

Exercise 2

1 Lagrangian vs Eulerian description

Note

The learning goal of this exercise is to understand how we can switch between the Lagrangian and Eulerian descriptions of **ideal** fluids (e.g. no diffusion). To do so, we need full information about the velocity field $\mathbf{v}(t, \mathbf{x})$ in the Eulerian case or the trajectories $\mathbf{X}(t, \mathbf{x}_0)$ for all starting positions \mathbf{x}_0 in the Lagrangian case.

Given the trajectories $\mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0) = (X(t; \mathbf{x}_0), Y(t; \mathbf{x}_0), Z(t; \mathbf{x}_0))^T$

$$\begin{aligned}X(t; \mathbf{x}_0) &= x_0 \cos(t) + y_0 \sin(t) \\Y(t; \mathbf{x}_0) &= -x_0 \sin(t) + y_0 \cos(t) \\Z(t; \mathbf{x}_0) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

with $\mathbf{x}_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)^T$ indicating coordinates at $t = 0$, we now measure a scalar ϕ on the trajectory of all particles $\mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0)$ with their respective starting positions \mathbf{x}_0 :

$$\phi(t, x = \mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0)) = x_0^2 + y_0^2$$

a)

Sketch two trajectories for $t \in (0, 2\pi)$ as well as their respective field values $\phi(t, x = \mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0))$ over time.

partial solution

Use the [online tool](#) linked in the lecture notes to verify your trajectory.

b)

Do you know which physical field in fluid flow applications exhibits the same behavior as ϕ ?

💡 partial solution

The density of incompressible fluids.

c)

We now want to describe $\phi(t, \mathbf{x})$ in the Eulerian frame. The final expression should therefore only depend on the independent variables (t, \mathbf{x}) .

💡 partial solution

1. Write the velocity field as a matrix-vector product $\dot{\mathbf{X}} = \underline{\underline{R}} \mathbf{x}_0$
2. We can ‘reverse time’ and find the initial position \mathbf{x}_0 for each trajectory $\mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0)$ at time t .
3. Substitute this relation to obtain the scalar field $\phi(t, \mathbf{x})$ in the Eulerian frame.

d)

Compute $\frac{d\phi(t, \mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0))}{dt}$ and $\frac{D\phi(t, \mathbf{x})}{dt}$ using their definitions.

💡 partial solution

$\frac{d\phi(t, \mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0))}{dt} = 0$ is trivially computed in the Lagrangian frame. $\frac{D\phi(t, \mathbf{x})}{dt}$ needs to give the same result, as we are only changing our frame of reference! You are on the right track if your velocity field reads $\mathbf{v} = (y, -x)^T$.

e)

Consider experiment where you measure a scalar field ψ on the trajectory of all particles $\psi(t, \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0)) = X^2 + Y^2$ with their respective starting positions \mathbf{x}_0 . Rewrite ψ in the Eulerian frame.

💡 partial solution

We only require the fact that we currently restrict $\mathbf{x} \stackrel{!}{=} \mathbf{X}(t; \mathbf{x}_0)$ to the particle trajectory. As the trajectory has the same form for all particles, we can directly move to the Eulerian frame.

2 Streamlines/Streaklines/Pathlines

Consider the velocity field

$$\mathbf{v}(t, x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -kx + \alpha t \\ ky \end{pmatrix}$$

with k, α being positive constants.

a)

Compute the pathlines.

💡 partial solution

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X} &= \begin{pmatrix} C e^{-k t} - \frac{\alpha}{k^2} + \frac{\alpha t}{k} \\ C_2 e^{k t} \end{pmatrix} \text{ with} \\ C &= (\mathbf{x}_0)_x + \frac{\alpha}{k^2} \\ C_2 &= (\mathbf{x}_0)_y \end{aligned}$$

b)

Compute the streamlines.

💡 partial solution

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} C e^{-k s} + \frac{\alpha t^*}{k} \\ C_2 e^{k s} \end{pmatrix} \text{ with}$$
$$C = (\mathbf{x}_0)_x - \frac{\alpha t^*}{k}$$
$$C_2 = (\mathbf{x}_0)_y$$

c)

Compute the streaklines.

💡 partial solution

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} C e^{-k \theta} - \frac{\alpha}{k^2} + \frac{\alpha (\tau + \theta)}{k} \\ C_2 e^{k t} \end{pmatrix} \text{ with}$$
$$C = (\mathbf{x}_0)_x + \frac{\alpha}{k^2} - \frac{\alpha \tau}{k}$$
$$C_2 = (\mathbf{x}_0)_y$$

d)

Sketch the velocity field for

$\alpha = k = 1$ and $t = 0$ and $t = 1$

Mark a particular position \mathbf{x}_0 and draw

- one pathline
- one streamline
- one streakline starting at $t = 0$

for the chosen \mathbf{x}_0 . The end positions of the lines should be within the plot.

💡 partial solution

```

import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

k = 1.
alpha = 1.

def U(t, x):
    u = -k*x[0] + alpha * t
    v = k * x[1]
    return u, v

def pathline(t, x0):
    C = x0[0] + alpha / k**2
    C2 = x0[1]
    T = np.linspace(0, t, 100)
    x = C * np.exp(-k*T) - alpha / k**2 + alpha * T / k
    y = C2 * np.exp(k*T)
    return [x, y]

def streamline(tstar, x0):
    C = x0[0] - alpha * tstar / k
    C2 = x0[1]
    s = np.linspace(0, 10, 100)
    x = C * np.exp(-k*s) + alpha * tstar/k
    y = C2 * np.exp(k*s)
    return [x, y]

def streakline(t, x0):
    tau = np.linspace(0, t, 100)
    theta = t - tau
    C = x0[0] - alpha * tau / k + alpha / k**2
    C2 = x0[1]
    x = C * np.exp(-k*theta) + alpha * (tau + theta)/k - alpha/k**2
    y = C2 * np.exp(k*theta)
    return [x, y]

xv, yv = np.meshgrid(np.linspace(-2, 2, 20), np.linspace(0, 4, 20), indexing='xy')

fig, ax = plt.subplots(3, 1, layout='constrained', figsize=(4, 12))

x0 = [-1., 1]
time = 0
Ux, Uy = U(time, [xv, yv])
PLx, PLy = pathline(time, x0)
STx, STy = streamline(time, x0)
SKx, SKy = streakline(time, x0)
ax[0].quiver(xv, yv, Ux, Uy)
ax[0].plot(PLx, PLy, label='pathline')
ax[0].scatter(x0[0], x0[1], marker='o')
ax[0].plot(STx, STy, label='streamline')
ax[0].scatter(x0[0], x0[1], marker='x')

```

