

# The lab is dead. Long live the lab!

Water flow loops: 'One each' in the lab – or at home.



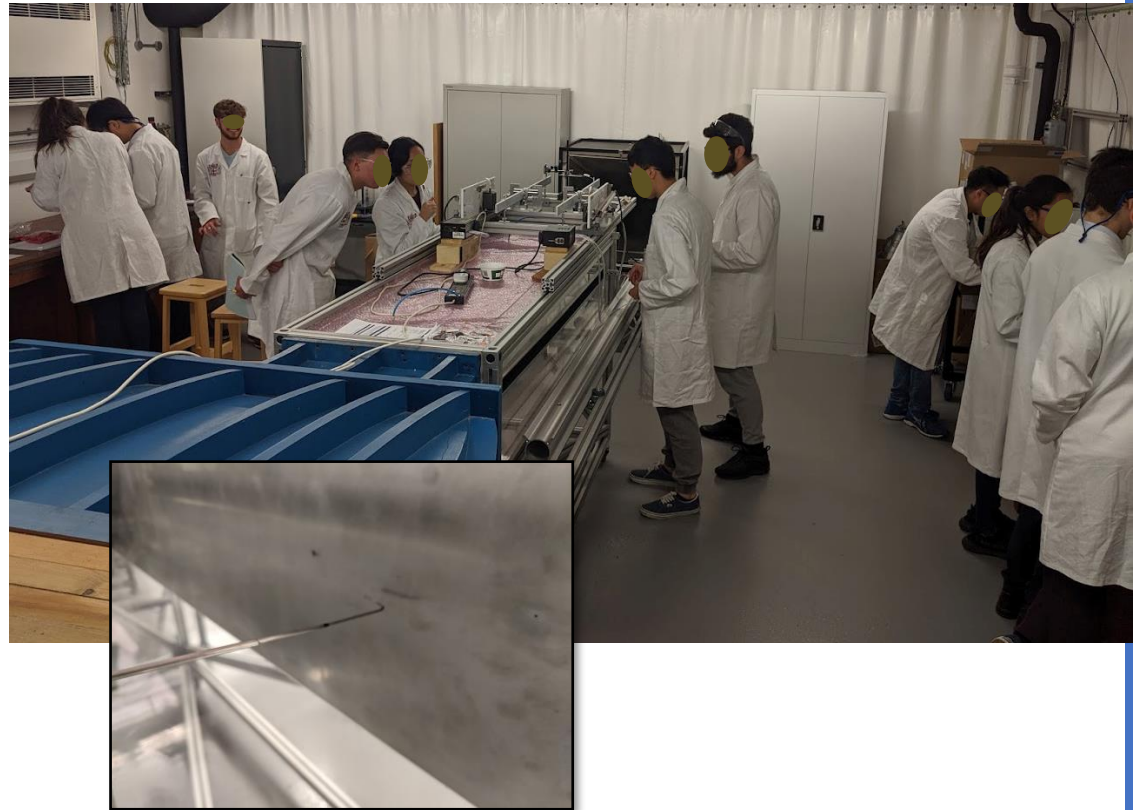
Castagna (2021)



# General aims

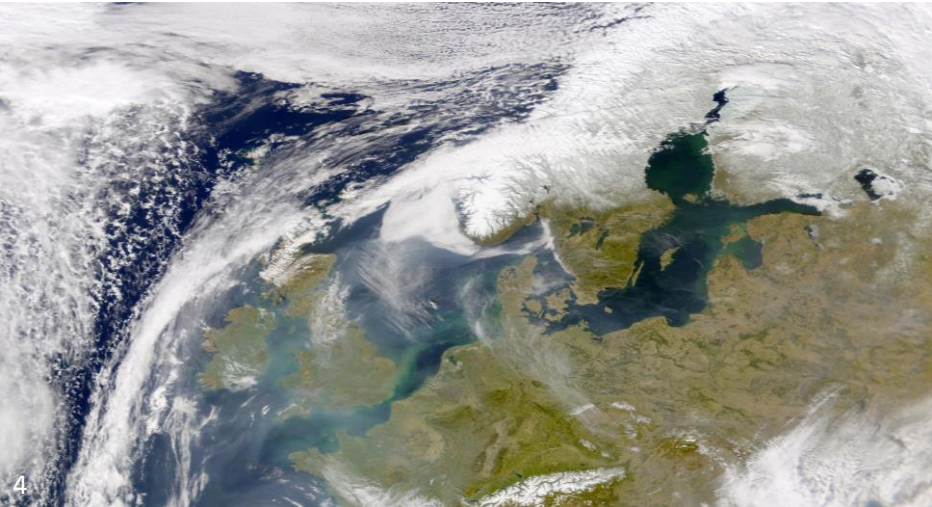
“[This] cannot be taught by means of blackboard and chalk or even by experimental lectures and demonstrations alone; individual eyes and hands must be actually and persistently practised from the very earliest period”<sup>1</sup>

