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# Computational modeling: valuable tool or math exercise?

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# **Computational modeling: valuable tool or math exercise?**

**C. Poloni**

**Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Architettura, Università di Trieste,  
ESTECO SpA  
Italy**



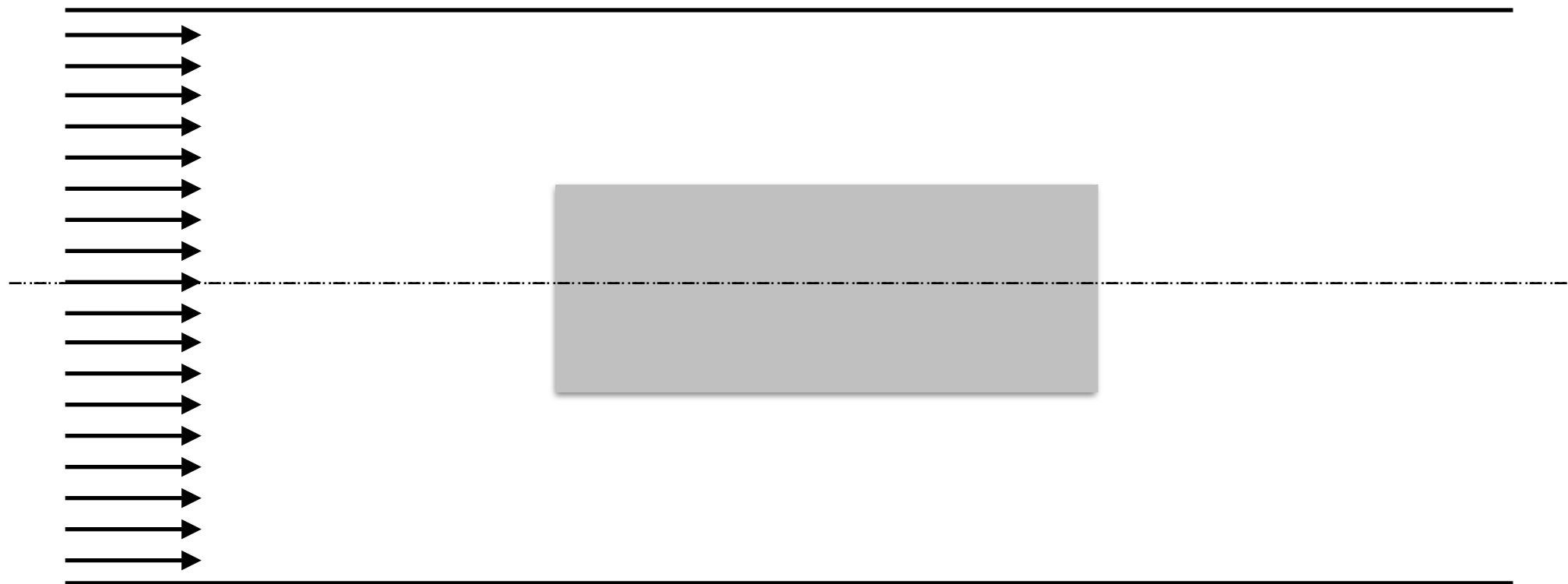
- *“When numerical simulations are presented nobody believes in the results but the one who did the calculations”*
- *“When experimental data are presented everybody believes in the results but the one who did the measurements”*
  - *case 1: optimization of an axisymmetric body*
  - *case 2: calibration of cavitation modeling*
  - *case 3: optimization of air filter*



# ...example from the past



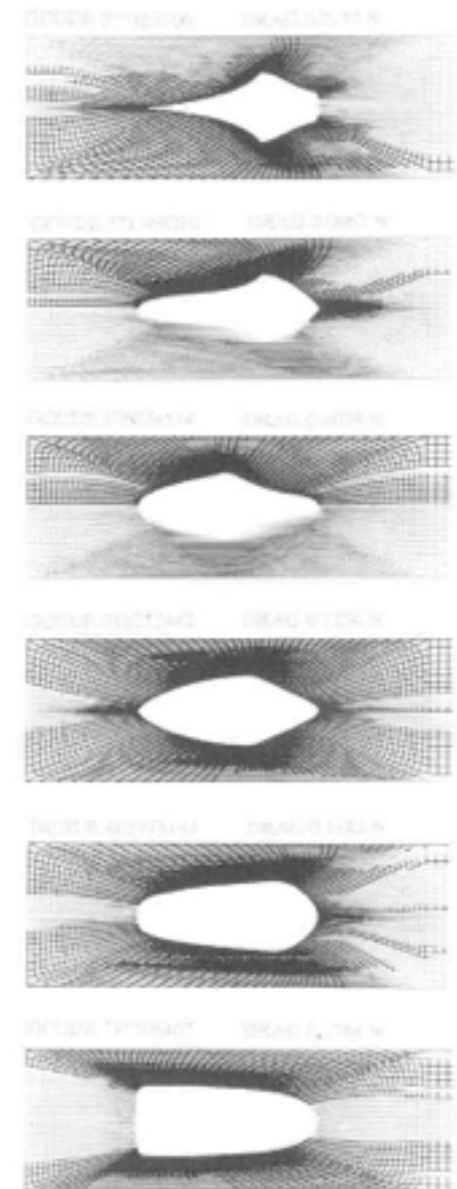
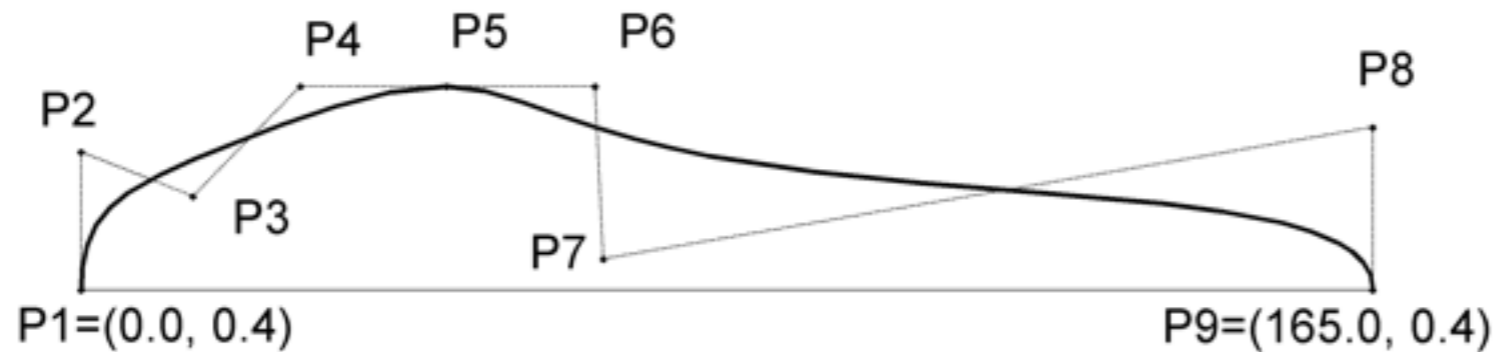
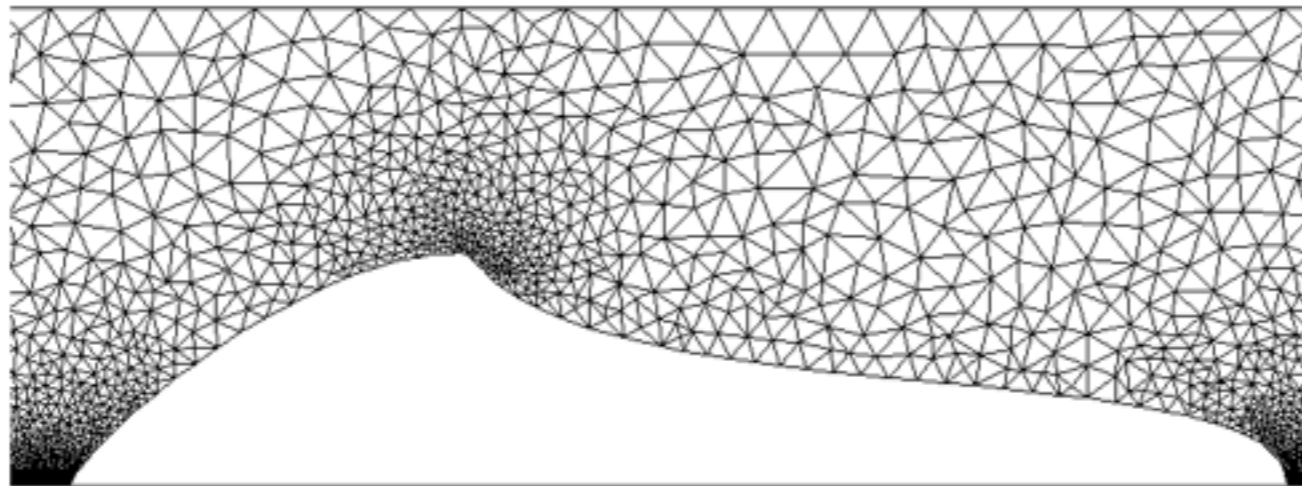
- find the shape with minimum drag at low Reynolds number with prescribed maximum size



C.Poloni, G.Mosetti, Aerodynamic Shape Optimization by Genetic Algorithm, ISCFD Sendai, August 1993



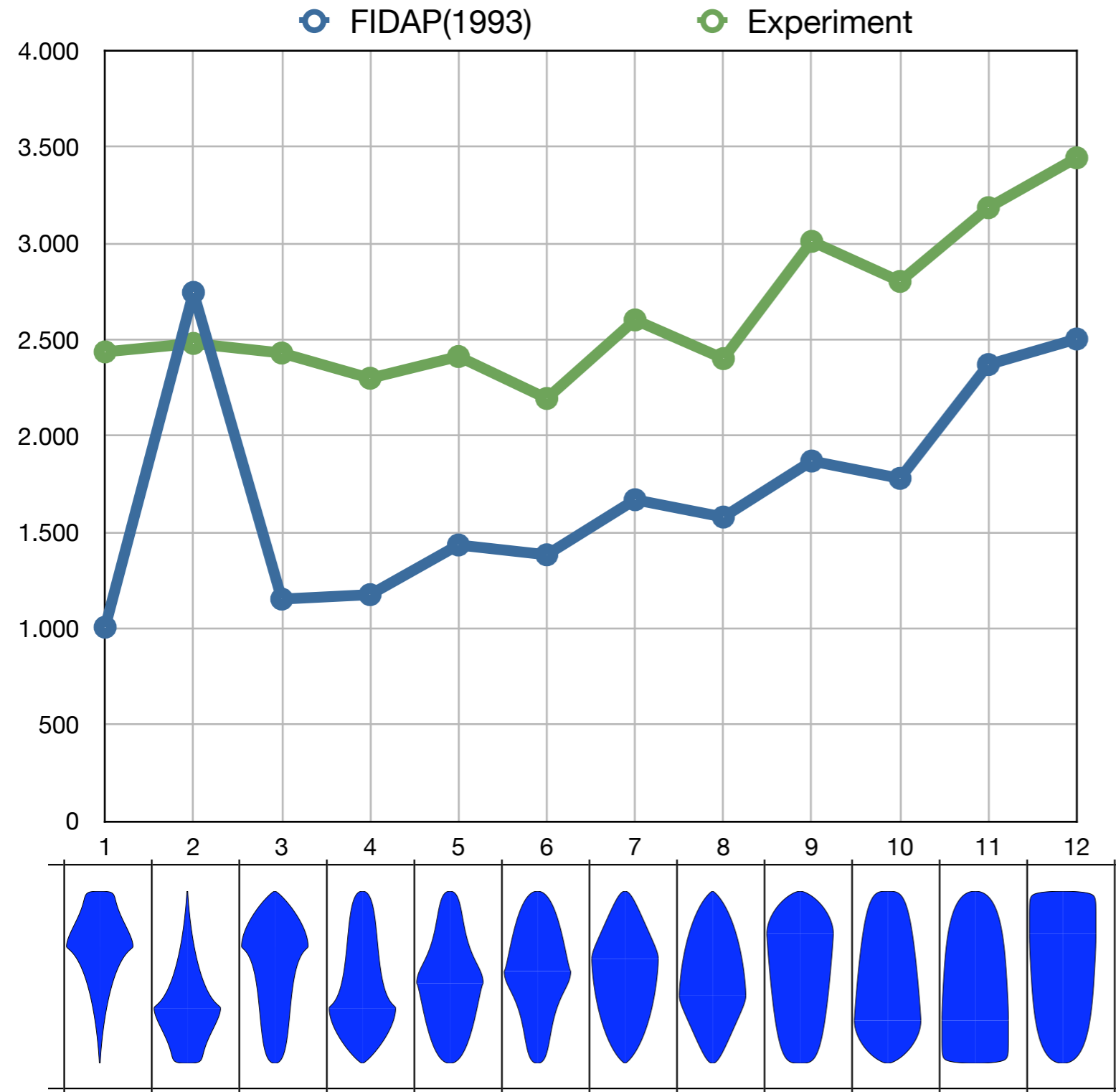
# Shape optimization of an axisymmetric body Re 500



- C.Poloni, G.Mosetti, Aerodynamic Shape Optimization by Genetic Algorithm, ISCFD Sendai, August 1993

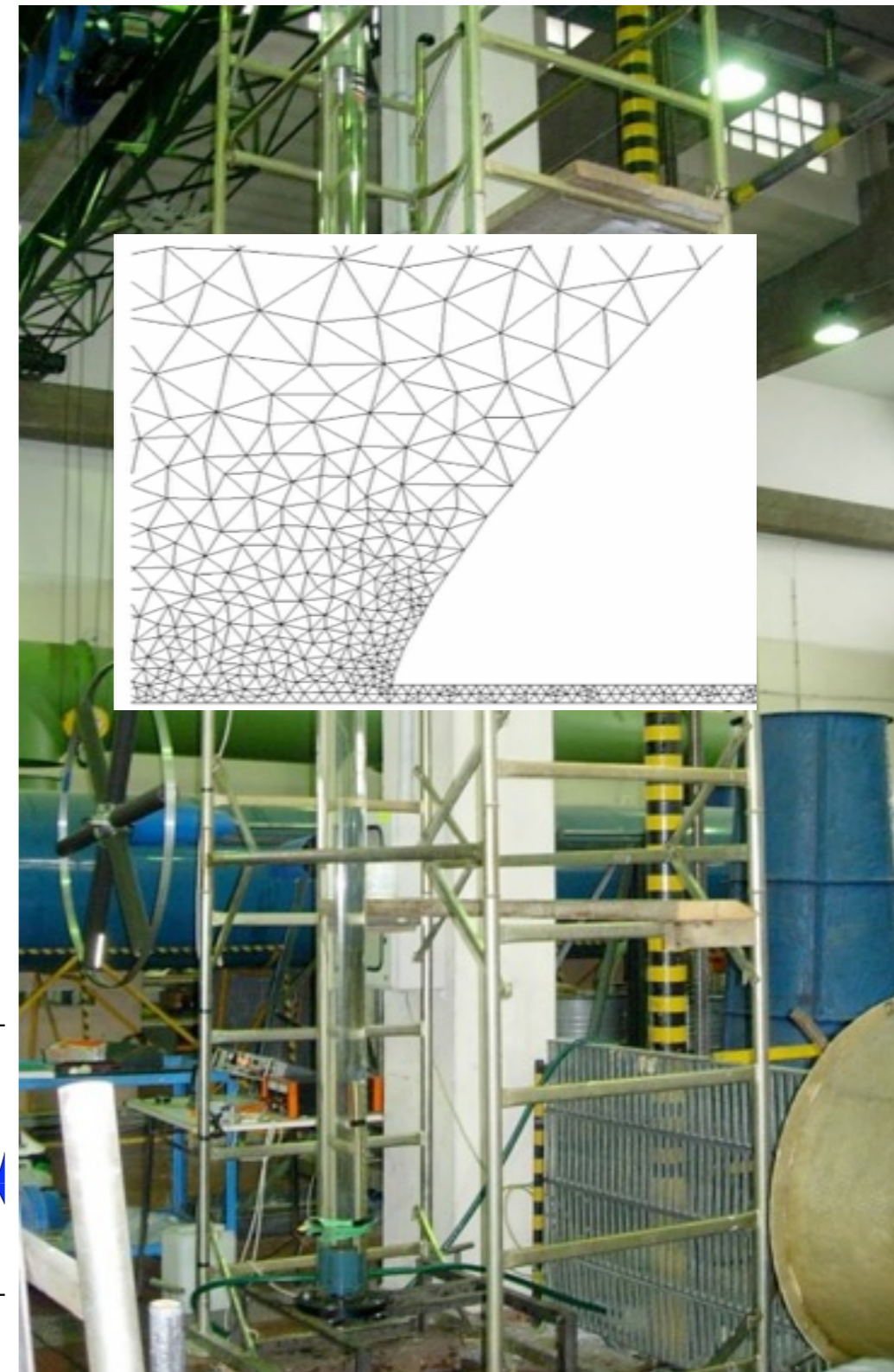
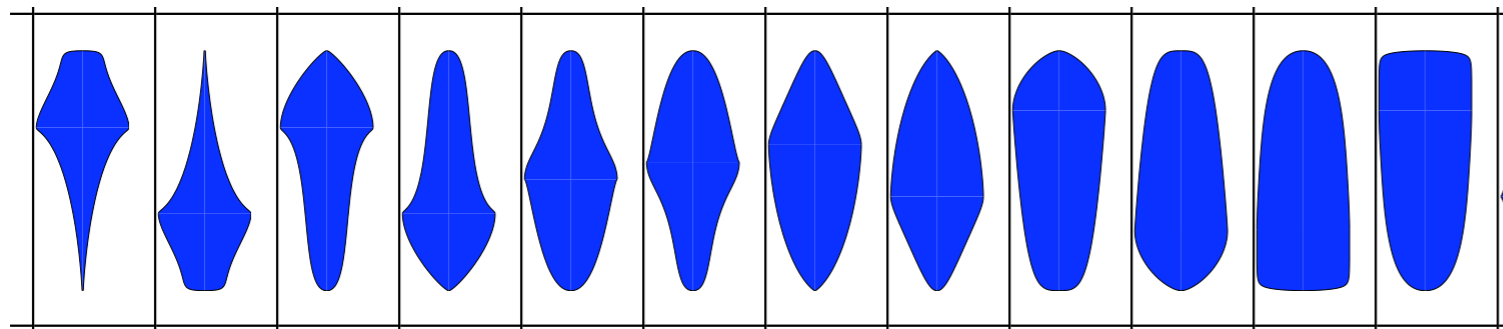
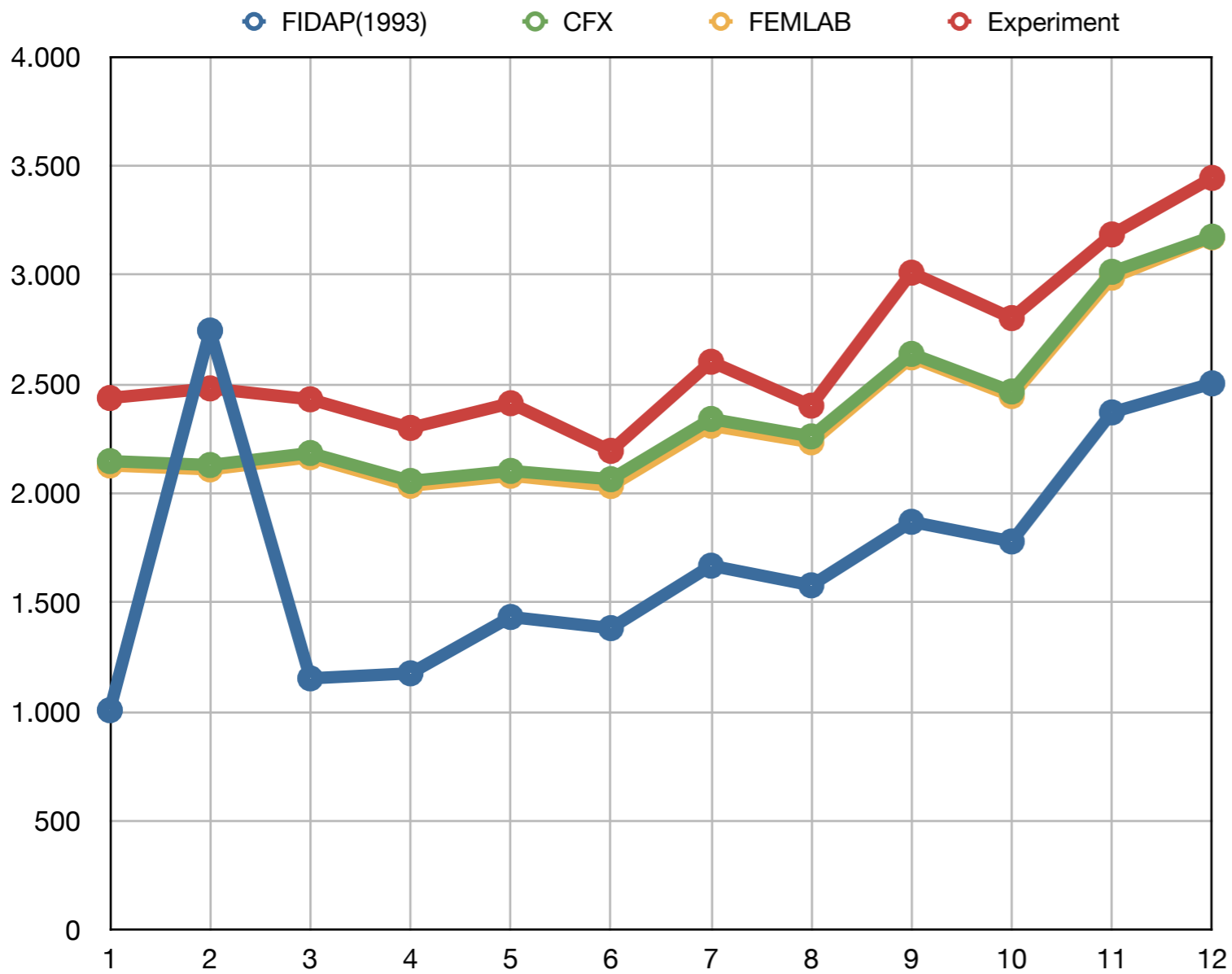


