Balanced Flow on the Spinning Globe

Peter Lynch
School of Mathematical Sciences
University College Dublin

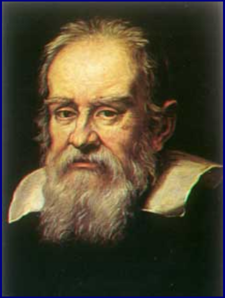
EMS Silver Medal Lecture
Met Soc & UCD
Science Hub, Belfield
Thursday 20th November 2014

Outline

Outline

Galileo Galilei (1564–1642)

Formulated law of falling bodies
. . . verified by measurements.



Constructed a telescope, and found

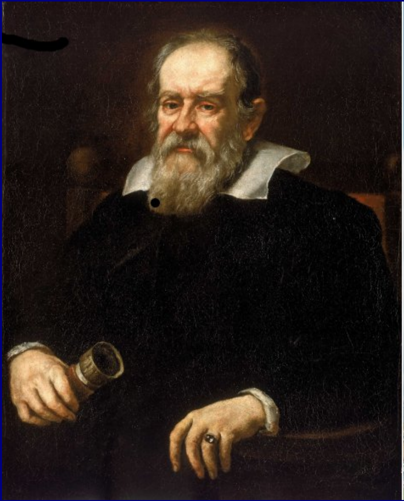
- lunar craters
- four moons of Jupiter

Galileo invented the thermometer

Evangelista Torricelli invented the barometer

Thus began quantitative meteorology.

Galileo Galilei and Leaning Tower of Pisa

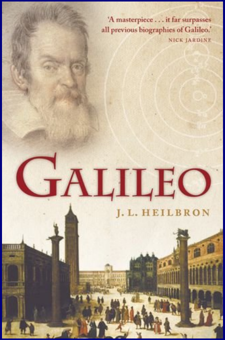


Leaning Tower

We have **Viviani's** word that Galileo dropped various weights from the Leaning Tower . . .

"... to the dismay of the philosophers, different weights fell at the same speed . . . "

Heilbron, John. *Galileo.* Oxford University Press, 2010



Galileo on the Universe

***The Assayer* (*IL SAGGIATORE*) was published in Rome in 1623.**

[The universe] . . . is written in the language of mathematics . . . without which it is . . . impossible to understand a single word of it.


IL SAGGIATORE
Nel quale
Con bilancia esquisita e giusta
si ponderano le cose contenute
nella
LIBRA·ASTRONOMICA·E·FILOSOFICA
DI LOTARIO·SARSI·SIGENSANO
Scritto in forma di lettera
VIRGINIO·CESARINI
Acc.o Linceo M.o di Camera di N.S.
GALILEO GALILEI
Acc.o Linceo Nobile Fiorentino
Filosofo e Matematico Primario
del
Ser.mo Gran Duca di Toscana
IN ROMA·MDCXXIII
Appresso Giacomo Mascardi
F·Villamoena Fecit·

As easy as A, B, C

Three-term equation:

$$A + B + C = 0$$

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Three-term equation:

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Suppose one term is small relative to the others:

$$A \quad \text{SMALL} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad B + C \approx 0$$

As easy as A, B, C

Three-term equation:

$$A + B + C = 0$$

Suppose one term is small relative to the others:

$$A \quad \text{SMALL} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad B + C \approx 0$$

There are three possibilities:

$$\begin{array}{llcrcl} A & \text{SMALL} & \Longrightarrow & B + C & \approx & 0 \\ B & \text{SMALL} & \Longrightarrow & A + C & \approx & 0 \\ C & \text{SMALL} & \Longrightarrow & A + B & \approx & 0 \end{array}$$

Outline

Introduction

Atmospheric Balance

Foucault Pendulum

Coriolis Effect

Richardson's Forecast

The ENIAC Forecasts

A Most Surprising Property of Atmospheric & Oceanic Motion

The motion of the atmosphere and ocean systems is remarkably persistent.

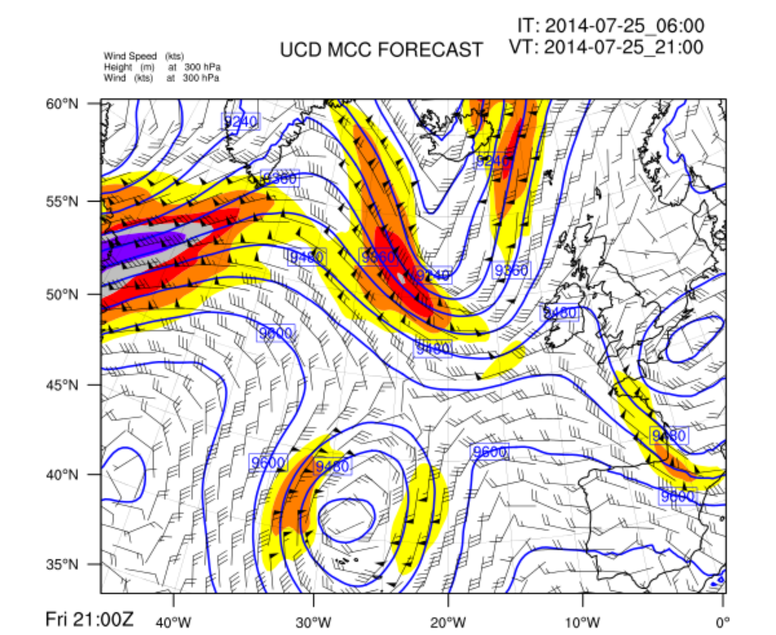
Why doesn't air rush in to fill low pressure areas?

A Most Surprising Property of Atmospheric & Oceanic Motion

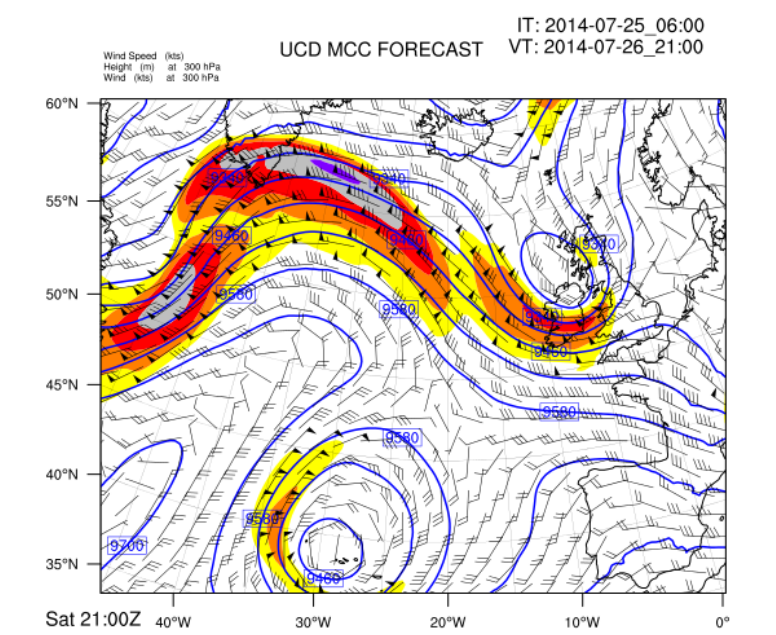
The motion of the atmosphere and ocean systems is remarkably persistent.

Why doesn't air rush in to fill low pressure areas?

The crucial factor is the rotation of the Earth.



