



Imperial College  
London

## Periodic Forcing of a Turbulent Axisymmetric Wake



Ala Qubain & Jonathan Morrison

*Department of Aeronautics, Imperial College, London, U.K.*

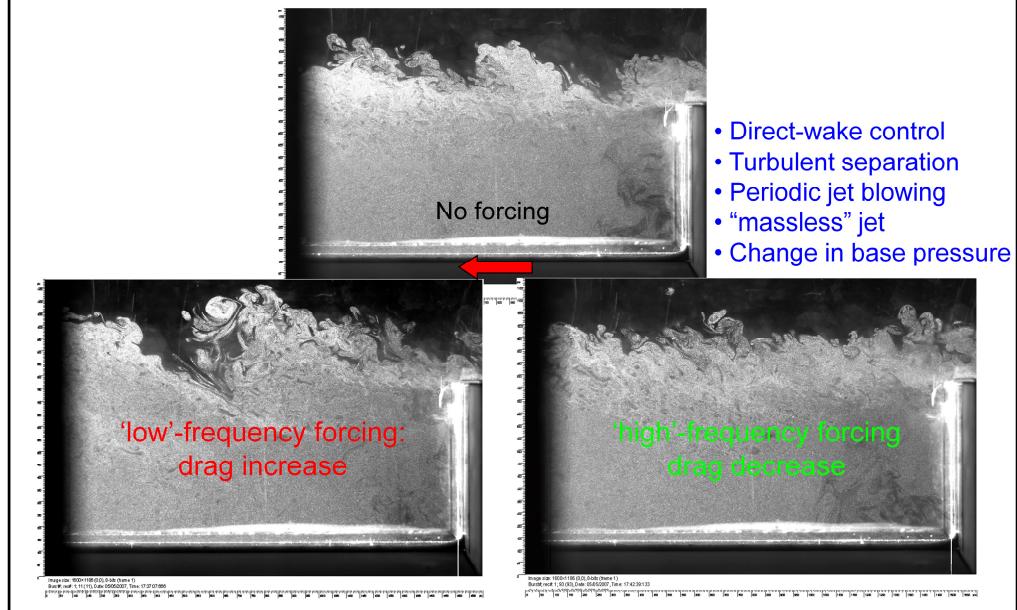
### Minnowbrook VI

*Flow Physics and Control for Internal and External Aerodynamics*

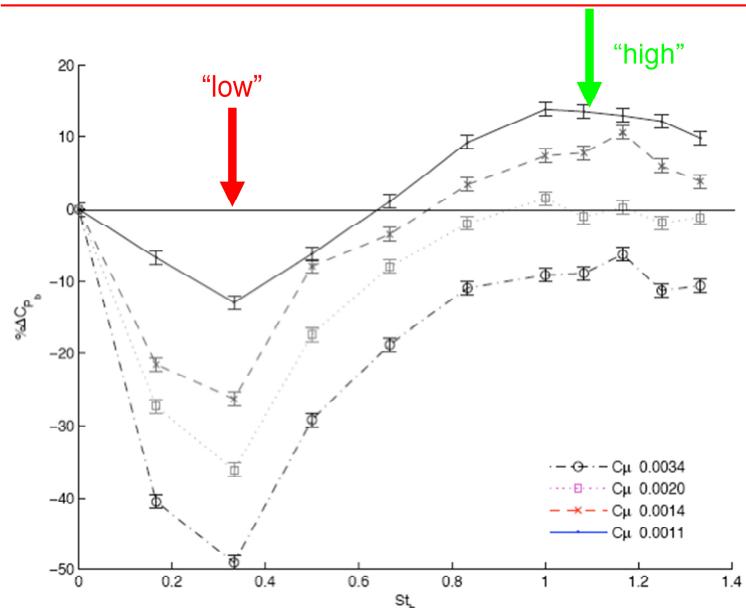
August 23–26, 2009

1

## Backward-facing step: two-dimensional separation



## Backward-facing step: change in base pressure



3

## Initial Observations

---

- Plane mixing layer difficult to control
  - ▶ growth rate dominated by turbulence (unlike jet)
  - ▶ receptivity arguments require the super-imposing of a fixed  $f$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\varphi$  but it is hard to see how these conditions can be met
- Here flow has both convective and absolute instability
- Globally unstable – natural feedback, upstream convection, pressure fluctuations
- Why is this flow controllable?

4

## Synopsis

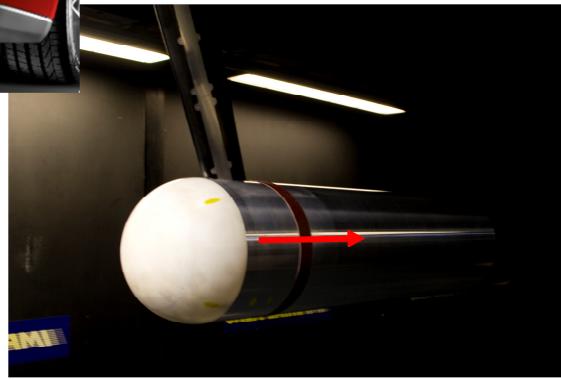
---

- Effects of variable-frequency forcing
- Relation to linear theory
- Effects of three-dimensional forcing
- Relation between instability mechanisms
- Future work:
  1. Open-loop control
  2. Feedback control

From fast cars...



