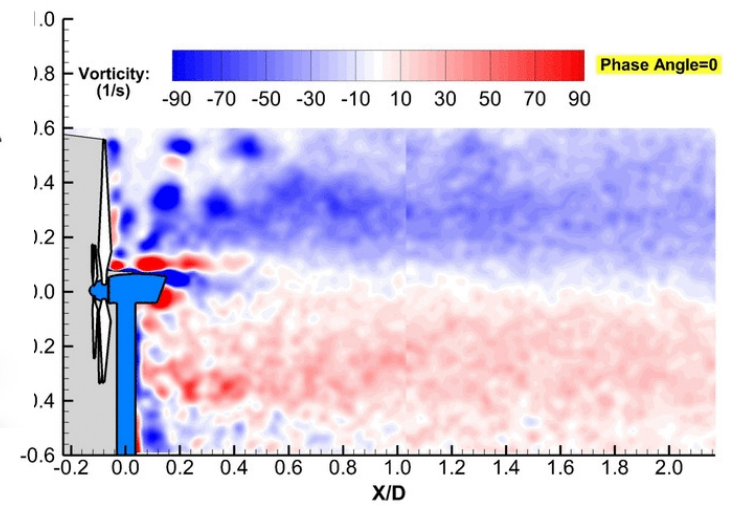
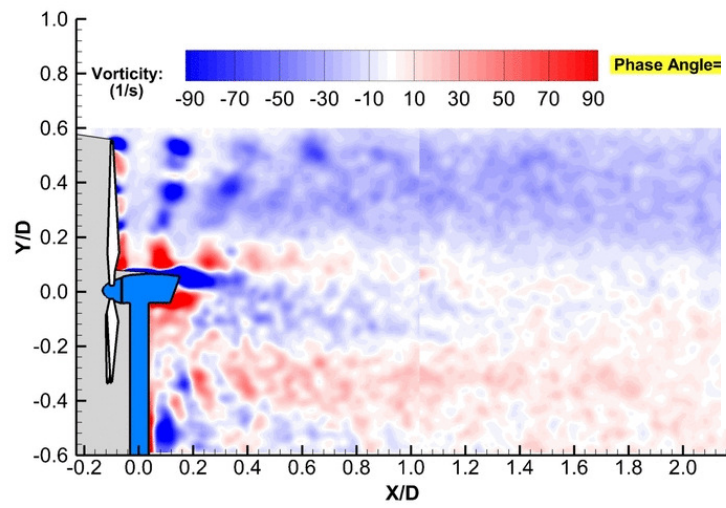




A Wind Tunnel Study on the Aeromechanics of a Novel Twin-Rotor Wind Turbine Model

Zhenyu Wang, Wei Tian, Anupam Sharma and Hui HU (✉)

Department of Aerospace Engineering

Iowa State University

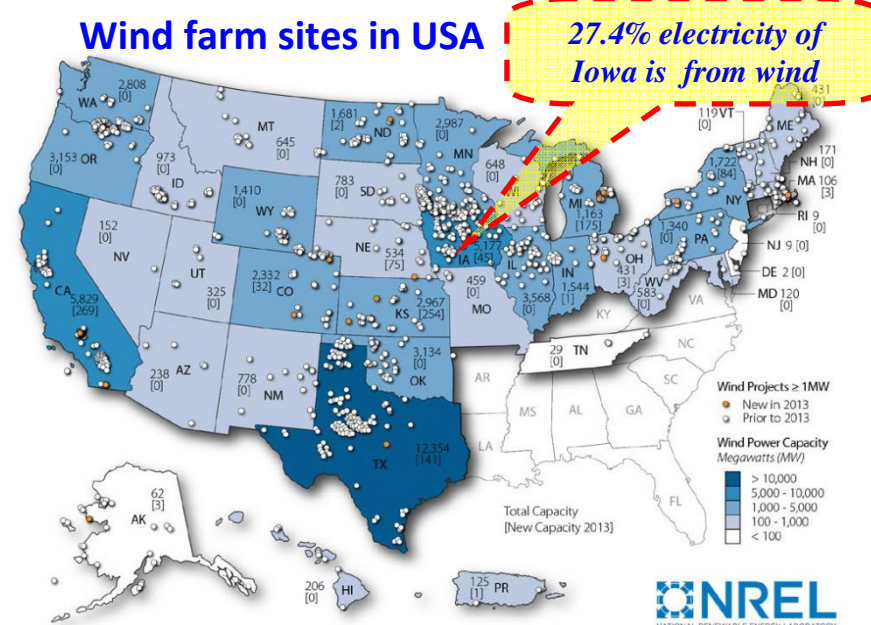
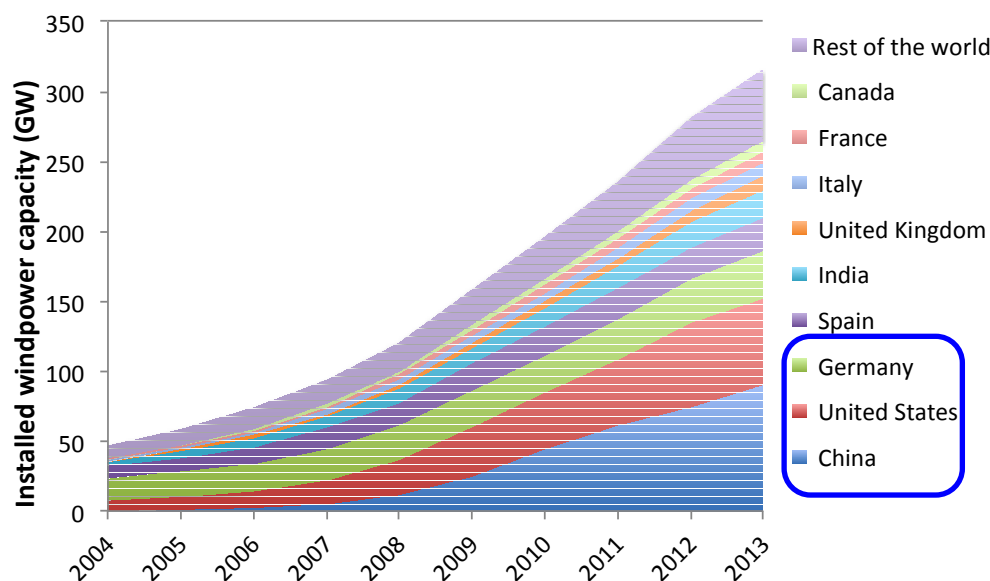
2251 Howe Hall, Ames, IA 50011-2271

✉ Email: huhui@iastate.edu



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Wind Energy Production and Wind Turbine Installations in USA



- A target of **20% of US electricity** from wind energy by 2030 has been set up by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).
- Iowa is **the 3rd** in the nation in installed wind energy capacity and it has the **highest** density of wind power generation capacity with **29.9 kW/km²**
- According to 2013 DoE wind Technologies Mark Report, **Iowa** has reached the milestone of **27.4% of the state's electricity** in 2013, while the **national average** rate is about **4.1%** in 2013.

Top Wind Energy Production States:

- **Texas:** **12,354 MW (8.3%)**
- **California:** **5,829 MW (6.6%)**
- **Iowa:** **5,177 MW (27.4%)**
- **Illinois:** **3,568 MW (4.7%)**
- **Oregon:** **3,153 MW (12.4%)**
- **Oklahoma:** **3,134 MW (14.8%)**
- **Minnesota:** **2,987 MW (15.7%)**

(2014 DoE Wind Technologies Market Report)



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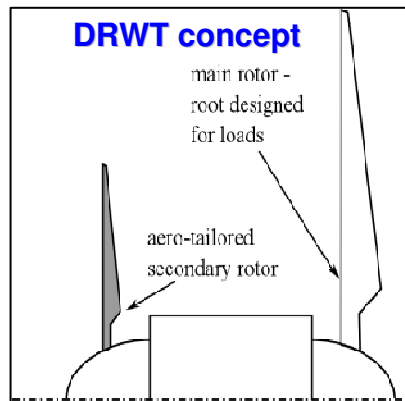
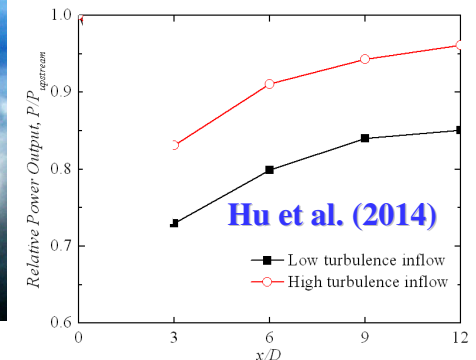
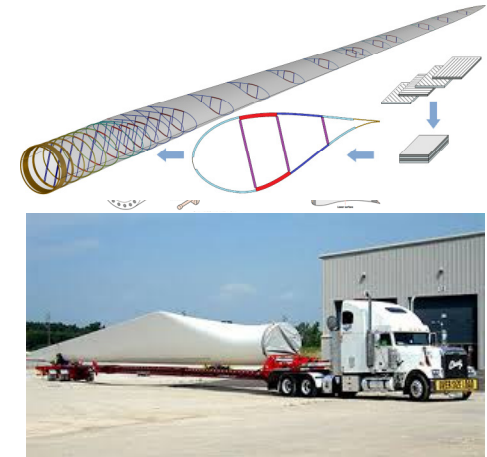
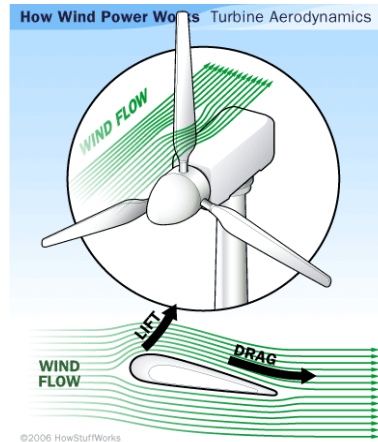
Root Loss and Wake Loss of Wind Turbines

- **Root Loss (~5%):**

- *Inner 25% of rotor blades are designed to provide structural integrity.*
- *The aerodynamically poor design at the root region would result in a “dead” wind zone where virtually no energy is extracted from the incoming wind.*

- **Wake Loss (up to 40%):**

- *Aerodynamic interaction between wind turbines will result in significant energy loss (up to 40%).*
- *Wake loss is due to the ingestion of low-momentum air in wakes from upstream turbines by the downstream turbines.*

