

Stability of laminar flows in the presence of magnetic fields and possible applications

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In general, above a critical velocity of the fluid, the laminar flow becomes unstable giving rise to a mixing of the fluid of different layers (turbulent flow).

It is important to be able to model and predict such transition, since many property of the flow depend on it:

- Mixing of fluid components
- Reduced flow and energy dissipation
- Mechanical effects on the boundaries
- ...



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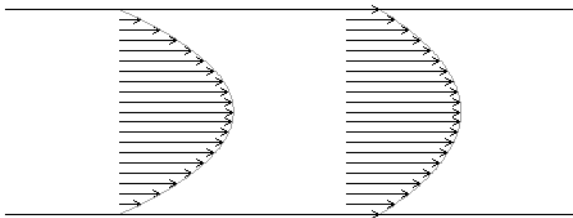
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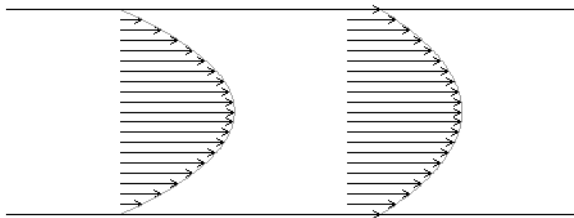
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We will also discuss some literature on the effects of magnetic fields on blood flow.



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Laminar flows subject to parallel magnetic fields appear in many physical systems. Some meaningful examples are

- MHD plasma confinement
- liquid-metal cooling of nuclear reactors
- electromagnetic casting



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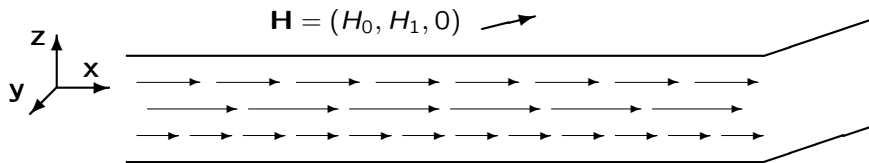


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We will study **laminar** flows, subject to a **constant** external magnetic field.



Motivations, literature

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- On magnetohydrodynamic stability, *Quaderni di Matematica* (1997)



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where \mathbf{U} , \mathbf{H} and p_1 are the velocity, magnetic and pressure fields, respectively; ν is the kinematic viscosity, η is the magnetic viscosity ($\eta = \frac{1}{\mu\sigma}$) with μ the magnetic permeability and σ the electrical conductivity, ρ_0 is the constant density.



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And we look in particular for laminar solutions:

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It can be proved that (unless $\mathbf{U} \equiv 0$) this implies also $\mathbf{H} \cdot \mathbf{z} = 0$, that is \mathbf{H} must be coplanar to the flow.



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The static equations admit then the laminar solutions

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{H} = H_0 \mathbf{i} + H_1 \mathbf{j} \\ U(z) = \bar{U}_0 \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{d^2 + 2\lambda d}\right), \quad V(z) = 0 \\ p_1 = -k\rho_0 X + p_0 \end{array} \right.$$

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with k and $p_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\bar{U}_0 = \frac{k(d^2 + 2\lambda d)}{2\nu}$. This general form includes the rigid case (for $\lambda = 0$). Note that we assume here the same slip length on both boundaries.



Equations for the perturbations

The non-dimensional equations of a perturbation (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{h}) to the previous solution are

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{u}_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + wU'(z)\mathbf{i} + U(z)\mathbf{u}_x = \\ \quad A_m[H_0\mathbf{h}_x + H_1\mathbf{h}_y + \mathbf{h} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{h}] - \nabla \lambda + \frac{1}{Re} \Delta \mathbf{u} \\ \mathbf{h}_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{h} + U(z)\mathbf{h}_x = H_0\mathbf{u}_x + H_1\mathbf{u}_y + hU'(z)\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{h} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} + \frac{1}{R_m} \Delta \mathbf{h} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{h} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$



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in $\mathbb{R}^2 \times (-1, 1) \times (0, +\infty)$, where

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Final equations

Skipping some calculations, the final relevant equations for the system are

$$(U - c)\Psi - W = -\frac{i}{R_m\alpha}(D^2\psi - \alpha^2)\Psi$$

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D denotes the derivative along z .



