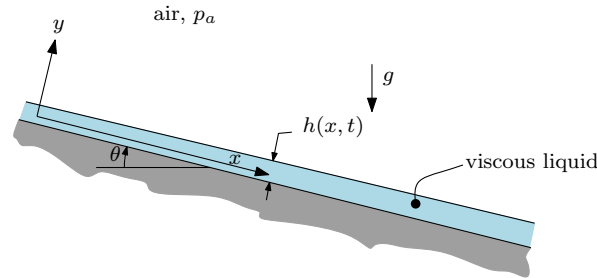


**Problem 6.16**

This problem is from “Advanced Fluid Mechanics Problems” by A.H. Shapiro and A.A. Sonin



A rigid plane surface is inclined at an angle  $\theta$  relative to the horizontal and wetted by a thin layer of highly viscous liquid which begins to flow down the incline.

- (a) Show that if the flow is two-dimensional and in the inertia-free limit, and if the angle of the inclination is not too small, the local thickness  $h(x, t)$  of the liquid layer obeys the equation

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} = 0$$

where

$$c = \frac{\rho g h^2}{\mu} \sin \theta$$

- (b) Demonstrate that the result of (a) implies that in a region where  $h$  decreases in the flow direction, the angle of the free surface relative to the inclined plane will steepen as the fluid flows down the incline, while in a region where  $h$  increases in the flow direction, the reverse is true. Does this explain something about what happens to slow-drying paint when it is applied to an inclined surface?
- (c) Considering the result of (b) above, do you think that the steady-state solutions of the previous problems would ever apply in practice? Discuss.

**Solution:**

- (a) Assumptions:

- $\text{Re}_H \frac{H}{L} \ll 1$
- two dimensional flow
- THIN layer  $\Rightarrow \frac{H}{L} = \frac{\text{characteristic height}}{\text{characteristic length}} \ll 1$

Unknown:  $h(x, t)$ ?

For the sake of completeness, this solution provides detailed nondimensionalization of full 2D Navier-Stokes as well as continuity equations. So please bear with me!!

- (1) Choose relevant scales: (\* denotes dimensionless variables)

$$\begin{aligned} x^* &= \frac{x}{L} & v_x^* &= \frac{v_x}{U} & t^* &= \frac{tU}{L} \\ y^* &= \frac{y}{H} & v_y^* &= \frac{v_y}{V} & p^* &= \frac{p}{\mathcal{P}} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{P}$  is an unknown pressure scale.

(2) Non-dimensionalize continuity:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} &= 0 \\ \frac{U}{L} \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial x^*} + \frac{V}{L} \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial y^*} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Since dimensionless variables are assumed to be of the same order ( $\mathcal{O}(1)$ ),

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{U}{L} &\sim \frac{V}{H} \\ \Rightarrow V &= \frac{H}{L} U \quad \text{where} \quad \frac{H}{L} \ll 1\end{aligned}$$

(3) Non-dimensionalize Navier-Stokes:

$x$ -direction:

$$\rho \frac{U^2}{L} \left( \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial t^*} + v_x^* \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial x^*} + v_y^* \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial y^*} \right) = -\frac{\mathcal{P}}{L} \frac{\partial p^*}{\partial x^*} + \rho g \sin \theta + \mu \left( \frac{U}{L^2} \frac{\partial^2 v_x^*}{\partial x^{*2}} + \frac{U}{H^2} \frac{\partial^2 v_x^*}{\partial y^{*2}} \right)$$

Divide through by  $\frac{\mu U}{H^2}$ :

$$\underbrace{\frac{\rho U H^2}{\mu L}}_{\text{Re}_H \frac{H}{L} = \text{small}} \left( \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial t^*} + v_x^* \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial x^*} + v_y^* \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial y^*} \right) = -\frac{\mathcal{P} H^2}{\mu U L} \frac{\partial p^*}{\partial x^*} + \frac{\rho g H^2 \sin \theta}{\mu U} + \underbrace{\left( \frac{H}{L} \right)^2}_{\text{small}} \frac{\partial^2 v_x^*}{\partial x^{*2}} + \frac{\partial^2 v_x^*}{\partial y^{*2}}$$

