

# Problem 5



**PROBLEM 5.** One of the most extensively used aerodynamic models that is capable to explain flutter induced instabilities was developed by Theodorsen back in 1935. According to Theodorsen's aerodynamic model, the expressions for the lift and moment are given by:

$$\ell = \pi \rho_{\infty} b^2 (U_{\infty} \dot{\theta} - b a \ddot{\theta} - \ddot{w}) + 2 \pi \rho_{\infty} U_{\infty} b C(k) \left( U_{\infty} \theta + b \left( \frac{1}{2} - a \right) \dot{\theta} - \dot{w} \right)$$

$$m_{sc} = -\pi \rho_{\infty} b^3 \left( U_{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{2} - a \right) \dot{\theta} + b \left( \frac{1}{8} + a^2 \right) \ddot{\theta} + a \ddot{w} \right) + 2 \pi \rho_{\infty} U_{\infty} b^2 C(k) \left( a + \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( U_{\infty} \theta + b \left( \frac{1}{2} - a \right) \dot{\theta} - \dot{w} \right)$$

where  $b = c/2$ ,  $a = x_{sc}/b - 1$  and

$$C(k) = \frac{H_1^{(2)}(k)}{H_1^{(2)}(k) + i H_0^{(2)}(k)}, \quad k = \frac{\omega b}{U_{\infty}} : \text{reduced frequency}$$

is the Theodorsen's function, a transfer function to account for attenuation by the wake vorticity. A typical approximation for this function is given by:

$$C(k) = 1 - \frac{0.165}{1 - i \frac{0.0455}{k}} - \frac{0.335}{1 - i \frac{0.3}{k}}$$

Theodorsen's aerodynamic model works with harmonic motions. Then, we can assume:

$$\theta = \bar{\theta} e^{i\omega t} \quad w = \bar{w} e^{i\omega t}$$

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**PROBLEM 5.** Using Theodorsen's aerodynamic model:

(a) Obtain the dynamic equations of motion in terms of the following non-dimensional parameters:

- Stiffness ratio:  $\sigma = \frac{\omega_w}{\omega_\theta}$ , with  $\omega_\theta^2 = \frac{k_\theta}{I_{sc}}$ ,  $\omega_w^2 = \frac{k_w}{m}$
- Shear center location:  $a$
- Static unbalance:  $x_\theta = \frac{x_{cm} - x_{sc}}{b}$
- Non-dimensional squared radius of gyration:  $r_\theta^2 = \frac{I_{sc}}{mb^2}$
- Mass/density ratio:  $\mu = \frac{m}{\pi \rho_\infty b^2}$

**Hint:**  $k = \omega b / U_\infty$  and  $\lambda = (\omega_\theta / \omega)^2$  should appear as the two unknowns.

(b) Implement an algorithm to compute the flutter velocity  $U_F$  for a given set of non-dimensional parameters. **Hint:** The algorithm should compute  $\lambda_F$  and  $\kappa_F$  for a given set of  $\sigma, a, x_\theta, r_\theta^2$  and  $\mu$ . You can check the results of the following article for benchmarking: [F. Behestinia et al. Journal of Fluids and Structures 73 \(2017\) 1-15](#)

(c) Plot  $\frac{U_F}{b\omega_\theta}$  against different values of  $\sigma, a, x_\theta, r_\theta^2$  and  $\mu$ .

Note: Assume  $c_w = c_\theta = 0$ .

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Theodorsen's function:

$$C(\kappa) = \frac{H_1^{(2)}(k)}{H_1^{(2)}(k) + iH_0^{(2)}(k)}, \quad k = \frac{\omega b}{U_\infty} : \text{reduced frequency}$$

In general, one can express  $C(k) = F(k) + iG(k)$ , where

$$F(k) = \frac{\sum_{n=0}^N p_n k^n}{\sum_{m=0}^M r_m k^m} \rightarrow F'(k) = \frac{dF}{dk} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N n p_n k^{n-1}}{\sum_{m=0}^M r_m k^m} - \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M m r_m k^{m-1}}{\sum_{m=0}^M r_m k^m} F(k)$$

$$G(k) = \frac{\sum_{\ell=0}^L q_\ell k^\ell}{\sum_{m=0}^M r_m k^m} \rightarrow G'(k) = \frac{dG}{dk} = \frac{\sum_{\ell=1}^L \ell q_\ell k^{\ell-1}}{\sum_{m=0}^M r_m k^m} - \frac{\sum_{m=1}^M m r_m k^{m-1}}{\sum_{m=0}^M r_m k^m} G(k)$$

In our case:

$$C(k) = 1 - \frac{0.165}{1 - i \frac{0.0455}{k}} - \frac{0.335}{1 - i \frac{0.3}{k}}$$

$$C(k) = \frac{0.5k^4 + 0.0765k^2 + 1.8632 \times 10^{-4}}{k^4 + 0.0921k^2 + 1.8632 \times 10^{-4}} + i \frac{-0.1080k^3 - 8.8374 \times 10^{-4}k}{k^4 + 0.0921k^2 + 1.8632 \times 10^{-4}}$$

