

Lecture 22 - Gravitational Instability

11/09/17

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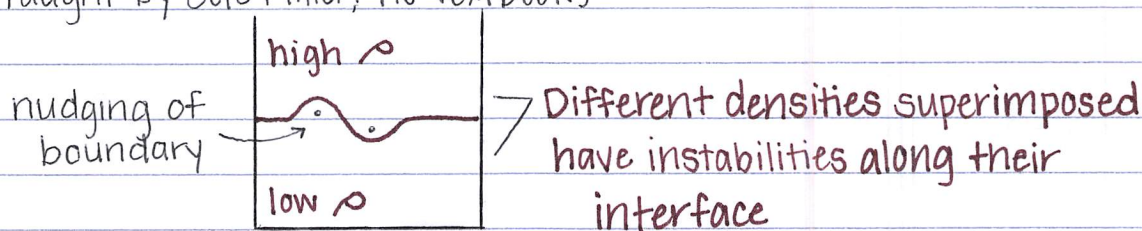
Rayleigh-Taylor Instability

- a.k.a. gravitational instability

Rayleigh-Taylor (RT) is the instability of the interface between two fluids of different densities superimposed one over the other

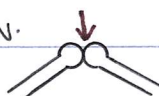
From ASTR680 - High Energy Astrophysics:

{ Taught by Cole Miller, no textbook }



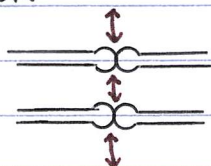
Magnetically, this means it is energetically favorable for matter to nudge the lines around than to try to break through the lines.

• side view •



It's hard to push here - that is, it's very difficult for matter to break through lines

• top view •

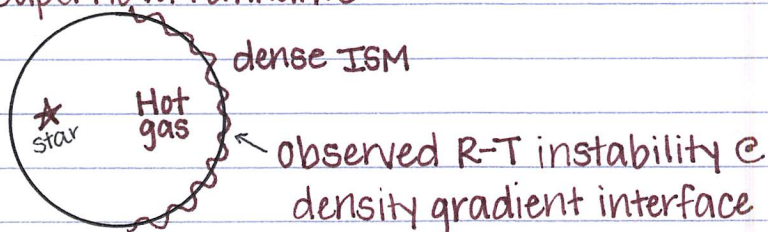


It's much easier to push here - that is, it takes much less energy to nudge these lines around

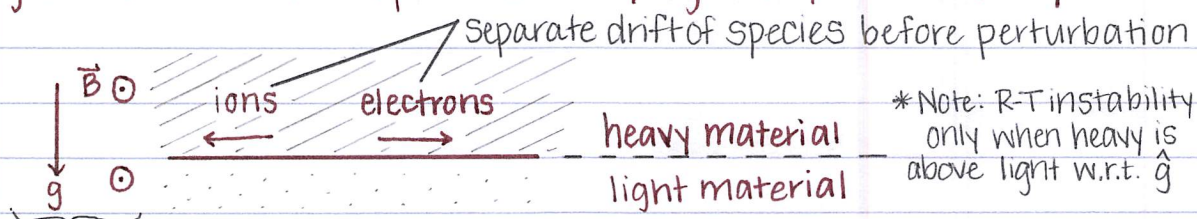
(returning to PHYS761...)

Examples:

- Mushroom cloud
- Supernova remnants



Rosenbluth & Longmire (1957) showed a plasma in an [effective] gravitational field experiences Rayleigh-Taylor instability.



plasma layer can be supported against gravity by a $\vec{B}$ -field (dependent on $\vec{B}$ -field orientation)

Electron and Ion drift:

$$\vec{v} = \frac{c}{qB^2} \vec{F} \times \vec{B}$$

↑ gravity
charge determines direction of particle drift

* Similar to $\vec{v}_E$ from Lec. #17;
 $\vec{B} \times (\frac{q}{c} \vec{v}_E \times \vec{B}) = -\vec{F}_\perp$

