## General Disclaimer <br> One or more of the Following Statements may affect this Document

- This document has been reproduced from the best copy furnished by the organizational source. It is being released in the interest of making available as much information as possible.
- This document may contain data, which exceeds the sheet parameters. It was furnished in this condition by the organizational source and is the best copy available.
- This document may contain tone-on-tone or color graphs, charts and/or pictures, which have been reproduced in black and white.
- This document is paginated as submitted by the original source.
- Portions of this document are not fully legible due to the historical nature of some of the material. However, it is the best reproduction available from the original submission.


# VERTICAL TEMPERATURE AND DENSITY PATTERNS IN THE ARCTIC MESOSPHERE ANALYZED AS GRAVITY WAVES 

I. J. EBERSTEIN
J. S. THEON

MARCH 1975


## G\$EC - GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

## GREENBELT, MARYLAND

# VERTICAL TTMPERATURE AND DENSITY PATTERNS IN THE ARCTIC MESOSPHERE ANALYZED AS GRAVITY WAVES 

I. J. Eberstein<br>Upper Atmosphere Branch<br>J. S. Theon<br>Meteorology Branch<br>Atmospheric \& Hydrospheric<br>Applications Division

ABSTRACT

Three series of rocket soundinge were conducted from high latitude sites during winter. In the first series, four pitot pressure soundings were launched during a 13 hour period from Ft. Churchill, Canada $\left(59^{\circ} \mathrm{N}\right)$ on January 31, and Feb. 1, 1967. The second series consisted of one pitot sounding and two acoustic grenade soundings carried out during a three hour period on January 13-14, 1970. Temperature and wind profiles and one density profile were observed independently to obtain the thermodynamic structure, the wind structure, and thus their interdependence in the mesosphere. The third series of soundings was conducted from Point Barrow, Alaska $\left(71^{\circ} \mathrm{N}\right)$ on December 6, 1971. This series consisted of five soundings of which the first two and the last two were pitot-grenade pairs. Temperature profiles from all soundings in each series were averaged, and a smooth curve (or series of smooth curves) drawn through
the points. A hydrostatic atmosphere based on the average, measured temperature profile was computed, and deviations from the mean atmosphere were analyzed in terms of gravity wavis theory. The vertical wavelengths of the deviations were $10-20 \mathrm{~km}$, and the wave amplitudes slowly increased with height. The experimental data were matched by calculated gravity waves having a period of $15-20$ minutes and a horizontal wavelength of $60-80 \mathrm{kin}$. Our interpretation is generally consistent with the results of others who have studied gravity-acoustic waves in the atmosphere. The wind measurements are consistent with the thermodynamic measurements. The results also suggest that gravity waves travel from East to West with a horizontal phase velocity of approximately $60 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$.

## CONTENTS

Page
INTRODUCTION ..... 1
EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE ..... 3
OUTLINE OF GRAVITY WAVE THEORY ..... 4
ANALYSIS OF DATA ..... 8
THE PARABOLIC TRAJECTORY EFFECT ..... 14
CONCLUSIONS ..... 15
BIBLIOGRAPHY ..... 19

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure Page
1 Illustration of Gravity Wave Concept and
Nature of Experimental Measurement. ..... 24
2 Gravity Wave Phase Speed as Function of
Temperature, Vertical Wave Length, and Period ..... 25
3 Mean Temperature Structure for 1967
Ft. Churchill Series ..... 26
4 Measured Density Structure for 1967
Ft. Churchill Series27
5
Spatial Auto-Correlation Functions forDensity, 1967 Series28
6 Power Spectral Density Versus Wavelength for
Experimental Deviations, 1967 Series ..... 29
־ Gravity Wave Comparable to Measured Vertical
Density Deviation for 1967 Series ..... 30
The Observed Pressure and Density Perturbations
(Solid Curves) over Churchill on January 13-14, ..... 1970
Compared with the Perturbations Calculated from
Theory (Broken Curves) as a Function of Altitude ..... 31
9 The Observed Zonal Wind Component Compared with the Zonal Wind Profile Calculated From the
Theory for the Described Experiment ..... 32
Figure Page
10 The Theoretical Vertical Velocity Profile
Which is Consistent with the Gravity Wave
Given by Figures 8-9 ..... 33
11 1971 Serles Gravity Wave Matched to First Pitot
Temperature Deviation ..... 34
12 Comparison Between Theoretical and Observed
Wind Patterns for 1071 Series ..... 35
13 Comparison of Second Pitot Temperature Devia- tion with Gravity Wave Prediction for 1971 Series ..... 36
14
Comparison of Third Pitot Temperature Devia- tion with Gravity Wave Prediction for 1971 Series ..... 37
15 Typical Pitot Probe Trajectory ..... 38
16 Gravity Wave Doppler Effect ..... 39

