# **REYNOLDS TRANSPORT THEOREM**

### **In this lesson, we will**:

- Show an analogy between the material derivative and the **Reynolds Transport Theorem**
- Discuss the purpose and usefulness of the Reynolds Transport Theorem (**RTT**)
- Show alternate forms of the RTT, including various simplifications
- Do an example problem

# **Introduction and Overview**

- A *system* [also called a *closed system*] is a quantity of matter of fixed identity. *No mass can cross a system boundary*.
- A *control volume* [also called an *open system*] is a region in space chosen for study. *Mass can cross a control surface* (the surface of the control volume).
- The fundamental conservation laws (conservation of mass, energy, etc.) *apply directly to systems*.
- However, in most fluid mechanics problems, *control volume analysis is preferred over system analysis* (for the same reason that the Eulerian description is usually preferred over the Lagrangian description).
- Therefore, we need to *transform the conservation laws from a system to a control volume*. This is accomplished with the *Reynolds transport theorem (RTT)*.

# **Analogy Between the Material Derivative and the RTT**

There is a direct **analogy** between the transformation from **Lagrangian** to **Eulerian** descriptions (**for differential analysis** using infinitesimally small fluid elements) and the transformation from **systems** to **control volumes** (**for integral analysis** using large, finite flow fields):



In both cases, the fundamental laws of physics (conservation laws) are *known* and apply directly to the analysis on the left (Lagrangian or system).

These laws of physics must be *transformed* so as to be useful in the analysis on the right (Eulerian or control volume).





We can also switch the order of the time derivative and the integral in the first term on the right, but only if we use the *absolute* (rather than the relative) velocity in the second term on the right, i.e.,

$$
Alternate RTT, \, nonfixed \, CV: \qquad \frac{dB_{sys}}{dt} = \int_{CV} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho b) \, dV + \int_{CS} \rho b \overrightarrow{V} \cdot \overrightarrow{n} \, dA \qquad (4-45)
$$

Comparing Eqs. 4-45 and 4-42, we see that they are identical. Thus, the most general form of the RTT that *applies to both fixed and non-fixed control volumes* is

General RTT, nonfixed CV:  $\frac{dB_{sys}}{dt} = \int_{CV} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho b) dV + \int_{CS} \rho b \vec{V} \cdot \vec{n} dA$  $(4 - 53)$ 

Even though this equation is most general, it is often easier *in practice* to use Eq. 4-44 for moving and/or deforming (non-fixed) control volumes because the algebra is easier.

#### **Simplifications**:

• For **steady** flow, the volume integral drops out. In terms of relative velocity,

RTT, steady flow: 
$$
\frac{dB_{sys}}{dt} = \underbrace{\oint_{CS} \rho b \overrightarrow{V_r} \cdot \overrightarrow{n}}_{dA} dA
$$
 inlying this. (4-46)

• For control volumes where there are **well-defined inlets and outlets**, the control surface integral can be simplified, avoiding cumbersome integrations, Approximate RTT for well-defined inlets and outlets:

$$
\frac{dB_{\text{sys}}}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\text{CV}} \rho b \, dV + \sum_{\text{out}} \underbrace{\rho_{\text{avg}} b_{\text{avg}} V_{r, \text{avg}} A}_{\text{for each outlet}} - \sum_{\text{in}} \underbrace{\rho_{\text{avg}} b_{\text{avg}} V_{r, \text{avg}} A}_{\text{for each inlet}} \tag{4-48}
$$

Note that the above equation is *approximate*, so it may not always be accurate; but it will be used almost exclusively in this course and is used generally in engineering analysis.



Someting we need to integrate over a portion of the S.

