

Notes on viscous fluids

Zisheng Ye

I. THE EQUATIONS OF MOTION OF A VISCOUS FLUID

The effect of energy dissipation occurs during the motion of a fluid, on that motion itself. This process is the result of the thermodynamic irreversibility of the motion. This irreversibility always occurs to some extent, and is due to internal friction (viscosity) and thermal conduction.

In order to obtain the equations describing the motion of a viscous fluid, some additional terms in the equation of motion of an ideal fluid have to be included. The equation of continuity, as seen from its derivation, is equally valid for any fluid, whether viscous or not. Euler's equation, on the other hand, requires modification.

The Euler's equation can be written in the form

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho v_i) = -\frac{\partial \Pi_{ik}}{\partial x_k}$$

where Π_{ik} is the momentum flux density tensor. Previously, the momentum flux represents a completely reversible transfer of momentum, due simply to the mechanical transport of the different particles of fluid from place to place and to the pressure forces acting in the fluid. The viscosity (internal friction) causes another, irreversible, transfer of momentum from points where the velocity is large to those where it is small.

The equation of motion of a viscous fluid may therefore be obtained by adding a term $-\sigma'_{ik}$ which gives the irreversible "viscous" transfer of momentum in the fluid. Thus we write the momentum flux density tensor in a viscous fluid in the form

$$\Pi_{ik} = p\delta_{ik} + \rho v_i v_k - \sigma'_{ik} = -\sigma_{ik} + \rho v_i v_j \quad (I.1)$$

The tensor

$$\sigma_{ik} = -p\delta_{ik} + \sigma'_{ik} \quad (I.2)$$

is called the *stress tensor*, and σ'_{ik} the *viscous stress tensor*. σ_{ik} gives the part of the momentum flux that is not due to the direct transfer of momentum with the mass of moving fluid.

Processes of internal friction occur in a fluid only when different fluid particles move with different velocities, so that there is a relative motion between various parts of the fluid. Hence σ'_{ik} must depend on the space derivatives of the velocity. If the velocity gradients are small, we may suppose that the momentum transfer due to viscosity depends only on the first derivatives of the velocity. To the same approximation, σ'_{ik} may be supposed a linear function of the derivatives $\partial v_i / \partial x_k$. There can be no terms in σ'_{ik} independent of $\partial v_i / \partial x_k$, since σ'_{ik} must vanish for $\mathbf{v} = \text{constant}$. Next, we notice that σ'_{ik} must also vanish when the whole fluid is in uniform rotation, since it is clear that in such a motion no

internal friction occurs in the fluid. In uniform rotation with angular velocity $\boldsymbol{\omega}$, the velocity \mathbf{v} is equal to the vector product $\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}$. The sums

$$\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i}$$

are linear combinations of the derivatives $\partial v_i / \partial x_k$, and vanish when $\mathbf{v} = \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r}$. Hence σ'_{ik} must contain just these symmetrical combinations of the derivatives $\partial v_i / \partial x_k$.

The most general tensor of rank two satisfying the above conditions is

$$\sigma'_{ik} = \eta \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ik} \frac{\partial v_l}{\partial x_l} \right) + \zeta \delta_{ik} \frac{\partial v_l}{\partial x_l} \quad (I.3)$$

with coefficients η and ζ independent of the velocity. In making this statement, the fluid is isotropic, as a result of which its properties must be described by scalar quantities only. The terms here are arranged so that the expression in parentheses has the property of vanishing on contraction with respect to i and k . The constants η and ζ are called *coefficients of viscosity*, and ζ often the *second viscosity*. These two coefficients are both positive.

The equations of motion of a viscous fluid can now be obtained by simply adding the expressions $\partial \sigma'_{ik} / \partial x_k$ to the right-hand side of Euler's equation

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial t} + v_k \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} \right) = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\zeta \frac{\partial v_l}{\partial x_l} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} \left\{ \eta \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ik} \frac{\partial v_l}{\partial x_l} \right) \right\} \quad (I.4)$$

This is the most general form of the equations of motion of a viscous fluid. The quantities η and ζ are functions of pressure and temperature. In general, p and T , and therefore the fluid, so that η and ζ cannot be taken outside the gradient operator.

