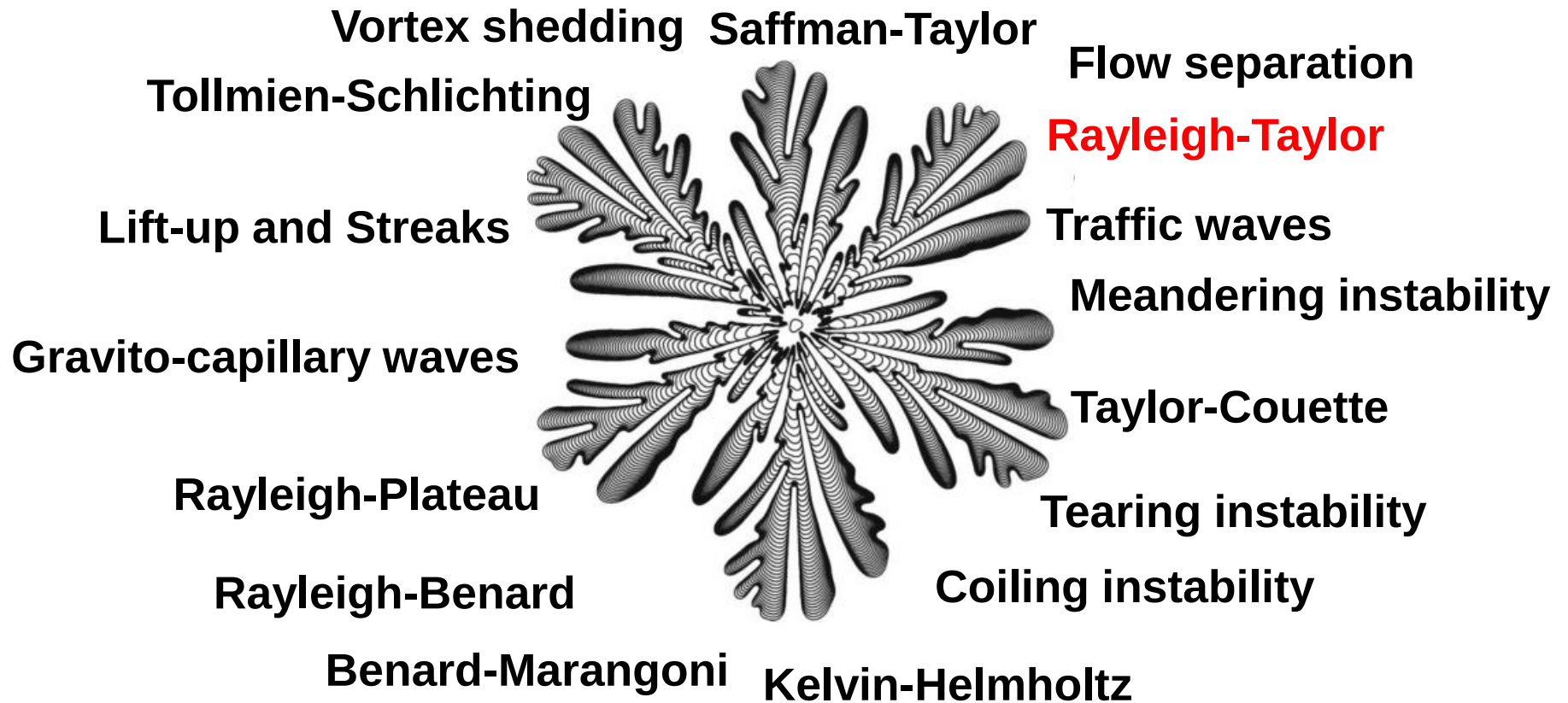
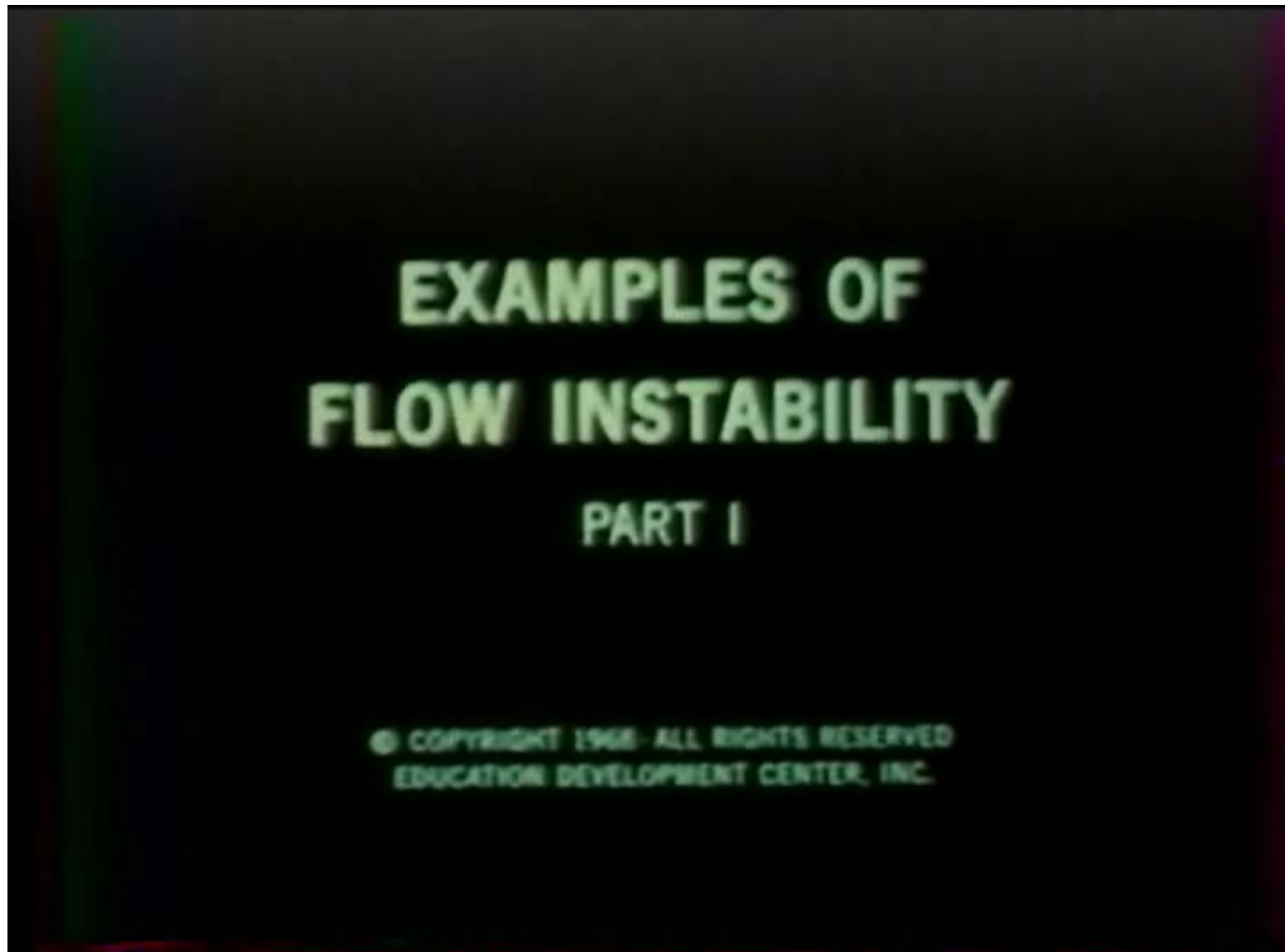


