

## NUMERICAL STUDY OF VORTEX DYNAMICS AND POWER CONSUMPTION IN RUSHTON STIRRED TANKS WITH VERTICAL, SQUARE, AND TRIANGULAR BAFFLE

Mohammed FOUKRACH<sup>\*</sup>, Youcef KAMLA<sup>\*\*</sup>, Mohamed BOUZIT<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Zied DRISS<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Laboratory of Mechanics and Energy, Faculty of Technology, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Hassiba Benbouali University of Chlef, El Hassania University Pole, Chlef, Algeria

<sup>\*\*</sup>Laboratory of Mechanics and Energy, Faculty of Technology, Common Core Department in Technology, Hassiba Benbouali University of Chlef, El Hassania University Pole, Chlef, Algeria

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Marine Engineering, University of Sciences and Technology Mohamed-Boudiaf El Mnaouar, BP 1505, Bir El Djir 31000, Oran, Algeria

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>Laboratory of Electromechanical Systems, National School of Engineers of Sfax, University of Sfax, Sfax, Tunisia

[m.foukrach@univ-chlef.dz](mailto:m.foukrach@univ-chlef.dz), [y.kamla@univ-chlef.dz](mailto:y.kamla@univ-chlef.dz), [bouzit\\_mohamed@yahoo.fr](mailto:bouzit_mohamed@yahoo.fr), [Zied.Driss@enis.mu.tn](mailto:Zied.Driss@enis.mu.tn)

received 14 December 2025, revised 17 February 2026, accepted 18 February 2026

**Abstract:** The present study numerically investigates the influence of different baffle types in a vessel stirred by a Rushton turbine. Three configurations were examined: a Rushton turbine combined with vertical baffles (VBR), square baffles (SBR), and triangular baffles (TBR). Turbulent flow simulations were performed for Reynolds numbers ranging from  $4 \times 10^4$  to  $10^5$  using the Multiple Reference Frame (MRF) approach implemented in the CFD CFX 18.0. The vortex structure and power consumption were analyzed for each geometrical configuration. The results show that square baffles offer the best performance, with a reduction in power consumption of 2.85% compared to the triangular baffles (TBR) and 30% relative to the vertical baffles (VBR). Furthermore, for the SBR configuration, variations in baffle width ( $E/D$ ) and baffle height ( $F/D$ ) (tested at  $F/D = 9/40, 1/4, 4/15$ , and  $3/10$ ) indicate that tanks equipped with baffles having a ratio of  $E/D = 9/40$  exhibit lower power consumption compared to the other configurations.

**Key words:** stirred tanks, baffles, rushton turbine, vortex, power consumption

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Mixing is an operation frequently used in several industrial sectors such as pharmaceutical production, agri-food, cosmetics, chemicals and petrochemicals, metallurgical industry, production and processing of dairy products, and production and treatment of water. Almost all processes and equipment require some type of mixing or agitation, and the flow pattern depends on the type of agitator and the speed of agitation [1]. Most previous studies have focused on conventional vertical baffles for controlling swirling flow in stirred tanks. In contrast, limited attention has been given to non-conventional geometries such as square and triangular baffles. These shapes introduce different flow separation mechanisms and vortex structures compared to traditional designs. The present study addresses this gap by providing a comparative analysis of vertical, square, and triangular baffles, emphasizing the specific influence of square and triangular.

The operations carried out in tank reactors with mechanical stirring may vary depending on the vessel chosen, the impeller design, and the number and type of baffles. If a stirred vessel filled with low viscosity fluids does not have baffles, the rotating impeller will cause the liquid to move tangentially [2]. The impact of baffles on the power number of a maxblend turbine was studied by Iranshahi et al in 2007 [3]. The authors examined the power consumption of a baffled tank and compared it to one without baffles. During the comparison, they observed that the power consumption of the agitated tank was higher than that of the other tank.

The majority of agitation and mixing operations are performed using an impeller that rotates around a shaft placed in a tank, typically cylindrical in shape. In stirred tanks, the induced hydrodynamics are mostly dependent on impeller design and the interaction of flow with tank internals [4-7]. Several studies have been conducted on hydrodynamics and mixing in vessels with varying geometrical configurations agitated by different types and design of impeller [8-15].

During recent years, studies have focused on the energy consumption of impeller-vessel systems with different geometries and researchers' attempts to reduce this consumption. Among other mixing characteristics, the power number ( $N_p$ ) is an important parameter of the stirred tank, which is generally used to validate computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations [16-17].

When the agitator rotates, a strong vortex is formed as a result of the centrifugal force, which can damage the components of the agitator. To prevent this problem, barriers are installed, also known as anti-blades, which are vertical elements fixed to the level of the tank wall. They are used to prevent vortex formation and are necessary to achieve an effective mixture in the state of turbulent flow.

The main objective of baffle inserts in stirred tanks is to prevent swirling flows, reduce viscous dissipation caused by the impeller, create and promote stable power requirements, and thus enhance mixing [18].

Some studies have been conducted on the effect of baffle design, including those by Lu et al. (1997), Yeum et al. (2019), and Shen et al. (2020) [19-21]. Through experimental studies, the

results show that the power consumption of agitated vessels equipped with beveled blade turbines and short flat baffles is within the range of the measurements taken, and that the power number (Ne) depends on the length (L) of the baffle and the angle ( $\beta$ ) of the blade inclination of the turbine [22].

The investigation examines the effect of vessel configuration and agitation rates on flow structure and power consumption. Three types of vessels were used: unbaffled, baffled, and a vessel with slots placed along the external perimeter of its vertical wall. The effect of slot length was also investigated. Comparison of our predicted results with available experimental data shows satisfactory agreement [23].

## 2. TANK CONFIGURATION AND IMPELLER GEOMETRY

The agitation system used consists of a flat-bottomed cylindrical tank with a diameter of  $D = 600$  mm, equipped with four vertical baffles with a width of  $E/D = 0.1$ . The height of the tank is  $H$ , with  $H/D = 1$ . The clearance height of the impeller is placed in the axial position corresponding to  $c/D = 0.33$  (Fig. 1). The agitation is ensured by the Rushton turbines, which have six blades with a height of  $b = D/5$  and a width of  $a = D/4$ , and a disc diameter of  $d_s/d = 0.75$  (Fig. 2). For our study, we are using new baffle shapes (square and triangular) while keeping the same volume as the previous baffles (see Fig. 1). These baffles are positioned at a distance of  $h_1 = 100$  mm. The fluid used in our work is water at room temperature of  $20^\circ\text{C}$ , with a density of  $\rho = 997 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$  and a dynamic viscosity of  $0.89 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ .

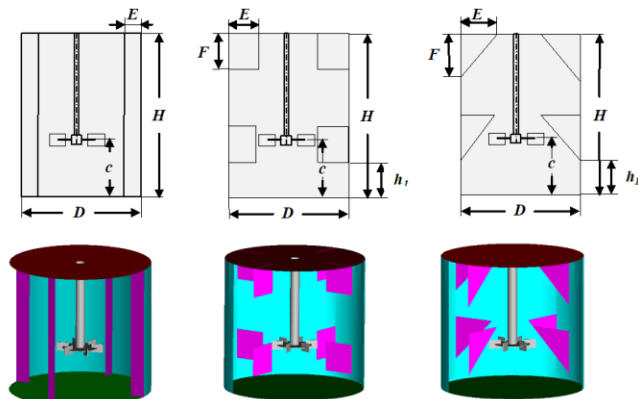


Fig. 1. Geometry of the agitated tank

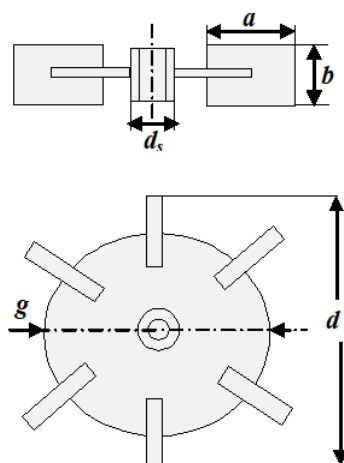


Fig. 2. Rushton turbine

The dimensions of the agitators and baffles are presented in the Tab. 1.

Tab. 1. Details of the geometric dimensions of the agitator and baffles tank

Vessel	d/D	a/D	b/D	g/D	ds/D	E/D	F/D
VB	0.33	0.05	0.066	0.2475	0.066	0.1	0.1
SB	0.33	0.0825	0.066	0.2475	0.066	0.0738	0.0738
TB	0.33	0.0825	0.066	0.2475	0.066	0.10435	0.10435

## 3. GOVERNING EQUATIONS

The flow in a stirred vessel can be solved using equations that describe the conservation of matter and the amount of movement in Navier-Stokes equations. Moreover, the equations are written in their averaged form RANS (Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes) which is used in the case of turbulent flow. These equations establish a connection between the velocity and pressure at each point of the flow.

Whatever fluid domain we follow in its movement, the fluid remains continuous. There can be no external input or removal of material. The continuity equation expresses the variation of the mass of fluid with respect to time in a given elementary volume. This equation can be expressed as:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{U}) = 0 \quad (1)$$

For a steady flow:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = 0 \quad (2)$$

The continuity equation has become:

$$\text{div} u = 0 \quad (3)$$

The equation of momentum is defined as:

$$\text{div}(u u) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} + \nu \text{div}(\text{grad} u) \quad (4)$$

$$\text{div}(v u) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} + \nu \text{div}(\text{grad} v) \quad (5)$$

$$\text{div}(w u) = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial z} + \nu \text{div}(\text{grad} w) \quad (6)$$

The Reynolds number characterizes the ratio between inertial and viscous forces. For stirred-tank systems, its expression is given as follows:

$$Re = \frac{\rho N d^2}{\mu} \quad (7)$$

Where  $\rho$  is the density of the liquid,  $N$  is the speed of rotation of impeller ( $\omega = 2\pi N$ ,  $\omega$  is the angular velocity),  $d$  the diameter of the agitator and  $\mu$  the dynamic viscosity of the liquid.

The dimensionless radial( $R^*$ ) and axial ( $Z^*$ ) coordinates are given as follows:

$$R^* = 2R/Z,$$

$$Z^* = Z/R \quad (8)$$

Velocities are set according to the blade tip velocity:

$$V_{tip} = \pi ND,$$

$$V^* = V/V_{tip} \quad (9)$$

Power is a fundamental measure of the design and operation of mechanically agitated vessels. It refers to the energy transferred by an agitator to a liquid. By performing a dimensional analysis of the Navier-Stokes equation, one can derive a dimensionless parameter known as the power number,  $N_p$ :

$$N_p = \frac{P}{\rho N^3 D^5} \quad (10)$$

where  $P$  represents the power consumption of the agitator system.

However, the most accurate way to obtain power is to determine the torque ( $C$ ) applied to the shaft by adjusting the fluid in motion. Then, the strength can be calculated using the following relationship:

$$P = 2\pi NC \quad (11)$$

$C$  represents the torque of the agitator system.

In this study, the standard  $\kappa$ - $\varepsilon$  model was employed to simulate the turbulent flow. This model is a two-equation formulation that describes turbulence using two transport equations: one for the turbulent kinetic energy ( $\kappa$ ) and another for its dissipation rate ( $\varepsilon$ ).

$$\frac{\partial(\rho\kappa)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho u \kappa) = \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_\kappa} \right) \nabla \kappa \right] + P_\kappa - \rho \varepsilon \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{\partial(\rho\varepsilon)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho u \varepsilon) = \nabla \cdot \left[ \left( \mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_\varepsilon} \right) \nabla \varepsilon \right] + \frac{\varepsilon}{\kappa} (C_{1\varepsilon} P_\kappa - C_{2\varepsilon} \rho \varepsilon) \quad (13)$$

In general, for free turbulent flows at high Reynolds numbers, the values of the various constants are as follows.

The constants  $C_{1\varepsilon}$ ,  $C_{2\varepsilon}$ ,  $\sigma_\kappa$  and  $\sigma_\varepsilon$  in both equations (14) and (15) are obtained from experimental data from a variety of flow patterns.

$$C_{1\varepsilon} = 1.44,$$

$$C_{2\varepsilon} = 1.92, \quad (14)$$

$$\sigma_\kappa = 1.00,$$

$$\sigma_\varepsilon = 1.30.$$

$P_\kappa$  is the production of turbulent kinetic energy due to viscous forces and gravitational forces  $P_{\kappa b}$  (buoyancy forces).

$$P_\kappa = \mu_t \nabla u \cdot (\nabla u + \nabla u^T) - \frac{2}{3} \nabla \cdot u (3\mu_t \nabla \cdot u + \rho \kappa) + P_{\kappa b} \quad (15)$$

The term gravitational forces  $P_{\kappa b}$ , is modeled by the formula:

$$P_{\kappa b} = \frac{\mu_t}{\rho P_{rt}} g \nabla \rho, \quad (16)$$

$P_{rt}$  is the turbulent Prandtl number for energy.

## 4. NUMERICAL SIMULATIONS

In this study, the commercial software CFX 18.0 was used to simulate 3D flow fields in stirred vessels equipped with three types of baffle shapes: vertical baffles (VBR), square baffles (SBR), and triangular baffles (TBR).

The geometry was created and meshed the computational domain with a tetrahedral mesh (Fig. 3).

The geometry was created and meshed the computational domain with a tetrahedral mesh (Fig. 3). Increased mesh density was used near the impeller and tank walls to capture the flow details at the boundary layer. The domain is divided into two distinct zones: a rotating zone that describes the rotational motion of the fluid around the impeller, which is discretized with 188,773 nodes, and a stationary zone consisting of tank walls and baffles, which is discretized with 530,208 nodes.

To verify grid independence, simulations were performed using different mesh densities. For the mesh with 636,249 nodes, the calculated power number was 0.859 for  $Re=10^5$ , whereas the experimental value reported by Karcz and Major [24] is 0.83, resulting in a deviation of approximately 3.3%. For finer meshes with 718,981, 908,954, and 1,099,672 nodes, the differences in power consumption compared to the experimental data were reduced to 1.56%, 1.32%, and 1.3%, respectively. These results indicate a noticeable stabilization of the solution for the second and third mesh configuration.

