

# Optimal perturbations and very large scale structures in zero pressure gradient turbulent boundary layers

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OPEN ISSUES IN TRANSITION AND FLOW CONTROL

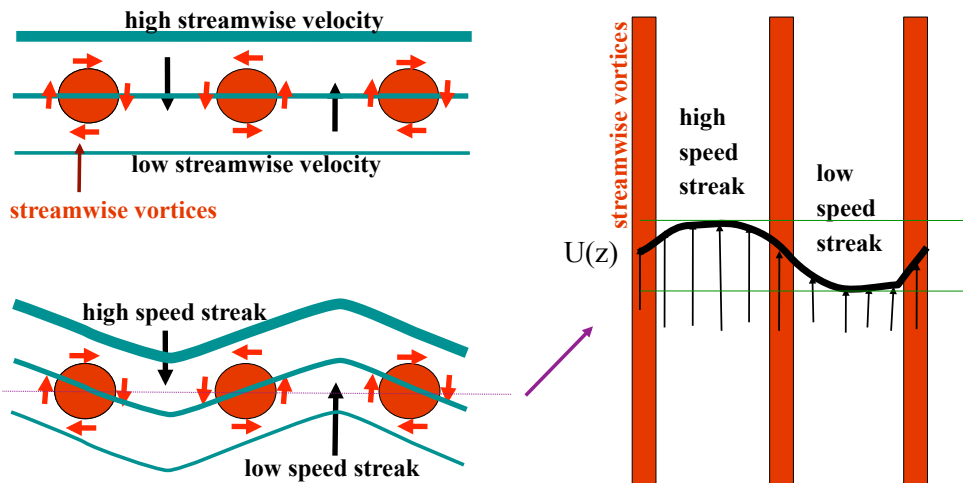
Acknowledgements: Agence Nationale de la Recherche Technologique (ANRT)

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## Streaks formation: the lift-up effect

**Streamwise vortices in a shear flow => streamwise streaks**

Taylor 1939, Moffatt 1967,..., Landahl 1980, Ellingsen & Palm 1985...



**Strongly related to non normality of the linearised operator**

reviews in Trefethen et al 1993, Schmid & Hennigson 2001

## Optimal transient growth (fixed Re, $\alpha$ , $\beta$ )

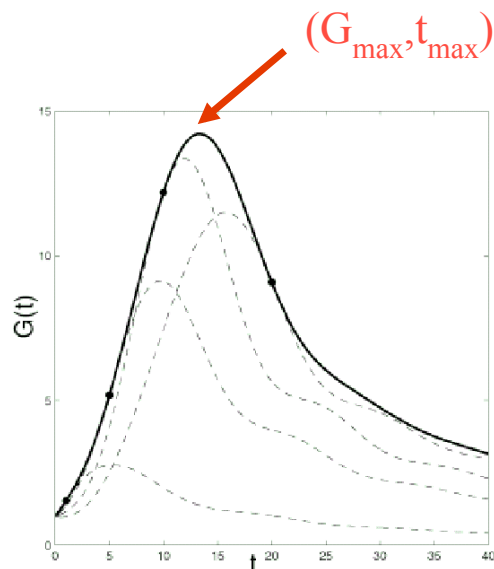
$$G(t) = \max_{\hat{q}_0 \neq 0} \frac{\|\hat{q}(t)\|^2}{\|\hat{q}_0\|^2}$$

Optimal wavelengths for laminar plane shear flows :

$$\lambda_x \sim \infty, \lambda_z = 3h$$

$$G_{\max} \sim Re^2$$

Gustavsson 1991,...



from Schmid & Henningson 2001

## Optimal streamwise vortices & streaks

Optimal growth, vortices & streaks computed for virtually all canonical laminar shear flows (Couette, Poiseuille, pipe Poiseuille, Blasius BL,...)

