

Conversion from pressure to depth

$$p = -\rho_0 g z$$

$$g = 10 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$$

$$\rho_0 = 1000 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$$

$$1 \text{ Pa} = 1 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{m}^2} = 10 \frac{\text{dynes}}{\text{cm}^2}$$

$$1 \text{ N} = 1 \frac{\text{kg m}}{\text{s}^2}$$

$$1 \text{ bar} = 10^5 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{m}^2} = 10^6 \frac{\text{dynes}}{\text{cm}^2}$$

$$1 \text{ mb} = 100 \text{ Pa} = 1 \text{ hPa}$$

The expansion coefficient for the equation of state were derived for pressure in bar.

Therefore,

$$-z = \frac{p}{\rho_0 g} = \frac{10^5 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{s}^2 \text{m}}}{1000 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \cdot 10 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}} = 10 p$$

If it is assumed that there is no pressure variation along geopotential, the pressure and depth are interchangeable

$$\text{pressure (bars)} = 0.1 \text{ depth (meters)}$$

or

$$\text{pressure (decibars)} = \text{depth (meters)}$$