

Langmuir-type vortices in wall-bounded flows driven by a criss-cross wavy wall topography

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We investigate a mechanism to manipulate wall-bounded flows whereby wave-like undulations of the wall topography drives the creation of bespoke longitudinal vortices. A resonant interaction between the ambient vorticity of the undisturbed shear flow and the undulation of streamlines enforced by the wall topography serves to slightly rotate the spanwise vorticity of the mean flow into the streamwise direction, creating a swirling motion, in the form of regular streamwise rolls. The process is kinematic and essentially identical to the ‘direct drive’ CL1 mechanism for Langmuir circulation (LC) proposed by Craik (1970). Wall shear is modelled by selecting suitable primary flow profiles. A simple, easily integrable expression for the cross-plane stream function is found in two asymptotic regimes: the resonant onset of the essentially inviscid instability at early times, and the fully developed steady state viscous flow. Linear-order solutions for flow over undulating boundaries are obtained, fully analytical in the special case of a power-law profile. These solutions allow us to quickly map out the circulation response to boundary design parameters. The study is supplemented with direct numerical simulations which verify the manifestation of boundary induced Langmuir vortices in laminar flows with no-slip boundaries. Simulations show good qualitative agreement with theory. Quantitatively, the comparisons rest on a displacement length closure parameter adopted in the perturbation theory. While wall-driven LC appear to become unstable in turbulent flows, we propose that the mechanism can promote swirling motion in boundary layers, a flow feature which has been reported to reduce drag in some situations.

1. Introduction

In the present work we combine two normally disparate branches of fluid mechanics: wall-bounded flow in the domain of fundamental fluid mechanics, and Langmuir circulation, a phenomenon associated with geophysical fluid mechanics and oceanography. The two have a key aspect in common: vortices. A number of studies have sought to introduce streamwise-aligned vortex pairs into boundary layer flow in order to manipulate it favourably. We propose that this can be achieved by a passive mechanism kinematically similar to a mechanism for Langmuir circulation, the relatively little studied ‘CL1’ mechanism. ‘CL1’ requires mean shear and oblique pairs of waves; the former is present in a wall boundary layer, the latter can be generated by a criss-cross wave pattern in the wall itself. Langmuir circulation is normally associated with wind creating waves on the surface of lakes and oceans, although the mechanism itself necessitates neither wind nor surface waves.

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We begin by reviewing the two hitherto disparate halves of the pertinent literature, pertaining to Langmuir circulation and designed vortices in wall-bounded flow, respectively.

1.1. Background on Langmuir circulation

Cellular vortex structures identified by the presence of ‘windrows’ in open waters, have come to be recognised as a central mechanism for the mixing of waters beneath the surface of the ocean and lakes, and in particular with the evolution of ocean thermoclines (Li *et al.* 1995; Leibovich 1983; Thorpe 2004). Commonly known as Langmuir circulation (LC) in honour of the pioneering investigation by Langmuir (1938), they enhance mixing in part by their circulatory motion and also through the formation where they downwell of downward jets that penetrate far deeper than the surface wave motion itself (Belcher *et al.* 2012). However, the underlying mechanics driving them remained a mystery until Craik (1970) proposed a nonlinear kinematic interaction between surface waves and sub-surface mean shear.

Although greatly expanded upon over subsequent years by Craik and Leibovich (Craik & Leibovich 1976; Leibovich 1977; Craik 1977, 1982*b*; Leibovich 1983), Craik’s paper demonstrated a fundamental resonance mechanism that acts, in combination with nonlinear Lagrangian transport or drift, to twist mean vortex lines in accordance to Helmholtz’s vortex theorem. Of key importance is that it acts to redirect vorticity from the current, where it is spanwise, into the direction of the current (streamwise) after which it amalgamates to generate circular motions. The model proposed by Craik (1970) assumed a multi-directional wave field in combination with a unidirectional current. This interaction scenario is now commonly referred to as the ‘CL1’ mechanism, although it has antecedents in the Benny-Lin mechanism (Benney & Lin 1960) that grows algebraically in time and is driven by the wave field. Further analysis of the CL equations developed by Craik & Leibovich (1976), highlighted a second instability mechanism to LC based on similar principles (Craik 1977). This mechanism, termed ‘CL2’, comes about as a result of a positive feedback where vortex motion increases a spanwise unevenness in the current profile, and is now held to be the dominating Langmuir mechanism in the ocean (Thorpe 2004).

However, although CL theory accounts for both CL1 and CL2, it assumes that the wave field is irrotational and that the current at the free surface is small compared with the phase speed of the waves (weak shear). If instead the current at the free surface is comparable to the phase speed of the waves (strong shear), then the wave field will be rotational and a far more powerful theory is required to describe the ensuing wave-mean interaction. Such a theory was developed by Andrews & McIntyre (1978) who map (exactly) the Navier Stokes (NS) equations into a Lagrangian mean reference frame to realise the generalised Lagrangian mean (GLM) equations. We mention these limiting cases because there exists a clear but imperfect analogy between conventional LC beneath a water surface, and a circulation phenomenon occurring above a rigid, wavy topography where no-slip at the wall replaces wind above the ocean surface to create the necessary mean shear near the boundary. ‘Imperfect’ because weak shear scaling that underlies CL theory as it describes LC of oceans and lakes, does not carry over to wall boundary layers, where instead the shear is strong (Craik 1982*b*). Imperfect also because although the weak and strong shear versions of the CL2 instability to LC presume shear and differential pseudomomentum (or drift), they have key differences. Specifically, while CL2 is wave driven and not subject to wave distortion, its strong shear counterpart is subject to wave distortion and is wave catalysed (Phillips & Wu 1994). This means that while the perturbation velocities that define the LC about the mean shear cannot exceed those

of the orbital velocities of the wave field in weak shear, they can vastly exceed them in strong shear, which is why the strong shear version of the instability is sometimes denoted CL2-O(1). Indeed, the streamwise velocity perturbation thus generated become strong enough to distort the primary flow field and modulate wave growth. There is then a two-way coupling between wave field and shear flow which increases the complexity of the problem.

Craik (1982*b*) utilised GLM to study the CL2-O(1) instability in uniform shear over rigid wavy walls, while Phillips & Wu (1994) and Phillips & Shen (1996) went on to explore a wide range of distributions of shear. CL2-O(1) theory was also employed by Phillips *et al.* (1996) who sought to explain the observations by Gong *et al.* (1996) of Langmuir vortices over hilly terrain and by (Phillips 2005) to explain the laboratory observations of LC beneath wind driven surface waves by Melville *et al.* (1998). Although these studies assume inviscid flow, viscous dissipation is included in the general set of equations Phillips (1998) derived from GLM to describe the evolution of LC arising in sheared flow subjected to finite amplitude rotational waves. While these equations can be used to study CL1-like instabilities, the focus of the work was the CL2 class and the derivation of a set of equations that capture it in all levels of shear, from weak, where they recover the CL equations, to moderate, which is applicable in shallow waters, to strong. These are known as the CLg equations (Phillips & Dai 2014).

In contrast little attention has been given to the CL1 class of instabilities and to our knowledge none to its forced excitation through constructional design. This forms the backdrop for the present study, where we will follow in the footsteps of Craik (1970) to demonstrate that the form and intensity of Langmuir vortices over wavy bounding walls provides a ‘direct-drive’ mechanism that is kinematically identical to CL1. We also utilise GLM to explore how wave distortion affects strongly sheared CL1-type circulation.

1.2. Vortices in wall-bounded flows

The mechanism we document suggests a new avenue to manipulate wall bounded flows with the object of reducing drag. This is an attractive prospect, particularly considering that friction loss in flow transport networks accounts for approximately 10% of the global electric energy consumption (Kühnen *et al.* 2018). The topic, of course, is not new and dates from a seminal work by Bakewell & Lumley (1967), who noted that skin friction drag appeared to be intimately associated with flow aligned coherent structures in the wall region. The structures were later found to be co-rotating vortices composed of rolls and streaks, the former defined by cross-stream velocity perturbations, the latter by axial flow perturbations (see e.g. Deguchi & Hall 2014); it was also found that a co-rotating vortex pair could join and lift from the surface to form a hairpin (Head & Bandyopadhyay 1981) More recent studies show that intentionally imposed near wall streaks and hairpins, can stabilize the overall flow regime and delay or prevent transition into turbulence (Cossu & Brandt 2002, 2004; Fransson *et al.* 2005, 2006; Du & Karniadakis 2000; Pujals *et al.* 2010*a,b*). Indeed, as much as 80% of the turbulent drag can be traced back to streaks that undergo a rapid cycle of events where they occasionally rupture from the wall (an event known as a ‘burst’) causing the subsequent transport of fast-moving fluid back into the wall region (Corino & Brodkey 1969; Offen & Kline 1974).

Of course multiple methods have been explored to modify the wall flow in order to reduce drag. These include generating vortices or travelling waves (Auteri *et al.* 2010), imposing jets (Iuso *et al.* 2002) and blowing and suction (Lieu *et al.* 2010). A large literature also exists on employing specially designed surfaces to reduce drag, from streamwise aligned groves called riblets, which act to control the spacing of wall vortices, to surface roughness motivated by biomimicry (Dean & Bhushan 2010; Sirovich & Karlsson

1997). Secondary vortex motion, aligned with the flow, can also be generated via spanwise intermittent roughness patches (Anderson *et al.* 2015; Willingham *et al.* 2014) or streamwise-aligned obstacles (Yang & Anderson 2018; Vanderwel & Ganapathisubramani 2015; Kevin *et al.* 2017; Sirovich & Karlsson 1997). Anderson *et al.* (2015) demonstrated that these structures are related to Prandtl’s secondary flow of the second kind, driven and sustained by spatial gradients in the Reynolds-stress components. Accordingly, Chan *et al.* (2015, 2018) studied turbulent flow over an ‘egg carton’ roughness configuration using direct numerical simulation, which can be seen as a special case of the wall geometry examined in the present paper. They too report circulation aligned with the flow attributed to Prandtl’s secondary flow of the second kind. However this is a dynamic mechanism, as opposed to LC, which is kinematic in nature. Here too we likewise plan to modify the wall surface, but not with roughness or groves but rather by making it wavy.

The paper is structured as follows: governing equations are presented in section 2. A means for numerically computing a linearised solution for an arbitrary unperturbed shear current profile is given in section 3. The particular second-order interaction of harmonics responsible for the generation of LC are considered in section 4 and a solution for this motion derived in the limits of inviscid transient flow and viscous stationary flow. The computation procedure is summarized in section 4.3. Since GLM theory has been seen to be fruitful in the study of CL2-type instability, we utilise it in section 5 to explore the CL1-type mechanism and in the process rederive an equation previously derived in section 4. Results are given in section 6, where we first look at free surface flows in section 6.1 and then wall-bounded flows in section 6.2. Simulation results are presented in section 7 and a summary is provided in 8.

2. Model Equations

The model considered in this work applies to incompressible flows where, whenever a free surface is present, surface tension is ignored. The problem is readily converted to nondimensional form using the depth or wall-to-wall distance h and surface current peak velocity U_0 , as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y, z) &\mapsto (x, y, z) h, & \mathbf{k} &\mapsto \mathbf{k} / h, & t &\mapsto t h / U_0, \\ \hat{\mathbf{u}}_t &\mapsto \hat{\mathbf{u}}_t U_0, & \hat{p}_t &\mapsto \hat{p}_t \rho U_0^2, \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

$\mathbf{k} = (k_x, k_y)$ being the wavenumber in the surface plane, $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t$ the fluid velocity and \hat{p}_t the pressure. Hatted quantities pertain to real space with the Fourier (wave-vector) space counterparts written without hats. Flows over sinusoidally shaped boundaries of low steepness are in focus in the present study, as sketched in figure 1, yet any bathymetry shape can be analysed by superposition according to Fourier’s theorem. A slip velocity is assumed at the two boundary reference planes $z = 0$ and 1 , here achieved by stretching commonly used velocity profiles a displacement length δ such that the stagnation points of the bulk current $U(z)$ fall outside of the interior domain. Small undulations observed in streamlines near an actual corrugated wall can then approximately be modelled as the displaced wall sketched in figure 1. Crude as this approximation may appear in terms of boundary layers, it suffices for our purposes because the nature of the vortex mechanism to be studied is kinematic, not dynamic, and does not rely on wall friction (other than that needed for generating the principal shear). The boundaries, located at $z = \hat{\eta}_b(\mathbf{r})$ and $z = 1 + \hat{\eta}_s(\mathbf{r})$, perturb and redirect current energy to undulate the velocity field within. Here, $\mathbf{r} = (x, y)$ is the horizontal coordinate.

