# VARIATIONAL PROBLEM ON <br> THREE-DIMENSIONAL SUPERSONIC FLOWS 



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Considered is the problem of the construction of the supersonic part of a nozzle with a maximum thrust. The first exact solution, in closed form, of this problem for an axially symmetric supersonic flow was given by Shmyglevski1 [1]. The end points of the nozzle generatrix were considered given. For the explicit description of the functional and auxiliary conditions, use was made of the transition from the contour of the body to the boundaries of the region oi influence.

In the present work the supersonic flow in the nozzle is assumed to be spatial. The differential quations of flow are used as relations between functions. This approach to the solution of variational problems of gas dynamics was used by Quderley and Armitage [2] and by Sirazetdinov [3]. The necessary conditions for an extremum which are obtained in this formulation of the problem represent a boundary value problem for a system of nonilnear partial differential equatione with conditions on the entire surface which bounds the region of influence. An analogous result was obtained, for example, in [2] in the determination of an axially symmetric nozzle of maximum thrust with arbitrary isoperimetric conditions on the walls.

Under sertain restrictions which are related only to the contour of the outlet of the nozzle, there exists a class of spatial optimum solutions in which the number of inde endent variables of the boundary value problem can be decreased. For an axially symmetric flow this was done in paper [4].

1. Cocmatation of the variatiomal problem. Let $u$, $v$, and $w$ be the projections of the velocity on the axes of a Cartesian coordinate system $x$, $y, z$. For the description of a stationary irrotational isentropic flow of a nonviscous nonheatconducting gas, with arbitrary thermodynamic properties, it is sufficient to use three equations (two projections of the vortex and the equation of continuity):

$$
\begin{gather*}
L_{1} \equiv u_{z}-w_{x}=0, \quad L_{2} \equiv v_{x}-u_{y}=0  \tag{1.1}\\
L_{3} \equiv(\rho u)_{x}+(\rho v)_{y}+(\rho w)_{z}=0
\end{gather*}
$$

Here, and in what follows, the subscripts $x, y$ and $z$ denote partial derivatives. The density $p$, the pressure $p$, and the sound velocity $a$, are known functions of the absolute value of the velocity. Hereby,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d p}{\rho}=a^{2} \frac{d \rho}{\rho}=-u d u-v d v-w d w \tag{1.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

For later use, we introduce two "stream functions" $\psi(x, y, z)$ and $\chi(x, y, z)$ of the spatial flow by means of Formulas

$$
\begin{equation*}
\rho u=\frac{D(\psi, \chi)}{D(y, z)}=\psi_{y} \chi_{z}-\psi_{z} \chi_{y} \quad(u v w, x y z) \tag{1.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Here the symbol $\left(u \nu_{w}, x y z\right)$ indicates a cyclic transposition.
It is not difficult to verify that Equation $L_{3}=0$ of the system (1.1) is implied by the system (1.3). Hence any two equations of (1.3) permit one to construct the stream functions and $x$ for any known flow fleld.

Let us consider the differential equations of the stream lines

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d x}{\rho u}=\frac{d y}{\rho v}=\frac{d z}{\rho w} \tag{1.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Taking (1.3) into consideration we can perform the integration of (1.4). The calculations show that along the stream lines


Fig. 1

$$
\begin{equation*}
\psi=\mathrm{const}, \quad \chi=\mathrm{const} \tag{1.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Next, let us consider the variational problem.

Suppose that the parameters of the initial flow are given by the characteristic surface $\Sigma_{1}$. This surface (Fig.1) passes through the given contour $\Gamma_{1}$. Let another contour $\Gamma$ be given. We shall indicate by the letter $\Sigma$ an unknown closing characteristic surface which passes through $\Gamma$. The contour $L$ is the curve in which $\Sigma$ and $\Sigma_{1}$ intersect. Let us denote by $\sigma$ the flow surface $f(x, y, z)=0$ which passes through the contours $\Gamma_{1}$ and $\Gamma$. On this surface

$$
\begin{equation*}
u \cos n x+v \cos n y+w \cos n z=0 \tag{1.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Here $n$ is the normal to the surface $\sigma$.
If we denote by $p_{0}$ the exterior pressure then the thrust of the nozzle in the direction $x$ is given by the relation

$$
\begin{equation*}
T=\iint_{\sigma}\left(p-p_{0}\right) \cos n x d \sigma \tag{1.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

In supersonic flow the distribution of the pressure $p$ on $\sigma$ depends only on the region $\tau$ bounded by the surfaces $\Sigma_{1}, \Sigma$ and 0 .

