

Synoptic/Planetary Multi-Scale Theory for the Tropics

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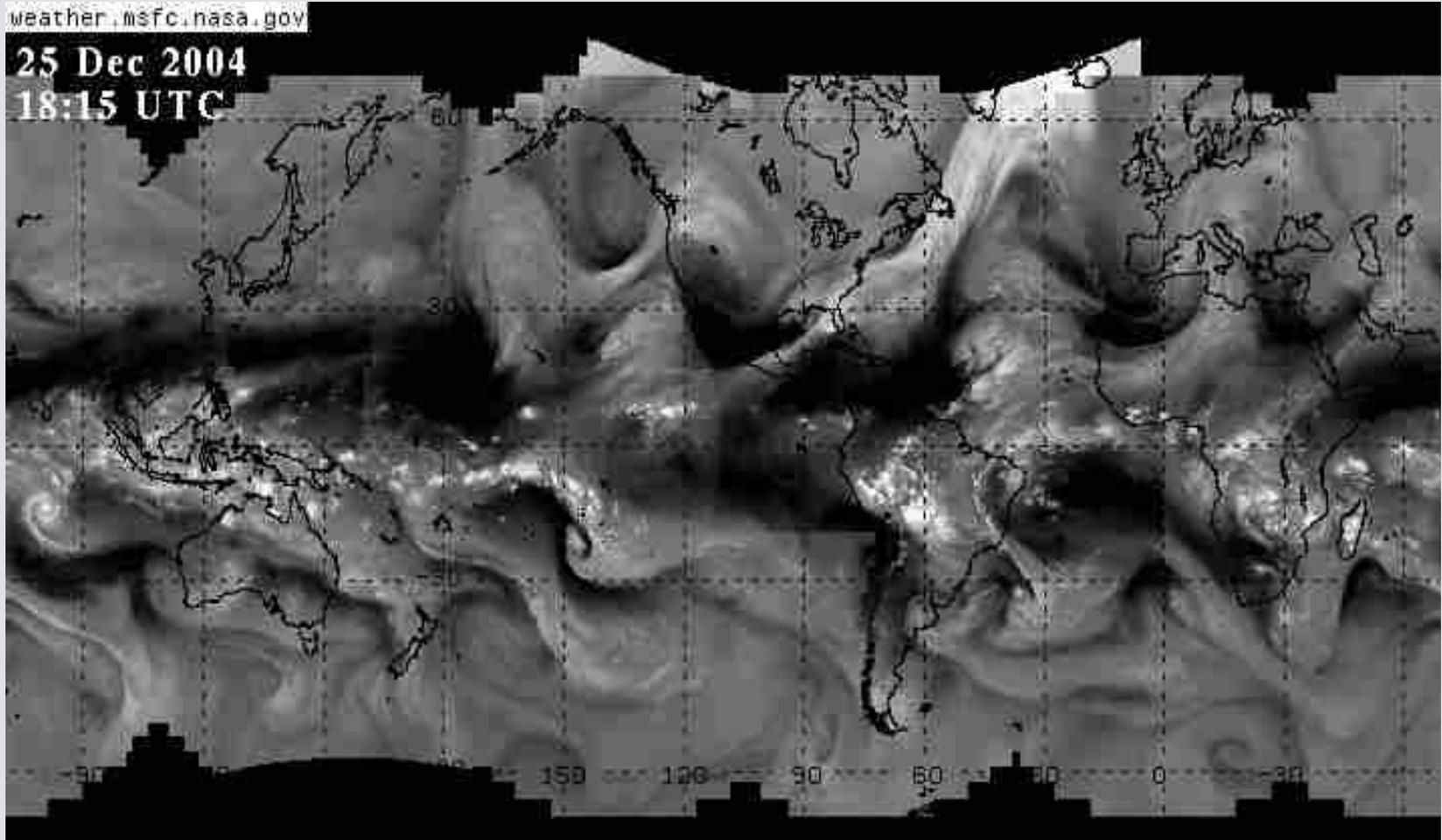
University of California, Davis

- joint work with **Andy Majda**
- **New multiscale, wave/mean flow theory** of the **Madden-Julian oscillation**
- **New nonlinear wave/wave interaction theory** for **tropical/ midlatitude interactions**

Water Vapor

weather.msfc.nasa.gov

25 Dec 2004
18:15 UTC

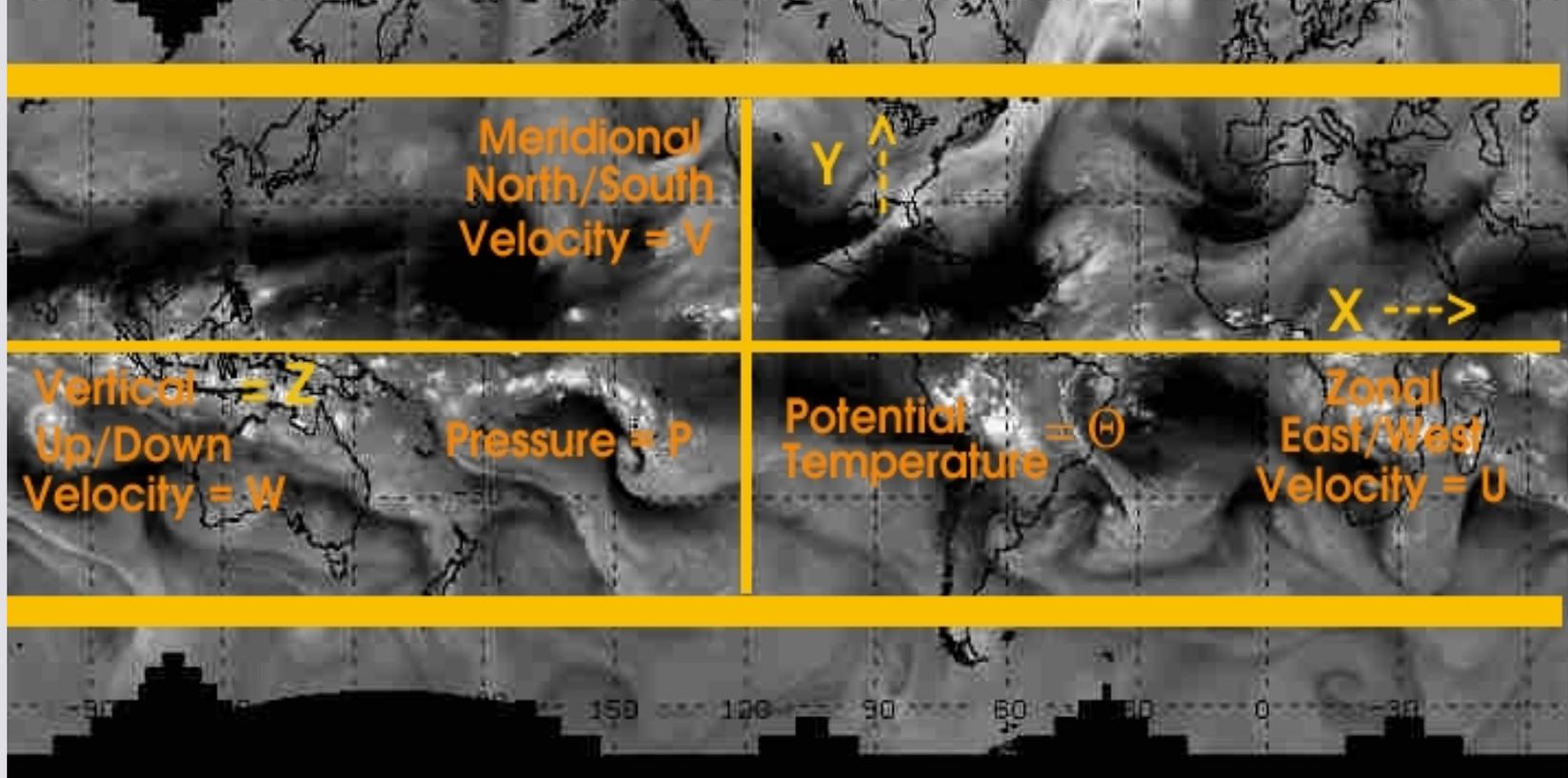


Coordinate System

weather.msfc.nasa.gov

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The Equatorial Primitive Equations

Incompressible, Hydrostatic, Coriolis
force on β -plane

$$u_t + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla u - \beta y v = -p_x + S_u$$

$$v_t + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla v + \beta y u = -p_y + S_v$$

$$\theta_t + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla \theta + N^2 w = S_\theta$$

$$p_z = \theta$$

$$u_x + v_y + w_z = 0$$

- $\vec{u} = (u, v, w) = (\text{East, North, Up})$
- $\theta =$ potential temperature perturbation
- $p =$ pressure perturbation
- $N = \sqrt{\frac{g}{\theta_0} \frac{d\theta_0}{dz}}$ = buoyancy frequency
- βy is vertical component of Coriolis force near equator
- Rigid lid $\Rightarrow w = 0$ at $z = 0, 16 \text{ km}$