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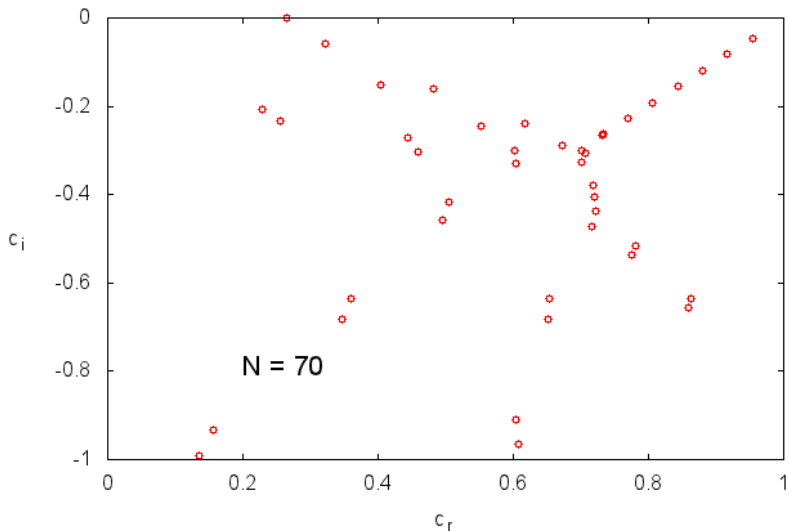
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We solved such systems by means of a Chebychev-tau scheme.

The following figures show the spectrum of c in the complex plane for the OS, for increasing number of Chebychev polynomials.

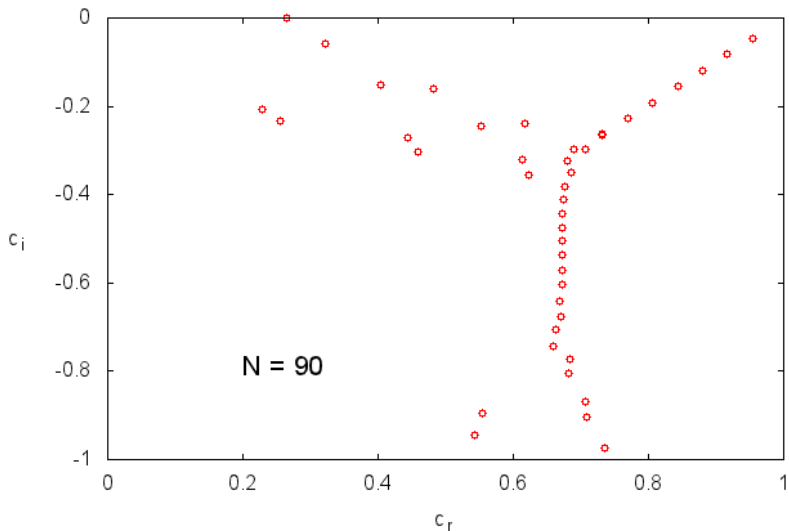


Orr-Sommerfeld: $Re=5772.2218$, $a=1.02056$, D2 Cheb tau, 3xN poly



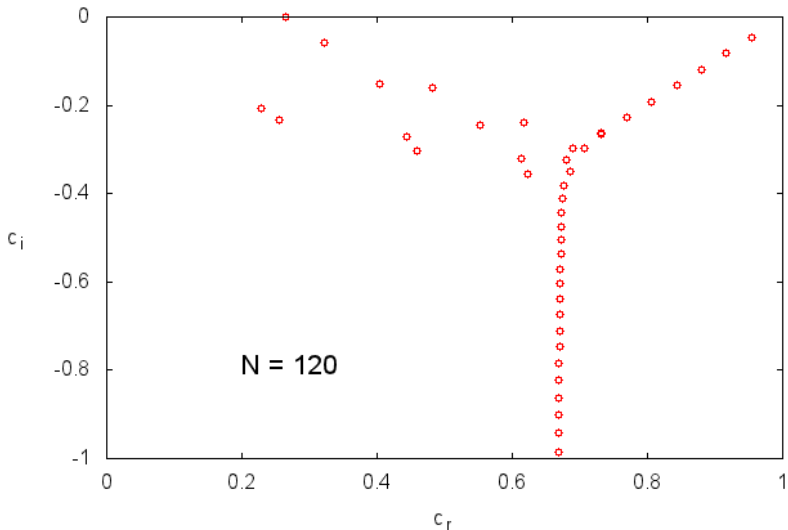
Eigenvalues close to $C_i = 0$ for $N = 70$ basis vectors per function.