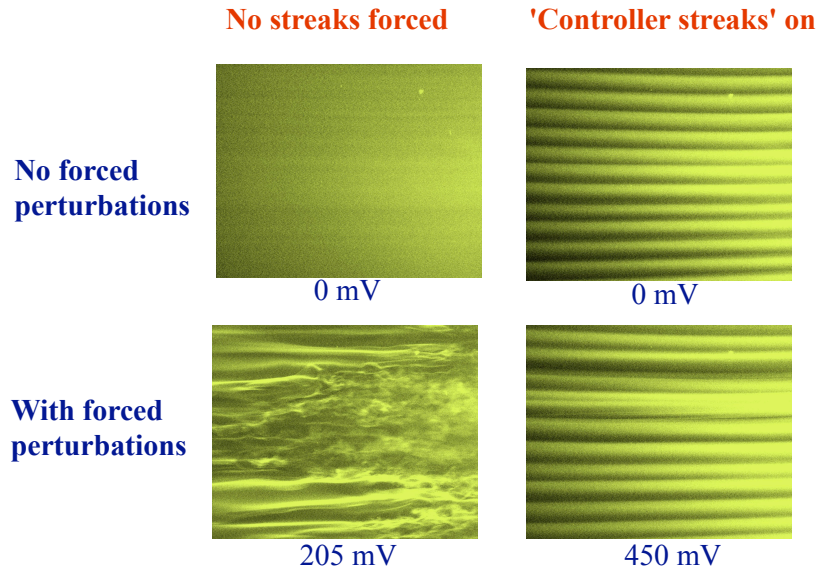
They are relevant to:

subcritical transition to turbulence,  
bypass transition induced by free-stream turbulence,  
self-sustained turbulent processes

They are also useful to manipulate shear flows with low or no energy (passive control):

*Lift-up effect used to amplify the control input energy*

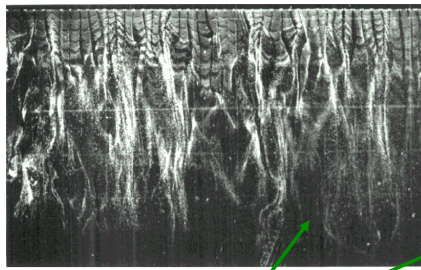
## Boundary layer transition delay with streaks



Fransson, Talamelli, Brandt & Cossu, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 2006

## Streaky structures in turbulent flows

**Near wall streaks in a turbulent boundary layer (experimental)**

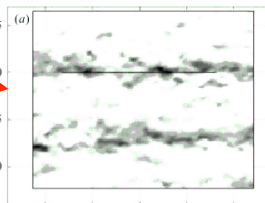


Kline et al. *JFM* 1967

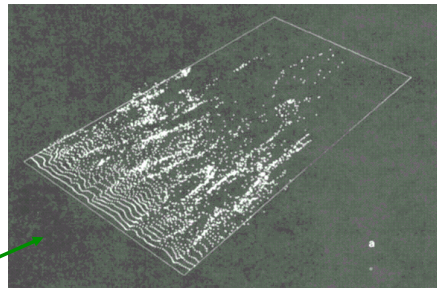
mean streaks spacing  $\lambda^+ = 100$

streaks spacing at least  $2\delta$

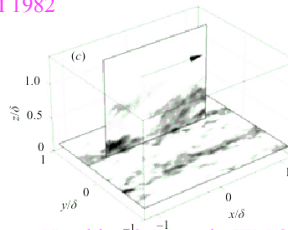
**Large scale streaks in a turbulent boundary layer (experimental)**



**Near wall streaks in a turbulent channel flow (numerical)**



Moin & Kim *JFM* 1982



Hutchins & Marusic *JFM* 2007

## Turbulent channel: Butler & Farrell approach (1993)

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial x} + (vU, 0, 0) = -\nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$$

Reynolds-Tiedermann (1967)  
turbulent mean velocity profile

**unconstrained optimal  $\lambda_z = 3h$**

**$\lambda^+ = 100$  obtained constraining  
the optimization time**

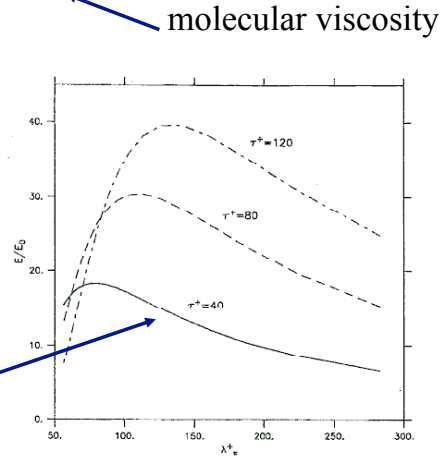


FIG. 3. Optimal energy growth versus wavelength for optimization times representative of the eddy turnover time near the wall.

