



Indian Institute of Technology  
Madras

AM6515  
Boundary Layer Stability  
*Term Project Report*

Numerical Approach to Solving Orr-Sommerfeld  
Equation for Blasius Profile and Plane Poiseuille  
Flow

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# 1 Introduction

The Orr-Sommerfeld equation is a fundamental differential equation in fluid dynamics, specifically in the study of hydrodynamic instability and the transition from laminar to turbulent flow in a viscous fluid. It describes the stability of small disturbances in a parallel shear flow and is useful in examining how these disturbances evolve, which can lead to the amplification of instabilities and the onset of turbulence.

The equation is derived from the Navier-Stokes equations under assumptions for incompressible and linearized disturbances in a parallel flow. Named after William McFadden Orr and Arnold Sommerfeld, it governs the evolution of infinitesimal perturbations superimposed on a base flow, such as plane Couette or Poiseuille flow. By studying the solutions of the Orr-Sommerfeld equation, researchers gain insight into the stability characteristics of the base flow, understanding whether disturbances will decay or grow over time.

## 2 Derivation of the Equation

### 2.1 Base Flow

The base flow is a parallel flow in the  $x$  - direction with velocity,  $\vec{u}_B = \bar{U}(y)\hat{e}_x$ , constant density,  $\rho_B = \rho_0$ , constant pressure,  $p_B = p_0$ . Further assumptions are the absence of gravity and 3-D perturbations. Using the argument of Squire's theorem, it is sufficient to consider 2-D perturbations. While linearizing, every quantity is given a perturbation.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{u} &= \vec{u}_B + u' \\ p &= p_B + p'\end{aligned}$$

The flow is bounded by  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ .

### 2.2 Characteristic scales

The governing equations are written in a non-dimensional form:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Spatial scale : } L, \quad \text{Velocity scale : } U \\ \text{Pressure scale : } \rho U^2, \quad \text{Time scale : } \frac{L}{U}\end{aligned}$$

### 2.3 Non-dimensional continuity equation

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

Linearizing,

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u}' = 0$$

### 2.4 Non-dimensional momentum equation

$$\frac{D\vec{u}}{Dt} = -\vec{\nabla}p + \frac{\vec{\nabla}^2 \vec{u}}{Re}$$

Linearizing,

**$x$ -momentum equation**

$$\frac{\partial u'}{\partial t} + \bar{U} \frac{\partial u'}{\partial x} + v' \frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial p'}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{Re} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \right) u'$$

**$y$ -momentum equation**

$$\frac{\partial v'}{\partial t} + \bar{U} \frac{\partial v'}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial p'}{\partial y} + \frac{1}{Re} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \right) v'$$

### 2.5 In terms of stream function, $\psi$

$$u' = \psi_y v' = -\psi_x$$

Substituting for  $u'$  and  $v'$  and eliminating  $p'$  from the momentum equations, we get,

$$\left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \bar{U} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \nabla^2 - \psi_x \frac{d^2 \bar{U}}{dy^2} = \frac{1}{Re} \nabla^2 (\psi_{xx} + \psi_{yy})$$

## 2.6 Normal mode form of $\psi$

Since the flow is homogeneous in  $x$ -direction and inhomogeneous in  $y$ -direction, we can write a normal mode solution form for  $\psi$ :

$$\psi = \frac{\hat{\psi}(y)}{2} e^{i(kx - \omega t)} + C.C$$

where,  $\hat{\psi}$  is the amplitude,  $k$  is the wavenumber in the  $x$ -direction and  $\omega$  is the complex frequency.  $c$  is the wave velocity with  $c = \frac{\omega}{k}$ . Substituting in the pressure-eliminated-momentum equations, we get,

$$(\bar{U} - c) \left( \frac{d^2}{dy^2} - k^2 \right) \hat{\psi} - \hat{\psi} \frac{d^2 \bar{U}}{dy^2} = \frac{1}{ikRe} \left( \frac{d^2}{dy^2} - k^2 \right)^2 \hat{\psi}$$

which is the Orr-Sommerfeld equation.

## 3 Numerical Techniques to solve Orr-Sommerfeld equation

### 3.1 Shooting Method

- Write the O.S equation as

$$\Phi' = A(y)\Phi$$

where,  $\Phi = \left( \hat{\psi} \quad \frac{d\hat{\psi}}{dy} \quad \frac{d^2\hat{\psi}}{dy^2} \quad \frac{d^3\hat{\psi}}{dy^3} \right)^T$ ,  $\Phi' = \frac{d\Phi}{dy}$  and  $A(y) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ a & 0 & b & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  where a and b can be found from the O.S equation.

