

# High-fidelity simulation of shock-wave/boundary layer interactions

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**Abstract.** We perform direct numerical simulations of impinging shock-boundary layer interaction on a flat plate, in which the shock is not orthogonal to the boundary layer flow. The analysis relies on an idealized configuration, where a spanwise flow component is used to introduce the effect of the sweep angle between a statistically two-dimensional boundary layer and the shock. A quantitative comparison is carried out between the swept case and the corresponding unswept one, and the effect of the domain spanwise width is examined. The analysis reveals that, while the time-averaged swept flow characteristics are basically unaffected by the choice of the domain width, the spectral dynamics of the flow dramatically changes with it. For very narrow domains, a pure two-dimensional, low-frequency component can be detected, which resembles the low-frequency oscillation of the unswept case. The present work is also devoted to compare the performance of Digital Filtering (DF) and Recycling-Rescaling methods (RR) in reaching an equilibrium state for the Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) of a turbulent boundary layer. We performed two sets of DNS of supersonic and hypersonic boundary layers, based on previous numerical studies. It is found that, overall, the RR method is the most appropriate choice, to quickly reach a correct trend of the wall pressure fluctuations, whereas the DF method is more capable in obtain small deviations of the skin friction coefficient with respect to the benchmark.

## Introduction

Shock-wave/turbulent-boundary-layer interactions (SBLIs) are encountered in a multitude of aeronautics and aerospace applications. Interactions of this kind frequently occur in external flows, owing to aerodynamic interference between aircraft appendices/boosters and main body, as well as internal flows, for instance air intakes. More generally, SBLIs are found whenever a shock wave sweeps across a turbulent boundary layer developing on a solid surface. The presence of SBLI may lead to significant drawback on aerodynamic performance of aircraft, yielding loss of efficiency of the aerodynamic surfaces, unwanted wall pressure fluctuations possibly leading to structural vibrations, and localized heat transfer peaks, especially when extensive flow separation occurs [3],[9],[13]. The present work focuses on the study of these interactions when the boundary layer upstream of the shock impingement is in the turbulent regime, using direct numerical simulations.

Most available works on turbulent SBLI [19],[21],[23],[24],[25] focus on simplified configurations in which the shock is perfectly orthogonal to the main stream. A peculiar aspect of this kind of interactions is the coupling of the separation flow with the turbulent structures in the upcoming boundary layer, which locally modifies the shear layer embedded in the separation bubble, generating low-frequency oscillation of the separated region [19],[25]. This mechanism yields intense low-frequency tones in the temporal spectrum of the wall pressure fluctuations, whose prediction is important for the safety and integrity of aircraft structures.

Engineering applications, however, often feature more geometrically complex interactions, in which the shock impingement line is not orthogonal to the incoming flow. This is the case of fully three-dimensional SBLIs, whose prototypes are flows over swept compression ramps

[10],[28],[33],[34] and around fins [14],[27]. These interactions are made more complicated from the presence of a cross-flow with respect to the shock impingement lines, and by the fact that the separation bubble (when present) is of open type as contrasted to the case of 3D interactions in which separation streamlines must be closed. It is now established that, depending on relative strength of the incoming shock, the near-wall interaction region may have either cylindrical symmetry (namely, the size does not vary along the span) in the case of weak-to-mild interactions, or conical symmetry with length scale linearly increasing along the span in the case of strong interactions [29],[32]. Shock skewing is known to modify the frequency and the intensity of the wall pressure fluctuations, depending on the flow sweep angle [10] also by introducing cross-flow instabilities within the separation bubble [33]. Owing to greater geometrical complexity and difficulty to get converged statistics, three-dimensional SBLIs have been addressed in a much more limited number of studies than their two-dimensional counterparts ([1],[2],[12],[39]).

Researchers have recently attempted to overcome the complexity of three-dimensional SBLI investigations by considering simple geometries able to mimic at least part of the typical phenomena arising in the aforementioned applications. The arguably simplest configuration which can be used at this aim is the interaction between a swept oblique shock wave and a fully developed flat plate boundary layer. Both experimental [18] and numerical works [15] have been recently published using this approach: the former study used a swept shock generator to introduce a shock wave that is not orthogonal to the boundary layer mean flow direction, whereas the aforementioned numerical investigation employs a swept inflow condition for the boundary layer to generate a three-dimensional interaction.

