# The barotropic stability of the mean winds in the atmosphere 

By FRANK B. LIPPS<br>The Johns Hopkins University

(Received 20 December 1960 and in revised form 20 September 1961)
This paper considers the stability of a barotropic current on a beta earth. The motion is assumed to be horizontal, non-divergent and barotropic. The current is taken to be of the form $U(y)=A \operatorname{sech}^{2} b y+B$. The perturbations are required to approach zero as $y$ approaches $\pm \infty$. We introduce the non-dimensional wavenumber $l$ and a parameter $\chi$, which is a measure of the rotation effect. $\chi$ is inversely proportional to $\beta$.

There are only two kinds of perturbations: symmetric disturbances (those with maximum amplitude at $y=0$ ) and antisymmetric disturbances (those with zero amplitude at $y=0$ ). We find the neutral curve in the ( $\chi, l^{2}$ )-plane for both types of disturbances. The rates of amplification in the immediate vicinity of the neutral curves are also found. It is seen that the beta effect, which is due to the earth's rotation, tends to stabilize the current. For the symmetric disturbances we find a band of unstable wavelengths when $\chi>\frac{1}{2}$; and for large $\chi$ the estimated curve of the maximum value of the imaginary part of the phase velocity is asymptotic to the lower branch of the neutral curve. The antisymmetric disturbances are more stable than the symmetric disturbances.

## 1. Introduction

The motivation for this investigation is the problem of the stability of the mean westerly current in the upper atmosphere. This current, which varies in strength with latitude and height, is strongest near the tropopause at about $30^{\circ} \mathrm{N}$. (Mintz 1955). At present, a complete analysis of the three-dimensional stability problem is too complicated for mathematical treatment. In order to simplify the analysis, most investigators have considered one of two approaches. The first is to allow the current to vary in the vertical direction only and to neglect latitude variations. This formulation is known as the baroclinic stability problem (see Charney 1947; Kuo 1952). The other approach is to allow the current to vary in the latitudinal direction only, and to neglect vertical variations. This formulation is known as the barotropic stability problem. In both formulations frictional forces are neglected.

Here we consider the latter approach. The barotropic stability problem has been studied by Foote \& Lin (1951), and Kuo (1949, 1951). These authors show that the barotropic basic current is stable if the absolute vorticity profile is monotonic. It will be seen in the analysis below that one of the primary effects of the earth's rotation is to reduce the instability of the barotropic current. This
effect is the characteristic difference between the stability of the current considered below and thestability of the usual two-dimensional jet of hydrodynamics.

Earlier, Kuo (1949) considered a symmetric jet with an extremum of absolute vorticity on either side of the jet maximum. He finds a band of unstable wavelengths between the long neutral waves of Rossby et al. (1939) and Haurwitz (1940), and the shorter stable waves. The phase velocities of these waves are between the maximum and minimum velocity for the latitude belt. The long neutral waves all have phase velocities smaller than $U_{\min }$. In addition, Kuo proves that no neutral wave can have a phase velocity greater than $U_{\text {max }}$.

In his second paper, Kuo (1951) finds the neutral-wave perturbation by numerical integration for a jet on a spherical earth. The wave-number (number of waves around the globe) of this wave is 9.5 , and he infers that the maximum instability is at wave-number 4 or 5 .

Here the work of Kuo (1949) is extended by considering a more realistic symmetric jet. The problem is non-dimensionalized, and the parameters $l$ and $\chi$ are defined: $l$ is the non-dimensional wave-number and $\chi$ is a measure of the rotation effect. $\chi$ is inversely proportional to the gradient of absolute vorticity of the earth's rotation. The stability of the jet is considered for all values of $\chi$. Kuo's analysis is extended by considering both symmetric and antisymmetric disturbances. (Symmetric disturbances are those with maximum amplitude at the jet, and the antisymmetric disturbances are those with zero amplitude at the jet.) Kuo $(1949,1951)$ does not consider the antisymmetric disturbances. We find that the antisymmetric disturbances are more stable than the symmetric disturbances.