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- Heat and momentum sources and sinks = S_θ, S_u, S_v
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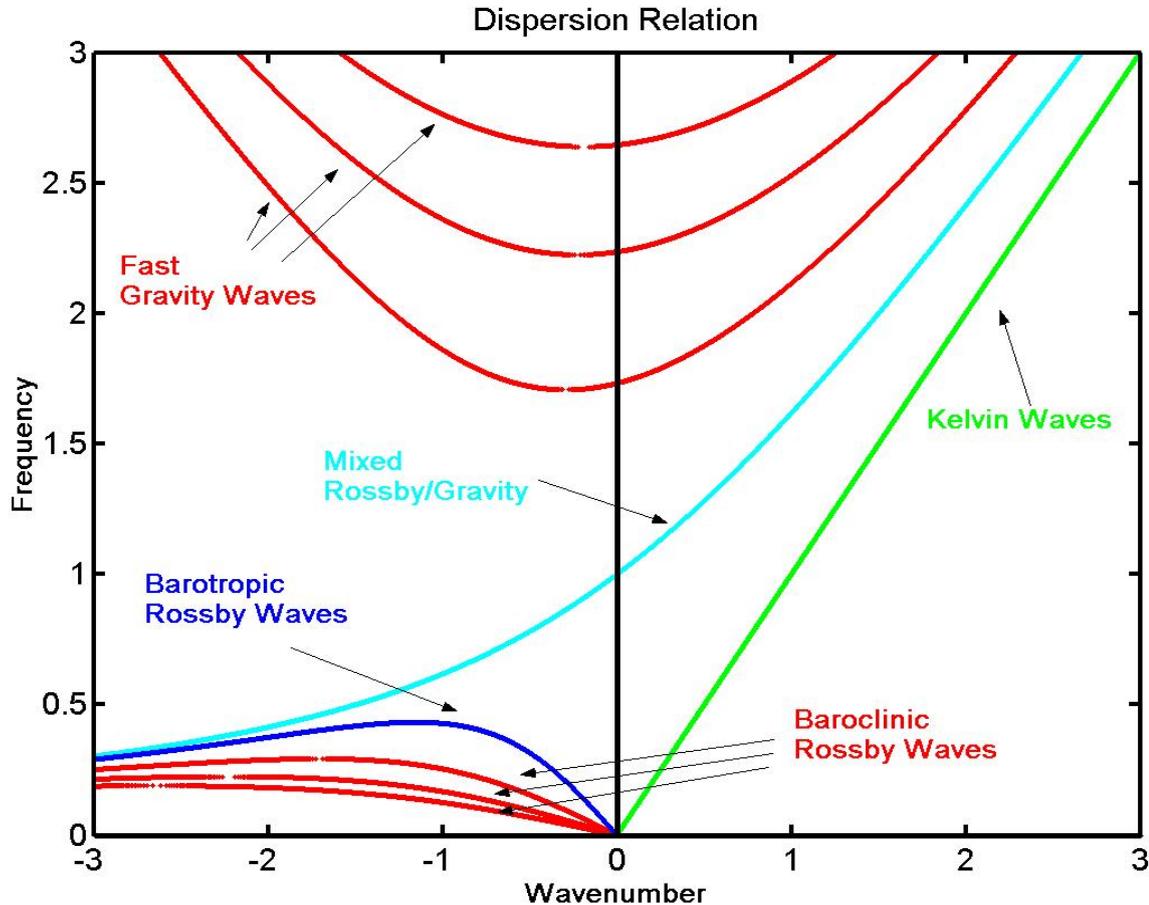
-
- Heat and momentum sources and sinks = S_θ, S_u, S_v
-

Schematically, these are equivalent to

$$\Psi_t + \mathbf{L} \Psi + \mathbf{N}(\Psi, \Psi) = \mathbf{S}(x, t)$$

Linear Theory of Equatorial Waves

\mathbf{L} is skew self adjoint \implies dispersive waves



Multiple Scales Approach

- Long waves are nearly dispersionless
- Fast waves are not forced
- Forcing $\sim O(\epsilon) \sim 10^\circ \text{K/day}$
- Multiple spatial scales, $O(1)$, $O(\delta^{-1})$

$$\mathbf{S}(x, t) \longrightarrow \epsilon \mathbf{S}(x, \delta x, \delta t)$$

$$\Psi(x, t) \longrightarrow \epsilon \Psi(x, \delta x, \delta t)$$

$$\Psi_t + \mathbf{L} \Psi + \epsilon \mathbf{N}(\Psi, \Psi) = \mathbf{S}(x, \delta x, \delta t)$$

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Time \sim few days, 1500 km/ Planetary length scales

$\delta \sim \epsilon \implies$ Madden-Julian Oscillation

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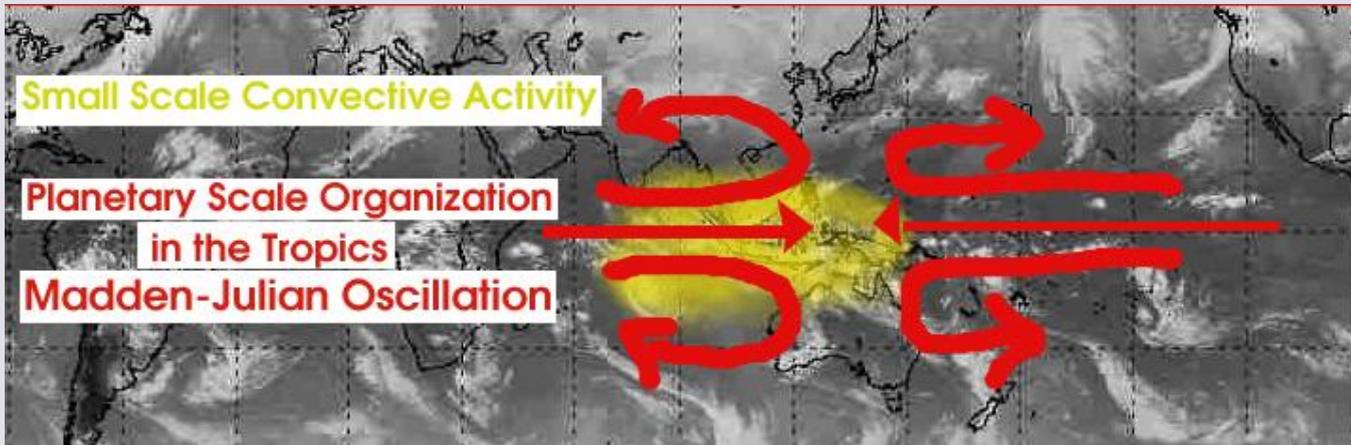
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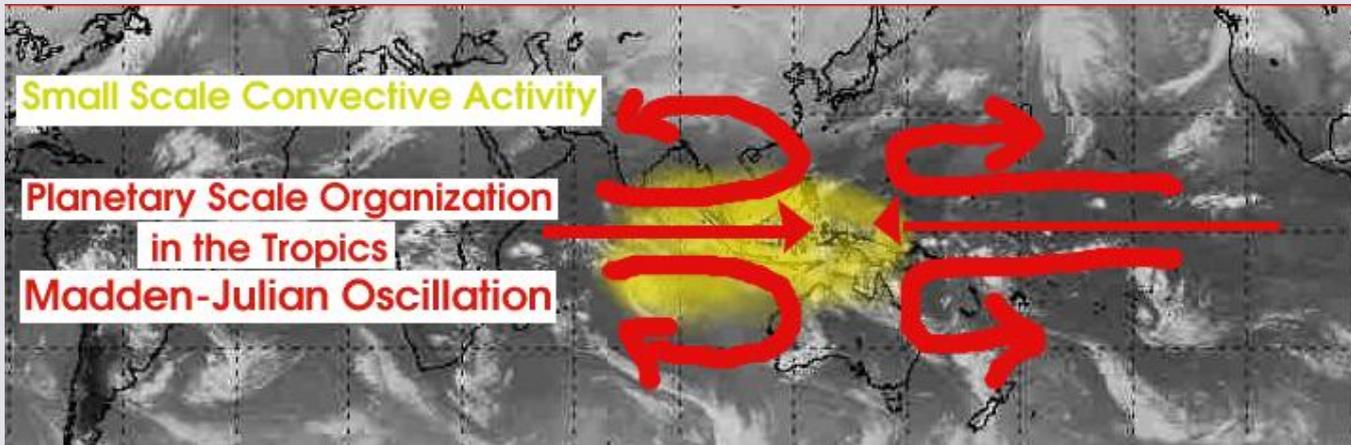
Time \sim few weeks, Planetary length scales

