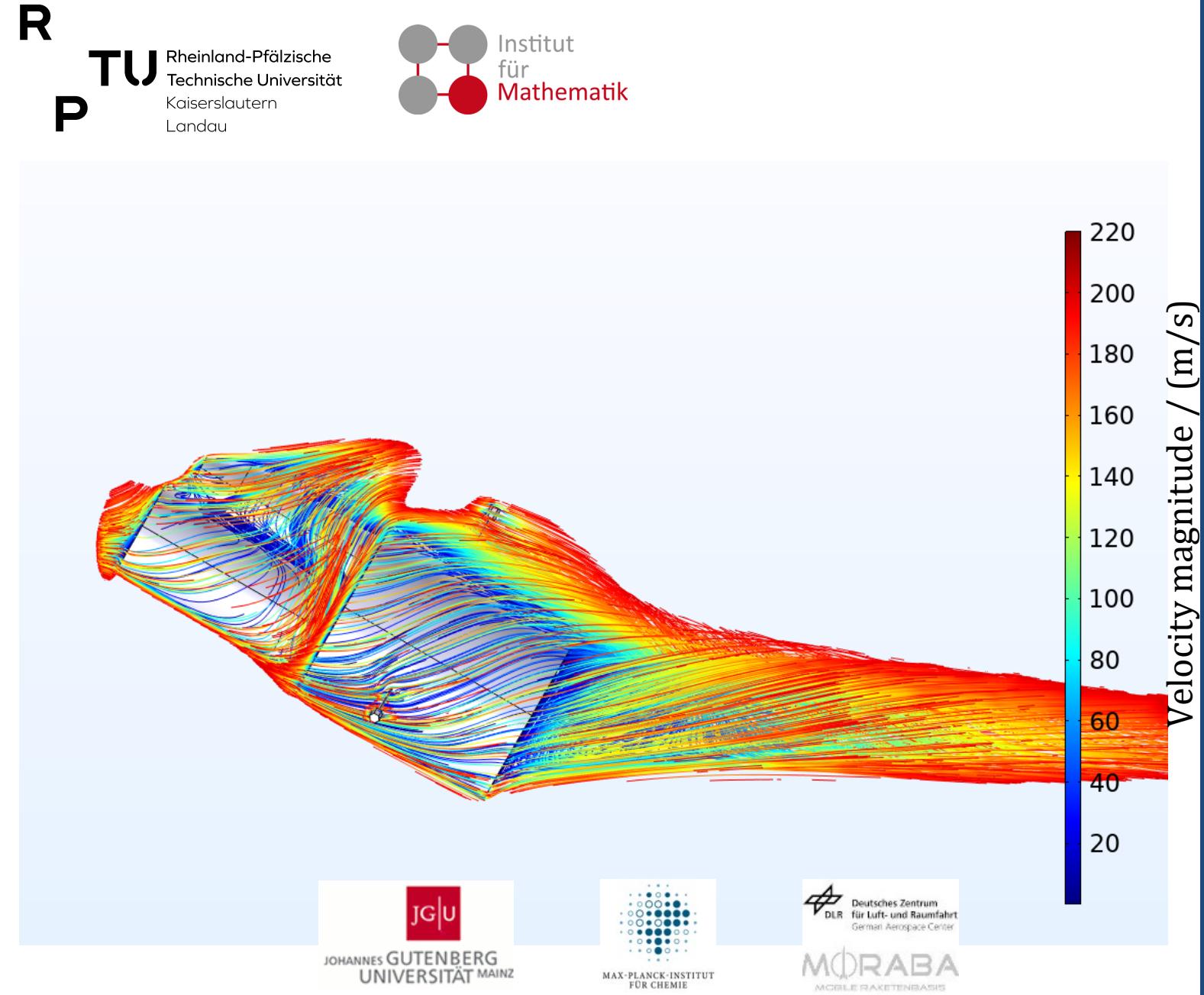
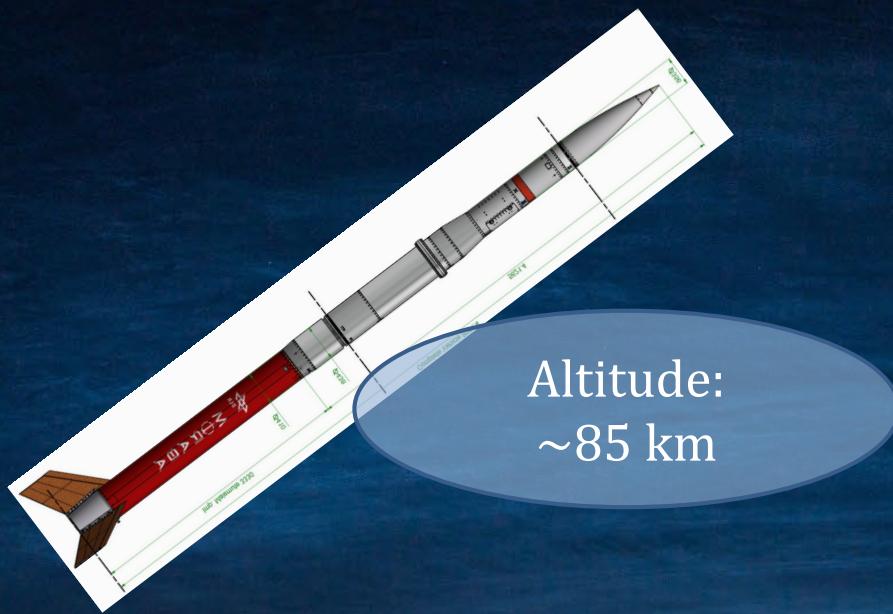


# COMSOL simulations to develop and investigate the efficiency of a rocket-borne particle collector

Birte Klug



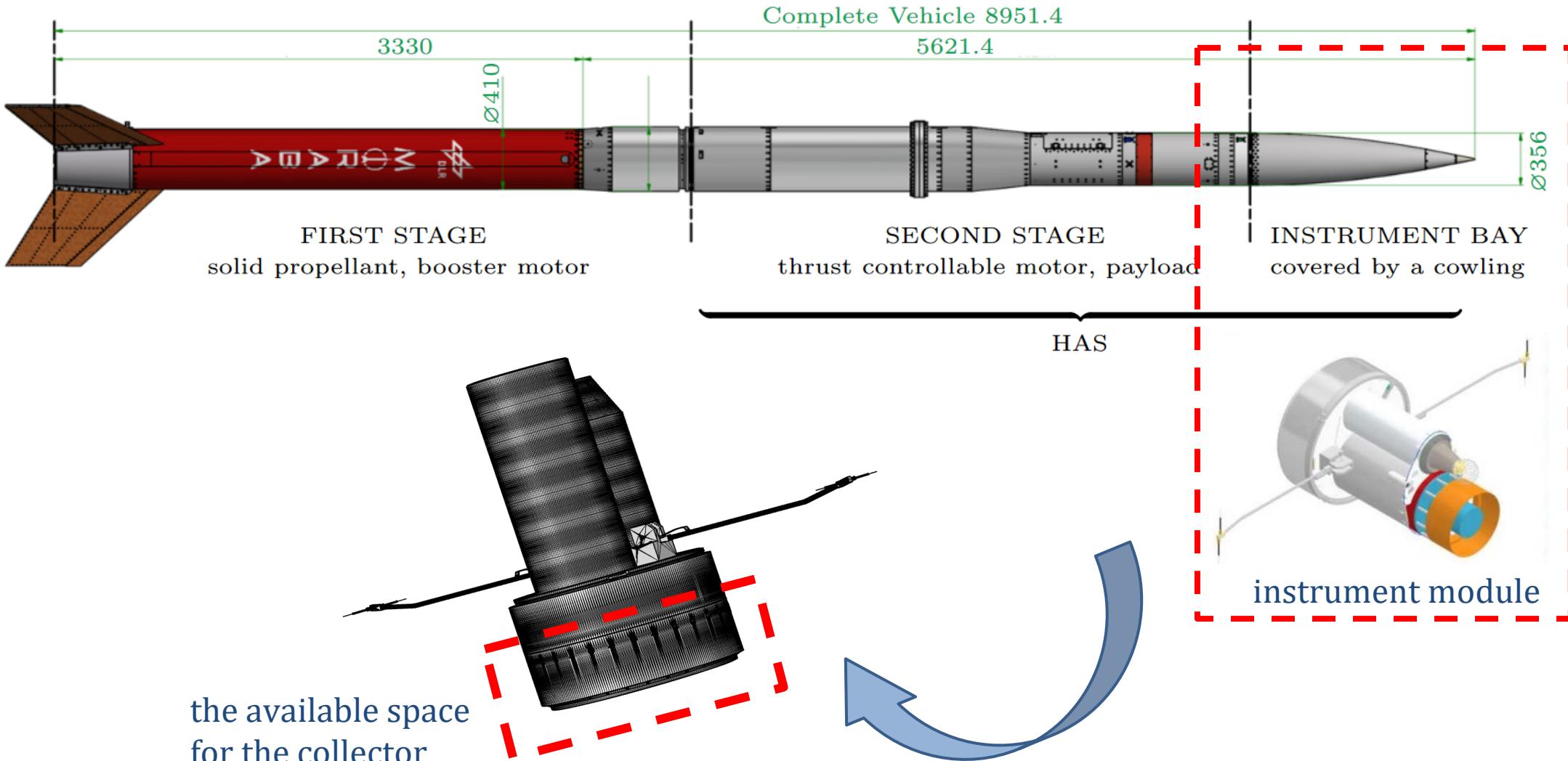


## Idea:

**Sampling based, free-stream impactor**

- Collection of particles  
on the surface of a flow obstacle
- Analysis of the particles

# Rocket



Mathematical and numerical  
model of supersonic flows  
around the instrument module

# Supersonic flow regime

**rocket speed**

$$v = 300 - 400 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

**speed of sound**

$$c_{85 \text{ km}} \approx 230 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

**Mach number**

$$Ma = 1.3 - 1.8$$

**High Mach Number Flow, Laminar (hmnf) interface (  )**

# Compressible Navier Stokes equations

continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{u}) = 0$$

momentum equation

$$\frac{\partial(\rho \vec{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{u} \vec{u}^T) = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{T}_f + \rho \vec{f}$$

energy equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho E) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{u} E) = - \nabla \cdot k \nabla T + Q + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{T}_f \vec{u}) + \rho (\vec{f} \cdot \vec{u})$$

internal energy equation  
ideal gas law

$$\text{with } E = e + \frac{u^2}{2}, \text{ and } e = c_v T, \rho = \frac{p}{R_s T},$$

$$\mathbf{T}_f = -p \mathbf{I} + \left[ \mu \left( \nabla \vec{u} + (\nabla \vec{u})^T - \frac{2}{3} (\nabla \cdot \vec{u}) \mathbf{I} \right) \right]$$

$\rho$ : density

$\vec{u}$ : velocity

$p$ : pressure

$\mu$ : dynamic viscosity

$\vec{f}$ : body force

$e$ : internal energy

$c_v$ : specific heat capacity

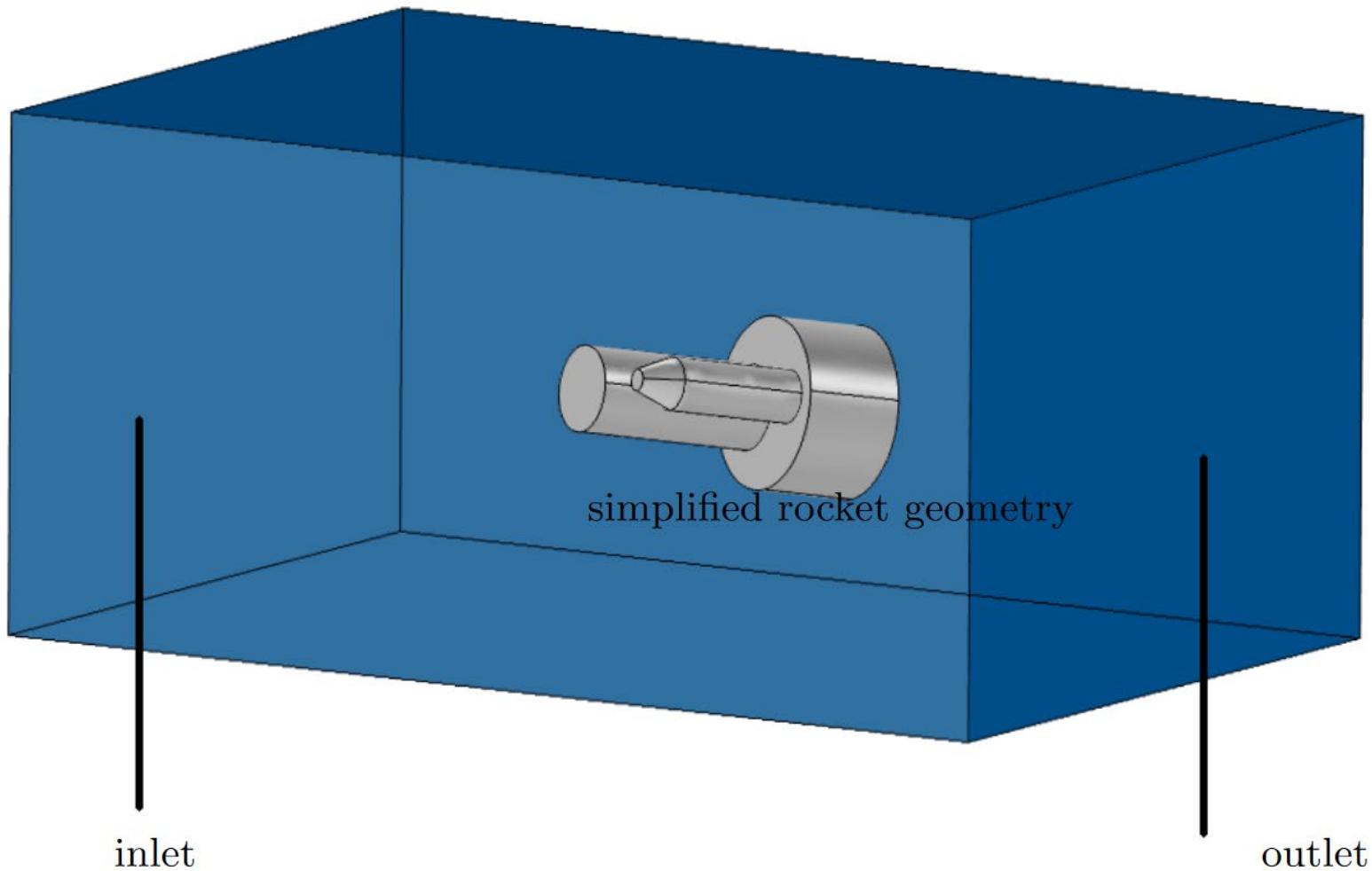
$T$ : temperature

$R_s$ : specific gas constant

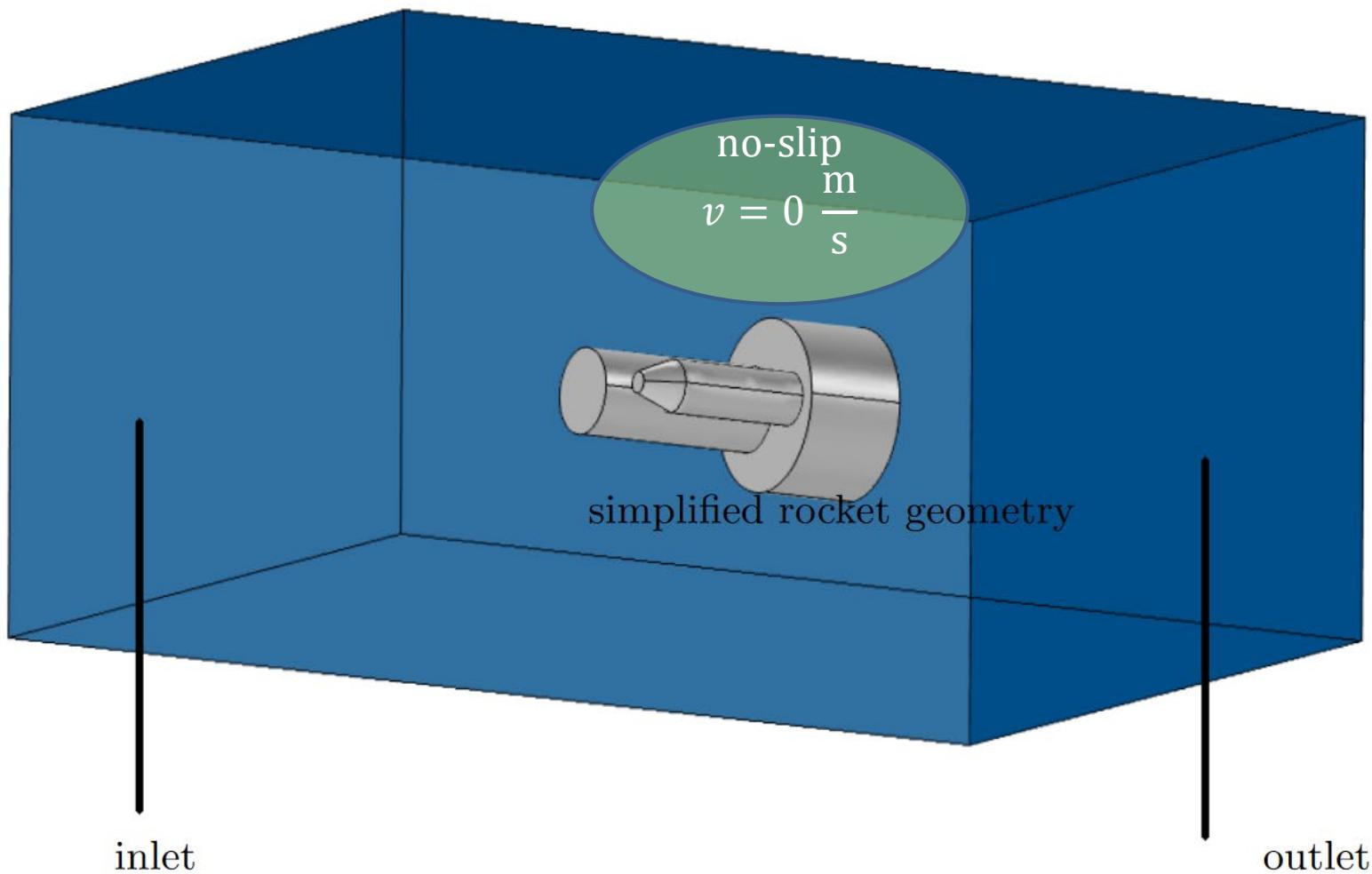
$\vec{q} = k \nabla T$ : heat flow vector

$k$ : thermal conductivity

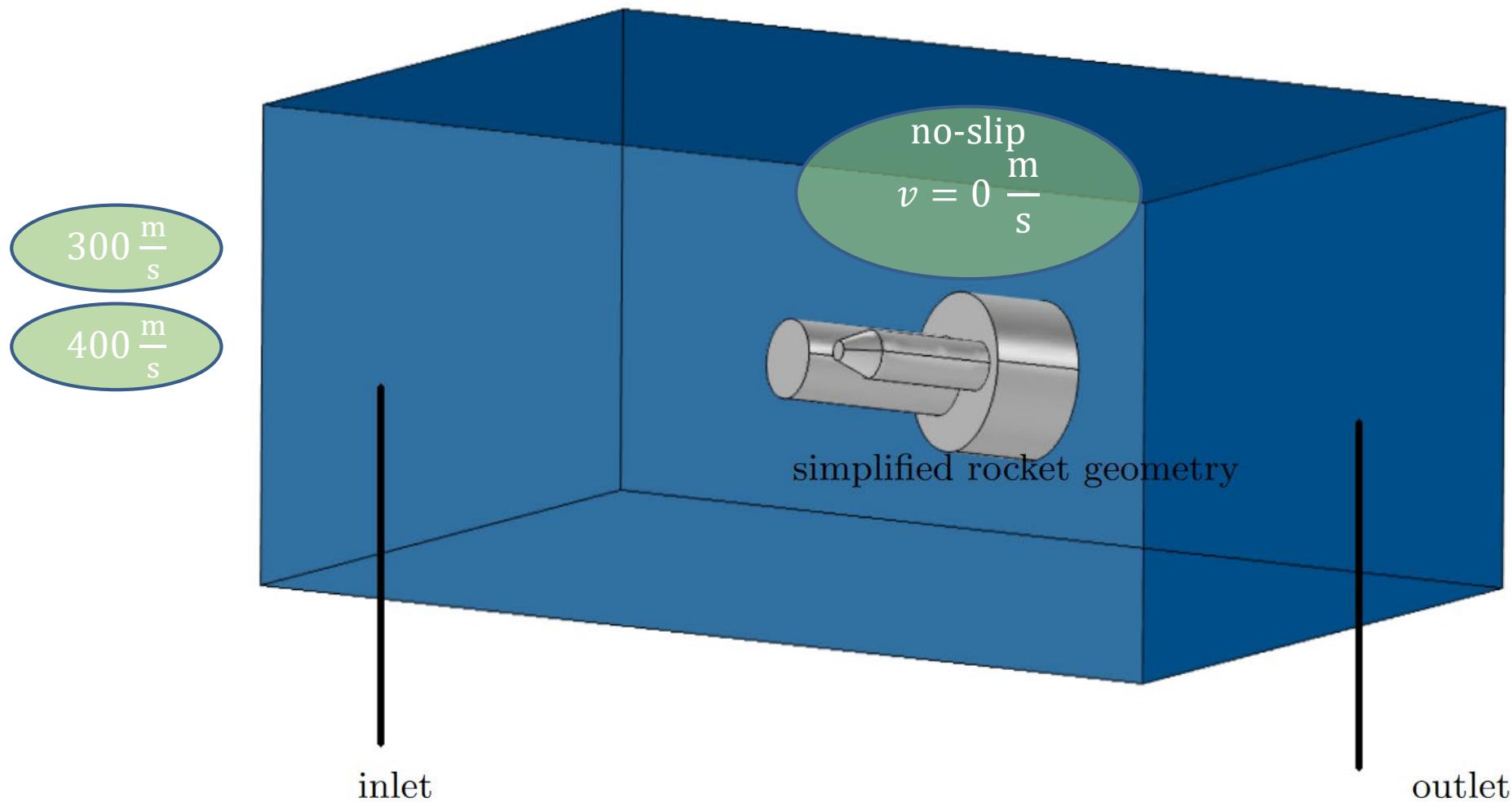
# Simulation geometry



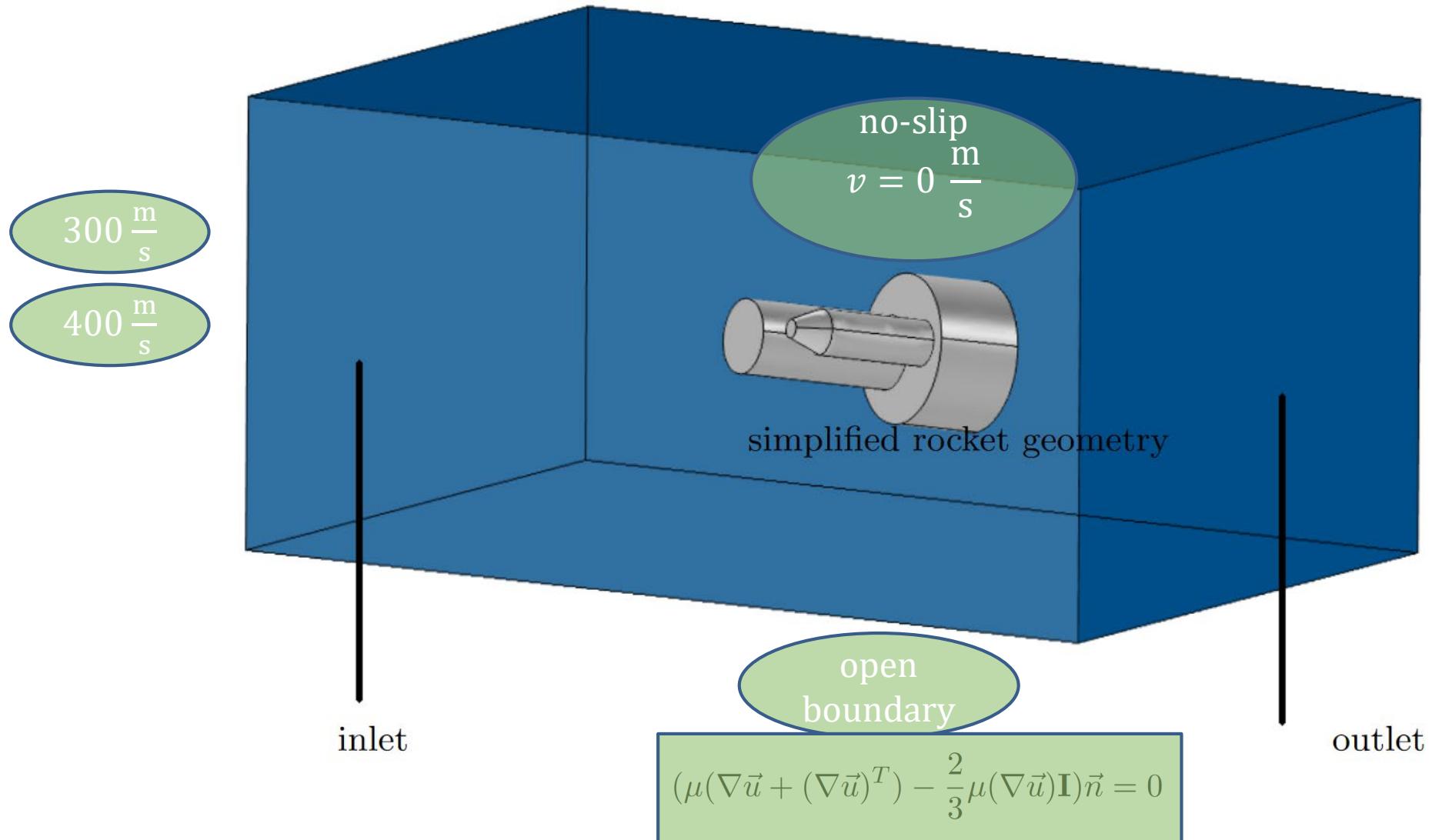
# Simulation geometry



# Simulation geometry



# Simulation geometry

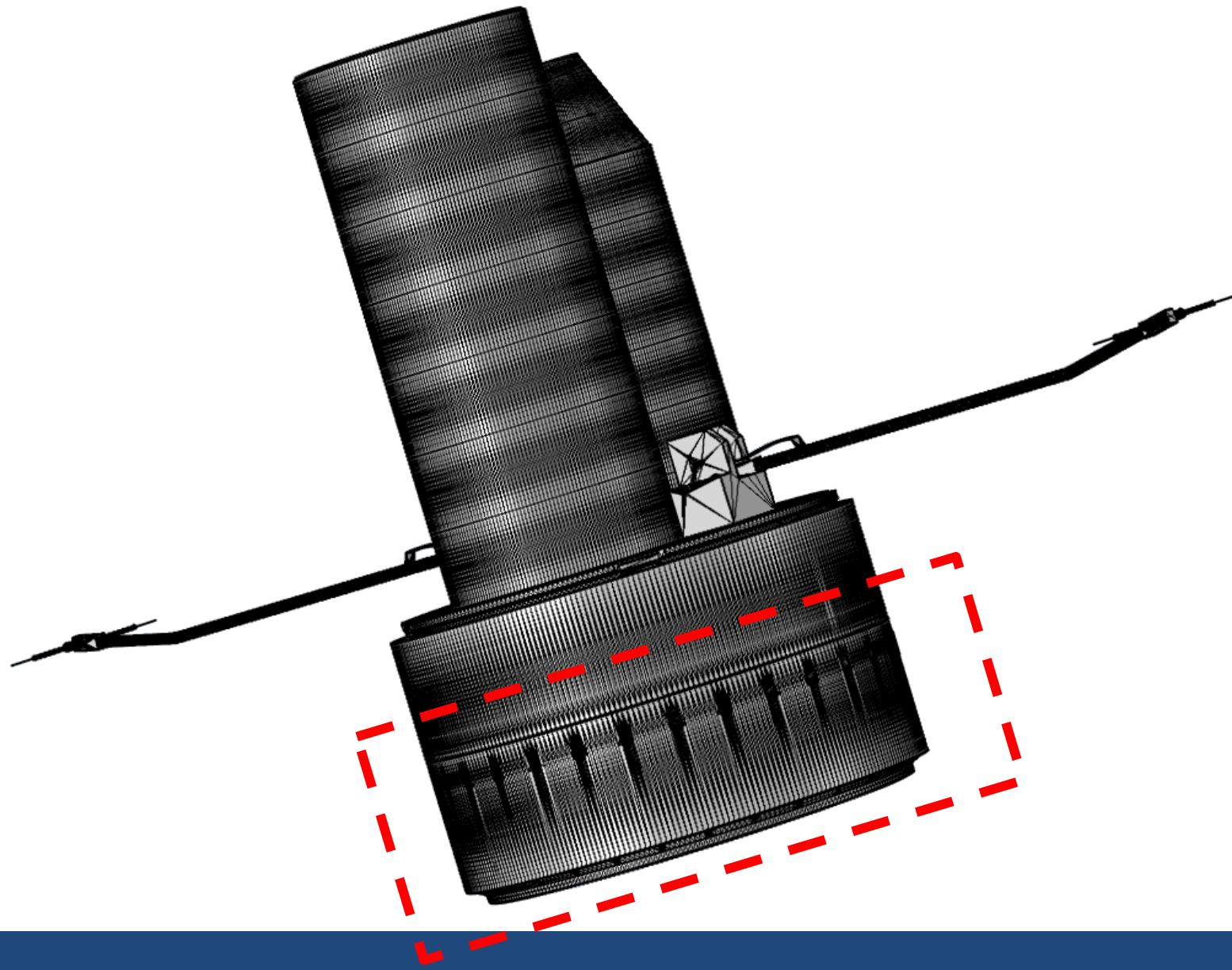


# Computing data of our COMSOL model

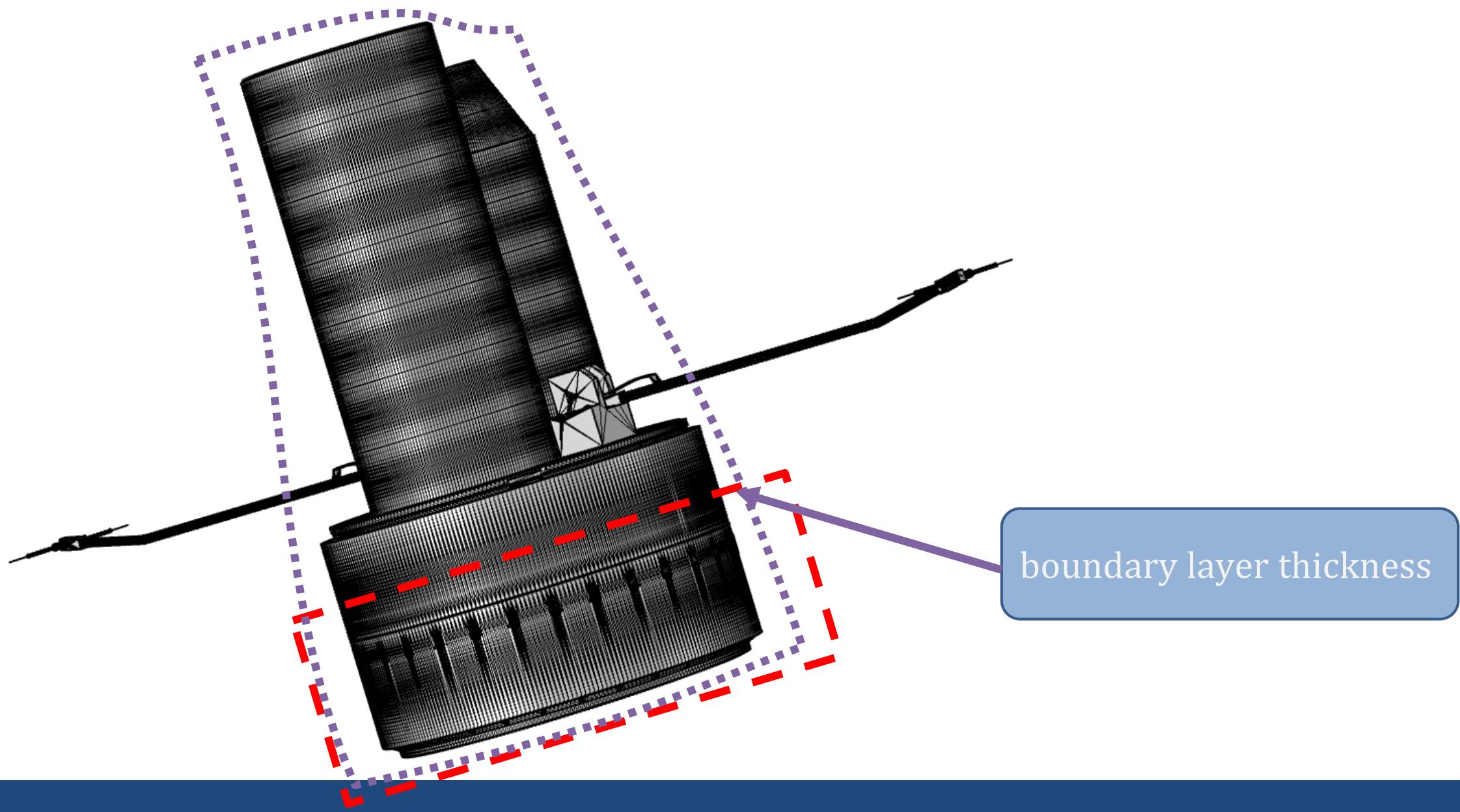
- Combination of tetrahedral, pyramidal, prismatic mesh elements
- ~4 million mesh elements
- Smallest element sizes: ~ 1 mm
- Time discretization by BDF (backward differentiation formula) method
- Cluster computing:
  - 6 nodes
  - 70 cores
  - 396 GB RAM (working storage)
- Solving time up to 20 days

