

**ME-163 ENGINEERING AERODYNAMICS  
MIDTERM EXAM**

**closed book, open notes – no internal or external communication**

1. Consider the flow field whose potential function is given as (in dimensionless form)

$$\varphi = x + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sinh x}{\cosh x - \cos y}$$

- (a) Determine the velocity vector field  $(u, v)$ .
- (b) Show that the normal velocity  $v = 0$  on  $y = \pm\pi$ , hence, it represents a flow between two parallel walls.
- (c) Show that the flow is uniform at  $x = \mp\infty$  between the walls.
- (d) Determine the stagnation points. *Note that the flow is symmetric with respect to the x-axis.*
- (e) Sketch the flow pattern.

$$(u, v) = (\varphi_x, \varphi_y) = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\cosh x \cos y - 1}{(\cosh x - \cos y)^2}, -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\sinh x \sin y}{(\cosh x - \cos y)^2} \right)$$

$\sin \pm\pi = 0$ , hence,  $v(x, y = \pm\pi) \equiv 0$ . Therefore,  $y = \pm\pi$  lines are streamlines which may be replaced with solid boundaries.

$\cosh x \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow \mp\infty$ ,  $\varphi \rightarrow x$ , hence  $\mathbf{u} \rightarrow (1, 0)$ : uniform flow.

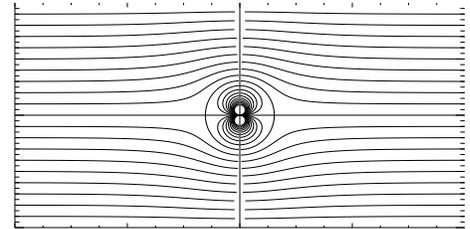
The  $x$ -axis ( $y = 0$ ) is a streamline, since  $v = 0$  along it. Along the  $x$ -axis,

$$u = 1 - \frac{1}{2(\cosh x - 1)}$$

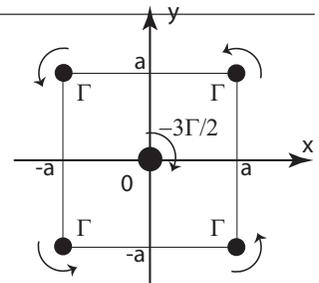
$u = 0$  at  $\cosh x = 3/2$ , or at  $x = \ln[(3 \mp \sqrt{5})/2] = \mp 0.962$ . Stagnation points are at  $(x, y) = (\mp 0.962, 0)$ .

flow past an oval in a channel: almost a circle

aspect ratio  $\frac{a_x}{a_y} = \frac{\ln[(3 + \sqrt{5})/2]}{[2a_y \tan(a_y/2) = 1]} = \frac{0.9624}{0.9602} = 1.0023!$



2. Consider four equi-strength point vortices of strength  $\Gamma$  at the vertices of a square and a vortex of strength  $-3\Gamma/2$  at the center of the square. Describe the motion of this five-vortex system. Provide mathematical arguments to support your answer.



The system is stationary. At the corner vortices:

$$u_\theta = \frac{\Gamma}{2\pi} \left( 2 \times \frac{\cos 45^\circ}{2a} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}a} \right) - \frac{3\Gamma/2}{2\pi\sqrt{2}a} = 0$$

Similarly,  $u_r = 0$ , therefore the corner vortices do not move. By symmetry, the induced velocity at the central vortex by the four corner vortices also vanishes. Hence, the whole system stays put.

3. Solar Impulse, the first solar power airplane to circumnavigate the earth, has a mass of about 2300 kg, wing span of 72 meters, and average chord of 3.6 meters. Its take-off speed is 10 m/s, and design cruise speed is 25 m/s at 8500 meter altitude.

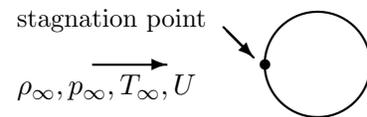


Calculate the lift coefficients (a) during take off and (b) during cruising

$$C_L = \frac{L}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 A} = \frac{mg}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 bc}$$

- (a) Take off:  $C_L \sim 1.41$  at 10 m/s at sea level  $\rho = 1.23 \text{ kg/m}^3$   
 (b) Cruise:  $C_L \sim 0.55$  at 25 m/s, at 8500 meter  $\rho = 0.5 \text{ kg/m}^3$

4. Consider a sphere moving in air at  $U = 150 \text{ m/s}$  at sea level in standard atmosphere. Determine the pressure, density and temperature at the front stagnation point. How does the density compare to that at far upstream?



Compressible flow calculation since  $M=150/340=0.441$  is significantly high:

$$\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1} \frac{p_\infty}{\rho_\infty} + \frac{1}{2}U^2 = \frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1} \frac{p_o}{\rho_o} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{p_\infty}{\rho_\infty^\gamma} = \frac{p_o}{\rho_o^\gamma} \implies p_o = p_\infty \left[ 1 + \frac{\gamma-1}{2\gamma} \frac{\rho_\infty U^2}{p_\infty} \right]^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} = p_\infty \left[ 1 + \frac{\gamma-1}{2} M^2 \right]^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}}$$

put in numbers  $(p_\infty, \rho_\infty, T_\infty) = (1.01325 \times 10^5, 1.225, 288.15)[\text{SI}]$

$M \text{ Kernel} = 1.03893$

$$p_o = 1.01325 \times 10^5 \times \left[ 1 + \frac{1.4-1}{2 \times 1.4} \frac{1.225 \times 150^2}{1.01325 \times 10^5} \right]^{\frac{1.4}{1.4-1}} = 1.01325 \times 10^5 \times 1.1430 \text{ Pa} = 1.1581 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$$

$$\rho_o = \rho_\infty (p_o/p_\infty)^{1/\gamma} = 1.225 \times (1.1581 \times 10^5 / 1.01325 \times 10^5)^{1/1.4} = 1.225 \times 1.100 = 1.348 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$T_o = p_o / (\rho_o R) = 1.1581 \times 10^5 / (1.348 \times 8.314 / 0.02897) = 299 \text{ K}$$

$$(p_o, \rho_o, T_o) = (1.1581 \times 10^5, 1.348, 299)[\text{SI}]$$