

# the wake in pictures

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please...



- ask questions!
- wave at me if I speak too quickly/quietly/etc
- sit at the front

# what is a wake?

wake:

the disturbed flow  
(typically turbulent)  
behind an obstacle

here:

ship traveling  
right-to-left



Newman 1970, in Van Dyke's *Album of Fluid Motion* (1982, Parabolic, Stanford, CA, USA)

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here:

condensation in  
Horns Rev, Denmark



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let's zoom in a bit...

Vattenfall 2010, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/vattenfall/4270899001>

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## what do we see?

the wake is pretty big,  
and some of the turbines are  
sitting directly in it

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## farm perspective:

the flow at 'later' turbines is  
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## farm perspective:

the flow at 'later' turbines is  
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## individual perspective:

wake limits 'extractable'  
power by up to 60%

and influences local apparent  
velocity at blades





- what is the wake doing?
  - some philosophical implications of lift
  - an angular momentum detour
  - some experiments
- how does the wake affect wind turbines
- one conceptual way to model the wake
- where to find more practical information



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# some philosophical implications of lift

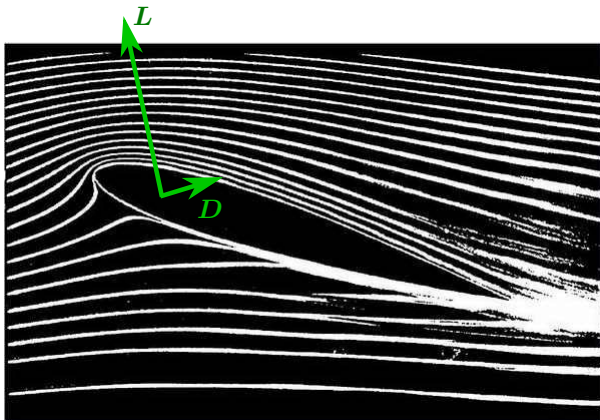


photo source unknown.

# some philosophical implications of lift

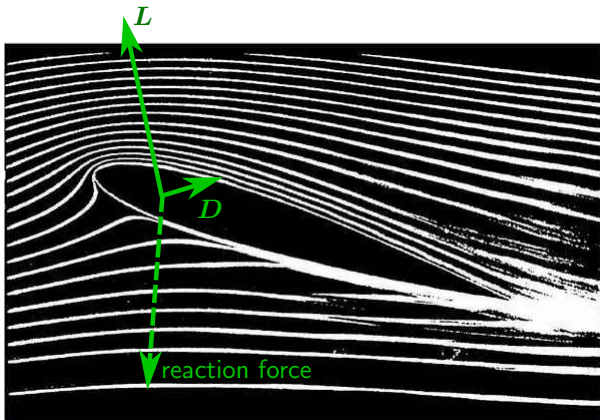


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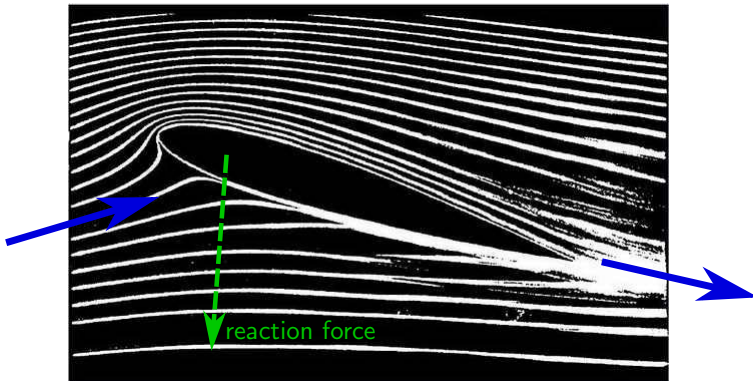


photo source unknown.

# some philosophical implications of lift



photo source unknown.

'circulation', not 'rotation'



photo source unknown.



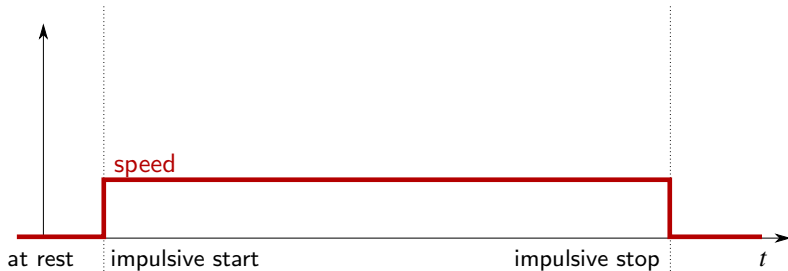
circulation around body  $\Leftrightarrow$  lift!



photo source unknown.

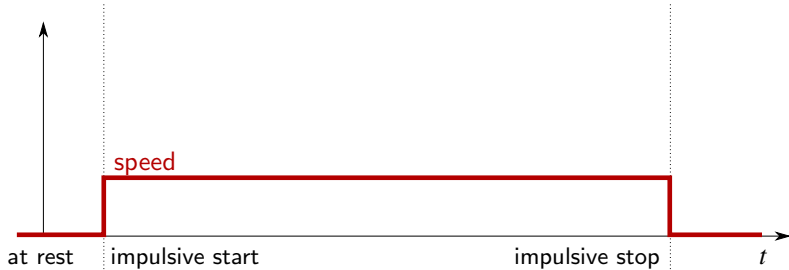


wait...



(not to scale!)

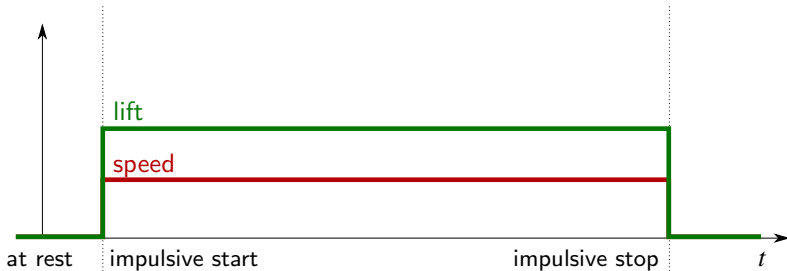
wait...



for constant lift coefficient, what happens to lift?

