

Cavitation Technology Development: A Paradigm Shift in Mining Effluent Treatment

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Objective

Canada's mining industry is increasingly challenged with stringent environmental regulations and is seeking *novel barrier-free technologies* for *selective removal* of hard-to-remove contaminants without chemical addition.

Introduction to Cavitation

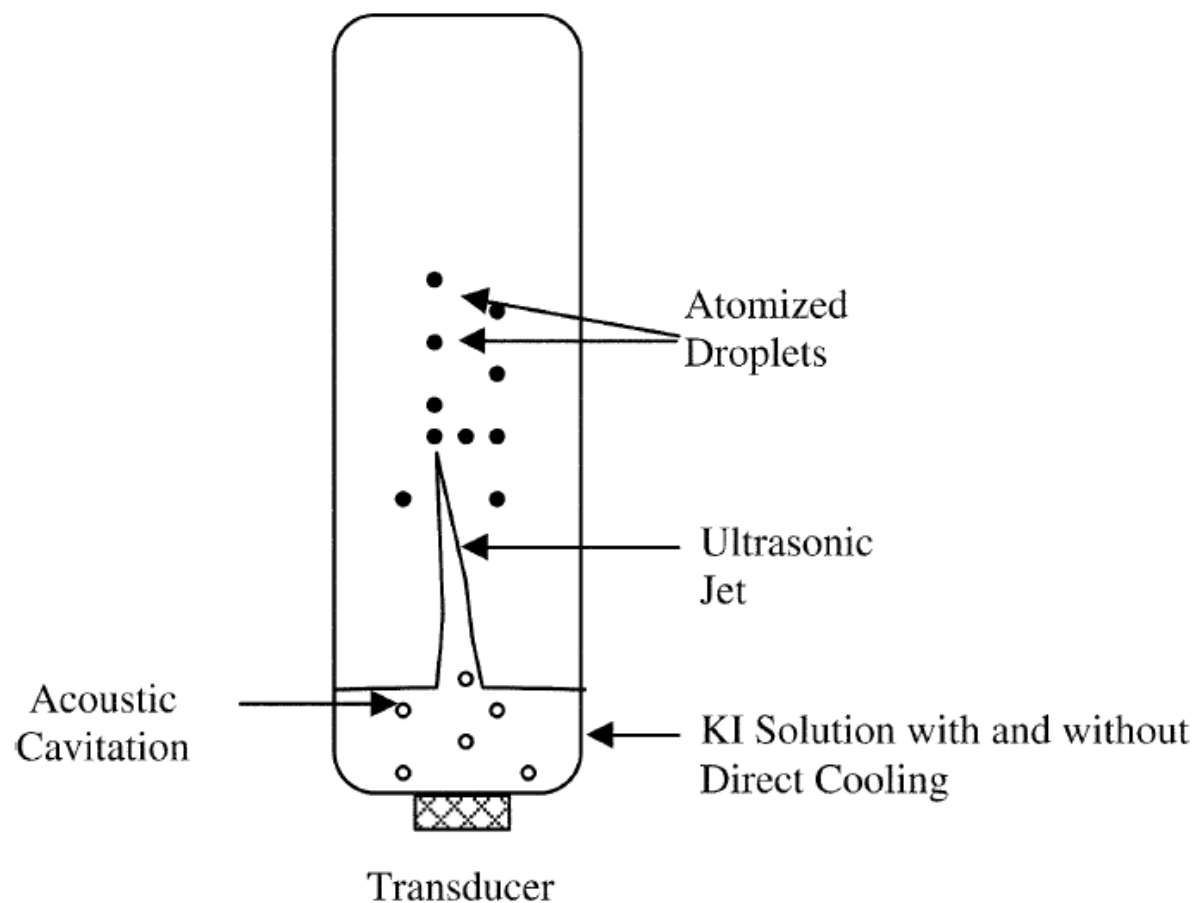
Background

- Localized pressure reduction below vaporization pressure generate cavitation microbubbles
- Be characterized by the formation, growth and collapse of bubbles within a liquid
- Ultrasonic Cavitation introduces strong acoustic field in aqueous solution.
- By Hydrodynamic Cavitation, geometry of the system causes velocity fluctuation and drop the pressure.
- Produces high localized pressures and temperatures
- Energy harnessed to generate highly reactive free radicals, enhancing chemical processing Applied as an advanced oxidation process (AOP) in wastewater treatment

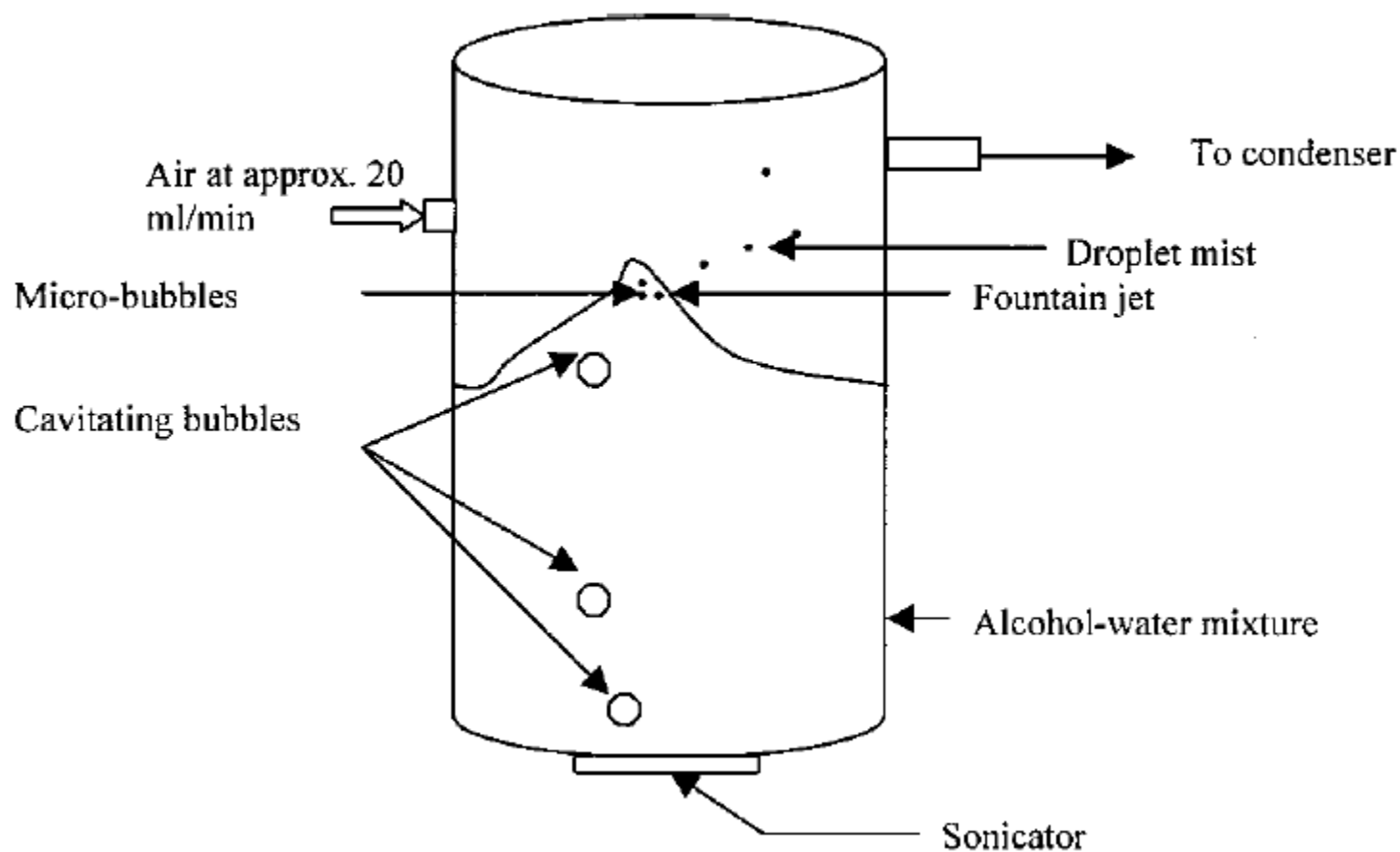
Application Issues

- Limited understanding of effects and control of cavitation process currently exists
- Process scale up from bench to commercial is not well understood

