

J07M.3 - Bubble in an Incompressible Fluid

Problem

An explosion at time $t = 0$ in an ideal (zero viscosity) incompressible fluid produces a perfectly spherically symmetric expanding bubble of vacuum with radius $R(t)$ (neglect the effect of any gas or vapor inside the bubble). The bubble expands to maximum radius R_{max} and then collapses. The pressure in the fluid far from the bubble is P_∞ , and the mass density of the fluid is ρ . Neglect any effects of surface tension or gravity; assume the bubble remains spherically symmetric at all times, and that the velocity field in the fluid is purely radial.

- a) Obtain an expression for the velocity field inside the fluid, and hence get an expression for the total energy (kinetic + potential) of the fluid in terms of R and dR/dt .
- b) Obtain an equation of motion for the bubble's radius $R(t)$ of the form

$$\frac{dR}{dt} = f(R)$$

What is the function $f(R)$?

- c) How long does it take for the bubble to collapse after it reaches its maximum radius? Your answer can contain a finite dimensionless integral whose value you have not obtained.
- d) What is the asymptotic behavior of $R(t)$ in the final moments of the bubble's collapse when $R \ll R_{max}$? (Do **not** consider the possibility of "cold fusion"!)