

1 **Dynamic evaluation of airflow stream generated by a reverse system of**
2 **an axial fan sprayer using 3D-ultrasonic anemometers. Effect of canopy**
3 **structure**

4 Ramón Salcedo, Pau Pons, Jordi Llop, Tomás. Zaragoza, Javier Campos, Paula Ortega,
5 Montserrat Gallart, Emilio Gil*

6 Department of Agri-Food Engineering and Biotechnology, Universitat Politècnica de
7 Catalunya, Esteve Terradas 8, Campus del Baix Llobregat D4, 08860 Castelldefels,
8 Barcelona (Spain).

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10 ***Corresponding Author:** Emilio Gil, DEAB, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya,
11 Esteve Terradas 8, Campus del Baix Llobregat D4, 08860 Castelldefels, Barcelona
12 (Spain).

13 Tel: +34 93 552 10 99; Fax: +34 93 552 21 001

14 E-mail: emilio.gil@upc.edu

15 Website: <https://uma.deab.upc.edu/en>

16 **Abstract**

17 Air assisted sprayers are currently used for the applications of plant protection products
18 in fruit trees and vineyards. However, the use of these equipment carries a high
19 environmental risk, mainly owing to the generation of airborne spray drift in the lower
20 boundary layer above crop canopy. Hence, many tests are currently focused on
21 investigating several factors that affect the efficiency of the spray process, in which air
22 assistance and air behaviour are two of the most difficult parameters to evaluate. This
23 present work proposes a first approach on the characterization of the airflow generated

24 by an orchard sprayer equipped with an axial fan and an air reverse system in the outlet
25 plane of the air, while circulated through two artificial rows of canopy representing
26 vineyard trellis, using 3D-ultrasonic anemometers to measure the experimental data. A
27 first series of static field tests measured the air velocity at different heights on both sides
28 of the sprayer and at both sides of every row of artificial canopy and evaluated the effect
29 of the canopy on the sprayer airflow passing through. A second set of experiments were
30 carried out with the sprayer moving at 4.1 km h^{-1} between canopy rows to simulate the
31 normal spray process. Finally, velocity vectors and turbulent intensities were calculated.
32 The resistance of the vegetation was also characterized by using a drag coefficient, both
33 when the sprayer was stationary and moving. The results between the static and dynamic
34 tests were compared. Although there were similarities between the two tests, the results
35 indicated that when the equipment moves along the canopy rows, the axial fan asymmetry
36 on air velocities is more noticeable and turbulence intensity increased. In addition, the
37 vegetation received direct airflow at different times. This could affect the trajectory of the
38 droplets. On the other hand, the resistance of the vegetation on each side was similar. The
39 air reverse system could be affecting the airflow direction to the driving direction.
40 Ultrasonic anemometers were successful in characterizing sprayer fan airflows but it is
41 necessary to continue working on the descriptive analysis of the airflow in other planes
42 different from the air outlet only and with other vineyard systems.

43

44 **Keywords**

45 Air assisted sprayers; outlet plane; artificial vineyard; Static and dynamic assays;
46 Velocity profile

47

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51 **1. Introduction**

52 Disease control and the use of pesticides in crop cultivation is a critical issue in the
53 agricultural sector (Damalas, 2015). Crop treatment with pesticides can be a risk not only
54 to the environment (Carvalho, 2017), but to humans as well (Mamane *et al.*, 2015);
55 further, is one of the most important economic factors for a farmer (Ganesh, 2018).
56 Hence, pesticide spray applications offering reduced costs and improved efficiency, have
57 been empirically developed over the decades (Das *et al.*, 2015).

58 In the case of tree crops and vineyards, farmers use sprayers equipped with different air-
59 assistance systems, such as crossflow, individual spouts or axial-flow fans (Dekeyser *et*
60 *al.*, 2011). The use of air-assisted sprayer has advantages that help optimize the treatments
61 (Moltó *et al.*, 2006): it is required only the driver of the tractor, working time is short
62 enough to act at the time of greatest sensitivity of the pest or these machines imply a more
63 rational use of water consumption and chemical products. These sprayers generate airflow
64 helping the transport and penetration of pesticide droplets to be directed into the
65 vegetation in uniform distribution (Walklate *et al.*, 1996, Panneton 2005ab). This
66 mechanism focuses the applied volume to the vegetation target diminishing unwanted
67 losses and improving the efficiency of the treatment.

68 But not all the product reaches the target vegetation. The airflow also sends a fraction of
69 the applied volume into the air (Gil and Sinfort, 2005). This fraction of product carried
70 out of the target area by the action of the environmental wind is defined by ISO Standard

71 22866 (2005) as a spray drift. This phenomenon not only reduces the efficiency of the
72 treatment (Landers, 2008) but also endangers the environment (Garcerá *et al.*, 2017), as
73 pesticide droplets maybe carried by environmental air currents to sensitive areas such as
74 populated areas (Butler-Ellis *et al.*, 2017) or water resources (Ochoa and Maestroni,
75 2018). This brings the necessity to consider airborne spray drift in air-assisted pesticide
76 sprayers (Kasner *et al.*, 2018). The control of spray drift is the first environmental problem
77 during the design of air-assisted sprayers and their use (Fornasiero *et al.*, 2017; Grella *et*
78 *al.*, 2019).

79 Therefore, airflow behaviour is a key element on the efficiency of pesticide treatments
80 with air-assisted sprayer. In this way, most research focus on the analysis of airflow
81 influence, such as in spray distribution (Pergher and Gubiani, 1995; Cross *et al.*, 2003;
82 Farooq and Landers, 2004; Balsari *et al.*, 2008; Pergher and Petris, 2008; Celen *et al.*,
83 2009; Miranda *et al.*, 2015, 2017; García-Ramos *et al.*, 2018) or the droplet size (Reichard
84 *et al.*, 1977 and 1992; Cross *et al.*, 2001; Czaczyk, 2012; Miranda *et al.*, 2018; Balsari *et*
85 *al.*, 2019). Moreover, most of the above studies do not include a physical description of
86 air behaviour. This is important because knowing how air is produced by the sprayers
87 simplifies the understanding of the whole phenomenon— starting from the droplets
88 leaving the nozzles –taking into account the type of sprayer, the air system design, the air
89 inlet conditions, the asymmetry of the air system, the forward speed and the natural air
90 currents and the artificial airflow–, until they reach the vegetation, in which they may
91 penetrate the canopy, pass through the canopy or rise above the vegetation and be affected
92 by the natural wind that drifts them into the surrounding air. That is why its study is
93 considered a fundamental need for improving the efficiency of treatments with this type
94 of machines (Zhai *et al.*, 2018).

95 The sprayer design will determine the behaviour of the outgoing airflow (Triloff 2016;
96 Van de Zande *et al.*, 2017). The number, shape and size of the outlets, the air system
97 employed and the amount of spray volume influence the efficiency of the treatment (Pezzi
98 and Rondelli, 2000; Walklate and Richardson, 2000; Cross *et al.*, 2003; Chen *et al.*, 2013;
99 Duga *et al.*, 2015). Currently, farmers use crossflow fan sprayers or with individual spouts
100 that are adapted to the characteristics of the crop. There are also research groups working
101 on an adjustable air equipment (Hołownicki *et al.*, 2017; Longlong *et al.*, 2017).
102 Nevertheless, the traditional equipment is the air blast sprayers with an axial fan (Fox *et*
103 *al.*, 2006), as it allows to apply pesticides with large airflow volume rates. In these
104 sprayers, the fan design (Cross *et al.*, 2003), its fan speed (Wei *et al.*, 2016), and the
105 inclusion of deflectors (Celen, 2008) influence the airflows that carry the droplets to the
106 target.

107 During the generation of airflow, there are differences in the magnitude and direction of
108 the air velocity vectors between both sides of the sprayer. Theoretically, manufacturers
109 design the sprayers to reduce this asymmetry to ensure that the droplets reach the
110 vegetation in a similar way on both sides. Following this assumption, several researchers
111 analysed only one side of the fan (Delele *et al.*, 2005; Da Silva *et al.*, 2006; Endalew *et*
112 *al.*, 2010b; Duga *et al.*, 2015; Salcedo *et al.*, 2015). However, these differences depend
113 of other factors, such as the forward speed of the equipment, and could become more
114 larger, affecting the trajectory of the droplets to the target vegetation.

115 The movement of the sprayer causes deflection on the fan airflow (Ghosh and Hunt,
116 1998). The forward speed of the equipment modifies the air currents around tractor and
117 sprayer, thus causing changes in airflow direction of the fan and magnitude (Reichard *et*
118 *al.*, 1979) that can affect the transportation of droplets.

119 These previous factors influence the stability of the airflow during the treatment. Brazee
120 *et al.*, (1981) analysed the turbulent mechanics produced during the spray applications
121 with air blast sprayers. This turbomachine generates an airflow with a high variation of
122 the velocities, including effects of diffusion, mixing and dissipation. It could also
123 normalize the concentration and trajectories of pesticide droplets in the air (Delele *et al.*,
124 2005, 2007). This variation could be enhanced by the presence and interaction of airflows
125 with the vegetation (Walklate *et al.*, 1996, Świechowski *et al.*, 2004; Panneton 2005ab).
126 The effect of vegetation on the air also needs to be studied in depth (Li *et al.*, 2018).
127 Interaction between the airflow coming from the fan and the vegetation generates
128 modifications and turbulences inside the vegetation and around the canopy (Finnigan,
129 2000; Finnigan *et al.*, 2009). The vegetal mass absorbs the kinetic energy of the air,
130 producing losses in velocity and pressure (Belcher *et al.*, 2003), which could produce
131 deviations on the droplet trajectory and ability to penetrate into the canopy. The intensity
132 of this interaction will depend on the vegetal characteristics. In this case, the type of tree
133 crop or vineyard is very important, because the size and density of the vegetation vary in
134 each case. Hence, Da Silva *et al.* (2006) presented a methodology to determine a drag
135 coefficient that characterizes the aerodynamic resistance in vineyards, but that could be
136 extrapolated to more tree crops, such as citrus (Larbi and Salyani, 2012a, 2012b) or pear
137 trees (Endalew *et al.*, 2010a, 2010b). Furthermore, the shape and density of the vegetation
138 should also be considered, as variations in this parameter can generate different turbulent
139 structures or vortexes canopies around the canopy (Salcedo *et al.*, 2015), which increase
140 the instability of the airflow around the vegetation and expose more droplets to the natural
141 air currents.

142 These factors have become more important because many farmers wish to use their
143 sprayers at high forward speeds. In this situation, the trees itself and the airflow inside the
144 vegetation forms an obstacle when the sprayer is moving. The velocity of the airflow
145 arriving to the vegetation reduces by increasing forward speed (Delele *et al.*, 2005;
146 Triloff, 2011). This is because when the forward speed is increasing then airflow direction
147 is more oriented to the back part of the sprayer. In addition, when the airflow penetrates
148 the vegetation the velocity decays as faster as the forward speed increases (Walklate *et*
149 *al.*, 1996). In this way, if the vegetal density is very high, the airflow cannot penetrate the
150 canopy and go to the lower boundary layer of air (Salcedo *et al.*, 2015). All this can
151 influence on the spray deposition in the vegetation (Triloff, 2015, 2016 and 2018). For
152 this reason, a description of the vectors of the air flow is necessary to understand what
153 happens in that moment and to adjust the design of future fans.

154 Because most studies at present deal with static airflow, it is important to study the
155 dynamics of the airflow from a forward moving sprayer. The main problem for the
156 dynamic assays is the high complexity owing to the large number of variables involved,
157 and the difficulty to include or analyse them during the displacement of the sprayer. De
158 Moor *et al.* (2002) confirmed that there is a relationship between the airflows
159 characterized during static and dynamic experiments. However, De Moor *et al.* (2002)
160 did not include the vegetation effect on the airflow nor a characterization using velocity
161 vectors. García-Ramos *et al.* (2012) did not include these variables in their analysis of the
162 airflow of a sprayer equipped with two fans either. Gu *et al.* (2012) measured the air jet
163 velocities from an air assisted five-port sprayer in an open field without obstacles.
164 Endalew *et al.* (2010b) experimented with different sprayers but with the main objective
165 to achieve experimental data to design computational fluid dynamics (CFD) models.

