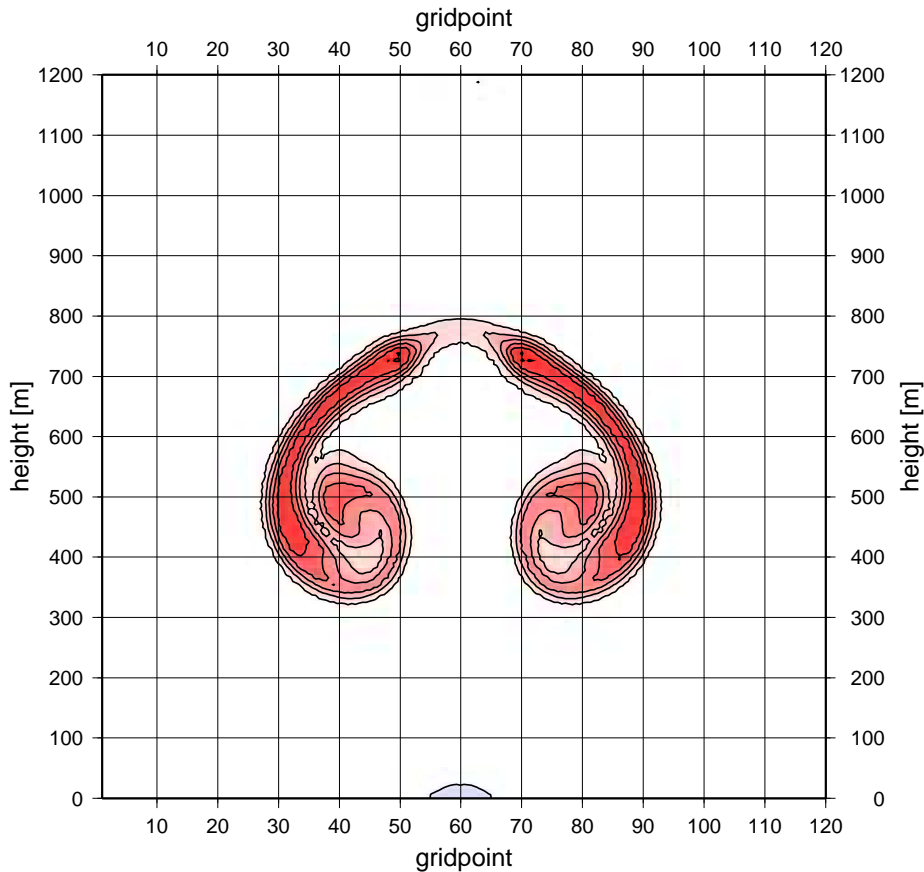
$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0600$

# Surprise from bubble experiment

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SL2TL, advection of  $d$



exploded at  $N_{\text{step}} = +0560$

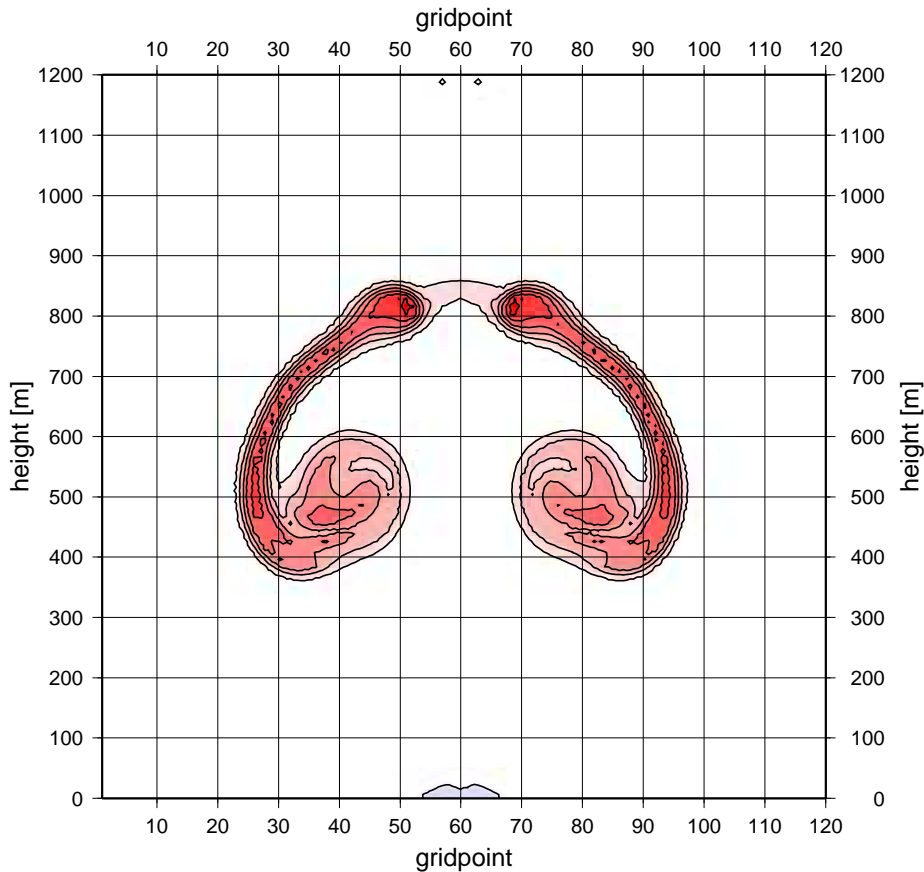
$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0700$