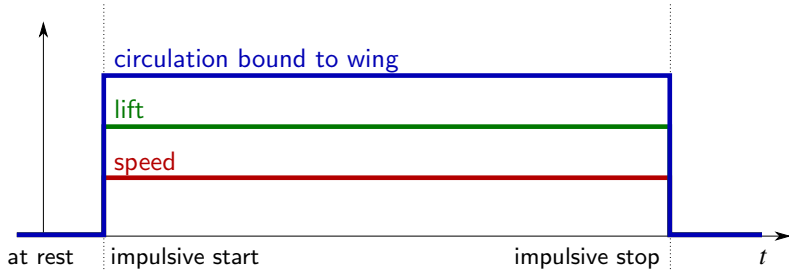
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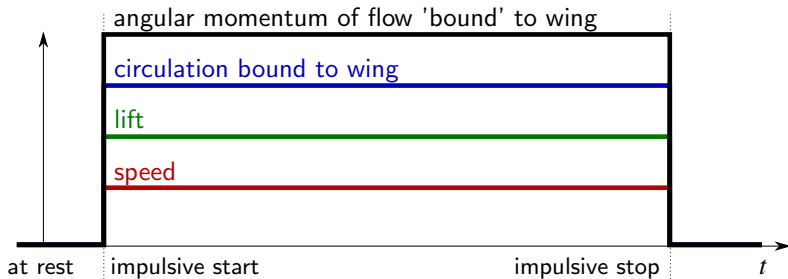
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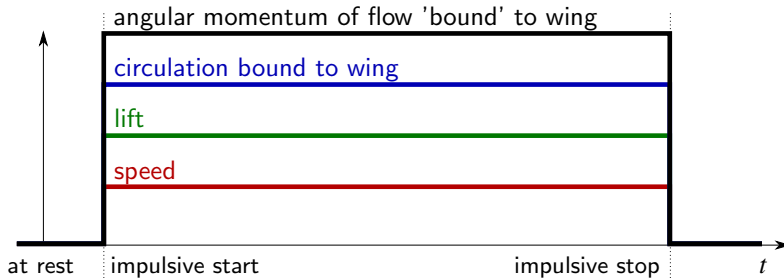
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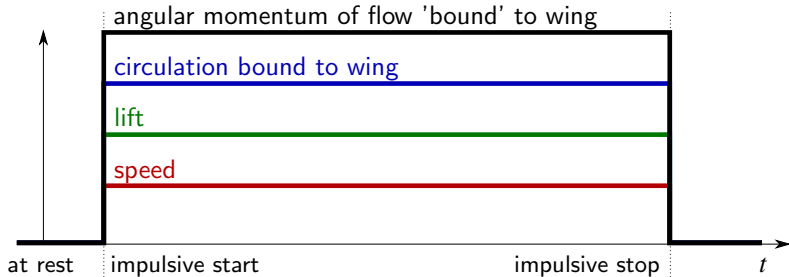
(not to scale!)

# wait... what about conservation of angular momentum?



(not to scale!)

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what part of the flow might be acting to conserve angular momentum?

(not to scale!)

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a hypothesis:

maybe the wake acts to conserve angular momentum!

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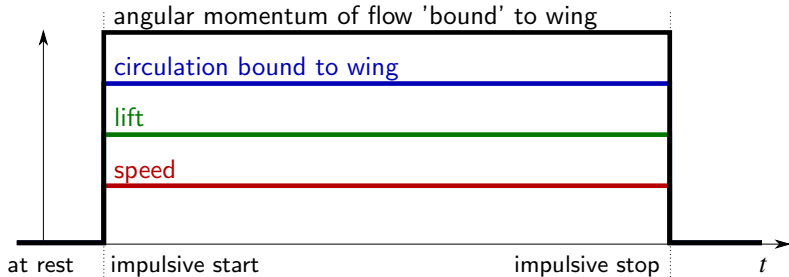


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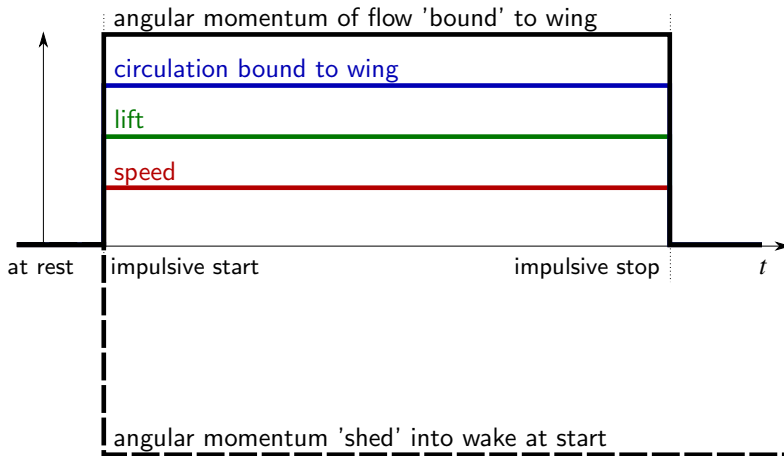
hypothetically, how would this work?

# wait... what about conservation of angular momentum?



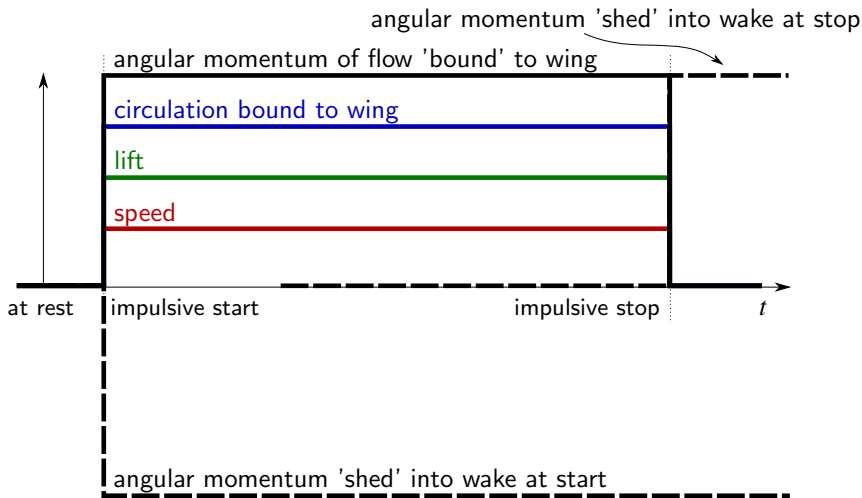
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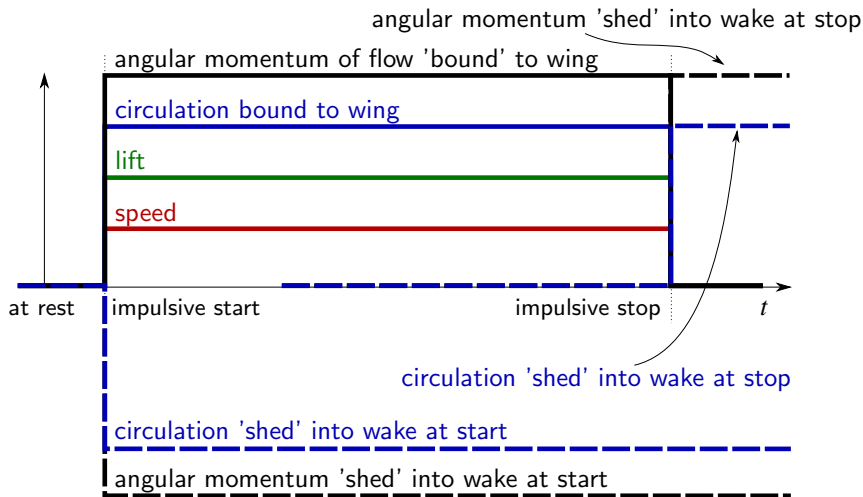
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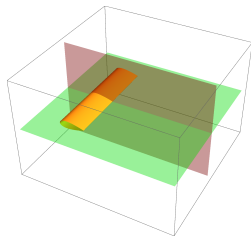
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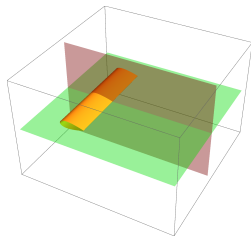


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# a plan of experiments

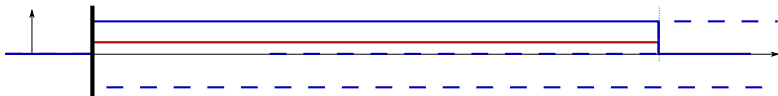
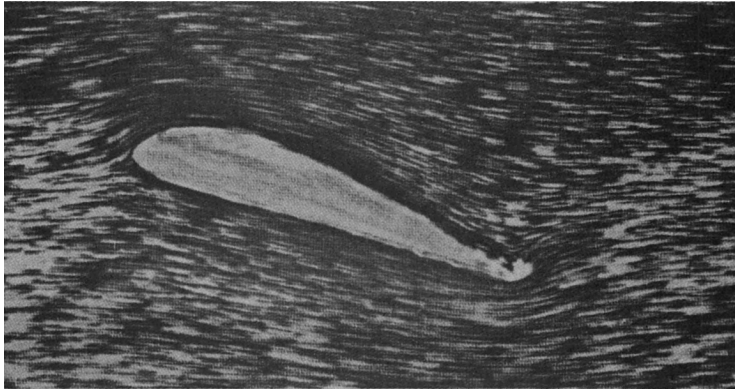


2D experiment #1: impulsive start  
is 'anything' shed into wake?



