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Semi-Empirical Optimisation of the Shape of a Surface Reducing Turbulent Skin Friction

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Abstract

Your abstract goes here. The abstract is a very brief summary of the dissertation's contents. It should be about half a page long. Somebody unfamiliar with your project should have a good idea of what it's about having read the abstract alone and will know whether it will be of interest to them.

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Acronyms

BL boundary layer.

CFD computational fluid dynamics.

DNS direct numerical simulation.

DR drag reduction.

ODE ordinary differential equation.

PDE partial differential equation.

SSL spatial Stokes layer.

TBL turbulent boundary layer.

TRL technology readiness level.

TSL temporal Stokes layer.

WW wavy wall.

Notation

A_g^+ riblet groove area in wall units.

A oscillation amplitude of spanwise wall velocity W_w .

k wavenumber $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$ (any subscript denotes direction).

p pressure field.

Re Reynolds number, and is equal to $\frac{UL}{\nu}$, a characteristic velocity U multiplied by a characteristic length L divided by kinematic viscosity ν .

s denoting the spatial Stokes layer (SSL) flow.

t time.

T period.

\mathbf{u}' fluctuating velocity vector with components (u', v', w') .

\mathbf{U} velocity vector with components (U, V, W) , the triple decomposition thereof is $\mathbf{U} = \overline{\mathbf{U}} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{u}'$.

U x component of velocity (similarly V, W are the y, z components of velocity respectively).

$\overline{\mathbf{U}}$ mean velocity vector with components $(\overline{U}, \overline{V}, \overline{W})$.

$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}$ phase averaged velocity vector with components $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{v}, \tilde{w})$.

\tilde{u}^+ part of phase average velocity in the x direction dependent on \tilde{y}^+ .

\hat{U} amplitude of the phase average oscillation in the x direction \tilde{U} .

u_τ friction wall velocity; it is equal to $\sqrt{\frac{\tau_w}{\rho}}$.

\tilde{w}^+ part of phase average velocity in the z direction dependent on \tilde{y}^+ .

\hat{W} amplitude of the phase average oscillation in the z direction \tilde{W} .

ww denoting the oblique wavy wall (WW) flow.

W_w spanwise wall velocity.

\tilde{y}^+ equal to $(k_x^+)^{-1/3} y^+$.

$\mathbf{0}$ denoting the reference channel flow.

λ wavelength (any subscript denotes direction).

μ dynamic viscosity.

ν kinematic viscosity, defined as the ratio between dynamic viscosity and density $\frac{\mu}{\rho}$.

ϕ phase along a wave.

Φ dissipation rate per unit area.

ρ fluid density.

τ_w wall shear stress.

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Motivation

Whether it be water in a pipeline, or an aircraft soaring through the skies, every fluid passing by a solid and every solid passing through a fluid will experience drag. The ever pressing need to reduce our impact on the environment requires us to reduce our energy used to combat unwanted drag, which also has the added benefit of reducing costs via increased efficiency. This is especially true in the transportation sector, which accounts for 24% of total global emissions in 2019 according to the IEA, although growth has been limited to only 0.5% per year compared to an average increase of 1.9% annually since 2000 owing to efficiency improvements [1].

The search for these efficiency improvements includes research towards drag reduction (DR) via flow control – that is manipulating the flow characteristics in such a way that somehow produces less overall drag. In fact, Ludwig Prandtl, who revolutionised the study of fluid mechanics with the introduction of the turbulent boundary layer (TBL), pioneered modern flow control as early as 1904, where he demonstrated that suction at the surface of a cylinder delays boundary layer (BL) separation and therefore decreases drag [2, 3]. Indeed, DR is a major focus of research in commercial aviation. In the context of aviation, a 1% reduction in drag corresponds to a 0.75% reduction in fuel and as a result CO₂ emissions [4]. In fact, [4] states that based on estimates on travel demand in 2030, a 1% reduction will constitute a 9 million tonnes reduction in CO₂ emissions.

In transport applications, and in particular aviation, the flows are at high Reynolds numbers Re , this means the regimes we are dealing with are often turbulent. Moreover, especially in aviation (with the exception of cases where supersonic effects dominate), viscous drag generated in the near-wall BL region constitutes a major component of total drag [5]. These two factors combined mean that “flow control methodology targeting the TBL is the most obvious option to achieve a significant skin-friction-drag reduction and ultimately to reduce emissions” [5].

