The Transition to and from Turbulence in a Pipe

T. Mullin*

A discussion of experimental investigations of the stability of flow along a pipe will be given. The transition to turbulence is catastrophic when a well-defined amplitude of injected perturbations is exceeded. The stability threshold scales inversely proportional to the Reynolds number, *Re*, with a sharp cut off at low *Re* values. On the other hand, the decay from the turbulent state exhibits systematic exponential behavior with diverging timescales which are indicative of critical behavior. The long transients contain spatiotemporal coherence which suggest connections with recent theoretical developments.



^{*} Manchester Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics, Department of Physics and Astronomy, The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK