

Estuarine & Coastal Fluid Dynamics

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from the Latin "aestus," = boiling, tide

What makes the edges of the ocean special?

- strong tidal currents \Rightarrow turbulent mixing
- rough, shallow bathymetry
 \Rightarrow form drag, hydraulic control
- rivers \Rightarrow strong lateral density gradients
- coastal boundary \Rightarrow Ekman transport rapidly creates pressure gradients, Kelvin waves, shelf waves, upwelling
- Coriolis important but often not dominant.
- Concentrated biological productivity and pollution.

(2)

Scales

- (I) • most geophysical flows have thin "aspect ratio" meaning:

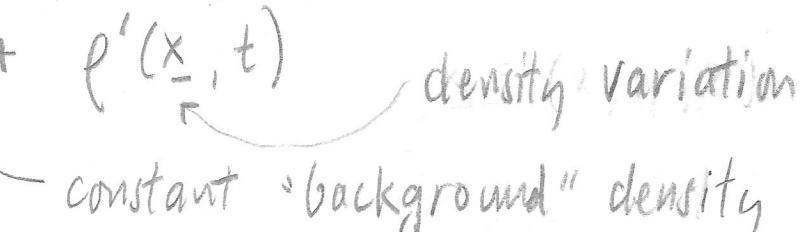
$$\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right] \sim \frac{1}{L} \quad \text{and} \quad \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right] \sim \frac{1}{H} \quad \text{where } [] = \text{"scale of"}$$

then $H/L \ll 1$ 

Consequences: $[w] \ll [u, v]$ small vertical velocity
also: pressure \sim hydrostatic

Exceptions: fronts, surface gravity waves,
internal waves with $\omega \sim N$ 

- (II) • density variations are small

Density: $\rho = \rho_0 + \rho'(x, t)$ 

$$\left. \begin{aligned} [\rho_0] &\sim 1000 \text{ kg m}^{-3} \\ [\rho'] &\sim -1-25 \text{ kg m}^{-3} \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \frac{[\rho']}{\rho_0} \ll 1$$

Leads to simplifications in the momentum and mass conservation eqns. called the "Boussinesq approximation."

(III)

- we average over turbulent time/space

scales : "Reynolds averaging."

$$\text{Full velocity: } u_f = \bar{u} + u' \quad \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \text{turbulent fluctuations} \end{matrix}$$

\bar{u} Reynolds averaged velocity

$\langle \rangle$ = average over turbulence

$$\Rightarrow \langle u_f \rangle = \bar{u}, \quad \langle u' \rangle = 0$$

Consider the X-mom material derivative :

Rate of change of u : $\frac{D u_f}{D t} = \frac{\partial u_f}{\partial t} + \underline{u}_f \cdot \nabla u_f \quad (*)$

following a fluid parcel

Assume incompressible $\nabla \cdot \underline{u}_f = 0$, add $u_f (\nabla \cdot \underline{u}_f)$ to $(*)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{D u_f}{D t} = \frac{\partial u_f}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (u_f \underline{u}_f), \text{ and take average}$$

$$\left\langle \frac{D u_f}{D t} \right\rangle = \left\langle \frac{\partial u_f}{\partial t} \right\rangle + \underbrace{\left\langle u_f u_f \right\rangle_x + \left\langle u_f v_f \right\rangle_y + \left\langle u_f w_f \right\rangle_z}_{\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}} + \underbrace{(u_w)_z + \left\langle u' v' \right\rangle_z + \left\langle u' w' \right\rangle_z + \left\langle u' w' \right\rangle_z}_0$$

(4)

- $\langle u'w' \rangle$ is called the "Reynolds Stress"

(really stress/ ρ) because "stress" means
force / unit area)

stress sign convention



Any systematic correlation of u' + w'
will move u momentum around.

Assume it acts like Fickian diffusion:

$$-\langle u'w' \rangle = -A \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}$$

A = "eddy viscosity" ($\frac{m^2}{s}$)

$A \sim 10^{-2} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ in a boundary layer

(vastly larger than ν , molecular kinematic
viscosity $\sim 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$)

Typically $A \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \gg A \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + A \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$

because $\frac{H}{L} \ll 1$

(5)

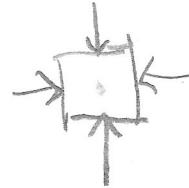
Using these three scaling & averaging assumptions, we have simplified momentum conservation equations:

Physics: Force = mass * acceleration

Fluid Mech.: acceleration = $\frac{\text{Force}}{\text{Volume}} / \left(\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}} \right) \rightarrow \rho$

$\therefore \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \frac{1}{\rho} \left\{ \text{sum of force/volume due to:} \right.$

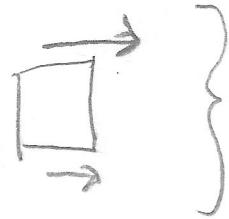
pressure



gravity



turbulent
stress
divergence



and
Coriolis
"force"

X mom $\frac{Du}{Dt} - fv = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{\rho_0} (A \frac{du}{dz})$

Y mom $\frac{Dv}{Dt} + fu = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{\rho_0} (A \frac{dv}{dz})$

Boussinesq approx: $\frac{1}{\rho} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\rho_0}$
Coriolis side rotating frame of reference

(6)

For Boussinesq flow with $(H/L)^2 \ll 1$

Scaling shows $\boxed{z\text{-mom}}$ is \sim "hydrostatic"

$$\frac{Dw}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} - \frac{gf}{\rho_0}$$

✓

$$\boxed{z\text{ mom}} \quad \boxed{\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = -\rho g}$$

Another consequence of Boussinesq approx.

is that $\boxed{\text{mass}} \quad \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{D\rho}{Dt} + (\nabla \cdot \underline{u}) = 0$

is approximately incompressible

$$\boxed{\text{mass}} \quad \nabla \cdot \underline{u} = 0$$

(7)

Nevertheless, we have to keep track
of the small density variation ρ'

because it affects $\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial p}{\partial y}$

Simplified equation of state: $\rho(s, T, p) \rightarrow \rho(s)$

$$\boxed{\rho} \quad \rho = \rho_0 (1 + \beta s), \quad \beta = 7.7 \cdot 10^{-4}$$

where $s = \frac{\text{kg salt}}{\text{kg seawater}} \sim 0 - 35 \text{ (g/kg)}$
 "Absolute salinity"

And s also has turbulent diffusion:

$$\boxed{s} \quad \frac{Ds}{Dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(K \frac{\partial s}{\partial z} \right)$$

eddy diffusivity ($\frac{m^2}{s}$)
 similar in scale to A

(8)

So we have 6 equations:

$$\underline{x} = \text{man}$$

$$\underline{\text{mass}} = \underline{e} = \underline{s}$$

(3)

in 6 unknowns:

$$u, v, w, p, e, s$$

✓ yay!