

Net mass inflow (In minus Out, x-direction)

$$M_{x} =$$

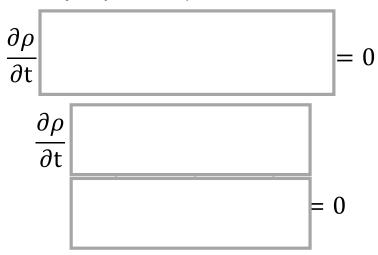
Net mass inflow per unit volume (considering all direction), which is local density change

$$\frac{M_x + M_y + M_z}{\delta V} = \boxed{ = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}}$$
ATM S 441/503 Handout #6 Continuity equation

Continuity equation

(Ch. 2.5)

Continuity equation (mass conservation)



using divergence operator

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \boxed{} = 0$$

using total derivative of density

$$\frac{\mathrm{D}\rho}{\mathrm{Dt}} + \boxed{} = 0$$

Decomposition of total density

total=basic state + perturbation

$$\rho(x, y, z, t) = \rho_0(z) + \rho'(x, y, z, t)$$

decomposition

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{D\rho}{Dt} = \frac{1}{(\rho_0 + \rho')} \frac{D(\rho_0 + \rho')}{Dt} \approx \frac{D(\rho_0 + \rho')}{Dt}$$

Continuity equation (Ch. 2.5)

Scale analysis of the continuity equation

after decomposition

$$\frac{1}{\rho_0} \left(\frac{\partial \rho'}{\partial t} + \vec{U} \cdot \nabla \cdot \rho' \right) + = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{\rho_0} \left(\frac{\partial \rho'}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \rho'}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \rho'}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial \rho'}{\partial z} \right) + = 0$$

$$|u, v| \sim 10 \ m \ s^{-1}$$

$$|w| \sim 10^{-2} \ m \ s^{-1}$$

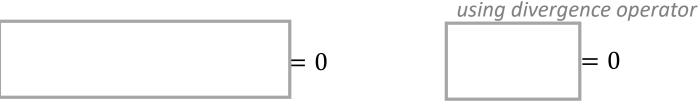
$$|\delta x, \delta y| \sim 10^{6} \ m$$

$$|\delta z| \sim 10^{4} \ m$$

$$|\delta t| \sim |\delta x/u| \sim 10^{5} \ s$$

$$|\rho'/\rho_{0}| \sim 10^{-2}$$

Continuity equation scaled for midlatitude synoptic scale motions



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