$y$ -direction:

$$\rho \frac{U^2}{L} \frac{H}{L} \left( \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial t^*} + v_x^* \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial x^*} + v_y^* \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial y^*} \right) = -\frac{\mathcal{P}}{H} \frac{\partial p^*}{\partial y^*} - \rho g \cos \theta + \mu \frac{H}{L} \left( \frac{U}{L^2} \frac{\partial^2 v_y^*}{\partial x^{*2}} + \frac{U}{H^2} \frac{\partial^2 v_y^*}{\partial y^{*2}} \right)$$

Divide through by  $\frac{\mu U}{H^2}$ :

$$\underbrace{\frac{\rho U H^2}{\mu L}}_{\text{Re}_H \left( \frac{H}{L} \right)^2 = \text{small}} \left( \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial t^*} + v_x^* \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial x^*} + v_y^* \frac{\partial v_y^*}{\partial y^*} \right) = -\frac{\mathcal{P} H}{\mu U} \frac{\partial p^*}{\partial y^*} - \frac{\rho g H^2 \cos \theta}{\mu U} + \underbrace{\left( \frac{H}{L} \right)^3}_{\text{small}} \frac{\partial^2 v_y^*}{\partial x^{*2}} + \underbrace{\frac{H}{L}}_{\text{small}} \frac{\partial^2 v_y^*}{\partial y^{*2}}$$

Now assume that  $\frac{\mathcal{P} H}{\mu U} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ :<sup>1</sup>

$$\mathcal{P} = \frac{\mu U}{H} \Leftarrow \text{viscous pressure scale for low Re}$$

Substitute this expression for  $\mathcal{P}$  in  $x$ -direction equation:

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= -\frac{\mu U}{H} \frac{H^2}{\mu U L} \frac{\partial p^*}{\partial x^*} + \frac{\rho g H^2 \sin \theta}{\mu U} + \frac{\partial^2 v_x^*}{\partial y^{*2}} \\ 0 &= -\underbrace{\frac{H}{L} \frac{\partial p^*}{\partial x^*}}_{\text{small}} + \frac{\rho g H^2 \sin \theta}{\mu U} + \frac{\partial^2 v_x^*}{\partial y^{*2}} \\ \Rightarrow \underbrace{0 &= \frac{\rho g H^2 \sin \theta}{\mu U} + \frac{\partial^2 v_x^*}{\partial y^{*2}}}_{x\text{-momentum}} \quad \text{and} \quad \underbrace{0 = \frac{\partial p^*}{\partial y^*} + \frac{\rho g H^2 \cos \theta}{\mu U}}_{y\text{-momentum}}\end{aligned}$$

Going back to the dimensional form,

$$0 = \rho g \sin \theta + \mu \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial y^2} \quad (6.16a)$$

<sup>1</sup>Notice we now only have a hydrostatic relation in  $y$ -direction

- (4) Solve for  $v_x$  by integrating both sides of Eq. (6.16a):

$$\int \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial y^2} dy = - \int \frac{\rho g \sin \theta}{\mu} dy$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial y^2} = - \frac{\rho g \sin \theta}{\mu} y + C_1$$

Using B.C. that  $\frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} = 0$  at  $y = h$  (free surface),

$$C_1 = \frac{\rho g h \sin \theta}{\mu}$$

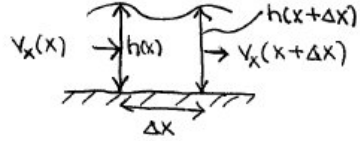
$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 v_x}{\partial y^2} = - \frac{\rho g \sin \theta}{\mu} (y - h)$$

Integrating again and using no-slip B.C. ( $v_x = 0$  at  $y = 0$ ):

$$v_x = \frac{\rho g \sin \theta}{\mu} (hy - \frac{1}{2}y^2) \quad (6.16b)$$

- (5) Use mass conservation to obtain a single evolution equation for  $h(x, t)$ .  
Consider the following control volume in the limit of  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{CV} \rho dV + \rho \int_{CS} (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_c) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}} dA = 0$$

$$\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\rho \frac{d}{dt}(h \Delta x) + \rho \int_0^h v_x dy}{\Delta x} = 0$$


$$\Rightarrow \left[ \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \int_0^h v_x dy \right) \right] = \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 0 \quad (6.16c)$$

The above equation can also be derived by combining the kinematic boundary condition,  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + v_x \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} = v_y|_{y=h(x)}$ , with conservation of mass.