$\delta^2 \sim \epsilon \implies$ Nonlinear Wave/wave interaction, tropics/midlatitudes

MJO Asymptotics: Few Days, 1500/40000 km



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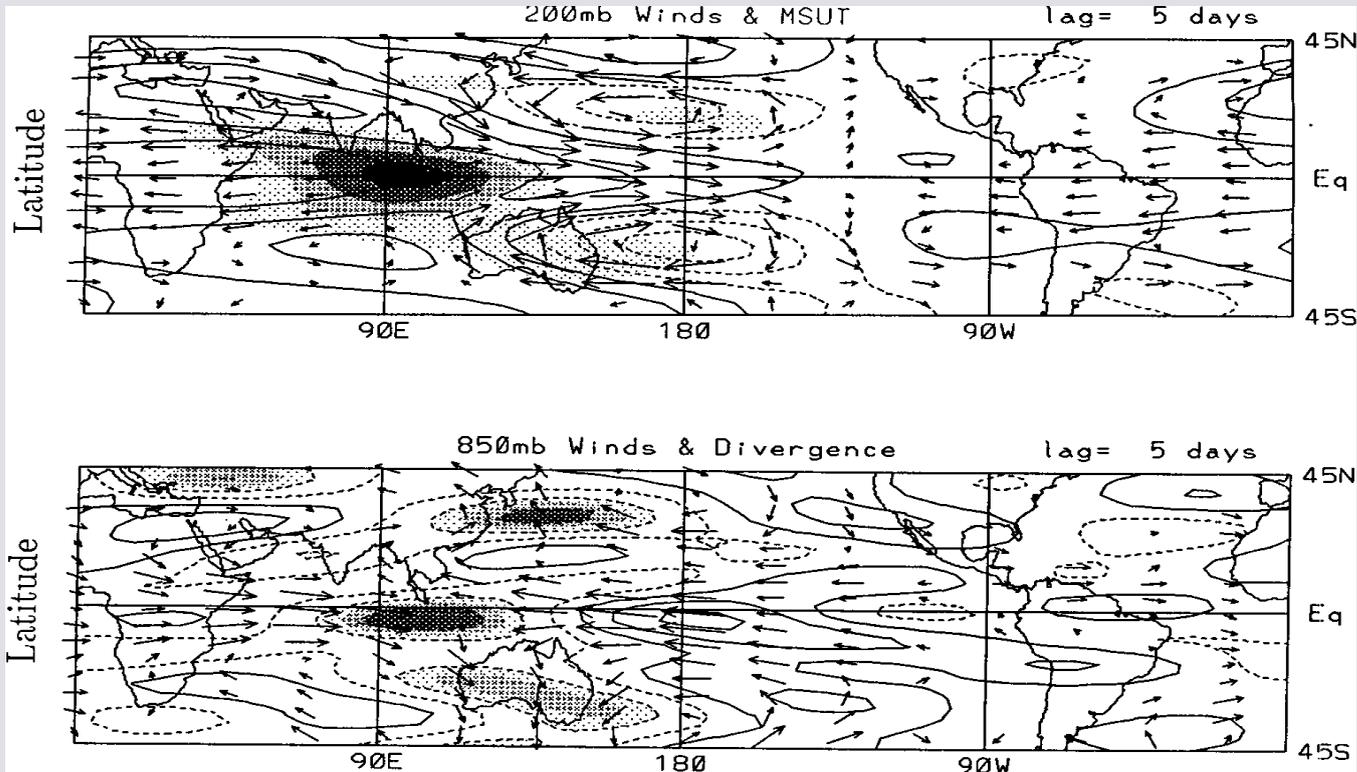
Tropics/Midlatitude: Few Weeks, 40000 km



The IPESD Multiscale Model for the MJO

- **FRAMEWORK:** IPESD multiscale models (Majda/Klein 2003)
- **STRUCTURE:** MJO structure given by specified heating profiles (PNAS 2004, JAS 2005, DAO 2006, BM+ Moncrieff JAS 2007)
 - planetary scale direct heating
 - upscale fluxes of momentum and heat from synoptic scales
- **DYNAMICS:** Khouider/Majda multi-cloud model. (Khouider/Majda JAS 2005, 2006, 2007)
 - active moisture through cloud model
 - nonlinear feedback from planetary to synoptic scales
 - organized embedded structures in a traveling envelope (Majda, Stechmann, Khouider PNAS)

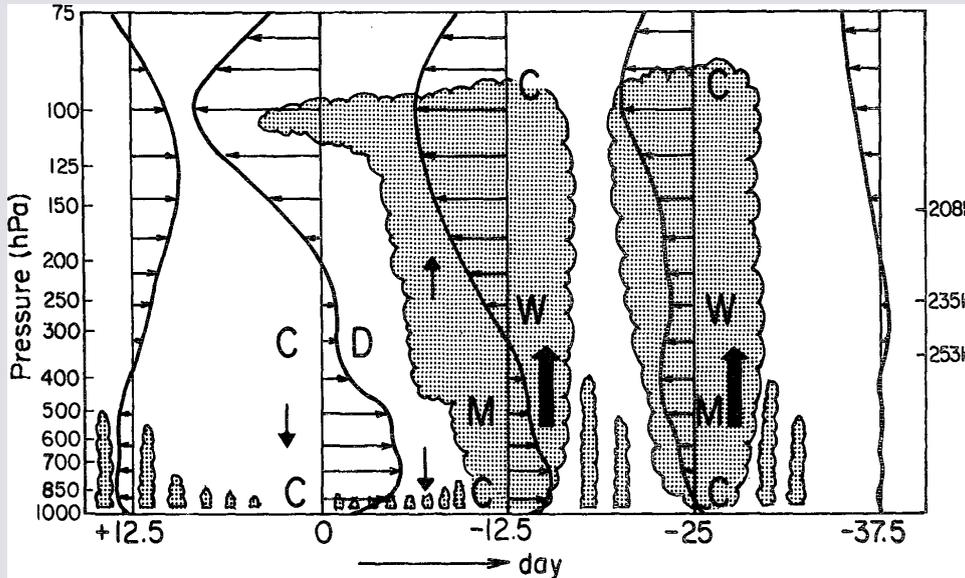
MJO: Large scale wind pattern



From Hendon & Salby *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 51, p 2230, fig. 3.

- Top: Top of Troposphere, Winds and precipitation.
- Bottom: Bottom of Troposphere, winds and divergence. ***

MJO: Vertical Shear and Convection



- Schematic showing correlation of convection and vertical shear
- Time goes from right to left (reverse of previous slide) and can be interpreted as left = west, right = east.

Lin & Johnson *J. Atmos. Sci.*, 53, p 701, fig. 16.

- Congestus clouds - weak winds/easterlies
- Westward tilted anvil - westerly onset
- Strong westerlies trail convection

MJO: Some previous work

- Planetary scale response to moving heat source, Chao (1987) based on Gill model of tropical heating.
- Linearized evaporation wind feedback, Emmanuel (1987), Neelin et al. (1987).
- Boundary layer friction causing convective instability, Wang & Rui (1990).
- Stochastic linearized convection, Salby et al. (1994).
- Radiation instability, Raymond (2001).
- Phenomenological model of upscale momentum transport from mesoscales $O(300 \text{ km})$ to planetary scale (with a scale gap on $O(1000 \text{ km})$), Moncrieff (2004). Based on Grabowski (2001) super- parametrization .

