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Figure 1. Rayleigh–Taylor Instability in a thin viscous film (Experiment : Christophe Clanet)

So far, we have not taken into account **confinement effects** and **viscous effects**.

In order to simplify, let's choose $\rho_1 = 0 \Rightarrow p_1 = C^{\text{ste}}$ and $p_1' = 0$ (free surface).

Dispersion relation :

$$\omega^2 = \left(\frac{\rho_1 - \rho_2}{\rho_1 + \rho_2} \right) gk + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_1 + \rho_2} k^3 \Rightarrow \omega^2 = -gk + \frac{\gamma k^3}{\rho_2}$$

Confinement : thickness H

$$\varphi_2' \sim e^{-kz} e^{i(kx - \omega t)}$$

We expect the confinement to become important when $H = \mathcal{O}(1/k)$

$$\text{New boundary condition: } \left. \frac{\partial \varphi_2'}{\partial z} \right|_{z=H} = 0$$

Equations and boundary conditions:

$$z \geq 0 : \Delta \varphi'_2 = 0$$

$$z \geq 0 : \rho_2 \frac{\partial \varphi'_2}{\partial t} + p'_2 = 0$$

$$z = 0 : -\rho_2 g h + p'_2 = \gamma \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2}$$

$$z = 0 : \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \varphi'_2}{\partial z}$$

$$z = H : \frac{\partial \varphi'_2}{\partial z} = 0$$

Normal modes: $\varphi'_2 = \delta \varphi_2(z) e^{i(kx - \omega t)}$

$$p'_2 = \delta p_2(z) e^{i(kx - \omega t)}$$

$$h = \delta h e^{i(kx - \omega t)}$$

Laplace's equations give : $-k^2\delta\varphi_2(z) + \delta\varphi_2''(z) = 0$

$$\delta\varphi_2(z) = A_2 e^{kz} + B_2 e^{-kz}$$

Boundary condition :

$$\left. \frac{\partial\delta\varphi_2}{\partial z} \right|_{z=H} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad A_2 e^{kH} = B_2 e^{-kH}$$

$$\delta\varphi_2(z) = A_2 (e^{kz} + e^{2kH-kz}) = A_2 e^{kH} (e^{k(z-H)} + e^{-k(z-H)}) = C_2 \cosh k(z-H)$$

Kinematic boundary conditions :

$$-i\omega\delta h = -C_2 k \sinh kH$$

$$\delta\varphi_2(0) = C_2 \cosh kH = \frac{i\omega}{k} \delta h \frac{\cosh kH}{\sinh kH}$$

Dynamic boundary conditions :

$$\begin{aligned} -i\omega\rho_2\delta\varphi_2(0) + \delta p_2(0) &= 0 \\ -\rho_2 g \delta h + \delta p_2(0) &= -\gamma k^2 \delta h \end{aligned}$$

Dynamic boundary conditions :

$$-i\omega\rho_2\left(\frac{i\omega}{k}\delta h\frac{\cosh kH}{\sinh kH}\right) + \delta p_2(0) = 0$$

$$\delta p_2(0) = \rho_2 g \delta h - \gamma k^2 \delta h$$

$$i\omega\rho_2\left(\frac{i\omega}{k}\delta h\frac{\cosh kH}{\sinh kH}\right) = \rho_2 g \delta h - \gamma k^2 \delta h$$

$$-\frac{\omega^2}{k}\rho_2\frac{\cosh kH}{\sinh kH} = \rho_2 g - \gamma k^2$$

Dispersion relation :

$$\omega^2 = \left(-gk + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2}k^3\right)\tanh kH$$

to be compared with :

$$\omega^2 = -gk + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2}k^3$$

$$h = \operatorname{Re}(\delta h e^{i(kx - \omega t)}) = e^{\omega_I t} \operatorname{Re}(|\delta h| e^{i(kx - \omega_R t + \phi)}) = |\delta h| e^{\omega_I t} \cos(kx - \omega_R t + \phi)$$

$$\text{Unstable} \Leftrightarrow -gk + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2} k^3 < 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} < \sqrt{\frac{\rho_2 g}{\gamma}} = \ell_c^{-1} \Leftrightarrow \lambda > 2\pi \ell_c \text{ or } k = \ell_c^{-1}$$

