

# **Explicit solution of atmospheric Ekman flows with some types of Eddy viscosity**

**Yi Guan**<sup>1,2</sup> **·** Michal Fečkan<sup>3,4</sup> · JinRong Wang<sup>1,[5](http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6642-1946)</sup><sup>0</sup>

Received: 26 December 2020 / Accepted: 26 March 2021 / Published online: 8 April 2021 © The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer-Verlag GmbH Austria, part of Springer Nature 2021

## **Abstract**

In this paper, we study the standard problem of the wind in the steady atmospheric Ekman layer with classical boundary conditions. We consider the system with varying eddy viscosity coefficients that are small perturbation of a constant. We derive the explicit solution by using a different argument in the previous works. For two layers, the eddy viscosity is constant in the upper layer, while is only continuous with height in the lower layer, we transform the system to a first order Riccati equation with a suitable initial value and derive the solution for piecewise-constant eddy viscosity.

**Keywords** Ekman layer · Variable eddy viscosity · Explicit solutions · Riccati equation

### **Mathematics Subject Classification** <sup>2010</sup> · 34B05

# **1 Introduction**

The Ekman layer covers 90% of the atmospheric boundary layer which contains three parts [\[1](#page-12-0)[,2](#page-12-1)]: the lamina sublayer, surface (Prandtl) layer and the Ekman layer. It is controlled by frictional effects, pressure gradient and the coriolis force [\[1](#page-12-0)[,3](#page-12-2)[,4](#page-12-3)]. The pursued analysis pertains to non-equatorial regions. Whether for ocean flow or for atmospheric flows, Ekman-type solutions require a balance between the wind stress, frictional forces and the Coriolis acceleration and this breaks down in equatorial regions, where

Communicated by Adrian Constantin.

This work is partially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (11661016), Training Object of High Level and Innovative Talents of Guizhou Province ((2016)4006), Department of Science and Technology of Guizhou Province (Fundamental Research Program [2018]1118), Guizhou Data Driven Modeling Learning and Optimization Innovation Team ([2020]5016), Natural Science Foundation of Guizhou Province ([2020]090), the Slovak Research and Development Agency under the Contract No. APVV-18-0308, and the Slovak Grant Agency VEGA No. 1/0358/20 and No. 2/0127/20.

Extended author information available on the last page of the article

the Coriolis effect vanishes so that the wind drift current moves azimuthally, in the same direction as the wind, and where nonlinear effects have to be accounted for [\[5](#page-12-4)[–7](#page-12-5)]. Classic Ekman theory contains the derivation of the explicit solution for a constant eddy viscosity *k* [\[8](#page-12-6)[,9](#page-12-7)], but field data show that this is an extreme simplification, in reality *k* usually varies with the height [\[1](#page-12-0)[,2](#page-12-1)], but explicit solutions are scare and almost all focused on the numerical simulations [\[10](#page-12-8)[–16\]](#page-12-9).

Constantin and Johnson [\[17](#page-12-10)] studied the Ekman flows with variable eddy viscosity  $k(z)$ , and derived the explicit solution and verified the existence of the solution by the transformation and the iterative technique. Bressan and Constantin [\[18](#page-12-11)] studied the wind-drift currents for depth-dependent eddy viscosities which were perturbations of the asymptotic reference value and obtained the solution by the perturbation approach. For the atmospheric Ekman flows, Fečkan et al. [\[19\]](#page-12-12) obtained existence and uniqueness result and derived the smooth result by computing the first approximation of solutions. In addition, [\[20](#page-12-13)[–22](#page-12-14)] studied wind-stress induced ocean currents and obtained the representation of solutions.

Motivated by [\[20](#page-12-13)[–22\]](#page-12-14), we consider atmospheric Ekman flows with classic boundary conditions. The eddy viscosity  $k(z)$  denotes the perturbation of the asymptotic reference value like  $[19]$ . Fe $\check{c}$ kan et al.  $[19]$  $[19]$  used the variable change and get a linear, non-homogeneous second order differential equation and obtained the existence and uniqueness and smooth results to justify computing first order approximation of solutions via a Green's function.

In the present paper, we transform the original equation to a first-order linear nonhomogeneous differential equation to give a new direction method to compute the explicit solution. For a two-layer with uniform eddy viscosity in the upper layer and continuous eddy viscosity in the lower layer, we transform the system to a Riccati equation with a initial value problem on a finite interval. Further, we construct the solution for piecewise-constant eddy viscosity.

