Potential Vorticity Thinking: Developing Physical Understanding of the Mathematics Behind Rossby Wave Propagation, Dispersion, and Instability

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Abstract

Many important atmospheric phenomena involve Rossby waves: Examples include low frequency variability excited by tropical heating, cold surges that affect Hong Kong in winter, mid-latitude cyclones, and tropical cyclones. In this series of lectures, the principles of conservation and inversion of Potential Vorticity (PV) will be used to introduce the concept of PV Thinking, which can help us understand the physics behind the mathematics involved in Rossby wave propagation, dispersion, and instability.

All are Welcome!



