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3. Physics of Microfluidic Systems

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3.4. Fluidic Networks

1. Analogy to Electric Circuits
2. Example: Simple Electric Circuit
3. Flow Resistance
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5. Fluidic Capacitance

3.4. Fluidic Networks

- 1. Analogy to Electric Circuits**
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3.4.1. Analogy to Electric Circuits

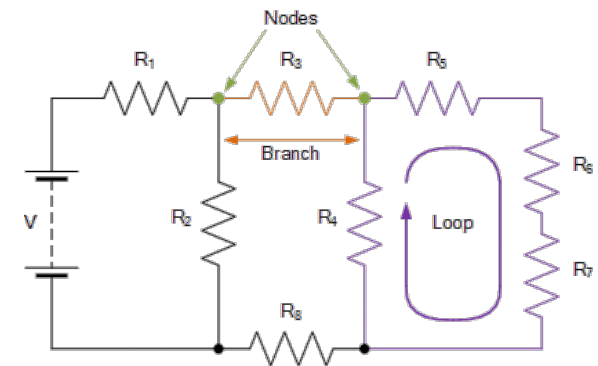
- „Exact“ approach
 - Continuity of mass
 - Navier-Stokes equations
 - Equation of state
 - Boundary conditions
- Analytical Solution
 - Only for cases of high symmetry
- **Numerical Solution**
 - Discretization
 - Tremendous number of lattice points
 - High computational effort, e.g.,
 - Spatio-temporally varying lattice
 - Convergence problems
 - **Most problems require further simplification!**

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v}) = 0$$
$$\rho \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathbf{v} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{v} \right] = -\nabla p + \eta \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + \rho \mathbf{g}$$
$$pV = nR_g T$$
$$v_{\parallel} = 0 \quad v_{\perp} = 0$$

3.4.1. Analogy to Electric Circuits

- Physics of electric circuits
 - Conduction band
 - Some 10^{23} electrons
 - QM \Rightarrow Hamiltonian
 - Boundary conditions
- Electrical engineering \Rightarrow Parameter reduction
 - Elements condensed to discrete **points**
 - One-dimensional current I
 - Voltage U : Potential difference between points
 - **Discrete** set of idealized elements
 - Resistance R
 - Inductance L
 - Capacitance C

HOPELESS!



Kirchhoff's laws

$$\sum_i I_i = 0 \text{ at each node}$$

$$\sum_i U_i = 0 \text{ along any closed mesh}$$

3.4.1. Fluidic Analogs

- Kirchhoff's conservation laws: Quantities

- Current $I \mapsto I_m$

- Mass flow with density ρ
- Flow velocity v

$$I_m = \int_A \rho v dA$$

- Total energy (density)

- Potential (energy) $U \mapsto p$
- Kinetic energy $E_{\text{kin}} \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \rho v^2$

- Hydrodynamics

- No energy dissipation
- Recall: Bernoulli

$$p + \frac{\rho}{2} v^2 = p_{\text{tot}} = \text{const.}$$

- Hydrodynamic potential $U_{\text{hd}} \mapsto p_{\text{tot}}$

- Preserved in flows


$$U_{\text{hd}} = \frac{p}{\rho} + \frac{1}{2} v^2 = \frac{p_{\text{tot}}}{\rho} = \text{const.}$$

3.4.1. Fluidic Potential

- Rewrite potential

- Total pressure p_{tot} at heart of U_{hd}

$$U_{\text{hd}} = \frac{p}{\rho} + \frac{\bar{v}^2}{2} = \frac{p_{\text{tot}}}{\rho} \longrightarrow$$

 $p + \frac{\rho}{2}v^2 = p_{\text{tot}} = \text{const.}$ Bernoulli

$$U_{\text{hd}} = \frac{1}{\rho} (p + p_A)$$

$$p_A = \frac{\rho \bar{v}^2}{2} = \frac{I_m^2}{2\rho A^2}$$

$$\bar{v} = I_m/A$$

- p_A : pressure drop at element of cross-section A

- Differential definition

$$dU_{\text{hd}} = \frac{1}{\rho} (dp + dp_A) = \frac{1}{\rho} \left(dp + \frac{\partial p_A}{\partial I_m} dI_m \right)$$

$$dU_{\text{hd}} = \frac{1}{\rho} (dp + R_A dI_m)$$

$$R_A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\partial p_A}{\partial I_m} = \frac{I_m}{\rho A^2}$$

- $d\rho^{-1}p$ approximates dU_{hd} for small variations $R_A I_m$!

