



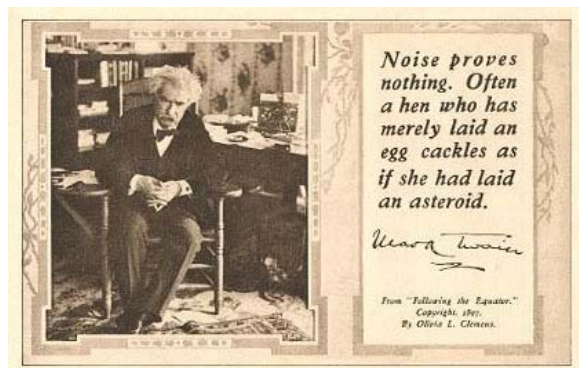
18 – 20 April 2012  
Senlis, France

## Noise Proves Nothing - Sources of Fan Noise and Their Prediction -

Th. Carolus



Institut für Fluid- und Thermodynamik  
Universität Siegen  
Germany



## NOISE PROVES NOTHING ....

- **Rated machine power does not necessarily correlate with sound power**  
(sound power  $\ll$  hydraulic power)
- **Generalization of empirical findings on noise mechanisms and noise reduction methods is often difficult**  
→ overwhelming number of publications, conferences, .....

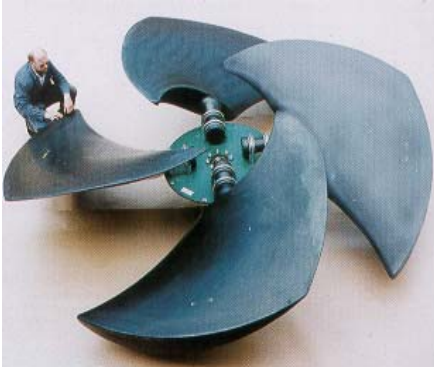


... nevertheless,

## AEROACOUSTICS

is a priority item in many fields of engineering

- **Aero space**
- **Renewable energy systems**
- **Automotive**
- **Heating, ventilating, air conditioning (HVAC)**
- **Household appliances**
- .....



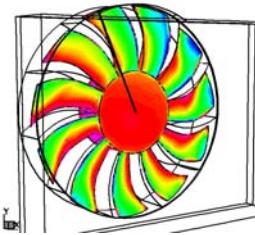
HVAC for buildings (Howden)



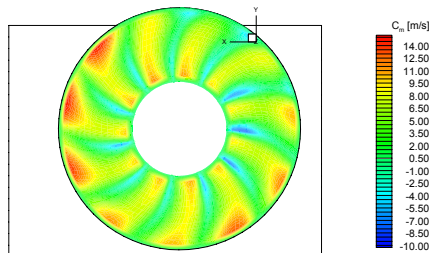
Multi purpose (Ziehl Abegg)



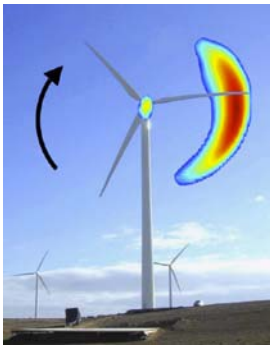
Radiator Cooling (Bosch)



HVAC (Bosch)



H. Reese 2001




S. Oerlemans et al. 2007, Starzmann et al. 2011

## Objectives

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N12 081 A


- **Understanding of basic noise mechanisms in fans**
- **Overview of engineering type noise prediction methods**
- **Selected experimental methods for noise measurement and source detection**




# Contents

9  
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1. Motivation and objectives
2. Overview: Basic fan noise mechanisms
3. Noise prediction methods
4. Experimental methods
5. Case studies
6. Summary and conclusions



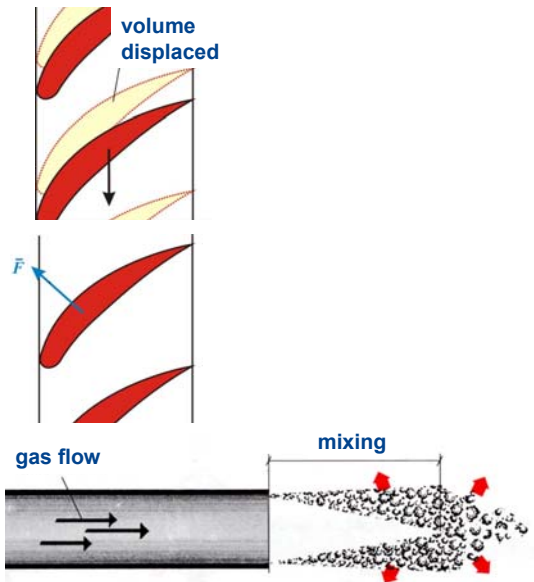
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## 2. Overview: Basic fan noise mechanisms


10  
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- Fluid displacement (Monopole sound)
- Forces on surfaces (Dipole sound)
- Turbulence in fluid (Quadrupole sound)



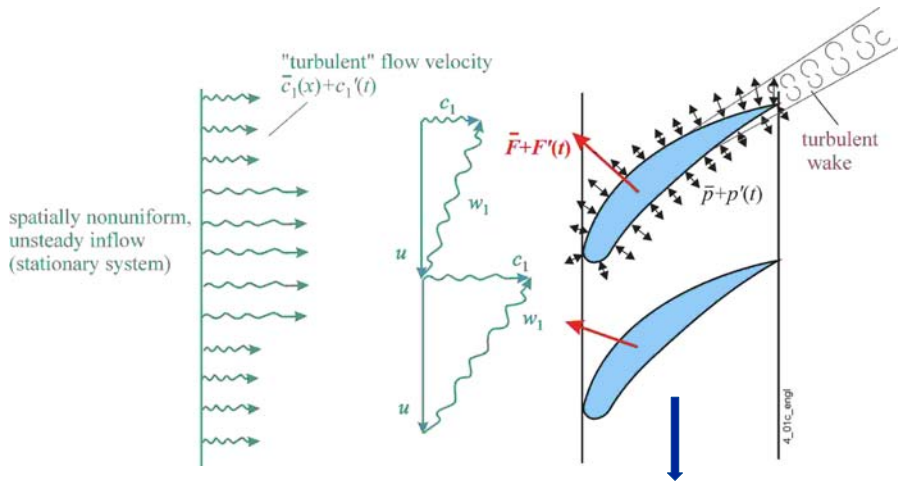
The diagrams illustrate three noise mechanisms:

- Fluid displacement (Monopole sound):** Shows a fan blade moving back and forth, displacing a volume of fluid (indicated by red and yellow areas).
- Forces on surfaces (Dipole sound):** Shows a fan blade with a force vector  $\vec{F}$  acting on its surface.
- Turbulence in fluid (Quadrupole sound):** Shows gas flow entering a pipe and exiting as a turbulent jet, with a region labeled "mixing" where the flow is highly irregular.



