



# Turbulence in open-channel flows over granular low-tortuosity beds

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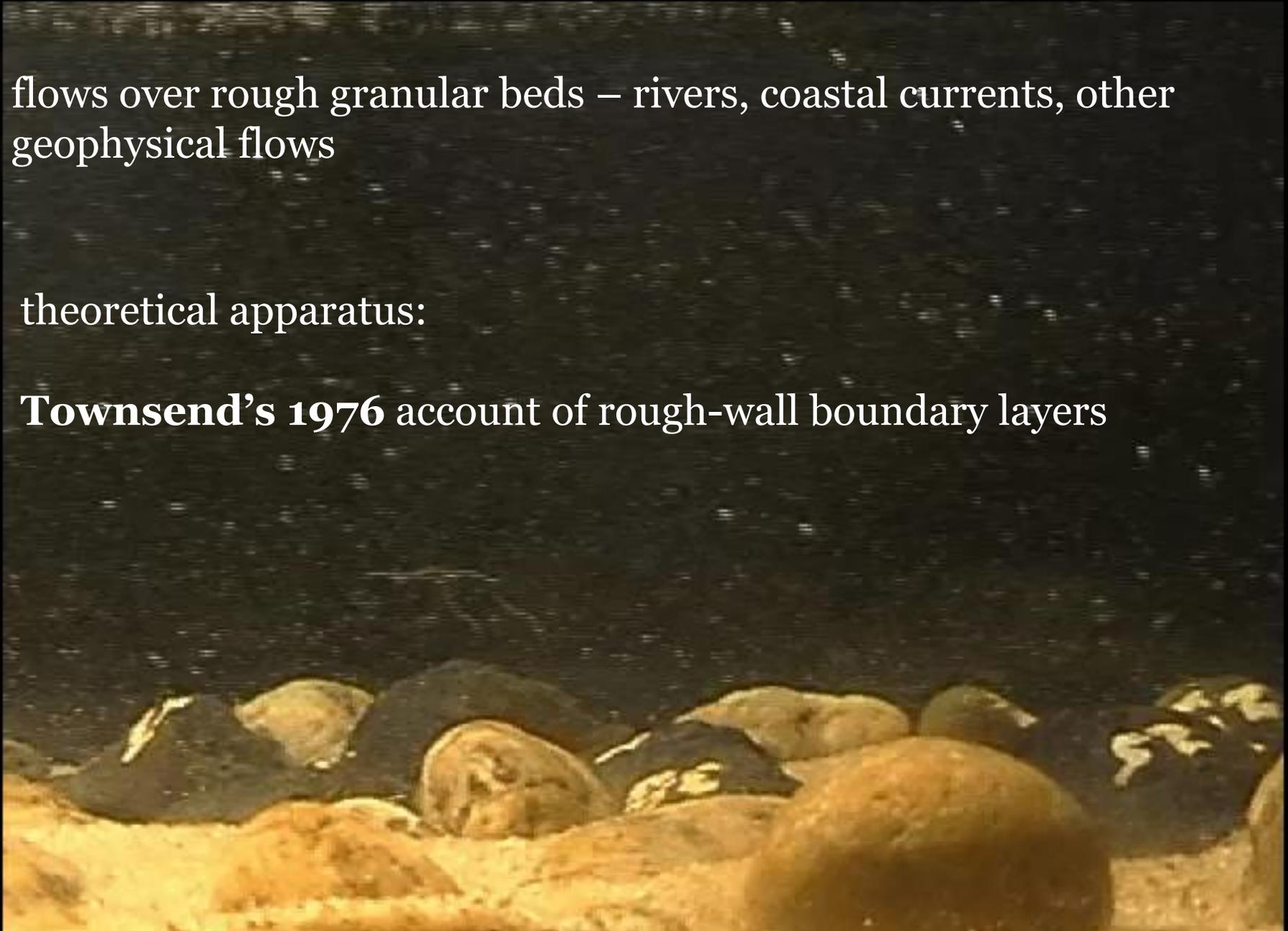
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flows over rough granular beds – rivers, coastal currents, other geophysical flows

theoretical apparatus:

**Townsend's 1976** account of rough-wall boundary layers



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Townsend's 1976 wall similarity  
(presupposes an overlapping layer of inner and outer regions)

but the particular type of roughness is irrelevant  
in the upper parts of the inner region.  
what matters to scale kinematic variables is **the value** of  $u_*$ , not how it has been generated

inner region

$u_*$  is determined by the particular type of roughness

near bed layer  
(roughness layer)  
(pythmenic layer)

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overlapping layer

inner region

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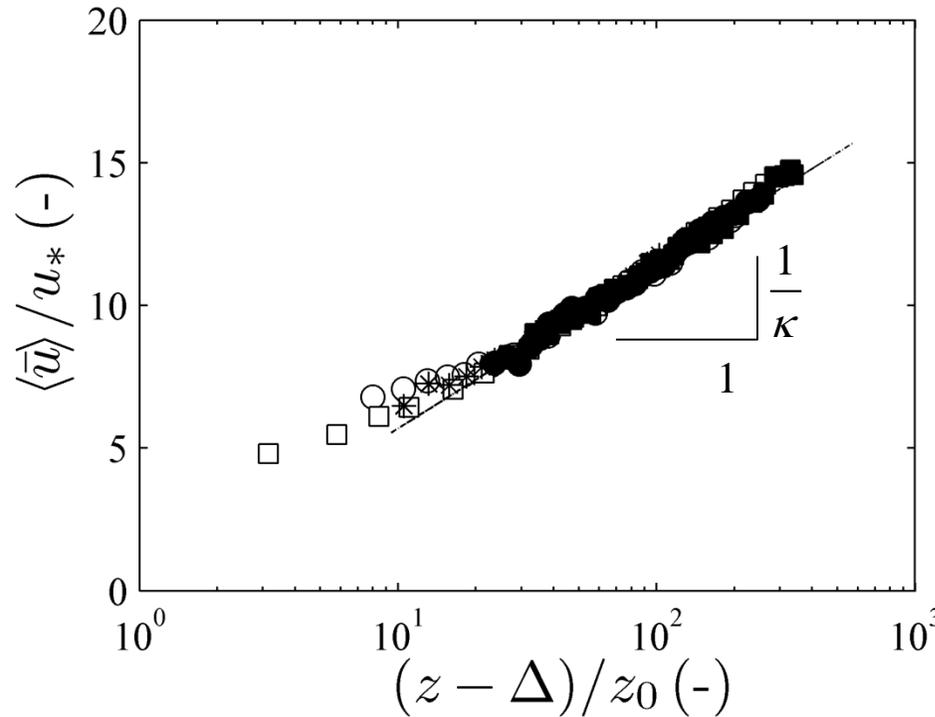
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## the wall-normal distribution of the longitudinal velocity



$$z \partial_z \{u\} = u_* A$$

**A is empirically determined;  
Re independent? universal?**

$$z \partial_z \{u\} = u_* A$$

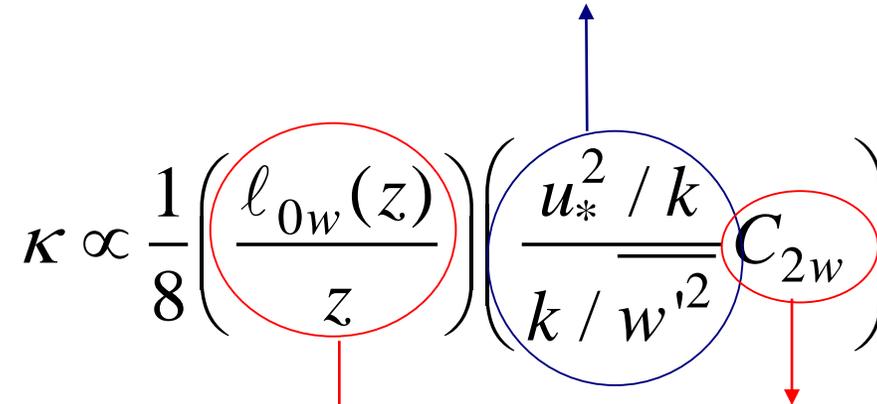
$\kappa = 1 / A$  von K arm an parameter

