



The Essentials of Incompressible Flow

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First up !

Basic Fluid Kinematics

- Euler versus Lagrange Approaches
- Material Derivative concept
- Steady and Uniform flow

In a multitude of moving cars imagine
Each Vehicle = Fluid Particle





Lets focus our attention on any vehicle



Now,
if you happen
to do
something
like this ...

Lagrangian Measurement (literally...)



Lagrangian Approach

- Identifying and tracking a particular **Fluid Element**
- Obvious notion in the Mechanics of **Solids**
- Properties of the **element** $\rightarrow f(t)$

$$\vec{R}_{particle} \equiv \textit{position vector}$$

$$\vec{V}_{particle}(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{R}_{particle}(t)$$

$$\vec{a}_{particle}(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{V}_{particle}(t)$$

Example



Helium filled balloons

Probe (measures some property)

This probe makes Lagrangian Measurements !

On the other hand



If you were to fix yourself at a **Point** and

Observe the
motion at that point

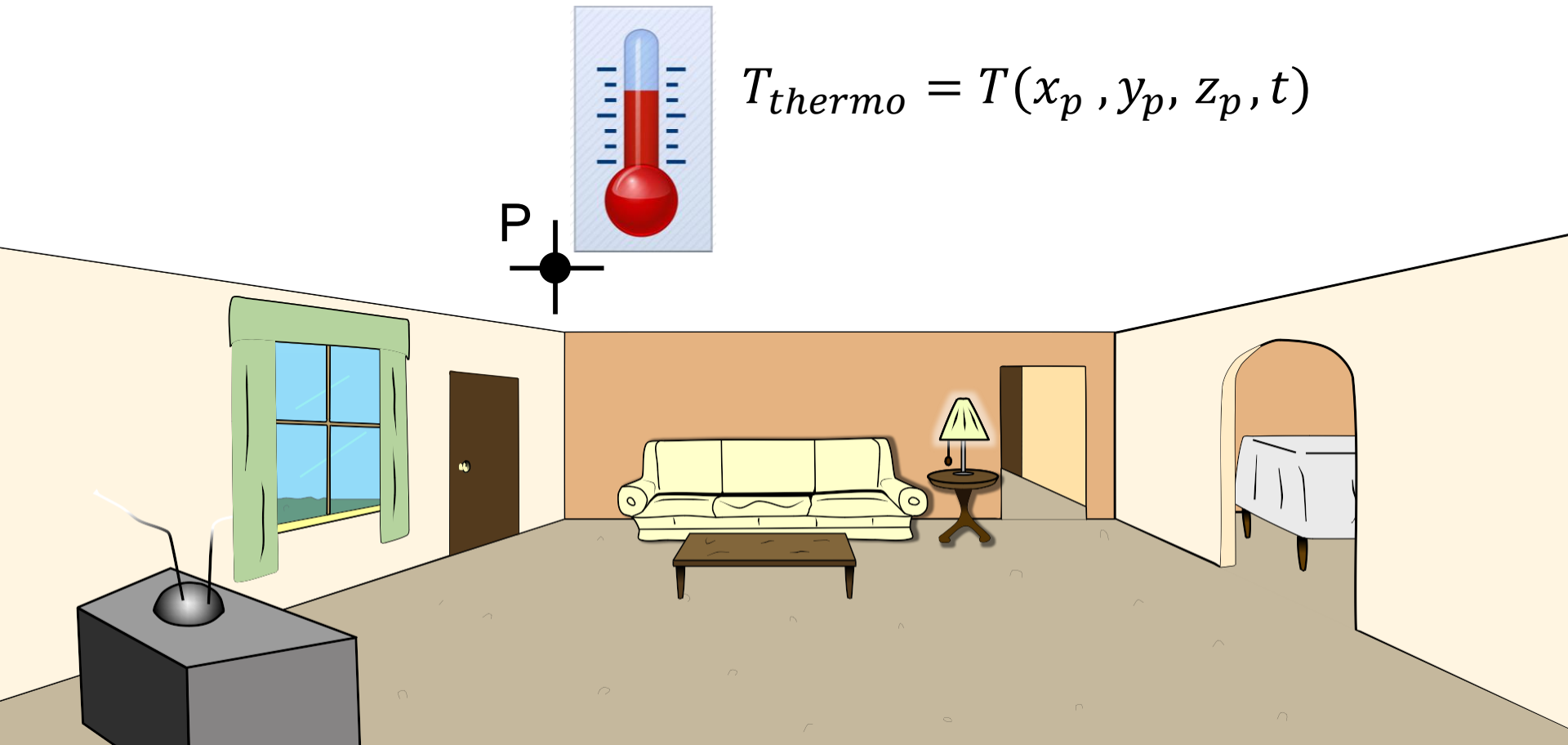
Eulerian Description

Eulerian Approach

- Observing a **spatial** point or region
- Has more mathematical implications
- Properties expressed as **field functions** of **space** and **time**

For instance, Velocity field can be written as

$$\vec{V} = \vec{V}(x, y, z, t)$$



The Thermometer **fixed in space** makes
Eulerian measurements

Physically understanding the Eulerian Approach

if it is given that

$$\vec{V}(x = 3, y = 1, z = 5, t = 3.5) = 2 \vec{i} + 9 \vec{j} + 7 \vec{k}$$

What can one infer from this ?