# 1993 results





# 2006 results

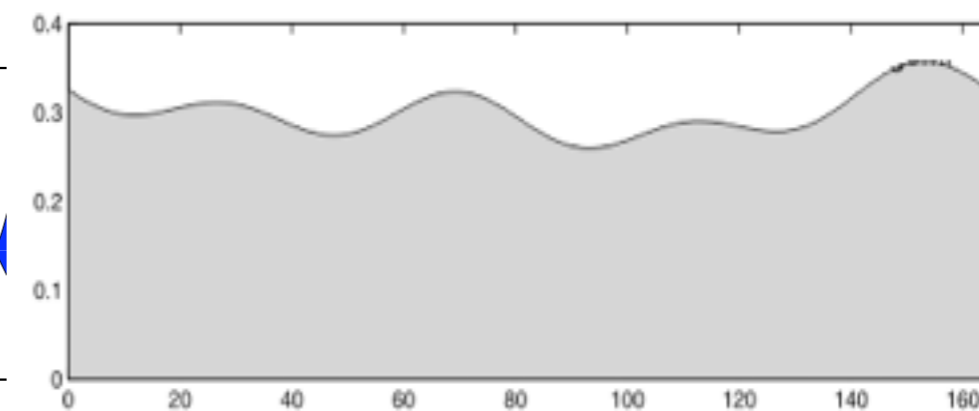
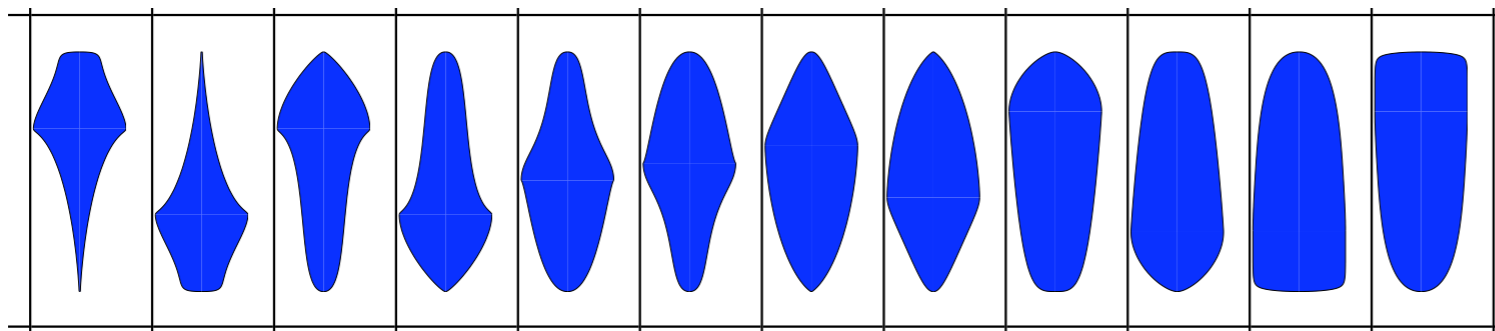
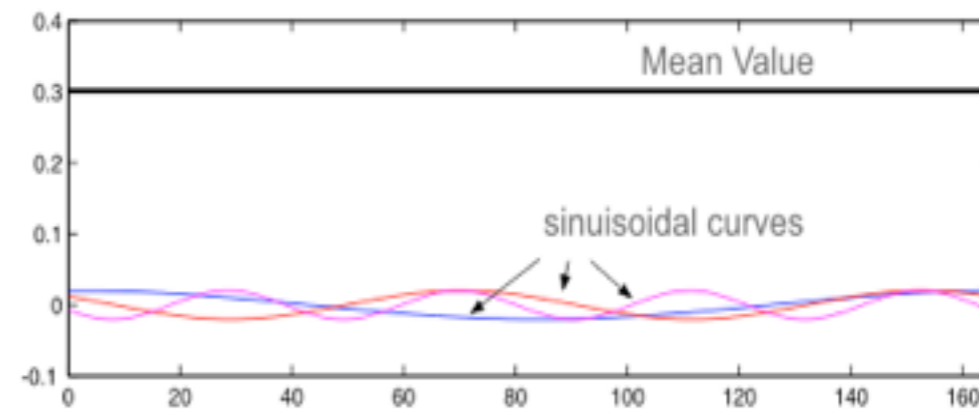
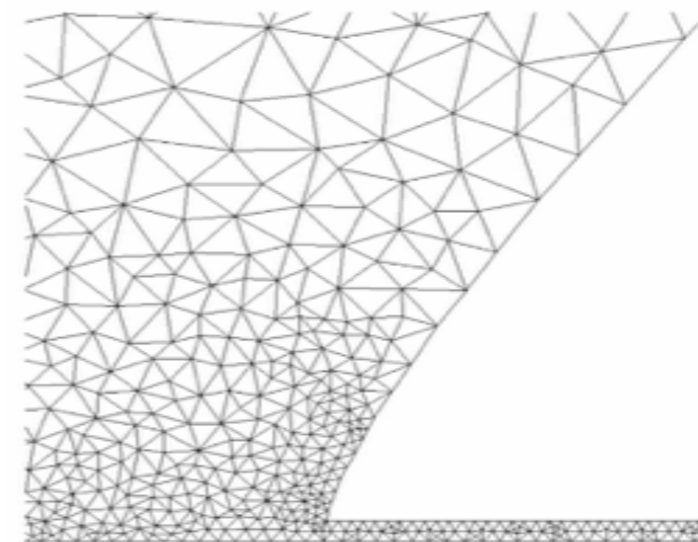
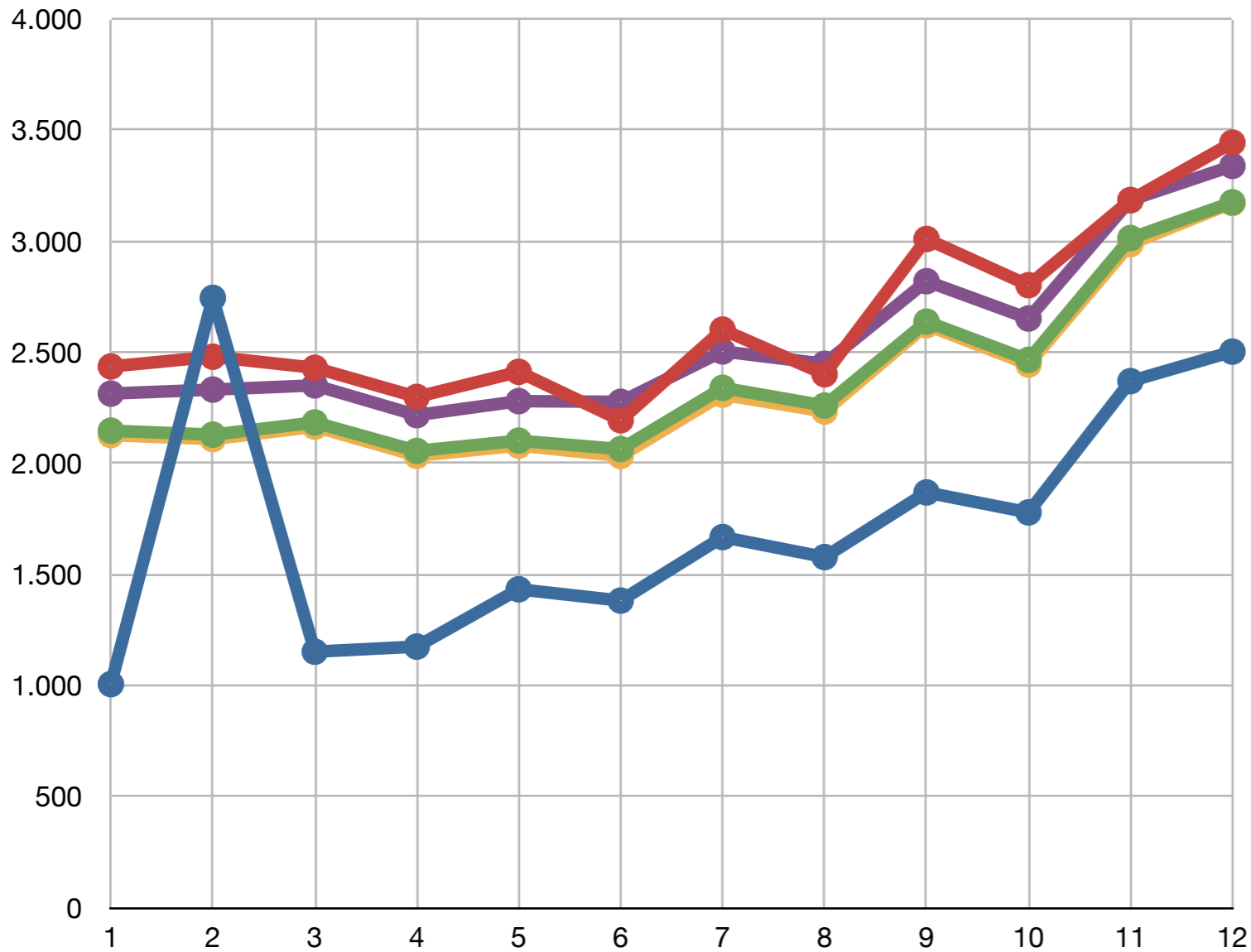




# 2006 results



● FIDAP(1993) ● CFX ● FEMLAB ● Experiment ● Robust (mean)







# Build an accurate model

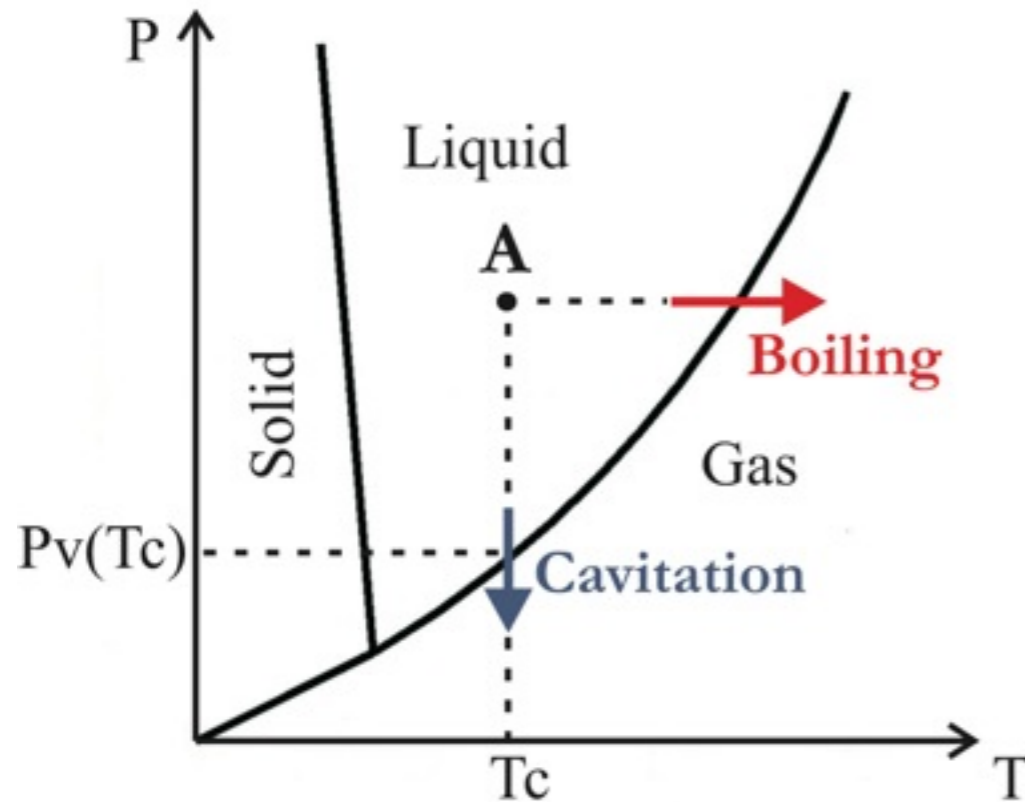


modelling cavitation in marine propellers

Mitja Morgut, Enrico Nobile, Ignacijo Bilušb, *Comparison of mass transfer models for the numerical prediction of sheet cavitation around a hydrofoil*, International Journal of Multiphase Flow Volume 37, Issue 6, July 2011, Pages 620–626



# Definition of Cavitation



Cavitation can be outlined as:

- the vaporization of a liquid when the static pressure decreases below its vapour pressure [1]
- the formation and activity of bubbles (or cavities) in a liquid [2]
- the breakdown of a liquid under very low pressures [3]

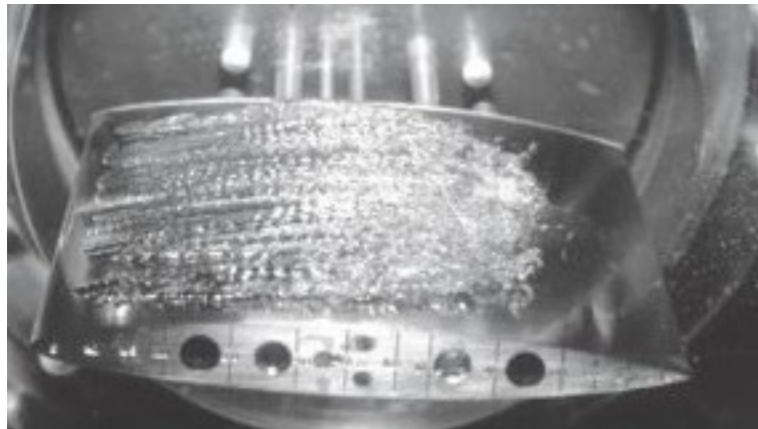
[1] Coutier-Delgosha, O., Reboud, J., Delannoy, Y., 2003. *Numerical simulation of unsteady behaviour of cavitating flows*. International Journal for Numerical Methods in Fluids 42, 527-548.

[2] Young, F., 1989. *Cavitation*. Imperial College Press, London

[3] Franc, J., Michel, J., 2004. *Fundamentals of Cavitation*. Kluwer Academic Publisher.



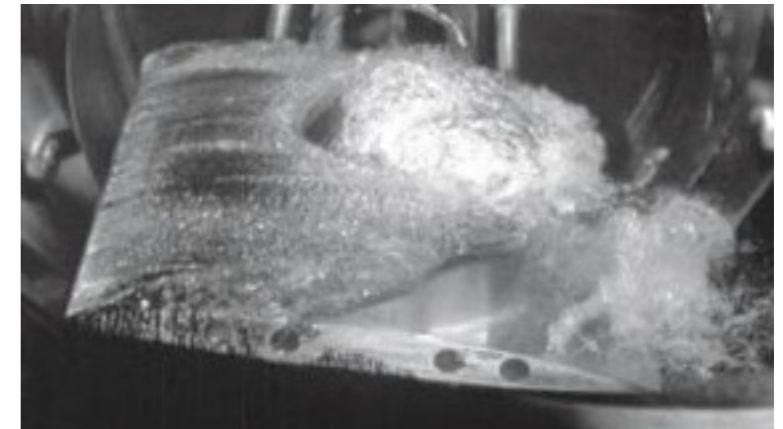
# Examples of hydrodynamic cavitation



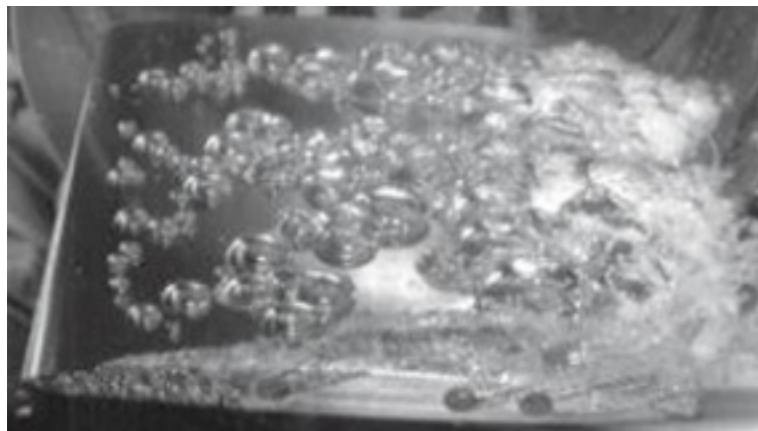
Partial Cavitation



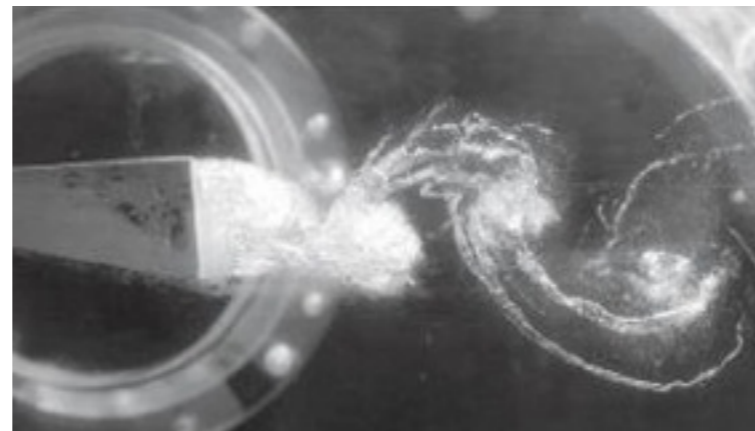
Supercavitation



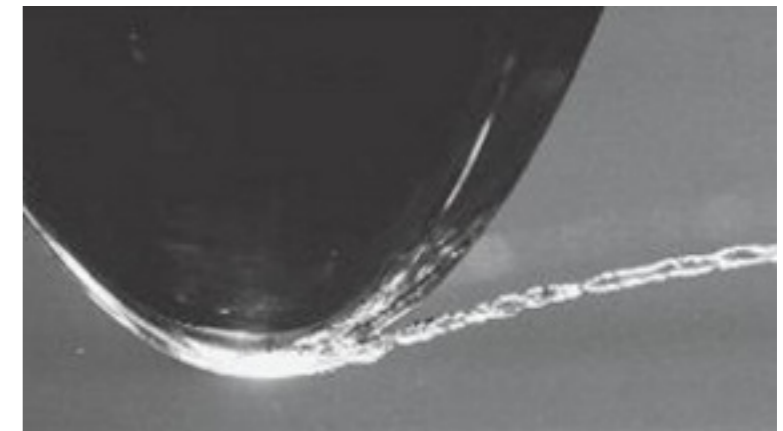
Cloud Cavitation



Bubble Cavitation



Vortex Cavitation



(Tip) Vortex Cavitation

Figures taken from: Fluid Dynamics of Cavitation and Cavitating Turbopumps. Edited by D'Agostino, L., and Salvetti, M.V., 2007



# Examples of hydrodynamic cavitation

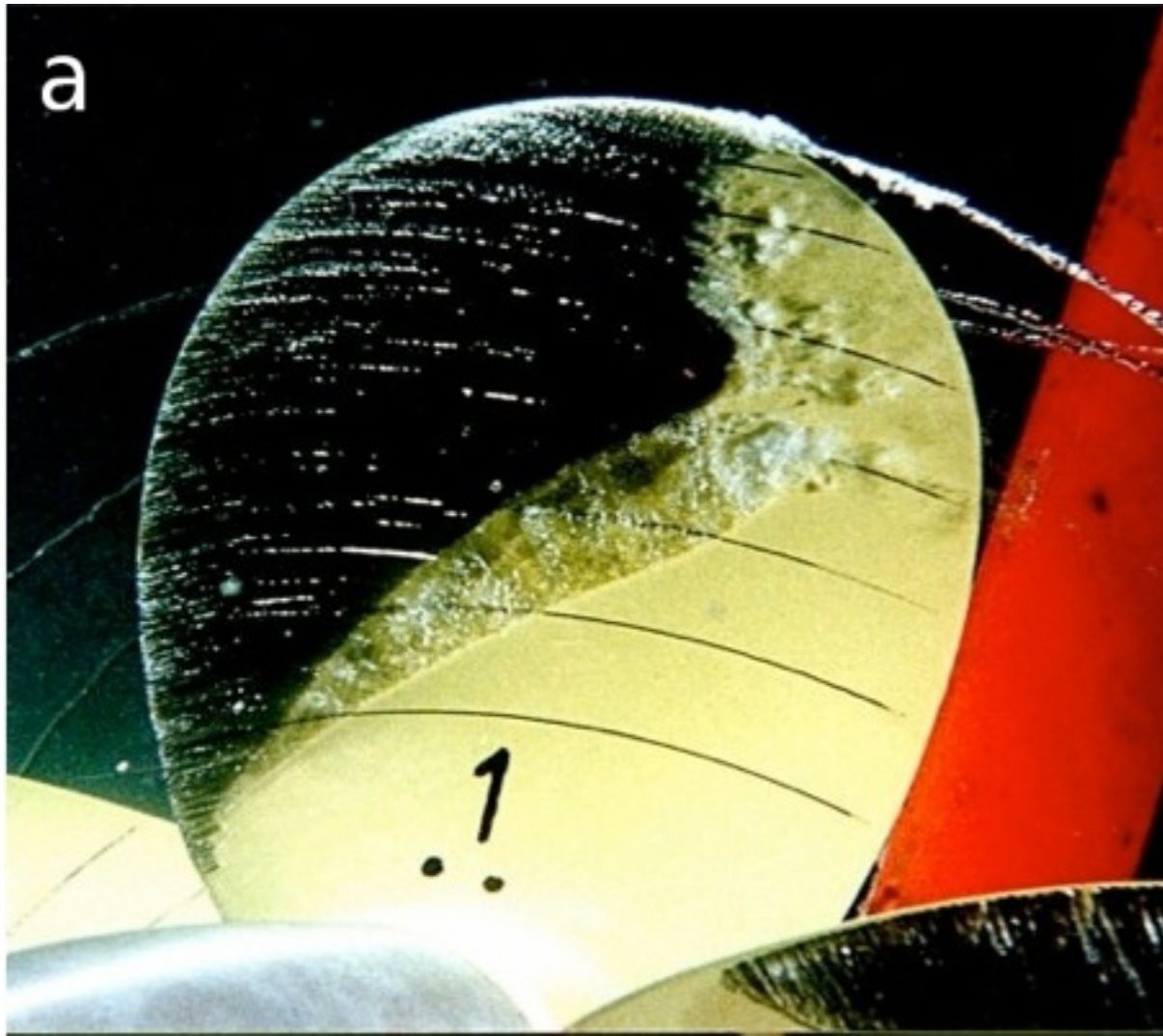


Figure (a) adapted from: Vaz, G.N.V.B. *Modelling of Sheet Cavitation on Hydrofoils and Marine Propellers using Boundary Element Methods*. PhD Thesis Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa, 2005.

Figure (b) adapted from: Heinke, H.-J. *Potsdam Propeller Test Case (PPTC), Cavitation Test with the Model Propeller VP1304*. SVA (Potsdam Model Basin), 2011.



# Mathematical model



## Governing Equations

Phases are considered incompressible and multiphase flow is assumed homogeneous

$$\begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{U} = \dot{m} \left( \frac{1}{\rho_l} - \frac{1}{\rho_v} \right) \\ \frac{\partial(\rho \mathbf{U})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{U} \mathbf{U}) = -\nabla P - \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} + S_M \\ \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\gamma \mathbf{U}) = \frac{\dot{m}}{\rho_l} \end{cases}$$

$\gamma =$  water volume fraction

$\rho =$  mixture density

## Mass Transfer Models ( $\dot{m}$ )

Zwart Model

$$\dot{m} = \begin{cases} -F_e \frac{3r_{nuc} (1-\alpha) \rho_v}{R_B} \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{P_v - P}{\rho_l}} & \text{if } P < P_v \\ F_c \frac{3\alpha \rho_v}{R_B} \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{P - P_v}{\rho_l}} & \text{if } P > P_v \end{cases}$$

FCM (Full Cavitation Model)

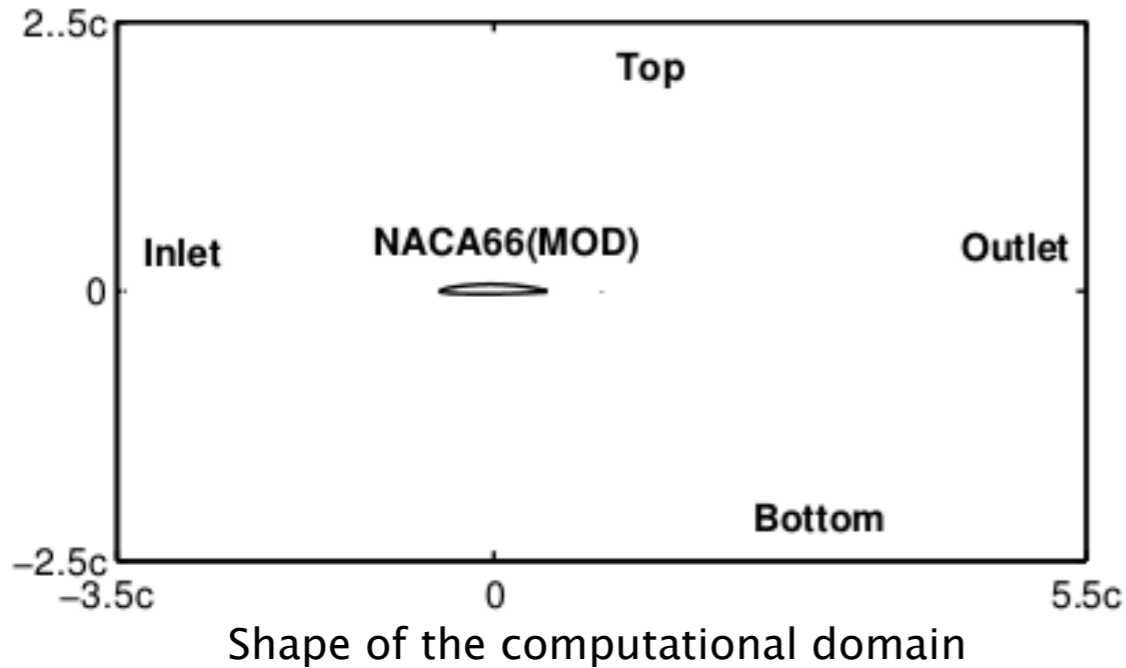
$$\dot{m} = \begin{cases} -C_e \frac{\sqrt{k}}{T} \rho_l \rho_v \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{P_v - P}{\rho_l}} (1 - f_v) & \text{if } P < P_v \\ C_c \frac{\sqrt{k}}{T} \rho_l \rho_l \sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{P - P_v}{\rho_l}} f_v & \text{if } P > P_v \end{cases}$$

Kunz Model

$$\dot{m} = \dot{m}_+ + \dot{m}_- \begin{cases} \dot{m}_+ = \frac{C_{prod} \rho_v \gamma^2 (1-\gamma)}{t_\infty} \\ \dot{m}_- = \frac{C_{dest} \rho_v \gamma \min[0, P - P_v]}{(0.5 \rho_l U_\infty^2) t_\infty} \end{cases}$$



