

# CFD-basierte Transitionsvorhersage für den Entwurf von Laminarflugzeugen

S. Helm<sup>1,2</sup>, D. G. François<sup>2</sup>, C. Grabe<sup>1,2</sup>, J. Parekh<sup>1,2</sup>, P. Bekemeyer<sup>1,2</sup>

DLRK, 21. September 2023, Stuttgart

<sup>1</sup> Cluster of Excellence SE<sup>2</sup>A – Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Aviation, TU Braunschweig, Deutschland

<sup>2</sup> Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR), Institut für Aerodynamik und Strömungstechnik, Abteilung C<sup>2</sup>A<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup>E, Göttingen/Braunschweig, Deutschland

# Motivation

- Laminar aircraft design relies on CFD (RANS) simulation including prediction of laminar-turbulent transition
- Linear stability theory (LST) /  $e^N$  method is state-of-the-art but automation limited
- Transition transport models (TTM) easier to use and to automatize
- DLR  $\gamma$  model is a new TTM for transport aircraft applications, but needs more validation
- Objective: advancement and validation of DLR  $\gamma$  model to meet requirements of the aircraft design process in terms of accuracy and automation

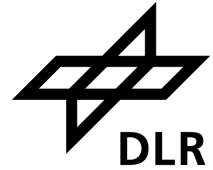


# Transition model for laminar airfoil design

SE<sup>2</sup>A Cluster Collaboration



SE<sup>2</sup>A



- Laminar airfoil design with DLR  $\gamma$  model shows good agreement with Linear stability theory /  $e^N$  method
- Swept laminar wing design required accurate and reliable prediction of crossflow transition
- Surface roughness is a relevant environmental uncertainty affecting crossflow transition and not yet represented in DLR  $\gamma$  model

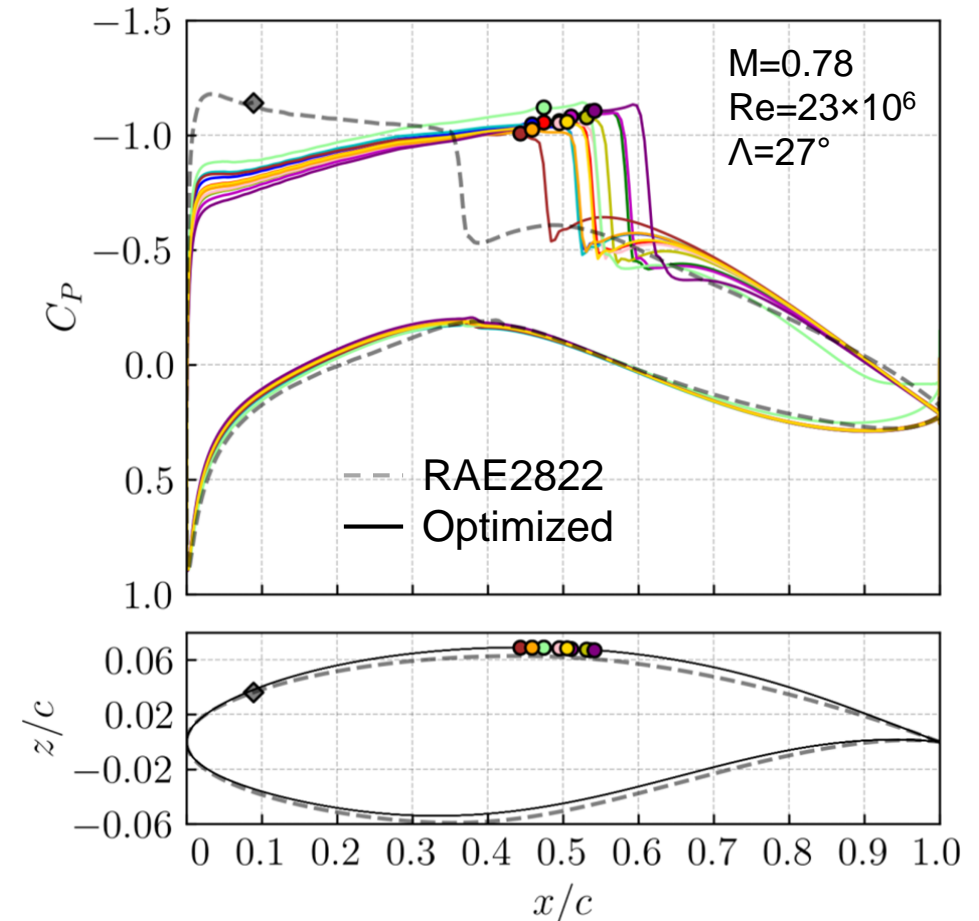


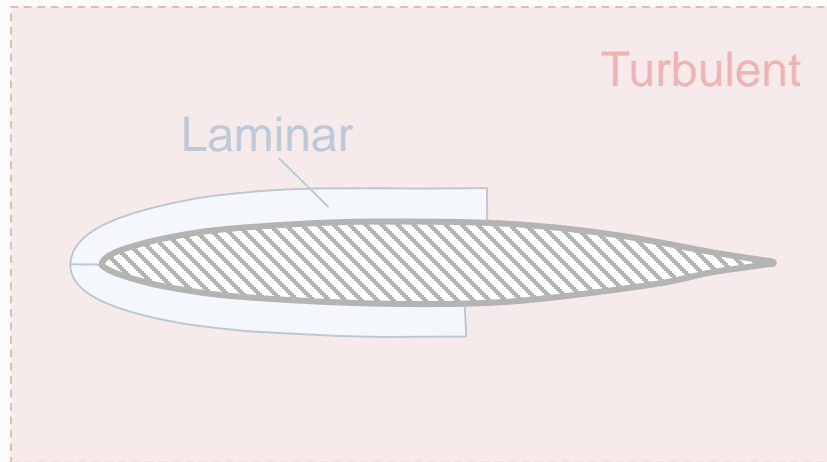
Fig.: Robust optimization of laminar airfoil using the DLR  $\gamma$  model<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Parekh et al. DLRK 2023

# Transition Models for RANS simulation

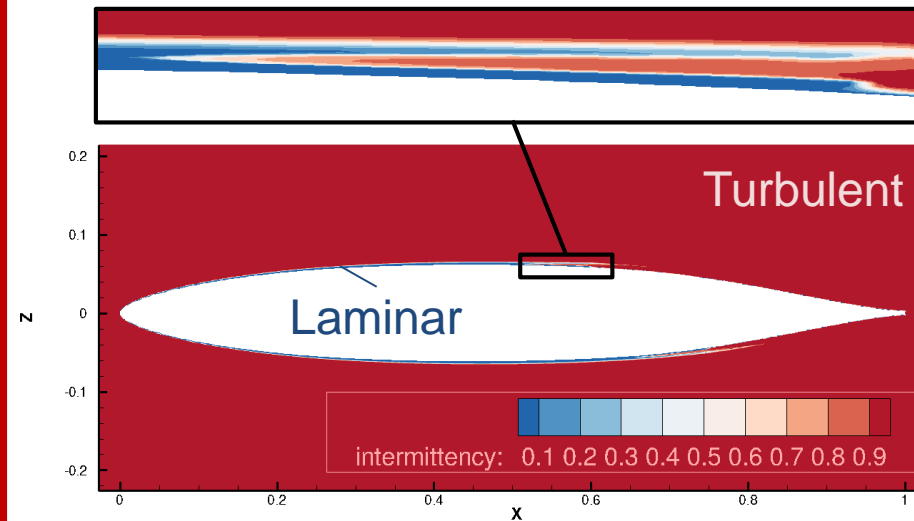
## LST / $e^N$ method

- TAU transition module, COCO/LILO
- Physics-based, Semi-empirical
- Complex model setup
- Validated for flight and WT conditions

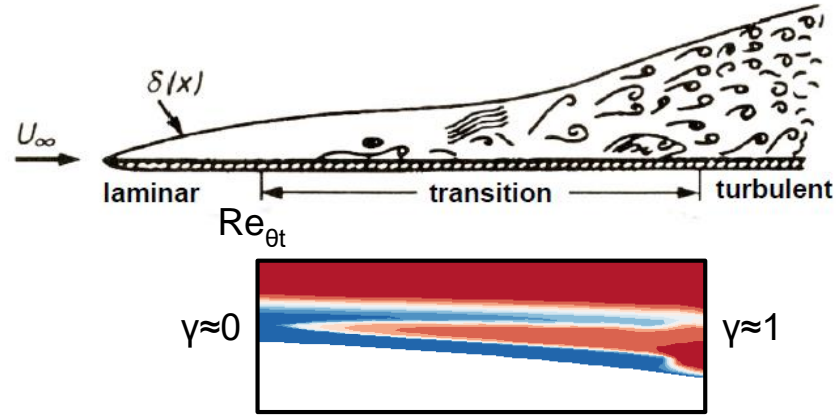


## Transition transport models

- $\gamma-Re_\theta$ ,  $\gamma$ -Fehrs and DLR  $\gamma$  model
- Empirical ( $\gamma-Re_\theta$ ,  $\gamma$ -Fehrs) or stability-theory-based criterion (DLR  $\gamma$  model)
- Little expert knowledge required
- Needs more validation



# The DLR $\gamma$ model<sup>1</sup>, a transition transport model



- Intermittency transport

$$\frac{\partial(\rho\gamma)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial(\rho u_j \gamma)}{\partial x_j} = P_\gamma - E_\gamma + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[ \left( \mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_\gamma} \right) \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial x_j} \right]$$

$$P_\gamma = \left( f_{TS} \left( \frac{Re_\theta}{Re_{\theta t}} \right) + f_{CF} \left( \frac{Re_{He}}{Re_{Het}} \right) \right) \rho S (1 - \gamma)$$

- Tollmien-Schlichting Transition

$$Re_\theta = \frac{\theta u_e}{\nu_e}$$

$Re_{\theta t}(\lambda_\theta, Tu, M) \rightarrow$  Simple AHD criterion<sup>2</sup>

