



Visualizing the Navier-Stokes Equations

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Problem Statement

To design a physical model of laminar flow between flat plates that can be manipulated and observed, to report the fluid velocity at various points as a teaching aid to facilitate learning of the **Navier-Stokes equations, assumptions, and conditions.**

Motivation

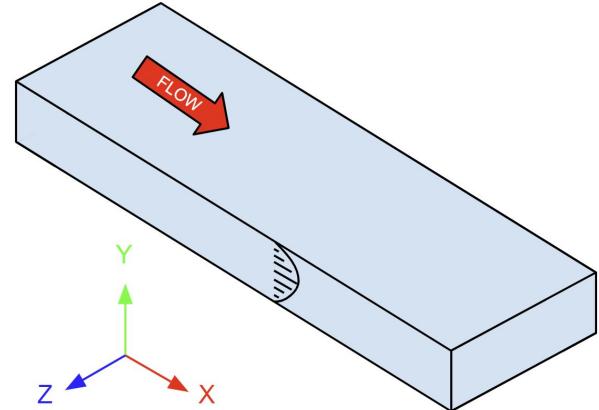
- **Our Client:** Prof. Marguerite Matherne
- The **Navier-Stokes** equations are complex and the conditions in which critical assumptions are valid are hard to conceptualize
- Assumptions and Conditions:
 - Infinite Plates Condition $\rightarrow v, w = 0$
 - Plane Flow Assumption $\rightarrow \partial/\partial z = 0$
 - Steady State Condition $\rightarrow \partial/\partial t = 0$
 - Fully Developed Condition $\rightarrow \partial u/\partial x = 0$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$x : \rho \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right) = - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \rho g_x + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

$$y : \rho \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \right) = - \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \rho g_y + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

$$z : \rho \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right) = - \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + \rho g_z + \mu \left(\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial z^2} \right)$$

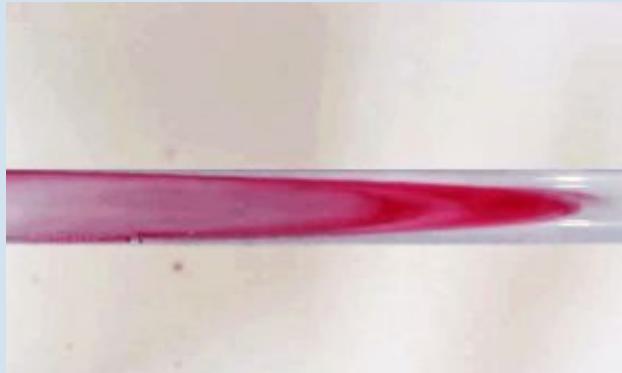


Justification

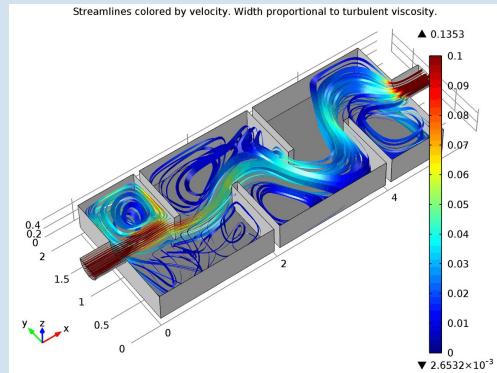
- Students struggle with identifying appropriate conditions in which the assumptions are valid such as:
 - **Infinite Plates Condition** → no wall/edge effects
 - **Plane Flow Assumption** → fluid flow predominantly in x-direction, no change in z-direction
- Physical models have been shown to improve learning new concepts [1]

Prior Work

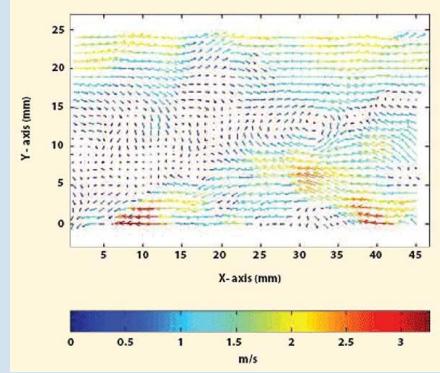
- Existing fluid visualization setups exist, but none specifically tailored for flat plates or experiential classroom learning



Ink injection into fluid pipe flow [2]



Computational visualization [3]

