Ciclo di seminari Università degli studi di Roma "Tor Vergata" May, 2013

# Turbulence and the flow of kinetic energy in wind-turbine array boundary layers: LES studies

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**JHU Mechanical Engineering** 



#### Ciclo di seminari

#### Universita degli studi di Roma, Tor Vergata May, 2013

### **OVERVIEW:**

#### Mercoledì:

- Introduction to fundamentals of Turbulence
- Intro to Large Eddy Simulation (LES)
- Intro to Subgrid-scale (SGS) modeling
- The dynamic SGS model
- Some sample applications from our group

#### Venerdì:

- Dynamic model for LES over rough multiscale surfaces
- LES studies of large wind farms

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- Luciano Castillo (RPI, now Texas Tech),
- José Lebrón-Torres (RPI)

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#### **Renewables: low energy density**

- solar, wind, wave energy
- need to cover "very, very big" areas
- wind: large wind-farms on-land & off shore

Horns Rev HAWT Copyright ELSAM/AS



Land-based HAWT

Shell's Rock River windfarm in Carbon County, Wyoming, USA Source: http://www.the-eic.com/News/Archive/2005/May/Article503.htm





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(i.e. "a few solar collectors or little wind-mills simply won't do")

- Consider 3 TW US power consumption
- $3x10^{12} / 300 \times 10^{6} = 10 \text{ kW}$  per person in US

(about 5-6 kW in Europe)







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- <section-header><section-header><figure><figure>
- That is the same as lifting 1 ton by 1 meter every second!!





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(i.e. "a few solar collectors or little wind-mills simply won't do")

• Back to entire US (lower 48): 3.7 Million km<sup>2</sup>







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- Back to entire US (lower 48): 3.7 Million km<sup>2</sup>
- $\frac{3.7 \times 10^6 \times 10^6}{300 \times 10^6} \approx 100 \text{ m}$ 1km đ ٥ Need one 1MW WindTurbine • for 100 people (100 x 10 kW) 1 WindTurbine every 1km .... at 10D 3 Million wind turbines (doable actually: now US: 6 GW, av. power capacity, need 3 TW 100 m factor  $500 = 2^9 - 9x3 = 27$  years) What can we say about land-atmosphere couplings in the presence of very large wind farms?





#### The windturbine-array boundary layer (WTABL)



Arrays are getting bigger: when L > 10 H (H: height of ABL), approach "fully developed" **FD-WTABL** 



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#### **Related problem: Wind farm power degradation**

(Wind farm operators: "10-15% wind farm underperformance problem")







#### **WTABL: Forcing by geostrophic wind**



Given G and  $z_0 \rightarrow find u_*$  and H

+ effects of thermal stratification (will not be focused upon in this talk)

#### The "fully developed" pressure-grad-driven WTABL:

What is the generic structure of this specific type of boundary layer?



What is the "averaged" velocity distribution?

 $U(z) = \left\langle \overline{u}(x, y, z) \right\rangle_{xy}$ 

Is there a "universal" WTABL profile?

What are profiles of shear stresses?

$$\tau_{xz}(z) = -\left\langle \overline{u'w'} \right\rangle_{xy}$$

#### **Near-surface turbulent boundary layer structure**

classic turbulent boundary layer: momentum theory (Prandtl - von Karman)

$$0 = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dp_{\infty}}{dx} + \frac{d}{dz} \left( -\left\langle \overline{u'w'} \right\rangle_{xy} + viscous \ stress \right)$$

Integrate in z-direction and  $\frac{dp_{\infty}}{dx}z \approx 0$ near surface:  $\frac{dp_{\infty}}{dx}z \approx 0$ 

$$-\langle \overline{u'w'} \rangle_{xy}(z) \approx \text{constant} = viscous \ stress(z=0) \equiv u_*^2$$

Eddy-viscosity and mixing length model (Prandtl)

$$v_T \frac{d\langle u \rangle}{dz} = u_*^2 \implies (\kappa u_* z) \frac{d\langle u \rangle}{dz} = u_*^2 \implies \langle u \rangle = \frac{u_*}{\kappa} \ln(z) + C$$

