

Karl R. Helfrich

Senior Scientist
Bigelow Chair for Excellence in Oceanography
Department of Physical Oceanography
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, MA 02543
khelfrich@whoi.edu

B. S. E., Duke University, 1979
S. M., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1982
Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1985

Postdoctoral Investigator, 1985,
Department of Civil Engineering,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Postdoctoral Fellow, 1985–1986;
Postdoctoral Investigator, 1986–1987;
Assistant Scientist, 1987–1991;
Associate Scientist, 1991–2000, tenure awarded, 1995;
Senior Scientist, 2000–present,
Department of Physical Oceanography,
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Member, American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society, American Physical Society.

Fellow, American Physical Society, 2001.

Henry Bryant Bigelow Chair for Excellence in Oceanography, 2014-

Faculty member of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Summer Program

Research Interests: Theoretical, numerical and laboratory studies in geophysical fluid dynamics: stratified flows, nonlinear internal waves and tides, hydraulic phenomena, abyssal circulation in the presence of topography, geological fluid dynamics, bio-fluid dynamics.

Refereed Publications:

Helfrich, K. R., W. K. Melville, and J. W. Miles, 1984. On interfacial solitary waves over variable topography. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **149**, 305–317.

Helfrich, K. R., and W. K. Melville, 1986. On long nonlinear internal waves over slope–shelf topography. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **167**, 285–308.

Whitehead, J. A., and K. R. Helfrich, 1986. The Korteweg–de Vries equation from laboratory conduit and magma migration equations. *Geophysical Research Letters*, **13**, 545–546.

Melville, W. K., and K. R. Helfrich, 1987. Transcritical two-layer flow over topography. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **178**, 31–52.

- Helfrich, K. R., and U. Send, 1988. Finite-amplitude evolution of two-layer geostrophic vortices. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **197**, 331–348.
- Whitehead, J. A., and K. R. Helfrich, 1988. Wave transport of deep mantle material. *Nature*, **336**, 59–61.
- Helfrich, K. R., and J. A. Whitehead, 1989. Solitary waves on conduits of buoyant fluid in a more viscous fluid. *Geophysical and Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics*, **51**, 35–52.
- Adams, E. E., D. J. Cosler, and K. R. Helfrich, 1990. Evaporation from heated water bodies: predicting combined force plus free convection. *Water Resources Research*, **26**(3), 425–435.
- Helfrich, K. R., and W. K. Melville, 1990. Review of dispersive and resonant effects in internal wave propagation. *The Physical Oceanography of Sea Straits*, L. J. Pratt, editor, NATO/ASI Series, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht; pp. 391–420.
- Whitehead, J. W., and K. R. Helfrich, 1990. Magma waves and diapiric dynamics. *Magma Transport and Storage*, Michael L. Ryan, editor, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, pp. 53–76.
- Helfrich, K. R., and T. M. Battisti, 1991. Experiments on baroclinic vortex shedding from hydrothermal plumes. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **96**(C7), 12,511–12,518.
- Whitehead, J. A., and K. R. Helfrich, 1991. Instability of flow with temperature-dependent viscosity: A model of magma dynamics. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **96**(B3), 4145–4155.
- Grimshaw, R. H. J., K. R. Helfrich, and J. A. Whitehead, 1992. Conduit solitary waves in a visco-elastic medium. *Geophysical and Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics*, **65**, 127–147.
- Helfrich, K. R., 1992. Internal solitary wave breaking and run-up on a uniform slope. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **243**, 133–154.
- Helfrich, Karl R., and Joseph Pedlosky, 1993. Time-dependent isolated anomalies in zonal flows. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **251**, 377–409.
- Helfrich, K. R., 1994. Thermals with background rotation and stratification. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **259**, 265–280.
- Kim, S. L., L. S. Mullineaux, and K. R. Helfrich, 1994. Larval dispersal via entrainment into hydrothermal vent plumes. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **99**(C6), 12655–12665.
- Grimshaw, R. H. J., and K. R. Helfrich, 1995. Solitary waves on two-dimensional slab conduits of buoyant fluid in a more viscous fluid. *Geophysical and Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics*, **79**, 223–238.
- Helfrich, K. R., 1995. Thermo-viscous fingering of flow in a thin gap: A model of magma flow in dikes and fissures. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **305**, 219–238.
- Helfrich, K. R., 1995. Time-dependent two-layer hydraulic exchange flows. *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, **25**(3), 359–373.
- Helfrich, K. R., and J. Pedlosky, 1995. Large-amplitude coherent anomalies in baroclinic zonal flows. *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, **52**, 1615–1629.
- Helfrich, K. R., and K. G. Speer, 1995. Oceanic hydrothermal circulation: mesoscale and basin-scale flow. *AGU Monograph 91, Seafloor Hydrothermal Systems Physical, Chemical, Biological, and Geological Interactions*, 347–356.