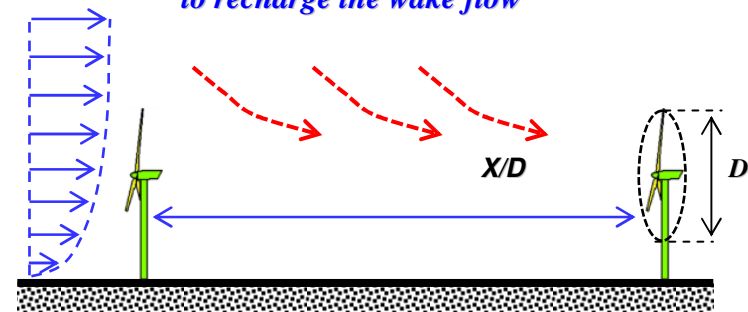


SRWT

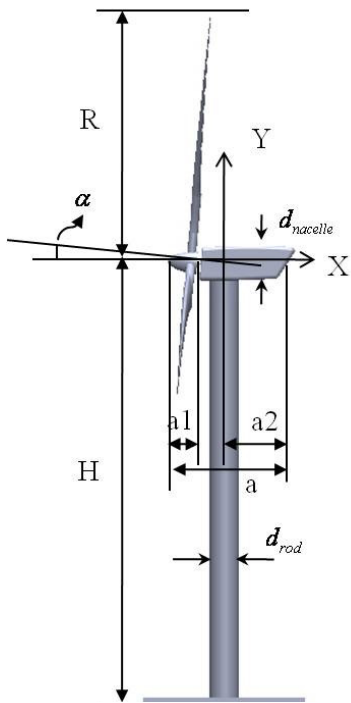
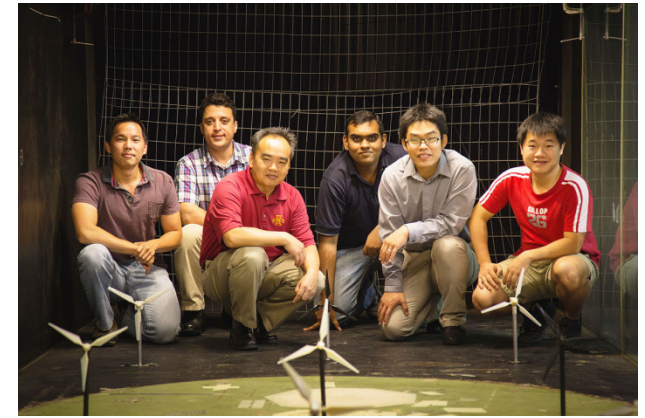
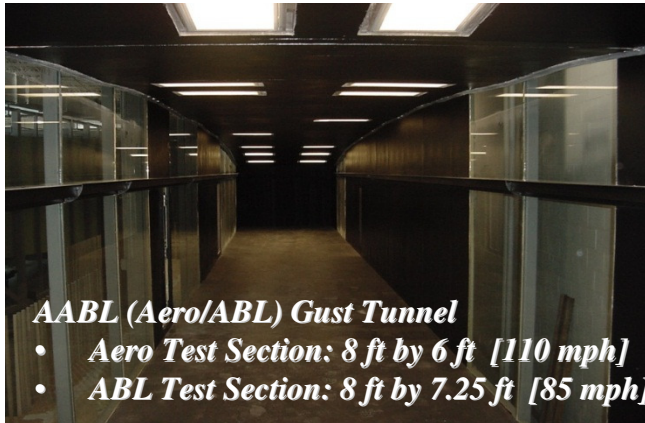
TRWT

ABL wind

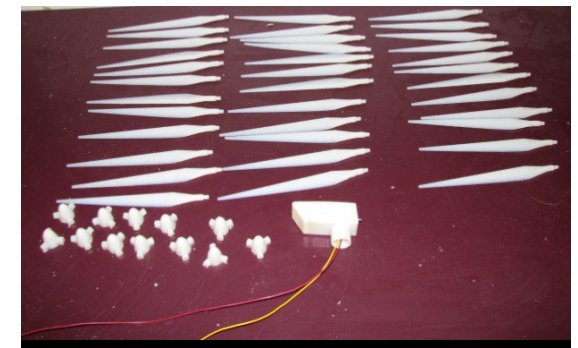
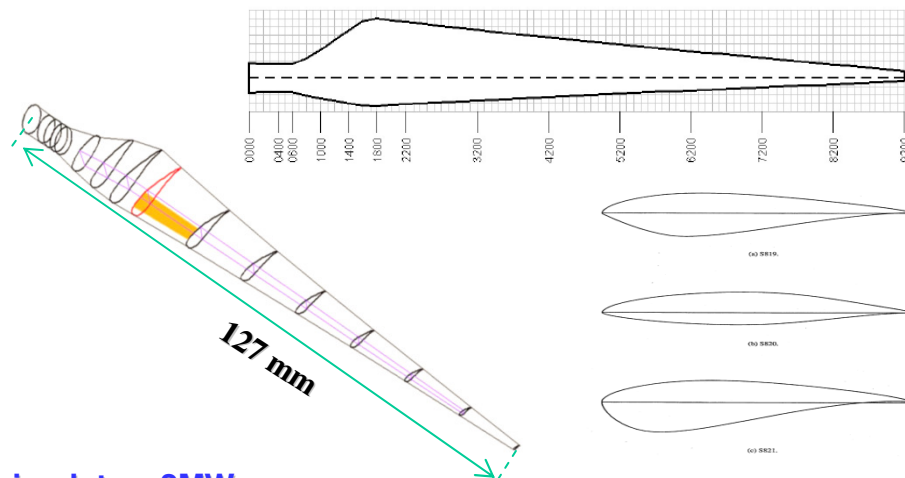
Entrainment of high-speed surrounding airflow to recharge the wake flow



Aerodynamics and Atmospheric Boundary Layer (AABL) Wind Tunnel @ Iowa State University



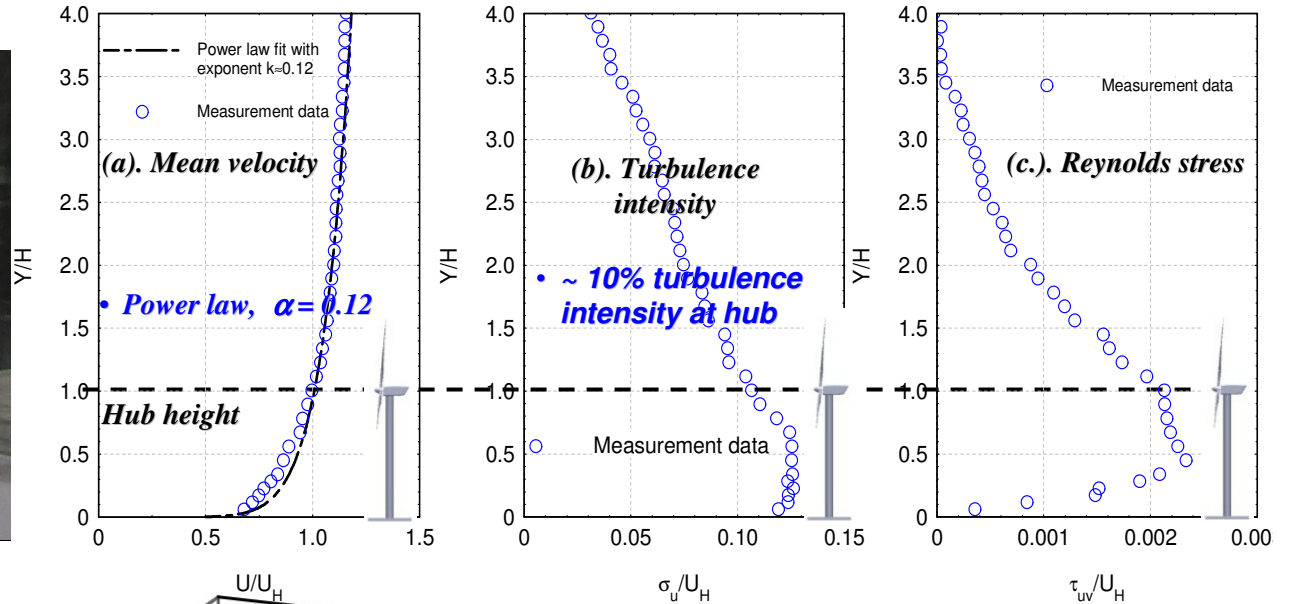
Parameter	D (mm)	H (mm)	d_{pole} (mm)	$d_{nacelle}$ (mm)	α (deg.)	a (mm)	$a1$ (mm)	$A2$ (mm)
Dimension	280	225	18	18	5°	78	15	50



1:320 scaled model to simulate a 2MW
wind turbine with 90m rotor blades

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Experimental Setup to Study Wind Turbine Aeromechanics

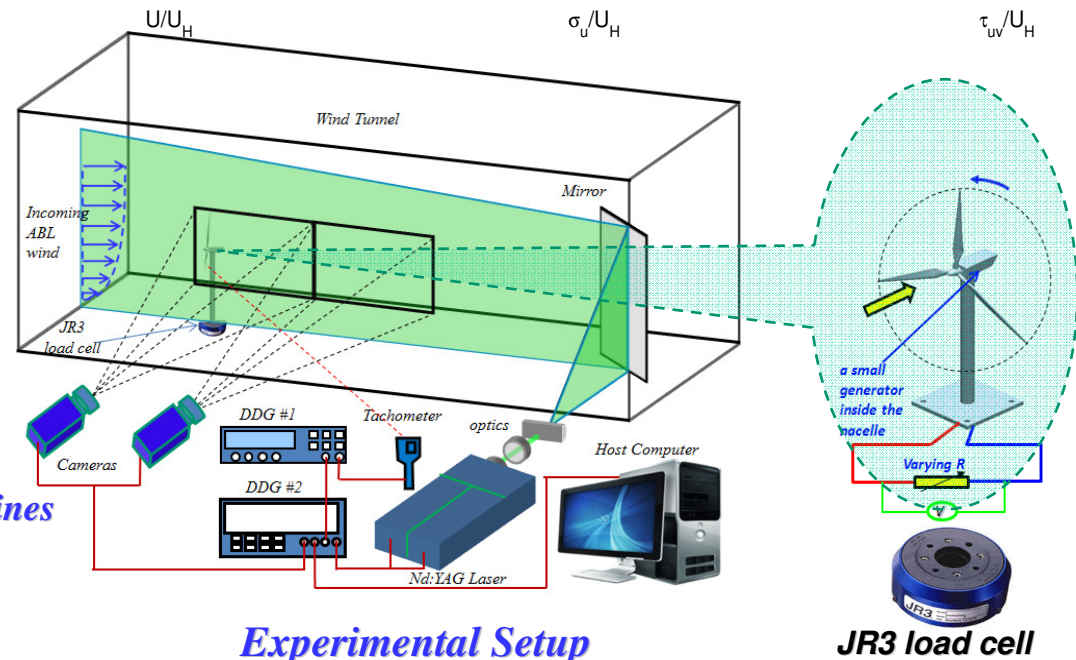


Test flow conditions:

- $U_{hub} = 6 \text{ m/s}$,
- $Re_c = 10,000$
- Tip speed ratio:
 $\lambda = 0 \sim 6.5$.

Measured parameters:

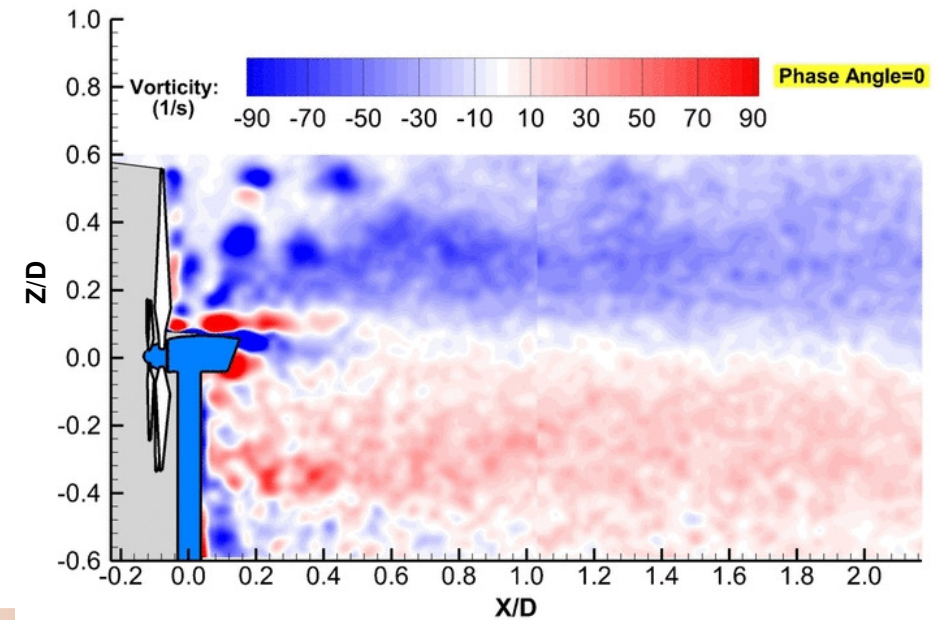
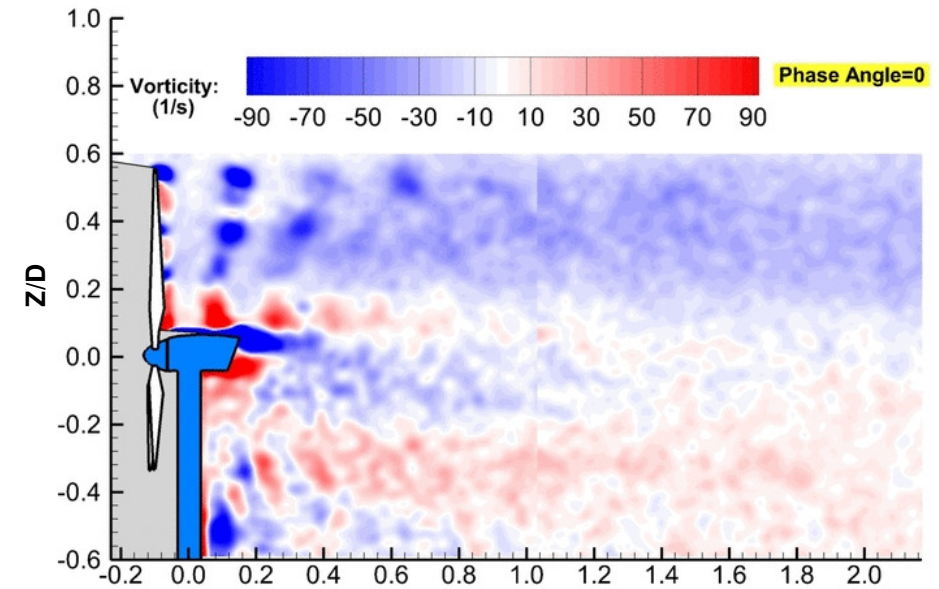
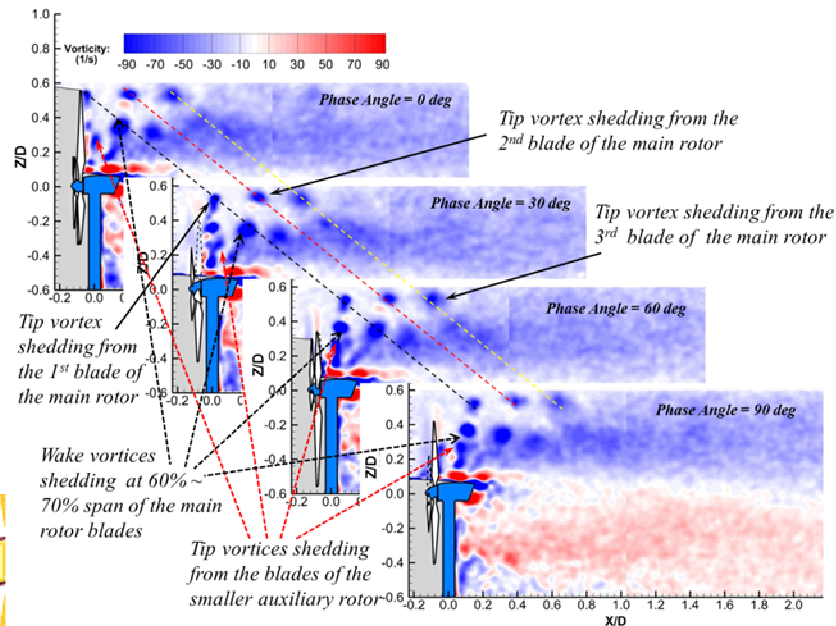
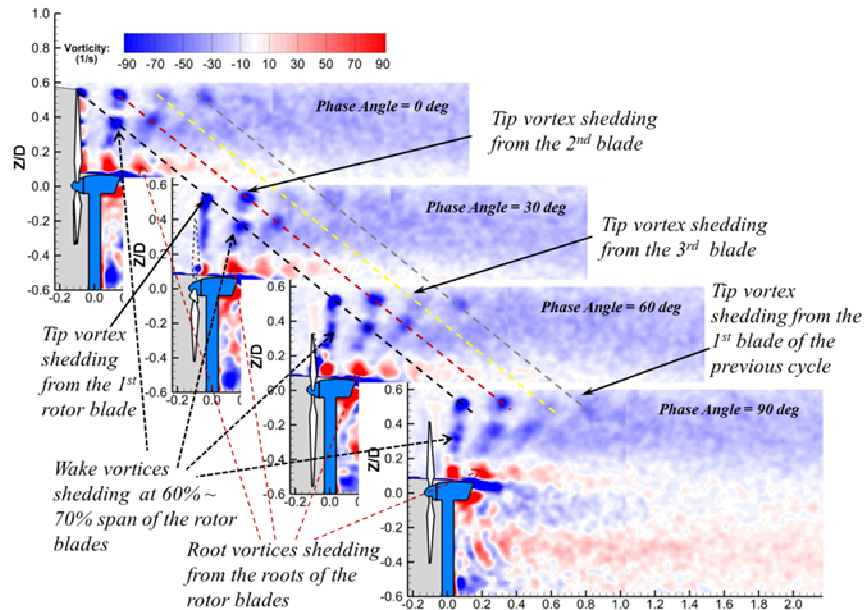
- Characteristics of turbine wake flows
- Power output of wind turbine models
- Dynamic wind loads acting on wind turbines



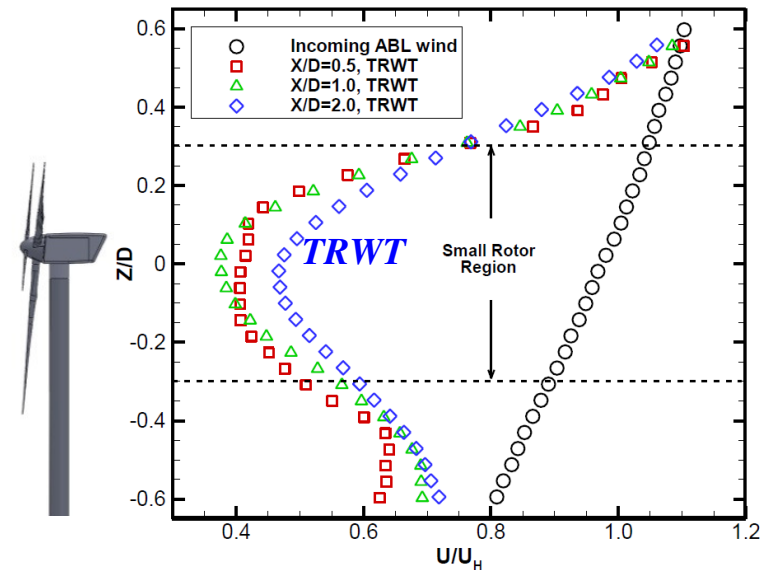
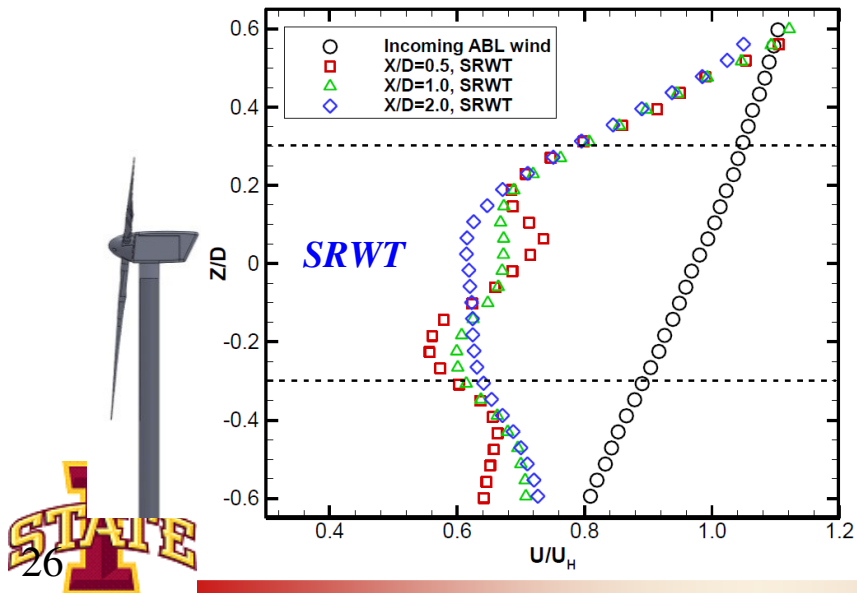
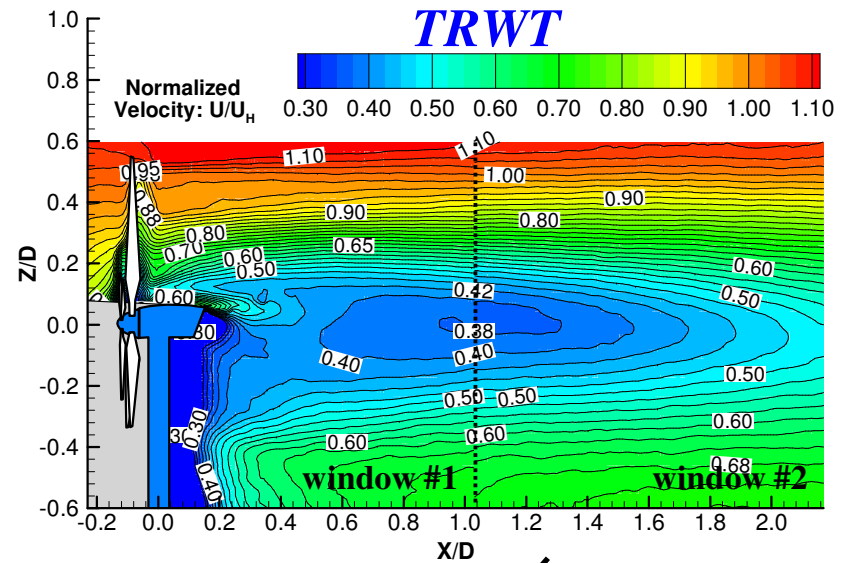
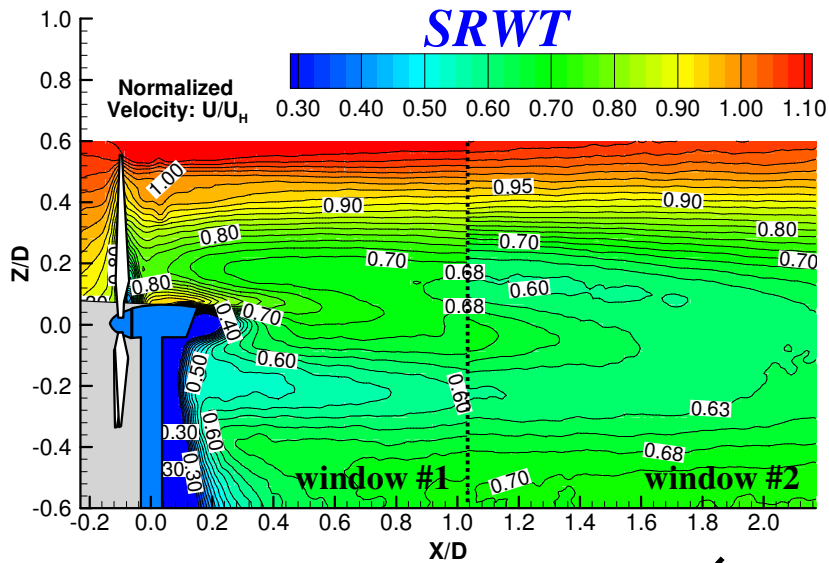
Experimental Setup



Phase-locked PIV measurements (TSR ≈ 5.0)