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exploded at  $N_{\text{step}} = +0560$

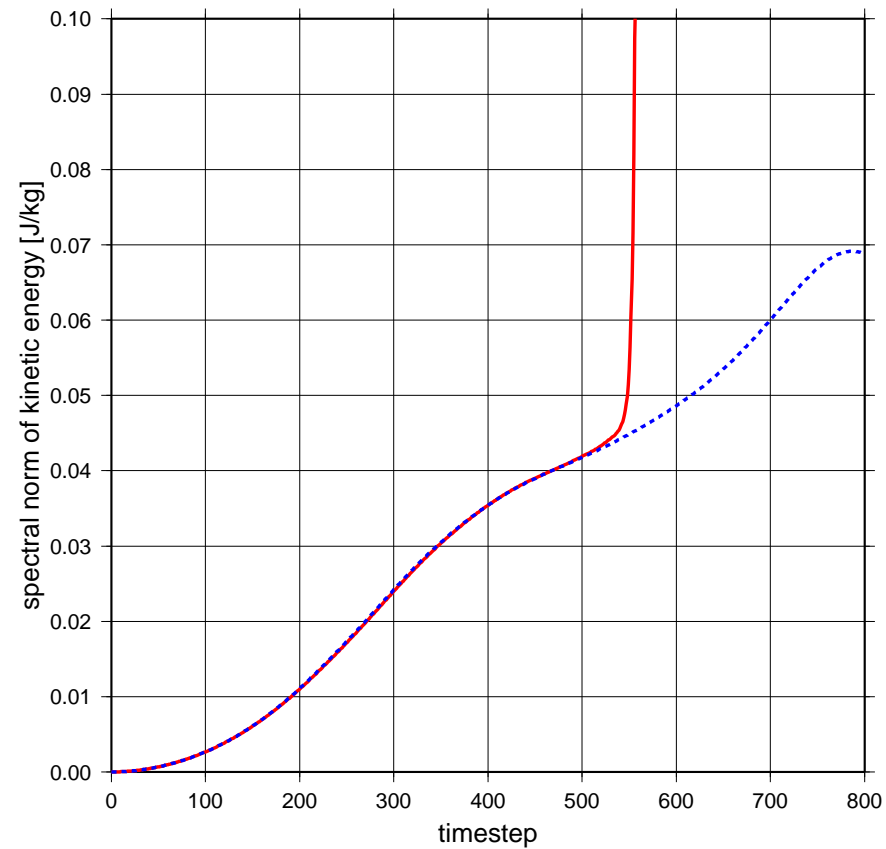
$\Delta t = 1 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0800$

# Quick look at explosion

spectral norms of kinetic energy

SL2TL, advection of  $w$

SL2TL, advection of  $d$



## SL chimney treatment – summary

- currently two SL chimney treatments are coded:
  - advection of  $w$  (available only for SL2TL NESC scheme):  

```
&NAMDYNA  
  LGWADV=.T. ,
```
  - diagnostic BBC:  

```
&NAMDYNA  
  LRDBBC=.T. ,
```
- diagnostic BBC is better suited for traditional ALADIN-NH choices
- advection of  $w$  requires extra SL interpolations of half level quantities, but on the other hand it reduces spurious noise in bubble experiments (problem still to be understood)
- for the time being both treatments are kept in the code

