

**FLOWS FOR CHOSEN VORTICITY FUNCTIONS—  
EXACT SOLUTIONS OF THE NAVIER-STOKES EQUATIONS**

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**ABSTRACT.** Solutions are obtained for the equations of the motion of the steady incompressible viscous planar generalized Beltrami flows when the vorticity distribution is given by  $\nabla^2\psi = \psi + f(x, y)$  for three chosen forms of  $f(x, y)$ .

**KEY WORDS AND PHRASES.** viscous flow, asymptotic suction profile, Beltrami flow.

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**1. INTRODUCTION.**

Only a small number of exact solutions of the Navier-Stokes equations has been found and Chang-Yi Wang [1] has given an excellent review of these solutions. These known solutions of viscous incompressible Newtonian fluids may be classified into three types:

(i) Flows for which the non-linear inertia terms in the linear momentum equations vanish identically. Parallel flows and flows with uniform suction are examples of these flows;

(ii) flows with similarity properties such that the flow equations reduce to a set of ordinary differential equations. Stagnation point flow is an example of such flows;

(iii) flows for which the vorticity function is so chosen that the governing equation in terms of the stream function reduces to a linear equation. Taylor [2], Kampe de Fériet [3], Kovaszny [4], Wang [5] and Lin and Tobak [6] employed this approach, taking  $\nabla^2\psi = K\psi$ ,  $\nabla^2\psi = f(\psi)$ ,  $\nabla^2\psi = y + (K^2 - 4\pi^2)\psi$ ,  $\nabla^2\psi = A\psi + Cy$  and  $\nabla^2\psi = K(\psi - Ry)$ , respectively.

In this paper, we study generalized Beltrami flows when the vorticity function  $\omega = -\nabla^2\psi$  is given by  $\nabla^2\psi = \psi + Ay^2 + Bxy + Cz + Dy$ ,  $\nabla^2\psi = \psi + Ay^2 + Cz + D$ ,  $\nabla^2\psi = \psi + Cz + Dy$ , where  $A, B, C, D$  are real constants.

## 2. BASIC EQUATIONS AND SOLUTIONS.

Steady plane incompressible viscous fluid flow, in the absence of external forces, is governed by the system:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{u}_{\bar{x}} + \bar{v}_{\bar{y}} &= 0 \\ \bar{u}\bar{u}_{\bar{x}} + \bar{v}\bar{u}_{\bar{y}} + \frac{1}{\rho}\bar{p}_{\bar{x}} &= \mu\bar{\nabla}^2\bar{u} \\ \bar{u}\bar{v}_{\bar{x}} + \bar{v}\bar{v}_{\bar{y}} + \frac{1}{\rho}\bar{p}_{\bar{y}} &= \mu\bar{\nabla}^2\bar{v}\end{aligned}\quad (2.1)$$

where  $\bar{u}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ ,  $\bar{v}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  are the velocity components,  $\bar{p}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  the pressure function,  $\rho$  the constant density,  $\mu$  the constant viscosity and  $\bar{\nabla}^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \bar{x}^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \bar{y}^2}$  is the Laplacian operator. The vorticity function for this flow is given by

$$\bar{\omega} = \bar{v}_{\bar{x}} - \bar{u}_{\bar{y}} \quad (2.2)$$

Letting  $U, L$  to be the characteristic velocity and length respectively, we introduce the non-dimensional variables

$$x = \frac{\bar{x}}{L}, \quad y = \frac{\bar{y}}{L}, \quad u = \frac{\bar{u}}{U}, \quad v = \frac{\bar{v}}{U}, \quad \omega = \frac{L\bar{\omega}}{U}, \quad p = \frac{\bar{p}}{\rho U^2} \quad (2.3)$$

in system (2.1) and equation (2.2). We apply the integrability condition  $p_{xy} = p_{yx}$  to the linear momentum equations to find that  $u, v, \omega$  must satisfy the system:

$$\begin{aligned}u_x + v_y &= 0 \\ u\omega_x + v\omega_y &= \frac{1}{R}\nabla^2\omega \\ v_x - u_y &= \omega\end{aligned}\quad (2.4)$$

where  $R = \frac{\rho UL}{\mu}$  is the Reynolds number.

