



Bubbles and drops in inviscid fluids

Lukas Niebel
University of Münster

joint work with David Meyer, MPI Leipzig
Christian Seis, University of Münster

Research Seminar: Applied and Computational Math
Tulane University, 1st May 2026

1. Experiments

1. Experiments (videos, links on the last slide)
2. Two-phase Euler equations with surface tension
3. 3D Traveling wave solutions (existence of close-to-spherical solutions)
4. 2D Stationary solutions (rigidity of the circular solution)

2. Two-phase Euler equations with surface tension

Euler equations

Velocity field of the fluid $U = U(t, x): \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ solution to

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t U + (U \cdot \nabla)U + \nabla P &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \\ \nabla \cdot U &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3\end{aligned}$$

where $P: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the pressure.

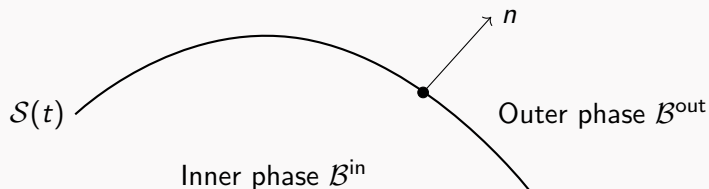
Two-phase Euler equations

Velocity field of the fluid $U: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ solution to

$$\rho(\partial_t U + (U \cdot \nabla)U) + \nabla P = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$\nabla \cdot U = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$[[U \cdot n]] = 0 \quad \text{on } S(t)$$



Two-phase Euler equations

Velocity field of the fluid $U: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ solution to

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(\partial_t U + (U \cdot \nabla)U) + \nabla P &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \\ \nabla \cdot U &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \\ \llbracket U \cdot n \rrbracket &= 0 && \text{on } \mathcal{S}(t)\end{aligned}$$

where

- $P: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the pressure
- $\mathcal{S}(t)$ is the interface separating the inner $\mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}(t)$ and outer $\mathcal{B}^{\text{out}}(t)$ fluid domain
- $\rho(t) = \rho^{\text{in}}\mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}(t)} + \rho^{\text{out}}\mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{B}^{\text{out}}(t)}$ for $\rho^{\text{in}}, \rho^{\text{out}} \geq 0$, is the density function
- $\llbracket f \rrbracket = f^{\text{out}} - f^{\text{in}}$, the jump of a quantity f across the interface.

Two-phase Euler equations with surface tension

Velocity field of the fluid $U: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ solution to

$$\rho(\partial_t U + (U \cdot \nabla)U) + \nabla P = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$\nabla \cdot U = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$$

$$[[P]] = \sigma H \quad \text{on } \mathcal{S}(t)$$

$$[[U \cdot n]] = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{S}(t)$$

where

- we take into consideration the Young-Laplace law
- H is the mean curvature ($H = 2$ for the unit ball)
- $\sigma > 0$ is the surface tension

3. 3D Traveling wave solutions

Traveling wave solutions

We make the ansatz

$$u(x) = U(t, x_1, x_2, x_3 + Vt) - Ve_3$$

$$p(x) = P(t, x_1, x_2, x_3 + Vt)$$

$$S(t) = S + tVe_3,$$

for some speed $V \geq 0$.

Moving frame

The time-independent u, p, \mathcal{S} solve the steady two-phase Euler equations

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(u \cdot \nabla)u + \nabla p &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \mathcal{S}, \\ \nabla \cdot u &= 0 && \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3, \\ [[p]] &= \sigma H && \text{on } \mathcal{S}, \\ u \cdot n &= 0 && \text{on } \mathcal{S}.\end{aligned}$$

with $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} u(x) = -Ve_3$.

Bernoulli laws

Bernoulli laws (for steady flows) for the inner/outer phase are

$$\frac{\rho^{\text{in}}}{2} |u^{\text{in}}|^2 + p^{\text{in}} = \text{const},$$
$$\frac{\rho^{\text{out}}}{2} |u^{\text{out}}|^2 + p^{\text{out}} = \text{const}.$$

Rewrite the interfacial condition

$$[[P]] = \sigma H \quad \text{on } \mathcal{S}$$

as

$$\frac{1}{2} [[\rho |u|^2]] + \sigma H = \text{const} \quad \text{on } \mathcal{S}.$$

Modelling assumptions

We are interested in axisymmetric and swirl-free vector fields ($u = u(r, z)$ and azimuthal component $u_\varphi = 0$).