## Now when safe from chimneys, what about reducing the noise in NLNH regime?

- noise usually appears due to non-linearity of the flow
- in order to suppress it, horizontal diffusion (HD) can be activated:

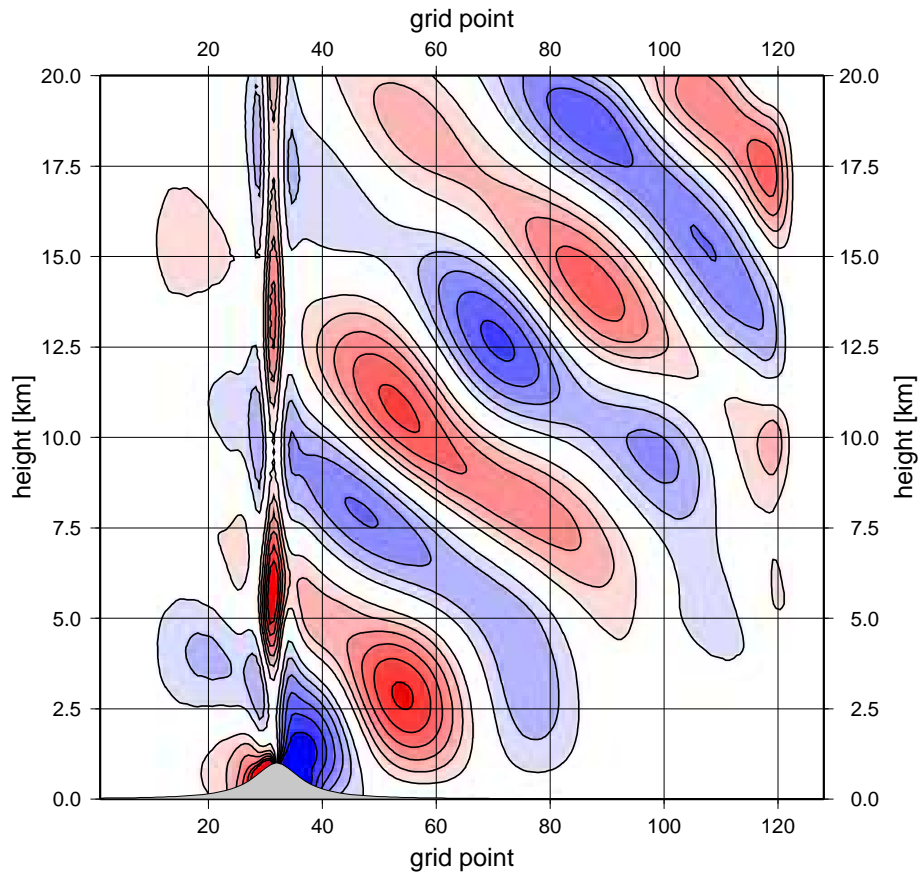
&NAMDYN

REXPDH=4., ... order of diffusion  
RRDXTAU=200., ... strength of diffusion [ $s^{-1}$ ]  
RDAMPDIV=1., ... damping factor for  $D$   
RDAMPVD=1., ... damping factor for  $d$   
RDAMPVOR=5., ... damping factor for  $\xi$   
RDAMPPD=5., ... damping factor for  $\hat{q}$   
RDAMPT=5., ... damping factor for  $T$   
RDAMPSP=0., ... no HD on  $\pi_S$

- diagnostic BBC is used to suppress SL chimney, other experimental settings remain unchanged

