

Growth of reattachment streaks in hypersonic compression ramp flow

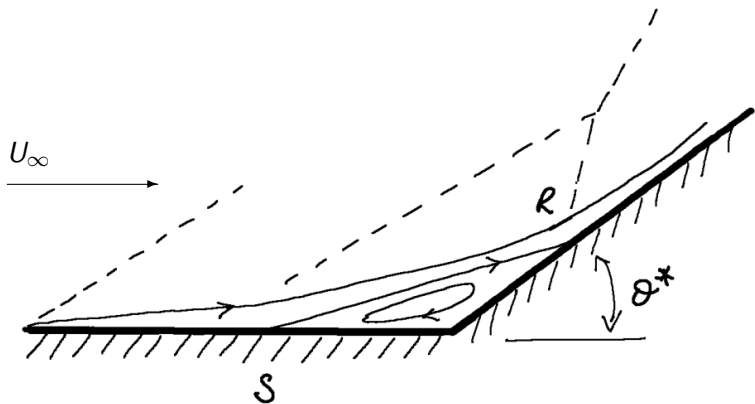
Rich Hewitt

with: Henry Broadley

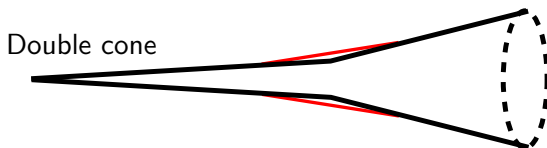
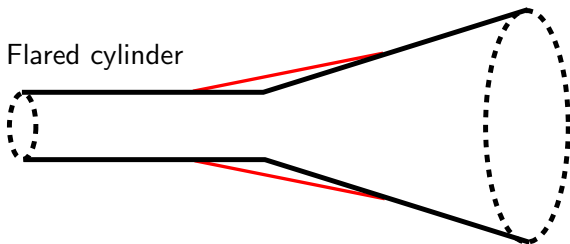
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Imperial, May 9th 2025

Compression ramp flow

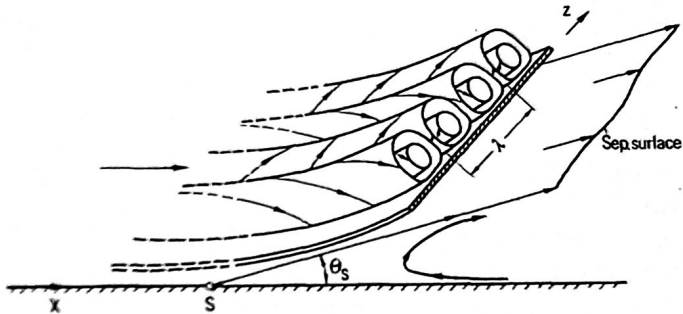


Variations on the same theme



Centrifugal effects at separation

Spanwise-periodic disturbances at separation.



From: Inger, ZAMP 1977, 28.

See also: Denier & Bassom, Stud. Appl. Math. 1996, 96.

DNS: three-dimensional examples

- [Navarro-Martinez & Tutty Comp. in Fluids 2005, 34.](#)
3D base flow with finite spanwise extent.
Upstream forcing.
Downstream streaks/vortices at/post reattachment.
Centrifugal: local estimates of Görtler number.
- [Dwivedi et al. JFM 2019, 880.](#)
Baroclinic effects lead to streaks/vortices.
- [Hao et al. JFM 2021, 919.](#)
2D baseflow, ARPACK GSA.
Effects of wall cooling.
Eigenmodes confined to separation bubble.
Production localized to the primary vortex core.
Suggest the mode is linked to secondary separation.

- Two responses (i) an 'intrinsic' (global) instability (ii) spatial growth through the corner.

Global mode

- develops at a critical ramp angle.
- is localised to the separation bubble in the corner.
- suggested it is related to secondary separation.
- production localised to the 'eye' of the separation bubble.

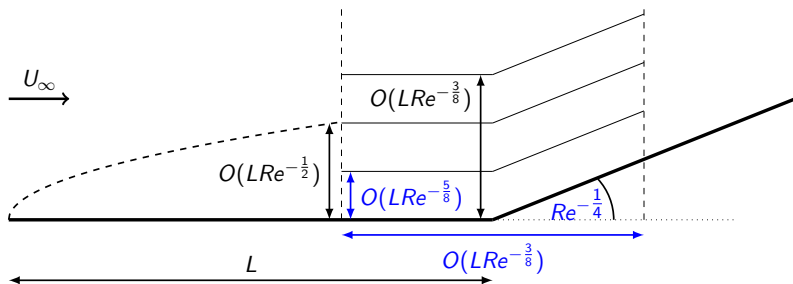
Spatial

- peak energy growth increases with ramp angle.
 - growth occurs between S & R.
 - upstream disturbances persist as downstream streaks post-R.
 - disturbance is deflected above the reverse flow region.
 - linked to both baroclinic and centrifugal mechanisms.
- In both cases some (not all) spanwise lengthscales are comparable to the transverse scale in the corner.

