

Task 1 (40 points). (a) Consider the velocity potential for incompressible flow around a cylinder,

$$\phi(x, y) = -u_\infty \left(x + \frac{a^2}{r^2} x \right), \quad r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \geq a. \quad (1)$$

Show that, in the asymptotic limit, for a point $(x, y) = x \hat{e}_x + y \hat{e}_y$ far from the origin, one has

$$\vec{\nabla} \phi(x, y) \rightarrow -u_\infty \hat{e}_x, \quad \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \rightarrow \infty. \quad (2)$$

and interpret your result geometrically.

(b) Evaluate the gradient of the velocity potential,

$$\vec{u}(0, y) = \vec{\nabla} \phi(0, y), \quad |y| > a, \quad (3)$$

and argue that the maximum modulus of the velocity as the fluid moves around the cylinder is $2u_\infty$, i.e., twice the speed encountered at infinity.

Hint: You might obtain the vector-valued result

$$\vec{u}(0, y) = -u_\infty \left(1 + \frac{a^2}{y^2} \right) \hat{e}_x, \quad (4)$$

but this needs to be checked. Show all your work!

Task 2 (40 points). Show, by an explicit calculation, using the Cartesian representation of the Laplacian, that

$$\vec{\nabla}^2 \phi(x, y) = 0. \quad (5)$$

Interpret your result in terms of the continuity equation and the incompressibility of the fluid.

Hint: This calculation is more involved and more difficult than it seems at first. Show all intermediate steps. Show *all* intermediate steps and do *not* refer to any general results. Your calculation must be reproducible and explicit.

Task 3 (40 points). Consider the complex potential

$$w = w(z) = -u_\infty \left(z + \frac{a^2}{z} \right), \quad z = x + iy \quad (6)$$

Decompose w into real and imaginary parts, i.e., calculate the velocity potential ϕ and the stream function ψ , in

$$w = \phi + i\psi. \quad (7)$$

Show that

$$\phi = -u_\infty \left(x + \frac{a^2}{r^2} x \right), \quad (8)$$

$$\psi = -u_\infty \left(y - \frac{a^2}{r^2} y \right). \quad (9)$$

Show that the stream function $\psi(x, y)$ assumes a constant value (which one?) along the line $y = 0$ (trivial question) and also along the border of the circle, at $r^2 = a^2$, and interpret your result physically (to the extent possible).

The tasks are due on Thursday, 11–MAR–2021.