Symmetry relations in viscoplastic drag laws

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The following note shows that the symmetry of various resistance formulae, often based on Lorentz reciprocity for linearly viscous fluids, applies to a wide class of nonlinear viscoplastic fluids. This follows from Edelen’s nonlinear generalization of the Onsager relation for the special case of \textit{strongly dissipative} rheology, where constitutive equations are derivable from his dissipation potential. For flow domains with strong dissipation in the interior and on a portion of the boundary, this implies strong dissipation on the remaining portion of the boundary, with strongly dissipative traction–velocity response given by a dissipation potential. This leads to a nonlinear generalization of Stokes resistance formulae for a wide class of viscoplastic fluid problems. We consider the application to nonlinear Darcy flow and to the effective slip for viscoplastic flow over textured surfaces.

1. Introduction

Symmetry occupies an important position in the classical linear theories of elasticity, viscosity and viscoelasticity, where it is synonymous with self-adjointness and Lorentz reciprocity.

In the case of (hyper)elastic materials, the symmetry of the linear-elastic modulus is a consequence of the existence of a strain-energy function, whereas in the case of linearly viscous fluids, the symmetry of the viscosity tensor represents Rayleigh–Onsager symmetry. As shown by Day [1], the same symmetry applies to the linear-viscoelastic memory function for materials that exhibit time-reversibility on certain closed strain paths. of the linear relation connecting generalized force \( f(t) \) and velocity \( v(t) \) in the time domain.
For the special case of Newtonian fluids, there have been numerous applications of Lorentz reciprocity to problems of Stokes (inertialess) flow [2–4] to obtain various symmetry restrictions on the associated drag laws. In a similar spirit, this same principle has been applied to the symmetries of apparent slip in the far-field above arbitrarily textured surfaces with arbitrary local Navier-slip distribution [5]. This problem area has received attention in recent times due to the potential applications in microfluidics; see Kamrin & Stone in [5] for a large body of related work.

While the above symmetry is bound up with variational principles based on the associated quadratic forms, there exist more general nonlinear variants. Thus, in the case of nonlinear hyperelasticity, there exist well-known elastostatic variational principles, with elastic stress given by the gradient of a strain-energy function, or by an associated pseudo-linear form involving a symmetric (tangent) modulus based on the Hessian of a complementary energy.

Less well known are the analogous forms for strictly dissipative nonlinear systems given by the general theory of Edelen [6–8] as a generalization of Onsager symmetry. In particular, Edelen proves that, modulo a gyroscopic or ‘powerless’ force, the dissipative force \( f \) is given as the gradient \( \partial_{v} \psi (v) \) of a dissipation potential \( \psi (v) \) depending on a generalized velocity \( v \) or, again, by a pseudo-linear form based on the Hessian of a complimentary potential. Whenever the gyroscopic force is identically zero, we call the system strongly dissipative or, by analogy to the elastic case, hyperdissipative. For later reference, we note the dual form \( v = \partial_{f} \phi (f) \) where \( \phi \) is the (Legendre–Fenchel) convex conjugate of \( \psi \).

The main goal of the current note is to identify and exploit connections between strongly dissipative local properties of a system (i.e. constitutive relations and/or surface interactions) and strongly dissipative global properties, which often take the form of homogenized macroscale relations. In particular, we will demonstrate how this result restricts (i) Darcy-like laws for porous flow and, (ii) effective slip relations over textured surfaces, when the fluid rheology and surface interactions are nonlinear and exhibit a strongly dissipative form. Throughout, we emphasize the ubiquity of strong dissipation among commonly used viscoplastic fluid models and, hence, the generality of the results to be presented.

As discussed elsewhere [8], Edelen’s work has interesting implications for rate-independent rigid plasticity, where plastic potentials are often based on rather special physical arguments. Moreover, Edelen’s work provides a rigorous mathematical extension to the phenomenological viscoplastic potentials introduced by others [9,10], which leads to interesting analogies between viscoplasticity and nonlinear elasticity. In both domains, variational principles govern quasi-static stress equilibrium, and the associated symmetry carries over to various symmetries in global force laws. Existing applications of viscoplastic potentials involve the development of extremum principles for particular non-Newtonian fluids [11,12], bounds for nonlinear homogenization [13] and ice-sheet dynamics [14].

In this work, we apply related variational methods to the two viscoplastic flows mentioned above. In both instances, a set of symmetry conditions and differential constraints arise as necessary conditions on the global resistance formulae. We first develop the theory and then discuss its applications in §§4 and 5.

### 2. Strongly dissipative rheology and mobile boundaries

In what follows \( \sigma \) represents Cauchy stress, \( v \) material velocity and \( D = \text{sym}(\nabla v) \) associated strain-rate tensor, all fields depending on spatial position and time, \( x \) and \( t \). The prime ‘ \( \cdot \)’ is employed to denote the deviator, with

\[
S \equiv \sigma' \equiv \sigma - \frac{1}{3}(\text{tr} \sigma)1 \quad \text{and} \quad E \equiv D' = D - \frac{1}{3}(\text{tr} \ D)1,
\]