Find C: For rough boundaries: u=0 at  $z=z_0$  (effective roughness length):

$$\left\langle u \right\rangle = \frac{u_*}{\kappa} \ln\left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right)$$

#### Example application of fully developed WTABL concepts and z<sub>0</sub>: GCMs, mesoscale models, etc...

Keith et al. "The influence of large-scale wind power on climate" PNAS (2004)

Barrie & Kirk-Davidoff: "Weather response to management of large Wind turbine array", Atmos. Chem. Phys. **10**, 769-775, 2010

- Use  $z_0 \sim 0.8$  m using "Lettau's formula" (ad-hoc geometric arguments...)
- Grid-spacings 100's of km, first vertical point ~ 80m

"horizontally averaged structure"





**Fig. 1.** 993 mbar zonal wind anomaly. The mean difference in the eastward wind in the lowest model level between the control and perturbed model runs highlights regions of atmospheric modification. Regions where significance exceeds 95%, as determined by a Student's t-test, are thatched. The wind farm is located within the rectangular box over the central United States and central Canada. Areas of the wind farm located over water are masked out during the model runs.

### **Outline of the talk: 3 related topics**

- Unraveling the generic ABL structure in presence of large wind farms – the WTABL.
- Surface fluxes of scalars in presence of large wind farms (more drying? heating? ..)
- Fluxes of kinetic energy how does kinetic energy get to the wind turbines? We propose a new flow-viz approach: energy transport tubes.. (presented also at EFMC-9 Rome, 2012)

#### **Review: The fully developed WTABL & momentum theory**

Horizontally averaged variables

$$0 = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dp_{\infty}}{dx} + \frac{d}{dz} \left( -\left\langle \overline{u'w'} \right\rangle_{xy} - \left\langle \overline{u}''\overline{w}'' \right\rangle_{xy} \right) + \left\langle f_x \right\rangle_{xy}$$





Integrate in z-direction:

If top of WT canopy still falls in the "surface layer", where  $\frac{dp}{dx}z \approx 0$ and if wakes have "diffused" so that  $\langle \overline{u} " \overline{w} " \rangle_{xy} \approx 0$ 

$$-\left\langle \overline{u'w'} \right\rangle_{xy} (z_{top}) \approx -\left\langle \overline{u'w'} \right\rangle_{xy} (z_{bottom}) + \frac{1}{2} C_T \frac{A_{disk}}{A_{xy}} U_h^2$$
$$u_{*hi}^2 \approx u_{*lo}^2 + \frac{1}{2} C_T \frac{\pi}{4s_x s_y} U_h^2$$

#### **Review: The fully developed WTABL & momentum theory**

$$u_{*hi}^2 \approx u_{*lo}^2 + \frac{1}{2}C_T \frac{\pi}{4s_x s_y} U_h^2$$

Frandsen 1992 (also Newman 1977): postulated the existence of 2 log laws



#### **Review: The fully developed WTABL & momentum theory**

S. Frandsen 1992, Frandsen et al. 2006:

Knowns: 
$$u_{*hi}$$
,  $z_{0,ground}$ ,  $C_T$ ,  $s_x$ ,  $s_y$   
3 unknowns:  $z_{0,hi}$ ,  $U_h$ ,  $u_{*lo}$   
 $(\bar{v})_{*} \in u_{*k}^{-1} \frac{1}{2} C_T \frac{\pi}{4s_x s_y} U_h^2$   
 $U_h = u_{*hi} \frac{1}{\kappa} \log\left(\frac{z_h}{z_{0,hi}}\right)$   
 $u_{*hi} \frac{1}{\kappa} \log\left(\frac{z_h}{z_{0,hi}}\right) = u_{*lo} \frac{1}{\kappa} \log\left(\frac{z_h}{z_{0,ground}}\right)$   
Solve for effective  $z_{0,hi} = z_h \exp\left(-\kappa \left[\frac{\pi C_T}{8s_x s_y} + \left(\frac{\kappa}{\ln(z_h/z_{0,ground})}\right)\right]^{-1/2}\right)$ 

