Analytic solutions for reduced leading-edge noise aerofoils

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This paper presents an analytic solution for the sound generated by an unsteady gust interacting with a semi-infinite flat plate with a piecewise linear periodic leading edge. The Wiener-Hopf method is used in conjunction with a non-orthogonal coordinate transformation and separation of variables to allow analytical progress. A fully analytic solution is obtained in terms of a modal expansion for the far-field noise which is obtained by summing only a finite number of cuton modes, allowing very quick evaluation. The analytic solution is compared to experimental results for five test case leading-edge geometries. Good agreement is seen indicating the analytic model is capturing the key features of the interaction such as the destructive interference from the tip and root. In four of the five test cases the serrated edges show large reductions of noise compared to the straight edge at mid and high frequencies, however the square wave geometry is seen to be ineffective at noise reduction for high frequencies.

I. Introduction

Leading-edge noise is a common and unavoidable source of noise generated by aeroengines when the wakes from forward rotor rows interact with rearward stator rows. Noise generated in this way can be reduced by altering the geometry of the blades, typically blade thickness, camber and angle of attack)¹⁻³ however within the confines of an aeroengine this adaptation is not always practical. Therefore it is important to develop different alterations to the blades which will reduce noise but that are appropriate for use within an aeroengine.

A popular adaptation to reduce leading-edge noise is to alter the spanwise straight leading edge of a blade to be serrated, which mimics the leading edges of owls' wings.^{4,5} A single-frequency serration is the most common adaptation investigated numerically,^{6–8} experimentally,^{9–12} and analytically.^{13–16} Whilst these analytical solutions use very simplified models of convective gusts scattering off of semi-infinite flat plates with leading-edge serrations, they can highlight key noise-reduction mechanisms that can only be speculated on from experimental and numerical results.

The single-frequency serration is believed to be effective in reducing leading-edge noise due to a destructive interference of scattered acoustics in the far field, and a redistribution of acoustic energy from cuton modes to cutoff modes with increasing serration tip-to-root heights.¹³ With this understood the task is now to determine if different leading-edge geometries will result in better noise reductions through either an increased destructive interference, or greater ability to redistribute energy to the cutoff modes.

This paper therefore presents an analytic solution for the noise generated by a convective gust interacting with a semi-infinite flat plate with an arbitrary piecewise linear leading edge. To do so, we generalise the method used in Ayton & Kim¹³ which considered specifically the case of a single-frequency serration, to a more general leading-edge geometry. We compare the analytic predictions against experimental results.

II. Formulation of the problem

We consider the interaction of a convective unsteady gust in uniform flow of Mach number M over a semiinfinite flat plate with a spanwise periodic leading edge. We non-dimensionalise lengths by the wavelength of the periodic leading-edge geometry, λ^* , and velocities by the upstream mean flow velocity, U^* . We consider the spanwise region $0 \le z \le 1$, and impose periodic boundary conditions across z = 0, 1. The blade lies in

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region $x > \tilde{c}F(z)$, y = 0, with x denoting the streamwise direction, and \tilde{c} permitting a variable 'tip-to-root' ratio, i.e. a varying difference of the height of the leading-edge geometry.

We restrict the leading-edge geometry such that F(z) is a piecewise linear function, therefore we can investigate most commonly used geometries such as the servation, triangular wave, and slitted root servation easily. Here we consider the five leading-edge geometries depicted in Figure 1, although the results will be applicable to any piecewise linear geometry (including piecewise linear approximations of any continuous periodic leading edge geometry such as a sinusoid), and dual-frequency servations.

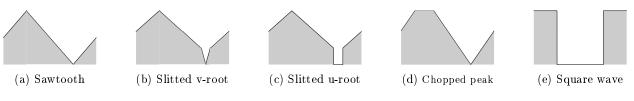


Figure 1: Leading-edge geometries over one wavelength.

Note in all geometry cases, the z = 0, 1 boundaries of the periodic function are chosen to be away from any regions of discontinuities of the leading edge. This ensures the solution correctly captures any influence of the discontinuities.

The unsteady gust incident from far upstream takes the form

$$\mathbf{v}_a = \mathbf{A} \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}k_1 x + \mathrm{i}k_2 y + \mathrm{i}k_3 z - \mathrm{i}\omega t},\tag{1}$$

where the amplitude, $\mathbf{A} = (A_1, A_2, A_3)^T$, is constant. For simplicity we shall take $\mathbf{A} = (0, 1, 0)$.