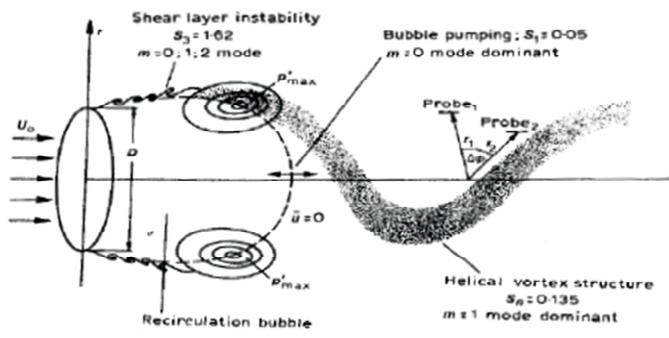
To a representative shape...



## Axisymmetric separation

Imperial College London

Berger et al. 1990



Azimuthal Decomposition into Fourier Modes:

- Shear Layer Instability: dominant mode shape axisymmetric, dominates near-wake
- Helical Instability: antisymmetric, forms past rear stagnation point
- Low-frequency “pumping mode”: varicose/axisymmetric

Berger et al.:

Forced disk in nutation: lock on to helical instability

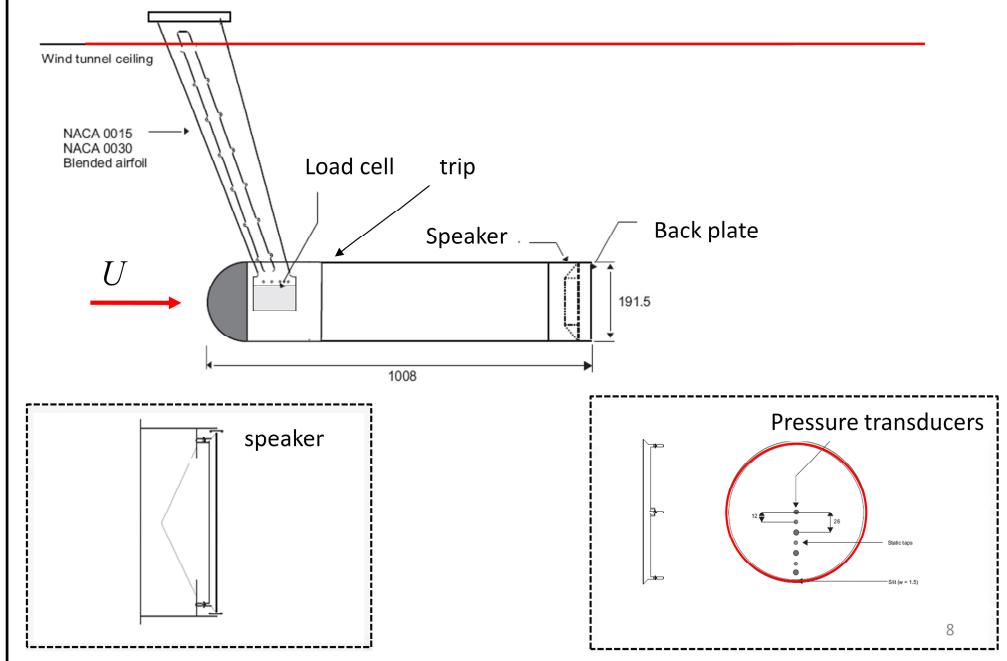
- pumping mode not affected
- shear layer mode not affected, not investigated

