Linear stability of multilayer plane Poiseuille flows of Oldroyd B fluids

P. Laure*, H. Le Meur†, Y. Demay*, J.C. Saut† and S. Scotto*

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Abstract

The linear stability of plane Poiseuille flows of two and three-symmetric layer is studied. The fluids follow an Oldroyd-B differential constitutive equation and both asymptotic and numerical techniques are used. The influence of the viscosity and elasticity stratification as well as the layer thickness are largely analysed by using the additiveness between Newtonian and elastic terms which is shown in the asymptotic study. In such way, we have determined some general asymptotic stable arrangements at vanishing Reynolds number. It is also found that these arrangements remain stable with respect to moderate wavelength disturbances. Finally, their destabilization with an increase in the Reynolds number is considered and two distinct behaviors are pointed out which depend on the convexity of the Poiseuille velocity profile.

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*Institut non-linéaire de Nice (UMR CNRS 129), Université de Nice, Sophia Antipolis, 06560 Valbonne, France

†Laboratoire d'Analyse Numérique et EDP (URA 760 CNRS), Université Paris-Sud, Bât. 425, 91405 Orsay Cedex, France

1 Introduction

The stability of multilayer Poiseuille flow (tube or parallel plates) has been recently studied by numerous authors due to the growing industrial importance of multilayer products in polymer processing. For example, food packaging commonly uses films formed of three, five or more layers in order to put together polymers having different optical, mechanical and barrier (to air or water) properties. In the industrial process, the polymers are molten in screw extruders, and then pushed through a feedblock and a flat die [1]. This process is limited by the onset in some conditions of a wavy instability deteriorating the quality of the film. Co-extrusion of two components has been also used in the fiber industry, whereas concentric coextrusion was motived by problems associated with the transportation of heavy viscous oild through long pipeline [2]. Various parameters such as viscosity, surface tension, viscoelasticity, density and gravity intervene on the destabilization mechanism. However it is worth noticing that in the processing of multilayer sheets, the ratios of viscosity and viscoelasticity are the more discriminant parameters.

This article is concerned with the linear stability of a plane Poiseuille flow of two viscoelastic fluids. Both fluids follow an Oldroyd-B differential constitutive equation. This law introduces the difference of normal stress $\sigma_{x,x} - \sigma_{y,y}$ considered as the characteristic feature of viscoelasticity of polymeric fluid. Stability under infinitesimal disturbances is investigated by the means of generalized Orr-Sommerfeld equations, in each layer. These equations are completed with equilibrium (namely the jump on the normal stress and velocity) and kinematic interface equations.

The linear stability is classically studied by the computation of the spectrum of the linearized operator about a basic flow. We restrict our computation to disturbances which are periodic in the direction of the flow motion. The sign of the real part of these eigenvalues gives the stability criterion and it depends on the various parameters of the problem , but also of spatial periodicity. In our problem two methods are mainly used: the **longwave** analysis which allows us to separate the kinenatic equation from the equations of motion. In this way, one gets under the Olroyd-B approximation an analytical formula giving the "interfacial" eigenvalue as a polynomial expression of parameters. However this asymptotic analysis has to be completed by a more general stability analysis or **moderate wavelength** analysis. This step introduces heavy numerical problems in the approximation of the spectrum. The difficulty mainly comes from the introduction of a continuous spectrum due to the viscoelastic behaviour of polymeric fluids [3]. So, this analysis requires accurate numerical analysis and several numerical methods can be used. Among them, the pseudospectral Tau method using an expansion of eigenvectors in Chebyschev polynomials is the most precise (see [4]). Finally, the discrete problem corresponds to generalized eigenvalue problem which is solved by an Arnoldi method [5].

