

Optical analysis of air release in a liquid flow behind an orifice

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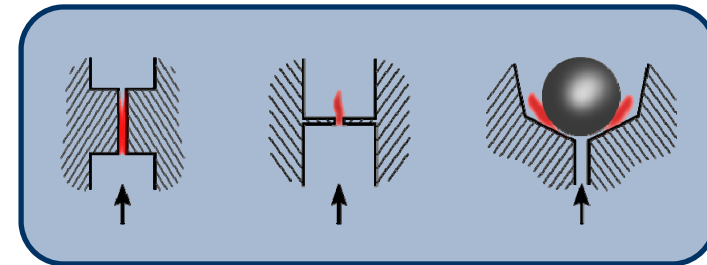


Motivation

Hydraulic systems, cavitation and air release



e.g. fuel injection systems



Basic components (simplified)

→ Cavitation in hydraulic systems can lead to:

- Erosion
- Vibration & noise
- Alteration of hydraulic liquids
- Choked flow phenomena
- Efficiency losses vs. acoustic decoupling
- **Air release** (each liquid contains air)

Notes:

- Cavitation can not be avoided in general – it has to be controlled (focus on erosion)
- The same is valid for air release
- Cavitation occurs on small time & spatial scales (ns, μ s / nm, μ m)
- But: Air release occurs on larger time & spatial scales than cavitation (ms, s, h or days in some cases / μ m, mm)

Motivation

Air release in hydraulic systems

→ Degassed air leads to bubbles in the liquid:

- **Change of liquid properties**

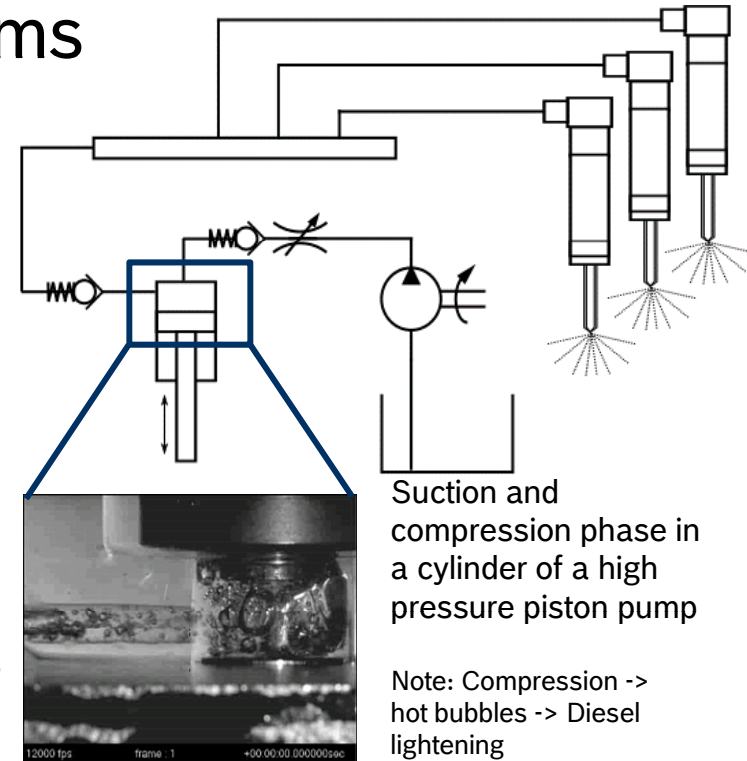
- Density
- Bulk modulus
- Speed of sound
- Viscosity

} Physical properties

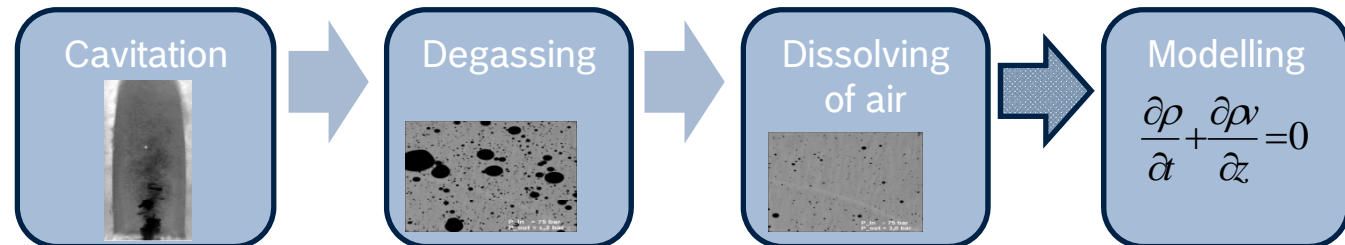
- **Change of hydraulic system properties**

