

The total **net** 3-D vector force per unit volume is therefore:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{f}_{net}(\vec{r},t) &= f_{net_x}(\vec{r},t)\hat{x} + f_{net_y}(\vec{r},t)\hat{y} + f_{net_z}(\vec{r},t)\hat{z} \\ &= -\frac{\partial p(\vec{r},t)}{\partial x}\hat{x} - \frac{\partial p(\vec{r},t)}{\partial y}\hat{y} - \frac{\partial p(\vec{r},t)}{\partial z}\hat{z} = -\underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\hat{z}\right)}_{=\vec{\nabla}} p(\vec{r},t) = -\vec{\nabla}p(\vec{r},t)\end{aligned}$$

Thus we have: $\vec{a}(\vec{r},t) = \vec{f}(\vec{r},t)/\rho_o$ and: $\vec{f}_{net}(\vec{r},t) = \vec{f}(\vec{r},t) = -\vec{\nabla}p(\vec{r},t)$, hence:

$\vec{a}(\vec{r},t) = -\vec{\nabla}p(\vec{r},t)/\rho_o$. Recall that (for $|p(\vec{r},t)| \ll 100$ RMS Pascals { $SPL \ll 134$ dB }, the particle acceleration $\vec{a}(\vec{r},t)$ is the time rate of change of the particle velocity $\vec{u}(\vec{r},t)$, i.e. $\vec{a}(\vec{r},t) = \partial\vec{u}(\vec{r},t)/\partial t$, hence we obtain Euler's equation for inviscid fluid flow, valid for air with $|p(\vec{r},t)| \ll 100$ RMS Pascals { $SPL \ll 134$ dB }:

$$\vec{a}(\vec{r},t) = \frac{\partial\vec{u}(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\rho_o}\vec{\nabla}p(\vec{r},t) \quad Q.E.D.$$

“Complexifying” this equation, we have:

$$\boxed{\vec{\tilde{a}}(\vec{r},t) = \frac{\partial\vec{\tilde{u}}(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\rho_o}\vec{\nabla}\tilde{p}(\vec{r},t)}$$

Although this relationship between the complex particle acceleration $\vec{\tilde{a}}(\vec{r},t)$, particle velocity $\vec{\tilde{u}}(\vec{r},t)$ and complex pressure $\tilde{p}(\vec{r},t)$ was derived in the co-moving/center-of-mass reference frame associated with the infinitesimal volume element V_o centered on the space-time point (\vec{r},t) , superimposed on top of a static pressure field $p_{am} = 1.013 \times 10^5$ Pascals, it can be seen that for small, harmonic/periodic over-pressure amplitude variations, e.g. $\tilde{p}(\vec{r},t) = \tilde{p}_o(\vec{r})e^{i\omega t}$ with $|\tilde{p}(\vec{r},t)| \ll p_{am}$ that each of these quantities are the same in the laboratory reference frame.

We can now also see that the complex particle displacement $\vec{\xi}(\vec{r},t)$ (m) {from equilibrium position}, complex particle velocity $\vec{\tilde{u}}(\vec{r},t) = \partial\vec{\xi}(\vec{r},t)/\partial t$ (m/s) and complex particle acceleration $\vec{\tilde{a}}(\vec{r},t) = \partial\vec{\tilde{u}}(\vec{r},t)/\partial t$ (m/s²) are associated with the **collective**, random-thermal energy-averaged-out motion of the air molecules contained within the infinitesimal volume element V_o bounded by the {co-moving} surface S_o centered on the space-time point (\vec{r},t) .