## TABLES

Table Page
1 Launch Sequence of First Series ..... 22
2 Launch Sequence of Second Series ..... 22
3 Launch Sequence of Third Series ..... 23

## SYMBOLS

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \omega=\text { circular frequency of the wave } \\
& a=\text { local sound speed } \\
& \mathrm{k}_{0}=\omega / \mathrm{n} \\
& \boldsymbol{\gamma}=\text { ratio of speclfic heats } \\
& \omega_{B}=g / a \sqrt{\gamma-1}=\text { Brunt - Vaisala frequency } \\
& \omega_{\mathrm{A}}=\gamma \mathrm{g} / 2 \mathrm{a}=\mathrm{a} / 2 \mathrm{H} \\
& \mathrm{~g}=\text { acceleration due to gravity } \\
& \mathrm{H}=\text { Pressure scale height } \\
& A=\omega_{A} / \omega \\
& B=\omega_{B} / \omega \\
& S=k_{x} / k_{0} \\
& G=\omega_{h} / \omega \\
& \omega_{\mathrm{h}}=\mathrm{a}^{2} / 2 k \\
& k=\text { thermal diffusivity } \\
& \overrightarrow{\mathrm{U}}=\text { wind velocity of background field } \\
& \vec{k}=\text { propagation vector } \\
& k^{2}=k_{x}^{2}+k_{z}^{2} \\
& \mathrm{P}=\text { static pressure } \\
& \mathrm{p}^{0}=\text { stagnation pressure } \\
& \rho=\text { density } \\
& u=\text { velocity }
\end{aligned}
$$

## INTRODUCTION

Waves in a stratified fluid under the influence of gravity appear to have been initially discussed by Burnside (1889) and Love (1891). Both authors treated an incomprossible fluid. Görtler (1943) used schlierin photography to show experimentally that disturbances in an incompressible stratified medium under the influence of gravity propagate along characteristic rays. Lamb (1909) treated a compressible, adiabatic, ideal gas whose density is stratified by gravity. Since the early contributions by Burnside, Love, and Lamb, there have been many theoretical papers on various types of gravity waves. Reasonably up-to-date treatments of the subject may be found in Eckart (1960) and Yih (1965). However, gravity wave theory is currently undergoing an active phase of development and contributions are being added to the literature at a rapid rate. A recent addition is the bool by Tolstoy (1973).

The present paper treats several series of rocket soundings of atmospheric temperature, density, and wind structure. The experimental results are interpreted in terms of gravity-acoustic wave theory. The experiments are of two types, pitot and grenade. For the pitot experiment, a pitot stagnation probe is mounted on the rocket vehicle. The position and velocity of the vehicle are measured by radar tracking. For an incompressible fluid, we have the simple formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
t^{\hat{\theta}}=P+1 / 2 \rho u^{2} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\mathrm{P}^{0}$ is stagnation pressure
$P$ is static pressure
$\rho$ is density
$u$ is velocity
Eq. (1) may also be written in the form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\rho=\frac{2\left(\mathrm{p}^{0}-\mathrm{P}\right)}{\mathrm{u}^{2}} \tag{1a}
\end{equation*}
$$

It is obvious from Eq. 1a that density is determined if stagnation pressure, static pressure, and velocity are measured. The addition of compressibility makes the analysis somewhat more involved without affecting the basic principle presented above. The pitot technique is described in detall by Horvath et. al (1962).

For the grenade experiment, a series of grenades are exploded in the atmosphere. The position and time of the explosion is determined and the time, and the direction of arrival of the spherical sound pulse are measured by a ground based microphone array. This information is used to deduce the mean temperature and horizontal wind speed in atmospheric slabs whose thickness varies between 2 km and 4 km depending on the particular grenade payload used. (Nordberg and Smith, 1964)

Essentially, the pitot technique provides a high vertical resolution ( 0.5 km ) direct measurement of atmospheric density, while the grenade technique gives a direct measure of atmospheric temperature and horizontal wind with a $2-4 \mathrm{~km}$ vertical resolution. For both techniques, the time to make the
atmospheric traverse is approximately one minute, resulting in a virtually instantancous picture of the vertical structure.

## EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The experimental data consist of three series of rockel soundings which were conducted from high latitude sites during winter. In the first series, four pitot soundings were launched during a thirteen hour period from Ft. Churchill, Canada $\left(59^{\circ} \mathrm{N}\right)$ spanning Jenuary 31 and February 1, 1967 (see Table 1), The data have been published by Smith, et al (1969).