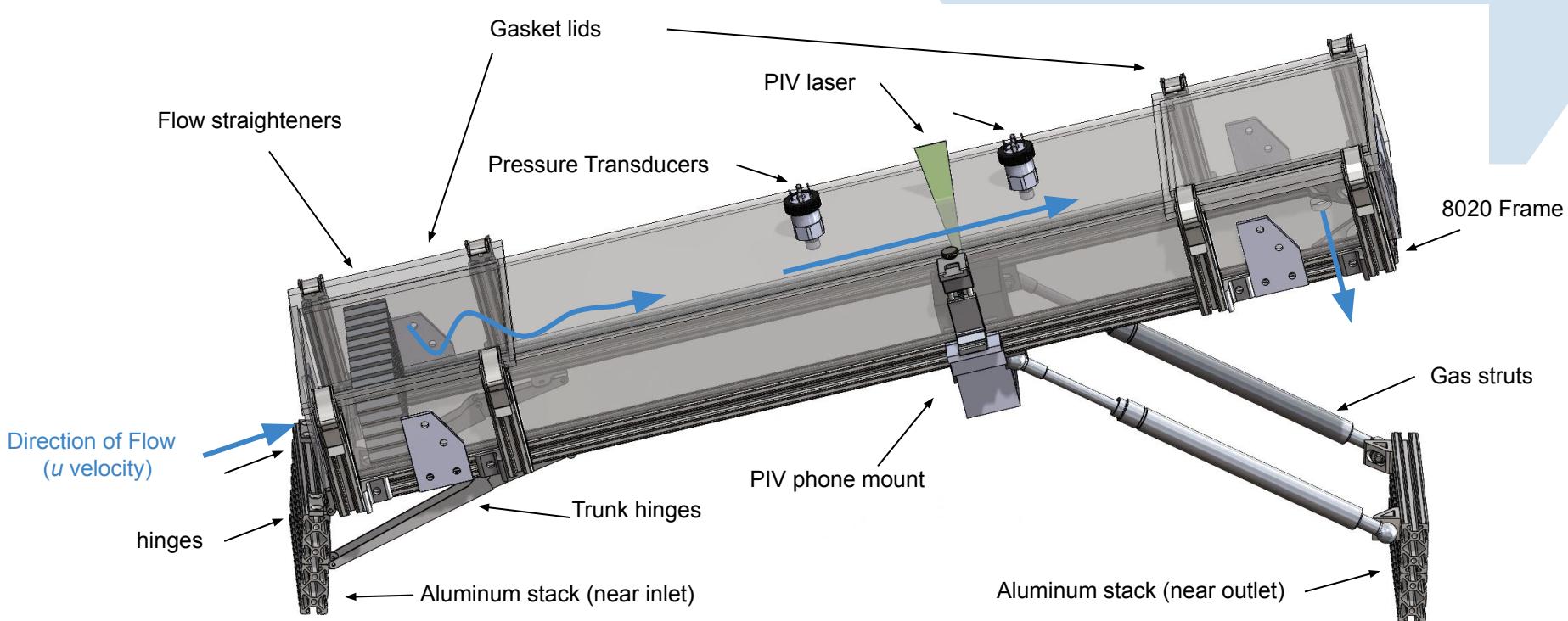


Particle image velocimetry [4]

Team Strategy

- Develop **one final prototype**, iteration through analysis
- **Ongoing testing** to ensure prototype functionality
- Different groups working in conjunction
 - **Measurements** - Flow/CFD, Structural/FEA, Analysis/PIV
 - **Design** - Overall CAD, Piping System

Our Solution



Overall Build

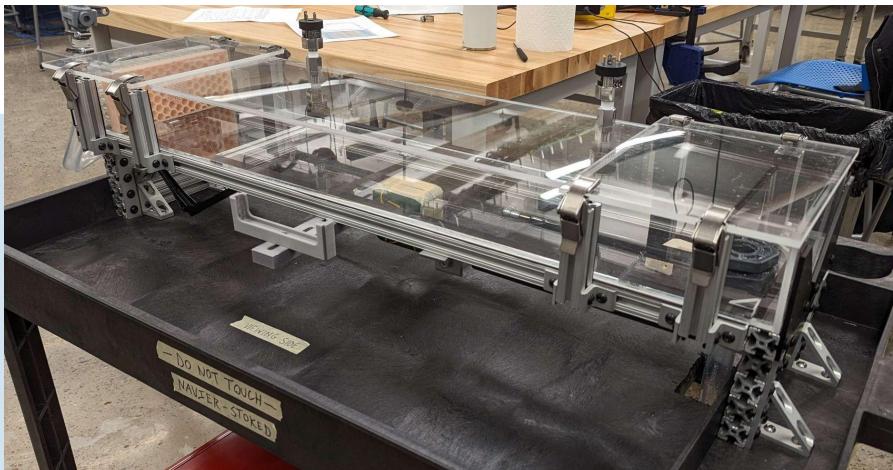


Image of empty tank prior to filling

Testing & Analysis

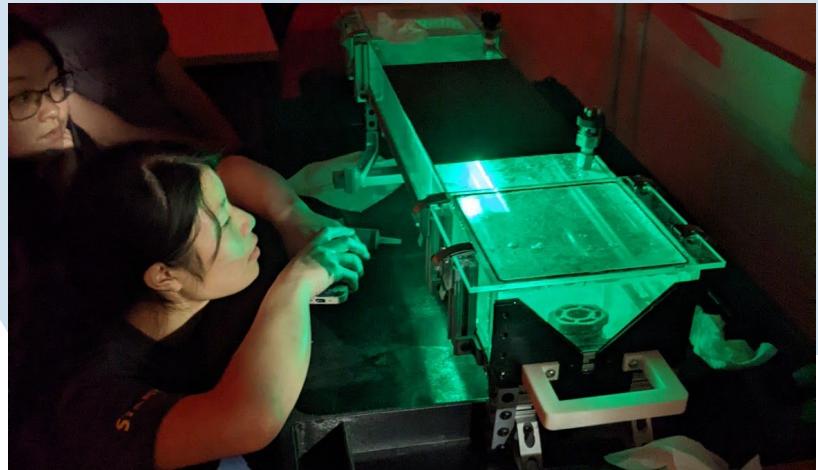
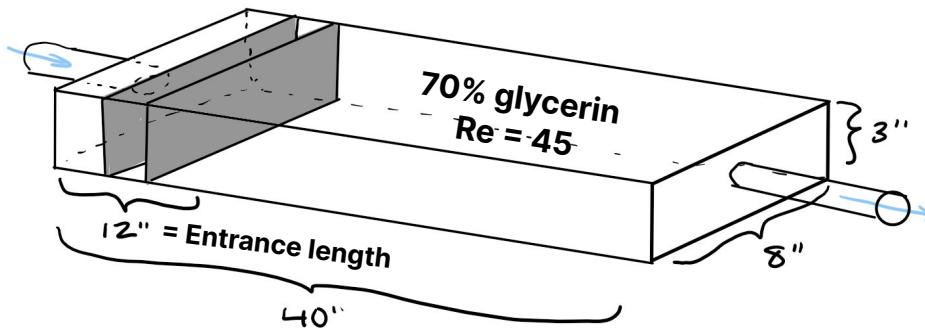