- Since the O.S equation is a fourth order ODE, we can write the general solution as a combination of four linearly independent solutions:

$$\Phi(y) = \gamma_1 \Phi^1(y) + \gamma_2 \Phi^2(y) + \gamma_3 \Phi^3(y) + \gamma_4 \Phi^4(y)$$

- We set the boundary conditions for each of the four linearly independent solutions as follows:  $\Phi^1(y_1) = (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1)^T$ ,  $\Phi^2(y_1) = (0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0)^T$ ,  $\Phi^3(y_1) = (0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0)^T$  and  $\Phi^4(y_1) = (1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)^T$ . Note that these will not satisfy the O.S equation! These just ensure that four linearly independent solutions are generated.
- The actual boundary condition for flow bounded by  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  is  $\psi(y_1) = 0$  and  $\frac{d\psi(y_1)}{dy} = 0$ . So, the contribution of  $\Phi^3(y)$  and  $\Phi^4(y)$  should be 0. So,  $\gamma_3 = 0$  and  $\gamma_4 = 0$ . So, general solution is of the form  $\Phi(y) = \gamma_1 \Phi^1(y) + \gamma_2 \Phi^2(y)$ .
- Taking an initial guess for  $c$ , we generate  $\Phi_1(y)$  and  $\Phi_2(y)$  at all locations using some integration scheme like the RK-4 method.
- Let  $\Phi(y) = \left( \hat{\psi} \quad \frac{d\hat{\psi}}{dy} \quad \frac{d^2\hat{\psi}}{dy^2} \quad \frac{d^3\hat{\psi}}{dy^3} \right)^T = (\Phi_1 \ \Phi_2 \ \Phi_3 \ \Phi_4)^T$ .
- At  $y = y_2$ , imposing the boundary conditions,  $\psi(y_2) = 0$  and  $\frac{d\psi(y_2)}{dy} = 0$ , we get,

$$\gamma_1 \Phi_1^1(y_2) + \gamma_2 \Phi_2^1(y_2) = 0$$

$$\gamma_1 \Phi_1^2(y_2) + \gamma_2 \Phi_2^2(y_2) = 0$$

Hence, for non-trivial solutions of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ , we can impose,

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_1^1(y) & \Phi_2^1(y) \\ \Phi_1^2(y) & \Phi_2^2(y) \end{bmatrix} = \Phi_1^1(y) \Phi_2^2(y) - \Phi_2^1(y) \Phi_1^2(y) = 0.$$

- Define  $L = \Phi_1^1(y) \Phi_2^2(y) - \Phi_2^1(y) \Phi_1^2(y)$ . The numerical problem has been reduced to finding a  $c$  for which  $L$  becomes zero. Having found such a  $c$ , we check if the imaginary part of it,  $c_i$  becomes positive for any  $k$ . In that case, there is an instability.
- Another way of tackling the problem is to use central differencing scheme to approximate the second and fourth derivatives of  $\hat{\psi}$ . This method is detailed in [2].

$$\bar{\phi}_i'' \approx \frac{\bar{\phi}_{i-1} - 2\bar{\phi}_i + \bar{\phi}_{i+1}}{h^2},$$

$$\bar{\phi}_i'''' \approx \frac{\bar{\phi}_{i-2} - 4\bar{\phi}_{i-1} + 6\bar{\phi}_i - 4\bar{\phi}_{i+1} + \bar{\phi}_{i+2}}{h^4}.$$

### 3.2 Spectral Methods

The Orr-Sommerfeld equation, after rearranging, reads:

$$\left(-Uk^2 - U'' - \frac{k^4}{ikRe}\right)\hat{\psi} + \left(U + \frac{2k^2}{ikRe}\right)D^2\hat{\psi} - \frac{1}{ikRe}D^4\hat{\psi} = c\left(D^2\hat{\psi} - k^2\hat{\psi}\right)$$

with the boundary conditions:

$$\hat{\psi}(\pm 1) = D\hat{\psi}(\pm 1) = 0$$

$D$  is the derivative matrix.

Chebyshev Polynomials of the first kind are given by:

$$T_n(y) = \cos(ncos^{-1}(y))$$

for  $-1 \leq y \leq 1$ .

We expand the eigenfunctions in a Chebyshev series:

$$\hat{\psi}(y) = \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n(y)$$

where  $T_n(y)$  are Chebyshev polynomials of degree  $n$ .

The derivatives of the eigenfunctions are obtained by differentiating the expansion. For the second derivative, for example:

$$D^2\hat{\psi}(y) = \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n''(y),$$

and similarly for the fourth derivative. Substituting this expansion into the Orr-Sommerfeld equation, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(U(y)k^2 - U''(y) - \frac{k^4}{ikRe}\right) \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n(y) + \left(U(y) + \frac{2k^2}{ikRe}\right) \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n''(y) \\ - \frac{1}{ikRe} \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n''''(y) = c \left( \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n''(y) - k^2 \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n(y) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

We require this equation to be satisfied at the Gauss-Lobatto collocation points  $y_j = \cos\left(\frac{\pi j}{N}\right)$ . This allows us to use the recurrence relations to evaluate the derivatives of the Chebyshev polynomials.

