


# Newtonian Flow Theory

• For conceptual and preliminary design purposes it is normally impractical to use non-linear CFD methods for a large number of candidate geometries.

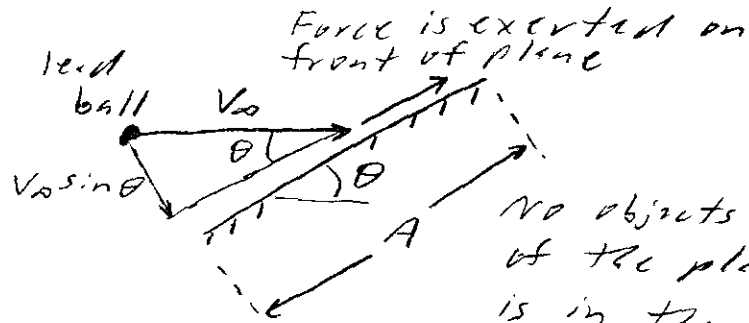
• Several simple, and rapid methods exist for surface pressure prediction in hypersonic flow. The first of these "surface inclination" methods is Newtonian Flow Theory.

\* In 1687, Newton developed a fluid mechanics theory for low speed aerodynamics. The theory is not accurate... except, ~~mainly~~ for hypersonic flow!

• Newton's Theory states that an object hitting a surface would lose all of its momentum normal to the surface but keep all of its tangential momentum.

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Engineer's Computation Pad  


Consider a lead ball (no bounce), hitting an inclined plane:



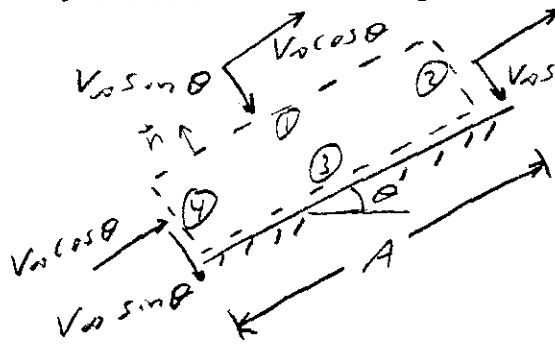
No objects hit the back of the plane. This side is in the "shadow" of the front surface.

Force on back side = 0

- Force exerted by the lead ball (analogous to fluid particle) is computed by conservation of momentum.
- Tangential component ( $\cos \theta$ ) is not affected since it's conserved.



• Consider the particles to be entering a control volume with area  $A$ :



normal to inclined plane  
Rate of change of normal momentum through the control volume. Normal mom. at wall

$$-\rho_0 V_0 \sin \theta A \quad V_0 \sin \theta - 0$$

• Normal momentum flux through (2) and (3) cancel each other.

Mass Flux  $\int (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{n}) dA$  Velocity goes from this value to zero

$$= -\rho_0 V_0^2 \sin^2 \theta A$$

• Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Law

$F =$  Time rate of change of momentum

$$F = -\rho_0 V_0^2 \sin^2 \theta A = \underbrace{(P_0 - P) A}$$

Net pressure force on the control volume  
(= force on surface)  
 $P =$  Pressure on surface.

• Convert to pressure coefficient:

$$C_p \equiv \frac{P - P_0}{\frac{1}{2} \rho_0 V_0^2} = \frac{\rho_0 V_0^2 \sin^2 \theta}{\frac{1}{2} \rho_0 V_0^2}$$

$$\boxed{C_p = 2 \sin^2 \theta} \leftarrow \text{Newton's sin-squared law (Newtonian Flow } C_p \text{ expression)}$$

Q: Why isn't this exact for inviscid flow? What happens in the general case of  $M_0 \text{ not } \gg 1$ ?





\* When applying this result to hypersonic, note:

- $\theta$  is the angle between the freestream direction and the surface angle.  
(Not the same  $\theta$  as in oblique shock equations.)
- $\theta$  is local inclination angle so Newtonian theory is a local surface inclination method.  
 $C_p$  only depends on  $\theta$ .
- $C_p$  is not a function of Mach number
- We extend the result to 3-D & the normal velocity is  $\vec{V} \cdot \vec{n}$  instead of  $V_\infty \sin \theta$

