



Université  
de Toulouse



# FLOW BOILING IN MICROGRAVITY: APPLICATION TO COOLING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS ON SATELLITES

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Fondation  
de Recherche  
pour l'Aéronautique  
& l'Espace

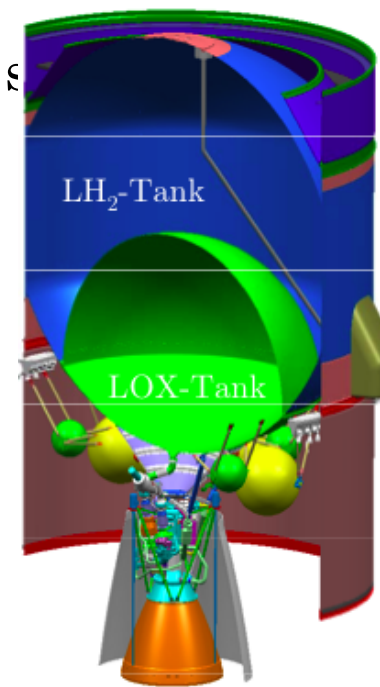
# MOTIVATION AND CONTEXT

Studies of two-phase flows with phase changes motivated by nuclear safety issues (Critical Heat Flux, Reactivity Insertion Accidents)

and space applications

re-ignition of cryogenic engines of the launchers (quenching, flow boiling)

- thermal control of electronic components in satellites

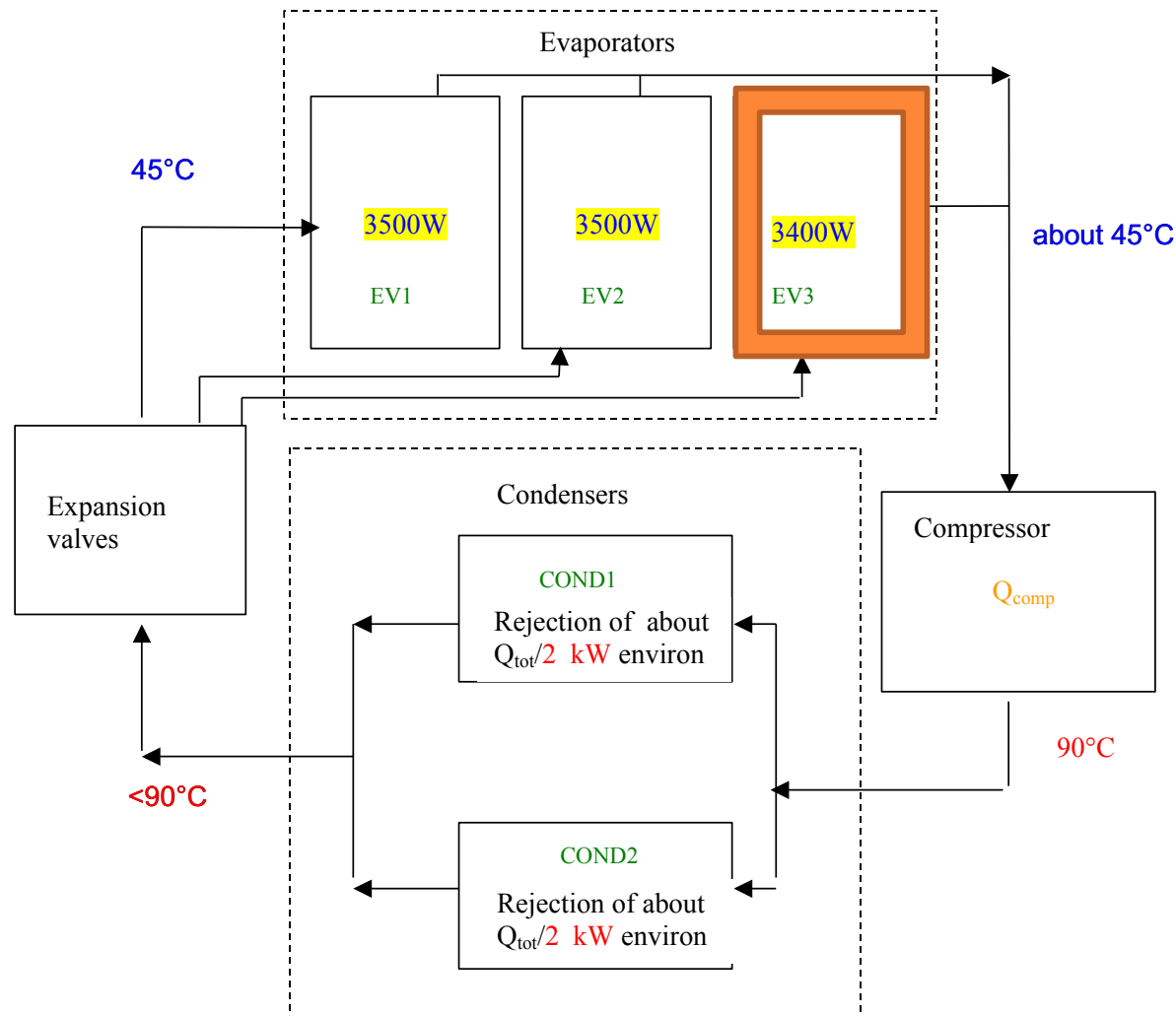


ESC-B/Vinci Engine



# DESIGN OF A TWO-PHASE LOOP FOR COOLING ELECTRONIC COMPONENT OF A SATELLITE

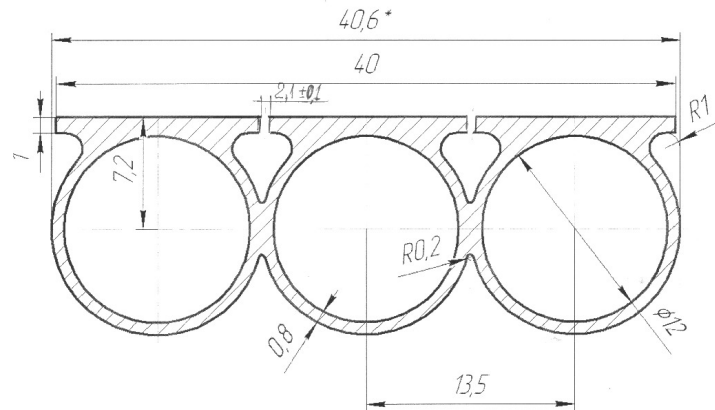
MATRAS Programme of FNRAE (2009-2013)  
with THALES ALENIA SPACE



Partners:

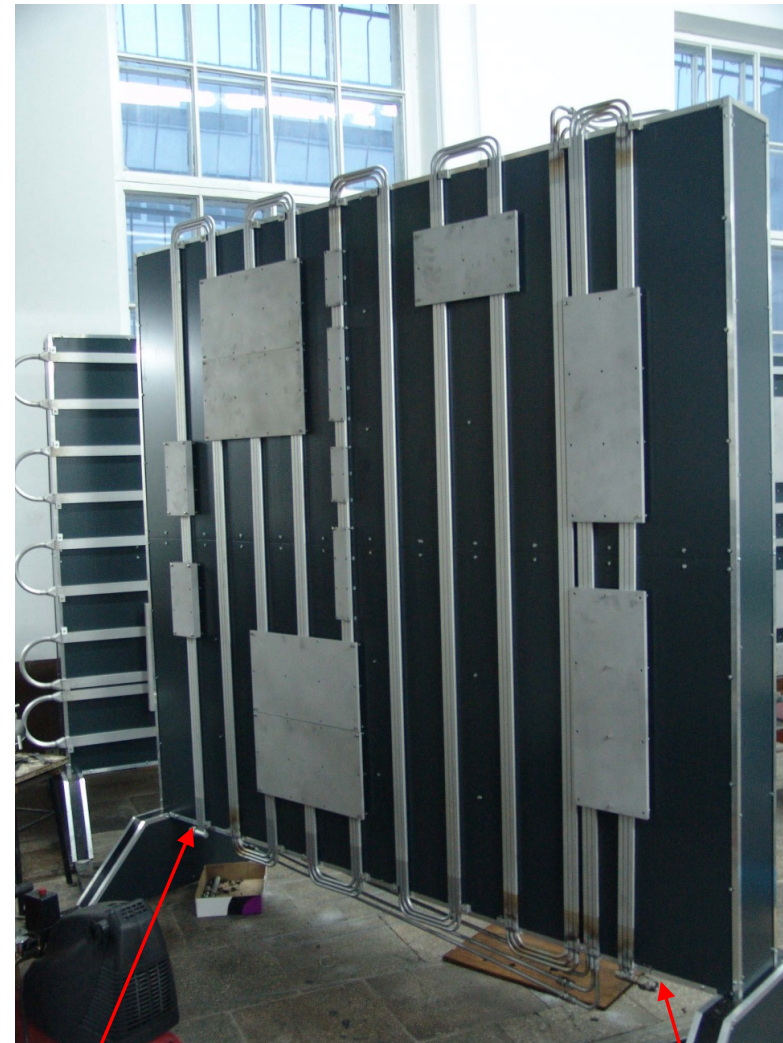
Thales Alenia Space  
CETHIL Lyon  
CEA Grenoble  
LAPLACE, Tlse  
PPRIME, Poitiers  
IMFT, Tlse

# DESIGN OF A TWO-PHASE LOOP FOR COOLING ELECTRONIC COMPONENT OF A SATELLITE



Modelling of the pressure drop and heat transfer in the whole panel in microgravity and ground conditions → optimisation of the design 3 tubes of 12mm diameter in parallel (60m) → extraction of 3.4 kW

→ development of a 1D model  
Project of INP-N7 students  
→ Building of an experimental set-up for ground and microgravity experiments



Inlet fitting for tubing Ø18

Outlet fitting for tubing Ø18

# ESA MAP PROJECT MULTISCALE ANALYSIS ON BOILING (2008-....)

Boiling investigation at the bubble scale (experiments, DNS, ..)  
→ RUBI experiments on the ISS (2019)

Flow Boiling in tube in microgravity

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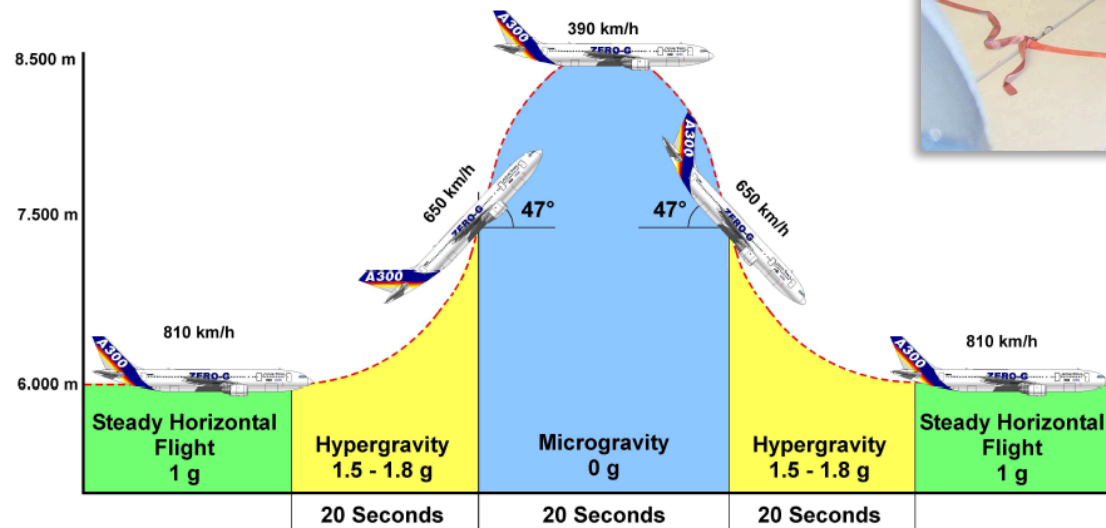
# FLOW BOILING IN TUBE

- EXPERIMENTAL SETUP
- MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUES
  - VOID FRACTION
  - WALL SHEAR STRESS
  - HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT
- RESULTS:
- CONCLUSIONS

