

1. Plane Couette flow

Consider fluid between parallel planes. The wall at $y = 0$ is fixed, and the wall at $y = a$ moves with steady speed V in its own plane. Solve the Navier-Stokes equations for the case $\rho = \text{constant}$ to show that a possible flow is

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{Vy}{a}\mathbf{i}.$$

Calculate the stress on both walls.

Solution:

Modeling: An obvious choice for the velocity field of the fluid is $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}(y) = U(y)\mathbf{i}$. The inner pressure of the fluid is assumed constant, thus $\nabla p = 0$. Also it is assumed that no volume forces are present: $\rho\mathbf{f} = 0$. The situation also seems to be static so that partial derivative of the velocity vanishes: $\partial\mathbf{v}/\partial t = 0$.

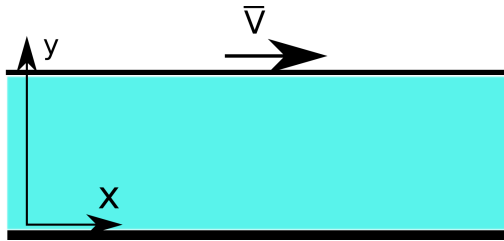


Figure 1: Schematics of the plane Couette flow: The lower boundary is fixed and the upper boundary moves with velocity V to right.

Boundary conditions: The upper plane, at $y = a$, is moving to the direction of \mathbf{i} with velocity V . The boundary condition for velocity of the fluid \mathbf{v} at $y = a$ is then

$$\mathbf{v}(y = a) = U(a)\mathbf{i} = V\mathbf{i}.$$

This condition says that the upper wall sees the fluid at rest. The second boundary condition says that also the lower wall sees the fluid at rest:

$$\mathbf{v}(y = 0) = 0.$$

Solution: The equation of motion, that is, the Navier-Stokes equation, stands as

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{v}}{Dt} = \rho\mathbf{f} - \nabla p + \mu\nabla^2\mathbf{v}$$

and reduces to the form

$$\rho(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{v} = \mu\nabla^2\mathbf{v}$$

from which one sees that the left hand side also vanishes since $\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} = U(y) \partial U(y) / \partial x = 0$. The equation

$$0 = \frac{\partial^2 U(y)}{\partial y^2}$$

is solved with function $U(y) = Dy + E$. The second boundary condition reduces the solution to the form $U(y) = Dy$ and the first boundary condition further to the form

$$\mathbf{v}(y) = U(y) \mathbf{i} = V \frac{y}{a} \mathbf{i}.$$

Stress on the walls: The force per area unit, stress, is calculated from the stress tensor

$$\frac{dF_i}{dS} = \sigma_{ij} n_j,$$

where n_j is the normal vector of the surface. The stress tensor

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{ij} &= -p \delta_{ij} + \sigma'_{ij} \\ &= -p \delta_{ij} + \mu \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x_i} - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \frac{v_k}{x_k} \right) + K \delta_{ij} \frac{v_k}{x_k}, \end{aligned}$$

which is just

$$\sigma_{ij} = -p \delta_{ij} + \mu \frac{V}{a} (\delta_{i2} \delta_{j1} + \delta_{i1} \delta_{j2}).$$

The surface normal points towards the fluid: at the upper to negative y direction $\hat{\mathbf{n}}^\uparrow = -\mathbf{j}$ and at the lower plane to positive y direction $\hat{\mathbf{n}}^\downarrow = \mathbf{j}$. Thus the stress is

$$\frac{dF_x}{dS} = \mp \sigma_{xy} n_y = \mp \mu \frac{V}{a} \qquad \frac{dF_y}{dS} = \mp \sigma_{yy} n_y = \pm p$$

(upper sign for upper plane).

2. Flow down a slope (solving this problem gives double points)

A liquid of constant density flows down a plane which slopes at angle α to the horizontal, as indicated in the figure below. The free surface of the liquid is at a uniform distance from the plane, has pressure p_0 and no shear stress. For this flow you need to keep the gravitational field in the Navier-Stokes equation, as it is now dynamically active. Set up and solve equations for $U(y)$, and verify that the forces on a length l of the fluid layer are in equilibrium.

Solution:

Modeling: We have an equilibrium situation, where the fluid velocity $\mathbf{v} = U(y) \mathbf{i}$ and it does not change in time. The gravitational acceleration in the chosen coordinate system is

$$\mathbf{g} = g(\mathbf{i} \sin \alpha - \mathbf{j} \cos \alpha),$$

whose x -component is responsible for the motion of the fluid, while the y -component generates the hydrostatic pressure as we'll see soon. It is not applied external pressure

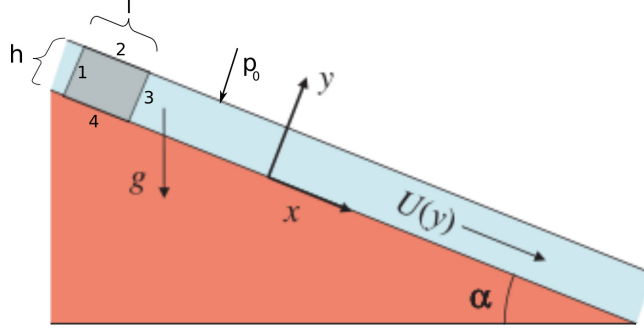


Figure 2: Schematics of the flow down a slope

gradient over the free ends of the liquid, so the pressure varies only in the y -direction such that $p(h) = p_0$, where h is the height of the fluid layer.

