

Fundamentals of Fluid Dynamics: Elementary Viscous Flow

Introductory Course on Multiphysics Modelling

TOMASZ G. ZIELIŃSKI

`multiphysics.ippt.pan.pl`

**Institute of Fundamental Technological Research
of the Polish Academy of Sciences
Warsaw • Poland**



Outline

1 Newtonian fluids

- Newtonian fluids and viscosity
- Constitutive relation for Newtonian fluids
- Constitutive relation for compressible viscous flow

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2 Navier–Stokes equations

- Continuity equation
- Cauchy's equation of motion
- Navier–Stokes equations of motion
- Boundary conditions (for incompressible flow)
- Compressible Navier–Stokes equations of motion
- Small-compressibility Navier–Stokes equations
- Complete Navier–Stokes equations
- Boundary conditions for compressible flow

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4 Features of viscous flow

- Viscous diffusion of vorticity
- Convection and diffusion of vorticity
- Boundary layers

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Newtonian fluids and viscosity

Definition (**Newtonian fluid**)

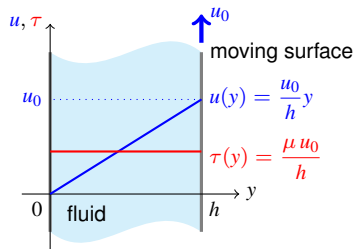
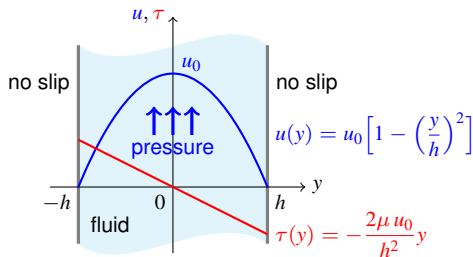
A **Newtonian fluid** is a viscous fluid for which the shear stress is proportional to the velocity gradient (i.e., to the rate of strain):

$$\tau = \mu \frac{du}{dy} .$$

Here: τ [Pa] is the shear stress (“drag”) exerted by the fluid,

μ [Pa · s] is the (**dynamic** or **absolute**) **viscosity**,

$\frac{du}{dy}$ [$\frac{1}{s}$] is the velocity gradient perpendicular to the direction of shear.



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Definition (**Kinematic viscosity**)

The **kinematic viscosity** of a fluid is defined as the quotient of its absolute viscosity μ and density ρ :

$$\nu = \frac{\mu}{\rho} \quad \left[\frac{\text{m}^2}{\text{s}} \right] .$$

Newtonian fluids and viscosity

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Definition (**Kinematic viscosity**)

$$\nu = \frac{\mu}{\rho} \quad \left[\frac{m^2}{s} \right]$$

fluid	μ [10^{-5} Pa · s]	ν [10^{-5} m ² /s]
air (at 20°C)	1.82	1.51
water (at 20°C)	100.2	0.1004

Newtonian fluids and viscosity

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Non-Newtonian fluids

For a non-Newtonian fluid the **viscosity changes with the applied strain rate** (velocity gradient). As a result, non-Newtonian fluids may not have a well-defined viscosity.

Constitutive relation for Newtonian fluids

The **stress tensor** can be decomposed into **spherical** and **deviatoric parts**:

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \boldsymbol{\tau} - p\mathbf{I} \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma_{ij} = \tau_{ij} - p\delta_{ij}, \quad \text{where} \quad p = -\frac{1}{3} \operatorname{tr} \boldsymbol{\sigma} = -\frac{1}{3} \sigma_{ii}$$

is the (mechanical) **pressure** and $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ is the the **stress deviator** (**shear stress tensor**).

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is the (mechanical) **pressure** and $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ is the the **stress deviator (shear stress tensor)**.

Using this decomposition Stokes (1845) deduced his constitutive relation for Newtonian fluids from three elementary hypotheses:

- 1 $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ should be **linear** function of the **velocity gradient**;
- 2 this relationship should be **isotropic**, as the physical properties of the fluid are assumed to show **no preferred direction**;
- 3 $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ should **vanish** if the flow involves **no deformation** of fluid elements.