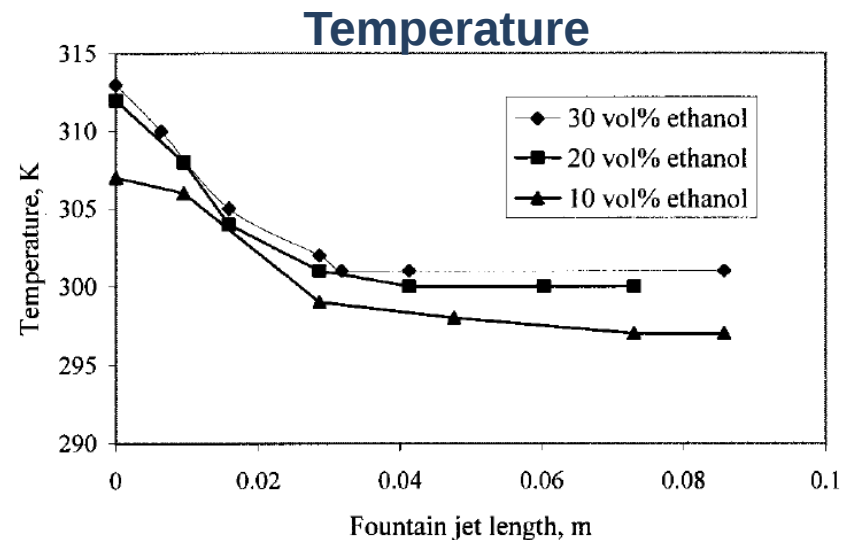
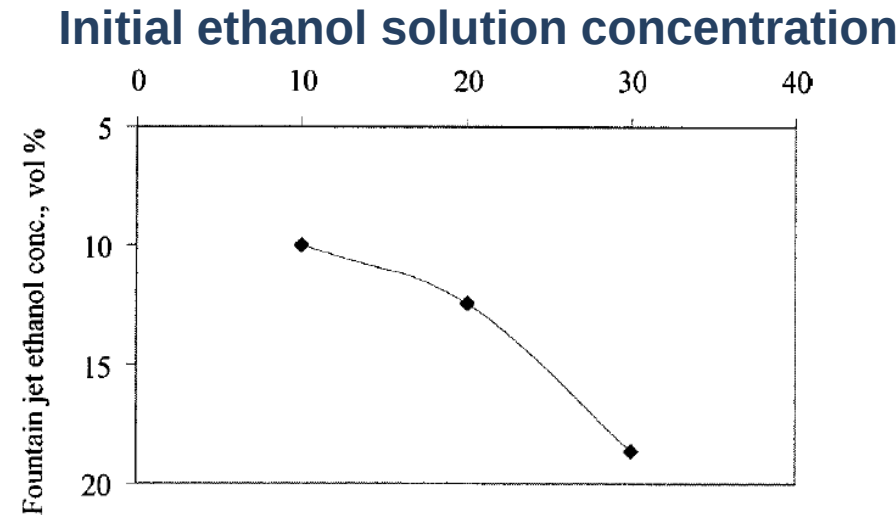
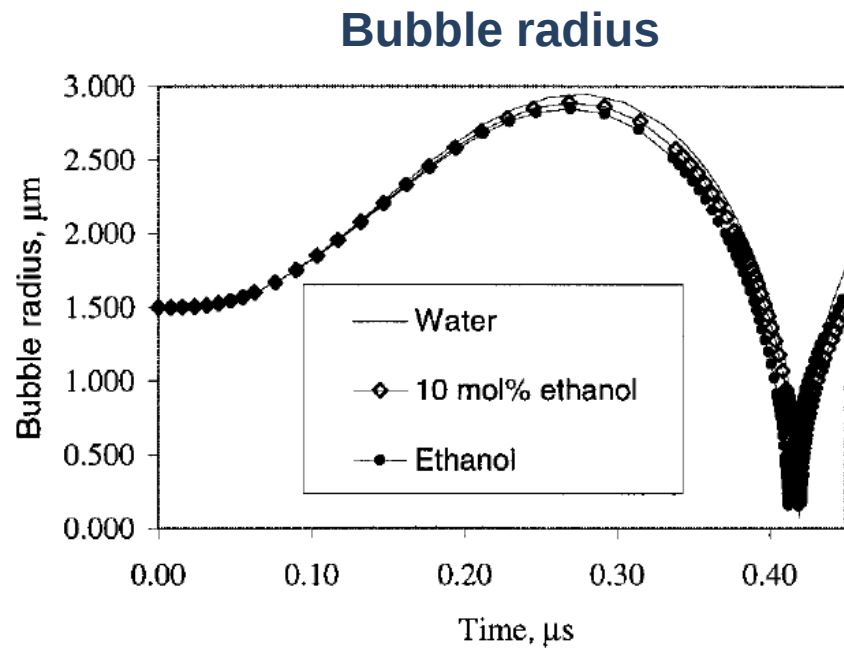
Theory of Acoustic Cavitation Process (2002)



Process Beneficial Cavitation: Ultrasonic Separation of Alcohol–water Mixtures



Ultrasonic Separation of Alcohol–water Mixtures



Hydrodynamic Cavitation

Hydrodynamic Cavitation:

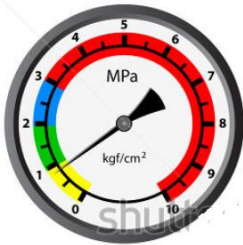
Quickly emerging as *barrier-free* water treatment solution for recycling *process water* and *downstream effluent* treatment before discharge

Advantages:

- Ease in process integration
- Modularity
- Scale up feasibility
- Suitable to remove contaminants
- Less energy consumption to provide localized high temperature and pressure
- Enhance chemical reaction rate

Physico-chemical Effects Produced During The Cavitation Process

Pressure increase



Temperature increase



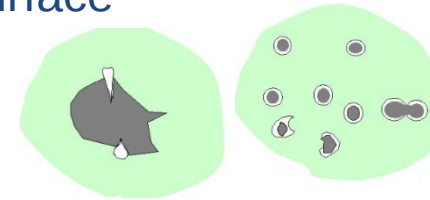
Thermal effect



Chemical effect

Mechanical effect

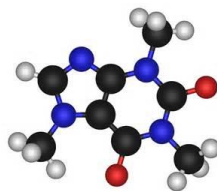
Increase the phase transition boundary surface



Interfacial tensile forces and turbulence generation



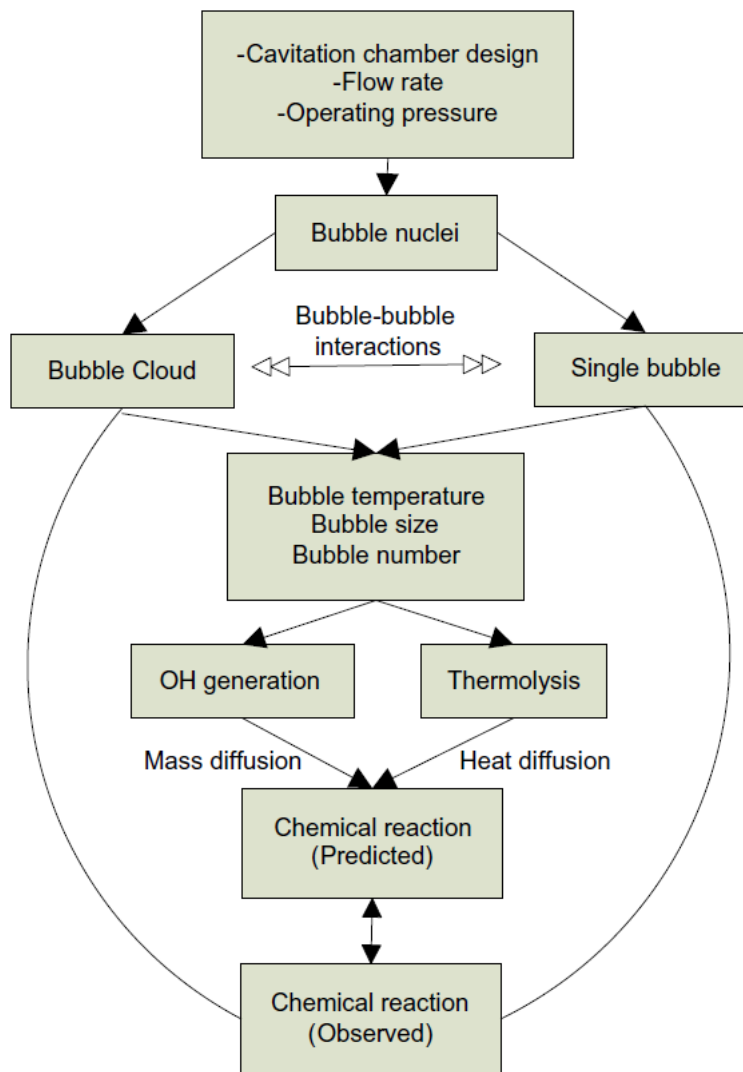
Chemical reaction



Ozone
(O₃)

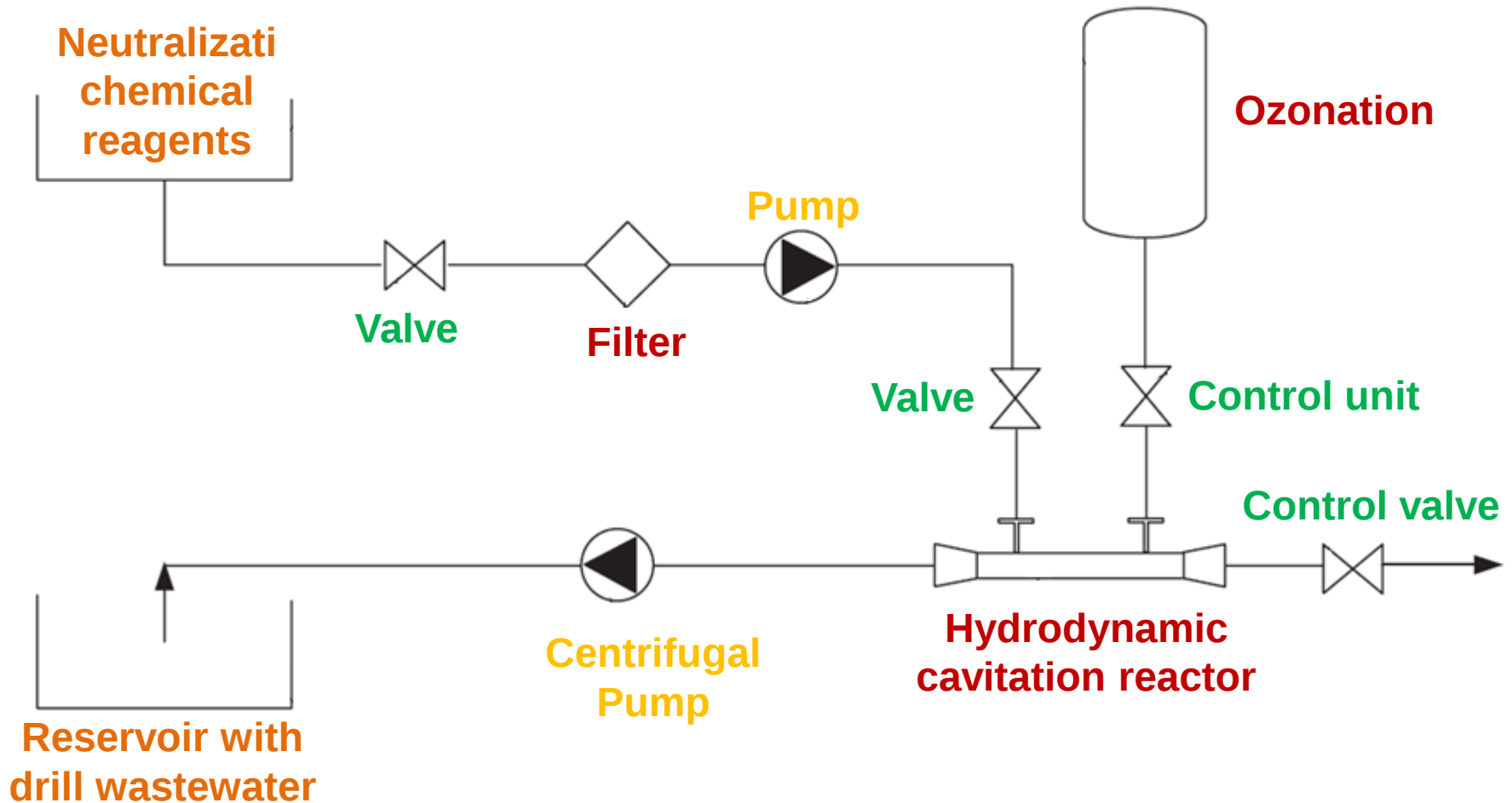
Hydroxyl radicals generation
([•]OH)

Hydrodynamic Cavitation- A Scale up Technology as an AOP

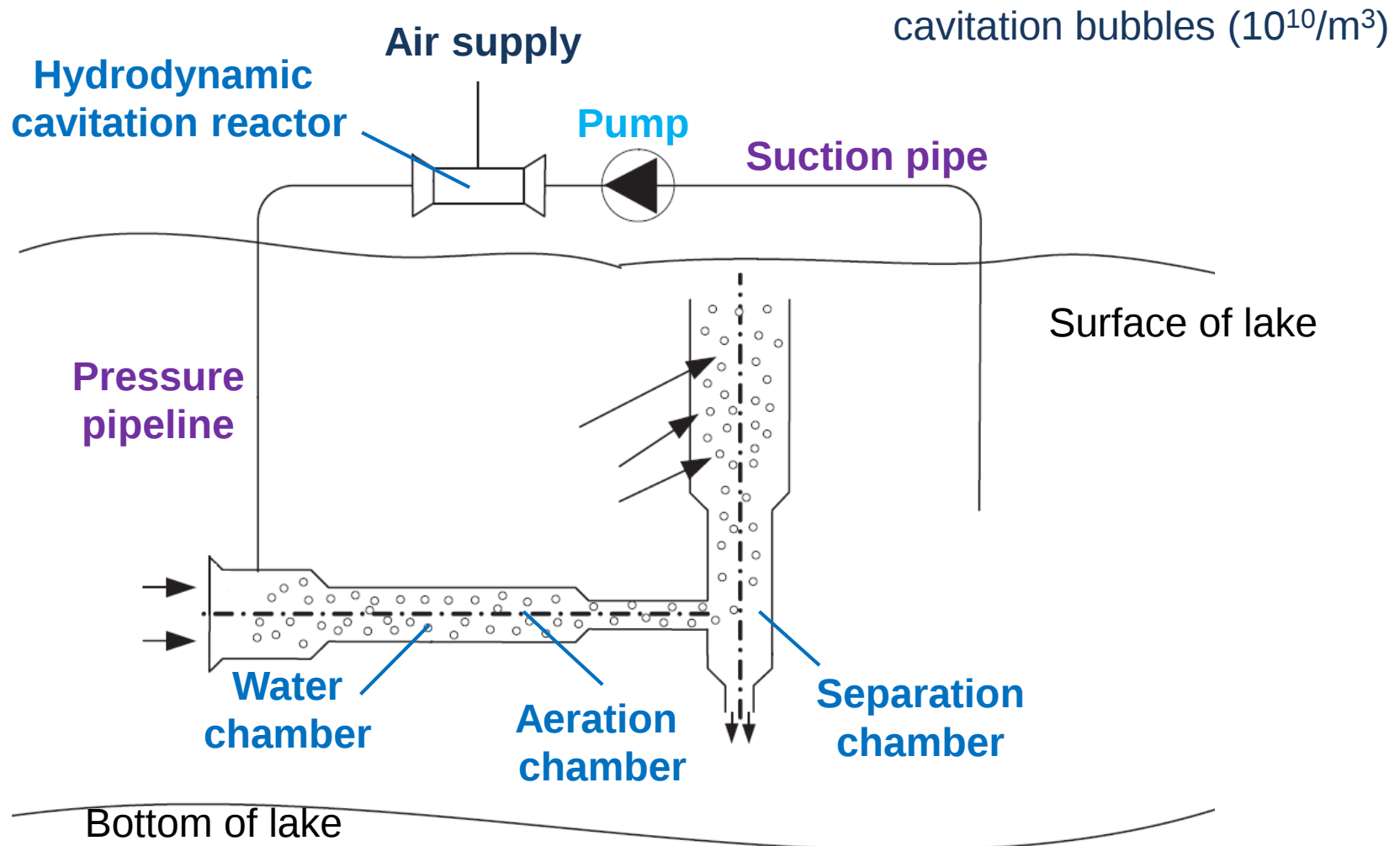


Neutralization- Drill Wastewater Treatment

$Q = 20 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$

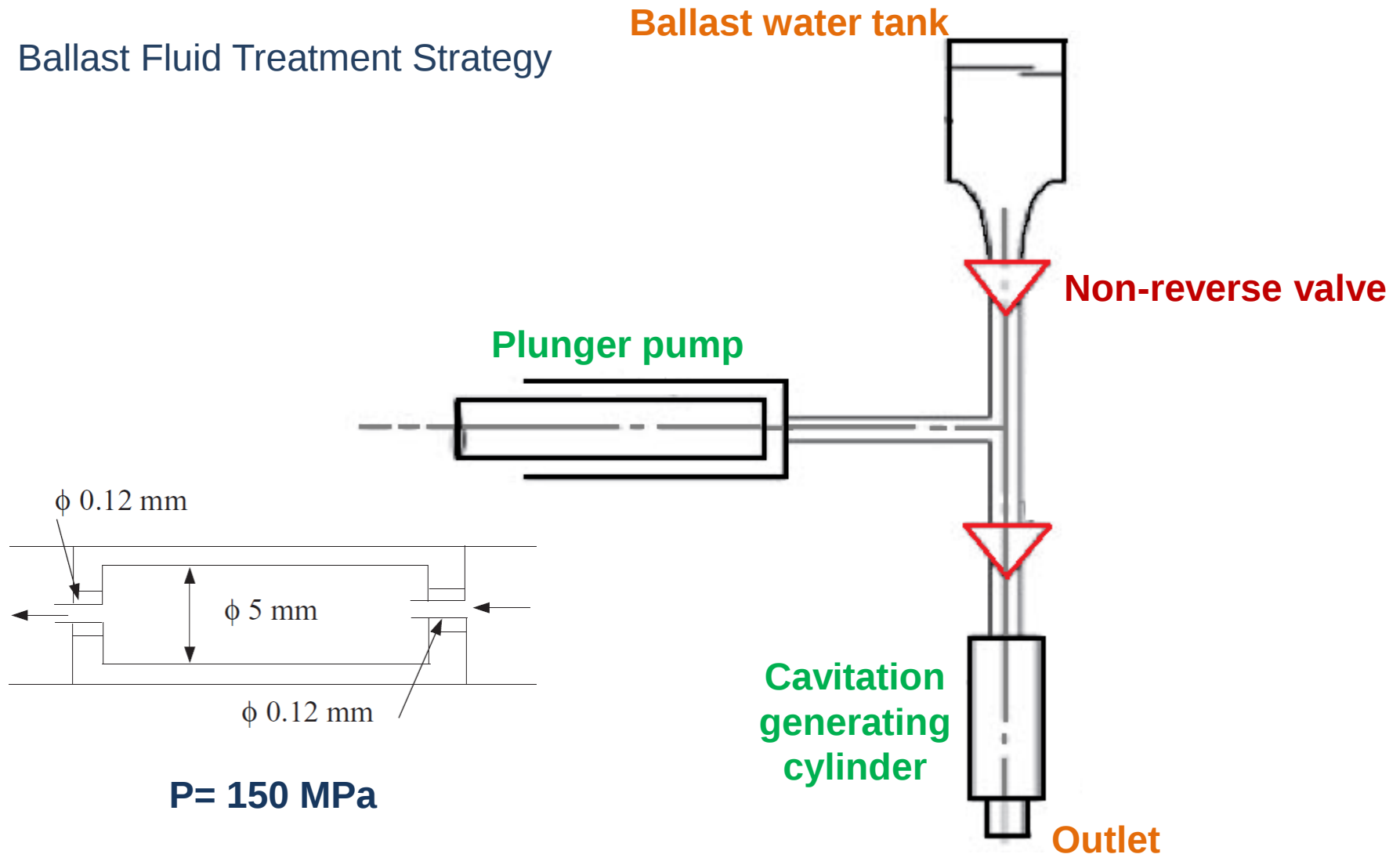


Flotation- Rivers And Reservoirs' Water Aeration

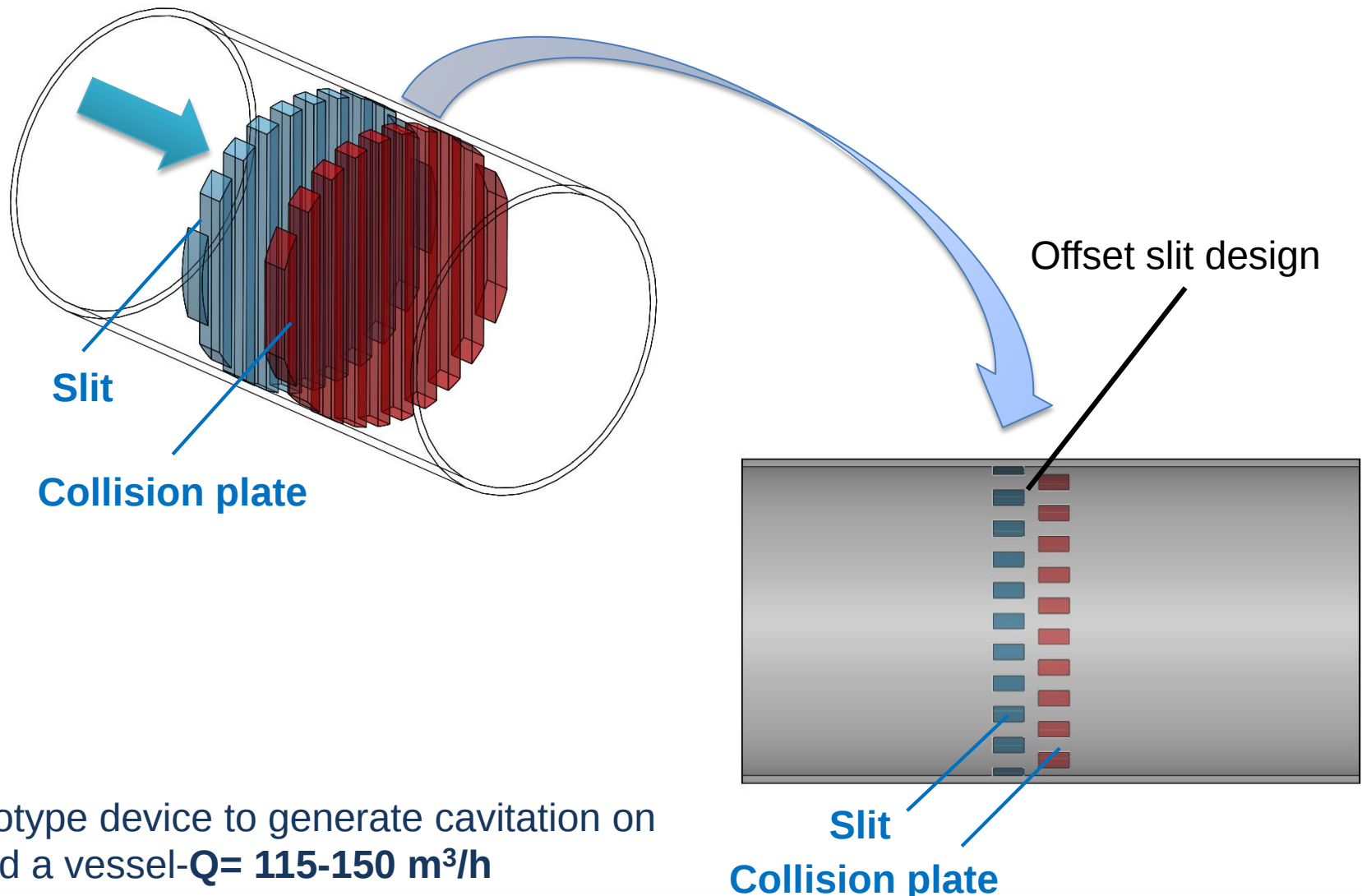


Particle Size Reduction-Ballast Water Treatment

Ballast Fluid Treatment Strategy



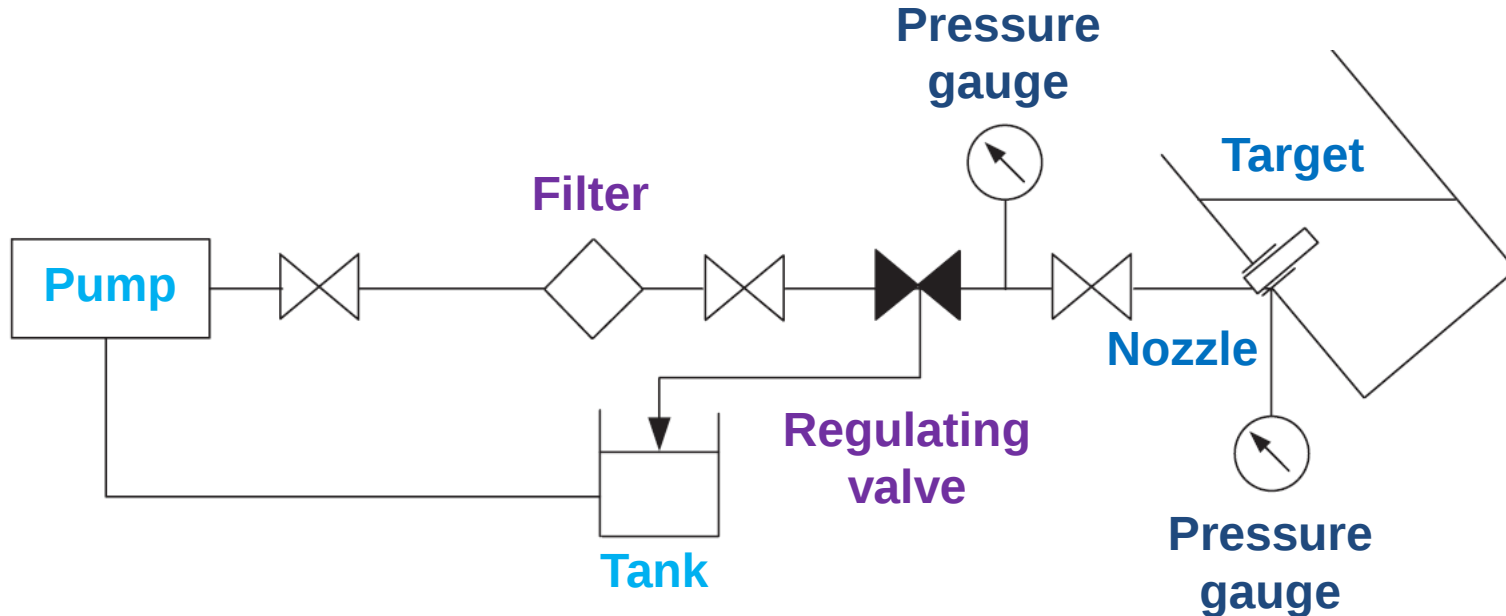
