

# Leading-edge flow separation control using DBD plasma: Effect of the Reynolds number

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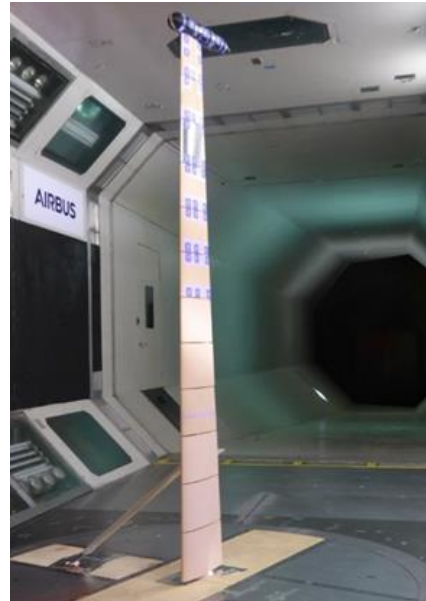
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University of Bristol

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# TAILSURF project



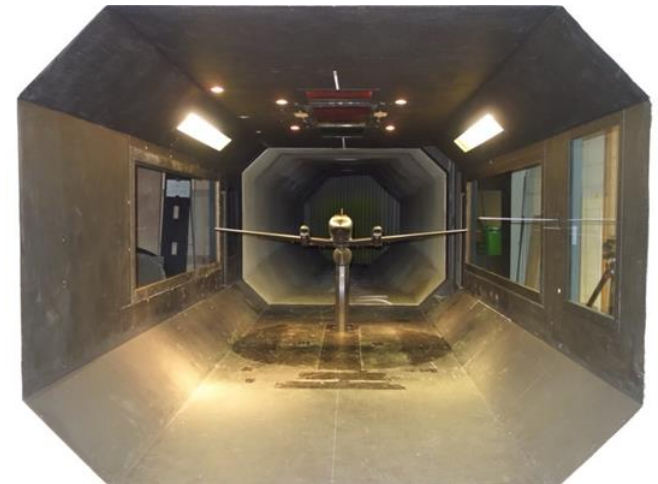
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University of  
BRISTOL



# Objective

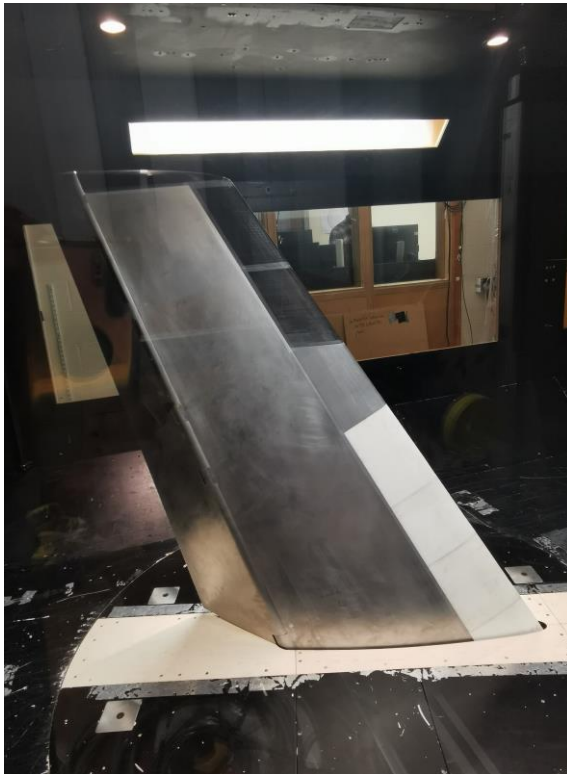
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To study innovative flow control devices for size reduction of the empennage of large passenger aircraft.

# Wind tunnels and test models

Mean aerodynamic chord = 0.982 m, Span = 1.6 m  
Sweep angle =  $27.2^\circ$ , Taper ratio = 0.46

