



# ME 323: FLUID MECHANICS-II

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**Lecture-10**

**02/12/2024**

**Wave Propagation  
&  
Blow Down Process**

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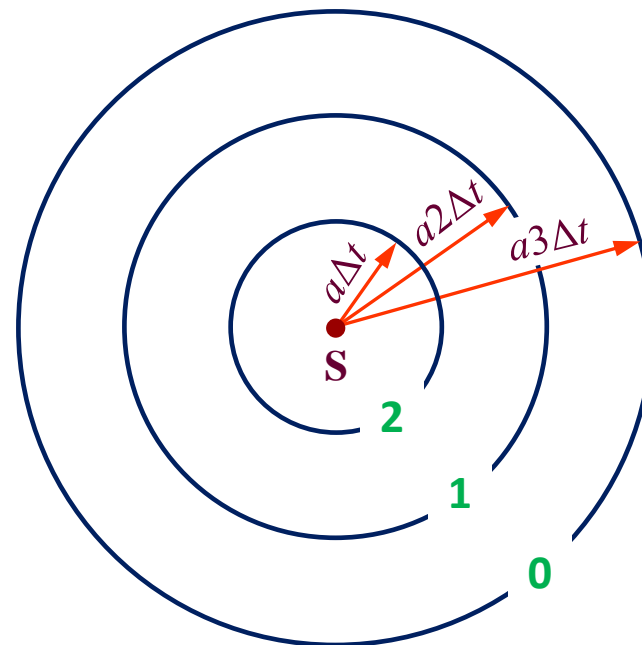
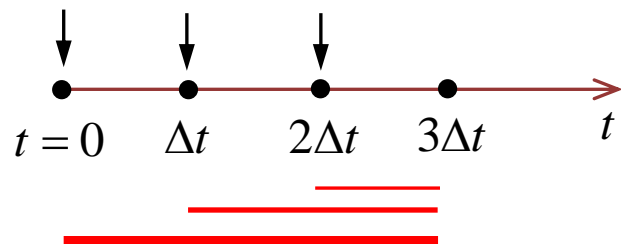


# Wave Propagation

Weak pressure changes in the fluid is propagated through the fluid continuum **with the velocity of sound,  $a$**  which is a function of elastic property of the fluid.

Thus, if a periodic pressure disturbance occurs at a **stationary point  $S$**  as shown in Figure in a stationary fluid, the resulting pressure waves will travel radially outwards from point  **$S$**  as **concentric spheres**. If the period of the disturbance is  $\Delta t$ , then the distance travelled by a wave between the first and second disturbance will be  $a\Delta t$ .

$$a = \sqrt{kRT} \quad (\text{m/s})$$



Point  **$S$**  is a source (stationary)

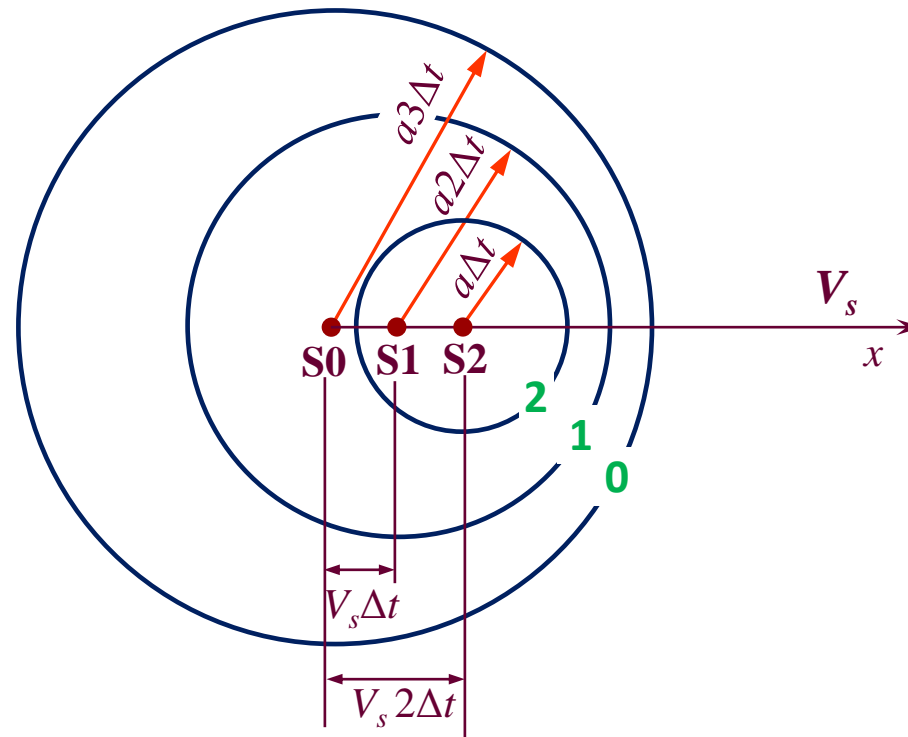
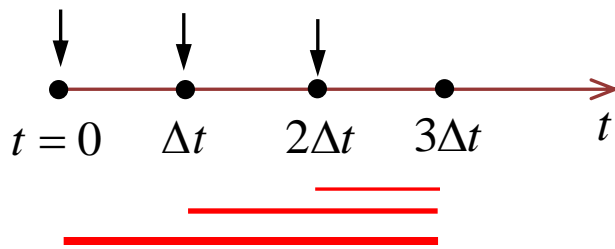
Wave propagation with **stationary source,  $S$**  in stationary fluid continuum



