

19. A Continuation Principle for the 3-D Euler Equations for Incompressible Fluids in a Bounded Domain

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1. In this paper we study the Euler equations for ideal incompressible fluids in a bounded domain Ω in \mathbf{R}^3 :

$$(1) \quad u_t + u \cdot \nabla u + \nabla p = 0, \quad \nabla \cdot u = 0 \text{ for } t \geq 0, x \in \Omega,$$

$$(2) \quad u \cdot n = 0 \text{ for } t \geq 0, x \in \Gamma.$$

Here the boundary Γ of Ω is assumed to be of class C^∞ ; t and x are time and space variables; $u = u(t, x) = (u_1, u_2, u_3)$ is the velocity and $p = p(t, x)$ is the pressure; $n = n(x) = (n_1, n_2, n_3)$ is the unit outward normal at $x \in \Gamma$; we write $u_t = \partial u / \partial t$, $\partial_i = \partial / \partial x^i$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$, $\nabla = (\partial_1, \partial_2, \partial_3)$ and $u \cdot \nabla = \sum_{i=1}^3 u_i \partial_i$.

Let $s \geq 0$ be an integer. We denote by $H^s(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^3)$ the usual Sobolev space of order s on Ω taking values in \mathbf{R}^3 . The norm is defined by $\|u\|_s^2 = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq s} |\partial^\alpha u|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2$, where $\partial^\alpha = \partial_1^{|\alpha_1|} \partial_2^{|\alpha_2|} \partial_3^{|\alpha_3|}$ with $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$. For $0 < T < \infty$, we put

$$X_s(T) = C^0([0, T]; H^s(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^3)) \cap C^1([0, T]; H^{s-1}(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^3)).$$

Now we state our main

Theorem. *Let $s > 2$ be an integer. Suppose that u is a solution of (1), (2) belonging to $X_s(T')$ for any $T' < T < \infty$ such that $\|u(t)\|_s \uparrow \infty$ as $t \uparrow T$. Then*

$$(3) \quad \int_0^t |\text{rot } u(\tau)|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} d\tau \uparrow \infty \text{ as } t \uparrow T.$$

This theorem is an immediate consequence of the local in time existence theorem for the initial boundary value problem (1), (2) with the initial data $u^0 \in H^s(\Omega; \mathbf{R}^3)$ satisfying $\nabla \cdot u^0 = 0$ in Ω , $u^0 \cdot n = 0$ on Γ (see [3,6]), and the following new estimate for a smooth solution u of (1), (2) such that $u \in X_s(T)$ with $s > 2$: There exists a nondecreasing continuous function $F(t, x, y) \geq 0$ for $t \geq 0, x \geq 0, y \geq 0$, satisfying the estimate

$$(4) \quad \|u(t)\|_s \leq F(t, \|u(0)\|_s, \int_0^t |\text{rot } u(\tau)|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} d\tau) \text{ for } t \in [0, T].$$

In the sequel, C is a constant which might change line by line and $u(t, x)$ is always a smooth solution of (1), (2) in the sense mentioned above.

Such a link that exists between the accumulation of the vorticity and the possible breakdown of smooth solutions for the Euler equations was shown by Beale-Kato-Majda [2] for the motion of fluids in the entire space \mathbf{R}^3 .

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When Ω is a bounded domain, the arguments become more involved, because of the appearance of the boundary. Recently Ferrari [5] discussed this link for simply connected domains in \mathbf{R}^3 by utilizing the Green's matrix of Solonnikov [8] for the boundary value problem of an elliptic system introduced by himself.

In order to state the reasoning in a clear-cut way, we use the theory of harmonic integrals. The crucial estimate (15) is shown by considering the generalized Biot-Savart law (6) and the representation of a parametrix of Laplacian on 2-forms on Ω . To derive this representation, we also apply the result of [8].