Image of testing PIV software

Iterative Flow Analysis

- Infinite plate approximation vs portability



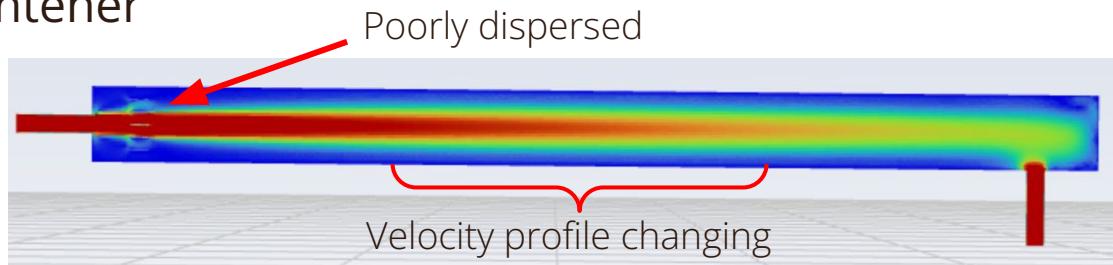
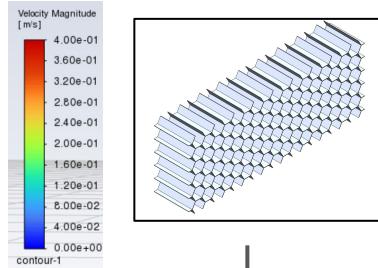
- Pump specifications

$$\frac{P_1}{\rho g} + \frac{V_1^2}{2g} + z_1 = \frac{P_2}{\rho g} + \frac{V_2^2}{2g} + z_2 + F_{hl}$$

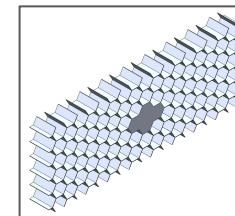
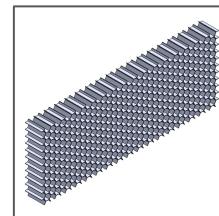
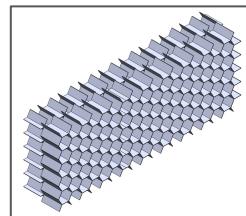
Pump Delivery
Pressure
1.97 ft of head

Iterative Flow Analysis (cont.)

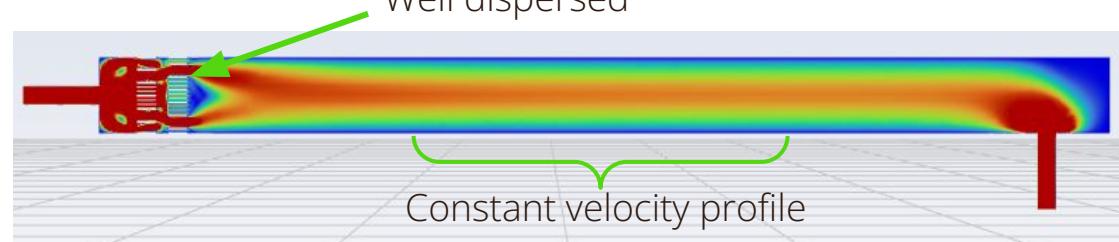
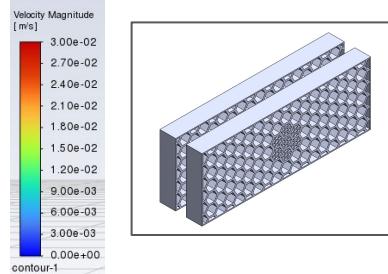
Original Flow Straightener



iterations



Final Flow Straightener

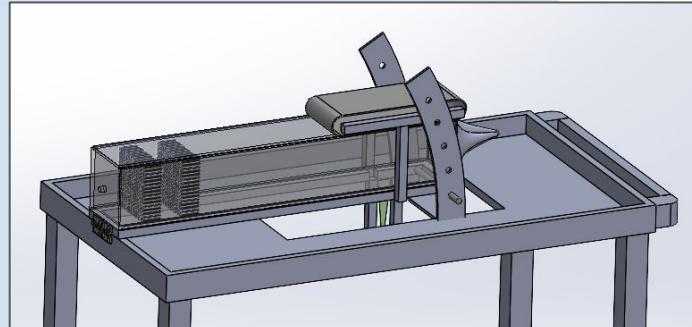


Iterative Structural Analysis

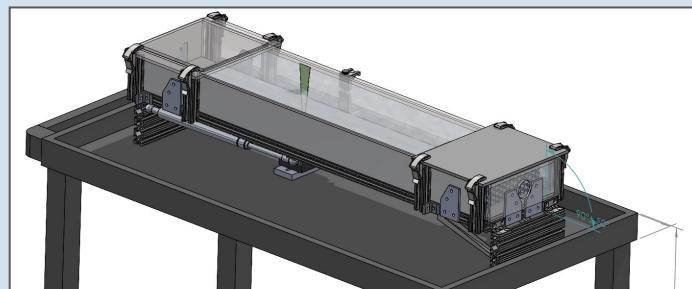
- Performed FEA and hand calculations using ME design theories

Critical results of structural components

| Component | Critical Results |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Aluminum 8020 Frame | $\eta = 19$ |
| Angling Support Hinges | $\eta = 5.4$ |
| Overall Cart Stability | $\eta = 6.7$ |
| Gas Struts | 25000 cycles |



Original design



Final design

Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) Analysis

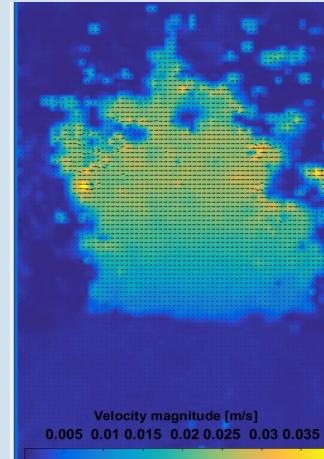
- 20 micron polyamide particles
- Class II laser level
- Processing software: SmartPIV (live), PIVlab (post-process)