The stability domain does not depend on H !

$$\omega = \omega_R + i\omega_I \Rightarrow \omega_I = \pm \sqrt{\left(gk - \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2} k^3\right) \tanh kH}$$

$$k^* = k\ell_c = k\sqrt{\gamma/\rho_2 g} \text{ and } H^* = H/\ell_c$$

$$\omega_I = \sqrt{\left(gk^* \sqrt{\frac{\rho_2 g}{\gamma}} - \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2} k^{*3} \left(\frac{\rho_2 g}{\gamma}\right)^{3/2}\right) \tanh k^* H^*} = \left(\frac{g}{\ell_c}\right)^{1/2} \sqrt{(k^* - k^{*3}) \tanh k^* H^*}$$

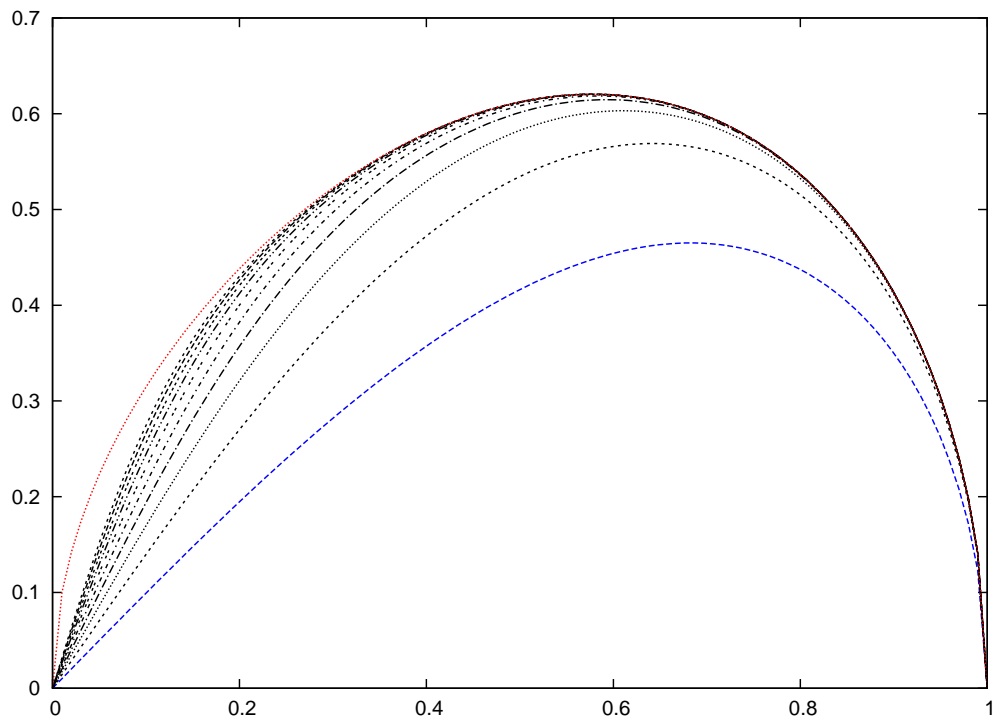
$$\omega^* = \sqrt{(k^* - k^{*3}) \tanh k^* H^*}$$

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t '', sqrt((x-x**3)*tanh(3*x)) t '', sqrt((x-x**3)*tanh(4*x)) t '', sqrt((x-  
x**3)*tanh(5*x)) t '', sqrt((x-x**3)*tanh(6*x)) t '', sqrt((x-x**3)*tanh(7*x))  
t '', sqrt((x-x**3)*tanh(8*x)) t '', sqrt((x-x**3)*tanh(9*x)) t '', sqrt((x-  
x**3)*tanh(10*x)) t '', sqrt(x-x**3) lc "red" t ''
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x**3)*tanh(10*x)) t '', sqrt(x-x**3) lc "red" t ''
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Maximum such that $d\omega^*/dk^* = 0$:

$$\omega^{*2} = (k^* - k^{*3}) \tanh k^* H^*$$

$$2\omega^* \frac{d\omega^*}{dk^*} = (1 - 3k^{*2}) \tanh k^* H^* + \frac{(k^* - k^{*3})}{\cosh^2 k^* H^*}$$

$$H^* \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow k^* = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