The second series consisted of three soundings carried out during a three hour perivd on January 13-14, 1970 from Churchill (Smith, et. al. , 1972) The first sounding was made with the acoustic grenade technique to measure the temperature and wind profiles in the $35-90 \mathrm{~km}$ region; the second sounding was a pitot probe launched 88 minutes later to measure the density profile; and the last sounding employed the acoustic grenade technique 104 minutes after the pitot sounding. Thus two tempfrature and wind profiles and one density profile were obtained independently to permit examination of the thermodynamic structure, the wind structure, and the interdependence of each in the mesosphere.

The third series of soundings was conducted from Point Barrow, Alaska $\left(71^{\circ} \mathrm{N}\right)$ on December 6, 1971 (Smith et. al. , 1974). This series consisted of five soundings, of which the first two and last two were pitot-grenade pairs. The remaining sounding was performed with a pitot probe. The objective of
launching such pairs was to obtain high vertical resolution thermodynamic structure (pitot) and wind information (grenade) simultancously. The series commenced at 0300 GMT with a pitot probe, which was followed by a grenade at 0302 GM'T. These profiles were flown over essentially the same trajectory only two minutes npart. The remaining soundings, a pitot at 0442 GMT , a piṭot at 0752 GMT , and a grenade at 0802 GMT completed the series.

## OUTLINE OF GRAVITY WAVE THEORY

Consider a series of layers of fluid, each lighter than the one below, as shown in Figure 1. A surface wave in the lowest layer will transmit a disturbance to the layer above it , which in turn will transmit the disturbance to the layer above It , etc. Now let the density difference between layers and the layer thickness both approach small values $\epsilon$ and $\delta$, respectively. In the limit, as $\epsilon$ and $\delta$ approauh zero, we have internal gravity waves. The soundIngs dascribed above have taken samples vertically through the layers.

The simple theory involves linearizing the atmospheyic equations of motion and specifying a sinusoidal solution, i. e.,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\phi=\phi_{0} \exp \left[i\left(\omega t-k_{x} x-k_{z} z\right)\right] \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Perturbations in pressure, density, temperature, and gravity wave generated wind are related to $\phi$ by what Hines (1960) has called polarization relations, and a dispersion relation which has the form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
n_{z}^{2}=\left\{1-\left(\frac{\omega_{A}}{\omega_{B}}\right)^{2}\right\}-n_{x}^{2}\left\{1-\left(\frac{\omega_{B}}{\omega}\right)^{2}\right\} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
n_{x}=\frac{k_{x} a}{\omega} \quad n_{z}=\frac{k_{z} a}{\omega} . \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

(Pitteway and Hines, 1963)
The following expressions aro obtained for phase velocity:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{px}}=\frac{\omega}{\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{x}}} ; \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{pz}}=\frac{\omega}{\mathrm{k}_{\mathrm{z}}}=\frac{\omega \lambda_{\mathrm{z}}}{2 \pi}=\frac{\lambda_{\mathrm{z}}}{\tau} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Also,

$$
\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{px}} \approx \frac{\lambda_{\mathrm{z}}}{\tau_{\mathrm{B}}}
$$

provided that $\quad \tau \geqslant \tau_{B}$
Since atmospheric gradients are usually gentle, the ray approximation for vertical wave propagation was used. Volland (1969a) has shown that the ray treatment is a sufficient approximation for gravity woves propagating obliquely upwards, provided the horizontal wave number is in the order of, or greater than $\omega / a$, where a is the sound speed, and $\omega$ is the circular frequency of the ".ve, f.a. $k_{x} \geqslant \frac{\omega}{a}$, or $(\omega / a) / k_{x} \leqslant 1$. Reference to eq. 5 shows that the last mentioned inequality may be written as $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{px}} / \mathrm{a} \leqslant 1$. Thus the ratio of horizontal phase velocity to sound speed must be less than one.

The above ratio, called VPXA, is plotted in Figure 2. We see that it is relatively insensitive to temperature and wave period, but varies linearly with vertical wave length. For vertical wave lengths less than $15 \mathrm{~km}, \mathrm{VPXA}$
is generally less than 0.2. Thus, the condition for use of the ray approximation is well satisfied.

The next problem which comes to mind is how to take account of background wind. The frequency of a moving flu!d particle, or the 'intrinsic frequency' may be defined as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Omega=\omega-\vec{k} \cdot \vec{U} \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \vec{k} \text { is wave number } \\
& \vec{U} \text { is wind velocity } \\
& \omega \text { is wave frequency in a quiescent atmosphere }
\end{aligned}
$$

The above value of intrinsic frequency may be substituted into equations describing gravity wave propagation in a quiescent atmosphere, and a solution outained. Jones (1969) discusses the conditions under whicn the above procedure is valid. Basically, the following assumptions must be satisfied:

1. Vertical and horizontal derivatives of vertical winds must be less than $\left(N^{2}-\Omega^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$, where $N$ is the Bruni-Vaisala frequency.
2. Horizontal derivatives of horizontal winds must be smaller than $\Omega$.
3. Time do ivatives of horizontal winds must be much smaller than $(\Omega / \beta) \times\left(N^{2}-\Omega^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$, where $\beta=N^{2} / g$.
4. Time derivatives of vertical winds are much smaller than $g$, the acceleration due to gravity.

