

Application of Analytic function to flow Problems:-

Let the two dimensional irrotational motion of an incompressible fluid, in plane // to xy plane.
Let \vec{V} be the velocity of a fluid particle as

$$\vec{V} = V_x \hat{i} + V_y \hat{j} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Since motion is irrotational, \exists a scalar function $\phi(x, y)$.

$$\vec{V} = -\nabla \phi$$

$$\nabla = \hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$$

$$\vec{V} = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \hat{i} - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \hat{j} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

By comparing eq 1 and eq 2.

$$V_x = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$V_y = -\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}$$

i.e. scalar function $\phi(x, y)$, which gives the velocity components, is called velocity potential function or simply Velocity Potential.

Since fluid is incompressible $\Rightarrow \text{div } \vec{V} = 0$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{V} = 0$$

$$\left(\hat{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \hat{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \cdot (V_x \hat{i} + V_y \hat{j}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial V_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial V_y}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(-\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(-\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow \phi$ is Harmonic and can be treated as real part of an Analytic function and $\psi(x, y)$ is imaginary

$$\text{Let } w = f(z) = \phi(x, y) + i\psi(x, y)$$

By CR's eq $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y}$ and $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$

Partial diff w.r.t y

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y \partial x}$$

Partial diff w.r.t x

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x \partial y} = -\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y \partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow \psi$ will be harmonic function

We can say $\phi(x, y)$ and $\psi(x, y)$ both are conjugate Harmonic function to each other.

Where, $\phi(x, y) = C_1$ is known as Equipotential line curve

$\psi(x, y) = C_2$ is known as stream line curve

And $\psi(x, y)$ is known as stream function.

$$w = f(z) = \phi(x, y) + i\psi(x, y)$$

w is known as complex potential

$$\frac{dw}{dz} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = -V_x - i(-V_y)$$

$$\frac{dw}{dz} = -V_x + iV_y$$

$$\left| \frac{dw}{dz} \right| = \sqrt{V_x^2 + V_y^2}, \text{ which is Resultant Velocity of fluid flow.}$$

Note: In the study of Electrostatics and Gravitational field, the curve $\phi(x, y) = C_1$ and $\psi(x, y) = C_2$ are called Equipotential line and line of force respectively.

In Heat flow Problems the curves $\phi(x,y)=c_1$ and $\psi(x,y)=c_2$ are known as Isothermals and Heat flow lines respectively.