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# On the convergence at infinity of the Leray solution of the two-dimensional Navier–Stokes equations to the prescribed asymptotic value

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## Abstract

In this Note we prove that  $\tilde{v}_L$ , the Leray velocity solution to the steady incompressible, two-dimensional Navier–Stokes equations, tends at infinity to the prescribed vector  $v_\infty$ . We show also that the sequence  $(v_{R_i}, p_{R_i})$  of Leray solutions to the same boundary value problem in the bounded domains  $\Omega_{R_i}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , converges quasi-uniformly in  $\bar{\Omega}$  to  $(v_L, p_L)$ . **To cite this article:** D. Socolescu, *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 336 (2003)*.

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## Résumé

**Sur la convergence à l'infini de la solution de Leray des équations bidimensionnelles de Navier–Stokes vers la valeur asymptotique imposée.** Dans cette Note on prouve que  $\tilde{v}_L$ , la solution vitesse de Leray des équations stationnaires, incompressibles, bidimensionnelles de Navier–Stokes, tend à l'infini vers le vecteur imposé  $v_\infty$ . On montre aussi que la suite  $(v_{R_i}, p_{R_i})$  de solutions de Leray du même problème aux limites dans les domaines bornés  $\Omega_{R_i}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ , converge quasi-uniformément dans  $\bar{\Omega}$  vers  $(v_L, p_L)$ . **Pour citer cet article :** D. Socolescu, *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 336 (2003)*.

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## Version française abrégée

L'écoulement stationnaire bidimensionnel d'un fluide visqueux incompressible autour d'un obstacle  $D$  de frontière  $\Gamma$  conduit au problème de Dirichlet (1), (2) et (3) dans  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus D$ .

En 1933 Leray [5] construisit une solution  $(\tilde{v}_L, p_L)$  de (1) et (2) et ayant une intégrale de Dirichlet de la vitesse bornée (4).

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Le comportement asymptotique de  $(\tilde{v}_L, \tilde{p}_L)$  et d'une solution arbitraire  $(\tilde{v}_D, \tilde{p}_D)$  de (1), (2) et (4) fut étudié en 1974 et respectivement en 1978 par Gilbarg et Weinberger [3,4] et ensuite par Amick en 1988 [1] et par Socolescu en 2000 et 2002 [8,9]. En fait ils prouvent que : (i) chaque solution  $(\tilde{v}_D, \tilde{p}_D)$  et en particulier  $(\tilde{v}_L, \tilde{p}_L)$  est bornée [1,3,4]; (ii)  $(\tilde{v}_D, \tilde{p}_D)$  converge à l'infini vers  $(\tilde{v}_0, \tilde{p}_\infty)$ , ou  $|\tilde{v}_0| = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \max_{[0, 2\pi]} |v(r, \theta)|$ , [1,4,8]; (iii) la solution  $(\tilde{v}_D, \tilde{p}_D)$  convergeant à l'infini vers  $(\tilde{v}_0, \tilde{p}_\infty)$  est unique, à condition que  $v \geq v_{cr}$ , [9].

Dans la présente Note nous obtenons le résultat suivant :

**Théorème 1.** *La solution de Leray  $(\tilde{v}_L, \tilde{p}_L)$  de (1), (2) et (3), tend ponctuellement à l'infini vers  $(\tilde{v}_\infty, \tilde{p}_\infty)$ . La suite  $(\tilde{v}_{R_i}, \tilde{p}_{R_i})$  de solutions de Leray de (1) et (5) converge quasi-uniformément dans  $\bar{\Omega}$  vers  $(\tilde{v}_L, \tilde{p}_L)$ .*

## 1. Introduction

Let us consider the exterior Dirichlet problem for the steady, two-dimensional, incompressible Navier–Stokes equations:

$$\Omega : v \Delta \tilde{v} - (\tilde{v} \cdot \nabla) \tilde{v} - \nabla p = 0, \quad \nabla \cdot \tilde{v} = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$\Gamma : \tilde{v} = 0, \quad (2)$$

$$[0, 2\pi) : \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{v}(r, \theta) = \tilde{v}_\infty, \quad (3)$$

where  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus D$ ,  $D$  is a compact set with smooth boundary  $\Gamma$ ,  $r$  and  $\theta$  are polar coordinates taken with respect to an origin interior to  $D$ .