166 In addition, all air assays should take into account the methodology, such as the number
167 or distance between measurement points, and the anemometer. There are different types
168 of sensors used in the literature. The propeller anemometers are simple and easy to use
169 but they do not offer information about the direction of the flow. Moreover, these sensors
170 run on the peaks of the airflow velocities and need a long sample time. Hot wire
171 anemometers and Pitot tubes give information about the velocity magnitude in each
172 component. These sensors are very useful for calculating the airflow rate or studying the
173 airflow that passes through a unidirectional conduit and areas close to the air outlet (De
174 Moor *et al.*, 2002; Cross *et al.*, 2003; Świechowski *et al.*, 2004; Delele *et al.*, 2005;
175 Cerruto, 2007; Pergher and Petris, 2008; Dekeyser *et al.*, 2012, 2013; García-Ramos *et*
176 *al.*, 2012, 2018; Gu *et al.*, 2012; Pascuzzi, 2013; Duga *et al.*, 2015; Garcerá *et al.*, 2017;
177 Hołownicki *et al.*, 2017; Miranda *et al.*, 2017, 2018; Balsari *et al.*, 2019; Badules *et al.*,
178 2018). But they do not serve to determine the direction of airflow or to detect turbulent
179 structures. In this sense, the ultrasonic anemometers allow to calculate the value and the
180 sense of each one of the components of the velocity. These sensors have been used
181 successfully to describe the general airflow generated during the treatments, (Endalew *et*
182 *al.*, 2010b; Dekeyser *et al.*, 2012, 2013; García-Ramos *et al.*, 2012, 2018; Czaczyk *et al.*,
183 2014; Salcedo *et al.*, 2015; Triloff, 2015, 2016 and 2018; Garcerá *et al.*, 2017; Van de
184 Zande *et al.*, 2017).

185 Seeking greater airflow to work at high forward speeds, axial fan sprayers for fruit trees
186 are also used in vineyards (Grella *et al.*, 2017). In this way, Landers and Farooq (2004)
187 and Balsari *et al.*, (2008) studied the relationship between the airflow characteristics and
188 the canopy. On the other hand, Pergher, (2006), Cerruto (2007), and Pascuzzi (2013)
189 analysed the effect of the movement and the airflow on the spray deposition in vineyards;

190 however, they focused on the air volume rates and not the sprayer airflow description.
191 Therefore, it is necessary to understand the relationship of the generated air with the
192 sprayer speed and the airflow penetration into the canopy. The initial step should provide
193 a description of the airflow, as it leaves the sprayer from a plane directly aligned with the
194 axial fan, to help visualize the physical phenomena in a better way.
195 The objective of this work was to establish an introductory study to understand the
196 behaviour of airflow using an axial fan sprayer, built with an air assistance inverter
197 system, in the air outlet plane of the fan and simulating an specific interval during plant
198 protection treatment in vineyard trellis by means of ultrasonic anemometers. Hence, the
199 air velocities, before and after crossing the canopy of artificial vineyards on both sides,
200 were studied. The air velocities were characterized first with the sprayer stopped and then
201 with the sprayer in a dynamic position. Results were compared to study the evolution of
202 the airflow generated. The resistance showed by the vegetation was also characterized
203 and compared between cases.

204 **2. Material and methods**

205 *2.1. Experimental location*

206 The tests were carried out at the Laboratory of Agricultural Mechanization belonging to
207 the facilities of Agropolis of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Viladecans in
208 Spain (41°17'18.44"N/2°2'43.39"W).

209 *2.2. Artificial canopy*

210 Two identical, artificial vineyard canopies of rectangular prism shape were used for the
211 trials (Figure 1). Typical parameters in the region were considered for the canopy design.
212 A theoretical vineyard case with a separation of 1.2 m between plants and 2.8 m between

213 rows was selected. This section has already been used in previous air tests to reproduce
214 treatments in vineyard trellis with good results (Gil *et al.*, 2015). The leaf area index (LAI)
215 was set at 1.0, which is within the typical range for vineyards (López–Lozano *et al.*,
216 2009). This means that a 3.36 m² ground surface area is covered by a total leaf area of
217 3.36 m².

218 To achieve this, the canopies designed were 1.2 m long, 1.0 m high, and 0.4 m wide. A
219 metal support 0.5 m serves as the platform for each canopy, giving the canopies a total
220 height of 1.5 m from the ground surface. Each canopy had 540 leaves with an individual
221 area of 67.6 cm². The leaf area density was $\alpha = 9.9 \text{ m}^2 \text{ leaf m}^{-3} \text{ canopy}$.

222

223 **[Insert Figure 1]**

224

225 2.3. *Characteristics of the sprayer*

226 A trailed airblast sprayer FEDE Inverter Qi 9.0 Ecoteqi (Fede S.L. sprayers, Cheste,
227 Spain) connected to a Landini Rex 90F tractor (Landini SpA, Fabbrico, Italy) was used.
228 The sprayer had a tank with a nominal volume of 2000 L (Figure 2).

229

230 **[Insert Figure 2]**

231

232 The machine has an air reverse system, with the suction fan was in front of the air outlet.
233 Thus, the vectors of the airflow are more directed to the driving direction than the back
234 compared to a treatment with a conventional airblast sprayer. It has an axial fan with a
235 diameter of 900 mm and ten metal blades, each having an inclination angle of 20° that
236 are rotated counter clockwise considering the rear position of the sprayer. The widths of

237 its outlet and inlet channels are 185 mm and 300 mm, respectively, and the perimeter in
238 both cases is 1.3m. The separation between channels is 0.2 m. The idea, with this design,
239 is to avoid damages and obstructions in the sprayer by accumulation of leaves during the
240 treatments in deciduous trees.

241 The sprayer was always working at a PTO (Power Take-Off) speed of 480 r min⁻¹, which
242 is the value recommended by the manufacturer. The gearbox factor of PTO to fan is 1:4.
243 The fan had two speed positions, but only the low speed was employed. In these
244 conditions, the air volume rate was previously estimated, following the ISO 9898
245 methodology (ISO, 2000), by using a propeller anemometer Meteo Digit I (Lambrecht
246 meteo GmbH, Göttingen, Germany). The total airflow rate obtained was of 10.7 m³ s⁻¹,
247 of which 53% corresponded to the right side of the fan at a mean velocity of 23.2 m s⁻¹,
248 while 47% to the left side at a mean velocity of 20.6 m s⁻¹.

249 2.4. *Measurements of air velocities*

250 Static assays

251 For the static airflow test, both sides of the sprayer were considered. The machine was
252 located equidistant to the two canopies (Figure 3). Thereby, the distance between the fan
253 and the extreme of each canopy was 0.7 m. The air outlet was aligned with the centre of
254 the canopies (plane $z = 0.6$ m).

255

256 **[Inseret Figure 3]**

257

258 The measurement procedure for the air velocities was based on the methodology proposed
259 by Da Silva *et al.* (2006) for artificial vineyards. In the same plane of the air outlet ($z =$
260 0.6 m), the air velocities were measured at four posts (A, B, C and D) (Figure 3i). Two

261 posts were stationed on each side of the sprayer: one between the fan and the canopy (B
262 and C) and the other after the vegetation (A and D). Da Silva *et al.* (2006) placed these
263 posts 0.1 m from the vegetation, but owing to difficulties inherent to the installation of
264 the measurement sensor, they were positioned 0.2 m away on each side. The posts directly
265 facing the fan (B and C) were located 0.5 m away from the sprayer, as proposed by ISO
266 9898 (ISO, 2000) for the characterization of the air blast sprayer (Figure 3ii). In each post,
267 the air velocities were measured every 0.3 m, from 0.5 m to a maximum height of 2.0 m.
268 Moreover, there were 6 measurement points for a total of 24 points in the plane $z = 0.6$
269 m.

270 At each of these points, a three-dimensional (3D) ultrasonic anemometer (WindMaster
271 1590-PK-020, Gill Instruments Ltd., Hampshire, UK) attached to the post was placed in
272 a horizontal position. The sensor accuracy was 1.5%, with an air velocity range of 0 to 45
273 m s^{-1} , a resolution of 0.01 m s^{-1} and a frequency of 10 Hz. The three instantaneous
274 components of air velocity (u_x , u_y , u_z) (m s^{-1}) were recorded, with the positive X -axis as
275 the horizontal direction to the vegetation and parallel to the ground, Y -axis as the vertical
276 component to the atmosphere, and Z -axis the horizontal direction following the sprayer
277 and the tractor.

278 The static test included three repetitions to ensure that the general behaviour of the air
279 was being characterized. The trials were executed by first measuring all points of A with
280 the fan running. Then, the same process was executed for posts B, C and D. After D, the
281 cycle was repeated two more times. This was done necessary to try to make the
282 measurements at each point as independent as possible between repetitions. For each
283 repetition, the acquisition time was 60 s at each measurement point, with a sampling
284 frequency of 10 Hz (600 data).

285 Dynamic assays

286 For the dynamic tests, the positions of the canopies and the posts were kept in the same
287 positions (Figure 4). The sprayer passed between the two vineyards rows maintaining the
288 same distance to the vegetation as in the static assay. For the forward speed, a value of
289 1.14 m s^{-1} (4.1 km h^{-1}) was chosen. This value has been used in previous assays to study
290 the airflow during a typical treatment in the region (Gil *et al.*, 2015), which is within the
291 range of speeds for the local farmers.

292

293 **[Insert Figure 4]**

294

295 Previous studies were considered for establishing the number of repetitions required for
296 the tests. For instance, Endalew *et al.* (2010) performed a total of 18 repetitions for a air-
297 assisted sprayer circulating at more than 1.94 m s^{-1} (7.0 km h^{-1}). On the other hand,
298 García-Ramos *et al.* (2012) carried out much less, 3 repetitions, although the sprayer was
299 0.77 m s^{-1} (2.8 km h^{-1}). For this first approach, it was considered that our conditions were
300 more similar to the work of García-Ramos *et al.* (2012) who used the same 3D-ultrasonic
301 anemometer model as this trial but with a frequency of 1 Hz. Thus, based on that study,
302 five repetitions were performed for each point. In each repetition, only the velocities that
303 the anemometer captured were recorded because the air outlet channel coincided with the
304 vegetation until the air left the vineyards. Given the forward speed and the length of the
305 vineyard (1.2 m), the estimated time of measurement was approximately $t = 1.1 \text{ s}$.

306

307 2.5. *Environmental conditions during the experiments*

308 The trials were conducted in accordance to the best management practices recommended
309 for a good and safe spray application process (TOPPS–Prowadis, 2014). This implies that
310 wind speed be lower than 3 m s⁻¹ during the application (BOE, 2012). With respect to the
311 orientation of the spray track to the wind direction during the tests, the wind velocity and
312 direction were measured at 0.1 Hz frequency sampling rate. To record the variables during
313 the experiment, an automatic weather station (WatchDog weather station Model 2550,
314 Spectrum Technologies, Inc., USA) was used. The station was placed at 25 m downwind
315 from the equipment at a height of 2.0 m. The mean wind velocity during the static trials
316 was 1.8 m s⁻¹, and the mean direction was 201° relative to the travel direction of the
317 sprayer. During the dynamic assays, the values were 1.4 m s⁻¹ and 175°, respectively.
318 The environmental wind affects measurements that depend on height (Georgiadis,
319 Dalpane, Rossi, Nerozzi, 1996). Nevertheless, Endalew *et al.* (2009) suggested that this
320 effect is only significant above 1.5 times the height of the canopy (in this case, at 2.25
321 m), which has been successfully applied in other air assays (Salcedo *et al.*, 2015).
322 Therefore, this effect was treated as negligible considering the mean wind velocity
323 obtained during the tests and the maximum height for the measurements (2.0 m).

324 2.6. *Data processing*

325 *Static data*

326 For each repetition, the airflows during the static test were assured to be within the
327 steady state so that the air velocities represented the behaviour of the airflow correctly.
328 For each measurement point (Fig. 3), the cumulative average of each velocity
329 component was calculated up to 60 s. Afterwards, the mean behaviour during that time
330 was studied, to observe whether it moved within the same range, in the same order of

331 magnitude, as the mean value, after 30 s. If the data continued to increase or decrease
332 until 60 s, then it meant that the steady state had not been reached at that point, and
333 thus, the data would not be considered.