Rayleigh-Taylor instability



A movie



A movie



A movie

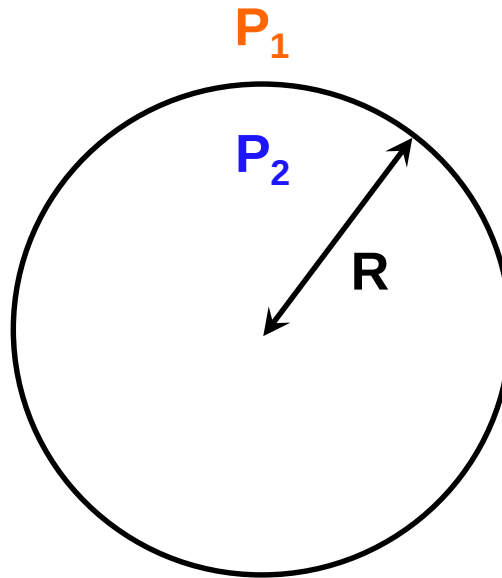


Surface tension



Surface tension

Spherical drop or bubble

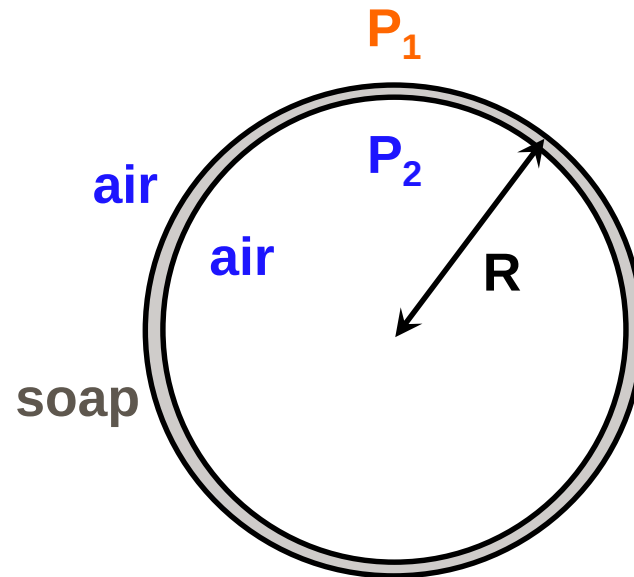


$$P_2 - P_1 = 2\gamma/R$$

γ : surface tension

Surface tension

Soap bubble

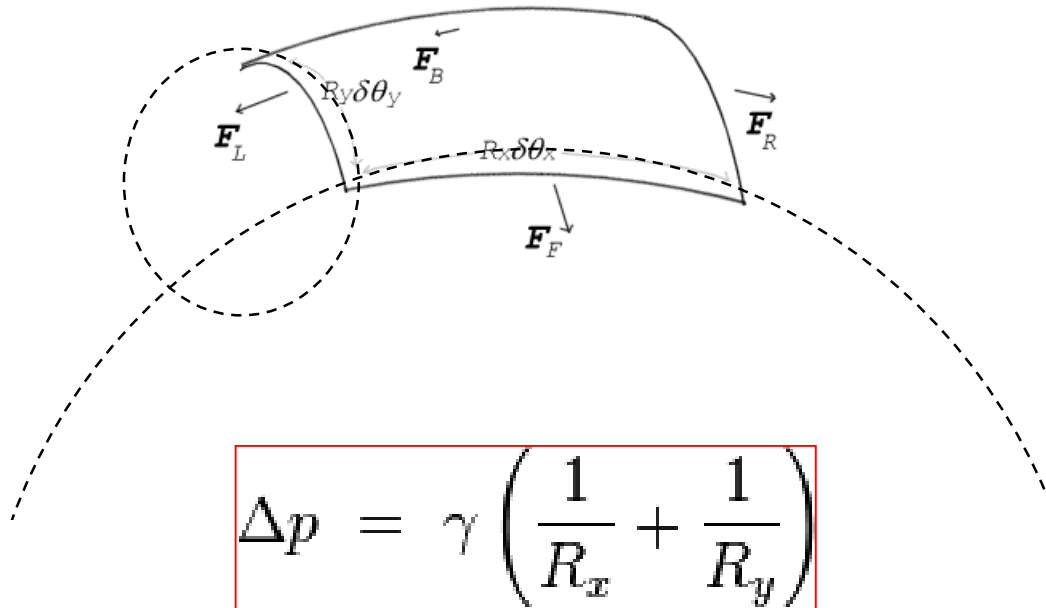


$$P_2 - P_1 = 4\gamma/R$$

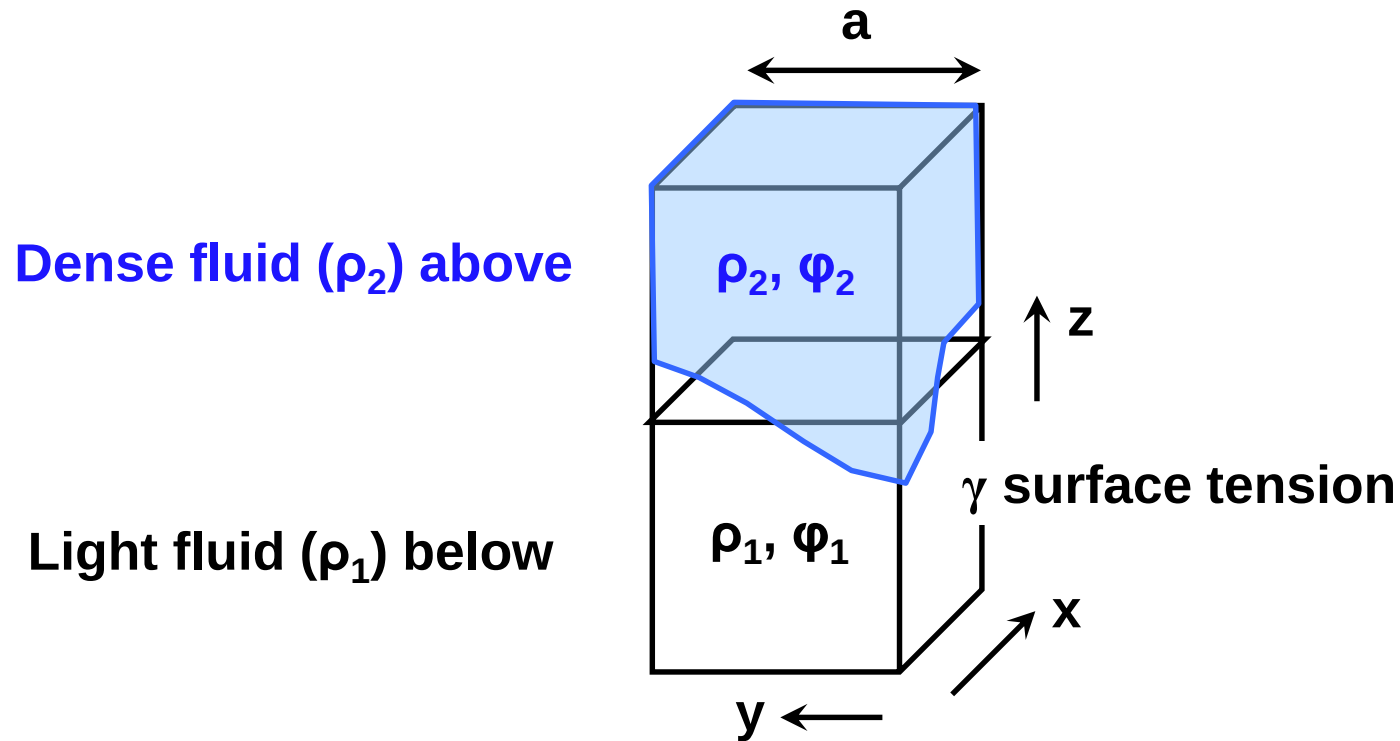
γ : surface tension

Surface tension

Laplace Law

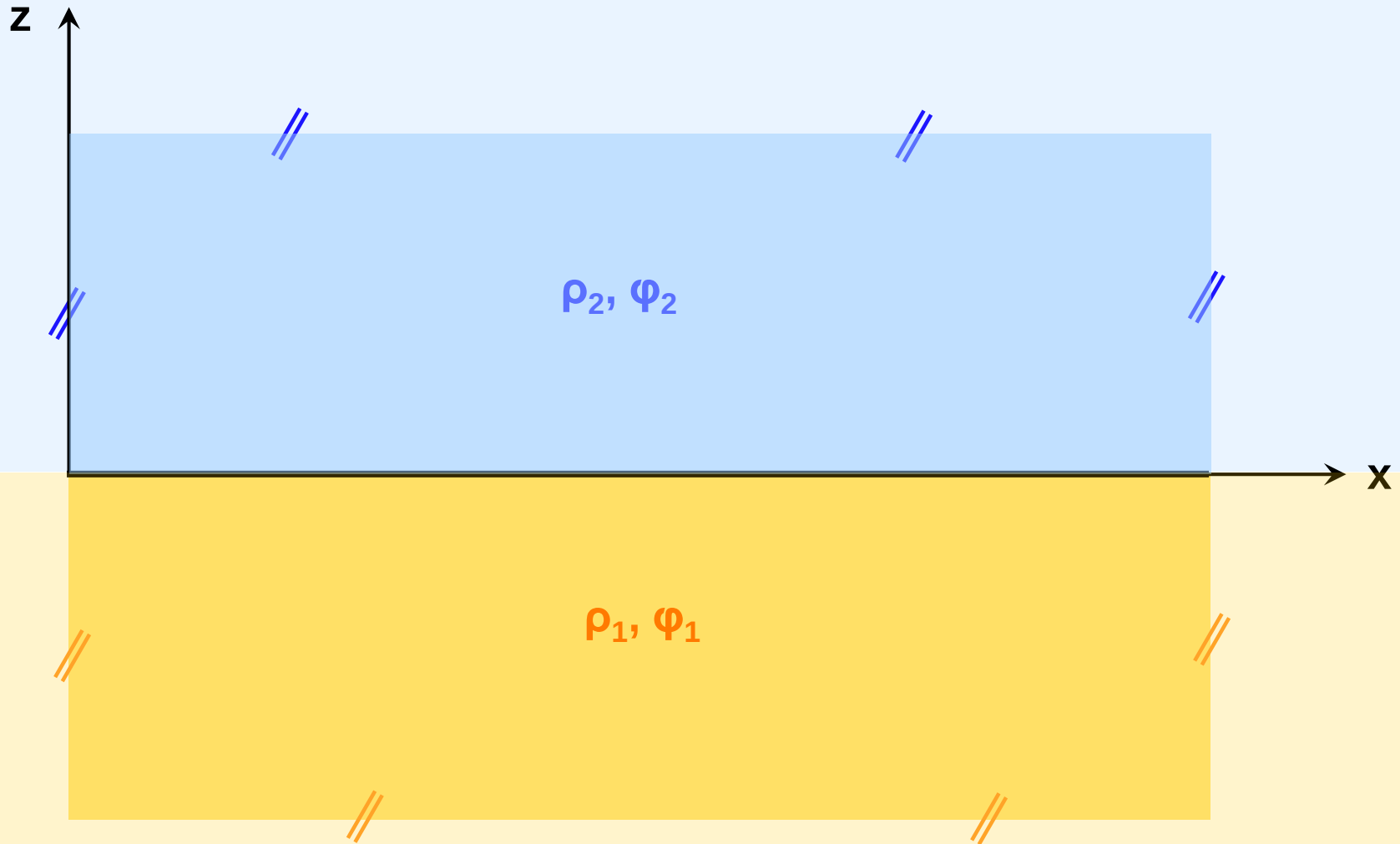


Rayleigh Taylor instability



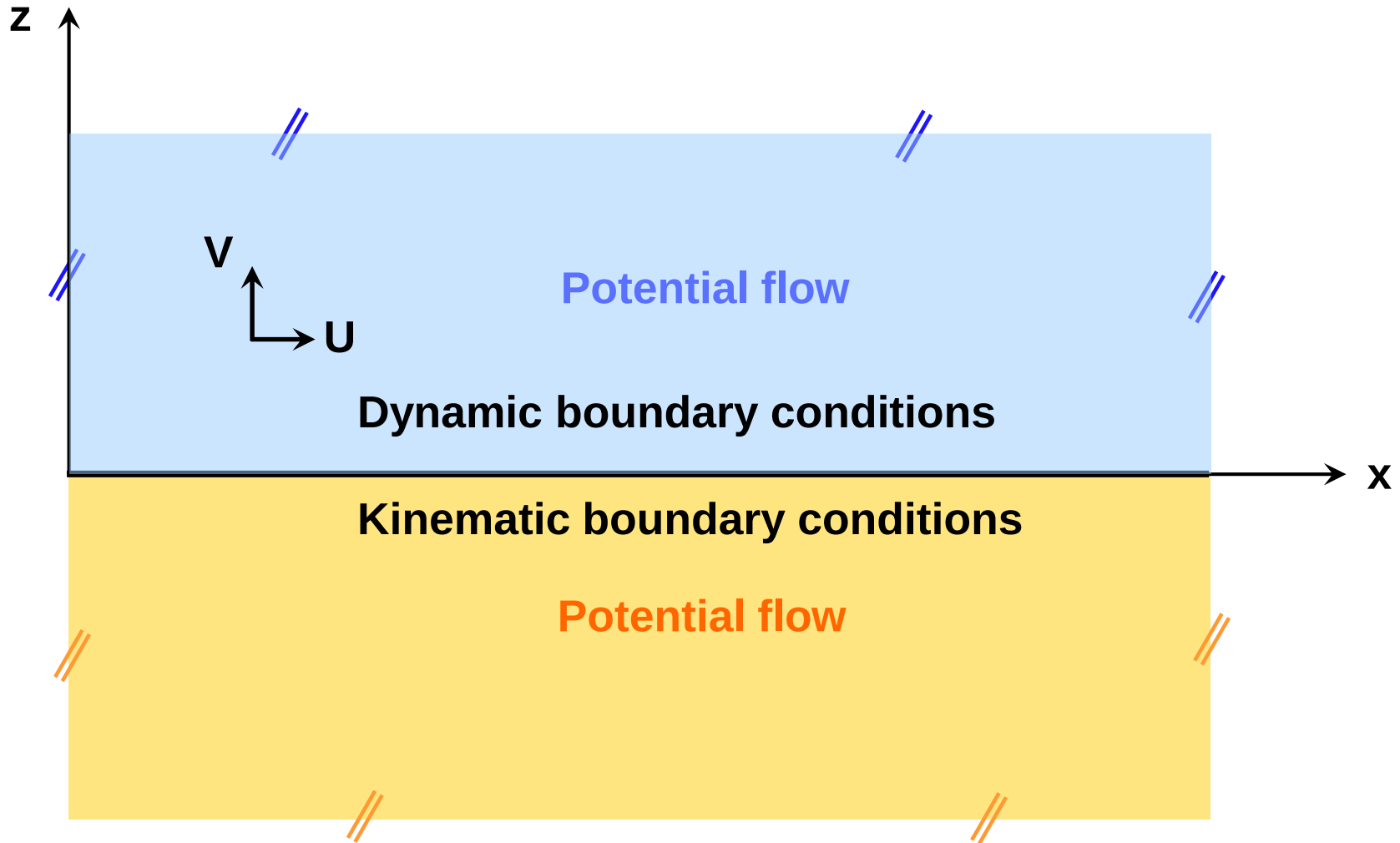
Rayleigh Taylor instability

Simplify to 2D : two semi-infinite domains



Rayleigh Taylor instability

Simplify to 2D : two semi-infinite domains