Introducing the stream function  $\psi(x, y)$  such that

$$u = \psi_y, \quad v = -\psi_x \quad (2.5)$$

in system (2.4), we find that  $\psi(x, y)$  must satisfy

$$\nabla^4\psi + R\frac{\partial(\psi, \nabla^2\psi)}{\partial(x, y)} = 0 \quad (2.6)$$

In this paper, we study flows for which the vorticity distributions take the forms

$$(a) \quad \omega = -\nabla^2\psi = -(\psi + Ay^2 + Bxy + Cx + Dy) \quad (2.7)$$

$$(b) \quad \omega = -\nabla^2\psi = -(\psi + Ay^2 + Cx + Dy) \quad (2.8)$$

$$(c) \quad \omega = -\nabla^2\psi = -(\psi + Cx + Dy) \quad (2.9)$$

where  $A, B, C, D$  are real constants.

**Form (a):**

Substituting (2.7) in the compatibility equation (2.6), we get

$$R(2Ay + Bx + D)\psi_x - R(By + C)\psi_y + \psi + Ay^2 + Bxy + Cx + Dy + 2A = 0 \quad (2.10)$$

Employing the canonical coordinates

$$\xi = Ay^2 + Bxy + Cx + Dy, \quad \eta = y \tag{2.11}$$

where  $(By + C) \neq 0$ , (2.10) may be written as

$$-R(B\eta + C)\psi_\eta + \psi + \xi + 2A = 0. \tag{2.12}$$

This equation is solved to obtain

$$\psi = f(\xi)(By + D) - (Ay^2 + Bxy + Cx + Dy + 2A) \tag{2.13}$$

where  $f$  is an arbitrary function of  $\xi$ . Introducing (2.13) into (2.7), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \{R^2 [C^2(C^2 + D^2) + 2BCD\xi + B^2\xi^2] f''(\xi) + 2R[C(RAC + D) - B\xi] f'(\xi) \\ & + [1 - RB - R^2C^2] f(\xi)\} + 2RC \{2R[C(AD + BC) + AB\xi] f''(\xi) \\ & + 2A[RB + 1] f'(\xi) - RBf(\xi)\} \eta + R \{2R[C^2(2A^2 + 3B^2) + ABCD \\ & + AB^2\xi] f''(\xi) + 2AB[RB + 1] f'(\xi) - RB^2f(\xi)\} \eta^2 \\ & + 4R^2BC \{[A^2 + B^2] f''(\xi)\} \eta^3 + R^2B^2 \{[A^2 + B^2] f''(\xi)\} \eta^4 = 0 \end{aligned} \tag{2.14}$$

Since  $\xi, \eta$  are independent variables and  $\{1, \eta, \eta^2, \eta^3, \eta^4\}$  is a linearly independent set, it follows that the coefficients of the various powers of  $\eta$  are zero. Taking the coefficients of  $\eta^4, \eta^3, \eta^2, \eta$  and 1 equal to zero, we get

$$f(\xi) = c_1\xi + c_2 \tag{2.15}$$

$$2A(RB + 1)c_1 - RBc_2 - RBc_1\xi = 0 \tag{2.16}$$

where  $c_1, c_2$  are arbitrary constants. Since  $\{1, \xi\}$  is a linearly independent set, it follows from (2.16) that  $2A(RB + 1)c_1 - RBc_2 = 0, RBc_1 = 0$  giving  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ . Using  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$  in (2.15), we obtain  $f(\xi) = 0$ .