334 To graphically represent the airflow during the tests, the total mean velocities for each
335 component (U_{Tx} , U_{Ty} , U_{Tz}) (m s^{-1}) between the repetitions were calculated. From these
336 velocities, the total mean velocity magnitude in each point was obtained:

$$337 \quad U_T = \sqrt{U_{Tx}^2 + U_{Ty}^2 + U_{Tz}^2} \quad (1)$$

338

339 Two diagrams (with the corresponding air velocity vectors) that coincide with each of
340 the measurement planes were generated. One was for the plane $z = 0.6$ m, using the
341 coordinates of the mean velocities U_{Tx} and U_{Ty} . This diagram reflected the behaviour
342 of the airflow to the target vegetation. The other graph was for each post in the planes
343 $x = -1.75$ m, $x = -0.95$ m, $x = 0.95$ m, and $x = 1.75$ m. These diagrams used the mean
344 velocities U_{Ty} and U_{Tz} and showed the airflow in the plane parallel to the machine.

345 For each repetition, the fluctuation of the air velocity u' (m s^{-1}) at a point can be
346 expressed as the relation between the mean value U (m s^{-1}) and the instantaneous
347 velocity u (m s^{-1}) measured by an anemometer, as in the following equation:

$$348 \quad u' = u - U \quad (2)$$

349 The parameter u' is defined as the magnitude of the fluctuations in the three
350 components:

$$351 \quad u' = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}(\overline{u_x u_x} + \overline{u_y u_y} + \overline{u_z u_z})}, \quad (3)$$

352 where $\overline{u_x u_x}$, $\overline{u_y u_y}$ and $\overline{u_z u_z}$ are respectively the square of the fluctuation in each
353 direction of the space. For the fluctuations, the airflow was assumed to be isotropic,
354 which means that the variations in the components are similar to each other.

355 Based on Eq. (2), it is possible to obtain the turbulence intensity I (%). It is expressed
356 as

$$357 \quad I = 100 \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}(\overline{u_x u_x} + \overline{u_y u_y} + \overline{u_z u_z})} / \sqrt{(U_x^2 + U_y^2 + U_z^2)} \quad (4)$$

358 where (U_x, U_y, U_z) (m s^{-1}) are the mean values for each repetition. This variable is a
359 ratio used to compare the importance of the fluctuations on the mean velocity of the
360 airflow. Finally, the total mean intensity I_T between the repetitions was represented.

361 Dynamic data

362 To simulate a representative moment during a treatment in vineyard trellis, only air
363 velocities were considered when the fan was between the two canopies. Considering
364 the sensitivity of air measurements in the dynamic test and the possible errors that may
365 occur during the measurements (error in the equidistance to the vegetation, the
366 difficulty of keeping the forward speed constant, precision in data collection at the
367 time of defining the fan inlet facing the vineyard canopies), it was decided that an
368 estimate of the average behaviour of the airflow when the fan inlet moved in three
369 different sections (Figure 5): previous zone (from $z = 0.0$ to $z = 0.4$ m) called Z1,
370 central or Z2 (from $z = 0.4$ m to $z = 0.8$ m) and posterior or Z3 (from $z = 0.8$ to $z = 1.2$
371 m), be made.

372

373 **[Insert Figure 5]**

374

375 The estimated total mean velocities were characterized analogously as in the static test.

376 The turbulent intensities were estimated following Eq. (3).

377 The resistance that the vegetation presents to the sprayer airflow can be characterized

378 by a drag coefficient C_d (-). To obtain this value, the methodology proposed by Da

379 Silva *et al.* (2006) was used, who applied it in an experiment with an axial fan sprayer
380 and artificial vineyards:

381
$$C_d = \frac{1}{\alpha L} \ln\left(\frac{U_{Txa}}{U_{Txb}}\right), \quad (4)$$

382 where L (m) is the depth of the canopy, α is the leaf area density (m^2 leaf m^{-3} canopy),
383 U_{Txb} the mean horizontal air velocity prior to canopy penetration (in this case, B and
384 C) and U_{Txa} after the vegetation (A and D).

385 The final results obtained between the static and dynamic tests were compared. The
386 data compared were the air velocities for the static experiment and those for the central
387 zone in the dynamic test. Variation between velocity magnitudes, angles between the
388 vectors, and drag coefficients and differences between intensities and drag coefficients
389 were calculated.

390 **3. Results and Discussion**

391 *3.1 Static assays*

392 Total mean velocities

393 For all posts, U_T decreased with height (Figure 6). The horizontal component had the
394 largest value. The influence of U_{Tx} was predominant in the area closest to the ground;
395 however, the importance to the component U_{Ty} reduced as the height increased.

396

397 **[Insert Figure 6]**

398

399 The air velocities registered before crossing the canopies (posts B and C) decreased
400 between the lowest (0.5 m) and the highest (2.0 m) points. The maximum velocity
401 between these posts was observed on the right side (post C) at 0.5 m. The same trend was

402 observed on at 0.8 m on the left side (post B). In addition, post B, the velocities increased
403 again at 1.7 m. In general, the velocities were always higher the left side owing to the
404 counter-clockwise direction of the fan, which provided more energy to the airflow on this
405 side.

406 After the airflow passed through the canopies, the velocity values were very close to each
407 other on both sides of the sprayer at all heights. The losses produced by the vegetation
408 decreased the energy of the air. Furthermore, the airflow was found to exhibit a more
409 symmetrical behaviour than those at post B and C. This is also observed in the values of
410 U_T at each post in Table 1. This similarity, which is also observed above the canopies,
411 could be interesting from the point of view of the lower boundary layer of air. This could
412 indicate that the influence of the airflow of the fan on the droplets over the canopies was
413 very similar on both sides, despite the differences before going through the canopies. In
414 addition, this behaviour after the canopy contrasted with the differences obtained in posts
415 B and C, especially in higher points. It could suggest that, for this range of velocities, the
416 effect of the vineyard on the air was not noticeable at the canopy entrance, unlike other
417 crops with higher density such as citrus (Salcedo *et al.*, 2015). In this way, it is necessary
418 to deep in the interaction between air velocity and vegetation to determine which is the
419 minimum value to cross the vegetation to ensure a good penetration of the airflow into
420 the vineyards without negative effects on the droplets penetration or the drift above the
421 canopy as indicated Balsari *et al.*, (2008) and Triloff (2015).

422 Another point of discussion is that the velocities were larger in B than in C, while
423 measurements with the propeller anemometer in the fan outlet, to calculate the air volume
424 rate, recorded the biggest values in the right side of the sprayer. However, only one plane
425 velocities are being measured ($z = 0.6$ m). Several works have shown the high variability

426 of airflow behaviour when studying air in different parallel planes (Salcedo *et al.*, 2015;
 427 Triloff, 2016; Van de Zande *et al.*, 2017). Probably, if the air velocities in other parallel
 428 planes were included, it would be observed how the right side was bigger. For future
 429 works more parallel planes should be included. In addition, the fan asymmetry should
 430 also be considered. It could be that the anemometer was not facing the main airflow in
 431 the same way on each side. This asymmetry could also be affected with the presence of
 432 the suction zone in front of the air outlet. Personal experiences with conventional sprayers
 433 showed that static airflow has a positive U_{Tz} component. The air reverse system could be
 434 intensifying this component, diverting more airflow to the tractor and increasing the
 435 differences in measurement on both sides. Thus, the inclination of the plane of the airflow
 436 outgoing of the fan to the central axis of the machine ($x = 0$) in a static test should be
 437 defined in news field assays.

438

439 Table 1. Values of the velocity magnitudes in each post during the static assay.

Magnitude velocity	Values (m s ⁻¹)			
	Post A	Post B	Post C	Post D
Total mean	4.7	13.1	9.0	4.9
Standard deviation	1.5	2.8	2.7	1.7
Maximum	10.1	21.8	18.8	11.9
Minimum	1.7	5.4	2.6	1.5
Mode	4.3	12.3	9.3	4.9

440

441 Plane XY

442 The airflow direction on both sides of the machine (Figure 7) was always similar: The
 443 airflow advanced in the direction of the vegetation, oriented towards the ground, then
 444 went up the first third of the height of the canopy where the air ascended. The data were
 445 displayed in Fig, 6 and Table 1. The airflow on the left side of the fan was more intense

446 than those on the right side; however, after crossing the canopies, they had a more similar
447 profile. The predominant influence of U_{Tx} was also displayed.

448

449 **[Insert Figure 7]**

450

451 The vegetation resistance was not large enough to produce an airflow separation, in which
452 case vortexes around the canopies are formed, as in the case for other crops such as orange
453 trees (Salcedo *et al.*, 2015), in which vegetation is denser and the canopies have a larger
454 diameter. No screen effect on the air was observed, unlike in denser crops such as orange
455 trees, where the airflow moves towards the atmosphere owing to difficulty in crossing the
456 vegetation.

457 On the other hand, the airflow behaviour in front of and behind the canopies did not
458 completely coincide with the results obtained by Da Silva *et al.* (2006) in a similar
459 vineyard setting. Although in that experiment U_{Tx} was also positive, the velocities formed
460 a depression in the section coincident with the height of the canopy. These differences
461 were confirmed by Da Silva *et al.* (2006). The authors in the aforementioned study
462 worked with a lower average velocity range (7.0 m s^{-1}) than that in the present work
463 (Table 1), with the airflow focused directly on the vegetation, and with a larger canopy
464 diameter ($L = 0.7 \text{ m}$).

465 Plane ZY

466 The U_T vectors always presented a positive U_{Tz} component in all the positions (Figure 8).
467 In both sides, the airflow was not parallel to the plane coincident with the air fan outlet (z
468 $= 0.6 \text{ m}$). In addition, the airflow reflected that it was oriented to the direction of the
469 sprayer before or after the vegetation.

470

471 **[Insert Figure 8]**

472

473 Considering posts B and C, the velocities on the right side were found to be more intense
474 than on the left side. This reinforced the hypothesis that the air was more aligned with
475 the anemometer on one side than on the other. In addition, the suction zone of the air
476 reverse system was probably intensifying the velocities U_{Tz} . On the other hand, in A and
477 D, the effect of the vegetation was not enough to cause changes in the airflow direction
478 after the canopy.

479 Turbulence intensity

480 The I_T intensities displayed an opposite profile from the velocities (Figure 9). The sections
481 where the velocities presented the highest values coincided with the area in which the
482 turbulent intensity was the lowest. This could be explained because, given the constant
483 airflow produced by the fan within the stationary regime, the higher the velocity at a point,
484 the lower the effect of the fluctuations on the average velocity. The most unstable areas,
485 which had a higher value of I_T , were located above the canopy, which was the area of
486 with the greatest risk, considering the spray drift.

487

488 **[Insert Figure 9]**

489

490 In Fig. 9, the intensities before the vegetation were similar at 0.5 m. However, the
491 intensities increased differently between posts B and C. This indicates that the turbulence
492 of the air was not similar on both sides of the fan. The intensity in the post C continued

493 to increase above the vegetation, while it fell again in the post B. The airflow on the right
494 side became more unstable as the height and distance from the machine increased.

495 After the vegetation, the I_T intensities exhibited a similar profile on both sides of the
496 machine with the behaviour of UT as shown in Fig. 5. The most stable zone on both sides
497 was between the heights of 0.5 m and 1.1 m. However, when reaching the upper part of
498 the canopy from 1.4 m, I_T increased at a faster rate coinciding with the absence of
499 obstacles in front of the airflow. The vegetation could be producing losses in air velocity,
500 which meant that the fluctuations were also smaller, which resulted in a decrease of their
501 influence over the average air velocity.

502 Drag coefficient

503 The calculated drag coefficient C_d in the canopies for the artificial vegetation was 0.24
504 on the left side and 0.16 on the right side. This difference in value between canopies
505 coincided with the largest velocities recorded on the left side. The higher the velocity
506 gradient between the inlet and the outlet of the canopy, the higher the drag coefficient,
507 indicating that the vegetation produced more losses on the left side than on the right side.
508 Da Silva *et al.* (2006) indicated that the typical values range between 0.1 and 0.5. In their
509 experiment, $C_d = 0.3$. Considering this information, it was concluded that the values
510 obtained during the field tests corresponded to those expected in this case. Thus, it was
511 considered that the artificial canopies had resistance similar to real vegetation.

512 3.2 *Dynamic assays*

513 Total mean velocities

514 When the fan outlet was in zone Z1, the U_T velocities at $z = 0.6$ m were lower than those
515 obtained for the static test (Figure 10i). However, the maximum values measured in A at
516 2.0 m and in B at 1.4 m were probably produced by the influence of the sprayer airflow.