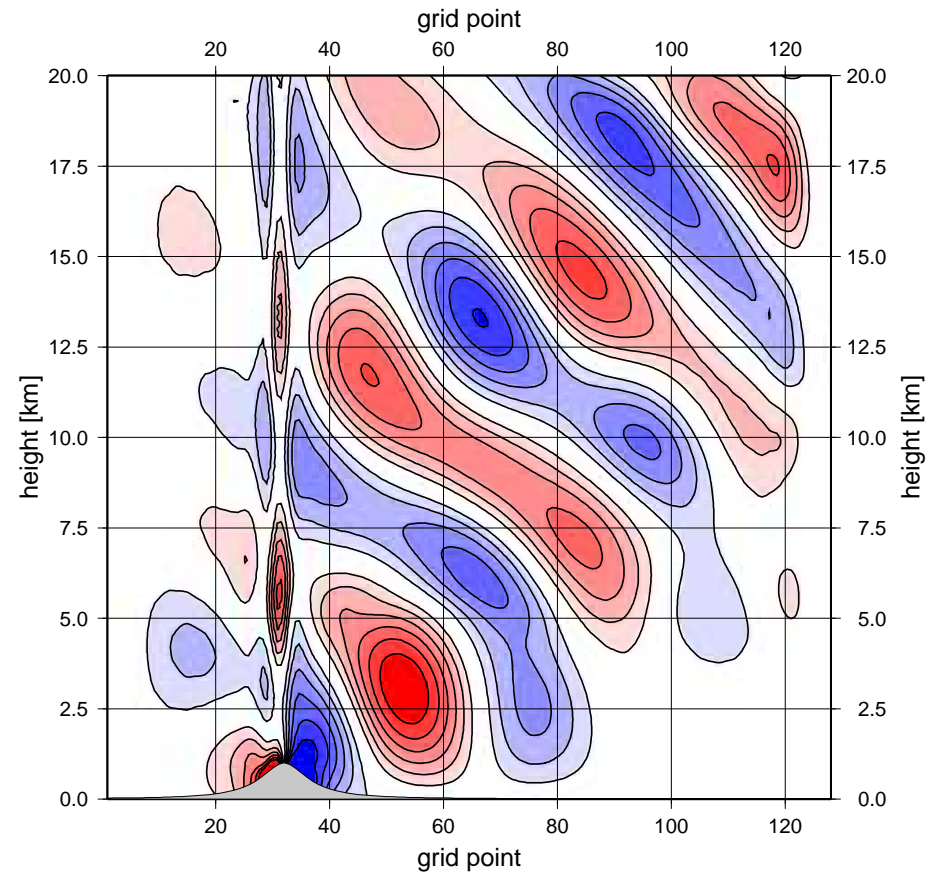
# Chimney again – even with eulerian advection!

euler



$$\Delta t = 1.0 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +5000$$

SL2TL



$$\Delta t = 10.0 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0500$$

## What is the source of chimney now?

- apparently it is horizontal diffusion, but why?
- once again, the problem is caused by inconsistent BBC treatment
- in order to see the reason, it is enough to look at continuous equations for momentum:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = -\frac{RT}{p}\nabla p - \left(\frac{\partial\tilde{p}}{\partial\pi} + 1\right)\nabla\phi + \mathcal{V}$$
$$\frac{d}{dt}(g\omega) = g^2\frac{\partial\tilde{p}}{\partial\pi} + g\mathcal{W}$$

- source terms  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $\mathcal{W}$  contain also HD tendencies
- but since HD is applied in spectral space while BBC is evaluated in gridpoint space, these terms are simply ignored in BBC treatment



## Academic treatment of HD chimney (1)

- inclusion of HD source terms into BBC is not tractable in ALADIN-NH, since diffusion is applied in spectral space at the very end of timestep:

$$\frac{X^+ - X^{(+)}}{\Delta t} = -K\nabla^4 X^+$$
$$X^+ = [1 + \Delta t K \nabla^4]^{-1} X^{(+)}$$

$X^{(+)}$  – undiffused value coming from Helmholtz solver

- it is not easy to get HD tendencies into gridpoint space
- complementary approach is to leave BBC as it is, but in order to make it consistent with model dynamics not to diffuse  $w_{\tilde{L}}$

## Academic treatment of HD chimney (2)

- practically it means not to diffuse part of  $d_L$  containing  $w_{\tilde{L}}$ , i.e. apply HD on quantity  $d_L - gw_{\tilde{L}}/\delta\phi_L$ :