The problem to be solved consists of the Navier-Stokes equations, along with a kine-

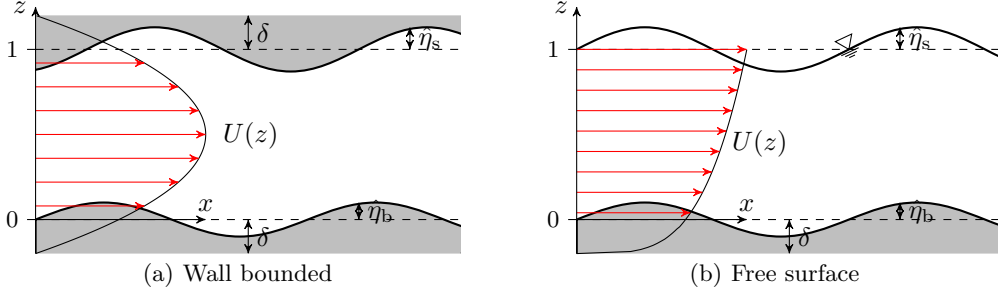


FIGURE 1. Sketch of the problem setup. (Magnitudes of η_s and η_b are exaggerated.)

matic condition at the boundaries;

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \left[\frac{\partial \hat{\mathbf{u}}_t}{\partial t} \right] + (\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t \cdot \hat{\nabla}) \hat{\mathbf{u}}_t + \hat{\nabla} \hat{p}_t &= \left[Re^{-1} \hat{\nabla}^2 \hat{\mathbf{u}} \right] - Fr r^{-2} \mathbf{e}_z \\ \hat{\nabla} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{u}}_t &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\}; \quad \hat{\eta}_b(\mathbf{r}) \leq z \leq 1 + \hat{\eta}_s(\mathbf{r}), \quad (2.2a)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t \cdot \hat{\nabla} \hat{\eta}_b = \hat{w}; \quad z = \hat{\eta}_b(\mathbf{r}), \quad (2.2b)$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t \cdot \hat{\nabla} \hat{\eta}_s = \hat{w}; \quad z = 1 + \hat{\eta}_s(\mathbf{r}), \quad (2.2c)$$

with $\hat{\nabla} = (\partial_x, \partial_y, \partial_z)$. The Froude number is $Fr = U_0/\sqrt{gh}$ and $Re = U_0 h/\nu$ is the Reynolds number (g being the gravitational acceleration and ν the kinetic eddy viscosity). The viscous and transient terms placed in square brackets are considered only in relation to the resonant second-order mode interaction—first-order solutions are assumed inviscid and at a steady state. When the upper surface is free, $\hat{\eta}$ is a function of the local flow and the inviscid dynamic boundary condition that pressure be constant at the surface is imposed.

3. Linearised solution

Assume that the motions attributed to the perturbed boundaries are small compared to the current velocity $U(z)$. Separating these, we have

$$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t(\mathbf{r}, z) = \mathbf{U}(z) + \hat{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{r}, z, t); \quad \mathbf{U} = (U, 0, 0), \quad (3.1a)$$

$$\hat{p}_t(\mathbf{r}, z) = Fr^{-2}(1-z) + \hat{p}(\mathbf{r}, z, t). \quad (3.1b)$$

A constant reference pressure term has been set to zero. A steady state of the first-order motion can be reached without the influence of viscosity. Assuming such a state has been reached and the Reynolds number be large, we neglect the transient and viscous terms in the first-order motion. (Note that viscous effects in the steady state are indirectly modelled via the shape of $U(z)$). Let the boundary topography $\hat{\eta}$ be described as a superposition of modes $\eta(\mathbf{k})e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$ (real when summed), $\eta \in \{\eta_b, \eta_s\}$. The flow field $\{\hat{\mathbf{u}}, \hat{p}\}(\mathbf{r}, z)$ of the linear solution becomes a superposition of these wave modes $\{\mathbf{u}, p\}(\mathbf{k}, z)$. After linearisation and insertion of (3.1), the linearised Euler equations read

$$ik_x U \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{U}'(z)w + \nabla p = 0, \quad (3.2a)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad (3.2b)$$

where $\nabla = (ik_x, ik_y, \partial_z)$. Eliminating u , v and p then yields the Rayleigh equation

$$w'' - (k^2 + U''/U)w = 0, \quad (3.3)$$

$$k = (k_x^2 + k_y^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

The kinematic boundary conditions (2.2*b*) and (3.1*b*), linearised about the reference planes, read

$$w(0) = ik_x U(0) \eta_b, \quad (3.4a)$$

$$w(1) = ik_x U(1) \eta_s. \quad (3.4b)$$

(We describe in Akselsen & Ellingsen (2019*a*) a procedure for extending the lower boundary condition to bathymetries of finite amplitude, but we will here consider only the linear conditions.) If free-surface flow is considered then the additional linear dynamic condition

$$\eta_s = Fr^2 p(1) \quad (3.5)$$

governs the upper boundary, determining η_s .

3.1. Numerical solutions for arbitrary current profiles

An arsenal of methods are at our disposal for evaluating the boundary value problem (3.3)–(3.5). For example, Phillips *et al.* (1996) adopted a Galerkin method at this stage. The problem (3.3)–(3.5) is however rather simple and so we rather opt for a simple shooting technique.

Writing the Rayleigh equation (3.3) in terms of the pressure and integrate once yields

$$p'' - 2 \frac{U'}{U} p' - k^2 p = 0. \quad (3.6)$$

Next, substituting the vertical velocity component by the pressure component using (3.2*a*) with (3.4), the boundary conditions on p read

$$p'(0) = [k_x U(0)]^2 \eta_b, \quad \begin{cases} p'(1) = [k_x U(1)]^2 \eta_s; & \text{[fixed boundaries]}, \\ p'(1) - [Fr k_x U(1)]^2 p(1) = 0; & \text{[free surface]}. \end{cases} \quad (3.7)$$

Equations (3.6) and (3.7) reveal that p is independent of the sign of k_x and k_y if η is. The velocity components in terms of p are

$$u = -\frac{p}{U} - \frac{U' p'}{k_x^2 U^2}, \quad v = -\frac{k_y p}{k_x U}, \quad w = \frac{i p'}{k_x U}. \quad (3.8)$$

Integration of (3.6) is performed numerically using a standard ODE solver and the guess for $p(0)$ adjusted according to the error in (3.7). Computation time has never been found to exceed a second on a regular laptop computer, and the procedure yields $p(z)$ and its derivative, from which the velocity components are directly retrieved using (3.2*a*).

3.2. Analytical solution for a power law current profile

Following Phillips & Shen (1996) and Phillips *et al.* (1996), we now consider the particular family of power law current profiles where U is proportional to z raised to a power q . The power law allows for analytical solutions while representing a wide variety of primary flow profiles. We assume the free surface geometry of figure 1(b). Several forms of the commonly studied current profiles are obtained with different values of q ; the uniform current most commonly considered is then recovered by setting q to zero. A linear current profile is recovered when $q = 1$. The linear profile has been investigated frequently in the literature since it is—in 2D—the only rotational flow for which potential theory is applicable. In the intermediate range $0 < q < 1$, concave-up profiles of the kind sketched in figure 1(b), resembling that observed in turbulent bottom boundary layer flows reside. A range of intermediate exponent values have over the years been suggested for turbulent

flows (Cheng 2007; Chen 1991). Flows with a surface shear layer may be modelled with $q > 1$, resulting in a class of concave-down profiles.

Akselsen & Ellingsen (2019a) used a profile $U = z^q$ with the z axis defined so that the lower boundary reference plane was at $z = \delta$. This plane is in the current formalism located at $z = 0$ and we instead stretch and shift the vertical axis;

$$U(z) = [\zeta(z)]^q, \quad \zeta(z) = \frac{z + \delta}{1 + \delta}; \quad [0 \leq z \leq 1]. \quad (3.9)$$

Inserting (3.9) and adopting the substitution $w = \sqrt{\zeta}W(Z)$; $Z = k(z + \delta)$, the Rayleigh equation (3.3) is remoulded into the modified Bessel equation

$$W''(Z) + \frac{W'(Z)}{Z} - \left(1 + \frac{(1/2 - q)^2}{Z^2}\right)W(Z) = 0 \quad (3.10)$$

whose two linearly independent homogeneous solutions are known. Written in terms of a generic flow variable ϕ , we have

$$\phi = \sum_{\pm} b^{\pm} \phi^{\pm} \quad (3.11)$$

with

$$w^{\pm}(z) = i\sqrt{\zeta}I_{\pm(q-\frac{1}{2})}(\tilde{k}\zeta), \quad (3.12a)$$

$$p^{\pm}(z) = \frac{k_x}{k}\zeta^{q+\frac{1}{2}}I_{\pm(q+\frac{1}{2})}(\tilde{k}\zeta), \quad (3.12b)$$

$$\mathbf{u}_h^{\pm}(z) = \frac{iq\zeta^{q-1}w^{\pm}\mathbf{e}_x - \tilde{k}p^{\pm}}{\tilde{k}_x\zeta^q}, \quad (3.12c)$$

I_{α} being the modified Bessel function of the first kind of order α and $\mathbf{u}_h = (u, v)$ the horizontal velocity vector. A stretched wave vector $\tilde{\mathbf{k}} = \mathbf{k}(1 + \delta)$ has also been introduced. The remaining constants a^+ and a^- are determined by the two boundary conditions; (3.4) and (3.5) yield the relationships

$$b^{\pm} = \begin{cases} ik_x \frac{\eta_s w^{\mp}(0) - U(0)\eta_b w^{\mp}(1)}{w^{\pm}(1)w^{\mp}(0) - w^{\pm}(0)w^{\mp}(1)}, & \text{[fixed boundaries]}, \\ ik_x U(0)\eta_b \left[w^{\pm}(0) - \frac{w^{\pm}(1) - ik_x Fr^2 p^{\pm}(1)}{w^{\mp}(1) - ik_x Fr^2 p^{\mp}(1)} w^{\mp}(0) \right]^{-1}, & \text{[free surface]}. \end{cases} \quad (3.13)$$

Further details on the analytical free surface solution is given in Akselsen & Ellingsen (2019a).

4. The resonant second order wave interaction

Similar to Craik (1970), we consider boundary undulations composed of a pair of sinusoidal waves directed symmetrically about the streamwise direction x :

$$\hat{\eta} = \frac{a}{4} \left[e^{i(k_{1x}x + k_{1y}y)} + e^{i(k_{1x}x - k_{1y}y)} + \text{c.c.} \right] = a \cos(k_{1x}x) \cos(k_{1y}y) \quad (4.1)$$

($\eta \in \{\eta_b, \eta_s\}$, $a \in \{a_b, a_s\}$). An illustration is shown in figure 2. A free surface will to linear order also have the same functional form as the bathymetry, thus behaving kinematically similar to an undulated upper wall with the important difference that the mean current and secondary flow see this as a full-slip boundary. The first-order wave modes involved each have amplitudes $a/4$ and the four wave vectors ($\pm k_{1x}, \pm k_{1y}$) (sign

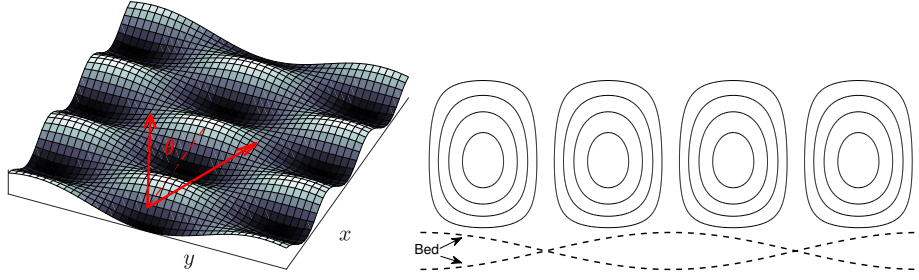


FIGURE 2. Boundary topography and the orientation of vortices relative to it. Left: bottom topography with wave-vectors $(k_{1x}, \pm k_{1y})$ indicated. Right: schematic illustration of swirling streamlines in the cross-flow plane.

of each component is varied independently). Second order harmonics, in turn, have wave vectors $\boldsymbol{\kappa}$ which are sums of pairs of these. The harmonics thus come in four different types with wave vectors $\boldsymbol{\kappa} = \pm 2(k_{1x}, k_{1y})$, $\boldsymbol{\kappa} = 0$, $\boldsymbol{\kappa} = (\pm 2k_{1x}, 0)$ and $\boldsymbol{\kappa} = (0, \pm 2k_{1y})$. The last type of harmonic is resonant—see Craik (1970) and Akselsen & Ellingsen (2019b) for further details. The resonance will manifest in the formation of vortex pairs aligned in the current flow direction, as illustrated in figure 2.

From here we adopt \mathbf{u} and p as the second-order components unless otherwise stated. The equations of motion for the second-order components of the Stokes expansion read

$$(\partial_t - Re^{-1}\nabla^2)\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{U}'w + \nabla p = -[(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}]_{1\times} \quad (4.2a)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \quad (4.2b)$$

for this particular interaction. Left-hand variables are second-order components while the right-hand cross terms are the second-order interactions of first-order components. Eliminating the horizontal velocity components and the pressure, the Orr–Sommerfeld equation for the second-order vertical velocity $w(z, t; \mathbf{k}_1)$ becomes

$$(\partial_t - Re^{-1}\nabla^2)\nabla^2 w = \mathcal{R}(z); \quad (4.3)$$

$$\mathcal{R} = i\boldsymbol{\kappa} \cdot \partial_z [(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}_h]_{1\times} + \kappa^2 [(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)w]_{1\times} \quad (4.4)$$

with $\nabla^2 = \partial_z^2 - \kappa^2$, $\kappa = 2|k_{1y}|$. Due to symmetry, we have $\nabla = (0, ik_y, \partial_z)$ and $[(\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u}]_{1\times} = 0$ which simplifies the right-hand expression (4.4) significantly; using (3.8) to express the first order velocity component in terms of the first order pressure, we find the remarkably simple expression

$$\mathcal{R}(z) = 8 \frac{k_{1y}^2 U'}{k_{1x}^2 U^3} [(k_{1x}^2 - k_{1y}^2)p_1^2 + (p_1')^2]. \quad (4.5)$$

The first-order pressure mode p_1 is the solution of (3.6)–(3.7) with $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_1$. Note that the curvature term $(U''/U)w$ is not present in (4.3) because $\kappa_x = 0$, i.e., the resonant wave is two-dimensional and orthogonal to the shear current.

For arbitrary profiles, considered in section 3.1, the right-hand side of (4.3) is evaluated directly from the output of the ODE integrator. If the power law profile (3.9) is adopted (section 3.2) then the right-hand side can be written explicitly as

$$\mathcal{R}(z) = 8 \frac{qk_{1y}^2}{1+\delta} \sum_{s=\pm 1} \frac{k_{1x}^2 - sk_{1y}^2}{k_1^2} \left\{ \sum_{\pm} b_1^{\pm} I_{\pm(q+s\frac{1}{2})} [k_1(z+\delta)] \right\}^2, \quad (4.6)$$

b_1^{\pm} and its velocity components are as given in (3.11)–(3.13) with $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_1$.

