

APPH 4200 Physics of Plasmas: In-Class Worksheet

Answer the following without looking at your notes or textbooks.

Question

Find an expression for fluid flow around a cylinder. Take the fluid to be inviscid, incompressible, and two-dimensional. Then, with $\mathbf{U} = \{U_r, U_\theta, U_z\} = \{0, U_\phi(r), 0\}$, derive an expression for $U_\theta(r)$ having constant circulation.

You may use the velocity potential, $\mathbf{U} = \nabla\phi_v$, and the equations

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{U} &= 0 \\ \nabla \times \mathbf{U} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Define the fluid circulation as

$$\Gamma \equiv \oint \mathbf{U} \cdot d\mathbf{s}$$

where the line integral surrounds the cylinder. What boundary condition did you assume as $r \rightarrow \infty$?

Recall the gradient and Laplacian of a scalar in cylindrical coordinates are

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2\phi &= \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial\theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2\phi}{\partial z^2} \\ \nabla\phi &= \hat{\mathbf{r}} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{\hat{\theta}}{r} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial\theta} + \hat{\mathbf{z}} \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z}\end{aligned}$$

Answer

The steady inviscid fluid flow is ...