Third order approximation:

$$C(k) = \frac{0.5(ik)^3 + 1.0761(ik)^2 + 0.524855(ik) + 0.0451331}{(ik)^3 + b_2(ik)^2 + b_1(ik) + b_0}$$

$$C(k) = \frac{0.5k^6 + 1.172549k^4 + 0.232122k^2 + 0.0020537}{k^6 + 2.220145k^4 + 0.315667k^2 + 0.0020706} + i \frac{-0.124995k^5 - 0.223670k^3 - 0.0076711k}{k^6 + 2.220145k^4 + 0.315667k^2 + 0.0020706}$$

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System of equations:

$$(-\omega^2[\mathbf{M}] + [\mathbf{K}] - ([\mathbf{A}_R] + i[\mathbf{A}_I]))\{\bar{\mathbf{x}}\}e^{i\omega t} = \{\mathbf{0}\}$$

where

$$\{\bar{\mathbf{x}}\} = \begin{Bmatrix} \bar{\theta} \\ \bar{w} \end{Bmatrix}$$

$$[\mathbf{M}] = \begin{bmatrix} I_{sc} & mdb \\ mdb & mb^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\mathbf{K}] = \begin{bmatrix} k_\theta & 0 \\ 0 & k_w b^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[\mathbf{A}_R] = \pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2 \left( k^2 \begin{bmatrix} 1/8 + a^2 & a \\ a & 1 \end{bmatrix} + kG(k) \begin{bmatrix} 2a^2 - 1/2 & 2a + 1 \\ 2a - 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} + F(k) \begin{bmatrix} 1 + 2a & 0 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2 [\hat{\mathbf{A}}_R(k)]$$

$$[\mathbf{A}_I] = \pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2 \left( k \begin{bmatrix} a - 1/2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - kF(k) \begin{bmatrix} 2a^2 - 1/2 & 2a + 1 \\ 2a - 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} + G(k) \begin{bmatrix} 1 + 2a & 0 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2 [\hat{\mathbf{A}}_I(k)]$$

Note that  $\bar{w}$  is considered the non-dimensional amplitude (by the half-chord  $b$ ) of  $w$ . Also, to make the matrices units consistent, the second equation (whole second row of each matrix) has been multiplied by  $b$ .

The system can then be expressed:

$$(-\omega^2[\mathbf{M}] + [\mathbf{K}] - \pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2 ([\hat{\mathbf{A}}_R(k)] + i[\hat{\mathbf{A}}_I(k)]))\{\bar{\mathbf{x}}\} = \{\mathbf{0}\}$$

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By dividing everything by  $\pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2$ :

$$\left( -\frac{\omega^2}{\pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2} [\mathbf{M}] + \frac{1}{\pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2} [\mathbf{K}] - ([\hat{\mathbf{A}}_R(k)] + i[\hat{\mathbf{A}}_I(k)]) \right) \{\bar{\mathbf{x}}\} = \{\mathbf{0}\}$$

we can identify the terms:

$$\frac{\omega^2}{\pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{sc} & mdb \\ mdb & mb^2 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{mb^2 \omega^2}{\pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{sc}/mb^2 & d/b \\ d/b & 1 \end{bmatrix} = k^2 \mu \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} r_\theta^2 & -x_\theta \\ -x_\theta & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{[\hat{\mathbf{M}}]}$$

$$\frac{1}{\pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2} \begin{bmatrix} k_\theta & 0 \\ 0 & k_w b^2 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{mb^2 \omega^2 \omega_\theta^2}{\pi\rho_\infty b^2 U_\infty^2 \omega^2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{sc}/mb^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega_w^2/\omega_\theta^2 \end{bmatrix} = k^2 \lambda \mu \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} r_\theta^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma^2 \end{bmatrix}}_{[\hat{\mathbf{K}}]}$$

$$[\hat{\mathbf{A}}_R(k)] = k^2 \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1/8 + a^2 & a \\ a & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{[\hat{\mathbf{M}}']} + kG(k) \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2a^2 - 1/2 & 2a + 1 \\ 2a - 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}}_{[\hat{\mathbf{C}}']} + F(k) \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 + 2a & 0 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{[\hat{\mathbf{K}}']}$$

$$[\hat{\mathbf{A}}_I(k)] = k \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} a - 1/2 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{[\hat{\mathbf{C}}'']} - kF(k) \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 2a^2 - 1/2 & 2a + 1 \\ 2a - 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}}_{[\hat{\mathbf{C}}']} + G(k) \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 + 2a & 0 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{[\hat{\mathbf{K}}']}$$

where

$$\mu = \frac{m}{\pi\rho_\infty b^2}, \quad \sigma = \frac{\omega_w}{\omega_\theta}, \quad r_\theta^2 = \frac{I_{sc}}{mb^2}, \quad x_\theta = -\frac{d}{b}, \quad a = \frac{x_{sc}}{b} - 1, \quad k = \frac{b\omega}{U_\infty}, \quad \lambda = \left(\frac{\omega_\theta}{\omega}\right)^2$$

