

# Shallow water model

Assumptions:

thin layer ( $H \ll L$ )

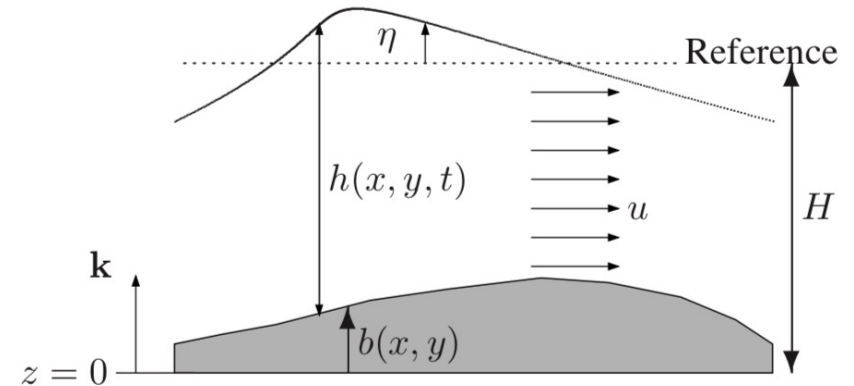
free surface

inviscid

motions initially independent of  $z$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} = 0 \text{ always}$$

homogeneous (constant density)



$$\begin{aligned} \text{x: } \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \cancel{w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}} - f v &= -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \\ \text{y: } \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \cancel{w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z}} + f u &= -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} - g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \end{aligned}$$

# Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$

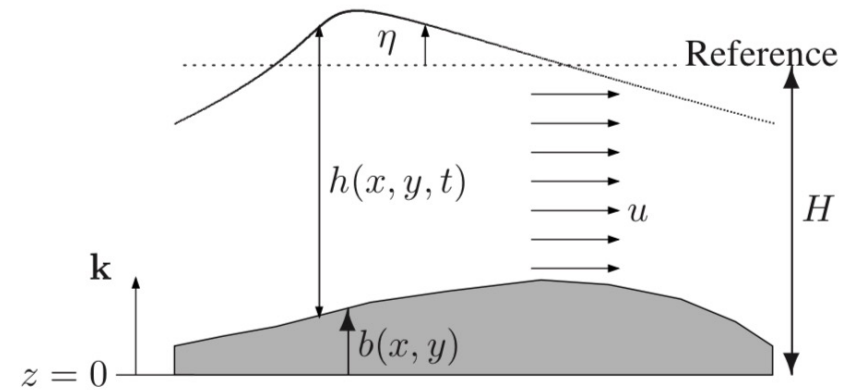
Integrate vertically from  $b$  to  $\eta$ :

$$\int_b^\eta \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} dz = - \int_b^\eta \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) dz$$

$$w|_{z=\eta} - w|_{z=b}$$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} = -h \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial hu}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial hv}{\partial y} = 0$$



Boudary conditions

$$w|_{z=\eta} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y}$$

$$w|_{z=-h} = u \frac{\partial b}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial b}{\partial y}$$

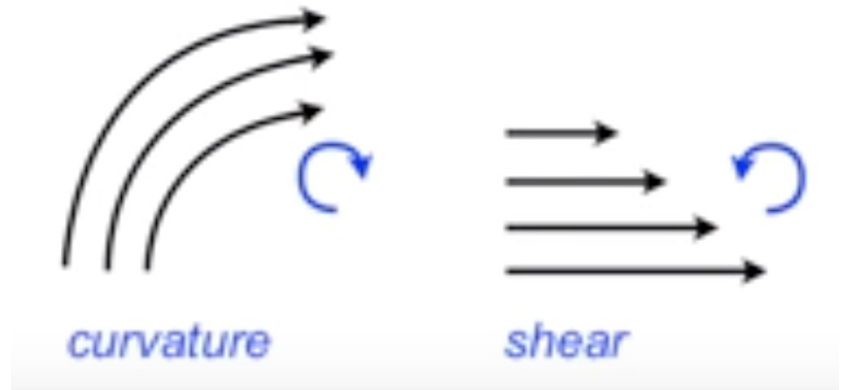
$$\eta = h + b - H$$

# Vorticity

**Vorticity**: curl of velocity (a measure of spin)

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \nabla \times \mathbf{v}$$

$$= \left( \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) \mathbf{i} + \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \mathbf{j} + \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) \mathbf{k}$$



For 2-D flow on the horizontal plane:  $\mathbf{u} = u\mathbf{i} + v\mathbf{j}$

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \mathbf{k} \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)$$

$\zeta$

Properties:

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\omega} = 0$$

# PV conservation for the shallow water model

The horizontal momentum equations (**homogeneous, inviscid**,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial z} = 0$ ):

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} - f v = -g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + f u = -g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} \quad (2)$$

Taking the curl of the momentum equations by doing  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (2) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (1)$ :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + u \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - u \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + v \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} - v \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + f \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} v + f \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \zeta + u \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \zeta + v \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial y} + f \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + \beta v = 0$$

$$\frac{d\zeta}{dt} + \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) (f + \zeta) + \beta v = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \beta v}$$

$$\frac{d(f + \zeta)}{dt} + \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) (f + \zeta) = 0$$

$$\frac{d(f + \zeta)}{dt} + \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) (f + \zeta) = 0 \quad (1)$$

The continuity equation:

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial hu}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial hv}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} + h \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) = 0 \quad (2)$$

Combining (1) and (2):

$$\frac{d(f + \zeta)}{dt} - \frac{f + \zeta}{h} \frac{dh}{dt} = 0$$

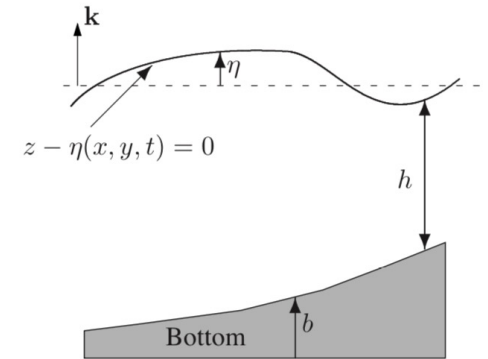
$f$ : planetary vorticity

$\zeta$ : relative vorticity

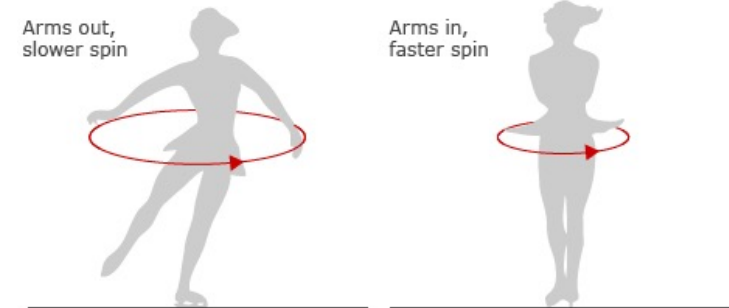
$f + \zeta$ : absolute vorticity

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{f + \zeta}{h} \right) = 0$$

potential vorticity



$$\eta = h + b - H$$



$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{f + \zeta}{h} \right) = 0$$

**Valid for barotropic, inviscid fluids**

If the density is only a function of pressure:

$$\rho = \rho(p)$$

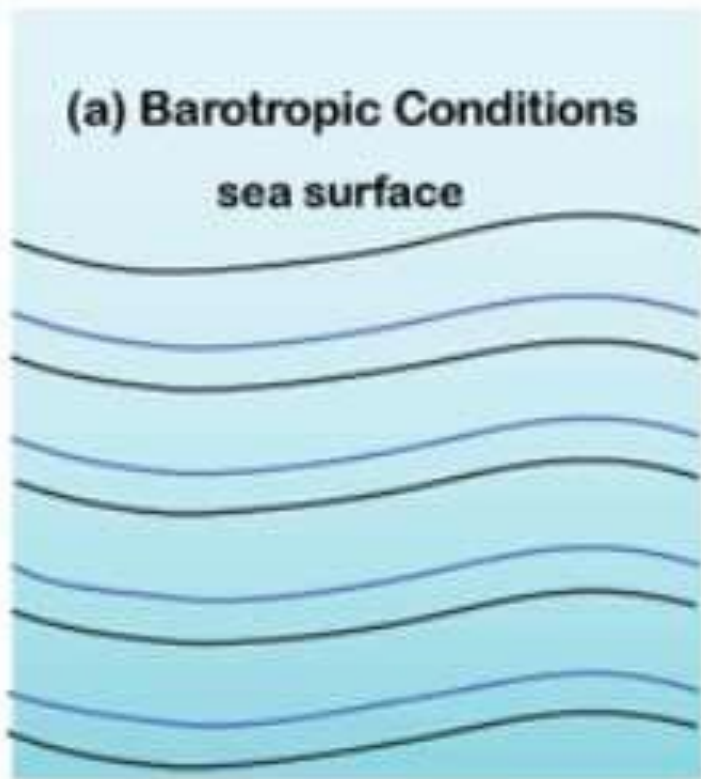
**Isolines of pressure and density are parallel**

$$\nabla \rho \times \nabla p = 0 \quad \text{barotropic fluid}$$

(for constant density?)