Original



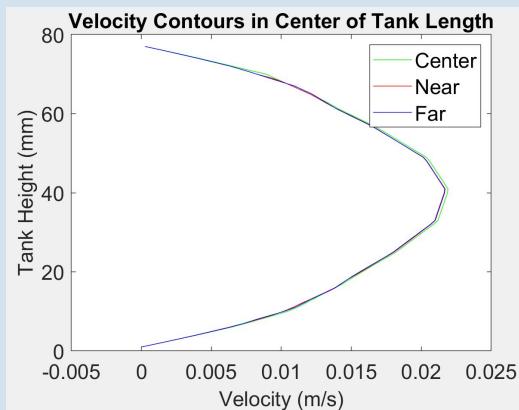
PIVlab: Velocity arrows



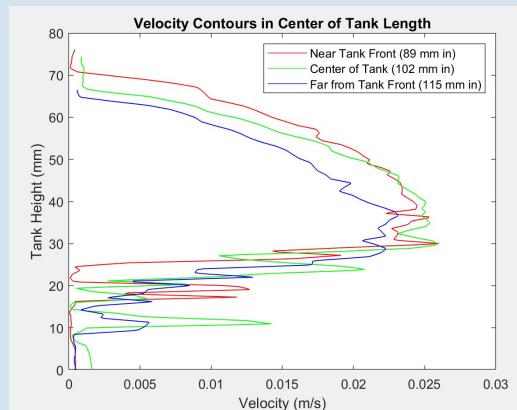
PIVlab: Velocity color map

Key Successes

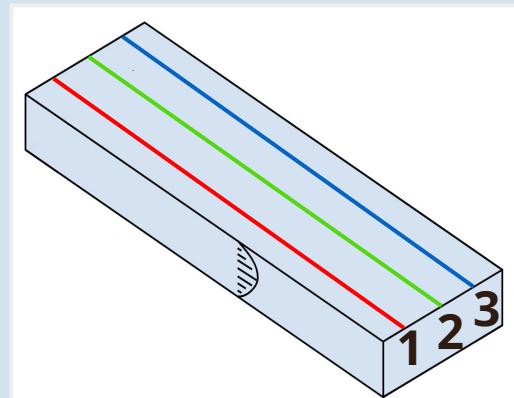
- Theoretical calculations match PIVlab measurements
- Infinite plates, plane flow assumptions are fulfilled



ANSYS Velocity vs. Tank height



PIVlab: Velocity vs. Tank height



Velocity profile measured in 3 positions

Anticipated Impact

- With our physical model, students should have a **stronger conceptual understanding** of the Navier-Stokes assumptions
- Our rig can allow students to associate confusing textbook problems with a tangible model
- Greater understanding should be **reflected by higher scores**

| Professor Matherne's exam scores on the Navier-Stokes question | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Summer 1 2023 Section 1 | Summer 1 2023 Section 2 |
| Exam 2 | 68 | 54 |
| Final Exam | 77 | 78 |

Exit Strategy

- We have created a PIV guide and operating procedure to facilitate teaching and handoff
- There are some changes and additions that could be implemented in a **Phase 2** project
 - Add **shear-driven flow** component
 - Improve **maintenance** process
 - Expand the use of **real-time PIV**

Thank You!

Presented by NAVIER-STOKED



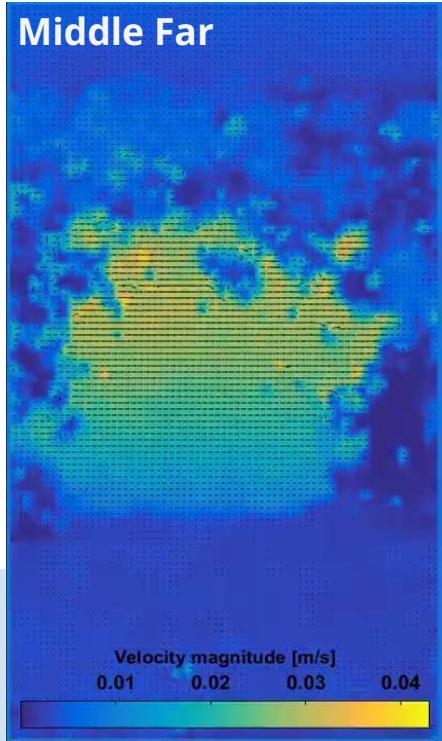
"Developing the flow of knowledge and the knowledge of flow"

References

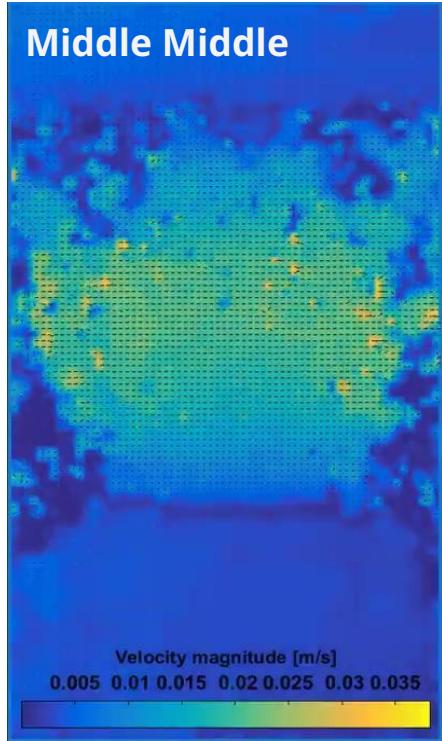
- [1] D. L. Newman, M. Stefkovich, C. Clasen, M. A. Franzen, and L. K. Wright, "Physical models can provide superior learning opportunities beyond the benefits of active engagements," *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education*, vol. 46, no. 5, pp. 435–444, 2018, doi: 10.1002/bmb.21159. [Online]. Available: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/bmb.21159>.
- [2] "Water Purification Reactor." *Comsol*, Comsol Inc. <https://www.comsol.de/model/water-purification-reactor-14049>
- [3] Fluids Explained. "Laminar Flow, Turbulent Flow and Reynolds Number (Lesson 3, Part 2)" *Youtube video*, 2:29. February 5, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhDaCZZ0Sc4>
- [4] Photonics. "Particle Image Velocimetry: Basics, Developments and Techniques." https://www.photonics.com/Articles/Particle_Image_Velocimetry_Basics_Developments/a25121

