

FloatLab: experimental testing of +20MW scaled floating wind turbine models

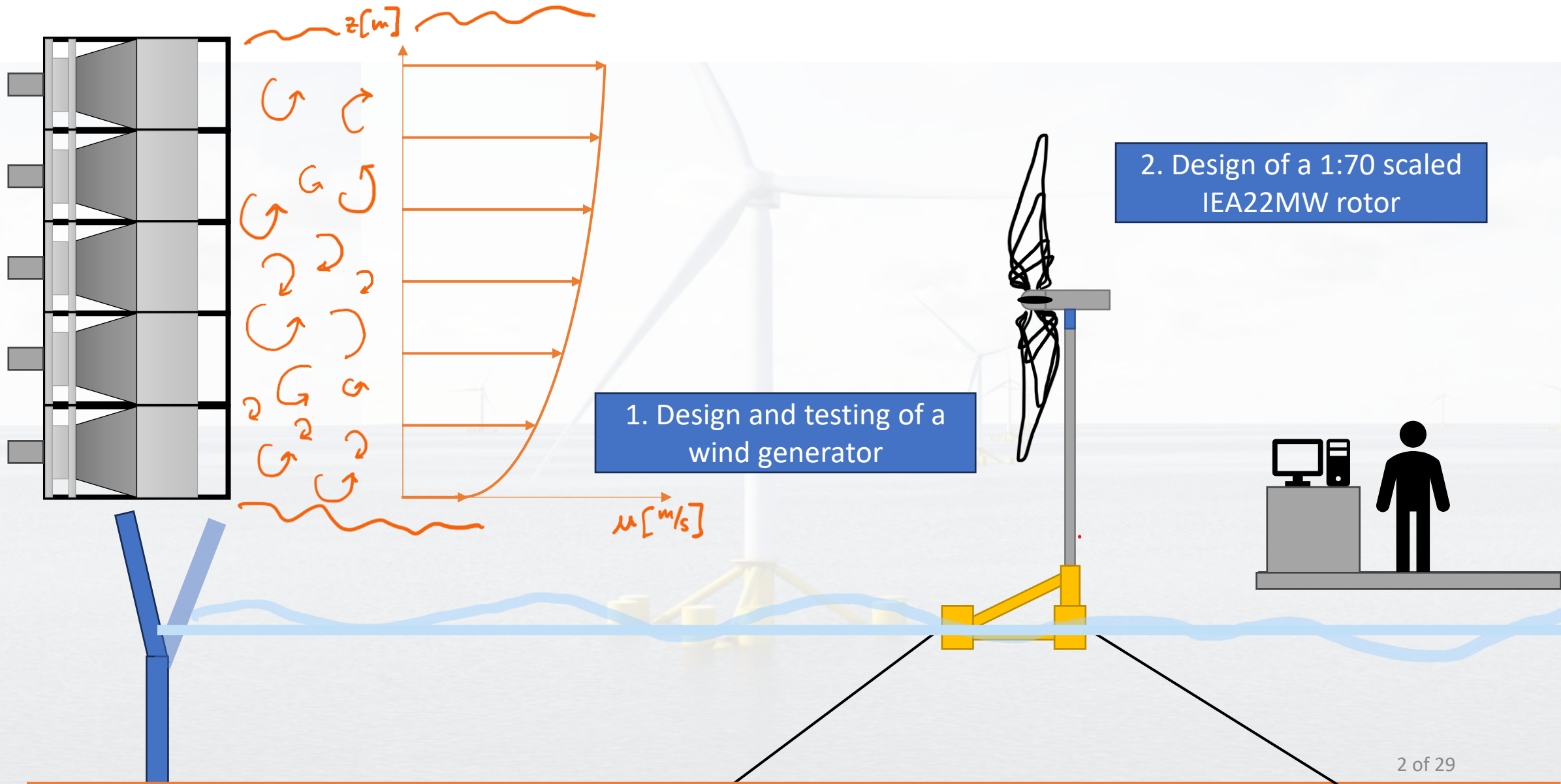
F. Pierella, R. Mikkelsen, K. Lønbæk, K. Enevoldsen, G.R. Thorsen, H. Bredmose



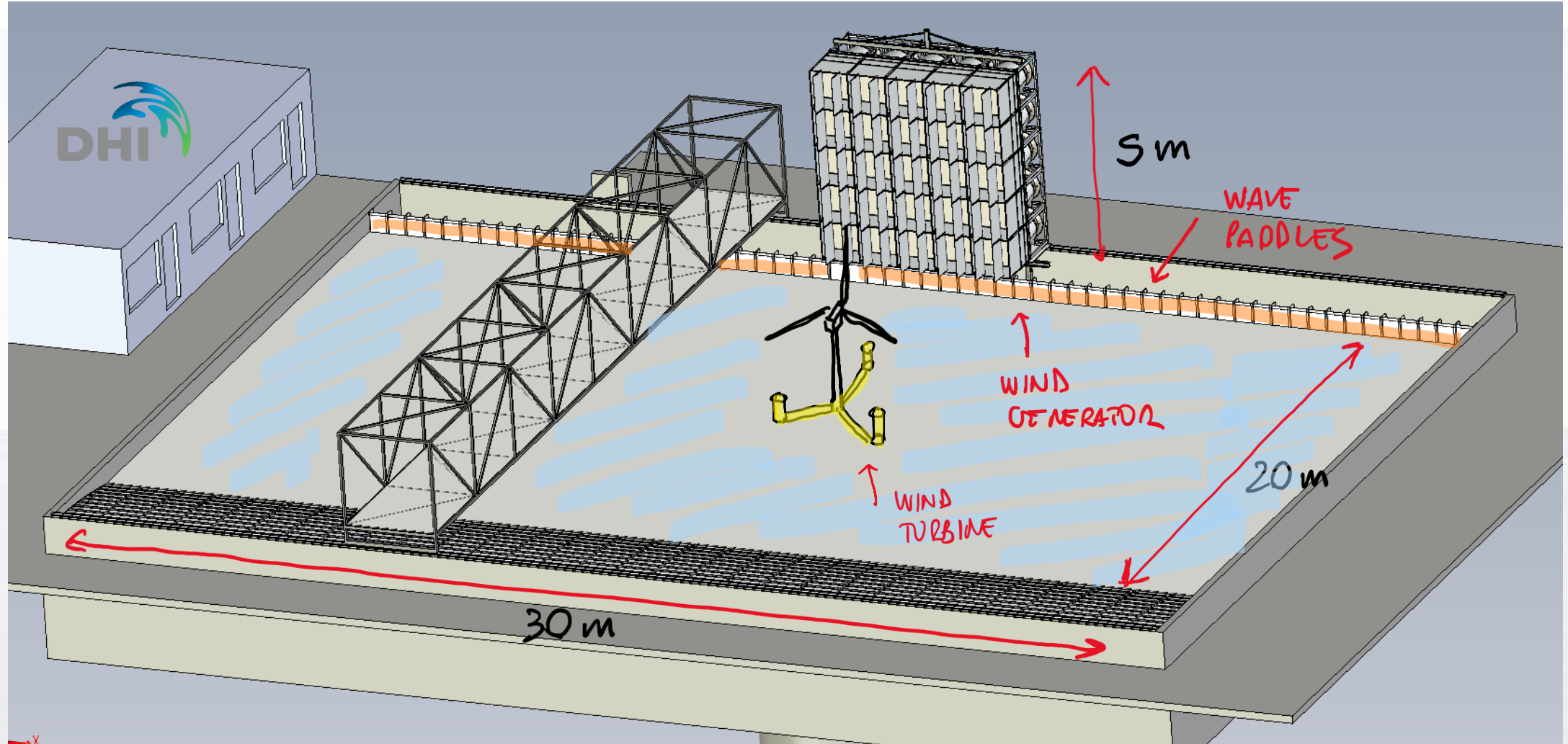
Stiesdal
Offshore



What are you going to see today?

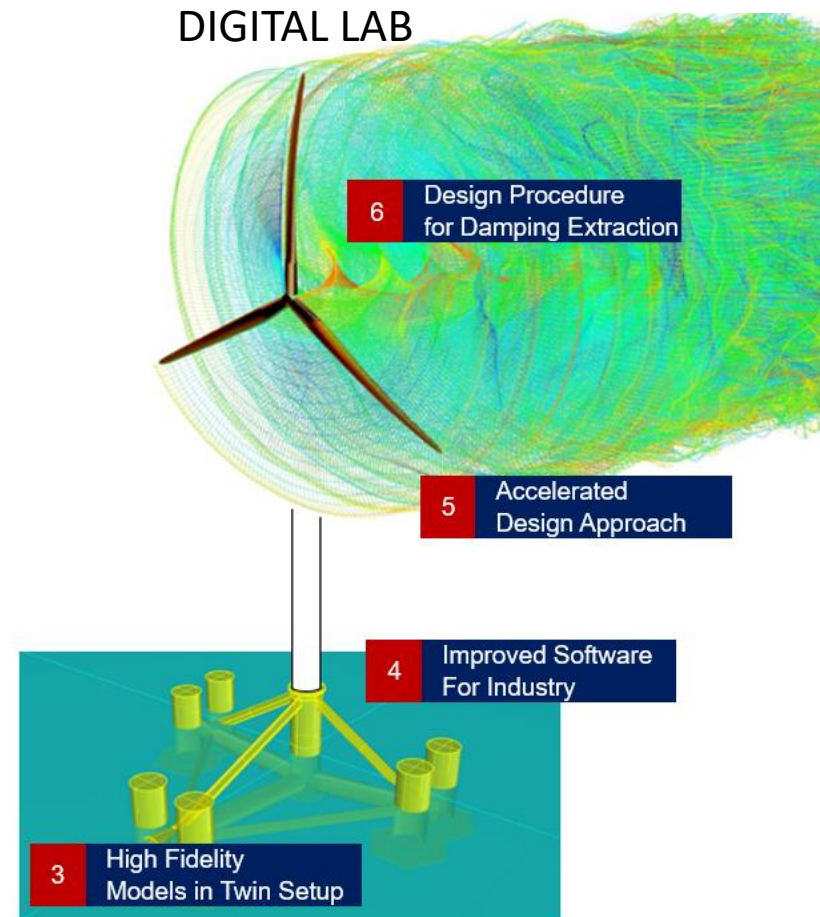
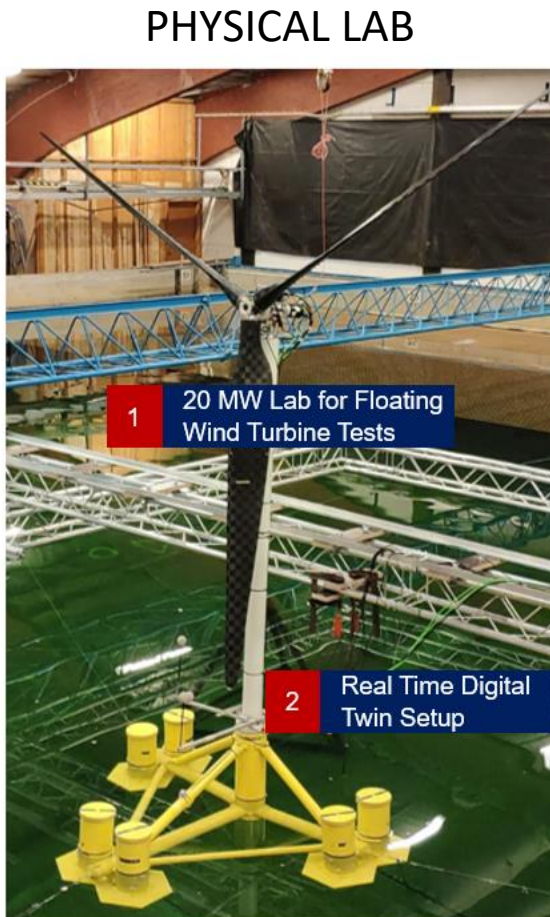