$\vec{k}$ along $\hat{b}$ does not affect the development of R-T instability

- this balances out to lowest order

$$0 = \rho \vec{g} + \frac{1}{c} (\vec{J} \times \vec{B})$$

= n (Net Force)

$\vec{B}$ -field plays a larger role in supporting plasma against gravity in regions of higher density

$$\Rightarrow \vec{J} = \frac{c}{4\pi} \frac{(\vec{g} \times \vec{B})}{B^2}$$

Orientation of $\vec{B}$ with respect to $\vec{g}$ determines current within the plasma

heavy
light



Same result as no $\vec{B}$ -field

$\vec{k}$ chosen to be $\perp \vec{B}$ here

heavy
light

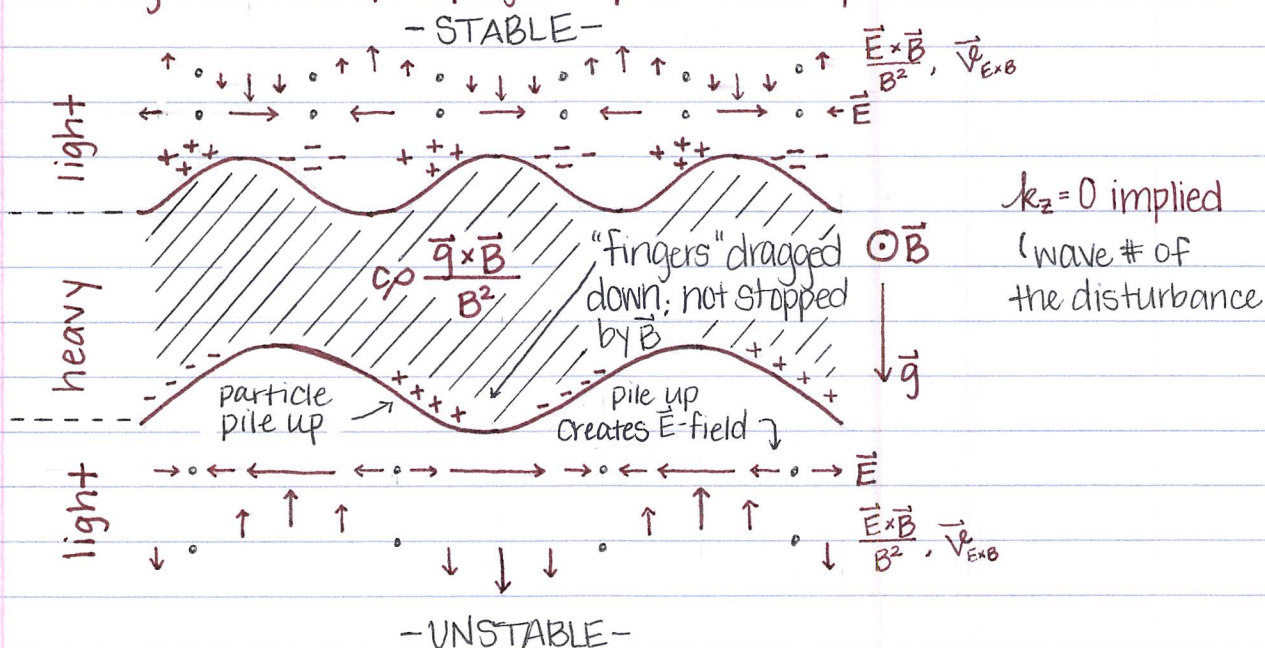


Instability still can occur

a different $\vec{k}$ must be chosen in order not to perturb $\vec{B}$

* Note: A rotating / twisting $\vec{B}$ -field is the only arrangement that allows stabilization

We can visualize the geometry for a simple physical description of the gravitational / Rayleigh-Taylor instability:



Equilibria

To analyze stability, we must start with an equilibrium and then linearize our equations around that equilibrium