(2.1)

where \( 1 \) denotes the three-dimensional identity tensor.
Table 1. Common incompressible fluid models exhibiting a strongly dissipative form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>fluid model</th>
<th>deviatoric stress $S$</th>
<th>dissipation potential $\psi$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newtonian</td>
<td>$2\eta E$</td>
<td>$\eta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>power-law</td>
<td>$2K</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingham plastic</td>
<td>$\mu E/</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herschel–Bulkley</td>
<td>$\mu E/</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We begin by defining a strongly dissipative incompressible viscoplastic fluid as one which obeys

$$S = S(E) = \partial_E \psi(E)' , \quad \text{with } \mathcal{D} = E: S(E) \geq 0$$

and $$\mathcal{D} > 0 \text{ for } |E| \neq 0 \text{ & } \mathcal{D} = 0 \text{ for } |E| = 0.$$  

where $\mathcal{D}$ denotes dissipation (per volume), and the inequality represents a convexity condition on $\psi$. Here as below, the colon $:=$ denotes tensorial contraction, with e.g. $A:B = \text{tr } AB^T$ representing the (Euclidian) scalar product of real tensors. Also, we write $\partial_X = (\partial/\partial X)^T$ and the tensorial derivative involves the usual definition, i.e. $[\partial_E \psi(E)]_{ij} = \partial_{E_{ij}} \psi(E)$.

The function $\psi$ represents a dissipation potential according to the definition of Edelen. Owing to its convexity, the roles of the dependent and independent variables can be swapped, since there exists a dual potential or Legendre convex conjugate $\varphi(S) = S:E(S) - \psi(E(S))$, such that the inverse of (2.2) is given by

$$E = E(S) = \partial_S \varphi(S)' , \quad \text{with } S:E(S) \geq 0.$$  

We note that this duality is singular in the case of certain non-smooth rheologies, such as rate-independent plasticity, where $\psi(E)$ is a homogeneous function of degree one [8]. We also note that the total stress can be written as

$$\sigma = S - pI = \partial_D \psi - pI$$

with isotropic pressure representing Edelen’s gyroscopic force for incompressible materials.

It turns out that many common non-Newtonian models have the strongly dissipative form. As examples, table 1 lists some standard models of viscoplastic fluids, with $|E| = (E:E)^{1/2}$. The Bingham and Herschel–Bulkley models represent a class of ‘yield-stress fluids’, which have indeterminate stress at the rest state $E = 0$. The long-standing problem of determining the spatial location of yield surfaces is the subject of ongoing research cited in a recent review article [15].

The models displayed in the table are special cases of a potential $\psi(E) = \psi(I_2, I_3)$, where $I_2 = |E|^2/2$ and $I_3 = \text{det } E$ are the non-zero isotropic invariants of $E$. This potential yields the general, incompressible isotropic (Reiner–Rivlin) model:

$$S = (\partial_{I_2} \psi)E + (\partial_{I_3} \psi)(E^2 - \frac{1}{3} |E|^2 I) = 2\eta(E):E,$$  

where $[\eta(E)]_{ijkl}$ is a non-negative fourth-rank viscosity tensor representing a pseudo-linear form [8] of a type that appears frequently in the following.

We recall that the dissipation potentials in table 1 follow from the special forms considered by Hunter [16], who may have been unaware of the general theory of Edelen. All the examples in the table are special cases of the ‘generalized Newtonian fluid’, for which the viscosity tensor in (2.5) reduces to an isotropic form, with

$$S = 2\eta(I_2)E,$$  

with $\psi = \int_0^{I_2} 2\eta(s) ds = \int_0^1 D(\lambda E) \lambda^{-1} d\lambda$, where $D(E) = S:E = 2\eta|E|^2$.  

The final integral represents Edelen’s formula for the dissipation potential in terms of the dissipation function $D(E)$, with $E$ representing the generalized velocity $v$ in the general form given below in (B1). As emphasized elsewhere [8], one is a simple multiple of the other only
Figure 1. Two-dimensional schematic of flow in a porous medium $\Omega = \Omega_S \cup \Omega_F$ or in a (simply connected) fluid region $\Omega_F$ above a textured surface $I$ (figure 2).

if the stress and dissipation function are homogeneous functions of $E$. It is only for this special case that various assumptions as to extremalization of dissipation rate can be considered valid, and a brief summary of the correct extremum principle is provided in appendix A.

All the above isotropic fluid models are special cases of a more general *anisotropic* fluid, with $\sigma = \partial_E \psi(E, S) = \eta(E, S)E$, where Edelen’s dissipation potential $\psi$ depends on the joint isotropic invariants of $E$ and a set of ‘structure tensors’ $S$. Moreover, such tensors may depend on the history of flow, with evolution described by a set of objective Lagrangian ODEs depending on $E$.

For example, in the case of a single ‘fabric’ tensor $A$, the evolution equation takes the form

$$\dot{A} = a(A, E),$$

where superposed ‘$\cdot$’ denotes the Jaumann or co-rotational derivative. The joint isotropic invariants of $A, E$ are well known and are represented by a finite set of traces of the form $\text{tr}(A^m E^n)$. Models of this type also allow for change of density and include Reiner’s ‘dilatant’ isotropic fluid [17] as well various anisotropic variants with application to dilatant granular media. That said, we focus attention in this work on incompressible fluids.

It is worth recalling several previous works on nonlinear flow in porous media, including less general models of non-Newtonian flow in Bear [18] and Dormieux et al. [13] as well as turbulent flow of Newtonian fluids, where one can also define a dissipation potential. See e.g. [13,18] and the earlier works [11,19].

(a) Boundary conditions

We turn now from bulk constitutive relations to a consideration of boundary conditions (BCs). Thus, we imagine a region of space $\Omega = \Omega_F \cup \Omega_S$ with $I \cap F = \emptyset$, consisting of disjoint surfaces $I$ and $F$, where $I$ represents the interface between the fluid and solid region and $F$ is the bounding surface lying in the fluid. Then, the boundary of the fluid domain is $\partial \Omega_F = I \cup F$.

