1. What was the value of the gravity correction(s)? Did it make a difference when compared to the sensor’s significant figures?

The value of g came up to 9.816726239931887 ms-2. It did not affect the sensor’s significant figures because they are less than that of g, and therefore will remain as is even after the reductions.

1. What was the value of the sea-level reduction? Did it make a difference when compared to the sensor’s significant figures?

The sea-level reduction value is 1.0129465445005967 which is also more than the sensor’s significant figures. Therefore, this would not affect the sensor.

1. Which barometer do you think is the most accurate and why?

The spec sheet for the Kestrel 4000 and Kestrel 5500 both state an accuracy of ±2.4 hPa in the barometric pressure measure. The spec sheet on the RM Young gave an accuracy of ± 2hPa for barometric pressure measurement. In general I’d think these are more accurate because they are all capacitance-based sensors. However, after corrections and the assumptions made during the correction it is harder to stay if the accuracy stays. And hence I would think the sensor at YVR is most accurate to the true value of sea level pressure.

1. Which barometer do you think has the highest resolution and why?
2. Which barometer do you think is the least accurate and why? For that barometer what is the bias value?

I would think the least accurate is the Eco-Celli because the reading depends on the way the user reads the barometer, and on top of that it goes through several corrections which make assumptions about the state of the atmosphere. The largest bias in this case would be human perception, followed by the assumptions made during the correction.

1. Which barometer do you think has the lowest resolution and why?
2. When you adjust your pressure reading to sea level, e.g. with the RM Young 61205V and the Eco-celli, why is your answer probably different than the sea level pressure reported at YVR airport? (hint: think about the equation(s) used, any assumptions we are making, and weather conditions)

The sea-level reduction made some assumption about the station height being at 105m and an isothermal atmosphere that let us use equation 7.7 (Harrison chap.7) to find the sea level correction. Another assumption was about which temperature to use for the reduction – I ended up using the average during the time period of the measurement in order to calculate a virtual temperature.

1. For what situations is gravity correction important for pressure measurements, and for what situations is it not? (Short answer, in your own words)

The gravity correction is important in areas of high altitude, where the average altitude of the surrounding does not match that of the station.

1. Calculate (on a spreadsheet) and plot the variation of sea-level gravitational acceleration with latitude. (Hint, use eq. 3.A.6 from WMO-8 chapter 3, annex 3. A)
2. For the latitude of UBC, plot local gravitational acceleration g vs elevation H above sea level for (a) over land having terrain elevation of 500 m; /2 (b) over the ocean of depth 1 km; and /2 (c) at a shoreline at a 50% mix of land from (a) and ocean from (b). /2 (Hint, use slide 30 and eqs. 3.A.7-9 from WMO-8 chapter 3, Annex 3.A)
3. Compare (discuss, plot using a spreadsheet) the equations for pressure reduction to sea level for the WMO equations in WMO-8 Chapter 3, vs. the reduction equation from Stull’s textbook (as presented in Lecture, and in the lecture notes online; see slide 54)
4. With respect to the mercury barometer, how much inaccuracy can we tolerate in the measurement of temperature if we want the pressure error ≤ 0.05 hPa? Assume the pressure is 960 hPa.
5. Name three corrections commonly used with a mercury barometer.
   1. Index correction
   2. Gravitational correction
   3. Temperature correction
6. Calculate the static sensitivity of a mercury barometer. How could you increase the static sensitivity of a mercury barometer?

The transfer equation is . To increase the sensitivity of a barometer it would be necessary to find another barometric fluid with the desirable properties of mercury but with less density.

1. What is the dynamic wind error when the wind speed is 20 m s-1? Why do we need to take temperature into account when calculating the dynamic wind error for very high wind speeds?

The equation of dynamic error is: were Δp is the error, C is the coefficient,ρ is air density and V is wind speed. Assuming C = 0.2, the dynamic error is 40Pa. For high wind speeds, the temperature is often lower than the measured temperature and thus we need to take it into account.

1. What is the raw output for the following sensors: a mercury barometer, and an aneroid barometer?
   1. Mercury barometer: raw output is height
   2. Aneroid barometer: raw output is the deflection of the diaphragm center
2. Why have aneroid barometers tended to replace mercury barometers?

Mercury is toxic, has a high thermal expansion so needs temperature corrections, it’s not easily portable for fieldwork, and contamination can cause changes in the surface tension of the mercury, and hence the reading overall. Even with newer versions it is hard to automate a reading and get rid of the biases associated with getting a reading.