Moreover, the **principle of conservation of moment of momentum** implies the **symmetry of stress tensor**: $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}^T$, i.e., $\sigma_{ij} = \sigma_{ji}$.

Therefore, the stress deviator $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ should also be symmetric: $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \boldsymbol{\tau}^T$, i.e., $\tau_{ij} = \tau_{ji}$ (since the spherical part is always symmetric).

Constitutive relation for Newtonian fluids

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- 3 $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ should **vanish** if the flow involves **no deformation** of fluid elements;
- 4 $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ is symmetric, i.e., $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \boldsymbol{\tau}^T$ or $\tau_{ij} = \tau_{ji}$.

Constitutive relation for Newtonian fluids

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \underbrace{\mu \left(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T \right)}_{\boldsymbol{\tau} \text{ for incompressible}} - p\mathbf{I} \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma_{ij} = \mu (u_{i|j} + u_{j|i}) - p\delta_{ij}.$$

This is a relation for incompressible fluid (i.e., when $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$).

Constitutive relation for compressible viscous flow

Definition (Rate of strain)

$$\dot{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T \right)$$

The deviatoric (shear) and volumetric strain rates are given as $\left(\dot{\epsilon} - \frac{1}{3}(\text{tr } \dot{\epsilon}) \mathbf{I} \right)$ and $\text{tr } \dot{\epsilon} = \dot{\epsilon} \cdot \mathbf{I} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}$, respectively.

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Newtonian fluids are characterized by a linear, **isotropic relation** between stresses and strain rates. That requires **two constants**:

- the **viscosity** μ – to relate the deviatoric (shear) stresses to the deviatoric (shear) strain rates:

$$\boldsymbol{\tau} = 2\mu \left(\dot{\epsilon} - \frac{1}{3}(\text{tr } \dot{\epsilon}) \mathbf{I} \right),$$

- the so-called **volumetric viscosity** κ – to relate the mechanical pressure (the mean stress) to the volumetric strain rate:

$$p \equiv -\frac{1}{3} \text{tr } \boldsymbol{\sigma} = -\kappa \text{tr } \dot{\epsilon} + p_0.$$

Here, p_0 is the **initial hydrostatic pressure** independent of the strain rate.

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Volumetric viscosity

There is little evidence about the existence of volumetric viscosity and Stokes made the hypothesis that $\kappa = 0$. This is frequently used though it has not been definitely confirmed.

Constitutive relation for compressible viscous flow

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Here, p_0 is the **initial hydrostatic pressure**.

Constitutive relation for compressible Newtonian fluids

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = 2\mu \left(\dot{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} - \frac{1}{3}(\text{tr } \dot{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}) \mathbf{I} \right) - p \mathbf{I} = 2\mu \dot{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} - \left(p + \frac{2}{3}\mu \text{tr } \dot{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} \right) \mathbf{I},$$

and after using the definition for strain rate:

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \mu \left(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^\top \right) - \left(p + \frac{2}{3}\mu \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \right) \mathbf{I} \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma_{ij} = \mu (u_{i|j} + u_{j|i}) - \left(p + \frac{2}{3}\mu u_{k|k} \right) \delta_{ij}.$$

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Continuity equation

Continuity (or mass conservation) equation

The balance of mass flow entering and leaving an infinitesimal control volume is equal to the rate of change in density:

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} + \rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0.$$

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For **incompressible flows** the density does not change ($\rho = \rho_0$ where ρ_0 is the constant initial density) so

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0.$$

This last **kinematic constraint** for the velocity field is called the **incompressibility condition**.

Cauchy's equation of motion

The general **equation of motion** valid for any continuous medium is obtained from the **principle of conservation of linear momentum**:

$$\frac{D}{Dt} \int_{\mathcal{V}} \rho \mathbf{u} \, d\mathcal{V} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \mathbf{b} \, d\mathcal{V} + \int_{\mathcal{S}} \mathbf{t} \, d\mathcal{S}$$

where \mathbf{b} is the body (or volume) force, and \mathbf{t} is the surface traction.