$\frac{1}{4}$  model

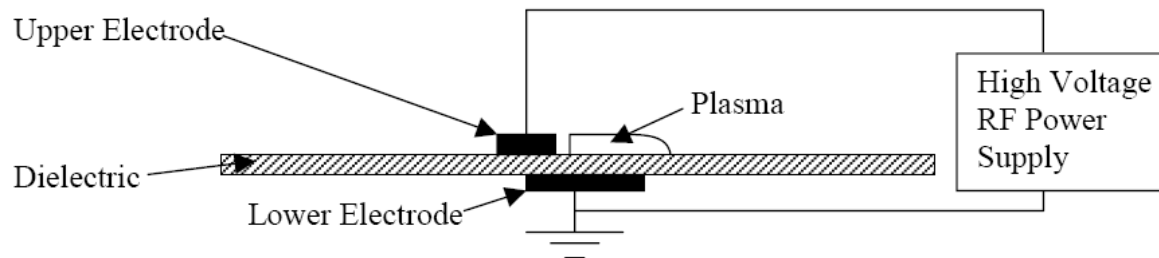


Glasgow tunnel: 2.7 x 2.1 x 5.4 m



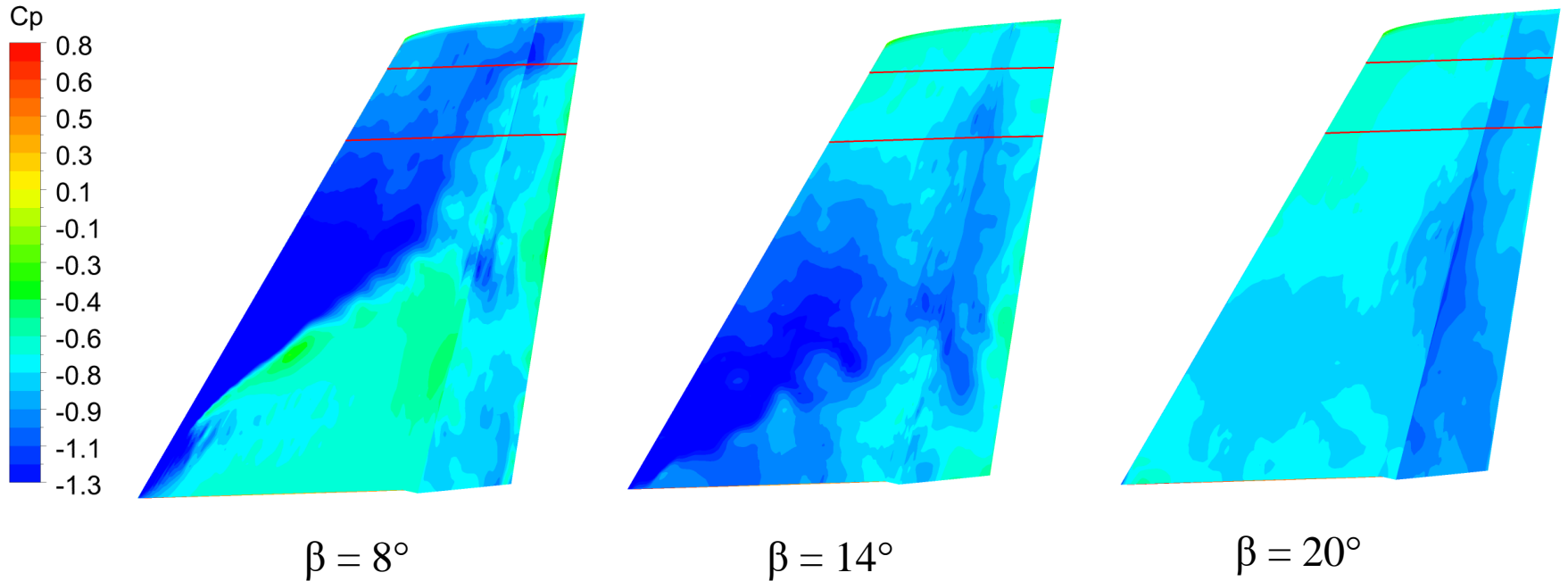
Nottingham tunnel: 0.9 x 0.9 x 1.5 m

# Plasma actuators



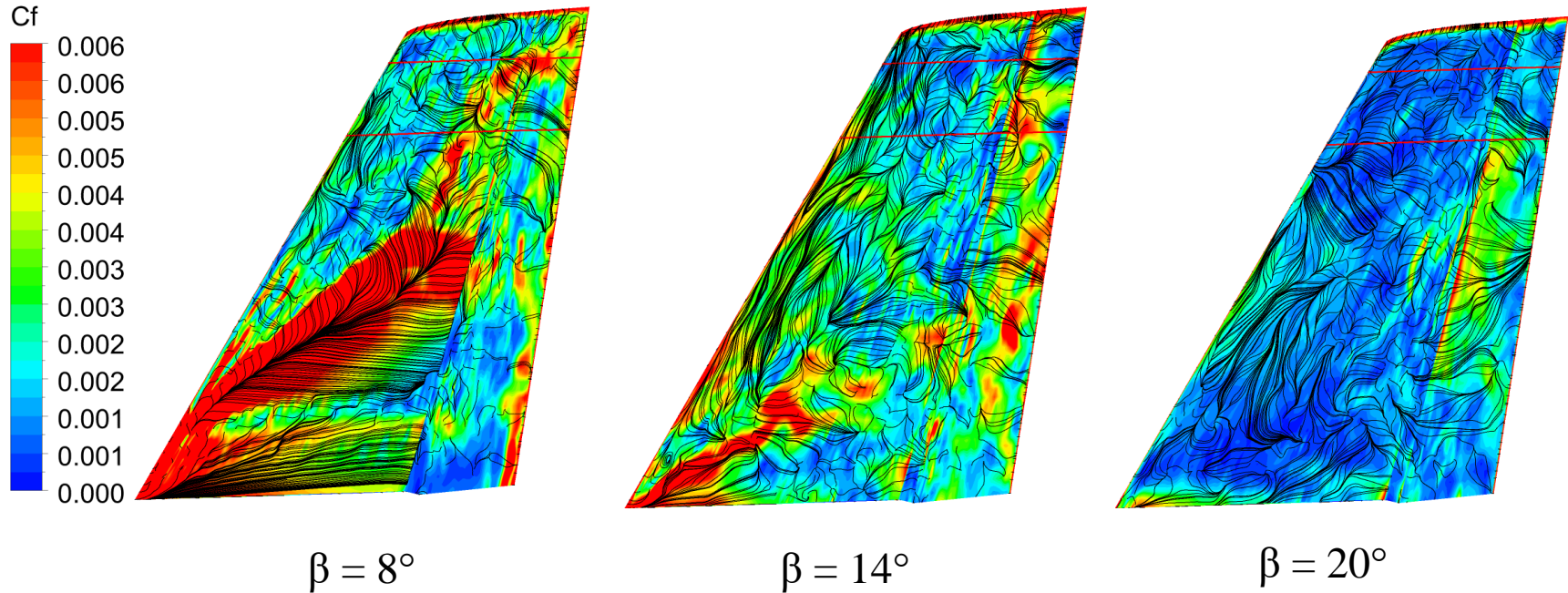
# LES results of the baseline

$C_p$  distributions at the rudder angle  $\delta = 30^\circ$



# LES results of the baseline

$C_f$  distributions at the rudder angle  $\delta = 30^\circ$



# Effect of plasma position



Position of the plasma actuators is critical for flow separation control.

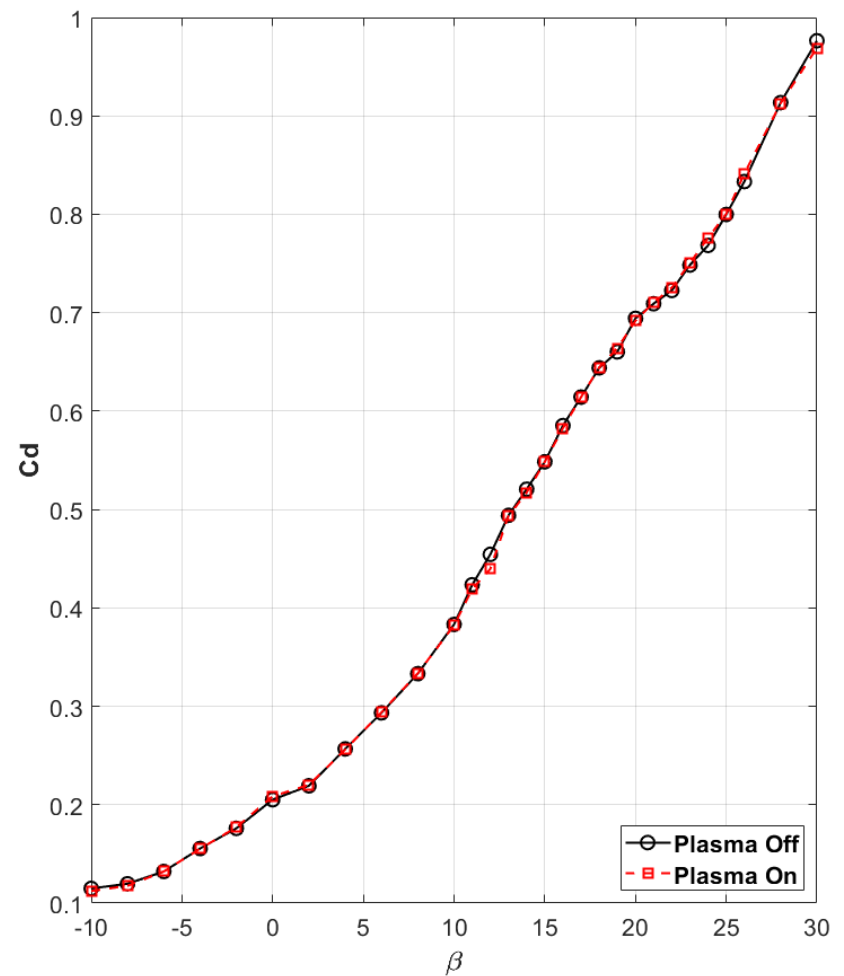
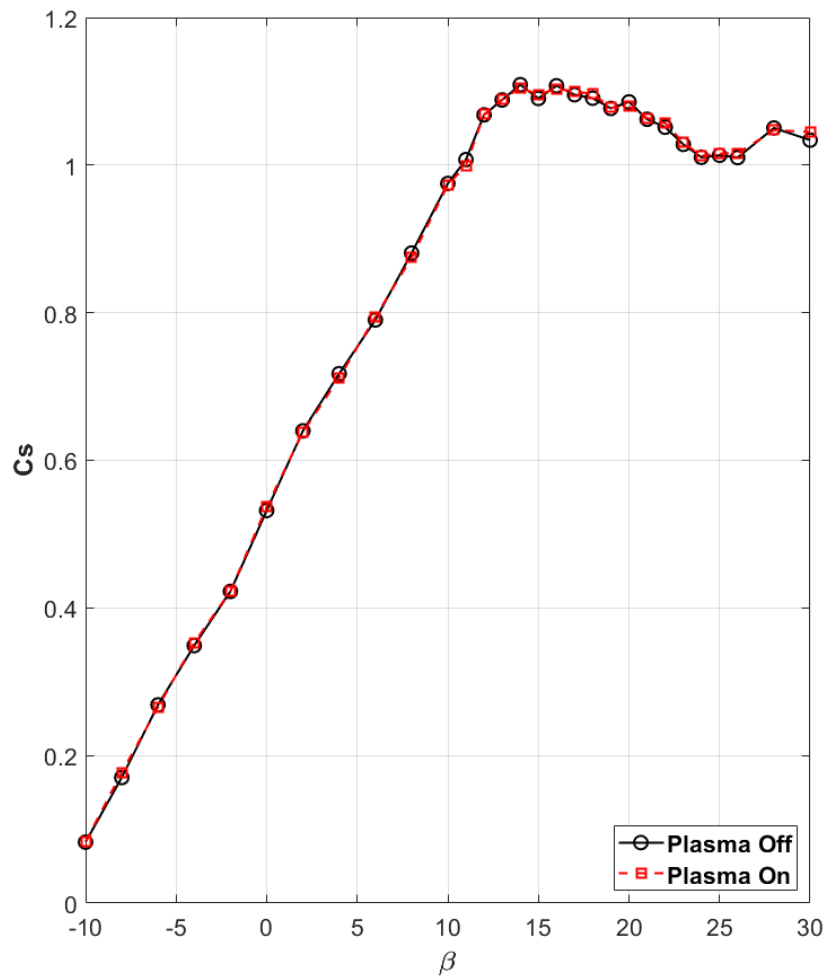
For the leading-edge flow separation control, the plasma actuators must be positioned exactly at the leading edge.