- (6) Combine Eq. (6.16b) with Eq. (6.16c):

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int_0^h \frac{\rho g \sin \theta}{\mu} (hy - \frac{1}{2}y^2) dy = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \frac{\rho g \sin \theta}{\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{h^3}{3} \right) = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \underbrace{\left( \frac{\rho g \sin \theta}{\mu} h^2 \right)}_c \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} = 0} \quad (6.16d)$$

Eq. (6.16d) is a nonlinear wave equation with a solution of the form  $h = f(x - ct)$ , where  $c$  is the wave speed.

- (b) Since  $\frac{\rho g \sin \theta}{\mu} h^2 \geq 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial t}$  and  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}$  have opposite signs to satisfy Eq. (6.16d).

Thus, where  $h$  is decreasing locally ( $\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} < 0$ ),  $h$  increases in time ( $\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} > 0$ ).

Angle of free surface steepens because points of larger  $h$  increase more rapidly ( $c \sim h^2$ ) than points of lower  $h$ :

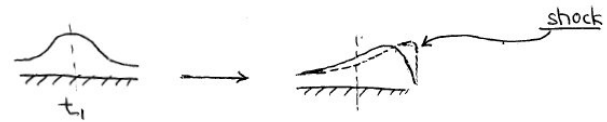


Where  $h$  is increasing locally ( $\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} > 0$ ),  $h$  decreases in time ( $\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} < 0$ ),

Angle of free surface flattens because points of larger  $h$  decrease more rapidly ( $c \sim h^2$ ) than points of lower  $h$ :



$\therefore$  In the case of slow-drying paint, when there is a bump, Eq. (6.16d) dictates that the bump grows! However it never forms a shock because in reality, one has to consider effects of surface tension.



In practice, the solution to Eq. (6.16d) fails (or goes unstable) in the case of a symmetric perturbation, as explained in (b). Thus, it is not very applicable unless one accounts or effects of surface tension and such.

However, when  $h$  is monotonically increasing ( $\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} > 0$  everywhere) the solution to Eq. (6.16d) is indeed stable since it predicts that  $h$  flattens in time.

□

## Problem 6.21

(a) In terms of flow geometry, this problem is similar to 6.3; the difference here being that the flow is ‘unsteady’!

Writing the Navier-Stokes equation in the cylindrical gap between the bearing pad and ground:

$$\rho \left( \underbrace{\frac{\partial u_r}{\partial t}}_I + \underbrace{u_r \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial r}}_{II} + \frac{u_\theta}{r} \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial \theta} + \underbrace{u_z \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial z}}_{III} - \frac{u_\theta^2}{r} \right) = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + \mu \left[ \underbrace{\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial u_r}{\partial r} \right)}_{IV} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u_r}{\partial \theta^2} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial^2 u_r}{\partial z^2}}_V - \underbrace{\frac{u_r}{r^2}}_{VI} - \frac{2}{r^2} \frac{\partial u_\theta}{\partial \theta} \right]$$

Let's perform an order-of-magnitude analysis. Note that  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} = 0$ .

$$\frac{IV}{V} \sim \frac{h^2}{D^2} \ll 1$$

(Note that terms  $IV$  and  $VI$  are of the same order, so that both vanish compared to  $V$ !)

$$\frac{II}{V} \sim \frac{\rho v_r D}{\mu} \left( \frac{h^2}{D^2} \right) \ll 1$$

Invoking the continuity equation in cylindrical coordinates, we have:

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r u_r) + \frac{\partial u_z}{\partial z} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{u_r}{r} \sim \frac{u_z}{z} \quad (1)$$

Also, we have

$$\frac{II}{III} \sim \frac{\frac{u_r}{r}}{\frac{u_z}{z}} \quad (2)$$

From (1) and (2), we can say that  $II$  and  $III$  are of the same order. Hence, both vanish compared to  $V$ .

Now, let's look at where  $I$  stands! We have:

$$\frac{I}{V} \sim \frac{\rho h^2}{\mu \tau}$$

where,  $\tau$  is the time scale involved in this process. The source of unsteadiness is the pad settling down, which renders  $u_r$  and other flow variables time-dependent. Hence,

$$\tau \sim \frac{h}{S} \Rightarrow \frac{I}{V} \sim \frac{\rho S h}{\mu}$$

Since it is given that  $S$  is very small and also  $h$  is small, we can safely assume that  $I$  can be neglected compared to  $V$ . Hence we have the N-S eqn as:

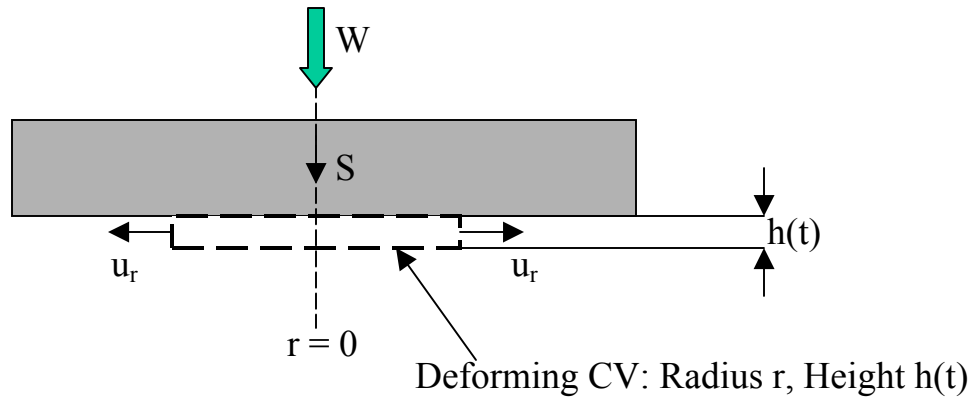
$$-\frac{\partial p}{\partial r} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 u_r}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

Integrating, we get  $u_r(z)$  as:

$$u_r = \frac{1}{2\mu} \left( -\frac{\partial p}{\partial r} \right) (zh - z^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow Q(r) = 2\pi r \int_0^h u_r(z) dz = \frac{h^3 \pi r}{6\mu} \left( -\frac{\partial p}{\partial r} \right) = \frac{h^3 \pi r}{6\mu} \left( -\frac{dp}{dr} \right) \quad (3)$$

Note that  $Q$  is a function of  $r$ , since the settling down of the pad drives greater and greater flow rates as  $r$  increases! This can be verified by applying mass conservation in a cylindrical  $CV$ , as shown. The height of this  $CV$  changes as  $h(t)$ .



$$0 = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{CV} \rho dV + \int_{CS} \rho (\vec{V} - \vec{V}_{CS}) \cdot \vec{n} dA$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} (\pi r^2 h) + 2\pi r h u_r = 0 \Rightarrow -\pi r^2 \frac{dh}{dt} = 2\pi r h u_r = Q(r)$$

Since,  $\frac{dh}{dt} = -S$ , we have:

$$Q(r) = \pi r^2 S$$

Plugging  $Q(r)$  into (3), we have:

$$\pi r^2 S = \frac{h^3 \pi r}{6\mu} \left( -\frac{dp}{dr} \right) \Rightarrow dp = -\frac{6\mu S r}{h^3} dr$$

$$\Rightarrow p(r) = \frac{3\mu S}{h^3} \left( \frac{D^2}{4} - r^2 \right)$$

where the BC used is  $p\left(\frac{D}{2}\right) = 0$  (gauge pressure!)

Now, we can perform a vertical force-balance on the pad:

$$W = \frac{3\mu S}{h^3} \int_0^{\frac{D}{2}} \left( \frac{D^2}{4} - r^2 \right) 2\pi r dr = \frac{3\pi\mu S D^4}{32h^3}$$

$$\Rightarrow S = \frac{32Wh^3}{3\pi\mu D^4} \quad (4)$$

(b) Plugging in the numbers, we obtain

$$S = \frac{32 \times 100 \times 27 \times 10^{-15}}{3\pi \times 0.93 \times 81 \times 10^{-4}} = 1.2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m/s} \quad (\text{very small!})$$

(c) From (4), we have:

$$S = -\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{32Wh^3}{3\pi\mu D^4} \Rightarrow -\int_{h_0}^h \frac{dh}{h^3} = \int_0^t \frac{32W}{3\pi\mu D^4} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{h^2} - \frac{1}{h_0^2} = \frac{64Wt}{3\pi\mu D^4} \Rightarrow \frac{h}{h_0} = \left[ 1 + \frac{64Wh_0^2}{3\pi\mu D^4} t \right]^{-1/2}$$

(d)  $2h = h_0$ . Plugging in the values, we get the time required as 10.4 hours.