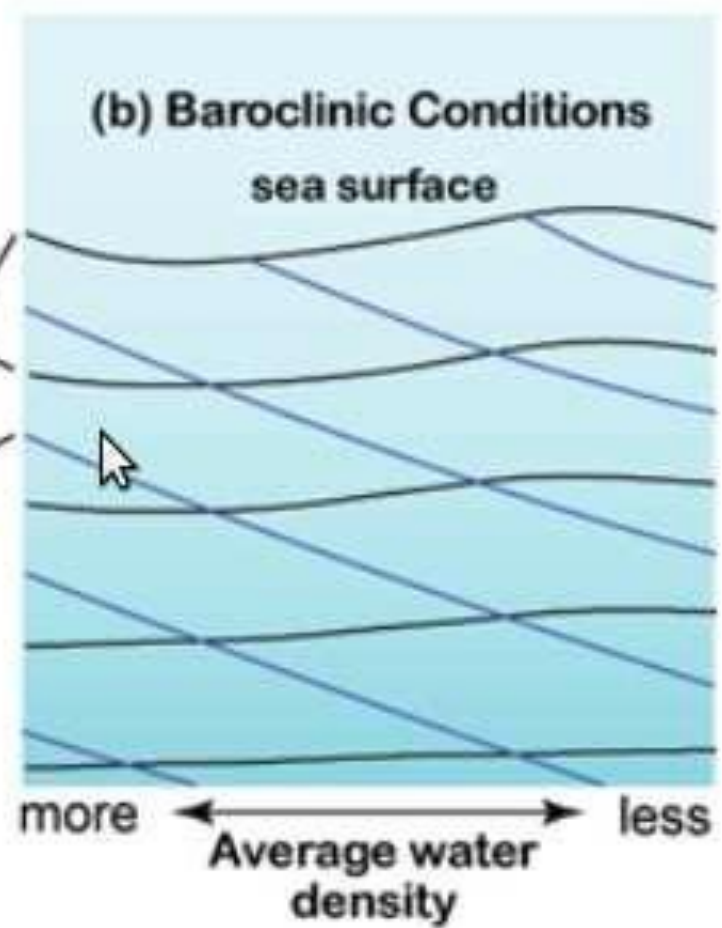
Otherwise:

$$\nabla \rho \times \nabla p \neq 0 \quad \text{baroclinic fluid}$$



isobaric  
surfaces

isopycnic  
surfaces



# Horizontal divergence/convergence in PV conservation

For volume conservation of a fluid column with a cross-section of  $ds$  and thickness of  $h$  :

$$\frac{d}{dt}(hds) = 0$$

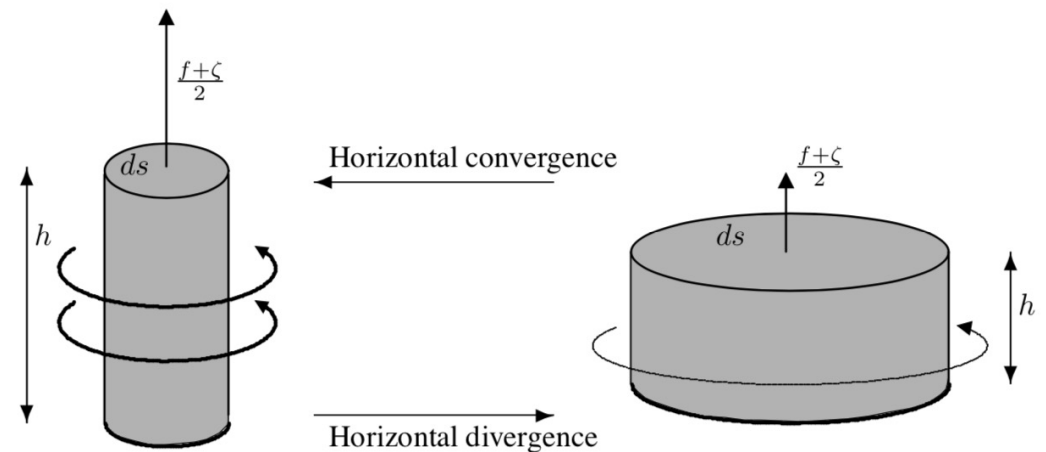
$$\frac{dh}{dt}ds + h\frac{d}{dt}(ds) = 0$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} + h\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(ds) = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right)ds$$