2. Let $H^s(\Omega; \Lambda^\ell)$ be the Hilbert space of ℓ -forms Λ^ℓ on Ω with the usual norm of $H^s(\Omega)$. In what follows we identify a vector field u and the vorticity $\text{rot } u = (w_1, w_2, w_3)$ on Ω with a 1-form $u_1 dx^1 + u_2 dx^2 + u_3 dx^3$ and a 2-form $w_1 dx^2 \wedge dx^3 + w_2 dx^3 \wedge dx^1 + w_3 dx^1 \wedge dx^2$ on Ω . Here the canonical metric of \mathbf{R}^3 is induced into Ω . Next let d_ℓ , δ_ℓ , and $*$ denote the exterior derivative on ℓ -forms, the codifferential operator of $d_{\ell-1}$, and the Hodge star operator, respectively. ι is the inclusion map $\Gamma \rightarrow \bar{\Omega}$ and ι^* denotes the induced map of ι . In general, for a differentiable mapping Φ , Φ^* denotes its induced map. (For definitions in the above, see [9].) Then Laplacian Δ_ℓ on ℓ -forms and the space of harmonic ℓ -forms $\mathcal{H}_\ell(\Omega)$ on Ω are defined by

$$\Delta_\ell = d_{\ell-1} \delta_\ell + \delta_{\ell+1} d_\ell, \\ \mathcal{H}_\ell(\Omega) = \{w \in H^1(\Omega; \Lambda^\ell) \mid d_\ell w = 0, \delta_\ell w = 0 \text{ on } \Omega, \iota^*(\ast w) = 0\}.$$

We summarize the statement of the decomposition theorem on Ω as follows: (See Theorems 7.7.1-7.7.4 in [7], Theorem 10.5 in [1] with the fact remarked after (8). See also [4].)

i) For $\ell = 1, 2$, Laplacian Δ_ℓ on ℓ -forms with the domain

$$D(\Delta_\ell) = \{w \in H^2(\Omega; \Lambda^\ell) \mid \iota^*(\ast w) = \iota^*(\ast d_\ell w) = 0\},$$

has the kernel and the cokernel equal to $\mathcal{H}_\ell(\Omega)$, which is a finite dimensional subspace included in $C^\infty(\bar{\Omega}; \Lambda^\ell)$.

ii) For $\ell = 1, 2$, the space $H^s(\Omega; \Lambda^\ell)$ is decomposed as

$$(5) \quad H^s(\Omega; \Lambda^\ell) = \mathcal{H}_\ell(\Omega) \oplus \delta_{\ell+1} d_\ell \Delta_\ell^{-1} (\mathcal{H}_\ell(\Omega)^\perp) \oplus d_{\ell-1} \delta_\ell \Delta_\ell^{-1} (\mathcal{H}_\ell(\Omega)^\perp).$$

Here Δ_ℓ^{-1} is the inverse of Δ_ℓ on $\mathcal{H}_\ell(\Omega)^\perp$ which is the L^2 -orthogonal complement of $\mathcal{H}_\ell(\Omega)$ in $H^s(\Omega; \Lambda^\ell)$, and all subspaces on the right side of (5) are L^2 -orthogonal to each other.

iii) Since $u(t, x)$ is L^2 -orthogonal to $d_0 \delta_1 \Delta_1^{-1} (\mathcal{H}_1(\Omega)^\perp)$ in (5), we obtain from ii)

$$(6) \quad u(t, x) = \sum_{i=1}^R \lambda_i(t) a_i(x) + \delta_2 \Delta_2^{-1} d_1 u(t, x), \quad t \in [0, T], \quad x \in \Omega,$$

where $R = \dim \mathcal{H}_1(\Omega)$, $\{a_i(x)\}_{i=1}^R \subset C^\infty(\bar{\Omega})$ is an L^2 -orthogonal basis of $\mathcal{H}_1(\Omega)$, and $\lambda_i(t) = (u(t, x), a_i(x))_{L^2(\Omega)}$, $1 \leq i \leq R$. Here we used the fact that $d_1 \Delta_1^{-1} = \Delta_2^{-1} d_1$ (see p. 547 in [4]) and $d_1 u(t, \cdot) \in \mathcal{H}_2(\Omega)^\perp$.