(e) Referring to relation (5),  $S = \frac{dh}{dt}$  instead of  $-\frac{dh}{dt}$  and consequently, we have:

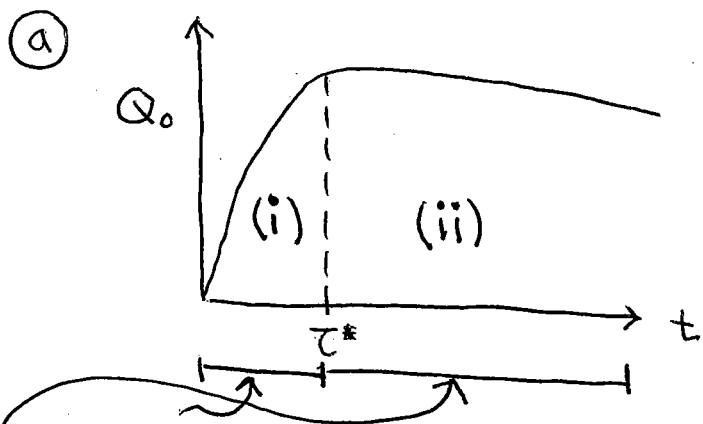
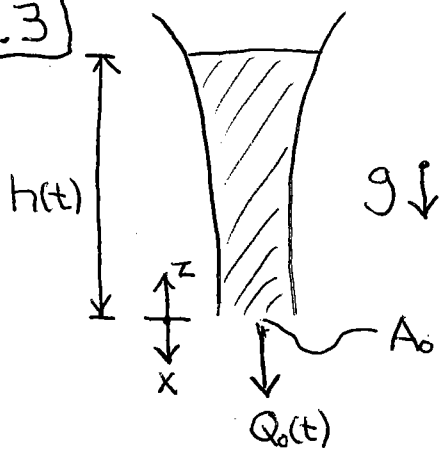
$$\frac{1}{h_0^2} - \frac{1}{h^2} = \frac{64Ft}{3\pi\mu D^4}$$

As the disk is pulled away,  $h \rightarrow \infty$  and we have  $t_\infty$  as:

$$t_\infty = \frac{3\pi\mu D^4}{64h_0^2 F}$$

*Solution by Mayank Kumar, Fall 2007*

8.3



- (i) Before  $t^*$ ,  $Q_0$  increases to a maximum value since flow has to accelerate from 0 to a certain value. In this region, the inertia terms (namely,  $\rho \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial t}$ ) dominate, thus explaining a roughly linear increase in  $Q_0$  with time.
- (ii) Once  $Q_0$  reaches its maximum value, the viscous effects become more important ( $\frac{\mu}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial r})$ ); therefore,  $Q_0$  decreases slowly.

(b) At  $t = t^*$ , we may assume that  $\rho \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial t} \sim \frac{\mu}{r} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial r})$  based on our reasoning in (a).

$$\therefore \underbrace{\frac{\rho U}{t^*} \cdot \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial t^*}}_{\text{dimensionless}} \sim \underbrace{\frac{\mu U}{R_0^2} \cdot \frac{1}{r^*} \frac{\partial}{\partial r^*} (r^* \frac{\partial v_x^*}{\partial r^*})}_{\text{dimensionless}} \Rightarrow \sim O(1)$$

$$\therefore \rho \frac{U}{t^*} \sim \frac{\mu U}{R_0^2} \quad \text{OR} \quad \cancel{\rho} \frac{1}{t^*} \sim \frac{\mu}{A_0}$$

$\therefore \boxed{t^* \sim \frac{A_0}{U}}$  ← This is equivalent to diffusion time scale that measures how long it takes for fluid particles in the middle of the pipe to feel wall effects!



©

inertia-free  $\Rightarrow$  neglect  $\frac{D\mathbf{v}}{Dt}$  terms

gradually varying  $A \Rightarrow$  Assume locally fully-developed

$\Rightarrow$  N.S. equations reduce to

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} 0 &= -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + \frac{\mu}{r} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} \right) - \rho g \\ 0 &= \frac{\partial p}{\partial r} \Rightarrow p \neq p(r) \end{aligned}} \quad (8.3C-1)$$

(\* Please refer back to Solution 6.10 for details of systematically reducing Navier-Stokes equations.)