Let us formulate the following variational problem: on the basis of a given characteristic surface $\Sigma_{1}$ we are to find a flow surface $\sigma$ which passes through given contours $\Gamma_{1}$ and $\Gamma$ and which yields an extremum of the functional (1.7) under the differential relation (1.6) on 0 , and the differential relations (1.1) and (1.2) in the region $T$.
2. Neoessary jonditions for an extromum. Let us denote by $c(x, y, z)$, $h_{1}(x, y, z), h_{2}(x, y, z)$ and $h_{3}(x, y, z)$ the Lagrange multipliers. We construct Expression

$$
\begin{align*}
& T^{\circ}=\iint_{0}\left[\left(p-p_{0}+c u\right) \cos n x+c v \cos n y+c w \cos n_{z}\right] d \sigma+ \\
&+\iint_{\zeta}\left(h_{1} L_{1}+h_{2} L_{2}+h_{3} L_{3}\right) d \tau \tag{2.1}
\end{align*}
$$

and require that it takes on an extremum as we vary $u, v, w$ and $x, y, z$ on the surface 0 .

Hereby $p$ and $p$ will be functions of $u, v$ and $w$, and in view of (1.2) we have
$\delta p=-\rho u \delta u-\rho v \delta v-\rho w \delta w, \quad \delta \rho=-\frac{\rho u}{a^{2}} \delta u-\frac{\rho v}{a^{2}} \delta v-\frac{\rho w}{a^{2}} \delta w$
Following [2], we perform the variation of the surface and of the velocities separately. The total variation $T^{\circ}$ will be

$$
\delta T^{\circ}=\delta T_{\mathrm{v}=\mathrm{const}}^{\circ}+\delta T_{\sigma=\mathrm{const}}^{\circ}
$$

In the evaluation of $\delta T_{v=c o n s t ~ o n e ~ m a y ~ c o n s i d e r ~ t h r e e ~ t y p e s ~ o f ~ r e p r e s e n-~}^{\circ}$ tation of the function $f(x, y, z)=0$ in explicit form. One may think of $f(x, y, z)=0$ having been solved for $x$; then $y$ and $z$ are considered as independent variables.

The quantities $x_{y}, x_{z}$ are partial derivatives of $x$ with resect to $y$ and $z$, respectively, and are obtalned from $f(x, y, z)=0$ under the assumption that this equation determines $x$ as a function of $y$ and $z$.

Furthermore, the symbols $\partial c / \partial x, \partial c / \partial y, \partial c / \partial z$ will denote partial derivatives of the function $c$ on the surface 0 .

In the example under consideration

$$
\frac{\partial c}{\partial x}=c_{x}, \quad \frac{\partial c}{\partial y}=c_{y}+c_{x} x_{y}, \quad \frac{\partial c}{\partial z}=c_{z}+c_{x} x_{z}
$$

Besides that, it is clear that

$$
0=f_{y}+f_{x} x_{y}, \quad 0=f_{z}+f_{x} x_{z}
$$

Thus, the argument $x$ represents explicitly the surface $\sigma$ in view of Equation $f(x, y, z)=0$.

