

Computational Astrophysics

05. Energy Conservation

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We consider the first law of thermodynamics,

$$dQ = pd\left(\frac{1}{\rho}\right) + de$$

where

dQ: Change in heat per unit (mass)

de: Change in energy (per unit mass)

The heat term may have many contributions such as

$$\rho \frac{dQ}{dt} = \overrightarrow{v} \cdot \overrightarrow{f} - \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{F}_{rad} - \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{q} + Q^{(vis)} + \eta_e J^2$$

where

$$\overrightarrow{v} \cdot \overrightarrow{f}$$
: work done by the force \overrightarrow{f}

 $-\overrightarrow{\nabla}\cdot\overrightarrow{F}_{rad}$: rate at which radiation energy is lost by emission (or augmented by absorption) per unit volume.

$$\overrightarrow{F}_{rad} = \int d\nu \int d\Omega \hat{n} I_{\nu}(\hat{n}, \overrightarrow{r})$$
: radiative flux vector

 $I_{\nu}(\hat{n},\vec{r})$: specific intensity evaluated at \vec{r} in the direction \hat{n}

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where

 $-\overrightarrow{\nabla}\cdot\overrightarrow{q}$: rate at which random motion (of electrons principally) transport thermic energy in the fluid.

 \overrightarrow{q} : (conductive) flux of heat through the boundaries of an element

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where

 $Q^{(vis)} = \sigma : \overrightarrow{\nabla} \overrightarrow{v}$: rate of volumetric heating due to viscosity

 $\eta_e J^2$: rate of Ohmic (volumetric) heating.

This term is usually $\overrightarrow{J}\cdot\overrightarrow{E}$ and in the Lagrangain frame we have $\overrightarrow{E}=\eta_{e}\overrightarrow{J}$.

 η_e : electric resistivity of the fluid

Using all the heating contributions, we write the first law of thermodynamics as

$$\rho \frac{dQ}{dt} = \rho \frac{de}{dt} + \rho p \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \right) = \overrightarrow{v} \cdot \overrightarrow{f} - \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{F}_{rad} - \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{q} + Q^{(vis)} + \eta_e J^2$$

Using the Lagrangian form of the continuity equation we can write

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \right) = \frac{1}{\rho} \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{v}.$$

Therefore we obtain the energy conservation equation in the Lagrangian frame,

$$\rho \frac{de}{dt} = -p \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{v} + \overrightarrow{v} \cdot \overrightarrow{f} - \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{F}_{rad} - \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{q} + Q^{(vis)} + \eta_e J^2$$

where the term $-p\overrightarrow{\nabla}\cdot\overrightarrow{v}$ represents the work done by pressure.

Using the continuity equation in the Eulerian frame we obtain

$$\rho \frac{de}{dt} = \frac{d(\rho e)}{dt} - e \frac{d\rho}{dt} = \frac{d(\rho e)}{dt} + e\rho \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{v}$$

and using the Lagrangian derivative, we get the energy conservation equation in the Eulerian frame,

$$\frac{\partial(\rho e)}{\partial t} + \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot (e\rho \overrightarrow{v}) = -p\overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{v} + \overrightarrow{v} \cdot \overrightarrow{f} - \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{F}_{rad} - \overrightarrow{\nabla} \cdot \overrightarrow{q} + Q^{(vis)} + \eta_e J^2$$