**Drag reducing flows:**  $A = 1/\kappa$  is larger for the same normalized shear rate (lower  $u_*$ )

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**Ferreira 2015:** why would the von Karman parameter express drag reducing flows in flows over rough mobile beds?

influenced by flow anisotropy

$$\kappa \propto \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\ell_{0w}(z)}{z} \right) \left( \frac{u_*^2 / k}{k / w'^2} C_{2w} \right)$$


influenced by larger flow scales?

$k$  – turbulent kinetic energy  
 $\overline{w'^2}$  – Wall normal turbulence intensity  
 $\ell_{0w}$  – transverse integral scale  
 $C_{2w}$  – constant of transverse 2nd order structure function

*Landau remark concerning  $C_{2w}$*

*the Landau remark:*  $C_2$  is not flow-independent when the production range is modulated by a wide range of (roughness-influenced) scales

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**Ferreira 2015:** why would the von Karman parameter express drag reducing flows in flows over rough mobile beds?

whatever the change in the structure of turbulence  
(very large scales and/or RS anisotropy)

there must be a cause for that change

in this work we investigate

the role of surface-hyporheic  
exchanges that should depend on  
**hydraulic conductivity** of the bed

$$\kappa \propto \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\ell_{0w}(z)}{z} \right) \left( \frac{u_*^2 / k}{k / \overline{w'^2}} C_{2w} \right)$$

$k$  – turbulent kinetic energy  
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# Objectives

The general objective of this work is to study the effect of the ***hydraulic conductivity*** on open-channel *turbulent flows* of viscous fluids over mobile and hydraulically rough beds of cohesionless sediment.

In particular, we:

- characterize the constant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> order longitudinal structure function

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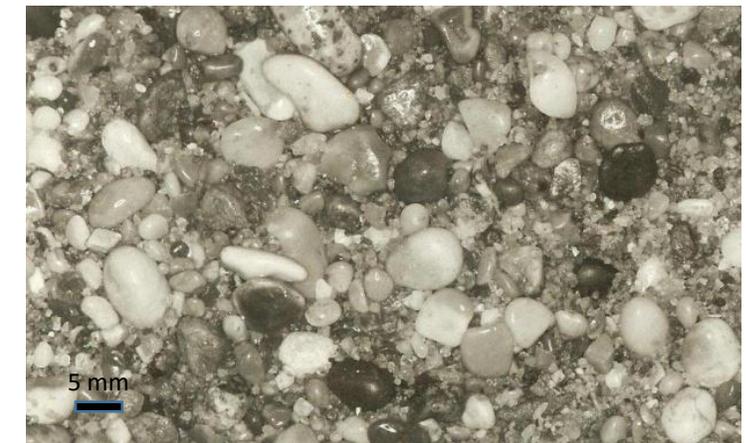
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# Macroscopic properties of granular beds

Two databases in a similar flume:

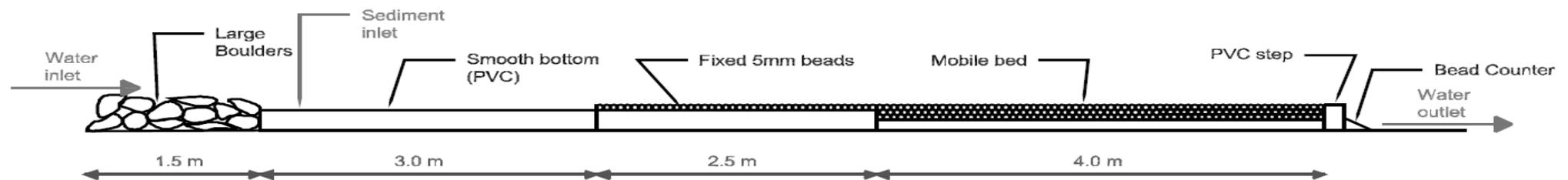
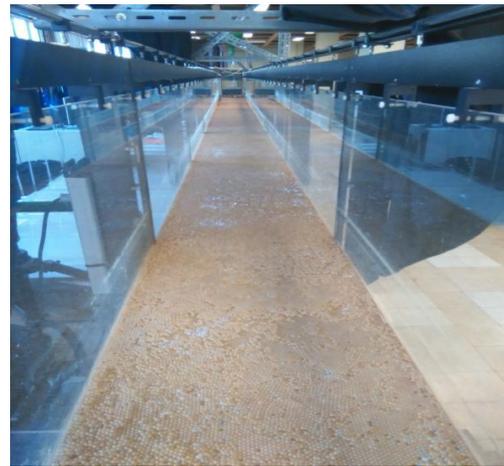
- Under same range of values of Shield parameters
- In the mobile bed cases, under equilibrium transport conditions
- In all cases, under uniform flow conditions
- approximately the same  $d_{84}$
- Different porosity ( $n$ ), tortuosity ( $T$ ), permeability ( $k$ ) and hydraulic conductivity ( $K$ )



Tests	High conductivity bed (lattice-arranged)	High conductivity bed (random)	Low conductivity bed (Existing database)
$d_{84}$ (mm)	4.97	4.97	5.40
$\rho$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	2607	2607	2590
$n$ (-)	0.325	0.369	0.301
$T$ (-)	0.88	1.34	9.96
$k$ (m <sup>2</sup> )	3.E-08	5.E-09	3.E-10
$K$ (m/s)	3.E-01	6.E-02	4.E-03

# The Laboratory

## Flume at the Laboratory of Hydraulics Environment of Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon



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# Flow characterization: Lattice arrangement