#### **2 Model description**

Recall the model for Ekman layer is formulated by the following equations, see [\[1](#page-12-0)[,2](#page-12-1)]

$$
\begin{cases} \frac{Du}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dx} + fv - \frac{\partial (u'w')}{\partial z}, \\ \frac{Dv}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dy} - fu - \frac{\partial (v'w')}{\partial z}, \end{cases}
$$

where  $u$ ,  $v$  and  $w$  are the components of the wind in the  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  directions respectively, *P* is the atmospheric pressure,  $\rho$  is the reference density,  $f = 2\Omega \sin \theta$  is the Coriolis parameter at the fixed latitude  $\theta$ ,  $\Omega \approx 7.29 \times 10^{-5}$  is the angular speed of the roattion of the earth in the northern Hemisphere, and  $\theta \in (0, \pi/2]$  is the angle of latitude in right-handed rotating spherical cooridates, *t* is time and *k* is the eddy diffusivity for momentum.

Assuming a steady state we get  $\frac{Du}{Dt} = 0$ ,  $\frac{Dv}{Dt} = 0$ . From the geostrophic balance, we have

$$
\begin{cases} \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dP}{dx} = f v_g, \\ \frac{1}{\rho} = -f u_g. \end{cases}
$$

From the Flux–Gradient theory, we get

$$
\begin{cases} u'w' = -k\frac{\partial u}{\partial z}, \\ v'w' = -k\frac{\partial v}{\partial z}, \end{cases}
$$

where  $k$  is the eddy viscosity coefficient. Then we obtain

<span id="page-2-0"></span>
$$
\begin{cases}\nf(v - v_g) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial z}(k\frac{\partial u}{\partial z}), \\
f(u - u_g) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(k\frac{\partial v}{\partial z}),\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(1)

where  $u_g$  and  $v_g$  are the corresponding constant geostrophic wind components. We use the traditional boundary conditions for  $(1)$  as

<span id="page-2-3"></span><span id="page-2-2"></span><span id="page-2-1"></span>
$$
u = 0
$$
,  $v = 0$  at  $z = 0$ , (2)

$$
u \to u_g, \quad v \to v_g \quad \text{for } z \to \infty. \tag{3}
$$

Let  $\Phi = (u - u_g) + i(v - v_g)$ , and from [\(1\)](#page-2-0), we will get

$$
(k(z)\Phi'(z))' = i \cdot f\Phi(z). \tag{4}
$$

The boundary conditions [\(2\)](#page-2-1) and [\(3\)](#page-2-2) are transformed into the equivalent form

$$
\Phi = -u_g - iv_g \quad \text{at } z = 0,\tag{5}
$$

<span id="page-2-5"></span><span id="page-2-4"></span>
$$
\Phi = 0 \quad \text{for } z \to \infty. \tag{6}
$$

If *k*=constant, then

<span id="page-2-6"></span>
$$
\Phi(z) = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{(1+i)\gamma z},\tag{7}
$$

where  $\gamma = \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k}}$ . However, if  $k \neq$ constant, then solving [\(4\)](#page-2-3) will be more interesting and complex.

### **3 Main results**

#### **3.1 Systems with two layers**

The eddy viscosity  $k$  always varies with height  $[13]$  $[13]$ , here we consider the following situation

<span id="page-3-2"></span>
$$
k(z) = \begin{cases} k_0, & z > z_0, \\ k_1(z), & 0 \le z \le z_0, \end{cases}
$$
 (8)

where  $k_0 = k_1(z_0) > 0$  and  $k_1(z) > 0$  is continuous with z.

Equation [\(4\)](#page-2-3) simplifies on  $(z_0, +\infty)$  to

$$
\Phi''(z) = \frac{if}{k_0} \Phi(z), \quad z > z_0,
$$

the general solution is a linear combination of the linearly independent functions  $e^{\pm \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0}(1+i)z}}$ .

If we denote by  $\Phi_{\pm}$  the solutions of [\(4\)](#page-2-3) with

$$
\Phi_{\pm}(z) = e^{\pm \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0}}(1+i)z}, \quad z > z_0,
$$

the condition [\(6\)](#page-2-4) ensures that the solution  $\Phi(z)$  to [\(4\)](#page-2-3) satisfies

$$
\Phi(z) = c \ \Phi_-(z), \quad z \ge z_0,
$$

for some complex constant *c*.