For example, in the porous solid illustrated in figure 1, $F$ represents that part of $\partial \Omega$ lying in the fluid, with $I$ representing the interface between $\Omega_S$ and $\Omega_F$ on which there is partial slip with no permeation. It may be possible to extend our analysis so as to permit permeation through $I$, but we shall specialize shortly to the case of an impermeable surface $I$.

Considering the traction of fluid on solid $t_I = -\sigma n$ for $n$ the interfacial outward normal (pointing into solid), we set down the following definitions:

- A *globally dissipative surface* $I$ is one for which

$$\int_I t_I \cdot v \text{d}S \geq 0,$$

- a *locally dissipative surface* $I$ is one for which

$$t_I(x) \cdot v(x) \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in I,$$
— and a strongly dissipative surface \( I \) is locally dissipative surface described by a dissipative surface potential \( \psi_I(v_I; x) \), such that

\[
t_l(x) = \partial_v \psi_I(v; x), \quad \text{with } t_l(x) \cdot v(x) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in I.
\]  

Relation (2.8) can be expected to apply on the surface \( I \) of a porous medium with internal viscoplastic flow in pores whose walls are locally dissipative, whereas (2.9) and (2.10) may fail to apply because of the local power input to the fluid (‘pV’ work) associated with outflow from \( I \).

Restricting to impermeable solid interfaces, \( t_l \) can be replaced by the vector of shear traction \( \tau_l = -(1 - n \otimes n) \sigma n \) which provides the power associated with surface slip. Letting \( \psi_l \) represent the dual potential to \( \psi_l \), we note for example that \( \psi_l(\tau_l) = \ell |\tau_l|^2/2\eta \) gives the Navier slip relation for the slip velocity \( v = \partial_t \psi_l = \ell \tau_l/\eta \) in a Newtonian fluid with viscosity \( \eta \) and slip-length \( \ell \), for which the no-slip condition is given by \( \ell \equiv 0 \). As an extension of Navier slip, the strongly dissipative slip relation proposed here describes a wide range of wall-slip phenomena, including nonlinear, anisotropic and spatially inhomogeneous slip, with inhomogeneity represented by dependence on \( x \in I \).

For example, when the anisotropy is determined by a symmetric surface tensor \( \Lambda: T_I \rightarrow T_I \), transforming vectors in the tangent space \( T_I \) of \( I \) we may take \( \psi_l(\tau) \) to be a function of the joint isotropic invariants of \( \tau, \Lambda \):

\[
|\tau|, \text{tr} \, \Lambda, \text{tr} \, \Lambda^2, \tau \cdot \Lambda \tau, \ldots
\]

an instructive special case being

\[
\psi_l(\tau; x) = f(\tau, \Lambda), \quad \text{with } v_l = 2f'(\tau, \Lambda \tau) \Lambda \tau,
\]

where the prime denotes a derivative, and \( \Lambda = \Lambda(x) \) is allowed depending on position \( x \) on \( I \). When \( f(s) \) is given by a power law in \( s \) one obtains an anisotropic power-law for \( v_l \) in terms of \( \tau_l \). Were we to consider a permeable surface \( I \), then \( \Lambda \) would have to be replaced by a more general linear transformation \( \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \).

3. From locally to globally strong dissipation

The local considerations above have immediate implications for the existence of systems that are strongly dissipative in a global sense.

Suppose that a strongly dissipative fluid occupies a region \( \Omega_F \) discussed above. A flow field \( v(x) \) in \( \Omega_F \) is said to be admissible, if \( \nabla \cdot v = 0 \) and its associated stress field satisfies \( \nabla \cdot \sigma(x) = 0 \) \( \forall x \in \Omega_F \). We next suppose that the fluid exhibits a strongly dissipative slip on \( I \) and shall then prove that all admissible solutions for the flow in \( \Omega_F \) must satisfy strongly dissipative BCs on \( F \).

As a general convention, we denote vector-valued functionals by arguments enclosed in brackets \( \{ \ldots \} \), e.g. \( f = f[w] \) denotes a map \( \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \) from the vector field \( w(x) \) to the real vector \( f \), where \( w(x) \) is an element of function space \( \mathcal{F} \), e.g. a Banach space. We denote maps \( \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \) of one vector field to another by curly brackets \( \{ \ldots \} \), i.e. \( f = f[w] = f[w](x) \) denotes a map from the vector field \( w(x) \) to the vector field \( f(x) \). Further, for a given vector-valued functional \( f[w] \), we make use of the Fréchet (or variational) derivative of \( f[w] \), denoted \( \delta_w f[w] \), which is the mapping \( \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \) that satisfies

\[
\langle \delta_w f[w], h \rangle \equiv \int_{\mathcal{R}} h(x) \cdot \delta_w f[w](x) \, d\mathcal{R}(x) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{f[w + \epsilon h] - f[w]}{\epsilon}
\]

for all test functions \( h \in \mathcal{F} \), where \( \mathcal{R} \) is the domain of the vector field \( w(x) \). The bilinear pairing above defines a functional of \( h \) referred to as the Fréchet differential denoted \( \delta_w f[h] = \langle \delta_w f[w], h \rangle \).

Our main results pertain to the nature of the mapping from boundary velocity fields \( v_F(x): F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \) to the corresponding boundary traction field \( t_F(x): F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 \), i.e. the mapping \( t_F = t_F[v_F] \). To be specific, \( t_F = \sigma n \) is the surface traction field on \( F \) that arises from the admissible bulk flow that has \( v_F \) as BC. Owing to incompressibility, the set of boundary velocities is further
restricted to be solenoidal, i.e. \( \int_F v_F \cdot n \, dS = 0 \), where subscript \( F \) denotes a function whose domain is restricted to the surface \( F \).

