

# *Why are CFD RANS models good and how can they be better?*



Zhen-Su She

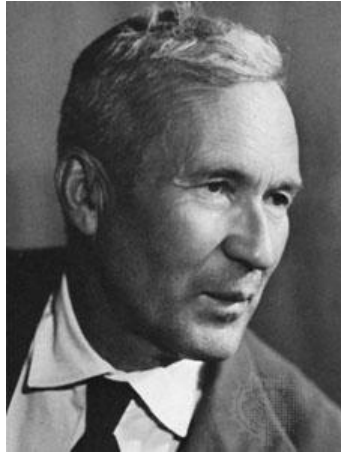


**State Key Lab for Turbulence and Complex System,  
College of Engineering, Peking University**

**Are turbulent mean flow quantities predictable ?**

**We look for macroscopic flow equations for accurate predictions of mean quantities (velocity, kinetic energy, etc) of wall-bounded flows (aerodynamic applications when massive separations and shock waves are abundant).**

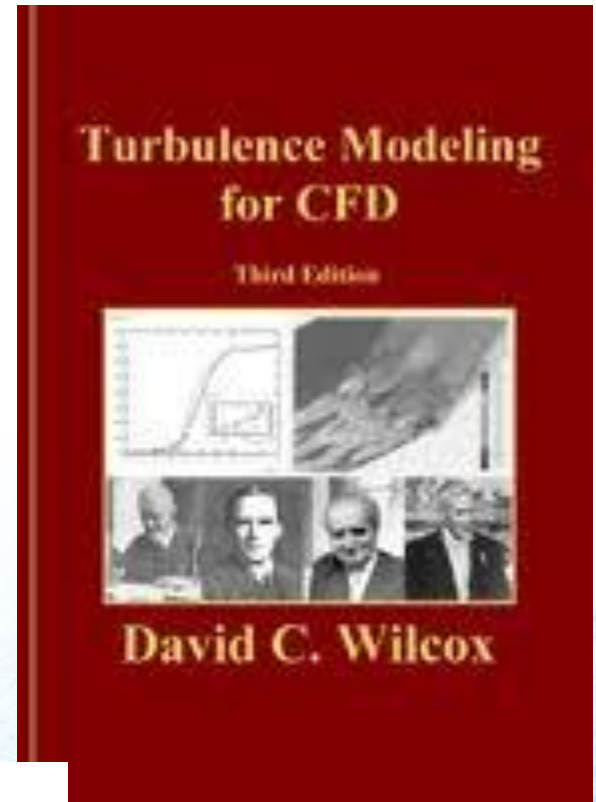
- 1. Results of accurate predictions with modified K-omega equations (from K-omega-Wilcox to K-omega-SED)**
- 2. Interpretations of these results**



Kolmogorov

Proposed k-omega model  
in 1942. Very nonlinear,  
multi-parameters

60 years later



$$S^+W^+ - \beta^*k^+\omega^+ + \frac{d^2k^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{d}{dy^+}(\sigma^*\alpha^*\frac{k^+}{\omega^+}\frac{dk^+}{dy^+}) = 0$$

$$\alpha S^+W^+ - \beta k^+\omega^+ + \frac{k^+}{\omega^+}\frac{d^2\omega^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{k^+}{\omega^+}\frac{d}{dy^+}(\sigma\alpha^*\frac{k^+}{\omega^+}\frac{d\omega^+}{dy^+}) = 0$$

$$S^+W^+ - \beta^*k^+\omega^+ + \frac{d^2k^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{d}{dy^+} \left( \sigma^* \alpha^* \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{dk^+}{dy^+} \right) = 0$$

$$S^+ = dU^+ / dy^+$$

$$W^+ = -\langle u'v' \rangle^+$$



Production

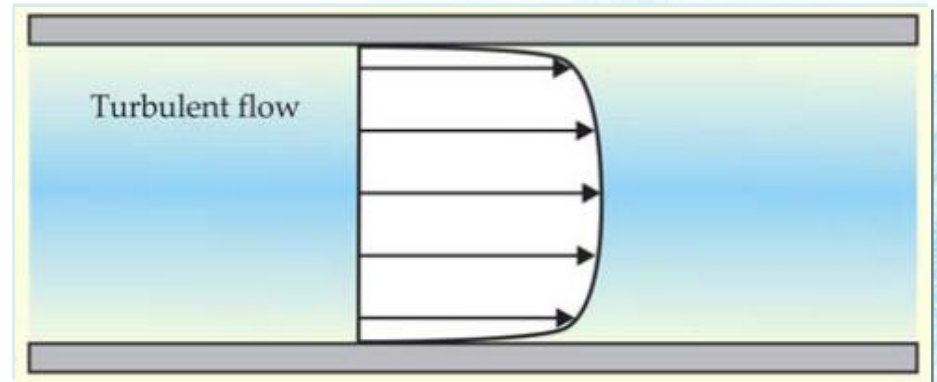
Dissipation

Diffusion

Turbulent transport

Constitutive relation:

$$\alpha^*k^+ / \omega^+ = W^+ / S^+ = \nu_T^+$$



$$\alpha S^+ W^+ - \beta k^+ \omega^+ + \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{d^2 \omega^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{d}{dy^+} \left( \sigma \alpha^* \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{d\omega^+}{dy^+} \right) = 0$$



Production

Dissipation

Diffusion

Turbulent transport

Complicated parameter setting:

Constitutive relation:

$$\alpha^* k^+ / \omega^+ = W^+ / S^+ = \nu_T^+$$

$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_\infty}{\alpha^*} \frac{\alpha_0 + k^+ / (R_\omega \omega^+)}{1 + k^+ / (R_\omega \omega^+)}$$

$$\alpha^* = \frac{\alpha_0^* + k^+ / (R_k \omega^+)}{1 + k^+ / (R_k \omega^+)}$$

Amazingly, they are very close to data! Why?

SED theory define “Order functions” (symmetry) ...

Ratio order function 1:

$$V_t = \frac{W}{S}$$

$$S^+ = dU^+ / dy^+$$

Ratio order function 2:

$$\Theta_v = \frac{\varepsilon}{SW}$$

$$W^+ = -\langle u'v' \rangle^+$$

$$S^+ + W^+ = r$$

These ratios capture changes in the balance mechanism of energy dynamics.