The fluid in the outer domain is assumed to be irrotational $\text{curl } u^{\text{out}} = 0$.

The volume is $|\mathcal{S}| = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3$.

Inner motion

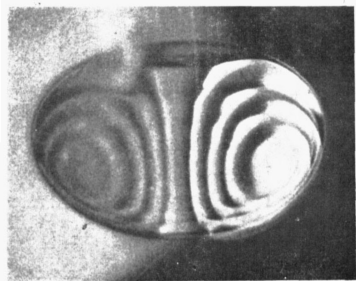


Fig. 2. 60% glycerine-water drop (4% sucrose) falling in heavy white oil. Linear magnification $\times 12$.

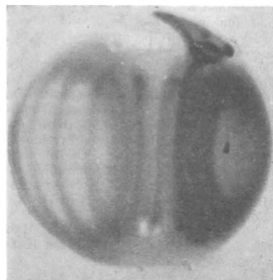


Fig. 2. Flow pattern inside water drop of diameter 8 mm moving through mineral oil at a velocity of 2.5 cm/sec

We assume vorticity distribution in the inner phase to be

$$\text{curl } u^{\text{in}} = \omega_a = \frac{15}{2} a \begin{pmatrix} -x_2 \\ x_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

for $a \in \mathbb{R}$.

[left] K. E. Spells, Proc. Phys. Soc. B 65 541 (1952).

[right] Magarvey, R., Kalejs, J. Internal Circulations within Liquid Drops. Nature 198, 377-378 (1963).

Vector stream function

We work with the vector stream function $\psi: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ with

$$u = \text{curl } \psi - V e_3.$$

The tangential flow and the axisymmetry no-swirl condition yields

$$\psi = \frac{V}{2} r e_\varphi \text{ on } \mathcal{S}.$$

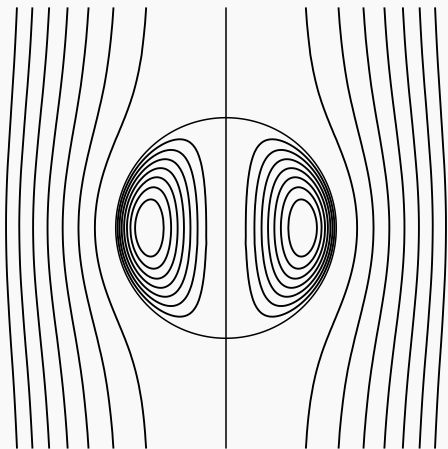
The identity $\text{curl } \text{curl} = \nabla \nabla \cdot - \Delta$ implies

$$-\Delta \psi = \omega_a \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}} \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \mathcal{S}.$$

The jump condition becomes

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[\left[\rho |\text{curl } \psi - V e_3|^2 \right] \right] + \sigma H = \text{const on } \mathcal{S}.$$

Spherical solution with Hill's vortex core



Streamlines of ψ_S in axisymmetric coordinates

Spherical solution with Hill's vortex core

Consider \mathcal{S} to be the sphere of radius R and

$$\psi_{\mathcal{S}}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} -x_2 \\ x_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{cases} \frac{3a}{4} (R^2 - |x|^2) + \frac{V_{\mathcal{S}}}{2} & \text{for } |x| \leq R \\ \frac{V_{\mathcal{S}}}{2} \frac{R^3}{|x|^3} & \text{for } |x| > R, \end{cases}$$

where $V_{\mathcal{S}}$ is the speed.