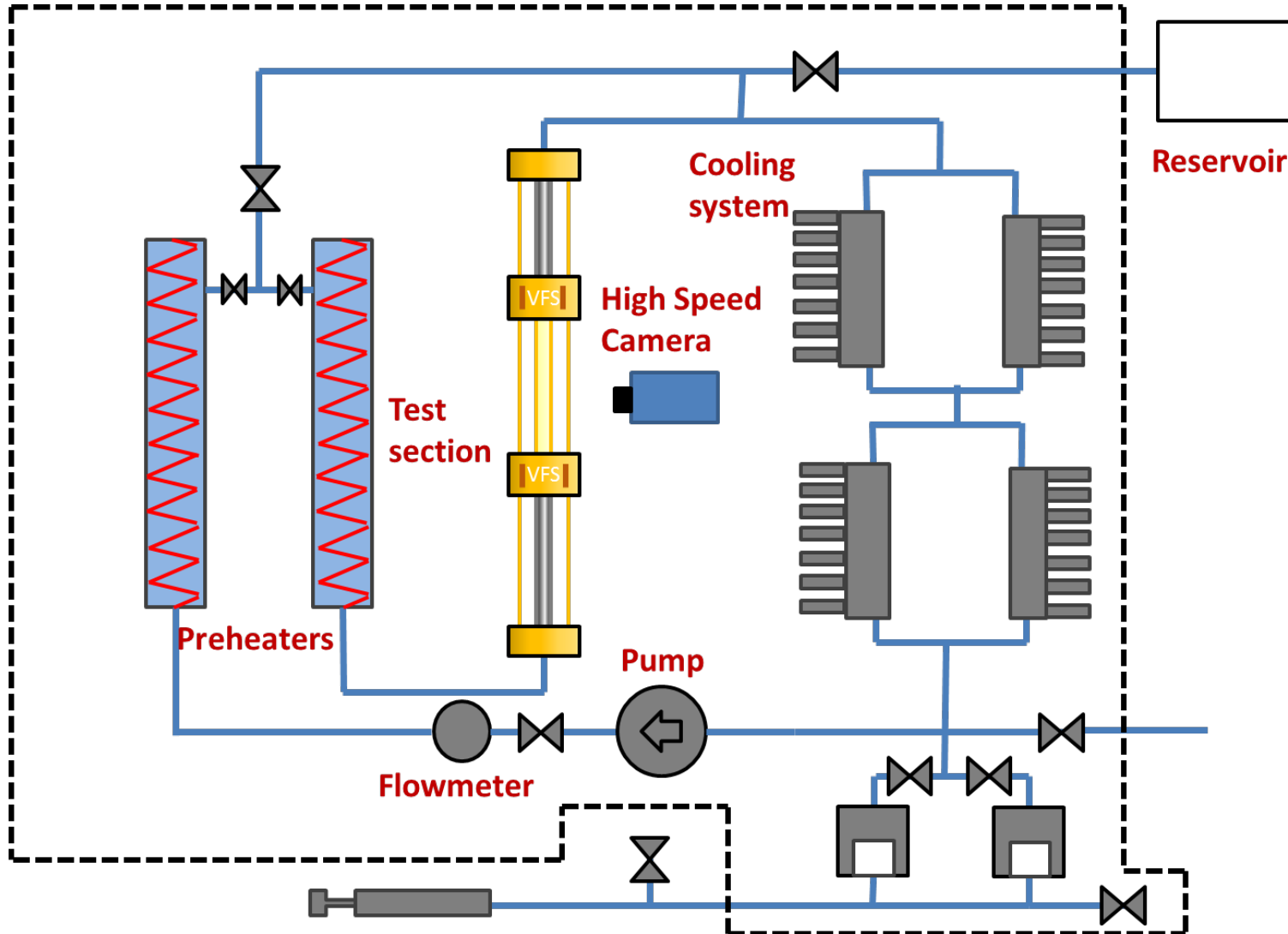


# EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

- Designed and built for two-phase flows studies with phase change under microgravity conditions.
- BRASIL: Boiling Regimes in Annular and Slug flow In Low gravity
- $G=50-300 \text{ kg/m}^2/\text{s}$
- $x=0-0.6$
- $\Delta T(\text{subcooled}) < 10^\circ\text{C}$
- $q= 0.5-4 \text{ W/cm}^2$
- ID= 6 mm
- Fluids HFE7000 – HFE7100

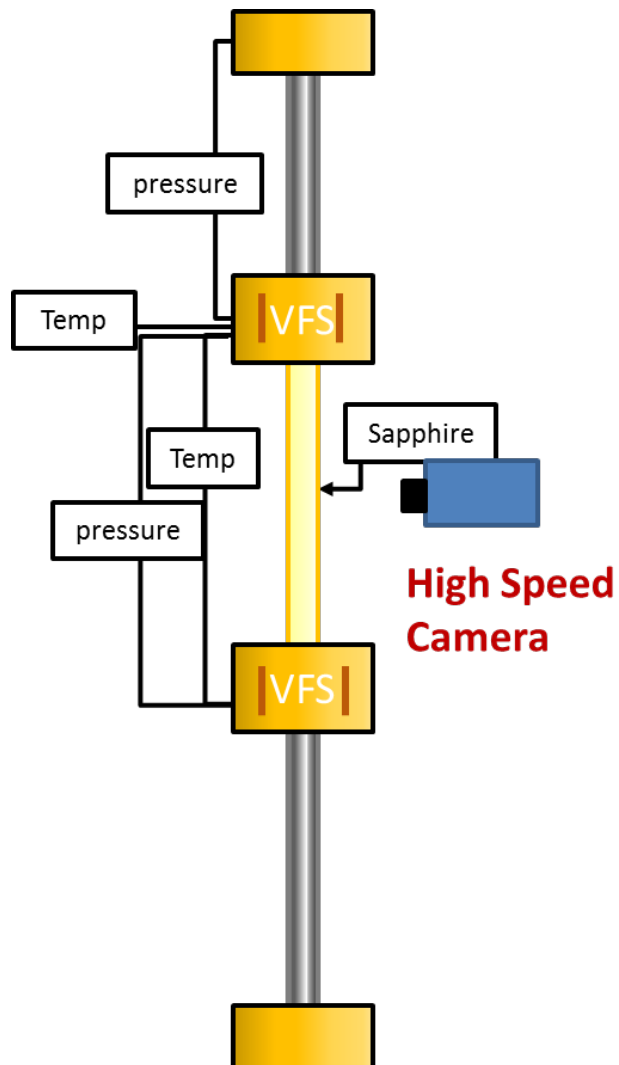


# EXPERIMENTAL SETUP



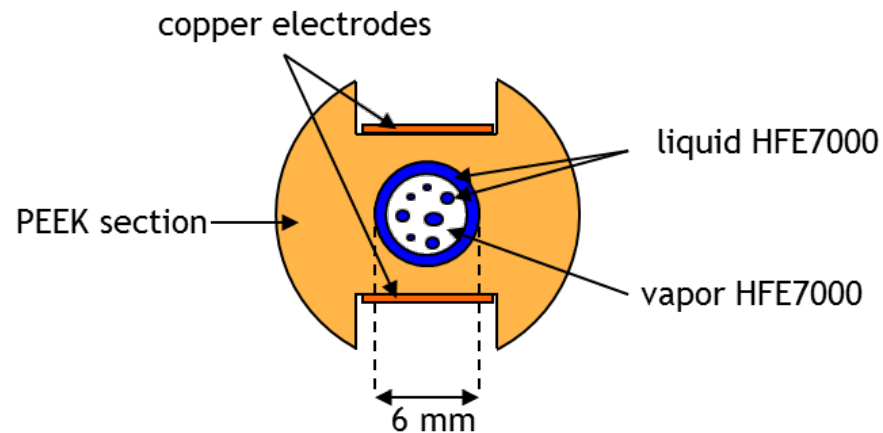


# TEST SECTION: SAPPHIRE TUBE



Sapphire tube:

- 200 mm long sapphire tube
- Semi-transparent with an ITO coating for Joule effect heating
- Wall temperature measured by Pt100 probes
- HFE 7000  $\rightarrow T_{\text{sat}} = 34^\circ\text{C} @ 1 \text{ bar}$
- Pressure drop measurements  $\rightarrow$  wall shear stress
- Capacitance probes  $\rightarrow$  void fraction
- Thermocouples  $\rightarrow$  liquid enthalpy and quality  $x$



# RESULTS: FLOW REGIMES

$G=200\text{kg/m}^2/\text{s}$	$G=50\text{kg/m}^2/\text{s}$	$G=200\text{kg/m}^2/\text{s}$	$G=200\text{kg/m}^2/\text{s}$	$G=50\text{kg/m}^2/\text{s}$	$G=200\text{kg/m}^2/\text{s}$
$2\text{ W/cm}^2$	$2\text{ W/cm}^2$	$4\text{ W/cm}^2$	$2\text{ W/cm}^2$	$2\text{ W/cm}^2$	$4\text{ W/cm}^2$
$\Delta T=10^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T=10^\circ\text{C}$	$T_{\text{saturation}}$	$\Delta T=10^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T=10^\circ\text{C}$	$T_{\text{saturation}}$