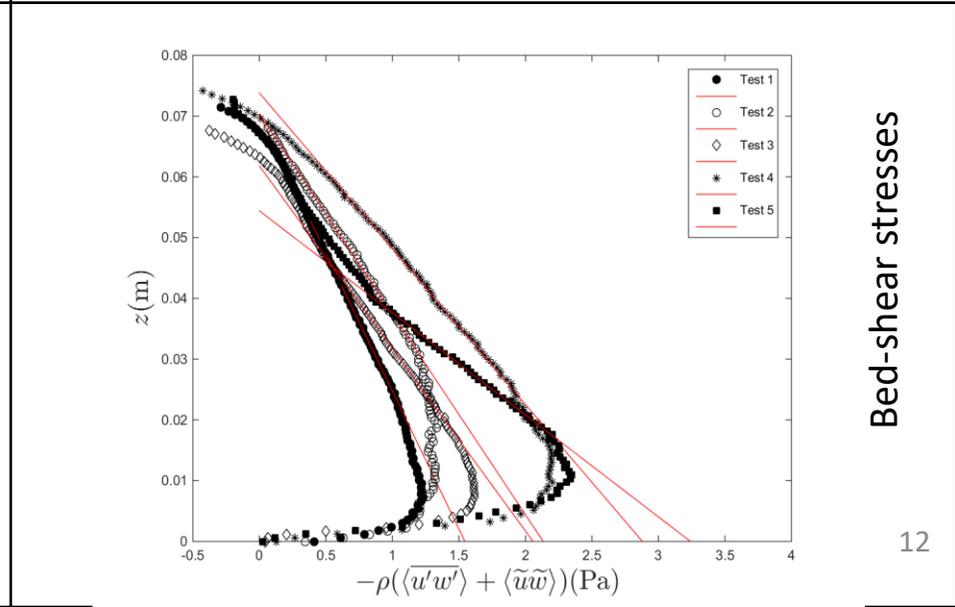
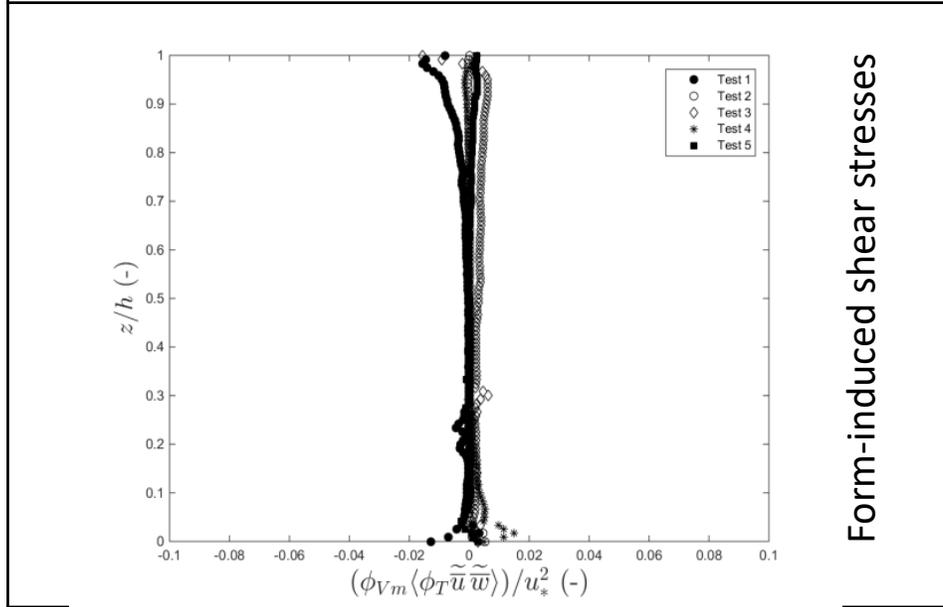
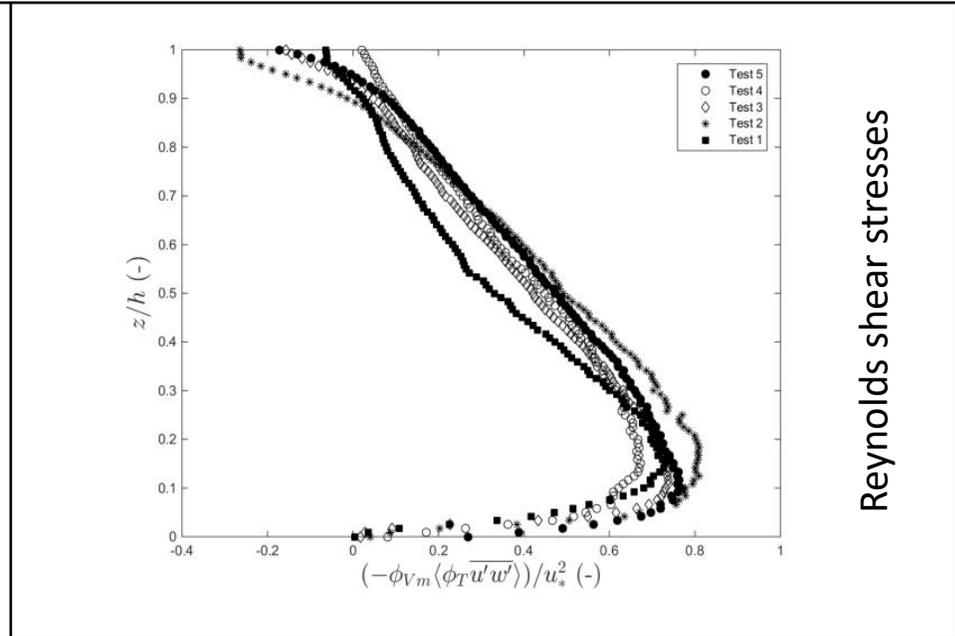
