Does the tropical atmosphere support Doppler shifted mixed Rossby-gravity waves?

Shreya Keshri, Vishal Ranjith, Suhas Ettammal

Dept. of Earth and Climate Science Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune India







MRG waves



- Westward propagating, 3 to 8 day, 2000km to 10000km.
- Rotationally dominant wave modes.
- Unique features of the tropical atmosphere, exhibit mixed properties of Rossby and Inertio-Gravity waves.



Symmetric wavenumber and frequency power spectra of meridional wind



No power in the eastward wavenumbers for the 850 hPa w-k spectra.



Stronger signal during winter

Western hemisphere (WH, 180E to 50E) accounts for majority of the power

Time mean zonal wind



- Westerly duct well developed over western hemispheric longitudes during NH winter at 200hPa.
- Maximum eastward amplitude in v200 and westerly ducts over east Pacific and Atlantic are collocated.

Month versus longitude distribution of EMRG wave events and mean u200



- Maximum activity observed over east Pacific and Atlantic.
- East Pacific bimodal season peak Nov to Feb and March to June.
- Atlantic preferred season Nov to Feb.
- Events over EP and AO during NH winter coincide with regions of strong westerly background winds.
- Secondary peak over east Pacific during March to June associated with weak westerly winds (less than 5 m/s).

EMRG events: lead-lag composite for U > 5 m/s (Oct-Feb)



- The composite plots cohere with theoretical structure of MRG waves and show an eastward phase propagation, validating the method of identification used.
- Extratropical wave intrusions from the NH and SH can be observed.

Monthly-longitude distribution of number of occurrences of E-MRG events for different mean U200



75% of the E-MRG wave events occurred in the westerly ducts

Kelvin wave phase composite at 200 hPa for east Pacific from March to June





- 70% of the EMRG events with U < 5m/s over the east Pacific (180E to 300E) during March to June were facilitated by the westerly phase of the Kelvin waves.
- Total 57 events occurred, 40 of them fell under westerly phase of the large amplitude and large scale Kelvin waves corresponding to wavenumbers 2 to 3.
- Easterly phase during of the Kelvin wave is suppressed.

EMRG embedded in westerly phase of the Kelvin wave



- One full EMRG wavelength completely embeds into the westerly phase of the large scale Kelvin wave.
- Supporting evidence for the Doppler shifting of EMRG waves by transient local Kelvin wave eddies even when the background zonal winds are easterly or weak westerly.

Conclusions

- 1. 730 Doppler shifted eastward propagating MRG (EMRG) wave events were identified for a period of 44 years (1979 to 2022).
- 2. 75% EMRG events occur over a local westerly background (U > 5 m/s).
- 3. 70% EMRG wave events associated with U < 5 m/s occur during March to June over the westerly phase of large scale and large amplitude Kelvin wave eddies.





Shreya Keshri Ph.D.

Dept. of Earth and Climate Science Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune India

Contact : <u>keshri.shreya@students.iiserpune.ac.in</u> <u>suhas@iiserpune.ac.in</u>