## 2. The perturbation equations and boundary conditions

The motion is assumed to be horizontal, non-divergent and barotropic. The basic motion consists of a fluid velocity from west to east. We assume that the largest velocities in the basic flow occur in a very narrow latitude belt, and that the basic velocity quickly approaches a constant value as we approach either the pole or the equator. Under these conditions it is legitimate to approximate the spherical co-ordinates on the earth by Cartesian co-ordinates, $x, y$ and $z$, directed toward the east, north and vertical, respectively (see Long 1960). The respective velocities are $u, v$ and $w$. The basic velocity takes the form $U=U(y)$. Since the flow is non-divergent and horizontal, we may define a stream-function for the perturbed motion by

$$
u=-\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}, \quad v=\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} .
$$

The dynamic equation to be satisfied for this motion is the two-dimensional vorticity equation. This equation states that for any fluid element the vertical component of absolute vorticity is conserved. The absolute vorticity includes both the relative vorticity due to motion relative to the earth and the vorticity of the earth's rotation. This equation takes the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}+U \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\right) \nabla^{2} \psi+\left(\beta-U^{\prime \prime}\right) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}=0 \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Here a prime denotes a differentiation with respect to $y$, and $\beta=(d / d y) 2 \omega$, where $\omega$ is the vertical component of the earth's rotation. In the following analysis we may take $\beta=$ const., since we are considering a jet confined to a narrow latitude belt (see Long 1960). The approximation used above in which we replace the spherical co-ordinates by Cartesian co-ordinates, and consider $\beta$ to be constant is known as the beta plane approximation in meteorological literature (see Rossby et al. 1939, and Haurwitz 1940).

If we now set $\psi(x, y, t)=e^{i \alpha(x-c t)} \phi(y)$, (1) becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi^{\prime \prime}-\alpha^{2} \phi+\left\{\left(\beta-U^{\prime \prime}\right) /(U-c)\right\} \phi=0, \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\alpha$ is the wave-number and $c$ is the phase velocity (which may be complex), i.e.

$$
\begin{equation*}
c=c_{r}+i c_{i} . \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

If $c_{i} \neq 0$, the stream function contains a term exponential in time; if $c_{i}>0$, the wave is amplified; if $c_{i}<0$, the wave is damped; and if $c_{i}=0$, the wave is neutral.
The form of $U(y)$ is taken as

$$
\begin{equation*}
U(y)=A \operatorname{sech}^{2} b y+B \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $A, B$ and $b$ are arbitrary constants to be specified in any particular case. We now non-dimensionalize equation (2). For this purpose we define:

$$
\left.\begin{array}{c}
x^{*}=b x, \quad y^{*}=b y, \quad t^{*}=b A t, \quad c^{*}=(c-B) / A,  \tag{5}\\
l=\alpha / b, \quad \chi=\frac{1}{3} A b^{2} / \beta, \quad U^{*}=\operatorname{sech}^{2} y^{*}, \quad \phi^{*}=\phi b / A .
\end{array}\right\}
$$

Thus, without the asterisks, the non-dimensionalized form of equation (2) becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi^{\prime \prime}-l^{2} \phi+\left\{\left(\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1}-U^{\prime \prime}\right) /(U-c)\right\} \phi=0 . \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

The graph of the non-dimensionalized velocity profile is shown in figure 1. In figure 2 we have plotted some typical absolute vorticity profiles for $U=\operatorname{sech}^{2} y$. In this figure the absolute vorticity is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\zeta-\zeta_{0}=\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1} y-U^{\prime}, \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\zeta_{0}$ is the absolute vorticity at $y=0$.
We impose the boundary conditions that $\phi=0$ at $y= \pm \infty$. Since $U$ is symmetric, it is evident that the two independent solutions may be taken as an even function and an odd function of $y$ respectively. The former corresponds to a symmetric, and the latter to an antisymmetric solution. If $\phi_{1}$ is the symmetric solution and $\phi_{2}$ is the antisymmetric solution, the boundary conditions become

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\phi_{1}^{\prime}(0)=0, & \phi_{1}(\infty)=0 ; \\
\phi_{2}(0)=0, & \phi_{2}(\infty)=0 . \tag{8b}
\end{array}
$$

Thus, at the jet, $\phi_{2}$ has zero amplitude and $\phi_{1}$ has a maximum in amplitude.