A more realistic view of the experimental setup

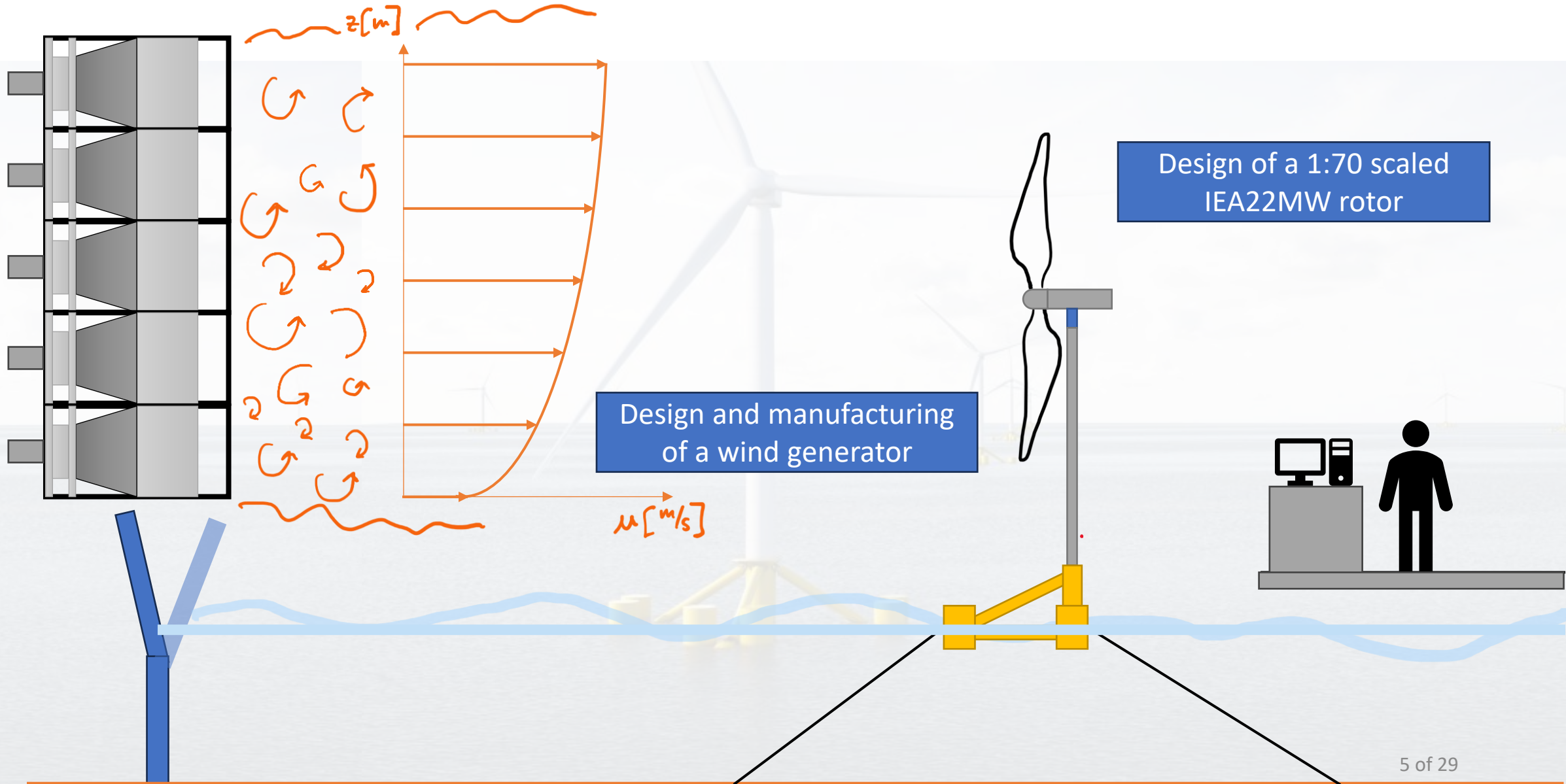


The FloatLab Project

- Danish Innovation Fund
 - 2024-2028
 - Budget 22.3 MDKK (3M€)
- Twinned physical and Digital lab for +20MW floating wind turbine design



Part 1: the wind generator



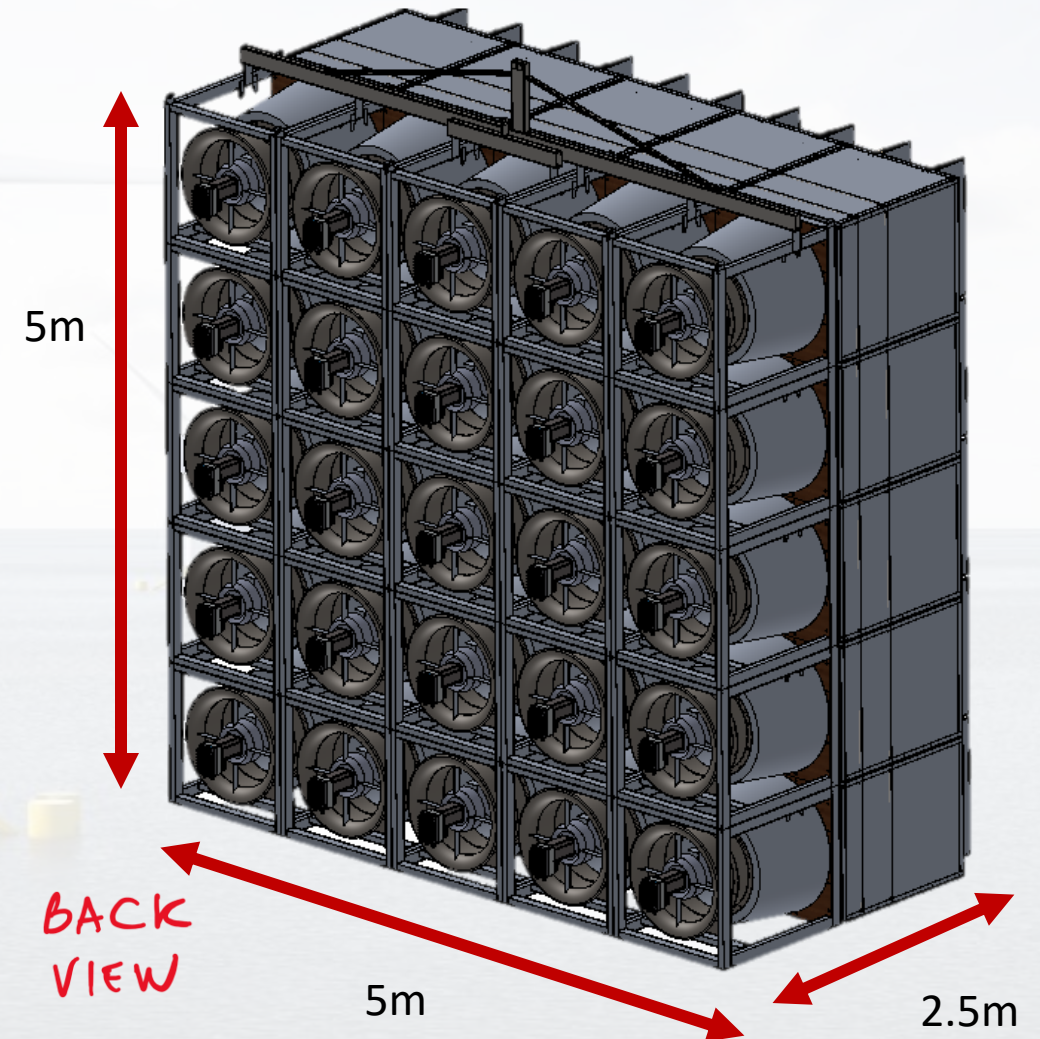
Design of the wind generator

- Specifications

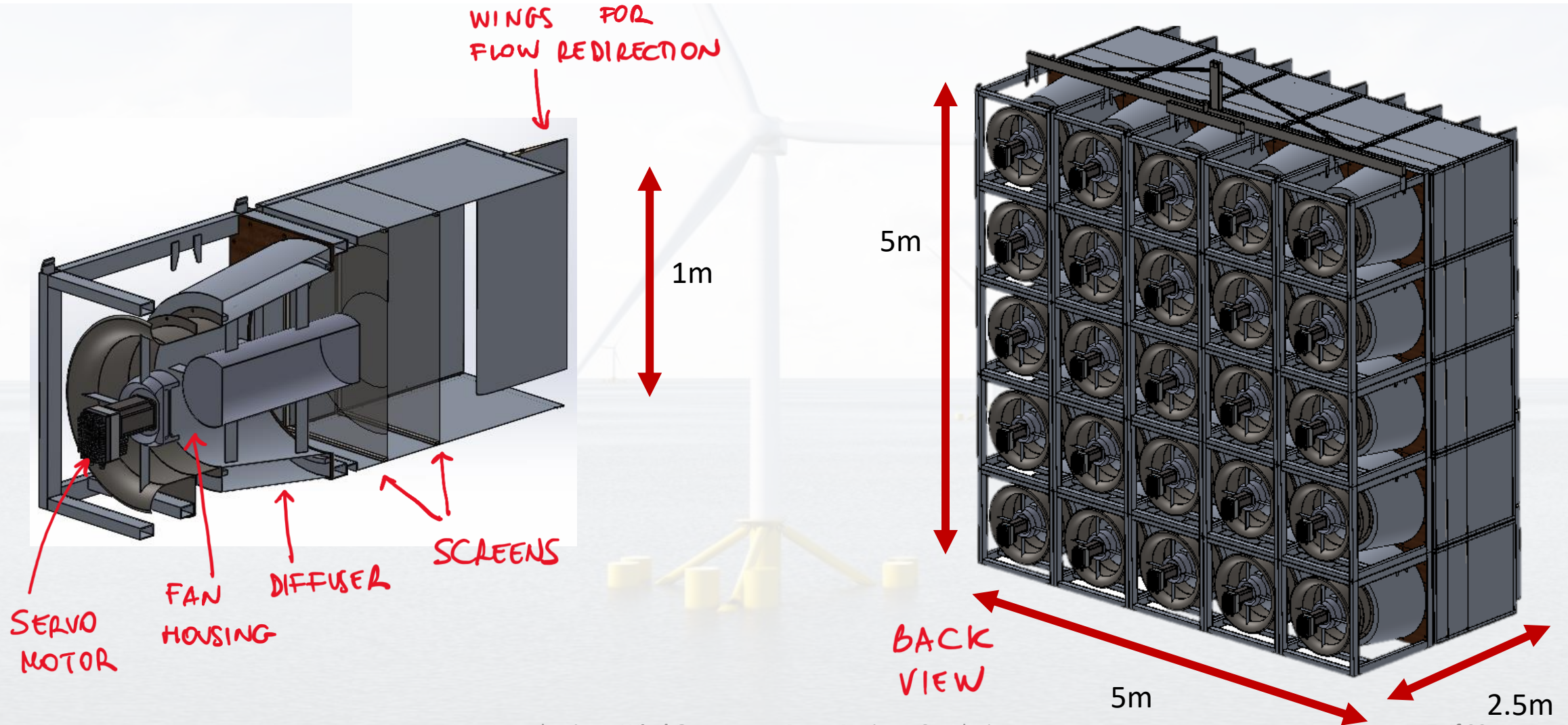
- Mass $\approx 5t$, $P \approx 50 \text{ kW @ } 5 \text{ m/s}$
- Max speed 5 m/s
- Frequency response up to ca. 0.5 Hz