- Mass flow
- Generated forces
- Eigen-frequencies
- Vibration & noise

} Functional properties



Research objectives*:

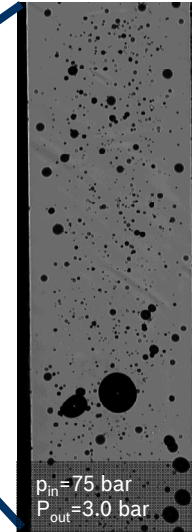
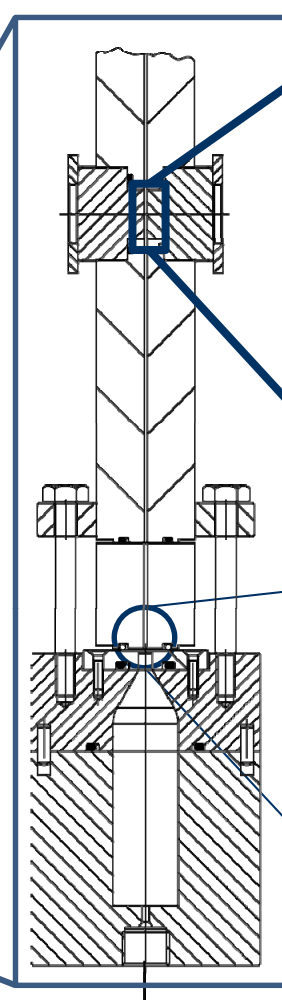
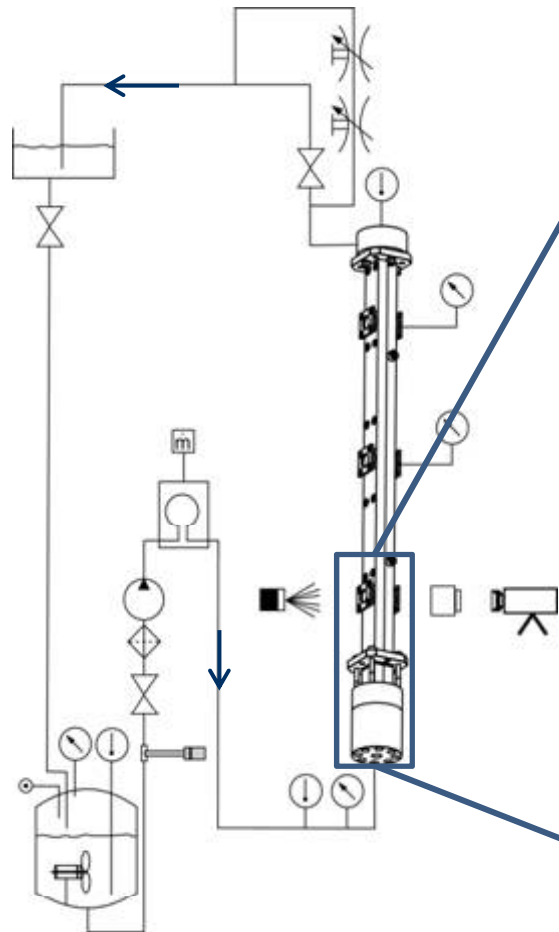


*Optical measurements of gas bubbles in a flow of oil behind a micro orifice, Iben, U., Wolf, F., Freudigmann, H.-A., Fröhlich, J., Heller, W.; To be published in: „Experiments in Fluids“, Springer