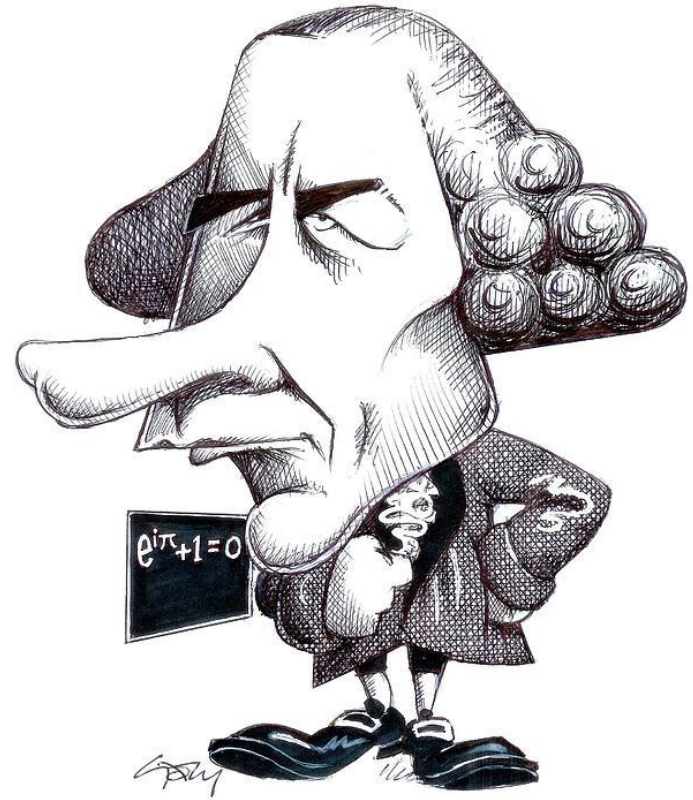
At time $t=3.5$

the particle present at $(3, 1, 5)$

has a velocity of $2 \vec{i} + 9 \vec{j} + 7 \vec{k}$ units



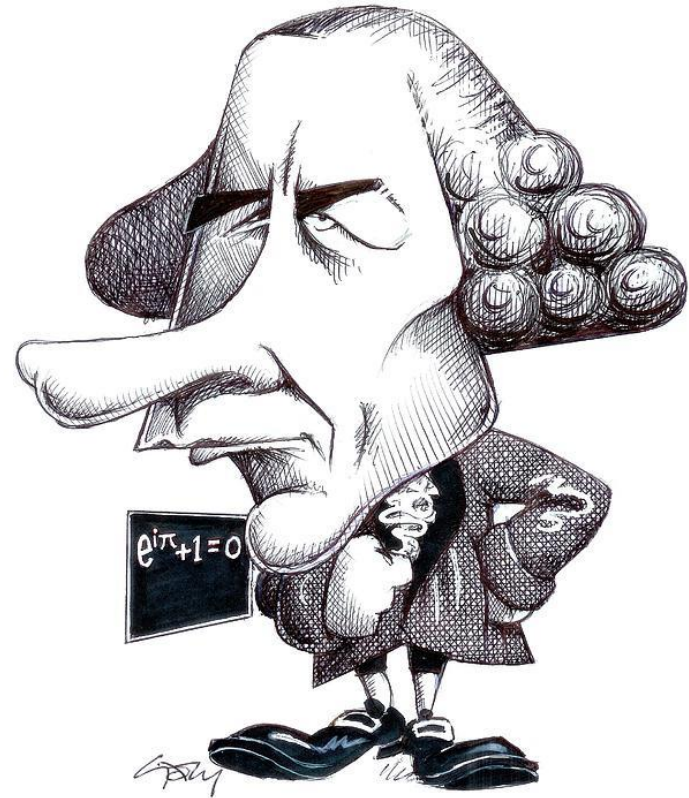
Lagrangian



Eulerian



Lagrangian



Eulerian

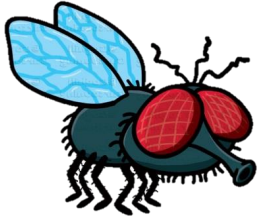


Reynold's Transport Theorem



Concept of Material Derivative

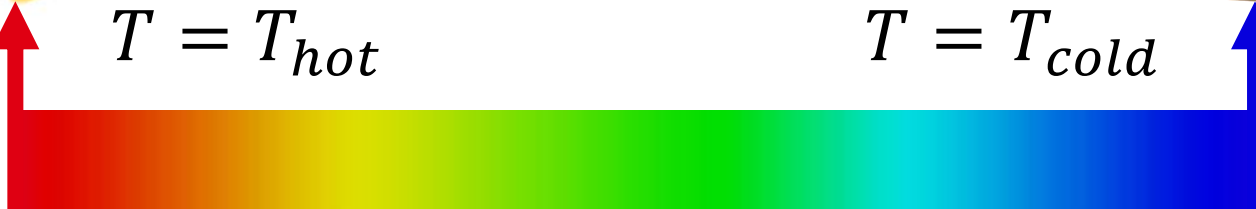


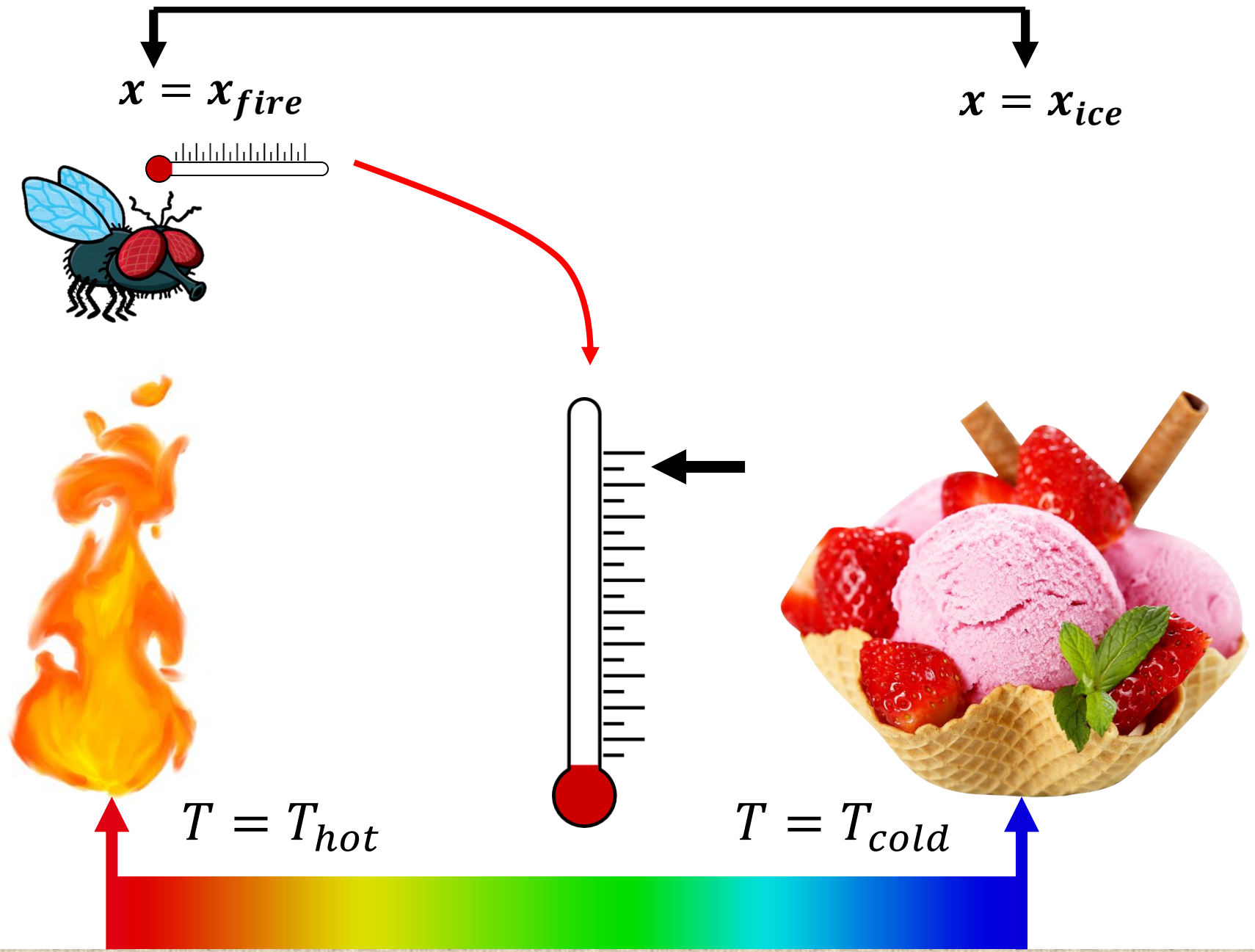


$$T = T_{hot}$$



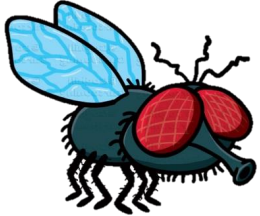
$$T = T_{cold}$$





$$x = x_{fire}$$

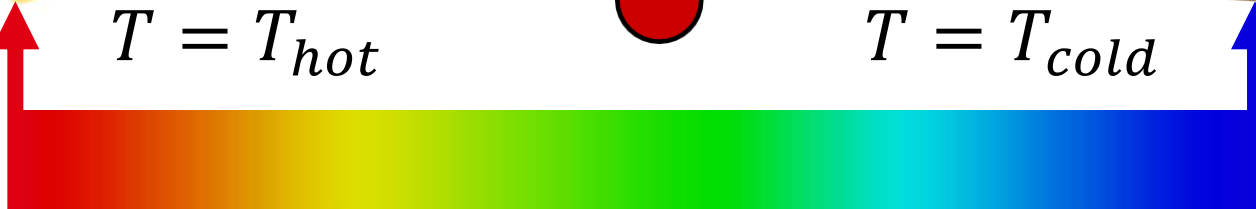
$$x = x_{ice}$$



$$T = T_{hot}$$

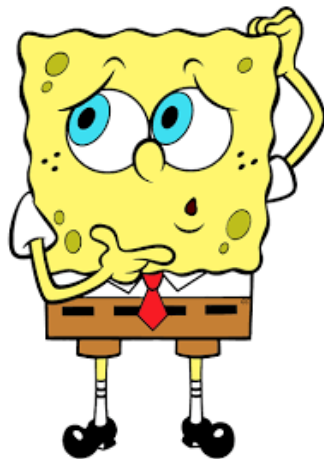
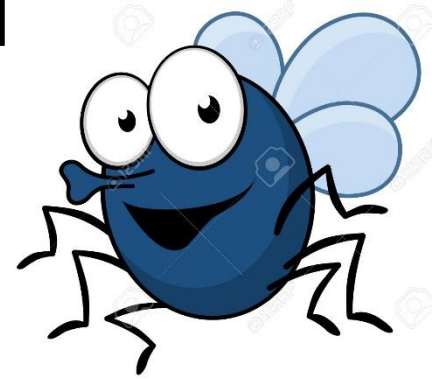


$$T = T_{cold}$$



Some obvious observations

- Lagrangian approach given that we followed Mr. Fly
- Temperature changed for Mr. Fly just by virtue of his motion
- Rate of temperature change for Mr. Fly \uparrow if
 - (1) \uparrow Speed of Mr. Fly
 - (2) \uparrow Temperature Gradient