IPESD: Systematic multi-scale asymptotics

- Majda & Klein, *J. Atmos. Sci.*, **60** (2003) : from primitive equations

$$\delta \Psi_T + \mathbf{L} \Psi + \delta \mathbf{M} \Psi_X + \epsilon \mathbf{N}(\Psi, \Psi) = \mathbf{S}'(x, X, T) + \delta \bar{\mathbf{S}}(X, T)$$

- Large (planetary) scale means plus fluctuations on small (synoptic) scales:

$$\Psi = \bar{\Psi}(X, T) + \psi'(x, X, T) \quad \text{where} \quad X = \delta x, \quad T = \delta t$$

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- $O(\delta)$: Planetary dynamics forced by upscale fluxes

$$\bar{\Psi}_T + \mathbf{M} \bar{\Psi}_X = \bar{\mathbf{S}} - \overline{\mathbf{N}(\psi', \psi')} \quad \text{since} \quad \mathbf{N}(\bar{\Psi}, \bar{\Psi}) = O(\delta)$$

FRAMEWORK: IPESD Theory (Majda/Klein 2003)

Synoptic Scale (Balanced) Dynamics: Planetary Scale Quasi-Linear Dynamics:

$$\begin{array}{ll} u'_\tau - y v' + p'_x & = S'_u & \bar{U}_t - y \bar{V} + \bar{P}_X & = F^U - d_0 \bar{U} \\ v'_\tau + y u' + p'_y & = S'_v & y \bar{U} + \bar{P}_y & = 0 \\ \theta'_\tau + w' & = S'_\theta(\theta', \bar{\Theta}) & \bar{\Theta}_t + \bar{W} & = F^\theta - d_\theta \bar{\Theta} + \bar{S}_\theta(\theta', \bar{\Theta}) \\ p'_z & = \theta' & \bar{P}_z & = \bar{\Theta} \\ u'_x + v'_y + w'_z & = 0 & \bar{U}_X + \bar{V}_y + \bar{W}_z & = 0 \\ \bar{S}'_\theta & = 0 & & \end{array}$$

The fluxes from the synoptic scales are given by

$$\begin{aligned} F^U &= -\overline{(v' u')_y} - \overline{(w' u')_z} \\ F^\theta &= -\overline{(v' \theta')_y} - \overline{(w' \theta')_z} \end{aligned}$$

Each forcing effect, i.e. upscale vertical and meridional momentum and temperature transport and planetary scale mean heating can be considered separately and superposed

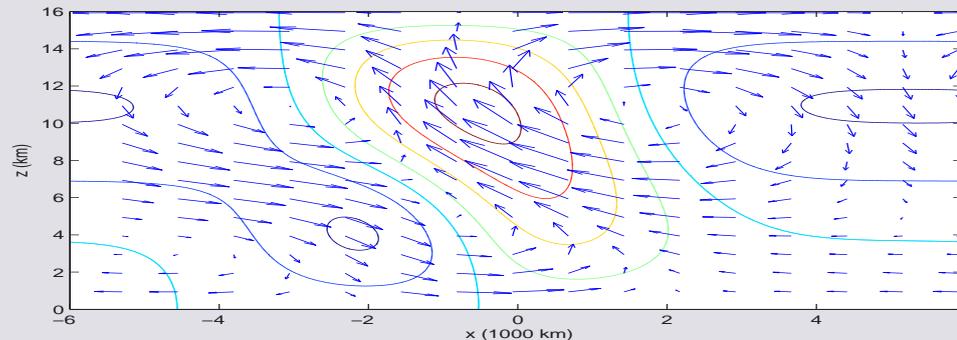
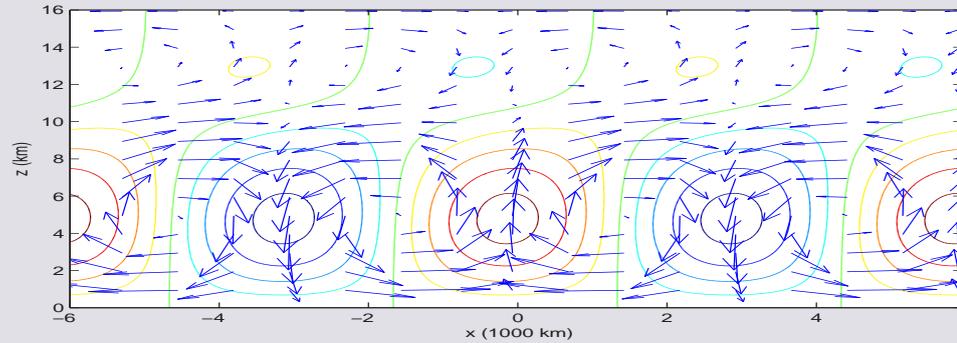
MJO Model: Convection organized on small scales

- Heating rate traces cloudiness (latent heat release).
- Fluctuations on 1500 km spatial scales
- Clouds/heating localized near equator above Western Pacific.

- East: Lower troposphere *congestus* clouds
- West: High, westward tilted anvil *superclusters*

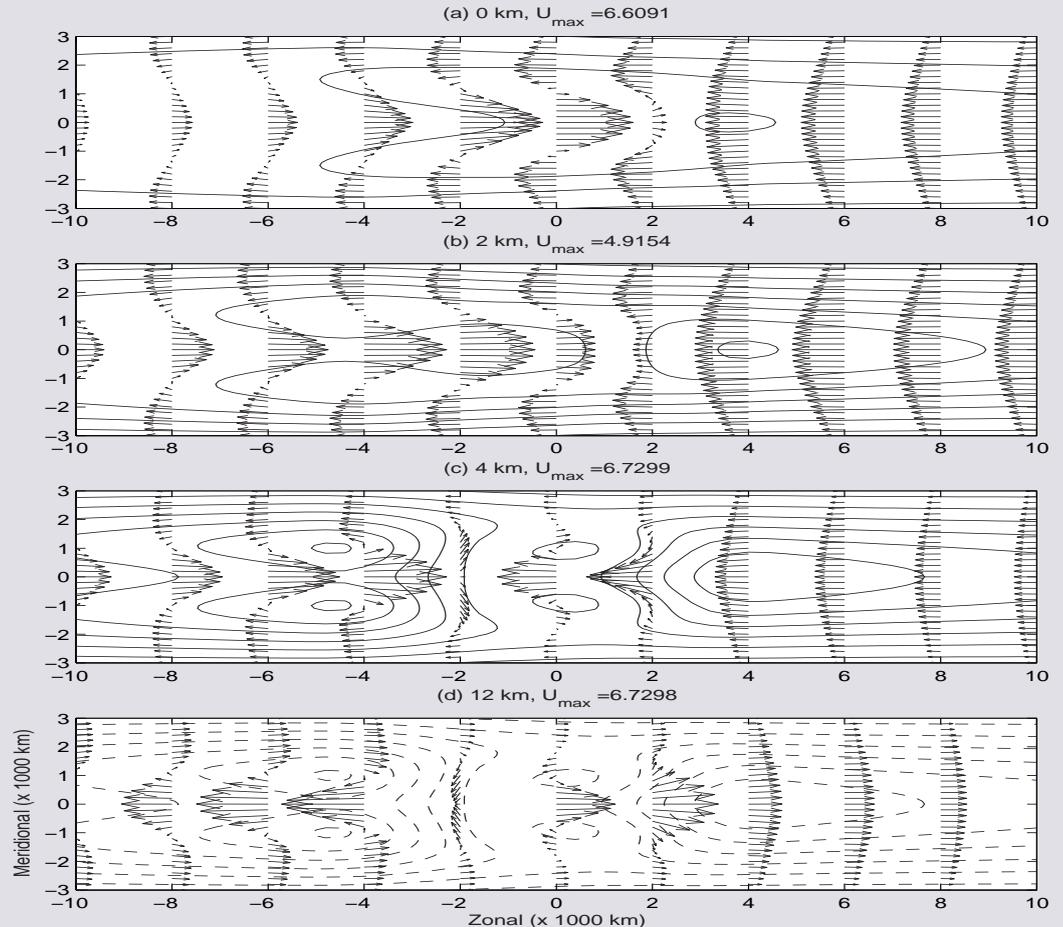
- Flow vectors and heating contours

- Upscale flux, $\overline{\mathbf{N}(\psi', \psi')} \neq 0$
⇒ Vertical/Longitudinal Tilt