- Complex wind features

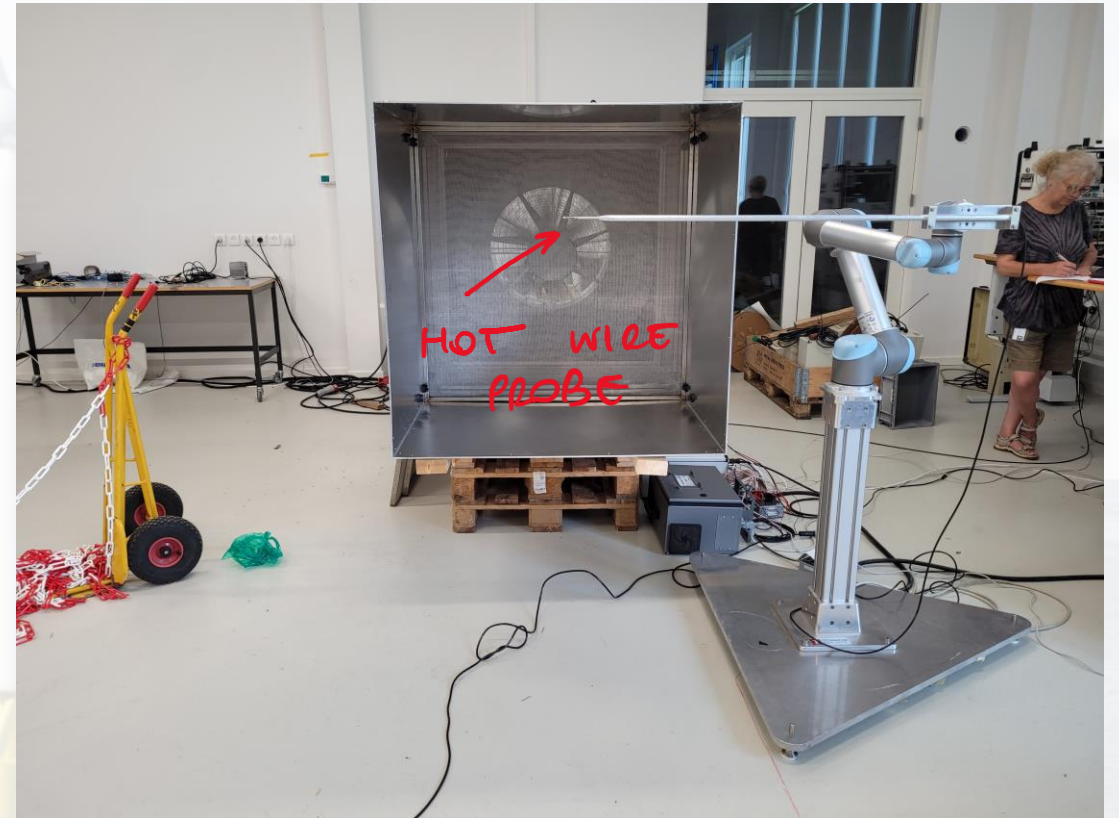
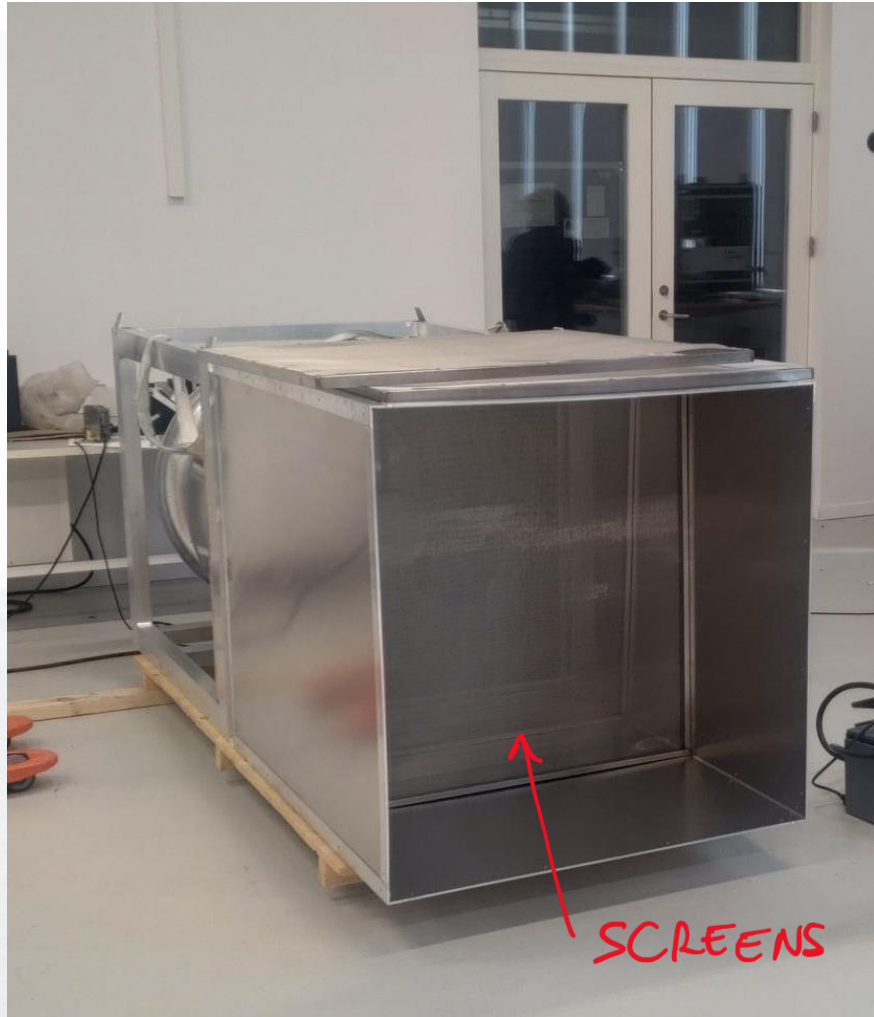
- Shear
- Turbulent scales of varying size
- Wind coherence



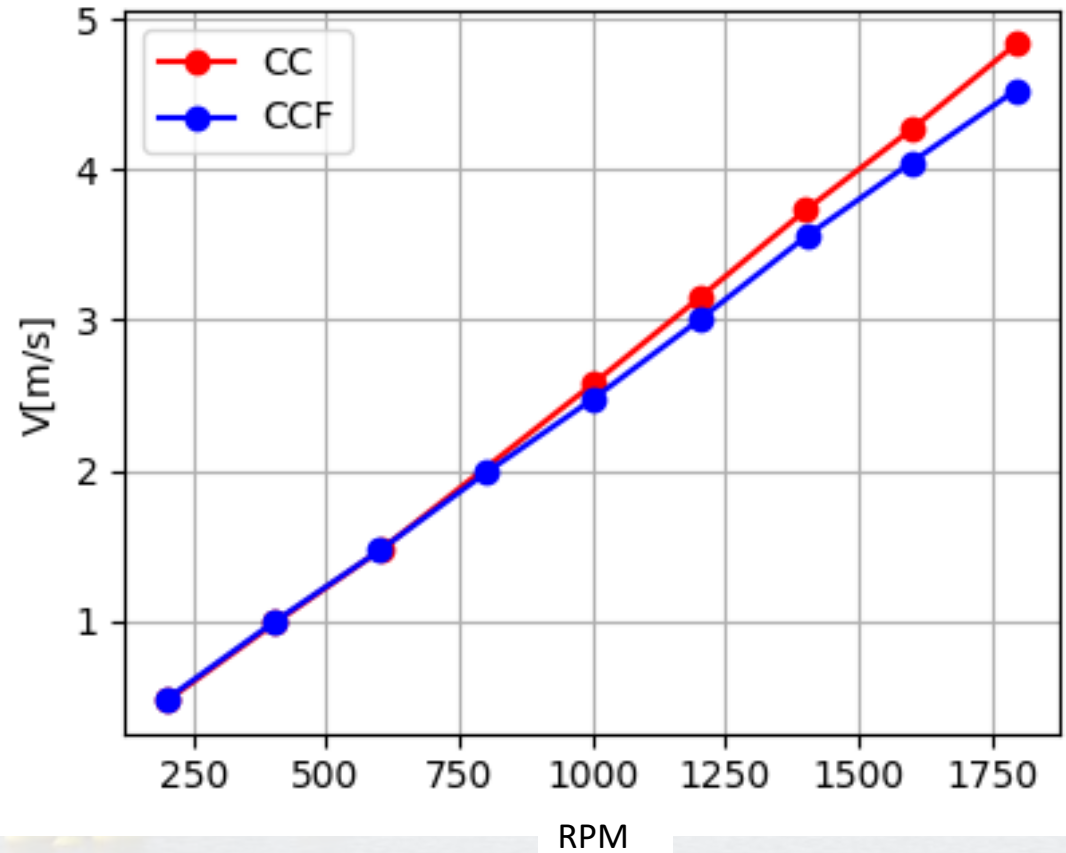
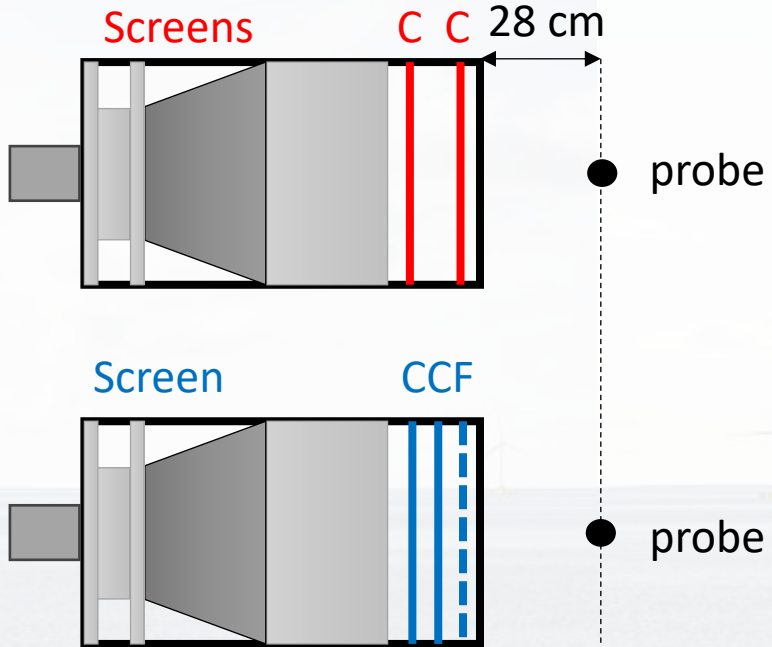
Description of the blower unit



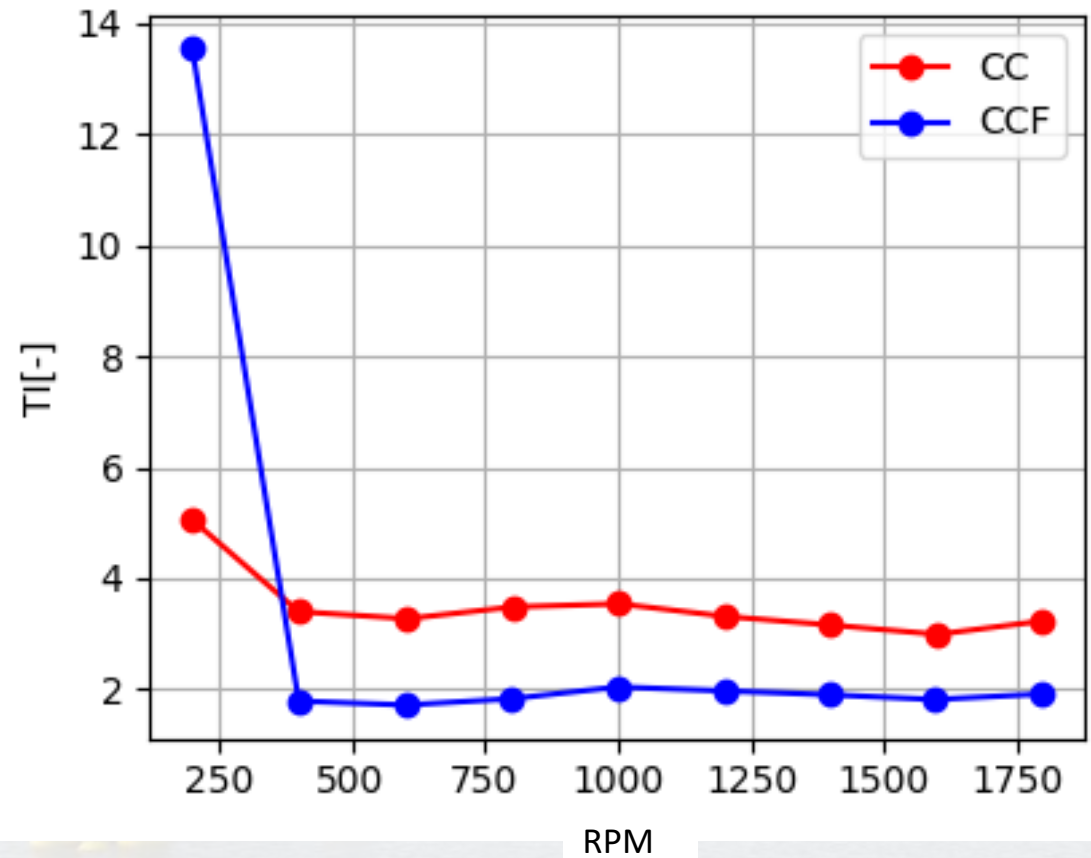
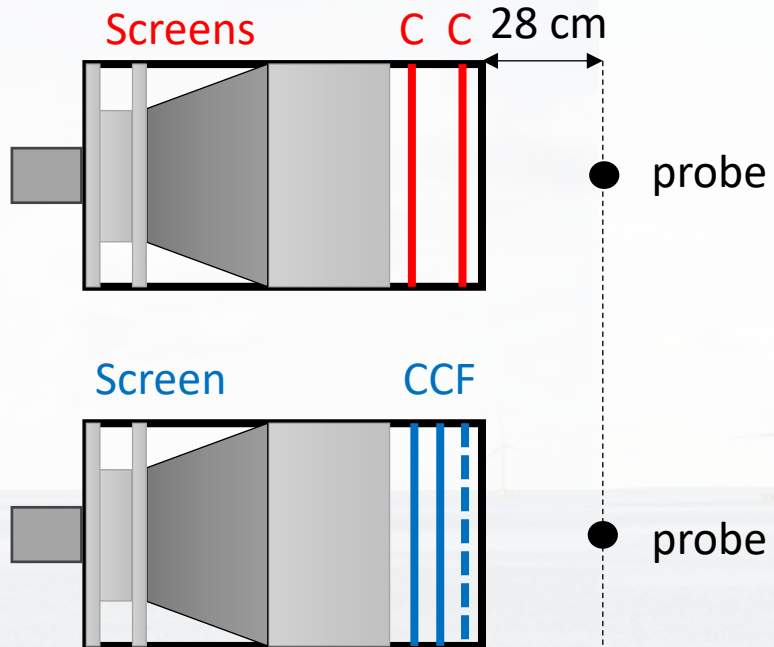
Calibration of the first unit