Let us evaluate $\delta T_{v=c o n s t ~ b y ~ v a r y i n g ~ t h e ~ f o r m ~ o f ~ t h e ~ s u r f a c e ~}^{\circ} 0$, and let us set $\delta T_{\mathbf{v}=\text { const }}^{\circ}$ equal to zero

$$
\begin{gathered}
\delta T_{\mathrm{v}=\mathrm{const}}^{\circ}=\delta \iint_{\sigma}\left[\left(p-p_{0}+c u\right) \cos n x+c v \cos n y+c w \cos n z\right] d \sigma= \\
=\delta \iint_{\partial_{y_{z}}}\left[-\left(p-p_{0}+c u\right)+c v x_{v}+c w x_{z}\right] d y d z= \\
=\iint_{0_{y_{z}}}\left\{\left[-p_{x}-(c u)_{x}+(c v)_{x} x_{y}+(c w)_{x} x_{z}-\frac{\partial c v}{\partial y}-\frac{\partial c w}{\partial z}\right] \times\right. \\
\left.\quad \times \delta x+\frac{\partial(c v \delta x)}{\partial y}+\frac{\partial(c w \delta x)}{\partial z}\right\} d y d z=0
\end{gathered}
$$

The symbol $\sigma_{y i}$ denotes here the projection of the surface $\sigma$ on the plane $y z$. Using Green's formula. and taking into account the fact that. $\delta x=\delta n \cos n x$, we obtain

$$
\delta T_{\mathbf{v}=\text { const }}^{\circ}=\iint_{\sigma}-\left[p_{x}+(c u)_{x}+(c v)_{y}+(c w)_{z}\right] \delta n \cos ^{2} n x d \sigma=0
$$

The integral of this expression, which has the form of a divergence, vanishes since the boundaries of the region of integration remain fixed.

The quantity $\cos n x$ is not equal to zero in general on the surface 0 .
Hence, if $\delta T_{v=\text { const }}^{\circ}$ is to be zero it is necessary that we have the following relation on $\sigma$ :

$$
p_{x}+(c u)_{x}+(c v)_{y}+(c w)_{z}=0
$$

Since Equations (1.1) and (1.2) are valid in $\tau$, the last displayed equa-

$$
\begin{align*}
& \text { tion may be rewritten as } \\
& \begin{array}{l}
\text { y be rewritten as } \\
-\rho u u_{x}-\rho v u_{y}-\rho w u_{z}+\rho u\left(\frac{c}{\rho}\right)_{x}+\rho v\left(\frac{c}{\rho}\right)_{y}+\rho w\left(\frac{c}{\rho}\right)_{z}=
\end{array} \\
& =\rho u\left(\frac{c}{\rho}-u\right)_{x}+\rho v\left(\frac{c}{\rho}-u\right)_{y}+\rho w\left(\frac{c}{\rho}-u\right)_{z}=0 \tag{2.3}
\end{align*}
$$

The characteristic system of the linear homogeneous equation (2.3) coincides with the differential equations of the stream lines (1.4). Along the stream lines, $\psi=$ const and $x=$ const by Formula (1.5). Thus, the general solution of the linear homogeneous equation (2.3) has the form

$$
\frac{c}{\rho}-u=\Phi(\psi, \chi), \quad \text { or } \quad c=\rho[u+\Phi(\psi, \chi)]
$$

Here $\Phi(\psi, \chi)$ is an arbitrary function of $\psi$ and $\chi$.
On the flow surface the quantities and $x$ are related. Suppose this relation is given by $\psi=(x)$ on the surface $\sigma$. Then the variable multiplier $c$ is given on the surface 0 by Formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
c=\rho\{u+\Phi[\psi(\chi), \chi]\} \tag{2.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now we obtain an expression for $\delta T_{\sigma=\text { const, }}^{\circ}$, and we set it equal to zero

$$
\begin{gather*}
\delta T_{\sigma=\mathrm{const}}^{\circ}=\iint_{\sigma}[(\delta p+c \delta u) \cos n x+c \delta v \cos n y+c \delta w \cos n z] d \sigma+ \\
+\iint_{\tau}\left\{h_{1}\left[(\delta u)_{z}-(\delta w)_{x}\right]+h_{2}\left[(\delta v)_{x}-(\delta u)_{u}\right]+h_{3}\left[(\delta \rho u)_{x}+(\delta \rho v)_{y}+\right.\right. \\
\left.\left.+(\delta \rho w)_{z}\right]\right\} d \tau=0 \tag{2.5}
\end{gather*}
$$

