The Jet Stream, high and low pressure systems and fronts; Understanding the weather

Joe LaCasce Dept. of Geosciences

January 25, 2010

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Introduction

Basic dynamics Anatomy of a storm Forecasts

Hurricane



Figure: Hurricane Ivan, Sept. 2004

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Introduction

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Polar low



Figure: A polar low over the Barents Sea, 27 Feb., 1987

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Hurricane



Figure: Hurricane Katrina, Aug. 2005

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Forecasts

Flooding



Figure: Coastal flooding, England

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Introduction

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Snow



Figure: Chicago, 2009

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Dynamics

Basic balances:

- Geostrophic balance
- Hydrostatic balance
- Thermal wind balance

Phenomena:

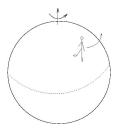
- Pressure systems
- Jet Stream
- Fronts and precipitation

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Geostrophic balance Hydrostatic balance Thermal wind balance The Jet Stream

Rotation





SO:

$$vel_{person} = vel_{total} - vel_{rotation}$$

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Deflection

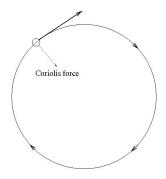
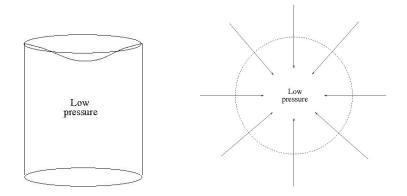


Figure: Deflection to the right in the Northern Hemisphere

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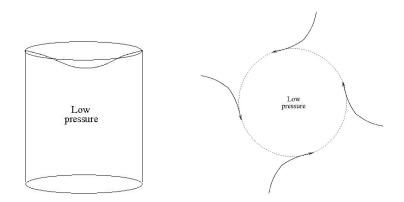
Low pressure without rotation



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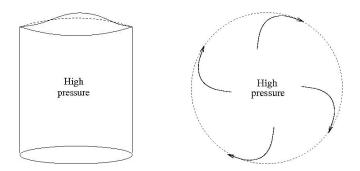
Low pressure with rotation



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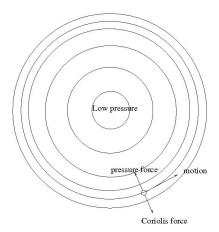
High pressure with rotation



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Geostrophic balance



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Hurricane



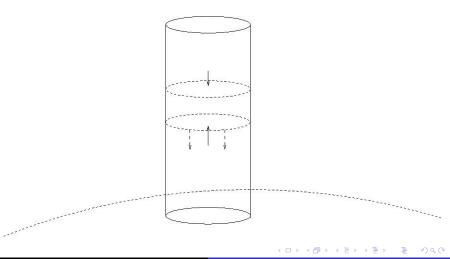
Figure: Hurricane Ivan

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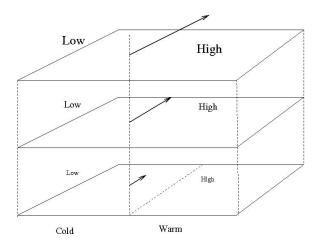
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Hydrostatic balance



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Thermal wind



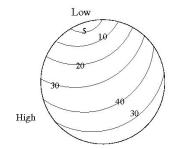
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Jet stream

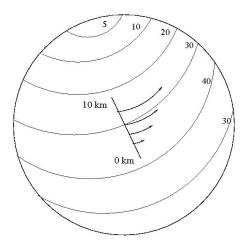


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Jet stream



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Jet stream

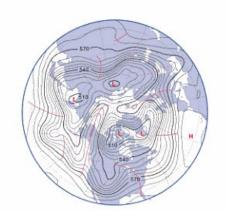


Figure: Wallace and Hobbs, 2006

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Instability and turbulence



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Storm formation Fronts

Jet stream

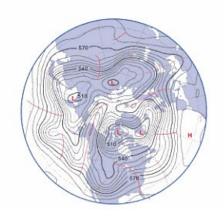


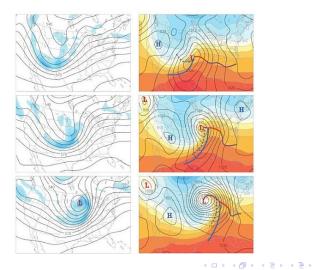
Figure: Wallace and Hobbs, 2006

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Storm formation Fronts

Storm formation



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Storm formation Fronts

Storm formation

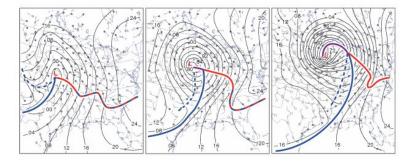
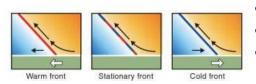


Figure: Wallace and Hobbs, 2006

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Storm formation Fronts

Fronts



• Warm/cold fronts

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- Vertical motion
- $\bullet \ \rightarrow \ \textit{precipitation}$

Storm formation Fronts

Squall



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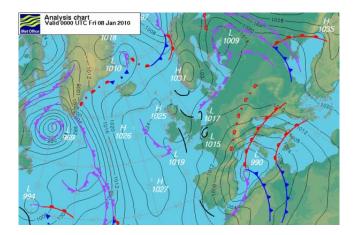
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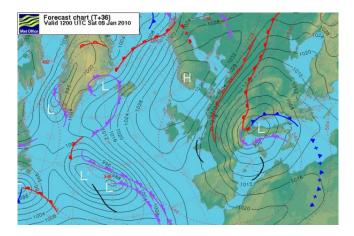
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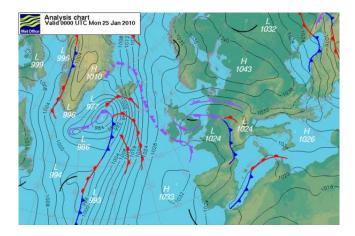
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