FLUIDS, FLOWS AND COMPLEXITY

PROBLEM SET 1

Julia Yeomans

Comments and corrections to julia.yeomans@physics.ox.ac.uk please.

Thank you to Professor David Marshall who gave this course in previous years. I have used some of his problems and lecture notes. A few problems are from the web sites of Oxford Maths and Cambridge Maths.

1. **Streamlines and flows**

   For (A) a 2D straining flow $\mathbf{u} = (\alpha x, -\alpha y)$ and (B) a simple shear flow $\mathbf{u} = (\gamma y, 0)$ where α and γ are constants:
   (a) Find the equation for a general streamline of the flow.
   (b) At $t = 0$ dye is introduced to mark the curve $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$. Find the equation for this material fluid curve for $t > 0$ and sketch how the curve evolves with time.
   (c) Does the area within the curve change in time, and why?
   (d) Which of the two flows stretches the curve faster at long times?

2. **Stream function and velocity potential**

   (a) Is the motion incompressible for the flows given by the following velocity potentials:
   (i) $\phi = C(x^2 + y^2)$ (ii) $\phi = C(x^2 - y^2)$?
   If so, determine the corresponding stream functions.

   (b) Is the motion irrotational for the flows given by the following stream functions:
   (iii) $\psi = C(x^2 + y^2)$ (iv) $\psi = C(x^2 - y^2)$?
   If so, determine the corresponding velocity potentials.

   (iii) Sketch the streamlines for all cases (a)– (d) and the lines of constant ϕ where possible.

3. **Velocity gradient tensor**

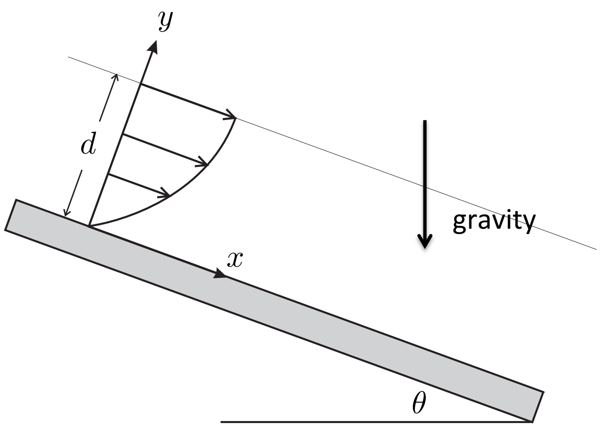
   Show that a simple shear flow $\mathbf{u} = (\alpha y, 0, 0)$ can be decomposed into a sum of a rotation and a straining flow (i) pictorially (ii) in terms of the velocity gradient tensor.

4. **Solving Navier-Stokes: flow down an inclined plane**

   Consider a steady, two-dimensional, incompressible, viscous flow down an inclined plane under the influence of gravity. Define the axes as shown in the diagram, and assume that the velocity $\mathbf{u}$ depends only on y.

   (a) What are the boundary conditions for $\mathbf{u}$ at $y = 0$? Using incompressibility show that the y-component of the velocity is zero throughout the flow.
   (b) Write down the x- and y-components of the Navier-Stokes equation.
   (c) From the y-component show that the pressure

$$p = p_0 + \rho g(d - y)\cos\theta$$



where p_0 is the pressure at the free surface $y = d$.
(d) From the x-component, using the appropriate boundary conditions at $y = 0$ and the zero tangential stress condition $\nu\, du_x/dy = 0$ at the free surface $y = d$ show that

$$u_x = \frac{g}{2\nu} y(2d - y) \sin\theta.$$

(e) Show that the volume flux per unit distance along z is $gd^3 \sin\theta/(3\nu)$.

5. **Reynolds number**

Estimate the magnitude of the Reynolds number for:

(a) flow past the wing of a jumbo jet,
(b) a human swimmer,
(c) a thick layer of treacle draining off a spoon,
(d) a bacterium swimming in water.

Take the kinematic viscosity ν to be $10^{-6}\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for water, $1.5 \times 10^{-5}\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for air and $10^{-1}\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ for treacle.

6. **Dynamical similarity and dimensionless variables**

Determine the conditions for the dynamical similarity of steady incompressible flow of an electrically conducting fluid in a magnetic field, governed by the equations

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0, && (1) \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0, && (2) \\ \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \frac{1}{\rho\mu} (\nabla \wedge \mathbf{B}) \wedge \mathbf{B} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}, && (3) \\ \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{B} &= \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \frac{1}{\sigma\mu} \nabla^2 \mathbf{B}. && (4) \end{aligned}$$

You will need to define a length scale L, a velocity scale U and a magnetic field scale B_0. Notation: $\mathbf{u}$=velocity, $\mathbf{B}$=magnetic field, p=pressure, ρ=density, ν=kinematic viscosity, μ=magnetic permeability, σ=electrical conductivity.

Comment on the physical meaning of the dimensionless control parameters.

7. **More dynamical similarity**

(a) A flat plate of width L is placed at a right angle to the flow in a wind tunnel, in which the upstream wind speed is U.
Show that the expected scaling of the pressure variations is

$$\text{(i) } \Delta p \sim \frac{\rho \nu U}{L} \text{ in the limit } Re \ll 1,$$

$$\text{(ii) } \Delta p \sim \rho U^2 \text{ in the limit } Re \gg 1.$$

(b) In the wind tunnel vortices are shed behind the plate at a frequency of 0.5 s^{-1}. The same plate is now placed into a water channel. Calculate the flow rate required, as a multiple of that in the wind tunnel, to produce dynamically similar behaviour, and calculate the frequency of the vortex shedding.

8. **Vorticity**

(a) What is meant by the vorticity of a fluid flow? Illustrate your answer by discussing:
(i) a rectilinear flow that has vorticity eg simple shear (again) $\mathbf{u} = (\alpha y, 0, 0)$.
(ii) a rotating flow that does not have vorticity eg $u_r = 0, u_\theta = A/r$ (in plane polar coordinates).
(b) What is the vorticity of a flow in rigid body motion with angular velocity $\mathbf{\Omega}$?