

OC 670: Fluid Dynamics

Fall term, 2018, 4 credits

No single thing abides, but all things flow.
- Heraclitus

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Class times: M 1:00-2:20; W 1:00-2:20; F 1:00-1:50.

Location: Burt 176

Text: *All Things Flow: Fluid Mechanics for the Natural Sciences*, free online textbook. (Available in hardcopy.)

Prerequisites:

There are no formal prerequisites, but the lectures assume familiarity with linear algebra up to eigenvectors and calculus up to div, grad and curl. A primer summarizing these topics will be provided.



Course Objectives:

- Understanding flow: physical intuition and mathematical analysis
- Detailed exploration of some basic classes of flow

As a gauge of understanding, you should be able to estimate (for example):

- the depth of a flooding river based on its speed,
- the interval between sneaker waves at the beach,
- the pressure drop in a tornado given its wind speed,

and explain the assumptions that underlie your estimates.

Activities:

In addition to lectures, students will spend at least (typically) 4 hours/week on assigned exercises and 4 hours/week on individual study (e.g. assigned reading, compiling lecture notes). Each student will lead at least one class lecture based on the text. The midterm exam is “take home”; the final is 2 hours, in class, lecture notes are permitted.

Evaluation:

Weekly homework, W-W (50%).

Student-led lecture (10%).

Exams (40%)

- Midterm (take-home): Oct 22th -29th
- Final (open notes): Tues Dec. 4th, 12:00-2:00.

Course Outline

Part 1: Theory

a) Introduction

- Some basic flow structures
- Normal and transverse stresses

b) Topics from linear algebra

- Index notation: the Einstein convention, free/dummy indices
- Dot products, projections
- Matrix-vector multiplication, geometric interpretation
- Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

c) Cartesian tensors

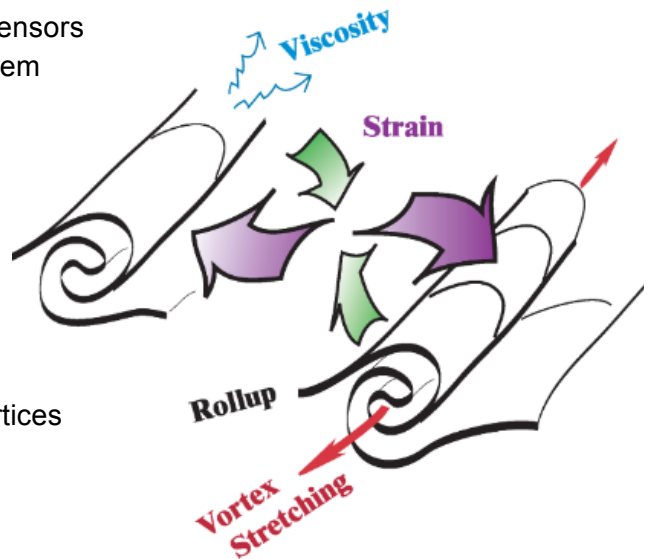
- Human perceptions of physical reality
- Cartesian position vectors, coordinate rotations
- Definition of a vector
- Torque, moment of inertia, and angular acceleration
- Scalars, vectors and higher-order tensors
- Tensor properties: symmetry, isotropy
- The alternating tensor: properties and applications
 - The cross product
 - The triple product
 - The determinant

d) Tensor calculus

- Differential operations (div, grad, curl, etc.) applied to tensors
- Flux and divergence; the generalized divergence theorem
- Vorticity and circulation.

e) Fluid kinematics

- Eulerian/Lagrangian descriptions of flow
- The streamfunction
- Relative motion near a point
 - The rotation tensor
 - * Vortex motions in two dimensions
 - * Vortex models: rigid, irrotational and Rankine vortices
 - The strain tensor
 - * Normal and transverse strains
 - * Diagonalizing a 2nd order tensor
 - * Principal axes, principal strains
- The “atom” of turbulence



f) Fluid dynamics

- Contact forces and the stress tensor
 - Force on a coordinate plane
 - Is the stress “tensor” really a tensor? (force on a tetrahedron)
 - Net force on a fluid parcel

- Symmetry of the stress tensor (torque on a cube)
- Conservation of mass and momentum
 - Leibnitz' Rule
 - Conservation of mass
 - Conservation of momentum:
 - Hydrostatic equilibrium, pressure
- Newtonian fluids
 - Stress-strain relation for Newtonian fluids
 - Navier-Stokes equations
- Boundary conditions
- Energy transfers in a Newtonian fluid
 - Kinetic energy
 - Potential energy
 - Internal energy, 1st law of thermodynamics
 - Temperature equations for water and air
- Equations of state (ideal gas, seawater)
- Useful approximations: incompressible, inviscid, Boussinesq

Part 2: Application to selected flow geometries

a) Vortices

- The homogeneous, inviscid case
 - Vortex filaments, Helmholtz' 1st theorem
 - Vortex stretching and tilting
 - Vortex tubes, Helmholtz' 2nd theorem
 - Kelvin's theorem
 - Vorticity in 2D flow
 - Examples: storm drains, hurricanes, dust devils and tornadoes, kolks in rivers and megafloods, vortex interactions in 2D turbulence, toroidal vortices
- Viscous effects
 - Burgers vortex
 - Vortices in turbulence, tornadoes, eddy viscosity
- Buoyancy effects
 - The baroclinic torque
 - The Boussinesq limit

b) Waves

- Surface gravity waves
- Superpositions: sneaker waves, group velocity
- Short and long-wave approximations to the dispersion relation
- Hydrostatic flow



c) Hydraulic flows

- The Froude number, flow over obstructions
- Hydraulic jumps in rivers and katabatic winds, the Missoula floods
- Breakers at the beach
- Turbulent river flow and flood waves