We, now, review briefly previous works on the stability of Poiseuille/Couette multilayer flows

A) <u>The two-layer Newtonian and quasi Newtonian Couette- Poiseuille flow</u>. The longwave stability analysis of the two-layer flow of viscous fluids with different viscosities was studied by Yih ([6]). It was found that for both plane Couette and Poiseuille flows, stability is governed by a function of viscosity and thickness ratios m and ϵ, whatever the Reynolds number is. Moreover, he has also pointed out that some regions in the parameter plane (ϵ, m) are stable when the less viscous layer is the thinner ("thin layer effect"). Yiantsios and Higgins ([7]) have completed for Poiseuille flow the previous longwave analysis and have also taken into account moderate wavelength. Moreover, a shortwave analysis was introduced in order to analyze the effect of the surface tension. Charru and Fabre ([8]) have shown that, for longwaves and moderate surface tension, the nonlinear behavior at small amplitudes is given by a

Kuramoto-Sivashinky equation. They have also pointed out that the Poiseuille flow is stable if the basic velocity profile is convex. Khomami ([9, 10]) has studied the longwave stability and the effect of the converging channel for power law fluids. Pinarbasi and Liakopoulos ([11]) have computed stability of a two-layer Poiseuille flow of Carreau-Yasuda and Bingham-like fluids at moderate wavenumbers (using a Tau method and a QZ algorithm). The three-layer vertical flow was considered by Renardy ([12]) whereas the three-layer horizontal Poiseuille flow has been studied by Anturkar *et al.* ([13]). [13]).

B) The multilayer viscoelastic Couette-Poiseuille flow. Generalization of the longwave stability analysis of plane Couette flow has been carried out by Li [14] for Olroyd-B fluids, and by Waters and Keeley ([15]) for Olroyd-B fluids with a shear-dependent Carreau viscosity. Antukar *et al.* [16] have also examined the stability of the two- and three-layer viscoelastic Poiseuille flow with respect to longwave and moderate wavelength disturbances. Later Chen [17] has pointed out an error in the shear stress condition at the inferface used in these previous works. Moreover, he has shown for Couette flow that the jump of the normal stress arises in the interfacial instability. This author has also studied interfacial unstability due to elastic stratification in the concentric coextrusion of two viscoelastic fluids ([18]). The shortwave analysis of a two-layer Poiseuille flow of UCM fluids was considered by Renardy ([19]). Finally, the most complete results on the interfacial instability for Oldroyd-B liquids with constant and shear rate dependent viscosities are given by Su and Khomami ([20]). The influence of the die geometry has also been considered by these authors and this paper is in a way the starting point of our present study.

C) Experiments Han and Shetty ([21, 22]), Anturkar *et al.* ([23]) have published experimental results and considered industrial configurations. In particular, the influence of a convergent geometry was numerically studied by Anturkar *et al.* ([24]) using a Galerkin method and experimentally by Khomami and Wilson ([25]). Nevertheless, despite a great interest for this subject in recent past years, comparison with experiment is not clear. This is due to difficulties encountered in industrial or laboratory observations. One of the difficulties is due to encapsulation effect (the less viscous fluids tends to encapsulates the more viscous component and the thikness ratio do not remain constant in the transverse direction [1]). In the same manner, it is difficult to ensure a constant temperature along the die and the viscosity and elastic properties of each layer are not well known and homegenuous. Finally, characterization of irregular interface need a suitable optical apparatus and it not always possible to measured precisely the spacial and temporal periods of the perturbated interface (see photogaphs in [22]). One way to elimate such a difficulty is to impose external temporally regular disturbances at the interface [25].

The aim of this paper is to perform both longwave and moderate wavelength stability analysis in two different geometries. In the first one, both fluids are in contact with the wall. In the second one, one of the fluid is in contact with the upper and lower walls and the second fluid is symmetrically encapsulated. In this latter case, the geometry is assumed to be symmetric, the gravity is neglected and the stability with respect to varicose and sinuous perturbations is studied. In Section 2, we give the governing equations and the Poiseuille profile around which linear stability is performed. In Section 3, we perform the longwave stability analysis of the Poiseuille flow (it can be found for the Couette flow in [19, 17]), and give new explicit formulae. This allows us to provide areas of stable regions in the plane (ϵ, m) for vanishing Reynolds number. In this way, we identify some general asymptotically stable configurations which are destabilized by an increase of the Reynolds number. In Section 4, the influence of a moderate wavenumber on these stable regions is considered. The effect of surface tension S (which prevents a destabilization induced by short wave perturbations) on critical Reynolds number is also analysed.

