

Vorticity Equation

• created by forming $\nabla \times \underline{\underline{x}}$ mm

- assume $\rho = \text{const.}$, so $\nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{u}} = 0$ incompressible

- Note: $\nabla \cdot [\nabla \times (\cdot)] = 0 \Rightarrow \nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{\omega}} = 0$ (+)

- Note: $\nabla \times [\nabla(\cdot)] = 0$ (*)

$$\nabla \times \left[\begin{matrix} \frac{\partial \underline{\underline{u}}}{\partial t} & + & \underline{\underline{u}} \cdot \nabla \underline{\underline{u}} & = & -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p & - & \nabla(gz) & + & \nu \nabla^2 \underline{\underline{u}} \end{matrix} \right]$$

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Term by term

(1) $\nabla \times \frac{\partial \underline{\underline{u}}}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \underline{\underline{\omega}}}{\partial t} = 0$ by (*)

(2) $\nabla \times (\underline{\underline{u}} \cdot \nabla \underline{\underline{u}}) = \nabla \times \left[\nabla \left(\frac{1}{2} \underline{\underline{u}} \cdot \underline{\underline{u}} \right) + \underline{\underline{\omega}} \times \underline{\underline{u}} \right]$

$$= \nabla \times \underline{\underline{\omega}} \times \underline{\underline{u}} \quad + \quad \underline{\underline{u}} \cdot \nabla \times \underline{\underline{A}} \times \underline{\underline{B}} = \underline{\underline{A}}(\nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{B}}) + (\underline{\underline{B}} \cdot \nabla) \underline{\underline{A}} - \underline{\underline{B}}(\nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{A}}) - (\underline{\underline{A}} \cdot \nabla) \underline{\underline{B}}$$
$$= \underline{\underline{\omega}}(\nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{u}}) + (\underline{\underline{u}} \cdot \nabla) \underline{\underline{\omega}} - \underline{\underline{u}}(\nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{\omega}}) - (\underline{\underline{\omega}} \cdot \nabla) \underline{\underline{u}}$$

$\downarrow = 0$ $\downarrow = 0$ by (+)

$$= (\underline{\underline{u}} \cdot \nabla) \underline{\underline{\omega}} - \underline{\underline{\omega}} \cdot \nabla \underline{\underline{u}}$$

(3) + (4) = 0 by (*)

(5) $\nabla \times (\nabla \times \underline{u}) = \nabla \nabla^2 \underline{u}$

So we have

$\frac{\partial \underline{w}}{\partial t} + \underline{u} \cdot \nabla \underline{w} - \underline{w} \cdot \nabla \underline{u} = \nu \nabla^2 \underline{w}$

or $\frac{D \underline{w}}{Dt} = \underline{w} \cdot \nabla \underline{u} + \nu \nabla^2 \underline{w}$ \underline{w}

Rate of change of vorticity (vector) following a fluid parcel

stretching or tilting + viscous diffusion of vorticity

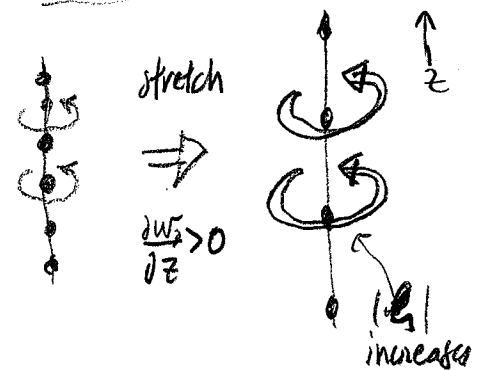


looks like a passive tracer except for this term!??

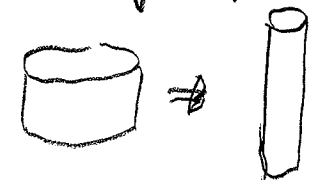
Consider stretching, meaning elongation of a vortex line

for vertical vorticity $\underline{w} \cdot \nabla \underline{u} = \zeta \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}$ where $\zeta = \hat{k} \cdot \underline{w} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$

