

3. Propagation of Chaos for the Two Dimensional Navier-Stokes Equation

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In this paper we establish a rigorous derivation of the two dimensional vorticity equation associated with the Navier-Stokes equation from a many particle system as a propagation of chaos.

It is well known that an incompressible and viscous two dimensional fluid, under the action of an external conservative field is described by the following evolution equations

$$(1) \quad \nabla_t v(t, z) + (u \cdot \nabla)v(t, z) - \nu \Delta v(t, z) = 0,$$

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} v(t, z) = \text{curl } u(t, z) = \nabla_x u_2 - \nabla_y u_1, \\ \nabla \cdot u = 0, \quad z = (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{cases}$$

where $u = (u_1, u_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ is the velocity field and $\nabla_x = \partial/\partial x$, $\nabla_y = \partial/\partial y$, $\nabla = (\nabla_x, \nabla_y)$. $\nu > 0$ denotes the viscosity constant. Introducing the operator $\nabla^\perp = (\nabla_y, -\nabla_x)$, by virtue of $\nabla \cdot u = 0$, one obtains

$$(3) \quad u(t, z) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (\nabla^\perp G)(z - z')v(t, z')dz',$$

where $G(z) = -(2\pi)^{-1} \log |z|$ is the fundamental solution of the Poisson equation. By means of (3), (1) turns to be a closed equation and is nothing but a McKean's type non-linear equation (see H. P. McKean [1]). Hence a probabilistic treatment for the equation (1) is possible. Such an observation for the two dimensional Navier-Stokes equation was made by Marchioro-Pulvirenti in [2]. We shall discuss "a propagation of chaos for the equation (1)".

Let $\{Z_t\}$ denote the McKean process associated with (1);

$$(4) \quad dZ_t = \sigma dB_t + E[(\nabla^\perp G)(Z_t - Z'_t) | Z_t], \quad \sigma = \sqrt{2\pi}$$

where B_t is a 2-dimensional Brownian motion and Z'_t is an independent copy of Z_t .

The n particle system associated with (1) are described by the following S.D.E.s,

$$(5) \quad dZ_t^i = \sigma dB_t^i + (n-1)^{-1} \sum_{\substack{j \neq i \\ j=1}}^n (\nabla^\perp G)(Z_t^i - Z_t^j) dt, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

where (B_t^1, \dots, B_t^n) is a $2n$ -dimensional Brownian motion. Since the coefficients of (4) have singularities at $\mathcal{N} = \bigcup_{i \neq j} \{z = (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n, z_i \neq z_j\}$, it is not trivial to see that the solution of (4) defines a conservative diffusion process on \mathbb{R}^{2n} . However, if it starts out side of \mathcal{N} , it can be shown that this diffusion process does not hit \mathcal{N} (see Osada [4]).