- Crossflow Transition

$$Re_{He,max} \approx Re_{dv/dy,max}$$

$Re_{He,t}(H_{12}) \rightarrow$  Helicity criterion<sup>3</sup>

- Integral parameters are locally modelled

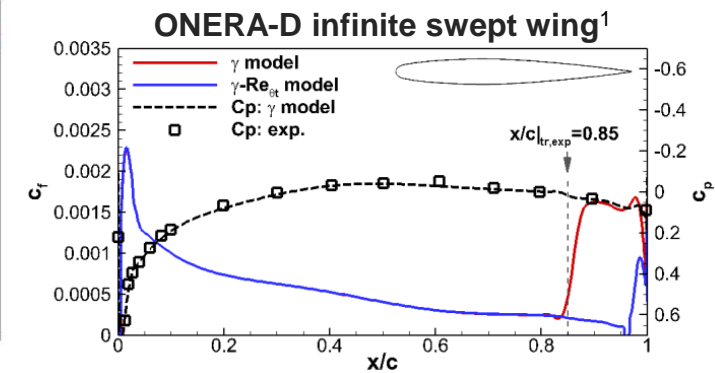
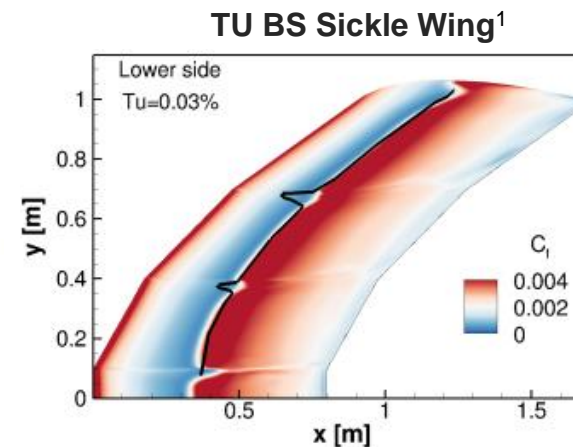
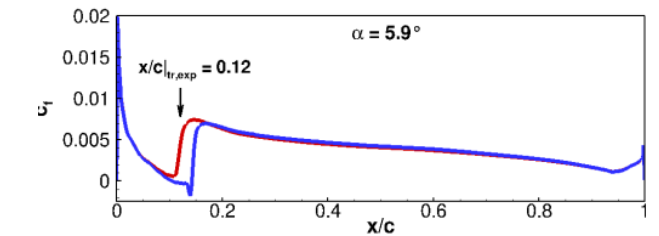
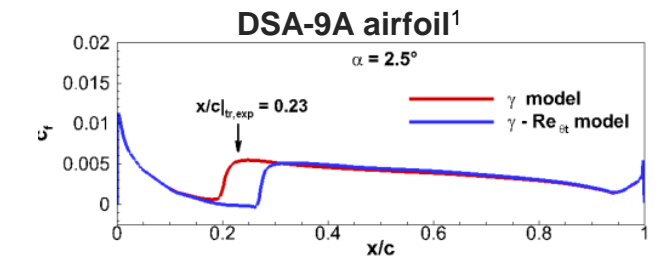
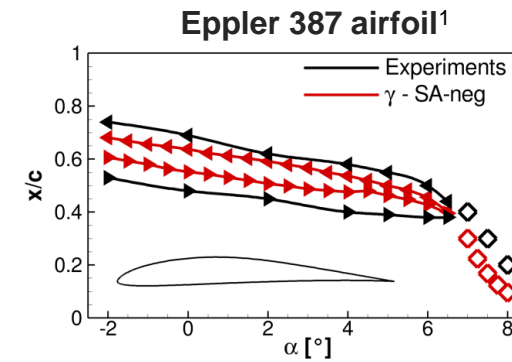
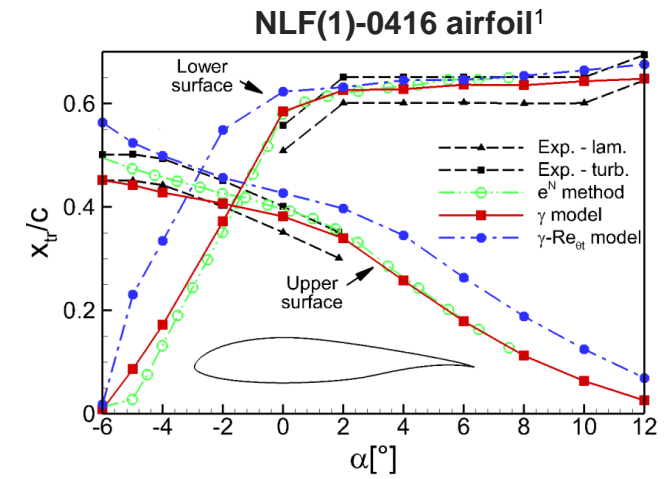
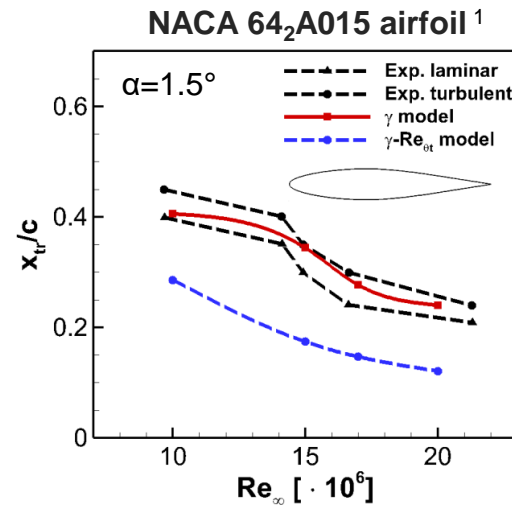
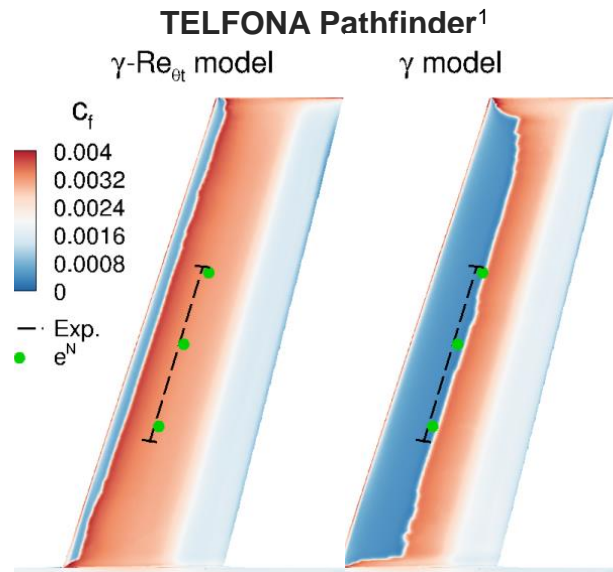
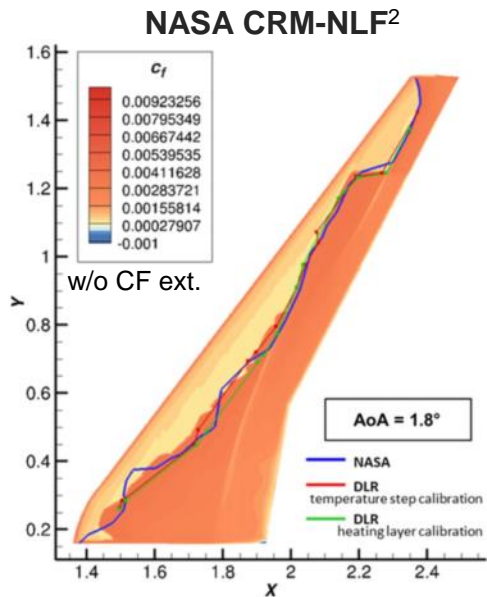
<sup>1</sup>François et al. J. of Aircraft 2023, <sup>2</sup>Perraud et al. IACM and ECCOMAS 2014, <sup>3</sup>Grabe et al. AIAA Journal 2018

# DLR $\gamma$ model

Baseline

Validation for wide range of cases

- Tollmien-Schlichting transition
- Separation-induced transition



<sup>1</sup>Francois et al. AIAA SciTech 2022.

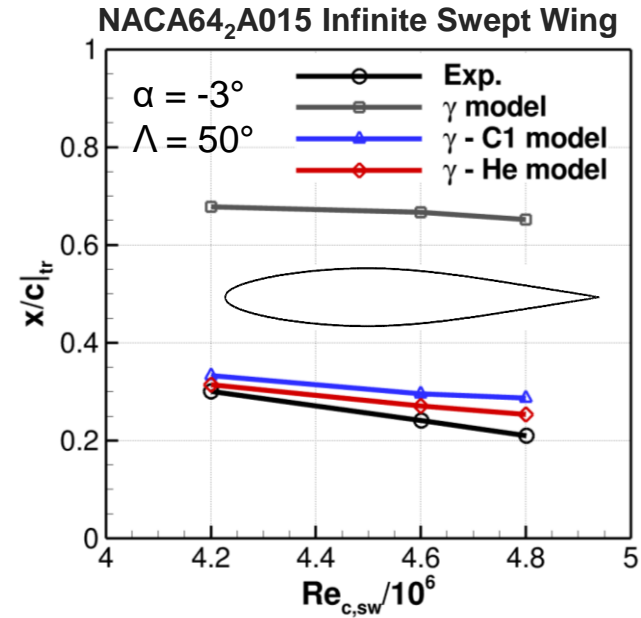
<sup>2</sup>Krumbein et al. Journal of Aircraft 2022.

# DLR $\gamma$ model

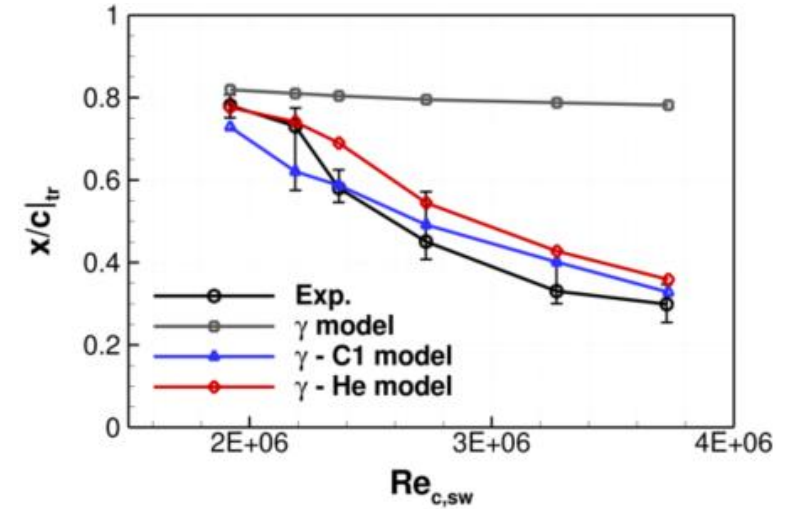
CF-extensions

## Validation of CF extensions

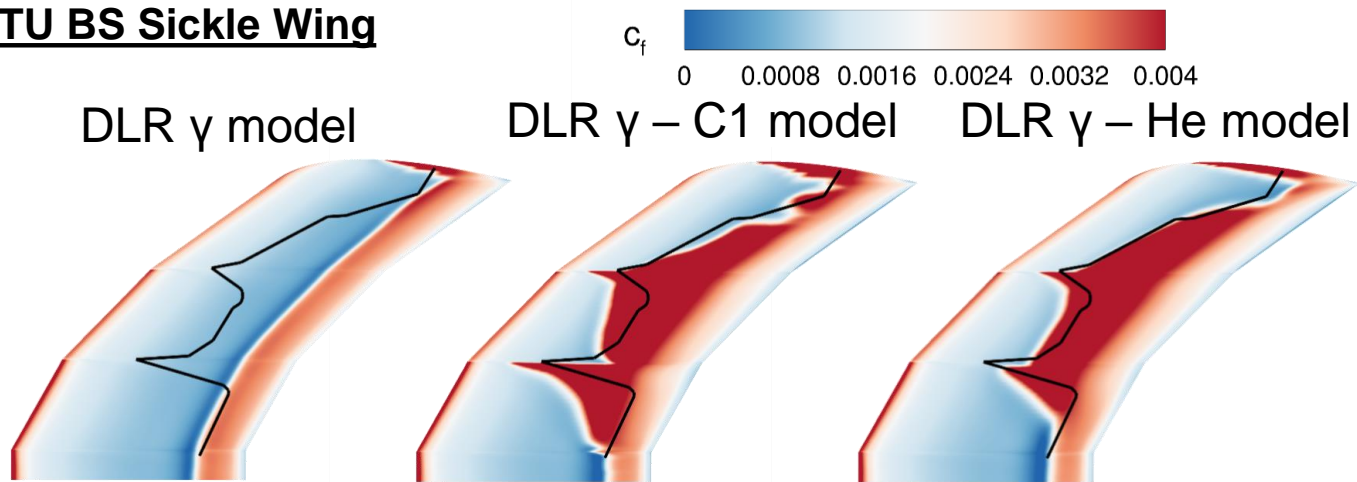
- C1 criterion for slender wings
- Helicity criterion for general 3D application