Calibration of the first unit: selection of number of screens



Calibration of the first unit: selection of number of screens

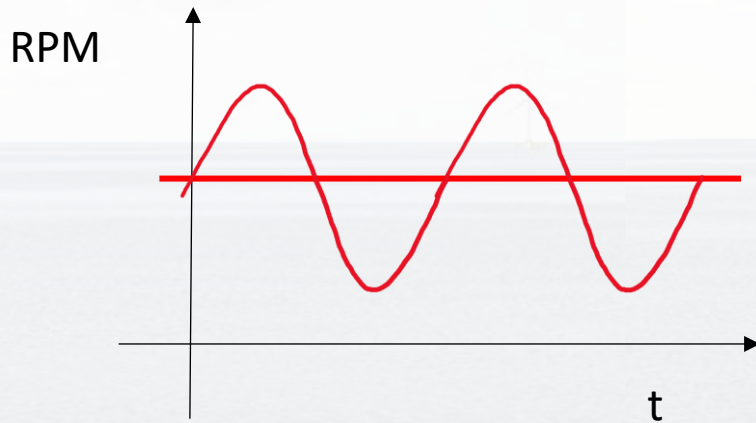


Next task: dynamic calibration

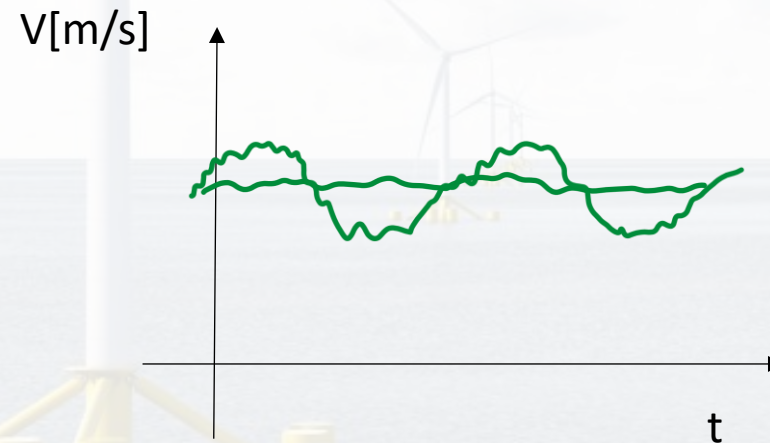


$$\hat{V}(\omega) = \boxed{\hat{H}(\omega)} \cdot \hat{RPM}(\omega)$$

TRANSFER FUNCTION

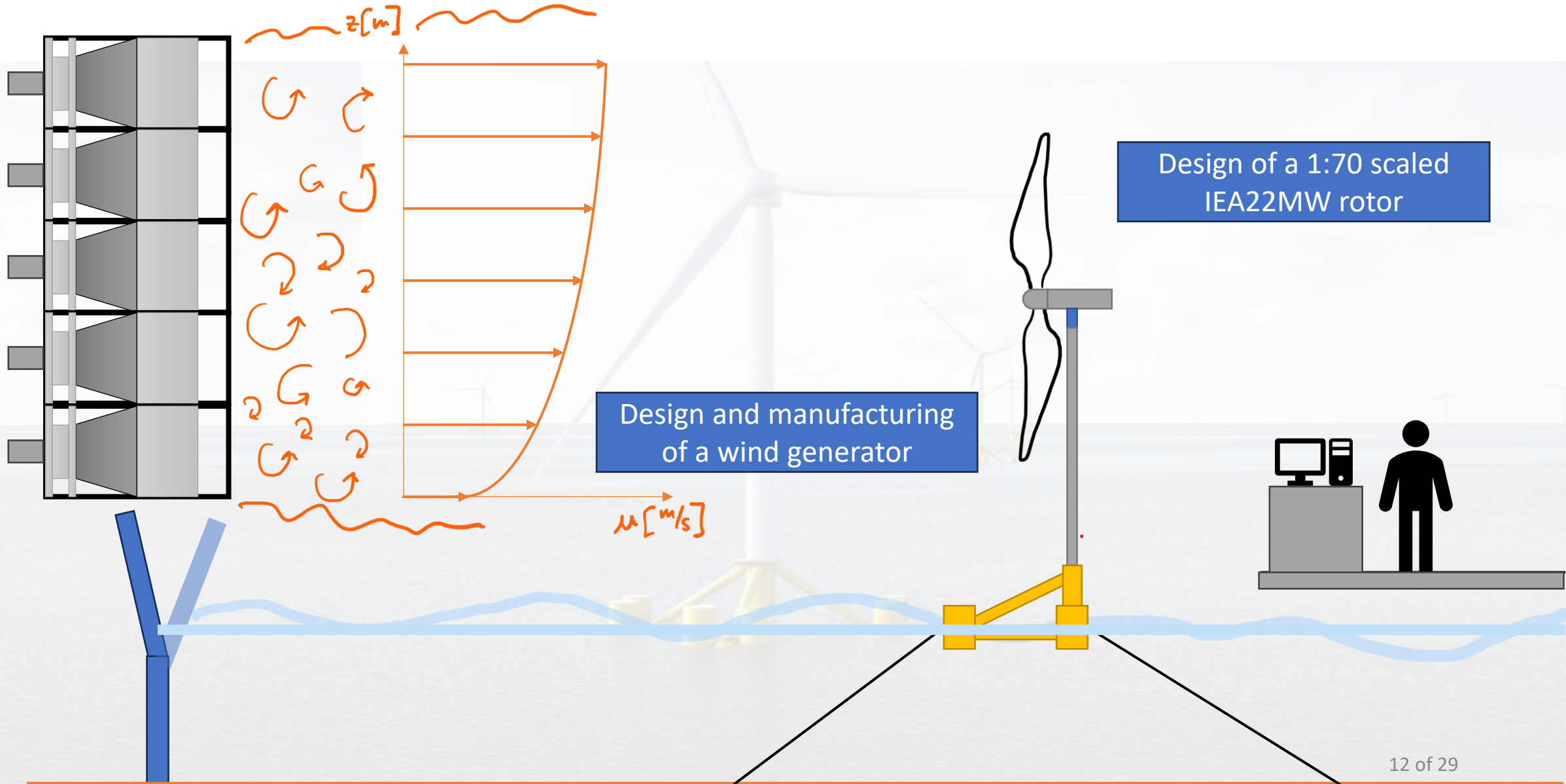


$$RPM = RPM_0 + RPM_A \sin(\omega t)$$



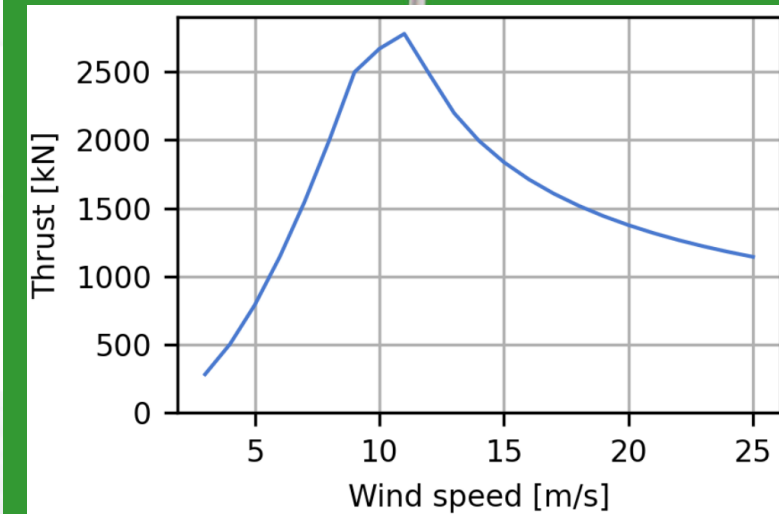
$$V_1 = K_1 RPM_0 + K_2(\omega) RPM_A \sin(\omega t + \phi(\omega))$$

Part 2: the rotor design



The IEA 22MW reference wind turbine

- $D = 284$ m
- Design tip speed ratio 9.153
- RNA mass ca. 1215 t
- Rated wind speed 11 m/s
- Rated thrust ca. 2.793 MN
- Airfoil FFA-W3 series
- Rotor Re number ca. 10M

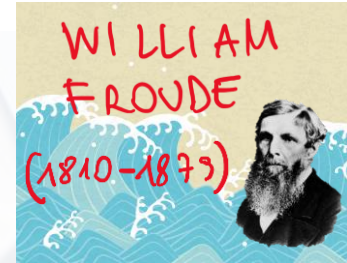


Thrust curve of the IEA 22MW rotor.

HAWC2 visualization of the IEA 22MW rotor.

Froude vs. Reynolds scaling

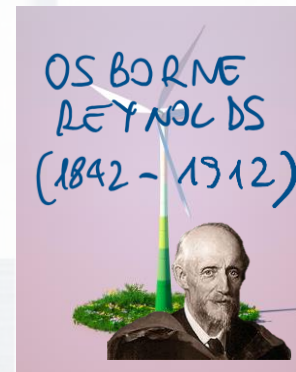
- D = 284 m, three bladed
- Design tip speed ratio 9.153
- RNA mass ca. 1215 t



$$Fr = \frac{u}{\sqrt{gL}}$$

← INERTIA
← WEIGHT

- Rated wind speed 11 m/s
- Rated thrust ca. 2.793 MN



$$Re = \frac{uL}{\nu}$$

← INERTIA
← VISCOUS

- Airfoil FFA-W3 series
- Rotor Re number ca. 10M

$$\lambda = \frac{L_{FS}}{L_{MS}} = 70$$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} Fr_{MS} &= Fr_{FS} \\ Re_{MS} &= Re_{FS} \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda^{3/2}} \approx \frac{1}{600} \end{aligned} \right.$$

Choosing Froude scaling over Reynolds...

- $D = 284$ m, three bladed
- Design tip speed ratio 9.153
- RNA mass ca. 1215 t

- Rated wind speed 11 m/s
- Rated thrust ca. 2.793 MN

- Airfoil FFA-W3 series
- Rotor Re number ca. 10M

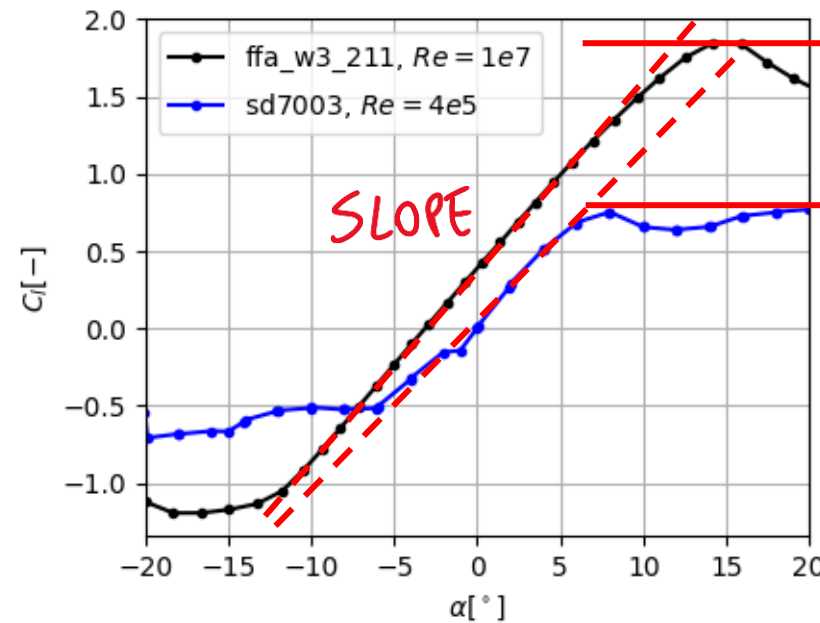
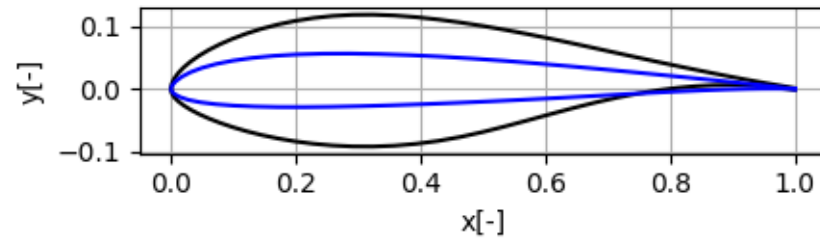
- $D = 4.06$ m, three bladed
- Design tip speed ratio 9.153
- RNA mass ca. 3.46 kg