Flow control is separated into two distinct groups, active and passive control. Active flow control requires an input in energy to affect the flow via the use of actuators, whereas passive

flow control does not. Examples of active control include opposition control [6, 7], spanwise-wall oscillation [8–10], and the aforementioned BL separation control [3]; the former is closed-loop and reacts to sensor inputs from the environment, whereas the latter two can be either open-loop with predetermined control patterns or reactive (feedback/feed-forward systems). The actuators used to perform active flow control can range from zero-net-mass-flux jets [11], to dielectric-barrier-discharge plasma actuators [12], to fluid injection (blowing) and sucking [13], to the ingenious moving surface using “pneumatically actuated compliant structure based on the kagome lattice geometry” [14]. Whereas, examples of passive control include vortex generators [15], discontinuities/notches/fences in the leading/rear edges of a wing [15], compliant surfaces [16], porous coatings [17], superhydrophobic surfaces [18], and a very well studied control technique known as riblets [19–21].

As aforementioned, active flow control allows for reactive responses which can increase the effectiveness of control techniques. Moreover, even open-loop flow control can achieve higher viscous drag reduction than passive control techniques without the need for sensors required for reactive flow control. However, this comes at a cost of the extra energy expended to modify the flow and the difficulty and innovation needed to design actuators. This can clearly be seen in the case of spanwise-wall oscillation where the wall moves as prescribed by a streamwise travelling wave, which, after accounting for the power spent to oscillate the fluid, has a net power saving of around 26% despite a drag reduction of $> 35\%$ for those conditions [22]. Moreover, in order to emulate a in-plane wall motion in real life, the aforementioned compliant structure from [14] had to be created and trialled in laboratory conditions, and then made at scale and maintained if it were to be used on real-world flows.

On the other hand, passive flow control is necessarily open-loop, and may have decreased performance in comparison to active flow control. However, it does not require actuators and the maintenance thereof. Riblets, for example, “are small surface protrusions aligned with the direction of the flow, which confer an anisotropic roughness to a surface” [21] and can be seen in Figure 1.1. Experiments show that under moderate adverse pressure gradient (i.e. where the pressure increases along the direction of the flow) a 13% skin friction reduction is achievable, compared to 6% reduction in a zero-pressure-gradient BL [23]. Although less efficient compared to active control, due to its relatively simple design, its technology readiness level (TRL) is higher than most other flow control techniques. In fact it has been trialled in scale model aircraft tests in transonic Mach numbers [24], real aircraft tests, and even in commercial service for several years by Cathay Pacific on an Airbus A340 where 30% of the wetted surface was covered with riblets [25]. Based on a flight test on an Airbus A320, in transonic Mach number ranges, an A320 with 70% of the wetted surface covered by riblets could have a drag reduction of about 2% [26]. However, the optimal groove cross section was found to have an optimum at $(A_g^+)^{1/2} \approx 11$, where the $+$ superscript denotes non-dimensionalisation by wall units (see

Therefore, researchers have begun to explore other ways to use passive flow control for turbulent DR. The oblique wavy wall (WW) was first proposed by Chernyshenko [28] in 2013 to

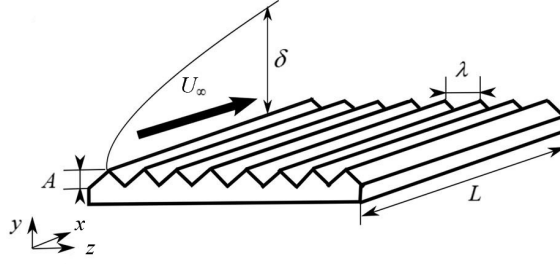


Figure 1.1: A schematic of triangular riblets the most commonly researched riblets. Figure modified from [27].

emulate the motions of in-plane spanwise wall oscillations in hopes that there will be a net energy decrease. We will devote the rest of this report discussing the merits of this curious passive flow control method.

1.2 Literature Review

1.2.1 The Spatial Stokes Layer (SSL)

Description

The Stokes layer is one of the few known exact solutions to the Navier-Stokes equation describing the motion of a viscous fluid as a function of the wall normal coordinate y , whereby the infinitely long wall is located at the bottom at $y = 0$ and oscillating harmonically in its own plane [29]. It turns out that the resulting oscillation in the fluid is only of significant magnitude very close to the wall in a so-called “Stokes layer” and is significantly damped outside of the said-layer.