Simulation based development  
of the particle collector

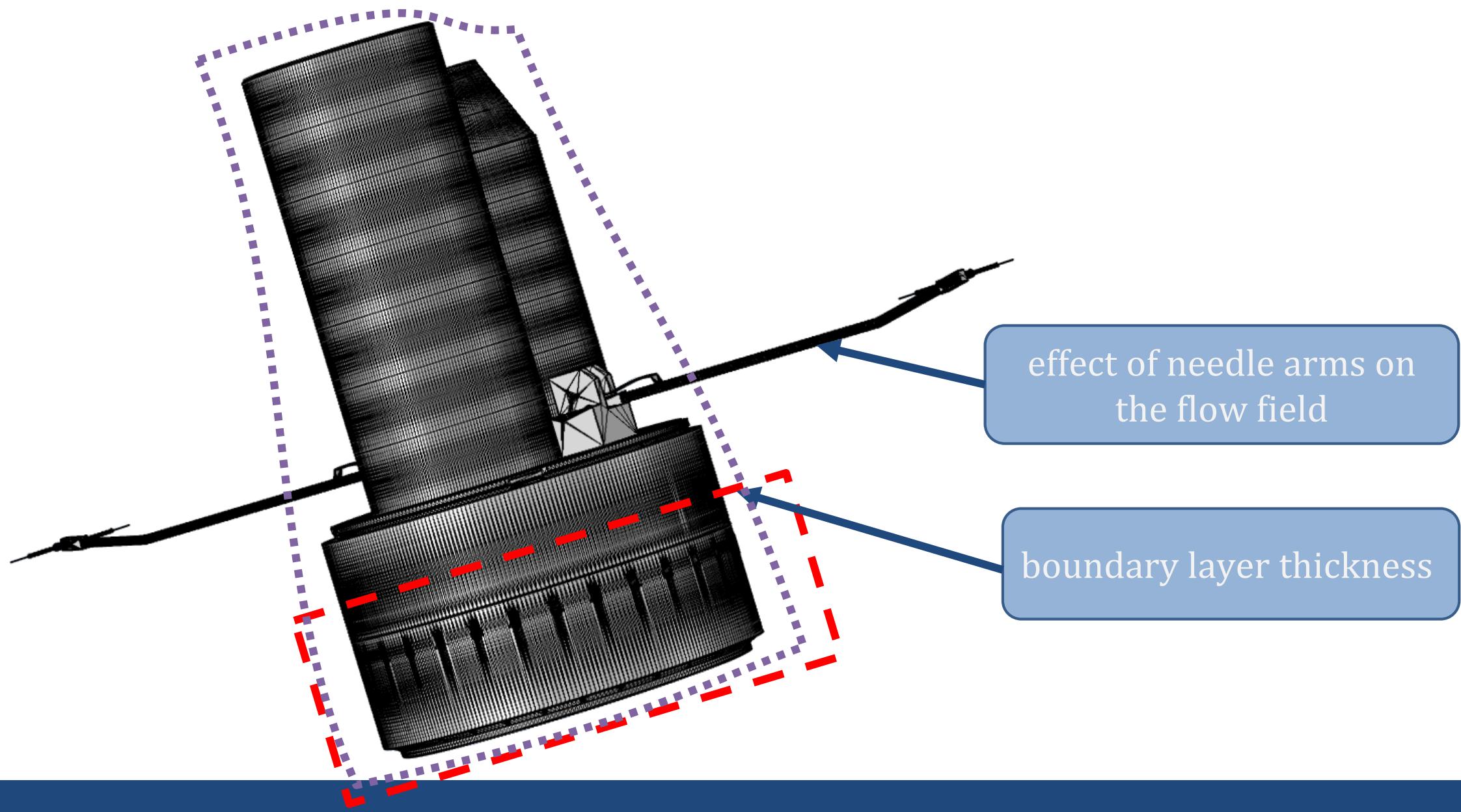
# Development of the particle collector



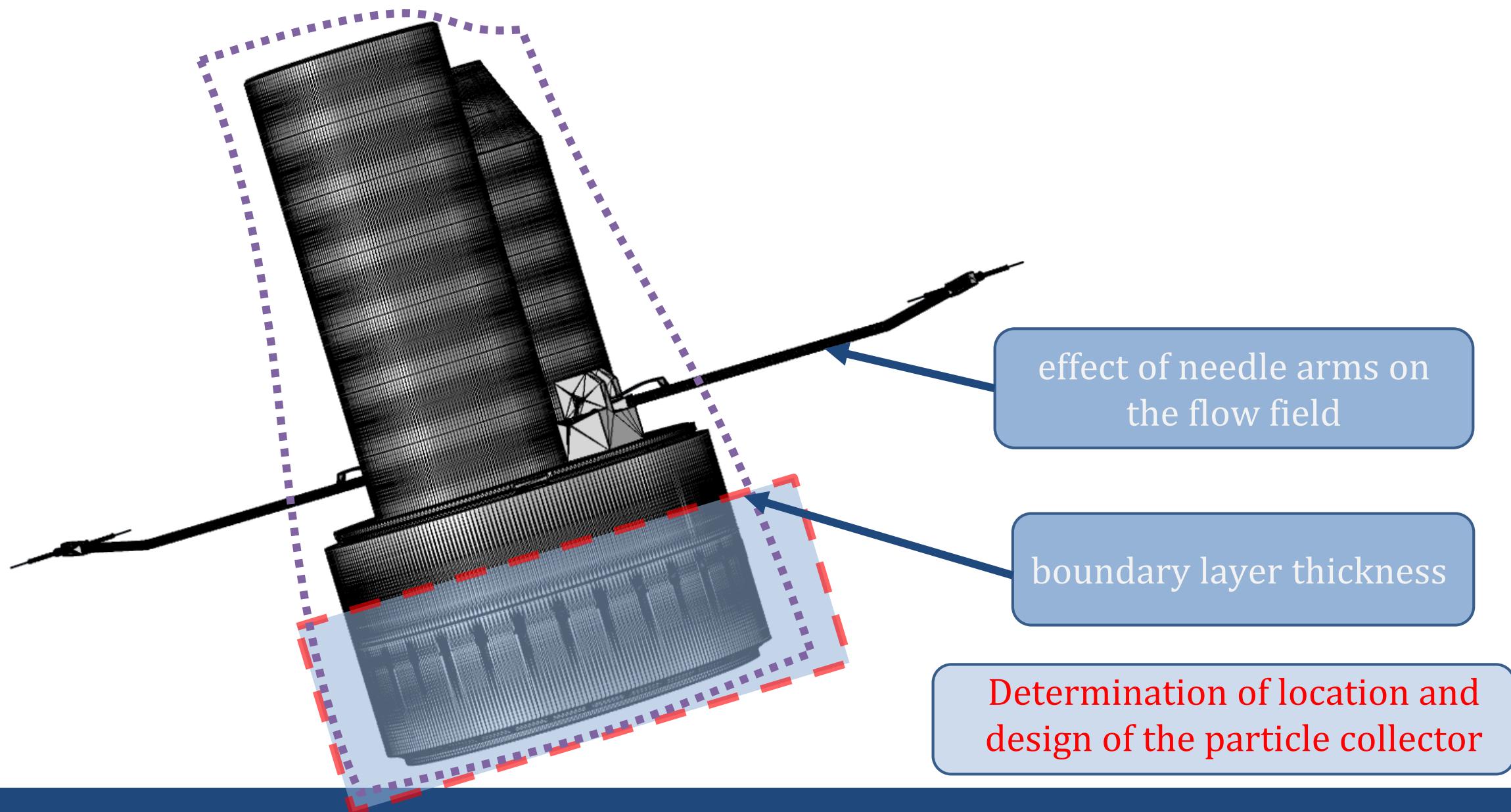
# Development of the particle collector



# Development of the particle collector



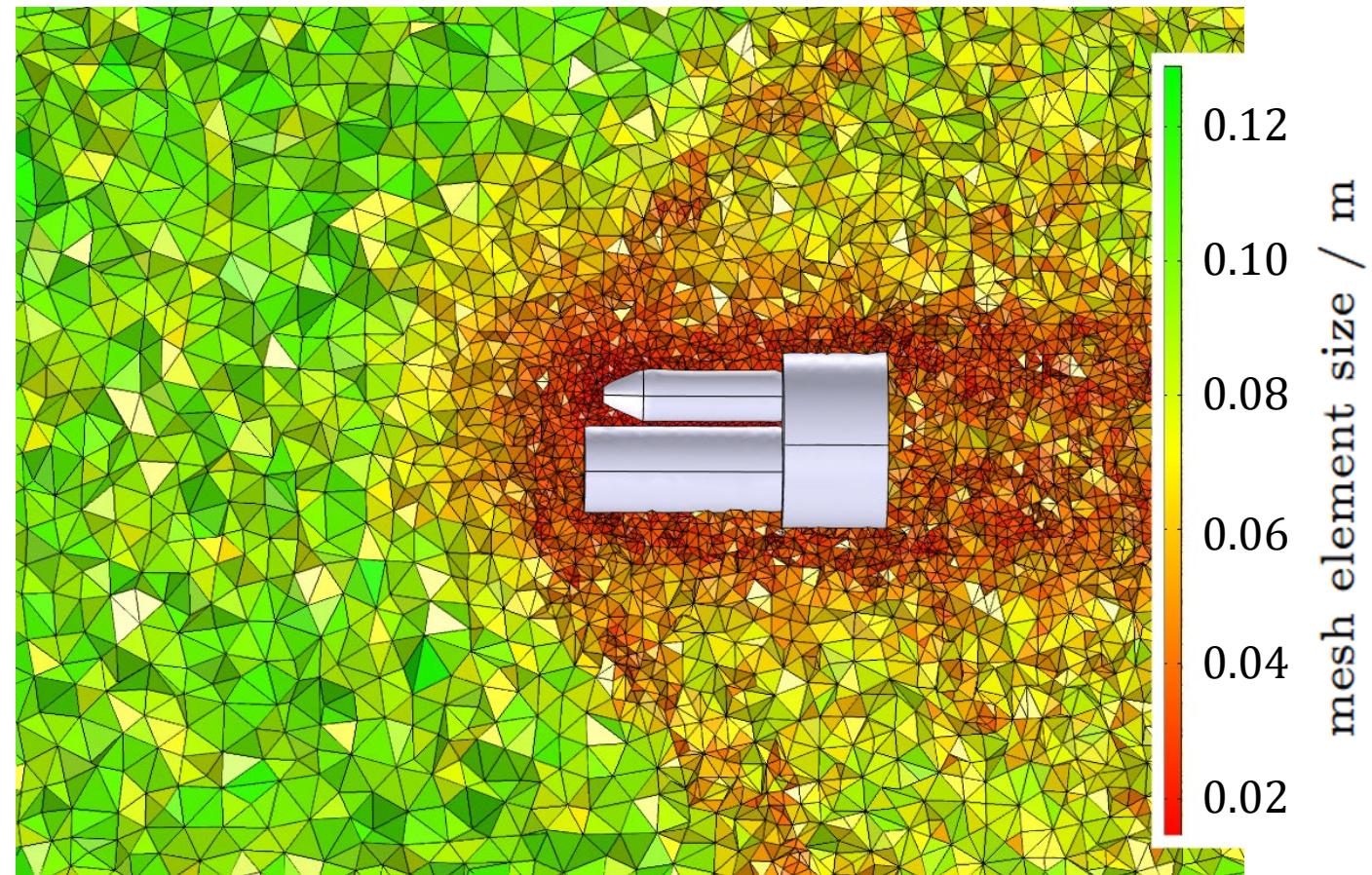
# Development of the particle collector



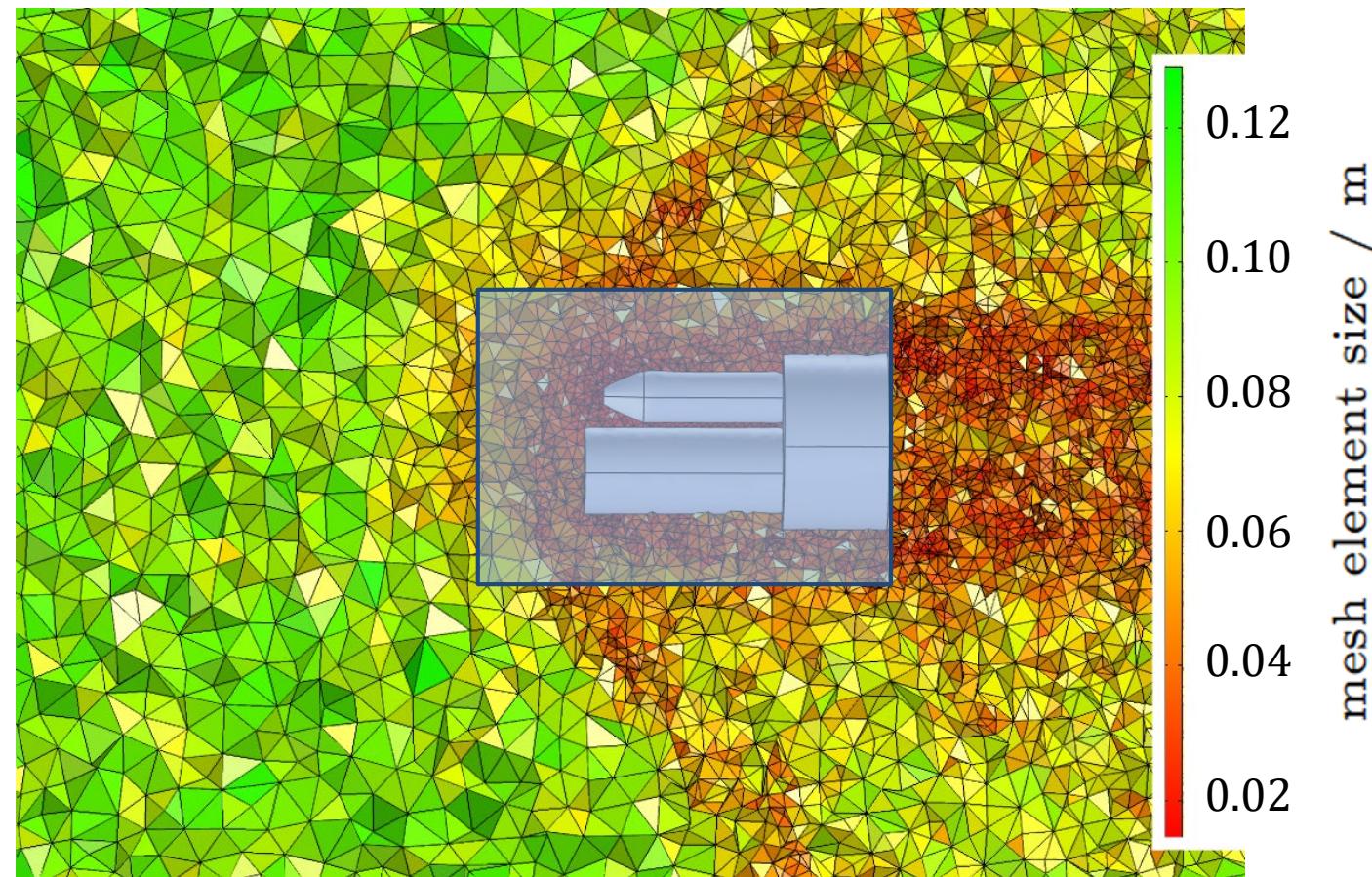
# Generated 3D mesh for simulations

Mesh refinement by the  
error indicator:

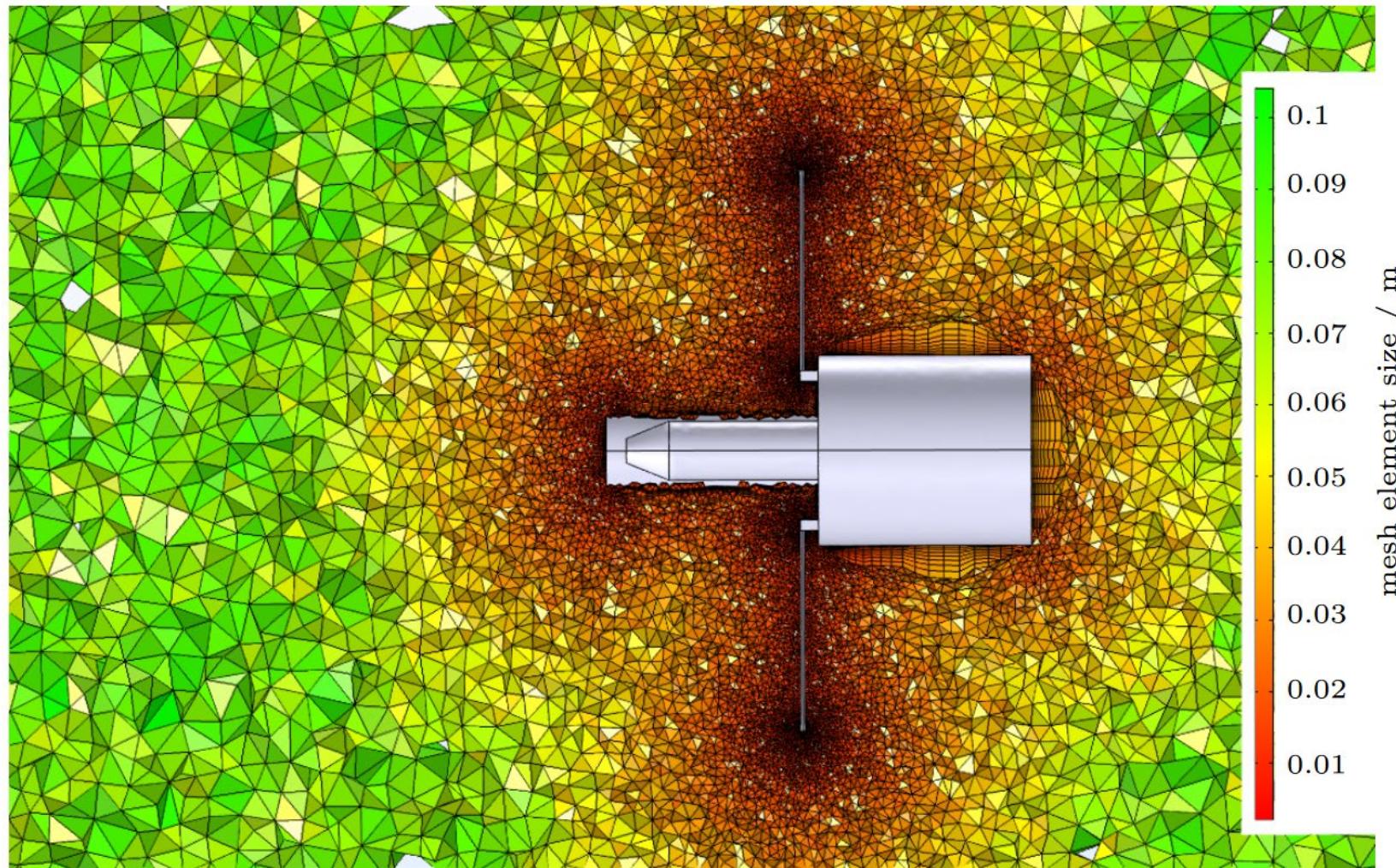
$$\|\nabla \vec{u}\|$$



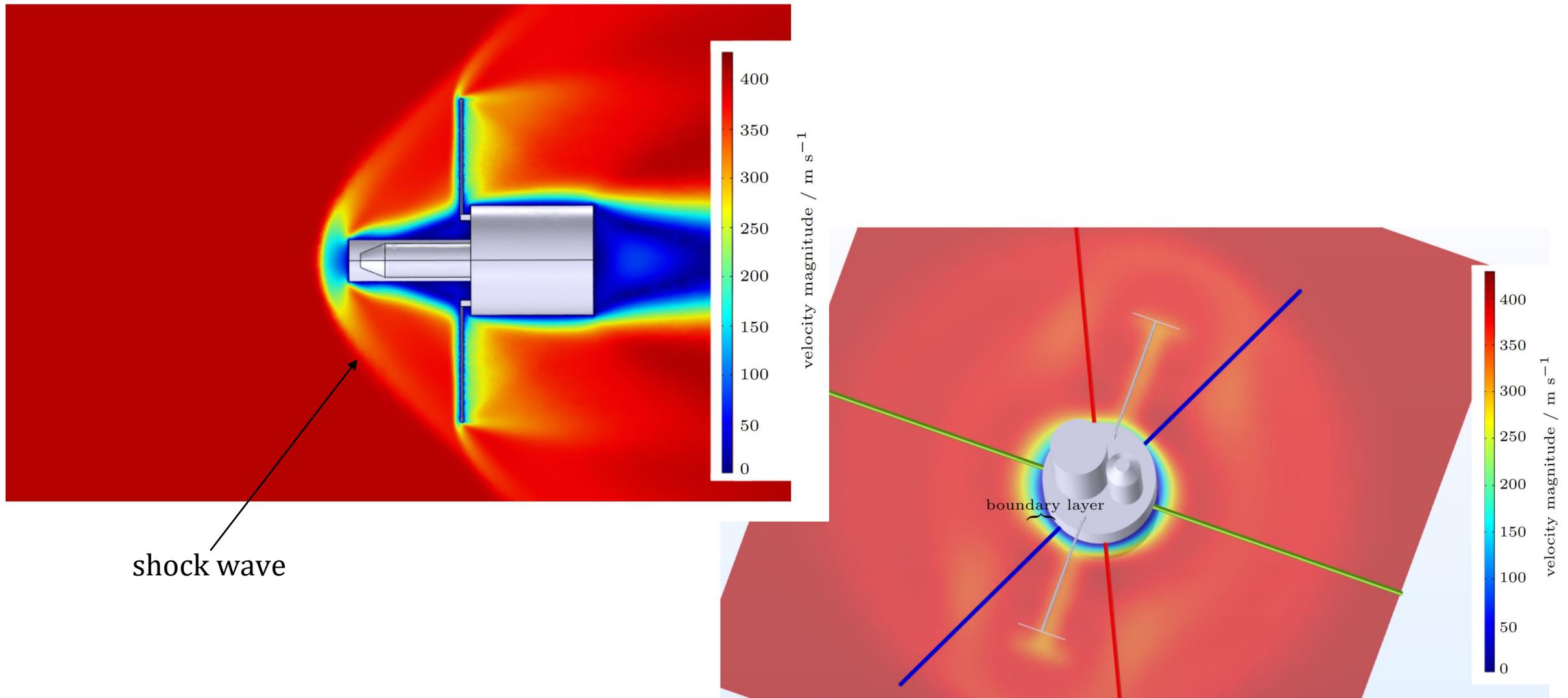
# Generated 3D mesh for simulations



# Generated 3D mesh for simulations

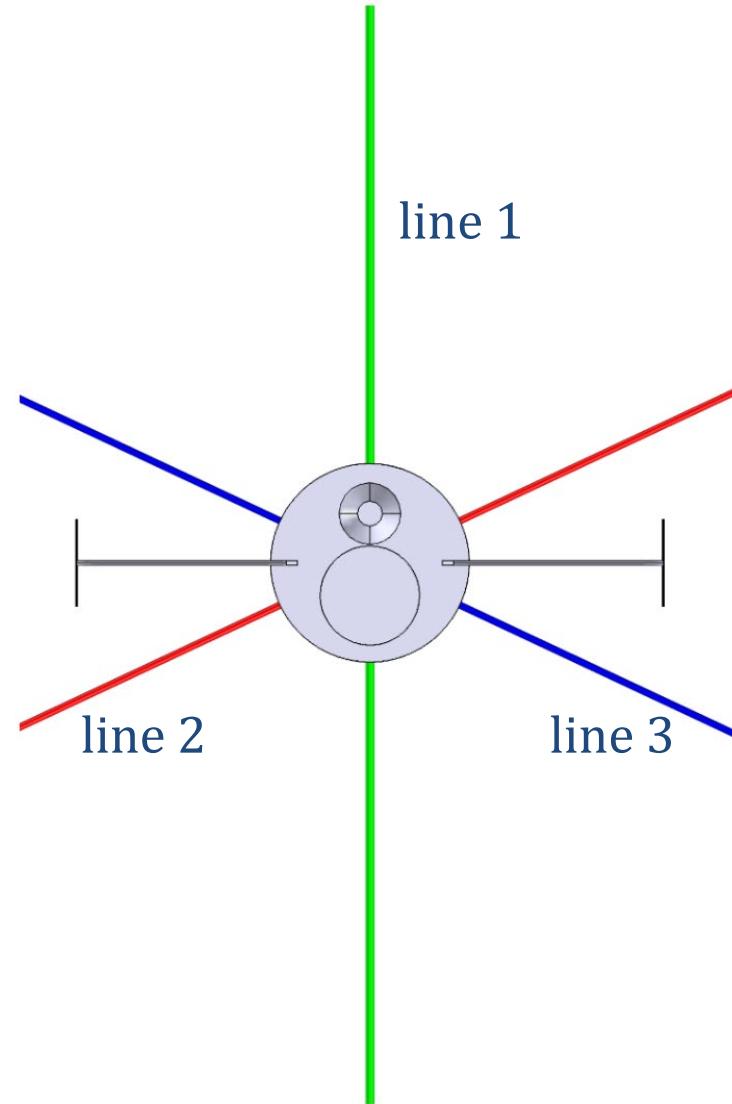
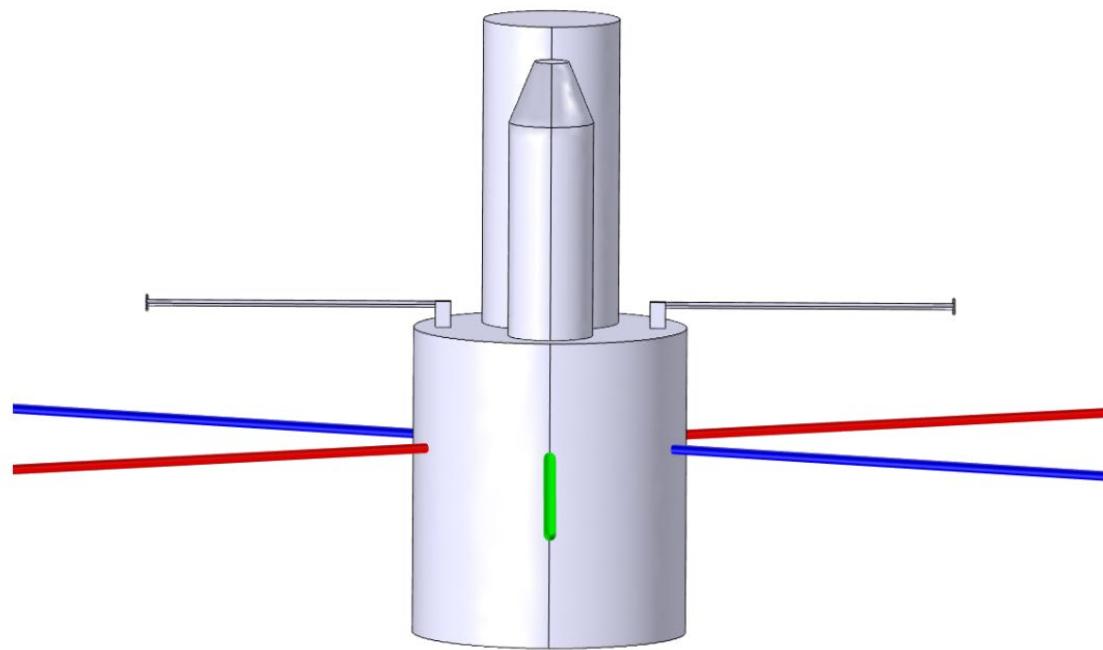


