

Given: Turbulent boundary layer with velocity profile,  $\frac{u}{U} = \eta^{1/6}$ ;  $\eta = \frac{y}{\delta}$ .

Find: Expressions for  $\delta/x$ ,  $C_f$ , using momentum integral equation.  
Compare with results of " $1/7$ -power" profile, Section 9-5.2.

Solution: The momentum integral equation is

$$\text{Computing equation: } -\delta \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - \tau_w = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int_0^\delta u p u dy - U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int_0^\delta p u dy$$

Assumptions: (1) Flat plate, so  $U = \text{constant}$  and  $\frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = 0$

(2)  $\delta$  is a function of  $x$  only;  $\delta = 0$  at  $x = 0$

(3) Incompressible flow

(4)  $\tau_w = 0.0233 \rho U^2 (\nu/U\delta)^{1/4}$

Then

$$\tau_w = U \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int_0^\delta p u dy - \int_0^\delta u p u dy = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int_0^\delta \rho u (U - u) dy$$

or

$$\tau_w = \rho U^2 \frac{d\delta}{dx} \int_0^1 \frac{u}{U} \left(1 - \frac{u}{U}\right) d\left(\frac{y}{\delta}\right) = \rho U^2 \frac{d\delta}{dx} \beta$$

Evaluating  $\beta$ ,

$$\beta = \int_0^1 \eta^{1/6} (1 - \eta^{1/6}) d\eta = \left[ \frac{6}{7} \eta^{7/6} - \frac{6}{8} \eta^{8/6} \right]_0^1 = \frac{6}{56}$$

Substituting

$$0.0233 \rho U^2 \left(\frac{\nu}{U\delta}\right)^{1/4} = \rho U^2 \frac{d\delta}{dx} \beta \quad \text{or} \quad \delta^{1/4} d\delta = \frac{0.0233}{\beta} \left(\frac{\nu}{U}\right)^{1/4} dx$$

Integrating  $\frac{4}{5} \delta^{5/4} = \frac{0.0225}{\beta} \left(\frac{\nu}{U}\right)^{1/4} x + C$ , but  $C = 0$ , since  $\delta = 0$  at  $x = 0$ .

$$\text{Thus} \quad \delta = \left[ \frac{5}{4} \frac{0.0233}{\beta} \left(\frac{\nu}{U}\right)^{1/4} x \right]^{4/5} = 0.353 \left(\frac{\nu}{U}\right)^{1/5} x^{4/5}$$

and

$$\frac{\delta}{x} = 0.353 \left(\frac{\nu}{Ux}\right)^{1/5} = \frac{0.353}{(Re_x)^{1/5}}$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned} C_f = \frac{\tau_w}{\frac{1}{2} \rho U^2} &= \frac{0.0233 \rho U^2 \left(\frac{\nu}{U\delta}\right)^{1/4}}{\frac{1}{2} \rho U^2} = 0.0466 \left(\frac{\nu}{Ux}\right)^{1/4} \left(\frac{x}{\delta}\right)^{1/4} \\ &= 0.0466 \left(\frac{\nu}{Ux}\right)^{1/4} \left(\frac{1}{0.353}\right)^{1/4} \left[\left(\frac{Ux}{\nu}\right)^{1/5}\right]^{1/4} \end{aligned}$$

$$C_f = \frac{0.0605}{(Re_x)^{1/5}}$$

Comparing:

$1/6$ -power

0.353

0.0605

$1/7$ -power

0.382

0.0594