

A Similar Solution for the Separating Turbulent Boundary Layers of an Incompressible Fluid Flow in Two Dimensions

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<https://doi.org/10.5109/7164829>

出版情報 : Reports of Research Institute for Applied Mechanics. 9 (35), pp.143-145, 1961. 九州大学応用力学研究所
バージョン :
権利関係 :



NOTE

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By Jun-ichi OKABE

1. For the separating laminar boundary layers in two dimensions, by making use of the approximate procedure due to VON KÁRMÁN and POHLHAUSEN, a similar solution may be obtained in the forms

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta_0} = \left(1 + 120 \frac{\nu}{U_0 \delta_0} \frac{x}{\delta_0}\right)^{0.55}, \quad (1.1)$$

and

$$\frac{U}{U_0} = \left(1 + 120 \frac{\nu}{U_0 \delta_0} \frac{x}{\delta_0}\right)^{-0.1}, \quad (1.2)$$

where δ is the thickness of the laminar boundary layer and U denotes the velocity of the fluid just outside the boundary layer. x is the distance measured along the surface of the body; δ_0 and U_0 stand for the respective values of δ and U at the station $x=0$. Finally ν denotes the kinematic viscosity of the fluid as usual.¹⁾

2. In order to construct a corresponding similar solution for the separating turbulent boundary layers in two dimensions, let us start from the momentum equation of the flow, just as we did in the laminar case, which may be written down in the form

$$\frac{\tau_0}{\rho U^2} = \frac{d\theta}{dx} + (2+H) \frac{\theta}{U} \frac{dU}{dx}, \quad (2.1)$$

where τ_0 is the surface traction, θ denotes the momentum thickness of the boundary layer, H defined by the ratio of the displacement thickness to the momentum thickness is the non-dimensional parameter characterizing the velocity profiles within the boundary layer,²⁾ and ρ means the density of the fluid.

Now, since we are interested solely in the *separating* boundary layers, τ_0 on the left-hand side of the equation may be put equal to zero, and moreover from the condition of similarity H should be assumed to remain in the constant value, H_s say, corresponding to the separating velocity profile.

Accordingly we have

$$\frac{d\theta}{\theta} + (2+H_s) \frac{dU}{U} = 0, \quad (2.2)$$

1) DURAND, W. F. (ed.), *Aerodynamic Theory*, Vol. III (1935), Division G, *The Mechanics of Viscous Fluids* (by PRANDTL, L.) Section 18, p. 112 *et seq.*, especially equations (18.1) and (18.3). The numeral within the parentheses was slightly modified from the original text, assuming $\lambda = -12$ (instead of -10 , λ being the POHLHAUSEN's parameter defined by $\delta^2 dU/\nu dx$) throughout the boundary layer; cf. p. 115, *op. cit.*

2) VON DOENHOFF, A. E. and TETERVIN, N., Determination of General Relations for the Behavior of Turbulent Boundary Layers, *NACA Technical Report No. 772* (1943), especially p. 11.

and by integration we can arrive at the result

$$\frac{\theta}{\theta_0} = \left(\frac{U_0}{U} \right)^{2+H_s} \quad (2.3)$$

where use is made of the initial conditions

$$U=U_0, \quad \theta=\theta_0 \quad \text{at } x=0. \quad (2.4)$$

On the other hand, from various experimental data concerning the turbulent boundary layers, GARNER induced the following relationship among θ , H , dU/dx , and dH/dx ,¹⁾ namely

$$\theta \frac{dH}{dx} = e^{5(H-1.4)} \left\{ -\frac{\theta}{U} \frac{dU}{dx} - \frac{0.0135(H-1.4)}{R_\theta^{1/6}} \right\}, \quad (2.5)$$

where

$$R_\theta = U\theta/\nu \quad (2.6)$$

is the so-called Reynolds number of the boundary layer. Since in our case, however,

$$H=H_s=\text{constant}, \quad \text{and } dH/dx=0, \quad (2.7)$$

we should have simply

$$\frac{\theta}{U} \frac{dU}{dx} = -0.0135(H_s-1.4) \left(\frac{U\theta}{\nu} \right)^{-1/6}. \quad (2.8)$$

If (2.3) is substituted into the above expression, the latter can be readily integrated from $(x=0, U=U_0)$ to (x, U) , yielding

$$U/U_0 = (1+\xi)^{-6/(13+7H_s)}, \quad (2.9)$$

where for shortness we write

$$\xi = \frac{0.0135}{6} (13+7H_s)(H_s-1.4) \left(\frac{U_0\theta_0}{\nu} \right)^{-1/6} \frac{x}{\theta_0}. \quad (2.10)$$

Further from (2.3)

$$\theta/\theta_0 = (1+\xi)^{6(2+H_s)/(13+7H_s)}. \quad (2.11)$$

(2.9) and (2.11) correspond to (1.2) and (1.1) respectively in the laminar flow.

