

1. **Ocean thermohaline circulation** (3 points)

Consider a geostrophic flow (u, v)

$$-fv = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \quad (1)$$

$$fu = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} \quad (2)$$

The meridional overturning stream function $\Phi(y, z)$ is defined via

$$\Phi(y, z) = \int_0^z \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \tilde{z}} d\tilde{z} \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \tilde{z}} = \int_{x_e}^{x_w} v(x, y, \tilde{z}) dx \quad (\text{zonally integrated transport}), \quad (4)$$

where x_e and x_w are the eastward and westward boundaries in the ocean basin (think e.g. of the Atlantic Ocean). Units of Φ are $m^3 s^{-1}$. At the surface $\Phi(y, 0) = 0$.

Calculate $\Phi(y, z)$ as a function of density ρ at the basin boundaries!

Use

$$v(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{\rho_0 f} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$

and the hydrostatic approximation

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

2. **Wind-driven ocean circulation** (8 points)

The **Sverdrup transport** V for the depth-integrated flow is calculated by

$$\rho_0 \beta V = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \tau_y - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \tau_x \quad (5)$$

where τ_x and τ_y are the components of the wind stress.

The **Ekman transports** V_E, U_E describe the dynamics in the upper mixed layer:

$$fV_E = -\tau_x/\rho_0 \quad , \quad fU_E = \tau_y/\rho_0 \quad (6)$$

where $U_E = \int_{-E}^0 u dz$ and $V_E = \int_{-E}^0 v dz$ are the depth-integrated velocities in the thin friction-dominated Ekman layer at the sea surface.

Ekman vertical velocity w_E : Using the continuity equation, the divergence of the Ekman transports leads to a vertical velocity w_E at the bottom of the Ekman layer:

$$w_E = - \int_{-E}^0 \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} dz = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} U_E + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} V_E = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\tau_y}{\rho_0 f} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\tau_x}{\rho_0 f} \right) . \quad (7)$$

a) Assume that the windstress is only zonal with

$$\tau_x = -\tau_0 \cos(\pi y/B) \quad \text{for an ocean basin with } 0 < x < L, 0 < y < B. \quad (8)$$

Calculate the Sverdrup transport, Ekman transports, and Ekman pumping velocity for this special case.

b) Make a schematic diagram of the windstress, Sverdrup transport, Ekman transports, and Ekman pumping velocity.

c) Using a), at what latitudes y are $|V|$ and $|V_E|$ maximum? Calculate their magnitudes. Take constant $f = 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $\beta = 1.8 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ m}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ and $B = 5000 \text{ km}$, $\tau_0/\rho_0 = 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2\text{s}^{-2}$.

d) Using the values in b), calculate the maximum of w_E for constant f .

Notes on submission form of the exercises: *Working in study groups is encouraged, but each student is responsible for his/her own solution. The answers to the questions can be send until the due date (12:00) to Hanna Knahl (hanna.knahl@awi.de), Alexander Thorneloe (alexander.thorn@awi.de).*