7

Certainly many other works but this is a good summary

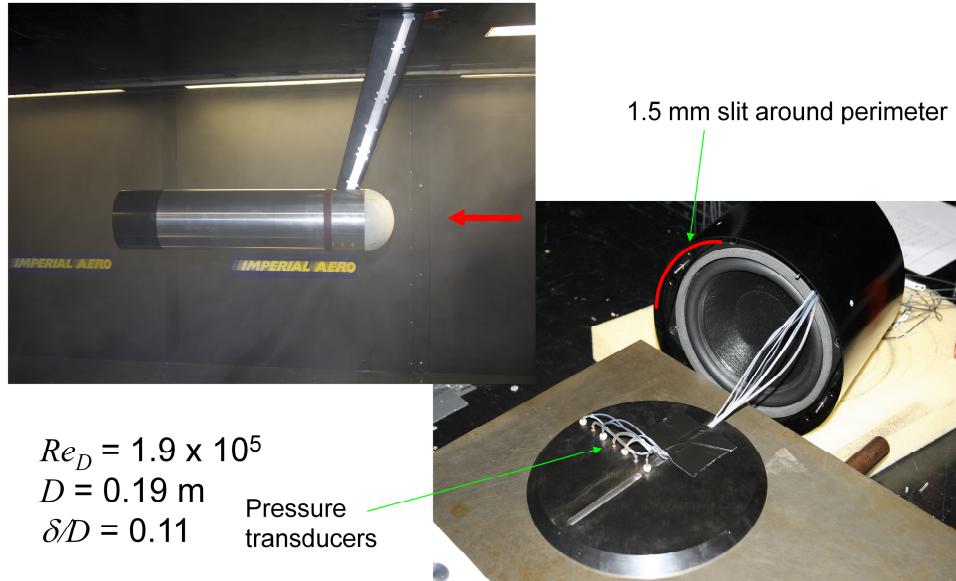
## Experimental Setup

Imperial College London



8

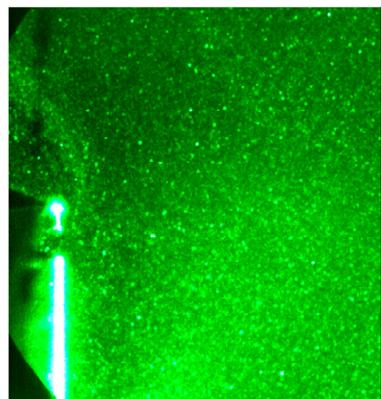
## Separation from a sharp edge



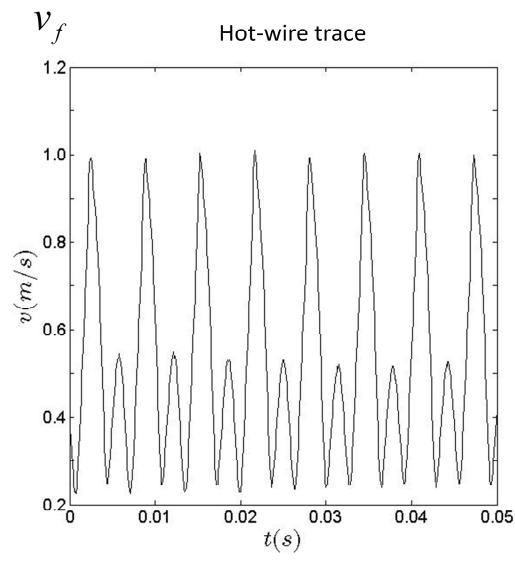
## Actuator – massless jet

Imperial College  
London

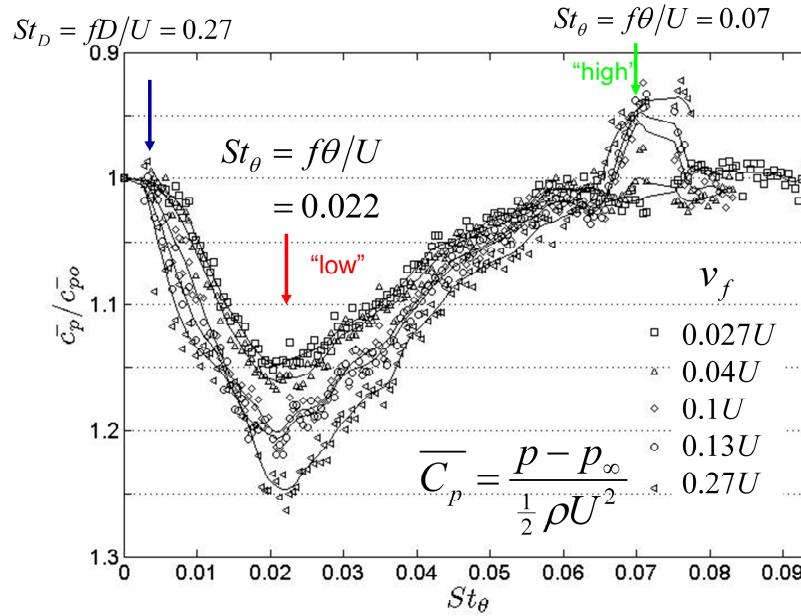
Quiescent:



Time-Resolved Flow Vis:  
260 Hz at  $V_f = 0.27U$   
Slit width = 1.5 mm

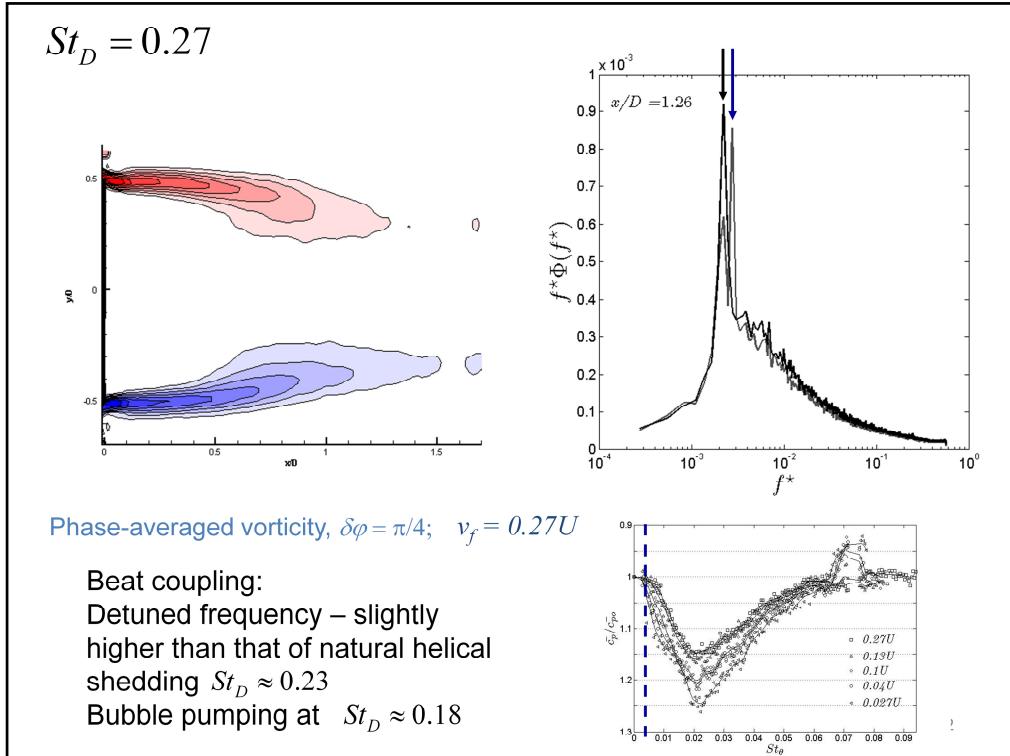


## Performance Parameter: Base Pressure

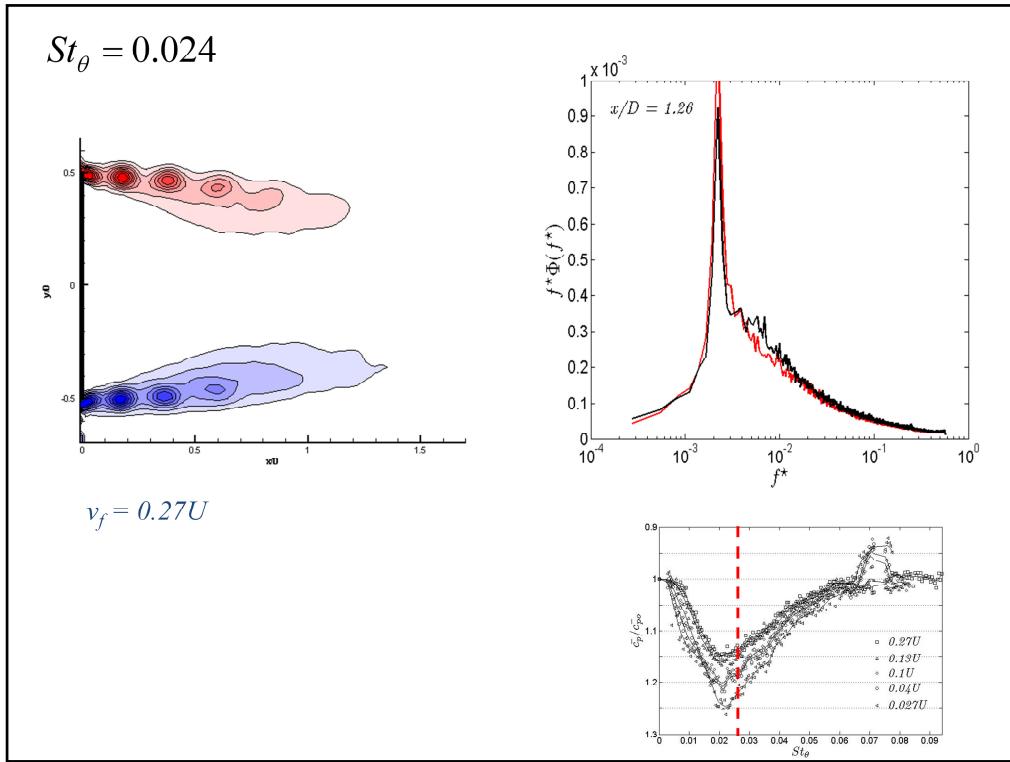


11