## NASA NLF(2)-0415 ISW



## TU BS Sickle Wing



## Telfona Pathfinder

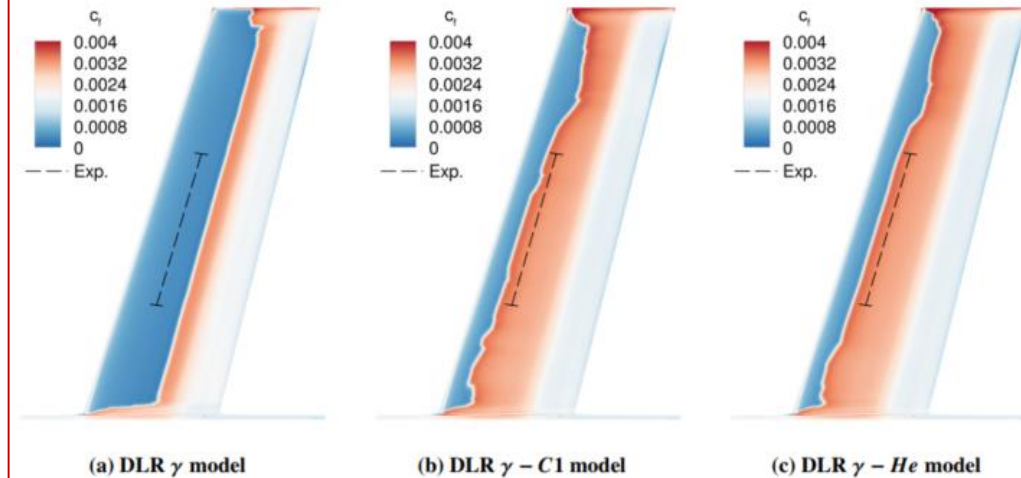


Fig. 10 Skin friction coefficient on the lower surface of the TELFONA Pathfinder Wing

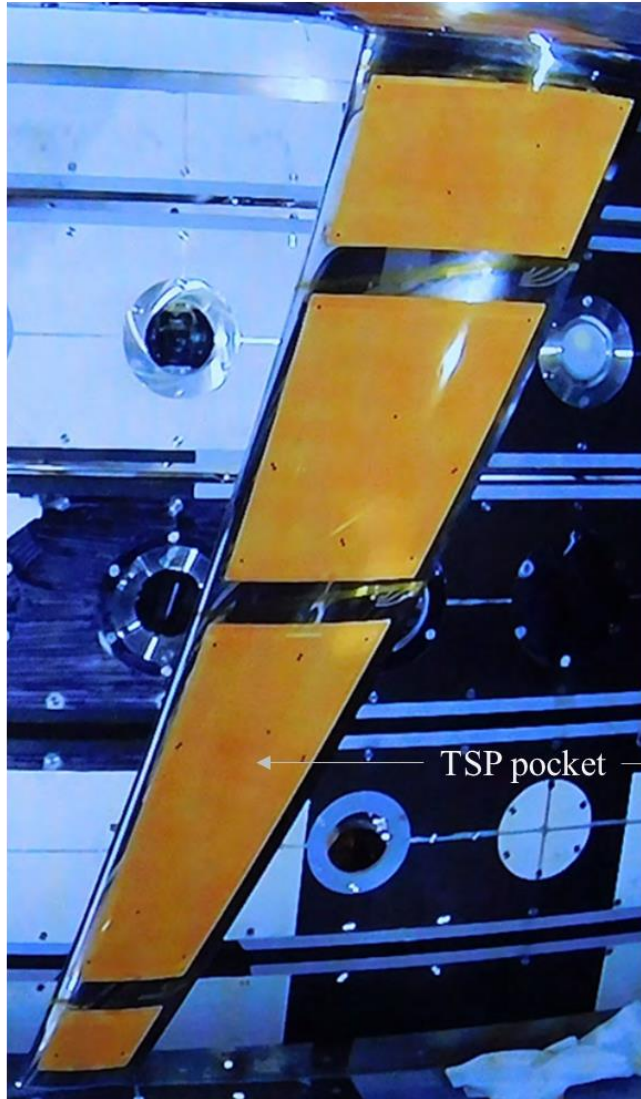
# More validation needed!

- 3D Flow conditions
- Flight realistic Mach/Re-numbers
- Unsteady transition

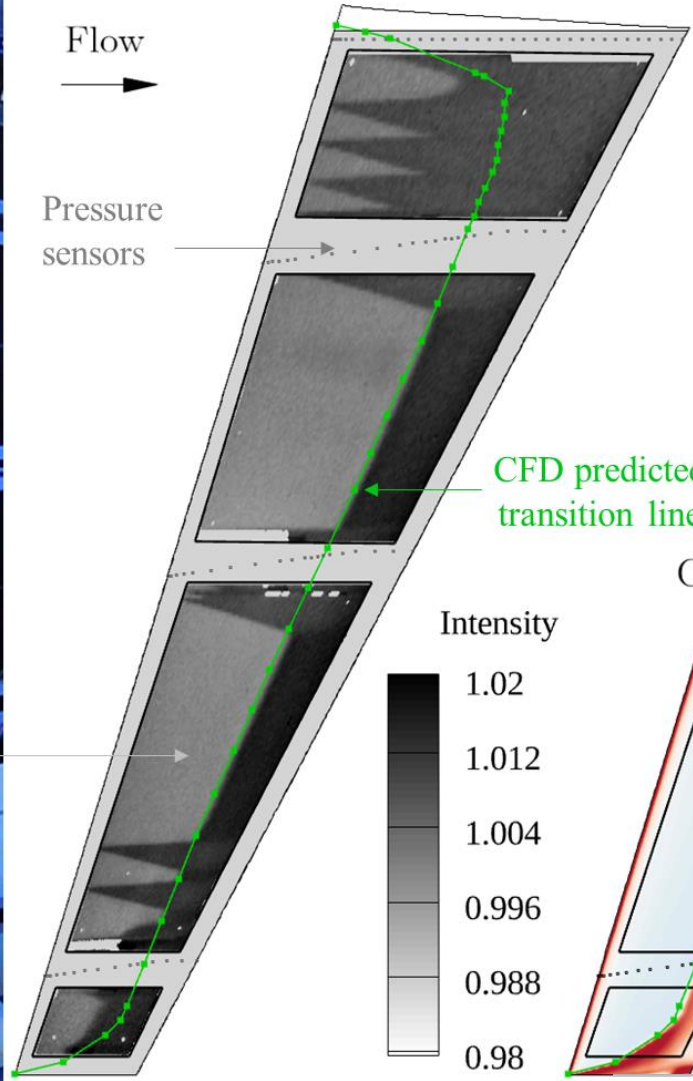


# Validation with wind tunnel test

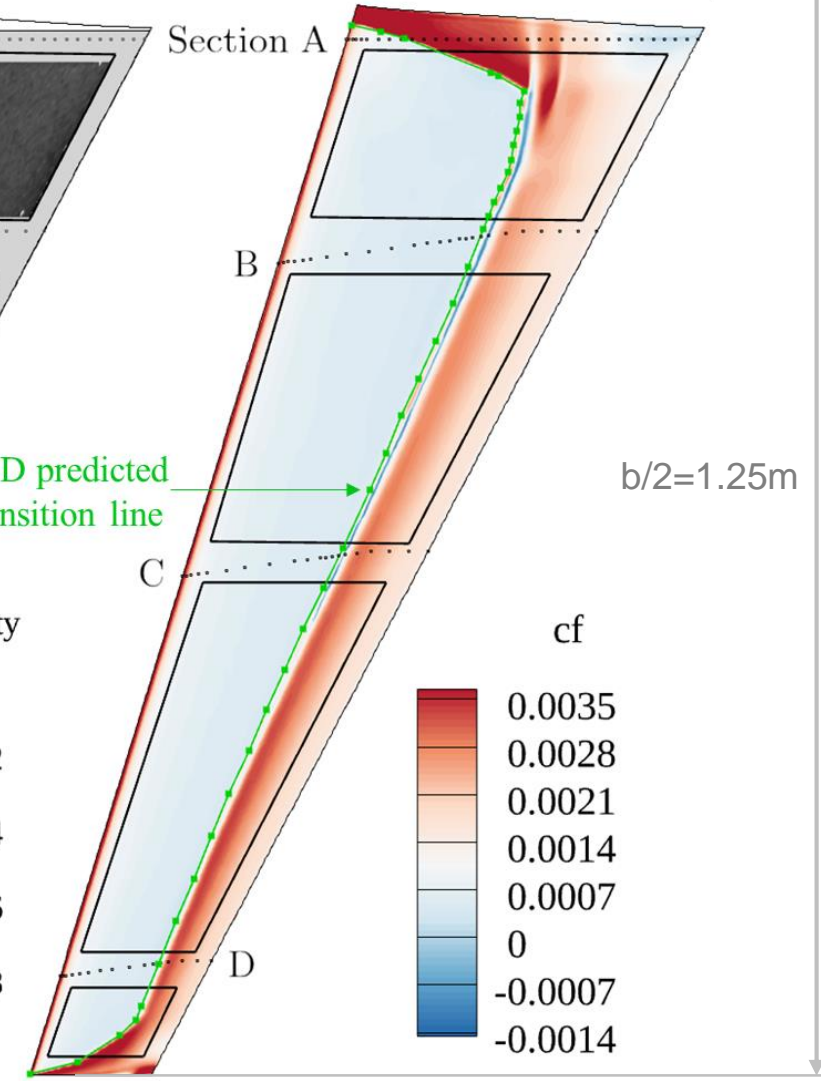
NLF-ECOWING-FSW model in the ETW



TSP image



CFD skin friction distribution



Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages

LUFO ULTIMATE

# Simulation setup

- Steady RANS simulation with DLR TAU-Code
- Negative Spalart-Allmaras turbulence model + QCR + RC
- Transition
  - $e^N$  method (TAU transition module)
    - Boundary-layer data at LoF cuts from COCO (Fig. on the right)
    - Incompressible LST with LILO code
    - $N_{crit,TS} = 9.0$
    - $N_{crit,CF} = 8.0$
  - DLR  $\gamma$  model
    - $Tu=0.1\%$
  - Fully turbulent lower side and fuselage
- Design shape (no aeroelastic deformation)