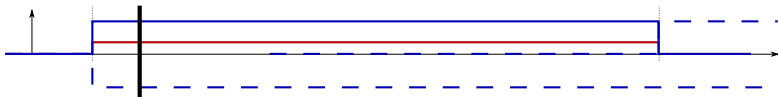
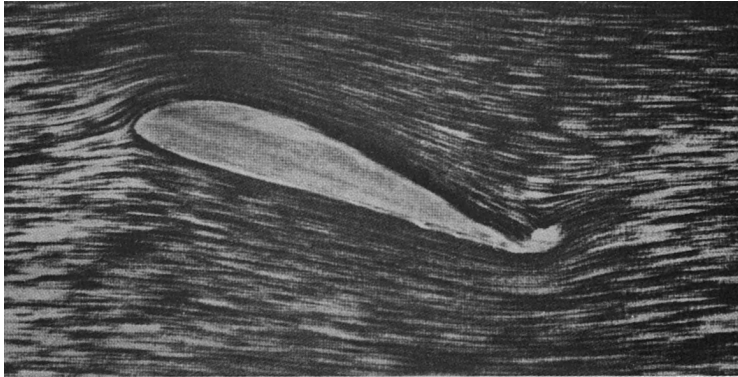


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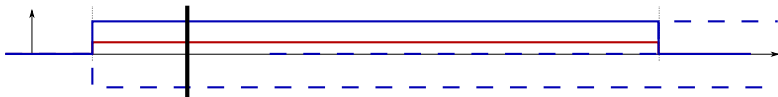
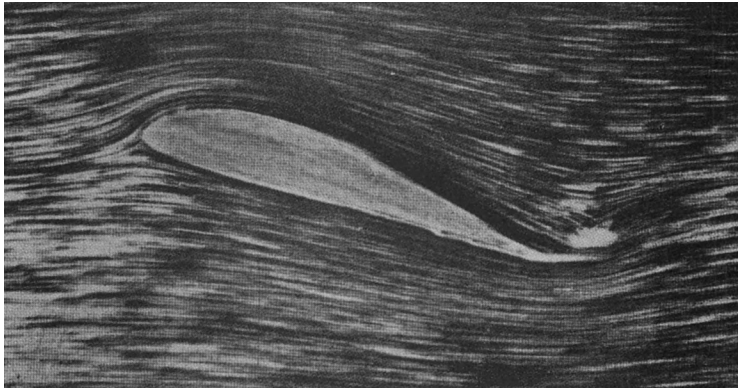
Tietjens 1934, in Tietjens and Prandtl's *Fundamentals of Hydro- and Aeromechanics* (1957, tr. Rosenhead, Dover, New York, NY, USA)

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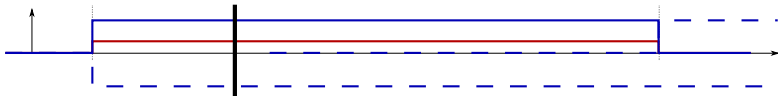
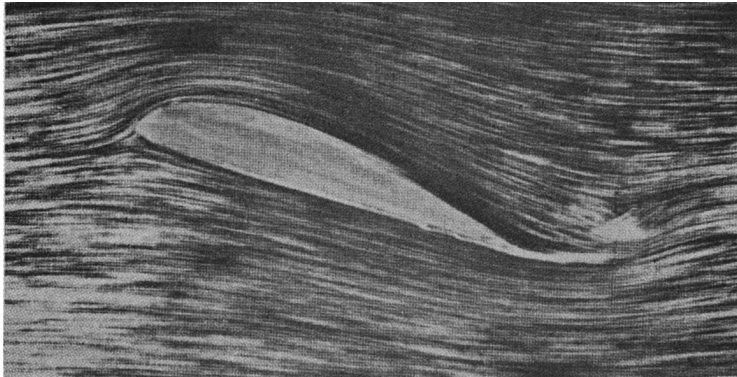
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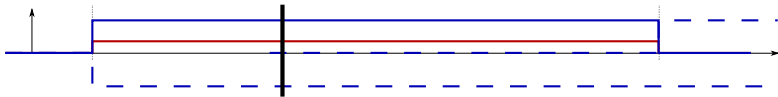
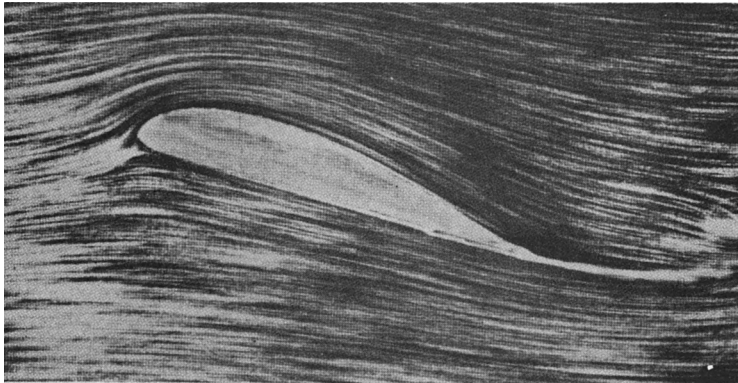
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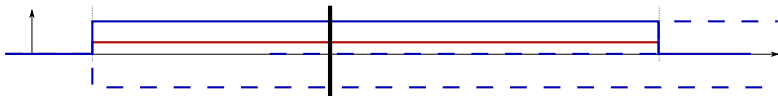
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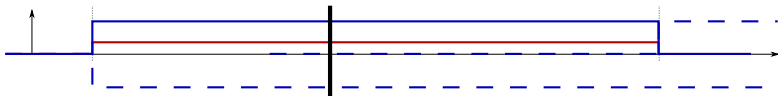
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# 2D experiment: impulsive start is 'anything' shed into wake? YES!



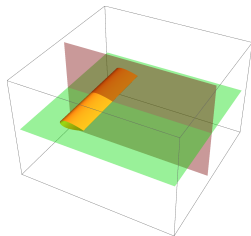
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# a plan of experiments



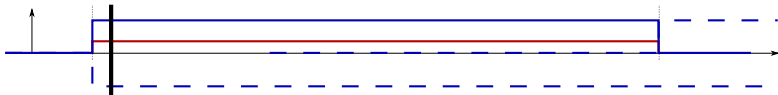
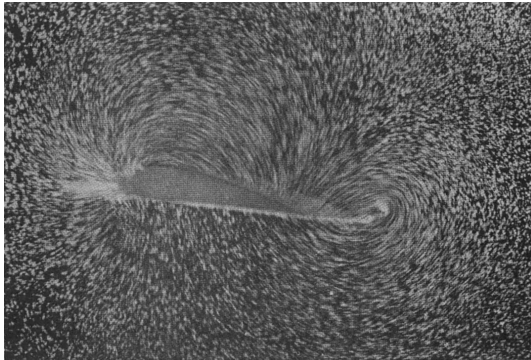
2D experiment: impulsive start  
is 'anything' shed into wake?

