

For a 3-Dimensional geometry, the Navier-Stokes equations read

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

with

$$\mathbf{u} = (u \quad v \quad w)^T.$$

Assuming fully developed flow for a square cross section $(x, y) \in \Omega_z = (0, a) \times (0, b)$, $u = v = 0$, $\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$, and $\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} = 0$, so

$$\mu \nabla^2 w = \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} \right)$$

$$w = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial \Omega_z$$

This equation can be solved for w by assuming that $w = \sum_{n,m \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{m,n} g_m(x) h_n(y)$. Eigenfunction decomposition gives

$$g_m(x) = \sin \left(\frac{(m+1)\pi x}{a} \right), \quad h_n(y) = \sin \left(\frac{(n+1)\pi y}{b} \right)$$

and

$$a_{m,n} = \frac{-4 \nabla_z p}{\mu a b \pi^2 \left((m+1)^2/a^2 + (n+1)^2/b^2 \right)} \iint_{\Omega_z} g_m h_n \, d\Omega_z$$

$$= \frac{-4 \nabla_z p}{\mu \pi^2 \left((m+1)^2/a^2 + (n+1)^2/b^2 \right)} \frac{\left(1 - (-1)^{m+1} \right) \left(1 - (-1)^{n+1} \right)}{\pi^2 (m+1)(n+1)}.$$

Therefore,

$$w = \sum_{n,m \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{-4 \nabla_z p}{\mu \pi^2 \left((m+1)^2/a^2 + (n+1)^2/b^2 \right)} \frac{\left(1 - (-1)^{m+1} \right) \left(1 - (-1)^{n+1} \right)}{\pi^2 (m+1)(n+1)} \sin \left(\frac{(m+1)\pi x}{a} \right) \sin \left(\frac{(n+1)\pi y}{b} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{n,m \text{ even}} \frac{-16 \nabla_z p}{\mu \pi^2 \left((m+1)^2/a^2 + (n+1)^2/b^2 \right) \pi^2 (m+1)(n+1)} \sin \left(\frac{(m+1)\pi x}{a} \right) \sin \left(\frac{(n+1)\pi y}{b} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{n,m \text{ odd}} \frac{-16 \nabla_z p \sin(m\pi x/a) \sin(n\pi y/b)}{\mu \pi^4 \left((m/a)^2 + (n/b)^2 \right) mn}$$

Now, note that the average velocity is given by

$$w_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{ab} \iint_{\Omega_z} w \, d\Omega_z = \frac{-16 \nabla_z p}{\mu \pi^4 ab} \iint_{\Omega_z} \sum_{n,m \text{ odd}} \frac{\sin(m\pi x/a) \sin(n\pi y/b)}{\left((m/a)^2 + (n/b)^2 \right) mn} \, d\Omega_z$$

$$= \frac{-64 \nabla_z p}{\mu \pi^6} \sum_{n,m \text{ odd}} \frac{1}{\left((m/a)^2 + (n/b)^2 \right) m^2 n^2} = \frac{-64 \nabla_z p}{\mu \pi^6} \mathcal{F}(a, b).$$

Assuming that

$$\nabla_z p \approx \frac{-\Delta p}{L}$$

gives

$$\frac{Lw_{\text{avg}}\mu\pi^6}{64\mathcal{F}(a,b)} = \Delta p$$

Note that with $a = b = S$,

$$\mathcal{F}(S, S) = S^2 \sum_{n,m \text{ odd}} \frac{1}{(m^2 + n^2)m^2n^2},$$

and with

$$\psi = \sum_{n,m \text{ odd}} \frac{1}{(m^2 + n^2)m^2n^2} = 0.5279266\dots,$$

it follows that

$$\Delta p = \frac{\pi^6}{64\psi} \frac{Lw_{\text{avg}}\mu}{S^2} \approx 28.45415 \frac{\mu Lw_{\text{avg}}}{S^2}.$$

Summary

For a rectangular cross-section with sides a and b ,

$$\Delta p = \frac{Lw_{\text{avg}}\mu\pi^6}{64\mathcal{F}(a,b)} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{F}(a,b) = \sum_{n,m \text{ odd}} \frac{1}{((m/a)^2 + (n/b)^2)m^2n^2}.$$

For $a = b = S$,

$$\Delta p = \frac{\pi^6}{64\psi} \frac{Lw_{\text{avg}}\mu}{S^2} \approx 28.45415 \frac{\mu Lw_{\text{avg}}}{S^2} \quad \text{with} \quad \psi = 0.5279266\dots$$