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Dividing by  $-k^2$ , the resulting system yields:

$$\left( [\hat{\mathbf{M}}] - \lambda[\hat{\mathbf{K}}] + ([\hat{\mathbf{M}}'] + ik^{-1}([\hat{\mathbf{C}}''] - (F(k) + iG(k))[\hat{\mathbf{C}}']) + k^{-2}(F(k) + iG(k))[\hat{\mathbf{K}}']) \right) \{\bar{\mathbf{x}}\} = \{\mathbf{0}\}$$

Or

$$\underbrace{\left( [\hat{\mathbf{K}}]^{-1}[\hat{\mathbf{M}}] + [\hat{\mathbf{K}}]^{-1}([\hat{\mathbf{M}}'] + ik^{-1}([\hat{\mathbf{C}}''] - (F(k) + iG(k))[\hat{\mathbf{C}}']) + k^{-2}(F(k) + iG(k))[\hat{\mathbf{K}}']) - \lambda[\mathbf{1}] \right)}_{[\hat{\mathbf{D}}(k)]} \{\bar{\mathbf{x}}\} = \{\mathbf{0}\}$$

**Flutter condition:**

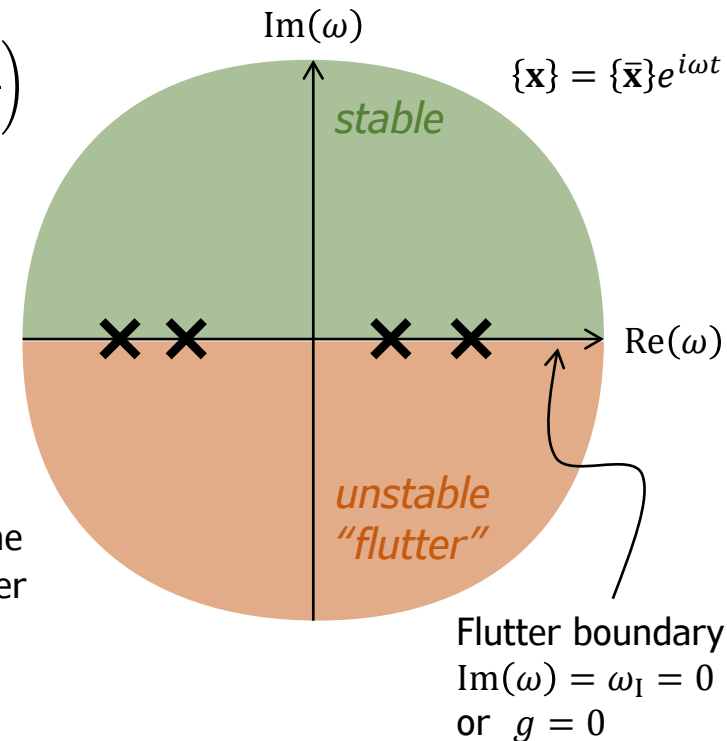
$$\lambda_F = \frac{\omega_\theta^2}{\omega_F^2} (1 + ig) \equiv \frac{\omega_\theta^2}{(\omega_R + i\omega_I)^2} = \omega_\theta^2 \left( \frac{\omega_R^2 - \omega_I^2}{(\omega_R^2 + \omega_I^2)^2} + i \frac{-2\omega_I\omega_R}{(\omega_R^2 + \omega_I^2)^2} \right)$$

$$\omega_F^2 = \frac{\omega_\theta^2}{\text{Re}(\lambda_F)} \equiv \frac{(\omega_R^2 + \omega_I^2)^2}{\omega_R^2 - \omega_I^2}; \quad g \equiv \frac{\text{Im}(\lambda_F)}{\text{Re}(\lambda_F)} = \frac{-2\omega_I\omega_R}{\omega_R^2 - \omega_I^2}$$

$$k_F = \frac{\omega_F b}{U_F}$$

Notice that the only physically admissible solutions are those for which  $\text{Re}(\lambda_F) > 0$  (since this guarantees that both  $\omega_F$  and  $U_F$  are positive and real-valued). Additionally, for  $\text{Im}(\lambda_F) > 0$  (or  $g > 0$ ), the system becomes unstable (i.e.,  $\omega_I < 0$ ). In the limit,  $g = 0$  the flutter condition is satisfied:

$$\det([\hat{\mathbf{D}}(k_F)] - \lambda_F[\mathbf{1}]) = 0$$



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Method 1: Use a non-linear system solver to find  $\{\mathbf{x}\} = \{\lambda_F, \kappa_F\}^T$  satisfying the equations:

$$F_1(\lambda_F, k_F) = \text{Re}(\det([\hat{\mathbf{D}}(k_F)] - \lambda_F[\mathbf{1}])) = D_{11}^R D_{22}^R - D_{11}^I D_{22}^I - D_{12}^R D_{21}^R + D_{12}^I D_{21}^I - (D_{11}^R + D_{22}^R)\lambda_F + \lambda_F^2 = 0$$

$$F_2(\lambda_F, k_F) = \text{Im}(\det([\hat{\mathbf{D}}(k_F)] - \lambda_F[\mathbf{1}])) = D_{11}^R D_{22}^I + D_{11}^I D_{22}^R - D_{12}^R D_{21}^I - D_{12}^I D_{21}^R - (D_{11}^I + D_{22}^I)\lambda_F = 0$$

1. Start with an initial guess  $\{\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\} = \{\lambda_F^{(0)}, k_F^{(0)}\}^T$  and evaluate  $\{\mathbf{F}^{(n)}\} = \{F_1(\lambda_F^{(n)}, k_F^{(n)}), F_2(\lambda_F^{(n)}, k_F^{(n)})\}^T$  and the Jacobian  $[\mathbf{J}^{(n)}]$ :

$$J_{11}^{(n)} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial \lambda_F} = -(D_{11}^{R(n)} + D_{22}^{R(n)}) + 2\lambda_F^{(n)}$$

$$J_{21}^{(n)} = \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial \lambda_F} = -(D_{11}^{I(n)} + D_{22}^{I(n)})$$

$$J_{12}^{(n)} = \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial k_F} = D_{22}^{R(n)} \frac{\partial D_{11}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} + D_{11}^{R(n)} \frac{\partial D_{22}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} - D_{22}^{I(n)} \frac{\partial D_{11}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} - D_{11}^{I(n)} \frac{\partial D_{22}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} - D_{21}^{R(n)} \frac{\partial D_{12}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} - D_{12}^{R(n)} \frac{\partial D_{21}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} + D_{21}^{I(n)} \frac{\partial D_{12}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} + D_{12}^{I(n)} \frac{\partial D_{21}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} - \left( \frac{\partial D_{11}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} + \frac{\partial D_{22}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} \right) \lambda_F^{(n)}$$

$$J_{22}^{(n)} = \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial k_F} = D_{22}^{I(n)} \frac{\partial D_{11}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} + D_{11}^{R(n)} \frac{\partial D_{22}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} + D_{22}^{R(n)} \frac{\partial D_{11}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} + D_{11}^{I(n)} \frac{\partial D_{22}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} - D_{21}^{I(n)} \frac{\partial D_{12}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} - D_{12}^{R(n)} \frac{\partial D_{21}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} - D_{21}^{R(n)} \frac{\partial D_{12}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} - D_{12}^{I(n)} \frac{\partial D_{21}^{R(n)}}{\partial k_F} - \left( \frac{\partial D_{11}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} + \frac{\partial D_{22}^{I(n)}}{\partial k_F} \right) \lambda_F^{(n)}$$

where

$$\left[ \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{D}}^R}{\partial k_F} \right] = [\hat{\mathbf{K}}]^{-1} \left( \left( \frac{F'(k_F)}{k_F^2} - \frac{2F(k_F)}{k_F^3} \right) [\hat{\mathbf{K}}'] + \left( \frac{G'(k_F)}{k_F} - \frac{G(k_F)}{k_F^2} \right) [\hat{\mathbf{C}}'] \right)$$

$$\left[ \frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{D}}^I}{\partial k_F} \right] = [\hat{\mathbf{K}}]^{-1} \left( \left( \frac{G'(k_F)}{k_F^2} - \frac{2G(k_F)}{k_F^3} \right) [\hat{\mathbf{K}}'] + \left( \frac{F'(k_F)}{k_F} - \frac{F(k_F)}{k_F^2} \right) [\hat{\mathbf{C}}'] - \frac{1}{k_F^2} [\hat{\mathbf{C}}''] \right)$$

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2. Update solution:

$$\{\Delta \mathbf{x}^{(n)}\} = -[\mathbf{J}^{(n)}]^{-1}\{\mathbf{F}^{(n)}\},$$
$$\{\mathbf{x}^{(n+1)}\} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(n)}\} + \beta\{\Delta \mathbf{x}^{(n)}\}$$

4. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until the solution is converged.