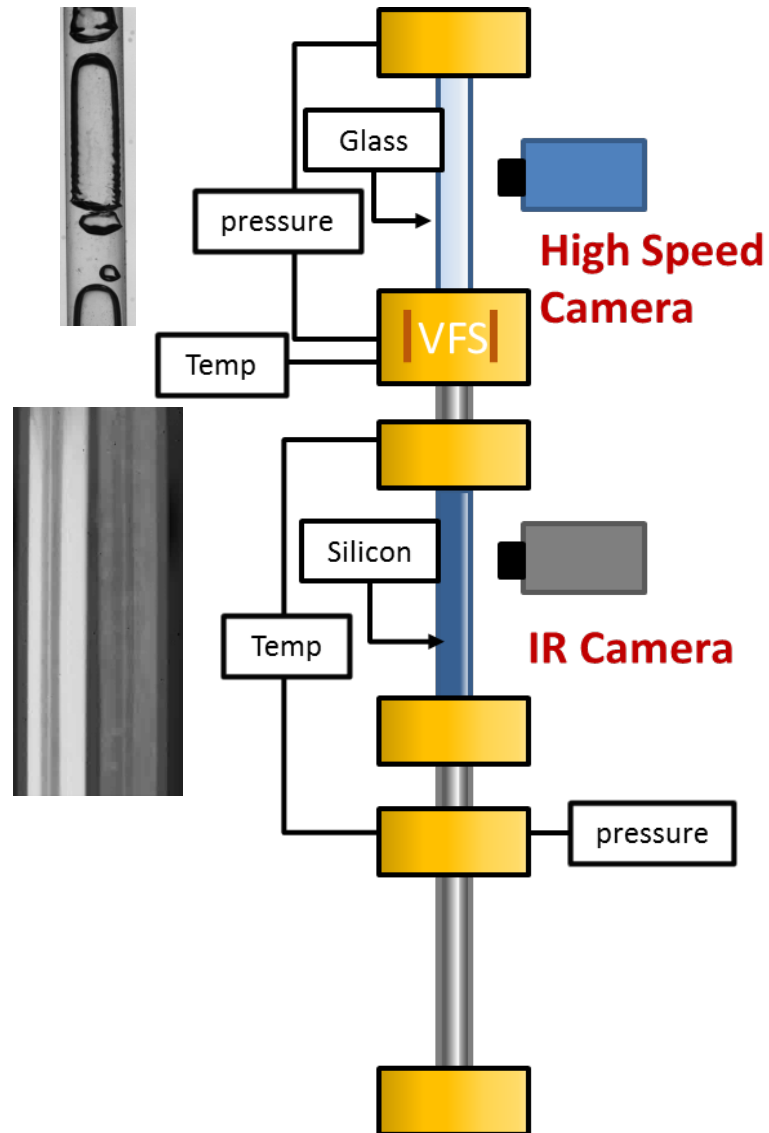
Microgravity

Normal gravity

## Influence of gravity:

- Size and shapes of bubbles
- At detachment larger bubble diameter is observed in microgravity.
- Liquid film in annular flow seems smoother

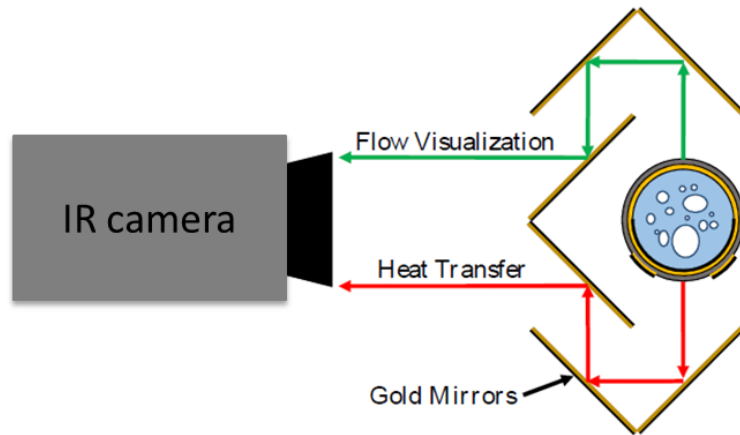
# TEST SECTION: SILICON TUBE



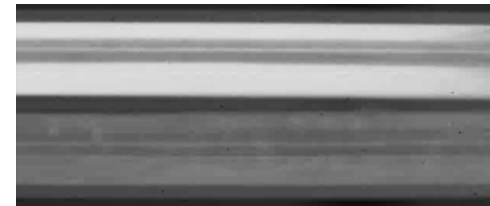
Silicon:

- 100 mm long sapphire tube
- Transparent to the IR camera doped for Joule effect heating
- Wall temperature measured obtained from IR camera visualization
- HFE 7100  $\rightarrow T_{\text{sat}} = 61^\circ\text{C} @ 1 \text{ bar}$
- ESA's High Resolution IR camera

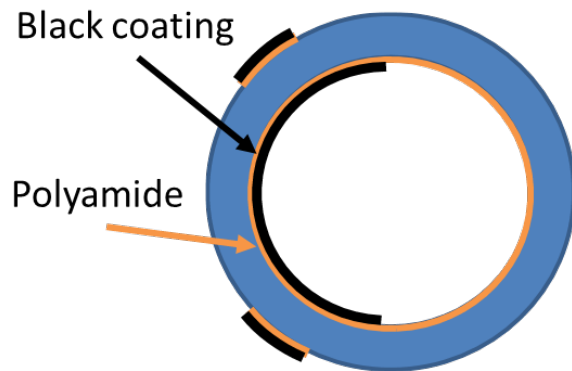
# MEASUREMENT OF HTC



Flow  
visualization



Temperature  
measurements



Kim et al. (2012)

$$E_{c,o} = (1 - \varepsilon_s)E_\infty + \varepsilon_s E_{s,o}$$

$$\text{with } E_{s,o} = F_{\lambda_1 \rightarrow \lambda_2} \sigma T_{s,o}^4$$

$$E_{c,i} = \rho_{\infty-c} E_\infty + \varepsilon_{si-c} E_{si} + \varepsilon_{T-c} E_T + \tau_{s-c} E_{s,i}$$

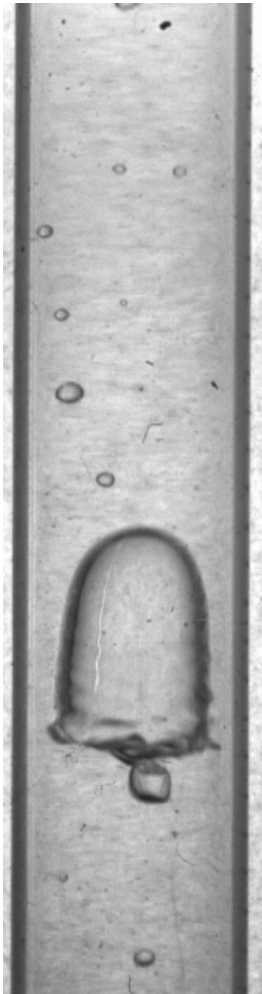
$$\rho_{Si} C_{p,Si} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = K_{Si} \Delta T + q_{Si}$$

$$\rho_A C_{p,A} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = K_A \Delta T$$