2D experiment: start and stop  
is circulation shed into wake?



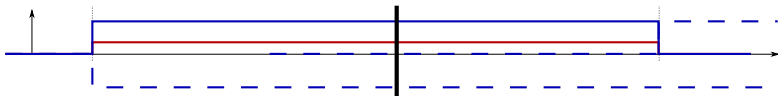
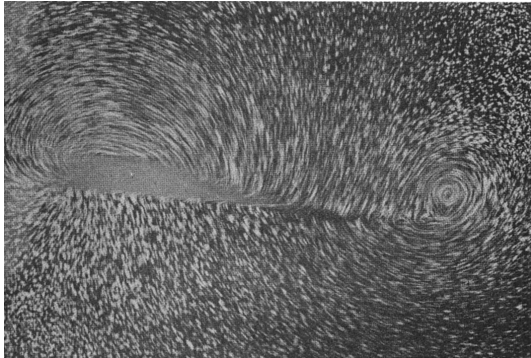


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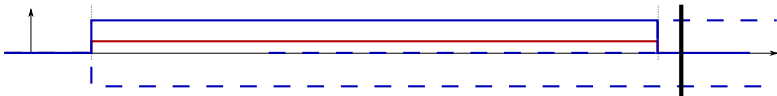
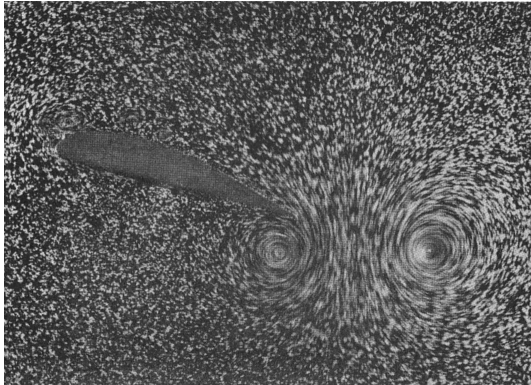
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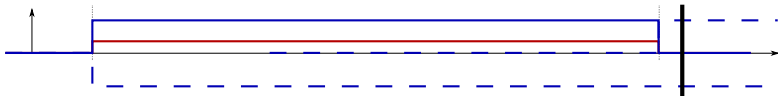
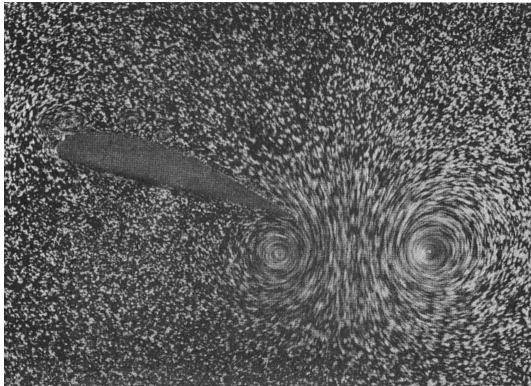
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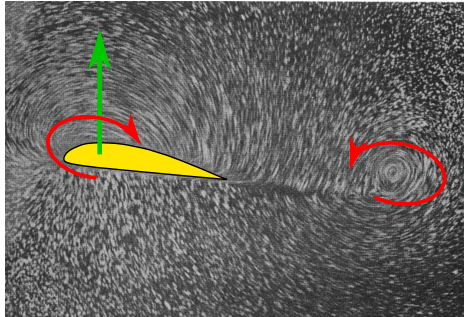
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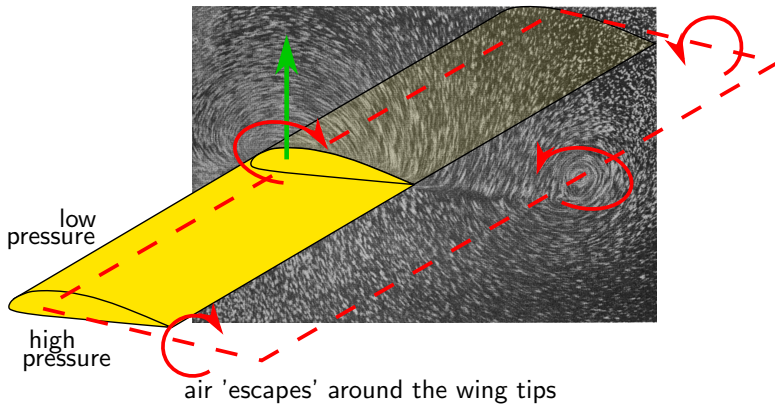


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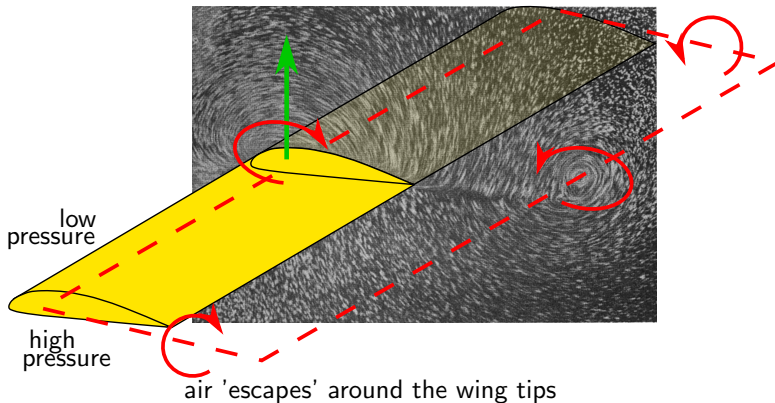
# from infinite to finite wings...



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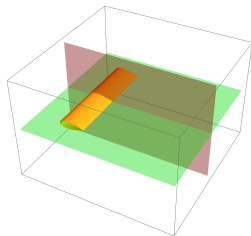
is there circulating motion trailing behind wing tips?

# a plan of experiments

**2D experiment: impulsive start**  
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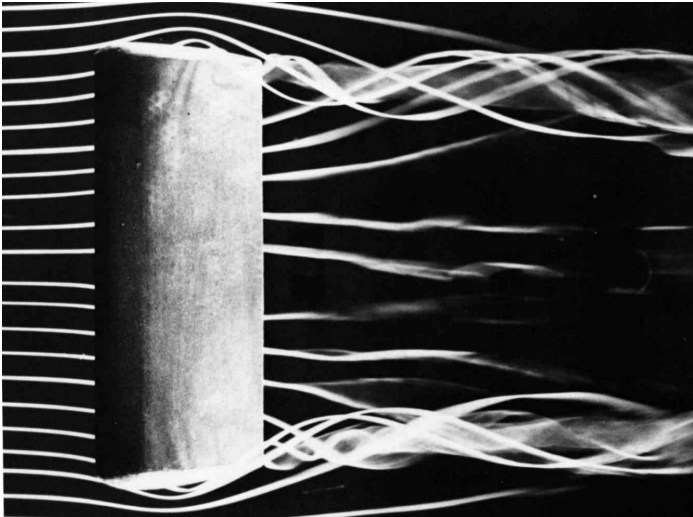
**2D experiment: start and stop**  
is circulation shed into wake?