divergent flow,  $\frac{d}{dt}(ds) > 0$ ,  $h$  decreases

convergent flow,  $\frac{d}{dt}(ds) < 0$ ,  $h$  increases

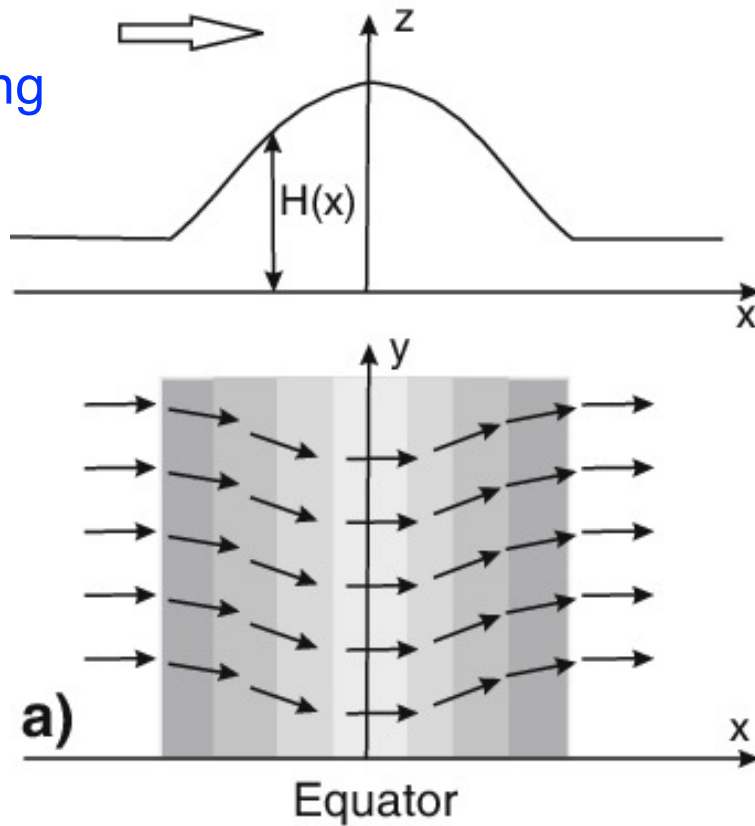




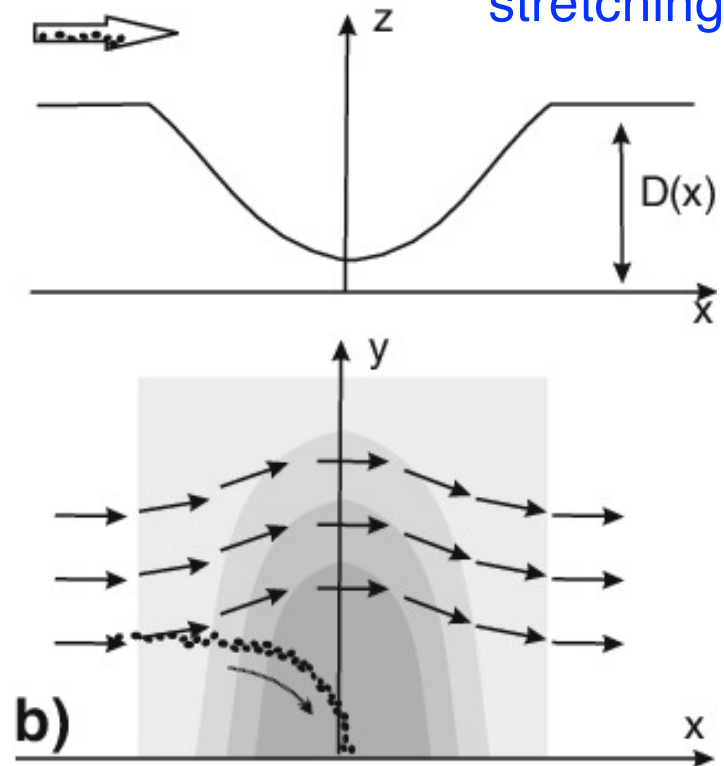
$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{f + \zeta}{h} \right) = 0$$

