

## EPIC

# Enabling **P**rocess **I**nnovation through **C**omputation

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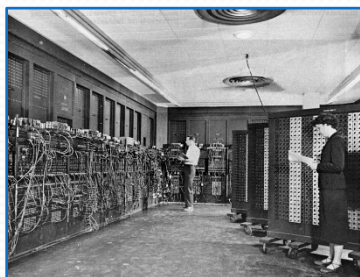
## Technology as a transformative agent



Automotive



Aeronautical



ICT



Achieved through sustained, incremental improvement, rapid innovation cycle, use of advanced development tools.

## Not so in Chemical Processes – why?

Certainly innovation has helped in mass producing chemicals, fertilizers, and pharmaceuticals, pesticides etc.

But sustained improvements in technology have been very slow – why?

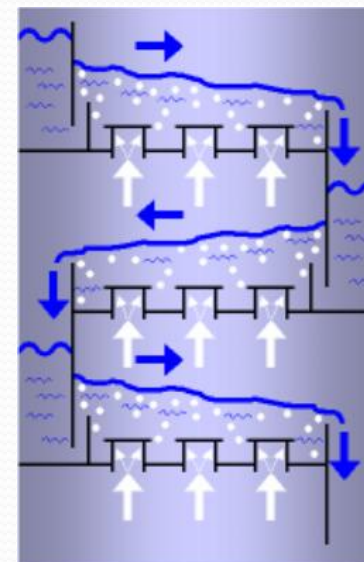
**The challenges are indeed greater!**



1940



2000



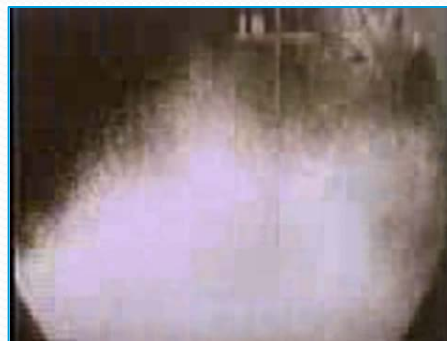
Two phase vapor-liquid  
contact device

# Examples - Tray hydraulics on sieve tray

Films courtesy of FRI Inc.



Weeping



Froth



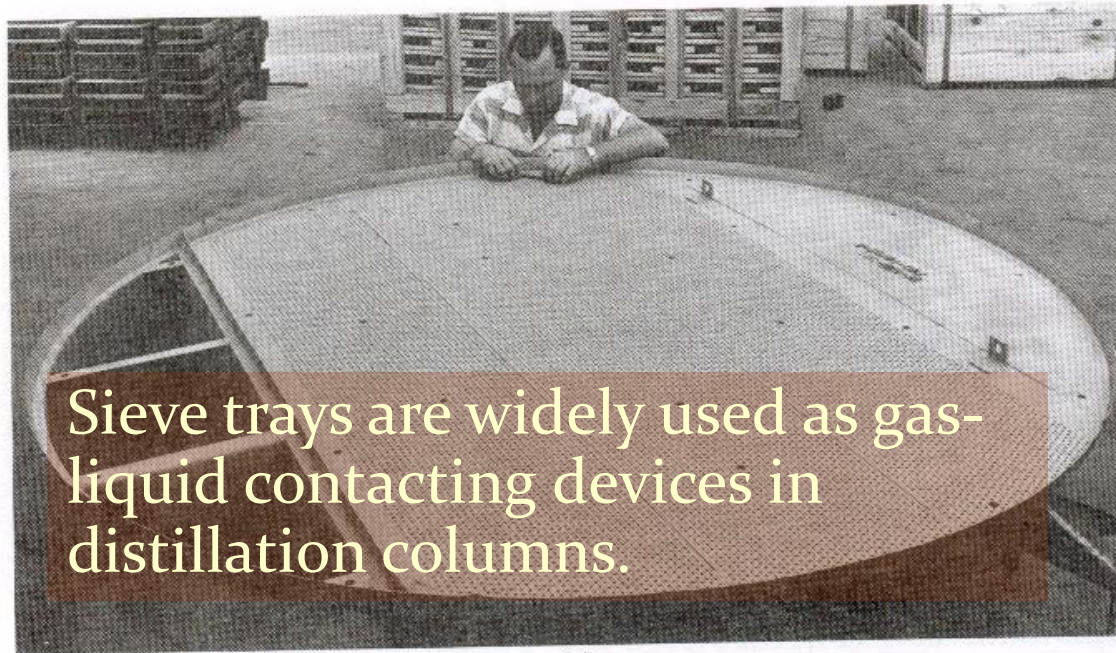
Spray



Increasing vapor flow rate



## Examples - Tray hydraulics on sieve tray



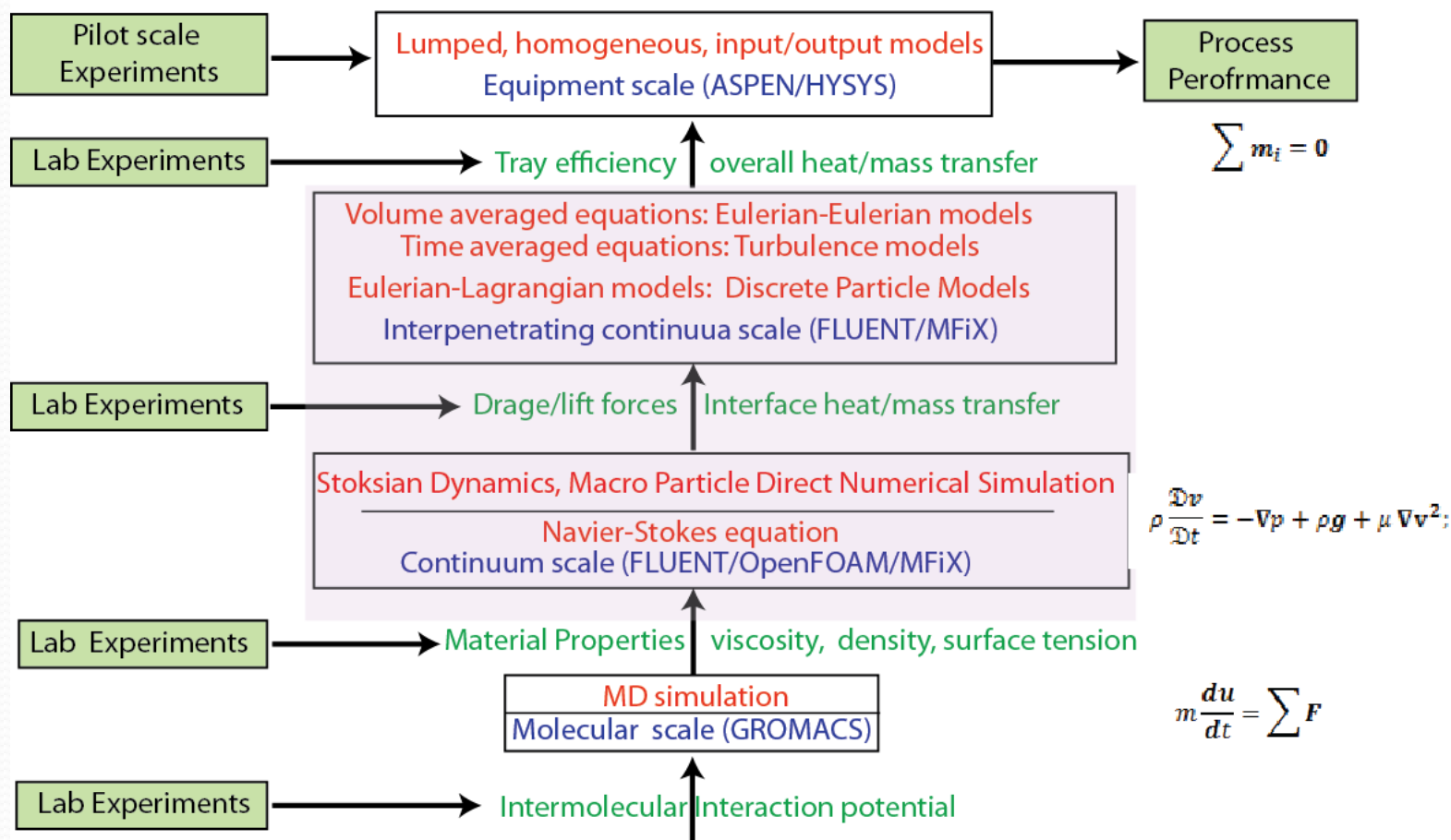
Sieve trays are widely used as gas-liquid contacting devices in distillation columns.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \rho_L \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = \rho_L \mathbf{g} + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{in } \Omega \setminus \bar{P}(t)$$

The NSE is valid in all these scales, but can we compute such complex multiphase flows?

## Modeling at appropriate scale - Hierarchy of models

Overview of interrelations among models on various scales



# Direct Numerical Simulations

## Rigid particles in a Newtonian fluid

### Fluid

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \rho_L \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} &= \rho_L \mathbf{g} + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ in } \Omega \setminus \bar{P}(t)$$

$$BC: \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_\Gamma(t) \text{ on } \Gamma$$

$$IC: \mathbf{u}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{u}_0 \text{ in } \Omega \setminus \bar{P}(0)$$

### Solid

$$\left. \begin{aligned} M_i \frac{d\mathbf{U}_i}{dt} &= M_i \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{F}_i \\ I_i \frac{d\boldsymbol{\varpi}_i}{dt} + \boldsymbol{\varpi}_i \times I_i \boldsymbol{\varpi}_i &= \mathbf{T}_i \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ in } \bar{P}(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathbf{X}_i}{dt} &= \mathbf{U}_i \\ \frac{d\theta_i}{dt} &= \boldsymbol{\varpi}_i \end{aligned}$$

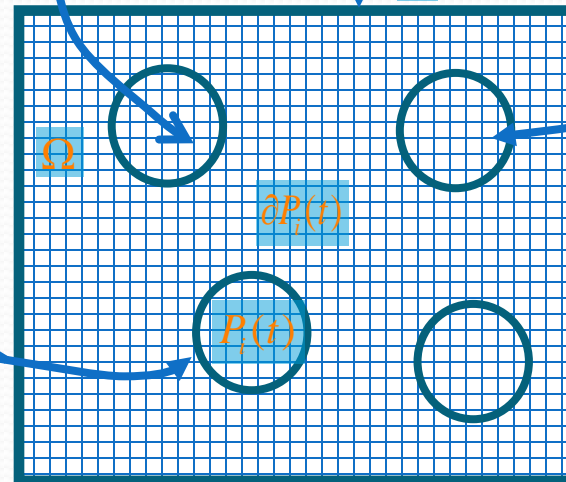
$$IC: X_i|_{t=0} = X_{i,o}; \theta_i|_{t=0} = \theta_{i,o}$$

### Coupling

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{U}_i + \boldsymbol{\varpi}_i \times \mathbf{r}_i \text{ on } \partial P_i(t), i=1..N$$

$$\mathbf{F}_i = \int_{\partial P_i(t)} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS;$$

$$\mathbf{T}_i = \int_{\partial P_i(t)} \mathbf{r}_i \times \boldsymbol{\sigma} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS$$



C. Veeramani, P. D. Minev and K. Nandakumar, A Fictitious Domain Formulation for Flows with Rigid Particles: A non-Lagrange multiplier version, *J. Comp. Physics* **224**(2) (2007), 867-879.

# Direct Numerical Simulations – DNS-LS

Deformable droplets/bubbles (Newtonian fluid)

Fluid 1

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{D\mathbf{u}_1}{Dt} &= \mathbf{f}_1 + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_1 &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{in } \Omega_1$$

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_i = p_i \boldsymbol{\delta} + 2 / \text{Re}_i \mathbf{D}[\mathbf{u}_i]$$

$$\mathbf{D}[\mathbf{u}_i] = 0.5[\nabla \mathbf{u}_i + (\nabla \mathbf{u}_i)^T]$$

$$\text{BC: } \mathbf{u}_i = \mathbf{u}_{i,\Gamma}(t) \text{ on } \Gamma$$

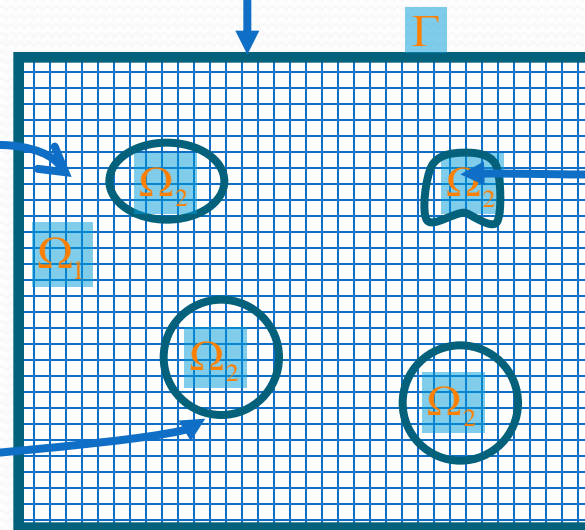
Fluid 2

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \lambda \frac{D\mathbf{u}_2}{Dt} &= \mathbf{f}_2 + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2 \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}_2 &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{in } \Omega_2$$

Coupling

$$(\boldsymbol{\sigma}_1 - \boldsymbol{\sigma}_2) \cdot \mathbf{n} = \frac{1}{We} \kappa \mathbf{n}, \quad \mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{u}_2 \text{ on } \Sigma$$

$$\frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \Sigma = 0$$



$$\begin{aligned} Re_1 &= \frac{UR\rho_1}{\mu_1} \\ Re_2 &= \frac{UR\rho_1}{\mu_2} = \eta Re_1 \\ We &= UR\rho_1/\sigma \\ \lambda &= \rho_1/\rho_2 \end{aligned}$$

Chen, T., P. D. Minev and K. Nandakumar, A projection scheme for incompressible multiphase flow using adaptive Eulerian grid: 3D validation, *Int. J. Numerical Methods in Engineering* **48** (2005) pp 455-466



## Two-fluid models

### Continuity

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\gamma_{\alpha}\rho_{\alpha}) + \nabla \cdot (\gamma_{\alpha}\rho_{\alpha}\mathbf{U}_{\alpha} - \mathbf{\Gamma}_{\alpha}\nabla\gamma_{\alpha}) = 0 \quad \alpha = L, G$$

### Momentum

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\gamma_{\alpha}\rho_{\alpha}\mathbf{U}_{\alpha}) + \nabla \cdot \left\{ \gamma_{\alpha} \left[ \rho_{\alpha}\mathbf{U}_{\alpha} \otimes \mathbf{U}_{\alpha} - \mu_{e\alpha} \left( \nabla\mathbf{U}_{\alpha} + (\nabla\mathbf{U}_{\alpha})^T \right) \right] \right\} = \gamma_{\alpha} (\mathbf{B}_{\alpha} - \nabla p) + \mathbf{F}_{\alpha}$$

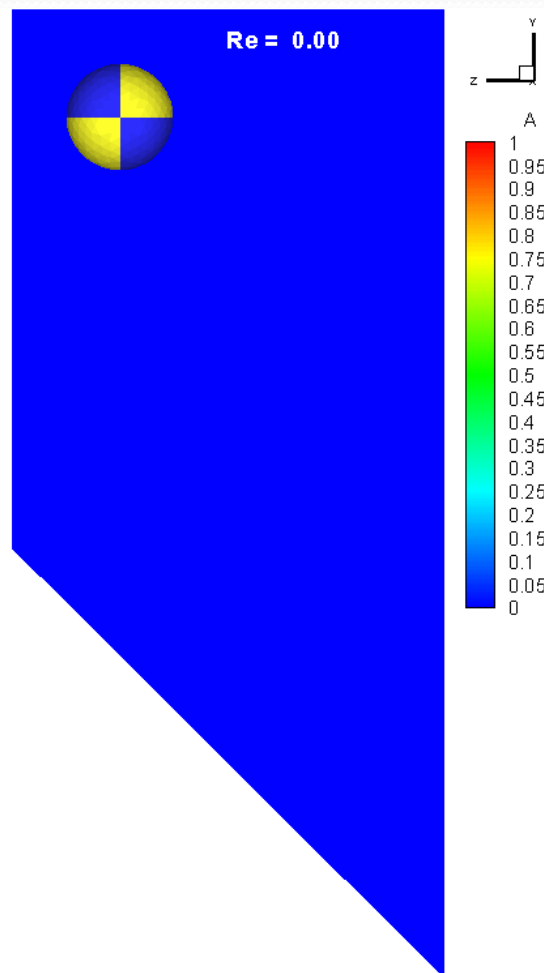
$\alpha = L, G$

### Species conservation

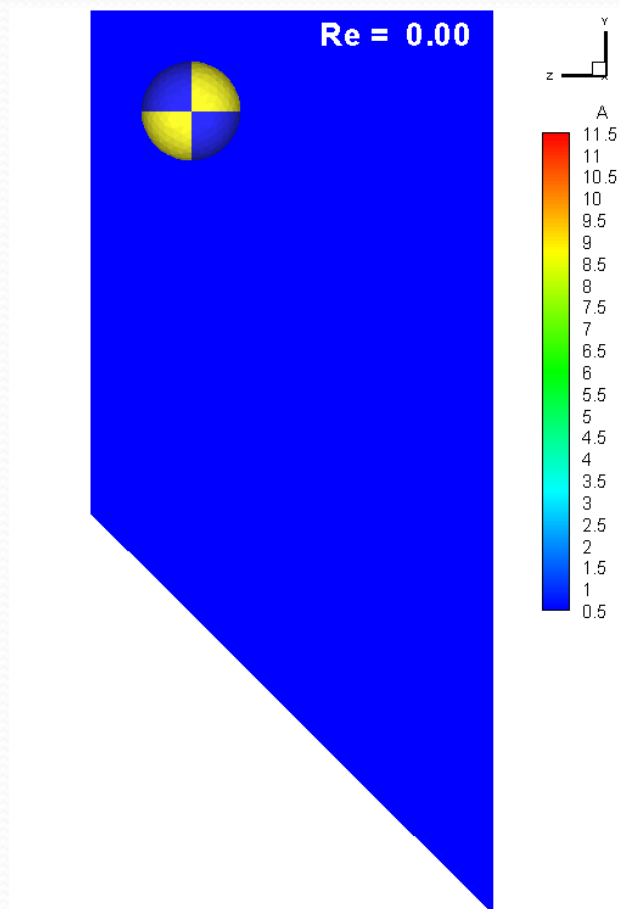
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\gamma_{\alpha}\rho_{\alpha}Y_{i\alpha}) + \nabla \cdot [\gamma_{\alpha}(\rho_{\alpha}\mathbf{U}_{\alpha}Y_{i\alpha} - \mathbf{\Gamma}_{i\alpha}\nabla Y_{i\alpha})] = \sum_{\beta=1, \beta \neq \alpha}^N \dot{m}_{\alpha\beta}^i \quad \alpha = L, G$$