The resonant second-order harmonic is uniform in x which allows for a stream function

$$\psi = iw/\kappa_y \quad (4.7)$$

to be expressed in the yz -plane. An expression for the pressure component is given in the appendix.

The resonant wave interactions will come with both signs $\boldsymbol{\kappa} = (0, \kappa_y) = (0, \pm 2k_{1y})$, with the corresponding modes being complex conjugates of each other. It is therefore sufficient to consider only the positive spanwise wavenumber $\kappa_y = \kappa = 2|k_{1y}|$ and write, for any flow variable $\hat{\phi}$,

$$\hat{\phi} = 2 \operatorname{Re}(\phi) \cos(\kappa y) - 2 \operatorname{Im}(\phi) \sin(\kappa y). \quad (4.8)$$

The stream function ψ is purely imaginary when η_b and η_s are real. Contour plots of $-2 \operatorname{Im} \psi$ are therefore presented among the results of section 6. When $-\operatorname{Im} \psi > 0$, the vertical flow is directed in towards lines aligned with peaks and troughs in the wall topography, with the horizontal velocity perturbation \hat{u} being strongest along these lines. This serves to increasingly tilt vortex particle trajectories in the xy -plane with time. Vortex rotation is in the opposite direction when $-\operatorname{Im} \psi < 0$.

In what follows, two limits of (4.3) shall be investigated, namely the inviscid transient problem $Re^{-1} = 0$ and the viscous steady state problem $\partial_t \cdot \rightarrow 0$.

4.1. Inviscid transient problem

We now set $Re^{-1} = 0$. Because the harmonic in question is resonant it will not reach a time-independent state without the intervention of viscosity or nonlinear dynamics. The solution of (4.3) can be obtained using the method of variation of parameters which results in

$$w = \sum_{\pm} d^{\pm} e^{\pm \kappa z} + w_{\times}(z); \quad w_{\times}(z) = \frac{t}{\kappa} \int_0^z d\xi \mathcal{R}(\xi) \sinh \kappa(z - \xi). \quad (4.9)$$

We have here imposed circulation quiescence at $t = 0$. $w_{\times}(z)$ is evaluated at all z with simple numerical integration.

The second-order boundary conditions for fixed wall boundaries, Taylor expanded about $z = 0$ and $z = 1$, reduce to

$$w(0, t) = w(1, t) = 0. \quad (4.10)$$

A little more caution is required for a free surface boundary; kinematic and dynamic conditions then reduce to

$$\partial_t \eta_s - w = 0; \quad Fr^2 p - \eta_b = Fr^4 p_1 p'_1, \quad [z = 1].$$

Combining these with the y -component of the second-order momentum equation (4.2a) and the continuity equation (4.2b) yield

$$\partial_t^2 \partial_z w + \kappa_y^2 Fr^{-2} w = 0, \quad [z = 1]. \quad (4.11)$$

Vertical velocity w is only linear in time so that the boundary conditions become (4.10) also at a free surface. Fixing the integration constants of (4.9), our inviscid solution reads

$$w = w_{\times}(z) - w_{\times}(1) \frac{\sinh \kappa z}{\sinh \kappa}. \quad (4.12)$$

The streamwise velocity component u is retrieved directly from inserting (4.12) into the

momentum equation (4.2a). The interaction term disappears due to symmetry and we obtain

$$u(z, t) = -\frac{t}{2}U'(z)w(z, t), \quad (4.13)$$

which is proportional to t^2 .

4.2. Viscous steady state problem

We now turn to the viscous problem assuming a steady state has been reached. It should here be noted that the second-order solution constructed here is driven by the interaction kinematics of first-order waves which are themselves assumed to be inviscid; we assume that the periodic dynamics of the first-order waves are affected little by viscosity at moderate to large Reynolds numbers, and that the role of viscosity at that order is in all essentials accounted for through the prescribed shear of $U(z)$. The resonant mode, on the other hand, continues to grow in time until it becomes strong enough for viscosity to become significant, and the flow reaches a steady state. The solution to (4.3) when denying any time dependency can be found by applying the solution formula of the previous problem twice. It is

$$w = \sum_{\pm} (d_0^{\pm} + zd_1^{\pm})e^{\pm\kappa z} + w_{\times}(z); \quad (4.14)$$

$$w_{\times}(z) = \frac{Re}{2\kappa^3} \int_0^z d\xi \mathcal{R}(\xi) G[\kappa(z - \xi)]; \quad G(Z) = \sinh(Z) - Z \cosh(Z). \quad (4.15)$$

A full-slip condition is assumed at the upper boundary if considering a free surface, as is often reasonable for an atmospheric interface between water and air. We find that all first-order cross terms cancel also for these stress conditions, even after Taylor expansion about $z = 1$ (see also Craik (1970)). Appropriate full-slip stress conditions are $v' + i\kappa_y w = 0$ about the reference plane. The other boundary conditions discussed in Sec 4.1 still hold; employing the continuity equation (3.2b) yields

$$w = w'' = 0 \quad [\text{full-slip}] \quad (4.16)$$

at $z = 0$ or 1 if considering the upper or lower boundary, respectively. We'll also consider no-slip boundaries, which with (4.2b) implies

$$w = w' = 0 \quad [\text{no-slip}] \quad (4.17)$$

at $z = 0$ or 1 . With these conditions we have derived the integration constants d_0^+ , d_0^- , d_1^+ and d_1^- in (4.14) for the three cases full-slip/full-slip, no-slip/no-slip and full-slip/no-slip at the upper/lower boundary. Explicit solutions for $w(z)$ are presented in Appendix A.

The horizontal velocity component of the vortex motion is again obtained by integrating the x -component of the linearised momentum equation (4.2a). One finds

$$u(z) = \sum_{\pm} d_u^{\pm} e^{\pm\kappa z} + \frac{Re}{\kappa} \int_0^z d\xi U'(\xi) w(\xi) \sinh \kappa(z - \xi). \quad (4.18)$$

Appropriate no-slip and full-slip boundary conditions are $u = 0$ and $u' = 0$, respectively, evaluated at the appurtenant reference planes. (Cross terms merely represent the second-order correction of a first-order motion which itself does not support stress conditions.) Coefficients d_u^{\pm} are given in Appendix A.

4.3. Summary of computations procedure

In summary, we compute a solution for a general shear profile by first computing the linear solution for the first-order pressure $p_1(z)$ through numerically integrating (3.6)

subject to (3.7). From this, we compute from (4.5) the right-hand term $\mathcal{R}(z)$ of the Rayleigh/Orr–Sommerfeld equation. If considering a free surface flow with a power law profile, $\mathcal{R}(z)$ can instead be computed directly from (4.6). The transient, inviscid circulation solution is then obtained from (4.12) after numerically integrating (4.9). This yields w_\times , or the stream function ψ by virtue of (4.7), whose contours in real space (4.8) represent streamlines. Spanwise velocity is the z -derivative of the stream function while the horizontal component is given by (4.13). Pressure can be computed from (A 4). In a viscous, steady state solution, equations (4.14) and (4.18) replace (4.12) and (4.13), respectively. The full form of the resulting expressions are given in Appendix A.

5. Comparison to strong-shear CL2-instability and the theory of the generalised Lagrangian mean

We will start this section by relating our findings to GLM theory before considering features of strong shear CL1 instability compared to strong shear CL2 instability.

Andrews & McIntyre’s (1978) theory of the generalised Lagrangian mean (GLM) has in recent years dominated in the study of CL2-type Langmuir circulation (Leibovich 1980; Craik 1982*a,b*; Phillips 1998, 2005). This theory is commonly used to derive the eigenvalue problem that governs the stability of unidirectional waves to flows of longitudinal vortex form. In order to connect our work with the GLM-based literature, we shall briefly discuss how key observations from the GLM theory relates to the CL1-type circulation considered in the present paper.

The GLM Navier–Stokes equations, averaged in x , read

$$\overline{D^L}(\overline{u}_i^L - \hat{\phi}_i) + \overline{u}_{j,i}^L(\overline{u}_j^L - \hat{\phi}_j) + \hat{\pi}_{,i} = Re^{-1} \left[(\hat{\nabla}^2 \hat{u}_i)^L + \hat{\xi}_{j,i}(\hat{\nabla}^2 \hat{u}_j)^L \right]. \quad (5.1)$$

Except for the symbol for the pseudomomentum

$$\hat{\phi}_i \equiv -\overline{\hat{\xi}_{j,i} \hat{u}_j^L} \quad (5.2)$$

and the use of hats to denote physical space variables, we have here adopted the common notation. The operator $(\cdot)^L$ is the average along a Lagrangian trajectory described by the displacement $\boldsymbol{\xi}$ of fluid particles. The fluctuating part of the Lagrangian velocity is denoted $\hat{\boldsymbol{u}}^L = \hat{\boldsymbol{u}}(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}} + \hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}}, t) - \overline{\hat{\boldsymbol{u}}^L}$. Gradient terms are lumped into $\hat{\pi}$ which may be thought of as an effective pressure. Overlines denote the streamwise average, indices $\{1, 2, 3\}$ refer respectively to the spatial dimensions $\{x, y, z\}$, repeated indices are summed and comma denotes differentiation. We refer the reader to the above references, in particular Andrews & McIntyre (1978) and Craik (1982*a,b*), for a more complete description.

Envisage a wave field of $O(\epsilon)$ generated by the wall topography. Only $O(\epsilon^2)$ terms can survive the streamwise averaging. To $O(\epsilon^2)$, (5.1) reduces to

$$\partial_t(\overline{\hat{\boldsymbol{u}}^L} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) + \hat{\nabla}[U\overline{\hat{u}}_1^L + \hat{\pi} - \frac{1}{2}U^2] - \hat{\phi}_1\hat{\nabla}U + \overline{\hat{u}}_3^L U_{,3} - Re^{-1}\hat{\nabla}^2\overline{\hat{\boldsymbol{u}}} = 0. \quad (5.3)$$

The streamwise averaged Eulerian velocity, pseudomomentum and differential drift (Stokes drift) $\overline{\hat{\boldsymbol{u}}^S} = \overline{\hat{\boldsymbol{u}}^L} - \overline{\hat{\boldsymbol{u}}}$ will at $O(\epsilon^2)$ have modes

$$[\boldsymbol{u}(z, t), \boldsymbol{\varphi}(z, t), \boldsymbol{u}^S(z, t)]e^{i\kappa_y y}.$$

The streamwise component of \boldsymbol{u} obeys, by (5.3),

$$(\partial_t - Re^{-1}\nabla^2)u_1 = \partial_t(\varphi_1 - u_1^S) - (u_3 + u_3^S)U_{,3}. \quad (5.4)$$

The other components of (5.3), together with continuity $\nabla \cdot \overline{\boldsymbol{u}} = 0$, can at $O(\epsilon^4)$ be

reduced into an Orr–Sommerfeld type equation

$$(\partial_t - Re^{-1}\nabla^2)\nabla^2 u_3 = -\kappa^2 \wp_1 U_{,3} - \partial_t [ik_y(\wp_2 - u_2^S)_{,3} + \kappa^2(\wp_3 - u_3^S)], \quad (5.5)$$

$\nabla^2 = \partial_{zz} - \kappa^2$. The second right-hand term vanishes when we next consider a time-independent primary flow.

For evaluating (5.5) one must first find the linear displacement ξ . Following Craik (1982*a*) we have derived the particle trajectories for time independent U , adopting Craik’s method for matching trajectories to the appropriate streamlines. Writing $\hat{\xi}$ as a superposition of modes $\xi e^{i(k_x x + k_y y)}$ and using (3.8) to express the $O(\epsilon)$ wave field, we eventually find the simple relation

$$\xi = \frac{\nabla p}{k_x^2 U^2} + O(\epsilon^2), \quad (5.6)$$

$\nabla = (ik_x, ik_y, \partial_z)$. Expression (5.6) implicitly assumes the absence of critical layers where $U = 0$, as is common. Adopting this to compute the pseudomomentum (5.2), we get

$$\hat{\phi}_1 = -\frac{4}{k_x^2 U^3} [(k_x^2 + k_y^2)p^2 + (p')^2] - \frac{4 \cos(2k_y y)}{k_x^2 U^3} [(k_x^2 - k_y^2)p^2 + (p')^2] + O(\epsilon^3), \quad (5.7a)$$

$$\hat{\phi}_2 = \hat{\phi}_3 = 0. \quad (5.7b)$$

Inserting (5.7) into (5.5) and matching it to (4.3) successfully recovers (4.5). GLM theory thus accords with the more primitive mode coupling theory utilized in section 4, although the benefits of GML theory are not as patent as in studies of CL2 instability. The horizontally uniform part of the pseudomomentum can for $k_y \rightarrow \infty$ be compared to Craik’s (1982*a*) equation (3.4a) with his $\phi = -4p'/\epsilon k_x^2 U$, whence we find that the spanwise periodic topography generates, for the same amplitude a , half the pseudomomentum of the spanwise uniform topography, in addition to the spanwise periodic part.

When the shear intensity is of $O(1)$, the study of CL2-type instabilities turns more complicated than its weak shear counterpart due to the influence of wave distortion (Craik 1982*b*; Phillips 2005). Wave distortion comes about as the pseudomomentum generated by the spanwise-periodic wave perturbation (here called the Langmuir wave) reaches a magnitude great enough to re-enter the eigenvalue problem governing the stability of the spanwise-periodic wave. The pseudomomentum generated by the spanwise-periodic wave itself must then be estimated in a separate analysis, first performed by Craik (1982*b*), yielding a coupled pair of differential equations governing the stability to longitudinal vortex form. This equation set has since been termed the ‘generalized Craik–Leibovich equations’ (CLg), with the range of validity extending beyond instability from wind-driven surface waves and into boundary layer flows.