517 Both posts were on the left side, which was the side having the most intense velocities in
518 the static test (Figure 7). On the contrary, the velocities behind the canopy in C, which
519 were more exposed to the suction phenomena of the fan, were higher than in D (Table 2).
520 The horizontal component U_{Tx} was predominant in these values.

521

522 **[Insert Figure 10]**

523

524 In the central part (zone Z2), U_{Tx} followed the main component in U_T . The velocities
525 detected in B were up to four times higher than those measured from 0.8 m in the other
526 posts (Figure 10ii). The maximum value occurred at a height of 1.1 m, as obtained in the
527 static test, and then started descending. However, the maximum velocity recorded was
528 50% lower than U_T measured in the static test.

529 On the contrary, all velocities in C were lower than 2.0 m s^{-1} , as indicated in Table 2,
530 except at 1.1 m, where the biggest value was registered, as that in B. These data seemed
531 to reflect the asymmetry that can be detected at the fan outlet during the pesticide
532 treatment. This could mean that the droplets coming out of the nozzles on either side of
533 the machine do not receive the same amount of energy from the air flow. This aside,
534 behind the canopy, U_T continued to descend below 2.0 m s^{-1} as in Z1.

535 In the last part (zone Z3), the behaviour of U_T in B was reversed (Figure 10iii). There was
536 minimum U_T at 1.1 m, and then it went up to $6.0\text{--}8.0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ between 1.7 m and 2.0. The
537 outgoing flow at the same height coincident with the fan was more intense than in Z2.
538 The data in Z3 suggested that the movement of the sprayer was displacing the airflow
539 toward the direction opposite to the advance. For this reason, the sprayer airflow influence
540 was detected in the next zone Z3. In contrast, the velocities in A increased similarly to

541 those of B in Z2 due to the increase in the vertical component U_{Ty} . On the right-side
 542 canopy, the maximum value of U_T above 10.0 m s^{-1} was detected in C at 1.1 m, while for
 543 the rest of the points, the velocities did not decrease from 4.0 m s^{-1} . In D behind the
 544 canopy, the values were bigger than those observed in Z2, although there was a minimum
 545 at a height of 1.1 m, contrary to the case of C. Therefore, the airflow on the right side did
 546 not seem to follow a uniform structure.

547 Table 2. Total mean velocity magnitudes in each post during the dynamic assay

Magnitude velocity	Values (m s^{-1})											
	Post A			Post B			Post C			Post D		
	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z1	Z2	Z3
Total mean	0.9	1.2	3.1	1.5	4.6	5.2	1.3	1.6	7.7	0.7	0.8	3.4
Standard deviation	0.7	1.1	2.2	0.9	4.8	4.2	0.3	2.1	5.7	0.3	0.9	2.7
Maximum	3.6	6.4	11.0	7.4	20.5	19.1	2.0	13.7	22.6	1.6	6.3	10.3
Minimum	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Mode	0.4	1.7	1.8	1.2	2.2	3.3	1.4	1.1	13.4	0.9	0.7	5.0

548

549 To explain why the velocities measured in Z3 were bigger than in Z1 and Z2, it can
 550 consider different factors such as the air reverse system, with the suction zone closer to
 551 the tractor than the fan outlet, the forward speed of the sprayer, influencing on the
 552 velocities variation as it was indicated in other works (Delele *et al.*, 2005; Triloff, 2011;
 553 Gu *et al.*, 2012) or the resistance of the vegetation, as it was considered in CFD
 554 simulations (Endalew *et al.*, 2010; Hong *et al.*, 2018). In this way, it is necessary to carry
 555 out more test to estimate the influence level of these factors.

556 Sprayer airflow characterization

557 Plane XY

558 When the fan was located at Z1, the XY velocity vectors demonstrated different
 559 behaviours on both sides of the sprayer (Figure 11i). On the right side, the vectors of U_{Tx}

560 and U_{Ty} always moved toward the fan. As the suction zone was ahead of the fan outlet,
561 this could be conditioning the airflow in D and, more intensively, in C. On this side, the
562 presence of the canopy itself was not enough to produce an airflow separation and form
563 turbulent structures around it.

564 On the contrary, on the left side in both posts, the airflow reflected the same
565 characteristics: the vectors were oriented opposite to the fan at the highest points and were
566 changing their directions towards the machine as the height was reduced. This behaviour
567 is typical when a vortex appears (counter-clockwise in this case). There were two
568 vortices—one before and one after the vegetation—probably due to the separation of
569 airflow generated by the presence of the canopy since the airflow was not strong enough
570 to overcome the resistance.

571 The presence of these turbulent structures on one side but not on the other side was caused
572 by the asymmetrical air output of the moving equipment. On the other hand, the negative
573 values of U_{Tx} in B and, mainly, in C could be affected by the suction zone in front of the
574 fan air outlet.

575

576 **[Insert Figure 11]**

577

578 In Z2 (Figure 11ii), the U_{Tx} on the left side progressed towards the vegetation. The
579 resistance of the vegetation was not sufficient as to produce turbulent structures around
580 it. However, it was observed that the vectors in A had less presence in the height
581 coincident with the canopy. The vegetation produced velocity and pressure losses on the
582 airflow. Meanwhile, turbulent structures before and after the canopy were recorded on C
583 and D, with U_{Tx} changing with respect to the height. At this instance, the outgoing flow

584 on the right side was not measured in the plane $z = 0.6$ m yet. This turbulent behaviour
585 resembled with that observed on the left side in Z1, with turbulent formations around the
586 canopy before receiving the main air jet. In addition, this asymmetric behaviour suggested
587 that the droplets coming out of the nozzles received a different influence from the air on
588 both sides.

589 With the air outlet in Z3 (Figure 11iii), the velocity vectors on both sides left the sprayer
590 towards the vegetation. The U_{Ty} was positive at the upper part of B and negative at 0.5 m.
591 These results, next to the velocity magnitudes shown in Figs. 10ii and 10iii, seemed to
592 reinforce the three-dimensional (3D) behaviour of the sprayer airflow, as indicated by
593 Delele *et al.* (2005), due to several parameters such as the presence of obstacles or the
594 forward speed. The vectors obtained suggested that the airflow would leave the fan and
595 form a 3D structure like a regular hollow half-cone, which would expand as the machine
596 advanced, while the airflow from the medium height of the fan would move away from
597 the machine. In this case, the outgoing airflow expanded at 0.5 m and 2.0 m and moved
598 away from the fan, as shown from the vectors with higher magnitudes in A. This
599 hypothesis was reinforced with the CFD simulations on applying treatments to trees with
600 sprayers, performed by Endalew *et al.*, (2010b). The simulations reflected an isosurface
601 to present the air jet with a shape that matched with the results obtained for the dynamic
602 experiments conducted in this study.

603 However, it should be taken into account that all these turbulent structures are produced
604 considering a hypothetical continuous row such as in vineyard trellis. It would be
605 interesting to compare these results not only with real vegetation but also with other types
606 of crops, such as vineyards in hedge, especially for Z1 and Z3.

607

608 Plane ZY

609 The velocity vectors ZY in Z1 showed that U_{Tz} was lower than U_{Tx} and U_{Ty} (Figure 12i).
610 This indicates that the flow from the fan in this position flowed very perpendicular to the
611 machine. As in the static assay (Figure 8), U_{Tz} was positive in A, B and D, while it was
612 negative in C. The movement of the sprayer reinforced the asymmetric behaviour of the
613 fan with respect to the static test. Probably this was due to air suction phenomena,
614 produced by the air reverse system of the fan, and the scarce presence of the air outgoing
615 of the fan in that post. If in the static assay the air left the fan in the direction of the
616 sprayer, in the dynamic experiment the airflow moved in the opposite direction in C. The
617 difference between C and D indicated that the influence of the fan was still low, as
618 suggested by the data in the Figure 11i. In addition, the vectors were more intense on the
619 left side, where vortices in XY were present, than on the right side of the sprayer.

620

621 **[Insert Figure 12]**

622

623 In the central zone Z2, a similar behaviour for U_{Tz} was observed, except in B, where the
624 magnitude of the velocities increased and where all the vectors had the same direction
625 coincident with the larger flowing air volume in XY (Figure 11ii). The vectors in A, B
626 and D moved in the same direction as in the static test (Figure 8). However, the vectors
627 in all the posts were smaller than those in the static test, probably explained by the
628 deviation of the airflow to the back part and the dissipative effect produced by the
629 movement and the interaction with the air currents around the sprayer, as in the XY plane
630 (Figure 11ii).

631 Finally, the U_{Tz} vectors in B in Z3 were observed to change the direction from the bottom
632 to top (Figure 12iii), which indicates that the airflow became closer to the machine as the
633 height of the post increased, while in C, vectors were always in the direction opposite to
634 the advance of the sprayer. The field data after the canopies suggested that the airflow
635 dissipated earlier on the right side than on the left, as reflected by the variation in the
636 direction of the vectors in D with respect A.

637 Turbulence intensity

638 In Z1, the lowest turbulence intensities occurred in the posts on the right side (Fig. 13i),
639 where the U_T vectors exhibited a more stable behaviour (Fig. 11i and 12i). This shows that
640 the airflow was in the horizontal direction towards the sprayer. In contrast, I_T reached the
641 highest values on the left side, where there were vortices before and after the vegetation.
642 It means that the magnitude of the fluctuations exceeded the average velocity in these
643 points.

644 When the sprayer was in the central part Z2, the I_T values became larger than those in Z1
645 (Figure 13ii). The highest values were measured in C and D, where vortices were present
646 (Figure 11i). The increase in velocity on the left side coincided with the increment of the
647 fluctuations in the airflow. The increase of the mean velocities was lower than the enhance
648 of the fluctuations. Thus, posts C and D during Z2 presented the most turbulent behaviour
649 during the trials.

650

651 **[Insert Figure 13]**

652

653 In Z3, the maximum values on the right side were registered at the upper and inner points
654 of the posts (Fig. 13iii). The airflow seemed more stable along the height coincident with

655 the fan, where the velocity was higher (Fig. 10iii). In A and B, I_T decreased with respect
656 to Z2. Therefore, the airflow leaving the fan on the right side showed fewer fluctuations
657 in this area.

658 Anyway, future works using anemometers with higher frequency, and more passes and
659 measurement points, are necessary to study in greater depth the turbulent behaviour of
660 the airflow, especially during the movement of the sprayer.

661 Drag coefficient

662 When the fan was located in Z2, C_d was similar on both canopies: 0.17 in the left and
663 0.19 in the right canopy. In the dynamic test, the velocity gradients were reduced although
664 the behaviour of the velocity vectors on either side of the canopy differed (Figure 11ii).
665 This could be because the U_T velocities were smaller considering the magnitude in the
666 dynamic assay (Table 2) and the differences between velocities were smaller on each side
667 of the vegetation. Even so, these values were still within the usual range in the literature
668 (Da Silva *et al.*, 2006).

669

670 3.3. *Comparison between static and dynamic assays*

671 Magnitudes

672 Taking Z2 as a reference for the comparison of the dynamic and static tests data, the U_T
673 velocities in the posts before crossing the vegetation showed a similar tendency in B on
674 the left side of the sprayer (Figure 6 and 10ii) and reached a maximum at 0.8 m. However,
675 in C of the dynamic assay, U_T reached 2.5 m s^{-1} (Table 2), while it reached more than
676 15.0 m s^{-1} in the static test (Table 1). There were more similarities in values in both posts
677 in Z3.

678 After the canopies, the velocities above the vegetation in A were similar. However, the
679 velocities in the dynamic experiment were up to three times lower than those in the static
680 one. The same trend was observed in D. In the static test, the U_T components increased
681 until they reached a maximum and then decreased. In the dynamic assay, they were lower
682 although stable within the 0.4–2.0 m s⁻¹ range. In addition, as in the static test, the
683 velocities in A and D were closer to each other above the vegetation.

684 The results showed that the sprayer airflow, considering the velocity magnitude,
685 resembled more the static test in Z3 than in Z2. In this case, U_{Tz} , although the lowest
686 component, played an important role because its behaviour could determine how the
687 airflow could be reflected in the central plane of the fan.