$i = 1, \dots, N_C$

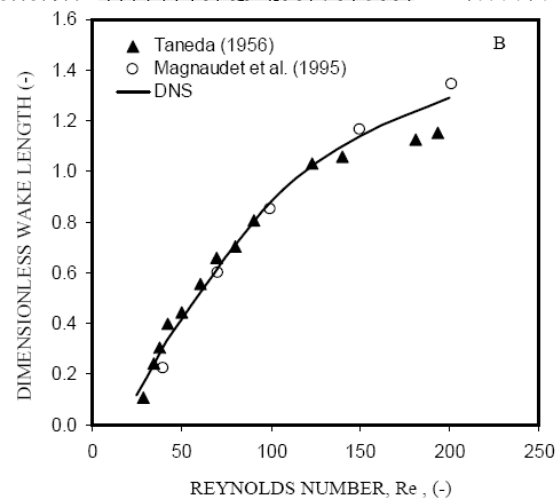
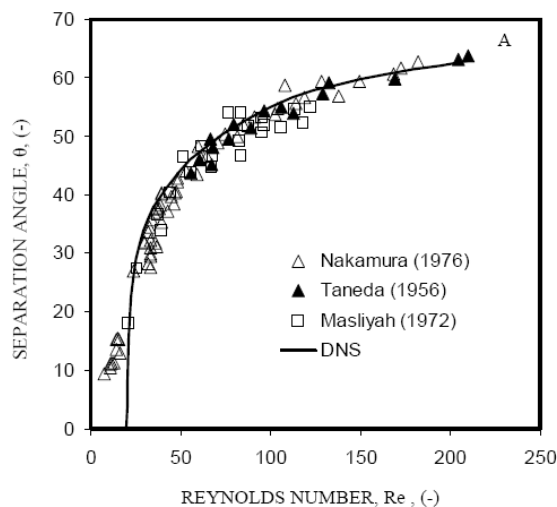
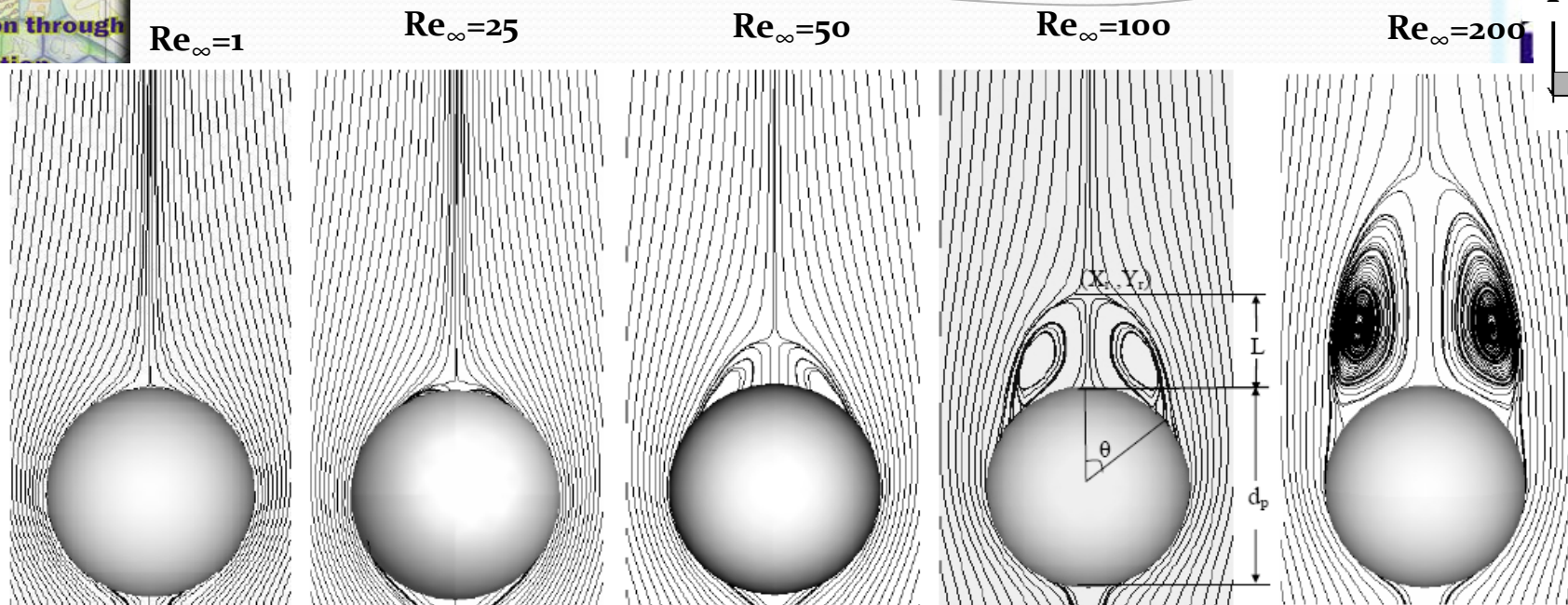
# Impact on an inclined wall – pvc ball



# Impact on an inclined wall – steel ball



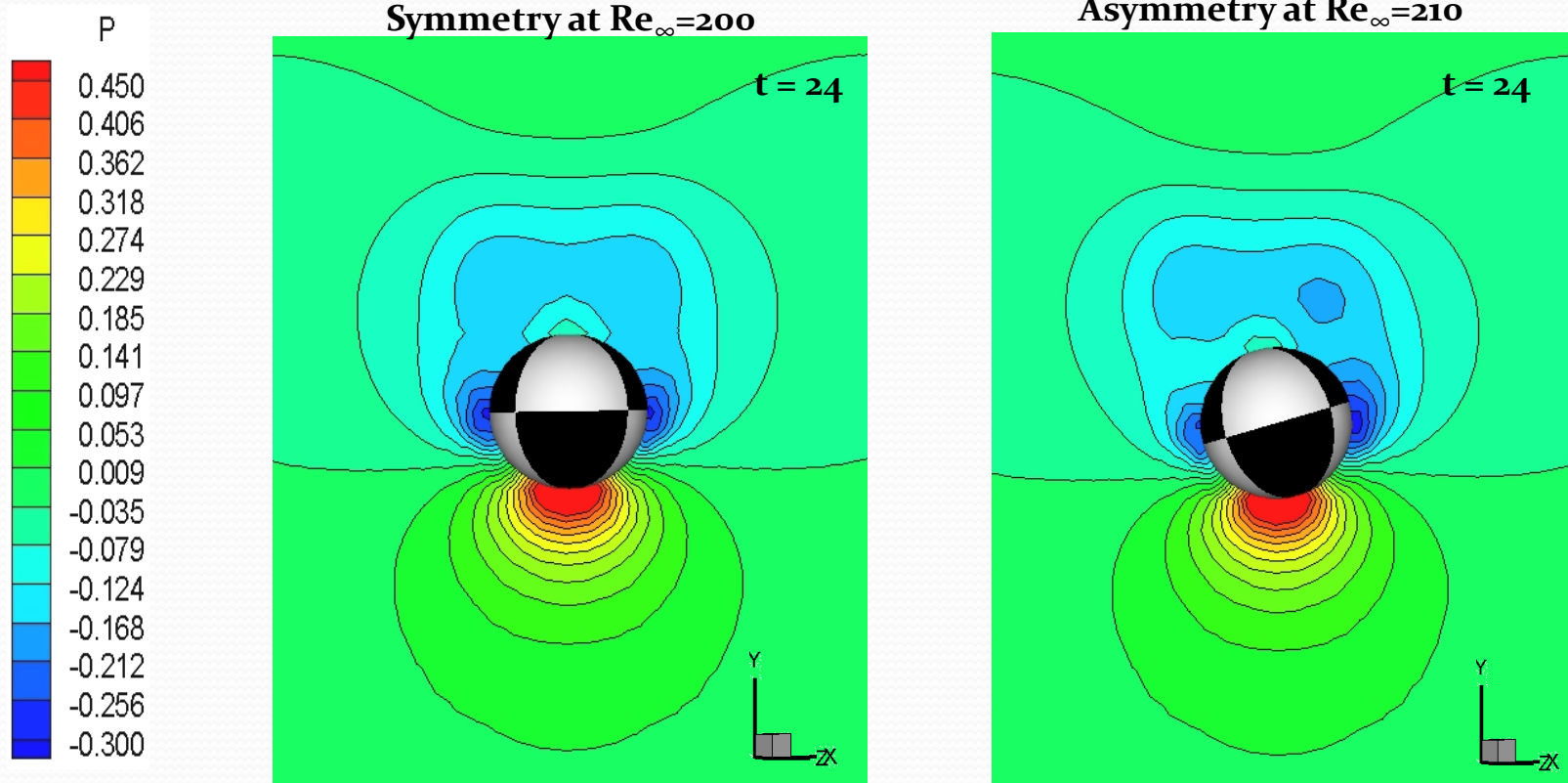
# Wake length and separation angle





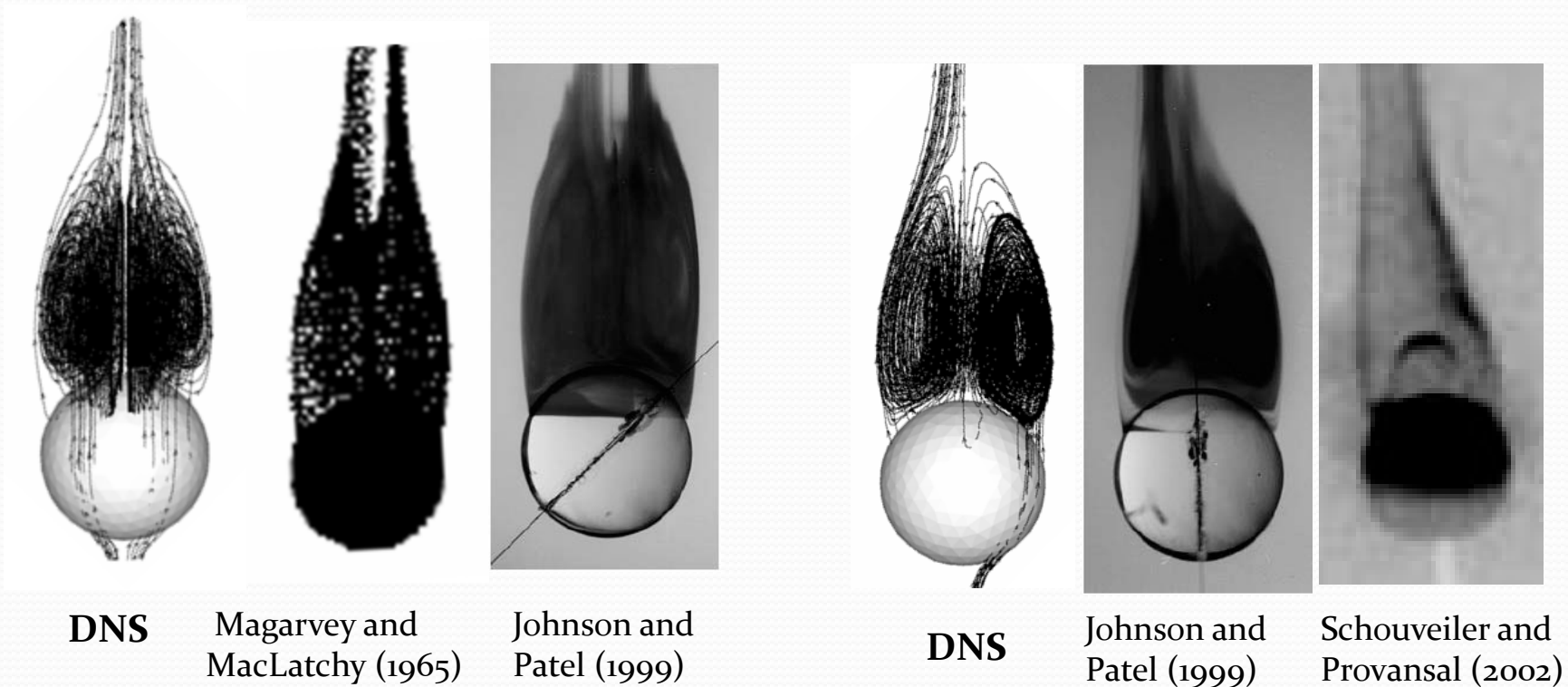
# Breaking of axisymmetry at $Re_\infty = 210$

Contours of pressure



The onset of instability leads to the beginning of the rotation of the sphere and the lift force, which occurs due to breakage of steady axisymmetric wake

# Comparison with experimental observations



# Experimental results of Lee et al. (2007) in Journal of fluid Mechanics

Diameter of the particle is **3.1 mm**.

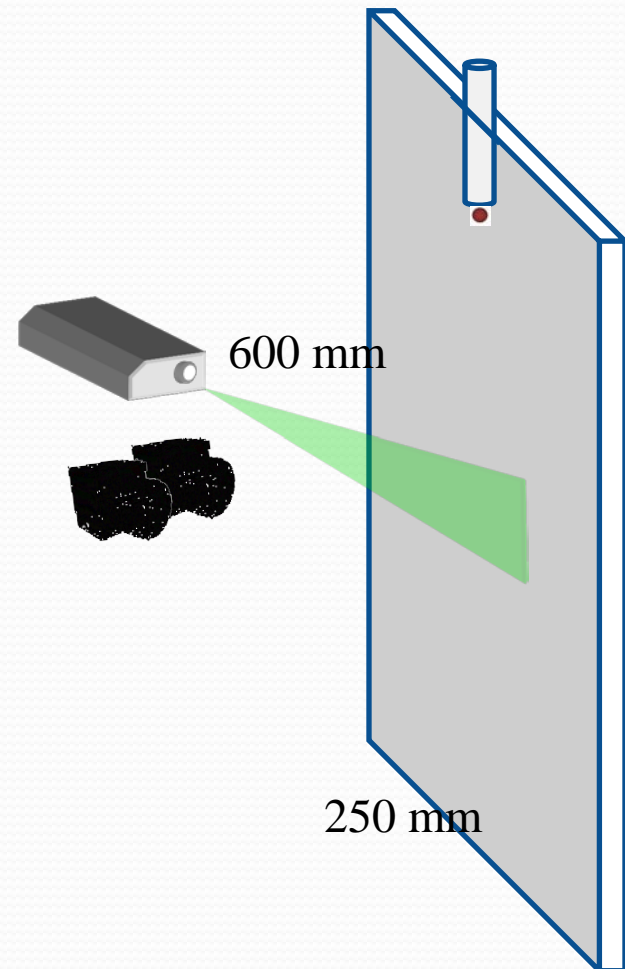
Density if the particles are **2500 and 3070 kg /m<sup>3</sup>**

Range of Reynolds number ( $d_p V_{\infty} \rho_L / \mu_L$ ) is from **43.5 to 375**.