Cauchy's equation of motion

$$\frac{D}{Dt} \int_{\mathcal{V}} \varrho \mathbf{u} \, d\mathcal{V} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \mathbf{b} \, d\mathcal{V} + \int_{\mathcal{S}} \mathbf{t} \, d\mathcal{S}$$

- Use the **Reynolds' transport theorem**

$$\frac{D}{Dt} \int_{\mathcal{V}} f \, d\mathcal{V} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\frac{Df}{Dt} + f \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \right) d\mathcal{V},$$

and the **continuity equation**

$$\frac{D\varrho}{Dt} + \varrho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

for the inertial term:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{D}{Dt} \int_{\mathcal{V}} \varrho \mathbf{u} \, d\mathcal{V} &= \int_{\mathcal{V}} \left[\frac{D(\varrho \mathbf{u})}{Dt} + \varrho \mathbf{u} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \right] d\mathcal{V} \\ &= \int_{\mathcal{V}} \left[\varrho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} + \underbrace{\mathbf{u} \left(\frac{D\varrho}{Dt} + \varrho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \right)}_0 \right] d\mathcal{V} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \varrho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} \, d\mathcal{V}. \end{aligned}$$

Cauchy's equation of motion

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- Use the **Reynolds' transport theorem** and the **continuity equation** for the inertial term:

$$\frac{D}{Dt} \int_{\mathcal{V}} \varrho \mathbf{u} \, d\mathcal{V} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \left[\frac{D(\varrho \mathbf{u})}{Dt} + \varrho \mathbf{u} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \right] d\mathcal{V} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \varrho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} \, d\mathcal{V}.$$

- Apply the **Cauchy's formula**: $\mathbf{t} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n}$, and the **divergence theorem** for the surface traction term:

$$\int_{\mathcal{S}} \mathbf{t} \, d\mathcal{S} = \int_{\mathcal{S}} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, d\mathcal{S} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \, d\mathcal{V}.$$

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- Now, the **global (integral) form** of equation of motion is obtained:

$$\int_{\mathcal{V}} \left(\varrho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} - \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} - \mathbf{b} \right) d\mathcal{V} = 0,$$

which, being true for arbitrary \mathcal{V} and provided that the integrand is continuous, yields the **local (differential) form**.

Cauchy's equation of motion

$$\frac{D}{Dt} \int_{\mathcal{V}} \varrho \mathbf{u} \, d\mathcal{V} = \int_{\mathcal{V}} \mathbf{b} \, d\mathcal{V} + \int_{\mathcal{S}} \mathbf{t} \, d\mathcal{S}$$

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- Now, the global (integral) form of equation of motion is obtained which, being true for arbitrary \mathcal{V} and provided that the integrand is continuous, yields the **local (differential) form** – the Cauchy's equation of motion.

Cauchy's equation of motion

$$\varrho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathbf{b} \quad \text{or} \quad \varrho \frac{Du_i}{Dt} = \sigma_{ij|j} + b_i$$

Navier–Stokes equations of motion

On applying the constitutive relations of Newtonian incompressible fluids to the Cauchy's equation of motion of continuous media, the so-called **incompressible Navier–Stokes equations** are obtained.

Incompressible Navier–Stokes equations

$$\varrho_0 \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \mu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \nabla p + \varrho_0 \mathbf{g} \quad \text{or} \quad \varrho_0 \frac{Du_i}{Dt} = \mu u_{i|j|j} - p_{|i} + \varrho_0 g_i ,$$

(+ the incompressibility constraint:) $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad u_{i|i} = 0 .$

Here, the density is constant $\varrho = \varrho_0$, and the body force \mathbf{b} has been substituted by the the gravitational force $\varrho_0 \mathbf{g}$, where \mathbf{g} is the gravity acceleration. Now, on dividing by ϱ_0 , using $\nu = \frac{\mu}{\varrho_0}$, and expanding the total-time derivative the main relations can be written as

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} - \frac{1}{\varrho_0} \nabla p + \mathbf{g} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + u_j u_{i|j} = \nu u_{i|j|j} - \frac{1}{\varrho_0} p_{|i} + g_i .$$

They differ from the Euler equations by virtue of the **viscous term**.