688 Table 3 shows how the magnitude of the ZY vectors deviated between 37% (A) and 76%
689 (B) between the static and dynamic assay (Fig. 8 and 12ii). During the static test, the
690 magnitudes were larger. But, during the dynamic assay magnitudes were lower, which
691 implies that the outgoing sprayer airflow was more aligned with the plane $z = 0.6$ m during
692 the static experiment.

693 These differences are concordant with those of De Moor *et al.*, (2002), García-Ramos *et*
694 *al.*, (2012) and Gu *et al.*, (2012) who described a decrease in the magnitudes of the static
695 experiment in comparison with dynamic assay, being more noticeable with increasing
696 forward speeds. Thus, as Table 3 indicates, the movement of the sprayer reduce the air
697 velocity at the canopies, according with the observed in other studies (Delele *et al.*, 2005;
698 Triloff, 2011). This should also motivate to the manufacturers to evaluate if it is logical
699 to design the airflow of the fan considering only the parameters of the crop and not the
700 forward speed of the sprayer. Therefore, future works to carry out more dynamic trials

701 are necessary to estimate the relation between the forward speed and the air velocities
702 considering the characteristics of the crop and the sprayer.

703

704 Table 3. Average deviation rate of the magnitudes of the XY and ZY vectors of the
705 dynamic test (Z2) with respect to the static assay.

Plane	Average deviation (%)			
	Post A	Post B	Post C	Post D
XY	77.6	65.3	76.1	87.0
YZ	9.2	68.3	75.2	76.3

706

707 Angles between vectors

708 The biggest differences between vectors U_T in the XY plane were produced on the right
709 side (Table 4), as shown in Figs. 7 and 11ii. The airflow on the left side of the fan (posts
710 A and B) moved away from the equipment while the velocity vectors moved towards the
711 vegetation and inclined towards the atmosphere as the height of each post increased. Even
712 the differences were smaller if the values at 1.1 m and 0.5 m in posts A and B,
713 respectively, were not considered. With respect to the most stable flow in the static test,
714 the vortices detected in C and D explained the differences greater than 100°.

715 Likewise, in the ZY plane, the highest angles between vectors were also in C and D, while
716 the smallest differences occurred against the left side of the fan. On the other hand,
717 differences with respect to the static assay were lower in B and C than in the plane XY.

718 It could be because the air reverse system was reducing the effect of the movement of the
719 sprayer on the direction of the airflow, more oriented to the driving direction than the
720 back compared with a conventional axial fan sprayer.

721

722 Table 4. Average angles between the XY and ZY vectors of the dynamic test (Z2) with
 723 respect to the static assay.

Plane	Average angle (°)			
	Post A	Post B	Post C	Post D
XY	40.7	37.6	103.0	119.1
YZ	51.5	35.5	81.9	136.5

724

725 Turbulence intensity

726 Comparing Figs. 9 and 13ii, in the static test the intensities decreased as the velocities
 727 increased in magnitude, whereas in the dynamic test this did not happen, especially in Z2.
 728 Therefore, it seemed that the movement of the equipment resulted in more instability to
 729 the airflow. The data indicated that the fluctuations in the dynamic assay increased
 730 proportionally to the average velocity. Nevertheless, the influence of the vegetation
 731 length in this work must be taken into account. Future work is needed to observe the
 732 turbulent behaviour of airflow in longer vineyard rows.

733 Drag coefficient

734 The drag coefficient in the left canopy was reduced by 30% when shifting from static to
 735 dynamic, while in the right it increased by approximately 20%. The decrease in the air
 736 velocity magnitude during the dynamic assay and the behaviour of U_{Tx} did not seem to
 737 affect the coefficients on both sides of the fan when the sprayer was moving. On the other
 738 hand, the drag coefficients in the dynamic experiment were more similar to each other.
 739 The resistance offered by the canopies on both sides could then be considered equal. In
 740 these assays seemed that the drag coefficient influence on the airflow was approached on
 741 both sides of the sprayer, especially with the ability of vegetation to divert the airflow

742 into the surrounding air. On the other hand, it is necessary to new assays comparing the
743 drag coefficient with rows longer than 1.2 m to eliminate possible edge effects of this
744 artificial canopy.

745 **4. Conclusions**

746 A static and dynamic study of the airflow produced by a sprayer with an axial fan and an
747 air reverse system was carried out using artificial canopies of vineyards. Ultrasonic
748 anemometers were successful in characterizing sprayer fan airflows.

749 The results showed that when the sprayer was working in a static position, airflow on
750 both sides of the equipment came from the machine and crossed the vegetation, with the
751 turbulence intensity decreasing as the air velocities increased. In addition, the air velocity
752 vectors, were slowed down by the vegetation. But before crossing the canopies, the
753 vectors XY (plane perpendicular to the sprayer) were more intensive on the left side and
754 vectors ZY (parallel to the sprayer) on the right side. Airflow presented positive
755 components in X -axis (to the vegetation) and Z -axis (to the sprayer). In the case of the
756 component Z , the suction zone of the air reverse system could be affecting.

757 With the sprayer in motion, the air velocity magnitude was reduced, and turbulent
758 structures were generated around the vegetation. The biggest velocity vectors in XY
759 coincided with the vectors in opposite direction to the sprayer in ZY . The asymmetry
760 increased and the outgoing airflow on the right side was not in the same plane as the one
761 on the left side. The outgoing airflow manifested more in the direction opposite to that of
762 the advance of the sprayer.

763 In the field experiments it was found that, after crossing the vegetation when the canopy
764 received the direct airflow, the air velocity vectors moved in a similar magnitude and

765 direction. This suggested that the risk of lower boundary layer of air and the influence on
766 the displacement of the pesticide droplets could be similar to both sides of the sprayer,
767 despite the asymmetry of the air leaving the fan.

768 Regarding the turbulence intensity of the air, in the static test, the areas with the highest
769 air velocity had a lower turbulence intensity but it was not fulfilled in the dynamic test.

770 The movement of the sprayer had a direct effect on the turbulence intensity and the
771 variability increased with the velocity of the airflow.

772 During the static and dynamic tests, the drag coefficients presented similar values in both
773 canopies. This could mean that their ability to influence the trajectory of airflow,
774 especially those that could not pass through the vegetation and be diverted to the
775 surrounding air, was similar on each side of the fan.

776 It is necessary to continue working on the descriptive analysis of the airflow by:

- 777 • defining the inclination of the plane of the airflow outgoing of the fan to the central
778 axis of the machine ($x = 0$) in a static test;
- 779 • increasing the frequency of anemometers, to deepen the dynamic behaviour of the
780 airflow, and the number of passes during the dynamic experiment to confirm the
781 hypotheses obtained here. Additionally, other aspects such as the variation of the
782 distance of the fan to the canopies, the length of the vegetation, fan speed, PTO,
783 airflow rate or the forward speed of the sprayer should be further examined. The
784 resolution of the measurement grid, including more planes in Z-axis, acquisition time,
785 and the number of passes required should also be defined;
- 786 • studying the interaction between air velocity and vegetation to determine which is the
787 minimum value to cross the vegetation to ensure a good penetration of the airflow
788 into the vineyards without negative effects on the efficiency of the treatment;

- 789 • comparing the results with other prototypes of air-assisted sprayers and different
790 crops such as vineyards in hedge.

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1030 **Figure captions**

1031

1032 Figure 1. Schematic of the artificial canopies with dimensions.

1033 Figure 2. Axial fan sprayer between the artificial canopies during the trials.

1034 Figure 3. Schematic of the static airflow test: plan view of the layout of the measuring
1035 points (i) and elevation view of the fan position with respect to the canopies (ii).

1036 Figure 4. Plan view of the layout of the measuring points during the dynamic field
1037 tests.

1038 Figure 5. Zone divisions characterizing the dynamic field test.

1039 Figure 6. Total mean velocities magnitudes and standard deviation between repetitions at
1040 both sides of the fan before and after the canopies during the static assay in the plane of
1041 the air outlet of the fan ($z = 0.6$ m).

1042 Figure 7. Air velocity vectors in the XY-plane during the static assay. Distance in meters
1043 (m).

1044 Figure 8. Air velocity vectors in the ZY-plane during the static assay. Vectors were
1045 showed post by post, considering the presence (or none) of an obstacle behind the post.
1046 Distance in meters (m).

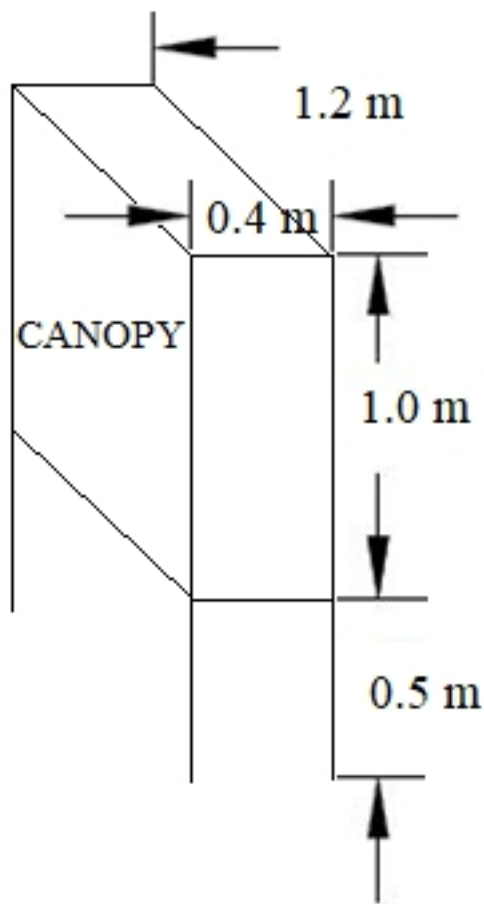
1047 Figure 9. Total mean turbulence intensity and standard deviation between repetitions on
1048 both sides of the fan before and after the canopies during the static assay.

1049 Figure 10. Total mean velocity magnitudes and standard deviation between repetitions on
1050 both sides of the fan before and after the canopies in the dynamic assay during (i) the first
1051 third on entering, (ii) the middle third, and (iii) the last third before leaving the canopies.

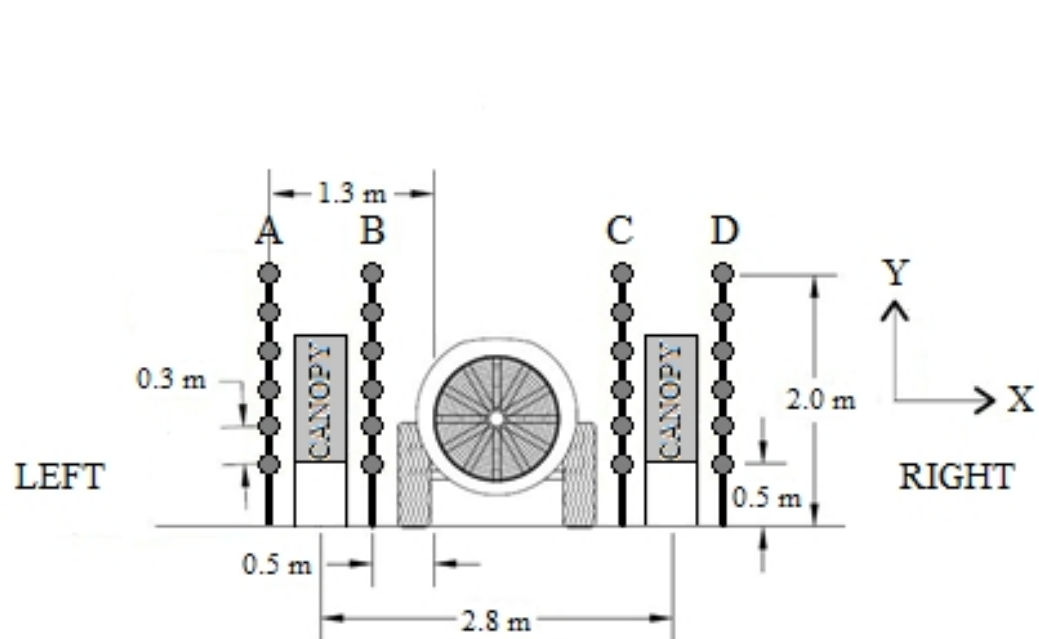
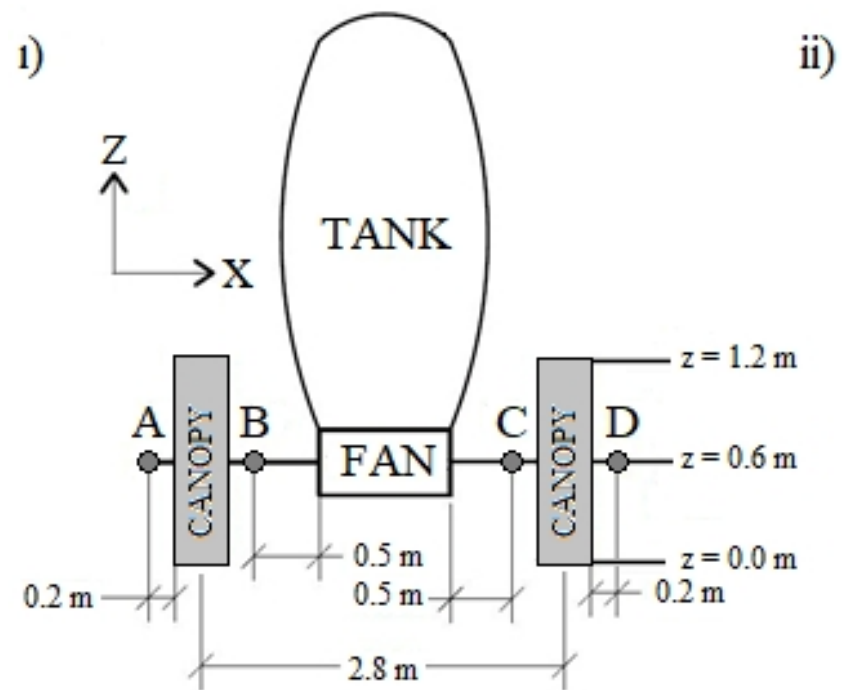
1052 Figure 11. Air velocity vectors in the XY-plane in the dynamic assay during (i) the first
1053 third on entering, (ii) the middle third, and (iii) the last third before leaving the canopies.
1054 The vortices were marked.