From (10), the stream function is given by

$$\psi(x, y) = -(Ay^2 + Bxy + Cx + Dy + 2A) \tag{2.17}$$

The exact integral of this flow is

$$\begin{aligned} u &= -(2Ay + Bx + D), \quad v = By + C, \quad \text{and} \\ p &= p_0 - \frac{1}{2} [B^2(x^2 + y^2) + 2(BD - 2AC)x + 2BCy] \end{aligned} \tag{2.18}$$

where  $p_0$  is an arbitrary constant.

Equation (2.17) represents an impingement of two constant-vorticity oblique flows with stagnation point

$$(x, y) = \left( \frac{2AC - BD}{B^2}, -\frac{C}{B} \right) \tag{2.19}$$

for non-zero values of  $A, B, C$  and  $E$ . The stagnation point shifts upward as  $B$  gets smaller for fixed values of  $A, C$  and  $E$ . We remark that when  $A = B = -1, C = D = 0$ , the solution (2.17) reduces to one of the flows in Wang's [1] paper.

**Form (b):**

Employing (2.8) in (2.6), we obtain

$$R(2Ay + D)\psi_x - RC\psi_y + \psi + Ay^2 + Cx + Dy + 2A = 0 \quad (2.20)$$

Choosing the canonical coordinates

$$\xi = Ay^2 + Cx + Dy, \quad \eta = y \quad (2.21)$$

where  $C \neq 0$ , (16) takes the form

$$-RC\psi_\eta + \psi + \xi + 2A = 0. \quad (2.22)$$

We solve this equation to get

$$\psi = g(\xi) \exp\left(\frac{1}{RC}y\right) - (Ay^2 + Cx + Dy + 2A) \quad (2.23)$$

where  $g$  is an arbitrary function of  $\xi$ . We substitute (2.23) into (2.8) to get

$$\begin{aligned} [R^2C^4g''(\xi) + 2R^2AC^2g'(\xi) + (1 - R^2C^2)g(\xi)] + 2RCg'(\xi)(2A\eta + D) \\ + R^2C^2g''(\xi)(2A\eta + D)^2 = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.24)$$

Since  $\xi, \eta$  are independent variables and  $\{1, (2A\eta + D), (2A\eta + D)^2\}$  is a linearly independent set, it follows that

$$g''(\xi) = 0, \quad g'(\xi) = 0, \quad (1 - R^2C^2)g(\xi) = 0 \quad (2.25)$$

From  $(1 - R^2C^2)g(\xi) = 0$ , we get the three possibilities:  $g(\xi) = 0, R^2C^2 \neq 1; R^2C^2 = 1, g(\xi) \neq 0; g(\xi) = 0, R^2C^2 = 1$ .

The stream function (2.23) is given by

$$\psi(x, y) = \begin{cases} -(Ay^2 + Cx + Dy + 2A) & ; g = 0, \quad R^2C^2 \neq 1 \\ K \exp\left(\frac{1}{RC}y\right) - (Ay^2 + Cx + Dy + 2A); R^2C^2 = 1, \quad g \neq 0 \\ -(Ay^2 + Cx + Dy + 2A) & ; g = 0, \quad R^2C^2 = 1 \end{cases} \quad (2.26)$$

where  $g \neq 0$  implies  $g = K$  (non-zero constant).

When the stream function is given by

$$\psi(x, y) = -(Ay^2 + Cx + Dy + 2A); \quad R^2C^2 = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad R^2C^2 \neq 1, \quad (2.27)$$

the exact integral for the flow is

$$u = -(2Ay + D), \quad v = C, \quad \text{and} \quad p = p_0 + 2ACx \quad (2.28)$$

where  $p_0$  is an arbitrary constant.

The solution (2.28) may be realized on a plate situated along  $y = -\frac{D}{2A}$  with uniform suction or blowing.  $C > 0$  and  $C < 0$ , respectively, for blowing and suction at the plate.