#### Next: performe Large Eddy Simulations (LES) of WTABL Simulations setup:

• LES code: horizontal pseudo-spectral (periodic B.C.), vertical: centered 2nd order FD (Moeng 1984, Albertson & Parlange 1999, Porté-Agel et al. 2000, Bou-Zeid et al. 2005)

$$H = 1000 - 1500m, \quad L_x = \pi H - 2\pi H, \quad L_y = \pi H$$
$$(N_x \times N_y \times N_z) = 128 \times 128 \times 128$$

- Horizontal periodic boundary conditions (only good for FD-WTABL)
- Top surface: zero stress, zero w
- Bottom surface B.C.: Zero w + Wall stress: Standard wall function relating wall stress to first grid-point velocity
- Scale-dependent dynamic Lagrangian model
- eddy-viscosity closure but (no adjustable parameters)
- More details: Calaf, Meneveau & Meyers, "Large eddy simulation study of fully developed wind-turbine array boundary layers" Phys. Fluids. 22 (2010) 015110



#### Actuator disk modeling of turbines in LES

Jimenez et al., J. Phys. Conf. Ser. **75** (2007) simulated single turbine in LES using dynamic Smag. model

They used fixed reference (undisturbed) velocity:

$$f_{Tx} = -\frac{1}{2}C_T U_{ref}^2 \frac{\delta A_{yz}}{\delta V}, \quad C_T = 0.75$$

Here we use disk-averaged and time-averaged velocity, but local at the disk (see Meyers & Meneveau 2010, 48<sup>th</sup> AIAA conf., paper)

$$f_{Tx} = -\frac{1}{2}C_T \left(\frac{1}{1-a}\overline{U}\right)^2 \frac{\delta A_{yz}}{\delta V} = -\frac{1}{2}C_T'\overline{U}^2 \frac{\delta A_{yz}}{\delta V}$$

$$C_{\scriptscriptstyle T}=0.75 \Longrightarrow a\approx 0.25 \twoheadrightarrow C_{\scriptscriptstyle T}'=1.33$$

Also, use first-order relax process to time-average:

$$\overline{U}(t) = (1 - \varepsilon)\overline{U}(t - dt) + \varepsilon U_{disk}(t)$$



#### Suite of LES cases, see Calaf et al. 2010, Phys. Fluids

#### Instantaneous stream-wise velocity contours:





#### top-view







L								
0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16

#### **Measuring z<sub>0</sub> from LES (horizontally averaged)**



measure  $z_{0,hi}$  from intercept

$$\langle \overline{u} \rangle_{xy} = u_{*hi} \frac{1}{\kappa} \log \left( \frac{z}{z_{0,hi}} \right)$$

(essentially the "Clauser plot" method)



#### "Wake upgrade" to Frandsen's top-down model



#### **Comparison of LES results with models**



Triangles: Lettau formula

Asterisks: Frandsen et al. (2006) formula

$$z_{0,hi} = z_h \exp\left(-\kappa \left[\frac{\pi C_T}{8s_x s_y} + \left(\frac{\kappa}{\ln(z_h / z_{0,ground})}\right)\right]^{-1/2}\right)$$

## **Sample application: What is the most optimal spacing** *s*<sub>opt</sub> **between wind turbines in the fully developed WTABL?**

Meyers & Meneveau (2012), Wind Energy 15, 305-317



Use of "top-down" model ( $Z_{0,hi}$ ) to find  $s_{opt}$ 

0.8

0.6

0.4

0.2

PIP

For given *s*,  $z_{0,lo}$ , *D*,  $z_h$ ,  $C_T$  evaluate *P* divide by  $P_{\infty}$  of single WT ( $z_{0,hi} = z_{0,lo}$  case)





Power deficit in Horns Rev wind farm, 8 m/s, 2 degree sector



From: Barthelmie et al. J. of Phys. Conf. (2007)