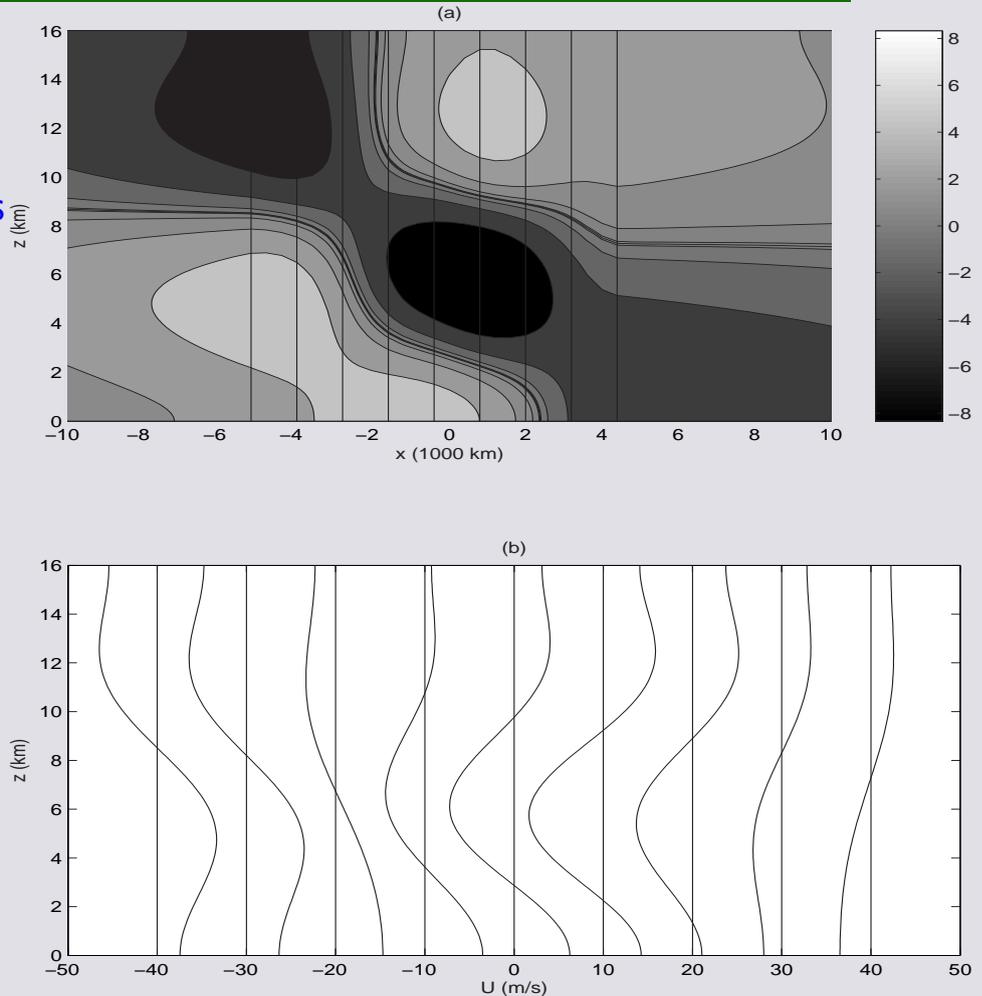
Equatorial MJO model: Flow in the Horizontal Plane

- Congestus heating in the east and westward tilted superclusters in the west of a moving warm pool.
- Planetary mean heating is weaker, but has same structure of synoptic scale fluctuations.
- Pressure and flow at $z = 0, 2, 4, 12$ km.



Equatorial MJO model: Winds above the equator

- Lower troposphere congestus heating in the east
- Westward tilted anvil superclusters in the west
- (a) Zonal velocity: westerly = light, easterly = dark versus height and longitude above equator
- (b) Height vs Velocity.



Summary: Systematic Multi-scale Theory for the MJO

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 - Isolate the features of the planetary scale organization arising from either **upscale fluxes** or **planetary mean heating**
- Heating fluctuations determined from **realistic cloud structure**
- **Planetary flows** are predicted with **MJO features**
 - Westerly wind burst; maximum at $z = 5$ km.
 - Quadrupolar structure
 - Vertical shear with upward/westward tilt
 - Upper troposphere outflow from warm pool

The Nonlinear Interaction of Midlatitude/Equatorial Waves

How do convection in the tropics and midlatitude waves interact with one another on *intraseasonal* time scales and planetary length scales in the presence of mean vertical and meridional shear?

OR

How does the breakup of the *MJO* affect us ?

- Dispersion balanced nonlinear wave/wave interaction theory.
- Nonlinear theory: *J. Atmos. Sci.*, **60**, (2003),
- with Boundary Layer: *GAFD*, **98**, (2004)
- Hamiltonian structure and solitary waves: *Stud. Appl. Math.*, **112**, (2004)

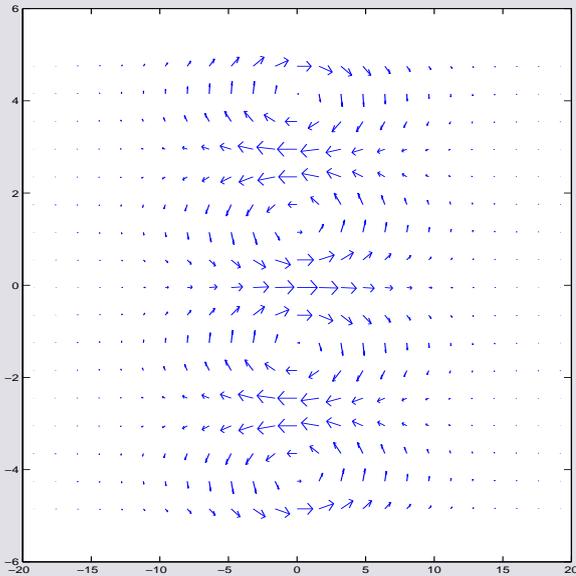
The main question

- How do Baroclinic Waves (equatorial) and Barotropic Waves (midlatitude) exchange energy nonlinearly ?
 - Teleconnections from Tropics to midlatitudes
 - El Nino and Madden-Julian oscillation interaction with midlatitude waves
 - Time scales ~ 20 days: increase prediction time
- The art of this type of asymptotics:

Identify the principal length and timescales and thereby the essential dynamics

Horizontal Structure

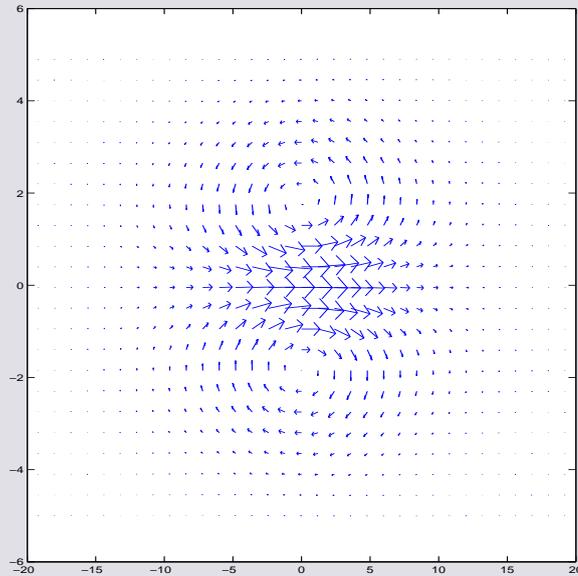
Barotropic Wave (BT)



Vertical Mean Winds
Independent of Height

$$u \propto \cos(l y)$$

Baroclinic Wave (BC)

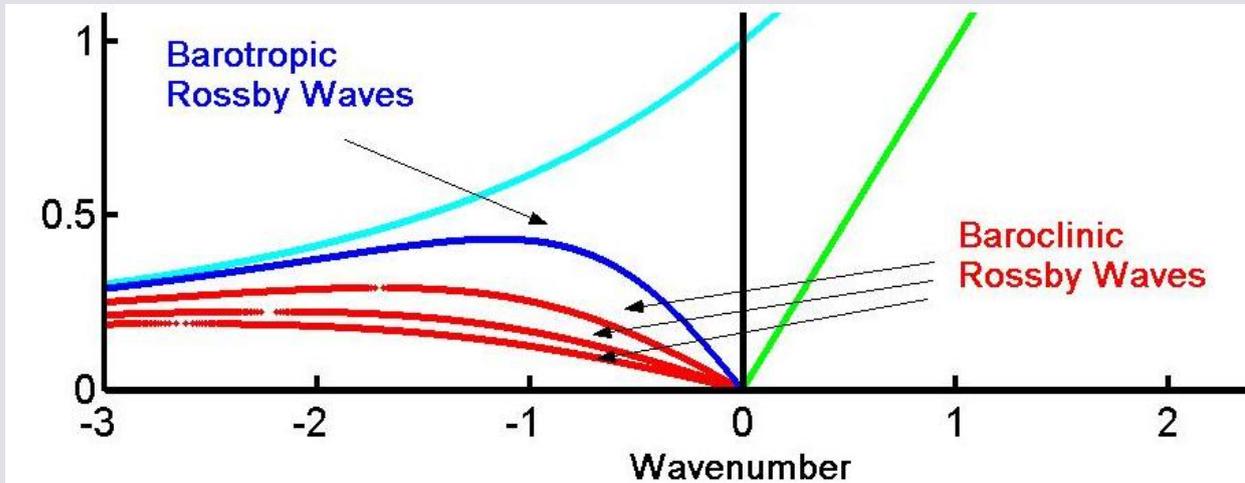


Vertical Mean Shear

$$u \propto D_{m+1}(y) \cos\left(\frac{\pi z}{H}\right)$$

$D_m(y)$ parabolic cylinder functions

Equatorial Barotropic and Baroclinic Waves



Barotropic Long Wave Speed

$$c_{BT} \equiv -\frac{1}{l^2}, \quad \text{N/S wavenumber}$$

Baroclinic Long Wave Speed

$$c_{BC} \equiv -\frac{1}{2m+1}, \quad m \text{ integer}$$

Resonance if $l = \sqrt{2m+1}$

$m = 1 \implies 5400 \text{ km}, 16 \text{ m/s westward}$

Previous Work: Linear theory and climate models

- Webster (1971, 1981, 1982), Kasahara & Silva Dias (1986), Hoskins & Jin (1991), Wang & Xie (1996): linearized model for midlatitude barotropic waves forced by tropics.
 - role of vertical and horizontal shear
 - role of nearly dispersionless long wavelength Rossby waves
 - Vertical shear linearly couples equatorial Rossby Waves to midlatitudes
- Lim & Chang (1981, 1986), Hoskins & Yang (2000), Lin et al. (2000)
 - role of nearly resonant forcing
 - role of vertical mean shear
 - midlatitude dynamics drives tropical *intraseasonal response*

