

Mixing of Water in a Flat Bottom Mixer

This model simulates the flow in a flat bottom mixer agitated by a pitched four blade impeller. The mixed fluid is water, and the flow is assumed turbulent due to the significant mixer Reynolds number $(5.33\cdot10^4)$. The flow is modeled using the k- ε turbulence model, and a time-dependent simulation corresponding to 34 revolutions of the impeller is performed in order to reach the operating conditions of the mixer.

When postprocessing the results, the self-similarity of the axial flow along the baffles is analyzed. In agreement with Ref. 1, the normalized velocity profiles at different axial positions are found to be self-similar indicating that the flow in this region resembles a three dimensional wall jet.

Model Definition

The mixer simulated consists of a baffled flat-bottom vessel and a pitched four-blade impeller. The mixer geometry and the simulation conditions used in this model correspond to the ones used in the experiments of Bittorf and Kresta (Ref. 1). The height (H) and diameter (T) of the mixer vessel is 0.24 m. The diameter of the impeller, D_a , is 0.33T, and the clearance, C, between the impeller and the bottom is $0.40D_a$. The pitch of the impeller blades is 45°. The geometry of the mixer simulated is shown in Figure 1. The fluid contained in the mixer is water, which is mixed using an impeller rotational frequency of N = 8.58 turns per second. The resulting impeller Reynolds number is:

$$N_{Re} = \frac{ND_a^2 \rho}{\mu} = 5.33 \cdot 10^4 \tag{1}$$

where μ and ρ are the dynamic viscosity (SI unit: kg/(m·s)) and density (SI unit: kg/m³) of water, respectively. The impeller Reynolds number is significantly higher than one, and the resulting flow will be treated as turbulent. The turbulent flow is modeled using the k- ε turbulence model, and the time-dependent problem is solved for 34 revolutions of the impeller.

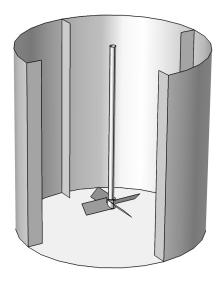


Figure 1: Mixer geometry showing the vessel, baffles, and impeller.

WALL JET FLOW

Bittorf and Kresta (Ref. 1) compared the flow at the wall of a stirred tank to that of a turbulent wall jet. They found that the flow along the baffles of the stirred tank compares well to a three-dimensional wall jet. In order to assess whether the flow in this region of the mixer has the characteristics of a wall jet, the self-similarity of the axial velocity profiles can be examined. Self-similarity implies that the mean velocity profiles can be collapsed onto a single profile when scaled with properly chosen length and velocity scales. The existence of self-similarity indicates that the turbulent time scale is small enough for the turbulence to adjust locally to the development of the jet.

For wall jets, the spreading is typically found to be characterized by the maximum jet velocity, $U_{\rm m}$, and the distance from the wall to the position where the local velocity is equal to half of the maximum velocity value. The latter is often referred to as the jet half width and denoted by $y_{1/2}$. Using the velocity data in Ref. 1, a similarity profile for a wall jet in a recirculating flow was suggested by Bhattacharya and Kresta in Ref. 2:

$$\frac{U}{U_{\rm m}} = 1 - 1.5 \tanh[0.78(\eta - 0.15)]^2$$
 (2)

Here η denotes the distance from the wall normalized by the half width, $\eta = y/y_{1/2}$. When analyzing the results, the self-similarity will be assessed by plotting the normalized axial velocity along the line shown in Figure 2. This corresponds to the position used in Ref. 1.

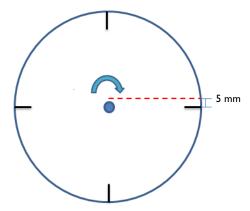


Figure 2: Measurement position for analyzing the self-similarity of the axial velocity profiles.