Jung et al. [8] were the first to suggest using a wall oscillating in the spanwise direction to reduce skin friction in 1992, exploiting the above phenomenon to obtain a maximum drag reduction of 40% at a non-dimensional period of $T^+ = 100$ using direct numerical simulation (DNS), a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) method [30]. The $+$ superscript denotes non-dimensionalisation by wall units, which is based upon the wall friction velocity $u_\tau = \sqrt{\frac{\tau_w}{\rho}}$, along with the kinematic viscosity $\nu = \frac{\mu}{\rho}$, where τ_w is the wall shear stress of the fluid flow, ρ is the density of the fluid, and μ is the dynamic viscosity of the fluid flow. The spanwise velocity of the wall is given by

$$W_w = A \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{T}t\right), \quad (1.1)$$

where A and T denotes the oscillation amplitude and period, and t denotes time. Moreover, when only one of the channel walls were oscillating, “the reduction in turbulence activity was observed only near the oscillating wall, while the flow at the other wall remained fully turbulent” [8]. When phase averaged this coincides with the Stokes layer with temporal forcing [10], we will therefore name it temporal Stokes layer (TSL). Dhanak and Si [31] observed that the duration of sweep events were reduced by 47% and their strength reduced by 23%, suggesting that the skin-friction

reduction is a result of the “attenuation in the formation of streamwise streaks [30].

As this is a form of active flow control, despite significant drag reductions, significant energy must also be expended to overcome the extra shear stress to create the spanwise motion of the fluid [10]. Baron and Quadrio [32] was the first to consider the net energy savings from spanwise wall oscillation, and it is now accepted that the net energy savings is 10% [10, 30]. However, this technique requires moving parts and therefore requires actuators, which is hard to implement in practical applications especially in transport applications.

Viotti, Quadrio and Luchini [10] sought to extend the TSL from a time-dependent forcing to a stationary, spatial forcing, which potentially allows an extension into passive solutions which can emulate the oscillation varying over space instead of time (such as the WW). (—————

————— kim and hussain ————— ???) Letting x be the streamwise coordinate, y the wall-normal coordinate, and z the spanwise coordinate, the spatial forcing law can be seen in Figure 1.2, and is given by

$$W_w = A \sin \left(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda_x} x \right), \quad (1.2)$$

where A and λ_x denotes the forcing amplitude and the forcing wavelength in the x direction respectively. We will call this flow the spatial Stokes layer (SSL).

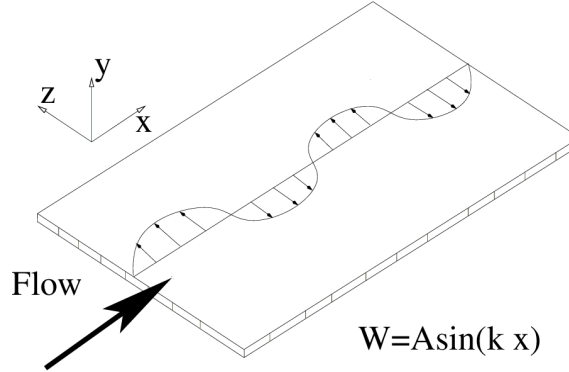


Figure 1.2: Schematic of spanwise wall forcing from [10].

Solving for Velocity

We will now analyse SSL flow analytically following Chernyshenko [28], who ultimately derives their analysis from Viotti, Quadrio and Luchini [10]. We begin by solving for the velocity profile of SSL flow by first defining the triple decomposition of velocity as follows

$$\mathbf{U} = \overline{\mathbf{U}} + \tilde{\mathbf{u}} + \mathbf{u}', \quad (1.3)$$

where $\overline{\mathbf{U}}$ is the velocity averaged over time, and space in the x and z direction, $\tilde{\mathbf{u}}$ is the phase averaged velocity, and \mathbf{u}' is the remaining stochastic turbulent part of the velocity. Unlike the traditional Reynolds decomposition, we have an extra phase dependent term, which is useful for periodic flows such as SSL flow. We can adapt the definition given in [33] to our case and define

for some phase angle $\phi_0 = \phi(x_0 + m\lambda_x, z_0 + n\lambda_z)$,

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}}(y, \phi_0) := \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{M} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{U}(x_0 + n\lambda_x, y, z_0 + m\lambda_z) - \bar{\mathbf{U}}(y). \quad (1.4)$$

By including this average, we recognise that there will be periodicity in the x component of the flow velocity; we also include periodicity in the z component of the flow velocity since it will be useful for the WW flow, and doesn't affect the definition for the SSL flow, whose phase average has no z dependence and therefore $\tilde{w} = 0$.