# Wave Propagation

Now if the source, **S** is moving with velocity  $V_s$ , what will happen???

**Case- I: Source (S) velocity is subsonic ( $M < 1$ ) i.e.  $V_s < a$**



$$a\Delta t > V_s \Delta t \quad (\text{m})$$

$$a = \sqrt{kRT} \quad (\text{m/s})$$

**Concentration of spheres' surfaces will increase downstream**

Point **S** is a source

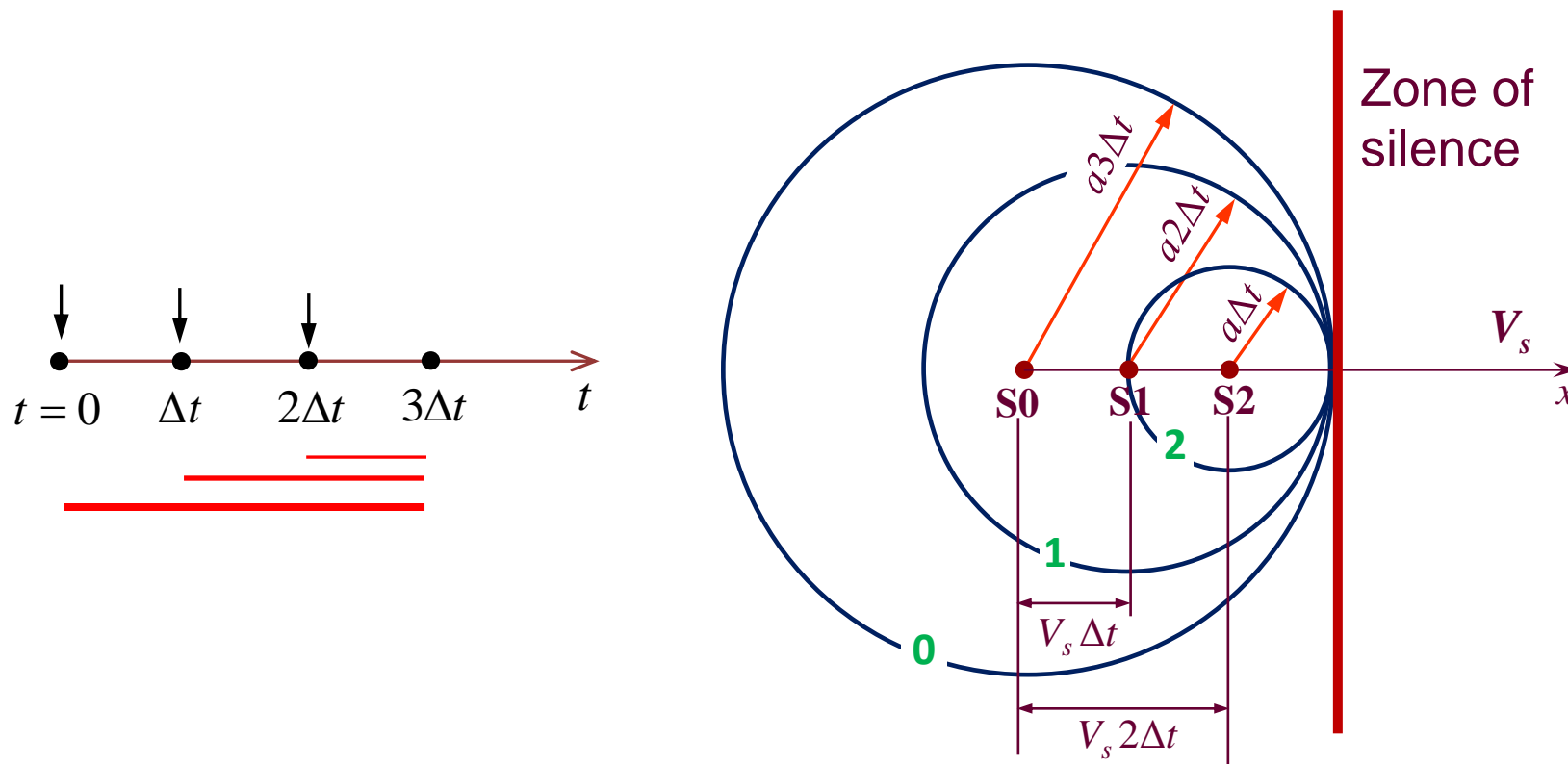
Wave propagation with moving source, **S** in stationary fluid continuum **subsonic ( $V_s < a$ )**