The exact integral for the flow given by the stream function

$$\psi(x, y) = K \exp\left(\frac{1}{RC}y\right) - (Ay^2 + Cz + Dy + 2A); \quad R^2C^2 = 1 \quad (2.29)$$

is

$$u = \frac{K}{RC} \exp\left(\frac{1}{RC}y\right) - (2Ay + D), \quad v = C, \quad \text{and} \quad p = p_0 + 2ACx \quad (2.30)$$

where  $p_0$  is an arbitrary constant.

If  $K = RCD$  in (2.29) and (2.30), the velocity profile in (2.30) can be realized on a plate located along  $y = 0$  with uniform suction. The velocity profile attains the form

$$u = D \exp\left(\frac{1}{RC}y\right) - (2Ay + D), \quad v = C \quad (2.31)$$

only asymptotically, and so may be regarded as the asymptotic suction profile [7].  $C > 0$  and  $C < 0$  for blowing and suction at the plate, respectively.

**Form (c):**

Substitution of (2.8) into (2.6) yields

$$RD\psi_x - RC\psi_y + \psi + Cx + Dy = 0 \quad (2.32)$$

The canonical coordinates

$$\xi = Cx + Dy, \quad \eta = y; \quad C \neq 0 \quad (2.33)$$

are employed in (2.32) to get

$$-RC\psi_\eta + \psi + \xi = 0.$$

The solution of this equation is

$$\psi = h(\xi) \exp\left(\frac{1}{RC}y\right) - (Dx + Ey) \quad (2.34)$$

where  $h$  is an arbitrary function of  $\xi$ . We employ (2.34) in (2.9) to obtain

$$R^2C^2(C^2 + D^2)h''(\xi) + 2RCDh'(\xi) + (1 - R^2C^2)h(\xi) = 0 \quad (2.35)$$

The general solution of (2.35) is

$$h(\xi) = \begin{cases} A_1 \exp(\lambda_1 \xi) + A_2 \exp(\lambda_2 \xi) & ; R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1 > 0 \\ (B_1 + B_2 \xi) \exp\left(-\frac{RD}{C}\xi\right) & ; R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1 = 0 \\ C_1 \cos(m\xi + C_2) \exp\left[-\frac{D}{RC(C^2 + D^2)}\xi\right] & ; R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1 < 0 \end{cases} \quad (2.36)$$

where

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{-D \pm C\sqrt{R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1}}{RC(C^2 + D^2)}, \quad m = \frac{\sqrt{1 - R^2(C^2 + D^2)}}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \quad (2.37)$$

and  $A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2, C_1, C_2$  are arbitrary constants.

We shall study these three possibilities separately.

(i)  $R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1 > 0$

The stream function, from (2.34) and (2.36), is

$$\psi(x, y) = A_1 \exp \left[ \lambda_1 Cx + \left( \lambda_1 D + \frac{1}{RC} \right) y \right] + A_2 \exp \left[ \lambda_2 Cx + \left( \lambda_2 D + \frac{1}{RC} \right) y \right] - (Cx + Dy) \quad (2.38)$$

The exact integral of this flow is

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \left( \lambda_1 D + \frac{1}{RC} \right) A_1 \exp \left[ \lambda_1 Cx + \left( \lambda_1 D + \frac{1}{RC} \right) y \right] \\ &\quad + \left( \lambda_2 D + \frac{1}{RC} \right) A_2 \exp \left[ \lambda_2 Cx + \left( \lambda_2 D + \frac{1}{RC} \right) y \right] - D, \\ v &= -D \left\{ \lambda_1 A_1 \exp \left[ \lambda_1 Cx + \left( \lambda_1 D + \frac{1}{RC} \right) y \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \lambda_2 A_2 \exp \left[ \lambda_2 Cx + \left( \lambda_2 D + \frac{1}{RC} \right) y \right] - 1 \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.39)$$

and

$$p = p_0 + 2 \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{R^2(C^2 + D^2)} \right] A_1 A_2 \exp \left[ \frac{2(Dy - Ex)}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \right]$$

where  $p_0$  is an arbitrary constant and  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  are given by (2.37).