- Take an asymptotic approach, $Re \gg 1$.
- Triple-deck formulation for $\theta^* \sim Re^{-1/4}$: supersonic.
- $Ma \gg 1$ problem with wall cooling: hypersonic.
 - no real gas effects.
- Solve for 2D base flows in the corner.
- Formulate a Görtler problem for lower deck disturbances.
- Solutions for the global and developing 3D disturbances.

The supersonic problem

- Take an asymptotic approach, $Re = \rho_\infty U_\infty L / \mu_* \gg 1$.
- $M_\infty = U_\infty \sqrt{\gamma p_\infty / \rho_\infty} = O(1)$.



$$x = L(1 + \text{Re}^{-\frac{3}{8}})X,$$

$$y = L\text{Re}^{-\frac{5}{8}}Y,$$

$$(u, v) = U_\infty(\text{Re}_\infty^{-\frac{1}{8}}[\lambda Y + U_B(X, Y)], \quad \text{Re}_\infty^{-\frac{3}{8}}V_B(X, Y)) + \cdots,$$

$$p = p_\infty(1 + \gamma M_\infty \text{Re}_\infty^{-\frac{2}{8}}P_B(X)) + \cdots,$$

$$\rho = \rho_w + \cdots,$$

$$\mu = \mu_w + \cdots.$$

- λ is the upstream shear at the 'corner'.
- γ is the ratio of specific heats.
- We can rescale to remove λ , γ and M_∞ from the problem.

The canonical problem

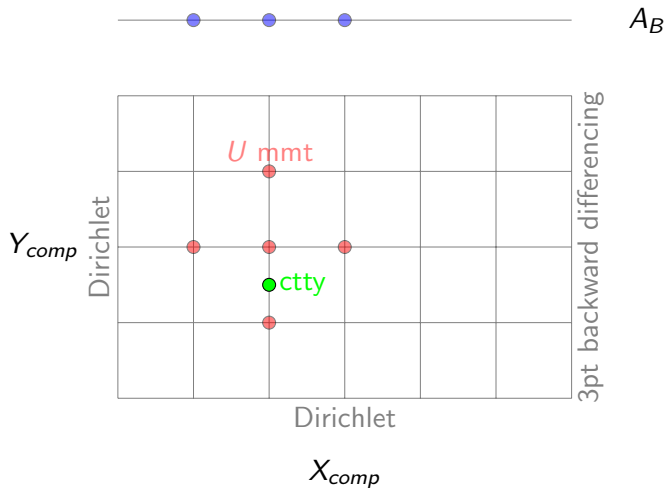
$$(Y + U_B) \frac{\partial U_B}{\partial X} + V_B \left(1 + \frac{\partial U_B}{\partial Y} \right) = -P'_B(X) + \frac{\partial^2 U_B}{\partial Y^2},$$
$$\frac{\partial U_B}{\partial X} + \frac{\partial V_B}{\partial Y} = 0,$$

with

$$U_B \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad X \rightarrow -\infty$$
$$U_B = V_B = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad Y = 0,$$
$$U_B \rightarrow A_B(X) + \alpha F(X) \quad \text{as} \quad Y \rightarrow \infty,$$
$$P_B = -A'_B(X).$$

After moving to a new Y measured relative to the ramp surface.

Baseflow computational scheme



Newton iteration for all d.o.f

- At a given ramp angle α we are left to solve:

$$J_{N \times N}(\underline{q}) \underline{\tilde{q}} = \underline{B}(\underline{q})$$

for a correction $\underline{\tilde{q}}$. Then $\underline{q} := \underline{q} + \underline{\tilde{q}}$.