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Method 2: Solve the quadratic equation for  $\lambda_F$  with complex-valued coefficients (function of  $k_F$ ) resulting from:

$$\det([\hat{\mathbf{D}}(k_F)] - \lambda_F[\mathbf{1}]) = (D_{11} - \lambda_F)(D_{22} - \lambda_F) - D_{12}D_{21} = 0$$
$$D_{11}D_{22} - D_{12}D_{21} - (D_{11} + D_{22})\lambda_F + \lambda_F^2 = 0$$

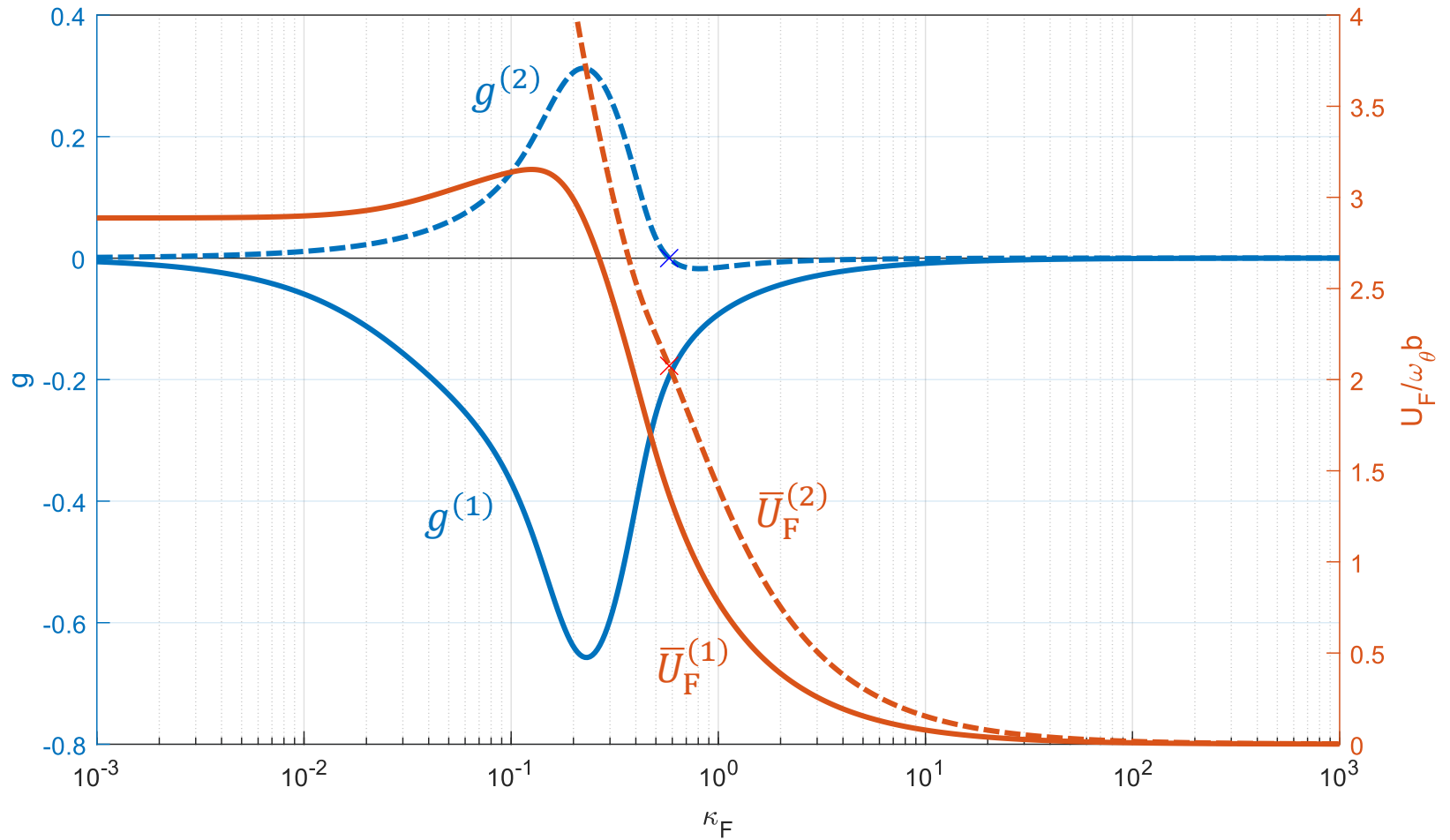
1. Specify a set of trial values for  $k_F$ .
2. Solve the quadratic equation for  $\lambda_F$  that correspond to each of the selected values of  $k_F$ .
3. For each root,  $\lambda_F^{(i)} = \lambda_F^{(i)R} + i\lambda_F^{(i)I}$ , compute:

$$\omega_F^{(i)}(k_F) = \frac{\omega_\theta}{\sqrt{\lambda_F^{(i)R}}}; \quad g^{(i)}(k_F) = \frac{\lambda_F^{(i)I}}{\lambda_F^{(i)R}}; \quad U_F^{(i)}(k_F) = \frac{b\omega_F^{(i)}}{k_F}$$