A critical ingredient in the numerical setup of DNS of spatially developing flows is the choice of the inflow conditions. In fact, it is now known that both inflow mean velocity profile [1] and the velocity fluctuations [7] may affect the statistical properties of DNS. The data scatter between simulations with the same free-stream properties but different inflow strategies is the source of large uncertainties in the evaluation of the main quantities of engineering interest (as the skin friction coefficient distribution), which is still a major modeling bottleneck in hypersonic research.

From a computational perspective, a conservative approach to achieve an equilibrium state is to use very long computational domains [30],[31]. Experimental studies have also highlighted the need of taking flow measurements sufficiently far from the wind tunnel inlet section [11]. Recent works [35] have revealed that the streamwise length necessary to reach fully developed turbulence increases monotonically as the free-stream Mach number increases. Extending the analysis of Schlatter et al. [26], those authors considered fulfillment of the Von Karman equation, namely balance of friction and streamwise momentum flux as a quantitative criterion for the evaluation of the inflow length. Although their analysis was restricted to free-stream Mach number  $M_0$  between 0.3 and 2.5, it may be expected that increasing trend is also valid at higher  $M_0$ , thus prompting new methods specifically tailored to minimize the development length. The current state-of-the-art modeling of inflow fluctuations is generally based on two classes of numerical methods: recycling-rescaling methods (RR) [17],[37] and digital filtering (DF) methods [16]. Quantitative evaluation of the performance of those methods is still lacking in supersonic/hypersonic flow, which based on the previous observations would be of great value. In this respect, introducing quantitative criteria for estimating the development length is a mandatory prerequisite.

We have carried out numerical simulations of supersonic SBLI in presence of crossflow, using the 2D/3C (two-dimensional, three-component) numerical approach previously employed by the research group for supersonic flow simulations and discussed by Di Renzo et al. [8]. A canonical two-dimensional SBLI, swept by an angle  $\gamma_0$ , is introduced into the computational domain, whose spanwise ends are orthogonal to the shock impingement line. Periodic boundary conditions are applied at the spanwise boundaries, which makes the configuration representative of a 3D swept SBLI (SSBLI) flow with cylindrical symmetry [32]. This configuration allows comparison both

with standard hypersonic boundary layers and with swept ones, at reduced computational cost as compared to fully three-dimensional simulations.

Regarding the assessment of inflow condition for supersonic boundary layers, a series of DNS have been carried out to analyze the spatial development of turbulence, using the data of Pirozzoli & Bernardini [22] as a benchmark. As previously mentioned, two goals are pursued: first, identifying suitable criteria to evaluate turbulence development towards an equilibrium state, and second look for modifications of the standard RR and DF techniques, in the attempt of overcoming their weaknesses.

### Methodology

The analysis presented in this abstract relies on the numerical solution of the conservation equations for mass, momentum, and energy of a compressible fluid, which read:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u}) &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) &= -\nabla P + \nabla \cdot \underline{\underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}} \\ \frac{\partial(\rho e_0)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho e_0 \mathbf{u}) &= \nabla \cdot (\underline{\underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}} \mathbf{u} + \lambda \nabla T + P \mathbf{u}). \end{aligned}$$

In this formulation,  $\rho$ ,  $P$ , and  $T$  are the density, pressure, and temperature of the gas, respectively, and  $\mathbf{u}$  is the flow velocity vector field. The total energy per unit of mass of the gas is defined as  $e_0 = e + u^2/2$ , where  $e = 1/(\gamma_g - 1) RT$  is the internal energy of the mixture per unit of mass,  $\gamma_g = 1.4$  is the ratio of the heat capacities of the gas,  $R$  is the gas constant. The system of equations is complemented with the ideal gas equation of state

$$P = \rho RT$$

The local shear stress of the fluid is computed with the relation

$$\underline{\underline{\boldsymbol{\tau}}} = \mu \left[ \nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T + 2(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) \underline{\underline{\mathbf{I}}}/3 \right]$$

where  $\mu$  is the local dynamic viscosity of the mixture, evaluated using a power law of the type  $\mu/\mu_0 = (T/T_0)^{0.76}$ , whereas the thermal conductivity  $\lambda$  is computed using a constant Prandtl number  $Pr = 0.72$ .