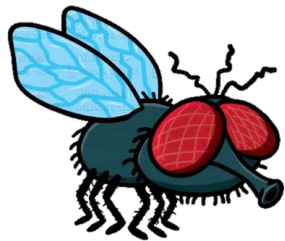
How do we put it down

Mathematically



$$\underbrace{\frac{dT}{dt}} = \underbrace{\frac{dT}{dx}} * \underbrace{V_{fly}}$$

Rate of
Temperature
change



Temperature
Gradient



Speed of the
Fly



Imagine now that the Ice cream starts melting



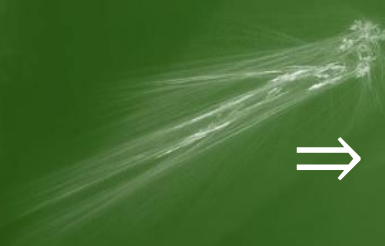
Temp at every point becomes Function of time

$$T = T(x, t)$$

$$T = T(x, t)$$

By Total Derivative theorem

$$\frac{DT}{Dt} = \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} * \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} * \frac{dt}{dt}$$


$$\Rightarrow \frac{DT}{Dt} = \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} * V + \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} \longrightarrow \text{Eq. 1}$$

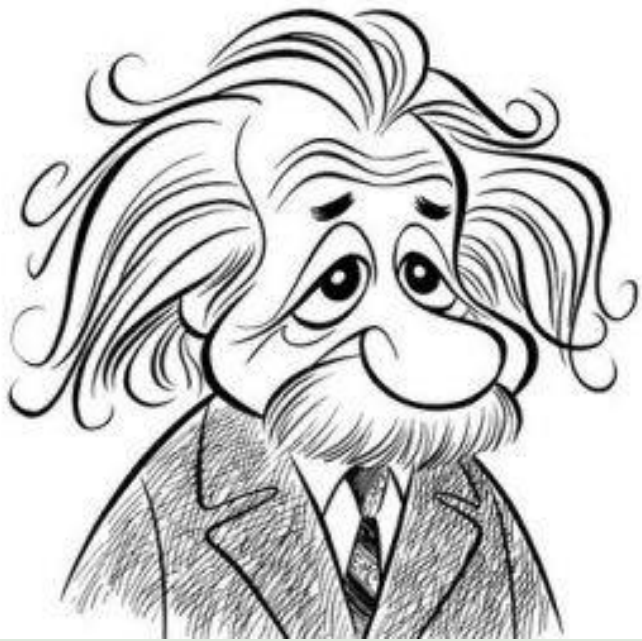
Note : Eq.1 valid only for 1d

For 3 dimensions

$$\frac{DT}{Dt} = \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \vec{V} \cdot \nabla T$$

where

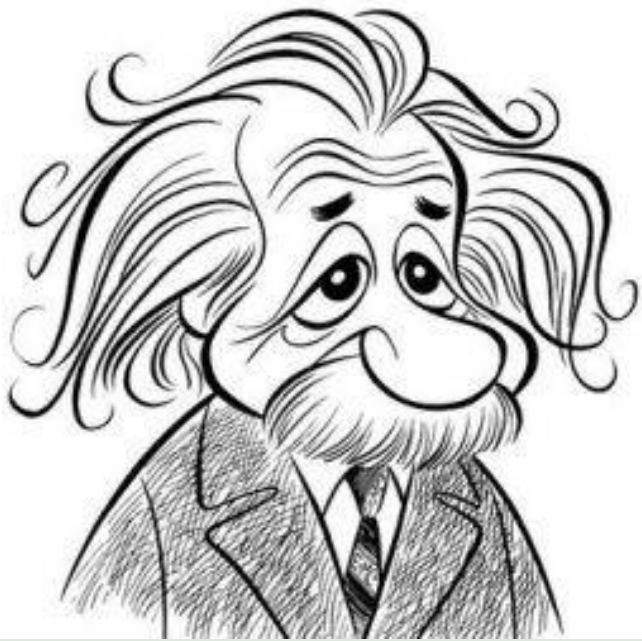
$$\nabla T \equiv \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \vec{k}$$



Some Quick Facts

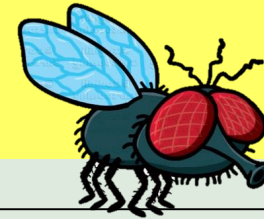
$$\underbrace{\frac{Df}{Dt}}_1 = \underbrace{\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}}_2 + \underbrace{\vec{V} \cdot \nabla f}_3$$

- ➊ Material / Lagrangian Derivative
- ➋ Local / Eulerian Derivative
- ➌ Convective / Transport Derivative



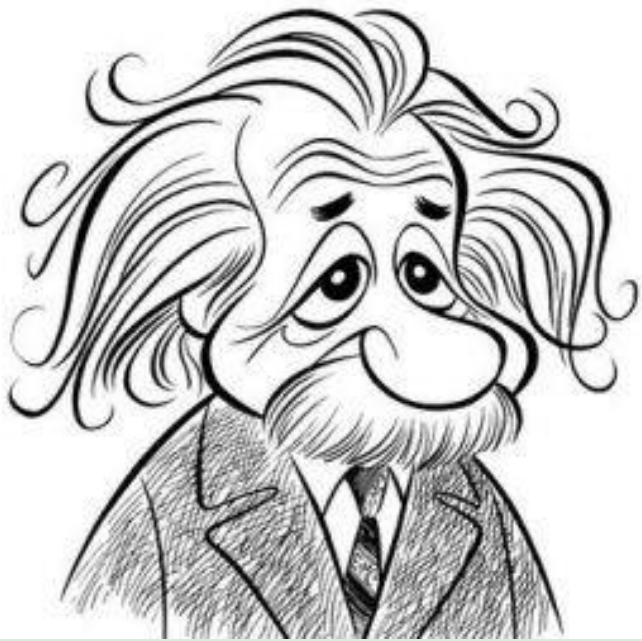
Some Quick Facts

$$\frac{Df}{Dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \vec{V} \cdot \nabla f$$



Material / Lagrangian Derivative

Tells us how quickly f changes
for the moving **Fluid Element**

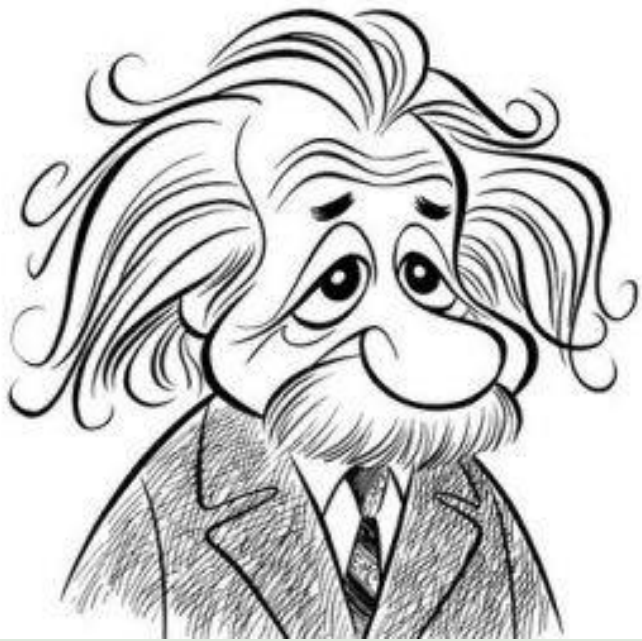


Some Quick Facts

$$\frac{Df}{Dt} = \boxed{\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}} + \vec{V} \cdot \nabla f$$

Local / Eulerian Derivative

Tells us how quickly f changes
at a **particular point in space**



Some Quick Facts

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \vec{V} \cdot \nabla f$$

Convective Derivative

Tells us how quickly f changes
by virtue of the element's motion



Now we are fully armed



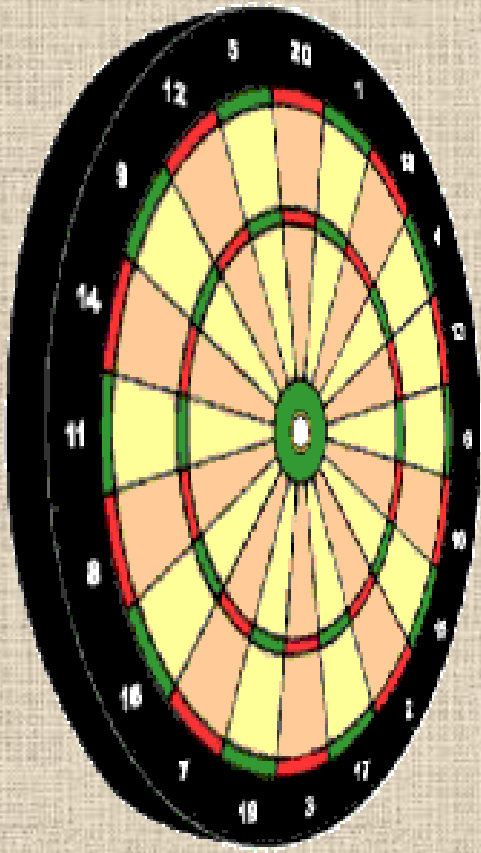
What is Incompressible Flow ?