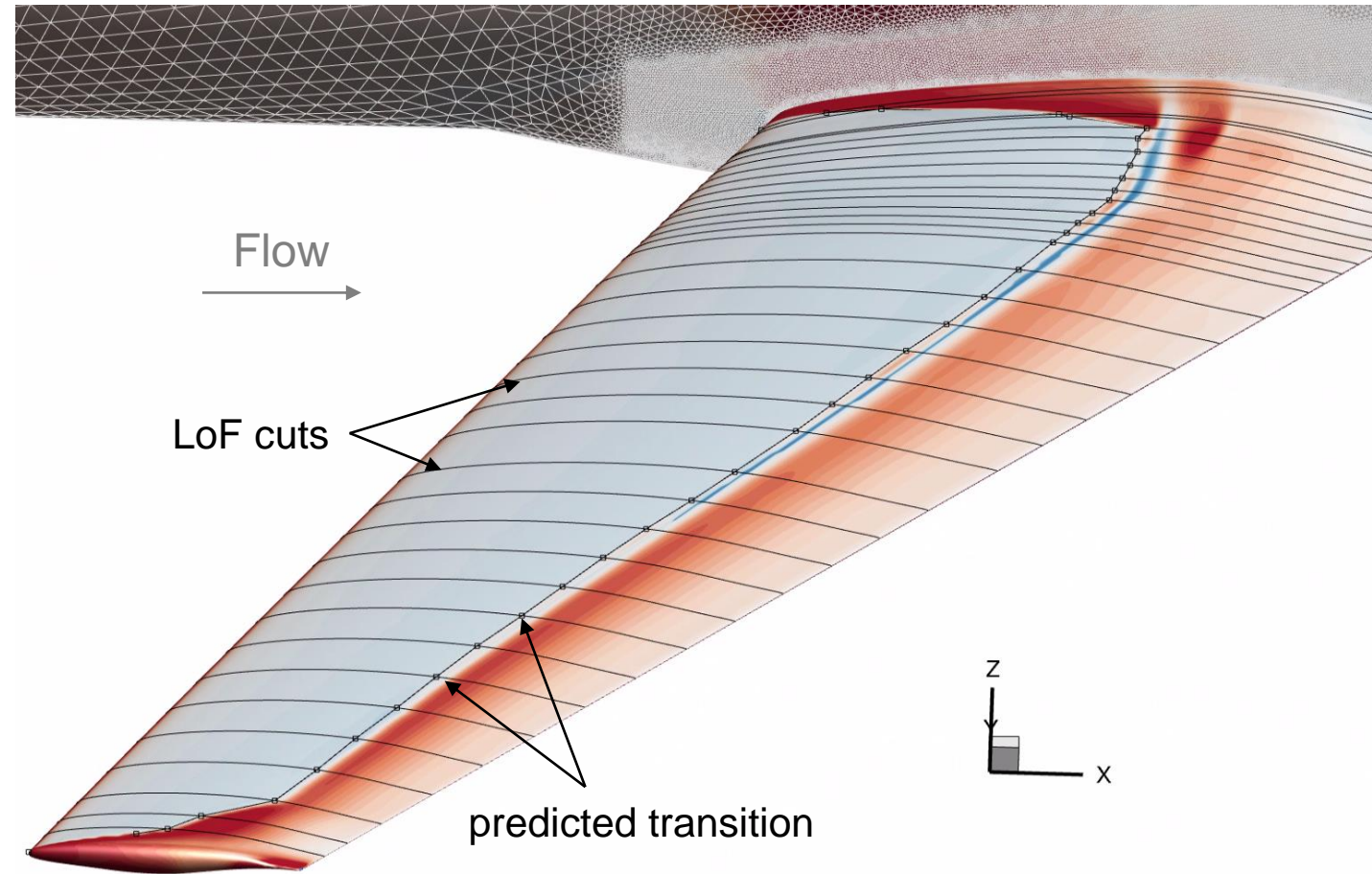
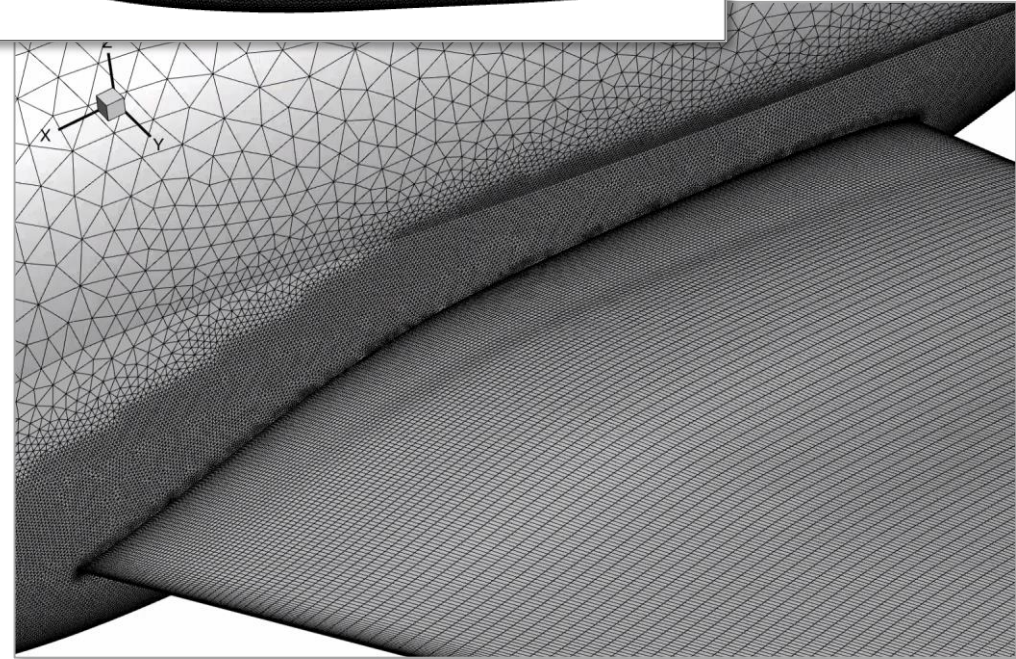
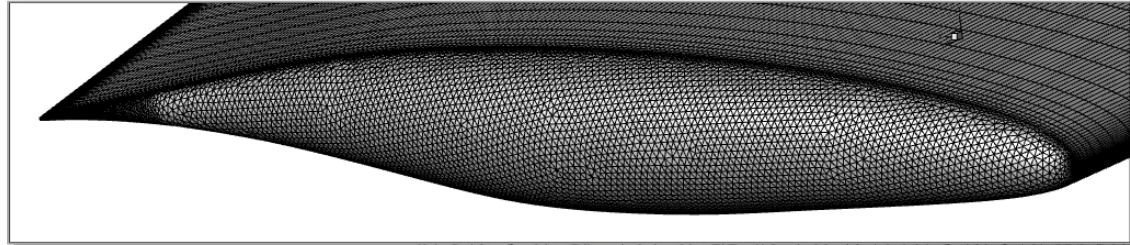


Fig.: Streamline setup and skin friction distribution for  $e^N$  method (manual setup of streamlines not necessary for DLR  $\gamma$  model )

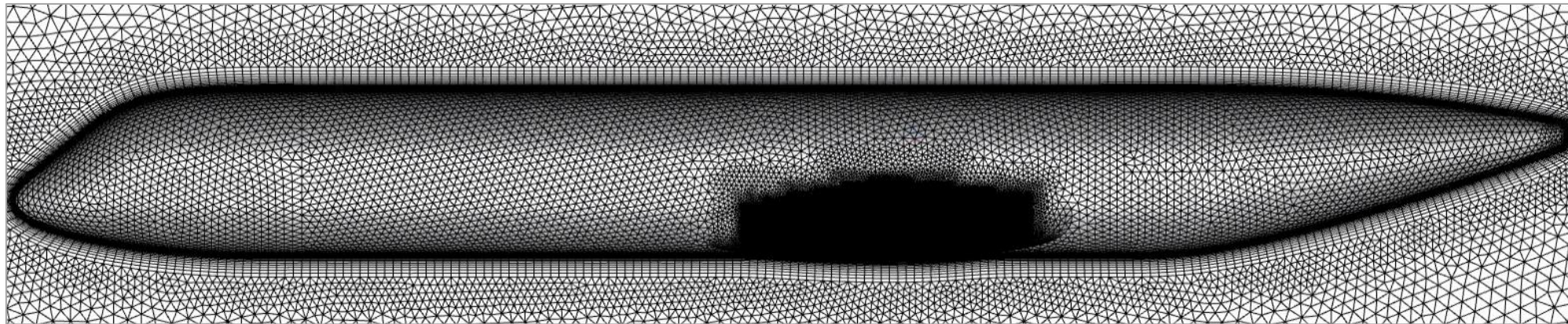
# Simulation setup

## CFD grid

- Wing-fuselage half model
- Free-flight (farfield at  $30 b/2$ )
- Maximum  $y^+ \approx 0.8$
- Centaur grid family
- Structured boundary-layer mesh at wing surface



Netz	Points / $10^6$	$N_{\text{span}}$	$N_{\text{chord}}$	$N_{\text{BL}}$
<b>Coarse</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>61</b>