**3D experiment: steady, level flight**  
does circulation trail behind wingtips?



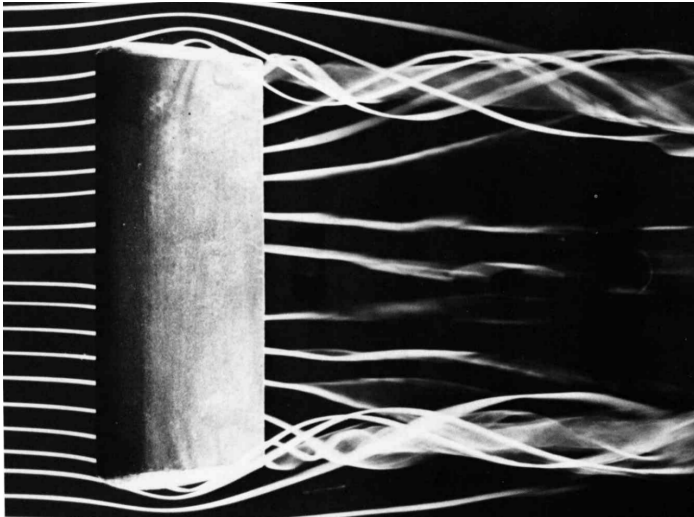


# 3D experiment: steady, level flight does circulation trail behind wingtips?



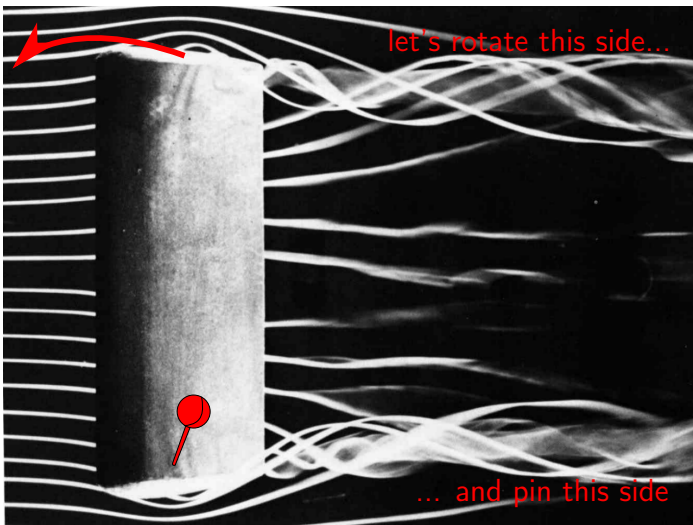
Head 1982, in Van Dyke's *Album of Fluid Motion* (1982, Parabolic, Stanford, CA, USA)

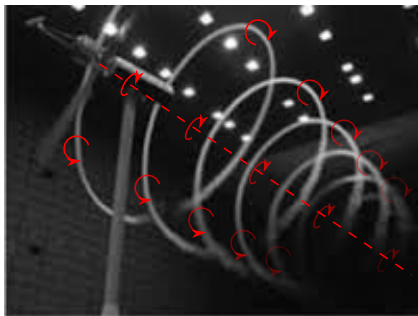
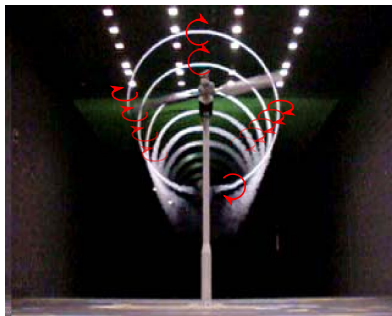
# 3D experiment: steady, level flight does circulation trail behind wingtips? YES!



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# from steady level flight to rotors...





is there circulating motion trailing along the helical path  
behind the rotating wingtips?

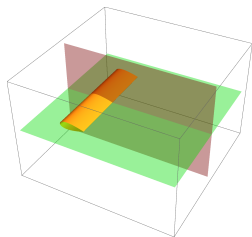
left: in Hand, et al. *Unsteady Aerodynamics Experiment Phase VI: Wind tunnel....* (2001, NREL/TP-500-29955, Golden, CO, USA.)  
right: source unknown.

**2D experiment: impulsive start**  
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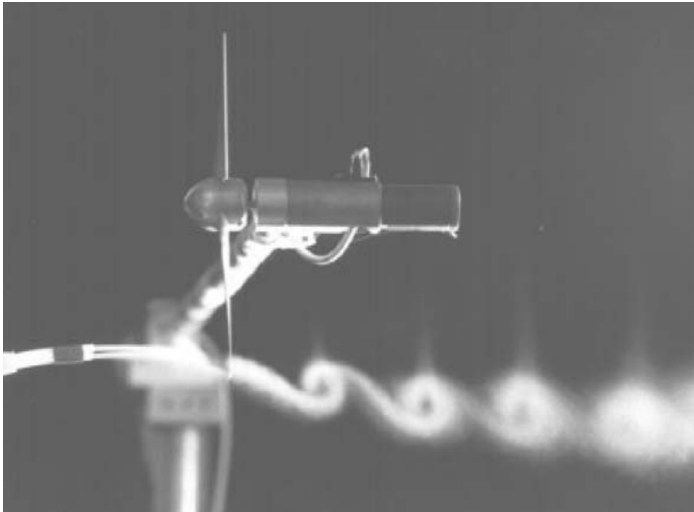
**2D experiment: start and stop**  
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does circulation trail behind wingtips?

**3D experiment: steady turbine rotor**  
does circulation trail behind wingtips?



# 3D experiment: steady turbine rotor does circulation trail behind wingtips?



in Vermeer, 'A review of wind turbine wake research...' in *ASME Wind Energy Symp. Tech. Papers* (2001, ASME, New York, NY, USA)

# 3D experiment: steady turbine rotor does circulation trail behind wingtips?



in Alfredsson and Dahlberg *A preliminary wind tunnel study of windmill wake...* (1979, FFA/TN-AU-1499 part 7, Stockholm, Sweden)

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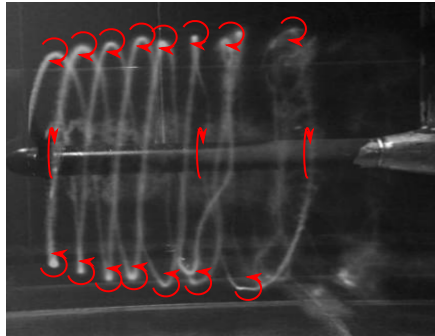


the wake is conserving angular momentum!  
(are we convinced?)



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  - some experiments
- [how does the wake affect wind turbines](#)
- one conceptual way to model the wake
- where to find more practical information

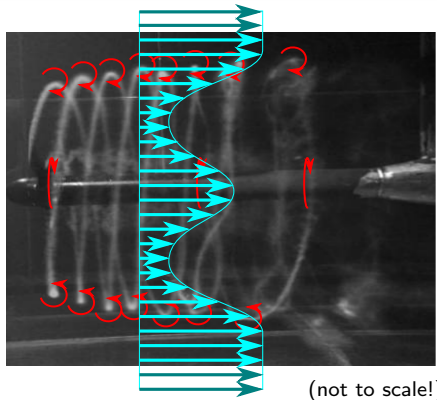
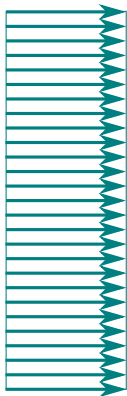
# how does the wake affect the turbine?