Wave distortion enters the CL1 problem less directly due to three prominent differences between the two mechanisms. First, where the CL2 mechanism primarily consists of a distortion of the streamwise flow generating a spanwise-periodic wave, the CL1 mechanism works by directly imposing a spanwise-periodic wave of prescribed wavelength. Second, CL2 wave distortion is present immediately from the scaling of the initial perturbation of the primary flow, while the instability of CL1 is algebraic, growing linearly from out of a completely unperturbed state. If not sufficiently suppressed by viscosity, the wave may eventually grow until wave distortion takes effect or other longitudinal vortex instabilities occur. Third, where the spanwise-periodic wave in the CL2 mechanism generates pseudomomentum at the same wavelength, the CL1 equivalent is an interaction between two spanwise periodic wave fields, generating higher and lower spanwise harmonics.

Wave distortion will eventually arise in CL1 if the viscosity is insufficient to restrain

the circulation to a moderate intensity. This then occurs via pseudomomentum generated by the Langmuir wave. Only streamwise-periodic particle displacements and velocity perturbations can combine in (5.2) to produce non-zero pseudomomentum (by construction, $\bar{\xi} = 0$). The next order of pseudomomentum relevant in terms of wave distortion is then generated by *two* primary $O(\epsilon)$ harmonics interacting with the Langmuir wave. The Langmuir wave must therefore be of $O(1)$ (and not $O(\epsilon)$) for this distortion to scale with the principal pseudomomentum (5.7). Such wave distortions will then be spanwise-periodic with wavenumbers k_{1y} and $3k_{1y}$. The streamwise component of the Langmuir wave is, similar to CL2, the first to become significantly large as this is proportional to Re^2 . Flow simulations are presented later in section 7. Examining velocity fields from these simulations (examining \hat{u} minus the its spanwise mean) reveals that the streamwise component of the Langmuir wave is about 5% the magnitude of the principal flow at $Re_\tau = 30$, $a = 0.0635$, and significantly less for smaller Reynolds numbers and amplitudes. It seems quite possible that wave distortion generated by the Langmuir wave plays a role in the unstable behaviour and emergence of higher wavenumbers observed at larger Reynolds numbers. The theoretical model accords with the observed magnitude of the streamwise Langmuir wave component and indicates that the no-slip boundary condition for the Langmuir wave is active in reducing its magnitude below $O(\epsilon^2 Re^2)$.

6. Results

6.1. Free surface flow

In this section we consider free surface flows with the power law profile (3.9), i.e., adopting the free surface boundary condition in (3.7)/(3.13) (using the ‘mixed’ condition in (A 1c) and (A 3) when discussing no-slip flows). Even though we have presented an efficient numerical procedure for arbitrary shear currents, the the power law (3.9), as adopted by Phillips *et al.* (1996), is a suitable choice for exploring a variety of curvatures.

The Froude number of a free surface flow affects Langmuir circulation only through the upper boundary, which is in phase with the bathymetry when the Froude number is sub-critical and in anti-phase when super-critical (Lamb 1932, Art. 246). For definiteness, we fix it at a sub-critical value $Fr = 0.5$. The critical Froude number is unity for a uniform current and

$$Fr_c^2 = \frac{k I_{q-\frac{1}{2}}[k(1+\delta)]I_{-q+\frac{1}{2}}(k\delta) - I_{-q+\frac{1}{2}}[k(1+\delta)]I_{q-\frac{1}{2}}(k\delta)}{k_x^2 I_{q+\frac{1}{2}}[k(1+\delta)]I_{-q+\frac{1}{2}}(k\delta) - I_{-q-\frac{1}{2}}[k(1+\delta)]I_{q-\frac{1}{2}}(k\delta)}, \quad (6.1)$$

with the power law profile (3.9)—see e.g. Lamb (1932, Art. 246) or Akselsen & Ellingsen (2019a). Whether the upper boundary is a wall or a free surface affects the Langmuir circulation mainly by determining whether this motion should be subject to a full-slip condition or not. The Froude number enters only the boundary condition of the linear wave. Wall undulations must generate surface undulations of comparable magnitude for the Froude number to notably affect the circulation. This happens only when the flow itself is shallow ($k \ll 1$) or when the Froude number is close to criticality. Neither is the case in the presented examples so that the sensitivity to the Froude number is weak.

We start by considering the primary current profiles drawn in figure 3 for the power law (3.9) with varying exponent values $q = 0.1, 0.5, 1.0$ and 5.0 . Values of displacement δ (need not be small) are chosen to give the same wall velocity $U(0) = U_b = 0.2$, i.e., $\delta = U_b^{1/q}/(1 - U_b^{1/q})$. In figure 4–6, we compare the stream functions $\psi(z)$ and the streamwise velocity component $u(z)$ generated by these profiles. Three depths, $k_1 = 3\pi, \pi$

and 1, are considered. These represent deep, intermediate and shallow water, respectively, as can be seen in the real-space streamline plots in figure 7. Note that $k_1 = 3\pi$ and π can both be considered ‘deep’ in terms of the first order Rayleigh wave, yet the Langmuir wave penetrates much deeper. This feature makes Langmuir circulation an effective mixing mechanism.

Vortex centres are vertically located at the extrema of the stream function $\psi(z)$. An extremum of $\psi(z)$ serves as a measure of vortex turnover as it equals half the volume flux per unit along the x -axis through a cross-section passing from a vortex centre to one of the boundaries. ($\psi(z)$ is chosen zero at the boundaries.) Vortex solutions are directly proportional to powers of a , Re and, in the case of transient inviscid flow, t . We therefore adopt normalised stream functions $-2 \operatorname{Im} \psi / (t a^2)$ when inviscid and $-2 \operatorname{Im} \psi / (Re a^2)$ for stationary viscous flow, and the normalised streamwise velocity perturbations $2u / (t a)^2$ and $2u / (Re a)^2$ in the same flows, respectively. This renders the normalised solutions independent of t , Re and a .

Compared to the inviscid, transient case, an effect of viscosity is to push the vortex centres out away from the boundaries. This is expected and was also demonstrated by Craik (1970). In addition, the no-slip boundary condition is seen to significantly reduce the steady state vortex intensity and also to push the vortex slightly further away from the lower boundary. No-slip conditions are appropriate for rigid walls and full-slip conditions for free surfaces.

Vortex intensity is governed by the presence of the two main ingredients for Langmuir circulation—the wave-like perturbation of current streamlines, proportional to the vertical velocity enforced by the bed, and the shear of the primary flow. Since the current profiles have been made to have the same velocity at the bed, the profile with the strongest shear near the bed (the lowest q) has the greatest vortex intensity.

The power law profile with a low exponent value q has historically often been used as a model for turbulent boundary layers. In fact, a general consensus has in recent years formed that the power law performs better than the log law over rough boundaries or at low Reynolds numbers (Barenblatt 1993; Bergstrom *et al.* 2001; Djenidi *et al.* 1997; George & Castillo 1997). A range of exponent values have over the years been suggested for such flows, ranging between 1/3 to 1/12 depending on roughness and Reynolds number (Cheng 2007; Chen 1991; Dolcetti *et al.* 2016). Models of varying sophistication for relating the power law exponent to a particular a boundary layer are available. For example, adopting the much celebrated model proposed by Barenblatt (1993) (his equation 16 with a hydraulic diameter assumption), we compute that the example exponent $q = 0.1$ is a suitable representation of a turbulent boundary layer of wall Reynolds number 2.8×10^4 .

The influence of the angle θ of \mathbf{k}_1 , $\theta = \arctan(k_{1y}/k_{1x})$, is demonstrated in figure 8, showing for fixed moduli k_1 peak values of $\psi(z)$ proportional to vortex turnover. Wavenumbers are $k_1 = \pi$ and 1.0 in the top and bottom panels, respectively. Strongest vortex intensity is typically observed within the range $10^\circ < \theta < 25^\circ$ where $-\operatorname{Im} \psi > 0$, meaning that zones of downwelling are aligned with extrema in the bathymetry such that vortex rolls push fluid down towards peaks and troughs in the bed topography. The streamwise velocity component u is also positive in this range so that the strongest velocity perturbation in the downstream direction is found along the extrema in the bathymetry while the strongest counter-current perturbations lie above the ‘saddle-point ridge’. Naturally, vortex intensity approaches zero in the orthogonal orientations $\theta = 0$ and 90° .

Circulation intensity increases with increasing non-dimensional wavenumbers modulus k_1 , which constitutes increasing the relative depth. Since depth is used as the normali-

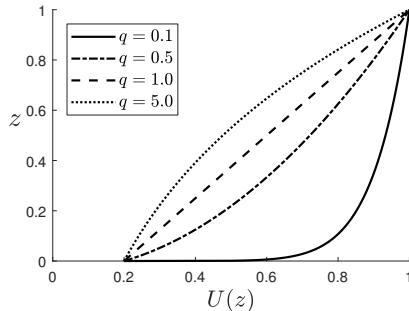


FIGURE 3. Primary flow profiles $U(z)$ from (3.9) with δ values such that $U(0) = 0.20$.

sation length scale, increasing k_1 amounts to changing the wall undulation wavelength while keeping its amplitude and the water depth fixed. We have observed with the viscous flows that the increase in circulation intensity flattens out around $k_1 \gtrsim \pi$ beyond which point the vortex motion is no longer restricted by the upper boundary. With the transient inviscid flows, the intensity of vortex wave growth continues to increase with higher wavenumber moduli.

Figure 8 reveals that the rotational direction of vortices relative to the bathymetry can switch as a function of θ , i.e. at a critical value of θ the extrema of $\psi(z)$ change sign. From (4.5) we see that the forcing term $\mathcal{R}(z)$ in the Rayleigh/Orr–Sommerfeld equation is always positive in the range $0^\circ < \theta < 45^\circ$ whenever $U(z)$ is monotonically increasing. The switch in rotational direction therefore occurs in the range $45^\circ < \theta < 90^\circ$. Furthermore, $\mathcal{R}(z)$ is directly proportional to $(p'_1)^2$ at $\theta = 45^\circ$, which vanishes in the shallow water limit $k_1 \rightarrow 0$ as the shallow flow becomes depth uniform. The critical angle is therefore always $\theta = 45^\circ$ in the shallow water limit. Tests with a wide range of parameters indicate that the critical angle increases with increasing wavenumber and so does the relative difference in intensity between the two rotational orientations; in the deeper viscous flows ($k_1 = 3\pi$ and π), the ‘negative’ circulation at high θ -values is orders of magnitude weaker than at the ‘positive’ peak in the 5° – 25° range. Increasing the depth reduces the θ of strongest circulation.

The vertical location of the vortex centres is depicted in figure 9, again as function of θ . Locations are not strongly dependent on θ , but a sharp jump is observed where the switch in rotational direction occurs. This is because more than a single vortex, rotating in opposite directions, is present vertically in the region of this switch. These are both weak in intensity. The plot in figure 9 shows the location of the vortex whose magnitude is greater, hence there is a jump in location as a new vortex starts to dominate. To illustrate, figure 10 shows the stream function $\psi(z)$ at a state close to the directional switch; two extrema are present, meaning counter-rotating vortices aligned vertically.

The sensitivity to the displacement parameter δ is considered next. Figure 11(a) shows the near-logarithmic profile $q = 0.1$ and the linear profile $q = 1.0$ for δ 's corresponding to $U(0) = 0.20, 0.4, 0.6$ and 0.8 . The other panels of figure 11 show ψ and u for the $k_1 = \pi$ bed topography. The strongest circulation is sometimes observed at an intermediate $U(0)$ -value since its intensity depends on both shear strength and current velocity at the wall. Notice that the near-logarithmic profile $q = 0.1$ is fairly insensitive to δ for all but the largest δ -value. We interoperate this as a balance in logarithmic profiles between decreasing (increasing) shear and increasing (decreasing) current velocity at the wall.

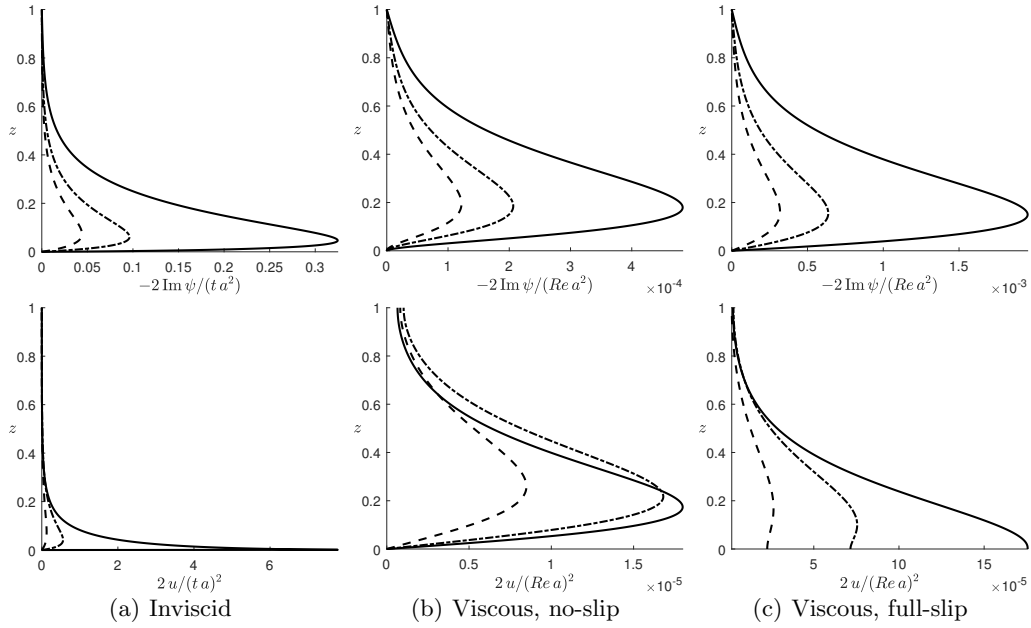


FIGURE 4. Free surface flow. Normalised stream function (top row) and normalised streamwise velocity perturbation (bottom row) as function of vertical position. $k_1 = 3\pi$, $\arctan(k_{1y}/k_{1x}) = \pi/8$. Power law (3.9) primary flow profile; solid, dot-dashed, dashed and stippled dotted lines respectively show $q = 0.1, 0.5, 1.0$ and 5.0 with δ values such that $U(0) = 0.20$ (cf. figure 3).

