

Complex Potential Function for a Point Vortex

Given a coordinate $z = x + iy$ in the complex plane, a point vortex is described by

$$w = \frac{-i\Gamma}{2\pi} \ln(z)$$

Where Γ is the circulation.

The derivative gives the velocity components in the x direction (u) and y direction (v).

$$\frac{dw}{dz} = \frac{-i\Gamma}{2\pi} \cdot \frac{1}{z} = u - iv$$

Interaction Between 2 or more Vortices

Given N vortices, each of their motion is described by

$$\frac{dx_j}{dt} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j}}^N \frac{\Gamma_i (y_j - y_i)}{r_{ij}^2}$$

$$\frac{dy_j}{dt} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j}}^N \frac{\Gamma_i (x_j - x_i)}{r_{ij}^2}$$

Where (x_j, y_j) is the position of the jth vortex and r_{ij} is the distance between the jth and ith vortices.