3.4.1. Analogy to Electric Circuits

- Hydrodynamic power

- Units of Watt
- $1 \text{ W} = 1 \text{ N m s}^{-1}$

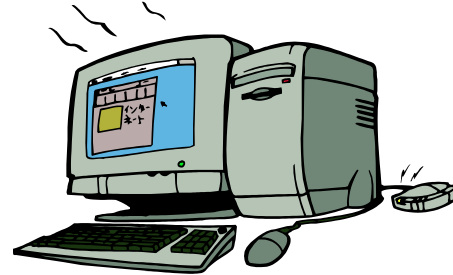
$$P_{\text{hd}} = I_m U_{\text{hd}} = \frac{I_m}{\varrho} (p + R_A I_m) = \frac{I_m}{\varrho} p_{\text{tot}}$$

- Transfer functions

- Workhorse of electric circuits
- Relation between
 - Potential drop U_{hd}
 - Current I_m
- Complex number $A \cdot e^{i\phi}$
 - Amplitude A
 - Phase shift ϕ
- Derivation
 - Analytical: for rather abstract components (e.g., Ohm's laws)
 - Resistors
 - Capacitances
 - Inductivities
 - Numerical: (CFD)

3.4.1. Analogy to Electric Circuits

- Net list
 - Alignment of components
 - Internal coupling
- Differential equation for entire system
 - Net list
 - Transfer functions
 - Conservation laws
- Computation of network
 - Numerical procedures (SPICE, SABER)
 - Solution at discrete locations



3.4. Fluidic Networks

1. Analogy to Electric Circuits
- 2. Example: Simple Electric Circuit**
3. Flow Resistance
4. Fluidic Inertance
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3.4.2. Example: Simple Electric Circuit

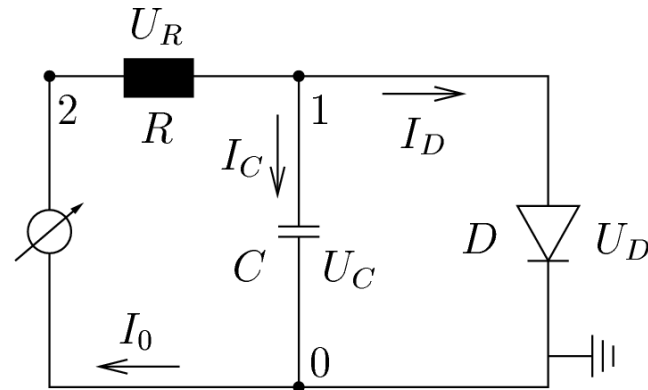


Fig. 3.25. Equivalent network for an electric circuit constituted by a resistor R , a capacitor C and a diode D

Transfer functions

$$I_R = \frac{U_R}{R}$$

$$I_C = C \frac{dU_C}{dt}$$

$$I_D = I_{\text{sat}} \left(e^{\frac{U_D}{U_T}} - 1 \right)$$

Net list

$0 \mapsto 2$: current $I_0 = I_R$

$1 \mapsto 2$: resistance R

$0 \mapsto 1$: capacitance C

$0 \mapsto 1$: diode current I_D

3.4.2. Example: Simple Electric Circuit

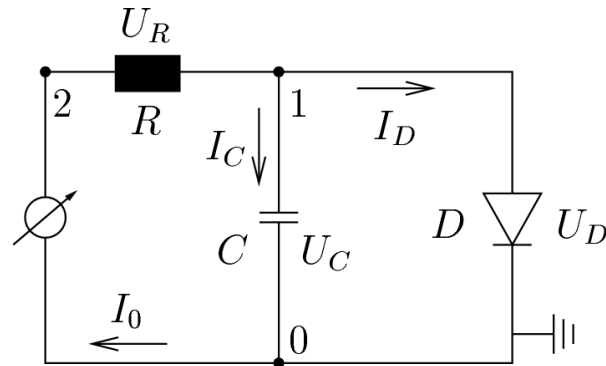


Fig. 3.25. Equivalent network for an electric circuit constituting by a resistor R , a capacitor C and a diode D