With that definition, we can now solve for the phase averaged velocity of the SSL flow. By linearising the BL equations in the wall units of the flow around a linear profile, we ignore the stochastic fluctuations \mathbf{u}' and let $\bar{\mathbf{U}}^+ = (y^+, 0, 0)$. Moreover, SSL is time invariant. Thus, by analysing the order of various values as in [29], and taking $Re \rightarrow \infty$, we get

$$y^+ \frac{\partial \tilde{u}^+}{\partial x^+} + \tilde{v}^+ = -\frac{\partial p^+}{\partial x^+} + \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{u}^+}{\partial (y^+)^2} \quad (1.5)$$

$$0 = -\frac{\partial p^+}{\partial y^+} \quad (1.6)$$

$$y^+ \frac{\partial \tilde{w}^+}{\partial x^+} = -\frac{\partial p^+}{\partial z^+} + \frac{\partial^2 \tilde{w}^+}{\partial (y^+)^2} \quad (1.7)$$

$$0 = \frac{\partial \tilde{u}^+}{\partial x^+} + \frac{\partial \tilde{v}^+}{\partial y^+} + \frac{\partial \tilde{w}^+}{\partial z^+}, \quad (1.8)$$

where p^+ is the non-dimensionalised pressure field. These are the general BL equations (also known as *Prandtl BL equations*) when linearised around a linear mean profile (i.e. where we let $\bar{\mathbf{U}}^+ = (y^+, 0, 0)$).

At the wall, we have $\tilde{u}_s^{+s}|_{y^{+s}=0} = \tilde{v}_s^{+s}|_{y^{+s}=0} = 0$, and $\tilde{w}_s^{+s}|_{y^{+s}=0} = \hat{W}^{+s} e^{ik_x^{+s} x^{+s}}$, where $\hat{W}_s^{+s} = A^{+s}$ is the wall oscillation amplitude, $k_x^{+s} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda_x^{+s}}$ is the non-dimensional wavenumber, i is the imaginary unit, the subscript s denotes that the variable is related to SSL flow, and the superscript $+s$ denotes non-dimensionalisation by the friction velocity specific to the SSL flow $u_{\tau,s} = \sqrt{\frac{\tau_{w,s}}{\rho}}$. Although strictly speaking $\tilde{w}_s^{+s}|_{y=0}$ is only the real part of the exponential function (as well as any other phase averaged terms that we prescribe the exponential function for the rest of this report), however analysis is much more easily done using the exponential function and only taking the real part thereof at the very end. Moreover, since the wall is flat, we expect the pressure gradient in all directions to be zero. We also only expect the spanwise periodic fluctuations to be non-zero, therefore $\tilde{u}_s = \tilde{v}_s = 0$. This means that to solve for \tilde{w}^{+s} we only need Equation (1.7).

Finally, we expect the spanwise velocity to vary not only in x (due to the x dependence of the prescribed spanwise wall forcing), but also in y as the Stokes layer decreases in strength away from the wall. Therefore, we get $\tilde{w}^{+s}(x^{+s}, \tilde{y}^{+s}) = \hat{W}_s^{+s} \tilde{w}_s^{+s} e^{ik_x^{+s} x^{+s}}$, where we define $y^+ = (k_x^+)^{-1/3} \tilde{y}^+$ in order to simplify our equations later, and $\tilde{w}_s^{+s} = \tilde{w}_s^{+s}(\tilde{y}^{+s})$ as the only part of \tilde{w}^{+s} dependent on \tilde{y}^{+s} . Therefore Equation (1.7) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} (k_x^{+s})^{-1/3} \tilde{y}^{+s} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{+s}} \left(\hat{W}_s^{+s} \tilde{w}_s^{+s} e^{ik_x^{+s} x^{+s}} \right) &= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial ((k_x^{+s})^{-1/3} \tilde{y})^2} \left(\hat{W}_s^{+s} \tilde{w}_s^{+s} e^{ik_x^{+s} x^{+s}} \right) \\ i \tilde{y}^{+s} \tilde{w}_s^{+s} &= \frac{d^2 \tilde{w}_s^{+s}}{d(\tilde{y}^{+s})^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.9)$$

We can see that we can solve for \check{w}_s^{+s} with only an ordinary differential equation (ODE). We know that at the wall $\check{w}_s^{+s}|_{\check{y}^{+s}=0} = 1$, and since this is a Stokes layer, we want $\check{w}_s^{+s} \rightarrow 0$ as $\check{y}^{+s} \rightarrow \infty$. This ODE can either be solved numerically or be described by an Airy function (denoted $\text{Ai}(\cdot)$) as follows,

$$\check{w}_s^{+s}(\check{y}^{+s}) = \frac{\text{Ai}(-i\check{y}^{+s}e^{-\frac{4}{3}i\pi})}{\text{Ai}(0)}, \quad (1.10)$$

which gives

$$w_s^{+s} = \text{Re} \left[\hat{W}_s^{+s} e^{ik_x^{+s}x} \frac{\text{Ai}(-i\check{y}^{+s}e^{-\frac{4}{3}i\pi})}{\text{Ai}(0)} \right]. \quad (1.11)$$

Net Power Saved

Our ultimate goal is of course to find how much energy we might be able to save using SSL. We will calculate the net power saved by having SSL in both the top and bottom wall of an infinite flat channel (which was what was done in Viotti, Quadrio and Luchini [10] such that comparisons can be made with DNS, which requires a finite domain), compared with a reference channel flow with no movement. We will denote variables relating to the reference flow with a subscript 0, and similar to the SSL flow, we will denote non-dimensionalisation by the wall units of the reference flow with the superscript $+0$.