3. We use an appropriate parametrix of Δ_2 . Choose an open cover of

Ω , $\{\mathcal{O}^\gamma\}_{\gamma=0}^k$, such that $\cup_{\gamma=0}^k \mathcal{O}^\gamma = \Omega$, $\mathcal{O}^0 \subset \subset \Omega$, $\overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma} \cap \Gamma \neq \emptyset$, $1 \leq \gamma \leq k$, and each \mathcal{O}^γ , $0 \leq \gamma \leq k$, is a bounded domain with C^∞ -boundary $\partial\mathcal{O}^\gamma$. We also assume that $\mathcal{H}_2(\mathcal{O}^\gamma) = \{0\}$, $1 \leq \gamma \leq k$. Take open subsets $\{\mathcal{O}_i^\gamma\}_{\gamma=0}^k$, $i = 1, 2$, such that $\cup_{\gamma=0}^k \mathcal{O}_1^\gamma = \Omega$ and

$$\mathcal{O}_1^0 \subset \subset \mathcal{O}_2^0 \subset \subset \mathcal{O}^0, \overline{\mathcal{O}_1^\gamma} \subset \subset \overline{\mathcal{O}_2^\gamma} \subset \subset \overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma} \text{ in } \bar{\Omega}, 1 \leq \gamma \leq k.$$

Choose cut off functions $\{\varphi_i^\gamma\}_{\gamma=0}^k$, $i = 1, 2$, satisfying $\text{supp } \varphi_i^0 \subset \subset \mathcal{O}_i^0$, and $\text{supp } \varphi_i^\gamma \subset \subset \mathcal{O}_i^\gamma \cup \Gamma$, $1 \leq \gamma \leq k$, for $i = 1, 2$. In addition, these $\{\varphi_i^\gamma\}_{\gamma=0}^k$, $i = 1, 2$, are chosen so as to satisfy $\sum_{\gamma=0}^k \varphi_1^\gamma = 1$ on Ω , $\varphi_2^\gamma = 1$ on $\overline{\mathcal{O}_1^\gamma}$ for $0 \leq \gamma \leq k$, and $\partial\varphi_2^\gamma/\partial n = 0$ on Γ for $1 \leq \gamma \leq k$. Next we solve the following boundary value problems:

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} \Delta_2 v^0 &= f^0 \text{ in } \mathcal{O}^0, v^0 = 0 \text{ on } \partial\mathcal{O}^0, \\ \Delta_2 v^\gamma &= f^\gamma \text{ in } \mathcal{O}^\gamma, \iota_\gamma^*(v^\gamma) = \iota_\gamma^*(d_2 v^\gamma) = 0, 1 \leq \gamma \leq k, \end{aligned}$$

where the f^γ are assumed to be in $H^0(\mathcal{O}^\gamma; \Lambda^2)$, $0 \leq \gamma \leq k$, and the ι_γ denote the inclusion maps $\partial\mathcal{O}^\gamma \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma}$, $1 \leq \gamma \leq k$. Since $\mathcal{H}_2(\mathcal{O}^\gamma) = \{0\}$, $1 \leq \gamma \leq k$, we see from ii) in §2 that the problems (7) have solutions $v^\gamma \in H^2(\mathcal{O}^\gamma; \Lambda^2)$, $0 \leq \gamma \leq k$. Using conventional notations, we may rewrite (7) as follows:

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} -\Delta v^0 &= f^0 \text{ in } \mathcal{O}^0, v^0 = 0 \text{ on } \partial\mathcal{O}^0, \\ -\Delta v^\gamma &= f^\gamma \text{ in } \mathcal{O}^\gamma, v^\gamma \times n^\gamma = 0, \nabla \cdot v^\gamma = 0 \text{ on } \partial\mathcal{O}^\gamma, 1 \leq \gamma \leq k. \end{aligned}$$