Solution Procedure

In order to minimize the time required to reach a fully developed, yet transient, flow state, the model is solved in two steps. First, a Frozen Rotor study is used to reach a good initial solution without having to solve the startup of the problem. In order to converge this step, a parametric sweep is used to first solve the model with a low Reynolds number and increased dynamic viscosity, and then compute it again with the actual dynamic viscosity of the fluid.

The frozen rotor solution is then used as initial condition for the transient simulation. During the transient simulation the model is run for 4.0 s corresponding to 34 full revolutions of the impeller.

TIME AVERAGING

An Identity Mapping nonlocal coupling is used when computing time-averaged velocity profiles. This is done to make sure that the average is computed along the measurement positions shown Figure 2, regardless of the position of the rotating impeller domain. The averages are computed using the time average operator in the manner of

timeavg(3.5,4,idmap1(w),'nointerp')

where the axial velocity is averaged between t = 3.5 and 4 s. The nointerp flag is used to compute the average without applying interpolation between the stored time steps.

Results and Discussion

The resulting flow field in the mixer after 4.0 s of transient simulation is shown in Figure 3. The streamlines show how the impeller pumps fluid downward along the shaft and ejects it toward the bottom of the vessel. The maximum velocity magnitude occurs at the tip of the impeller blades.

The velocity magnitude in a single cross section including the velocity vectors is shown in Figure 4. From this figure the main flow structure of the mixer can be further examined. The fluid flows with high speed along the bottom of the mixer. Upon reaching the wall, vertical high speed streaks form along the outer walls, and the fluid velocity decreases toward the top of the vessel. Fluid at the top of the vessel travel toward the impeller shaft prior to becoming pumped down toward the impeller.

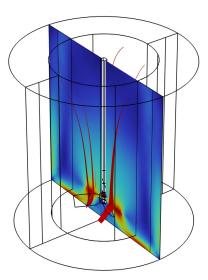


Figure 3: Fluid flow at t = 4.0 s. The color of the slice plots and the width of the streamlines indicate the velocity magnitude.

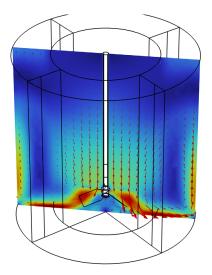


Figure 4: Fluid flow magnitude and direction, at t = 4.0 s, in a cross section of the mixer.

The characteristics of the upward flow along the outer walls is studied in Figure 5 to analyze the wall jet. The averaged axial velocity, measured along the line shown in Figure 2, is plotted at different heights from the vessel bottom. The lines correspond to z/ T equal to 0.458, 0.563, 0.667, and 0.771. The fluid velocity profiles are scaled by their individual maximum velocity, and the distance from the wall is normalized by the jet half width as defined in the section Wall Jet Flow. The similarity solution of Bhattacharya and Kresta (Equation 2) is also plotted.

The scaled velocity profiles are found to collapse on top of the similarity solution, at least for the first three positions from the bottom. The collapse occurs for $\eta < 1.5$; further out from the wall, the velocity is directed in the opposite direction, corresponding to the downward flow along the impeller shaft as seen in Figure 3 and Figure 4. The collapse in the region with upward flow indicates that the flow along the outer walls does indeed

correspond to a wall jet flow. The results in Figure 5 compare well with the experimental results in Ref. 1.

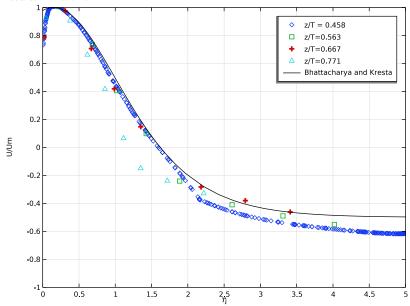


Figure 5: Normalized axial velocity profiles measured at increasing heights of the mixer.