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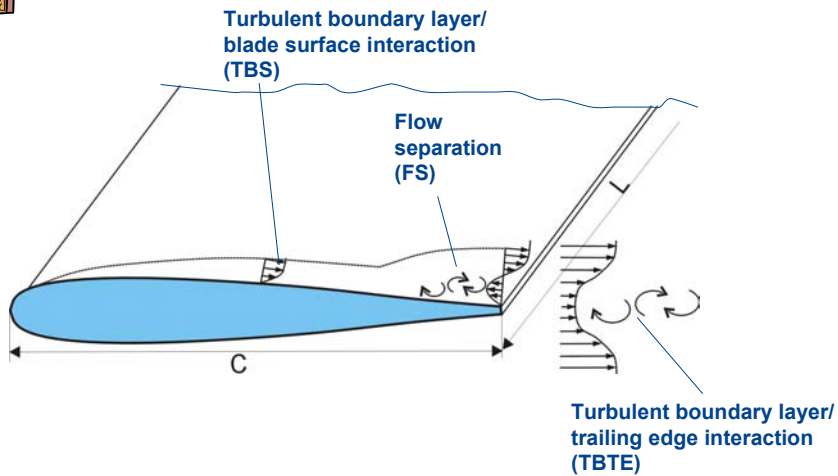


spatially nonuniform inflow  $\Rightarrow$  tonal noise („Unsteady loading noise“)  
 unsteady inflow  $\Rightarrow$  broad band noise



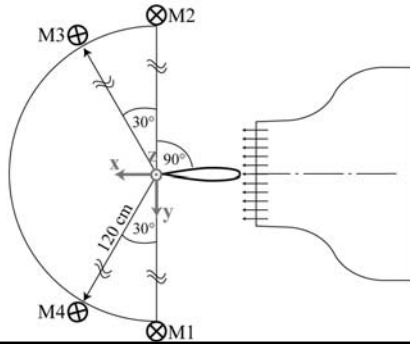
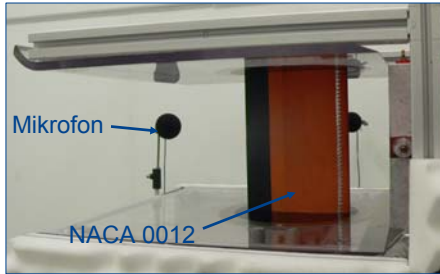
A detail: Airfoil self-noise

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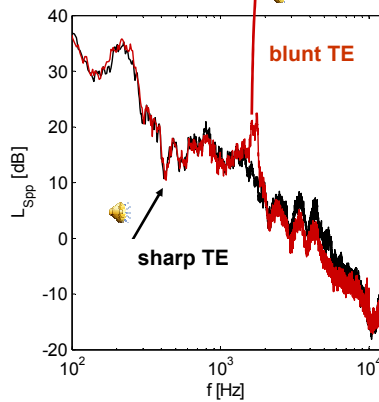
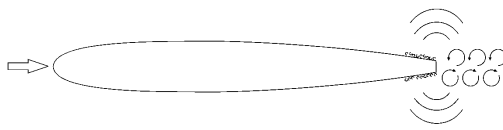


$\Rightarrow$  mostly broad band noise

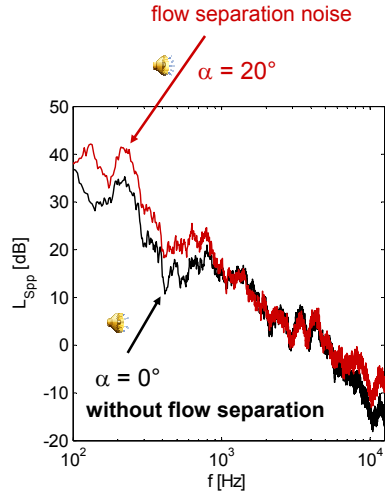
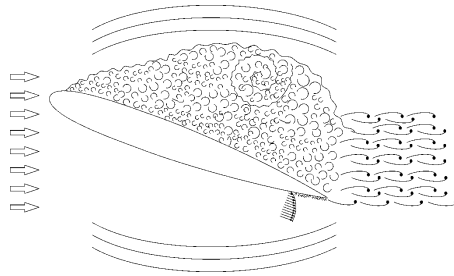
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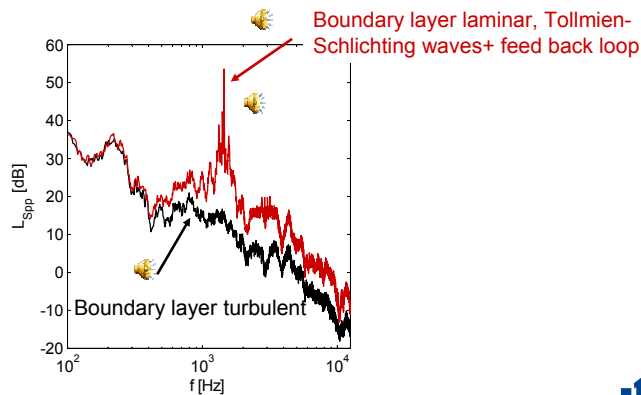
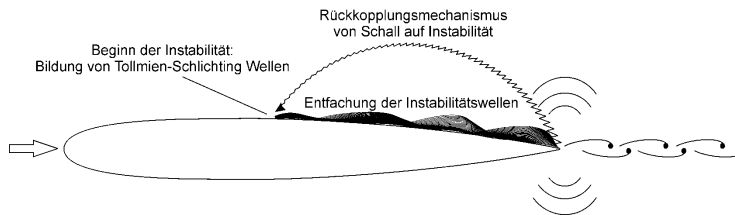
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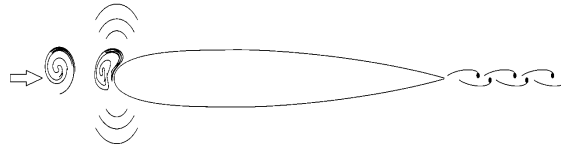
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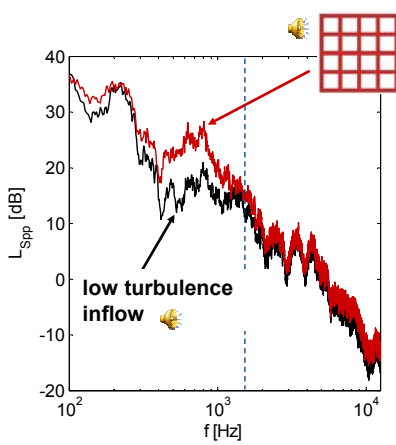
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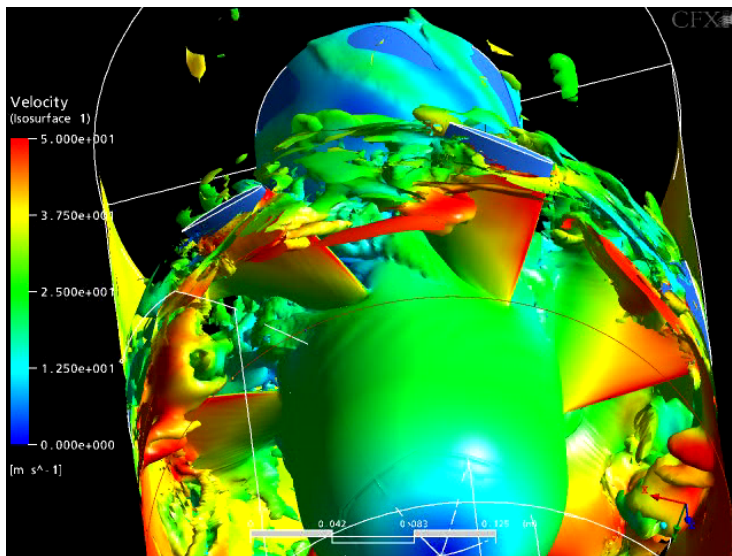