Derivatives of winds are not generally known, but we can examine the range which is permitted by the above conditions. Condition "4" places a limit of $9.8 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}{ }^{-2}$ to accelerations in vertical motion. Vertical winds generated by gravity waves are generally less than $10 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}{ }^{-1}$. The frequency must be less than the Brunt-Vaisala frequency which is about $0.02^{-1}$. The resulting acceleration is $0.2 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-2}$, which is well below gravitational acceleration. Vertical wavelengths for major wind shifts are generally longer than 5 kilometers. Thus, we may approximate the maximum vertical derivative of vertical wind to be of the order of $10 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ per 5 km , or $2 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1} \mathrm{~km}^{-1}$. Horizontal derivatives of vertical winds are less, since horizontal wavelengths are longer than vertical ones. For conditions considered in this paper $\Omega<0.5 \mathrm{~N}$, consequently $\Omega^{2}<0.25 \mathrm{~N}^{2}$, and to a first approximation, we may simply require that vertical gradients of vertical wind be less than the Brunt-Vaisala frequency, i. e.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{dV}_{\mathrm{z}} / \mathrm{dz}<\mathrm{N} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Cancelling the space dimension, $\mathrm{dV}_{\mathrm{z}} / \mathrm{dz}$ becomes $0.002 \mathrm{sec}^{-1} . \mathrm{N}$ is approximately equal to $0.02 \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$. Thus condition " 1 " is amply satisfied. Conditions " 2 " and " 3 " are the problematic ones. Taking $\Omega^{2} \leqslant N^{2}$, condition "3" simplifies to

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d \mathrm{~V}_{\mathrm{H}}}{\mathrm{dt}} \ll \mathrm{~g}\left(\frac{\Omega}{\mathrm{~N}}\right) \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Condition "2" may be written in the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d V_{\mathrm{H}}}{\mathrm{dx}} \ll \Omega \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

If time and space variations of horizontal winds are due to synoptic phenomena, then the following quantities are characteristic:

$$
\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{H}} \sim 50 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}-\mathrm{t} \cdot \mathrm{t} \sim 10,000 \mathrm{sec} ; \mathrm{dX} \sim 500 \mathrm{~km}
$$

One can then estimate synoptic time and space derivatives to be $10^{-3} \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}{ }^{-1}$, and $10^{-4} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$. In the above case, eq. (8) requires ( $\Omega / \mathrm{N}$ ) to be greater than 0.001 and eq. (9) requires $\Omega$ to be greater than $10^{-4} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$.

## ANALYSIS OF DATA

Table 1 shows the schedule of the four launches in the first series. The timos between launches are, respectively, 6 h 21 m , 2 h 48 m , and 3 h 32 m . Temperature profiles from all soundings in each series were averaged and a smooth curve (or a series of smooth curves) drawn through the points. A hydre atically determined atmosphere based on the average measured temperature profile was computed. The average temperature profile for the first set of data is given in Figure 3. Avarage background atmospheres were calculated in a similar manner for the second and third sets of experimental series.

The pitot probe technique provides a measurement of the atmospheric density profile by relating the density to the measured ram pressure using appropriate aerodymamic theory, while the acoustic grenade technique provides a measurement of the atmospheric temperature profile by relating the temperature to the measured speed of sound using gas kinetic theory. The hydrostatic equation and the equation of state are used to obtain the remaining two thermodynamic parameters in each technique. Such an approach assumes that vertical accelerations in the atmospheric motions are negligible relative to the acceleration due to gravity, and is valid for mean atmosphere calculations. Smith, et al (1968) compared the results of grenade soundings and pitot probe soundings at Wallops Island, Va. They found temperature agreement to be better than $3^{0} \mathrm{~K}$ below 60 km and better than $5^{0} \mathrm{~K}$ between 60 and 90 km altitude. Thus hydrostatic equilibrium was valid under the generally undisturbed conditions of Wallops Island, confirming the validity of the hydrostatic approximation for background atmosphere calculations.