For 3-D, Newtonian Flow:

$$C_p = 2 \frac{|\vec{V}_\infty \cdot \vec{n}|^2}{V_\infty^2}$$

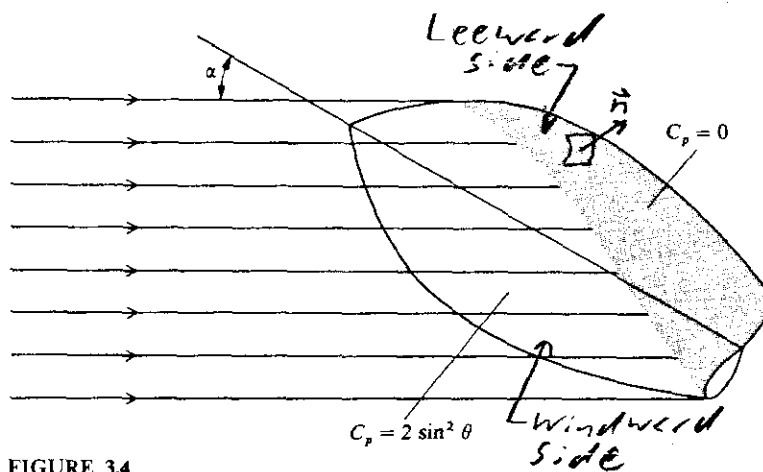


FIGURE 3.4  
Shadow region on the leeward side of a body, from Newtonian theory.

- In the shadow region,  $\vec{V}_\infty \cdot \vec{n} > 0$   
No flow strikes the body so we can approximate,  $P \approx P_\infty$  and  $C_p = 0$   
in shadow region

If  $M_\infty \gg 1$ ,  $P$  on leeward side  $\ll P$  on windward side

Roughly:  $P_{\text{leeward}} \approx P_\infty$

normally both  $P_{\text{leeward}}$  and  $P_\infty \ll \frac{1}{2} \rho_\infty V_\infty^2$

\* How accurate is Newtonian Theory?

- For a flat plate works very well. For most other bodies accuracy is poor if  $M_\infty \leq 5$
- Accuracy improves as  $M_\infty$  increases