Orr-Sommerfeld: $\text{Re}=5772.2218$, $a=1.02056$, D2 Cheb tau, 3xN poly



Eigenvalues close to $C_i = 0$ for $N = 90$ basis vectors per function.

Orr-Sommerfeld: $\text{Re}=5772.2218$, $a=1.02056$, D2 Cheb tau, 3xN poly



Eigenvalues close to $C_i = 0$ for $N = 120$ basis vectors per function.

Neutral curves

A more detailed investigation looks for the **neutral curves** in the α, R_e plane, that is values of the couple corresponding to transition from (linear) stability to instability.

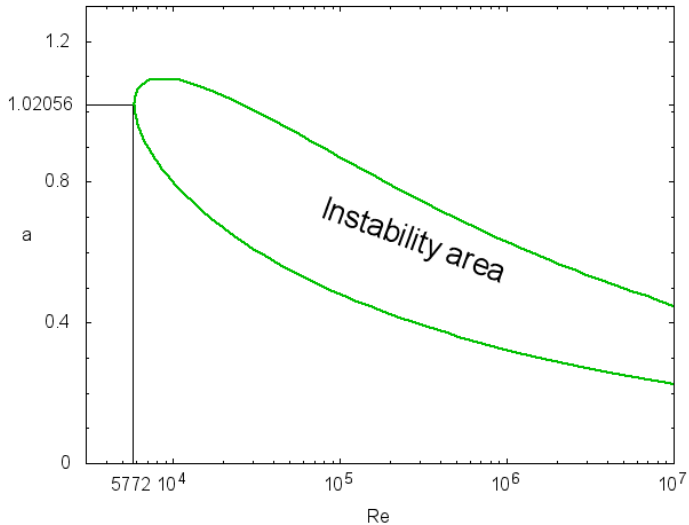


Neutral curves

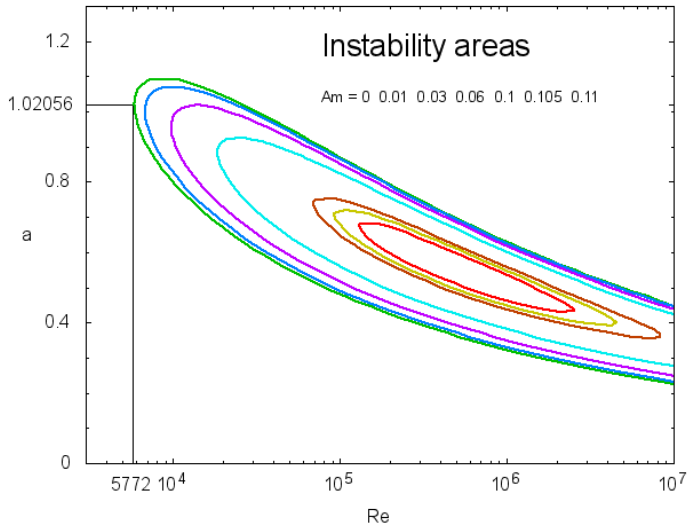
A more detailed investigation looks for the **neutral curves** in the α, R_e plane, that is values of the couple corresponding to transition from (linear) stability to instability.

The same graphic, in the presence of an increasing magnetic field, show the stabilizing effect of H .





Critical curve in the plane of the wave number a and Reynolds number Re .



