

# Waves and their role in the general circulation of the atmosphere

- 1 Nonrotating stratified flow: internal gravity waves and vertical momentum transport
- 2 Quasigeostrophic flow: Waves, instability, and momentum transport
- 3 The circulation of the stratosphere and mesosphere
- 4 Stirring and mixing in the stratosphere: Transport time scales and the distribution of trace gases
- 5 Eddies and tropospheric climate

FDEPS 2010

Alan Plumb, MIT

Nov 2010

# Lecture 1:

## Nonrotating stratified flow: internal gravity waves and vertical momentum transport

- (i) 2D nonrotating, stratified flow
- (ii) Internal gravity waves
- (iii) momentum transport
- (iv) internal gravity wave breaking

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(i) 2D nonrotating, stratified flow

## Log-pressure coordinates for hydrostatic, compressible, flow

log-pressure coordinates, pseudoheight

$$z(p) = -H \ln p$$

hydrostatic balance (appropriate for large scale, low-frequency waves)

( $z_g$  is *geometric* height;  $\rho_g$  is density in geometric coordinates)

$$\partial p / \partial z_g = -g \rho_g$$

constant  $H = RT_*/g$ , where  $T_*$  is constant reference temperature

$$\rightarrow dz = -H \frac{dp}{p} = gH \frac{\rho}{p} dz_g = \frac{T_*}{T} dz_g \quad \left( \left| \frac{T}{T_*} - 1 \right| < 0.2 \right)$$

potential temperature

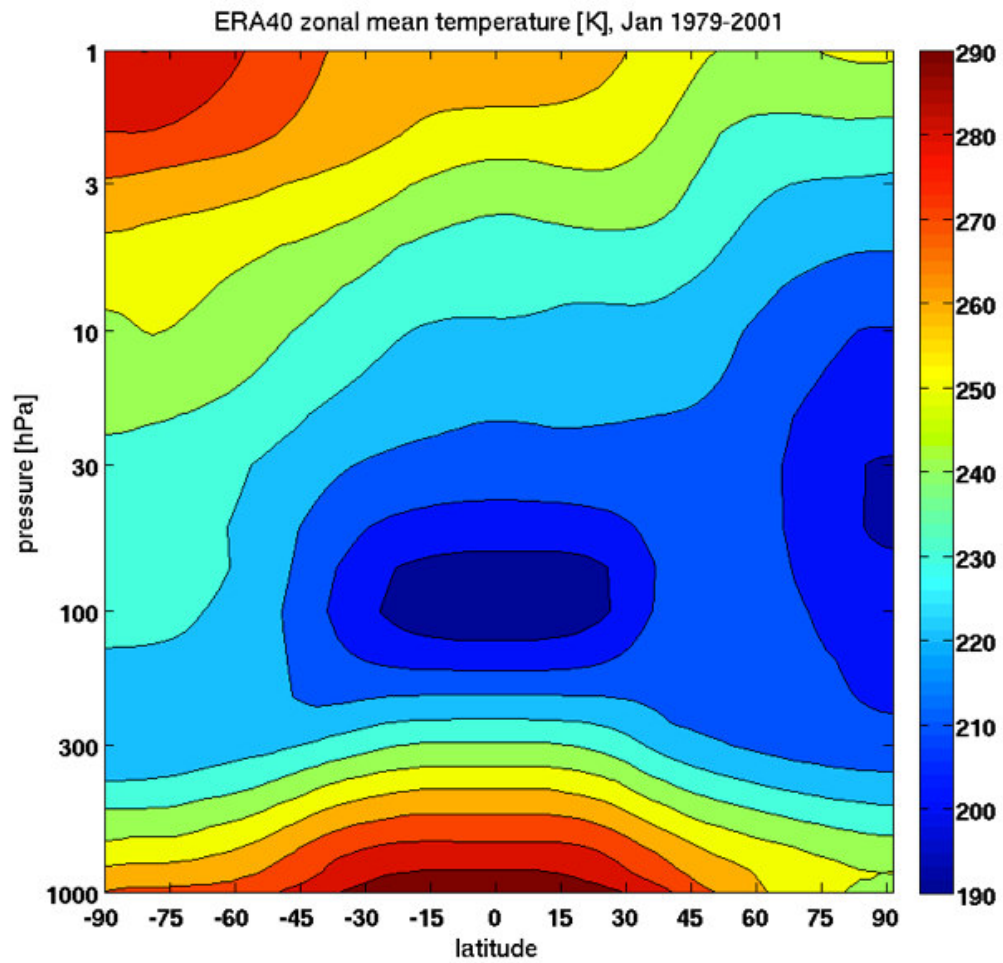
$$\theta = T(p_*/p)^\kappa$$

where  $p_* = \text{constant}$  (1000hPa) and  $\kappa = R/c_p = 2/7$

(specific entropy =  $c_p \ln \theta + \text{constant}$ )

$\rightarrow c_p T = \Pi(p) \theta$  where  $\Pi(p) = c_p (p/p_*)^\kappa$  is the Exner function

# January climatology of T



## Log-pressure coordinates for hydrostatic, compressible, flow

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## Two-dimensional hydrostatic, compressible, nonrotating flow

(1) momentum

pressure gradient force per unit mass

$$-\frac{1}{\rho_g} \left( \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \right)_{z_g} = \frac{1}{\rho_g} \left( \frac{\partial p}{\partial z_g} \right) \left( \frac{\partial z_g}{\partial x} \right)_p = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \quad ; \quad \phi = gz_g$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\frac{du}{dt} = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + F} \quad ; \quad F \text{ is other (e.g. frictional) force per unit mass}$$