It is well-known [\[23,](#page-12-16) p. 331] that

$$
q(z) = \frac{k(z)\Phi'(z)}{\Phi(z)}, \quad z > 0,
$$
\n<sup>(9)</sup>

solves a Riccati equation

<span id="page-3-0"></span>
$$
q'(z) + \frac{q^2(z)}{k(z)} = if, \quad z > 0,
$$
\n(10)

with

<span id="page-3-1"></span>
$$
q(z_0) = \frac{k(z_0)\Phi'_-(z_0)}{\Phi_-(z_0)} = -\sqrt{\frac{fk_0}{2}}(1+i), \quad z = z_0.
$$
 (11)

[\(10\)](#page-3-0) is not, in general, solvable by quadratures, one has to rely on numerical methods to obtain accurate approximations solution to  $(10)$  and  $(11)$ . On the other hand, following [\[23](#page-12-16), p. 332], we have the following result.

**Theorem 3.1** *The function defined by*

$$
\Phi(z) = \begin{cases}\n-(u_g + iv_g)e^{\int_0^z \frac{q(s)}{k(s)} ds}, & z \in [0, z_0], \\
-(u_g + v_g)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0}}(1+i)(z-z_0)}e^{\int_0^{z_0} \frac{q(s)}{k(s)} ds}, & z > z_0,\n\end{cases}
$$

*is the solution of* [\(4\)](#page-2-3) *with* [\(5\)](#page-2-5) *and* [\(6\)](#page-2-4)*, where*  $q(z)$  *is the solution to* [\(10\)](#page-3-0) *and* [\(11\)](#page-3-1)*.* 

*Proof* By the definition of  $q(z)$ , we obtain

<span id="page-4-0"></span>
$$
\frac{\Phi'(z)}{\Phi(z)} = \frac{q(z)}{k(z)}, \qquad z \ge 0.
$$
\n(12)

Integrating  $(12)$ , we get

<span id="page-4-2"></span>
$$
\Phi(z) = \Phi(0)e^{\int_0^z \frac{q(s)}{k(s)}ds} = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{\int_0^z \frac{q(s)}{k(s)}ds}, \quad z \ge 0.
$$
 (13)

For  $z \ge z_0$ , we get

<span id="page-4-3"></span>
$$
\Phi(z) = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{\int_0^{z_0} \frac{q(s)}{k(s)} ds}e^{\int_{z_0}^{z} \frac{q(s)}{k(s)} ds} = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0}}(1+i)(z-z_0)}e^{\int_0^{z_0} \frac{q(s)}{k(s)} ds},\tag{14}
$$

since  $q(s) = q(z_0)$  and  $k(s) = k_0$  for  $s \ge z_0$ , so

$$
\int_{z_0}^z \frac{q(s)}{k(s)} ds = \int_{z_0}^z \frac{q(z_0)}{k_0} ds = \int_{z_0}^z - \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0}} (1+i) ds = -\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0}} (1+i) (z-z_0).
$$

The proof is complete.

**Example 3.2** Consider the case of an eddy viscosity which is constant, that is  $k$ =constant. Then  $(10)$  and  $(11)$  change to

<span id="page-4-1"></span>
$$
\begin{cases}\n q'(z) + \frac{q^2(z)}{k} = if, & z \ge 0, \\
 q(z) = -\sqrt{\frac{kf}{2}}(1+i), & z = z_0.\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(15)

The unique solution to [\(15\)](#page-4-1) is  $q(z) = -\sqrt{\frac{k f}{2}}(1 + i)$ . From [\(13\)](#page-4-2), we have

$$
\Phi(z) = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{-\int_0^z \frac{\sqrt{\frac{kf}{2}}(1+i)}{k}ds} = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k}}(1+i)z}, \quad z \in [0, z_0].
$$

For  $z > z_0$ , from [\(14\)](#page-4-3), we get

$$
\Phi(z) = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k}}(1+i)(z-z_0)}e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k}}(1+i)z_0} = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k}}(1+i)z},
$$

$$
\Box
$$

so

$$
\Phi(z) = -(u_g + iv_g)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k}}(1+i)z}, \quad z \in [0, +\infty).
$$

this coincides with [\(7\)](#page-2-6).

