

MlappPredictBifurcation.m - Help

Mitchell D. Hageman, 2025

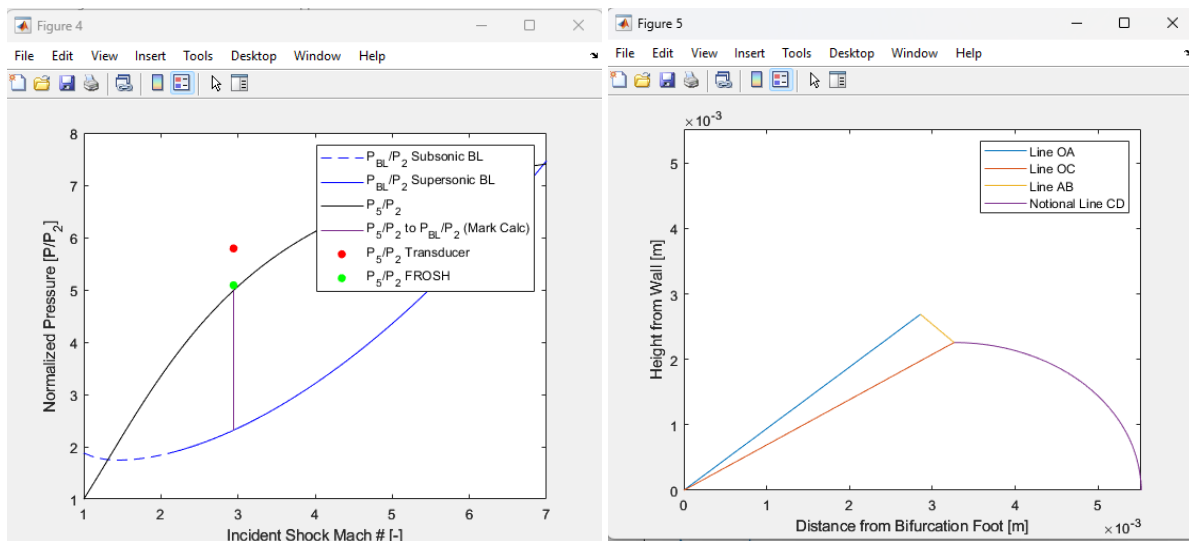
Summary: The purpose of this code is twofold. For a reflected shock in a combustion shock tube:

- 1) Predict the likelihood of bifurcation based on the mixture and shock properties
- 2) Estimate the bifurcation geometry at the optical plane based on the above, plus a pressure trace and the schlieren spike in a laser absorption trace measured at the optical plane.

The user is presented with interactive plots allowing him/her to manually identify a number of shock phenomena, which is discussed below.

Outputs: Bifurcation likelihood plot (left)

Bifurcation geometry plot (right)



Function Call:

```
function[BifurcationHeight,tA]=MlappPredictBifurcation(ShockFilePath,VacuumFilePath,  
NumHeaderLines, timeColumn, PressureColumn, PitchColumn, CatchColumn, Mis,Mrs, gamma,  
MW)
```

Explanation of inputs/outputs (Copied from the code's frontmatter)

```
% INPUTS:  
% * VacuumFilePath - full file path and name of csv or excel file with your Vacuum  
sample data  
% -example:  
'C:\Users\mitchell.hageman\Desktop\Data\20240923_001_VacuumData.csv'  
% -assumes that any dark (zero) signal offset correction has already been  
applied to the recorded voltages.  
% * ShockFilePath - full file path and name of csv or excel file with your sample  
data  
% -example:  
'C:\Users\mitchell.hageman\Desktop\Data\20240923_001_ShockData.csv'  
% -assumes that any dark (zero) signal offset correction has already been  
applied to the recorded voltages.
```

```

%      -Assumes the sample data file and vacuum data file are organized identically.
%      * NumHeaderLines - number of header lines in csv file before data begins.
%      -example: My data has two header lines. Row 1 is data labels, and Row 2 is
the offset voltage. So my data begins in row 3.
%      *timeColumn - column of csv where time trace is. Mine is Column A so
Timecolumn=1.
%      *PressureColumn - column of csv where detector trace is. Mine is column B so
PressureColumn=2.
%      *PitchColumn - column of csv where LAS reference (Pitch) detector trace is. Mine
is column C so PitchColumn=3.
%      *CatchColumn - column of csv where LAS signal (Catch) detector trace is. Mine is
column D so CatchColumn=4.
%      **Note: The following would likely come from a normal shock equation solver, such
as the FROzen chemistry SHock solver (FROSH)**
%      *Mis [-] - Incident shock Mach number
%      *Mrs [-] - Reflected shock Mach number
%%      *gamma [-] - specific heat ratio of the test gas. NEED TO CHECK WHETHER TO USE
STATE 1 or 2 FOR THESE CALCS
%      *MW_Mix [kg/kmol] - Molecular weight of the test gas.
%
% OUTPUTS:
%      *PointData
%      -BifurcationHeight [m] - Value - See Fig1 & Eq(5) Ref 1
(BifurcationHeight=1)
%      -Reflected Shock arrival time, tA [s] - Value - Determined from Schlieren
spike