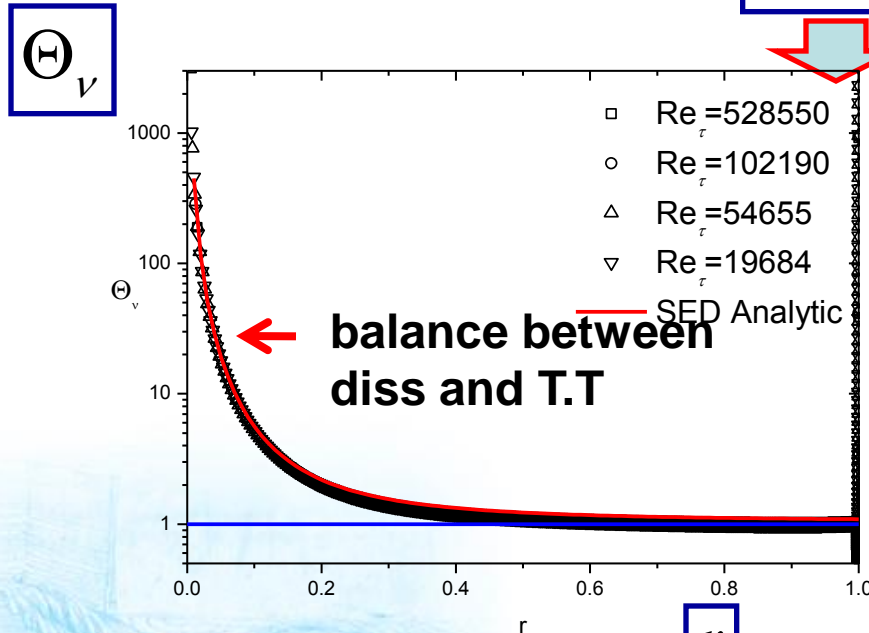
$$S^+W^+ - \varepsilon + \frac{d^2k^+}{dy^{+2}} + T.T = 0$$

SED theory define “Order functions” (symmetry) ...

Ratio order function 1:

$$\Theta_v = \frac{\varepsilon}{SW}$$

$$\Theta_v = \frac{\varepsilon}{SW} \approx \frac{1 + r_c^2 / r^2}{1 + r_c^2}$$



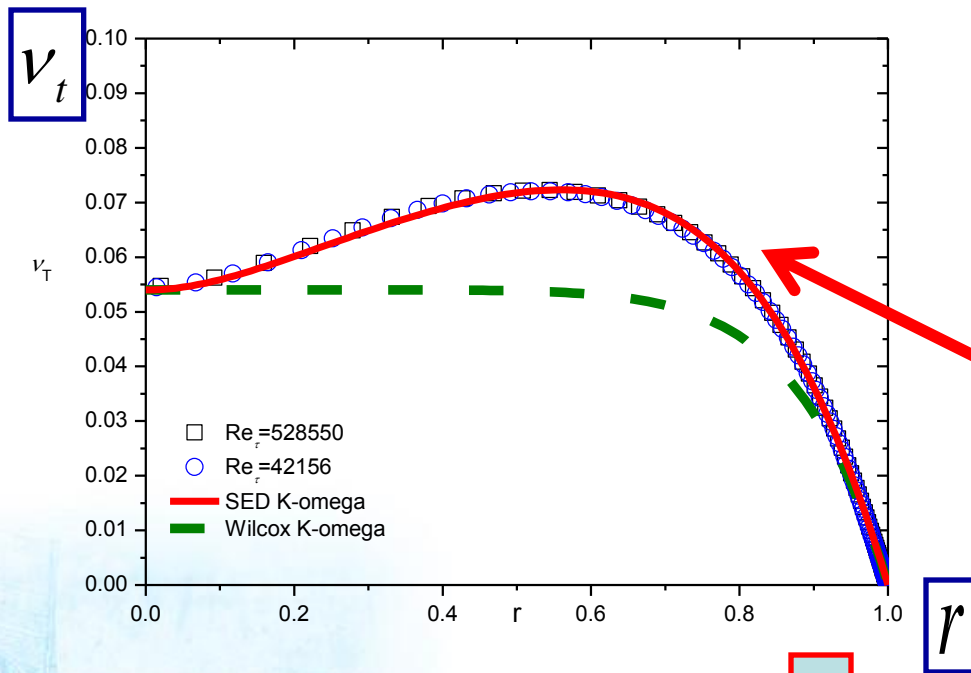
$$\Theta_v = \frac{\varepsilon}{SW} \begin{cases} = 1 & \text{for } r \rightarrow 1 \\ \propto r^{-2} & \text{for } r \rightarrow 0 \end{cases}$$

Quasi-balance  
prod and diss

One single parameter  $r_c$  describe transition in  $\Theta_v$

$$v_t = \frac{W}{S} \approx v_0 \left(1 - r^5\right) \left(1 + \left(r / r_c\right)^2\right)^a$$

➔ This is an analytic solution to K-omega equations!



Wilcox model parameters are such that  $a \equiv 0$

DNS suggests for pipe that  $a \approx 1/6$

We are inspired to modify K-omega-Wilcox model so that  $v_t$  displays proper transition as above.



$$S^+ = \frac{W^+}{\text{Re}_\tau v_T} \approx \frac{r}{\text{Re}_\tau v_T}$$

$$v_t = \frac{W}{S} = \alpha^* \frac{k}{\omega}$$

$$P^+ = S^+ W^+ \approx \frac{r^2}{\text{Re}_\tau v_T}$$

$$\varepsilon^+ = S^+ W^+ \Theta_v \approx \frac{r^2}{\text{Re}_\tau v_T} \Theta_v$$

$$k^+ = \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon^+ \text{Re}_\tau v_T}{\beta^*}} \approx r \sqrt{\frac{\Theta_v}{\beta^*}}$$

$$\omega^+ = \frac{k^+}{\text{Re}_\tau v_T} = \frac{r}{\text{Re}_\tau v_T} \sqrt{\frac{\Theta_v}{\beta^*}}$$

Outer approximation:

$$W^+ \approx r, \quad S^+ \approx r / (1 + v_t^+)$$



$$S^+ + W^+ = r$$

$$S^+ W^+ - \varepsilon + \frac{d^2 k^+}{dy^{+2}} + T.T = 0$$

All quantities are expressed in terms of  $v_t$  and  $\Theta_v$

$\omega$  Equation:

$$\alpha \frac{\omega^+}{k^+} S^+ W^+ - \beta \omega^{+2} + \frac{d^2 \omega^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{d}{dy^+} \left( \sigma_0 \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\gamma k^+}{\omega^+ \text{Re}_\tau} \right)^2 \right) \alpha^* \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{d\omega^+}{dy^+} \right) = 0$$



Parameter changes:

1) Karman constant

One layer near the outer edge

For pipe:

K-omega -Wilcox

$$\kappa = 0.40$$

For all three:

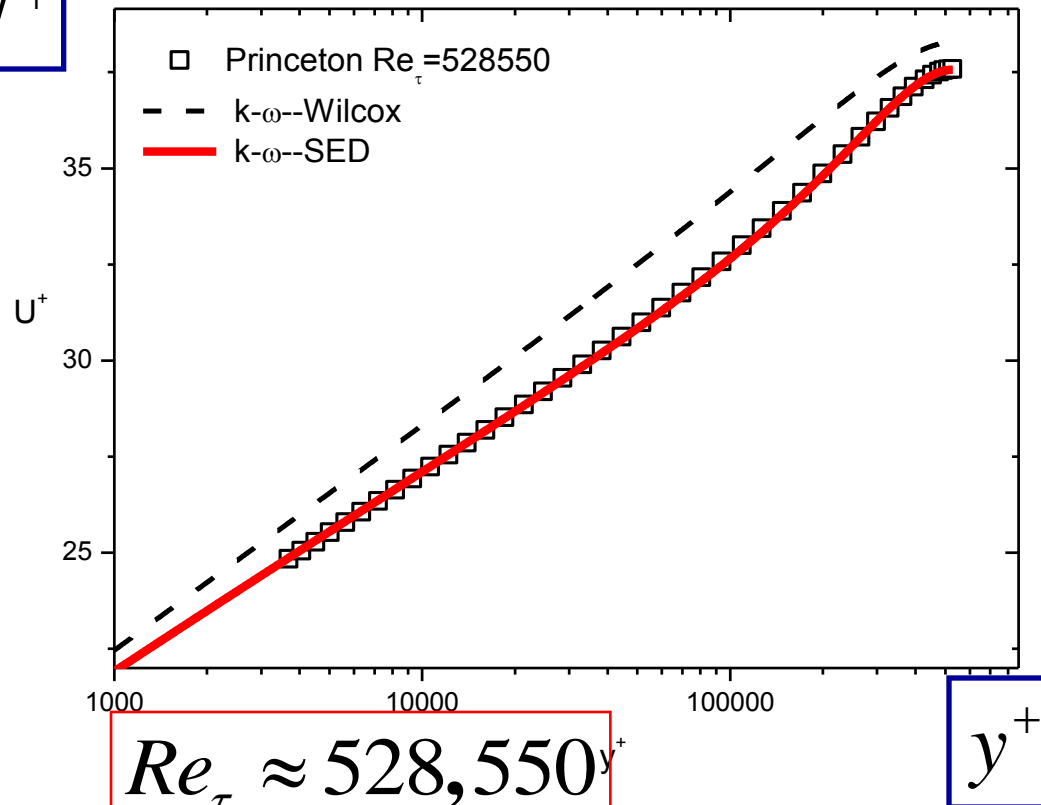
K-omega-SED

$$\kappa = 0.45$$

## $\omega$ Equation:

$$\alpha \frac{\omega^+}{k^+} S^+ W^+ - \beta \omega^{+2} + \frac{d^2 \omega^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{d}{dy^+} \left( \sigma_0 \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\gamma k^+}{\omega^+ Re_\tau} \right)^2 \right) \alpha^* \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{d\omega^+}{dy^+} \right) = 0$$

$U^+$



K-omega -Wilcox

$\kappa = 0.40$

K-omega-SED

$\kappa = 0.45$

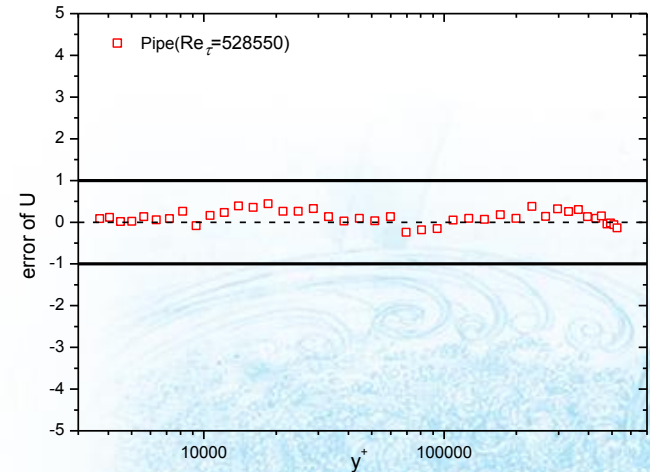
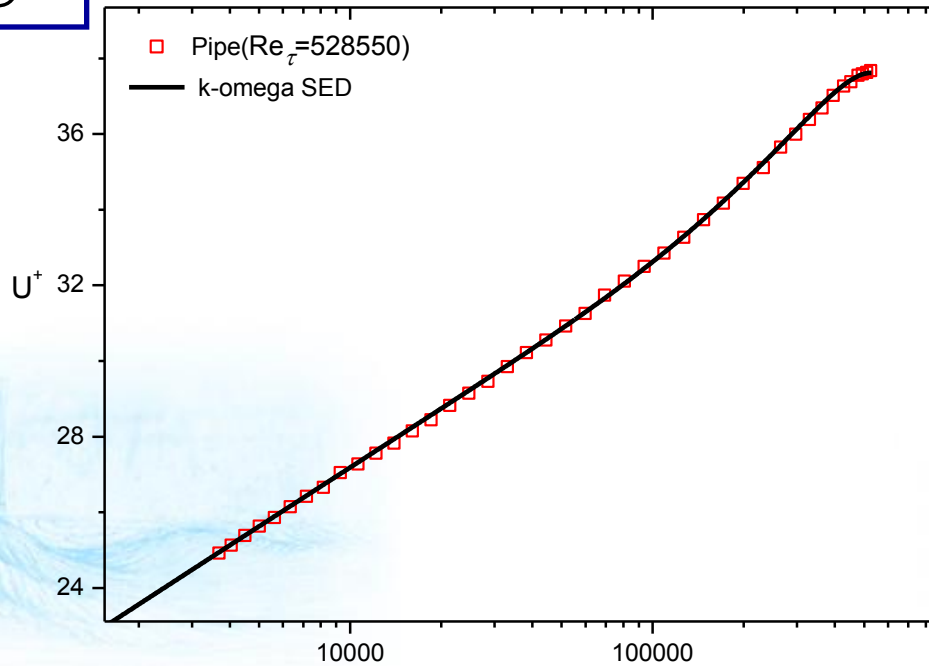
$Re_\tau \approx 528,550$

$y^+$

## $\omega$ Equation:

$$\alpha \frac{\omega^+}{k^+} S^+ W^+ - \beta \omega^{+2} + \frac{d^2 \omega^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{d}{dy^+} \left( \sigma_0 \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\gamma k^+}{\omega^+ Re_\tau} \right)^2 \right) \alpha^* \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{d\omega^+}{dy^+} \right) = 0$$