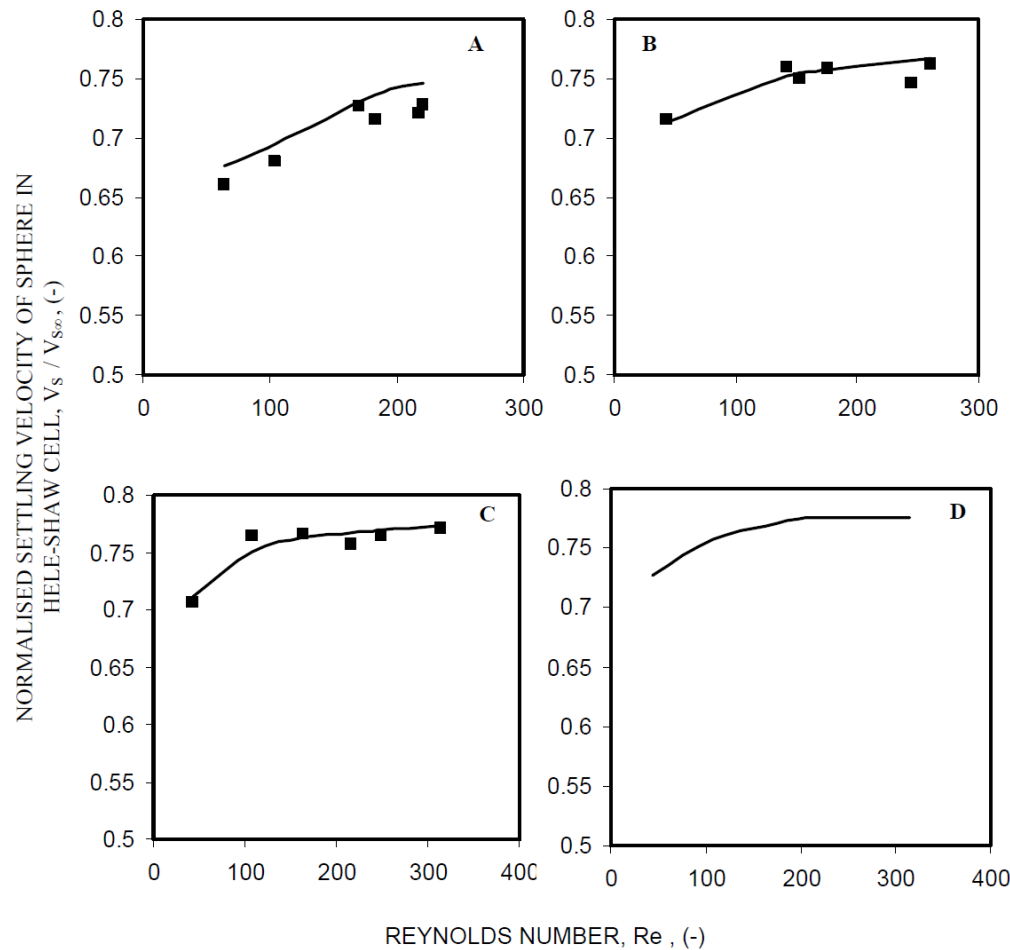
The desired range of Reynolds number was achieved using dense aqueous solutions of an inert salt, sodium metatungstate

Experimental set up is 600 mm height and 250 mm wide

The gap between the parallel plates varied from **1.014  $d_p$  to 1.4  $d_p$**  (3.1 mm to 4.34 mm)



# Comparison of the simulated settling velocity of sphere with experimental results

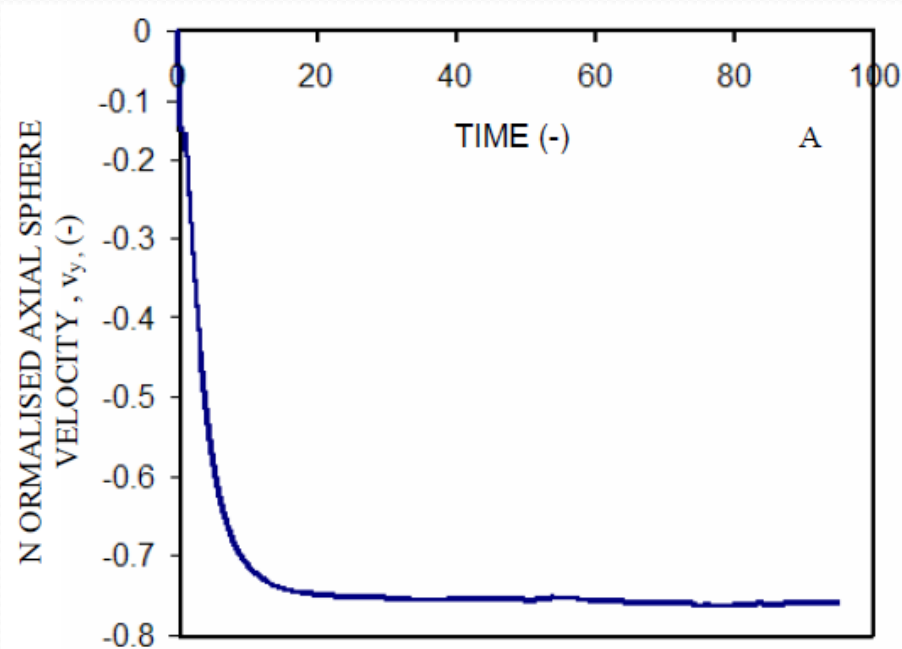


(A) gap of 1.2  $d_p$   
 (B) gap of 1.3  $d_p$   
 (C) gap of 1.4  $d_p$   
 (D) gap of 1.5  $d_p$ ;  
 —, DNS;  
 ■, Lee et al. (2007)

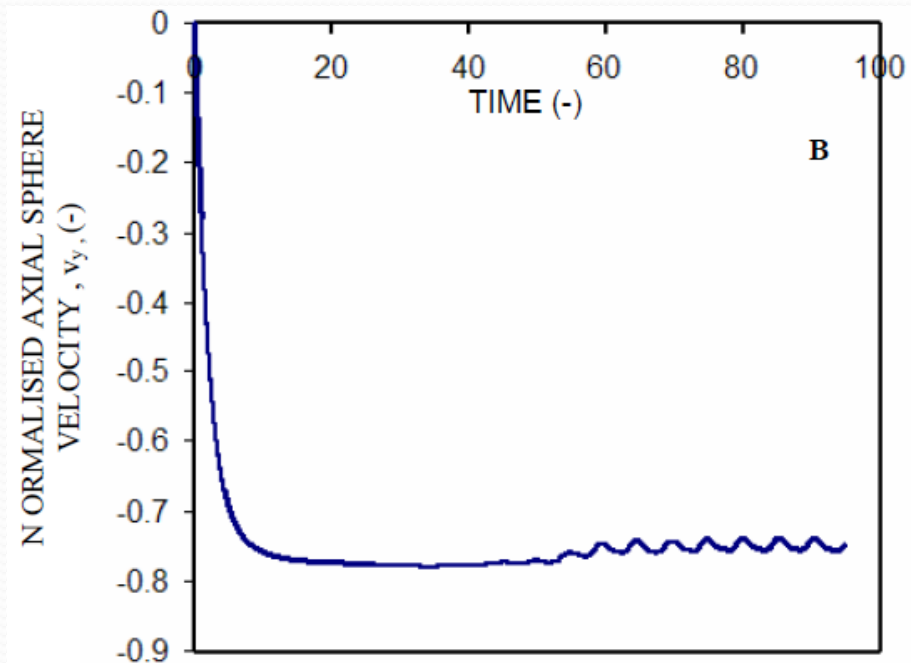


# Axial velocities ( $V_y$ ) of the freely falling sphere with respect to time at the gap of $1.4 d_p$

Re = 108



Re = 163



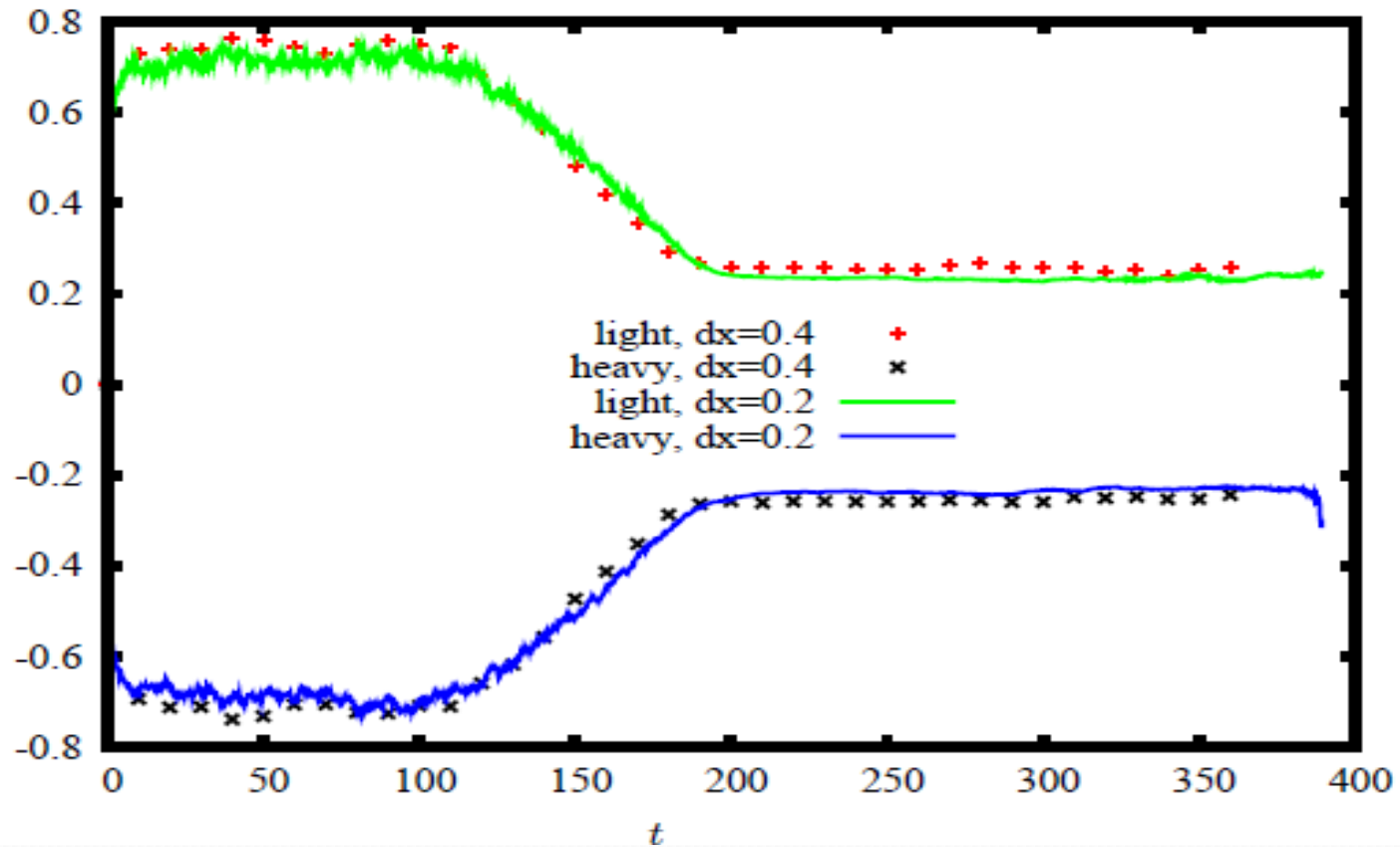
# Comparison of the computed results with experimental results of Lee et al. (2007)

S.No.	$d_p$ (mm)	$P_L$ $\text{kg m}^{-3}$	$P_p$ $\text{kg m}^{-3}$	Viscosity $\text{kg m}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$V_{S\infty}$ ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )	$Re_\infty$	Velocity of the particle in the presence of the walls ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )		Experiment $St_Y$	DNS $St_Y$	Experiment $St_Z$	DNS $St_Z$
							Experiment	DNS				
1	3.175	2523	2418	0.0059	0.0334	43.5	0.0236	0.0228	-	-	-	-
2	3.175	2523	2282	0.0045	0.0663	108	0.0507	0.0505	-	-	-	-
3	3.175	2523	2190	0.0037	0.0870	163	0.0667	0.0672	0.225	0.241	0.112	0.063
4	3.175	2523	2128	0.0032	0.1014	215	0.0768	0.0805	0.222	0.243	0.111	0.06
5	3.175	2523	2070	0.0030	0.1130	249	0.0864	0.089	0.222	0.249	0.111	0.075
6	3.175	2523	1993	0.0026	0.1293	314	0.0997	0.1025	0.113	0.252	0.113	0.078
Different density of sphere												
8	3.175	3073	2282	0.0045	0.1400	227	0.109	0.1036	0.214	0.231	0.107	0.063
9	3.175	3073	2190	0.0037	0.1577	295	0.1225	0.1297	0.109	0.123	0.109	0.069
10	3.175	3073	2128	0.0032	0.1707	362	0.1323	0.141	0.109	0.126	0.110	0.072

# 21336 particles - bidisperse



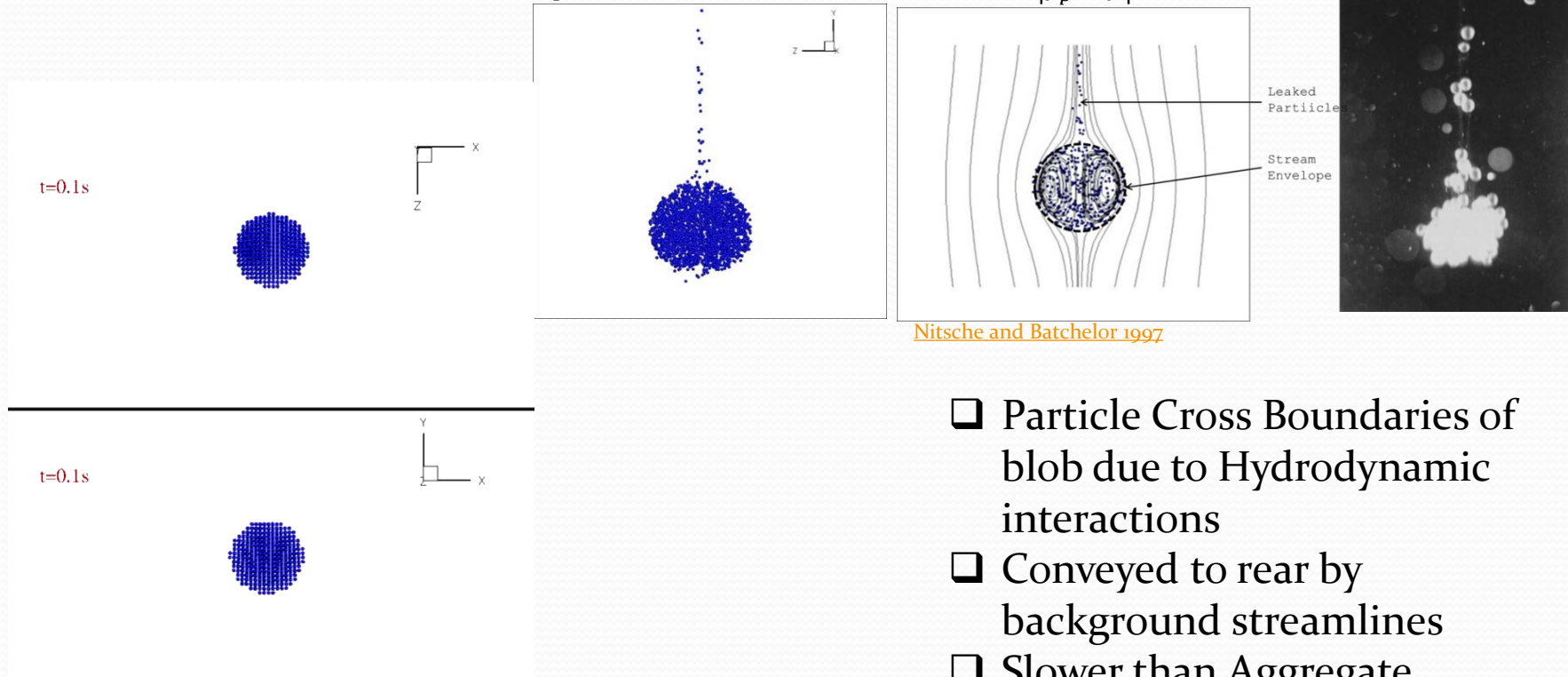
# Average settling velocity of suspension





