





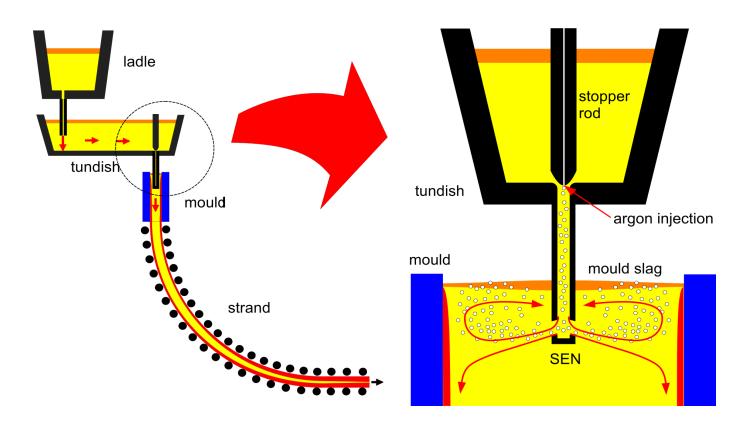
Validation of continuous casting mold flow simulations by water model experiments

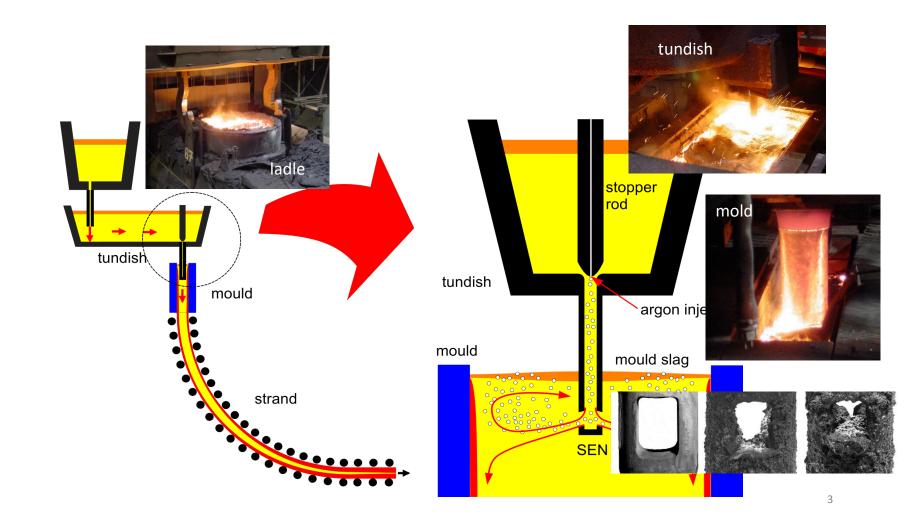
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²voestalpine steel company, Linz

Continuous Casting of Steel





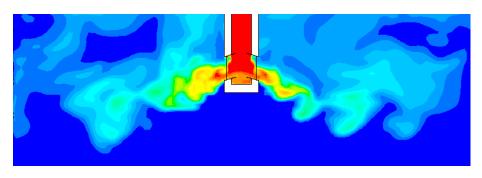
Mathematical and Physical Simulation

Mathematical Simulation (CFD)

- only empirical turbulence modelling
- complex interaction of gas bubbles and turbulence
- Validation/verification required

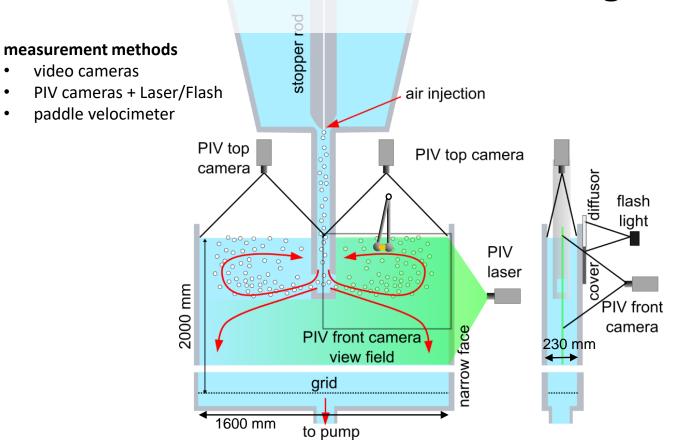
Physical Simulation: 1:1 Water Model

- similarity: Reynolds, Froude
- lower surface tension
- lower absolute pressure: $\frac{1}{2}\rho u^2 + \rho gh$
- measurement methods required