For the first test series, the ratio of the density measured by the pitot probe to the hydrostatically computed density (based on the average temperature profile) was plotted as a function of altitude for each probe. The density variations are shown in Figure 4. The second and third soundings show a density minimum at around 110 km . This is most pronounced for the second sounding. The pronounced density drop, associated with a pronounced temperature rise, is quite probably due to an auroral event. The structure below 100 km contains
various features which could conceivably be traced from one sample to the next, but this type of exercise will be left to the interested reader. Rather, the authors matched the experimental curves to results obtained from gravity wave theory. Our program was adapted from one used by Volland (1969a, b). The periods which result in a reasonable fit are in a range of $15-20$ minutes with a horizontal wavelength of $60-80 \mathrm{~km}$. The above values correspond approximately to those found by Gossard (1962) who observed gravity waves in the troposphere. Figure 4 essentially gives only the vertical wavelength, $\lambda_{z}$, thus only allowing one to obtain the product of $\omega \lambda_{x}$. The reason for vioosing the short period, short horizontal wavelength waves, is that these are more strongly damped. Reference to Figure 4 shows that the growth of amplitude with altitude is extremely weak, while theory predicts that an undamped wave will grow exponentially with altitude.

Figure 5 shows the spatial auto correlation function for atmorpheric density between 28 and 80 km , and Figure 6 shows the corresponding power spectral density versus wavelength. Analysis techniques employed are discussed in Bendat and Piersol (1966) and Blackman and Tukey (1958). (In this case "power" is defined in terms of wavelength and amplitude). Wavelengths between 2 km and 17 km are represented, with a primary peak around 14 km , and a secondary peak around 9 km . The auto correlation function for the second sounding shows a wavelength of $2 \times 7 \mathrm{~km}$, and for the fourth, al wavelength of $2 \times 9$ km , i. e. 14 km and 18 km , respectively, for the dominant sinusoidal component. Figure 7 shows representative gravity waves propagating in a sinusoidal wind
field, and in a quiescent atmosphere. The regular sinusoidal pattern present in the quiescent atmosphere density deviation with altitude is dramatically altered by the introduction of a regularly varying background wind. Thus in the real atmosphere, it is expected that the regular patterns superimposed on the thermodynamic structure by internal gravity waves will not be obvious. The interactions between propagating waves and varying background conditions are exceedingly complex and cannot be separated readily without a priori knowledge of the conditions.

In the second test series, an attempt to identify propagating internal gravity waves in the mesosphere was made by sounding the region with three instrumented rockets on January 13-14, 1970, from Churchill, Canada $\left(59^{\circ} \mathrm{N}\right)$. The three observations, which were conducted at approximately 90 min . intervals, consisted of a pitot probe bracketed by two acoustic grenade soundings. Thus, two temperature and wind profiles and one density profile were obtained independently, permitting an examination of the thermodynamic structure and the wind structure. The first sounding was conducted at 2223 GMT with the acoustic grenade technique to measure the temperature and wind profiles in the $35-90 \mathrm{~km}$ region; the second sounding was launched 88 minutes later ( 2351 GMT) and employed a pitot probe to measure the density profile with 0.5 km vertical resolution; and the last sounding again was made
with the acoustic grenarle technique 104 minutes after the pitot sounding (0135 GMT). Thus, two temperature and wind profiles, and one density proflle were obtained independently to permit an examination of the thermodynamic structure, the wind structure, and the interdependence of each in the mesosphere. For descriptions of the experiment, see Smith, et. al. (1972).

An average atmosphere was calculated based on the three soundings, and the differences of the pitol iata from the mean were computed (these are referced to as perturbakions). The observed perturbations are shown as the solid curves in Figure 8 and are seen to give a pattern characteristic of internal gravity waves in a stratified, compressible fluid. Recall that the experimental density is measured directly, while the pressure is a del ived quantity. In Figure 8, the period of the calculated gravity wave was 20 minutes, and the horizontal wavelength was 60 km .

Figure 9 shows the comparison between the zonal wind profile measured by the first grenade sounding, and the wind pattern associated with the theoretically calculated gravity wave. (A zonal drift wind varying linearly from $i 2 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ at 36 km to $44 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ at 96 km has been included). The wind pattern obtained by the second grenade sounding is generally similar. Figure 10 shows the theoretically derived vertical velocity profile, which includes values of approximately $10 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ in the 80 km region. Justus and Edwards (1971) have
reported measured vertical velocities on the order of $20 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ at altitudes between $88-118 \mathrm{~km}$. Although these mensurements were made at a different Iatitude and time of year, they are at least comparable in magnitude. The Justus and Edwards data do confirm the existence of relatively large vertical velocities at high altitudes. The vertical velocity profile given by Figure 10 was included in the data reduction for the two grenade soundings and its effect on the mean profile was found to be small.

The third set of measurements consisted of a series of pitot and grenade soundings from Point Barrow ( $71^{\circ} \mathrm{N}$ ) launched on December 6, 1971. Tine first two soundings, a pitot and a gronade, were launched two minutes apart. The temperature perturbation obtair ed from the pitot profile is shown in Figare 11 together with a theoretical gravity wave which was matched to it for a best fit (by eye). Figure 12 shows a comparison between the theoretical and observed wind patterns. The calculated wind pattern is that associated with the gravity wave whose temperature perturbation is given in Figure 11. A mean drift wind of $40 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ has been included. The measured wind is obtained from the grenade sounding, so it represents a series of values in which the winds were averaged over layers (2-3 km thick) between grenade explosions.

