

1 **Equilibration of a baroclinic planetary atmosphere toward the limit of vanishing bottom**  
2 **friction**

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## ABSTRACT

13 This paper discusses whether and how a baroclinic atmosphere can equi-  
14 librate with very small bottom friction in a dry, primitive equation, general  
15 circulation model. The model is forced by a Newtonian relaxation of temper-  
16 ature to a prescribed temperature profile, and it is damped by a linear friction  
17 near the lower boundary. When friction is decreased by four orders of mag-  
18 nitude, kinetic energy dissipation by friction gradually becomes negligible,  
19 while “energy recycling” becomes dominant. In this limit kinetic energy is  
20 converted back into potential energy at the largest scales, thus closing the en-  
21 ergy cycle without significant frictional dissipation. The momentum fluxes  
22 are of opposite sign in the upper and lower atmosphere: in the upper atmo-  
23 sphere, eddies converge momentum into the westerly jets, however, in the  
24 lower atmosphere, the eddies diverge momentum out of the westerly jets. The  
25 secondary circulation driven by the meridional eddy momentum fluxes thus  
26 acts to increase the baroclinicity of the westerly jet. This regime may be rel-  
27 evant for the Jovian atmosphere, where the frictional time scale may be much  
28 larger than the radiative damping time scale.

## 29 **1. Introduction**

30 Bottom friction (also referred to as surface drag) that acts at large scales plays a crucial role in the  
31 equilibration of baroclinic turbulence for Earth's atmosphere. The importance of bottom friction  
32 can be illustrated by considering the momentum and energy budgets. The zonal-mean angular  
33 momentum budget at midlatitudes is characterized by a transfer of angular momentum from the  
34 eddies into the westerly jets. In a statistically steady state this momentum-flux convergence must  
35 be balanced by frictional drag in the bottom boundary layer (Green 1970; Held 1975; Edmon et al.  
36 1980). The energy budget is constrained by the quasi-two-dimensional character of the large-scale  
37 dynamics. Little kinetic energy generated by baroclinic instability can cascade to smaller scales  
38 (see a review on two-dimensional turbulence by Boffetta and Ecke 2012); instead, most kinetic  
39 energy cascades to larger scales or gets channeled into the zonal jets (Vallis and Maltrud 1993).  
40 The bottom drag is needed to ultimately remove the kinetic energy, thus closing the energy cycle  
41 and bounding the kinetic energy. By considering the atmosphere to work as a heat engine, the  
42 entropy budget provides an additional perspective (Held 2007). The large scale radiative damping  
43 decreases the entropy of the flow, as the warmer equatorial region gets heated and polar region gets  
44 cooled. In a statistical steady state, the decrease in entropy is balanced by the creation of entropy  
45 due to bottom friction for the dry dynamics.

46 Such budgets are less clear for Jupiter's atmosphere or the atmospheres of other Jovian planets  
47 as the strength of bottom friction is highly uncertain. In one line of studies, a model for Jupiter's  
48 atmospheric circulation considers a thin shell upper atmosphere ( $\sim 1$  bar) sitting on top of a deep  
49 fluid interior. The upper atmosphere is often referred as the weather layer for it is hypothesized  
50 to be Earth-like: the flow is governed by similar geophysical fluid dynamics as Earth, and the  
51 strong jets and turbulent eddies are energized by baroclinic instability or by convection coupled to

52 large scale dynamics, with the deep interior rather crudely treated as a lower boundary condition  
53 (Williams and Halloway 1982; Williams 1985; see a review by Vasavada and Showman 2005). In  
54 modeling the circulation of the weather layer, a major uncertainty lies in the strength of bottom  
55 friction, which parameterizes the coupling between the thin weather layer and the deep interior.  
56 As a gas giant planet, Jupiter's atmosphere transits smoothly into its deep fluid interior, while the  
57 flow is only visible at the cloud top ( $0.5 \sim 1$  bar). To find a rigid bottom boundary on Jupiter  
58 that may be analogous to Earth's surface, one needs to reach far down below the weather layer,  
59 perhaps up to about 0.8 Jupiter's radius, where the pressure reaches more than  $10^6$  bar so that  
60 the molecular hydrogen transits into metallic hydrogen and can be viewed as in near solid-body  
61 rotation (Guillot 2005). On the one hand, bottom friction acting on the weather layer thus must  
62 be very small or even vanishing as the weather layer does not have a rigid bottom boundary or  
63 topography (Dowling 1995). On the other hand, some coupling between the metallic hydrogen  
64 interior and the weather layer is expected, otherwise there is nothing unique about the reference  
65 frame rotating with the metallic hydrogen core ( the existence of latitudinal jets on Uranus suggests  
66 that the jets are controlled by internal rotation [Ingersoll 1990]).

67 Most researchers have in fact included a bottom friction with a somewhat arbitrary strength  
68 when modeling the weather layer (e.g., Williams 1985), although the source of the drag remains  
69 unclear. One possibility (Showman et al. 2006; Lian and Showman 2008; Schneider and Liu 2009)  
70 is that a mean meridional circulation, akin to the Ferrel cell in Earth's atmosphere, extends from  
71 the deep interior to the weather layer. If this were to couple the magnetohydrodynamic (MHD)  
72 drag in the interior to the weather layer it could act as a kind of drag and allow the weather layer  
73 to equilibrate (Liu and Schneider 2010, 2011), and/or explain how shallow forcing at the cloud  
74 level could drive deep jets in the interior (Lian and Showman 2008). Still, there is evidently much

75 uncertainty in the mechanism of bottom friction, and hence the effective drag could be extremely  
76 small.

77 Intuitively it might seem hard for an atmosphere to equilibrate in the limit of vanishing bottom  
78 friction. It is well-known that for two-dimensional turbulence driven by random stirring, energy  
79 will keep accumulating at the largest scale with time in the absence of large scale friction (Kraich-  
80 nan 1967; Smith and Yakhot 1993; Chertkov et al. 2007). In a primitive equation model simulating  
81 Jupiter’s upper atmosphere, Liu and Schneider (2015) varied the frictional drag time scale by 3  
82 orders of magnitude and found that the energy dissipation rate, which scales with  $U^2/\tau_f$ , stays  
83 nearly constant ( $U$  is a scale for zonal wind speed and  $\tau_f$  is the frictional damping time scale).  
84 In their simulation, the fixed surface heating induces convective stirring at the grid scale, which  
85 generates most of the kinetic energy and is similar to the random stirring in two-dimensional turbu-  
86 lence studies. However, for a flow self-stirred by baroclinic instability, the behavior is expected to  
87 be different as the stirring itself is influenced by the large scale flow. Interestingly, Lian and Show-  
88 man (2008) simulated multiple jets driven by baroclinic instability in a primitive equation model  
89 with *zero* bottom friction. Although not explicitly studied, it appears that the flow approaches  
90 equilibrium after thousands of days of integration (see their Fig. 5).

91 It is not known whether a high or low value of friction produces more realistic Jovian atmo-  
92 spheric simulations. More fundamentally, the question of whether a baroclinic atmosphere can  
93 equilibrate as surface friction tends to zero remains open. In this study we therefore focus on the  
94 effects of bottom friction, and in particular the behaviour of a baroclinic atmosphere in both Earth-  
95 like and Jovian regimes, as friction becomes very small. Understanding the pathways between the  
96 production and dissipation of energy are central to our understanding of baroclinic turbulence in  
97 this limit, and three hypotheses concerning the kinetic energy production rate  $\epsilon$  suggest them-  
98 selves.

- 99 1. The energy production rate  $\varepsilon$  stays finite, while the total kinetic energy increases without  
100 bound to maintain the necessary frictional dissipation, as in two-dimensional turbulence. This  
101 limit is implied by Held and Larichev's (1996) scaling that in a two layer quasi-geostrophic  
102 model, the kinetic energy production rate scales as  $\varepsilon \sim U^5 / (\beta^2 L_R^5)$ , where  $U$  is the mean ther-  
103 mal wind,  $\beta$  is the planetary vorticity gradient, and  $L_R$  is the Rossby deformation radius. In  
104 the pure form of this scaling,  $\varepsilon$  does not depend on bottom friction, which agrees with Liu and  
105 Schneider's (2015) simulation. To be a physically realizable system, some mechanism must  
106 eventually bound the energy level when the friction becomes small enough. For example, at  
107 some point the Rossby number may become sufficiently large so that the flow is no longer  
108 quasi two-dimensional and thus allows a forward cascade, in which case  $\varepsilon$  can be balanced  
109 by dissipation at small scales.
- 110 2. The energy production rate  $\varepsilon$  approaches zero as the flow becomes stabilized by the barotropic  
111 flow, and the flow ends up in a zonally symmetric state. James and Gray (1986) found that  
112 when bottom friction is reduced, the baroclinic instability of the time mean flow is greatly  
113 suppressed. This is explained by the increase of the barotropic shear when friction is reduced,  
114 which reduces the growth rate of the most unstable mode. It is coined as the "barotropic gov-  
115 ernor" mechanism (James and Gray 1986; James 1987). It is conceivable that toward the zero  
116 friction limit, the "barotropic governor" may become so strong that it completely suppresses  
117 the baroclinic instability. This could happen either with the barotropic flow equilibrating at  
118 a finite value or there could be a singular limit, in which the kinetic energy diverges but the  
119 divergence is such that the energy dissipation rate still goes to zero. The thermal mean state  
120 in this case would have to be such that the radiative forcing no longer represents an entropy  
121 sink (since there is no obvious source of entropy).

122 3. The total energy generation and dissipation rate goes to zero, but the flow remains turbulent  
123 with a significant energy cycle. This could happen in the following way. At the Rossby  
124 deformation radius, eddies convert available potential energy (APE) into eddy kinetic energy  
125 (EKE). The EKE then cascades to larger scales, but instead of being accumulated at the  
126 largest scale, the inverse cascade is halted at some scale where kinetic energy is converted  
127 back into APE, and APE is ultimately dissipated by long wave radiation. For the whole flow,  
128 the net  $\varepsilon$  is negligible: radiative forcing would not generate or dissipate APE. In terms of  
129 entropy, radiative forcing would again not be a significant sink of entropy. This mechanism is  
130 essentially conjectured by Showman (2007) for Jupiter’s atmosphere to equilibrate with little  
131 friction. In a shallow water system, it is well-known that the flow can equilibrate without  
132 friction, but solely damping of the height perturbation, which represents radiative damping  
133 (Showman and Ingersoll 1998; Showman 2007; Scott and Dritschel 2013). However, it is not  
134 clear whether this mechanism can work in a continuously stratified flow which possesses a  
135 barotropic mode.

136 To see which is a physically realizable limit, we use an idealized, dry, primitive equation model  
137 to simulate a baroclinic atmosphere with varying bottom friction. The model setup and experi-  
138 ments are discussed in Section 2. The simulation results and analysis are discussed in Section 3,  
139 The results suggest that a mixture between the second and third hypothesis above is most applica-  
140 ble. The implications of our results and their relevance for Jupiter’s atmosphere are discussed in  
141 Section 4.

## 142 **2. Idealized GCM and experiments**

143 We investigate whether and how a baroclinic atmosphere can equilibrate close to the limit of  
144 vanishing bottom friction in an idealized GCM, which is set to either Earth-like or Jupiter-like

145 parameters. The general model description is given in subsection a, and the settings that are  
 146 specific for Earth or Jupiter are described in subsection b and c respectively.

147 *a. Model description*

148 The GCM consists of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamical Laboratory (GFDL) spectral atmo-  
 149 spheric dynamical core with the Held and Suarez (1994) forcing, which is a thermal relaxation  
 150 back to a specified temperature. The model solves the primitive equations for a dry ideal gas at-  
 151 mosphere on a sphere in  $\sigma$ -coordinate with the spectral transform method in the horizontal, and  
 152 centered difference scheme in the vertical. There is no bottom topography at the lower boundary.  
 153 The bottom friction is represented by a Rayleigh damping of horizontal velocities near the lower  
 154 boundary,

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} = \dots - k(\sigma) \mathbf{v}, \quad (1)$$

155 where the drag coefficient  $k(\sigma)$  decreases linearly from its maximum value  $k_f$  at the bottom bound-  
 156 ary ( $\sigma = 1$ ) to zero at  $\sigma_b = 0.7$ ,

$$k(\sigma) = k_f \max\left(0, \frac{\sigma - \sigma_b}{1 - \sigma_b}\right). \quad (2)$$

157 Radiative effects are represented by a Newtonian relaxation of temperature to a prescribed  
 158 “radiative-convective equilibrium” profile,

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \dots - \alpha_T (T - T_{eq}), \quad (3)$$

159 where the forcing rate  $\alpha_T$  adopts the same value everywhere ( $\alpha_T = 1/40 \text{ day}^{-1}$ , Earth day is used  
 160 thereafter). The prescribed profile  $T_{eq}$  is zonally symmetric, and it is chosen to be suitable for  
 161 either Earth or Jupiter (see subsections below). Apart from the Rayleigh friction and Newtonian  
 162 heating, the only other dissipative process is an 8th order hyper-diffusion  $\nabla^8$  imposed on vorticity,  
 163 divergence and temperature fields, with a damping time scale of 0.1 day for the smallest waves.



164 The initial condition is an isothermal state (200 K) at rest in the rotating reference frame, with  
 165 some small temperature perturbation to break the zonal symmetry. If the bottom friction is iden-  
 166 tically zero, the climatology will inevitably depend on the initial condition, as the total angular  
 167 momentum must be conserved if there is no friction. We will thus restrict our simulations to the  
 168 limit of very small but finite friction, and return to a discussion of the zero friction limit at the end.

### 169 *b. Earth-like simulations*

170 In this subsection we discuss simulations using Earth parameters, i.e., Earth’s radius, rotation  
 171 rate, and the gas constant of air. The “equilibrium” temperature profile  $T_{eq}$  is adapted from Held  
 172 and Suarez (1994) as

$$T_{eq} = \max \left\{ T_{st}, \left[ T_0 - \Delta_y T \sin^2 \phi - \Delta_z \theta \ln \left( \frac{p}{p_0} \right) \right] \left( \frac{p}{p_0} \right)^\kappa \right\}, \quad (4)$$

173 where  $T_{st} = 200$  K is the stratospheric equilibrium temperature,  $T_0 = 315$  K is the equatorial equi-  
 174 librium temperature at the surface,  $\Delta_y T = 60$  K sets the meridional temperature gradient, and  $\Delta_z \theta$   
 175 sets the vertical static stability. The reference pressure  $p_0 = 1000$  mb and  $\kappa = 2/7$ . The only  
 176 difference with the original Held and Suarez’s (1994) profile is that we relax to a stable static  
 177 stability profile everywhere in the troposphere, while Held and Suarez (1994) only apply it within  
 178 the tropics. This prescribed vertical stability may be interpreted as a crude parameterization of  
 179 unresolved moist convective processes. From a modeling perspective, our main concern is to limit  
 180 gravitational instability and the associated grid-scale convection (Frierson et al. 2007), which are  
 181 not properly simulated by our hydrostatic GCM and are resolution dependent. We aim to only  
 182 simulate the large scale motions related to baroclinic instability, i.e., baroclinic turbulence. The  
 183 vertical stability parameter is chosen as  $\Delta_z \theta = 20$  K. As the criticality  $\xi \sim \Delta_y T / \Delta_z \theta$  for the equi-  
 184 librium temperature profile is larger than 1, the eddies will tend to increase vertical stability so as

185 to reduce criticality to  $\sim 1$  (Schneider and Walker 2006; Chai and Vallis 2014; Jansen and Ferrari  
 186 2013). Therefore, the lower limit for the Rossby radius can be estimated from the equilibrium  
 187 temperature profile as  $L_R \sim \sqrt{R\Delta_z\theta}/f$ .<sup>1</sup> Choosing the midlatitude value for the Coriolis param-  
 188 eter as  $f \sim 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , the lower limit for the Rossby radius is about  $L_R \sim 760 \text{ km}$  or spherical  
 189 wavenumber  $\sim 26$ .