- Speer, K. G., and K. R. Helfrich, 1996. Hydrothermal plumes: A review of flow and fluxes. In: *Hydrothermal Vents and Processes*, L. M. Parson, C. L. Walker, and D. R. Dixon, Editors, Geological Society Special Publication No. 87, pp. 373–386.
- Pedlosky, J., L. J. Pratt, M. A. Spall, and K. R. Helfrich, 1997. Circulation around islands and ridges. *Journal of Marine Research*, **55**, 1199–1251.
- Helfrich, K., T. Joyce, G. Cannon, S. Harrington, and D. J. Pashinski, 1998. Mean hydrographic and velocity sections near Pipe Organ Vent at Juan de Fuca Ridge. *Geophysical Research Letters*, **25**, 1737–1740.
- Joyce, T. M., G. A. Cannon, K. R. Helfrich, S. A. Harrington, and D. J. Pashinski, 1998. Vertical and temporal vorticity observations at Juan de Fuca Ridge: Hydrothermal signatures. *Geophysical Research Letters*, **25**, 1741–1744.
- Helfrich, K. R., Allen C. Kuo, and L. J. Pratt, 1999. Nonlinear Rossby adjustment in a channel. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **390**, 187–222.
- Helfrich, K. R., J. Pedlosky, and E. Carter, 1999. The shadowed island. *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, **29**, 2559–2577.
- Wylie, J. J., K. R. Helfrich, B. Dade, J. R. Lister, and J. F. Salzig, 1999. Flow localization in fissure eruptions. *Bulletin of Volcanology*, **60**, 432–440.
- Pratt, L. J., K. R. Helfrich, and E. Chassignet, 2000. Hydraulic adjustment to an obstacle in a rotating channel. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **404**, 117–149.
- Wells, J. R., and K. R. Helfrich, 2001. Circulation around a thin zonal island. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **37**, 301–323.
- Deese, H. E., L. J. Pratt, and K. R. Helfrich, 2002. A laboratory model of exchange and mixing between western boundary layers and sub-basin recirculation gyres. *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, **32**, 1870–1889.
- Lentz, S. J., and K. R. Helfrich, 2002. Buoyant gravity currents along a sloping bottom in a rotating fluid. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **464** 251–278.
- Miller, P. D., L. J. Pratt, K. R. Helfrich, and C. K. R. T. Jones, 2002. Chaotic transport of mass and potential vorticity for an island recirculation. *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, **32**, 80–102.
- Stern, M. E., and K. R. Helfrich, 2002. Propagation of a finite-amplitude potential vorticity front along the wall of a stratified fluid. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **468**, 179–204.
- Helfrich, K. R., and J. Pineda, 2003. Accumulation of particles in propagating fronts. *Limnology and Oceanography*, **48**(4), 1509–1520.
- Helfrich, K. R., and L. J. Pratt, 2003. Rotating hydraulics and upstream basin circulation. *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, **33**, 1651–1663.
- Holtegard-Neilsen, M., L. J. Pratt, and K. R. Helfrich, 2004. Mixing and entrainment in hydraulically-driven, stratified sill flows. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **15**, 415–443.
- Siddall, M., L. J. Pratt, K. R. Helfrich, and L. Giosan, 2004. Testing the physical implications of the sudden Black Sea infill 8400 years ago. *Paleoceanography*, **19**, PA1024, doi:10.1029/2003PA000903.

