

## CLIM 750 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics, Problem Set 4

1. In class, we calculated the form drag due to internal waves generated by topography. We also found that the “waves” are evanescent if  $\omega > N$  or  $\omega < f$ , and hence no waves are generated.

(a) For the evanescent case, if

$$w = W e^{-mz} e^{i(kx - \omega t)} \quad (1)$$

what is the pressure  $p'$  (assuming constant  $N$ )?

(b) Calculate the form drag for such an evanescent wave?

2. Consider an internal wave in a fluid with constant  $N$  and  $f = 0$ . The wave has vertical velocity given by

$$w = w_0 \cos(kx + mz - \omega t) \quad (2)$$

(a) By analyzing the propagation of lines of constant phase, show that the magnitude of the phase speed is given by

$$|\vec{c}_p| = \omega / \sqrt{k^2 + m^2} \quad (3)$$

(b) For the internal wave mentioned above, what is  $|\vec{c}_p|$  as a function of  $k$ ,  $m$ , and  $N$ ?

(c) For the same internal wave, what is the magnitude of the group velocity,  $|\vec{c}_g|$  as a function of  $k$ ,  $m$ , and  $N$ ?

(d) What is the ratio of the group speed and phase speed as a function of  $\theta$ , the angle the wave number makes to the horizontal?

3. Consider an incompressible, non-rotating fluid flowing with constant “background” velocity  $u = U\hat{x}$  over a series of ridges given by surface height  $h = h_0 \sin(kx)$ , where  $k = 2\pi/\lambda_H$ . For  $N/Uk = .5$ , plot the streamlines of the complete flow—including any disturbance to the flow induced by the topography—in the frame of reference in which the topography is stationary. Assume that  $h_0$  is small enough to be able to find a linear solution. Be sure to include expressions for  $u(x, z, t)$ ,  $w(x, z, t)$ , and  $x(t)$  and  $z(t)$ , all in terms of parameters  $h_0$ ,  $\lambda_H$ ,  $U$ , and  $N$ .

4. Given the internal wave dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 = f^2 \sin^2 \theta + N^2 \cos^2 \theta \quad (4)$$

calculate the minimum and maximum possible values of  $\omega$  and the propagation angle  $\theta$  at which these occur.