Appendix A - PIV Infinite Plates

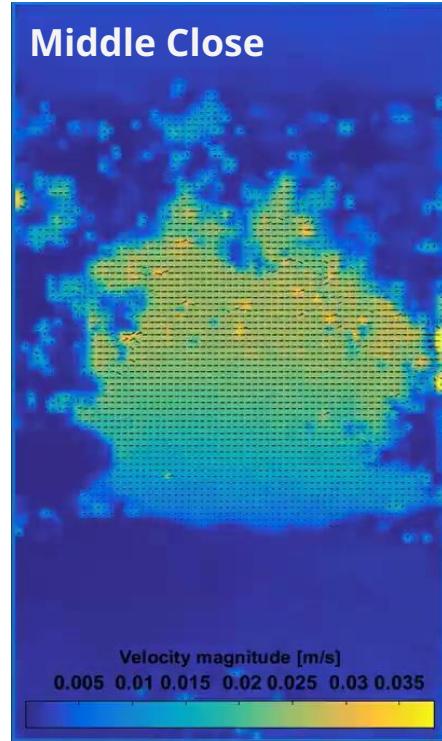
Middle Far



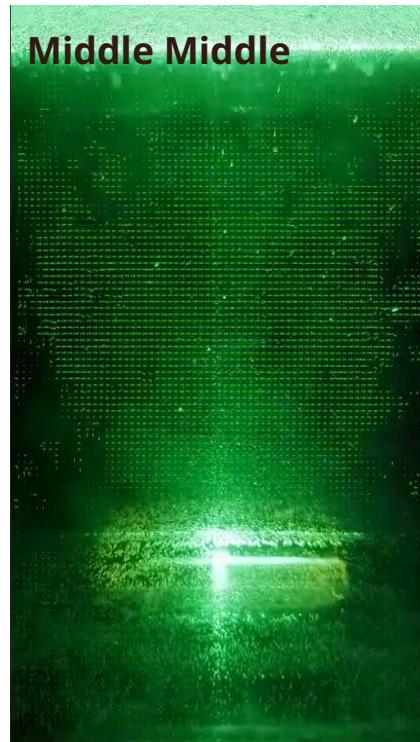
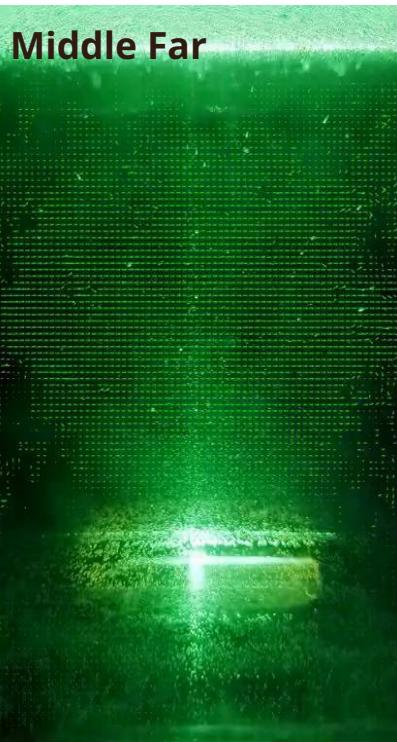
Middle Middle



Middle Close



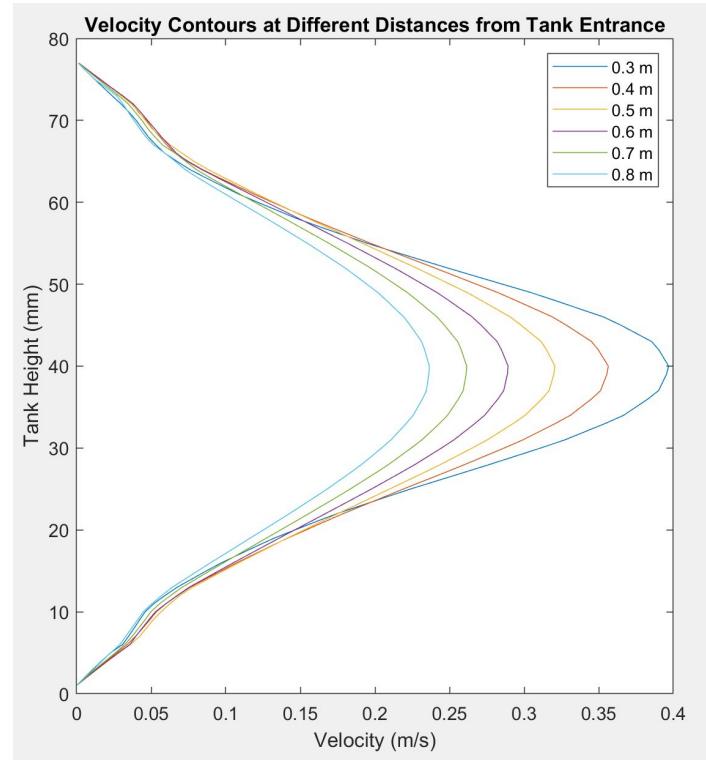
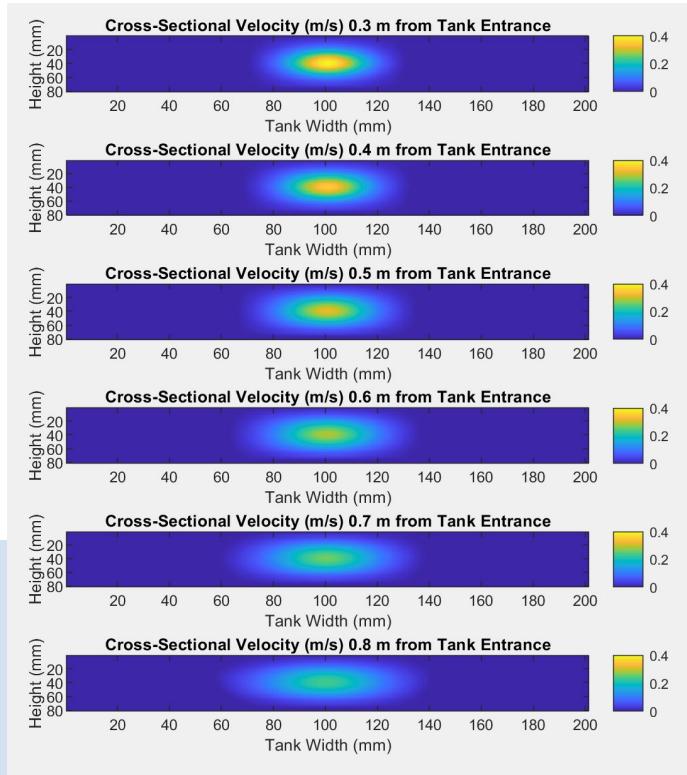
Appendix A - PIV Infinite Plates Arrows