Boundary conditions (for incompressible flow)

- Let \mathbf{n} be the unit normal vector to the boundary, and $\mathbf{m}^{(1)}, \mathbf{m}^{(2)}$ be two (non-parallel) unit tangential vectors.
- Let $\hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{u}_n, \hat{p}$ be values prescribed on the boundary, namely, the prescribed velocity vector, normal velocity, and pressure, respectively.

Inflow/Outflow velocity or No-slip condition:

$$\mathbf{u} = \hat{\mathbf{u}} \quad (\hat{\mathbf{u}} = \mathbf{0} \text{ for the no-slip condition}).$$

Slip or Symmetry condition:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \hat{u}_n \quad (\hat{u}_n = 0 \text{ for the symmetry condition}), \\ (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{m}^{(1)} = 0, \quad (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{m}^{(2)} = 0 \\ \quad \text{(or: } (\boldsymbol{\tau} \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{m}^{(1)} = 0, \quad (\boldsymbol{\tau} \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{m}^{(2)} = 0). \end{array} \right.$$

Pressure condition:

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{n} = -\hat{p} \mathbf{n} \quad (\text{or: } p = \hat{p}, \quad \boldsymbol{\tau} \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{0}).$$

Normal flow:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{m}^{(1)} = 0, \quad \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{m}^{(2)} = 0, \\ (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{n} = -\hat{p} \quad (\text{or: } p = \hat{p}, \quad (\boldsymbol{\tau} \mathbf{n}) \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0). \end{array} \right.$$

Compressible Navier–Stokes equations of motion

On applying the constitutive relations of Newtonian compressible flow to the Cauchy's equation of motion, the **compressible Navier–Stokes equations of motion** are obtained.

Compressible Navier–Stokes equations of motion

$$\varrho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \mu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \frac{\mu}{3} \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) - \nabla p + \varrho \mathbf{g} \quad \text{or} \quad \varrho \frac{Du_i}{Dt} = \mu u_{i|j|j} + \frac{\mu}{3} u_{j|j|i} - p_{|i} + \varrho g_i$$

(+ the continuity equation:) $\frac{D\varrho}{Dt} + \varrho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{D\varrho}{Dt} + \varrho u_{i|i} = 0 .$

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Compressible Navier–Stokes equations of motion

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(+ the continuity equation:) $\frac{D\varrho}{Dt} + \varrho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{D\varrho}{Dt} + \varrho u_{i|i} = 0.$

- These equations are **incomplete** – there are only 4 relations for 5 unknown fields: ϱ , \mathbf{u} , p .
- They can be completed by a **state relationship between ϱ and p** .
- However, this would normally introduce also another state variable: the temperature T , and that would involve the requirement for energy balance (yet another equations). Such approach is governed by the **complete Navier–Stokes equations for compressible flow**.
- More simplified yet complete set of equations can be used to describe an **isothermal flow with small compressibility**.

Small-compressibility Navier–Stokes equations

Assumptions:

- 1 The problem is **isothermal**.
- 2 The **variation of ϱ with p is very small**, such that *in* product terms of \mathbf{u} and ϱ the latter can be assumed constant: $\varrho = \varrho_0$.

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- 1 The problem is **isothermal**.
- 2 The **variation of ϱ with p is very small**, such that *in* product terms of \mathbf{u} and ϱ the latter can be assumed constant: $\varrho = \varrho_0$.

Small compressibility is allowed: density changes are, as a consequence of elastic deformability, related to pressure changes:

$$d\varrho = \frac{\varrho_0}{K} dp \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \varrho}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} \quad \text{where } c = \sqrt{\frac{K}{\varrho_0}}$$

is the acoustic wave velocity, and K is the elastic bulk modulus. This relation can be used for the continuity equation yielding the following small-compressibility equation:

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = - \underbrace{c^2 \varrho_0}_K \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} ,$$

where the density term standing by \mathbf{u} has been assumed constant: $\varrho = \varrho_0$. This also applies now to the Navier-Stokes momentum equations of compressible flow ($\nu = \frac{\mu}{\varrho_0}$).

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Small compressibility is allowed: density changes are, as a consequence of elastic deformability, related to pressure changes.