The Model: Long Wave, Slow Time Scaling

$L_E \equiv$ N/S length scale = 1500 km

$L =$ E/W wave scale

$T_E \equiv$ equatorial timescale = 8 hours

$T =$ wave travel time

Small parameter,

$$\delta \equiv \frac{L_E}{L} = \frac{T_E}{T} = \frac{|v|}{|u|}$$

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Long Wave Equatorial Baroclinic/Barotropic Equations

$$\frac{\bar{D}}{Dt} u_1 - \vec{v}_1 \cdot \nabla \psi_y - y v_1 + (p_1)_x = 0$$

$$\frac{\bar{D}}{Dt} p_1 + \text{div}(\vec{v}_1) = 0$$

$$(p_1)_y + y u_1 + \delta^2 \left(\frac{\bar{D}}{Dt} v_1 + \vec{v}_1 \cdot \nabla \psi_x \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{\bar{D}}{Dt} (\psi_{yy}) + \psi_x - \text{div}((\vec{v}_1 u_1)_y) + \delta^2 \left(\frac{\bar{D}}{Dt} (\psi_{xx}) + \text{div}((\vec{v}_1 v_1)_x) \right) = 0$$

Amplitude Equations for Long Equatorial Rossby Waves

- Westward traveling waves resonate
- Low Froude number, weakly nonlinear asymptotic expansion

$$\mathbf{v}_H = \epsilon [A(X, \tau) \mathbf{v}_{BC}(y) \cos(z) + B(X, \tau) \mathbf{v}_{BT}(y)] + O(\epsilon^2)$$

-
- $\tau =$ slow time
 - $X =$ planetary
 - $D \approx 1$, dispersion
 - moving frame

$$\begin{aligned} A_\tau - DA_{XXX} + BA_X + AB_X &= 0 && \text{Baroclinic} \\ B_\tau - B_{XXX} + AA_X &= 0 && \text{Barotropic} \end{aligned}$$

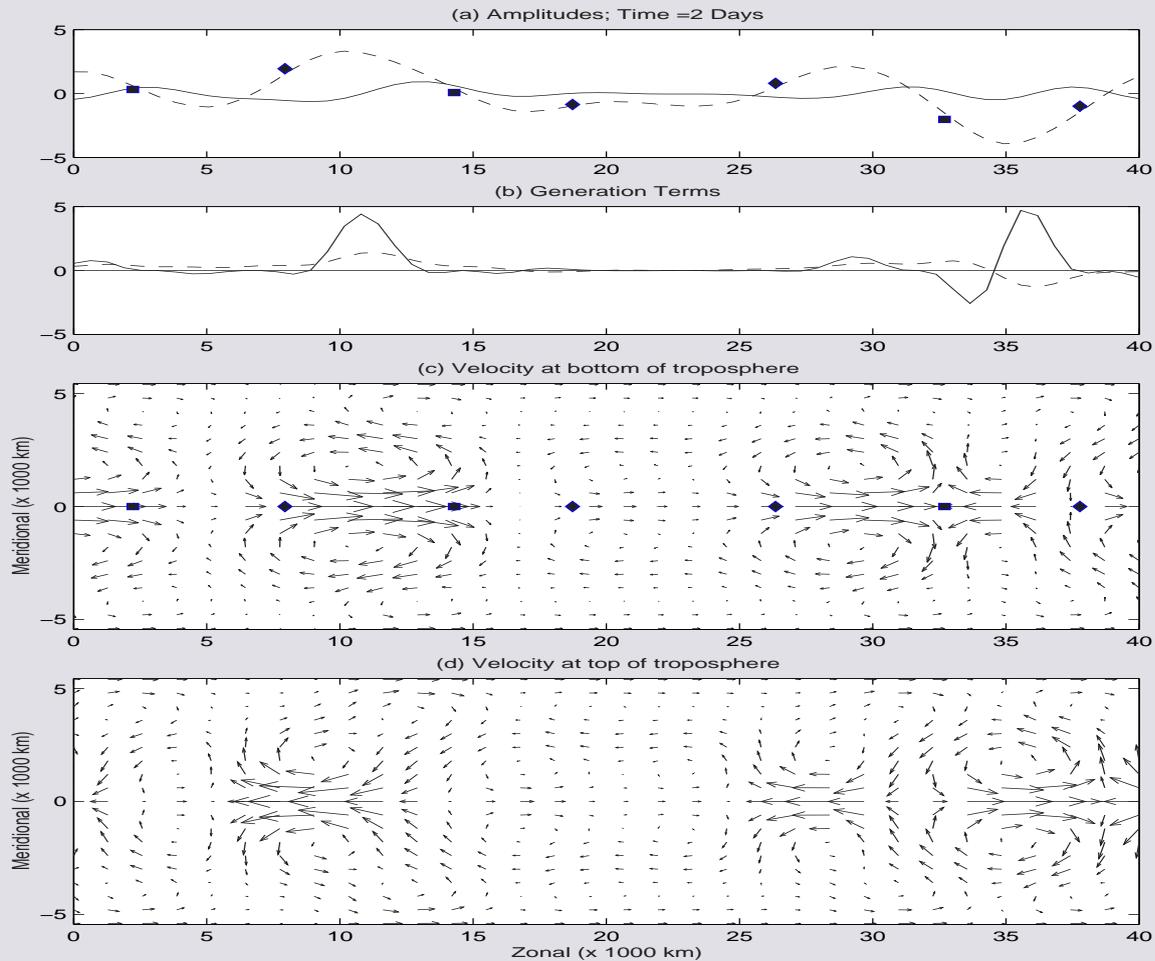
Nonlinear Dynamics: energy transfer from tropics to midlatitudes

- Mean BT flow = 2.5 ms^{-1}
- Mean BC flow = 5 ms^{-1}
- Initial energy in mean flow or BT wave only, seeded randomly

