

Belt–zone contrasts in vertical motions and cloud structure in Jupiter’s troposphere

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Abstract

The eddy fluxes of angular momentum in Jupiter’s upper troposphere are known to converge in prograde jets and diverge in retrograde jets. Away from the equator, this implies convergence of the Eulerian mean meridional flow in zones (anticyclonic shear) and divergence in belts (cyclonic shear). It indicates lower tropospheric downwelling in zones and upwelling in belts because the mean meridional circulation almost certainly closes at depth. Yet the observed banded structure of Jupiter’s clouds and hazes suggests that there is upwelling in the brighter zones and downwelling in the darker belts. Here, we show that this apparent contradiction can be resolved by considering not the Eulerian but the transformed Eulerian mean circulation, which includes a Stokes drift owing to eddies and is a better approximation of the Lagrangian mean transport of tracers such as ammonia. The potential vorticity structure inferred from observations paired with mixing length arguments suggests that there is transformed Eulerian mean upwelling in zones

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and downwelling in belts. Simulations with a global circulation model of Jupiter's upper atmosphere demonstrate the plausibility of these inferences and allow us to speculate on the band structure at deeper levels.

Keywords: Atmospheres, dynamics, Jupiter, atmosphere, Jovian planets, Meteorology

1. Introduction

Observations of the structure of clouds and hazes and of turbulent momentum fluxes lead to apparently conflicting accounts of vertical motion in Jupiter's troposphere. On the one hand, the banded structure of Jupiter's clouds and hazes suggests that there is upwelling in the brighter zones and downwelling in the darker belts. (Zones are latitude bands of anticyclonic meridional shear of the zonal wind, and belts are latitude bands of cyclonic shear; see Fig. 1a). Upwelling in the zones is thought to lead to condensation of ammonia into relatively bright ice clouds in the upper troposphere; downwelling in the belts is thought to suppress ammonia ice cloud formation, revealing darker clouds and hazes at greater depth (e.g., Smith et al., 1979; Gierasch et al., 1986; Carlson et al., 1994; Porco et al., 2003; West et al., 2004).

On the other hand, momentum fluxes associated with large-scale (& 1000 km) eddies suggest the opposite sense of vertical motion in zones and belts. Eddy momentum fluxes in the upper troposphere generally converge in prograde zonal jets and diverge in retrograde jets (Ingersoll et al., 1981; Salyk et al., 2006); that is, they converge near the equatorward edges of the belts and diverge near their poleward edges (Fig. 1b, dashed blue line).

20 But outside the equatorial region, where the Rossby number is small, the
21 dominant balance in the zonal momentum equation is

$$f\bar{v} = S; \tag{1}$$

22 that is, the Coriolis acceleration (Coriolis parameter f) of the Eulerian mean
23 meridional flow \bar{v} balances the horizontal eddy momentum flux divergence
24 S to leading order. Hence, the eddy momentum flux convergence ($S <$
25 0) observed in prograde jets in the upper troposphere implies equatorward
26 Eulerian mean meridional flow \bar{v} ; the eddy momentum flux divergence ($S >$
27 0) observed in retrograde jets implies poleward Eulerian mean meridional
28 flow \bar{v} (Fig. 1b, orange line). This leads to convergence of the Eulerian
29 mean meridional flow in zones and divergence in belts, suggesting lower-
30 tropospheric downwelling in zones and upwelling in belts (Fig. 1d, dashed
31 blue line) because the Eulerian mean meridional circulation almost certainly
32 closes at depth and not above the upper-tropospheric clouds from which
33 the eddy momentum fluxes are inferred (Haynes et al., 1991; Schneider and
34 Liu, 2009; Liu and Schneider, 2010; see section 2 below for a review of the
35 arguments). Thus, there exists an apparent contradiction between inferences
36 drawn from dynamical observations and from the structure of clouds and
37 hazes.

38 Here, we show that this apparent contradiction can be resolved if one
39 does not consider the Eulerian mean flow but an approximately Lagrangian
40 mean flow. In the mean, tracers in turbulent flows are generally not advected
41 by the Eulerian mean flow but by a Lagrangian mean flow, which contains
42 a contribution owing to Stokes drift. Andrews and McIntyre (1976, 1978)
43 showed that the Lagrangian mean flow advecting nearly conserved tracers

44 can be approximated by adding an eddy contribution representing the Stokes
 45 drift to the Eulerian mean flow. We will show with scaling arguments and
 46 with numerical simulations that once the Stokes drift is taken into account,
 47 observations of Jupiter’s dynamics are consistent with the upwelling in zones
 48 and downwelling in belts suggested by the structure of clouds and hazes.
 49 The vertical motion is primarily accomplished by turbulent eddies, not the
 50 Eulerian mean flow.

51 **2. Scaling arguments based on zonal momentum balance**

52 *2.1. Eulerian mean flow*

53 The zonal momentum (or angular momentum) balance in Jupiter’s tro-
 54 posphere is relatively simple because the Rossby number $Ro = U/(fL)$ is
 55 small. With horizontal velocity scale $U \approx 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (appropriate outside the
 56 equatorial region, see Salyk et al., 2006), scale of horizontal flow variations
 57 $L \approx 2000 \text{ km}$ (Fig. 1a), and Coriolis parameter $f = 2\Omega \sin \theta$ (planetary ro-
 58 tation rate $\Omega = 1.76 \times 10^{-4}$), we have $Ro < 0.2$ outside 4° latitude.
 59 Hence, the flow is geostrophic to leading order. Additionally, variations of
 60 the Coriolis parameter f over the flow scale L are small: with $\theta = a^{-1} \theta_0$
 61 (Jupiter radius a), we have $L \partial f / \partial x < 0.2$ outside 8° latitude. It fol-
 62 lows that outside the equatorial jet (Fig. 1a), the leading-order geostrophic
 63 flow is approximately non-divergent, and vertical advection terms can be ne-
 64 glected in the zonal momentum balance. In a statistically steady state—a
 65 good approximation for Jupiter, as evidenced by the weak zonal-flow varia-
 66 tions between the Voyager and Cassini observations (Porco et al., 2003)—the

67 Eulerian mean zonal momentum equation thus is to leading order

$$f\bar{v} = S - \bar{X}: \quad (2)$$

68 Here,

$$S = \frac{1}{a \cos^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} (\overline{u^{\prime} v^{\prime}} \cos^2 \lambda) \quad (3)$$

69 is the horizontal eddy (angular) momentum flux divergence (zonal velocity u
70 and meridional velocity v). Vertical momentum fluxes do not enter to lead-
71 ing order because the horizontal flow is approximately geostrophic and non-
72 divergent (e.g., Andrews et al., 1987). Zonal accelerations owing to molecular
73 diffusion and/or smaller-scale turbulent Reynolds stresses are subsumed in
74 X . Overbars denote a temporal and zonal mean at constant pressure; primes
75 denote deviations therefrom. If we neglect \bar{X} —molecular diffusion is negli-
76 gible, and there is no evidence smaller-scale turbulent Reynolds stresses are
77 important at leading order in Jupiter’s (or Earth’s) free troposphere—the
78 zonal momentum balance (2) reduces to Eq. (1) in the introduction. Be-
79 cause the mean meridional flow \bar{v} is entirely ageostrophic (the geostrophic
80 meridional flow vanishes in the zonal mean), it is weaker by a factor $O(\text{Ro})$
81 than the approximately geostrophic mean zonal flow \bar{u} . Hence, in midlati-
82 tudes where zonal flow speeds are of order $U \approx 10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ but $\text{Ro} \approx 0.02$, \bar{v}
83 can at most be expected to be $O(0.2 \text{ m s}^{-1})$.