Plankton Elimination- Ballast Water Treatment



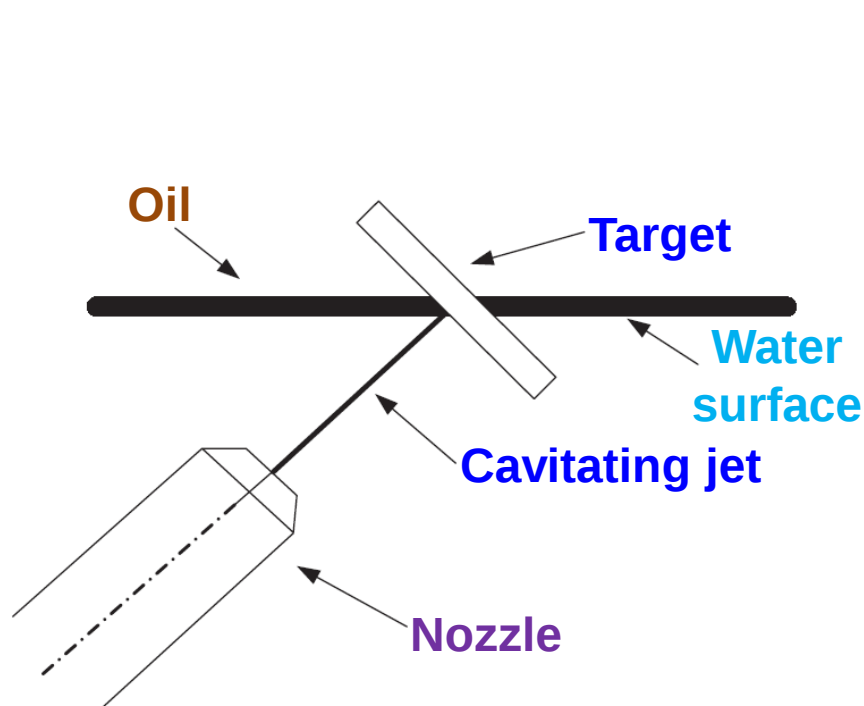
Prototype device to generate cavitation on board a vessel- $Q= 115-150 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$

Oil Dispersion- Cavitating Jet Loop (Applied To Direct Shipping Ore)

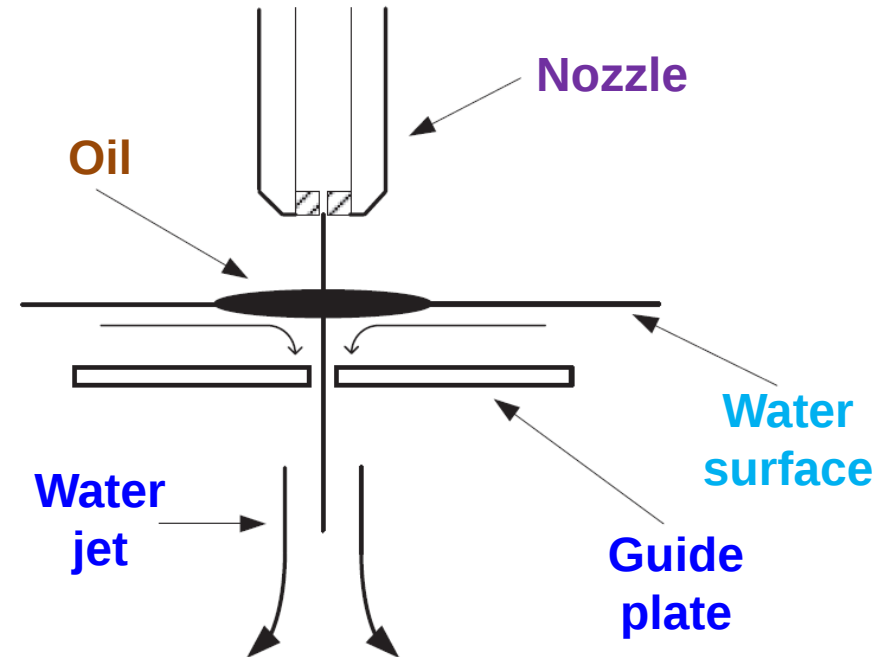
High speed water jet for dispersion of oil spills during ore shipping,
 $Q = 97 \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$