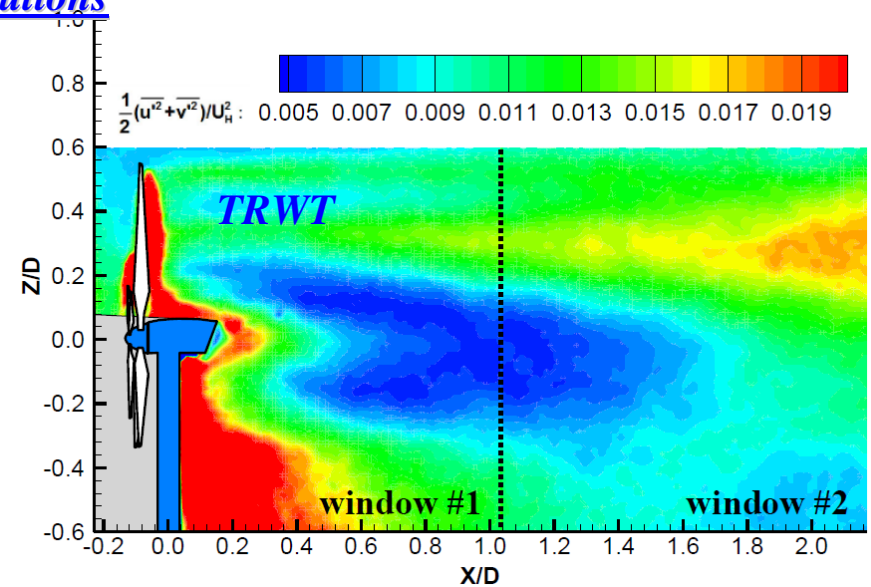
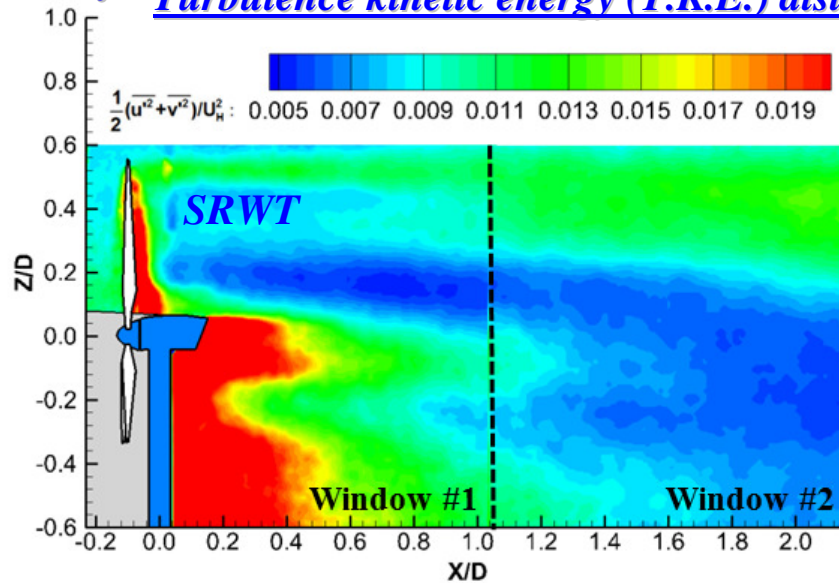


Ensemble-averaged PIV measurements

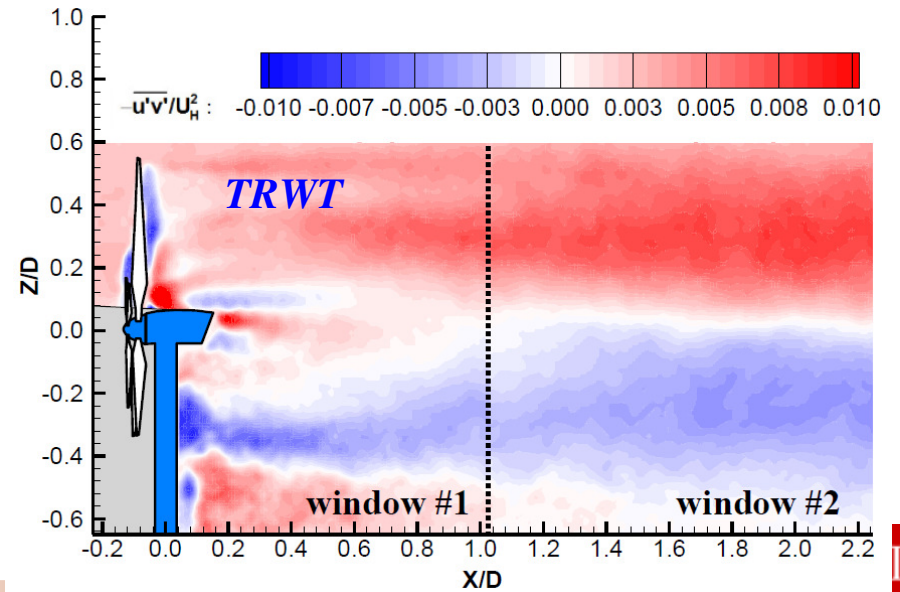
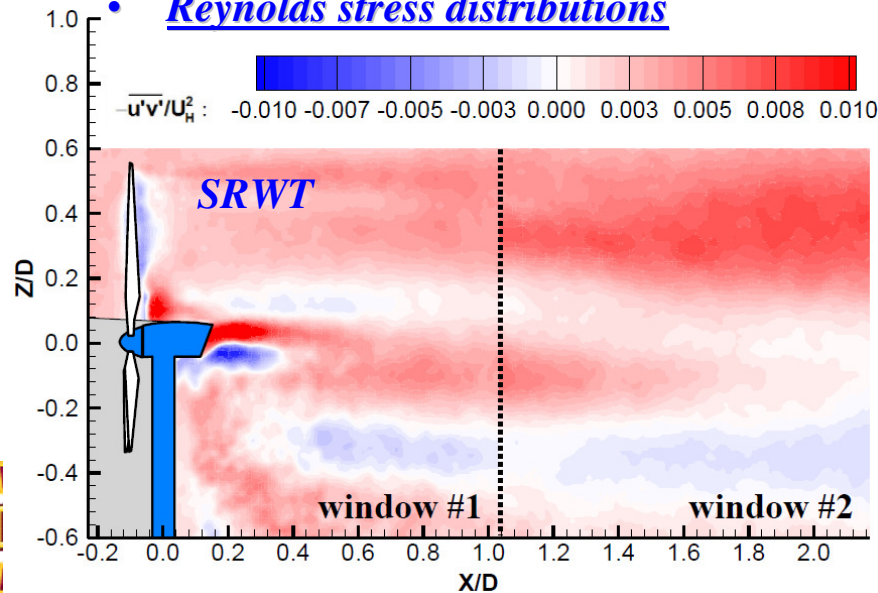


Ensemble-averaged PIV measurements

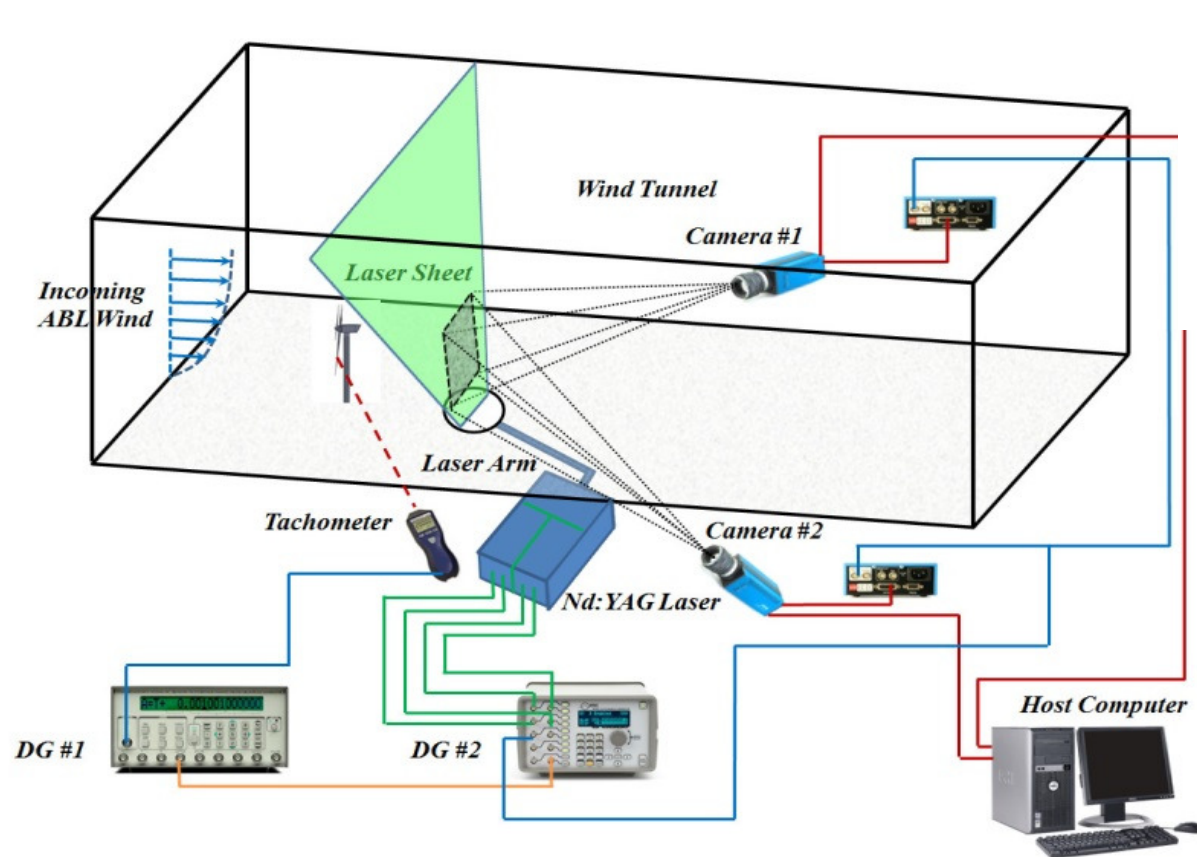
• Turbulence kinetic energy (T.K.E.) distributions