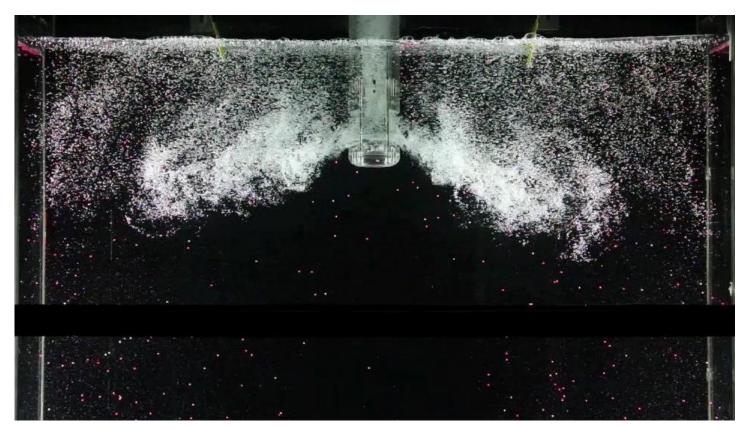




Water Model of Continuous Casting Mold



Water Model of Continuous Casting Mold



voestalpine Mold Water Model

- 1:1 scale
- same velocities & throughput like in reality

Similarity

- Reynolds
- Froude
- surface tension
- temperature: gas expansion 1:6
- absolute pressure [Steel Res. Int. 2015]

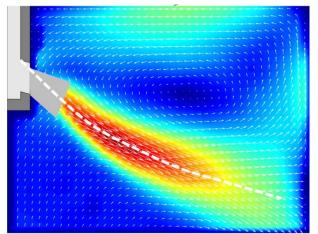
Video

- 8 % gas volume in SEN at 1,2 m/min
- playback speed 2.5 x slowed down

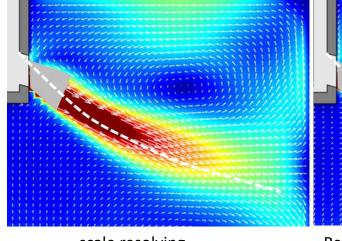
31.07.2025

PIV velocity measurements: single phase flow

time averaged PIV



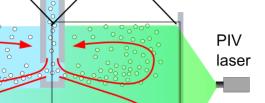
time averaged flow simulations



scale resolving turbulence model (SAS) Reynolds averaging turbulence model (realizable $k - \epsilon$)

center plane

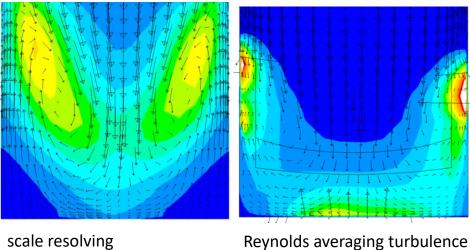
color: velocity magnitude



PIV velocity measurements: single phase flow

time averaged PIV light PIV laser

time averaged flow simulations



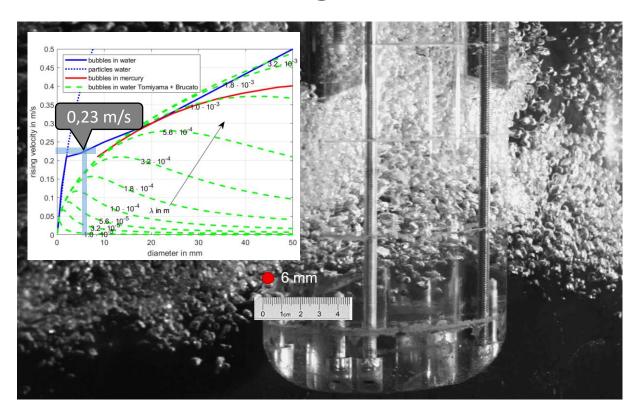
scale resolving turbulence model (SAS)

PIV front

Reynolds averaging turbulence model (realizable $k - \epsilon$)