The discretized boundary conditions read:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n(1) = 0, \quad \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n'(1) = 0, \\ \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n(-1) = 0, \quad \sum_{n=0}^N a_n T_n'(-1) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The final result is a generalized eigenvalue problem of the form:

$$Aa = cBa$$

Where we solve for the eigen value,  $c$  which is the complex velocity.

For detailed explanation of the method refer [1].

## 4 Results and Discussions

A brief discussion is presented for two flow profiles - the Blasius profile and the Plane Poiseuille flow. The results obtained from the numerical code to solve the Orr-Sommerfeld equation using the shooting and spectral methods are given along with some observations.

### 4.1 Blasius Profile

A 2-D Blasius profile can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{U} = f'(\eta), \quad \eta = y\sqrt{\frac{U_\infty}{2\nu x}}, \\ f''' + ff'' = 0, \\ f(0) = 0, \quad f'(0) = 0, \quad f'(\infty) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

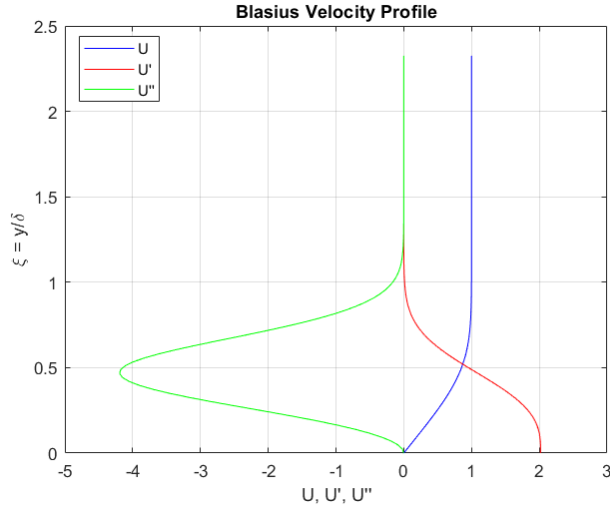
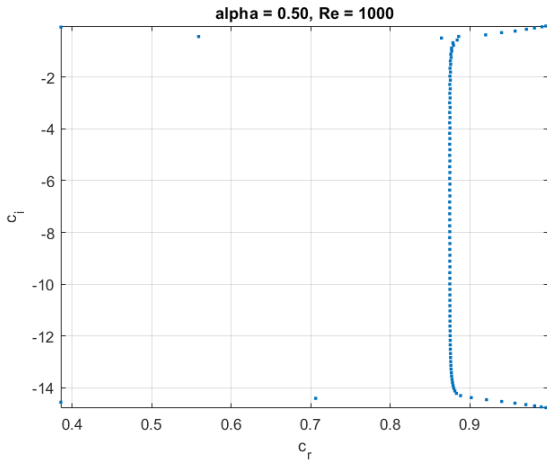
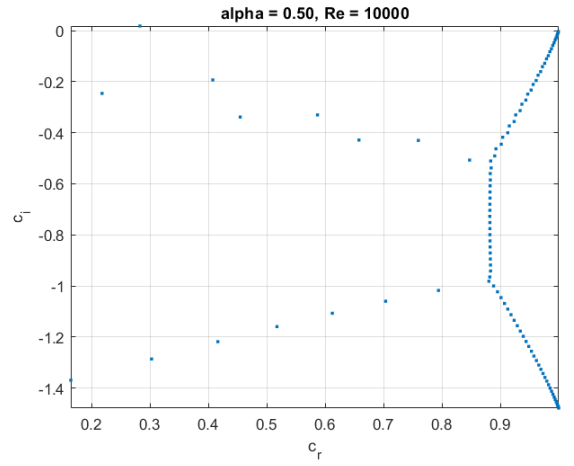


Figure 1: Blasius Profile

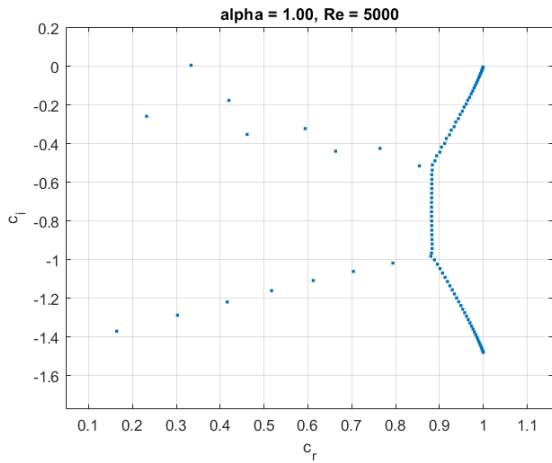
- Growth Rate ( $c_i$ ) vs Wave Speed ( $c_r$ ) plot.