Close to $k^* \rightarrow 0$, we have (dropping \star) :

$$\omega \sim \sqrt{k \tanh k H}$$

Then

$$H \rightarrow \infty : \omega \sim \sqrt{k}$$

$$H \text{ finite} : \omega \sim k\sqrt{H}$$

Waves : $g \rightarrow -g$

$$\omega^2 = \left(gk + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2} k^3 \right) \tanh kH > 0$$

$$\omega = \omega_R = \pm \sqrt{\left(gk + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2} k^3 \right) \tanh kH}$$

Travelling wave

$$h = \operatorname{Re}(\delta h e^{i(kx - \omega t)}) = \operatorname{Re}(|\delta h| e^{i(kx - \omega_R t + \phi)}) = |\delta h| \cos(kx - \omega_R t + \phi)$$

$$\text{Phase velocity: } c = \frac{\omega}{k} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{g}{k} + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2} k \right) \tanh kH}$$

$$\text{Infinite depth : } c = \sqrt{\frac{g}{k} + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2} k}$$

$$\text{Shallow water: } kH \ll 1 \Rightarrow \tanh kH \simeq kH : c = \sqrt{\left(g + \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2} k^2 \right) H}$$

Thin viscous film of thickness H (lubrication)

Hypothesis : $\varepsilon' = kH \ll 1$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0 \Rightarrow Uk \sim \frac{W}{H} \Rightarrow W \sim \varepsilon' U$$

Slow + Quasi parallel flow \Rightarrow lubrication equations :

$$0 = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \eta \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2}$$

$$0 = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} - \rho_2 g$$

$$0 = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}$$

Basic state : $u = w = 0$ $p = p_0 - \rho_2 g z$

Perturbation :

$$u = u'$$

$$w = w'$$

$$p = p_0 - \rho_2 g z + p' \Rightarrow \frac{\partial p'}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$h = h'$$

We keep ' only for p' .

Stress tensor for a Newtonian fluid

$$\sigma_{ij} = -p\delta_{ij} + \eta\left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i}\right)$$

Tangential and normal stresses at the interface :

$$\sigma_{ij}n_j = \gamma\kappa n_i$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -p + 2\eta\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} & \eta\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}\right) \\ \eta\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}\right) & -p + 2\eta\frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}\left(-p + 2\eta\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right) + \eta\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}\right) \\ -\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}\eta\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}\right) + \left(-p + 2\eta\frac{\partial w}{\partial z}\right) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left|\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}\right| \sim \varepsilon \ll 1 \quad \& \quad W = \varepsilon'U$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \simeq 0$$

$$p' - \rho_2gh \simeq \gamma\frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial p'}{\partial z} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad p'(x, z) \Rightarrow \eta u = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial p'}{\partial x} z^2 + \alpha z + \beta$$

$$\alpha = 0 \text{ because } \left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right|_{z=0} = 0$$

$$\beta = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial p'}{\partial x} H^2 \text{ because } u(H) = 0$$

$$u = \frac{1}{2\eta} \frac{\partial p'}{\partial x} (z^2 - H^2)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0 \Rightarrow w = -\frac{1}{2\eta} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\left(\frac{z^3}{3} - zH^2 + \delta \right) \frac{\partial p'}{\partial x} \right]$$

$$w(H) = 0 \Rightarrow \delta = \frac{2H^3}{3}$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = w(0) = \frac{-H^3}{3\eta} \frac{\partial^2 p'}{\partial x^2} = \frac{-H^3}{3\eta} \left(\rho_2 g \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} + \gamma \frac{\partial^4 h}{\partial x^4} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = w(0) = \frac{-H^3}{3\eta} \frac{\partial^2 p'}{\partial x^2} = \frac{-H^3}{3\eta} \left(\rho_2 g \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} + \gamma \frac{\partial^4 h}{\partial x^4} \right)$$