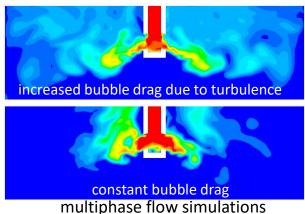
color: turbulent kinetic energy

Video Camera Images: Bubble Size

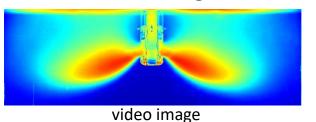


Video Camera Images: Bubble Distribution

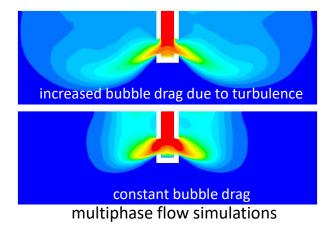
snapshot video image



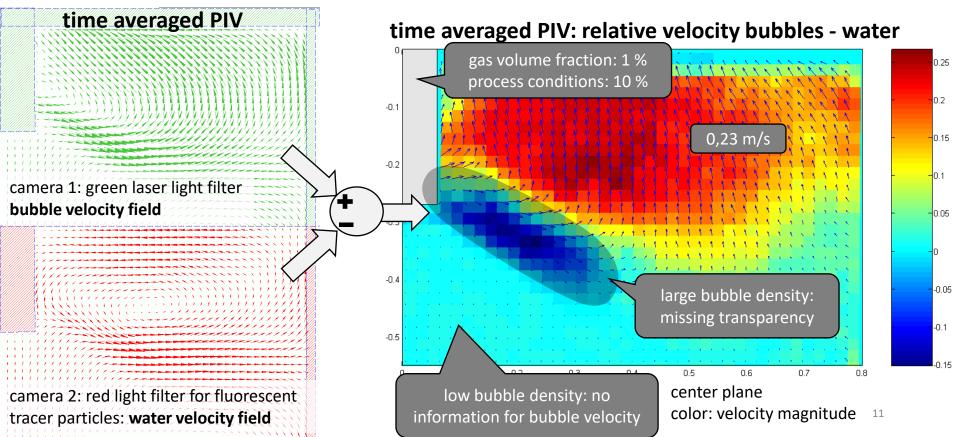
time averaged



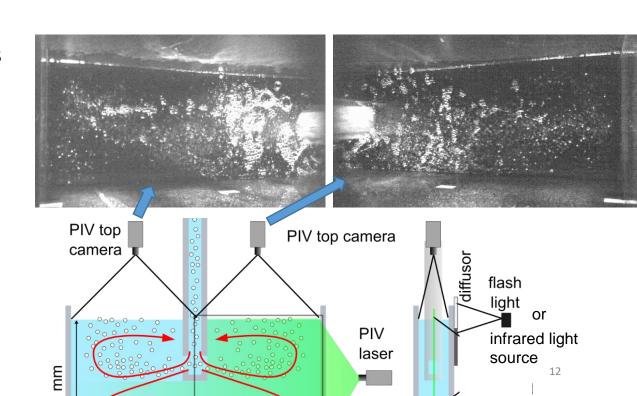
color: image brightness

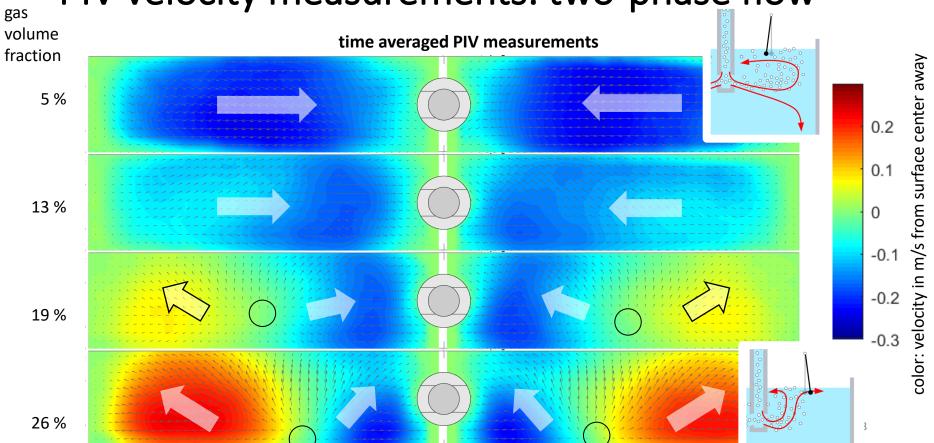


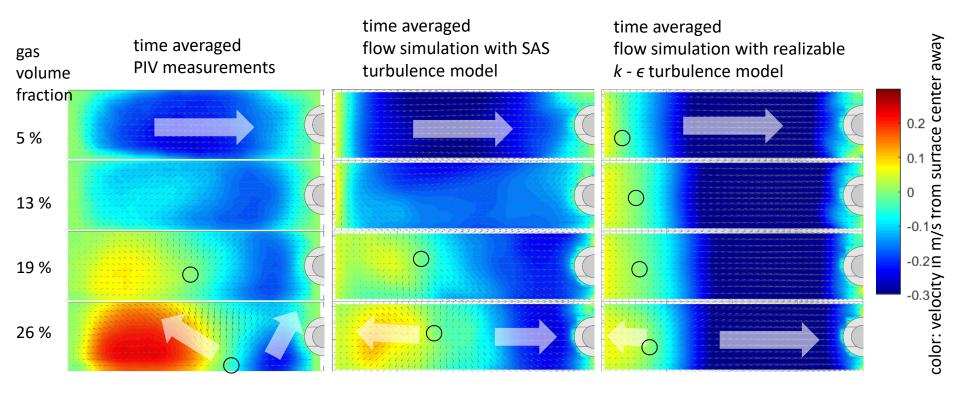
color: gas bubble volume fraction

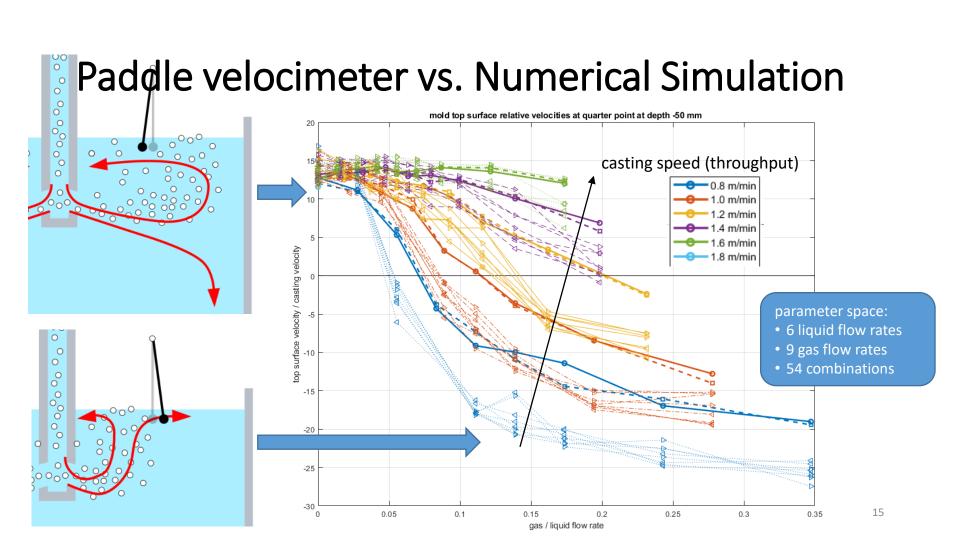


- setup 1: PIV cameras + flash illumination
- setup 2: infrared cameras with 60 fps + continuous infrared illumination
- use bubbles as tracer particles
- PIV cross correlation algorithm
- Optical Flow algorithm







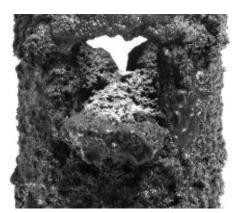


