

II.1

Hydrostatic Holtm 2.4.3

An Introduction to Dynamic Meteorology " 1979

(1)

Bowling KC 4.18

SCALING

Q: when is  $\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = -\rho g$  a good idea?

Equations

x, y mom

$$\rho \frac{D u_H}{Dt} = -\nabla_H p$$

$$u_H = (u, v)$$

$$\nabla_H = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)$$

z mom

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

mass

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{D \rho}{Dt} + \nabla_H \cdot u_H + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$

let  $[*]$  denote the "scale of  $*$ " and let

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

$$p = \bar{p}(z) + p'(x, t)$$

strictly speaking, this would also have to include the free surface in order for

(2)

assume that we observe

velocity scale  $[u_H] = U$

horiz. length scale  $[\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}, \frac{p}{\rho_0}] = \frac{L}{L}$

vertical length scale  $[\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}] = \frac{L}{H}$

\* For most important atm/ocn flows we assume  $H \ll L$

Define  $[w] = W$  unknown to far

observe  $[p'] = p_1 - p_0$

\* assume  $p_1 \ll p_0$  (when is this not a good idea?)

"Boussinesq approximation":

\* assume  $[\frac{\partial}{\partial t}] = \frac{U}{L}$  "advective time scale"

scaling mass

$$\left[ \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \underline{u} = 0 \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[ \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{\rho} (u \rho_x + v \rho_y) + \frac{1}{\rho} w \rho_z + (u_x + v_y) + w_z = 0 \right]$$

↓		↓		
$\frac{\rho_1}{\rho_0}$	$\frac{u}{L}$	$\frac{\rho_1}{\rho_0}$	$\frac{w}{H}$	$\frac{u}{L}$
①		②		③
				④

①  $\ll$  ③ and ②  $\ll$  ④ because  $\frac{\rho_1}{\rho_0} \ll 1$

$\therefore$  mass is approximated by  $\nabla \cdot \underline{u} = 0$

and  $\frac{u}{L} = \frac{w}{H} \Rightarrow w = u \frac{H}{L}$  (and so  $\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right] = \frac{u}{L}$ )

Then, scaling  $[x, y \text{ mm}]$

$$\left[ \rho \frac{D u_H}{Dt} = -\nabla_H p \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho_0 \frac{U^2}{L} = \frac{[\rho']}{L} \Rightarrow \boxed{[\rho'] = \rho_0 U^2} \quad (++)$$

like "dynamic pressure"

- Start here

Finally, scale  $[z \text{ - mm}]$

NOTE: we can define  $\bar{p}$  as being in hydrostatic balance

$$\text{with } p_0 = p_0 \quad \bar{p}_z = -\rho_0 g \quad (*)$$

$$\left[ \rho \frac{D w}{Dt} = -\bar{p}_z - \rho'_z - \rho_0 g - \rho' g \right]$$

cancel, by (\*)

$$\text{scaling } \rho_0 \frac{W U}{L} = \frac{[\rho']}{H} - [\rho'] g$$

$$\text{or } \rho_0 \frac{W U}{L} \quad \frac{\rho_0 U^2}{H} \quad \rho_0 g$$

①

②

③

↑ using (++)

and  $\frac{(1)}{(2)} = \frac{\bar{w}u}{L} \frac{H}{u^2} = \left(\frac{H\bar{u}}{L}\right) \frac{uH}{Lu^2} = \frac{H^2}{L^2}$

so, if  $H \ll L$  (1) is truly negligible compared to (2)  
 leaving only (3) to balance (2)

or  $\frac{\partial \rho'}{\partial z} = -\rho'g \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial z} = -\rho g$  since  $\frac{\partial \bar{\rho}}{\partial z} = -\rho_0 g$  as well)

Summarizing, we have (note:  $\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{D\rho}{Dt} \approx \frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{D\rho}{Dt}$ )

		$[\rho'] \ll \rho_0$	$H \ll L$
x mom	$\frac{Du}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$	✓	
y mom	$\frac{Dv}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y}$	✓	
z mom	$0 = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} - \rho g$	(✓)	✓
mass	$\nabla \cdot \underline{u} = 0$	✓	

Boussinesq

Large aspect ratio