This flow represents an impingement of an oblique uniform stream with an oblique rotational, divergent flow, with stagnation point

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y) &= -\frac{RC}{2\sqrt{R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1}} \left( C \ln \left( -\frac{A_1}{A_2} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - D\sqrt{R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1} \ln \left\{ \frac{-4A_1 A_2 [R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1]}{R^2(C^2 + D^2)^2} \right\} \right. \\ &\quad \left. D \ln \left( -\frac{A_1}{A_2} \right) + C\sqrt{R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1} \ln \left\{ \frac{-4A_1 A_2 [R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1]}{R^2(C^2 + D^2)^2} \right\} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (2.40)$$

where  $A_1, A_2$  are non-zero real constants and either  $A_1 > 0, A_2 < 0$  or  $A_1 < 0, A_2 > 0$ . For fixed values of  $R, C$  and  $D$ , the stagnation point shifts upward when the absolute value of  $A_2$  is larger than that of  $A_1$ .

If  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  are of the same sign, the above phenomenon does not take place, and we have a flow without a stagnation point.

(ii)  $R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1 = 0$

Using (2.36) in (2.34), the stream function is

$$\psi(x, y) = [B_1 + B_2(Cx + Dy)] \exp [R(Cy - Dx)] - (Cx + Dy) \quad (2.41)$$

This flow has the exact integral

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \{DB_2 + RC[B_1 + B_2(Cx + Dy)]\} \exp [R(Cy - Dx)] - E, \\ v &= \{-DB_2 + RD[B_1 + B_2(Cx + Dy)]\} \exp [R(Cy - Dx)] + D, \quad \text{and} \\ p &= p_0 - \frac{1}{2R^2} B_2^2 \exp [2R(Cy - Dx)] \end{aligned} \quad (2.42)$$

where  $p_0$  is an arbitrary constant.

If  $B_2$  is a positive real constant, this flow represents an impingement of an oblique uniform stream with an oblique rotational, divergent flow, with stagnation point

$$(x, y) = -\frac{1}{C^2 + D^2} \left( \frac{CB_1}{B_2} - \frac{D}{R} \ln B_2, \frac{DB_1}{B_2} + \frac{C}{R} \ln B_2 \right) \tag{2.43}$$

For fixed values of  $R$  and  $C$ , the stagnation point shifts upward if  $B_1$  and  $D$  are of opposite signs and the absolute value of  $B_1$  is larger than  $B_2$ .

If  $B_2$  is a negative real constant, (2.41) represents an oblique uniform stream which abuts on an oblique rotational, convergent flow.

(iii)  $R^2(C^2 + D^2) - 1 < 0$

From (2.27) and (2.36), the stream function is given by

$$\psi(x, y) = C_1 \text{Cos} [m(Cx + Dy) + C_2] \exp \left[ \frac{Cy - Dx}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \right] - (Cx + Dy) \tag{2.44}$$

The exact integral for this flow is

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \frac{C_1}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \{ C \text{Cos} [m(Cx + Dy) + C_2] \\ &\quad - mRD(C^2 + D^2) \text{Sin} [m(Cx + Dy) + C_2] \} \exp \left[ \frac{Cy - Dx}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \right] - D, \\ v &= \frac{C_1}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \{ D \text{Cos} [m(Cx + Dy) + C_2] \\ &\quad + mRC(C^2 + D^2) \text{Sin} [m(Cx + Dy) + C_2] \} \exp \left[ \frac{Cy - Dx}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \right] + C, \text{ and} \\ p_0 &+ \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{R^2(C^2 + D^2)} \right] C_1^2 \text{Cos} 2 [m(Cx + Dy) + C_2] \exp \left[ \frac{2(Cy - Dx)}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \right] \end{aligned} \tag{2.45}$$

where  $p_0$  is an arbitrary constant, and  $m$  is given by (2.37).