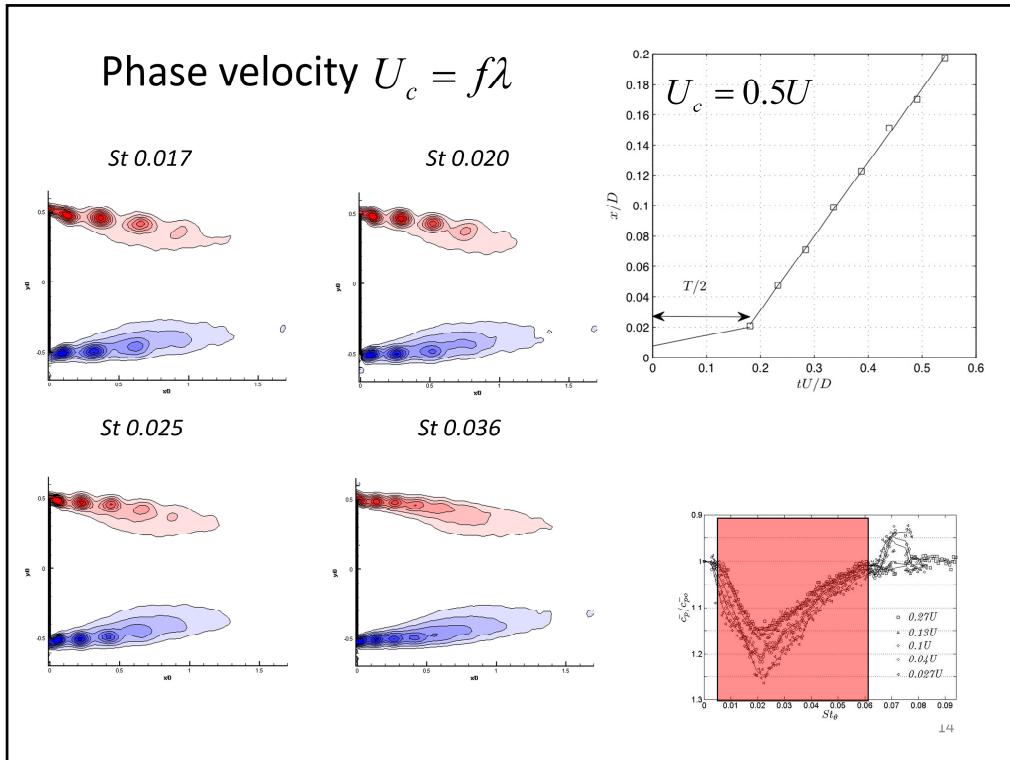
Talk about susceptibility to amplitude  
First peak scales with the helix structures



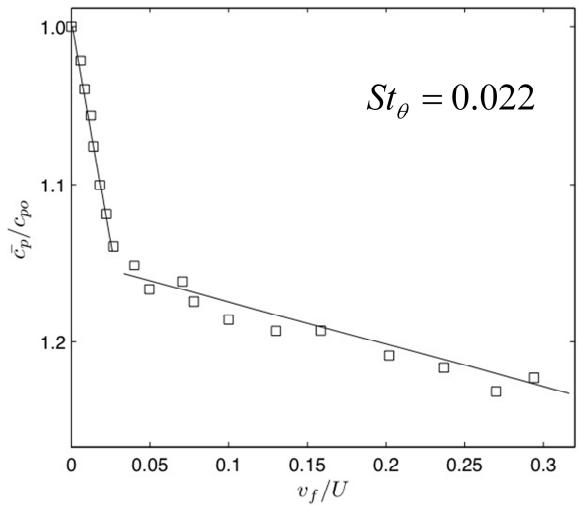
Do not see helical peak at  $x/D$  less than 0.6 .