(not to scale!)

in Okulov et al, 'Wake effect on a uniform flow behind...' in *Wake: J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 625 012011* (2011, IOP, Uppsala, Sweden)

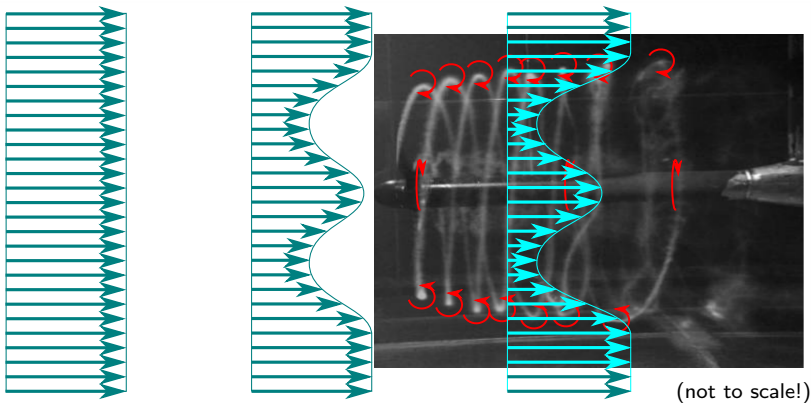
the wake decreases the velocity...



(not to scale!)

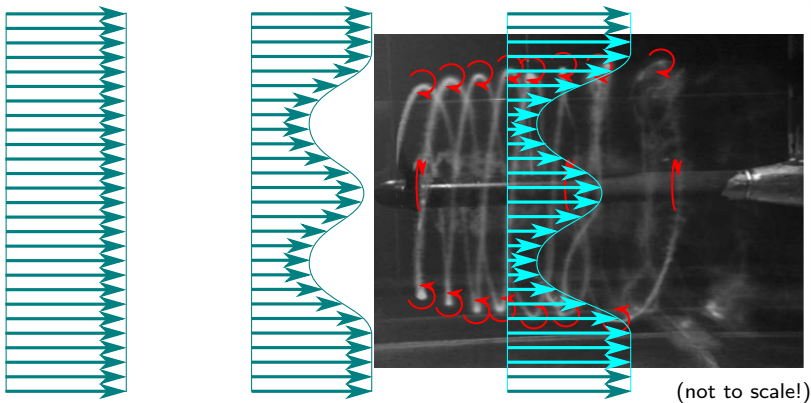
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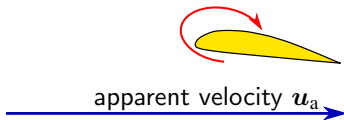
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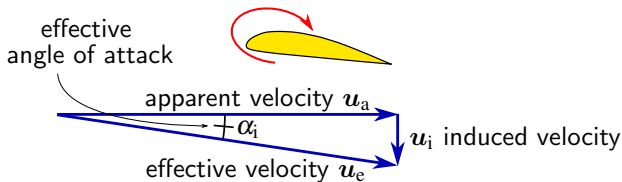
remember:  $P \propto u^3!$

in Okulov et al, 'Wake effect on a uniform flow behind...' in *Wake: J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 625 012011* (2011, IOP, Uppsala, Sweden)

# how does the wake affect an airfoil?

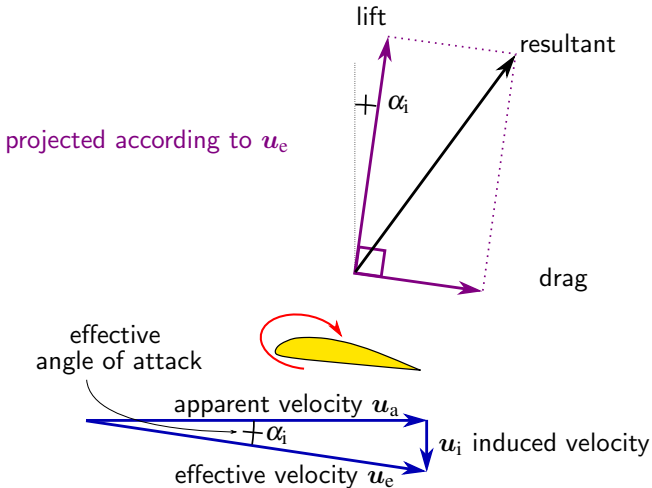


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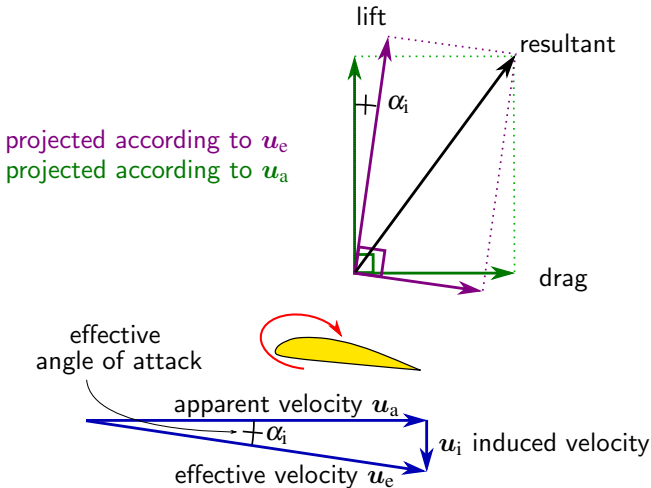




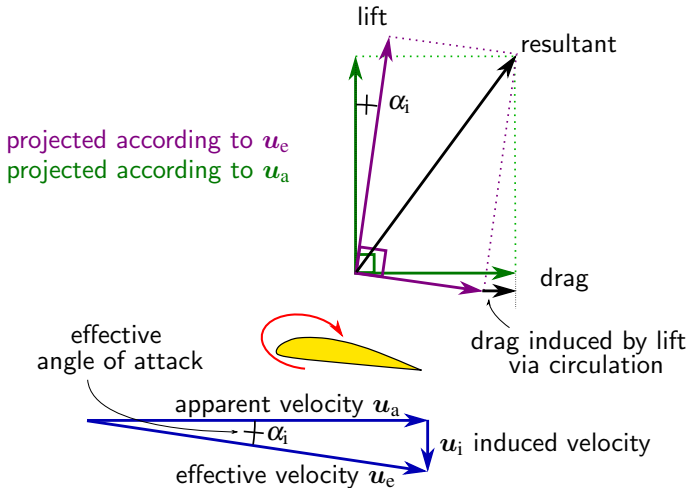
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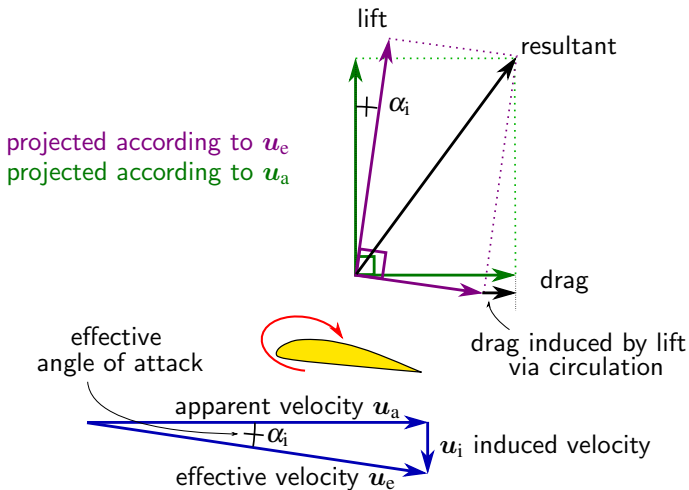
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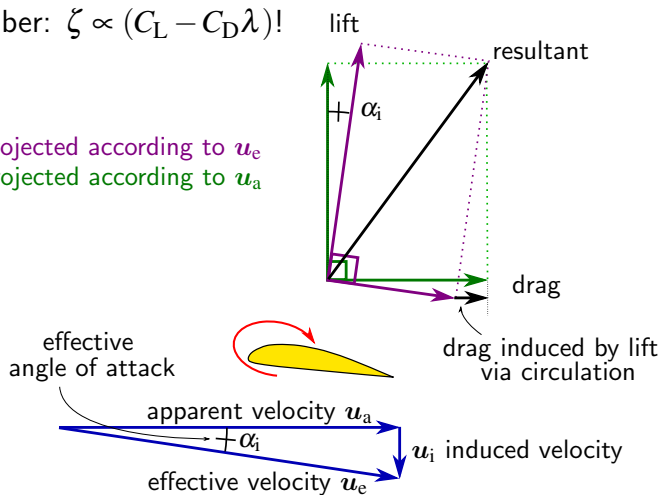
# wake 'effectively' increases drag!