2 Governing equations

2.1 The geometries

The stability analysis will be developped in two different geometries. The first one is a two-layer flow (Fig. 1a), labelled as case **A**. In this case each fluid is in contact with a wall. The first layer, located between $y = 0$ and $y = d_1$, is designated as region 1 and the second one, located between $y = d_1$ and $y = d_1 + d_2$, as region 2.

The second geometry is a three-layer flow with identical external fluids (Fig. 1b) and is labelled as case **B**. The same fluid is in contact with both walls and the other one flows in the core. This system is symmetric with respect to horizontal axis and the core layer ($y \in (-d_1, d_1)$) is designated as region 1. The upper and lower layers are designated as region 2 and have the same depth d_2. This configuration is expected to give close results to the concentric case and it has also been studied experimentally in [21, 22].

Each fluid has different rheological properties which are noted in the standart way; namelly the viscosity η_k, the relaxation time λ_k, the polymeric components α_k and the density ρ_k. Finally, the interface equations are $y_s = s\, d_1 + h_s(x,t)$ with $s = 1$ in the case **A** and $s = \pm 1$ in the case **B** (obviously, we have $h_s(x,t) = 0$ for the basic flow).

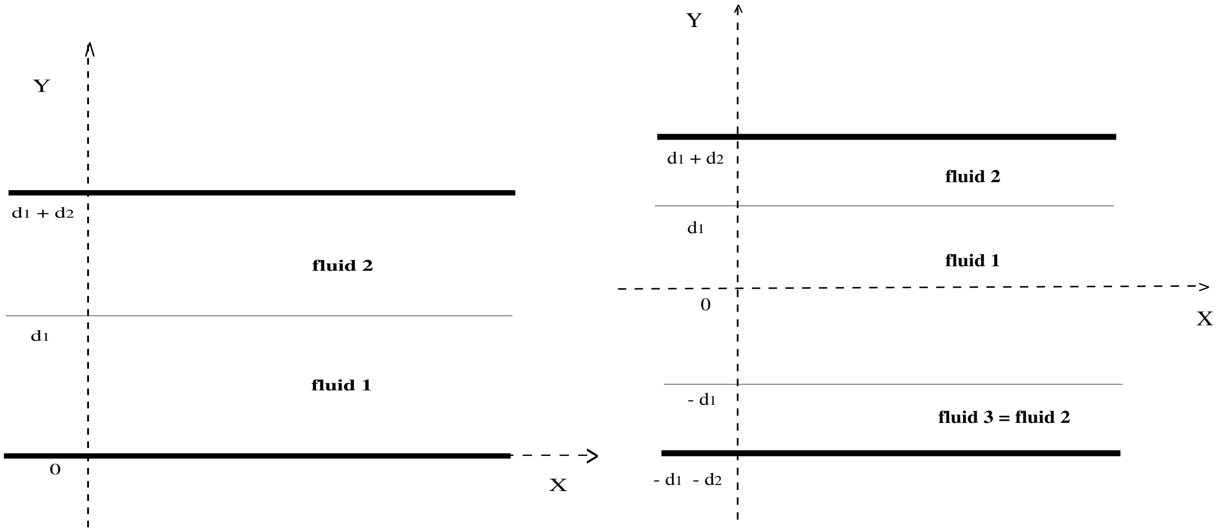

Figure 1: Geometries: (a) two-layer geometry; (b)three-symmetric layer geometry

2.2 The equations and stationary solutions

Let us denote $\underline{u}_k$ and $\underline{\underline{\tau}}_{p,k}$ the velocity field and viscoelastic extrastress in each layer. We assume that fluids are incompressible and obey an Oldroyd-B model. We choose the following space, velocity, time and stress scales,

$$d^* = d_1 \; ; U^* = U(y = d_1) \; ; t^* = \frac{d^*}{U^*} \; ; \sigma^* = \eta_1 \frac{U^*}{d^*}.$$