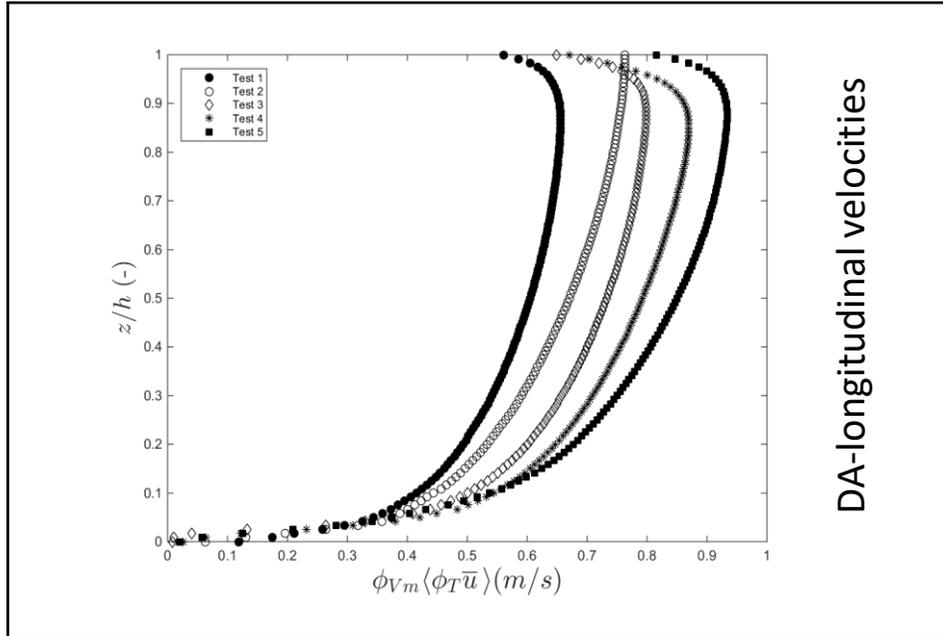
Mean flow variables characterizing the experimental tests