Instability analysis:

1. Equations and boundary conditions
2. Base state
3. Linearized equations
4. Normal mode expansion
5. Dispersion relation
6. Analysis of the dispersion relation

1. Equations

$$\begin{array}{l} \Delta \Phi_1 = 0 \\ \Delta \Phi_2 = 0 \end{array}$$

Potential flow

$$\begin{array}{ll} U_1 = \frac{\partial \Phi_1}{\partial x}, & V_1 = \frac{\partial \Phi_1}{\partial z} \\ U_2 = \frac{\partial \Phi_2}{\partial x}, & V_2 = \frac{\partial \Phi_2}{\partial z} \end{array}$$

Velocity field

1. Boundary conditions

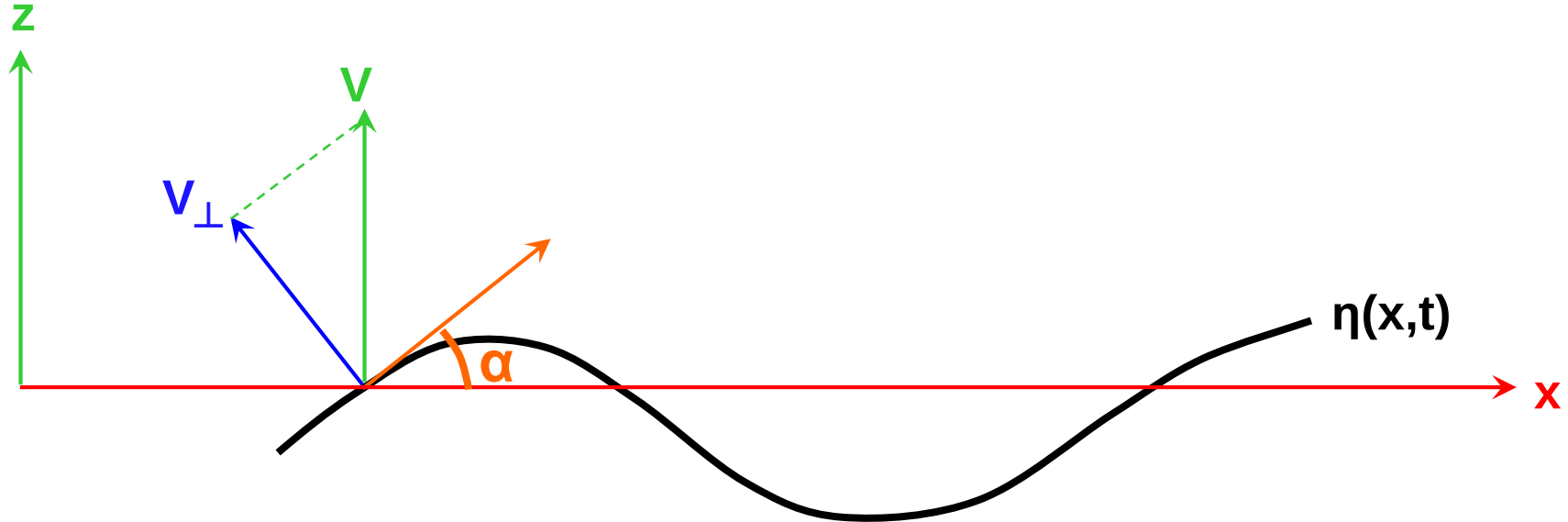
$$\Phi_1 = 0 \text{ at } z = -\infty$$

$$\Phi_2 = 0 \text{ at } z = +\infty$$

far-field

at $z = \eta$?