Use of "top-down" model ( $Z_{0,hi}$ ) to find  $s_{opt}$ 

#### Power per unit cost:

$$P^* = \frac{Power - per - turbine}{Cost - per - turbine} = \frac{C_P \frac{\rho}{2} U_h^3 \frac{\pi}{4} D^2}{Cost_{land}(\$ / m^2) \times s_x s_y D^2 + Cost_{turb}(\$)}$$

Define dimensionless ratio:

$$\alpha = \frac{Cost_{turb} / \left(\frac{\pi}{4} D^2\right)}{Cost_{land}}$$

$$P^* \propto \frac{C_P}{4s_x s_y / \pi + \alpha} \left(\frac{u_{*,hi}}{G}\right)^3 \left(\frac{U_h}{u_{*,hi}}\right)^3$$

Meyers & Meneveau (2012), Wind Energy 15, 305-317

$$z_{0,hi} = z_h \left( 1 + \frac{D}{2z_h} \right)^{\beta} \exp\left( -\left[ \frac{\pi C_T}{8\kappa^2 s_x s_y} + \left( \ln\left[ \frac{z_h}{z_{0,ground}} \left( 1 - \frac{D}{2z_h} \right)^{\beta} \right] \right)^{-2} \right]^{-1/2} \right)$$
  
where  $\beta = \frac{28\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}c_{ft}}}{1 + 28\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}c_{ft}}},$ 



#### Use of "top-down" model ( $Z_{0,hi}$ ) to find $s_{opt}$



#### At common s ~ 7D, 10-20% suboptimal - "use ~15 D instead"

Meyers & Meneveau (2012), Wind Energy 15, 305-317

#### Effects of large wind farms on scalar fluxes: Heat and moisture



But: Farm increases turbulence in wakes and  $u_{*,hi}$  is increased, but  $u_{*,lo}$  is DECREASED. Net effect?



Cft

0.009

0.01

1.33 0.014 0.025

0.029

0.012 0.017

0.017 0.038

0.029 0.051

0.051

0.7

0.88

 $c'_{ft}$ 

0.011

0.013

#### Horizontally averaged scalar flux from LES



10-15% increase, not strongly dependent on loading

#### Horizontally averaged scalar balance: constant flux

$$q_{H}^{WT} = \begin{cases} \frac{u_{*,lo}\kappa z}{Pr_{T}^{WT}} \frac{d[\theta_{s} - \theta(\tilde{z})]}{dz} & (z_{0,s} < z < z_{h} - D/2) \\ \frac{(u_{*,lo}\kappa z + \sqrt{c_{ft}/2}\langle \tilde{u}(z_{h})\rangle D)}{Pr_{T}^{WT}} \frac{d[\theta_{s} - \theta(\tilde{z})]}{dz} & (z_{h} - D/2 < z < z_{h}) \\ \frac{(u_{*,hi}\kappa z + \sqrt{c_{ft}/2}\langle \tilde{u}(z_{h})\rangle D)}{Pr_{T}^{WT}} \frac{d[\theta_{s} - \theta(\tilde{z})]}{dz} & (z_{h} < z < z_{h} + D/2) \\ \frac{u_{*,hi}\kappa z}{Pr_{T}^{WT}} \frac{d[\theta_{s} - \theta(\tilde{z})]}{dz} & (z_{h} + D/2 < z < H) \end{cases}$$

#### Horizontally averaged scalar balance: constant flux

#### For imposed geostrophic wind, ratio of scalar flux with and without wind farm

$$\frac{q_{H}^{WT}}{q_{H}^{0}} = \frac{u_{*,hi}}{u_{*}} \frac{Pr_{T}^{0}}{Pr_{T}^{WT}} \left\{ \frac{\ln\left(\frac{u_{*,hi}}{fz_{0,s}}\right) - kC + \frac{u_{*,hi}}{u_{*,lo}} \ln\left[\frac{z_{h}}{z_{0,s}}\left(1 - \frac{D}{2z_{h}}\right)^{\beta}\right] - \ln\left[\frac{z_{h}}{z_{0,s}}\left(1 + \frac{D}{2z_{h}}\right)^{\beta}\right]}{\ln\left(\frac{u_{*}}{fz_{0,s}}\right) - kC} \right\}$$