Wind Speed (kts)
Height (m) at 300 hPa
Wind (kts) at 300 hPa
UCD MCC FORECAST
IT: 2014-07-25_06:00
VT: 2014-07-25_21:00
60°N
55°N
50°N
45°N
40°N
35°N
40°W
30°W
20°W
10°W
0°
Fri 21:00Z



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VT: 2014-07-26_21:00
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Height (m) at 300 hPa
Wind (kts) at 300 hPa
60°N
55°N
50°N
45°N
40°N
35°N
40°W
30°W
20°W
10°W
0°
Sat 21:00Z
9340
9460
9580
9700

Jule Charney

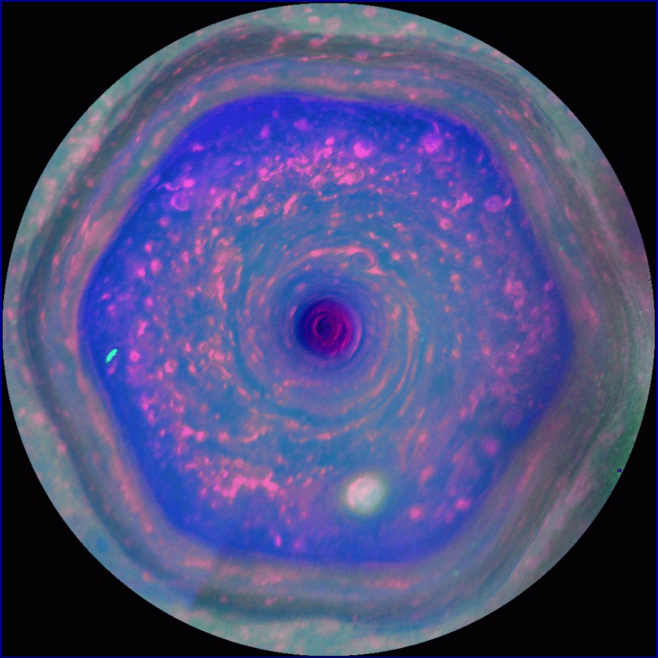
“If a stone is thrown into an infinite resting ocean, the gravitational oscillations engendered will radiate their energy to infinity, leaving the ocean . . . undisturbed;

Jule Charney

“If a stone is thrown into an infinite resting ocean, the gravitational oscillations engendered will radiate their energy to infinity, leaving the ocean . . . undisturbed;

“If a stone is thrown into an infinite rotating ocean, some of the energy . . . will be converted into rotational motions . . . and these will persist . . . .”

[Planetary Fluid Dynamics: *Dynamic Meteorology*, **Ed. P. Morel, 1973]**



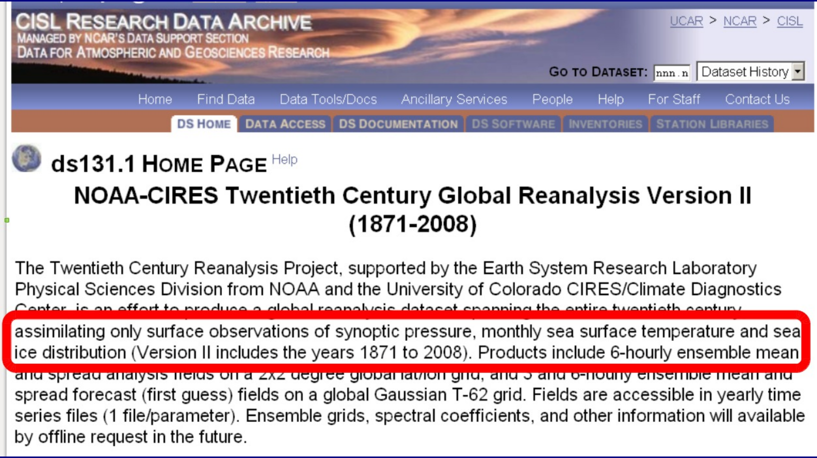
20th Century Reanalysis Project

A global reanalysis dataset spanning the entire twentieth century . . .

Assimilating only surface pressure observations . . .
. . . the analysis covers the entire troposphere.

Resolution:
T62 (300km), 28 Levels. 56-Member Ensemble.

20th Century Reanalysis (20CRv2)



CISL RESEARCH DATA ARCHIVE
MANAGED BY NCAR'S DATA SUPPORT SECTION
DATA FOR ATMOSPHERIC AND GEOSCIENCES RESEARCH

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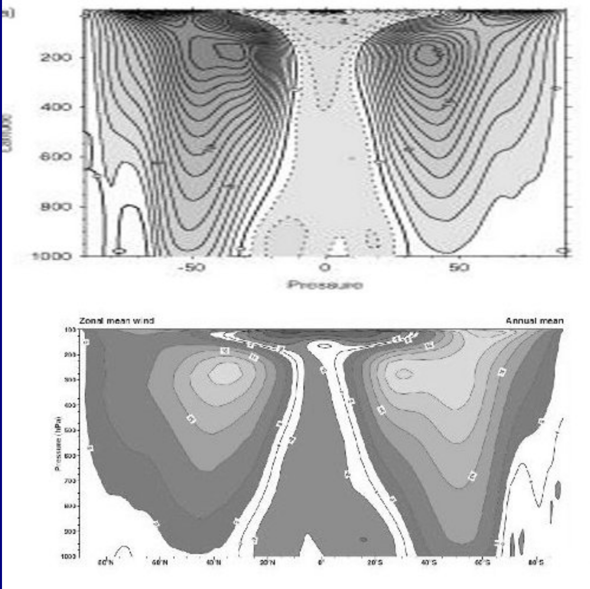
NOAA-CIRES Twentieth Century Global Reanalysis Version II (1871-2008)

The Twentieth Century Reanalysis Project, supported by the Earth System Research Laboratory Physical Sciences Division from NOAA and the University of Colorado CIRES/Climate Diagnostics Center, is an effort to produce a global reanalysis dataset spanning the entire twentieth century, assimilating only surface observations of synoptic pressure, monthly sea surface temperature and sea ice distribution (Version II includes the years 1871 to 2008). Products include 6-hourly ensemble mean and spread analysis fields on a 2x2 degree global lat/lon grid, and 3 and 6-hourly ensemble mean and spread forecast (first guess) fields on a global Gaussian T-62 grid. Fields are accessible in yearly time series files (1 file/parameter). Ensemble grids, spectral coefficients, and other information will available by offline request in the future.

Mean Zonal Wind Analysis

20CR

ERA40



20th Century Reanalysis: Conclusion

How do they do that?

How do they reconstruct the troposphere from surface observations?

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Reconstruction of the complete three-dimensional structure of the troposphere is possible . . .

. . . because the atmosphere is in a state of balance.

20th Century Reanalysis: Conclusion

How do they do that?

How do they reconstruct the troposphere from surface observations?

Reconstruction of the complete three-dimensional structure of the troposphere is possible . . .

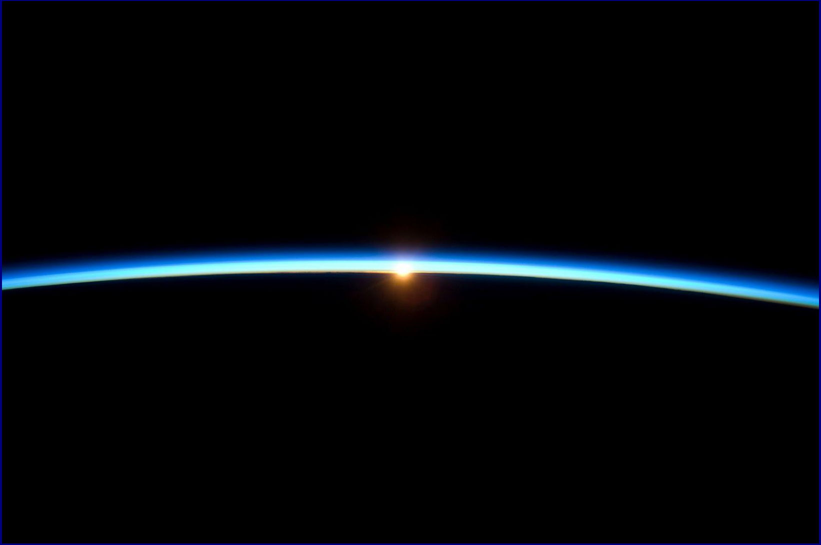
. . . because the atmosphere is in a state of balance.

ERA-CLIM2: Ongoing ECMWF Project.
20th Century Reanalysis coming soon.

Examples of Balance in the Atmosphere

- Hydrostatic balance
- Geostrophic balance
- Quasi-nondivergence
- Quasi-incompressibility
- Ocean atmosphere balance
- Energy balance
- Ice sheet balance
- Etc., etc., etc.

The Thin Atmosphere



Hydrostatic Balance

What keeps the air aloft?

Something must be balancing gravity.

What is it?

Hydrostatic Balance

What keeps the air aloft?

Something must be balancing gravity.

What is it?