Tests	$Q$ (l/s)	slope (-)	$h_u$ (m)	$U$ (m/s)	$R_h$ (m)	$\tau_0^{(1)}$ (N/m <sup>2</sup> )	$u_*^{(1)}$	bead rate	$\tau_0^{(2)}$ (N/m <sup>2</sup> )	$u_*^{(2)}$
1	14.98	0.00317	0.0714	0.518	0.0528	1.639	0.041	0.00	1.603	0.040
2	15.90	0.00404	0.0703	0.559	0.0522	2.067	0.046	0.33	2.180	0.047
3	16.67	0.00456	0.0684	0.068	0.0511	2.287	0.048	6.23	2.187	0.047
4	20.83	0.00623	0.0744	0.691	0.0544	3.325	0.058	21.12	3.080	0.056
5	21.35	0.00714	0.0696	0.757	0.0518	3.628	0.060	28.72	3.223	0.057

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# Mean flow

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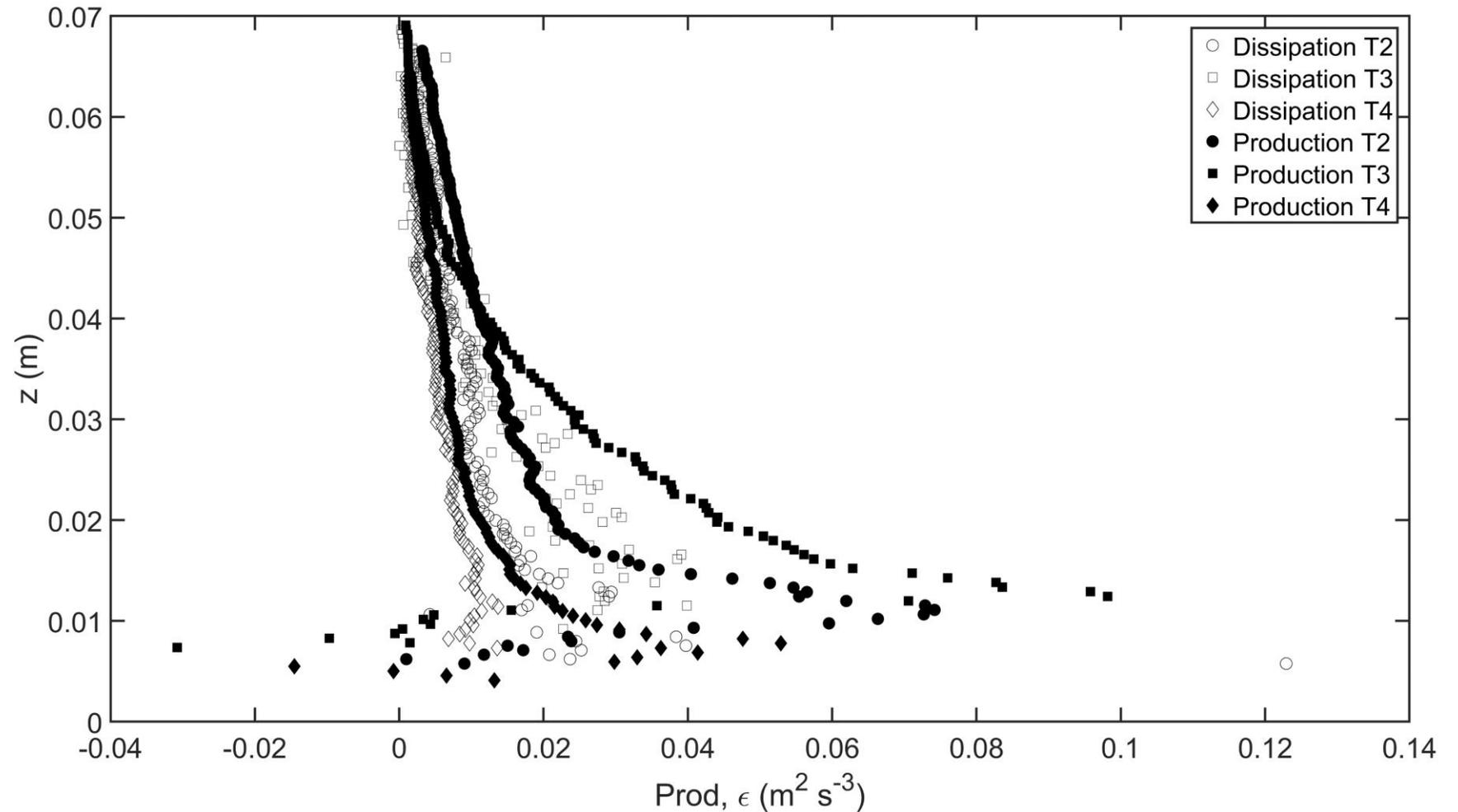
calculation

