

# Comments and Errata on Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics

Geoffrey K. Vallis

March 21, 2007

Below I list some typos and give a few very brief explanatory comments on the book. Most of the errors should not, I think, cause too much frustration to either the careful reader (who will figure them out independently) or the casual reader (who won't notice them), but those marked with a black diamond may cause a little head-scratching or may need the reader to work a little. These are collected at the head of the list, and are followed by the typos in page order. Unless stated, none of the corrections affect the subsequent arguments or derivations in the book. If you find other errors, or if you think something is poorly explained, please contact the author at 'gkv-at-princeton-dot-edu'.

1. ♦ Pages 156 and 158. The cancellation of certain boundary terms is poorly explained, and will be clarified (via the web) eventually. However, the results are correct.
2. ♦ Page 258. This explanation (the informal mechanism) is a little brief and may be hard to follow, and (6.48) is not transparent without more algebra. A clearer version will be provided (via the web) eventually.
3. ♦ Page 262, Fig. 6.9. The labels B and C are interchanged.
4. ♦ Page 399, fig. 9.9 caption. Potential energy and kinetic energy are transposed. Should read: "... Initially baroclinic processes dominate, with conversions from zonal to eddy APE and then eddy APE to eddy kinetic energy, followed by the barotropic conversion of eddy kinetic to zonal kinetic energy..."
5. ♦ Page 266. Above (6.78), the channel extends from 0 to  $L$ , not  $\pm L/2$ . Relatedly, on page 268, above (6.91), the most unstable wave is that with the gravest meridional scale, and so the smallest possible meridional wavenumber  $l$ . This is not exactly  $l = 0$  except in doubly periodic geometry, but for a wide channel  $l$  is very small.
6. ♦ Pages 426–436. In a few places, 'across gradient' is written where 'across iso-surfaces' (or 'along gradient') is meant. Page 426, below (10.82), should read: 'The flux has a component across iso-surfaces (or parallel to the the gradient) of  $\phi$ , called the digradient flux, and a component along isosurfaces (or perpendicular to the gradient), called the skew flux.' Similarly, on p. 428, l3, 'along gradient' should be 'along isosurfaces' (or 'perpendicular to the gradient') and on p. 436, item (i) should read 'across iso-surfaces of buoyancy' instead of across its gradient. What was I thinking?
7. ♦ Page 434, eq. (10.135). The inequality needs further explanation, especially as  $\partial b / \partial y$  may be positive or negative. The reader may ignore it, and just read on.

- 
1. Page 5, eq. (1.10). Given the convention used in the book, the subscripts on  $b$  should be superscripts (i.e.,  $b^x$  not  $b_x$ ), because they denote components of a vector and not derivatives.

2. Page 29, equation on last line.  $dp$  should be  $d\alpha$  in middle term on rhs.
3. Page 31, line below (1.139). Should be:  $\theta = \theta(\eta, S, p_R) = \theta(T, S, p)$ ; i.e.,  $p$  not  $p_R$  in last term.
4. Page 35, Fig. 1.4 caption, line 3. Replace  $13.36^\circ\text{C}$  by  $10.14^\circ\text{C}$ .
5. Page 86, line 3. The factor of  $\sin\theta$  should be removed, but (2.187) is nevertheless correct.
6. Page 119, problem 2.14. The pressure term,  $-\rho_0^{-1}\nabla p$ , is inadvertently omitted from the right-hand side of the first equation.
7. Page 139, section 3.6.2. The derivation given is for the flat-bottomed case, which is not stated explicitly. As an exercise, the reader should perform a similar calculation with topography, and show that  $E = (hu^2/2 + gh^2/2 + g\eta_b h)$  and  $F = \mathbf{u}(E + gh^2/2)$ .
8. Page 142. The deformation radius,  $L_d$ , is not defined. It is  $L_d \equiv \sqrt{gH}/f$ . (In the continuously stratified case, it is  $NH/f$ .)
9. Page 150, (3.149) and (3.150). Factor of  $e^{i(kx+ly)}$  is missing in all the integrands.
10. Page 156, eq. (3.178). The two right-hand sides should each have a minus sign before the integral signs.  
Eq. (3.179). Factor of  $1/2$  missing, and the minus sign should be deleted. The factor of  $1/2$  should be propagated through to (3.183).
11. Page 160. Formatting error in problem 3.3. It should read  $\nabla \cdot [v(E + gh^2/2)]$  and not  $\nabla_{v(E+gh^2/2)}$ .
12. Page 185, eq. (4.109). Should read  $\alpha^{-2} \gg 1$  and not  $\alpha^2 \ll 1$ . Also, line before (4.113),  $\Omega = f\mathbf{k}$  should be  $2\Omega = f\mathbf{k}$ .
13. Page 196, eq. (5.1). Should read  $(u, v) \sim U$ , not  $(u, v) \sim L$ .
14. Page 208, eq. (5.61). Missing subscript 0 on second  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ , and second  $t$  should be  $\hat{t}$ . Also, missing  $\hat{f}_0$  in (5.62), although its value is unity.
15. Page 213, eqs. (5.85a) and (5.88a). Should be a minus sign before last terms on rhs in each equation, and  $H_2$  should be  $H_1$  in last term in (5.88a). (The terms are subsequently dropped).
16. Page 227, eq. (5.159).  $H$  should be  $H^2$ .
17. Page 228, eq. (5.168). As written,  $\hat{\psi} \equiv (\psi_1 - \psi_2)/\sqrt{2}$ . Also, in (5.170),  $\int dx \equiv \int dA$ .
18. Page 237–238 on phase speed. Some sources define the phase velocity to be given by  $c_p \equiv \omega\mathbf{k}/K^2$ , where  $\mathbf{k}$  is the wavevector. The components of the phase velocity are then given by  $c_p^x = \omega k^x/K^2$ , etc. Defined this way, the phase velocity is a true velocity. However, its components do *not* represent the speed at which wavecrests travel along the coordinate axes. This definition is not common, but be aware of it.
19. Page 239, eq. (5.225). Last term should have minus sign before it.
20. Page 256, caption to Fig. 6.5.  $\sigma = -ikc_i$  not  $\sigma = kc_i$ .
21. Page 259 eq. (6.53) and (6.54). The terms  $v\zeta$  should be multiplied by 2.  
Eq. (6.55), the two plus signs should both be minus signs, as in (7.17).
22. Page 263, eq. (6.61).  $z_A$  instead of  $z_B$  in fourth term in second expression.