Spherical solution with Hill's vortex core

A first solution is given by \mathcal{S} the sphere of radius R

$$\psi_{\mathcal{S}}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} -x_2 \\ x_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{cases} \frac{3a}{4} (R^2 - |x|^2) + \frac{V_{\mathcal{S}}}{2} & \text{for } |x| \leq R \\ \frac{V_{\mathcal{S}}}{2} \frac{R^3}{|x|^3} & \text{for } |x| > R, \end{cases}$$

where $V_{\mathcal{S}} = |a| R^2 \sqrt{\frac{\rho^{\text{in}}}{\rho^{\text{out}}}}$ is determined such that

$$\frac{1}{2} \llbracket |\rho \operatorname{curl} \psi_{\mathcal{S}} - V_{\mathcal{S}} e_3|^2 \rrbracket = \frac{9}{8R^2} (a^2 R^4 \rho^{\text{in}} - \rho^{\text{out}} V_{\mathcal{S}}^2) (x_1^2 + x_2^2)$$

is constant on the sphere of radius R and thus

$$\frac{1}{2} \llbracket |\rho \operatorname{curl} \psi_{\mathcal{S}} - V_{\mathcal{S}} e_3|^2 \rrbracket + \sigma H = 2\sigma R = \text{const.}$$

Spherical solution with Hill's vortex core

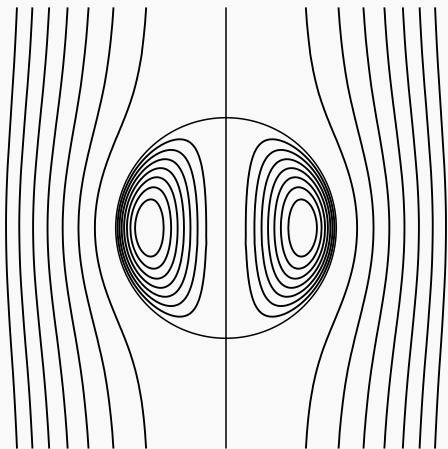
A first solution is given by \mathcal{S} the sphere of radius R

$$\psi_S(x) = \begin{pmatrix} -x_2 \\ x_1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{cases} \frac{3a}{4} (R^2 - |x|^2) + \frac{V_S}{2} & \text{for } |x| \leq R \\ \frac{V_S}{2} \frac{R^3}{|x|^3} & \text{for } |x| > R, \end{cases}$$

with $V_S = |a| R^2 \sqrt{\frac{\rho^{\text{in}}}{\rho^{\text{out}}}}$.

Vortex sheet, i.e. nonzero jump of $U_S \cdot \tau$ at \mathcal{S} , whenever $V_S \neq aR^2$.

Spherical solution with Hill's vortex core



Streamlines of ψ_S in axisymmetric coordinates

The overdetermined free boundary value problem

Given parameters $\rho^{\text{in}}, \rho^{\text{out}}, a, R, V$ find surface \mathcal{S} and stream function ψ solution to

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta\psi = \frac{15}{2} a s \sin\theta e_\varphi \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}} & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \mathcal{S} \\ \psi = \frac{V}{2} s \sin\theta e_\varphi & \text{on } \mathcal{S} \\ \frac{1}{2} \left[\left[\rho |\text{curl } \psi - V e_3|^2 \right] \right] + \sigma H = \text{const} & \text{on } \mathcal{S} \end{cases}$$

Spherical coordinates $(s, \theta, \varphi) \in [0, \infty) \times [0, \pi) \times [0, 2\pi)$.

Rescaling

Given parameters $\rho^{\text{in}}, \rho^{\text{out}}, \sigma, a, R, V$ find a surface \mathcal{S} and a stream function ψ solution to

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta\psi = \frac{15}{2} a s \sin\theta e_\varphi \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}} & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \mathcal{S} \\ \psi = \frac{V}{2} s \sin\theta e_\varphi & \text{on } \mathcal{S} \\ \frac{1}{2} \left[\left[\rho |\text{curl } \psi - V e_3|^2 \right] \right] + \sigma H = \text{const} & \text{on } \mathcal{S} \end{cases}$$

Weber number: $We = \frac{\rho^{\text{out}} V^2 R}{\sigma}$

Vortex Weber number: $\gamma = \frac{\rho^{\text{in}} a^2 R^5}{\sigma}$

Splitting

Rescale to $R = 1$ and decompose

$$\psi = \left(a\psi^{\text{in}} + \frac{V}{2}s \sin \theta e_\varphi \right) \mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}} + V\psi^{\text{out}}\mathbb{1}_{\mathcal{B}^{\text{out}}},$$

with $\psi^{\text{in}}: \mathcal{B}^{\text{in}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ solution to