# Effect of plasma position

2.5mm off the Leading edge

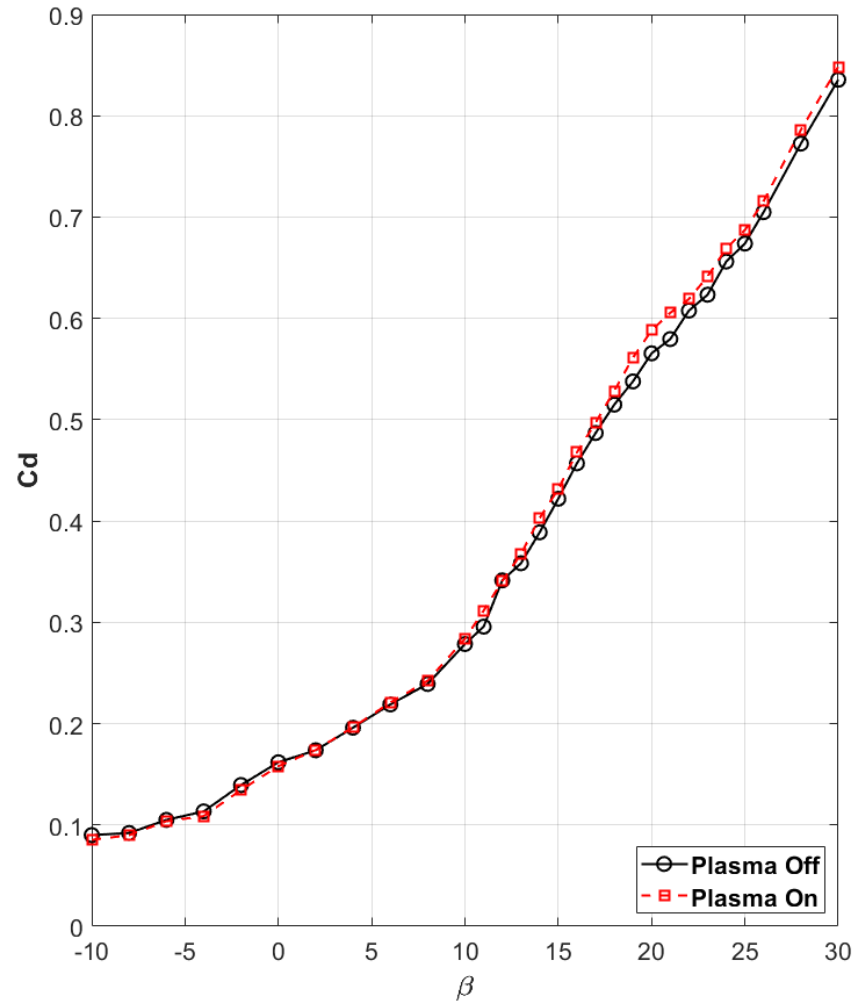
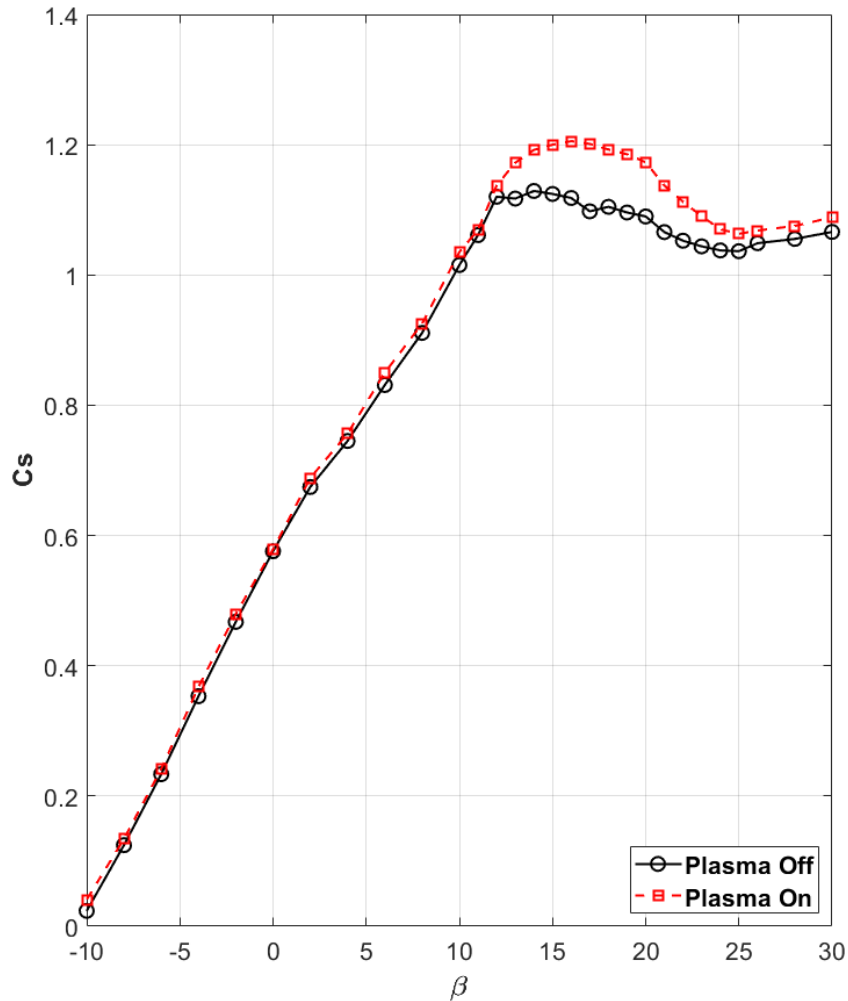
$\delta = 30^\circ$