84 The mean meridional flow \bar{v} on Jupiter is too weak for us to be able to
85 infer its meridional structure reliably from observations (Salyk et al., 2006).
86 However, the eddy momentum flux divergence S can be inferred by tracking
87 observed cloud features because it involves covariation between the approx-
88 imately geostrophic, and hence much stronger, eddy velocities u^{\prime} and v^{\prime} .

89 While there are quantitative uncertainties, its qualitative structure is unam-
90 biguous (Salyk et al., 2006): at the level of the visible clouds and hazes in
91 the upper troposphere, eddy momentum fluxes converge in prograde jets and
92 diverge in retrograde jets (Fig. 1b). In Fig. 1b, we used the observed eddy mo-
93 mentum flux divergence S (dashed blue line) to construct the implied mean
94 meridional flow $\bar{v} = S/f$ (orange line). The thus constructed mean merid-
95 ional flow is indeed weak, $O(0.03 \text{ m s}^{-1})$, which accounts for the difficulties of
96 observing it directly. However, it is evident that, as stated in the introduc-
97 tion, the Eulerian mean meridional flow \bar{v} implied by the eddy momentum
98 flux divergence in the upper troposphere converges in zones [$\bar{v} \cos \theta < 0$]
99 and diverges in belts [$\bar{v} \cos \theta > 0$].

100 Upper-tropospheric convergence of the Eulerian mean meridional flow im-
101 plies mean downwelling, and divergence implies mean upwelling in the under-
102 lying lower troposphere because, as on Earth, the mean meridional overturn-
103 ing circulation almost certainly closes not in the upper atmosphere (upper
104 troposphere and above) but at depth. The reasons for this are rooted in the
105 mass and angular momentum balances: Integrated over surfaces of constant
106 mean absolute angular momentum per unit mass, these balances demand
107 that in a statistically steady state, (i) the mean mass circulation closes, and
108 (ii) any angular momentum flux divergence/convergence on a mean angu-
109 lar momentum surface is balanced by drag on a retrograde/prograde zonal
110 flow or by compensating angular momentum flux convergence/divergence
111 somewhere else on the angular momentum surface. Otherwise, the mean dis-
112 tributions of mass and angular momentum would shift, in violation of the
113 statistically steady state assumption (e.g., Haynes et al., 1991; Schneider and

114 Liu, 2009; Liu and Schneider, 2010). If angular momentum fluxes compen-
 115 sating those observed in the upper troposphere occurred at yet higher levels
 116 in the atmosphere, they would have to be accomplished by eddies with veloc-
 117 ities similar to or greater than those seen in the upper troposphere because
 118 of the exponential decrease of density with height. No model has produced
 119 such eddy fluxes, and they have not been observed. Moreover, there is no vi-
 120 able mechanism to dissipate angular momentum in the upper atmosphere by
 121 drag on a zonal flow because the atmosphere cannot exert a torque on outer
 122 space. Therefore, the Eulerian mean mass circulation implied by the ob-
 123 served eddy momentum fluxes almost certainly closes at depth, according to
 124 the principle of “downward control” of atmospheric overturning circulations
 125 (Haynes et al., 1991). At depth, it can close, for example, in a layer of mag-
 126 netohydrodynamic (MHD) drag where the atmosphere becomes electrically
 127 conducting (Liu et al., 2008; Schneider and Liu, 2009; Liu and Schneider,
 128 2010; Liu et al., 2013).

129 The conclusion appears inevitable, then, that to leading order, there
 130 is Eulerian mean downwelling in zones and upwelling in belts in Jupiter’s
 131 lower troposphere. Assuming that the upper branch of the mean meridional
 132 overturning circulation is distributed over a layer with a thickness compa-
 133 rable to or greater than the density scale height H , a rough estimate of
 134 the Eulerian mean vertical velocity below this layer is $\bar{w} = -\frac{1}{H} \text{div } \bar{v}$
 135 $(H=2) @ (\bar{v} \cos \theta) = -(\bar{a} \cos \theta)$. This estimate for $H = 20$ km (appropriate for
 136 Jupiter’s upper troposphere) is shown in Fig. 1d (dashed blue line). The ver-
 137 tical velocity is $O(10^{-4} \text{ m s}^{-1})$ and clearly is negative (downwelling) in zones
 138 and positive (upwelling) in belts. This apparently contradicts the inferences

139 from the structure of clouds and hazes. The contradiction is resolved by
 140 considering an approximately Lagrangian mean flow.

141 2.2. Transformed Eulerian mean flow

142 Andrews and McIntyre (1976, 1978) showed that the Lagrangian mean
 143 flow advecting nearly conserved tracers can be approximated by the trans-
 144 formed Eulerian mean (TEM) flow. In a statistically steady state under
 145 quasigeostrophic scaling (which includes, in addition to the scaling assump-
 146 tions of the previous section, the assumption that the thermal stratification
 147 is stable and relatively constant), the TEM flow has meridional and vertical
 148 components

$$\bar{v} = \bar{v} + \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \overline{v^{\theta \theta}} \quad (4)$$

149 and

$$\bar{t} = \bar{t} + \frac{1}{a \cos \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \overline{v^{\theta \theta}} \cos \theta \quad (5)$$

150 Here, $v^{\theta \theta} = Dp/Dt$ is the vertical velocity in pressure coordinates, and t is
 151 the potential temperature. The terms involving the meridional eddy flux of
 152 potential temperature $\overline{v^{\theta \theta}}$ represent approximately the Stokes drift. Adding
 153 the Stokes drift term on both sides of the Eulerian mean zonal momentum
 154 equation (1) gives the TEM zonal momentum equation,

$$f \bar{v} = S - f \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \overline{v^{\theta \theta}} = \frac{1}{a \cos \theta} r_{\theta} \mathbf{F} \quad (6)$$

