

In its most simple form, a lifting rotor is a propeller.

- Mechanical energy (rotating blades) used to accelerate (a) a mass (m) of air.
- NB: equal and opposite force on rotor: thrust.

Applying Bernoulli's Equation in streamtube:

$$H_0 = P_0 + \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 = P_1 + \frac{1}{2} \rho (V+v)^2$$

↑
ambient static pressure

↑
 V = onset velocity (copter velocity)

↑
Induced velocity

total pressure

Beyond rotor blades:

$$H_1 = P_0 + \frac{1}{2} \rho (V+v_1)^2 = P_1 + P' + \frac{1}{2} \rho (V+v)^2$$

Change in total pressure

$$H_1 - H_0 = \frac{1}{2} \rho (2Vv_1 + v_1^2) = P' \quad (1)$$

Also, thrust = change of axial momentum per unit time:

$$\frac{T}{A} = P' = \rho (V+v) v_1 \quad (2)$$

↑
rotor disk area

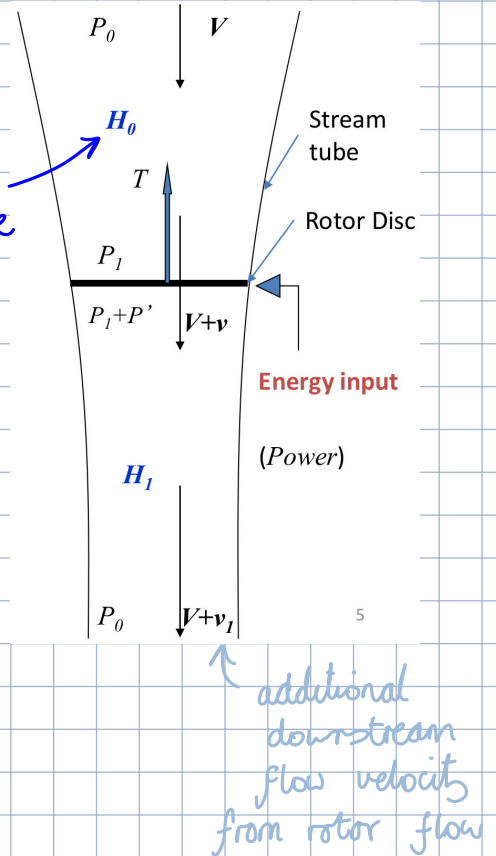
From equation (1) & (2) we can obtain:

$$\frac{v_1}{2} = v \quad \text{or} \quad v_1 = 2v$$

(additional downstream velocity is twice the induced velocity at the blades)

$$\text{Thrust: } T = 2\rho A (V+v)v$$

$$\text{Power: } P = T(V+v)$$



Momentum Theory in Hover :

↳ In hover, $V = 0$

Induced velocity in hover, $v_h = \sqrt{\frac{T}{2\rho A}}$

Induced power in hover, $P_h = T v_h \quad \therefore \quad P_h = \frac{T^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2\rho A}}$

Induced Velocity in Axial Flight :

- In steady state axial flight

↳ vertical acceleration = 0

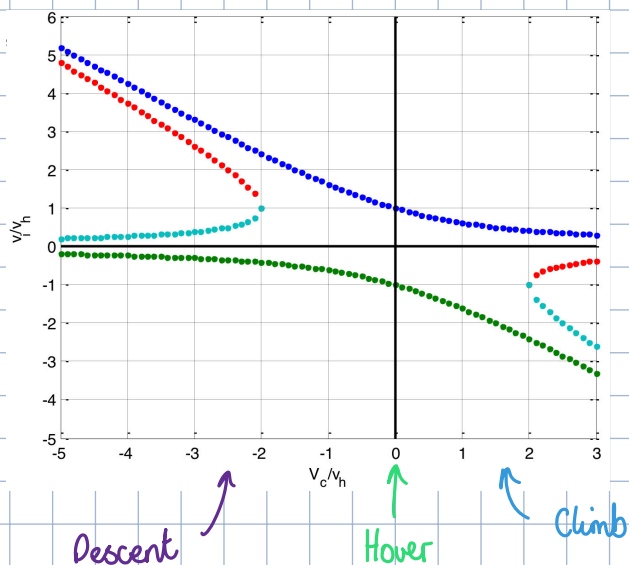
↳ climb with constant speed
descent with constant speed
hover

$$T_{\text{hover}} = T_{\text{axial flight}} = T$$

$$2\rho A v_h^2 = 2\rho A (V + v) v$$

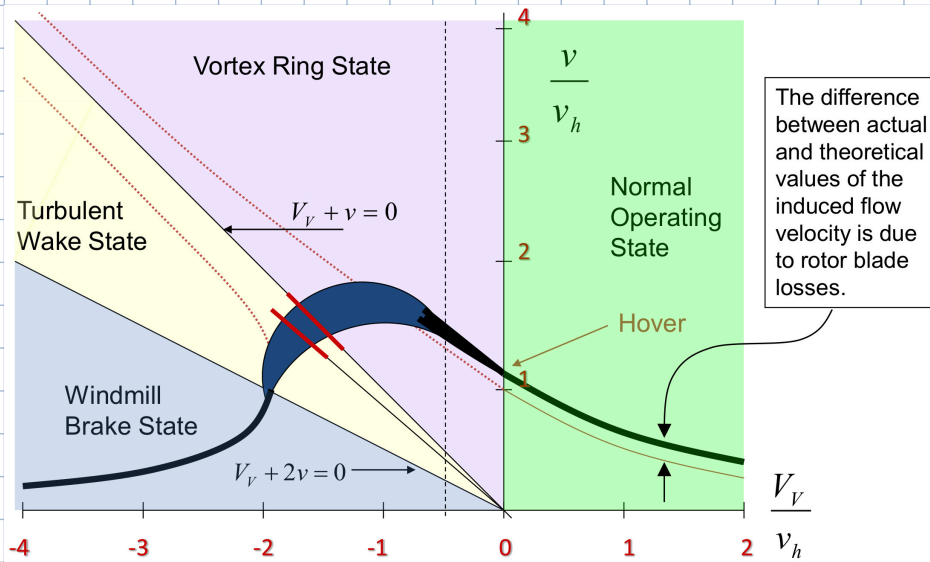
÷ by v_h^2 and plotting variation of $\frac{V}{v_h}$ as function of $\frac{V}{v_h}$:

$$\frac{V}{v_h} = -\frac{V_c}{2v_h} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{V_c}{2v_h}\right)^2 \pm 1}$$



Universal Induced Velocity Diagram:

Momentum theory
applies here



The difference between actual and theoretical values of the induced flow velocity is due to rotor blade losses.

When $(V+v) = 0$, we have autorotation
 $\rightarrow P = T(V+v) \therefore T \neq 0$, but $P = 0$