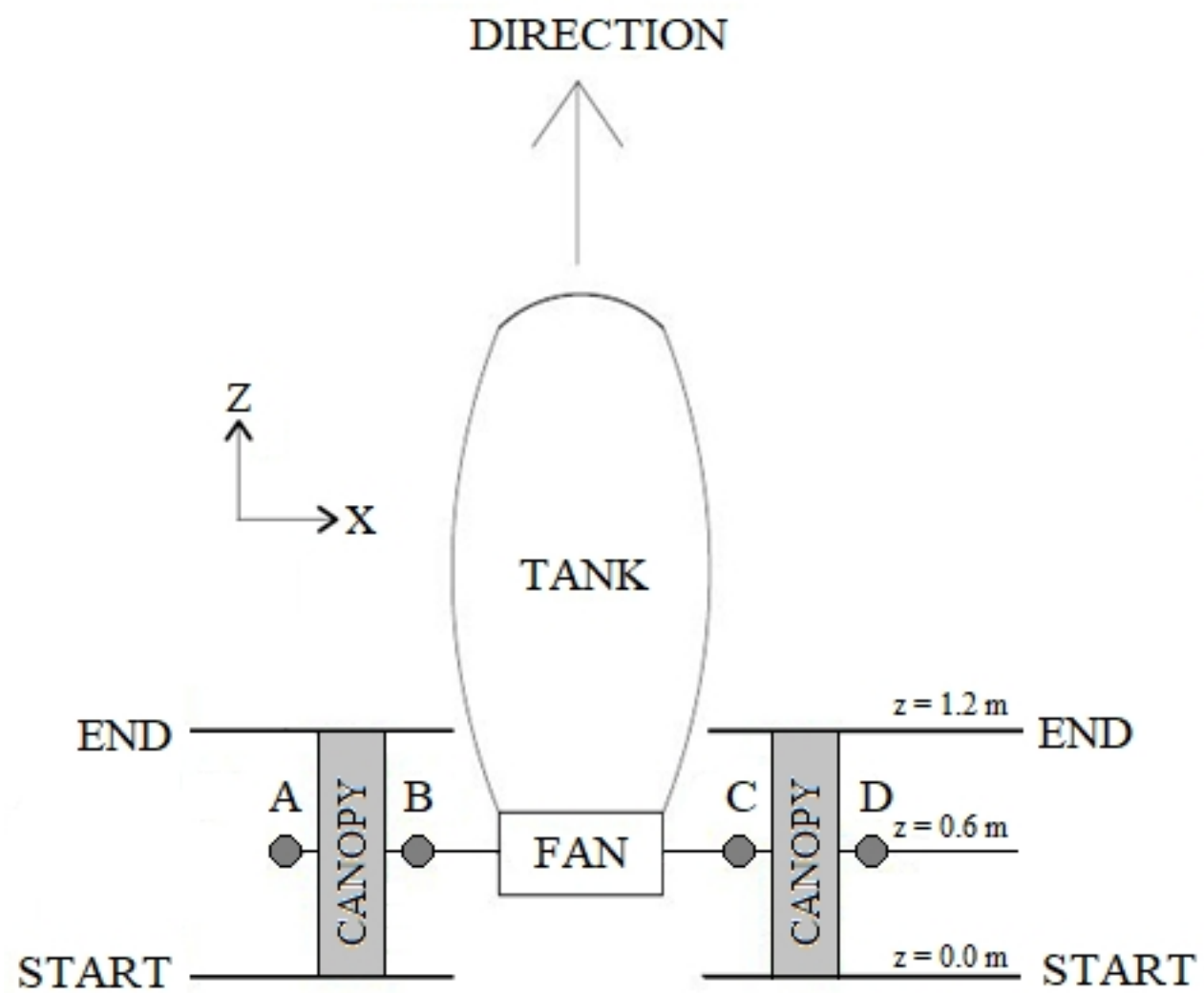
1055 Figure 12. Air velocity vectors in the ZY-plane in the dynamic assay during (i) the first
1056 one-third of the height of the canopy on entering, (ii) the middle one-third of the height
1057 of the canopy and (iii) the final one-third of the height of the canopy before leaving the
1058 canopies. Distance is in meters.

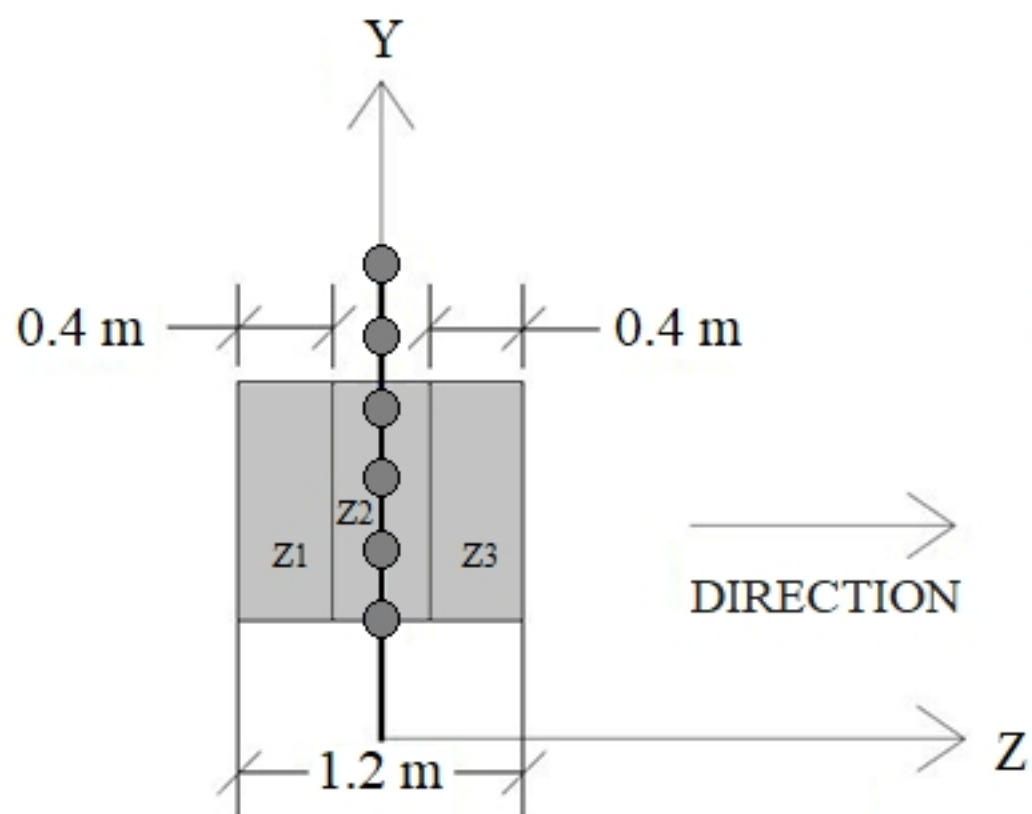
1059 Figure 13. Total mean turbulence intensities and standard deviation between repetitions
1060 in the dynamic assay in (i) the first third of the height of the canopy on entering, (ii) the
1061 middle third of the height of the canopy and (iii) the last third of the height of the canopy
1062 before leaving the canopies.

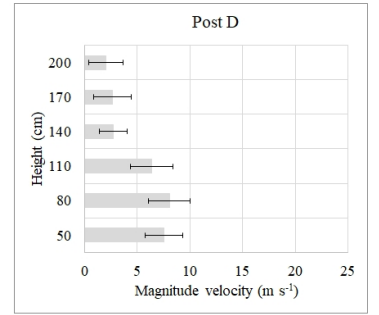
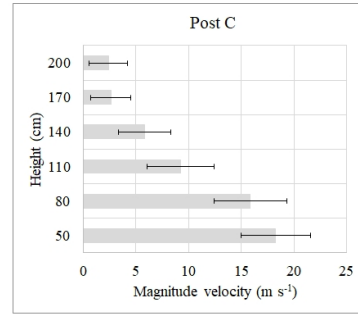
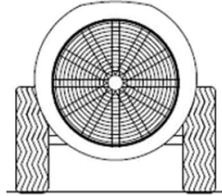
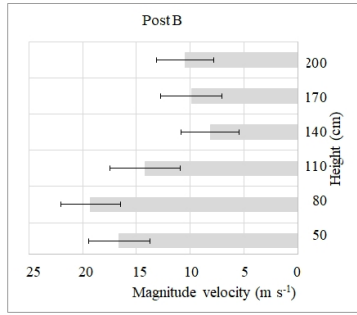
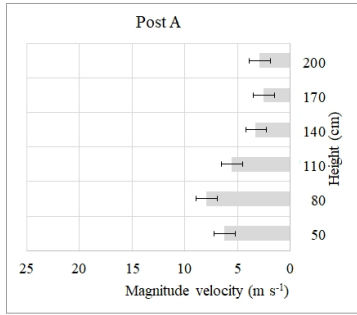


