

Exam format:

word	symbol	nutshell meaning	longer explanation of meaning (concept) in question	Relevant sketch with arrows or little $f(x)$ curve or whatever if appropriate
divergence				
	ρ			xxxxx

...

...

Domains and coordinates and fields as functions of them:

Latitude, longitude, altitude

Zonal, meridional, vertical.

Northward vs. northerly; eastward vs. westerly

upward, altitude, pressure level (know Earth's atmosphere layers, p coordinate)

troposphere, stratosphere, planetary boundary layer (PBL)

Cartesian: x,y,z i,j,k u,v,w

scalar, vector; scalar field vs. vector field **All Have Units!**

vectors have 2 *properties* (in 2D or 3D): magnitude and direction

even though they involve a set of 3 components (numbers) in 3D

dot product, cross product. For a vector; same at every point for a vector *field*.

Scalar **functions**. Domain (coordinate or argument) vs. value (range)

curve (1D), surface (2D), field (3D, 4D)

Derivatives:

first derivative: slope (1D) or gradient (2D, 3D)

second deriv: curvature or Laplacian (flips sign, for sin/cos)

Del operator (nabla symbol):

gradient (of a scalar function) like temperature gradient ∇T

vergence (divergence, convergence) $\text{div}(\mathbf{V}) = \text{"del dot } \mathbf{V}" = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}$

advection **"minus \mathbf{V} dot del(T)"** or "minus \mathbf{V} dot grad T)

note negative sign $-\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla T$

Curl of vector field \mathbf{V} , $\nabla \times \mathbf{V}$

Only in 3D! Right hand rule

(vector **vorticity**, if \mathbf{V} is a 3D **velocity** field)

we use only its *vertical component*, $\zeta = v_y - u_x$

(where subscript indicated partial derivative)

Curl of gradient **vanishes** precisely - why?

Scale of variation (m vs. km vs. 1000s of km; hours vs. days vs. months): notice these are logarithmic (power of 10) distinctions, not just "size" (like 10m vs. 5m)

Running **average** (smoothing) isolates **large scales** (filter scale)

Deviations from that are **small scales**: (subfilter)

anomaly (deviation from time **average**)

eddy (deviation from space average)

perturbation: someone/something *perturbed* something
away from some **control** case
(an **experiment**, isolating **cause** and **effect**)

Partial derivatives of a field $f(x,y,z,t)$

Local or **Eulerian** $\partial f / \partial t$

Total or **Lagrangian** df/dt , following a parcel at position $[x_p(t), y_p(t), z_p(t)]$

Write the relationship to the local derivative $\partial f / \partial t$ (chain rule): it gives
advection by $\mathbf{V} = [u,v,w] = d/dt [x_p(t), y_p(t), z_p(t)]$

Nondivergent vs. **irrotational decomposition** of a vector field

(**rotational** and **divergent**) "**components**"

different meaning than vector *components in the axis directions*

streamline, **streamfunction**, **streamwise**

trajectory (different from **streamline**)

Integral relationships (opposite of derivative) for gradient, div, curl

Stokes theorem (circulation), Gauss' theorem (for divergence)

vanishing of $\text{div}(\text{curl})$, vanishing of loop integral of gradient

ODEs and solutions

exponential solutions to $df/dt = -bf$

sinusoidal solutions to $d^2f/dt^2 = -c^2f$

$\exp()$ with **complex** numbers combines both

need **boundary** or **initial conditions** (constant of integration) to solve

stationary or **steady-state** solution; equilibrium or "balance"

$df/dt = A - B$. Make steady-state assumption. Is it still a diff-eq? NO!

PDEs and solutions: terms and concepts (for our applications)

prognostic vs. diagnostic

boundary conditions, **initial conditions**

inverse of Laplacian (smoothed, reversed sign)

PROGNOSTIC EQUATIONS:

Governing equation, budget, tendency

Eulerian (local) vs. Lagrangian (total) derivatives

$$d/dt(\text{something}) = 0 + \text{sources} - \text{sinks}$$

$$\partial/\partial t(\text{something}) = \text{flux convergence} + \text{sources} - \text{sinks}$$

$$\partial/\partial t(\text{something}) = \text{advection} + \text{sources} - \text{sinks}$$

Conserved tracer special case: *sources-sinks negligible*

Balance special case: *neglect time derivative relative to other tendencies*

Adjustment ("fast" process leads to restoration/maintenance of balance)

"Kinematics": spatial gradients of velocity

vorticity, divergence, deformation. diffluence/confluence.

recipes: shear = vorticity + deformation

Streamlines, trajectories: know the difference

Waves: terms and concepts

frequency, period, wavelength, wavenumber, amplitude, phase

phase velocity, group velocity

growing, decaying amplitude (in space or time)

growing, shrinking scale (expressed as wavenumber or wavelength)

Physical concepts/words to know

Mass, mass fractions (specific ____, mixing ratio of ____, concentration of __)

Conservation of mass (continuity of mass flux)

Flux of mass, multiply by specific ____ to get flux of specific ____

Conservation of specific ____

TRANSPORT:

Flux of (anything): what are the units? Stuff per second per square meter (in 3D)

Flux convergence is the effect of the flux (transport's "drop-off")

Advection: what is the sense of it (upstream coming at ya) and the math ($-\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla$)?

how are advection vs. flux convergence treatments related?

(equal, because of mass continuity as in homework 3).

Diffusion (convergence of a flux that is proportional to a gradient).

PHYSICAL LAWS

Equation of Motion / Newton's 2nd Law

Pressure gradient force (PGF): Enforcer of continuity

Coriolis force (as 'real' as still air on rotating Earth is 'motionless')

"Inertial forces" (advection of momentum by wind itself)

"Friction" (convergence of momentum flux by small-scale motions)

Vorticity equations: $d/dt(\text{vorticity}) = 0 + \text{complications}$

Relative vorticity ζ : eliminates PGF from momentum equations

Absolute vorticity $\zeta_a = (f + \zeta)$ moves $v df/dy = v \cdot \beta$ term to LHS

Potential vorticity PV eliminates $\zeta_a \text{div}(\mathbf{V})$ "stretching" term from RHS

Vortex interactions (e.g. for TC steering): 2D reasoning

1/r decay of "induced" rotational wind from vorticity element

$$V_{\text{tan}} \propto (1/r) \zeta_{\text{rel}}$$

ζ_{rel} is advected by that "induced" flow

Sketch how this plays out for 2 vortices of same/opposite sign

Rossby waves: includes advection of planetary vorticity (or conservation of absolute)

explain from $d/dt(\zeta_a) = 0$ with $\beta = df/dy$

Phase velocity $c = U - \beta/k^2$: westward relative to U , long waves faster

Group velocity $c_g = U + \beta/k^2$: eastward relative to U , " " "

"downstream development" process

For stationary waves, $c_g = 2U$

First Law of Thermodynamics (conservation of microscopic energy)

heat energy added to gas = change in internal energy + work done by gas ($p dV/dt$)

Per unit mass: $Q = C_v dT/dt + p d\alpha/dt$

Ideal gas law: $p\alpha = RT$

Plug in: $Q = C_p dT/dt + \alpha dp/dt$

where $C_p = C_v + R$

Mass continuity

Hydrostatic pressure (mass) coordinate makes it especially clean

$$\partial u / \partial x + \partial v / \partial y + \partial \omega / \partial p = 0$$

$\omega = dp/dt$ is vertical velocity, but also "pressure drop" at the surface for instance

Primitive Equations: write them like a sonnet (perfectly), as in HW3

see attached exam prep doc