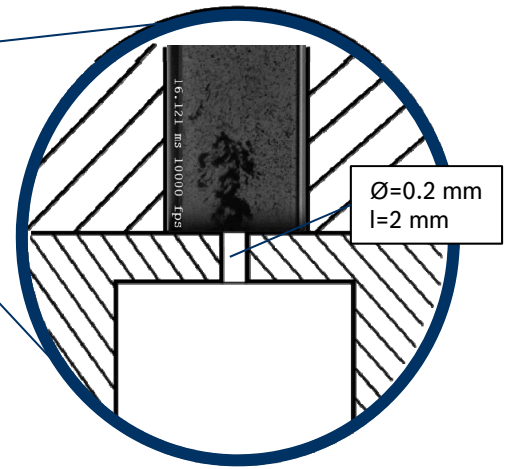
Experiments

Experimental setup



$p_{in} = 75 \text{ bar}$
 $P_{out} = 3.0 \text{ bar}$

- 2 fluid tanks
- Gear pump
- Pressure transducers
- Temperature transducers
- Mass flow meter
- Stopcocks
- Flow channel
- 4 Optical accesses

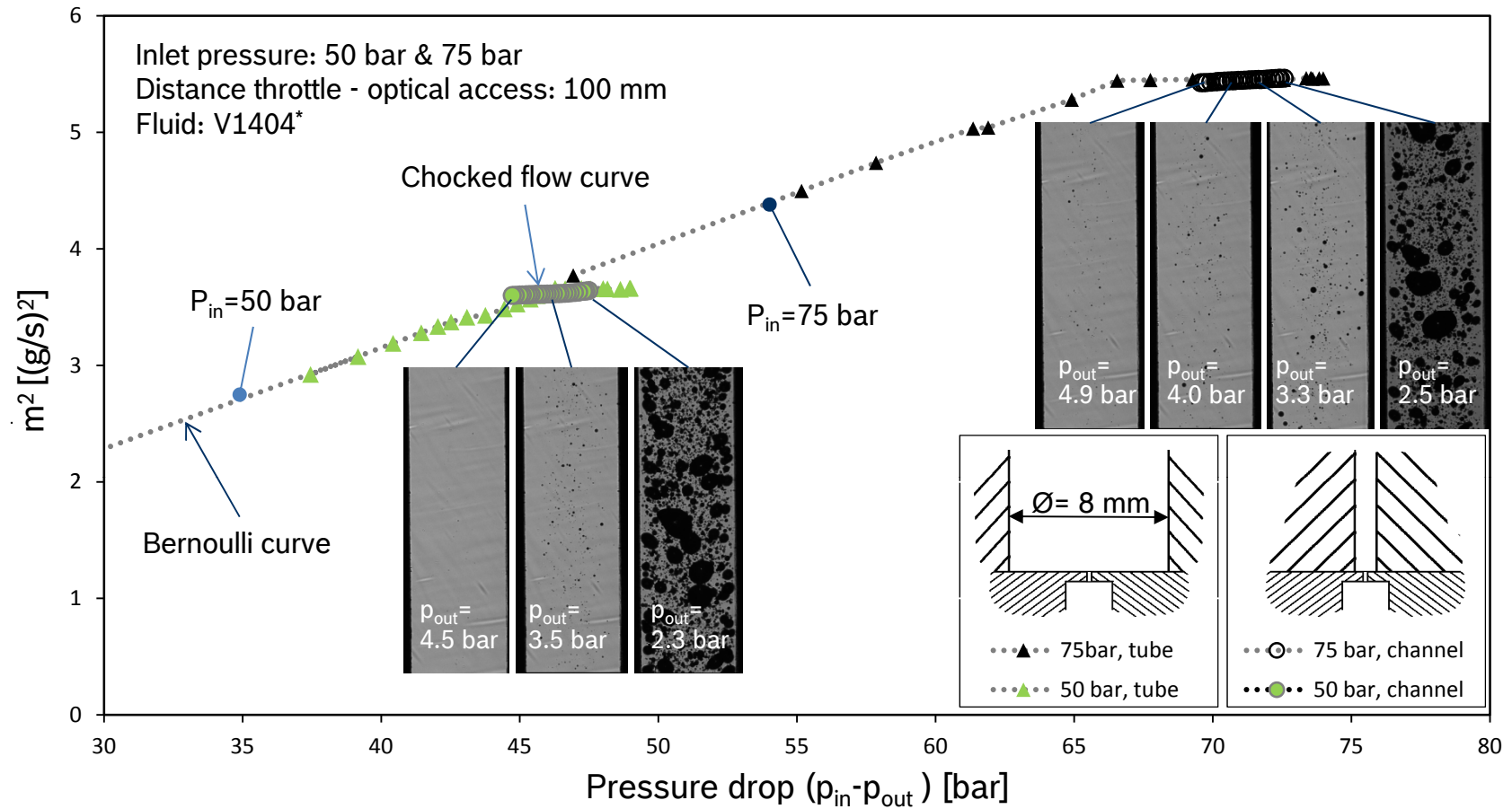


$\varnothing = 0.2 \text{ mm}$
 $l = 2 \text{ mm}$



Results

Choked flow - air release



Results