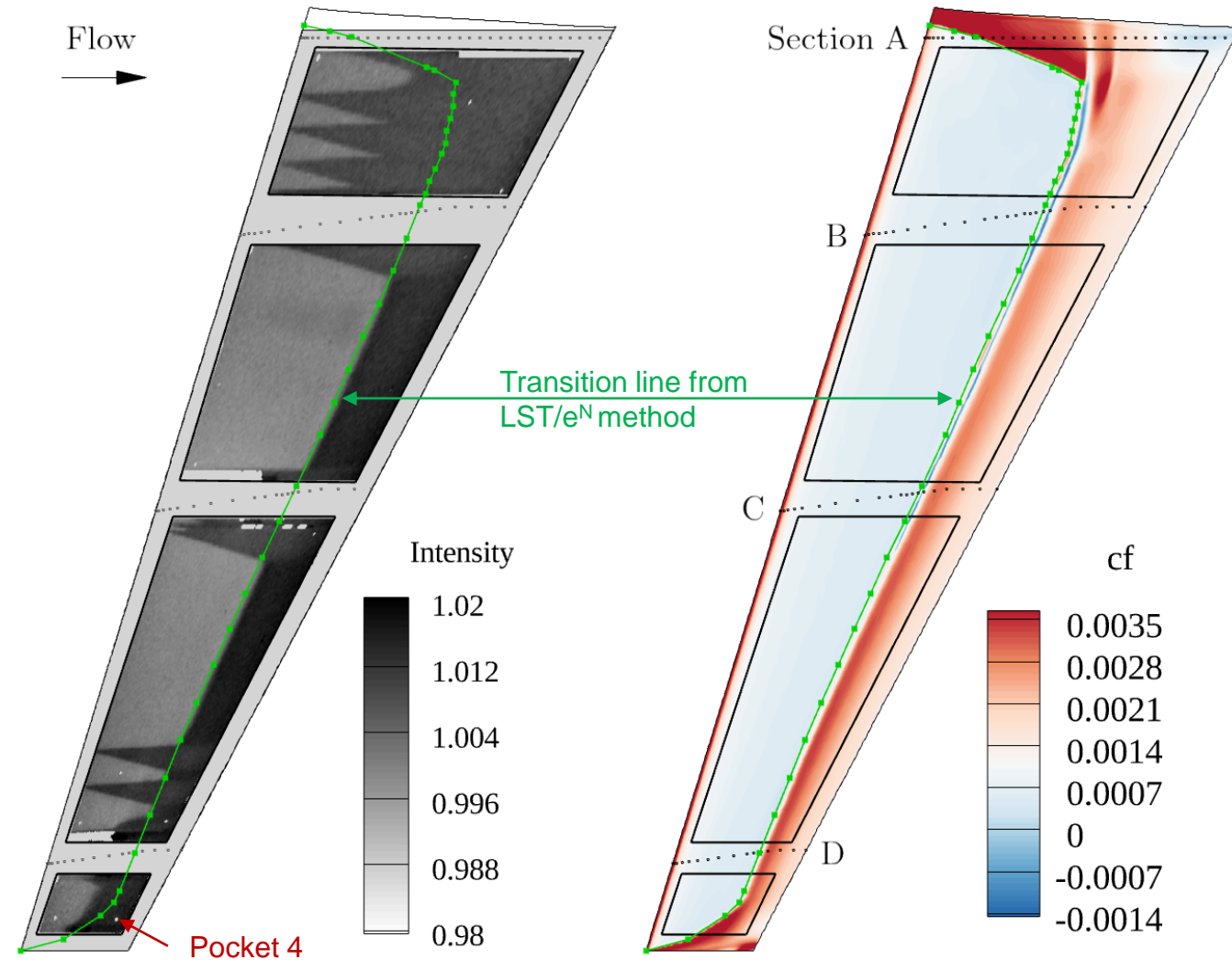
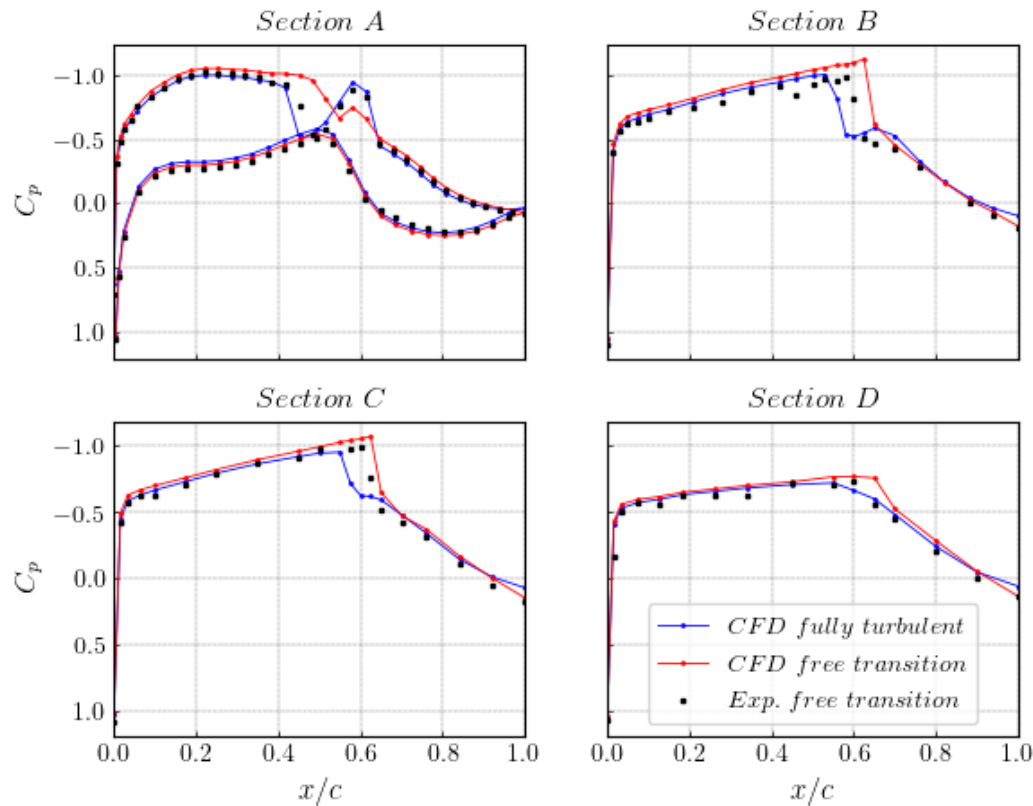


# Results LST / e<sup>N</sup> method

## Overview

- Favorable pressure gradient up to shock
- Good CFD/WTT agreement
- Transition slightly off at TSP pocket 4