References

- 1. K.J. Bittorf and S.M. Kresta, "Three-dimensional wall jets: axial flow in a stirred tank," *AIChE Journal*, vol. 47, no. 6, pp. 1277–1284, 2001.
- 2. S. Bhattacharya and S.M. Kresta, "CFD Simulations of Three-dimensional Wall Jets in a Stirred Tank," *Can. J. Chem. Eng.*, vol. 80, no. 4, pp. 1–15, 2002.

Application Library path: Mixer_Module/Benchmarks/wall_jet_4PB_mixer_flat

Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

NEW

In the New window, click Model Wizard.

MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click 1 3D.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Fluid Flow>Single-Phase Flow>Rotating Machinery, Fluid Flow>Turbulent Flow>Turbulent Flow, k-ε.
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select Preset Studies for Selected Physics Interfaces>Frozen Rotor.
- 6 Click M Done.

Load the parameterized geometry sequence from file.

GEOMETRY I

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click insert Sequence.
- 2 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file wall_jet_4PB_mixer_flat_geom_sequence.mph.
- 3 In the Geometry toolbar, click **Build All**.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description
NO	8.58[Hz]	8.58 Hz	Rotational speed of impeller
visc_fact	1	ı	Viscosity factor

MOVING MESH

Rotating Domain I

- I Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Moving Mesh click Rotating Domain I.
- 3 In the Settings window for Rotating Domain, locate the Domain Selection section.

- **4** In the list, select **1**.
- 5 Click Remove from Selection.
- **6** Select Domain 2 only.
- **7** Locate the **Rotation** section. In the f text field, type -NO.

MATERIALS

Now add water from the Material Library.

ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click **Add Material** to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Built-in>Water, liquid.
- 4 Right-click and choose Add to Component I (compl).
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click **3** Add Material to close the Add Material window.

MATERIALS

Water, liquid (mat I)

- I In the Settings window for Material, locate the Material Contents section.
- **2** In the table, enter the following settings:

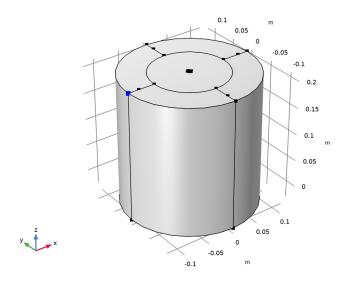
Property	Variable	Value	Unit Property group	
Dynamic viscosity	mu	eta(T[1/K])[Pa* s]*visc_fact	Pa·s	Basic

TURBULENT FLOW, K-ε(SPF)

Pressure Point Constraint I

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Turbulent Flow, k- ϵ (spf) and choose Points>Pressure Point Constraint.

2 Select Point 2 only.



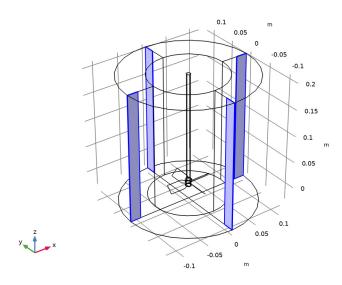
Symmetry I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Symmetry.
- **2** Select Boundaries 6, 7, 14, 18, and 25 only (top boundaries).

Interior Wall I

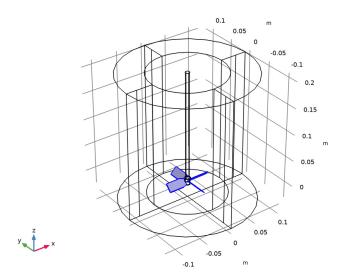
- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Interior Wall.
- 2 Click the Wireframe Rendering button in the Graphics toolbar.

3 Select Boundaries 1, 11, 19, and 21 only.



Interior Wall 2

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🕞 Boundaries and choose Interior Wall.
- 2 Select Boundaries 26, 27, 32, and 42 only.



MESH I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Mesh I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Mesh, locate the Physics-Controlled Mesh section.
- 3 From the Element size list, choose Coarser.
- 4 Locate the Sequence Type section. From the list, choose User-controlled mesh.