# Particle Leakage At low $Re_c$

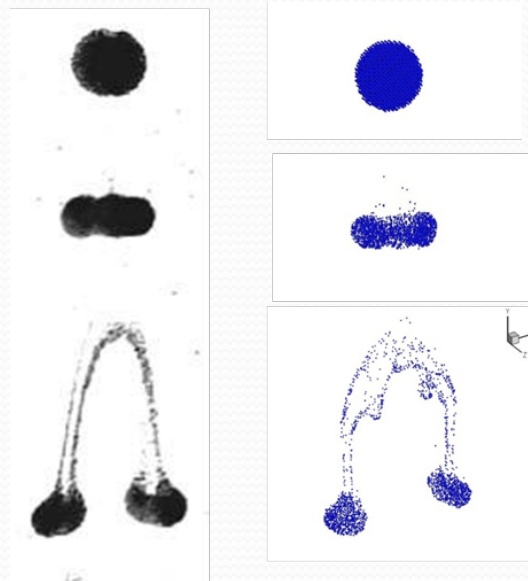
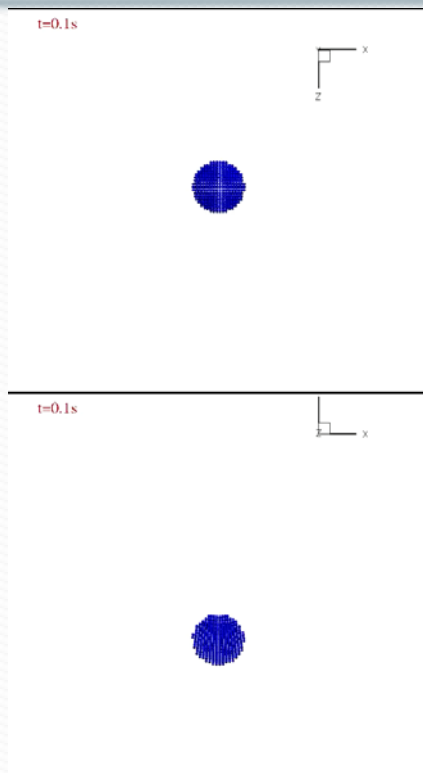
Leaked particle must subscribe to this criterion  $|y_p - \bar{y}| > 1.2R$



[Nitsche and Batchelor 1997](#)

- ❑ Particle Cross Boundaries of blob due to Hydrodynamic interactions
- ❑ Conveyed to rear by background streamlines
- ❑ Slower than Aggregate

# Break-up At Moderate $Re_c$



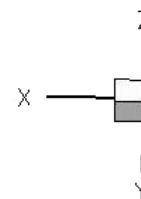
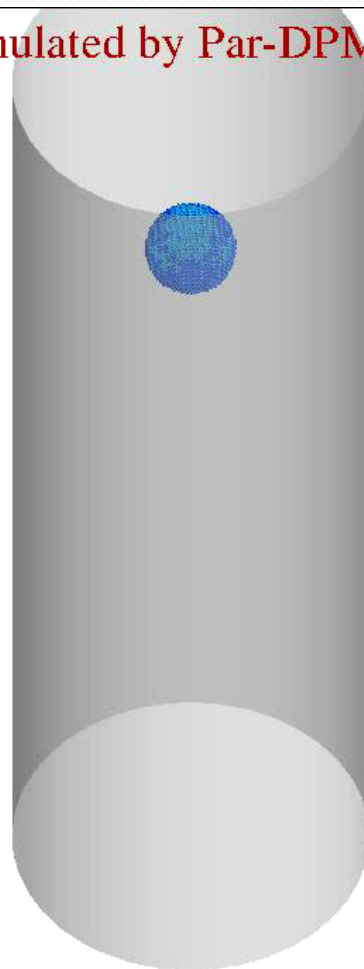
Qualitative comparison with Experiments of  
[Machu, Meile et al. 2001](#)

- ☐ Leakage is reduced
- ☐ Torus is intermediate shape of Blob
- ☐ Torus is an unstable structure

➤ Number of Secondary Drops??

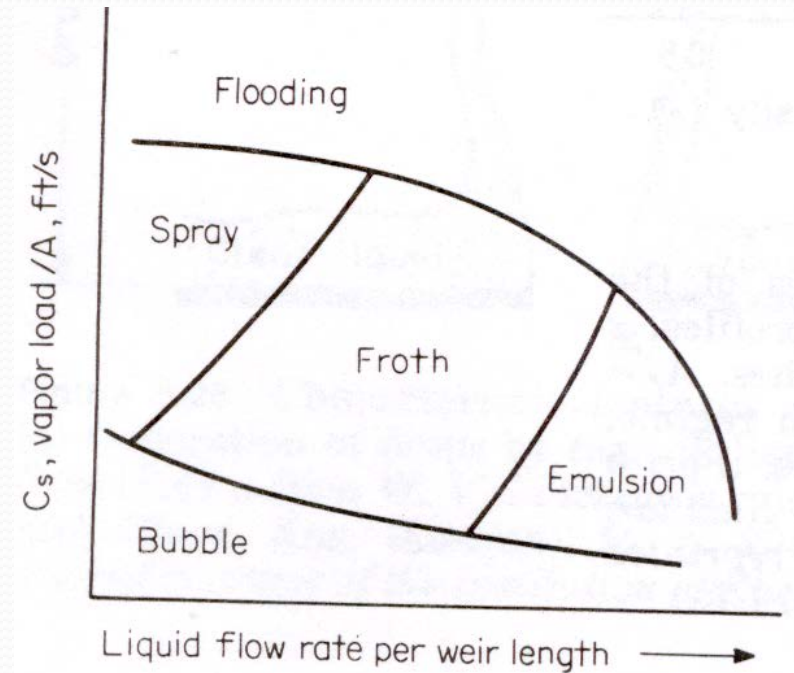
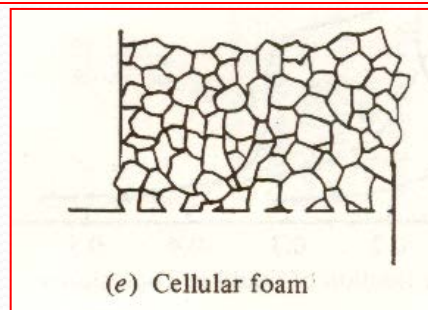
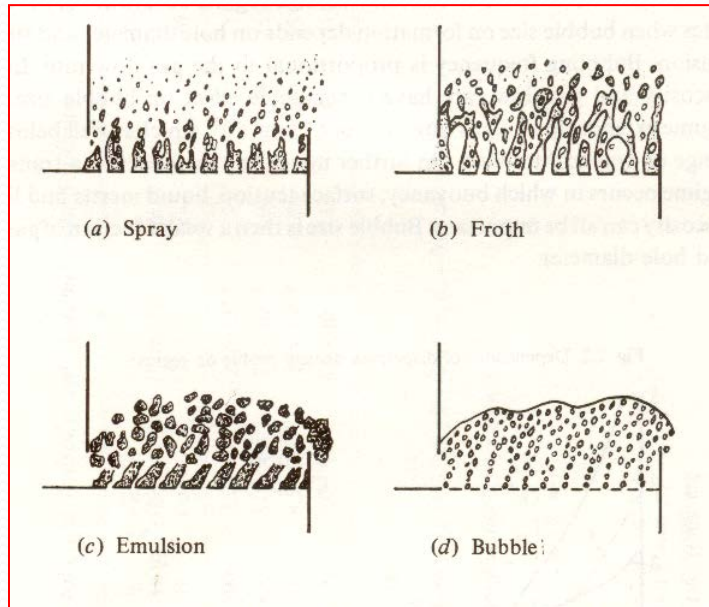
# Cloud of settling suspension Medium fidelity simulation - DPM

$t=0.02s$  simulated by Par-DPM3D



# Tray hydraulics on sieve tray

## Flow Regimes on Sieve Trays



Divide and conquer  
G. K. Batchelor



# Graphical method of McCabe-Thiele

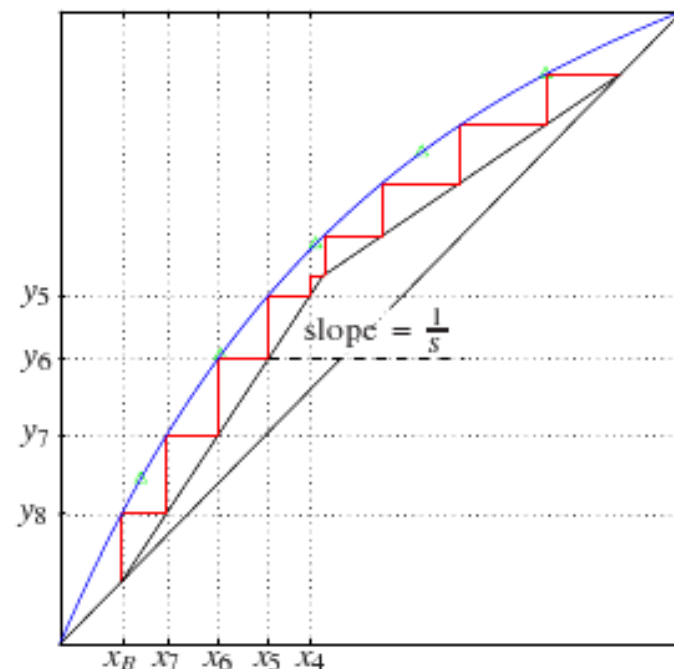
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCabe%E2%80%93Thiele\\_method](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCabe%E2%80%93Thiele_method)

The **McCabe-Thiele method** was presented by two graduate students at **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (MIT), Warren L. McCabe and Ernest W. Thiele in 1925.

## Assumptions:

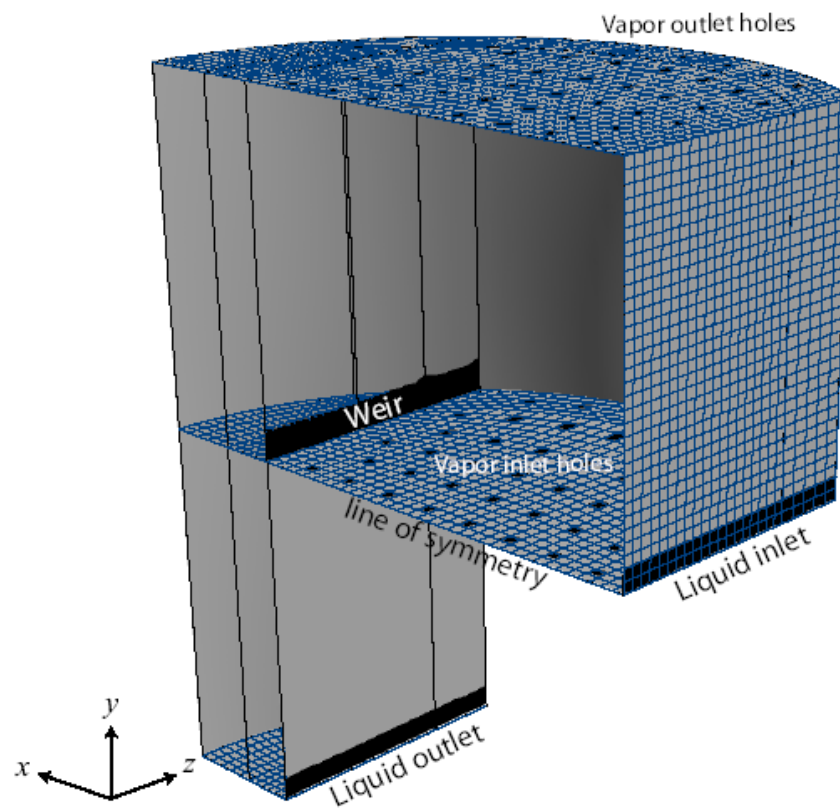
**Constant molar over flow** – makes the operating line a straight line? Is that always true or needed in the age of computers? NO! **ASPEN/HYSYS** in fact removes this assumption

**Well mixed stage**. Composition is uniform in a tray? Is that true or needed in the age of computers? NO! **Advanced CFD modeling** can remove that! [That should be the focus of our collective efforts]



$$y_i = x_0 \frac{1}{1 + R} + x_{i-1} \frac{R}{1 + R}, \quad i \in [1, n]$$

# Tray hydraulics on sieve tray - TFM



Getye Gesit, K. Nandakumar and Karl T. Chuang *AIChEJ.* **49** (2003) pp 910-924.

# Closures for Standard two-fluid model in CFX

$$M_{GL} = \frac{3}{4} \frac{C_D}{d_G} r_G \rho_L |V_G - V_L| (V_G - V_L) \quad (8)$$

The drag coefficient,  $C_D$ , has been estimated using the drag correlation of Krishna et al. (1999a), a relation proposed for the rise of a swarm of large bubbles in the churn turbulent regime

$$C_D = \frac{4}{3} \frac{\rho_L - \rho_G}{\rho_L} g d_G \frac{1}{V_{slip}^2} \quad (9)$$

where the slip velocity,  $V_{slip} = |V_G - V_L|$ , is estimated from the gas superficial velocity,  $V_S$ , and the average gas holdup fraction in the froth region is estimated as

$$V_{slip} = \frac{V_S}{r_G^{average}} \quad (10)$$

For the average gas holdup fraction, two correlations were considered. One was the correlation of Bennett et al. (1983)

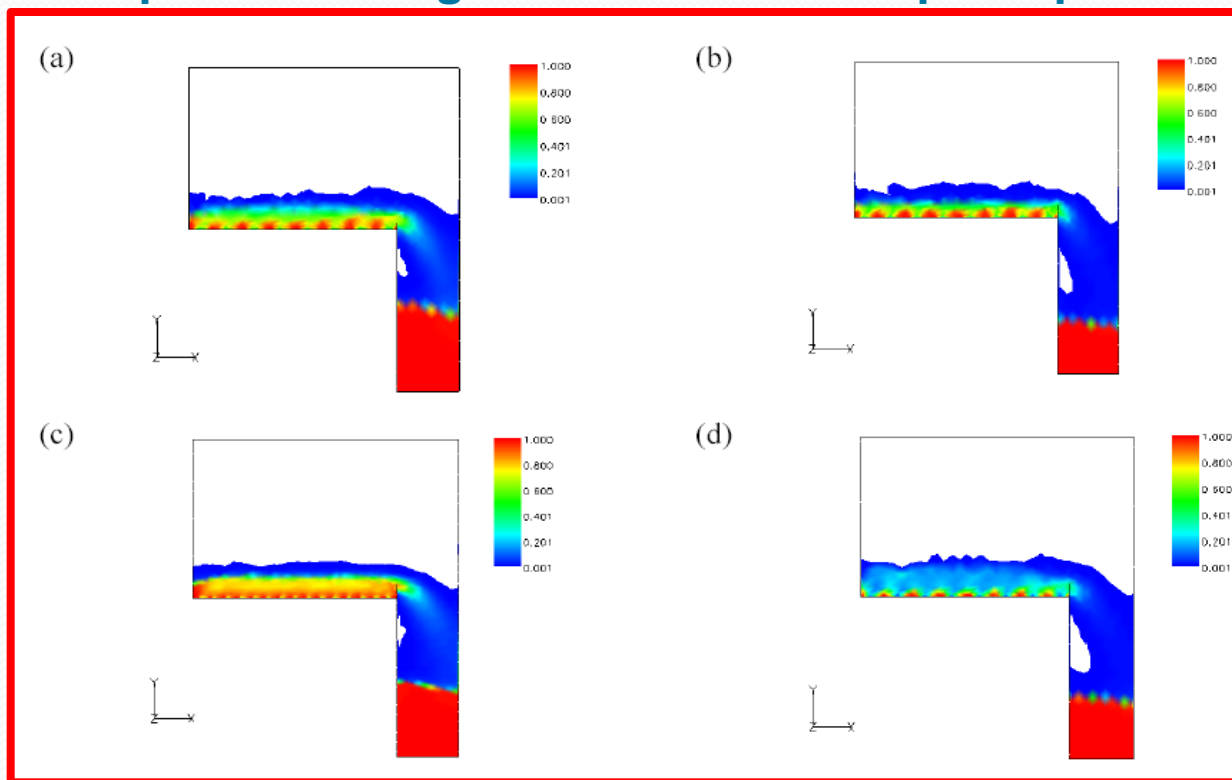
$$r_G^{average} = 1 - \exp \left[ -12.55 \left( V_S \sqrt{\frac{\rho_G}{\rho_L - \rho_G}} \right)^{0.91} \right] \quad (11)$$

The second one was Colwell's (1979)

$$r_G^{average} = 1 - \frac{1}{1 + 12.6 \left[ \left( \frac{\rho_G}{\rho_L - \rho_G} \right) \frac{V_S^2}{g h_L} \right]^{0.4} \left( \frac{A_H}{A_B} \right)^{-0.25}} \quad (12)$$