For large scale flow,  $\zeta \ll f$

squeezing

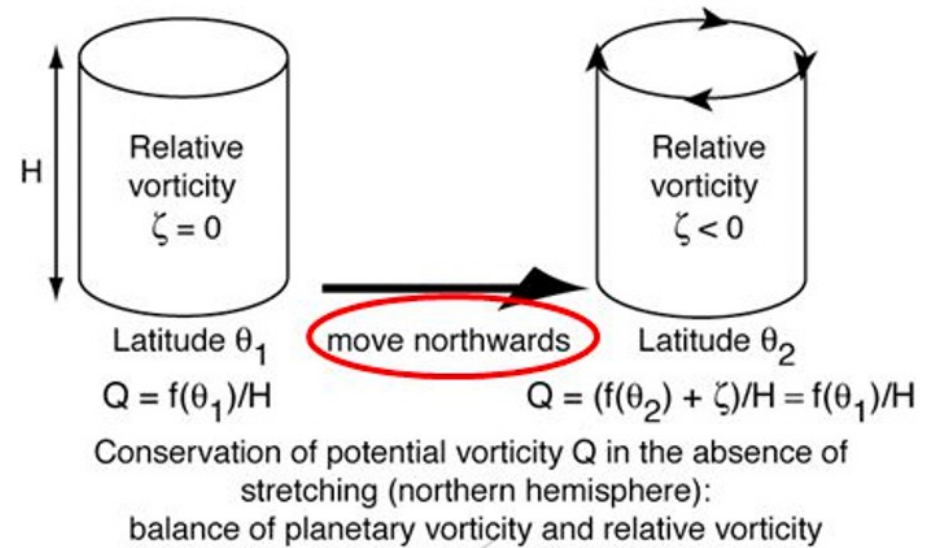


stretching



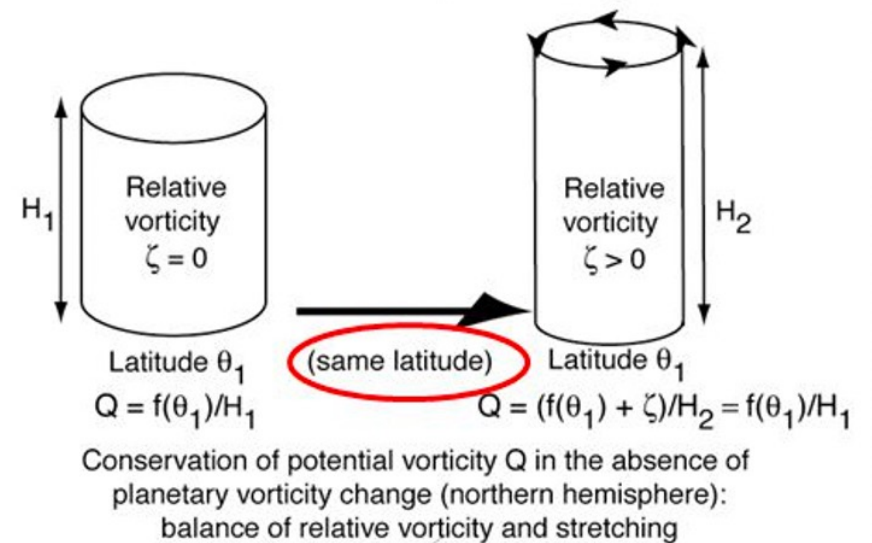
$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{f + \zeta}{h} \right) = 0$$