# Flow field around the payload tip

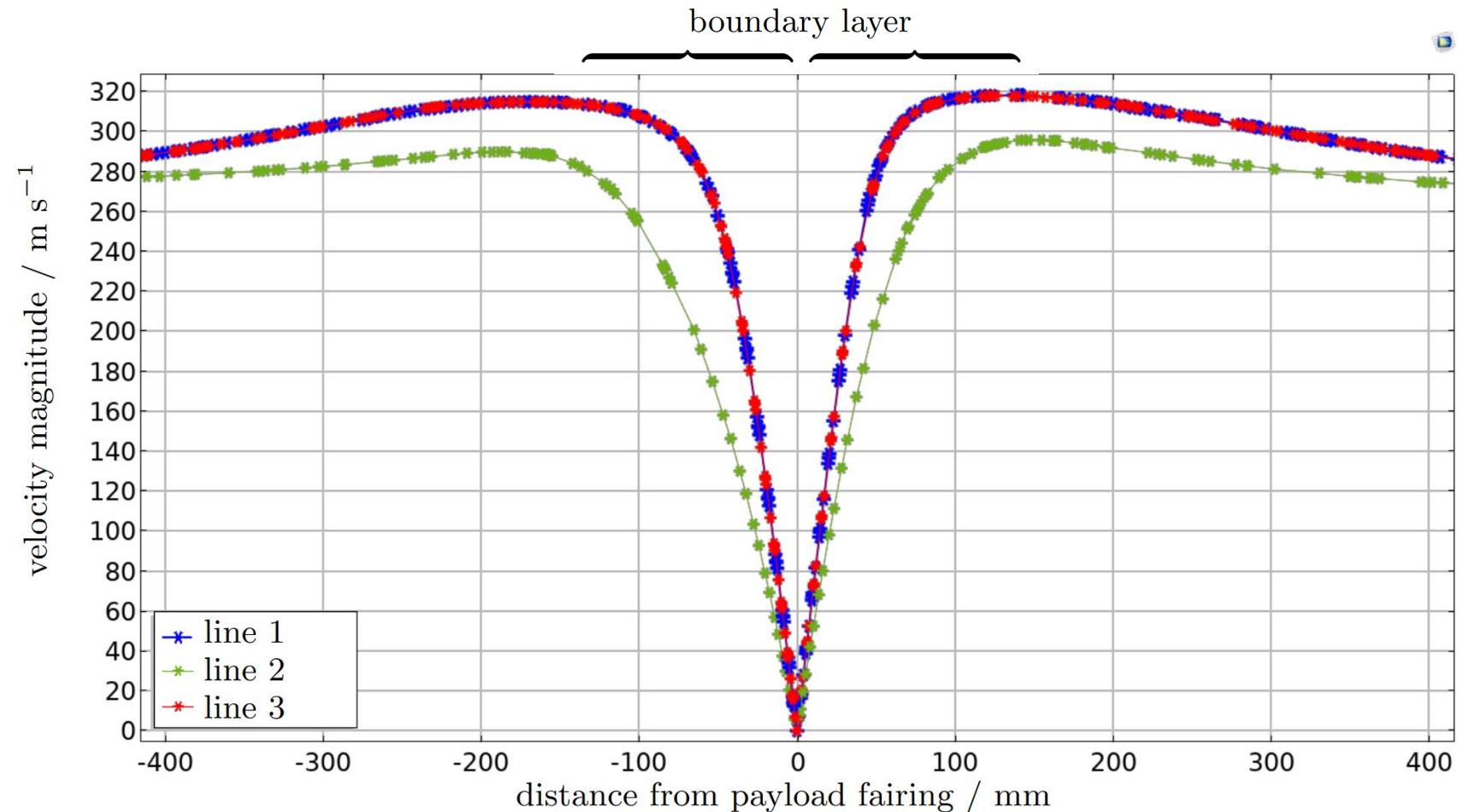
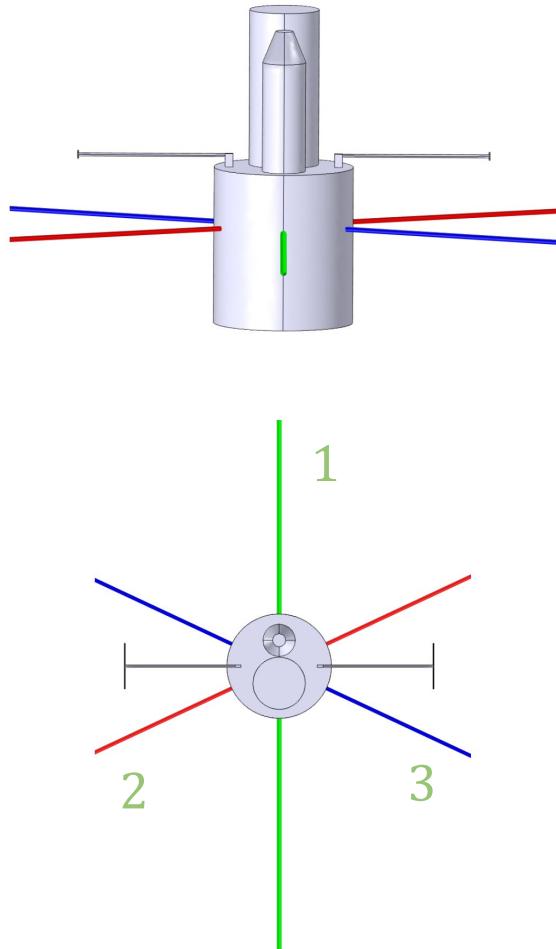


Velocity magnitude depicted on a cut plane perpendicular to the payload tip

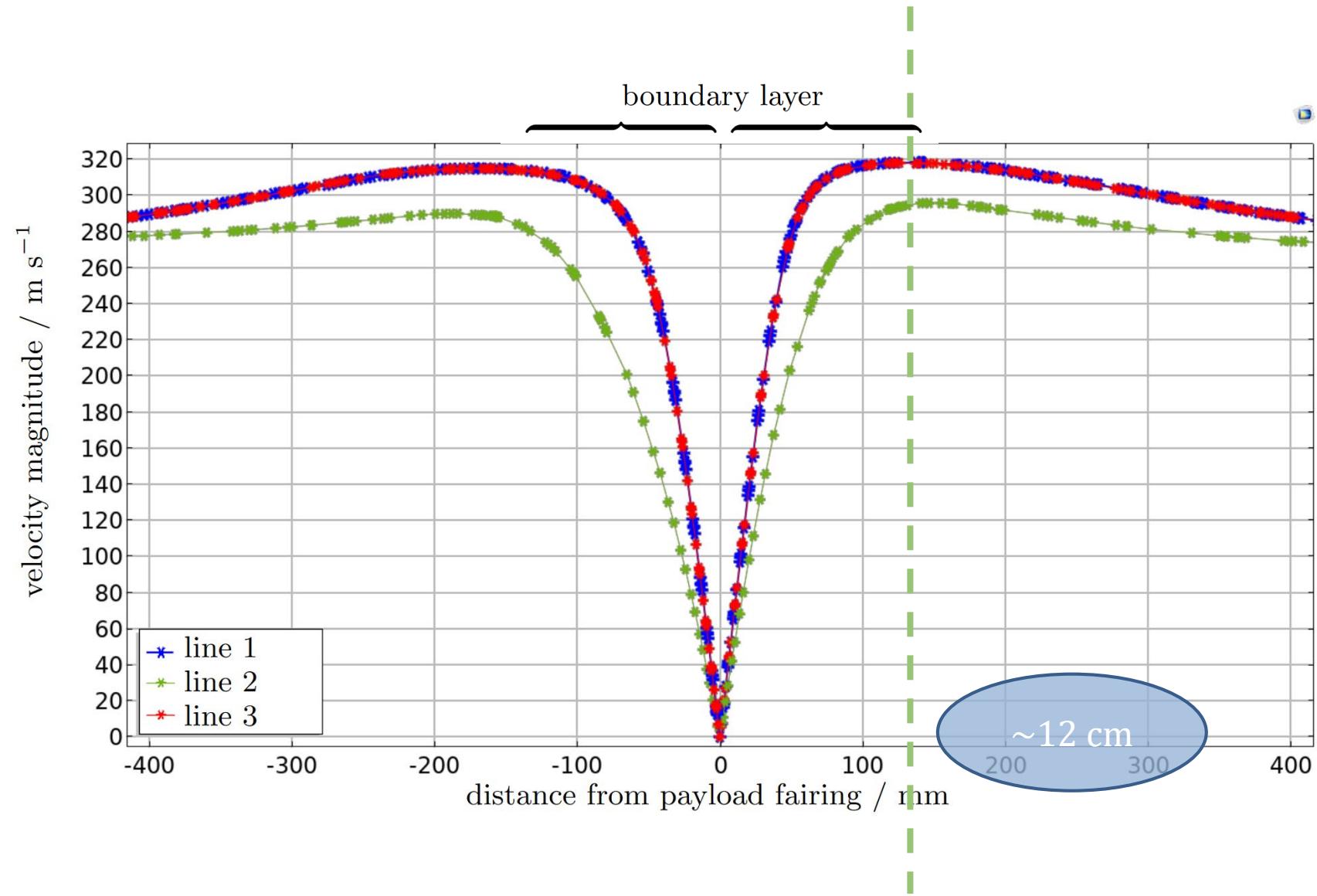
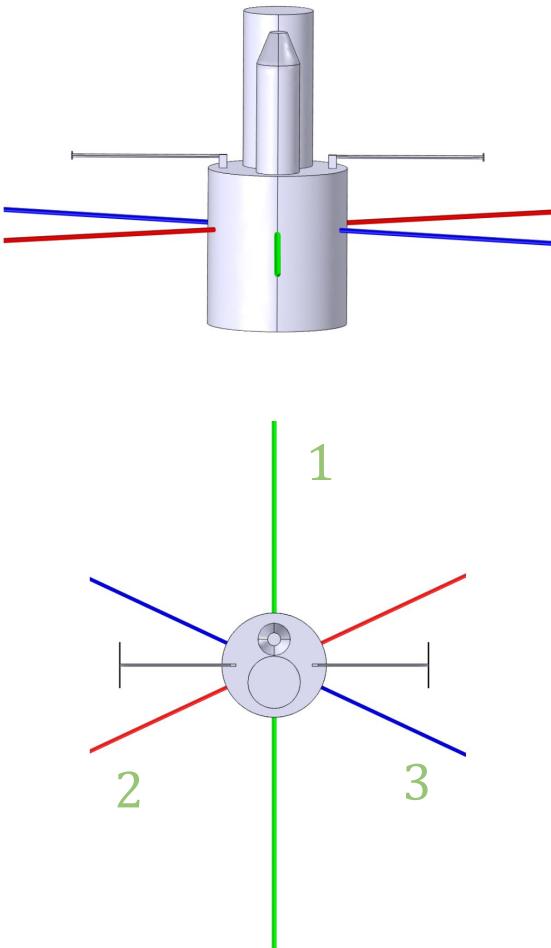
# Analyzing velocity magnitudes along cut lines



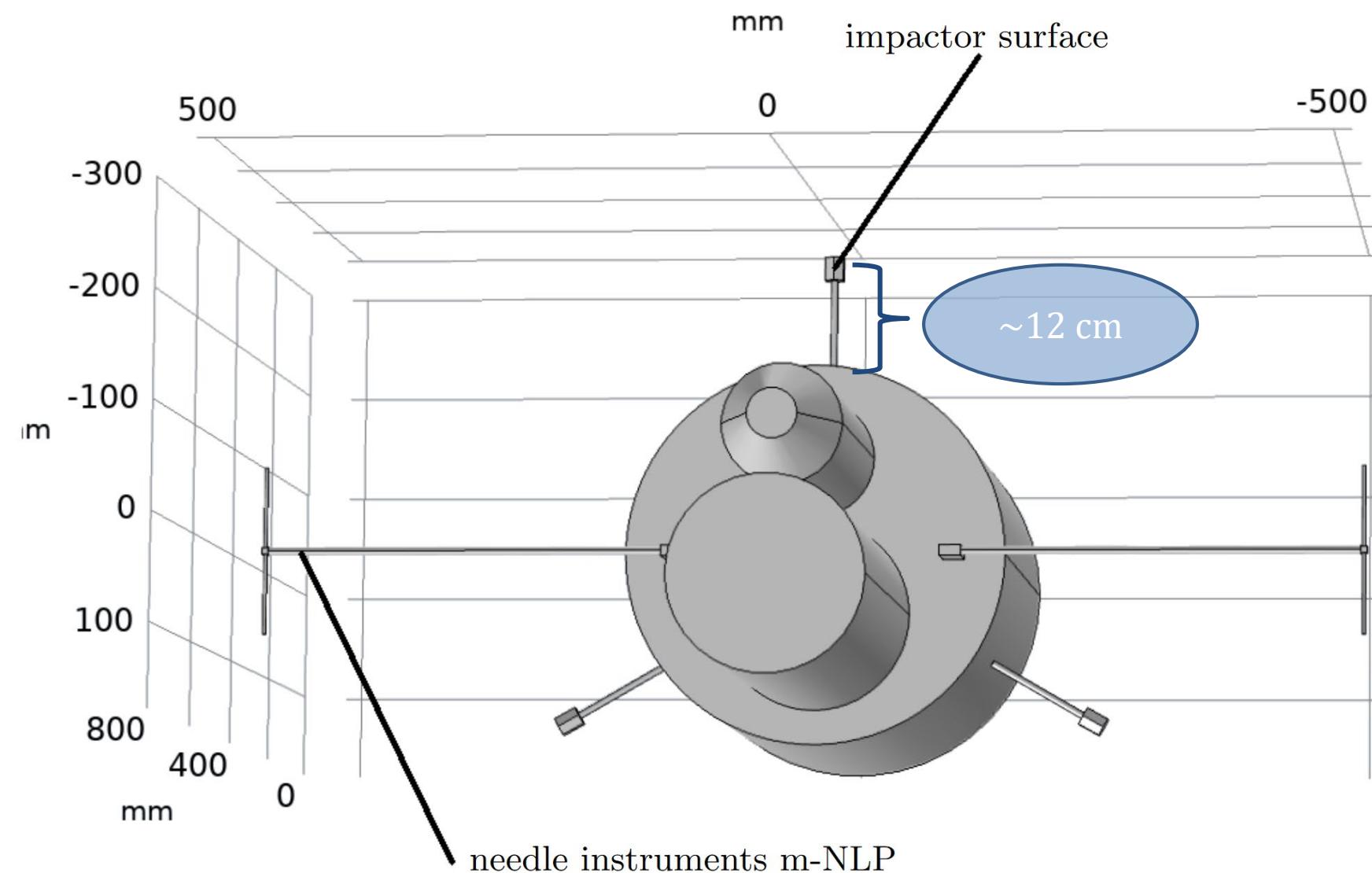
# Analyzing velocity magnitudes along cut lines



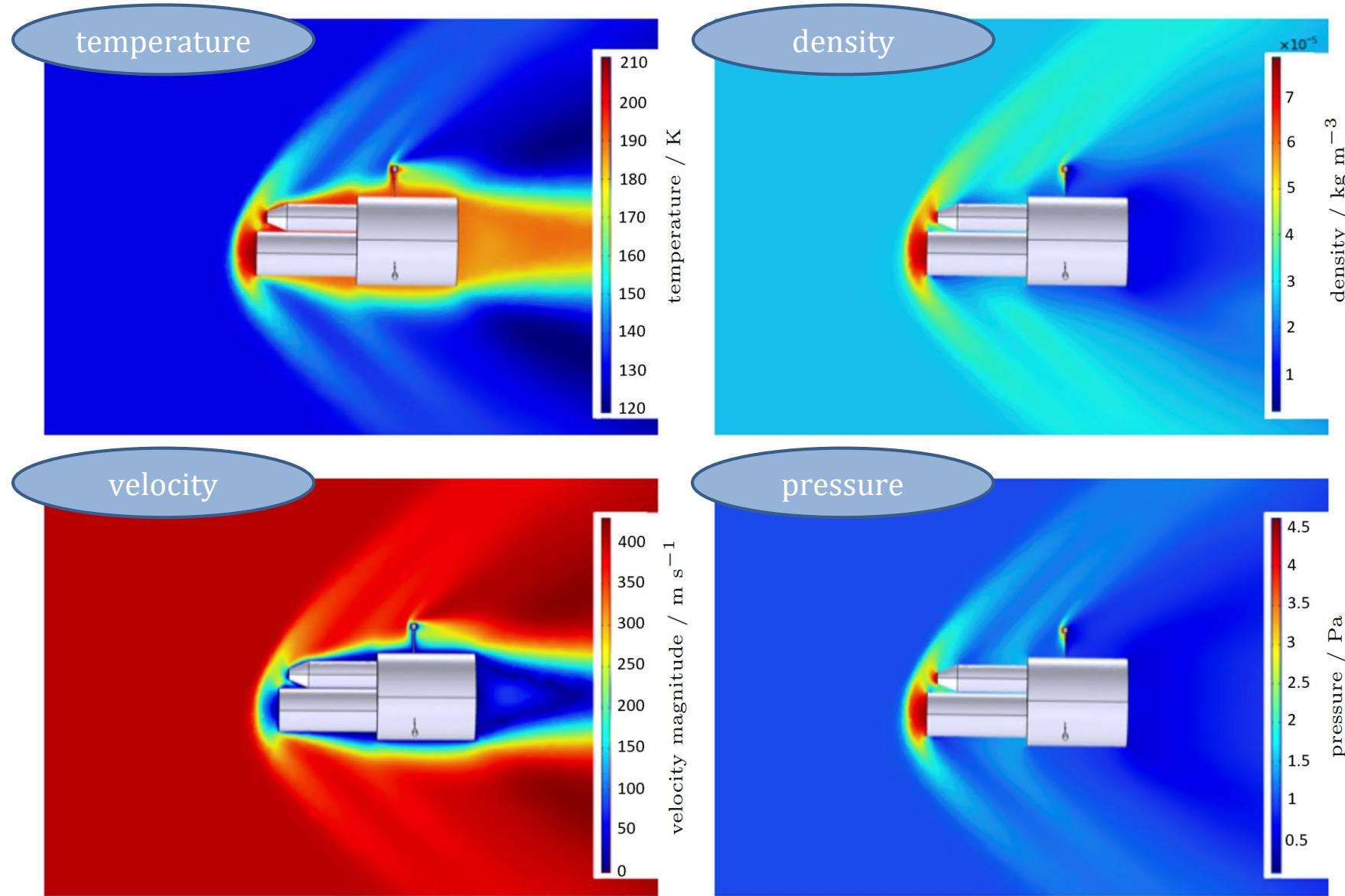
# Analyzing velocity magnitudes along cut lines



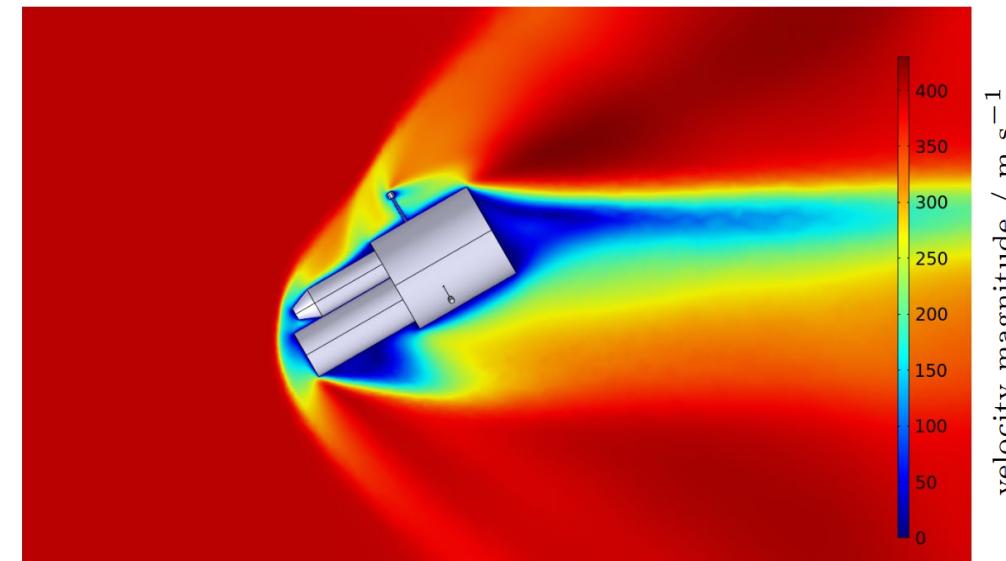
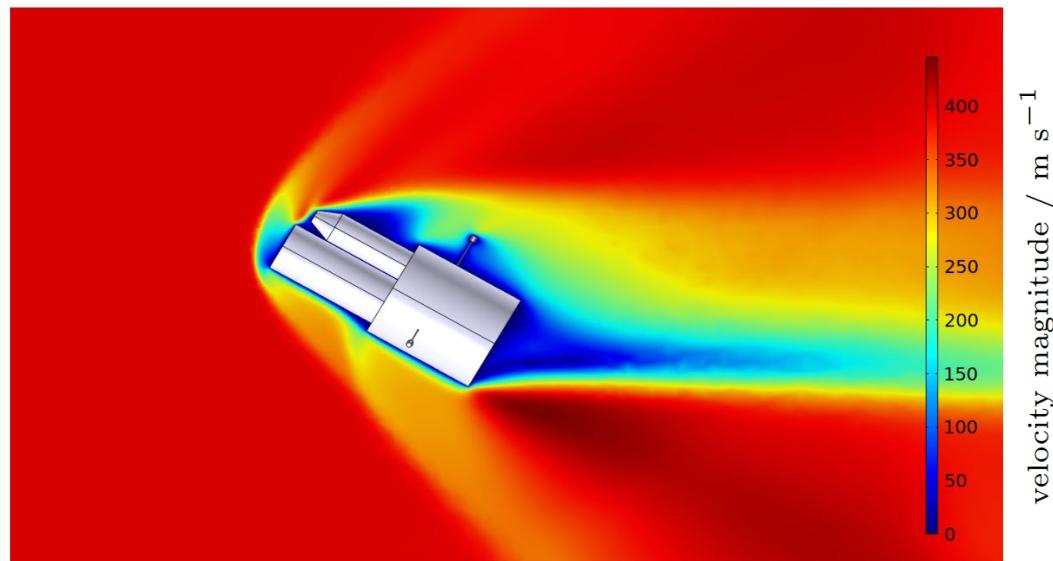
# Final location and design of the samplers



# Flow field around the payload tip 0° angle of attack



# Flow field around the payload tip at $\pm 30^\circ$ angle of attack



Mathematical and numerical  
model of particle simulations

# Particle data

Particle volume fraction

$$\Phi_p = \frac{nV_p}{V} \leq 10^{-6}$$



one-way  
coupling

Knudsen number

$$Kn_p = \frac{2\lambda}{d_p} > 1$$

Cunningham  
slip corrector

$n$ : number of particles

$V_p$ : particle volume

$V$ : fluid volume

$Kn_p$ : Knudsen number

$\lambda$  : mean free path

$d_p$ : particle diameter

# Estimation of particle forces

forces	mathematical expressions	estimated magnitude of forces / N
Brownian force	$\vec{F}_{Brown} = \zeta \sqrt{\frac{6 \pi \mu k_B T d_p}{\Delta t C_c}}$	$\sim 10^{-18}$
Stokes drag force	$\vec{F}_D = 3 \pi \mu_f d_p \vec{u}_r C_c^{-1}$	$\sim 10^{-18}$
Saffman force	$\vec{F}_S = 1.615 d_p^2 \vec{L}_f \sqrt{\rho_f \mu_f \frac{1}{ \nabla \times \vec{u}_r }}$	$\sim 10^{-22}$
gravitational force	$\vec{F}_{G,tot} = m_p \frac{\rho_p - \rho_f}{\rho_p} \vec{g}$	$\sim 10^{-23}$
added mass force	$\vec{F}_{am} = m_f c_{am} \frac{d(\vec{u}_f - \vec{v}_p)}{dt}$	$\sim 10^{-25}$
pressure gradient force	$\vec{F}_p = -\frac{m_p}{\rho_p} \nabla p$	$\sim 10^{-28}$

# Estimation of particle forces

forces	mathematical expressions	estimated magnitude of forces / N
Brownian force	$\vec{F}_{Brown} = \vec{\zeta} \sqrt{\frac{6 \pi \mu k_B T d_p}{\Delta t C_c}}$	$\sim 10^{-18}$
Stokes drag force	$\vec{F}_D = 3 \pi \mu_f d_p \vec{u}_r C_c^{-1}$	$\sim 10^{-18}$

$$\vec{F} = m \cdot \vec{a}$$

$$m_p \frac{d^2 \vec{x}}{dt^2} = \vec{\zeta} \sqrt{\frac{6\pi\mu k_B T d_p}{\Delta t C_c}} + \frac{3\pi\mu_f d_p \vec{u}_r}{C_c}$$

Brownian force

Stokes drag force

$\rho$ : density

$\vec{x}$ : particle position

$k_B$ : Boltzmann constant

$T$ : temperature

$d_p$ : particle diameter

$C_C$ : Cunningham slip corrector

$\vec{\zeta}$ : vector of random numbers

$\mu_f$ : fluid viscosity

$C_C$ : Cunningham slip corrector

$\vec{u}_r$ : relative particle velocity

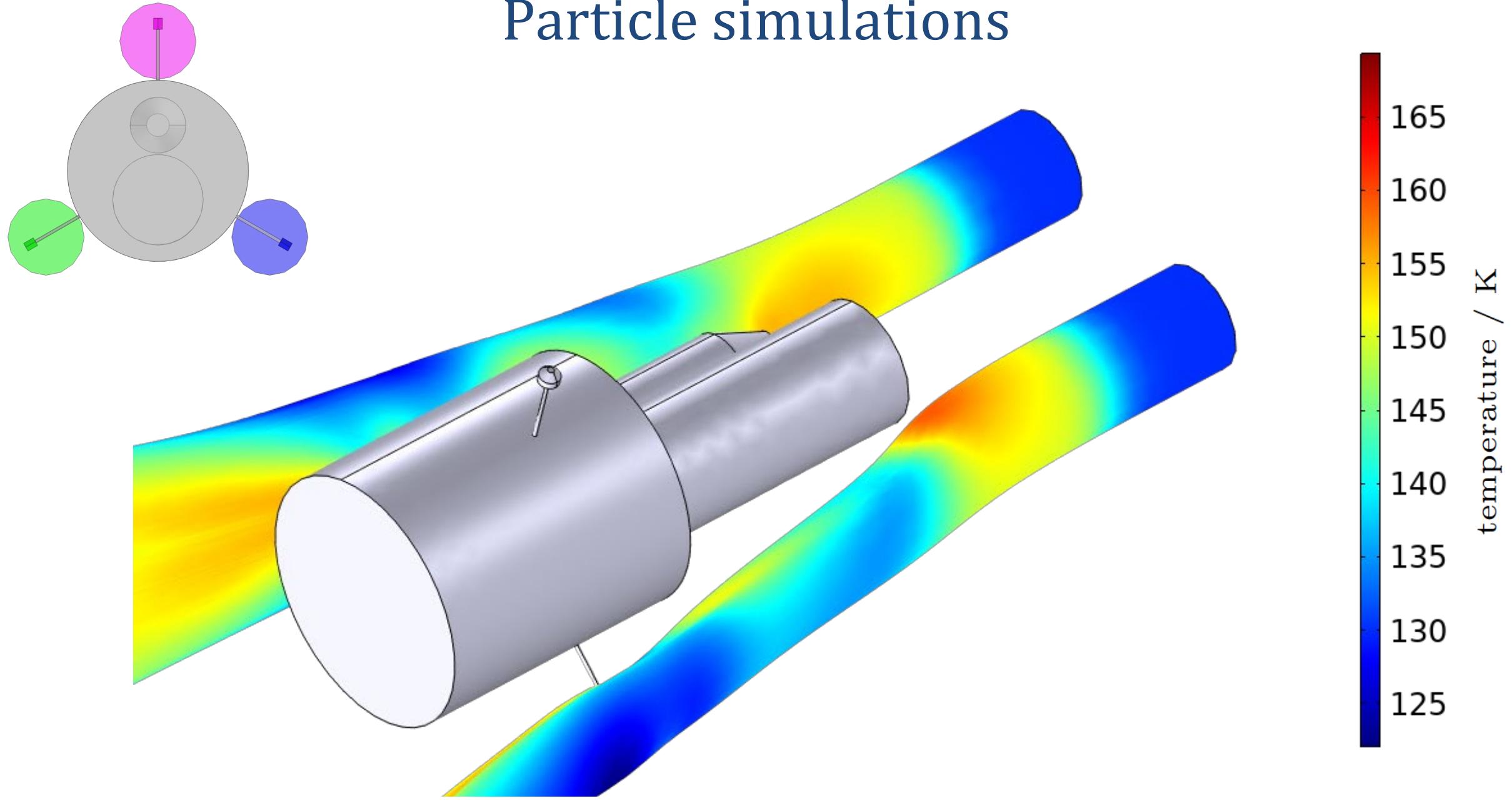
# Particle calculations

particle numbers	particle concentration [cm <sup>-3</sup> ]
168 000	1
1 680 000	11
2 520 000	17
3 700 000	25
5 700 000	38