$U^+$



$y^+$



$\omega$  Equation:

$$\alpha \frac{\omega^+}{k^+} S^+ W^+ - \beta \omega^{+2} + \frac{d^2 \omega^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{d}{dy^+} \left( \sigma_0 \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\gamma k^+}{\omega^+ \text{Re}_\tau} \right)^2 \right) \alpha^* \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{d\omega^+}{dy^+} \right) = 0$$



Parameter changes:

One layer near the outer edge

1) Karman constant

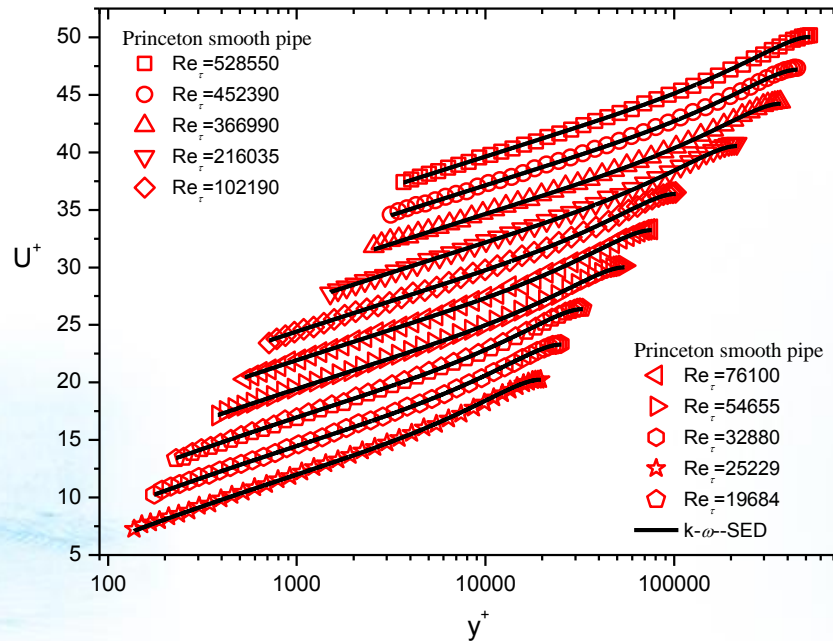
2) The new parameter:  $\gamma$  displays CH, pipe, TBL.



describes a transition of balance mechanism in actions in omega, which is to be elucidated!

## $\omega$ Equation:

$$\alpha \frac{\omega^+}{k^+} S^+ W^+ - \beta \omega^{+2} + \frac{d^2 \omega^+}{dy^{+2}} + \frac{d}{dy^+} \left( \sigma_0 \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\gamma k^+}{\omega^+ \text{Re}_\tau} \right)^2 \right) \alpha^* \frac{k^+}{\omega^+} \frac{d\omega^+}{dy^+} \right) = 0$$