190 Bottom friction is reduced towards the zero limit by varying the frictional damping time scale  
 191  $\tau_f = 1/k_f$  across 4 orders of magnitude:  $\tau_f = 1$  (control), 10,  $10^2$ ,  $10^3$ , and  $10^4$  days. The largest  
 192 frictional value  $\tau_f = 1$  day is used by Held and Suarez (1994) to produce an Earth-like climate.  
 193 We use T42 resolution in the horizontal and 30 evenly spaced  $\sigma$  levels in the vertical. This choice  
 194 sacrifices resolution in the stratosphere but allows for better resolution of the baroclinic eddies in  
 195 the troposphere as in the previous studies (Held and Larichev 1996; Zurita-Gotor 2008; Chen and  
 196 Plumb 2014; Lorenz 2015). All simulations are integrated for 30,000 days, except that the lowest  
 197 friction simulation ( $\tau_f = 10^4$  day) is integrated for 60,000 days to reach a statistically steady  
 198 state. At T42 resolution, the Rossby radius should be adequately resolved. In order to study the  
 199 dynamical convergence of the flow field with horizontal resolution, we repeat the simulations using  
 200 T127 resolution. For the simulation with  $\tau_f = 10^3$  days, one additional run using T213 resolution  
 201 is further carried out.

### 202 *c. Jupiter-like simulations*

203 Similar to the Earth-like simulations, the Jupiter model simulates a thin shell atmosphere extend-  
 204 ing from the top of the atmosphere to an artificial rigid lower surface. The mean surface pressure

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<sup>1</sup>The Rossby radius is usually estimated as  $L_R = N_p(p_s - p_t)/f$ , where  $N_p^2 = -(\rho^s\theta^s)^{-1}\partial_p\theta^s$  is a vertical stability measure;  $p_s$  and  $p_t$  are the surface pressure and tropopause pressures respectively;  $\theta$  is potential temperature and the superscript  $s$  denotes that the value is taken near the surface (Merlis and Schneider 2009; Chai and Vallis 2014). Approximations are made such that  $p_s - p_t \sim p_s$ ,  $(p_s - p_t)\partial_p\theta^s \sim \Delta_z\theta$ ,  $\rho^s\theta^s = \rho^s T^s (p_0/p_s)^x \sim \rho^s T^s = p_s/R$ , therefore we obtain  $L_R \sim \sqrt{R\Delta_z\theta}/f$ .

205 is 3 bar, which is used in a series of studies by Schneider and Liu (Schneider and Liu 2009; Liu  
 206 and Schneider 2010, 2011, 2015). The planetary parameters are set to those of Jupiter: planetary  
 207 radius  $a = 6.986 \times 10^4$  km, planetary angular velocity  $\Omega = 1.7587 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and specific gas  
 208 constant  $R = 3605.38 \text{ J kg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$  (Liu and Schneider 2010). The equilibrium temperature profile  
 209 roughly represents Jupiter, and is similar to that used by Lian and Showman (2008):

$$T_{eq} = T_{ref}(p) + \delta T(\phi). \quad (5)$$

210 In the vertical direction, the reference temperature profile  $T_{ref}$  corresponds to an isothermal strato-  
 211 sphere at 110 K above 0.15 bar level, a troposphere with some vertical stability specified by  $\Delta_z \theta$ ,  
 212 and a smooth transition between them. Analytically, it is

$$T_{ref}(p) = G(p)T_{st} + [1 - G(p)] [T_0 - \Delta_z \theta \ln(p/p_0)] (p/p_0)^\kappa, \quad (6)$$

213 where the stratosphere temperature  $T_{st} = 110$  K, the reference pressure  $p_0 = 1000$  mb, the tem-  
 214 perature at reference pressure  $T_0 = 170$  K, and  $\kappa = 2/7$ .  $G(p) = [1 - (p/p_{trop})^2]^{-1}$  marks the  
 215 transition from the stratosphere to the troposphere at  $p_{trop} = 150$  mb. The vertical stability is  
 216  $\Delta_z \theta = 5$  K. Therefore, the lower limit for the Rossby radius is about 1000 km at midlatitudes,  
 217 or a spherical wavenumber of about 200. In the meridional direction, a temperature gradient is  
 218 imposed to drive baroclinic turbulence

$$\delta T(\phi) = \Delta_y T [1/3 - \sin^2(\phi)], \quad (7)$$

219 where the equator-pole temperature difference is set to  $\Delta_y T = 15$  K. This value is significantly  
 220 larger than the latitudinal temperature difference observed in Jupiter's upper atmosphere (0~0.5  
 221 bar), which is typically around 5 K (Simon-Miller et al. 2006), although it is comparable to Schnei-  
 222 der and Liu's (Schneider and Liu 2009; Liu and Schneider 2010, 2011, 2015) series of Jupiter  
 223 simulations, where the equator-pole temperature difference in equilibrium is about 12 K. From

224 a modeling perspective, using a smaller  $\Delta_y T$  (we have tested 10 K) results in weaker baroclinic  
225 eddy activity as the criticality  $\xi \sim \Delta_y T / \Delta_z \theta$  becomes small, although strong jets can form with  
226 quite weak baroclinicity (Kaspi and Flierl 2007). Reducing vertical stability  $\Delta_z \theta$  can maintain the  
227 same criticality and thus keep strong eddy activity even for smaller  $\Delta_y T$ . However, smaller vertical  
228 stability leads to smaller Rossby radius and therefore requires higher resolution.

229 We consider five different values of bottom friction:  $\tau_f = 5, 50, 500,$  and  $5000$  days. The  
230 simulations are integrated for 20,000 days at T213 resolution. There are 30 unevenly spaced  $\sigma$   
231 levels, chosen such that there are equal number of levels in the stratosphere and troposphere. All  
232 simulations are initialized from an isothermal motionless atmosphere with small thermal pertur-  
233 bations, except for the  $\tau_f = 5000$  day run, which is initialized from the end of the  $\tau_f = 50$  day  
234 run and yields better hemispheric symmetry (the low friction simulations are dependent on initial  
235 condition due to jet merging during model spin-up).

### 236 3. Results

237 Although our motivation arises, at least in part, from Jupiter’s atmosphere, most of our conclu-  
238 sions are universal for a dry baroclinic atmosphere and apply in both Jovian and Earth-like regimes.  
239 The Earth-like simulations are more efficient to run and diagnose, and we will thus mostly show  
240 results from the Earth-like simulations, and resort to Jupiter-like simulations when they provide  
241 additional insights. If not specified, the simulations refer to the Earth-like simulations.

#### 242 a. Basic climatology

243 To see whether the atmosphere has equilibrated, we calculate the time evolution of the global  
244 averaged kinetic energy (KE) and eddy kinetic energy (EKE) per unit mass (with unit  $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-2}$ ),  
245 as shown in Fig. 1. For simulations with  $\tau_f = 1$  to  $10^3$  days, the flow equilibrates after a few

246 hundred to a few thousand days. For the  $\tau_f = 10^4$  days run, the flow is initially close to a zonally  
247 symmetric state as the EKE is negligible. Until at about 23,000 days, the flow abruptly transits  
248 into an eddying state and then equilibrates with large fluctuations. For  $\tau_f = 10^3$  and  $10^4$  days runs,  
249 there is long term variability on the time scale of hundreds to thousands of days, but on an even  
250 longer time scale, the flow appears to be equilibrated. The long term variability for low friction  
251 runs is also seen in James and Gray's (1986) simulations. In their lowest friction simulation, the  
252 flow is nearly zonally symmetric similar to our run with  $\tau_f = 10^4$  days in the first 10,000 days.  
253 However, they did not observe the regime transition into a strongly eddying state possibly because  
254 their simulations are limited to 500 days. When the bottom friction is reduced from  $\tau_f = 1$  to  $10^4$   
255 days, the average KE increases monotonically. However, the average EKE is not monotonic with  
256 friction. Instead, the average EKE decreases when friction is reduced from  $\tau_f = 1$  to  $10^2$  days and  
257 then increases when friction is further reduced.

258 Fig. 2 shows the climatology for the series of runs with different surface friction. The control  
259 run with  $\tau_f = 1$  day is comparable to Earth's climate. When friction is reduced, the jets become  
260 stronger and sharper, and become dominated by their barotropic components. Near the surface,  
261 the eddy potential temperature (PT) flux moves equatorward from the midlatitudes. Comparison to  
262 the Jupiter-like simulations shown in Fig. 3 suggests that more generally the eddy PT flux moves  
263 from the westerly jet regions into the easterly jet regions when surface friction is reduced. This  
264 may be understood from the fact that a sharp westerly jet is known to suppress mixing across it  
265 (Dritschel and McIntyre 2008). In Earth's atmosphere, the jet-stream near the tropopause forms  
266 a north-south mixing barrier (Mahlman 1997). In our simulations when surface friction is low  
267 enough, the jet-stream extends all the way to the surface, thus suppressing mixing even near the  
268 surface. Therefore, the baroclinic eddy activity moves into the easterly jets in the presence of  
269 sharp barotropic westerly jets. Notice that when friction is small, there is significant latitudinal

270 surface pressure variation, which is required to support strong barotropic jets. This causes some  
 271 missing contours near 1000 mb in Fig. 2 and near 3000 mb in Fig. 3, as there is no flow field  
 272 at the given pressure level and latitude. In Fig. 3, the lack of super-rotation at the equator in  
 273 our Jupiter-like simulations compared with Schneider and Liu (2009) might be due to the lack of  
 274 internal heating and therefore a lack of strong convective instability at the equator. We specifically  
 275 want to suppress this energy source in order to focus on baroclinic turbulence only.

276 To get an impression on the characteristics of the flow, snapshots of instantaneous fields are  
 277 shown in Figs. 4 and 5. Ertel’s potential vorticity (PV) on isentropic surface  $\theta = 330$  K, calculated  
 278 as

$$PV = -g(\zeta + f) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial p}, \quad (8)$$

279 is shown in Fig. 4 for Earth-like simulations with high ( $\tau_f = 1$  day) and low ( $\tau_f = 10^3$  and  $10^4$   
 280 days) surface friction (Haynes and McIntyre 1987). For all simulations, Ertel’s PV has a sharp  
 281 gradient across the jet stream. In the simulation with  $\tau_f = 1$  day, the jet meanders strongly and  
 282 filaments indicate wave-breaking and mixing of PV. In  $\tau = 10^3$  and  $10^4$  days simulations, the jet  
 283 stream is more regular and is visually similar to the stratospheric vortex. Wave breaking is hardly  
 284 seen. For the Jupiter-like simulations, zonal wind fields in the extratropics are shown in Fig. 5.  
 285 When friction is reduced from  $\tau_f = 5$  days to 5000 days, the outer jet seems to get stabilized while  
 286 eddy activity is confined to latitudes above  $45^\circ$ .

### 287 *b. Energy cycle*

288 The energy cycle is key to understanding how the model equilibrates close to the limit of van-  
 289 ishing bottom friction. As a reference, the observed Lorenz energy cycle for Earth’s atmosphere is  
 290 shown in Fig. 6a (adapted from Peixto and Oort 1984). In Lorentz’s (1955) formalism, the energy  
 291 is partitioned into available potential energy (APE) and kinetic energy (KE). Furthermore, APE

292 and KE are partitioned into the zonal mean and eddy parts. Differential heating by solar radiation  
293 leads to a zonally symmetric temperature distribution with strong meridional temperature gradient  
294 at mid-latitudes, thus maintaining the APE of the zonal mean flow (ZAPE). The temperature field  
295 is stirred by the eddies which create temperature variance in the zonal direction and thus transfer-  
296 ring ZAPE into eddy APE (EAPE, at a rate  $1.27 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). Through baroclinic instability, EAPE  
297 is next converted into EKE ( $2.0 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). Some of the EKE is channeled into the zonal mean KE  
298 (ZKE) as the eddy momentum flux is up gradient of zonal mean angular velocity and thus accel-  
299 erates the zonal jets ( $0.33 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). A majority of EKE is directly dissipated by bottom friction  
300 or molecular viscosity ( $1.7 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). Finally, some of the ZKE is dissipated by bottom friction or  
301 viscosity ( $0.2 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ), while a comparable amount is converted into ZAPE ( $0.15 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ). The  
302 latter conversion is achieved by the combined effect of the direct and indirect mean meridional  
303 circulations: the Hadley cell (direct circulation) generates ZKE, however, the Ferrel cell (indirect  
304 circulation) converts ZKE back into ZAPE at a rate exceeding the production rate of the Hadley  
305 cell. Therefore, the net conversion is from ZKE into ZAPE<sup>2</sup>.

306 Here we focus on the three energy reservoirs potential energy PE, EKE and ZKE, and we do  
307 not explicitly consider the budgets for ZAPE and EAPE since they may not be well defined if  
308 the isentropic slope becomes large, as is the case in our simulations with weak friction. In this  
309 perspective, the energy cycle for the Earth-like simulation with the largest bottom friction  $\tau_f = 1$   
310 day is shown in Fig. 6b and is comparable to the observed energy cycle described above. For our  
311 Earth-like simulations with different strength of friction, the energy budgets for EKE, ZKE and

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<sup>2</sup>An updated Lorenz energy cycle calculation by Li et al. (2007) using reanalysis datasets shows that near surface processes in the Southern hemisphere play an important role in converting ZAPE into ZKE, and probably change the direction of net conversion rate between ZAPE and ZKE as shown by Peixoto and Oort (1984). However, away from the surface, Li et. al. (2007) still supports Peixoto and Oort's (1984) results that the indirect Ferrel cell converts more ZKE into ZAPE than the ZKE produced by the direct Hadley cell, and the net conversion is thus from ZKE to ZAPE.

312 KE are shown in Fig. 7. The balance equations for EKE and ZKE are

$$\frac{\partial \text{EKE}}{\partial t} = C(\text{PE}, \text{EKE}) - C(\text{EKE}, \text{ZKE}) - D(\text{EKE}), \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{\partial \text{ZKE}}{\partial t} = C(\text{EKE}, \text{ZKE}) - C(\text{ZKE}, \text{PE}) - D(\text{ZKE}), \quad (10)$$

313 where EKE is dissipated by both bottom friction and hyperviscosity as

$$D(\text{EKE}) = D_{fri}(\text{EKE}) + D_{vis}(\text{EKE}), \quad (11)$$

314 while the hyperviscosity for ZKE is negligible, and therefore

$$D(\text{ZKE}) \simeq D_{fri}(\text{ZKE}). \quad (12)$$

315 Adding together Eqs. (9) and (10) gives the energy budget for the total flow as

$$\frac{\partial \text{KE}}{\partial t} = C(\text{PE}, \text{KE}) - D_{fri}(\text{KE}) - D_{vis}(\text{KE}). \quad (13)$$

316 The detailed formulations for each term are included in Appendix A. In a statistical steady state,  
317 the left hand sides of Eqs. (9), (10) and (13) averaged over time are zero.