Bubble recognition & characterization

1. Image preparation



2. Segmentation of bubble images

- Hough-Transformation → spherical bubbles
- Image binarization → spherical and non-spherical bubbles



3. Determination of bubble size

- Determine intensity profile for round bubble images
- Determine bubble radius at half intensity level

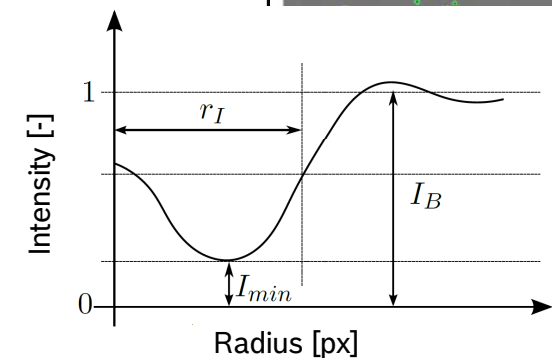
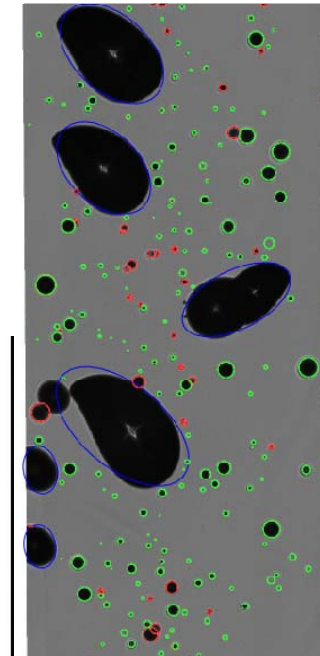


