The Equation of Continuity and the Equation of Motion in Cartesian, cylindrical, and spherical coordinates

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Continuity Equation, Cartesian coordinates

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \left(v_x \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x} + v_y \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial y} + v_z \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial z} \right) + \rho \left(\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} \right) \; = \; 0$$

Continuity Equation, cylindrical coordinates

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (\rho r v_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (\rho v_\theta)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial (\rho v_z)}{\partial z} \; = \; 0$$

Continuity Equation, spherical coordinates

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (\rho r^2 v_r)}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial (\rho v_\theta \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial (\rho v_\phi)}{\partial \phi} \; = \; 0$$

Equation of Motion for an incompressible fluid, 3 components in Cartesian coordinates

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial t} + v_x \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + v_y \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} + v_z \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z} \right) \; = \; -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} - \left(\frac{\partial \tau_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{yx}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zx}}{\partial z} \right) + \rho g_x$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_y}{\partial t} + v_x \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} + v_y \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + v_z \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial z} \right) \; = \; -\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} - \left(\frac{\partial \tau_{xy}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{yy}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zy}}{\partial z} \right) + \rho g_y$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_x \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial x} + v_y \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial y} + v_z \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} \right) \; = \; -\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} - \left(\frac{\partial \tau_{xz}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \tau_{yz}}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zz}}{\partial z} \right) + \rho g_z$$

Equation of Motion for an incompressible fluid, 3 components in cylindrical coordinates

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{v_\theta^2}{r} + v_z \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial z} \right) \; = \; -\frac{\partial P}{\partial r} - \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (r \tau_{rr})}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \tau_{r\theta}}{\partial \theta} - \frac{\tau_{\theta\theta}}{r} + \frac{\partial \tau_{rz}}{\partial z} \right) + \rho g_r$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_\theta v_r}{r} + v_z \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial z} \right) \; = \; -\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial P}{\partial \theta} - \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 \tau_{r\theta})}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \tau_{\theta\theta}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial \tau_{\theta z}}{\partial z} \right) + \rho g_\theta$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial \theta} + v_z \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z} \right) \; = \; -\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} - \left(\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial (r \tau_{rz})}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \tau_{\theta z}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial \tau_{zz}}{\partial z} \right) + \rho g_z$$

Equation of Motion for an incompressible fluid, 3 components in spherical coordinates

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{v_\theta^2 + v_\phi^2}{r} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{\partial P}{\partial r} - \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 \tau_{rr})}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial (\tau_{r\theta} \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \tau_{r\phi}}{\partial \phi} - \frac{\tau_{\theta\theta} + \tau_{\phi\phi}}{r} \right) + \rho g_r$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \phi} + \frac{v_r v_\theta}{r} - \frac{v_\phi^2 \cot \theta}{r} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial P}{\partial \theta} - \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 \tau_{r\theta})}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial (\tau_{\theta\theta} \sin \theta)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \tau_{\theta\phi}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\tau_{r\theta}}{r} - \frac{(\cot \theta) \tau_{\phi\phi}}{r} \right) + \rho g_\theta$$

$$\rho \left(\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial t} + v_r \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_\phi}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{v_r v_\phi}{r} + \frac{v_\phi v_\theta \cot \theta}{r} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{r \sin \theta}\frac{\partial P}{\partial \phi} - \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial (r^2 \tau_{r\phi})}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \tau_{\theta\phi}}{\partial \theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial \tau_{\phi\phi}}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\tau_{r\phi}}{r} + \frac{(2 \cot \theta) \tau_{\theta\phi}}{r} \right) + \rho g_\phi$$

Equation of Motion for incompressible, Newtonian fluid (Navier-Stokes equation) 3 components in Cartesian coordinates

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial t} + v_x\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + v_y\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} + v_z\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial z}\right) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \mu\left(\frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial z^2}\right) + \rho g_x$$

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_y}{\partial t} + v_x\frac{\partial v_y}{\partial x} + v_y\frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} + v_z\frac{\partial v_y}{\partial z}\right) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} + \mu\left(\frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_y}{\partial z^2}\right) + \rho g_y$$

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_x\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial x} + v_y\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial y} + v_z\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z}\right) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} + \mu\left(\frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial z^2}\right) + \rho g_z$$

Equation of Motion for incompressible, Newtonian fluid (Navier-Stokes equation), 3 components in cylindrical coordinates

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial t} + v_r\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r}\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} - \frac{v_\theta^2}{r} + v_z\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial z}\right) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial r} + \mu\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial(rv_r)}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial^2 v_r}{\partial \theta^2} - \frac{2}{r^2}\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 v_r}{\partial z^2}\right) + \rho g_r$$

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial t} + v_r\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r}\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_r v_\theta}{r} + v_z\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial z}\right) = -\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial P}{\partial \theta} + \mu\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial(rv_\theta)}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial^2 v_\theta}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{2}{r^2}\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 v_\theta}{\partial z^2}\right) + \rho g_\theta$$

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial t} + v_r\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r}\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial \theta} + v_z\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial z}\right) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} + \mu\left(\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial \theta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v_z}{\partial z^2}\right) + \rho g_z$$

Equation of Motion for incompressible, Newtonian fluid (Navier-Stokes equation), 3 components in spherical coordinates

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial t} + v_r\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r}\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_\phi}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \phi} - \frac{v_\theta^2+v_\phi^2}{r}\right)$$
$$= -\frac{\partial P}{\partial r} + \mu\left(\nabla^2 v_r - \frac{2v_r}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2}\frac{v_\theta}{\partial\theta} - \frac{2v_\theta\cot\theta}{r^2} - \frac{2}{r^2\sin\theta}\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial\phi}\right) + \rho g_r$$

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial t} + v_r\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r}\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_\phi}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial \phi} + \frac{v_r v_\theta}{r} - \frac{v_\phi^2\cot\theta}{r}\right)$$
$$= -\frac{1}{r}\frac{\partial P}{\partial \theta} + \mu\left(\nabla^2 v_\theta + \frac{2}{r^2}\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial\theta} - \frac{v_\theta}{r^2\sin^2\theta} - \frac{2\cos\theta}{r^2\sin^2\theta}\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial\phi}\right) + \rho g_\theta$$

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial t} + v_r\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial r} + \frac{v_\theta}{r}\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \theta} + \frac{v_\phi}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial v_\phi}{\partial \phi} + \frac{v_r v_\phi}{r} + \frac{v_\phi v_\theta\cot\theta}{r}\right)$$
$$= -\frac{1}{r\sin\theta}\frac{\partial P}{\partial \phi} + \mu\left(\nabla^2 v_\phi - \frac{v_\phi}{r^2\sin^2\theta} + \frac{2}{r^2\sin\theta}\frac{\partial v_r}{\partial\phi} + \frac{2\cos\theta}{r^2\sin^2\theta}\frac{\partial v_\theta}{\partial\phi}\right) + \rho g_\phi$$

where, in these equations, $\nabla \equiv \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\left(r^2\frac{\partial}{\partial r}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2\sin\theta}\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}\left(\sin\theta\frac{\partial}{\partial\theta}\right) + \frac{1}{r^2\sin^2\theta}\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2}\right)$.

Reference: R. B. Bird, W. E. Stewart, and E. N. Lightfoot, *Transport Phenomena*, Wiley: NY, 1960.