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta\psi^{\text{in}} = \frac{15}{2}s \sin \theta e_\varphi & \text{in } \mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}, \\ \psi^{\text{in}} = 0 & \text{on } \mathcal{S}, \end{cases}$$

and $\psi^{\text{out}}: \mathcal{B}^{\text{out}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ vanishing at infinity and solving

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta\psi^{\text{out}} = 0 & \text{in } \mathcal{B}^{\text{out}}, \\ \psi^{\text{out}} = \frac{1}{2}s \sin \theta e_\varphi & \text{on } \mathcal{S}. \end{cases}$$

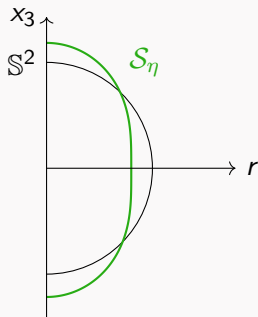
Jump condition: $\frac{\gamma}{2}|\text{curl } \psi^{\text{in}}|^2 - \frac{\text{We}}{2}|\text{curl } \psi^{\text{out}} - e_3|^2 + H = \text{const on } \mathcal{S}.$

Perturbation of the spherical solution

For a shape function $\eta \in H^\beta(\mathbb{S}^2)$ we consider

$$\mathcal{S}_\eta = \{(1 + \eta(x))x : x \in \mathbb{S}^2\}.$$

In axisymmetric coordinates:



Perturbation of the spherical solution

For a shape function $\eta \in H^\beta(\mathbb{S}^2)$ we consider

$$\mathcal{S}_\eta = \{(1 + \eta(x))x : x \in \mathbb{S}^2\},$$

with $\mathcal{B}_\eta^{\text{in}}$ and $\mathcal{B}_\eta^{\text{out}}$ well-defined if $\eta > -1$.

We impose

- axi-symmetry $\eta = \eta(\theta)$, and

- reflection invariance across the reference plane, $\eta(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) = \eta(\frac{\pi}{2} + \theta)$

and write $H_{\text{sym}}^\beta(\mathbb{S}^2)$ for that subspace.

Set $\mathcal{M}^\beta = \{\eta \in H_{\text{sym}}^\beta(\mathbb{S}^2) : |\mathcal{B}_\eta^{\text{in}}| = \frac{4}{3}\pi \text{ and } \|\eta\|_{H^\beta} \leq c_0\}$ for $c_0 > 0$ small.

Perturbative ansatz

We introduce the functional $\mathcal{F}: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathcal{M}^{\alpha+2} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}_{\text{sym}}^{\alpha}(\mathbb{S}^2)/\text{const}$ as

$$\mathcal{F}(\gamma, \text{We}, \eta) = \frac{\gamma}{2} |(\text{curl } \psi_{\eta}^{\text{in}}) \circ \chi_{\eta}|^2 - \frac{\text{We}}{2} |(\text{curl } \psi_{\eta}^{\text{out}}) \circ \chi_{\eta} - \mathbf{e}_3|^2 + H_{\eta} \circ \chi_{\eta}$$

where $\chi_{\eta} = (1 + \eta(x))x$.

Goal: find We , γ and η such that

$$\mathcal{F}(\gamma, \text{We}, \eta) = \text{const.}$$

Spherical solution:

$$\mathcal{F}(\gamma, \gamma, 0) = 2 = \text{const.}$$

$$(1) \mathcal{F}(\gamma, \text{We}, \eta) = \text{const}$$

Theorem (MNS '25):

Let $\beta > 2$. There exists $c_0 = c_0(\beta) > 0$ and an increasing sequence

$\Gamma = (\gamma_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ of positive numbers diverging to infinity with:

(A) For any $\gamma \in [0, \infty) \setminus \Gamma$ and any We close to but different from γ , there exists a unique nontrivial (smooth) solution $\eta = \eta(\gamma, \text{We}) \in \mathcal{M}^\beta$ to the jump equation (1).