The Navier-Stokes equations are solved using the in-house high-fidelity code STREAMS [4] for direct numerical simulations of compressible wall-bounded flows. The convective fluxes are discretized by means of a hybrid scheme which combines the energy-preserving properties of a sixth order skew-symmetric central difference scheme [20] with the shock-capturing properties of a fifth order weighted essentially non-oscillatory (WENO) scheme. The switch between the two methods is controlled by a modified Ducros sensor

$$\Theta = \frac{(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})^2}{(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u})^2 + (\nabla \times \mathbf{u})^2 + (u_0/\delta_0)^2}$$

which is activated when  $\Theta > 0.5$  in any point of the WENO stencil. The diffusive fluxes are discretized with sixth order central formulas, and the time advancement is carried out with a low-storage third order Runge-Kutta scheme [36].

### SBLI setup

A schematic of the flow under scrutiny for the swept SBLI numerical campaign is provided in Figure 1. A turbulent boundary layer with thickness  $\delta_0$  is injected at the left boundary of the computational domain ( $x/\delta_0 = 0$ ), and it develops over the bottom wall swept by an angle  $\gamma_0$  with respect to the positive x direction. An oblique shock spanning the z direction impinges the boundary layer with an angle  $\beta$  with respect to the flat plate. The velocity inflow condition is obtained as a combination of a Van Driest-transformed incompressible Musker profile for the time-averaged field and velocity fluctuations obtained from a plane in  $x_r$  using a recycling-rescaling approach [17] suitable for compressible flows. The temperature fluctuation field is obtained from the streamwise velocity one using the strong Reynolds analogy (SRA).

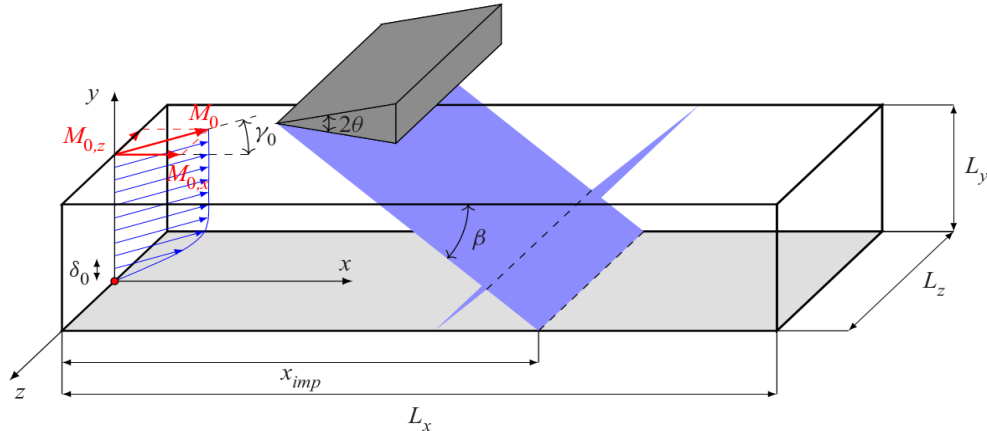


Figure 1. Schematic of SBLI setup:  $\gamma_0$  is the incoming flow skew angle;  $\delta_0$  is the incoming boundary layer thickness;  $\beta$  is the shock angle,  $\theta$  is the flow deflection angle and  $x_{imp}$  is the nominal location of the shock impingement (Figure from Ceci et al. [6], Creative Commons license <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

The bottom wall is assumed to be isothermal, and the wall temperature is set to its nominal turbulent recovery value for the incoming boundary layer (i.e.  $T_w/T_r=1$ , where  $T_r/T_0 = 1 + r (\gamma_g - 1)/2 M_0^2$  is the recovery to free-stream temperature ratio,  $r = Pr^{1/3}$  is the recovery factor and  $Pr = 0.72$  the Prandtl number). Periodicity of the flow is assumed in the z direction. Non-reflecting boundary conditions are imposed at the inlet and outlet boundaries to minimize numerical feedback. Nonreflecting boundary conditions are also used at the top boundary, except for a narrow zone where the incoming shock is injected into the computational domain by hard enforcement of the Rankine-Hugoniot jump relations. Various values of the inflow skew angle  $\gamma_0$  and shock generator  $\theta$  are considered. Extensive flow separation occurs for all the cases under investigation. Table 1 contains the key computational parameters of the simulation campaign.

