

VORTICITY & POTENTIAL

Yesterday, for the incompressible fluid in steady state, we have derived expressions for angular velocity components. e.g. $\omega_z = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)$

Similarly, we extended the concept for angular velocity in all directions i.e. Angular velocity, $\vec{\omega} = \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \times \vec{v})$

$$\text{i.e. } \vec{\omega} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ u & v & w \end{vmatrix}$$

⇒ From studies, it is observed that $\vec{\omega}$ may be very small.

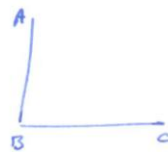
⇒ We can introduce the term VORTICITY, which is nothing but twice of $\vec{\omega}$.

$$\text{Vorticity, } \vec{\zeta} = 2 \vec{\omega} = \text{curl}(\vec{v})$$

⇒ For irrotational flows, $\text{curl}(\vec{v}) = 0$

Also you can note that, you can have irrotational flows for incompressible or compressible, steady or unsteady fluids.

⇒ For those two lines, the angular shear strains can also be evaluated.



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For line BC,

$$\frac{\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \Delta x \Delta t}{\Delta x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \Delta t = \frac{dv}{dt} \Delta t$$

For line AB,

$$\frac{\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \Delta y \Delta t}{\Delta y} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \Delta t = \frac{du}{dt} \Delta t$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{Average shear strain} &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{dv}{dt} \Delta t + \frac{du}{dt} \Delta t \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \Delta t + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \Delta t \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Shear strain rate } \dot{\epsilon}_{xy} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta t} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \Delta t + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \Delta t \right)$$

$$\text{i.e. } \dot{\epsilon}_{xy} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)$$

⇒ Recall, our explanation of differential equations on linear momentum. There we suggested the relation between ~~shear~~ ^{viscous} stress and velocity gradient

$$\text{Shear stress} = \mu \times \text{Shear strain rate}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{e.g. } \tau_{xy} &= \mu \dot{\epsilon}_{xy} \\ &= \frac{\mu}{2} \left[\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Similarly other shear stress components τ_{yz} and τ_{zx} can also be expressed in terms of velocity gradients.

③

⇒ You know, for irrotational flows $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = 0$

Using vector calculus principles, we can now write $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = 0 = \vec{\nabla} \times \nabla \phi$

where ϕ is a scalar function in x and y (for two-dimensional flows).

In three-dimensional flows: $\phi \rightarrow \phi(x, y, z, t)$

where $u = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}$, $v = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}$, $w = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$

This $\phi(x, y, z, t)$ is called POTENTIAL FUNCTION.

→ That means that this potential function exist for irrotational flows.

In civil engineering, there are many fluid flow problems that ~~have~~ are irrotational.

→ So one can use potential function in a flow domain to solve the flow equations.

Note:-

If your fluid flow is irrotational, as well as in two-dimensions, then both ψ and ϕ exist. You can draw streamlines and

potential lines everywhere in the flow domain (except at stagnation points where $\vec{v} = 0$)

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i.e. $u = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}$

$v = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}$

You have seen for irrotational flow of incompressible liquids $\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} = 0$

Similarly, $\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = 0$

$d\phi = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy$
 $= u dx + v dy$

For a line of constant ϕ ,
 you have $d\phi = 0 = u dx + v dy$

Hence $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{\phi=\text{const}} = -\frac{u}{v} = -\frac{1}{\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{\psi=\text{const}}}$

From streamline concept,
 $\frac{dx}{u} = \frac{dy}{v}$
 or $v dx - u dy = 0$
 or $-\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} dx - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} dy = 0$
 or $d\psi = 0$
 $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{\psi=\text{const}} = \frac{v}{u}$

This implies that lines of constant ϕ and constant ψ are mutually orthogonal.

⇒ Recall, when we described about Bernoulli's equation. It was used for frictionless fluid:

→ Along a streamline between two points 1 and 2

$\int_1^2 \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} ds + \int_1^2 \frac{dp}{\rho} + \frac{1}{2} (v_2^2 - v_1^2) + g(z_2 - z_1) = 0$

→ For steady incompressible flow, you get

$\frac{p}{\rho} + \frac{v^2}{2} + gz = \text{constant along a streamline}$

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→ This constant can vary from streamline to streamline.

→ If the flow is irrotational $\vec{\zeta} = \nabla \times \vec{v} = 0$

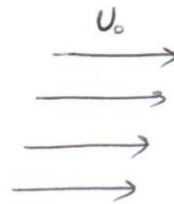
Then the equation $\frac{p}{\rho} + \frac{V^2}{2} + gz = \text{constant}$ throughout the fluid domain.

→ So Bernoulli's equation is valid for frictionless fluid.

Q: When is a flow irrotational?

Ans: For irrotational flow, you have $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$

e.g. Uniform flow.



⇒ In the previous example problem $u = a(x^2 - y^2)$,

$$v = -2axy, \quad w = 0$$

We can check, whether the flow is irrotational

$$\nabla \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ a(x^2 - y^2) & -2axy & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{k}(-2ay + 2ay) = \underline{\underline{0}}$$

∴ flow is irrotational. You can form potential function.

⇒ In reality, most of the situation we have viscous flows. That is, no-slip conditions prevail. You may not see irrotational effects. You have to use Navier-Stokes equations to solve fluid flows.