

Table 2.4.1. Summary of wave characteristics and the filtering approximations (adapted from Zhang, personal communication, 1996).

Type of wave (typical amplitude)	Phase speed	Restoring force	Filtering approximations
Acoustic (less than 0.1 hPa, noise level)	$\sqrt{\gamma RT}$ (320 m/s)	Compression	Hydrostatic anelastic quasi-geostrophic
External gravity (if initial conditions are not balanced, 10 hPa)	\sqrt{gH} (320 m/s for $H = 10$ km)	Gravity	No free surface at the top or the bottom, or no net column mass convergence
Internal gravity (0.1–1 hPa)	$\sim \frac{1}{k} \sqrt{\frac{N^2 k^2}{k^2 + n^2}} \sim N/k$ (50 m/s for $L = 30$ km)	Buoyancy (gravitational acceleration within fluid)	Neutral stratification ($N = 0$), or $\frac{\partial \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_H}{\partial t} = 0$
Inertia	f/k (15 m/s for $L = 1000$ km)	Coriolis force (f)	No rotation ($f = 0$)
Rosby (20 hPa)	$U - \beta/k^2$ (relative phase speed ~ 20 – 50 m/s depending on L)	Variation of f with latitude (β effect) $d\zeta/dt = -\beta v$	Constant f ($\beta = 0$)