[but by] “placing students as far as possible in the attitude of the discoverer — methods which involve their finding out instead of being merely told about things.”<sup>2</sup>



1. Armstrong (1910:9) [URL](#)
2. Armstrong (1910:236) [URL](#)

# Boundary layers



# Specific aim

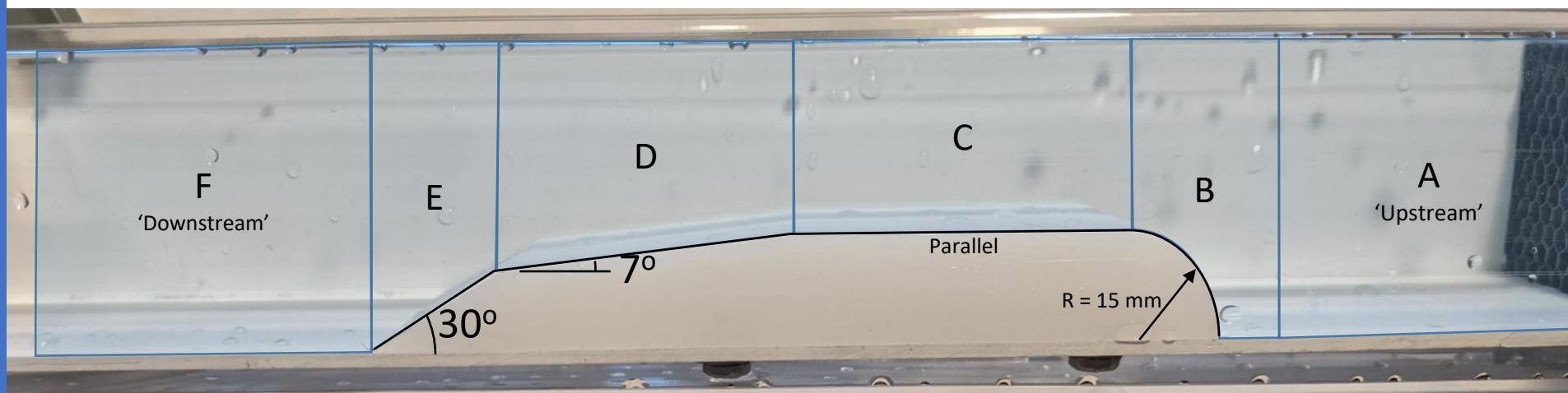
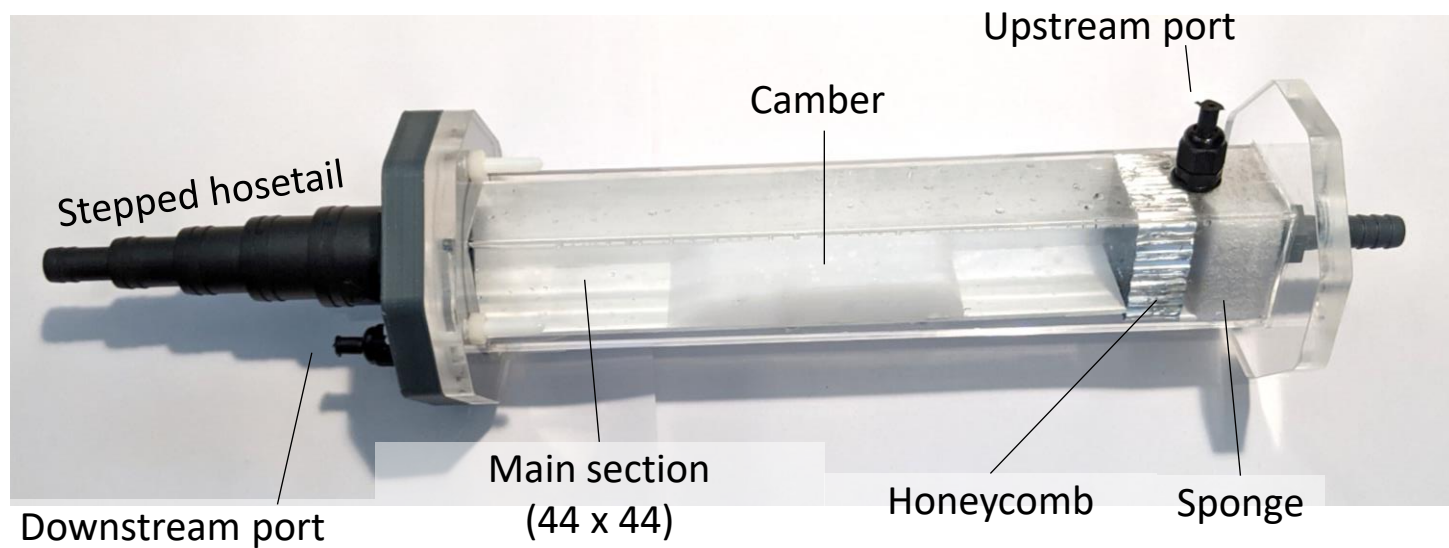