- Wells, J., and K. R. Helfrich, 2004. Localized boundary mixing in a rotating, stratified fluid. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **516**, 83–113.
- Yuan, G.-C., M. S. Lozier, L. J. Pratt, C. K. R. T. Jones, and K. R. Helfrich, 2004. Estimating predictability of an oceanic time series using linear and nonlinear methods. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **109**, C08002, doi:10.1029/2003JC002148.
- Helfrich, K. R., and J. C. Mullarney, 2005. Gravity currents from a dam-break in a rotating channel. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **536**, 253–283.
- Pratt, L. J., and K. R. Helfrich, 2005. Generalized Conditions for Hydraulic Criticality of Oceanic Overflows. *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, **35**(10), 1782–1800.
- Helfrich, K. R., 2006. Nonlinear adjustment of a localized layer of buoyant, uniform potential vorticity fluid against a vertical wall. *Dynamics of Atmospheres and Oceans*, **41**, 149–171.
- Helfrich, K. R., and W. K. Melville, 2006. Long nonlinear internal waves. *Annual Review of Fluid Mechanics*, **38**, 395–425.
- Wells, J. R., and K. R. Helfrich, 2006. Mixing at the head of a canyon: A laboratory investigation of fluid exchanges in a rotating, stratified basin. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **111**, C12009, doi:10.1029/2006JC003667.
- Helfrich, K. R., 2007. The decay and return of internal solitary waves with rotation. *Physics of Fluids*, **19**, 026601.
- Pratt, L. J., U. Riemenschneider, and K. R. Helfrich, 2007. A transverse hydraulic jump in a model of the Faroe Bank Channel outflow. *Ocean Modeling*, **19**, 1-9.
- Helfrich, K. R., and R. H. J. Grimshaw, 2008. Nonlinear disintegration of the internal tide. *Journal of Physical Oceanography*, **38**, 686-701.
- Pratt, L. J., and K. R. Helfrich, 2008. On the stability of ocean overflows. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **602**, 241-266.
- Grimshaw, R., and K. R. Helfrich, 2008. Long-time solutions of the Ostrovsky equation. *Studies in Applied Mathematics*, **121**, 71-88.
- Helfrich, K. R., 2008. Continuously stratified nonlinear low-mode internal tides. *Journal of Marine Research*, **25**, 299-323.
- White, B. L., and K. R. Helfrich, 2008. Gravity currents and internal waves in a continuously stratified fluid. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **616**, 327-356.
- Da Silva, J. C. B., and K. R. Helfrich, 2008. Synthetic aperture radar observations of resonantly generated internal solitary waves at Race Point Channel (Cape Cod), *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **113**, C11016, doi: 10.1029/2008JC005004.
- Pedlosky, J., R. Iacono, E. Napolitano, and K. R. Helfrich, 2010. The skirted island: the effect of topography on the flow around planetary scale islands. *Journal of Marine Research*, **67**, 435-478.
- Helfrich, K. R., and B. L. White, 2010. A model of internal solitary waves with trapped cores. *Nonlinear Processes in Geophysics*, **17**, 303-318.
- Ostrovsky, L., and K. R. Helfrich, 2011. Strongly nonlinear, simple internal waves in continuously-stratified, shallow fluids. *Nonlinear Processes in Geophysics*, **18**, 91-102.
- DiBacco, C., H. L. Fuchs, J. Pineda, and K. R. Helfrich, 2011. Swimming behavior and velocities of barnacle cyprides in a downwelling flume. *Marine Ecology Prog. Series*, **433**, 131-148.