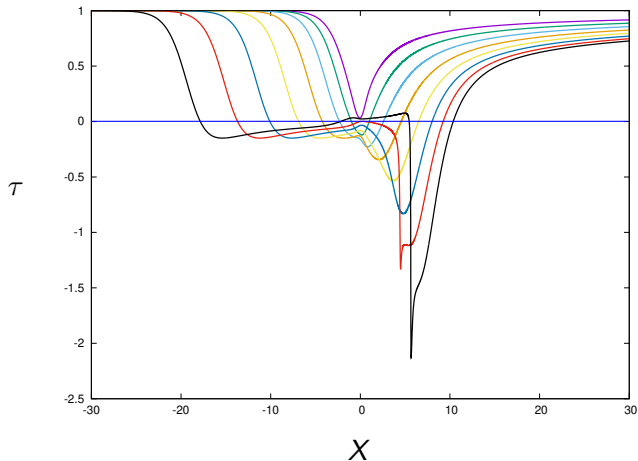
- J is sparse, with

$$N = N_x(2N_y + 1).$$

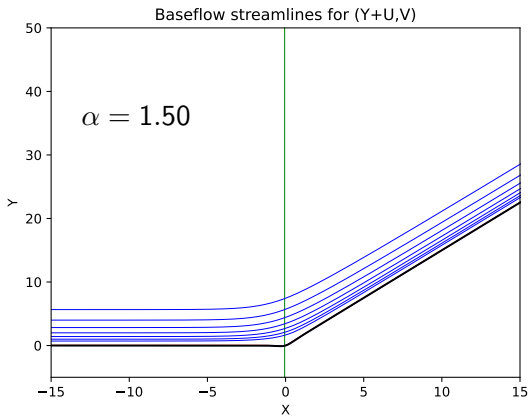
- Typical values:
 $N_x = 4001$ and $N_y = 201$.
 $X \in [-50, 50]$, $Y \in [0, 50]$.
- Sparse direct solvers: MUMPs/SuperLU.
- A single parameter problem: ramp angle α .

Supersonic baseflow results: scaled shear τ

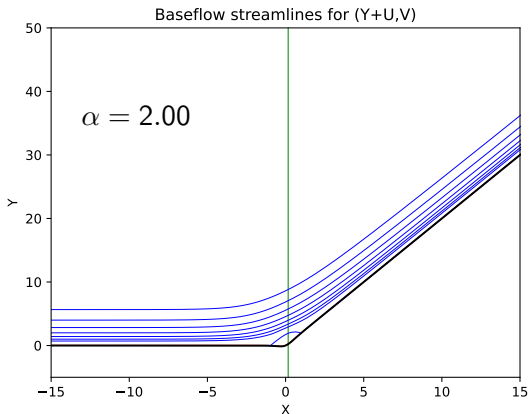
$$\alpha = 1, 1.5, 2, \dots, 4.5, 5$$



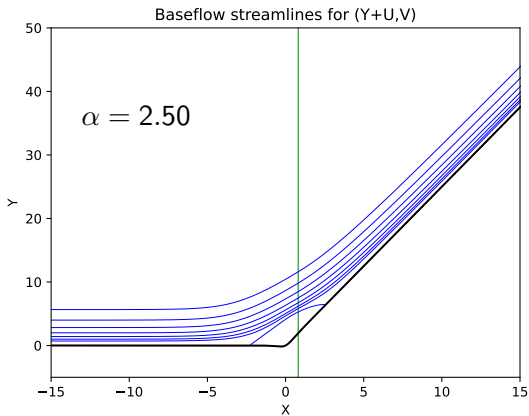
Supersonic baseflow results: streamlines



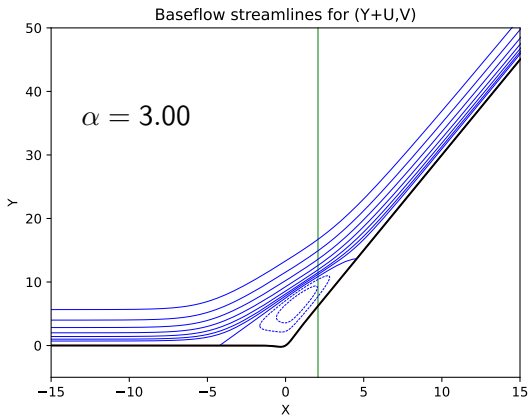
Supersonic baseflow results: streamlines



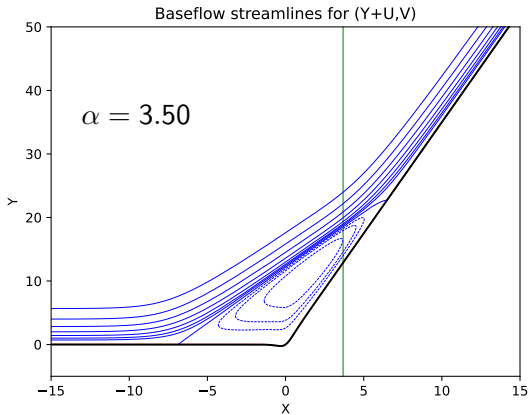
Supersonic baseflow results: streamlines



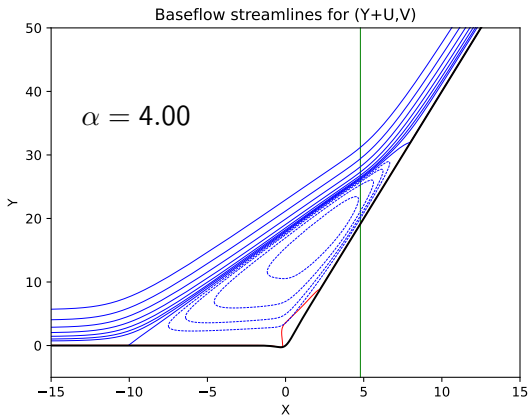
Supersonic baseflow results: streamlines