Finally there still remains a question regarding H_s , which is the critical value of H for the separation. According to VON DOENHOFF and TETERVIN, "Separation has not been observed for a value of H less than 1.8 and appears definitely to have occurred for a value of H of 2.6," (*loc. cit.* p. 11) and they adopted the criterion

$$H_s=2.6 \quad (2.12)$$

for their calculations. GARNER, on the other hand, states: "At a certain stage H rises very sharply; this is taken as an indication of the onset of turbulent separation, and occurs when H is about 2." (*loc. cit.* p. 118.)*

The values of $6/(13+7H_s)$, $6(2+H_s)/(13+7H_s)$, and $0.0135(13+7H_s)(H_s-1.4)/6$ were calculated for various values of H_s ranging from 1.8 to 2.6 and are reproduced in TABLE 1. In TABLE 2, assuming tentatively $H_s=2.6$, the behaviors of

$$U/U_0 = (1+\xi)^{-0.1923}, \quad (2.13)$$

and

$$\theta/\theta_0 = (1+\xi)^{0.895} \quad (2.14)$$

are shown for various values of ξ .

The writer is very grateful to Miss S. HOSHINO and Mr. H. AOKI for their assistances in preparing the manuscript.

(Received December 25, 1961)

1) GARNER, H. C., The Development of Turbulent Boundary Layers, *Reports and Remoranda*, No. 2133 (1944), equation (7).

TABLE 1.

H_s	$\frac{6}{13+7H_s}$	$\frac{6(2+H_s)}{13+7H_s}$	$h(H_s)$
1.8	0.234	0.891	0.0230
1.9	228	890	0296
2.0	222	889	0365
2.1	217	888	0436
2.2	0.211	0.887	0.0511
2.3	206	887	0589
2.4	201	886	0671
2.5	1967	885	0755
2.6	0.1923	0.885	0.0842

$$h(H_s) = \frac{0.0135}{6}(13+7H_s)(H_s-1.4)$$

$$\xi = h(H_s) \left(\frac{\theta_0 U_0}{\nu} \right)^{-1/8} \frac{x}{\theta_0}$$

* Note added in proof:

In the experiment of SCHUBAUER and KLEBANOFF, H was found to have the value 2.7 at the separation point; cf. SCHUBAUER, G.B. and KLEBANOFF, P.S., Investigation of Separation of the Turbulent Boundary Layer, *NACA Technical Report No. 1030* (1951), especially p. 7.

TABLE 2.

ξ	$(1+\xi)^{-0.1923}$	$(1+\xi)^{0.885}$	ξ	$(1+\xi)^{-0.1923}$	$(1+\xi)^{0.885}$	ξ	$(1+\xi)^{-0.1923}$	$(1+\xi)^{0.885}$
0	1.000	1.000	5.0	0.709	4.88	80	0.430	48.8
0.1	0.982	088	5.2	704	5.02	85	425	51.4
0.2	966	175	5.4	700	17	90	420	54.1
0.3	951	261	5.6	696	31	95	416	56.7
0.4	937	347	5.8	692	45	100	0.412	59.3
0.5	0.925	1.431	6.0	0.688	5.59	110	404	64.5
0.6	914	516	6.5	679	94	120	398	69.6
0.7	903	599	7.0	670	6.29	130	392	74.6
0.8	893	682	7.5	663	64	140	386	79.7
0.9	884	764	8.0	0.655	6.98	150	0.381	84.6
1.0	0.875	1.846	8.5	649	7.33	160	376	89.6
1.1	867	928	9.0	642	7.67	170	372	94.5
1.2	859	2.01	9.5	636	8.01	180	368	99.4
1.3	852	09	10	0.631	8.34	190	364	104.2
1.4	845	17	11	620	9.01	200	0.361	109.0
1.5	0.838	2.25	12	611	9.67	220	354	118.5
1.6	832	33	13	602	10.32	240	348	128.0
1.7	826	41	14	594	10.97	260	343	137.3
1.8	820	49	15	0.587	11.62	280	338	146.6
1.9	815	56	16	580	12.26	300	0.334	155.8
2.0	0.810	2.64	17	574	12.90	350	324	178.5
2.2	800	80	18	568	13.53	400	316	201
2.4	790	95	19	562	14.16	450	309	223
2.6	782	3.11	20	0.557	14.78	500	303	245
2.8	774	26	25	534	17.85			
3.0	0.766	3.41	30	517	20.9			
3.2	759	56	35	502	23.8			
3.4	752	71	40	0.490	26.7			
3.6	746	86	45	479	29.6			
3.8	740	4.01	50	469	32.4			
4.0	0.734	4.15	55	461	35.2			
4.2	728	30	60	0.454	38.0			
4.4	723	45	65	447	40.7			
4.6	718	59	70	441	43.4			
4.8	713	74	75	435	46.1			

NOTE