For a parcel of air:

- The air below is pushing it upwards.
- The air above is pushing it down.
- The push upwards is greater.
- The difference balances the pull of gravity.

Vertical Equation of Motion

Examine the terms in the vertical equation

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}w}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{u^2 + v^2}{r} + 2\Omega u \cos\phi - \frac{1}{\rho}\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} - g + F_Z \,.$$

Vertical pressure gradient force and gravity dominate.

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Remember:

$A + B + C = 0$ **with** A **small means** $B + C = 0$**.**

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Remember:

$A + B + C = 0$ **with** A **small means** $B + C = 0$.

Keeping just the two large terms, we have:

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = -g\rho$$

Hydrostatic Balance

- The vertical wind is generally very small.
- There is balance between the vertical pressure gradient force and gravity.
- This balance is called *hydrostatic balance*.

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + g\rho = 0$$

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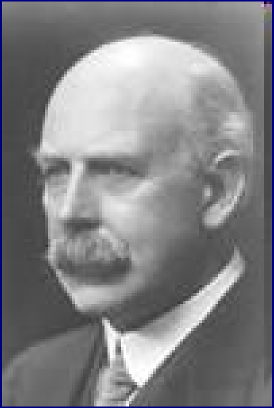
Geostrophic Balance

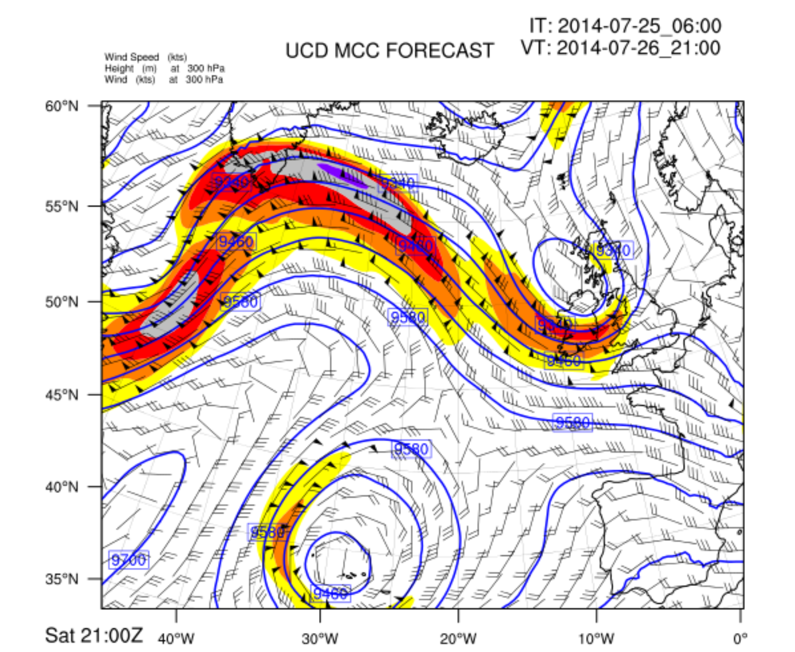
$\gamma\epsilon\omega \quad \sigma\tau\rho o\phi\eta$

= ***geo strophe***

= **Earth Turning**

The term was coined by
Sir Napier Shaw,
Director of the Met Office.

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Buys Ballot

Christophorus Henricus Diedericus Buys Ballot (1817–1890)

Dutch meteorologist
and chemist
and mineralogist
and geologist
and mathematician.

Buys Ballot's Law

In the Northern Hemisphere, if you stand with your back to the wind,
the Low Pressure is to your left.

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The GPS Version:

If you stand with your back to the wind, and the low pressure is to your left, then you must be in the Northern Hemisphere.

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Raymond Hide

William Ferrel

William Ferrel (1817–1891)

American meteorologist.

Ferrel's 1856 Paper

An essay on the winds and the currents of the oceans.

[Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery, 1856.]

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"In consequence of the atmosphere's revolving . . . each particle is impressed with a centrifugal force.

"But if the rotatory motion of the atmosphere is greater than that of the Earth, this force is increased.

"and if . . . [less] . . . it is diminished.

"This difference gives rise to a disturbing force . . . which materially influences the motion."

Force Balance for Low and High Pressure

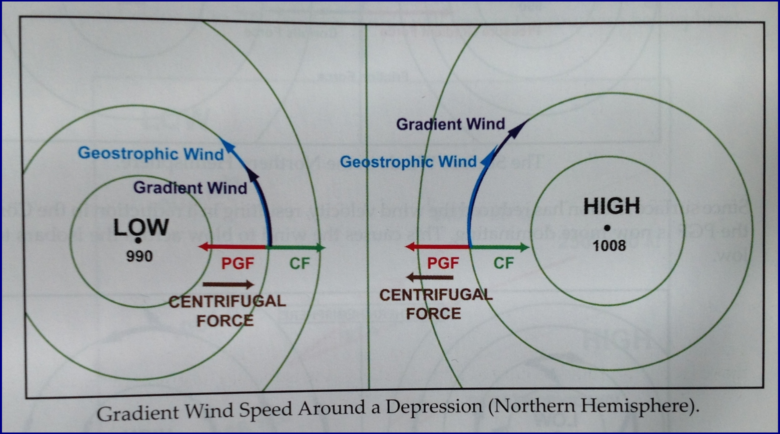

Image from ATPM Manual, Oxford Aviation Training

Gradient balance around low and high pressure.

Horizontal Equations of Motion

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{V}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{V} + 2\Omega \times \mathbf{V} + \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p = \mathbf{0}$$

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For steady motion we get a three-way balance:

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{V}}_{CFF} + \underbrace{2\Omega \times \mathbf{V}}_{COR} + \underbrace{(1/\rho) \nabla p}_{PGF} = \mathbf{0}$$

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This is as easy as ABC:

$$A + B + C = 0$$

Three-way Balance

Also known as Gradient Balance:

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{V}\cdot\nabla\mathbf{V}}_{CFF}+\underbrace{2\Omega\times\mathbf{V}}_{COR}+\underbrace{(1/\rho)\nabla p}_{PGF}=\mathbf{0}$$

Three-way Balance

Also known as Gradient Balance:

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- *CFF* **small** $\Longrightarrow$ **Geostrophic Balance**
- *COR* **small** $\Longrightarrow$ **Cyclostrophic Balance**
- *PGF* **small** $\Longrightarrow$ **Inertial Balance**

Three for the price of one!

Geostrophic Balance

The Coriolis Parameter is $f = 2\Omega \sin \phi$.

Geostrophic Balance

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Then:

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Then:

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Balance between the Coriolis force and the pressure gradient force:

$$\mathbf{V}_{\mathrm{GEO}} = \frac{1}{f\rho}\mathbf{k} \times \nabla \mathbf{p}$$

Geostrophic Balance

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Balance between the Coriolis force and the pressure gradient force:

$$\mathbf{V}_{\mathrm{GEO}} = \frac{1}{f\rho}\mathbf{k} \times \nabla \mathbf{p}$$

We can determine the wind from the pressure!

Time-scale for Atmospheric Motions

Non-rotating Earth:

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathbf{V}}{\partial t}}_{V/T} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p}_{\Delta p/\rho L} = \mathbf{0} \qquad \text{or} \qquad T = \frac{\rho L V}{\Delta p}$$

For typical synoptic values this gives $T \approx 3$ hours.

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For typical synoptic values this gives $T \approx 3$ hours.

Rotating Earth:

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathbf{V}}{\partial t}}_{V/T} + \underbrace{\mathbf{V}\cdot\nabla\mathbf{V}}_{V^2/L} = 0 \qquad \text{or} \qquad T = \frac{L}{V}$$

For typical synoptic values this gives $T \approx 30$ hours.

