

A problem in fluid mechanics¹

D. E. Soper²

University of Oregon

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For a classical field theory with fields $\Phi_K(x)$ defined from a lagrangian $\mathcal{L}(\partial_\alpha \Phi_K, \Phi_K, x)$, we define the momentum tensor

$$T_\mu{}^\nu = \partial_\mu \Phi_K \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\nu \Phi_K)} - g_\mu^\nu \mathcal{L} . \quad (1)$$

When the fields obey their Euler-Lagrange equations of motion, we find

$$\partial_\nu T_\mu{}^\nu = - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x^\mu} . \quad (2)$$

Here on the right hand side, we differentiate with respect to the x argument of $\mathcal{L}(\partial_\alpha \Phi_K, \Phi_K, x)$. Then when $\mathcal{L}$ has no such direct dependence on x , we have $\partial_\nu T_\mu{}^\nu = 0$.

For the lagrangian for a fluid, $\mathcal{L}_F = -\rho U(\mathcal{V}, R_a)$, we defined

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V} &= 1/\rho , \\ P &= - \frac{\partial U(\mathcal{V}, R_a)}{\partial \mathcal{V}} , \\ \rho^2 &= J^\alpha J_\alpha , \\ u^\mu &= J^\mu / \rho , \\ J^\mu &= n(R) \epsilon^{\mu\alpha\beta\gamma} \frac{1}{3!} \epsilon_{abc} (\partial_\alpha R_a) (\partial_\beta R_b) (\partial_\gamma R_c) . \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

We found

$$T_F^{\mu\nu} = \rho U u^\mu u^\nu + P(u^\mu u^\nu - g^{\mu\nu}) . \quad (4)$$

Now suppose that the fluid carries electric charge $q(R)$ per atom, so that there is an electric current

$$J_e^\mu(x) = q(R) J^\mu(x) . \quad (5)$$

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²soper@uoregon.edu

Suppose that there is an externally imposed electromagnetic field given by the vector potential $A_\mu(x)$. Then the fluid can be influenced by the electromagnetic field. This influence is described by adding a term to the lagrangian,

$$\mathcal{L}_I = -A(x)_\alpha J_e(x)^\alpha \quad . \quad (6)$$

Note that $A(x)_\alpha$ is fixed, not a dynamical field. Thus $\mathcal{L}_I(\partial_\alpha R_a, R_a, x)$ has an explicit x dependence coming from the x dependence of $A(x)_\alpha$.

1. Find the added term $T_I^{\mu\nu}$ in $T^{\mu\nu}$ coming from $\mathcal{L}_I$.
2. What is the resulting force density

$$f^\mu = \partial_\nu T_F^{\mu\nu} \quad (7)$$

on the fluid?