Figures 13 and 14 show the temperature perturbations derived from the observed density structure by the subsequent pitot soundings at 0442 GMT and 0752 GMT, respectively. The gravity wave structure is based upon the original match of Figure 11 and allowed to propagate with time to correspond to
the times of the observational data. The best match was found to have a horizontal wavelength of 70 km and a period of about 18 minutes. It is significant that only the first theoretical curve was fitted to the observed data, and that the remaining matches followed from the computer. Thuth our data indicate that not only are the spatial density and wind structure mensurements compatible with gravity wave theory, but also with the expected behavior with time.

## THE PARABOLIC TRAJECTORY EFFECT

For simplicity of discussion, we have considered a vertical, instantaneous slice through the atmosphere. In fact the actual sample is nether wholly vertical nor quite instantaneous. The latter approximation, however, is very good. The sampling time is one minute, representing only $5 \%$ of a wave period. The deviation of the actual trajectory from vertical is a more serious matter. Figure 15 shows a typical pitot probe trajectory. Figure 16 compares a trajectory going into the wave, a trajectory following the wave, and an instantaneous vertical traverse. We see the expected Doppler phenomenon of shortened wavelength going into the wave, and lengthened wavelength when going with the wave.

The wave considered has a horizontal wavelength of 70 km and a period of 18.5 minutes. While the measurements are being made, the horizontal distance traversed, by the rocket is 12 km , or $1 / 6$ of a wavelength. Thus, it is
the horizontal motion of the rocket rather than the finite sampling time which results in significant deviation from the original simplifying assumption.

Examination of the experimental curves shows that the wavelength decreases with altitude. Thus the rocket is going into the wave train. Since the launch direction from Pt. Barrow is due enst, we may conclude that the wave train is coming from an easterly direction. The same situation prevails at Ft. Churchill. Our results suggest that the waves in these instances travelled from East to West. The horizontal phase velocity is approximately $60 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}-1$.

## CONCLUSIONS

Three series of soundings were carried out at high latitude sites during winter. The first series gave four essentially instantaneous vertical density traverses during a 13 hour period at Ft. Churchill. The density variations from the mean stratospheric conditions were matched by gravity waves having vertical wavelengths of $14-17 \mathrm{~km}$. A reasonable fit to the data was obtained with a plane gravity wave chasacterized by a horizontal wavelength of 70 km and a period of 18 minutes. The wave amplitude increased with altitude, but at a rate much slower than the exponential growth predicted for undamped waves. Thus one must conclude that the waves were heavily damped as they propagated upward through the atmosphere.

Comparing our observations with the damping predictions of Pitteway and Hines (1963), it is found that for the constant viscosity case, (i. e. increasing
kinematic viscosity) waves having the input parameters considered, (i. e. 70 km horizontal wavelength, and $10-20 \mathrm{~km}$ vertical wavelength) would tend to reach a peak amplitude at about 120 km altitude. The Pitteway-Hines predictions are consistent with our observations, and their amplitude balance damping case appears to be close to what we observed. The observations indicate a modest growth of nmplitude with altitude, much closer to the no-growth approximation than to the exponential growth limit.

Consider now the 70 km horizontal wavelength and the 18 minute period. Gossard (1962) observed gravity waves in the troposphere. He found the period to vary between 15 minutes and 120 minutes. The horizontal wavelength for waves of 15 m inute period was 19 km , and for two hour period, it was 150 km . The difference between our observations and those of Gossard may be explained by assuming that tropospheric waves with short vertical wavelengths are damped out. In fact Gossard (1962) found that the maximum leakage into the upper atmosphere occurs at periods of 10 to 20 minutes, starting with a white energy spactrum in the troposizhere. Our value of 18 minutes is thus consistent with Gossard's prediction. Gossard found a horizontal phase speed of approximately $21 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$. For an 18 minute period and $200^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$, the following table relates our estimated horizontal phase velocity to vertical wavelength. 200 degrees was chosen because it is approximately the temperature at the bottom of our test region.
$200^{\circ} \mathrm{K} ; 18$ minute period

| $\lambda_{4}(\mathrm{~km})$ | $\lambda_{\mathrm{x}}(\mathrm{km})$ | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{px}}(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{sec})$ | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{pz}}(\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{sec})$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 | 18.2 | 16.9 | 4.6 |
| 10 | 36.4 | 33.7 | 9.3 |
| 15 | 54.4 | 50.4 | 13.9 |
| 20 | 72.3 | 67.0 | 18.6 |
| 25 | 90.0 | 83.3 | 23.1 |

From noctilucent cloud studies, Witt (1962) observed characteristic wavelengths of $30-40 \mathrm{~km}$, and of 75 km , the latter being very nearly the 70 km deduced in the present study. Witt (1962) also estimated the wave velocity with respect to a frame of reference moving with the eloud system, obtaining a range of 70 to $135 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$. The agreement with the values given in our table above 1siveasonable. Noctilucent clouds are formed in the 80 to 85 km region of the atmosphere.