4. Interpolate to find the value of  $k_F^*$  at which  $g^{(i)}(k_F^*) = 0$ . Then, the flutter speed will correspond to  $U_F^{(i)}(k_F^*)$ .
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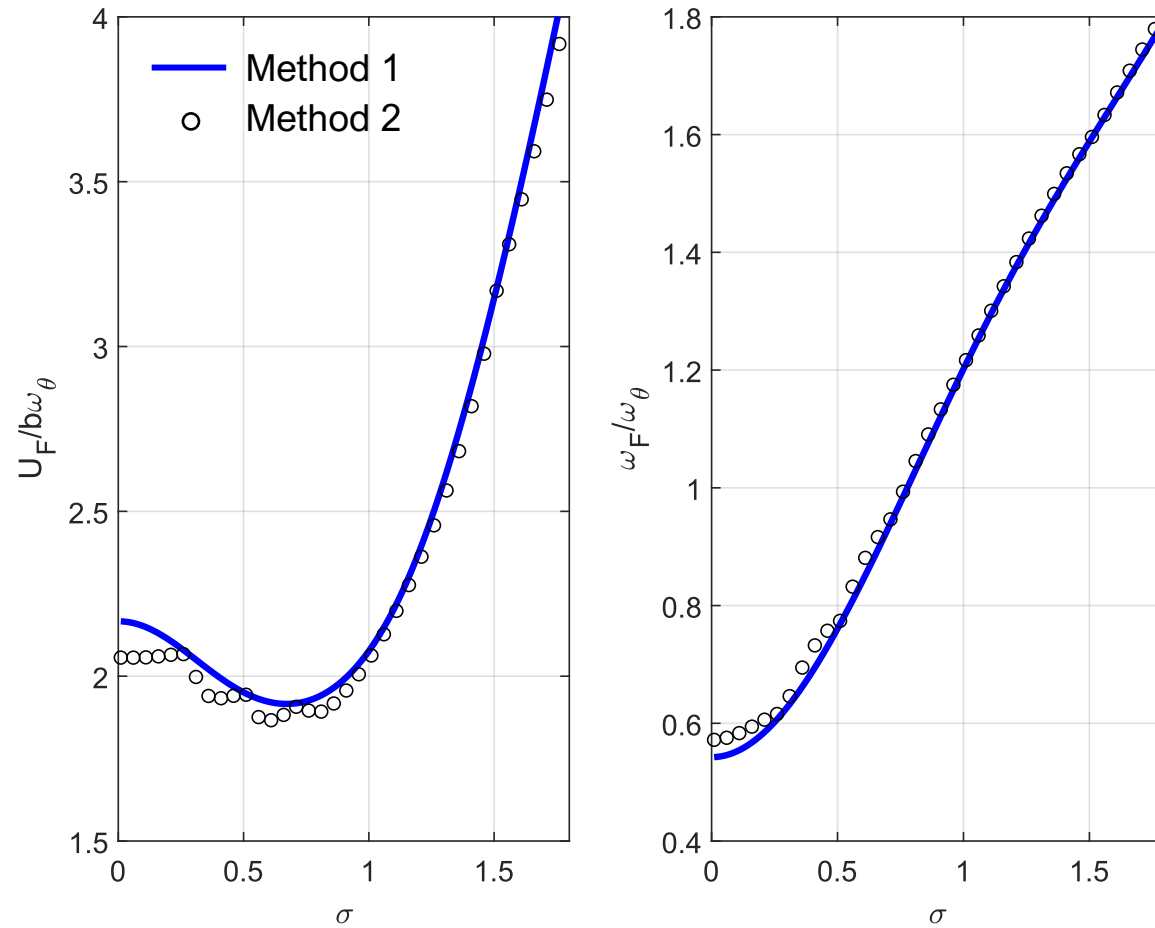