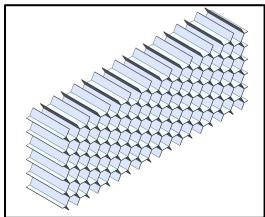
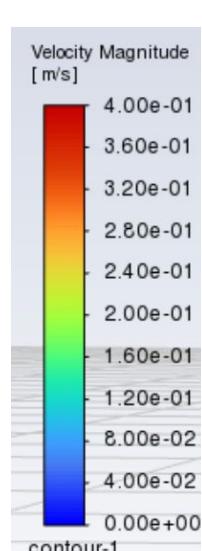
Appendix B - CFD/MATLAB/Experimental Comparison

| | ANSYS | MATLAB <i>Duct</i> | Actual System |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Max tank velocity | 0.89 in/s <i>Friction?</i> | 0.94 in/s | 0.98 in/s |
| Average tank velocity | - | 0.47 in/s | - |
| Mass flow rate in pipe | 0.22 kg/s | 0.22 kg/s | - |
| Volumetric flow rate of pump (Theoretical MAX) | - | 176.0317 GPH | - (1250 GPH) |
| Reynolds Number | - | 45 | - |
| Entrance length | 11.81 in <i>Flow straighteners at beginning</i> | 11.10 in | Appears to match up with theory, fairly developed flow near 12 in |
| Pressure drop across entire tank | 1.45e-04 psi <i>Roughly 1 Pascal</i> | 2.55e-04 psi | - |
| Pump delivery pressure (Theoretical MAX) | - | 1.124 psi | - (6.77 psi) |

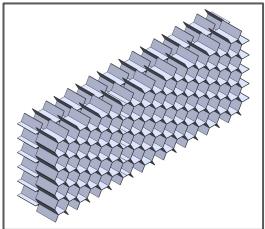
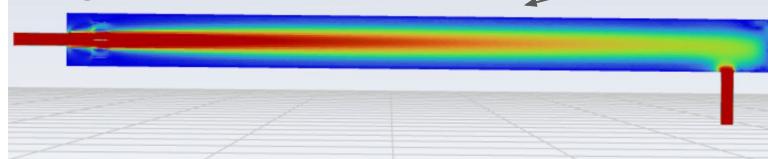
Appendix C - Original Flow Straightener



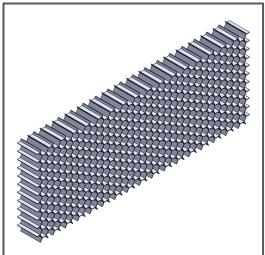
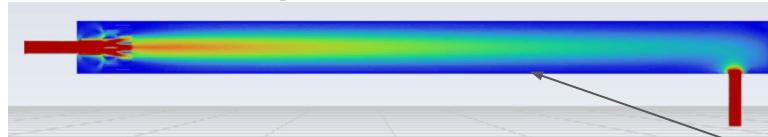
Appendix C - Iterations of Flow Straightener



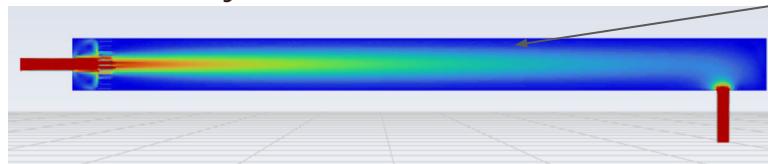
Original



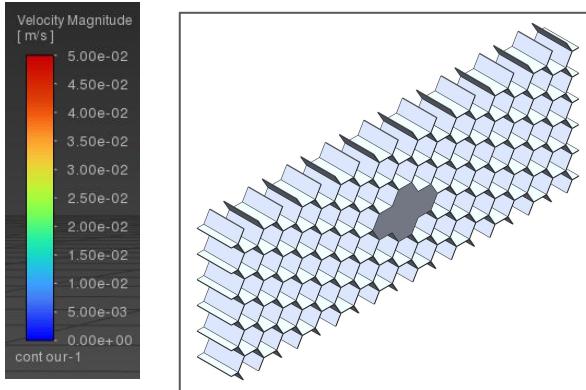
Double straighteners



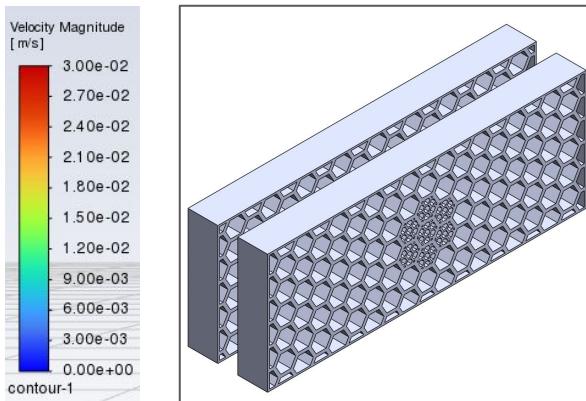
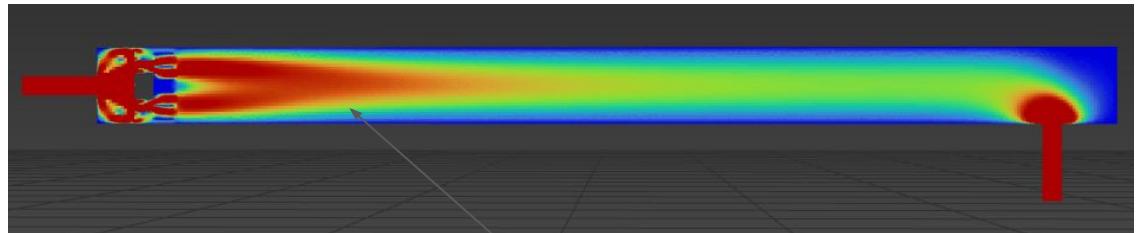
Fine honeycomb