(2) mass continuity

mass element is  $\rho_g dx dy dz_g = \frac{p(z)}{gH} dx dy dz$

so log- $p$  coordinate density is

$$\rho = \frac{p}{gH} \quad \rightarrow \quad \rho \text{ constant at constant } p$$

$$p(z) = p_0 \exp\left(-\frac{z}{H}\right) \quad \rightarrow \quad \rho(z) = \rho_0 \exp\left(-\frac{z}{H}\right) \quad , \quad \rho_0 = \frac{p_0}{gH}$$

$\rightarrow$  mass per unit area between coordinate surfaces  $z, z + dz$  constant,  
so mass flux is nondivergent:

$$\boxed{\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0}$$

(3) entropy budget

$$\rho c_p \frac{dT}{dt} - \frac{dp}{dt} = J \rightarrow \boxed{\frac{d\theta}{dt} = (\rho \Pi)^{-1} J}$$

( $J$  is heating rate per unit volume)

(4) hydrostatic balance

$$\frac{\partial z_g}{\partial p} = -\frac{1}{g \rho_g}$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{g \partial z_g}{-H p^{-1} \partial p} = \frac{g p}{H} \frac{1}{g \rho_g} = \frac{R}{H} T \quad (\text{ideal gas law})$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \frac{\kappa \Pi}{H} \theta}$$



# Two-dimensional hydrostatic, compressible, nonrotating flow

Full set of equations

$$\frac{du}{dt} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + F$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial(\rho w)}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} + w \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} = (\rho \Pi)^{-1} J$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} - \frac{\kappa}{H} \Pi \theta = 0$$

(ii) Internal gravity waves

## 2D internal gravity waves in a compressible fluid (simplest case)

inviscid, adiabatic ( $F = 0 = J$ )  
motionless basic state

$$\theta = \theta_0(z)$$

$$\phi_0(z) = \kappa H^{-1} \int_0^z \theta_0(z') \Pi(z') dz'$$

small amplitude perturbations  $\varepsilon \ll 1$   
[neglect terms  $O(\varepsilon^2)$ ]

$$\frac{\partial u'}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial u'}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial(\rho w')}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial t} + w' \frac{d\theta_0}{dz} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial z} - \frac{\kappa}{H} \Pi \theta' = 0$$

All coefficients are functions of  $z$ , look for solutions

$$\begin{pmatrix} u' \\ w' \\ \phi' \\ \theta' \end{pmatrix} = \text{Re} \begin{pmatrix} U(z) \\ W(z) \\ \Phi(z) \\ \Theta(z) \end{pmatrix} \exp[i(kx + ly - \omega t)]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u'}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial x} &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial(\rho w')}{\partial z} &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial t} + w' \frac{d\theta_0}{dz} &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial z} - \frac{\kappa}{H} \Pi \theta' &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

→

$$\begin{aligned} -i\omega U + ik\Phi &= 0 \\ ikU + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d}{dz}(\rho W) &= 0 \\ -i\omega\Theta + W \frac{d\theta_0}{dz} &= 0 \\ \frac{d\Phi}{dz} - \frac{\kappa}{H} \Pi \Theta &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Reduce to single equation for  $\Phi$ :

$$e^{z/H} \frac{d}{dz} \left( \frac{\omega^2}{N^2} e^{-z/H} \frac{d\Phi}{dz} \right) + (k^2 + l^2) \Phi = 0$$

where

$$N^2(z) = \frac{\kappa}{H} \Pi \frac{d\theta_0}{dz} = \frac{g}{T_*} \left( \frac{dT_0}{dz} + \frac{\kappa}{H} T_0 \right)$$

→ square of *buoyancy frequency*

Solution for constant  $N^2$ :

$$\phi' = \text{Re} \Phi_0 \exp\left(\frac{z}{2H}\right) \exp[i(kx + mz - \omega t)]$$

where

$$m = \pm \sqrt{\frac{N^2 k^2}{\omega^2} - \frac{1}{4H^2}}$$

or

$$\omega = \pm N \sqrt{\frac{k^2}{m^2 + 1/4H^2}}$$

Note that if  $m$  real:  
(i) wave propagates in vertical  
and  
(ii) grows with height as  
 $e^{z/2H} \sim \rho^{-1/2}$

Assume  $m^2 \gg 1/4H^2 \rightarrow 2\pi/m \ll 4\pi H \simeq 100\text{km}$   
 — good assumption for important atmospheric waves

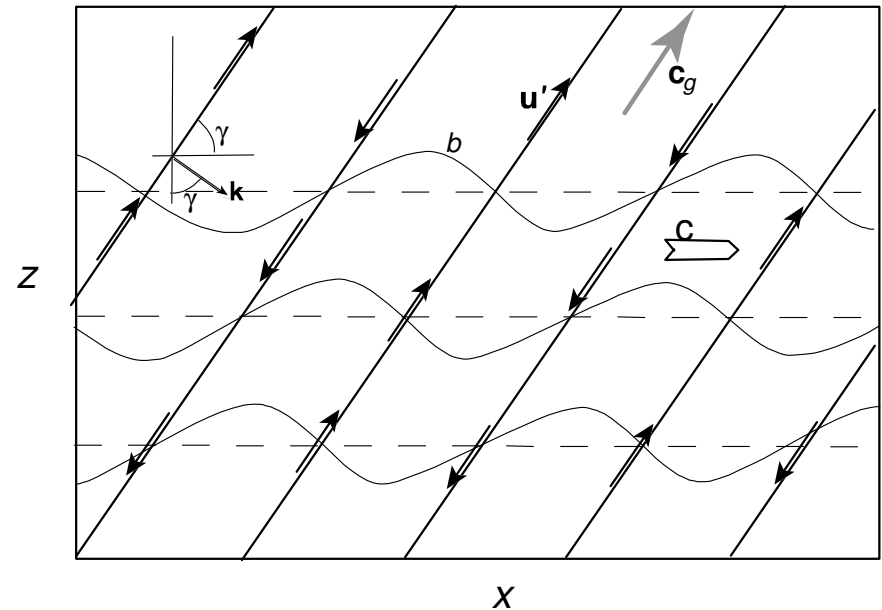
$$\omega = \pm N \frac{k}{m} = \pm N \tan \gamma$$