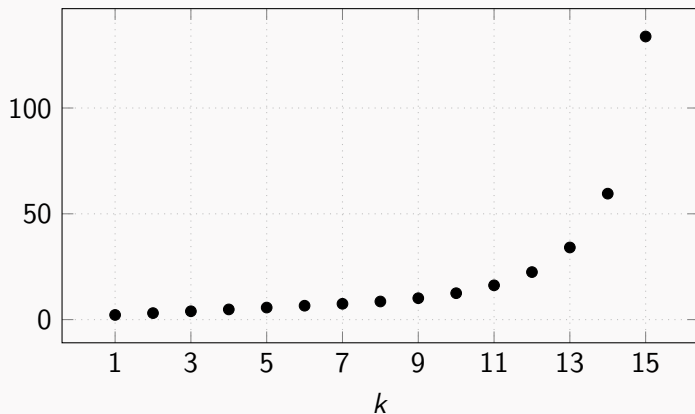
If $\gamma = \varepsilon \delta^{\text{in}}$ and $\text{We} = \varepsilon \delta^{\text{out}}$ for two nonnegative constants $\delta^{\text{in}} \neq \delta^{\text{out}}$ and a small parameter ε , we have the asymptotic expansion

$$\eta_\varepsilon = \varepsilon \frac{3}{32} (\delta^{\text{in}} - \delta^{\text{out}}) (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) + o(\varepsilon) \text{ as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

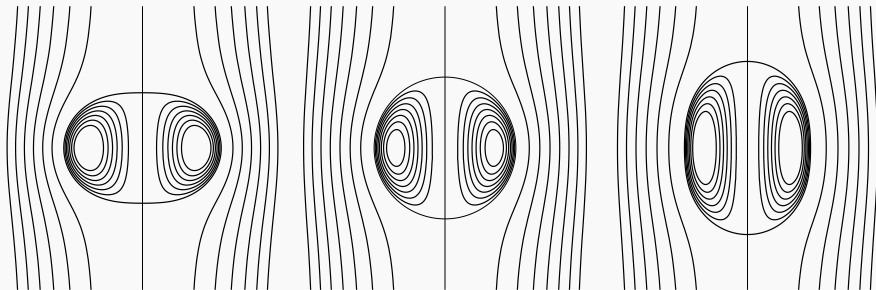
(B) For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a unique local curve $s \mapsto \gamma(s)$ passing through γ_k and there are associated nontrivial (smooth) shape functions $\eta(s) \in \mathcal{M}^\beta$ such that the equation (1) is solved at $(\gamma(s), \gamma(s), \eta(s))$.

Bifurcation values

k	1	2	3	4	5	6
γ_k	2.20516	3.07529	3.94492	4.81679	5.69137	6.56836



Theorem (A)

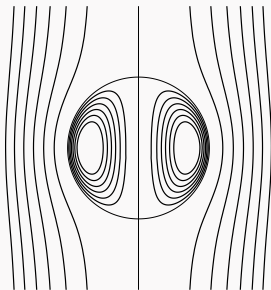


$$We > \gamma$$

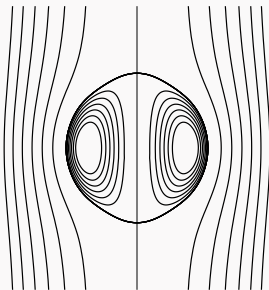
$$We = \gamma$$

$$We < \gamma$$

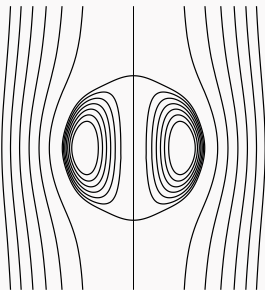
Theorem (B)