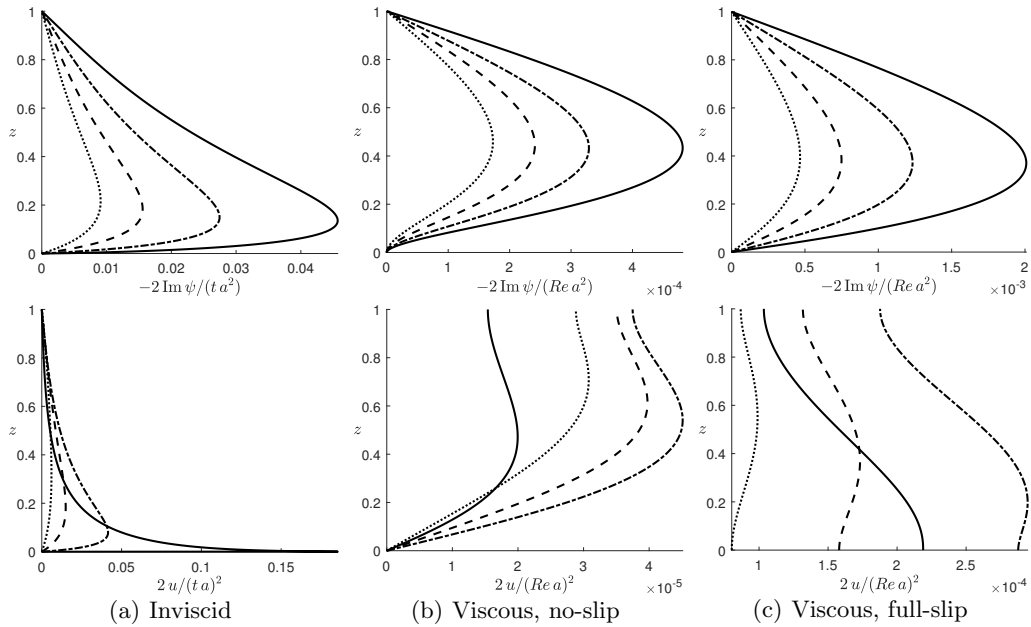


FIGURE 5. Similar to figure 5, but with increased wavelength (reduced depth) $k_1 = \pi$.

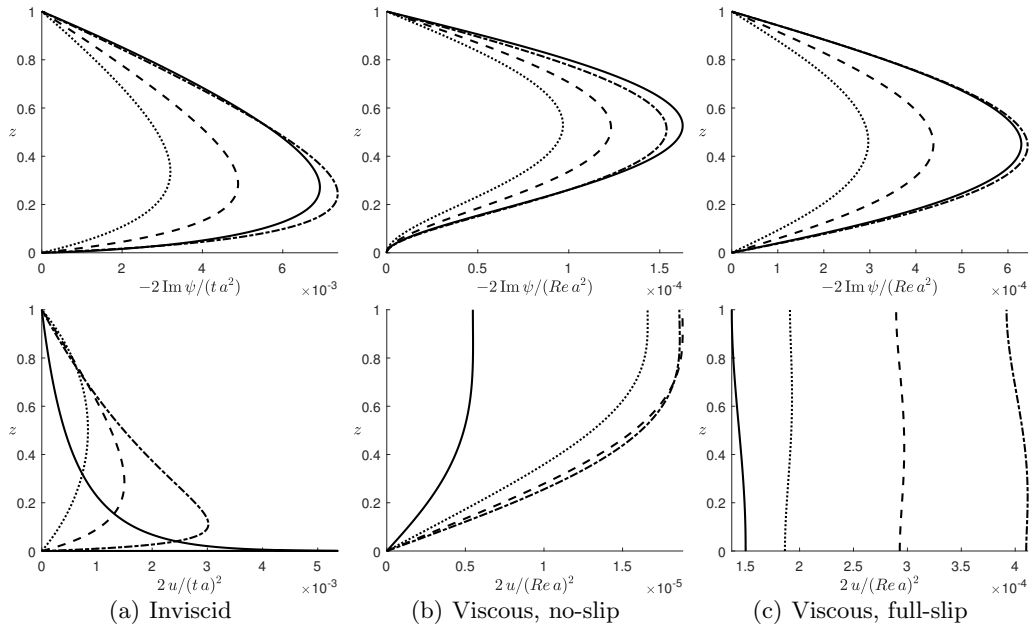


FIGURE 6. Similar to figure 5, but with increased wavelength (reduced depth) $k_1 = 1.0$.

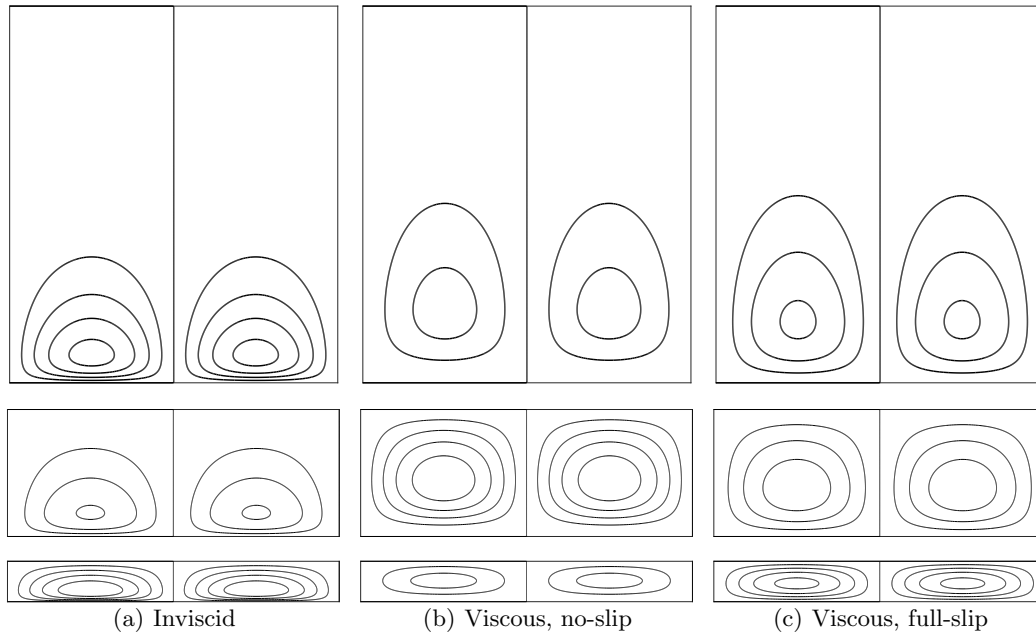


FIGURE 7. Streamlines $\hat{\psi} = \text{constant}$ in free surface flow for the $q = 1.0$ power law profile (cf. figure 3–6. Top: $k_1 = 3\pi$. Middle: $k_1 = \pi$. Bottom: $k_1 = 1.0$. $\arctan(k_{1y}/k_{1x}) = \pi/8$. Isoline values of $\hat{\psi}$ can be inferred from the graphs in figure 4–6 as these give the stream function values in a vertical line running through the vortex centre.

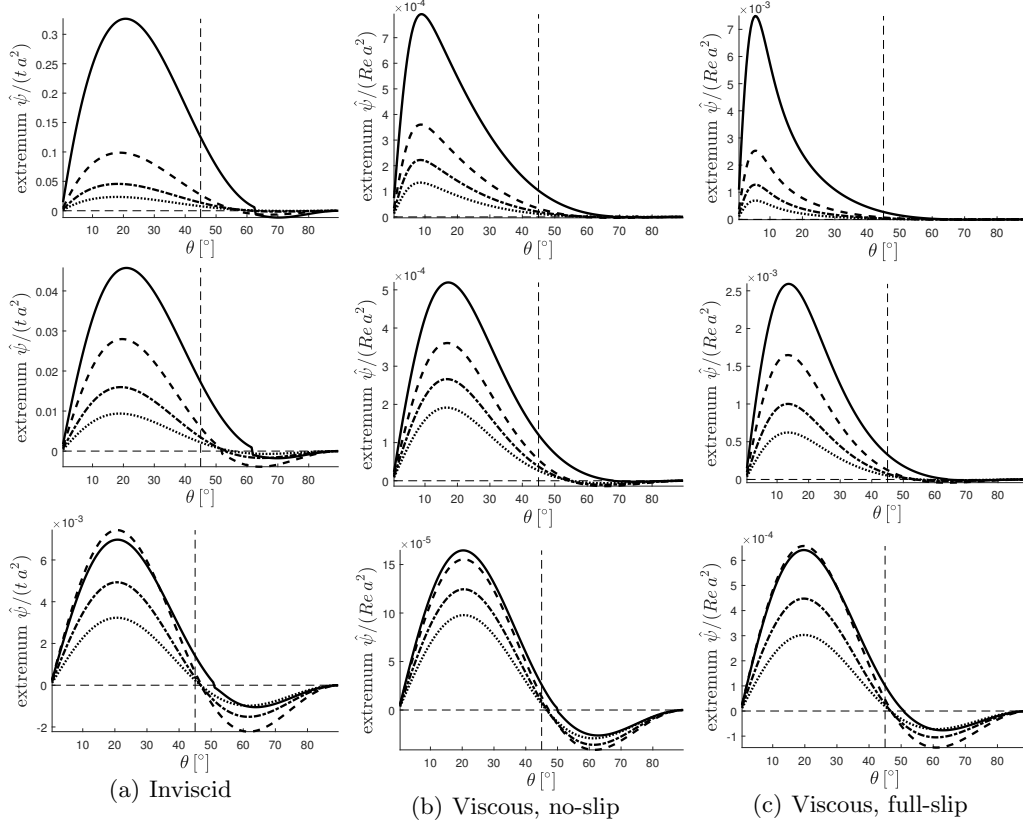


FIGURE 8. Extremum of appropriate normalised stream functions as function of the wave vector angle $\theta = \arctan(k_{1y}/k_{1x})$ in free surface flow. This value is proportional to the vortex volume flow through a cross-section from the vortex centre out. Top row: $k = \pi$. Bottom row: $k = 1.0$. Power law (3.9) primary flow profile; solid, dot-dashed, dashed and stippled dotted lines respectively show $q = 0.1$, 0.5 , 1.0 and 5.0 with δ values such that $U(0) = 0.20$ (cf. figure 3).

6.2. Wall bounded laminar flow

For the flow bounded by walls both above and below we adopt a parabolic current profile

$$U(z) = 4[1 - \zeta(z)]\zeta(z); \quad \zeta(z) = \frac{z + \delta}{1 + 2\delta}, \quad (6.2)$$

representing the laminar flow sketched in figure 12. Numerical integration is employed for the first-order solution.

We can adjust the relative phase of the upper and lower boundary by allowing the mode amplitudes η to be complex; letting the boundary undulation amplitude be a on both boundary, we shift the phase of the upper boundary an angle $\pi + \vartheta$ in the y -direction by letting $\eta_b = \frac{a}{4}$ and $\eta_s = -\frac{a}{4}e^{\pm i\vartheta}$. We then have

$$\hat{\eta}_s = \sum_{s_x, s_y = \pm 1} \left(-\frac{a}{4} e^{i s_y \vartheta} \right) e^{i(s_x k_{1x} x + s_y k_{1y} y)} = -a \cos(k_{1x} x) \cos(k_{1y} y + \vartheta) \quad (6.3)$$

while the lower boundary $\hat{\eta}_b$ is still given by (4.1). Relative wall positions are sketched in figure 13.

Similar to the previous section, amplitudes of the stream function and streamwise

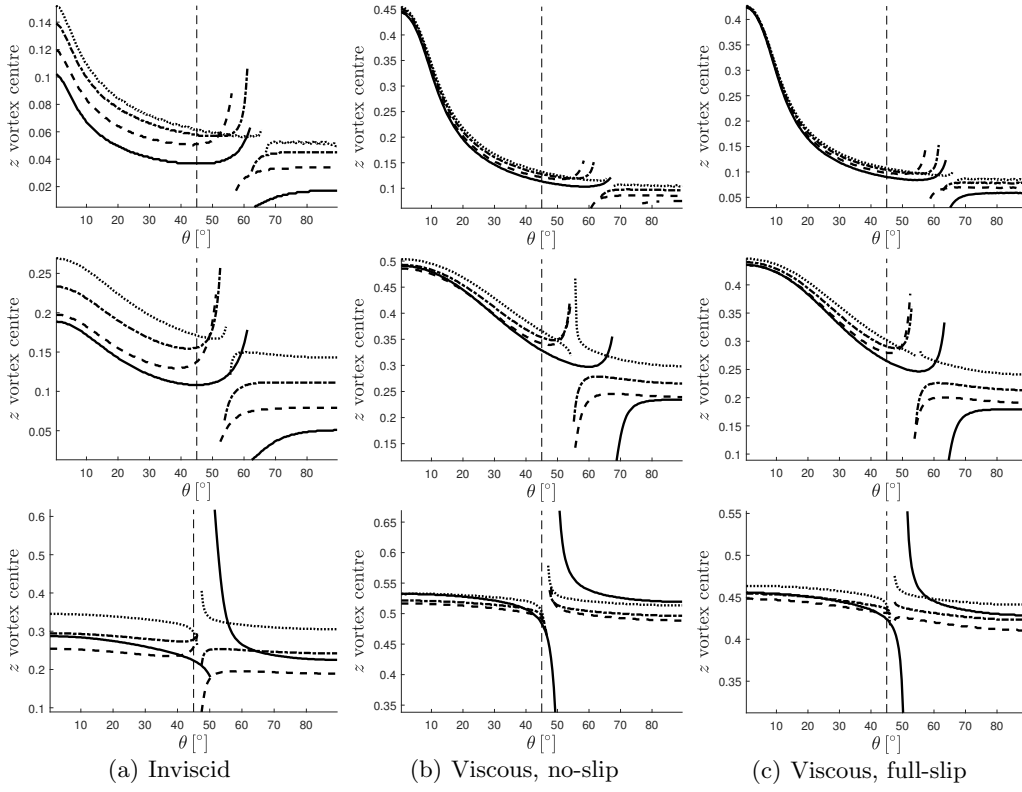


FIGURE 9. Vertical position of vortex centre as function of the wave vector angle $\theta = \arctan(k_{1y}/k_{1x})$ in free surface flow. See caption of figure 8 for further details.