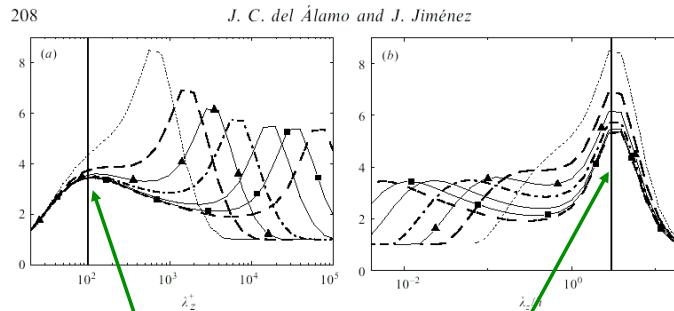
Butler & Farrell *Phys. Fluids* 1993

## del Alamo & Jiménez approach (2006)

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + U \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial x} + (vU, 0, 0) = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot [\nu_T(y) (\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T)]$$

Reynolds-Tiedermann profile

$\nu_T$  includes **turbulent eddy viscosity**



Secondary Gmax peak  
scaling in inner variables  
with optimal at  $\lambda^+ = 100$

del Alamo & Jiménez *JFM* 2006

**unconstrained  
optimals!**

Primary Gmax peak  
scaling in outer variables  
with optimal at  $\lambda_z = 3h$

**Turbulent boundary layers are relevant for industrial, meteorological and many other applications**

**Can we extend these channel flow results to the turbulent boundary layer?**

**Double peak structure?**

**Which is the relevant external scale?**

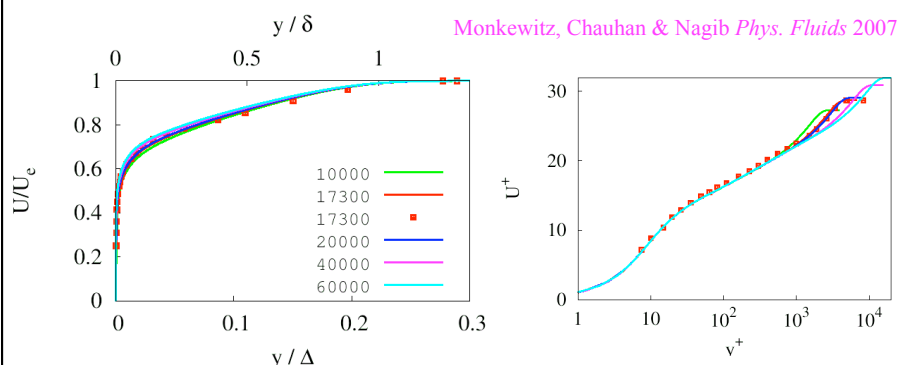
**What is the optimal spacing?**

**How does the external peak scale with Re?**

...

### Asymptotic self-consistent mean velocity profile

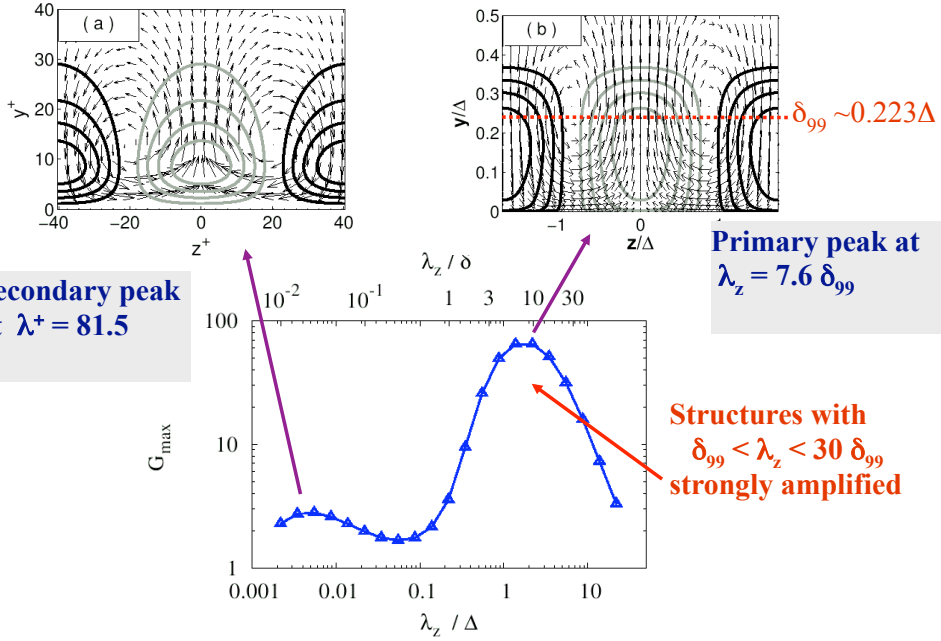
$$U = u_\tau \left[ U_i^+(y^+) - U_{log}^+(y^+) + U_e^+(Re_{\delta_*}) - U_w^+(\eta) \right]$$