In 1933 Leray [5] constructed a certain solution  $(\tilde{v}_L, \tilde{p}_L)$  satisfying (1) and (2) and having a velocity with finite Dirichlet integral

$$\iint_{\Omega} |\nabla \tilde{v}|^2 dx dy \leq C(1 + v^{-1}), \quad (4)$$

where  $C$  depends on  $\Gamma$  and  $v_\infty$ , but not on  $v$ . Leray's construction went as follows. Let  $\Omega_R$  be the set of points in  $\Omega$  of radius  $r < R$ . He first proved that for every  $R > \max_D r =: r_D \geq 1$  and every constant vector  $\tilde{v}_\infty$  there is at least one solution  $(\tilde{v}_R, \tilde{p}_R)$  of (1) in  $\Omega_R$  satisfying the following boundary conditions

$$\tilde{v}_R = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{on } \partial D = \Gamma, \\ \tilde{v}_\infty & \text{on } r = R. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Concerning all such (velocity) solutions  $\tilde{v}_R$  Leray proved the existence of a uniform bound for the Dirichlet integral (4), where  $C$  depends on  $\Gamma$  and  $\tilde{v}_\infty$ , but is independent of  $R$  and  $v$ . He then showed that a sequence  $R_i \rightarrow \infty$  exists, such that the solutions  $(\tilde{v}_{R_i}, \tilde{p}_{R_i})$  of (1) and (5) in  $\Omega_{R_i}$  converge uniformly together with all their first order derivatives in any compact subset of  $\bar{\Omega}$  to a solution  $(\tilde{v}_L, \tilde{p}_L)$  satisfying (1), (2) and (4). The further behaviour of  $\tilde{v}_L$  and  $\tilde{p}_L$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  was left unsettled.

The asymptotic behaviour of  $(\tilde{v}_L, \tilde{p}_L)$  and of an arbitrary solution  $(\tilde{v}_D, \tilde{p}_D)$  with finite Dirichlet integral of (1) and (2) was investigated in 1974 and 1978 by Gilbarg and Weinberger [3,4], by Amick in 1988 [1], and by Socolescu in 2000 and 2002 [8,9]. In fact they proved that (i) every solution  $(\tilde{v}_D, \tilde{p}_D)$  and particularly  $(\tilde{v}_L, \tilde{p}_L)$  is bounded, [1,3,4]; (ii)  $(\tilde{v}_D, \tilde{p}_D)$  converges at infinity to  $(\tilde{v}_0, \tilde{p}_\infty)$ , where  $|\tilde{v}_0| = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \max_{[0, 2\pi]} |v(r, \theta)|$ , [1,4,8]; (iii) the solution  $(\tilde{v}_D, \tilde{p}_D)$  tending at infinity to  $(\tilde{v}_0, \tilde{p}_\infty)$  is a unique one, provided  $v \geq v_{cr}$ , [9].

The present Note is concerned with the convergence at infinity of  $\tilde{v}_L$  to the prescribed vector  $\tilde{v}_\infty$ .

## 2. Convergence at infinity of the Leray solution

**Theorem 1.** *The Leray solution  $(v_L, p_L)$  of (1), (2) and (3) tends pointwise at infinity to  $(v_\infty, p_\infty)$ . The Leray sequence  $(v_{R_i}, p_{R_i})$  of solutions of (1) and (5), converges quasi-uniformly in  $\bar{\Omega}$  to  $(v_L, p_L)$ .*

For the proof we need the following results:

**Definition of quasi-uniform convergence** [7, p. 66]. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be metric spaces and let  $f_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , map  $X$  into  $Y$ . The sequence  $\{f_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is said to converge quasi-uniformly on  $X$  to  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  if (i)  $\{f_n\}$  converges pointwise to  $f$ ; (ii) for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a finite or infinite, increasing sequence  $\{n_p\}_{p \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{N}$  and a sequence  $\{D_p\}_{p \in \mathbb{N}}$  of open sets  $D_p \subset X, X = \bigcup_{p=1}^\infty D_p$ , such that  $\text{dist}_Y(f(x), f_{n_p}(x)) < \varepsilon, p \in \mathbb{N}, x \in D_p$ .