$h$  is constant

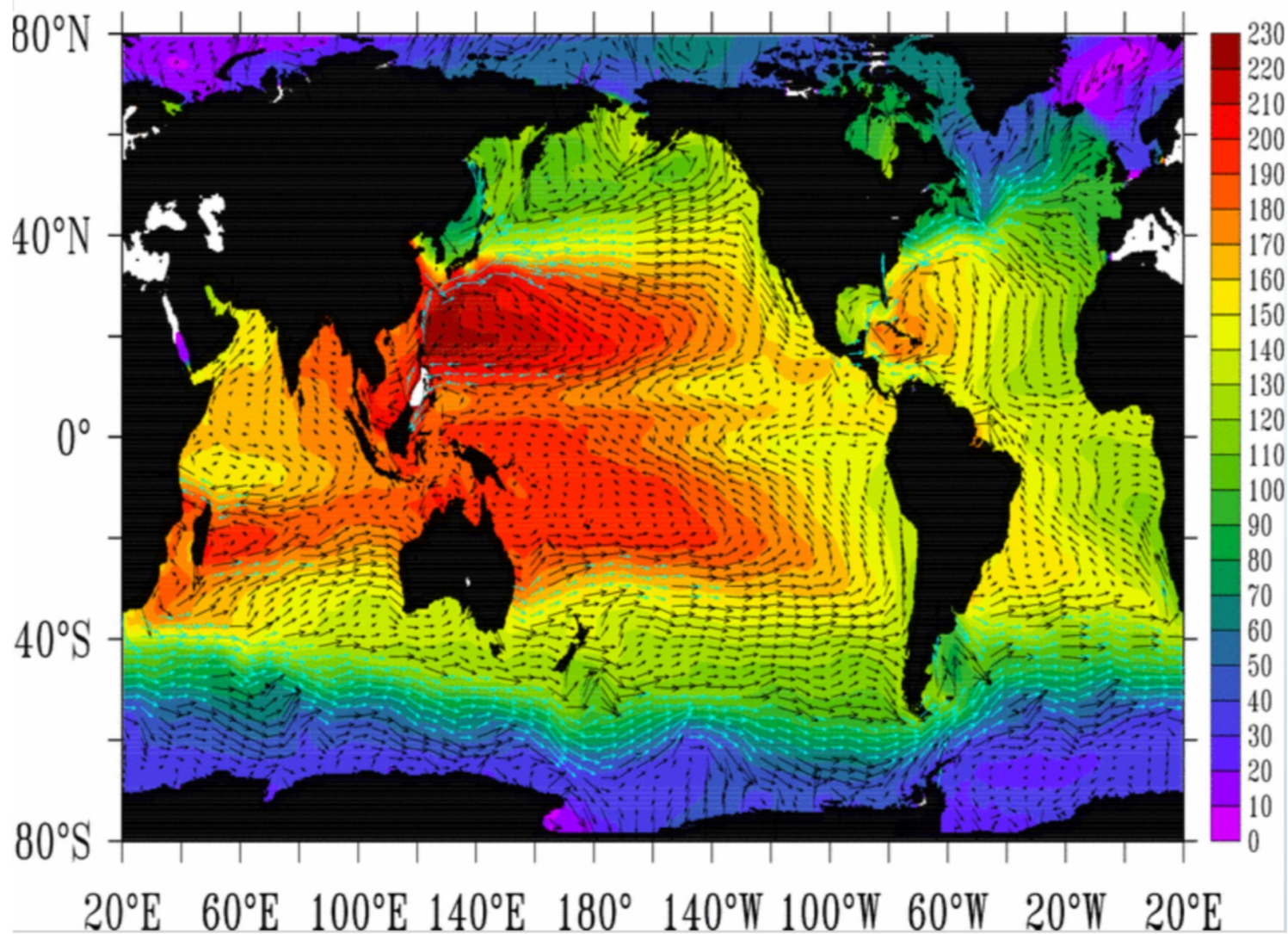


$f$  is constant

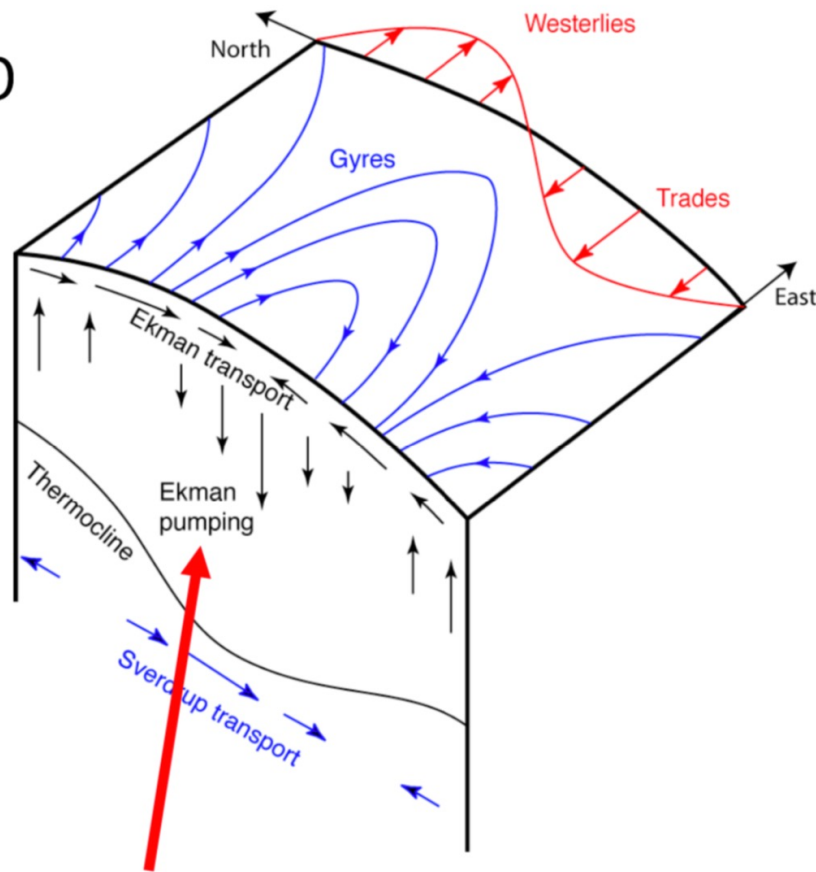
eddies generated by topography



## Sea Surface Height and Mean Geostrophic Ocean Circulation



# Sverdrup



$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{f + \zeta}{h} \right) = 0$$

- Ekman pumping provides the squashing or stretching.
- The water columns must respond. They do this by changing latitude.
- (They do not spin up in place for the large-scale circulation.)