As for the specific seriation case in Ayton & Kim¹³ we decompose the unsteady flow field into a convective gust part and an acoustic response part, $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}_g + \mathbf{v}_a$, and write the response as $\mathbf{v}_a = \nabla G$. We suppose G is harmonic in time $\sim e^{-i\omega t}$ therefore spatially satisfies the convected Helmholtz equation,

$$\beta^2 \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial z^2} + 2ikM \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} + k^2 G = 0,$$
(2)

where $\beta^2 = 1 - M^2$ and $k = \omega/c_0$ with c_0 the speed of sound of the background steady flow. Since the gust convects with the background flow, we require $k = k_1 M$. The zero normal velocity boundary condition on the aerofoil surface requires

$$\left. \frac{\partial G}{\partial y} \right|_{y=0} = -e^{ik_1 x + ik_3 z} \qquad x > \tilde{c}F(z).$$
(3a)

We also impose continuity of the potential upstream

$$\Delta G|_{y=0} = 0 \qquad x < \tilde{c}F(z), \tag{3b}$$

and a periodic condition across z = 0, 1,

$$G|_{z=1} = G|_{z=0} \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}k_3}, \qquad \left. \frac{\partial G}{\partial z} \right|_{z=1} = \left. \frac{\partial G}{\partial z} \right|_{z=0} \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}k_3},$$
(3c)

To simplify the governing equation, (2), we apply a convective transform,

$$h = G(x, y, z) e^{ik_1 M^2 x/\beta^2},$$
(4)

to eliminate the convective terms. The resulting governing equation and boundary conditions for h(x, y, z) are

$$\beta^2 \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial z^2} + \left(\frac{k_1 M}{\beta}\right)^2 h = 0,$$
(5a)

$$\left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} \right|_{y=0} = -\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\frac{k_1}{\beta^2}x + \mathrm{i}k_3 z} \qquad x > \tilde{c}F(z),\tag{5b}$$

$$\Delta h|_{y=0} = 0 \qquad x < \tilde{c}F(z), \tag{5c}$$

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$$h|_{z=1} = h|_{z=0} e^{ik_3}, \qquad \left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} \right|_{z=1} = \left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} \right|_{z=0} e^{ik_3},$$
 (5d)

This system of equations, (5), is identical to that in Ayton & Kim^{13} however now as we are considering a much broader range of leading edge geometries we must employ a different change of variables in order to solve it.

We choose the following variables similar to that by Roger et al. $(2013)^{17}$

$$\xi = \frac{x}{\beta} - cF(z),\tag{6a}$$

$$\eta = y, \tag{6b}$$

$$\zeta = z, \tag{6c}$$

where $c = \tilde{c}/\beta$. This transformation converts the governing equation and boundary conditions, (5) to

$$\left(1+c^2F'(\zeta)^2\right)\frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial\xi^2} + \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial\eta^2} + \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial\zeta^2} - 2cF'(\zeta)\frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial\xi\partial\zeta} - cF''(\zeta)\frac{\partial h}{\partial\xi} + (\delta M)^2h = 0,\tag{7a}$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial \eta} \right|_{\eta=0} = -\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\delta\xi + \mathrm{i}k_1 c F(\zeta) + \mathrm{i}k_3 \zeta} \qquad \xi > 0, \tag{7b}$$

$$\Delta h|_{\eta=0} = 0 \qquad \xi < 0, \tag{7c}$$

$$h|_{\zeta=1} = h|_{\zeta=0} \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}k_3},$$
 (7d)

$$\left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} \right|_{z=1} = \left. \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} \right|_{z=0} e^{ik_3},\tag{7e}$$

where $\delta = k_1/\beta$, and derivatives of F are taken in the weak sense at discontinuities.

This completes the formulation of the mathematical model.

III. Analytic solution

We proceed to solve (7) by following a similar set of steps as Ayton & Kim,¹³ inspired by Envia (1988),¹⁸ however take care over the new terms in the governing equations which were not present when F(z) is restricted to a simple servation.