## 3. The neutral solutions

In this section we state some results that Kuo (1949) found concerning neutral solutions for his problem, and then we find the neutral solutions for the above velocity profile. For a finite jet confined between boundaries, Kuo (1949)


Figure 1. $U=\operatorname{sech}^{2} y$.


Figure 2. The absolute vorticity profiles associated with $U=\operatorname{sech}^{2} y$ for representative values of $\chi$.
proves that if $U=c$ at some point $y=y_{c}$ for a neutral wave, then $\beta-U^{\prime \prime}$ is zero at that point. He also shows that no wave can move with a phase velocity greater than $U_{\text {max }}$. These proofs, which are based on the Sturm comparison theorem (Ince 1944), can be carried over directly to our case with only small revisions. Thus we assume these theorems in the following work.

First, we find the phase velocities of the neutral waves for which $c>0$ from the roots of the equation $\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1}-U^{\prime \prime}=0$. By differentiation we find that
or

$$
\begin{gather*}
\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1}-U^{\prime \prime}=6 \operatorname{sech}^{4} y-4 \operatorname{sech}^{2} y+\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1} \\
\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1}-U^{\prime \prime}=6\left(U-c_{1}\right)\left(U-c_{2}\right), \tag{9}
\end{gather*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
c_{1}=\frac{1}{3}\left\{1+\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\} \quad \text { and } \quad c_{2}=\frac{1}{3}\left\{1-\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{1}}\right\} . \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

These are the phase velocities of the neutral waves for which $c>0$.
The differential equation (6) becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi^{\prime \prime}+\left[6\left(U-c_{1,2}\right)-l^{2}\right] \phi=0, \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

where either subscript on $c$ may be valid, depending on the value of the phase velocity. If the phase velocity is $c_{1}$, we have $c_{2}$ in (11), and vice versa. Equation (11) is of the form

$$
\begin{gather*}
\phi^{\prime \prime}+\left[6 \operatorname{sech}^{2} y-k^{2}\right] \phi=0  \tag{12}\\
k^{2}=6 c_{1,2}+l^{2} \tag{13}
\end{gather*}
$$

where
We make a change of variable and set $Z=\tanh y$. The differential equation then becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(1-Z^{2}\right) \frac{d^{2} \phi}{d Z^{2}}-2 Z \frac{d \phi}{d Z}+\left[6-\frac{k^{2}}{1-Z^{2}}\right] \phi=0 . \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

This equation is now compared to Legendre's equation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(1-Z^{2}\right) \frac{d^{2} W}{d Z^{2}}-2 Z \frac{d W}{d Z}+\left[\nu(\nu+1)-\frac{k^{2}}{1-Z^{2}}\right] \phi=0 . \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

For correspondence we need $\nu=2$ or $\nu=-3$.
Equation (15) has been discussed fully in the Bateman Manuscript Project (1953) and in other references. The only solutions meeting the boundary conditions ( $8 a$ ) or ( $8 b$ ) are the associated Legendre polynomials $P_{2}^{k}(Z)$, where $k=1$ or $k=2$.

Thus, for boundary conditions ( $8 a$ ), we find the neutral solutions

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi_{1}=1-Z^{2}=\operatorname{sech}^{2} y \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

provided $k=2$, i.e.

$$
\begin{equation*}
4=2\left\{1 \pm\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}+l^{2} \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

These are the only symmetric neutral solutions with $c>0$.
Equation (17) determines $l^{2}$ as a function of $\chi$ for the neutral wave. $l^{2}$ is plotted against $\chi$ in figure 3. Because of the $\pm$ sign, there are two neutral waves for each $\chi$ if $\chi>\frac{1}{2}$. At $\chi=\frac{1}{2}$, there is only one neutral wave; and for $\chi<\frac{1}{2}$ there are no neutral waves with $c>0$. Along the upper branch of the neutral curve in figure 3, $c=\frac{1}{3}\left\{1+\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}$, and along the lower branch $c=\frac{1}{3}\left\{1-\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}$. In the next section it is shown that waves are amplified for wavelengths between those of the two neutral waves. Outside this wavelength band there are stable waves.