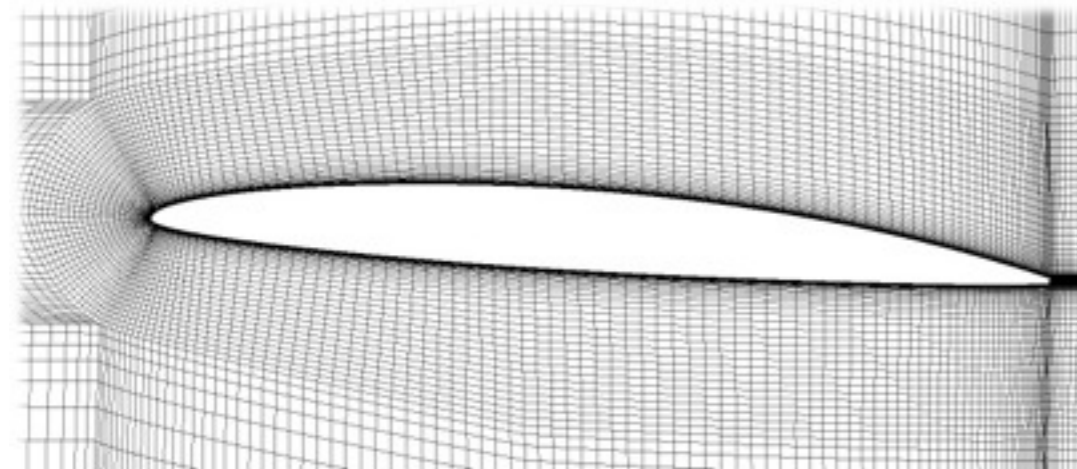
# Reference test case



- NACA66MOD hydrofoil [4]  
chord:  $c=0.15\text{m}$   
Angle of Attack:  $\text{AoA}=4^\circ$   
 $\text{Re}=2 \times 10^6$   
Three different cavitating flow regimes:  $\sigma=1.00, 0.91, 0.84$

$$\sigma = \frac{P_{\text{outlet}} - P_v}{0.5\rho_l U^2}$$

- Simulations carried out considering:  
Two-dimensional flow  
Steady state conditions  
 $k-\epsilon$  turbulence model
- Computational grid generated with ANSYS-ICEM CFD  
Hexa-structured, 58734 nodes



Computational grid around the NACA66MOD hydrofoil

[4] Shen, Y.T., Dimotakis, P.E. *The influence of Surface Cavitation on Hydrodynamic Forces*. In Proc. 22<sup>nd</sup> ATTC, St. Johns, Canada, Pages 44-53, 1989

$$\overline{y^+} = 23$$

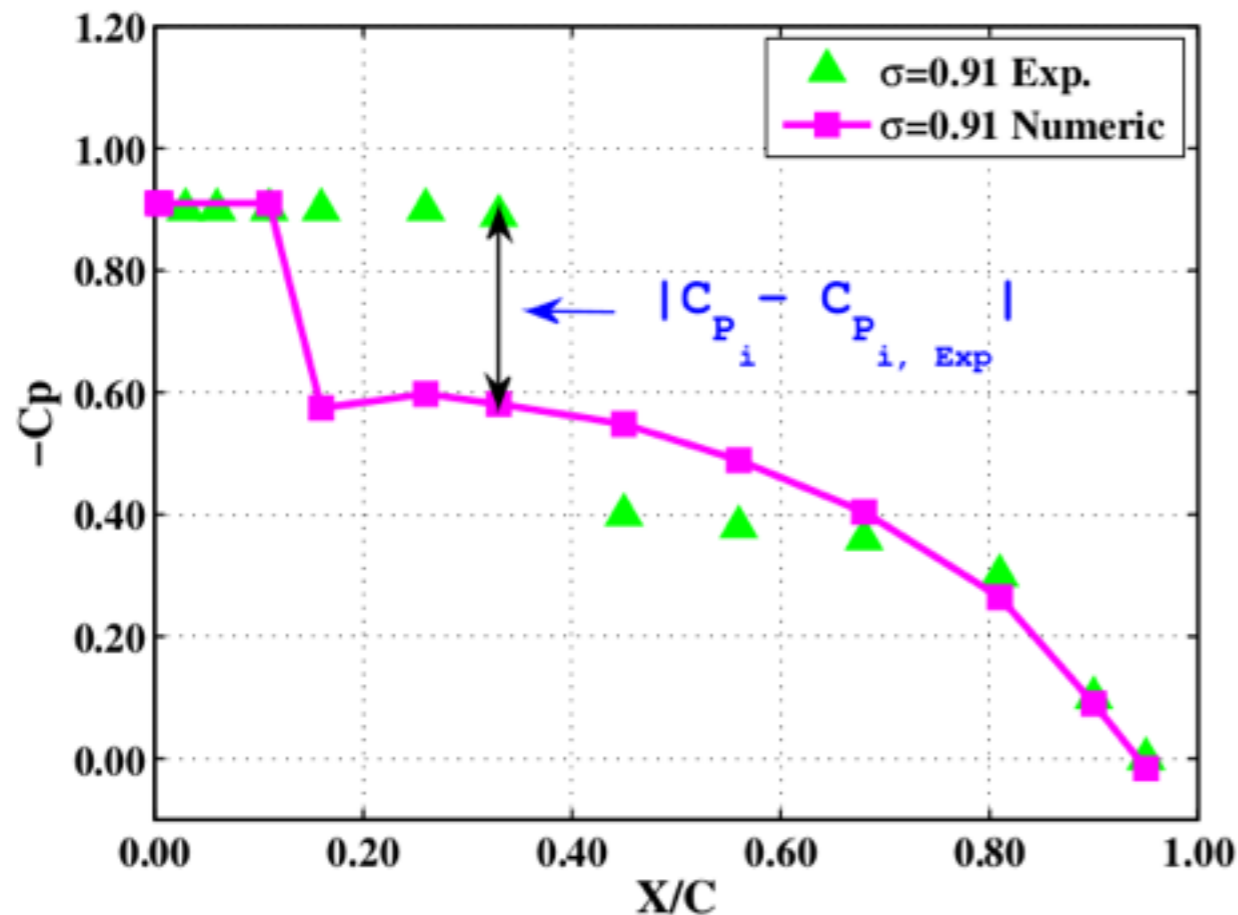


# Calibration of mass transfer models



## The idea

Search/find the empirical coefficients which minimize the differences between the Numerical and experimental pressure distributions on the suction side of the NACA66MOD hydrofoil, for three different cavitating flow regimes.



Example of numerical and experimental pressure distributions on the hydrofoil suction side

$$f = \sum_{\sigma} \sum_{i=1}^N |C_{P_i} - C_{P_i,EXP}|$$

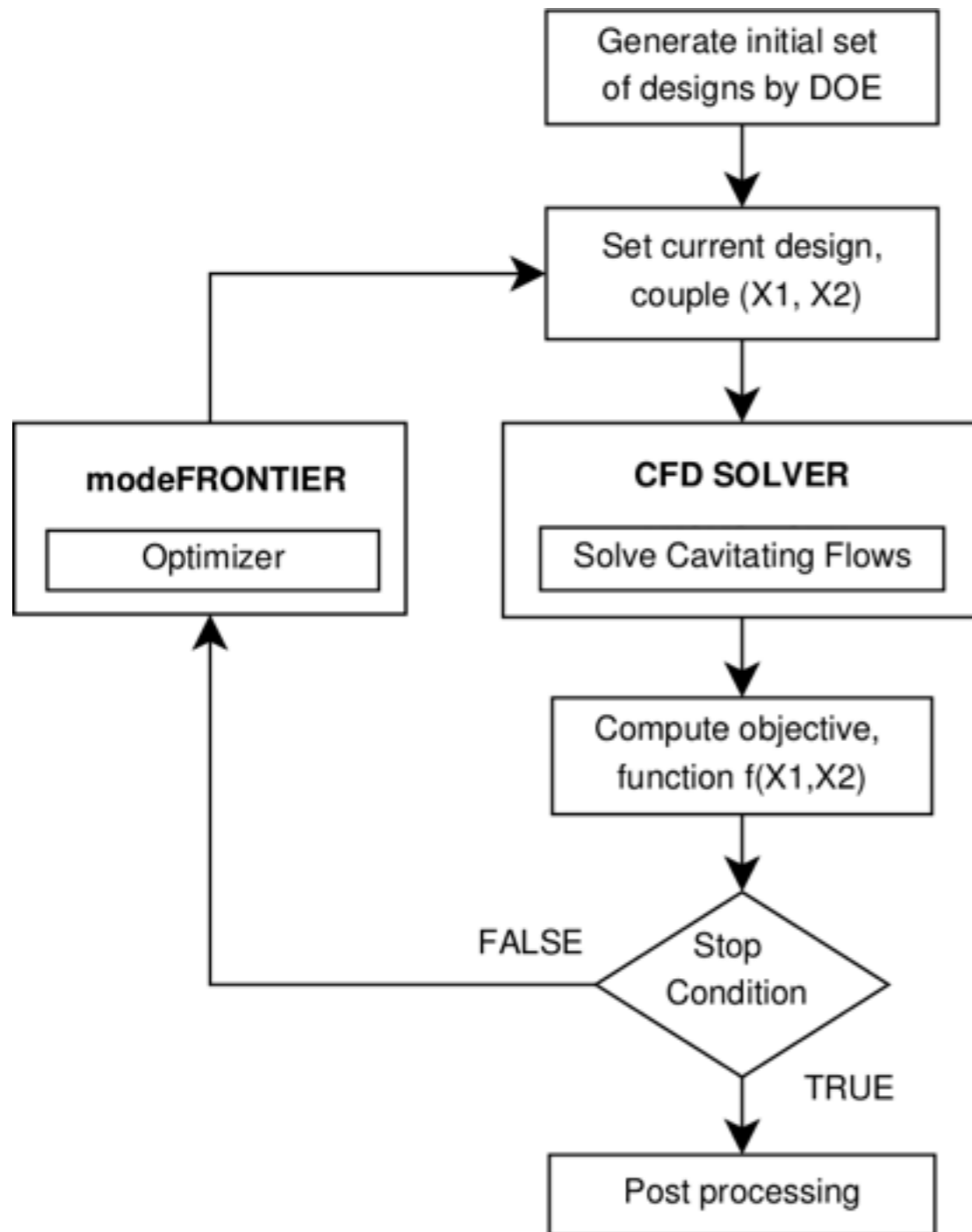
$$\sigma = 1.00, 0.91, 0.84$$

$$N = 12 \text{ (Pressure taps)}$$

$$-C_P = \frac{P_{outlet} - P}{0.5\rho_l U^2}$$



# Calibration of mass transfer models



The optimization algorithm (optimizer), during the successive iterations, changes the values of the empirical coefficients of the cavitation models  $(F_e, F_c), (C_e, C_c), (C_{prod}, C_{dest})$  in order to minimize the Objective function  $f$ .

The optimizer run until the desired Convergence level or maximum number of iterations is reached.



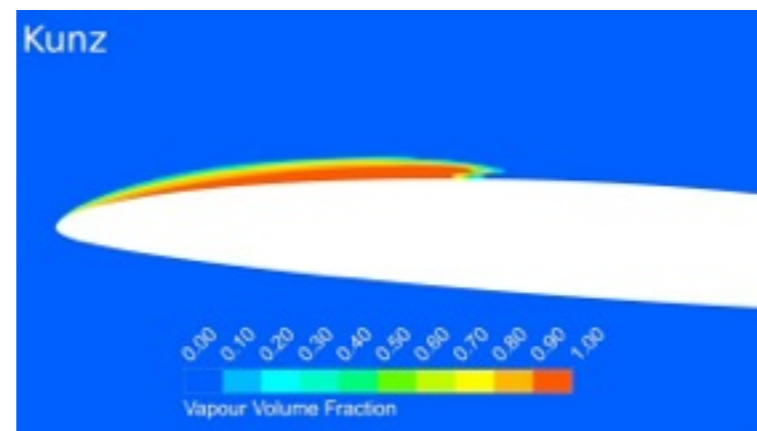
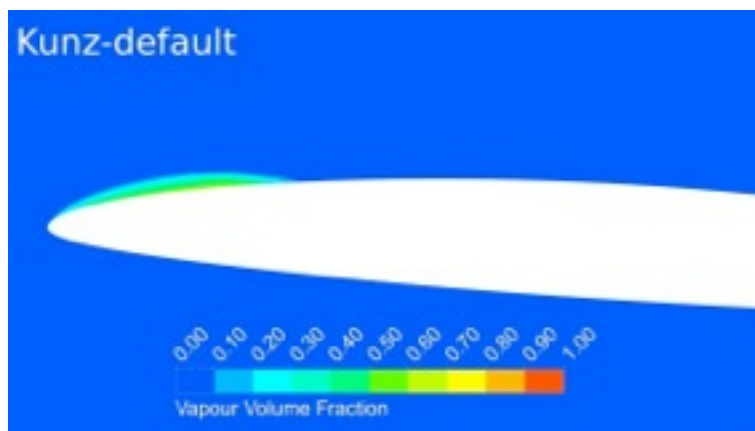
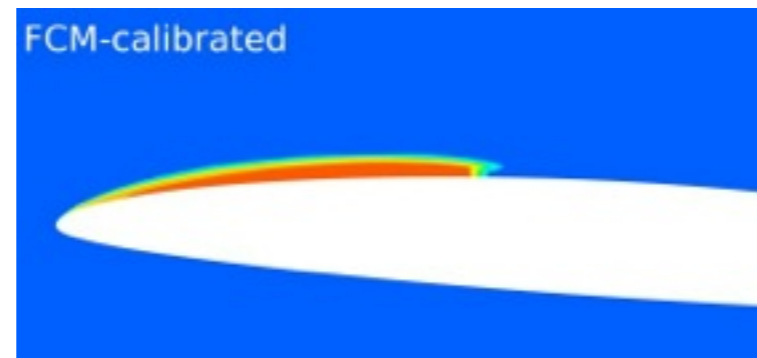
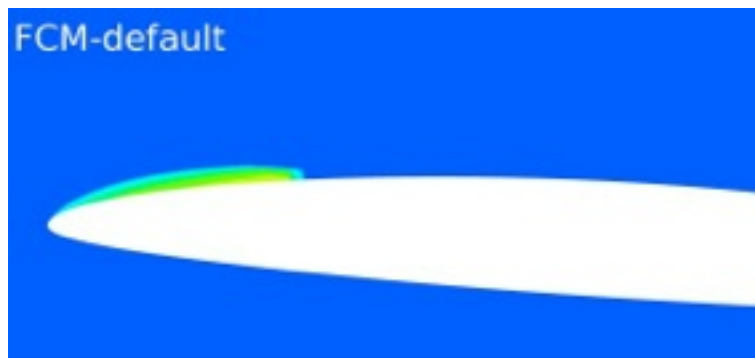
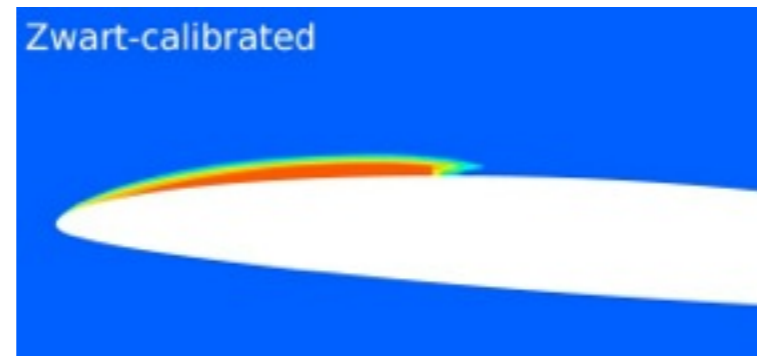
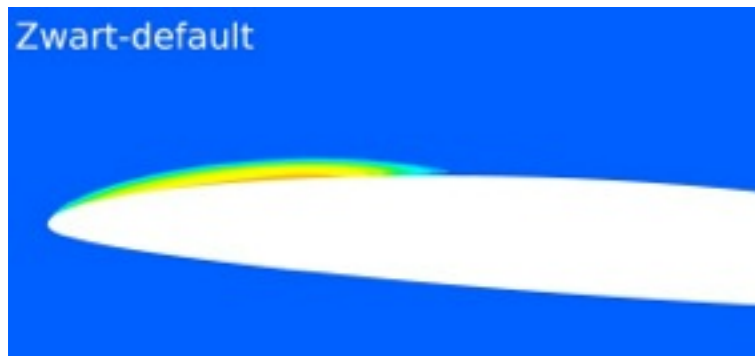


# Calibration of mass transfer models

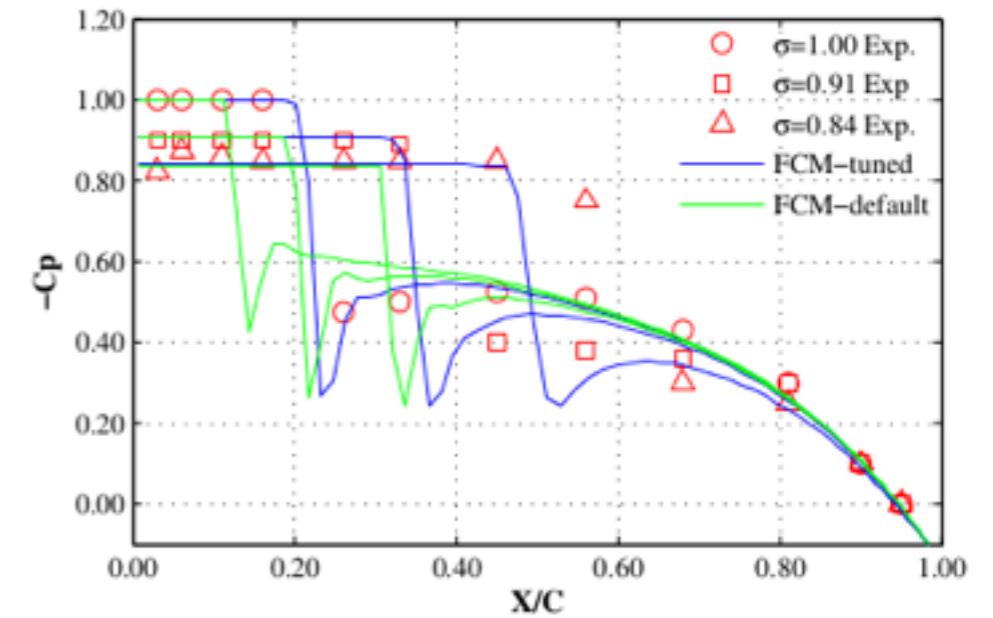


Default and calibrated values for the different mass transfer models

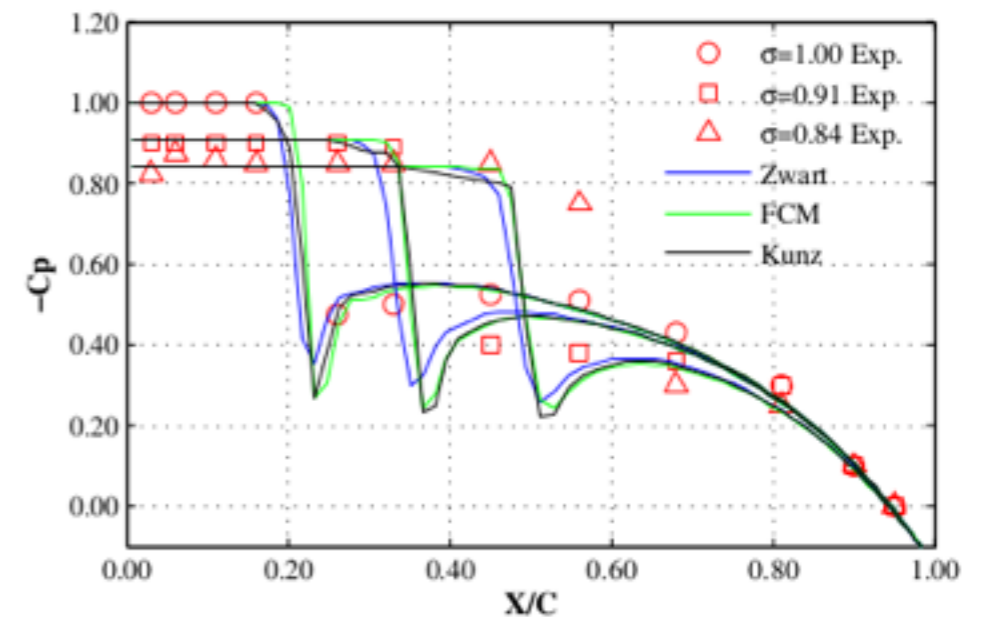
	Zwart		FCM		Kunz	
	Fe	Fc	Ce	Cc	Cdest	Cprod
Default	50	0.01	0.02	0.01	100	100
Tuned	300	0.03	0.40	2.3E-04	4100	455



Numerical sheet cavities computed using non-calibrated (left) and calibrated (right) mass transfer models for  $AoA=4^\circ$ ,  $Re=2 \times 10^6$ ,  $\sigma=0.91$ .



Pressure distributions obtained with FCM using default and tuned values of empirical coefficients



Pressure distributions obtained using the calibrated mass transfer models

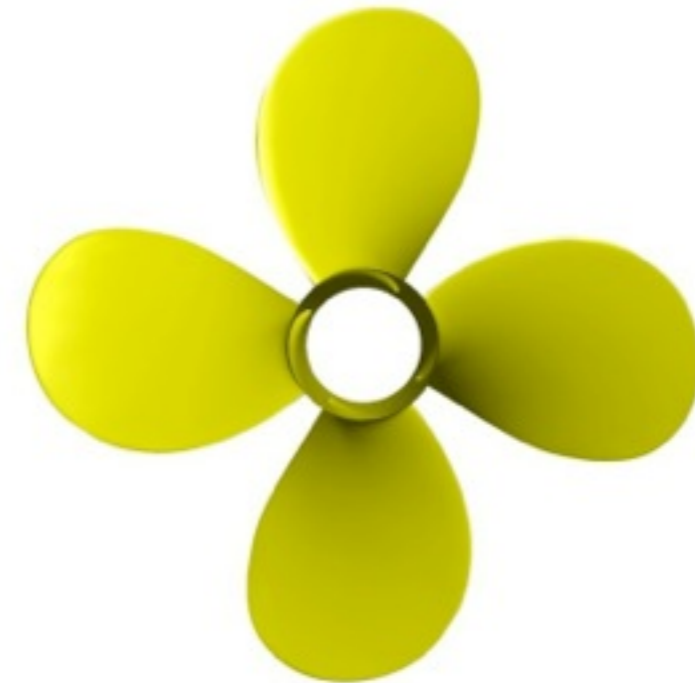


# Model scale propellers



## E779A

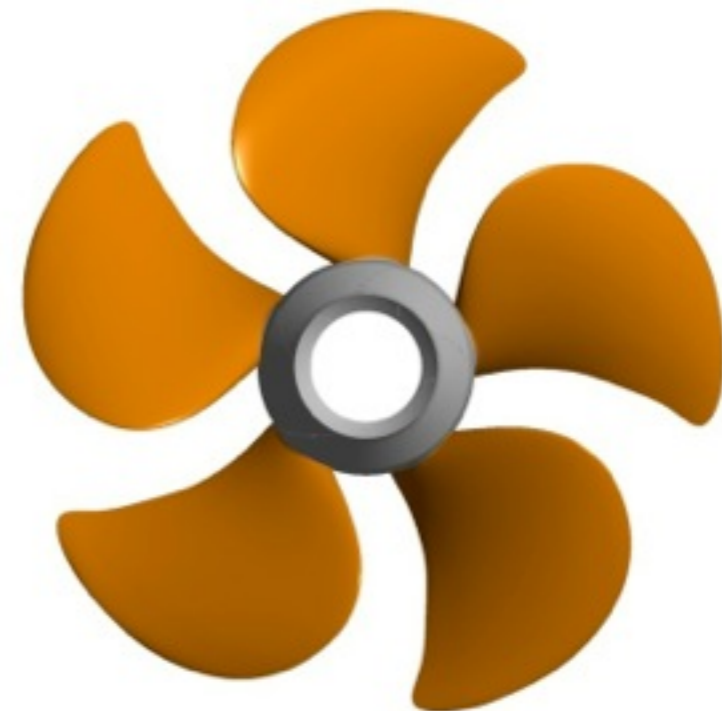
- four bladed propeller
- Diameter  $D=0.227\text{m}$
- propriety of CNR-INSEAN