We shall show that
\[
\int_F t[F] \cdot v_F \, dS \geq 0, \tag{3.2}
\]
and secondly, that there exists a functional \( \Psi[v_F] \) such that
\[
\delta_{v_F} \Psi[v_F] = t_F[v_F], \tag{3.3}
\]
which establishes a direct analogy to (2.2). Note that \( t_F[v_F] \) is defined up to the addition of an inessential uniform surface pressure.

**Proof.** Assuming sufficiently smooth potentials and fields, we may express the quasi-static stress balance in terms of *virtual power* as
\[
\int_F t_F[v_F] \cdot u_F \, dS = \int_I t_I(v) \cdot u_I \, dS + \int_{\Omega_F} S(E) \cdot \nabla u \, dV, \tag{3.4}
\]
for any admissible velocity field \( v(x) \), with \( E = \text{sym} \ \nabla v \), where \( u(x) \) is any solenoidal ‘test field’.

Now, we assume here and in the following that the choice of boundary field \( v_F(x), \ x \in F \), uniquely determines the bulk flow \( v(x) \) and strain-rate \( E(x) \). In the case of multiplicity, a possibility we do not entertain here, one could presumably restrict the solution to a particular solution branch.

In the case of an impermeable surface, \( t_F \) can be replaced by \( t_I \) above, and, invoking locally strong dissipation in \( \Omega_F \cup I \), we have the local relations
\[
S = \partial_E \psi(E; x), \quad t_I = \partial_v \psi_I(v; x), \tag{3.5}
\]
where \( v_I = v \cdot n = 0 \) on \( I \). We have allowed the potential \( \psi \) to depend on position \( x \) to reflect a possible dependence on inhomogeneous and/or evolutionary structure tensors of the type discussed above. Note that time variations in velocity do not imply instantaneous variations in tensors, which are presumably governed by smooth ODEs of the form (2.7).

The preceding relations yield a linear functional of the test velocity \( u_F \) on \( F \):
\[
L_{v_F}[u_F] := \int_F t_F[v_F] \cdot u_F \, dS = \int_{\Omega_F} \partial_E \psi(E; x) \cdot \nabla u \, dV + \int_I \partial_v \psi_I(v; x) \cdot u_I \, dS. \tag{3.6}
\]
It is evident that in the case where \( u \equiv v \) in \( \Omega_F \) that the dissipation of \( v(x) \) is given by
\[
\mathcal{D}[v] = L_{v_F}[v_F] = \int_F t_F[v_F] \cdot v_F \, dS = \int_{\Omega_F} \partial_E \psi(E; x) \cdot E \, dV + \int_I \partial_v \psi_I(v; x) \cdot v_I \, dS \geq 0 \tag{3.7}
\]
as all integrands in the last expression are necessarily positive by local strong dissipation.

By employing (3.1), it can also be easily proved that:
\[
L_{v_F}[u_F] = \langle \delta_{v_F} \Psi, \ u_F \rangle, \quad \text{where} \quad \Psi[v_F] = \int_{\Omega_F} \psi(E; x) \, dV + \int_I \psi_I(v; x) \, dS \tag{3.8}
\]
the latter relation following from the fact that \( v(x) \) and \( E(x) \) are determined by \( v_F \). The above, together with (3.6) implies the desired result
\[
\delta_{v_F} \Psi[v_F] = t_F[v_F]. \tag{3.9}
\]
In appendix A, we indicate that the above results follow from a tentative extension of Edelen’s formula for finite-dimensional vector spaces to infinite-dimensional (e.g. Banach) function spaces.
Remarks 3.1.

(i) In the dual description with interfacial BC $v_I = \partial_I \phi_I(\tau_I)$ on $I$, we can swap variables and show that a dual functional $\Phi[t]$ exists, mapping traction fields $t$ on $F$ to a scalar, such that

$$\delta_t \Phi[t_F] = v_F[t_F]. \quad (3.10)$$

(ii) Relation (3.3), or its dual (3.10), confirms the perhaps intuitively obvious fact that the dissipation and dissipation potential are given directly by the boundary field $v_F$ on $F$. To compute the corresponding boundary traction $t_F$ in full, one would need to compute the actual fluid velocity field $v(x) = v[v_F]$ in $\Omega_F$. However, the fact that the boundary field $t_F$ must arise as a Fréchet derivative places a restriction on $t_F$ that can be exploited without specification of the full flow field. Based on simplified BCs, the following sections will make use of this derivative in a form appropriate to finite-dimensional vector spaces.

(iii) In the case of unbounded regions, we should replace integrals like those in (3.7) and (3.8) by appropriate averages over $\Omega_F$, $I$ and $F$, which we do not bother to define explicitly.

(iv) There are direct analogies between the theorem proved above and the global theorems of hyperelasticity, owing to the fact that both are based on constitutive potentials. We note however, that the non-trivial slip BCs in this treatment would correspond to an unconventional Robin traction-displacement condition in the elastic analogy. As in hyperelasticity, the admissible solution minimizes the functional for appropriate BCs. Unlike hyperelasticity, where the functional represents total potential energy, the functional $\Psi$ provides in fact a lower bound for total dissipation, with equality in the case of a linear rheology/slip condition, or proportionality in the case of homogeneous potentials. The lower-bound property is easily proved based on the guaranteed convexity of the underlying local dissipation potentials [9].