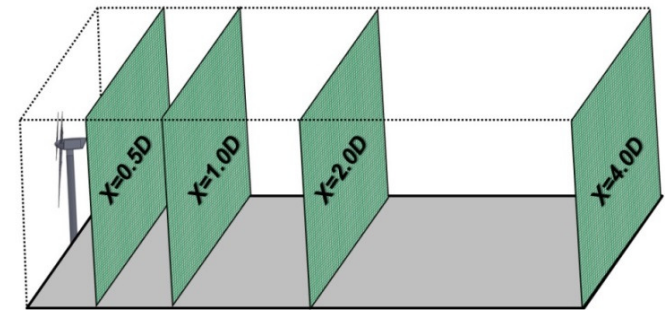
• Reynolds stress distributions



Stereo-PIV measurements



Measuring locations

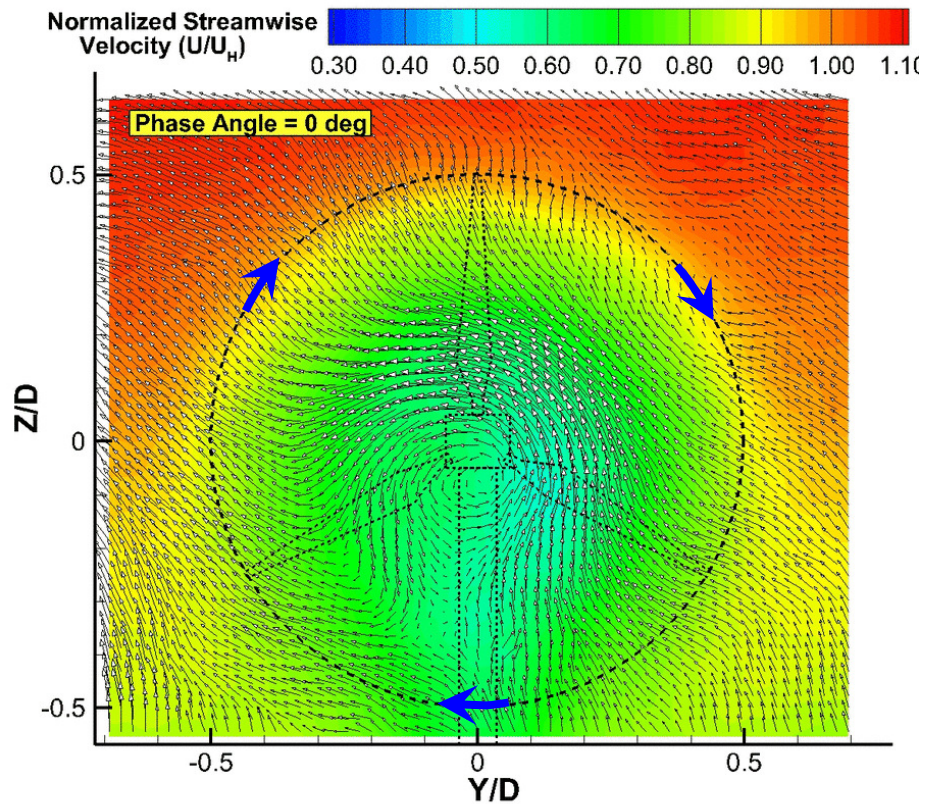


SRWT

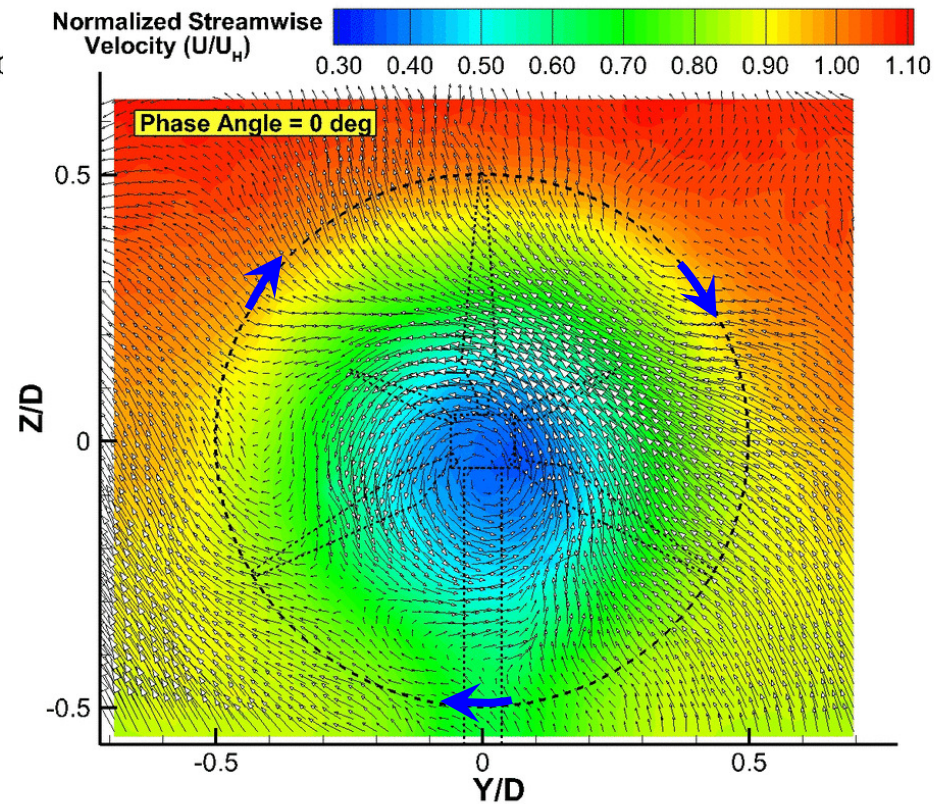
TRWT

Experimental setup for Stereo-PIV measurements

Stereo-PIV measurements

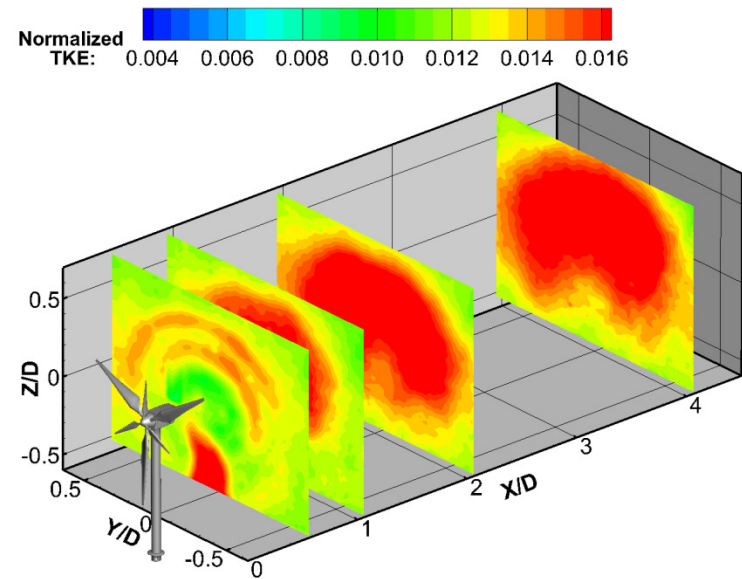
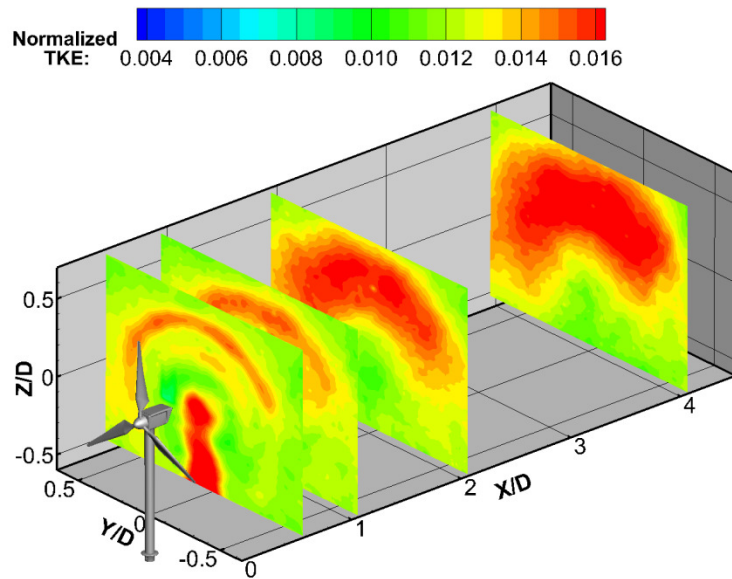
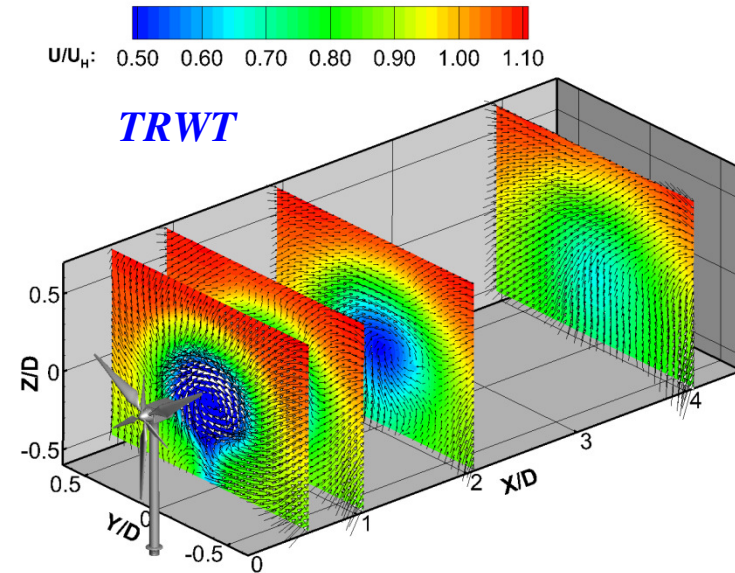
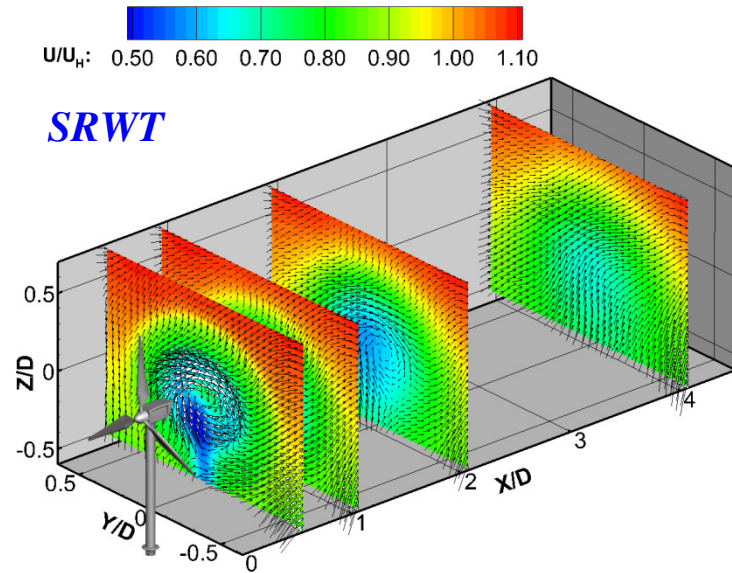