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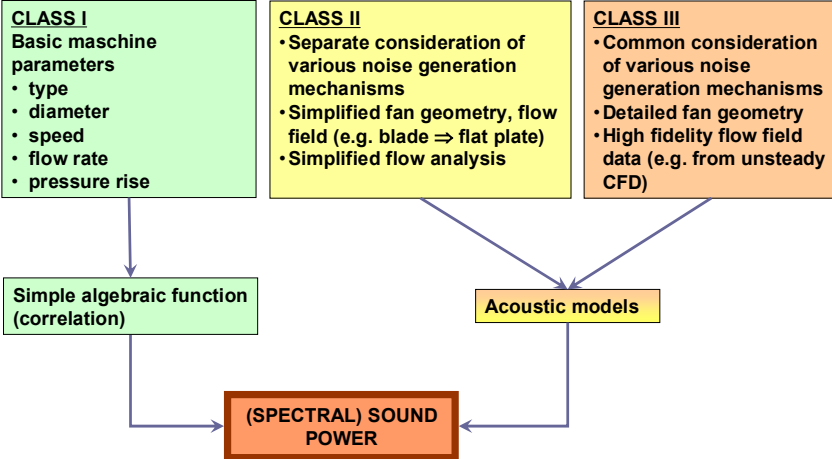


grid generated inflow turbulence



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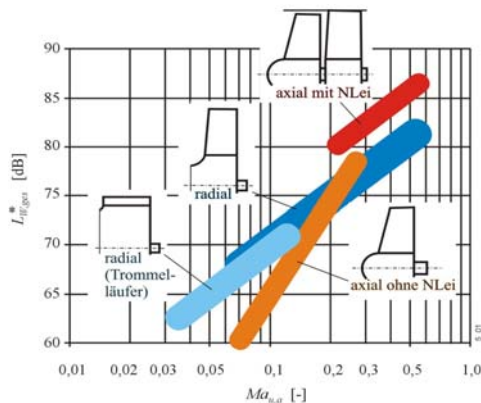
**Classification of fan noise prediction methods**



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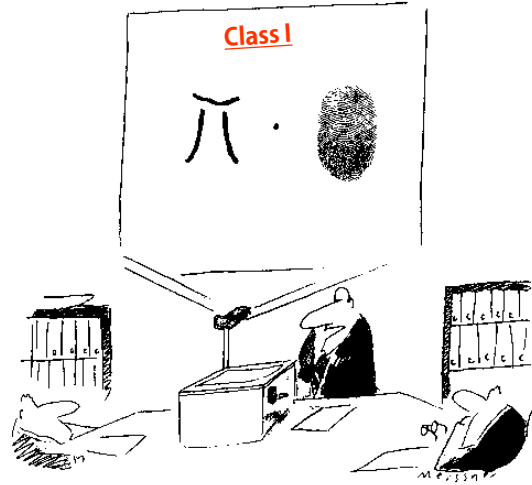
**Class I: Regenschicht-method; VDI-Richtlinie 3731**

$$L_{w,ges}^* \equiv L_{w,ges} - 10 \lg \left[ \frac{\dot{V}}{\dot{V}_0} \frac{\Delta p_t}{\Delta p_0} \left( \frac{1}{\eta} - 1 \right) \right] = L_{w,spec,R} + 10 m \cdot \lg \left( \frac{u_a}{c_0} \right) \text{ dB}$$



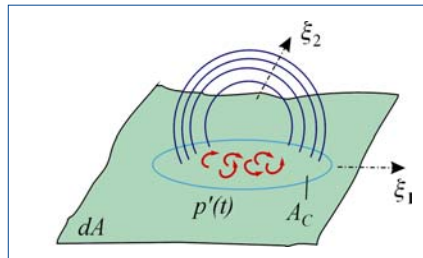
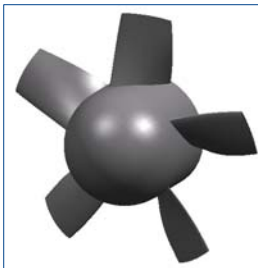
⇒ Specific sound power level for various types of fans

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Unser Erfolgformel ist, offen gestanden,  
relativ simpel !