1. Kinematic boundary condition

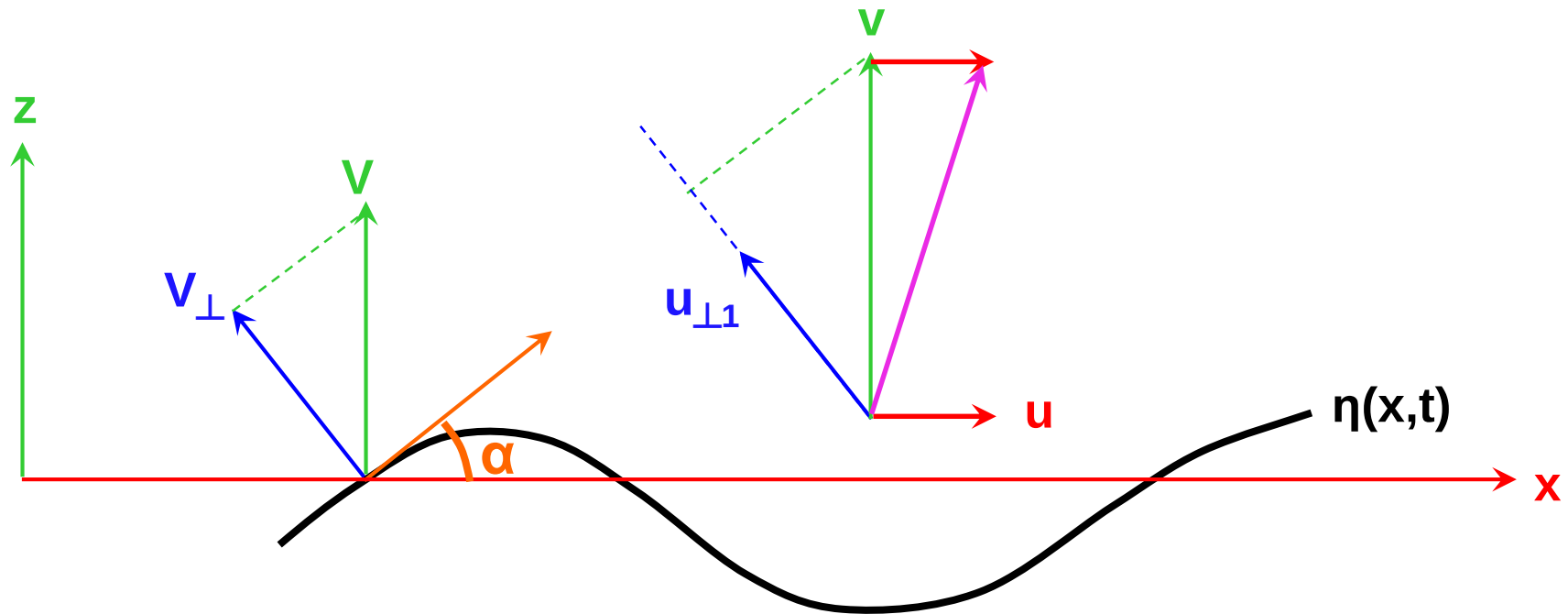


Kinematic condition : impermeability (no penetration)

No fluid particles going across the interface through the normal direction

$$V_{\perp} = \partial\eta/\partial t \cos(\alpha)$$

1. Kinematic boundary condition



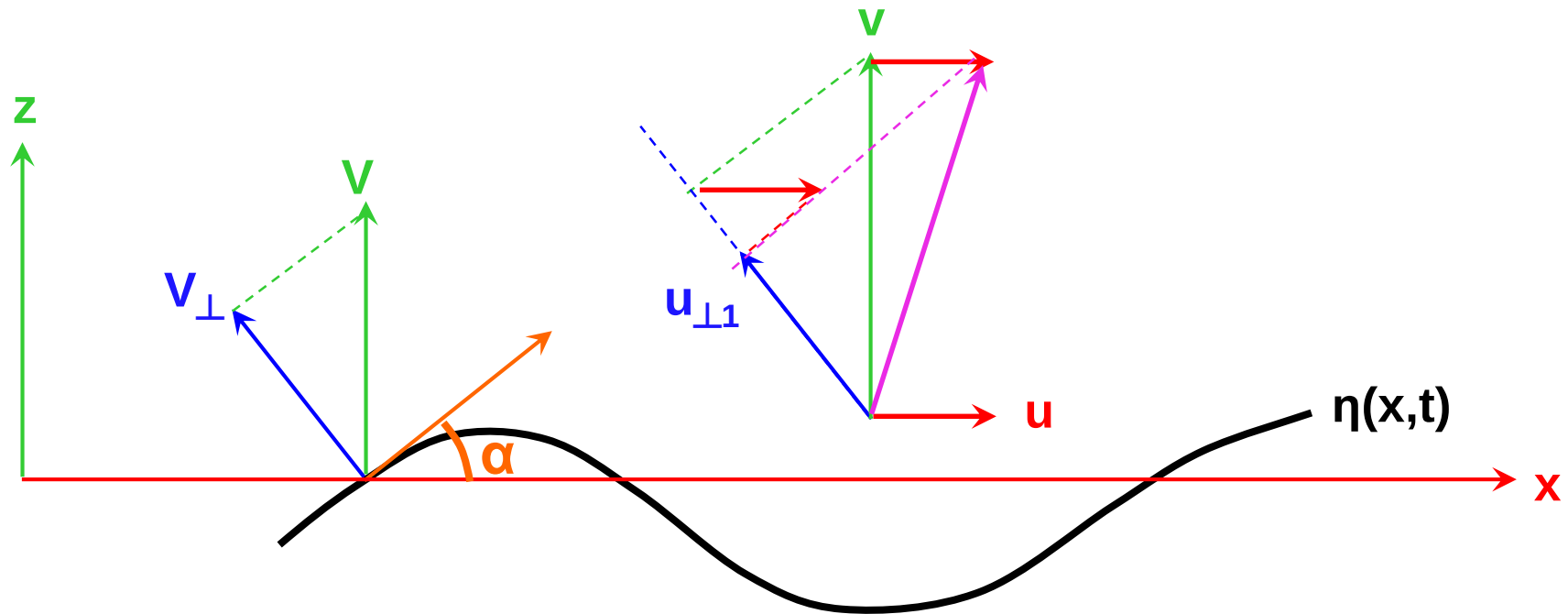
Kinematic condition : impermeability (no penetration)

No fluid particles going across the interface through the normal direction

$$V_{\perp} = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} \cos(\alpha)$$

$$u_{\perp 1} = v_1 \cos(\alpha) +$$

1. Kinematic boundary condition



Kinematic condition : impermeability (no penetration)

No fluid particles going across the interface through the normal direction

$$\left. \begin{aligned} V_{\perp} &= \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} \cos(\alpha) \\ u_{\perp 1} &= v_1 \cos(\alpha) - u_1 \sin(\alpha) \end{aligned} \right\} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = v_1 - u_1 \tan(\alpha) \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = v_1 - u_1 \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}}$$