Table 1. Summary of the SBLI flow cases

Case Label	$M_0$	$M_{0x}$	$\gamma_0$ (deg.)	$\theta$ (deg.)	$Re_{\delta_0}$	$(L_x \times L_y \times L_z)/\delta_0$	$x_r/\delta_0$	$x_{imp}/\delta_0$	$T_w/T_r$
G00_T08	2.28	2.28	0	8	15800	$96 \times 20 \times 96$	30	64	1
G00_T10	2.28	2.28	0	10.4	15800	$96 \times 20 \times 96$	30	64	1
G07_T10	2.3	2.28	7.5	10.4	15800	$96 \times 20 \times 96$	30	64	1
G15_T10	2.36	2.28	15	10.4	16200	$96 \times 20 \times 96$	30	64	1
G30_T08	2.63	2.28	30	8	19000	$96 \times 20 \times 96$	30	64	1
G30_T09	2.63	2.28	30	9.2	19000	$96 \times 20 \times 96$	30	64	1
G30_T10	2.63	2.28	30	10.4	19000	$96 \times 20 \times 96$	30	64	1
G45_T10	3.22	2.28	45	10.4	27500	$96 \times 20 \times 96$	30	64	1

### Turbulent boundary layer (TBL) setup

The performance evaluation of standard turbulent inflow conditions for the DNS of supersonic/hypersonic turbulent boundary layers and the development of new inflow methods have been carried out with reference to the computational case of Pirozzoli & Bernardini [22] and Zhang et al. [38]. The first studied a spatially developing, supersonic zero-pressure-gradient (ZPG) boundary layer on a flat plate, with free-stream Mach number  $M_0=2$  and nominally adiabatic wall conditions ( $T_w/T_r=1$ ); the latter a spatially developing, ZPG hypersonic boundary layer at  $M_0=5.84$  and cooled walls ( $T_w/T_r=0.25$ ).

A series of direct numerical simulations has been performed, using several inflow conditions based both on recycling-rescaling (RR) and digital filtering (DF). A schematic representation of the recycling-rescaling setup is shown in Figure 2.

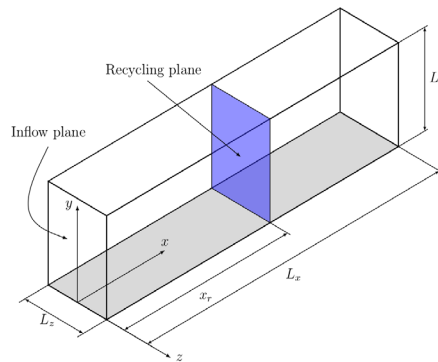


Figure 2. Set-up for recycling/rescaling:  $x_r$  denotes the position of the recycling plane, and  $L_x$ ,  $L_y$  and  $L_z$  denote the size of the computational box (Figure from Ceci et al. [5], Creative Common license <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

Standard recycling-rescaling and digital filtering inflow generations have been already implemented in the publicly available version of the STREAMS solver. Those routines have been modified throughout the course of the present project to test two novel inflow conditions. The flow is assumed to be periodic in the  $z$  direction, and non-reflecting boundary conditions are imposed on both the top and right boundaries. Time-averaging has been obtained by collecting instantaneous data for at least 800 convective time units  $\delta_0/U_0$ ; spanwise-averaging of the velocity and pressure fields is also performed. The list of DNS and the key computational setup are reported in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of TBL flow cases

Flow Case	$M_0$	$Re_{\delta_0}$	$(L_x \times L_y \times L_z)/\delta_0$	$x_r/\delta_0$	$T_w/T_r$
M2-RR	2	12662	$106 \times 8.3 \times 9.6$	53	1
M2-DF	2	12662	$159 \times 8.3 \times 9.6$	-	1
M2-L1	2	4479	$310 \times 26 \times 32$	53	1
M2-L2	2	8230	$310 \times 26 \times 26$	53	1
M2-L3	2	12662	$318 \times 16.6 \times 19.2$	53	1
M5.84-RR	5.84	23152	$150 \times 10 \times 9$	53	0.25
M5.84-DF	5.84	23152	$150 \times 10 \times 9$	-	0.25
M5.84-L1	5.84	10650	$300 \times 20 \times 18$	53	0.25
M5.84-L2	5.84	16788	$300 \times 20 \times 18$	53	0.25
M5.84-L3	5.84	23152	$300 \times 20 \times 18$	53	0.25