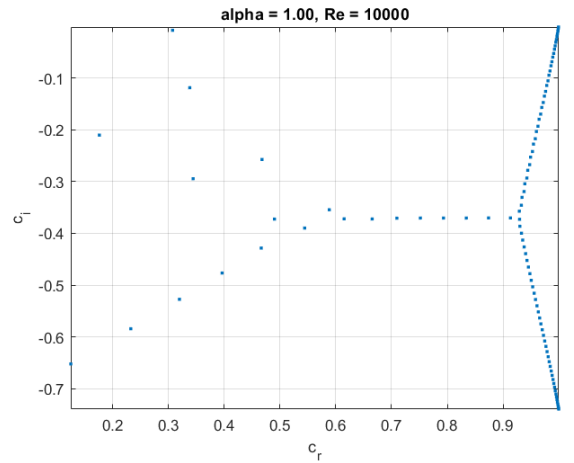
(a)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ,  $Re = 10^3$



(b)  $\alpha = 0.5$ ,  $Re = 10^4$



(c)  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $Re = 5 \times 10^3$



(d)  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $Re = 10^4$

Figure 2: Plots using the Shooting Method

It can be seen that for the wavenumber,  $\alpha = 0.5$ ,  $Re = 10^3$  results in a stable system whereas  $Re = 10^4$  has at least one  $c_i$  being positive.

For  $\alpha = 1$ ,  $Re = 5 \times 10^3$  yields unstable eigen values, whereas  $Re = 10^4$  shows occurrence of negative imaginary parts of complex velocity.

- Neutral Stability Curves

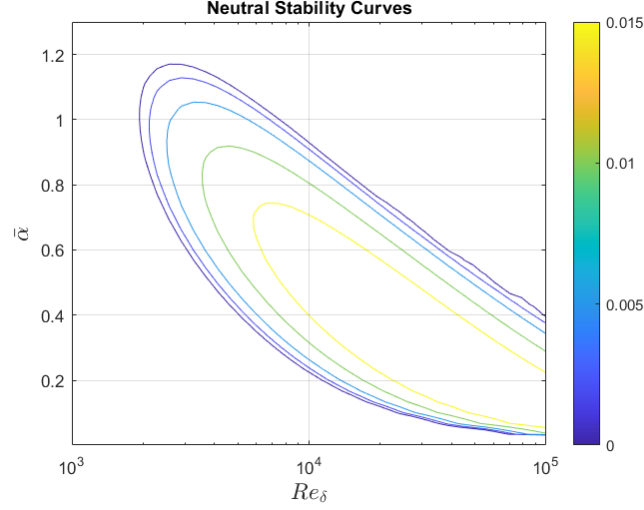


Figure 3: Curves representing  $c_i = 0$  for  $Re \in [10^3, 10^5]$  and  $\alpha \in [0.001, 1.3]$

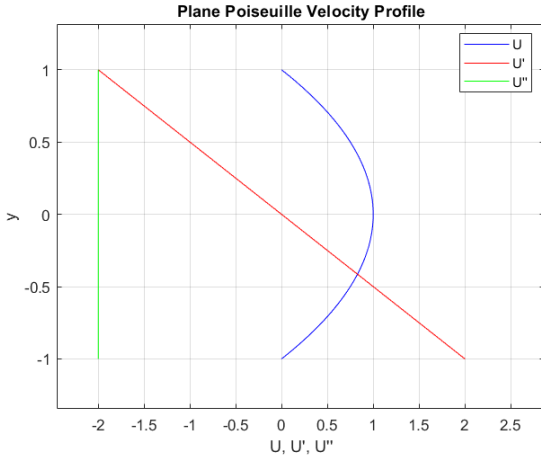
The critical Reynolds Number,  $Re_c \approx 2030$ .

## 4.2 Plane Poiseuille Flow

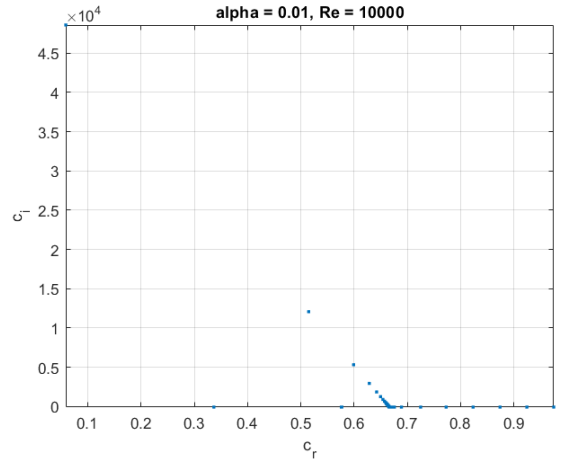
Plane Poiseuille flow is a type of parallel flow with a profile given by:

$$u(y) = U(1 - y^2)$$

where,  $-1 \leq y \leq 1$  represents the vertical bounds and  $U$  is the flow velocity at the center ( $y = 0$ ).