#### *Example 3.3* For

$$
k(z) = \begin{cases} [b(z - z_0) + a]^2, & z \in [0, z_0], \\ a^2, & z > z_0. \end{cases}
$$

Let

<span id="page-5-1"></span>
$$
Q(z) = \frac{q(z)}{[b(z - z_0) + a]}, \quad z \in [0, z_0],
$$
 (16)

then  $Q(z_0) = -\sqrt{\frac{a^2 f}{2}} (1 + i)$ , as  $q'(z) = if -\frac{q^2(z)}{k(z)} = if -Q^2(z)$ , we get

$$
Q'(z) = \frac{q'(z)[b(z-z_0) + a] - bq(z)}{[b(z-z_0) + a]^2} = \frac{if - Q^2(z) - bQ(z)}{b(z-z_0) + a}, \quad z \in [0, z_0),
$$

then

<span id="page-5-0"></span>
$$
\frac{dQ(z)}{(Q(z) - \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 + 4if}}{2})(Q(z) - \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 + 4if}}{2})} = -\frac{dz}{b(z - z_0) + a}, \quad z \in [0, z_0),
$$
\n(17)

integrating both side of [\(17\)](#page-5-0), we obtain

$$
\frac{1}{\sqrt{b^2+4if}}\ln\frac{Q(z)-\frac{-b+\sqrt{b^2+4if}}{2}}{Q(z)-\frac{-b-\sqrt{b^2+4if}}{2}}=-\frac{1}{b}\ln[b(z-z_0)+a]+c,\quad z\in[0,\ z_0],
$$

where

$$
c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{b^2 + 4if}} \ln \frac{-\sqrt{\frac{a^2 f}{2}}(1 + i) - \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 + 4if}}{2}}{-\sqrt{\frac{a^2 f}{2}}(1 + i) - \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 + 4if}}{2}} + \frac{\ln a}{b}.
$$

Using [\(16\)](#page-5-1), we have  $q(z) = Q(z)[b(z - z_0) + a]$ , consequently, an explicit formula for the solution of  $\Phi(z)$  emerges by [\(13\)](#page-4-2) and [\(14\)](#page-4-3).

#### **3.2 Systems with piecewise-constant**

Different form  $(8)$ , we assume eddy viscosity is piecewise-constant, so it is not continuous, for the sake of simplicity, we consider two regions, that is

$$
k(z) = \begin{cases} a, & z \in [0, z_0], \\ b, & z > z_0, \end{cases}
$$

where  $a, b > 0$  and  $a \neq b$ .

The equation [\(4\)](#page-2-3) will be transformed to

<span id="page-6-0"></span>
$$
\Phi''(z) = \frac{if}{b}\Phi(z), \quad z \in (z_0, +\infty), \tag{18}
$$

and

<span id="page-6-1"></span>
$$
\Phi''(z) = \frac{if}{a}\Phi(z), \quad z \in [0, z_0].
$$
\n(19)

By using the boundary condition  $(6)$ , we have the general solution

$$
\Phi(z) = Ce^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2b}}(1+i)z}, \quad z \in (z_0, +\infty),
$$

and

$$
\Phi(z) = Ae^{\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z} + Be^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z}, \quad z \in [0, z_0].
$$

The boundary condition  $\Phi(0) = -u_g - iv_g$  implies

<span id="page-6-2"></span>
$$
A + B = -(u_g + iv_g). \tag{20}
$$

We consider a solution of [\(18\)](#page-6-0) and [\(19\)](#page-6-1) which is continuous with  $\Phi(t)$  and  $\Phi'(t)$ , so we get

<span id="page-6-3"></span>
$$
Ae^{\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z_0} + Be^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z_0} = Ce^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2b}}(1+i)z_0}.
$$
 (21)

and

<span id="page-6-4"></span>
$$
A\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)e^{\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z_0} - B\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z_0} = -C\sqrt{\frac{f}{2b}}(1+i)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2b}}(1+i)z_0}.
$$
\n(22)

Using  $(20)$ ,  $(21)$ , and  $(22)$ , it follows that

$$
A = \kappa C, \quad B = -(u_g + iv_g) - \kappa C,
$$

and

$$
C = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(u_g + iv_g)e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z_0}}{\frac{f}{2a}k(e^{\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z_0} - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z_0}) - \sqrt{\frac{f}{2b}}e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2b}}(1+i)z_0}},
$$

where

$$
\kappa = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}} - \sqrt{\frac{f}{2b}}}{2\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}e^{\sqrt{\frac{f}{2a}}(1+i)z_0}}e^{-\sqrt{\frac{f}{2b}}(1+i)z_0}.
$$

#### **3.3 Systems with perturbation of a constant**

Now we regard the physically relevant eddy viscosity  $k(z)$  as perturbations

<span id="page-7-2"></span>
$$
k(z) = k_0 + \varepsilon k_1(z), \quad \text{at } z \ge 0,
$$
\n<sup>(23)</sup>

where  $\varepsilon \ll 1$ , and  $k_1(z)$  is absolutely continuous on  $[0, +\infty)$  and  $\int_0^{+\infty} |k'_1(z)| dz$  $+\infty$ . Different from the approach in [\[19](#page-12-12)], we transform the initial boundary problem to a first-order differential system. Writing

<span id="page-7-0"></span>
$$
\Phi(z) = \Phi_0(z) + \epsilon \Phi_1(z), \quad z \ge 0 \tag{24}
$$

is the solution of [\(4\)](#page-2-3) with condition [\(5\)](#page-2-5) and [\(6\)](#page-2-4), here  $\Phi_0(z)$  is the classic Ekman solution for the constant eddy viscosity  $k_0$ , that is  $\Phi_0(z) = -e^{-(1+i)\gamma z} [u_g + iv_g]$ , where  $\gamma = \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0}}$ .