```

Running the Code:

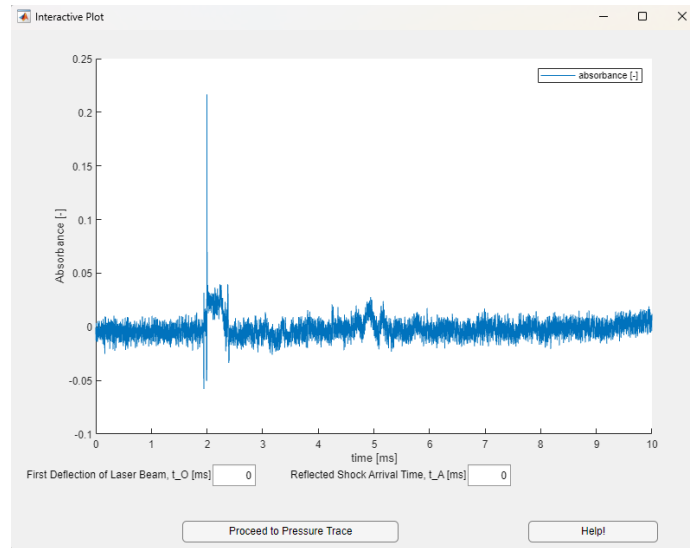
Let's use the example data files from the repository for this example. Then the code call would be:

```

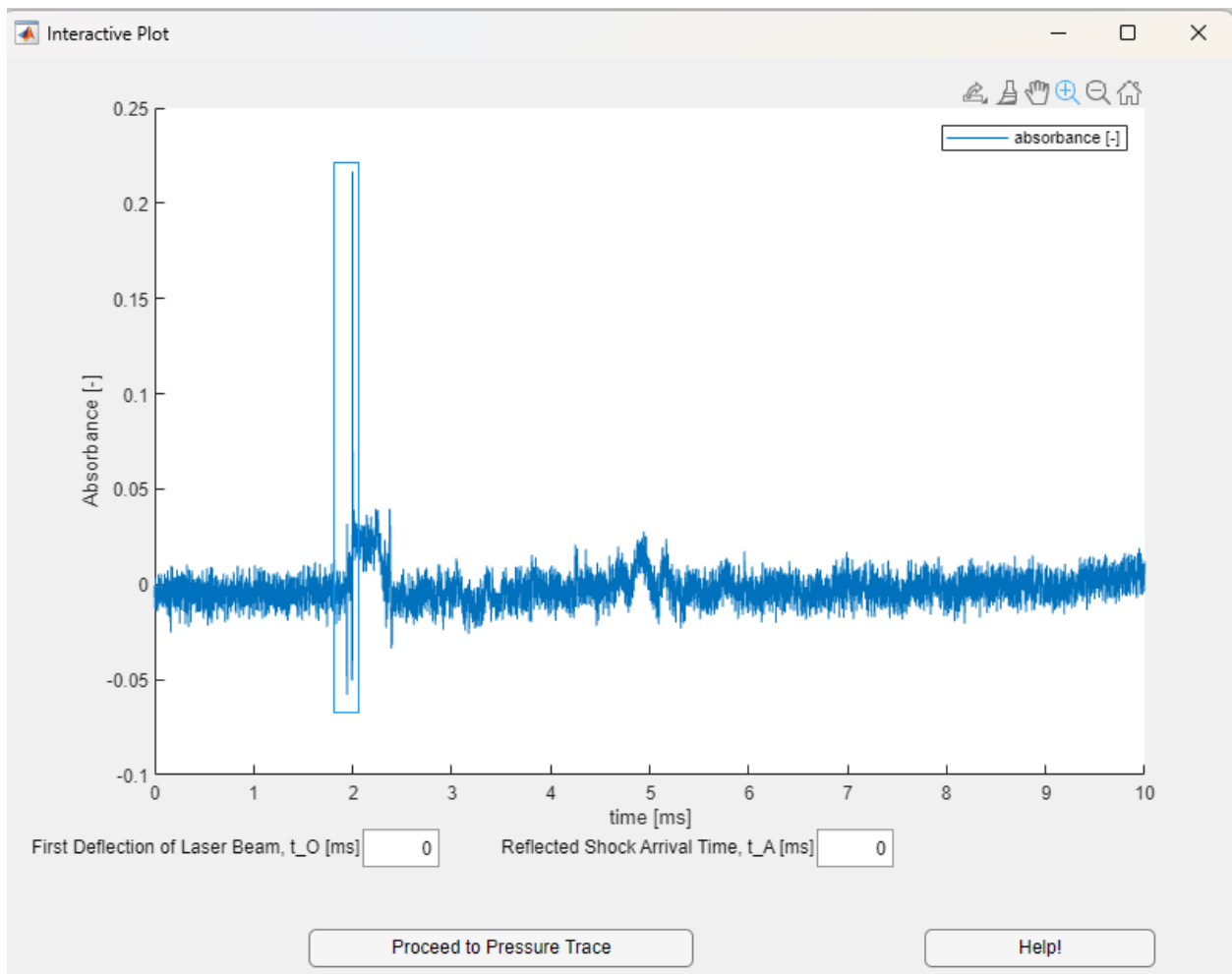
[BifurcationHeight,tA]=MlappPredictBifurcation('C:\Users\mitchell.hageman\Downloads\20220914
_002_ShockData.csv', 'C:\Users\mitchell.hageman\Downloads\20220914_002_DarkFullData.csv',
2, 1, 2, 4, 5, 2.9422, 2.1318, 1.3817, 28.8015);