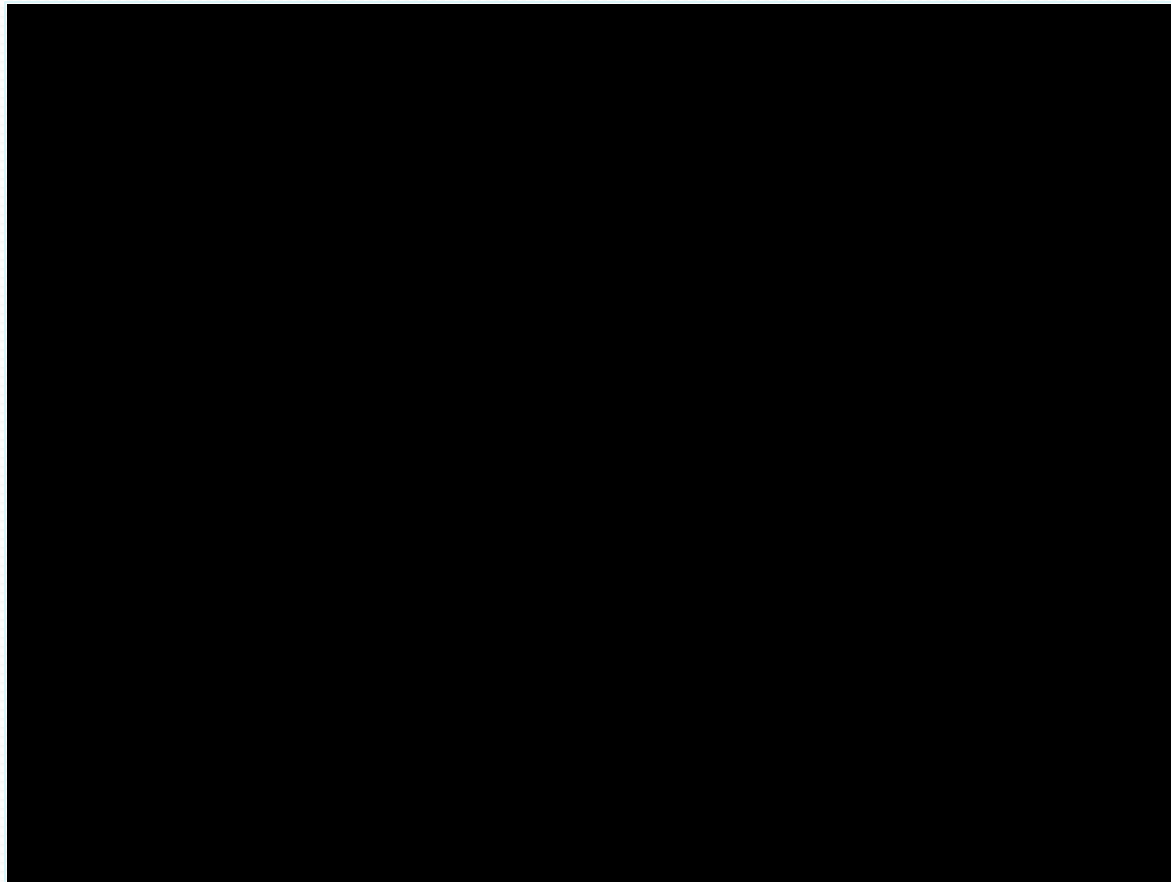
# Tray hydraulics on sieve tray - TFM

## Examples – heterogeneous nature of vapor-liquid flow



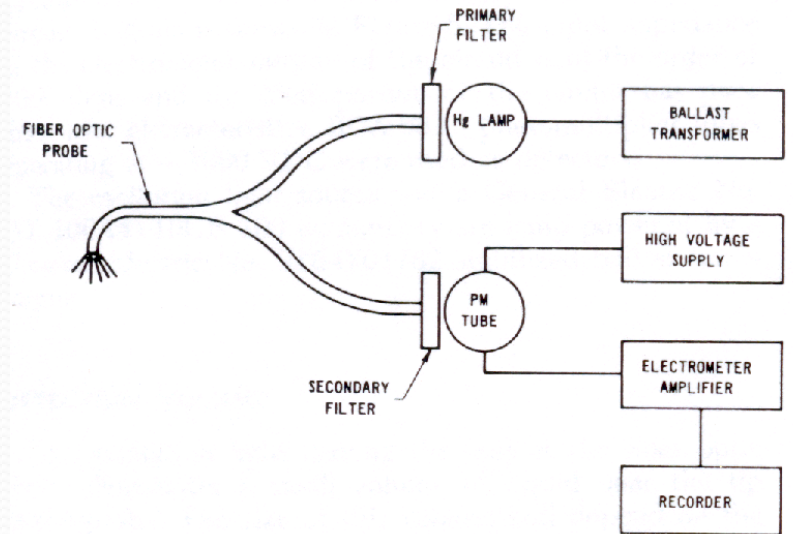
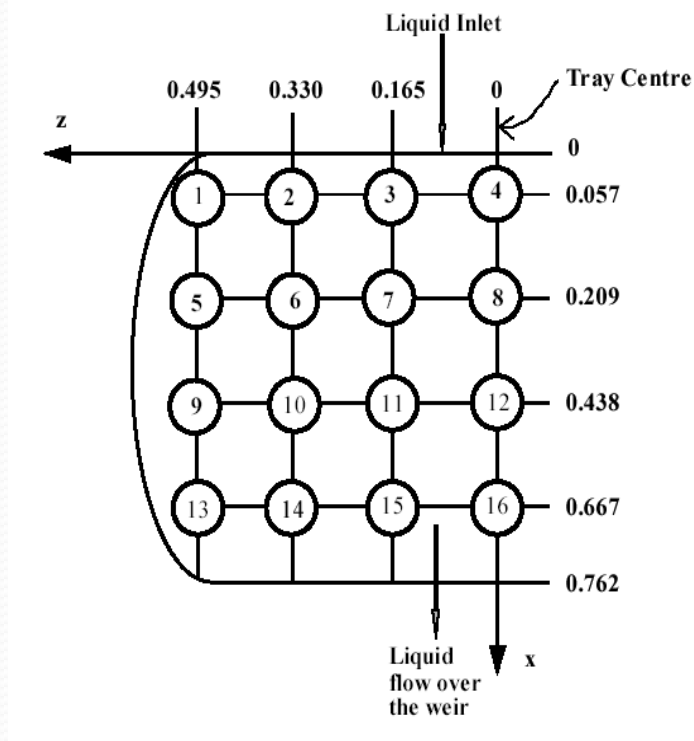
- (a)  $\bar{Q}_L = 17.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ,  $F_s = 0.462$  (40,000 nodes with 45 holes)  
 (b)  $\bar{Q}_L = 6.94 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ,  $F_s = 0.462$  (40,000 nodes with 45 holes)  
 (c)  $\bar{Q}_L = 17.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ,  $F_s = 0.462$  (90,000 nodes with actual number of holes)  
 (d)  $\bar{Q}_L = 6.94 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ,  $F_s = 1.464$  (40,000 nodes with 45 holes)

## CFD simulation of Tray hydraulics - TFM



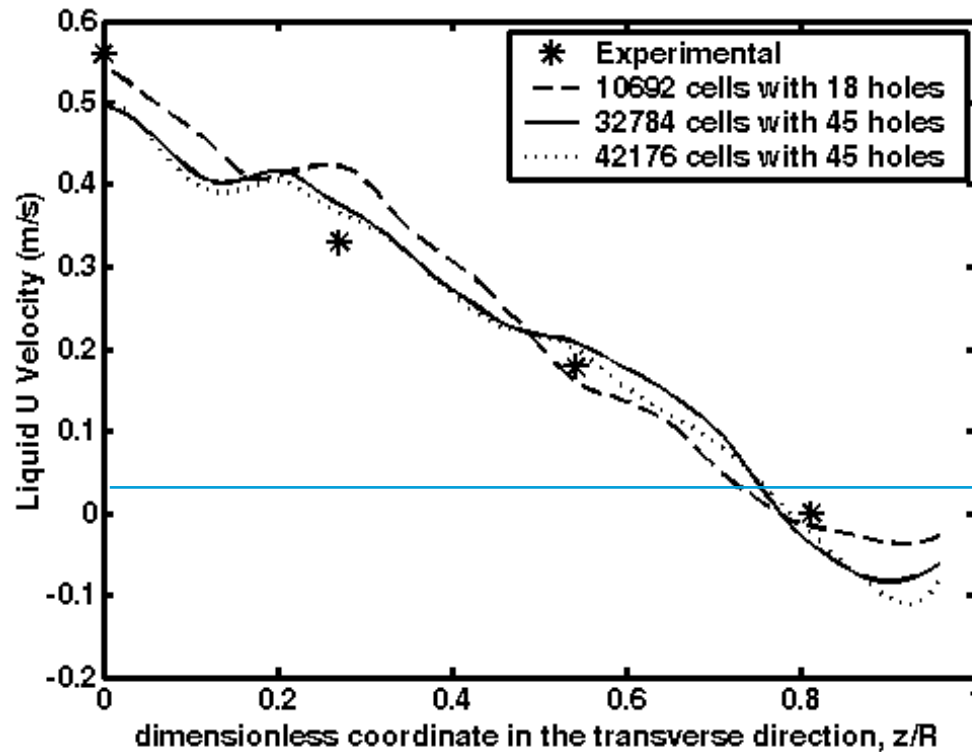


# Tray hydraulics on sieve tray - EXP



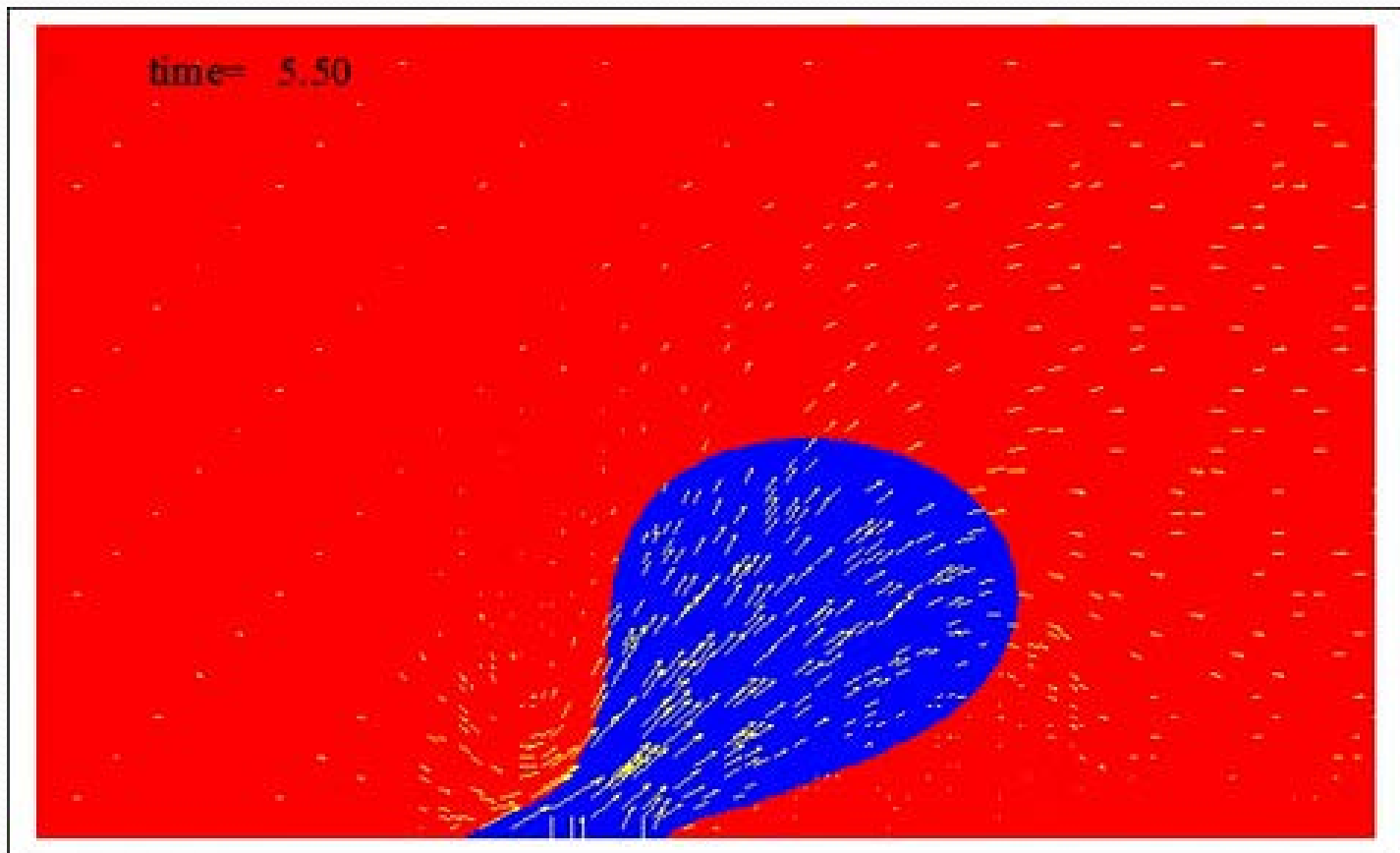
*Experimental probe positions of Solari and Bell (1986).  
The plane of the probes is at an elevation of 0.038m above the tray floor*

# Tray hydraulics on sieve tray - TFM



Sensitivity of the liquid velocity profile prediction to grid spacing, and hole number and size (CFX4.4),  $Q_L = 17.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ,  $F_S = 0.462$ .

# *Injection of a bubble through an orifice with cross flow (Distillation) – DNS-LS*



# Packed column models

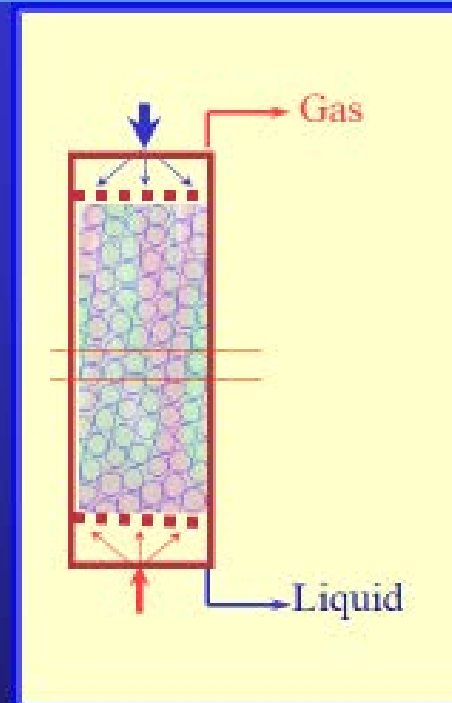
## Current Status

### One-dimensional Models/empirical equations/limitations

- Assume plug flow in both phases
- No radial/circumferential variation in porosity, flow & concentration profiles
- Negligible dispersion
- Mass transfer coefficient is constant

$$Z = \frac{G}{K_G a P} \int_{y_1}^{y_2} \frac{dy}{y - y^*} = \text{HTU} \times \text{NTU}$$

**Such a model is *not* scale invariant.  
Hence scale up is a problem.**



# Packed column models

## Current Status

### One-dimensional Models/empirical equations/limitations

#### Leva equation for pressure drop:

$$\frac{\Delta p}{z} = C_1 G_f^2 10^{C_2 L_f} + 0.774 \left( \frac{L_f}{20000} \right)^{0.1} \left( C_1 G_f^2 10^{C_2 L_f} \right)^4$$

$$G_f = \begin{cases} G \left[ \frac{1.2}{\rho_G} \right]^{-0.5} \left[ \frac{F_{pd}}{65.62} \right]^{0.5} & \text{for } p \leq 1 \text{ atm} \\ G \left[ \frac{1.2}{\rho_G} \right]^{-0.5} \left[ \frac{F_{pd}}{65.62} \right]^{0.5} 10^{0.0187 p_2} & \text{for } p > 1 \text{ atm} \end{cases}$$

$$L_f = \begin{cases} L \left[ \frac{1000}{\rho_L} \right] \left[ \frac{F_{pd}}{65.62} \right]^{-0.5} \mu_L^{0.1} & \text{for } F_{pd} \geq 15 \\ L \left[ \frac{1000}{\rho_L} \right] \left[ \frac{65.62}{F_{pd}} \right]^{-0.5} \mu_L^{0.1} & \text{for } F_{pd} < 15 \end{cases}$$

#### Onda's mass transfer correlation:

$$k_L = 0.0051 \left( \frac{\mu_L g}{\rho_L} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \left( \frac{L}{a_m \mu_L} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \left( \frac{\mu_L}{\rho_L D_L} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (a_p d_p)^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$k_G = k_p (a_p D_G) \left( \frac{G}{a_p \mu_G} \right)^{\frac{7}{10}} \left( \frac{\mu_G}{\rho_G D_G} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} (a_p d_p)^{-2.0}$$

Input as closure model  
to CFD



# Packed column models

## Current Status

### One-dimensional Models/empirical Approach/limitations

$$\frac{a_w}{a_p} = 1 - \exp \left[ -1.45 \left( \frac{\sigma_c}{\sigma} \right)^{\frac{3}{4}} \left( \frac{L}{a_p \mu_L} \right)^{\frac{1}{10}} \left( \frac{L^2 a_p}{\rho_L^2 g} \right)^{-\frac{1}{20}} \left( \frac{L^2}{\rho_L \sigma a_p} \right)^{\frac{1}{5}} \right]$$

### Mass dispersion correlation:

$$Pe_L = 5.337 \times 10^{-4} \left( \frac{d_e L}{\mu_L} \right)^{0.472} \left( \frac{d_e G}{\mu_G} \right)^{0.293} \left( \frac{d_e}{D} \right)^{-0.867}$$

### Porosity variation

$$\varepsilon = 1 - (1 - \varepsilon_b) \left\{ 1 - \exp \left[ -2 \left( \frac{R - r}{d_p} \right)^2 \right] \right\}$$