Inserting  $(24)$  into  $(4)$ , we get

$$
\epsilon k'_1(z)(\Phi'_0(z) + \epsilon \Phi'_1(z)) + (k_0 + \epsilon k_1(z))[\Phi''_0(z) + \epsilon \Phi''_1(z)] = i f[\Phi_0(z) + \epsilon \Phi_1(z)],
$$

using  $k_0 \Phi_0''(z) = i f \Phi_0(z)$ , one obtains

$$
k_0\Phi_1''(z) - if\Phi_1(z) = -k_1'(z)\Phi_0'(z) - k_1(z)\Phi_0''(z).
$$

Note that

$$
\Phi'_0(z) = (1+i)\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0}}\Phi_0(z), \qquad \Phi''_0(z) = -\frac{if}{k_0}\Phi_0(z),
$$

so we have

<span id="page-7-1"></span>
$$
\Phi''_1(z) - \frac{if}{k_0} \Phi_1(z) = b(z),\tag{25}
$$

where 
$$
b(z) = -[k'_1(z)(1+i)\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0^3}} - \frac{if}{k_0^2}]\Phi_0(z)
$$
.

Note that

$$
\Phi_0(0) = -(u_g + iv_g), \qquad \Phi_0(z) \to 0 \text{ as } z \to +\infty,
$$

so we get the boundary conditions

<span id="page-8-0"></span>
$$
\Phi_1(0) = 0, \qquad \Phi_1(z) \to 0 \text{ as } z \to +\infty. \tag{26}
$$

Writing [\(25\)](#page-7-1) in the following first-order differential system

$$
\Psi'(z) = A\Psi(z) + B(z),
$$

where

$$
\Psi(z) = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_1(z) \\ \Phi'_1(z) \end{bmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \frac{if}{k_0} & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B(z) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ b(z) \end{bmatrix}.
$$

**Theorem 3.4** *The function defined by (see also* [\(32\)](#page-9-0)*)*

<span id="page-8-2"></span>
$$
\Phi_1(z) = \frac{-1}{2(1+i)\gamma} [e^{(1+i)\gamma z} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}] \int_0^\infty e^{-(1+i)\gamma s} b(s) ds \n+ \int_0^z \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} [e^{(1+i)\gamma (z-s)} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma (z-s)}] b(s) ds, \quad z \ge 0 \quad (27)
$$

*is the solution of* [\(25\)](#page-7-1) *with boundary condition* [\(26\)](#page-8-0)*.*

*Proof* Using the variation of constants formula, we get the general solution in the form

$$
\Psi(z) = e^{Az}\Psi(0) + \int_0^z e^{A(z-s)B(s)}ds, \quad z \ge 0,
$$

where

$$
e^{Az} = \left[ \frac{\frac{1}{2} [e^{(1+i)\gamma z} + e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}] \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} [e^{(1+i)\gamma z} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}]}{\frac{(1+i)\gamma}{2} [e^{(1+i)\gamma z} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}]} \right]
$$

is the fundamental matrix of the homogeneous constant coefficient differential system  $\Psi'(z) = A\Psi(z)$ . Since  $\Phi_1(0) = 0$ , we have

<span id="page-8-1"></span>
$$
\Phi_1(z) = \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} [e^{(1+i)\gamma z} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}] \Phi'_1(0)
$$
  
+ 
$$
\int_0^z \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} [e^{(1+i)\gamma(z-s)} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma(z-s)}] b(s) ds, \quad z \ge 0, (28)
$$

with  $\Phi'_1(0)$  to be chosen so that

<span id="page-9-1"></span>
$$
\lim_{z \to +\infty} \Phi_1(z) = 0. \tag{29}
$$

We claim that this is equivalent to

<span id="page-9-2"></span>
$$
\Phi'_1(0) = -\int_0^\infty e^{-(1+i)\gamma s} b(s) ds.
$$
\n(30)