(v) The proof above relies on $C^1$ smoothness of the underlying potentials, such that a unique derivative and therefore a unique stress can be assumed in equation (2.2). However, we note that certain dissipation potentials $\varphi$ may become ‘kinked’, with loss of convexity, such as those representing the above-mentioned yield-stress fluids. Although the stress may fail to be uniquely defined at zero strain rate, we shall assume that the solution to the variational problem, including the spatial location of the associated yield surfaces, can be rendered unique by various techniques, such as those employed to determine ‘singular minimizers’ for non-convex hyperelasticity [20]. In this respect, we note that existing treatments [15] of yield-stress fluid appear to overlook the associated extremum principles and the applicability of variational methods.

(vi) For the sake of definiteness, we have adopted in (3.4) a relatively strong form of virtual power. However, certain fluids may exhibit material instability, arising from a loss of convexity of the dissipation potential and leading to the formation of singular surfaces. At such surfaces, the velocity field may become non-differentiable and even discontinuous, e.g. across an infinitely thin ‘shear band’. Indeed, the assumed slip on the surface $I$ has this same character. To cover such singular behaviour, we may express (3.4) in the weaker form involving jumps $[u]_J$ in $u$ on a discrete set of singular surfaces $J$ across which the traction $t_F$ is continuous:

$$\int_F t_F[v_F] \cdot u \, dS = \sum_J \int_J t_J \cdot [u]_J \, dS + \int_{\Omega_F} S(E) : \nabla u \, dV, \quad \text{where} \ t_J = \sigma \cdot n_J. \quad (3.11)$$

In this case, we admit discontinuous test velocity fields, and (3.4) is a special case in which $u = 0$ on $I$, with jump $[u]_J = u_J$, and is otherwise continuous.

We now illustrate the utility of the above results by the application to two physically interesting problems involving flow around a geometrically complex solid surface.
4. Generalized Darcy flow in porous media

For the application to viscoplastic flow in a porous medium, we apply the above to two types of BC on the fluid surface \( F \) of a given porous body (figure 1), namely prescribed velocity and prescribed stress.

(i) Traction boundary condition

We first consider the BC

\[
t_F = - (g \cdot n) n + T n, \quad x \in F, \tag{4.1}
\]

for a constant vector \( g \) and constant tensor \( T \). Above, \( g \) represents a pressure gradient applied to the fluid boundary of the domain and \( T \) is a symmetric boundary stress tensor.

As in the preceding subsection, we assume now that the BC (4.1) determines the flow in \( \Omega_F \). The functionals of \( t_F \) in (3.10) now reduce to functions of \( g \) and \( T \), with dissipation and potentials obeying

\[
\begin{align*}
D(t_F) &= D(g, T) = V_F(g) \bar{v} + T : \mathbf{D}, \\
\bar{v}(g, T) &= \frac{1}{V_F} \int_{\Omega_F} v \, dV = \delta g \Phi(g, T), \\
\mathbf{D}(g, T) &= \frac{1}{V_F} \text{sym} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_F} \nabla v \, dV + \int_I n \otimes v \, dS \right\} = \delta_T \Phi(g, T)
\end{align*}
\]

(4.2)

and

\[
\Phi(g, T) = \Phi(t_F(x)) \big|_{t_F(x) = - (g \cdot n) n + T n}
\]

where \( n_I \) is the inner normal to the surface \( I \). The second and third lines of (4.2) follow from the vanishing of \( \bar{v}_F = v \cdot n \) on \( I \), and the relations

\[
\begin{align*}
\int_F x v_n \, dS &= \int_{\partial \Omega_F} x v_n \, dS = \int_{\Omega_F} \nabla \cdot (v \otimes x) \, dV = \int_{\Omega_F} v \, dV, \\
\int_F n \otimes v \, dS &= \int_{\partial \Omega_F} n \otimes v \, dS - \int_I n \otimes v \, dS = \int_{\Omega_F} \nabla v \, dV + \int_I n_I \otimes v_I \, dS.
\end{align*}
\]

(4.3)

These results establish the volume average velocity, \( \bar{v} \), and average deformation rate, \( \mathbf{D} \), as respective conjugates of \( g \) and \( T \). Note that we could have also obtained the result for average deformation rate by considering a singular test field with \( u = 0 \) and \([u] = u_I \) on \( I \), as subsumed by (3.11). The fact that the drag laws for both \( \bar{v} \) and \( \mathbf{D} \) must emerge from a single potential function \( \Phi \) is a significant restriction on the functional forms of each.

(ii) Velocity boundary conditions and isotropic media

We now consider flow induced by an applied velocity BC

\[
v(x) = q + Lx, \quad x \in F, \tag{4.4}
\]

where \( q \) is a constant velocity vector and \( L \) is a constant velocity-gradient tensor. The incompressibility constraint on \( v \) then requires that

\[
\int_F v_n \, dS = a \cdot q + A : L = 0, \quad \text{where } a = \int_F n \, dS \quad \text{and } A = \int_F n \otimes x \, dS.
\]

(4.5)

The vector \( a \) and the second rank tensor \( A \) represent an ostensibly new class of structure tensors for a representative volume element (RVE), given generally by the \( n \)th rank moment tensors:

\[
A^{(m)} = \int_F n^m \otimes x \, dS, \quad m = 1, 2, \ldots
\]

(4.6)

The lowest moment \( a \) equals the vectorial excess of out-flow over in-flow area, and \( A \) can be regarded as a second-rank ‘fabric’ tensor, by loose analogy to a tensor employed to describe the anisotropy of granular media. It is clear that the overall dissipation potential must eventually be given as a function \( \Psi(q, L, a, A) \), subject to the restriction (4.5).
We now specialize to isotropic media, defining an isotropic medium of degree $M$ as one for which the structure tensors of order $m=1, 2, \ldots, M$ are invariant under the transformation $n, x \rightarrow Qn, Qx$, where $Q$ is an arbitrary constant orthogonal tensor. This requires that $A^{(m)}$ be a scalar multiple of the isotropic tensor of order $m$, for $m=1, 2, \ldots, M$ and, hence, that $a=0$ and $A \propto I$ for the case $M=2$ considered here.

