

# 551(6): Derivation of the Covariant Derivative of Fluid Dynamics from Cartan Geometry

The covariant derivative of velocity for example

$$\frac{D\underline{v}}{Dt} = \frac{\partial \underline{v}}{\partial t} + (\underline{v} \cdot \nabla) \underline{v} \quad - (1)$$

where  $\underline{v} = \underline{v}(x, y, z, t)$  - (2)  
 of velocity flow. In general,  $x, y$  and  $z$  are functions of time and distance.

The covariant derivative of Cartan geometry is:

$$\frac{D\underline{v}^a}{dx^\mu} = \frac{\partial \underline{v}^a}{\partial x^\mu} + \omega^a_{\mu b} \underline{v}^b \quad - (3)$$

where  $x^\mu = (ct, x, y, z)$  - (4)

Considering the  $\mu = 0$  component in eq. (3), and defining:

$$\underline{v}^a = \left( \frac{\underline{E}}{m}, c\underline{v} \right) \quad - (5)$$

it is found that:

$$\frac{D\underline{v}^1}{dx^0} = \frac{\partial \underline{v}^1}{\partial x^0} + \omega^1_{01} \underline{v}^1 + \omega^1_{02} \underline{v}^2 + \omega^1_{03} \underline{v}^3$$

$$\frac{D\underline{v}^2}{dx^0} = \frac{\partial \underline{v}^2}{\partial x^0} + \omega^2_{01} \underline{v}^1 + \omega^2_{02} \underline{v}^2 + \omega^2_{03} \underline{v}^3$$

$$\frac{D\underline{v}^3}{dx^0} = \frac{\partial \underline{v}^3}{\partial x^0} + \omega^3_{01} \underline{v}^1 + \omega^3_{02} \underline{v}^2 + \omega^3_{03} \underline{v}^3 \quad - (6)$$

1) The convective derivative is defined by:

$$\omega^1_{02} = \omega^1_{03} = \omega^2_{01} = \omega^2_{03} = \omega^3_{01} = \omega^3_{02} = 0 \quad (7)$$

So

$$\frac{D\bar{V}_x}{dt} = \frac{\partial \bar{V}_x}{\partial t} + \omega^1_{01} \bar{V}_x \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{D\bar{V}_y}{dt} = \frac{\partial \bar{V}_y}{\partial t} + \omega^2_{02} \bar{V}_y \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{D\bar{V}_z}{dt} = \frac{\partial \bar{V}_z}{\partial t} + \omega^3_{03} \bar{V}_z \quad (10)$$

Therefore:

$$\omega^1_{01} = \frac{\partial \bar{V}_x}{\partial x} = (\underline{V} \cdot \underline{\nabla})_x \quad (11)$$

$$\omega^2_{02} = \frac{\partial \bar{V}_y}{\partial y} = (\underline{V} \cdot \underline{\nabla})_y \quad (12)$$

$$\omega^3_{03} = \frac{\partial \bar{V}_z}{\partial z} = (\underline{V} \cdot \underline{\nabla})_z \quad (13)$$

and

$$\boxed{\omega^0 = \underline{V} \cdot \underline{\nabla}} \quad (14)$$

hence:

$$\omega^0 = \omega^1_{01} + \omega^2_{02} + \omega^3_{03}$$

so the convective derivative is:  $(15)$

$$\boxed{\frac{D\underline{v}}{Dt} = \frac{\partial \underline{v}}{\partial t} + \underline{\omega}^0 \underline{v} = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \underline{\omega} \right) \underline{v}} \quad - (16)$$

and is defined by a scalar spin connection.

The Stokes derivative is:

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \underline{v} \cdot \underline{\omega} \rho \quad - (17)$$

where

$$\underline{\omega} \rho = \underline{\nabla} \rho \quad - (18)$$

and is defined by a vector spin connection. Therefore it is possible to define:

$$\boxed{\omega^\mu = \left( \frac{\omega^0}{c}, \underline{\omega} \right) = \partial^\mu = \left( \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}, -\underline{\nabla} \right)} \quad - (19)$$

For incompressible fluids without viscosity:

$$\omega^0 = \underline{\nabla} \cdot \underline{v} = 0. \quad - (20)$$

the spin connection  $\omega^0$  is therefore irrelevant for laminar flow and the Reynolds number, and therefore the transition to turbulence.

+) The meaning of the spin correction in fluid dynamics is that the fluid is a continuum in which  $x$  and  $z$  are dependent on time  $t$  and on distance. Therefore the frame of reference can be considered as moving.

We have:

$$\omega^0 = \underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla} = \underline{v} \cdot \underline{\omega} \quad - (21)$$

Therefore in all the equations of hydrodynamics,  $\partial/\partial t$  can be replaced by  $\omega^0$  and  $\underline{\nabla}$  by  $\underline{\omega}$ .

The vorticity is therefore:

$$\underline{\omega} = \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v} = \underline{\omega} \times \underline{v} \quad - (22)$$

is the curl operator is:

$$\underline{\nabla} \times = \underline{\omega} \times \quad - (23)$$

The equation for the Reynolds number is:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \underline{w}}{\partial t} + \underline{\nabla} \times (\underline{w} \times \underline{v}) &= \frac{1}{R} \nabla^2 \underline{w} \\ &= \omega^0 \underline{w} + \underline{\omega} \times (\underline{w} \times \underline{v}) = \frac{1}{R} \omega^2 \underline{w} \end{aligned}$$

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