

353(2): Simplification of the Vorticity Equation

The vorticity equation is:

$$\frac{d\underline{w}}{dt} = \underline{\nabla} \times \left(\underline{v} \times \underline{w} \right) + \frac{1}{\rho} \underline{\nabla} \rho \times \underline{\nabla} p + \mu \nabla^2 \underline{w} \quad (1)$$

where the Reynolds number is:

$$R \sim \frac{\rho}{\mu} \quad (2)$$

Eq. (1) can be simplified by using:

$$\underline{w} = \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \underline{\nabla} \rho \times \underline{\nabla} p = - \underline{\nabla} \times \left(\frac{1}{\rho} \underline{\nabla} p \right) \quad (4)$$

ult:

$$\nabla^2 \underline{w} = \underline{\nabla} (\underline{\nabla} \cdot \underline{w}) - \underline{\nabla} \times (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{w}) \quad (5)$$

so

$$\frac{d\underline{v}}{dt} = \underline{v} \times \underline{w} - \frac{1}{\rho} \underline{\nabla} p - \frac{1}{R} \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{w} \quad (6)$$

Eq. (6) contains the same information as Eq.

(1). In the Kramé theory:

$$\underline{\nabla} h = \frac{1}{\rho} \underline{\nabla} p \quad (7)$$

so:

$$\frac{d\underline{v}}{dt} = \underline{v} \times \underline{w} - \underline{\nabla} h - \frac{1}{R} \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{w} \quad (8)$$

and:

$$\underline{E}_F = -\underline{\nabla} h - \frac{\partial \underline{v}}{\partial t} = (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla}) \underline{v} \quad - (9)$$

So:

$$\underline{\nabla} h = \frac{1}{\rho} \underline{\nabla} p = -\frac{\partial \underline{v}}{\partial t} - (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla}) \underline{v} \quad - (10)$$

From eqs. (8) and (10):

$$\underline{v} \times \underline{v} - \frac{1}{R} \underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v} + (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla}) \underline{v} = \underline{0} \quad - (11)$$

$$\text{i.e.} \quad \underline{v} \times (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v}) - \frac{1}{R} \underline{\nabla} \times (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v}) + (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla}) \underline{v} = \underline{0} \quad - (12)$$

$$\underline{\nabla} \times (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v}) = R \left(\underline{v} \times (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v}) + (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla}) \underline{v} \right) \quad - (13)$$

Now use:

$$(\underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla}) \underline{v} = \frac{1}{2} \underline{\nabla} v^2 - \underline{v} \times (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v})$$

$$\text{So} \quad \underline{\nabla} \times (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v}) = \frac{R}{2} \underline{\nabla} v^2 \quad - (14)$$

This is an equation for \underline{v} . To introduce time dependence use:

$$\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{E}_F + \frac{\partial \underline{v}}{\partial t} = \underline{0} \quad - (16)$$

So:

$$3) \quad \underline{\nabla} \times ((\underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla}) \underline{v}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\underline{\nabla} \times \underline{v}) = \underline{0} \quad - (17)$$

so

$$\frac{\partial \underline{v}}{\partial t} + (\underline{v} \cdot \underline{\nabla}) \underline{v} = \underline{0} \quad - (18)$$

i.e.

$$\frac{D \underline{v}}{Dt} = \underline{0} \quad - (19)$$

Eqs (15) and (19) completely describe the velocity field in terms of the Reynolds number.