Helix not affected

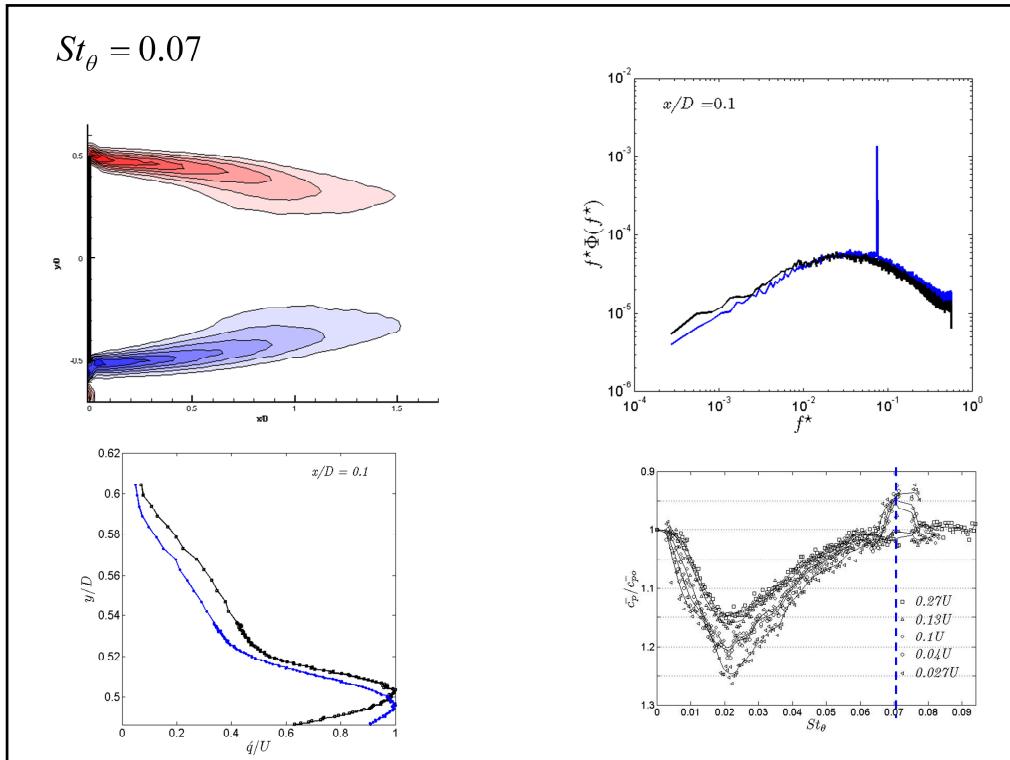


## Change in base pressure with forcing amplitude



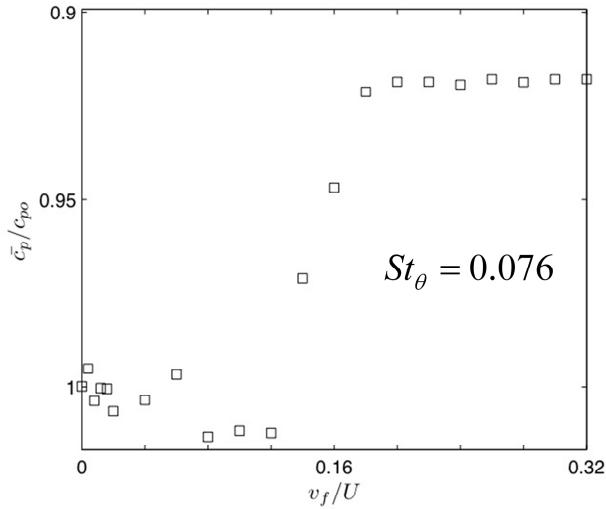
15

Helix not affected



Helix not affected

## Change in base pressure with forcing amplitude



17

Helix not affected

## Conclusions

- First time shear layer mode of axisymmetric body investigated using symmetric forcing.
- Variable – frequency axisymmetric forcing shown to both reduce and increase base pressure.
- The momentum thickness at separation important length scale for axisymmetric body.
- Optimum frequency (shear layer mode) close to that predicted by linear stability analysis of laminar mixing layer (Ho & Huerre 1984) and very similar to prediction for turbulent base flow (Morris & Foss 2003)  $St_\theta = 0.022$
- Helical mode not synchronized at forcing frequencies except  $St_D=0.27$ : “beat coupling” at boundaries of lock-in region. Helical shedding only forms downstream of the recirculation bubble.
- Increase in base pressure by forcing small scales of shear layer directly (e.g., Wiltse & Glezer 1998).

18

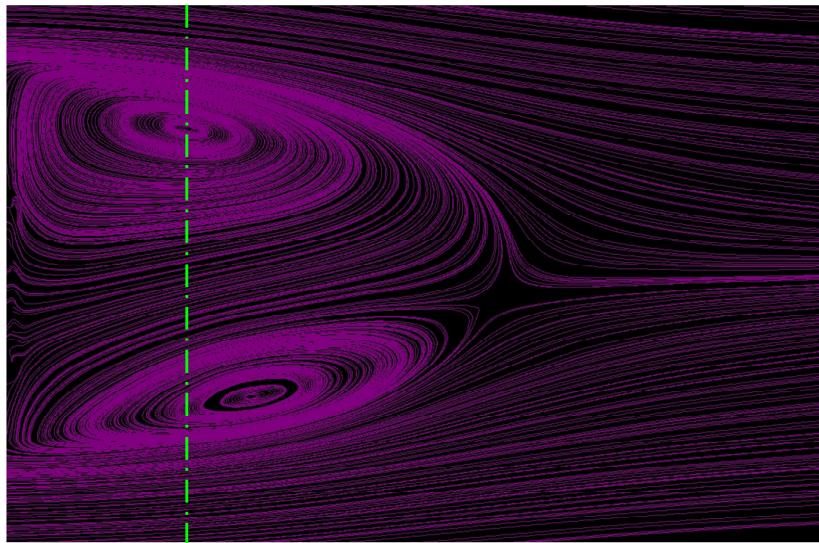
## Future Work

---

- Most receptive shear-layer frequency predicted by linear theory: suggests usefulness of linear feedback control.
- High-frequency forcing appears to be nonlinear: inhibits entrainment leading to base-pressure recovery – annular “virtual spoiler”.
- Low-frequency forcing: use as an “virtual air brake”.
- These results appear to be relevant to 2D planar geometry.
- Require two-dimensional or axisymmetric, annular jet: 3D-forcing does not reproduce base-pressure recovery.