```

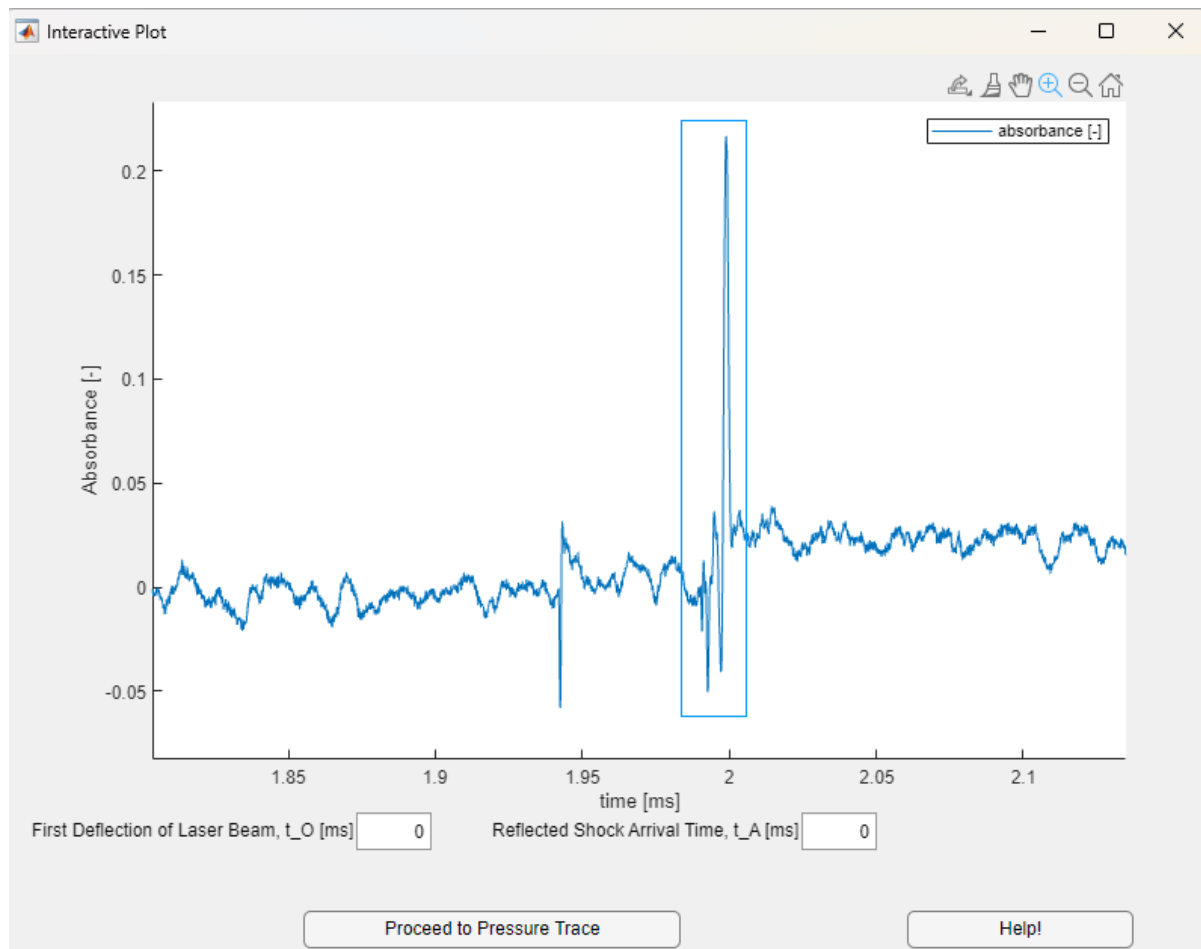
The interactive plot shown below pops up, with the full laser trace record first. Absorbance has already been calculated using dark mode offset correction, and common mode rejection. The schlieren spikes are seen near 2ms, but the incident and reflected shocks are too close together to determine t_0 , or t_A . **We need to zoom** in to get a closer look