Squashing -> equatorward movement      Stretching -> poleward

TRUE in both Northern and Southern Hemisphere

# Shallow water waves

## Linear wave dynamics

Assumption:  $R_o \ll 1$

$c$ : wave speed

$$R_{oT} = \frac{\frac{U}{T}}{fU} = \frac{1}{fT} \sim \frac{1}{fL/c} = \frac{c}{fL} \quad (c \gg U) \sim 1$$

The horizontal momentum equations are:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - fv = -g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + fu = -g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y}$$

The continuity equation is:

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial hu}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial hv}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + h \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + u \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} = 0$$

**For flat bottom,  $\eta = h - H$ :**

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + H \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + \eta \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + u \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\boxed{\Delta H \frac{c}{L}}$$

$$\frac{\Delta H}{T}$$

$$H \frac{U}{L}$$

$$\cancel{\Delta H \frac{U}{L}}$$

$$\cancel{U \frac{\Delta H}{L}}$$

$$\Delta H \frac{c}{L} \sim H \frac{U}{L}$$

Then the continuity equation is reduced to:

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + H \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) = 0$$

$$\Delta H \ll H$$

small-amplitude waves



## Inertia-gravity waves (Poincaré waves)

**Assumption:** flat bottom

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - fv = -g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + fu = -g \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + H \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) = 0$$

Give a wave solution:

$$u = U e^{i(kx+ly-\omega t)}$$

$$v = V e^{i(kx+ly-\omega t)}$$

$$\eta = A e^{i(kx+ly-\omega t)}$$

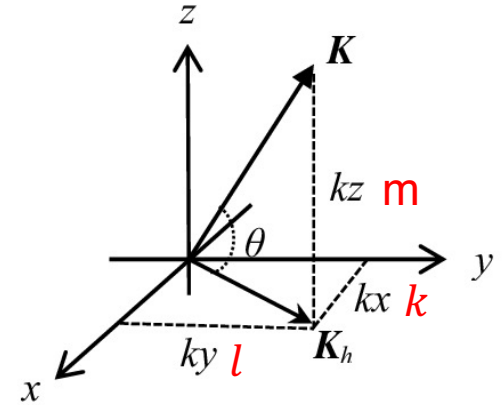


Fig. 1. Wave number vector and its components.

$$-i\omega U - fV = -gikA$$

$$-i\omega V + fU = -gilA$$

$$-i\omega A + ikHU + ilHV = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -i\omega & -f & gik \\ f & -i\omega & gil \\ ikH & ilH & -i\omega \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U \\ V \\ A \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

This homogeneous equation has non-trivial solutions only if the determinant of the coefficient matrix vanishes:

$$\omega[\omega^2 - f^2 - gH(k^2 + l^2)] = 0 \quad \text{dispersion relation}$$

$$1. \omega = 0, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} = 0, \quad \text{geostrophic flow}$$

$$R_d = \frac{\sqrt{gH}}{f}$$

$$2. \omega = \sqrt{f^2 + gH(k^2 + l^2)}$$

$K^2$

Rossby deformation radius  
(barotropic)

a. rotation is weak,  $f^2 \ll gHK^2$ ,  $\lambda \ll R_d$  (short-wave limit)