SRWT
 $X/D=1.0$ cross plane

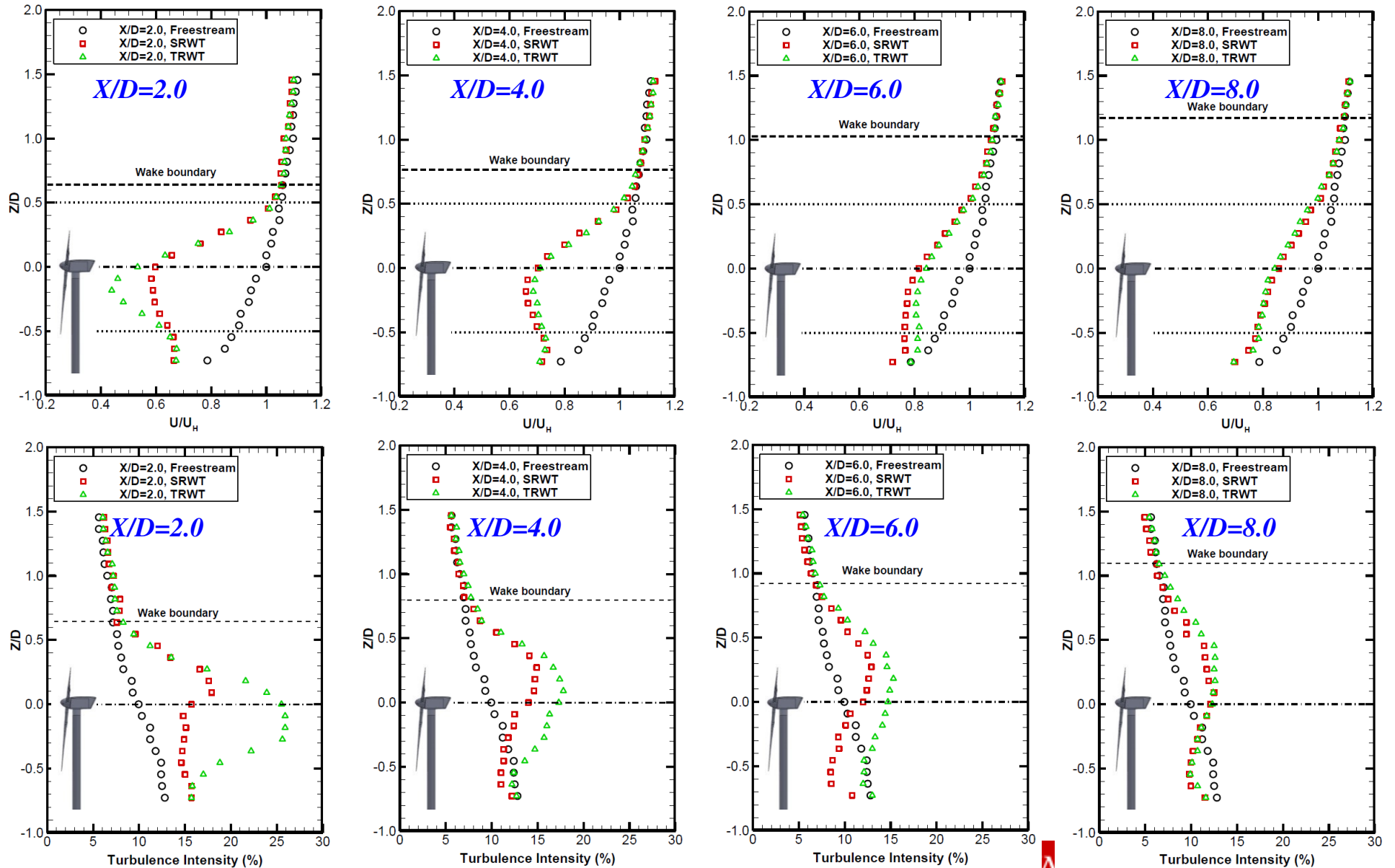


TRWT
 $X/D=1.0$ cross plane

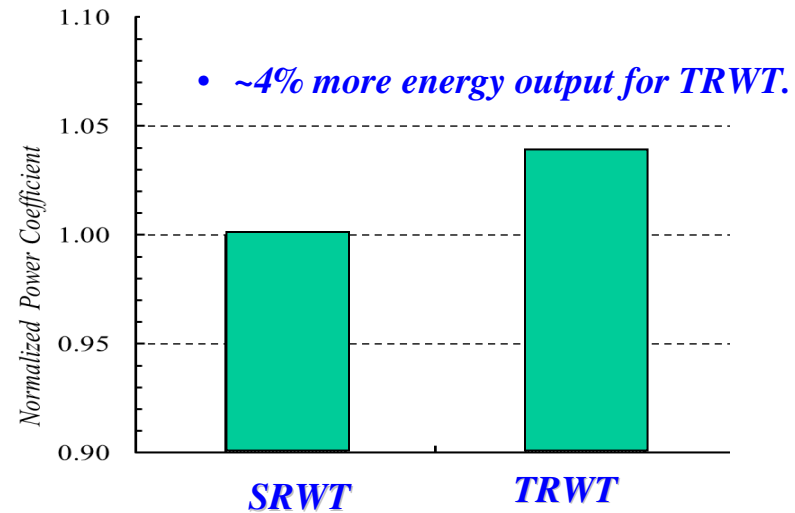
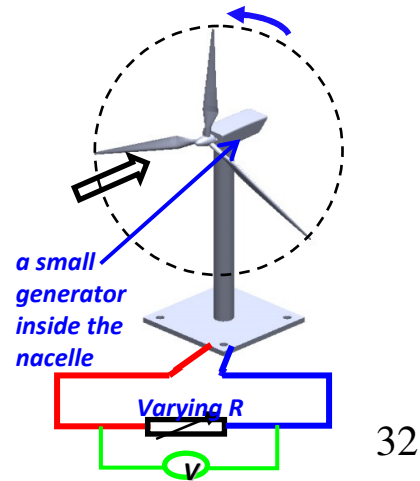
Stereo-PIV measurements



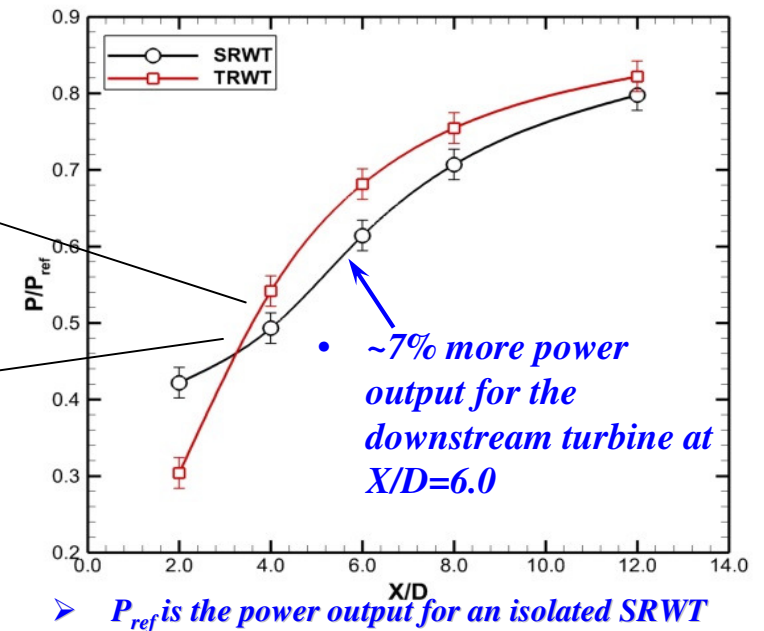
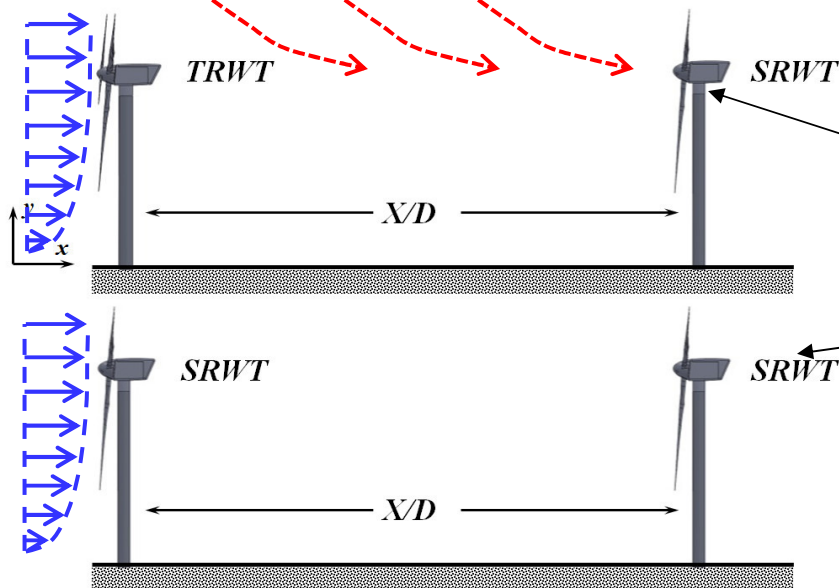
Flow Characteristics in the far wake



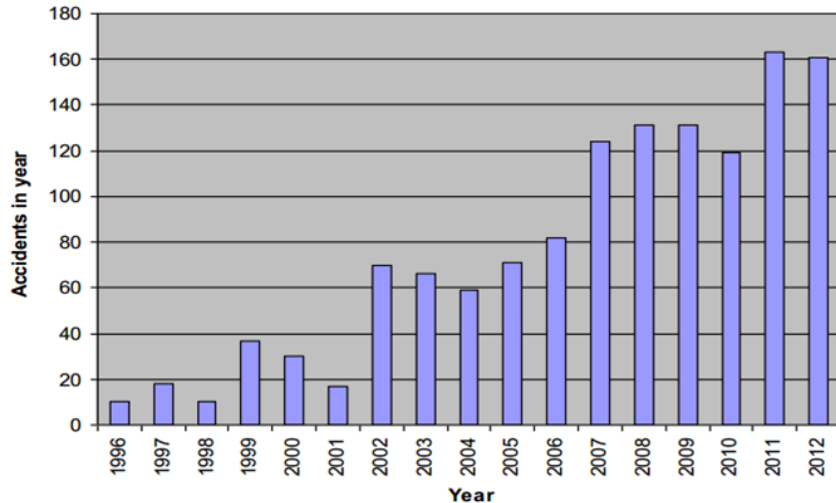
Power outputs of SRWT and TRWT models



- Entrainment of high-momentum surrounding airflow to recharge the turbine wake flow



Wind Turbine Failures



Caithness Wind Farm, UK

<http://www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk/>

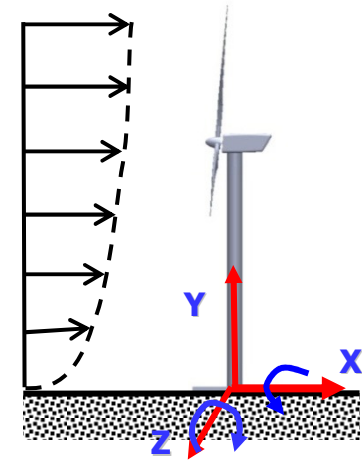
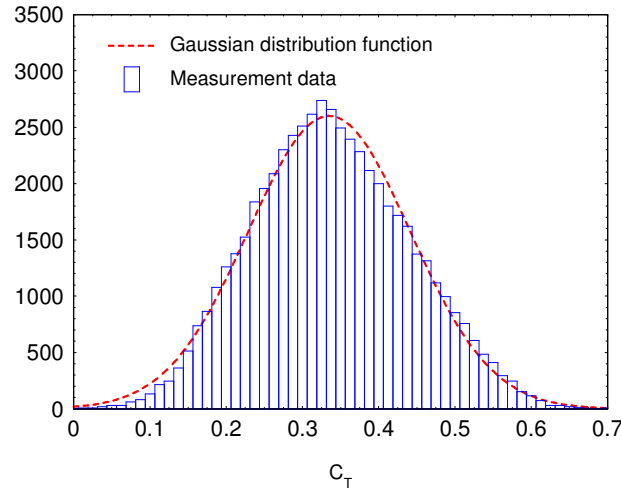
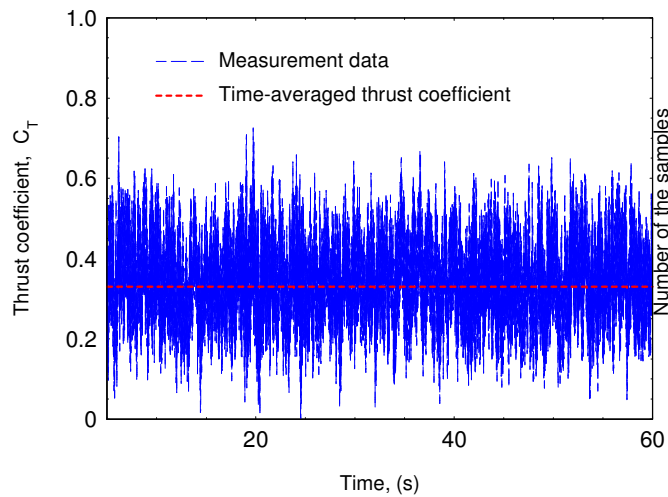
(202 WT in operation + 198 in construction)