Size 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I click Size I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- **3** Click the **Custom** button.
- 4 Locate the Element Size Parameters section. Select the Maximum element size check box.
- **5** Select the **Minimum element size** check box.
- 6 In the Maximum element size text field, type 0.01.

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component I (compl)>Mesh I> Free Tetrahedral I node.
- 2 Right-click Mesh I and choose Size.
- 3 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 4 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- 5 From the Selection list, choose Tank (Pitched Blade Impeller I).
- 6 In the list, select 2.
- 7 Click Remove from Selection.
- **8** Select Domain 3 only.
- **9** Locate the **Element Size** section. From the **Predefined** list, choose **Fine**.
- **IO** Click the **Custom** button.
- II Locate the Element Size Parameters section.
- 12 Select the Maximum element size check box. In the associated text field, type 0.008.
- 13 Select the Minimum element size check box. In the associated text field, type 0.001.
- 14 Right-click Size 2 and choose Move Up three times.

Free Tetrahedral I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Free Tetrahedral I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Free Tetrahedral, locate the Domain Selection section.

- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- **4** Select Domain 2 only.
- 5 In the Model Builder window, right-click Mesh I and choose Build All.

STUDY I

Step 1: Frozen Rotor

Set up an auxiliary continuation sweep for the visc_fact parameter.

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Frozen Rotor.
- 2 In the Settings window for Frozen Rotor, click to expand the Study Extensions section.
- 3 Select the Auxiliary sweep check box.
- 4 Click + Add.
- 5 In the table, enter the following settings:

Parameter name	Parameter value list	Parameter unit
visc_fact (Viscosity factor)	10 1	

- 6 From the Run continuation for list, choose No parameter.
- 7 From the Reuse solution from previous step list, choose Yes.
- 8 In the Home toolbar, click **Compute**.

Now run a time-dependent simulation using the results from the frozen rotor study as initial values.

ADD STUDY

- I In the Home toolbar, click Add Study to open the Add Study window.
- 2 Go to the Add Study window.
- 3 Find the Studies subsection. In the Select Study tree, select General Studies> Time Dependent.
- 4 Click Add Study in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click Add Study to close the Add Study window.

STUDY 2

Step 1: Time Dependent

- I In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.
- 2 In the Output times text field, type range (0,0.2,3), range (3,0.05,4).

- 3 Click to expand the Values of Dependent Variables section. Find the Initial values of variables solved for subsection. From the Settings list, choose User controlled.
- 4 From the Method list, choose Solution.
- 5 From the Study list, choose Study I, Frozen Rotor.
- 6 From the Parameter value (visc_fact) list, choose Last.

Solution 2 (sol2)

- I In the Study toolbar, click Show Default Solver.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution 2 (sol2) node, then click Time-Dependent Solver I.
- **3** In the **Settings** window for **Time-Dependent Solver**, click to expand the **Absolute Tolerance** section.
- 4 Click to expand the Time Stepping section. Select the Initial step check box.
- 5 In the Study toolbar, click **Compute**.

RESULTS

When working with large 3D models it is often convenient to disable automatic plot updates.

- I In the Model Builder window, click Results.
- 2 In the Settings window for Results, locate the Update of Results section.
- 3 Select the Only plot when requested check box.

Cut Line 3D I

- I In the Results toolbar, click Cut Line 3D.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cut Line 3D, locate the Line Data section.
- 3 In row Point I, set x to -0.005, y to T/2-0.12, and z to 0.458*H-C.
- 4 In row Point 2, set x to -0.005, y to T/2, and z to 0.458*H-C.
- 5 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Study 2/Solution 2 (sol2).
- 6 Click Plot.
- 7 Right-click Cut Line 3D I and choose Duplicate.

Cut Line 3D 2

- I In the Model Builder window, click Cut Line 3D 2.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cut Line 3D, locate the Line Data section.