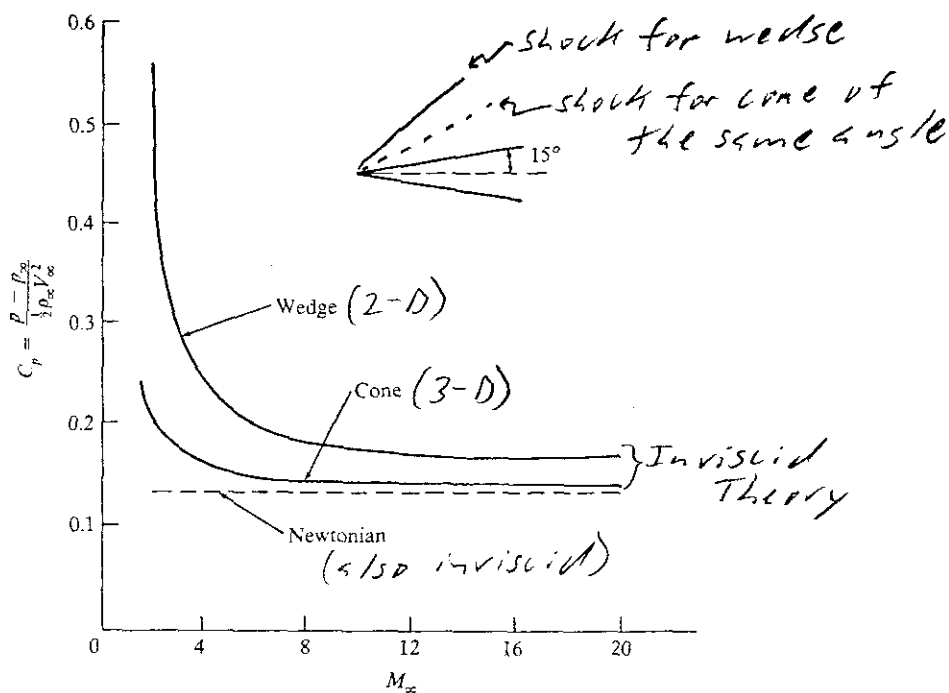


FIGURE 15.10

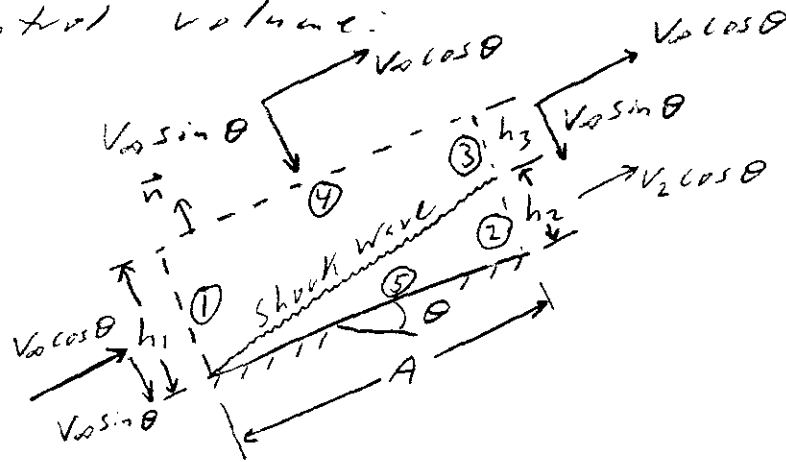
Comparison between newtonian and exact results for the pressure coefficient on a sharp wedge and a sharp cone.

- Tends to underpredict  $C_p$  (and thus  $C_L$  and  $C_D$ ) for sharp bodies
- Tends to overpredict  $C_p$  (and thus  $C_L$  and  $C_D$ ) for blunt bodies





Q. Why is Newtonian Theory only valid in hypersonic flow?  
 \* In the real case, for  $M_0 > 1$  a shock wave will penetrate at least one face of the control volume.



Rate of change of normal momentum on all sides of the control volume.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \underbrace{(\rho_0 V_0 \sin \theta A)(V_0 \sin \theta)}_{(4)} + \underbrace{(\rho_0 V_0 \cos \theta h_3) V_0 \sin \theta}_{(3)} \\
 & + \underbrace{(\rho_2 V_2 \cos \theta h_2)(0)}_{(2)} - \underbrace{(\rho_0 V_0 \cos \theta h_1) V_0 \sin \theta}_{(1)} + \underbrace{0}_{(5)} \\
 & = - \rho_0 V_0^2 \sin^2 \theta A - \rho_0 V_0^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta (h_1 - h_3)
 \end{aligned}$$

↳ Term not considered in Newtonian Theory

Thus, • Newtonian assumptions imply that  $h_1 = h_3$  (ie. that shock wave lays directly on the surface)

• Newtonian Theory (falsely) assumes that tangential momentum is conserved. In real (subsonic, supersonic, and hypersonic) flows, tangential momentum changes & is balanced by changes in pressure on the control volume.

### Modified Newtonian Theory

- Once the value of Newtonian Theory was realized in the 1950's, improvements to the theory were developed.
- For a blunt body, Modified Newtonian Theory is more accurate than Newtonian Flow.
- The  $C_p$  expression is no longer independent of  $M_\infty$ .

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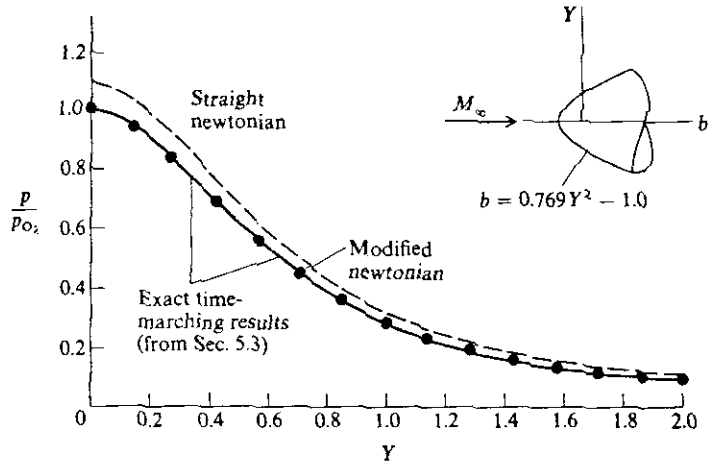


FIGURE 3.8  
Surface pressure distribution over a paraboloid at  $M_\infty = 8.0$ ;  $p_{02}$  is the total pressure behind a normal shock wave at  $M_\infty = 8.0$ .