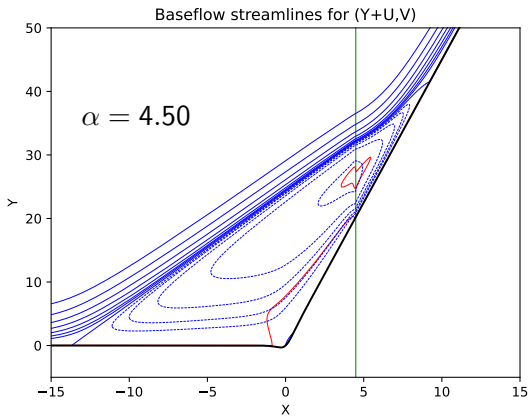
Supersonic baseflow results: streamlines



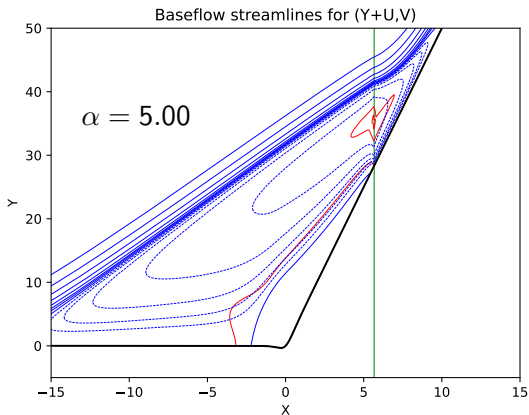
Supersonic baseflow results: streamlines



Supersonic baseflow results: streamlines



Supersonic baseflow results: streamlines



See Broadley, Hewitt & Gajjar JFM 2023, 968.

The wall-cooled hypersonic version

- Both $M_\infty, \text{Re} \gg 1$.
- We will assume that

$$\chi = M_\infty^2 \text{Re}^{-1/2} \ll 1.$$

- The impinging BL now has thickness $O(M_\infty \text{Re}^{-1/2})$ and a low density of $O(M_\infty^{-2})$.
- Enthalpy and viscosity:

$$h = U_\infty^2 \hat{h},$$
$$\mu = \mu_* \hat{h}^n, \quad (n > 0).$$

- Cooling at the wall with $\hat{h}_w = h(\text{wall})/U_\infty^2$:

$$\hat{h}_w \ll 1.$$

Upstream:

- Bulk BL is $O(M_\infty \text{Re}^{-1/2})$ and density is low $O(M_\infty^{-2})$.
- Flow has to adjust to the cooled wall as $\hat{h}_w \ll 1$.
- Thin upstream near-wall region $O(M_\infty \text{Re}^{-1/2} \hat{h}_w^{n+1})$.
- Density is increased to $O(M_\infty^{-2} / \hat{h}_w)$.

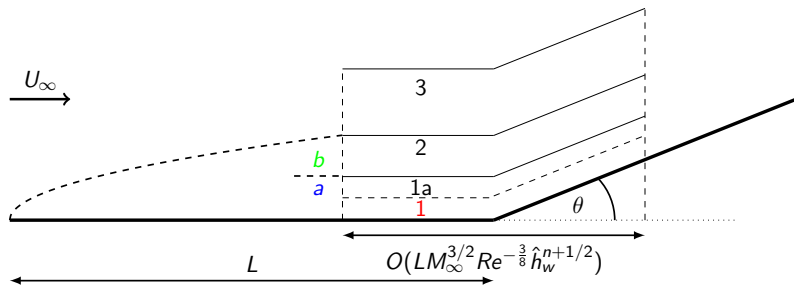
Lower deck:

- The lower deck is: $O(M_\infty^{3/2} \hat{h}_w^{n+1/2} \text{Re}^{-5/8})$.

Lower deck remains thin compared to the upstream near wall region until

- $\hat{h}_w \sim M_\infty \text{Re}^{-1/4} = \chi^{1/2} \ll 1$.
- Breaking this re-introduces compressibility into lower deck.

Asymptotic regions



b/a : the upstream BL has a near-wall layer a .

1 : the lower deck thickness is now $M_\infty^{3/2} Re^{-5/8} \hat{h}_w^{n+1/2}$

We assume a remains thicker than 1 .

We obtain largely the same lower-deck problem, but the interaction condition is now:

$$P_B(X) = -A'_B(X) + S\mathcal{L} P'_B(X),$$

where

$$S = M_\infty^{1/2} \text{Re}^{-1/8} / \hat{h}_w^{(n+1/2)} = \chi^{1/4} / \hat{h}_w^{n+1/2} = O(1).$$

\mathcal{L} is an integral of the upstream profile impinging on the corner - we expect $\mathcal{L} < 0$.