Critical curves in the plane of the wave number a and Reynolds number Re at different applied magnetic field, for a large value of the magnetic Reynolds number ($Rm = 1$).

Effect of partial slip boundaries

The effect of finite slip boundary conditions is **very pronounced** for this system.



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In the next graphic, we see that even slip lengths of 0.02 (in units of the half width of the layer) almost double the critical Reynolds number even in the absence of a magnetic field,



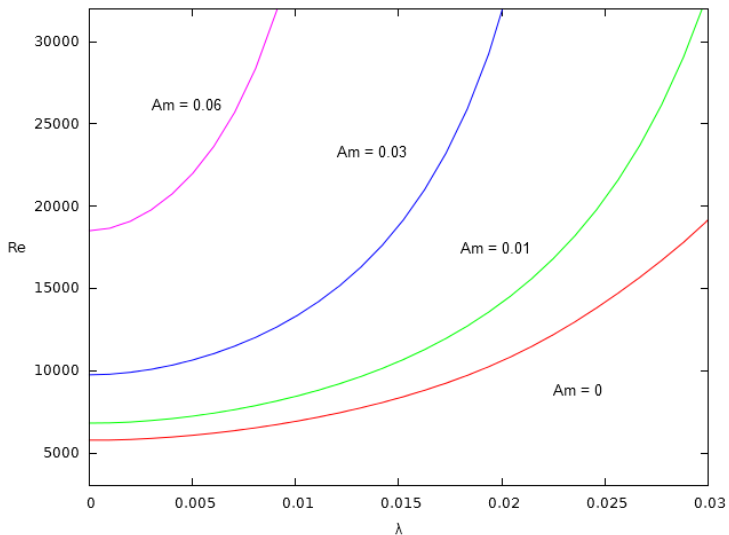
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In the next graphic, we see that even slip lengths of 0.02 (in units of the half width of the layer) almost double the critical Reynolds number even in the absence of a magnetic field, and their effect is much more relevant if a magnetic field is present.





Stabilizing effect of finite slip length λ at different magnetic fields (with $Rm = 1$).

About blood viscosity

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In an “in vitro” experiment, a strong magnetic field is applied for one minute along the flow direction to a sample of blood in a tube at body temperature.

Viscosity is reduced by 33% from 7 centipoises (cp) (above healthy limits) to 4.75 cp. With no further exposure to the field, the viscosity had only risen slightly to 5.4 cp after 200 min.



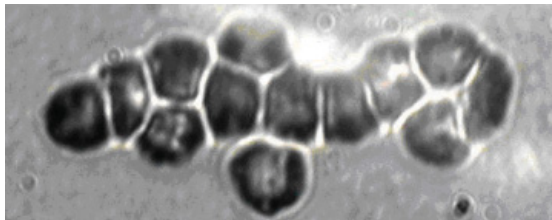
About blood viscosity

The authors state that the effect is probably caused by the response of iron-rich red blood cells, which are observed to form chains or elongated aggregates after the application of the field.



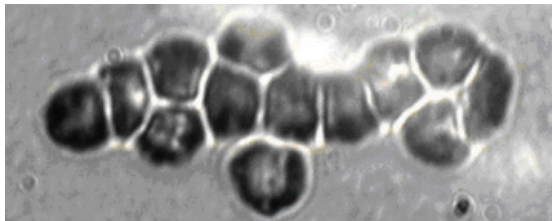
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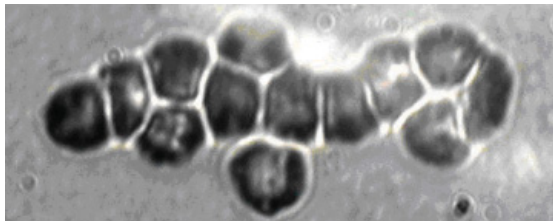


A similar effect is difficult to reproduce in a living body, due to the different orientation and diameter of the blood vessels, but this is still under investigation.



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This is clearly an example of one of the many effects that can happen in a (non newtonian, and in general very complex) fluid as blood, which will be worth investigating.





THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION



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