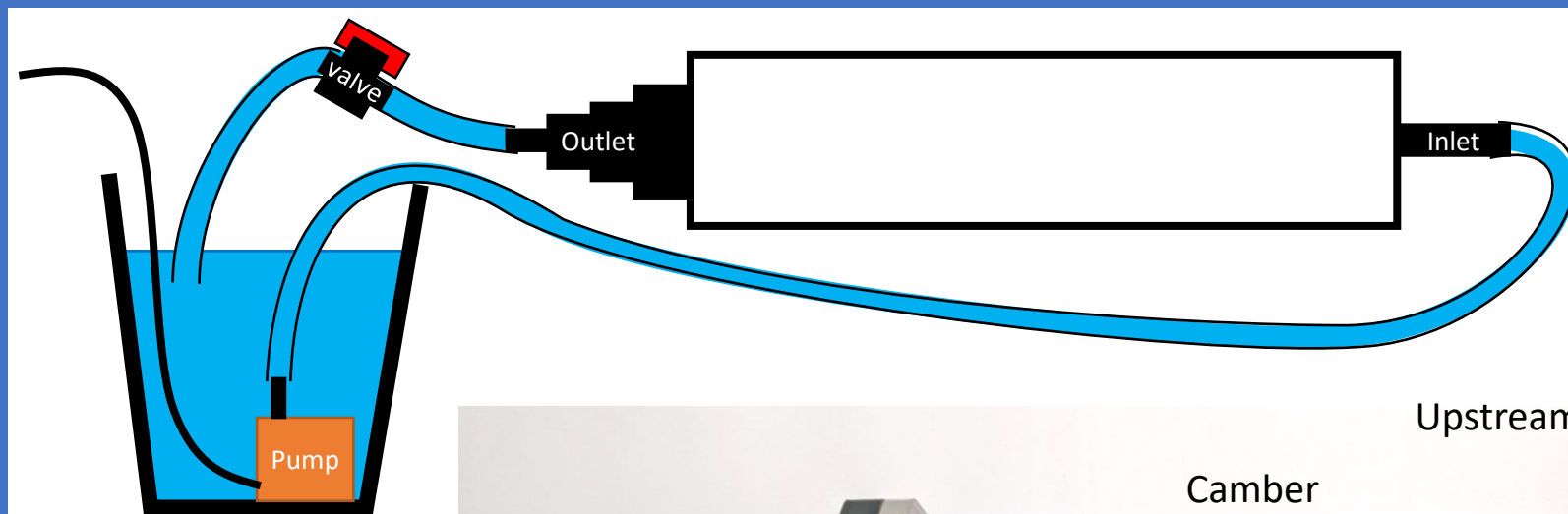
Finally, we need to characterise the relative thickness of the boundary layer,  $\varepsilon$ , for high Reynolds numbers. For this, we appeal to experiment and make the key observation that Prandtl identified and is evident from our own measurements<sup>3</sup>: *the boundary layer is thin*. Mathematically,