$We = \gamma$

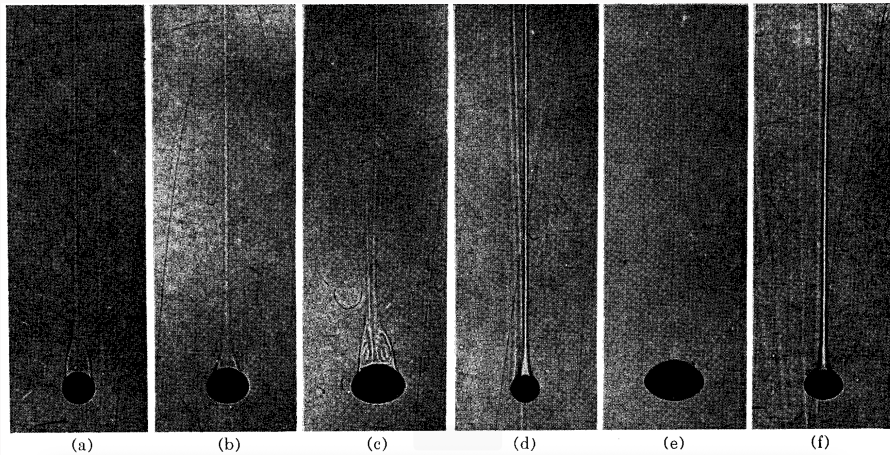


γ_1



γ_2

Air bubbles



Experimental observations

Droplet Motion in Purified Systems, S. Winnikow and B. T. Chao (1966)

Corollary (MNS '25):

There exist values of γ close to the bifurcation set Γ for which non-spherical steady vortex solutions with $We = \gamma$ exist. In particular, for these values, the spherical vortex is non-unique.

In the one fluid setting ($\rho^{\text{in}} = \rho^{\text{out}}$) without surface tension ($\sigma = 0$) the spherical solution with Hill's vortex core is unique up to translations (Amick-Fraenkel '86).

Physics literature

- Moore '58 derives the formal asymptotics of the shape for small Weber numbers neglecting the internal motion ($\rho^{\text{in}} = 0$).
- Harper '72 explains that the inner circulation can be approximated by Hill's vortex core.
- Pozrikidis '89 provides numerical evidence of the bifurcation branch and finds approximations for γ_1, γ_2 .

Mathematics literature

- Crowdy-Wegmann '00 investigate two-dimensional vortex sheets
- Meyer-Seis '24 construct bubble rings
- Baldi-La Manna-La Scala '25 construct rotating solutions of close-to-spherical shape
- Murgante-Roulley-Scrobogna '25 investigate the dynamics of of close-to-spherical vortex sheets

$$(1) \mathcal{F}(\gamma, \text{We}, \eta) = \text{const}$$

Theorem (MNS '25):

Let $\beta > 2$. There exists $c_0 = c_0(\beta) > 0$ and an increasing sequence

$\Gamma = (\gamma_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ of positive numbers diverging to infinity with:

(A) For any $\gamma \in [0, \infty) \setminus \Gamma$ and any We close to but different from γ , there exists a unique nontrivial (smooth) solution $\eta = \eta(\gamma, \text{We}) \in \mathcal{M}^\beta$ to the jump equation (1).

If $\gamma = \varepsilon \delta^{\text{in}}$ and $\text{We} = \varepsilon \delta^{\text{out}}$ for two nonnegative constants $\delta^{\text{in}} \neq \delta^{\text{out}}$ and a small parameter ε , we have the asymptotic expansion

$$\eta_\varepsilon = \varepsilon \frac{3}{32} (\delta^{\text{in}} - \delta^{\text{out}}) (3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) + o(\varepsilon) \text{ as } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

(B) For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a unique local curve $s \mapsto \gamma(s)$ passing through γ_k and there are associated nontrivial (smooth) shape functions $\eta(s) \in \mathcal{M}^\beta$ such that the equation (1) is solved at $(\gamma(s), \gamma(s), \eta(s))$.