Density = constant ?

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0 \quad ?$$

Fluid is incompressible ?

Bull's eye !



$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = 0$$

The continuity equation

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} + \rho (\nabla \cdot \vec{V}) = 0 \longrightarrow \text{Eq. 1}$$

Consider a flow for which $\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = 0$


Then Eq.(1) becomes

$$\rightarrow \rho (\nabla \cdot \vec{V}) = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\nabla \cdot \vec{V} = 0} \quad \text{Since } \rho \neq 0$$

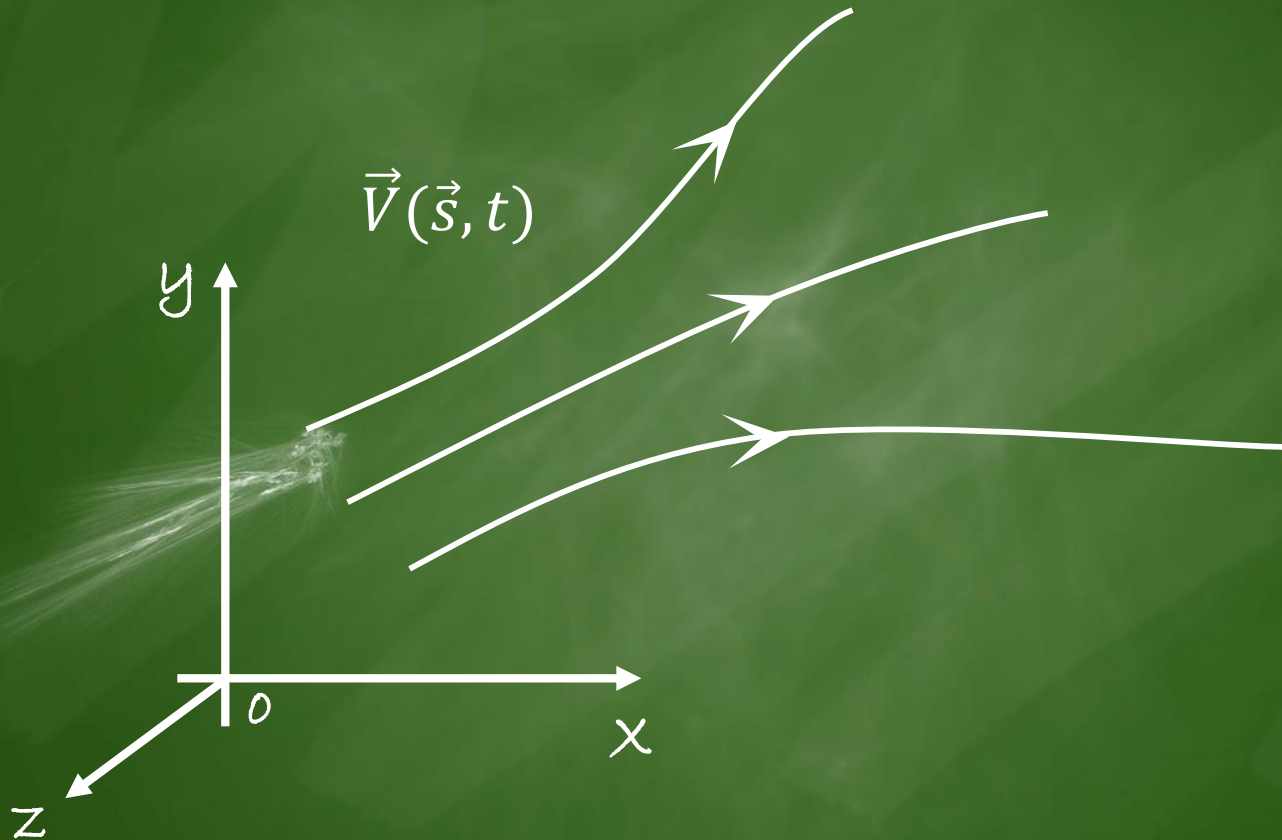
What is $\nabla \cdot \vec{V} = 0$ telling us ???

$\nabla \cdot \vec{V} \equiv$ Volumetric strain rate

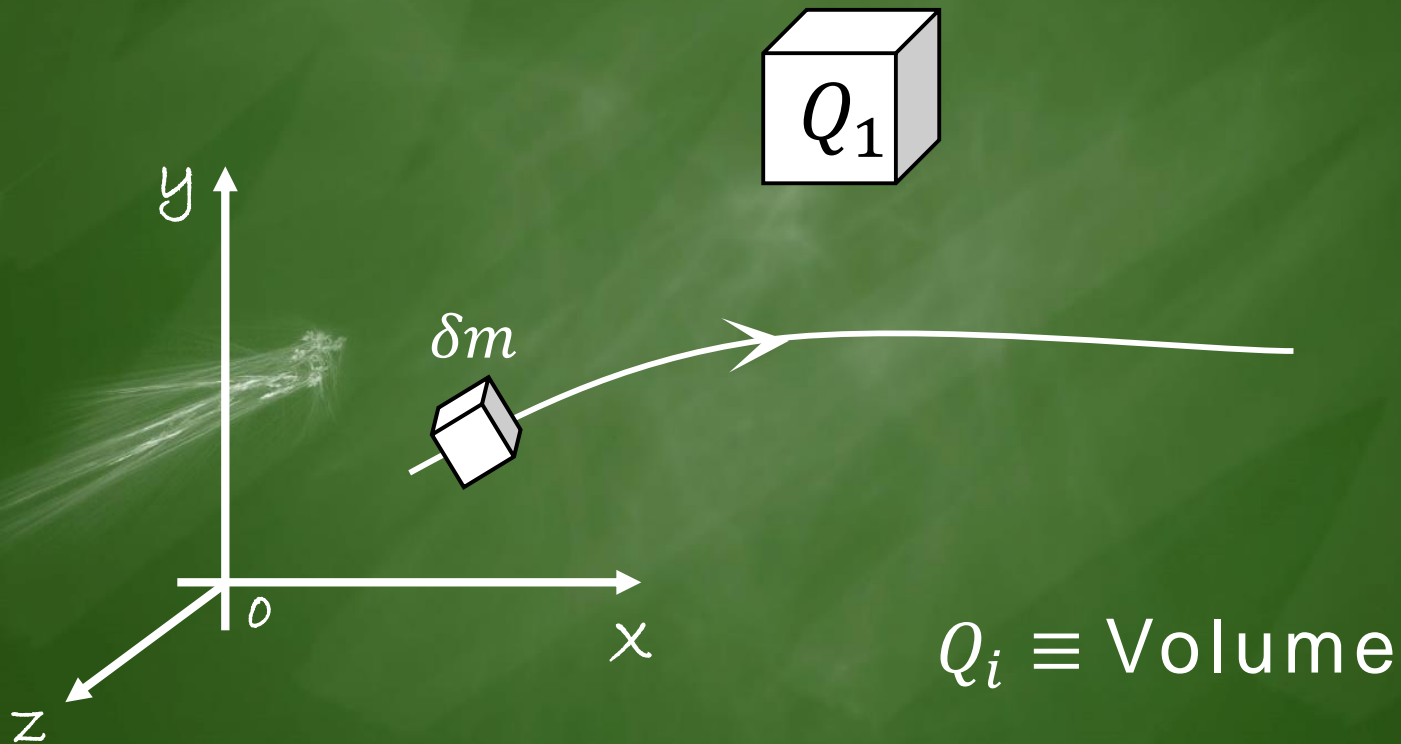

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{V} = \frac{1}{\delta Q} \frac{D(\delta Q)}{Dt}$$

“ time rate of change of the volume δQ
of a moving fluid element, per unit
volume.”