$$\varepsilon \equiv \frac{\delta}{L} \rightarrow 0. \quad (14.4)$$

Recalling Equation (13.8) and using (14.2–14.4),

$$u^* \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial x^*} + v^* \frac{\partial u^*}{\partial y^*} = -\frac{\partial p^*}{\partial x^*} + \frac{1}{\text{Re}} \frac{\partial^2 u^*}{\partial x^{*2}} + \frac{1}{\text{Re} \cdot \varepsilon^2} \frac{\partial^2 u^*}{\partial y^{*2}}, \quad (14.5)$$

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{O}(1) + \mathcal{O}(1)}_{\text{Convective acceleration}} = \underbrace{\mathcal{O}(1)}_{\text{Pressure}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{O}(\text{Re}^{-1})}_{\text{"streamwise" diffusion}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{O}(\text{Re}^{-1} \varepsilon^{-2})}_{\text{transverse diffusion}}.$$



# Demonstration (live)

# Production in quantity (200)



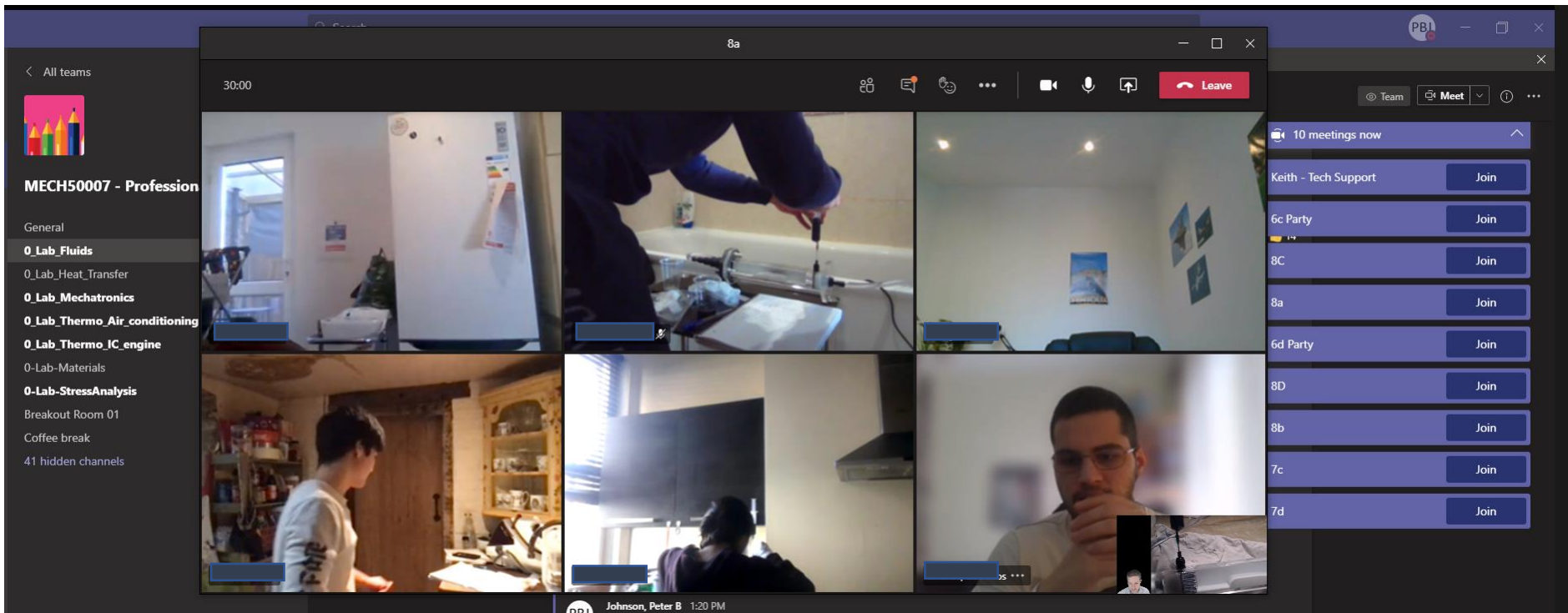
Final assembly and packaging by student helpers