E779A propeller.  
View looking suction side

## PPTC

- five bladed propeller
- diameter  $D=0.25\text{m}$
- propriety of SVA



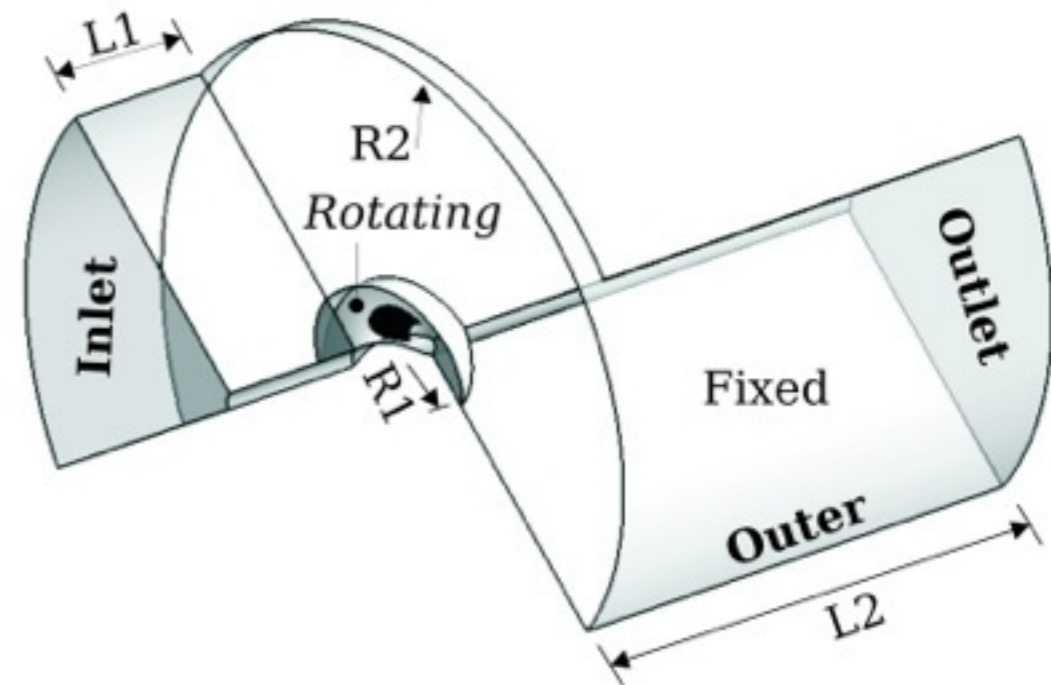
PPTC propeller.  
View looking suction side

CNR-INSEAN:<http://www.insean.cnr.it>  
SVA:<http://www.sva-potsdam.de/pptc.html>

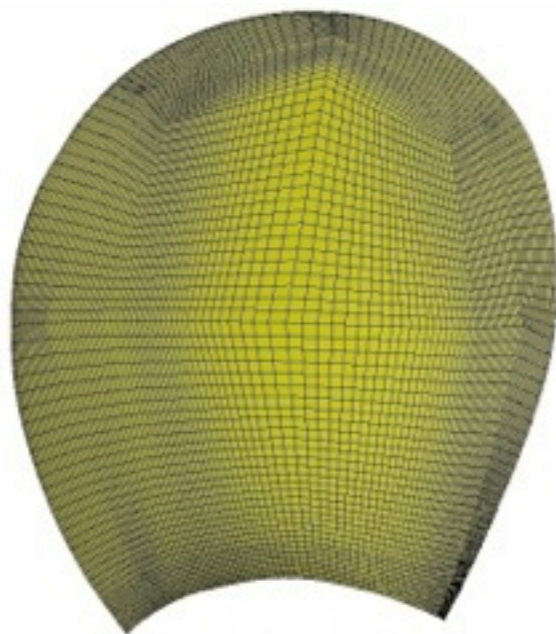


# Numerical setup

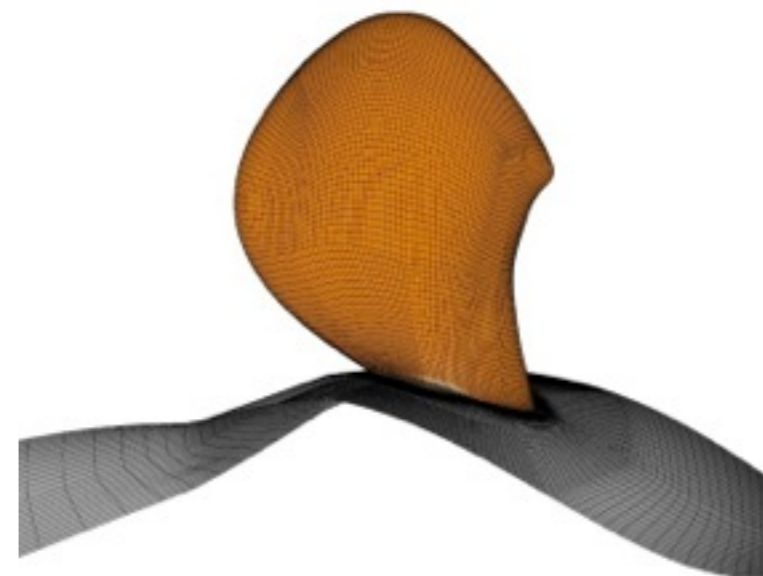
- Simulations performed with:  
ANSYS-CFX  
Steady state simulations  
SST turbulence model  
MRF approach  
Domain split in two regions:
  - Rotating region: Rotating
  - Fixed region: Fixed
- Computational grids generated with: ANSYS-ICEM CFD



Computational domain covering only one blade passage



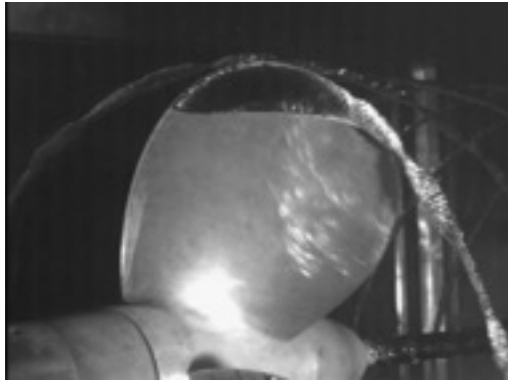
E779A, Hexa-structured surface mesh



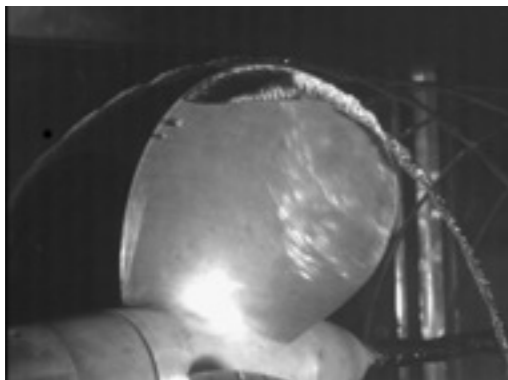
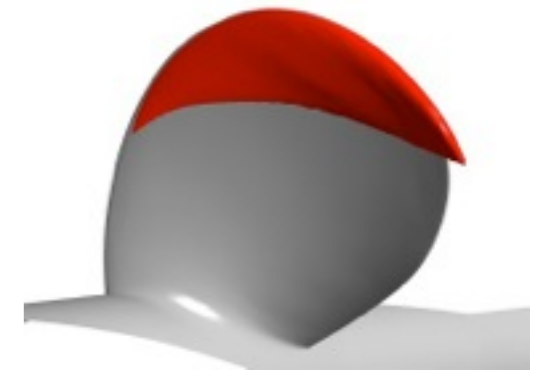
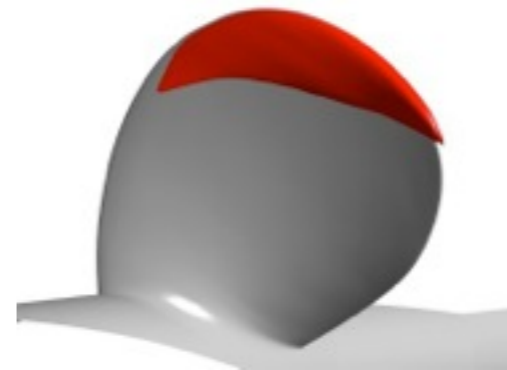
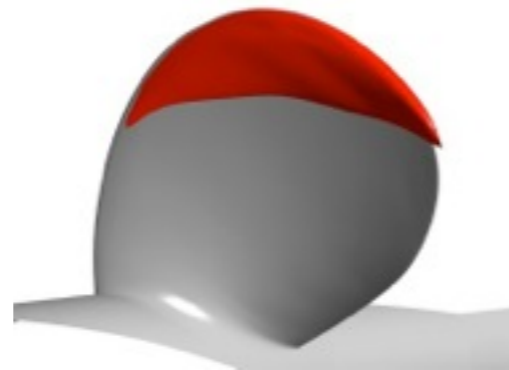
PPTC, Hexa-structured surface mesh



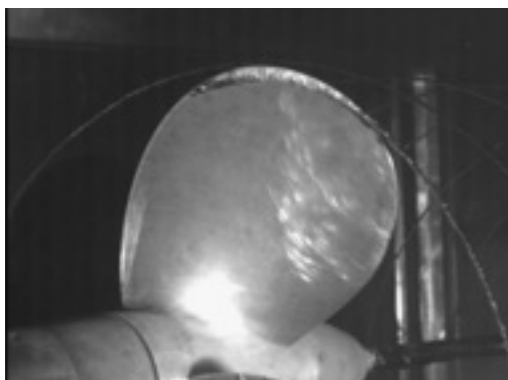
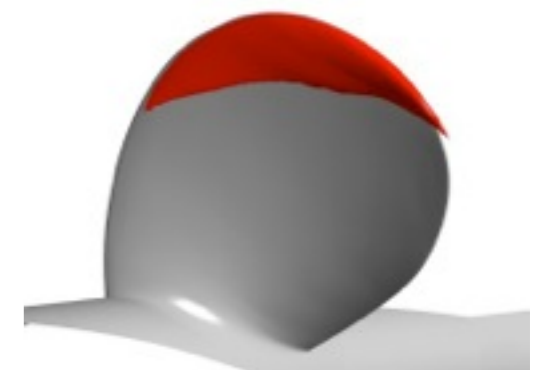
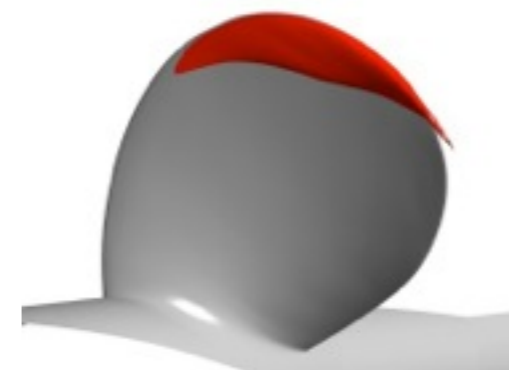
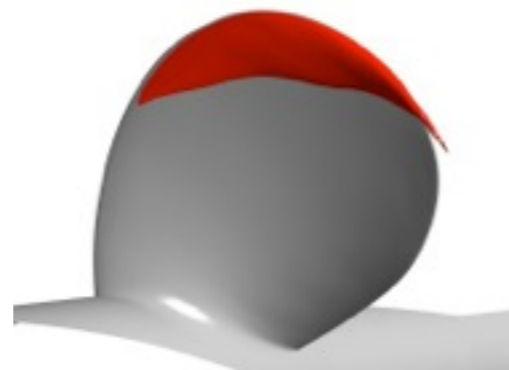
# E779A – cavitating flow



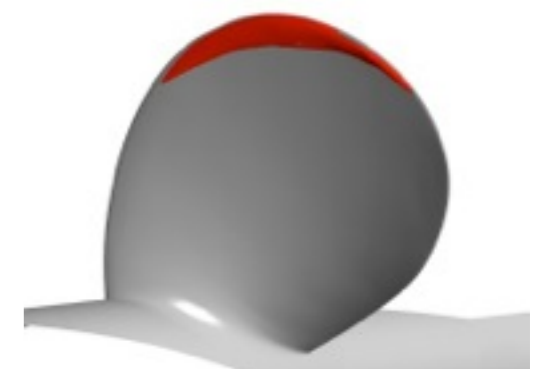
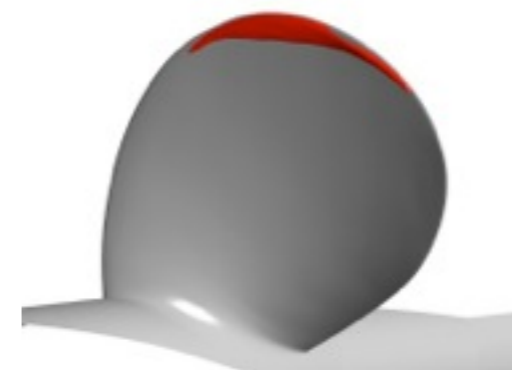
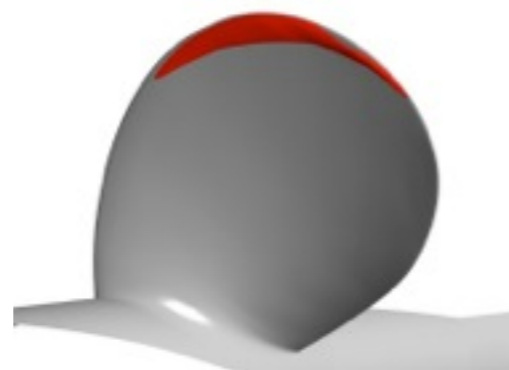
Exp.  $J=0.71$ ,  $\sigma_N = 1.763$



Exp.  $J=0.77$ ,  $\sigma_N = 1.783$



Exp.  $J=0.83$ ,  $\sigma_N = 2.063$



Zwart

FCM

Kunz

$$J = \frac{V}{nD} \quad \sigma_n = \frac{P_{REF} - P_v}{0.5\rho_l(nD)^2}$$

Numerical cavitation patterns depicted as isosurfaces of vapour volume fraction  $\alpha=0.5$

Experimental pictures courtesy of CNR-INSEAN



# E779A – cavitating flow



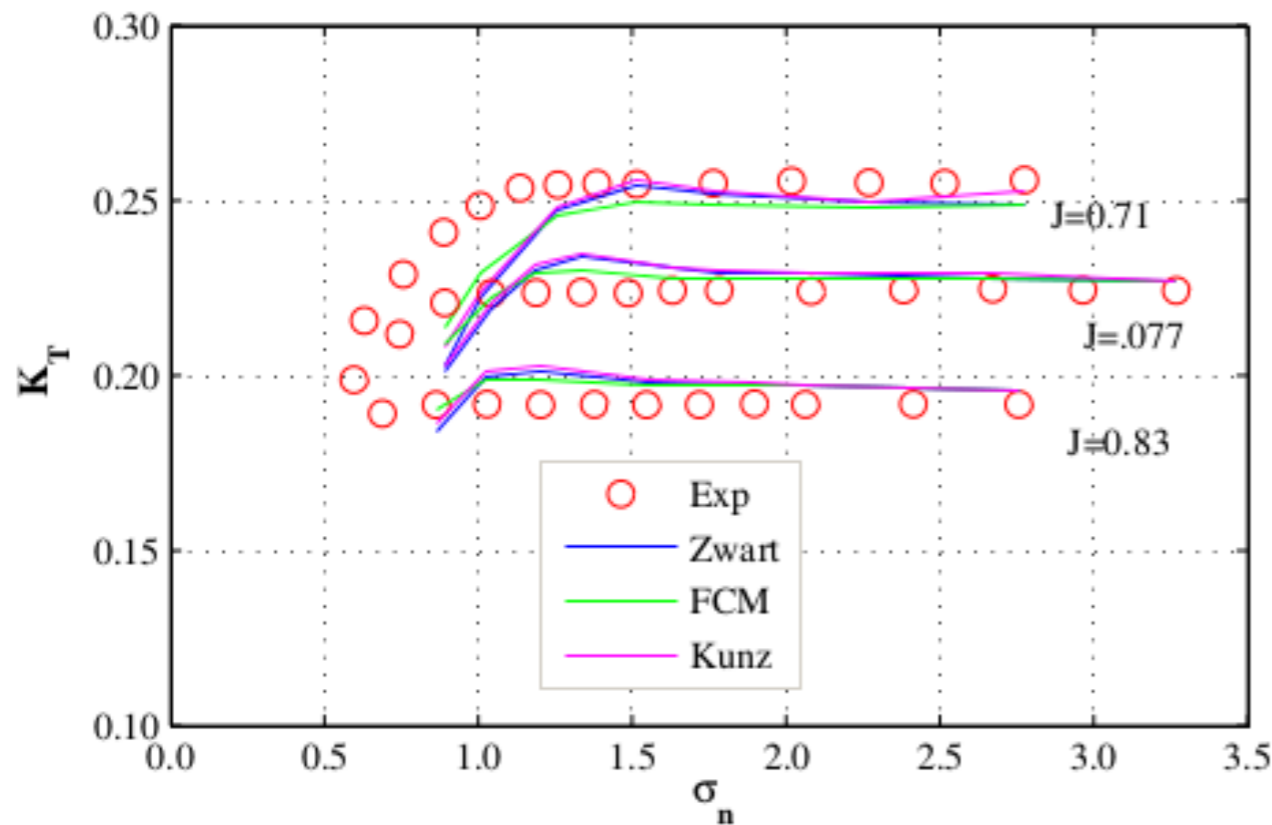
## Thrust and Torque

Numerical results at  $J=0.71$  for  $\sigma_n=1.763$   
and for the non cavitating regime

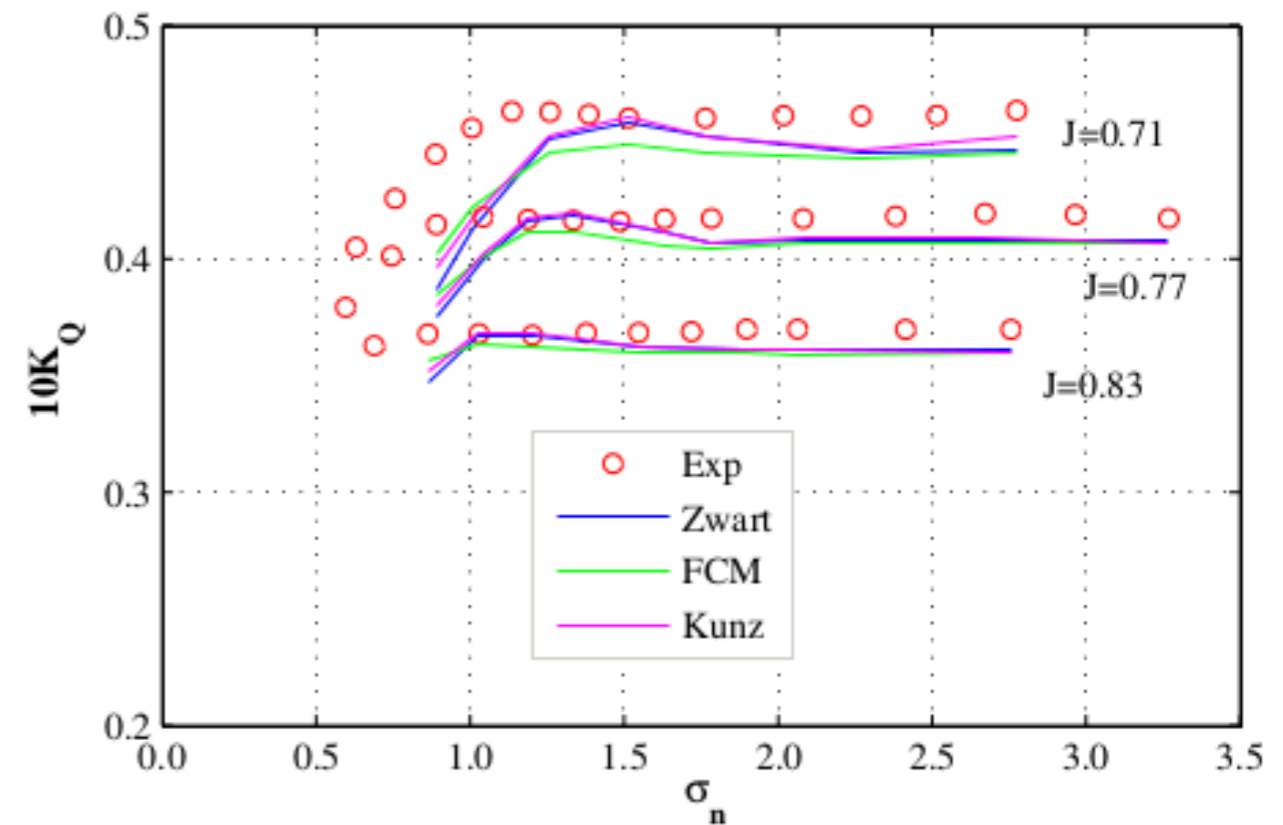
	Non-cavitating		Cavitating	
	$K_T$	$10K_Q$	$K_T$	$10K_Q$
Measured	0.256	0.464	0.255	0.46
CFD	0.246	0.442		
CFD-Zwart			0.252	0.453
CFD-FCM			0.249	0.446
CFD-Kunz			0.253	0.453

$$J = \frac{V}{nD} \quad \sigma_n = \frac{P_{REF} - P_v}{0.5\rho_l(nD)^2}$$

$$K_T = \frac{T}{\rho_l n^2 D^4} \quad K_Q = \frac{Q}{\rho_l n^2 D^5}$$



Influence of the cavitation number  $\sigma_N$  and of the mass transfer model on the thrust coefficient



Influence of the cavitation number  $\sigma_N$  and of the mass transfer model on the torque coefficient



# Second International Symposium on Marine Propulsors 2011

## Workshop: Propeller performance

*17 - 18 June 2011, Hamburg, Germany*

- Potsdam Propeller Test Case (PPTC)
- Cavitation Tests with the Model Propeller VP1304
- Case 2.3

### ▪ **Blind Benchmark**

- Proceedings available on-line:

[http://www.marinepropulsors.com/smp/files/downloads/smp11\\_workshop/smp11\\_workshop/](http://www.marinepropulsors.com/smp/files/downloads/smp11_workshop/smp11_workshop/)



# SMP11 - Workshop Propeller performance



Group	Solver	Acronym
Berg-Propulsion	Procal	Berg-Procal
Cradle	SC/Tetra	Cradle-SC/Tetra
CSSRC	ANSYS Fluent	CSSRC-Fluent
HSVA	QCM	HSVA-QCM
	PPB	HSVA-PPB
INSEAN	PFC	INSEAN-PFC
SSPA	ANSYS Fluent	SSPA-Fluent
TUHH	FreSCO+	TUHH-FreSCO
University of Genua	Panel	UniGenua-Panel
	StarCCM+	UniGenua-StarCCM
University of Trieste	ANSYS CFX(FCM)	UniTriest-CFX(FCM)
	ANSYS CFX(Kunz)	UniTriest-CFX(Kunz)
	ANSYS CFX(Zwart)	UniTriest-CFX(Zwart)
VOITH	Comet	VOITH-Comet
VTT	FinFlo	VTT-FinFlo



# SMP11 - Thrust coefficient



**Table 3: Thrust coefficients of cavitating propeller**

	case 2.3.1	case 2.3.2	case 2.3.3
	$K_T$ [-]	$K_T$ [-]	$K_T$ [-]
<b>Exp. (non-cavitating)</b>	<b>0.3870</b>	<b>0.2450</b>	<b>0.1670</b>
<b>Exp. (cavitating)</b>	<b>0.3725</b>	<b>0.2064</b>	<b>0.1362</b>
Berg-Procal	0.3760		
Cradle-SC/Tetra	0.3750	0.1990	0.1380
CSSRC-Fluent	0.3740	0.1940	0.1320
INSEAN-PFC	0.3570	0.2330	0.1610
SSPA-Fluent	0.3880	0.2050	0.1440
TUHH-FreSCO+	0.3830		0.1440
TUHH-FreSCO+ (small-large coef.)		0.2420 - 0.1370	
UniGenua-Panel	0.3922	0.2369	0.1378
UniGenua-StarCCM	0.3782	0.2035	0.1306
UniTriest-CFX(FCM)	0.3740	0.2030	0.1300
UniTriest-CFX(Kunz)	0.3750	0.2100	0.1330
UniTriest-CFX(Zwart)	0.3730	0.1960	0.1330
VOITH-Comet	0.3852	0.2101	0.1513
VTT-FinFlo	0.3860	0.2020	0.1420





# SMP11 - Thrust coefficient

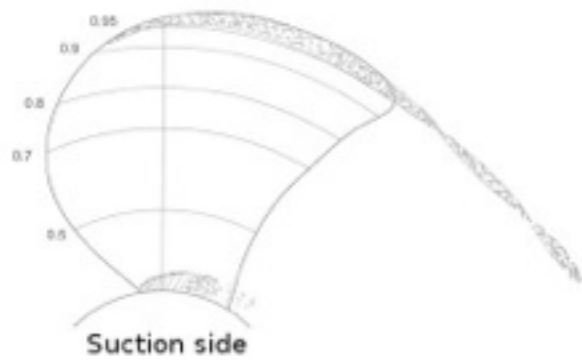


**Table 4: Difference between computed and measured thrust of cavitating propeller**

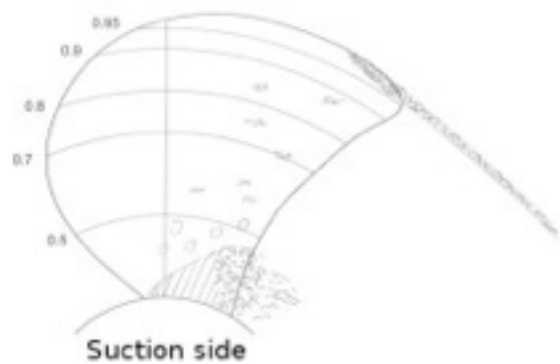
	case 2.3.1	case 2.3.2	case 2.3.3
	$\Delta K_T$ [%]	$\Delta K_T$ [%]	$\Delta K_T$ [%]
Berg-Procal	0.94		
Cradle-SC/Tetra	0.67	-3.59	1.32
CSSRC-Fluent	0.40	-6.01	-3.08
INSEAN-PFC	-4.16	12.89	18.21
SSPA-Fluent	4.16	-0.68	5.73
TUHH-FreSCO+	2.82		5.73
TUHH-FreSCO+ (small-large coef.)		17.25 - -33.62	
UniGenua-Panel	5.29	14.78	1.17
UniGenua-StarCCM	1.53	-1.41	-4.11
UniTriest-CFX(FCM)	0.40	-1.65	-4.55
UniTriest-CFX(Kunz)	0.67	1.74	-2.35
UniTriest-CFX(Zwart)	0.13	-5.04	-2.35
VOITH-Comet	3.41	1.79	11.09
VTT-FinFlo	3.62	-2.13	4.26