- Kirchhoff's mesh rule

$$U_C = U_D$$

- Kirchhoff's node rule

$$\begin{aligned} \text{node 1 : } & -\frac{U_R}{R} + C \frac{dU_C}{dt} + I_{\text{sat}} \left(e^{\frac{U_D}{U_T}} - 1 \right) = 0 \\ \text{node 2 : } & \frac{U_R}{R} - I_0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

- DE for system

$$C \frac{dU_C}{dt} + I_{\text{sat}} \left(e^{\frac{U_C}{U_T}} - 1 \right) = I_0$$

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3.4.3. Flow Resistance

- Fluidic equivalent to ideal Ohmic resistor

- Quotient

- „Potential“ difference
- „Current“

$$R_{hd} = \frac{\Delta p}{I_m}$$

- Referring to mass flow I_m

- Alternative to volume flow I_V

- Attention: Compressibility!

- Mechanism

- Viscosity

- Boundary conditions

- Character of flow

- Note

- **No energy dissipation (heat)** like Ohmic resistor

- Conversion between

- Potential energy (\propto pressure $U_{hd} \mapsto p$)
- Kinetic energy (\propto square of mass flow I_m)



3.4.3. Flow Resistance

- Analytical solution for tube

$$I_V = \frac{\pi}{8\eta} \frac{\Delta p}{l} r_0^4$$

Hagen-Poiseuille

$$R = \frac{U}{I}$$

Ohm

- Hydrodynamic resistance

$$R_{hd} = C_{nc} \frac{\eta l}{\rho A^2}$$

➤ Numerical coefficient

- Shape of cross-section





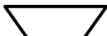
cross-section	class	C_{nc}
	circular law of Hagen-Poiseuille	$8\pi = 25.13$
	equilateral triangle	$\frac{60}{\sqrt{3}} = 34.64$
	KOH-etched triangle < 100 >	35.12
	rectangle	$\frac{2}{\mathcal{A} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mathcal{A}}{\alpha_i^5} (\frac{\alpha_i}{\mathcal{A}} - \tanh \frac{\alpha_i}{\mathcal{A}})}$
	KOH-etched trapezoid	$\frac{12 - 1.38\mathcal{A} + 4\mathcal{A}^2}{\mathcal{A} - 0.85\mathcal{A}^2 + 0.28\mathcal{A}^3}$

Table 3.4. Correction coefficients C_{nc} for flow resistance of non-circular channel cross-sections as derived in the laminar regime, adopted from . The parameter \mathcal{A} (aspect ratio for rectangles) and α_i for the rectangular cross section are defined as $\mathcal{A} = \text{height}/(\text{average width})$ and $\alpha_i = \pi(2i - 1)/2$. A good approximation for the rectangular cross-section is given by $C_{nc} = 8(1 + \mathcal{A})^2/\mathcal{A}$

- Inlet resistance
 - Distance to reach fully developed flow profile z_{devel}
 - Inertia
 - Acceleration from rest to asymptotic velocity
 - „Direct current“ (DC) phenomena

$$R_{\text{hd}} = R_{\text{hd},0} + K \frac{I_m}{2\rho A^2}$$

Nonlinear term

3.4.3. Orifice Plate

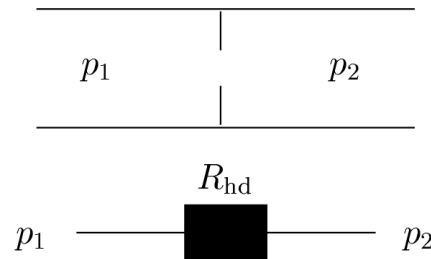


Fig. 3.26. Geometrically, an orifice plate is a fluidic constraint of negligible length (top). In a fluidic network it represents a hydraulic resistance R_{hd} (bottom)