1. Kinematic boundary conditions

$$\Phi_1 = 0 \text{ at } z = -\infty$$

$$\Phi_2 = 0 \text{ at } z = +\infty$$

far-field

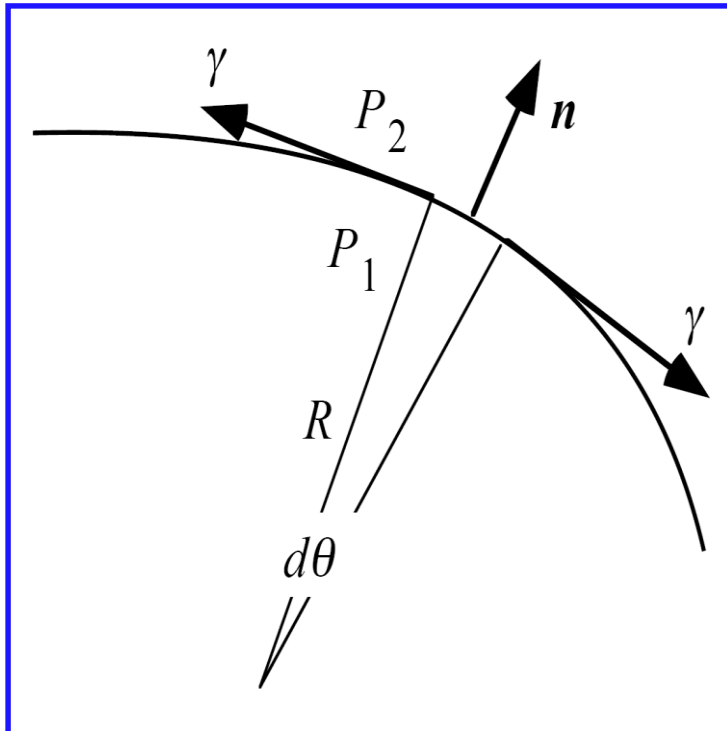
$$U_1 \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} - V_1 = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t}$$

$$U_2 \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x} - V_2 = \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t}$$

at $z = \eta$

1. Dynamic boundary conditions

$$P_1 - P_2 = -\gamma \frac{\frac{\partial^2 \eta}{\partial x^2}}{\left(1 + \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x}\right)^{3/2}} \text{ at } z = \eta$$



$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{(-\partial_x \eta, 1)}{\sqrt{1 + \partial_x^2 \eta}}$$

$$\mathcal{C} = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{n}$$

1. More equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \Phi_1}{\partial t} + \frac{U_1^2 + V_1^2}{2} + \frac{P_1}{\rho_1} + gz &= C_1(t) = 0 \\ \frac{\partial \Phi_2}{\partial t} + \frac{U_2^2 + V_2^2}{2} + \frac{P_2}{\rho_2} + gz &= C_2(t) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

2nd Bernouilli relations

2. Base state

$$\Phi_1 = 0,$$

$$\Phi_2 = 0$$

$$\eta = 0$$

$$P_1 = -\rho_1 g z$$

$$P_2 = -\rho_2 g z$$

3. Perturb and linearize perturbation expansion

Φ_1	$= 0$	$+\epsilon\phi_1$
Φ_2	$= 0$	$+\epsilon\phi_2$
U_1	$= 0$	$+\epsilon u_1$
V_1	$= 0$	$+\epsilon v_1$
U_2	$= 0$	$+\epsilon u_2$
V_2	$= 0$	$+\epsilon v_2$
P_1	$= -\rho_1 g z$	$+\epsilon p_1$
P_2	$= -\rho_2 g z$	$+\epsilon p_2$
η	$= 0$	$+\epsilon\sigma$

$\epsilon \ll 1$

Variables **Base state** **Small perturbation**

3. Linearized equations

$$\begin{array}{l} \Delta\phi_1 = 0 \\ \Delta\phi_2 = 0 \end{array}$$

perturbed potential flow

$$\begin{array}{ll} u_1 = \frac{\partial\phi_1}{\partial x}, & v_1 = \frac{\partial\phi_1}{\partial z} \\ u_2 = \frac{\partial\phi_2}{\partial x}, & v_2 = \frac{\partial\phi_2}{\partial z} \end{array}$$

3. Perturbed kinematic boundary conditions

$$\phi_1 = 0 \text{ at } z = -\infty$$

$$\phi_2 = 0 \text{ at } z = +\infty$$

$$-\epsilon^2 u_1 \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x} + \epsilon v_1 = \epsilon \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = \epsilon \sigma$$

$$-\epsilon^2 u_2 \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x} + \epsilon v_2 = \epsilon \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = \epsilon \sigma$$

3. Perturbed kinematic boundary conditions

$$\phi_1 = 0 \text{ at } z = -\infty$$

$$\phi_2 = 0 \text{ at } z = +\infty$$

~~$$-\epsilon^2 u_1 \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x} + \epsilon v_1 = \epsilon \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = \epsilon \sigma$$
$$-\epsilon^2 u_2 \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x} + \epsilon v_2 = \epsilon \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = \epsilon \sigma$$~~

$$v_1 = \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = \epsilon \sigma$$
$$v_2 = \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = \epsilon \sigma$$

3. Flattened kinematic boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = \epsilon \sigma \\ \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = \epsilon \sigma\end{aligned}$$

Taylor expansion around 0:

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}(\epsilon \sigma) = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}(0) + \epsilon \sigma \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial z^2}(0) + \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = 0 \\ \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} \text{ at } z = 0\end{aligned}$$

⇒ transforms a b.c. at an unknown interface into a fixed place!

3. Perturbed dynamic boundary conditions

$$(P_1 + \epsilon p_1 - P_2 - \epsilon p_2)|_{\epsilon\sigma} = -\gamma\epsilon \frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial x^2} \left(1 - 3/2\epsilon^2 \left(\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial x} \right)^2 \right)$$

Replace $P_1 = -g\rho_1 z$, ...

and linearize

$$g(\rho_2 - \rho_1)\sigma + (p_1 - p_2)|_{\epsilon\sigma} = -\gamma \frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial x^2}$$

flatten

$$(\rho_2 - \rho_1)g\sigma + (p_1 - p_2)|_0 = -\gamma \frac{\partial^2 \sigma}{\partial x^2}$$

3. Perturbed and linearized Bernoulli

Perturbed 2nd Bernoulli relations

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon \frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial t} + \cancel{\epsilon^2 \frac{u_1^2 + v_1^2}{2}} + \epsilon \frac{p_1}{\rho_1} &= 0 \\ \epsilon \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial t} + \cancel{\epsilon^2 \frac{u_2^2 + v_2^2}{2}} + \epsilon \frac{p_2}{\rho_2} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Linearized 2nd Bernoulli relations

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial t} + \frac{p_1}{\rho_1} &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial t} + \frac{p_2}{\rho_2} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

4. Normal mode expansion

Fourier transform in x and t

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1 &= f_1(z)\exp(i(kx - \omega t)), \\ \phi_2 &= f_2(z)\exp(i(kx - \omega t)), \\ \sigma &= C\exp(i(kx - \omega t)),\end{aligned}$$

k is the wavenumber and ω the frequency (in rad/s)