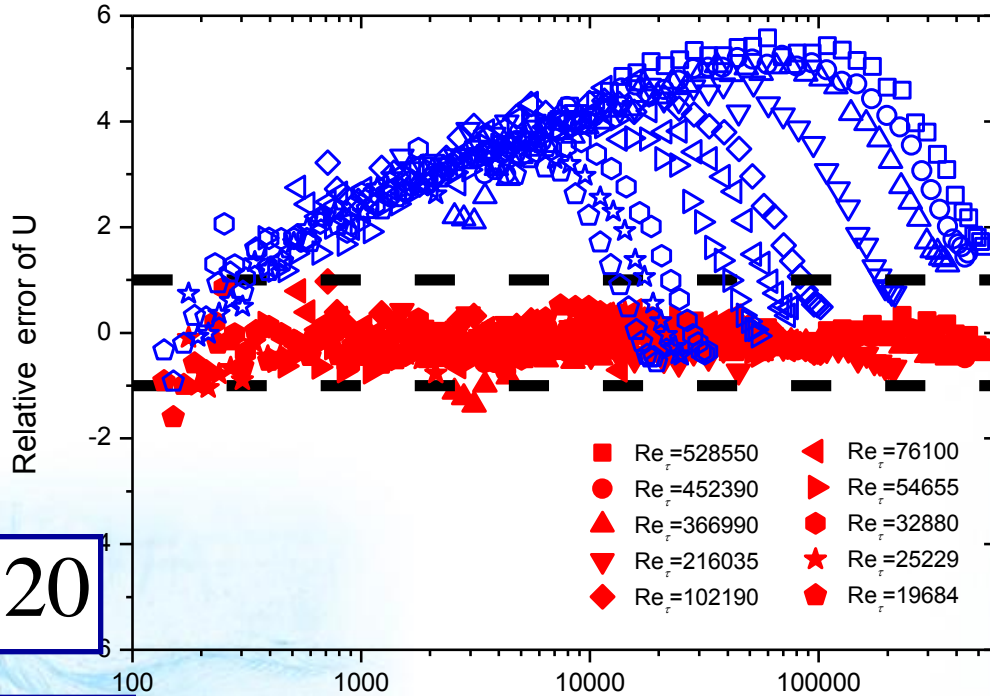


$$\gamma = 22$$

$$\kappa = 0.45$$

## Errors in comparison to Princeton Superpipe data

Lines: 1% error



← K-omega -Wilcox

← K-omega-SED

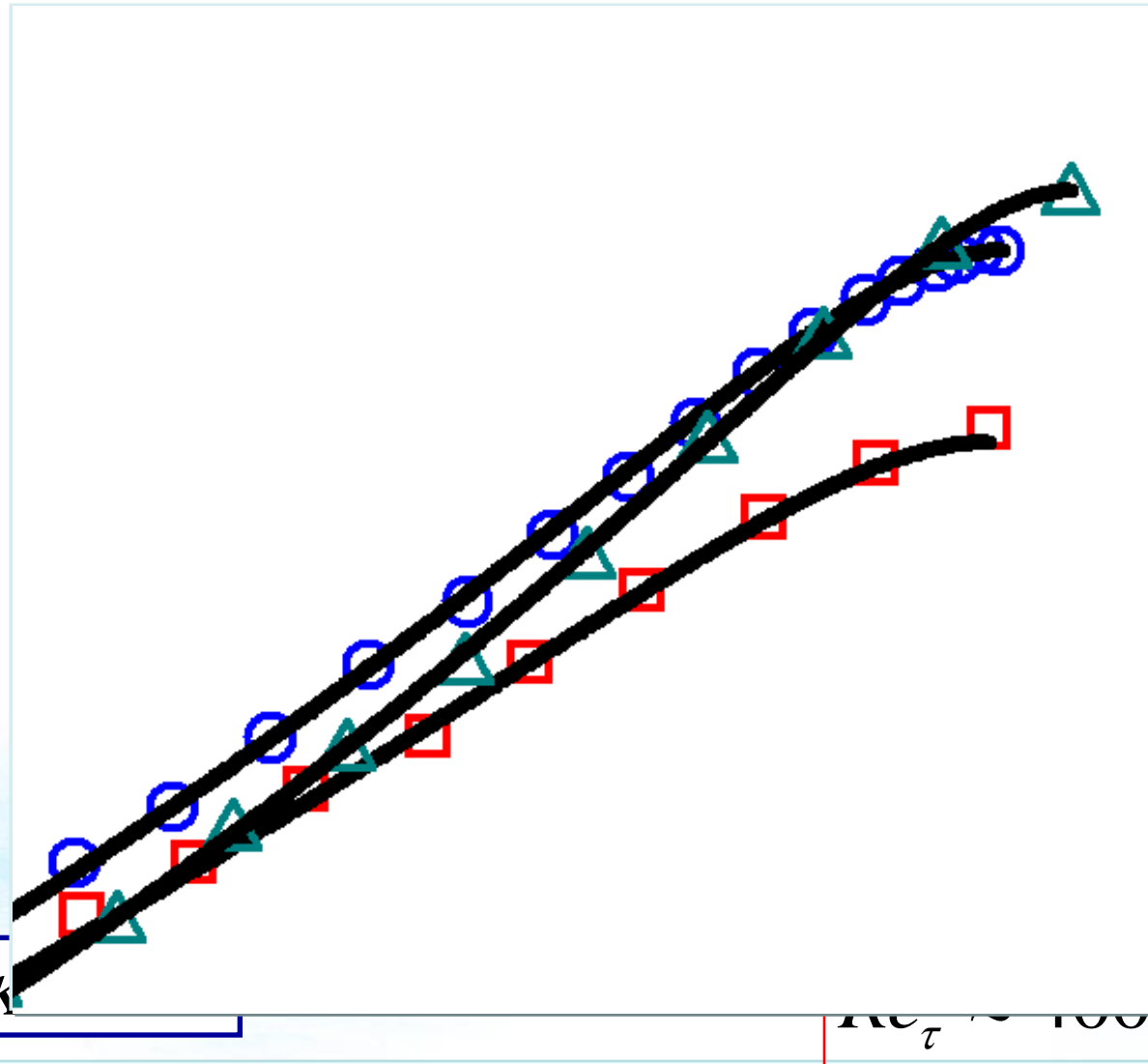
From 6% to 1%

$\gamma = 20$

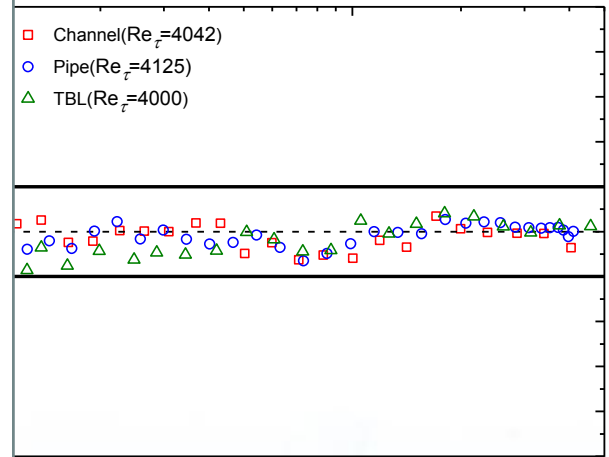
$\kappa = 0.45$

$Re_\tau \approx 20,000 \rightarrow 500,000$

# K-omega-SED for all three flows:



Errors < 1%



$$\gamma^{CH} = 10$$

$$\gamma^{Pipe} = 22$$

$$\gamma^{TBL} = 26$$

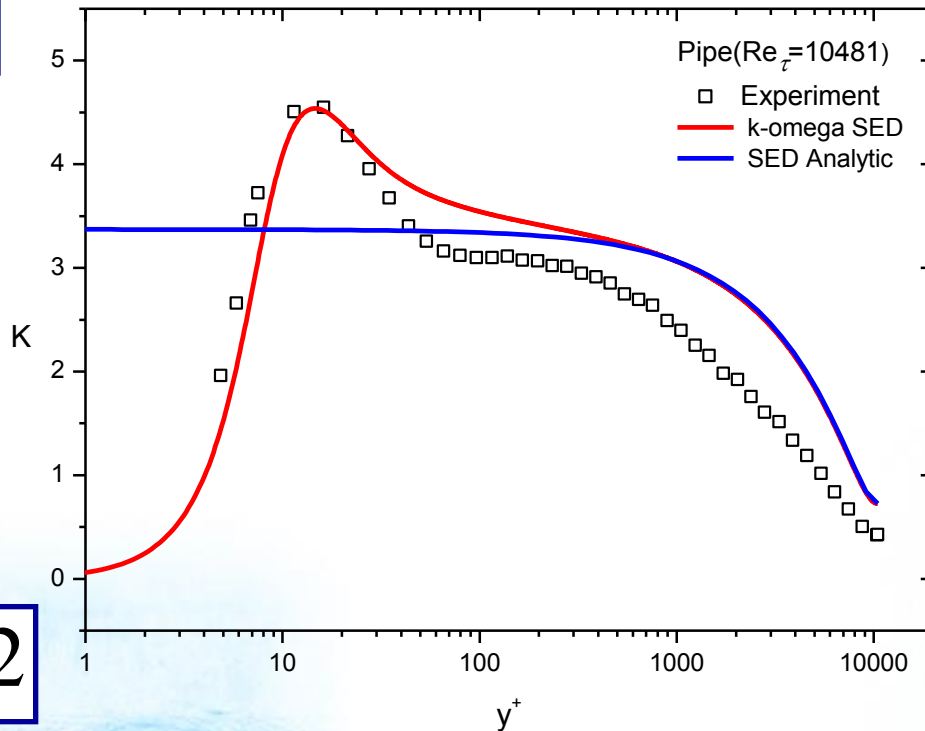


- Ansatz for  $V_t$  and  $\Theta_v$  yields analytic (outer) solution to K-omega model equations.
- Modification to K-omega-Wilcox is introduced, to yield better solutions when compared with Princeton pipe experiments
- New K-omega-SED is capable of developing a unified mean velocity description of channel, pipe and TBL, with a single parameter.  $\gamma$
- K-omega model parameterizes multi-layer structures, which are revealed by SED.
- This understanding is being extended to the description of kinetic energy distribution.