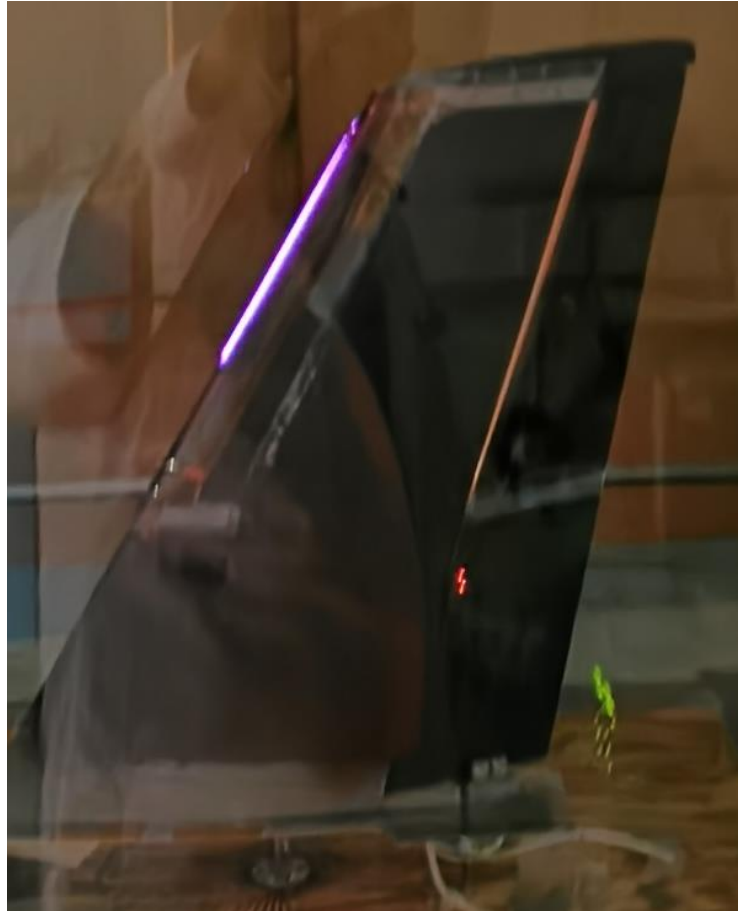
# Effect of plasma position

Exactly on the Leading edge

$\delta = 30^\circ$

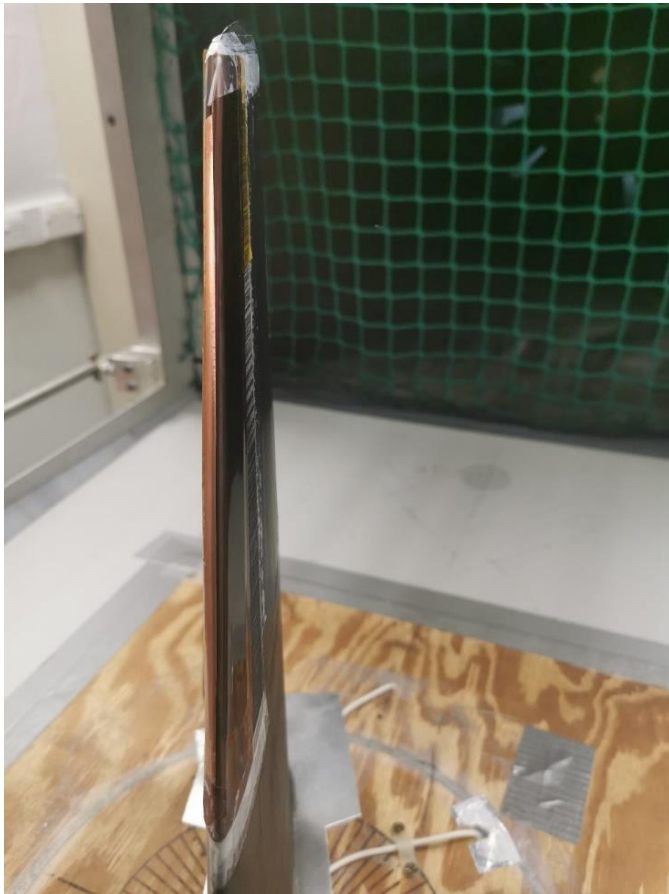


# Effect of freestream velocity



Plasma covers 30% span along the leading edge

# Nottingham wind tunnel results



$\beta = 0^\circ$



$\beta = 10^\circ$



$\beta = 20^\circ$



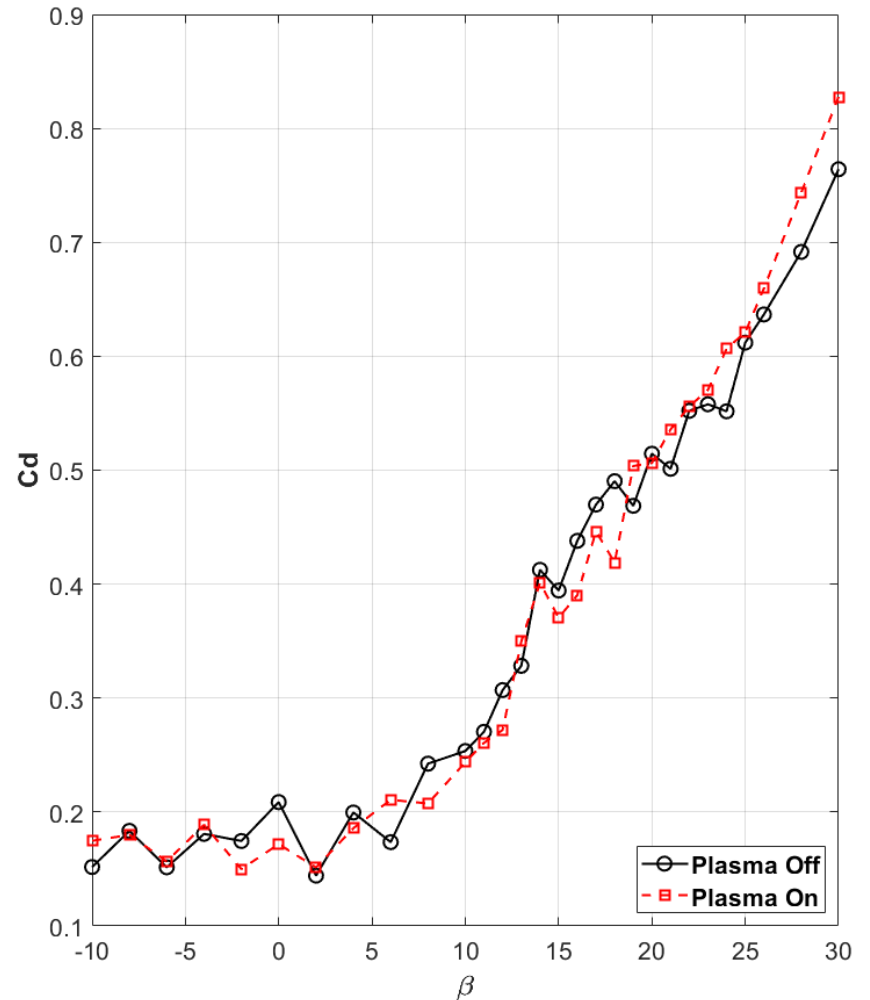
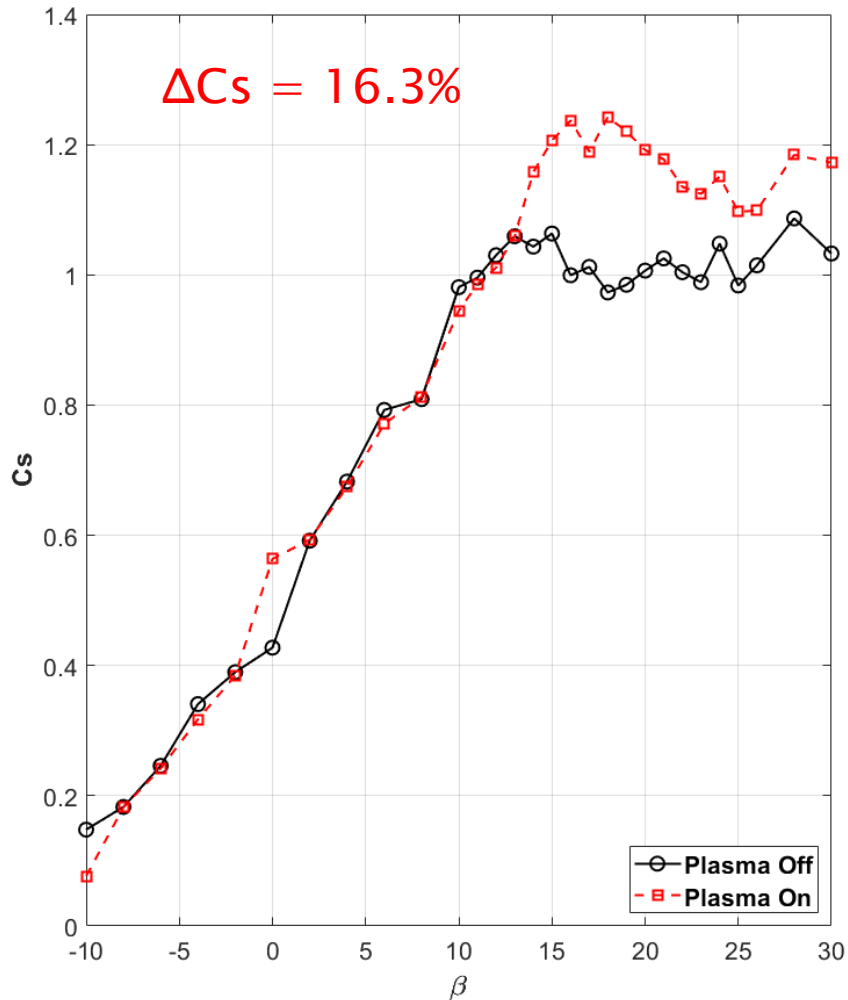
$\beta = 30^\circ$