We first apply a Fourier transform in the ξ variable,

Z

$$H(\lambda,\eta,\zeta) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(\xi,\eta,\zeta) \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\lambda\xi} d\xi, \qquad (8)$$

then separate the solution into η and ζ dependencies, $H(\lambda, \eta, \zeta) = Y(\lambda, \eta)Z(\lambda, \zeta)$, with separation constant χ . This results in governing equations

$$Y'' + ((\delta M)^2 - \lambda^2 - \chi^2) Y = 0,$$
(9)

 and

$$'' + 2i\lambda cF'Z' + \left(i\lambda cF'' - \lambda^2 c^2 (F')^2 + \chi^2\right)Z = 0.$$
 (10)

Eq (9) has solutions

$$Y(\lambda,\eta) = \operatorname{sgn}(\eta) e^{-|\eta|\sqrt{\lambda^2 - w^2}},$$
(11)

where

$$w^2 = (\delta M)^2 - \chi^2.$$
(12)

Eq (10) has solutions

$$Z(\lambda,\zeta) = e^{-i\lambda cF(\zeta)} \left(A(\lambda)\cos(\chi\zeta) + B(\lambda)\sin(\chi\zeta) \right).$$
(13)

We impose the periodicity boundary conditions to Z to solve for χ and eliminate one of A, B. This yields a spanwise orthogonal basis by $\overline{T}_{A}(\lambda, z) = -\frac{i}{2}i E^{E(A)} i E^{E(A)} + 2\pi z i E^{E(A)}$

$$Z_n(\lambda,\zeta) = e^{-i\lambda c F(\zeta)} e^{ik_3\zeta + 2n\pi i\zeta},\tag{14}$$

and a general solution given by

$$H(\lambda,\eta,\zeta) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} A_n(\lambda) \operatorname{sgn}(\eta) e^{-|\eta| \sqrt{\lambda^2 - w_n^2}} Z_n(\lambda,\zeta),$$
(15)

where

$$w_n^2 = (\delta M)^2 - \chi_n^2, \qquad \chi_n = \pm k_3 + 2n\pi.$$
 (16)

Now that we have the necessary orthogonal spanwise basis which is a generalisation of the basis used in Ayton & Kim^{13} we proceed to solve for the A_n following a similar Wiener-Hopf analysis to yield

$$\tilde{A}_{n}^{+}(\lambda) = \frac{G_{n}^{+}(\lambda)}{\sqrt{\lambda + w_{n}}},\tag{17}$$

with

$$G_n^+(\lambda) = \frac{\mathrm{i}}{\lambda + \delta} \frac{1}{\sqrt{-\delta - w_n}},\tag{18}$$

hence

$$H(\lambda,\eta,\zeta) = \operatorname{sgn}(\eta) \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{G_n^+(\lambda)E_n(\lambda)\mathrm{e}^{-|\eta|}\sqrt{\lambda^2 - w_n^2}}{\sqrt{\lambda + w_n}} Z_n(\lambda,\zeta),$$
(19)

where the E_n are defined via

$$e^{ik_1cF(\zeta)+ik_3\zeta} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} E_n(\lambda)Z_n(\lambda,\zeta).$$
(20)

The functions $E_n(\lambda)$ are known and dependent on the specific leading-edge geometry. For the serrated edge is is found that the E_n are the key functions determining the overall magnitude of the far-field acoustic pressure and its level of modulation (i.e. how oscillatory it is in the far field).¹³

We invert the Fourier transform and obtain the far-field acoustics by applying the method of steepest descents to give

$$h(r,\theta,z) \sim \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{e}^{\pi\mathrm{i}/4}}{\sqrt{\pi}} G_n^+(-w_n\cos\theta) E_n(-w_n\cos\theta) \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \frac{\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}w_n r}}{\sqrt{r}} Z_n(-w_n\cos\theta,z) \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}w_n\cos\theta\,cF(\zeta)},\tag{21}$$

where (r, θ, z) are cylindrical polar coordinates with origin corresponding to Cartesian origin x = y = z = 0. Acoustic pressure is determined from the modified potential via

$$p = -\left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} - \frac{\mathrm{i}k_1}{\beta^2}h\right) \mathrm{e}^{-\mathrm{i}k_1 M^2 x/\beta^2}.$$
(22)

This solution is identical to the solution presented in Ayton & Kim¹³ when F(z) is a sawtooth serration, however now is generalised for F(z) defined by any piecewise linear function.