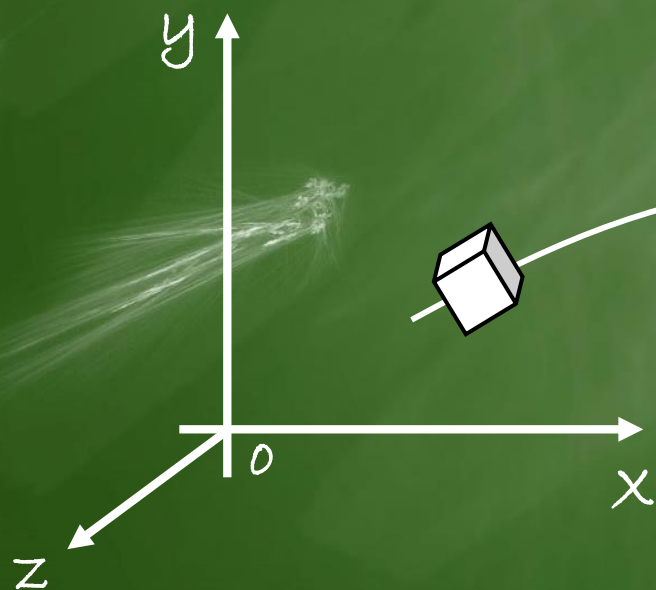
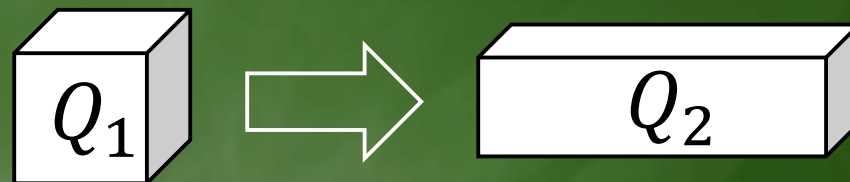
Consider an incompressible flow field



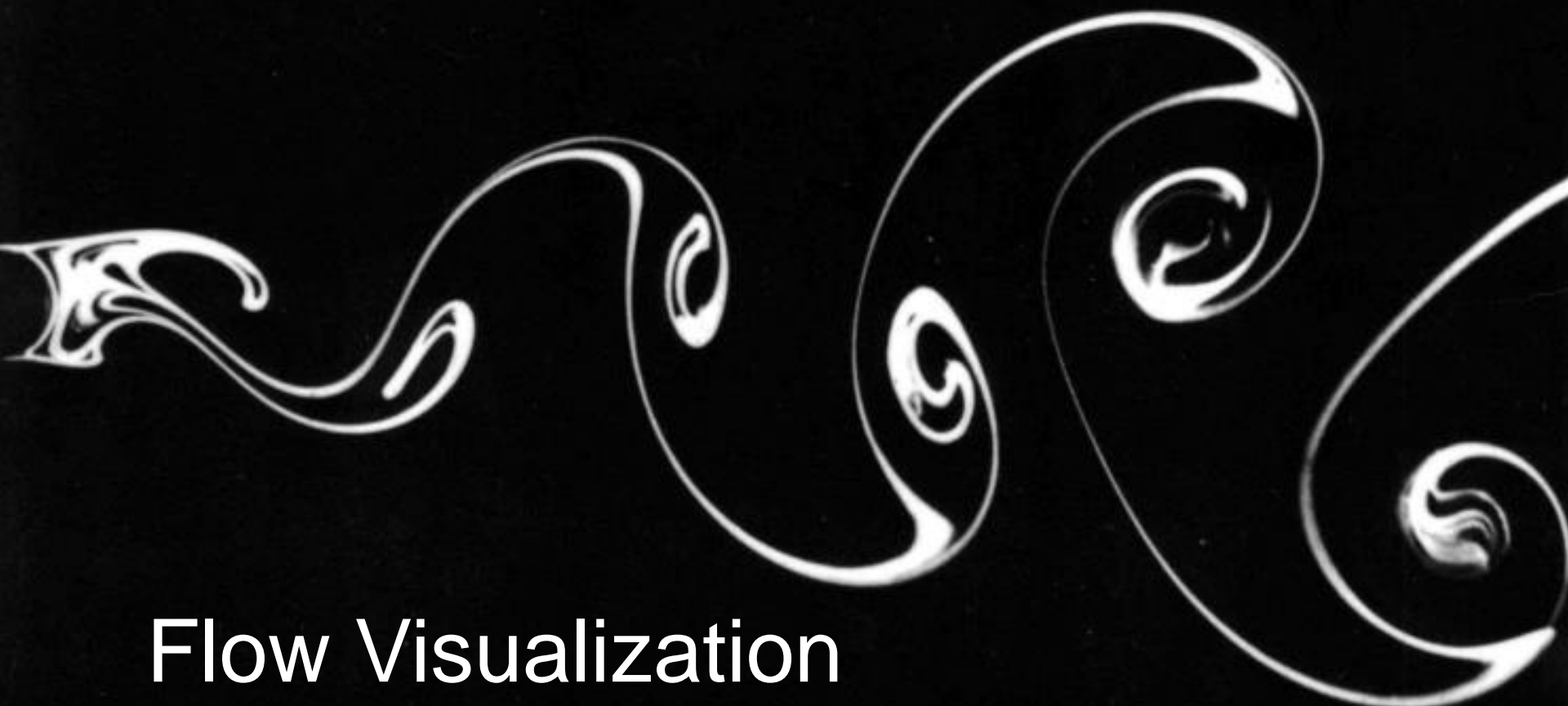
$\delta m \equiv$ infinitesimal mass element



$\delta m \equiv$ infinitesimal mass element



$Q_i \equiv$ Volume



Flow Visualization

Importance, Techniques and underlying math

The Inevitable tools of flow visualization



Streamlines



Streaklines



Pathlines



Timelines

Streamlines



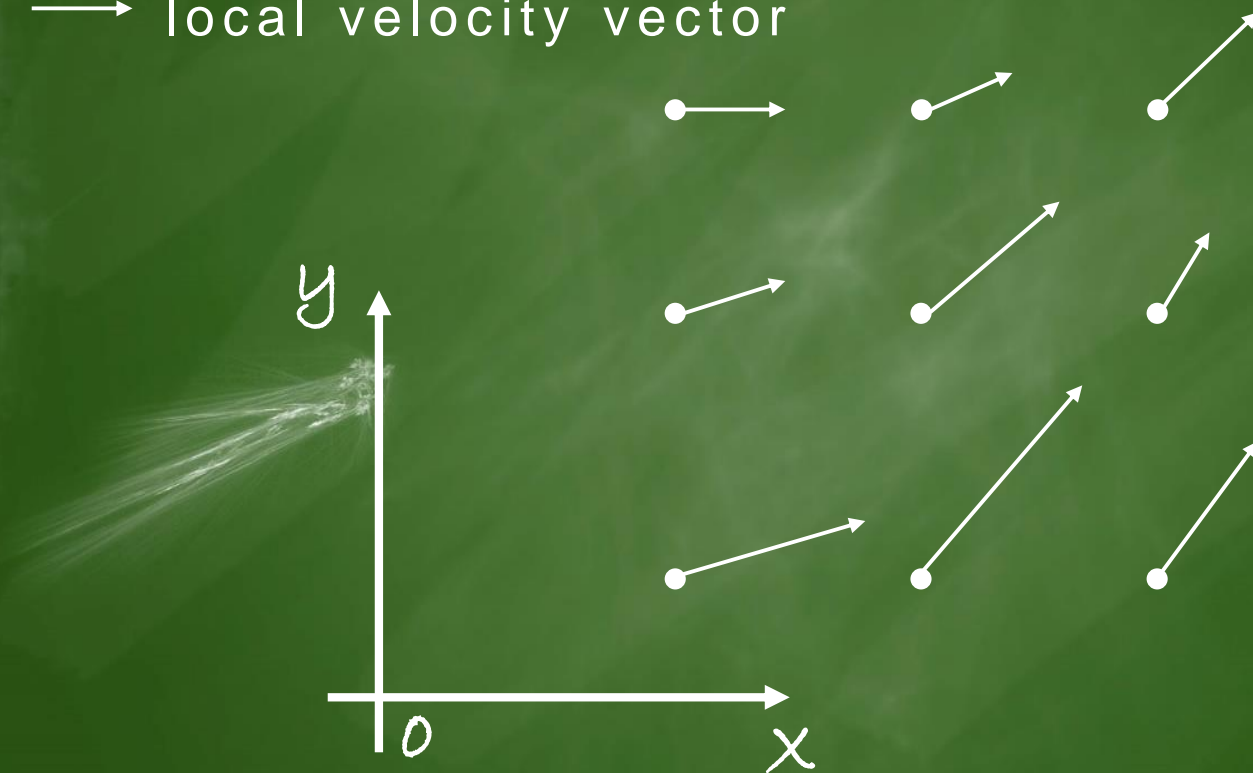
Curve that is everywhere tangent to the instantaneous local velocity vector

What does that mean ?