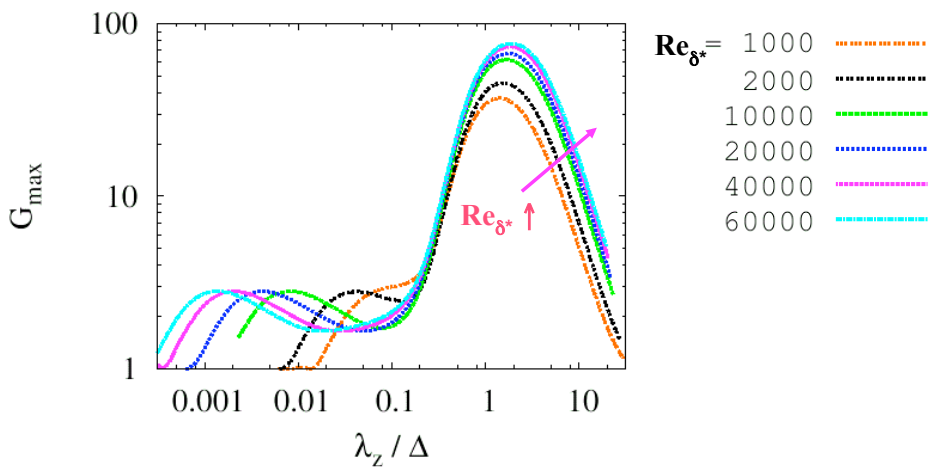
Velocity profiles at different  $Re_{\delta_*}$  in outer & inner units.  
Comparison with data of de Graaf & Eaton (JFM 2000) ■

$$U_{log}^+(y^+) = \frac{1}{\kappa} \ln(y^+) + B \quad U_e^+(Re_{\delta_*}) = \frac{1}{\kappa} \ln(Re_{\delta_*}) + C \quad \kappa = 0.384, B = 4.17, C = 3.30$$

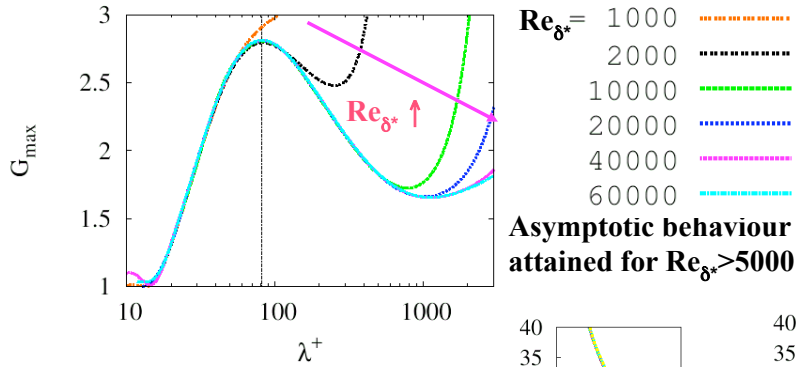
## Optimal $\alpha=0$ growth & perturbations at $Re_{\delta^*}=17300$



## $G_{max}(\alpha=0, \beta)$ at selected $Re_{\delta^*}$



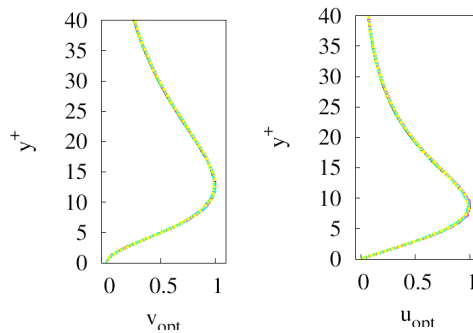
## Zoom on the secondary peak in inner units