Simple Geostrophic Adjustment

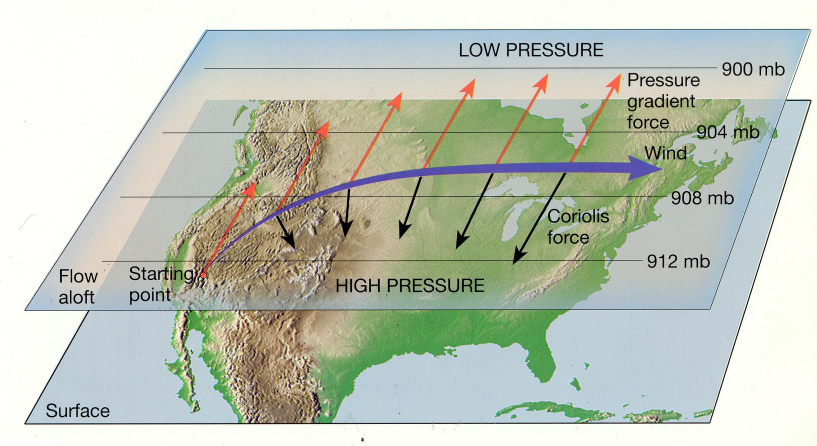

Image from Ackerman & Knox, ©Jones & Bartlett Learning.

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Geostrophic Flow is Quasi-nondivergent

$$\mathbf{V}_{\mathrm{GEO}} = \frac{1}{f\rho}\mathbf{k} \times \nabla p$$

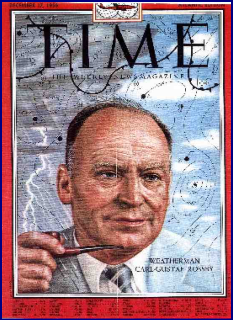
Ignore variations in f and ρ:

$$\mathbf{V}_{\mathrm{GEO}} = \mathbf{k} \times \nabla \left(\frac{p}{f\rho}\right) = \nabla \times \left(-\frac{p}{f\rho}\right)\mathbf{k}$$

Divergence of a curl is zero:

$$\boxed{\nabla \cdot \mathbf{V}_{\mathrm{GEO}} = 0}$$

The Rossby Number



C. G. Rossby in *Time*

$$\mathrm{Ro} = \frac{\textbf{Centrifugal Force}}{\textbf{Coriolis Force}} = \frac{V}{f\,L}$$

$$\mathrm{Ro} = \frac{\textbf{Spin of the Flow}}{\textbf{Spin of the Earth}} = \frac{\zeta}{f}$$

500 mb geopotential and wind field

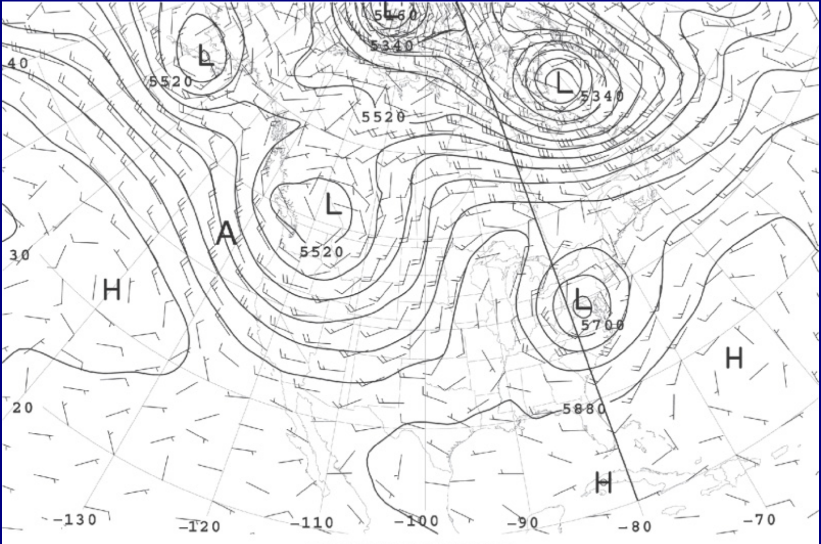


Image from Marshall & Plumb, ©Elsevier.

500 mb Rossby Number $|\mathbf{V}.\nabla\mathbf{V}|/|f\mathbf{V}|$

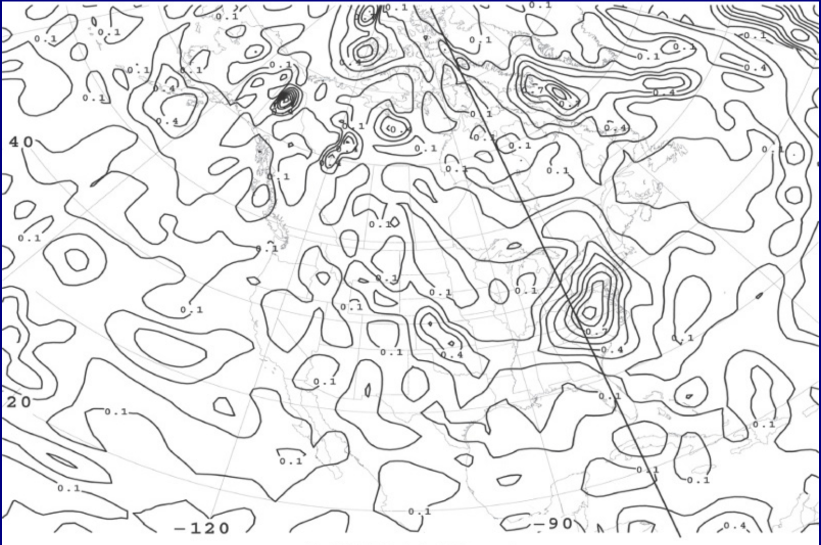


Image from Marshall & Plumb, ©Elsevier.

Balance at Different Scales

- Extra-tropical Depressions
- Tropical Cyclones
- Tornadoes
- Domestic.

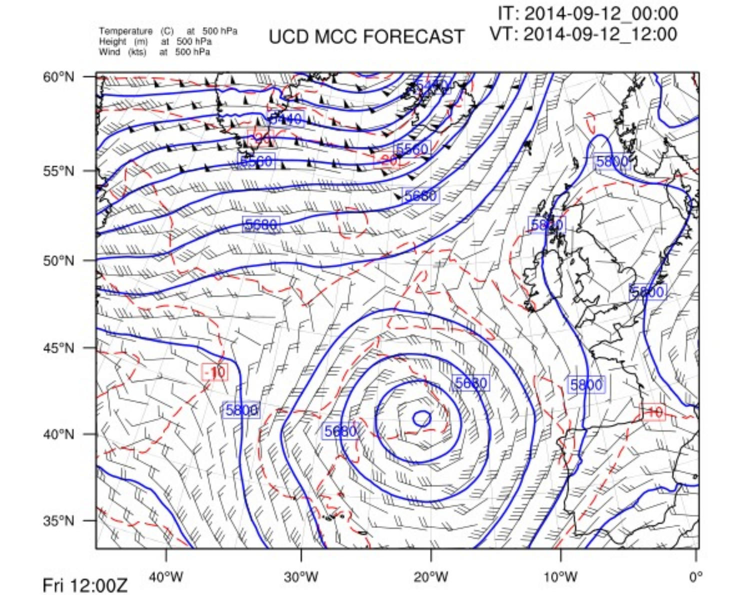
Balance at Different Scales: Depressions

Extra-tropical Depression

$$\mathbf{Ro} \approx \frac{1}{10}$$

Geostrophic Balance Good

Gradient Balance Better.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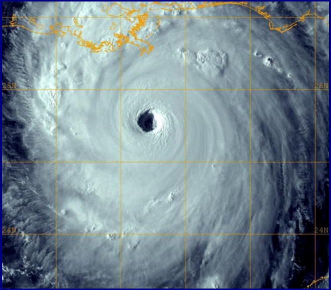
Balance at Different Scales: Tropical Cyclones



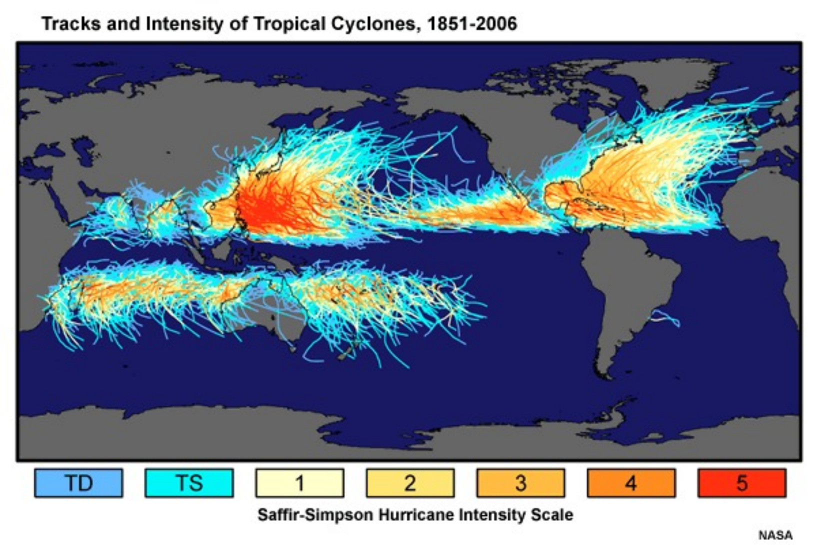
Hurricane

$\mathrm{Ro} \approx 10 - 100$

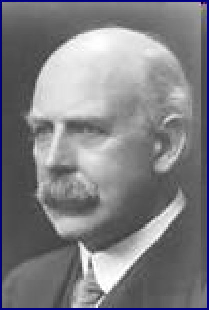
Geostrophic Balance Bad

Gradient Balance Better.