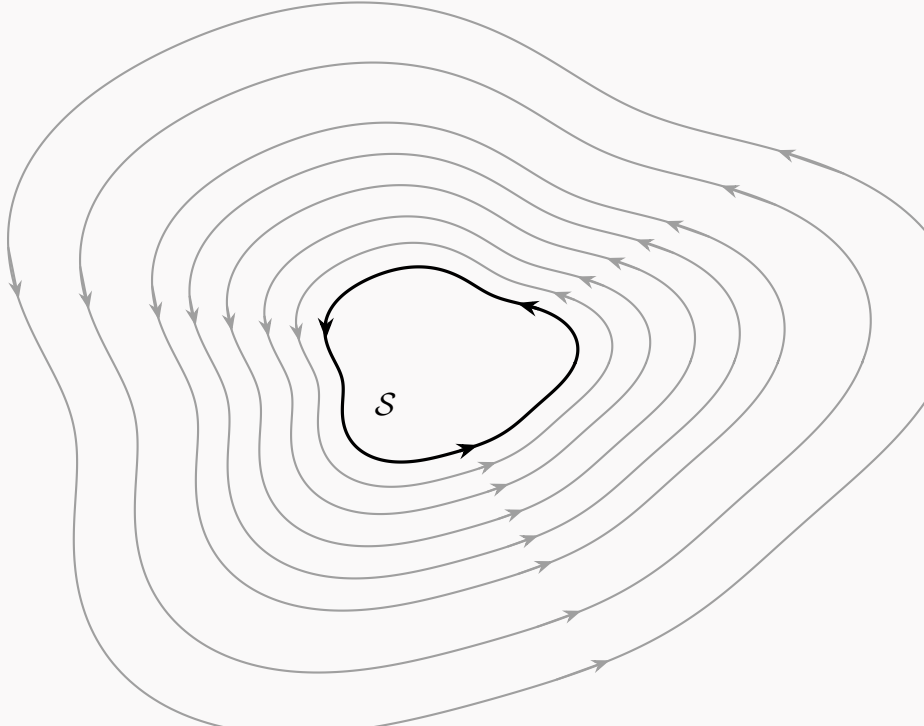
Idea of the proof

Calculate:

$$\langle D_\eta \mathcal{F}(\gamma, \gamma, \eta)|_{\eta=0}, \delta\eta \rangle = \frac{9}{2} \gamma \sin \theta \mathbf{e}_\varphi \cdot (2\text{Id} - \Lambda)(\sin \theta \delta\eta \mathbf{e}_\varphi) - (\Delta_{\mathbb{S}^2} + 2\text{Id}) \delta\eta,$$

where Λ is the Dirichlet-to-Neumann map for the Laplacian on the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^3 .

4. 2D Stationary solutions



Overdetermined free boundary value problem

Find $\psi: \mathcal{B}^{\text{out}} \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} -\Delta\psi &= 0 && \text{in } \mathcal{B}^{\text{out}} \\ \psi &= C_0 && \text{on } \mathcal{S} \\ \psi(x) &= \log|x| + O(1) && \text{as } |x| \rightarrow \infty \\ -\frac{1}{2}\text{We}(\partial_n\psi)^2 + H &= \lambda && \text{on } \mathcal{S} \end{aligned} \tag{O}$$

with

- Weber number $\text{We} \geq 0$
- constants $C_0, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$
- closed Jordan curve $\mathcal{S} \in C^{1,1}$
- \mathcal{S} partitions \mathbb{R}^2 into \mathcal{B}^{in} and \mathcal{B}^{out} with $|\mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}| = \pi$

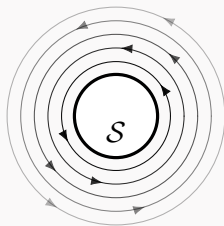
Circular solution

- $\mathcal{S} = \partial B_1(0)$

- $H = 1$

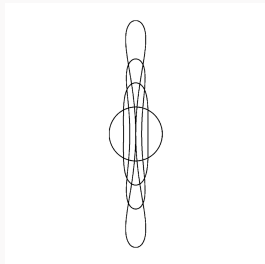
- $\psi = C_0 + \log|x|$, hence $\partial_n \psi = 1$ on \mathcal{S}

- $\lambda = -\frac{1}{2}\text{We} + 1$

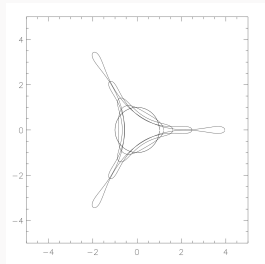


Non-circular solutions

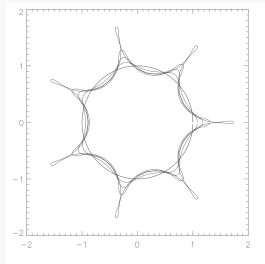
exist for all $We \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$.