Reported Cavitation Nozzle Prototypes

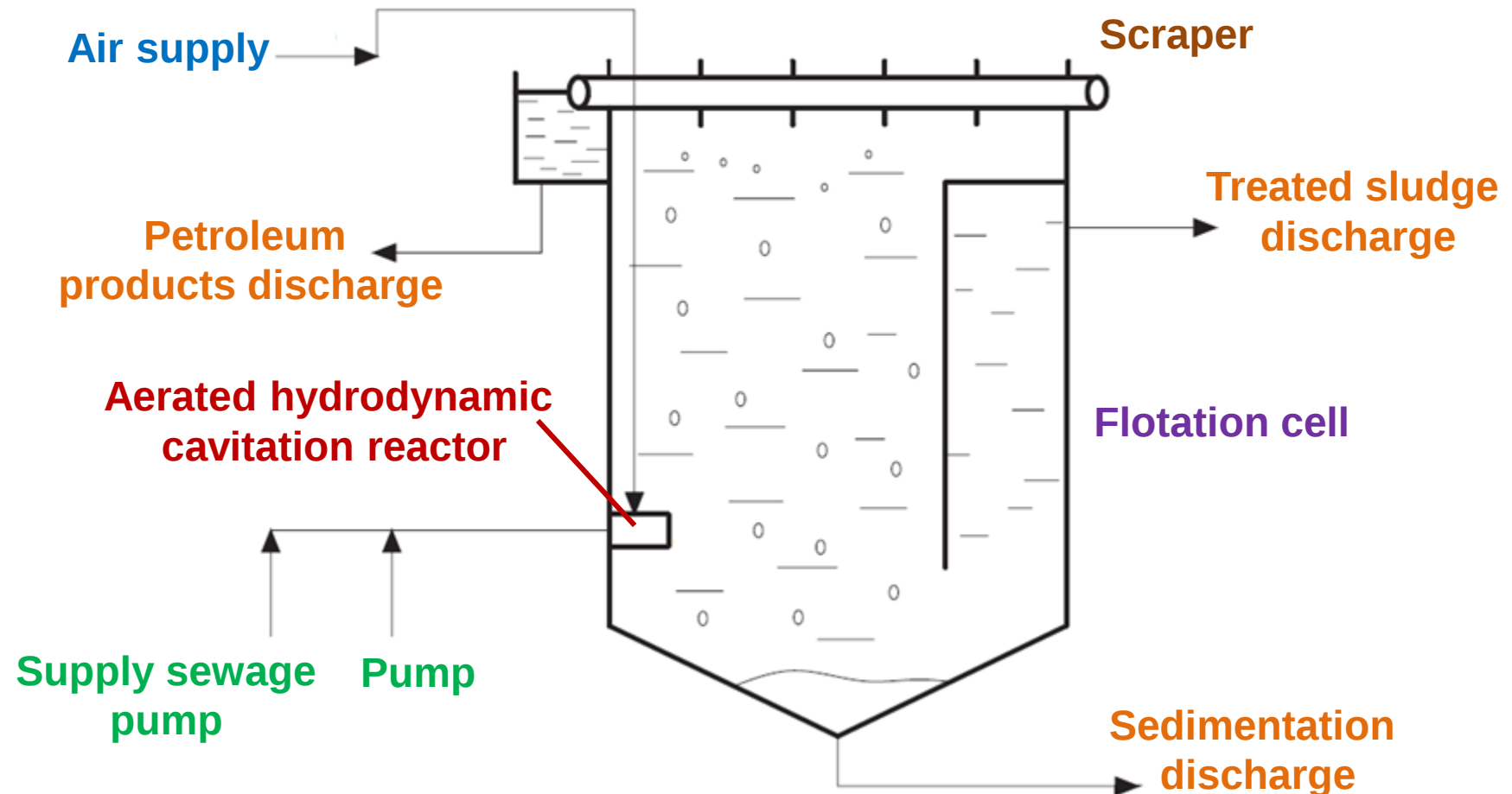


Submerged Cavitating Jet



In-Air Water Jet

Aerated Hydrodynamic Cavitation Reactor- Wastewater Treatment



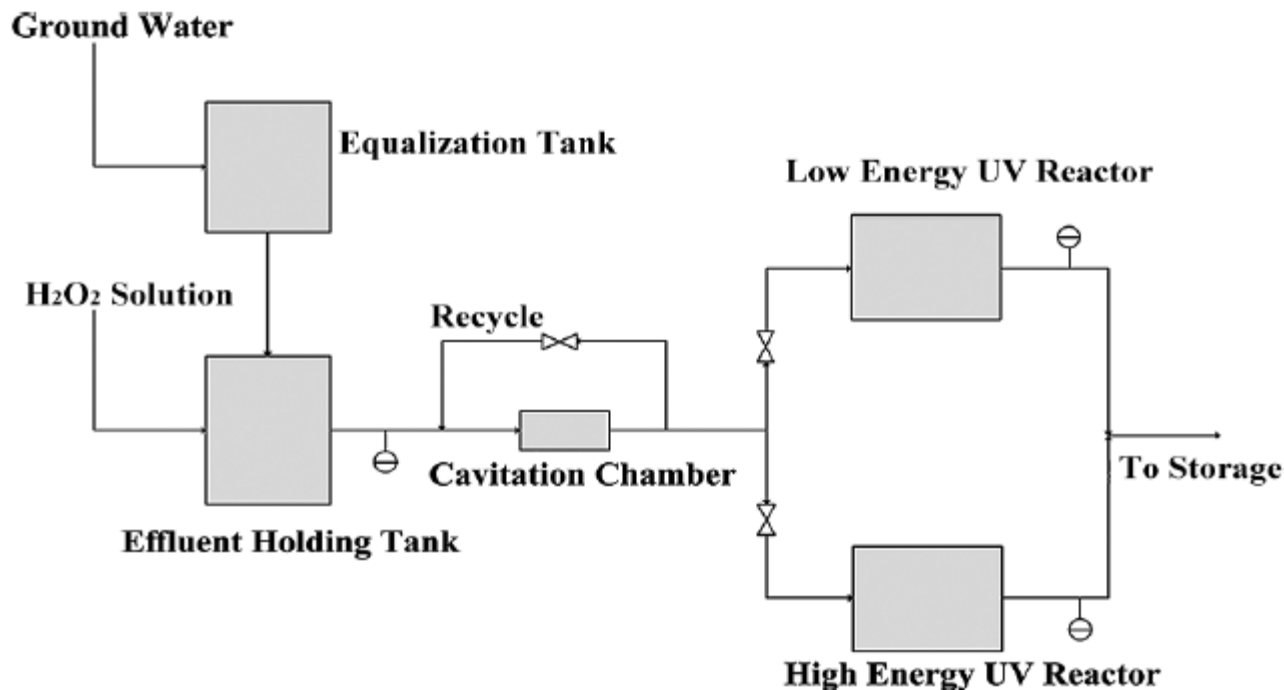
$Q=28 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$, $P=0.3\text{MP}$

Separating Of Petroleum Products From Wastewater By Means Of Pressure Flotation - With Vs. Without The Use Of An Aerated Hydrodynamic Cavitation Reactor

Parameter	Raw sewage	Purification using pressure flotation	
		Only	With an aerated hydrodynamic cavitation reactor
Temperature, °C	10–30	10–30	10–30
Colour	dark-grey	light-grey	light
Suspension, mg/dm ³	300	30–60	5–12
Dry weight, mg/dm ³	3500	1200	800
COD, mg O ₂ /dm ³	180	110	30
Hydrocarbons in a hexane extract, mg/dm ³	300	30–60	0.5–3

New Developments - CAV-OX Process

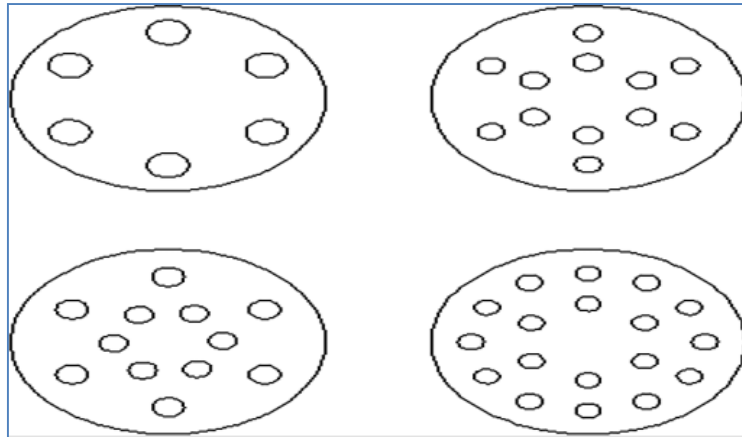
- Combination of hydrodynamic cavitation, ultraviolet radiation, and hydrogen peroxide



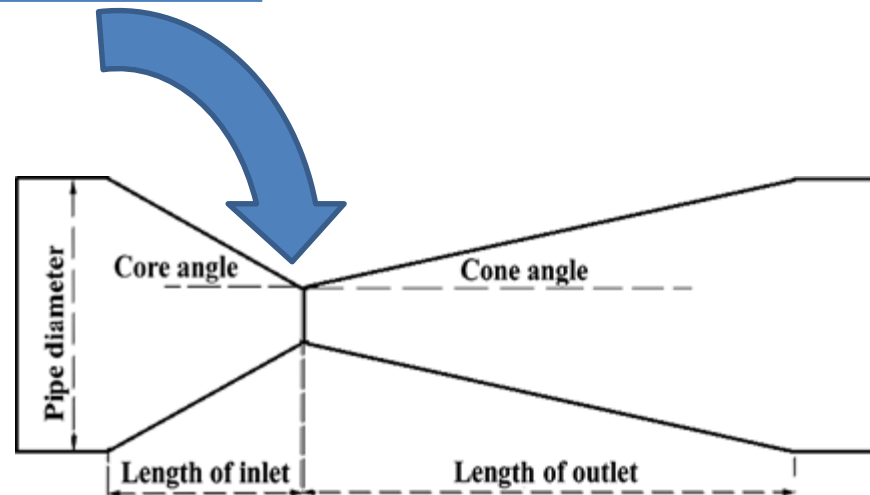
Contaminant (pentachlorophenol, benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylenes, cyanide, phenol, and atrazine) removal 95-99.99%.