- Rated wind speed 1.3 m/s
- Rated thrust ca. 7.5 N

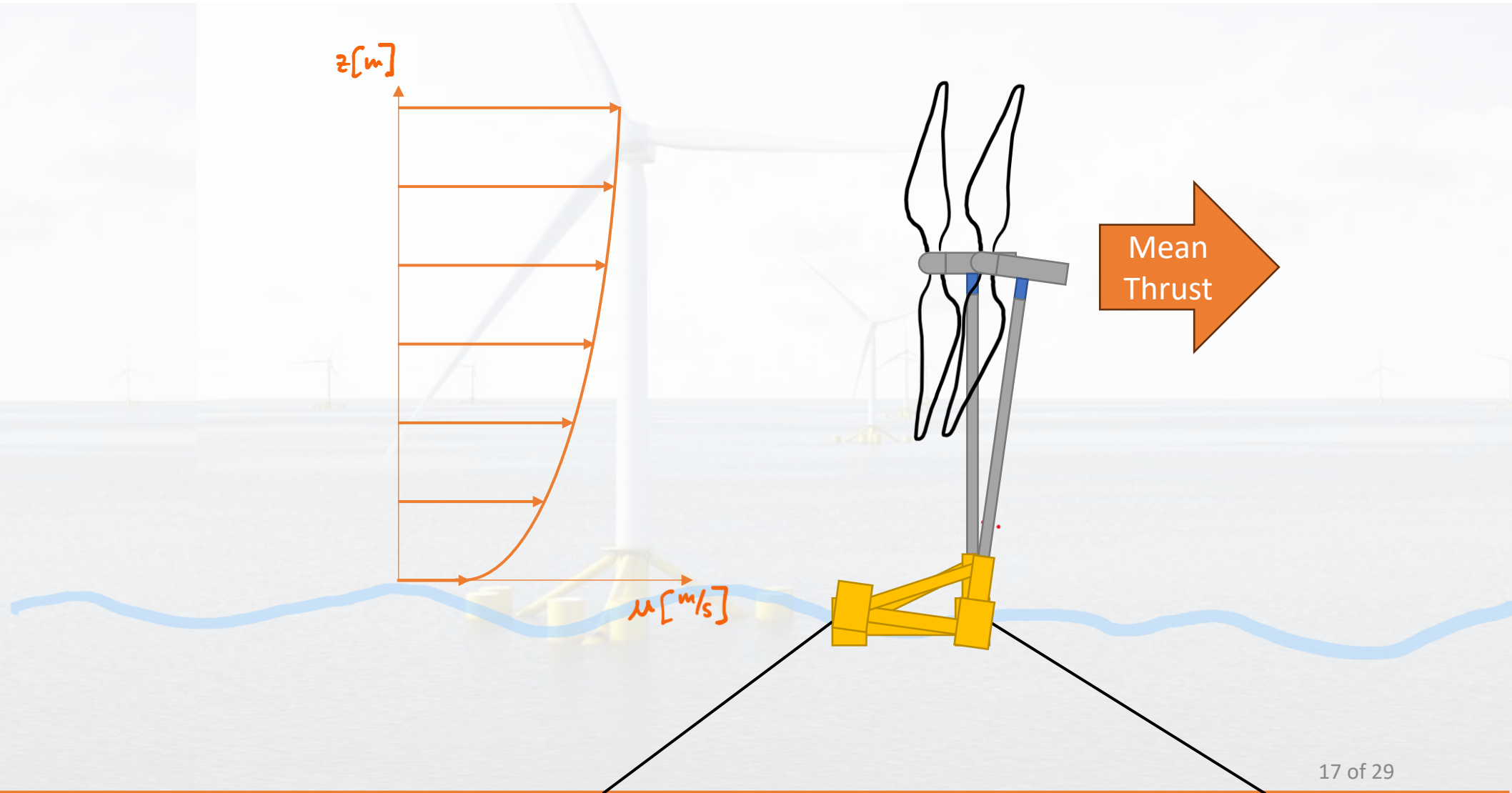
- Airfoil low-speed SD7003 (8.5% rt)
- Rotor Re number ca. 20k

HUGE IMPACT ON AIRFOIL PERFORMANCE

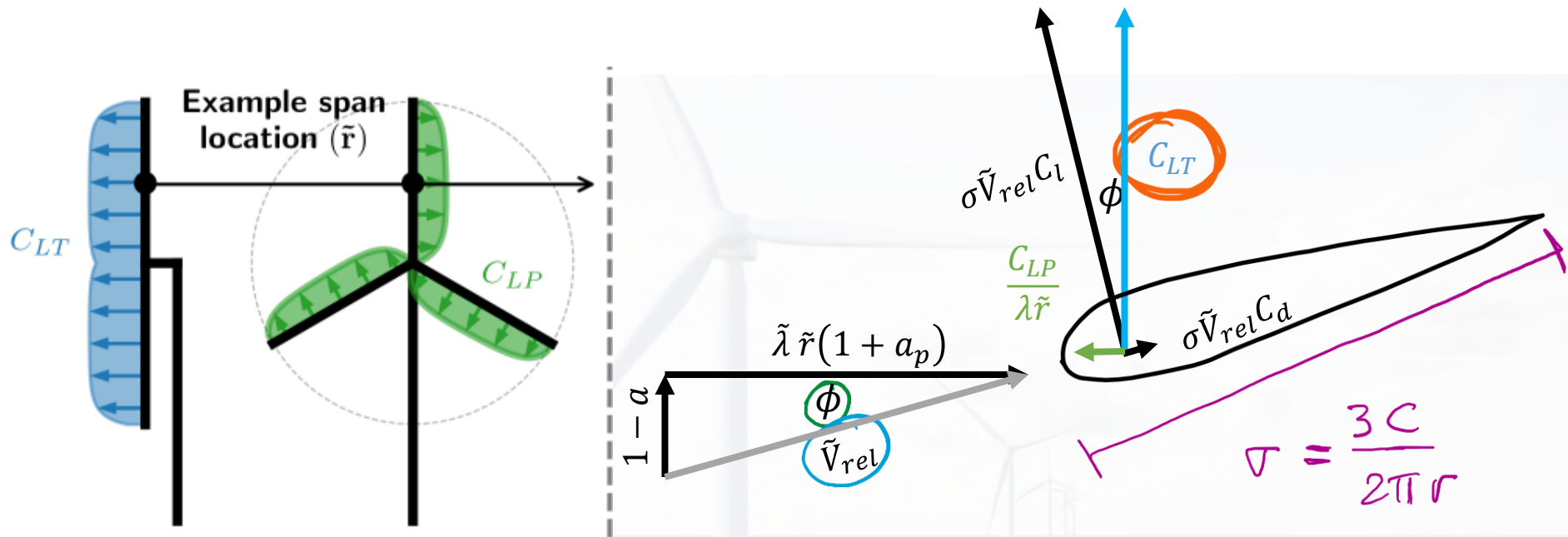
Lift coefficient for FFA-W2-221 vs. SD7003



Matching the mean aerodynamic thrust



Matching the mean thrust



IEA 22 MW

SCALED 1:70

$$C_{LT} = \sigma \tilde{V}_{rel}^2 \cos \phi (C_l + C_d \tan \phi)$$

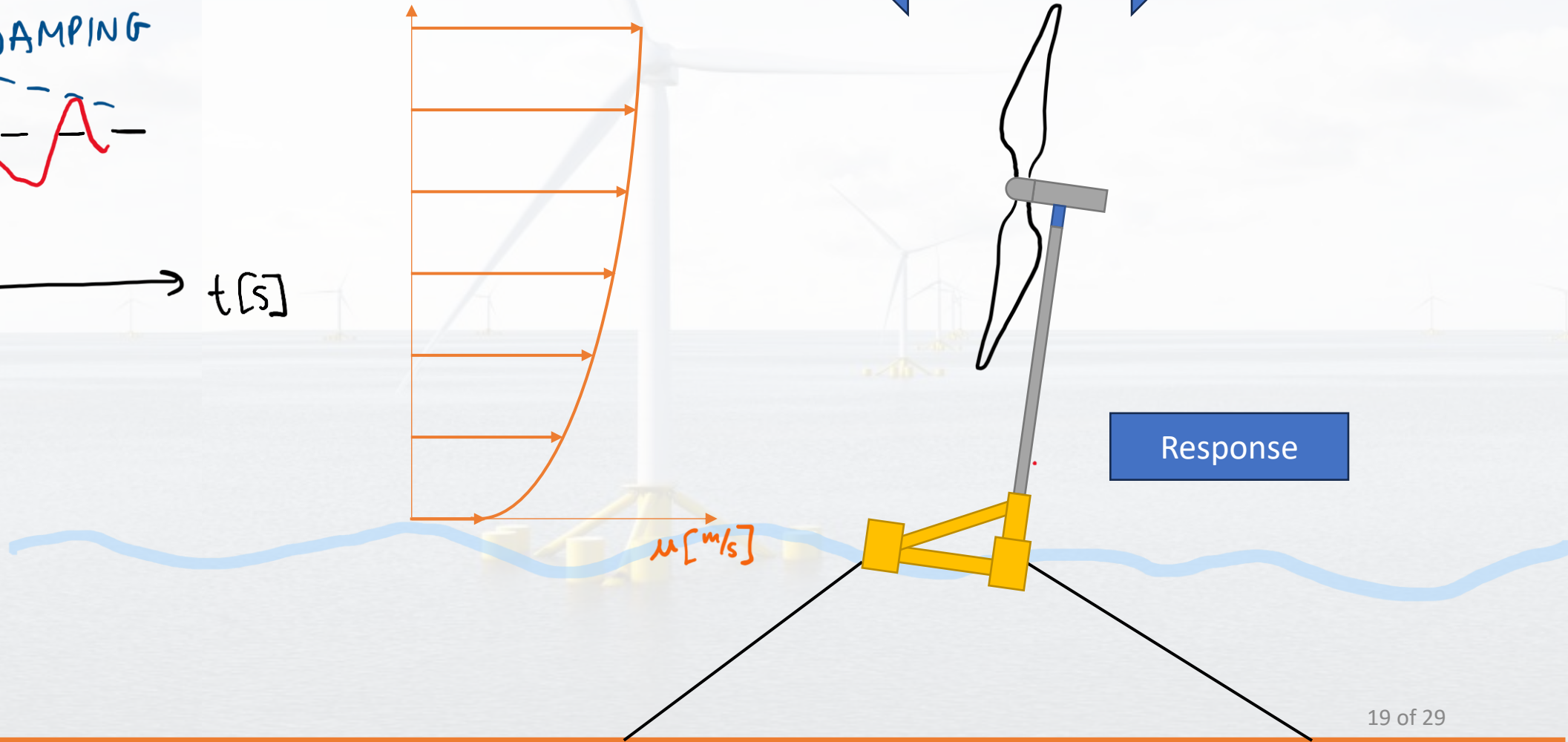
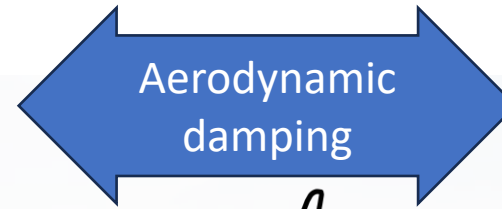
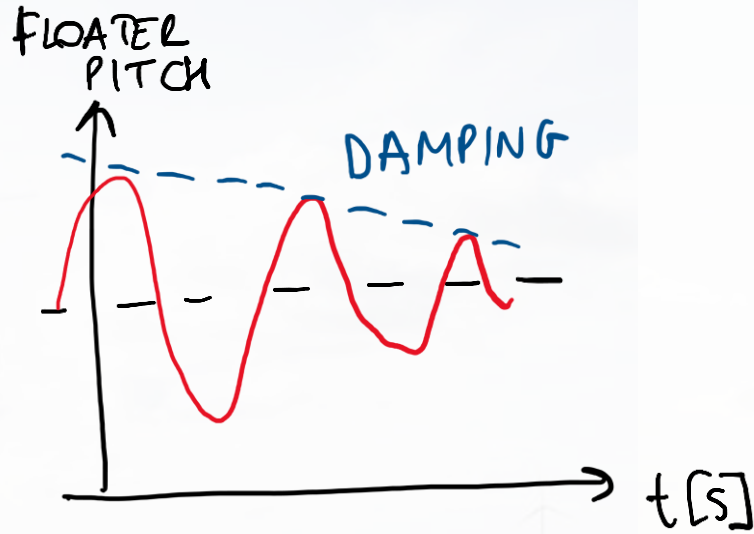
DESIGN CHOICE

LOWER REYNOLDS NR.