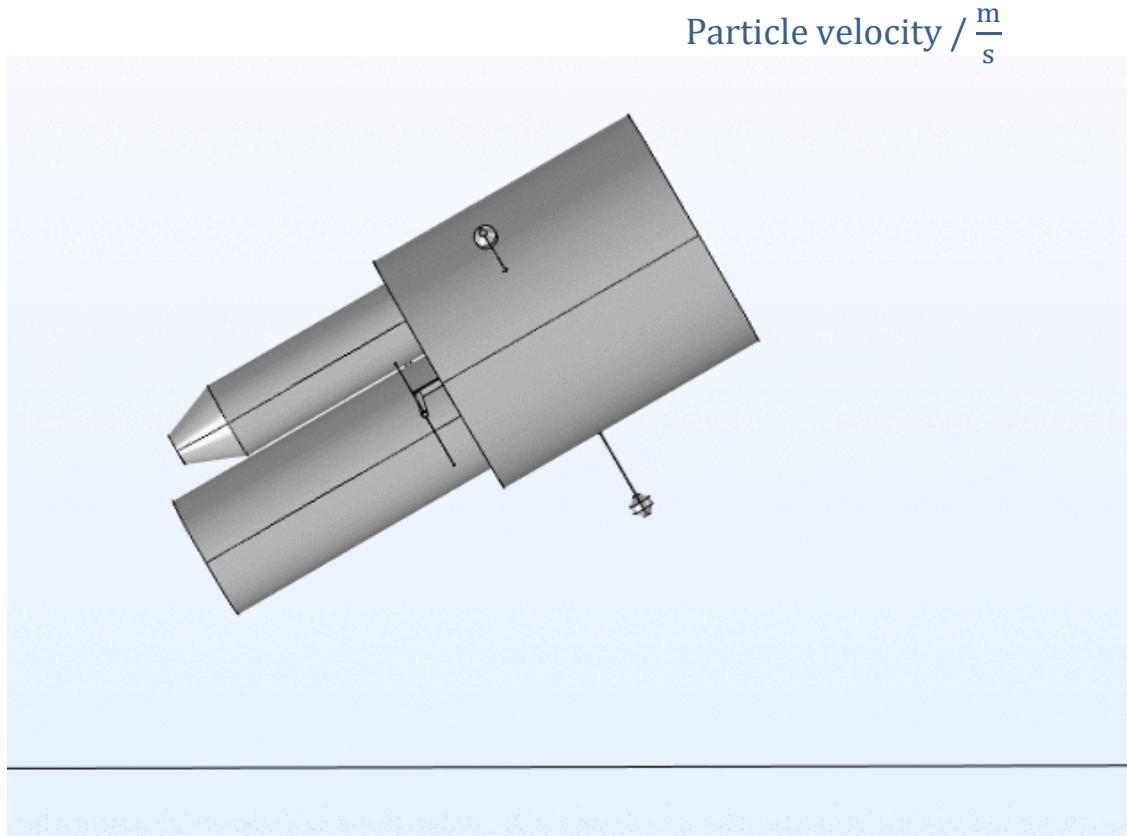
- Comsol implemented generalized  $\alpha$ -method
- Parametric sweep
- Total solving time:  $\sim 3$  days

# Simulation setup and results of particle calculations

# Particle simulations

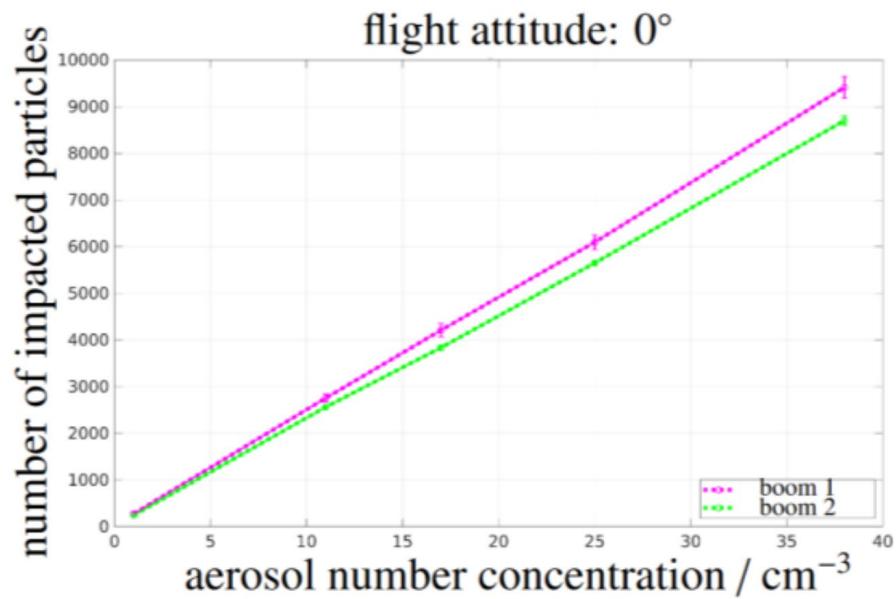


# Particle simulation

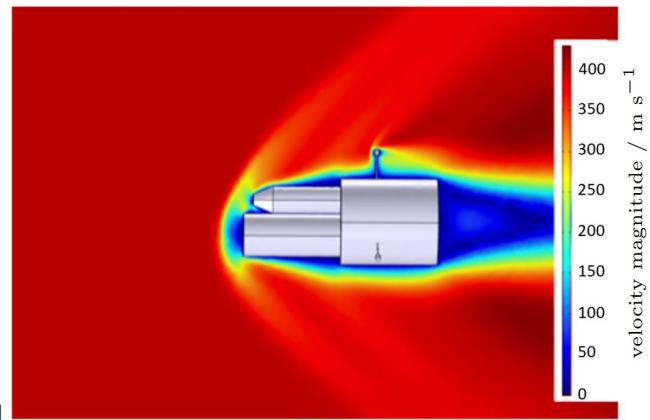


Particle velocity /  $\frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$

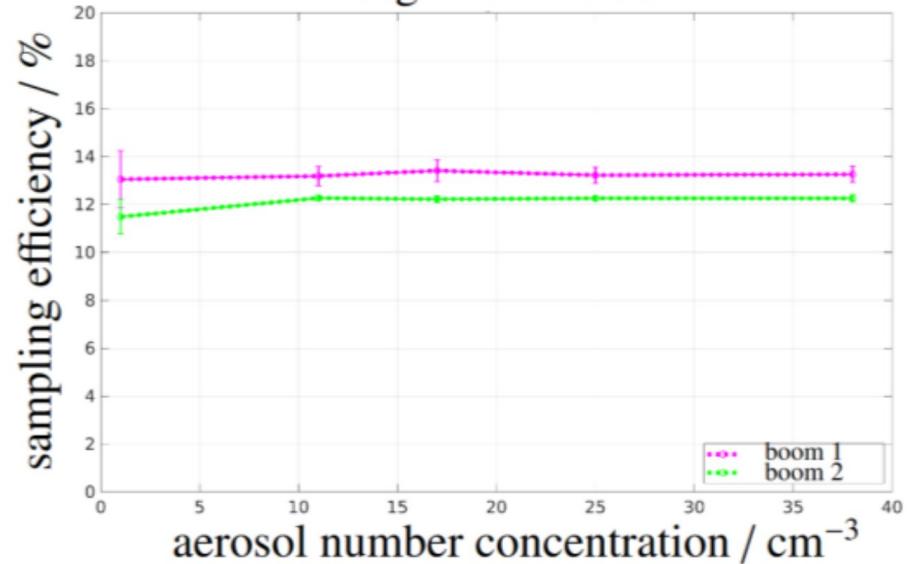
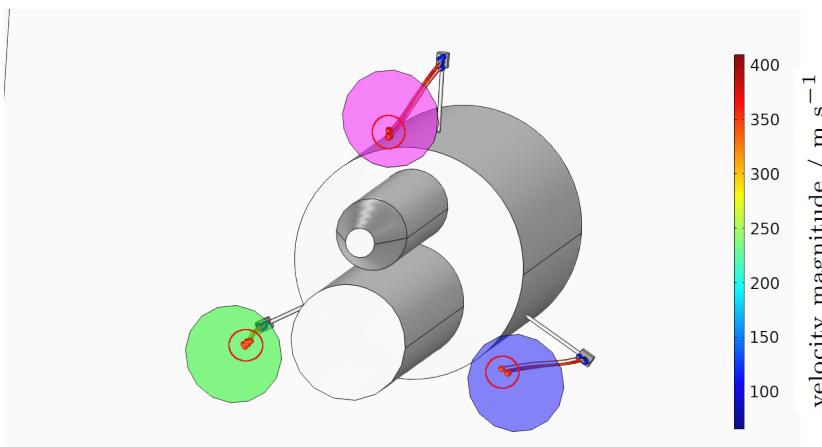
# Particle simulation results



$$\text{efficiency} = \frac{C_{\text{impacted}}}{C_{\text{released}}}$$

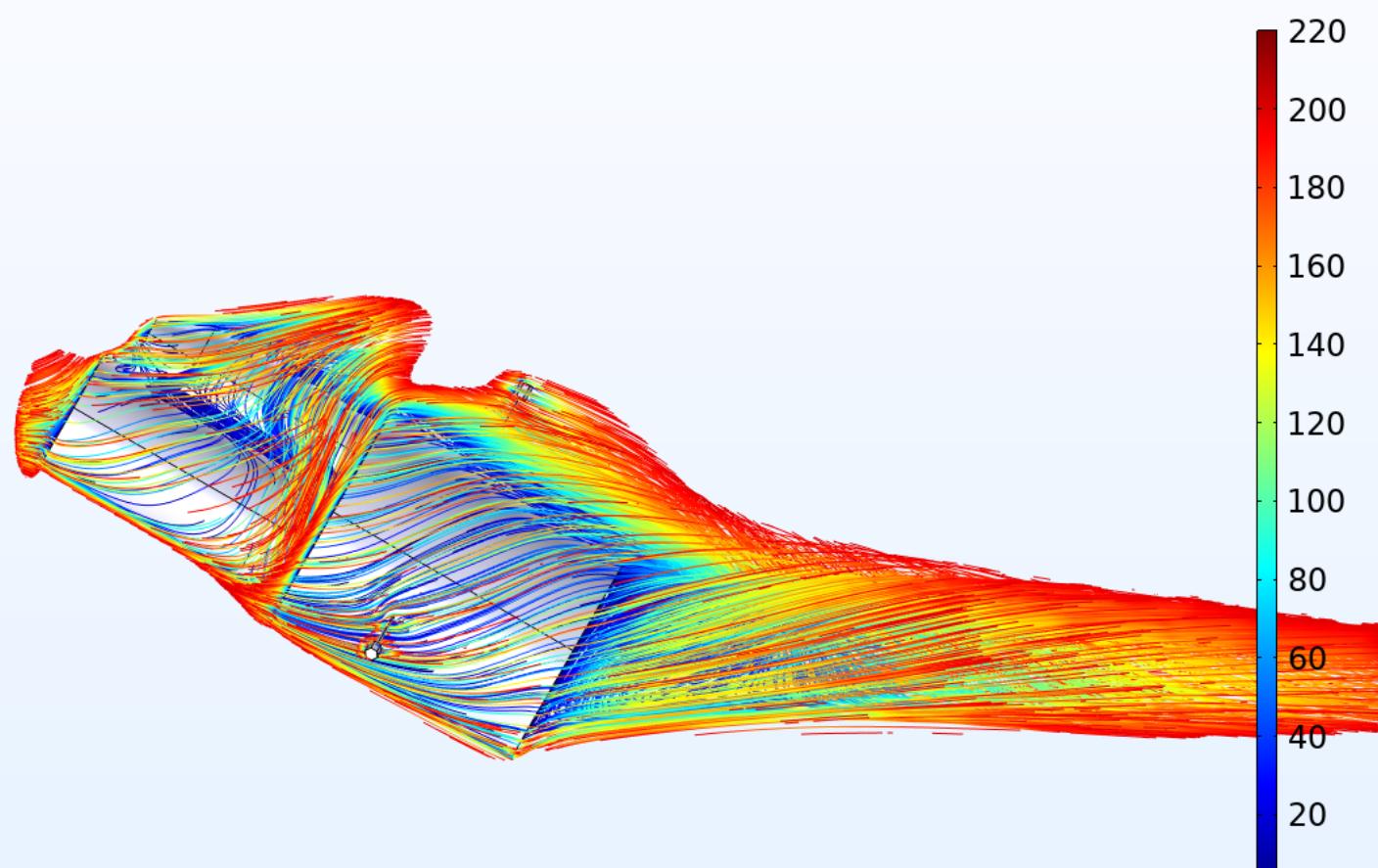


flight attitude: 0°



# Thank you for your attention.

Birte Klug  
[b.klug@rptu.de](mailto:b.klug@rptu.de)



R

TU  
P

Rheinland-Pfälzische  
Technische Universität  
Kaiserslautern  
Landau



JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



Deutsches Zentrum  
für Luft- und Raumfahrt  
German Aerospace Center

MORABA  
MOBILE RAKETENBASIS

# Background

**The solar system is full of dust**

- collisions of asteroids
- sublimation of comets (dust-laden ice)
  - orbiting the sun
    - dust trails
    - origin of meteor showers
- long-decayed cometary trails

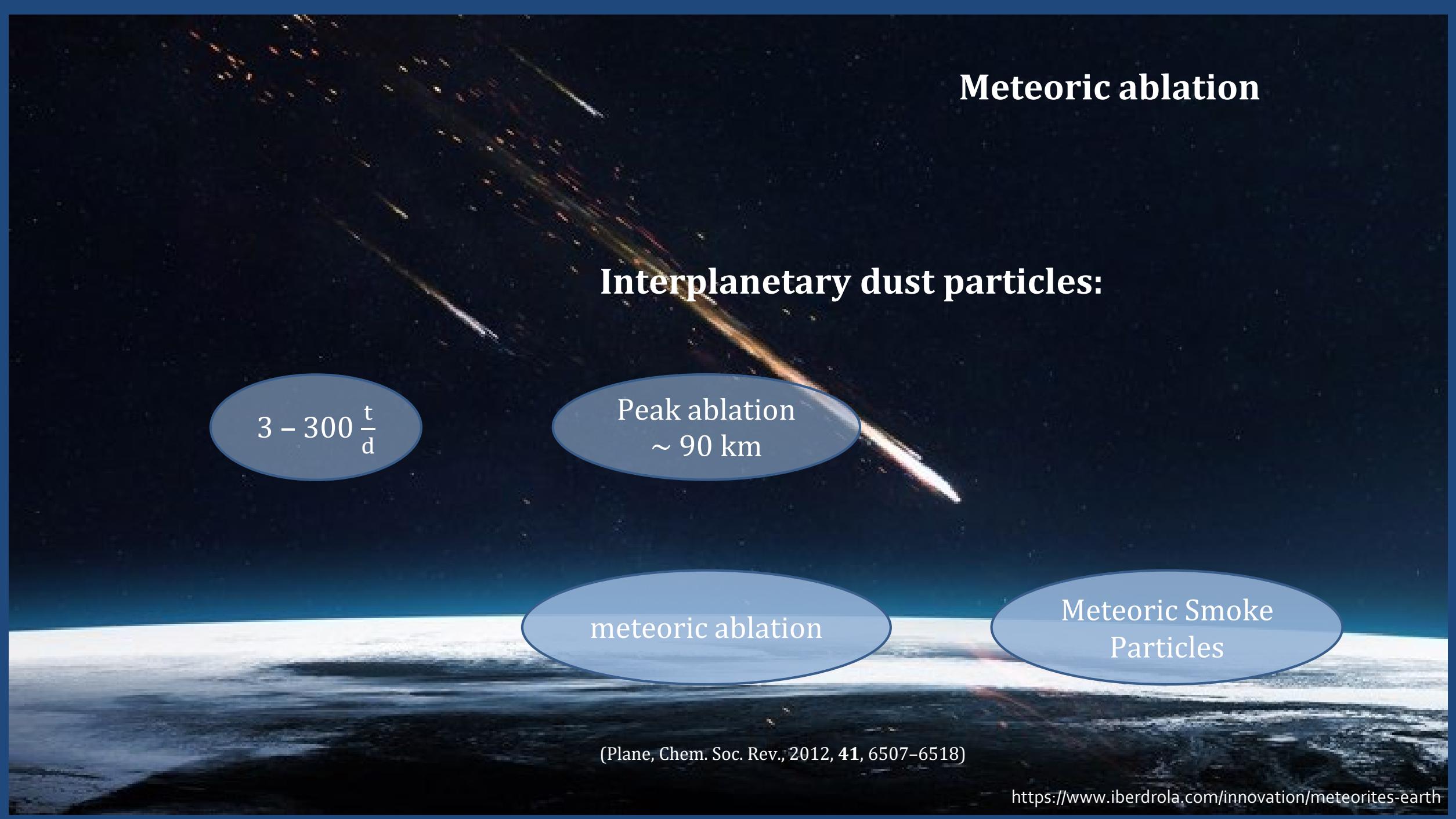
(Plane, Chem. Soc. Rev., 2012, 41, 6507–6518)



<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/lifestyle/pets-and-environment/140516/cosmic-dust-unveils-earth-s-ancient-atmosphere.html>



What is the cosmic dust input to Earth's atmosphere?



## Meteoric ablation

### Interplanetary dust particles:

$$3 - 300 \frac{t}{d}$$

Peak ablation  
~ 90 km

meteoric ablation

Meteoric Smoke  
Particles

(Plane, Chem. Soc. Rev., 2012, **41**, 6507–6518)

<https://www.iberdrola.com/innovation/meteorites-earth>

# Noctilucent Clouds (NLC)



© Philipp Reutter

Philipp Reutter, 05 Jul 2020, Sulzheim

# Noctilucent Clouds (NLC)

Cirrus like  
structure

82 – 85 km

Ice particles

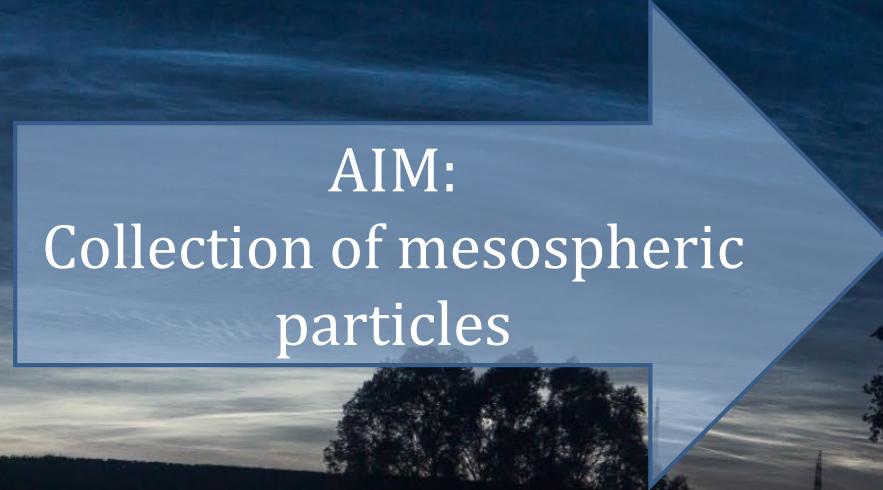
Polar summer  
mesopause



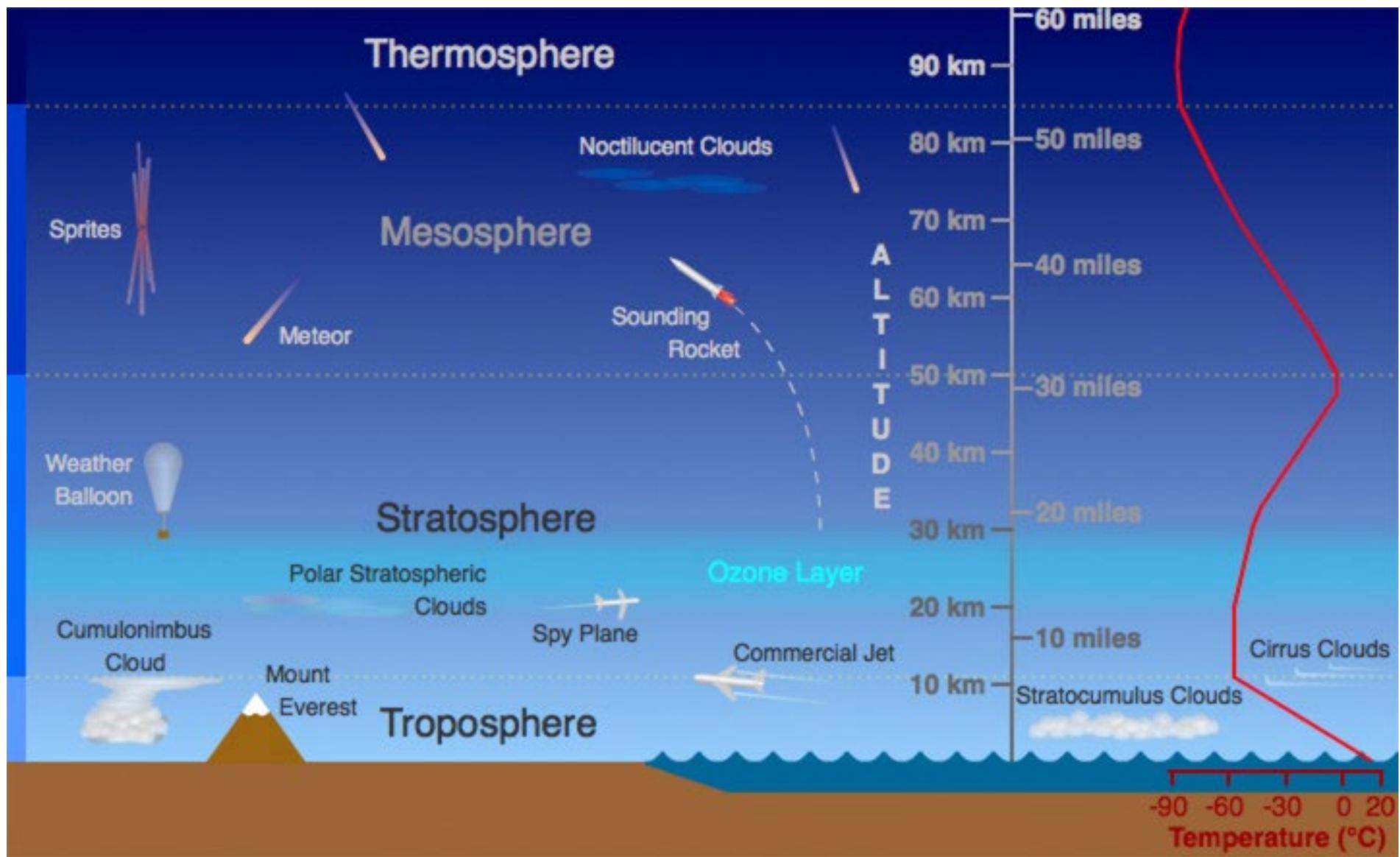
Do MSPs serve as ice nuclei  
for NLC?

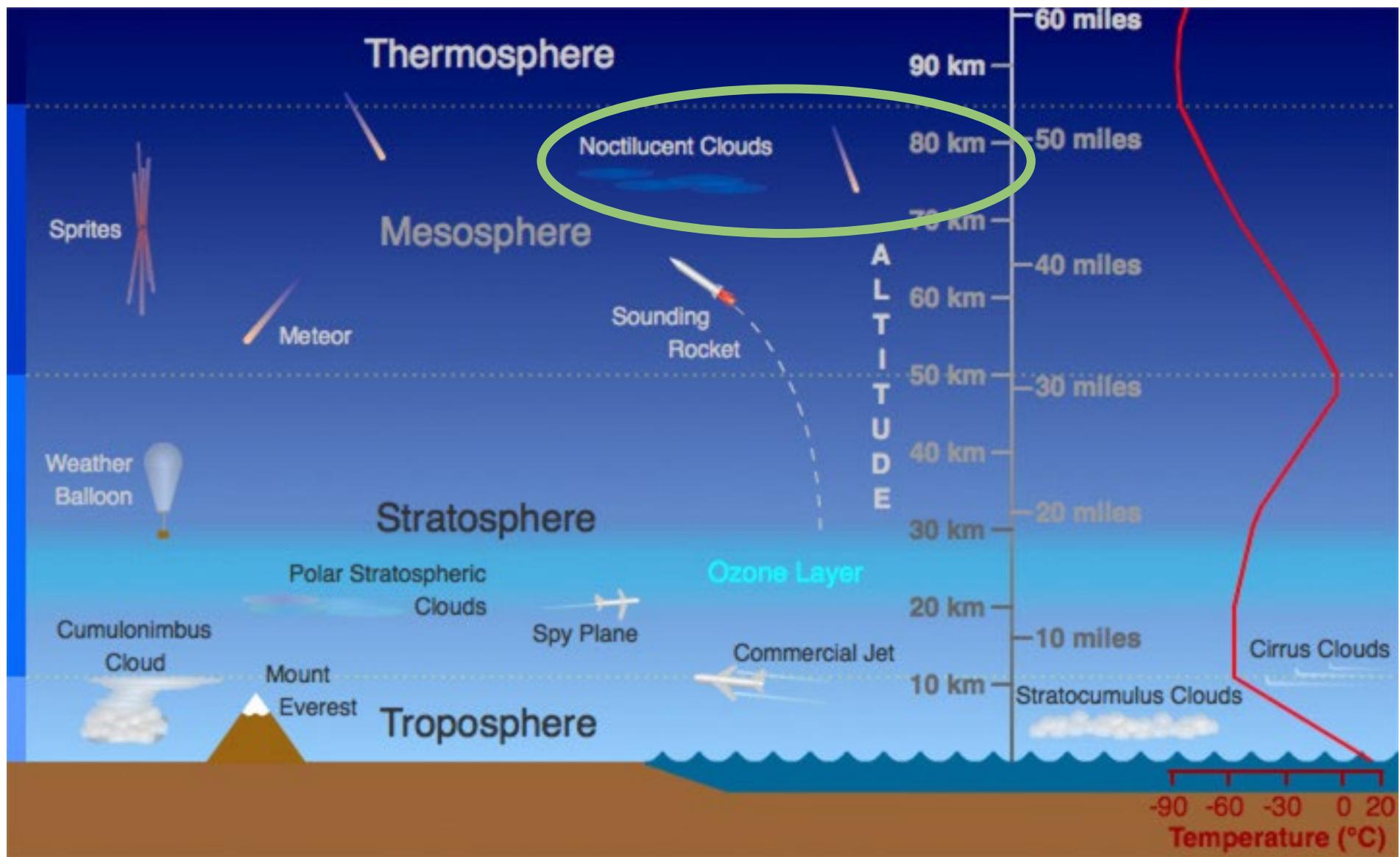


Do MSPs serve as ice nuclei  
for NLC?



AIM:  
Collection of mesospheric  
particles

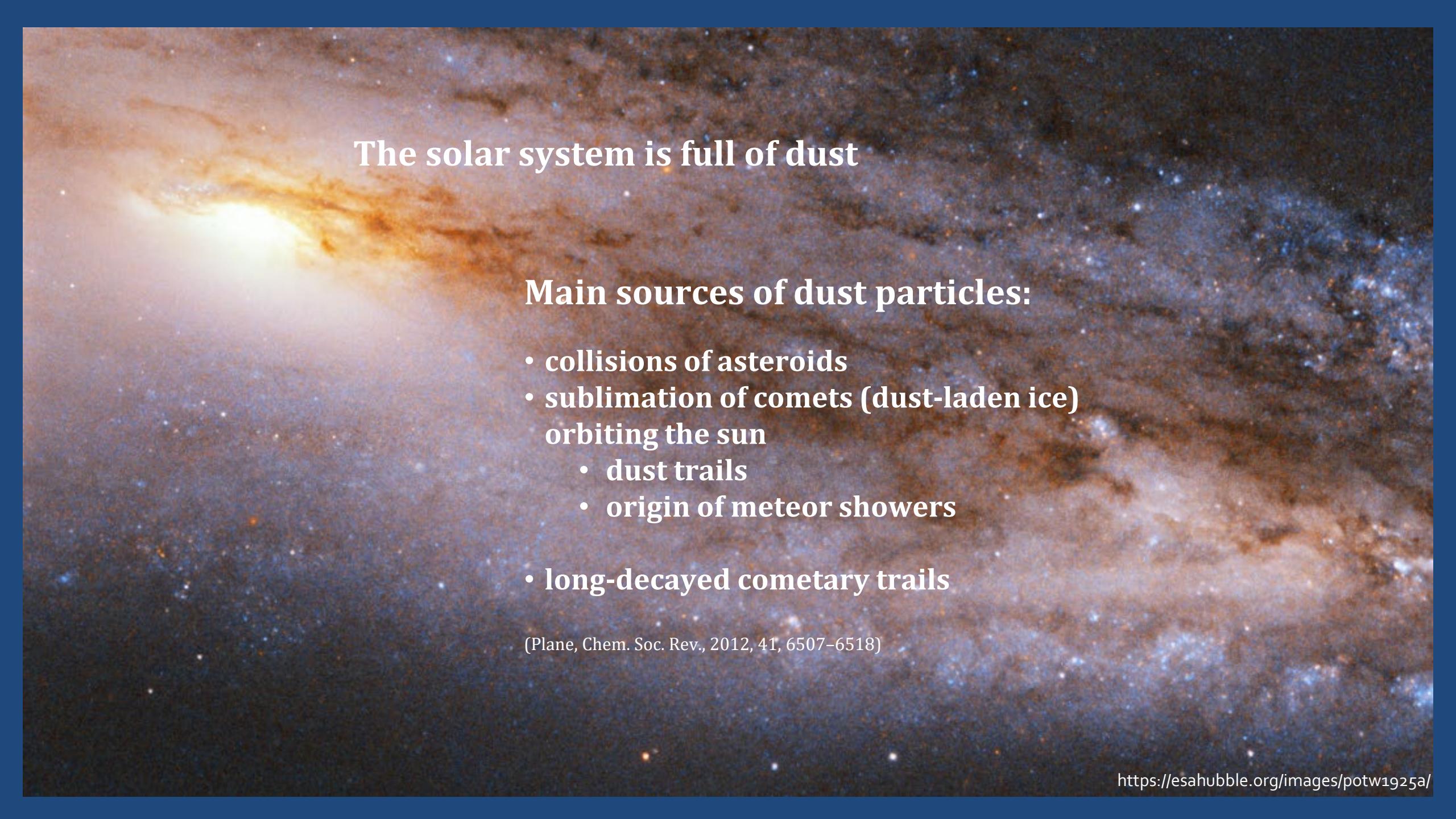




The background image is a deep-space photograph showing a dense concentration of stars and interstellar dust. A bright, yellowish-white star is visible on the left side, with a distinct stellar wind or outflow pattern extending towards the center. The surrounding environment is filled with dark, reddish-brown filaments of dust and wisps of blue-tinted gas, characteristic of a star-forming nebula.