# Wave Propagation

Now if the source, **S** is moving with velocity  $V_s$ , what will happen???

Case- II: Source (S) velocity is sonic ( $M=1$ ) i.e.  $V_s=a$



$$a\Delta t = V_s \Delta t \quad (\text{m})$$

$$a = \sqrt{kRT} \quad (\text{m/s})$$

All the spherical waves become tangential to each other and collapse to a certain point downstream

Point **S** is a source

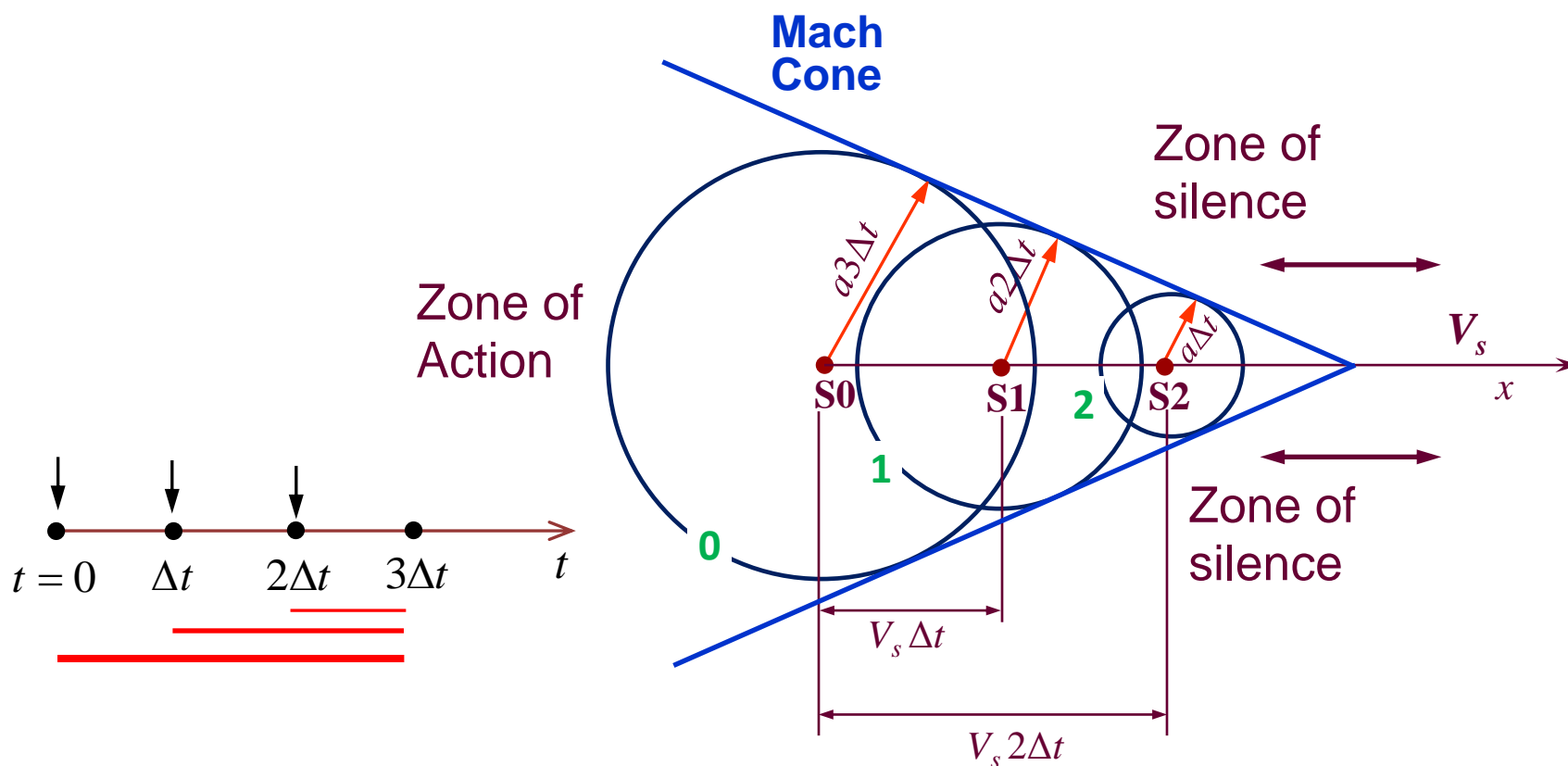
Wave propagation with moving source, **S**  
sonic ( $V_s=a$ )



# Wave Propagation

Now if the source, **S** is moving with velocity  $V_s$ , what will happen???

**Case- III: Source (S) velocity is supersonic ( $M > 1$ ) i.e.  $V_s > a$**



$$a\Delta t < V_s \Delta t \quad (\text{m})$$

$$a = \sqrt{kRT} \quad (\text{m/s})$$

Spheres are swept away faster, then they are generated. The surface tangential to all the spherical waves forms a cone, known as Mach cone