(a) Plane Poiseuille Flow profile



(b) Growth Rate vs Wave Speed plot using Shooting method

Figure 4

Solving the same way for Plane Poiseuille flow resulted in Non sensical results. This could be due to the failure of the shooting method to capture the strong gradient near the walls for the poiseuille flow. So, we move onto Spectral Methods

### 4.2.1 Spectral Method Solutions

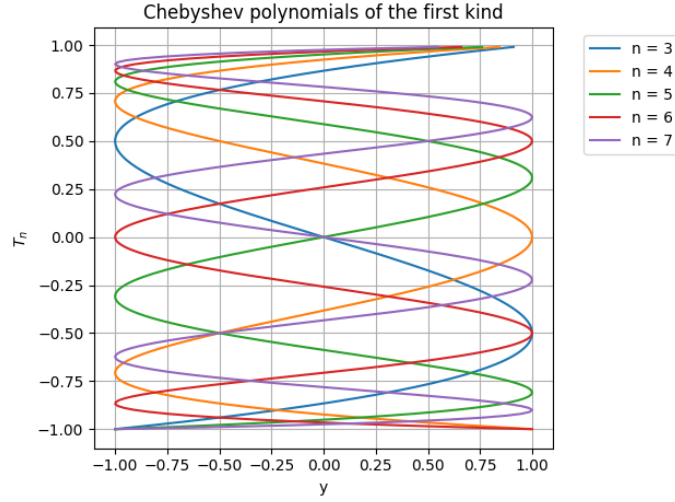
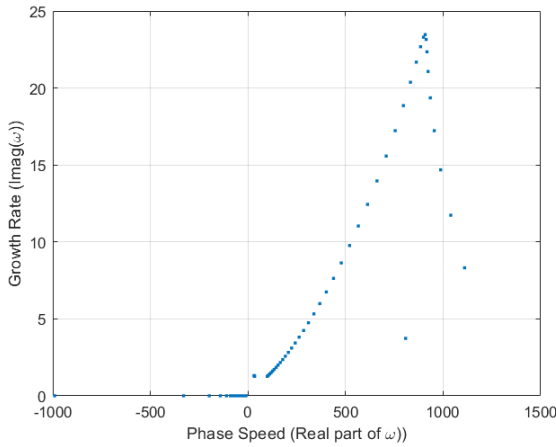
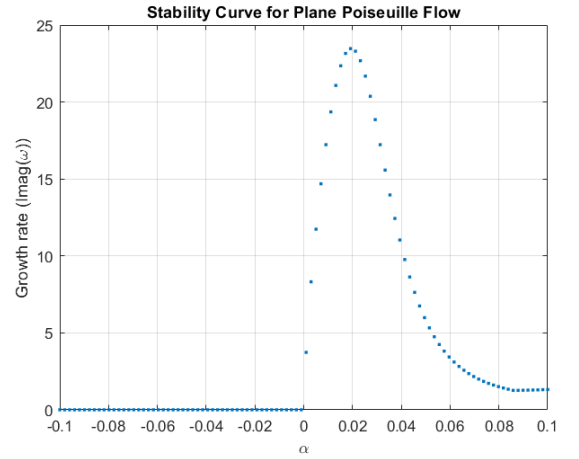


Figure 5: Chebyshev Polynomials of the first kind for  $n = 3$  to  $7$

- Plots using Spectral Method



(a) Growth rate vs phase speed plot



(b) Growth rate vs wavenumbers

Figure 6:  $\alpha \in [-0.1, 0.1]$ ,  $Re = 10^4$

A range of wavenumbers are taken and the eigen values are computed for each of the wavenumber. The maximum growth rate among each eigen value is stored and plotted.

These plots can be used to study the most unstable wavenumber (wavenumber for which we have the maximum growth rate) and also the wavenumber at which even the slightest change can lead to instability. The plots suggest distinct peaks where there is the maximum instability.

It can be seen that there is a sudden growth just after  $\alpha \approx 0$  and the most unstable wavenumber is  $\alpha \approx 0.02$ .

## 5 Conclusions

- A detailed derivation of the Orr-Sommerfeld equation is provided.
- Two numerical techniques are discussed for solving the Orr-Sommerfeld equations.
- The critical Reynolds Number,  $Re_c \approx 2030$ .
- For the Plane Poiseulle flow, it was seen that the numerical solutions yielded by the shooting method was very unstable and was not used,
- Using spectral method for the Plane Poiseulle flow, the most unstable wavenumber and the wavenumber above which instabilities can start to form can be identified.