318 We first consider the EKE budget. For the control run ( $\tau_f = 1$  day), the EKE generation rate  
319  $C(\text{PE}, \text{EKE})$  is similar to that observed in Earth's atmosphere. However, contrary to Earth's atmo-  
320 sphere, EKE conversion into ZKE  $C(\text{EKE}, \text{ZKE})$  is slightly larger than dissipation rate  $D(\text{EKE})$ .  
321 This may be due to the fact that our model only simulates large-scale quasi- two-dimensional  
322 motions and does not resolve convection and three dimensional turbulence which can dissipate en-  
323 ergy by molecular viscosity. EKE is dissipated mainly by bottom friction, whose dissipation rate  
324 is roughly 1 order of magnitude larger than that of hyperviscosity. When bottom friction decreases  
325 from  $\tau_f = 1$  to  $10^3$  days, the EKE generation rate  $C(\text{PE}, \text{EKE})$  decreases monotonically by roughly  
326 1 order of magnitude. This resembles the barotropic governor effect, that strong barotropic jets  
327 limit the growth of baroclinic instability. When bottom friction further decreases to  $\tau_f = 10^4$  days,



328 the barotropic governor effect appears to saturate, and the EKE generation rate increases slightly.  
 329 The barotropic governor thus does not appear to be able to totally suppress baroclinic instability.  
 330 For the whole range of decreasing bottom friction, EKE dissipation by bottom friction decreases  
 331 monotonically by roughly 3 orders of magnitude. Dissipation by hyperviscosity decreases less  
 332 than 1 order of magnitude, but is never a dominant term in the EKE budget. In the low friction  
 333 end, the dominant balance for the EKE budget is between EKE generation  $C(\text{PE}, \text{EKE})$  and EKE  
 334 conversion into ZKE  $C(\text{EKE}, \text{ZKE})$ .

335 Next we will consider the ZKE budget. For the control run ( $\tau_f = 1$  day), conversion from EKE  
 336 into ZKE  $C(\text{EKE}, \text{ZKE})$  is balanced by frictional dissipation  $D_{fri}(\text{ZKE})$  and conversion into PE  
 337  $C(\text{ZKE}, \text{PE})$ , which are of similar magnitudes. For  $\tau_f$  between 10 and  $10^2$  days, all conversion  
 338 terms decrease with decreasing friction. When bottom friction further decreases ( $\tau_f = 10^3$  and  
 339  $10^4$  days),  $C(\text{ZKE}, \text{PE})$  saturates, while  $D_{fri}(\text{ZKE})$  continues to decrease. In the low friction limit  
 340 ( $\tau_f = 10^4$  days),  $D_{fri}(\text{ZKE})$  is negligible compared with  $C(\text{ZKE}, \text{PE})$ , and the primary balance is  
 341 between  $C(\text{EKE}, \text{ZKE})$  and  $C(\text{ZKE}, \text{PE})$ . As the energy dissipation by bottom friction is negligible  
 342 for our lowest friction run ( $\tau_f = 10^4$  days), and the effect of hyperviscosity does not strongly  
 343 influence the large scale motions, the simulation with  $\tau_f = 10^4$  days may be regarded as effectively  
 344 approaching the limit of vanishing bottom friction. In this limit, schematically the dominant energy  
 345 cycle proceeds from PE and ends at PE:

$$\text{PE} \rightarrow \text{EKE} \rightarrow \text{ZKE} \rightarrow \text{PE}. \quad (14)$$

346 This energy cycle is illustrated in Fig. 6c. From the structure of PT flux shown in Fig. 2 and 3,  
 347 we can see that baroclinicity is reduced within the easterly jets. As the net PE conversion into  
 348 KE is negligible from the above energy cycle, a reduction of baroclinicity in the easterly jets must  
 349 be balanced by an increase of baroclinicity in the westerly jets, which is achieved by the Ferrel

350 cell. In other words, the effect of eddies and the zonal mean circulation is primarily to redistribute  
351 baroclinicity into a latitudinal structure different from that set by differential radiation: the baro-  
352 clinicity is reduced in the easterly jets and enhanced in the westerly jets. The effect of eddies to  
353 enhance the baroclinicity of westerly jets has been seen in the wintertime Earth atmosphere and  
354 in numerical models, and is usually referred as self-maintenance of midlatitude jets (Robinson  
355 2006). The mechanism for the self-maintenance of midlatitude jets is shown to be a complicated  
356 feedback between waves and the mean flow, but in our low drag simulation, it is required by the  
357 structure of PT flux and, most fundamentally, by the energy cycle.

358 The mean meridional circulation that facilitates the conversion of ZKE into PE is shown in Fig.  
359 8, for simulations with different strength of friction. Here the circulation is averaged over the last  
360  $10^4$  days of the simulations, and the circulation's structure is quite robust even if a much shorter  
361 averaging period is used. When friction reduces from  $\tau_f = 1$  to  $10^4$  days, the meridional circulation  
362 develops a complex vertical structure. Still, we can identify a Hadley cell and a Ferrel cell in each  
363 hemisphere. The strength of the circulation decreases by roughly about 2 times, which is on the  
364 same order as the nearly 3 times decrease in the conversion of ZKE to PE.

365 For the total flow, the energy budget has a simpler picture as the recycling of kinetic energy  
366 at the largest scales are hidden away (Fig. 7 bottom). The the total conversion of PE to KE  
367 (which has to approximately equal the generation of PE by the restoring) is balanced by the sum  
368 of frictional and viscous dissipation. Dissipation by bottom friction dominates the total energy  
369 sink for moderate drag rates, while viscous dissipation starts to dominate the total energy sink in  
370 the limit of very small bottom friction. However, this does not mean that the viscous dissipation  
371 must have a stronger influence on the synoptic-scale flow as will be discussed in Subsection d.  
372 The generation and dissipation rates for total kinetic energy decrease monotonically as friction is  
373 reduced. Moreover, in the limit of small friction, the total energy generation and dissipation rates

374 are much smaller than the conversion rates in the ZKE and EKE budgets – indicating the dominant  
 375 role of energy “recycling”.

376 A more detailed picture of the energy cycle is provided by the spectral kinetic energy budget. For  
 377 a compressible fluid, the spectral budget is usually formulated in pressure coordinates in which the  
 378 KE is a quadratic function of velocity  $1/(2g) \int \mathbf{u}^2 dp$  so that KE can be exactly decomposed into  
 379 each wave vector as  $\text{KE}(\mathbf{n}) = 1/(2g) \int \tilde{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{n}) \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{u}}^*(\mathbf{n}) dp$ , where  $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{n})$  denotes the spectral coefficient  
 380 of velocity at wave vector  $\mathbf{n}$ , and  $*$  denotes the complex conjugate (Lambert 1984; Koshyk and  
 381 Hamilton 2001). In general, the KE is a cubic quantity  $1/2 \int \rho \mathbf{u}^2 dV$  and thus in other vertical  
 382 coordinates the KE spectrum is a complicated sum over triads of wave vectors. In this case,  
 383 density is usually approximated as a constant in order to make KE a quadratic quantity (Waite and  
 384 Snyder 2009). For Earth’s atmosphere, the pressure coordinate is convenient because a constant  
 385 1 bar pressure level is approximately the planetary surface. However in our simulations with low  
 386 bottom friction, there is large surface pressure variation in the meridional direction in order to  
 387 support the very strong jets (see Fig. 2, the surface pressure at the poles is significantly lower  
 388 than 1 bar). Therefore, the usual formalism for the spectral energy budget is not suitable for our  
 389 purpose, and we derive a new formalism in  $\sigma$  coordinates that gives the approximate spectral KE  
 390 budget (see Appendix B). For each wavenumber, we can write the spectral KE budget as

$$\partial_t \text{KE}_n \approx G_{KE} + T_{NL} - D_{fri} - D_{vis}, \quad (15)$$

391 where  $\text{KE}_n$  denotes the vertically and surface area averaged global KE at total wavenumber  $n$   
 392 (with unit  $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$ );  $G_{KE}$  denotes the conversion from potential to kinetic energy;  $T_{NL}$  denotes  
 393 nonlinear kinetic energy transfer from all other wavenumbers into wavenumber  $n$ ;  $D_{fri}$  and  $D_{vis}$   
 394 denote dissipation by Rayleigh friction and by hyperviscosity respectively.

395 Similarly, for each wavenumber, the spectral EKE budget is

$$\partial_t \text{EKE}_n \approx G_{EKE} + T_{EE} + T_{EM} - D_{fri} - D_{vis}. \quad (16)$$

396 Compared with the spectral KE budget, the main difference is that the nonlinear kinetic energy  
397 transfer term  $T_{NL}$  is further decomposed into  $T_{EE}$ , which denotes nonlinear eddy-eddy transfer, and  
398  $T_{EM}$ , which denotes the eddy/mean-flow transfer. The difference between  $\text{KE}_n$  and  $\text{EKE}_n$  is that  
399  $\text{EKE}_n$  does not include the spectral components with zonal wavenumber  $m = 0$ . In a statistically  
400 steady state, the left hand sides of Eqs. (15) and (16) averaged over time are zero, which means a  
401 balance between the various energy generation, transfer and dissipation terms.

402 The spectral EKE budget for Earth-like simulations with different bottom frictions are shown  
403 in the left panel of Fig. 9. The control run ( $\tau_f = 1$  day) resembles Earth's atmosphere: EKE  
404 generation peaks at about wavenumber 10; nonlinear eddy-eddy interactions transfer some energy  
405 upscale; most energy is transferred into the zonal mean flow or dissipated by bottom friction at  
406 scales slightly larger than the EKE generation scale. When friction is reduced to  $\tau_f = 10^2$  days,  
407 the eddy-eddy interaction and dissipation by bottom friction become negligible, while eddy/mean-  
408 flow interactions directly transfer almost all the kinetic energy generated by baroclinic instability  
409 into the zonal mean flow at the scale where it is generated. This may be due to the sharpening of  
410 the jets, which shear the eddies apart and thus facilitate the energy transfer from eddies into zonal  
411 mean flow. When friction further reduces to  $\tau_f = 10^4$  days, the spectral budget becomes more  
412 jagged. Nevertheless, the eddies are still generating EKE, which is subsequently transferred into  
413 the zonal mean flow.

414 The full spectral KE budget includes the contributions from the zonal mean flow (right panel of  
415 Fig. 7). For the control run ( $\tau_f = 1$  day), bottom friction dissipates energy across broad scales  
416 (wavenumber 3 to 15). KE is generated at wavenumber larger than 4, while KE generation be-

417 comes negative at wavenumber 3, which means that KE is converted into PE. As the eddies are  
418 generating EKE across all scales as seen from the left panel, the conversion of KE into PE is  
419 achieved by the zonal mean flow. Wavenumber 3 corresponds to the zonal jet structure consisting  
420 of one easterly jet at the equator and one westerly jet in each hemisphere. Therefore, the conver-  
421 sion of KE back to PE at wavenumber 3 corresponds to the net effect of the Hadley and Ferrel cells  
422 as discussed before. When friction is reduced to  $\tau_f = 10^2$  days, KE is dissipated by bottom friction  
423 almost exclusively in zonal jets with wavenumber 3, where the energy balance is nearly between  
424 the up-scale nonlinear transfer and frictional dissipation. Combined with the spectral EKE budget,  
425 it means that in physical space, the eddies are generating EKE and transferring EKE into the zonal  
426 jets, while bottom friction removes KE only from the zonal jets. When friction further reduces to  
427  $\tau_f = 10^4$  days, energy dissipation by bottom friction becomes negligible even for the zonal jets.  
428 At wavenumber 3, the major balance is between upscale nonlinear energy transfer and conversion  
429 from KE into PE. Combined with the spectral EKE budget, we conclude that in the limit of neg-  
430 ligible friction, the energy cycle starts from EKE generation by the eddies, followed by an EKE  
431 transfer into the largest zonal jets, and the energy cycle is closed by a conversion of ZKE back into  
432 PE by the zonal mean flow.

433 The spectral EKE budget of the Jupiter-like simulations shows some additional information. As  
434 the planetary size is much larger than the deformation radius, there is a clear scale separation  
435 between the EKE generating scale and the EKE dissipation scale (or eddy scale), and significant  
436 upscale energy transfer by eddy-eddy interactions between the two scales (Fig. 10 top). When  
437 friction reduces from  $\tau_f = 5$  to 5000 days, the eddy-eddy energy cascade extends to larger scales.  
438 The eddy-mean energy transfer becomes positive at the largest scales, which may be a result of  
439 barotropic instability associated with the jets and we will return to this below in the discussion of  
440 momentum budget. Most importantly, the EKE generation becomes negative at the largest scales,

441 meaning a conversion of EKE into PE. Therefore, the conversion from KE to PE does not have  
442 to occur within the zonal mean circulation, but can also occur within the largest eddies. For both  
443 Earth-like and Jupiter-like simulations, we do not see a significant change of downscale energy  
444 transfer when friction reduces towards zero.

445 In a shallow water model, the key for KE to convert back into PE is that the horizontal scale  
446 of the flow gets larger than the Rossby deformation radius  $\sqrt{gH}/f$ , where  $H$  is the mean layer  
447 depth (Scott and Dritschel 2013; Polvani et al. 1994). We suspect that there is also a threshold  
448 in the primitive equation model, beyond which the flow can convert KE into PE. In the Earth-  
449 like simulations, the domain size is rather limited so that only the scale of the zonal mean flow  
450 may be large enough to convert ZKE into PE. Whereas in the Jupiter-like simulations, the much  
451 larger domain size permits large enough eddies, which are able to directly convert EKE into PE.  
452 Alternatively, the wavy jets in Jupiter-like simulations may project onto the eddy component,  
453 without necessarily implying fundamentally different dynamics. This may explain why only in  
454 Jupiter-like simulations we observe the conversion of EKE into PE.

455 To summarize, close to the vanishing friction limit, at small scales eddies convert PE to EKE  
456 similar as in Earth's atmosphere. EKE inversely cascades to larger scales and eventually gets  
457 channeled into the zonal jets. At the largest scales, the zonal flow and possibly the eddies together  
458 convert KE back into PE, thus closing the energy cycle.

### 459 *c. Momentum budget*

460 In Earth's atmosphere, the Ferrel cell transfers the eddy momentum flux convergence from the  
461 upper atmosphere down to the surface where it is balanced by friction (Vallis 2006). In the limit  
462 where the surface friction becomes negligible, there is still a Ferrel cell (Fig. 8), whose existence

463 is important for closing the energy cycle. To examine how the momentum is balanced in the  
 464 vanishing friction limit, we start by reviewing the momentum budget for Earth's atmosphere.

465 The zonally averaged zonal momentum equation is

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} = \bar{v} \left( f - \frac{\partial \bar{u} \cos \phi}{a \cos \phi \partial \phi} \right) - \bar{\omega} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial p} - \frac{1}{a \cos^2 \phi} \frac{\partial \overline{u'v'} \cos^2 \phi}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial \overline{u'\omega'}}{\partial p} - \bar{F}_x, \quad (17)$$

466 where  $a$  is the planetary radius,  $\omega = dp/dt$ ,  $\phi$  is the latitude, and  $F_x$  describes the frictional pro-  
 467 cesses. The overbar denotes a zonal average. In the extratropics, where the Rossby number is  
 468 small, the time averaged momentum balance for a statistically steady flow is approximately

$$f[\bar{v}] - \frac{1}{a \cos^2 \phi} \frac{\partial [\overline{u'v'}] \cos^2 \phi}{\partial \phi} - [\bar{F}_x] \approx 0, \quad (18)$$

469 where the brackets denote a time average (Vallis 2006). In the upper atmosphere, friction is negli-  
 470 gible while the eddy momentum flux attains its maximum. Therefore, the balance is between the  
 471 Coriolis term and eddy momentum flux convergence as

$$f[\bar{v}] \approx \frac{1}{a \cos^2 \phi} \frac{\partial [\overline{u'v'}] \cos^2 \phi}{\partial \phi}. \quad (19)$$

472 By mass continuity, a return flow is necessary in the lower atmosphere, and for Earth's atmosphere  
 473 it occurs within the planetary boundary layer, where friction becomes significant while the wind  
 474 velocity is relatively small. The dominant momentum balance is thus between the Coriolis term  
 475 of the return flow and friction as

$$f[\bar{v}] \approx [\bar{F}_x]. \quad (20)$$

476 Integrating Eq. (18) vertically from the top of the atmosphere to the bottom boundary, the Coriolis  
 477 term vanishes due to mass continuity, and the vertically integrated eddy momentum flux conver-  
 478 gence is balanced by the vertically integrated friction as

$$-\frac{1}{a \cos^2 \phi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \int_0^{p_s} [\overline{u'v'}] \cos^2 \phi dp \approx \int_0^{p_s} [\bar{F}_x] dp, \quad (21)$$

479 where  $p_s$  denotes surface pressure. It is clear from (21) that the role of the Ferrel cell is to transfer  
480 the momentum forcing between the upper and lower atmosphere while it does not change the  
481 vertically integrated zonal momentum budget.