155 where we have written the right-hand side in terms of the divergence (r_{θ})
 156 of the Eliassen-Palm flux $\mathbf{F} = (F_{\theta}; F_p)$ in the latitude-pressure plane (Edmon
 157 et al., 1980), with

$$F_{\theta} = \overline{u^{\theta} v^{\theta}} a \cos \theta \quad \text{and} \quad F_p = f \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \overline{v^{\theta \theta}} a \cos \theta \quad (7)$$

158 The Eliassen-Palm flux is, under certain conditions, the flux of pseudo-
 159 momentum (or wave activity), which is conserved by eddies (rather than by
 160 the total flow consisting of eddies and the Eulerian mean); hence, it is con-
 161 venient in reasoning about how eddies interact with the mean flow and lead
 162 to mean transport of tracers (e.g., Andrews, 1987). The Eliassen-Palm flux
 163 is related to the eddy flux of quasigeostrophic potential vorticity,

$$q = \bar{f} + \overline{f' \frac{\partial}{\partial p}}; \quad (8)$$

164 with relative vorticity f , by the Taylor-Bretherton identity (Taylor, 1915;
 165 Bretherton, 1966; Edmon et al., 1980)

$$\frac{1}{a \cos \theta} r_{\rho} \mathbf{F} = \overline{v' q^{\theta}}; \quad (9)$$

166 Combining the relations (6) and (9) gives the well-known result that the TEM
 167 meridional flow is determined by the eddy flux of potential vorticity, which
 168 is conserved in adiabatic and frictionless eddy fluctuations (e.g., Andrews
 169 et al., 1987):

$$fV = \overline{v' q^{\theta}}; \quad (10)$$

170 The TEM vertical flow follows by continuity, $r_{\rho} (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{t}) = 0$. These
 171 relations can be generalized to settings when quasigeostrophic scaling does
 172 not hold or when tracers are not nearly conserved (e.g., Andrews, 1983; Tung,
 173 1986; Andrews et al., 1987; Koh and Plumb, 2004; Schneider, 2005; Plumb
 174 and Ferrari, 2005). However, this is not necessary for a discussion of nearly
 175 conserved tracers in Jupiter’s upper troposphere (above 400 mbar), which
 176 is stably stratified and, for now, is our focus here.

177 The relation (10) allows us to derive a better approximation of the mean
 178 flow advecting tracers such as ammonia in Jupiter’s upper troposphere. Un-

179 fortunately, the potential temperature flux contained in the potential vortic-
 180 ity or Eliassen-Palm flux (7) has not been directly measured. But as a first
 181 scaling estimate, we can assume the quasigeostrophic potential vorticity flux
 182 is downgradient and diffusive,

$$\overline{v'q'} = -D \partial_y \bar{q}; \quad (11)$$

183 where $y = a \cos \theta$ and $D > 0$ is an eddy diffusivity. Unlike diffusive approxima-
 184 tions for quantities such as angular momentum, which is not conserved by
 185 eddies, a diffusive approximation for quasigeostrophic potential vorticity is
 186 justifiable for two reasons (Corrsin, 1974; Rhines and Holland, 1979; Plumb,
 187 1979; Held, 2000): (i) quasigeostrophic potential vorticity is only weakly non-
 188 conserved in the essentially frictionless and nearly adiabatic (rapid compared
 189 with radiative timescales) eddy fluctuations in Jupiter’s upper troposphere;
 190 and (ii) the mean quasigeostrophic potential vorticity primarily varies on
 191 meridional scales that are large compared with eddy length scales (Read
 192 et al., 2006). These two assumptions may not be satisfied accurately ev-
 193 erywhere. For example, the mean quasigeostrophic potential vorticity has
 194 variations on the meridional scale of the zonal jets, which is similar to the
 195 eddy length scale; see below. But the diffusive approximation is a useful
 196 starting point for scaling arguments (e.g., Held, 1999; Held and Schneider,
 197 1999; Schneider, 2004; Schneider and Walker, 2006).

198 We assume the eddy diffusivity D varies at most on scales that are large
 199 compared with meridional flow scales so that the diffusive approximation is
 200 justifiable. Then, the relation (10) with the diffusive closure (11) implies

201 that the TEM meridional flow,

$$\nabla = \frac{D}{f} @_y \bar{q}; \quad (12)$$

202 is strongly poleward where the quasigeostrophic potential vorticity gradient
 203 $@_y \bar{q}$ is strongly positive; it is more weakly poleward or equatorward where $@_y \bar{q}$
 204 is more weakly positive or negative. Now, the quasigeostrophic potential vor-
 205 ticity gradient $@_y \bar{q}$ in Jupiter’s upper troposphere at least above 270 mbar
 206 is dominated by the barotropic component $@_y \bar{q} = @_y \bar{q} + @_y \bar{q}^-$, the gradient of
 207 the absolute vorticity $f + \zeta$; the stretching term only modifies $@_y \bar{q}$ by 10%
 208 (Read et al., 2006). Hence, we ignore the stretching term here, although its
 209 contribution is more likely to be significant at lower levels, where the ther-
 210 mal stratification is close to neutral. The absolute vorticity gradient in the
 211 upper troposphere is locally enhanced in the cores of prograde jets (where
 212 $@_y \bar{q}^- > 0$ because the zonal flow curvature is negative); it is reduced in the
 213 cores of retrograde jets (where $@_y \bar{q}^- < 0$ because the zonal flow curvature
 214 is positive). The planetary vorticity gradient $@_y \bar{q}$ varies only on scales larger
 215 than the meridional jet scales and hence does not contribute substantially
 216 to modulations of the absolute vorticity gradient on the scales of zones and
 217 belts (Fig. 1c). It follows that the TEM meridional flow ∇ can be expected
 218 to be relatively strongly poleward in prograde jets and more weakly poleward
 219 or even equatorward in retrograde jets. This leads to convergence in belts
 220 and divergence in zones. It resembles the ad hoc suggestion by Gierasch
 221 et al. (1986), for a TEM meridional flow that alternates between prograde
 222 and retrograde jets. The distinction between that work and our work is that
 223 the TEM meridional flow we suggest does not need to change sign between
 224 jets but may be predominantly poleward throughout the upper troposphere,

225 only with strength variations between jets.