Different Cavitation-based Techniques

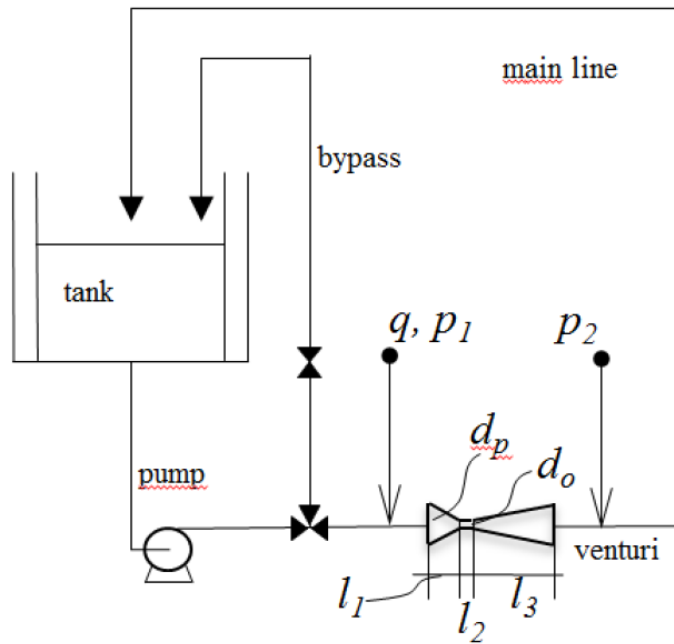
Typical arrangements of orifice plates



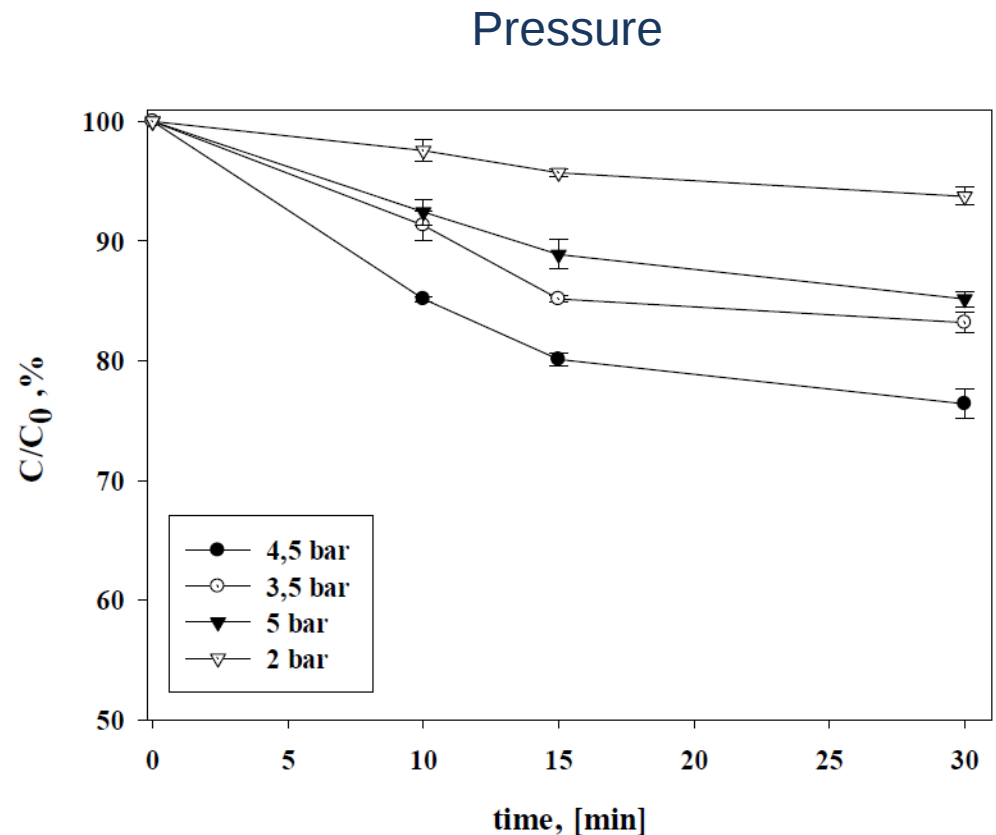
Venturi tube



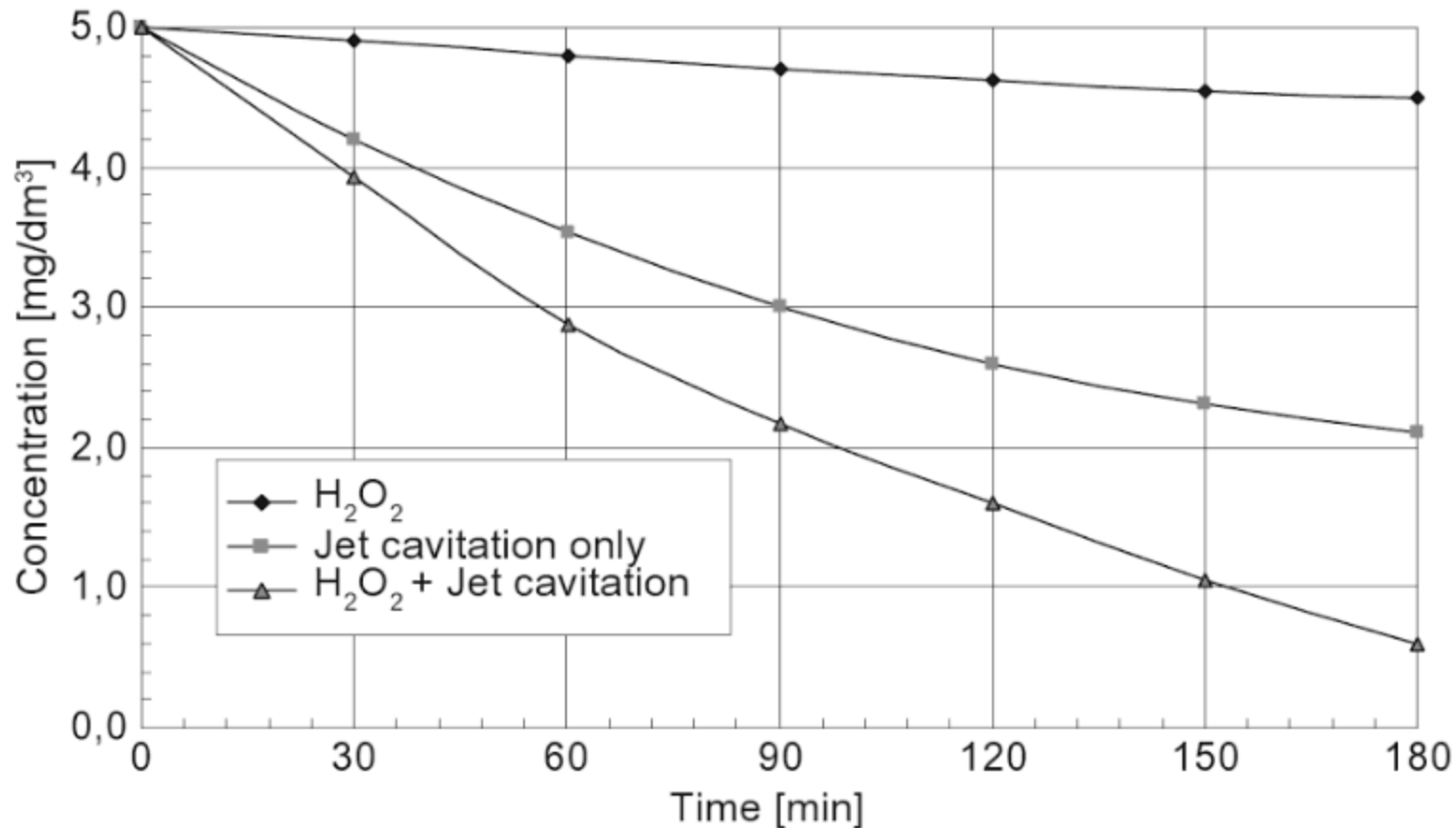
Advanced Oxidation in a Venturi Reactor



$Q = 3.5\text{--}6 \text{ L/min}$

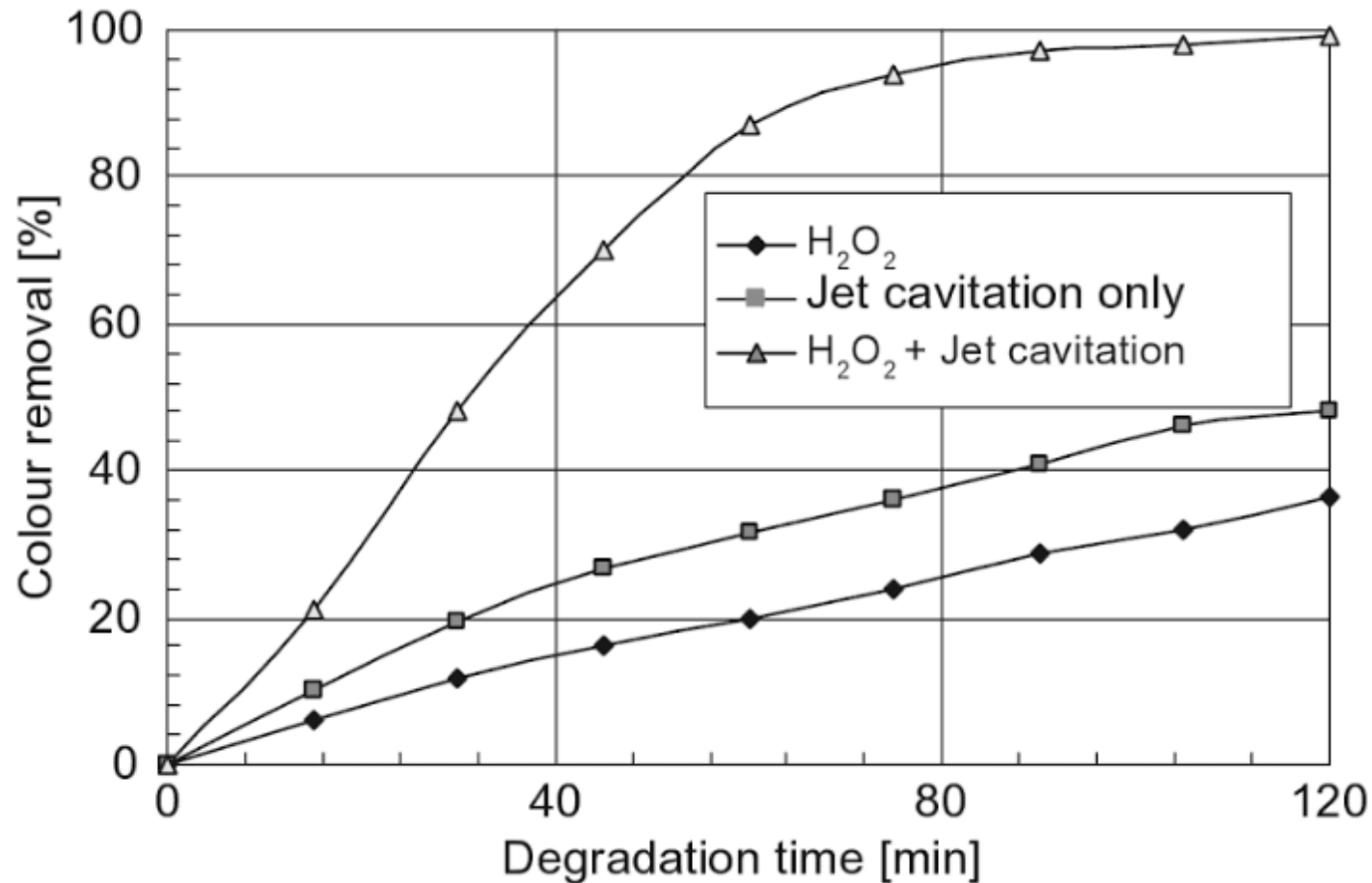


Benchmarking of AOP's -Degradation of Rhodamine B



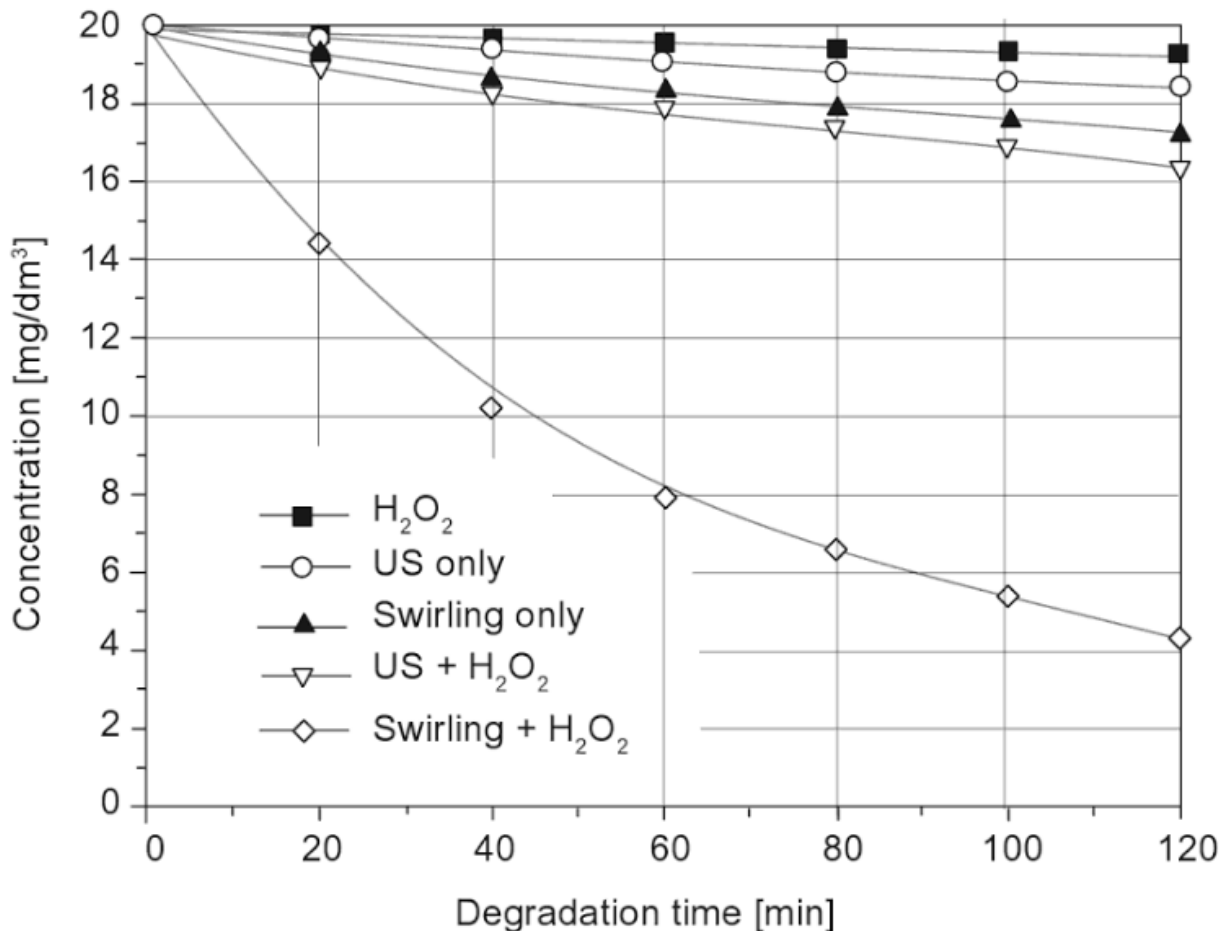
$P = 0.6 \text{ MPa}$, $T = 40 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, $\text{pH} = 5.4$, $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2 = 100 \text{ mg/dm}^3$

Benchmarking of AOP's - Color Removal