482 In the limit of vanishing friction, Eq. (20) no longer holds while the Ferrel cell still exists.  
483 So how can the Coriolis term of the return flow be balanced? Within the small Rossby number  
484 regime where Eq. (18) holds, the Coriolis term of the return flow in the lower atmosphere must be  
485 balanced by the eddy momentum flux convergence similar to the upper atmosphere but with the  
486 opposite sign. From Earth-like and Jupiter-like simulations shown in Fig. 11 and 12, we can see  
487 that this is indeed the case. In the upper atmosphere, eddies converge momentum into the westerly  
488 jets as in Earth's atmosphere. However, in the lower atmosphere, eddies diverge momentum out  
489 of the westerly jets when bottom friction is low enough. For the Earth-like simulation with the  
490 smallest bottom friction, the eddy momentum flux develops a somewhat more complicated vertical  
491 structure, with multiple sign reversals—consistent with the more complicated structure of the zonal-  
492 mean overturning circulation in Fig. 8. Nevertheless, the general picture of momentum flux into  
493 the westerly jet in the upper atmosphere and out of the jet near the surface remains.

494 It is natural to ask whether the unusual vertical structure of the momentum flux is a result of  
495 vertically coherent eddies or separate eddies in the upper and lower atmosphere. A useful tool  
496 to characterize the disturbances is the cospectra diagnostic developed by Hayashi (1973, 1982),  
497 Randel and Held (1991), and Wheeler and Kiladis (1999). We diagnosed eddy momentum flux  
498 cospectra as a function of latitude for the Earth-like simulations with  $\tau_f = 1$  and  $\tau_f = 10^3$  days.  
499 The upper-troposphere cospectrum for the Earth-like control run ( $\tau_f = 1$  day) shows the familiar  
500 feature of Earth's atmosphere—that the eddy momentum flux is almost confined within the critical  
501 latitude  $\bar{u} = c$  (Fig. 13 top). For the simulation with  $\tau_f = 10^3$  days, the eddy momentum flux  
502 peaks at a phase speed of about -20 m/s, both for the upper and lower atmospheres (Fig. 13 middle



503 and bottom). The similar phase speeds indicate that the waves are vertically coherent in the upper  
504 and lower atmosphere rather than two separate waves. A big difference compared to the control  
505 run ( $\tau_f = 1$  day) is that the waves are propagating westwards instead of eastwards. As a result,  
506 the waves do not have a critical latitude in the upper atmosphere. Therefore, wave breaking is  
507 strongly suppressed compared with the control run, which leads to a reduction of eddy diffusivity  
508 and thus a reduction of heat flux (Nakamura 2004). As EKE generation rate is proportional to heat  
509 flux, a suppression of wave breaking may also explain why EKE generation is much smaller in  
510 the low friction runs. The reason for waves to propagate westwards is that the waves have a very  
511 long wavelength. The eddy momentum flux almost exclusively results from a zonal wavenumber  
512 3 wave, which is evidently the dominant wavenumber seen from the snapshot of Ertel's potential  
513 vorticity (Fig. 4). In the lower atmosphere momentum fluxes peak at the critical level, and are  
514 directed from the westerly into the easterly jet (down-gradient). The momentum fluxes in the  
515 lower atmosphere thus resemble characteristics of barotropic instability—although the time- and  
516 zonal-mean flow does not show a reversal of the absolute vorticity gradient (not shown).

517 In the Jupiter-like simulations, the waves that contribute to opposite momentum fluxes in the  
518 upper and lower atmosphere seem to be somewhat less coherent in the vertical. Fig. 14 shows  
519 that waves in the lower atmosphere seem to move faster towards the west than those in the upper  
520 atmosphere for  $\tau_f = 5000$  days simulation. Moreover the momentum fluxes are not as clearly  
521 dominated by a single wave with a well defined phase speed. Although the waves move westward,  
522 they still encounter a critical latitude in the upper troposphere. In the lower atmosphere, momen-  
523 tum fluxes again peak near the critical latitudes and are directed from the westerly into the easterly  
524 regions—resembling properties of barotropic instability. Down-gradient momentum fluxes are con-  
525 sistent with the spectral EKE budget in Fig. 10, which shows a conversion from ZKE to EKE at  
526 large scales. Primary mode analysis similar as above shows that vertically coherent waves also

527 have opposite momentum fluxes in the upper and lower atmosphere, however, they only contribute  
528 to part of the momentum fluxes in the lower atmosphere.

529 The exact mechanism that leads to the reversed momentum fluxes in the lower atmosphere re-  
530 mains unclear, and may differ between the Earth-like and Jupiter-like simulations. However, two  
531 robust properties emerge: 1) lower-atmospheric poleward heat fluxes shift into the easterly jet re-  
532 gions (Figs. 2 and 3), and 2) lower-atmospheric momentum fluxes are down-gradient and peak  
533 near the critical latitudes (Figs. 13 and 14). Together, these observations suggest that wave gener-  
534 ation in the lower atmosphere shifts into the easterly jet regions, and is possibly caused by a mixed  
535 baroclinic-barotropic instability. An analysis of Ertel’s PV (not shown), reveals no clear reversals  
536 of the PV gradient along isentropes within the atmosphere, though the analysis is complicated by  
537 the large variations in surface pressure, and we note that flow characteristics may be impacted sig-  
538 nificantly by non-QG effects. In either case, the processes that govern momentum flux and mixing  
539 in the limit of very low bottom friction demand further investigation, which may profit from more  
540 idealized simulations.

#### 541 *d. Dynamical convergence with respect to hyperviscosity and bottom friction*

542 In our low friction limit, although most of EKE generation is “recycled”, a small remainder is  
543 balanced by the hyperviscosity. Hyperviscosity itself is often regarded as a numerical device to  
544 prevent energy or enstrophy from building up at grid scales and it does not directly represent any  
545 physical processes. However, all real fluids have a viscosity that removes energy or enstrophy,  
546 according to the situation, and it is common in numerical models to use hyperviscosity instead  
547 of a true viscosity because it achieves a greater scale-selectivity. In turbulent flows, the energy  
548 dissipation (or enstrophy dissipation in quasi-two-dimensional flow) becomes independent of the  
549 viscosity if the viscosity is small enough. Analogously, in our simulations we expect that the

550 dynamics of the energy containing scales, and the dissipation itself, should ideally become inde-  
551 pendent of the hyperviscosity if the latter is small enough. However, this does not mean that the  
552 hyperviscous dissipation itself need be small, and in the limit of small bottom friction it can be  
553 expected to dominate over the dissipation due to bottom friction.

554 To explore these expectations, Earth-like simulations with T127 resolution are carried out for all  
555 values of  $\tau_f$  from 1 to  $10^4$  days, and at T213 resolution, with a lower hyperviscosity, for  $\tau_f$  equal  
556 to  $10^3$  days. By varying  $\tau_f$  we explore the convergence with respect to bottom friction, and by  
557 varying the resolution we explore convergence with respect to hyperviscosity (and resolution). In  
558 any given simulation we keep the damping time scale for the smallest waves the same as resolution  
559 varies, so that hyperviscosity decreases by a factor of about  $3^8$  in the T127 simulations relative  
560 to the T42 simulations, with a larger factor still in the T213 simulations. Generally speaking,  
561 T127 simulations have similar energy budgets (Fig. 15) and momentum budgets (Fig. 16) as the  
562 T42 simulations when friction is reduced towards zero, which confirms at least that the energy  
563 recycling and momentum reversal are robust mechanisms that enable the flow to equilibrate in the  
564 low friction limit.

565 Now consider convergence with respect to hyperviscosity. There are in fact some small differ-  
566 ences at the lowest values of bottom drag, as is apparent by comparing Figs. 11 and 16. For  $\tau_f = 1$   
567 day, the jet strength and momentum fluxes are very similar between T42 and T127 runs, but for  
568  $\tau_f = 10^3$  days and  $10^4$  days, the jets and momentum fluxes are a little stronger in T127 runs. This  
569 is seen more clearly from the KE and EKE spectra of different resolution runs with  $\tau_f = 1$  day  
570 (Fig. 17) and  $\tau_f = 10^3$  days (Fig. 18). However, the basic picture of energy recycling remains  
571 largely the same (Figs. 7 and 15). At still higher resolution, T213, the simulation with  $\tau_f = 10^3$   
572 days also shows very similar KE and EKE spectra to the T127 run for wavenumbers smaller than

573 60 (Fig. 18), which suggests that the synoptic-scale flow essentially converges when the resolution  
574 is beyond T127.

575 As regards convergence with respect to bottom friction, lowering the bottom drag from  $\tau_f = 10^3$   
576 days to  $\tau_f = 10^4$  days produces only a small change in the energy spectrum at T127 (Fig. 20). The  
577 total total energy budget in Fig. 15 shows an increasing energy dissipation rate by hyperviscosity at  
578  $\tau_f = 10^3$  days and  $\tau_f = 10^4$  days. The spectral energy budget (Fig. 21) reveals that this increasing  
579 dissipation primarily balances increasing generation of EKE near the grid scale, which appears to  
580 be associated with grid-scale convection (compare also Schneider and Liu 2009; Liu and Schneider  
581 2010, 2011, 2015). As EKE generated by grid-scale convection does not cascade to larger scales,  
582 the effect of this grid-scale convection on the synoptic-scale flow is likely to be small. Comparing  
583 the spectral kinetic energy budget for  $\tau_f = 10^3$  and  $\tau_f = 10^4$  (Fig. 21) also reveals some changes at  
584 larger scales, suggesting that true convergence has not been reached, but the main features remain  
585 robust. These results suggest that the two cases with smallest drag are indeed in a low bottom-  
586 friction regime and that further reducing the drag would likely only have a quantitative effect.  
587 Although we cannot claim to have achieved true convergence with respect to either bottom drag  
588 or hyperviscosity, the evidence of our simulations suggests that further reducing the drag, or the  
589 hyperviscosity, would affect the energy budget only in relatively minor ways.

#### 590 **4. Discussions and Conclusions**

591 In this paper, we have explored the possibility of a baroclinic atmosphere to equilibrate close  
592 to the limit of vanishing bottom friction. By reducing bottom friction to extremely low values  
593 in a primitive equation model, we found that the baroclinic turbulence can adjust its energy and  
594 momentum budgets in order to equilibrate.

595 • *Energy budget.* Near the Rossby deformation radius, the eddies convert potential energy to  
596 eddy kinetic energy similar to Earth’s atmosphere. Eddy kinetic energy inversely cascades to  
597 larger scales or gets channeled into zonal jets. At the largest scales, kinetic energy is converted  
598 back into potential energy, thus closing the kinetic energy cycle without requiring significant  
599 dissipation. The total kinetic energy generation for the whole flow is strongly reduced, and  
600 thus can be balanced by hyperviscosity dissipation.

601 • *Momentum budget.* The vertically integrated eddy momentum flux convergence is close to  
602 zero as there is no bottom friction to balance it. In the upper atmosphere, eddies converge  
603 momentum into the westerly jets similar to Earth’s atmosphere. However, in the lower atmo-  
604 sphere, the momentum flux reverses sign and diverges momentum *out* of the westerly jets.  
605 A Ferrel cell like circulation balances the zonal flow acceleration/deceleration by the mo-  
606 mentum flux convergence/divergence, and thus at the same time converts kinetic energy into  
607 potential energy.

608 The entropy budget in Appendix C shows a consistent picture with the total kinetic energy  
609 budget, and it confirms that the energy “recycling” mechanism does not violate the third law  
610 of thermodynamics. Close to the vanishing friction limit, radiative forcing acts as the entropy  
611 sink, similar to but much smaller than in Earth’s atmosphere, and the major entropy source is  
612 hyperviscosity. In addition, it confirms that hyperdiffusion on the temperature field is not important  
613 in dissipating entropy, and thus potential energy (Lapeyre and Held 2003).

614 The above budgets are robust in a dry primitive equation model with different planetary parame-  
615 ters and different resolutions. The fact that eddy kinetic energy generated by baroclinic instability  
616 can be converted back into potential energy at the largest scales takes away the burden from the  
617 friction to dissipate kinetic energy, and thus a significant energy cycle with finite zonal wind can be

618 maintained even when the friction is extremely small. Further reducing surface friction or hyper-  
619 viscosity seems to only affect the energy budget in relatively minor ways. Therefore, we believe  
620 that a baroclinic atmosphere described by the dry primitive equation model could equilibrate with  
621 finite velocity close to the limit of vanishing friction. Indeed, simulations without bottom friction  
622 do equilibrate, though we have not studied their dynamical convergence with resolution in detail.  
623 Also, these simulations inevitably depend on the initial conditions. For the Jupiter-like simula-  
624 tion we even saw a dependence on the initial conditions at finite, but very low, friction ( $\tau_f=5000$   
625 days). The kinetic energy generation is very large when the model spins up and multiple jets form  
626 quickly. Once jets form, the kinetic energy generation rate becomes smaller and the flow becomes  
627 less turbulent. However, at model spin-up, the jets are less stable and can merge randomly. Due to  
628 the chaotic jet merging, the model can equilibrate in a non- hemispherically-symmetric state with  
629 a different number of jets in the Northern and Southern hemispheres. However, if we initialize  
630 the run from the end of the  $\tau_f = 50$  days run, where the kinetic energy generation rate is already  
631 small and jets are already stable, the flow equilibrates in a hemispherically-symmetric state, which  
632 is used in this paper.

633 Returning to the hypotheses we proposed in the introduction, our results suggest a mixture of  
634 hypothesis 2 and 3 to be in effect. When friction reduces, we first get a strong reduction of EKE  
635 generation (in agreement with hypothesis 2) but then EKE generation plateaus and we get energy  
636 “recycling” (more consistent with hypothesis 3). Although small-scale disturbances become more  
637 energetic and more ageostrophic effects may come into play at smallest scales, dissipation by  
638 hyperviscosity is never dominant in the EKE budget, and we do not see a significant increase in  
639 downscale energy transfer. Therefore, hypothesis 1 is less favored.

640 The limit of vanishing bottom friction may be relevant for atmospheres where the frictional time  
641 scale is much much larger than the radiative forcing time scale, perhaps the Jovian atmosphere.

642 Indirect evidence that may relate them is the kinetic energy spectrum, shown in Fig. 22. The  
643 zonal kinetic energy spectrum seems to have a range with approximately -5 slope for either large  
644 ( $\tau_f = 5$  days) or very small ( $\tau_f = 5000$  days) friction, and the eddy kinetic energy spectrum has a  
645 slope slightly steeper than  $-5/3$ . At large friction, the zonal jets and eddies have similar scales and  
646 energy levels. However, when friction is very small, the zonal flow extends to larger scales than the  
647 eddies, and it contains much more energy than the eddies. Therefore, the total flow is dominated  
648 by the strong and slowly evolving zonal jets on the largest scale and the spectrum seems to follow  
649 a  $k^{-5}$  slope within wavenumbers 20 to 50, consistent with the zonostrophic turbulence regime  
650 (Sukoriansky et al. 2002; Galperin et al. 2006, 2014). At small scales, on the other hand, the  
651 spectrum is dominated by isotropic turbulence with a spectral slope near  $k^{-5/3}$ . These features  
652 resemble Jupiter's magnificent jets.