- Grimshaw, R. H. J., and K. R. Helfrich, 2012. The effect of rotation on internal solitary waves. *IMA J. Appl. Maths.*, doi: 10.1093/imamat/hxs024.
- Grimshaw, R., K. Helfrich and E. R. Johnson, 2012. The reduced Ostrovsky equation: integrability and breaking. *Std. Appl. Math.* **129**, 414-436.
- White, B. L., and K. R. Helfrich, 2012. A general description of a gravity current front propagating in a two-layer stratified fluid. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **711**, 545-575.
- White, B. L., and K. R. Helfrich, 2013. Rapid gravitational collapse of a horizontal shear layer. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **721**, 86-117.
- Grimshaw, R., K. Helfrich and E. R. Johnson 2013. Experimental study of the effect of rotation on nonlinear internal waves. *Phys. Fluids* **25**, 056602, doi:10.1063/1.4805092.
- Wheeler, J. D ,K. R. Helfrich, E. J. Anderson, B.McGann, P. Staats, A. E. Wargula, K. Wilt, and L. S. Mullineaux. 2013. Upward swimming of competent oyster larvae (*Crassostrea virginica*) persists in highly turbulent flow as detected by PIV flow subtraction. *Mar. Ecology Prog. Series* **488**, 171-185. DOI: 10.3354/meps10382.
- Mercier, M., L. Gostiaux, K. Helfrich, J. Sommeria, S. Viboud, H. Didelle, Sasan J. Ghaemsaidi, T. Dauxois and T. Peacock, 2013. Large-scale, realistic laboratory modeling of the M_2 internal tide generation at the Luzon Strait. *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **40**, 5704-5709.
- Grimshaw, R., C. Guo, K. Helfrich and V. Vlasenko. Combined effect of rotation and topography on shoaling oceanic internal solitary waves. *J. Phys. Oceano.*, in press.
- White, B. L. and K. R. Helfrich. Internal bores in continuous stratifications. *J. Fluid Mech.* submitted.
- Pineda, J., V. Starczak, J. da Silva, K. Helfrich, M. Thompson, D. Wiley. Whales and waves: zooplankton accumulation, fish and humpback whale foraging response, and the shoaling of internal waves at Stellwagen Bank. *Limnology and Oceanography*, submitted.
- Luzzatto-Fegiz, P. and K. R. Helfrich. Laboratory experiments and simulations for solitary internal waves with trapped cores. *J. Fluid Mech.* submitted.
- Alford, M. H., T. Peacock, *et al.* The formation and fate of internal waves in the South China Sea. *Nature*, submitted

Non-refereed Publications

- Pratt, L. J., and K. R. Helfrich, 1990. Current research problems. *The Physical Oceanography of Sea Straits*, L. J. Pratt, editor, Kluwer, Dordrecht; pp. 577–580.
- Helfrich, K. R., 1987. Experiments on baroclinic eddy evolution and stability in continuously stratified systems. Proceedings of the *Third International Conference on Stratified Flows*, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, February 1987.
- Helfrich, K. R., 2001. Dispersion from hydrothermal vents. In: *Encyclopedia of Ocean Sciences*, John H. Steele, Steve A. Thorpe, and Karl K. Turekian, Editors, Academic Press, San Diego, **2**, 733–741.
- Helfrich, K. R., and L. J. Pratt, 2002. Rotating hydraulics and upstream basin circulation. In electronic *Proceedings of the 2nd Meeting on the Physical Oceanography of Sea Straits*, Villefranche, France, April 15–19, 2002.
- Helfrich, K.R., R. Grimshaw and T. Johnson, 2010. Effect of rotation on internal solitary waves. Proceedings of HYDRALAB-III, Hannover, Germany, February 2-3, 2010.

Mullineaux, L. S., K. R. Helfrich, E. Anderson, P. Statts, A. Wargula, and K. Wilt. Swimming and diving of the oyster larvae (*Crassostera virginica*). *MEPS*, in preparation.

Grimshaw, R., K. R. Helfrich, and A. Scotti. Large-amplitude internal waves in the ocean. *Nonlin. Proc. Geophys.*, in preparation. (Overview note for a special issue by the co-editors).

Thesis

Helfrich, K. R., 1985. On long nonlinear internal waves over bottom topography. Ph.D. Thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 272 pp.