

Compute relative vorticity using Green's Theorem

$$\zeta = - \left[\frac{\partial(a \cos \delta)}{\partial \delta} + \frac{\partial(b \cos \epsilon)}{\partial \epsilon} + \frac{\partial(c \cos \phi)}{\partial \phi} \right] / R. \quad (1)$$

The unit vector in the direction of δ is $\nabla \delta / |\nabla \delta| = \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{U}$. For a grid cell on Face 1 of the CS grid, the outgoing perpendicular unit vectors for the right and left edges are \mathbf{V} and $-\mathbf{V}$, and for the top and bottom edges are $-\mathbf{U}$ and \mathbf{U} . By Green's Theorem, the integral of $\partial(a \cos \delta) / \partial(R\delta)$ over the area of the grid cell equals the line integral of $(a \cos \delta)$ multiplied by $\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{U}$ dotted with normal edge unit vector. Thus, the summation of all terms for the right edge line integral is

$$\begin{aligned} L(\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{V} a \cos \delta + \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} b \cos \epsilon + \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{V} c \cos \phi) = \\ = L(\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{V} a \cos \delta + \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{V} c \cos \phi) = L(a \cos \nu - c \sin \nu) = L\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where L is the arc length of the edge. For the bottom edge

$$\begin{aligned} L(\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{U} \cdot \mathbf{U} a \cos \delta + \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{U} b \cos \epsilon + \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{U} c \cos \phi) = \\ = L(\mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{U} b \cos \epsilon + \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{U} c \cos \phi) = L(-b \sin \mu + c \cos \mu) = L\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{U}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$\zeta = -[(L\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V})_{RIGHT} - (L\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V})_{LEFT} - (L\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{U})_{TOP} + (L\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{U})_{BOTTOM}] / K \quad (4)$$

where K is the grid cell area. If \mathbf{A} , \mathbf{U} , \mathbf{V} , \mathbf{W} and \mathbf{S} are all perpendicular to \mathbf{P} , then $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{V} = -\mathbf{A} \times \mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{V} = -\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{V}$, and

$$\zeta = [(L\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{V})_{RIGHT} - (L\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{V})_{LEFT} - (L\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{U})_{TOP} + (L\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{U})_{BOTTOM}] / K \quad (5)$$

which is a well known formula for the computation of ζ using Green's Theorem. A similar formula is valid for spherical polygons, not just quadrilaterals.