Here $\Delta = \partial_1^2 + \partial_2^2 + \partial_3^2$ and $n^\gamma = n^\gamma(x) = (n_1^\gamma, n_2^\gamma, n_3^\gamma)$ is the unit outward normal at $x \in \partial\mathcal{O}^\gamma$. Notice that $-\Delta$ is an elliptic operator and the boundary conditions in (8) satisfy the complementing condition with respect to $-\Delta$ in the sense of [1]. Then by virtue of Theorem 5.1 of [8], we see that there exist 3×3 matrices $g^\gamma(x, y)$ defined on $\overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma} \times \overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma}$, $0 \leq \gamma \leq k$, such that the solutions v^γ of (8) are expressed as

$$(9) \quad v^\gamma(x) = \int_{\overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma}} g^\gamma(x, y) f^\gamma(y) dy, 0 \leq \gamma \leq k,$$

and the following estimates hold for any multi-indices α, β :

$$(10) \quad |\partial_x^\alpha \partial_y^\beta g^\gamma(x, y)| \leq C |x - y|^{-1-|\alpha|-|\beta|}, (x, y) \in \overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma} \times \overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma}, 0 \leq \gamma \leq k.$$

Fix $t \in [0, T]$. Let each $\varphi_2^\gamma(x) g^\gamma(x, y)$, $0 \leq \gamma \leq k$, be the extension with respect to x of itself taking the value 0 outside of $\overline{\mathcal{O}^\gamma}$. We put $q(x, y) = \sum_{\gamma=0}^k \varphi_2^\gamma(x) g^\gamma(x, y) \varphi_1^\gamma(y)$ and then set

$$(11) \quad R[d_1 u](t, x) = \Delta \int_\Omega q(x, y) d_1 u(t, y) dy + d_1 u(t, x).$$

Here $\int_\Omega q(x, y) d_1 u(t, y) dy \in D(\Delta_2)$, as a 2-form, by a particular choice of φ_2^γ , $1 \leq \gamma \leq k$. Referring to (8), (9), we get by direct calculation

$$(12) \quad R[d_1 u](t, x) = \int_\Omega r(x, y) d_1 u(t, y) dy.$$

Here $r(x, y)$ is a 3×3 matrix depending on $x, y \in \Omega$, which consists of first order derivatives of $g^\gamma(x, y)$ with respect to x multiplied by $\varphi_1^\gamma(y)$ and the derivatives of $\varphi_2^\gamma(x)$, $0 \leq \gamma \leq k$. So, thanks again to the special choice of $\{\varphi_i^\gamma\}_{\gamma=0}^k$, $i = 1, 2$, we see that $r(x, y)$ is smooth on $\Omega \times \Omega$. On the other

hand, since both terms on the right side of (11) belong to $\mathcal{H}_2(\Omega)^\perp$, $R[d_1u] \in \mathcal{H}_2(\Omega)^\perp$. Hence, in view of ii) in §2 and the fact remarked after (11), we finally obtain from (11)

$$(13) \quad \delta_2 \Delta_2^{-1}(d_1u)(t, x) = \delta_2 \int_{\Omega} q(x, y) d_1u(t, y) dy + \delta_2 \Delta_2^{-1}(R[d_1u])(t, x).$$

4. We give a sketch of the proof of (4). Fix $t \in [0, T]$. Note that the pressure $p(t, x)$ is a solution of a certain Neumann problem in Ω (see the proof of Theorem 3 in [3]). Then by using Gagliardo–Nirenberg’s inequality and by applying a limit argument, we obtain (see [2] for the counterpart of this inequality)

$$(14) \quad \|u(t)\|_s \leq \|u(0)\|_s \exp(C \int_0^t \{|\nabla u(\tau)|_{L^r(\Omega)} + |u(\tau)|_{L^r(\Omega)}\} d\tau).$$

This estimate is given in [10]. In addition, we have

$$(15) \quad |\nabla u(t)|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq C \{\|u(0)\|_0 + 1 + (1 + \log_+ \|u(t)\|_3) |d_1u(t)|_{L^r(\Omega)}\},$$

$$(16) \quad |u(t)|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq C \{\|u(0)\|_0 + |d_1u(t)|_{L^r(\Omega)}\}.$$