M=0.78  
Re=16M  
 $\alpha=1.06^\circ$

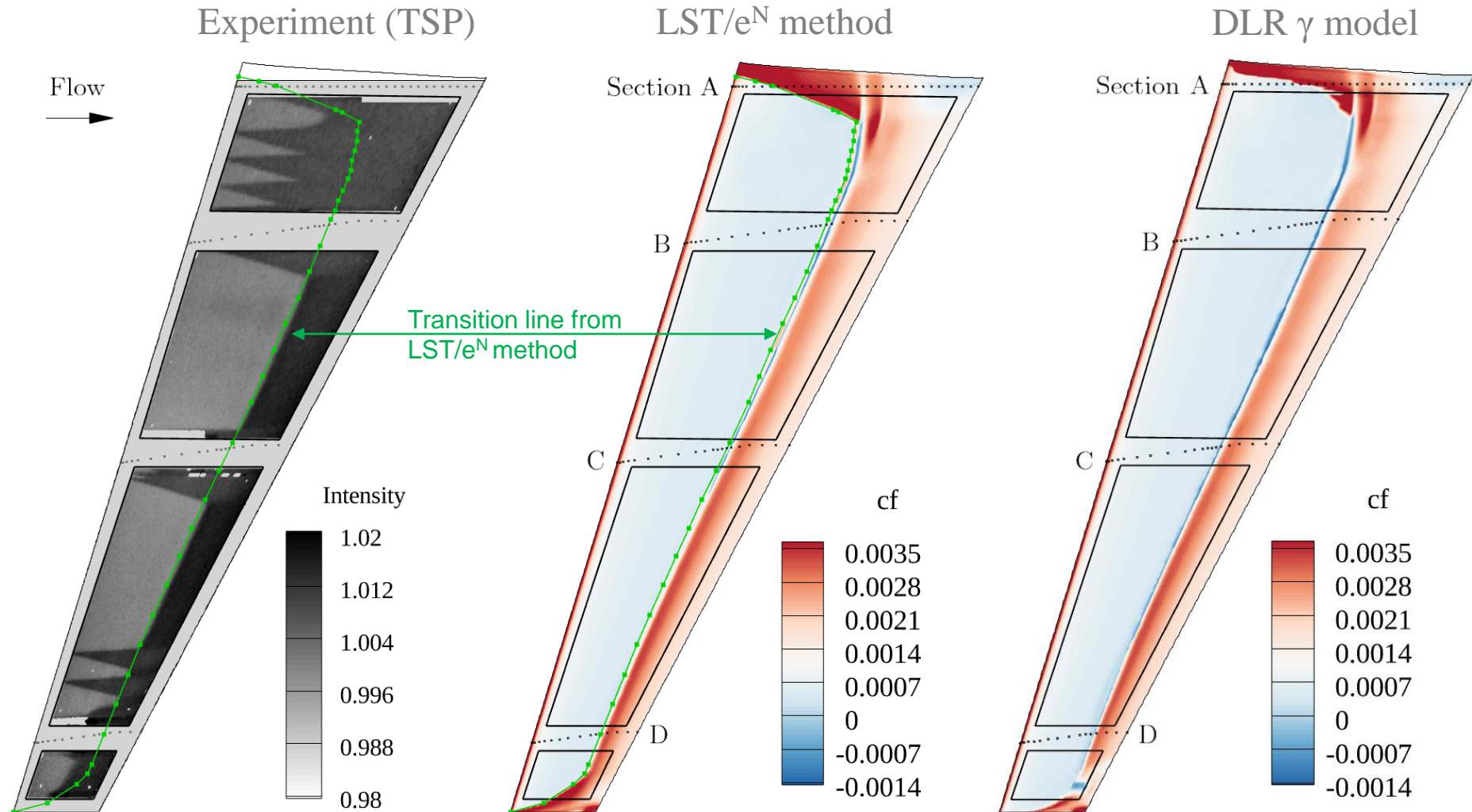


# Comparison of DLR $\gamma$ model

$M=0.78$   
 $Re=16M$   
 $\alpha=1.06^\circ$



- Good agreement for design conditions

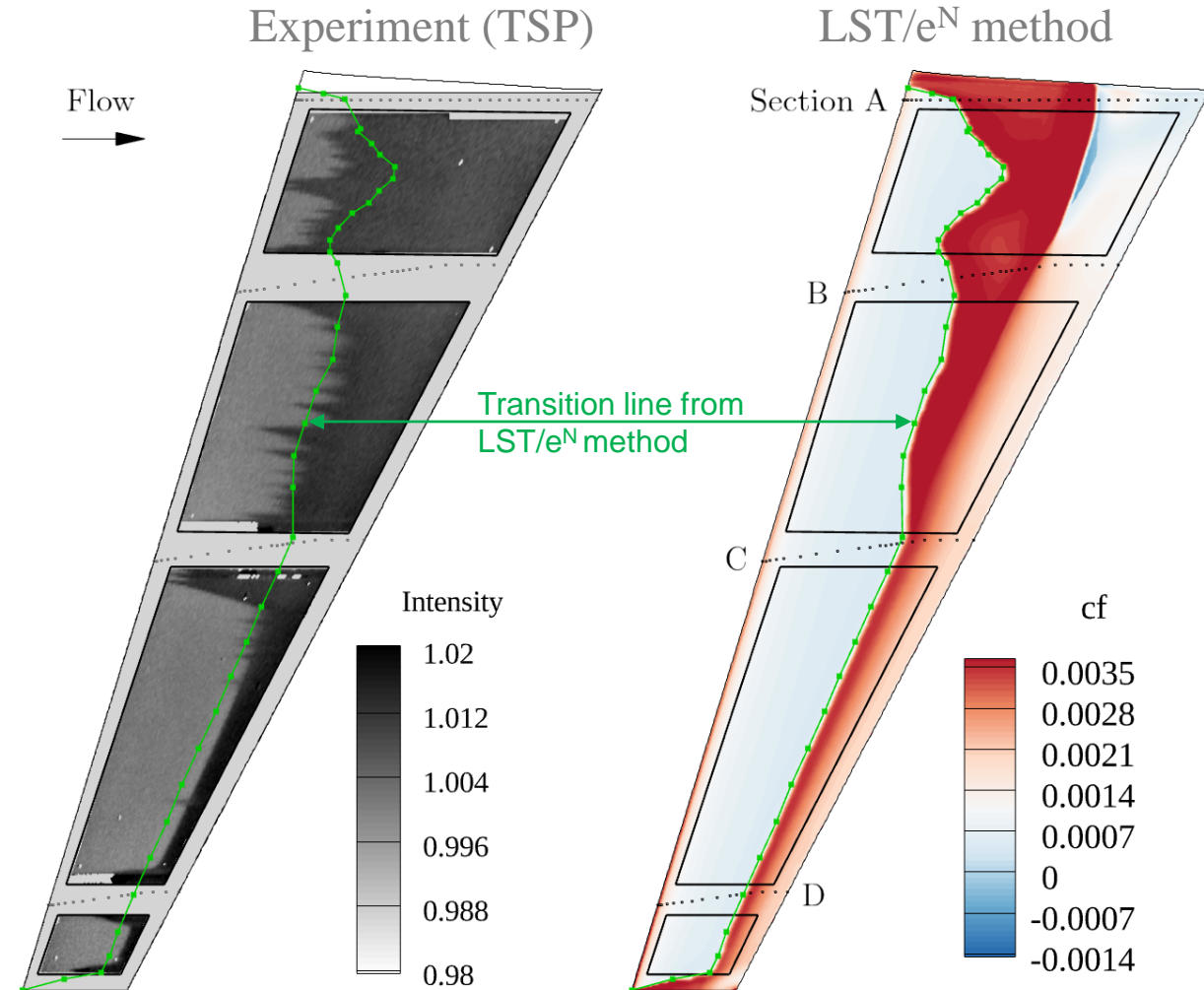
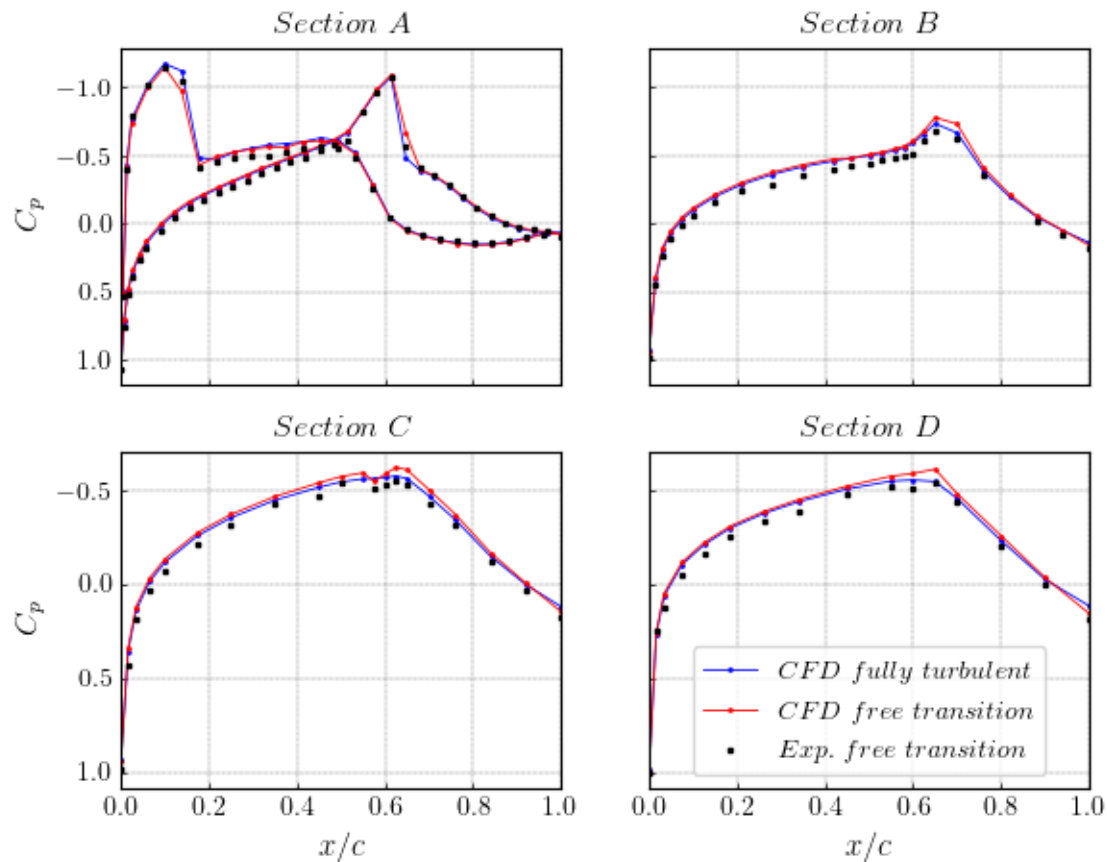


# Low Angles-of-Attack

Crossflow-dominated

- Extensive laminar flow in off-design
- High quality TSP data
- Transition well captured by LST /  $e^N$  method

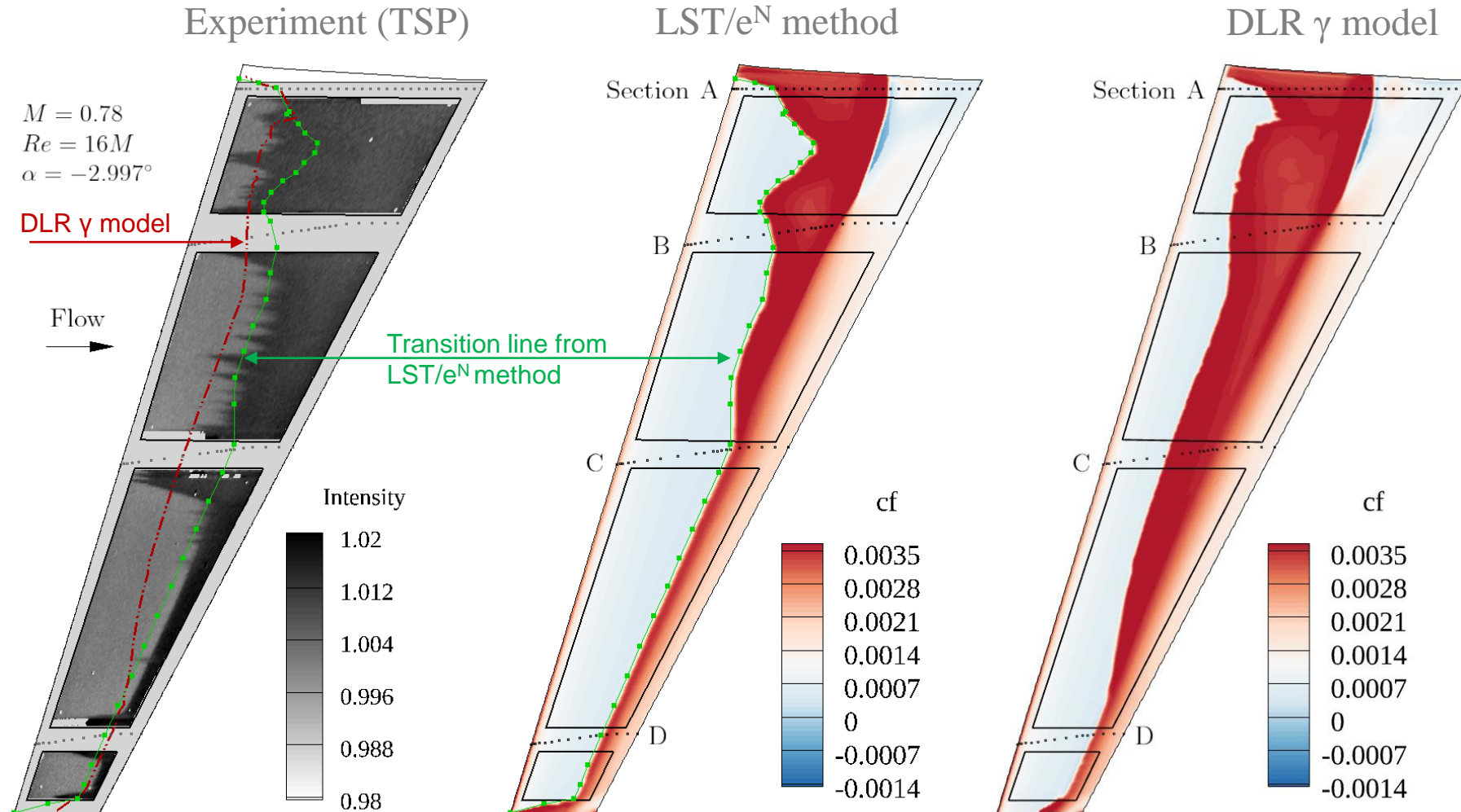
$M=0.78$   
 $Re=16M$   
 $\alpha=-3.0^\circ$



# Low Angles-of-Attack

Crossflow-dominated

- Crossflow transition captured qualitatively by DLR  $\gamma$  model but too upstream
- How to improve?

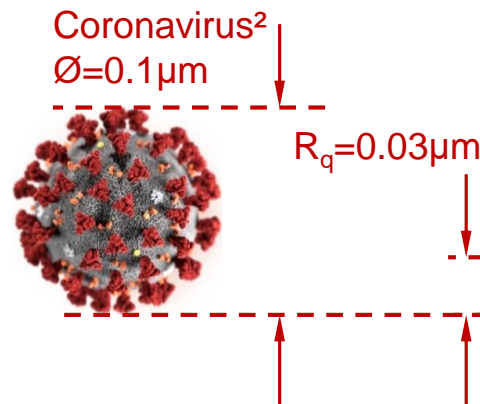


# „Roughness“

- NLF-ECOWING-FSW model:  $R_q \sim 0.03\mu\text{m}$
- James Webb Telescope Mirrors<sup>1</sup>:  $R_a \sim 0.02\mu\text{m}$
- Standard painted roughness:  $R_q \sim 3\mu\text{m}$



Fig.: one of Webb telescope's mirrors in clean room<sup>1</sup>



## $R_a, R_q$ Mittenrauwerte

### DIN EN ISO 4287, ASME B46.1

Mittenrauwert  $R_a$  ist der arithmetische Mittelwert der Beträge aller Profilwerte des Rauheitsprofils.

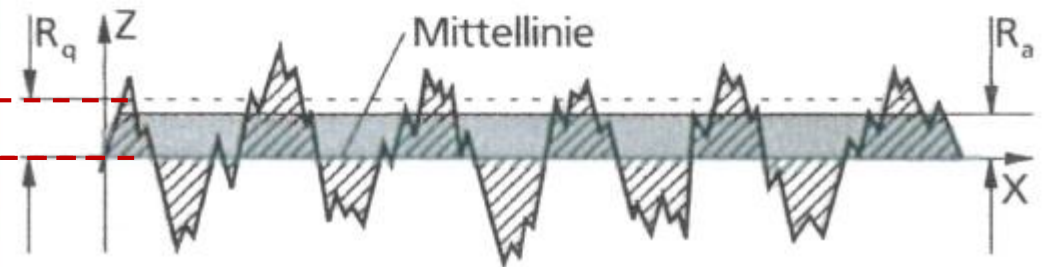
$$R_a = \frac{1}{l} \int_0^l |Z(x)| dx$$

Mittenrauwert  $R_q$  ist der quadratische Mittelwert aller Profilwerte des Rauheitsprofils.

$$R_q = \sqrt{\frac{1}{l} \int_0^l Z^2(x) dx}$$

$Z(x)$  = Profilwerte des Rauheitsprofils.

Für  $R_a$  werden auch die Bezeichnungen AA und CLA verwendet, für  $R_q$  die Bezeichnung RMS.