4. Size correction

- Determine optical scale
- Size correction using the contrast



$$I := \frac{I_B + I_{min}}{2} \rightarrow r_i$$



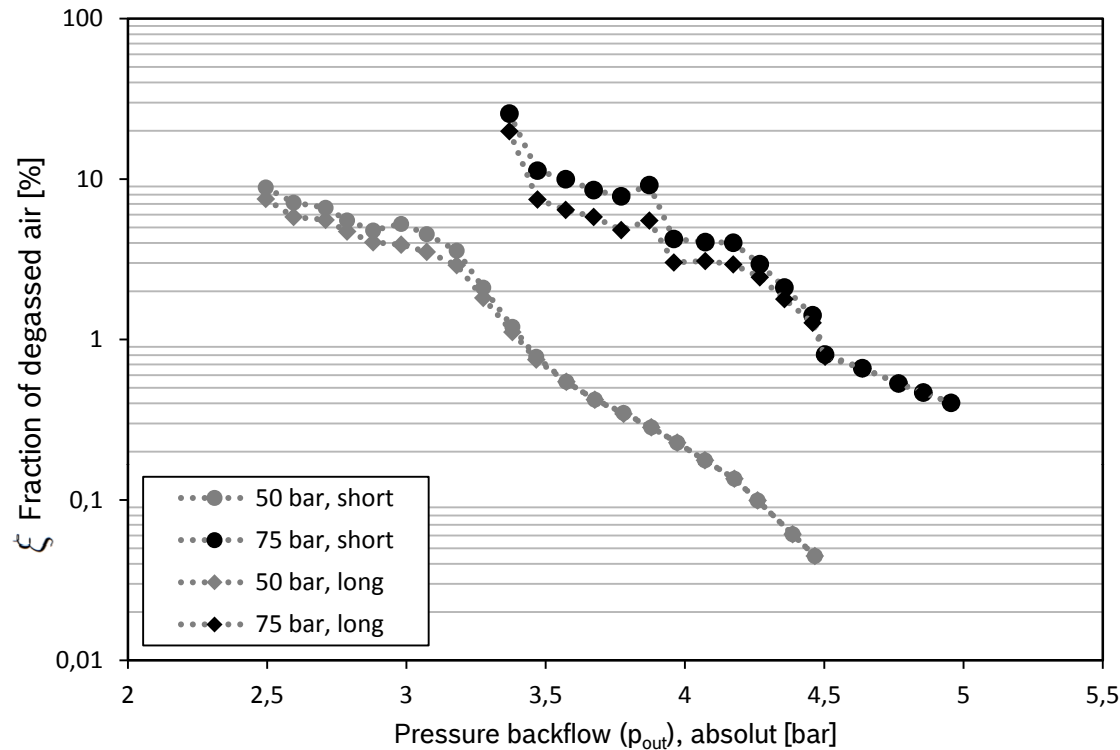
Baltzer, K., Automatisierte Erkennung von Gasblasen in Zweiphasenströmungen, Bachelor Thesis, 2014, Universität Konstanz



BOSCH

Results

Degassing – results



- Distance: 100 mm
- Liquid is saturated with air at atmospheric pressure :

$$c_g = 1.03 \cdot 10^{-3} \frac{\text{mol}}{\text{mol}}$$

$$p_b = p_l + \frac{2\sigma}{r_b}$$

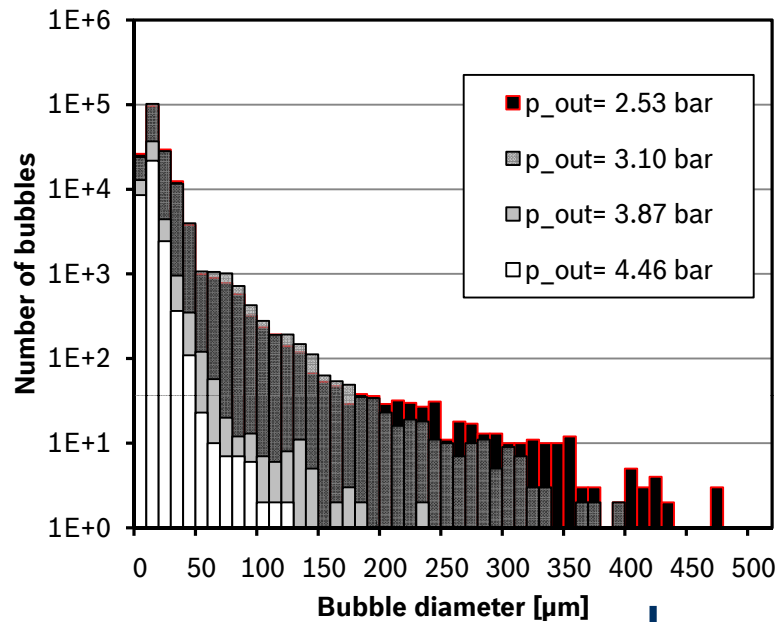
$$\xi := \frac{n_l \cdot c_g}{n_g} \cdot 100,$$

$$n_l = (V_{channel} - \sum V_{bubbles}) \frac{\rho_l}{M_l} \quad \& \quad n_g = \frac{\sum p_b V_b}{RT_l}$$