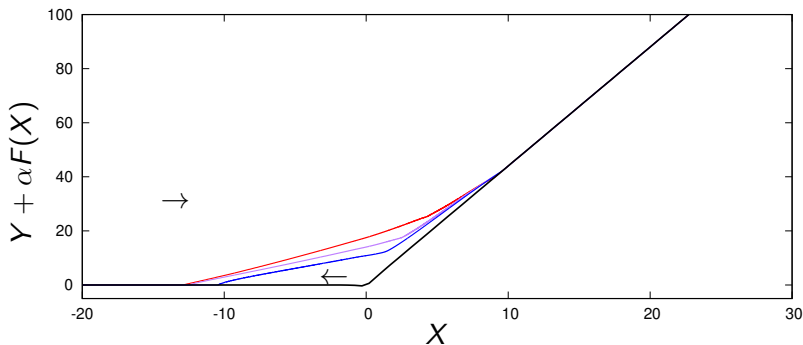
See: Kerimbekov, Ruban & Walker, JFM 1994, 274.

$$P_B(X) = -A'_B(X) + S \mathcal{L} P'_B(X),$$

- $S \ll 1$: same supersonic compression ramp problem.
- $S = O(1)$: modified interaction law (moderate cooling).
- Main deck displacement dominates as S increases (strong cooling).
- $S \gg 1$: when $\hat{h}_w \sim M_\infty \text{Re}^{-1/4} = \chi^{1/2} \ll 1$ compressibility effects enter the lower deck.

Baseflow results: reverse flow region

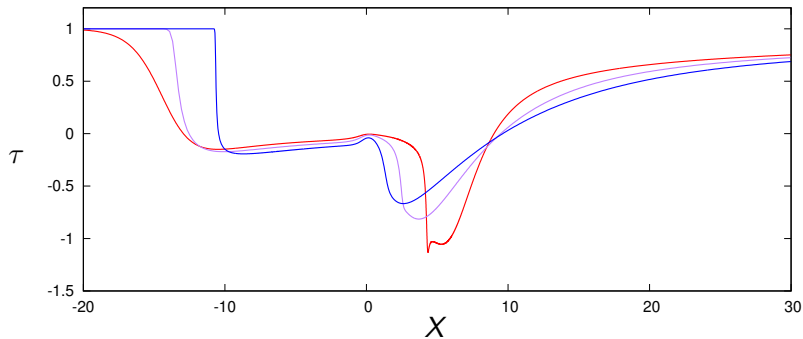
$\alpha = 4.4$, $S\mathcal{L} = 0$ (red), -2.5 (purple), -5 (blue).



Recall that: $x = L(1 + M_\infty^{3/2} \text{Re}^{-3/8} \hat{h}_w^{n+1/2} X)$

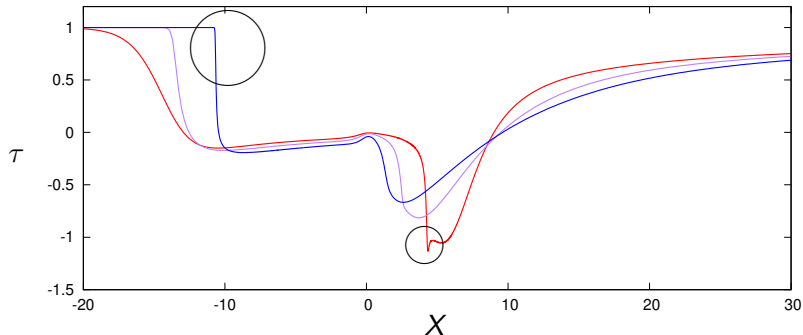
Baseflow results: τ

$\alpha = 4.4$, $S\mathcal{L} = 0$ (red), -2.5 (purple), -5 (blue).



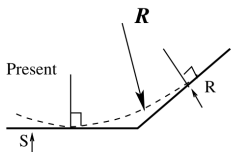
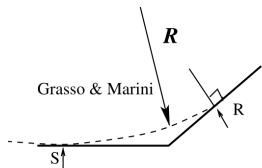
Baseflow results: τ

$\alpha = 4.4$, $S\mathcal{L} = 0$ (red), -2.5 (purple), -5 (blue).



See Cassel, Ruban & Walker JFM 1996, 321.

Centrifugal instability



- DNS results estimate flow curvature.
- A Görtler number is estimated.
- Attempts to compare spatial growth through the corner.
- Instead we will try to solve the Görtler problem in the lower deck.

From: Navarro-Martinez & Tutty Comp. & Fluids, 2005.

Linear centrifugal instability

Approach of Hall & Bennett JFM 1986, 171 (incompressible).