The solar system is full of dust

What is the origin of cosmic dust?



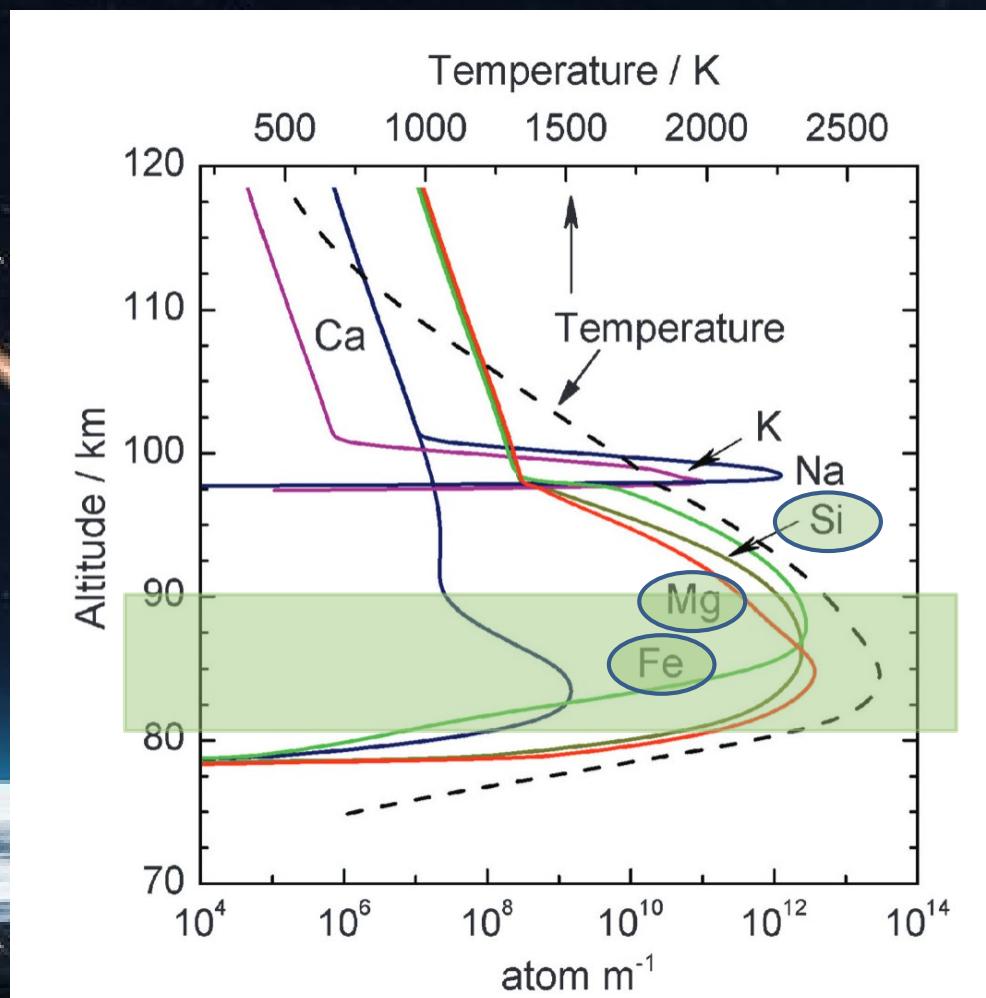
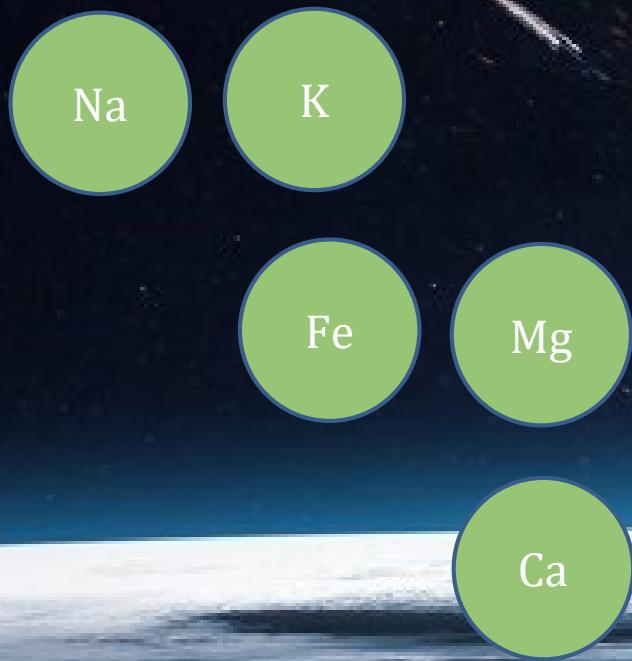
The solar system is full of dust

### Main sources of dust particles:

- collisions of asteroids
- sublimation of comets (dust-laden ice) orbiting the sun
  - dust trails
  - origin of meteor showers
- long-decayed cometary trails

(Plane, Chem. Soc. Rev., 2012, 41, 6507–6518)

# Meteoric ablation



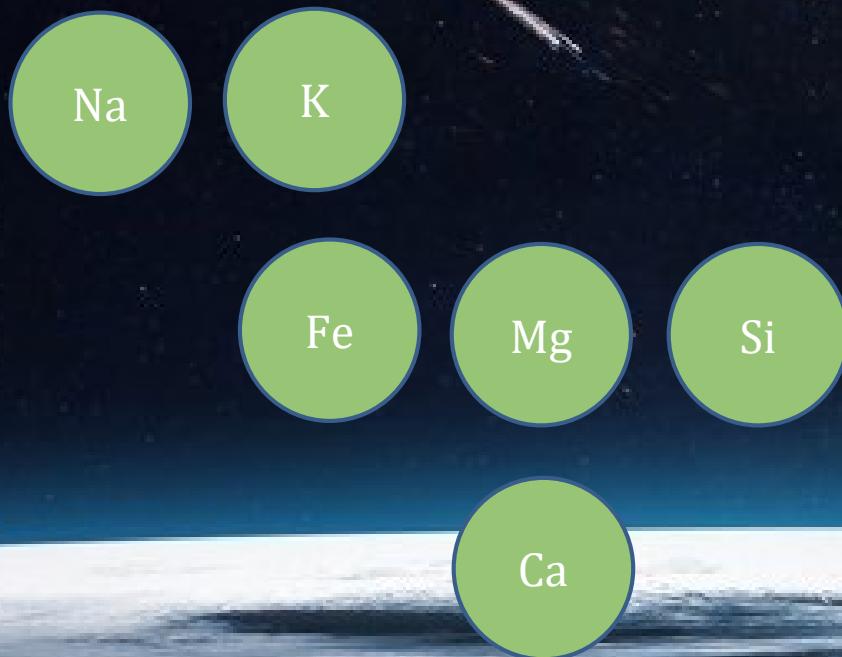
(Plane, Chem. Soc. Rev., 2012, 41, 6507–6518)

<https://www.iberdrola.com/innovation/meteorites-earth>

# Meteoric ablation



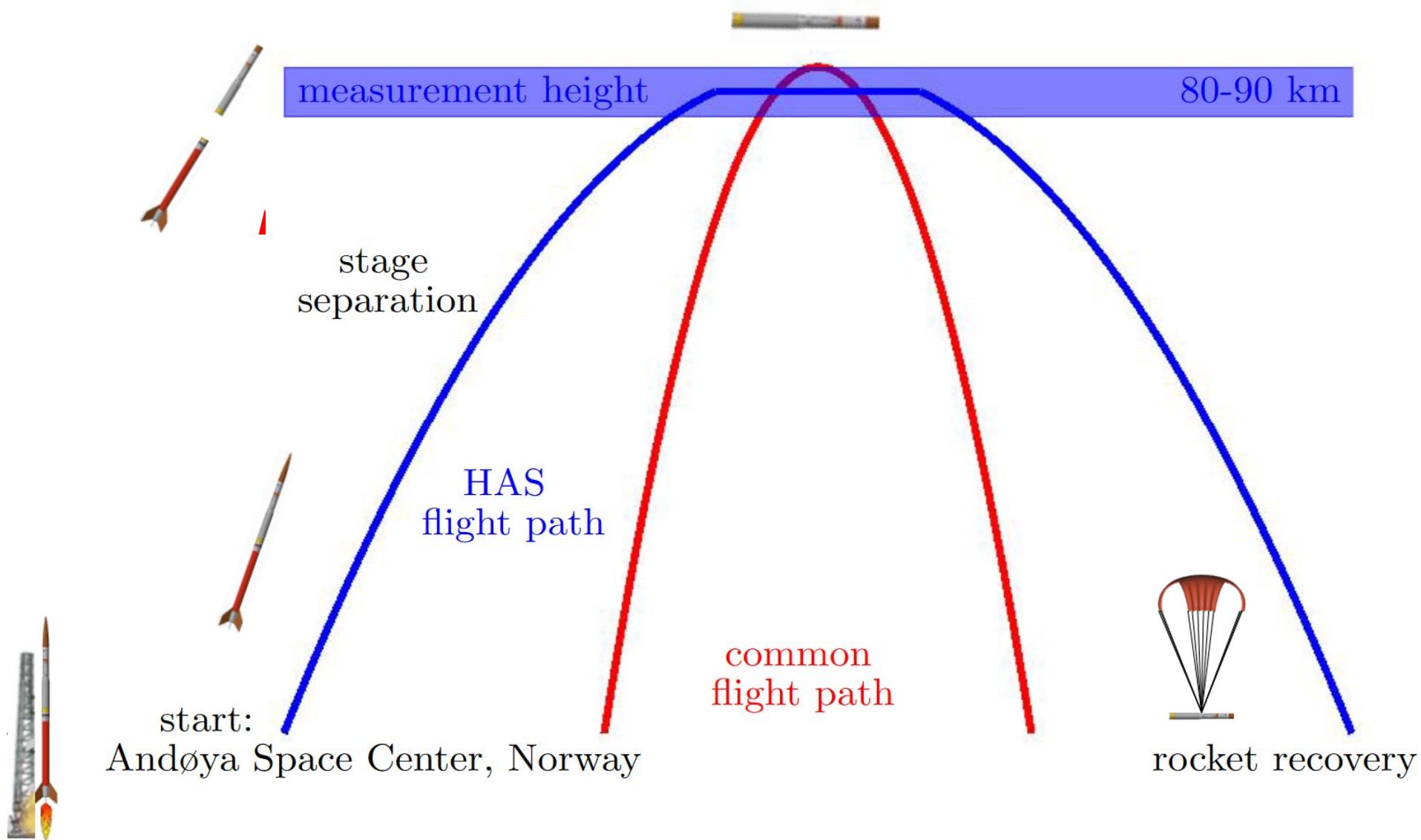
# Meteoric ablation



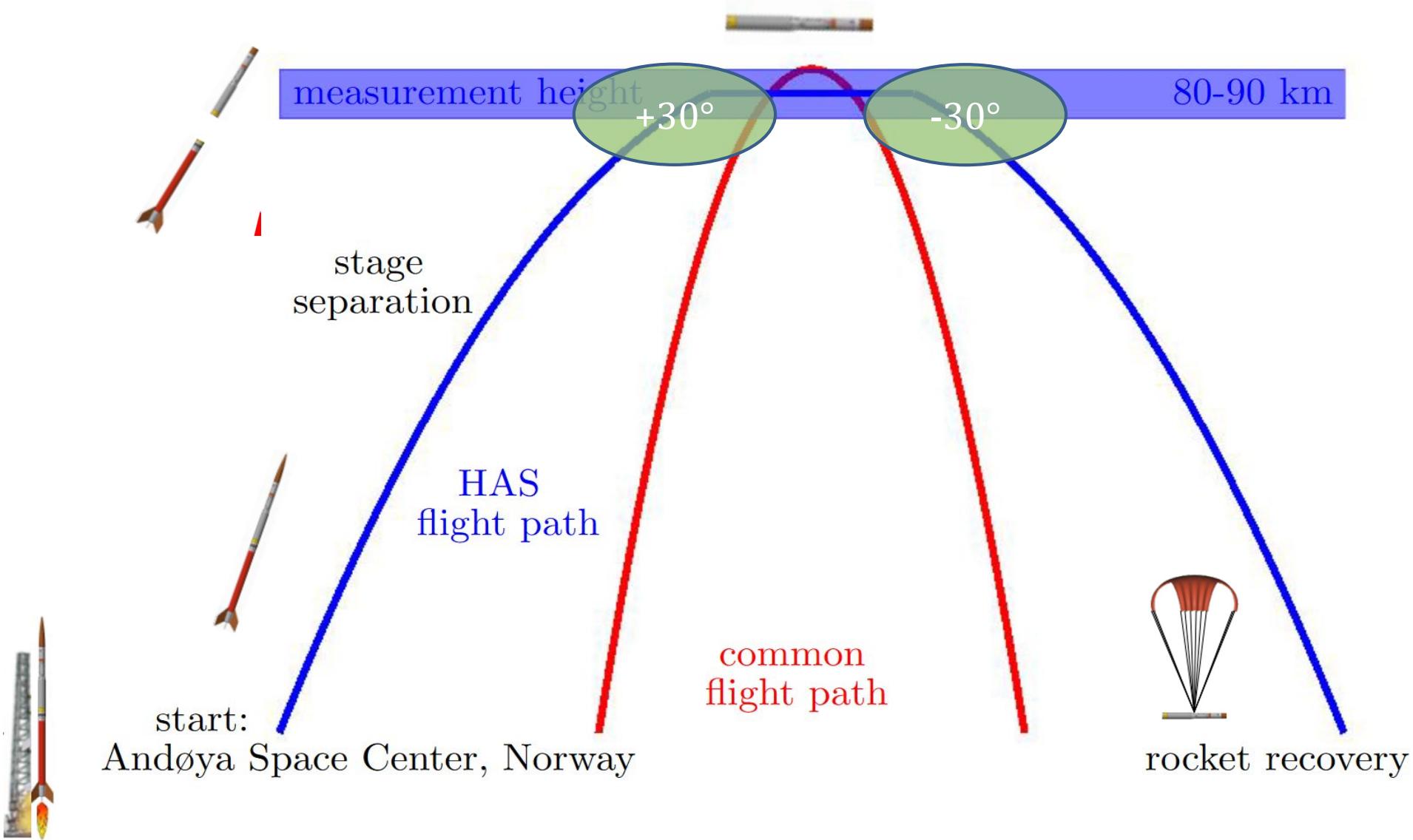
Olivine-like  
 $\text{Fe-Mg-SiO}_4$

Meteoric Smoke Particles (MSP)

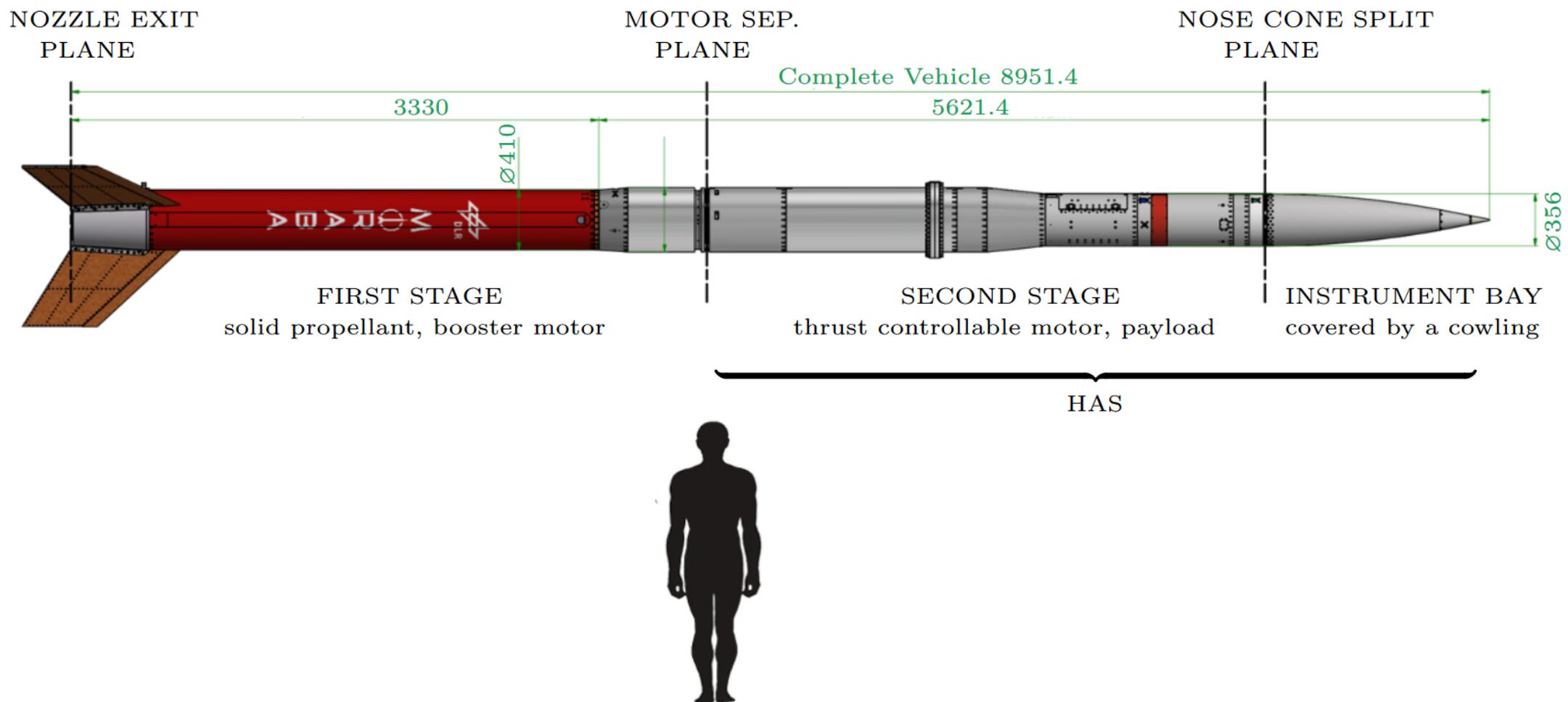
# Flight path of the rocket

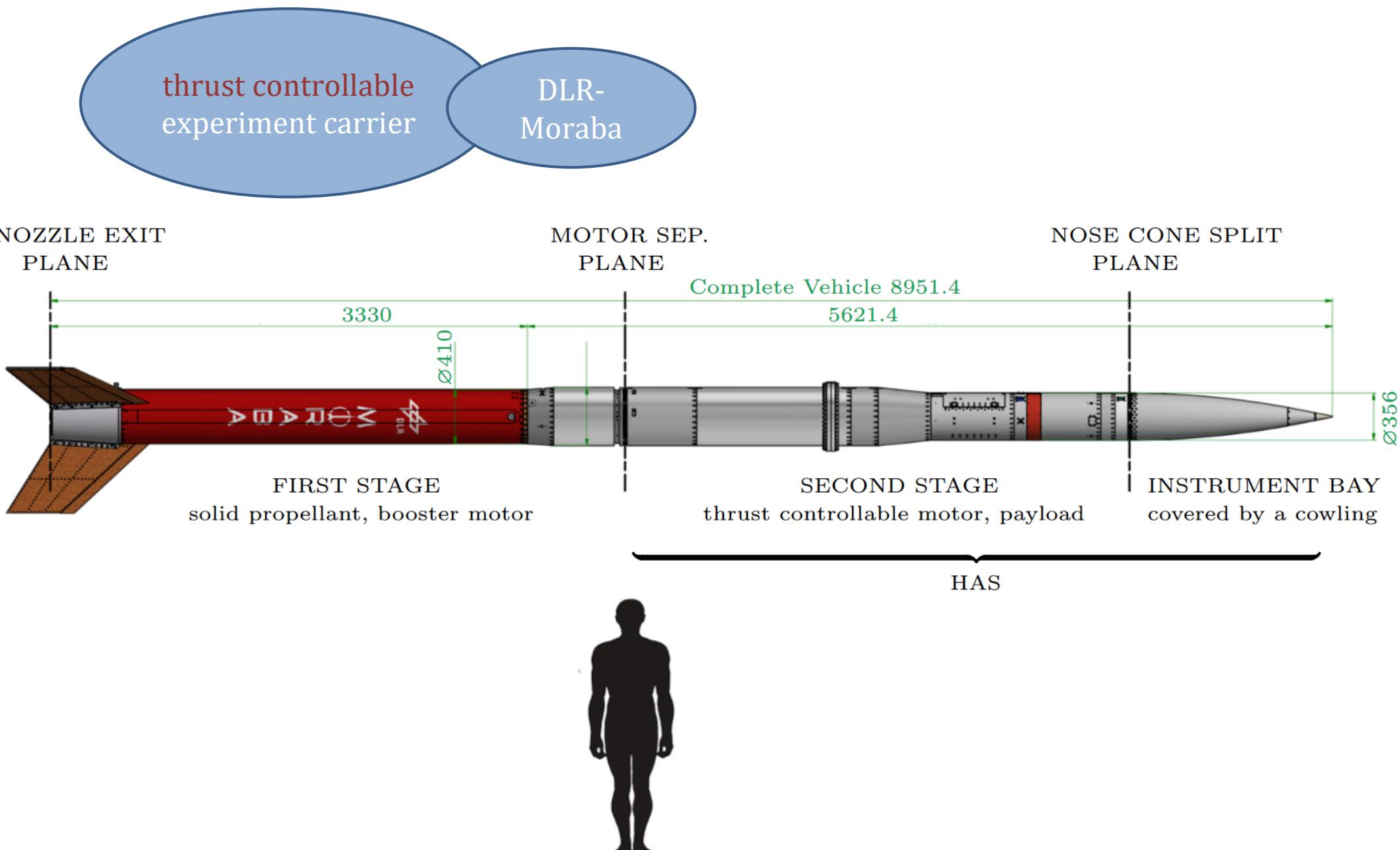


# Flight path of the sounding rocket



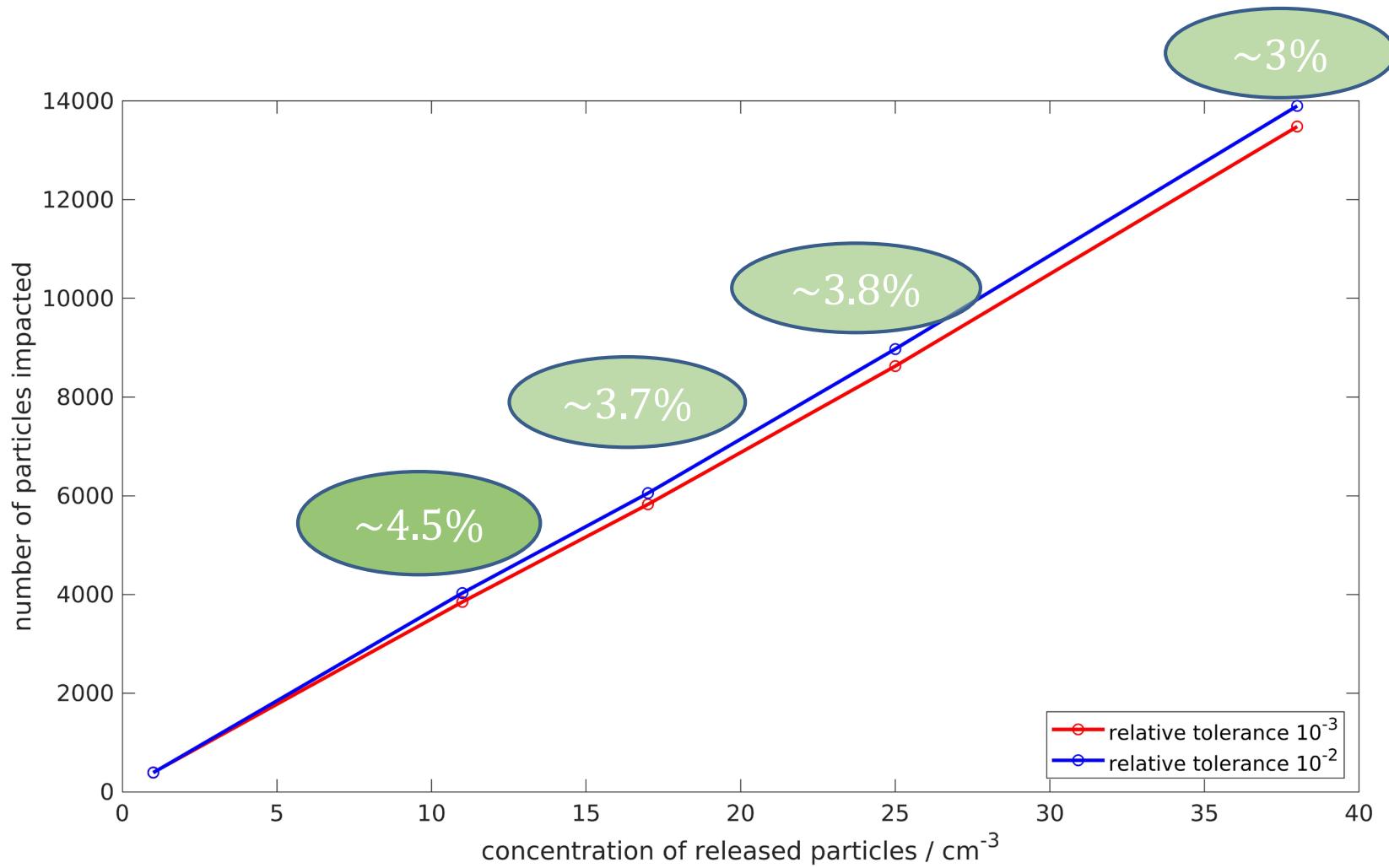
# Sounding rocket





adopted from Naumann, K., et al. "Design of a hovering sounding rocket stage for measurements in the high atmosphere." (2020)

# Particle simulations



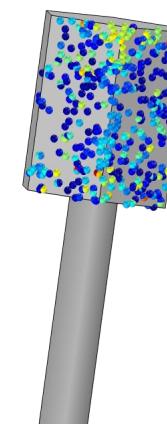
Relative tolerance  $Tol$

$Tol = 10^{-3}$  with  $\Delta t \sim 3 \cdot 10^{-6}$  s

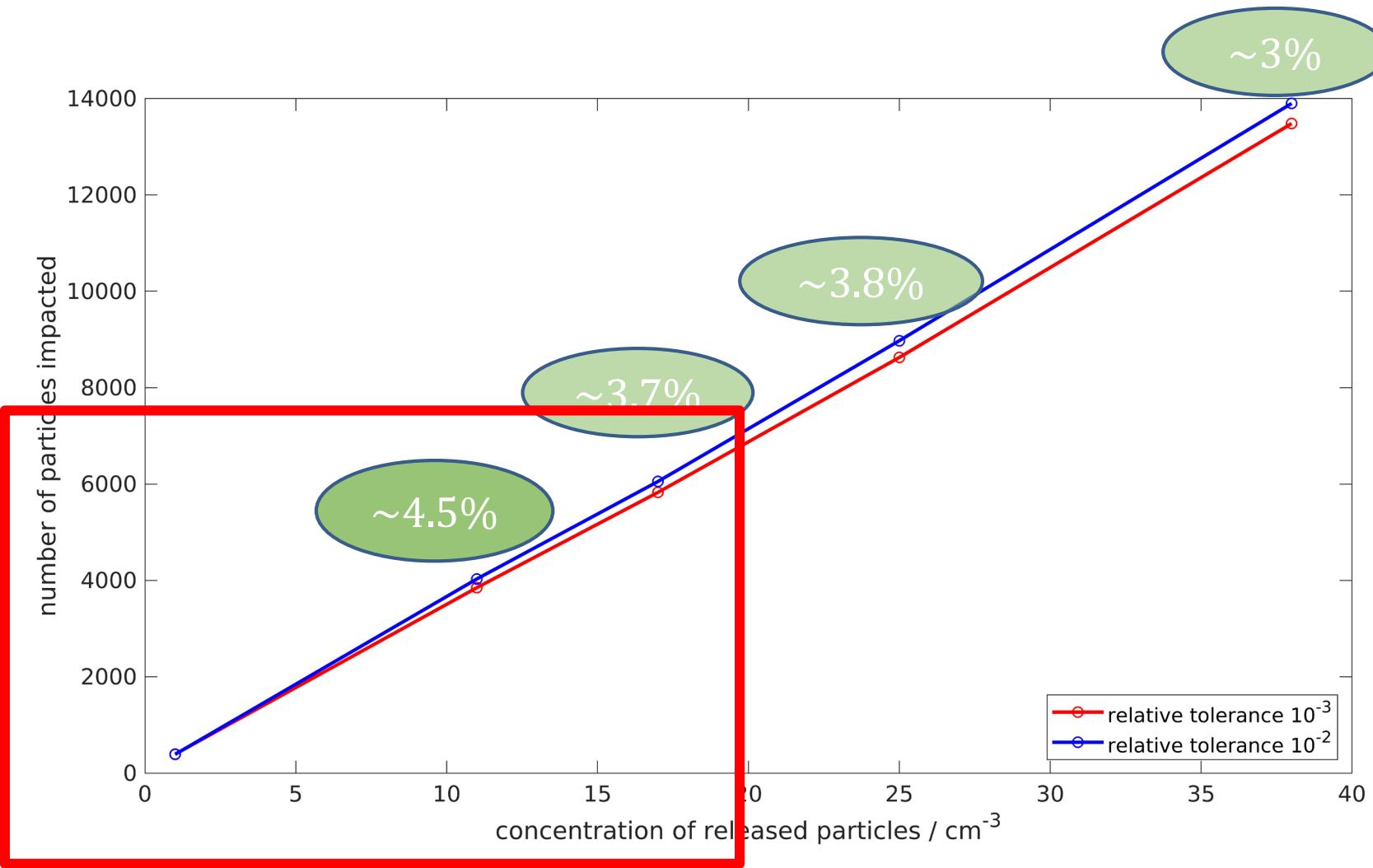
Simulation time:  $\sim 90$  h

$Tol = 10^{-2}$  with  $\Delta t \sim 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$  s