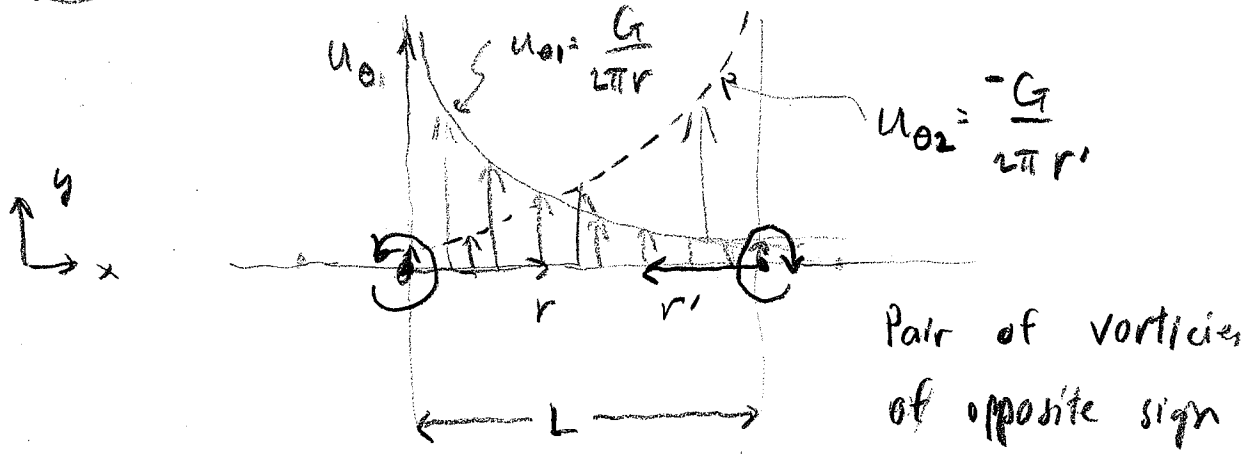
line of fluid parcels (vortex line)



Reason: Stretching implies radial inflow



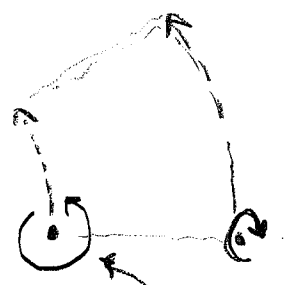
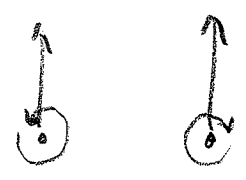
2-D interaction of point vortices



Pair of vortices of opposite sign

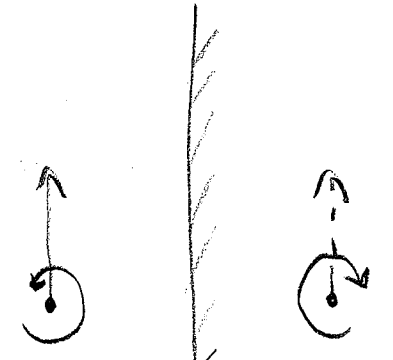
will advect each other with speed

$$v = \frac{G}{2\pi L}$$

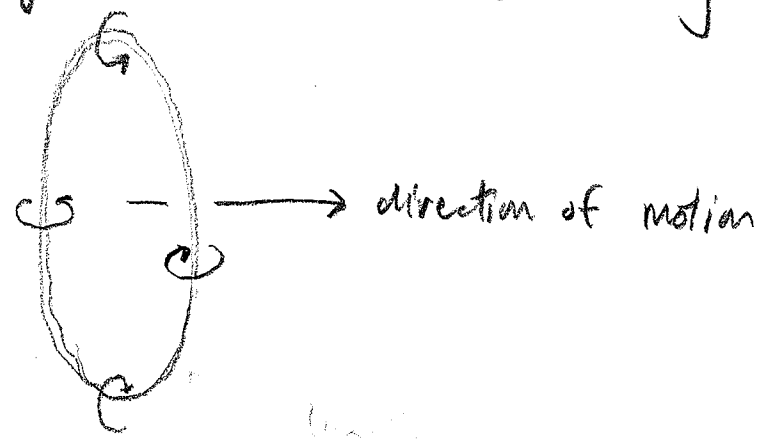


If one is stronger the paths are curved

one near a wall moves as if there was an equal and opposite image vortex here

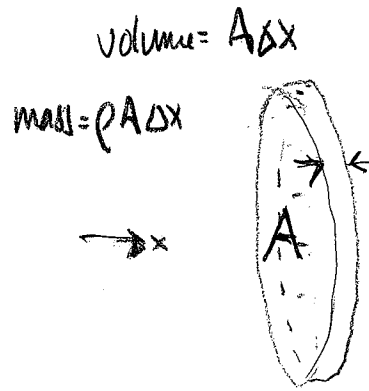


* Same reasoning works for a vortex ring



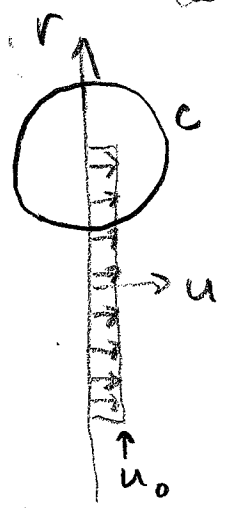
This is an expression of momentum

— Consider creating a vortex ring



(i) apply a body force F to a disk of fluid over time ΔT ("impulse")

$$\Rightarrow \text{momentum} = \rho A \Delta x \int_0^{\Delta T} F dt = M$$



(ii) at the start the velocity is like this

— which has circulation $\Gamma = \oint_C \underline{u} \cdot d\underline{l} = u_0 \Delta x$

and $M = \rho A \Delta x u_0$

\Rightarrow

$\rho A \Gamma$ = momentum of a vortex ring

(5)

- still approximately correct even as full velocity field develops

