

METR 5113, Advanced Atmospheric Dynamics I  
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**Kelvin's Circulation Th<sup>m</sup> (continued)**

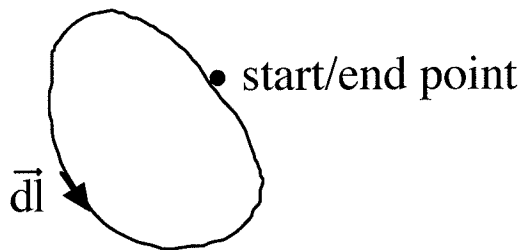
Let  $\Gamma(t) \equiv \oint \vec{u} \cdot \vec{d}\vec{l}$  be circulation around closed material curve C.

To see how  $\Gamma$  changes with time, derive a formula for  $\frac{D\Gamma}{Dt}$ .

$$\frac{D\Gamma}{Dt} = \frac{D}{Dt} \oint \vec{u} \cdot \vec{d}\vec{l} = \oint \underbrace{\left[ \frac{D\vec{u}}{Dt} \right]}_{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{substitute in from Euler's eqn}}} \cdot \vec{d}\vec{l} + \oint \vec{u} \cdot \frac{D}{Dt} \vec{d}\vec{l}$$

$$(*) \quad \frac{D\Gamma}{Dt} = \oint \left( -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \vec{g} \right) \cdot \vec{d}\vec{l} + \oint \vec{u} \cdot \frac{D}{Dt} \vec{d}\vec{l}$$

Want to put as many of the integrands as possible in the form of perfect differentials  $d\chi$  since  $\oint d\chi = \chi_{\text{end}} - \chi_{\text{start}} = 0$  (since start and end points are the same).



Look at pressure term in (\*):

$$-\oint \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p \cdot \vec{d}\vec{l} = -\oint \frac{dp}{\rho} \quad \text{where } dp \text{ is change in } p \text{ across } \vec{d}\vec{l}.$$

$$= - \oint \boxed{\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{dp}{d\rho}} d\rho \quad (\text{since flow is barotropic})$$

a function of  $\rho$ . Call it  $dF/d\rho$ .

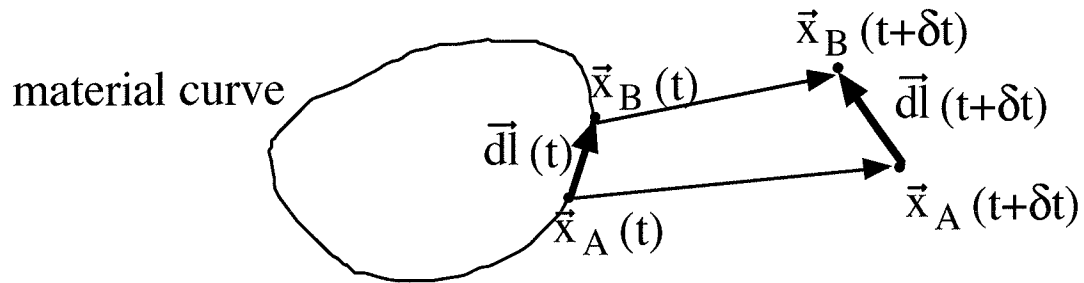
$$= - \oint \frac{dF}{d\rho} d\rho = - \oint dF = -(F_{\text{end}} - F_{\text{start}}) = 0$$

Look at gravity term in (\*):

$$\oint \vec{g} \cdot \vec{dl} = - \oint \nabla \boxed{\Pi} \cdot \vec{dl} = - \oint d\Pi = 0$$

$\Pi \equiv gz$  is potential energy function

Now look at  $\oint \vec{u} \cdot \frac{D}{Dt} \vec{dl}$  term in (\*):



$\vec{dl}(t) \equiv \vec{x}_B(t) - \vec{x}_A(t)$  is element of curve at time  $t$ .

$\vec{dl}(t + \delta t) \equiv \vec{x}_B(t + \delta t) - \vec{x}_A(t + \delta t)$  is same element at time  $t + \delta t$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{D}{Dt} \vec{dl} &= \lim_{\delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{dl}(t + \delta t) - \vec{dl}(t)}{\delta t} \\ &= \lim_{\delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{[\vec{x}_B(t + \delta t) - \vec{x}_A(t + \delta t)] - [\vec{x}_B(t) - \vec{x}_A(t)]}{\delta t} \end{aligned}$$