- Use separation of variables on (8.3C-1) to solve for  $v_z$ :

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r \frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} \right) = \frac{r}{\mu} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial v_z}{\partial r} = \frac{r}{2\mu} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \right) + \frac{C_1}{r} \quad v_z \equiv \text{finite at } r=0$$

$$v_z = \frac{r^2}{4\mu} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \right) + C_1 \ln r + C_2$$

$$v_z(r=R)=0 = \frac{R^2(z)}{4\mu} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \right) + C_2$$

$$\therefore \boxed{v_z = \frac{1}{4\mu} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \right) (r^2 - R^2(z))} \quad (8.3C-2)$$

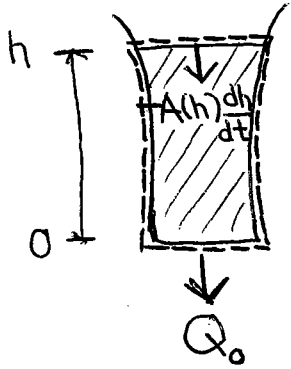
- Look at mass conservation:

$$Q(t) = Q_0(t) = \int_0^{R(z)} \underbrace{(-v_z)}_{\substack{\text{due to the} \\ \text{way } \hat{e}_z \text{ and} \\ \text{the direction of} \\ \text{flow are} \\ \text{defined}}} 2\pi r dr$$

$$= -\frac{\pi}{2\mu} \int_0^{R(z)} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \right) (r^3 - R^2(z)r) dr$$

$$= \frac{\pi R^4(z)}{8\mu} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} \right)$$

Consider the following control volume.



By mass conservation,

$$\underbrace{A(h) \frac{dh}{dt}}_{\approx \text{the rate of CV increasing}} + \underbrace{Q_0}_{\text{the rate of mass exiting CV}} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow Q_0 = -A(h) \frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{\pi R^4(z)}{8\mu} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} \right)$$

OR

Since  $A(z) = \pi R^2(z)$ ,

$$-A(h) \frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{A^2(z)}{8\pi\mu} \left( \rho g + \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} \right) (= Q_0) \quad (8.3c-3)$$

- Solve for pressure by integrating wrt  $z$  on both sides:

$$\int_{P(z=0)}^{P(z=h)} dP = - \int_0^{h(t)} \rho g dz - 8\pi\mu A(h) \frac{dh}{dt} \int_0^{h(t)} \frac{dz}{A^2(z)}$$

$$\cancel{P_{atm}} \rightarrow P_{atm} = -\rho g h(t) - 8\pi\mu A(h) \frac{dh}{dt} \int_0^{h(t)} \frac{dz}{A^2(z)}$$

By re-arranging,

$$\boxed{\frac{dh}{dt} = - \frac{\rho g h(t)}{8\pi\mu A(h)} \left[ \int_0^{h(t)} \frac{dz}{A^2(z)} \right]^{-1}} \quad (8.3c-4)$$

④ With solution in ③ given, check if inertia effects are indeed negligible in comparison to viscous terms:

(In other words,  $\frac{A}{\nu \tau} \ll 1$  ??)

\* Keep in mind that  $H$  is the big length scale and  $\sqrt{A}$  the small!!  
 $\Rightarrow A/H^2 \ll 1$

- Obtain the characteristic time scale,  $\tau$ , by non-dimensionalizing (8.3C-4):

$$\frac{H}{\tau} \cdot \frac{dh^*}{dt^*} = \frac{gH}{8\pi\nu A} \cdot \frac{A^*}{H} - \frac{h^*(t)}{A^*(h)} \left[ \int_0^{h^*} \frac{dz^*}{A^{*2}(z)} \right]^{-1}$$

$$\therefore \tau \sim \frac{\nu H}{gA}$$

- Plug the above expression for  $\tau$  into  $\frac{A}{\nu \tau}$ :

$$\frac{A}{\nu \tau} = \frac{A}{\nu} \cdot \frac{gA}{\nu H} = \underbrace{\frac{A}{H^2}}_{\text{small}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{gAH}{\nu^2}}_{?}$$

We need a scale to relate gravitational effects to viscous.

$\Rightarrow$  Rescale (8.3C-3)!!

$$\underbrace{VA}_{\text{characteristic velocity}} \sim Q_0 = \frac{A^2}{8\pi\mu} \underbrace{\left( \rho g + \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} \right)}_{\text{of the same order}} \sim \frac{gA^2}{\nu}$$

$$\therefore \frac{gA}{\nu} \sim V$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{A}{\nu \tau} = \frac{A}{H^2} \cdot \frac{VH}{\nu} = \boxed{Re_H \cdot \frac{A}{H^2} \ll 1}$$

$\uparrow$   
 This is consistent with our initial inertia-free assumption!