- Fluidic constraint
 - „Direct current“ phenomenon
 - Negligible length
 - Vanishing mass resides in aperture
 - No fluidic inertance
- Idealized conditions
 - Perfect laminar flow
 - Perfect conversion: potential \mapsto kinetic \mapsto potential energy
- Real system
 - Energy losses during reconversion
 - Coefficient C_d depends on various parameters (also Δp)

$$R_{hd} = \frac{1}{C_d A} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta p}{2\rho}}$$

3.4.3. Nozzles

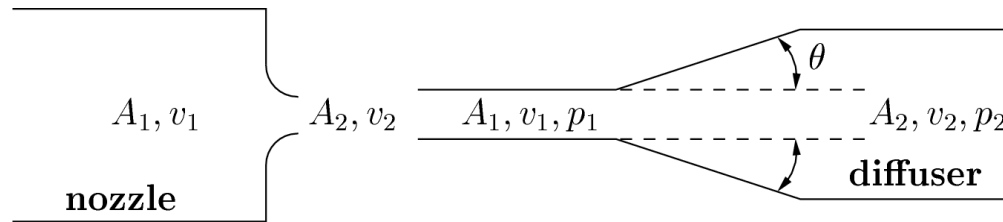


Fig. 3.27. Schematic of a nozzle (left) and a diffuser (right). The flow goes from left to right with an initial cross-section A_1 and velocity v_1 changing to A_2 and v_2 after leaving the element

- Geometrical contraction
 - Cross-section A_1 and A_2
- Idle ($A_2 = 0$)
 - R_{hd} infinite
- Case $A_1 = A_2$
 - R_{hd} vanishes
- Scaling with I_m

$$R_{hd} = \frac{I_m}{2\rho A_2^2} \left[1 - \left(\frac{A_2}{A_1} \right)^2 \right]$$

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3.4.4. Fluidic Inertance

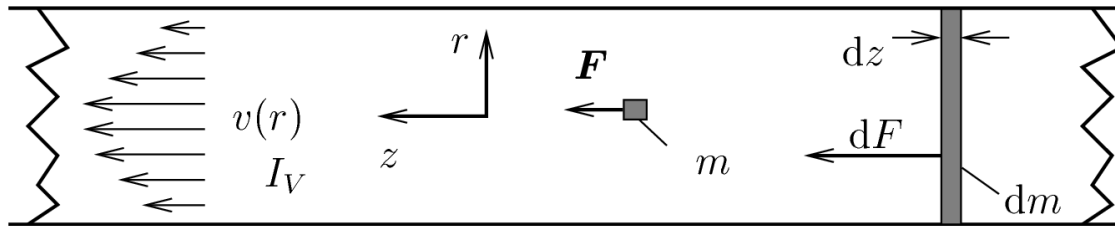


Fig. 3.28. Inertance derived from the force dF acting on an active element of mass dm and longitudinal width dz

- Setting fluidic mass into motion
- AC phenomenon
- Conversion
 - Pressure
 - Potential energy
 - Fluid flow
 - Kinetic energy
- How tightly can mass flow follow pressure signal?

$$F = ma$$

$$dF = Adp = \int_{r=0}^{r=r_0} 2\pi\rho \frac{dv(r)}{dt} r dr dz = dz \frac{d}{dt} \underbrace{\left(2\pi\rho \int_{r=0}^{r=r_0} v(r)r dr \right)}_{I_m}$$

$$dF = dz \frac{dI_m}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dp}{dz} = \frac{1}{A} \frac{dI_m}{dt}$$

$$\Delta p_m = \frac{l}{A} \frac{dI_m}{dt} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} L_{hd} \frac{dI_m}{dt}$$

$$L_{hd} = \frac{l}{A}$$

3.4.3. Fluidic Inertance

- Reaction of fluid
 - Speed of sound: 1000 m s^{-1}
 - Channel length: 10 mm
 - Time for pressure signal: $10 \text{ } \mu\text{s}$
- Onset of flow
 - Pressure drops
 - Viscosity p_η
 - Inertia p_m
 - Dynamics of system