Now use the Taylor expansions (in time):

$$\vec{x}_B(t + \delta t) = \vec{x}_B(t) + \vec{u}_B \delta t + \text{h.o.t.}$$

$$\vec{x}_A(t + \delta t) = \vec{x}_A(t) + \vec{u}_A \delta t + \text{h.o.t.}$$

these h.o.t involve terms of order  $(\delta t)^2$  and higher

$$\therefore \frac{D}{Dt} \vec{dl} = \lim_{\delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{x}_B(t) + \vec{u}_B \delta t - \vec{x}_A(t) - \vec{u}_A \delta t - [\vec{x}_B(t) - \vec{x}_A(t)]}{\delta t}$$

(h.o.t. vanish in limit of vanishing  $\delta t$ )

$$= \boxed{\vec{u}_B} - \vec{u}_A \quad \text{do Taylor exp for } \vec{u}_B \text{ in space (neglect h.o.t.):}$$

$$= \boxed{\vec{u}_A + \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial x_i} dx_i} - \vec{u}_A = \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial x_i} dx_i \quad [\text{rewrite using } \vec{dl} = \hat{e}_i dx_i]$$

$$= (\vec{dl} \cdot \nabla) \vec{u} = d\vec{u} \quad \text{change in } \vec{u} \text{ from } \vec{x}_A \text{ to } \vec{x}_B.$$

$$\therefore \frac{D}{Dt} \vec{dl} = d\vec{u}$$

$$\therefore \vec{u} \cdot \frac{D}{Dt} \vec{dl} = \vec{u} \cdot d\vec{u} = d\left(\frac{1}{2} \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}\right)$$

$$\therefore \oint \vec{u} \cdot \frac{D}{Dt} \vec{dl} = \oint d\left(\frac{1}{2} \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u}\right) = 0$$

So all terms on rhs of (\*) are 0!

We're left with Kelvin's Circulation Theorem:

$$\boxed{\frac{D\Gamma}{Dt} = 0} \quad \text{for a material curve.}$$

or

$$\boxed{\Gamma = \text{const}} \text{ for a material curve}$$

"absolute circulation is conserved following the motion of a material curve". Valid for barotropic, inviscid, flow subject to conservative body forces and described in an inertial ref frame.

Derivation made use of quantities on curve itself. As long as conditions for Kelvin's th<sup>m</sup> hold on curve, the th<sup>m</sup> is valid (doesn't matter if conditions are violated within curve).

Rewrite Kelvin's th<sup>m</sup> using Stokes th<sup>m</sup>,  $\oint \vec{u} \cdot d\vec{l} = \int \vec{\omega} \cdot \hat{n} dA$ .

So  $\boxed{\int \vec{\omega} \cdot \hat{n} dA = \text{const}}$  (following the curve)

or:

$$\boxed{\bar{\omega} A = \text{const}} \text{ (following the curve),}$$

where  $\bar{\omega}$  is the average normal component of the vorticity on area bounded by the curve.

Example: Consider a rotating vertical column of air and a material curve that is horizontal and encloses the column. If the curve remains horizontal but shrinks in size (so A decreases) then Kelvin's theorem says the average vertical-comp vorticity increases (the normal to the area enclosed by the horizontal curve points vertically).

Example: Consider, at  $t = 0$ , a rotating vertical column of air and a material curve that is horizontal and encloses the rotating

column. Suppose the curve doesn't shrink or expand but it changes its orientation -- say, it moves into a vertical orientation. Then the average normal-comp vorticity stays the same. But the "normal" direction has changed. In this example there is a rearrangement of vorticity: originally we had vertical component of vorticity, but end up with a horizontal component of vorticity.

Example: "Persistence of irrotational motion". Suppose conditions for validity of Kelvin's Th<sup>m</sup> are satisfied (everywhere) and vorticity is initially 0. Consider a closed material curve. At  $t=0$  the vorticity is 0 everywhere so it's 0 within area enclosed by this curve so integrated vorticity over that area is 0  $\therefore$  from Stokes th<sup>m</sup>, the circ around curve is 0:  $\Gamma(0) = 0$ . Follow curve as it moves with the flow. Kelvin's th<sup>m</sup> says  $\Gamma(t) = \text{const}$ . Since  $\Gamma(0) = 0$ , the const must be 0. So  $\Gamma(t) = 0$ . Get this result for all possible material curves. So  $\Gamma(t) = 0$  for all time and for all material curves. But Stokes th<sup>m</sup> says:  $\Gamma = \int \vec{\omega} \cdot \hat{n} \, dA$   
 $\therefore \int \vec{\omega} \cdot \hat{n} \, dA = 0$  for all time and all material curves. So  $\vec{\omega} \cdot \hat{n} = 0$  everywhere, for all time. And since this holds true for all possible  $\hat{n}$  (choose curves with any orientation)  $\vec{\omega} = 0$  everywhere, for all time.