Vena Contracta



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The Best Nozzle is No Nozzle(?)

Reservoir at pressure P with small aperture:

$$v_{\text{reservoir}} \approx 0, \qquad v_{\text{jet}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{P}{\rho}}.$$

Jet emerges perpendicular to the plane of the aperture.

Reservoir + short nozzle:

No reservoir, just a straight tube. $v_{jet} = v_{tube}$:

Most nozzle R&D is concerned with making a jet break up quickly and uniformly (atomizing), rather than with preserving the jet. KIRK T. MCDONALD

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Conservation of Energy vs. $\mathbf{F} = d\mathbf{P}/dt$ at a Contraction? (Borda, 1766)

Incompressible fluid $\Rightarrow V_1 A_1 = V_2 A_2$.

 $A_2 \ll A_1 \Rightarrow V_1 \ll V_2.$

Conservation of Energy \Rightarrow Bernoulli's Law:

$$P_1 + \frac{1}{2}\rho V_1^2 = P_2 + \frac{1}{2}\rho V_2^2.$$

 $V_1 \ll V_2 \Rightarrow V_2^2 \approx 2\frac{P_1 - P_2}{\rho}$

Argument does not depend on the area.

 $\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F} &= d\mathbf{P}/dt; \\ \text{Mass flux} &= \rho V A. \\ \text{Momentum flux} &= \rho V^2 A. \\ \text{Net momentum flux} &= \rho (V_2^2 A_2 - V_1^2 A_1) \\ &= \rho V_2 A_2 (V_2 - V_1) \approx \rho V_2^2 A_2. \end{aligned}$

Force $\approx (P_1 - P_2)A_2$.

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{d\mathbf{P}}{dt} \Rightarrow \qquad V_2^2 \approx \frac{P_1 - P_2}{\rho}$$

Consistency \Rightarrow dissipative loss of energy, OR jet pulls away from the wall and contracts.

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Vena Contracta

Cavitation can be induced by a sharp-edged aperture.

A jet emerging from a small aperture in a reservoir contracts in area:

$$A_{\text{jet}} = \frac{\pi}{\pi + 2} A_{\text{aperture}} = 0.62 A_{\text{aperture}}$$
$$d_{\text{jet}} = 0.78 \ d_{\text{aperture}}$$

2-d potential flow (conservation of energy) \Rightarrow analytic form:

$$x = \frac{2d}{\pi + 2} (\tanh^{-1} \cos \theta - \cos \theta), \qquad y = d - \frac{2d}{\pi + 2} (1 + \sin \theta),$$
$$\theta = \text{angle of streamline}, \qquad -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < 0.$$

90% of contraction occurs for x < 0.8d.

Good agreement between theory and experiment.

