

NEW-PAPER

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Abstract

We present a unified field theory based on the hydrodynamics of an inviscid, incompressible, director-bearing fluid substrate. We demonstrate that Relativistic kinematic effects emerge naturally from circulation conservation: proper time dilation is derived as a function of fluid circulation Γ ¹¹¹¹, while effective mass arises from rotational kinetic energy density $\Delta\rho_{eff}$ ². We identify the photon not as a point particle, but as a propagating torsion wave (shear wave) within this substrate, predicting a vacuum Faraday effect³³ recently supported by experimental data on optical magnetic torques (Assouline Capua, 2025). Furthermore, we show that macroscopic gravity emerges from the pressure gradients required to sustain stable azimuthal swirl profiles⁴, and that the fundamental electron scales (r_e, ω_C, E_B) satisfy a precise harmonic identity derived from this hydrodynamic coupling⁵⁵⁵.

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1 Introduction

The quest to unify interactions suggests that the vacuum is not an empty void, but a structured medium. Building on the "Vortex Atom" hypothesis of Kelvin⁶ and modern superfluid vacuum analogies⁷, we propose **Swirl String Theory (SST)**. In SST, physical laws are emergent properties of a background fluid with effective density ρ_f and shear stiffness \mathcal{K} .

2 Kinematics: Circulation as Local Time

Standard Special Relativity (SR) posits time dilation as a function of relative velocity. We reformulate this in terms of fluid topology. For a clock co-moving with an inviscid fluid in rigid rotation, the tangential velocity v is linked to the circulation $\Gamma = \oint \mathbf{v} \cdot d\mathbf{l}$ ⁸.

Substituting $v = \Gamma/(2\pi r)$ into the Minkowski metric yields a circulation-based time dilation⁹:

$$\frac{d\tau}{dt} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{\Gamma^2}{4\pi^2 r^2 c^2}} \quad (1)$$

Because Γ is conserved in inviscid, barotropic flows (Kelvin's Theorem), time dilation becomes a topological invariant of the flow¹⁰. This suggests that "time" is a measure of the local vorticity density of the vacuum substrate.

3 The Origin of Mass: Rotational Energy Density

Mass is not intrinsic but emergent. By analyzing a fluid in rigid-body rotation, we calculate the volume-averaged rotational kinetic energy density $\langle e_{kin} \rangle$ ¹¹. Applying the mass-energy equivalence $E = mc^2$, we derive an effective mass density relation¹²:

$$\frac{\Delta\rho_{eff}}{\rho} = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{v_{edge}}{c} \right)^2 \quad (2)$$

This confirms that rotational motion contributes to the inertial mass of extended systems at order $(v/c)^2$ ¹³. In SST, fundamental particles are modeled as knotted vortex loops¹⁴. These loops possess finite energy, impulse, and an effective mass $M_{eff} = \|I\|/U$ defined by their hydrodynamic impulse I and self-induced velocity U ¹⁵.

4 Electromagnetism: Photons as Torsion Waves

We reject the point-particle photon. Using Cartan's structure equations in a teleparallel geometry, we identify the electromagnetic field tensor $F_{\mu\nu}$ as the projection of the substrate's torsion 2-form T^a ¹⁶. The photon emerges as a massless transverse shear wave of the substrate's director field¹⁷.

The wave speed is determined by the substrate's effective stiffness and density¹⁸:

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{K}}{\rho_{eff}}} \quad (3)$$

A key prediction of this hydrodynamic model is the Vacuum Faraday Effect, where the vacuum exhibits a linear-in- B magnetic optical response¹⁹.

External Validation: This hydrodynamic mechanism is strongly supported by recent findings by Assouline & Capua (2025), who demonstrated that the optical magnetic field contributes significantly to the Faraday effect, distinct from the electrical component, particularly at ultra-fast timescales²⁰. This breaks the classical reciprocity of the vacuum, exactly as predicted by SST when the local swirl velocity (time scaling) is perturbed.

5 Emergent Gravity: Swirl Pressure

Gravity is derived as a pressure effect. In steady, axisymmetric swirling flows, radial pressure gradients balance centripetal acceleration²¹. The radial Euler equation yields²²:

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dp}{dr} = \frac{v_\theta^2(r)}{r} - g_r(r) \quad (4)$$

In the absence of external forces ($g_r = 0$), the swirl induces an effective acceleration $g_{eff} = v_\theta^2/r^{23}$. Uniquely, for a swirl profile $v_\theta(r) = \sqrt{GM/r}$, the effective acceleration becomes exactly Newtonian $(GM/r^2)^{24}$. Thus, the gravitational potential Φ is isomorphic to the specific pressure field p/ρ of the vacuum vortex condensate.

6 The Grand Unified Scale Identity

The consistency of SST is verified by a single harmonic identity connecting classical, relativistic, and atomic scales. We derive a maximal Hooke-law force F_{max} using the electron mass m_e , Compton frequency ω_C , and fine-structure constant α^{25} :

$$F_{max} = m_e \left(\frac{\omega_C}{\alpha} \right)^2 r_e \quad (5)$$

Multiplying this force by a Compton-scale radius r_c , we recover the Hydrogen ground state energy E_B and the electron rest mass exactly²⁶:

$$F_{max} r_c = \frac{1}{2} m_e c^2 = \frac{E_B}{\alpha^2} \quad (6)$$

This identity serves as the "Rosetta Stone" of SST, proving that atomic structure (E_B), relativity (c), and electrodynamics (α) are geometrically coupled via the fluid properties of the vacuum.

7 Conclusion

By treating the vacuum as a physical fluid, we have unified proper time dilation, effective mass, electromagnetism, and gravity under a single hydrodynamic framework. The recent observation of optical magnetic torque (Assouline & Capua, 2025) provides the necessary empirical bridge between this hydrodynamic theory and modern magneto-optics.

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