Input as closure model  
to CFD

# Packed column models

## Current Status

### One-dimensional Models/empirical Approach/limitations

**HETP correlation Wagner et al I&ECR (1997):**

$$HETP = C_{pk} \frac{Z^{0.5}}{a_p} \left( \frac{\pi(\varepsilon - h)u_v}{4D_v} \right)^{0.5} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{hD_v M_L \rho_v}{(\varepsilon - h)D_L M_L \rho_L} \frac{V}{L} \right)^{0.5} \right] \left[ \left( \frac{(1 - \varepsilon + h)}{1 - \varepsilon} \right)^{2/3} - 1 \right]^{-1}$$

**Billet's holdup correlation:**

$$h_L = \left( 12 \frac{1}{g} \frac{\mu_L}{\rho_L} u_L a^2 \right)^{1/3} \left( \frac{a_h}{a} \right)^{2/3}$$

$$Re_L = \frac{u_L \rho_L}{a \mu_L} < 5: \quad \frac{a_h}{a} = C_h \left( \frac{u_L \rho_L}{a \mu_L} \right)^{0.125} \left( \frac{u_L^2 a}{g} \right)^{0.1}$$

$$Re_L = \frac{u_L \rho_L}{a \mu_L} \geq 5: \quad \frac{a_h}{a} = 0.85 C_h \left( \frac{u_L \rho_L}{a \mu_L} \right)^{0.125} \left( \frac{u_L^2 a}{g} \right)^{0.1}$$

**NOTE: HETP depends on height, Z!**

## Packed column models

### Relation to traditional one-D models

#### Species conservation

$$\cancel{\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho_a \rho_a Y_{ia})} + \nabla \cdot [\cancel{\gamma_a (\rho_a \mathbf{U}_a Y_{ia} - \Gamma_a \nabla Y_{ia})}] = \sum_{\beta=1, \beta \neq \alpha}^N \dot{m}_{i\beta}^a \quad \alpha = L, G$$

$$t = 1, \dots, N_c$$

Assume steady conditions

No dispersion in any direction

Plug flow ( $U$  is constant) & one-dimensional flow ( $z$ -dn only)

$$\gamma_G (\rho_G \mathbf{U}_G) \frac{dY_{iG}}{dz} = \dot{m}_{iG}^L = K_G a_c M_A (Y_{iL}^* - Y_{iG})$$

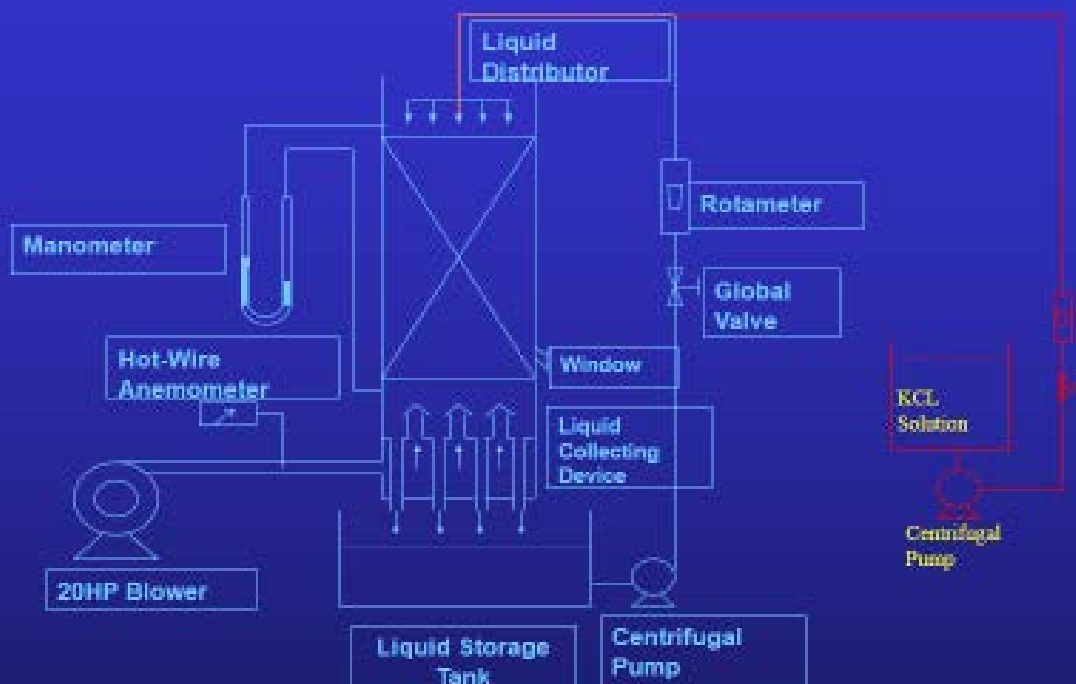
## *Packed column models*

### Two feet air-water column



# Packed column models

## Schematic of Experimental Facility

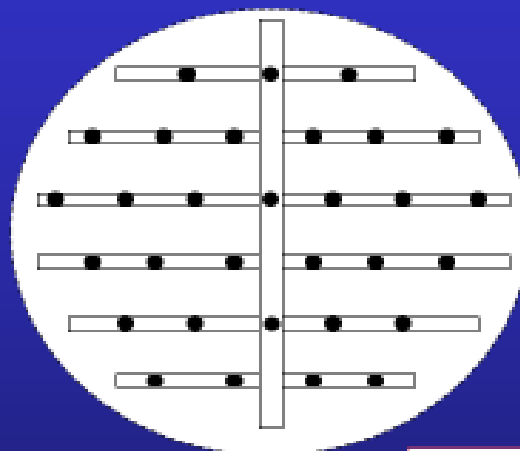




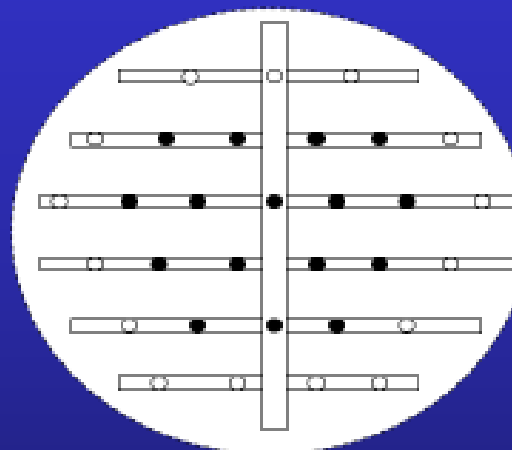
# *Packed column models*

## Schematic of Liquid Distributor

Uniform distributor



Center distributor

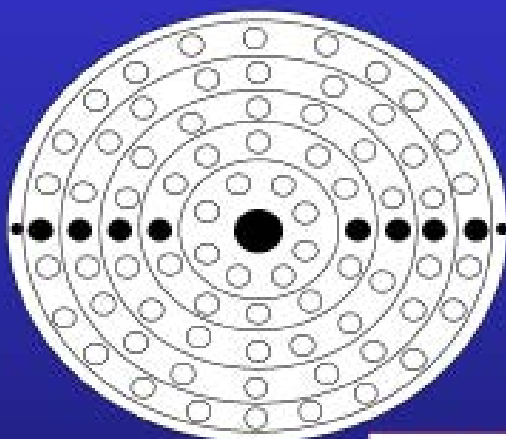


- Active holes
- Inactive holes

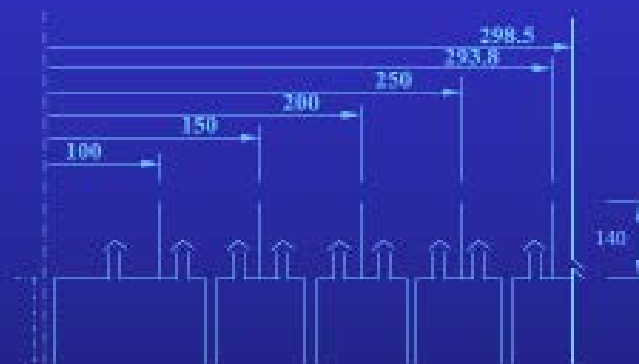
# Packed column models

## Schematic of Liquid Collector

Top View



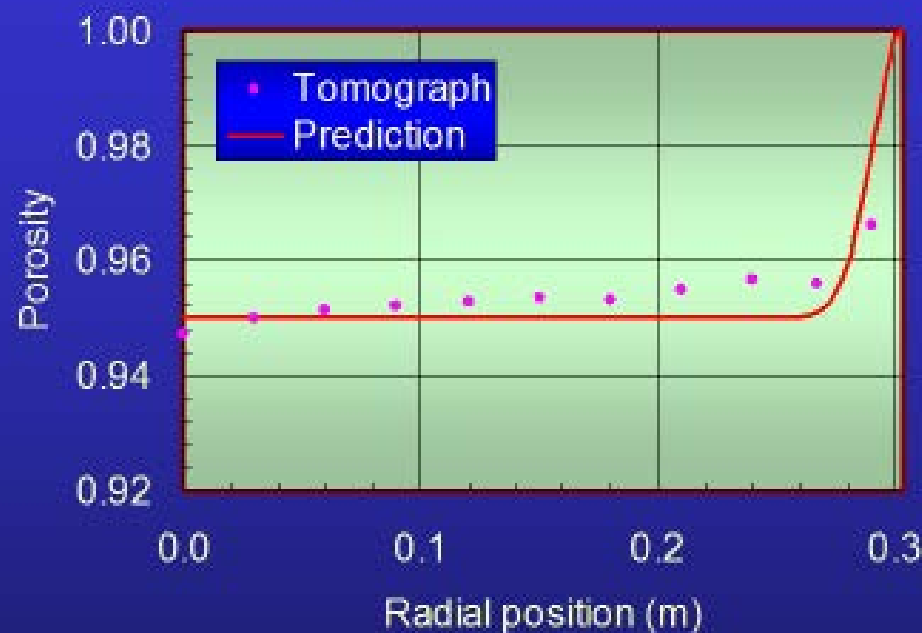
Side View



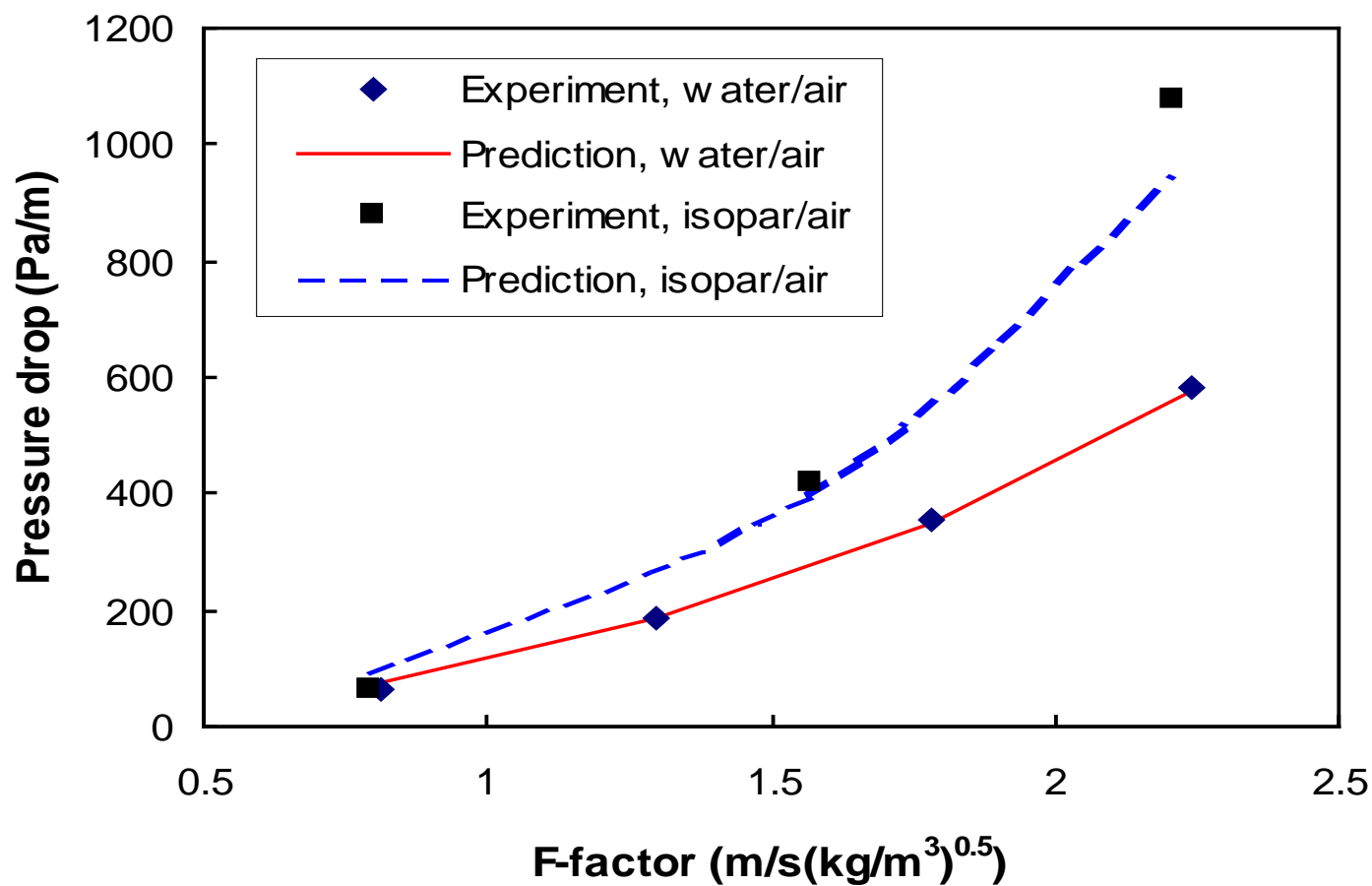
- Liquid Drain Tube
- Gas Rising Tube

## *Packed column models*

### (A) Radial Variation of Porosity 25 mm metal Pall Ring



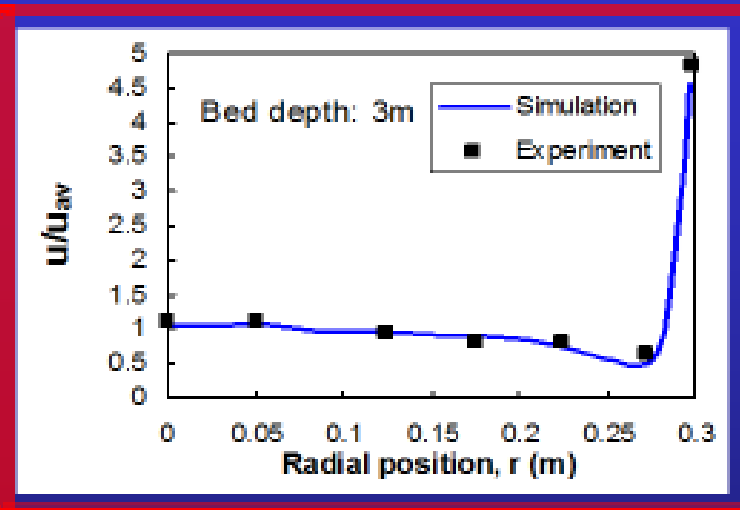
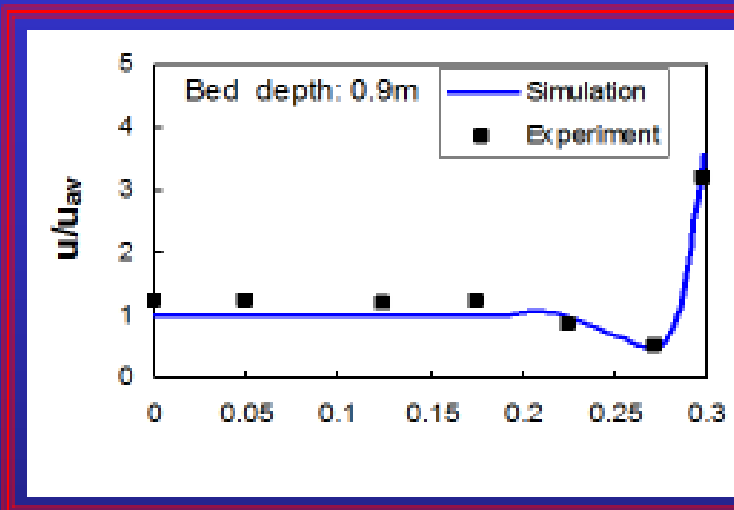
# *Packed column models*



## Packed column models

### (a) Validation of flow profile from CFD

uniform inlet distribution, water/air,  $L=4.78 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $G=0.75 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

