THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - DEARBORN Boundary Layer

<u>Boundary Layer</u> - layer of fluid near the surface that has undergone a change in velocity because of the shear stress at the surface.



At the wall the fluid particles are attached to the wall (no slip b.c.)

u = 0

Assume the thickness of boundary layer is where

$$u = 0.99U$$

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - DEARBORN Boundary Layer

Note when velocity gradient is small, shear stress is small.

$$\tau = \mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

At the wall

At the boundary layer thickness, $y = \delta$

 $\tau = \tau_o \qquad \qquad \tau = 0$



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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - DEARBORN Boundary Layer Transition

• At some distance downstream on the flat plate, disturbances grow and laminar boundary layer transitions to turbulent boundary layer.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - DEARBORN Von Karman Integral

• Combining the integral form of the continuity and momentum equations results in the integral.

$$\tau_w = \rho U^2 \frac{d}{dx} \begin{bmatrix} \delta \\ \int \frac{u}{U} \left(1 - \frac{u}{U} \right) dy \end{bmatrix}$$



- Valid for laminar or turbulent flow.
- Requires knowing the velocity profile in the boundary layer.

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Von Karman Integral

• Assuming a third order polynomial

$$\frac{u}{U} = \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{y}{\delta}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{y}{\delta}\right)^3$$

• Result is the boundary layer thickness.

$$\delta = 4.65 \frac{x}{\sqrt{\text{Re}_x}}$$

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - DEARBORN Von Karman Integral

• Assuming power law form for turbulent flow.

$$\frac{u}{U} = \left(\frac{y}{\delta}\right)^{1/n} \qquad n = \begin{cases} 7 & \text{Re}_{x} < 10^{7} \\ 8 & 10^{7} < \text{Re}_{x} < 10^{8} \\ 9 & 10^{8} < \text{Re}_{x} < 10^{9} \end{cases}$$

• Result is the boundary layer thickness (n = 7).

$$\delta = 0.38 \frac{x}{\text{Re}_x^{1/5}}$$

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - DEARBORN Laminar vs. Turbulent Velocity Profile



Nondimensional Fluid Velocity Profile, u/U

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Experiment Apparatus

Pressure P in air box



- Measure air temperature (thermometer)
- Measure air velocity (pitot tube)
- Pitot tube position from plate is controlled by micrometer. Its measurement is relative.

- Blower forces air through duct.
- User controls air flow rate

Pressure Probe for Measuring Fluid Velocity

- A small diameter tube is placed with its opening perpendicular to the fluid velocity.
- The fluid at the opening of the tube has zero velocity and thus represents the stagnation pressure or total pressure.



Pressure Probe for Measuring Fluid Velocity

- A manometer is used to measure the difference between stagnation pressure and static pressure.
- Based on the hydrostatic equation, a liquid column of fluid can be converted to a pressure differential.



$$\Delta P = \frac{\rho_l g}{g_c} L$$