Physics 5B - Winter 2022 - Quiz 3

Faaizah is a medical researcher who needs to measure the speed v of the blood flow in a certain section of a horizontally-oriented blood vessel of length $L=10\,\mathrm{cm}$ and cross-sectional radius $R=2\,\mathrm{mm}$. Having taken Physics 5B, she realizes that there's a way to determine the desired blood flow speed in terms of the pressure difference Δp between the two ends of the blood vessel. By treating the flow as viscous but incompressible, she is able to derive the following relationship between v and Δp (recall that $\eta=2.5\times10^{-3}\,\mathrm{Pa}\cdot\mathrm{s}$ is the viscosity of blood):

$$v = \alpha \Delta p$$
, were $\alpha = \frac{R^2}{8\eta L}$ (1)

1. Derive Faaizah's equation (1) using (i) Poiseuille's equation for viscous flow, (ii) an appropriate expression for volume flow rate, and (iii) a fact about circles. After deriving equation (1), use it to compute the numerical value of α (in SI units) for the blood vessel Faaizah is measuring.

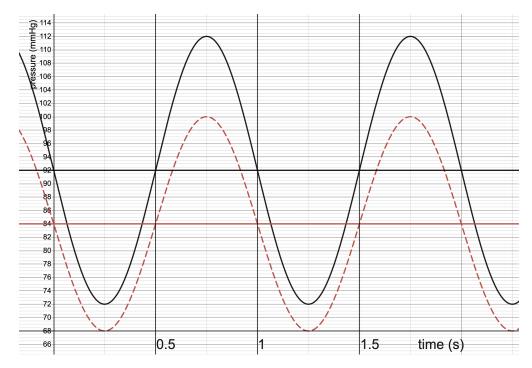
Solution. Combining Poiseuille's equation with the expression Q = vA for volume flow rate and the expression πR^2 for the area of the circle yields the following:

$$\Delta p = \frac{8}{\pi} \frac{\eta L Q}{R^4} = \frac{8}{\pi} \frac{\eta L (vA)}{R^4} = \frac{8}{\pi} \frac{\eta L v (\pi R^2)}{R^4} = \frac{8\eta L}{R^2} v. \tag{2}$$

Solving for v gives Faizaah's result. The numerical value of α for the vessel Faizaah is considering is

$$\alpha = \frac{R^2}{8\eta L} = \frac{(2 \text{ mm})^2}{8(2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Pa} \cdot \text{s})(10 \text{ cm})} = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m/(Pa} \cdot \text{s})$$
(3)

2. Suppose that the blood is flowing from the left end of the blood vessel to its right end and that $p_1(t)$ and $p_2(t)$ are the pressures at the left and right ends respectively. The following plot shows the graphs of these pressures as functions of time. The black solid line is $p_1(t)$ and the red dotted line is $p_2(t)$. Carefully note the values of the tick marks and labels on the vertical and horizontal axes.



The plotted pressures $p_1(t)$ and $p_2(t)$ can be written in variables in the following form:

$$p_1(t) = P_1 + A_1 \cos(\omega t + \phi_0), \qquad p_2(t) = P_2 + A_2 \cos(\omega t + \phi_0) \tag{4}$$

Based on the graphs above, what are the SI values (with units) of the variables P_1 , P_2 , A_1 , A_2 , ω , and what is the value of ϕ_0 in radians? Recall that 1 mmHg ≈ 133 Pa.

Solution. The solid black and solid red horizontal lines are the pressures at which the cosine term in p_1 and p_2 is zero (halfway between the max and min), and this corresponds to the variables P_1 and P_2 which therefore can be read off the graph. The amplitude of each graph is the difference between that horizontal line and the maximum on the graph which can also be read off the graph. Lastly $\omega = 2\pi f = 2\pi/T$ where T is the duration of a full cycle, which for both graphs is 1 s, and ϕ_0 is obtained by noting that the given pressure graphs are equivalent to cosine graphs shifted over to the left by a quarter cycle which corresponds to an angle of $\pi/2$. From all of this, it follows that

$$P_1 = 92 \text{ mmHg} = 12,236 \text{ Pa}$$
 (5)

$$P_2 = 84 \text{ mmHg} = 11,172 \text{ Pa}$$
 (6)

$$A_1 = 20 \text{ mmHg} = 2,660 \text{ Pa}$$
 (7)

$$A_2 = 16 \text{ mmHg} = 2{,}128 \text{ Pa}$$
 (8)

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{1 \,\mathrm{s}} \approx 6.3 \,\mathrm{rad/s} \tag{9}$$

$$\phi_0 = \pi/2 \tag{10}$$

3. Using equations (1) and (4) it can be shown that the speed as a function of time v(t) of the blood in the vessel can be written as follows:

$$v(t) = \alpha(P_1 - P_2) + \alpha(A_1 - A_2)\cos(\omega t + \phi_0)$$
(11)

You can take this expression for granted. Use this expression and some intermediate calculations on scratch paper to plot v(t) in meters per second versus t in seconds on the grid below. Make sure to include tick marks with values and axis labels with units on your plot. Try to make it as numerically accurate as you can given that it's being drawn by hand. Start the plot at t = 0, and show at least two full cycles of the oscillation on the plot.

Solution. Using the value of α computed in the first part, one computes $\alpha(P_1 - P_2) = 2.128 \,\text{m/s}$ and $\alpha(A_1 - A_2) = 1.064 \,\text{m/s}$ which yields the following graph:

