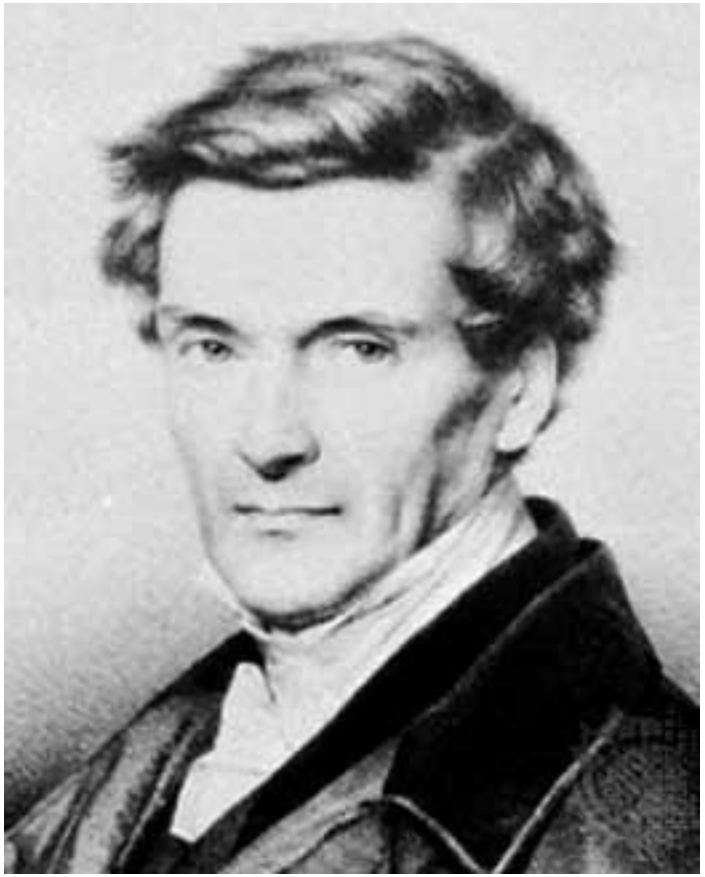
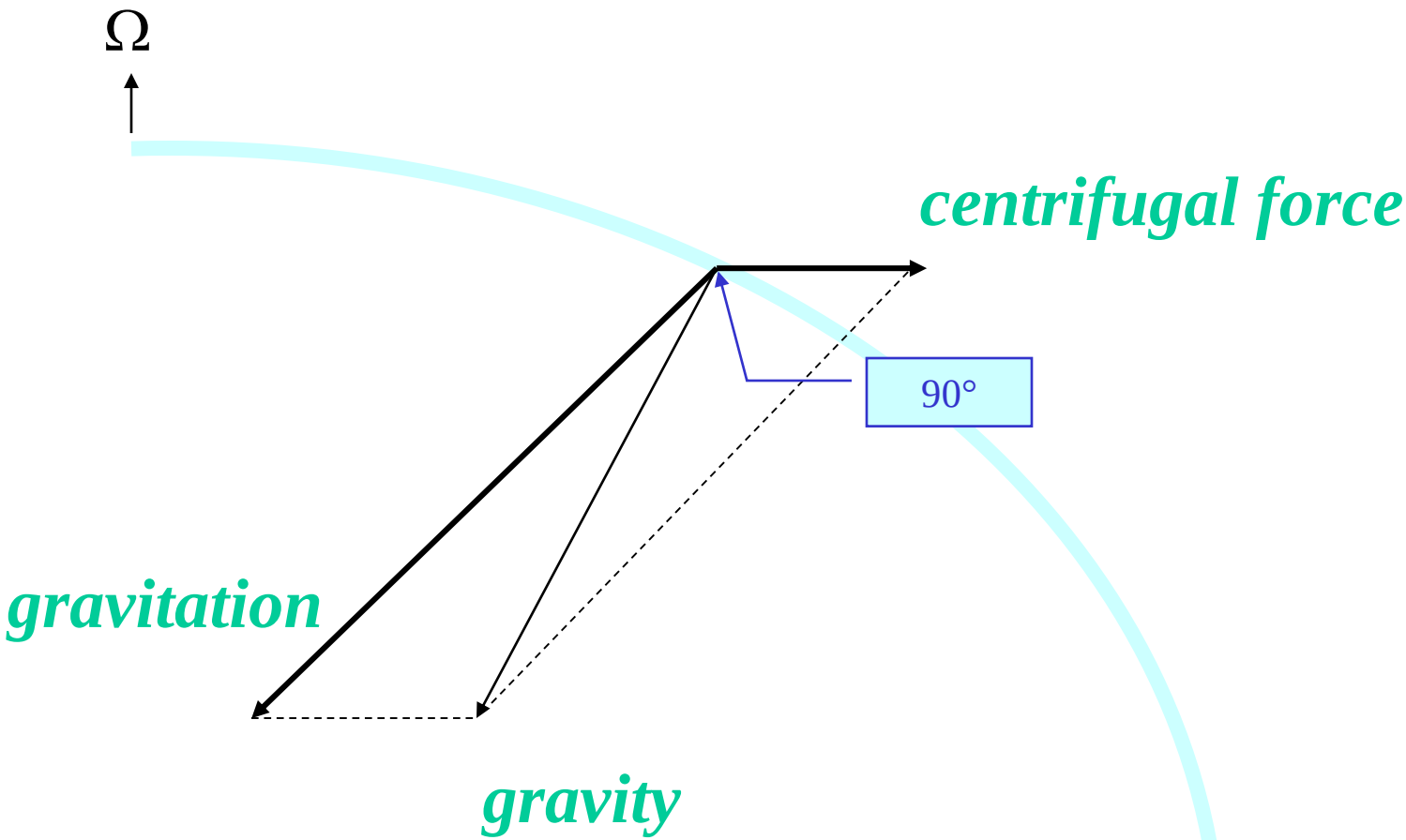
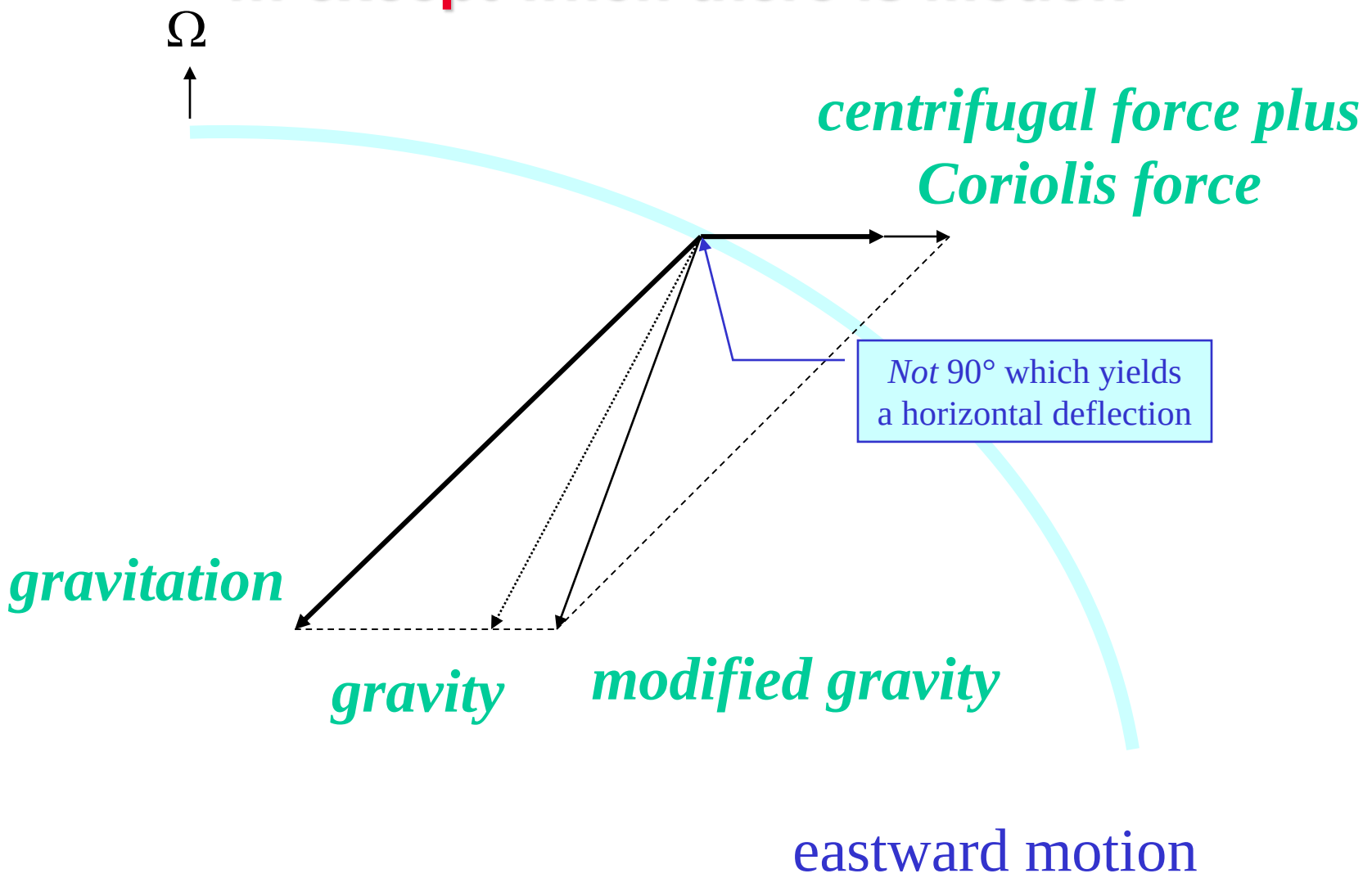
Gaspard Gustave Coriolis 1784-1843

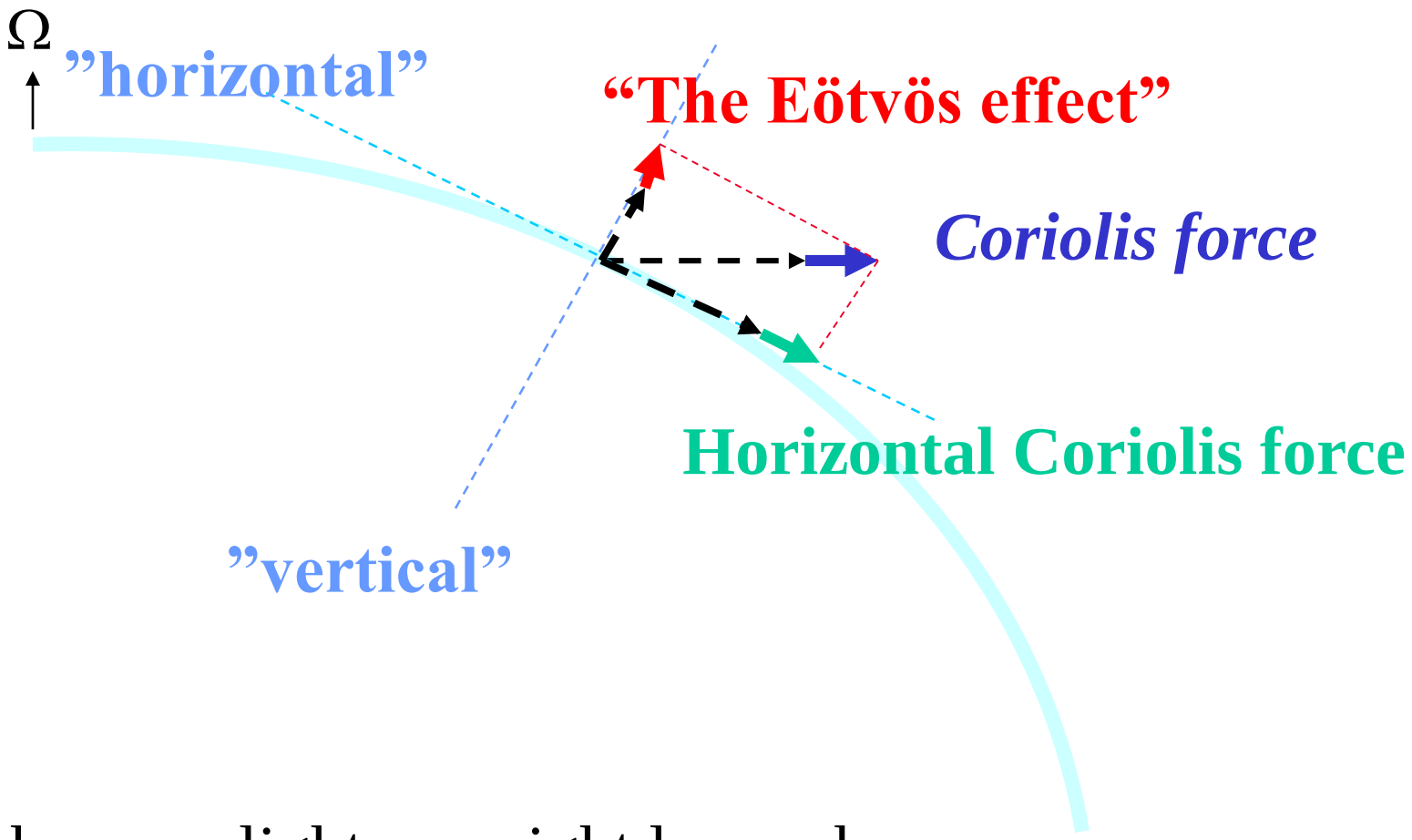




Any stationary body on the earth's surface (rotating oblate spheriod) remains stationary because effective gravity points perpendicular to the surface

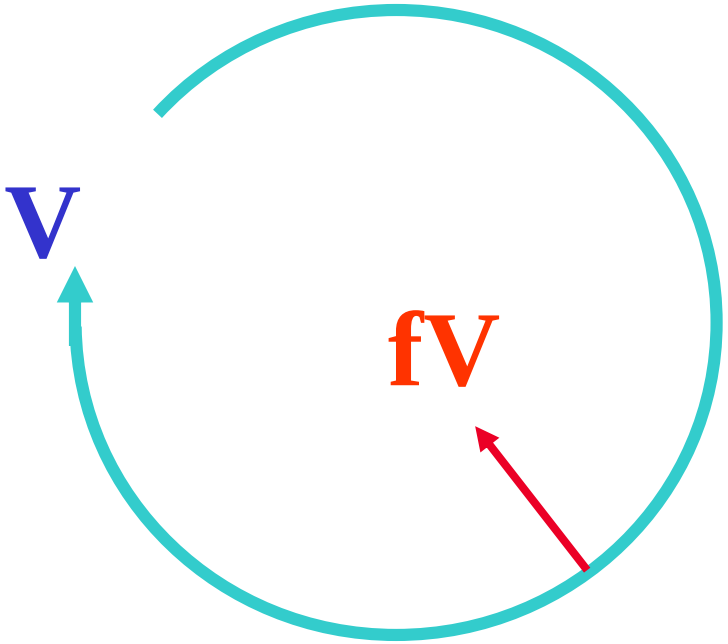
… except when there is motion





We become lighter, weight less, when we move eastward, heavier when we move westward