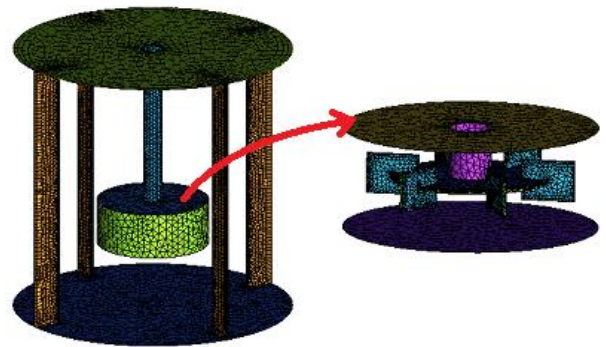


Fig. 3. Tetrahedral mesh generation

The boundary conditions are introduced in ANSYS CFX-Pre code using the multiple referential frames (MRF) method. In this approach, the fluid flow fields are connected at the interior surfaces (interface) separating the two domains using the frozen rotor method. The simulation was performed on a Pentium (R) Core i7 with 8.0 GB of RAM, and convergence was typically achieved after 3-4 hours of computation.

## 5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 5.1. Validation

In this section, our predicted results are compared and validated against the experimental data reported by Karcz and Major [24] and Wu and Patterson [25]. Figures 4 and 5 show the power number and the tangential velocity profile along the tank height at  $R^* = 0.185$  for a flat-bottomed tank equipped with full-length baffles (F). As illustrated, the numerical predictions closely match the experimental measurements provided by the referenced authors.

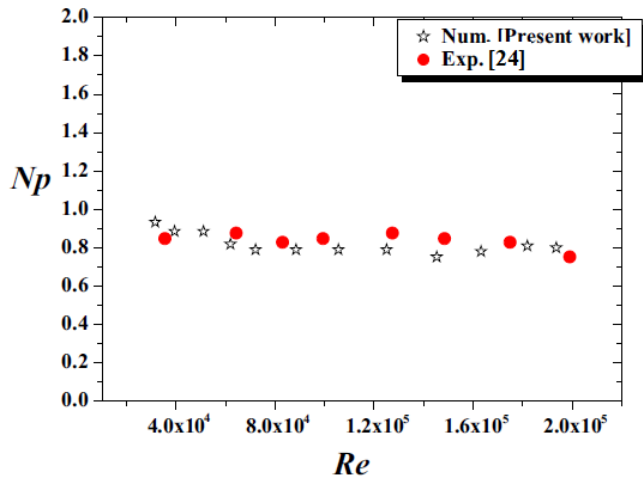


Fig. 4. Power number

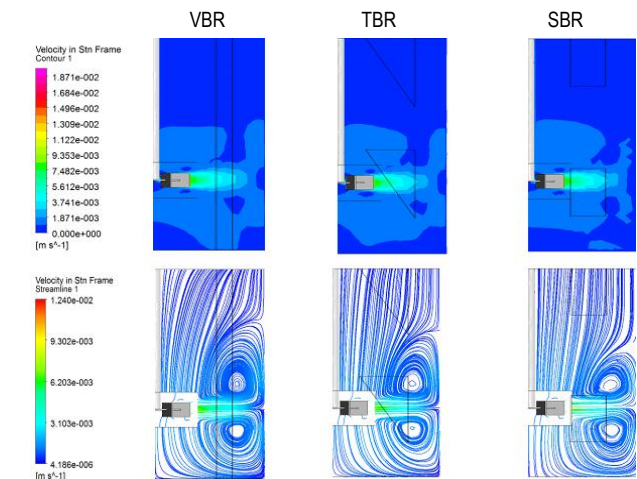


Fig. 6. Distribution of velocity fields at the plane level for different agitators (VBR, TBR and SBR) for  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$

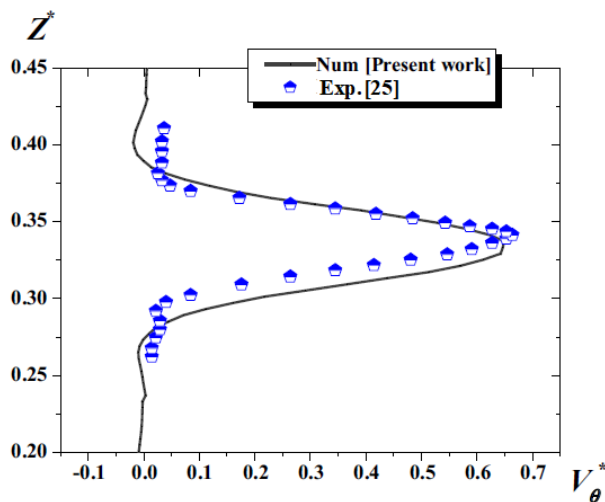
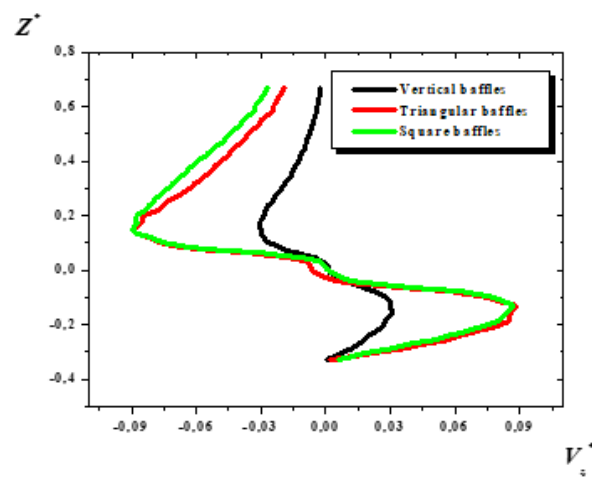
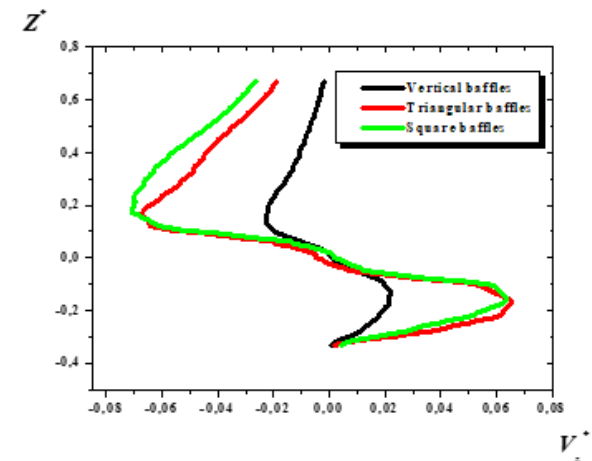


Fig. 5. Tangential velocity for  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ ,  $R^* = 0.185$



a)



b)

Fig. 7. Axial velocities for different configurations (VBR, TBR and SBR) for  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ , for (a)  $R^* = 0.305$  and (b)  $R^* = 0.333$

## 5.2. Effect of the baffle configuration

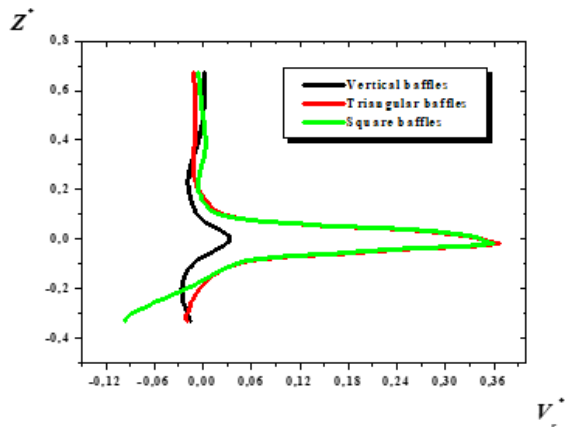
In this study, in this study, a detailed hydrodynamic investigation of a vessel stirred by a Rushton turbine equipped with different types of baffles is carried out using the CFD method. As a first step, we examined the effects of three baffle configurations inside the vessel: vertical baffles (VBR), square baffles (SBR), and triangular baffles (TBR). Baffles are essential elements in agitation mechanisms; according to the literature, four uniformly distributed baffles represent an optimal configuration, as they significantly alter the predominantly tangential flow into a three-dimensional flow pattern, leading to improved mixing efficiency, lower power number compared to other configurations, and an increase in power consumption due to enhanced flow resistance.

The flow fields for the cylindrical vessel fitted with VBR, TBR, and SBR baffles are shown in Fig. 6. The results indicate that, for all configurations, the maximum velocity intensity is located near the blade tips. The turbine divides the flow into two main streams: one directed toward the bottom of the tank and the other toward the free surface, leading to the formation of two vortices above and below the impeller. A comparison of the three configurations shows that the vessel equipped with SBR baffles exhibits a noticeable reduction in the upper vortex size compared to the VBR and TBR cases.

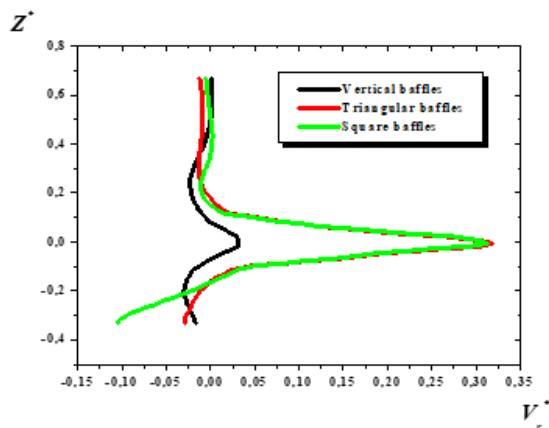
Fig. 7 shows the axial velocities for the different baffle types at two locations,  $R^* = 0.305$  and  $0.333$ , for a Reynolds number of  $4 \times 10^4$ . It can be observed that the axial velocity curves are identical and similar. The axial velocities have low values near the free surface of the liquid and near the turbine for the tank equipped with VBR, and higher values near the turbine, reaching 0.02. In addition, a strong fluid jet develops near the turbine in the cases with TBR

and SBR, with maximum values of 0.09 (Figure 8a) and about 0.07 (Figure 8b) at both locations ( $R^* = 0.305$  and  $0.333$ ). The SBR configuration also shows higher velocities near the free surface of the liquid, reaching approximately 0.03.

Fig. 8 shows the radial velocities of agitated tanks fitted with three types of baffles (VBR, TBR and SBR) at two locations ( $R^* = 0.305$  and  $0.333$ ) and with a Reynolds number ( $Re$ ) of  $4 \times 10^4$ . The radial velocities for tanks with TBR and SBR are identical, with maximum values of 0.36 and 0.03 at  $R^* = 0.305$  and  $0.333$ , respectively. However, there is a significant difference in the lower part of the SBR tank, with values of 0.09 and 0.1 compared to the other tanks.



(a)



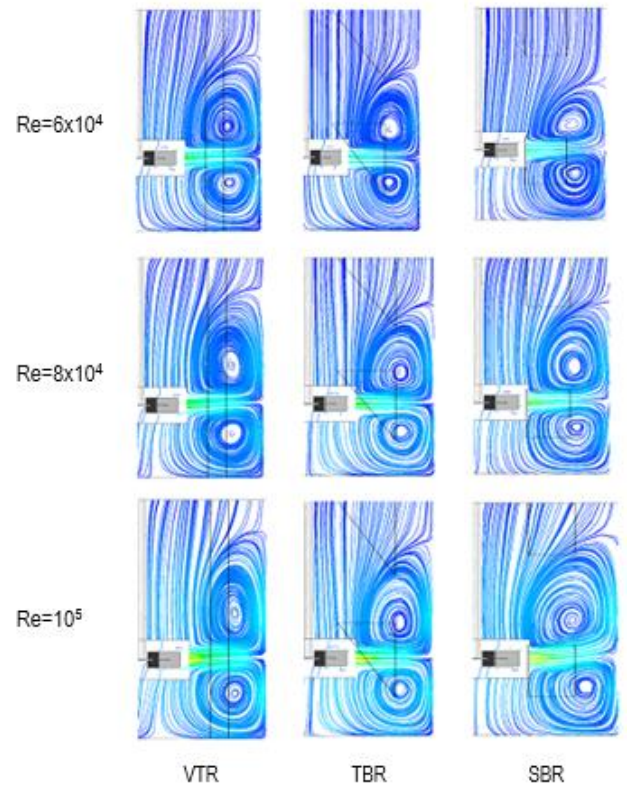
(b)

**Fig. 8.** Radial velocities for different configurations (VBR, TBR and SBR) for  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ , (a)  $R^* = 0.305$  and (b)  $R^* = 0.333$

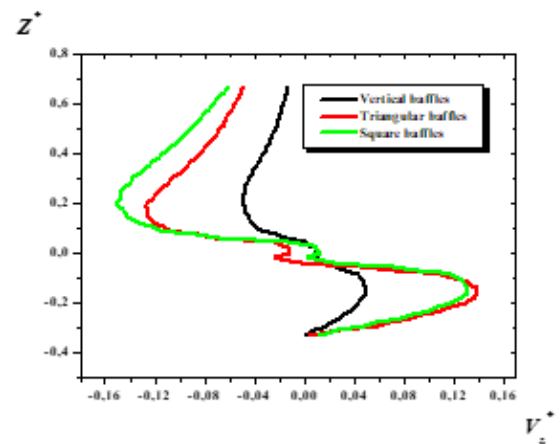
### 5.3. Effect of Reynolds number

The effect of the Reynolds number is being studied. Three different geometric configurations were tested with Reynolds numbers of  $6 \times 10^4$ ,  $8 \times 10^4$  and  $10^5$ . These configurations include cylindrical tanks with three types of baffle tank: VBR, TBR and SBR, respectively.

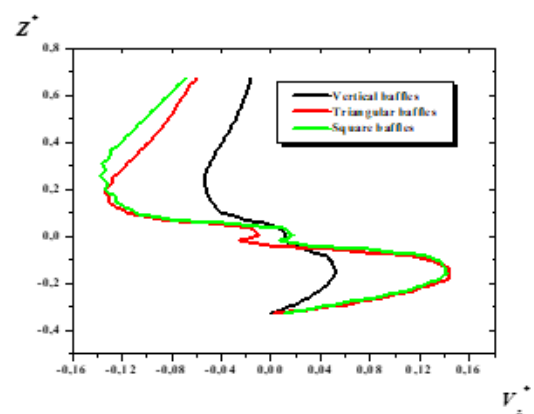
Fig. 9 shows the streamlines for the different baffle configurations (VBR, TBR and SBR) at various Reynolds numbers. Upon comparing the results, it is evident that the height of the upper vortex increases with the rise in Reynolds number in all cases. This is because the turbine generates a more turbulent flow, which creates a more unstable flow.