This completes our analytic solution of the scattered field.

IV. Experimental setup and instrumentation

A. Flat plates leading edge serrations

For economy and ease of manufacture, a comparative study on noise reductions of different leading edge profiles was performed on flat plates situated within a turbulent flow. The flat plate with a mean chord (b) of 150 mm and span of 450 mm was constructed by joining together two 1 mm thick metallic sheets to allow serrated flat plate inserts 2 mm thick to be inserted between them. All corners were rounded and the trailing edge sharpened to eliminate vortex shedding noise. Further details of this flat plate construction can be found in.¹⁰

A total of 15 flat plate servations, which includes 5 different servations of varying c of 1,2 and 4 were investigated to explore the sensitivity on noise reductions. For each case the servation wavelength, λ , is kept constant. Note that in this paper values of λ are presented as quantities normalized on the mean chord b although there is no evidence to suggest that this is a meaningful normalization parameter in determining noise reductions.

B. Open-jet test facility and instrumentation

Far-field noise measurements were carried out at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research's open-jet wind tunnel facility. The wind tunnel is located within the anechoic chamber, of dimension $8m \times 8m \times 8m$ as shown in figure 2. The walls are acoustically treated with glass wool wedges and the cut-off frequency is 80 Hz. The nozzle has dimensions of 150 mm and 450 mm and provides a maximum flow speed of 100 m/s. A detailed description of the wind tunnel, including its characteristics, is presented by.¹⁹ To maintain two-dimensional flow around the flat plate, side plates are mounted to the nozzle exits which will also support the flat plate and aerofoil in the flow. The mean leading edge of the flat plate is located 150 mm downstream from the nozzle exit.



Figure 2: Photograph of jet nozzle and test setup inside the ISVR anechoic chamber.

In order to prevent tonal noise generation due to Tollmien-Schlichting waves convecting in the laminar boundary layer, and to ensure complete consistency between the different cases, the flow near the leading edge of the aerofoil was tripped to force transition to turbulence using a rough band of tape of width 1.25 cm located 16.6% of chord from the leading edge, on both suction and pressure sides. The tape has roughness of SS 100, corresponding to a surface roughness of 140 μm . Transition is forced by the use of the trip tape, which is many orders of magnitude rougher than the aerofoil surface, and is therefore highly unlikely to affect transition. Previous noise measurements in our facility have indicated that self-noise is insensitive to the method of tripping.

C. Far-field noise measurements

Far-field noise measurements from the flat plate were made using 11, half-inch condenser microphones (B&K type 4189) located at a constant radial distance of 1.2 m from the mid span of the flat plate leading edge. These microphones are placed at emission angles of between 40° and 140° measured relative to the downstream jet axis. Measurements were carried for 10 s duration at a sampling frequency of 50 kHz, and the noise spectra was calculated with a window size of 1024 data points corresponding to a frequency resolution of 48.83 Hz and a *BT* product of about 500, which is sufficient to ensure negligible variance in the spectral estimate at this frequency resolution.

The acoustic pressure at the microphone was recorded at the mean flow velocities (U) of 20, 40, 60 and 80 m/s. Noise reductions are presented in terms of the Sound Power Level spectra PWL(f) calculated by integrating the pressure spectra over the polar array of 11 microphones using the procedure described in.¹⁰ Sound power level reductions are determined by subtracting the sound power level spectra due to the serrated flat plate from that due to the baseline straight edge profile.

D. Turbulence characterisation

A bi-planar rectangular grid with overall dimensions of 630 x 690 mm^2 located in the contraction section 75cm upstream of the nozzle exit was used to generate turbulent flow that provides a velocity spectrum that

is a close approximation to homogeneous and isotropic turbulence at the aerofoil leading edge. However, we emphasize that the condition of isotropy is not a key requirement for predicting the noise radiation but only that the velocity spectrum at the aerofoil leading edge is known. A comparison of the streamwise velocity spectra measured at 145 mm from the nozzle exit (S_{uu}/U) plotted against f/U is compared in figure 3 to the theoretical Liepmann velocity spectrum, where the mean square velocity and integral length scale are chosen to give best fit to the measured data. Close agreement is observed for 2.5% turbulence intensity and a 7.5 mm streamwise integral length-scale.