where U^* is the value of the Poiseuille velocity at the interface, Finally, the dimensionless equations in fluid k read as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
&r_k \mathrm{Re}\left(\frac{\partial \underline{u}_k}{\partial t} + (\underline{u}_k . \nabla)\ \underline{u}_k\right) + \nabla p_k - \ m_k\ (1-\alpha_k)\ \Delta \underline{u}_k \ = \nabla . \underline{\underline{\tau}}_{p,k} - \frac{r_k\ \mathrm{Re}}{F^2}\ \underline{e}_y,\\
&\underline{\underline{\tau}}_{p,k}\ +\ \ \mathrm{We}_k\ \left(\frac{\partial \underline{\underline{\tau}}_{p,k}}{\partial t} + \underline{u}_k . \nabla \underline{\underline{\tau}}_{p,k} - \nabla \underline{u}_k .\ \underline{\underline{\tau}}_{p,k}\ -\ \underline{\underline{\tau}}_{p,k}\ .\ \nabla \underline{u}_k^T\right)\ =\ \alpha_k\ m_k(\nabla \underline{u}_k\ +\ \nabla \underline{u}_k^T),\\
&\nabla . \underline{u}_k = 0,
\end{aligned}
\tag{1}
$$

In the above equation, we exhibit the classical dimensionless parameters :
the Reynolds numbers $\mathrm{Re} = \rho_1 U^* d_1/\eta_1$; the Weissenberg number $\mathrm{We} = \lambda_1\ U^*/d_1$ of fluid 1 ; the Froude number $F = U^*/\sqrt{g d_1}$; the ratio of viscosities $m = \eta_2/\eta_1$; the ratio of relaxation times $M_\lambda = (\alpha_2\ \lambda_2)/(\alpha_1\ \lambda_1)$; the ratio of densities $r = \rho_2/\rho_1$; the layer thickness ratio $\epsilon = d_2/d_1$; the surface tension number $S = T/\eta_1 U^*$.

To simplify the notations in each layer, we have indexed by k the two Weissenberg numbers $\mathrm{We}_k = \lambda_k\ U^*/d^*$, the ratio of viscosities $m_k = \eta_k/\eta_1$ and the ratio of densities $r_k = \rho_k/\rho_1$. Let us notice that the problem has ten dimensionless parameters (Re, We, M_λ, α_1, α_2, m, r, S, F, ϵ) and that an infinite Froude number means that the vertical gravitational force is not taken into account.

This system of equation is completed by non-slip boundary condition,

$$
\begin{aligned}
&u_2(x, 1+\epsilon) = v_2(x, 1+\epsilon) = 0,\\
&u_1(x, 0) = v_1(x, 0) = 0 \ \ \text{Case } \mathbf{A},\\
&u_2(x, -1-\epsilon) = v_2(x, -1-\epsilon) = 0 \ \ \text{Case } \mathbf{B},
\end{aligned}
\tag{2}
$$

and the interfacial conditions on the velocity and stress vector ($[\![f]\!]_s = s\ (f_1(s) - f_2(s))$ is the jump of a function f at the interface ($s = 1$ or $s = \pm 1$)) :

$$
\begin{aligned}
&[\![\underline{u}]\!]_s = 0,\\
&[\![-p\underline{\underline{I}} + 2(1-\alpha) m \underline{\underline{D}}[\underline{u}] + \underline{\underline{\tau}}_p]\!]_s \underline{n} = -2H\ S\underline{n},
\end{aligned}
\tag{3}
$$

where the vector $\underline{n}$ is a unit normal to the interface, $2H$ the sum of the principal curvatures. If we note $\underline{u}_k = (u_k, v_k)$ the velocity components, the immiscibility condition can be written as :

$$
\frac{\partial h_s}{\partial t} + u_1(y_s)\frac{\partial h_s}{\partial x} - v_1(y_s) = 0. \tag{4}
$$

Obviously in the above equation, the interface $s = -1$ is taken into account only for the three-layer case.