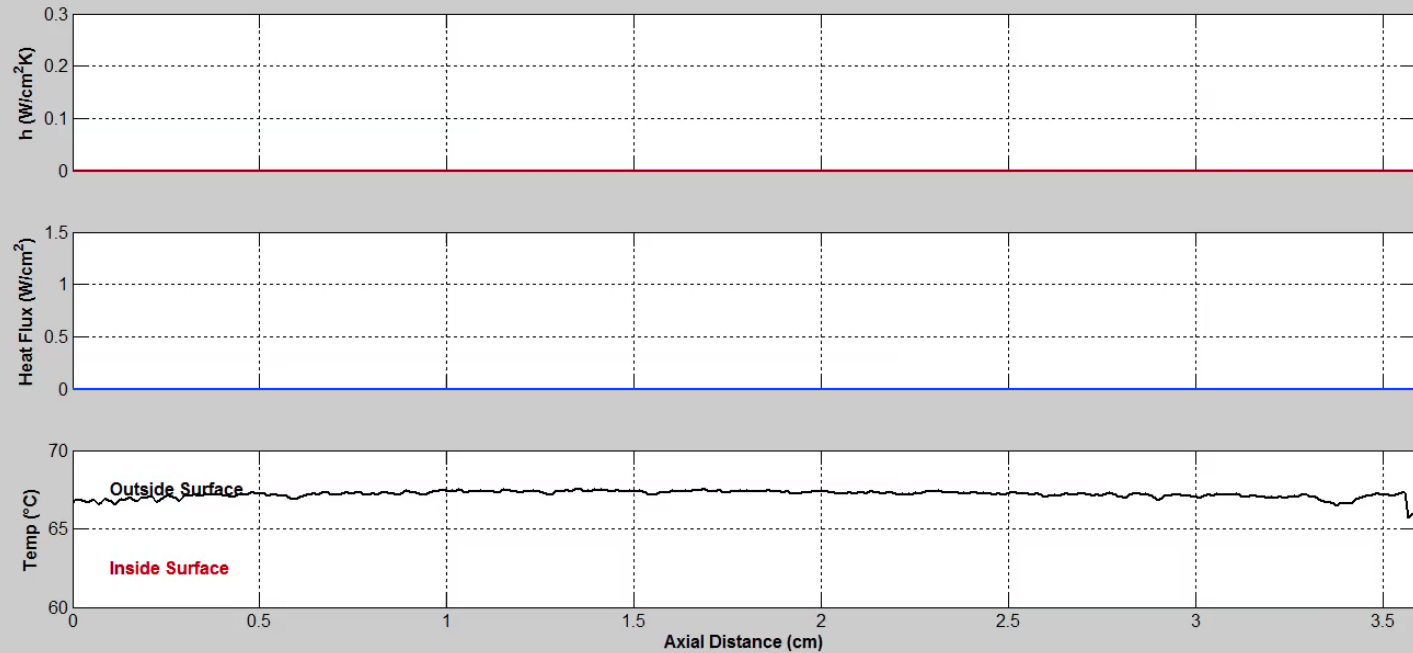
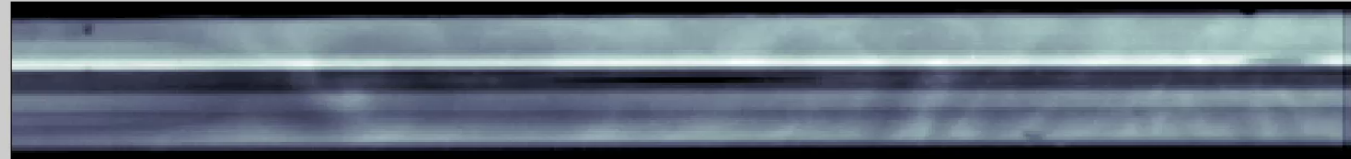
$$\rho_P C_{p,P} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = K_P \Delta T$$

$$h_i = \frac{q}{T_{iw} - T_{i\infty}}$$

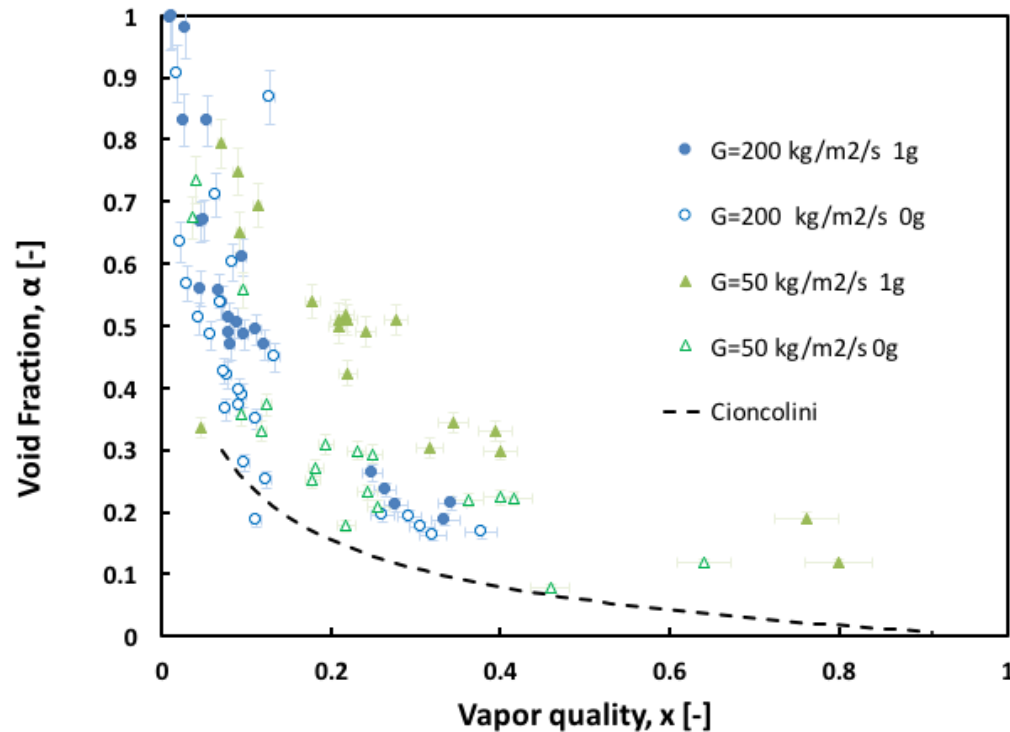
# HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT IN SLUG FLOW



Mass Flux (G) = 125 kg/m<sup>2</sup>s     $x_{avg} = 0.02$      $q'' = 0.49$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>    Vertical Upward Flow Boiling (HFE7100)