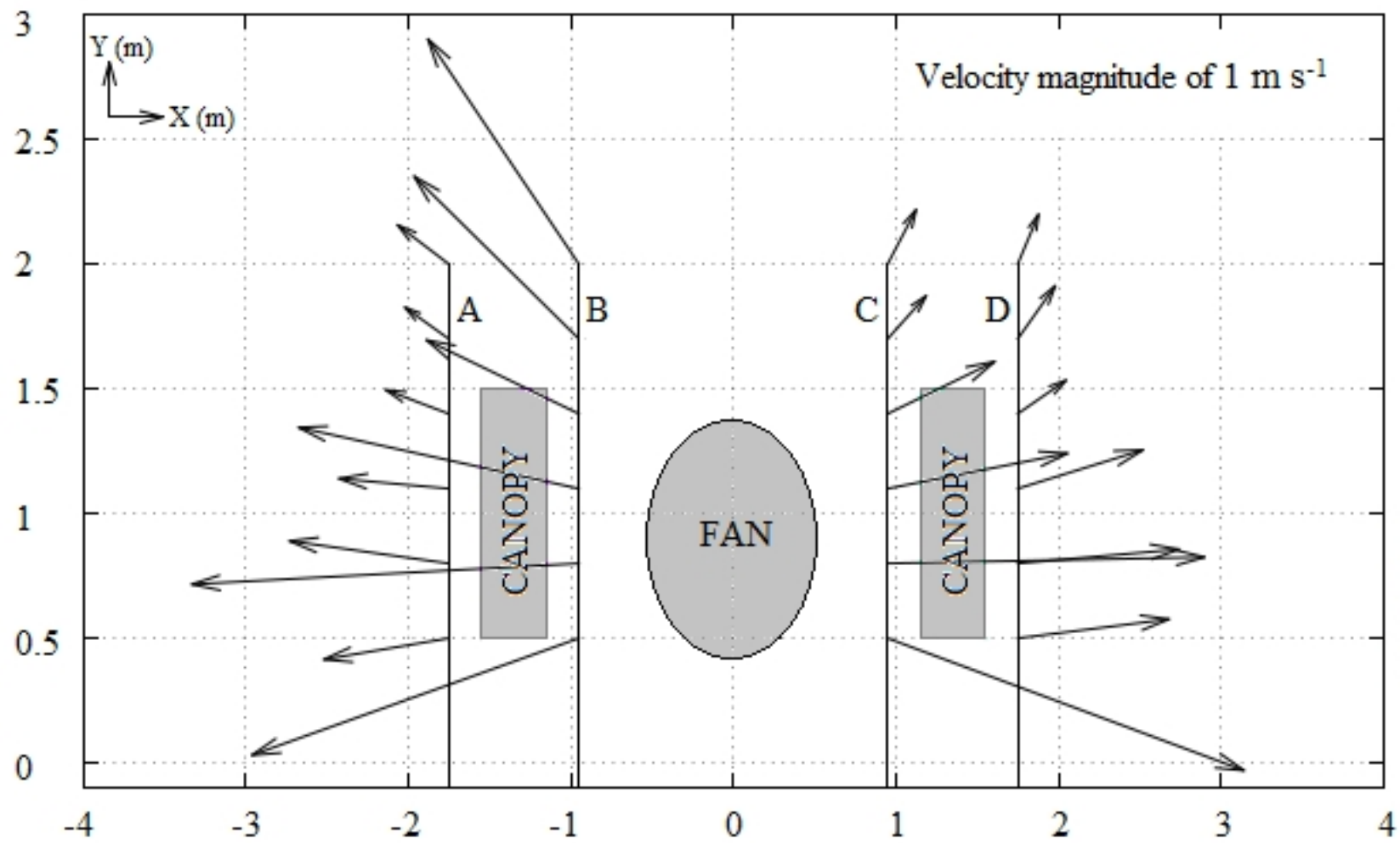


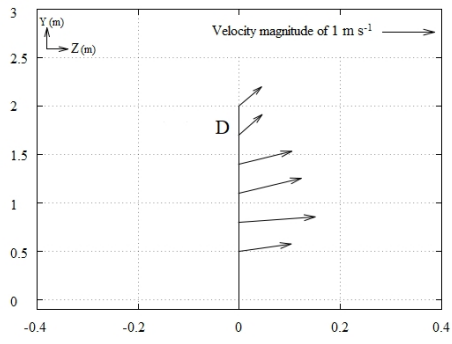




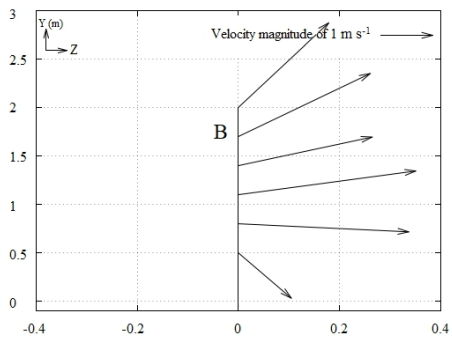
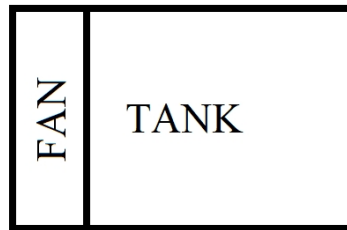
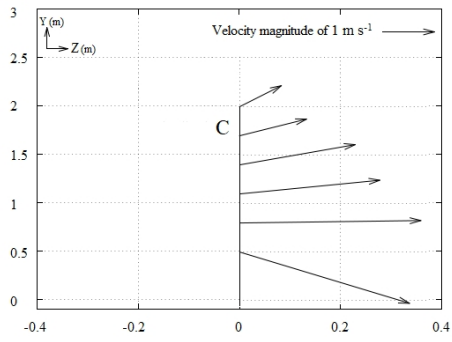




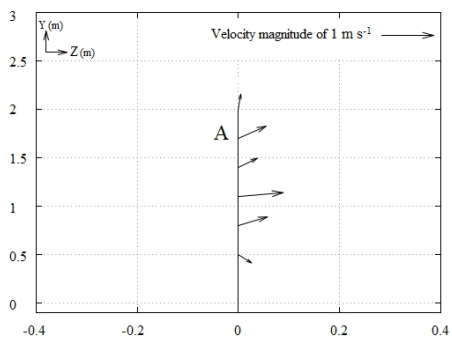


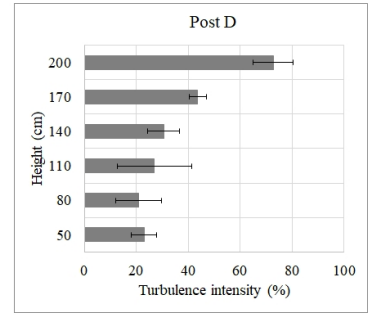
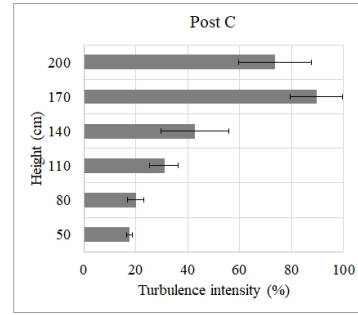
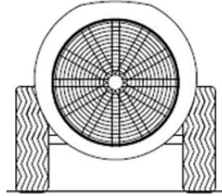
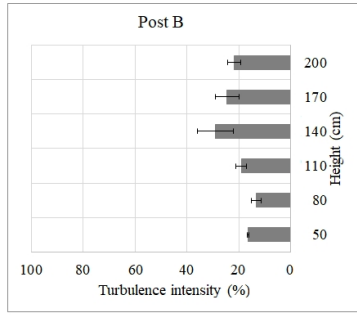
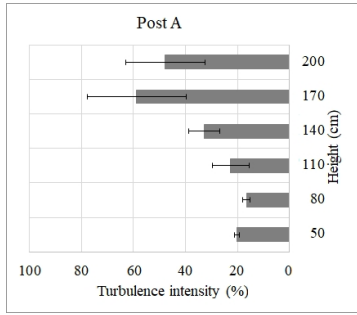


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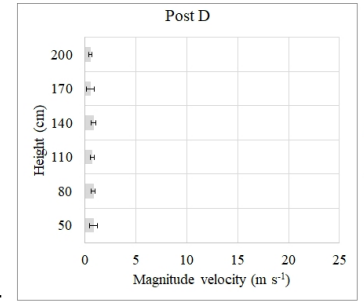
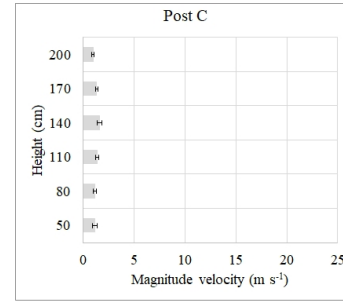
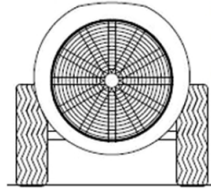
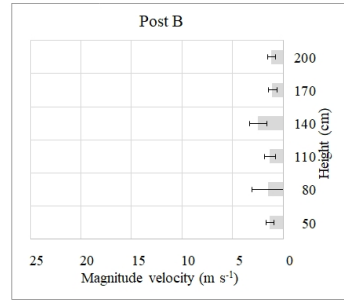
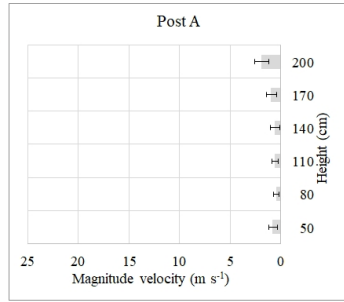


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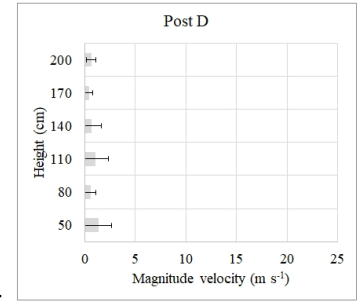
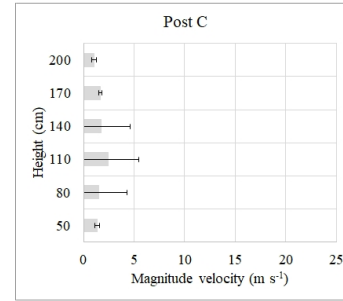
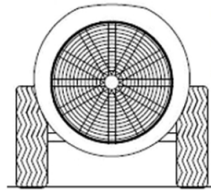
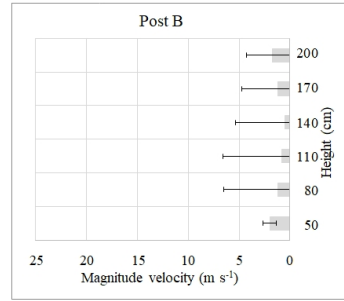
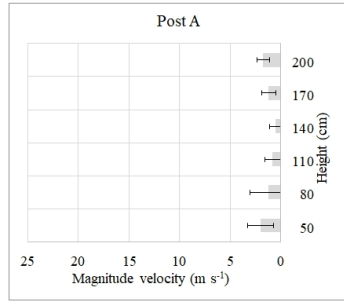