226 To be concrete, let us assume the diffusivity is constant and can be es-
227 timated from the meridional eddy velocity scale $V \approx 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (Salyk et al.,
228 2006) and the meridional eddy length $L \approx 2000 \text{ km}$, so that $D \approx VL$
229 $\approx 6 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$. Figure 1c shows the TEM meridional flow (orange line) that
230 results when the quasigeostrophic potential vorticity gradient $@_y \bar{q}$ is approxi-
231 mated by the absolute vorticity gradient $@_y(\bar{f} + \bar{\omega})$ (dashed blue line) obtained
232 from the observed zonal flow in Fig. 1a (Salyk et al., 2006). The resulting
233 TEM meridional flow is of order $\bar{v} \approx D / \bar{f} \approx 0.3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ in midlatitudes—an
234 order of magnitude stronger than the Eulerian mean meridional flow. As
235 the absolute vorticity gradient is generally positive, except in some retro-
236 grade jets (Ingersoll et al., 1981; Salyk et al., 2006), the TEM meridional
237 flow likewise is generally poleward. It is clear from Fig. 1c that the TEM
238 meridional flow implied by the diffusive potential vorticity flux closure con-
239 verges in belts [$@(\bar{v} \cos \theta) < 0$] and diverges in zones [$@(\bar{v} \cos \theta) > 0$].
240 Because the TEM mass circulation almost certainly closes at depth for rea-
241 sons analogous to those for the Eulerian mean circulation (with potential
242 vorticity fluxes replacing angular momentum fluxes in the arguments), this
243 suggests that in the underlying lower troposphere, there is TEM downwelling
244 in belts and upwelling in zones. The rough estimate $\bar{w} \approx (H/2) \text{ div } \bar{v}$ of the
245 TEM vertical velocity below the upper branch of the TEM mass circulation
246 is shown in Fig. 1d (orange line). This TEM vertical velocity is of order
247 $O(10^{-3} \text{ m s}^{-1})$ —an order of magnitude stronger than the corresponding Eu-
248 lerian mean vertical velocity.¹ It clearly is positive (upwelling) in zones and

¹This TEM vertical velocity is about an order of magnitude stronger than the TEM

249 negative (downwelling) in belts.

250 Thus, the TEM circulation inferred by the diffusive potential vorticity
251 flux closure is much stronger and has the opposite direction of vertical mo-
252 tion than the Eulerian mean circulation. It is qualitatively consistent with
253 the observed structure of clouds and hazes (Fig. 1d). Based on our scaling
254 arguments, barotropic variations of the quasigeostrophic potential vorticity
255 gradient are responsible for the jet-to-jet variations of potential vorticity
256 fluxes. These meridionally varying potential vorticity fluxes, in turn, are
257 associated with a TEM meridional flow that is more strongly poleward in
258 prograde jets and less strongly poleward or even equatorward in retrograde
259 jets, and so, at deeper levels, drives upwelling in zones and downwelling in
260 belts. While the meridional flow in the Eulerian mean circulation is associ-
261 ated with eddy momentum flux divergence S , or with the barotropic compo-
262 nent of the potential vorticity flux, the much greater strength of the TEM
263 circulation implies that the baroclinic component of the potential vorticity
264 flux, involving the meridional heat flux in Eq. (6), dominates. The baroclinic
265 component of the potential vorticity flux is associated with an eddy mass flux
266 along isentropes (Schneider, 2005; Vallis, 2006, chapter 7.3), which represents
267 a Stokes drift and accomplishes the TEM circulation. Note that there is no
268 contradiction in assuming that the *mean* potential vorticity gradient in the

vertical velocity around 100 mbar estimated from radiative transfer calculations and
observed properties of Jupiter’s upper atmosphere (West et al., 1992; Moreno and Sedano,
1997). There is no contradiction, however, as our estimates apply to the layer of the visible
cloud tops (below 270 mbar), and the TEM vertical velocity can be expected to decrease
upward toward the tropopause (at 100 mbar).

269 upper troposphere is dominated by its barotropic component, whereas the
270 *eddy* flux of potential vorticity is predominantly baroclinic.

271 **3. Demonstration with global circulation model**

272 We demonstrate the validity of the scaling arguments with simulation re-
273 sults from the global circulation model (GCM) of Jupiter’s upper atmosphere
274 that was developed and presented in Young et al. (2019a,b)². The Jupiter
275 GCM is based on the MITgcm (Marshall et al., 1997b,a; Adcroft et al., 2004),
276 with a latitude-longitude grid configuration and a finite-difference dynami-
277 cal core. The GCM has an artificial lower boundary at 18 bar, which is
278 necessary to make it computationally feasible to resolve large-scale eddies
279 in the upper atmosphere while remaining consistent with Jupiter’s observed
280 energetics (Young et al., 2019a). At the lower boundary, a linear drag mim-
281 ics, in a simplified way, the MHD drag on the flow that occurs in Jupiter at
282 much greater depth (Liu et al., 2008, 2013). Additionally, a spatially uniform
283 upwelling heat flux representing Jupiter’s intrinsic heat flux is imposed. A
284 semi-grey radiative transfer scheme, similar to that used in Schneider and
285 Liu (2009), is utilized to represent radiative processes. To improve accuracy
286 in the deepest layers with large optical depths, the radiation scheme uti-
287 lizes an exponential dependence of the Planck function on optical depth for
288 the thermal infrared radiation part. This approach was discussed in Fu and
289 Liou (1993) and Mendonça et al. (2015). The absorbed solar radiative flux
290 is 8.2 W m^{-2} in the global mean, and the imposed intrinsic heat flux at the

²The GCM data used in this work can be found in Young (2018):
10.5287/bodleian:PyYbbxpk2.

291 lower boundary amounts to 5.7 W m^{-2} (Read et al., 2016). The Jupiter GCM
292 also takes into account the effects of latent heat release in condensation of a
293 water vapor tracer, as well as the physical manifestations of dry and moist
294 convection (Zuchowski et al., 2009). To study the layered cloud structures
295 in Jupiter (Zuchowski et al., 2009), the GCM allows the advection of H_2O ,
296 NH_3 , and NH_4SH in gas and liquid form. The GCM uses Jupiter’s planetary
297 radius, rotation rates, and other physical parameters. Further details can be
298 found in Young et al. (2019a,b).

299 The results from the Jupiter GCM were obtained using a horizontal spa-
300 tial resolution of 0.7° , which is necessary to resolve the first baroclinic Rossby
301 radius and to simulate Jupiter’s meteorology (Achterberg and Ingersoll, 1989;
302 Vasavada and Showman, 2005; Read et al., 2006). The simulations were in-
303 tegrated over 130,000–150,000 Earth days. Long-time integration is required
304 due to the slow thermal and dynamical adjustment of the deep atmosphere.