Simulation time:  $\sim 30$  h



# Particle simulations



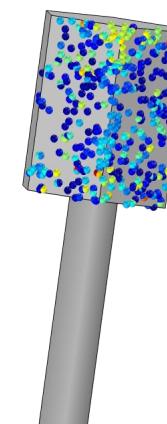
Relative tolerance  $Tol$

$Tol = 10^{-3}$  with  $\Delta t \sim 3 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ s}$

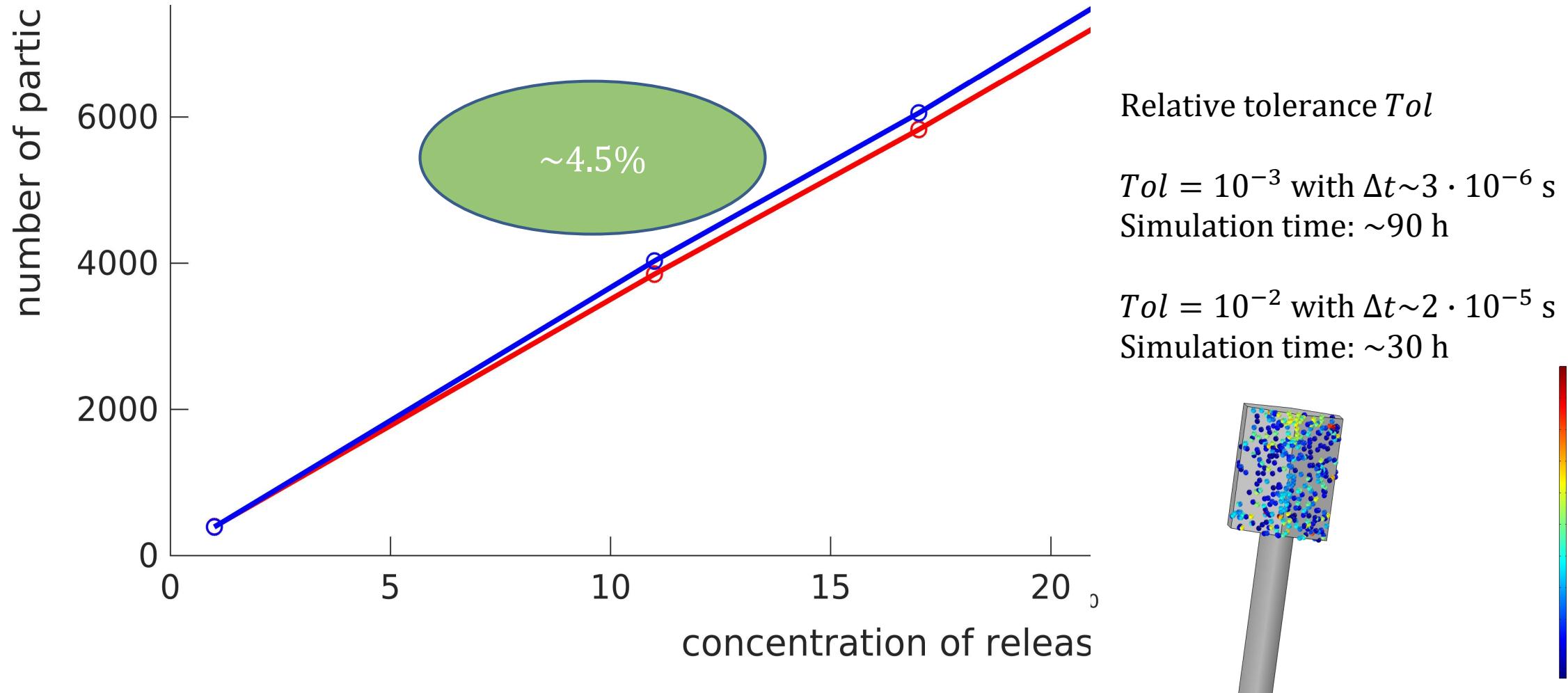
Simulation time:  $\sim 90 \text{ h}$

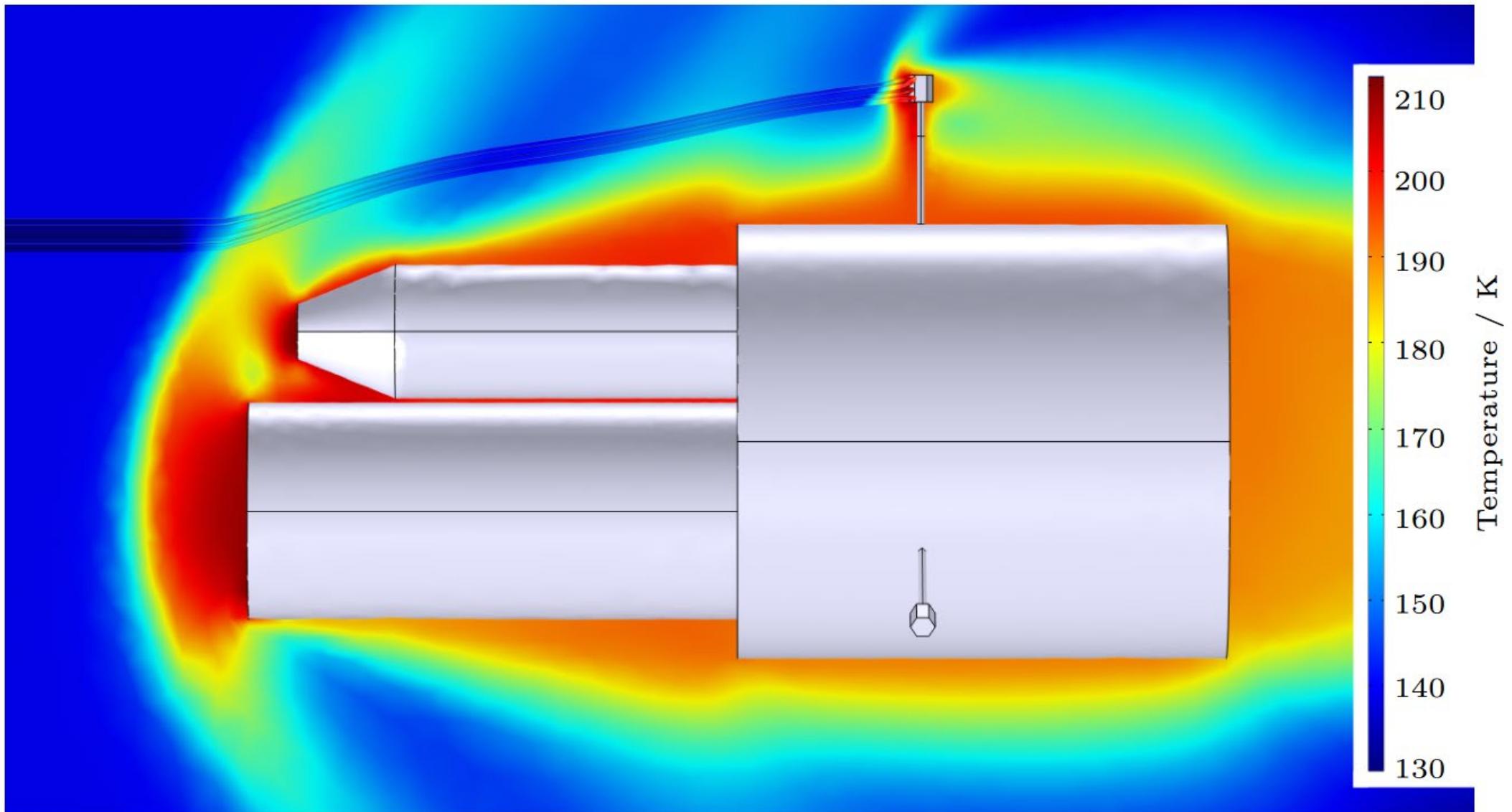
$Tol = 10^{-2}$  with  $\Delta t \sim 2 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ s}$

Simulation time:  $\sim 30 \text{ h}$

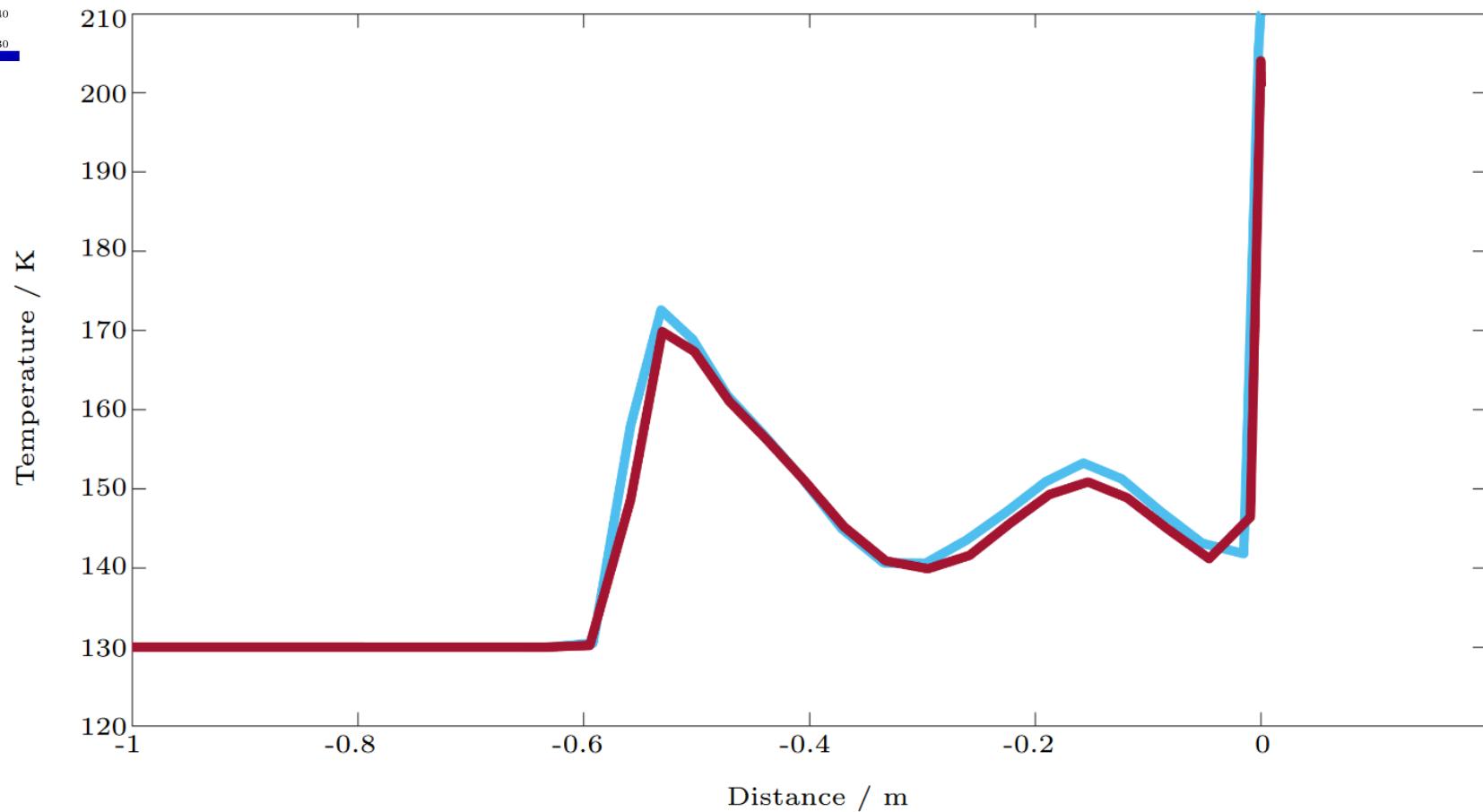
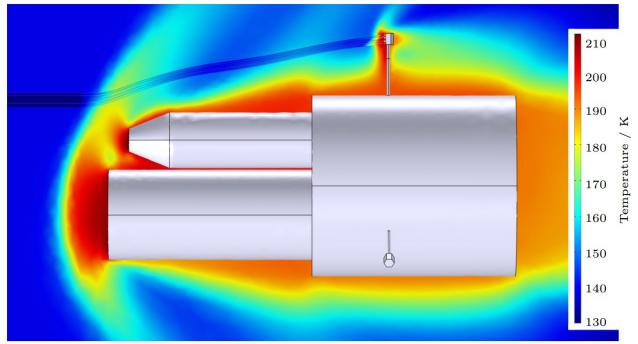


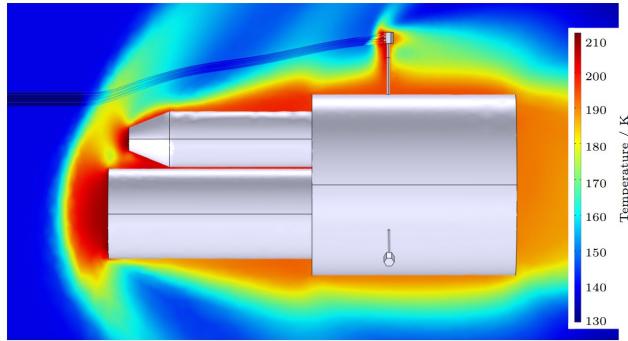
# Particle simulations



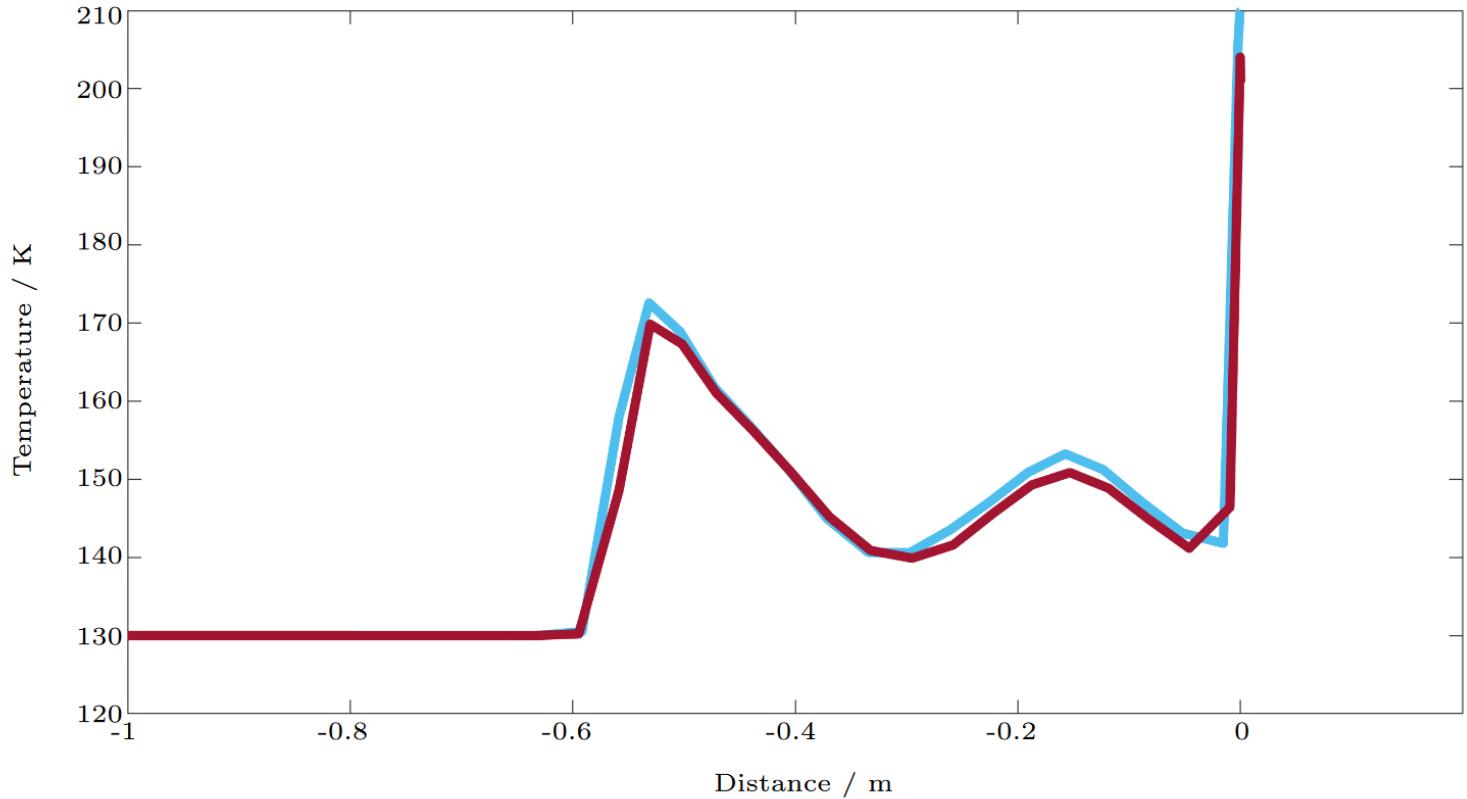


Temperature field in K depicted on a cut plane and particle trajectories





$$\frac{dm_{ice}}{dt} = \frac{4\pi}{R_v} \alpha_d D_v r \left( \frac{p}{T_{air}} - \frac{p}{T_{ice}} \right)$$



$D_v$ : diffusion coefficient of water vapor in air

$p$ : pressure

$r$ : particle radius

$T_{air}$ : ambient temperature

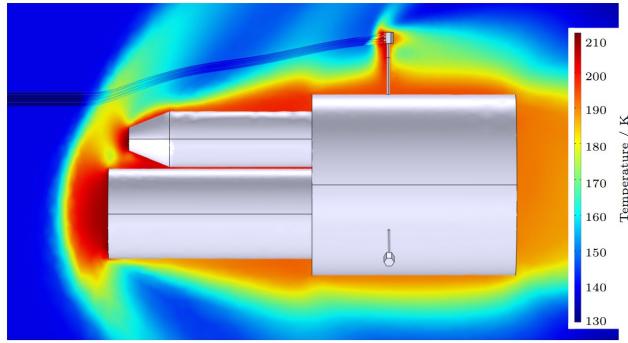
$T_{ice}$ : surface temperature

$\alpha_d$ : deposition coefficient

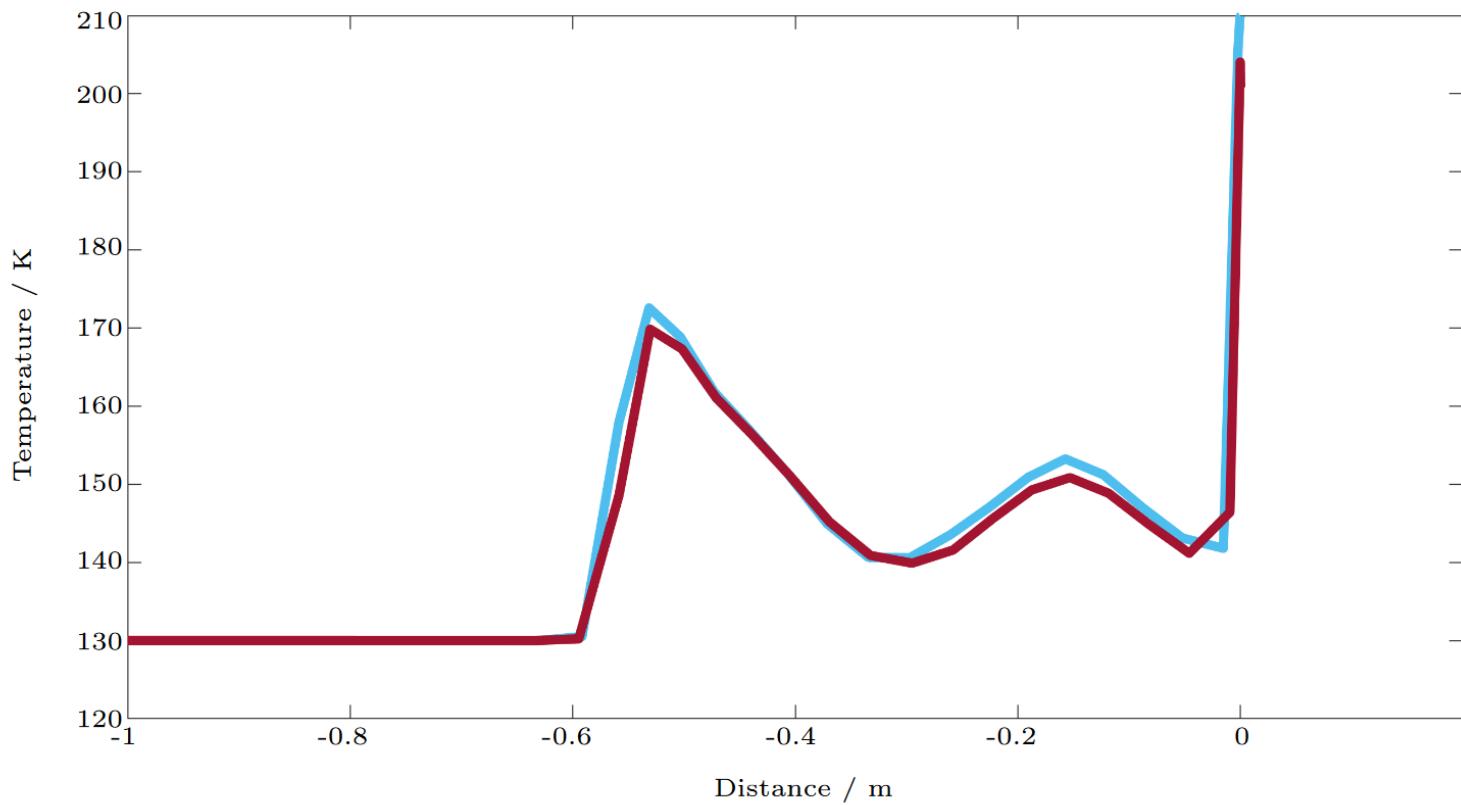
$R_v$ : water vapor gas constant

$p$ : pressure

$r$ : particle radius



$$\frac{dm_{ice}}{dt} = \frac{4\pi}{R_v} \alpha_d D_v r \left( \frac{p}{T_{air}} - \frac{p}{T_{ice}} \right)$$



$D_v$ : diffusion coefficient of water vapor in air

$p$ : pressure

$r$ : particle radius

$T_{air}$ : ambient temperature

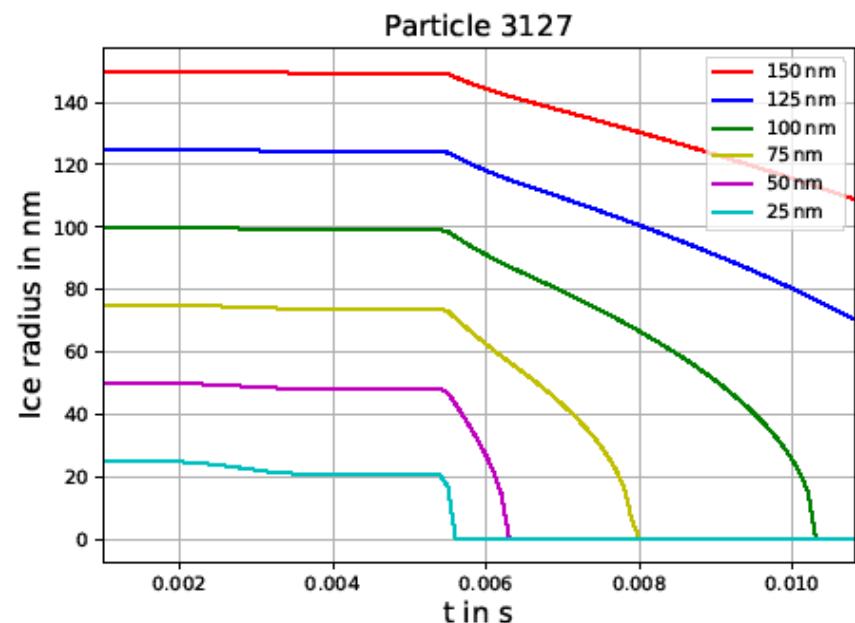
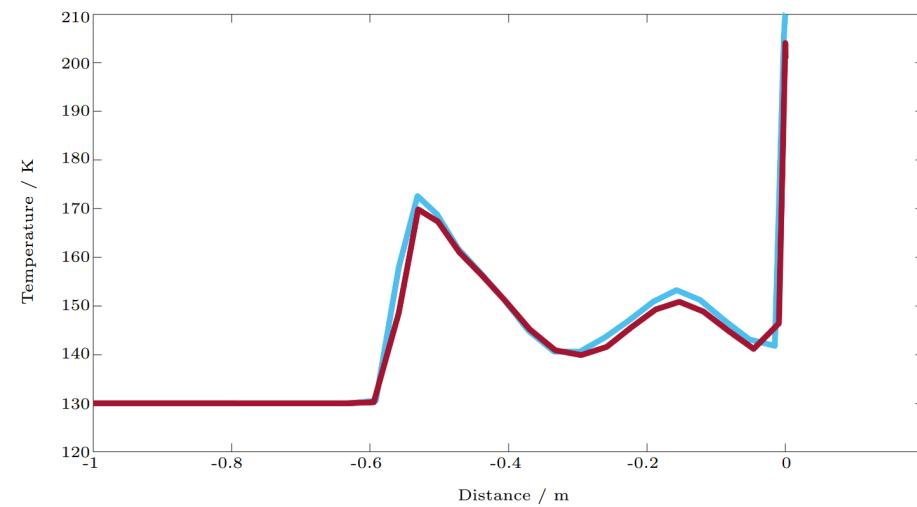
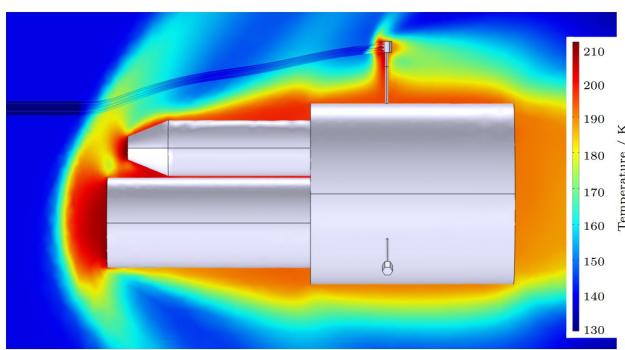
$T_{ice}$ : surface temperature

$\alpha_d$ : deposition coefficient

$R_v$ : water vapor gas constant

$p$ : pressure

$r$ : particle radius

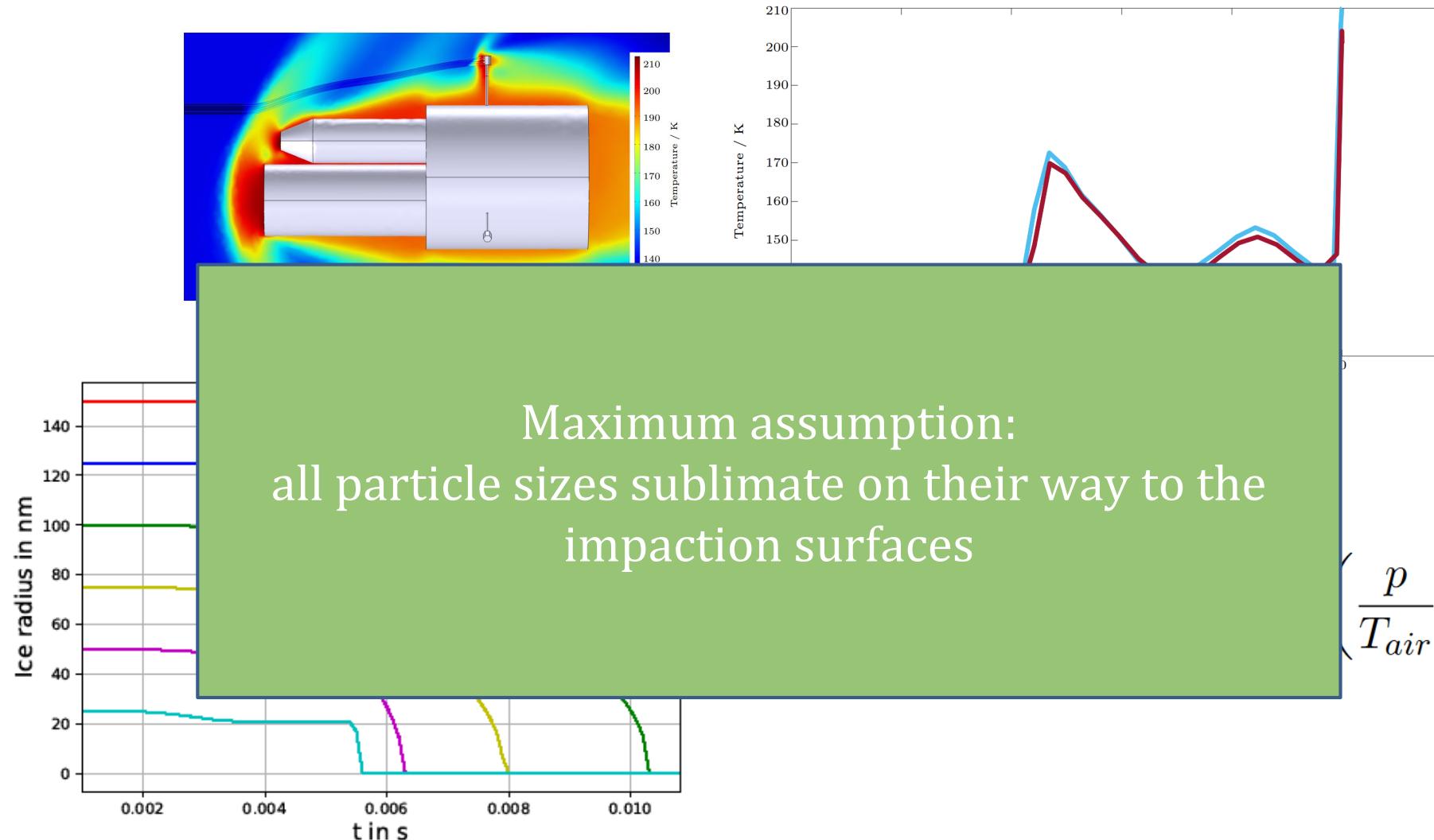


$$\frac{dm_{ice}}{dt} = \frac{4\pi}{R_v} \alpha_d D_v r \left( \frac{p}{T_{air}} - \frac{p}{T_{ice}} \right)$$

$D_v$ : diffusion coefficient of water vapor in air  
 $p$ : pressure  
 $r$ : particle radius

$T_{air}$ : ambient temperature  
 $T_{ice}$ : surface temperature  
 $\alpha_d$ : deposition coefficient