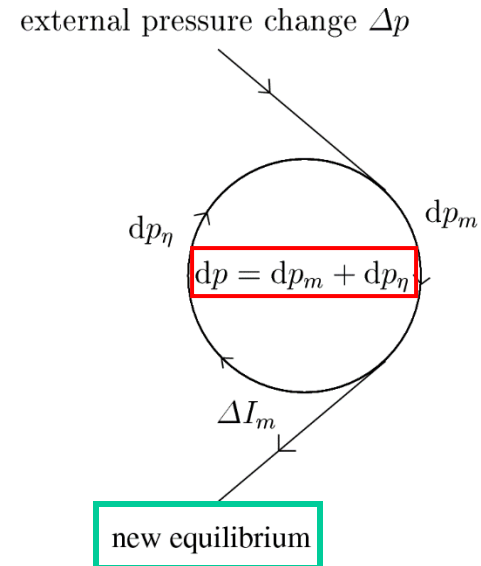


Fig. 3.29. Response of the mass flow I_m of a fluidic system to an external pressure change $\Delta p = \Delta p_m + \Delta p_\eta$

$$dp = dp_\eta + dp_m = R_{hd}dI_m + L_{hd}dI_m$$

3.4.3. Fluidic Inertance

- Reaction of fluid
 - Speed of sound: 1000 m s^{-1}
 - Channel length: 10 mm
 - Time for pressure signal: $10 \mu\text{s}$
- Onset of flow
 - Pressure drops
 - Viscosity p_η
 - Inertia p_m
 - Dynamics of system

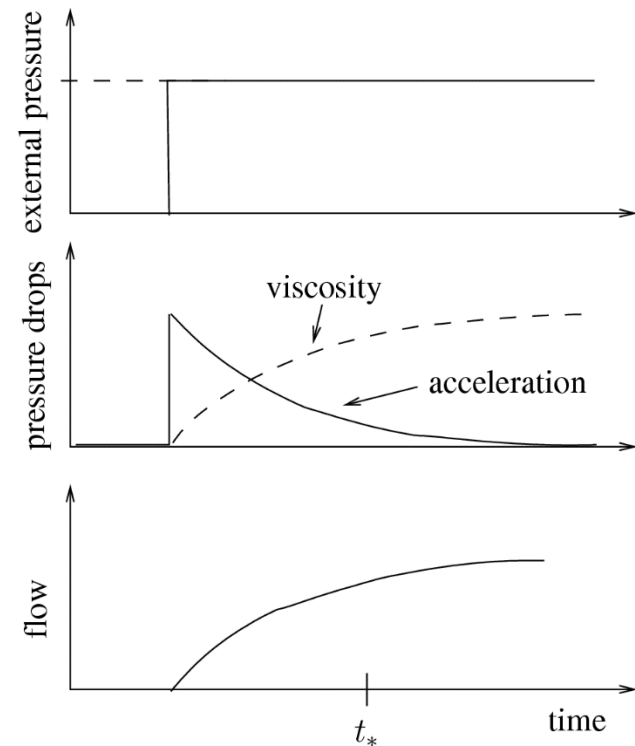


Fig. 3.30. The external pressure applied to a fluidic system split into contributions to overcome viscosity dp_η and acceleration dp_m

$$dp = dp_\eta + dp_m = R_{hd}dI_m + L_{hd}dI_m$$

3.4.3. Fluidic Inertance

- Characteristic response time

$$\tilde{t} = \frac{L_{hd}}{R_{hd}}$$

➤ Rewritten
$$\tilde{t} = \frac{A}{C_{nc}v} = \frac{\pi r_0^2}{C_{nc}v}$$

- Independent of channel length
- Scaling with r_0^2

- Example with typical values

- $v = 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$
- $r_0 = 400 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$
- Response time of **20 ms** $\approx 10^{-2} \text{ s}$
- **Typical frequencies in μ fluidic circuits**
 - **$\sim 100 \text{ Hz}$**