( $\gamma = \tan^{-1} k/m$ ); nonhydrostatic case:  $\omega = \pm N \sin \gamma$   
 group velocity:

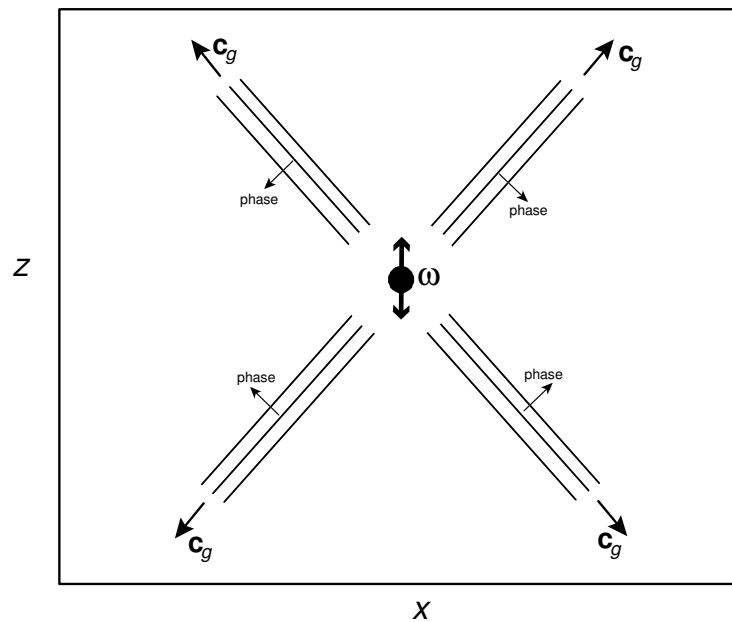
(hydrostatic approximation  
 valid for  $\omega \ll N$ )

$$\mathbf{c}_g = \left( \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k}, \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial m} \right) = \pm \frac{N}{m} \left( 1, -\frac{k}{m} \right)$$

- (i)  $\rightarrow \mathbf{c}_g \cdot \mathbf{k} = 0$  : group propagation is *along* phase lines, at angles  $\pm \gamma$
- (ii) continuity eq.  $\rightarrow \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{u}' = 0$  – fluid motions are along phase lines
- (iii) vertical components of group and phase velocities have *opposite* signs.



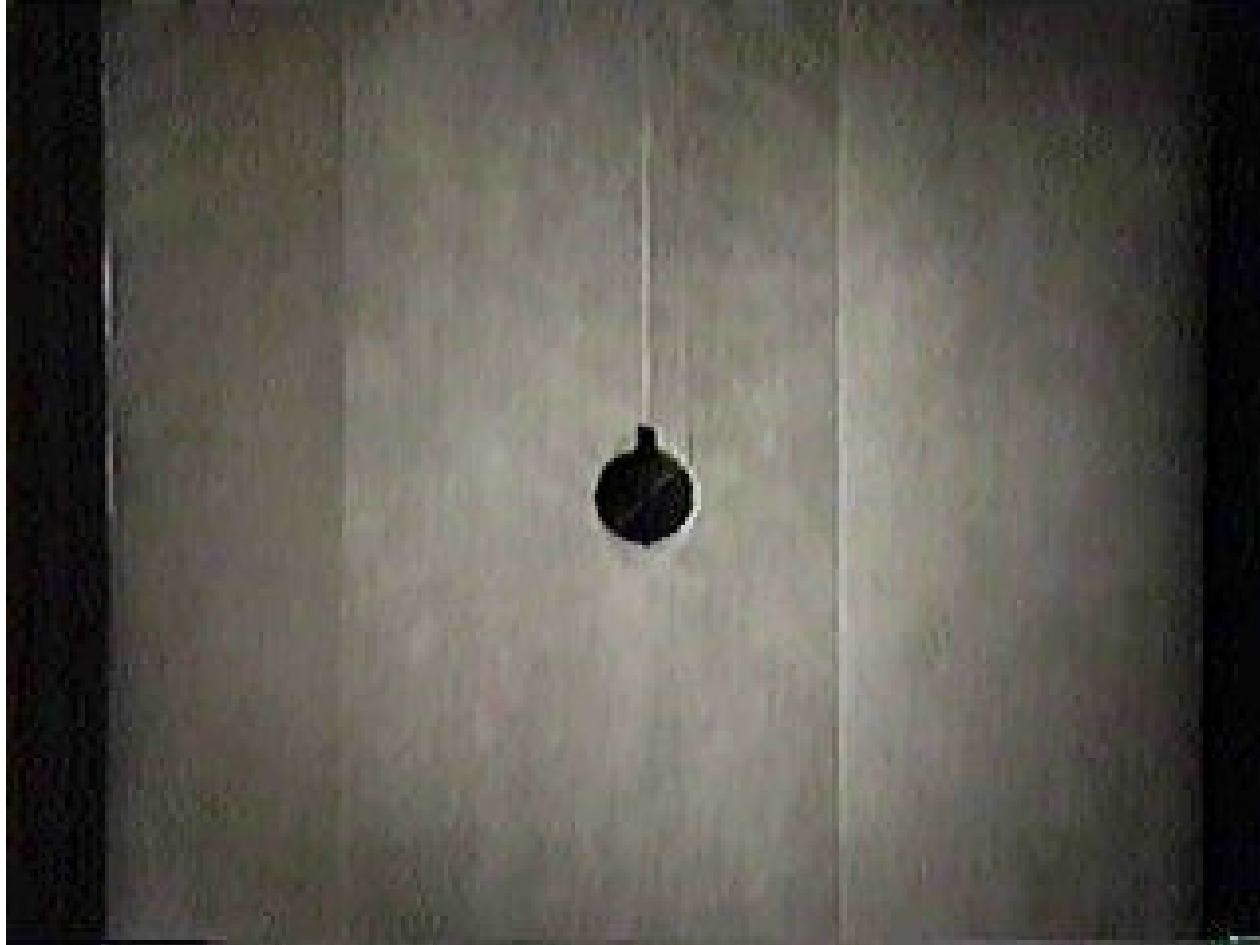
From localized source of frequency  $\omega$ , waves form rays at angles  $\gamma = \sin^{-1}(\omega/N)$  to horizontal, with phase propagation *across* rays:



[LINK to MOVIE](#)

実験室の中の空と海

Atmosphere and Ocean  
in a Laboratory



[http://denkou-k.gaia.h.kyoto-u.ac.jp/library/gfd\\_exp/](http://denkou-k.gaia.h.kyoto-u.ac.jp/library/gfd_exp/)



## Waves in shear

(slowly varying background state, varies on height scale  $h \gg m^{-1}$ )

$$\phi' = \text{Re} \Phi(z) e^{ikx} = \text{Re} \Phi_0(z) \exp\left(\frac{z}{2H}\right) \exp[i(kx + mz - \omega t)]$$

$\Phi(z)$  slowly varying [ $m|\Phi_0| \gg |d\Phi_0/dz|$ ].  $m = m(z)$ , also slowly varying.

$-i\omega U + ik\Phi = 0$	$\rightarrow U = \frac{k}{\omega} \Phi = \frac{k}{\omega} \Phi_0 e^{z/2H} e^{imz}$
$ikU + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d}{dz}(\rho W) = 0$	
$-i\omega \Theta + W \frac{d\theta_0}{dz} = 0$	$\rightarrow W = \frac{i\omega}{d\theta_0/dz} \Theta = \frac{i\omega}{N^2} \left( \frac{1}{2H} + im \right) \Phi_0 e^{z/2H} e^{imz}$
$\frac{d\Phi}{dz} - \frac{\kappa}{H} \Pi \Theta = 0$	$\rightarrow \Theta = \frac{H}{\kappa \Pi} \frac{d\Phi}{dz} = \frac{H}{\kappa \Pi} \left( \frac{1}{2H} + im \right) \Phi_0 e^{z/2H} e^{imz}$

$$\overline{u'w'} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(UW^*) = -\frac{km}{2N^2} |\Phi_0|^2 e^{z/H}$$

## Waves in shear

(slowly varying background state, varies on height scale  $h \gg m^{-1}$ )

$$\phi' = \text{Re} \Phi(z) e^{ikx} = \text{Re} \Phi_0(z) \exp\left(\frac{z}{2H}\right) \exp[i(kx + mz - \omega t)]$$

$\Phi(z)$  slowly varying [ $m|\Phi_0| \gg |d\Phi_0/dz|$ ].  $m = m(z)$ , also slowly varying.

Momentum flux is constant: (we'll see this later)

$$F_0 = \overline{\rho u' w'} = -\frac{1}{2} \rho_0 \frac{km(z)}{N^2(z)} |\Phi_0(z)|^2$$

$$\rightarrow |\Phi_0(z)|^2 = -2 \frac{F_0}{\rho_0 k} \frac{N^2(z)}{m(z)}$$

so

$$\phi' = \left(\frac{2F_0}{\rho_0}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{Re} \left[ \frac{N^2(z)}{k |m(z)|} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{z}{2H}\right) \exp[i(kx + mz - \omega t)]$$

varying mean state

density factor  
(usually dominates)

$$\phi' = \left( \frac{2F_0}{\rho_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \operatorname{Re} \left[ \frac{N^2(z)}{k |m(z)|} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{z}{2H}\right) \exp[i(kx + mz - \omega t)]$$

$$c_{gz} = \mp \frac{km}{N^2} (\bar{u} - c)^3 \simeq \frac{k}{N} (c - \bar{u})^2$$

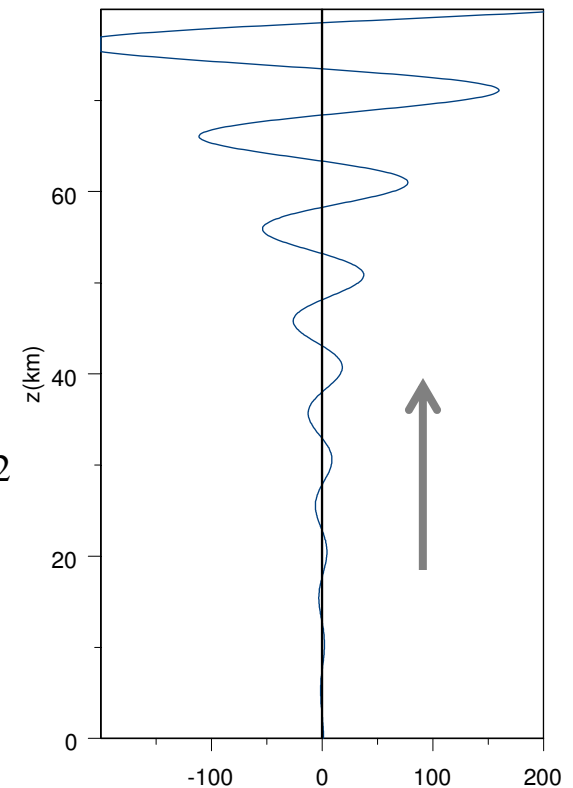
Typical values:

$$2\pi/k = 500\text{km}, c - \bar{u} = 30\text{ms}^{-1}, N^2 = 4 \times 10^{-4}\text{s}^{-2}$$

$$c_{g,z} \simeq 5\text{ms}^{-1}$$

→ 0 to 100 km in 20000s  $\simeq$  6 hr

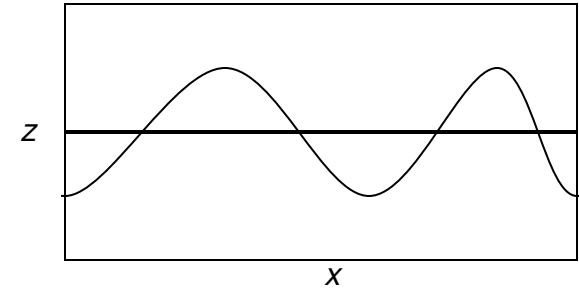
→ weakly dissipated



(iii) momentum transport

## Zonal Means

Define (Eulerian) zonal mean for  $a(x, y, z, t)$ :  
[periodic in  $x$ :  $a(x + L, y, z, t) = a(x, y, z, t)$ ]



$$\bar{a}(y, z, t) = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L a(x, y, z, t) dx$$

eddy (wave) component

$$a'(x, y, z, t) = a(x, y, z, t) - \bar{a}(y, z, t)$$

by definition

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{a'} &= 0 ; & \overline{\left( \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \right)} &= 0 : \\ \overline{\left( \frac{\partial a}{\partial [y, z, t]} \right)} &= \frac{\partial \bar{a}}{\partial [y, z, t]} \\ \overline{a \frac{\partial b}{\partial x}} &= \overline{\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} ab \right)} - \overline{b \frac{\partial a}{\partial x}} = -\overline{b \frac{\partial a}{\partial x}} \end{aligned}$$

## Action of waves on the mean state

Mean momentum eq.:

$$\left( \overline{u' \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \overline{u'^2}}{\partial x} = 0 \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} + \bar{w} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial z} &= \bar{G} - \overline{u' \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x}} - \overline{w' \frac{\partial u'}{\partial z}} \\ &= \bar{G} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \rho \overline{u' w'} \right) + \overline{u' \left( \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\rho w') \right)} \\ &= \bar{G} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \rho \overline{u' w'} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Mean continuity eq.:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\rho \bar{w}) = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\rho \bar{w}) = 0$$

→  $\bar{w} = 0$  everywhere, if zero on  $z = 0$  and

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} = \bar{G} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \rho \overline{u' w'} \right)$$

Similarly,

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\theta}}{\partial t} = (\rho \Pi)^{-1} \bar{J} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \rho \overline{w' \theta'} \right)$$

→ eddy fluxes of momentum,  $\rho \overline{u' w'}$ , and heat  $\rho \overline{w' \theta'}$ .

## Eddy fluxes for steady, inviscid, adiabatic waves in shear

linearized equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial u'}{\partial t} + u_0 \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x} + w' \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial x} &= G' \\
 \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial(\rho w')}{\partial z} &= 0 \\
 \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial t} + u_0 \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial x} + w' \frac{\partial \theta_0}{\partial z} &= (\rho \Pi)^{-1} J' \\
 \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial z} - \frac{\kappa}{H} \tilde{\Pi} \theta' &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

(1) eddy heat flux

Multiply 3rd eq. by  $\theta'$  and average:

$$\overline{\theta' \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial t}} + u_0 \overline{\theta' \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial x}} + \overline{w' \theta' \frac{\partial \theta_0}{\partial z}} = \overline{\theta' J'}$$

But  $\overline{\theta' \partial \theta' / \partial x} = \frac{1}{2} \overline{\partial \theta'^2 / \partial x} = 0$ ; if wave *amplitudes* are steady,  $\overline{\theta'^2}$  is steady in time, for *adiabatic* eddies ( $J' = 0$ ) then,