$$\lambda = 2\pi/k$$

$$T = 2\pi/\omega$$

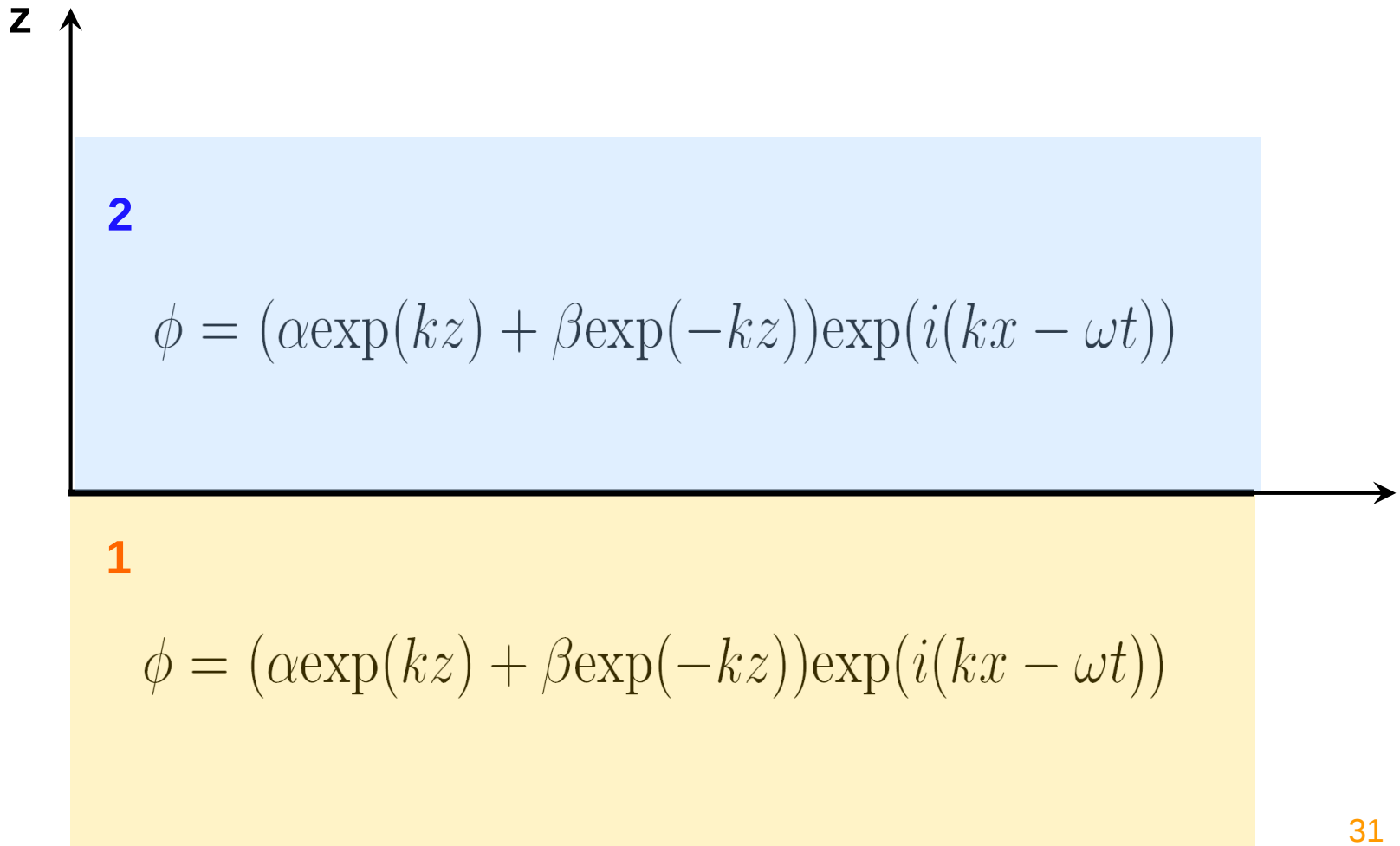
$$f = \omega/(2\pi)$$

4. Normal mode expansion

Solution to Laplace equation:

4. Normal mode expansion

Solution to Laplace equation:



4. Normal mode expansion

Solution to Laplace equation:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1 &= A \exp(kz) \exp(i(kx - \omega t)), \\ \phi_2 &= B \exp(-kz) \exp(i(kx - \omega t)), \\ \sigma &= C \exp(i(kx - \omega t)).\end{aligned}$$

4. Normal mode expansion

Replace in boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} g(\rho_2 - \rho_1)C + i\omega\rho_1 A - i\omega\rho_2 B &= \gamma k^2 C \\ kA &= -i\omega C \\ -kB &= -i\omega C \end{aligned}$$

This is an eigenvalue problem $i\omega X = MX$!

$$kg(\rho_2 - \rho_1)C + \omega^2\rho_1 C + \omega^2\rho_2 C = \gamma k^3 C,$$

5. Dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 = \frac{-kg(\rho_2 - \rho_1) + \gamma k^3}{\rho_1 + \rho_2}$$

- **Unstable** if there exists one ω , $\text{Im}(\omega) > 0$
- **Neutral** if for all ω , $\text{Im}(\omega) = 0$:
- **Stable (or damped)** if for all ω , $\text{Im}(\omega) < 0$:

5. Dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 = \frac{-kg(\rho_2 - \rho_1) + \gamma k^3}{\rho_1 + \rho_2}$$

•Unstable if there exists one ω , $\text{Im}(\omega) > 0$

$$\rho_2 > \rho_1$$

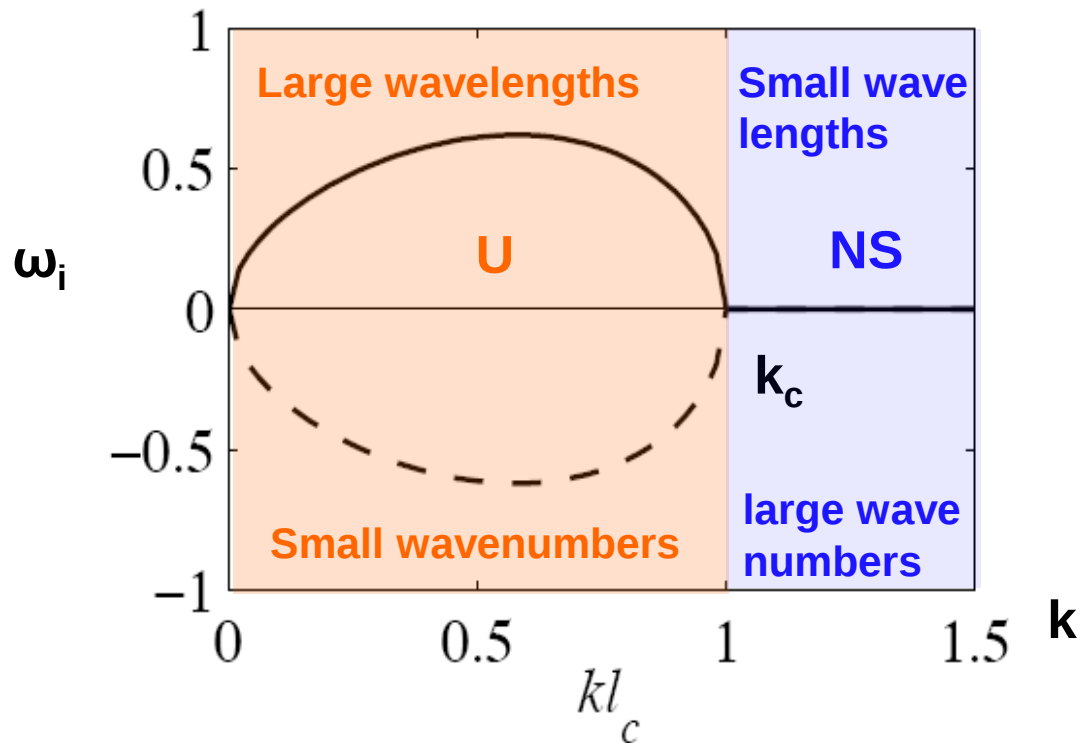
•Neutral if for all ω , $\text{Im}(\omega) = 0$:

$$\rho_1 > \rho_2$$

•Stable (or damped) if for all ω , $\text{Im}(\omega) < 0$:

The flow considered is not damped, we have neglected dissipation by neglecting viscosity

4. Dispersion relation



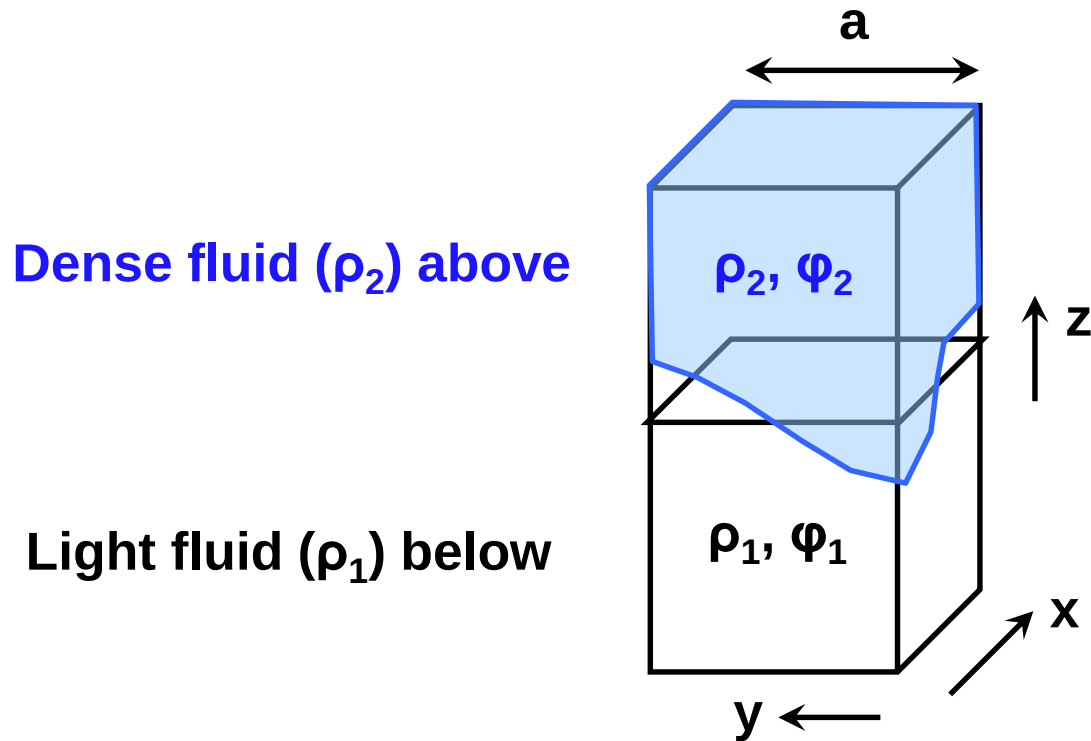
$$k_c = \sqrt{g|\rho_2 - \rho_1|/\gamma}$$

$$l_c = \sqrt{\gamma/(g|\rho_2 - \rho_1|)} \quad \text{capillary length: 2.7mm for air/water}$$

