6.5

6.5 Determine an expression for the vorticity of the flow field described by

$$\mathbf{V} = -xy^3\,\hat{\mathbf{i}} + y^4\hat{\mathbf{j}}$$

Is the flow irrotational?

$$\vec{\zeta} = 2\vec{\omega} \qquad \text{(Eq. 6.17)}$$

From expression for velocity, $u = -xy^3$, $v = y^4$, and $w = 0$, and with

$$\omega_x = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial z}\right) \qquad \text{(Eq. 6.13)}$$

$$\omega_y = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}\right) \qquad \text{(Eq. 6.14)}$$

$$\omega_z = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right) \qquad \text{(Eq. 6.12)}$$

it follows that

$$\omega_x = 0, \qquad \omega_y = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \omega_z = \frac{1}{2}\left[0 - (-3xy^2)\right] = \frac{3}{2}xy^2$$

Thus,

$$\vec{\zeta} = 2\left(\omega_x\hat{i} + \omega_y\hat{j} + \omega_z\hat{k}\right)$$

$$= 2\left[(0)\hat{i} + (0)\hat{j} + \left(\tfrac{3}{2}xy^2\right)\hat{k}\right]$$

$$= \underline{\underline{3xy^2\,\hat{k}}}$$

Since $\vec{\zeta}$ is not zero everywhere the flow is not irrotational. <u>No.</u>