Solution of the Navier-Stokes equation: Using $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{g}$, the full Navier-Stokes equation

$$\rho \frac{D\mathbf{v}}{Dt} = \rho \mathbf{f} - \nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}$$

reduces to the equilibrium condition in the y - and x direction

$$-\rho g \cos \alpha = \frac{\partial p}{\partial y}, \quad (1)$$

$$0 = \rho g \sin \alpha - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 U(y)}{\partial y^2} \quad (2)$$

Now there is no pressure gradient in x -direction, so $\partial p / \partial x = 0$. The pressure on the free surface of the fluid is just the air pressure $p(y = h) = p_0$. Integrating eq. (1), we get

$$p(y) = -\rho g \cos \alpha y + a,$$

and from the boundary condition $p(h) = p_0$ we get $a = p_0 + \rho g \cos \alpha h$. The pressure is

$$p = \rho g \cos \alpha (h - y) + p_0. \quad (3)$$

From eq. (2), we now get

$$-\rho g \sin \alpha = \mu \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial y^2} \Rightarrow U(y) = -\frac{\rho g \sin \alpha}{2\mu} y^2 + by + c,$$

where b and c are integration constants, which can be identified from the boundary conditions. On the solid surface the fluid velocity is zero, $U(0) = 0$, implying $c = 0$. On the free surface there is no shear stress apart from the pressure p_0 , so $\sigma_{xy} = 0$ at $y = h$, from which we get the second condition for the velocity. From the expression

$$\sigma_{xy} = \mu \left(\frac{\partial U}{\partial y} \right) = -\rho g \sin \alpha y + \mu b$$

we find at $y = h$ that

$$b = \frac{-\rho g \sin \alpha h}{\mu}.$$

Finally:

$$U(y) = \frac{\rho g \sin \alpha}{2\mu}(2hy - y^2).$$

The velocity field $U(y)$ is analogous to the fluid flow between walls, that is, to the example 7.1 of the lectures. Now, the velocity profile is parabolic, $\rho g \sin \alpha$ acts as an pressure gradient and the smaller viscosity μ the faster flow on the tilted plane.

Force balance: Next, we will verify that the forces on a portion of fluid, sketched in Fig. 2, are in equilibrium. We consider a volume $V = lwh$, where l is the length, w the width, and h the height of the fluid. The gravitation is the only volume force acting to this fluid element:

$$\mathbf{F}^{(V)} = V \mathbf{f} = lwh \mathbf{g}.$$

The second class of forces are the shear (surface) forces. Thus, we use the equation $dF_i = \sigma_{ij} n_j dS$ for the force *on the fluid element* due to the stress tensor. The normal vectors point out of the fluid element. Now, the components of the stress tensor are

$$\sigma_{xy} = \rho g \sin \alpha (h - y) \quad \sigma_{xx} = \sigma_{yy} = -p = -\rho g \cos \alpha (h - y) - p_0$$

We first calculate the surface forces acting on the boundaries (1) and (3) of the fluid element, shown in Fig. 2.

First for the boundary (1), the surface element is now $dS_j = -w dy \delta_{xj}$ and thus the force

$$\mathbf{F}^{(1)} = \int_{S_1} \mathbf{i} \sigma_{xk} dS_k + \int_{S_1} \mathbf{j} \sigma_{yk} dS_k = \int_0^h \mathbf{i} \sigma_{xx}(y) (-w dy) + \int_0^h \mathbf{j} \sigma_{yx}(y) (-w dy).$$

For the boundary (3), the surface element points to the opposite direction ($dS_j = w dy \delta_{xj}$) but otherwise the expression for the force is the same, that is, $\mathbf{F}^{(3)} = -\mathbf{F}^{(1)}$. At the topmost surface, the shear stress vanishes ($\sigma_{xy} = 0$) and it acts only the air pressure

$$\mathbf{F}^{(2)} = -lwp_0 \mathbf{j}.$$

The force on the fluid volume through the solid surface (4) is

$$\mathbf{F}^{(4)} = \mathbf{j} \sigma_{yy}(y=0) (-lw) + \mathbf{i} \sigma_{xy}(y=0) (-lw) = lw(p_0 + hg\rho \cos \alpha) \mathbf{j} - lw\rho g \sin \alpha \mathbf{i}$$

The total force acting through the surfaces is sum over all the surface forces yielding

$$\mathbf{F}^{(S)} = \sum_{k=1}^4 \mathbf{F}^{(k)} = lwh\rho (-\sin \alpha g \mathbf{i} + \cos \alpha g \mathbf{j}) = -lwh\rho g.$$

Finally, we see that the volume forces are balanced by the surface forces

$$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}^{(V)} + \mathbf{F}^{(S)} = 0$$

Thus, the flow is static.