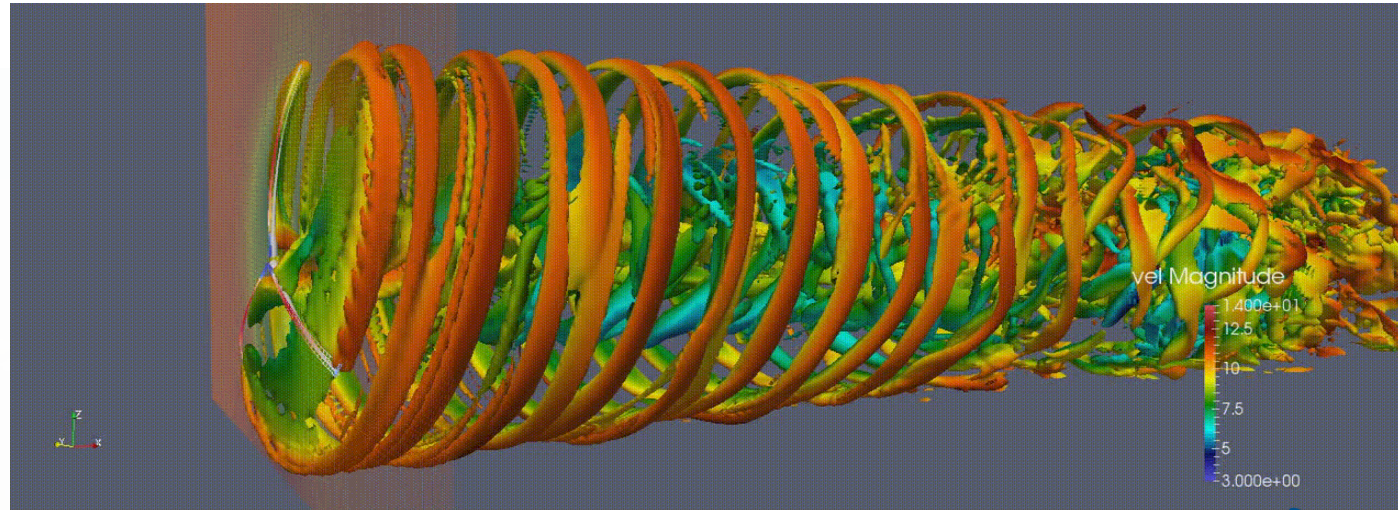
Increase the chord to match the mean thrust

Matching the aerodynamic damping



Key assumption: frozen wake

AERODYNAMIC DAMPING \Rightarrow Δ THRUST
 Δ VELOCITY DUE TO MOTION



IF



THEN

ROTOR INDUCTION (a, a') IS CONSTANT (FROZEN WAKE)

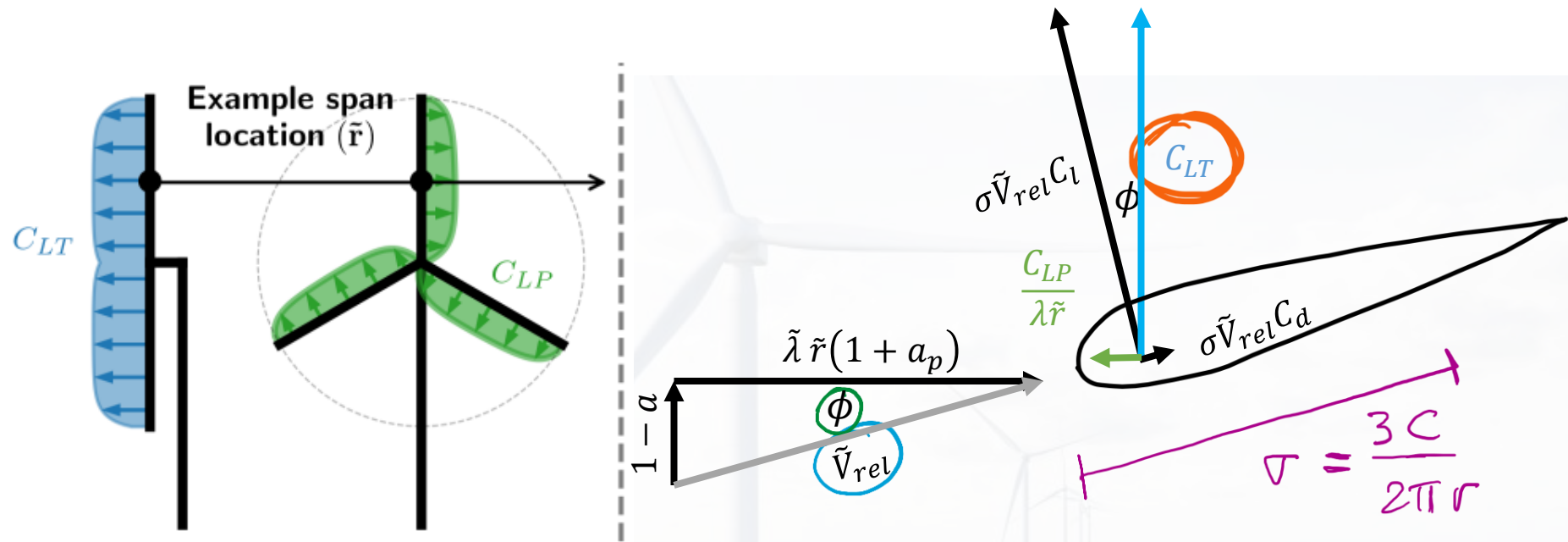
HENCE

AERODYNAMIC DAMPING \propto

$$\frac{\Delta \text{THRUST}}{\Delta \text{BLADE PITCH.}}$$

OUR DESIGN OBJECTIVE

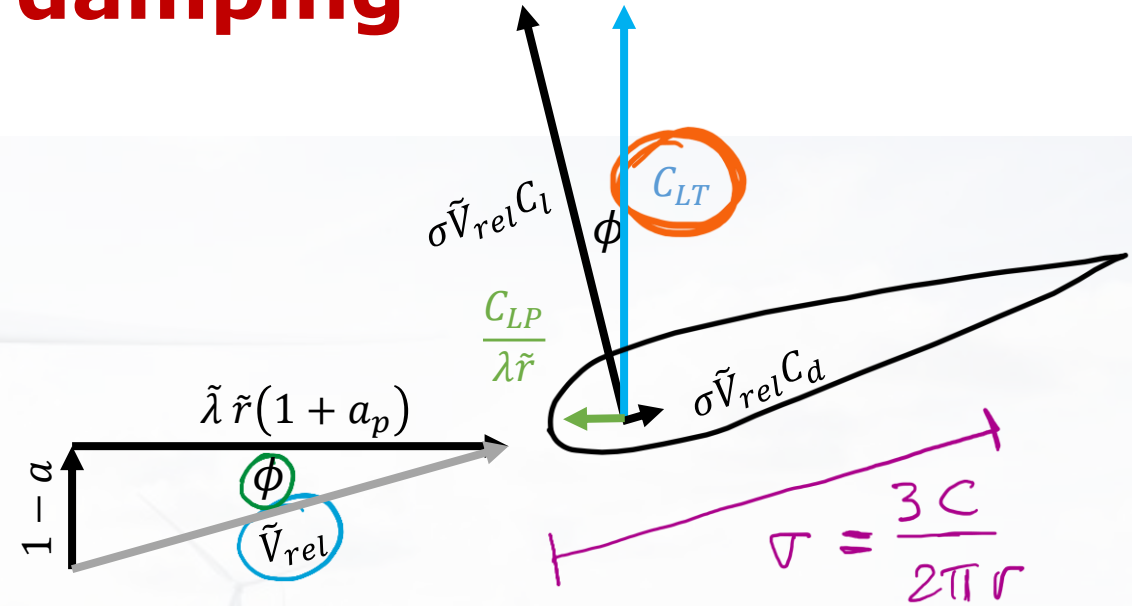
Matching the aerodynamic damping



$$C_{LT} = \sigma \tilde{V}_{rel}^2 \cos(\phi) (C_l + C_d \tan \phi)$$

Matching the aerodynamic damping

$$C_{LT} = \sigma \tilde{V}_{rel}^2 \cos(\phi) (C_l + C_d \tan \phi)$$



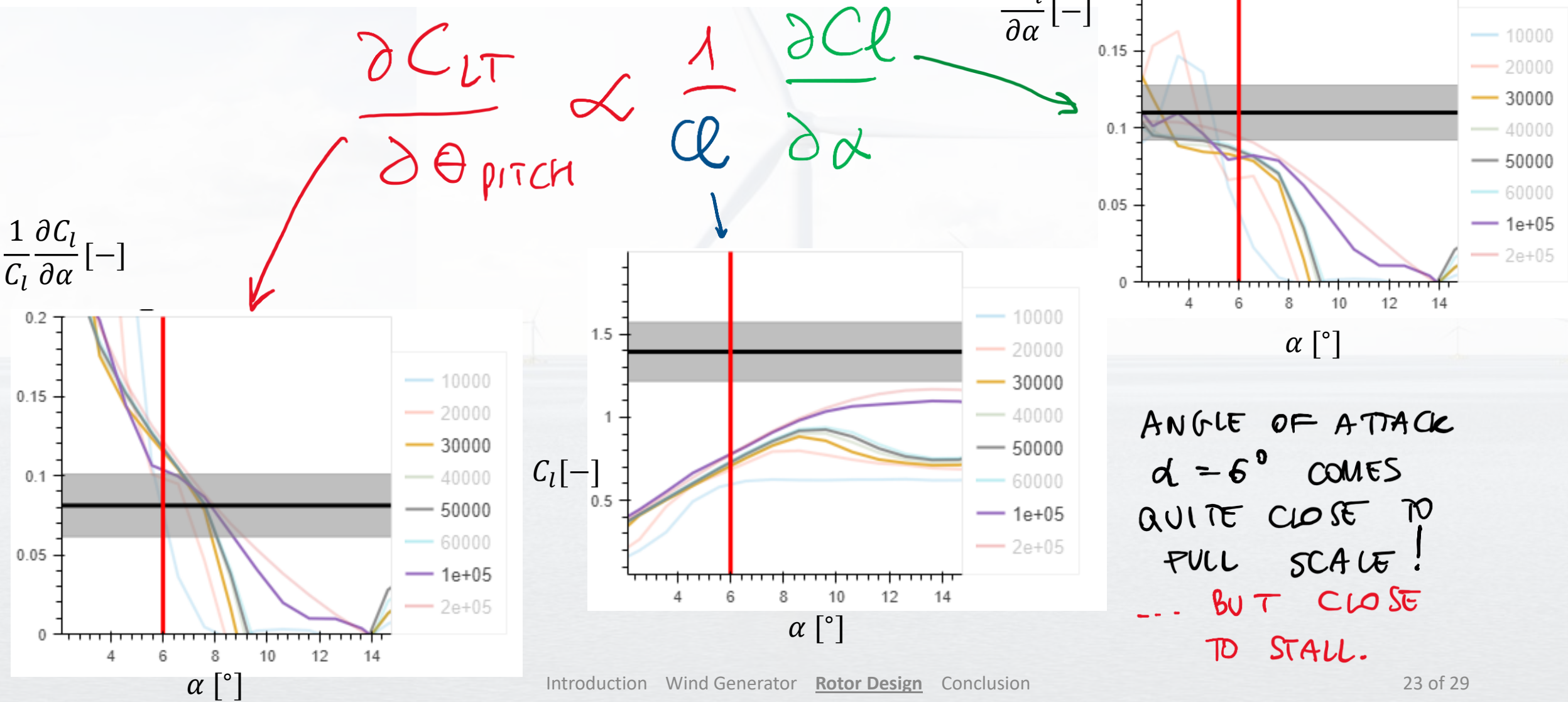
ALREADY
MATCHED

SMALL IF
ATTACHED
FLOW

$$\frac{\partial C_{LT}}{\partial \theta_{pitch}} \text{ frozen-wake} = - \underbrace{\frac{C_{LT}}{C_l}} \left(\frac{\partial C_l}{\partial \alpha} + \frac{\partial C_d}{\partial \alpha} \tan \phi \right)$$

DEPENDS ONLY
ON AIRFOIL POLARS!

