

1 Basic Equations

The so-called Stokes stream function, used in axisymmetric situations, is given by

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{r} \partial_z \psi \hat{\mathbf{r}} \\ u_\phi \hat{\phi} \\ -\frac{1}{r} \partial_r \psi \hat{\mathbf{z}} \end{bmatrix}; \quad (1)$$

here we define A in the same way.

Using the definitions in

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \left[\frac{1}{r} \left(\nabla^2 \psi - \frac{2\partial_r \psi}{r} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{r^2} J(\psi, \nabla^2 A - \frac{2\partial_r \psi}{r}) &= \frac{\partial_z A}{r^3} \left(\nabla^2 A - \frac{2\partial_r A}{r} \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{r} J \left(A, \frac{1}{r} \left(\nabla^2 A - \frac{2\partial_r A}{r} \right) \right) - \frac{2B_\phi \partial_z B_\phi}{r} \\ &+ \nu \left\{ \nabla^2 \left[\frac{1}{r} \left(\nabla^2 \psi - \frac{2\partial_r \psi}{r} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{r^2} \left(\nabla^2 \psi - \frac{2\partial_r \psi}{r} \right) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

For the expanded form of the Ψ equation, Susan gets:

$$\partial_t u_\phi + \frac{J(\psi, u_\phi)}{r} + \frac{u_\phi \partial_z \psi}{r^2} = \frac{J(A, B_\phi)}{r} + \frac{B_\phi \partial_z A}{r^2} + \nu \left(\nabla^2 u_\phi - \frac{u_\phi}{r} \right) \quad (3)$$

$$\partial_t A = \frac{1}{r} J(A, \psi) + \eta \left(\nabla^2 A - \frac{2\partial_r A}{r} \right) \quad (4)$$

Susan gets:

$$\partial_t A = \frac{1}{r} J(A, \Psi) + \frac{1}{Rm} \left[-\frac{1}{r} \partial_r A + \partial_r^2 A + \partial_z^2 A \right] \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t B_\phi &= \frac{1}{r} J(A, u_\phi) + \frac{1}{r} J(B_\phi, \psi) \\ &+ \frac{1}{r^2} B_\phi \partial_z \psi - \frac{1}{r^2} u_\phi \partial_z A + \eta \left(\nabla^2 B_\phi - \frac{1}{r^2} B_\phi \right) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

2 Detailed Derivation of Ψ Equation

The Ψ equation, governing the x- and z-components of the velocity, is particularly tricky to derive so I will write out the steps here.

1. Find $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ components of the momentum equation, i.e.:

$$\partial_t u_z + [u \cdot \nabla u]_z = [(\nabla \times B) \times B]_z + \frac{1}{Re} [\nabla^2 u]_z \quad (7)$$

We sub in our stream/flux function notation and expand the operators in cylindrical coordinates. Then take ∂_r of the resulting equation to obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_t \partial_r \Psi - \frac{1}{r} \partial_t \partial_r^2 \Psi - \frac{3}{r^4} \partial_z \Psi \partial_r \Psi + \frac{1}{r^3} \partial_r (\partial_z \Psi \partial_r \Psi) + \frac{2}{r^3} \partial_z \Psi \partial_r^2 \Psi - \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r (\partial_z \Psi \partial_r^2 \Psi) \\ & - \frac{2}{r^3} \partial_r \Psi \partial_r \partial_z \Psi + \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r (\partial_r \Psi \partial_r \partial_z \Psi) = \\ & \partial_r (B_\theta \partial_z B_\theta) + \frac{2}{r^3} \partial_z^2 A \partial_z A - \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r (\partial_z^2 A \partial_z A) + \frac{3}{r^4} \partial_z A \partial_r A - \frac{1}{r^3} \partial_r (\partial_z A \partial_r A) - \frac{2}{r^3} \partial_z A \partial_r^2 A \\ & + \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r (\partial_z A \partial_r^2 A) + \frac{1}{\text{Re}} \left[\frac{3}{r^4} \partial_r \Psi - \frac{3}{r^3} \partial_r^2 \Psi + \frac{2}{r^2} \partial_r^3 \Psi - \frac{1}{r} \partial_r^4 \Psi \right] \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

Repeat this process for the $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ component of the momentum equation,

$$\partial_t u_r + [u \cdot \nabla u]_r = [(\nabla \times B) \times B]_r + \frac{1}{\text{Re}} [\nabla^2 u]_r \quad (9)$$

and take ∂_z of the expanded equation to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{r} \partial_t \partial_z^2 \Psi - \frac{1}{r^3} \partial_z (\partial_z \Psi \partial_z \Psi) + \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_z (\partial_z \Psi \partial_z \partial_r \Psi) - \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_z (\partial_r \Psi \partial_z^2 \Psi) - \frac{1}{r} 2u_\theta \partial_z u_\theta \\ & = -\frac{1}{r^2} \partial_z^3 A \partial_r A - \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_z^2 A \partial_r \partial_z A + \frac{2}{r^3} \partial_r \partial_z A \partial_r A - \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r^2 \partial_z A \partial_r A - \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r^2 A \partial_r \partial_z A \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$

It is clear from the ∂_t terms that we must combine these equations by subtracting the $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ equation from the $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ equation.

When we do, we can simplify the LHS of the equation to:

$$\frac{1}{r} \partial_t \left(\nabla^2 \Psi - \frac{2}{r} \partial_r \Psi \right) + J \left(\Psi, \frac{1}{r^2} \left(\nabla^2 \Psi - \frac{2}{r} \partial_r \Psi \right) \right) - \frac{1}{r} 2u_\theta \partial_z u_\theta \quad (11)$$

Note that the relevant quantity appears to be $\nabla^2 \Psi - \frac{2}{r} \partial_r \Psi$, and that the $\frac{1}{r^2}$ in the second term cannot come out of the Jacobian (a point of disagreement with Jeff's equation above).

3 Recovery of Narrow Gap Equations

A Cylindrical derivatives

Everything here follows <http://farside.ph.utexas.edu/teaching/336L/Fluidhtml/node177.html#scyl>.

For a scalar field ψ ,

$$\nabla \psi = \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \phi} \hat{\phi} + \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \hat{\mathbf{z}}. \quad (12)$$

However, for a *vector* field \mathbf{u} ,

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial(ru_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial z} \quad (13)$$

and

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{u} = \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\partial u_\phi}{\partial z} \right) \hat{\mathbf{r}} + \left(\frac{\partial u_r}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial r} \right) \hat{\phi} + \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial(ru_\phi)}{\partial r} - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \phi} \right) \hat{\mathbf{z}}. \quad (14)$$

We also need the ϕ component of the convective derivative $\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}$,

$$[\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}]_\phi = \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla u_\phi + \frac{u_r u_\phi}{r}, \quad (15)$$

and finally, the vector Laplacian,

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_r = \nabla^2 u_r - \frac{u_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial u_\phi}{\partial \phi} \quad (16)$$

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_\phi = \nabla^2 u_\phi + \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{u_\phi}{r^2} \quad (17)$$

$$(\nabla^2 \mathbf{u})_z = \nabla^2 u_z, \quad (18)$$

where ∇ on the vector components is given by equation (12).

Note that, expanding the definition of the vector Laplacian, where the cylindrical scalar Laplacian is substituted in for $\nabla^2 u_r$ and $\nabla^2 u_z$