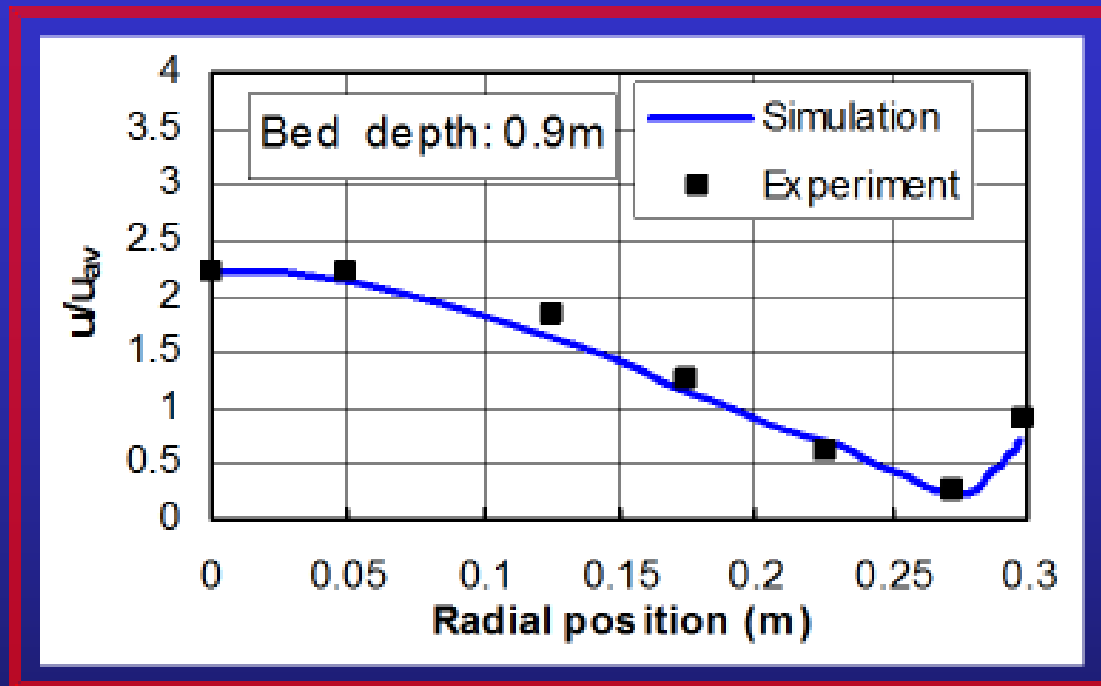




## Packed column models

### (a) Validation of flow profile from CFD

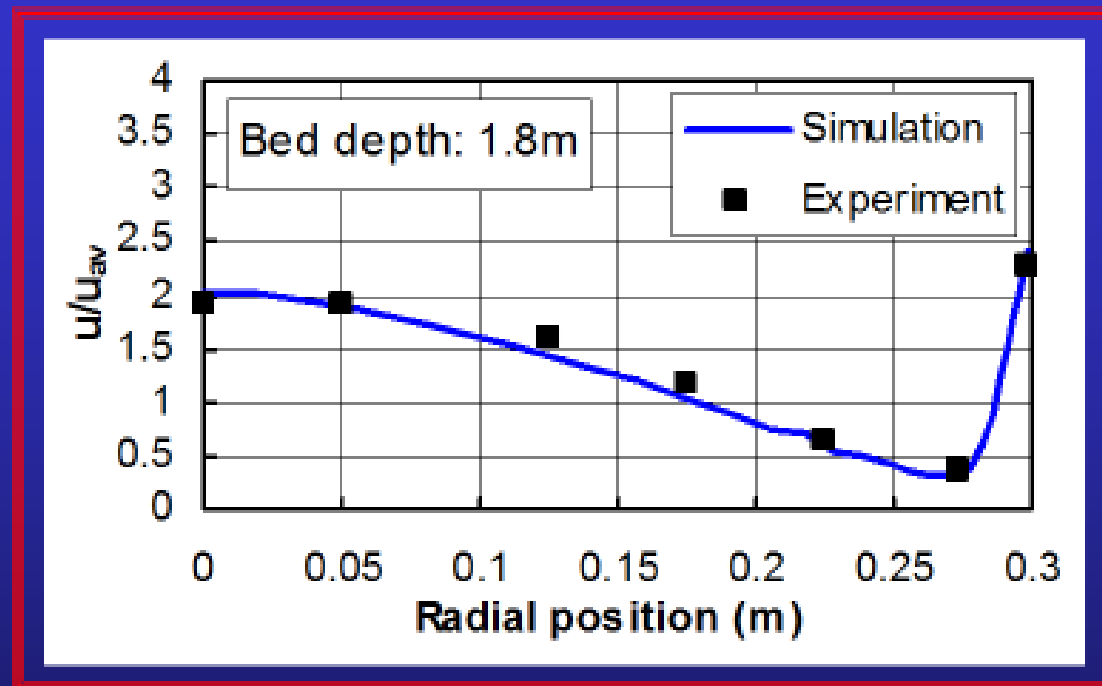
43% inlet distribution, water/air,  $L=4.78 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $G=0.75 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$



## Packed column models

### (a) Validation of flow profile from CFD

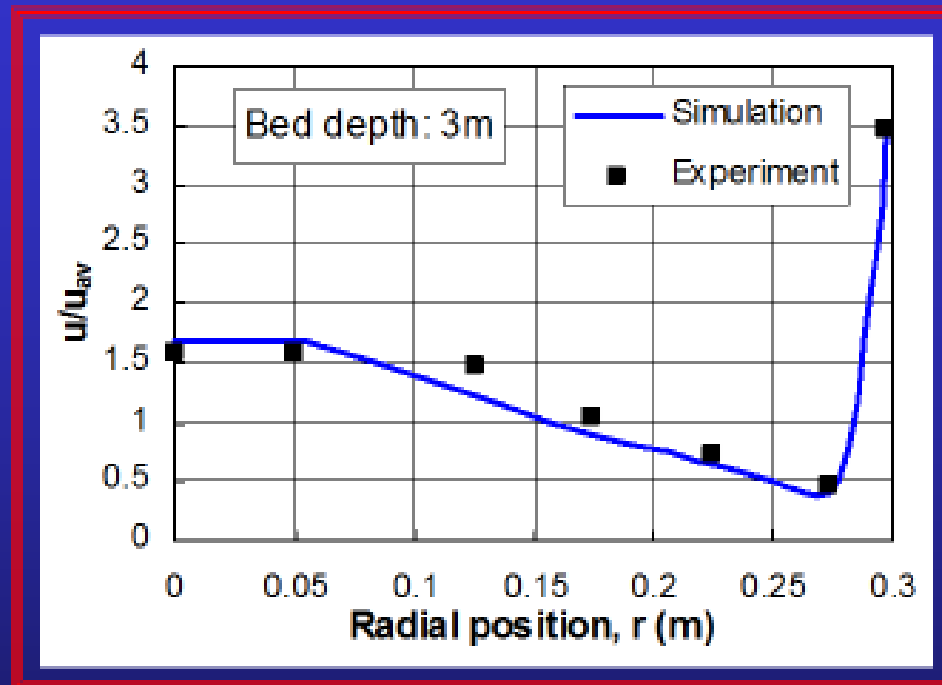
43% inlet distribution, water/air,  $L=4.78 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $G=0.75 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$



# Packed column models

## (a) Validation of flow profile from CFD

43% inlet distribution, water/air,  $L=4.78 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $G=0.75 \text{ kg m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$



## Packed column models

### (c) Closure models for *mass transfer* in CFD

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\gamma_\alpha \rho_\alpha Y_m) + \nabla \cdot [\gamma_\alpha (\rho_\alpha \mathbf{U}_\alpha Y_m - \Gamma_{\alpha m} \nabla Y_m)] = \sum_{\beta=L, G}^N \dot{m}_{\alpha\beta}^I \quad \alpha = L, G$$

$$I = 1, \dots, N_c$$

$$\dot{m}_{LG}^A = k_L a_e M_A (x_A - x_A^I)$$

$$\dot{m}_{LG}^A = k_G a_e M_A (y_A^I - y_A)$$

$$y_A^I = \frac{\alpha x_A^I}{1 + (\alpha - 1)x_A^I}$$

$$k_L = 0.0051 \left( \frac{\mu_L g}{\rho_L} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \left( \frac{L}{a_p \mu_L} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \left( \frac{\mu_L}{\rho_L D_L} \right)^{-\frac{1}{3}} (a_p d_p)^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$k_G = k_p (a_p D_G) \left( \frac{G}{a_p \mu_G} \right)^{\frac{7}{10}} \left( \frac{\mu_G}{\rho_G D_G} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} (a_p d_p)^{-2.0}$$

$$\frac{a_w}{a_p} = 1 - \exp \left[ -1.45 \left( \frac{\sigma_c}{\sigma} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left( \frac{L}{a_p \mu_L} \right)^{\frac{1}{10}} \left( \frac{L^2 a_p}{\rho_L^2 g} \right)^{-\frac{1}{10}} \left( \frac{L^2}{\rho_L \sigma a_p} \right)^{\frac{1}{5}} \right]$$

$$Pe_L = 5.337 \times 10^{-4} \left( \frac{d_e L}{\mu_L} \right)^{0.472} \left( \frac{d_e G}{\mu_G} \right)^{0.293} \left( \frac{d_e}{D} \right)^{-0.307}$$

## Packed column models

### (c) Validation of *mass transfer* from CFD

#### Simulation Conditions (FRI data)

- System: cyclohexane/n-heptane at total reflux
- Operating Pressures: 33.3 and 165.5 kPa
- Column Diameter: 1.22 m
- Packed Bed Height: 3.66 m
- Packings: 15.9, 25.4, 50.8 mm metal Pall rings

Local HETP is calculated as follows:

$$N_{\text{OGL}} = \int_{y_{AZ}}^{y_{AZ+\Delta Z}} \frac{dy}{y_A^* - y_A} \quad H_{\text{OGL}} = \frac{\Delta Z}{N_{\text{OGL}}} \quad \text{HETP}_l = H_{\text{OGL}} \frac{\ln \left( m_l \frac{G_l}{L_l} \right)}{m_l \frac{G_l}{L_l} - 1}$$

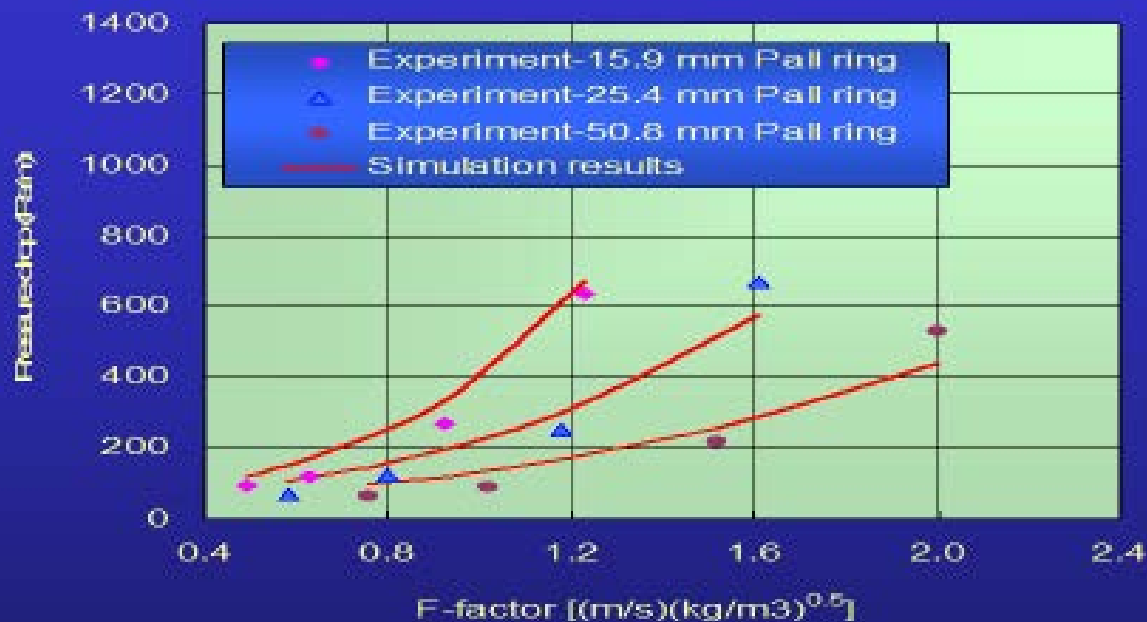


## Packed column models

### (c) Validation of *mass transfer* from CFD

FRI data on pressure drop System:  $C_6/C_7$ ,

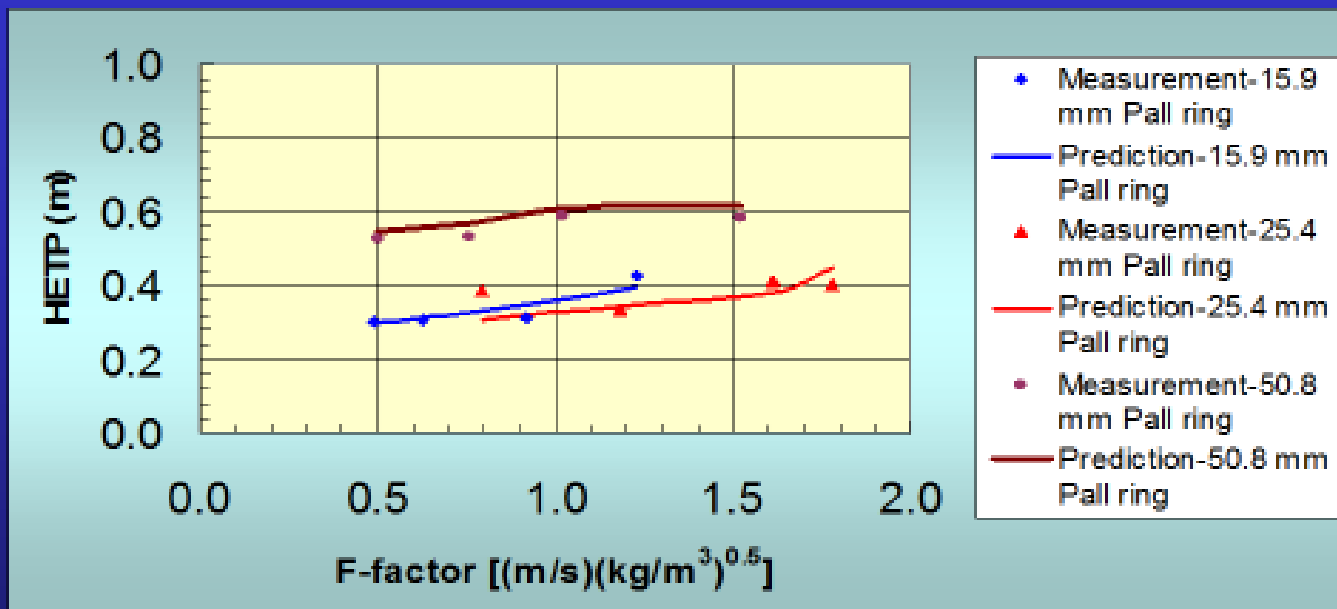
uniform inlet, Diameter of column: 1.22 m, 165.5 kPa



## Packed column models

### (c) Validation of *mass transfer* from CFD

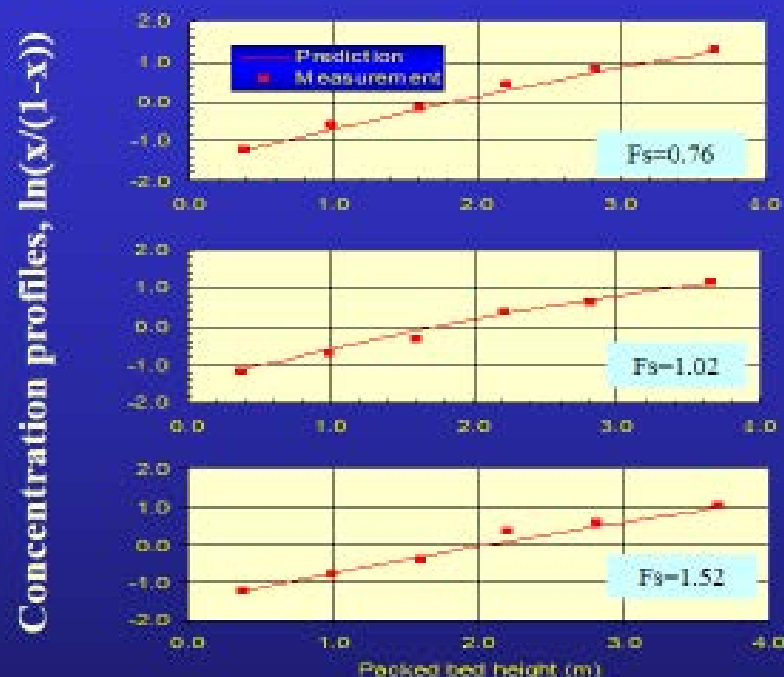
FRI data on HETP System:  $C_6/C_7$ ,  
uniform inlet,  $P=165.5$  kPa