2.3 Basic flow

The multilayer Poiseuille flow is the x-invariant solution of equations (1-3). The velocity field is in each region :

$$
\text{case } \mathbf{A} :\ \ u_0(y) = \ -\frac{\epsilon\ +\ m}{m_k\ \epsilon\ (1\ +\ \epsilon)}\ y^2 + \frac{m\ +\ 2\ \epsilon\ +\ \epsilon^2}{m_k\ \epsilon(1\ +\ \epsilon)} y + \frac{m_k\ -\ 1}{m_k}, \tag{5}
$$

$$
\text{case } \mathbf{B} :\ \ u_0(y) = \ -\frac{m}{m_k\ \epsilon(2+\epsilon)} y^2 +\ 1\ +\ \frac{m}{m_k\ \epsilon(2+\epsilon)}. \tag{6}
$$

The extrastress tensor $\begin{pmatrix} \sigma_0 & \tau_0 \\ \tau_0 & \gamma_0 \end{pmatrix}$ and the pressure p_0 are respectively, for each fluid:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tau_0(y) &= m_k \ \alpha_k \ u_0', & (7)\\
\sigma_0(y) &= 2 \ m_k \ \alpha_k \ \ \mathrm{We}_k \ u_0^{'2}, & (8)\\
\gamma_0 &= 0, & (9)\\
p_0(x,y) &= -r_k \frac{\mathrm{Re}}{F^2} \ y \ + \ m_k \ u_0^{''} \ x \ + \mathcal{P}_0. & (10)
\end{aligned}
$$

The constant $\mathcal{P}_0$ is an arbitrary pressure, and prime $'$ designates $\partial/\partial y$.

2.4 Perturbation equations and interfacial eigenvalue

Since we are interested in the stability of the basic flow under infinitesimal perturbations and because of the x invariance, we classically introduce perturbations in the following form :

$$(\underline{u}_k, p_k, \underline{\underline{\tau}}_{p,k}, h_s) = (\tilde{\underline{u}}_k, \tilde{p}_k, \tilde{\underline{\underline{\tau}}}_{p,k}, \tilde{h}_s) \exp{[iqx \ + \ \sigma t]}. \tag{11}$$

The tilded variables, designating the amplitudes of disturbances, are (except the constant $\tilde{h}_s$) functions of y only. The number q is the wavenumber in the flow direction and σ is the frequency. Neglecting terms of order two in the amplitudes of the perturbations, we get the usual generalized Orr-Sommerfeld equations which can be found in [20, 17]. Non slip condition are imposed on the two walls, whereas at the interface ($y = s$) we get the same set of boundary conditions already written in [20, 17].

It is important to notice that the $y \to -y$ symmetry of the three-layer case, allows us to predict two possible unstable modes depending if this symmetry is preserved. Therefore, the symmetric solution is called the varicose mode ($h_{-1} = -h_1$) whereas the anti-symmetric solution is the sinuous mode ($h_{-1} = h_1$). Let us note that Hinch *et al.* [26] show that the sinuous mode can grow more rapidly than the varicose mode in the concentric coextrusion.

So, if we denote X the vector of coefficients of the Tchebichev expansion of each variable, we obtain, using a Tau method ([4]), a generalized eigenvalue problem of the following form :

$$A(q) \ X = \sigma \, B(q) \ X. \tag{12}$$

The matrices A and B are complex and B is singular. As usual, the stability of the basic flow is given by the sign of the real part of the generalized eigenvalues σ.

For a one-layer flow, the spectrum (the set of all the generalized eigenvalues) is well known. For example, the linear stability of Couette flow has been studied by Renardy & Renardy [27] for upper convected Maxwell fluid, whereas an Oldroyd-B model is considered for linear stability of Poiseuille flow by Sureshkumar and Beris in [3]. It is shown that the spectrum is constituted of a continuous spectrum and an infinite discrete spectrum. The destabilization come from an eigenvalue belonging to the discrete part of the spectrum and always occurs at high Reynolds numbers ($Re \sim 10^3$).

For a two-layer flow, the spectrum has the same general aspect as for a one-layer flow. The main feature [6] is that a new eigenvalue (referred as the interfacial eigenvalue) directly related to the interfacial equations and allows destabilization of the Poiseuille flow at small values of the Reynolds number. The critical Reynolds number is then a function of relevant parameters such as Weissenberg number, viscosity, elasticity and thickness ratios.

