

**ME-163 ENGINEERING AERODYNAMICS  
MIDTERM EXAM - SOLUTIONS**

- 1.(20%) Consider the two-dimensional flow field described by the potential function

$$\phi = ar^2 + b\theta$$

written in polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are positive constants.

- (a) Determine the velocity field, its divergence and curl. Comment about the kinematic properties of the flow field.
- (b) Determine and sketch the streamline passing through  $(r, \theta) = (1, 0)$

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$$\text{grad } \phi = \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r}, \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \theta} \right), \quad \text{div } \mathbf{u} = \left( \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{u_r}{r} \right), \quad \text{curl } \mathbf{u} = \left( \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial r} - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{u_\theta}{r} \right) \mathbf{e}_z$$


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- (a)  $\mathbf{u} = (u_r, u_\theta) = (2ar, b/r)$ ,  $\text{div } \mathbf{u} = 4a$ ,  $\text{curl } \mathbf{u} = 0$  except at  $r = 0$ ; uniform expansion and a point vortex.

(b)  $d\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{u} = (dr, r d\theta) \times (2ar, b/r) = 0 \implies \frac{b}{2a} \frac{dr}{r^3} = d\theta \implies \theta + \frac{b}{4a} \left( \frac{1}{r^2} - 1 \right) = 0$

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- 2.(20%) Consider the wind over a hill-side shown in the sketch. The wind over this topography may be described as the potential flow of a combination of a uniform flow and a source. A Pitot-static tube at point  $A$  on the ridge is indicating a maximum reading of 0.5 torr (mmHg). Estimate the wind speed at point  $B$  on the flat land.

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$$U_A = \sqrt{2\Delta p/\rho} = \sqrt{2 \times 0.5 \times 133.32/1.21} = 10.5 \text{ m/s}$$

$$(\S 4.4) \quad U_A = (u^2 + v^2)_{(x,y)=(0,h/2)}^{1/2} = [U_\infty^2 + \left(\frac{2U_\infty}{\pi}\right)^2]^{1/2} = 1.19U_\infty \implies U_\infty = 0.844U_A = 8.86 \text{ m/s}$$

$$U_B = (u^2 + v^2)_{(x,y)=(-5h,0)}^{1/2} = [(U_\infty - \frac{U_\infty}{5\pi})_\infty^2 + 0]^{1/2} = 0.968U_\infty = 0.817U_A = 8.58 \text{ m/s}$$


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- 3.(20%) NASA's Helios prototype solar-powered *atmospheric satellite* is essentially a wing of span of 75.3 m and chord of 2.44 m. It is a two-dimensional 12%-thick asymmetric Selig S6078 airfoil designed to fly at 270 km/hr at about 25 km altitude where the air density is 0.039 kg/m<sup>3</sup> and temperature 220K. Its maximum gross mass is 930 kg. Determine its design lift coefficient. If the mean camber line were a parabola, what would be the maximum camber when flying at zero angle of attack.

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$$U = 270 \text{ km/hr} = 75 \text{ m/s} \quad C_L = \frac{W}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 A} = \frac{930 \times 9.81}{\frac{1}{2} \times 0.039 \times 75^2 \times 75.3 \times 2.44} = 0.543$$

$$C_L = 2\pi(\alpha + 2z_m/c); \alpha = 0, \implies z_m/c = C_L/2\pi = 0.036 \implies z_m = 8.8 \text{ cm}$$


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- 4.(20%) Determine the reading of a Pitot-static tube mounted on Helios described above in question #3.

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$$p_\infty = \rho_\infty RT_\infty = 0.039 \times 287 \times 220 = 2460 \text{ Pa}$$

$$\frac{p_o}{p_\infty} = \left(1 + \frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma} \frac{\rho_\infty U^2}{2p_\infty}\right)^{\gamma/(\gamma-1)} = \left(1 + \frac{1.4-1}{1.4} \times \frac{0.039}{2460} \times \frac{75^2}{2}\right)^{1.4/(1.4-1)} = 1.0453$$

$$\implies \Delta p = p_o - p_\infty = 0.0453 p_\infty = 111 \text{ Pa}$$


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- 5.(20%) Consider two identical thin vortex rings as sketched in the figure. Describe the motion of the vortex ring-pair. *Hint: Recall the motion of two identical parallel line vortices.*

The rings leap frog through each other.