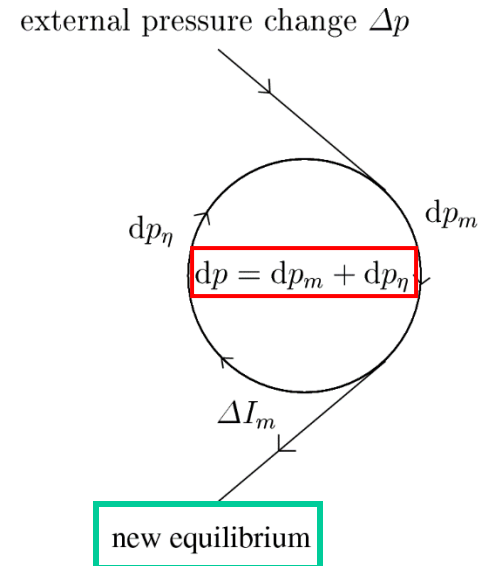


Fig. 3.29. Response of the mass flow I_m of a fluidic system to an external pressure change $\Delta p = \Delta p_m + \Delta p_\eta$

3.4. Fluidic Networks

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3.4.5. Fluidic Capacitance

- **Elastic** components
 - Membranes
 - Compressible fluids
 - AC & DC phenomenon
- External pressure
 - Intermediate „storage“ of mass

$$\Delta m = \Delta(\rho V) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} C_{\text{hd}} \Delta p$$

flow rate

$$I_m = \frac{dm}{dt} = V \frac{d\rho}{dt} + \rho \frac{dV}{dt} = C_{\text{hd}} \frac{dp}{dt}$$

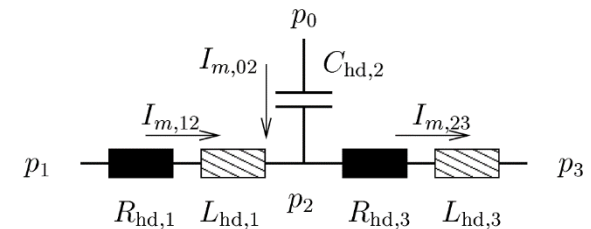
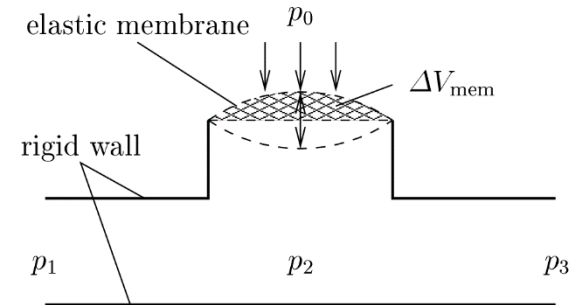


Fig. 3.31. Elastic membrane acting as fluidic capacitance. (top) The membrane volume ΔV_{mem} adjusts to the difference Δp between the external and internal pressure p_0 and p_2 , respectively. (bottom) Electric circuit equivalent of the elastic element with hydraulic resistances $R_{\text{hd},i}$, inertances $L_{\text{hd},i}$ and capacitance $C_{\text{hd},i}$ governing flows $I_{m,ij}$ in the corresponding channel sections

3.4.5. Compressible Fluids

- Finite compressibility κ
 - **Flow** by compression of fluid of density ρ

$$I_m = V_0 \frac{d\rho}{dt} = V_0 \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial p} \frac{dp}{dt} = \rho_0 V_0 \kappa \frac{dp}{dt}$$

$$m_0 = \rho_0 \cdot V_0$$

- Hydraulic capacitance

$$C_{hd} = m_0 \kappa$$

3.4.5. Elastic Membranes

- Unknown variables
 - Three currents $I_{m,i}$
 - Pressure p

- Kirchhoff's mesh rule

$$p_1(t) - p_2(t) = R_{hd,1} I_{m,1}(t) + L_{hd,1} \frac{dI_{m,1}(t)}{dt} + R_{hd,2} I_{m,2}(t) + L_{hd,2} \frac{dI_{m,2}(t)}{dt}$$

