

Continuum

Consider the variation of density as a function of the size of an element ΔV

→ Density at a point is defined as

$$\rho = \lim_{\Delta V \rightarrow 0} \frac{m}{\Delta V}$$

→ If ΔV is very large, ρ is affected by the inhomogeneities in the fluid itself arising from varying composition and temperature distribution

→ As ΔV becomes smaller, an almost uniform density is reached, independent of ΔV

→ If ΔV is very small so to cover just one particle, the density would fluctuate between zero and a finite value, depending on whether or not the particle is to be found in ΔV at a given instant

→ Also, if ΔV is very small, random fluctuations in positions of atoms/molecules would change their number (and hence m) from one instant to another

→ Continuum approximation

the point density

as the value of ρ which occurs at the smallest magnitude of ΔV , before statistical

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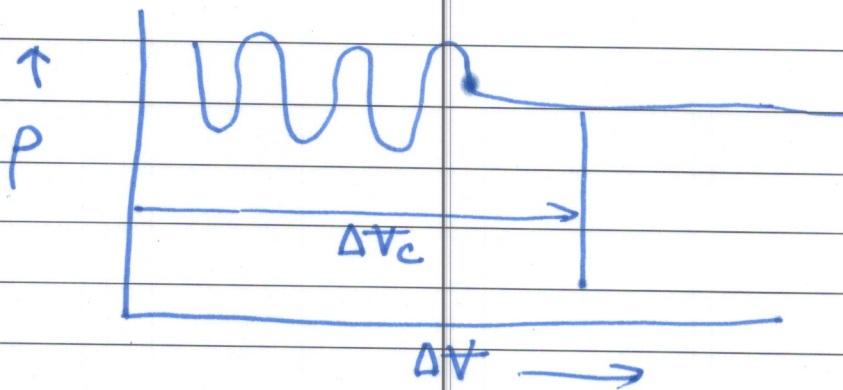
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 $\Delta V_c \rightarrow \text{limit}$

$$\rho = \lim_{\Delta V \rightarrow \Delta V_c} \frac{m}{\Delta V}$$

Similarly, magnitude of a point stress component

$$\sigma = \lim_{\Delta A \rightarrow \Delta A_c} \frac{F}{\Delta A} \quad \begin{array}{l} \leftarrow \text{force associated} \\ \leftarrow \Delta A \text{ is infinitesimal area} \end{array}$$



Concept of continuum

→ Continuum concept breaks down

if the density of the fluid is so small that the molecular motion occurs on the same scale as the mean fluid movement

→ if λ_g — represent mean free path

L — characteristic dimension of macroscopic form

Continuum concept is valid if

$$\frac{\lambda_g}{L} \ll 1$$

Introduction (contd)

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$$\frac{\lambda g}{L} \leftarrow \text{Knudsen number} \rightarrow Kn$$

Order of unity in rarefied gas flows

(Upper layers of earth's atmosphere)

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Fluid properties

} which are related to fluid behavior

→ different fluids have different characteristics
- Example - Gases are light & compressible
- liquids are heavy (incompressible)

→ syrup flows slowly from a container
→ water flows rapidly when poured from the same container

ρ ← density

v ← specific volume

$\gamma = \rho g$ ← specific weight

specific gravity

} ratio of the density of the fluid to its density of water at some specified temperature

specified temperature $\sim 4^\circ\text{C}$ (39.2F)

$$\text{sp. gravity} = \frac{\rho}{\rho_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \sim 4^\circ\text{C}}$$

Ideal gas laws

$$p = \rho R T$$

Pa (Pascal) N/m^2

Gage pressure

Some of the earliest writings that pertain to modern fluid mechanics can be traced back to the ancient Greek civilization and subsequent Roman Empire.

Before proceeding with our study of fluid mechanics, we should pause for a moment to consider the history of this important engineering science. As is true of all basic scientific and engineering disciplines, their actual beginnings are only faintly visible through the haze of early antiquity. But, we know that interest in fluid behavior dates back to the ancient civilizations. Through necessity there was a practical concern about the manner in which spears and arrows could be propelled through the air, in the development of water supply and irrigation systems, and in the design of boats and ships. These developments were of course based on trial and error procedures without any knowledge of mathematics or mechanics. However, it was the accumulation of such empirical knowledge that formed the basis for further development during the emergence of the ancient Greek civilization and the subsequent rise of the Roman Empire. Some of the earliest writings that pertain to modern fluid mechanics are those of Archimedes (287–212 B.C.), a Greek mathematician and inventor who first expressed the principles of hydrostatics and flotation. Elaborate water supply systems were built by the Romans during the period from the fourth century B.C. through the early Christian period, and Sextus Julius Frontinus (A.D. 40–103), a Roman engineer, described these systems in detail. However, for the next 1000 years during the Middle Ages (also referred to as the Dark Ages), there appears to have been little added to further understanding of fluid behavior.