Production by



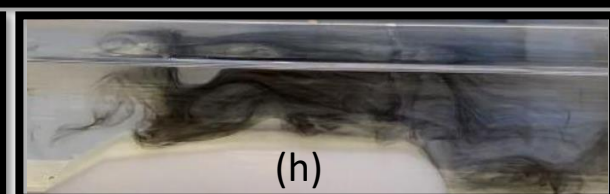
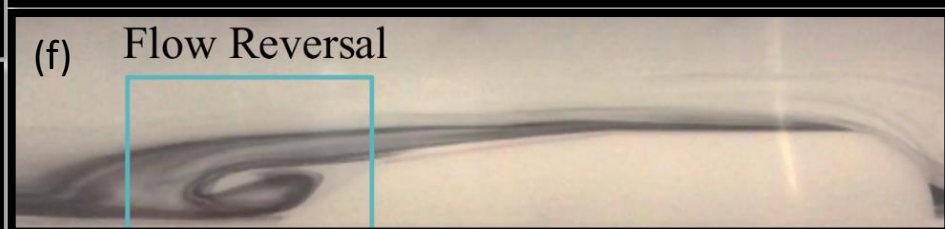
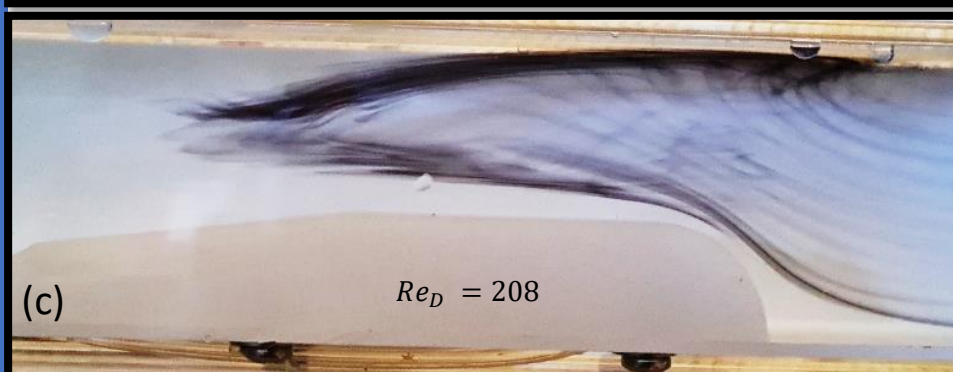
Northern Cast Acrylics Ltd.





# Student work

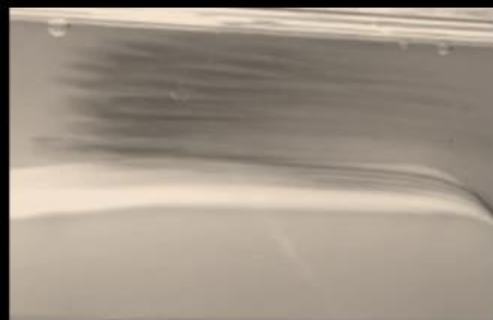
1: O. Quarks, 2: E. Tang , 3: G. Motta, 4: A. Castagna, 5. I. Ng,  
6: J. Helsby. 7: J. Ibrahim SalahEldin Mohammd, 8. F. Riviuccio.



(a) Boundary layer behaviour visualised with ink injection<sup>4</sup>. (b), (c): Reynolds number effects<sup>4</sup>.  
(d) Separation at stagnation<sup>5</sup>. (e) Streamlines<sup>6</sup>. (f) Flow reversal<sup>7</sup>. (g) Jet<sup>2</sup>. (h) turbulence<sup>8</sup>.