# Effect of freestream velocity

$U = 5 \text{ m/s}$

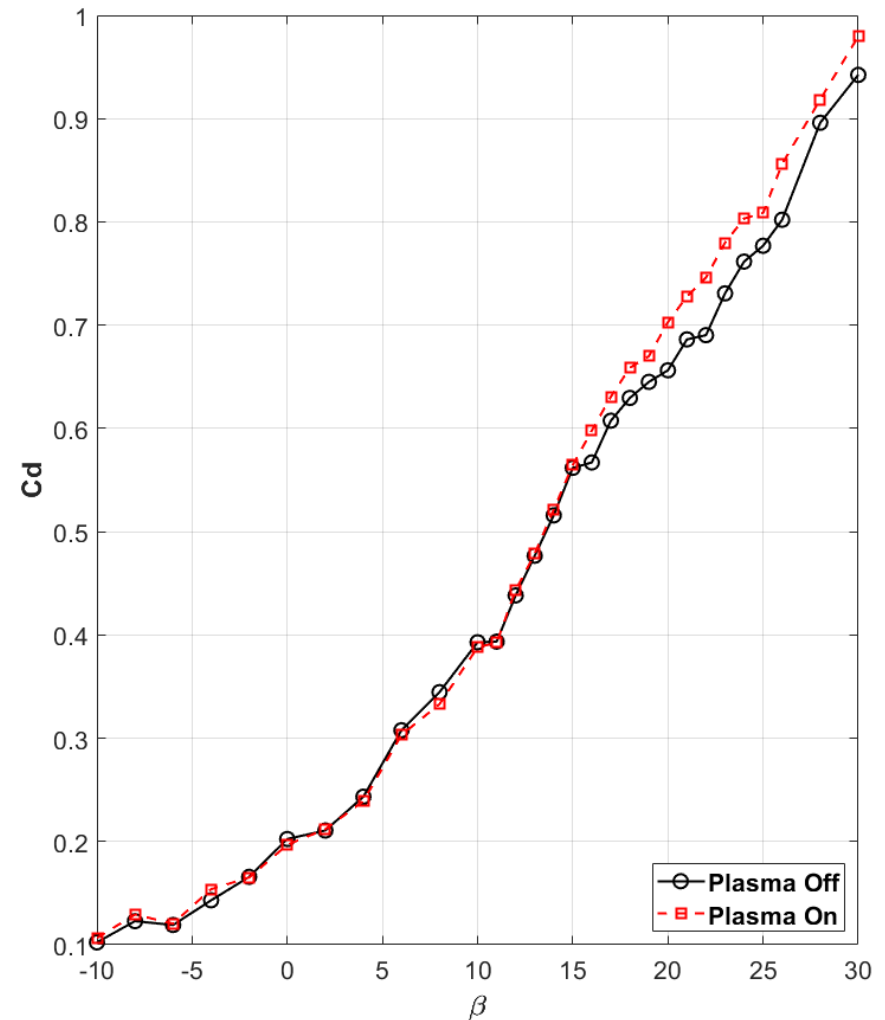
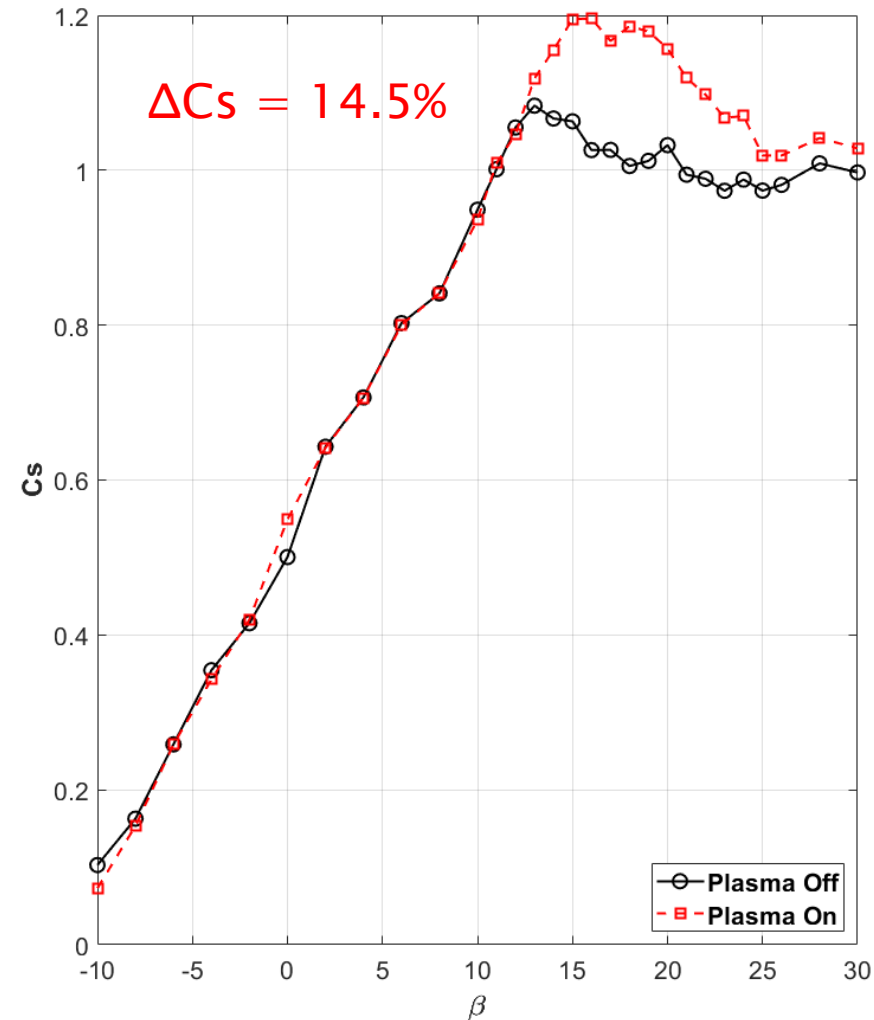
$\delta = 30^\circ$



# Effect of freestream velocity

$U = 7.5 \text{ m/s}$

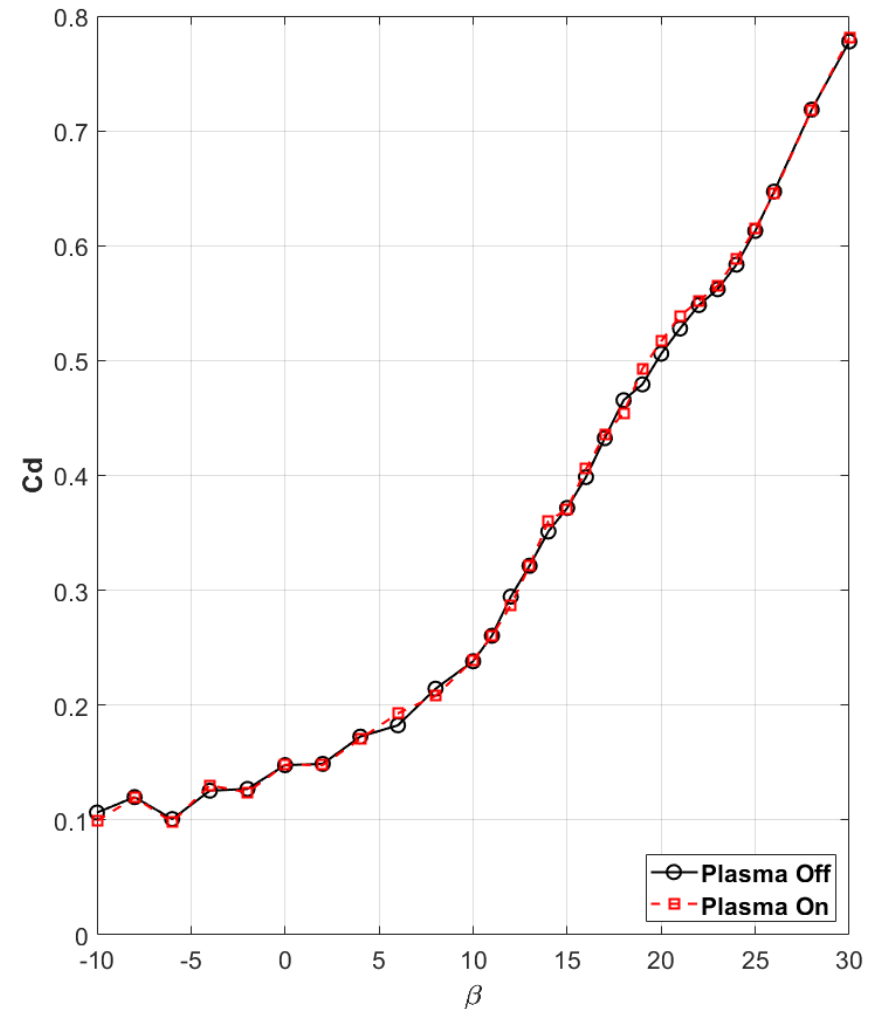
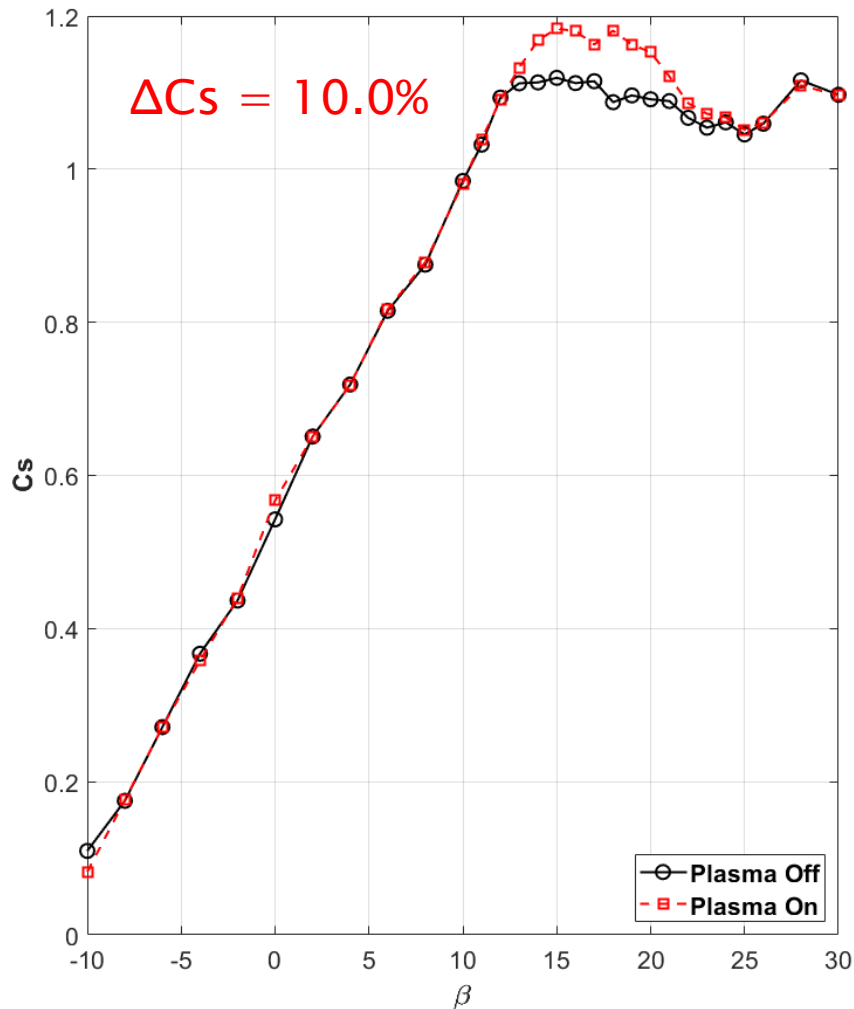
$\delta = 30^\circ$



