

Force on upper face of cylinder has magnitude :-

$$F_1 = -P(r+dr) \cdot A$$

Pressure at $r+dr$

$$F_G = - \frac{GM(r) dm}{r^2}$$

mass of atmosphere + planet inside radius r

From lecture 2, $\frac{GM(r)}{r^2} \equiv g$ gravitational acceleration

$$\text{Also, } dm = \rho(r) dV = \rho A dr$$

Volume of cylinder

In hydrostatic equilibrium, the NET force on the cylinder is zero. i.e. $F_1 + F_2 = 0$

$$P(r+dr) \cdot A = P(r) \cdot A - \rho g \cdot A dr$$

$$\Leftrightarrow P(r+dr) - P(r) = -\rho g dr$$