Linear perturbation $|\epsilon| \ll 1$:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{u}} = \epsilon M_{\infty}^{1/2} \hat{h}_w^{1/2} \begin{pmatrix} \text{Re}^{-1/8} \tilde{U}(X, Y, Z, T) \\ \text{Re}^{-3/8} \tilde{V}(X, Y, Z, T) \\ \text{Re}^{-3/8} \tilde{W}(X, Y, Z, T) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\tilde{p} = \epsilon \gamma M_{\infty}^{-1} \text{Re}^{-3/4} \hat{h}_w^{n+1/2} \tilde{Q}(X, Y, Z, T),$$

$$z = M_{\infty}^{3/2} \hat{h}_w^{n+1/2} \text{Re}^{-5/8} Z \quad (\text{lower deck scale}),$$

$$t = M_{\infty} \hat{h}_w^n \text{Re}^{-1/4} T.$$

Linear perturbation equations in the lower deck

$$\tilde{U}_X + \tilde{V}_Y + \tilde{W}_Z = 0,$$

$$\tilde{U}_T + \overline{U}_B \tilde{U}_X + \tilde{U} \overline{U}_{BX} + V_B \tilde{U}_Y + V \overline{U}_{BY} = \nabla_2^2 \tilde{U},$$

$$\tilde{V}_T + \overline{U}_B \tilde{V}_X + \tilde{U} V_{BX} + \tilde{V} V_{BY} + V_B \tilde{V}_Y + 2\alpha F_{XX} \overline{U}_B \tilde{U} = -\tilde{Q}_Y + \nabla_2^2 \tilde{V},$$

$$\tilde{W}_T + \overline{U}_B \tilde{W}_X + V_B \tilde{W}_Y = -\tilde{Q}_Z + \nabla_2^2 \tilde{W}.$$

$$\overline{U}_B = \lambda Y + U_B(X, Y)$$

$$\tilde{U} = \hat{U}(X, Y, T) e^{i\beta Z} \quad \text{etc}$$

$$\hat{U} = \hat{W} = 0, \quad \hat{V} = \hat{V}_{\text{blowing}}(X, T) \quad \text{at} \quad Y = 0,$$

$$\hat{U}, \hat{V}, \hat{W} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad Y \rightarrow \infty,$$

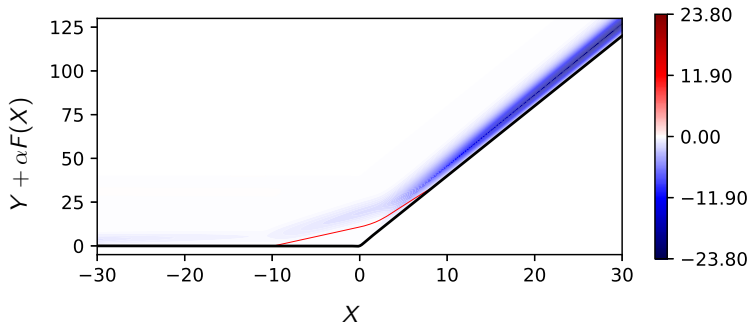
- Ad-hoc forcing applied upstream:

$$\hat{V}_{blowing} = \exp^{-(X-X_0)^2/4}$$

- This could obviously be something more 'realistic'.
- Look for **steady** solutions to the disturbance equations.
- No attempt to optimize the input forcing for peak growth.