# Effect of freestream velocity

$U = 10 \text{ m/s}$

$\delta = 30^\circ$

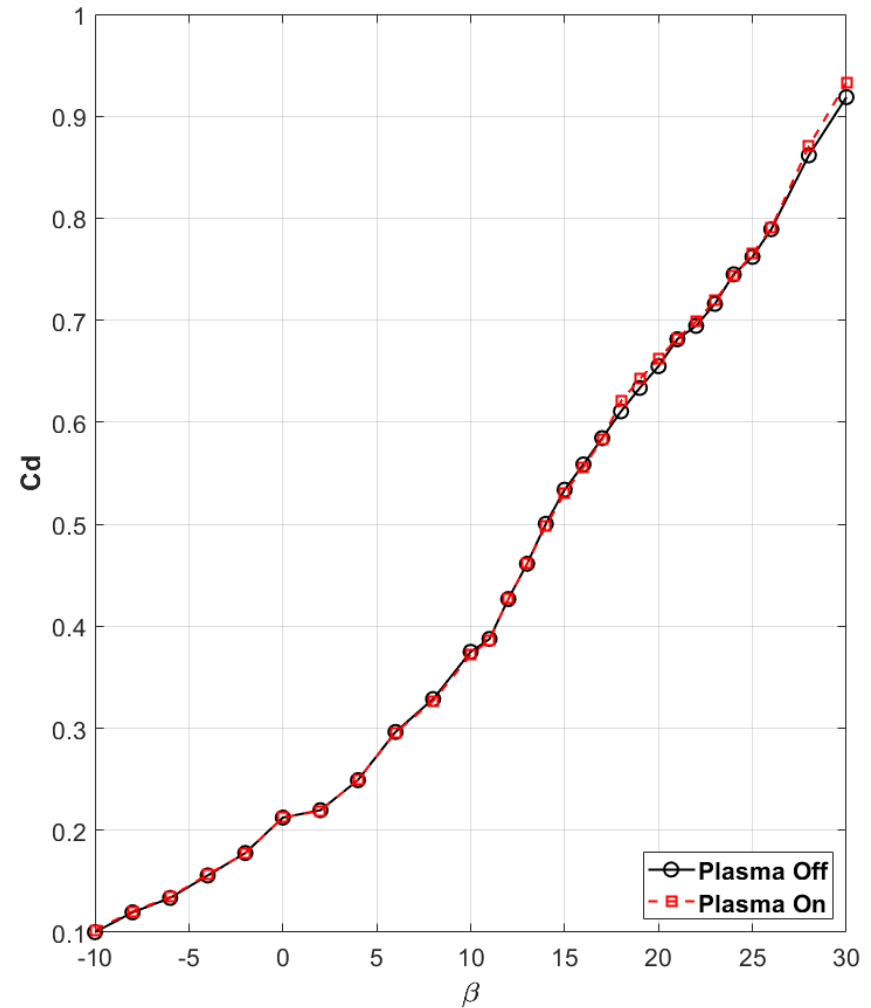
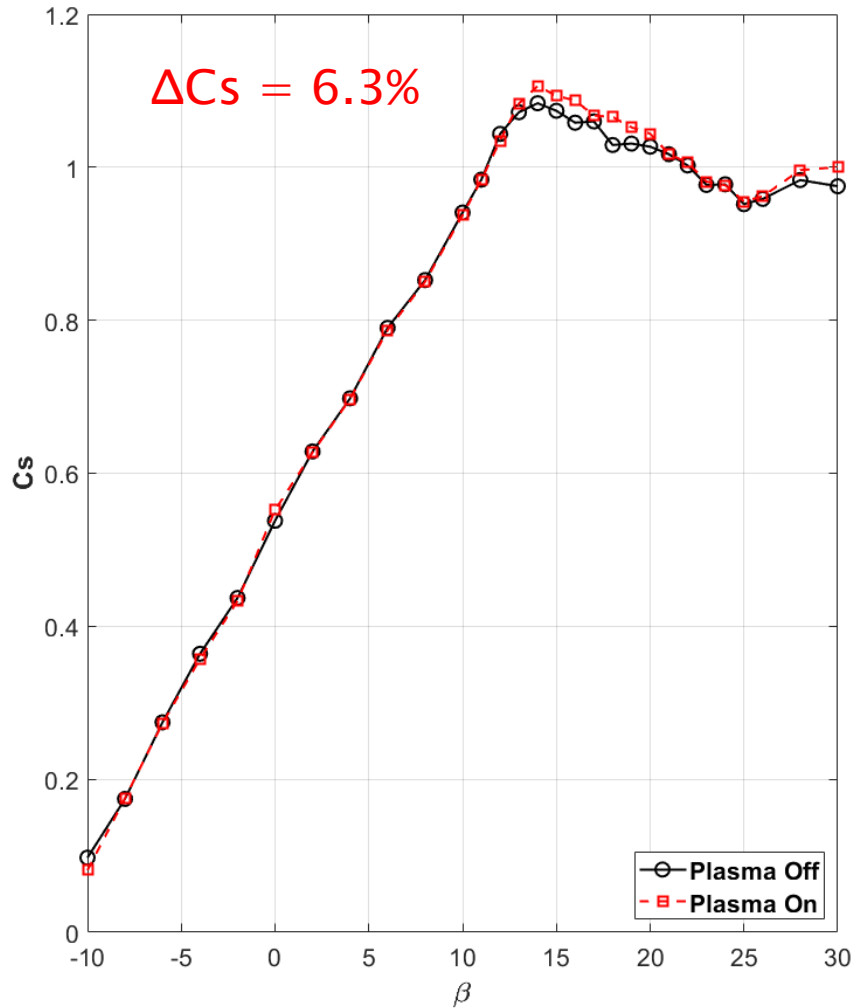