## 6 Codes Used

### 6.1 Spectral Method to solve Orr-Sommerfeld equation for Plane Poiseuille Flow profile

```
1 % Plane Poiseuille flow Spectral Method
2 clear; clc; close all;
3
4 % Parameters
5 Re = 10000;           % Reynolds number
6 n = 100;             % Number of Chebyshev collocation points
7 alpha_range = linspace(-0.1, 0.1, 100); % Range of alpha (wavenumbers)
8 Re_range = linspace(2000, 10000, 20); % Range of Reynolds numbers
9
10 % Chebyshev differentiation matrix
11 [D1, x] = chebyshev_diff_matrix(n);
12 D2 = D1^2;           % Second derivative
13 D2 = D2(2:end-1, 2:end-1); % Remove boundary rows for v'' BCs
14 I = eye(n-1);        % Identity matrix for inner points
15
16 % Base velocity profile for plane Poiseuille flow
17 U = diag(1 - x.^2);  % U(y) = 1 - y^2
18 U = U(2:end-1, 2:end-1); % Remove boundary rows/columns
19 U_dd = diag(-2 * ones(n-1, 1)); % U'' = -2 (constant for Poiseuille flow)
20
21 % Preallocate for storing results
22 growth_rates = zeros(1, length(alpha_range));
23 phase_speeds = zeros(1, length(alpha_range));
24 eigReal = [];
25 eigImag = [];
26 neutral_Re = [];
27
28 % Loop over wavenumbers
29 for j = 1:length(alpha_range)
30     alpha = alpha_range(j);
31
32     % Orr-Sommerfeld matrices
33     L = -1i * alpha * Re * (D2 - alpha^2); % Orr-Sommerfeld operator
34     M = -1i * alpha * Re * (U * (D2 - alpha^2) - U_dd) + (D2 - alpha^2)^2; % RHS
35     operator
36
37     % Apply boundary conditions for v and v'
38     A = [L, zeros(size(L));
39          zeros(size(L)), I];
40     B = [M, zeros(size(M));
41          zeros(size(M)), I];
42
43     % Solve generalized eigenvalue problem
44     [eigVec, eigVal] = eig(A, B);
45     eigVals = diag(eigVal);
46
47     % Extract and store real and imaginary parts of eigenvalues
48     eigReal = [eigReal; real(eigVals)];
49     eigImag = [eigImag; imag(eigVals)];
50
51     % Extract growth rate (imaginary part of eigenvalues)
52     [maxGrowth, maxIdx] = max(imag(eigVals));
53     growth_rates(j) = maxGrowth;
54     phase_speeds(j) = real(eigVals(maxIdx)) / alpha;
55 end
56
57 % Plot results
58 figure;
59 plot(alpha_range, growth_rates, '.', 'LineWidth', 1.5);
```

```

60 xlabel('\alpha'); ylabel('Growth rate (Imag(\omega))');
61 title('Stability Curve for Plane Poiseuille Flow');
62 grid on;
63
64 figure;
65 plot(alpha_range, phase_speeds, '.', 'LineWidth', 1.5);
66 xlabel('\alpha'); ylabel('Phase speed (Real(\omega))');
67 grid on;
68
69 figure;
70 plot(phase_speeds, growth_rates, '.', 'LineWidth', 1.5);
71 xlabel('Phase Speed (Real part of \omega)'); ylabel('Growth Rate (Imag(\omega))');
72 grid on;
73
74 % Supporting function: Chebyshev differentiation matrix
75 function [D, x] = chebyshev_diff_matrix(n)
76     % Returns the Chebyshev differentiation matrix D and grid points x
77     x = cos(pi * (0:n) / n)'; % Chebyshev points
78     c = [2; ones(n-1, 1); 2] .* (-1).^(0:n)'; % Scaling factors
79     X = repmat(x, 1, n+1); % Repeated x-grid
80     dX = X - X'; % Difference matrix
81     D = (c * (1 ./ c)') ./ (dX + eye(n+1)); % Differentiation matrix
82     D = D - diag(sum(D')); % Set diagonal elements
83 end

```

Listing 1: Spectral Method for Plane Poiseuille Flow

## 6.2 RK-4 scheme used for integration

```

1 % RK-4 solver
2 function [ t, w ] = cs_rk4( fun, t0, tf, y0, h )
3 t = [t0:h:tf];
4 w = zeros(length(y0),length(t)); % initialize w array
5 w(:,1) = y0;
6 for i = 1:(length(t)-1);
7     ti = t(i);
8     wi = w(:,i);
9     k1 = h*fun(ti,wi);
10    k2 = h*fun(ti+h/2,wi+k1/2);
11    k3 = h*fun(ti+h/2,wi+k2/2);
12    k4 = h*fun(ti+h,wi+k3);
13    w(:,i+1) = wi + 1/6*(k1+2*k2+2*k3+k4);
14 end
15 end

```

Listing 2: RK-4 Scheme

## 6.3 Shooting Method for solving the Orr-Sommerfeld equation for the Blasius profile

```

1 clear all;
2 close all;
3 clc;
4
5 %% INPUTS
6 h = 0.1; % eta step size - use this to control accuracy of calculations
7
8 % Velocity Profile Inputs
9 xi = linspace(0,1,50);
10 use_Blasius = 1; % use Blasius velocity profile below
11 transform_u = 1; % transform velocity to xi coordinates
12
13 % Temporal Stability Inputs
14 run_temporal_analysis = 1; % 1 = run temporal analysis, 0 = skip
15 t_Re_min = 1e3; % minimum Re