- 3 In row Point 1, set z to 0.563*H-C.
- 4 In row Point 2, set z to 0.563*H-C.
- 5 Right-click Cut Line 3D 2 and choose Duplicate.

Cut Line 3D 3

- I In the Model Builder window, click Cut Line 3D 3.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cut Line 3D, locate the Line Data section.
- 3 In row Point 1, set z to 0.667*H-C.
- 4 In row Point 2, set z to 0.667*H-C.
- 5 Right-click Cut Line 3D 3 and choose Duplicate.

Cut Line 3D 4

- I In the Model Builder window, click Cut Line 3D 4.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cut Line 3D, locate the Line Data section.
- 3 In row Point 1, set z to 0.771*H-C.
- 4 In row Point 2, set z to 0.771*H-C.

To evaluate the self-similarity of the axial velocities, the axial velocity needs to be normalized by the maximum axial velocity along the 3D cut lines. The following lines compute the maximum axial velocities.

Line Maximum I

- I In the Results toolbar, click 8.85 More Derived Values and choose Maximum> Line Maximum.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Maximum, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 1.
- 4 From the Time selection list, choose Last.
- **5** Locate the **Expressions** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description	
W	m/s	Velocity field, z-component	

- 6 Click **= Evaluate**.
- 7 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 2.
- 8 Click **= Evaluate**.
- 9 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 3.
- 10 Click **= Evaluate**.

II From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 4.

12 Click **= Evaluate**.

Note that the maximum values of the axial velocity along these cut lines are shown in the table.

Now proceed to plot the axial velocity profiles in a 1D plot in the manner of Figure 5.

ID Plot Group 7

In the Results toolbar, click \sim ID Plot Group.

DEFINITIONS

Identity Mapping I (idmap I)

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component I (compl) node.
- 2 Right-click Component I (comp1)>Definitions and choose Nonlocal Couplings> Identity Mapping.
- 3 In the Settings window for Identity Mapping, locate the Source Selection section.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose All domains.
- 5 Locate the Frames section. From the Destination frame list, choose Material (X, Y, Z).

STUDY 2

In the Study toolbar, click C Update Solution.

RESULTS

Line Graph I

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click ID Plot Group 7 and choose Line Graph.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Graph, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 1.
- 4 From the Time selection list, choose Last.
- 5 Locate the y-Axis Data section. In the Expression text field, type timeavg(3.5,4, idmap1(w), 'nointerp')/0.50594[m/s].
- 6 Locate the x-Axis Data section. From the Parameter list, choose Expression.
- 7 In the Expression text field, type (0.12[m]-y)/(0.12[m]-0.0967[m]).
- **8** Click to expand the **Coloring and Style** section. Find the **Line style** subsection. From the **Line** list, choose **None**.
- 9 Find the Line markers subsection. From the Marker list, choose Diamond.

- 10 Click to expand the Legends section. From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- II Select the **Show legends** check box.
- 12 In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends		
z/T	=	0.458

13 Right-click Line Graph 1 and choose Duplicate.

Line Graph 2

- I In the Model Builder window, click Line Graph 2.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Graph, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 2.
- 4 Locate the y-Axis Data section. In the Expression text field, type timeavg(3.5,4, idmap1(w), 'nointerp')/0.42910[m/s].
- 5 Locate the x-Axis Data section. In the Expression text field, type (0.12[m]-y)/ (0.12[m]-0.0940[m]).
- 6 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Find the Line markers subsection. From the Marker list, choose Square.
- 7 From the Positioning list, choose Interpolated.
- **8** Locate the **Legends** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends z/T=0.563

9 Right-click Line Graph 2 and choose Duplicate.

Line Graph 3

- I In the Model Builder window, click Line Graph 3.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Graph, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 3.
- 4 Locate the y-Axis Data section. In the Expression text field, type timeavg(3.5,4, idmap1(w), 'nointerp')/0.37207[m/s].
- 5 Locate the x-Axis Data section. In the Expression text field, type (0.12[m]-y)/ (0.12[m]-0.0896[m]).