## Aerodynamic Steering?

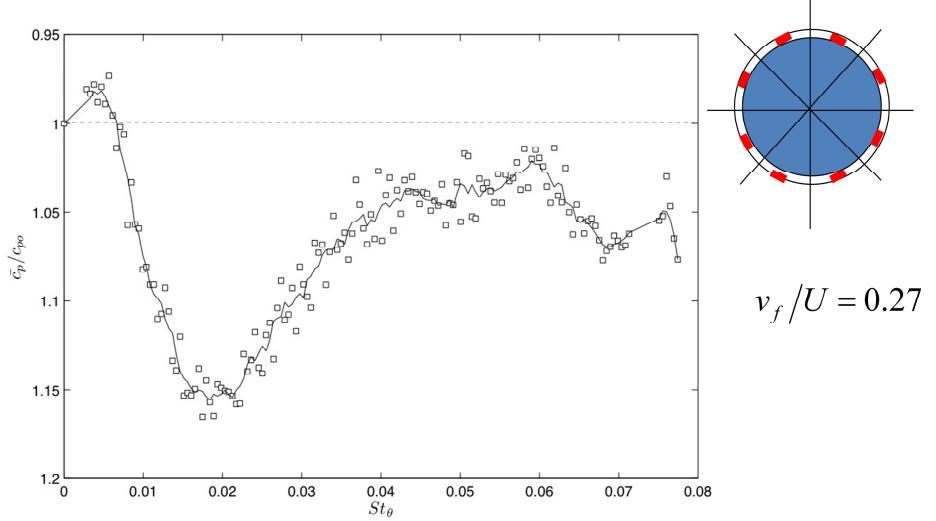
Imperial College  
London



Asymmetry creates forces perpendicular to direction of travel

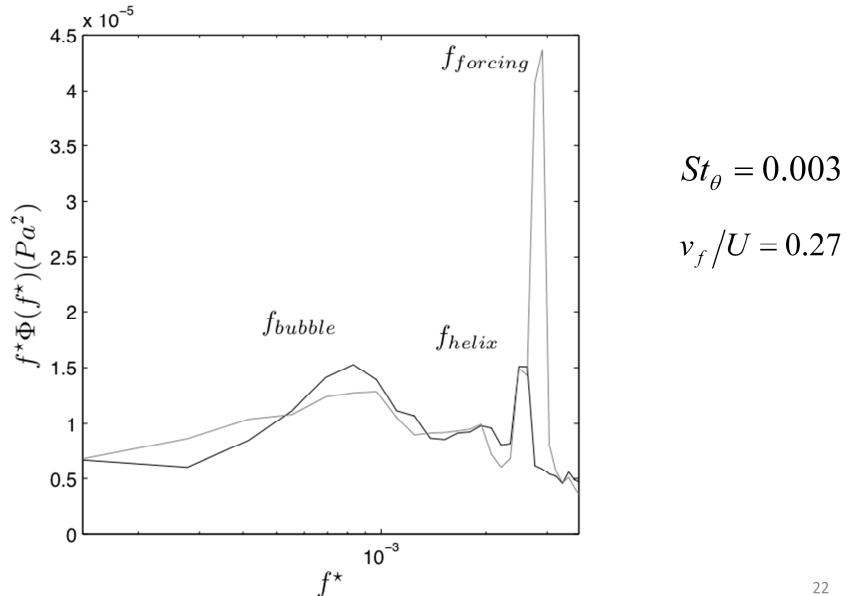
20

### 3D Forcing



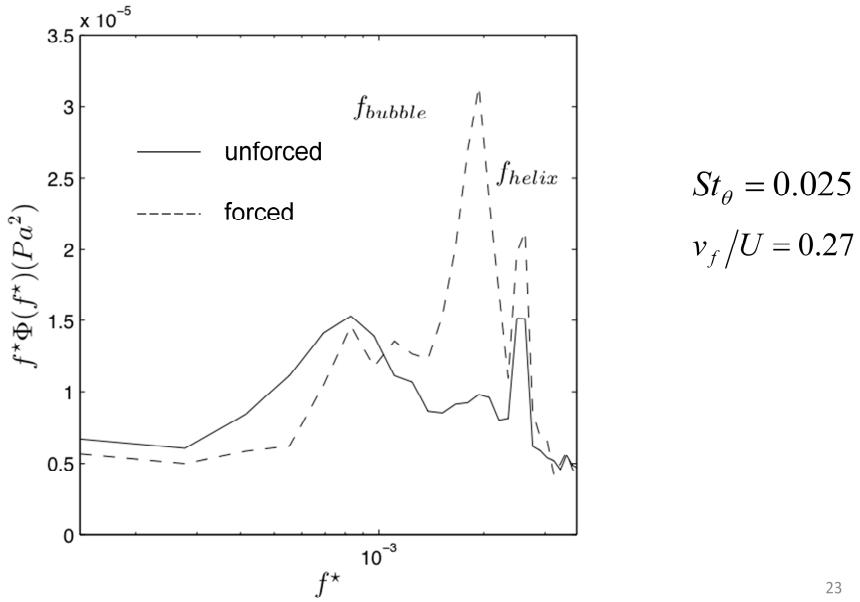
21

## VLF Base-pressure spectra



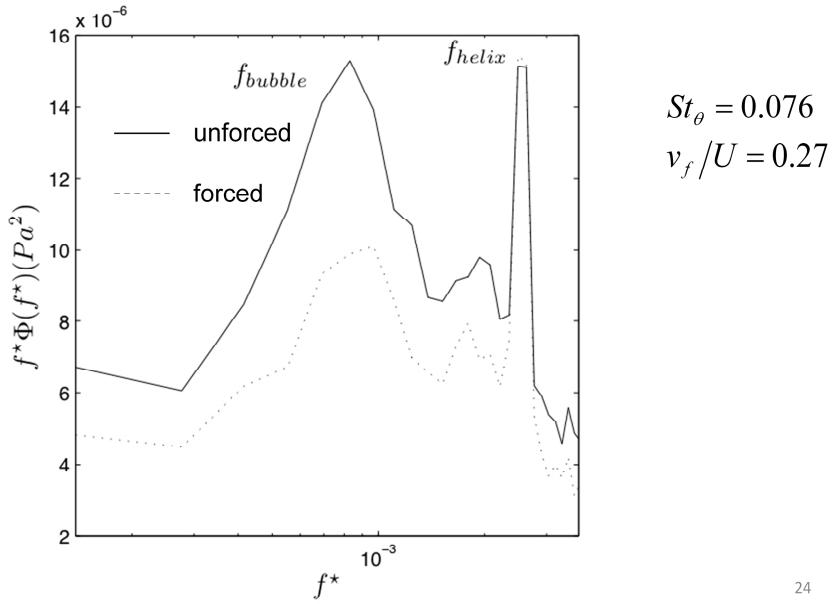
22

## LF Base-pressure spectra



23

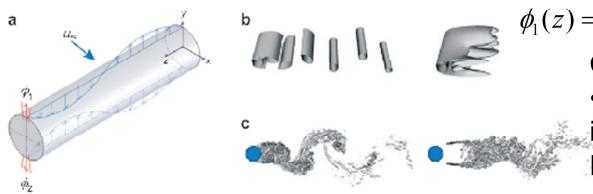
## HF Base-pressure spectra



24

## 2D Bluff bodies: direct-wake control

1.

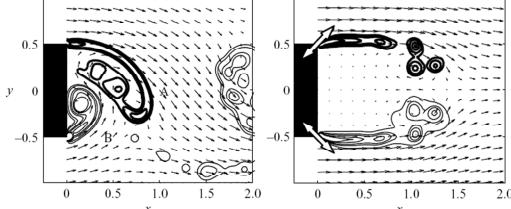


$$\phi_1(z) = \phi_2(z) = \phi_0 \sin(2\pi z / \lambda)$$

Open-loop control:

- upper/lower blowing/suction in antiphase “annihilates” von Kármán shedding

2.



1. Kim & Choi 2005

2. Pastoor et al. 2008

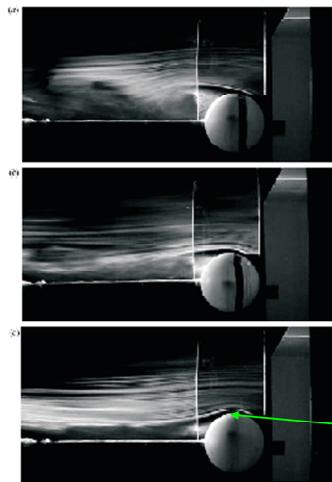
Open- and closed-loop control:

- Synchronization of shedding of top and bottom shear layers
- Effective forcing frequencies close to those of von Kármán shedding
- Decoupling of upper & lower vortex formation

25

Mention the push to reduce drag talk about application reynolds number absolutely unstable, high frequency effective but not as efficient, different strategies

## Axisymmetric bluff body: delay of separation



Drag Reduction Strategy:  
Separation delay and  
reattaching boundary layer.

Basic

Boundary layer instability  
 $Re_D \leq 2 \times 10^5$

Basic+trip

Forced

High-frequency, time-periodic  
blowing through axisymmetric  
slit:  $St_D = 4.95$

1. Jeon et al. 2004

26