653 *Acknowledgments.* We thank Isaac Held and Pablo Zurita-Gotor for helpful comments and dis-  
654 cussions. We also thank Zhaoyi Shen for carefully reading the manuscript. The numerical simula-  
655 tions were performed on GFDL's computer system. This work was funded by the NSF under grant  
656 AGS-1144302 and the NOAA under grant NA08OAR4320752. The statements, findings, conclu-  
657 sions, and recommendations are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of  
658 the NSF, the NOAA, or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

## 659 APPENDIX A

### 660 **Lorenz Energy Cycle Formulation**

661 The Lorenz energy cycle used in our calculations mostly follows the original formulation of  
662 Lorenz (1955) and Peixoto and Oort (1984). The EKE and ZKE are defined as energy per unit  
663 surface area written as

$$\text{EKE} = \frac{1}{2} \int \mathbf{u}'^2 dm, \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$\text{ZKE} = \frac{1}{2} \int \bar{\mathbf{u}}^2 dm, \quad (\text{A2})$$

664 where  $\mathbf{u}$  is the horizontal velocity vector.  $\bar{A}$  and  $A'$  denote the zonal average of  $A$  and deviations  
 665 from the zonal average, respectively.  $\int dm$  denotes a mass-weighted global integral:

$$\int dm = \frac{1}{4\pi g} \int_0^{2\pi} d\lambda \int_0^\pi \cos\phi d\phi \int_0^{p_0} dp. \quad (\text{A3})$$

666 Therefore, the unit for EKE and ZKE is  $\text{J m}^{-2}$ . The energy conversion between potential and  
 667 kinetic energy is evaluated as

$$C(\text{PE}, \text{EKE}) = -R \int p^{-1} \omega' T' dm, \quad (\text{A4})$$

668 and

$$C(\text{PE}, \text{ZKE}) = -R \int p^{-1} \bar{\omega} \bar{T} dm, \quad (\text{A5})$$

669 where  $R$  is the gas constant,  $\omega = dp/dt$ , and  $T$  is temperature. The energy transfer between eddy  
 670 and zonal mean kinetic energy is evaluated as

$$C(\text{EKE}, \text{ZKE}) \approx \int \cos\phi \left( \overline{u'v'} \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} + \overline{u'\omega'} \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \right) \left( \frac{\bar{u}}{\cos\phi} \right) dm. \quad (\text{A6})$$

671 Note that we have neglected terms involving  $\bar{v}$ , which are inevitably small.

## 672 APPENDIX B

### 673 Spectral Kinetic Energy Budget in $\sigma$ -coordinates

674 The kinetic energy per unit surface area (and eddy kinetic energy in a similar way) in  
 675  $\sigma$ -coordinates can be written as

$$\text{KE} = \int ds \int_0^1 d\sigma \left( \frac{1}{2} p_s \mathbf{u}^2 \right), \quad (\text{B1})$$



676 where  $p_s$  is the surface pressure and the integral

$$\int ds = \frac{1}{4\pi g} \int_0^{2\pi} d\lambda \int_0^\pi \cos \phi d\phi. \quad (\text{B2})$$

677 To approximate (B1) into a quadratic form, we must substitute  $p_s$  by its mean value  $\bar{p}_s$  and obtain

$$\text{KE} \approx \bar{p}_s \int ds \int_0^1 d\sigma \left( \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{u}^2 \right). \quad (\text{B3})$$

678 The horizontal velocity field on the sphere can be decomposed into vortical part and divergent part  
 679 as  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_{vor} + \mathbf{u}_{div}$ , where  $\nabla \times \mathbf{u}_{vor} = \zeta$  and  $\nabla^2 \psi = \zeta$  ( $\zeta$  is relative vorticity and  $\psi$  is the stream  
 680 function). The divergent part of the flow is much smaller than the vortical flow and it is safe to  
 681 ignore it in the kinetic energy. Eq. (B3) becomes

$$\text{KE} \approx \bar{p}_s \int ds \int_0^1 d\sigma \left( \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{u}_{vor}^2 \right) \quad (\text{B4})$$

$$= \bar{p}_s \int ds \int_0^1 d\sigma \left( -\frac{1}{2} \psi \nabla^2 \psi \right) = \bar{p}_s \int ds \int_0^1 d\sigma \left( -\frac{1}{2} \psi \zeta \right) \quad (\text{B5})$$

$$= -\frac{1}{4} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_{n,m} \{\psi\}_{n,m}^* \{\zeta\}_{n,m}, \quad (\text{B6})$$

682 where  $\{\}_{n,m}$  denotes the spectrum component of the fields with total wavenumber  $n$  and zonal  
 683 wavenumber  $m$ . As stream function and relative vorticity are related in spectral space by

$$\{\zeta\}_{n,m} = -\frac{n(n+1)}{a^2} \{\psi\}_{n,m}, \quad (\text{B7})$$

684 where  $a$  is the planetary radius, (B6) becomes

$$\text{KE} \approx \frac{1}{4} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_n \sum_{m=-n}^n \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \{\zeta\}_{n,m}, \quad (\text{B8})$$

685 and kinetic energy within one wavenumber

$$\text{KE}_n \approx \frac{1}{4} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_{m=-n}^n \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \{\zeta\}_{n,m}. \quad (\text{B9})$$

686 The kinetic energy budget can now be derived from the evolution equation for vorticity

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} &= -(f + \zeta) \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla f - \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \zeta - R \nabla T \times \nabla \ln p_s - \nabla \times \left( \dot{\sigma} \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial \sigma} \right) - d_{fri} - d_{vis} \\
&\approx -(f + \zeta) \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{div} - \mathbf{u}_{vor} \cdot \nabla f - \mathbf{u}_{vor} \cdot \nabla \zeta - R \nabla T \times \nabla \ln p_s - \nabla \times \left( \dot{\sigma} \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial \sigma} \right) - d_{fri} \quad (\text{B10})
\end{aligned}$$

687 where  $d_{fri}$  and  $d_{vis}$  denote damping by friction and hyperviscosity respectively. Transforming  
688 (B10) into spectral space and multiplying it by  $\{\zeta\}_{n,m}^*$  leads to the spectral kinetic energy bud-  
689 get. Energy transfer from all other wavenumbers into wavenumber  $n$  by nonlinear interactions is  
690 computed as

$$T_{NL}^n = \frac{1}{2} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_{m=-n}^n \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \{-\mathbf{u}_{vor} \cdot \nabla \zeta\}_{n,m}, \quad (\text{B11})$$

691 which vanishes upon summation over all wavenumbers. Kinetic energy generation at wavenumber  
692  $n$  is computed as

$$G_{KE}^n = \frac{1}{2} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_{m=-n}^n \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \left\{ -(f + \zeta) \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{div} - \mathbf{u}_{vor} \cdot \nabla f - R \nabla T \times \nabla \ln p_s - \nabla \times \left( \dot{\sigma} \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial \sigma} \right) \right\} \quad (\text{B12})$$

693 where the largest contribution comes from the  $f \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{div}$  term, which can be shown to be related to  
694 the usual kinetic energy generation term,  $\omega T$ , in pressure coordinates<sup>3</sup>. The second largest term  
695 is  $-R \nabla T \times \nabla \ln p_s$ , which is unique to the  $\sigma$ -coordinates.  $-\mathbf{u}_{vor} \cdot \nabla f$  is actually a spectral flux  
696 by the Coriolis force, which does no net work and is not important in our simulations. The energy  
697 dissipation by friction and hyperviscosity are

$$D_{fri}^n = \frac{1}{2} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_{m=-n}^n \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \{-d_{fri}\}_{n,m}, \quad (\text{B13})$$

698 and

$$D_{vis}^n = \frac{1}{2} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_{m=-n}^n \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \{-d_{vis}\}_{n,m}, \quad (\text{B14})$$

---

<sup>3</sup>Geostrophic balance is assumed so that  $-f \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \sim \{\Psi\}_{n,m}^*$  where  $\Psi$  is the geopotential height. Assuming surface pressure is nearly constant so that  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_{div} \sim -\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial p}$ . Then the column integral  $\int_0^{p_s} -\{\Psi\}_{n,m}^* \frac{\partial \{\omega\}_{n,m}}{\partial p} dp$  approximates  $\int_0^{p_s} -\frac{R}{p} \{\omega\}_{n,m} \{T\}_{n,m}^* dp$  if  $\omega$  vanishes in the upper and lower boundaries.

699 respectively. When time averaged, The sum of the four terms should be close to zero, and a  
700 residual term is included to close the energy budget.

701 The eddy kinetic energy budget can be formulated by discarding zonal wavenumber 0 in (B10)  
702 and further decompose (B11) into eddy-eddy transfer

$$T_{EE}^n = \frac{1}{2} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_{m=-n, m \neq 0}^n \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \{-\mathbf{u}'_{vor} \cdot \nabla \zeta'\}_{n,m}, \quad (\text{B15})$$

703 and eddy/mean-flow transfer

$$T_{EM}^n = \frac{1}{2} \bar{p}_s g^{-1} \frac{a^2}{n(n+1)} \int_0^1 d\sigma \sum_{m=-n, m \neq 0}^n \{\zeta\}_{n,m}^* \{-\bar{\mathbf{u}}_{vor} \cdot \nabla \zeta' - \mathbf{u}'_{vor} \cdot \nabla \bar{\zeta}\}_{n,m}. \quad (\text{B16})$$

704

## APPENDIX C

705

### Entropy budget

706 Atmospheric motion is often compared to a heat engine to which the first and second laws of  
707 thermodynamics can be applied. The first law of thermodynamics states that energy conversion be-  
708 tween different forms (e.g., internal, potential and kinetic energy) must conserve the total amount  
709 of energy. The second law of thermodynamics further constrains the direction of energy conver-  
710 sion, such that the energy can only change from a more to a less usable form. Mathematically, it  
711 states that for an isolated system, there exists a state function  $S$  which satisfies

$$dS/dt \geq 0, \quad (\text{C1})$$

712 where  $S$  is the entropy. Eq. (C1) means that entropy will increase monotonically until it reaches  
713 maximum at thermodynamic equilibrium. The second law of thermal dynamics constrains the  
714 maximum kinetic energy that can be generated from a reservoir of internal energy, and has been  
715 applied to various scales of terrestrial atmospheric motions ranging from moist convection (Rennó

716 and Ingersoll 1996; Emanuel and Bister 1996), dust devils (Rennó et al. 1998), hurricane dynamics  
 717 (Emanuel 1986; Bister and Emanuel 1998), to the general circulation (Barry et al. 2002).

718 Clearly on the global scale, Earth's atmosphere is not an isolated system, otherwise it would be  
 719 in a thermodynamical equilibrium state with uniform temperature everywhere. Instead, Earth's  
 720 atmosphere is an open system due to constant heating from the Sun. The second law can be  
 721 extended to such an open system using that

$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \int \frac{\dot{Q}}{T} dm + \frac{dS_{irr}}{dt}, \quad (C2)$$

722 where  $\dot{Q}$  is the radiative heating rate per unit mass,  $T$  is temperature,  $\int dm$  is mass-weighted global  
 723 integral defined in (A3), and  $dS_{irr}$  is the entropy production from irreversible processes (Pauluis  
 724 and Held 2002). The atmosphere is heated in the tropics where it is warm ( $T$  is large), and is  
 725 cooled in high latitudes where it is cold ( $T$  is small), therefore the external heating acts as an  
 726 entropy sink ( $\int \frac{\dot{Q}}{T} dm < 0$ ). In our idealized dry GCM, the only physical irreversible process is the  
 727 bottom friction. Additional irreversible processes arise from hyperviscosity on the velocity field  
 728 and hyperdiffusion on the temperature field. The entropy production from irreversible processes  
 729 can be evaluated from the associated diabatic heating:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dS_{irr}}{dt} &= \int \frac{\dot{Q}_{irr}}{T} dm \\ &= \int \frac{\dot{Q}_f + \dot{Q}_{hyper,v} + \dot{Q}_{hyper,T}}{T} dm, \end{aligned}$$

730 where  $\dot{Q}_f$ ,  $\dot{Q}_{hyper,v}$  and  $\dot{Q}_{hyper,T}$  represent diabatic heating resulting from friction, hyperviscosity  
 731 on velocity and hyperdiffusion on temperature, respectively. For frictional heating, the associated  
 732 entropy production is

$$\int \frac{\dot{Q}_f}{T} dm = \int \frac{\Gamma : \nabla \mathbf{v}}{T} dm, \quad (C3)$$

733 where  $\Gamma$  is the stress tensor and  $\mathbf{v}$  is the wind velocity. As we used Rayleigh damping to represent  
 734 friction, (C3) can be further reduced to

$$\int \frac{\dot{Q}_f}{T} dm = \int \frac{k(\sigma)\mathbf{v}^2}{T} dm, \quad (\text{C4})$$

735 where  $k(\sigma)$  is defined in Eq.(2). Similarly, we can evaluate the entropy productions from hyper-  
 736 viscosity and hyperdiffusion.

737 In a statistically steady state, the entropy sink from external heating must be balanced by the  
 738 sum of various entropy sources, written as

$$0 = \left[ \int \frac{\dot{Q}}{T} dm \right] + \left[ \int \frac{\dot{Q}_f}{T} dm \right] + \left[ \int \frac{\dot{Q}_{hyper,v}}{T} dm \right] + \left[ \int \frac{\dot{Q}_{hyper,T}}{T} dm \right], \quad (\text{C5})$$

739 where the square brackets denote time averaging. Fig. 23 shows each term in (C5) from the Earth-  
 740 like simulations with different values of bottom friction. For the control run ( $\tau_f = 1$  day), the major  
 741 entropy production to balance the entropy sink is the bottom friction, while the entropy production  
 742 from hyperviscosity is negligible. When bottom friction first decreases, both the entropy sink and  
 743 the frictional entropy production decrease ( $\tau_f = 10, 10^2$  day), and they nearly balance each other.  
 744 When bottom friction further decreases, the entropy production by friction continues to decrease,  
 745 while the entropy sink stays nearly constant and is mainly balanced by entropy production from  
 746 hyperviscosity ( $\tau_f = 10^3, 10^4$  day). The entropy production from hyperdiffusion negligible for  
 747 all  $\tau_f$ . The entropy budget is similar for the T127 runs. Close to the vanishing friction limit,  
 748 the hyperviscosity becomes the the dominate entropy source, which in reality may correspond to  
 749 three-dimensional turbulence at small scales.