Here $\log_+ r := \log r$ for $r \geq 1$, $:= 0$ for $0 \leq r < 1$. Noting that $|d_1u(t)|_{L^r(\Omega)} = |\text{rot } u(t)|_{L^r(\Omega)}$, and combining (14)–(16), we get the desired estimate (4) in the same way as in [2]. So we give the proof of the estimate (15). The estimate (16) is proved more directly. First, since the terms of (6) are L^2 -orthogonal, we obtain from the fact that $\|u(t)\|_0 = \|u(0)\|_0$

$$(17) \quad |\nabla \sum_{i=1}^R \lambda_i(t) a_i(x)|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq \|u(0)\|_0 \sum_{i=1}^R |\nabla a_i(x)|_{L^r(\Omega)}.$$

Next, since $r(x, y)$ in (12) is smooth on $\Omega \times \Omega$, we get by using Sobolev’s inequality and Theorem 10.5 in [1]

$$(18) \quad |\nabla \delta_2 \Delta_2^{-1}(R[d_1u])(t)|_{L^r(\Omega)} \leq C |\nabla \delta_2 \Delta_2^{-1}(R[d_1u])(t)|_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)} \\ \leq C |R[d_1u](t)|_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)} \leq C |d_1u(t)|_{L^r(\Omega)},$$

for $p > 3$. In view of (6), (13), it remains to show pointwise estimates of the

gradient of $\delta_2 \varphi_2^\gamma(x) w^\gamma(t, x)$, $0 \leq \gamma \leq k$, where $w^\gamma(t, x) = \int_{\mathcal{O}^\gamma} g^\gamma(x, y) \varphi_1^\gamma(y) \times d_1u(t, y) dy$. To do this, we introduce diffeomorphisms $\{\Phi^\gamma\}_{\gamma=1}^k$ such that each Φ^γ maps \mathcal{O}^γ onto V^γ which is contained in $\mathcal{B}_+ = \{x \mid |x| < 1, x^3 > 0\}$, and $\mathcal{O}^\gamma \cap \Gamma$ corresponds to a part of $\sigma = \{x \mid |x| < 1, x^3 = 0\}$. In addition, $\{(\mathcal{O}^\gamma, \Phi^\gamma)\}_{\gamma=1}^k$ must be taken so as to be an admissible boundary coordinate system (see Definition 7.5.2 and Lemma 7.5.1 in [7]). Fix $1 \leq \gamma \leq k$ and omit suffix γ from \mathcal{O}^γ , w^γ , Φ^γ , and so on. It is easy to see that w satisfies the boundary conditions of (8) on $\mathcal{O} \cap \Gamma$, if and only if $\bar{w}_1 = \bar{w}_2 = \partial \bar{w}_3 / \partial \bar{x}^3 = 0$ on $\bar{V} \cap \sigma$ where $\bar{x} = \Phi(x)$ and $\bar{w}(t, \bar{x}) = (\Phi^{-1})^* w(t, x)$ as 2-forms. Then we observe that each of $\partial \bar{w} / \partial \bar{x}^i$, $i = 1, 2$, satisfies also the same boundary conditions as above on $\bar{V} \cap \sigma$. Define two differential operators $\Lambda_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 b_i^j(x) \partial_j E + B_i(x)$, $i = 1, 2$, which act on 2-forms v on \mathcal{O} , by $\Lambda_i v = \Phi^*(\partial \bar{v} / \partial \bar{x}^i)$. Here $b_i^j(x)$, E , $B_i(x)$ are smooth functions on \mathcal{O} , the 3×3 unit matrix, 3×3 matrices depending smoothly on $x \in \mathcal{O}$, respectively. It is obvious that $\sum_{j=1}^3 b_i^j n_j = 0$ on $\mathcal{O} \cap \Gamma$, $i = 1, 2$, and each $\Lambda_i w$ satisfies the same boundary

conditions as in (8) on $\bar{\mathcal{O}} \cap \Gamma$. Hence we have

$$(19) \quad \begin{aligned} & -\Delta(\Lambda_i \varphi_2 w) = F_i(t, x) \text{ in } \mathcal{O}, \\ & (\Lambda_i \varphi_2 w) \times n = 0, \quad \nabla \cdot (\Lambda_i \varphi_2 w) = 0 \text{ on } \partial \mathcal{O}, \quad i = 1, 2, \end{aligned}$$

where $F_i(t, x) = (-\Lambda_i \varphi_1 d_1 u + \Lambda_i[-\Delta, \varphi_2]w + [-\Delta, \Lambda_i] \varphi_2 w)(t, x)$. Then, by the same reasoning as used to show (9), we obtain $(\Lambda_i \varphi_2 w)(t, x) =$