## Prediction about K

More work needed for energy distribution!

$$K^+$$



← K-omega -SED

← SED analytic

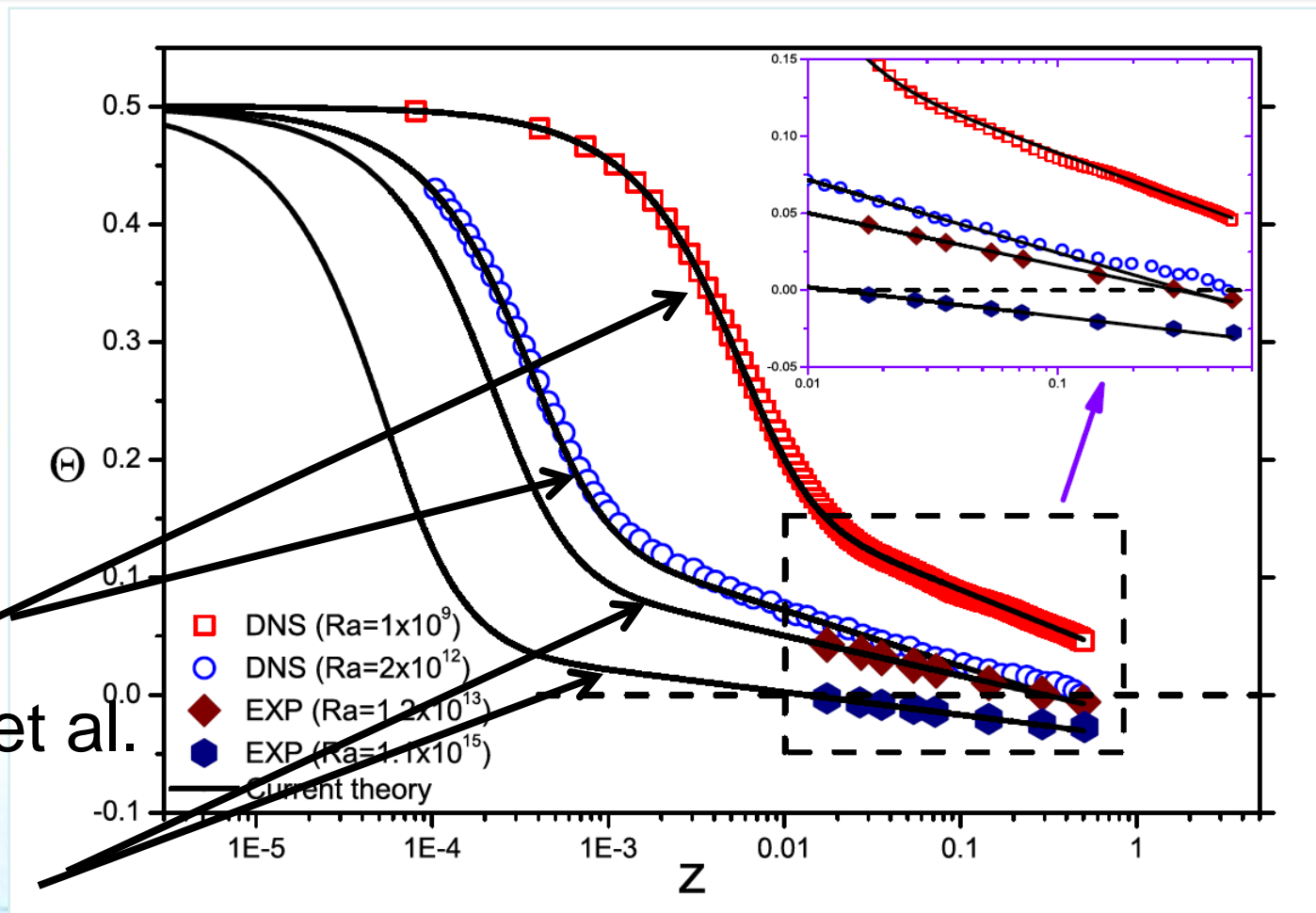
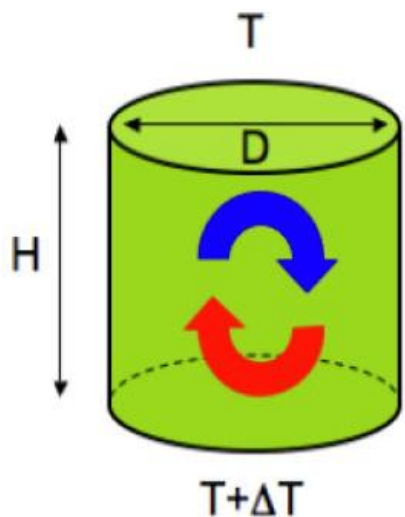
$$k^+ \approx r \sqrt{\frac{\Theta_v}{\beta^*}}$$

$$\gamma = 22$$

$$\kappa = 0.45$$

$$y^+ \quad Re_\tau \approx 14000$$

- Is it final? A new philosophy says that for a complex system, good solutions are not unique. **SED finds more rational in RANS modeling.**
- More interesting questions:
  1. temperature and velocity distribution is RB convection?
  2. MVP in compressible flows with strong pressure gradients, separation and shocks?
  3. Implications of universal Karmen constant?
- Etc.



Ra:  $10^9-12$

DNS(Lohse et al.)

Ra:  $10^{13-15}$

EXP(Ahlers et al.)

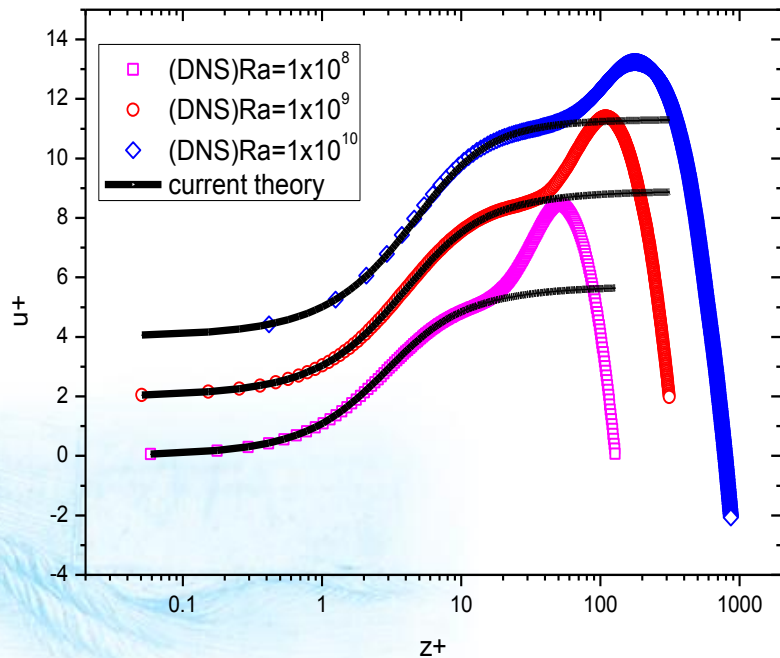
Lines: SED expressions (one parameter, mixing zone thickness)