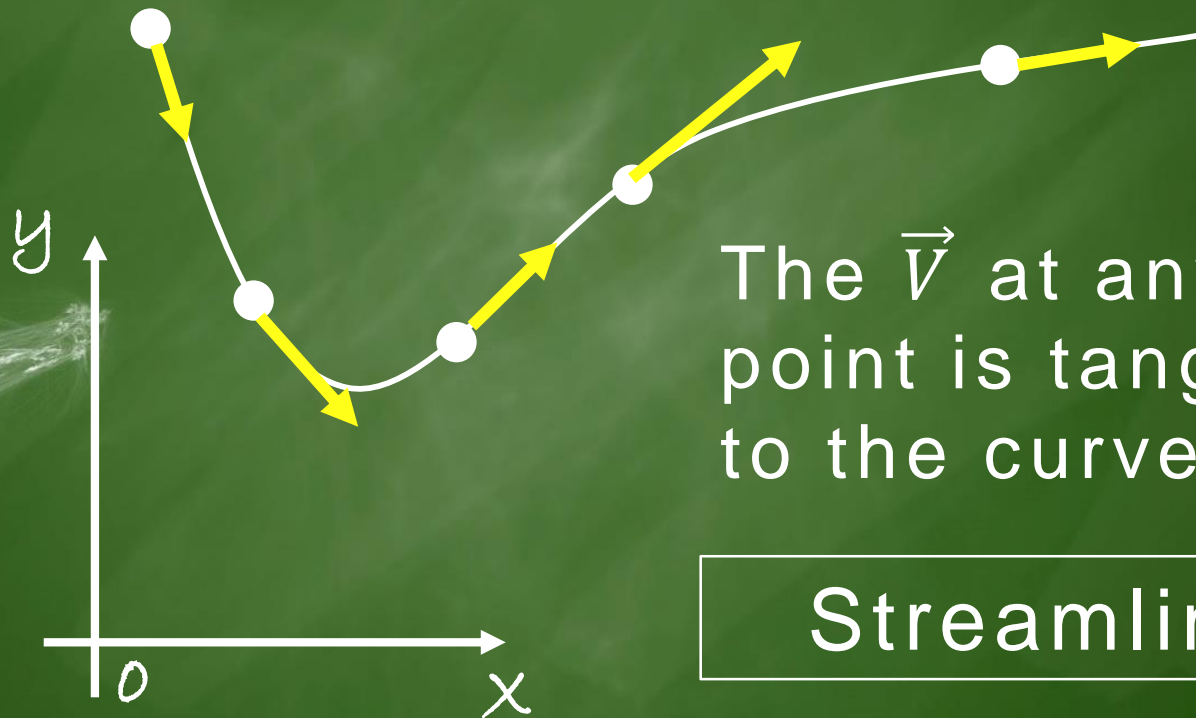
Consider an arbitrary flow,

- point in space

→ local velocity vector



now,
at any instant if you draw a curve ST



The \vec{V} at any
point is tangent
to the curve

Streamline

Things to keep in mind

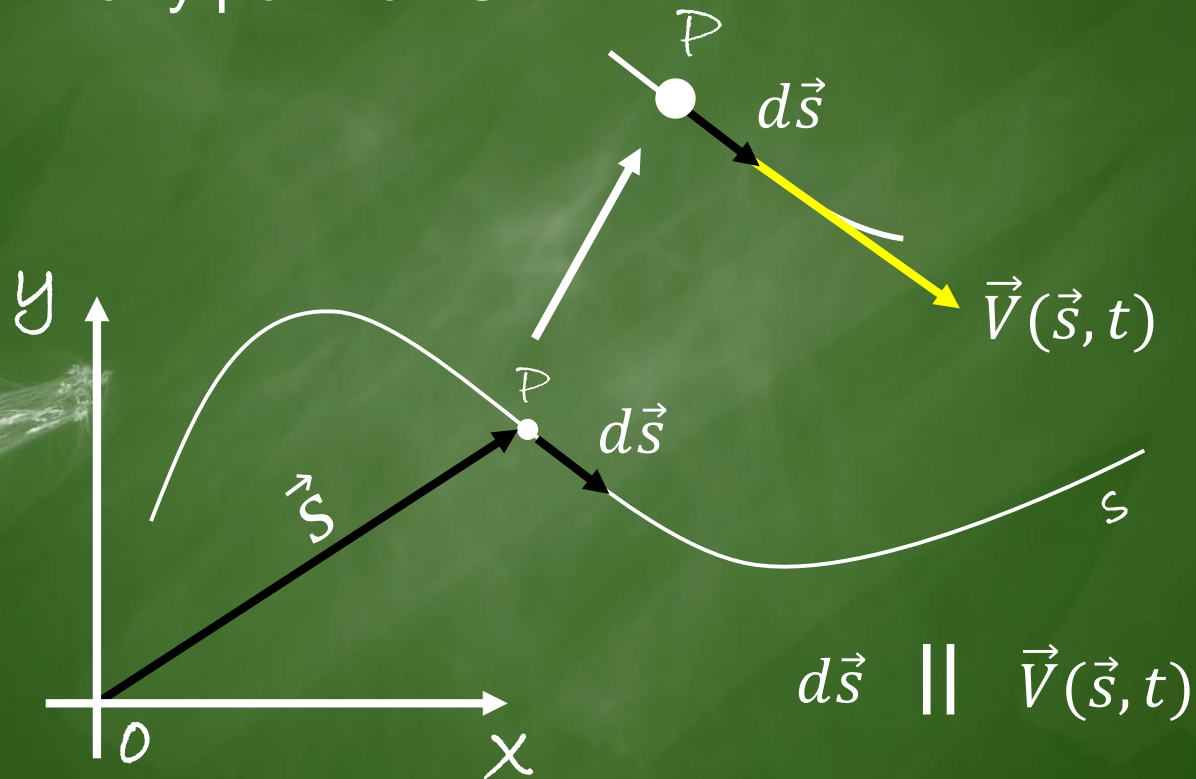


- Defined for an instance
- never intersect
- not always the path
- mathematical notion
- Eulerian concept