```

```

16 t_Re_max = 1e5; % maximum Re
17 t_N_Re = 40;    % number of Re
18 t_Res = logspace(log10(t_Re_min), log10(t_Re_max), t_N_Re);
19
20 t_alpha_min = 0.001; % minimum alpha for temporal analysis
21 t_alpha_max = 1.3;   % maximum alpha
22 t_N_alpha = 40;      % number of alpha to use
23 t_alphas = linspace(t_alpha_min,t_alpha_max,t_N_alpha);
24
25 %%
26 FIG_VEL_PROFILE = 1;
27 FIG_TEM_EIG = 2;
28 FIG_TEM_CONT = 3;
29
30 %% COMPUTE BLASIVUS VELOCITY PROFILE
31 if ( use_Blasius )
32     fprintf('Solving for Blasius Velocity Profile ... ');
33     tic; % start counting elapsed time
34
35     % Blasius ODE Definition:  $f''' + ff'' = 0 \rightarrow f''' = -ff''$ 
36     fun = @(eta,f) [ ...
37         f(2); ...
38         f(3); ...
39         -f(1)*f(3); ...
40     ];
41
42     eta0 = 0; % Initial eta station (@ wall )
43     etaf = 10; % Final eta station (@ "freestream")
44     target = 1; % Freestream BC:  $f'(\infty) = U(\infty) = 1$ 
45     tol = 1e-6; % Shooting method tolerance
46
47     f0 = [ 0; 0; .45 ]; % Initial condition for f, f', f'' at wall
48
49     go = 1;
50     while ( go == 1 ) % loop until converged
51         % Standard 4th-order Runge-Kutta method
52         [ eta, f ] = cs_rk4( fun, eta0, etaf, f0, h );
53
54         % compute error, adjust f''(0)
55         err = f(2,end) - target;
56         if ( abs(err) < tol )
57             go = 0;
58         else
59             f0(3,1) = f0(3,1) * ( target-err );
60         end
61     end
62     U = f(2,:); % U = f'(eta)
63     Up = f(3,:); % U' = f''(eta)
64     Upp = -f(1,:).*f(3,:); % U'' = f'''(eta)
65     elapsed_time = toc; % compute time elapsed
66     fprintf('Done (%f sec)\n',elapsed_time);
67 end
68
69 %% TRANSFORM ETA TO XI
70 if ( transform_u )
71     fprintf('Transforming Coordinates ... ');
72     tic; % start counting elapsed time
73
74     % find delta in terms of eta
75     minval = 1; % initialize minimization variable
76     index = 0; % index of the edge of the Boundary Layer
77     delta_vel = 0.999; % percent of freestream velocity
78
79     % find edge of Boundary layer, where U == delta_vel

```

```

80     for n = 1:length(U)
81         if ( abs(U(n)-delta_vel) < minval )
82             index = n;
83             minval = abs(U(n)-delta_vel);
84         end
85     end
86
87     delta = eta(index); % Boundary layer thickness
88     xi = eta/delta;      % define xi s.t. xi = 1 where eta = delta
89
90     % transform to xi coordinate system
91     % U = U;              % U(xi) = U(eta)
92     Up = Up*delta;        % U'(xi) = U'(eta)*delta
93     Upp = Upp*delta^2;    % U''(xi) = U''(eta)*delta^2
94
95     elapsed_time = toc; % compute elapsed time
96     fprintf('Done (%f sec)\n',elapsed_time);
97 end
98 NMAX = length(xi); % look at all eigenvalues
99 % NMAX = index;      % only look at eigenvalues in B.L.
100
101 %% TEMPORAL STABILITY ANALYSIS
102 if ( run_temporal_analysis )
103     fprintf('Temporal Stability Analysis ...\n');
104     tic; % start counting elapsed time
105
106     h = xi(2)-xi(1); % xi step size
107     for l = 1:length(t_Res)
108         Re = t_Res(l);
109         for m = 1:length(t_alphas)
110             alpha = t_alphas(m);
111             fprintf('\ta = %.2f, Re = %d ... ',alpha,Re);
112
113             % generate the A matrix
114             A = zeros(NMAX); % initialize A
115
116             n = 2; % start at n = 2, go to n = nmax-1
117
118             a1 = -U(n)*alpha^3 - Upp(n)*alpha + 1i*alpha^4/Re;
119             a2 = U(n)*alpha - 2*1i*alpha^2/Re;
120             a3 = 1i/Re;
121
122             % 2nd order Central Difference Method
123             A(n,n-1) = a2 - 4*a3/h^2;
124             A(n,n) = a1*h^2 - 2*a2 + 6*a3/h^2;
125             A(n,n+1) = a2 - 4*a3/h^2;
126             A(n,n+2) = a3/h^2;
127
128             for n = 3:NMAX-2
129
130                 a1 = -U(n)*alpha^3 - Upp(n)*alpha + 1i*alpha^4/Re;
131                 a2 = U(n)*alpha - 2*1i*alpha^2/Re;
132                 a3 = 1i/Re;
133                 % 2nd order Central Difference Method
134                 A(n,n-2) = a3/h^2;
135                 A(n,n-1) = a2 - 4*a3/h^2;
136                 A(n,n) = a1*h^2 - 2*a2 + 6*a3/h^2;
137                 A(n,n+1) = a2 - 4*a3/h^2;
138                 A(n,n+2) = a3/h^2;
139             end
140
141             n = NMAX-1;
142             a1 = -U(n)*alpha^3 - Upp(n)*alpha + 1i*alpha^4/Re;
143             a2 = U(n)*alpha - 2*1i*alpha^2/Re;

