ME:5160 Fall 2025

The exam is closed book and closed notes.

Consider steady, two-dimensional, incompressible viscous flow of a Newtonian fluid between parallel plates a distant h apart, as shown in the Figure below. The upper plate moves at constant velocity U_t while the lower plate moves at constant velocity U_b . The pressure varies linearly in the x direction (p(x) = Cx). If the plates are very wide and very long and the flow is parallel (v = w = 0), neglect gravity and find the velocity distribution between the plates using continuity and momentum equations.

Incompressible Continuity Equation:

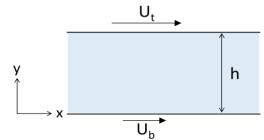
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$

Incompressible Navier-Stokes Equations in Cartesian Coordinates:

$$\rho g_{x} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^{2} u}{\partial x^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2} u}{\partial y^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2} u}{\partial z^{2}} \right) = \rho \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\rho g_{y} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^{2} v}{\partial x^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2} v}{\partial y^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2} v}{\partial z^{2}} \right) = \rho \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\rho g_{z} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial x^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial y^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{2} w}{\partial z^{2}} \right) = \rho \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right)$$



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Solution:

Continuity:

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

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \underbrace{0}_{(3)} + \underbrace{0}_{(3)} = 0 \qquad (+1.5)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 0$$
: the flow is fully – developed $\Rightarrow u = u(y)$ only (5) (+1.5)

x-momentum:

$$\rho g_x - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right) = \rho \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\underbrace{0}_{(4)} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \mu \left(\underbrace{0}_{(5)} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \underbrace{0}_{(2)} \right) = \rho \left(\underbrace{0}_{(1)} + \underbrace{0}_{(5)} + \underbrace{0}_{(3)} + \underbrace{0}_{(3)} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = C$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu \frac{d^2 u}{dv^2} = C \qquad (+2)$$

Integrate twice:

$$u = \frac{1}{\mu}C\frac{y^2}{2} + C_1y + C_2 \qquad (+1)$$

Boundary conditions:

at
$$y = 0$$
: $u(y) = U_b \rightarrow C_2 = U_b$
at $y = h$: $u(y) = U_t \rightarrow C_1 = \frac{U_t - U_b}{h} - \frac{Ch}{2\mu}$

Replace and find:

$$u = \frac{1}{\mu}C\frac{y^2}{2} + \left(\frac{U_t - U_b}{h} - \frac{Ch}{2\mu}\right)y + U_b$$
 (+2)