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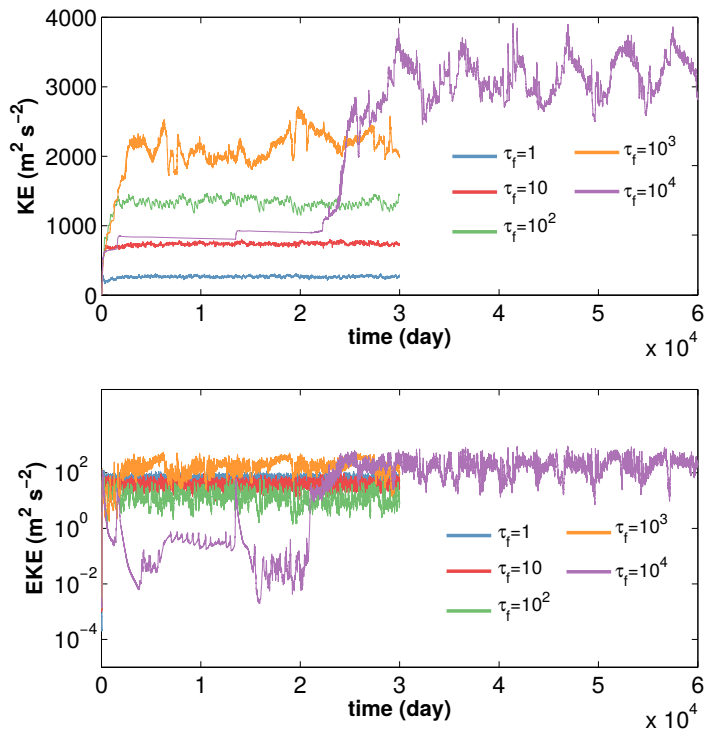
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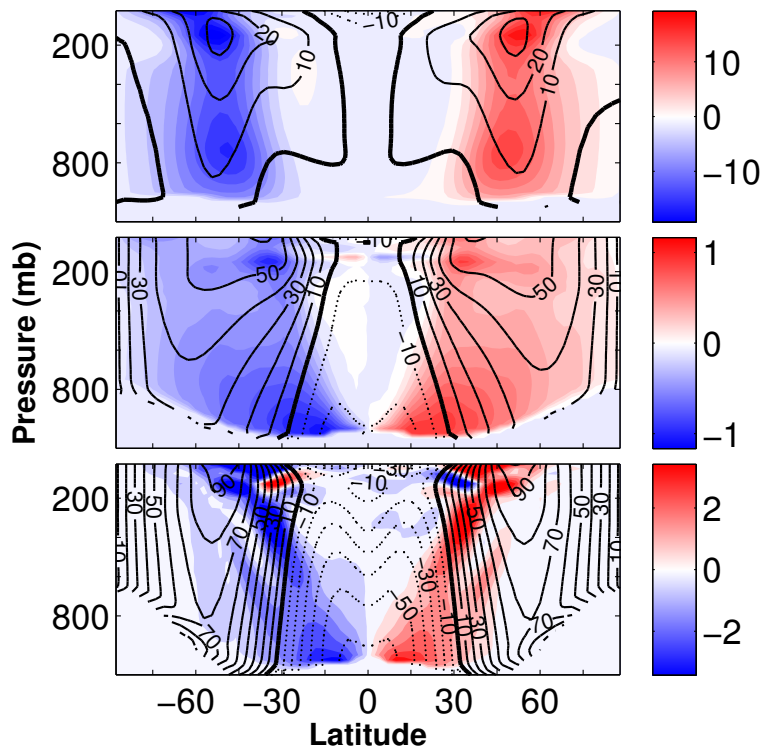
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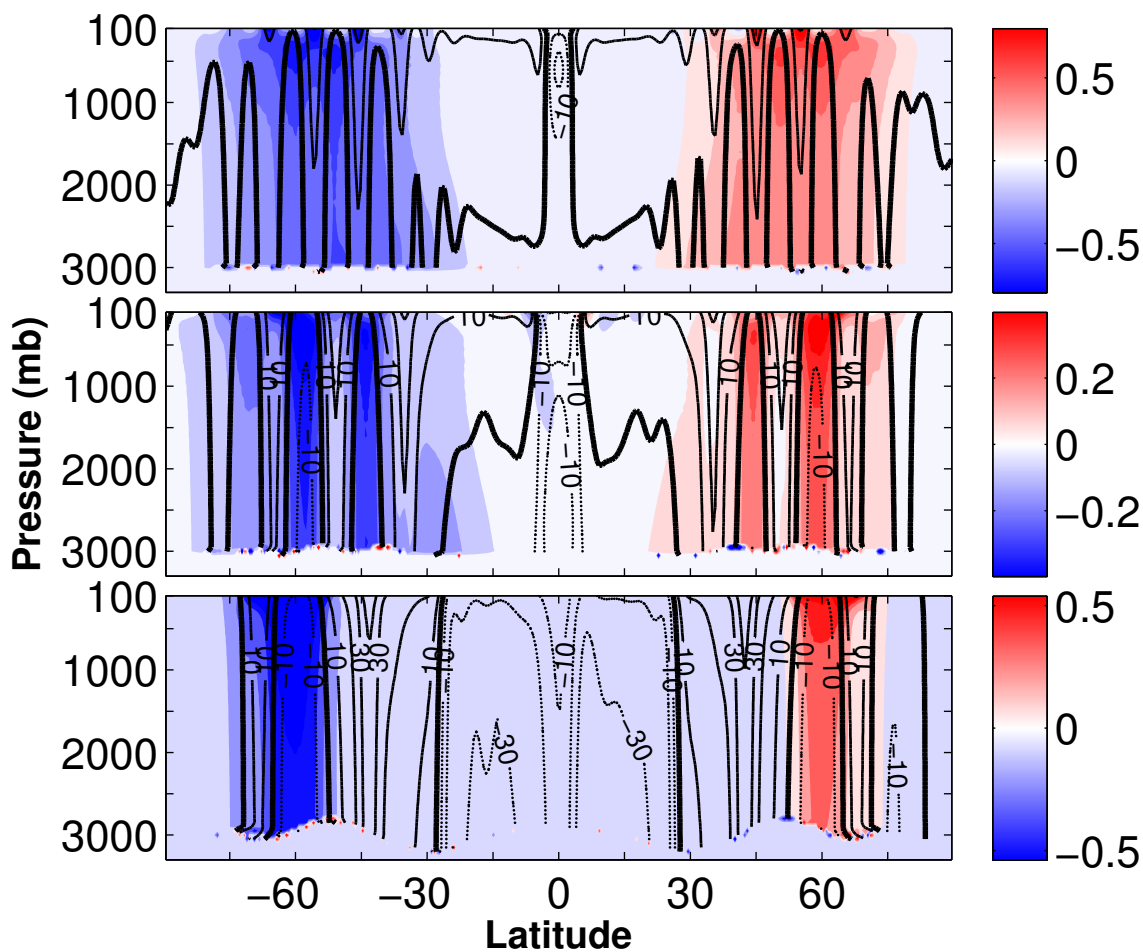


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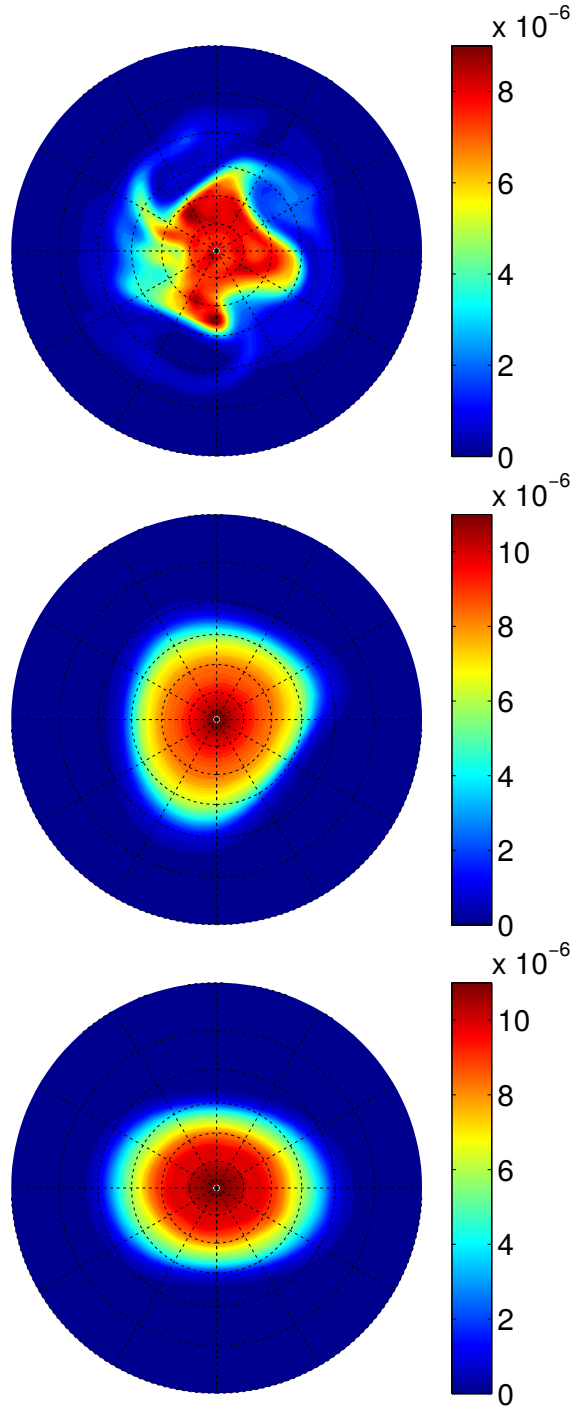