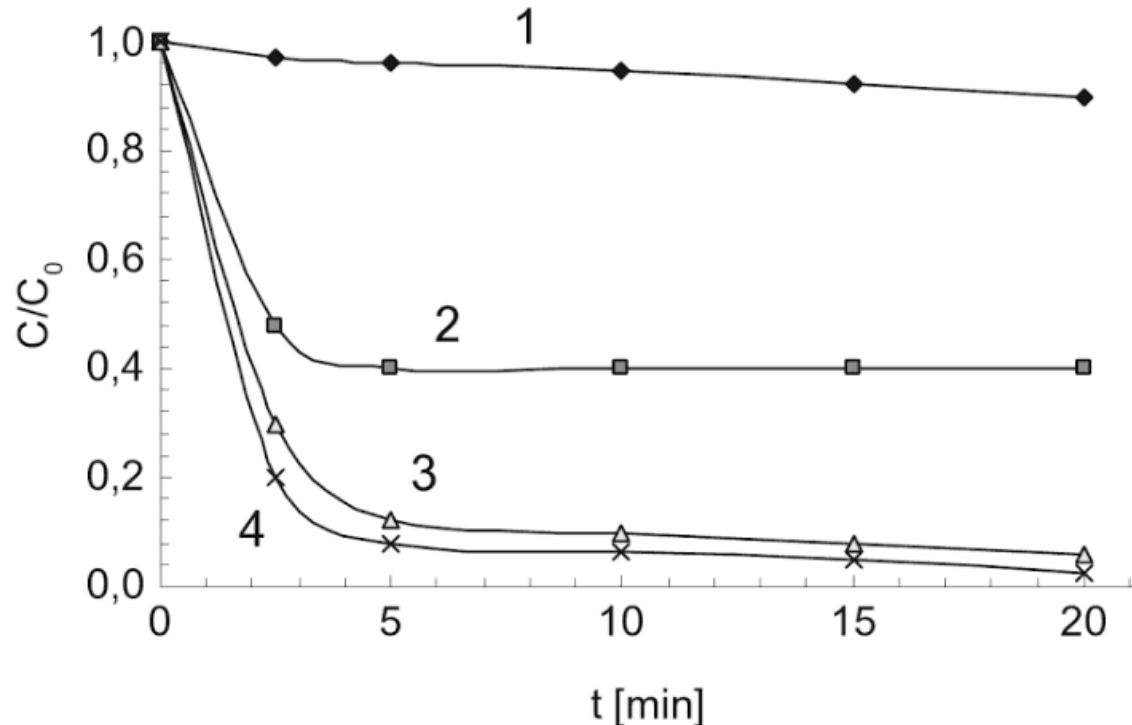
$P = 0.6 \text{ MPa}$, $T = 40 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, $\text{pH} = 5.4$, $H_2O_2 = 100 \text{ mg/dm}^3$

Benchmarking of AOP's -Reactive Brilliant Red K-2BP Concentration



P= 0.6 MPa, T= 40 °C, pH= 5.4, H₂O₂= 300 mg/dm³

AOP's Benchmarking - 4-Nitrophen Removal



1- H_2O_2 + hydrodynamic cavitation

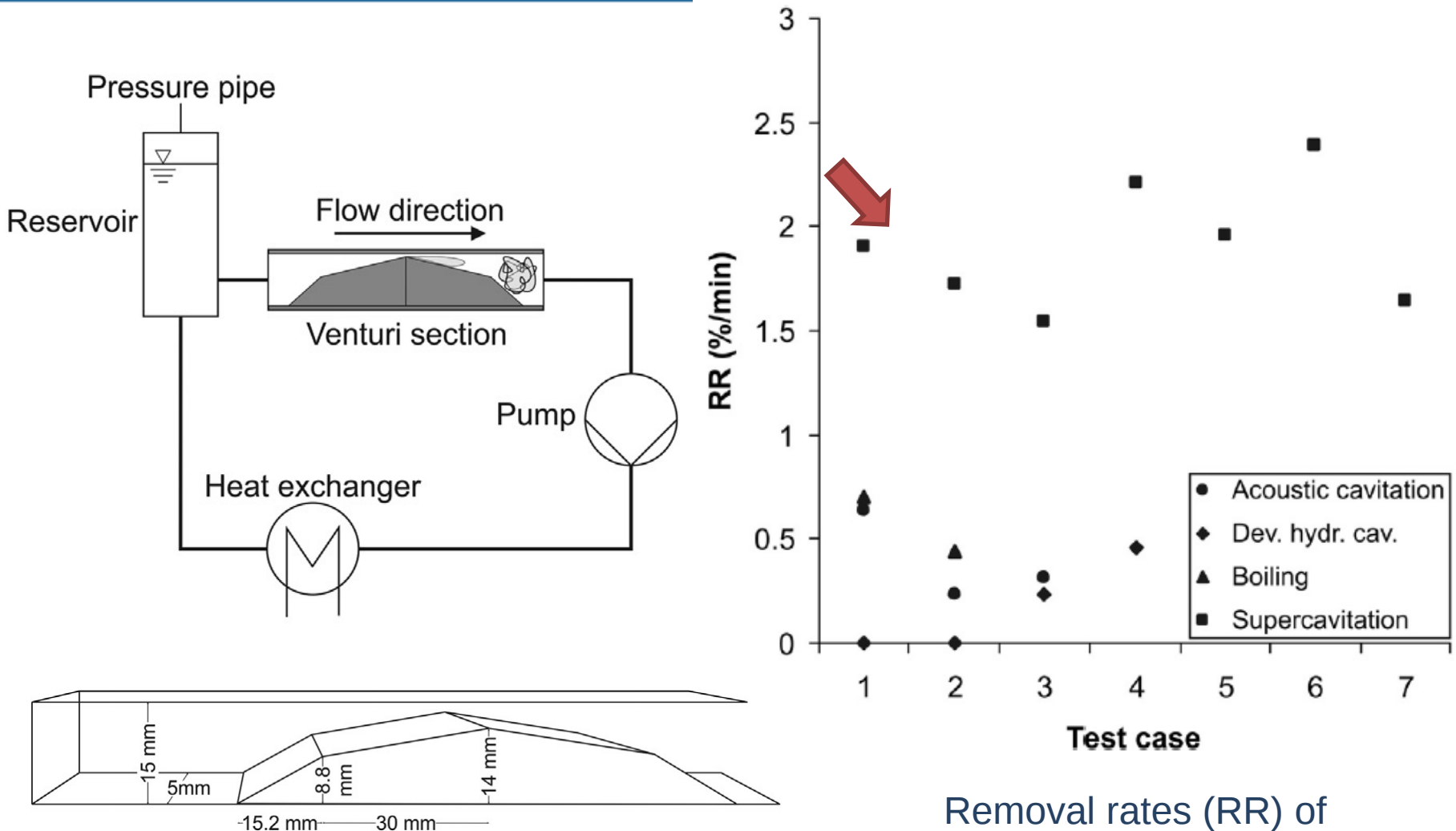
2- Fenton's reagent

3- H_2O_2 + hydrodynamic cavitation+ dissolved Fe^0

4- Fenton's reagent + cavitation stream

$T=20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, $\text{pH}=3.4$, $[\text{H}_2\text{O}_2]=4\text{e-}4$, $[\text{Fe}^{2+}]=1.7\text{e-}4\text{ mol/dm}^3$