If  $C_1 > 0$ , the stagnation points for this flow are

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y) &= \left( \frac{RC[(2n + 1)\frac{\pi}{2} - C_2]}{\sqrt{1 - R^2(C^2 + D^2)}} + RD \ln \left[ \frac{C_1 \sqrt{1 - R^2(C^2 + D^2)}}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \right], \right. \\ &\quad \left. \frac{RD[(2n + 1)\frac{\pi}{2} - C_2]}{\sqrt{1 - R^2(C^2 + D^2)}} - RC \ln \left[ \frac{C_1 \sqrt{1 - R^2(C^2 + D^2)}}{R(C^2 + D^2)} \right] \right) \end{aligned} \tag{2.46}$$

where  $n$  is an integer.

Fig. 1 shows the streamlines for  $\psi(x, y) = -(Ay^2 + Bxy + Cx + Dy + 2A)$  when  $A = B = C = D = 1$ . Figures 2 and 3 represent the flows  $\psi(x, y) = -(Ay^2 + Cx + Dy + 2A)$  and  $\psi(x, y) = K \exp(\frac{1}{RC}y) - (Ay^2 + Cx + Dy + 2A)$  for  $K = R = A = C = D = 1$ . Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the case (c) ( $\nabla^2\psi = \psi + Cx + Dy$ ) when  $R^2(C^2 + D^2) > 1$ . Figure 4 shows reversed flow.  $C = D = 1, R = 2, A_1 = 50, A_2 = 60$  and  $C = D = R = 1, A_1 = 1, A_2 = -1$ , respectively, for Figures 4 and 5. The flows when  $R^2(C^2 + D^2) = 1$  are given in Figures 6 and 7 when  $C = D = 1, R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, B_1 = 50, B_2 = -60$  and  $C = D = 1, R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, B_1 = 0, B_2 = 1$ . When  $R^2(C^2 + D^2) < 1$ . we have Figure 8 for  $C = D = 1, R = \frac{1}{2}, C_1 = 5, C_2 = 0$ .