Total number of accidents: 1405

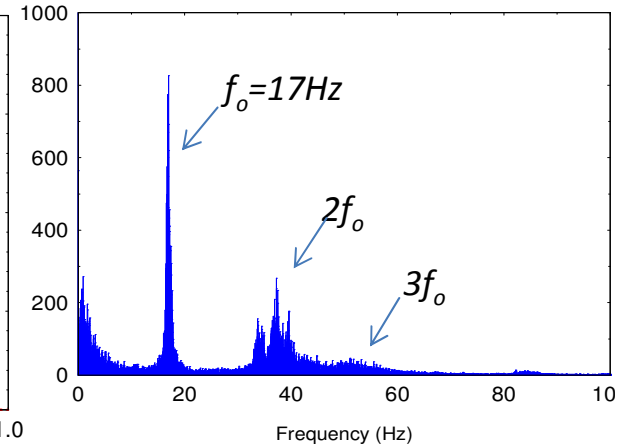
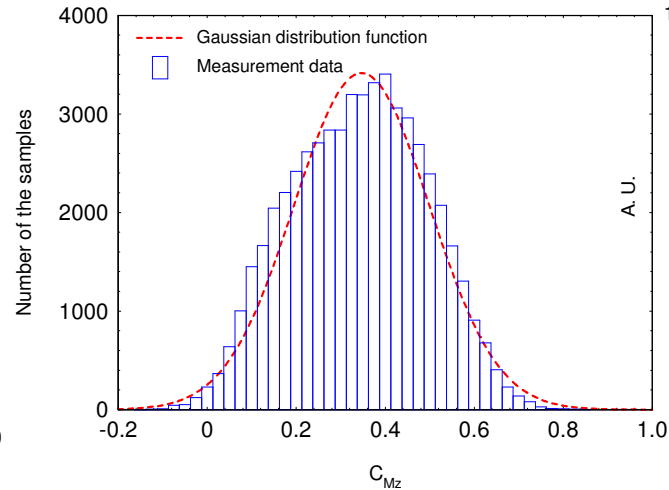
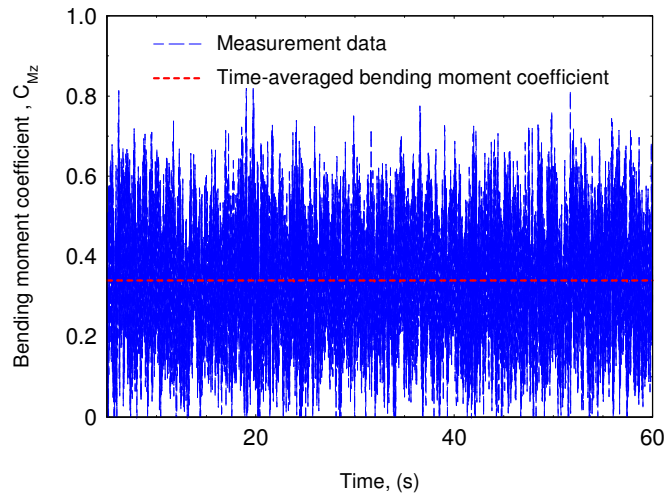
- **Human fatalities & injuries:** 136+145
- **Blade failure:** 265
- **Fire:** 202
- **Structural failure:** 138
- **Ice throw:** 34
- **Transport:** 113
- **Environmental (bird death):** 128
- **Others:** 282



Dynamic Wind Loads Measurement Results



(a). Measured thrust coefficient data



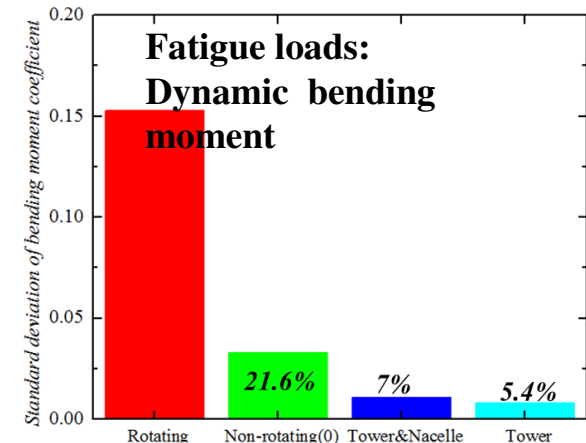
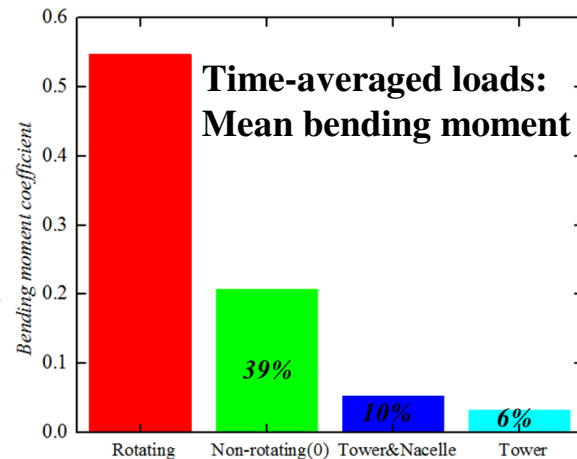
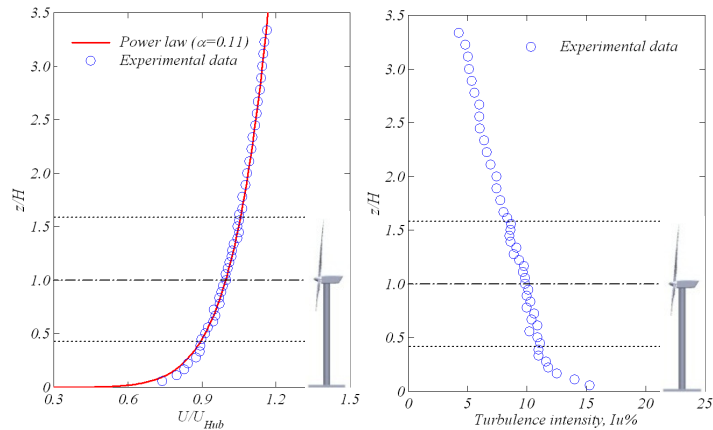
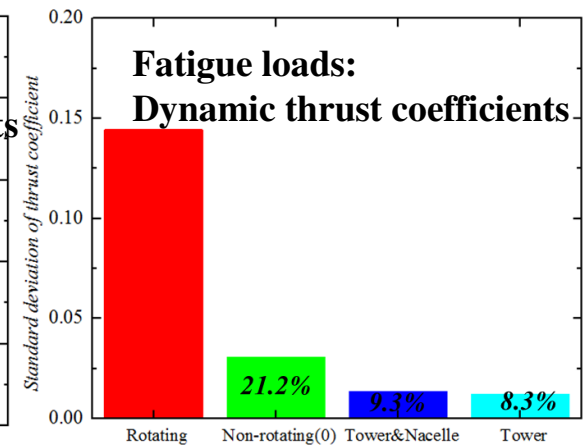
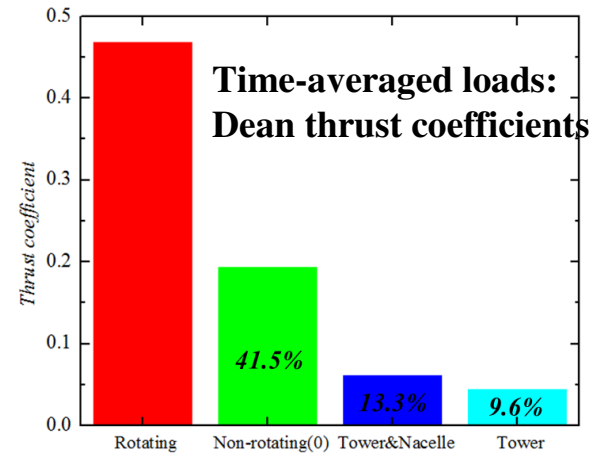
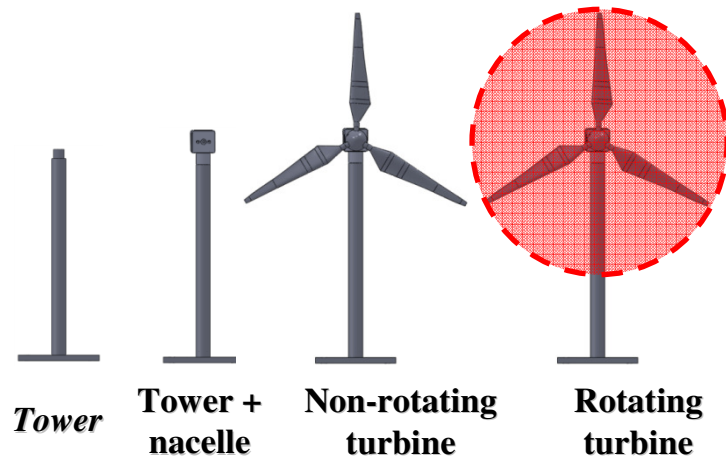
(b). Measured bending moment data



(Tian, Ozbay, Hu, Physics of Fluids, Vol. 26, No.12, 125108, 2014)

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Wind Loads Acting on Various Components of Wind Turbine

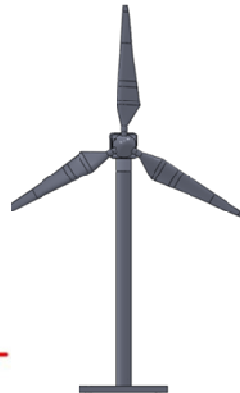
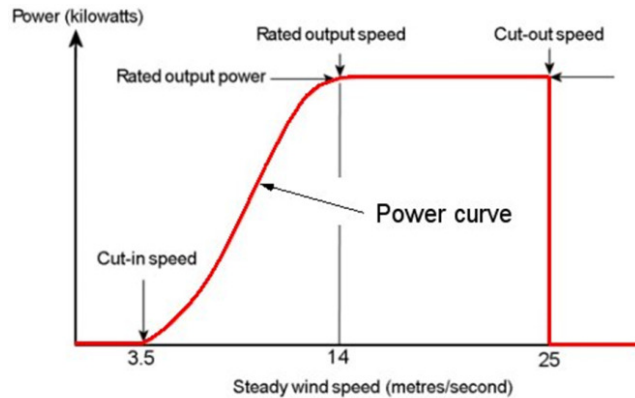


Test conditions:

- Oncoiming ABL wind
- Velocity at hub height $U_{Hub} = 6.0$ m/s
- Chord Reynolds number, $Re \approx 10,000$
- Tip-speed-ratio, $\lambda = 5.0$

(Tian, Ozbay, Hu; Physics of Fluids, Vol. 26, No.12, 125108, 2014)

Wind Loads Acting on Wind Turbine at Different Phase Angles



$\theta = 0 \text{ deg.}$



$\theta = 30 \text{ deg.}$



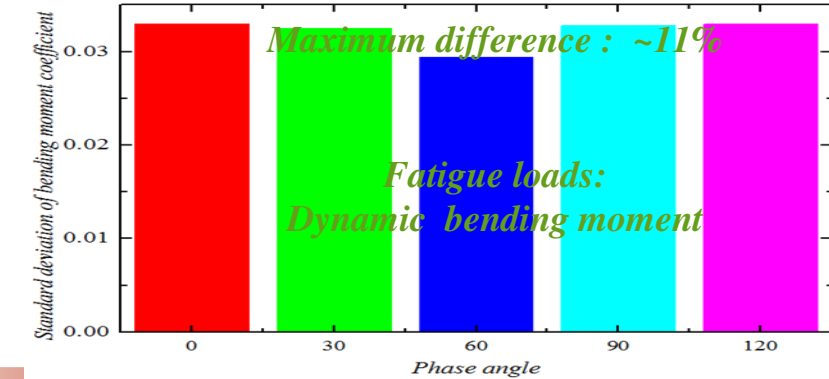
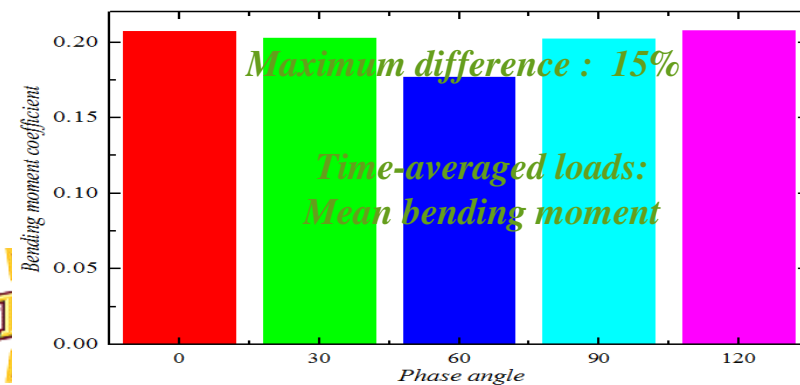
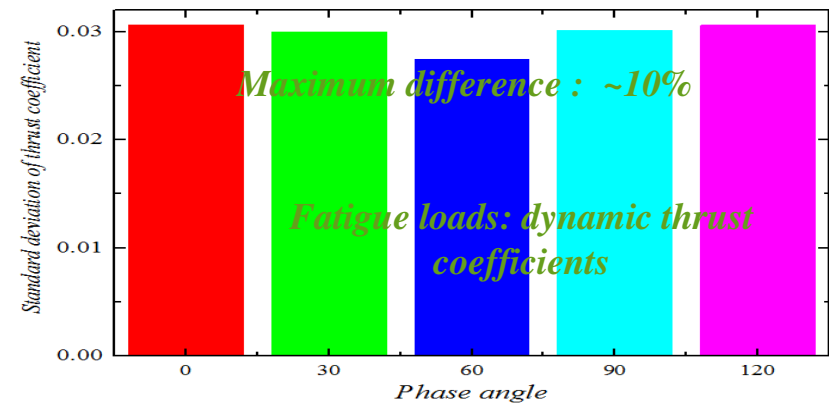
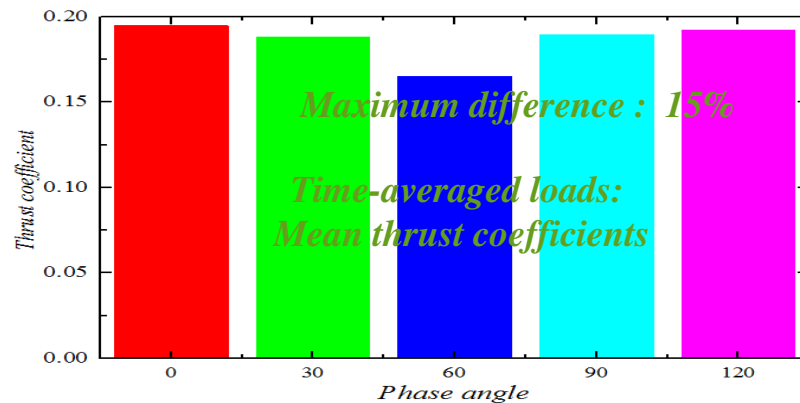
$\theta = 60 \text{ deg.}$