For boundary conditions (8b), i.e. for antisymmetric solutions, we find for the unique neutral solution with $c>0$ :
provided $k=1$, i.e.

$$
\begin{gather*}
\phi_{2}=Z\left(1-Z^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}=\tanh y \operatorname{sech} y,  \tag{18}\\
1=2\left\{1-\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}+l^{2} . \tag{19}
\end{gather*}
$$

Equation (19) has only a minus sign since ( $\left.1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ would imply a negative $l^{2}$. $l^{2}$ is plotted against $\chi$ in figure 4. In this case we have only one neutral wave for each $\chi$ if $\chi \geqslant \frac{2}{3}$. For this neutral wave $c=\frac{1}{3}\left\{1+\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}$. As shown in the next section, the waves with wavelengths longer than this neutral wave are unstable and those with shorter wavelengths are stable.


Figure 3. The stability of the symmetric disturbances $\phi_{1}$.
In addition to these neutral waves, there is a group of neutral waves which are bounded as $y \rightarrow \pm \infty$, but which do not meet the boundary conditions ( $8 a$ ) or ( $8 b$ ). These waves all have $c<0$ and correspond to the waves of Rossby et al. (1939) and Haurwitz (1940). It should be noted here that, in terms of dimensional quantities, $c<0$ merely means that the dimensional phase velocity is less than $U_{\infty}$; it does not necessarily mean that the waves propagate toward the west. From equation (16) we see that as $y \rightarrow \pm \infty, \phi \rightarrow \mathscr{A} \cos m y+\mathscr{B} \sin m y$. Also as $y \rightarrow \pm \infty$ we find that

$$
\begin{equation*}
l^{2}+m^{2}=-\mathbf{1} / \mathbf{3} \chi c, \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

which is the frequency equation for these waves. This is the usual formula for the speed of Rossby waves. Kuo (1949) finds similar waves.

## 4. The amplified waves

To find $c_{i}$ near the neutral curve in the $\left(\chi, l^{2}\right)$-plane we may expand $c$ in a Taylor series of the form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
c=c_{0}+\frac{\partial c}{\partial s} d s+\frac{\partial c}{\partial \chi^{-1}} d \chi^{-1}+\text { etc. } \tag{21}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $s=-l^{2}$ and $c_{0}, \partial c / \partial s$ and $\partial c / \partial \chi^{-1}$ are evaluated at some point $\left(\chi_{0}, l_{0}^{2}\right)$ on the neutral wave. In the following approach the derivatives $\partial c / \partial s$ and $\partial c / \partial \chi^{-1}$ are calculated from the neutral solution and the higher derivatives are neglected. Hence we should have a good approximation to $c$ if the values of $l^{2}$ and $\chi$ are sufficiently close to the neutral curve.

To find $\dagger$ the derivative $\partial c / \partial s$ we take the derivative of (6) with respect to $s$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi^{\prime \prime}+s \phi+\frac{\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1}-U^{\prime \prime}}{U-c} \phi+\left(1+\frac{\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1}-U^{\prime \prime}}{(U-c)^{2}} \frac{\partial c}{\partial s}\right) \phi=0 \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\phi=\partial \phi / \partial s$. If we multiply (22) by $\phi$ and (6) by $\phi$, subtract, and then integrate, we find that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial c}{\partial s}=\int_{0}^{\infty} \phi^{2} d y / \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{U^{\prime \prime}-\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1}}{(U-c)^{2}} \phi^{2} d y \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

By a similar argument we find that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial c}{\partial \chi^{-1}}=\frac{1}{3} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{U-c} \phi^{2} d y / \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{U^{\prime \prime}-\frac{1}{3} \chi^{-1}}{(U-c)^{2}} \phi^{2} d y \tag{24}
\end{equation*}
$$

In both these expressions we note that there is a singularity at $y=y_{c}$ where $U=c$ so that we must integrate around this point. To determine whether to take the path of integration above or below this point, we consider the viscous solution in the limit as the viscosity approaches zero. This problem has been investigated by Foote \& Lin. They find that the path must be taken below the point $y=y_{c}$ if $U^{\prime}\left(y_{c}\right)>0$ and above this point if $U^{\prime}\left(y_{c}\right)<0$. Since $U^{\prime}\left(y_{c}\right)<0$ for $y>0$, we must take the path of integration above $y=y_{c}$.