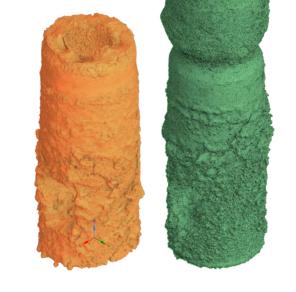
Outlook

- influence of changes in nozzle surface geometry by deposition of solid material (clogging) and erosion:
 - simulations of 3D scanned nozzles,
 - measurements with 3D printed nozzles





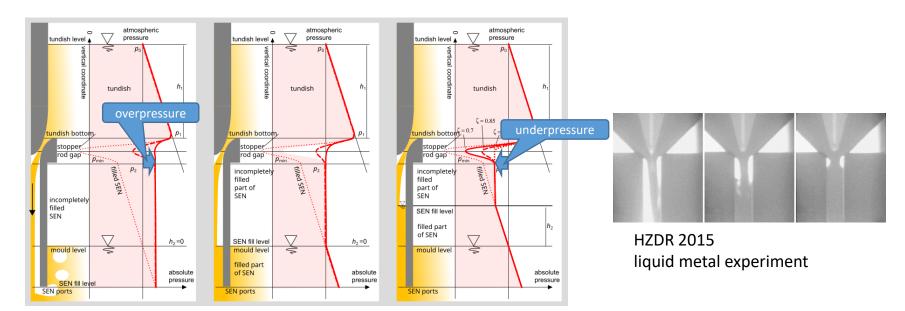




Outlook

measurements with liquid metal at SWERIM

pressure conditions for liquid metal and different phase distribution patterns



First sketches in 2012, Proc. ECCC 2014, Steel Res. Int., 2014, DOI: 10.1002/srin.201300448

Conclusions

- validation succeeds or fails? → accurate enough?
 - empirical CFD models: always expect imperfect results
- validation fails (too inaccurate): "debugging"?
 - try and error
 - understand physics
 - use as many measurement techniques as possible: look into details
 - separate complex situations into smaller details