Our results are also generally consistent with the discussion of internal atmospheric gravity waves at fonospheric heights presented by Hines (1960). Thus the 12 km vertical wavelength which Hines deduced from the meteor wind data of Greenhow and Neufeld $(1955,1959)$ is in reasonable agreement with our observations. Hines considered $125 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ to be a typical horizontal phase speed and quoted the following experimental results. Munro (1958) found phase speeds to generally be in the range of $52-175 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}^{-1}$, in agreement with both
our deductions and Witt's (1962) noctilucent cloud observations. Helsler (1958) found phase speeds to range between $97-207 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{sec}{ }^{-1}$. The phase speed agreement is remarkable considering that ionospheric heights range up to more than 100 km above the top of our observation regime. Our period is more than ten times shorter than the 200 minutes deduced by Hinos (1960) from correlation studies of meteor wind trails. Howevar, a careful reading of Hines' paper suggests that the 200 minutes is an upper limit to the period, rather than a most characteristic value.

The second series of soundings is also compatible with a gravity wave interpretation. Vertical wavelengths were consistent with the values obtained in the first series. There was also reasonable agreement between measured and predicted horizontal yelocities.

The results of the third series confirmed the conclusions about vertical wavelength and omplitude of the first two series and the agreement of measured wind with gravity wave predictions. It was also pussible to trace one gravity wave pattern through three consecutive samples, indicating that our period is correct. There is, of course, the possibility of aliasing. However, the slow wave growth with altitude points toward the short wavelength, short period solution, as do Witt's observations at noctilucent cloud altitudes.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bondat, J. S. and Piorsol, A. G. (1966) "Measuroment and Analysis of Random Data." Wlley, New York

Blackman, R. B. and Tukey, J. W. (1958) "The Measurement of Power Spectra." Dover

Burnside, W. (1889) On the Small Wove Motion of a Heterogenesus Fluid Under Gravity, Proc. London Math Soc. pp. 392-397

Eckart, Carl (1960) "Hydrodynamics of Oceans and Atmospheres." New York, Pergamon

Gossard, E. E. (1962) Vertical Flux of Energy into the Lower Ionosphere from Internal Glavity Waves Generated in the Troposphere. J. Geophysical Research, Vol. 67, pp. 745-757

Görtler, H. (1943) Über eine Schwingungserscheinung in Flüssigkeiten mit stabiler Dichteschichtung. Zeitschrift für Angewandte Mathematik end Mechanik. Band 23, Heft 2, pp. 65-71.

Greenhow, J. S. and Neufeld, E. L. (1955) Phil. Mag, 46, 549
Greenhow, J. S. and Neufeld, E. L. (1959) J. Geophys. Ros. (64, 2129
Heisler, L. H. (1958) Australian Journal of Physics Vol. 9, p. 324
Hines, C. O. (1960) Internal Atmospheric Gravity Waves at Ionospheric Heights. Canadian Jour. Physics, Vol. 38, pp. 1441-1481

Horvath, J. J., Simmons, R. W., Brace, L. H. (1962) Theory and Implementation of the Pitot-Static Technique for Upper Atmospheric Measurements. Space Physics Research Lab. Scientific Report NS-1 University of Michigan

Jones, W. L. (1969) Ray Tracing for Internal Gravity Waves. J. Gerephysical Research, Vol. 74, pp. 2028-2033

Justus, C. G. and Edwards, II. D. (1971) Winds Observed From July 1908 Through November 1970 in the 83 to 216 km Altitude Region. Final Report, AFCRL Contract F 19628-68-C-0081

Lamb, H. (1909) On the Theory of Waves Propagated Vertically in the Atmosphere. Proc. London Mathematical Society, pp. 122-141

Love, E. H. (1891) Wave Motion in a Heterogeneous Heavy Liquid. Proc. London Mathematical Society, pp. 307-316

Munro, G. H. (1958) Australian Journal of Physics, Vol. 9, p. 324
Noxdberg, W., and Smith, W. (1964) The Rocket Grenade Experiment. NASA 'rechnical Note D-2107

Pitteway, M. L. V., and Hines, C. O. (1963) The Viscous Damping of Atmespheric Gravity Waves. Canadian Jour. Physics, Vol. 41, pp. 1935-1948