Below, note the plot toolbar in the upper right corner. In the screenshot below, I have selected the **“Zoom in”** feature, which turns my cursor into a crosshairs (+), then I drew a zoom box around the schlieren spikes.



Below, the incident shock schlieren spike is just before 1.95ms, and the reflected shock spike is near 2ms.



I zoom in a couple more times, until...

I can clearly read the time of the first laser beam deflection (t_0), and the deflection due to the reflected shock passage (t_A). t_0 should correspond to the bifurcation foot moving past the optical plane, and the peak deflection should be associated with the reflected shock passage. The shape of the laser trace will depend on your laser alignment, and the conditions of your reflected shock. See Figures 1 & 2 in Ref 2 (2006 Petersen) below for more guidance. Enter t_0 and t_A in the text boxes provided, then press “Proceed to Pressure Trace”.

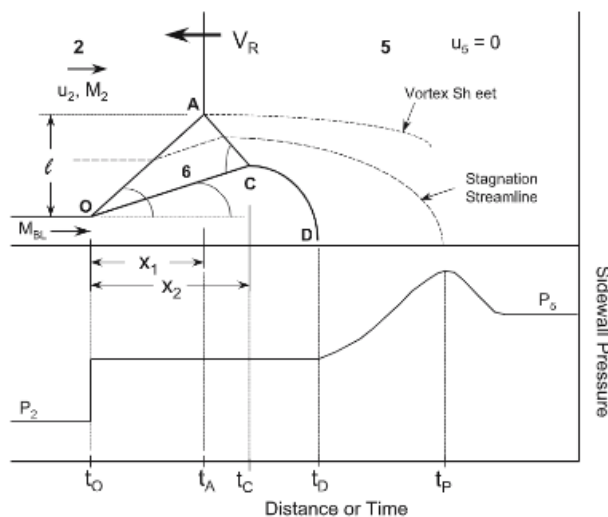
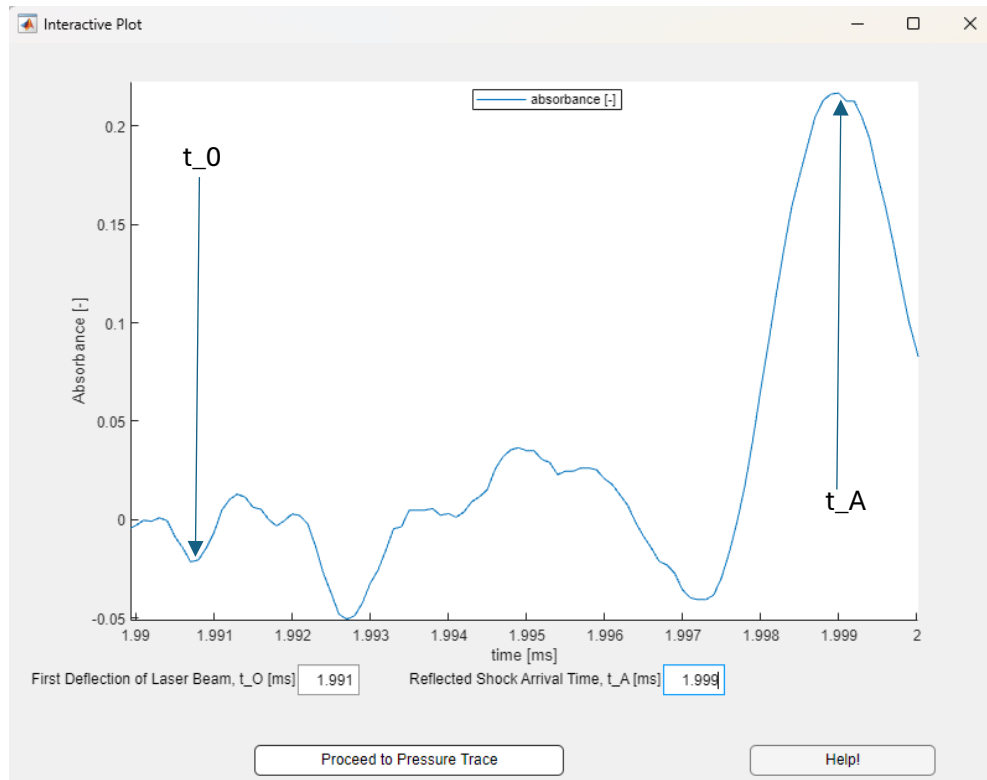