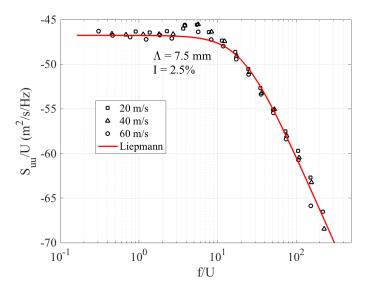


Figure 3: Comparison between the measured axial velocity spectra and theoretical Liepmann spectra.

E. Effect of trailing-edge self noise

The experimental setup cannot avoid the generation of trailing-edge self noise. This will become increasingly dominant at high frequencies $k_1 \gtrsim 6$, as illustrated by Figure 4, moreso when the leading-edge geometry permits a significant reduction of leading-edge noise (therefore also affecting lower frequencies). As these frequencies are within the range we wish to consider for our experimental and analytical comparison, we must include a simple trailing-edge noise contribution to the analytical model.

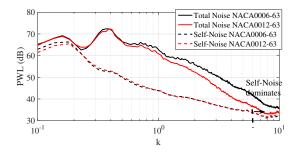


Figure 4: Far-field power spectra as a function of non-dimensionalised frequency $k = k_1$ for two different aerofoils. Self-noise measurements are obtained when the grid is not placed over the flow nozzle.

We use Amiet's trailing-edge noise model²⁰ with Howe's approximation²¹ to Chase's wall-normal turbulent spectrum,²² as detailed in Glegg & Devenport (2017) §9-10.²³ This provides us with a far-field spectrum directly above the trailing edge, in the mid-span, of

$$SPL_{TE} = 10 \log_{10} \left(S_{pp}(0, r_t, 0, \omega_t) \right), \tag{23}$$

where

$$S_{pp}(x_t, y_t, 0, \omega_t) \approx \pi b \left(\frac{\omega_t c_h y_t}{4\pi c_\infty r_t^2}\right)^2 \phi_{pp}(\omega_t) \left|\mathcal{L}\right|^2.$$
(24)

Here (x_t, y_t, z_t) are standard Cartesian coordinates centred on the trailing edge, r_t is the radial distance from the trailing edge, b is the chord span, and c_h is the chord length. The frequency, ω_t , is assumed to satisfy $k_1 = \omega_t/U_c$ where U_c is the convection velocity within the boundary layer, $U_c \approx 0.7U$. \mathcal{L} is Amiet's generalised lift function [23, Eq (15.2.11)], and ϕ_{pp} is the expected wall pressure spectrum [23, Eq (9.2.37) denoted as G_{pp}]

V. Results

A. Analytic directivity

We first investigate the leading-edge far-field span-averaged directivity, defined as

$$D_{a}(r,\theta) = \int_{0}^{1} |p(r,\theta,z)|^{2} dz,$$
(25)

for our five test-case leading-edge geometries.

In Figure 5 we plot $D_a(10,\theta)$ for $k_3 = 0$, $k_1 = 5$ and varying tip-to-root ratio c, for all five test cases. We consider a moderate k_1 value, as it is known that for low-frequency interactions ($k_1 \leq 1$) servations are not very effective in reducing far-field noise.¹³ It is clear the square wave does not follow the same trend as the other four geometries, which consistently show a decrease of far-field noise as c is increased. This implies one of the key mechanisms reducing noise as c increases is not in effect for the square wave. It has been determined in Ayton & Kim¹³ the two key mechanisms are a destructive interference, and a redistribution of energy to higher (non-propagating) modes. The interference is still present for the square wave, thus we expect it is the redistribution of modes which is less effective for the square wave than for the other leading-edge geometries.

Figure 5 also shows that different geometries are more effective at different values of c. For example, the v-root produces more noise than the u-root at c = 2, but the u-root produces more noise than the v-root at c = 5. Clearly the dual-mechanism of noise reduction (increased interference and redistribution of energy) leads to complicated situations where different designs a optimal for different incident frequencies, since as frequency varies there is a shift in which mechanism is most prominent. Also clear is that there must be a strong dependency on the spanwise component of the incident turbulence given the edge has spanwise variation. Therefore to assess the noise reduction effects over a range of frequencies and to include a reliable spanwise dependency of the incident field we consider the far-field SPL and compare to experimental results.