# wake 'effectively' increases drag!

remember:  $\zeta \propto (C_L - C_D\lambda)$ !

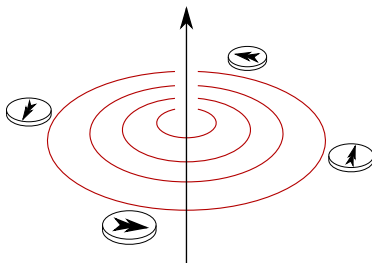
projected according to  $u_e$   
projected according to  $u_a$





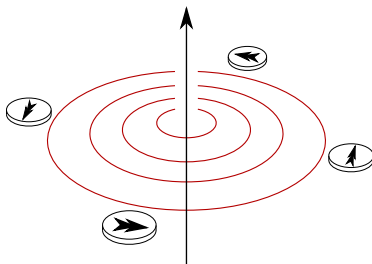
- what is the wake doing?
  - some philosophical implications of lift
  - an angular momentum detour
  - some experiments
- how does the wake affect wind turbines
- [one conceptual way to model the wake](#)
- where to find more practical information

imagine the following...



there is an invisible state  
conducted in a structure  
and produces a force field  
circulates certain particles

imagine the following...

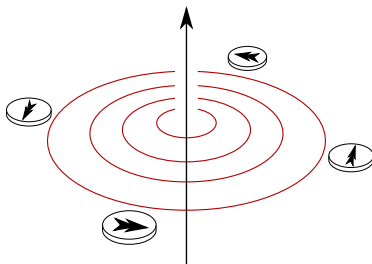


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current  
wire  
electromagnetic  
magnetic



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there is an invisible state  
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current  
wire  
electromagnetic  
magnetic

vorticity  
vortex  
pressure  
fluid

## electromagnetism

Poisson equation for electrostatics:

$$\underbrace{\nabla^2 \mathbf{A}} = -\mu_0 \mathbf{J}$$

$\mathbf{A}$  vector potential

$\mathbf{J}$  current density

Ampère's law:

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{J} = \nabla \times \mathbf{H}}$$

$\mathbf{H}$  magnetic field intensity

## aerodynamics

for incompressible flows:

$$\underbrace{\nabla^2 \psi} = -\omega$$

$\psi$  vector potential

$\omega$  vorticity

definition of vorticity:

$$\underbrace{\omega := \nabla \times \mathbf{u}}$$

$\mathbf{u}$  flow velocity, s.t.

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_\infty + \nabla \times \psi$$

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define 'circulation' as flux of vorticity through surface  $S$

$$\Gamma := \int_S \omega \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} \, dS$$



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then, Kutta-Joukowski expression says:

'lift per unit span is proportional to circulation' ( $L' = \rho u \Gamma$ )

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solution:

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{u}_\infty - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_V \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\xi})}{\|\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\xi}\|_2^3} \times \omega(\boldsymbol{\xi}) d\boldsymbol{\xi}$$



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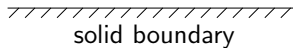
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solution:

YUCK!

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# the boundary layer...



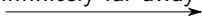
solid boundary

A diagram showing a horizontal line with diagonal hatching below it, representing a solid boundary. The text 'solid boundary' is centered below the hatching.



# the boundary layer...

infinitely far away



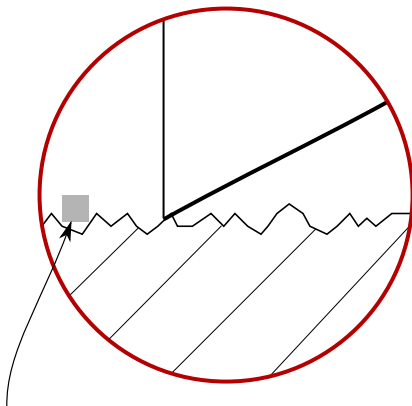
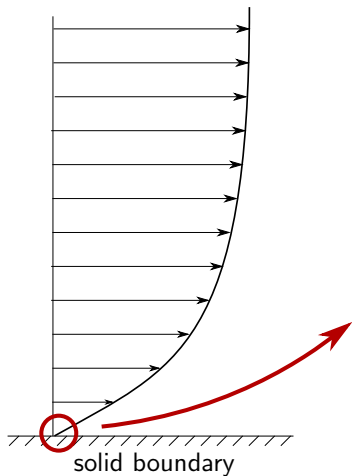
⋮

freestream  $u_\infty$



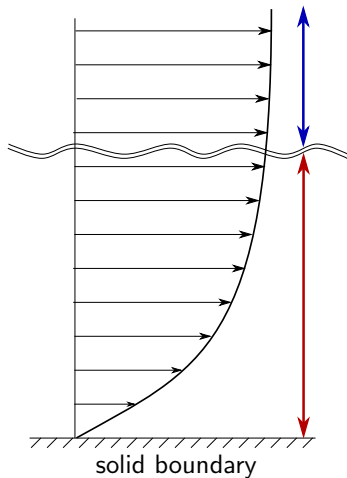
solid boundary

# the boundary layer...



fluid elements get stuck  
→ 'no-slip' condition  
(zero relative surface velocity)

# the boundary layer...

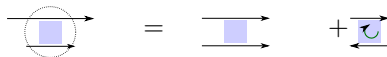
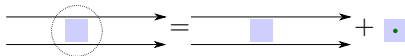
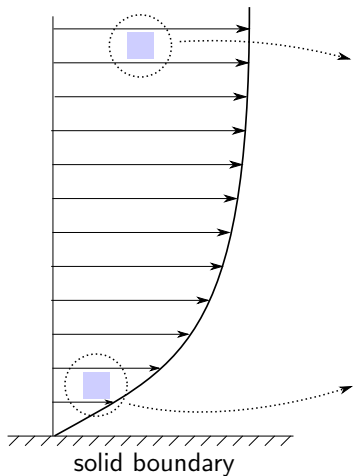


the 'external flow':  
shear gradient  $\approx 0$

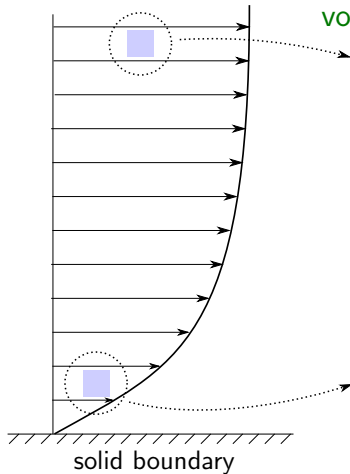
$$u(\delta) = \kappa u_{\infty}$$

the 'boundary layer':  
shear gradient strong!