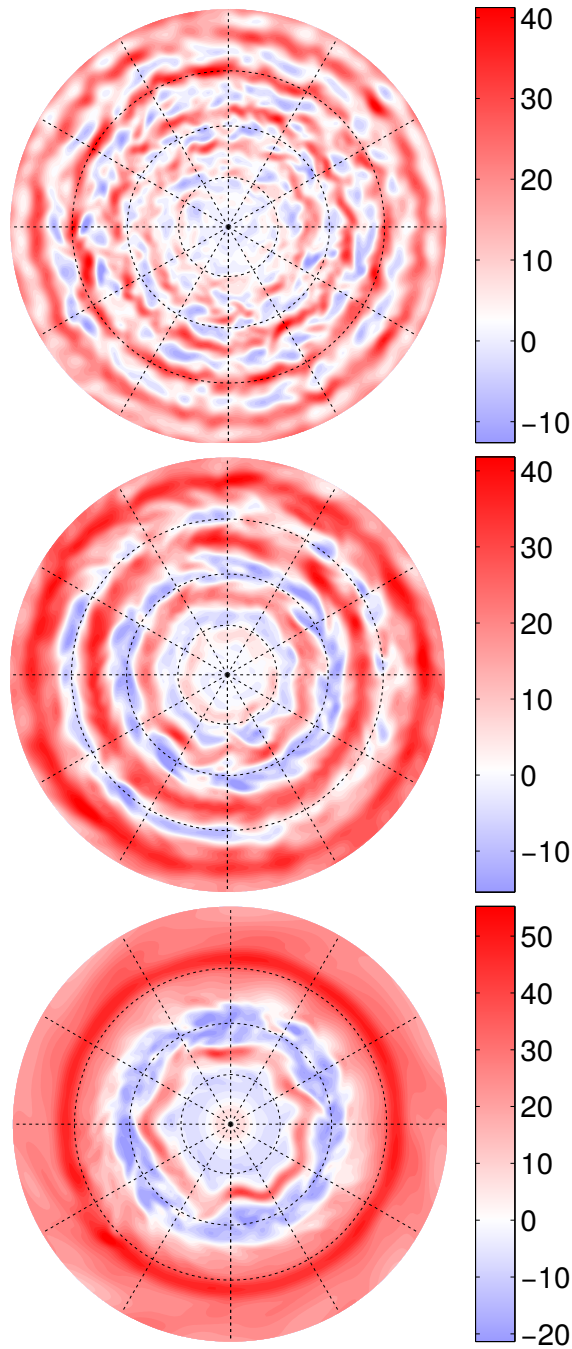
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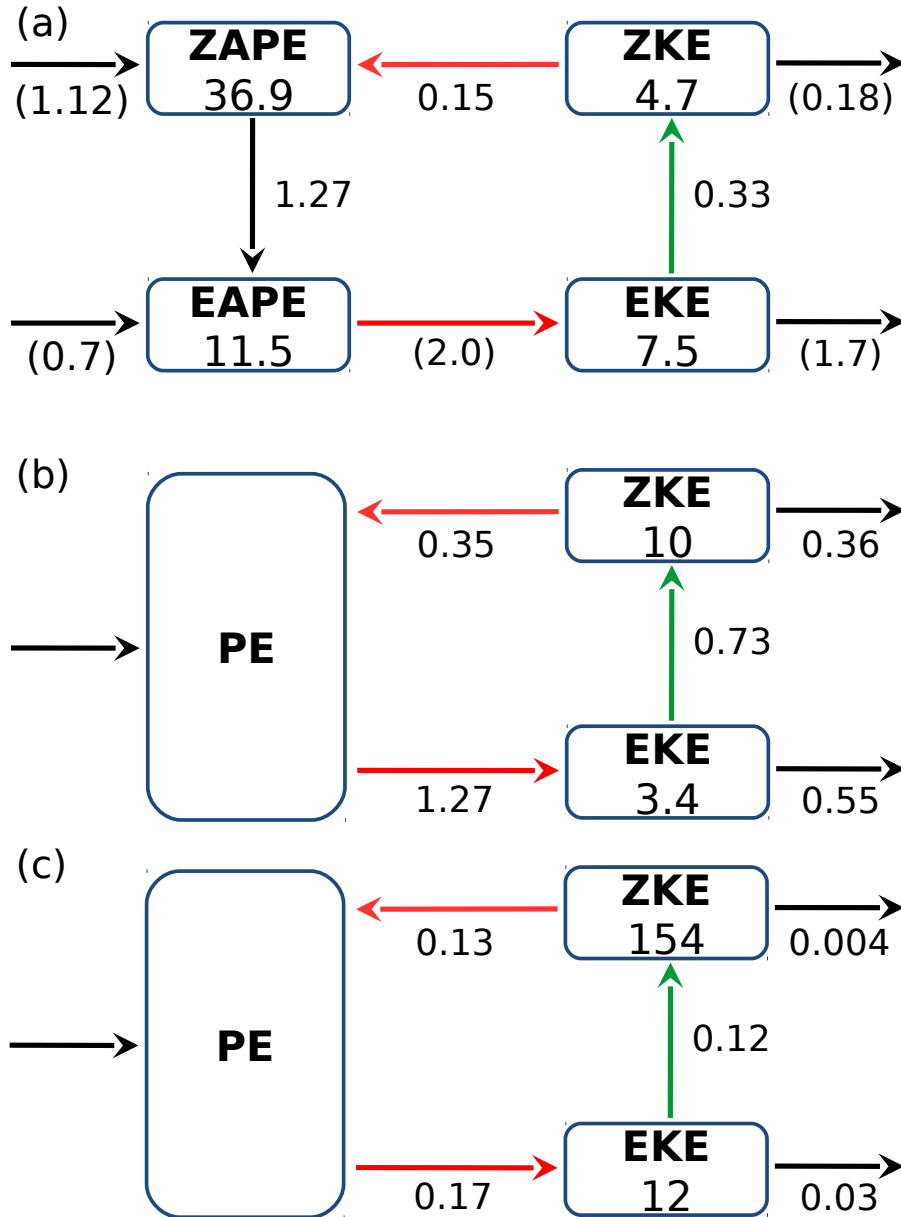
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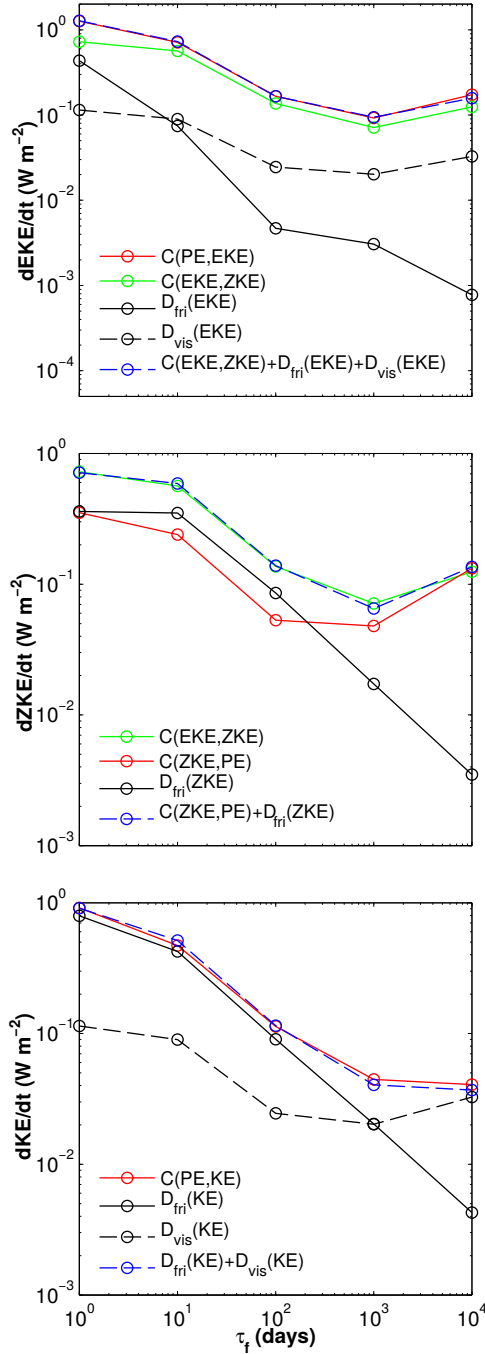
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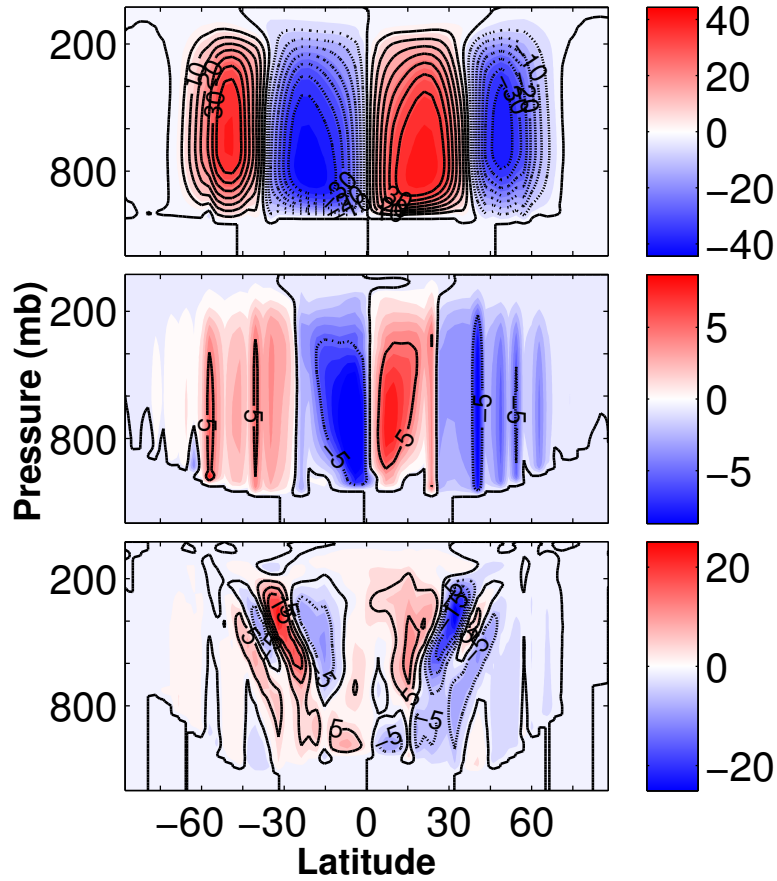
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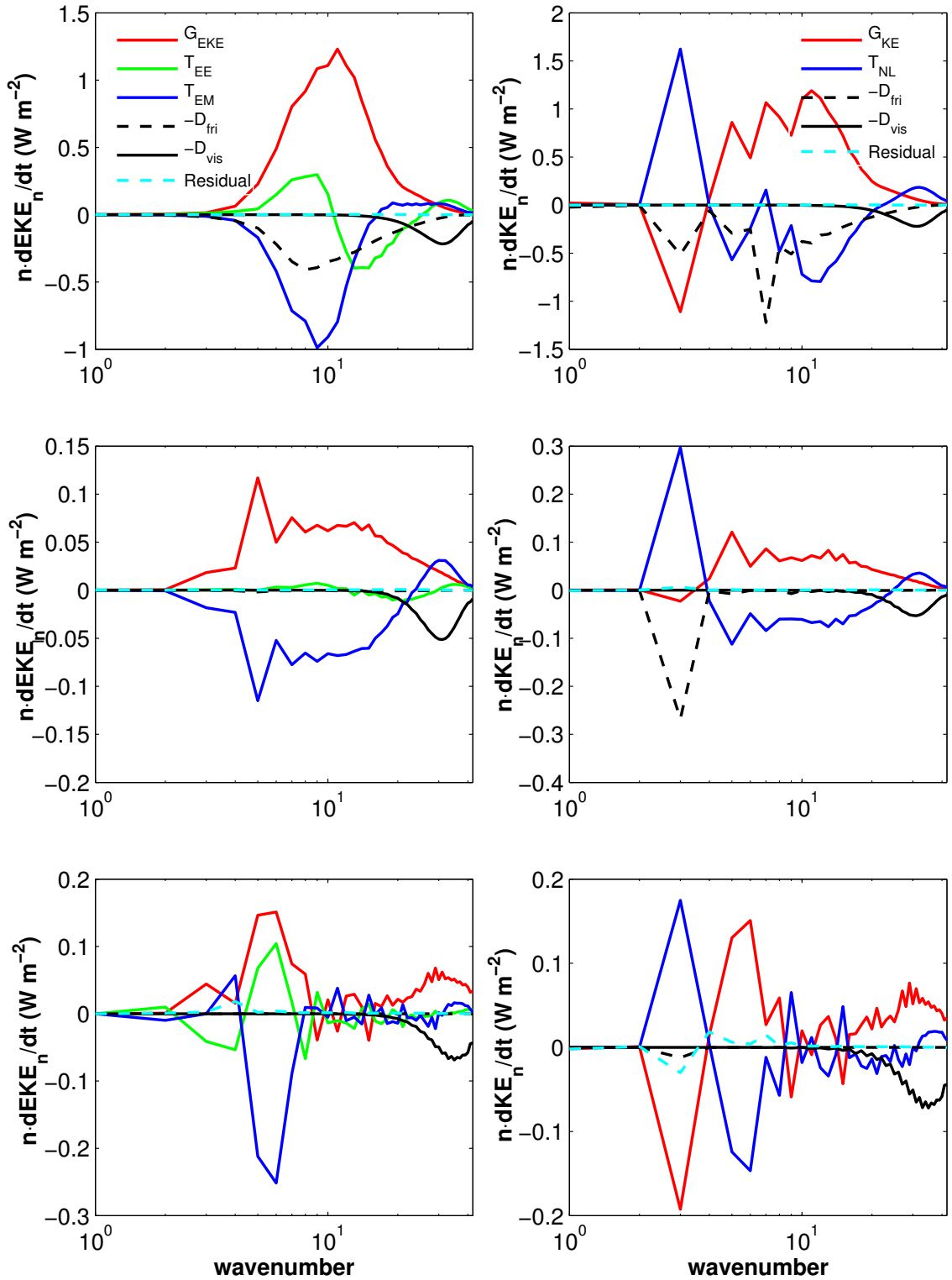
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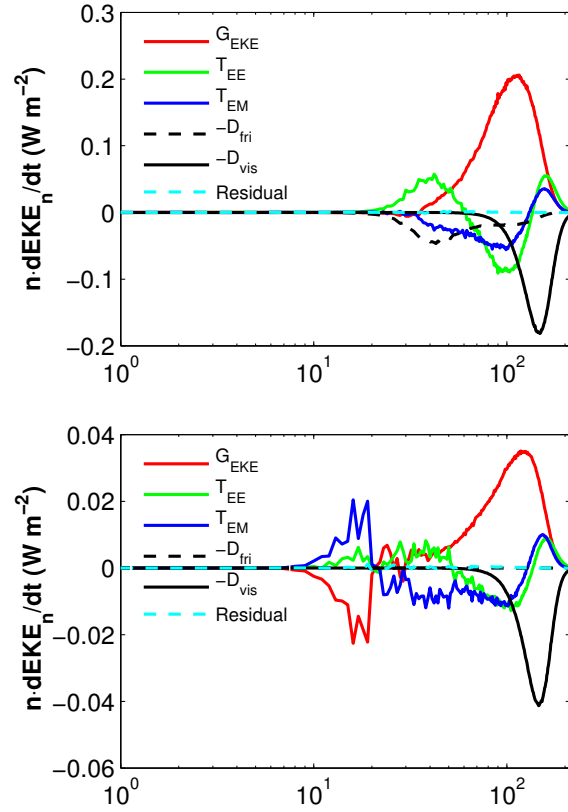


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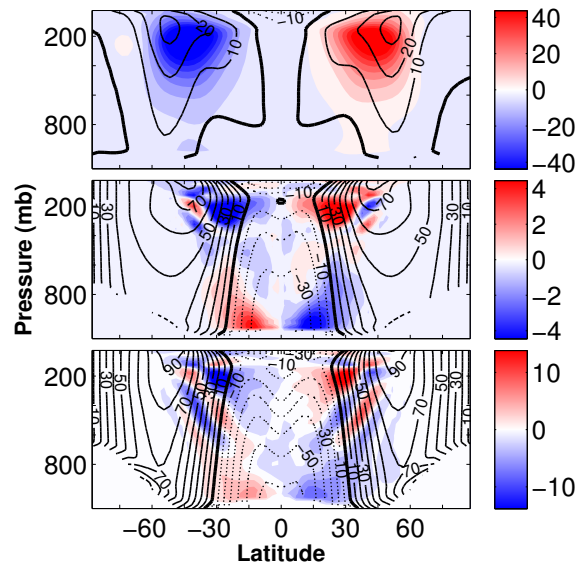


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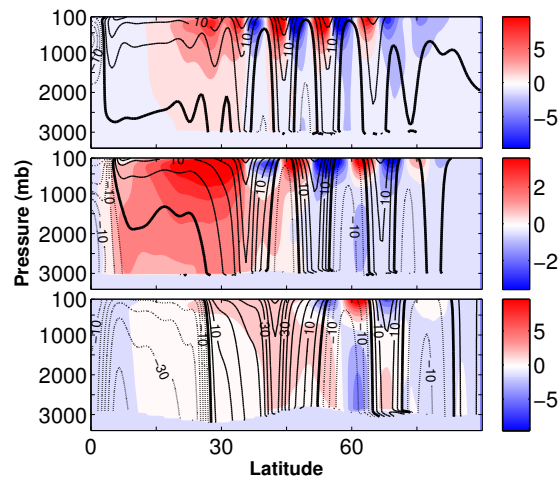




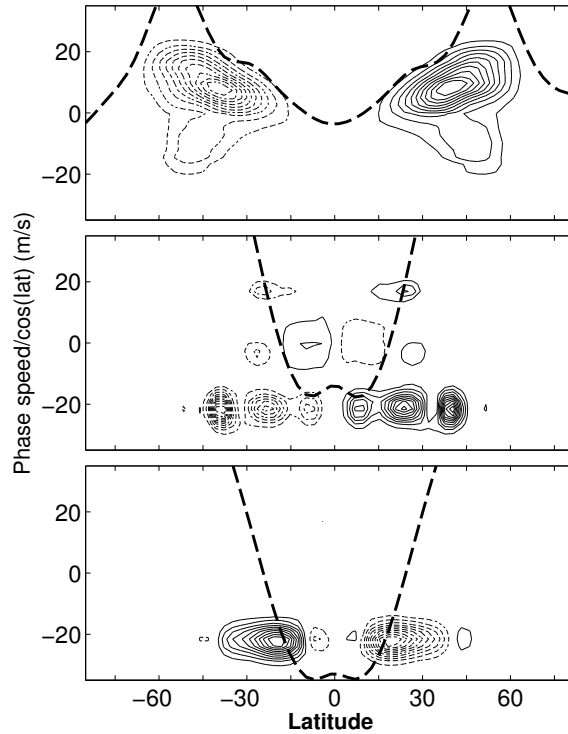
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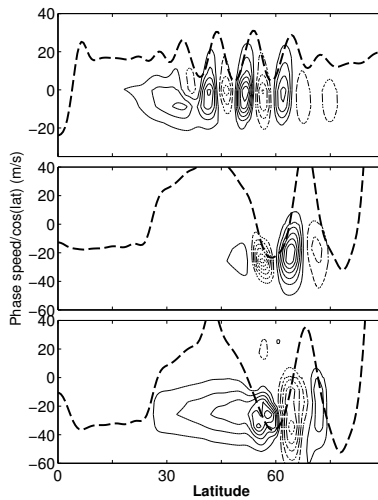
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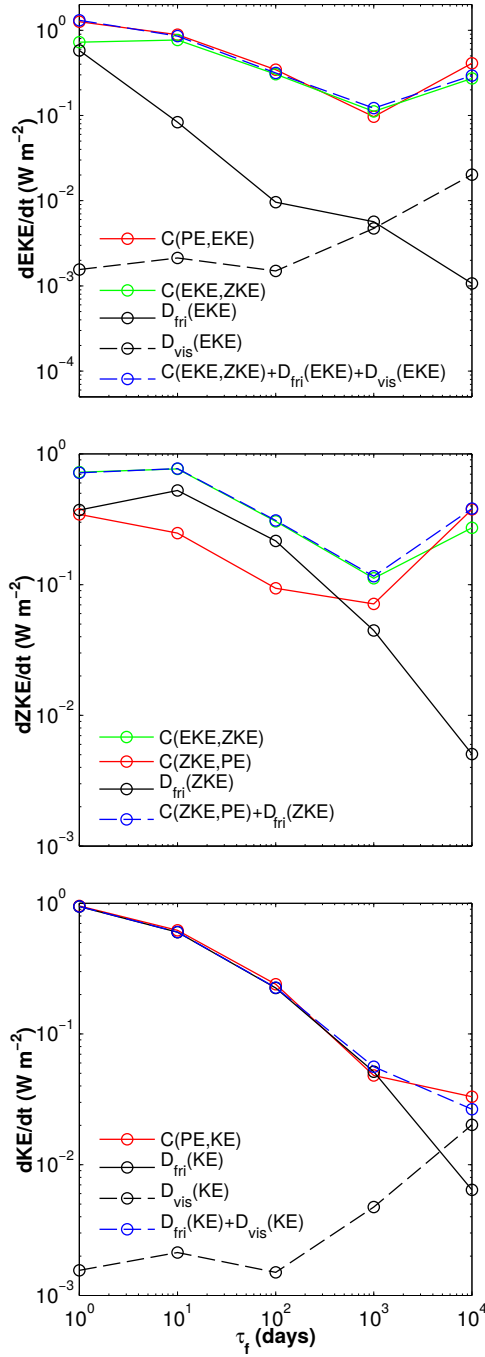
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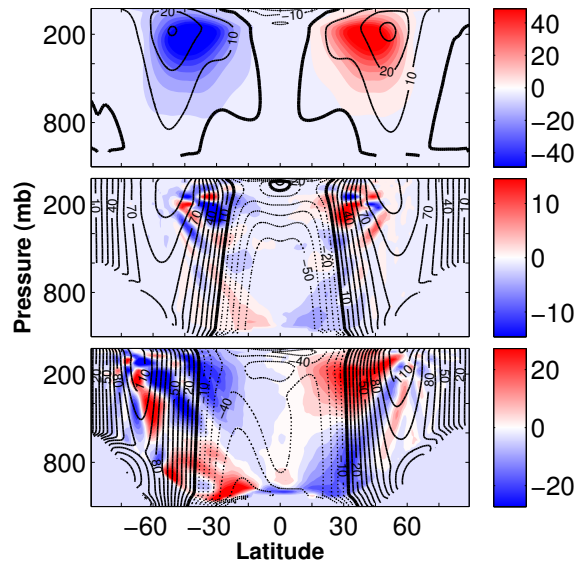
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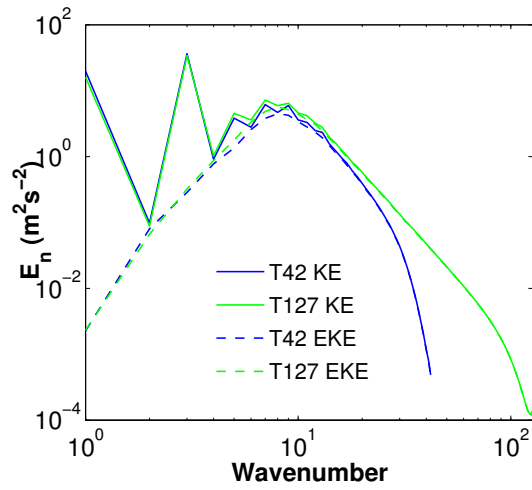
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 1028 trum in the upper atmosphere ( $\sigma = 0.02$ ) vs. latitude for Jupiter-like simulation with  $\tau_f = 5$  day as a reference.  
 1029 The same spectra for Jupiter-like simulations with  $\tau_f = 5000$  days in the (middle) upper ( $\sigma = 0.02$ ) and (bottom)  
 1030 lower ( $\sigma = 0.84$ ) atmospheres. The thick black line shows temporal and zonal averaged zonal wind at the same  
 1031 level. The dashed contour denotes southward eddy momentum flux.



