The Role of Vegetation in Traffic Emission Dispersion and Air Quality in Urban Street Canyons

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Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary
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Basics of Flow and Pollutant Dispersion in Street Canyons

Long street canyon (L/H > 7 and $0.7 \le W/H \le 2.2$)



urban street canyon



idealized street canyon

approaching wind perpendicular to street axis

- two dominating large scale vortex structures
 - Canyon Vortex
 - Corner Eddy
- superposition at street canyon ends

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Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary
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Basics of Flow and Pollutant Dispersion in Street Canyons

long street canyon, incident flow $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$



numerical simulation with k- ε turbulence closure scheme

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Urban Street Canyons with Avenue-like Tree Planting



Implications of Trees on Flow and Pollutant Dispersion?

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Approach



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Street Canyon Model and Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel

Street canyon model (scale 1:150)

- isolated long street canyon (L/W = 10, W/H = 1;2)
- line source at street level
- tracer gas (sulfur hexafluoride SF₆)
- 126 measurement taps at canyon walls
- traffic induced turbulence





Boundary layer wind tunnel

- closed-circuit BLWT
- vortex generators and roughness elements
- adjustable ceiling
- power law profile exponent α = 0.30
- $u_{\delta} = 7 \text{ ms}^{-1}, u_H = 4.65 \text{ ms}^{-1}$
- Reynolds-No. *Re* = 37.000



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Wind Tunnel Trees – Modeling Approach

Aerodynamic of trees

- is governed by crown porosity
- · permeable for wind
- form and skin drag (volume specific surface)
- wake characteristics

Characterization of crown porosity/permeability

• pressure loss coefficient λ

$$\lambda = \frac{\Delta p_{stat}}{p_{dyn}d} = \frac{p_{luv} \quad p_{lee}}{1/2\rho u^2 d} \qquad \text{[m-1]}$$

integral measure for flow resistance

Similarity requirement

$$\frac{\Delta p}{p_{dyn}}\Big|_{model} = \frac{\Delta p}{p_{dyn}}\Big|_{field} \Leftrightarrow \left[\lambda d\right]_{model} = \left[\lambda d\right]_{field} \Leftrightarrow \frac{\lambda_{field}}{\lambda_{model}} = \frac{d_{model}}{d_{field}} = M$$





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Wind Tunnel Trees – Modeling Approach

Realization of model trees





- crown porosity/permeability
 - $-P_{Vol} = 97.5 \dots 96\%$
 - $-\lambda_{model} = 80 \dots 250 \text{ m}^{-1}$
- planting density (#trees/unit length)
- · similarity criterion



Application of similarity criterion

- λ of tree crowns not available
- λ of vegetation shelterbelts (Grunert et al. 1984)
 - $-\lambda_{field} = 0.4 \dots 13.4 \text{ m}^{-1}$
- Similarity criterion: $~\lambda_{\rm field}/\lambda_{\rm model}=M$
 - λ_{model} = 60 ... 2000 m⁻¹

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Street Canyon with Model Trees









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Overview: Wind Tunnel Experiments

Parameter study comprising 40 experiments

Variation of

- street width to building height ratio W/H
- angle of approaching flow $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$
- planting density ρ_b
- crown permeability λ (crown porosity P_{Vol})
- tree rows

(closed or open tree crown canopy)

traffic situation



www.codasc.de

(Concentration Data of Street Canyons)



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Overview: Wind Tunnel Experiments

Parameter study comprising 40 experiments

Variation of

- street width to building height ratio W/H
- angle of approaching flow α
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(closed or open tree crown canopy)

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Overview: Wind Tunnel Experiments

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(closed or open tree crown canopy)

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Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary
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Measurement Results



Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary
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Pollutant Concentrations in narrow Street Canyon (W/H = 1, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$)

Tree-free street canyon with wind approaching perpendicular



normalized concentrations *c*⁺[-]

- max. concentrations in central part of wall A close to the ground
- concentrations at leeward wall A > windward wall B (in wall average by 3.6)
- · concentration decreases towards street ends
- concentration gradients give evidence for vortex structures







Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary
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Pollutant Concentrations with Avenue-like Tree Planting (W/H = 1, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$)

Single-row tree planting

- high planting density $\rho_b = 1.0$, high crown porosity $\lambda = 80 \text{ m}^{-1}$ ($P_{Vol} = 97.5\%$)



in comparison to tree-free street canyon

- increase in concentrations at wall A (wall average: +41%)
- decrease in concentrations at wall B (wall average: -38%)
- in total: concentration increase





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Pollutant Concentrations with Avenue-like Tree Planting (W/H = 1, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$)

Influence of decreased crown porosity/permeability

- high planting density $\rho_b = 1.0$









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Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary
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Parameter Study on the Influence of Crown Permeability λ

Single-row tree planting (W/*H* = 1, α = 90°, high planting density ρ_b = 1)



- wall A: increase of c^+_{wall} increasing λ , max. change +60%
- wall B: decrease of c_{wall}^+ increasing λ , max. change -50%
- asymptotic limit

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Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary	
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Pollutant Concentrations in Broad Street Canyon (W/H = 2)

Two-row tree planting (W/H = 2, $\alpha = 90$)

- high planting density $\rho_b = 1.0$, low crown porosity $\lambda = 200 \text{ m}^{-1}$ ($P_{Vol} = 96.0 \text{ \%}$)





in comparison to tree-free street canyon (WH = 2)

- increase in concentrations at wall A (wall average: +41 %)
 - max. increases in the canyon center

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decrease in concentrations at wall B (wall average: -32 %)

 \rightarrow implications analog to narrow street canyon (*W*/*H* = 1)





Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC °	Summary

Pollutant Concentrations for Inclined Approaching Flow (W/H = 2, $\alpha = 45^{\circ}$)

Two-row tree planting (W/H = 2, $\alpha = 45$)

- high planting density ρ_b = 1.0, low crown porosity λ = 200 m⁻¹ (P_{Vol} = 96.0 %)







- increases/decreases of concentrations at wall A (average: +88 %)
- · increases in concentration at wall B
- · accumulative traffic pollutant transport along street canyon axis
- · max. pollutant concentrations at canyon end
- max. rel. changes in concentration for inclined approaching flow



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Maximum Pollutant Concentration



Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC o	Summary

Maximum Pollutant Concentration at Canyon Wall

Estimate for maximum traffic pollutant concentration c^+_{max} was derived based on

- 40 wind tunnel experiments
- dimensional analysis

$$c_{\max}^+ = f\left(\frac{W}{H}, \rho_b, P_{Vol}, \alpha\right)$$

$$C_{max}^{+} = a_1 - a_2 e^{-a_3 \{ \rho_b (100 - P_{Val}) \}}$$

$$a_i = f(\frac{W}{H}, \alpha)$$



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Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary

CODASC



Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary	
CODASC						

CODASC - Concentration Data of Street Canyons

- Internet data base
- collection of wind tunnel concentration data
- comprises more than 40 street canyon/tree planting configurations
- contains also information on
 - approaching flow characteristics
 - street canyon geometry
 - vegetation/tree modeling approach
- purpose: serve for the validation of numerical models and simulations



Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concer	tration	CODASC	Summary	
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Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary
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CODASC

Concentration Data of Street Canyons

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Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary

Summary and Conclusions



Introduction	Approach	Results	Max. Concentration	CODASC	Summary

Summary and Conclusion

- Vegetation/Tree modeling approach for wind tunnel studies
 - accounts for the porosity/permeability of tree crowns/vegetation
 - is based on similarity criterion
 - proofed to give reasonable results in wind tunnel dispersion studies

Tree planting and traffic pollutant concentrations

- tree planting resulted in higher/lower concentrations at the leeward/windward wall
- overall increase in traffic pollutant concentrations
- max. concentrations for flow approaching inclined

Maximum pollutant concentration

- for regulatory purposes in dispersion modeling
- can be used by town planers to estimate the implications of trees on pollutant concentrations

CODASC – Concentration Data of Street Canyons

- comprises more than 40 wind tunnel experiments
- is a useful tool for validation of CFD codes and numerical simulations



Appendix



Related Journal Papers

Buccolieri, R., Gromke, C., Di Sabatino, S., Ruck, B. (2009) Aerodynamic effects of trees on pollutant concentration in street canyons, Science of the Total Environment, Vol. 407, No. 19, pp. 5247-5256.

Gromke, C., Ruck, B., (2009) Effects of trees on the dilution of vehicle exhaust emissions in urban street canyons, International Journal of Environment and Waste Management, Vol. 4, No. 1/2, pp. 225-242.

Balczó, M., Gromke, C., Ruck, B. (2009) Numerical modeling of flow and pollutant dispersion in street canyons with tree planting, Meteorologische Zeitschrift, Vol. 18, pp. 197-206.

Gromke, C., Ruck, B. (2009) On the impact of trees on dispersion processes of traffic emissions in street canyons, Boundary-Layer Meteorology, Vol.131, pp. 19-34.

Gromke, C., Buccolieri, R., Di Sabatino, S., Ruck, B. (2008) Dispersion modeling study in a street canyon with tree planting by means of wind tunnel and numerical investigations - Evaluation of CFD data with experimental data, Atmospheric Environment, Vol. 42, pp. 8640-8650.

Gromke, C., Ruck, B. (2008) Aerodynamic modeling of trees for small scale wind tunnel studies, Special Issue on Wind and Trees in Forestry, Vol. 81, No. 3, pp. 243-258.

Gromke, C., Ruck, B. (2007) Influence of trees on the dispersion of pollutants in an urban street canyon – experimental investigation of the flow and concentration field, Atmospheric Environment, Vol. 41, pp. 3387-3302.

Under Review

Gromke, C., Ruck, B. () Wind-tunnel study and dimensional analysis on traffic pollutant concentrations in urban street canyons with trees, submitted to Boundary-Layer Meteorology.

Buccolieri, R., Di Sabatino, S., Salim, M. S., Ielpo, P., Gennaro de, G., Piacentino, C. M., Chan, A., Gromke, C. () Influence of tree planting on flow and pollutant dispersion in urban street canyons in Bari (Italy), submitted to Atmospheric Environment.



Measurement Instrumentation

Concentration Measurements

- Electron Capture Detector (ECD) model Meltron LH 108
- measurement of mean tracer gas concentrations (sulfur hexafluoride SF₆)
- determination of dimensionless concentrations c⁺ according to



- c_m measured concentration
- *u_{ref}* reference velocity
- L_{ref} reference length
- Q_T / I strength of line source

Velocity Measurements

- Laser Doppler Velocimetry (LDV)
- 4 W Argon-Ion Laser
- 2-component LDV-system
- Bragg-cells 40 MHz
- backscatter system
- sampling frequency 50 Hz





Estimate for the max. pollutant concentration

$$c_{max} = f_1(H, B_A, B_B, L, W, x_{ls,i}, z_{ls,i}, \boldsymbol{x_{k,j}}, \boldsymbol{K_j}, P_{Vol,j}, u_H, \alpha, v, Q_I)$$



Elimination of parameters

- · which have not been varied for the wind tunnel study
 - B_A , B_B building width
 - L street canyon length
- · are considered not to vary strongly in typical urban street canyons
 - $x_{Lq,i}$, $z_{Lq,i}$ source positions
 - $x_{K,i}$, K_i positions and length scales of trees
- Buckingham π theorem
 - elimination of 2 more parameters
 - dimensionless $\boldsymbol{\pi}$ parameters

$$\rightarrow$$

$$c_{max} = f_2 \left(\frac{W}{H}, \rho_b, P_{Vol}, \alpha, Re, \frac{Q_l}{u_H H}\right)$$

(6 parameters)



$$c_{max} = f_2 \left(\frac{W}{H}, \rho_b, P_{Vol}, \alpha, Re, \frac{Q_l}{u_H H}\right)$$

(6 parameters)

Further considerations

- π_5 Reynolds No. $Re = u_H H/v$
 - sharp-edged geometries \rightarrow critical Reynolds number similarity Re_{crit} > 10.000
 - experimental evidence

 $\Rightarrow c_{max}$ can be considered to be independent of Re

- π_6 dimensionless source strength $Q/(u_H H)$
 - $c_{\text{max}} \sim Q_l$ (twofold source strength \rightarrow twofold concentration)

=> c_{max} is linear in $Q/(u_H H)$

$$c_{max}^{+} = f_{3}\left(\frac{W}{H}, \rho_{b}, P_{Vol}, \alpha\right)$$

(4 parameters)



$$e_{\max}^{+} = f_{3}\left(\frac{W}{H}, \rho_{b}, P_{Vol}, \alpha\right) \qquad (4 \text{ parameters})$$

$$\bullet \rho_{b} \quad \text{planting density}$$

$$\bullet P_{Vol} \quad \text{crown porosity} \qquad begin{subarray}{c} \text{describe the avenue-like tree planting} \\ \text{describe the avenue-like tree planting} \\ \end{array}$$

Idea: combination of ρ_b und P_{Vol} to a single "alley parameter" *AP* which is a measure for the amount of vegetation (solid crown material)

General approach: $AP = (\rho_b)^{c_1} \bullet (100 - P_{Vol}[\%])^{c_2} \qquad c_i > 0$

- AP increases with increasing vegetation
- determination/choice of values for c_1 and c_2 remains (moist obvious choice: $c_1 = c_2 = 1$)

$$c_{\max}^{+} = f_4 \left(\frac{W}{H}, AP, \alpha\right)$$

("3" parameters)

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Relationship

 c_{max}^{+} from experimental results for $c_1 = c_2 = 1 = AP = (\rho_b) \cdot (100 - P_{Vol}[\%])$



=> exponential relationship between c_{max}^{+} und AP

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Relationship

Requirements to the relationship between c_{max}^+ and AP

- exponential dependency
- asymptotically approach c^+_{\max} for $AP \to \infty$

General approach:

$$c_{\max}^{+} = a_1 - a_2 \exp(-a_3 AP)$$
 $a_i > 0, \quad a_i = f(\frac{W}{H}, \alpha)$

• determination of a_i by regression analyses in dependency of W/H and α

Meaning of *a_i*

- a_1 largest possible maximum concentration ($AP \rightarrow \infty$)
- a_2 range of maximum concentrations (tree-free $AP \rightarrow \infty$)
- *a*₃ stretching factor



Functional relationship for c+_{max}

• asymptotically approaches limit case $\lambda \to \infty$

$$c_{max}^{+} = a_1 - a_2 \exp\left\{-a_3 \left[\rho_b \bullet (100 - P_{Vol}[\%])\right]\right\}$$
 $a_i = f\left(\frac{W}{H}, \alpha\right)$

• determination of a_i by regression analyses in dependency of W/H and α



Konzentrationen in "breiter" Straßenschlucht (B/H = 2, $\alpha = 90^{\circ}$)

Baumfreie Straßenschlucht (Referenzfall)



normierte Konzentrationen c+ [-]

im Vergleich zur engen Straßenschlucht (*B*/*H* = 1)

- geringere Konzentrationen an der leeseitigen Wand A (im Wandmittel: -24 %)
- ähnliche Maximalbelastung an Wand B
- vergleichbare Verteilung der Konzentrationen
- \Rightarrow Strömungsregime ähnlich, Schadstoffbelastung unkritischer





Konzentrationen bei Schräganströmung (B/H = 1, $\alpha = 45^{\circ}$)

Baumfreie Straßenschlucht (Referenzfall) bei Schräganströmung





normierte Konzentrationen c+ [-]

bei schräger Anströmung

- · Konzentrationen an Wand A deutlich höher als an Wand B
- helixartige Wirbelstruktur (Überlagerung von Canyon Vortex und Paralleldurchströmung)
- Totwassergebiet an Einströmseite von Wand A
- max. Konzentrationen am Straßenschluchtende
- akkumulativer Schadstofftransport entlang der Straßenlängsachse
- kritisch bei längeren Straßenschluchten (L/H > 10)

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Pollutant Concentrations for Inclined Approaching Flow (W/H = 1, $\alpha = 45^{\circ}$)

Single-row tree planting

- high planting density $\rho_b = 1.0$, high crown porosity $\lambda = 80 \text{ m}^{-1}$ ($P_{Vol} = 97.5\%$)





- increases and decreases of concentrations at wall A (wall average: +91 %)
- decreases in concentration at wall B (wall average: -49 %)
- · accumulative traffic pollutant transport along street canyon axis
- max. rel. changes in concentration for inclined approaching flow
- · max. pollutant concentrations at canyon end



Influence of Crown Porosity on Velocity Field

Comparison of impermeable and permeable tree crown

• continuous block-shaped permeable crown (97 % pore volume, $\lambda = 250 \text{ Pa Pa}^{-1}\text{m}^{-1}$)







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impermeable - permeable

- vertical velocities are similar
- volume flux at z/H = 0.7 differs only by 8 %
- no significant influence of crown permeability on flow field

Traffic induced Turbulence

Turbulence production ratio T_P



Similarity is given when:

```
T_{P,Model} = T_{P,Nature}
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 $P_T = \frac{\rho c_D n_T F_T u_T^3}{W H}$

 $P_W \propto \frac{\rho \, c_f \, u_\delta^3}{\mu}$

turbulence production by moving traffic assumption (total kin. energy of traffic is transformed into TKE)

turbulence production by interaction of building environment with atmospheric wind

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Konzentrationen bei Berücksichtigung Verkehrsinduzierter Turbulenz

Referenzfall: Baumfreie Straßenschlucht *B*/*H* = 1 bei senkrechter Anströmung





- Gegenverkehr, $u_v = 40$ km/h
- Verkehrsstärke $n_v = 37 \text{ Kfz/km}$
- $c_f = 0.02 \ (c_f = \rho u_*^2 / (0.5 \ \rho U_{\delta}^2))$
- Turbulenzproduktion $P_W \approx 10 P_T$
- Konzentrationsabnahmen
 - Wand A: 2 %
 - Wand B: 31 %

-2

-1

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у/H

1

H∕N 0.5-

-5

-4

-3



5

2

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4

Konzentrationen bei Berücksichtigung Verkehrsinduzierter Turbulenz

Straßenschlucht mit impermeabler Baumpflanzung ($B/H = 1, \alpha = 90$)





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- Gegenverkehr, $u_v = 40$ km/h
- Verkehrsstärke $n_v = 37$ Kfz/km
- $c_f = 0.02 \ (c_f = \rho u_*^2 / (0.5 \ \rho U_{\delta}^2))$
- Konzentrationsänderungen
 - Wand A: -23 %
 - Wand B: +19 %

	С	Н	В	$ ho_{b}$	P _{Vol}	u _H	α	V	Q ₁	х	У	Z
L	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	1	1
Т	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	0	0

Aufstellen der Dimensionsmatrix

Elimination der Basisgröße Länge [L] durch Einflussgröße Gebäudehöhe H

	С	B/H	$oldsymbol{ ho}_b$	P _{Vol}	u _H /H	α	v/H²	Q/H ²	x/H	y/H	z/H
L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Т	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	0	0

Elimination der Basisgröße Zeit [T] durch Einflussgrößenkombination H/u_H

	π ₁	π2	π3	π4	π ₅	π ₆	π ₇	π ₈	π ₉	π ₁₀
	с	B/H	$ ho_b$	P _{Vol}	α	∨/(u _H H)	Q/(<i>u_HH</i>)	x/H	y/H	z/H
L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Т	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Funktionaler Zusammenhang

Regressionsanalysen zur Bestimmung der Parameter a_i

2.) Beschreibung der Parameter a_i in Abhängigkeit der **T** Gruppen *B*/*H* und α mittels gemischt quadratischer Polynomansatz für funktionalen Zusammenhang $a_i = f(B/H, \alpha)$

$$\boldsymbol{a}_{j} = \sum_{j=0}^{2} \boldsymbol{c}_{B/H,j} \left(\frac{\boldsymbol{B}}{\boldsymbol{H}}\right)^{j} \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{2} \boldsymbol{c}_{\alpha,j} \boldsymbol{\alpha}^{J}$$

$$\boldsymbol{a}_{i} = \boldsymbol{c}_{i0} + \boldsymbol{c}_{i1} \left(\frac{B}{H}\right) + \boldsymbol{c}_{i2} \alpha + \boldsymbol{c}_{i3} \left(\frac{B}{H}\right)^{2} + \boldsymbol{c}_{i4} \alpha^{2} + \boldsymbol{c}_{i5} \left(\frac{B}{H}\right) \alpha + \boldsymbol{c}_{i6} \left(\frac{B}{H}\right)^{2} \alpha + \boldsymbol{c}_{i7} \left(\frac{B}{H}\right) \alpha^{2} + \boldsymbol{c}_{i8} \left(\frac{B}{H}\right)^{2} \alpha^{2}$$

3.) Regressions analyse zur Bestimmung der Parameter c_i

	С _{і0}	C _{i1}	C _{i2}	C _{i3}	C _{i4}	С _{і5}	C _{i6}	C _{i7}	С _{і8}
<i>i</i> = 1	55.3	-23.8	94.2	0.0	-48.7	-15.5	0.0	10.7	0.0
<i>i</i> = 2	14.1	-5.3	41.0	0.0	-17.6	6.4	0.0	-6.0	0.0
<i>i</i> = 3	0.0	0.9	0.3	0.0	-0.2	-0.8	0.0	0.4	0.0



Funktionaler Zusammenhang

Gegenüberstellung berechneter und aus Windkanalversuchen resultierenden Parametern a_i



- 1.0 < B/H < 2.0 Zwischenwerte liegen im physikalischen sinnvollen Bereich (B/H = 1.5)
- höchst mögliche Maximalkonzentrationen bei schräger Anströmung ($\alpha \approx 50 \dots 55$)

Christof Gromke