Frictionless Irrotational Flows:-

Recall, earlier we had described stream function for 2-D flows.

e.g. for a flow in x-y plane, you had defined

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

where, $\psi = \psi(x, y)$ is a stream function in x-y plane.

Also, for incompressible, inviscid, irrotational flows the continuity equation will be

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

Again recalling, the linear momentum equation,

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial z} \right] = \rho \vec{g} - \vec{\nabla} p + \mu \nabla^2 \vec{v}$$
i.e.
$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{v} \right] = \rho \vec{g} - \vec{\nabla} p + \mu \nabla^2 \vec{v}$$
(1)

For steady flow

$$\rho\left[(\vec{v}.\nabla)\vec{v}\right] = \rho\vec{g} - \vec{\nabla}p + \mu\nabla^2\vec{v}$$
⁽²⁾

If you take the curl of equation (2)

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \left[u \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial y} \right] = \vec{\nabla} \times \left[\vec{g} - \frac{1}{\rho} \vec{\nabla} p + \frac{\mu}{\rho} \left[\frac{\partial^2 \vec{v}}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \vec{v}}{\partial y^2} \right] \right]$$

For inviscid flow the above equation become

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \left[(\vec{v}.\nabla)\vec{v} \right] = \vec{\nabla} \times \left[\vec{g} - \frac{1}{\rho} \vec{\nabla} p \right]$$

There is a vector identity that suggest

$$(\vec{v}.\nabla)\vec{v} = \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\left|\vec{v}\right|^2\right) + \vec{q} \times \vec{v}$$

Where $\vec{q} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v}$ = curl of a velocity vector or vorticity vector

Therefore, for frictionless flows, or inviscid flows: The momentum equation:

 $\vec{\nabla} \times \left[\vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} |\vec{v}|^2 \right) \right] + \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\vec{a} \times \vec{v} \right) = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{a} - \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} \vec{\nabla} n \right)$

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \left[\vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} |\vec{v}|^2 \right) \right] + \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\vec{q} \times \vec{v} \right) = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{g} - \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \vec{\nabla} p \right)$$
(3)

At this stage, we are not further proceeding with the expansion as well as explanation of equation (3)

So coming back to Euler's inviscid equation (frictionless)

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + (\vec{v} \cdot \nabla) \vec{v} \right] = \rho \vec{g} - \vec{\nabla} p \tag{4}$$

Using the above vector identity in this equation (4)

$$\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} \left| \vec{v} \right|^2\right) + \vec{q} \times \vec{v} - \vec{g} + \frac{1}{\rho} \vec{\nabla} p$$

Or else, if we dot product this equation with position vector $d\vec{r} = (dx)\hat{i} + (dy)\hat{j}$

$$\left[\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} \left| \vec{v} \right|^2\right) + \vec{q} \times \vec{v} - \vec{g} + \frac{1}{\rho} \vec{\nabla} p \right] \bullet d\vec{r} = 0$$

For such relation to exist $(\vec{q} \times \vec{v}) \bullet d\vec{r} = 0$

This is possible, if

- i. $\vec{v} = 0$, i.e. purely hydrostatic condition
- ii. $\vec{q} = 0$, the flow is irrotational
- iii. $d\vec{r} = 0$, is perpendicular to $(\vec{q} \times \vec{v})$
- iv. $d\vec{r} = 0$, is parallel to \vec{v}

Considering situation (iv), where $d\vec{r}$ is parallel to \vec{v} . That means, we are following a streamline. You are integrating along streamline. On integrating along a streamline for frictionless compressible flow

$$\frac{\partial \vec{v}}{\partial t} \cdot d\vec{r} + d\left(\frac{1}{2}\left|\vec{v}\right|^2\right) + gdz + \frac{dp}{\rho} = 0$$

$$d\vec{r} = (dx)\hat{i} + (dy)\hat{j} + (dz)\hat{k}$$

Note: $-\vec{g} = -g\hat{k}$
 $\vec{\nabla}p \bullet d\vec{r} = \left(\frac{dp}{dx}\hat{i} + \frac{dp}{dx}\hat{j}\right) \bullet \left((dx)\hat{i} + (dy)\hat{j}\right)$
 $\vec{\nabla}p \bullet d\vec{r} = \frac{dp}{dx}dx + \frac{dp}{dx}dy$
 $\vec{\nabla}p \bullet d\vec{r} = dp$
 $\vec{v} \bullet d\vec{r} = vds$

Therefore, along a stream line integrating between two point (1) and (2)

$$\int_{(1)}^{(2)} \frac{\partial |\vec{v}|}{\partial t} ds + \frac{1}{2} \int_{(1)}^{(2)} d\left(|\vec{v}|^2 \right) + g \int_{(1)}^{(2)} dz + \int_{(1)}^{(2)} \frac{dp}{\rho} = 0$$

$$\int_{(1)}^{(2)} \frac{\partial |\vec{v}|}{\partial t} ds + \int_{(1)}^{(2)} \frac{dp}{\rho} + \frac{1}{2} \left(v_2^2 - v_1^2 \right) + g(z_2 - z_1) = 0$$
(5)

ds is the length along the streamline.

Equation (5) is the Bernoulli's equation for frictionless unsteady flow along a streamline

Now: from equation (5) you can extract For incompressible, steady flow:

$$\frac{1}{\rho}(p_2 - p_1) + \frac{1}{2}(v_2^2 - v_1^2) + g(z_2 - z_1) = 0$$

$$\frac{p_2}{\rho} + \frac{v_2^2}{2} + gz_2 = \frac{p_1}{\rho} + \frac{v_1^2}{2} + gz_1 = \text{constant} \quad \text{for a streamline}$$

This is the world famous Bernoulli's equation applicable to incompressible, inviscid, steady flows along streamline. The value of the constant

 $\frac{p}{\rho} + \frac{v^2}{2} + gz$ = constant , varies streamline to streamline





For irrotational flows:

You recall for irrotational flows,

$$\vec{q} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = 0$$

Using a vector principle i.e. if curl of a vector is zero that means curl of divergence of a scalar is also zero.

$$\vec{q} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{v} = 0 = \vec{\nabla} \times (\vec{\nabla} \phi) = 0$$

We can now define a function ϕ (x,y) for 2-D flow, such that

$$u = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}$$
 and $v = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}$

You can extend in 3D as well by suggesting $w = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}$

Such type of flow are called irrotational flows and the function ϕ (x,y) is called **Potential Function**.

So in 2D, if the fluid flow is irrotational as well as incompressible and inviscid, the both ϕ and ψ exist.

You can draw streamline and potential lines as solution in the flow domain. (Please note that at stagnant points $\vec{v} = 0$, we cannot draw them)

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

For irrotational, incompressible, inviscid flows,

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

Similarly, you can also say

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