$We = 3$ [1]



$We = 4$ [2]



$We = 8$ [2]

[1] D. Crowdy, *Circulation-induced shape deformations of drops and bubbles: Exact two-dimensional models*, *Phys. Fluids* **11** 2836 (1999), 2836–2845.

[2] R. Wegmann and D. Crowdy, *Shapes of two-dimensional bubbles deformed by circulation*, *Nonlinearity* **13** (2000), 2131–2141.

Global rigidity of the circular solution

Theorem (N., 2025)

Let $(\mathcal{S}, \psi, C_0, We, \lambda)$ be a solution to (O), which is not a circle, then $We > 2$.

Proof

Integrate the jump condition $-\frac{1}{2}\text{We}(\partial_n\psi)^2 + H = \lambda$ on \mathcal{S}

multiplied by 1

$$-\frac{\text{We}}{2} \int_{\mathcal{S}} (\partial_n\psi)^2 d\mathcal{H}^1 + \int_{\mathcal{S}} H d\mathcal{H}^1 = \lambda \mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{S})$$

multiplied by $(x \cdot n)$

$$-\frac{\text{We}}{2} \int_{\mathcal{S}} (x \cdot n)(\partial_n\psi)^2 d\mathcal{H}^1 + \int_{\mathcal{S}} H(x \cdot n) d\mathcal{H}^1 = \lambda \int_{\mathcal{S}} x \cdot n d\mathcal{H}^1.$$

Pohozaev identity

In d dimensions

$$\operatorname{div} \left((x \cdot \nabla \psi) \nabla \psi - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \psi|^2 x \right) + \frac{d-2}{2} |\nabla \psi|^2 = (x \cdot \nabla \psi) \Delta \psi.$$

PDE identities

Any solution to (O) satisfies the following identities:

Pohozaev

$$\int_S (x \cdot n)(\partial_n \psi)^2 d\mathcal{H}^1 = 2\pi$$

Far field

$$\int_S \partial_n \psi d\mathcal{H}^1 = 2\pi$$

Geometric identities

Any solution to (O) satisfies the following identities:

Gauß–Bonnet

$$\int_S H \, d\mathcal{H}^1 = 2\pi$$

Minkowski

$$\int_S x \cdot n \, d\mathcal{H}^1 = 2\pi, \quad \int_S H(x \cdot n) \, d\mathcal{H}^1 = \mathcal{H}^1(S)$$

Combined identities

We plug this in the earlier identities:

multiplied by 1

$$-\frac{We}{2} \int_{\mathcal{S}} (\partial_n \psi)^2 d\mathcal{H}^1 + 2\pi = \lambda \mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{S})$$

multiplied by $(x \cdot n)$

$$-We\pi + \mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{S}) = 2\pi\lambda$$




Cauchy–Schwarz conclusion

By the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality and eliminating λ we conclude

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \int_{\mathcal{S}} (\partial_n \psi)^2 d\mathcal{H}^1 - \frac{4\pi^2}{\mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{S})} \\ &= \frac{1}{\text{We}\pi\mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{S})} (\mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{S}) - 2\pi)(\mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{S}) + 2\pi)(\pi\text{We} - \mathcal{H}^1(\mathcal{S})). \end{aligned}$$

(recall $|\mathcal{B}^{\text{in}}| = \pi$)

References

-  D. Meyer, L. Niebel, and C. Seis. *Steady bubbles and drops in inviscid fluids*, *Calc. Var.*, 64(299) (2025).
-  L. Niebel. *Global rigidity of two-dimensional bubbles*, arXiv:2510.17557 (2025).
-  L. Niebel. *Spherical rigidity for an exterior overdetermined problem with Neumann data prescribed by mean curvature*, arXiv:2604.07002 (2026).

lukasniebel.github.io



Video references

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmiivJkfoLg>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/XVIxZiMfelw>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjB7LXSQoQc>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/StysjXb9isQ>
5. <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/GDi09sIs0ec>