

x-momentum
(linear)

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - f v = -g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}$$

$$\left| \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right.$$

y-momentum
(linear)

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + f u = -g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y}$$

$$\left| \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right.$$

where U is a constant or mean flow or advection

$$f = f_0 + \beta \cdot y$$

continuity (mass conservation)
non-divergent

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{H} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = \sigma$$

take y -derivative of x-momentum and subtract from
 x -derivative of y-momentum

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (u_y - v_x) + U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (u_y - v_x) - (\beta v) - f(u_x - v_y) = -g(\eta_{xy} - \eta_{yx})$$

or

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (u_y - v_x) + U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (u_y - v_x) - \beta v = \sigma \quad \text{vorticity equation}$$

Any non-divergent velocity field allows stream functions Ψ , that is

$$u = -\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial y} = -\Psi_y \quad \text{and} \quad v = +\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} = \Psi_x$$

The vorticity can thus be written in terms of Ψ as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (-\Psi_{yy} - \Psi_{xx}) + U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (-\Psi_{yy} - \Psi_{xx}) - \beta \Psi_x = \sigma$$

$$\text{or} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\nabla^2 \Psi) + U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\nabla^2 \Psi) + \beta \Psi_x = \sigma$$

This is also a wave equation for $\psi = \psi(x, y, t)$ that allows solutions of the form

$$\psi = \psi_0 \exp[i(kx + ly - \omega t)]$$

for wave numbers (k, l) and frequency ω .

Note that

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -i\omega \psi$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = +ik\psi$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = +il\psi$$

So the vorticity (wave equation)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\psi_{xx} + \psi_{yy}) + U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\psi_{xx} + \psi_{yy}) + \beta \psi_x = 0$$

$$-i\omega (i^2 k^2 + i^2 l^2) + U i k (i^2 k^2 + i^2 l^2) + \beta i k = 0$$

$$-\omega (-k^2 - l^2) + U k (-k^2 - l^2) + \beta \cdot k = 0$$

$$\omega (k^2 + l^2) - U k (k^2 + l^2) + \beta \cdot k = 0$$

↓

$$\omega = \frac{-\beta k + U k (k^2 + l^2)}{k^2 + l^2}$$

or

$$\omega = \frac{-\beta k}{k^2 + l^2} + U \cdot k$$

Dispersion

For zonal waves (east-west propagating) $k^2 \gg l^2 \Rightarrow (k^2 + l^2) \approx k^2$

$$\omega = -\frac{\beta}{k} + U \cdot k$$

Rossby Wave

non-dispersive
"other" wave

$$\hookrightarrow c_p^{(x)} = \frac{\omega}{k} = -\frac{\beta}{k^2} + U$$

$$c_g^{(x)} = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} = +\frac{\beta}{k^2} + U$$

The dispersion relation relates - always - wave periods to wavelength or frequency as a function of wavenumbers and physical system parameters, e.g.,

$$\omega = -\beta/k + \mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}$$

- The two components $-\beta/k$ and $+\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}$ represent two different aspects of the physics that we identify by their system parameters β (planetary vorticity) and \mathbf{U} (constant advection).
- The β -term recalls a Rossby wave we discussed earlier that had a dispersion $\omega = -\beta \cdot k / [k^2 + (1/L_D)^2]$ where $L_D = \sqrt{g \cdot H} / f$ that arose from $\mathbf{U} = 0$ and $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{H} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = 0$ the non-divergent continuity
 Our $(-\beta/k)$ term is recovered for $k^2 \gg (1/L_D)^2$ or $L_D \cdot k \gg 1$ as the short wave limit of pure Rossby Waves that propagate their energy (via group velocity) to the East. By ignoring the $\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t}$ term in the continuity equation, we effectively "filtered out" (removed) the non-dispersive long Rossby waves.
- The $(\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k})$ term is new and due to (linearized) advection.

The combination or sum of $(-\beta/k)$ and $(U \cdot k)$ terms

$$\omega = -\beta/k + U \cdot k$$

offers many applications such as

- Weather Systems embedded within a zonal jet

Energy Propagation ALWAYS from West-to-East

$$\text{group velocity } c_g^{(x)} = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} = +\frac{\beta}{k^2} + U > 0$$

This is one reason that energetic weather systems originate mostly from the west in both N. America and N. Europe.

- A "stationary" wave exists that has $c_p^{(x)} = 0$

$$c_p^{(x)} = \frac{\omega}{k} = -\beta/k^2 + U$$

$$\text{For } c_p^{(x)} = 0 \text{ we have } U = +\beta/k^2$$

$$\text{or } k^2 = \beta/U$$

- This gives us a new length scale

$$L_\beta = \sqrt{\frac{U}{\beta}}$$

$$\text{For } U \sim 10 \text{ m/s } \beta = 10^{-11} \text{ m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$$

$$L_\beta = \sqrt{10^{+12} \text{ m}^2} = \underline{1000 \text{ km}}$$

- Even though the phase velocity is zero at $k = \sqrt{\beta/U}$
the group velocity $c_g^{(x)} = +\beta/k^2 + U = +2U$

- I believe this impacts "Extreme Events" in climate change scenarios

- As the jet stream velocity U becomes smaller as polar regions warm faster than mid-latitude regions, the "stationary" wave events propagate their energy at a slower rate $2 \cdot U$.
"Stationary" extreme events stay around longer and more pronounced flooding, droughts, heat waves, cold spells, etc. result.
- To the best of my current knowledge, applications to ocean phenomena such as Western Boundary currents or Antarctic Circumpolar current are not well published yet.