Instability analysis:

1. Equations and boundary conditions
2. Base state
3. Linearized equations
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5. Dispersion relation
6. Analysis of the dispersion relation

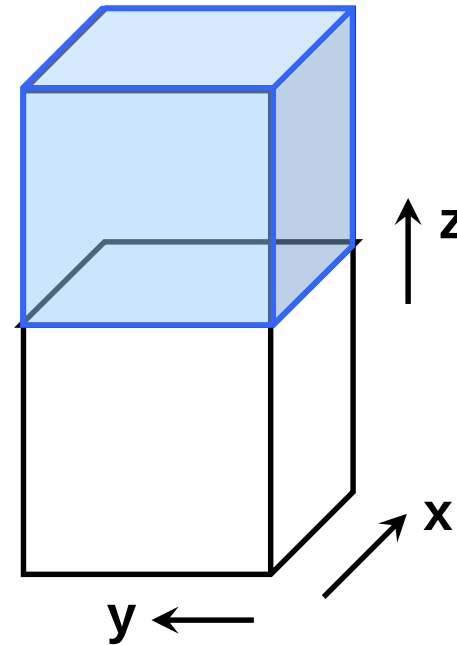
Rayleigh Taylor instability



Base state

Flat Interface at $z=0 \Rightarrow h(x,y)=0$

No flow $\Rightarrow \phi_1(x,y)=0, \phi_2(x,y)=0$



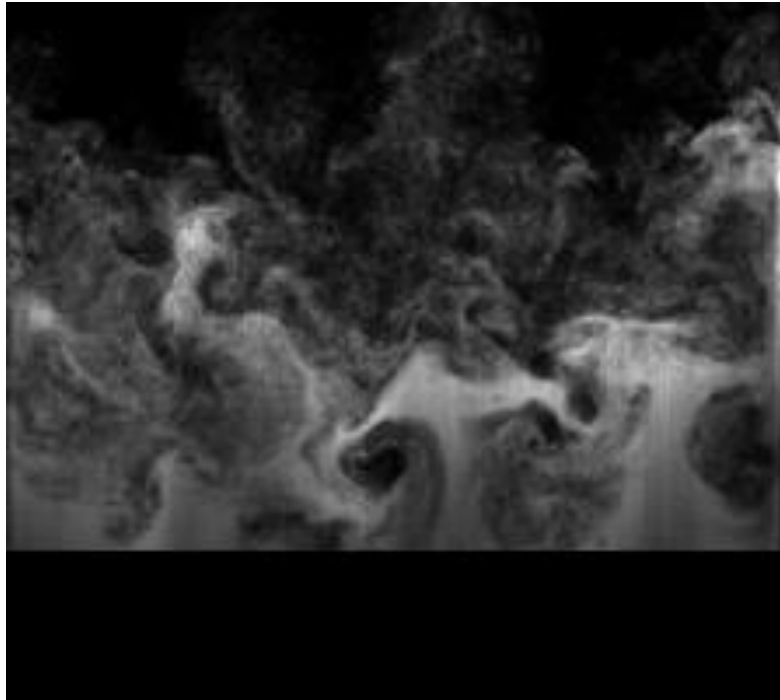
$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{\left(1 + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial x}\right)^2\right) \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial y^2} - 2 \frac{\partial S}{\partial x} \frac{\partial S}{\partial y} \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial x \partial y} + \left(1 + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial y}\right)^2\right) \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial x^2}}{\left(1 + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial y}\right)^2\right)^{3/2}}$$

Global instability analysis:

1. Equations and boundary conditions
2. Base state
3. Linearized equations
4. Fourier series expansion
5. Countable number of admissible frequencies: discretized dispersion relation
6. Analysis of the linear stability conditions

Rayleigh-Taylor instability

This is just the linear part of the story!

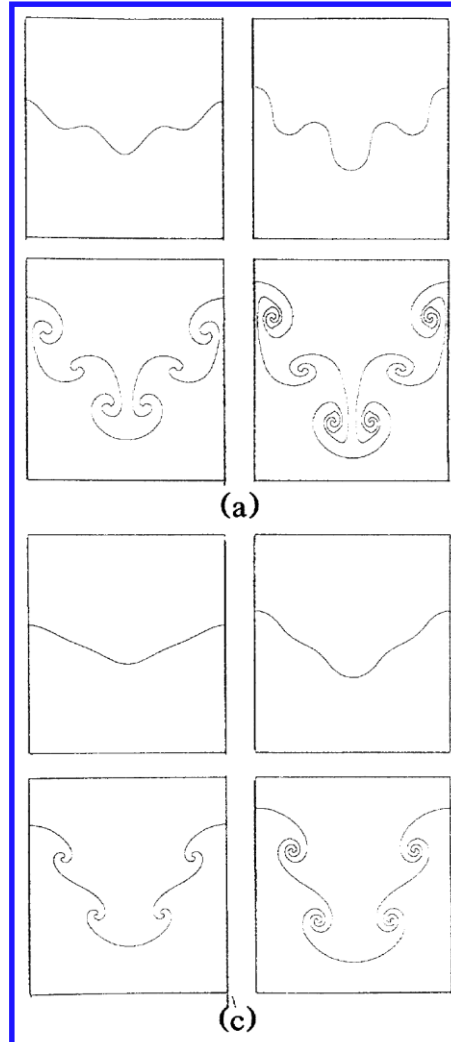


Jones & Jacobs 1997

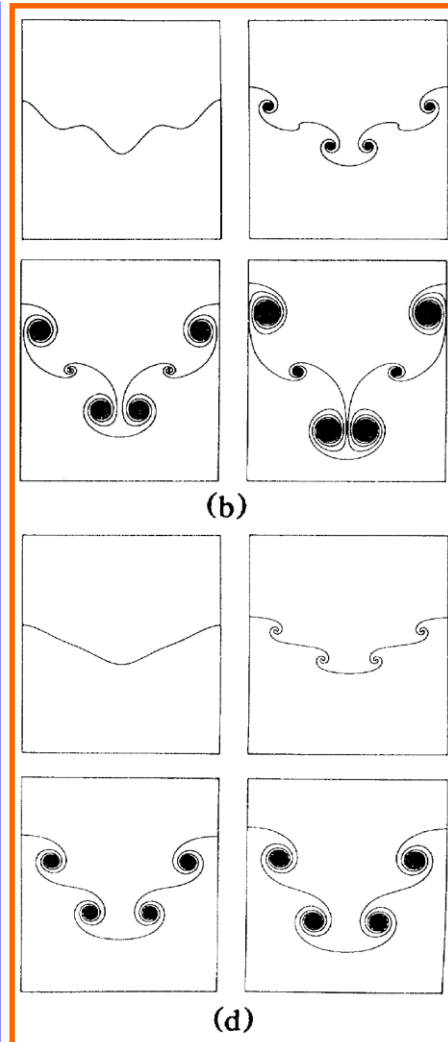
Rayleigh-Taylor instability

This is just the linear part of the story!