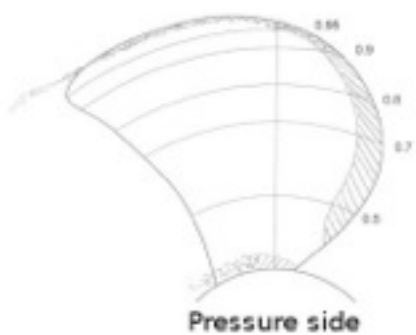
# SMP11 - Cavitation patterns



Exp.  $J=1.019$ ,  $\sigma_n=2.024$



Exp.  $J=1.269$ ,  $\sigma_n=1.424$



Exp.  $J=1.408$ ,  $\sigma_n=2.000$



Zwart

FCM

Kunz

Numerical cavitation patterns depicted as isosurfaces of vapour volume fraction  $\alpha = 0.5$

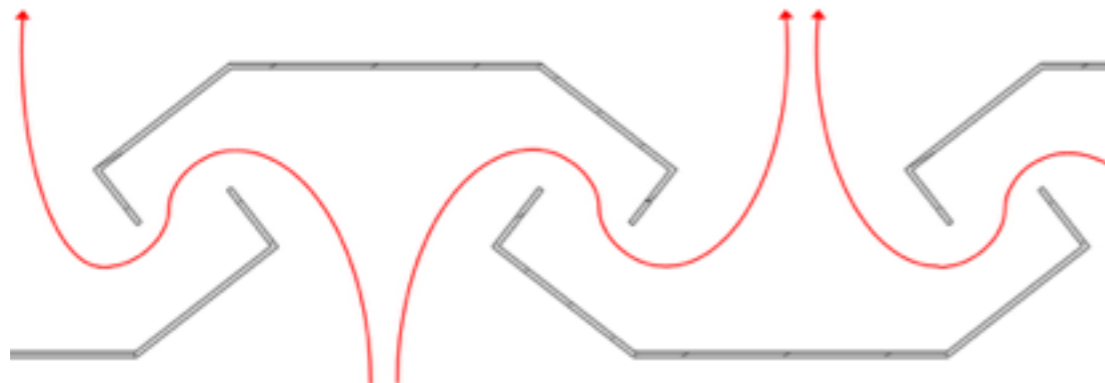
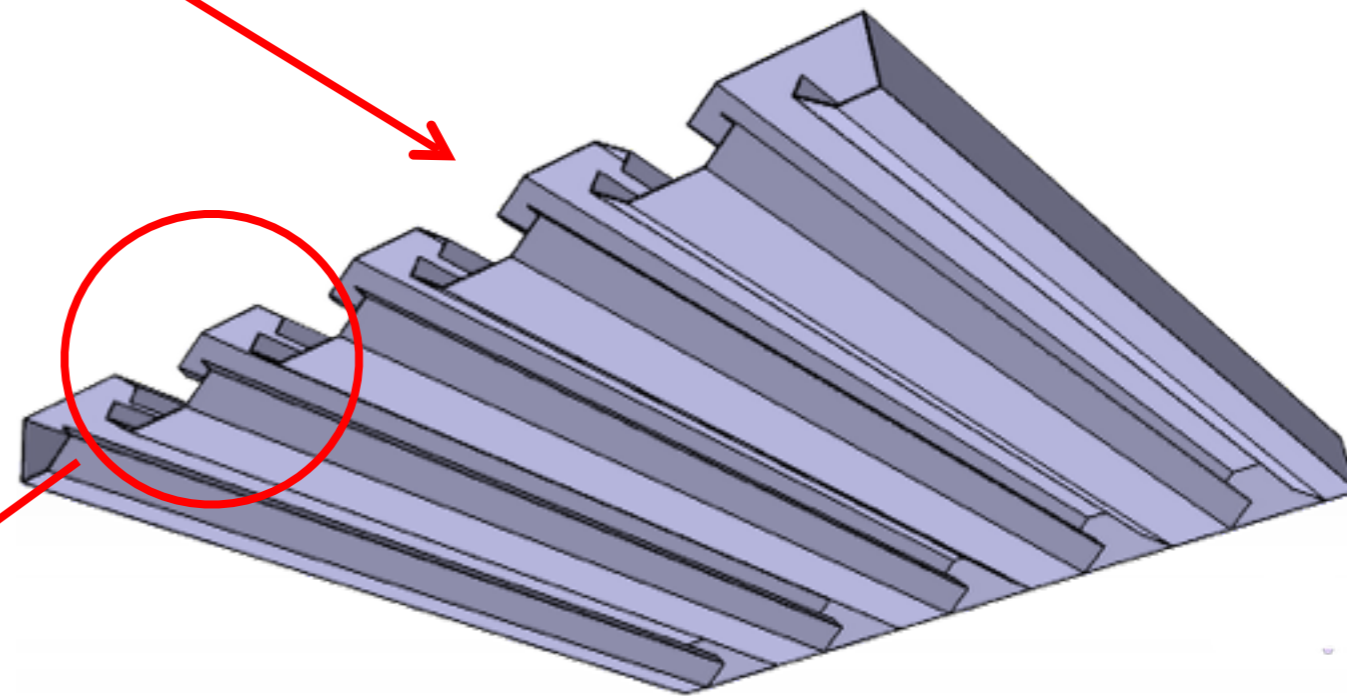


# Filter for professional kitchen



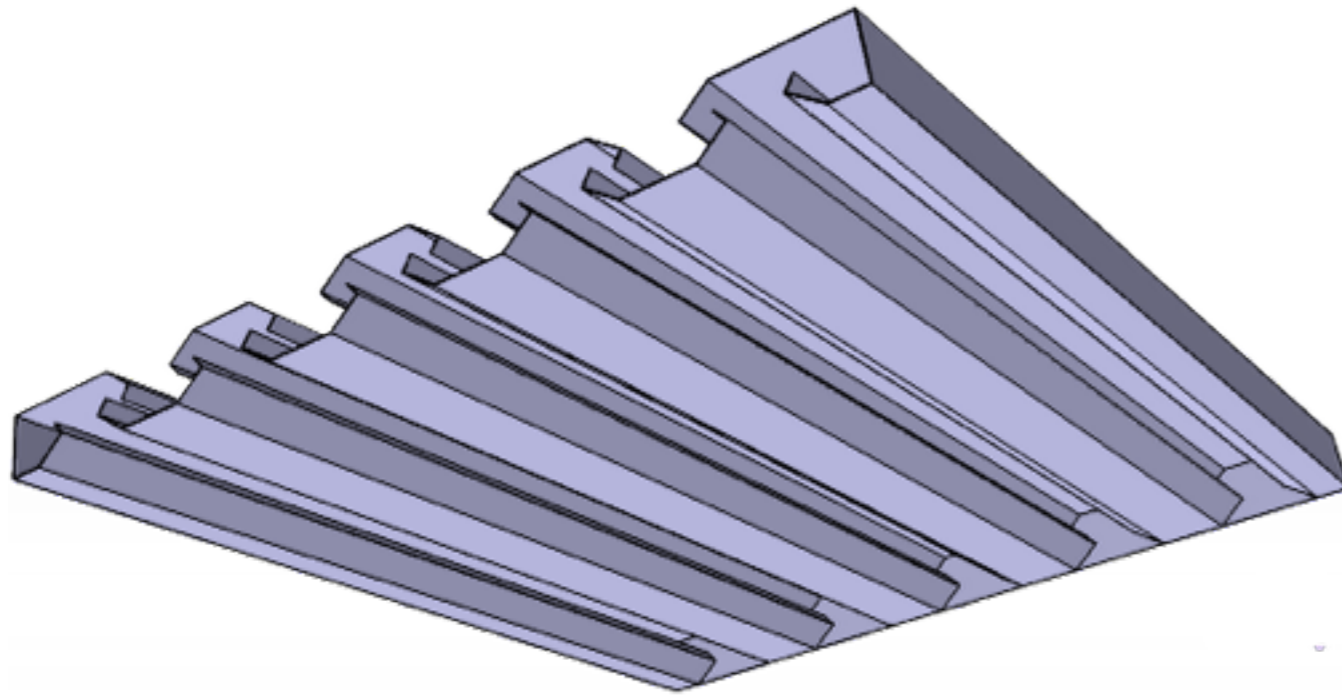
Filtro tra i più diffusi sul mercato delle cucine industriali.

Il dispositivo è composto da una serie di lamierini di acciaio inossidabile piegati in modo tale da formare i canali di passaggio per l'aria.

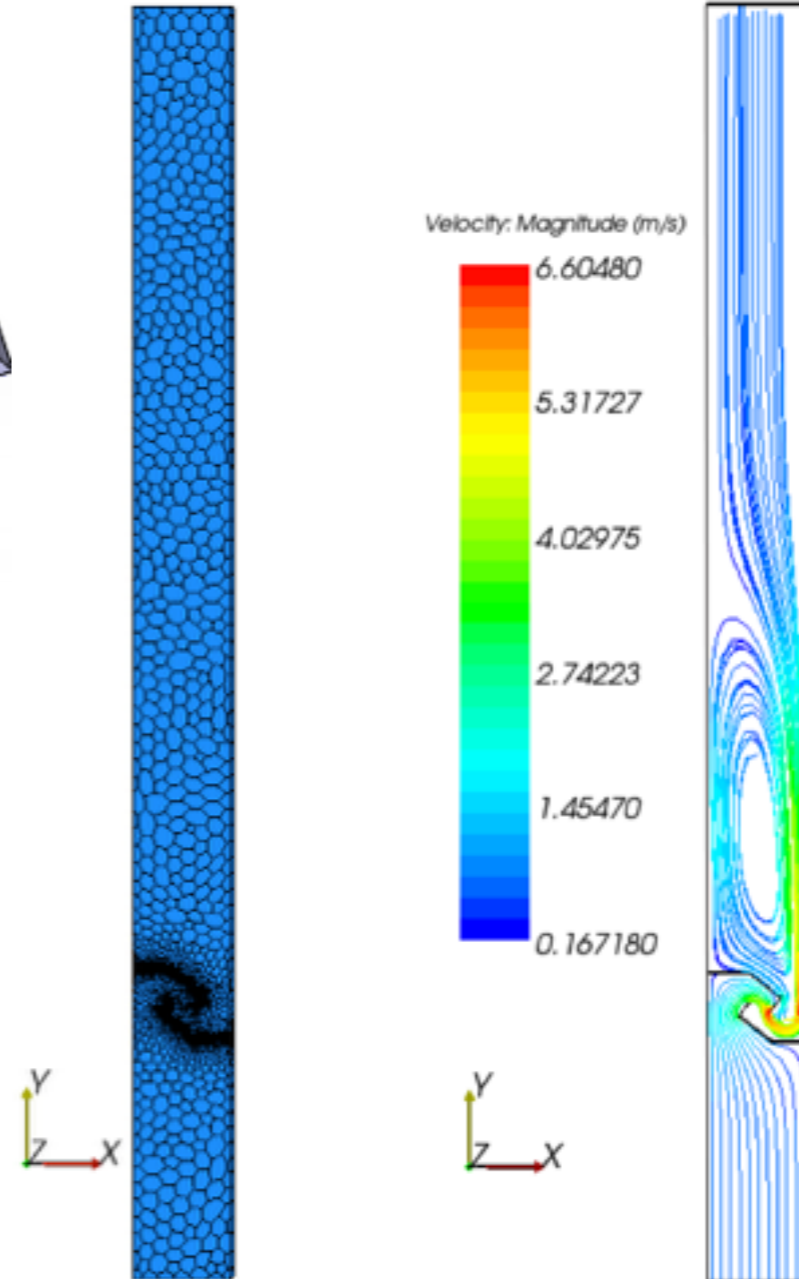




# Simple periodic model

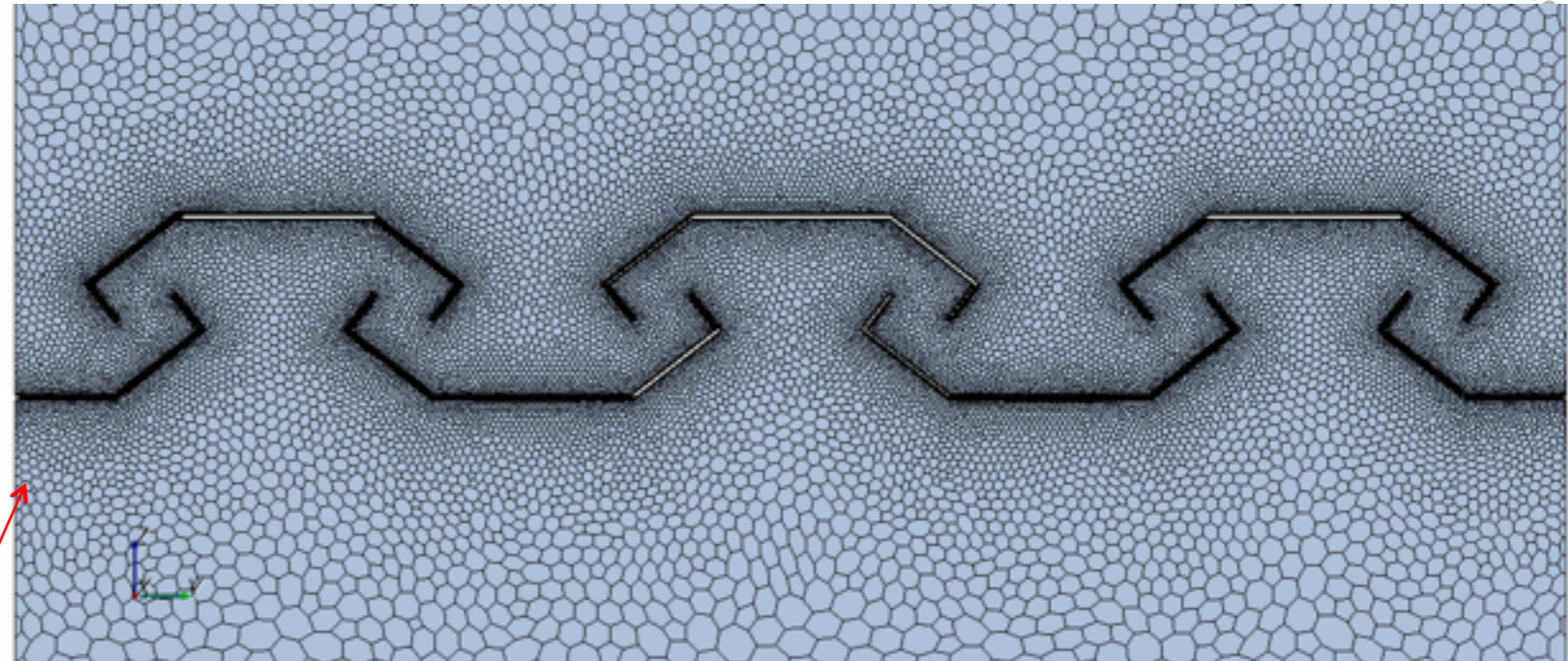
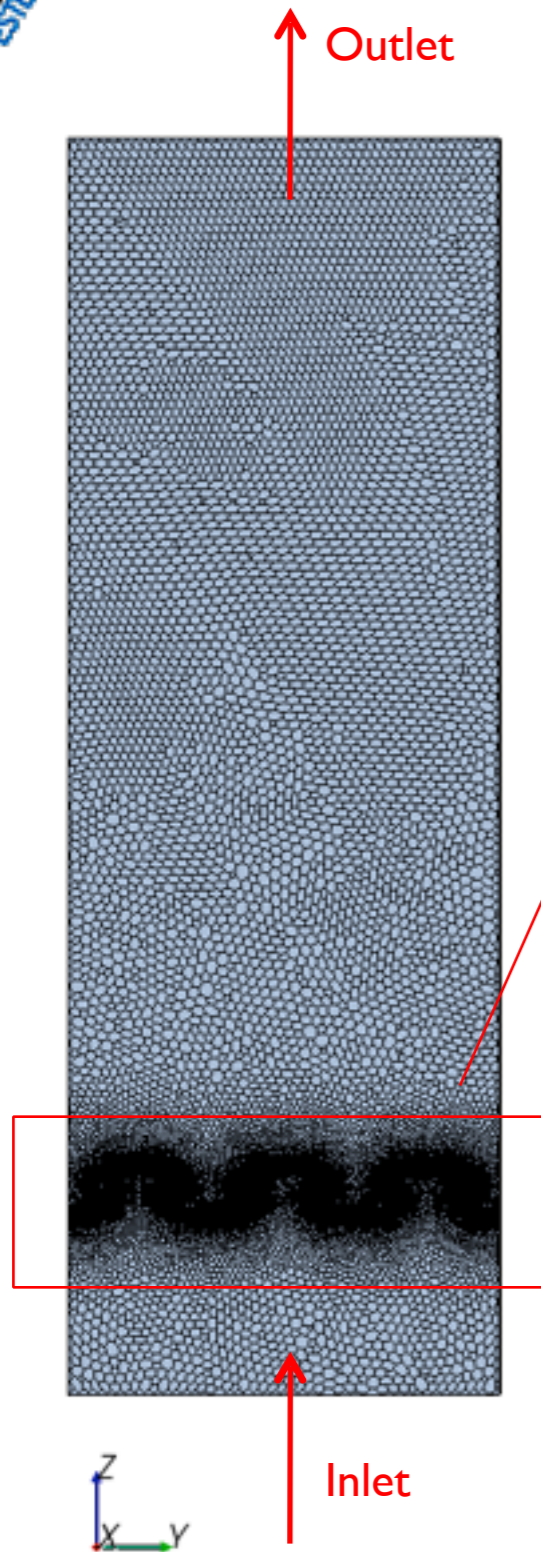


Simple periodic model is NOT ABLE TO PREDICT the flow pattern!





# Simulazioni numeriche CFD



Star-CCM+

Mesh 2D

Poliedri + strato di prismi a parete = ~500.000 celle

Inlet

- Aria a  $T = 23^{\circ}\text{C}$  e densità costante
- Pressione Standard
- Portate =  $300 \div 450 \div 600 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$
- Gravità :  $0, 0, -9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$

Outlet

- Pressione statica =  $0 \text{ Pa}$
- Pressione di riferimento =  $101325 \text{ Pa}$

Turbolenza

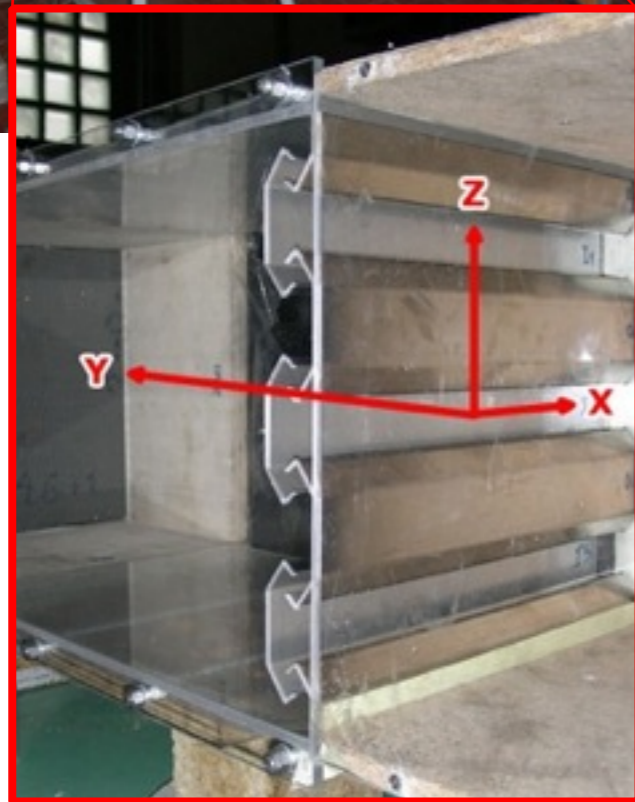
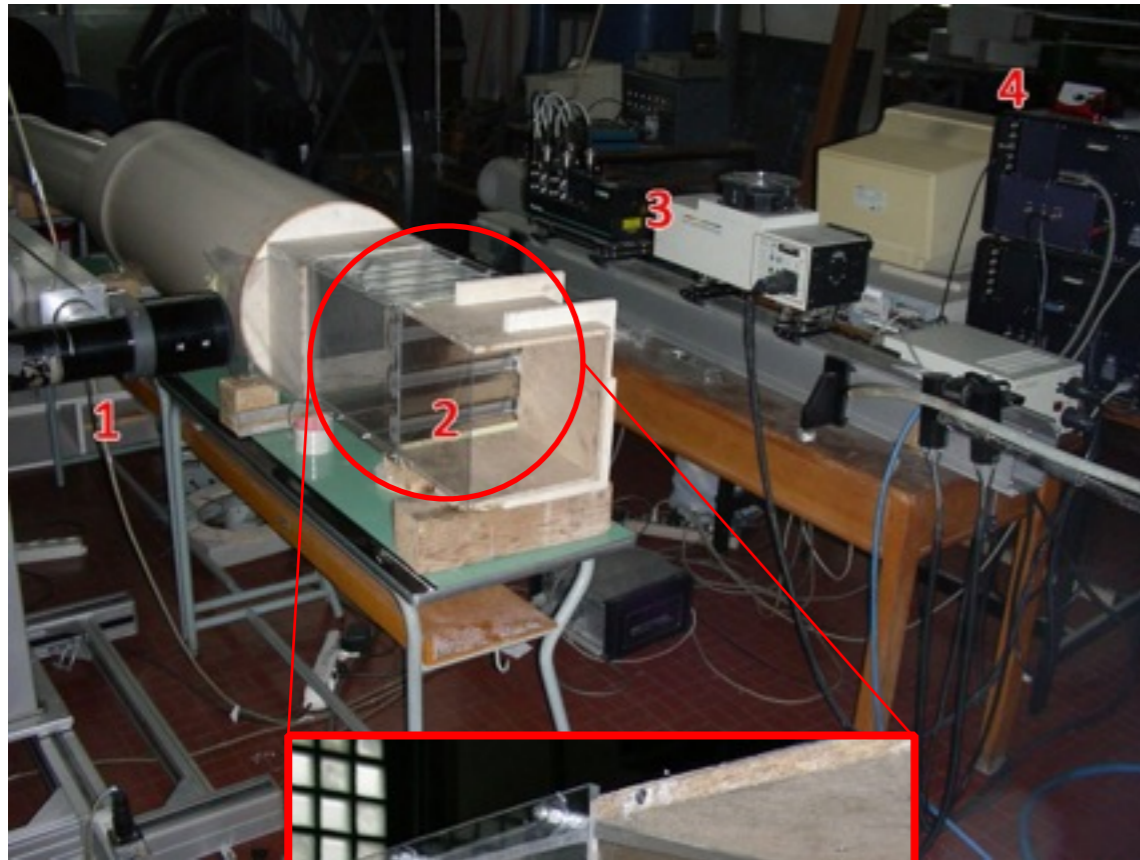
Modello  $k-\omega$

Tempo

Modello non stazionario -  $\Delta t = 10 \text{ sec}$  (step  $1/10 \text{ sec}$ )

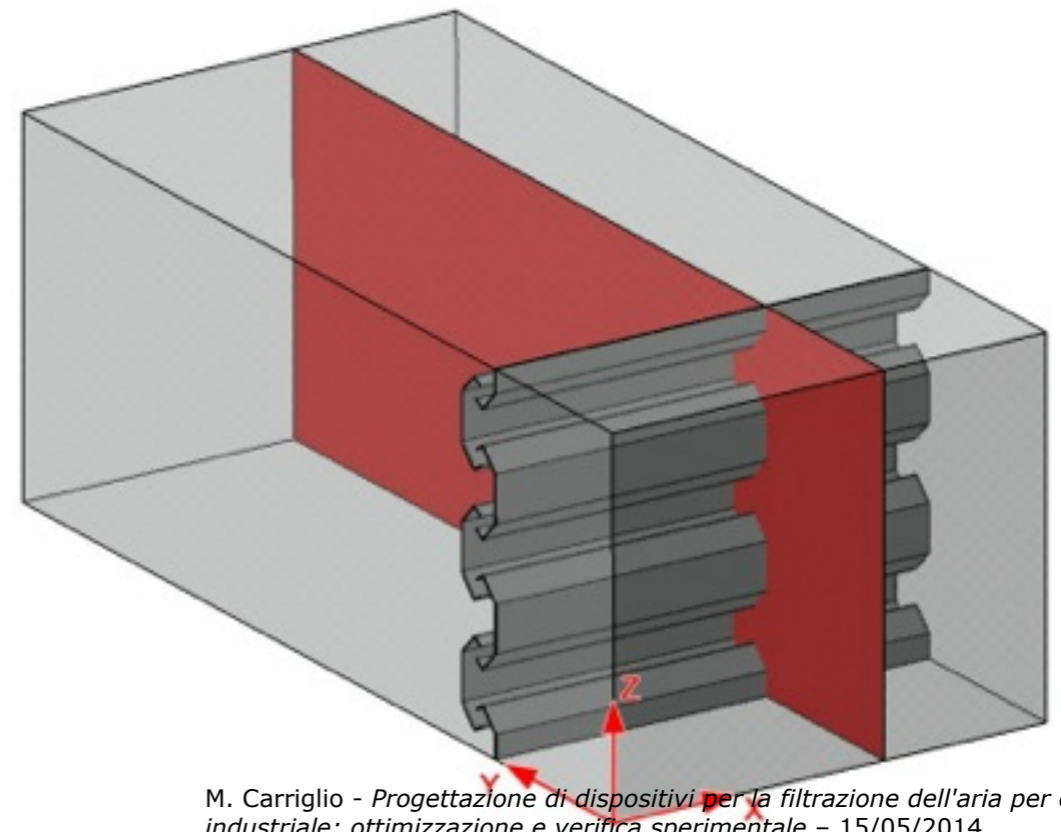
Multifase

Modello lagrangiano (olio,  $800 \text{ kg/m}^3$  min)



## Laser Doppler Velocimetry:

- plexiglass trasparente da 5mm
- Portata:  $600 \text{ m}^3/\text{h} \rightarrow 0.83 \text{ m/s}$
- Spray di acqua e glicerina (10%/volume)
- Rilevamenti 2D (piani ZY simmetrici lungo l'asse X)
- Griglia da 12000 punti di misura (media su 30/60 sec.)