Point **S** is a source

Wave propagation with moving source, **S**  
**supersonic ( $V_s > a$ )**



# Wave Propagation

## Case- III: Source (S) velocity is supersonic ( $M>1$ ) i.e. $V>a$

$$a\Delta t < V_s \Delta t \quad (\text{m})$$

**Mach Angle:** (from triangle)

$$\sin \mu = \frac{a\Delta t}{V_s \Delta t}$$

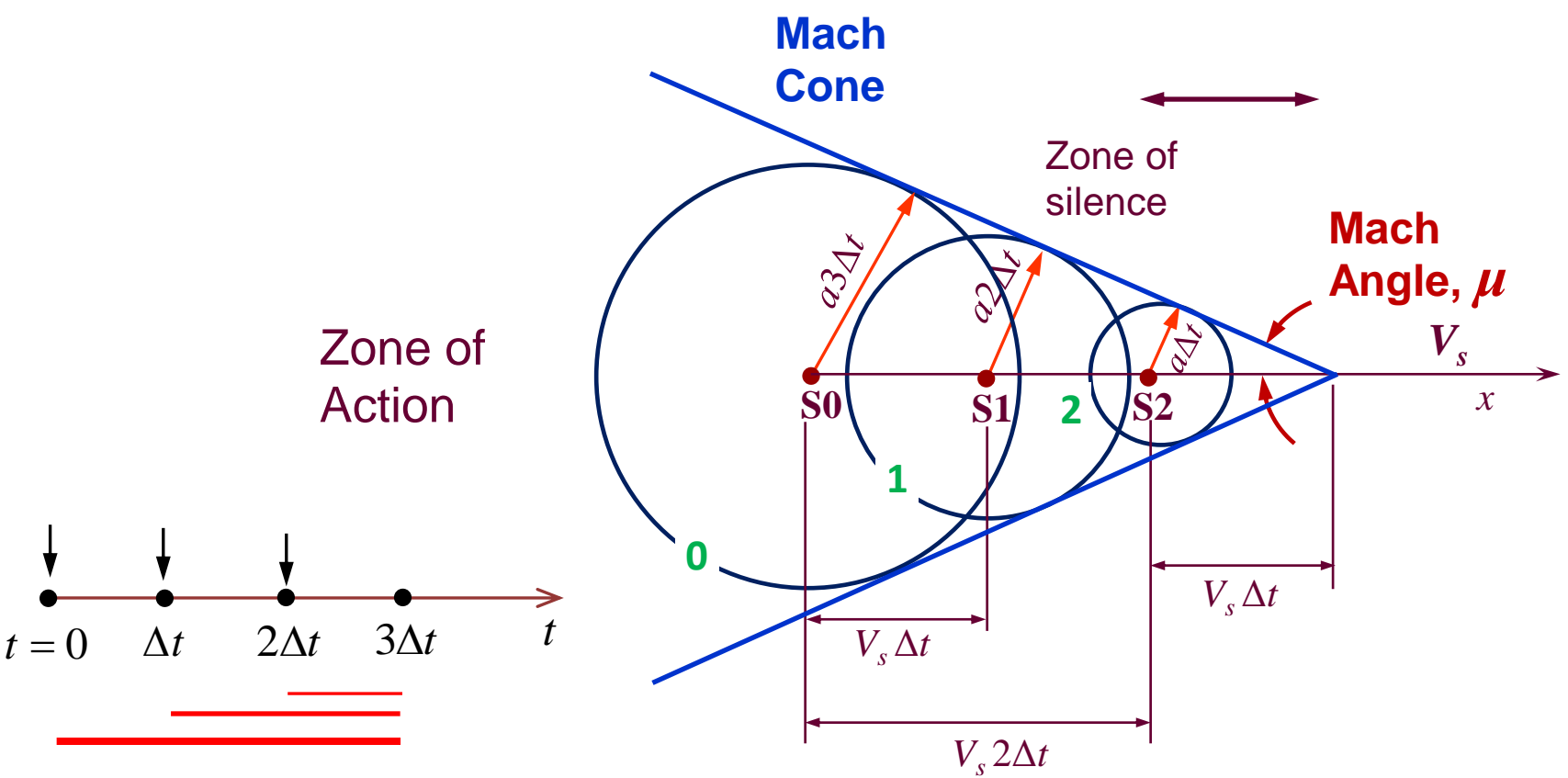
$$\Rightarrow \mu = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{a}{V_s} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{M} \right) ; \quad M = \frac{V_s}{a}$$