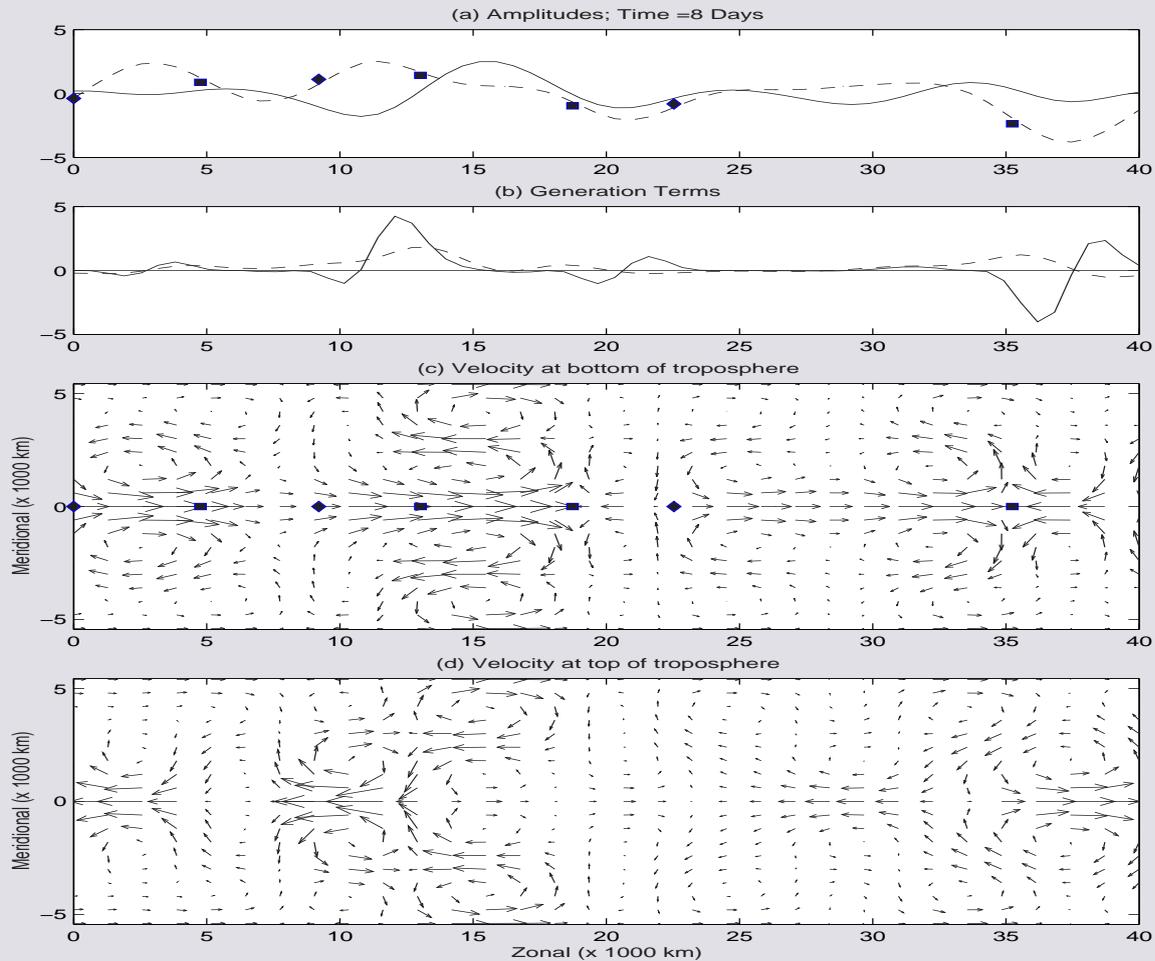
Results

- Development of Coherent BT Rossby Wave Train - midlatitude connection
- Timescale of less than 20 days

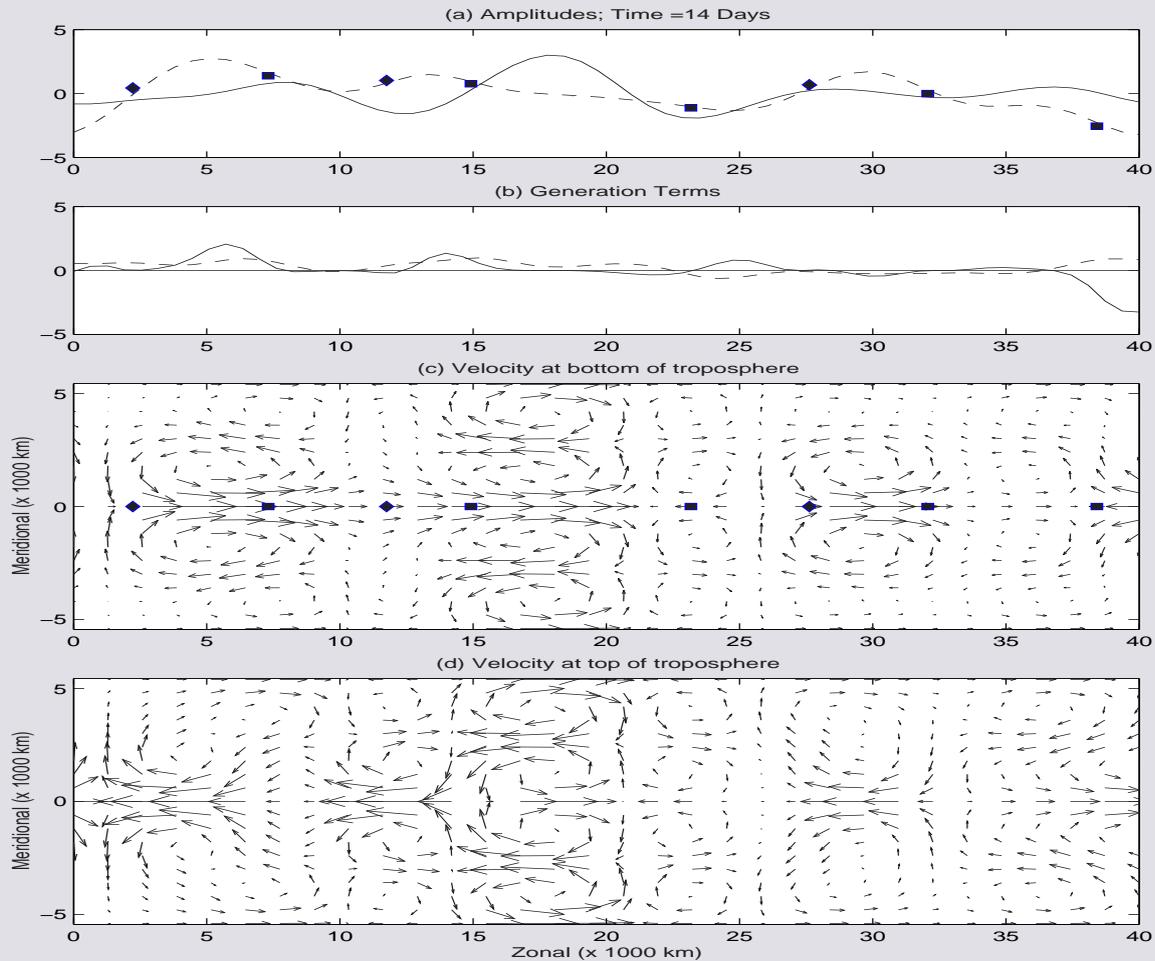
Tropics \longrightarrow midlatitudes: 2 days



Tropics → midlatitudes: 8 days



Tropics \longrightarrow midlatitudes: 14 days



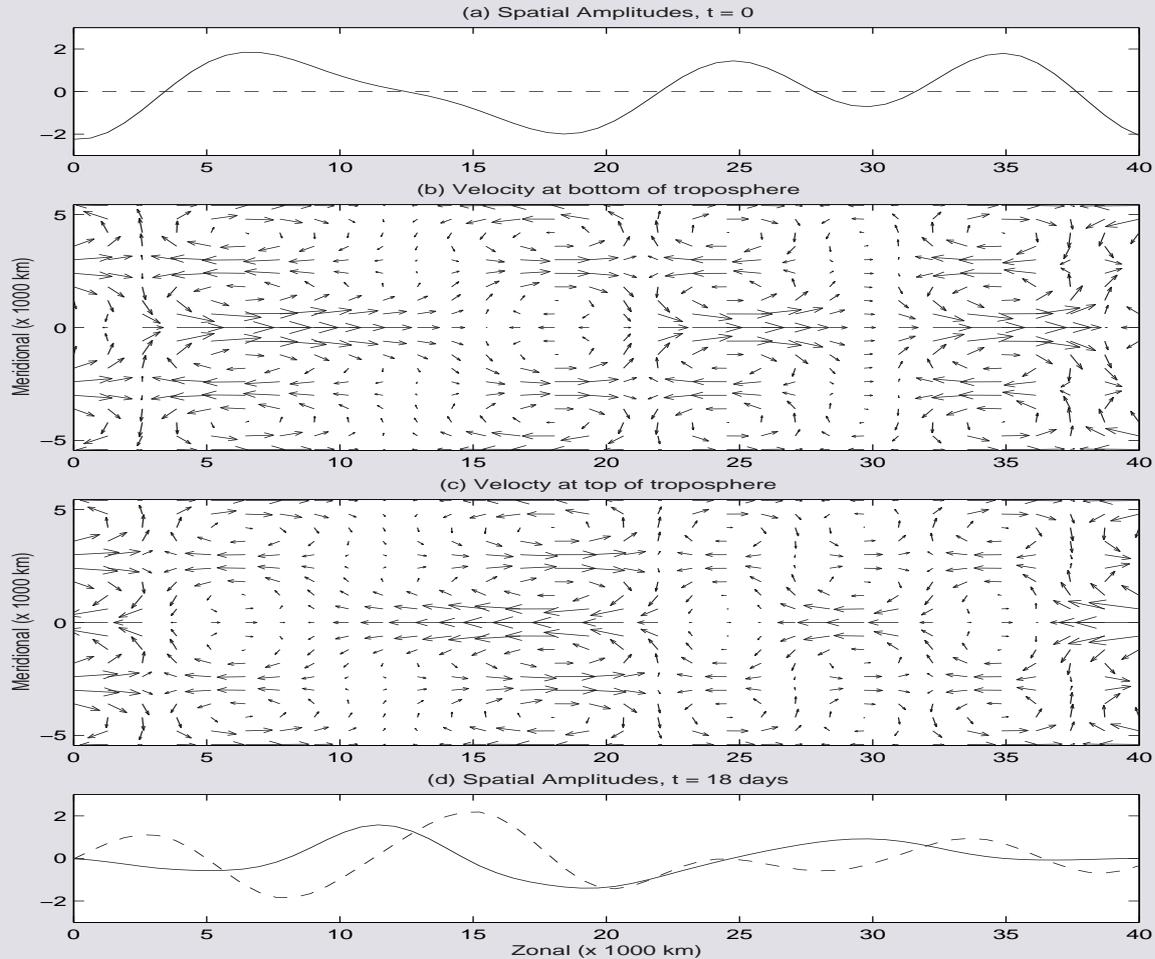
Nonlinear Dynamics: energy transfer from midlatitudes to the tropics