Let us denote by $\boldsymbol{k}$ the normal to the characteristic surface of the first family $\Sigma$. On $\Sigma$ we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
u \cos k x+v \cos k y+w \cos k z=a \tag{2.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Making use of the Gauss-Ostrogradskil formula, we transform the second integral of Expression (2.5) with the aid of integration by parts. Hereby, we recall that the variations of the functions vanish on the given characteristic surface $\Sigma$. In view of (2.2) we now have

$$
\begin{align*}
\delta T_{\sigma=\text { const }}^{\circ}=\iint_{G}\left(U_{1} \delta u\right. & \left.+V_{1}^{i} \delta v+W_{1} \delta w\right) d \sigma+\iint_{\Sigma}\left(U_{2} \delta u+V_{2} \delta v+W_{2} \delta w\right) d \Sigma+ \\
& +\iiint_{\tau}\left(U_{3} \delta u+V_{3} \delta v+W_{3} \delta w\right) d \tau=0 \tag{2.7}
\end{align*}
$$

Equating to zero the expression $\delta u$, $\delta v$ and $\delta w$, we determine the Lagrange multipliers on the surfaces $\sigma, \Sigma$ and in the volume $\tau$.

From the first integral of Formula (2.7), considering (1.6), we obtain the following conditions which must be satisfied on the surface $\sigma$ :

$$
\begin{align*}
U_{1} & \equiv\left(-\rho u+c+\rho h_{3}\right) \cos n x-h_{2} \cos n y+h_{1} \cos n z=0 \\
V_{1} & \equiv\left(-\rho v+h_{2}\right) \cos n x+\left(c+\rho h_{3}\right) \cos n y=0  \tag{2.8}\\
W_{1} & \equiv\left(-\rho w-h_{1}\right) \cos n x+\left(c+\rho h_{3}\right) \cos n z=0
\end{align*}
$$

Let us introduce the notation

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda_{1}=w+\frac{h_{1}}{p}, \quad \lambda_{2}=v-\frac{h_{2}}{p}, \quad \lambda_{3}=u+\Phi+h_{3} \tag{2.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

In view of (1.6), (2.4) and (2.9), Equations (2.8) may now be rewritten as

$$
\begin{align*}
\lambda_{1} \cos n z+\lambda_{2} \cos n y+\lambda_{3} \cos n x & =0 \\
-\lambda_{2} \cos n x+\lambda_{3} \cos n y & =0  \tag{2.10}\\
-\lambda_{1} \cos n x+\lambda_{3} \cos n z & =0
\end{align*}
$$

The determinant $\Delta$ of the homogeneous system of equations (2.10), which determine the quantities $\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}$ and $\lambda_{3}$, is equal to $-\cos n x$. On the surface 0, the quantity $\cos n x$ is, in general, not qual zero. Hence, $\lambda_{1}=\lambda_{2}=\lambda_{3}=0$. Recalling (2.9), we find that on the surface of the nozzle we have Equations

$$
\begin{equation*}
h_{1}=-\rho w, \quad h_{2}=\rho v, \quad h_{3}=-\{u+\Phi[\psi(\chi), \chi]\} \tag{2.11}
\end{equation*}
$$

From the second integral of (2.7) and from (2.6) we obtain conditions which must be satisfied on the characteristic surface $\Sigma$

$$
\begin{aligned}
U_{2} & \equiv h_{3} \rho \cos k x-h_{2} \cos k y+h_{1} \cos k z-h_{3} \rho u / a=0 \\
V_{2} & \equiv h_{2} \cos k x+h_{3} \rho \cos k y-h_{3} \rho v / a=0 \\
W_{2} & \equiv--h_{1} \cos k x+h_{3} \rho \cos k z-h_{3} \rho w / a=0
\end{aligned}
$$

This is a homogeneous system. Its determinant is zero. Hence, on $\Sigma$ it is sufficient that the following two conditions be fulfilled:

$$
\begin{array}{r}
h_{2} \cos k x+h_{3} \rho \cos k y-h_{3} \rho v / a=0  \tag{2.12}\\
-h_{1} \cos k x+h_{3} \rho \cos k z-h_{3} \rho w / a=0
\end{array}
$$