Valid for supersonic flow,  $M>1$

**Sonic Boom !!**

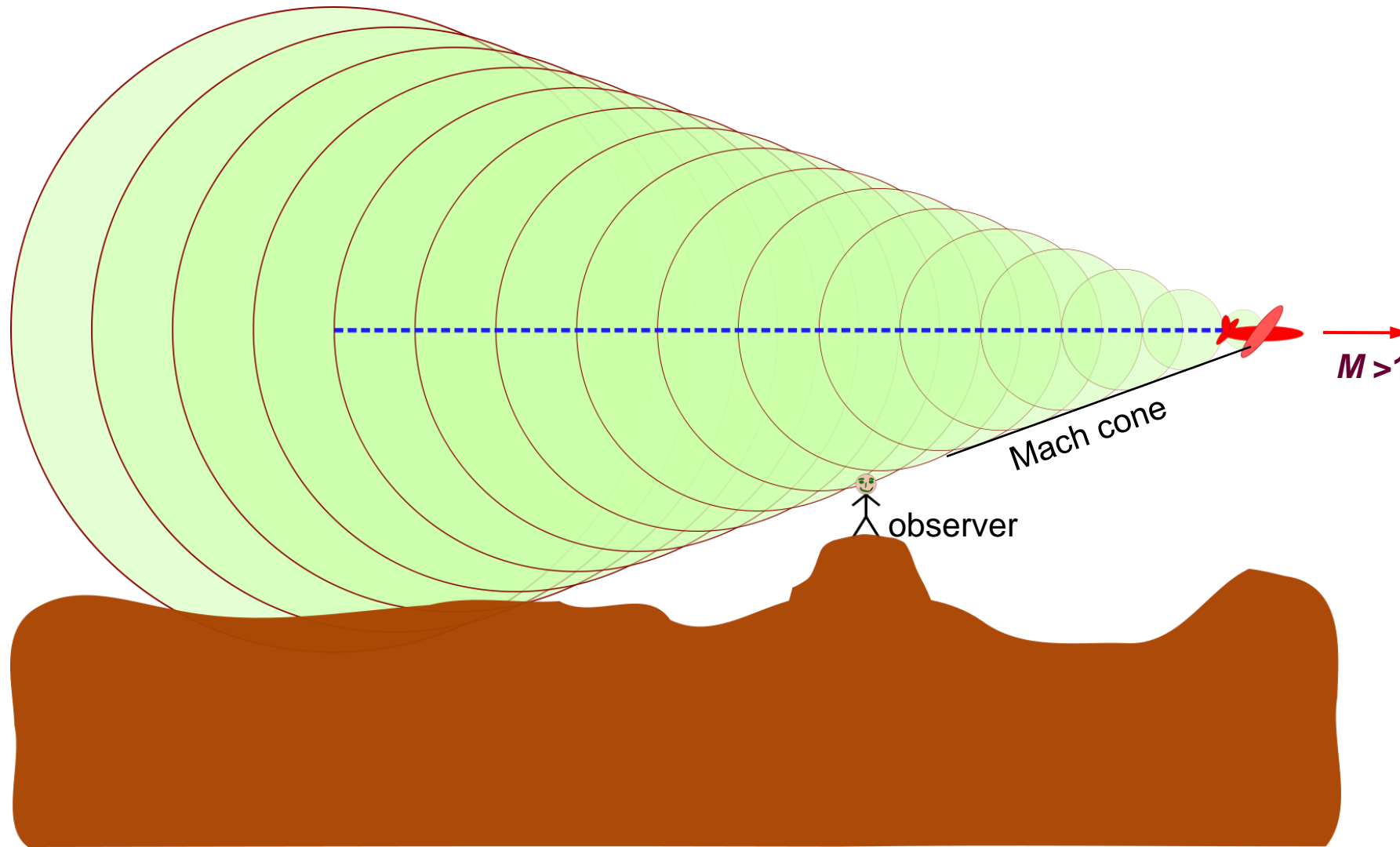
Point **S** is a source



Wave propagation with moving source, **S**  
supersonic ( $V>a$ )



# Sonic Boom



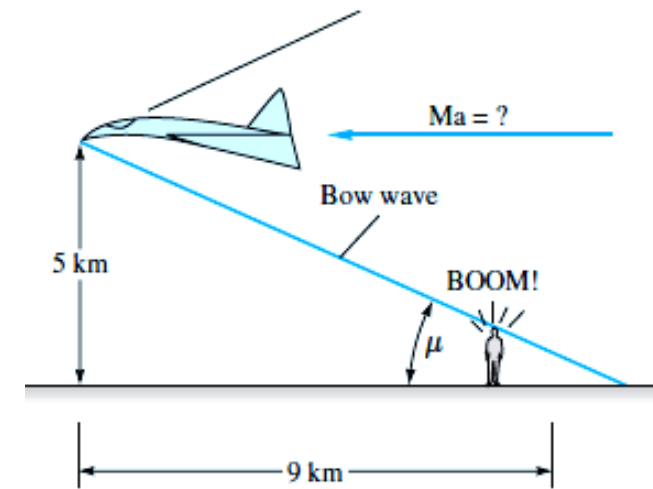
A **sonic boom** produced by an aircraft moving at  $M = 2.92$ , calculated from the cone angle of 20 degrees. Observers hear nothing until the shock wave, on the edges of the cone, crosses their location.