- Flow in the side channel

$$I_{m,0}(t) = \frac{dV_{mem}}{dt} = C_{hd} \left[\frac{dp(t)}{dt} - \frac{dp_0(t)}{dt} \right]$$

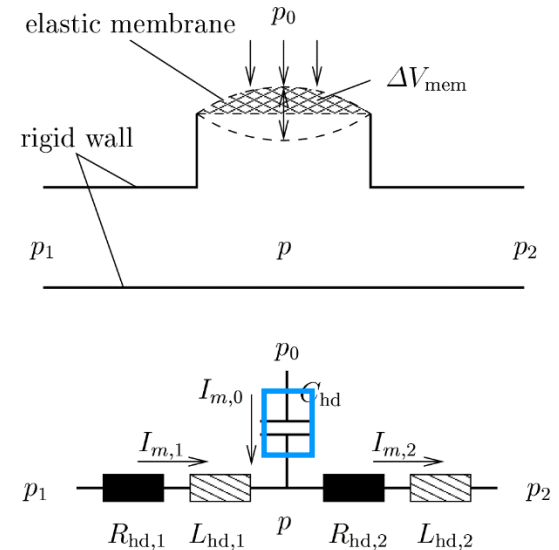


Fig. 3.31. Elastic membrane acting as fluidic capacitance. (top) The membrane volume ΔV_{mem} adjusts to the difference Δp between the external and internal pressure p_0 and p_2 , respectively. (bottom) Electric circuit equivalent of the elastic element with hydraulic resistances $R_{hd,i}$, inertances $L_{hd,i}$ and capacitance $C_{hd,i}$ governing flows $I_{m,ij}$ in the corresponding channel sections

3.4.5. Elastic Membranes

- Membrane function
 - Flow by **elastic** expansion

$$\Delta V_{\text{mem}}(t) \simeq k_{\text{elast}}[p(t) - p_0(t)]$$

with $C_{\text{hd}} = \rho k_{\text{elast}}$

- Current in side channel

$$I_{m,0}(t) + I_{m,1}(t) = I_{m,2}(t)$$

- DE for system with one unknown
 - Combination of four equations

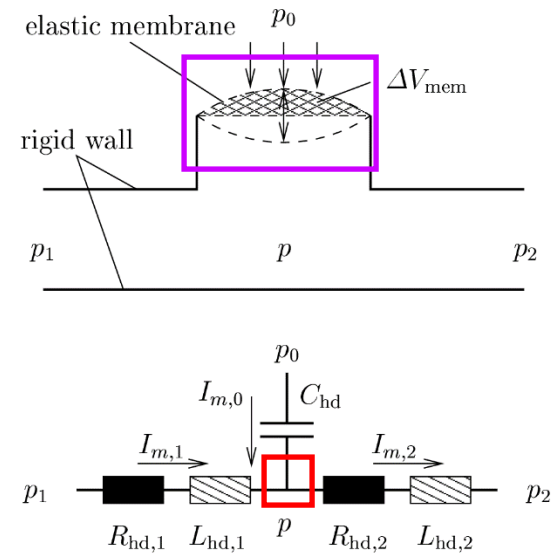


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Summary

Mass flow

$$I_m = \int_A \rho v dA$$

Voltage $U \leftrightarrow \Delta p$

$$U_{\text{hd}} = \frac{p}{\rho} + \frac{1}{2} v^2 = \frac{p_{\text{tot}}}{\rho} = \text{const.}$$

Resistance

$$R_{\text{hd}} = \frac{\Delta p}{I_m}$$

$$R_{\text{hd}} = C_{\text{nc}} \frac{\eta l}{\rho A^2}$$

Inertance
(mass acceleration)

$$L_{\text{hd}} = \frac{l}{A}$$

Compressibility

Elastic membrane

Capacitance

$$C_{\text{hd}} = m_0 \kappa$$

$$C_{\text{hd}} = \rho k_{\text{elast}}$$