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Asymptotic behavior of the Rayleigh–Taylor instability LAURENT DUCHEMIN, IRPHE, CHRISTOPHE JOSSERAND, LMM, PAUL CLAVIN, IRPHE — We investigate long time numerical simulations of the inviscid Rayleigh–Taylor instability at Atwood number one using a boundary integral method. We are able to attain the asymptotic behavior for the spikes predicted by Clavin & Williams for which we give a simplified demonstration. In particular we observe that the spike’s curvature evolves like t^3 while the overshoot in acceleration shows a good agreement with the suggested $1/t^5$ law. Moreover, we obtain consistent results for the prefactor coefficients of the asymptotic laws. Eventually we exhibit the self-similar behavior of the interface profile near the spike.

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