The “inertia circle” motion



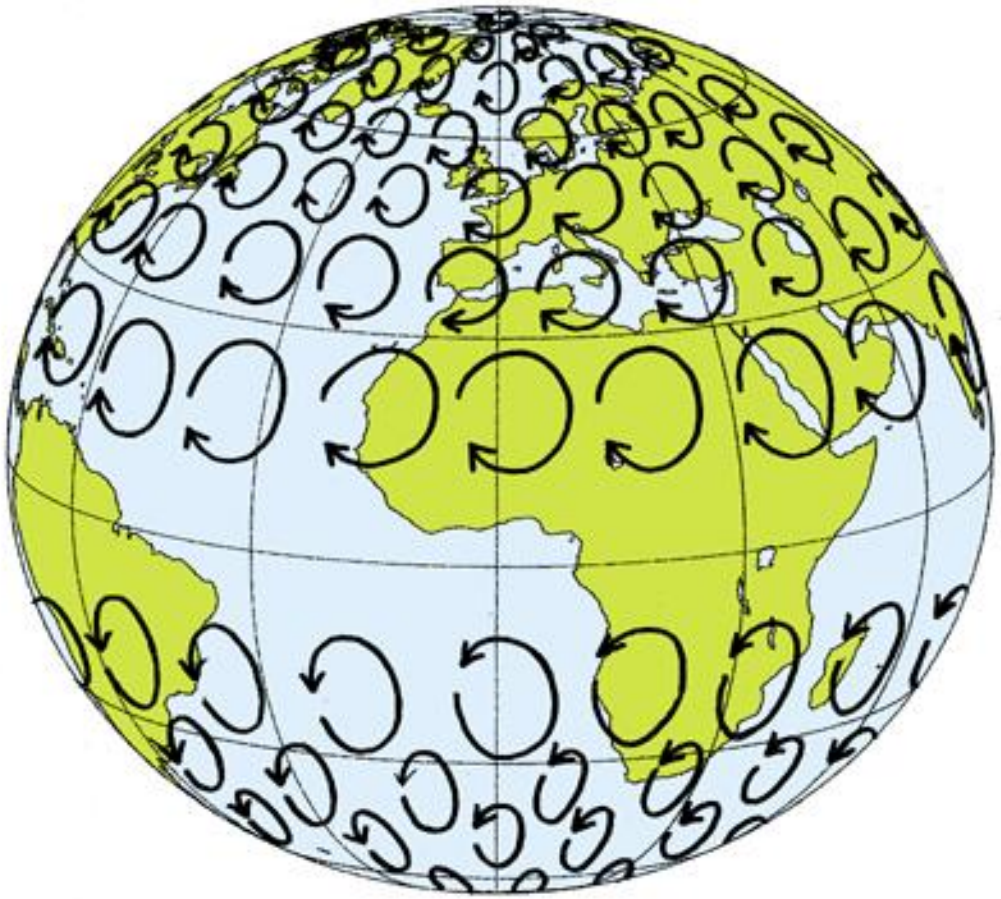
Coriolis parameter:
$f = 2\Omega \sin\Phi$

radius of the inertia circle:
$R = V/f$

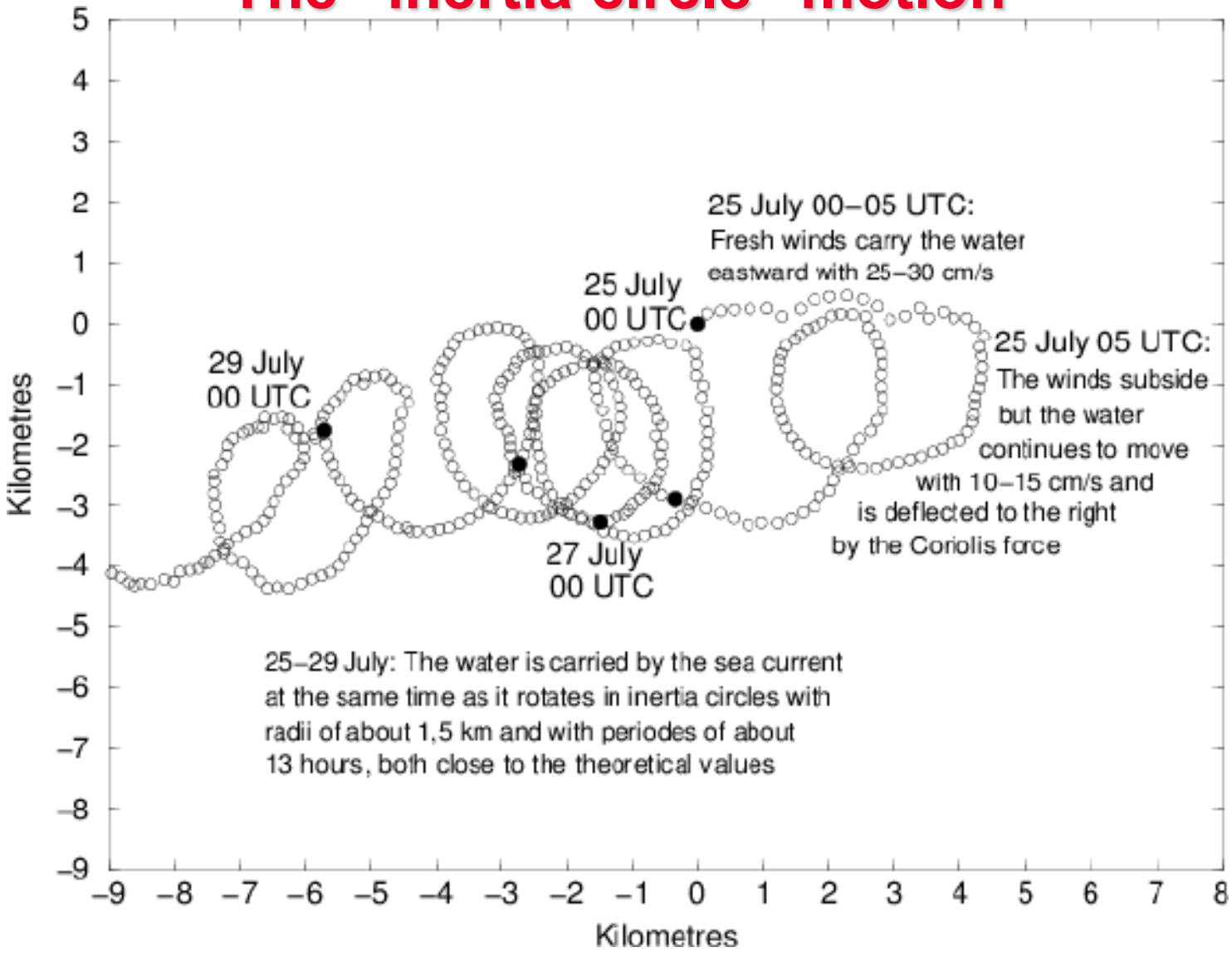
period:
$\tau = 2\pi/f$

(60°N, V=10 m/s, R=80 km, τ=14 h)

Northern Hemisphere: anticyclonic (clockwise) circles
Southern Hemisphere: anticyclonic (anticlockwise) circles



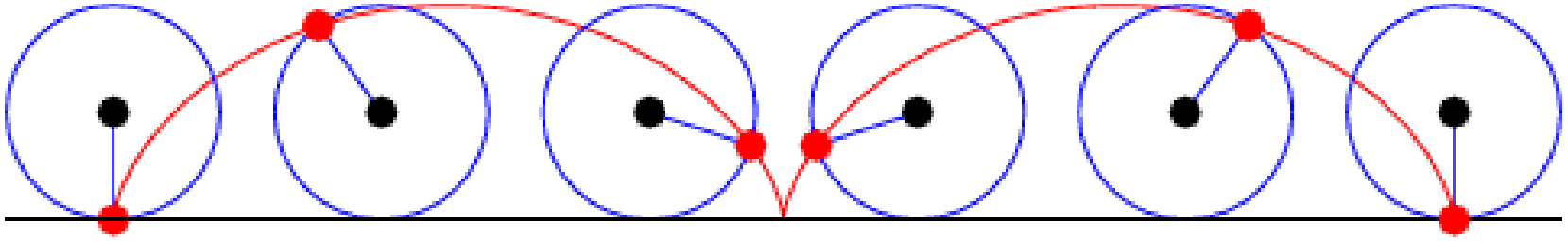
The “inertia circle” motion



We rarely see inertia circles in the atmosphere

But they are there, disguised in cycloid shapes

translation + rotation = cycloids



The cycloid shaped jetstreams