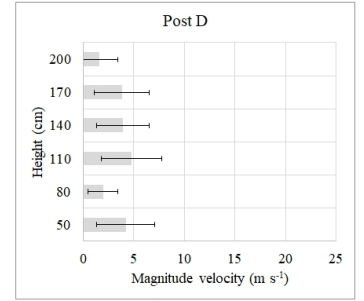
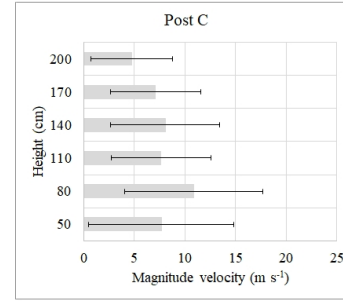
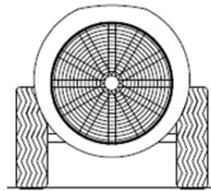
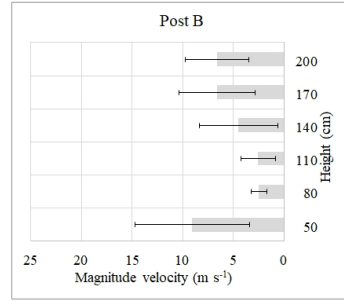
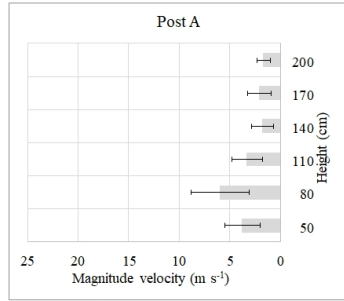
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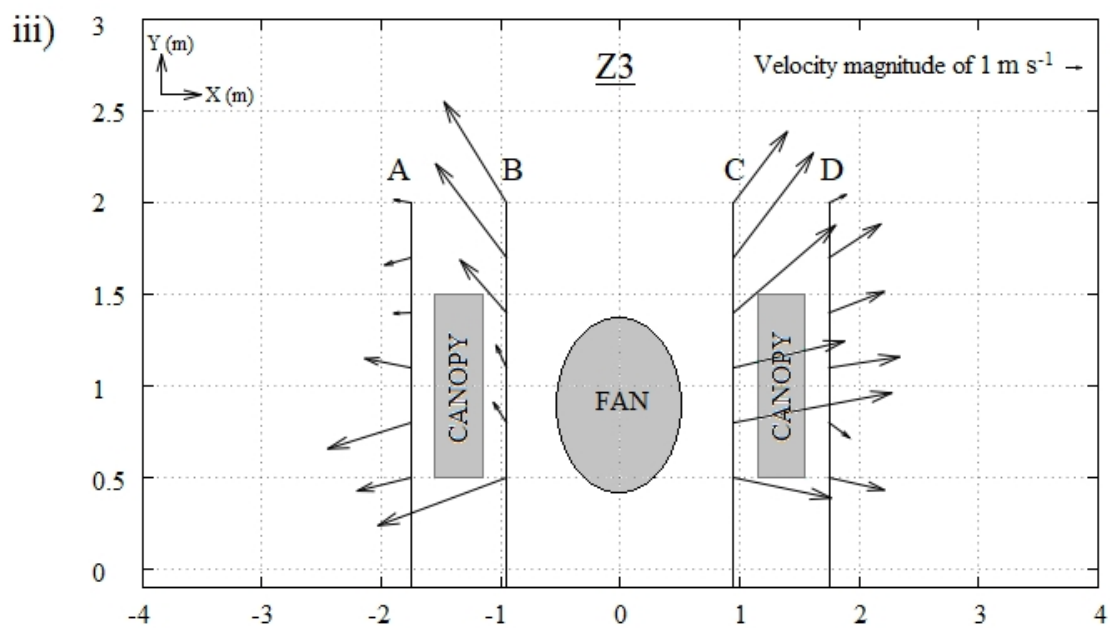
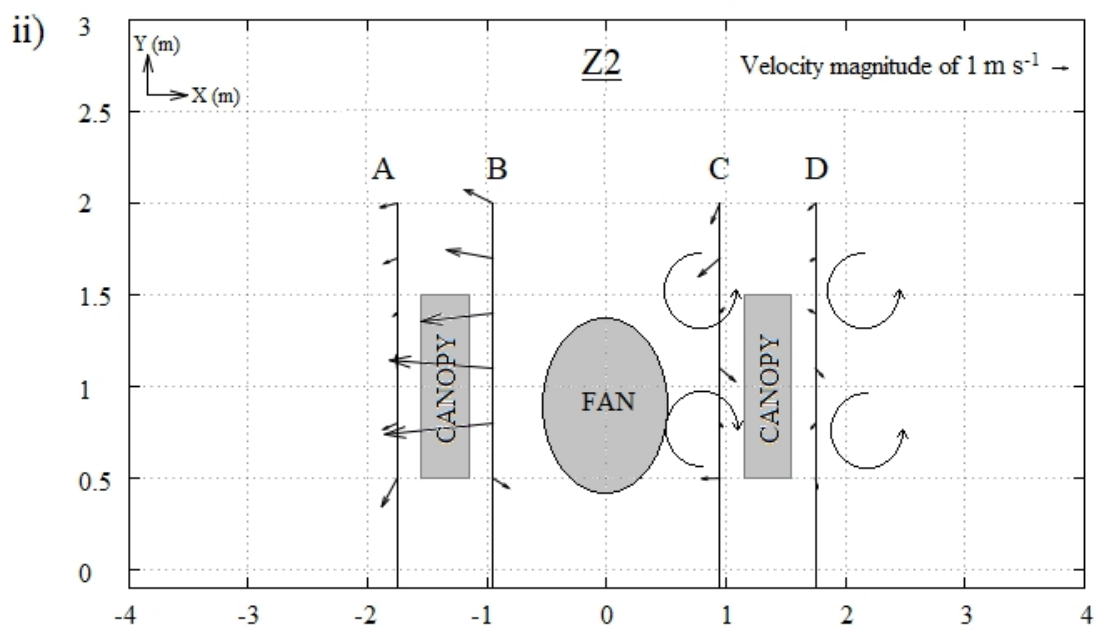
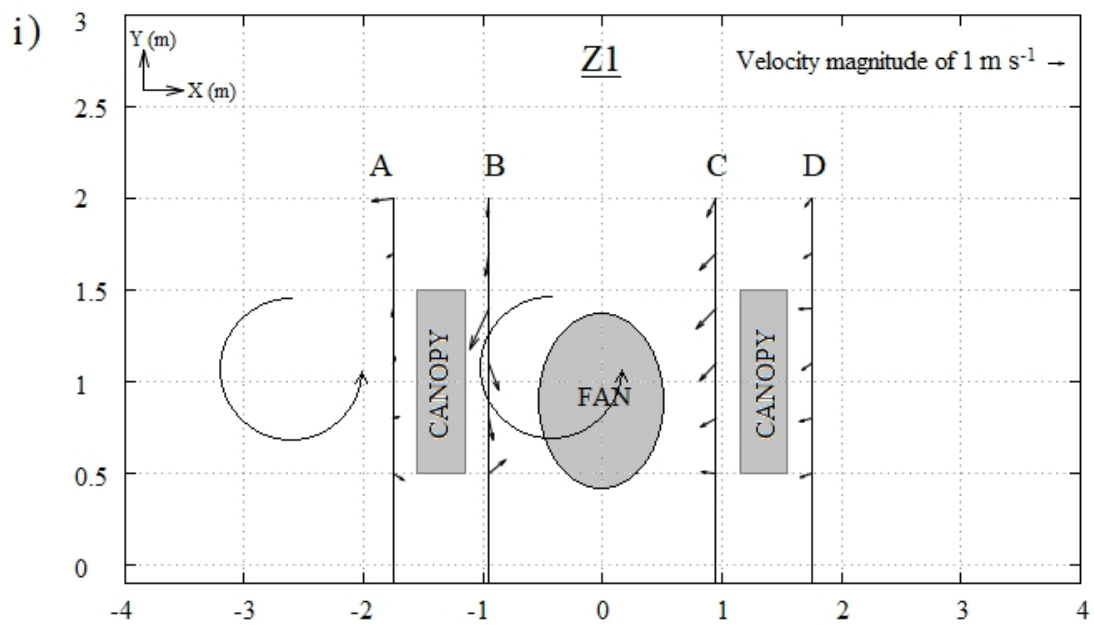


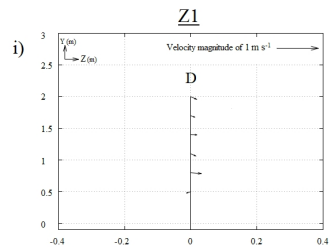
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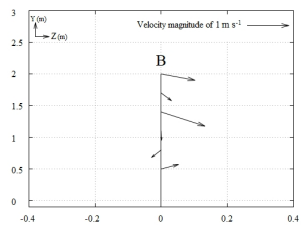
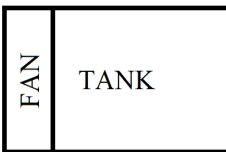
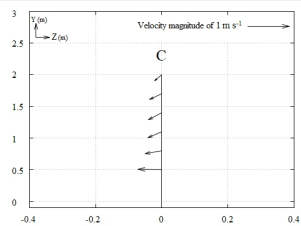
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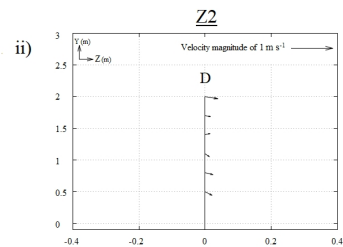
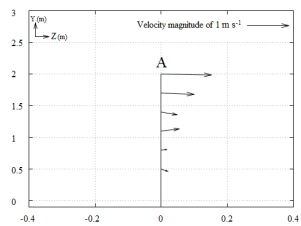




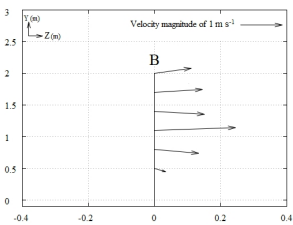
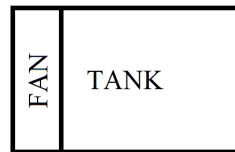
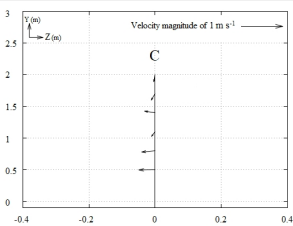
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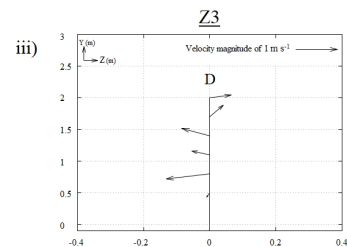
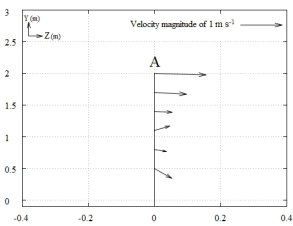
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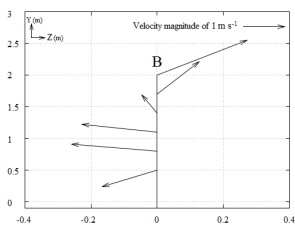
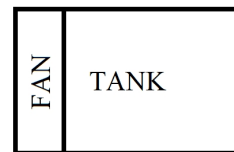
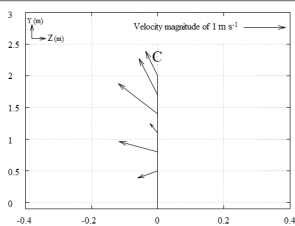
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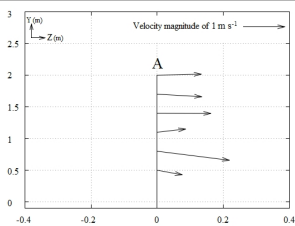
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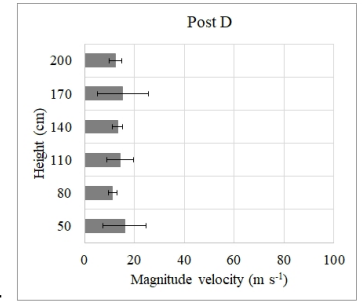
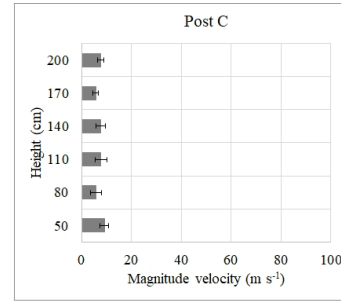
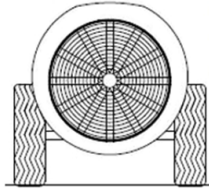
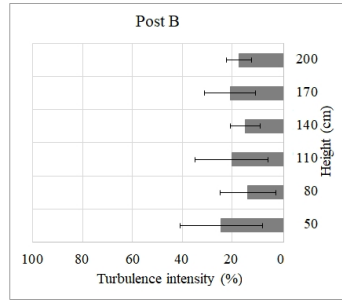
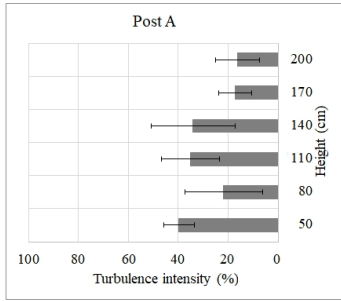
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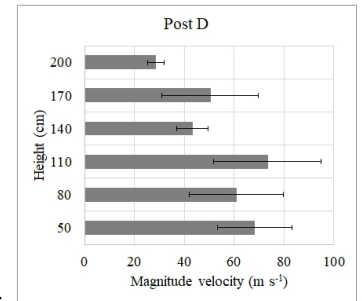
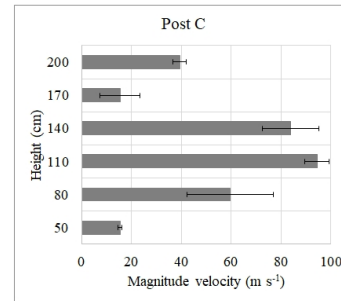
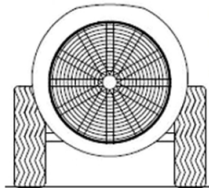
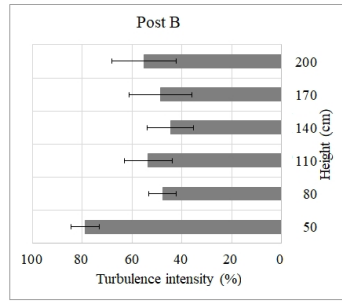
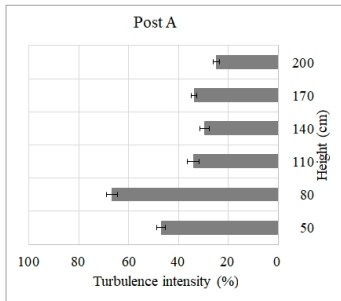
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Z1)



Z2)



Z3)