**Theorem of Amick** [1, p. 114]. *The velocity solution  $v_L$  is non-trivial iff  $\lim_{R_i \rightarrow \infty} \inf \iint_{\Omega_{R_i}} |\nabla v_{R_i}|^2 dx dy > 0$ .*

**Theorem of Arzelá, Gageff and Alexandrov** [7, p. 68]. *Let  $X, Y$  be metric spaces and let  $f_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , map  $X$  into  $Y$  continuously. The sequence  $\{f_n\}$  converges on  $X$  to a continuous map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , iff the convergence is quasi-uniform.*

**Proof of Theorem 1.** Let  $v_\infty \neq 0$ . We have first to show that  $v_0 = v_\infty$ . To this end we note that (1) can be given the equivalent form

$$\Omega : \nabla H = -v \nabla^\perp \omega + \omega \tilde{v}^\perp, \quad \nabla \cdot \tilde{v} = 0, \tag{6}$$

where  $\nabla^\perp = (-\frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x})$ ,  $H := \frac{1}{2}|\tilde{v}|^2 + p$  is the Helmholtz–Bernoulli function,  $\omega = -\nabla^\perp \cdot \tilde{v}$  is the vorticity function,  $\tilde{v}^\perp := (-v, u)$ . By multiplying (1), written for  $v_R$ , by  $v_R$ , integrating over  $\Omega_R$ , and using the Gauss–Green theorem and (5) we get on one hand

$$v \iint_{\Omega_R} |\nabla v_R|^2 dx dy = v \iint_{\Omega_R} \left[ \Delta \left( \frac{v_R^2}{2} \right) - \frac{1}{v} \nabla \cdot (H_R v_R) \right] dx dy = 2\pi v_R v_\infty \cdot \left[ \frac{d \hat{v}_R}{dR} - \frac{1}{v} (\hat{H}_R^{c1}, \hat{H}_R^{s1}) \right], \tag{7}$$

where by

$$(r_D, \infty) : \hat{f}(r)^{cn(sn)} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(r, \theta) \cos n\theta (\sin n\theta) d\theta, \quad n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}, \hat{f} = \hat{f}^{c0}, \tag{8}$$

we denote the Fourier coefficients of the periodic, smooth function  $f(r, \theta)$ . On the other hand (6)<sub>1</sub> can be given in polar coordinates the equivalent form

$$\Omega : \begin{cases} \frac{\partial H}{\partial r} = \frac{v}{r} \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 F) + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial G}{\partial \theta}, \\ \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial H}{\partial \theta} = -v \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r^2 G) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta}, \end{cases} \tag{9}$$

where  $F(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{2}[(u \sin \theta - v \cos \theta)^2 - (u \cos \theta + v \sin \theta)^2], G(r, \theta) = (u \sin \theta - v \cos \theta)(u \cos \theta + v \sin \theta)$ .

By multiplying (9) by  $\cos \theta(\sin \theta)$  and  $\sin \theta(\cos \theta)$  and integrating we get

$$(r_D, \infty) : \begin{cases} \widehat{H}^{c1}(r) = \widehat{F}^{c1}(r) - \widehat{G}^{s1}(r) - \frac{C_1}{2\pi r} + v\widehat{w}^{s1}(r), \\ \widehat{H}^{s1}(r) = \widehat{F}^{s1}(r) + \widehat{G}^{c1}(r) - \frac{C_2}{2\pi r} - v\widehat{w}^{c1}(r), \end{cases} \tag{10}$$

where  $\widehat{w}^{s1}(r) = \frac{d\widehat{u}}{dr}$ ,  $\widehat{w}^{c1}(r) = -\frac{d\widehat{v}}{dr}$ . Using (10), from (7) it follows then

$$v \iint_{\Omega_R} |\nabla v_R|^2 dx dy = (C_1, C_2) \cdot v_\infty > 0, \tag{11}$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are independent of  $R$ . Letting  $R \rightarrow \infty$ , from (11) we obtain

$$\liminf_{R_i \rightarrow \infty} \iint_{\Omega_{R_i}} |\nabla v_{R_i}|^2 dx dy = (C_1, C_2) \cdot v_\infty > 0, \tag{12}$$