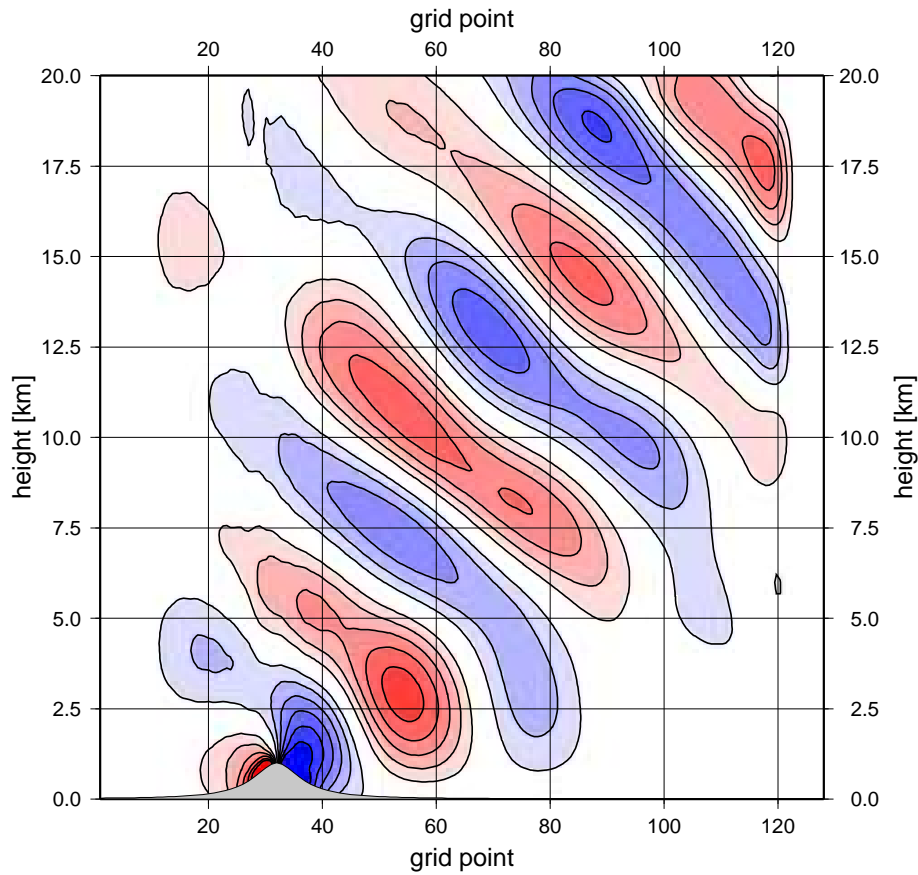
$$d_L^+ = [1 + \Delta t K \nabla^4]^{-1} \left[ d_L^{(+)} - \left( \frac{gw_{\tilde{L}}}{\delta\phi_L} \right)^{(+)} \right] + \left( \frac{gw_{\tilde{L}}}{\delta\phi_L} \right)^+$$

$$gw_{\tilde{L}}^{(+)} = \mathbf{v}_{\tilde{L}}^{(+)} \cdot \nabla \phi_{\tilde{L}} \quad gw_{\tilde{L}}^+ = \mathbf{v}_{\tilde{L}}^+ \cdot \nabla \phi_{\tilde{L}}$$

- this treatment is unusable in 3D model, since it diagnoses non-linear terms in spectral space
- it can be easily implemented and tested in vertical plane 2D model, where it is not a problem to call extra spectral transforms