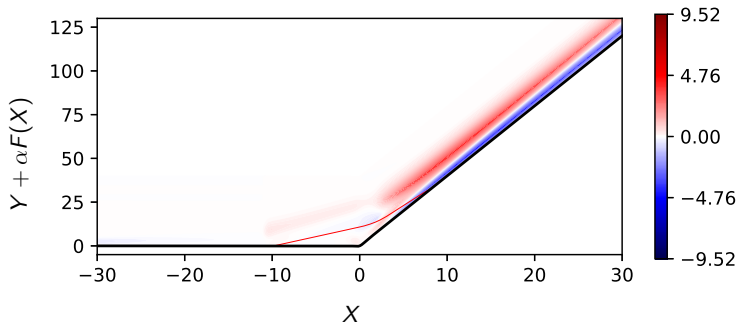
Streamwise perturbation $\hat{U}(X, Y)$

$$\alpha = 4, S\mathcal{L} = -2.5, \beta = 0.4, X_0 = -40.$$



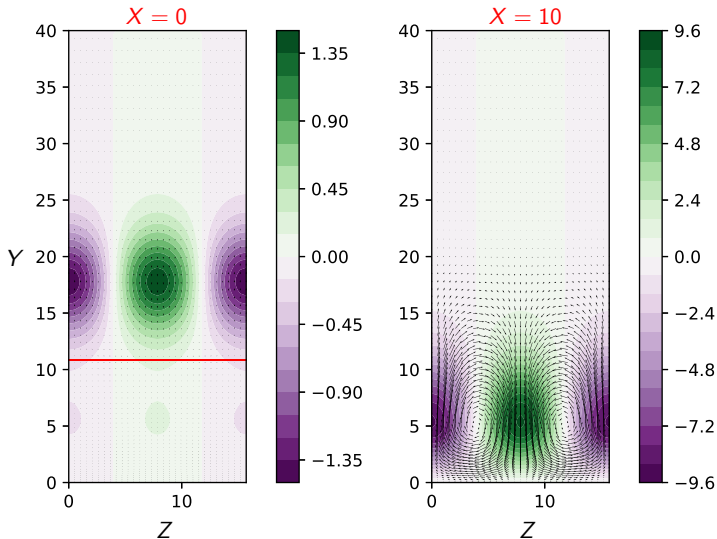
Spanwise perturbation $\hat{W}(X, Y)$

$$\alpha = 4, S\mathcal{L} = -2.5, \beta = 0.4, X_0 = -40.$$



Cross-sectional view

$$\alpha = 4.0, \beta = 0.4, S\mathcal{L} = -2.5.$$



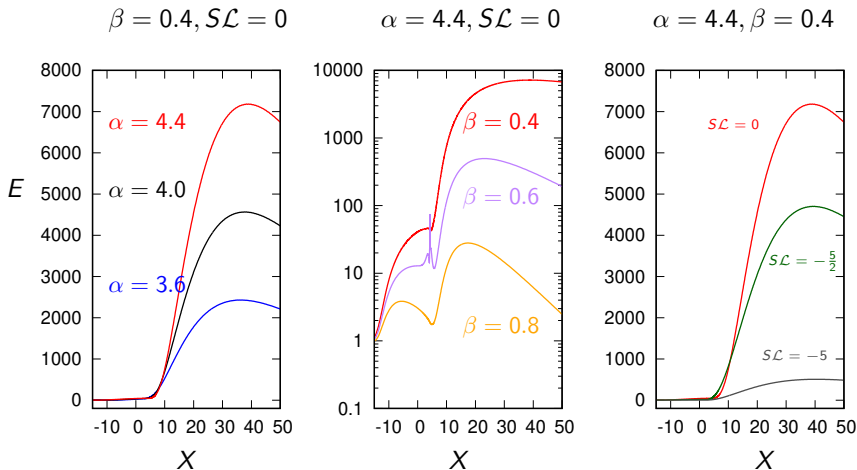
- Introduce a metric for the response

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \int_0^\infty \tilde{U}^2(X, Y) dY.$$

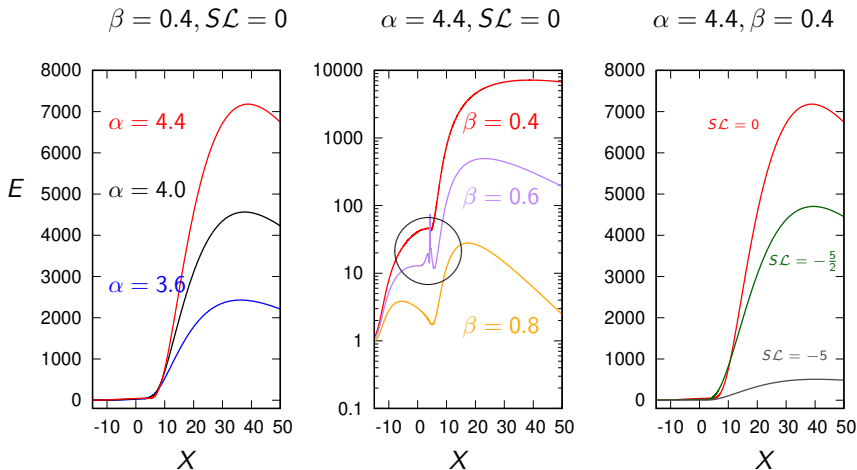
- Γ normalises the energy to $E = 1$ at the separation point.
- We also define a local spatial growth rate

$$\sigma(X) = \frac{1}{E} \frac{dE}{dX}.$$

Downstream disturbance E growth



Downstream disturbance E growth



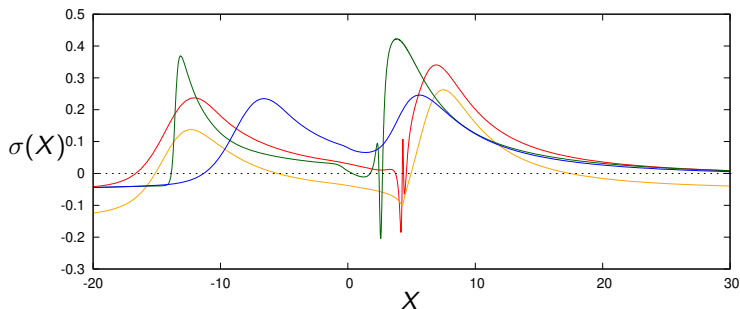
A local growth rate

$$\sigma(X) = \frac{1}{E} \frac{dE}{dX}.$$

$\beta = 0.4$: $\alpha = 4.4$, $\alpha = 3.6$, $S\mathcal{L} = 0$.

$\beta = 0.8$: $\alpha = 4.4$, $S\mathcal{L} = 0$.