B. Comparison to Experimental Results

The experimental results include a contribution from both leading-edge noise and trailing-edge noise, with the latter becoming increasingly important at higher frequencies and in situations where the leading-edge geometry significantly reduces the leading-edge contribution.

We therefore consider a combined leading-edge and trailing-edge SPL defined (for the analytic results) as ∞

$$SPL(k_1) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |p(r,\theta,z)|^2 \Phi^{(\infty)}(k_1,k_3) dk_3 + SPL_{TE},$$
(26)

where $\Phi^{(\infty)}$ is an upstream turbulent spectra given by

$$\Phi^{(\infty)}(k_1, k_3) = \frac{L^2(k_1^2 + k_3^2)}{\left(1 + L^2(k_1^2 + k_3^2)\right)^{5/2}},\tag{27}$$

with L the integral lengthscale of turbulence.

In each experimental case the wavelength of the leading-edge geometry is $\lambda^* = 25mm$ and the total chord length is $b^* = 150mm$. The flow speed is fixed at $u^* = 60ms^{-1}$. The tip-to-root ratios corresponding to c = 1, 2, 4 are considered. At the lowest frequencies $f^* < 1,000Hz$ it is expected the experimental results contain significant amounts of unavoidable jet noise.

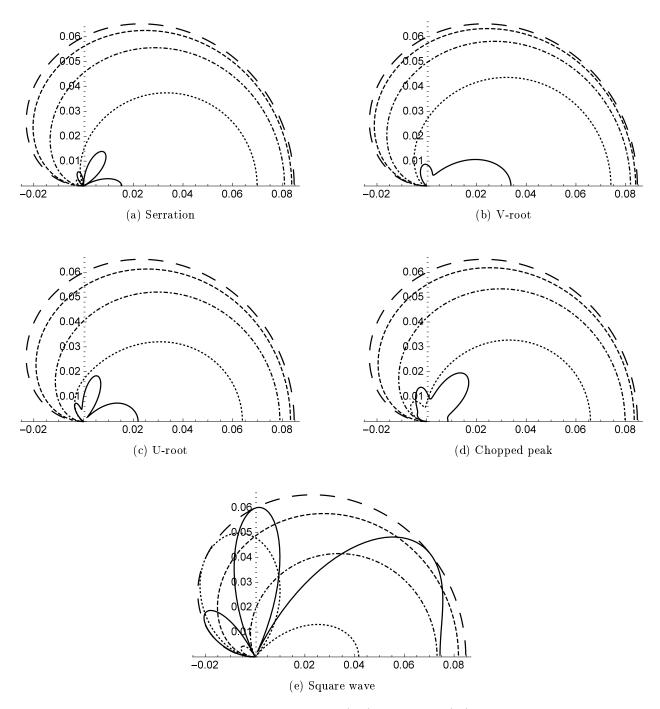


Figure 5: Average directivity over the channel span, $D_a(r, \theta)$ as given by (25), for r = 10, M = 0.5, $k_3 = 0$. Large dashed c = 0; dashed c = 0.5; dot-dashed c = 1; dotted c = 2, solid c = 5.

In Figures 6, 7, and 8 we plot the analytic results against the experimental measurements for c = 1, 2, 4 respectively, and for each leading edge geometry. The straight edge result is identical in all figures and provides a reference point for considering the noise reduction. The dashed lines are the experimental measurements whilst the solid lines are the analytic results. Overall we see good agreement between the analytic predictions and the experimental measurements for all edges therefore this mathematical model is accurately capturing the key physics of the fluid-structure interaction.

The comparison is particularly good for the sawtooth (a), chopped peak (d), and square wave (e) geometries over all tip-to-root ratios. The very small slitted root regions in the v-root (b) and u-root (c) could allow non-linear or viscous effects to be more prominent in the experimental results than for the other geometries (where there are no narrow regions); these effects are not accounted for in the mathematical model.