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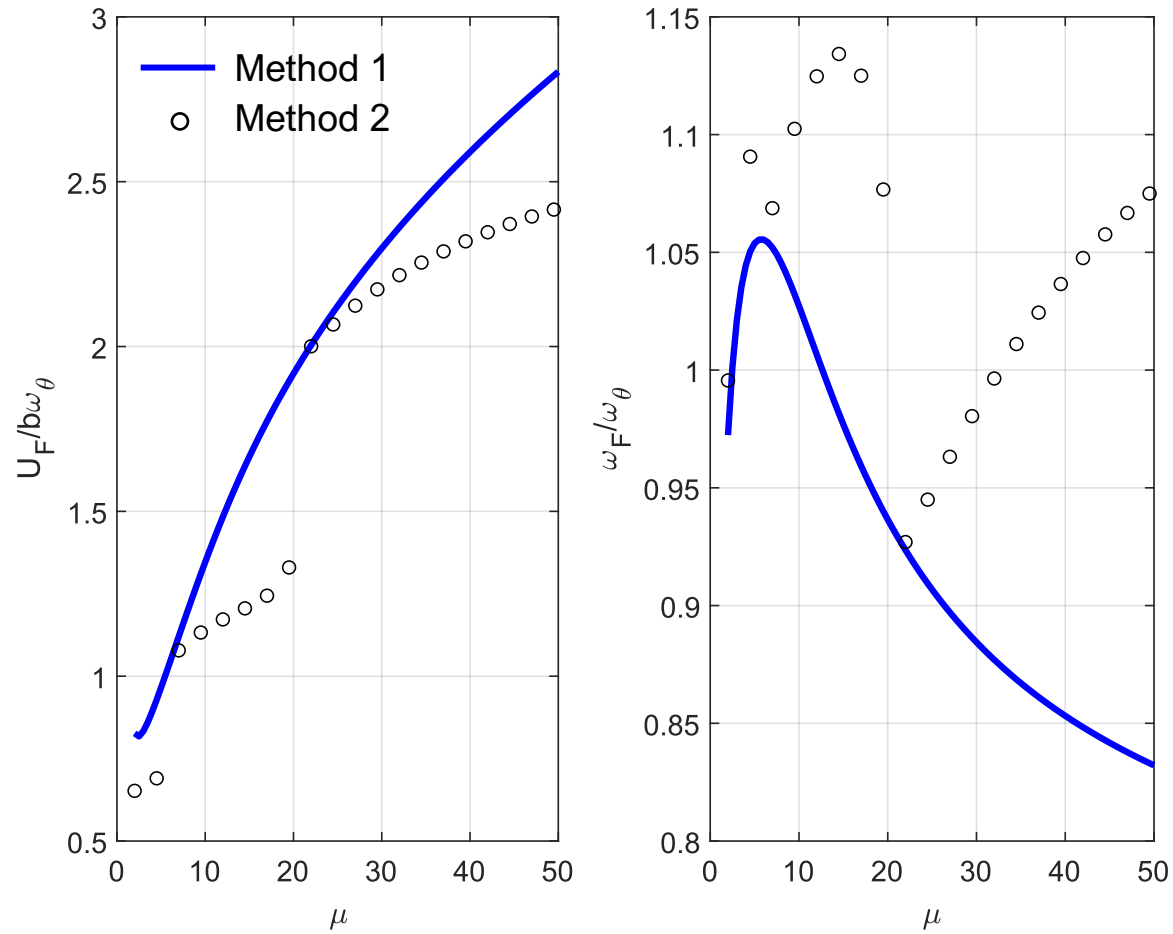
$$\sigma = 1, \mu = 20, a = -0.2, x_\theta = 0.3, r_\theta = 0.5$$

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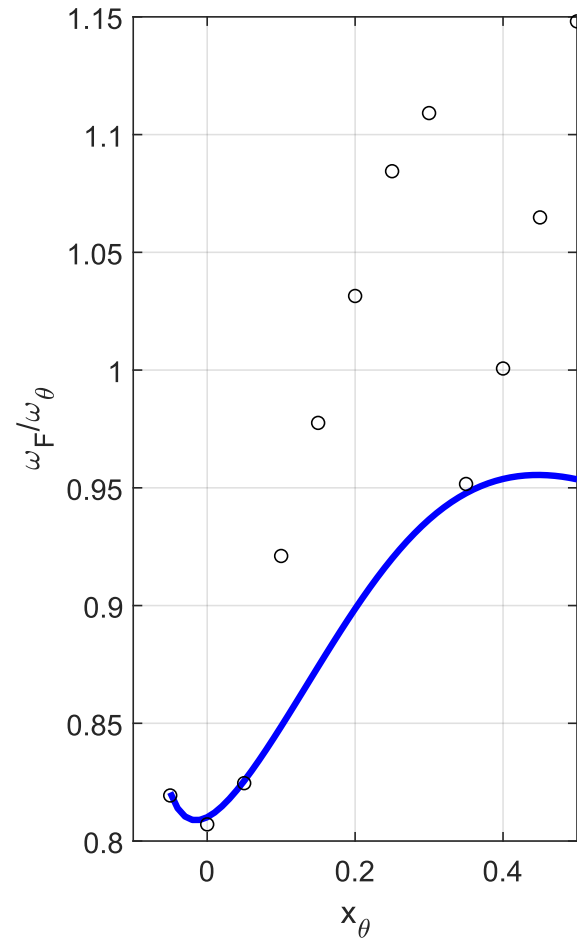
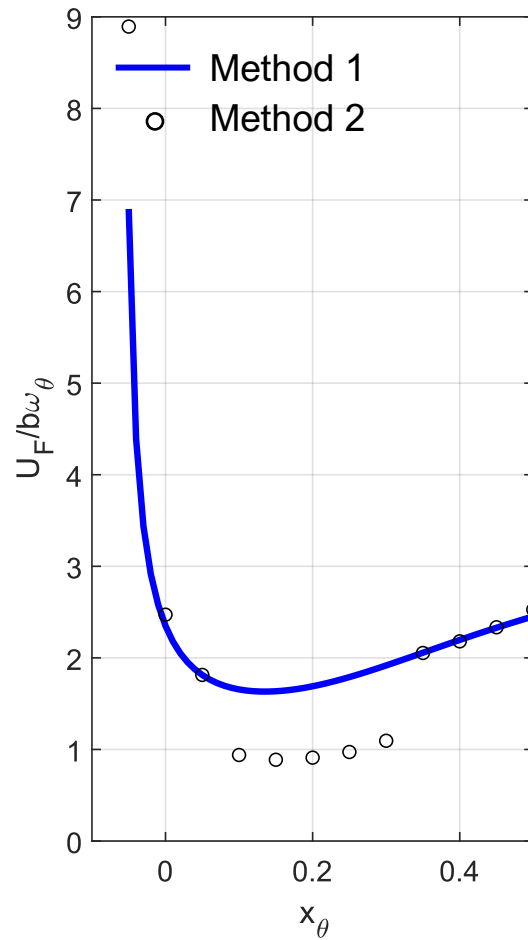
$$\mu = 20, a = -0.2, x_\theta = 0.3, r_\theta = 0.5$$