Fig. 1 Model of reflected-shock bifurcation and corresponding sidewall pressure trace. For this ideal depiction, the pressure transducer has zero width and responds instantaneously

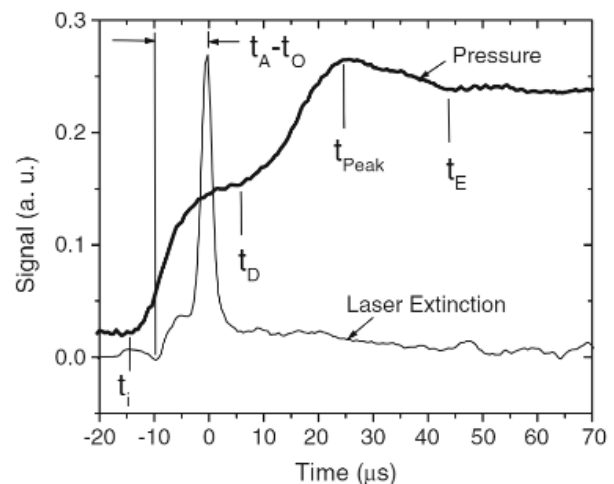
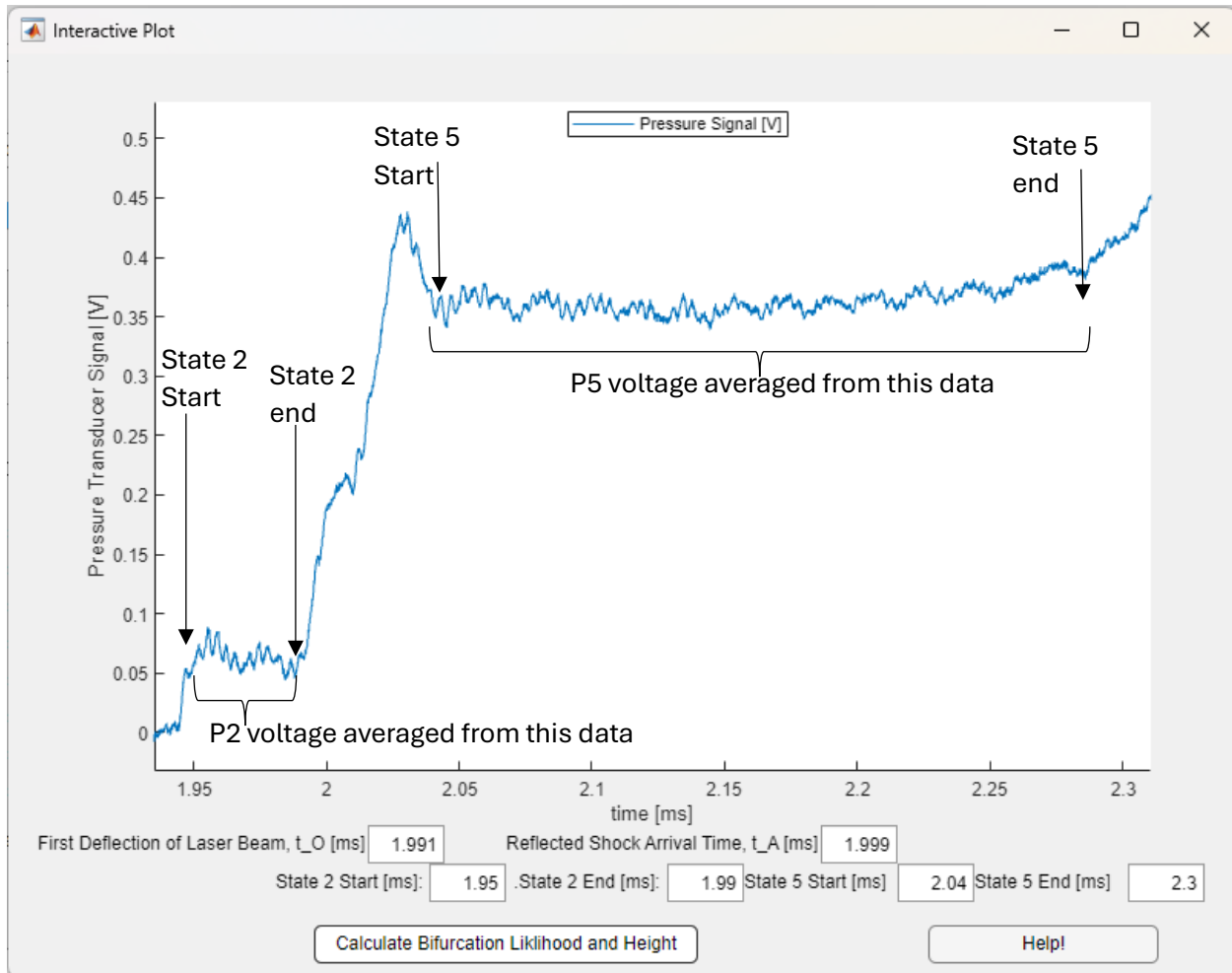