Tropical Cyclone Tracks



Distribution of Tropical Cyclones



“I always find my pen sticks to the paper and refuses to move when I try to draw an isobar across the equator.”

Napier Shaw (1923): *The air and its ways*. CUP, pg. 51.

Balance at Different Scales: Tornodoes

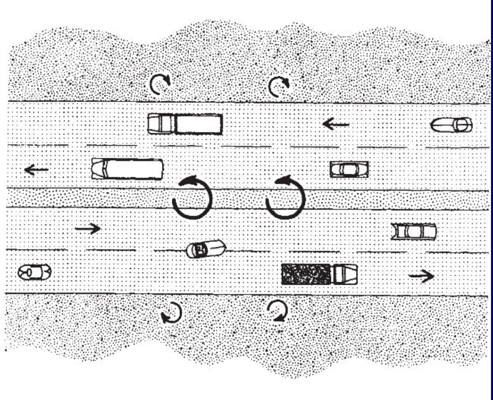
Tornado

Ro $\approx 10,000$

Close to Cyclostrophic Balance

Coriolis effect influences background flow

Traffic Flow and Vorticity



Effect of vorticity pollution by motor vehicles on tornadoes.
Isaacs, J. D., J. W. Stork, D. B. Goldstein & G. L. Wick
***Nature*, 253, 254–255 (1975).**

> 98% of tornadoes are cyclonic, **but . . .**

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- **Notable Anticyclonic Tornadoes:**
  - West Bend tornado
  - Grand Island tornado
  - Woodward, Oklahoma April 10th 2012
  - Aurora Nebraska, 2009
  - Freedom, Oklahoma, June 6, 1975
  - Sunnyvale, California, May 4, 1998
  - El Reno, Oklahoma, May 31, 2013

- **Anticyclonic tornadoes rotate clockwise (in NHS)**

Balance at Different Scales: Domestic

Down the Plughole

$\text{Ro} \approx 100,000$

Cyclostrophic Balance

Balance at Different Scales: Domestic

Down the Plughole

Ro $\approx 100,000$

Cyclostrophic Balance

Coriolis Effect Completely Irrelevant

. . . unless you believe Homer Simpson

Review of Dynamical Balance

When the forces acting on a parcel sum to zero, a balance is achieved.

With balance, there is steady flow.

- Hydrostatic Balance
- Geostrophic Balance
- Gradient Balance
- Cyclostrophic Balance

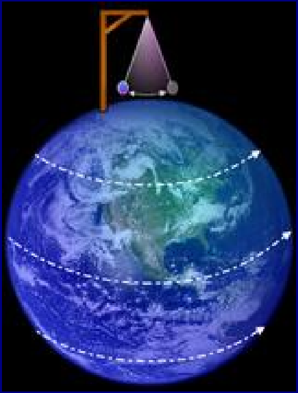
Outline

Foucault’s Pendulum

Foucault’s pendulum experiment in 1851 was the first simple terrestrial demonstration of the rotation of the Earth.

Not entirely true: Laplace, Gauss and falling objects.

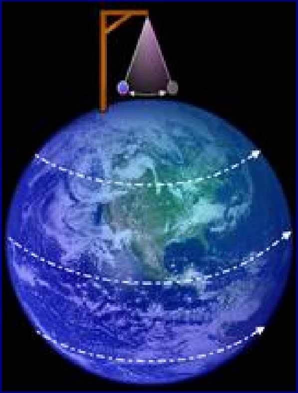
Foucault's Pendulum



Basic Idea:

The pendulum swings in a fixed plane while while the Earth spins beneath it.

Foucault's Pendulum



Basic Idea:

The pendulum swings in a fixed plane while while the Earth spins beneath it.

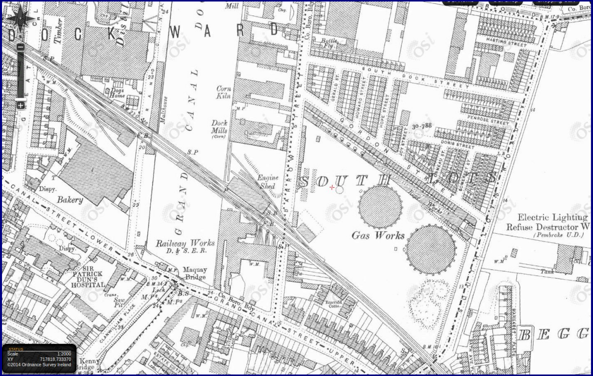
Things are not so simple!

Foucault's Pendulum at the Panthéon

Foucault's Pendulum in Dublin

Foucault's experiment triggered pendulum mania.

The experiment was repeated in Dublin in 1851 by Joseph Galbraith and Samuel Haughton of TCD.



Foucault's Pendulum in Dublin

Galbraith and Haughton published a quite complete mathematical analysis in the *Philosophical Magazine*.

Another analysis by Matthew O'Brien, was one of the first applications of vector analysis.

Outline

Newtonian Mechanics

Newtonian mechanics assumes the existence of an absolute, unaccelerated frame of reference.

Newton's laws are covariant in all inertial frames.

They keep the same mathematical form under Galilean transformations.

They are not covariant in accelerating frames: there are additional terms.

Newtonian Mechanics

The second law of motion in vector form is

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{p}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathbf{F}$$

This equation is valid in all inertial frames.

Newtonian Mechanics

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This equation is valid in all inertial frames.

However, the component form of the equation,

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}p_i}{\mathrm{d}t} = F_i$$

is true only for cartesian coordinates.

Newtonian Mechanics

In cartesian coordinates in two dimensions:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 x}{\mathrm{d}t^2} = \frac{F_x}{m} \qquad \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 y}{\mathrm{d}t^2} = \frac{F_y}{m}$$

Newtonian Mechanics

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In polar coordinates (r, ϕ) additional terms appear:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 r}{\mathrm{d}t^2} - r\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\phi}{\mathrm{d}t}\right)^2 = \frac{F_r}{m},$$

$$r\frac{d^2\phi}{\mathrm{d}t}^2 + 2\frac{\mathrm{d}r}{\mathrm{d}t}\frac{\mathrm{d}\phi}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{F_\phi}{m}$$

The equations are not covariant.

Velocity in Rotating Frame

For a point x′ fixed in a rotating frame:

$$\mathbf{v} = \Omega \times \mathbf{x}'$$

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The vector product is the root of the difficulty
in understanding the Coriolis effect.

Velocity in Rotating Frame

For a point $\mathbf{x}'$ fixed in a rotating frame:

$$\mathbf{v} = \Omega \times \mathbf{x}'$$

The vector product is the root of the difficulty in understanding the Coriolis effect.

For a particle with velocity $\mathbf{v}'$ in the rotating frame,

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{v}}_{\text{ABS}} = \underbrace{\mathbf{v}'}_{\text{REL}} + \underbrace{\Omega \times \mathbf{x}'}_{\text{FRAME}} .$$

We just add the two contributions to velocity.

O'Brien's Equation

- Let **A** be a vector in an inertial frame
- **A**$'$ the same vector in a frame with rotation Ω.

