

Thus

$$\left[\frac{1}{\rho c_s^2} \frac{Dp_0}{Dt} \right] = \left[\frac{1}{\rho c_s^2} \cdot w \cdot \frac{dp_0}{dz} \right] = \frac{gW}{c_s^2} = \frac{W}{H_\eta} \quad (H_\eta \text{ is adiabatic density scale height})$$

Since we have assumed small density variations throughout fluid (in particular in the vertical) we are obliged to restrict $H \ll H_\eta$

Hence $\left[\frac{1}{\rho c_s^2} \frac{Dp_0}{Dt} \right] \ll \left[\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right] = \frac{W}{H}$

Also $\left[\frac{1}{\rho c_s^2} \frac{Dp'}{Dt} \right] = \frac{[p']}{\rho_0 c_s^2 T} = \frac{\rho_0 U L}{\rho_0 c_s^2 T^2} = \frac{U}{L} \cdot \left(\frac{L}{c_s T} \right)^2$

Since the generalized Mach number $L/c_s T \ll 1$,

$$\left[\frac{1}{\rho c_s^2} \frac{Dp'}{Dt} \right] \ll \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right] = \frac{U}{L}$$

Consequently, both parts of $\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{D\rho}{Dt} = \frac{1}{\rho c_s^2} \frac{Dp}{Dt}$ are small compared to terms in the divergence, so the dominant balance is

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = \nabla_h \cdot \vec{u}_h + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0 \quad (\text{incompressible continuity eqn})$$

Proof of (2), we first note that since $\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{\rho_0} \ll 1$ throughout the fluid (small relative density variations),

$$-\frac{\nabla p'}{\rho} \approx -\frac{\nabla p'}{\rho_0}$$

Also we can simplify $b = -g \frac{\rho'}{\rho_0(z)}$, using potential density:

$$\frac{\rho'_\theta}{\rho_0} = \frac{\rho'}{\rho_0} - \frac{1}{\rho_0 c_s^2} p'$$

By scaling the vertical momentum equation, $[p'] = [\rho'] g H$ for a density-driven flow, so

$$\frac{[p'/\rho_0 c_s^2]}{[p'/\rho_0]} = \frac{gH}{c_s^2} = \frac{H}{H_\eta} \ll 1$$

Using an adiabatic reference profile with potential density ρ_θ ($\rho_0 = \rho_\theta$) we conclude

$$b = -g \frac{\rho'}{\rho_0(z)} \approx -g \frac{\rho'_\theta}{\rho_\theta} = -g \left(\frac{\rho_\theta - \rho_0}{\rho_\theta} \right) = B, \text{ the Boussinesq buoyancy}$$

Thus we've now demonstrated the second part of the Boussinesq approx.