→ we will give several examples

0th order, no perturbation

$\hat{y}$ ↑ $\nabla \phi$ ↓ $\vec{g}$ $\vec{B} = B_0(y) \hat{z}$
 $\hat{z}$ ⊙ $\hat{x}$ $\rho = \rho_0(y)$
 $P = P_0(y)$; where $\frac{dP}{dy} = -\rho g$ in hydrostatic equilibrium in the absence of $\vec{B}$

Force Balance

To 0th order — momentum conservation in the vertical direction ($\hat{y}$)

$$0 = -\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(P_0 + \frac{B_0^2}{8\pi} \right) - \rho_0 g$$

where the full momentum conservation equation here is

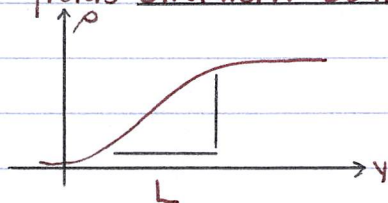
$\vec{u} = 0$ for ideal equilibria (no flow)

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla \vec{u} \right) = -\nabla \left(P + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) + \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{B} \cdot \nabla) \vec{B} - \rho g$$

where $(\vec{B} \cdot \nabla) \vec{B} = B^2 \vec{R}$ (from Lec. #19), but $\vec{R} = 0$ for our straight field lines.

How does our density change with height?

↳ yields Gradient Scale Length



$$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y} \sim \frac{1}{L}$$

such that we may make the scaling/dimensional argument $\nabla \sim 1/L$

• System timescales:

- from the quantities L, g , we have 3 system timescales

$$\gamma_{\text{growth rate}} = \gamma_g \sim \sqrt{\frac{g}{L}}$$

this is just ω for a simple pendulum!

$$\gamma_{\text{sound waves}} = \gamma_s \sim \frac{c_s}{L}$$

fast-mode propagation time

$$\gamma_{\text{fast mode}} = \gamma_f \sim \frac{c_F}{L}, \quad c_F^2 = c_A^2 + c_s^2$$

where the fast mode is a combination of both magnetic and plasma pressure

** If possible, this mode should be used primarily over γ_s

Assume $\gamma_g \ll \gamma_s / \gamma_g \ll \gamma_f$ (weak gravitation)

⇒ This is the Boussinesq Approximation

• {from Wiki} In the field of buoyancy-driven flow/natural convection, it ignores density differences except where they appear in terms multiplied by $\vec{g}$. The essence of the Boussinesq approximation is that the differences in inertia between two fluids is negligible but gravity is sufficiently strong to make the specific

weights appreciably different $\rightarrow$ Sound waves are impossible/neglected when the Boussinesq approximation is used since sound waves move via density variations

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{u}) = 0$$

continuity eq. for conservation of mass

If density variations are ignored via the Boussinesq approximation, this reduces to

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} \approx 0 \Rightarrow \text{nearly incompressible motion!}$$

The MHD Equations: (a recap for moving forward)

① Conservation of momentum

$$\rho \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \rho (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) \vec{u} = - \nabla \left(P + \frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) + \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{B} \cdot \nabla) \vec{B} - \rho \vec{g}$$

This term is very large compared to the others and needs to be annihilated

② Faraday's Law

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} - \nabla \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{B}) = 0$$

($\vec{E}$ -field eqn. already substituted in)

③ Conservation of energy (the pressure/energy eqn.)

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) P + \Gamma P (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) = 0$$

Ratio of specific heats

$$\Gamma = (n_f + 2)/n_f \quad \text{--- #D.O.F.}$$

④ Conservation of mass

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) \rho + \rho (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) = 0$$

Linearized Equations

The above equations are what we want to linearize about our equilibrium.

$$\rho = \rho_0 + \rho_1$$

$$\rho_1(x, y, t) = \text{Re}\{\hat{\rho}(y) e^{ikx - i\omega t}\}$$

complex amplitude

only variation in x ; $\partial/\partial z = 0$

$$\vec{B} = \vec{B}_0 + \vec{B}_1$$

$$\text{assumed } \vec{B}_1 = \text{Re}\{\hat{B}_1(y) e^{ikx - i\omega t}\}$$

$$\vec{k} = k\hat{i}$$

$$\text{from this, } \vec{B}_1 = B_1(x, y)\hat{z}$$

$$\vec{B}_1 \cdot \nabla \vec{B}_0, \text{ where } \partial/\partial z = 0, = 0$$

- Equation ①

$$\rho \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \rho (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) \vec{u} = -\nabla(P + \frac{1}{8\pi} B^2) + \frac{1}{4\pi} (\vec{B} \cdot \nabla) \vec{B} - \rho \vec{g}$$

$$\text{where } (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) \vec{u} = u_{1y} \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial y} = 0$$

linearizing...