In most cases, however, the viscosity coefficients do not change noticeably in the fluid, and they may be regarded as constant. We then have equation I.4, in vector form, as

$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} \right] = -\nabla p + \eta \Delta \mathbf{v} + \left(\zeta + \frac{1}{3} \eta \right) \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}) \quad (I.5)$$

This is called the *Navier-Stokes equation*. It becomes considerably simpler if the fluid may be regarded as incompressible, so that $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$, and the last term on the right of I.5 is zero. In discussing viscous fluids, we shall always regard them as incompressible, and accordingly use the equation of motion in the form

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \frac{\eta}{\rho} \Delta \mathbf{v} \quad (I.6)$$

The stress tensor in an incompressible fluid takes the simple form

$$\sigma_{ik} = -p\delta_{ik} + \eta \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (I.7)$$

The viscosity of an incompressible fluid is determined by only one coefficient. Since most fluids may be regarded as practically incompressible, it is this coefficient η which is generally of importance. The ratio

$$\nu = \frac{\eta}{\rho}$$

is called the *kinematic viscosity* (while η itself is called the *dynamic viscosity*). The pressure can be eliminated in I.6 in the same way as from Euler's equation and by taking the curl of both sides,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) = \nabla \times (\mathbf{v} \times (\nabla \times \mathbf{v})) + \nu \Delta(\nabla \times \mathbf{v})$$

Since the fluid is incompressible, the equation can be transformed by expanding product in the first term on the right and using the equation $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) &= \mathbf{v} \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \\ &\quad - (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} + (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} \\ &\quad + \nu \Delta(\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) - (\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} \\ &= \nu \Delta(\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) \end{aligned} \quad (I.8)$$

When the velocity distribution is known, the pressure distribution in the fluid can be recovered by solving the Poisson-type equation:

$$\Delta p = -\rho \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} = -\rho \frac{\partial^2 v_i v_k}{\partial x_i \partial x_k} \quad (I.9)$$

Then consider the boundary condition on the equations of motion of a viscous fluid. There are always forces of attraction between a viscous fluid and the surface of solid body, and these forces have the result that the layer of fluid immediately adjacent to the surface is brought completely to rest and "adheres" to the surface. Accordingly, the boundary conditions on the equations of motion of a viscous fluid require that the fluid velocity should vanish at fixed solid surfaces

$$\mathbf{v} = 0 \quad (I.10)$$

It is emphasized that both the normal and tangential velocity component must vanish.

In the general case of a moving surface, the velocity \mathbf{v} must be equal to the velocity of the surface.

It is easy to write down an expression for the force acting on a solid surface bounding the fluid. The force acting on an element of the surface is just the momentum flux through this element. The momentum flux through the surface element df is

$$\Pi_{ik} df_k = (\rho v_i v_k - \sigma_{ik}) df_k$$

In determining the force acting on the surface, each surface element must be considered in a frame of reference in which it is at rest. The force is equal to the momentum flux only when the surface is fixed. Writing df_k in the form $df_k = n_k df$, where \mathbf{n} is a unit vector along the normal, and recalling that $\mathbf{v} = 0$ at a solid surface, we find that the force \mathbf{P} acting on unit surface area is

$$P_i = -\sigma_{ik} n_k = p n_i - \sigma'_{ik} n_k \quad (I.11)$$

The first term is the ordinary pressure of the fluid, while the second is the force of friction, due to the viscosity, acting on the surface. It must be emphasized that \mathbf{n} above is a unit vector along the outward normal to the fluid, along the inward normal to the solid surface.

If we have a surface of separation between two immiscible fluids, the conditions at the surface are that the velocities of the fluids must be equal and the forces which they exert on each other must be equal and opposite. The latter condition is written

$$n_{1,k} \sigma_{1,ik} + n_{2,k} \sigma_{2,ik} = 0$$

where the suffixes 1, 2 refer to the two fluids. The normal vector \mathbf{n}_1 and \mathbf{n}_2 are in opposite directions, $\mathbf{n}_1 = -\mathbf{n}_2$, so that it can be written

$$n_k \sigma_{1,ik} = n_k \sigma_{2,ik} \quad (I.12)$$

At a free surface of the fluid the condition

$$\sigma_{ik} n_k \equiv \sigma'_{ik} n_k - p n_i = 0 \quad (I.13)$$

must hold.