# Verifiche sperimentali



Pressione

← Laser Doppler Velocimetry

↓ Particle Size Analyzer

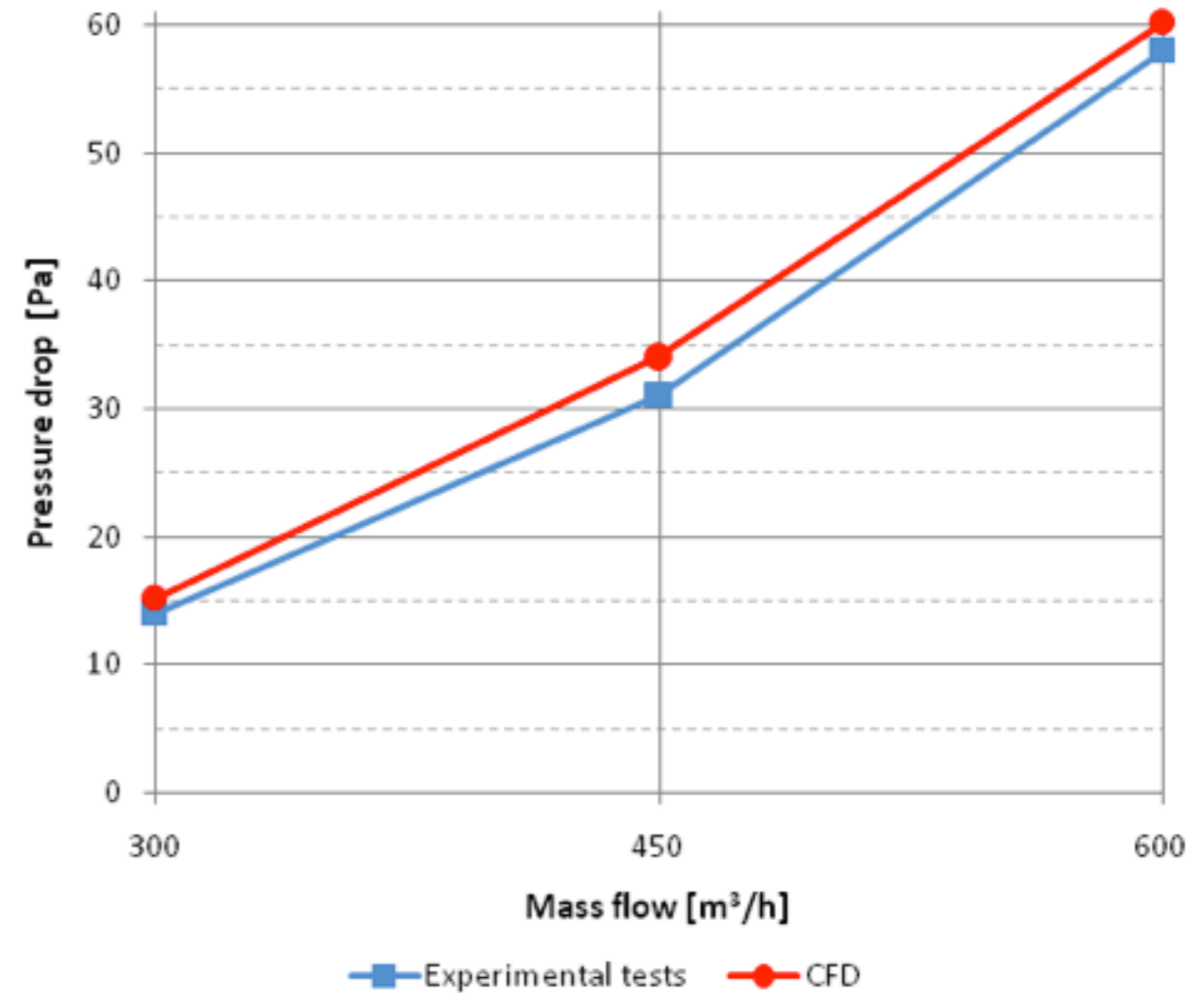




# Risultati



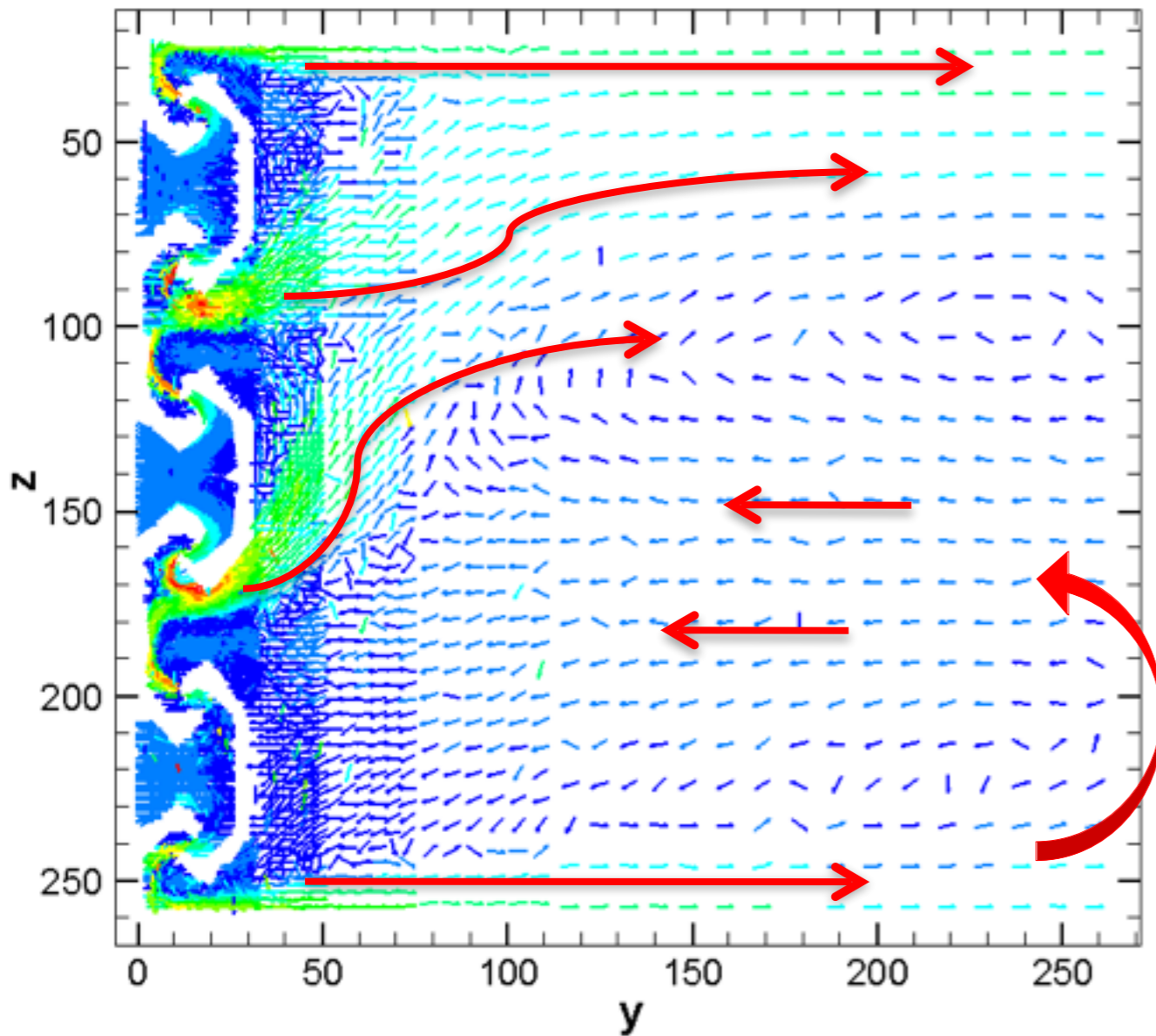
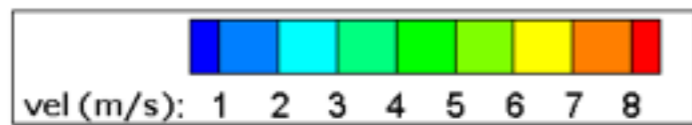
Portata [m]	Pressione [Pa]		Errore rel. [%]
	CFD	Dati sperimentali	
300	15.198	14	8.6
450	34.034	31	9.8
600	60.257	58	3.9



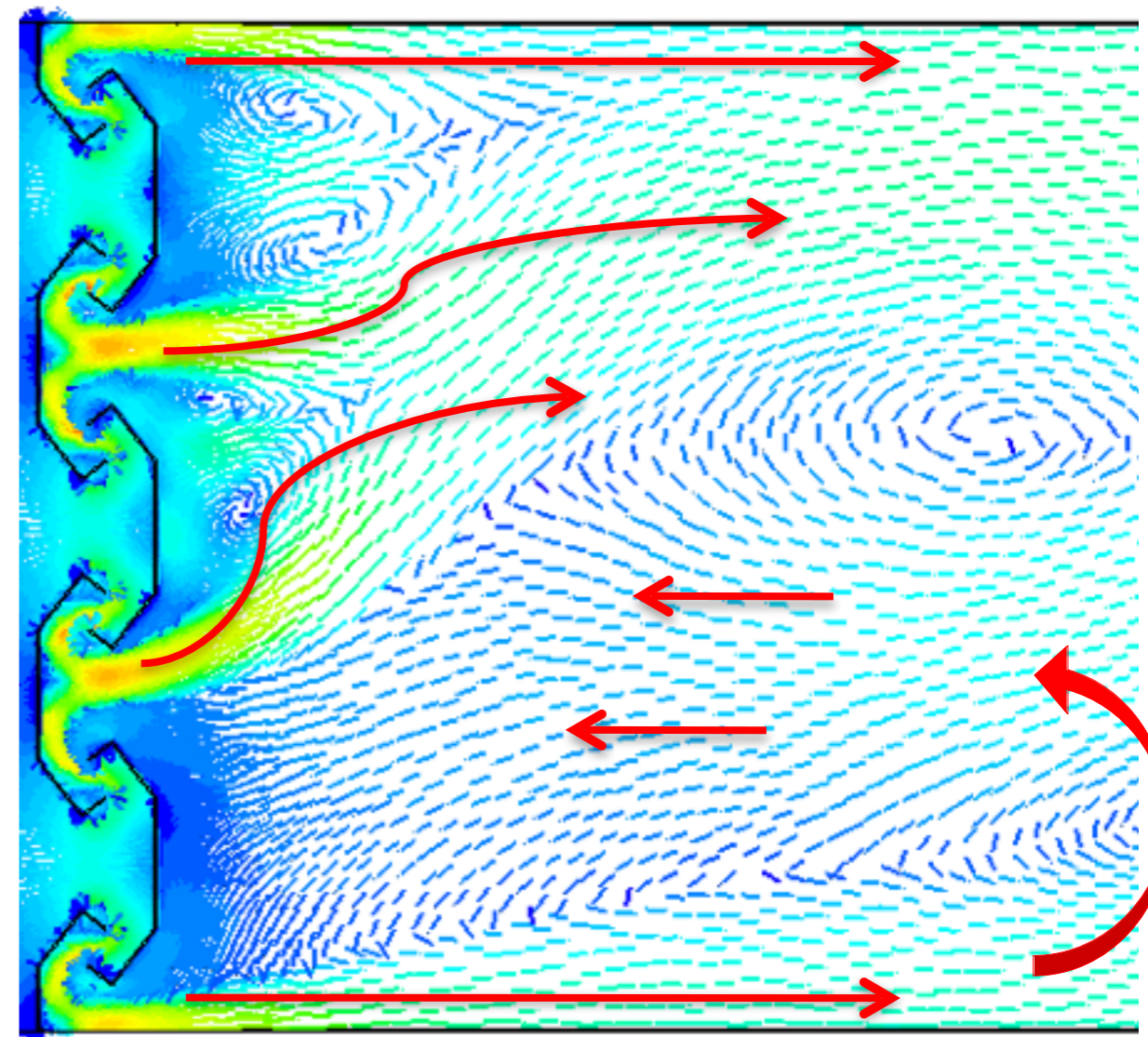
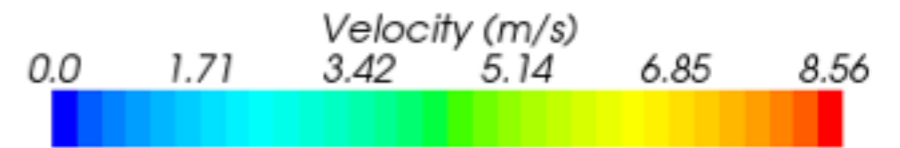


Vettori di velocità (m/s)

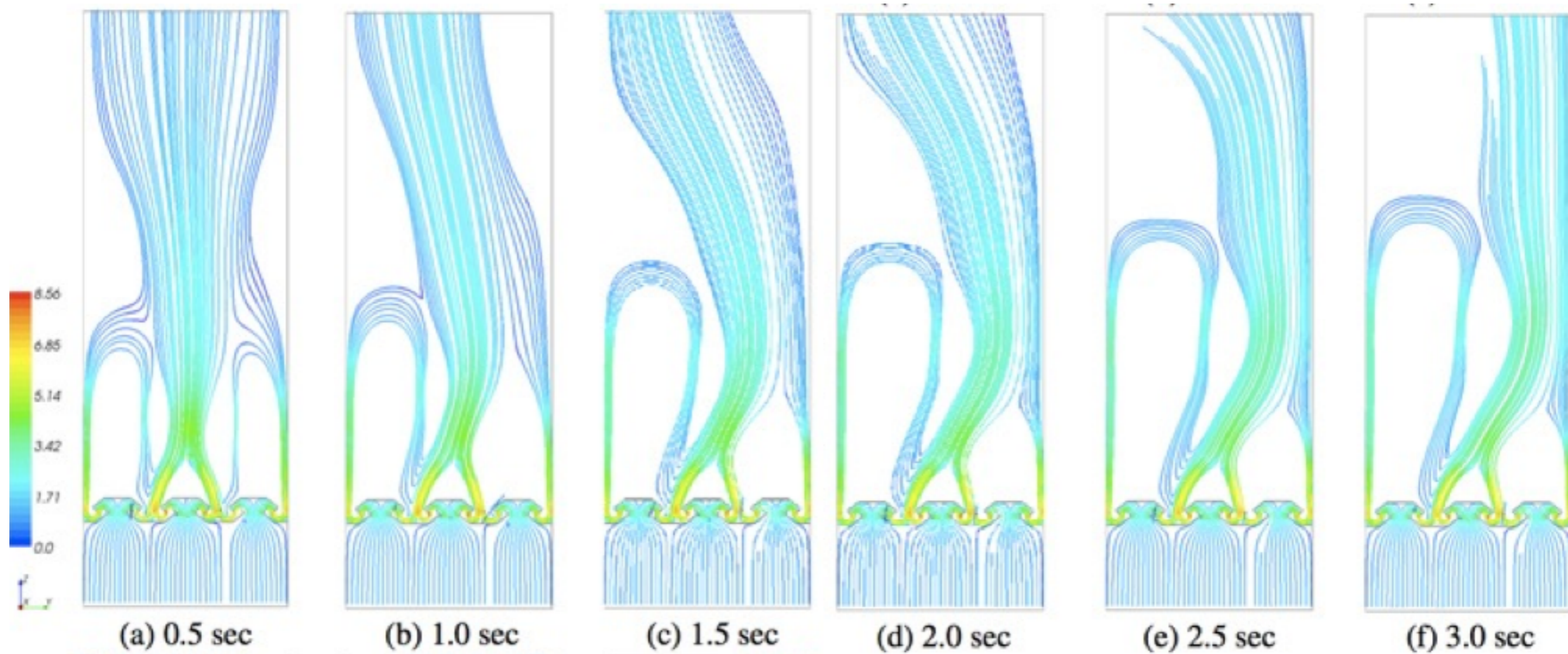
Dati sperimentali



CFD



## CFD – streamline

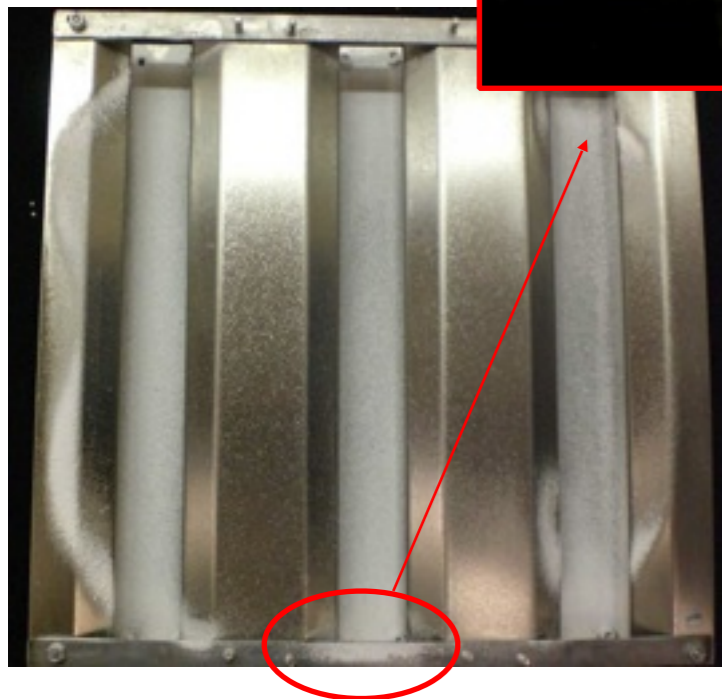
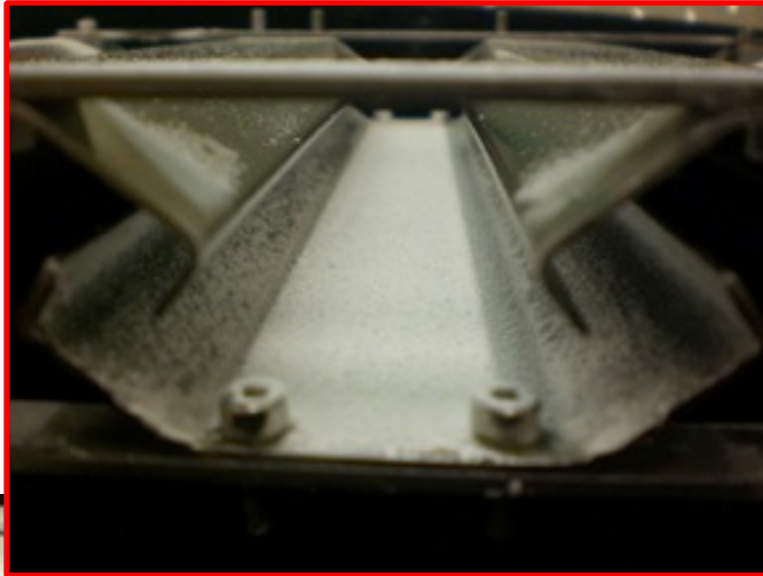


$0 < t < 3$  sec : unsteady

$3 < t < 10$  sec : steady

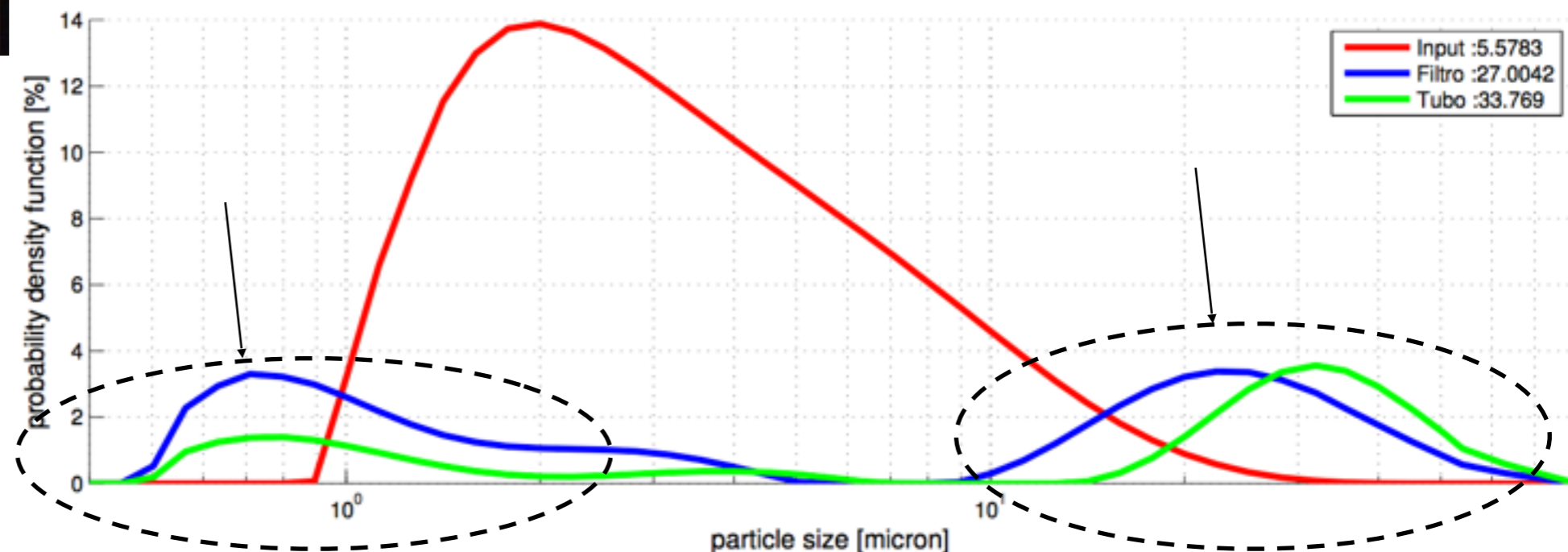


# Verifiche sperimentali



## Particle Size Analyzer:

- Struttura posta verticalmente
- Inseminazione di particelle di vetro finemente frantumate
- Diametri = 1-40 micron (PDF rossa)