# Packed column models

## (c) Validation of *mass transfer* from CFD

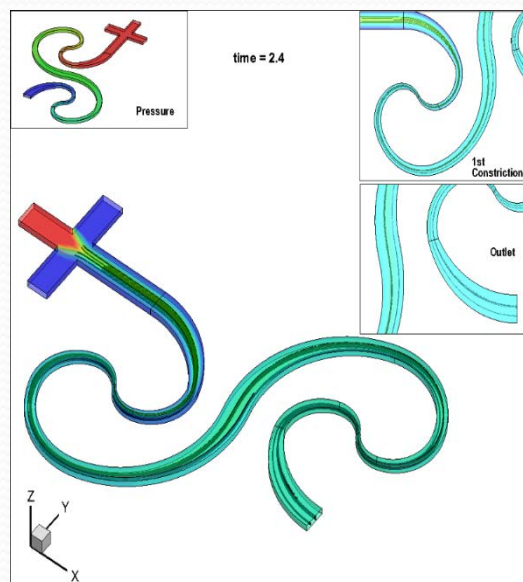
FRI data on concentration: System- $C_6/C_7$ ,  
50.8mm Pall rings, uniform inlet, 165.5 kPa



## Multiphase flows – challenges

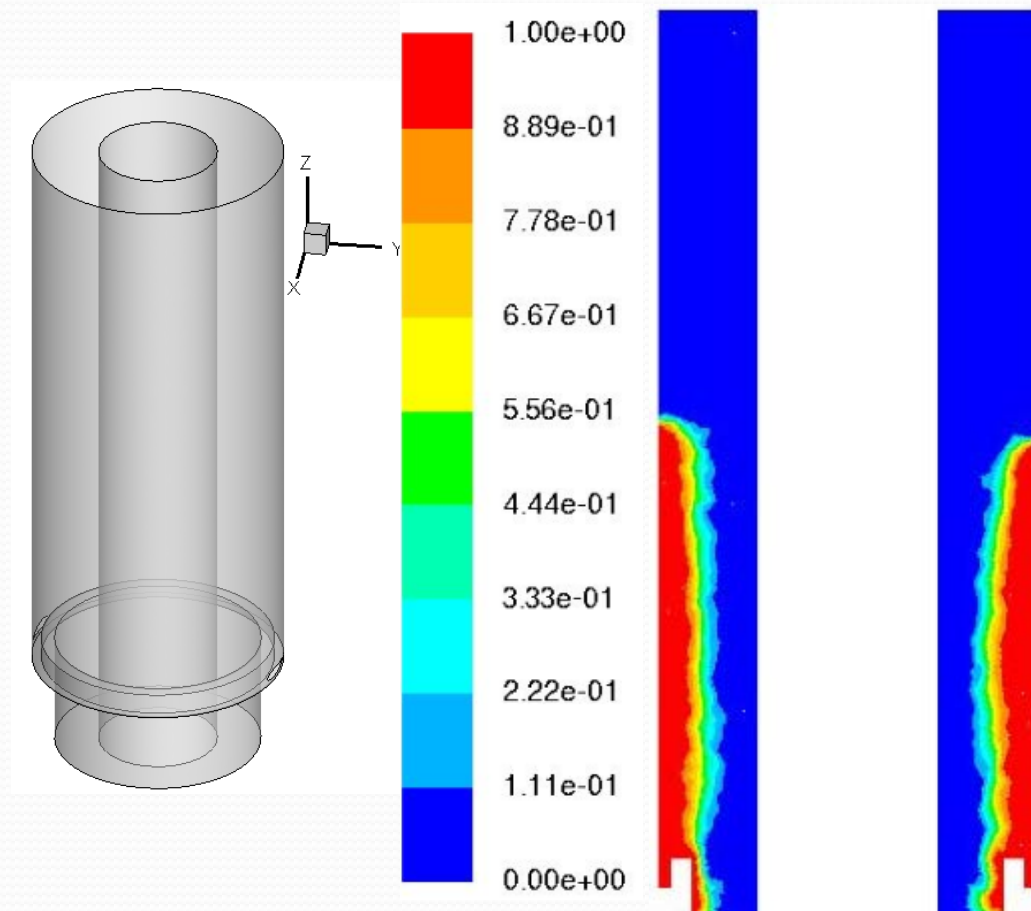
- Multiphase flows are ubiquitous in chemical, petroleum, mineral, food processing industries.
  - Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill,
  - Heavy-oil with sand and water,
  - progressive cavity pumps,
  - Gravity separation vessels,
  - Hydro transport in pipelines,
  - Crude distillation towers,
  - packed towers, tray columns,
  - Fuel cells
  - Polymer processing – mixing
  - Microfluidic devices
  - Erosion problems and many more.
- Fluid mechanics is often ignored by assuming well mixed, spatially homogeneous conditions and using effective properties.
- But large scale flow pattern can change with changing operating conditions or scale up of devices.
- Will the measured tray efficiency or RTD remain the scale invariant?  
Can Multiphase CFD aid in scaling up equipment without the need for expensive pilot scale experiments?
- Can we understand and manage the spatial heterogeneities inside vessels to improve performance of separation or reaction systems.

## Examples of novel designs



Micro mixer for  
cryopreserved  
sperm cell activation

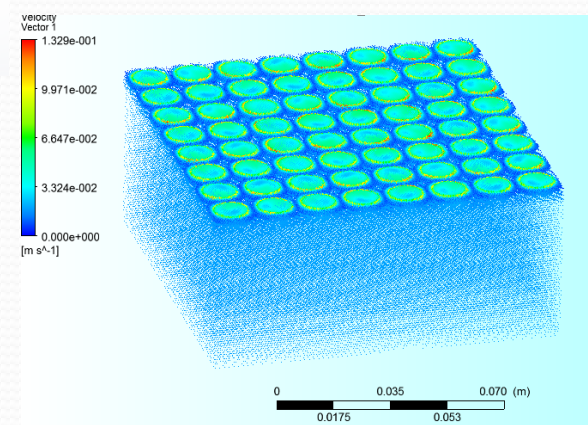
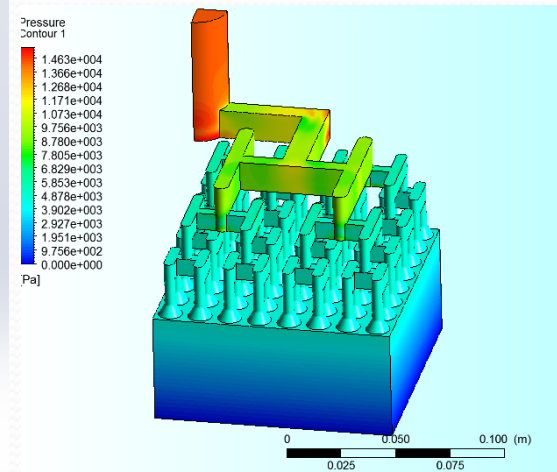
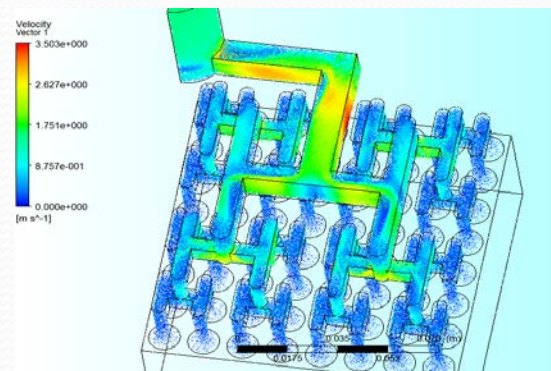
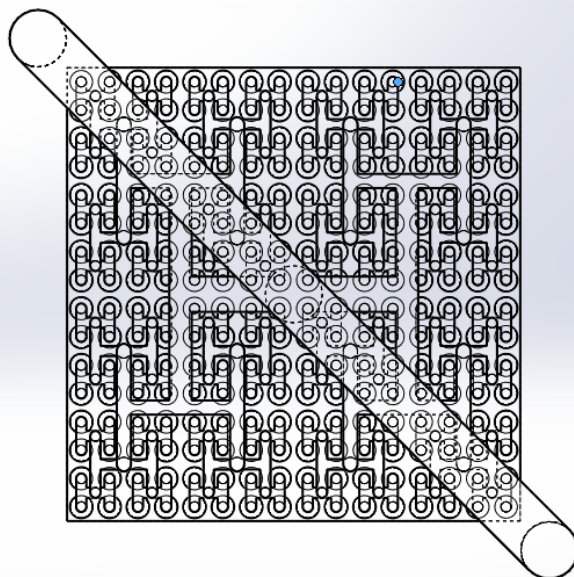
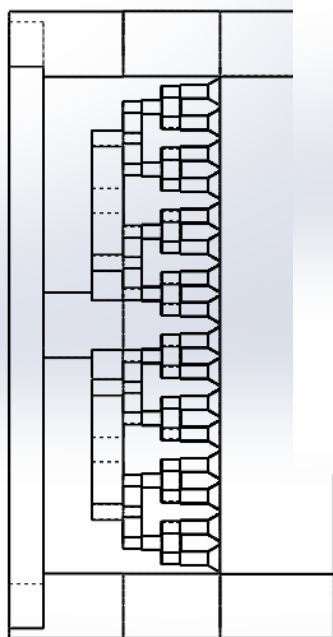
## Small Company Hydroflame





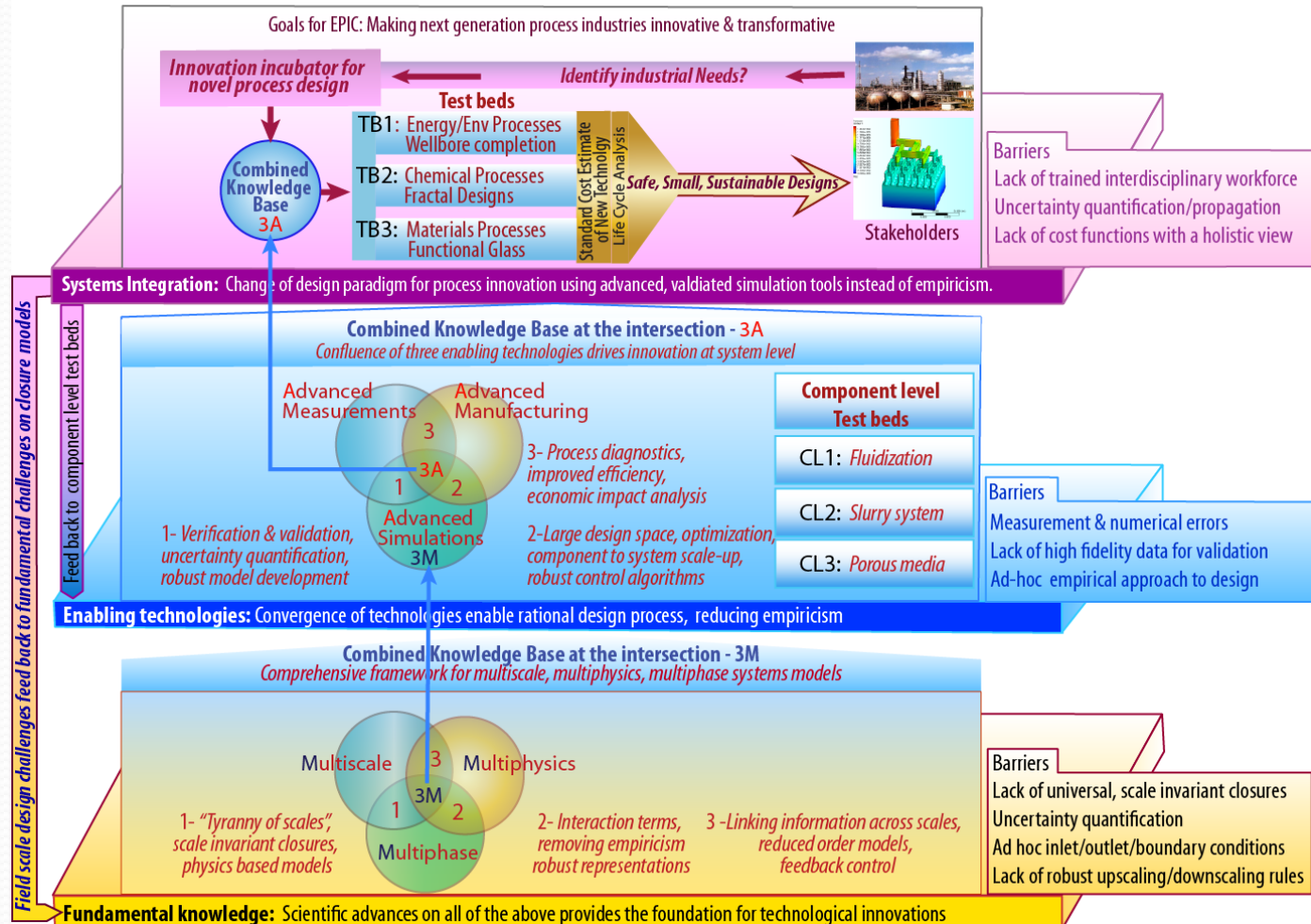
## Examples of novel designs

Fractal based distributors – medium sized ARi

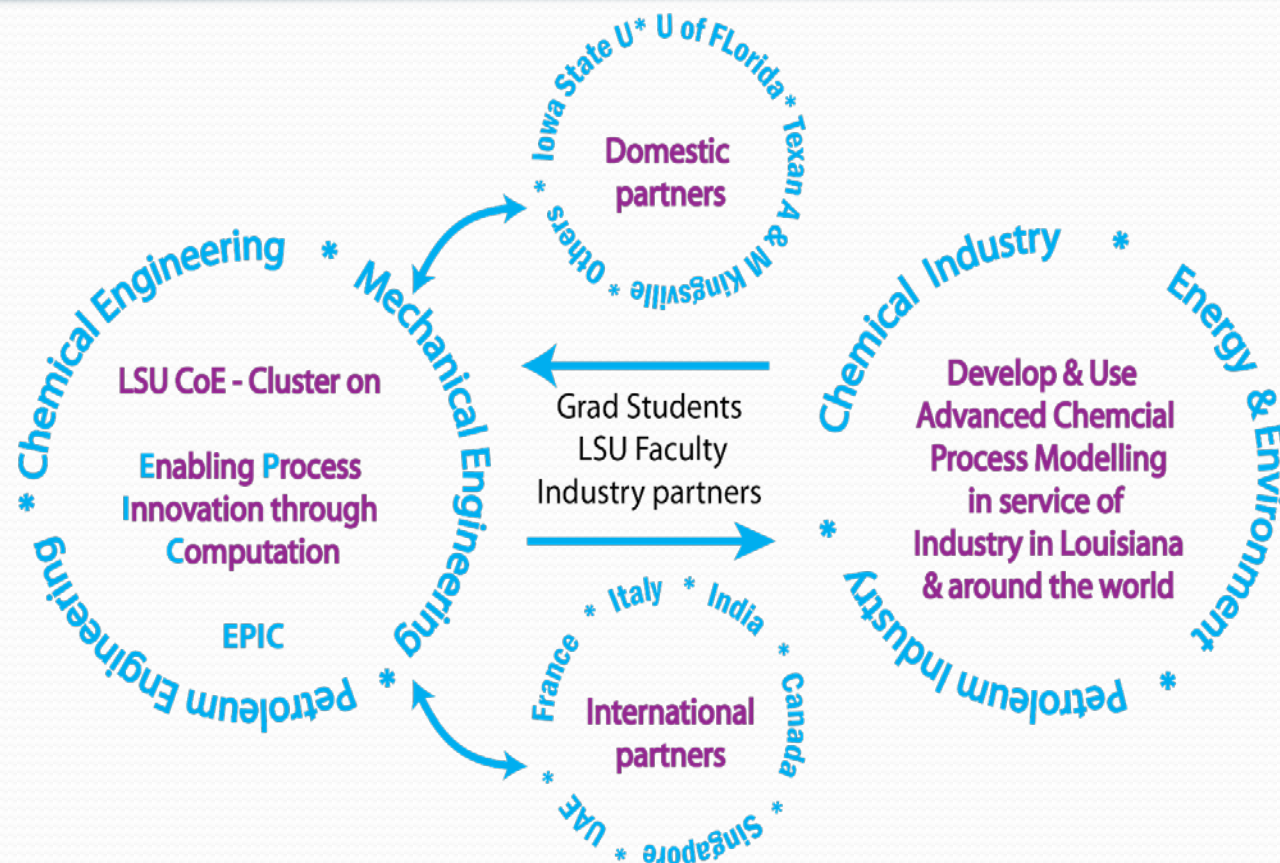


# Design innovation cycle for process industries

L02435109, Nandakumar, NSF ERC- Enabling Process Innovation through Computation - EPIC, Louisiana State University



# Internationally interlinked clusters on multiphase flow problems



Joint Doctoral program between US Universities and the PI  
Joint Annual Technical Conference for ADNOC group of companies and LCA in Baton Rouge

## Some concluding observations and quotes

*“Essentially, all **models** are wrong, but some are useful” – - George Box.*

- let us not wait for that perfect model before we start using the models to innovate process systems.

*“For the **theory-practice iteration to work**, the scientist must be, as it were, mentally ambidextrous; fascinated equally on the one hand by possible meanings, theories, and tentative models to be induced from data and the practical reality of the real world, and on the other with the factual implications deducible from tentative theories, models and hypotheses” - - George Box.*

- Although none of us were trained to be ambidextrous, let us train the next generation of graduate students to be so.



# Road map for integrated graduate training in Chemical Processes