Hence, for an isotropic medium of degree 2, (4.5) implies that $q$ and $L$, with $\text{tr} \, L=0$, can be chosen independently. A common example from homogenization theory is a periodic porous structure, for an RVE consisting of a single periodic cell, discussed briefly below.

Assuming that the BC (4.4) determines a unique solution to the flow in $\Omega_F$, the functionals of $v_F$ in (3.7) reduce to ordinary functions of $q$ and $L$ with dissipation given by

$$D[v_F] = D(q, L) = f(q) + \Sigma : L,$$

with

$$f(q, L) = \int_F t_F[v_F] \, dS = \partial_q \Psi(q, L),$$

$$\Sigma(q, L) = \int_F t_F[v_F] \otimes x \, dS = \partial_L \Psi(q, L).$$

(4.7)

and

$$\Psi(q, L) = \Psi[v_F(x)]|_{v_F(x)=q+Lx}.$$  

Here $f$ is the force and $\Sigma$ the moment of traction acting on $F$, which can be regarded as the contribution of $F$ to the volume average stress

$$\frac{1}{V_F} \int_{\Omega_F} \sigma \, dV = \frac{1}{V_F} \int_{\Omega_F} \text{div} (x \otimes \sigma) \, dV = \frac{1}{V_F} \int_{\partial \Omega_F} t \otimes x \, dS.$$  

(4.8)

Relations (4.7) and (4.8) provide yet another extension of Darcy’s law which, in contrast to the case of stress BCs, bears a rather opaque relation to the linear version. Still, it bears emphasizing that the emergence of $\Sigma(q, L)$ and $f(q, L)$ from a single potential $\psi(q, L)$ is a notable restriction on the functional forms of both quantities.

In closing here, we note that higher gradient theories would involve higher order structure tensors of the type (4.6).

(iii) Permeability relations

The prior subsections apply to global flow relations, and we can apply a key result displayed in (4.2), namely,

$$\bar{v} = \partial_g \Phi,$$  

(4.9)

to describe the average or homogenized permeability of a non-Newtonian fluid within a regular porous solid, with surface slip between fluid and solid that may be both nonlinear and non-uniform.

As one example of a structure with a single well-defined permeability, consider an idealized periodic RVE, composed of a repeated tiling of box-shaped porous elements. Owing to periodicity, the permeability of a large sample of such a material can be defined by treating the flow through one such element induced by an applied pressure on the element of the form (4.1), with $T=0$. The pressure gradient $g$ provides an arbitrary pressure difference between parallel faces of the cell, and (4.9) shows that mean fluid velocity $\bar{v}$ and the applied pressure gradient, $g$ are connected through the derivative of a potential $\Phi = \Phi(g)$.

Following a previous mathematical analysis [8], the preceding relationship (4.9) can also be expressed in a pseudo-linear form in terms of a permeability tensor $K = K(g)$ defined by

$$\bar{v} = K(g)g,$$  

(4.10)
where \( K \) must take the form of the Hessian \( \partial^2 \chi \) of a complimentary function \( \chi(g) \) derived from \( \Phi(g) \) \[8\]. This in turn implies the following symmetry and differential compatibility conditions on the permeability tensor:

\[
K(g) = (K(g))^T \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial K_{ij}}{\partial g_k} = \frac{\partial K_{jk}}{\partial g_i} \quad (4.11)
\]

for all \( i, j, k \in \{1, 2, 3\} \).

Thus, by means of (4.10) we extend the standard linear (Onsager) symmetry to the flow of rheologically nonlinear fluids through porous solids with non-uniform and nonlinear interfacial slip. In contrast to the linear case, \( K \) depends on \( q \), but as with linear case \( K \) is non-negative definite, reflecting non-negativity of dissipation. The constraints imposed by (4.11) represent a severe restriction on the form of \( K(q) \), as a substantial extension of the linear theory.

5. Nonlinear mobility in effective-slip problems

As a generalization of the corresponding Stokes-flow problem \[5\], we consider the far-field condition on the top surface \( F \) of a viscoplastic shear flow bounded below by solid surface \( I \). The interface \( I \) represents an impermeable solid with possibly non-uniform partial slip distribution as well as height variations. Adopting Cartesian coordinates \( x_i \) with unit basis \( e_i \) for \( i = 1, 2, 3 \), we consider the case of a surface \( I \) of infinite extent having mean elevation \( x_3 = 0 \). As illustrated in figure 2, the layer is bounded above by a flat plane \( F \) situated at an arbitrary position \( x_3 = z_H \), and driven by a uniform parallel shearing traction \( \tau \), with \( \tau \cdot e_3 = 0 \). We assume the surface texture is a repeating pattern, and hence the induced flow field is periodic in horizontal planes. That said, we place no constraints on the period length so this could still represent an arbitrarily large surface pattern.