$R_v$ : water vapor gas constant  
 $p$ : pressure  
 $r$ : particle radius

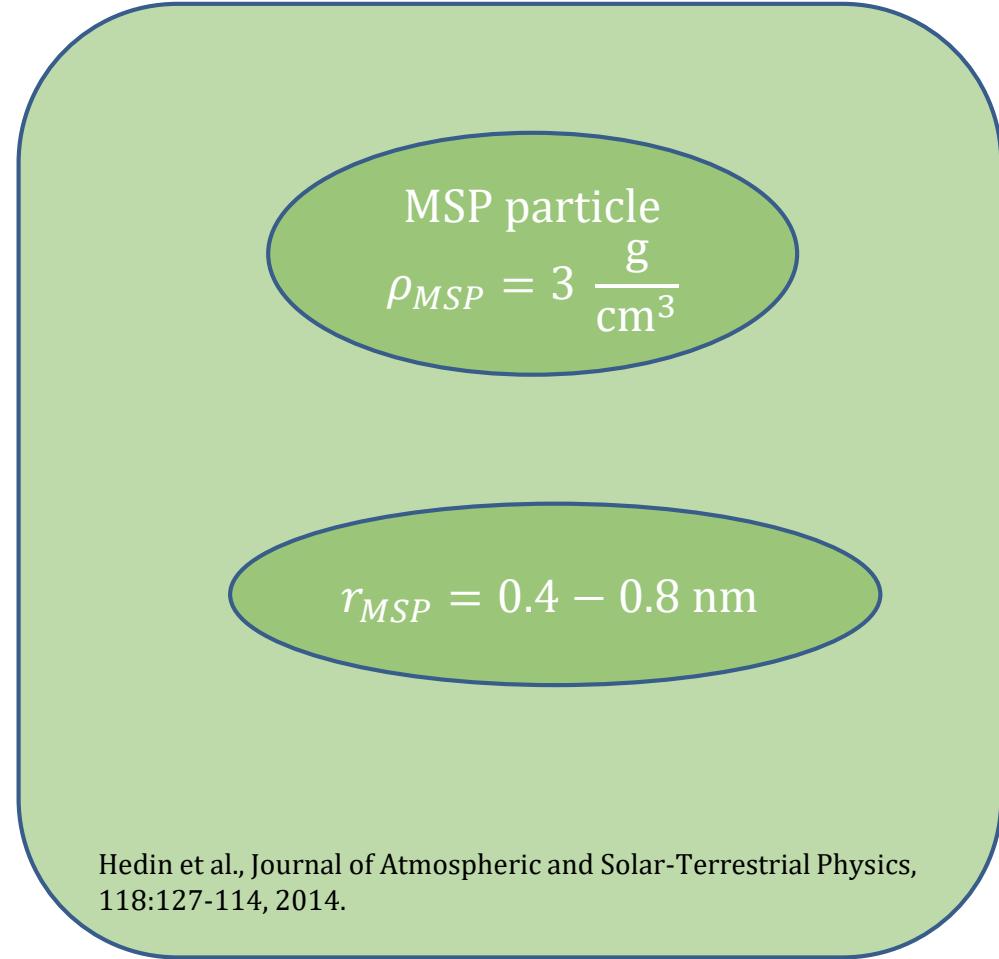
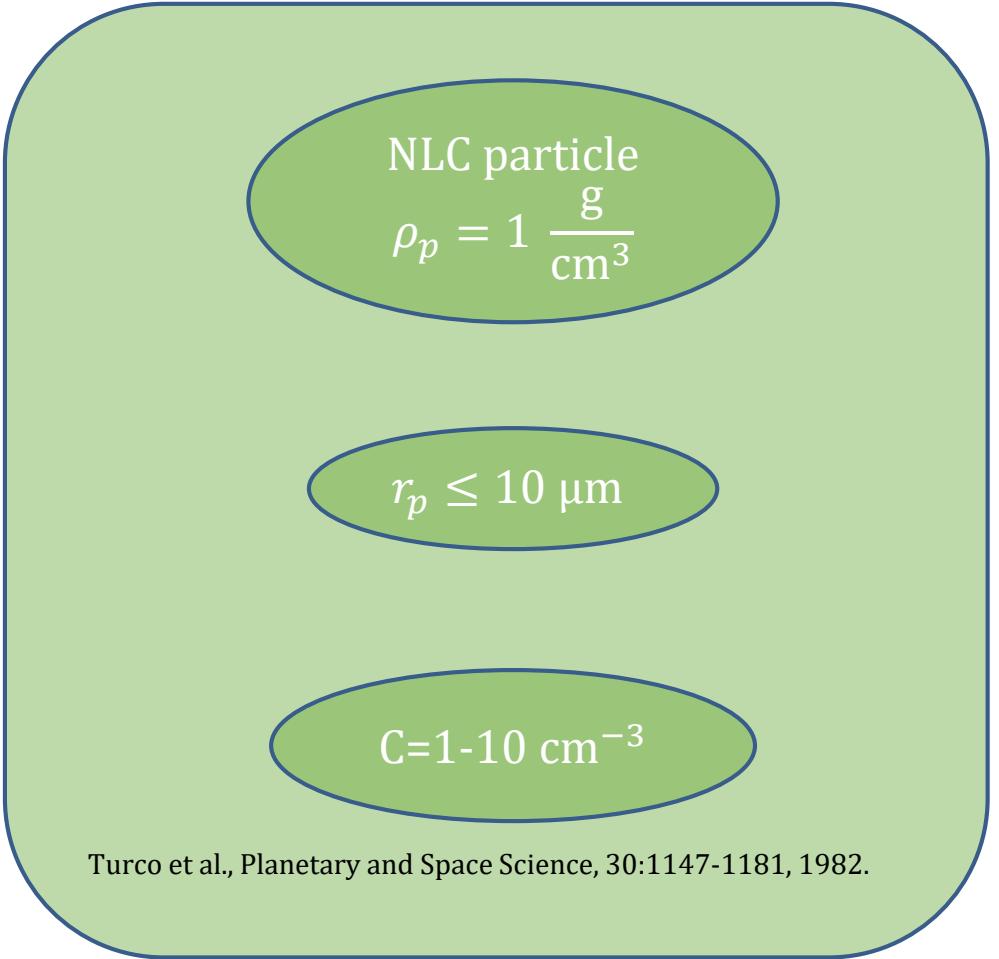


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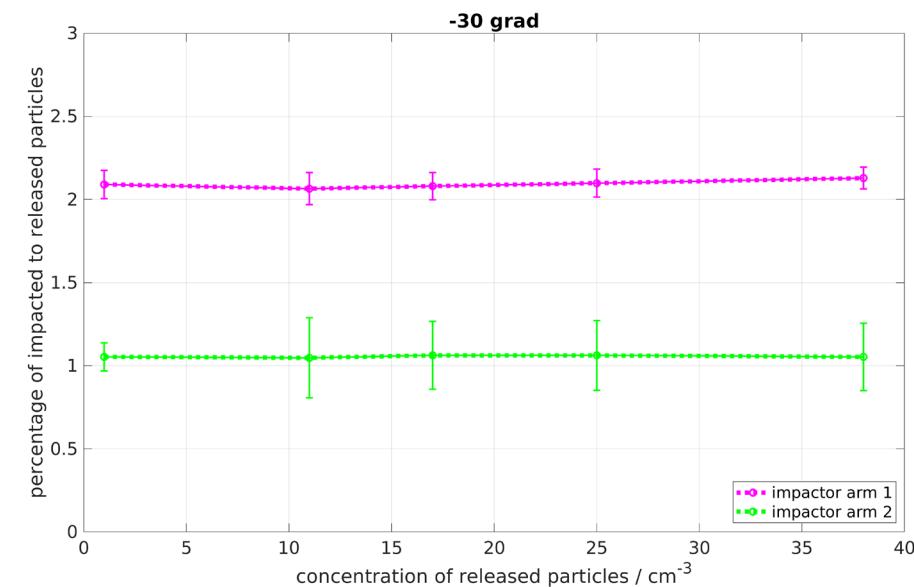
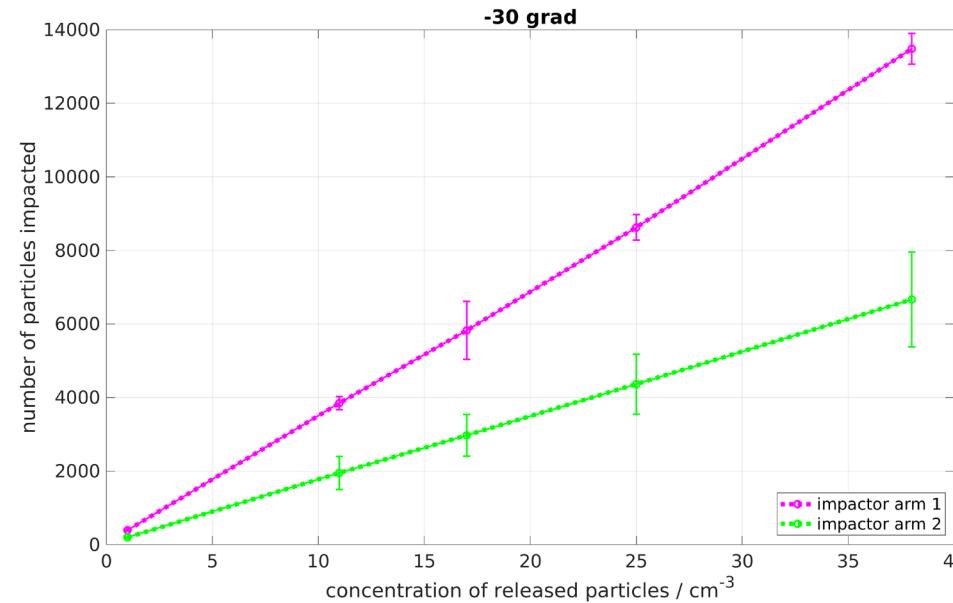
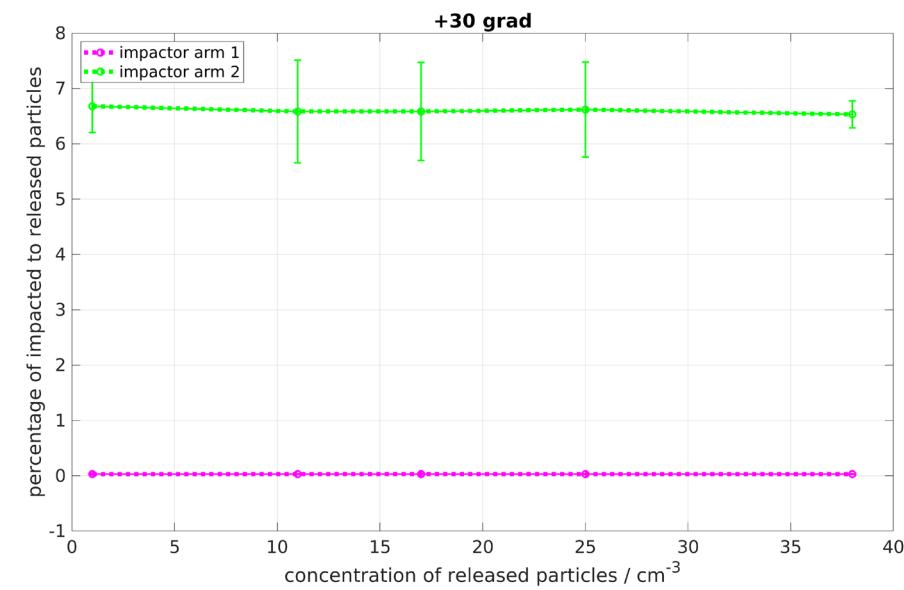
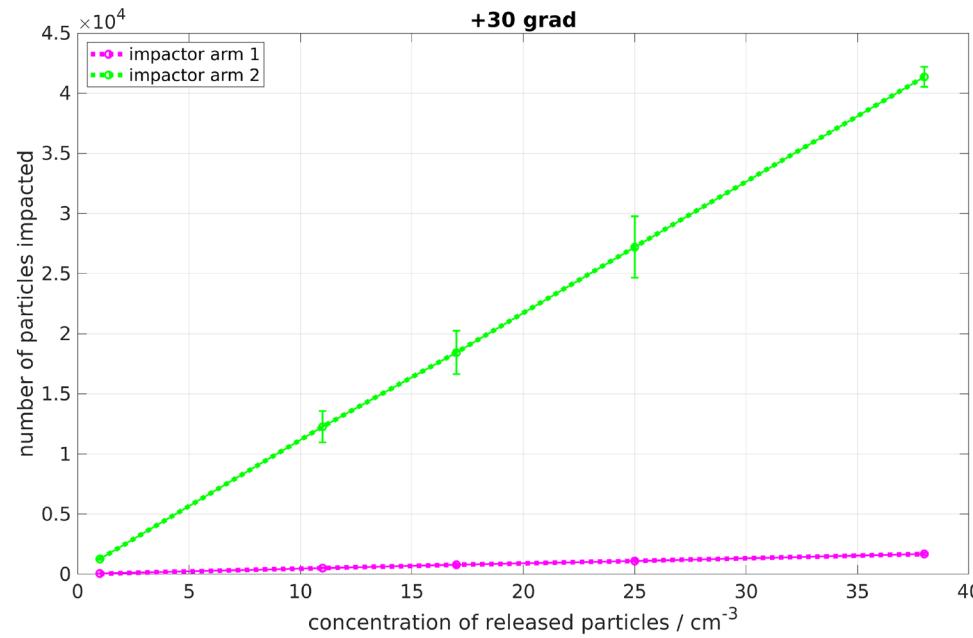
$R_v$ : water vapor gas constant  
 $p$ : pressure  
 $r$ : particle radius

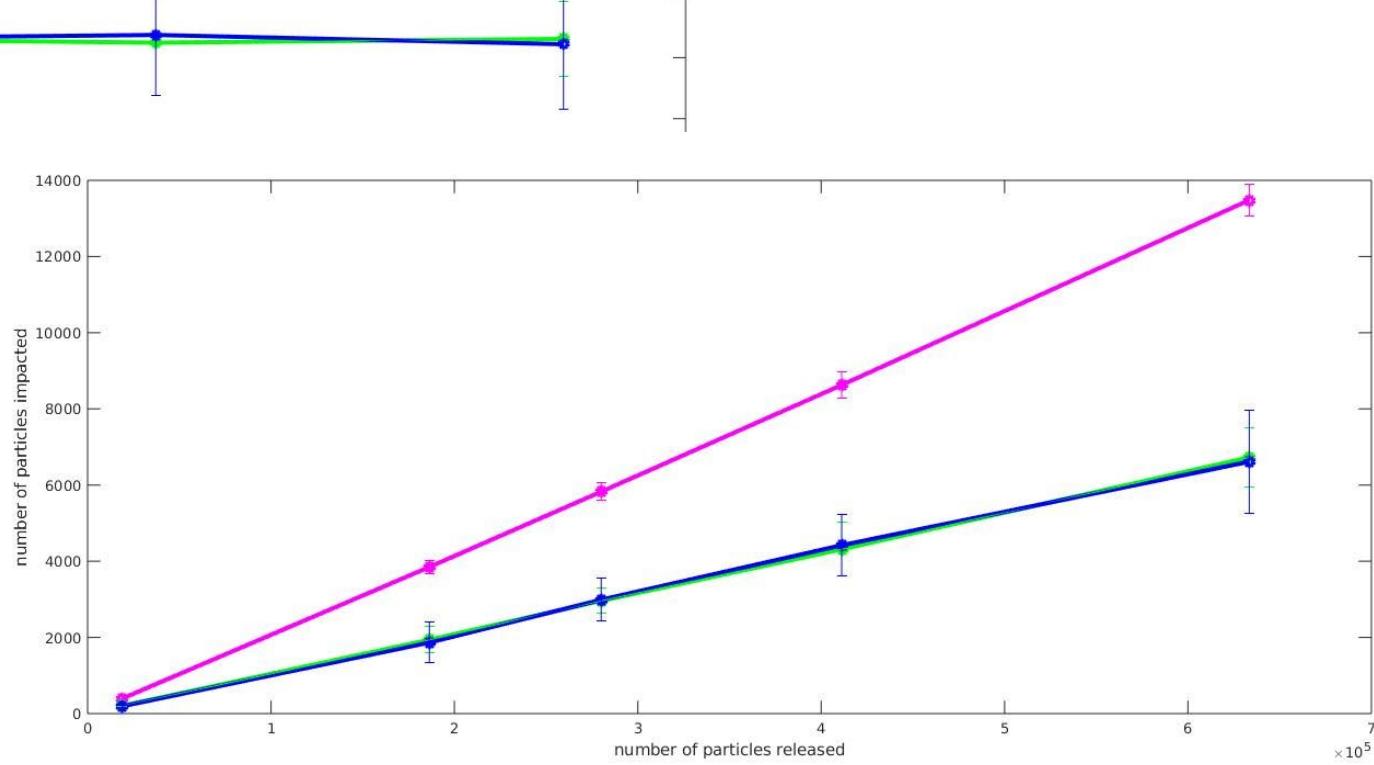
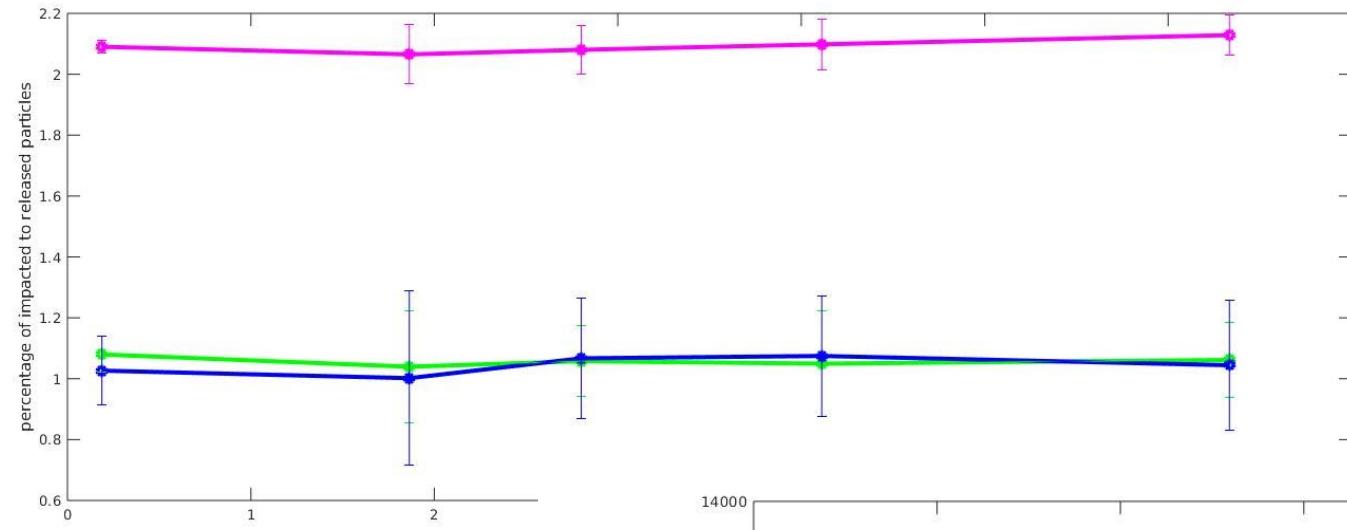
# Particle data



parameters	values	comments
ambient conditions		
$\mu_f$	$8.99847 \cdot 10^{-6}$ Pa s	Dynamic viscosity of air at 85 km.
$\rho_f$	$2.6798 \cdot 10^{-5}$ kg m $^{-3}$	Air density, model variable for the current situation at 85 km altitude.
$m_f$	$2.43 \cdot 10^{-32}$ kg	Mass of fluid, displaced by a particle of $d_p = 1.2 \cdot 10^{-9}$ m.
$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$	650 s $^{-1}$	Velocity gradient estimated from numerical simulations.
$\frac{d(\vec{u}_f - \vec{v}_f)}{dt}$	$1 \cdot 10^7$ m s $^{-1}$	Maximum relative particle acceleration (from numerical simulations for $\vec{u}_f = 300$ m s $^{-1}$ ).
$\nabla p$	1.05 Pa m $^{-1}$	Pressure gradient (from numerical simulations).
$k_B$	$1.381 \cdot 10^{-23}$ J K $^{-1}$	Boltzmann constant.
$\vec{g}$	9.5 m s $^{-2}$	Gravitational acceleration coefficient at 85 km.
particle properties		
$\vec{u}_r = \vec{u}_f - \vec{v}_p$	120 m s $^{-1}$	Maximum relative particle velocity (from numerical simulations for $\vec{u}_f = 300$ m s $^{-1}$ ).
$d_{p_{cd}}$	$100 \cdot 10^{-9}$ m <a href="#">Rapp and Thomas [2006]</a>	Diameter of a single cloud droplet.
$\rho_{p_{cd}}$	1000 kg m $^{-3}$	Density of a cloud droplet.
$d_{p_{sn}}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-9}$ m <a href="#">Hedin et al., 2014</a>	Diameter of a single sublimation nuclei.
$\rho_{p_{sn}}$	3000 kg m $^{-3}$ <a href="#">[Hedin et al., 2007]</a>	Density of a sublimation nuclei.
$m_p$	$2.7 \cdot 10^{-24}$ kg	Mass of a single particle for $d_p = 1.2 \cdot 10^{-9}$ m and $\rho = 3000$ kg m $^{-3}$ .
$C_c$	$7.357 \cdot 10^4$	Cunningham slip corrector for particles with $d_p = 1.2 \cdot 10^{-9}$ m.
simulation data		
$\Delta t$	$1 \cdot 10^{-5}$	Example time step taken by the solver.

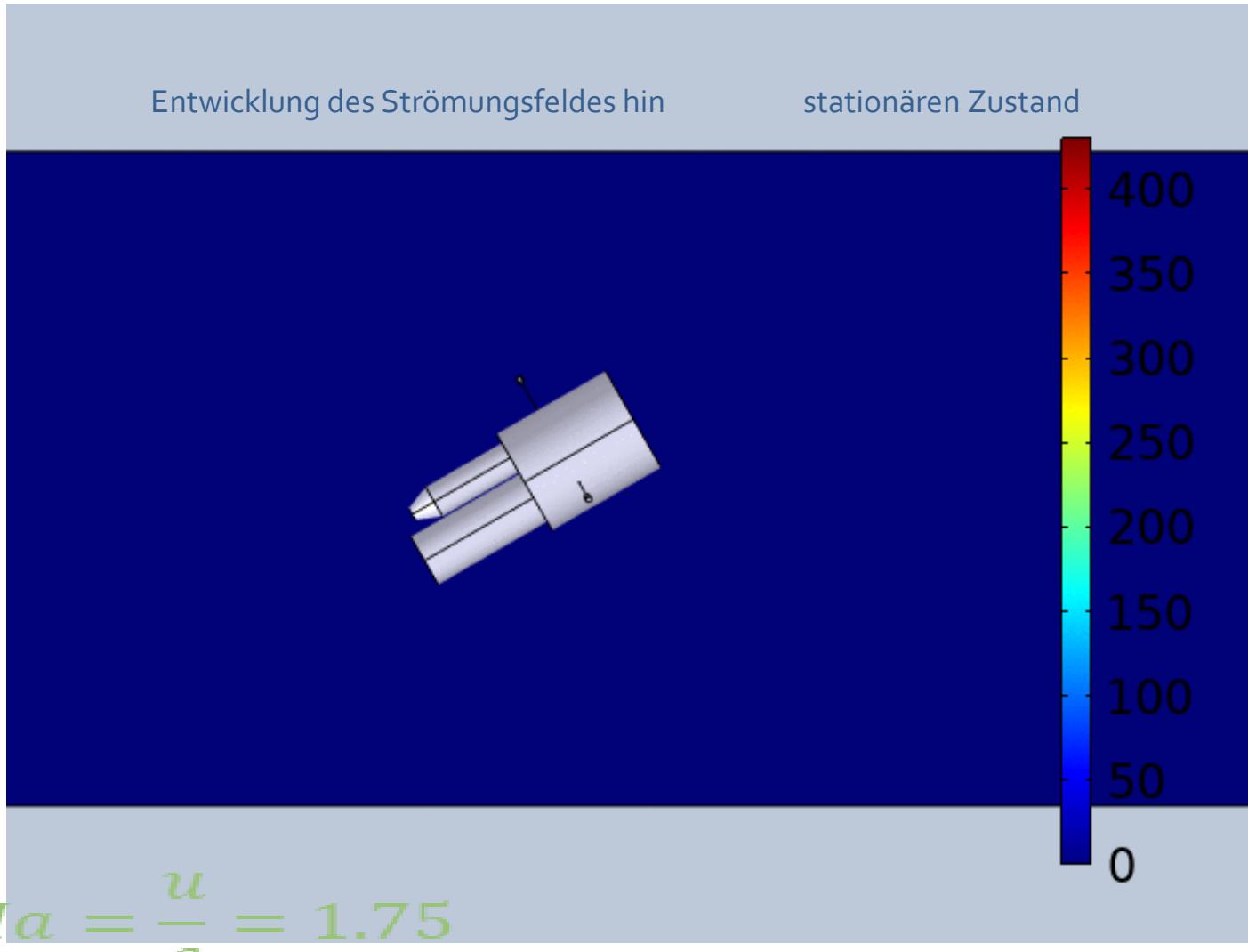
Generalized alpha methode





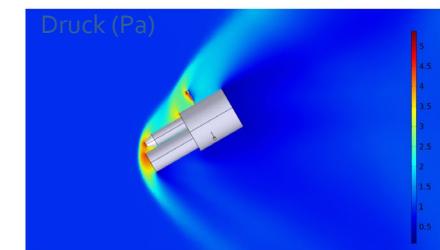
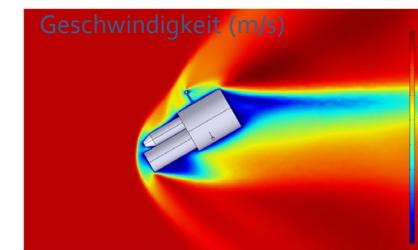
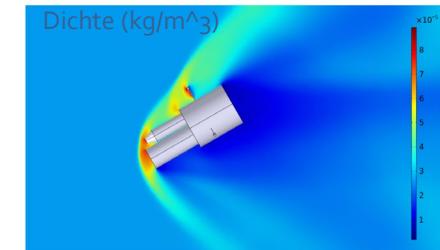
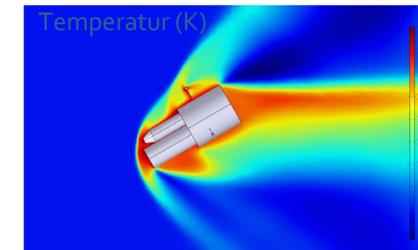
# GEL Projekt

Simulation einer **supersonischen Strömung** um eine Höhenforschungsrakete und die **Sammeleffizienz von mesosphärischen Partikeln** auf Impaktorflächen

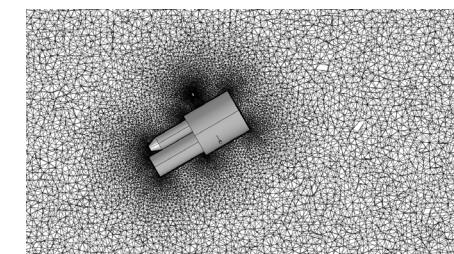


$$Ma = \frac{u}{c} = 1.75$$

$$c_{85 \text{ km}} = \sqrt{\gamma R_s T} = 229 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$



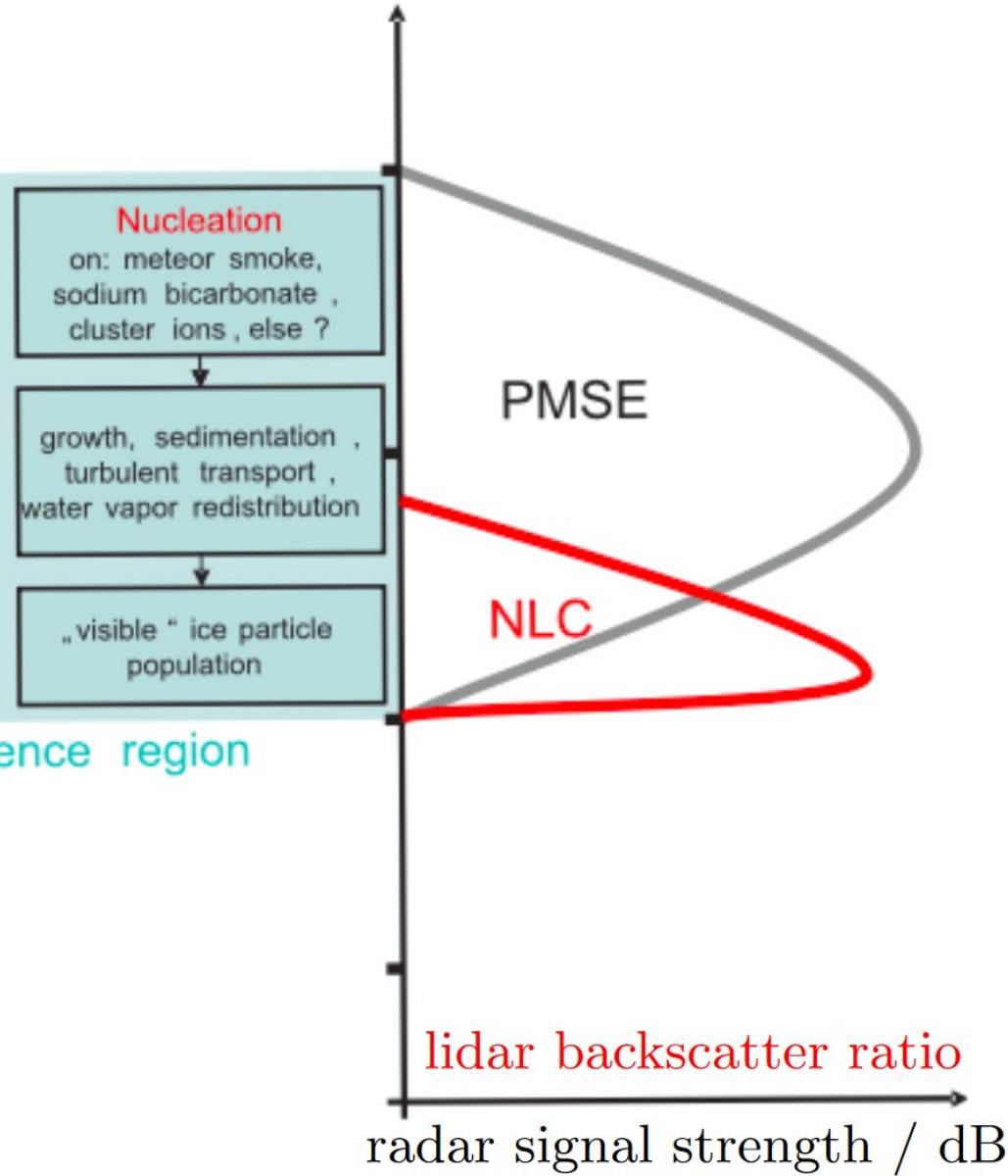
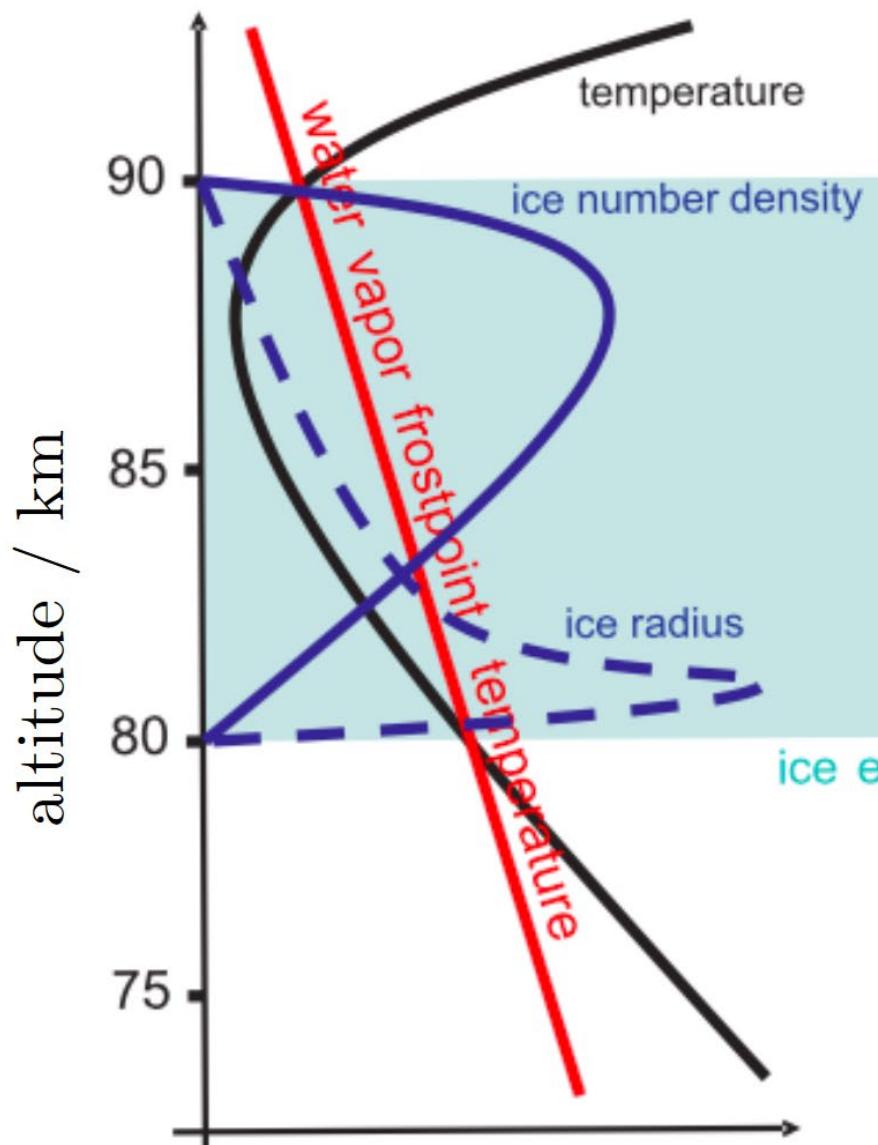
Stationäres Strömungsfeld



**Meteoroid** → Small (sub-km) rocky or metallic body in outer space.

**Meteor** → Light phenomenon ("shooting star" or "falling star"), visible passage of a frictionally heated and glowing body from outer space.