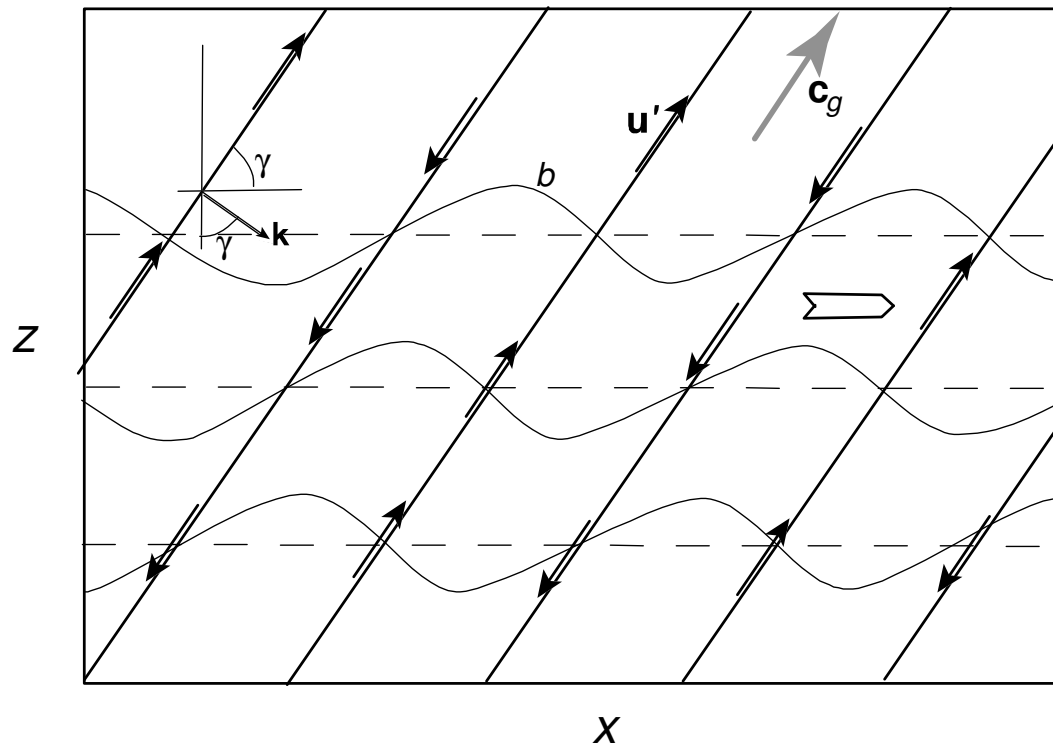
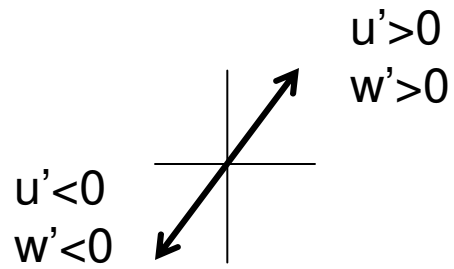
$$\overline{w' \theta'} = 0$$

→ steady, adiabatic ( $J' = 0$ ) waves have zero vertical heat flux.

If phase tilt is as shown:

$u'$ ,  $w'$ , positively correlated

→ momentum flux  $> 0$





## Momentum flux for steady, conservative ( $G' = J' = 0$ ) waves (detailed derivation)

First take mean of  $u' \times$  eddy momentum equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{u' \frac{\partial u'}{\partial t}} + u_0 \overline{u' \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x}} + \overline{u' w'} \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial z} + \overline{u' \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial x}} &= \overline{u' G'} \\ \rightarrow \overline{u' w'} \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial z} + \overline{u' \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial x}} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for steady *conservative* waves. But

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{u' \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial x}} &= \overline{\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (u' \phi')} - \overline{\phi' \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x}} = \frac{1}{\rho} \overline{\phi' \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\rho w')} \\ &= \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \langle \overline{\rho w' \phi'} \rangle - \overline{w' \frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial z}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \langle \overline{\rho w' \phi'} \rangle + \frac{\kappa}{H} \Pi \overline{w' \theta'} \\ &= \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \langle \overline{\rho w' \phi'} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow \overline{\rho u' w'} \frac{\partial u_0}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \langle \overline{\rho w' \phi'} \rangle = 0$$

for steady, conservative waves.

$$\frac{\partial u'}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial(\rho w')}{\partial z} = 0$$

From continuity, define streamfunction  $\xi$  such that

$$w' = -\frac{\partial \xi'}{\partial x} ; u' = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\rho \xi') .$$

Then write momentum eq. (since  $\partial/\partial t = -c \partial/\delta x$ )

$$\begin{aligned} (\bar{u} - c) \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x} + \frac{du}{dz} \frac{\partial \xi'}{\partial x} &= -\frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial x} \\ \rightarrow (\bar{u} - c)u' + \frac{du}{dz} \xi' &= -\phi' \end{aligned}$$

But

$$\overline{w' \xi'} = -\overline{\xi' \frac{\partial \xi'}{\partial x}} = 0$$

so

$$(\bar{u} - c) \overline{u' w'} = -\overline{w' \phi'}$$

and

$$\boxed{(u - c) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \langle \rho \overline{u' w'} \rangle = 0}$$

## Summary

steady, adiabatic, inviscid, waves ( $\bar{u} \neq c$ ):

$$\overline{w'\theta'} = 0 \ ; \ \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \langle \rho \overline{u'w'} \rangle = 0$$

momentum flux is constant — manifestation of *wave activity* conservation.  
[NB:  $\partial \langle \rho \overline{w'\phi'} \rangle / \partial z \neq 0$ , if  $\partial \bar{u} / \partial z \neq 0 \rightarrow$  “energy flux” not constant]

### Forcing of mean state:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} &= \bar{G} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \langle \rho \overline{u'w'} \rangle \\ \frac{\partial \bar{\theta}}{\partial t} &= (\rho \Pi)^{-1} \bar{J} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \langle \rho \overline{w'\theta'} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

special case of the *nonacceleration theorem*:

mean flow is indifferent to the presence of steady, conservative waves (unless waves influence  $\bar{G}$ ,  $\bar{J}$ ).