In fact, writing  $(28)$  as

<span id="page-9-3"></span>
$$
\Phi_1(z) = \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} e^{(1+i)\gamma z} \left[ \Phi'_1(0) + \int_0^z e^{-(1+i)\gamma s} b(s) ds \right]
$$
  
 
$$
- \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} e^{-(1+i)\gamma z} \Phi'_1(0) - \int_0^z \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} e^{-(1+i)\gamma(z-s)} b(s) ds, \quad z \ge 0.
$$
 (31)

It is obvious that  $\lim_{z \to +\infty} \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} e^{-(1+i)\gamma z} \Phi'_1(0) = 0$ . Since *b*(·) is integrable on  $[0, +∞)$  and  $|e^{-(1+i)\gamma(z-s)}|$  ≤ 1, we get

$$
\lim_{z \to +\infty} \int_0^z \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} e^{-(1+i)\gamma(z-s)} b(s) ds = 0
$$

by the dominated convergence theorem. So [\(29\)](#page-9-1) implies [\(30\)](#page-9-2).

Conversely, if [\(30\)](#page-9-2) holds, then [\(31\)](#page-9-3) becomes to

<span id="page-9-0"></span>
$$
\Phi_1(z) = -\frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} \left[ \int_z^{+\infty} e^{(1+i)\gamma(z-s)} b(s) ds \right] + \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} \int_0^{+\infty} e^{-(1+i)\gamma(z+s)} b(s) - \int_0^z \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} e^{-(1+i)\gamma(z-s)} b(s) ds, \quad z \ge 0.
$$
\n(32)

It is again obvious from the dominated convergence theorem that [\(29\)](#page-9-1) holds. This implies that  $(29)$  is equivalent to  $(30)$ , so  $(27)$  is the solution of  $(25)$  with boundary condition [\(26\)](#page-8-0).  $\Box$ 

*Remark 3.5* Recall [\[19,](#page-12-12) Sect. 3.2], let *<sup>k</sup>*<sup>∗</sup> <sup>&</sup>gt; 0 and

$$
s = s(z) = k_* \int_0^z \frac{1}{k(t)} dt, \quad k_2(s) = \frac{f}{k_*^2} k_1(z), \quad \Psi(s) = U(s) + i V(s),
$$

where  $U(s) = u(z) - u_g$ ,  $V(s) = v(z) - v_g$ , and  $k_1(z)$  is the same as [\(23\)](#page-7-2). Like [\(24\)](#page-7-0), set

<span id="page-9-4"></span>
$$
\Psi(s) = \Psi_0(s) + \epsilon \varphi(s),\tag{33}
$$

 $\mathcal{D}$  Springer

where  $\Psi_0(s)$  is the classical Ekman solution

$$
\Psi_0(s) = -e^{-(1+i)\lambda s} (u_g + iv_g), \quad \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_*}}.
$$

Using the Green function in  $[19,$  $[19,$  Lemma 3.3],  $(33)$  is the solution of  $(1)$  with the condition  $(2)$  and  $(3)$  if

$$
\varphi(s) = \frac{v_g - i u_g}{2(1+i)\lambda} \int_0^s k_2(t) e^{-(1+i)\lambda(s+t)} (e^{(1+i)\lambda t} - e^{-(1+i)\lambda t}) dt + \frac{v_g - i u_g}{2(1+i)\lambda} \int_s^\infty k_2(t) (e^{(1+i)\lambda(s-t)} - e^{-(1+i)\lambda(s+t)}) e^{-(1+i)\lambda t} dt.
$$

From above, one can see the idea in this article is more straightforward.

*Example 3.6* Consider the piecewise linear eddy viscosity

$$
k(z) = \begin{cases} k_0 + \epsilon \mu(z - z_0), & z \in [0, z_0], \\ k_0, & z > z_0, \end{cases}
$$

where  $k_0 > \mu > 0$ , so we have

$$
k_1(z) = \begin{cases} \mu(z - z_0), & z \in [0, z_0], \\ 0, & z > z_0, \end{cases}, \quad k'_1(z) = \begin{cases} \mu, & z \in [0, z_0], \\ 0, & z > z_0, \end{cases}
$$

and

<span id="page-10-0"></span>
$$
b(z) = \begin{cases} -[(1+i)\mu\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0^3}} - \frac{if}{k_0^2}]\Phi_0(z), & z \in [0, z_0],\\ \frac{if}{k_0^2}\Phi_0(z), & z > z_0, \end{cases}
$$
(34)

using  $(34)$ , we have

<span id="page-10-1"></span>
$$
\int_0^\infty e^{-(1+i)\gamma s} b(s) ds
$$
  
=  $(u_g + iv_g)(1 - e^{-2(1+i)\gamma z_0}) \left[ (1+i)\mu \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0^3}} - \frac{if}{k_0^2} \right]$   
+2(1+i)  $\gamma (u_g + iv_g) e^{-2(1+i)\gamma z_0}$ . (35)