Streamline equation

$\mathbf{s} \equiv$ arbitrary streamline

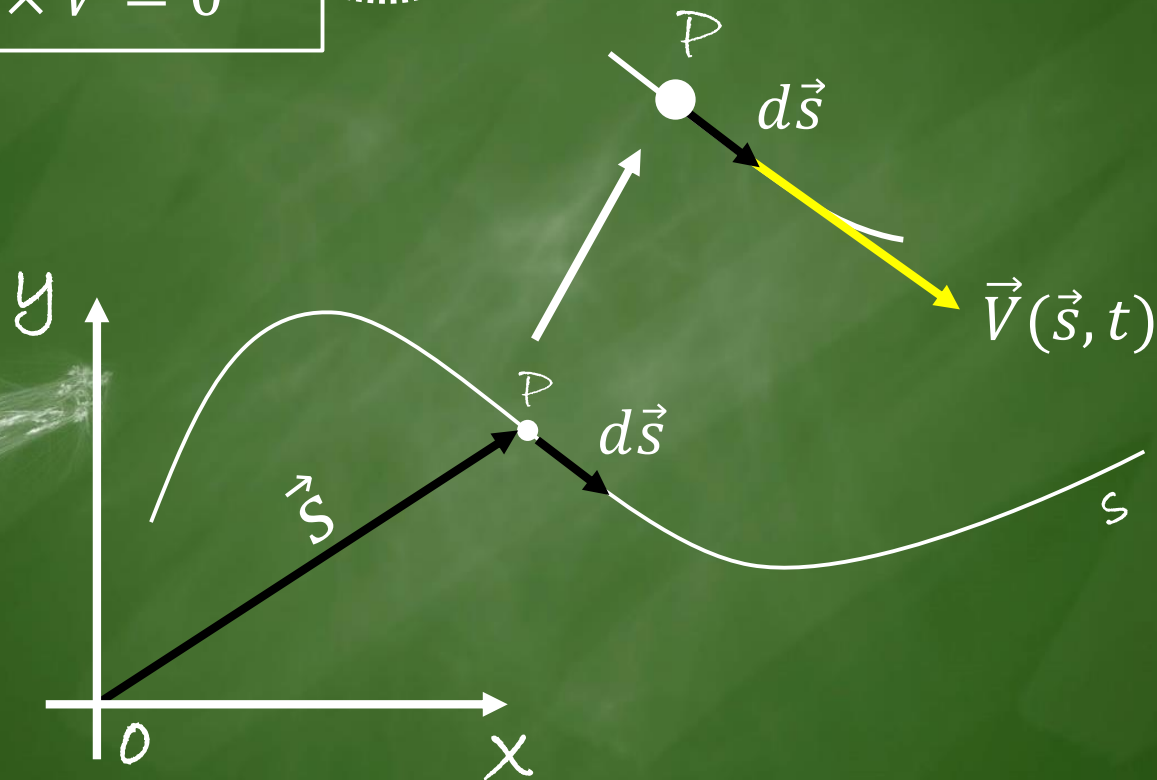
Let be \mathbf{P} any point on \mathbf{s}



$$d\vec{s} \parallel \vec{V}(\vec{s}, t)$$

$$d\vec{s} \times \vec{V} = \vec{0}$$

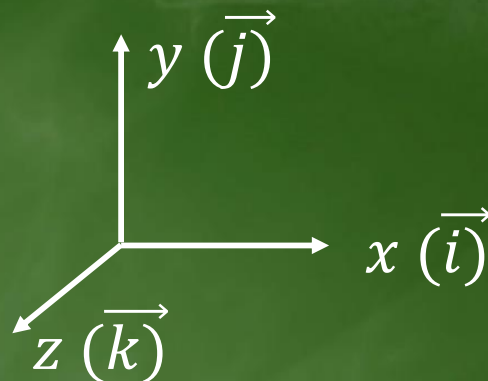
Required equation



For a Cartesian frame

$$\vec{V} = u \vec{i} + v \vec{j} + w \vec{k}$$

$$d\vec{s} = dx \vec{i} + dy \vec{j} + dz \vec{k}$$



$$\Rightarrow d\vec{s} \times \vec{V} = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ dx & dy & dz \\ u & v & w \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ dx & dy & dz \\ u & v & w \end{pmatrix} = \vec{0}$$

$$(w dy - v dz) \vec{i} + (u dz - w dx) \vec{j} + (v dx - u dy) \vec{k} = \vec{0}$$

simplification yields –

$$\frac{dx}{u} = \frac{dy}{v} = \frac{dz}{w}$$

For 2d flow

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{v}{u}$$

Things to keep in mind

$$\frac{dx}{u} = \frac{dy}{v} = \frac{dz}{w}$$



⇒ System of ODEs, solved for x, y and z

⇒ time is treated as constant during integration

⇒ Different c values yield different streamlines



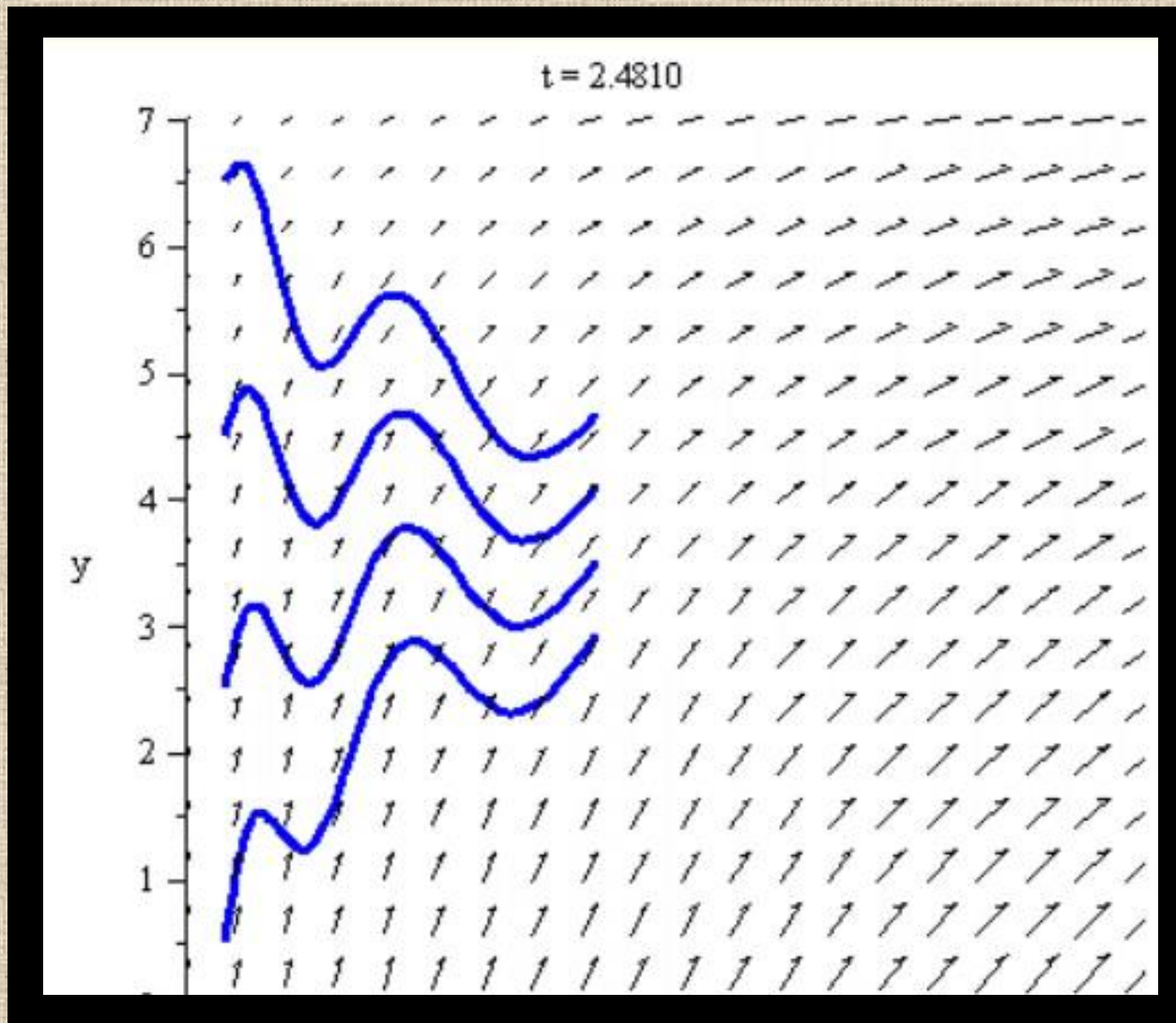
Pathlines

- Definitions
- Common Misconceptions
- Mathematical Expression

Understanding Pathlines

- Lagrangian concept
- Path traced by fluid particle in course of its motion
- Over a time interval
- Pathlines can intersect