ρ_0 goes away with $\rho_0 g$; the equilibrium term from Force Balance

$$\rho_0 \frac{\partial \vec{u}_1}{\partial t} = -\left(P_1 + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_1}{4\pi}\right) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[(\vec{B}_1 \cdot \nabla) \vec{B}_0 + (\vec{B}_0 \cdot \nabla) \vec{B}_1 \right] - \rho_0 \vec{g}$$

Perturbation is 1st order only; equilibrium terms like $\vec{u}_0$ are gone

$$\rho_0 \frac{\partial \vec{u}_1}{\partial t} = -\nabla \left(P_1 + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_1}{4\pi} \right) - \rho_0 \vec{g}$$

- Equation ②

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} - \nabla \times (\vec{u} \times \vec{B})$$

$$= u_{1y} \frac{\partial \vec{B}_0}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}_1}{\partial t} - \nabla \times (\vec{u}_1 \times \vec{B}_0) = 0 = \frac{\partial \vec{B}_1}{\partial t} - (\vec{B}_1 \cdot \nabla) \vec{u}_1 + (\vec{u}_1 \cdot \nabla) \vec{B}_0 + \vec{B}_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_1) - \vec{u}_1 (\nabla \cdot \vec{B}_0)$$

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}_0}{\partial t} = 0$$

$\vec{B}_1 \cdot \nabla$ must = 0 for $(\vec{B}_1 \cdot \nabla) \vec{B}_0 = 0$ to hold true for all values of $\vec{B}_0$.

$$\frac{\partial \vec{B}_1}{\partial t} + \vec{B}_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_1) + u_{1y} \frac{\partial \vec{B}_0}{\partial y} = 0$$

Equation ③

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) P + \Gamma P (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) = 0$$

$$= u_{iy} \frac{\partial P_0}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + (\vec{u}_i \cdot \nabla) P_0 + \Gamma P_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial P_0}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial P_i}{\partial t} + u_{iy} \frac{\partial P_0}{\partial y} + \Gamma P_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) = 0$$

Equation ④

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) \rho + \rho (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) = 0$$

$$= u_{iy} \frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + (\vec{u}_i \cdot \nabla) \rho_0 + \rho_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial t} + u_{iy} \frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial y} + \rho_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) = 0$$

We need to figure out how big this is
(want to show the $\nabla \cdot \vec{u} \approx 0$ approximation works here)

⇒ Use low frequency ordering

• from equation ③

say these two terms are comparable

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} + u_{iy} \frac{\partial P_0}{\partial y} + \Gamma P_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) \stackrel{0}{=} 0$$

$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rightarrow \frac{1}{L}$, the length scale of the instability
 $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rightarrow \gamma_g$, the timescale of the instability

$$\gamma_g P_i \sim u_{iy} \frac{P_0}{L}$$

Supports that $P_i + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_i}{4\pi}$ is large.