If  $z \leq z_0$ , we have

<span id="page-11-0"></span>
$$
\int_0^z \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} [e^{(1+i)\gamma(z-s)} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma(z-s)}]b(s)ds
$$
  
= 
$$
\frac{(u_g + iv_g)[(1+i)\mu\sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0^3} - \frac{if}{k_0^2}}]}{8i\gamma^2} [e^{(1+i)\gamma z} - 2e^{-(1+i)\gamma z} + e^{-3(1+i)\gamma z}].
$$
 (36)

If  $z > z_0$ , we have

<span id="page-11-1"></span>
$$
\int_{0}^{z} \frac{1}{2(1+i)\gamma} [e^{(1+i)\gamma(z-s)} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma(z-s)}]b(s)ds
$$
\n
$$
= \frac{(u_{g}+iv_{g})}{8i\gamma^{2}} \left[ (1+i)\mu \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_{0}^{3}}} - \frac{if}{k_{0}^{2}} \right] [e^{(1+i)\gamma z_{0}} - 2e^{-(1+i)\gamma z_{0}} + e^{-3(1+i)\gamma z_{0}}] + \frac{if}{2k_{0}^{2}(1+i)\gamma} (u_{g}+iv_{g})e^{-(1+i)\gamma z} + \frac{if}{k_{0}^{2}} (u_{g}+iv_{g})e^{(1+i)\gamma z} + \frac{if}{k_{0}^{2}} (u_{g}+iv_{g})e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}(z-z_{0}).
$$
\n(37)

From  $(27)$ ,  $(35)$ ,  $(36)$  and  $(37)$ , we obtain the following results. For  $z \leq z_0$ ,

$$
\Phi_1(z) = A[e^{(1+i)\gamma z} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}] + B\left[e^{(1+i)\gamma z} - 2e^{-(1+i)\gamma z} + e^{-3(1+i)\gamma z}\right],
$$

where

$$
A = (u_g + iv_g) \left[ (1+i)\mu \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k}} - \frac{if}{k_0^2} \right] [1 - e^{-2(1+i)\gamma z_0}] + 2(1+i)\gamma e^{-2(1+i)\gamma z_0}
$$

and

$$
B = (u_g + iv_g) \frac{\left[ (1+i)\mu \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0^3} \frac{if}{k_0^2} - \frac{if}{k_0^2} \right]}{8i\gamma^2}.
$$

For  $z > z_0$ ,

$$
\Phi_1(z) = A[e^{(1+i)\gamma z} - e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}] \n+ \frac{(u_g + iv_g)}{8i\gamma^2} \left[ (1+i)\mu \sqrt{\frac{f}{2k_0^3}} - \frac{if}{k_0^2} \right] \left[ e^{(1+i)\gamma z_0} - 2e^{-(1+i)\gamma z_0} + e^{-3(1+i)\gamma z_0} \right]
$$

$$
+\frac{if}{2k_0^2(1+i)\gamma}(u_g+iv_g)e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}+\frac{if}{k_0^2}(u_g+iv_g)e^{(1+i)\gamma z}+\frac{if}{k_0^2}(u_g+iv_g)e^{-(1+i)\gamma z}(z-z_0).
$$

