

**[mex229] Growth of falling raindrop**

A spherical raindrop of mass density  $\rho_W$  falling through fog of mass density  $\rho_F$  accumulates mass by absorbing all fog droplets (assumed stationary) in its way. The initial radius is  $r_0$  and the initial velocity is zero. The acceleration due to gravity is  $g$ . Air resistance is to be neglected.

- (a) Relate the radial growth  $\dot{r}$  of the raindrop to its instantaneous velocity  $v$ .
- (b) Construct a differential equation (nonlinear second order ODE) for the radius  $r$  of the raindrop.
- (c) Show that the acceleration  $\dot{v}$  is initially equal to  $g$  and approaches the asymptotic value  $g/7$ .
- (d) Plot  $\dot{v}$  versus  $t$  for  $0 \leq t \leq 2.5$  and  $\rho_W/\rho_F = 1000$ ,  $g = 10$ ,  $r_0 = 0.001$  (all in SI units).

**Solution:**