Normal modes :

$$h = \delta h e^{i(kx - \omega t)}$$

$$-i\omega = -i(\omega_R + i\omega_I) = \frac{-H^3}{3\eta} (-\rho_2 g k^2 + \gamma k^4) \Rightarrow \omega_I = \frac{H^3}{3\eta} (\rho_2 g k^2 - \gamma k^4)$$

$$\omega_I = \frac{H^3}{3\eta} (\rho_2 g k^2 - \gamma k^4)$$

$$\omega_I = \frac{\rho_2 g H^3}{3\eta} k^2 \left(1 - \frac{\gamma}{\rho_2 g} k^2 \right)$$

$$\tau \equiv \frac{\eta}{\rho_2 g H} \text{ \& } \ell_c = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{\rho_2 g}}$$

$$\omega_I = \frac{1}{3\tau} k^2 H^2 (1 - k^2 \ell_c^2)$$

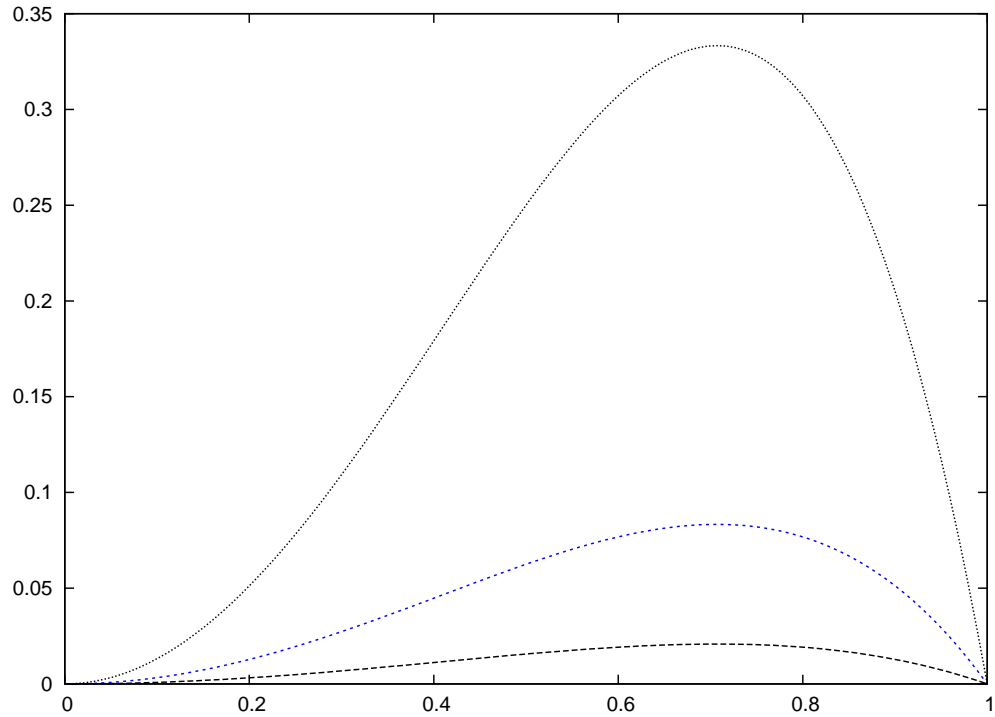
$$k^* = k \ell_c = k \sqrt{\gamma / \rho_2 g} \text{ and } H^* = H / \ell_c \text{ and } \omega_I^* = \omega_I \tau$$

$$\omega_I^* = \frac{1}{3} k^{*2} H^{*2} (1 - k^{*2})$$


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gnuplot] plot [0:1][] x**2*(1-x**2)/3/4 t '', x**2*(1-x**2)/3 lc "blue" t '', 4*x**2*(1-x**2)/3 t ''
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