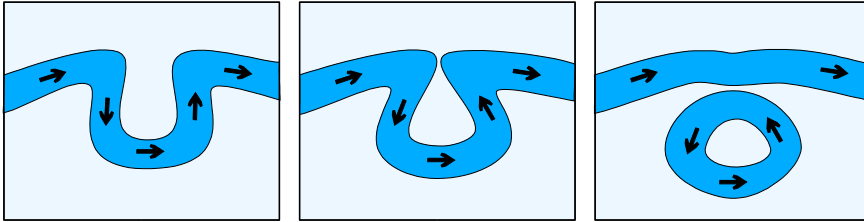


Some origins of eddies in the (northern hemisphere) oceans

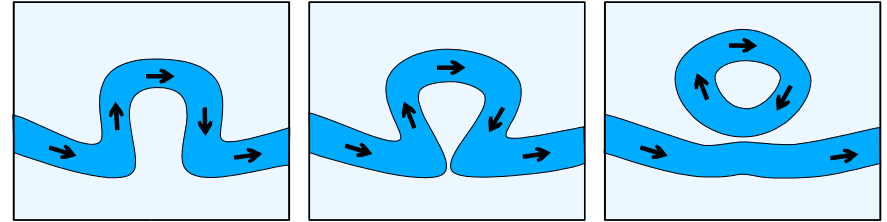
Counterclockwise eddies:

Clockwise eddies:

Meandering of a current in the open ocean:

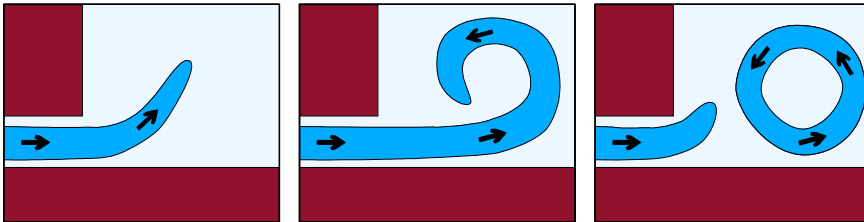


Meandering streams on land change evolve through time to cut off bends that become ox-bow lakes. Ocean currents can do the same, but the

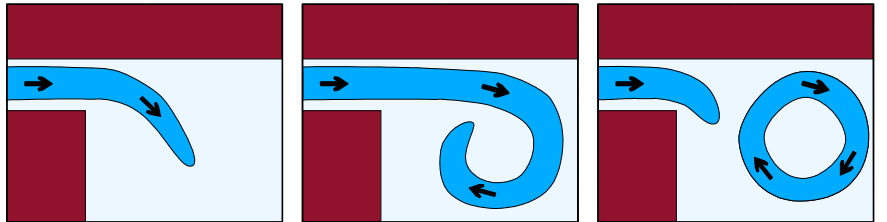


oceanic analog of the ox-bow lake is fluid and has momentum that continues its spin.

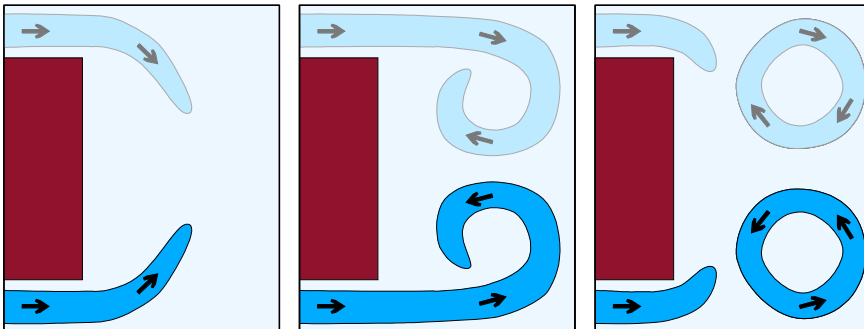
Emergence of a current into a more open region:



The dark red regions here can be land, or one of them can be a topographic high of the sea surface produced by dynamic topography.



Flow of a current around a barrier:



The dark red region here is most commonly an island.

