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The Rate of Dissipation of Turbulent Energy in the Upper Layer of the Ocean

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ABSTRACT

Based on empirical data for the upper layer of the ocean, estimates of the rate of turbulent energy dissipation ∈ are obtained. The calculations of ∈ were made in four ways. The slope of the spectra $E_1^{(\&epsi)}$ of fluctuations of \in determines the universal constant of the refined theory of the locally isotropic turbulence $u=0.56\pm0.11$. The large departure from normality of the ϵ distributions indicates the strong intermittency of the small-scale fluctuations of the current velocity. Using the slopes of the high-order structure functions $Dp(r) = \langle |u(x+r) - u(x)|^P \rangle$, P=1,2,...,8, the universal constants u_p characterizing the momenta of the rate of the dissipation of turbulent energy \mathbf{E}_r , averaged over the sphere with a radius r/2 are determined.

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