

# Table of contents

<b>Prologue</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1. The atmosphere at rest</b> .....	<b>5</b>
1. Structure of the atmosphere .....	7
2. Composition of the atmosphere .....	12
3. Propagation of waves in the atmosphere .....	19
3.1. Sound .....	19
3.2. Light .....	20
4. Heat exchange through the atmosphere .....	25
Conclusion .....	30
<b>2. The atmosphere in movement</b> .....	<b>33</b>
1. Large-scale circulation within the atmosphere .....	35
1.1. The trade winds, the HADLEY cell, and the subtropical jet stream .....	35
1.2. Polar cells, FERREL cell, and the polar jet stream .....	41
2. Low-pressure zones and cyclones .....	43
2.1. Formation and direction of rotation of atmospheric low-pressure zones .....	43
2.2. Quasi-two-dimensional structure of low-pressure zones .....	51
2.3. Trajectory and energy of depressions .....	56
3. Periodic phenomena in the atmosphere .....	60
3.1. Monsoons .....	60
3.2. The WALKER cell .....	62
3.3. Thermal winds, katabatic winds, and anabatic winds .....	62
3.4. Dappled skies and lee waves .....	66
Conclusion .....	68
<b>3. The vagaries of the atmosphere</b> .....	<b>69</b>
1. Birth and evolution of thunderstorms and tornados .....	71
1.1. Dynamics of thunderstorm formation .....	71
1.2. Tornado formation .....	74
2. Sonic and luminal signatures of thunderstorms .....	80
2.1. Lightning .....	80
2.2. Thunder .....	85
2.3. The lights of the upper atmosphere .....	86
2.4. Rainbows .....	88

3. The various precipitations . . . . .	91
4. How are weather forecasts produced? . . . . .	95
Conclusion. . . . .	98
<b>4. Heavier than air, how can they fly? . . . . .</b>	<b>99</b>
1. Lift and drag. . . . .	101
1.1. Lift explained by pressure forces . . . . .	101
1.2. Formation of vortices around a wing in flight. . . . .	104
2. Why are airplanes so noisy? . . . . .	110
3. Shock wave and sound barrier . . . . .	113
Conclusion. . . . .	116
<b>5. The tranquil sea . . . . .</b>	<b>117</b>
1. The sea at rest . . . . .	119
1.1. A first panoramic glimpse . . . . .	119
1.2. Pressure, temperature, and salinity of seawater . . . . .	122
1.3. The sea is neither flat nor round . . . . .	126
2. Sound and light in seawater . . . . .	129
3. The remarkable stability of ships. . . . .	131
4. Global circulation in the oceans . . . . .	134
Conclusion. . . . .	139
<b>6. The sea that we see dancing . . . . .</b>	<b>141</b>
1. The tides. . . . .	143
2. The <i>El Niño</i> phenomenon . . . . .	148
3. Swells and waves . . . . .	151
3.1. How and why do waves propagate? . . . . .	151
3.2. The surprising variety of waves . . . . .	155
3.3. Ripples and convective instabilities under ice floe. . . . .	161
Conclusion. . . . .	163
<b>7. Rivers and streams . . . . .</b>	<b>165</b>
1. The main properties of the great rivers . . . . .	167
1.1. Length, depth, and speed distribution . . . . .	167
1.2. Uniform regime . . . . .	169
1.3. Nonuniform regimes . . . . .	171
2. Curves and meanders . . . . .	177
3. Waterfalls and cascades . . . . .	180
Conclusion. . . . .	181

**8. Lakes, dams, and major works . . . . . 183**

1. From marshes to hydroelectric reservoirs . . . . . 185

2. Large dams: stability and conforming to site . . . . . 190

3. Management of large rivers . . . . . 195

4. General structure of a hydroelectric facility . . . . . 198

    4.1. High-hydraulic head in mountainous regions . . . . . 198

    4.2. Medium hydraulic head . . . . . 201

    4.3. Facilities with small hydraulic heads . . . . . 202

    4.4. Other types of facilities . . . . . 204

5. Large port facilities . . . . . 204

Conclusion . . . . . 207

**Epilogue . . . . . 209**

1. What worries, and on what are they based? . . . . . 211

    1.1. Air pollution . . . . . 212

    1.2. Marine pollution . . . . . 214

    1.3. Freshwater resources . . . . . 215

2. To conclude our journey . . . . . 216

**Appendix - Instabilities and turbulence . . . . . 219**

1. Sudden appearance of movement . . . . . 221

    1.1. RAYLEIGH-BÉNARD instability . . . . . 221

    1.2. RAYLEIGH-TAYLOR instability . . . . . 225

2. Sheared interfaces: the KELVIN-HELMHOLTZ instability . . . . . 227

3. Other common vortex structures . . . . . 230

4. Transition toward turbulence . . . . . 233

    4.1. Appearance of turbulence in unconfined flows . . . . . 233

    4.2. Transition toward turbulence in duct flows . . . . . 235

    4.3. Other ways to generate turbulence . . . . . 236

5. Fully developed turbulence . . . . . 237

    5.1. Turbulence in the most common flows . . . . . 237

    5.2. Large-scale atmospheric turbulence . . . . . 238

    5.3. Inverse energy cascade in two-dimensional turbulence . . . . . 241

Conclusion . . . . . 243

**Glossary . . . . . 245**

**Index . . . . . 263**