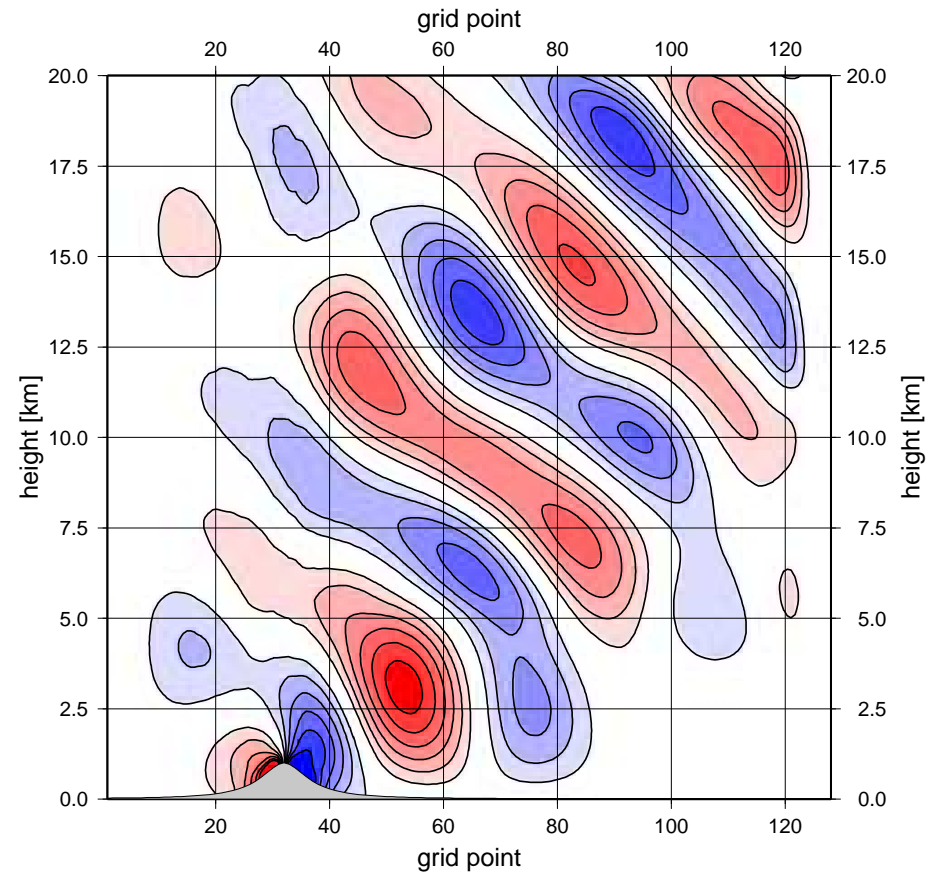
# Results for academic HD chimney treatment

euler



$$\Delta t = 1.0 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +5000$$

SL2TL



$$\Delta t = 10.0 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0500$$

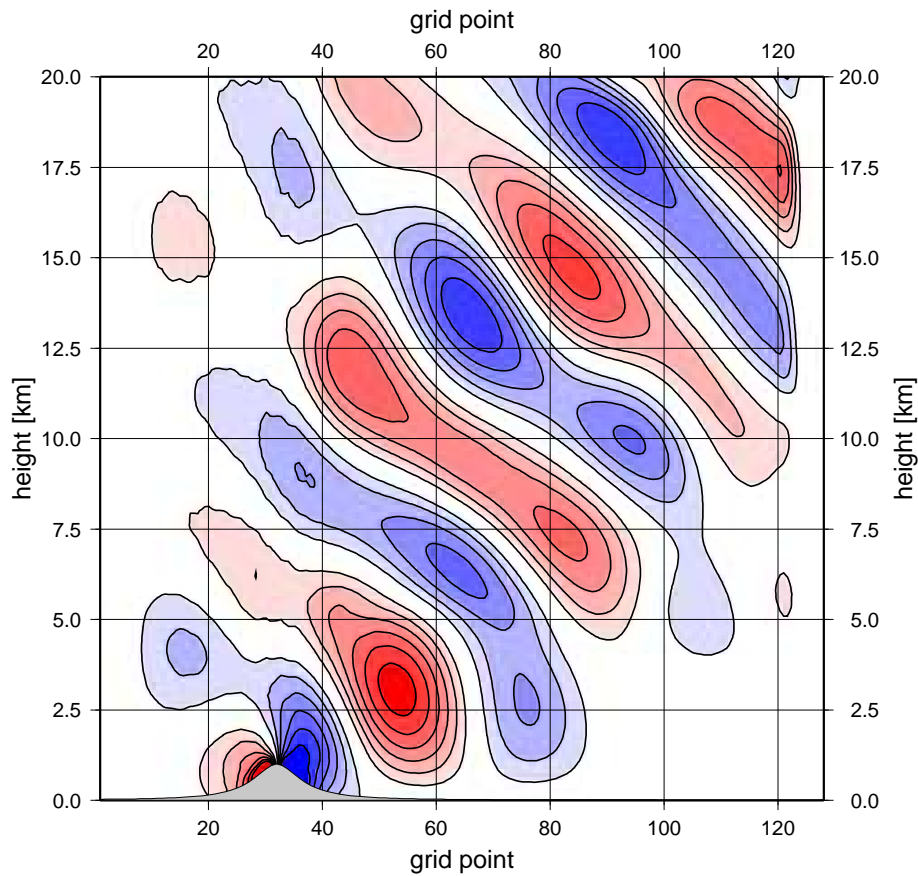
## Is there no treatment suitable for 3D model?