305 The GCM reproduces qualitatively many of the observed features of
306 Jupiter’s flow and temperature structure. For example, in the upper tropo-
307 sphere, it reproduces a prograde equatorial jet and weaker alternating retro-
308 grade and prograde off-equatorial jets (Fig. 2a, contours). Eddy momentum
309 fluxes converge in prograde jets and diverge in retrograde jets (Fig. 2a, col-
310 ors), with S reaching $O(10^{-5} \text{ m s}^{-2})$ in the upper troposphere—as observed on
311 Jupiter (cf. Fig. 1b). As in the simulation, it must also be the case on Jupiter
312 that the strongest eddy momentum flux convergence/divergence is confined
313 to the upper troposphere because otherwise the kinetic energy transfer from
314 eddies to the mean flow would exceed the energy available to drive the flow
315 from the absorbed insolation and intrinsic heat fluxes (Schneider and Liu,

316 2009; Liu and Schneider, 2010). The simulated eddy momentum flux conver-
317 gence and divergence pattern is consistent with baroclinic eddy generation
318 that occurs preferentially in the baroclinically more unstable prograde jets
319 (Schneider and Liu, 2009; Liu and Schneider, 2010, 2011; Young et al., 2019a).
320 Additionally, the GCM reproduces the thermal structure of Jupiter’s upper
321 atmosphere, including a neutrally stratified lower troposphere overlaid by a
322 stably stratified upper troposphere that is capped by a tropopause (Fig. 2b).

323 Thus, while this simulation does not replicate Jupiter’s upper atmosphere
324 exactly, it does reproduce its central dynamical balances as far as they are
325 observed, and it can serve as a testbed to investigate the validity of the
326 theoretical arguments we presented.

327 *3.1. Upper-tropospheric dynamics*

328 The Jupiter GCM produces a cloud band structure that resembles the
329 one observed. Figure 3 shows the concentration of liquid NH_3 in the simu-
330 lation, along with the belts and zones as identified by the relative vorticity
331 field. As observed, higher concentrations of liquid NH_3 occur in zones with
332 anticyclonic meridional shear of the zonal wind, while lower concentrations
333 of liquid NH_3 are found in bands with cyclonic shear (Young et al., 2019b).
334 The two hemispheres have a similar band structure, although they are not
335 completely symmetrical. As observed, prograde jets are located on the equa-
336 torward flanks of the belts and retrograde jets on the poleward flanks. Each
337 zonal structure is defined by its edges, which are located in regions where
338 the vorticity changes sign (Figure 3). In these regions, there is a barrier
339 to irreversible transport (Dritschel and McIntyre, 2008; Nikurashin et al.,
340 2013). The transport barrier is not completely impermeable, and its per-

341 meability is reduced by wave erosion at all scales. The more clearly defined
342 zonal structures of Jupiter’s observed clouds indicate a reduced permeabil-
343 ity across zonal jets compared with the model, possibly as a result of overly
344 diffusive dynamics of the underresolved simulation.

345 Interestingly, as shown in Young et al. (2019b), the Jupiter simulations
346 used here also produce an equatorial plume of NH_3 vapor similar to the one
347 observed by Juno (Li et al., 2017). However, as explained in Young et al.
348 (2019b), as the simulation progresses, more vapor is lifted in the tropical
349 regions and spreads to higher latitudes due to turbulent mixing. In mid-
350 latitudes, meridional circulation cells also slowly lift NH_3 vapor from the
351 model’s deeper layers, broadening the initial NH_3 plume latitudinally. The
352 initial narrow equatorial plume produced in the simulation is a transient
353 phenomenon that emphasises the role of the upwelling in the equatorial region
354 (Young et al., 2019b).

355 *3.1.1. Mean meridional circulation*

356 To determine the validity of our theoretical arguments in the previous
357 section, we plotted the meridional and vertical components of the Eulerian
358 and transformed Eulerian mean circulations in Fig. 4. To make it com-
359 patible with the observations, the values plotted correspond to the upper
360 cloud region in the GCM simulations (Fig. 3), above the weakly stratified
361 region (Fig. 2b). The results correspond to a pressure level of approximately
362 200 mbar.³ The Eulerian mean meridional flow (black lines) exhibits a simi-

³Note that the simulated atmosphere’s weak static stability compromises the TEM flow’s accuracy for depths greater than 300 mbar. At the 300 mbar pressure level, the

363 lar pattern to that inferred from observations in Fig. 1: convergence in zones
364 and divergence in belts. By contrast, and in agreement with the theoretical
365 arguments presented earlier, the TEM meridional flow (red line) generally
366 exhibits convergence in belts and divergence in zones. However, the TEM
367 meridional flow is of similar magnitude as the Eulerian mean flow component,
368 unlike what we inferred from observations (Fig. 1b). The main differences
369 between the simulations and observations lie in the magnitude of the merid-
370 ional eddy velocity and the horizontal eddy momentum flux divergence S .
371 The meridional eddy velocity has a magnitude in the simulations of around
372 1 m s^{-1} , which is a factor of 3 smaller than our estimates based on the
373 observations by Salyk et al. (2006). Observations also show a stronger eddy
374 momentum flux divergence compared with the simulations at the 200-mbar
375 pressure level. Fig. 2a shows a decrease in the horizontal eddy momentum
376 flux divergence as the altitude increases from around the 400-mbar pressure
377 level. However, the TEM flow is not computed for pressure levels deeper than
378 200 mbar because of the low static stability at deeper levels. Nonetheless, the
379 results emphasize the importance of the horizontal eddy momentum flux di-
380 vergence and meridional eddy velocity in interpreting TEM flow components,
381 which is consistent between simulations and observations.

382 For the TEM vertical flow, it is important to highlight that the GCM sim-
383 ulations show, on average, a pattern that aligns with the scaling arguments
384 from the previous section. Our results help to resolve the inconsistency in the
385 contrasts of belt-zone vertical motions and cloud structure (Fletcher et al.,

impact of static stability on TEM flow becomes evident as V^* increases rapidly towards higher latitudes, where static stability decreases quasi-monotonically with latitude.

2020). The pattern of the TEM vertical flow is consistent with the convergence and divergence regions of the TEM meridional flow, with enhanced upwelling in zones (Fig. 4). The consistency with the scaling arguments and observations is stronger at the center of the bands. However, it becomes more complex near the band’s edges, which show larger vertical wind shears. These wind shears might contribute to turbulent mixing between different band structures. This mixing is more pronounced in the simulations than in the observations, resulting in less confined belts/zones in the simulations compared to the observations. The magnitudes of the vertical flow in the TEM and Eulerian mean are similar in the simulation but weaker than the values inferred from observations. Such a trend is also seen in the meridional direction analysis, as described above.