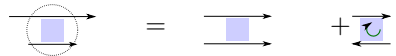
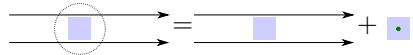
# the boundary layer...



# the boundary layer...



vorticity is related to viscous shear...



... and might be negligible\*  
far from solid bodies

\* certain conditions apply

(remember: trying to solve  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{u}_\infty - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_V \frac{(\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\xi})}{\|\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\xi}\|_2^3} \times \boldsymbol{\omega}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) d\boldsymbol{\xi}$ )

... separates  $V$  into two parts:

**boundary layer  $\Omega$**

vorticity  $\boldsymbol{\omega}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \neq 0$



local circulating motion of  
fluid elements due to viscous  
shear stress

**external flow  $\Omega'$**

vorticity  $\boldsymbol{\omega}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \approx 0$  \*



drops out of integral

- \* for 'potential' external flow
  - ≈ incompressible
  - + inviscid
  - + irrotational.

# the boundary layer saves a lot of effort!

$$\left( \text{remember: trying to solve } \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{u}_\infty - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_V \frac{(\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\xi})}{\|\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\xi}\|_2^3} \times \boldsymbol{\omega}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) d\boldsymbol{\xi} \right)$$

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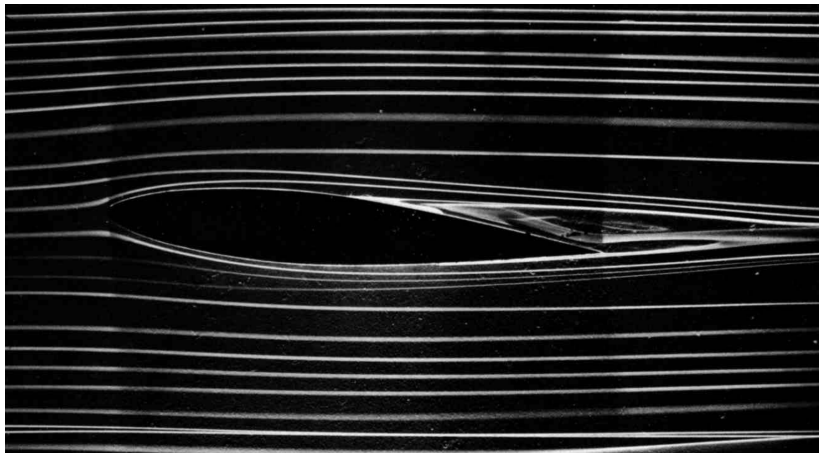
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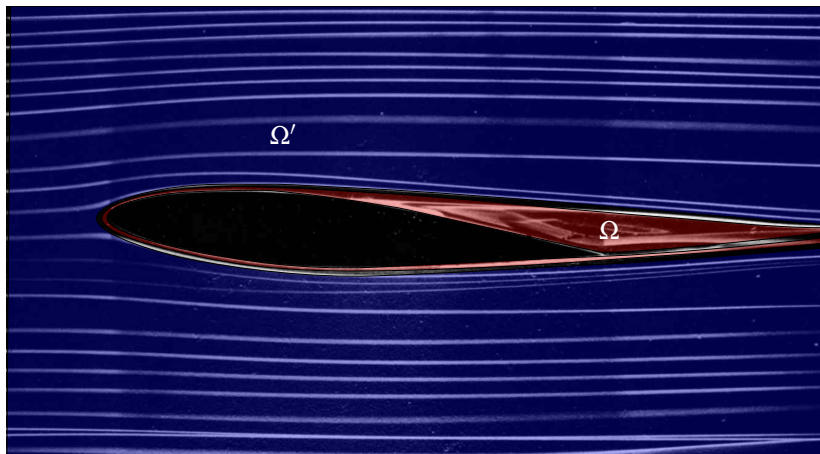
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Werlé 1974, in Van Dyke's *Album of Fluid Motion* (1982, Parabolic, Stanford, CA, USA)

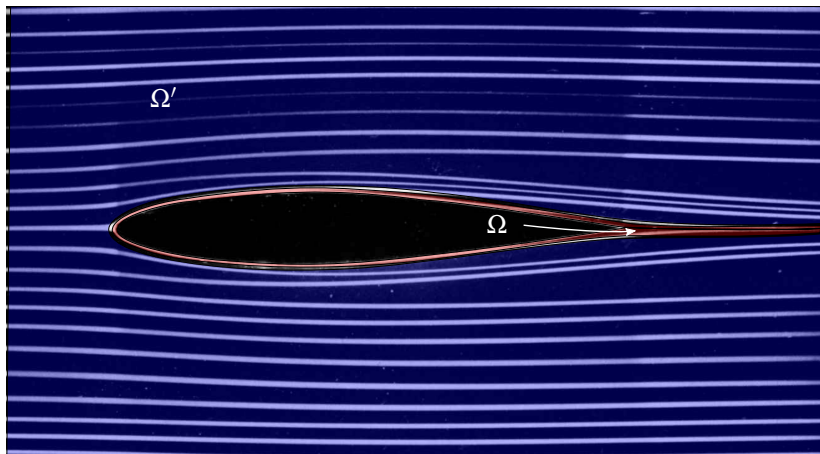


the boundary layer saves a lot of effort!



$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) \approx \mathbf{u}_\infty - \frac{1}{4\pi} \left( \int_{\Omega'} \mathbf{0} \, d\xi + \int_{\Omega} \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\xi})}{\|\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\xi}\|_2^3} \times \boldsymbol{\omega}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) \, d\xi \right)$$

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$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) \approx \mathbf{u}_\infty - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\xi})}{\|\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\xi}\|_2^3} \times \boldsymbol{\omega}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) d\boldsymbol{\xi}$$

discretize  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$  into vortices\* with known analytical integrals...

points

curves like line-segments or helices

surfaces like rectangles

volumes like spheres

...then sum so that given boundary conditions are satisfied!

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}) \approx \mathbf{u}_\infty + \sum_i^N \mathbf{u}_i(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\omega}_i)$$

\* overlapping vortices allowed due to linearity of  $\nabla^2$  operator.

more practical information can be found in...

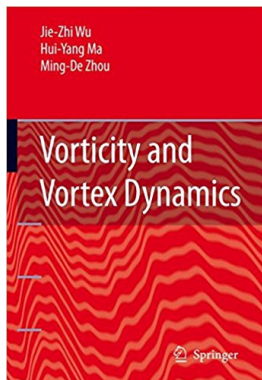
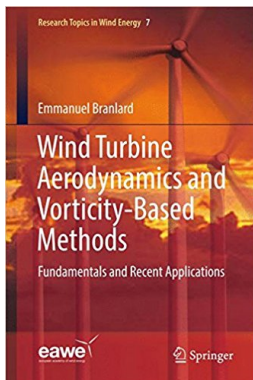
Fizzy's guide to vorticity and vortex methods

R. Leuthold  
April 30, 2018

*I'd rather study fluids than vortices in them.*

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...in order of increasing thoroughness + rigorousness

thank you for your attention!



... any questions?