Asymptotic behaviour attained for  $Re_{\delta^+} > 5000$

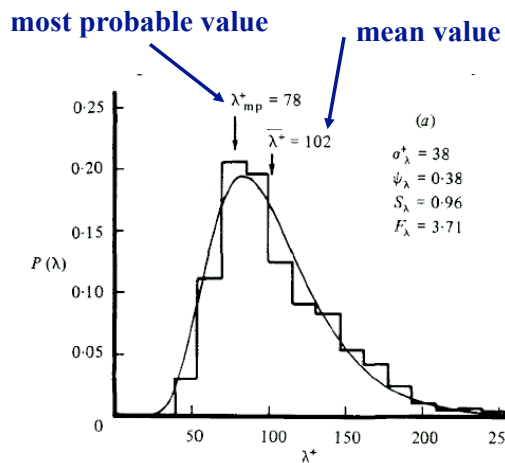
Secondary peak at  $\lambda^+ = 81.5$

optimal perturbations self similar in inner units when  $Re_{\delta^+} > 5000$



## Why $\lambda^+ = 81.5$ and not the commonly accepted value of 100?

Probability of observing streaks with a given  $\lambda^+$  at  $y^+ = 5$  a  $Re_{\theta} = 1490$



Smith & Metzler *JFM* 1983

## Scaling of the outer optimal

$\beta_{opt}$  does not scale on  $\Delta$

Laminar non self-similar boundary layers:  
relevant length is  $\theta$  (e.g. Corbett & Bottaro 2000)

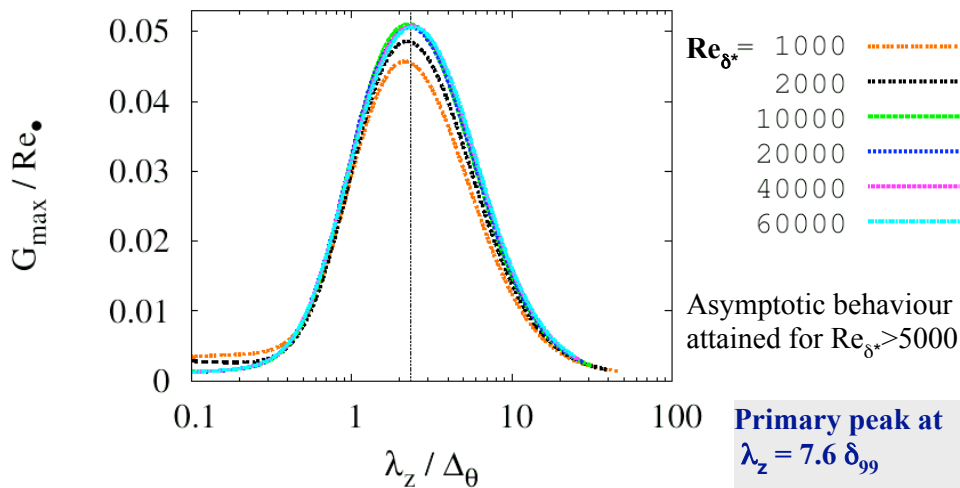
**modified Rotta-Clauser length:**  $\Delta_\theta = \theta U_e / u_\tau$