Smith, W. S., Katchen, L. B., and Theon, J. S. (1968) Grenade Experiments in a Program of Synoptic Meteorologlcal Measurements. Moteorological Monographs, Vol. 8, No. 31, pp. 170-175

Smith, W. s., Theon, J. S., Swartz, P. C., Casey, J. F., Horvath, J. J. (1969) Temperature, Pressure, Density and Wind Measurements in the Stratosphere and Mesosphere, 1967. NASA TR-R-316

Smith, W. ©., Theon, J. S., Wright, D. U., Casey, J. F., Horvath, J. J. (1972) Measurements of the Structure and Circulation of the Stratosphere and Mesusphere, 1970. NASA TR-R-391

Smith, W. S. : Theon, J. S., Wright, D. U., Ramsdale, D. J., Horvath, J. J. (1974) Measurements of the Structure and Circulation of the Stratosphere and Mesosphere, 1971-72. NASA TR-R-416

Tolstoy, I. (1973) "Wave Propagation," McGraw Hill

Volland, H. (1969, a) Full Wave Calculation of Gravity Wave Propagation Through the Thermosphere. J. Geophysical Research, Vol. 74, pp. 17861795.

Volland, H. $(1969$, b) The :Jpper Atmosphere as a Multiple Refractive Medium for Neutral Air Motions. J. Atmospheric Terrestrial Physics Vol. 31, pp. 491-514.

Witt, Georg. (1962) Height, Structure and Displacement of Noctilucent Clouds. TELLUS, Vol. 14, pp. 1-18.

Yih Chia-Shun (1965) "Dynemics of Non-Homogeneous Fluids," New York, MacMillan

## Table I

Launch Sequence of First Series
Fort Churchill, $\left(59^{\circ} \mathrm{N}\right) ; 1967$

| GMT | Date | Time After <br> First Shot | Type |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2317 | Jan 31 | 0 h 00 m | Pitot |
| 0538 | Feb 1 | 6 h 21 m | Pitot |
| 0826 | Feb 1 | 9 h 09 m | Pitot |
| 1158 | Feb 1 | 12 h 41 m | Pitot |

Table II

Launch Sequence of Second Series
Fort Churchill ( $59^{\circ} \mathrm{N}$ ); 1970

| GMT | Date | Time After <br> First Shot | Type |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| 2223 | Jan 13 | $0 h 00 \mathrm{~m}$ | Grenade |
| 2351 | Jan 13 | 1 h 28 m | Pitot |
| 0135 | Jan 14 | 3 h 12 m | Grenade |

## Table III

## Launch Sequence of Third Series

Point Barrow ( $71^{\circ} \mathrm{N}$ ); 1971

| GMT | Date | Time After <br> First Shot | Type |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0300 | Dec 6 | 0 h 00 m | Pitot |
| 0302 | Dec 6 | 0 h 02 m | Grenade |
| 0442 | Dec 6 | 1 h 42 m | Pitot |
| 0752 | Dec 6 | 4 h 52 m | Pitot |
| 0802 | Dec 6 | 5 h 02 m | Grenade |



HORIZONTAL PHASE SPEED




Figure 2. Gravity Wave Phase Speed as Function of Temperature, Vertical Wave Length, and Period

## BACKGROUND ATMOSPHERE FOR 1967 CHURCHILL SERIES



Figure 3. Mean Temperature Structure for 1967 Ft . Churchill Series


Figure 4. Measured Density Structure for 1967 Ft. Churchill Serles


Figure 5. Spatial Auto-Correlation Functions for Density, 1967 Series


Figure 6. Power Spectral Density Versus Wavelength for Experimental Deviations, 1967 Series


Figure 7. Gravity Wave Comparable to Measured Vertical Density Deviation for 1967 Series


Figure 8. The Observed Pressure and Density Perturbations (Solid Curves) Over Churchill on January 13-14, 1970 Compared With tific perturbations Calculated From Theory (Broken Curves) as a Functson Altitude


Figure 9. The Observed Zonal Wind Component Compared With the Zonal Wind Profile Calculated From the Theory for the Described Experiment


Figure 10. The Theoretical Vertical Velocity Profile Which is Consistent with the Gravity Wave Given by Figures 8-9


Figure 11. 1971 Series Gravity Wave Matched to First Pitot Temperature Deviation


Figure 12. Comparison Between Theoretical and Observed Wind Patterns for 1971 Series


Figure 13. Comparison of Second Pitot Temperature Deviation with Gravity Wave Prediction for 1971 Series


Figure 14. Comparison of Third Pitot Temperature Deviation with Gravity Wave Prediction for 1967 Series


Figure 15. Typical Pitot Probe Trajectory

Figure 16. Gravity Wave Doppler Effect