3 Long waves asymptotic analysis

In this section, we perform an asymptotic analysis in order to examine the stability of the interface under longwave ($q \to 0$) disturbances. To that purpose, we use a streamfunction ψ_k defined by $(u_k, v_k) = (\partial\psi_k/\partial y, -i\ q\ \psi_k)$ so that the divergence free condition is directly satisfied at each order. Following standart procedure [6], the streamfunction ψ and the growth rate σ are expanded in the form,

$$\psi = \psi^0 + q\psi^1 + q^2\psi^2 + \ ... \quad , \tag{13}$$

and

$$\sigma \ = \ -\, i\ q\ (c_0\ +\ q\ c_1\ +\ ...) \quad . \tag{14}$$

These expansions are substituted into the the whole system and terms of like order are grouped together. This way, we get a sequence of equations written in [7, 13] for Newtonians fluid and [18] for Maxwell fluid. We find that c_0 is real and c_1 purely imaginary. So, the stability is given by the sign of the real part of c_1 and $q\ c_0$ is the period of the perturbation, which is independent of the elastic properties. Finally the eigenvalues c_0 and c_1 are obtained with the help of the symbolic calculator MAPLE and written in a rather simple form :

$$c_0 \ = \ f(\epsilon, m) \text{ with } f \text{ real}, \tag{15}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 \ = \ & i\ \mathrm{Re}\left(J_1(\epsilon,m)\ +\ (r-1)\left(J_2(\epsilon,m)\right)\ +\ \frac{J_3(\epsilon,m)}{F^2}\right)\Big) \\ & +\, i\ \alpha_1\ \mathrm{We}\ \ (J_4(\epsilon,m)\ + (M_\lambda - 1)\ J_5(\epsilon,m)), \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

where $M_\lambda = (\alpha_2\ \lambda_2)/(\alpha_1\ \lambda_1)$. The real functions J_1, J_2, J_3, J_4 and J_5 are given in Appendices A and B for the cases **A** and **B**.

From relation (16), it follows that the term c_1 is splitted into a Newtonian part (J_1, J_2 and J_3) and an elastic part (J_4 and J_5) and that the density stratification ($r \neq 1$) alters only the Newtonian part. Indeed, the stability will be a competition between the effects of all the controlling parameters with additiveness of all contributions except ε, m. Chen has also shown same kind of additiveness for the Couette flow [17] and the concentric coextrusion [18]. Nevertheless, this author has prefered to split the eigenvalue in a term proportional to $[\![u_0']\!]_s$ and another proportional to $[\![\sigma_0]\!]_s$.

In the case **A**, these functions satisfy symmetry properties which correspond to interchanging the fluid layers. The following relations are easily checked,

$$c_1(\frac{1}{\epsilon}, \frac{1}{m}, \frac{1}{r}) = \frac{m}{\epsilon^2}\ c_1(\epsilon, m, r) \quad \text{if} \quad \alpha_i = \mathrm{We} = 0, \tag{17}$$

$$c_1(\frac{1}{\epsilon}, \frac{1}{m}, \frac{1}{M_\lambda}) = c_1(\epsilon, m, M_\lambda) \quad \text{if} \quad \mathrm{Re} = 0, \tag{18}$$

Consequently, we limit the discussion to $M_\lambda > 1$ in the case **A**.

3.1 Stability of purely Newtonian fluids ($\mathbf{Re} \neq 0$ and $\mathbf{We} = 0$)

The case **A** has been studied by numerous authors [8, 7, 6, 13, 28] and we obtained basically the same results for the case **B**. Therefore, we only report here the main results. If we neglect the density stratification, equation (16) becomes :

$$c_1 = i \text{ Re } J_1(\epsilon, m). \tag{19}$$

The Poiseuille flow is stable if the function J_1 is negative. The expression of J_1 is given in Appendix A and B and we find that the Poiseuille flow is stable if the layer thickness of the less viscous fluid is small enough (lubricating effect). Moreover, J_1 has the opposite sign to the jump $[\![u_0']\!]$ in both cases **A** and **B**. So the remark about stable velocity profile given in [8] for two-layer Poseuille flow can be extended to the three symmetrical-layer case. That means that the process is stable when the basic velocity profile u_0 is convex. Examples of stable and unstable Poiseuille velocity profiles are plotted in Figs. 2 for the **A** and **B** cases.