6 Locate the **Legends** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends z/T=0.667

- 7 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Find the Line markers subsection. From the Marker list, choose Plus sign.
- 8 From the Positioning list, choose Interpolated.
- 9 Right-click Line Graph 3 and choose Duplicate.

Line Graph 4

- I In the Model Builder window, click Line Graph 4.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Graph, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 4.
- 4 Locate the **y-Axis Data** section. In the **Expression** text field, type timeavg(3.5,4, idmap1(w), 'nointerp')/0.32560[m/s].
- 5 Locate the x-Axis Data section. In the Expression text field, type (0.12[m]-y)/(0.12[m]-0.0779[m]).
- **6** Locate the **Coloring and Style** section. Find the **Line markers** subsection. From the **Marker** list, choose **Triangle**.
- 7 From the Positioning list, choose Interpolated.
- **8** Locate the **Legends** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends z/T=0.771

Line Graph 5

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click ID Plot Group 7 and choose Line Graph.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Graph, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Line 3D 1.
- 4 From the Time selection list, choose Last.
- 5 Locate the **y-Axis Data** section. In the **Expression** text field, type 1-1.5*tanh(0.78*(y* 50-0.15))^2.
- 6 Locate the x-Axis Data section. From the Parameter list, choose Expression.
- 7 In the Expression text field, type y*50.
- 8 Locate the Coloring and Style section. From the Color list, choose Black.

- 9 Locate the Legends section. From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- **10** Select the **Show legends** check box.

II In the table, enter the following settings:

LegendsBhattacharya and Kresta

ID Plot Group 7

- I In the Model Builder window, click ID Plot Group 7.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, click to expand the Title section.
- 3 From the Title type list, choose None.
- 4 Locate the Plot Settings section.
- 5 Select the x-axis label check box. In the associated text field, type \eta.
- 6 Select the y-axis label check box. In the associated text field, type U/Um.
- 7 Locate the Axis section. Select the Manual axis limits check box.
- **8** In the **x minimum** text field, type 0.
- **9** In the **x maximum** text field, type **5**.

 Leave the *y*-axis limits at their default values.
- 10 In the 1D Plot Group 7 toolbar, click Plot.

The following instructions recreate Figure 3.

Streamline I

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Velocity (spf) I and choose Streamline.
- 2 In the Settings window for Streamline, locate the Streamline Positioning section.
- 3 From the Positioning list, choose Uniform density.
- **4** Locate the **Coloring and Style** section. Find the **Line style** subsection. From the **Type** list, choose **Ribbon**.
- 5 In the Width expression text field, type spf.U.
- 6 Select the Width scale factor check box. In the associated text field, type 5e-3.

Slice

- I In the Model Builder window, click Slice.
- 2 In the Settings window for Slice, locate the Plane Data section.
- 3 In the Planes text field, type 1.
- 4 In the Velocity (spf) I toolbar, click Plot.

5 Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

The following instructions recreate Figure 4.

Cut Plane I

- I In the Results toolbar, click Cut Plane.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cut Plane, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study 2/Solution 2 (sol2).
- 4 Locate the Plane Data section. From the Plane type list, choose General.
- 5 In row Point 2, set y to -1.
- 6 In row Point 3, set y to 0 and z to 1.
- 7 Click Plot.

3D Plot Group 8

In the Results toolbar, click **3D Plot Group**.

Arrow Surface I

- I Right-click 3D Plot Group 8 and choose Arrow Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Arrow Surface, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Plane 1.
- 4 Locate the Arrow Positioning section. In the Number of arrows text field, type 500.
- 5 Locate the Coloring and Style section.
- 6 Select the Scale factor check box. In the associated text field, type 0.03.

Surface I

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click 3D Plot Group 8 and choose Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Cut Plane I.
- 4 In the 3D Plot Group 8 toolbar, click Plot.
- 5 Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.