# Use during 'main' lectures (online)

Faster flow ( $Re \gg 1$ ) - continuous

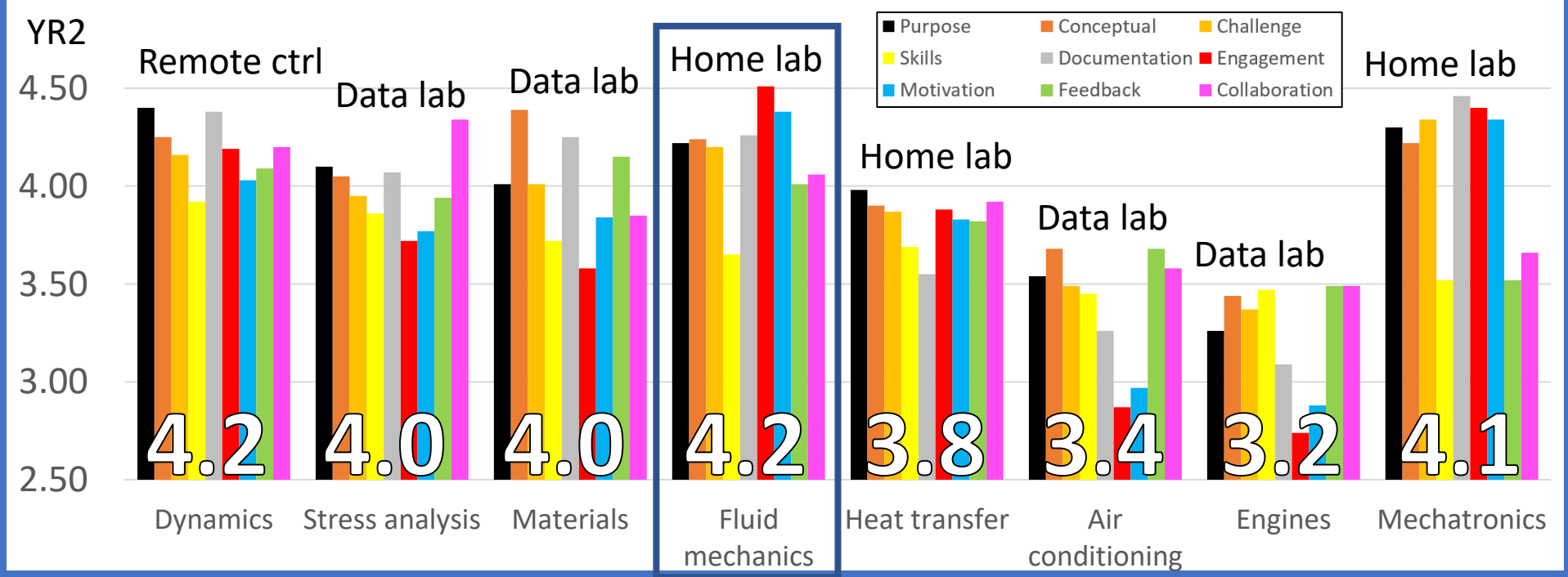
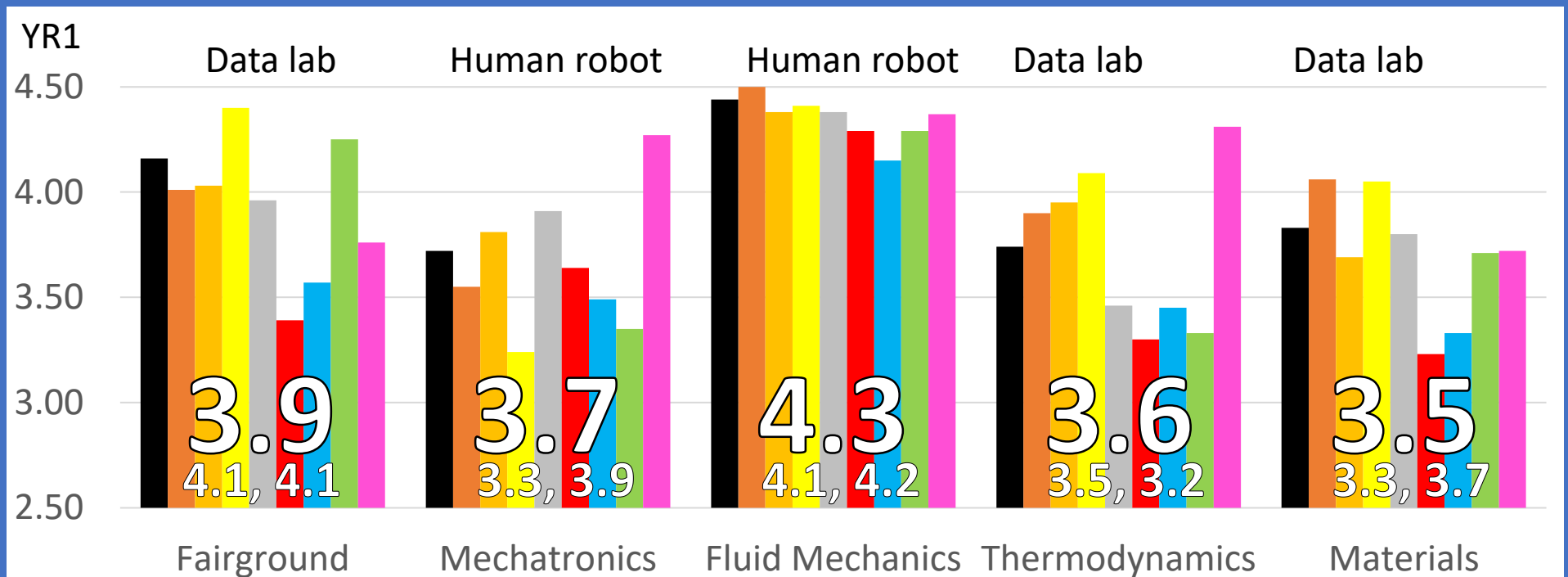