A class II – noise prediction method (I)



**Pressure fluctuations on a flat plate and their spatial correlation area**

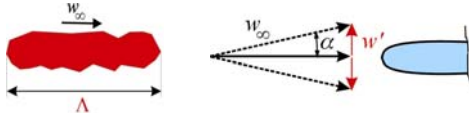
⇒ **acoustic sound power radiated**

**Sharland 1964:** 
$$P_{acoustic} = \frac{\pi}{3} \cdot \frac{f^2}{\rho c_0^3} \iint_A \left[ \overline{\Delta p'^2}(\xi_1, \xi_2) \cdot A_c(\xi_1, \xi_2) \right] d\xi_1 d\xi_2$$

**(simplified Ffowcs Williams and Hawkins equation)**

**Example: Turbulent ingestion (TI)**

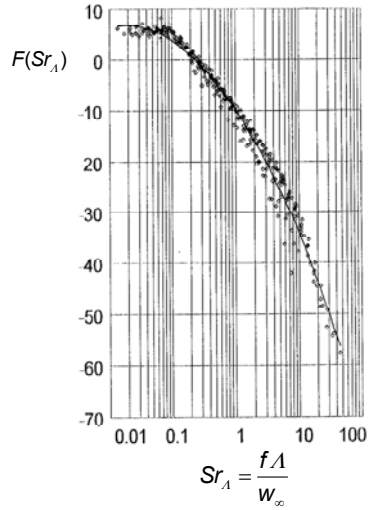
**Velocity fluctuations of turbulent inflow:**  
Curve fit to dimensionless experimental results from various turbulence generators



$$\frac{dw'^2}{df} = w_\infty \cdot Tu^2 \cdot \Lambda \cdot 10^{-10} \cdot F(Sr_A)$$

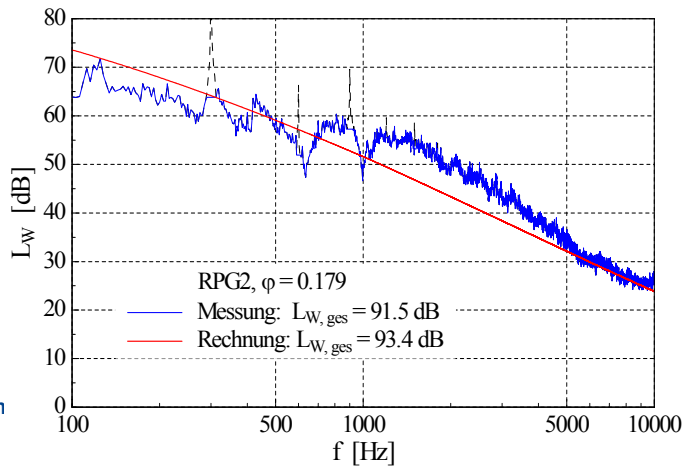
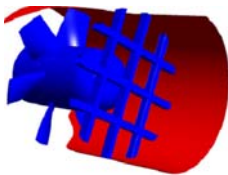
⇒ **Lift force fluctuations in terms of modeled turbulent velocity fluctuations**

$$\frac{dP_{TI}(f)}{df} \approx const \cdot B \cdot \frac{\rho}{c_0} w_\infty^4 \cdot \frac{dw'^2}{df} \cdot C \cdot L$$



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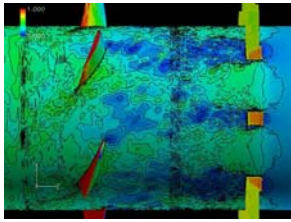
**Typical result**



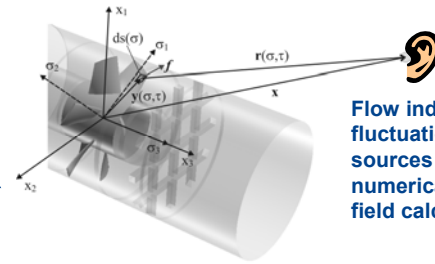
- Prediction „smooth
- Only broad band
- Very fast method

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Schneider, M.: Der Einfluss der Zuströmbedingungen auf das breitbandige Geräusch eines Axialventilators. Fortschritt-Berichte VDI Reihe 7: Strömungstechnik (Dr.-Ing. Diss. Univ. Siegen). Vol. Nr. 478. Düsseldorf: VDI Verlag GmbH, 2006. - ISBN 3-18-347807-2



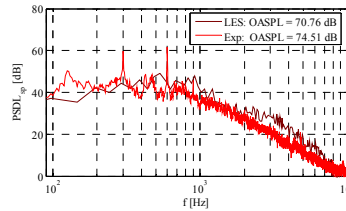
Detailed unsteady flow field data



Flow induced fluctuation forces as sources analytical or numerical acoustic field calculation

Reese, H.: Anwendung von instationären numerischen Simulationsmethoden zur Berechnung aeroakustischer Schallquellen bei Ventilatoren. (Dr.-Ing. Dissertation Universität Siegen), Fortschritt-Berichte VDI Reihe 7, Nr. 489, VDI Verlag, Düsseldorf, 2007

Reese, H., Kato, C., Carolus, T.: Large eddy simulation of acoustical sources in a low pressure axial-flow fan encountering highly turbulent inflow. ASME J. of Fluids Engineering, March 2007, Vol. 129, pp. 263-272



Sound power spectrum

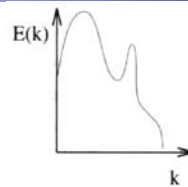


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Unsteady CFD-Methods

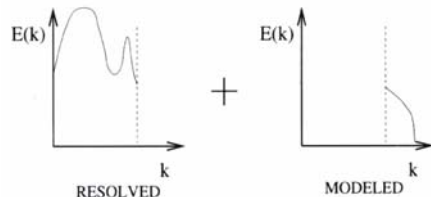
Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS):

- Basic equations are solved without any additional models
- Solution contains the acoustic field
- High numerical costs  $\sim Re^3$



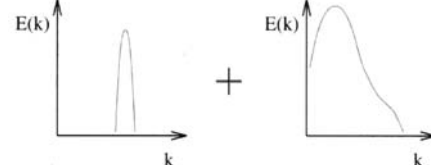
Large Eddy Simulation (LES):

- Filtering of the basic equations
- Large scales are solved directly
- The numerical costs are still high  $\sim Re^{1.4}$ .