# Ilmenau Experiment:

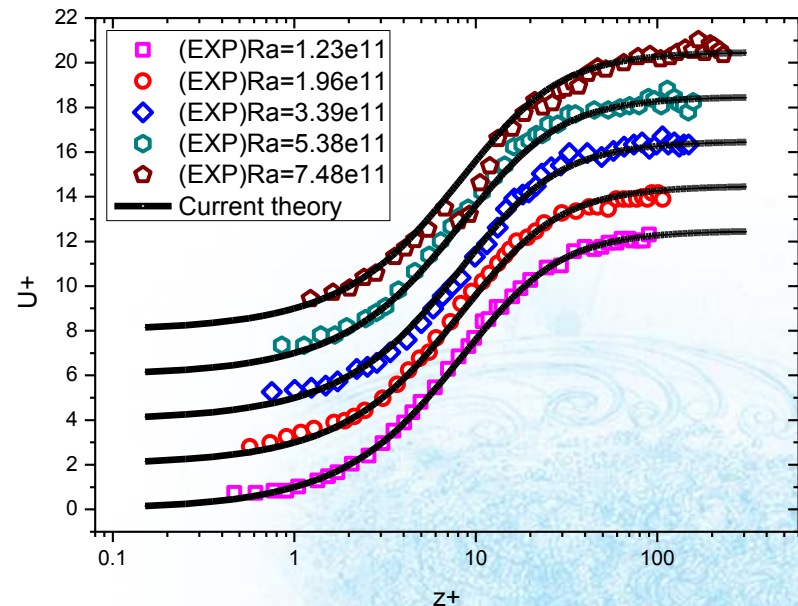


$$\ell_M^+ = 0.054 z^{+3/2} \left( 1 + \left( \frac{z^+}{17.5} \right)^4 \right)^{1/4}$$

**U<sub>+</sub>** Our DNS simulations



**du Puits et al, PRL, 2007**

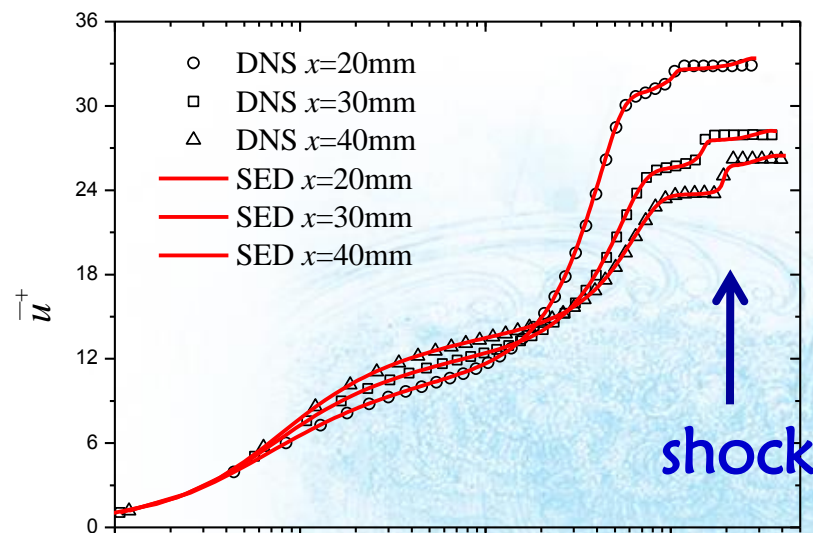
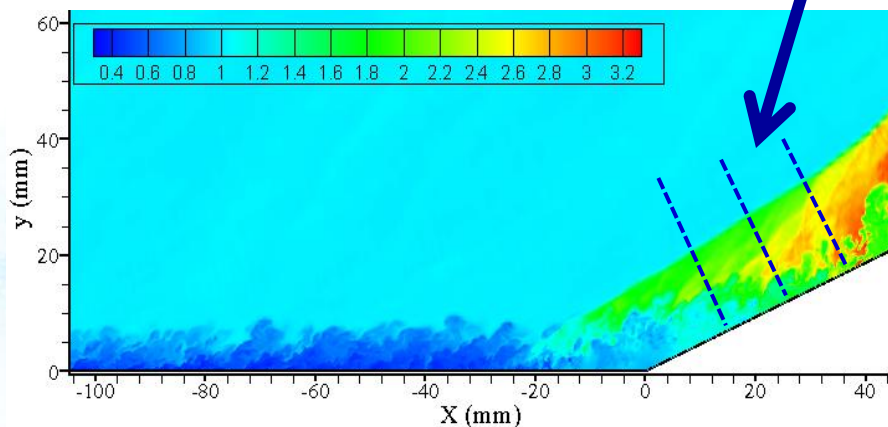


**Capture the velocity distribution in the near-wall region**

SED develops analytic description of the mean velocities in regions of strong adverse pressure gradients. Comparison with DNS of spatially developing flow passing a ramp.