As shown in Fig. 1.11, beginning with the Renaissance period (about the fifteenth century) a rather continuous series of contributions began that forms the basis of what we consider to be the science of fluid mechanics. Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519) described through sketches and writings many different types of flow phenomena. The work of Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) marked the beginning of experimental mechanics. Following the early Renaissance period and during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, numerous significant contributions were made. These include theoretical and mathematical advances associated with the famous names of Newton, Bernoulli, Euler, and d’Alembert. Experimental aspects of fluid mechanics were also advanced during this period, but unfortunately the two different approaches, theoretical and experimental, developed along separate paths. *Hydrodynamics* was the term associated with the theoretical or mathematical study of idealized, frictionless fluid behavior, with the term *hydraulics* being used to describe the applied or experimental aspects of real fluid behavior, particularly the behavior of water. Further contributions and refinements were made to both theoretical hydrodynamics and experimental hydraulics during the nineteenth century, with the general differential equations describing fluid motions that are used in modern fluid mechanics being developed in this period. Experimental hydraulics became more of a science, and many of the results of experiments performed during the nineteenth century are still used today.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, both the fields of theoretical hydrodynamics and experimental hydraulics were highly developed, and attempts were being made to unify the two. In 1904 a classic paper was presented by a German professor, Ludwig Prandtl (1875–1953), who introduced the concept of a “fluid boundary layer,” which laid the foundation for the unification of

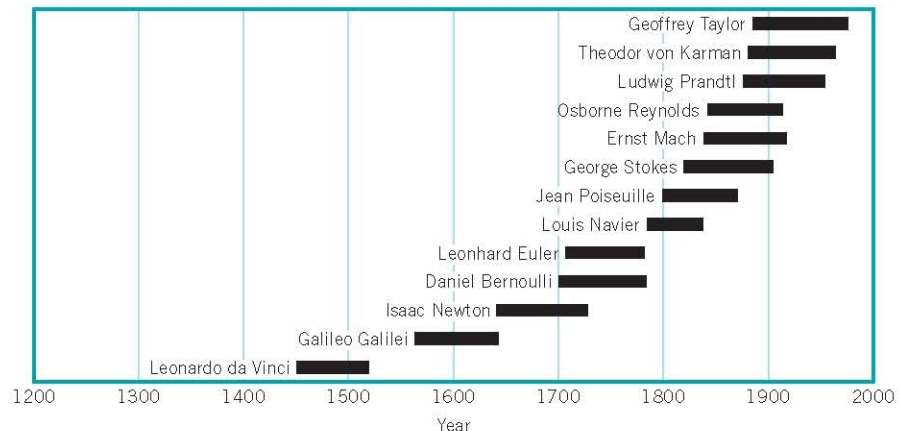


FIGURE 1.11 Time line of some contributors to the science of fluid mechanics.

The rich history of fluid mechanics is fascinating, and many of the contributions of the pioneers in the field are noted in the succeeding chapters.

the theoretical and experimental aspects of fluid mechanics. Prandtl's idea was that for flow next to a solid boundary a thin fluid layer (boundary layer) develops in which friction is very important, but outside this layer the fluid behaves very much like a frictionless fluid. This relatively simple concept provided the necessary impetus for the resolution of the conflict between the hydrodynamicists and the hydraulicists. Prandtl is generally accepted as the founder of modern fluid mechanics.

Also, during the first decade of the twentieth century, powered flight was first successfully demonstrated with the subsequent vastly increased interest in *aerodynamics*. Because the design of aircraft required a degree of understanding of fluid flow and an ability to make accurate predictions of the effect of air flow on bodies, the field of aerodynamics provided a great stimulus for the many rapid developments in fluid mechanics that took place during the twentieth century.

As we proceed with our study of the fundamentals of fluid mechanics, we will continue to note the contributions of many of the pioneers in the field. Table 1.9 provides a chronological list-



Leonardo da Vinci



Isaac Newton



Daniel Bernoulli



Ernst Mach

TABLE 1.9

Chronological Listing of Some Contributors to the Science of Fluid Mechanics Noted in the Text^a

<p>ARCHIMEDES (287–212 B.C.) Established elementary principles of buoyancy and flotation.</p>	<p>ANTOINE CHEZY (1718–1798) Formulated similarity parameter for predicting flow characteristics of one channel from measurements on another.</p>
<p>SEXTUS JULIUS FRONTINUS (A.D. 40–103) Wrote treatise on Roman methods of water distribution.</p>	<p>GIOVANNI BATTISTA VENTURI (1746–1822) Performed tests on various forms of mouthpieces—in particular, conical contractions and expansions.</p>
<p>LEONARDO da VINCI (1452–1519) Expressed elementary principle of continuity; observed and sketched many basic flow phenomena; suggested designs for hydraulic machinery.</p>	<p>LOUIS MARIE HENRI NAVIER (1785–1836) Extended equations of motion to include “molecular” forces.</p>
<p>GALILEO GALILEI (1564–1642) Indirectly stimulated experimental hydraulics; revised Aristotelian concept of vacuum.</p>	<p>AUGUSTIN LOUIS de CAUCHY (1789–1857) Contributed to the general field of theoretical hydrodynamics and to the study of wave motion.</p>
<p>EVANGELISTA TORRICELLI (1608–1647) Related barometric height to weight of atmosphere, and form of liquid jet to trajectory of free fall.</p>	<p>GOTTHILF HEINRICH LUDWIG HAGEN (1797–1884) Conducted original studies of resistance in and transition between laminar and turbulent flow.</p>
<p>BLAISE PASCAL (1623–1662) Finally clarified principles of barometer, hydraulic press, and pressure transmissibility.</p>	<p>JEAN LOUIS POISEUILLE (1799–1869) Performed meticulous tests on resistance of flow through capillary tubes.</p>
<p>ISAAC NEWTON (1642–1727) Explored various aspects of fluid resistance—inertial, viscous, and wave; discovered jet contraction.</p>	<p>HENRI PHILIBERT GASPARD DARCY (1803–1858) Performed extensive tests on filtration and pipe resistance; initiated open-channel studies carried out by Bazin.</p>
<p>HENRI de PITOT (1695–1771) Constructed double-tube device to indicate water velocity through differential head.</p>	<p>JULIUS WEISBACH (1806–1871) Incorporated hydraulics in treatise on engineering mechanics, based on original experiments; noteworthy for flow patterns, nondimensional coefficients, weir, and resistance equations.</p>
<p>DANIEL BERNOULLI (1700–1782) Experimented and wrote on many phases of fluid motion, coining name “hydrodynamics”; devised manometry technique and adapted primitive energy principle to explain velocity-head indication; proposed jet propulsion.</p>	<p>WILLIAM FROUDE (1810–1879) Developed many towing-tank techniques, in particular the conversion of wave and boundary layer resistance from model to prototype scale.</p>
<p>LEONHARD EULER (1707–1783) First explained role of pressure in fluid flow; formulated basic equations of motion and so-called Bernoulli theorem; introduced concept of cavitation and principle of centrifugal machinery.</p>	<p>ROBERT MANNING (1816–1897) Proposed several formulas for open-channel resistance.</p>
<p>JEAN le ROND d’ALEMBERT (1717–1783) Originated notion of velocity and acceleration components, differential expression of continuity, and paradox of zero resistance to steady nonuniform motion.</p>	<p>GEORGE GABRIEL STOKES (1819–1903) Derived analytically various flow relationships ranging from wave mechanics to viscous resistance—particularly that for the settling of spheres.</p>
	<p>ERNST MACH (1838–1916) One of the pioneers in the field of supersonic aerodynamics.</p>

TABLE 1.9 (continued)



Osborne Reynolds



Ludwig Prandtl

OSBORNE REYNOLDS (1842–1912)
Described original experiments in many fields—cavitation, river model similarity, pipe resistance—and devised two parameters for viscous flow; adapted equations of motion of a viscous fluid to mean conditions of turbulent flow.

JOHN WILLIAM STRUTT, LORD RAYLEIGH (1842–1919)
Investigated hydrodynamics of bubble collapse, wave motion, jet instability, laminar flow analogies, and dynamic similarity.

VINCENZ STROUHAL (1850–1922)
Investigated the phenomenon of “singing wires.”

EDGAR BUCKINGHAM (1867–1940)
Stimulated interest in the United States in the use of dimensional analysis.

MORITZ WEBER (1871–1951)
Emphasized the use of the principles of similitude in fluid flow studies and formulated a capillarity similarity parameter.

LUDWIG PRANDTL (1875–1953)
Introduced concept of the boundary layer and is generally considered to be the father of present-day fluid mechanics.

LEWIS FERRY MOODY (1880–1953)
Provided many innovations in the field of hydraulic machinery. Proposed a method of correlating pipe resistance data which is widely used.

THEODOR VON KÁRMÁN (1881–1963)
One of the recognized leaders of twentieth century fluid mechanics. Provided major contributions to our understanding of surface resistance, turbulence, and wake phenomena.

PAUL RICHARD HEINRICH BLASIUS (1883–1970)
One of Prandtl’s students who provided an analytical solution to the boundary layer equations. Also, demonstrated that pipe resistance was related to the Reynolds number.

^aAdapted from Ref. 2, used by permission of the Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research, The University of Iowa.

ing of some of these contributors and reveals the long journey that makes up the history of fluid mechanics. This list is certainly not comprehensive with regard to all of the past contributors, but includes those who are mentioned in this text. As mention is made in succeeding chapters of the various individuals listed in Table 1.9, a quick glance at this table will reveal where they fit into the historical chain.

It is, of course, impossible to summarize the rich history of fluid mechanics in a few paragraphs. Only a brief glimpse is provided, and we hope it will stir your interest. References 2 to 5 are good starting points for further study, and in particular Ref. 2 provides an excellent, broad, easily read history. Try it—you might even enjoy it!