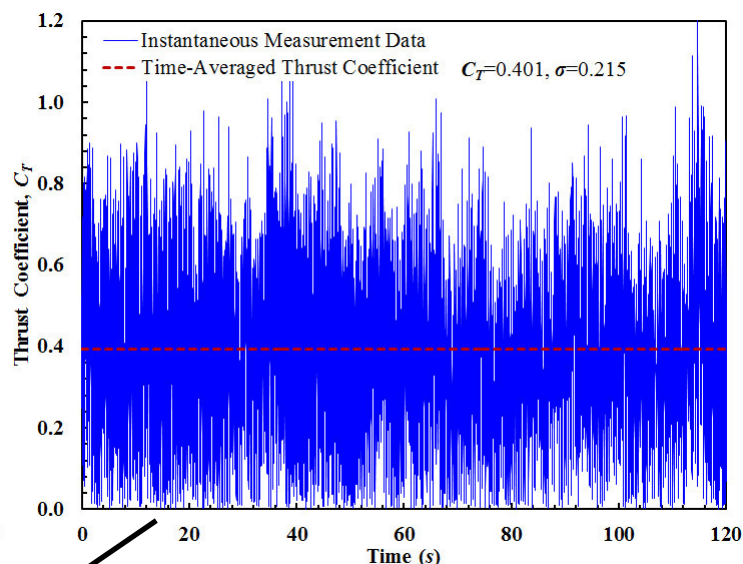
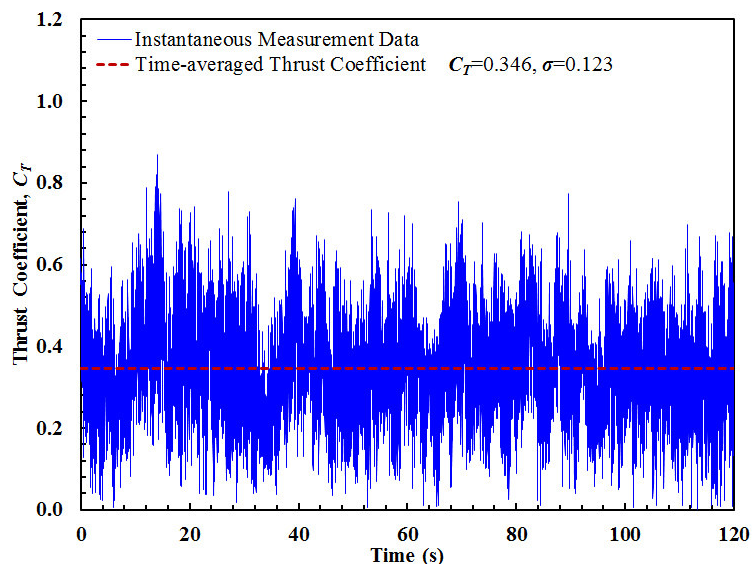
$\theta = 90 \text{ deg.}$



$\theta = 120 \text{ deg.}$



Dynamic wind loads of SRWT and TRWT models



$$C_T = \frac{F_x}{0.5\rho U_H^2 \pi R^2}$$

$$C_M = \frac{M}{0.5\rho U_H^2 \pi R^2 H}$$

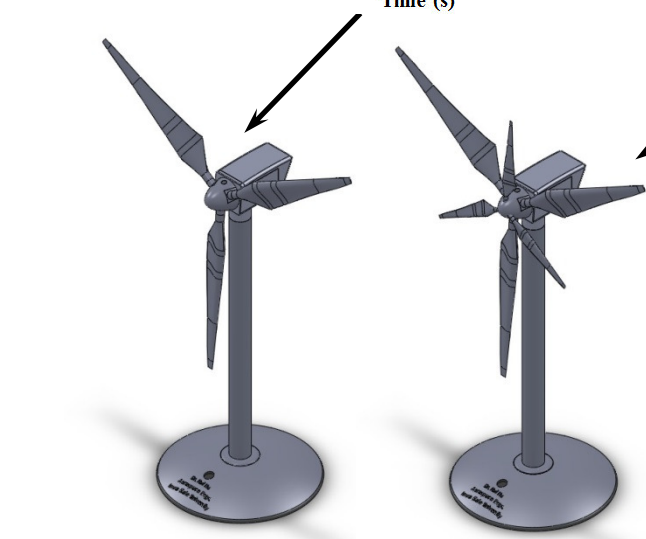
$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (C_j - \bar{C}_j)^2}$$

Where:

F_x ----- Force acting on streamwise direction

R ----- Radius of main rotor

$\bar{C}_j$ ----- Time-averaged coefficient



SRWT

TRWT

	SRWT	TRWT
Mean thrust coefficient, C_T	0.346	0.401
The standard deviation of the thrust coefficient, σ_{CT}	0.123	0.215
Mean bending moment coefficient, C_M	0.411	0.475
The standard deviation of the bending moment coefficient, σ_{CM}	0.133	0.324

- ~ 15% increase in time-averaged wind loads.
- up to 140% increase in the fluctuating amplitudes of the instantaneous wind loads.

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Summary

- The aeromechanic performance and wake characteristics of a novel *twin-rotor wind turbine (TRWT) design*, which has *an extra set of smaller, auxiliary rotor blades* appended in front of the main rotor blades, was evaluated experimentally, in comparison with those of a conventional single-rotor wind turbine (SRWT).
- TRWT design was found to be capable of not only *harvesting more energy* from the same incoming wind *by reducing the root losses* of the main turbine rotor, but also *improving wind farm efficiency by mitigating the wake losses* for the downstream turbines through enhanced turbulent mixing of the turbine wake flows.
- The dynamic wind loadings acting on the TRWT model were found to be much greater (i.e., *~ 20% increase in time-averaged wind loads, up to 140% increase in the fluctuating amplitudes of the instantaneous wind loads*) than those acting on the SRWT model.
- While the findings derived from the present study are helpful to gain further insight into underlying physic related to aeromechanic characteristics of TRWT, *more comprehensive studies* are still needed (e.g., *Reynolds number effects, fatigue loading reduction, cost analysis,...*) to explore/optimize design paradigms for higher power yield and better durability of wind turbines.



SRWT

TRWT

Thank You Very Much for Your Time!

Questions?

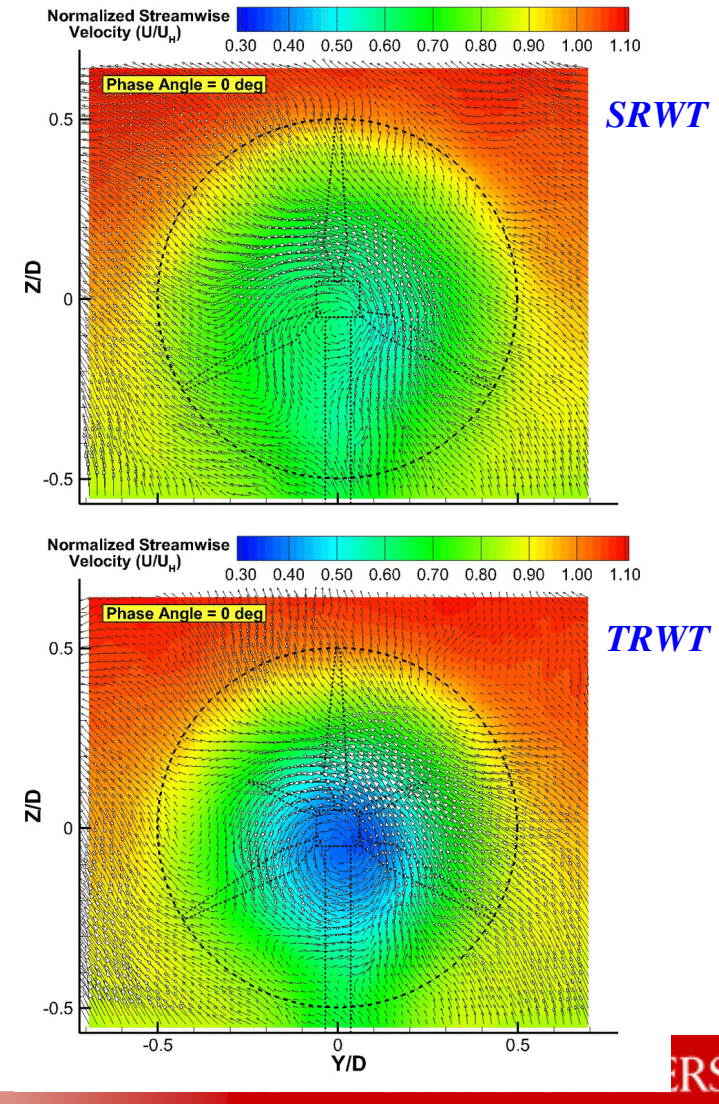


SRWT



TRWT

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- Collaborators, postdocs, visiting scholars and graduate students:

- Collaborators: P. Sarkar; P. Durbin; A. Rothmayer; M. Koochesfahani; ZJ Wang; R. Wlezien, S. Zhang
- Postdocs & scholars: Drs. R. Waldman; W. Tian; F. Chen; J. Guo
- Current Graduate Students: A. Ozbay (PhD); K. Zhang (PhD); J. Ryon (PhD); Z. Wang (PhD); Y. Liu (PhD); W. Zhou(PhD); K. Morteza (PhD); A. Bolding(PhD); P. Premaratne (PhD).
- Former Postdocs&Scholar: B. Johnson, W. Chen, W. Yuan, W.H. Ma; Drs. Z. Jin; H. Ma, Z. Yang
- Former PhD Students: M. Zhang (PhD); M. Yu (PhD), Z. Yang (PhD); Z. Jin (PhD); N. Cooper (PhD)
- Former MS Students: Dvorak; T. Grager; A.Kumar; H. Igarashi; L. Clemens; J. Murphy; K. Varma; M. Tamai.

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Hu Lab's Summer BBQ Party on 08/24/2014