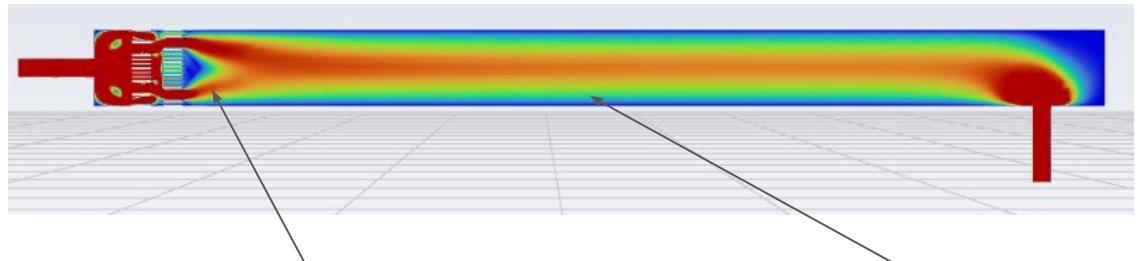
Appendix C - Iterations of Flow Straightener



Blockage



Final Iteration

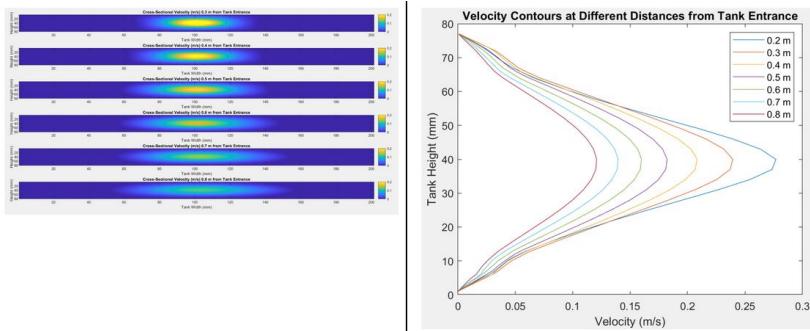


Better dispersion

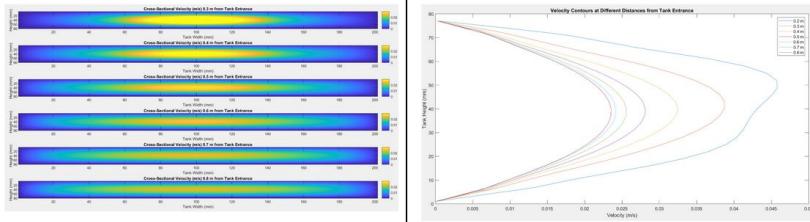
Consistent velocity

Appendix C - Iterations of Flow Straightener

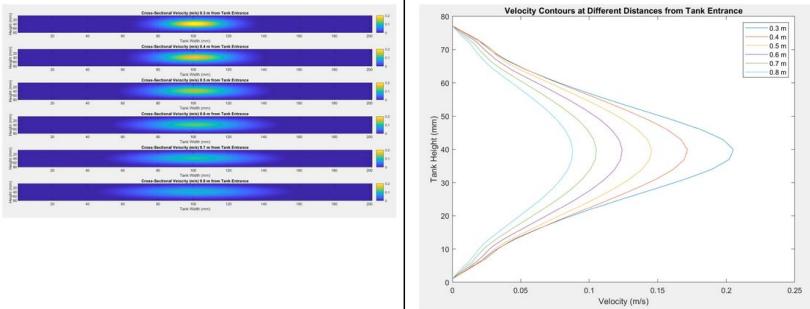
Iteration 2
(Double)



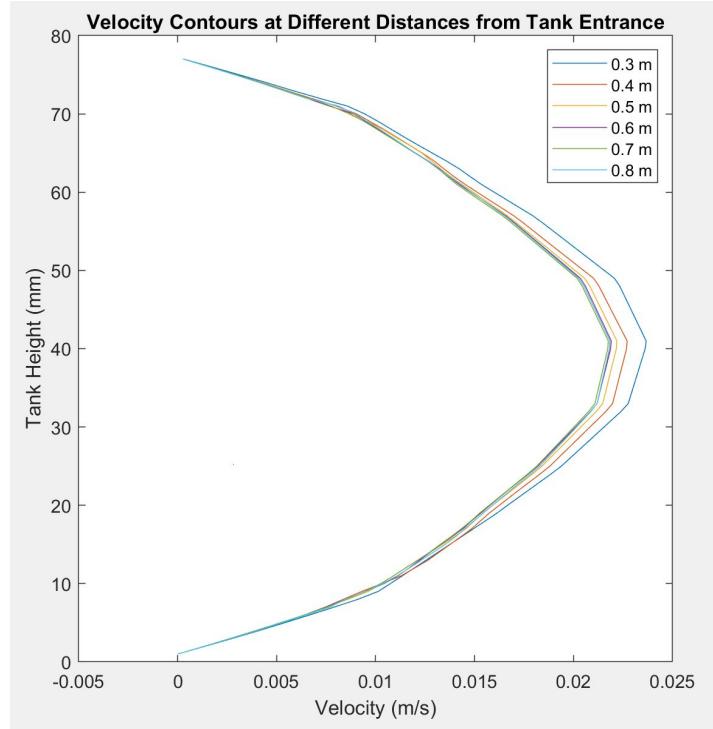
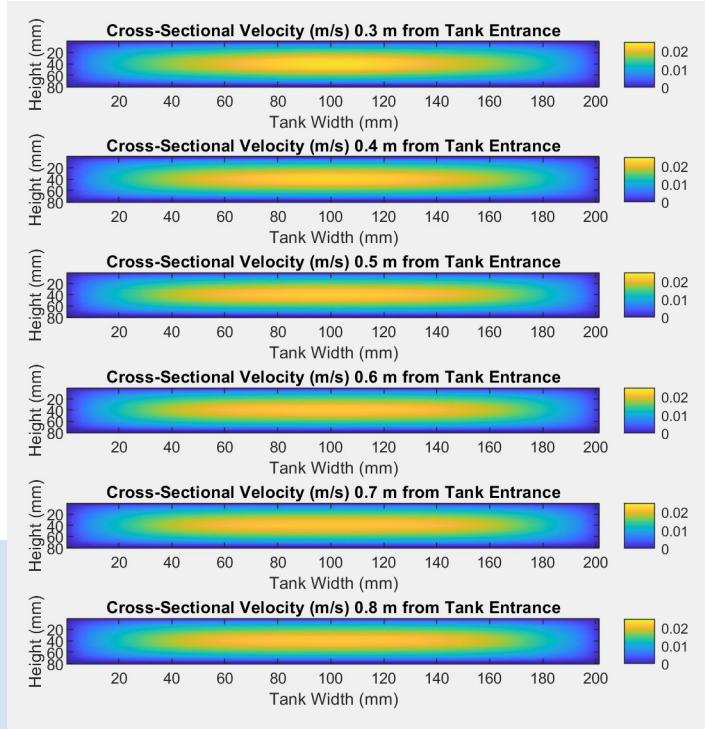
Iteration 3
(Obstacle)