Navier–Stokes equations for nearly incompressible flow

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} = \nu \Delta \mathbf{u} + \frac{\nu}{3} \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) - \frac{1}{\varrho_0} \nabla p + \mathbf{g}$$

$$\text{or} \quad \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + u_j u_{ij} = \nu u_{ijj} + \frac{\nu}{3} u_{jji} - \frac{1}{\varrho_0} p_{|i} + g_i,$$

$$(+ \text{ small-compressibility equation:}) \quad \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = -K \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = -K u_{i|i}.$$

- These are 4 equations for 4 unknown fields: \mathbf{u} , p .
- After solution the density can be computed as $\varrho = \varrho_0 \left(1 + \frac{p-p_0}{K}\right)$.

Complete Navier–Stokes equations

Mass conservation: $\frac{D\rho}{Dt} + \rho \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) = 0.$

This is also called the *continuity equation*.

Complete Navier–Stokes equations

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Momentum conservation: $\rho \frac{D\mathbf{u}}{Dt} = \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \rho \mathbf{g}, \quad (\text{here: } \boldsymbol{\sigma} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}^T).$

These are 3 equations of motion (a.k.a. balance or equilibrium equations). The symmetry of stress tensor (additional 3 equations) results from the conservation of angular momentum.

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Energy conservation: $\frac{D}{Dt} \left(\rho e + \frac{1}{2} \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u} \right) = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} + \nabla \cdot (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{u}) + \rho \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{u} + h.$

Here: e is the *intrinsic energy* per unit mass, \mathbf{q} is the *heat flux vector*, and h is the *power of heat source* per unit volume.

Moreover, notice that the term $\frac{1}{2} \rho \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{u}$ is the *kinetic energy*, $\nabla \cdot (\boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{u})$ is the *energy change due to internal stresses*, and $\rho \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{u}$ is the change of *potential energy* of gravity forces.

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Equations of state and constitutive relations:

- **Thermal equation of state:** $\rho = \rho(p, T).$

For a perfect gas: $\rho = \frac{p}{RT}$, where R is the *universal gas constant*.

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Equations of state and constitutive relations:

■ **Thermal equation of state:** $\rho = \rho(p, T).$

■ **Constitutive law for fluid:** $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{u}, p) = \boldsymbol{\tau}(\mathbf{u}) - p\mathbf{I}.$

For *Newtonian fluids*: $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mu(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T) - \frac{2}{3}\mu(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})\mathbf{I}.$

Other relations may be used, for example: $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \mathbf{0}$ for an inviscid fluid, or some nonlinear relationships for non-Newtonian fluids.

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For a calorically perfect fluid: $e = c_V T$, where c_V is the *specific heat at constant volume*. This equation is sometimes called the *caloric equation of state*.

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Fourier's law of thermal conduction with convection:

$\mathbf{q} = -k \nabla T + \rho c \mathbf{u} T$, where k is the *thermal conductivity* and c is the *thermal capacity* (the *specific heat*).

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Remarks:

- There are **5** conservation equations for **14** unknown fields: $\rho, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}, e, \mathbf{q}.$

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- That gives the total number of **16** equations for **16** unknown field variables: $\rho, \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}$ (or τ), $e, \mathbf{q}, p, T.$
- Using the constitutive and state relations for the conservation equations leaves only **5** equations in **5** unknowns: ρ (or p), $\mathbf{u}, T.$

Complete Navier–Stokes equations

Boundary conditions for compressible flow

Density condition:

$$\varrho = \hat{\varrho} \quad \text{on } \mathcal{S}_\varrho,$$

where $\hat{\varrho}$ is the density prescribed on the boundary.

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where $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ is the velocity vector and $\hat{\mathbf{t}}$ is the traction vector prescribed on the boundary.

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where $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ is the velocity vector and $\hat{\mathbf{t}}$ is the traction vector prescribed on the boundary.

Temperature or heat flux condition:

$$T = \hat{T} \quad \text{on } \mathcal{S}_T, \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{n} = \hat{q} \quad \text{on } \mathcal{S}_q, \quad (\text{or mixed}),$$

where \hat{T} is the temperature and \hat{q} is the inward heat flux prescribed on the boundary.