- Numerical integration of amplitude equations for a selection of mean flow profiles
- Mean BT flow = 0 ms^{-1}
- Mean BC flow = 5 ms^{-1}
- Initial energy in mean flow or BT wave only, seeded randomly

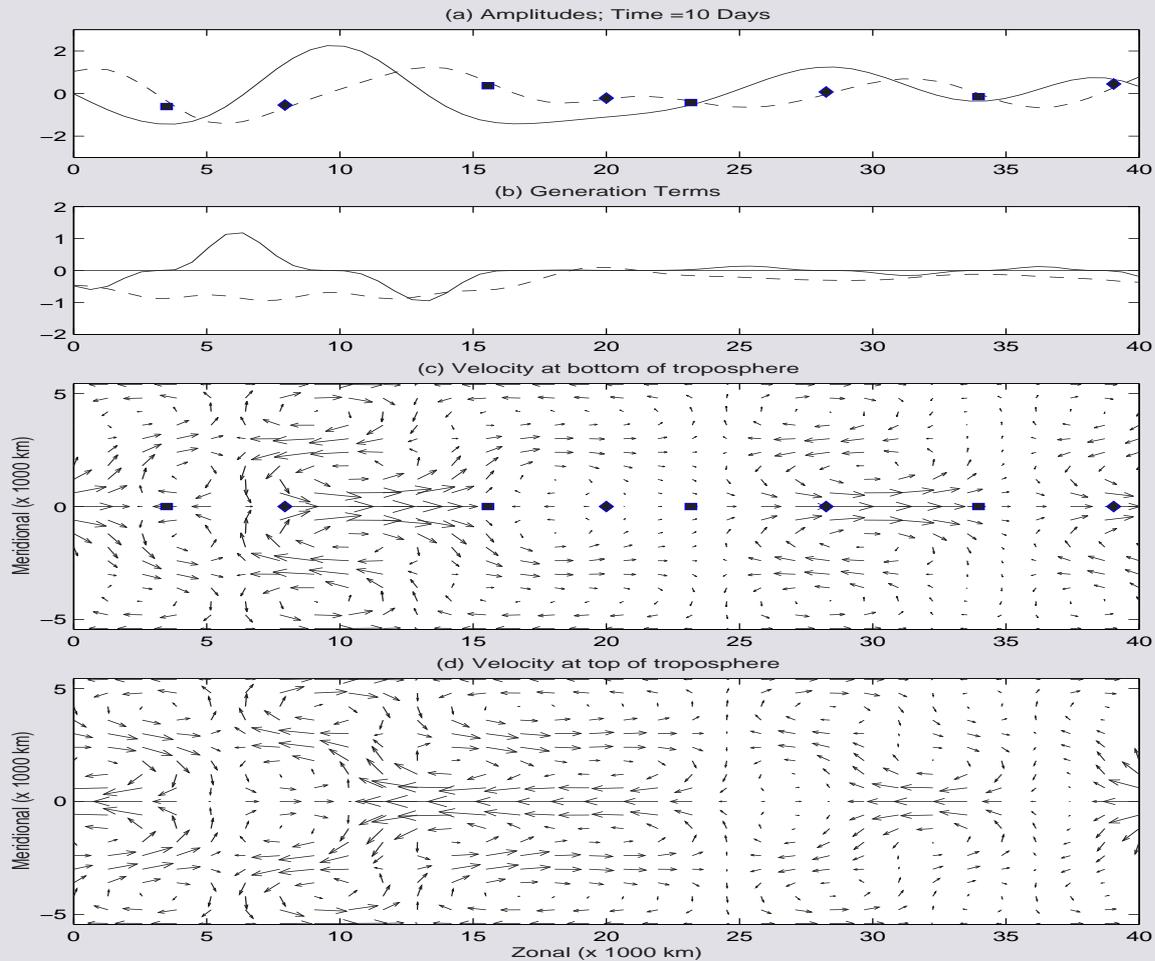
Results

- Strong driving of BC waves within 20 days
- Structure of a Westerly Wind Burst

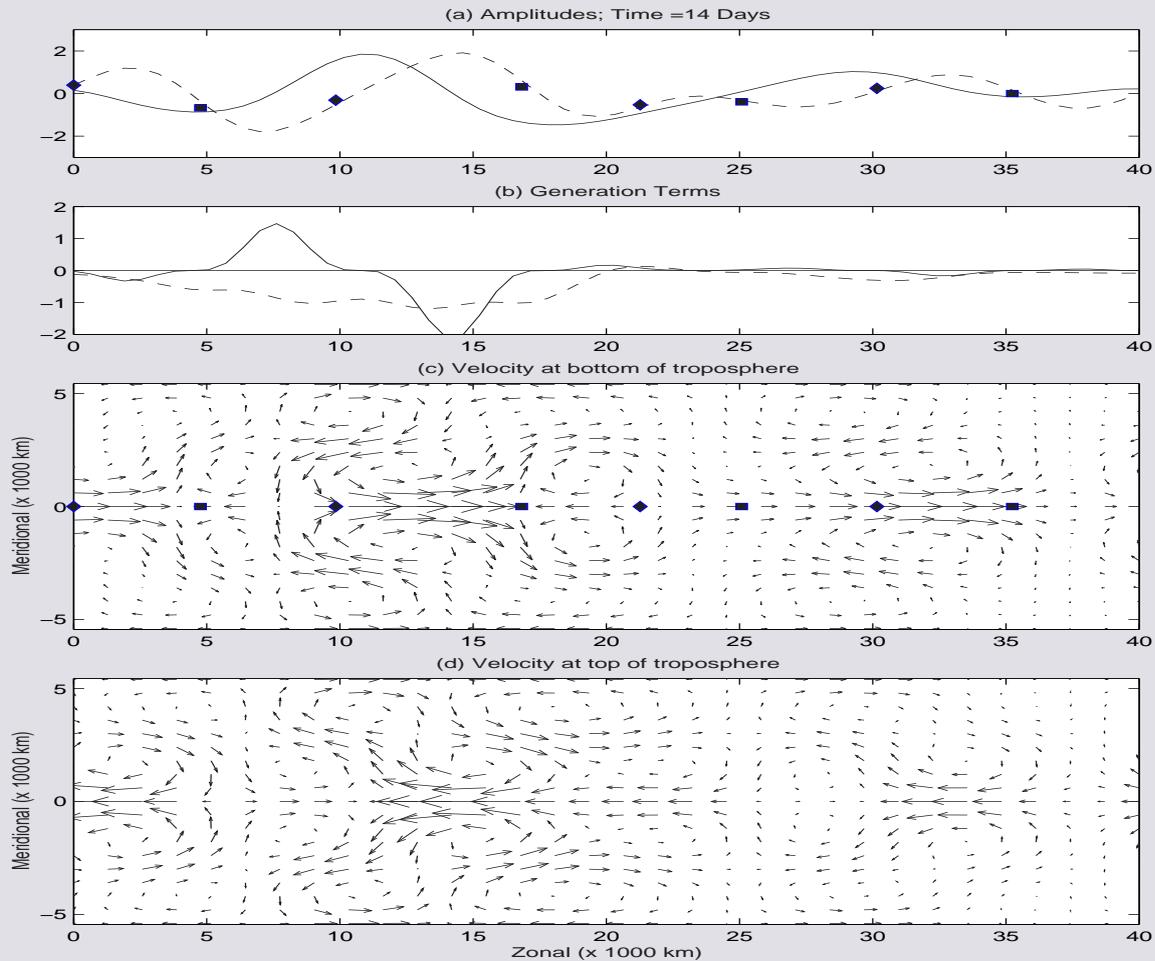
Midlatitudes \longrightarrow tropics: Initial condition



Midlatitudes \longrightarrow tropics: 10 days



Midlatitudes \longrightarrow tropics: 14 days



Summary of Tropics/Midlatitude wave theory

- *New equations* in the context of atmospheric sciences
- *New equations* in the context of applied mathematics
- Dispersion balanced nonlinearity.
- Equatorial waves drive *Midlatitude Rossby Waves* relevant for the *breakup of the MJO*.