Unsteady Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes Simulation (URANS):

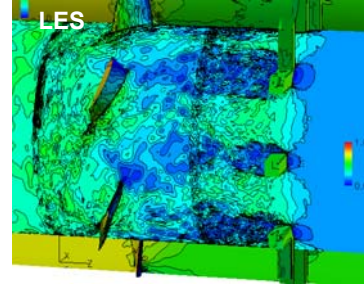
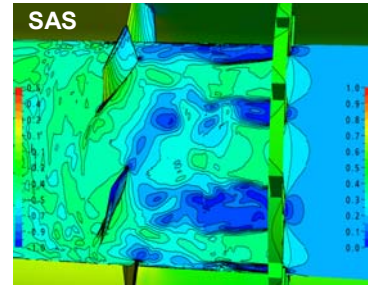
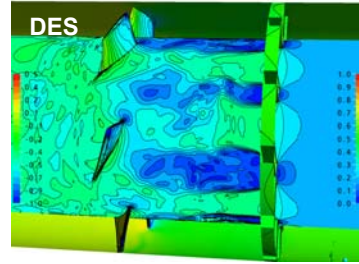
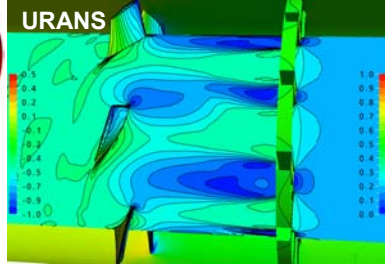
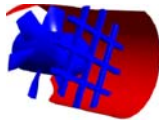
- Ensemble averaging of the basic equations
- Turbulence completely modeled
- The numerical costs are independent of Re



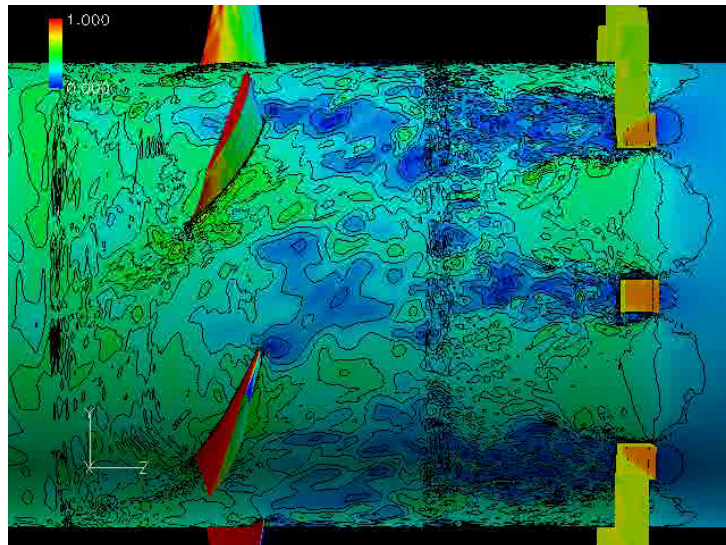
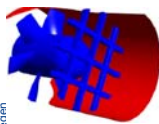
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Snap shot of the absolute velocity ( $v/u_{Tip}$ ) at 50% blade height



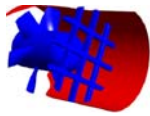
Example: LES



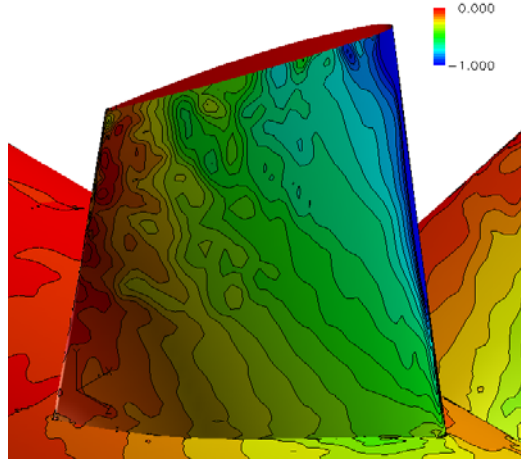
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Quelle: Reese, Kato 2004

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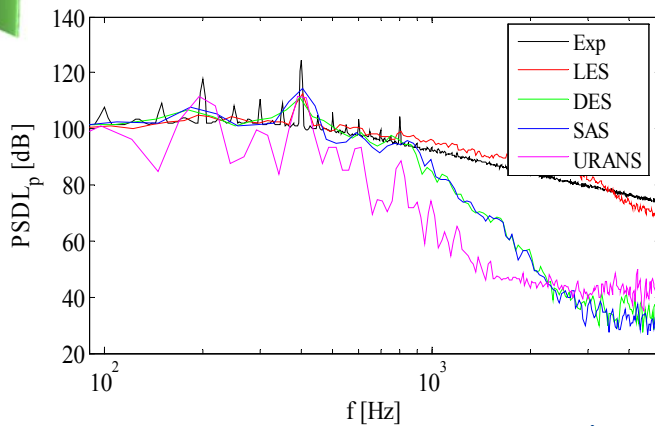
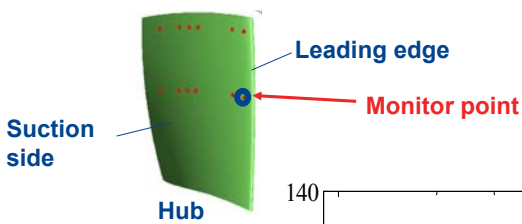


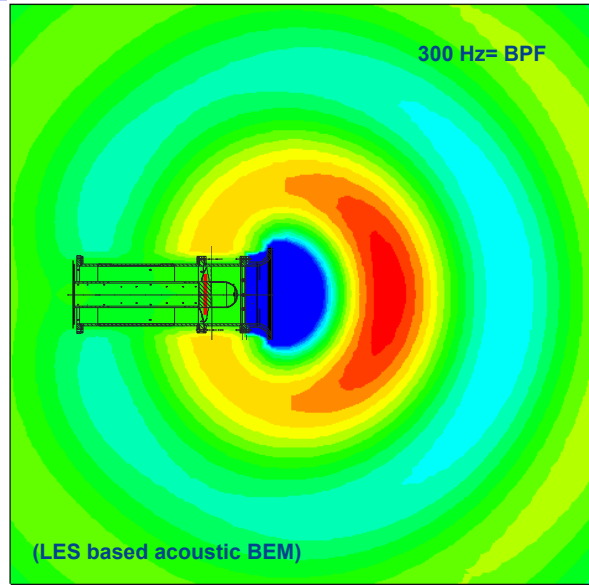
Pressure on Blade suction side ( $p / 0.5\rho u_{Tip}^2$ )



(LES)

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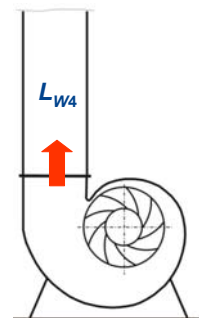
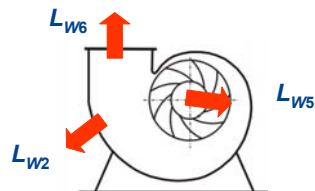