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Reynolds number

Definition (**Reynolds number**)

The **Reynolds number** is a dimensionless parameter defined as

$$Re = \frac{UL}{\nu}$$

where: U denotes a typical **flow speed**,

L is a characteristic **length scale** of the flow,

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The Reynolds number gives a rough indication of the **relative amplitudes of two key terms** in the equations of motion, namely,

- 1 the **inertial term**: $|(u \cdot \nabla)u|$,
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The Reynolds number gives a rough indication of the **relative amplitudes of two key terms** in the equations of motion, namely,

- 1 the **inertial term**: $|(u \cdot \nabla)u| = O(U^2/L)$,
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- Derivatives of the velocity components, such as $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$, will typically be of order U/L , that is, the components of u change by amounts of order U over distances of order L .

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- Typically, these derivatives of velocity will themselves change by amounts of order U/L over distances of order L so the second derivatives, such as $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$, will be of order U/L^2 .

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$$\frac{|\text{inertial term}|}{|\text{viscous term}|} = O\left(\frac{U^2/L}{\nu U/L^2}\right) = O(Re).$$

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$$Re = \frac{UL}{\nu}$$

There are two extreme cases of viscous flow:

- 1 **High Reynolds number flow** – for $Re \gg 1$: a flow of a fluid of **small viscosity**, where **viscous effects** can be on the whole **negligible**.
- 2 **Low Reynolds number flow** – for $Re \ll 1$: a **very viscous flow**.

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There are two extreme cases of viscous flow:

- 1 **High Reynolds number flow** – for $Re \gg 1$: a flow of a fluid of **small viscosity**, where **viscous effects** can be on the whole **negligible**.
 - Even then, however, viscous effects become important in **thin boundary layers**, where the unusually large velocity gradients make the viscous term much larger than the estimate $\nu U/L^2$. The larger the Reynolds number, the thinner the boundary layer: $\delta/L = O(1/\sqrt{Re})$ (δ – typical thickness of boundary layer).
 - A large Reynolds number is *necessary* for **inviscid theory** to apply over most of the flow field, but it is not *sufficient*.
 - At high Reynolds number ($Re \sim 2000$) steady flows are often **unstable** to small disturbances, and may, as a result become **turbulent** (in fact, Re was first employed in this context).
- 2 **Low Reynolds number flow** – for $Re \ll 1$: a **very viscous flow**.

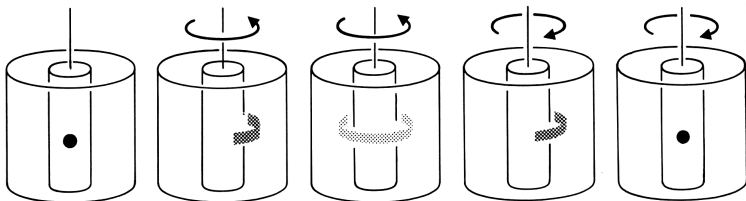
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- 2 Low Reynolds number flow** – for $Re \ll 1$: a **very viscous flow**.
 - There is **no turbulence** and the flow is extremely **ordered** and nearly **reversible** ($Re \sim 10^{-2}$).



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Plane parallel shear flow

Plane parallel shear flow

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(y, t) = [u(y, t), 0, 0]$$

Such flow automatically satisfies the incompressibility condition: $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$, and in the absence of gravity the incompressible Navier–Stokes equations of motion reduce to:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}, \quad \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = 0.$$

(The gravity can be ignored if it simply modifies the pressure distribution in the fluid and does nothing to change the velocity.)

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- The first equation implies that $\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$ cannot depend on x , while the remaining two equations imply that $p = p(x, t)$; therefore, $\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$ may only depend on t .
- There are important circumstances when the flow is *not* being driven by any externally applied pressure gradient, which permits to assert that the pressures at $x = \pm\infty$ are equal. All this means that $\frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = 0$.

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Diffusion equation for viscous incompressible flow

For a gravity-independent plane parallel shear flow, not driven by any externally applied pressure gradient, the velocity $u(y, t)$ must satisfy the **one-dimensional diffusion equation**:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}.$$

Viscous diffusion of vorticity

Example (The flow due to impulsively moved plane boundary)

- Viscous fluid lies at rest in the region:

(Problem A) $0 < y < \infty$, **(Problem B)** $0 < y < h$.