The expressions (23) and (24) can now be used to calculate the values of $\partial c / \partial s$ and $\partial c / \partial \chi^{-1}$ along the neutral curves. If we use the variable $Z=\tanh y$ and now integrate from $Z=0$ to $Z=1$, the values of $\partial c / \partial s$ and $\partial c / \partial \chi^{-1}$ can be found directly by integration. From the solution $\phi_{1}$ on the neutral curve in figure 3 we find that
where

$$
\begin{gather*}
\frac{\partial c}{\partial s}=\frac{1}{3 c_{0}\left[-6+\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\log \kappa+i \pi)\right]}  \tag{25}\\
\kappa=\left\{1+\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\} /\left\{1-\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}
\end{gather*}
$$

Likewise we find that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial c}{\partial \chi^{-1}}=\frac{2+c_{0}\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\log \kappa+i \pi)}{12 c_{0}\left[-6+\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\log \kappa+i \pi)\right]} \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

The factor of main interest is $\partial c_{i} / \partial s$. We find for this term

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial c_{i}}{\partial s}=-\frac{\frac{1}{3} \pi c_{0}^{-1}\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}}{\left[-6+\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \log \kappa\right]^{2}+\left[\pi\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right]^{2}} . \tag{27}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since we know $c_{0}=\frac{1}{3}\left\{1+\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}$ along the upper neutral curve in the ( $\chi, l^{2}$ ) plane, we see that $\partial c_{i} / \partial s$ is positive there. Also, since $c_{0}=\frac{1}{3}\left\{1-\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}$ along

[^0]the lower neutral curve, we see that $\partial c_{i} / \partial s$ is negative there. Hence the region between the two neutral curves in figure 3 has amplified waves. Thus disturbances with wavelengths between those of the neutral waves are amplified and disturbances with wavelengths outside this band are stable.

Now consider the case of figure 4. Here we have only one neutral wave with $c>0$ for $\chi \geqslant \frac{2}{3}$. This neutral wave has a velocity $c_{0}=\frac{1}{3}\left\{1+\left(1-\frac{1}{2} \chi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right\}$. We find, for the values of $\partial c / \partial s$ and $\partial c / \partial \chi^{-1}$,

$$
\left.\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\partial c}{\partial s}=\frac{1}{6\left[-1-2\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)+\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)(\log \kappa+\pi i)\right]},  \tag{28}\\
\frac{\partial c}{\partial \chi^{-1}}=\frac{1}{12}\left[-1-2\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)+\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)\right. \\
\left.\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)(\log \kappa+\pi i)\right]
\end{array}\right\}
$$



Figure 4. The stability of the antisymmetric disturbances $\phi_{2}$.
and, for the value of $\partial c_{i} / \partial s$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial c_{i}}{\partial s}=\frac{\pi\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)}{6\left[-1-2\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)+\left(1-c_{0} \frac{1}{2}\left(1-3 c_{0}\right) \log \kappa\right]^{2}+\left[\pi\left(1-c_{0}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\left(1-3 c_{0}\right)\right]^{2}\right.} . \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since $1-3 c_{0}<0$ we find that $\partial c_{i} / \partial s$ is positive. Hence disturbances with wavelengths longer than the neutral wave are unstable and those with shorter wavelengths are stable.

In addition to the values of $c_{r}$ and $c_{i}$ calculated from $\partial c / \partial s$ and $\partial c / \partial \chi^{-1}$, we have the data of Lessen \& Fox (1955) for the case $\chi=\infty$. They consider the case of an inviscid jet. Although they do not give a mathematical expression for $U(y)$, it is evident they used the form $\operatorname{sech}^{2} y$ since this form of a velocity profile is the similarity solution for a laminar jet in a viscous fluid as given by Schlichting (1960). Furthermore, their graph of $U(y)$ agrees with our plot of $\operatorname{sech}^{2} y$ to the order of the errors arising in reading the graph. They evaluate $\partial c / \partial s$ for the upper branch of the neutral curve at $\chi=\infty$ in figure 3 and $\partial c / \partial s$ for the neutral curve at $\chi=\infty$ in figure 4 . To show how closely their results agree with the above theory, table 1 is given which compares these values for both formulations. It is seen that the difference in values is of the order of $0.3 \%$. In addition, Lessen \& Fox calculate $c_{i}$ and $c_{r} v s$. $l^{2}$ by numerical integration. For this work see figure 5.