\*[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonic\\_boom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonic_boom)

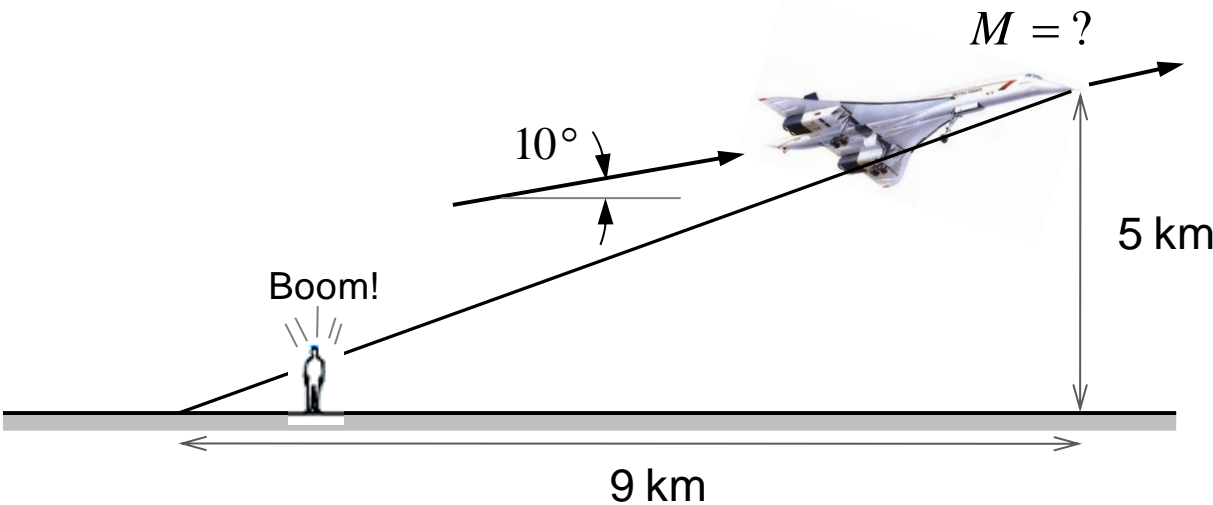


## Problem:

An observer on the ground does not hear the sonic boom caused by an airplane moving at 5-km altitude until it is 9 km past her. What is the approximate Mach number of the plane? Assume a small disturbance, and neglect the variation of sound speed with altitude.