Iteration 4
(Fine
Honeycomb)

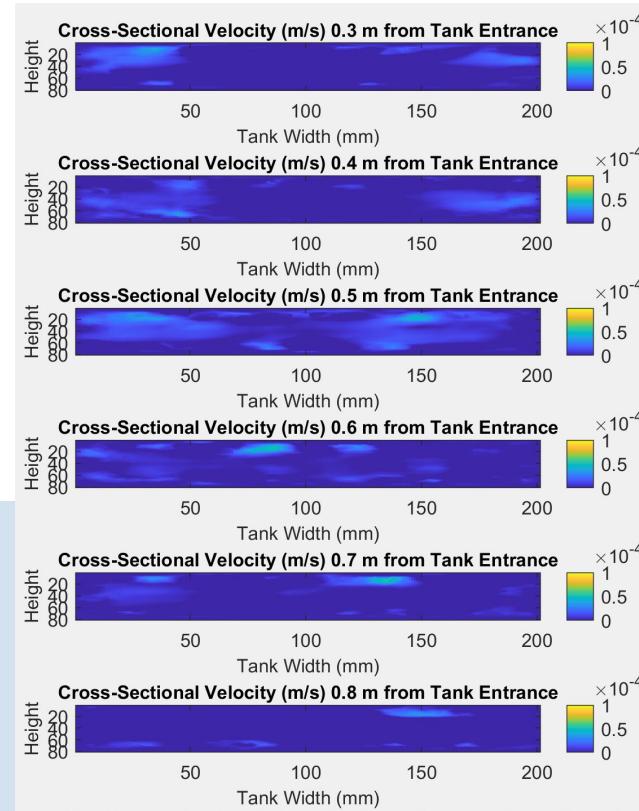


Appendix C - Final Flow Straightener

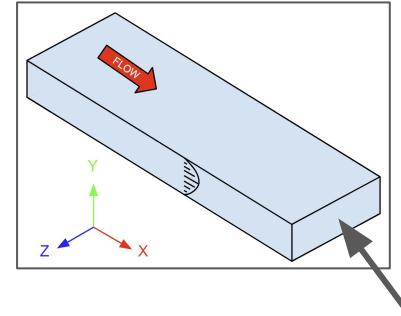
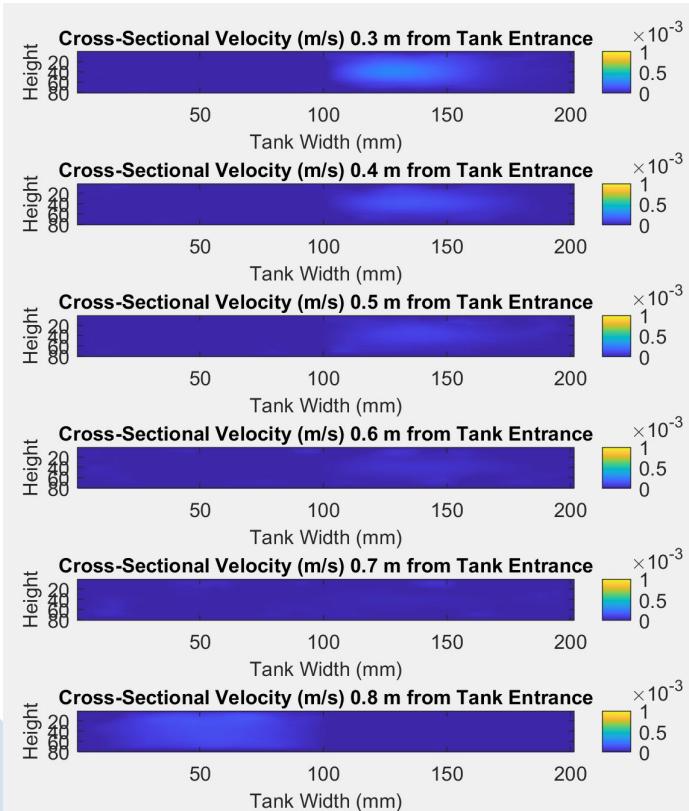


Appendix D - ANSYS Output ($v, w = 0$)

$v = 0$



$w = 0$



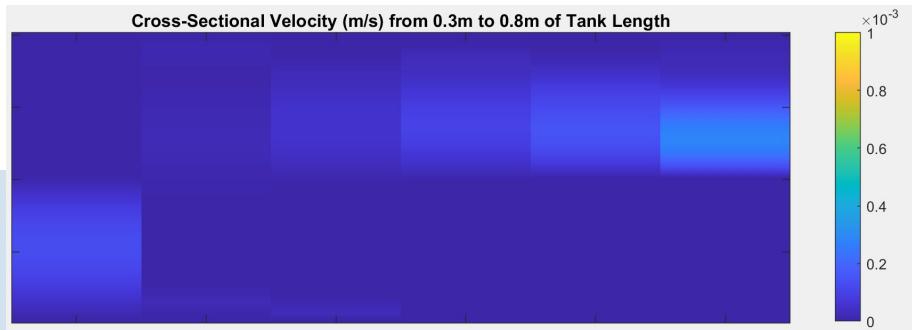
This cross-section

Appendix D - ANSYS Output ($v, w = 0$)

$v = 0$



$w = 0$



This cross-section