- At $t = 0$ the rigid boundary at $y = 0$ is suddenly jerked into motion in the x -direction with constant speed U .
- By virtue of the no-slip condition the fluid elements in contact with the boundary will immediately move with velocity U .

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► *Mathematical statement of the problem*

The flow velocity $u(y, t)$ must satisfy the one-dimensional **diffusion equation** $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \nu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}$, together with the following conditions:

1 initial condition:

- $u(y, 0) = 0$ (for $y \geq 0$),

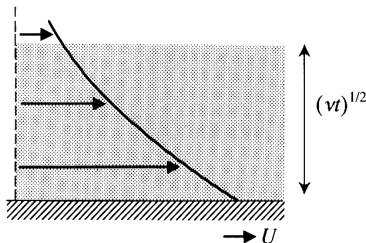
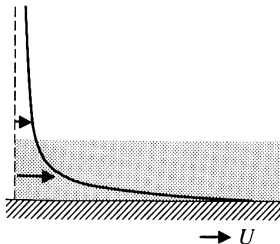
2 boundary conditions:

- **(Problem A)** $u(0, t) = U$ and $u(\infty, t) = 0$ (for $t \geq 0$),
- **(Problem B)** $u(0, t) = U$ and $u(h, t) = 0$ (for $t \geq 0$).

Viscous diffusion of vorticity

► *Solution to Problem A:*

$$u = U \left[1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{s^2}{4}\right) ds \right] \quad \text{with } \eta = \frac{y}{\sqrt{\nu t}}, \quad \omega = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{U}{\sqrt{\pi \nu t}} \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{4\nu t}\right).$$

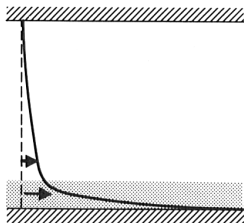


- The flow is largely confined to a distance of order $\sqrt{\nu t}$ from the moving boundary: the velocity and vorticity are very small beyond that region.
- **Vorticity diffuses** a distance of order $\sqrt{\nu t}$ in time t . Equivalently, the time taken for vorticity to diffuse a distance h is of the order $\frac{h^2}{\nu}$.

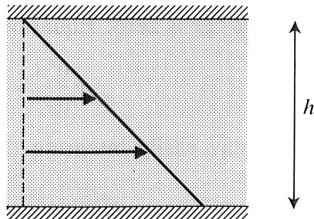
Viscous diffusion of vorticity

► *Solution to Problem B:*

$$u = \underbrace{U \left(1 - \frac{y}{h}\right)}_{\text{steady state}} - \frac{2U}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \exp \left(-n^2 \pi^2 \frac{\nu t}{h^2} \right).$$



$$t \ll \frac{h^2}{\nu} \quad \rightarrow U$$



$$t \gtrsim \frac{h^2}{\nu} \quad \rightarrow U$$

- For times greater than $\frac{h^2}{\nu}$ the flow has almost reached its steady state and the vorticity is almost distributed uniformly throughout the fluid.

Convection and diffusion of vorticity

Vorticity equation for viscous flows

In general:

$$\text{Incompress. Navier–Stokes} \quad \xrightarrow{\nabla \times} \quad \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{\omega} = (\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nu \Delta \boldsymbol{\omega}.$$

For a two-dimensional flow ($\boldsymbol{\omega} \perp \mathbf{u}$):

$$\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial t} + \underbrace{(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \omega}_{\text{convection}} = \nu \underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial y^2} \right)}_{\text{diffusion}}.$$

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Vorticity equation for viscous flows

In general:

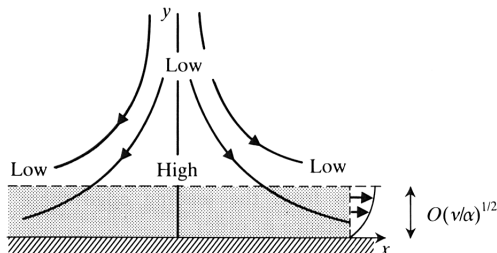
$$\text{Incompress. Navier–Stokes} \quad \xrightarrow{\nabla \times} \quad \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\omega}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \boldsymbol{\omega} = (\boldsymbol{\omega} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} + \nu \Delta \boldsymbol{\omega}.$$

For a two-dimensional flow ($\boldsymbol{\omega} \perp \mathbf{u}$):

$$\frac{\partial \omega}{\partial t} + \underbrace{(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \omega}_{\text{convection}} = \nu \underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial y^2} \right)}_{\text{diffusion}}.$$

Observation: In general, there is both **convection** and **diffusion of vorticity** in a viscous flow.