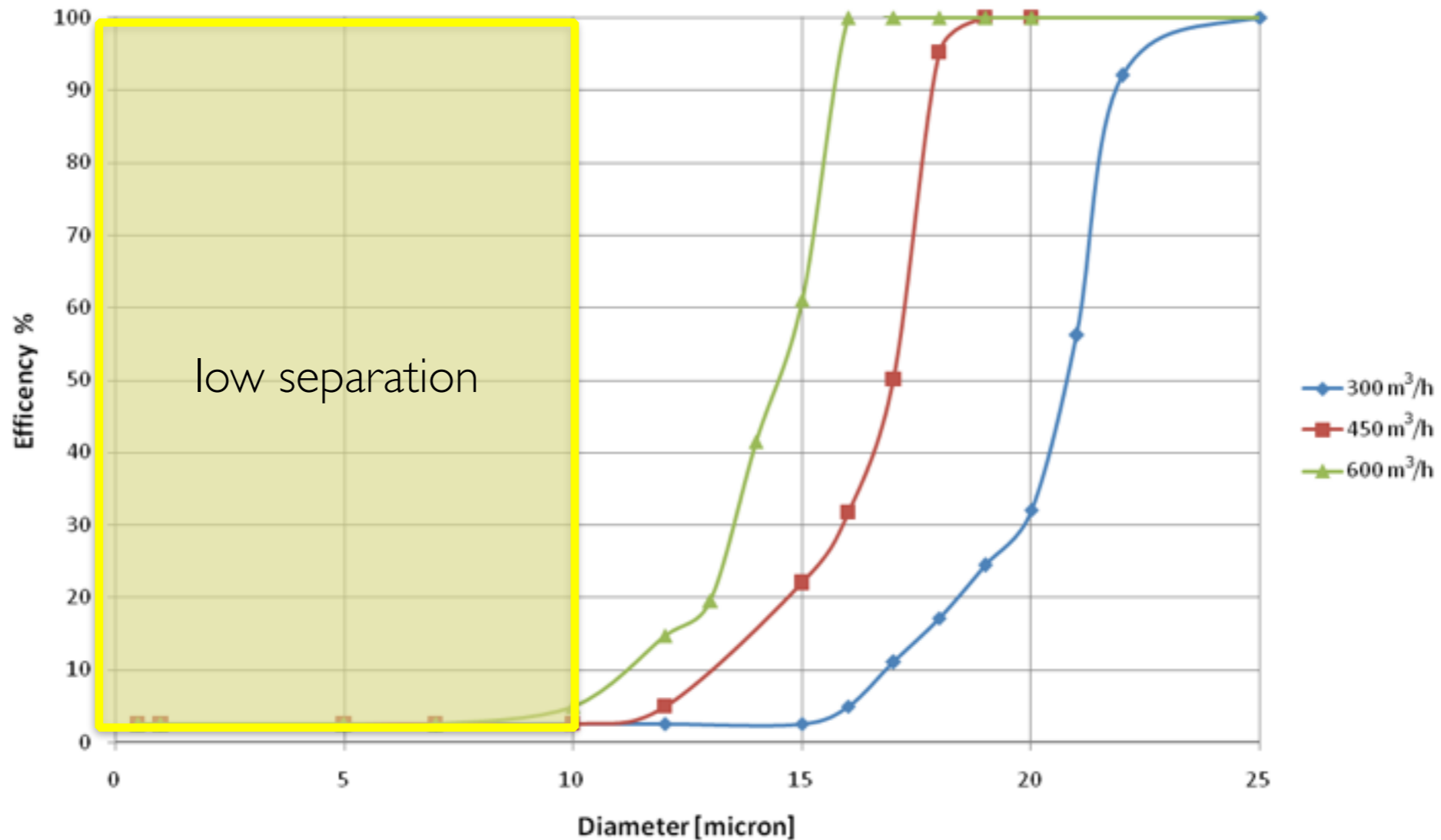




# Results



## Separation efficiency by CFD changing flow rate:



very low efficiency for  $D < 12$  micron due to:

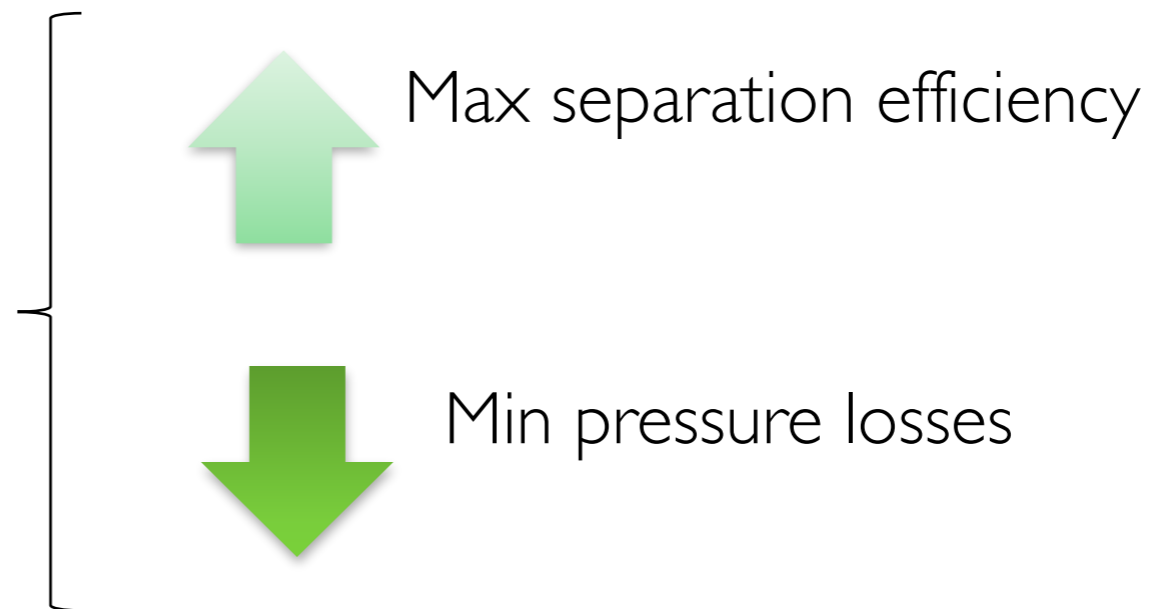
- 2D flow
- reduced residence inside the filter



# Shape optimization of the filter



Shape optimization by  
modeFRONTIER

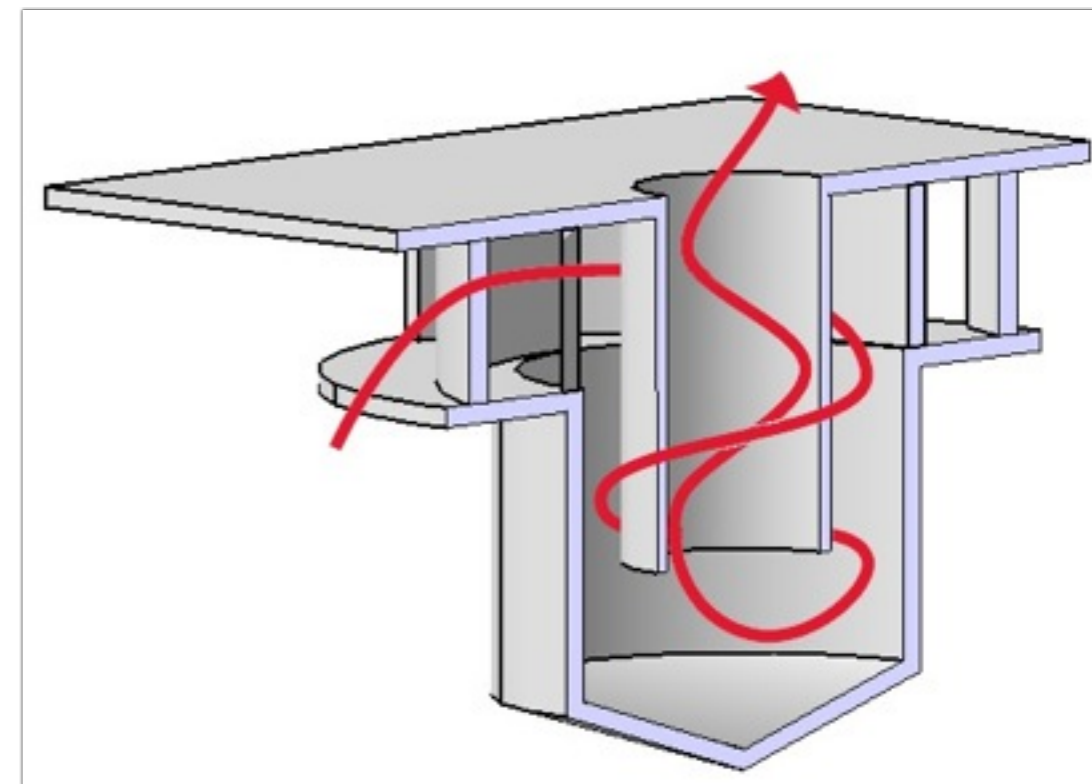
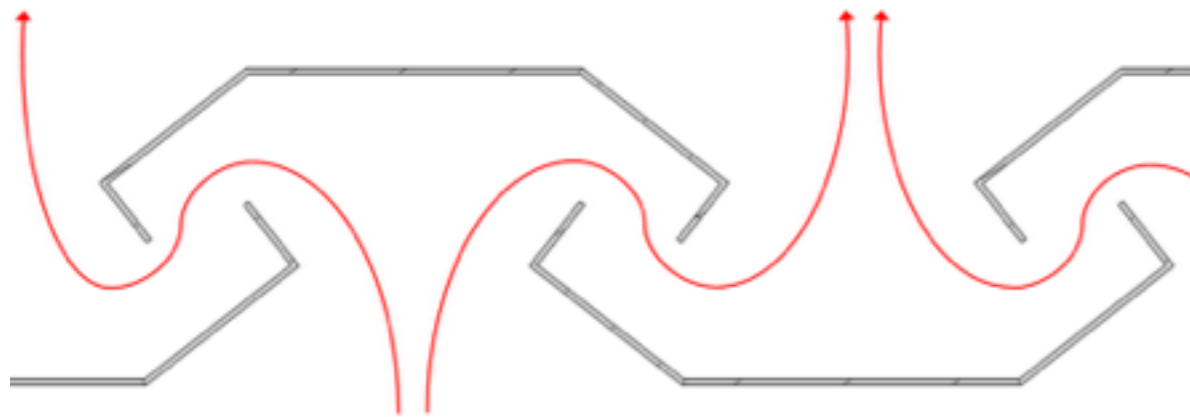




# New device

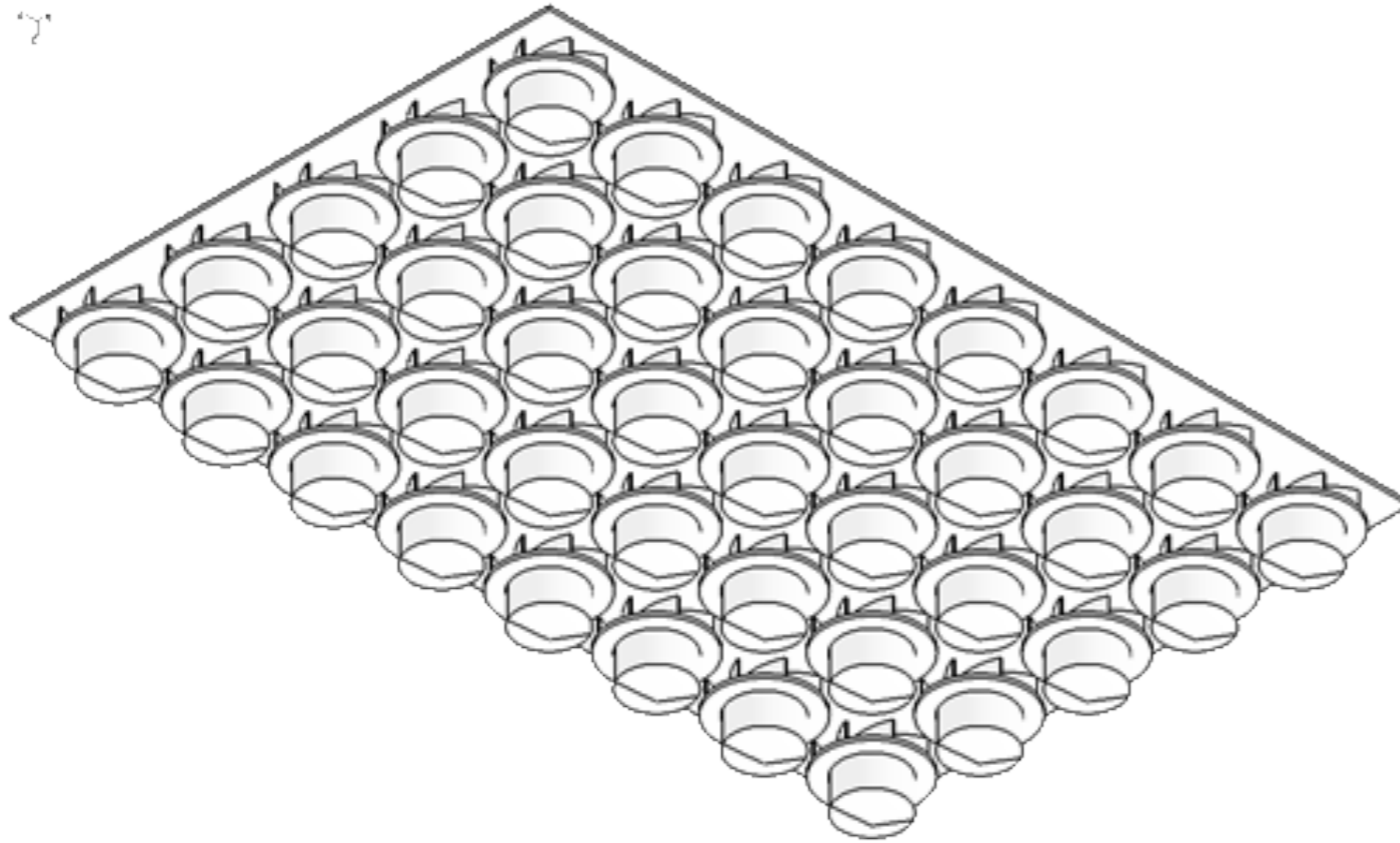


- develop an efficient filter for small particles (8 micron)
- create a 3D flow pattern
- have longer residence time inside the filter

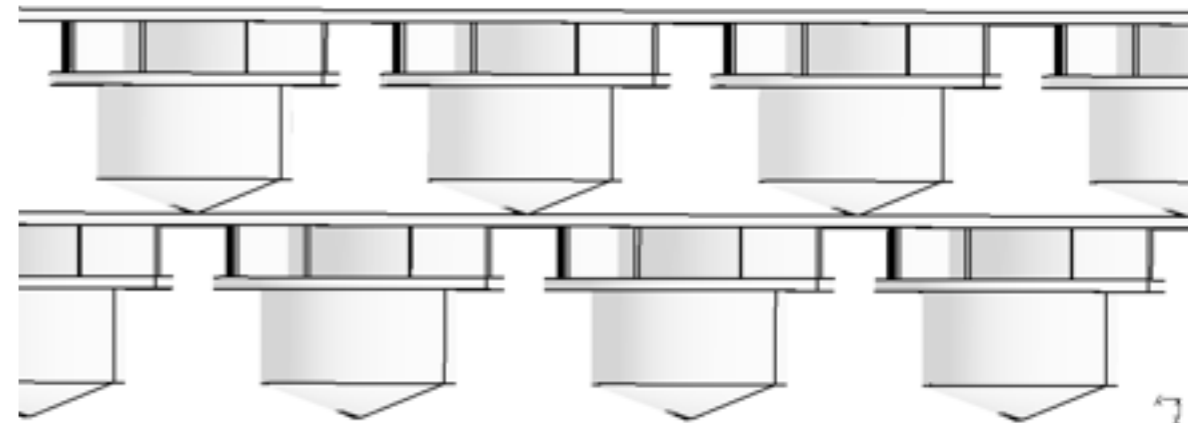




# New device

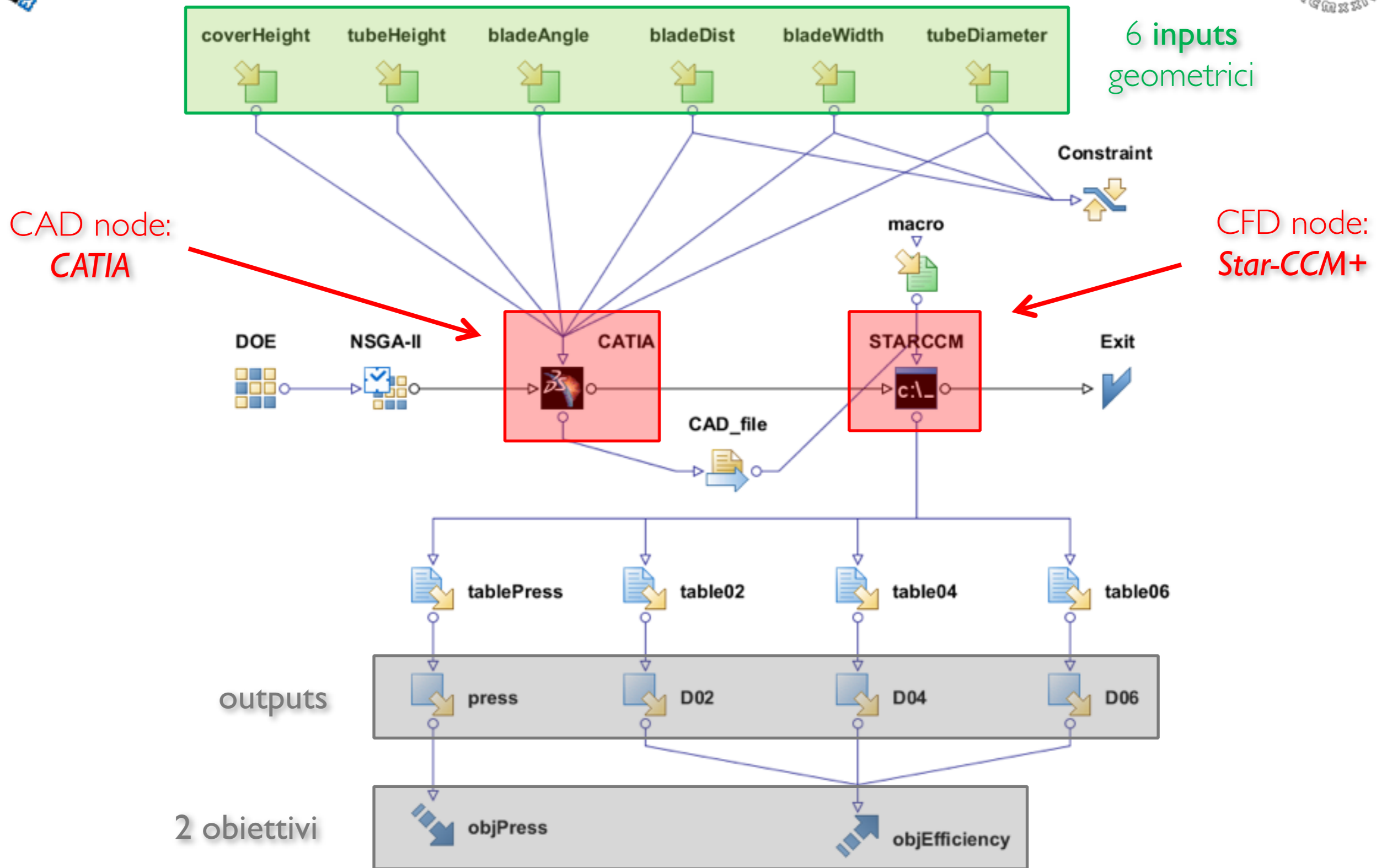


“flat” filter made of many modules  
possibility of having a series of filters mounted in series