**Fig. 9.** Velocity fields of streamlines at the plane for different agitators (VBR, TBR and SBR) at various Reynolds numbers



(a)



(b)

**Fig. 10.** Axial velocities for different configurations (VBR, TBR and SBR) for  $R^* = 0.25$ , (a)  $Re = 8 \times 10^4$ , (b)  $Re = 10^5$

Fig. 11 plots the axial velocities for various baffles at  $Z^* = 0.25$  and for Reynolds numbers of  $8 \times 10^4$  and  $10^5$ . The axial velocity remains almost constant under the turbine at locations  $R^* = 0$  to 0.25, and then increases until reaching a maximum value of approximately 0.2 and 0.25 under the turbine for cylindrical tanks with SBR (Fig. 11(a) and 11(b)).

Fig. 12 shows the speed vectors for baffled tanks with three types of agitators (VBR, TBR, and SBR) and Reynolds number  $Re = 8 \times 10^4$  in the  $r-\theta$  plane. The baffles act as obstacles that slow down the fluid. On comparison, we can observe that the intensity of vectors increased around the turbine and formed a few recirculation zones between the baffles and tank walls.

Power consumption is a globally significant parameter that describes the performance of a mechanically agitated system.

Fig. 13 illustrates the results for different Reynolds numbers. The figure illustrates that cylindrical tanks with TBR and SBR, followed by VBR, have values of approximately 4.3, 4.4, and 6, respectively, at a Reynolds number of  $Re = 10^5$ .

Fig. 14 shows the size of the vortex in agitator tanks fitted with three types of baffle tank (VBR, TBR and SBR) at Reynolds numbers between  $10^4$  and  $10^5$ . It can be seen that agitator tanks with SBR baffles have a smaller vortex than those with VBR or TBR baffles. Vortex size values start at 0.66 at  $Re = 10^4$ , decrease to 0.25 at  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ , and then increase again to 0.48 at  $Re = 10^5$ .

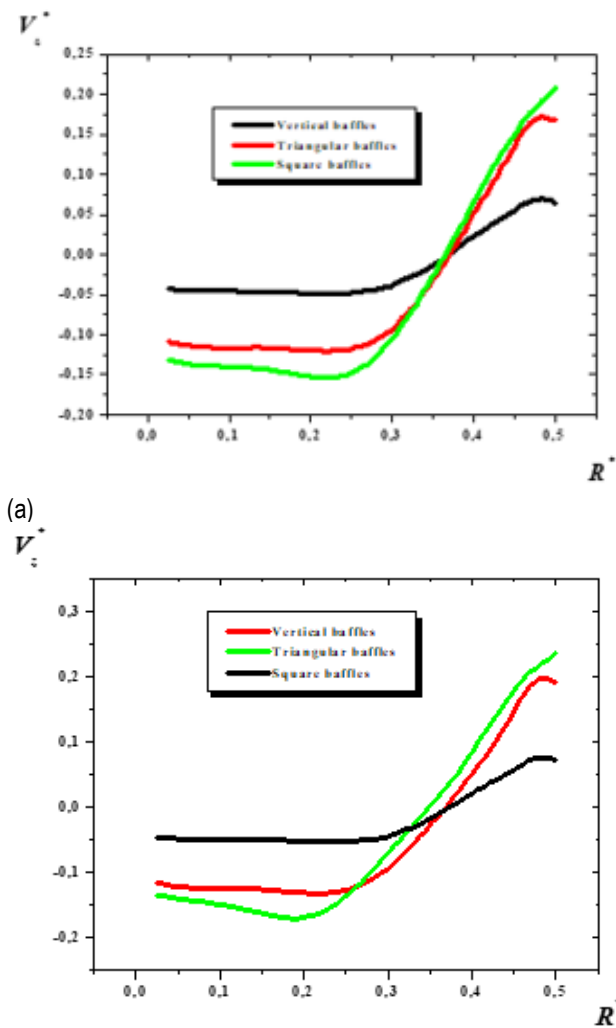


Fig. 11. Axial velocities for different configurations (VBR, TBR and SBR) for  $Z^* = 0.25$ , (a)  $Re = 8 \times 10^4$ , (b)  $Re = 10^5$

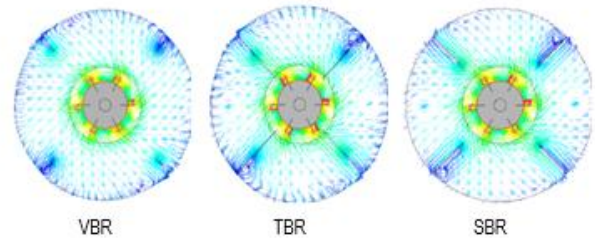


Fig. 12. Velocities vectors for different configurations (VBR, TBR and SBR),  $Re = 8 \times 10^4$

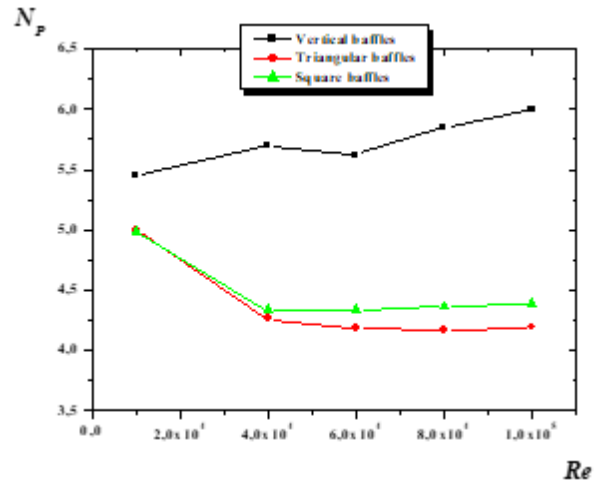


Fig. 13. Power number for different Reynolds numbers and baffle designs: VBR, TBR and SBR

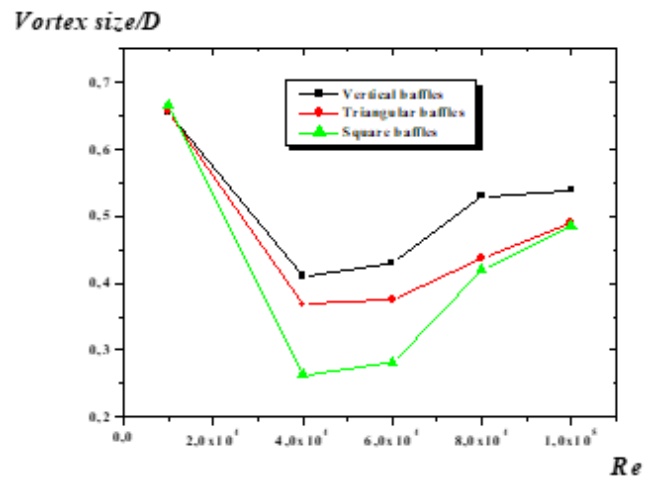


Fig. 14. Vortex size for different Reynolds numbers and baffle designs: VBR, TBR and SBR

#### 5.4. Effect of baffle width

The effect of the baffle width is examined as shown in Figure 15, using four different geometrical configurations with different ratios:  $E/D = 9/40$ ,  $1/4$ ,  $4/15$  and  $3/10$ . Fig. 15 presents the velocity contours and streamlines of square baffles configuration (SBR) at a Reynolds number of  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ . It can be seen that the volume swept by the turbine decreases and the vortex size increases as the length and width of the SBR configuration in the upper part of the turbine increase. In case (a) ( $E/D = 9/40$ ), the upper vortex size is significantly reduced compared to the others.

Fig. 16 indicates the velocity contours and streamlines plotted on a horizontal  $r$ - $\theta$  plane at the mid-height of the impeller blades. Comparing the cases reveals that the jet produced by the turbine fills most of the tank's volume ( $F/D = 9/40$ ), before decreasing as the length and width of the square baffle increase. Additionally, recirculation zones form behind the square baffles. Recirculation initially occurs at a low volume ( $F/D = 9/40$ ) and increases successively as the length and width of the (SBR) increase.

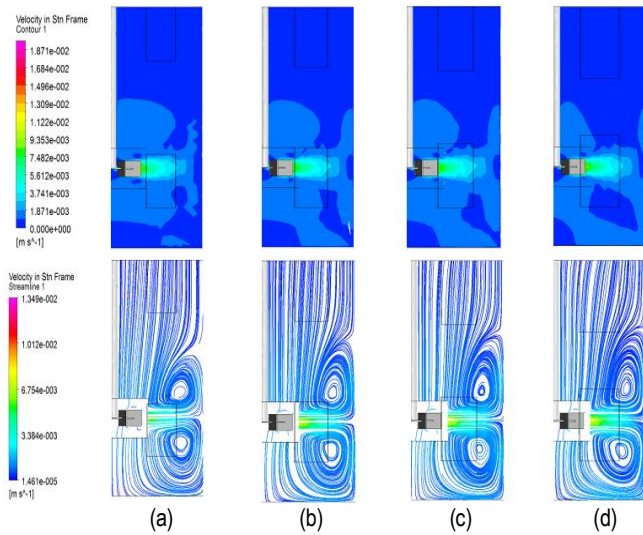


Fig. 15. Flow fields for different widths of square baffles configuration (SBR),  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ , (a)  $E/D = 9/40$ , (b)  $E/D = 1/4$ , (c)  $E/D = 4/15$ , (d)  $E/D = 3/10$

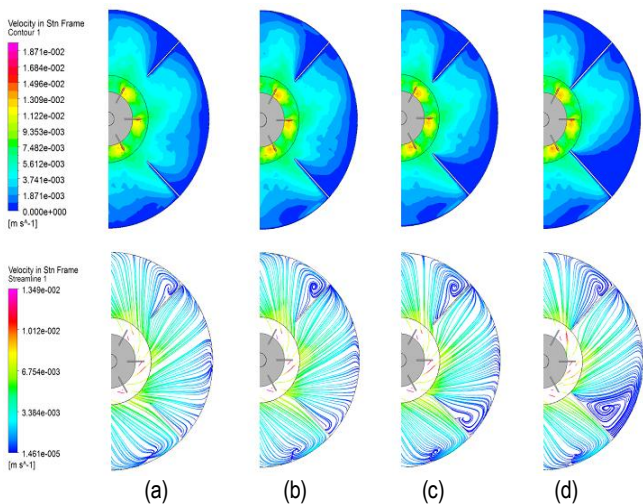


Fig. 16. Flow fields for different widths of square baffles configuration (SBR) at the horizontal  $r$ - $\theta$  plane,  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ , (a)  $E/D = 9/40$ , (b)  $E/D = 1/4$ , (c)  $E/D = 4/15$ , (d)  $E/D = 3/10$

Fig. 17 illustrates the distribution of axial velocity for different lengths and widths of the square baffles at radial locations  $R^* = 0.216$  and  $0.333$ , and angular position  $\theta = 0^\circ$ , at a Reynolds number of  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ . The maximum velocity values are observed near the turbine for the square baffles at vertical positions  $Z^* = 0.18$  and  $-0.15$  at  $R^* = 0.216$ , and at  $Z^* = 0.026$  and  $-0.026$  at  $R^* = 0.333$ .

Fig. 18 presents the tangential velocities for different square baffle lengths (SBR) along the vessel radius at  $R^* = 0.216$  and  $0.333$ , with a Reynolds number of  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ . The profiles of

tangential velocity are almost identical for the ratios  $E/D = 9/40$  and  $1/4$ , as well as for  $E/D = 4/15$  and  $3/10$ . The maximum tangential velocity component is observed at the blade tip of the Rushton turbine ( $V_\theta^* = 0.7$  and  $0.35$ ), at  $R^* = 0.216$  and  $0.333$ , respectively, for the ratio  $E/D = 4/15$  and  $3/10$ , and weakens near the free surface of the liquid. A significant value is observed in the lower part of the turbine ( $V_\theta^* = -0.17$  and  $-0.11$ ) at the vertical position  $Z^* = -0.32$  for the  $E/D$  ratio of  $4/15$ .

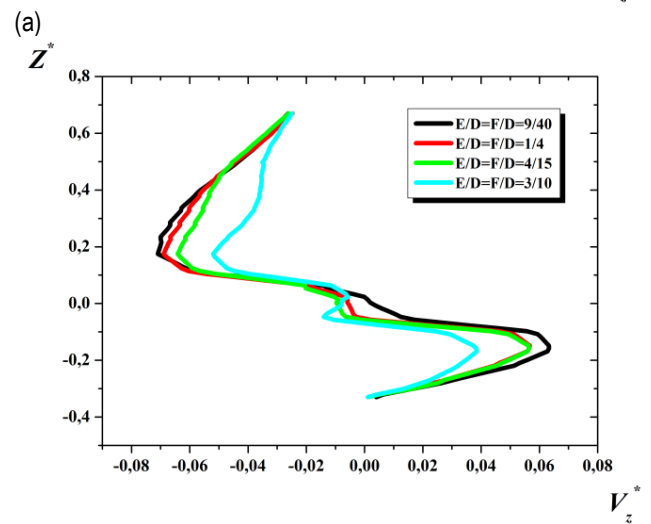
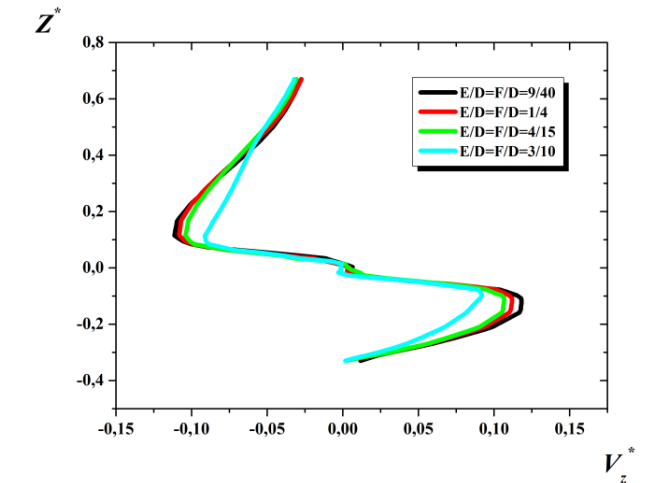
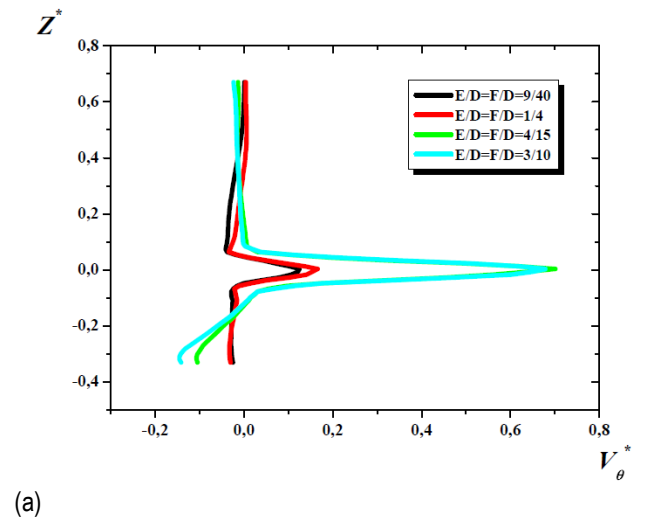
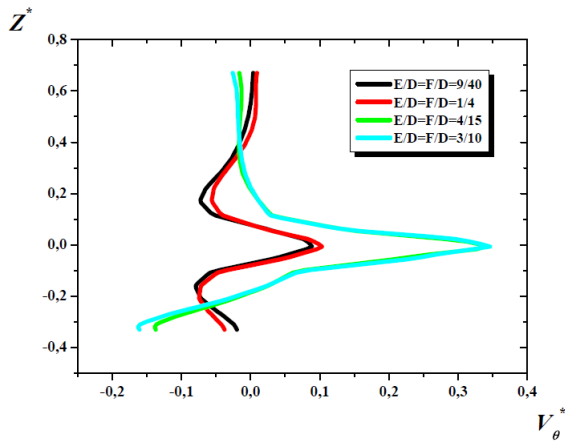


Fig. 17. Axial velocity profiles for different widths ratio of square baffles configuration (SBR) for  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ , (a)  $R^* = 0.216$  and (b)  $0.333$

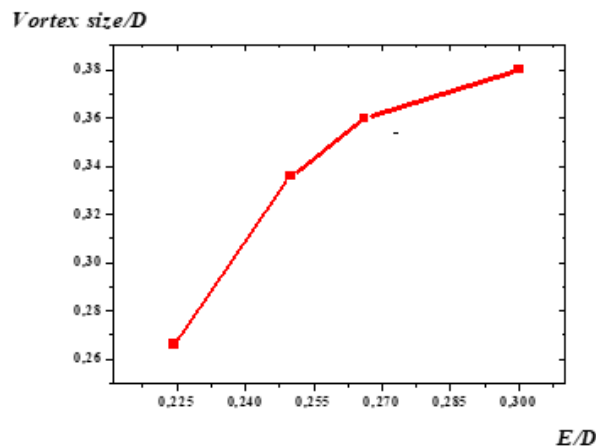


(a)

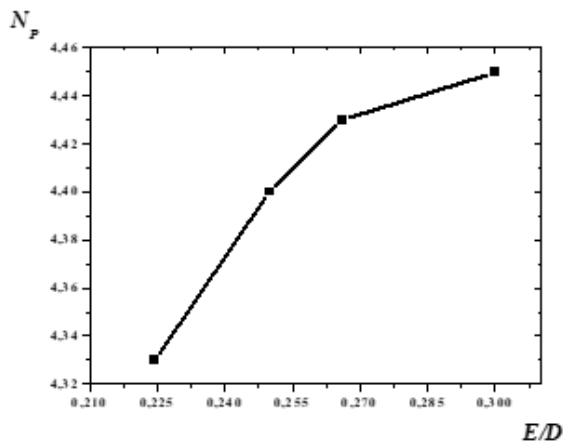


(b)  
**Fig. 18.** Tangential velocity profiles for different widths ratio of square baffles configuration (SBR) for  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ , (a)  $R^* = 0.216$  and (b)  $0.333$

Fig. 19 presents the vortex sizes generated above the impeller for various values of the SBR ratio ( $E/D$ ) with Reynolds number  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$ . An increase in vortex size is observed with an increased baffle ratio. We found that the ratio  $E/D = 9/40$  results in reduced vortex size compared to the other cases studied.



**Fig. 19.** Vortex size for different widths ratio of square baffles configuration (SBR) for  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$



**Fig. 20.** Power number for different widths ratio of square baffles configuration (SBR), for  $Re = 4 \times 10^4$

Fig. 20 illustrates the results of the power number ( $N_p$ ) for different values of the square baffle's ratio ( $E/D$ ). An increase in power consumption is observed with an increasing square baffle's ratio. The case of  $E/D = 9/40$  gives the minimum value of the power number at 4.33. Then, the power number gradually increases until 4.45 for  $E/D = 3/10$ .

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The present work aims to analyze the influence of baffle geometry on turbulent flow in a vessel stirred by a Rushton turbine. Three types of baffles were examined: vertical baffles (VBR), square baffles (SBR), and triangular baffles (TBR). The study focuses on how these configurations affect power consumption and vortex formation. Based on the numerical simulations performed, the following conclusions can be drawn:

Agitated tanks equipped with SBR exhibit a noticeable reduction in vortex size compared to the configurations with VBR and TBR. At a Reynolds number of  $10^5$ , the vortex size values for TBR, SBR, and VBR are approximately 4.3, 4.4, and 6, respectively. The results highlight the superior performance of square baffles, which reduce power consumption by about 2.85% compared with the triangular baffles (TBR) and by nearly 30% relative to the vertical baffles (VBR).

The dimensionless axial and radial velocity components reach their maximum at the upper and lower edges of the Rushton turbine blade tip for tanks equipped with SBR and TBR. These configurations also generate significant velocity magnitudes near the free liquid surface.

The effect of square baffle width ( $E/D$ ) was evaluated using four geometrical configurations:  $E/D = 9/40, 1/4, 4/15,$  and  $3/10$ . The configuration with  $E/D = 9/40$  provided the most effective reduction of the upper vortex size compared to the other cases. This configuration also minimized the recirculation zones forming behind the square baffles, leading to decreased power consumption and smaller vortex structures.

Finally, the tangential velocity component reaches its maximum near the Rushton turbine blade tip along the vessel radius, specifically at  $R^* = 0.216$  and  $R^* = 0.333$  for the ratios  $E/D = 4/15$  and  $3/10$ . This component becomes very weak near the free liquid surface.

## Nomenclature

$a$	blade length	m
$b$	blade width	m
$B$	width of baffles	m
$C$	impeller of-bottomed clearance	m
$C$	torque	N. m
$d$	impeller diameter	m
$d_s$	shaft diameter	m
$D$	tank diameter	m
$E$	baffle width	m
$F$	baffle length	m
$G$	disc diameter	m

$h_1$	distance between TB, SB and	m
$H$	vessel tank height	m
$N$	impeller rotational speed	s <sup>-1</sup>
$N_p$	power number (= $P/\rho N^3 D^5$ )	dimensionless
$P$	Power	W
$R$	radial coordinates	m
$Re$	Reynolds number (= $\rho N D^2 / \mu$ )	dimensionless
$V_z$	axial velocity	ms <sup>-1</sup>
$V_\theta$	tangential velocity	ms <sup>-1</sup>
$V_r$	radial velocity	ms <sup>-1</sup>

### Greek Letters

$\rho$	fluid density	kg m <sup>-3</sup>
$\mu$	viscosity	Pa s
$\theta$	angular coordinate	(°)
$\omega$	angular velocity	rad s <sup>-1</sup>

### REFERENCES

- Torotwa I, Ji C. A study of the mixing performance of different impeller designs in stirred vessels using computational fluid dynamics. *Designs*. 2018;2(1):10. <https://doi.org/10.3390/designs2010010>
- Kamla Y, Bouzit M, Ameer H, Arab MI, Hadjeb A. Effect of the inclination of baffles on the power consumption and fluid flows in a vessel stirred by a Rushton turbine. *Chin J Mech Eng*. 2017;30(4):1008–1016. <https://doi.org/10.1007/S10033-017-0158-5>
- Iranshahi A, Devals C, Heniche M, Fradette L, Tanguy PA, Takenaka K. Hydrodynamics characterization of the Maxblend impeller. *Chem Eng Sci*. 2007;62(14):3641–3653. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ces.2007.03.031>
- Kumaresan T, Joshi JB. Effect of impeller design on the flow pattern and mixing in stirred tanks. *Chem Eng J*. 2006;115(3):173–193. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2005.10.002>
- Chtourou W, Ammar M, Driss Z, Abid MS. CFD prediction of the turbulent flow generated in stirred square tank by a Rushton turbine. *Energy Power Eng*. 2014;6:95–110. <https://doi.org/10.4236/epe.2014.65010>
- Hadjeb A, Bouzit M, Kamla Y, Ameer H. A new geometrical model for mixing of highly viscous fluids by combining two-blade and helical screw agitators. *Pol J Chem Technol*. 2017;19(3):83–91. <https://doi.org/10.1515/pjct-2017-0053>
- Ameer H. Some modifications in the Scaba 6SRGT impeller to enhance the mixing characteristics of Herschel–Bulkley fluids. *Food Bioprod Process*. 2019;117:302–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fbp.2019.08.007>
- Et JB, Couderc JP. Agitation de fluides pseudoplastiques par un agitateur bipale. *Can J Chem Eng*. 1982;60(6):738–747. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cjce.5450600604>
- Hasmadi M, Aini IN, Mamot S, Yusuf MSA. The effect of different types of stirrer and fractionation temperatures on the yield, characteristics and quality of oleins. *J Food Lipids*. 2002;9(4):295–307. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-4522.2002.tb00227.x>
- De Lathouder KM, Fló TM, Kapteijn F, Moulijn JA. A novel structured bioreactor: Development of a monolithic stirrer reactor with immobilized lipase. *Catal Today*. 2005;105(3–4):443–447. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cattod.2005.06.056>
- Alvarez MM, Zalc JM, Shinbrot T, Arratia PE, Muzzio FJ. Mechanisms of mixing and creation of structure in laminar stirred tanks. *AIChE J*. 2002;48(10):2135–2148. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aic.690481005>
- Nere NK, Patwardhan AW, Joshi JB. Liquid-phase mixing in stirred vessels: turbulent flow regime. *Ind Eng Chem Res*. 2003;42(12):2661–2698. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ie0206397>
- Salho AK, Hamzah DA. A review of stirred tank dynamics: power consumption, mixing time and impeller geometry. *Int J Heat Technol*. 2024;42(3):1081–1092. <https://doi.org/10.18280/ijht.420335>
- Brahim S, Bouzit M, Mokhefi A, Youcefi S. Hydrodynamic and energetic investigations of laminar flow of a non-Newtonian fluid in a tank equipped with a zigzag-bladed anchor impeller. *J Food Process Eng*. 2025;48(5). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfpe.70141>
- Chachi M, Kamla Y, Alhaffar MT, et al. Quantitative assessment of agitator performance in an anchor-stirred tank. *Arab J Sci Eng*. 2024;49:13885–13895. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13369-024-08821-0>
- Foukrach M, Bouzit M, Ameer H, Kamla Y. Effect of agitator's types on the hydrodynamic flow in an agitated tank. *Chin J Mech Eng*. 2020;33:1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s10033-020-00454-2>
- Gu D, Xu H, Ye M, Wen L. Design of impeller blades for intensification of fluid mixing in a stirred tank. *J Taiwan Inst Chem Eng*. 2022;138:104475. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtice.2022.104475>
- Hoseini SS, Najafi G, Ghobadian B, Akbarzadeh AH. Impeller shape-optimization of stirred-tank reactor. *Chem Eng J*. 2021;413:127497. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2020.127497>
- Jo HJ, Jang HK, Kim YJ, Hwang WR. Analyses of dynamical systems structures and mixing patterns in an anchor agitator. *J Chem Eng Jpn*. 2018;51:135–142. <https://doi.org/10.1252/jcej.17we013>
- Brucato A, Ciofalo M, Grisafi F, Micale G. Numerical prediction of flow fields in baffled stirred vessels. *Chem Eng Sci*. 1998;53(21):3653–3684. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0009-2509\(98\)00149-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0009-2509(98)00149-3)
- Bartels C, Breuer M, Wechsler K, Durst F. CFD applications on parallel computers: stirred vessel flows. *Comput Fluids*. 2002;31(1):69–97. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0045-7930\(01\)00016-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0045-7930(01)00016-0)
- Foukrach M, Ameer H. Effect of baffles shape on flow patterns and power consumption in stirred vessels. *SN Appl Sci*. 2019;1(11):1503. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42452-019-1550-9>
- Lu WM, Wu HZ, Ju MY. Effects of baffle design on liquid mixing in an aerated stirred tank. *Chem Eng Sci*. 1997;52(21–22):3843–3851. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0009-2509\(97\)88929-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0009-2509(97)88929-4)
- Karcz J, Major M. Effect of baffle length on power consumption in stirred vessels. *Chem Eng Process*. 1998;37:249–256. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0255-2701\(98\)00033-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0255-2701(98)00033-6)
- Shen Y, Qin B, Li X, Zhu Z, Cui P, Gao J, Wang Y. Flow characteristics of liquid–liquid mixing with V-shaped baffles. *Environ Dev Sustain*. 2020;1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-020-00675-4>
- Major-Godlowska M, Karcz J. Power consumption in vessels with pitched blade turbines and short baffles. *Chem Pap*. 2018;72(5):1081–1088. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11696-017-0346-x>
- Youcefi S, Bouzit M, Ameer H, Kamla Y, Youcefi A. Effect of design parameters on flow fields and power in tanks stirred by Rushton turbine. *Chem Process Eng*. 2013;34(2):293–307. <https://doi.org/10.2478/cpe-2013-0024>
- Yeum SH, Lee SS. Numerical analysis on effect of baffles in a stirred vessel. *J Aerosp Syst Eng*. 2019;13(1):1–10. <https://doi.org/10.20910/JASE.2019.13.1.1>
- Wu H, Patterson GK. Laser-Doppler measurements of turbulent-flow parameters in a stirred mixer. *Chem Eng Sci*. 1989;44(10):2207–2221. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0009-2509\(89\)85155-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0009-2509(89)85155-3)
- Falkovich G. *Fluid Mechanics: A Short Course for Physicists*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 2011.

Mohammed Foukrach:  <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-1259-985X>

Youcef Kamla:  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3428-4748>

Mohamed Bouzit:  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1417-7291>

Zied Driss:  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0397-1868>



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 4.0 license.