and the theorem of Amick and the Liouville principle – see the Appendix – imply that  $v_L$  is non-trivial and that  $v_0 \neq 0$ . Let now  $r \in ]r_D, \infty[$ . Using the representation (21) for  $w_L$  in  $\Omega \setminus \Omega_r$  and for  $w_{R_i}$  in  $\Omega_{R_i} \setminus \Omega_r$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{R_i} \setminus \Omega_r : (w_L - w_{R_i})(z, \bar{z}) = w_0 - \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|\zeta|=r} \frac{w_L(\zeta, \bar{\zeta}) - w_{R_i}(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\zeta \\ - w_\infty + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left[ PV \iint_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_r} \frac{\omega_L(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\xi d\eta - PV \iint_{\Omega_{R_i} \setminus \Omega_r} \frac{\omega_{R_i}(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\xi d\eta \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

Choosing now, for  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $r$  and  $R_i$  appropriately, i.e., big enough, we get

$$\Omega_{R_i} \setminus \Omega_r : w_\infty - w_0 = 0(\varepsilon), \tag{14}$$

and hence, the first assertion of the theorem follows.

For the sake of completeness let us note that (12) still holds for  $v_L$ . To this end we use the same argument as for (11), by taking into account, in the formula analogous to (7), the asymptotic behaviour of  $(v_L, p_L)$  [2] as well as the fact that (10) still holds for  $(v_L, p_L)$ .

It remains only to show the quasi-uniform convergence. To this end we define

$$\overline{\Omega} : v_{R_i}^e = \begin{cases} v_{R_i} & \text{in } \overline{\Omega}_{R_i}, \\ v_\infty & \text{in } \overline{\Omega} \setminus \overline{\Omega}_{R_i}, \end{cases} \quad v_L^e = \begin{cases} v_L & \text{in } \Omega \cup \Gamma, \\ v_\infty & \text{at infinity.} \end{cases} \tag{15}$$

We note on one hand that  $v_{R_i}^e$ , and  $v_L^e$  are continuous on  $\overline{\Omega}$ . On the other hand, by using the stereographic projection the extended plane  $\overline{\mathbb{R}^2}$  becomes a metric space. By the definition of quasi-uniform convergence and the theorem of Arzelà, Gageff and Alexandrov the last assertion of the theorem then follows.

**Appendix: The Pompeiu type representation formula and the Liouville principle**

**Theorem 2** [9]. *Every velocity solution  $v_D$  of (1), (2) and (4) admits a Pompeiu type representation formula. Moreover  $v_D$  satisfies the Liouville principle, that is, if  $v_0 = 0$ , then  $v_D = 0$  in  $\widetilde{\Omega}$ .*

**Proof.** We note first that  $v_D$  solves also the Poincaré–Stekloff problem [10]

$$\begin{cases} \Omega : \nabla \cdot v = 0, & \nabla^\perp \cdot v = -\omega, \\ \Gamma : v = 0, & [0, 2\pi) : \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} v(r, \theta) = v_0. \end{cases} \tag{16}$$

We introduce next the complex velocity  $w = u - iv$ , the complex variables  $z, \bar{z}$  and the complex differential operators  $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}}$ . (16) becomes then

$$\Omega : \frac{\partial w}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{i}{2}\omega, \quad \Gamma : w = 0, \quad [0, 2\pi) : \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} w(r, \theta) = w_0, \tag{17}$$

where, according to [4],  $\omega \in C^2(\Omega \cap \Gamma) \cap L^2(\Omega)$  and has at infinity the behaviour

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^{3/4}\omega(r, \theta) = 0, \quad \text{uniformly in } \theta. \tag{18}$$

Denote next by  $\Omega_R = \Omega \cap \{(r, \theta) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid r < R\}$ . As known [11] the solution of (17) is given by the Pompeiu formula [6],

$$\Omega_R : w(z, \bar{z}) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Sigma_R} \frac{w(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\zeta + \frac{1}{2\pi i} PV \iint_{\Omega_R} \frac{\omega(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\xi d\eta, \tag{19}$$

where  $\zeta = \xi + i\eta$ ,  $\Sigma_R = \partial\Omega_R \setminus \Gamma$ , and  $PV$  stays for the Cauchy principal value. We note that the left-hand side of (19) is independent of  $R$ , and that the first integral on the right-hand side, is analytic in  $\Omega_R$ . Letting  $R \rightarrow \infty$  and using the boundedness of  $v_D$ , (18) and the estimate