In cylindrical polar coordinates r, ϕ, z the components of the stress tensor are

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{rr} &= -p + 2\eta \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial r} \\ \sigma_{\phi\phi} &= -p + 2\eta \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{v_r}{r} \right) \\ \sigma_{zz} &= -p + 2\eta \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} \\ \sigma_{r\phi} &= \eta \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial r} - \frac{v_\phi}{r} \right) \\ \sigma_{\phi z} &= \eta \left(\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial z} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial \phi} \right) \\ \sigma_{zr} &= \eta \left(\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial z} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (I.14)$$

The three components of the Navier-Stokes equation are

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) v_r - \frac{v_\phi^2}{r} &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + \nu \left(\Delta v_r - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} - \frac{v_r}{r^2} \right) \\ \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) v_\phi + \frac{v_\phi v_r}{r} &= -\frac{1}{\rho r} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \phi} + \nu \left(\Delta v_\phi - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{v_\phi}{r^2} \right) \\ \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) v_z &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + \nu \Delta v_z \end{aligned} \quad (I.15)$$

where

$$(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) f = v_r \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\phi}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} + v_z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$$

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2}$$

The equation of continuity is

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial(rv_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} = 0 \quad (\text{I.16})$$

In spherical polar coordinates r, ϕ, θ , the stress tensor is

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{rr} &= -p + 2\eta \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial r} \\ \sigma_{\phi\phi} &= -p + 2\eta \left(\frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{v_r}{r} + \frac{v_\theta \cot \theta}{r} \right) \\ \sigma_{\theta\theta} &= -p + 2\eta \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_r}{r} \right) \\ \sigma_{r\theta} &= \eta \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial r} - \frac{v_\theta}{r} \right) \\ \sigma_{\theta\phi} &= \eta \left(\frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \phi} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \theta} - \frac{v_\phi \cot \theta}{r} \right) \\ \sigma_{\phi r} &= \eta \left(\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{v_\phi}{r} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{I.17})$$

while the Navier-Stokes equations are

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) v_r - \frac{v_\theta^2 + v_\phi^2}{r} &= -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} \\ + \nu \left[\Delta v_r - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial(v_\theta \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} - \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} - \frac{2v_r}{r^2} \right] \\ \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) v_\theta + \frac{v_r v_\theta}{r} - \frac{v_\phi^2 \cot \theta}{r} &= -\frac{1}{\rho r} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \theta} \\ + \nu \left[\Delta v_\theta - \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{v_\theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \right] \\ \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) v_\phi + \frac{v_r v_\phi}{r} + \frac{v_\theta v_\phi \cot \theta}{r} &= -\frac{1}{\rho r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \phi} \\ + \nu \left[\Delta v_\phi + \frac{2}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \phi} + \frac{2 \cos \theta}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \phi} - \frac{v_\phi}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{I.18})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) f &= v_r \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \phi} \\ \Delta f &= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 \frac{\partial f}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \left(\sin \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \phi^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

The equation of continuity is

$$\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial(r^2 v_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial(v_\theta \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} = 0 \quad (\text{I.19})$$

II. ENERGY DISSIPATION IN AN INCOMPRESSIBLE FLUID

The presence of viscosity results in the dissipation of energy, which is finally transformed into heat. The calculation of the energy dissipation is especially simple for an incompressible fluid.

The total kinetic energy of an incompressible fluid is

$$E_{\text{kin}} = \frac{1}{2} \rho \int v^2 dV$$

Take the time derivative of this energy and substituting for $\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial t}$ the expression for it given by the Navier-Stokes equation:

$$\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial t} = -v_k \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \sigma'_{ik}}{\partial x_k}$$

The result is

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{1}{2} \rho v^2 \right) \\ &= \rho \mathbf{v} \cdot \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} \\ &= -\rho \mathbf{v} \cdot (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v}) - \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla p + v_i \frac{\partial \sigma'_{ik}}{\partial x_k} \\ &= -\rho \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \left(\frac{1}{2} v^2 + \frac{p}{\rho} \right) + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}') - \sigma'_{ik} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} \end{aligned}$$

Here $\mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}'$ whose components are $v_i \sigma'_{ik}$. Since $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$ for an incompressible fluid, we can write the first term on the right as a divergence

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{1}{2} \rho v^2 \right) \\ &= -\nabla \cdot \left[\rho \mathbf{v} \left(\frac{1}{2} v^2 + \frac{p}{\rho} \right) - \mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}' \right] - \sigma'_{ik} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} \end{aligned}$$

The expression in brackets is just the energy flux density in the fluid: the term $\rho \mathbf{v} \left(\frac{1}{2} v^2 + \frac{p}{\rho} \right)$ is the energy flux due to the actual transfer of fluid mass, and is the same as the energy flux in an ideal fluid. The second term, $\mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}'$, is the energy flux due to processes of internal friction. For the presence of viscosity results in a momentum flux σ'_{ik} ; a transfer of momentum, however, always involves a transfer of energy, and the energy flux is clearly equal to the scalar product of the momentum flux and velocity.

If integrate it over some volume V ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int \frac{1}{2} \rho v^2 dV \\ &= -\oint \left[\rho \mathbf{v} \left(\frac{1}{2} v^2 + \frac{p}{\rho} \right) - \mathbf{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}' \right] \cdot d\mathbf{f} - \int \sigma'_{ik} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} dV \end{aligned} \quad (\text{II.1})$$

The first term on the right gives the rate of change of kinetic energy of the fluid in V owing to the energy flux through the surface bounding V . The integral in the second term is consequently the decrease per unit time in the kinetic energy owing to dissipation.

Consider the motion of the fluid in a system of coordinates such that the fluid is at rest at infinity. For a fluid enclosed in a finite volume, the surface integral again vanishes, because the velocities at the surface vanishes. Therefore, if the integral is extended to the whole volume of the fluid, the surface integral vanishes, and the energy dissipated per unit time in the whole fluid is to be

$$E_{\text{kin}} = - \int \sigma'_{ik} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} dV = \frac{1}{2} \int \sigma'_{ik} \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} \right) dV \quad (\text{II.2})$$

since the tensor σ'_{ik} is symmetrical. In incompressible fluids, the energy dissipation in an incompressible fluid is

$$\dot{E}_{\text{kin}} = \frac{1}{2}\eta \int \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} + \frac{\partial v_k}{\partial x_i} \right)^2 dV \quad (\text{II.3})$$

The dissipation leads to a decrease in the mechanical energy. Since $\dot{E}_{\text{kin}} < 0$ and the integral is always positive. Therefore, the viscosity coefficient η is always positive.

III. FLOW WITH SMALL REYNOLDS NUMBERS

The Navier-Stokes equation is considerably simplified in the case of flow with small Reynolds numbers. For steady flow of an incompressible fluid, the equation is

$$(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{v} = -\frac{1}{\rho}\nabla p + \frac{\eta}{\rho}\Delta\mathbf{v}$$

The ratio of the term $(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{v}$ and term $\frac{\eta}{\rho}\Delta\mathbf{v}$ is just the Reynolds number. Hence the term $(\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{v}$ may be neglected if the Reynold number is small, and the equation of motion reduces to a linear equation

$$\eta\Delta\mathbf{v} - \nabla p = 0 \quad (\text{III.1})$$

Together with the equation of continuity

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0 \quad (\text{III.2})$$

it completely determines the motion. By taking the curl of the equation of motion,

$$\Delta(\nabla \times \mathbf{v}) = 0 \quad (\text{III.3})$$

As an example, consider rectilinear and uniform motion of a sphere in a viscous fluid. The problem of the motion of a sphere is exactly equivalent to that of flow past a fixed sphere, the fluid having a given velocity \mathbf{v}_{inf} at infinity. The velocity distribution in the first problem is obtained from that in the second problem by simply subtracting the velocity \mathbf{v}_{inf} ; the fluid is then at rest at infinity, while the sphere moves with velocity $-\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}$. If we regard the flow as steady, we must, speak of the flow past a fixed sphere. When the sphere moves, the velocity of the fluid at any point in space varies with time.