Reese/LMS Sysnoise

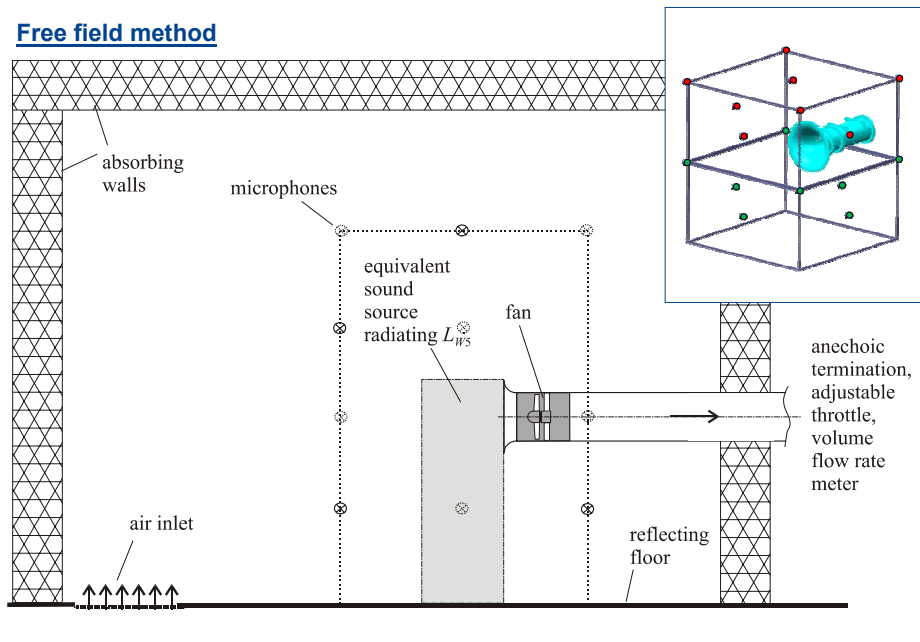
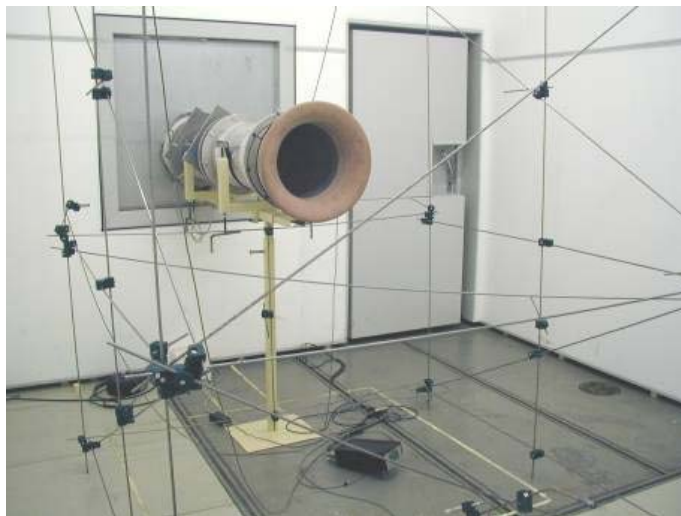
4. Experimental Methods

Definitions of sound power levels for fans (DIN 45635 T38 [3])

	Characterizes sound power radiated from ....
$L_{W1}$	... inlet, outlet and casing into free field
$L_{W2}$	... casing into free field
$L_{W3}$	... inlet into attached duct
$L_{W4}$	... outlet into attached duct
$L_{W5}$	... inlet into free field
$L_{W6}$	... outlet into free field
$L_{W7}$	... inlet and casing into free field
$L_{W8}$	... outlet and casing into free field



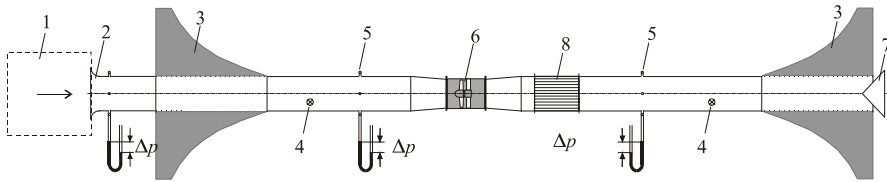


**Free field method****Sound power measurement (II)**

**Small semi-anechoic chamber at IFT with  $f_{\min} = 125$  Hz**  
**Absorbing walls: Sandwich of Melamine foam/patches of sheet metal attenuators;**  
**Design: Fraunhofer Institut für Bauphysik, Stuttgart and Faist Anlagenbau, Germany**

- Free field method ✓
- Reverberant field method
- Duct method according to DIN EN ISO 5136

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Duct test rig for determination of  $L_{W3}$  and  $L_{W4}$

- (1) undisturbed inflow domain
- (2) volume flow rate meter
- (3) anechoic termination
- (4) microphone
- (5) static pressure tap
- (6) fan
- (7) adjustable throttle
- (8) honey comb

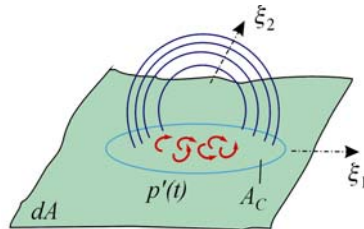
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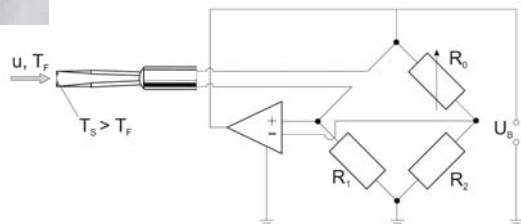
Duct test rig at IFT, diameter 0.3 m

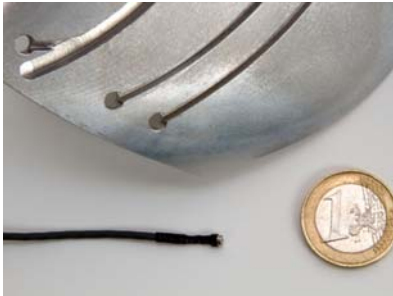
Guiding acoustic model (Sharland 1964):

$$P_{acoustic} = \frac{\pi}{3} \cdot \frac{f^2}{\rho c_0^3} \iint_A [\overline{\Delta p'^2}(\xi_1, \xi_2) \cdot A_C(\xi_1, \xi_2)] d\xi_1 d\xi_2$$