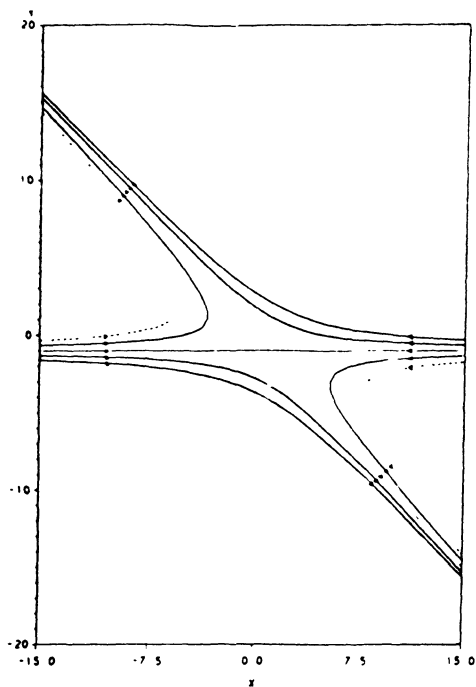


Figure 1

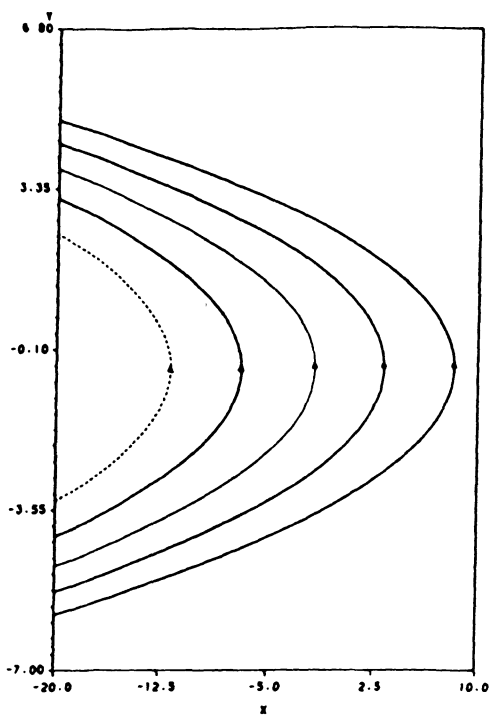


Figure 2

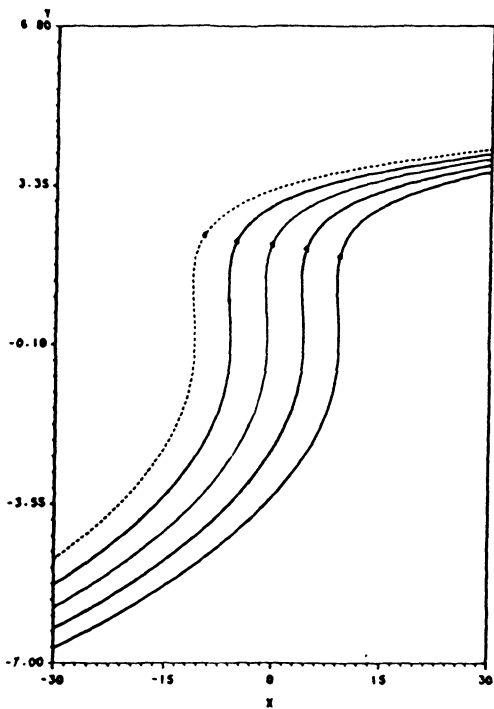


Figure 3

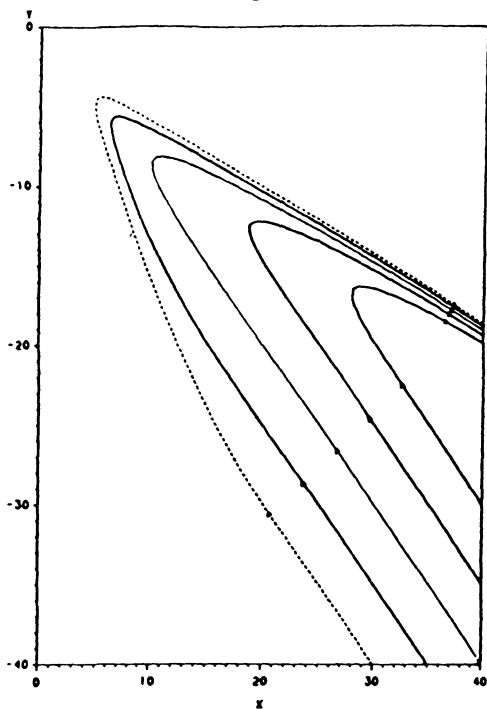


Figure 4



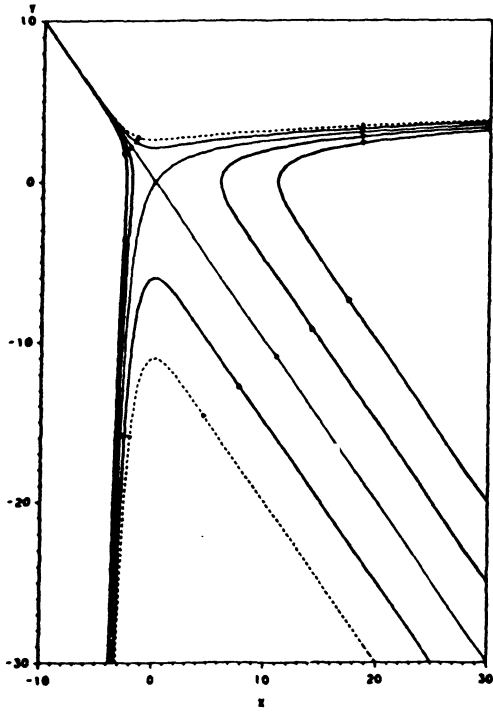