Fig. 2 Transmitted laser intensity (inverse) showing schlieren spike due to the passage of the normal portion of the reflected shock. A comparison with the sidewall pressure is also provided for reference (see Fig. 1). Mixture 4; $T_5 = 1,630$ K; $P_5 = 55$ atm

Source: Measurement of reflected-shock bifurcation over a wide range of gas composition and pressure” E. L. Petersen · R. K. Hanson, Shock Waves (2006) 15:333–340 DOI 10.1007/s00193-006-0032-3

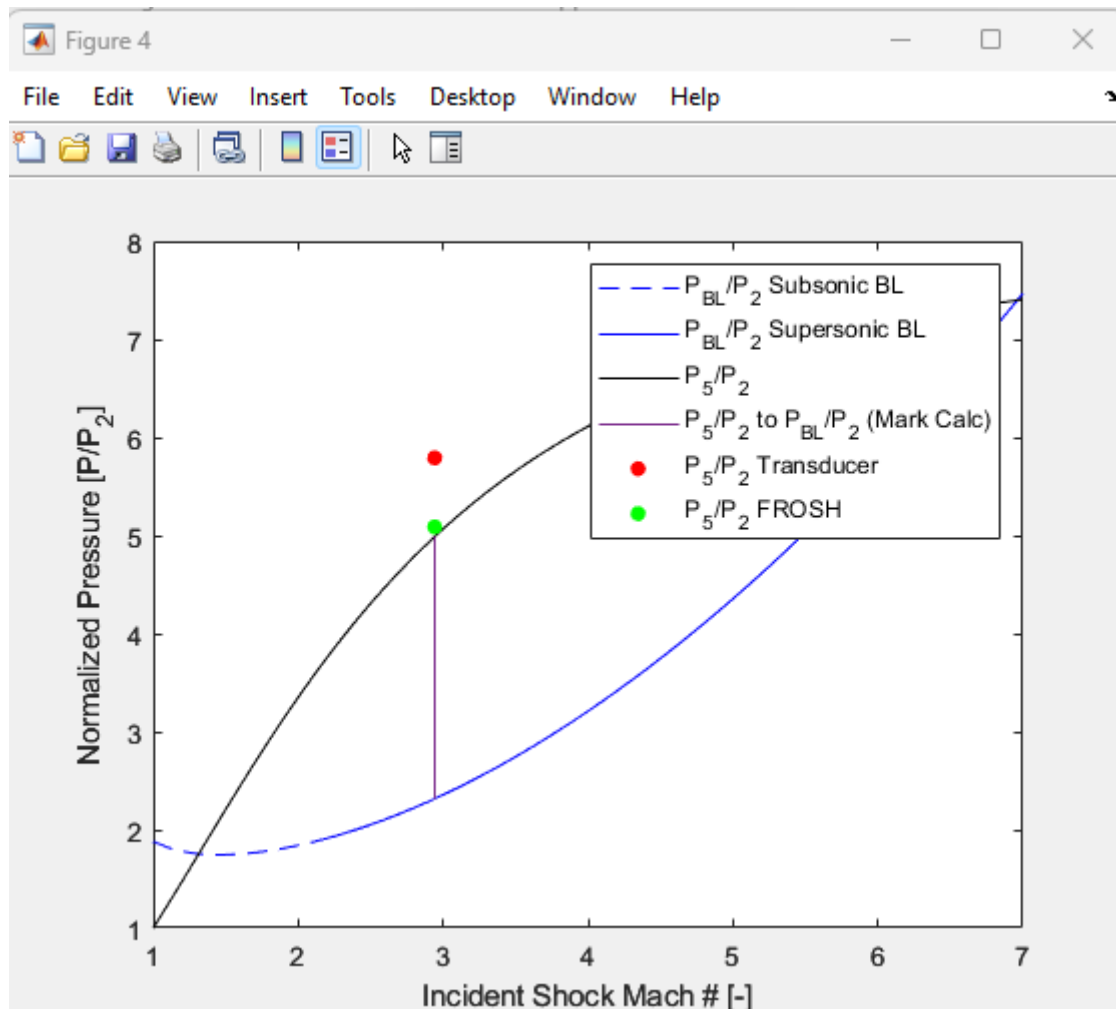
Initially, the pressure trace will be zoomed in to whatever x-axis scale you used for the laser trace. Use the zoom function to find State 2 start and end, and State 5 start and end points. These will be used to determine a P2/P5 from the average pressure transducer signals, in a manner independent from the calculations provided by Refs 1, 2, and 3. This is used to double-check the calculations. Although the Y-axis is given in volts, we just want the ratio P2/P5, so the units don't matter.

Here, I have already zoomed in and out several times to find the State 2 Start, State 2 End, State 5 Start, and State 5 end. The figure shows the entries agree approximately with the pressure trace.

