Problem 18

A pond forms as water collects in a conical depression of radius a and depth h. Suppose that water flows in at a constant rate k and is lost through evaporation at a rate proportional to the surface area.

(a) Show that the volume $V(t)$ of water in the pond at time t satisfies the differential equation

$$dV/dt = k - \alpha\pi(3a/\pi h)^{2/3}V^{2/3},$$

where α is the coefficient of evaporation.

(b) Find the equilibrium depth of water in the pond. Is the equilibrium asymptotically stable?

(c) Find a condition that must be satisfied if the pond is not to overflow.