Topographic radiation by a steady flow



Bottom two panels. The same as above, but in the long wave limit (Uk < N)with m = 1. The pressure is high on the windward side of the topography, and phase lines tilt upstream with height for both pressure and streamfunction.



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Topographic radiation by geostrophic flows

$$E = \frac{\rho_{ref}}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\hat{h}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \frac{\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}}{|\mathbf{k}|} \sqrt{\mathbf{N}^2 - |\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}|^2} \sqrt{|\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}|^2 - \mathbf{f}^2} \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{k} \mathrm{d}\mathbf{k}$$

Topographic roughness [m]





Bottom stratification estimated using the WOCE hydrographic atlas [Log₁₀ (s⁻¹)] Bottom kinetic energy obtained from an ocean model [Log₁₀ (m²s⁻²)]





Topographic steepness parameter (degree of nonlinearity in log scale)

Topographic radiation by geostrophic flows

$$E = \frac{\rho_{ref}}{4\pi^2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\hat{h}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \frac{\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}}{|\mathbf{k}|} \sqrt{\mathbf{N}^2 - |\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}|^2} \sqrt{|\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}|^2 - \mathbf{f}^2} \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{k} \mathrm{d}\mathbf{k}$$

Energy flux into internal lee waves in [Log₁₀ (mW s⁻²)]



Topographic radiation by tidal flows

$$E = \frac{\rho_{ref}}{8\pi^2} N \sqrt{1 - \frac{f^2}{\omega^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{|\mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{k}|^2}{|\mathbf{k}|^2} |\hat{h}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \, \mathrm{d}\mathbf{k} \mathrm{d}\mathbf{l}$$

Energy flux into internal tidal waves in [Log₁₀ (mW s⁻²)]



Brazil Basin Experiment



Jim Ledwell and WHOI Microstructure Group

Brazil Basin Topography

 $1/m \gg h$ $k/m \gg hk = slope$ \Rightarrow



St Laurent and Garret, 2002

Brazil Basin Topography

Radiation is dominated by low modes



St Laurent and Garret, 2002

Topographic radiation by tidal flows