$\beta = 0.4$: $\alpha = 4.4$, $S\mathcal{L} = -2.5$.



- Suppose instead we look for bi-global modes localised to the corner

$$\tilde{U} = \hat{U}(X, Y)e^{i\beta Z}e^{sT}$$

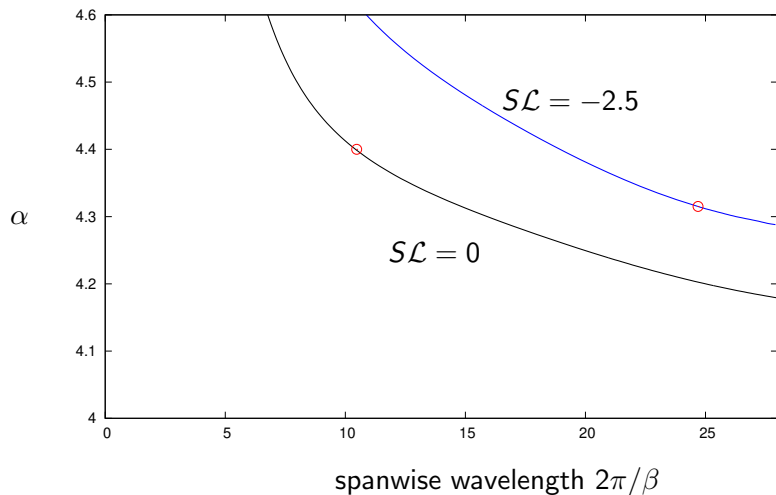
subject to upstream and downstream decay.

- Gives a sparse bi-global eigenvalue problem for the temporal growth

$$s = s(\alpha, \beta, S\mathcal{L})$$

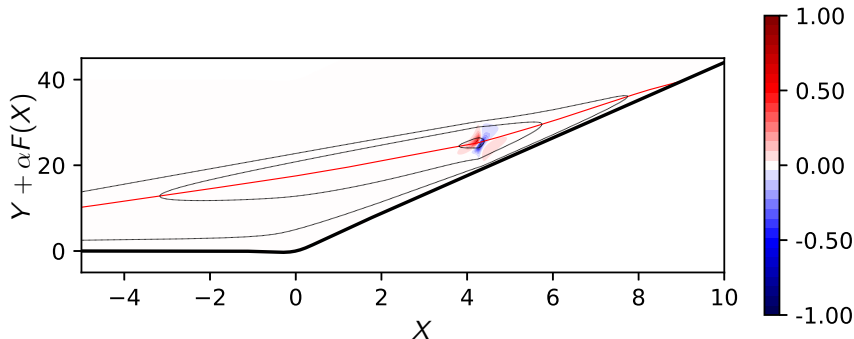
- SLEPc library to iteratively find s .
- Checked against an initial-value computation forced by transient blowing.

Bi-global neutral modes



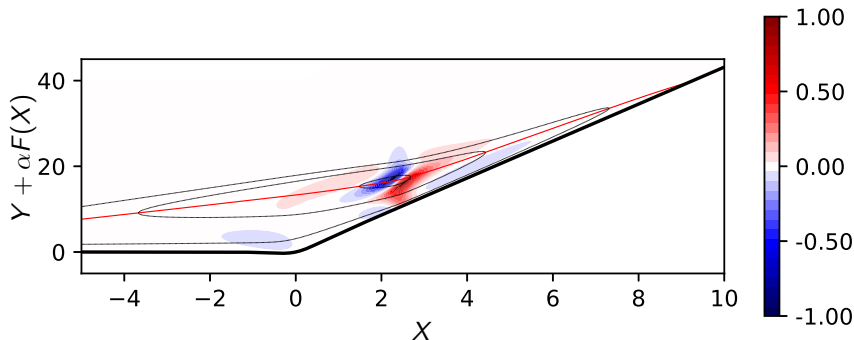
Bi-global eigenmode: spanwise velocity $\hat{W}(X, Y)$

$$\alpha = 4.4, \beta = 0.6, S\mathcal{L} = 0.$$



Bi-global eigenmode: spanwise velocity $\hat{W}(X, Y)$

$$\alpha = 4.315, \beta = 0.2545, S\mathcal{L} = -2.5.$$



Spatial growth of upstream disturbances

- For $\lambda_z \sim \text{Re}^{-5/8}$ upstream disturbances evolve to downstream streaks.
- Görtler equations give localised growth at S & R.
- Streaks lie over the separation bubble.
- The lower deck is incompressible, **no** baroclinic mechanism on this scale.
- Wall cooling reduces separation and streak growth*.

Global instability

- The separation bubble bifurcates to 3D at critical α .
- The eigenmode is localised to the primary eye of the recirculation (for $\lambda_z \sim \text{Re}^{-5/8}$).
- It is **not** connected to secondary separation.

To do: nonlinear effects, secondary instability, larger λ_z scales.