**Meteorite** → Solid piece or debris from outer space which has survived the passage through the atmosphere and has hit the surface → **Micrometeorite** if  $D_p < 1$  mm.



forces and their relationship $R$ to the Stokes drag force	importance in reference to Stokes drag force
pressure gradient force: $R_p = \left  \frac{\vec{F}_p}{\vec{F}_D} \right  \sim \frac{d_p^2 \nabla p}{\vec{u}_r}$	Neglectable for nanometre-sizes of $d_p$ and small pressure gradients around the particle.
gravitational force: $R_{G,tot} = \left  \frac{\vec{F}_g}{\vec{F}_D} \right  \sim \frac{d_p^2}{\vec{u}_r}$	Neglectable for nanometre-sized particles.
Saffman force: $R_L = \left  \frac{\vec{F}_L}{\vec{F}_D} \right  \sim d_p \sqrt{\frac{\vec{u}_r \times [\nabla \times \vec{u}_r]}{\vec{u}_r}}$	Neglectable for nano size particles or small relative velocities.
added mass force: $R_{am} = \left  \frac{\vec{F}_{am}}{\vec{F}_D} \right  \sim d_p^2 \frac{d(\vec{u}_f - \vec{v}_p)}{dt}$	Small for very small particles and for a small relative acceleration of the particle.
Brownian force: $R_{Brown} = \left  \frac{\vec{F}_{Brown}}{\vec{F}_D} \right  \sim \sqrt{\frac{1}{d_p \vec{u}_r^2}}$	Indispensable for nanometre-sized particles.

$$Ma = \frac{|v|}{c}, \quad c = \sqrt{\gamma \; R_s \; T},$$

$$c_{\rm 85\,km} = 229\;\frac{\mathrm{m}}{\mathrm{s}}$$

$$\nu_{\min}=300\,\frac{\mathrm{m}}{\mathrm{s}}$$

$$\nu_{\max}=400\,\frac{\mathrm{m}}{\mathrm{s}}$$

$$Ma_{\min}=1.31$$

$$Ma_{\max}=1.75$$

$$Ma = \frac{|v|}{c}, \quad c = \sqrt{\gamma R_s T},$$

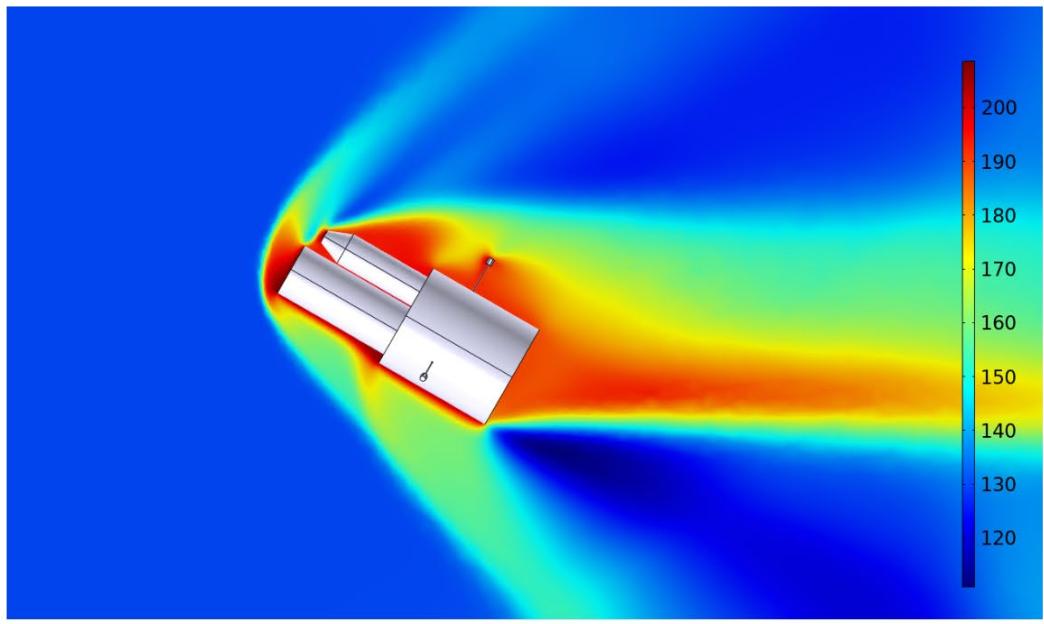
$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t}}_{\text{temporal change of mass}} + \underbrace{\nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{u})}_{\text{change of mass flux}} = 0.$$

$$\underbrace{\rho \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t}}_{\text{temporal change of momentum}} + \underbrace{\rho (\vec{u} \cdot \nabla) \vec{u}}_{\text{change of momentum by advection}} = \underbrace{-\nabla p \mathbf{I}}_{\text{force from pressure gradient}} + \underbrace{\mu \Delta \vec{u}}_{\text{viscous shear surface force}} + \underbrace{\rho \vec{f}}_{\text{body force}}$$

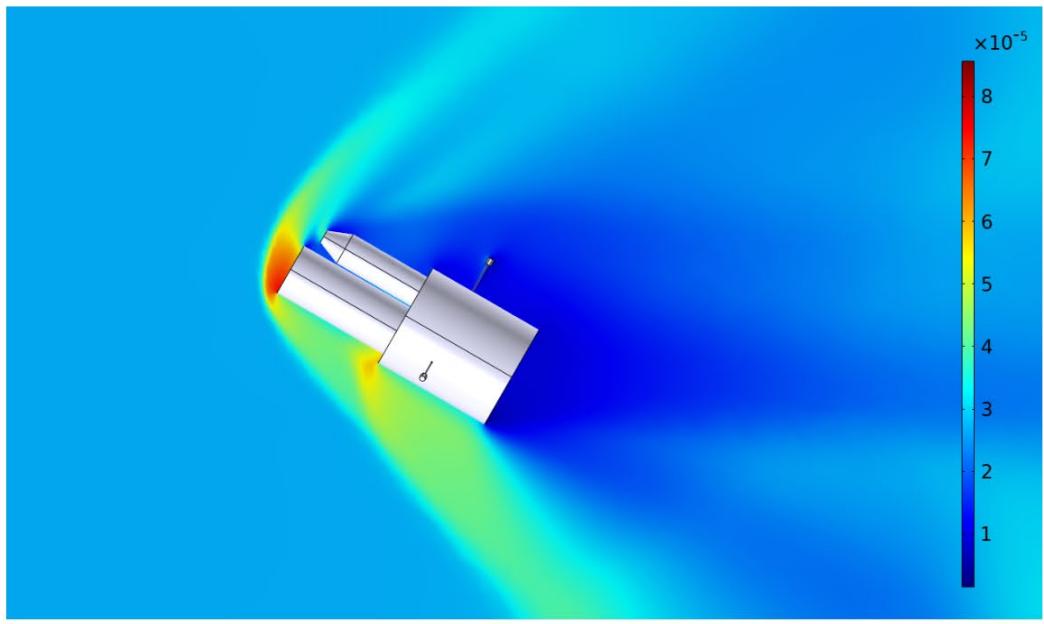
$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[ \rho \left( e + \frac{u^2}{2} \right) \right]}_{\text{temporal change of total energy}} + \underbrace{\nabla \cdot \left[ \rho \vec{u} \left( e + \frac{u^2}{2} \right) \right]}_{\text{net rate of flow of total energy}} = \underbrace{\nabla \cdot \vec{q}}_{\text{heat addition}} + \underbrace{\nabla \cdot (\sigma \vec{u})}_{\text{work due to pressure force}} + \underbrace{\rho (\vec{f} \cdot \vec{u})}_{\text{work due to body force}}.$$

$$e = c_v T,$$

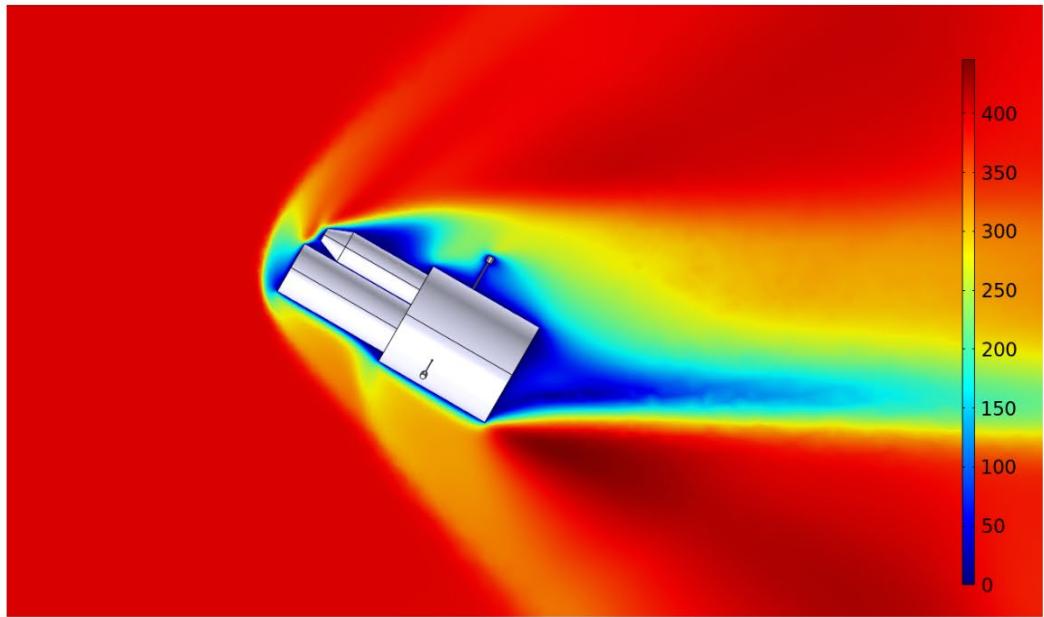
$$\rho = \frac{p}{R_s T},$$



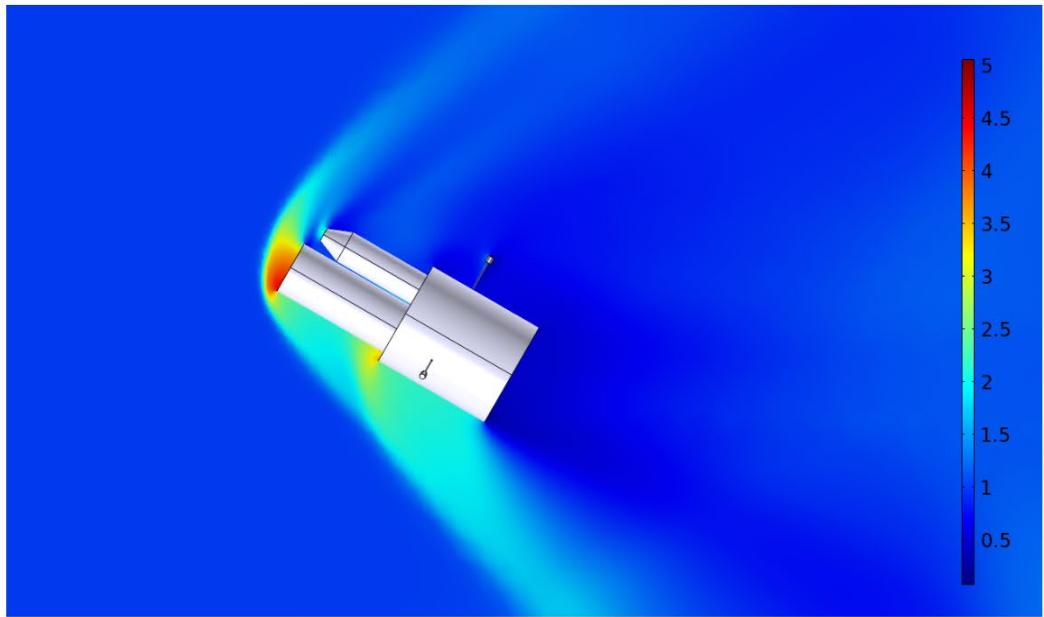
temperature / K



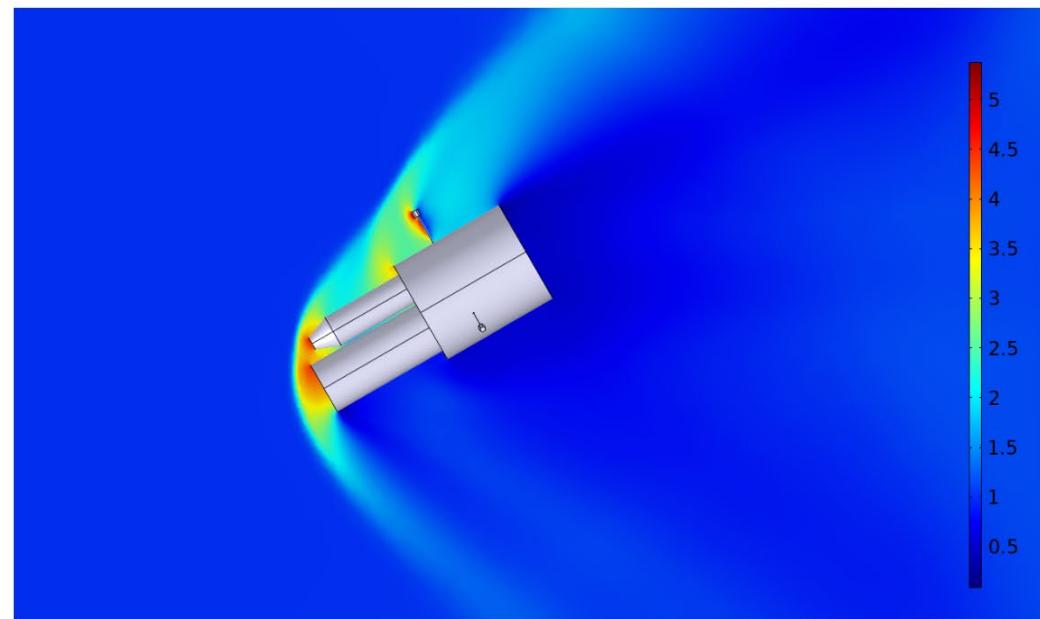
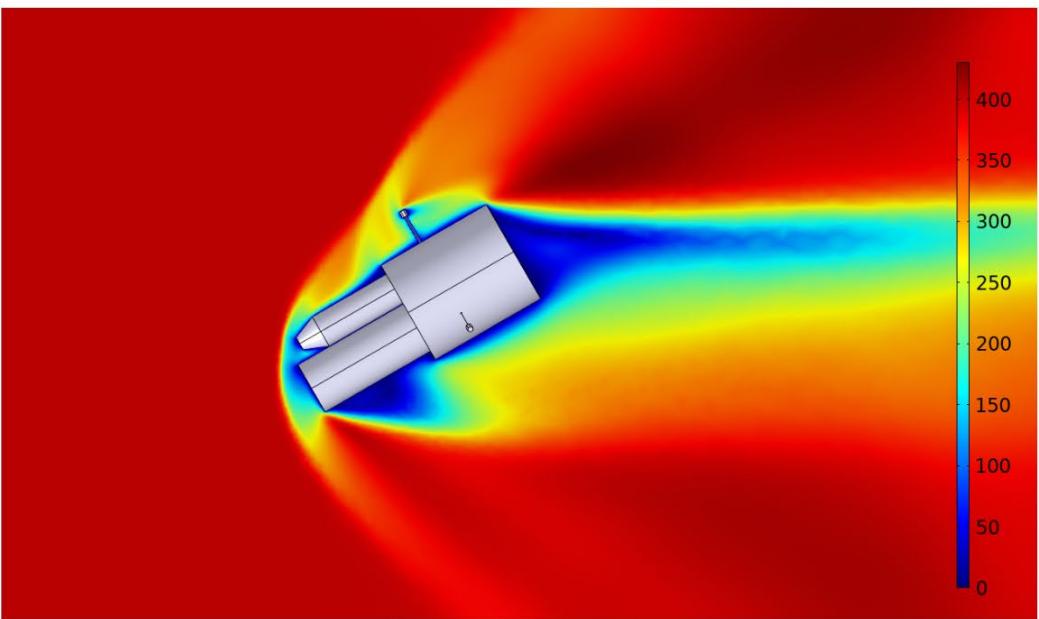
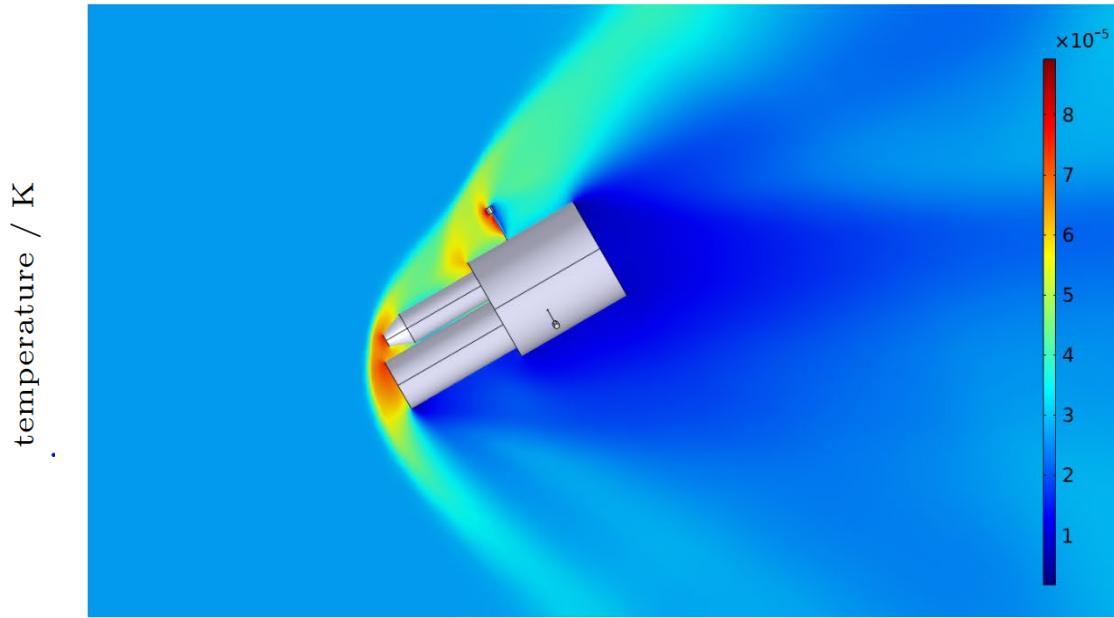
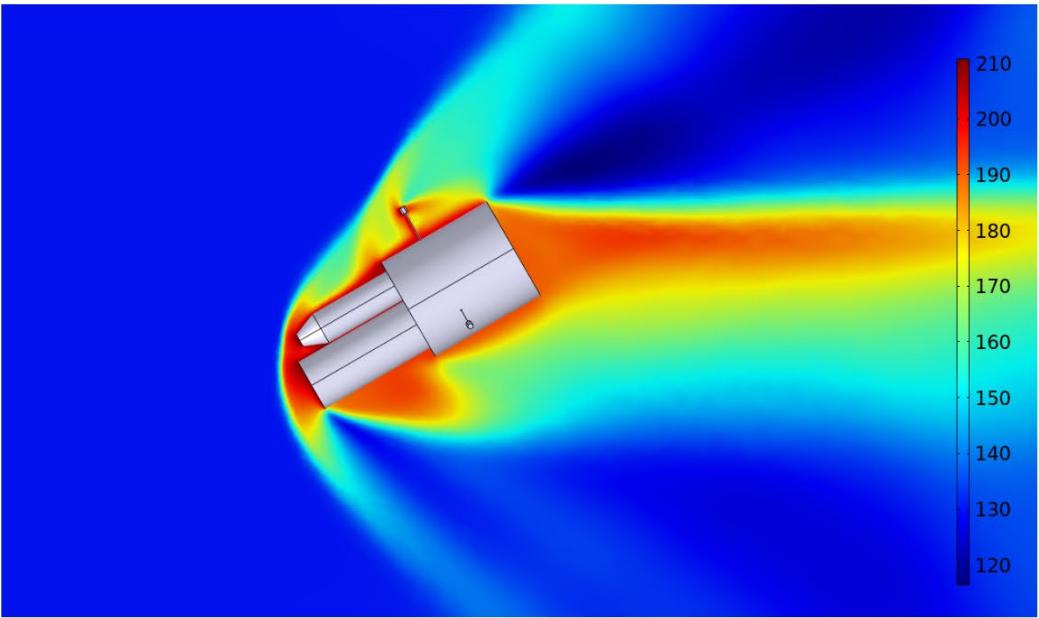
density /  $\text{kg m}^{-3}$



velocity magnitude /  $\text{m s}^{-1}$

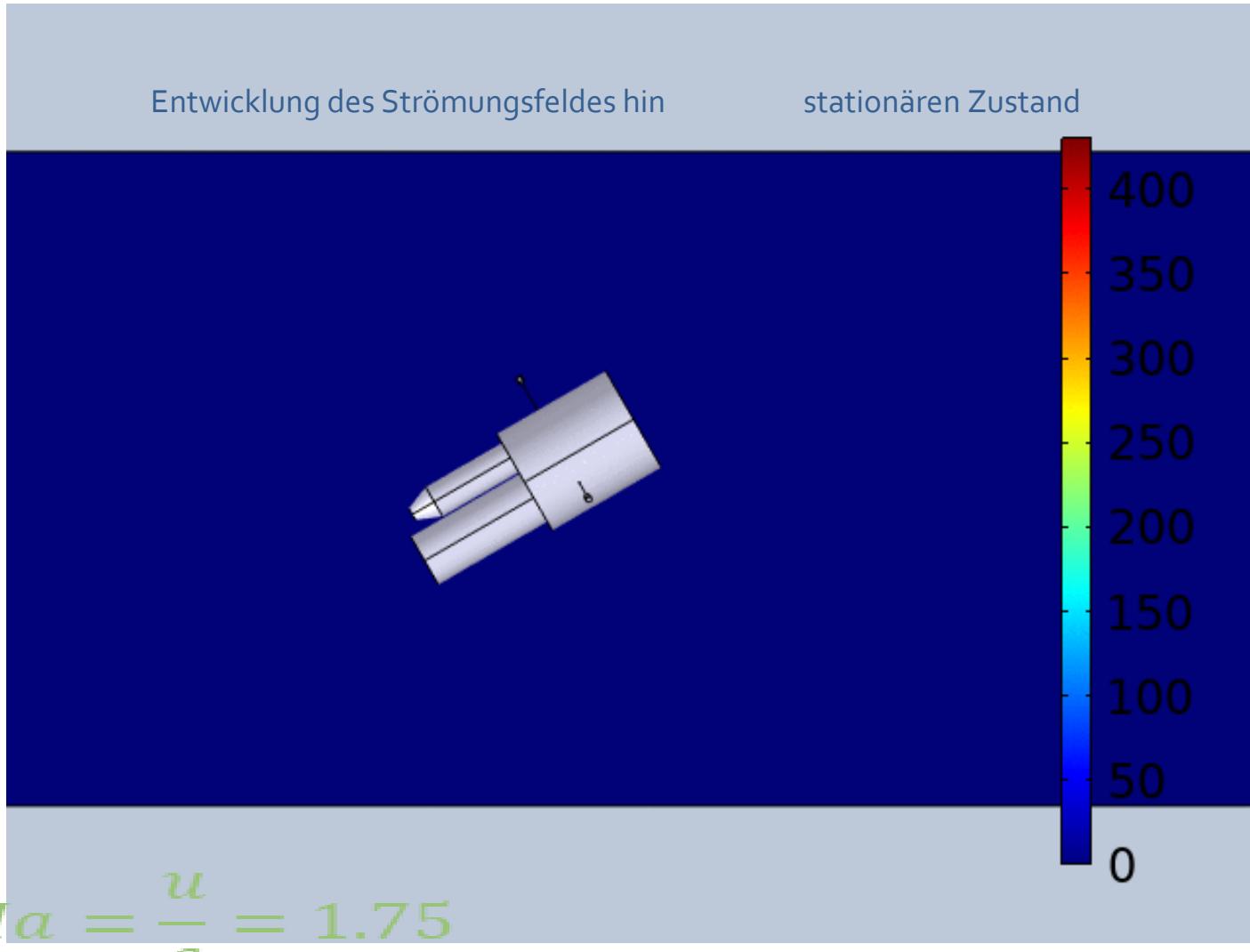


pressure / Pa



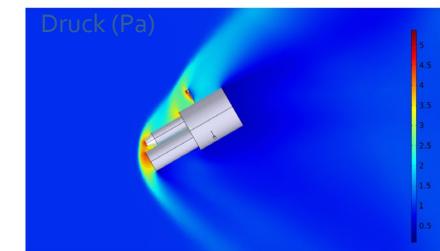
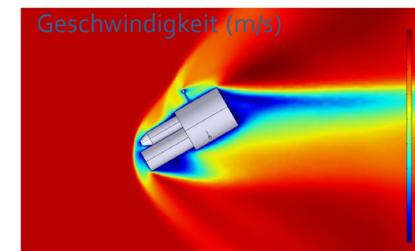
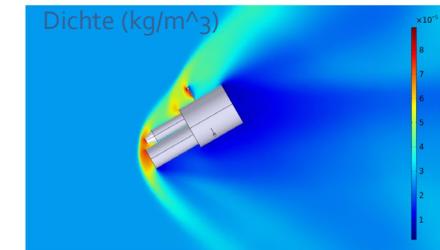
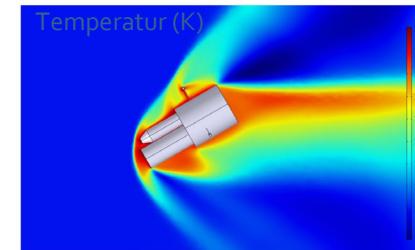
# GEL Projekt

## Simulation einer supersonischen Strömung um eine Höhenforschungs Rakete

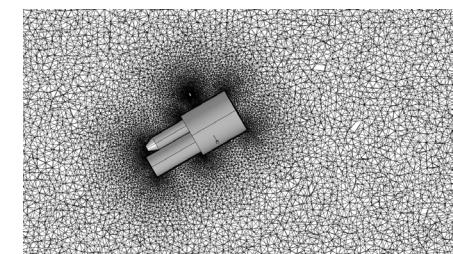


$$Ma = \frac{u}{c} = 1.75$$

$$c_{85 \text{ km}} = \sqrt{\gamma R_s T} = 229 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$



Stationäres Strömungsfeld



Berechnungsnetz