The rates of change are related:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{A}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{A}'}{\mathrm{d}t} + \Omega \times \mathbf{A}'$$

Matthew O'Brien (1814-1855)

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The rates of change are related:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{A}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{A}'}{\mathrm{d}t} + \Omega \times \mathbf{A}'$$

This expression is fundamental. It was first expressed in vector form by Matthew O'Brien.

I propose to call it O'Brien's equation.

Paper to appear in *Bulletin of Irish Mathematical Society*.

Applying O'Brien's equation to the position vectors,

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}'}{\mathrm{d}t} + \Omega \times \mathbf{x}' ,$$

or

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}' + \Omega \times \mathbf{x}' .$$

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$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}'}{\mathrm{d}t} + \Omega\times\mathbf{x}' ,$$

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Now applying the relationship again

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}'}{\mathrm{d}t} + \underbrace{2\Omega\times\mathbf{v}'}_{\mathrm{COR}} + \underbrace{\Omega\times(\Omega\times\mathbf{x}')}_{\mathrm{CFF}} + \underbrace{\dot{\Omega}\times\mathbf{x}'}_{\mathrm{EUL}}$$

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The acceleration has three additional terms:

- The Coriolis acceleration $2\Omega\times\mathbf{v}'$
- The centrifugal acceleration $\Omega\times(\Omega\times\mathbf{x}')$
- The Euler term $\dot{\Omega}\times\mathbf{x}'$.

Transforming the Equations

Assume Ω constant ($\dot{\Omega} = 0$) and drop the Euler term.

Transforming the Equations

Assume Ω constant ($\dot{\Omega} = 0$) and drop the Euler term.

Newton's equation may then be written

$$m\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{v}'}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathbf{F}' - \underbrace{2m\Omega\times\mathbf{v}'}_{\text{COR}} - \underbrace{m\Omega\times(\Omega\times\mathbf{x}')}_{\text{CFF}}$$

where $\mathbf{F}'$ is the physical force in the rotating frame.

The two additional terms now appear as forces.

Covariant form of Newton's equations

We can express Newton's equations so that they are covariant under rotations.

We define a new time derivative

$$\frac{\mathrm{D}\mathbf{A}}{\mathrm{D}t} \equiv \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{A}}{\mathrm{d}t} + \Omega \times \mathbf{A}$$

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We can express Newton's equations so that they are covariant under rotations.

We define a new time derivative

$$\frac{\mathrm{D}\mathbf{A}}{\mathrm{D}t} \equiv \frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{A}}{\mathrm{d}t} + \Omega\times\mathbf{A}$$

We then write the equation of motion as

$$\mathbf{p} = m\frac{\mathrm{D}\mathbf{x}}{\mathrm{D}t} \qquad \frac{\mathrm{D}\mathbf{p}}{\mathrm{D}t} = \mathbf{F}\,.$$

These equations keep the same mathematical form under all rotational transformations.

Lagrange's Equations

We define the Lagrangian:

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Kinetic} \\ \text{Energy} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \text{Potential} \\ \text{Energy} \end{bmatrix}$$

Lagrange's Equations

We define the **Lagrangian:**

$$L = \begin{bmatrix}\text{Kinetic}\\ \text{Energy}\end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix}\text{Potential}\\ \text{Energy}\end{bmatrix}$$

Then Lagrange's equation of motion are

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}_\rho} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial q_\rho}$$

These equations are in covariant form:
They are valid in all frames of reference.

The Principle of Relativity

The equations expressing the laws of physics have the same form in all admissible frames of reference.

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The equations expressing the laws of physics have the same form in all admissible frames of reference.

The Coriolis effect arises through rotation of the reference frame.

Can we use the *Principle of Relativity* to obtain the Coriolis terms?

Yes!

Warning: Not quite as easy as A, B, C!

Tensorial Formulation of Equations

Three very recent papers in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society:*

Charron, Martin, Ayrton Zadra, and Claude Girard, 2014: Four-dimensional tensor equations for a classical fluid in an external gravitational field. *Quart. J. Roy. Met. Soc.* 140 (680), 908–916.

Fundamental equations in tensor form:

$$T^{\mu\nu}{}_{;\nu} = -\rho h^{\mu\nu} \Phi_{,\nu}$$

where the mass-momentum-stress tensor is

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \rho u^{\mu} u^{\nu} + h^{\mu\nu} p + \sigma^{\mu\nu}$$

The General Geodesic Equation

In an inertial frame with cartesian coordinates,

$$\mathrm{d}s^2 = \mathrm{d}x^2 + \mathrm{d}y^2 = g_{\mu\nu}\mathrm{d}x^\mu\mathrm{d}x^\nu$$

The line element is invariant.

The General Geodesic Equation

In an inertial frame with cartesian coordinates,

$$ds^2 = dx^2 + dy^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu$$

The line element is invariant.

The rotating coordinates (X, Y) are

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \cos\Omega t\, x + \sin\Omega t\, y \\ Y &= -\sin\Omega t\, x + \cos\Omega t\, y \end{aligned}$$

In the rotating frame

$$ds^2 = dX^2 + dY^2 - 2\Omega dx dT + 2\Omega dX dT + \Omega^2 (X^2 + Y^2) dT^2$$

We write this as

$$ds^2 = g'_{\mu\nu} dX^\mu dX^\nu$$

where the metric tensor is

$$g'_{\mu\nu} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\Omega Y \\ 0 & 1 & \Omega X \\ -\Omega Y & \Omega X & \Omega^2(X^2 + Y^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that $g'_{\mu\nu}$ is **singular**: inverse $g'^{\mu\nu}$ does not exist.

The geodesic equation is:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\left(g'_{\sigma\nu}\frac{\mathrm{d}X^{\nu}}{\mathrm{d}t}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial g'_{\mu\nu}}{\partial X^{\sigma}}\frac{\mathrm{d}X^{\mu}}{\mathrm{d}t}\frac{\mathrm{d}X^{\nu}}{\mathrm{d}t} = 0$$

The geodesic equation is:

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Writing this explicitly, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{X} - 2\Omega\dot{Y} - \Omega^2 X &= 0 \\ \ddot{Y} + 2\Omega\dot{X} - \Omega^2 Y &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

These are the equations derived already by more conventional means.

Why use the Tensor Formulation?

- Tensor equations are covariant: they preserve their form in all coordinate systems;
- Transformations are handled systematically;
- Approximations are derived rigourously;
- Conservation properties are preserved.

An alternative equation for the geodesics is

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 X^\rho}{\mathrm{d}s^2} + \Gamma^\rho{}_{\mu\nu}\frac{\mathrm{d}X^\mu}{\mathrm{d}s}\frac{\mathrm{d}X^\nu}{\mathrm{d}s} = 0$$

The Christoffel symbols of the first kind are

$$[\sigma|\mu\nu] = \Gamma_{\sigma|\mu\nu} = \tfrac{1}{2}\left[\frac{\partial g'_{\sigma\nu}}{\partial X^\mu} + \frac{\partial g'_{\mu\sigma}}{\partial X^\nu} - \frac{\partial g'_{\mu\nu}}{\partial X^\sigma}\right]$$

There are ten non-vanishing symbols:

$$[1,33] = -\Omega^2 X \qquad [2,33] = -\Omega^2 Y$$
$$[1,23] = [1,32] = -\Omega \qquad [2,13] = [2,31] = +\Omega$$
$$[3,13] = [3,31] = \Omega^2 X \qquad [3,23] = [3,32] = \Omega^2 Y$$

where the variables are $(X^1, X^2, X^3) = (X, Y, T)$**.**

The Christoffel symbols of the second kind are

$$\Gamma^{\rho}{}_{\mu\nu} = g^{\rho\sigma}\Gamma_{\sigma|\mu\nu}$$

To regularise $g_{\mu\nu}$, we write the metric as

$$\mathrm{d}s^2 = \mathrm{d}x^2 + \mathrm{d}y^2 + \epsilon\,\mathrm{d}t^2$$

and consider the limiting case $\epsilon \to 0$.