# Home work



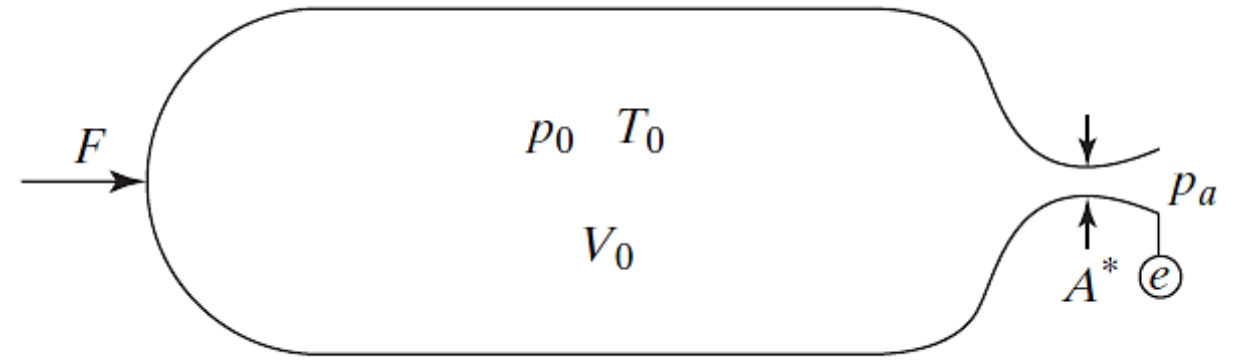


# Blowdown Process from A High Pressure Reservoir

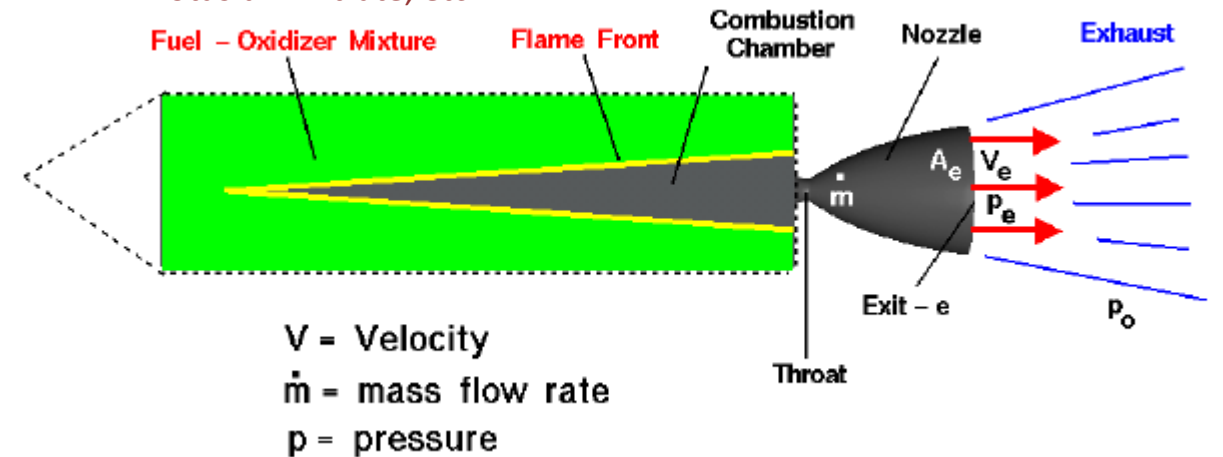


# High Pressure Tank

- Solid-propellant rocket engine immediately after burnout
- Blowdown wind tunnel
- Pneumatic controls
- Gas venting from high pressure pipeline



Solid oxidizer: Ammonium nitrate, Ammonium dinitramide, Potassium Nitrate, etc.