C. Isolated leading-edge noise

The results in the previous subsection include the effects of (straight) trailing-edge noise as this is unavoidable during experimental testing. The analytic results however allow us to isolate just the leading-edge noise. We wish to do this because simultaneous to the development of quieter leading-edge designs, is the development of quieter trailing-edge designs.²⁴⁻²⁸ If the trailing-edge noise is significantly reduced from its straight-edge level at a given (high) frequency, understanding how a leading-edge adaptation affects the leading-edge noise at that frequency becomes important.

We use the analytic results to plot the SPL due only to the leading edge in Figure 9 compared to the SPL when trailing-edge noise is included. We calculate the isolated leading-edge SPL from (26) by neglecting the contribution from SPL_{TE}. We see the key difference as expected is at the high-frequency end where trailing-edge noise is most dominant. Without the inclusion of trailing-edge noise, the leading-edge designs continue to increase noise reduction as frequency increases, except the square wave (e) which is ineffective at high-frequencies. When trailing-edge noise is included each leading-edge geometry performs identically at high frequencies, however when trailing-edge noise is neglected we see clearly the sawtooth out-performs the other geometries at high frequencies, despite being less effective than the other geometries at mid-range frequencies (e.g. at $k_1 \sim 2.5$ the square wave (e) is much better at reducing noise than the other geometries).

VI. Conclusions

This paper has presented an analytic solution for the leading-edge noise generated by a semi-infinite flat plate with arbitrary piecewise-linear leading-edge geometry. For comparison with experimental results, a simple model of trailing-edge noise²⁰ is added to the leading-edge noise results. The trailing-edge noise model does not account for the backscattering of the acoustic field²⁹ by the leading edge, similarly the leading-edge noise model does not account for any rescattering by the straight trailing edge. These smaller effects would be expected to introduce oscillations into the SPL where interference between rescattered fields could occur. Overall there is good agreement between the analytical results and experimental measurements for all geometries at a variety of tip-to-root ratios.

Key to this model is the separation of spanwise and normal variables *after* applying a Fourier transform in the streamwise direction. Because of this, the new mathematical formulation is simpler to implement than the previous (spanwise) Fourier decomposition model of Lyu et al^{15} which involves an iterative numerical procedure to obtain far-field results.

The analytic results have been used to isolate just the leading-edge noise at high-frequencies, which can't be done easily experimentally. Different behaviour has been identified between the different test case geometries at high-frequencies when only the leading-edge noise is considered. In particular, the sawtooth is most effective at high frequencies despite not being the most effective at mid-range frequencies.

These results provide groundwork for optimising leading-edge geometries for reducing aerofoil-turbulence interaction noise.

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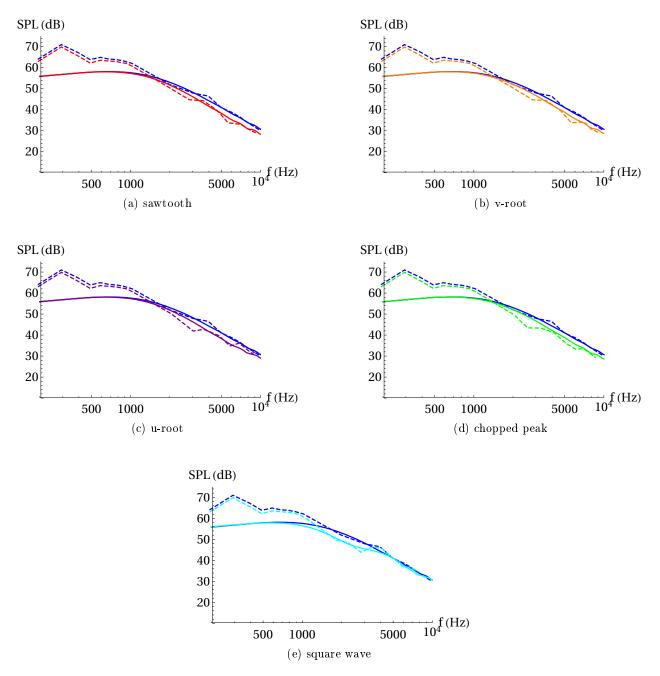


Figure 6: SPL from analytic results (solid) and experimental measurements (dashed) for each of the five test case geometries: red (a), orange (b), purple (c), green (d), cyan (e). The straight-edge results are blue throughout. In each case M = 0.17, c = 1.

