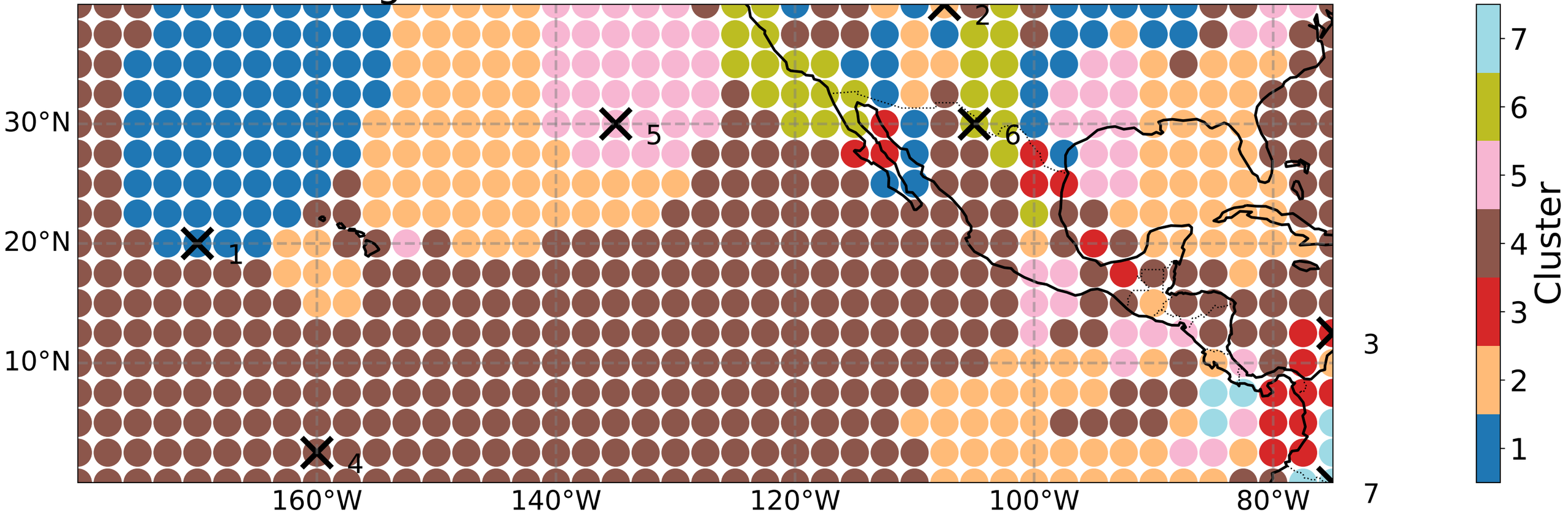Zonal gradient of meridional wind at 850 hPa