# RESULTS: VOID FRACTION NORMAL VS MICROGRAVITY



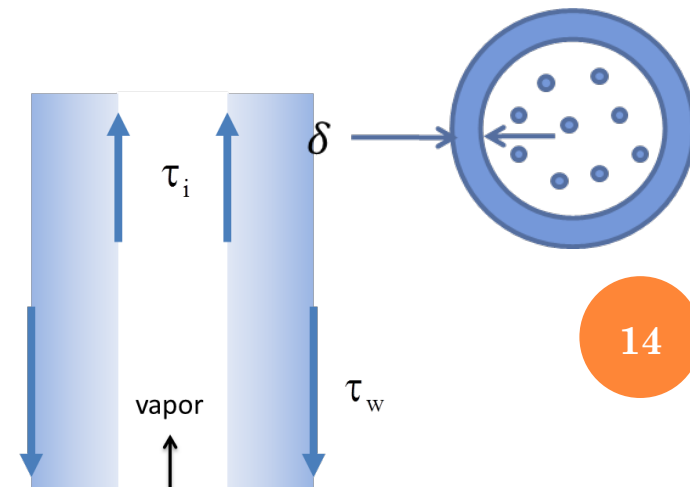
Evolution of the void fraction as a function of mass flow rate (kg/m<sup>2</sup>/s)

Influence of gravity:  
- The liquid film is thicker in 1g.

$$\delta = \frac{D}{2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{\alpha \frac{\rho_l x + \rho_v (1-x)e}{\rho_l x}} \right)$$

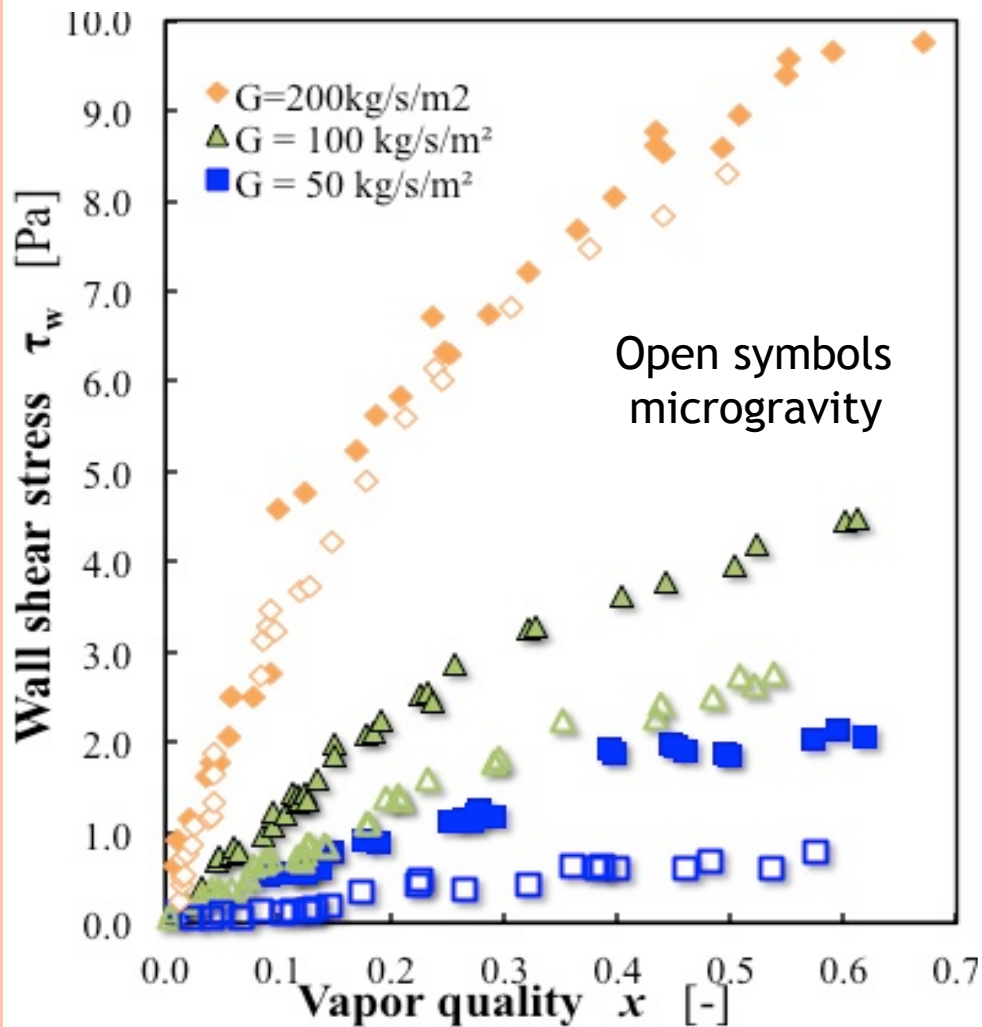
$$e = (1 + 2.79.6 We_c^{-0.8395})^{-2.209}$$

Cioncolini et Thome (2012)





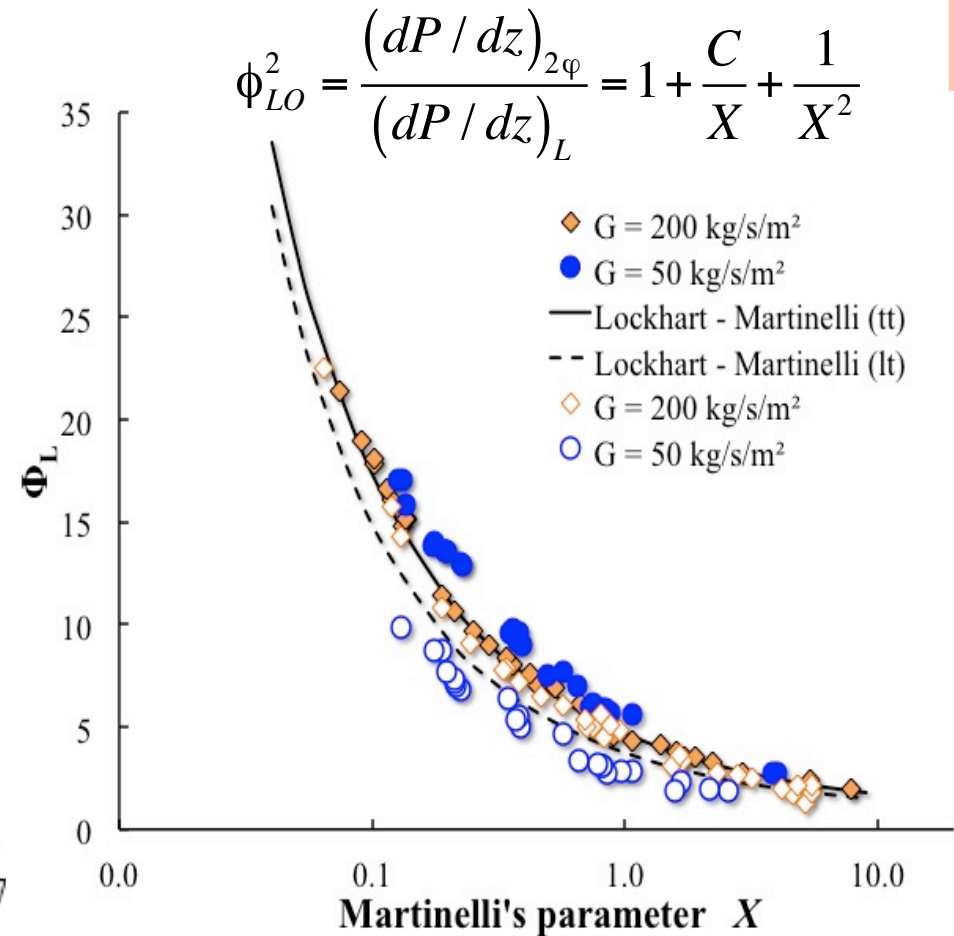
# WALL SHEAR STRESS



For  $G > 200 \text{ kg/m}^2/\text{s}$  → wall shear stress independent of gravity