1032 FIG. 15. Similar to Fig. 7 but for T127 simulations. Rates of kinetic energy generation, conversion, and  
 1033 dissipation in  $\text{W m}^{-2}$  for (top) eddy, (middle) zonal mean and (bottom) total flows for runs with different  
 1034 strength of surface friction.

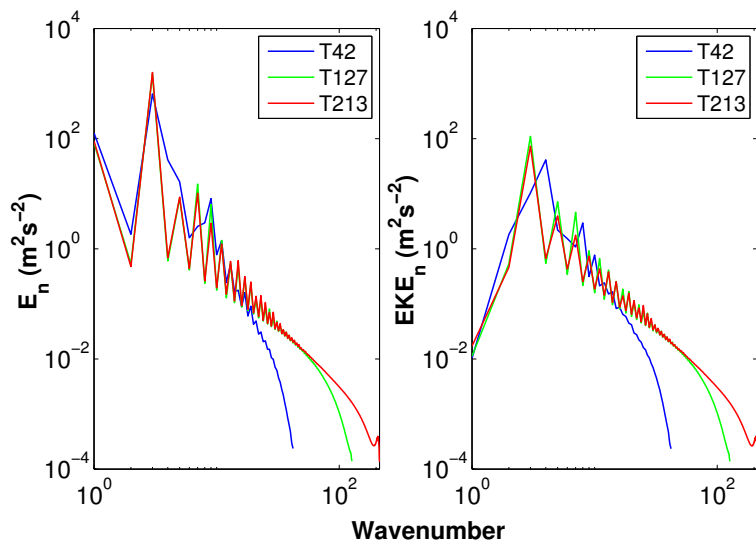


1035 FIG. 16. Similar to Fig. 11 but for T127 simulations. Eddy momentum flux together with zonal mean zonal  
 1036 wind for Earth-like simulations with various bottom friction:  $\tau_f$  =(top) 1, (middle)  $10^3$ , and (bottom)  $10^4$  days.  
 1037 The contour interval for zonal wind is 10 m/s.

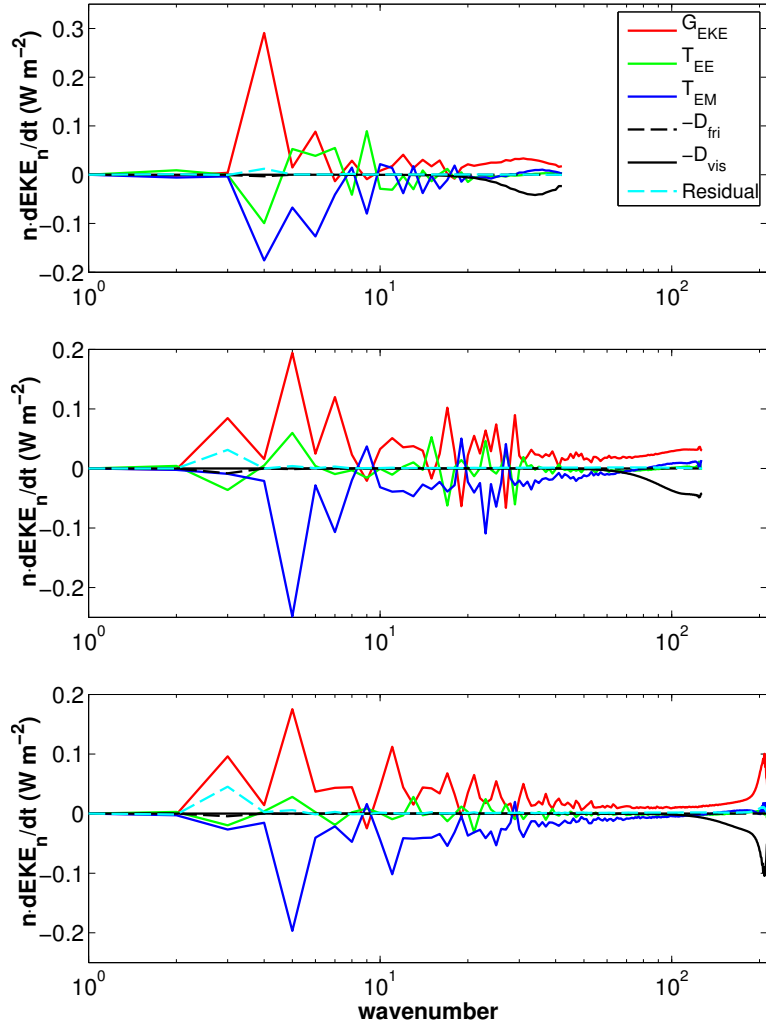


1038 FIG. 17. Total kinetic energy spectra (solid lines) and eddy kinetic energy spectra (dashed lines) from T42  
 1039 (blue lines) and T127 (green lines) Earth-like simulations with frictional time scale  $\tau_f=1$  day.

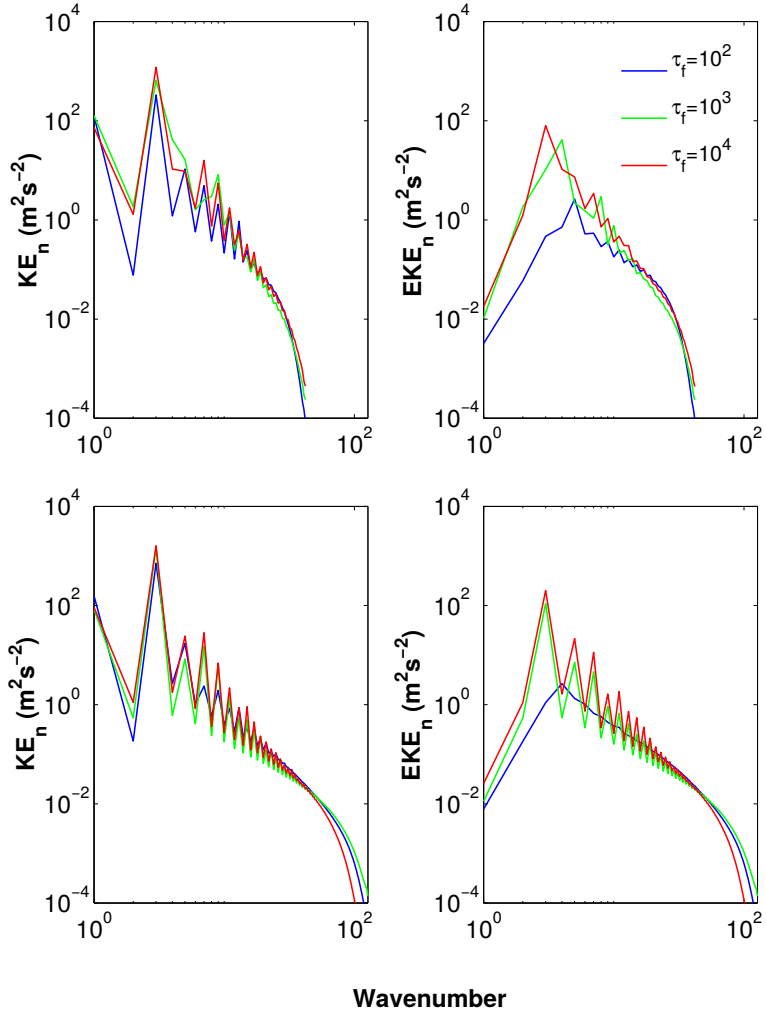




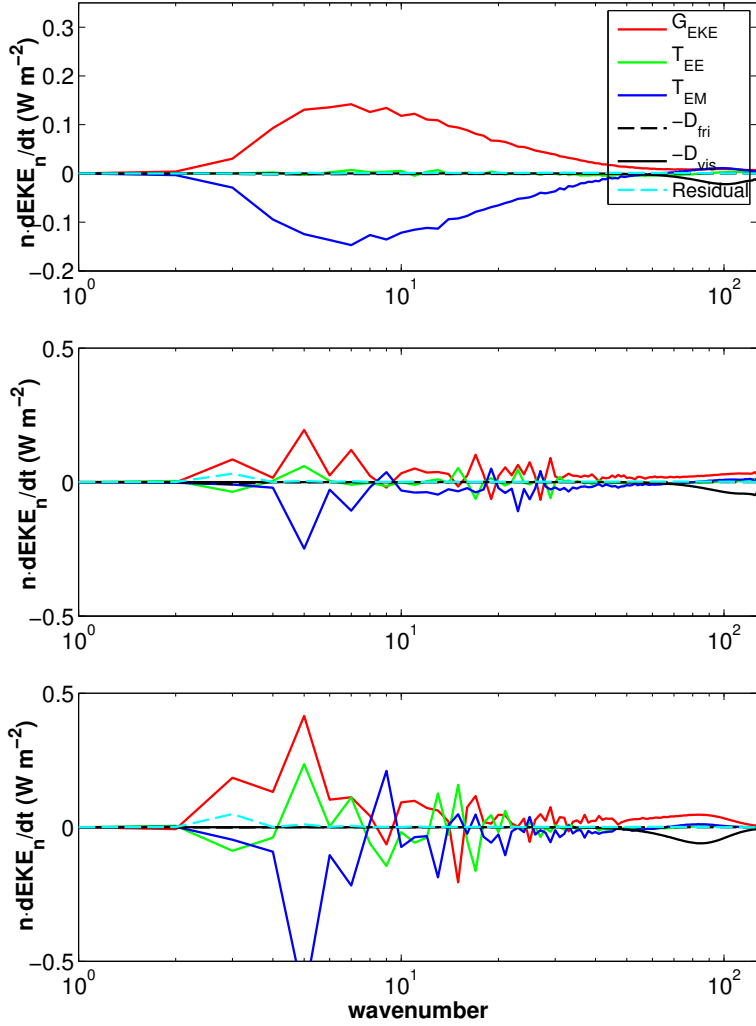
1040 FIG. 18. Total kinetic energy spectra (left) and eddy kinetic energy spectra (right) from T42 (blue lines), T127  
 1041 (green lines) and T213 (red lines) Earth-like simulations with frictional time scale  $\tau_f=10^3$  day.



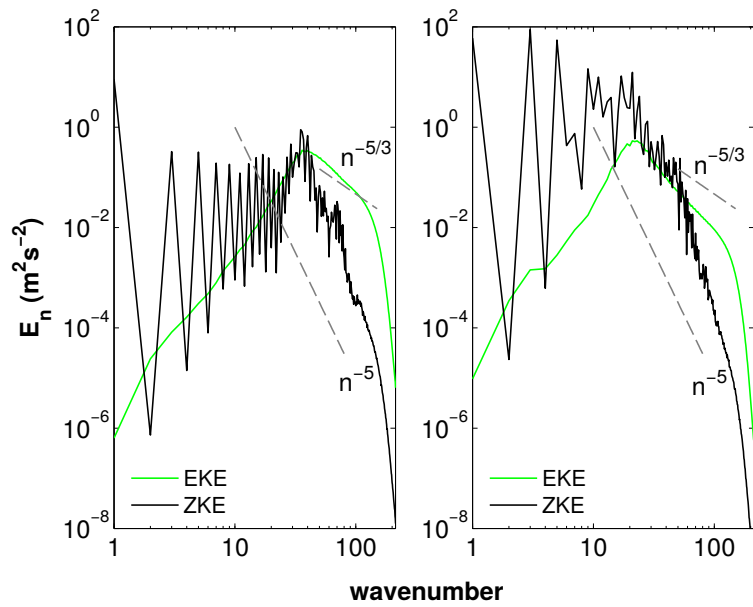
1042 FIG. 19. Spectral EKE budget for Earth-like simulations with bottom friction  $\tau_f = 10^3$  days at various hori-  
 1043 zontal resolutions: (top) T42, (middle) T127 and (bottom) T213.



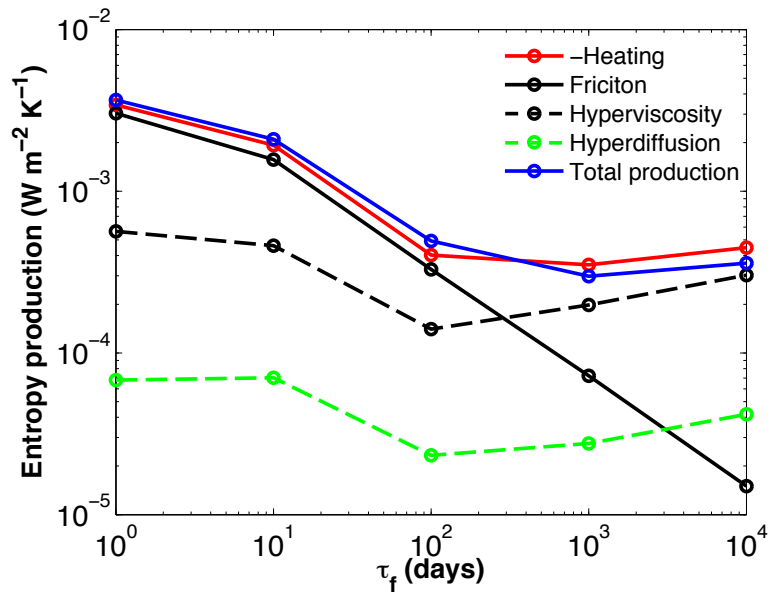
1044 FIG. 20. Total kinetic energy spectra (left) and eddy kinetic energy spectra (right) from T42 (top), T127  
 1045 (bottom) Earth-like simulations with various frictional time scales:  $\tau_f=10^2$ ,  $10^3$  and  $10^4$  day.



1046 FIG. 21. Spectral EKE budget for Earth-like simulations with horizontal resolution T127 and various bottom  
 1047 friction time scales:  $\tau_f =$  (top)  $10^2$ , (middle)  $10^3$  and (bottom)  $10^4$  days.



1048 FIG. 22. Eddy kinetic energy spectrum (solid green line) and zonal kinetic energy spectrum (solid black line)  
 1049 for Jupiter-like simulations with frictional time scale  $\tau_f$  =(left) 5 days and (right) 5000 days. The dashed gray  
 1050 lines show spectrum slope of -5 and -5/3.



1051 FIG. 23. Entropy budget for the Earth-like simulations with various bottom friction. The entropy sink by  
 1052 radiative forcing is shown by its absolute value for plotting in logarithm coordinate.