

IV-10 (a) A fluid is said to be *incompressible* if its density ρ is a constant (that is, is independent of x , y , z , and t). Use the continuity equation to show that the velocity \mathbf{v} of an incompressible fluid satisfies the equation $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$.

(b) If $\nabla \times \mathbf{v} = 0$, the fluid flow is said to be *irrotational*. Show that for an incompressible fluid undergoing irrotational flow,

$$\nabla^2 \phi = 0,$$

where ϕ , a scalar function called the *velocity potential*, is so defined that $\mathbf{v} = \nabla \phi$

(a) $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0, \mathbf{J} = \rho \mathbf{v}$, now ρ is a constant, so $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$

(b) $\text{Curl } \mathbf{v} = 0$, 所以存在 ϕ 使得 $\mathbf{v} = \nabla \phi$

由(a) $\nabla \cdot (\nabla \phi) = 0$, 即 $\nabla^2 \phi = 0$