Let's analyze the airfoil polars for SD7003 8.5%

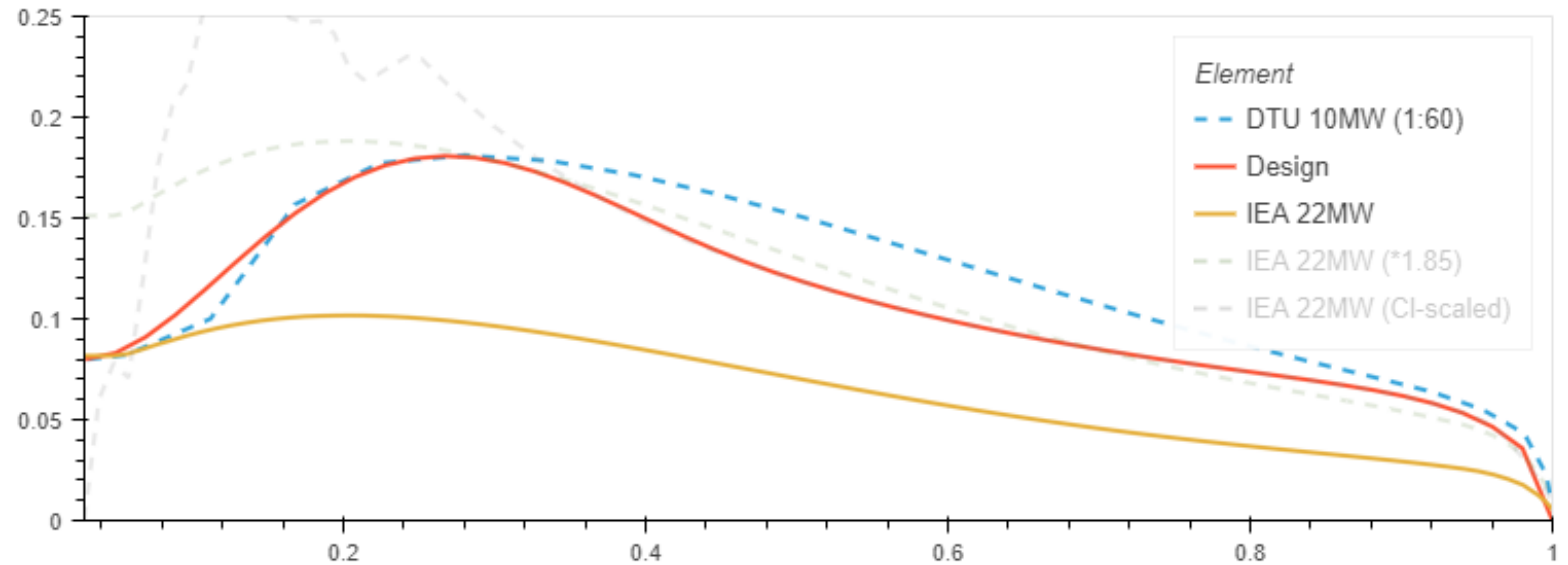


Based on this... here is the current design

Design angle of attack
 $\alpha = 6^\circ$

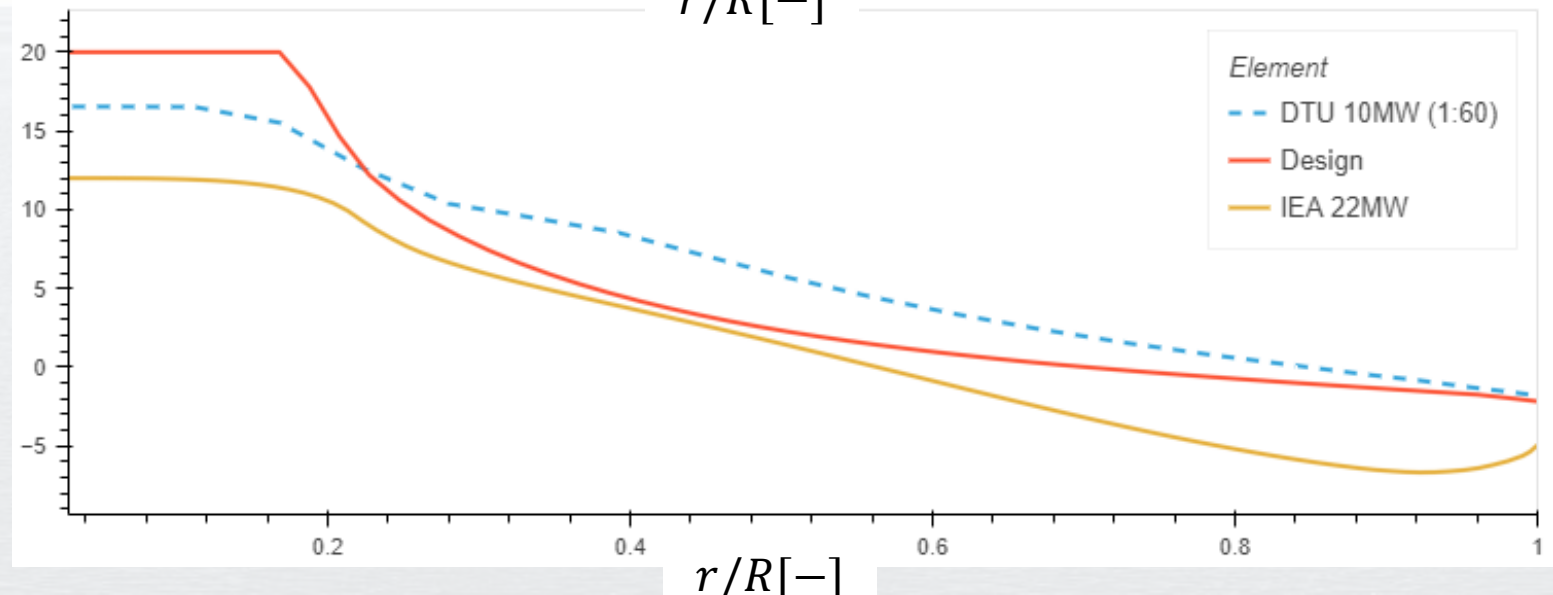
Design lift coefficient
 $C_l \approx 0.6$

$c[m]$



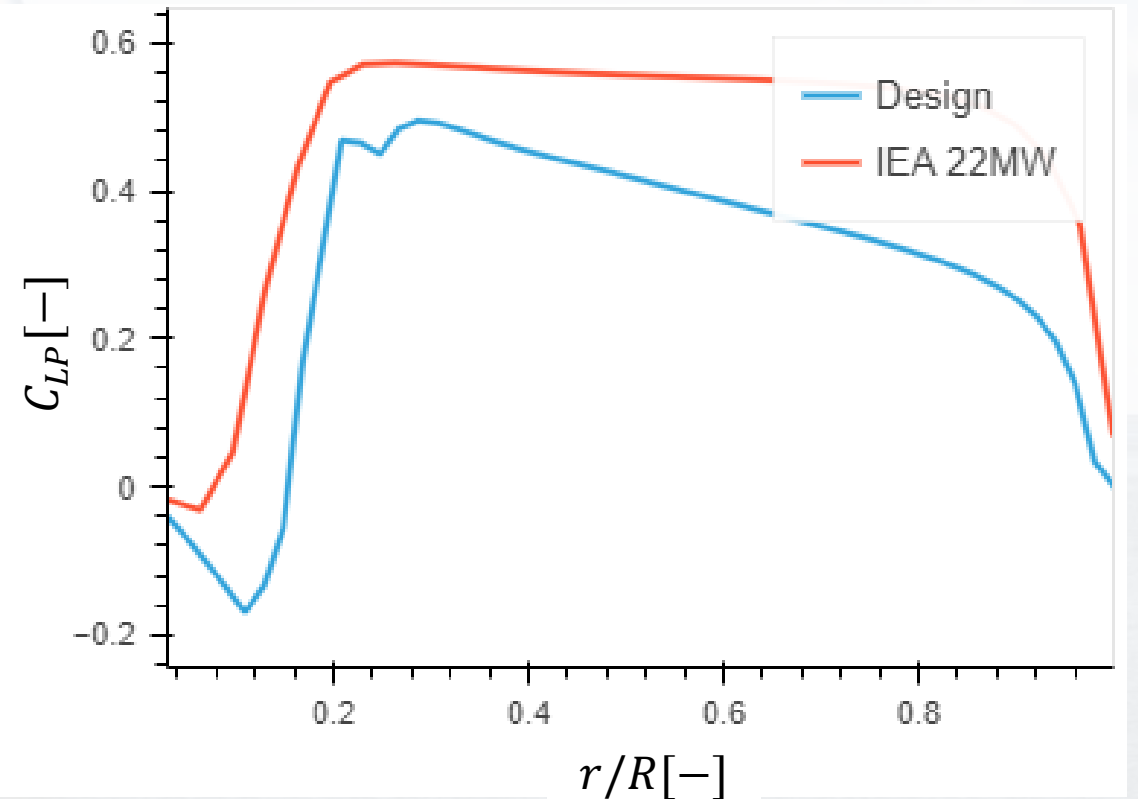
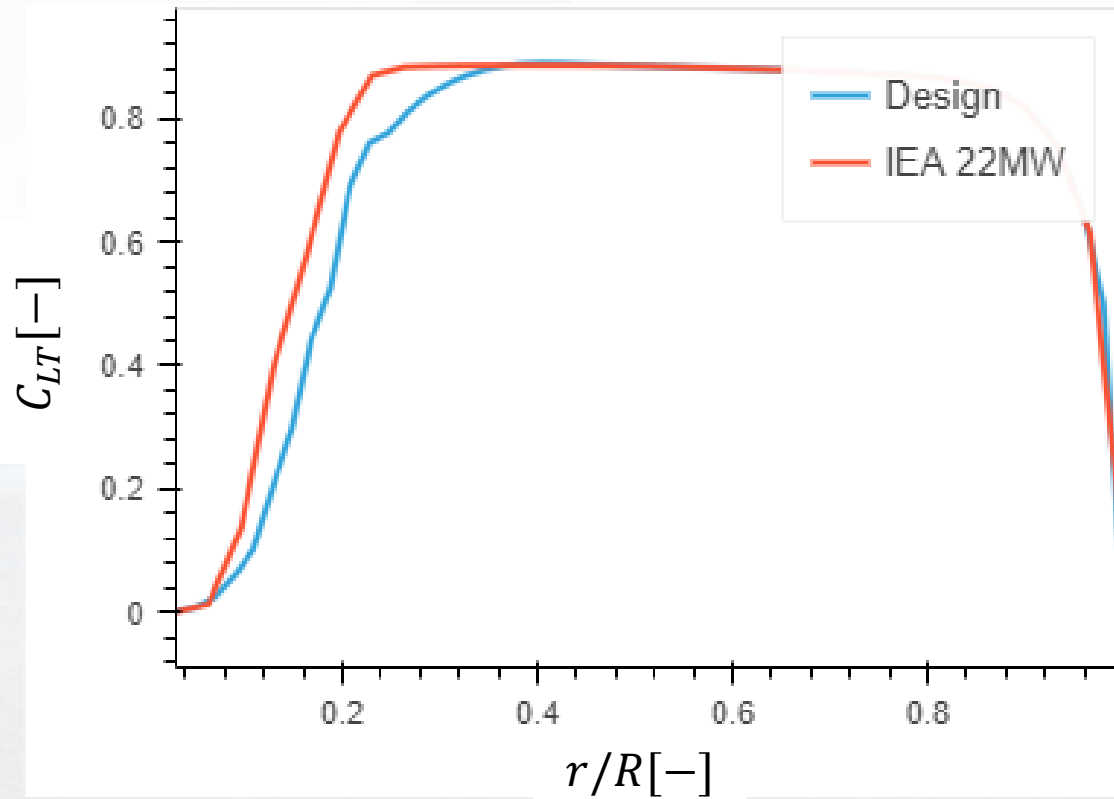
$r/R[-]$

Blade twist [deg]