23. Page 265, after (6.74). Should be 'the integral must vanish', or alternatively (and implying) 'the integrand must vanish at some point'.
24. Page 266. It is the background PV *gradient* that is zero in the Eady problem.  $Q$  in (6.75), which is zero, is the contribution to the basic state PV from the flow and from  $\beta y$ ; this is sometimes called the 'QG PV', and does not include the  $f_0$  term.
25. Page 274, l-2.  $\beta \neq 0$ , not  $\beta = 0$ .
26. Page 277, surrounding (6.128).  $K$  instead of  $k$ , so the unstable interval is  $\sqrt{\beta/2U} < K < k_d$ .
27. Page 275, first sentence of second section. No hats on variables.
28. Page 279. Better to have primes on the perturbation variables in (6.135)–(6.137).
29. Page 280, eq. (6.141).  $c_T$  and  $c_B$  are interchanged.
30. Page 284, eq. (6.161) should read:  $(\partial/\partial t + U\partial/\partial x)q' + (\partial\psi'/\partial x)(\partial Q/\partial y) = 0$  and not  $(\partial/\partial t + U\partial u/\partial x)q' + (\partial\psi'/\partial x)(\partial Q/\partial y) = 0$ . (Spot the difference.)
31. Page 285, eq. (6.165).  $\psi$  should be  $\psi'$  on lhs, and four lines above.
32. Page 296. Just before (7.5), 'If  $J$  is also zero' should be 'if  $H$  is also zero'. Just after (7.5), ' $D$  and  $J$  are zero' should be ' $D$  and  $H$  are zero'. Just below (7.12) on p. 297, 'where  $J'$  is' should be 'where  $H'$  is'.
33. Page 298, first sentence of section 7.2. 'Eddy flux of potential may be' should be 'Eddy flux of potential vorticity may be'.
34. Page 300, eq. (7.33).  $k$  and  $l$  are transposed in the expressions for  $\tilde{u}$  and  $\tilde{v}$ . We should have:  $\tilde{u} = -il\tilde{\psi}$ ,  $\tilde{v} = ik\tilde{\psi}$ .
35. Page 303, l 7.  $p$  should be  $m$ , twice.
36. Page 304, eq. (7.60b).  $w$  should be  $\bar{w}$ .
37. Page 310, second bullet.  $E$  should be  $\mathcal{F}$ .
38. Page 311, eq. (7.93).  $\phi$  in first term should be  $\bar{\phi}$ .
39. Page 313, eq. (7.106). Should be  $F[\varphi]$  not  $F[\bar{\varphi}]$ .
40. Page 314, eq. (7.112c). Middle equation should have minus sign on rhs, and in last equation  $v'$  should be  $u'$  (the horizontal eddy velocity).
41. Page 319, eqs. (7.130) and (7.131). Missing factor of  $\rho_0$ , and, in (7.131) only,  $f_0$ .
42. Page 320, just above (7.138). Reference to (7.136) should be to (7.135).
43. Page 324, eq. (7.141). Subscripts 1 should be subscripts  $i$ .
44. Page 327, eq. (7.157). No minus sign on rhs.
45. Page 330, first equation in box (7.812). Extraneous  $s$  on lhs, next to  $\hat{H}$ .
46. Page 339, eq. (8.8). Should be  $\zeta$  and not  $\psi$  in viscous term.
47. Page 340.  $1/L^2$  should be  $L^2$  in (8.11), and  $k^4$  should be  $k^2$  in (8.12).
48. Page 345. In fig. 8.3,  $E(k)$  should be  $\mathcal{E}(k)$ .
49. Page 352 and 353, eq. (8.48) and eq. (8.53).  $\hat{E}$  should be  $\bar{E}$ , and  $\hat{Z}$  should be  $\bar{Z}$ , respectively.