In the absence of external body forces or overall pressure gradient, and given \( x_3 \gg \ell \), where \( \ell \) is a characteristic length scale related to the surface texture, we assume that an admissible velocity field will exhibit far field behaviour consisting of uniform simple shear plus an apparent slip relative to the surface \( I \):

\[
v(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \dot{y} \cdot x_3 + v^s, \quad \text{with} \quad \dot{y} \cdot e_3 = 0, \quad v^s \cdot e_3 = 0, \quad E = \text{sym}(\dot{y} \otimes e_3), \quad (5.1)
\]

where the shear rate vector, \( \dot{y} \), and the effective slip velocity, \( v^s \), are assumed to become asymptotically independent of position \( x_2, x_3 \) on \( F \).

Given the fluid rheology, the surface pattern, and the slip relation on \( I \), the problem is to find the relationship between \( v^s \) and \( \tau \) on \( F \). This relation may be taken to represent an effective slip BC for the large-scale description of the flow on length scales \( \gg \ell \). In the case of a Newtonian fluid with linear slip on \( I \), it has been shown \[5\] that there exists a positive symmetric \( 2 \times 2 \) surface (Onsager) mobility tensor \( M = [M_{ij}] \), such that:

\[
v^s = Mr, \quad \text{or} \quad v^s_{ij} = M_{ij} \tau_j, \quad i, j = 1, 2 \quad (5.2)
\]

on a Cartesian basis. Here, we extend the analysis to nonlinear viscoplastic fluids with strongly dissipative nonlinear interfacial slip.

As a helpful albeit not essential device, we define our domain \( \Omega \) as a cell \([-\ell_1, \ell_1] \times [-\ell_2, \ell_2] \times [z_L, z_H] \), where \( z_L \) lies within the rigid solid beneath \( I \) and \( \ell_1 \) and \( \ell_2 \) are the respective period lengths in the horizontal plane. Owing to the flow periodicity, the vertical walls need not be considered part of \( \partial \Omega \), and we have \( F = [-\ell_1, \ell_1] \times [-\ell_2, \ell_2] \times z_H \) and \( S = [-\ell_1, \ell_1] \times [-\ell_2, \ell_2] \times z_L \). Then, the formulae in (4.7) for constant velocity \( q \) on \( F \) are applicable, and one readily finds, upon choosing \( q \) to have a vanishing \( x_3 \) component, that

\[
D = \tau \cdot q = \tau \cdot \dot{y} \cdot x_3 + \tau \cdot v^s, \quad \tau = \partial_q \Phi(q), \quad q = \partial_r \Phi(r). \quad (5.3)
\]

Here, the surface force \( f \) in (4.7) is \( r A_F \), and one absorbs \( A_F = 4 \ell_2 \ell_2 \) into the potential. The last relation above follows as the Legendre convex conjugate of the prior relation, and we obtain the same potential \( \Phi \) from the Legendre conjugate as the one described in (4.7). Because the fluid
rheology is strongly dissipative, with $D(S) = \partial_S \phi$ for some given dissipation potential $\phi$, the flow at the top boundary satisfies

$$\dot{\gamma}(\tau) = \partial \phi^H(\tau) \quad \text{for} \quad \phi^H(\tau) \equiv 2 \phi(\tau \otimes e_3 + e_3 \otimes \tau).$$

(5.4)

Hence, by the definition of effective slip, we may write

$$q = z^H \partial \phi^H(\tau) + v^s.$$

(5.5)

Combining (5.3) and (5.5), and defining $\phi^s(\tau) = \Phi(\tau) - z^H \phi^H(\tau)$, we arrive at

$$v^s = \partial \phi^s.$$

(5.6)

We thus find that the slip velocity must arise from the shear traction as the gradient of a slip potential. As shown in a previous analysis [8], this implies the existence of a scalar function $\xi$ such that the pseudo-linear form

$$v^s = M(\tau) \tau$$

arises from a mobility obeying $M(\tau) = \partial^2_{\tau\tau} \xi(\tau)$. Accordingly, the mobility must obey the following symmetry and differential compatibility conditions:

$$M(\tau) = M(\tau)^T \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial M_{ij}}{\partial \tau_k} = \frac{\partial M_{jk}}{\partial \tau_i}$$

(5.8)

for all $i, j, k \in \{1, 2\}$. In the linear case, the constant $M$ tensor can be shown to be symmetric via Lorentz reciprocity [5], whereas (5.8) establishes the symmetry of the mobility tensor for the more general case of any strongly dissipative rheology and interfacial slip relation.

6. Conclusion

The foregoing analysis addresses a general class of problems involving viscoplastic flow adjacent to solid boundaries with nonlinear and possibly non-uniform slip conditions. When the bulk rheology and interfacial slip take on strongly dissipative forms, the relationship between the velocity and traction on fluid boundaries are interrelated by global variational derivatives. Exploiting this fact, we have established symmetries of viscoplastic drag laws for two illustrative applications.
In the first example, involving flow in porous media, the global conjugacy between traction and velocity on the external fluid boundary is employed to determine permeability relations for strongly dissipative fluids exhibiting slip along the pore walls. The permeability is shown to be characterized by a symmetric positive-definite tensor that depends on the flow, with partial derivatives satisfying a set of compatibility conditions.

In the second example, we have explored the implications of strong dissipation for viscoplastic flow over textured surfaces. As an extension of the linear case, we find once again a symmetric positive-definite mobility tensor which connects the far-field shear traction to the apparent slip velocity and satisfies once more a set of differential compatibility conditions.