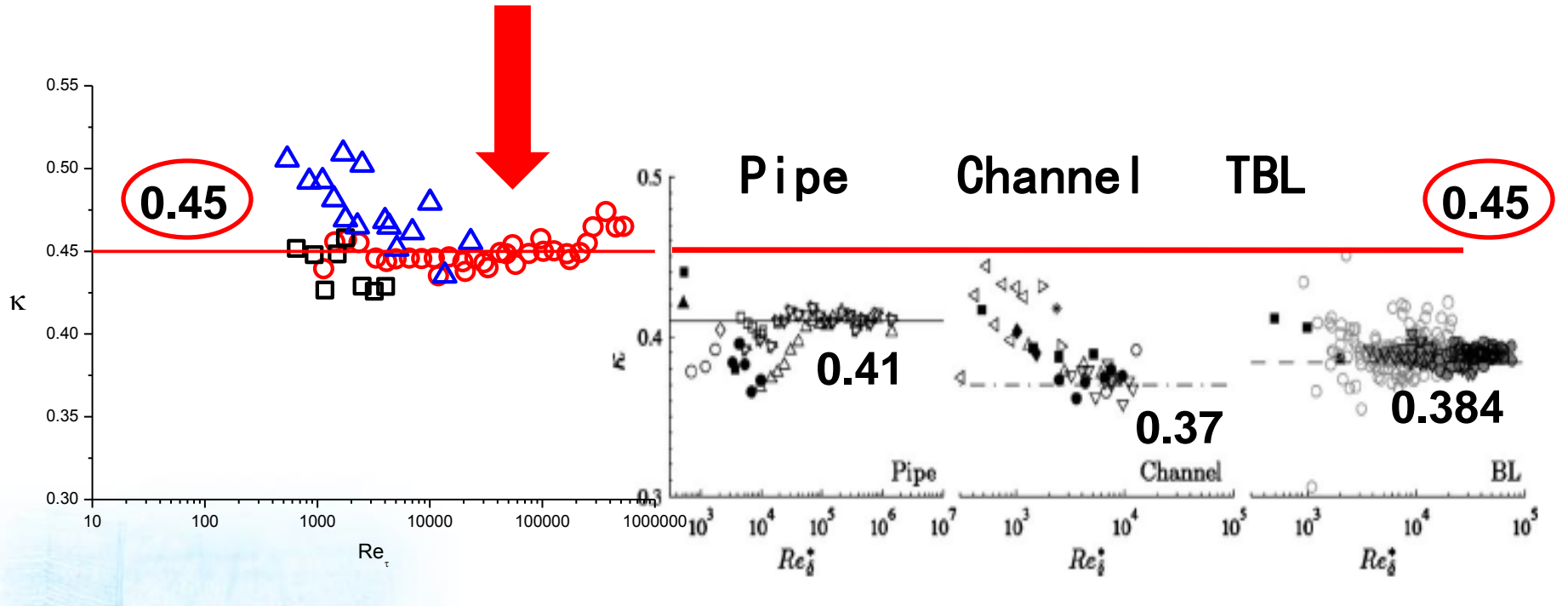
After reattachment

(Ma=3.0, 25 degree)



Comparison with DNS

## Three canonical wall-bounded turbulent flow: **0.45**



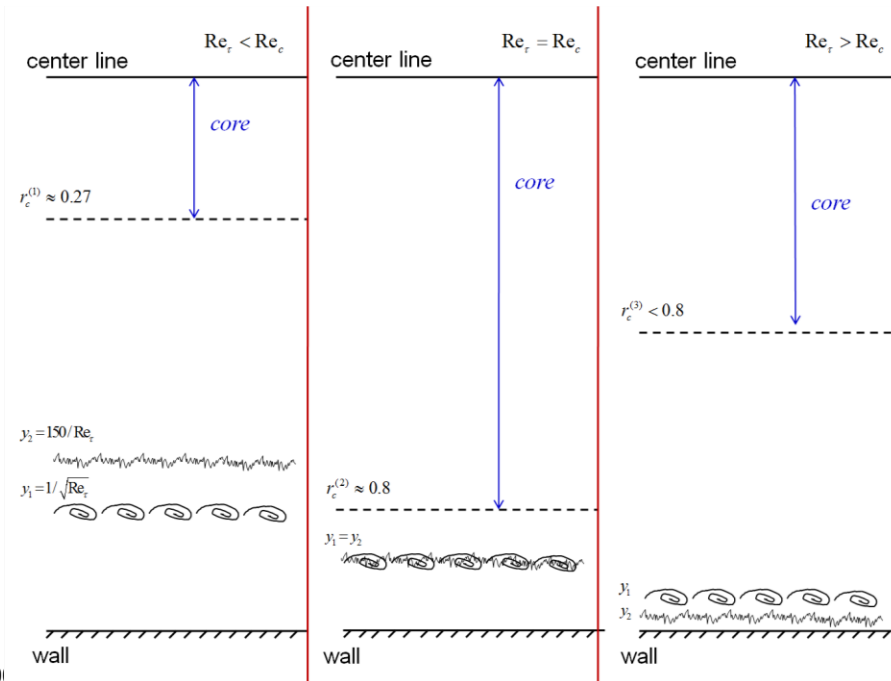
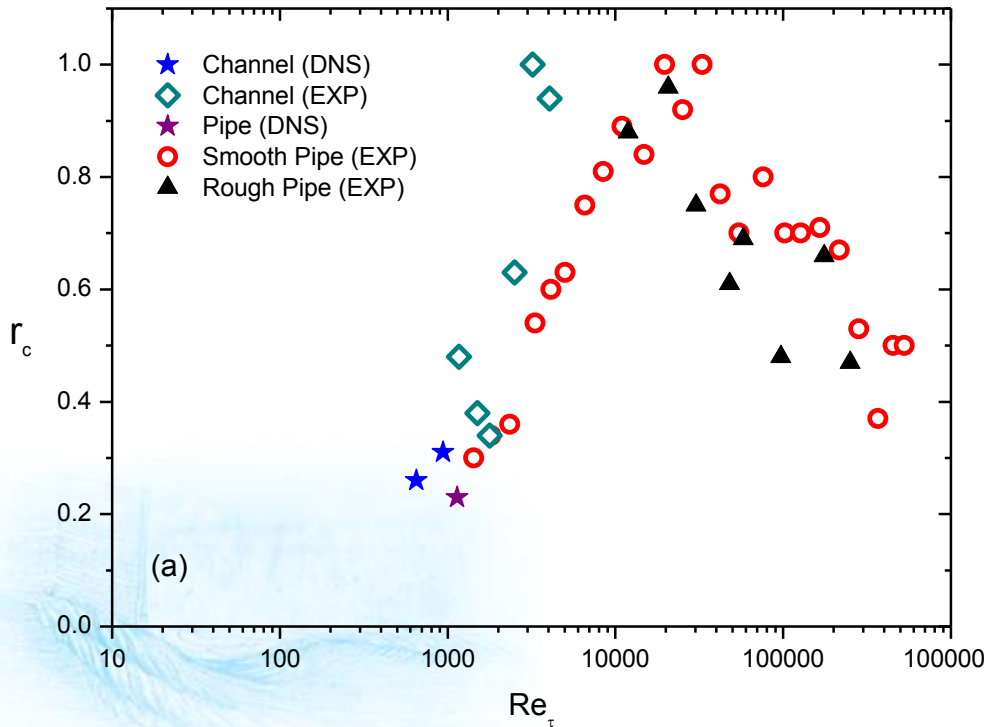
57 sets of data

Marusic et al. *Phy. Fluid* (2010)

## Measurement of $r_c$ :

A critical  $Re_\tau$  around 20,000

$$\sqrt{Re_c} \approx 150$$





*Thanks for your attention !*