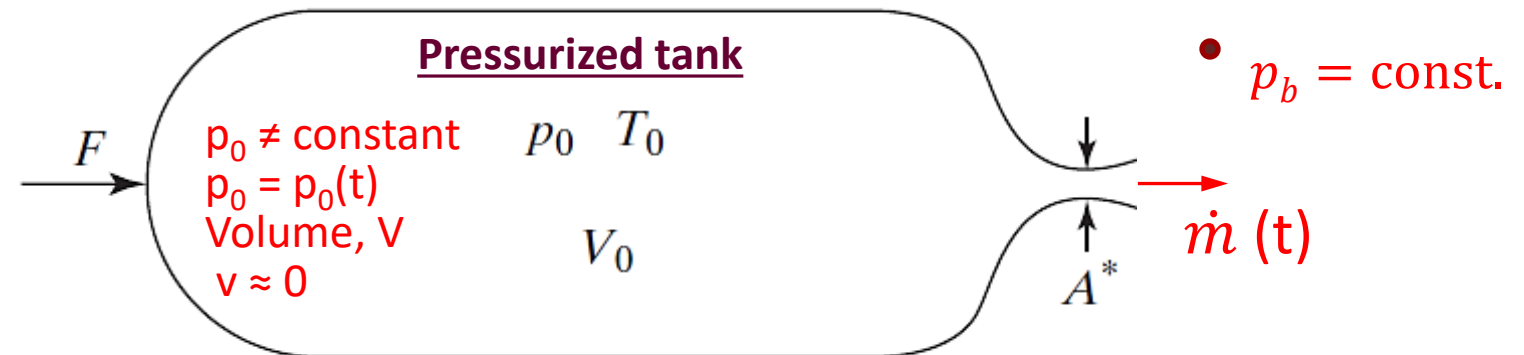
**Solid-propellant rocket engine**



# Blowdown process: an Unsteady Problem

## Assumptions:

- 1) 1D flow
- 2) No viscous effect
- 3) Fluid behaves as ideal gas
- 4) adiabatic process ( $T_0 = \text{const.}$ )
- 5) Initial pressure ratio is above the critical condition.



# Blowdown process: an Unsteady Problem

## Blowdown from a converging nozzle