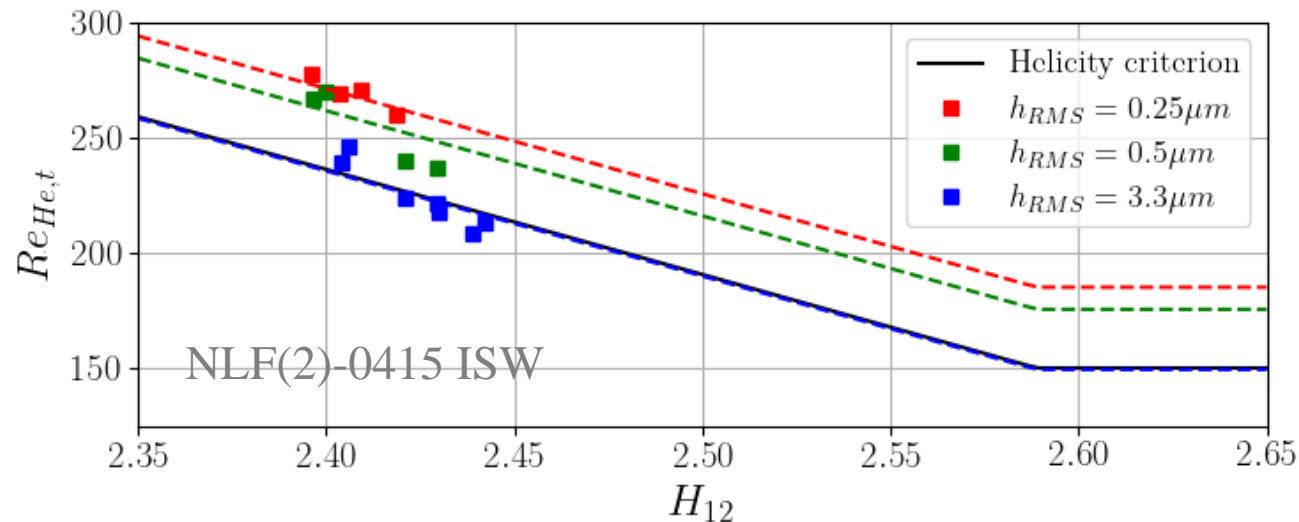
[1] <https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/the-amazing-anatomy-of-james-webb-space-telescope-mirrors/>  
 [2] Von CDC/ Alissa Eckert, MS; Dan Higgins, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Image Library (PHIL) <https://commons.wikimedia.org>



# Roughness effect

Original helicity criterion

$$Re_{He,t} = \max(-456.83 H_{12} + 1332.7, 150.0)$$



- Criterion value ( $Re_{He,t}$ ) and momentum loss thickness from simulation with BL enforced to be laminar at least up to experimental transition location<sup>1</sup>

- NLF(2)-0415 is the only case with roughness variation we have
- How to normalize roughness?
  - Crouch et al. used displacement thickness at indifference point ( $\delta^*$ ) → non-local
  - Langtry et al. used momentum loss thickness ( $\theta$ ) → local approximation available
  - We approximate by Blasius boundary layer → prototype

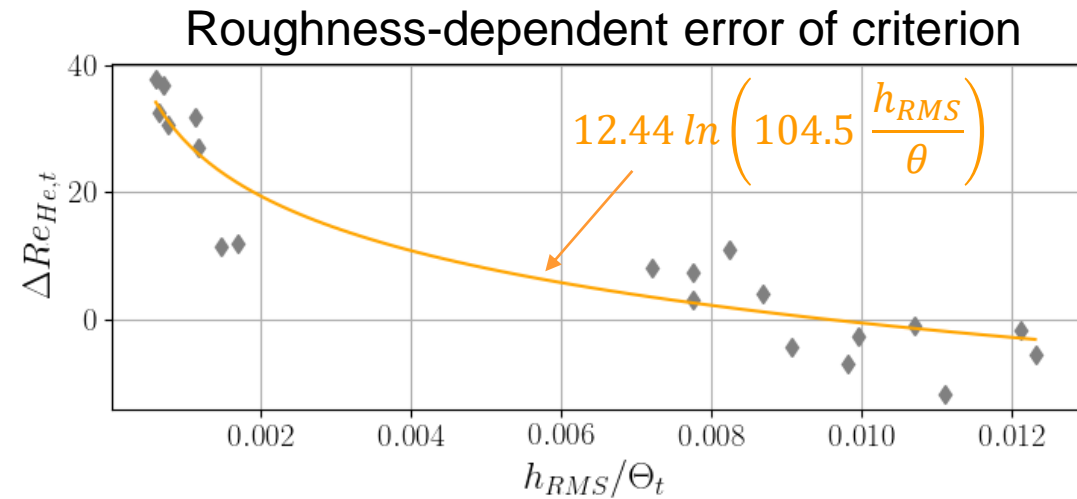
$$\theta = 0.665 \sqrt{\frac{\nu x}{U_e}}$$

<sup>1</sup>Data from M. Höchel master thesis

# Roughness extension

Helicity criterion

- Adjustment of the criterion by roughness-dependent logarithmic curve fit

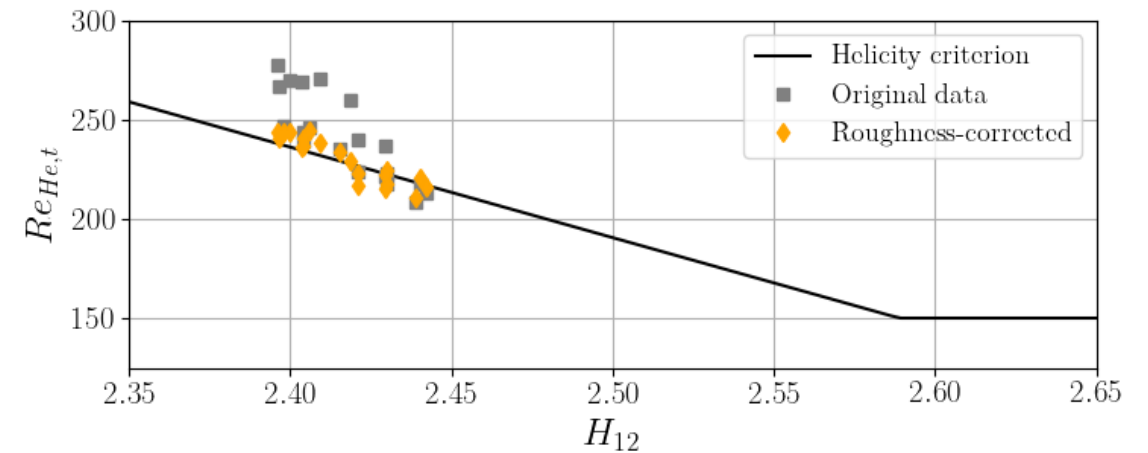
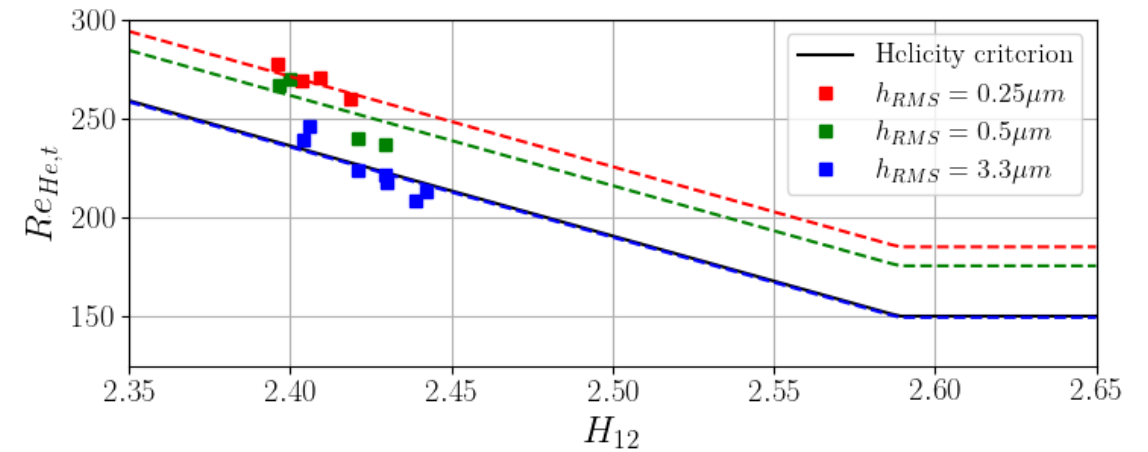


Proposed criterion including roughness effect

$$Re_{He,t} = \max \left( -456.83 H_{12} - 12.44 \ln \left( 104.5 \frac{h_{RMS}}{\theta} \right) + 1332.7, 100.0 \right)$$

Original helicity criterion

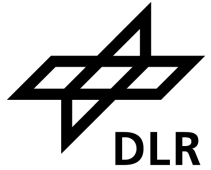
$$Re_{He,t} = \max(-456.83 H_{12} + 1332.7, 150.0)$$