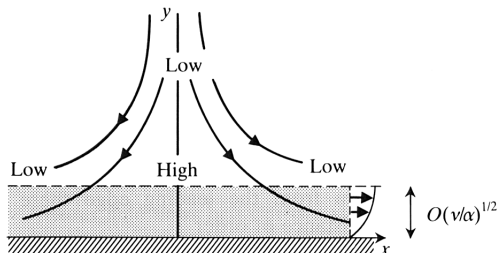
Convection and diffusion of vorticity



Example (Plane flow towards a stagnation point)

- There is an inviscid 'mainstream' flow: $u = \alpha x$, $v = -\alpha y$ (here, $\alpha > 0$ is a constant), towards a stagnation boundary at $y = 0$.
- This fails to satisfy the no-slip condition at the boundary, but the mainstream flow speed $\alpha|x|$ increases with distance $|x|$ along the boundary. By the Bernoulli's theorem, the mainstream pressure decreases with distance along the boundary in the flow direction.
- Thus, one may hope for a thin, unseparated boundary layer which adjusts the velocity to satisfy the no-slip condition.

Convection and diffusion of vorticity



Example (Plane flow towards a stagnation point)

- The boundary layer, in which all the vorticity is concentrated, has thickness of order $\sqrt{\frac{\nu}{\alpha}}$.
- In this boundary layer there is a steady state balance between the viscous diffusion of vorticity from the wall and the convection of vorticity towards the wall by the flow.
- If ν decreases the diffusive effect is weakened, while if α increases the convective effect is enhanced (in either case the boundary layer becomes thinner).

Boundary layers

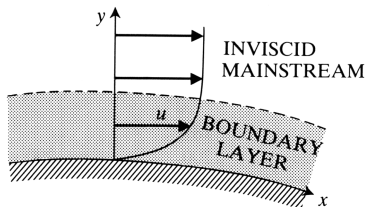
- Steady flow past a fixed wing may seem to be wholly accounted for by inviscid theory. In particular, the **fluid in contact with the wing appears to slip** along the boundary.
- In fact, **there is no such slip**. Instead there is a very thin **boundary layer** where the inviscid theory fails and **viscous effects are very important**.

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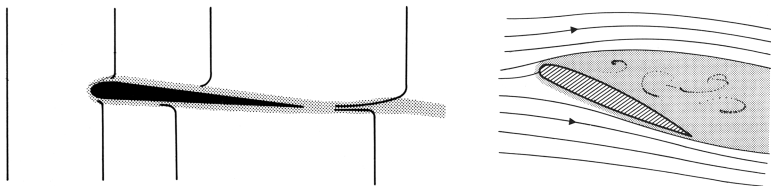
Boundary layer

A **boundary layer** is a very thin layer along the boundary across which the flow velocity undergoes a smooth but rapid adjustment to precisely zero (i.e. *no-slip*) on the boundary itself.



Boundary layers

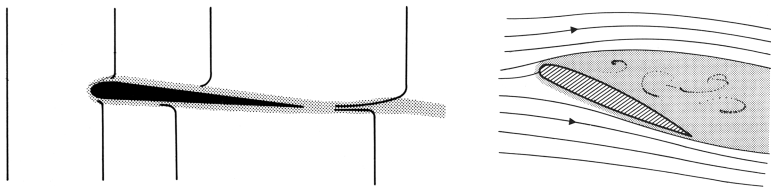
Layer separation



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- In certain circumstances **boundary layers may separate** from the boundary, thus causing the whole flow of low-viscosity fluid to be quite different to that predicted by inviscid theory.
- The behaviour of a **fluid of even very small viscosity** may, on account of boundary layer separation, be **completely different** to that of a (hypothetical) **fluid of no viscosity** at all.