6.81

6.81 Two immiscible, incompressible, viscous fluids having the same densities but different viscosities are contained between two infinite, horizontal, parallel plates (Fig. P6.81 . The bottom plate is fixed and the upper plate moves with a constant velocity U. Determine the velocity at the interface. Express your answer in terms of U, μ_1, and μ_2. The motion of the fluid is caused entirely by the movement of the upper plate; that is, there is no pressure gradient in the x direction. The fluid velocity and shearing stress is continuous across the interface between the two fluids. Assume laminar flow.

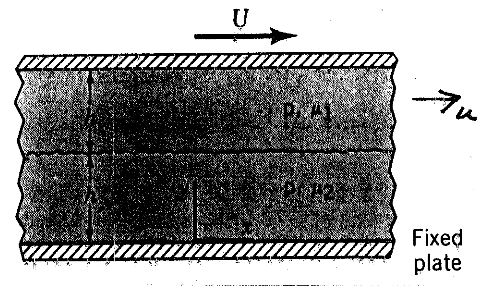

FIGURE P6.81

For the specified conditions, $v=0$, $w=0$, $\frac{\partial p}{\partial x}=0$, and $g_x=0$, so that the x-component of the Navier-Stokes equations (Eq. 6.127a) for either the upper or lower layer reduces to

$$\frac{d^2u}{dy^2}=0 \qquad (1)$$

Integration of Eq. (1) yields

$$u = Ay + B$$

which gives the velocity distribution in either layer.
In the upper layer at $y=2h$, $u=U$ so that

$$B_1 = U - A_1(2h)$$

where the subscript 1 refers to the upper layer.
For the lower layer at $y=0$, $u=0$ so that

$$B_2 = 0$$

where the subscript 2 refers to the lower layer. Thus,

$$u_1 = A_1(y-2h) + U$$

and

$$u_2 = A_2 y$$

At $y=h$, $u_1 = u_2$ so that

$$A_1(h-2h) + U = A_2 h$$

or

$$A_2 = -A_1 + \frac{U}{h} \qquad (2)$$

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Since the velocity distribution is linear in each layer the shearing stress

$$\tau_{yx} = \mu\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}\right) = \mu \frac{du}{dy}$$

is constant throughout each layer. For the upper layer

$$\tau_1 = \mu_1 A_1$$

and for the lower layer

$$\tau_2 = \mu_2 A_2$$

At the interface $\tau_1 = \tau_2$ so that

$$\mu_1 A_1 = \mu_2 A_2$$

or

$$\frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1} \qquad (3)$$

Substitution of Eq. (3) into Eq. (2) yields

$$A_2 = -\frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1} A_2 + \frac{U}{h}$$

or

$$A_2 = \frac{U/h}{1 + \mu_2/\mu_1}$$

Thus, velocity at the interface is

$$u_2\,(y = h) = A_2 h = \underline{\underline{\frac{U}{1 + \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_1}}}}$$