The $\Gamma^{\rho}{}_{\mu\nu}$ are independent of ϵ. The non-zero ones are

$$\Gamma^1{}_{23} = \Gamma^1{}_{32} = -\Omega \qquad \Gamma^2{}_{13} = \Gamma^2{}_{31} = +\Omega$$
$$\Gamma^1{}_{33} = -\Omega^2 X \qquad \Gamma^2{}_{33} = -\Omega^2 Y$$

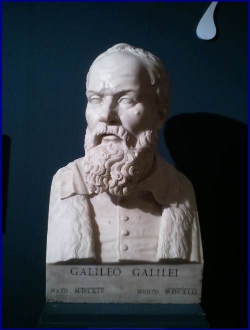
These yield the same equations as obtained above.

The curvature tensor vanishes: $R^{\rho}{}_{\sigma\mu\nu} \equiv 0$.

Galileo on Mathematics

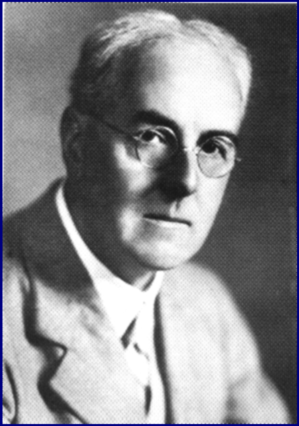
[The universe] . . . is written in the language of mathematics . . . without which it is . . . impossible to understand a single word of it.

Without this understanding, one is wandering around in a dark labyrinth.



Outline

Lewis Fry Richardson, 1881–1953.



During WW I, Richardson computed the pressure change at a single point.

It took him two years !

His 'forecast' was a catastrophic failure:

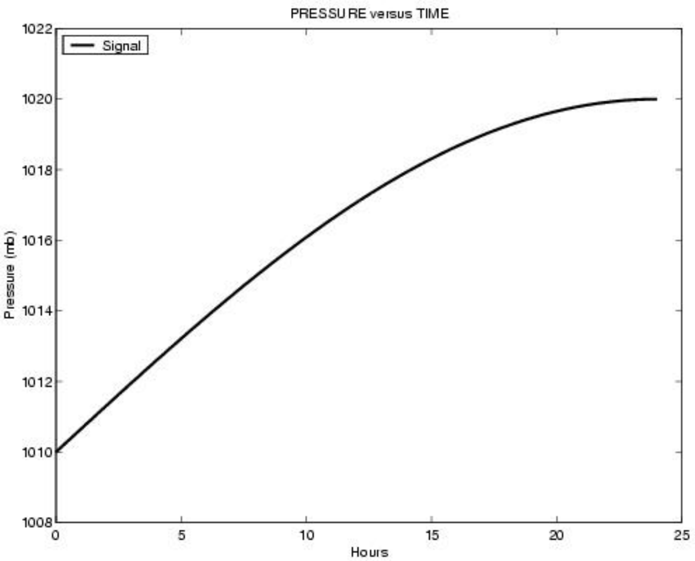
$$\Delta p = 145 \text{ hPa in 6 hrs}$$

But Richardson's method was scientifically sound.

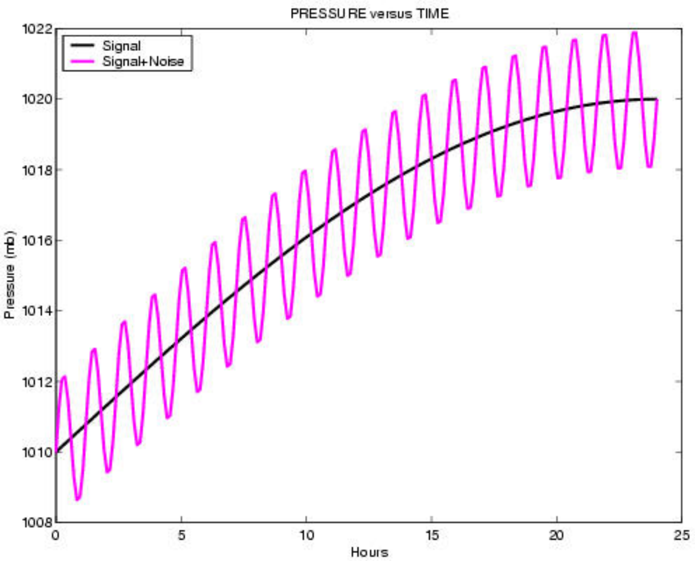
A Richardsonian Limerick

Young Richardson wanted to know
How quickly the pressure would grow.
But, what a surprise, ’cos
The six-hourly rise was,
In Pascals, One Four Five — Oh Oh!

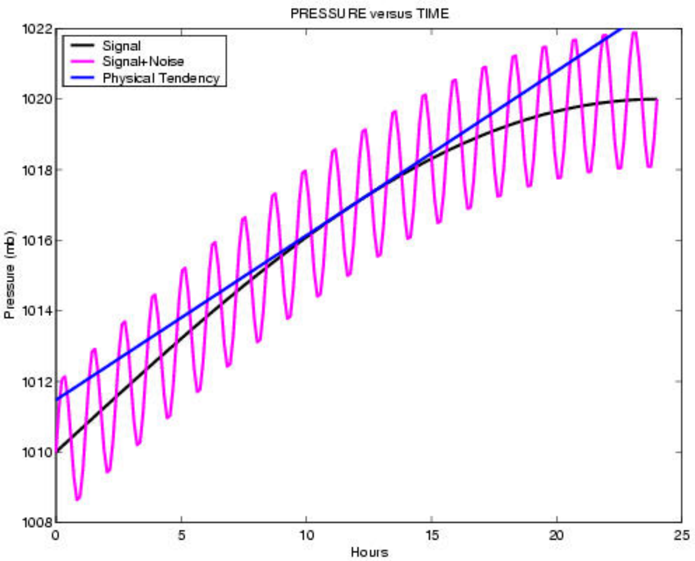
Smooth Evolution of Pressure



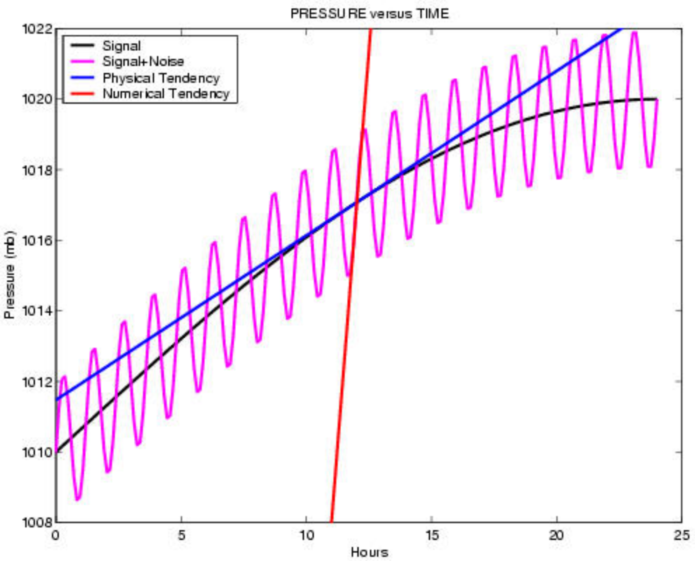
Noisy Evolution of Pressure



Tendency of a Smooth Signal



Tendency of a Noisy Signal



Initialization of Richardson's Forecast

Richardson's Forecast has been repeated.

The atmospheric observations for 20 May, 1910
were recovered from original sources.

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- **ORIGINAL:** $\frac{dp_s}{dt} = +\mathbf{145}\,\mathrm{hPa}/6\,\mathrm{h}$
- **INITIALIZED:** $\frac{dp_s}{dt} = -\mathbf{0.9}\,\mathrm{hPa}/6\,\mathrm{h}$

Observations: The barometer was steady!

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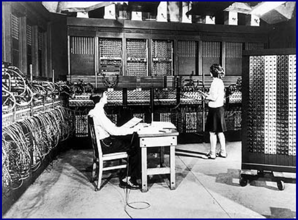
BALANCED INITIAL DATA IS ESSENTIAL!

Outline

The ENIAC Forecasts



ENIAC: The first multi-purpose programmable electronic digital computer.