## Sign of the momentum flux

$$c_0 = \frac{\omega}{k} = \pm N \left( m^2 + \frac{1}{4H^2} \right)^{-1/2}$$

add mean flow  $\bar{u}$ :

$$c = c_0 + \bar{u} = \bar{u} \pm N \left( m^2 + \frac{1}{4H^2} \right)^{-1/2}$$

$$c_{gz} = k \frac{\partial c}{\partial m} = \mp N k m \left( m^2 + \frac{1}{4H^2} \right)^{-3/2} = \mp \frac{km}{N^2} (c - \bar{u})^3$$

Upward propagating wave:  $c_{gz} > 0 \rightarrow \text{sgn}(km) = \text{sgn}(\bar{u} - c)$ .

$$\phi' = \text{Re } \Phi(z) \exp\left(\frac{z}{2H}\right) \exp[i(kx + mz - \omega t)]$$

$$\rightarrow \overline{\rho u' w'} = -\frac{1}{2} \rho_0 \frac{km}{N^2} |\Phi(z)|^2$$

$$\rightarrow \text{sgn}(\overline{\rho u' w'}) = -\text{sgn}(km) = \text{sgn}(c - \bar{u})$$

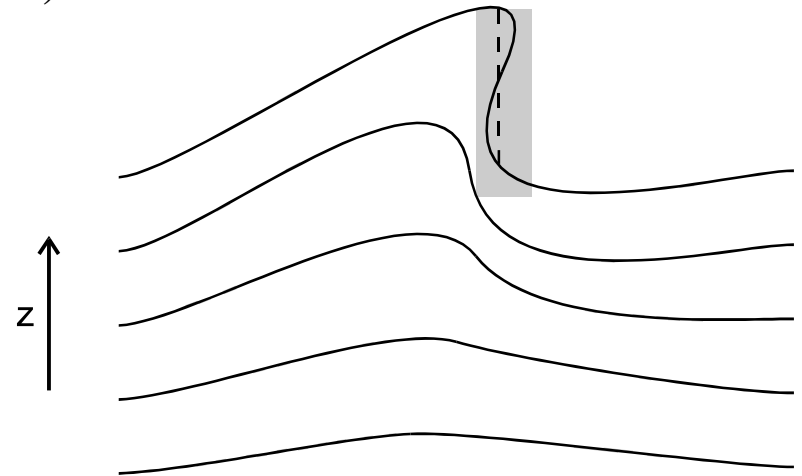
$\rightarrow$  momentum flux is nonzero for  $m \neq 0$ , and its sign is that of  $c - u$  (“pseudomomentum rule”)

(iv) internal gravity wave breaking

**Gravity wave breaking (of the simplest kind)**  
(Lindzen, JGR, 86, 9707, 1981; JAS, 42, 301, 1985)

Wave breaks by convective instability where

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \bar{\theta}}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \bar{\theta}}{\partial z} \left[ 1 + \frac{\partial \theta' / \partial z}{\partial \bar{\theta} / \partial z} \right] < 0$$



$$\phi' = \text{Re} \left( \frac{2F_0}{\rho_0 k} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[ -\frac{N^2(z)}{m(z)} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{z}{2H}\right) \exp[i(kx + mz - \omega t)]$$

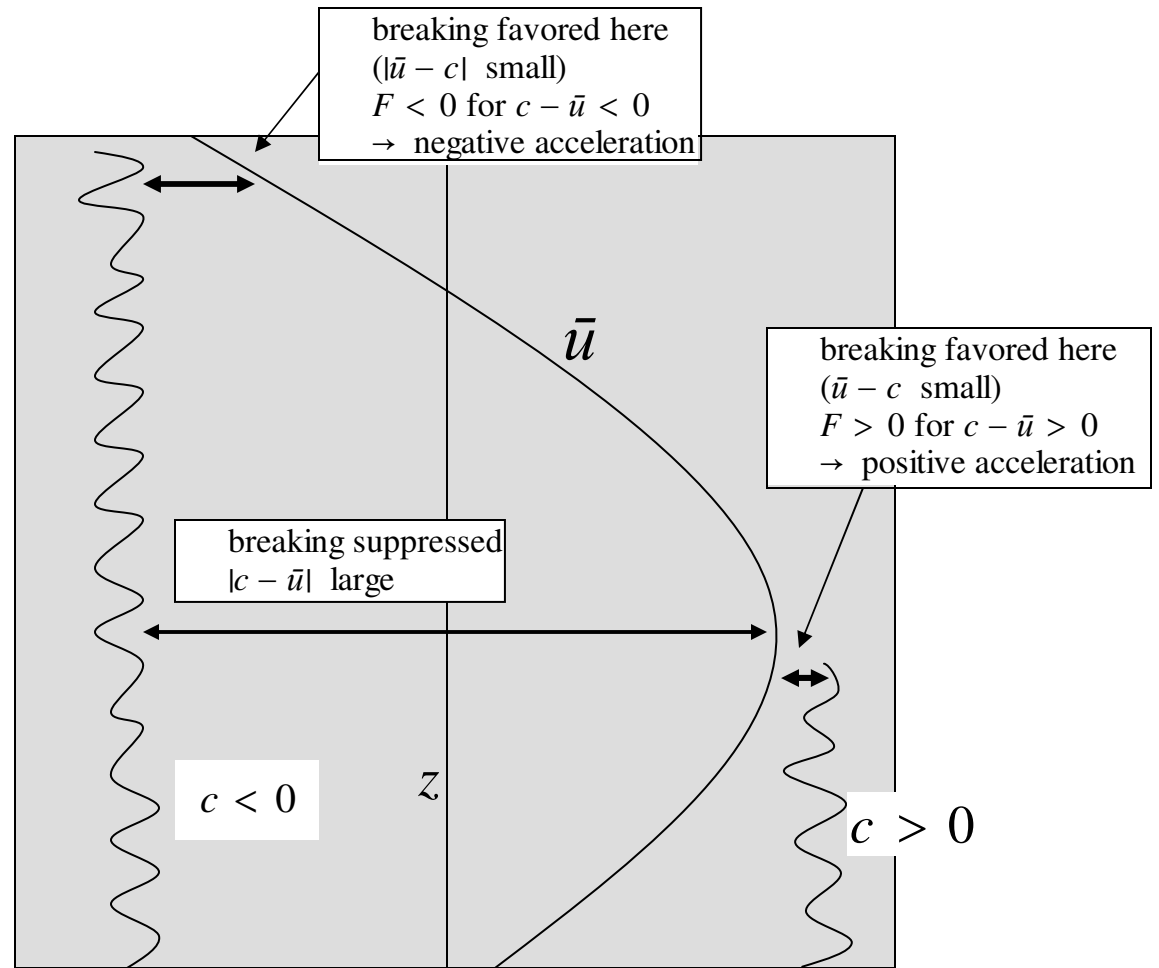
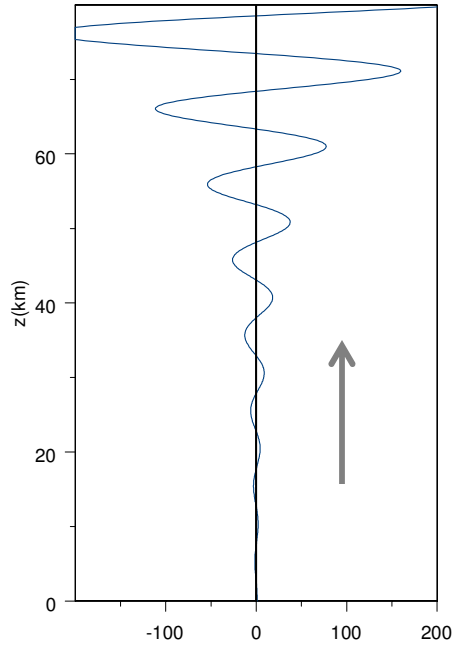
$$\frac{\partial \phi'}{\partial z} - \frac{\kappa}{H} \Pi \theta' = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial z} \simeq \text{Re} \left( \frac{2F_0}{\rho_0 k} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{HN^{5/2}}{\kappa \Pi (c - \bar{u})^2 \sqrt{-m(z)}} \exp\left[\frac{z}{2H}\right] \exp[i(kx + mz - \omega t)]$$

