```
1 # falkner_skan.py
 2 # By Peter Sharpe
 3
 4 from scipy import optimize, integrate
 5 import numpy as np
 6 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
 7
 8
 9 def falkner_skan(m, verbose=False):
10
       Solves the Falkner-Skan equation for a given value of m.
11
       See Wikipedia for reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki
12
   /Falkner-Skan_boundary_layer
13
       :param m: power-law exponent of the edge velocity (i.e.
14
   u_e(x) = U_inf * x ^ m)
       :param verbose: boolean about whether you want to print
15
   detailed output (for debugging)
       :return: eta, f0, f1, and f2 as a tuple of 1-dimensional
16
   ndarrays.
17
       Governing equation:
18
       f''' + f*f'' + beta*(1 - (f')^2) = 0, where:
19
20
       beta = 2 * m / (m+1)
       f(0) = f'(0) = 0
21
22
       f'(inf) = 1
23
24
       Syntax:
       f0 is f
25
       f1 is f'
26
       f2 is f''
27
28
       f3 is f'''
29
       11 11 11
30
31
32
       # Assign beta
33
       beta = 2 * m / (m + 1)
34
35
       ### Figure out what f2(0) is with the shooting method:
36
       f2_init_guess = 1.233 # Dear god whatever you do don't
   change this initial guess, it took so much trial and error to
   find a initial guess that's stable for all values of m
37
38
       # Nelder-Mead simplex optimization algorithm
       opt_result = optimize.minimize(
39
```

```
40
           fun=falkner_skan_error_squared,
           x0=f2_init_guess,
41
           args=(beta,),
42
43
           method='nelder-mead',
44
           options={
                'fatol': 1e-12
45
46
           }
47
       )
       f2_init = opt_result.x
48
49
       if verbose:
50
           print("f''_init: %f" % f2_init)
51
           print("Residual: %f" % opt_result.fun)
52
       ### Calculate the solution
53
54
       eta = np.linspace(0, 10, 1001) # values of eta that you
   want data at
       f_{init} = [0, 0, f_{init}] # f(0), f'(0), and f''(0)
55
       soln = integrate.solve ivp(
56
           fun=lambda eta, f: falkner_skan_differential_equation(
57
   eta, f, beta),
           t_{span}=(0, 10),
58
59
           y0=f init,
60
           t_eval=eta,
           method='BDF' # More stable for stiff problems
61
62
       )
63
       ### Format and return the output
64
       f0 = soln.y[0, :]
65
       f1 = soln.y[1, :]
66
       f2 = soln.y[2, :]
67
       return eta, f0, f1, f2
68
69
70
71 def falkner_skan_error_squared(f2_init, beta):
       11 11 11
72
73
       For a given guess of f''(0) and fixed parameter beta,
   returns the square of the error of the Falkner-Skan solution
74
       :param f2 init: Guess of f''(0)
       :param beta: The Falkner-Skan beta parameter (beta = 2 * m
75
    / (m + 1)
       :return: The square of the difference between f'(infinity
76
   ) and 1, since 1 is the boundary condition that should be
   enforced.
77
       eta, f0, f1, f2 = falkner_skan_solution(f2_init, beta)
78
```

```
79
 80
        f1_inf = f1[
 81
                 # Gets the last value of f1 that was calculated
     (typically at eta = 20, considered far enough to be infinity
    ).
 82
        error_squared = (f1_inf - 1) ** 2
 83
 84
 85
        if f2_init < 0:
            error_squared = np.Inf # Eliminate separated
 86
    solutions by adding a "penalty function" for negative f''(0)
    values.
            # Negative f''(0) values imply negative shear stress
 87
    at the wall, or separation.
            # This is implemented like this because the Nelder-
 88
    Mead simplex algorithm in scipy.optimize doesn't support
    constraints.
 89
            # (This is sort of like a barrier method)
 90
 91
        return error_squared
 92
 93
 94 def falkner_skan_solution(f2_init, beta):
        11 11 11
 95
 96
        Returns the Falkner-Skan solution for a given guess f''(0
    ) and fixed parameter beta.
 97
        :param f2_init: Guess of f''(0)
        :param beta: The Falkner-Skan beta parameter (beta = 2 *
 98
    m / (m + 1)
        :return: eta, f0, f1, and f2 as a tuple of 1-dimensional
 99
    ndarrays.
        11 11 11
100
        f_{init} = [0, 0, f_{init}] # f(0), f'(0), and f''(0)
101
        raw_soln = integrate.solve_ivp(
102
            fun=lambda eta, f: falkner_skan_differential_equation
103
    (eta, f, beta),
            t_{span}=(0, 20),
104
105
            y0=f_init,
            method='BDF' # More stable for stiff problems
106
107
        )
108
        eta = raw_soln.t
        f0 = raw_soln.y[0, :]
109
        f1 = raw_soln.y[1, :]
110
111
        f2 = raw_soln.y[2, :]
112
```

```
return eta, f0, f1, f2
113
114
115
116 def falkner skan differential equation(eta, f, beta):
        11 11 11
117
        The governing differential equation of the Falkner-Skan
118
    boundary layer solution.
        :param eta: The value of eta. Not used; just set up like
119
    this so that scipy.integrate.solve_ivp() can use this
    function.
        :param f: A vector of 3 elements: f, f', and f''.
120
        :param beta: The Falkner-Skan beta parameter (beta = 2 *
121
    m / (m + 1)
        :return: The derivative w.r.t. eta of the input vector,
122
    expressed as a vector of 3 elements: f', f'', and f'''.
        11 11 11
123
        dfdeta = [
124
125
            f[1],
            f[2],
126
            -f[0] * f[2] - beta * (1 - f[1] ** 2)
127
128
        7
129
130
        return dfdeta
131
132
133 if __name__ == "__main__":
        # Run through a few tests to ensure that these functions
134
    are working correctly.
        # Includes all examples in Table 4.1 of Drela's Flight
135
    Vehicle Aerodynamics textbook, along with a few others.
        # Then plots all their velocity profiles.
136
        m_{tests} = [-0.0904, -0.08, -0.05, 0, 0.1, 0.3, 0.6, 0.8,
137
    1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 27
        for m_val in m_tests:
138
            eta, f0, f1, f2 = falkner_skan(m=m_val)
139
140
            plt.plot(f1, eta)
141
        plt.ion()
142
        plt.grid(True)
143
```