While the foregoing analysis has focused on impenetrable solid boundaries and incompressible fluids, many of the results may remain qualitatively correct whenever these conditions are relaxed. In particular, note that on replacing $S$ by $\sigma$ and $E$ by $D$ one can obtain a theory for viscoplastic flow with variable density, such as might occur in a dilatant granular media or particle suspension. Such variants on the current model may engender additional complications that seem worthy of further analysis.

Although we have not explored various consequences of the associated extremum principles for strongly dissipative fluids, these may prove a convenient tool for other applications. Important examples are the derivation of continuum models for dispersions of rigid or viscoplastic particles in viscoplastic fluids, or the determination of the spatial configuration of yield surfaces in yield-stress fluids.

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Appendix A. Connection to extremum principles

Hill [9], Johnson [11] and Leonov [12], who overlooks Johnson’s work, formulate extremum principles for viscoplastic fluids. Here, we offer a less elaborate form for the quasi-static flow of incompressible viscoplastic fluids in the absence of body forces (which are readily included). Identifying the global dissipation velocity potential

$$\Psi[v] = \int_{\mathcal{R}} \psi(E) \, dV, \quad \text{where} \quad E = \text{sym}(\nabla v)'$$

one finds for its variation (Fréchet differential):

$$\delta\Psi = \int_{\mathcal{R}} \delta\psi : \delta E \, dV = \int_{\mathcal{R}} S : \nabla \delta v \, dV = \int_{\mathcal{R}} [\sigma : \nabla \delta v + p \nabla \cdot \delta v] \, dV$$

$$= \int_{\partial \mathcal{R}} t \cdot \delta v \, dS + \int_{\mathcal{R}} [p \nabla \cdot \delta v - \nabla \cdot \sigma \cdot \delta v] \, dV, \quad \text{where} \quad t = \sigma n$$

Hence, subject to incompressibility $\nabla \cdot \delta v = 0$ and fixed velocity $\delta v = 0$ on $\partial \mathcal{R}$, the stationarity of $\Psi$ implies quasi-static equilibrium $\nabla \cdot \sigma = 0$, with obvious converse. We shall not attempt to establish here that the extremum represents the minimum $\Psi$, a matter treated in the works of Hill, Johnson and Leonov cited above.

With the addition of terms to account for dissipative slip, the above extremum principle is applicable to the boundary-value problems considered above in this work, with the variation $\delta v$ replacing the test velocity $u$ in (3.4). The main consequence for this work would seem to be the relevance to uniqueness of solution.

We note that a related extremum principle applies to the global stress potential

$$\Phi[S] = \int_{\mathcal{R}} \varphi(S) \, dV$$

subject to incompressibility and fixed traction $\sigma n$ on $\partial \mathcal{R}$ [9,11,12].
Appendix B. Functional for the dissipation potential

Edelen’s formula [8] (where $D$ is denoted by $D^*$) for the dissipation potential $\psi(v)$ in a finite-dimensional vector space $\mathbb{R}^n$ is given in terms of the dissipation $D(v)$ by

$$\psi(v) = \int_0^1 D(\lambda v) \lambda^{-1} d\lambda,$$  \hspace{1cm} (B1)

where $v$ is a generalized velocity, with conjugate force given by $f = \partial_\nu \psi$ in the dual space.

Without attempting a rigorous proof here, we offer as a conjecture a generalization to a function space (e.g. Banach space) $\mathcal{F}$ of vector-valued velocities $v(x)$ and (dual space) of vector-valued forces $f(v)$, $x \in \mathcal{R}$. It appears that one might achieve this generalization rigorously by extending Edelen’s differential geometric treatment to Banach spaces [21]. Thus, with dissipation defined by the pairing

$$\mathcal{D}[v] = \langle v, f \rangle := \int_{\mathcal{R}} v(x) \cdot f(v(x)) d\mathcal{R},$$

the corresponding function-space forms for potential and associated force are as follows:

$$\psi[v] = \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}} \mathcal{D}[\lambda v] \lambda^{-1} d\lambda, \quad \text{with} \quad \delta_v \psi[q] = \langle f, q \rangle = \int_{\mathcal{R}} f(v) \cdot q d\mathcal{R}, \quad \text{i.e.} \quad f(v) = \delta_v \psi[v].$$  \hspace{1cm} (B3)

It is not very difficult to verify the final relation in (B3) by making use of the properties of Fréchet derivatives, whose existence is guaranteed by Moreau’s Theorem for convex functionals [22].

For example, with solenoidal velocity field $v$ and associated deviatoric straining $E$, we have

$$\mathcal{D}[v] = \int_{\Omega} D(E) dV, \quad \text{where} \quad D(E) = E:S(E).$$  \hspace{1cm} (B4)

Substitution of the resulting expression for $\mathcal{D}[\lambda v]$ into the integrand in (B3) gives

$$\psi[v] = \int_{\Omega} \psi(E) dV, \quad \text{since} \quad \psi(E) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}} D(\lambda E) \lambda^{-1} d\lambda,$$  \hspace{1cm} (B5)

By taking the domain $\mathcal{R} = \Omega_f \cup I$, one obtains by similar reasoning the final relation in (3.7). It seems plausible that one might be able further to establish a pseudo-linear form for the force appearing in (B3):

$$f[v] := f[v](x) = \int_{\mathcal{R}} \mathcal{L}[v](x,y)v(y) d\mathcal{R}(y),$$  \hspace{1cm} (B6)

involving a positive-definite matrix $\mathcal{L}[v](x,y)$. However, this is a matter requiring a more thorough mathematical treatment.

References