## **References**

- <span id="page-12-0"></span>1. Holton, J.R.: An Introduction to Dynamic Metorology. Academic Press, New York (2004)
- <span id="page-12-1"></span>2. Marshall, J., Plumb, R.A.: Atmosphere, Ocean and Climate Dynamic, An Introduction Text. Academic Press, New York (2018)
- <span id="page-12-2"></span>3. Ekman, V.W.: On the influence of the earth's rotation on ocean-currents. Ark. Mat. Astron. Fys. **2**, 1–52 (1905)
- <span id="page-12-3"></span>4. Zdunkowski, W., Bott, A.: Dynamic of the Atmosphere. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (2003)
- <span id="page-12-4"></span>5. Constantin, A., Ivanov, R.I.: Equatorial wave–current interactions. Commun. Math. Phys. **370**, 1–48 (2019)
- 6. Constantin, A., Johnson, R.S.: Steady large-scale ocean flows in spherical coordinates. Oceanography **31**, 42–50 (2018)
- <span id="page-12-5"></span>7. Marynets, K.: A Sturm–Liouville problem arising in the atmospheric boundary-layer dynamics. J. Math. Fluid Mech. **41**, 22 (2020)
- <span id="page-12-6"></span>8. Haltinar, G.J., Williams, R.T.: Numercial Prediction and Dynamic Metorology. Wiley Press, New York (1980)
- <span id="page-12-7"></span>9. Pedlosky, J.: Geophysical Fluid Dynamic. Springer, New York (1987)
- <span id="page-12-8"></span>10. Madsen, O.S., Secher, O.: A realistic model of the wind-induced boundary layer. J. Phys. Oceanogr. **7**, 248–255 (1977)
- 11. Miles, J.: Analytical solutions for the Ekman layer. Bound. Layer Meteorol. **67**, 1–10 (1994)
- 12. Nieuwstadt, F.T.M.: On the solution of the stationary, baroclinic Ekman-layer equations with a finite boundary-layer height. Bound. Layer Meteorol. **26**, 377–390 (1983)
- <span id="page-12-15"></span>13. Grisogono, B.: A generalized Ekman layer profile with gradually varying eddy diffusivities. Q. J. R. Meteorol. Soc. **121**, 445–453 (1995)
- 14. Parmhed, O., Kos, I., Grisogono, B.: An improved Ekman layer approximation for smooth eddy diffusivity profiles. Bound. Layer Meteorol. **115**, 399–407 (2002)
- 15. Tan, Z.M.: An approximate analytical solution for the baroclinic and variable eddy diffusivity semigeostrophic Ekman boundary layer. Bound. Layer Meteorol. **98**, 361–385 (2001)
- <span id="page-12-9"></span>16. Zhang, Y., Tan, Z.M.: The diurnal wind variation in a variable eddy viscosity semi-geostrophic Ekman boundary-layer model: analytical study. Meteorol. Atmos. Phys. **81**, 207–217 (2002)
- <span id="page-12-10"></span>17. Constantin, A., Johnson, R.S.: Atmospheric Ekman flows with variable eddy viscosity. Bound. Layer Meteorol. **170**, 395–414 (2019)
- <span id="page-12-11"></span>18. Bressan, A., Constantin, A.: The deflection angle of surface ocean currents from the wind direction. J. Geophys. Res. Oceans **124**, 7412–7420 (2019)
- <span id="page-12-12"></span>19. Fečkan, M., Guan, Y., O'Regan, D., Wang, J.: Existence and uniqueness and first order approximation of solutions to atmospheric Ekman flows. Monatshefte für Mathematik **193**, 623–636 (2020)
- <span id="page-12-13"></span>20. Constantin, A., Dritschel, D.G., Paldor, N.: An algorithm for the deflection angle of surface ocean currents relative to the wind direction. Phys. Fluids (2020). [https://doi.org/10.1002/essoar.10503600.](https://doi.org/10.1002/essoar.10503600.1) [1](https://doi.org/10.1002/essoar.10503600.1)
- 21. Dritschel, D.G., Paldor, N., Constantin, A.: The Ekman spiral for piecewise-uniform diffusivity. Ocean Sci. Discuss. **16**, 1089–1093 (2020)
- <span id="page-12-14"></span>22. Constantin, A.: Frictional effects in wind-driven ocean currents. Geophys. Astrophys. Fluid Dyn. **115**, 1–14 (2021)
- <span id="page-12-16"></span>23. Hartman, P.: Ordinary Differential Equations. Willey, New York (1964)

**Publisher's Note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

# **Affiliations**

# **Yi Guan**<sup>1,2</sup> **·** Michal Fečkan<sup>3,4</sup> · JinRong Wang<sup>1,[5](http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6642-1946)</sup><sup>0</sup>

 $\boxtimes$  JinRong Wang jrwang@gzu.edu.cn

> Yi Guan xyguanyi@163.com

Michal Fečkan Michal.Feckan@fmph.uniba.sk

- <sup>1</sup> Department of Mathematics, Guizhou University, Guiyang 550025, Guizhou, China
- <sup>2</sup> School of Mathematical and Information Sciences, Guiyang University, Guiyang 550005, Guizhou, China
- <sup>3</sup> Department of Mathematical Analysis and Numerical Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University in Bratislava, 842 48 Mlynská dolina, Bratislava, Slovakia
- <sup>4</sup> Mathematical Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Štefánikova 49, 814 73 Bratislava, Slovakia
- <sup>5</sup> School of Mathematical Sciences, Qufu Normal University, Qufu 273165, Shandong, China