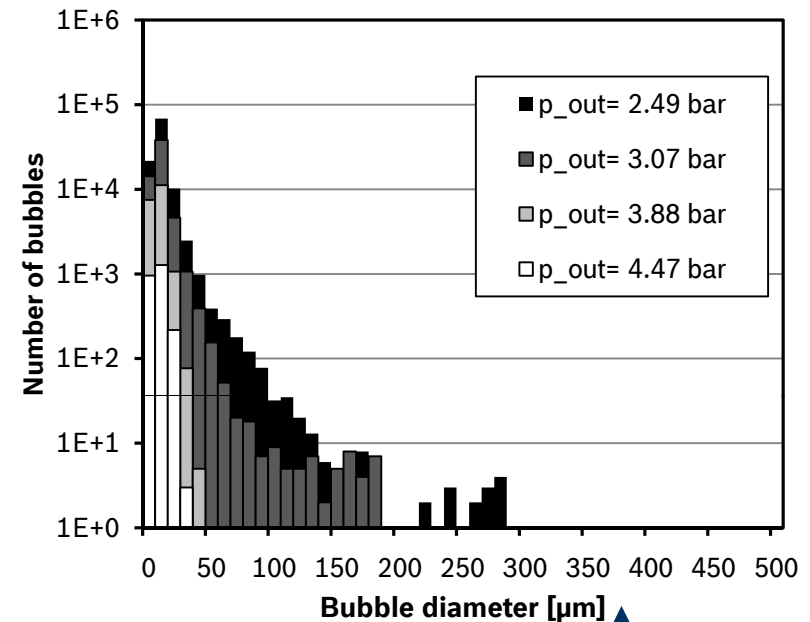
Results

Bubble size distribution – 100 images

→ Inlet pressure: 75 bar



→ Inlet pressure: 50 bar



Conclusion

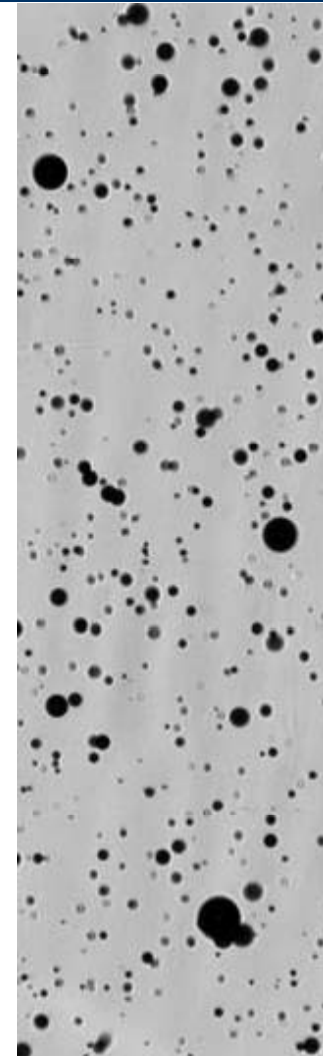
Conclusion

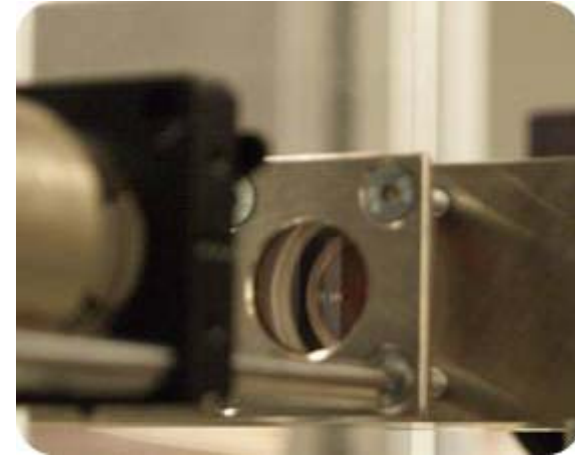
Present Work & Results for V1404 and stated conditions

- Gas bubbles in hydraulic systems affect system behavior significantly
- Degassing of air is strongly linked to cavitation
- Degassing occurs only at choked flow conditions
- Degassing is very sensible to outlet pressure; approx. exponential correlation
- Number and size of bubbles depend on in- and outlet pressure conditions

Future Work

- Variation of air content in liquid (air content in tank)
- Variation of orifice dimensions and geometry (D/L)
- Modelling of air release in hydraulic systems





Thank you!