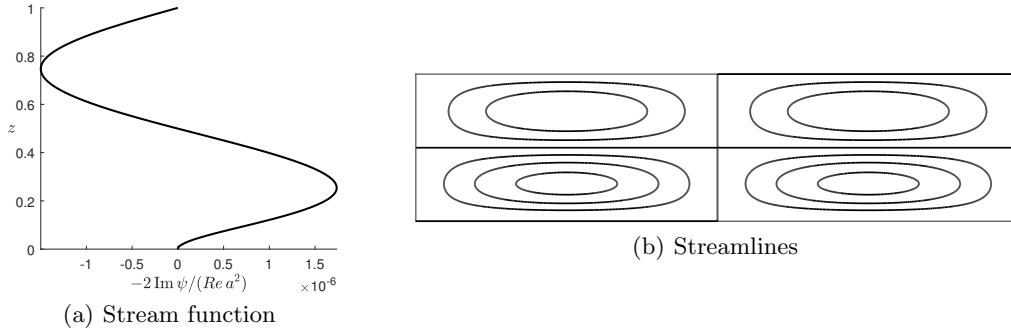


FIGURE 10. Normalised stream function and streamlines at a value of θ near the point where the rotational direction of vortices switches. Viscous, no-slip case with $k_1 = 1.0$, $\theta = 50^\circ$, $q = 0.1$ and $U(0) = 0.20$.

velocity component are shown in figure 14 and 15 as functions of z and δ . Functions $\psi(z)$ and $u(z)$ each have both real and imaginary components whenever $\vartheta \neq 0$ due to the spanwise skewness induced (see (4.8)). Absolute values are therefore plotted when $\vartheta \neq 0$. Streamlines, as they appear in physical space, are shown in figure 16. Figure 14–16 show that boundaries which are in-phase ($\vartheta = 0$) generate vertical vortex pairs which rotate in opposite senses, generating horizontal jets in the cross-flow plane along the horizontal plane $z = 1/2$. Conversely, boundaries which are shifted $\vartheta = \pi/2$ generate co-rotating

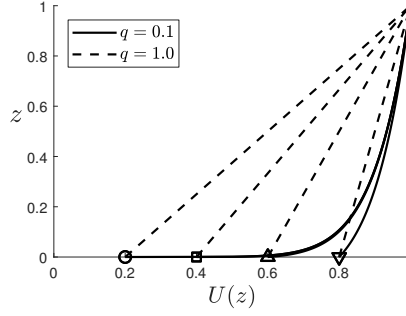
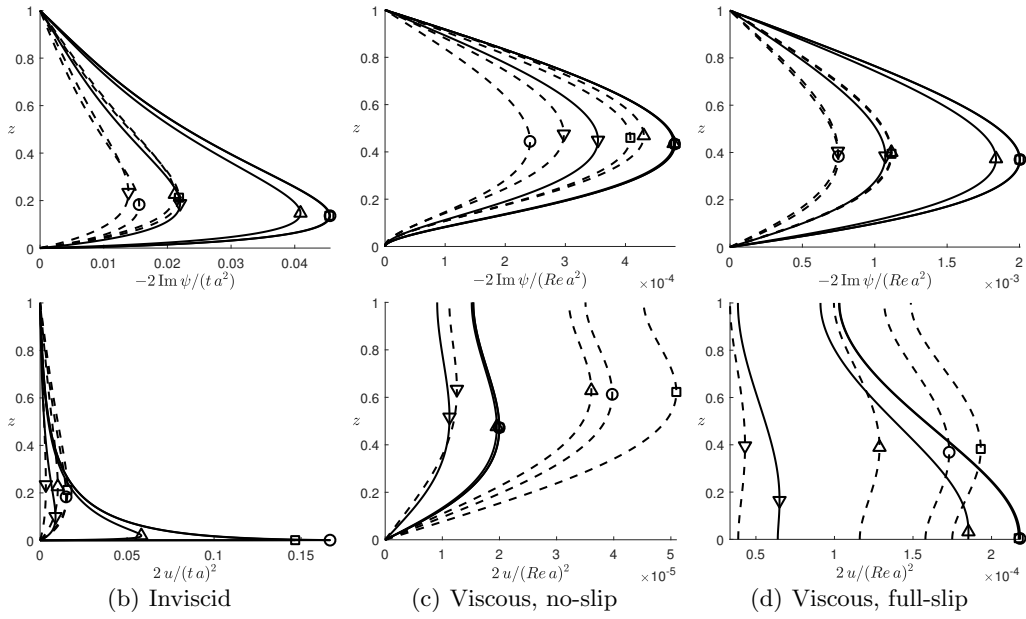
(a) Primary flow profiles $U(z)$ from (3.9).

FIGURE 11. Free surface flow for varying values of displacement parameter δ with δ -values such that $U(0) = 0.20, 0.4, 0.6$ and 0.8 , respective markers indicated in figure (a). Solid: $q = 0.1$, dashed: $q = 1.0$. Figure (a): Current profile. Figures (b)–(d): Normalised stream function (top row) and normalised streamwise velocity perturbation (bottom row) as function of vertical position, graphed for various values of δ with the power law model (3.9). $k_1 = \pi$, $\arctan(k_{1y}/k_{1x}) = \pi/8$. (Curves occasionally overlap.)

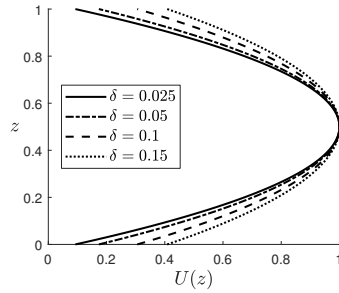


FIGURE 12. Parabolic current profile.

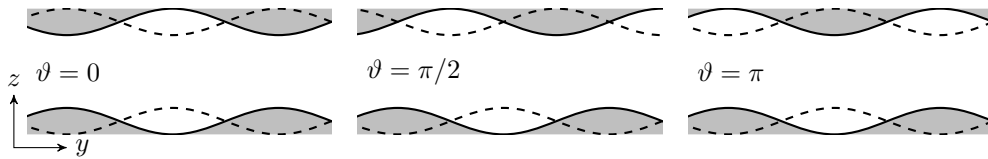


FIGURE 13. Sketch of relative wall phase shift when looking along the streamwise direction.

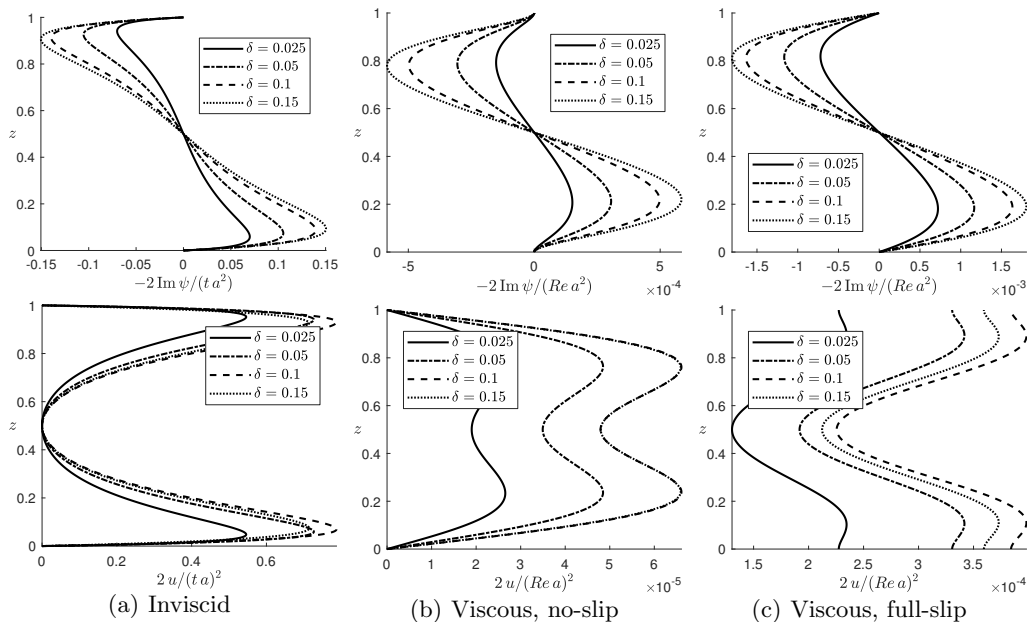
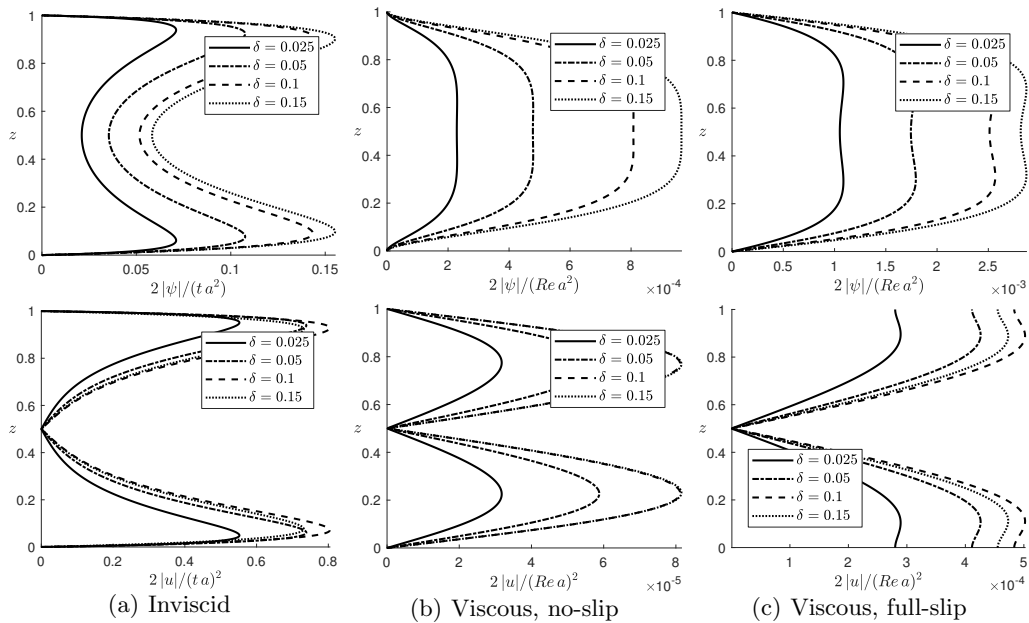


FIGURE 14. Doubly wall-bounded flow. Normalised stream function and streamwise velocity perturbation for three values of δ . Parabolic current profile (figure 12) and a wall bounded domain with $\vartheta = 0$ (see figure 13). $k_1 = 2\pi$, $\theta = \pi/8$.

vortex pairs. If sufficiently closely situated, these will negate each other's horizontal flow along the symmetry plane $z = 1/2$ and merge into a single vortex spanning the cross-section. Such a single vortex generally generates stronger turnover than does a vortex pair. Also, we observe in numerous computations that the closer the vortices are squeezed together (the lower the value of k_1) the easier they merge into a single vortex spanning the vertical domain—more so for viscous flows than inviscid flows.

7. Simulated laminar flow

The perturbation theory presented so far sheds light on the subject of structurally generated Langmuir circulation, yet a vital question still remains to be answered: What happens to the boundary layer? The presence of Langmuir circulation beneath free surfaces is of course well established, but these boundaries allow for a slip velocity whereas flow stagnation takes place at a rigid boundary. Will Langmuir circulation even appear near a no-slip boundary? We have so far circumvented the issue by assuming that the bulk current velocity $U(z)$ *does* have some slip velocity at the reference planes $z = 0, 1$. This assumption is perhaps less alien when considering a turbulent boundary layer—assuming a slip governed by the ‘law of the wall’ is a common approach within turbulence

FIGURE 15. Same as figure 14 but with $\vartheta = \pi/2$.

modelling—but is not easily justified in laminar flows. We must then consider wall undulation amplitudes that penetrate some depth into the flow field, and these amplitudes must in turn somehow be related to the undulation amplitude a and the displacement height δ introduced in the perturbation theory. A sketch is presented in figure 17 where we regard a streamsurface within the flow as the ‘seen’ surface. The closer this surface is to the actual wall (the smaller the δ) the more the boundary undulations will resemble the actual known undulation of the wall. Further away the ‘seen’ amplitude will be smaller and less sinusoidal as also the opposing boundary contributes to compress the streamlines. On the other hand, the perturbation theory rests on the assumption that the variation in current velocity across the perturbation is small relative to the velocity at the reference plane, which improves in validity at larger δ .