Finally, from the third integral of Expression (2.7) we obtain the conditions which must be satisfied in the volume $\tau$

$$
\begin{align*}
U_{3} & \equiv h_{1 z}-h_{2 y}+\rho\left(1-\frac{u^{2}}{a^{2}}\right) h_{3 x}-\rho \frac{u v}{a^{2}} h_{3 v}-\rho \frac{u w}{a^{2}} h_{3 z}=0 \\
V_{3} & \equiv h_{3 x}-\rho \frac{u v}{a^{2}} h_{3 x}+\rho\left(1-\frac{v^{2}}{a^{2}}\right) h_{3 y}-\rho \frac{v w}{a^{2}} h_{3 z}=0  \tag{2.13}\\
W_{3} & \equiv-h_{1 x}-\rho \frac{u w}{a^{2}} h_{3 x}-\rho \frac{v w}{a^{2}} h_{3 y}+\rho\left(1-\frac{w^{2}}{a^{2}}\right) h_{3 z}=0
\end{align*}
$$

Analysis shows that the system (2.13) for supersonic flow is of the hyperbolic type, and the characteristic directions coincide with the characteristic directions of the equations of gas dynamics (1.1) and (1.2).

Thus, the variational problem of the determination of the nozzle surface o possessing the maximum thrust and which passes through the contours $\Gamma_{1}$, and $\Gamma$, has been reduced to a boundary value problem for a partial differential equation.

Indeed, let $\sigma$ be some surface which is stretched over $\Gamma_{1}$ and $\Gamma$. On the basis of a given initial flow on $\Sigma_{1}$, and on the basis of the surface 0 , we determine, by means of the solution of the system (1.1), (1.2), the flow in the volume $T$, and also the characteristic surface of the first family $\Sigma$. Furthermore, with a given flow field and for a certain function $\Phi[\psi(x), x]$ we compute the values of $h_{1}, h_{2}, h_{3}$ on the surface $\sigma$ by means of Formula (2.11). After that, by solving Cauchy's problem for Equations (2.13) in the volume $\tau$, we find the values of $h_{1}, h_{2}, h_{3}$ on $\Sigma$. If, in addition, the condition (2.12) is satisfied on $\Sigma$, then the flow surface $\sigma$ will yield the solution of the variational problem.
3. Dooreasinc the number of indepondent variables in the boundery value problom $\Phi[\psi(\chi), \chi]=$ const. Let us project the characteristic surface of the first family $\Sigma$, which is stretched


Fig. 2 over the contours $\Gamma$ and $L$, upon the plane $y z$. In Fig. 2 the bounded doubly-connected region $D$ represents the projection of $\Sigma$ upon the plane $y \pm$. The contours $\Gamma$ and $L$ are projected on $y$ and $l$, respectively Now we rewrite the conditions which are satisfied on the surface $\Sigma$, whose equation is written in the form $\varphi(y, z)-x=0$.
We shall use the notation

$$
\begin{equation*}
A=a \sqrt{1+\varphi_{y}^{2}+\varphi_{z}^{2}} \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

-Then the two conditions of extremality (2.12) take the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\rho v \frac{A}{a^{2}}=-\frac{h_{2}}{h_{3}}+\rho \varphi_{y}, \quad \rho w \frac{A}{a^{2}}=\frac{h_{1}}{h_{3}}+\rho \varphi_{z} \tag{3.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

and the condition of directions (2.6) becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
-u+v \varphi_{v}+w \varphi_{x}=A \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

[^0]condition of coincidence on this surface has the form
$$
\frac{\partial h_{1}}{\partial z}-\frac{\partial h_{2}}{\partial y}+\rho \frac{A}{a^{2}}\left(v \frac{\partial h_{3}}{\partial y}+w \frac{\partial h_{3}}{\partial z}\right)-\rho \varphi_{y} \frac{\partial h_{3}}{\partial y}-\rho \varphi_{z} \frac{\partial h_{3}}{\partial z}=0
$$