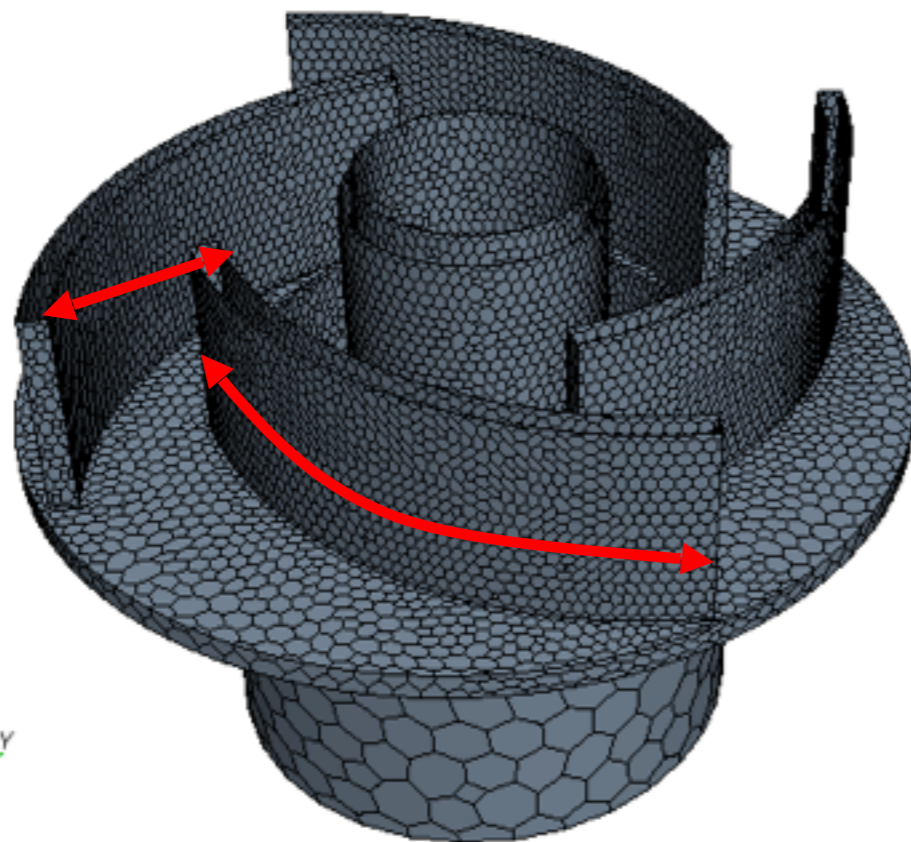


# Nuovo dispositivo – Ottimizzazione

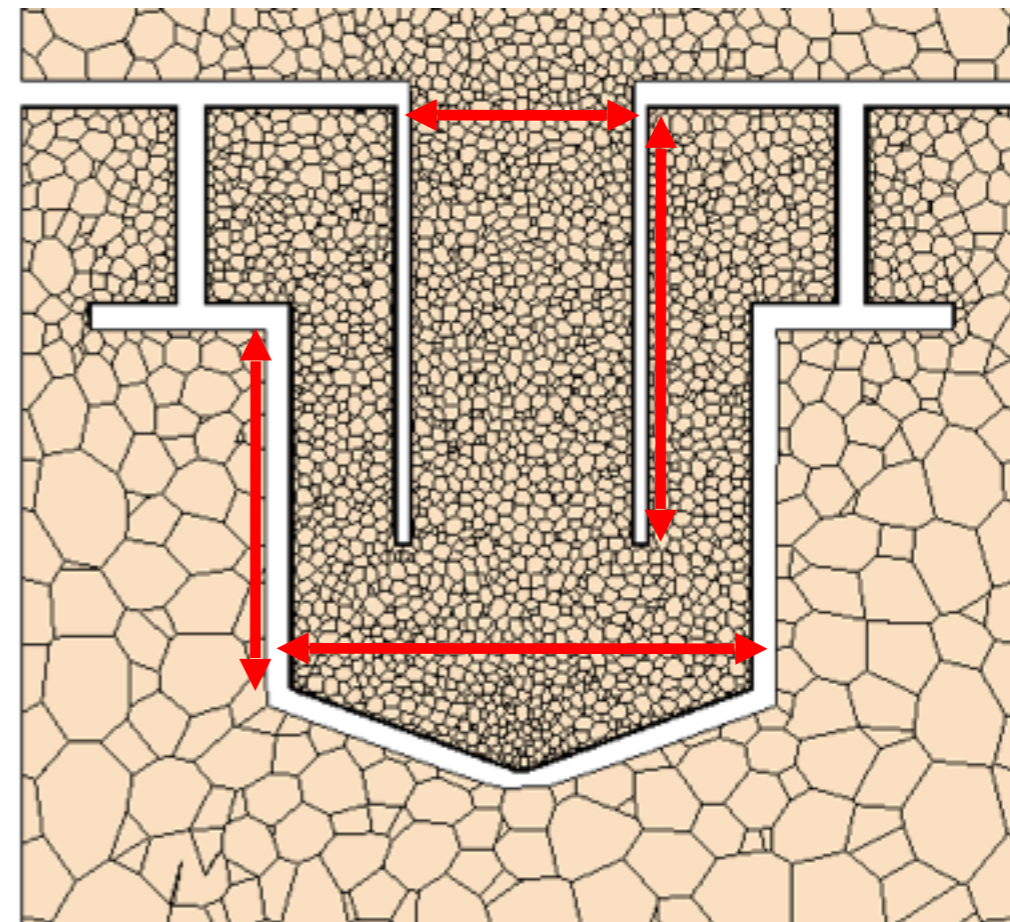




## 6 Inputs geometrici



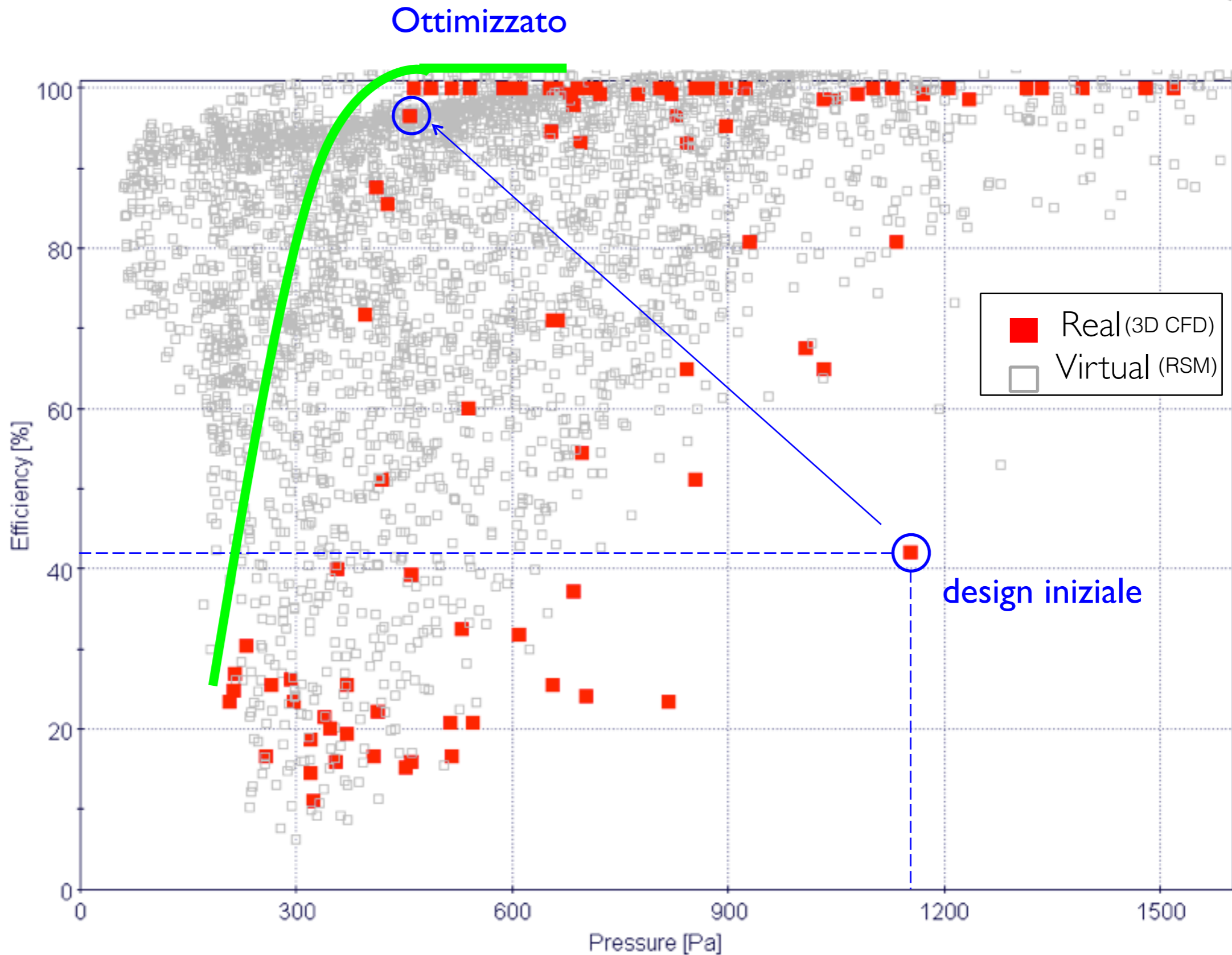
Vista dall'alto



Sezione frontale



# Nuovo dispositivo – Ottimizzazione

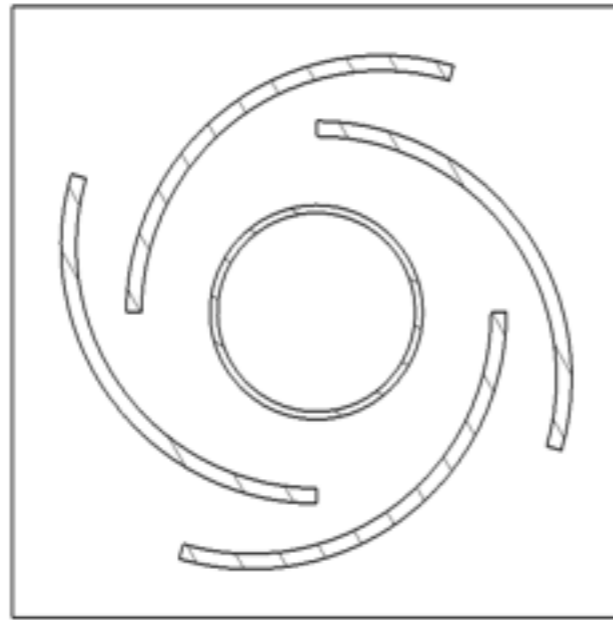




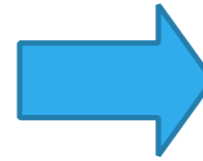
# Nuovo dispositivo – Ottimizzazione



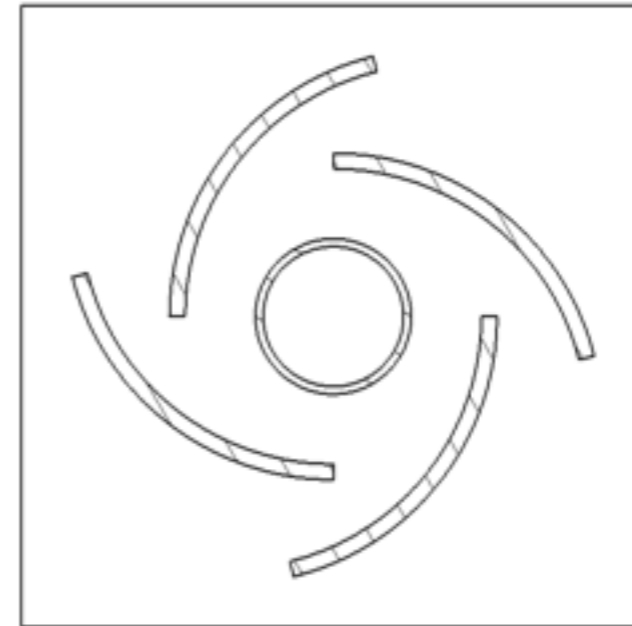
sezione  
A-A



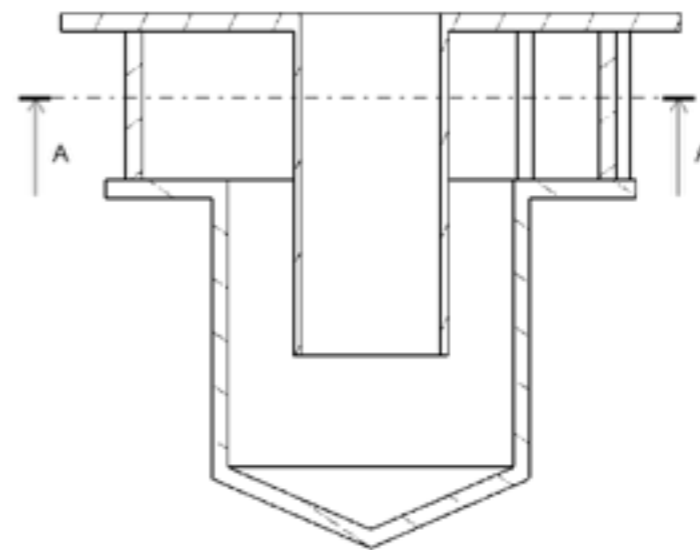
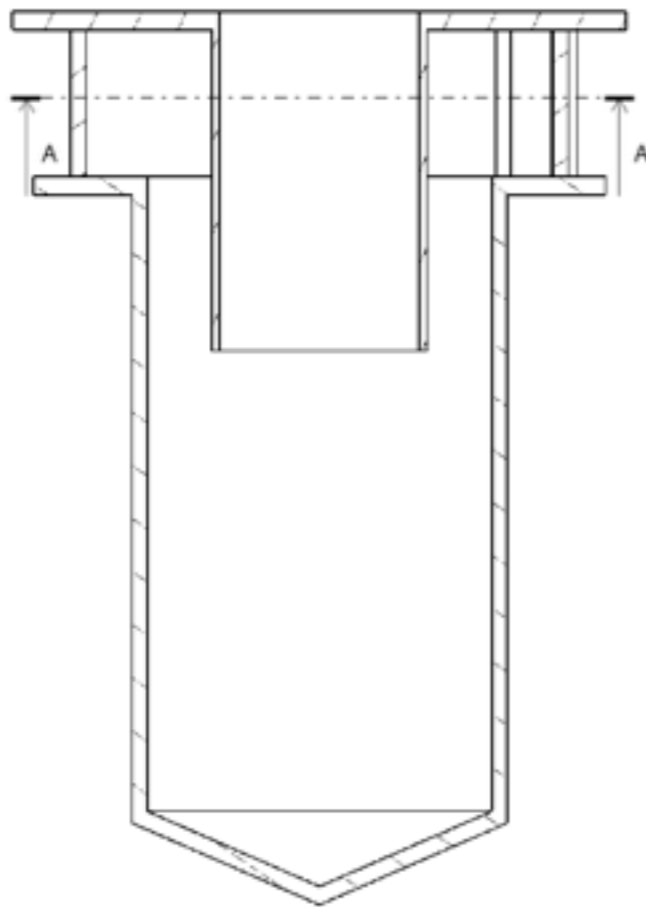
Design  
iniziale



sezione  
A-A

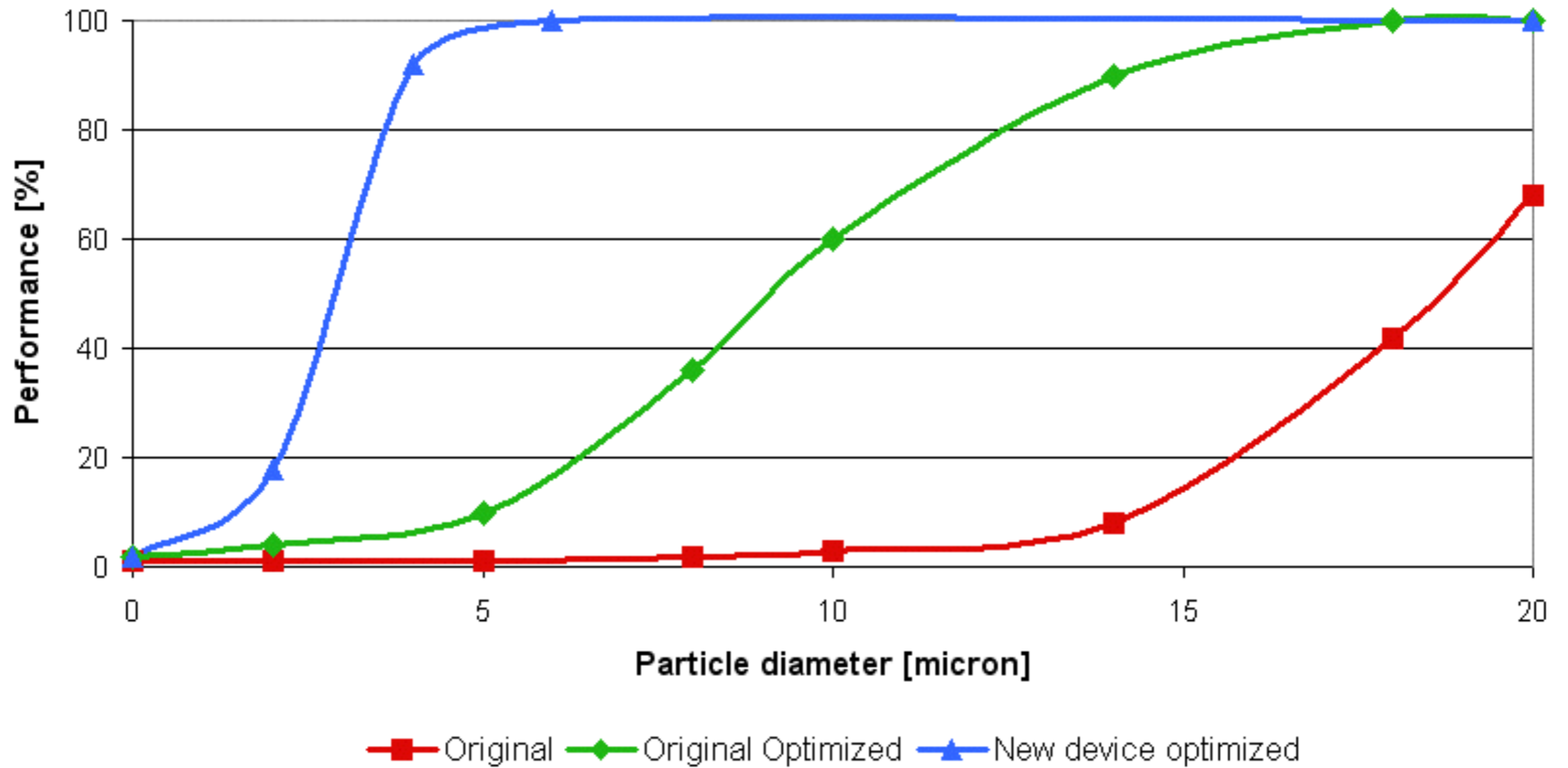


Design  
ottimizzato





# Risultati

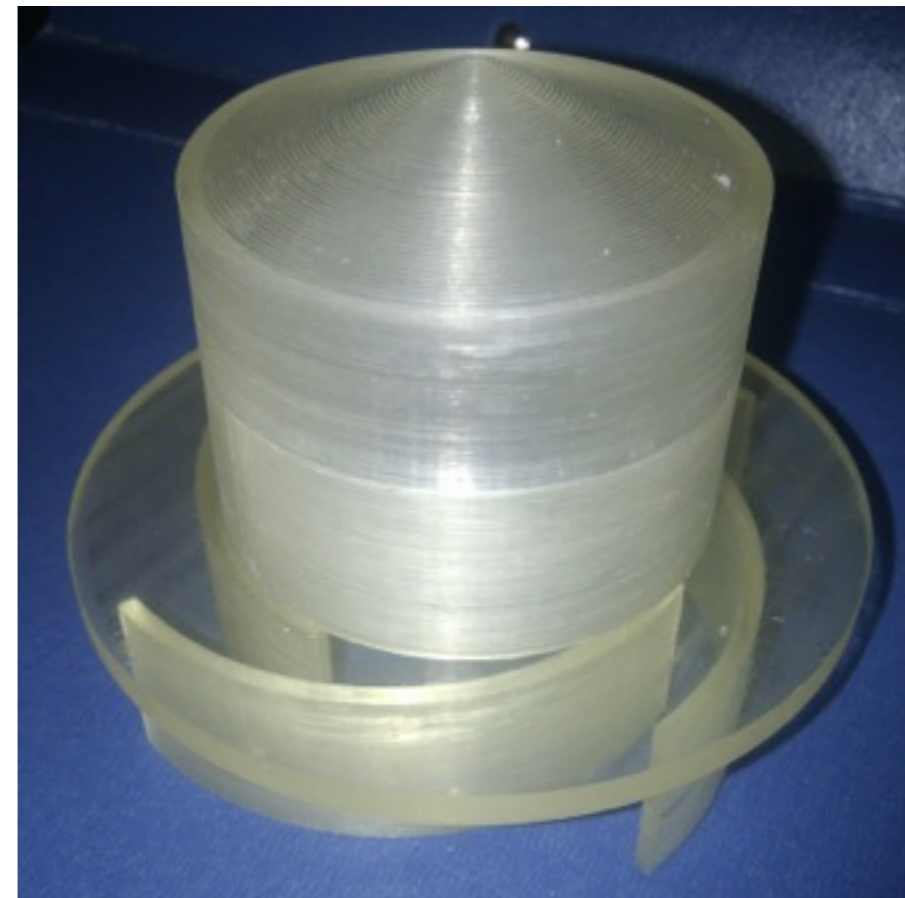




# Verifiche sperimentali

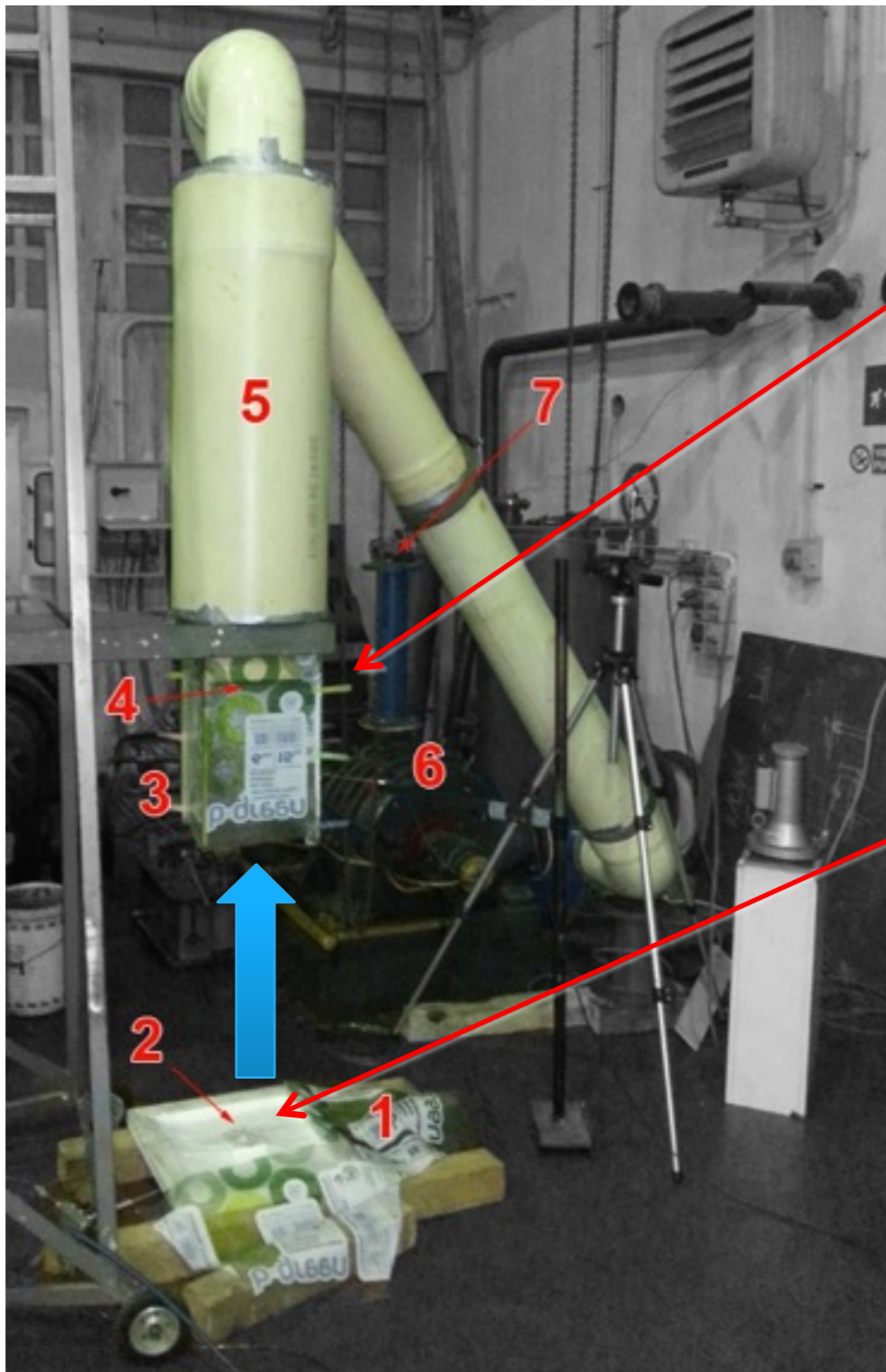


Realizzazione dispositivo ottimizzato attraverso prototipazione rapida





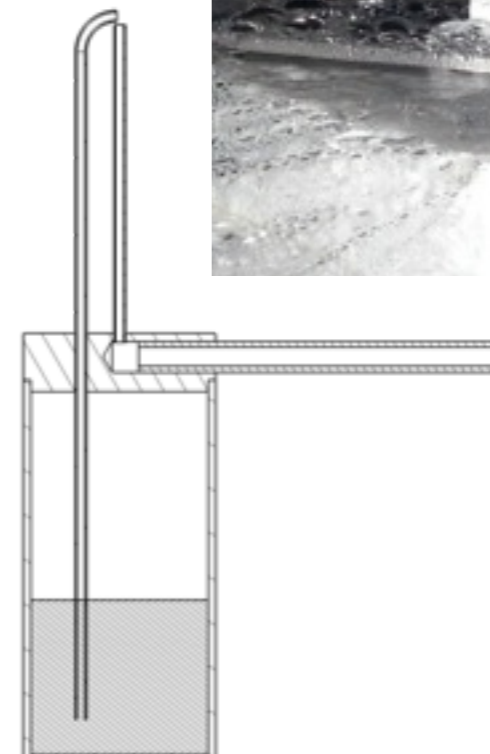
# Verifiche sperimentali



Filtro

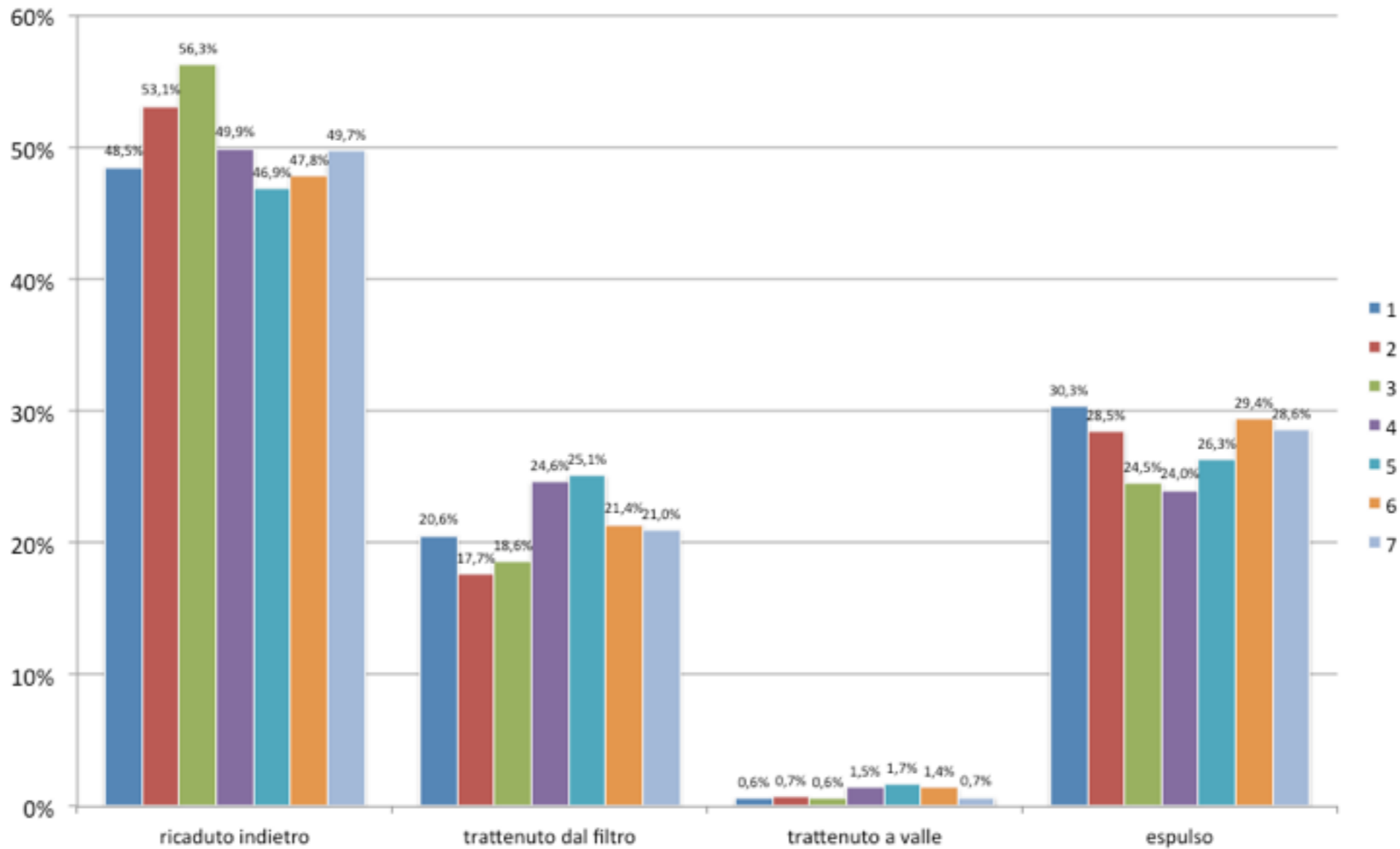


Nebulizzatore





# Risultati



Efficienza globale media = **72.6%**



# Conclusion



George Box stated that “*all models are wrong, but some are useful*” ...

Optimization can make models even more useful!

Thank you for your attention