We have at our disposal a code for numerical flow simulations using the lattice-Boltzmann method, with which we have generated simulation results within the laminar flow regime for the purpose of demonstrating that the artefacts of our perturbation theory do in fact manifest in real, nonlinear flows. Although the lattice-Boltzmann method is usually not first choice in terms of accuracy and computational efficiency, it proved easily adaptable to the present problem since the undulated boundaries could be represented simply by marking nodes outside the flow domain as ‘solid’ nodes. The code has been validated against two- and three-dimensional lid-driven cavity flow cases. These benchmarks are presented in the supplementary material.

In order to compare the simulated flow field to our theoretical results, we compute an approximation of ψ from the streamwise averaged velocity field based on the principle of volume flux. Provided the vortices are not skewed (ϑ is a right or straight angle),

$$\tilde{\psi}(z) = \int_0^z d\xi \bar{v}(y_0, \xi), \quad (7.1)$$

approximates ψ , \bar{v} being the streamwise mean of the spanwise velocity component.

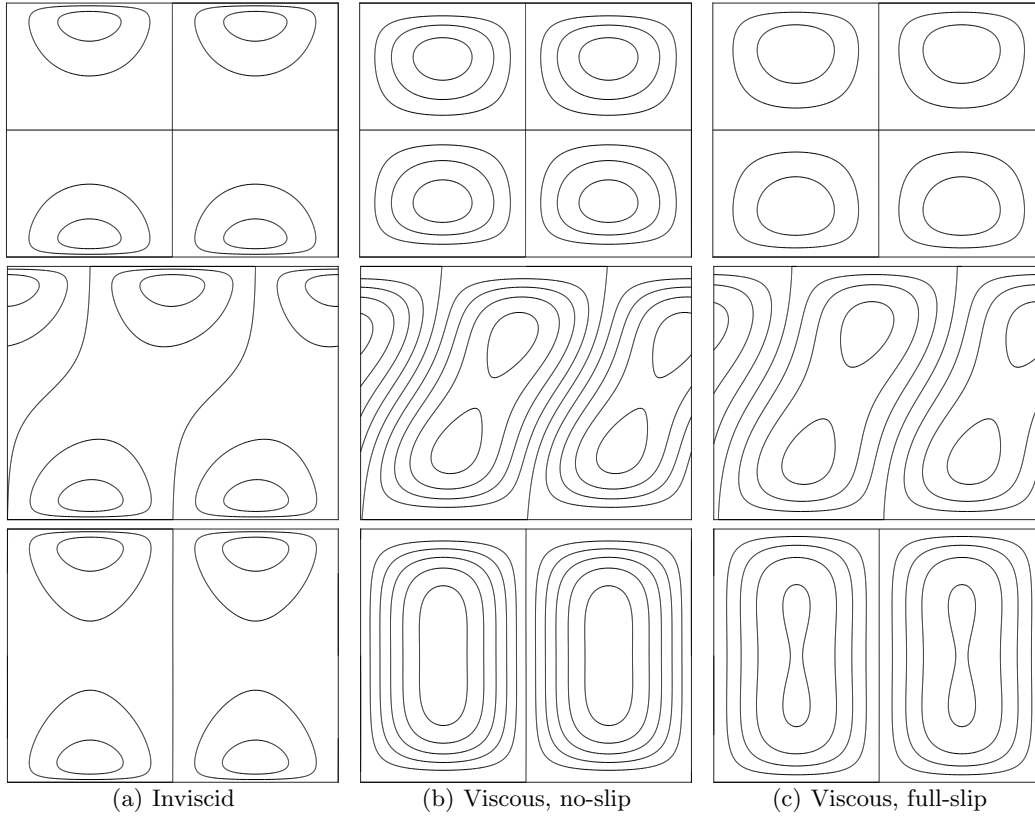


FIGURE 16. Wall bounded flow. Streamlines $\hat{\psi} = \text{constant}$ for $\vartheta = 0$ (top row, cf. figure 14), $\vartheta = \pi/4$ (middle row) and $\vartheta = \pi/2$ (bottom row, cf. figure 15). $\delta = 0.05$ and $k_1 = 2\pi$, $\theta = \pi/8$.

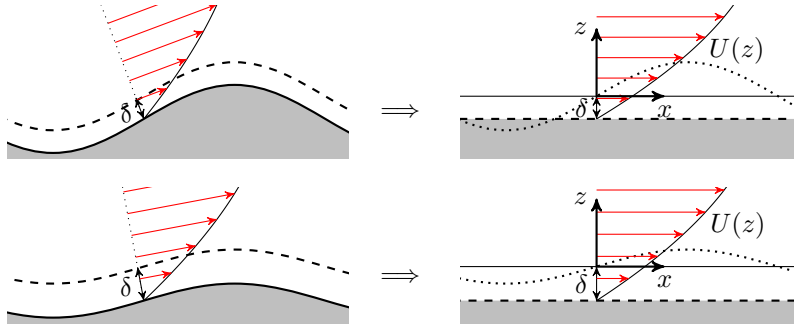


FIGURE 17. Conceptual representation near the boundary with no-slip at the walls with a slip velocity reference boundary located some distance δ within the flow. Streamlines resemble the actual boundary curvature more closely when δ is smaller than the amplitude a (top sketch), although this makes the perturbation amplitudes large relative to the assumptions of the linear theory. The situation is the opposite if $\delta > a$ (bottom sketch).

Spanwise position y_0 is the spanwise coordinate of the vortex centre. We here assume $y_0 = \pi/4k_{1y}$. Simulation results for a range of wall Reynolds numbers, $Re_\tau = (h/2)u_*/\nu$ where $u_* = \sqrt{\tau_w/\rho}$, are shown in figure 18 and 19. The wall Reynolds number is here the appropriately fixed parameter (a measure of the flow forcing) and relates to $Re = hU_0/\nu$

as $Re = Re_\tau^2$ in the case of flat-walled, laminar Poiseuille flow. The figures show, when compared to the viscous, stationary results of figure 14–16, qualitative agreement between simulation and theory in terms of vortex orientation and rotational direction. Normalised steady-state quantities $\hat{\psi}/(Re a^2)$ and $\hat{u}/(Re a)^2$ are in the theory invariant to the Reynolds number, although Reynolds number dependency is evident in the simulation results, notably in the $\vartheta = \pi/2$ case where the value of the Reynolds number affects the degree to which vortices are merged to cover the cross-sections or exist as separate, co-rotating vortex pairs. It should also be noted that, contrary to the $\vartheta = 0$ topography, the $\vartheta = \pi/2$ topography is not antisymmetric about the horizontal plain $z = 1/2$. This generates some minor vertical asymmetry in each vortex due to dynamic effects. The asymmetry differs between the four vortices in each spanwise period; we here display the vortex centred at $y = \pi/4k_{1y}$.

Figure 20 shows slices of the velocity field in the yz -plane at a prescribed x -location. These are not averaged in the streamwise direction and so give an impression of the circulation strength relative to the first-order undulating motion. The two types of motion are in the cases studied found to be of the same order of magnitude, with first-order motion dominating near peaks and troughs, and circulation dominating in the intervening regions. The slices shown in the plots of figure 20 are at the somewhat arbitrary location $x = \pi/6k_{1x}$. Circulation intensity relative to the undulating motion increases with increasing Reynolds numbers.

Quantitatively, the simulations most closely resemble the no-slip boundary condition cases where the value for δ is small. This dependency escalates with increased wall undulation amplitude. For the sake of brevity and clarity we have not attempted to adjust the simulation parameters to better accommodate our theoretical construct. Indeed, the undulation amplitudes used in the normalisation are the actual amplitudes and not an estimate of the streamsurface amplitudes seen by the flow above some displacement thickness. (Recall that the circulation is theoretically proportional to these amplitudes squared.) Likewise, the duct height h is taken as the average distance between the actual walls.

Earlier, in section 6.1, we made the observation that large values of θ (i.e., boundary undulations that are stretched out in the streamwise direction rather than the spanwise) can generate vortices which rotate in the opposite direction relative to the boundary topography (pushing fluid away from peaks and troughs as opposed to in towards them). Simulation results for such a case, where $\theta = 3\pi/8$ and $k_1 = \pi$, are presented in figure 21 along with some corresponding theoretical stream functions. We observe that the rotation is indeed reversed in the bulk interior of the cross-section (compared with e.g. figure 18), although thin additional vortices appear close to the walls which still rotate in an unreversed direction. This may be an artefact of the dynamic stresses caused by the undulating boundaries which has not been incorporated into our kinematic theory. (The only means with which other harmonics are filtered out field is through the averaging in the streamwise direction.) Viscosity serves to modify the first-order wave field and give a spanwise perturbation to the primary flow. Dynamic effects may generate circulation with its own rotational preference, as observed in turbulent flows by Anderson *et al.* (2015); Chan *et al.* (2018); Yang & Anderson (2018); Vanderwel & Ganapathisubramani (2015); Kevin *et al.* (2017). Presumably, a dynamic rotational effect is always present, either assisting or impeding the Langmuir circulation.

Secondary vortex motion, aligned with the flow, can be generated via spanwise intermittent roughness patches (Anderson *et al.* 2015; Willingham *et al.* 2014) or streamwise-

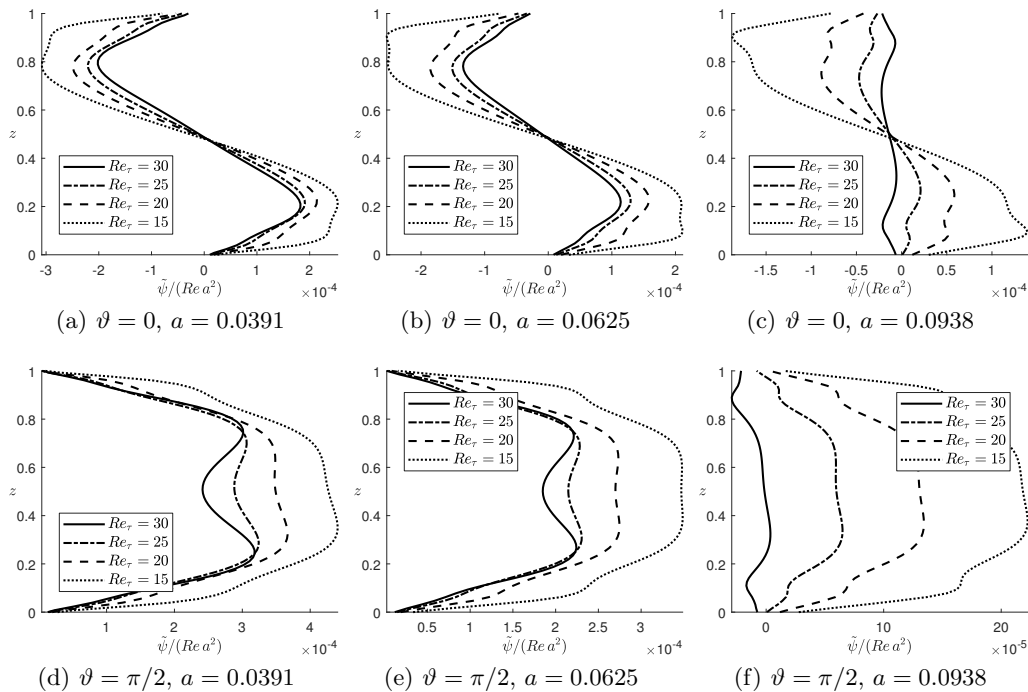


FIGURE 18. Double wall-bounded flow. Normalised stream functions $\tilde{\psi}/(Re a^2)$ estimated from the steady states of lattice-Boltzmann simulations using (7.1). $k_1 \approx 2\pi$, $\theta \approx \pi/8$.

aligned obstacles (Yang & Anderson 2018; Vanderwel & Ganapathisubramani 2015; Kevin *et al.* 2017; Sirovich & Karlsson 1997). Anderson *et al.* (2015) demonstrated that these structures are related to Prandtl’s secondary flow of the second kind, driven and sustained by spatial gradients in the Reynolds-stress components.

Our simulations start showing signs of vortex instability at wall Reynolds numbers above 30. An example is shown in figure 22. The degree of instability also increases with increased boundary undulation amplitude and seems more unstable for $\vartheta = \pi/2$ than $\vartheta = 0$ as the former generate vortices which are more stretched out over the cross-section. Vortex instability manifests as the spawning of higher-wavenumber vortices. These are naturally less steady as the Reynolds number increases. Longitudinal vortex instability is a well-studied phenomenon since their discovery by (Craik 1977), and their effect on strongly sheared flows such as those considered here thoroughly investigated by Phillips and co-workers (Phillips & Wu 1994; Phillips & Shen 1996; Phillips *et al.* 1996; Phillips & Dai 2014). Vortex instability is likely to play a decisive role in the evolution of flows over undulating topographies as we move towards the turbulent regime.