50. Page 352, eq. (8.49).  $\mathcal{Z}(q)$  is not the same function as the  $\mathcal{Z}(k)$  of (8.44), but it is still such that the enstrophy is  $\int \mathcal{Z}(q) dq$ .
51. Page 355, eq. (8.62a). The integral  $\int dx$  is the same as  $\int dA$ , and the viscous term should have a minus sign. In (8.63)–(8.65), for notational consistency the energy spectrum should be written  $\mathcal{E}(k)$  and not  $E(k)$ .
52. Page 369, eq. (8.105).  $\chi$  should be  $\chi'$  on right-hand side. ( $\chi$  is a constant.) And replace ‘by  $\eta^{-1/3}$ ’ by ‘is  $\eta^{-1/3}$ ’ in the second sentence of the paragraph above (8.107).
53. Page 380, caption and inset to Fig. 9.1.  $\varepsilon$  should be  $\varepsilon^{1/3}$ .
54. Page 386, eq. (9.24b).  $a$  and  $b$  are transposed on second term on rhs of definition of Jacobian. Also, line before (9.27), second ‘barotropic’ should be ‘baroclinic’.
55. Page 389. 1st text line should read  $|\nabla^2| \sim k^2 \ll k_d^2$  and not  $\nabla^2 \sim k_d^2 \ll k^2$ .
56. Page 392, eq. (9.48).  $D[\tau]$  should be multiplied by  $-k_d^{-2}$ , but the term is not used.
57. Page 417. The symbols  $K_{turb}$  and  $\mathcal{K}_{turb}$  are both used for the same quantity, the turbulent diffusivity.
58. Page 428, line after (10.100). ‘Divergence’ should be ‘gradient’, twice.
59. Page 434, eq. (10.132):  $\bar{u}$  should be  $\bar{u}$  in first term. And line after (10.132): ‘Zonally uniform, small amplitude wave’ should read ‘Zonally uniform basic state and small amplitude wave’. In (10.133),  $u'$  should be  $v'$ . Two lines after (10.134), reference to (10.133) should be omitted.
60. Page 437, eq. (10.146). Subscripts on  $s$  should be superscripts, as they denote components and not derivatives.
61. Page 440, eq. (10.156). The  $u'$  should be outside of the derivative in the third order term, but this term is promptly neglected.
62. Page 443, eq. (10.175).  $\overline{v'\sigma'}$  should be  $\overline{u'\sigma'}$  in third term.
63. Page 458 eq. (11.4). Need a factor of  $1/a$  on first term of rhs. Also,  $\partial_y$  should be  $\partial_\theta$  on the following line; alternatively, delete factor of  $a^{-1}$ .
64. Page 460, eq. (11.11). Missing factor  $-1/g$  on rhs.
65. Page 468, item (ii) and (11.40). Note that we are using an *equatorial* beta plane, on which  $f_0 = 0$ . Thus,  $f = f_0 + \beta y = \beta y$ .
66. Page 471, eq. (11.54). For notational consistency with what follows,  $\delta\theta$  should be  $\theta$ .
67. Page 471. Line above (11.57), should be  $m(0) = \Omega a^2 \cos^2 \theta$  (i.e.,  $\theta$  and not  $\theta_1$ ), as  $u = 0$  at the surface. And (11.57) and (11.58) are missing factors of  $-\theta_0$  on rhs.
68. Page 474,  $\cos \theta$  should be  $\cos^2 \theta$  in text at end of second paragraph.
69. Page 476, eq. (11.64); page 480, eq. (11.73); page 481, eq. (11.75). The eddy flux term needs a factor of  $1/a$ .
70. Page 476, eq. (11.66).  $w$  should be  $\bar{w}$ .
71. Page 494, eq. (12.34). Factor of  $1/2$  missing on right-hand sides. See, e.g., (12.27).
72. Page 495. The statement ‘illustrating the group velocity property’ is opaque and best ignored.

73. Page 539, endnote 12. The reference to page 12.6.3 should be to page 532, or to section 12.6.3.
74. Page 555, eq. (13.50). First term,  $\partial\psi/\partial t$  should be  $\partial(\partial_z\psi)/\partial t$ .
75. Page 555–556. We write the topography as  $h_b(x, y) = \text{Re}[\tilde{h}_b \sin ly e^{ikx}]$ , and then in (13.55), (13.58), (13.65) and the rhs of (13.70),  $h_b$  should be replaced by  $\tilde{h}_b$ .
76. Page 586, eqs. (14.5) and (14.14). The quantity  $W_E$  is not quite the same as the vertical velocity due to Ekman pumping, although such a notation might imply that. The Ekman pumping velocity,  $W_{Ek}$ , is given by (2.296), and so  $W_{Ek} \approx \text{curl}_z(\tau/f)$ , whereas  $W_E = \text{curl}_z\tau$ .
77. Page 725. Holloway and Hendershott (1986). Year should be (1977).

*Acknowledgment:* I am grateful to all the readers who have sent in comments. I would particularly like to acknowledge Roger Berling for his exceptionally close reading of the book.