## Flow field analysis with hot wire anemometry





T. Zhu, 2011

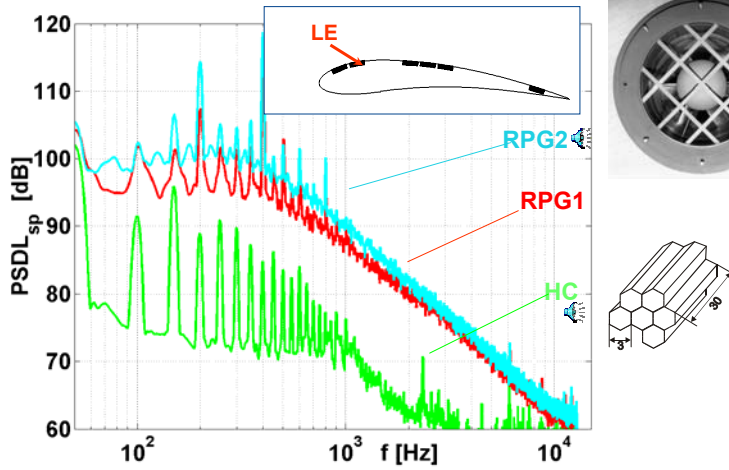
5. Case studies

5.1 Grid generated inflow turbulence



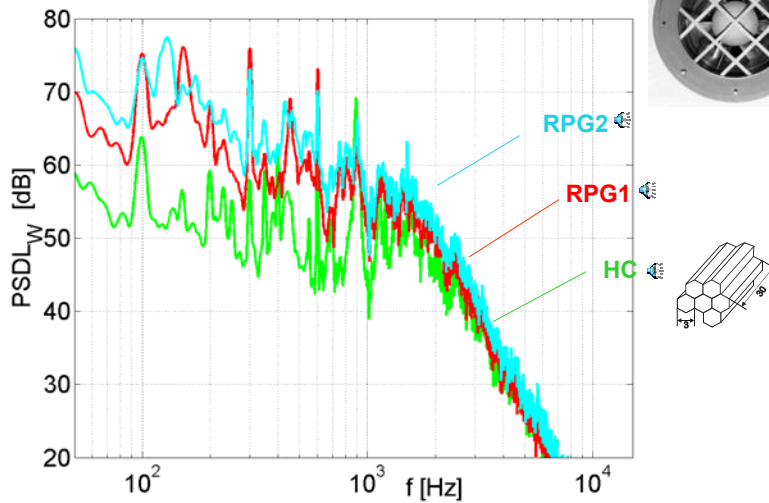
### Surface pressure fluctuations

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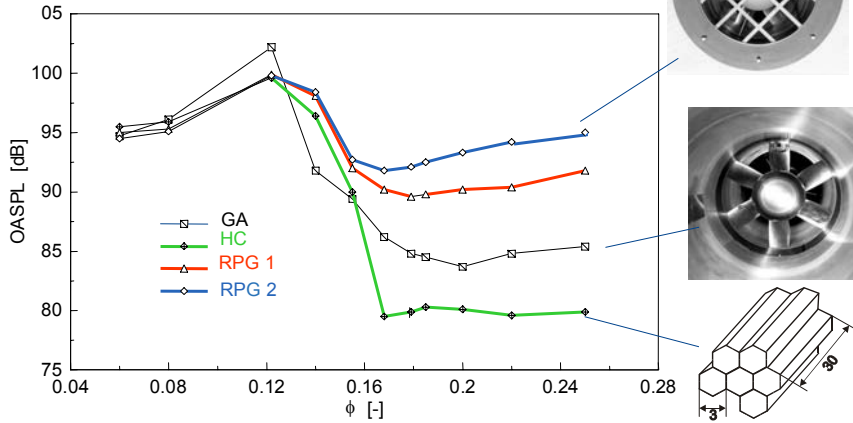
### Free field sound power

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### OASPL vs. flow rate coefficient

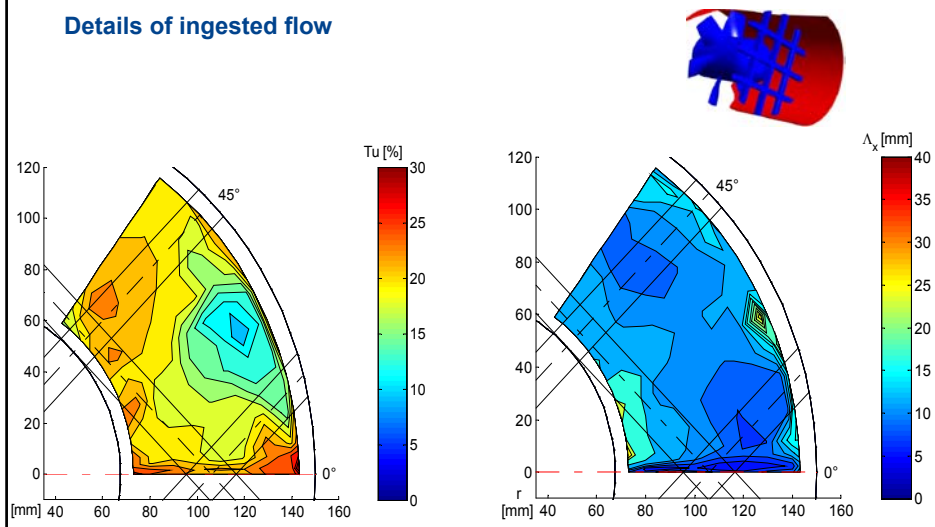
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Schneider, M., Carolus, T.: Turbulent Ingestion Noise from Axial Fans - Statistic Parameters of the Inflow and Noise Prediction. Proc. of the 12th Int. Congress on Sound and Vibration. Lissabon, 2005



### Details of ingested flow



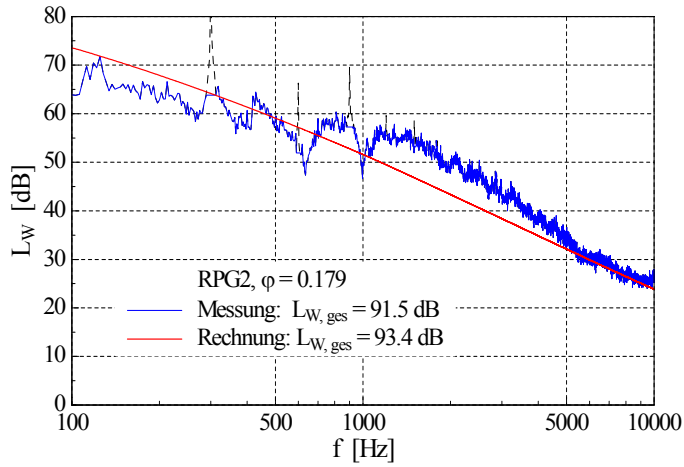
Turbulent intensity

Axial correlation length  $\Delta_x$

in rotor leading edge plane

### Typical application

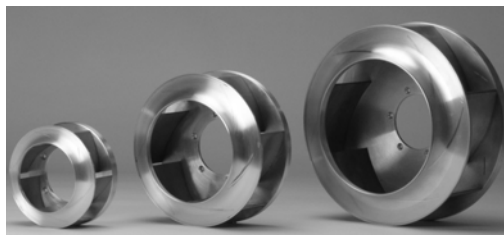
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Schneider 2006