$$\left| PV \iint_{\Omega_R} \frac{\omega(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\xi d\eta \right| \leq PV \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left| \frac{\tilde{\omega}(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} \right| d\xi d\eta = O(R^{1/4}) \quad \text{for } R \rightarrow \infty, \tag{20}$$

where  $\tilde{\omega}(\zeta, \bar{\zeta}) = \omega(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})$  in  $\Omega$  and is equal to zero in  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \Omega$ , from (19) we obtain the Pompeiu type representation formula

$$\Omega : w(z, \bar{z}) = w_0 + \frac{1}{2\pi i} PV \iint_{\Omega} \frac{\omega(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\xi d\eta. \tag{21}$$

We show next the Liouville principle. Assume to this end  $w_0 = 0$  and write the representation formula for  $z \in \Gamma$ . Repeating the above argument we obtain

$$\Gamma : 0 = \frac{1}{2\pi i} PV \iint_{\Omega} \frac{\omega(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\xi d\eta. \tag{22}$$

Let  $D(z; \varepsilon)$  be the disc of center  $z \in \Gamma$  and radius  $\varepsilon$ , and denote by  $\Gamma_\varepsilon := \Gamma \cap D(z; \varepsilon)$ ,  $\Sigma_\varepsilon := \partial D(z; \varepsilon) \cap \Omega$ . Using Pompeiu type formulas from (22) we obtain by decomposition of the right-hand side integral

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma : 0 = & \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left[ \int_{\Sigma_\varepsilon} \frac{w(\zeta, \bar{\zeta})}{\zeta - z} d\zeta + PV \iint_{D(z; \varepsilon) \cap \Omega} \frac{\omega(\zeta, \bar{\zeta}) - \omega(z, \bar{z})}{\zeta - z} d\xi d\eta \right] \\ & + \frac{i}{2} \omega(z, \bar{z}) \left\{ \frac{\bar{z}}{2} - \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left[ \int_{\Sigma_\varepsilon} \frac{\bar{\zeta} d\zeta}{\zeta - z} - PV \int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{\bar{\zeta} d\zeta}{\zeta - z} \right] \right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

The first and the third integrals in (23) are analytic functions, while the second and the fourth ones are non-analytic. Using these facts as well as the estimate

$$\Gamma : \left| PV \iint_{D(z;\varepsilon) \cap \Omega} \frac{\omega(\zeta, \bar{\zeta}) - \omega(z, \bar{z})}{\zeta - z} d\xi d\eta \right| \leq C_1 \sup_{\Omega} \left\{ \left| \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \zeta} \right|, \left| \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \bar{\zeta}} \right| \right\} \varepsilon^2 \quad (24)$$

from (23) it follows then

$$\Gamma : \omega = 0 \quad (25)$$

provided  $\Gamma$  is different from a circle, i.e.,  $|z| \neq c$ ,  $c > 0$  and  $\omega$  depends also on  $\theta$ . From (6) and (25) we obtain that  $\omega$  is solution of

$$\Omega : v \Delta \omega - (v \cdot \nabla) \omega = 0, \quad \Gamma : \omega = 0, \quad [0, 2\pi) : \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \omega(r, \theta) = 0. \quad (26)$$

By the Hopf maximum-minimum principle and (21), where  $w_0 = 0$  we get

$$\Omega : \omega = 0, \quad \underset{\sim}{v} = \underset{\sim}{0}. \quad (27)$$

It remains now to investigate the case where  $\Gamma$  is a circle, and  $\omega$  is a radial function. Using polar coordinates, from (1)<sub>2</sub> and (6) it follows

$$\Omega : \frac{v}{r} \frac{d}{dr} \left( r \frac{d\omega}{dr} \right) - (u \cos \theta + v \sin \theta) \frac{d\omega}{dr} = 0, \quad (28)$$

$$\Omega : \frac{\partial}{\partial r} [r(u \cos \theta + v \sin \theta)] - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (u \sin \theta - v \cos \theta) = 0. \quad (29)$$

Since  $\omega$  is a radial function and using the periodicity of  $u$  and  $v$ , we get then

$$\Omega : r(u \cos \theta + v \sin \theta) = C, \quad (30)$$

where  $C$  is the constant flux through  $\Gamma$ , and, hence by integrating and using (2) and (26)<sub>3</sub> we obtain (27) again.

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