4. Conclusions

The angular momentum balance provides powerful constraints based on already available observations. In this work, we used fundamental principles of the angular momentum balance, together with simple diffusive closures for potential vorticity fluxes, to physically constrain the atmospheric circulation in Jupiter’s troposphere and reasoned how it extends to deeper levels. We resolved the apparent contradiction between the contrasts of belts and zones and vertical motion in Jupiter’s troposphere by considering the transformed Eulerian mean (TEM) circulation to represent the Lagrangian mean transport of tracers. We take into account the contribution from turbulent eddies to the tracer transport that represents the Stokes drift in the upper cloud region, where static stability is larger compared to the lower troposphere and

410 away from the equator (latitudes between 10 and 60 degrees in both hemi-
411 spheres). Based on the zonal momentum balance with diffusive closures for
412 potential vorticity fluxes, our scaling arguments show TEM upward verti-
413 cal motion in zones and downward motion in belts, resolving the apparent
414 contradiction with the Eulerian mean flow found in observations.

415 The observed circulation is generated from the top down of the atmo-
416 sphere in a “downward control” fashion, as also happens on Earth (Haynes
417 et al., 1991). In Jupiter, the circulation is driven by eddy fluxes generated in
418 the upper troposphere and closed in the deep atmosphere, likely in an Ekman
419 layer with magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) drag. Our proposed circulation in
420 Jupiter is consistent with the deep jet stream distribution inferred from Juno
421 spacecraft observations (e.g., Kaspi et al., 2018). While we need to displace
422 the MHD drag layer to shallower levels in the GCM for computational reasons
423 (making it deeper leads to exponentially longer equilibration times), doing
424 so still leads to a physically consistent closure of the circulation, with the
425 Eulerian circulation extending downward along surfaces of constant specific
426 angular momentum.

427 The impact of our results on explaining the global distribution of ammo-
428 nia (NH_3) across Jupiter’s troposphere still needs further investigation. To
429 gain a comprehensive understanding of the distribution of ammonia (NH_3)
430 in Jupiter’s atmosphere, it is necessary to consider the impact of various
431 physical processes, such as dynamical transport, sources (chemical products,
432 evaporation of precipitates), and sinks (photochemical destruction, conden-
433 sation). Observations from Juno (e.g., Li et al., 2017) show a plume of NH_3
434 in the tropics adjacent to bands of NH_3 -poor air that appears to be sinking.

435 From the maps of the NH_3 mass distribution, Ingersoll et al. (2017) argue
436 that there is a net upward transport of ammonia in Jupiter that needs to be
437 resolved since there is no NH_3 rain or chemical reactions to close the NH_3
438 budget. Ingersoll et al. (2017) estimate that spherical NH_3 droplets with
439 diameters 1-5 mm evaporate before reaching pressures deeper than 1-1.5 bar.
440 Juno’s microwave radiometer experiment (MWR) observed a change in mi-
441 crowave brightness gradient with depth. In Fletcher et al. (2021), it was
442 found that belts change from being depleted to being enriched in NH_3 as
443 a function of pressure. Levels with pressure values lower than 5 bar are
444 depleted in NH_3 while levels with pressure values higher than 10 bar are en-
445 riched in NH_3 . It has been suggested that a multi-tier circulation (Ingersoll
446 et al., 2000; Showman and de Pater, 2005) may account for this observation,
447 and also for the preferred lightning formation within the belts (Little et al.,
448 1999; Gierasch et al., 2000; Porco et al., 2003). However, no physical mech-
449 anism has yet been proposed to close the circulation near cloud tops, which
450 requires a change in the eddy momentum flux divergence that violates wave
451 activity conservation. Also, like in Earth’s extratropics, thunderstorms can
452 occur occasionally in areas where air is sinking in the mean.

453 Our proposed TEM circulation with enhanced divergence in zones and
454 convergence, or reduced divergence, in belts, offers an explanation for the
455 observations from Voyager IRIS (Carlson et al., 1994), which found that
456 belts are warmer than zones. Above the cloud layer, the warmer zones imply
457 a change in the temperature gradient in the upper troposphere (Fletcher
458 et al., 2020; Simon-Miller et al., 2006). From the thermal wind equation off
459 the equator, we expect the zonal jets to weaken with altitude through the

460 upper troposphere, creating a vertical shear, which is consistent with the
461 atmospheric structure we propose.

462 Our proposed theoretical arguments have been validated through 3D
463 GCM simulations of Jupiter. These simulations qualitatively capture the
464 main dynamical properties in Jupiter’s troposphere. Similar to what is seen
465 in observations, regions with higher concentrations of liquid ammonia (zones)
466 experience upward vertical motion, while regions with lower concentrations
467 of liquid ammonia (belts) experience downward vertical motion.

468 The circulation proposed in this study aligns with previous works by
469 Schneider and Liu (2009) and Liu and Schneider (2010), emphasizing the
470 importance of using complex 3D models to interpret observational data and
471 robust physical arguments that, in particular, close the angular momentum
472 balance to understand Jupiter’s atmospheric circulation.