For  $G < 200 \text{ kg/m}^2/\text{s}$  → wall shear stress larger in 1g

$$\frac{dP}{dz} = \frac{4\tau_w}{D} - g[\rho_L(1-\alpha) + \rho_G\alpha]$$

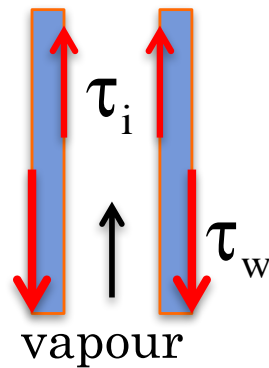


Good agreement with Lockhart and Martinelli model

# INTERFACIAL FRICTION FACTOR FOR ANNULAR FLOW

$$-(1-\alpha)\frac{dP}{dz} - \frac{4\tau_w}{D} + \underbrace{\frac{4\tau_i\sqrt{\alpha}}{D}}_{100} - \rho_L g(1-\alpha) = 0$$

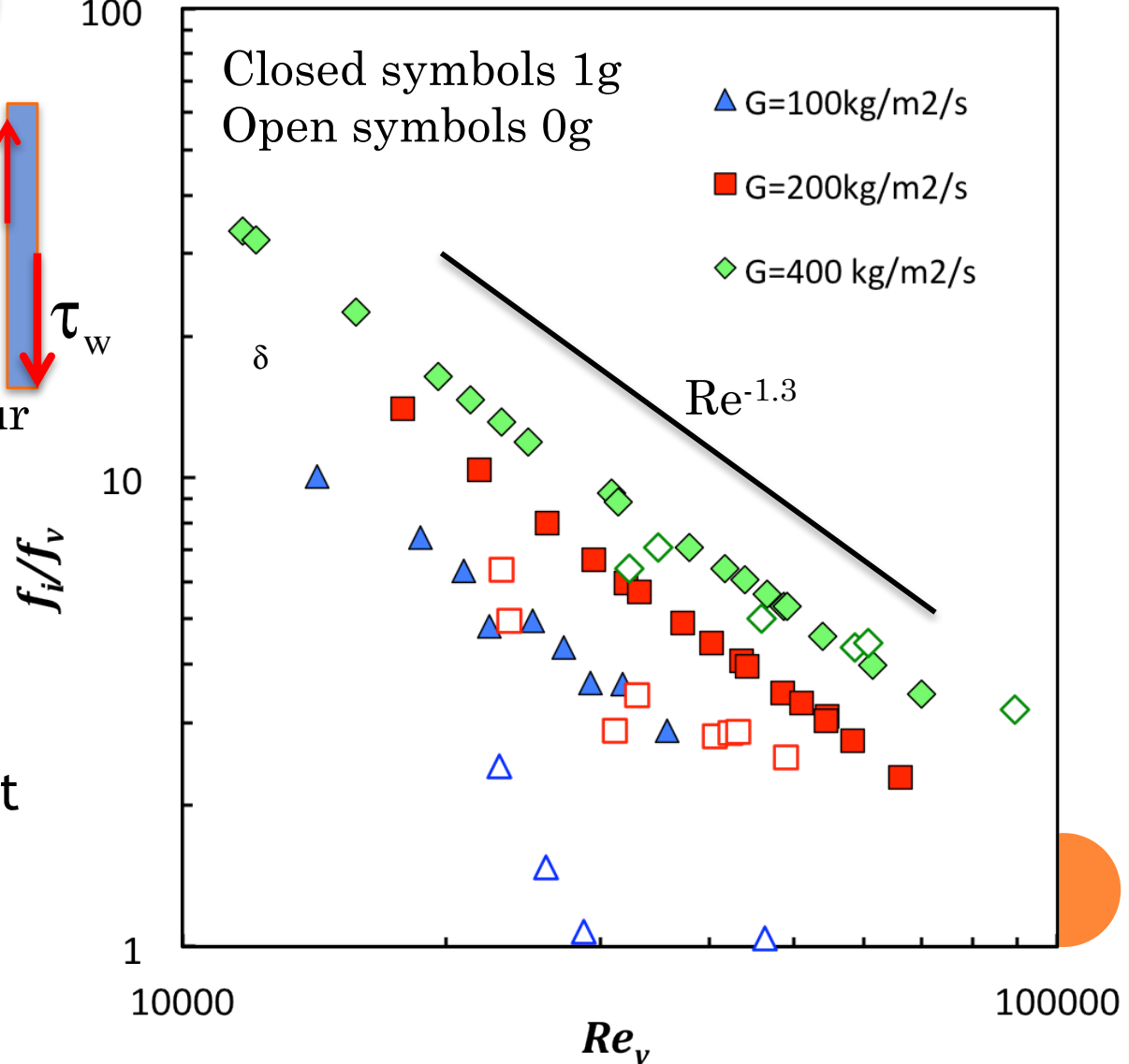
$$f_i = \frac{\tau_i}{\frac{1}{2}\rho_v(U_V - U_L)^2}$$