Term 1: factor due to increased turbulence in wake

Term 2: factor due to "dead water region", screened region below WT

$$\frac{u_{*,hi}}{u_*} = \left[1 - \frac{\ln\left(\frac{z_{0,hi}}{z_{0,lo}}\right)}{\ln\left(\frac{U_G}{fz_{0,lo}}\right) - C_*}\right]^{-1}$$

#### LES measured and model terms as function of loading (neutral stratification)

For imposed geostrophic wind, ratio of scalar flux with and without wind farm (symbols=LES)



Where does the kinetic energy at wind turbines come from? Examine fluxes of kinetic energy

#### **Classic Betz analysis and limit:**

#### Horizontal fluxes of kinetic energy



For **single** wind turbine, extracted power = difference in front and back fluxes of kinetic energy

$$P = \frac{1}{2}\rho \left(A_1 V_1^3 - A_2 V_2^3\right) = \frac{1}{2}C_P \rho A_d V_1^3$$

 $a_{opt} = \frac{1}{3}, \qquad C_{P-\max} = \frac{16}{27}$ 

+ wake models, etc..

### Mechanical Energy in horizontally averaged horizontal flow and fluxes in FD-WTABL



For **multiple** ( $\infty$ ) wind turbines in fully developed WTABL, extracted power = must be brought to wind turbine by vertical fluxes of kinetic energy:

$$\frac{d\frac{1}{2}\langle u \rangle_{xy}^{2}}{dt} = -\varepsilon_{turb} - \varepsilon_{disp} - \frac{d}{dz} \left( \left\langle \overline{u'w'} \right\rangle_{xy} \langle u \rangle_{xy} + \left\langle \overline{u''w'} \right\rangle_{xy} \langle u \rangle_{xy} - \left\langle u \right\rangle_{xy} \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dp_{\infty}}{dx} - P_{T}(z)$$

Turbulence-mediated flux of Kinetic energy in horizontally averaged mean flow

$$\Theta(z) = -\left\langle \overline{u'w'} \right\rangle_{xy} \left\langle \overline{u} \right\rangle_{xy}$$

#### **Measure fluxes of KE from LES** (+ experiments):



"Flow visualization using momentum and energy transport tubes and applications to turbulent flow in wind farms" J. Meyers & C.M. 2013 (JFM)

Consider linear momentum transport of mean flow, in statistically steady turbulent flow

$$F_{m,j} = \overline{u}_1 \ \overline{u}_j + \overline{u'_1 u'_j} - 2\nu \overline{S}_{1j}$$

Mean-flow x₁-momentum transport **vector field** ↓ Tangent lines – bundles – tubes

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j}(\rho F_{m,j}) = -\frac{\partial \overline{p}}{\partial x_1} + \rho \overline{f_1}$$

 $\iint_{A_2} \rho F_{m,j} n_j \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \iint_{A_1} \rho F_{m,j} n_j \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = -\iiint_{\Omega} \left(\frac{\partial \overline{p}}{\partial x_1}\right) \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \iiint_{\Omega} \rho \overline{f_1} \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}$ 

Consider total mechanical energy transport of mean flow, in statistically steady turbulent flow

$$E = \frac{1}{2}\overline{u}_i\overline{u}_i + \frac{1}{\rho}\hat{p}$$

$$\overline{F}_{E,j} = E \ \overline{u}_j + \overline{u'_i u'_j} \ \overline{u}_i - 2\nu \overline{S}_{ij} \ \overline{u}_i$$

Mean-flow total energy transport vector field

**Tangent lines – bundles – tubes** 

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j}}(\rho \overline{F}_{E,j}) = -\rho \overline{u_{i}' u_{j}'} \frac{\partial \overline{u}_{i}}{\partial x_{j}} - 2\mu \overline{S}_{ij} \overline{S}_{ij} + \rho \overline{u}_{i} \overline{f}_{i}$$

$$\iint_{A_2} \rho \overline{F}_{E,j} n_j \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \iint_{A_1} \rho \overline{F}_{E,j} n_j \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} = - \iiint_{\Omega} \left( 2\mu \overline{S}_{ij} \overline{S}_{ij} - \rho \overline{u'_i u'_j} \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} \right) \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x} + \iiint_{\Omega} \rho \overline{u}_i (\overline{f}_i + f_{i,\infty}) \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}$$