We have given $\partial c_{r} / \partial s, \partial c_{i} / \partial s$ and $\partial c_{i} / \partial \chi^{-1}$ in table 2 for representative values of $\chi$. From these values we estimate the curve $c_{i}=0.025$ for figure 3 and figure 4 where it is shown as a dashed line. Also the line of maximum $c_{i}$ is estimated for figure 3 where it is shown as the dotted curve. We notice that this curve quickly
becomes asymptotic to the lower neutral curve for large $\chi$. This result is reflected in figure 5 (Lessen \& Fox) where $c_{i}$ appears to approach a maximum as $l^{2}$ approaches zero.


Frgure 5. The data of Lessen \& Fox (1955). The dashed lines are the slopes calculated from $\partial c_{r} / \partial s$ and $\partial c_{i} / \partial s$. The solid lines are the values found by numerical integration.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Lessen \& Fox } \\
& \phi_{1} \quad \frac{\partial c}{\partial s}=-0.0421+0.02771 i \\
& \phi_{2} \quad \frac{\partial c}{\partial s}=0.0119+0.09021 i
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{gathered}
U=\operatorname{sech}^{2} y \\
\frac{\partial c}{\partial s}=-0.04217+0.02771 i \\
\frac{\partial c}{\partial s}=0.01193+0.09031 i
\end{gathered}
$$

Table 1. The values of $\partial c / \partial s$ at $\chi=\infty$ as given by Lessen \& Fox and by the above theory for both types of disturbances, $\phi_{1}$ and $\phi_{2}$.

From figures 3 and 4 we see that the symmetric disturbances are stable if $\chi \leqslant \frac{1}{2}$ and the antisymmetric disturbances are stable if $\chi \leqslant \frac{2}{3}$. For larger values of $\chi$ it also appears that the symmetric disturbances are more unstable than the antisymmetric disturbances in the sense that they have larger amplification rates. From the values of $\partial c_{i} / \partial s$ for both types of disturbance for a given $\chi$ it appears that the maximum value of $l c_{i}$ is largest for the symmetric disturbances. Thus, if the jet is unstable, the fastest growing disturbances apparently are the symmetric disturbances of medium wavelength.

The author wishes to express his gratitude to Dr George S. Benton and Dr Robert R. Long for their guidance, discussion and suggestions concerning this work. This investigation was carried out at The Johns Hopkins University and was sponsored by the Geophysics Research Directorate, Air Force Cambridge Research Center, under Contract no. AF 19(604)-2056.