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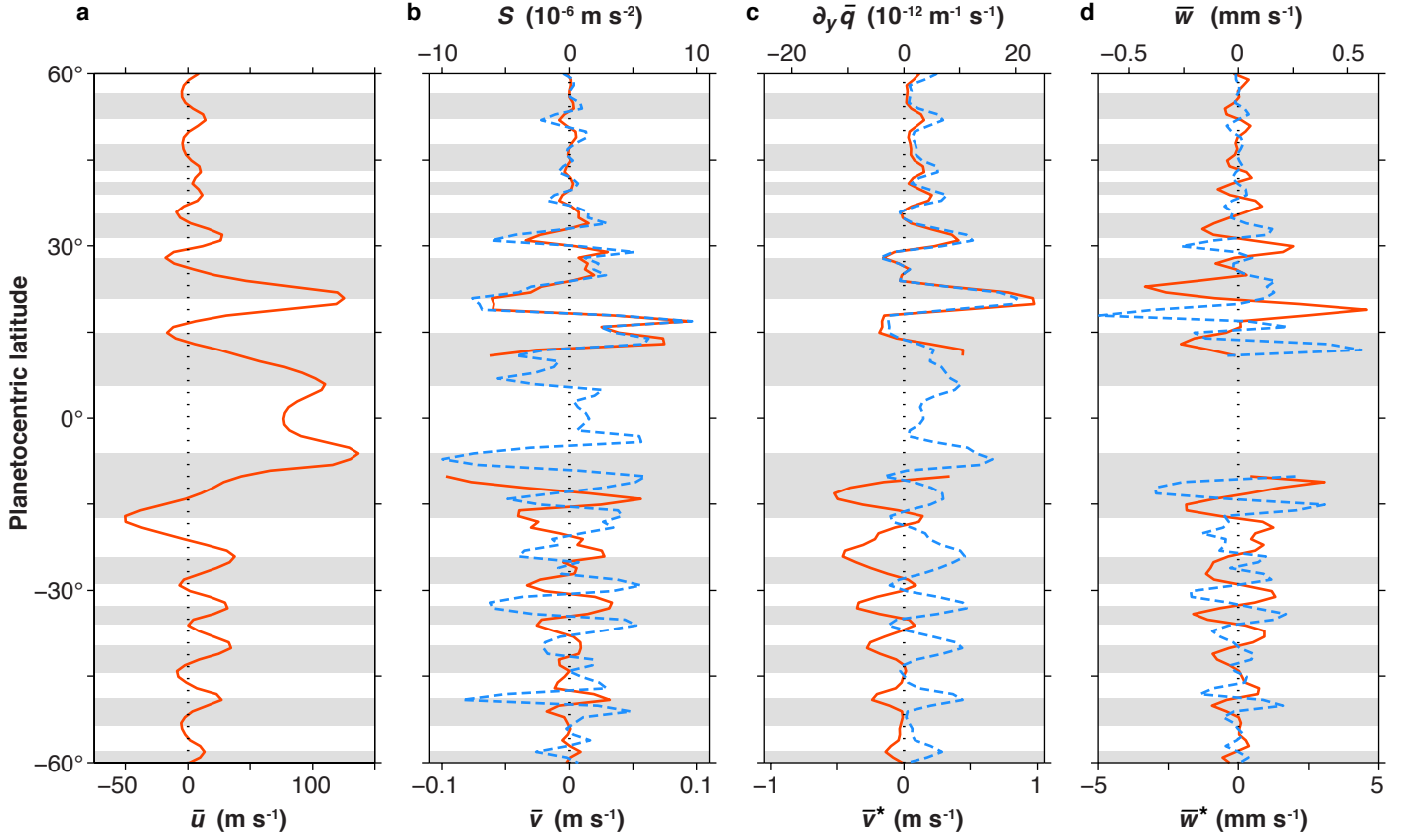


Figure 1: Zonal, meridional, and vertical velocities in Jupiter’s upper troposphere. (a) Mean zonal velocity inferred from Cassini observations. (b) Eulerian mean meridional velocity (orange, lower axis) estimated as $\bar{v} = S/f$ from the eddy momentum flux divergence S (dashed blue, upper axis) inferred from Cassini observations. (c) Transformed Eulerian mean meridional velocity (orange, lower axis) estimated as $\bar{v}^* = (D=f)@_y \bar{q}$ ($D = 6 \times 10^6 \text{ m s}^{-2}$) from the approximate potential vorticity gradient $@_y \bar{q} = @_y (f + \bar{\omega})$ (dashed blue, upper axis) implied by the zonal velocity in (a). (d) Eulerian mean (blue dashed, upper axis) and transformed Eulerian mean (orange, lower axis) vertical velocities estimated as $(\bar{w}; \bar{w}^*) = (H=2) \text{div}(\bar{v}; \bar{v}^*)$. Estimated velocities are not shown within $\pm 10^\circ$ latitude, where the underlying approximations become inaccurate. Grey-shaded regions mark belts (cyclonic shear zones), in which the structure of clouds and hazes indicates downwelling; white regions mark zones, in which the structure of clouds and hazes indicates upwelling. The observed mean zonal velocity and eddy momentum fluxes are from Salyk et al. (2006).

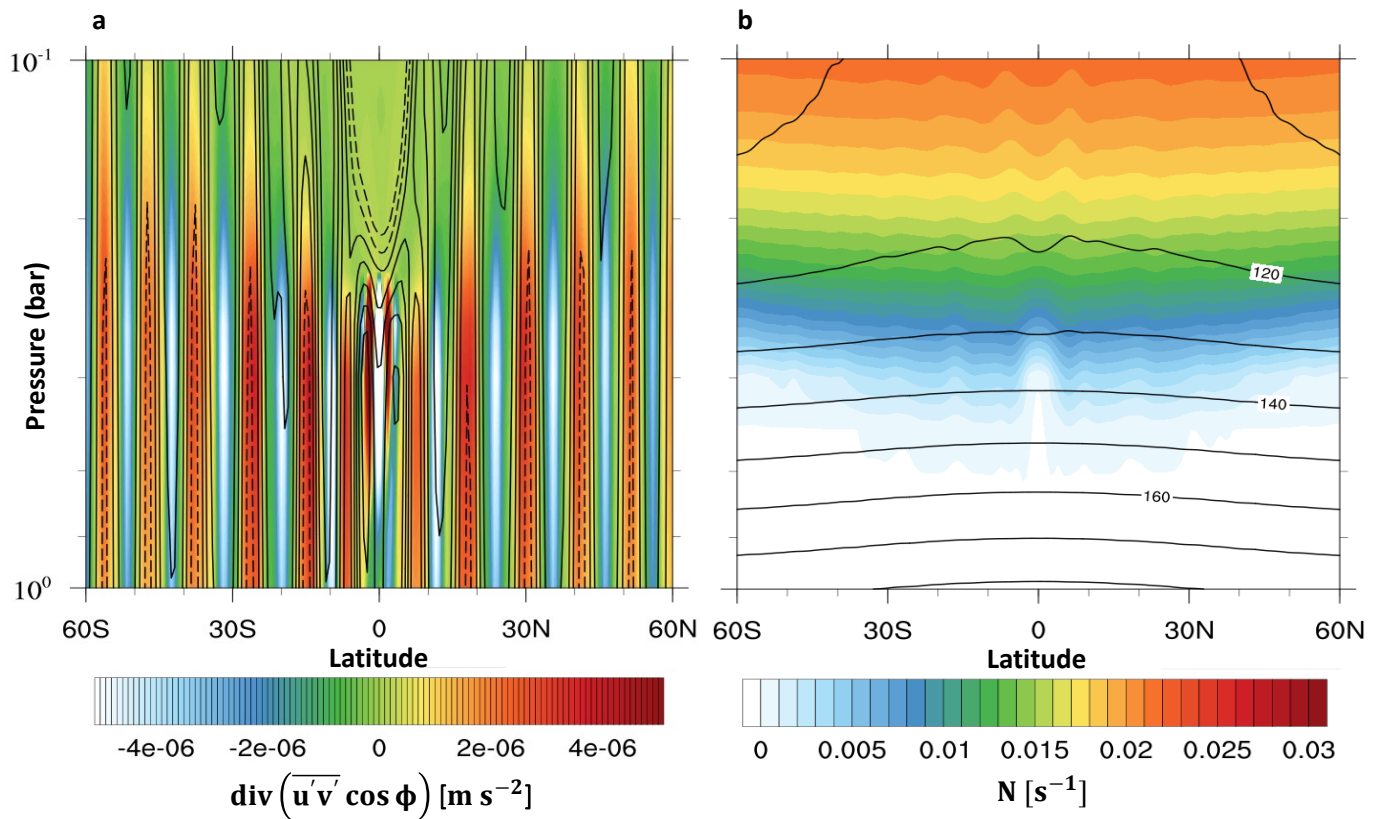


Figure 2: Mean flow fields in the latitude-pressure plane in the upper atmosphere of the simulation above 1 bar from Young et al. (2019a,b). (a) Zonal velocity (line contours) and horizontal eddy momentum flux divergence S (colours). The line contours represent zonal velocities between 8 and 28 m s^{-1} , with a contour interval of 5 m s^{-1} . Solid contours are for prograde flow, and dashed contours are for retrograde flow. (b) Temperature (contours, contour interval 10 K) and buoyancy frequency N (colours).