→ then, comparing the left-hand-side & P_i term in equation ①

$$\rho_0 \frac{\partial \vec{u}_i}{\partial t} = -\nabla \left(P_i + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_i}{4\pi} \right) - \rho_0 \vec{g} \rightarrow \text{small}$$

same order as P_i

$$\rho_0 \gamma_g u_i \sim \frac{1}{L} \left(P_i \left(\frac{\gamma_g}{\gamma_g} \right) \right) \quad \gamma_g P_i = u_i P_0 / L$$

$$\rho_0 \gamma_g u_i \sim \frac{1}{L} \frac{u_i P_0}{\gamma_g}$$

$$\gamma_g^2 \sim \frac{P_0}{\rho_0 L^2} \sim \gamma_s$$

$$\gamma_g^2 \sim \gamma_s^2 \rightarrow \text{implies that } P_i + \frac{B_0 \cdot B_i}{4\pi} \text{ is huge}$$

To lowest order

$$\hookrightarrow P_i + \frac{B_0 \cdot B_i}{4\pi} \approx 0$$

The pressure from the plasma & the $\vec{B}$ -field must balance / very nearly cancel out because the other terms are small

NOW: Add $(B_0/4\pi) \textcircled{2} + \textcircled{3}$

$\rightarrow$ gives equations for B_i & P_i , yields above combination

$$\left(\frac{\vec{B}_0}{4\pi} \right) \left[\frac{\partial \vec{B}_i}{\partial t} + \vec{B}_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) + u_{iy} \frac{\partial \vec{B}_0}{\partial y} \right] + \left[\frac{\partial P_i}{\partial t} + u_{iy} \frac{\partial P_0}{\partial y} + \Gamma P_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) \right]$$

use pressure balance

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(P_i + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_i}{4\pi} \right) + u_{iy} \left[\frac{\partial P_0}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{B^2}{8\pi} \right) \right] + (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) \left[\frac{B_0^2}{4\pi} + \Gamma P_0 \right] = 0$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(P_i + \frac{B_0^2}{8\pi} \right) = -\rho_0 \vec{g}$$

the 0th order momentum conservation eq.

$\downarrow$ Solve for $\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i$, $\downarrow$

$$(\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i) \left[\frac{B_0^2}{4\pi} + \Gamma P_0 \right] = u_{iy} \rho_0 \vec{g} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(P_i + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_i}{4\pi} \right)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i = \frac{u_{iy} \rho_0 \vec{g} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(P_i + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_i}{4\pi} \right)}{\left[\frac{B_0^2}{4\pi} + \Gamma P_0 \right]} \quad \text{small}$$

As stated above, these large terms must approximately cancel each other out (to first order)

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i = u_{iy} \bar{g} \frac{\rho_0}{(B_0^2/4\pi + \Gamma P_0)} = \frac{u_{iy} \bar{g}}{C_A^2 + C_S^2} \sim \frac{u_{iy}}{L} \frac{\gamma_g^2}{\gamma_f^2}$$

$C_S^2 = \frac{\Gamma P_0}{\rho_0}$
 $C_A^2 = \frac{B_0^2}{4\pi \rho_0}$

$(C_A^2 + C_S^2) = C_f^2$

for $\gamma_g \ll \gamma_f$

$$\frac{u_{iy}}{L} \frac{\gamma_g^2}{\gamma_f^2} \ll \frac{u_{iy}}{L}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u}_i \ll \frac{u_{iy}}{L} \Rightarrow \text{Nearly incompressible!}$$

↳ From this we know it is valid under these conditions to use the Boussinesq appx., $\nabla \cdot \vec{u} \approx 0$

We must annihilate the pressure term in Eq. ①

↳ Operate with $\hat{z} \cdot \nabla \times$ ①

$$\hat{z} \cdot \nabla \times \left[\rho_0 \frac{\partial \vec{u}_i}{\partial t} \right] = \hat{z} \cdot \nabla \times \left[-\nabla \left(p_i + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_i}{4\pi} \right) - \rho_0 \bar{g} \hat{y} \right]$$

$\nabla^2 \left(p_i + \frac{\vec{B}_0 \cdot \vec{B}_i}{4\pi} \right) = 0$ — taking the curl is the only way to guarantee annihilation of this large pressure term

$$\hat{z} \cdot \nabla \times \left(\rho_0 \frac{\partial \vec{u}_i}{\partial t} \right) = -\hat{z} \cdot \nabla \times (\rho_0 g \hat{y})$$

$$= -g \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial x}$$

$$\hat{z} \cdot \nabla \times \left(\rho_0 \frac{\partial \vec{u}_i}{\partial t} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\rho_0 \frac{\partial u_{iy}}{\partial t} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\rho_0 \frac{\partial u_{ix}}{\partial t} \right) = -g \frac{\partial \rho_i}{\partial x}$$