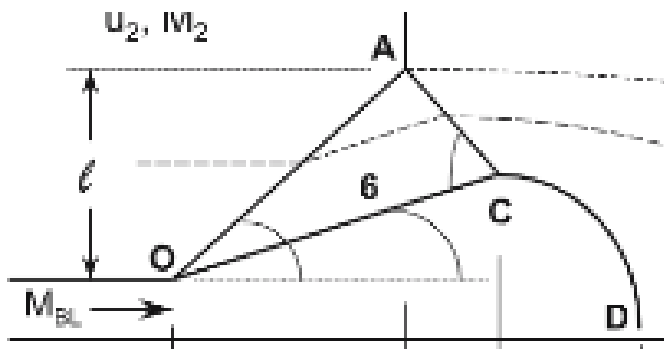
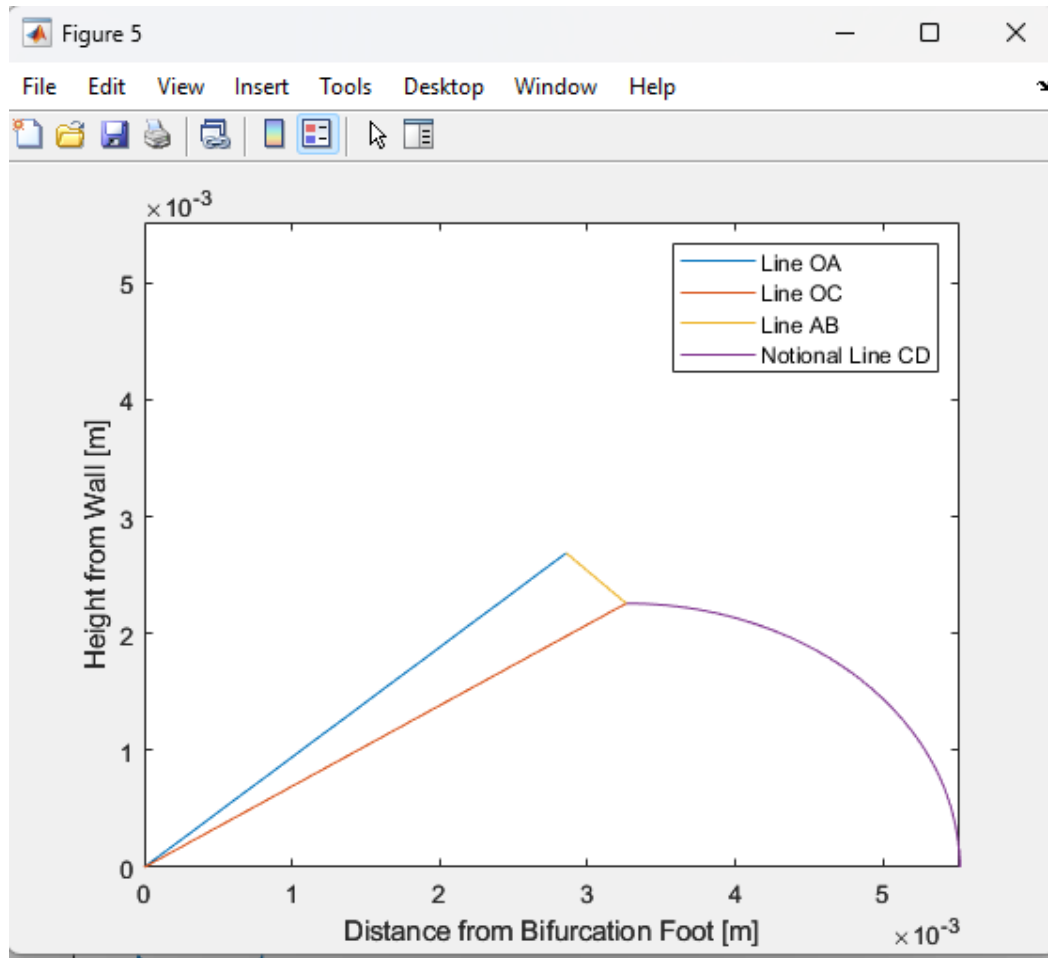


Press "Calculate Bifurcation Likelihood and Height" when finished filling in the text boxes.

The Bifurcation likelihood is plotted first. The black and blue lines show the full range of P_{BL}/P_2 (Blue) and P_5/P_2 (Black) possible for this mixture and incident shocks from $Ma=1$ to $Ma=7$. The dashed blue line represents Ma where the boundary layer is approximated to be subsonic, and the solid blue line represents Ma where the BL is assumed to be supersonic. The vertical purple line corresponds to the Ma , for this specific test. It simply connects the P_{BL}/P_2 point and P_5/P_2 point to make it easy to see where the test conditions fall in terms of overall likelihood. P_5/P_2 for the top of the purple line is calculated using equations from Mark 1958 (Ref 1) based on the mixture's ratio of specific heats, and the incident shock Ma . However, you also calculated P_5/P_2 when you selected the State 2 and 5 bounds on the pressure transducer trace. That is the red dot. Additionally, if you have the Frozen Chemistry Shock Solver (FROSH) it's possible to calculate P_2 and P_5 based on the shock tube's State 1 properties and the measured incident shock velocity. You can add the ratio of those to the workspace before running `MlappPredictBifurcation`, and name it "P5overP2FROSH," and that will add the green dot. This is simply a double-check on the math. P_5/P_2 is now determined via three independent methods, and we get a sense of how well they agree. Here the agreement is within 20%.



The Bifurcation Geometry is plotted second. Note that the axes are in meters, but the bifurcation height should be in mm or cm. The “ $\times 10^3$ ” on these axes mean that the numbers can be read as mm. So, here the bifurcation height is approximately 2mm. The diagram is drawn similar to Figure 1 in Petersen 2006 (Ref 2). The purple line is a circular section whose radius equals the bifurcation height. It has no mathematical precedence. It’s a notional drawing of the backside of the bifurcation foot, and is labeled as such.



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