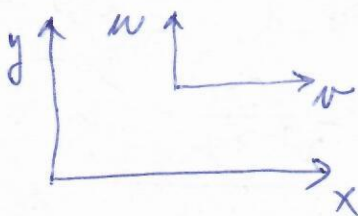


# Rossby waves

→ effect of the Coriolis force

→ Coriolis parameter  $f = 2\Omega \sin \phi$   
 ↑  
 latitude

Local Cartesian model:



$\rho \neq \rho(z)$ , thin layer

~~horizontal~~ considered forces - Coriolis & pressure gradient

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = f v - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \quad (*) \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = -f w - \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} \quad (**)$$

→ non-divergent velocity field

→ ignore mean flow in x (rotation). Adding constant  $N_0$  not a problem, adding  $N_0(y)$  - differential rotation - is a complication

non-divergent flow ⇒ has stream function

$$v = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}; \quad w = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \quad \leftarrow \text{allows to relate } \psi \text{ to isobars}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} : \quad \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) = f \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} = f \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} : \quad \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) = -f \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - w \frac{df}{dy} - \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial y^2} = f \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial y^2} + \frac{df}{dy} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \underbrace{\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}}_{=0} \right) = f \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} \right) - \left( \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial y^2} \right) + \frac{df}{dy} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}$$

$$\Delta p = f \Delta \psi + \frac{df}{dy} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}$$

$\Rightarrow$  if  $f \neq f(y) \rightarrow$  streamlines and isobars coincide  $\Rightarrow$  balance between Coriolis force and pressure gradient force  $\rightarrow$  no space for waves or oscillations  $\rightarrow$  geostrophic balance.

$f = f(y)$  allows for imbalance which may drive oscillations

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (**): \quad \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = -f \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x \partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (*): \quad \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right) = f \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{df}{dy} v - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x \partial y}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right) = -f \underbrace{\left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)}_{=0} - \frac{df}{dy} v$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} \right) = - \frac{df}{dy} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \Delta \psi = - \frac{df}{dy} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$$

for  $f = f(y)$  relative (local) vorticity is not conserved — wave driving

$\rightarrow$  solution:  $\psi = A \cos(ny) e^{ik(x - c_r t)}, \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$   
 $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

wave propagates  $\parallel x$

$$\beta \equiv \frac{df}{dy} = 2\Omega \cos \varphi_0 / r_0 \quad r_0 \dots \text{tachocline radius}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_r = \ominus \frac{\beta}{k^2 + n^2}$$

$\rightarrow$  retrograde propagation with respect to co-rotating frame

$\rightarrow$  longer wavelengths propagate faster westward

since  $\nabla^2 \psi = f \nabla^2 \psi + \frac{df}{dy} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}$

$$\Rightarrow \psi = A \left[ f \cos ny + c_1 n \sin ny \right] e^{ik(x-c_1 t)}$$

velocities  $\rightarrow$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx}{dt} = u = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = A n \sin ny \cos [k(x-c_1 t)] \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = v = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = -A k \cos ny \sin [k(x-c_1 t)] \end{array} \right.$$

$x = x(t)$   
 $y = y(t)$

$\rightarrow$  counter-clockwise around lows,  
clockwise around highs

$\hookrightarrow$  the same as when nearly  
geostrophic