$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \rightarrow ik$ $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rightarrow -i\omega$

$$ik(-i\omega) \rho_0 \hat{u}_{iy} + i\omega \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\rho_0 \hat{u}_{ix}) = -g ik \hat{\rho}_i$$

— use eq. ④ with $\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho_i + \hat{u}_{iy} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0 + \rho_0 (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) = 0$$

$$i\omega \rho_1 = \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0$$

↓ plugging into our expression from eq. ① ↓

$$k\omega \rho_0 \hat{u}_{1y} + i\omega \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\rho_0 \hat{u}_{1x}) = -gk \frac{\hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0}{i\omega}$$

$$\omega^2 \left[k \rho_0 \hat{u}_{1y} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\rho_0 \hat{u}_{1x}) \right] = -gk \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0$$

want to get everything in y-components

→ Linearize eq. ④

$$ik \hat{u}_{1x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\hat{u}_{1y}) = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{u}_{1x} = \frac{-1}{ik} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\hat{u}_{1y})$$

↓ substituting for $\hat{u}_{1x}$ ↓

$$\omega^2 \left[k \rho_0 \hat{u}_{1y} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\rho_0 \left(\frac{-1}{ik} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{u}_{1y} \right) \right) \right] = -gk \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0$$

↳ multiply through by $-k$

$$\omega^2 \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\rho_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{u}_{1y} \right) - k^2 \rho_0 \hat{u}_{1y} \right] = gk^2 \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0$$

⇒ No dependence on the $\vec{B}$ -field at all!

↳ supports our statement that $\odot \vec{B}$ w.r.t. $\downarrow \vec{g}$ has the same effects as no field at all

Limiting Solutions

We want to solve equation ⑤ under two limits:

• First take $kL \gg 1$

this is the short wavelength perturbation

$1/L \sim \partial/\partial y$ so $\partial/\partial y \ll k$

Eqn. ⑤ then becomes

$$\omega^2 \left[\underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\rho_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{u}_{1y} \right)}_{\text{This term, with two factors of } \partial/\partial y, \text{ is much SMALLER than}} - k^2 \rho_0 \hat{u}_{1y} \right] = gk^2 \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0$$

This term, with two factors of $\partial/\partial y$, is much SMALLER than

$$\rightarrow -\omega^2 k^2 \rho_0 \hat{u}_{1y} = g k^2 \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial y}$$

$$\omega^2 = \frac{-g}{\rho_0} \left(\frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial y} \right) \sim 1/L, \text{ the gradient scale length}$$

$$\uparrow = -g/L = -\gamma_g^2$$

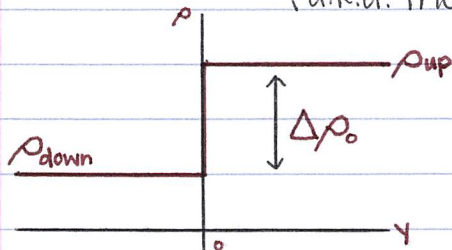
unstable if $\partial \rho_0 / \partial y > 0$
(heavy fluid above light)

$\Rightarrow$ Heavy fluid falling in a gravitational field releases energy

$$\gamma^2 = \text{timescale of the instability} = \gamma_g^2$$

• Second, take $kL \ll 1$

this is the long wavelength perturbation
(a.k.a. the sharp boundary limit)



- Away from the boundary (jump)

$$\rho_0(y) = \rho_0 \rightarrow \partial \rho_0 / \partial y = 0$$

Eqn. (5) then becomes

$$\omega^2 \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\rho_0 \frac{\partial \hat{u}_{1y}}{\partial y} \right) - k^2 \rho_0 \hat{u}_{1y} \right] = g k^2 \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial y} \overset{0}{=} 0$$