$Re = 0.17 \times 10^6$

# Effect of freestream velocity

$U = 12.5 \text{ m/s}$

$\delta = 30^\circ$

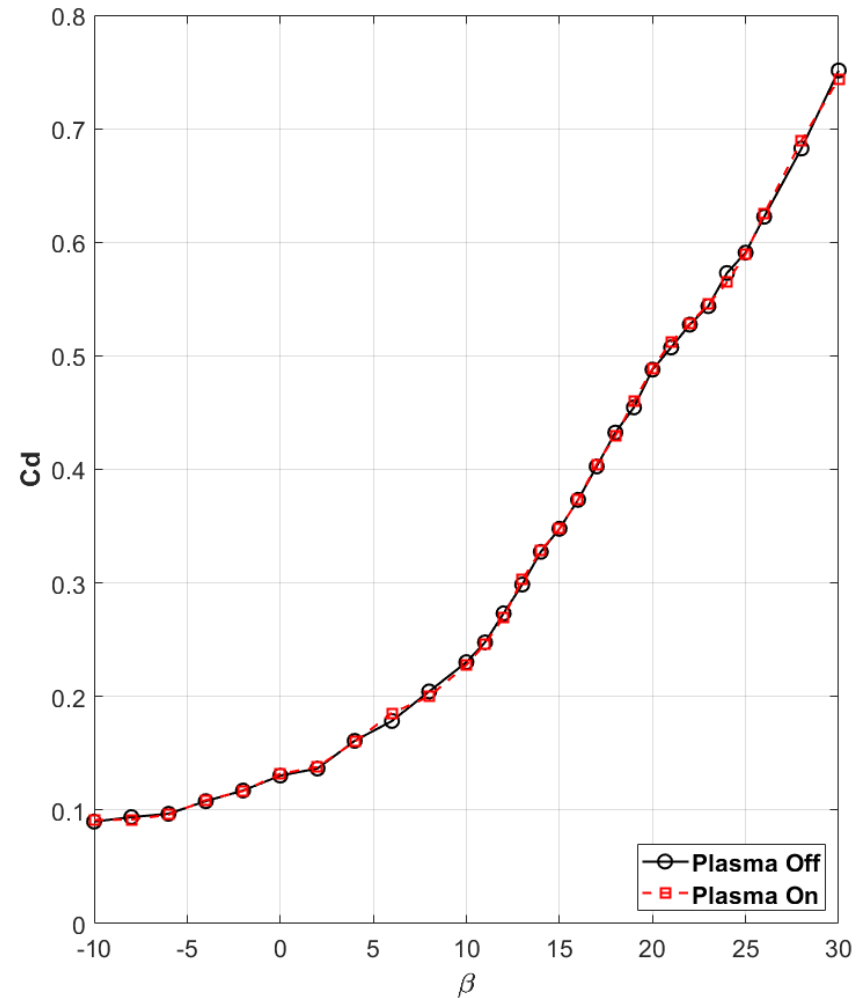
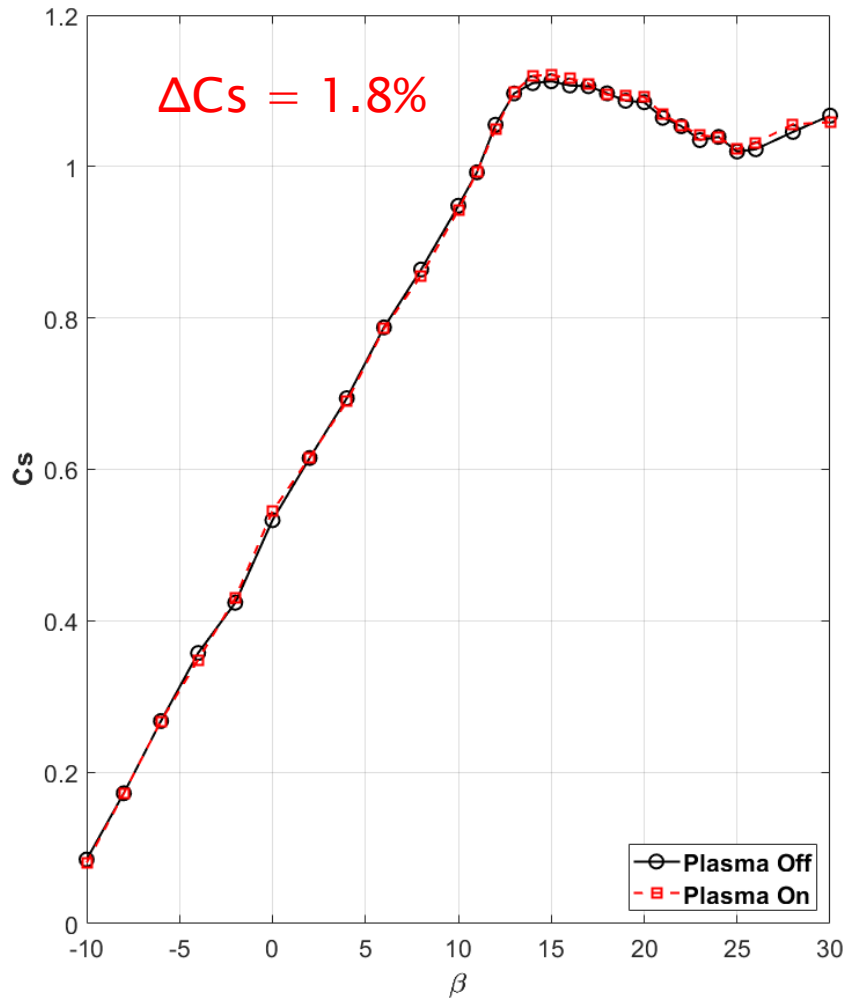




# Effect of freestream velocity

$U = 15 \text{ m/s}$

$\delta = 30^\circ$



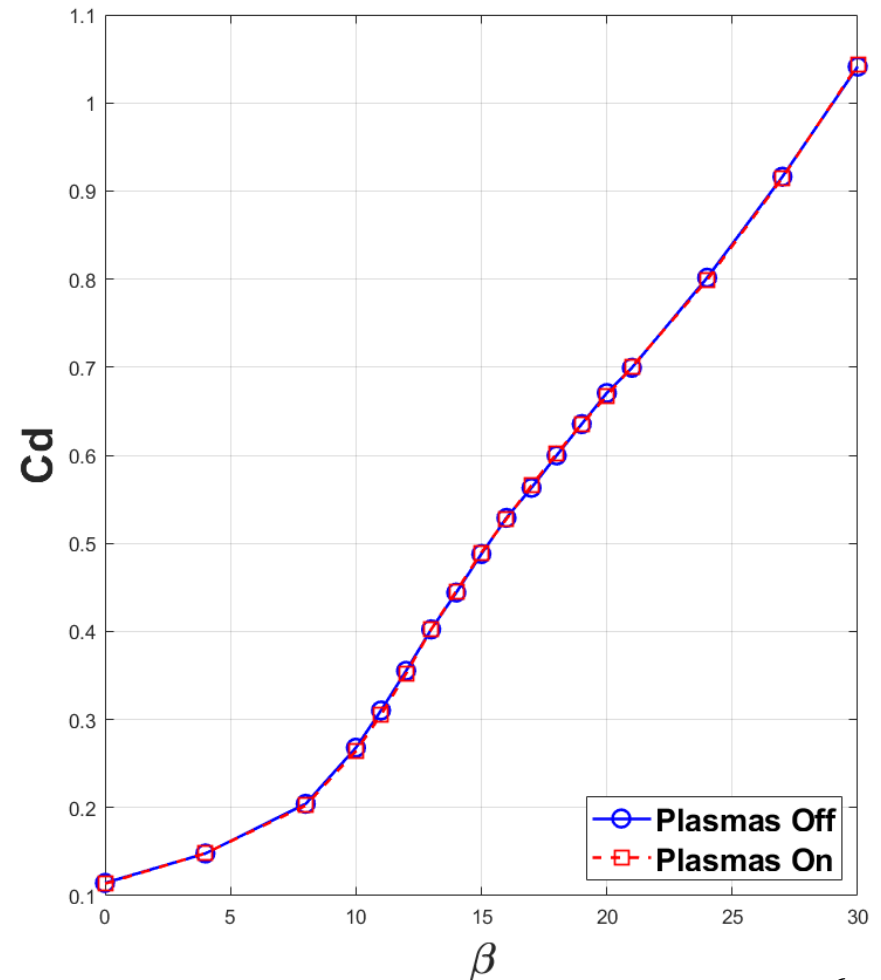
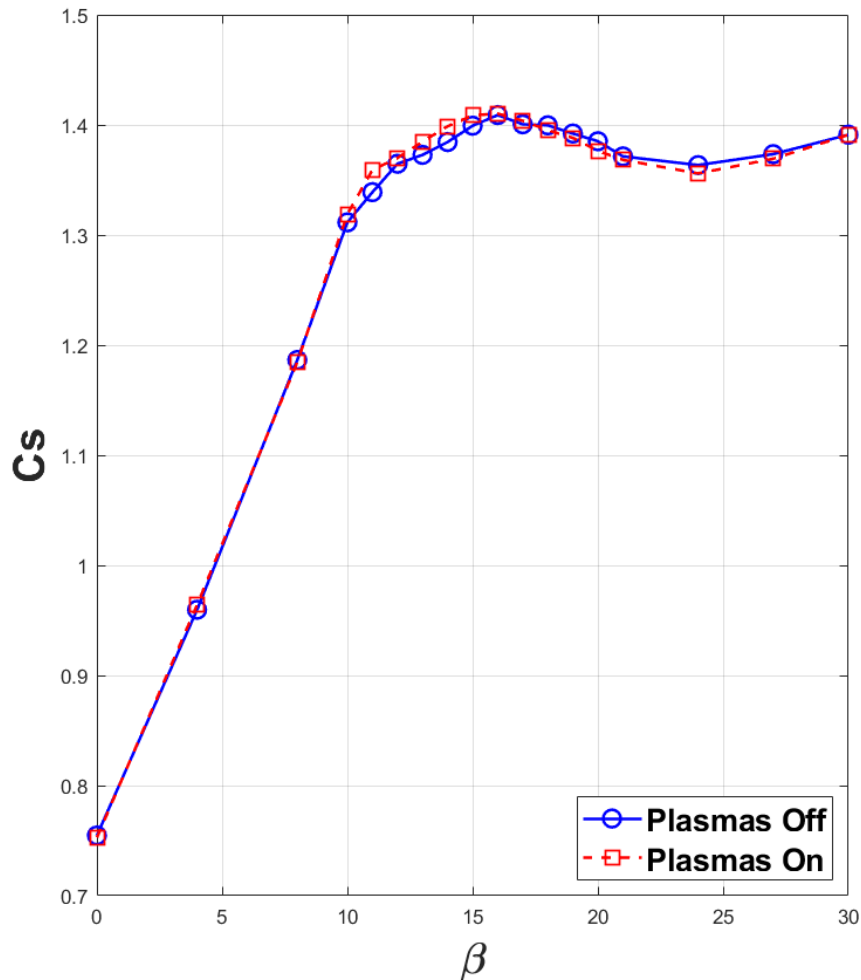
# Glasgow wind tunnel results