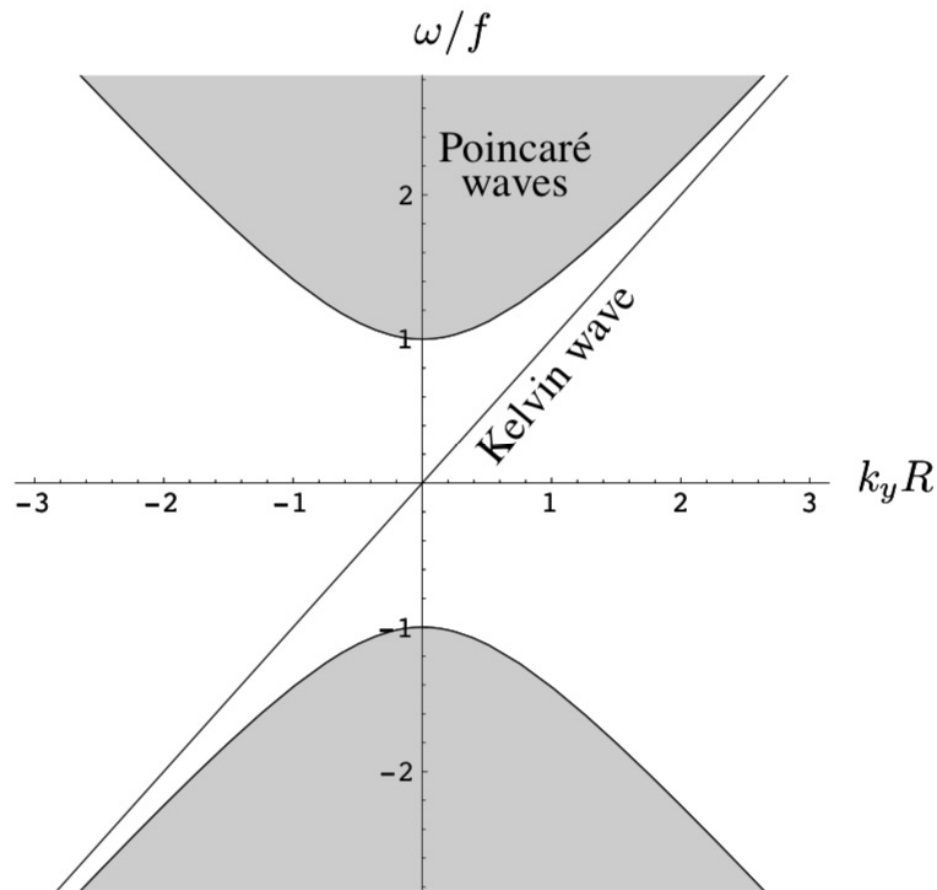
$$\omega = \sqrt{gHK}, \quad c = \sqrt{gH}, \quad \text{gravity waves}$$

b. rotation is important,  $f^2 \gg gHK^2$ ,  $\lambda \gg R_d$  (long-wave limit)

$$\omega \sim f, \quad \text{inertial oscillations}$$



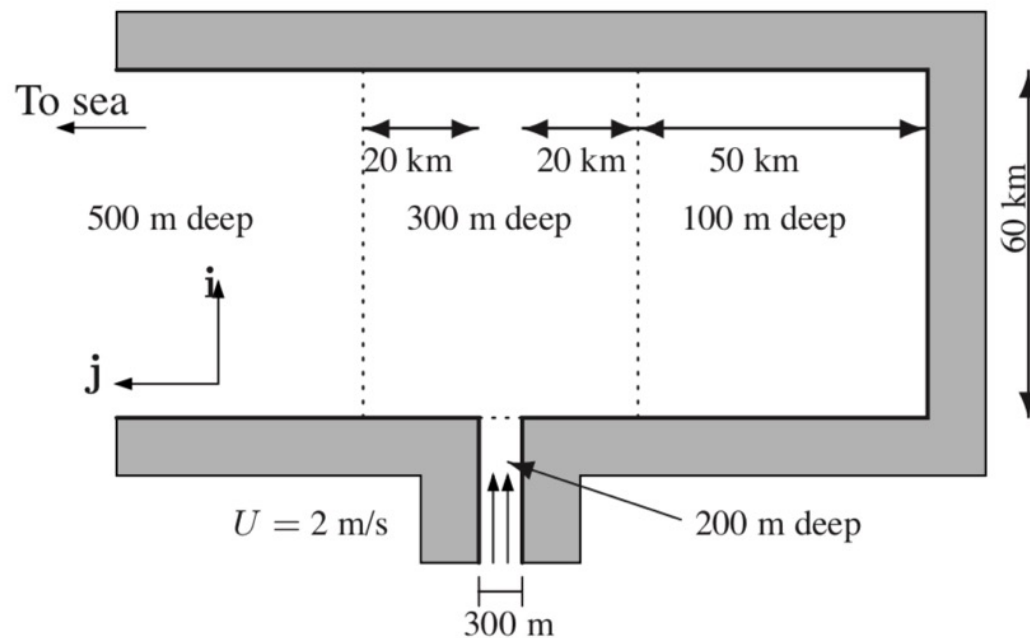
# Dispersion relation diagram



**Figure 9-3** Recapitulation of the dispersion relation of Kelvin and Poincaré waves on the  $f$ -plane and on a flat bottom. While Poincaré waves (gray shades) can travel in all directions and occupy therefore a continuous spectrum in terms of  $k_y$ , the Kelvin wave (diagonal line) propagates only along a boundary.

## Homework

- 7-8.** In Utopia, a narrow 200-m deep channel empties in a broad bay of varying bottom topography (Figure 7-14). Trace the path to the sea and the velocity profile of the channel outflow. Take  $f = 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Solve only for straight stretches of the flow and ignore corners.



**Figure 7-14** Geometry of the idealized bay and channel mentioned in Analytical Problem 7-8.