Figure 5

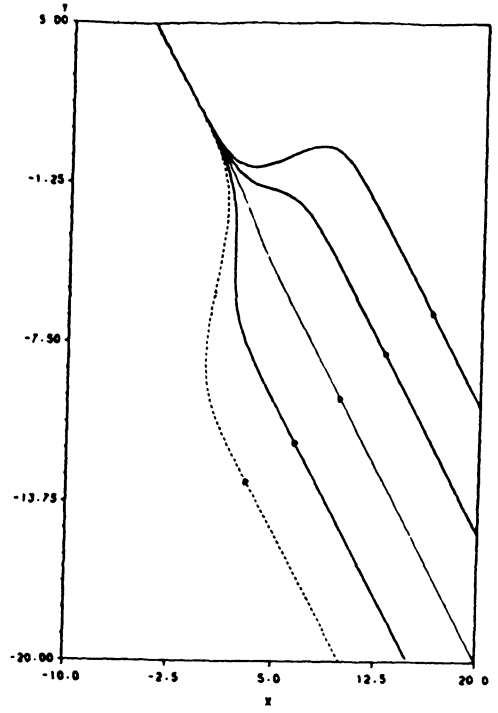


Figure 6

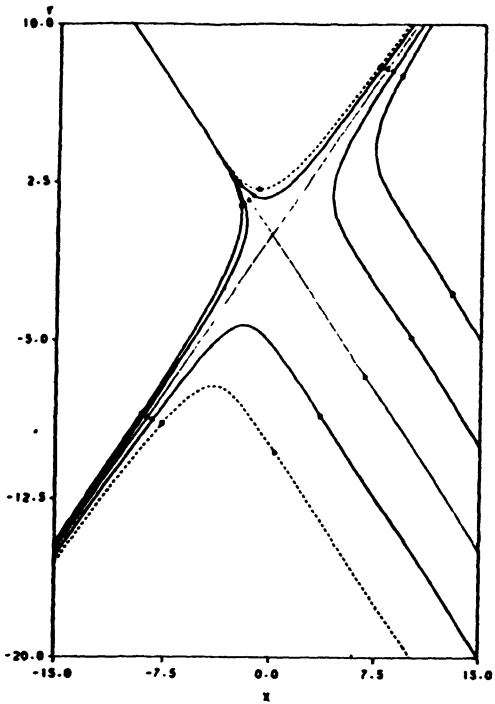


Figure 7

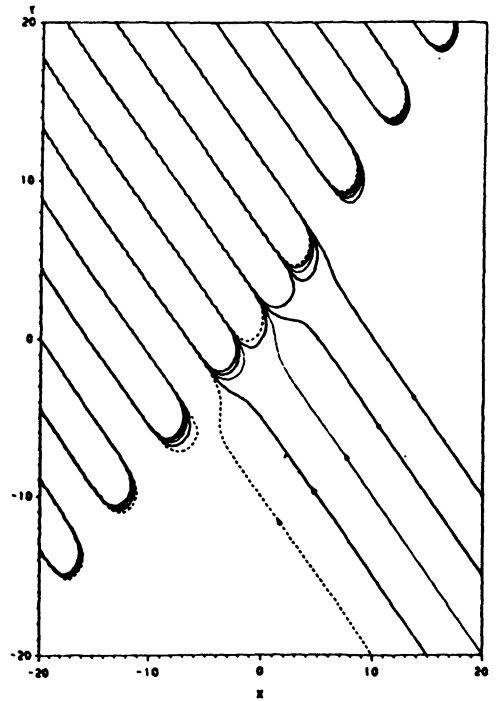


Figure 8

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