DNS



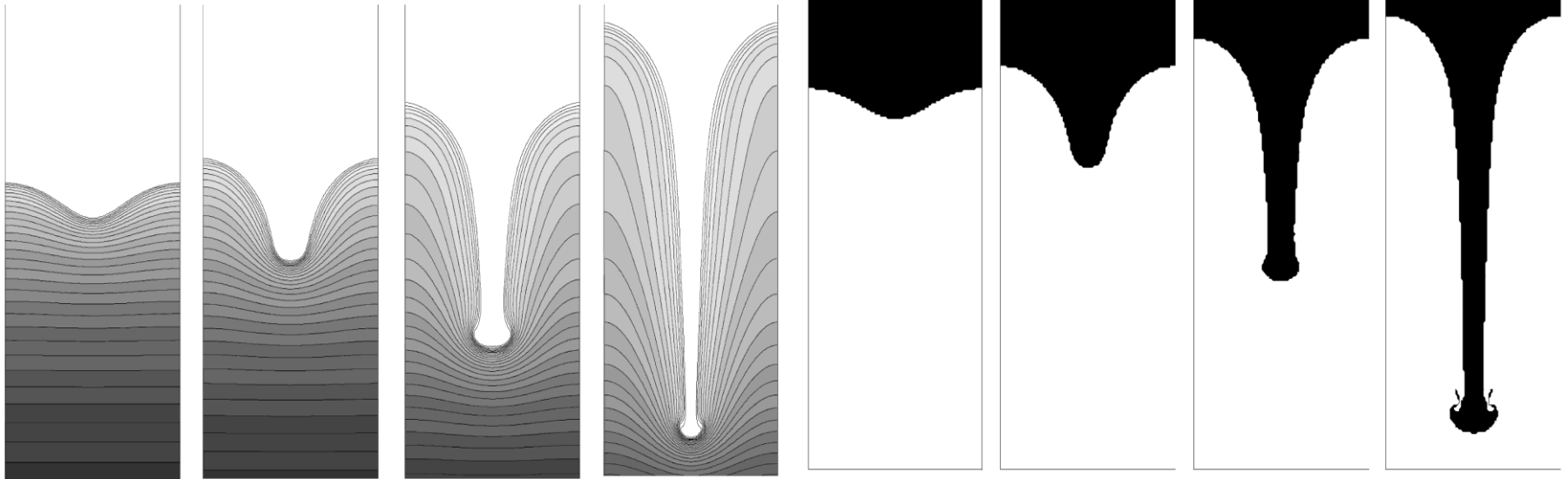
Model



Aref & Tryggvason 1989

Rayleigh-Taylor instability

This is just the linear part of the story!



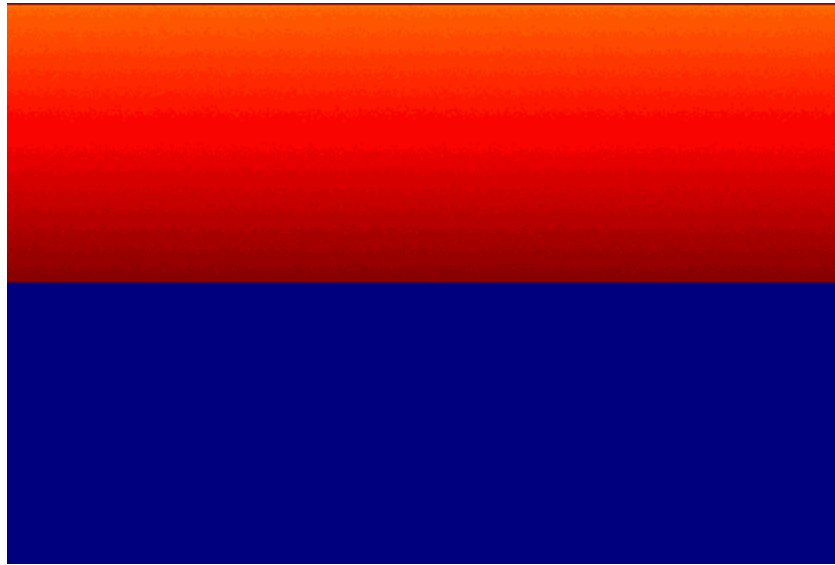
DNS

Aref & Tryggvason 1989

Model

Rayleigh-Taylor instability

This is just the linear part of the story!

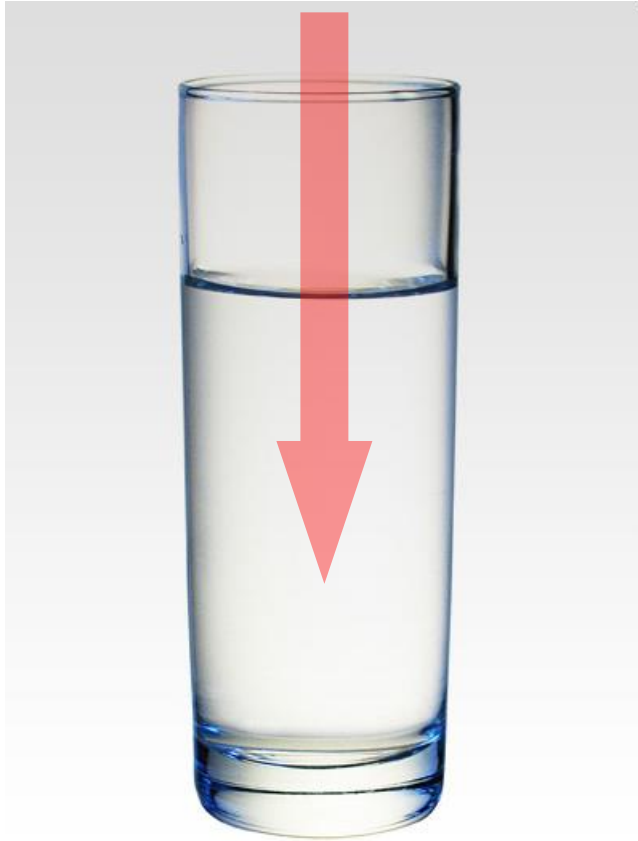


www.LBmethod.org

Jonas Lätt, EPFL

Rayleigh-Taylor instability

A nonlinear paradox: pouring syrup



Unstable but not mixed



Stable but mixed

Instability of suspended thin films

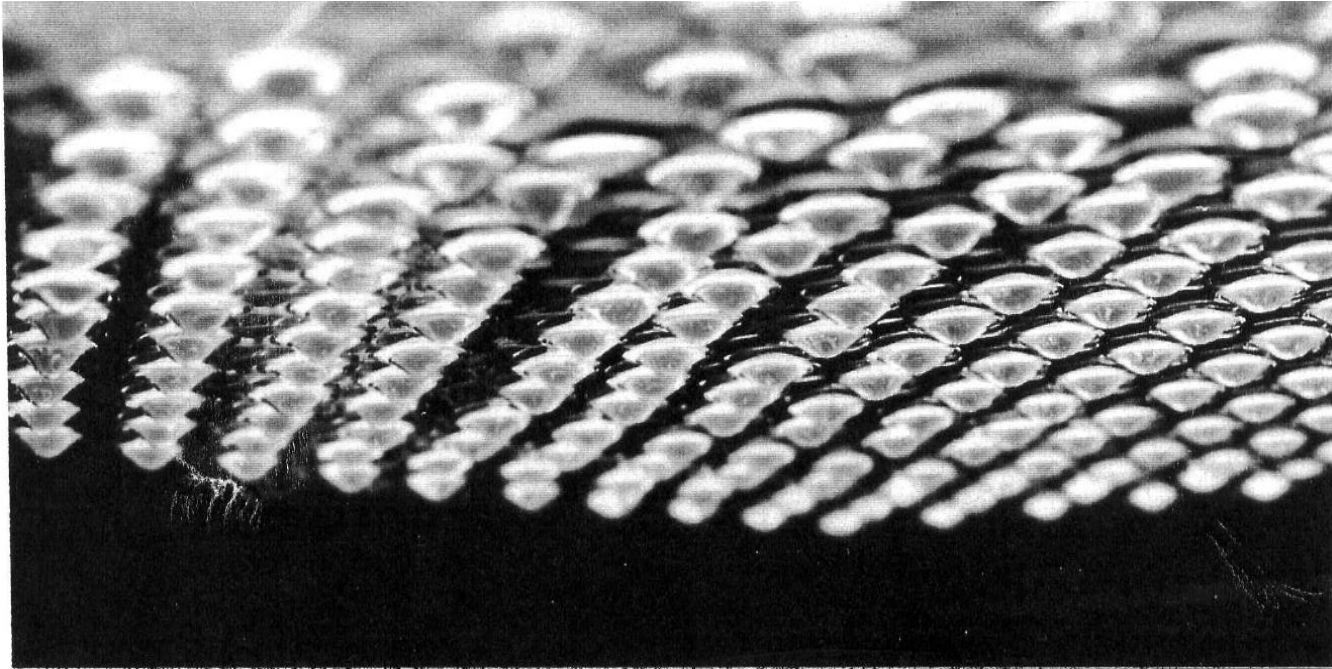


FIG. 2.6 – Une couche mince d'huile est déposée sur une plaque plane, puis la plaque est retournée. le film d'huile est instable et l'instabilité se manifeste par l'apparition de gouttes pendantes disposées sur un réseau ici hexagonal (Fermigier et al. 1990).

Instability analysis:

- A physical mechanism (handwaving arguments)
- Scaling laws
- A dispersion relation that links wavelengths and frequencies
- An experimental validation