- there is, thanks to semi-lagrangian horizontal diffusion (SLHD) appearing at the right time
- it is based on diffusive properties of semi-lagrangian interpolators modulated by horizontal deformation of the flow
- SLHD enables to reduce significantly strength of spectral diffusion, especially in boundary layer
- in 3D real cases some residual spectral diffusion is needed to control small scale noise generated by orography, as well as to control noise generated at the top of model domain
- in 2D orographic flows with smooth terrain SLHD can be used completely without spectral diffusion
- the only problem is that SLHD cannot work with eulerian advection (which is not used operationally, however)

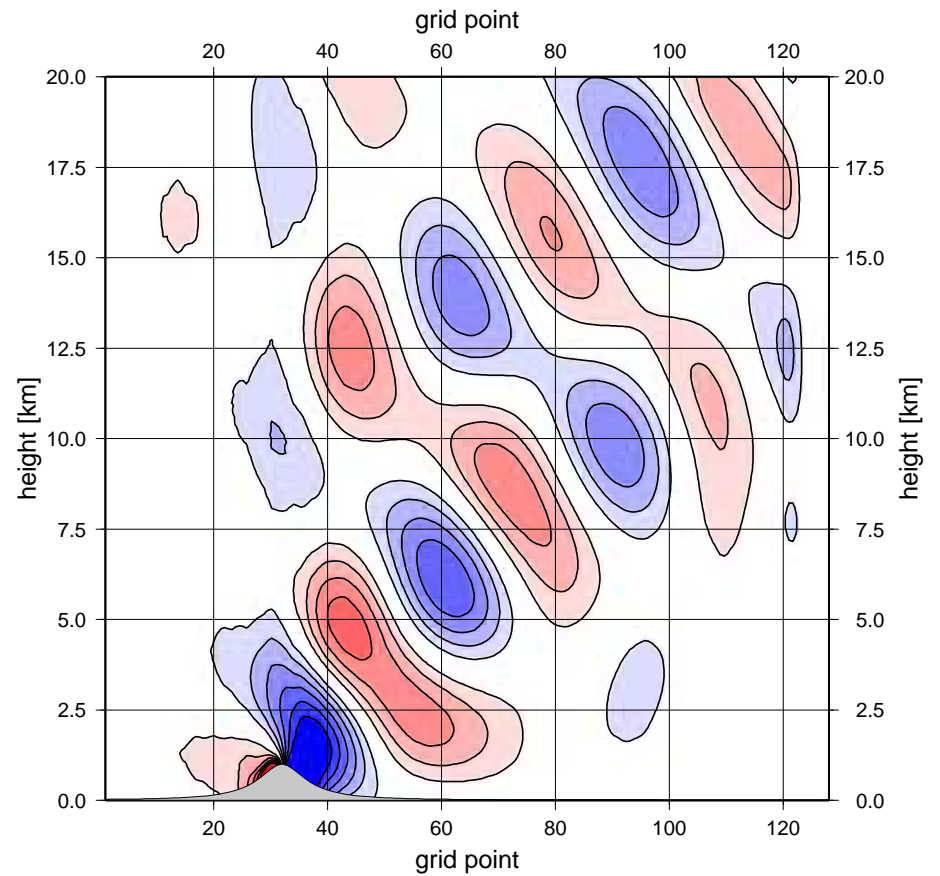
# Results obtained with SLHD

SL2TL scheme, diagnostic BBC

no HD



gridpoint part of SLHD



$$\Delta t = 10.0 \text{ s}, N_{\text{step}} = +0500$$

## HD chimney treatment – summary

- use of spectral HD with inconsistently treated BBC leads to chimney problem both for SL and eulerian advection
- there is an academic treatment of HD chimney, but it is usable only for vertical plane 2D model
- clean solution for 3D model is to use SLHD with spectral diffusion at the surface reduced as much as possible
- 3D case with eulerian advection remains unsolved

## Conclusions

- BBC treatment must be done consistently with model dynamics, otherwise problems as bizarre as chimney may appear
- it is very easy to overlook some inconsistencies in time and space discretized equations
- on the other hand it is very hard to say a priori which discretization details are innocent and which are harmful
- correct BBC treatment in spectral model can be technically difficult