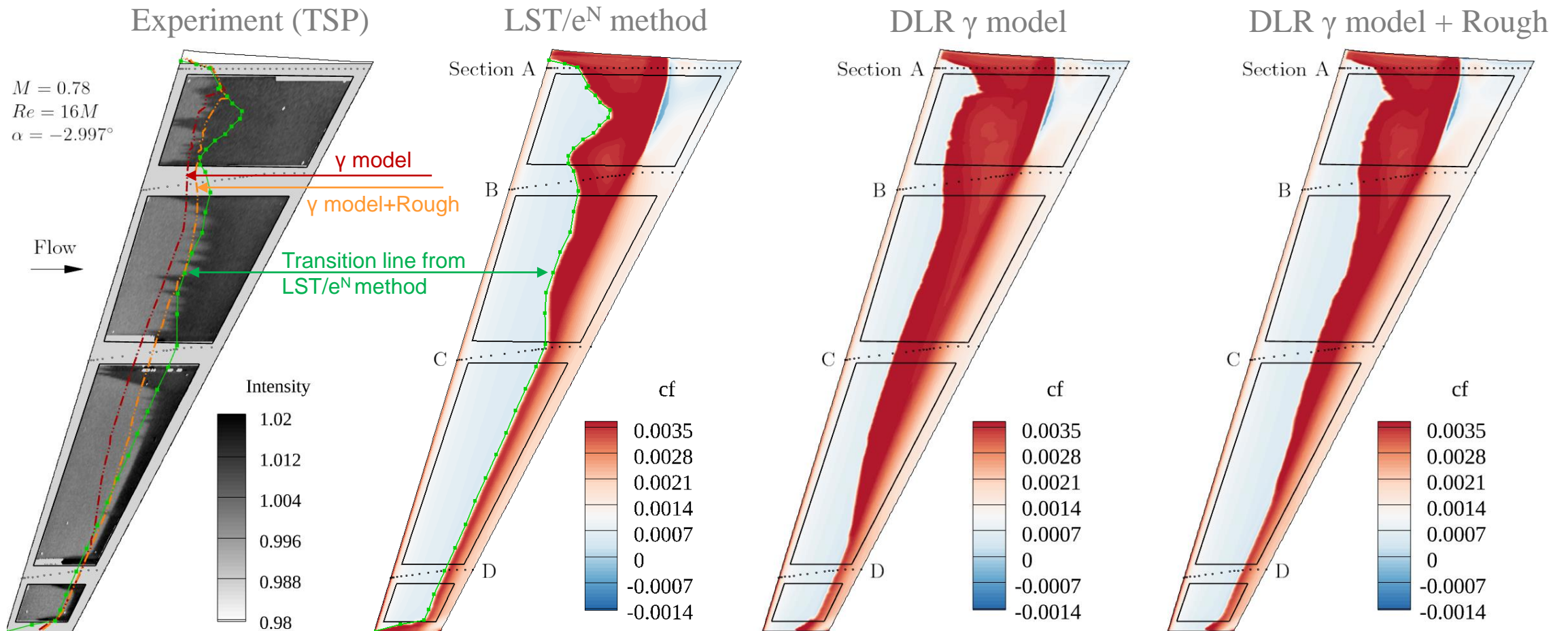
# Results

# 3D Testcases

NLF-ECOWING-FSW



- Roughness extension shows improved (more downstream) CF transition



# Next-level Validation

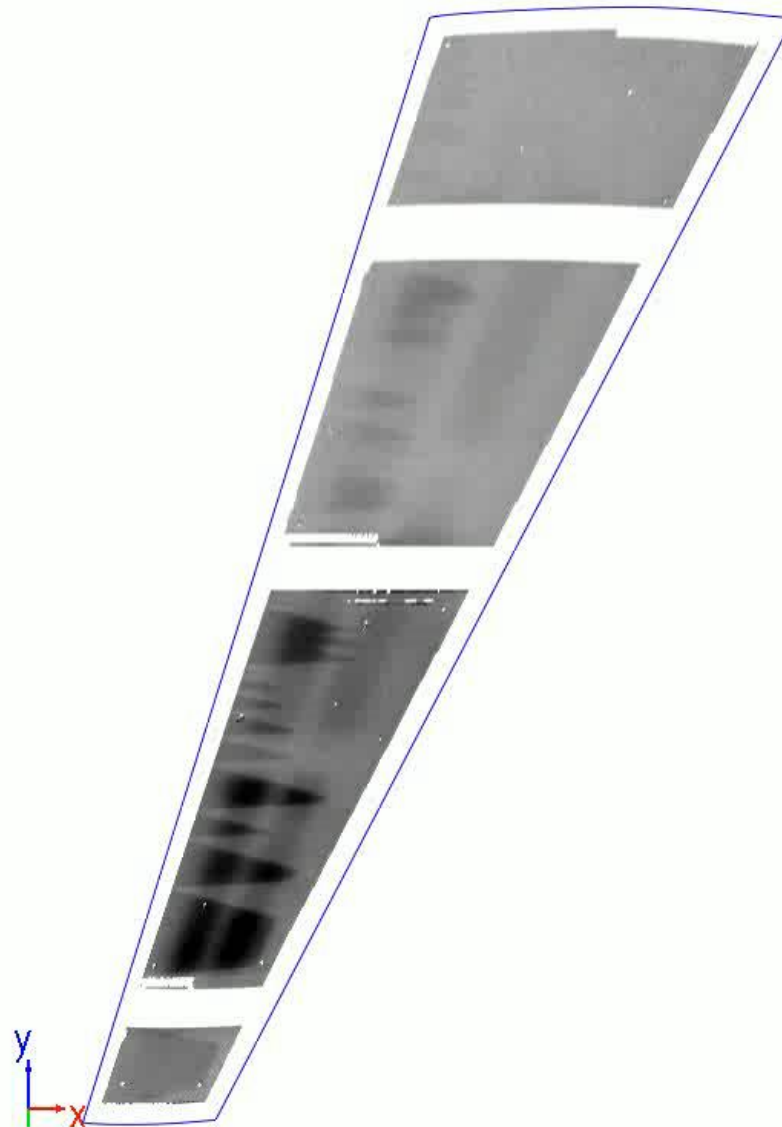
## $\alpha$ -Sweep

- WT: 0.12 °/sec
- **Steady CFD simulation**

WT data from LUFO project ULTIMATE

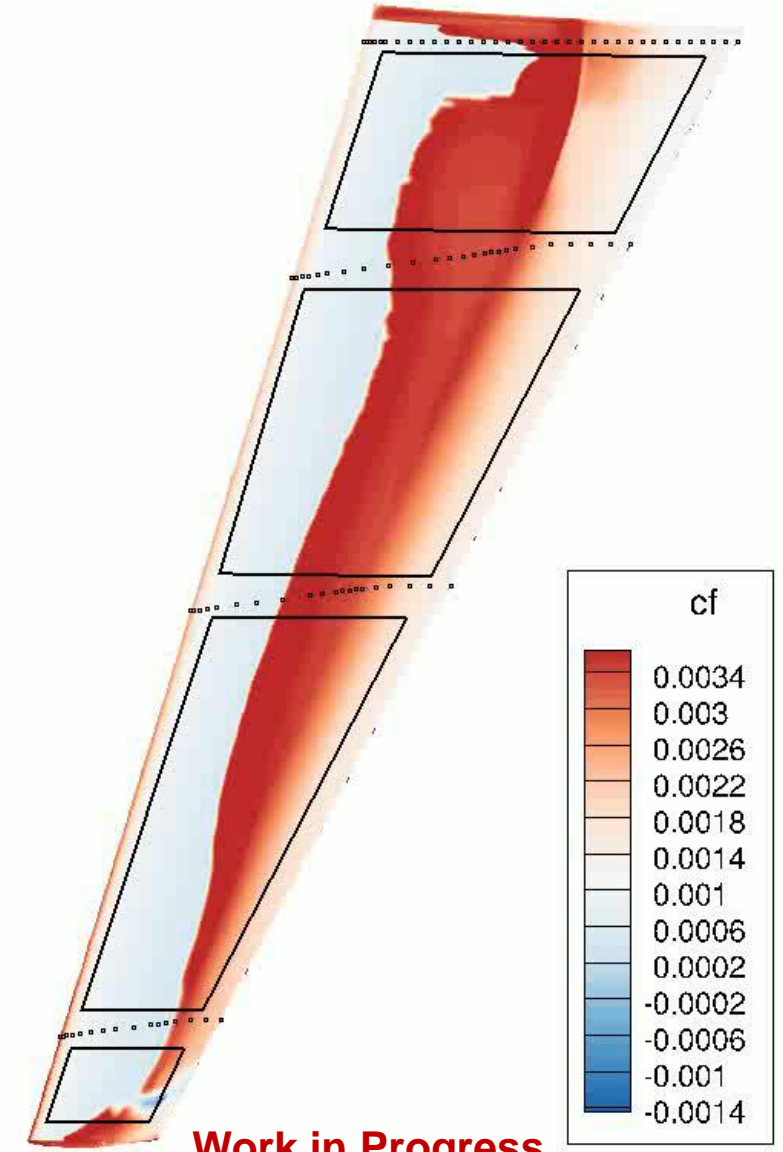
NLF\_ECOWING\_FSW S2 18:25:56 02.06.2022

Conditions	Tflow [K]	Assignment
Ma = 0.72	Tflow = 123.8	Polar = 0247
Re = 16.0	Ttsp = -07.3	DPN0= 1
AoA = -3.0	Tref = 134.2	DPNx= 0000



NLF\_ECOWING\_FSW CFD solution

Conditions	Model
M=0.73	Solver: DLR TAU-Code
Re=16M	Turbulence: SA-neg model
$\alpha=-3.0^\circ$	Transition: DLR $\gamma$ model



cf

0.0034  
0.003  
0.0026  
0.0022  
0.0018  
0.0014  
0.001  
0.0006  
0.0002  
-0.0002  
-0.0006  
-0.001  
-0.0014

# Conclusions



## Validation of DLR $\gamma$ model based on ULTIMATE-FSW Performance Test

- CF transition captured qualitatively with original helicity criterion, but too upstream
- Inclusion of surface roughness effect
  - improves CF prediction
  - can be used as environmental uncertainty in robust design
- Unprecedented validation possible thanks to experimental data
- Global trends of transition reflected in challenging  $\alpha$ -Sweep

## Outlook

- Further validation
  - CF-extension based on upcoming tests
  - Roughness extension is promising first shot (based on 1 test case only, non-local approximation) but needs further validation (more data)
  - 3D configurations
- Improvements of the robustness of the model → Student work ongoing

# Thank you for your attention!



Dipl.-Ing.  
**Sebastian Helm**

Phone  
Mail  
Internet

DLR - German Aerospace Center  
Institute of Aerodynamics and  
Flow Technology, C<sup>2</sup>A<sup>2</sup>S<sup>2</sup>E

+49 551 709-2302  
sebastian.helm@dlr.de  
DLR.de/as

Holger Mai<sup>1</sup>, Marc Braune<sup>1</sup>, Holger Ernst<sup>1</sup>, Heiko Boehlken<sup>1</sup>, Kristopher-Marc Davies<sup>1</sup>, Michael Fehrs<sup>1</sup>, Arne Seitz<sup>2</sup>, Javier Rubert Bailo<sup>2</sup>, Heiko von Geyr<sup>2</sup>, Christian Klein<sup>3</sup>, Ulrich Henne<sup>3</sup>, Steffen Risius<sup>3</sup>, Carsten Fuchs<sup>3</sup>, Sebastian Helm<sup>3</sup>, Hans Bleecke<sup>4</sup>, Dietmar Meissner<sup>4</sup>, Sven Schaber<sup>4</sup>, Daniel Schulze<sup>4</sup>, Alexander Büscher<sup>4</sup>, Matthias Schulz<sup>5</sup>, Ann-Katrin Hensch<sup>5</sup>, Harald Quix<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> DLR, Institute of Aeroelasticity

<sup>2,3</sup> DLR, Institute of Aerodynamics and Flow Technology

<sup>4</sup> Airbus Operations GmbH

<sup>5</sup> European Transonic Windtunnel GmbH



Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages

**LUFO ULTIMATE**



Gefördert durch



# References



Francois2022: François, D. G., Krumbein, A., Krimmelbein, N., Grabe, C., “Simplified Stability-Based Transition Transport Modeling for Unstructured Computational Fluid Dynamics”, AIAA SciTech 2022 Forum, Jan. 2022.

Francois2022a: François, D. G., Krumbein, A., “On the Coupling of a gamma-based Transition Transport Model to the Negative Spalart-Allmaras Turbulence Model”, 56th 3AF International Conference on Applied Aerodynamics, 2022.

Francois2022b: François, D. G., Krumbein, A., Krimmelbein, N., „Crossflow Extension of a Simplified Transition Transport Model for Three-Dimensional Aerodynamic Configurations”, AIAA AVIATION Forum 2022.

Krumbein2022a: Krumbein, A., François, D. G., Krimmelbein, N., “Transport-based Transition Prediction for the Common Research Model Natural Laminar Flow Configuration”, AIAA, Journal of Aircraft, p. 1-12, 2022.

Hoechel2022: “Assessment and recalibration of transition criteria for laminar-turbulent transition driven by crossflow instabilities”, Master Thesis, Technische Universität Berlin, 2022.

Helm2022a: Helm, S., Davies, K.-M., Fehrs, M., „First Comparison of CFD Simulation and Wind Tunnel Test of the Forward-Swept Natural Laminar Flow Model NLF-ECOWING-FSW“, STAB-Symposium, Berlin 2022.