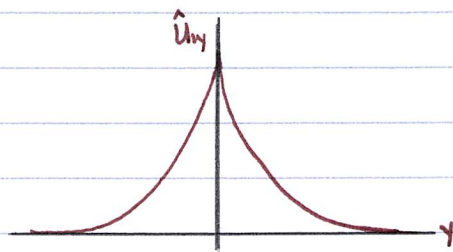
pull out

$$\omega^2 \rho_0 \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \hat{u}_{1y} - k^2 \hat{u}_{1y} \right] = 0$$

$$\omega^2 \rho_0 \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} - k^2 \right] \hat{u}_{1y} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \hat{u}_{1y} = \begin{cases} u_{1y} e^{-iky}, & y > 0 \\ u_{1y} e^{iky}, & y < 0 \end{cases}$$

KLE



* the slope of $\hat{u}_y$ undergoes a jump but the magnitude of $\hat{u}_y$ does not

- Near the boundary (jump)

$$\partial/\partial y \gg k^2$$

Eqn. ⑤ then becomes

$$\omega^2 \left[\underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\rho_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{u}_{1y} \right)}_{\text{This term, with two factors of } \partial/\partial y, \text{ is much LARGER than}} - k^2 \rho_0 \hat{u}_{1y} \right] = g k^2 \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial y}$$

This term, with two factors of $\partial/\partial y$, is much LARGER than

$$\rightarrow \omega^2 \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{u}_{1y} \right] = g k^2 \frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial y} \hat{u}_{1y}$$

Must integrate over the boundary

$$\int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} dy$$

$$\omega^2 \int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \rho_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{u}_{1y} \right] dy = \omega^2 \rho_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{u}_{1y} \Big|_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon}$$

use "away from boundary" solution

$$= \omega^2 [\rho_0^{\text{up}} (-k \hat{u}_{1y}) - \rho_0^{\text{down}} (k \hat{u}_{1y})]_{y=0}$$

$$= -\omega^2 k \hat{u}_{1y}(0) [\rho_{\text{up}} + \rho_{\text{down}}]$$

$$\int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} g k^2 \hat{u}_{1y} \frac{\partial \rho_0}{\partial y} dy = g k^2 \hat{u}_{1y}(0) [\rho_{\text{up}} - \rho_{\text{down}}]$$

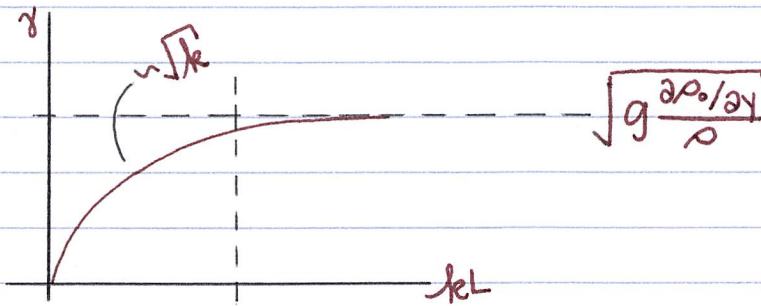
↓ putting this together ↓

$$-\omega^2 k \hat{u}_{1y}(0) [\rho_{\text{up}} + \rho_{\text{down}}] = g k^2 \hat{u}_{1y}(0) [\rho_{\text{up}} - \rho_{\text{down}}]$$

$$\omega^2 = -gk \underbrace{\frac{\rho_{\text{up}} - \rho_{\text{down}}}{\rho_{\text{up}} + \rho_{\text{down}}}}$$

If $\rho_{\text{up}} > \rho_{\text{down}}$, there is an instability

$$\gamma^2 = \frac{gk \Delta \rho_0}{[\rho_{\text{up}} + \rho_{\text{down}}]}$$



* Notice that the magnetic field is not able to stop the growth of the instability. $\vec{B}_0$ is simply convected with the flow.

In "real life":

↳ including small-scale effects:

→ surface tension

→ viscosity