← Fast

Slow →

Viscous effects reduce  
at high  $Re$ .  
Pressure scale  $P \equiv \rho U^2$





# Evaluation

(Cherry-picked quotes from student survey)

“I liked the experiments where equipment was used personally, and we were split into tutorial groups because there was more discussion than when in larger groups”

“It was easy to understand and I particularly liked how well it was linked to our course.”

“I am very grateful for the amount of effort that was put in to ensure the labs could still take place. The mechatronics and fluids lab were especially impressive.”

“Fluids and mechatronics were adapted extremely well to remote.”

“the fluids lab was really interesting and showed explicitly so many things we learnt in class.”

“I really like how hands on the fluids lab”

# Acknowledgements

## R&D - Keith Blackney

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Production – Northern Cast Acrylics Ltd.

YouTube Video – Kang Wei

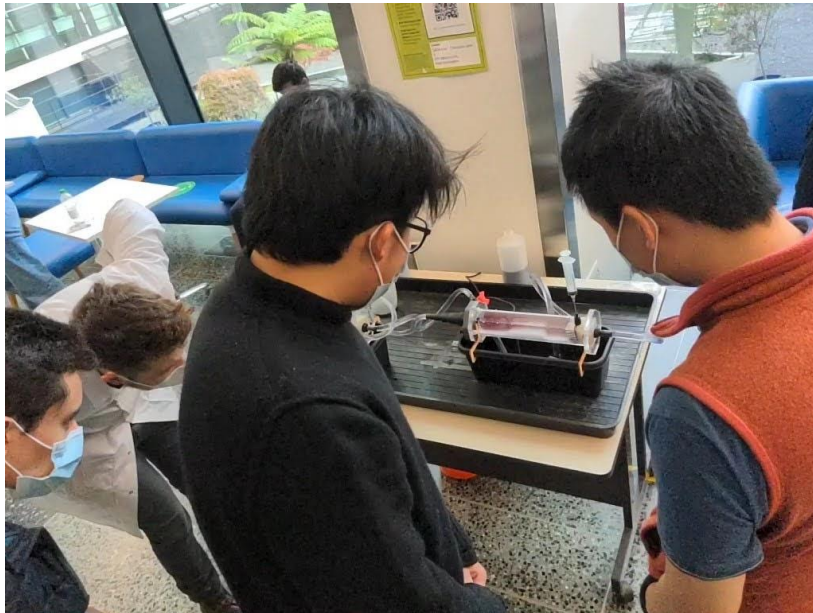
Mechatronics kits featured in video – Ferdinando Baena y Rodriguez, Shen Treratanakulchai, Carlos Sebastien Mancero Castillo

Live demo today – Harry Barnett

Students! – all of the 2020/21 ME2 cohort!

# Reflections

“[This] cannot be taught ... even by experimental lectures and demonstrations. Individual eyes and hands must be actually and persistently practised”



Take this equipment,  
Get out of the lab,  
Take it into the classroom  
Have *one each*  
Use it frequently