Shows Pathlines of 4 different particles



—

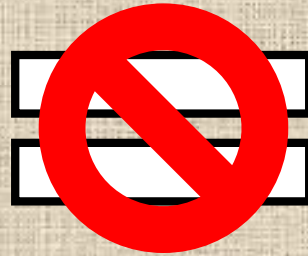
Pathline

→

Local
Velocity
Vector

Getting the Difference right

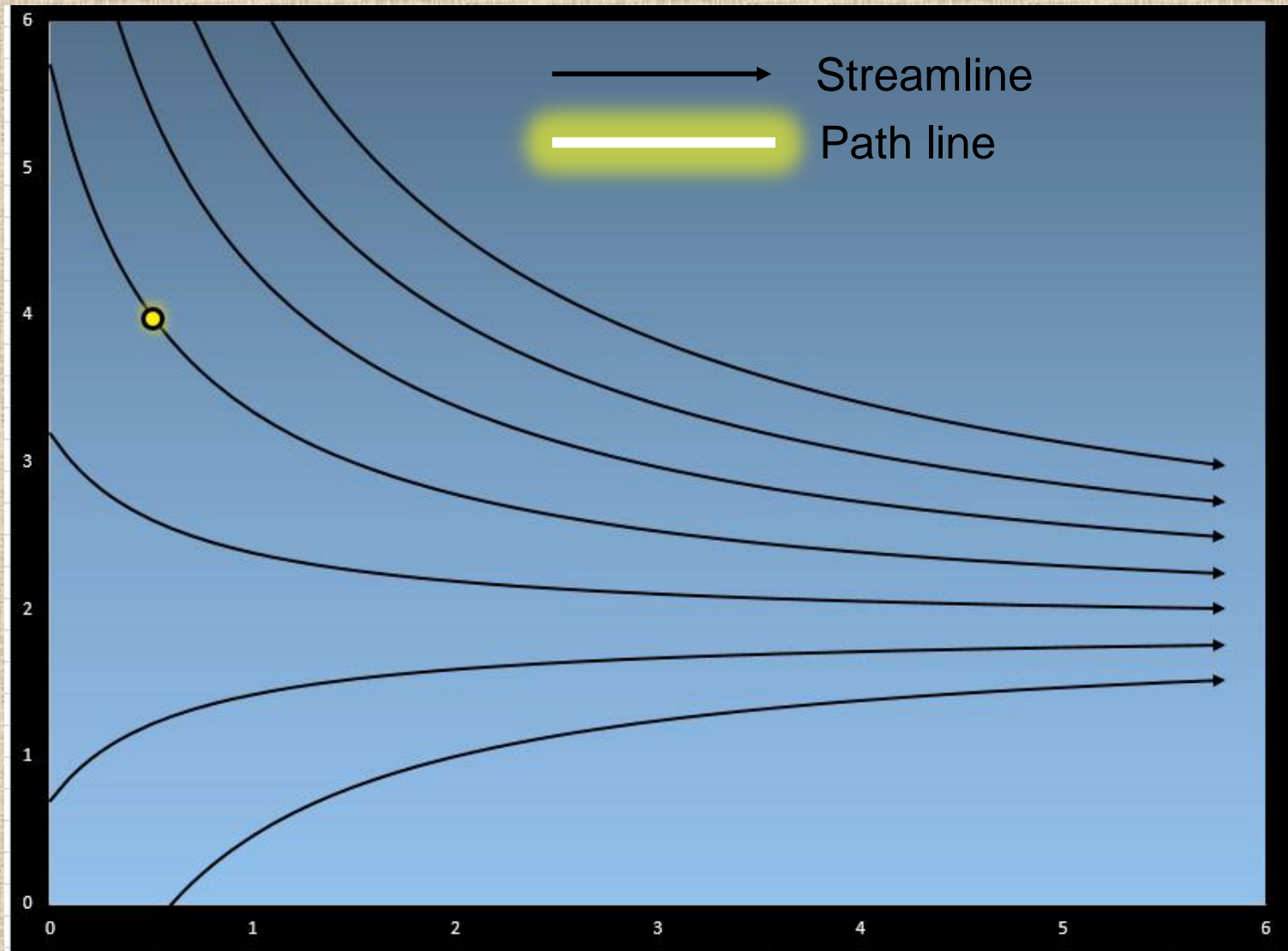
Streamlines



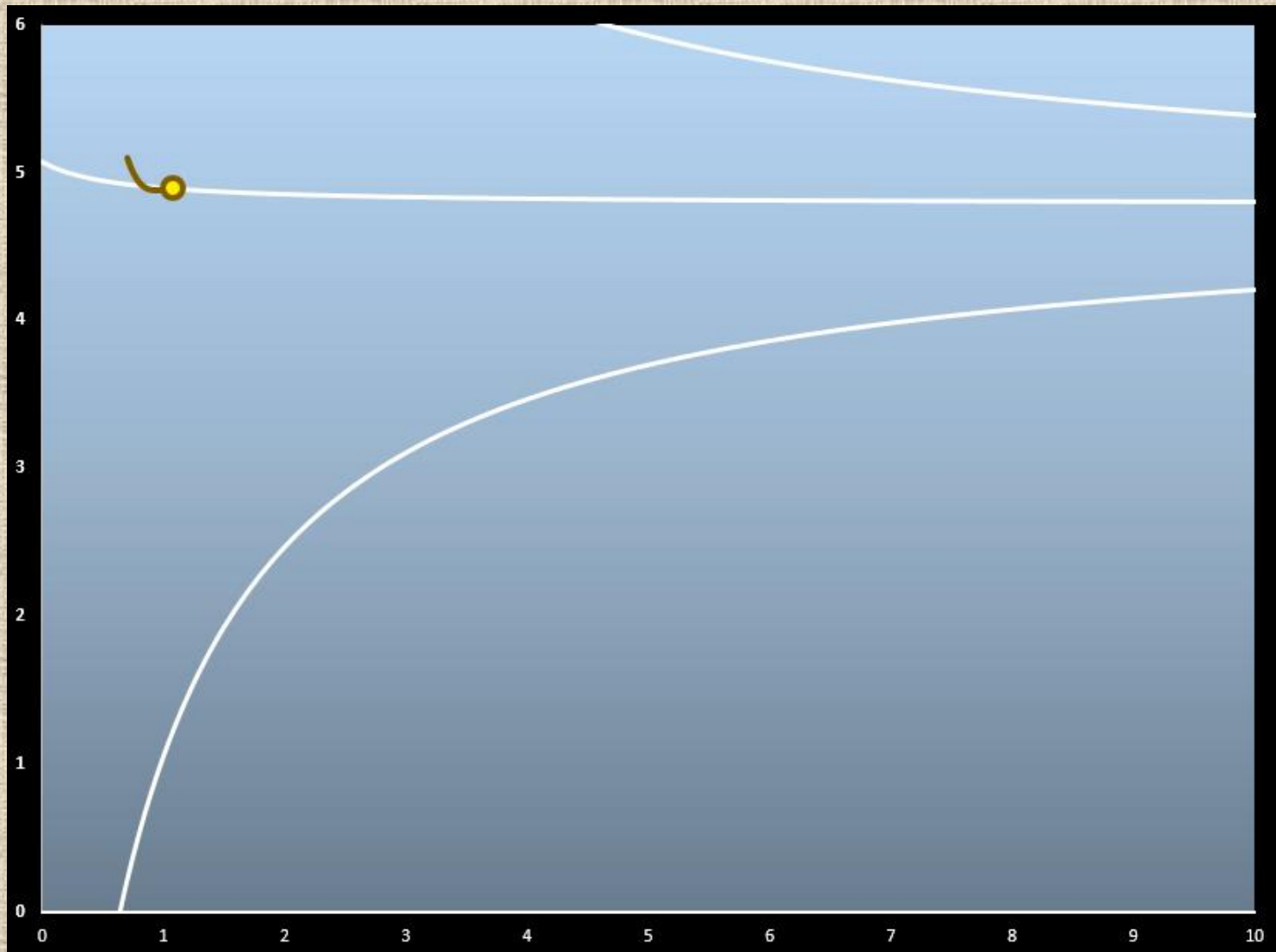
Pathlines

- Only in steady flow it is that the 2 lines are same.
- In better words – particle follows the streamline in steady flow
- Streamlines – ‘at an instant of time’
- Pathlines – ‘over a period of time’

Steady Flow $\vec{V} = \vec{V}(\vec{s})$



Unsteady Flow $\vec{V} = \vec{V}(\vec{s}, t)$



Pathline equations

We need to solve the system

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = u(x, y, z, t)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = v(x, y, z, t)$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = w(x, y, z, t)$$

Subject to

$$x(t = 0) = x_0$$

$$y(t = 0) = y_0$$

$$z(t = 0) = z_0$$

A blue smoke plume is shown against a black background. The plume originates from a small, glowing yellow-orange point at the bottom left. It rises and curves upwards and to the right, forming a complex, swirling vortex structure. The smoke is translucent, allowing the black background to be seen through it. The word "Streaklines" is written in white text in the lower right quadrant of the image.

Streaklines

What are Streak lines ?

- It is the curve **joining** all particles which have passed through a particular point in space.
- Traced over a time interval like path lines
- Smoke trails are essentially streak lines