- 18,000 vacuum tubes
- 70,000 resistors
- 10,000 capacitors
- 6,000 switches
- Power: 140 kWatts

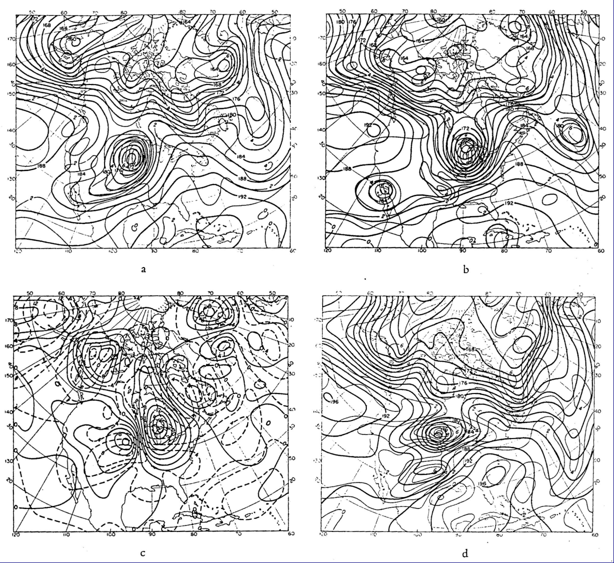
Charney, et al., *Tellus*, 1950.

- The atmosphere is treated as a single layer.
- The flow is assumed to be nondivergent.
- Absolute vorticity is conserved.

$$\frac{d(\zeta + f)}{dt} = 0.$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}\text{Absolute}\\ \text{Vorticity}\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}\text{Relative}\\ \text{Vorticity}\end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix}\text{Planetary}\\ \text{Vorticity}\end{bmatrix}.$$

ENIAC Forecast for Jan 5, 1949



Recreating the ENIAC Forecasts

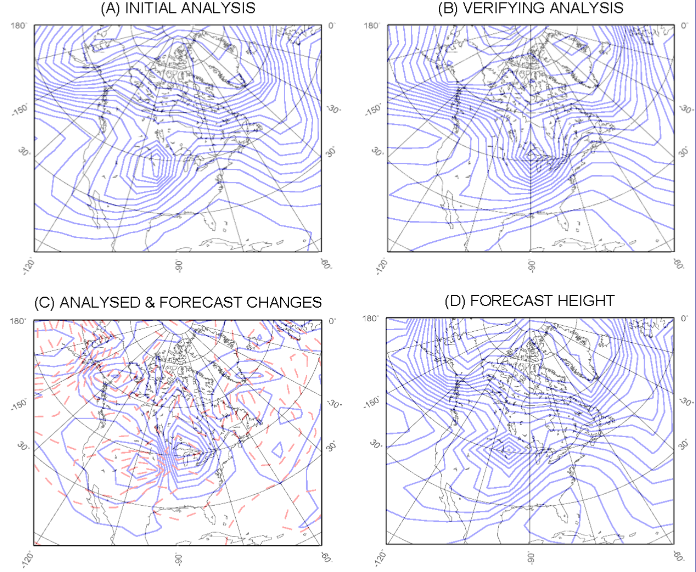
The ENIAC integrations have been repeated using:

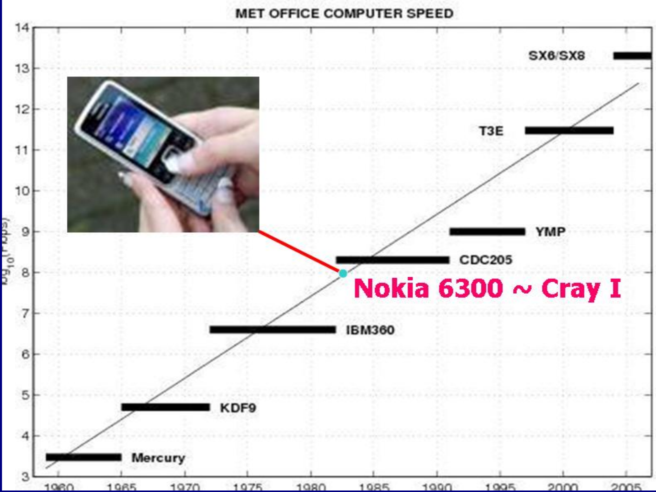
- **A MATLAB program to solve the BVE**
- **Data from the NCEP/NCAR reanalysis**

The matlab code is available on the website

http://maths.ucd.ie/~plynch/eniac

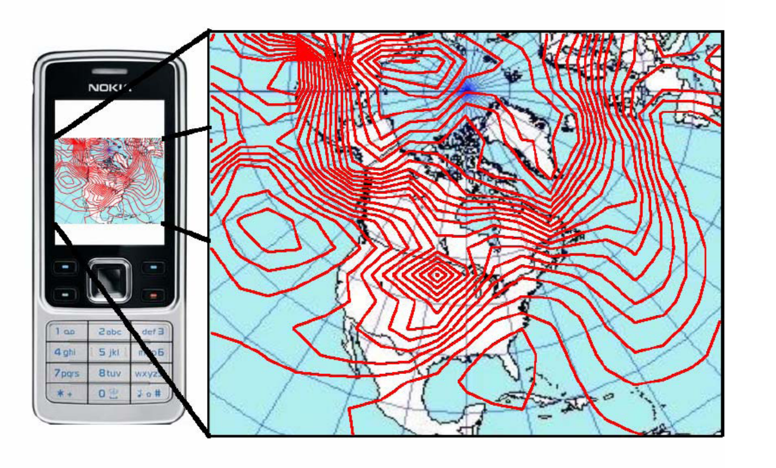
Recreation of the Forecast





A modern mobile phone has vastly greater power than the ENIAC.

PHONIAC: Portable Hand Operated Numerical Integrator and Computer



Weather, November 2008

Forecasts by PHONIAC

Weather – November 2008, Vol. 63, No. 11

Peter Lynch[1]
and Owen Lynch[2]

[1]*University College Dublin, Meteorology and Climate Centre, Dublin*
[2]*Dublin Software Laboratory, IBM Ireland*

The first computer weather forecasts were made in 1950, using the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer). The ENIAC forecasts led to operational numerical weather prediction within five years, and paved the way for the remarkable advances in weather prediction and climate modelling that have been made over the past half century. The basis for the forecasts was the barotropic vorticity equation (BVE). In the present study, we describe the solution of the BVE on a mobile phone (cell-phone), and repeat one of the ENIAC forecasts. We speculate on the possible applications of mobile phones for micro-scale numerical weather prediction.

The ENIAC Integrations

and John von Neumann (1950; cited below as CFvN). The story of this work was recounted by George Platzman in his Victor P. Starr Memorial Lecture (Platzman, 1979). The atmosphere was treated as a single layer, represented by conditions at the 500 hPa level, modelled by the BVE. This equation, expressing the conservation of absolute vorticity following the flow, gives the rate of change of the Laplacian of height in terms of the advection. The tendency of the height field is obtained by solving a Poisson equation with homogeneous boundary conditions. The height field may then be advanced to the next time level. With a one hour time-step, this cycle is repeated 24 times for a one-day forecast.

The initial data for the forecasts were prepared manually from standard operational 500 hPa analysis charts of the U.S. Weather Bureau, discretised to a grid of 19 by 16 points, with grid interval of 736 km. Centred spatial finite differences and a leapfrog time-scheme were used. The boundary conditions for height were held constant throughout each 24-hour integration. The forecast starting at 0300 UTC, January 5, 1949 is shown in

vorticity. The forecast height and vorticity are shown in the right panel. The feature of primary interest was an intense depression over the United States. This deepened, moving NE to the 90°W meridian in 24 hours. A discussion of this forecast, which underestimated the development of the depression, may be found in CFvN and in Lynch (2008).

Dramatic growth in computing power

The oft-cited paper in *Tellus* (CFvN) gives a complete account of the computational algorithm and discusses four forecast cases. The ENIAC, which had been completed in 1945, was the first programmable electronic digital computer ever built. It was a gigantic machine, with 18,000 thermionic valves, filling a large room and consuming 140 kW of power. Input and output was by means of punch-cards. McCartney (1999) provides an absorbing account of the origins, design, development and destiny of ENIAC.

Advances in computer technology over the past half-century have been spectacular. The increase in computing power is encap-

Notices of the (other) AMS

September 2013 issue of ***Notices of the American Mathematical Society.***

Thank you