#### Tutorial examples for laminar flows: momentum transport lines and tubes in **laminar Couette** flow:



#### Tutorial examples for laminar flows: momentum transport lines and tubes in **laminar Couette** flow:



**laminar Poiseulle** flow:  $F_{m,j} = u_1 u_j - 2vS_{1j}$ 



#### laminar round jet:



Energy transport tubes in wind farms:



#### Effects of various wind farm layouts on transport tube geometry



## Energy transport lines in "Poincaré sections" & attractors & basins of attraction



## **Concluding remarks**

- LES of large wind farms (deep arrays) needed to better understand details of coupling of large man-made systems and the Atmospheric Boundary Layer.
- New, more realistic, effective roughness scale proposed.
- Surface fluxes of scalars: competing mechanisms increased turbulence above + screening below = 10-15% increases in fluxes
- New flow-viz approach: energy transport tubes..









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#### Wind-tunnel measurements: mechanics of vertical KE entrainment??



#### Wind-tunnel measurements: mechanics of vertical KE entrainment??



## Wind-tunnel measurements Strakes Flow DĴĦ $x_1$ <u>2.9 m</u> \_





i rpm measurements

#### **Stereo-PIV system**

TSI System with:

- Double pulse Nd:YAG laser(120 mJ/ pulse)
  - Laser sheet thickness of 1.2 mm
  - Time between pulses of 50 ms
  - Optical sensor external trigger for phase lock measurements
- Two high resolution cross/auto correlation digital CCD cameras with
  - a frame rate of 16 frames/sec.
  - Interrogation area of 20 cm by 20 cm





#### **PIV data planes:**



Statistics:

2000 vector maps for each front plane 12000 samples each back plane (6 phase-locked cases) Mean streamwise velocity



#### **Velocity maps:**

#### Mean transverse velocity



#### **Velocity maps:**

#### (negative) Reynolds shear stress



#### **Horizontally averaged profiles:**



#### **Horizontally averaged profiles - kinetic energy terms:**

$$\frac{d \frac{1}{2} \langle u \rangle_{x_z}^2}{dt} = -\varepsilon_{turb} - \varepsilon_{canop} - \frac{d}{dy} \left( \langle \overline{u^* v^*} \rangle_{x_z} \langle u \rangle_{x_z} + \langle \overline{u}^* \overline{v}^* \rangle_{x_z} \langle u \rangle_{x_z} \right) - \langle u \rangle_{x_z} \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dp_{\infty}}{dx} - P_T(y)$$
found to be negligible here
$$\frac{d \frac{1}{2} \langle u \rangle_{x_z}^2}{dt} = -\varepsilon_{turb} - \varepsilon_{canop} - \frac{d}{dy} \left( \langle \overline{u^* v^*} \rangle_{x_z} \langle u \rangle_{x_z} + \langle \overline{u}^* \overline{v}^* \rangle_{x_z} \langle u \rangle_{x_z} \langle u \rangle_{x_z} \right) - \langle u \rangle_{x_z} \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dp_{\infty}}{dx} - P_T(y)$$
found to be negligible here
$$\frac{d \frac{1}{2} \langle u \rangle_{x_z}^2}{dt} = -\varepsilon_{turb} - \varepsilon_{canop} - \frac{d}{dy} \left( \langle \overline{u^* v^*} \rangle_{x_z} \langle u \rangle_$$

#### to scale: vertical entrainment (turbulence) dominates



#### U.S. Energy Flow Trends Net Primary Resource Consumption ~97 Quads





Source: Production and end-use data from Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Review 2002. \*Net fossil-fuel electrical imports. \*\*Biomass/other includes wood, waste, alcohol, geothermal, solar, and wind. June 2004 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory http://eed.linl.gov/flow