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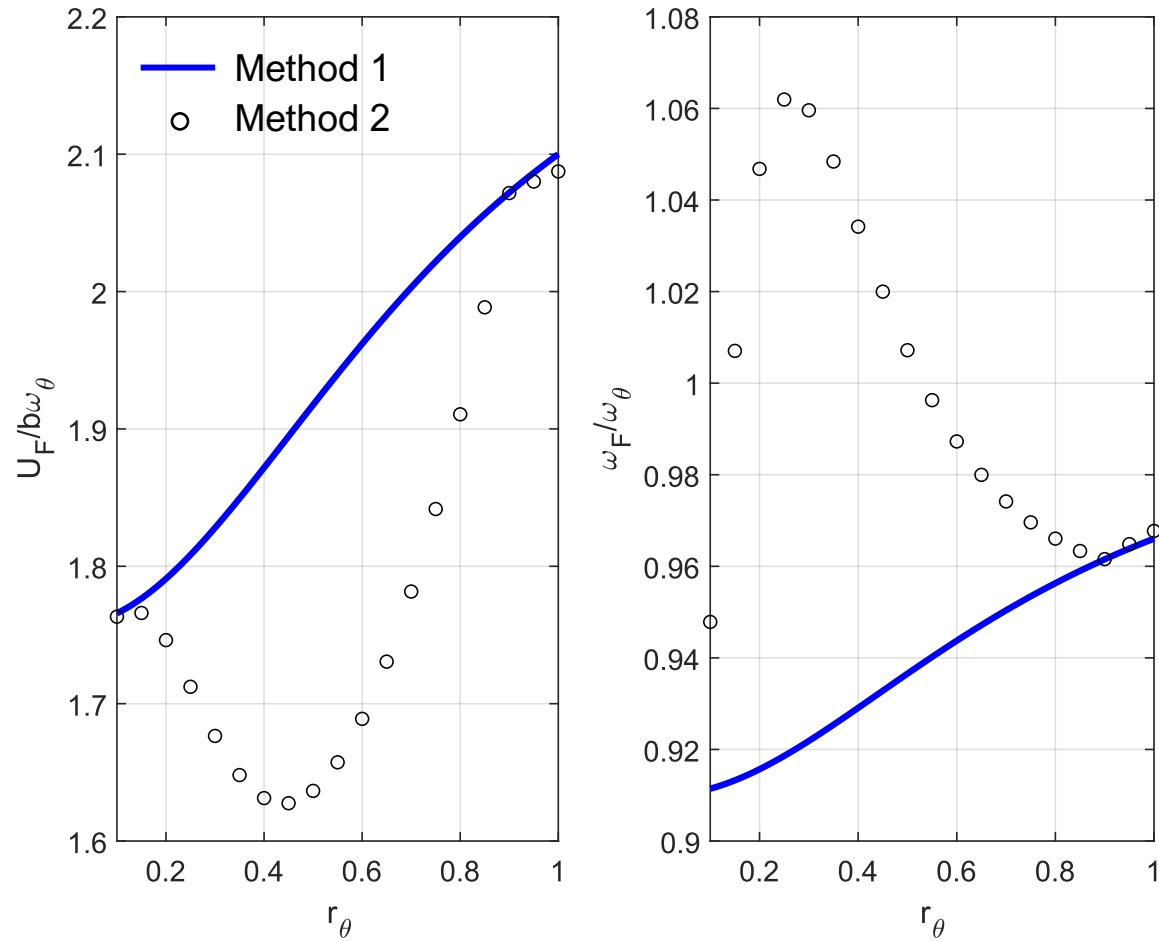
$$\sigma = 0.707, a = -0.2, x_\theta = 0.3, r_\theta = 0.5$$

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$$\sigma = 0.707, \mu = 20, a = -0.2, r_\theta = 0.5$$

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$$\sigma = 0.707, \mu = 20, a = -0.2, x_\theta = 0.3$$