# Glasgow wind tunnel results

$U = 20 \text{ m/s}$

$\delta = 30^\circ$



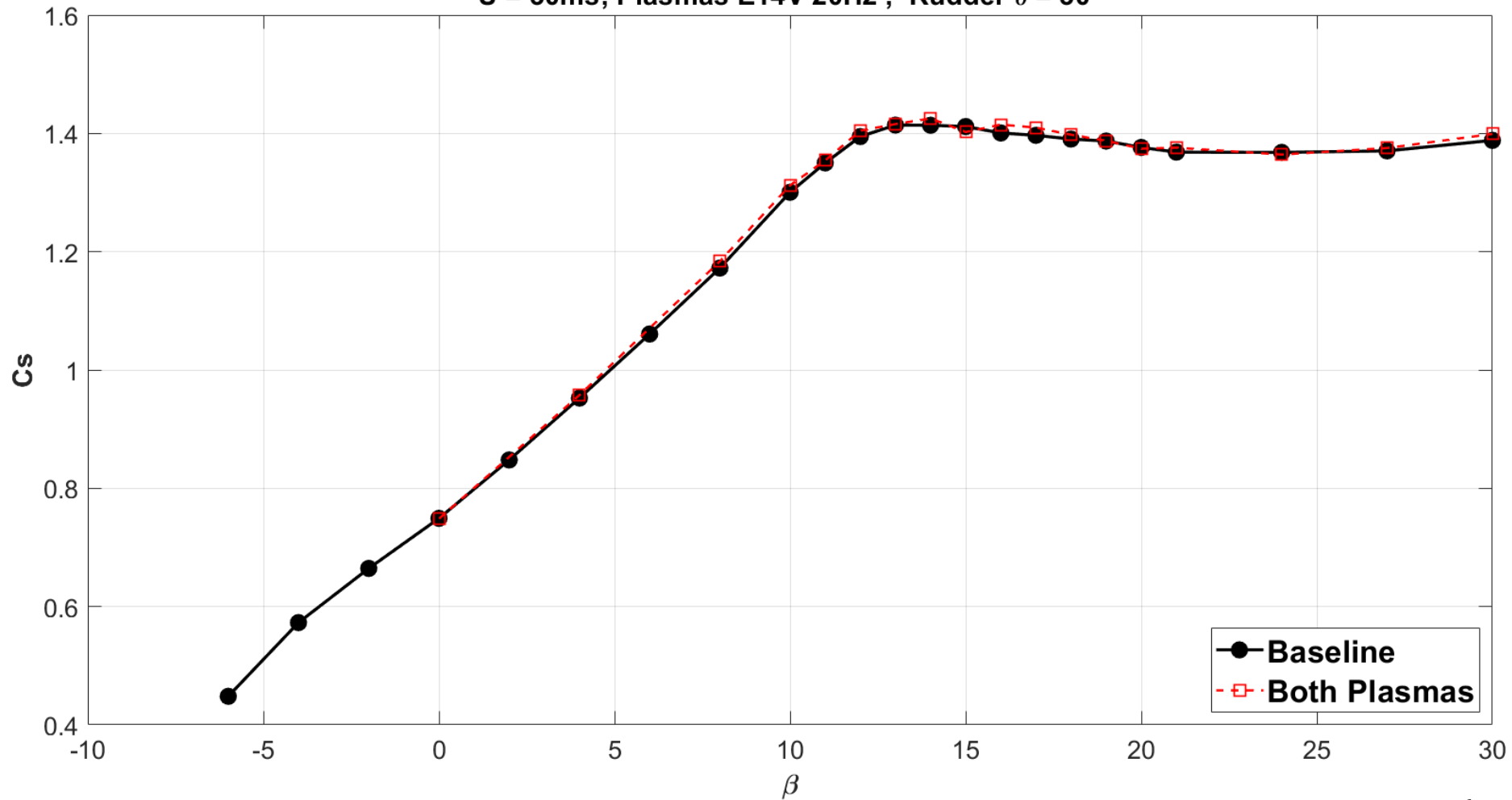
$Re = 1.34 \times 10^6$

# Glasgow wind tunnel results

$U = 30 \text{ m/s}$

$d = 30^\circ$

$U = 30\text{ms}$ ; Plasmas E14V 20Hz ; Rudder  $\delta = 30^\circ$



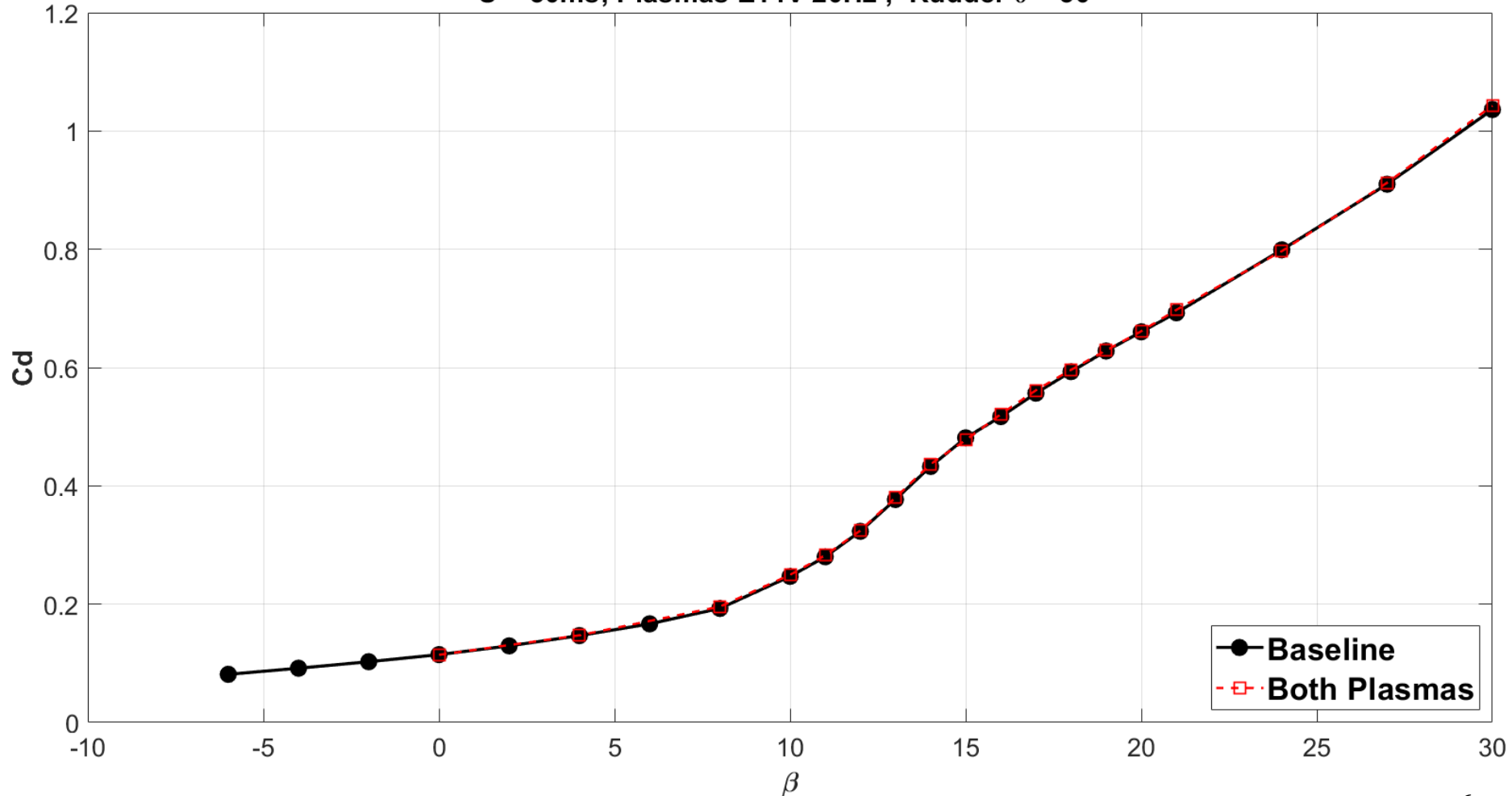
$Re = 2.01 \times 10^6$

# Glasgow wind tunnel results

$U = 30 \text{ m/s}$

$d = 30^\circ$

$U = 30\text{ms}$ ; Plasmas E14V 20Hz ; Rudder  $\delta = 30^\circ$



$Re = 2.01 \times 10^6$

# Conclusions

- ❑ Important parameter for the flow separation control is the velocity ratio between the plasma induced velocity and the freestream.
- ❑ The plasma actuators must be placed at the leading edge to control the LE flow separation.
- ❑ There seems to be some effect of leading-edge curvature as well as the plasma discharge length.