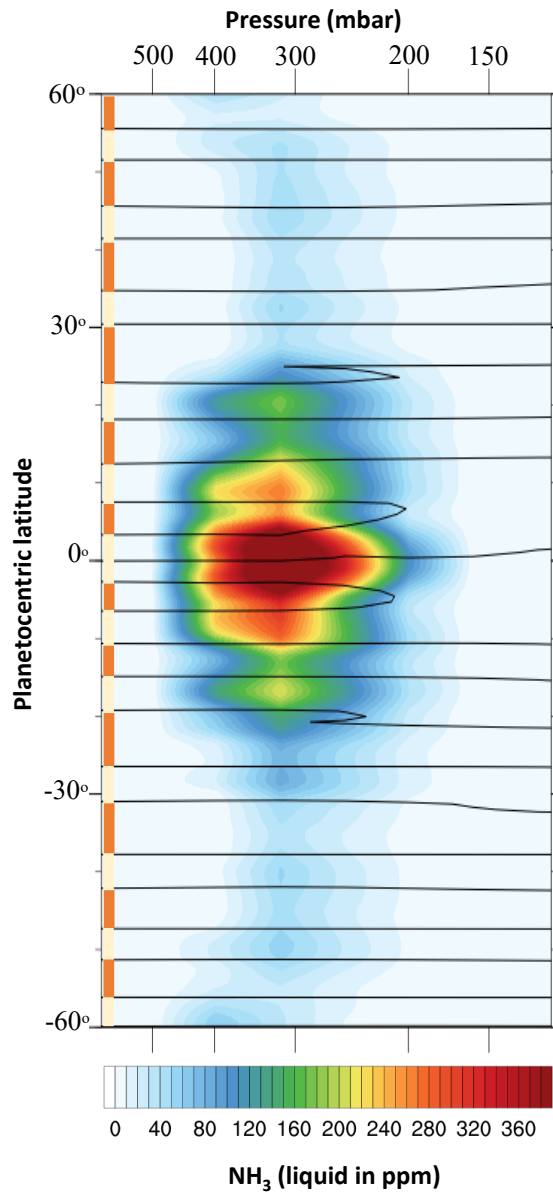


Figure 3: Latitude-pressure contour map representing the mass mixing ratio of liquid NH_3 in Jupiter's upper troposphere Young et al. (2019a,b). The GCM generates distinct zonal band patterns, which are closely linked to the pattern of the zonal winds. Belts are bands with low cloud density and cyclonic vorticity, while zones have higher cloud density and anticyclonic vorticity. The solid lines represent regions where the vorticity changes sign and the edges of the zonal band patterns. On the latitude axis, the thick orange lines represent the latitudinal extent of the belts (cyclonic shear zones), as in Fig. 1, and the thick white lines represent the zones (anticyclonic shear zones).

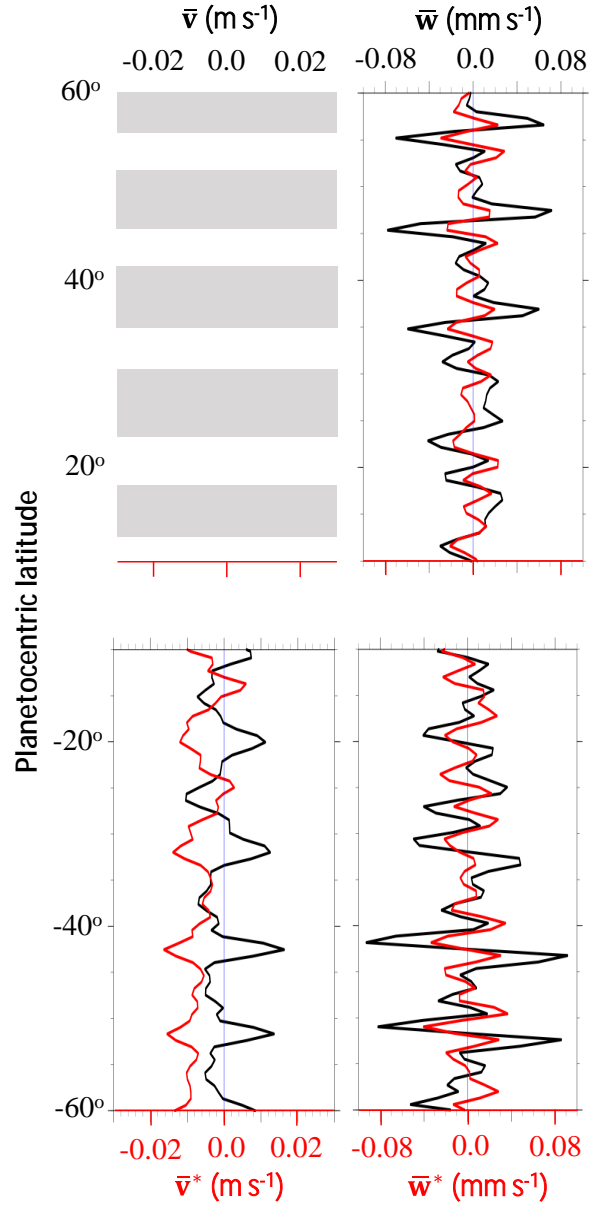


Figure 4: Simulated meridional and vertical velocities at Jupiter’s NH_3 as a function of latitude (degrees) at 200 mbar. Grey-shaded regions mark belts (cyclonic shear zones), as in Fig. 1. The two left panels show the Eulerian mean meridional velocity (black line) and the transformed Eulerian mean meridional velocity (red line). Both meridional velocities are in units of m s^{-1} . The two right panels show the Eulerian mean vertical velocity (black line) and the transformed Eulerian mean vertical velocity (red line). Note that the vertical velocities in the GCM are in Pa s^{-1} and were converted to mm s^{-1} using the hydrostatic relation.