

Homework #9 Solutions

1. (10 pts) A viscous, incompressible fluid flows steadily between two infinite parallel plates separated by a distance b (Fig. 1). Motion is driven by the plates themselves, the bottom and top plates sliding in their own planes with velocities u_o and $2u_o$, respectively. There is no pressure gradient. Determine the horizontal velocity distribution if the flow is laminar and fully-developed and the fluid has density and viscosity of ρ and μ , respectively and use this result to subsequently determine the shear stress on the bottom plate.

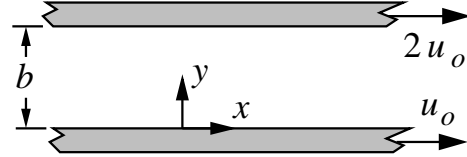


Fig. 1: Flow between plates.

Solution: We solve the equations of motion under the restriction of steady flow ($\partial/\partial t = 0$), fully-developed flow ($\partial/\partial x = 0$), and no pressure gradient ($\partial P/\partial x = 0$). We can write the conservation of mass equation for two-dimensions (x and y) as

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0.$$

The fully-developed assumption implies the first term drops out, leaving $dv/dy = 0$. Consequently, v is a constant, but the no-slip boundary conditions at the top and bottom imply that this constant is zero, i.e. $v = 0$.

We can now write the x momentum equation as

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = - \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right).$$

With the restriction above and the observation that $v = 0$, this simplifies to

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dy^2} = 0,$$

which integrates to $u = C_1 y + C_2$. Using the no-slip boundary conditions

$$u|_{y=b} = 2u_o \quad \text{and} \quad u|_{y=0} = u_o,$$

we find $C_1 = u_o/b$ and $C_2 = u_o$, so that

$$u = u_o \left(\frac{y}{b} + 1 \right).$$

Shear stress at the bottom can be calculated by Newton's Law of viscosity, as

$$\tau \Big|_{y=0} = \mu \frac{du}{dy} \Big|_{y=0} = \frac{\mu u_o}{b}.$$

2. (10 pts) The flow in Question 1 has no variation in the z -direction (i.e. $+z$ coming “out of the paper”) and no velocity component in this direction, either. In such instances, the vorticity (which in general is a vector as is velocity) has only one component of vorticity. Determine the vorticity for the flow in Question 1 and comment on how fluid elements are “tumbling” in this flow.

Solution: Vorticity is expressed in general as

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{V} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \partial/\partial x & \partial/\partial y & \partial/\partial z \\ u & v & w \end{vmatrix} = \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) \hat{i} + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \right) \hat{j} + \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) \hat{k},$$

but clearly the only component that does not vanish in this case, including per the problem statement is the last one. Given from Question 1 that

$$u = u_o \left(\frac{y}{b} + 1 \right) \quad \text{and} \quad v = 0,$$

we find that the \hat{k} component of the vorticity is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [0] - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[u_o \left(\frac{y}{b} + 1 \right) \right] = -\frac{u_o}{b}.$$

The negative sign indicates the \hat{k} component points “into the paper”, indicating clockwise rotation, according to the right hand rule.

3. (10 pts) A particular flow is described by the potential function $\phi = C_0 x y$, where C_0 is a constant. Find the corresponding stream function, ψ to within an additive constant C_1 .

Solution: From the velocity potential and stream function definitions, we find

$$\begin{aligned} u = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = C_0 y = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} &\quad \rightarrow \quad \psi = \frac{C_0 y^2}{2} + f_1(x) \\ v = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = C_0 x = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} &\quad \rightarrow \quad \psi = -\frac{C_0 x^2}{2} + f_2(y). \end{aligned}$$

The matching process indicates

$$f_1(x) = -\frac{C_0 x^2}{2} + C_1 \quad \text{and} \quad f_2(y) = \frac{C_0 y^2}{2} + C_1,$$

so that

$$\psi = \frac{C_0}{2} (y^2 - x^2) + C_1.$$

4. (10 pts) Show by either integrating the following form of the Euler equations,

$$\rho \left(u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} \quad \text{and} \quad \rho \left(u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial y},$$

or by applying the Bernoulli equation for potential flows (neglect potential energy), that the pressure distribution in Problem 3 is

$$P = -\frac{\rho C_0^2}{2} (x^2 + y^2) + C_2,$$

where C_2 is an additive constant.

Solution: We can write the Bernoulli equation in the form

$$P + \frac{\rho V^2}{2} = C_2,$$

where C_2 is the aforementioned constant. Since $\mathbf{V} = C_0 y \hat{i} + C_0 x \hat{j}$ from Problem 3, we have $V^2 = \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{V} = C_0^2(x^2 + y^2)$, from which the pressure distribution given in the questions follows directly via algebra. If integrating the Euler equations, we find

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} = -\rho(C_0 y \cdot 0 + C_0 x \cdot C_0) = -\rho C_0^2 x \quad \rightarrow \quad P = -\frac{\rho C_0^2 x^2}{2} + f_1(y)$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = -\rho(C_0 y \cdot C_0 + C_0 x \cdot 0) = -\rho C_0^2 y \quad \rightarrow \quad P = -\frac{\rho C_0^2 y^2}{2} + f_2(x)$$

The matching process indicates

$$f_1(y) = -\frac{\rho C_0^2 y^2}{2} + C_2 \quad \text{and} \quad f_2(x) = -\frac{\rho C_0^2 x^2}{2} + C_2,$$

so that

$$P = -\frac{\rho C_0^2}{2} (x^2 + y^2) + C_2,$$

as stated in the problem.

5. (10 pts) Consider fully-developed, steady laminar flow in a pipe of inner radius R (Fig. 2), whose axial profile is

$$u(r) = \frac{1}{4\mu} \frac{dP}{dx} (r^2 - R^2),$$

where pressure gradient dP/dx and viscosity μ are both constants. Here, the x -axis and the flow direction are “into the paper”. Determine the shear stress, τ , realized at the inner wall (at $r = R$) in terms of the volume flow rate, Q , the radius, R , and the fluid viscosity, μ .

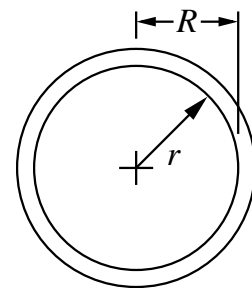


Fig. 2: Flow in a pipe.

Solution: As shorthand, let us define

$$C = \frac{1}{4\mu} \frac{dP}{dx}.$$

We can evaluate both the shear stress and the volume flow rate from the velocity profile using the appropriate definitions. In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= \iint_{\text{area}} \mathbf{V} \cdot \vec{n} \, dA = \int_0^R C (r^2 - R^2) 2\pi r \, dr = 2\pi C \int_0^R (r^3 - r R^2) \, dr \\ &= 2\pi C \left(\frac{r^4}{4} - \frac{r^2 R^2}{2} \right) \Big|_0^R = 2\pi C \left(\frac{R^4}{4} - \frac{R^4}{2} \right) = -\frac{C \pi R^4}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Likewise,

$$\tau = \mu \left. \frac{du}{dr} \right|_{r=R} = \mu C 2r \Big|_{r=R} = 2\mu C R.$$

We can eliminate C from these two expressions (i.e. by solving for C in the volume flow rate and substituting it into the shear stress equation) to find

$$\tau = 2\mu R \cdot \frac{-2Q}{\pi R^4} = -\frac{4\mu Q R}{\pi R^4} = -\frac{4\mu Q}{\pi R^3}.$$