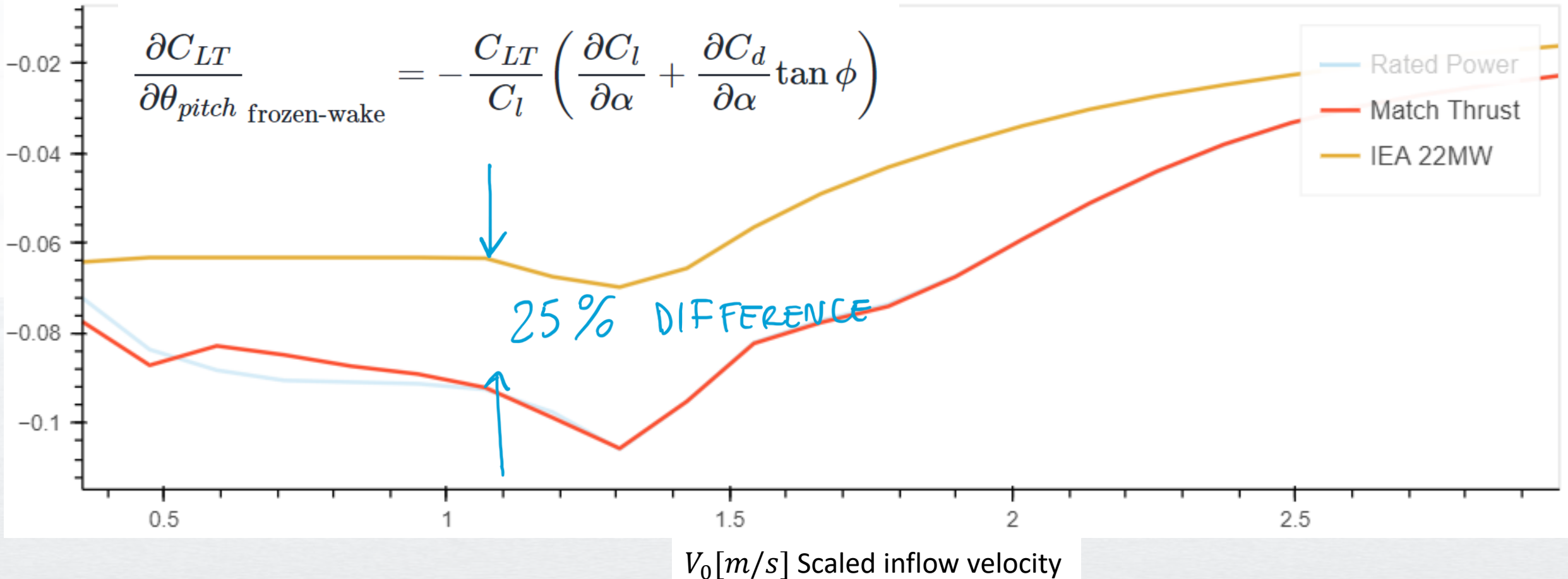


$r/R[-]$

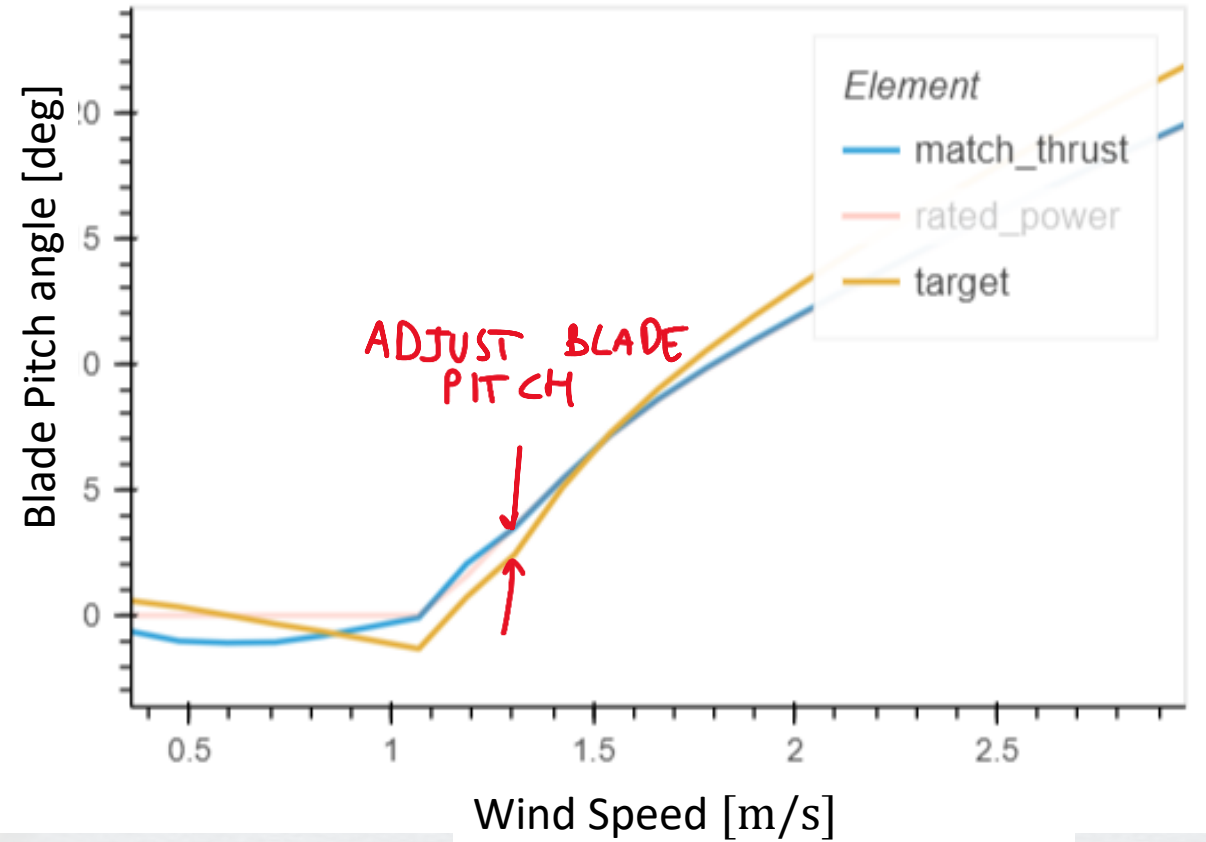
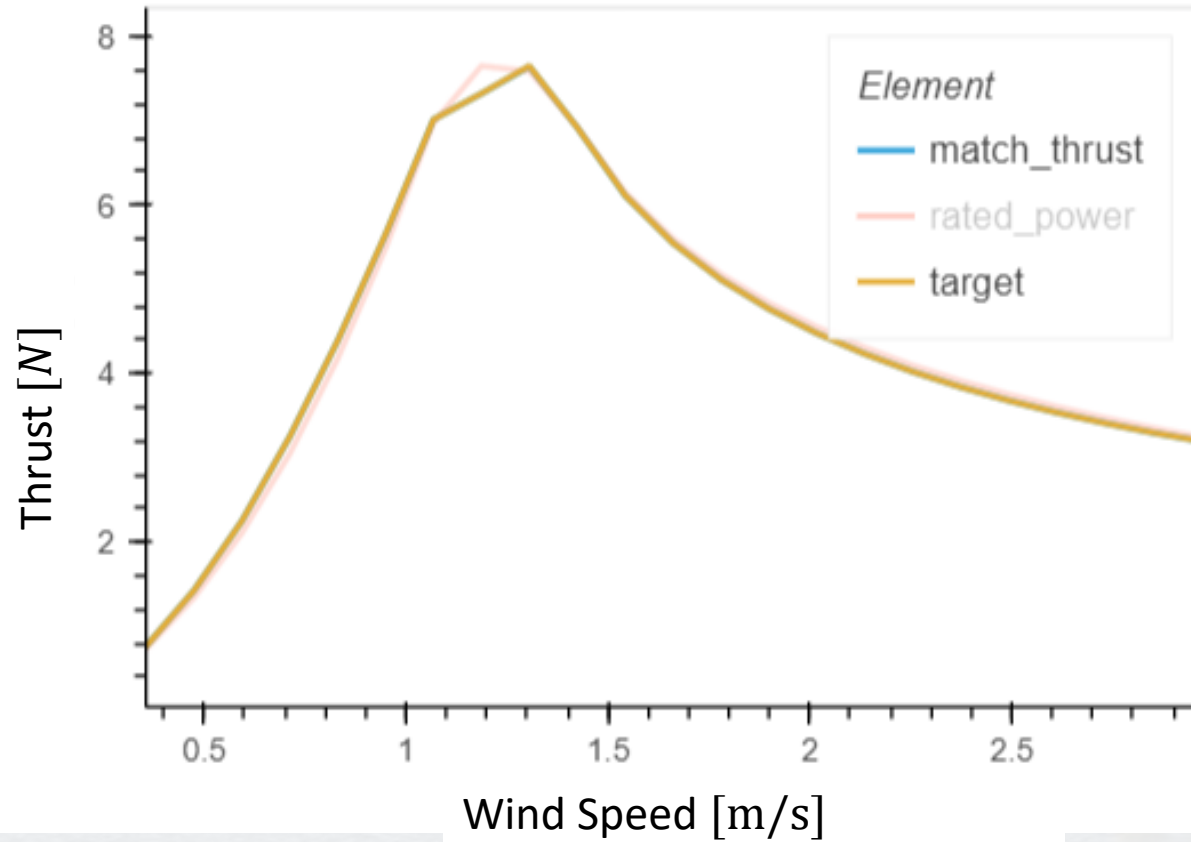
Normal load C_{LT} is nicely matched, penalty on tangential load C_{LP}



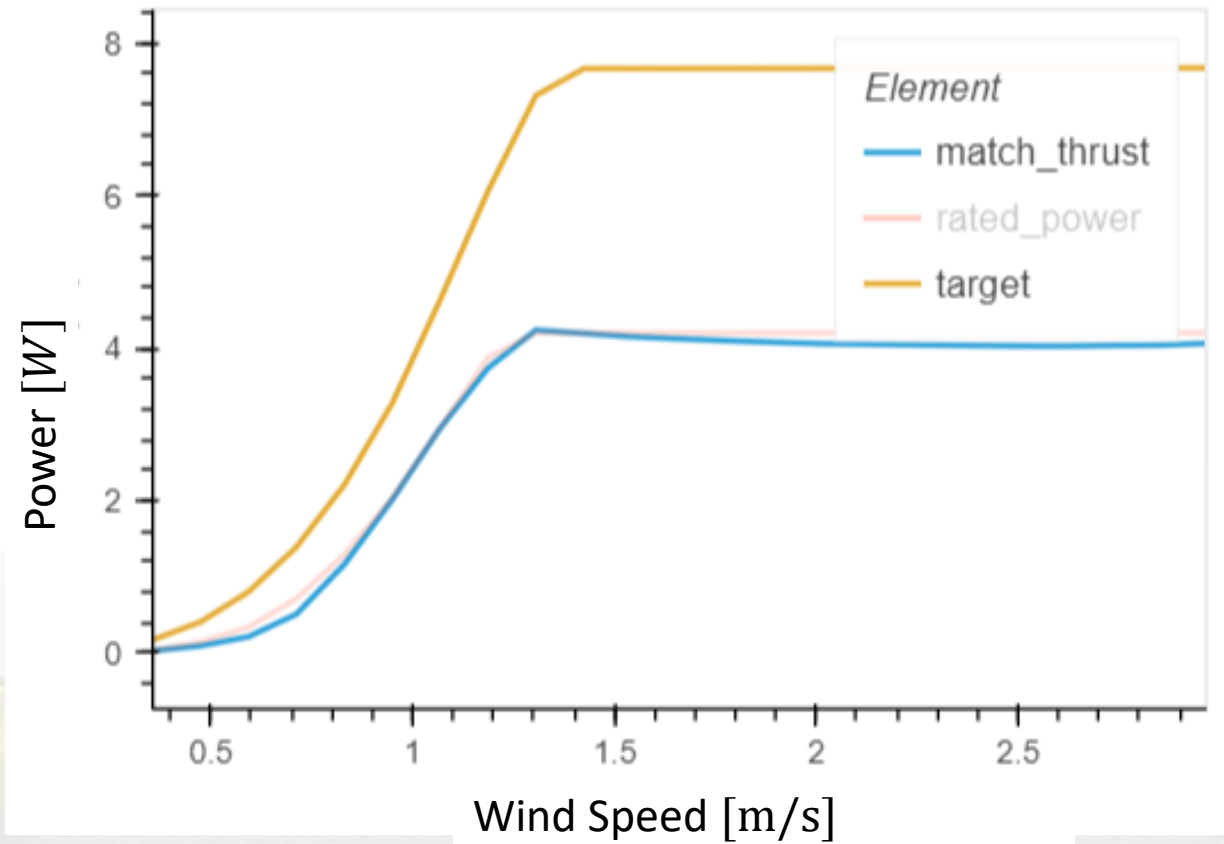
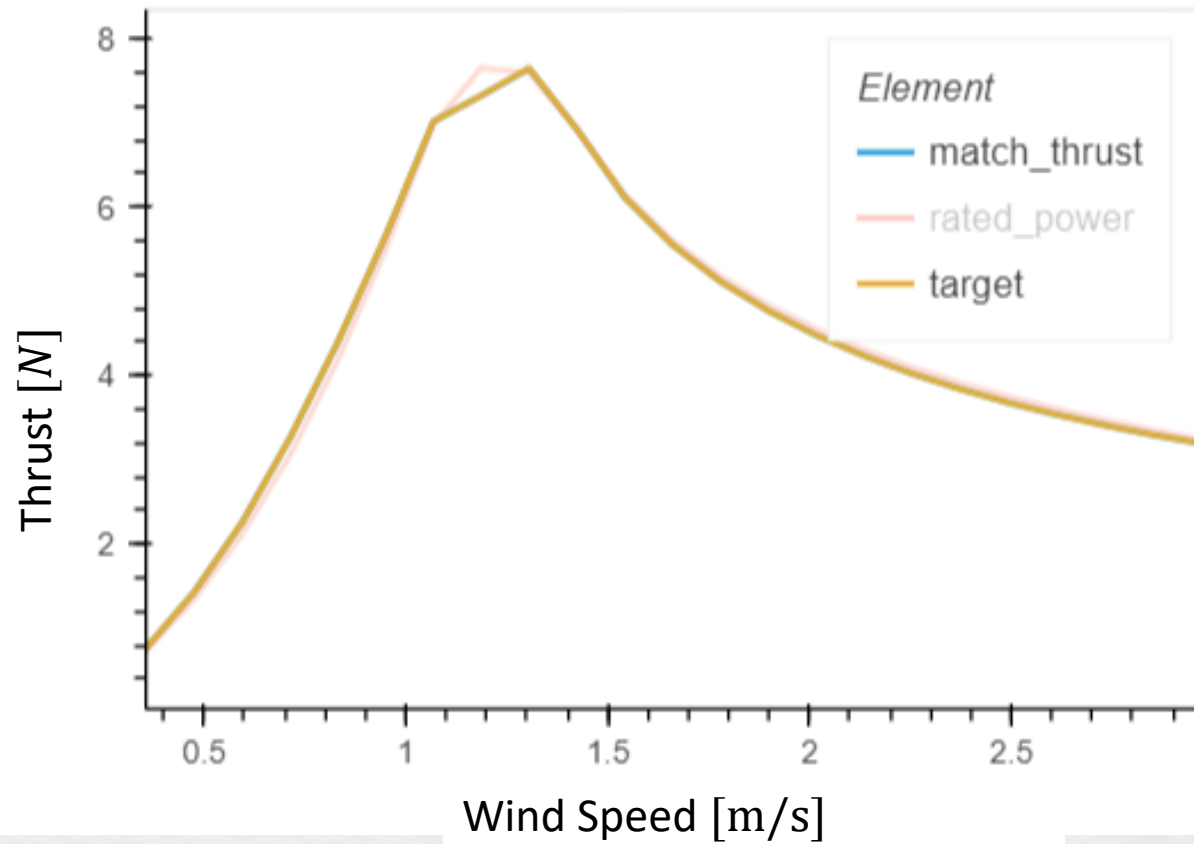
Based on this... here is the current design



Based on this... here is the current design



Based on this... here is the current design



Conclusions and next steps

- FloatLab is building an experimental facility for testing +20MW scaled wind turbine
 - 5 MSc projects starting soon (manufacture of blades + nacelle, controller design, etc.)
 - Experimental campaign in Apr-May '25
- Wind generator under construction
 - One unit tested – promising results
 - 25 units ready in March
- Wind turbine design procedure
 - Accurate match of thrust curve and good match of aerodynamic damping
 - Rotor design ready – blade to be manufactured