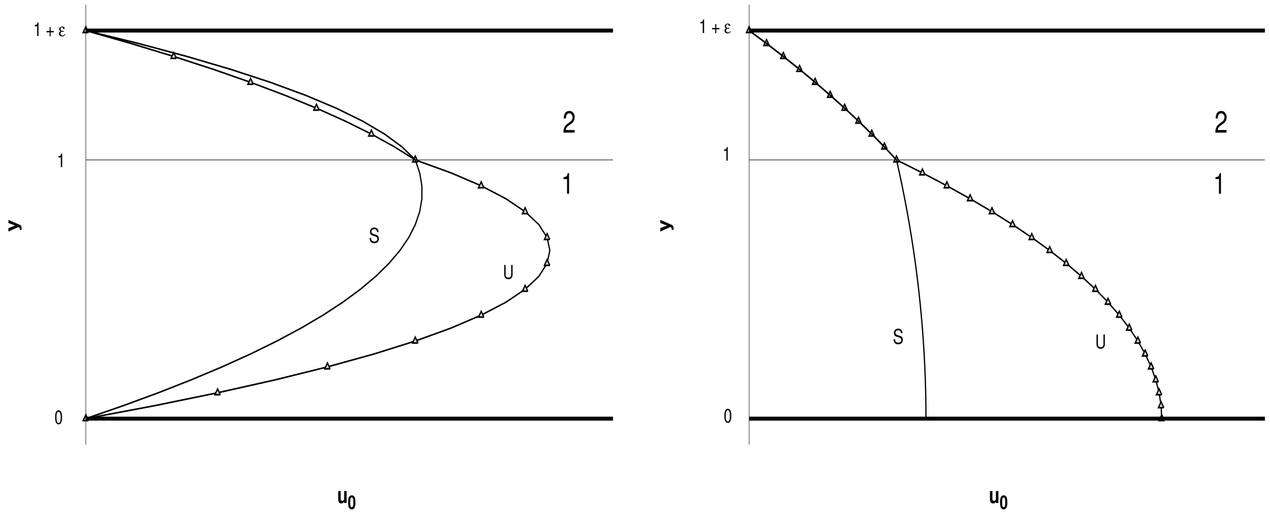

Figure 2: Stable and unstable velocity Poiseuille profiles u_0 in the case of purely Newtonian fluids: (a) two-layer Poiseuille flow; (b) three-layer Poiseuille flow

Finally, results about stable configurations of Newtonian flows can be summarized by the two following rules :
- the two-layer Poiseuille flow is stable when the thin layer is less viscous (Fig. 3a).
- The three-symmetric layer Poiseuille flow is stable when the more viscous fluid flows at core (Fig. 3b).

3.2 Stability of viscoelastic fluids ($\mathbf{We} \neq 0$ and $\mathbf{Re}= 0$)

Due to the high viscosity of polymer melts, we have to pay a particular attention to flows which are stable at vanishing Reynolds number.

When the viscosities are matched, $m = 1$, as $J_4(\epsilon, 1) = 0$, the stability is given by the sign of $(M_\lambda - 1)J_5(\epsilon, 1)$. The function $J_5(\epsilon, 1)$ is positive if $\epsilon < 1$ for the two-layer flow (case **A**) and if $\epsilon < \sqrt{2}$ for the varicose mode (case **B**) whereas it is always positive for sinuous mode. It is to notice that the corresponding value obtained by Chen ([18]) for the axisymmetric two-layer flow is $\epsilon = 1.7$. If $M_\lambda > 1$, the stable arrangements correspond to a larger upper layer for the case **A**, but the three symmetrical layer configuration is never stable because of the sinuous mode. If $M_\lambda < 1$, the outer layer has to be thinner for the case **B**. In these stable configurations, the layer closed to the wall is less elastic and thinner.