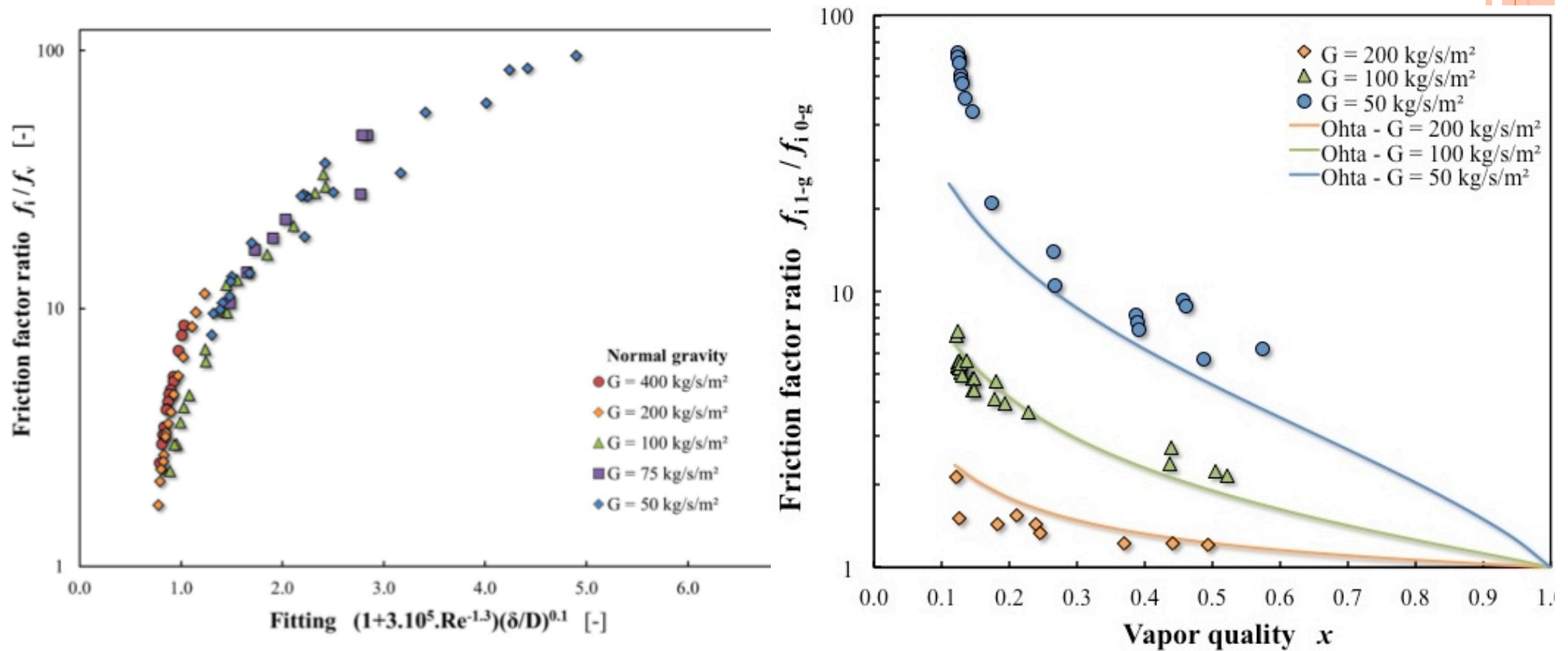
$f_i/f_v$  depends on  $Re_v$  and not only on  $\delta$

- > not fully rough turbulent flow
- > Wallis correlation is not adapted

$$f_i = 0.005 \left( 1 + 300 \frac{\delta}{D} \right)$$



# INTERFACIAL FRICTION FACTOR FOR ANNULAR FLOW

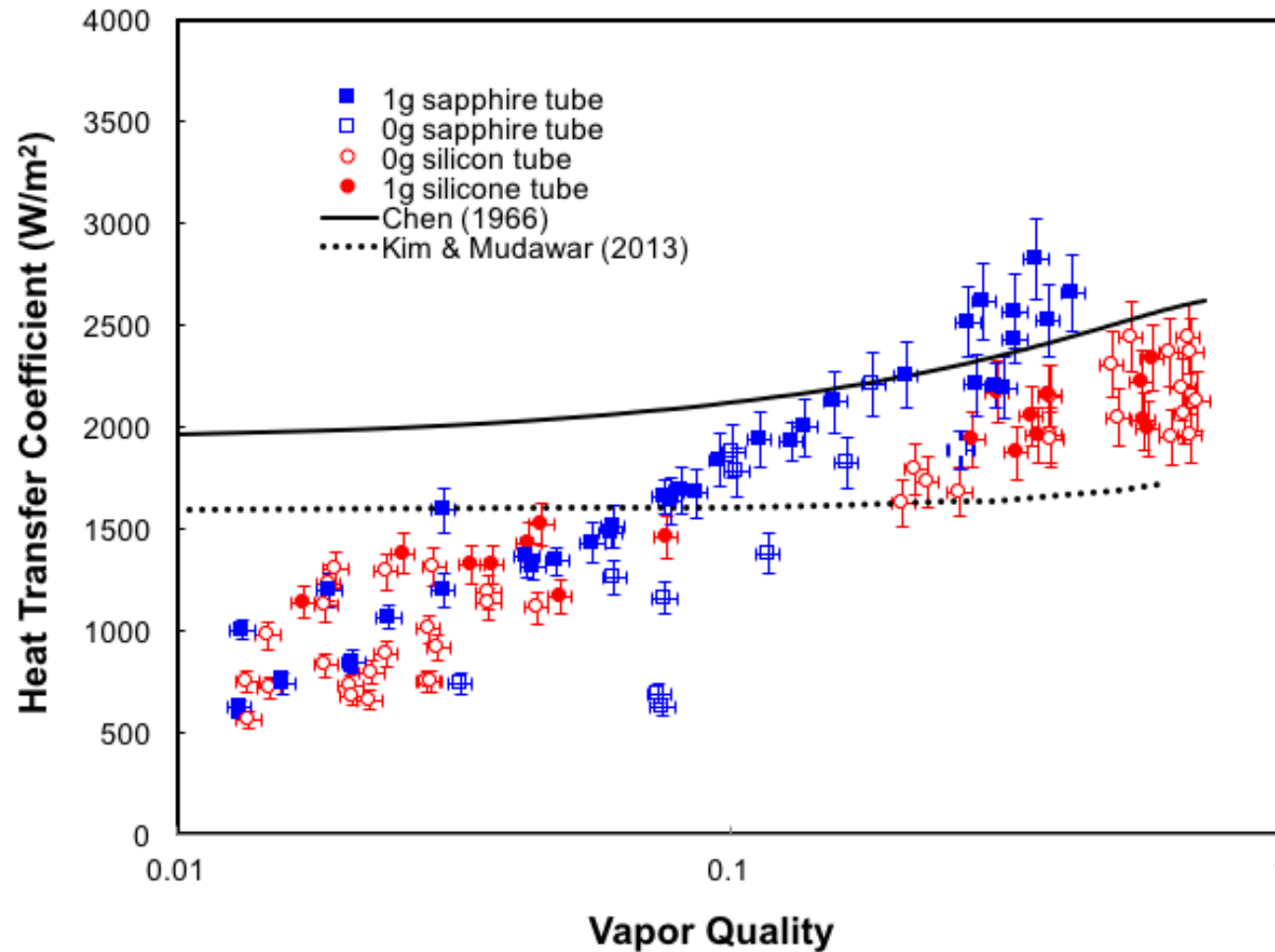


$$\frac{f_i}{f_v} = 1 + 18.3 \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{3 \cdot 10^5}{Re_v^{1.3}} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\delta}{D} \right)^{0.1} - 0.89 \right]$$

$$\frac{f_{i-1g}}{f_{i-0g}} = 1 + 0.08 \left( \frac{1-x}{x} \right)^{0.9} \frac{1}{Fr}$$

$$\text{with } Fr = \frac{j_L^2}{gD}$$

# HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT



Deterioration of the heat transfer in microgravity.

- At lower quality the influence of gravity can be seen,
- At higher quality good agreement with classical correlations.

# CONCLUSION

- Study of flow boiling in tube → expertise in specific **measurements technics** (Thermocouples, Infrared camera, capacitance probes, pressure drops, high-speed video recording and image processing) and in 1 dimensional modelling of two-phase flows.
- Close connexions with industrial partners:
  - Thales Alena Space for the design of two-phase loop for cooling electronic devices
  - Air Liquide : heat and mass transfers in space launchers
  - Snecma moteurs & CNES: chill down of tubes before the re-ignition of space launcher engine (Ariane V programme)
  - IRSN: rapid transient boiling in nuclear reactors (RIA)



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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