8. Summary and closing remarks

We have studied the creation of streamwise vortices in shear flows over a wall with a particular topography. The roll-like flow structures are closely analogous to Langmuir circulation created through a strong shear ‘CL1’-type mechanism for the algebraic instability of longitudinal vortices. Instead of a shear flow beneath the wavy free surface normally associated with Langmuir circulation, the same mechanism can be imposed on a flow by furnishing walls with a criss-crossing wavy pattern. Under sufficient influence of

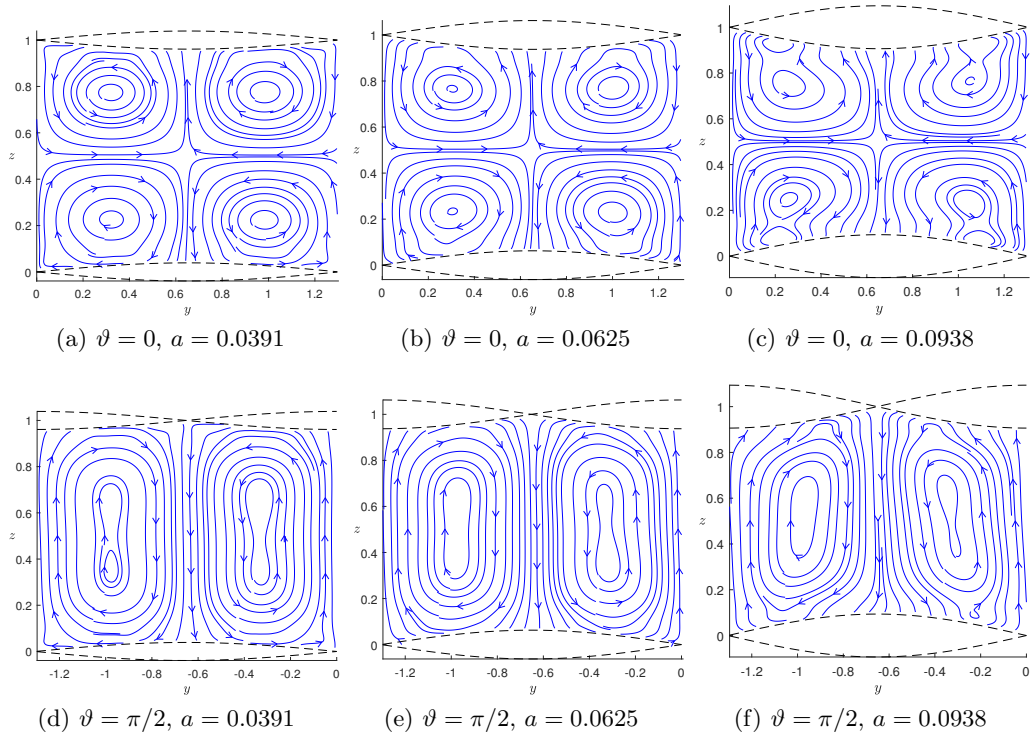


FIGURE 19. Numerically computed streamlines of the two-dimensional velocity field obtained when averaging along the streamwise dimension. $Re_\tau = 20$, $k_1 \approx 2\pi$, $\theta \approx \pi/8$.

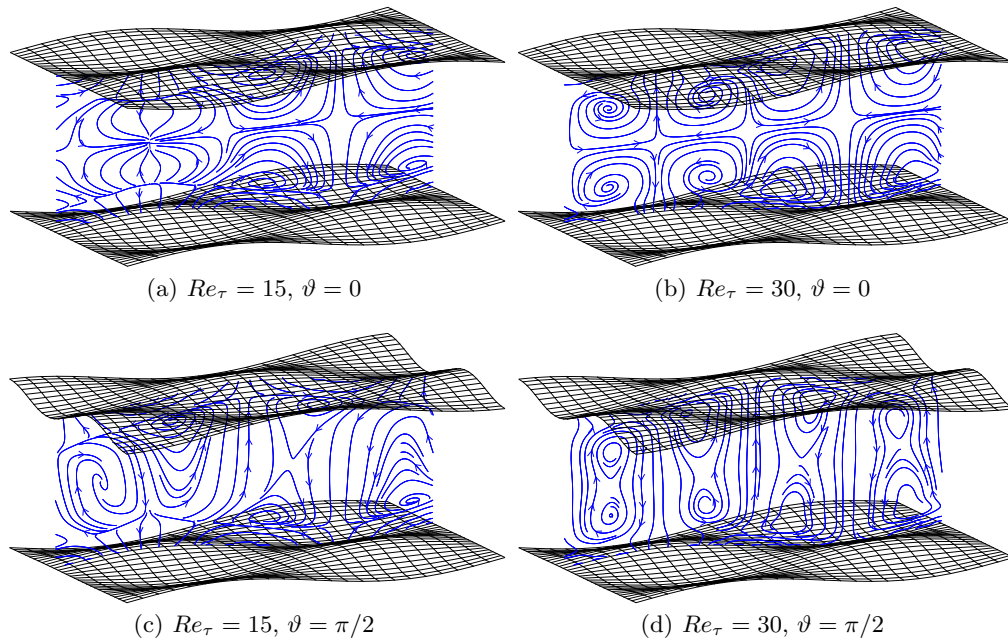


FIGURE 20. Streamlines slices of full three-dimensional flow field. $a \approx 0.0625$, $k_1 \approx 2\pi$, $\theta \approx \pi/8$. Slice at $x = \pi/6k_{1x}$.

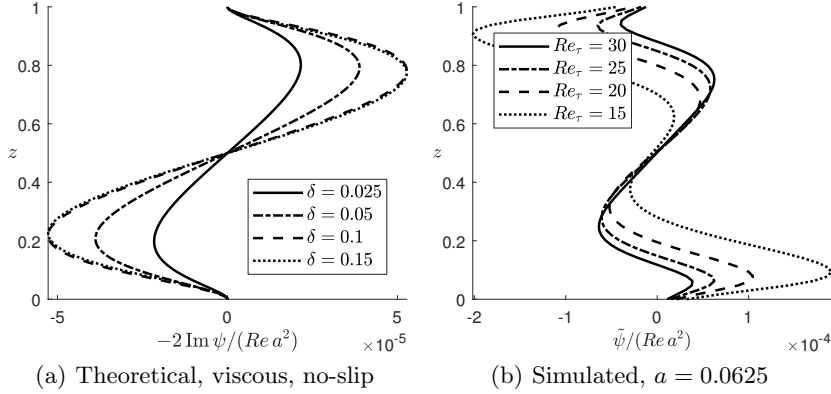


FIGURE 21. ‘Rotating the boundary topography’; $\theta = 3\pi/8$. This will, according to theory, cause rotation in the opposite direction relative to the boundary undulations. $k_1 = \pi$, $\vartheta = 0$.

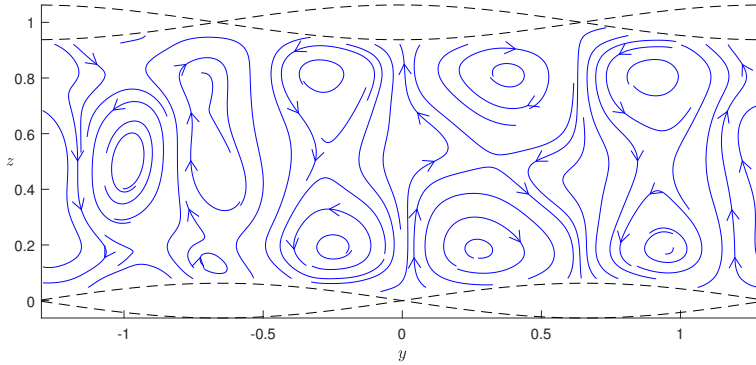


FIGURE 22. Unstable vortex field. $Re_\tau = 40$, $\vartheta = \pi/2$, $\theta = \pi/8$, $k_1 = 2\pi$.

viscosity, the flow structures due to the CL1-instability will stabilise and form coherent longitudinal vortices whose transverse size matches the wavelength of the chosen wall topography. This mode of circulation requires no external forcing other than maintaining the ambient shear flow, but functions by redirecting the vorticity inherently present in the current itself.

Assuming a shear profile of arbitrary form $U(z)$ when unperturbed, a resonant wave-current interaction is computed in two limiting cases: transient inviscid circulation and steady-state viscous circulation. The vortical motion in the cross-flow plane grows proportional to $a^2 t$ in the early, essentially inviscid stage (a : wave-pattern amplitude, t : time), and is proportional to $Re a^2$ in the latter, viscous steady state. The instability is algebraic in nature, growing linearly with time in the former case and to the Reynolds number in the latter. The streamwise velocity perturbations are respectively proportional to these quantities squared.

After the onset of the instability, at first purely kinematically driven and essentially inviscid, viscosity serves to push the vortex centres out away from the undulating boundaries. Vortex intensity is observed to be greatest in the wavelength range where vortex height and width are comparable. Circulation is also typically strongest when the half-angle θ between the crossing plane waves making up the sinusoidal wall corrugations lies in the range $10^\circ < \theta < 25^\circ$. A reversal of the direction of circulation is possible within the range $\theta > 45^\circ$, albeit with weaker rotation strength. Several weak vortices can coexist

vertically in the region where this switch of rotational direction takes place. For a channel flow between two similarly corrugated walls, the circulation generated near each wall can merge into single vortices spanning the cross-section, provided the two boundaries are suitably shifted relative to each other. Such a merger is more pronounced the closer the boundaries are situated relative to vortex wavelength.

The investigation has been supplemented with laminar flow simulations using a lattice-Boltzmann method. These simulations show that the forced circulation phenomenon does indeed take place also in laminar flows over no-slip boundaries, and that the resulting circulation is qualitatively similar to the results of the perturbation theory even though the latter conceptually assumes a current velocity at the walls. The laminar simulations furthermore show that circulation is quickly established relative to the time it takes for the primary flow to stabilise. The circulation intensity is comparable to the intensity of the first-order motion. Dynamic effects, excluded from the theoretical model, were here also observed in near-wall regions. Quantitatively, a degree of uncertainty is related to the closure assumption of a displacement height δ adopted in the theory.

The practical potential of the mechanism here studied is as yet unexplored and subject to conjecture. Literature, as presented in section 1, suggests that longitudinal vortices can be beneficial in terms of turbulent drag reduction, although the diverse mechanisms hitherto employed to create such vortices differ fundamentally from the Langmuir mechanism suggested herein. Therefore, studies of the continued development of CL1-type Langmuir circulation in the turbulent regime are desirable, particularly regarding the stability of the generated structures for increasing Reynolds numbers. The optimal scale of described Langmuir vortices is an open question as vortices could be made to exist either as a tiny structure deep within the boundary layer, or as large structures reaching into the bulk of the flow, depending on the scale of the wall undulations. As indicated by the literature, such vortices could conceivably act to stabilise the transition to turbulence or to reduce drag in fully developed turbulence, respectively.

Declaration of Interests

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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Appendix A. Integration constants for the viscous steady state problem

Determining the integration coefficients in (4.14) subject to the full-slip/full-slip boundary conditions, $w(0) = w''(0) = w(1) = w''(1) = 0$, yields

$$w(z) = -\frac{2\kappa w_{\times}(1) - \nabla^2 w_{\times}(1) \coth \kappa}{2\kappa \sinh \kappa} \sinh \kappa z - \frac{\nabla^2 w_{\times}(1)}{2\kappa \sinh \kappa} z \cosh \kappa z + w_{\times}(z), \quad (\text{A } 1a)$$

where $\nabla^2 w_{\times} = w''_{\times} - \kappa^2 w_{\times}$. We have combined the $\exp(\pm \kappa z)$ terms in (4.14) into hyperbolic functions. Subjected to the no-slip/no-slip conditions, $w(0) = w'(0) = w(1) =$

$w'(1) = 0$, (4.14) reads

$$w(z) = \frac{(\kappa \cosh \kappa + \sinh \kappa) \sinh \kappa z - \kappa z [\kappa \cosh \kappa (1 - z) + \sinh \kappa \cosh \kappa z]}{\kappa^2 - \sinh^2 \kappa} w_{\times}(1) + \frac{\kappa z \sinh \kappa (1 - z) - (1 - z) \sinh \kappa \sinh \kappa z}{\kappa^2 - \sinh^2 \kappa} w'_{\times}(1) + w_{\times}(z). \quad (\text{A } 1b)$$

Mixed conditions, with no-slip at the lower boundary and full-slip at the upper, $w(0) = w'(0) = w(1) = w''(1) = 0$, gives

$$w(z) = \frac{\cosh \kappa \sinh \kappa z - \kappa z \cosh \kappa (1 - z)}{\kappa - \cosh \kappa \sinh \kappa} w_{\times}(1) - \frac{\kappa (1 - z) \sinh \kappa \sinh \kappa z - \kappa^2 z \sinh \kappa (1 - z)}{\kappa - \cosh \kappa \sinh \kappa} \frac{\nabla^2 w_{\times}(1)}{2\kappa^2} + w_{\times}(z). \quad (\text{A } 1c)$$

Derivatives of $w_{\times}(z)$ are, from (4.15) and Leibnitz's rule,

$$w_{\times}^{(n)}(z) = \frac{Re}{2\kappa^3} \int_0^z d\xi \mathcal{R}(\xi) \kappa^n G^{(n)}[\kappa(z - \xi)]; \quad [n = 0, 1, 2, 3] \quad (\text{A } 2)$$

since $G^{(n)}(0) = 0$ for $n \leq 3$. Parenthesised superscript is here the derivative order.

Finally, horizontal velocity components (4.18) subjected to the full-slip condition $u'(0) = u'(1) = 0$, no-slip condition $u(0) = u(1) = 0$ or mixed condition $u(0) = u'(1) = 0$ get the homogeneous part

$$\sum_{\pm} d_u^{\pm} e^{\pm \kappa z} = -\frac{Re}{\kappa} \int_0^1 d\xi U'(\xi) w(\xi) \times \begin{cases} \frac{\cosh \kappa (1 - \xi)}{\sinh \kappa} \cosh \kappa z; & [\text{full-slip}], \\ \frac{\sinh \kappa (1 - \xi)}{\sinh \kappa} \sinh \kappa z; & [\text{no-slip}], \\ \frac{\cosh \kappa (1 - \xi)}{\cosh \kappa} \sinh \kappa z; & [\text{mixed}]. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A } 3)$$

The spanwise velocity component v is the z -derivative of the stream function (in either real or wave space) while the pressure can most easily be retrieved from the spanwise momentum, yielding

$$p = -\frac{1}{\kappa^2} (\partial_t - Re^{-1} \nabla^2) w' - \frac{(k_{1x}^2 - k_{1y}^2) p_1^2 + (p_1')^2}{k_{1x}^2 U^2}. \quad (\text{A } 4)$$

This is an explicit expression with necessary w -derivatives given by (A 2).

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