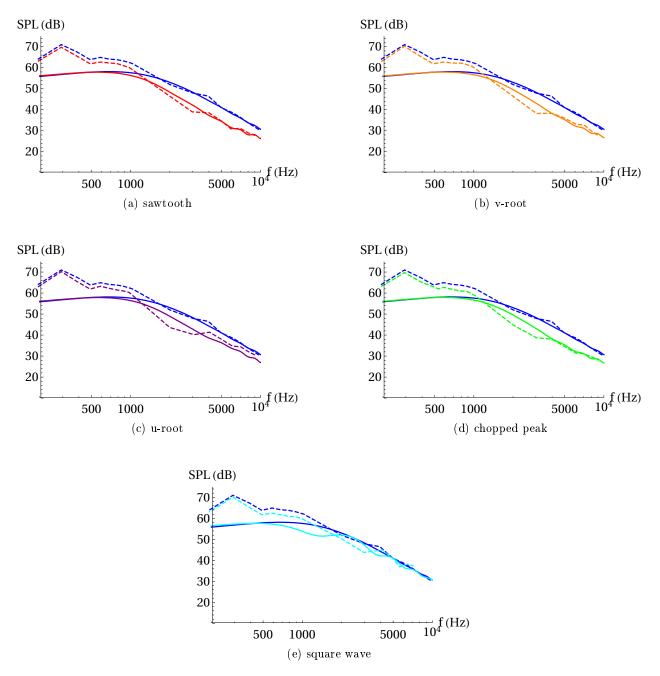


Figure 7: SPL from analytic results (solid) and experimental measurements (dashed) for each of the five test case geometries: red (a), orange (b), purple (c), green (d), cyan (e). The straight-edge results are blue throughout. In each case M = 0.17, c = 2.

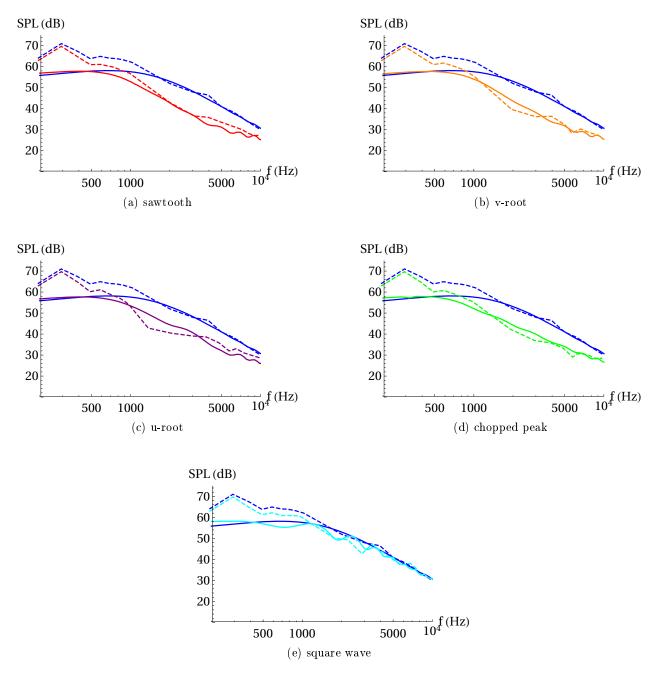


Figure 8: SPL from analytic results (solid) and experimental measurements (dashed) for each of the five test case geometries: red (a), orange (b), purple (c), green (d), cyan (e). The straight-edge results are blue throughout. In each case M = 0.17, c = 4.

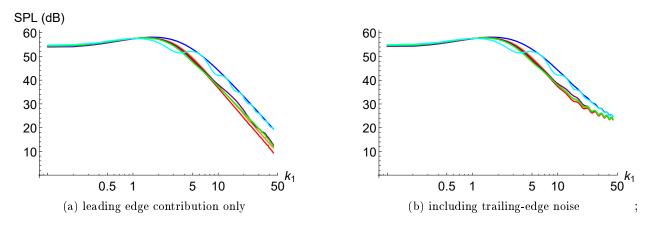


Figure 9: SPL from analytic results for each of the five test case geometries: red (a), orange (b), purple (c), green (d), cyan (e). The straight-edge result in blue is provided for comparison. In each case M = 0.17, c = 2.

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