Taking into account (3.2), we may rewrite the condition of coincidence on $\Sigma$ as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial h_{1} h_{3}}{\partial z}-\frac{\partial h_{2} h_{3}}{\partial y}=0 \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let us set $\Phi[\Psi(\chi), \chi]=c_{1}=$ const on the surface $\sigma$. Next, we consider the expressions for the Lagrange multipilers

$$
\begin{equation*}
h_{1}=-\rho w, \quad h_{2}=\rho v, \quad h_{3}=-\left(u+c_{1}\right) \tag{3.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

These expressions have the remarkable property of satisfying the initial Cauchy condition (2.11), and they can easily be shown to be a solution of the system (2.13) because of the relations (1.1) and (1.2).

Substituting (3.5) into (3.1) to (3.4), we obtain the following system of equations for the determination of the extremal characteristic surface of the first family:

$$
\begin{gather*}
A=a \sqrt{1+\varphi_{y}{ }^{2}+\varphi_{z}^{2}}=-u+v \varphi_{y}+w \varphi_{z}  \tag{3.6}\\
\frac{A}{a^{2}} \frac{\varphi_{y}}{v}+\frac{1}{u+c_{1}}, \quad \frac{A}{a^{2}}=\frac{\varphi_{z}}{w}+\frac{1}{u+c_{1}}, \quad \frac{\partial v \rho\left(u+c_{1}\right)}{\partial y}+\frac{\partial w \rho\left(u+c_{1}\right)}{\partial z}=0
\end{gather*}
$$

Let us replace the unknown functions $v$ and $w$ on $\Sigma$ by $w$ and $\varepsilon$ by means of Formulas

$$
v=\omega \cos \varepsilon, \quad w=\omega \sin \varepsilon, \quad v^{2}+w^{2}=\omega^{2}
$$

Eliminating $A$ and taking into account the fact that $\rho=\rho\left(u^{2}+\omega^{2}\right)$ and $a=a\left(u^{2}+\omega^{2}\right)$, we can transform the system (3.6) into

$$
\begin{gather*}
u+c_{1}=-\omega \frac{a}{\sqrt{u^{2}+\omega^{2}-a^{2}}}  \tag{3.7}\\
\varphi_{y}=\omega \cos \varepsilon \frac{2 u+c_{1}}{\omega^{2}-u\left(u+c_{1}\right)} \quad \varphi_{z}=\omega \sin \varepsilon \frac{2 u+c_{1}}{\omega^{2}-u\left(u+c_{1}\right)}  \tag{3.8}\\
\frac{\partial \cos \varepsilon\left(u+c_{1}\right) \omega \rho}{\partial y}+\frac{\partial \sin \varepsilon\left(u+c_{1}\right) \omega \rho}{\partial z}=0 \tag{39}
\end{gather*}
$$

This system yields the functions $u(y, z), \epsilon(y, z), \omega(y, z)$ and $\varphi(y, z)$ on $\Sigma$. Let us analyze the systems (3.7) - (3.9).

The final relation (3.7) shows that in the space of the velocity hodograph the surface $\Sigma$ is representable as an axially symmetric surface with $u$ as axis of symmetry. Thus, the relation (3.7) permits one to consider $u$ on $\Sigma$ as a known function of $\omega$, 1.e. $u=i(w)$.

In the determination of $\Sigma$ it is necessary to satisfy the boundary conditions. Firstly, $\Sigma$ must pass through the given contour $\Gamma$. This means that in the $y z$ plane there is given the contour $y$ and the values of $\varphi$ on it. Secondly, the surface $\Sigma$ must pass through some contour $L$ which belongs to the given characteristic surface $\Sigma_{1}$. This means that on some contour 2 of the $y z$ plane the relations (3.7) to (3.9) must be satisfied
by the given values of the gas-dynamic function because of flow continuity. In the sequel we shall solve the inverse problem: we will select on $\Sigma_{1}$ some contour $L$ satisfying the relations (3.7) to (3.9), and by means of (3.7) to (3.9) we will construct the surface $\Sigma$ passing through the contour $L$. After that we construct the contour $\Gamma$ on $\Sigma$ by means of the values of $\psi=\psi(x)$ given on $\Gamma_{1}$. The contour $\Gamma$ will correspond to the selected contour $L$.