Since $\nabla \times (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}) = \nabla \times \mathbf{v} = 0$, $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}$ can be expressed as the curl of some vector \mathbf{A} :

$$\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$$

with $\nabla \times \mathbf{A}$ equal to zero at infinity. The vector \mathbf{A} must be axial, in order for its curl to be polar, like the velocity. In flow past a sphere, a completely symmetrical body, there is no preferred direction other than that of \mathbf{v}_{inf} . This parameter \mathbf{v}_{inf} must appear linearly in \mathbf{A} , because the equation of motion and its boundary conditions are linear. The general form of a vector function $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r})$ satisfying all these requirements is $\mathbf{A} = f'(r)\mathbf{n} \times \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}$, where \mathbf{n} is a unit vector parallel to the position vector \mathbf{r} (the origin being taken at the centre of the sphere), and $f'(r)$ is a scalar function of r . The product $f'(r)\mathbf{n}$

can be represented as the gradient of another function $f(r)$. Thus the velocity could be expressed in the form:

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} + \nabla \times (\nabla f \times \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}) = \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} + \nabla \times \nabla(f\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}) \quad (\text{III.4})$$

Next to determine the function f . Since

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \mathbf{v} &= \nabla \times \nabla \times \nabla \times (f\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}) \\ &= \nabla (\nabla \cdot (\nabla \times (f\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}))) - \Delta(\nabla \times (f\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}})) \\ &= -\Delta(\nabla \times (f\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}})) \end{aligned}$$

Use III.3 takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} &\Delta^2(\nabla \times (f\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}})) \\ &= \Delta^2(\nabla f \times \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}) \\ &= (\Delta^2 \nabla f) \times \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

It follows from this that

$$\Delta^2 \nabla f = 0 \quad (\text{III.5})$$

A first integration gives

$$\Delta^2 f = \text{const.} \quad (\text{III.6})$$

Since the velocity difference $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}$ must vanish at infinity, and so must its derivatives, the constant must be zero. The expression $\Delta^2 f$ contains fourth derivatives of f , whilst the velocity is given in terms of the second derivatives of f . Thus

$$\Delta^2 f \equiv \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \frac{d}{dr} \right) \Delta f = 0$$

Hence

$$\Delta f = 2\frac{a}{r} + c$$

The constant c must be zero if the velocity $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}$ is to vanish at infinity. Therefore

$$f = ar + \frac{b}{r} \quad (\text{III.7})$$

The additive constant is omitted, since it is immaterial (the velocity being given by derivatives of f).

Finally, the expression of velocity is

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} - a \frac{\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} + \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \cdot \mathbf{n})}{r} + b \frac{3\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \cdot \mathbf{n}) - \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}}}{r^3} \quad (\text{III.8})$$

The constants a and b have to be determined from the boundary conditions: at the surface of the sphere ($r = R$), $\mathbf{v} = 0$,

$$\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \left(\frac{a}{R} + \frac{b}{R^3} - 1 \right) + \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \left(-\frac{a}{R} + \frac{3b}{R^3} \right) = 0$$

Since this equation must hold for all \mathbf{n} , the coefficients of \mathbf{v}_{inf} and $\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \cdot \mathbf{n})$ must each vanish. Hence $a = \frac{3}{4}R$, $b = \frac{1}{4}R^3$. Thus finally

$$f = \frac{3}{4}Rr + \frac{R^3}{4r} \quad (\text{III.9})$$

$$\mathbf{v} = -\frac{3}{4}R \frac{\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} + \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \cdot \mathbf{n})}{r} - \frac{1}{4}R^3 \frac{\mathbf{v} - 3\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \cdot \mathbf{n})}{r^3} + \mathbf{v}_{\text{inf}} \quad (\text{III.10})$$

or, in spherical polar components with the axis parallel to \mathbf{v}_{inf} ,

$$\begin{cases} v_r = v_{\text{inf}} \cos \theta \left[1 - \frac{3R}{2r} + \frac{R^3}{2r^3} \right] \\ v_\theta = -v_{\text{inf}} \sin \theta \left[1 - \frac{3R}{4r} - \frac{R^3}{4r^3} \right] \end{cases}$$