```

```

144     a3 = 1i/Re;
145     % 2nd order Central Difference Method
146     A(n,n-2) = a3/h^2;
147     A(n,n-1) = a2 - 4*a3/h^2;
148     A(n,n)    = a1*h^2 - 2*a2 + 6*a3/h^2;
149     A(n,n+1) = a2 - 4*a3/h^2;
150
151     A = A(2:end-1,2:end-1); % remove first/last rows/cols of A (0 BCs)
152
153     % generate B
154     B = zeros(NMAX); % initialize B
155     for n = 2:NMAX-1
156
157         b1 = -alpha^3;
158         b2 = alpha;
159         % 2nd order Central Difference Method
160         B(n,n-1) = b2;
161         B(n,n)    = b1*h^2 - 2*b2;
162         B(n,n+1) = b2;
163     end
164     B = B(2:end-1,2:end-1); % remove first/last rows/cols of B (0 BCs)
165
166
167     [V,e] = eig(B\A); % invert B, compute eigenvalues of LHS
168     e = diag(e); % turn diagonal eigenvalue matrix into vector
169
170     % store most unstable eigenvalue
171     [maxe,cindex] = max(imag(e));
172     fprintf('c = %f + %fi\n',real(e(cindex)),imag(e(cindex)));
173     t_c(m,1) = e(cindex);
174
175     % Plot eigenvalues of the discrete system
176     figure(FIG_TEM_EIG)
177     plot(real(e),imag(e),'.','MarkerSize',6)
178     xlabel('c_r')
179     ylabel('c_i')
180     title(sprintf('alpha = %.2f, Re = %d',alpha,Re));
181     axis tight
182
183     end
184 end
185 elapsed_time = toc; % compute elapsed time
186 fprintf('Done (%f sec)\n',elapsed_time);
187 end
188
189 %% OUTPUT RESULTS
190 if ( run_temporal_analysis )
191     cilevels = [0,.005,.01,.015,.0019];
192     figure(FIG_TEM_CONT);
193     contour(t_Res,t_alphas,imag(t_c),cilevels);
194     set(gca,'XScale','log');
195     xlabel('$Re\_delta$', 'Interpreter','latex','FontSize',14);
196     ylabel('$\bar{\alpha}$', 'Interpreter','latex','FontSize',14);
197     title('Neutral Stability Curves')
198     colorbar
199     grid on;
200 end
201
202 % uprop = ['k- ','k: ','k--'];
203 uprop = ['b','r','g'];
204 figure(FIG_VEL_PROFILE);
205 plot(U,xi,uprop(1,:),Up,xi,uprop(2,:),Upp,xi,uprop(3,:))
206 title('Blasius Velocity Profile')
207 xlabel('U, U'', U''')

```

```

208 ylabel('\xi = y/\delta')%, 'Interpreter', 'latex', 'FontSize', 16)
209 legend('U', 'U'', 'U''', 'location', 'best')
210 grid on;

```

Listing 3: Shooting Method for Blasius Profile

## 6.4 Plotting the Chebyshev Polynomials used for spectral Method

```

1 # Plotting the Chebyshev Polynomials
2 import numpy as np
3 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
4
5 h = 0.01
6 y = np.arange(-1, 1, h)
7 N = 5
8
9 def T_n(y, n):
10     return np.cos(n * np.arccos(y))
11
12 for i in range(N):
13     plt.plot(T_n(y, i), y, label = f'n = {i}')
14     plt.xlabel('y')
15     plt.ylabel('$T_n$')
16     plt.title('Chebyshev polynomials of the first kind')
17     plt.legend(loc='upper left', bbox_to_anchor=(1.05, 1))
18     plt.grid(True)
19     plt.tight_layout()
20 plt.show()

```

Listing 4: Plotting the Chebyshev Polynomials

The reader is directed to [3] for the full code on the spectral method for two phase parallel flow and [2] for the full code on shooting method for blasius profile which formed as a solid platform from which the provided codes are built.

## References

- [1] Peter J. Schmid and Dan S. Henningson. *Stability and Transition in Shear Flows*. Springer, 2001.
- [2] C. Simpson. Temporal and spatial stability analysis of the orr-sommerfeld equation. <https://www.cdsimpson.net/2015/04/temporal-and-spatial-stability-analysis.html#:~:text=This%20is%20a%20nonlinear%20ordinary,opposite%20boundary%20conditions%20are%20met>, 2015.
- [3] A. Singh. Chebyshev collocation code for solving two phase orr-sommerfeld eigenvalue problem. <https://in.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/48862-chebyshev-collocation-code-for-solving-two-phase-orr-sommerfeld-eigenvalue-problem>, 2014.