## Results and discussion

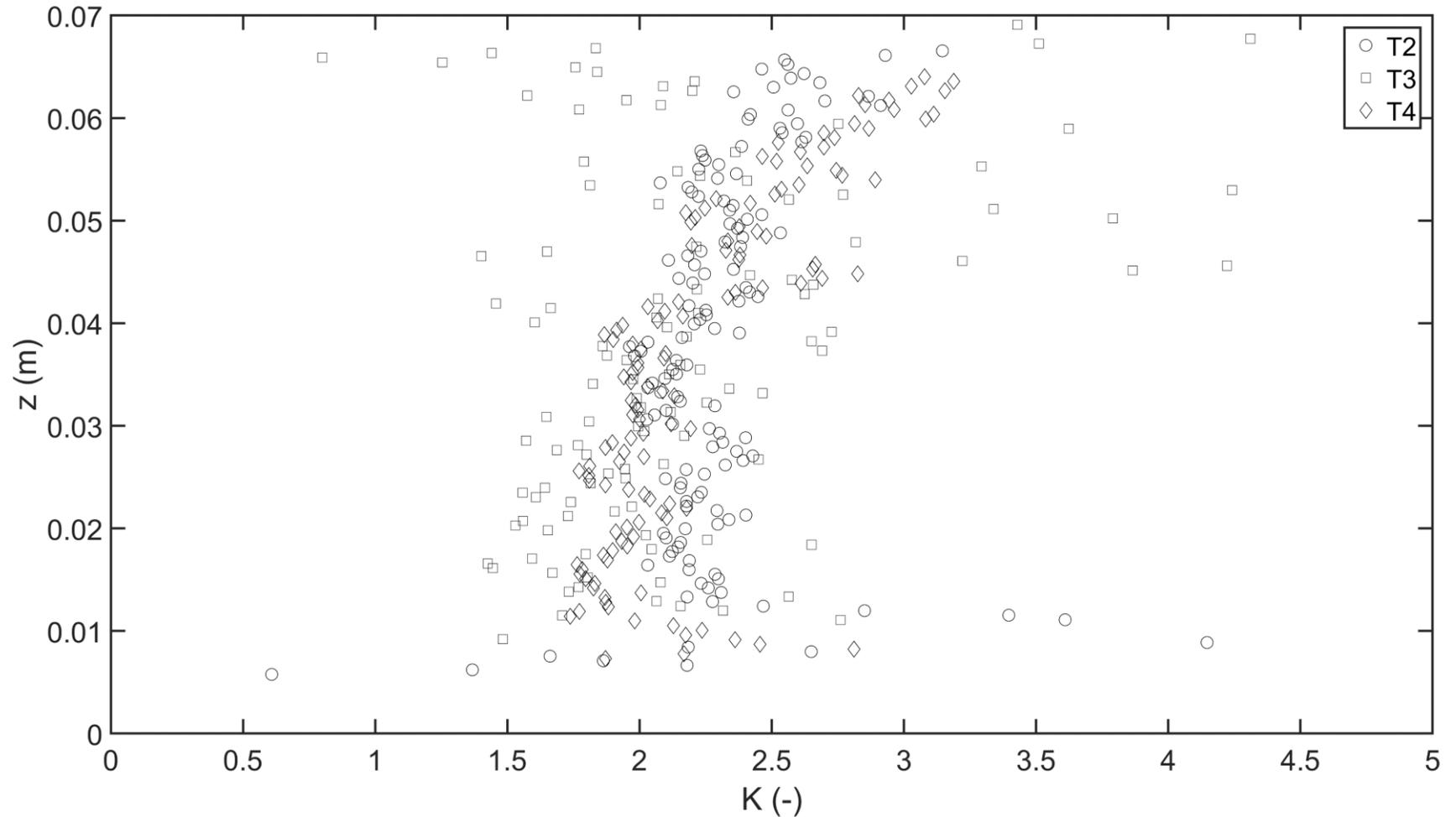
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# Results and discussion



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## Conclusion, Impact

The main findings can be summarized as follows:

- i) The coefficient of the second order structure function seems to be well described by the classic value 2.17 throughout the flow depth except in the roughness layer where homogeneity conditions are not valid

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## Conclusion, Impact

The main findings :

- iv. So flows over high conductivity beds appear drag-reducing even if *geometric* roughness parameters do not change appreciably.
- v. Within the high conductivity case, higher tortuosity leads to different results – lower value of VK constant, lower overall roughness.

Impact

- i) Modellers need to incorporate properties of *near-bed turbulence* in their wall functions
- ii) Sheds light on why simple granular beds are more mobile – forces on the bed particles (scale with  $U^2$ ) are larger in high conductivity beds for the same  $u_*$ .

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# Thank you!

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