$$\left| \frac{\partial \theta' / \partial z}{\partial \bar{\theta} / \partial z} \right| = \left( \frac{2F_0}{\rho_0 k} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{N}{(c - \bar{u})^2 \sqrt{-m(z)}} e^{z/2H} \sim \sqrt{\frac{N}{(c - \bar{u})^3}} e^{z/2H} \quad (\text{for } m^2 \gg \frac{1}{4H^2})$$

— breaking favored at large  $z$  and/or small  $|c - \bar{u}|$

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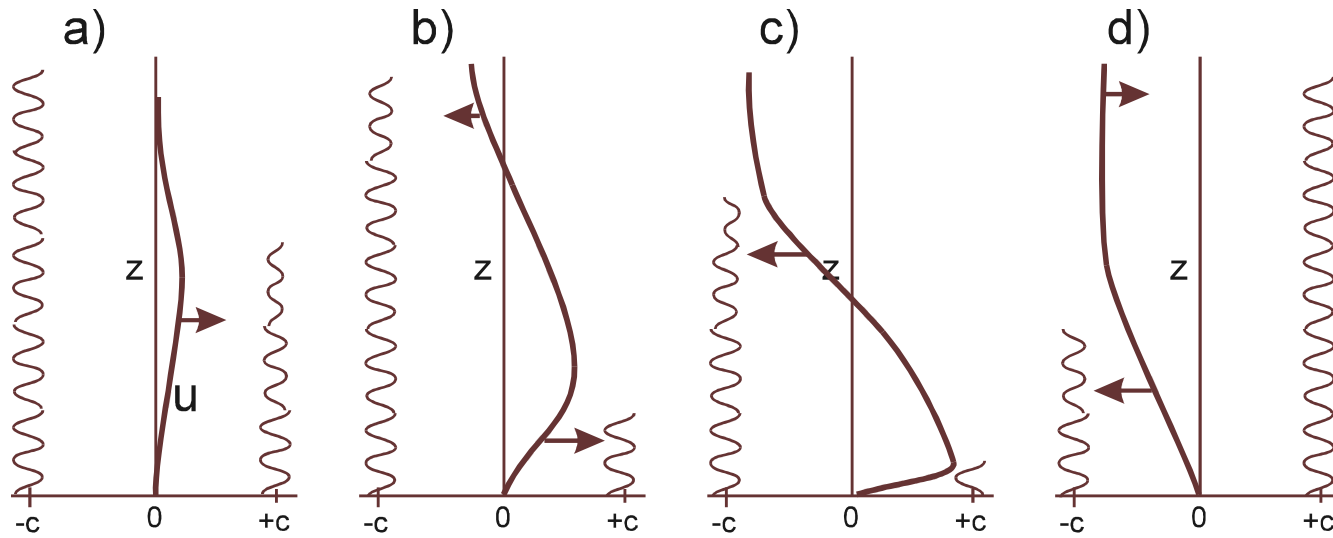


$\rightarrow$  Internal gravity wave breaking can *reinforce* zonal flow  
 (we'll see importance of this later)





Oscillating mean flow can be produced by two upward propagating waves of opposite zonal phase speed:



実験室の中の空と海

“QBO” in the lab

Atmosphere and Ocean  
in a Laboratory

subcritical forcing



実験室の中の空と海

“QBO” in the lab

Atmosphere and Ocean  
in a Laboratory

supercritical forcing



# References

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