$G_{max}$  does not scale on  $Re_{\delta^*}$

**'effective turbulent'  
Reynolds number**

$$Re_\bullet = \frac{U_e \Delta_\theta}{\nu_{Tmax}}$$

## Scaling of the primary peak

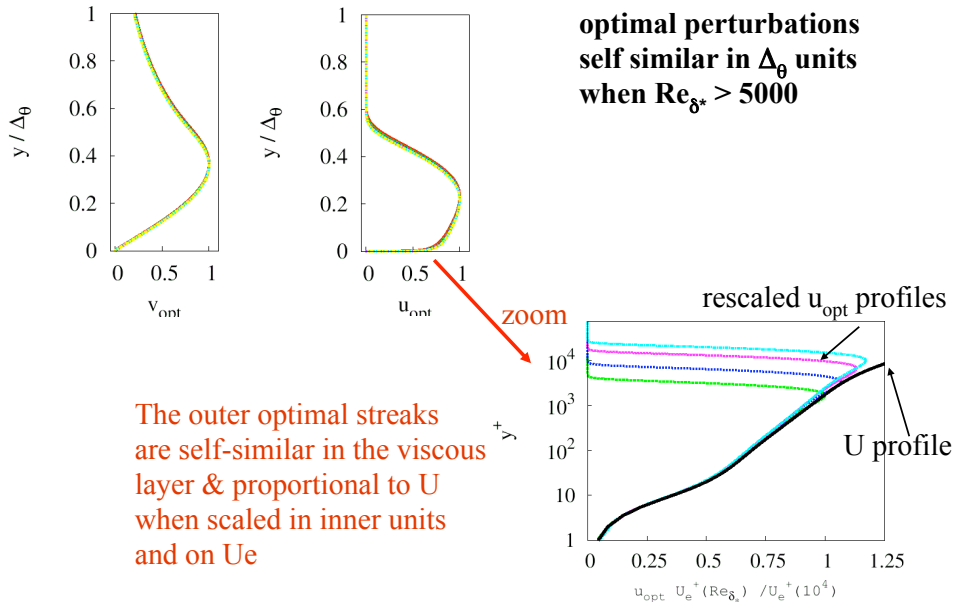


$$G_{max}^{(out)} = (0.0508 \pm 0.0004) Re_\bullet$$

**Gmax scales on Re and not  
Re<sup>2</sup> like in the laminar case**



## Similarity of the optimal perturbations



## Open issues

Can *natural* optimal very large scale structures be observed in turbulent boundary layers? **Need for new experiments with very large spanwise acquisition windows.**

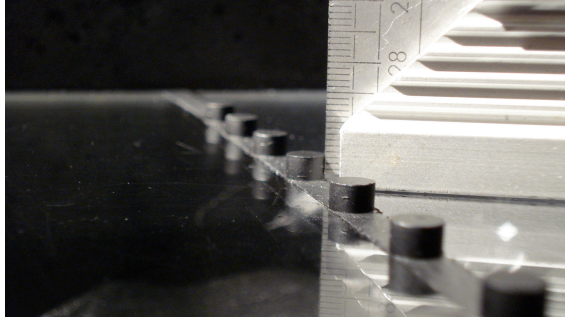
Can optimal very large scale structures be *artificially forced* in channel flows and boundary layers?

**What is their effect? Relation with VG?**

Nonlinear interaction of large and small scale optimals?

Preliminary results for Couette flow: outer optimal seems to match experimental & DNS evidence of large scale structures

## Preliminary experimental results



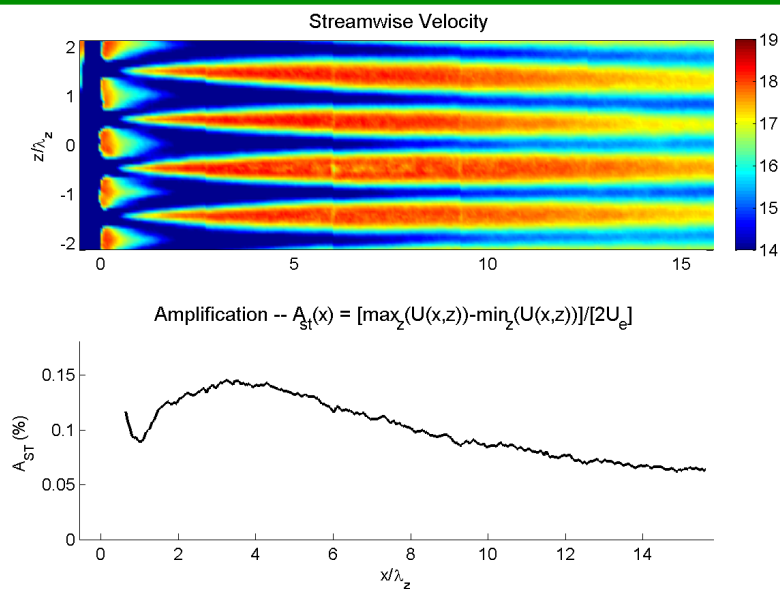
**Roughness elements**  
**height:**  $k=4\text{mm}$   
**diameter:**  $D=6\text{mm}$   
**spacing:**  $Z=24\text{mm}$

Turbulent boundary layer :  $U_e=20\text{m/s}$

$x=0$ :  $\delta \sim 4\text{mm}$ ,  $\lambda_z/\delta \sim 6$ ,  $Re_{\delta^*} \sim 1100$   
 $x=150\text{mm}$ :  $\delta \sim 8\text{mm}$ ,  $\lambda_z/\delta \sim 3$ ,  $Re_{\delta^*} \sim 1800$

Windtunnel of the Peugeot-Citroën Aerodynamics Dept. in Velizy

## Turbulent streaks mean amplitude



PIV data: horizontal plane  $y=3/4k$  (roughness height) / meaned on 600 samples

**Thank you for your attention!**

**p(re)prints on:**

**<http://www.ladhyx.polytechnique.fr/people/carlo/>**