### 5.2 Sound sources in a radial fan

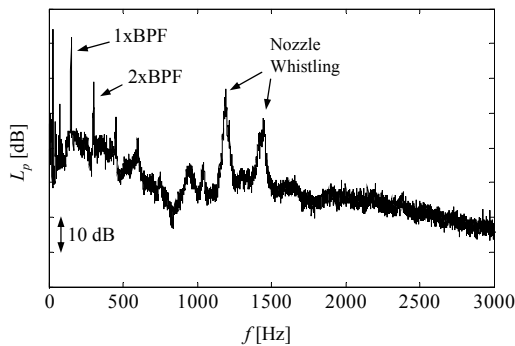
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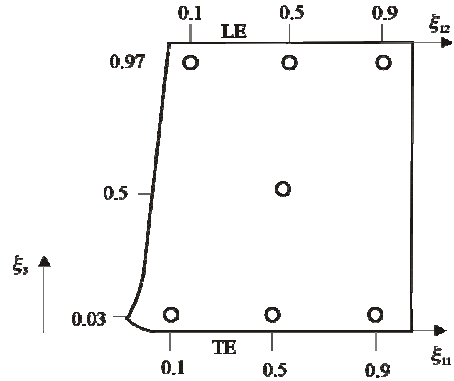
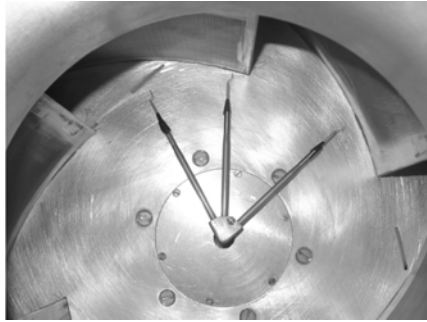


LM050 (50%)

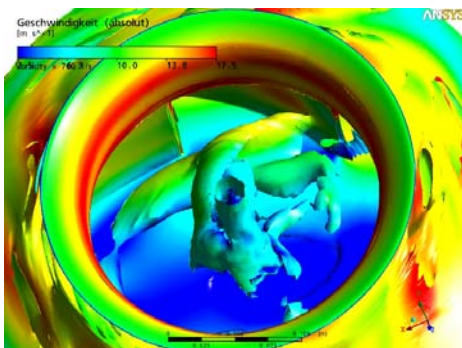
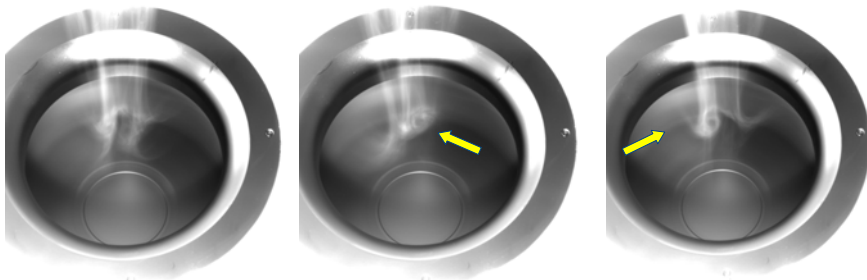
LM075 (75%)

LM100 (100%)



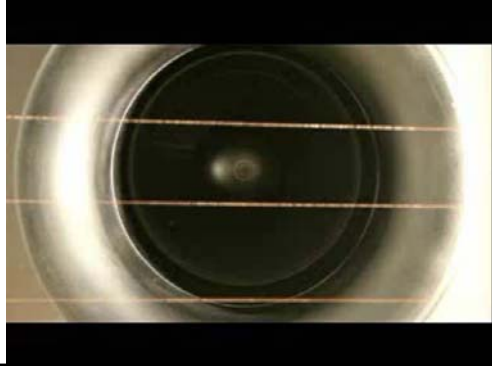
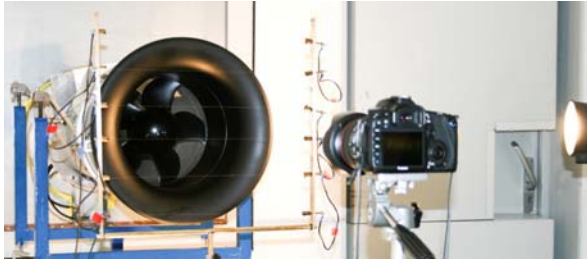


Self induced vortex: Smoke visualization and unsteady CFD

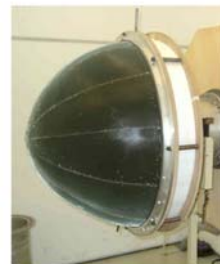
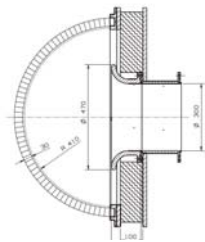
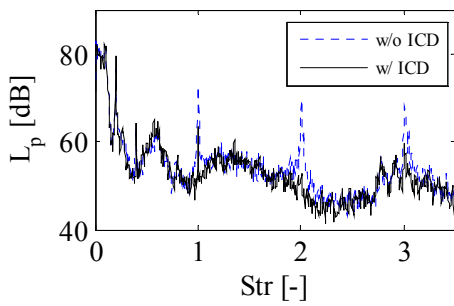


Wolfram, D., Carolus, T.: Experimental and numerical investigation of the unsteady flow field and tone generation in an isolated centrifugal fan impeller. J. of Sound and Vibration 329 (2010) 4380-4397





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Inflow Control Device

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- ❖ **Aeroacoustic noise sources in low Ma number fans are flow induced forces**
- ❖ **Several principle mechanisms can be identified, such as spatial non-uniform inflow, turbulent ingestion, blade self noise, tip clearance flow, etc.**
- ❖ **Noise prediction methods range form simple correlations (class I) to complex computational aeroacoustics (CAA) methods (class III)**
- ❖ **Confirmation of the classical rule: High fidelity acoustic prediction requires excellent source data, e.g. the unsteady flow field in realistic fan assemblies**
- ❖ **Experimental flow field data: Unsteady velocities and pressures; serve either as empirical data in semi-empirical (class II) models or for validation (class III models)**
- ❖ **Three examples of fan noise projects illustrate methodologies**
- ❖ **Understanding of mechanisms is first step of noise reduction measures!**