

Rossby Waves



earth rotational vector

at North Pole the normal component of the earth's rotational vector is $f = +f_{max}$

Equator normal component of the earth's rotational vector is $f = 0$

at South pole the normal component of earth's rotational vector is $f = -f_{max}$

Vorticity Waves due to (a) $f = f(y) = f_0 + \beta y$

Coriolis varies with latitude

beta-plane approximation

(b) $D \neq D(x, y)$

Depth series

Considers shallow water equations

$$(1) \quad u_t - f v = -g \eta_x \quad \left| \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right. \quad u_t y - \beta v - f v_y = -g \eta_{xy}$$

$$(2) \quad v_t + f u = -g \eta_y \quad \left| \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right. \quad v_t x + f u_x = -g \eta_{yx}$$

Take the curl of the momentum to derive the vorticity equation [just for the vertical component of the vorticity vector].

(2)-(1):

$$(v_x - u_y)_t + f(u_x + v_y) + \beta v = 0$$

From continuity

$$\eta_t + (u D)_x + (v D)_y = 0$$

with $D(y) = e^{-\beta y/f}$ this continuity gives

$$(u_x + v_y) = \frac{-\eta_t}{D} - \frac{v}{D} \frac{(-)\beta}{f} D$$

and the vorticity equation becomes

$$(v_x - u_y)_t = -\beta v - \frac{\beta v}{D} + \frac{f}{D} \eta_t$$

The "planetary β " has the same dynamical as the "topographic B " effect!

$$\eta_t + (u \mathcal{D})_x + (v \mathcal{D})_y = 0 \quad \text{Continuity}$$

$$\eta_t + u_x \cdot \mathcal{D} + u \mathcal{D}_x + v_y \mathcal{D} + v \mathcal{D}_y = 0$$

$$\eta_t + \mathcal{D}(u_x + v_y) + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \mathcal{D} = 0$$

$$(u_x + v_y) = \frac{-\eta_t}{\mathcal{D}} - \frac{\vec{u}}{\mathcal{D}} \cdot \nabla \mathcal{D}$$

into (2)-(1)

$$(v_x - u_y)_t + \frac{f(-)}{\mathcal{D}} \eta_t + \frac{f(-)}{\mathcal{D}} \vec{u} \cdot \nabla \mathcal{D} + \beta v = 0$$

with $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}(y) = e^{-By/f}$ $\mathcal{D}_y = -\frac{B}{f} e^{-By/f}$

$$(v_x - u_y)_t - \frac{f}{\mathcal{D}} \eta_t - \frac{f}{\mathcal{D}} v (-) \frac{B}{f} \cdot \mathcal{D} + \beta v$$

$$(v_x - u_y)_t - \frac{f}{\mathcal{D}} \eta_t + Bv + \beta v = 0$$

Let focus on "planetary- β "

$D = \text{const.}$

horizontally non-divergent ocean, e.g., $u_x + v_y = 0$ ($\eta_t = \sigma$)
[very low-frequency $\eta_t \rightarrow \sigma$]

$D/T \ll D U/L$ or
 $f \ll U/L$ or
 $f^*U/L \ll 1$ or
Rossby Number $\ll 1$

The vorticity equation then becomes

$$\underbrace{(v_x - u_y)}_t + \beta \underbrace{v}_x = \sigma$$

relative vorticity planetary vorticity

non-divergent flow $\hookrightarrow u = -\psi_y$ and $v = \psi_x$

stream function

$$\nabla^2 \psi_t + \beta \psi_x = \sigma$$

What does this say about the relation of velocity (u,v) and wave number vector (k,l)?

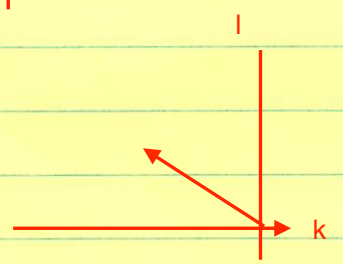
Plane wave solutions

$$\psi = e^{-i\omega t + ikx + il y}$$

$u \rightarrow -i^*l$
 $v \rightarrow i^*k$
 $|u/v| = |l/k|$

give dispersion

$$\sigma = \frac{-\beta k}{k^2 + l^2}$$



which we can write as

$$\left(\frac{k + \beta}{2\sigma} \right)^2 + l^2 = \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma} \right)^2$$

which in the (k,l) plane looks like

$$\left(k + \frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2 + l^2 = \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2$$

$$k^2 + 2k\frac{\beta}{2\sigma} + \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2 + l^2 = \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2$$

$$k^2 + l^2 = -k\frac{\beta}{\sigma}$$

$$\sigma = -k\frac{\beta}{k^2 + l^2}$$

$$k^2 + l^2 = -k\frac{\beta}{\sigma}$$

$$k^2 + l^2 + 2k\frac{\beta}{2\sigma} + \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2 = \sigma$$

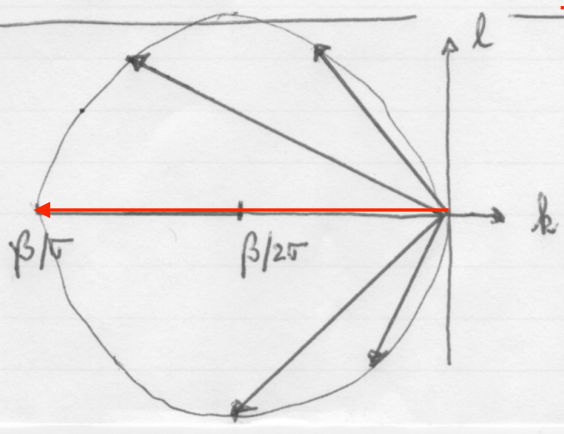
$$k^2 + 2k\frac{\beta}{2\sigma} + \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2 + l^2 = \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2$$

$$\left(k + \frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2 + l^2 = \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

~~$(k + \frac{\beta}{2\sigma})^2 + l^2 = \left(\frac{\beta}{2\sigma}\right)^2$~~

which wave numbers (k, l) are on this circle



That's a circle of radius $\beta/2\sigma$ displaced on the k -axis by $\beta/2\sigma$ to the left!