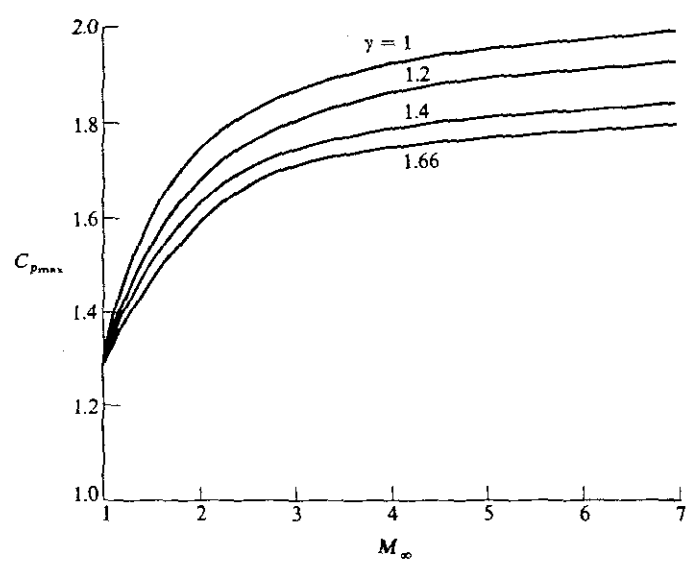
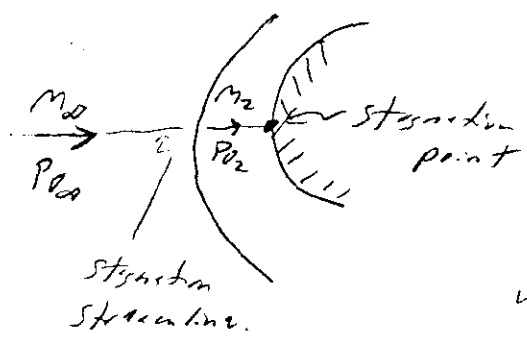


FIGURE 3.7  
Variation of stagnation pressure coefficient with  $M_\infty$  and  $y$ .

• Consider a blunt body in hypersonic flow.



• The fluid elements along the stagnation streamline experience a normal shock which drops the stagnation pressure to  $P_{02}$ .

• Recall that in general  $C_p \equiv \frac{P - P_0}{\frac{1}{2} \rho_0 V_0^2} = \frac{2}{\gamma M_0^2} \left( \frac{P}{P_0} - 1 \right)$

• Thus at the stagnation point (where  $P = P_{02}$ ) the pressure coefficient is:

$$C_{pmax} = \frac{2}{\gamma M_0^2} \left( \frac{P_{02}}{P_0} - 1 \right)$$

where  $P_{02}$  is the stagnation pressure after the isentropic flow undergoes a normal shock.

•  $P_{02}$  is a function of  $M_0$ .

$$\frac{P_{02}}{P_0} = \left[ \frac{(\gamma+1) M_0^2}{4\gamma M_0^2 - 2(\gamma-1)} \right]^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} \left[ \frac{1-\gamma+2\gamma M_0^2}{\gamma+1} \right] \leftarrow \text{Assumes } \gamma = \text{const.} \text{ may be a poor assumption}$$

• However, straight Newtonian theory says that at the stagnation point (i.e.  $\theta = 90^\circ$ ),

$$C_{p,stag} = 2 \text{ regardless of } \gamma$$

• Later Lees (1955) proposed Modified Newtonian Theory which provides the correct  $C_p$  at the stag. point & improved  $C_p$ 's around blunted bodies:

Modified Newtonian  $\Rightarrow C_p = C_{pmax} \sin^2 \theta$   $\leftarrow$  Find  $C_{pmax}$  from  $\frac{P_{02}}{P_0}$  eqn. or predict high temp. effects to set  $C_{pmax}$

Note that when we combine the  $\frac{P_{02}}{P_{01}}$  expression with  $C_{pmix} = \frac{2}{\gamma M_0^2} \left( \frac{P_{02}}{P_{01}} - 1 \right)$ , we find that

$$\text{when } M_0 \rightarrow \infty : C_{pmix} = \left[ \frac{(\gamma+1)^2}{4\gamma} \right]^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma-1}} \left[ \frac{4}{\gamma+1} \right]$$

1) In this case  $C_{pmix}$  and  $C_p = C_{pmix} \sin^2 \theta$  are no longer dependent on Mach number

2) For  $\gamma = 1.4$ ,  $C_{pmix} \rightarrow 1.839$  as  $M_0 \rightarrow \infty$

3) As  $\gamma \rightarrow 1$  and  $M_0 \rightarrow \infty$  we get  $C_{pmix} \rightarrow 2$

$$\text{and } C_p = 2 \sin^2 \theta$$

Newtonian  
Flow Result