| Upper curve, figure 3 | Lower curve, figure 3 | Figure 4 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{s} \quad 0$ | 0 | - |  |
| $\left(c_{r}\right)_{s} \quad-0.16667$ | -0.1667 | - $\}$ | $\chi=\frac{1}{2}$ |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}}-0.05344$ | $-0.05344$ | - |  |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}}$ Not calc. | -0.09870 | -- | $\chi=0.54$ |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{s} \quad 0.02292$ | -0.08668 | -- |  |
| $\left(c_{r}\right)_{s} \quad-0.09886$ | -0.3114 | -- $\}$ | $\chi=\frac{7}{12}$ |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}}-0.03032$ | -0.1147 | -- |  |
| $\begin{array}{ll}\left(c_{i}\right)_{s} & 0.02578\end{array}$ | -0.1599 | 0.1141 |  |
| $\left(c_{r}\right)_{s} \quad-0.08410$ | $-0.4004$ | $-0.06404\}$ | $x=\frac{2}{3}$ |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}}-0.02578$ | -0.1599 | $-0.1141$ |  |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{s} \quad 0.02805$ | -0.4898 | 0.1091 |  |
| $\begin{array}{ll}\left(c_{\tau}\right)_{s} & -0.06379\end{array}$ | -0.6894 | $-0.02366$ | $\chi=1$ |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}}-0.01983$ | -0.3464 | $-0.07715$ |  |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{s} \quad 0.02827$ | -1.7707 |  |  |
| $\left(c_{r}\right)_{s} \quad-0.05123$ | -1.2967 | -0.001848 \} | $\chi=2$ |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}}-0.01632$ | -1.0223 | -0.05750 |  |
| $\begin{array}{ll}\left(c_{i}\right)_{s} & 0.02800\end{array}$ | $-6.1087$ | 0.09393 ) |  |
| $\left(c_{r}\right)_{s} \quad-0.04550$ | -1.6081 | $0.007106\}$ | $\chi=5$ |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi}=-0.01476$ | $-3 \cdot 2196$ | -0.04951 |  |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{s} \quad 0.02771$ | $-\infty$ | 0.09031 |  |
| $\begin{array}{ll}\left(c_{r}\right)_{s} & -0.04217 \\ \left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}} & -0.01386\end{array}$ | $\infty$ $-\infty$ | $\left.\begin{array}{r}0.01193 \\ -0.04516\end{array}\right\}$ | $\chi=\infty$ |
| $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}}-0.01386$ | $-\infty$ | -0.04516 |  |

Table 2. The values of $\partial c_{i} / \partial s, \partial c_{r} / \partial s$ and $\partial c_{i} / \partial \chi^{-1}$ calculated along the neutral curves in figures 3 and 4. Here $\left(c_{i}\right)_{s}=\partial c_{i} / \partial s,\left(c_{r}\right)_{s}=\partial c_{r} / \partial s$ and $\left(c_{i}\right)_{\chi^{-1}}=\partial c_{i} / \partial \chi^{-1}$.

## REFERENCES

Bateman Manuscript Projeot 1953 Higher Transcendental Functions, vol. i, chap. int. New York: McGraw-Hill.
Charney, J. G. 1947 The dynamics of long waves in a baroclinic westerly current. J. Met. 4, 135-62.

Fоote, J. R. \& Lin, C. C. 1951 Some recent investigations in the theory of hydrodynamic stability. Quart. Appl. Math. 8, 265-80.
Haurwitz, B. 1940 The motion of the atmospheric disturbances. J. Marine Res. 3, 35-50.
Ince, E. L. 1944 Ordinary Differential Equations, chap. x. New York: Dover.
Kбo, H. L. 1949 Dynamic instability of two-dimensional non-divergent flow in a barotropic atmosphere. J. Met. 6, 105-22.
Kuo, H. L. 1951 Dynamic aspects of the general circulation and the stability of zonal flow. Tellus, 3, 268-84.
Kuo, H. L. 1952 Three-dimensional disturbances in a baroclinic zonal current. J. Met. 9, 260-78.
Lessen, M. \& Fox, J. A. 1955 The stability of boundary layer type flow with infinite boundary conditions. 50 Jahre Grenzschichtforschung, pp. 122-6. Braunschweig: Friedr. Vieweg und Sohn.

Lin, C. C. 1953 On the stability of the laminar mixing region between two parallel streams in a gas. NACA, Tech. Note 2887, pp. 20-21.
Long, R. R. 1960 A laminar planetary jet. J. Fluid Mech. 7, 632-8.
Mintz, Y. 1955 Final computation of the mean geostrophic poleward flux of angular momentum and of sensible heat in the winter and summer of 1949. Article V, U.C.L.A. Final Report, March 1955, General Circulation Project, Contract AF 19(122).48, Dept. Meteor.
Rossby, C. G. et al. 1939 Relation between variations in the intensity of the zonal circulation of the atmosphere and the displacement of the semi-permanent centers of action. J. Marine Res. 2, 38-55.
Schlichting, H. 1960 Boundary Layer Theory, pp. 164-8. New York: McGraw-Hill.


[^0]:    $\dagger$ This calculation for $\partial c / \partial s$ follows that given by Lin (1953). Kuo does a similar calculation in his 1949 paper.