Let us choose an arbitrary point on $\Sigma_{1}$. The relation (3.7) permits us to determine at once the contour $L$ on $\Sigma_{1}$, This determines also the contour $l$ on the $y z$ plane and the values of $\varphi$ on $l$. With these data one can evaluate the derivative $d_{\varphi} / d s$ on $l$, where $s$ is the arc length of $\tau$. On the other hand, the relations (3.8) determine $\varphi_{y}$ and $\varphi_{z}$ on $l$, and, hence, also the derivative $d \varphi / d_{s}$. It is obvious that in the general case the values $d \varphi / d_{s}$ on $l$, evaluated by the first and second method, will not coincide. This indicates that the problem has no solution in general.

However, the problem can be solved if one assumes that there can occur a break of the surface $\sigma$ on the contour $\Gamma_{1}$

In this case an infinite number of characteristic surfaces $\Sigma_{1:}$ may emerge from the contour $\Gamma_{1}$. Each $\Sigma_{1}$, is determined only by the given surface $\Sigma_{1}$ and by an arbitrary function $\delta_{1}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$ chosen along $\Gamma_{1}$ (the spatial analog of the Prandtl-Meyer flow). For the function $\delta_{1}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$ one may take, for example a dinedral angle between two tangent planes to the surfaces $\Sigma_{1}$ and $\Sigma_{11}$ at points of the contour $\Gamma_{1}$. For an arbitrary chosen point of $\Sigma_{1}$, we select a function $\delta_{1}\left(\Gamma_{1}\right)$ and thereby an initial characteristic surface $\Sigma_{1_{1}}$, such that on the constructed contour $l$ the values of $d \varphi / d s$, evaluated by the first and second method coincide. In this manner one constructs the required contour $I$ and determines the initial conditions for the solution of the system (3.7) (3.9).

The system of equations (3.7) to (3.9) can be reduced to a system of a known type.

Let us introduce a new function $V_{0}$ by means of Formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
V_{0}=\omega \frac{2 u+c_{1}}{\omega^{2}-u\left(u+c_{1}\right)} \tag{3.10}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since by (3.7), $u=u(w)$, the relation (3.10) can be considered as an implicit determination of $\omega=\omega\left(V_{0}\right)$. This permits one to consider Expression

$$
\begin{equation*}
\rho_{0}\left(V_{0}\right)=\rho \frac{\omega\left(u+c_{1}\right)}{V_{0}} \tag{3.11}
\end{equation*}
$$

as a function of $V_{0}$.
Let us set

$$
\begin{equation*}
u_{0}=\varphi_{y}, \quad v_{0}=\varphi_{z}, \quad x_{0}=y, \quad y_{0}=z \quad\left(V_{0}^{2}=u_{0}^{2}+v_{0}^{2}\right) \tag{3.12}
\end{equation*}
$$

Equating the cross derivatives of Expression (3.8), we may rewrite the system (3.8) - (3.9) in the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial u_{0}}{\partial y_{0}}-\frac{\partial v_{0}}{\partial x_{0}}=0, \quad \frac{\partial \rho_{0} u_{0}}{\partial x_{0}}+\frac{\partial \rho_{0} v_{0}}{\partial y_{0}}=0 \tag{3.13}
\end{equation*}
$$

The system (3.13) describes plane irrotational "flows" of a compressible fluid with a "potential" $\Phi$ which is of the form of an extremal characteristic of the surface $\Sigma$. To continue the analogy, the "velocity of sound" for this "flow" is computed by means of Formula

$$
a_{0}^{2}=-V_{0} \rho_{0} / \rho_{0}^{\prime}
$$

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[^0]:    The surface $\Sigma$ is the characteristic surface of the system (2,13). The