### Results of the supersonic SBLI study

We have developed a simple model to characterize low-frequency unsteadiness in swept SBLIs, which is robustly supported from analysis of DNS data. We provide a scaling law for the spanwise undulation of the separation line and for the convection velocity of pressure disturbances, which concur to predict growth of the typical pressure oscillation frequency with the skew angle, consistent with trends observed in DNS. The proposed behavior of pressure fluctuations along the shock foot is described as

$$St_L = \left| St_{L,0} \pm \frac{\eta \tan(\gamma_0)}{\alpha} \right|$$

with  $\alpha \approx 2$  and  $\eta \approx 0.7$ , as obtained from the SBLI study, and  $St_{L,0} \approx 0.04$ .

Quantitative comparison of the numerically computed peak frequencies with the above prediction is presented in Figure 3. The prediction is clearly quite good, perhaps with exception of the single data point corresponding to  $\gamma_0 = 30^\circ$ ,  $\theta = 8^\circ$ , which has a small separation bubble. Overall, the agreement becomes more satisfactory as the sweep angle increases [6].

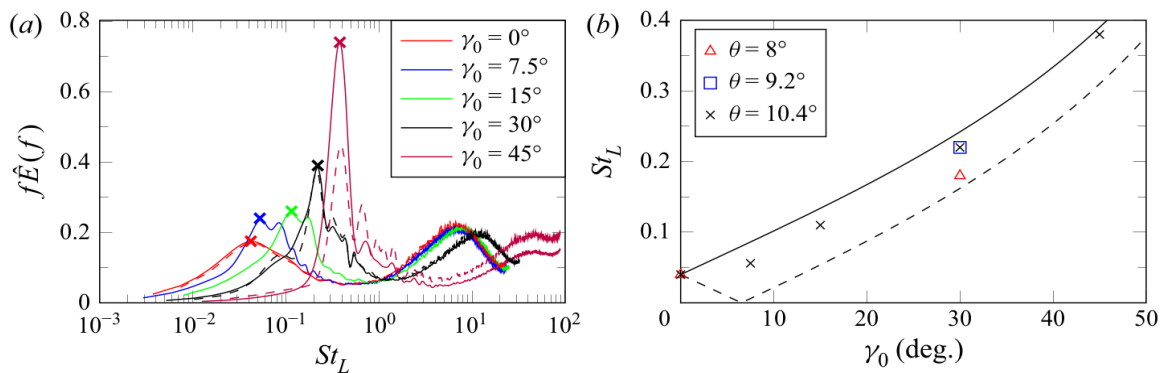


Figure 3: (a) Pre-multiplied normalized frequency spectra of wall pressure at the mean separation line for various sweep angles and for fixed shock strength ( $\theta = 10.4^\circ$ ). Peaks are marked with crosses. Solid lines denote PSD obtained with the full-time window, whereas dashed lines denote PSD obtained with 50 % shorter time windows. (b) Peak frequency as a function of sweep angle: the solid and dashed lines denote the proposed prediction (Figure from Ceci et al. [6], Creative Commons license <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

### Results of the TBL numerical tripping

Two reference flow cases have been selected, one representative of supersonic adiabatic boundary layers and the other of hypersonic cooled boundary layers. For both flow cases, two series of DNS have been carried out, one on relatively short domains, which serve to quantify effects of inflow seeding (RR- or DF-type), as compared to benchmark simulations, carried out in very long domains, which are verified to yield to a healthy state of developed turbulence. The supersonic data set includes six DNS in short domains and three DNS in long domains, while the hypersonic data set includes four DNS in short domains, and three DNS in long domains.

We have derived a procedure to assess the TBL equilibrium conditions in numerical simulation by monitoring the deviation of significant metrics from a reference trend. Such metrics are the friction coefficient, wall pressure root mean square, Reynolds stress peaks and Stanton number [5]. In this respect, no single criterion can be used to define the inflow length for arbitrary flow conditions, but rather different metrics suggest different inflow adaptation lengths, which can also change as a result of the flow conditions. We have found that the friction coefficient is particularly sensitive to inflow seeding, and it can bear memory of inflow seeding quite far from the inflow plane [5].

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