To find this elusive net power saving, we start with conservation of energy in the channel. Thus,

$$P_{\text{in}}^+ = P_{\text{out}}^+, \quad (1.12)$$

where P denotes power per unit area. We know for SSL, P_{in} includes some sort of external pump that powers the flow against drag (which we hope is reduced from the reference flow), as well as an actuator or motor which drives the oscillatory in-plane wall motion. Whereas for the reference flow P_{in} does not have the latter. On the other hand, the P_{out} of the system is purely through losses in heat, which comes from dissipation in the fluid, which, per unit area, is given by

$$\Phi^+ = \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\mathbf{U}^+}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+, \quad (1.13)$$

for one wall, where the overbar denotes conducting averaging and phase averaging in time and space in the x, z directions. Despite this being channel flow, we integrate to infinity instead of the channel half height as the analysis is easier to deal with and it is presumed that $\frac{d\mathbf{U}^+}{dy^+} \rightarrow 0$ quickly as $y^+ \rightarrow \infty$ outside the boundary layer. Using the incredibly useful triple decomposition,

the dissipation per unit area becomes

$$\Phi^+ = \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d}{dy^+} (\bar{U}^+ + \tilde{u}^+ + \mathbf{u}') \right)^2} dy^+ \quad (1.14)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \left[\overline{\left(\frac{d\bar{U}}{dy^+} \right)^2} + \overline{\left(\frac{d\tilde{u}}{dy^+} \right)^2} + \overline{\left(\frac{d\mathbf{u}'}{dy^+} \right)^2} + 2 \overline{\left(\frac{d\bar{U}}{dy^+} \frac{d\tilde{u}}{dy^+} + \frac{d\bar{U}}{dy^+} \frac{d\mathbf{u}'}{dy^+} + \frac{d\tilde{u}}{dy^+} \frac{d\mathbf{u}'}{dy^+} \right)} \right] dy^+ \quad (1.15)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\bar{U}}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+ + \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\tilde{u}}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+ + \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\mathbf{u}'}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+. \quad (1.16)$$

Wonderfully, the cross terms inside the final brackets of 1.15 all go to zero since the overbar for dissipation involves both the mean averaging and phase averaging, and since $\overline{ab} = \overline{a}\overline{b}$ for any a, b , and the average of a fluctuating quantity is zero. Moreover, since the flows being considered throughout the rest of the report have a mean velocity in the y or z direction, nor will they have a phase averaged velocity in the y direction we can then reduce the dissipation further to

$$\Phi^+ = \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\bar{U}}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+ + \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d}{dy^+} (\tilde{u}, \tilde{w}, 0) \right)^2} dy^+ + \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\mathbf{u}'}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+ \quad (1.17)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\bar{U}}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+ + \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\tilde{u}}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+ + \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\tilde{w}}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+ + \int_0^\infty \overline{\left(\frac{d\mathbf{u}'}{dy^+} \right)^2} dy^+ \quad (1.18)$$

$$= \Phi_{\bar{U}}^+ + \Phi_{\tilde{u}}^+ + \Phi_{\tilde{w}}^+ + \Phi_{\mathbf{u}'}^+. \quad (1.19)$$

For the reference flow $\Phi_0^{+0} = \Phi_{\bar{U},0}^{+0} + \Phi_{\mathbf{u}',0}^{+0}$, whereas for the SSL flow $\Phi_s^{+s} = \Phi_{\bar{U},s}^{+s} + \Phi_{\tilde{w},s}^{+s} + \Phi_{\mathbf{u}',s}^{+s}$. Therefore we can call the \bar{U} and \mathbf{u}' portions of dissipation drag, and the extra \tilde{w} portion of dissipation an extra required portion for the SSL flow. We define

1.2.2 The Oblique Wavy Wall (WW)

Description

As mentioned in Section 1.1, SSL is

Chapter 2

Conclusion

Code is broken

τ_w/τ_0 problem Ycross is enough to find Pnet Subject to (1) the closed system has been obtained

Wave height versus pressure

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