$\int_{\mathcal{O}} g(x, y) F_i(t, y) dy, i = 1, 2$. So, regarding δ_2 as a system of differential operators (see (7.2.14) in [7]), we have for $i = 1, 2$,

$$(20) \quad (\Lambda_i \delta_2 \varphi_2 w)(t, x) = \int_{\mathcal{O}} \delta_{2,x} g(x, y) F_i(t, y) dy - [\delta_2, \Lambda_i] \varphi_2 w(t, x).$$

Note that Λ_i is also defined on 1-forms by the same way as above. To estimate the first term on the right side of (20), we introduce an auxiliary function $\zeta(x) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^3)$ such that $\zeta := 1$ for $|x| \leq 1$, $:= 0$ for $|x| \geq 2$, and divide this term into two terms,

$$\begin{aligned} & - \int_{\mathcal{O}} \zeta((x-y)/\rho) \delta_{2,x} g(x, y) (\Lambda_i \varphi_1 d_1 u)(t, y) dy \\ & - \int_{\mathcal{O}} \{1 - \zeta((x-y)/\rho)\} \delta_{2,x} g(x, y) (\Lambda_i \varphi_1 d_1 u)(t, y) dy, \end{aligned}$$

where $0 < \rho \leq \rho_0$ with ρ_0 small enough. Taking $\rho := \rho_0$ if $\|u\|_3 \leq \rho_0^{-1/4}$, $:= \|u\|_3^{-4}$ otherwise, as in pp. 65-66 in [2] we obtain from (10)

$$(21) \quad \left| \int_{\mathcal{O}} \delta_{2,x} g(x, y) (\Lambda_i \varphi_1 d_1 u)(t, y) dy \right|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O})} \leq C \{1 + \log_+ \|u(t)\|_3\} |d_1 u(t, x)|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O})} + C.$$

By arguments similar to that used for deriving (18), we get

$$(22) \quad \begin{aligned} & |[\delta_2, \Lambda_i] \varphi_2 w(t)|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O})} \leq C |[\delta_2, \Lambda_i] \varphi_2 w(t)|_{W^{1,p}(\mathcal{O})} \\ & \leq C |w(t)|_{W^{2,p}(\mathcal{O})} \leq C |d_1 u(t)|_{L^p(\mathcal{O})} \leq C |d_1 u(t)|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O})}, \quad i = 1, 2, \end{aligned}$$

for $p > 3$. Further, by Hölder's inequality and Theorem 10.5 in [1], we deduce from (10) that

$$(23) \quad \begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\mathcal{O}} \delta_{2,x} g(x, y) (\Lambda_i[-\Delta, \varphi_2]w + [-\Delta, \Lambda_i] \varphi_2 w)(t, y) dy \right|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O})} \\ & \leq C |w(t)|_{W^{2,4}(\mathcal{O})} \leq C |d_1 u(t)|_{L^4(\mathcal{O})} \leq C |d_1 u(t)|_{L^\infty(\mathcal{O})}, \quad i = 1, 2. \end{aligned}$$

Accordingly, we conclude from (6), (13), (17)-(18), and (21)-(23) that the maximum norms of two tangential derivatives on \mathcal{O} are estimated by the terms of the right side of (15). Since the normal derivative of a solenoidal vector field is expressed as a sum of the tangential derivatives and the components of the vorticity, we get finally the estimate (15) on a suitable neighborhood of the boundary. We can also prove the estimate (15) on a subset of \mathcal{O} far from the boundary in a similar way. Thus we end the proof of (15).

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