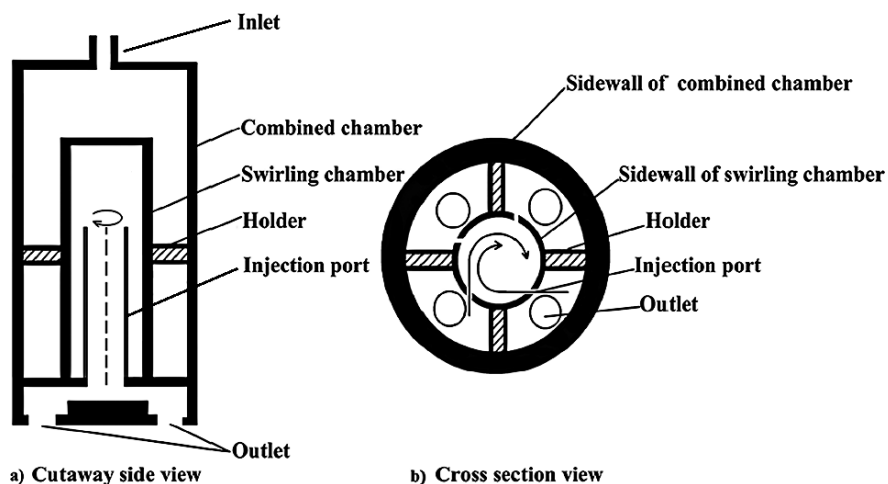
Advances in Hydrodynamic Cavitation - Removal of Microbes



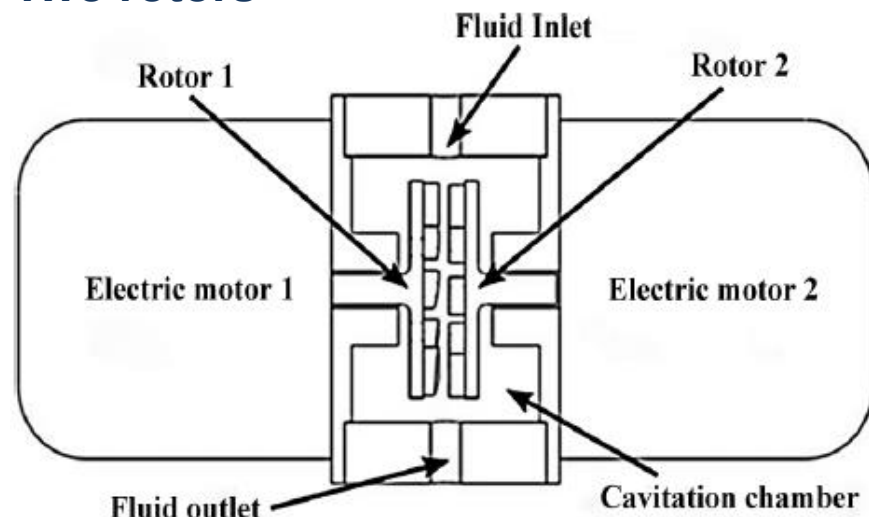
Removal rates (RR) of
Legionella pneumophila

Alternate Approaches For High Throughput Cavitation Systems

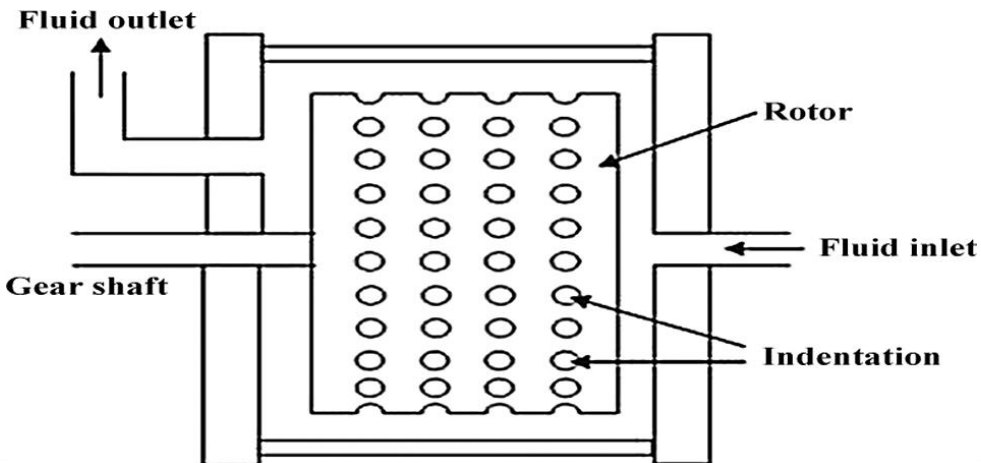
Rotating cavitation reactor



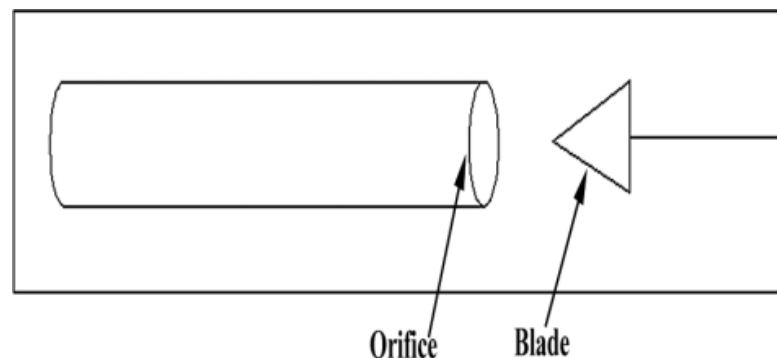
Two rotors



A rotor and a stator



Liquid whistle reactor



Comparison of Different Cavitation-based Techniques

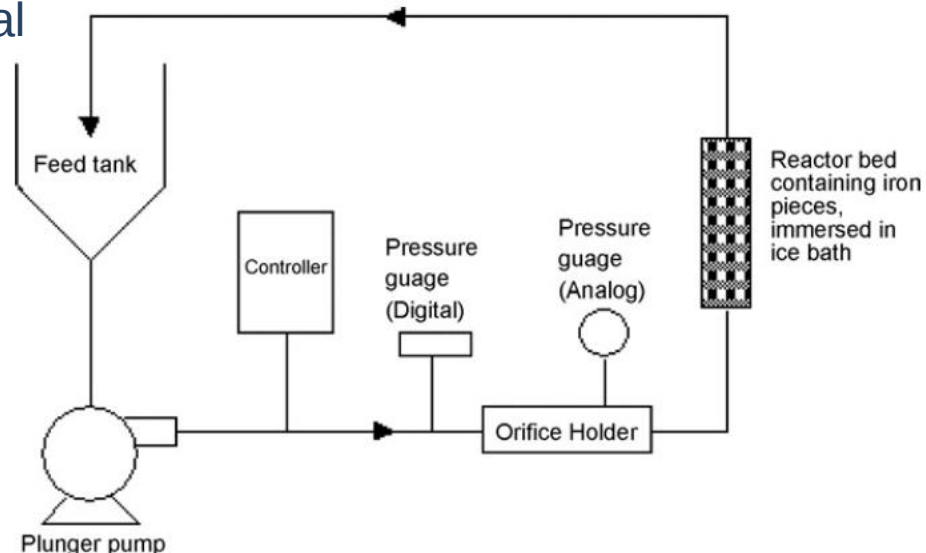
Cavitation apparatus	Technique	Water volume [L]	Electricity power input [W]	Time of operation [min]	Pollutant removed [mg]	Maximum cavitation yield of unit energy input [mg L ⁻¹]	Maximum cavitation yield of unit volume density energy input [mg L J ⁻¹]
Swirling jet reactor [21]	HC	20	3500	180	187.2	4.95×10^{-6}	9.90×10^{-5}
Orifice plate [5]		50	5500	60	43.7	2.21×10^{-6}	1.10×10^{-4}
Orifice plate [22]		4	1100	120	9.2	1.16×10^{-6}	4.64×10^{-6}
Venturi [22]		4	1100	120	10.4	1.31×10^{-6}	5.25×10^{-6}
300-kHz ultrasonic generator [85]	AC	0.3	60	140	1.5	2.97×10^{-6}	8.93×10^{-7}
Multiple frequency (20 + 30 + 50 kHz) hexagonal cell [86]		7.5	900	30	2.2	1.36×10^{-6}	1.04×10^{-4}
Swirling jet reactor [64]	HC and H ₂ O ₂	25	2500	180	247.8	9.18×10^{-6}	2.29×10^{-4}
Venturi [22]		4	1100	120	40.0	1.01×10^{-6}	2.02×10^{-5}
Orifice plate [87]	HC and Fe	30	5500	120	45.0	1.14×10^{-6}	3.41×10^{-5}
Venturi [22]	HC and Fenton	4	1100	45	40.0	1.35×10^{-5}	5.40×10^{-5}
Venturi [22]	HC and CCl ₄	4	1100	120	32.8	4.14×10^{-6}	1.65×10^{-5}
24-kHz ultrasonic generator [88]	AC and H ₂ O ₂	0.2	400	210	95.88	1.90×10^{-5}	3.80×10^{-5}
300-kHz ultrasonic generator [85]	AC and CCl ₄	0.3	60	40	1.5	1.04×10^{-5}	3.13×10^{-6}

Hydrodynamic Cavitation and Heterogeneous Advanced Fenton Processing

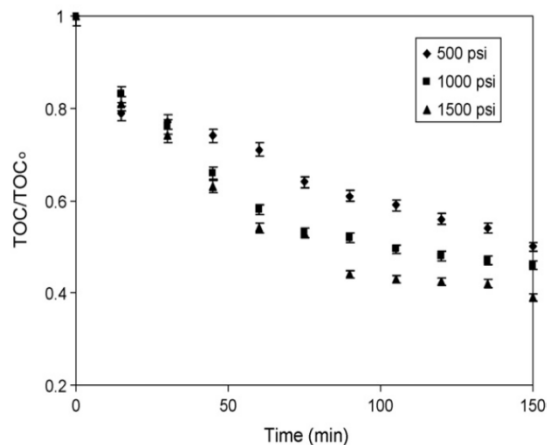
Industrial wastewater treatment- TOC removal

Operating parameters:

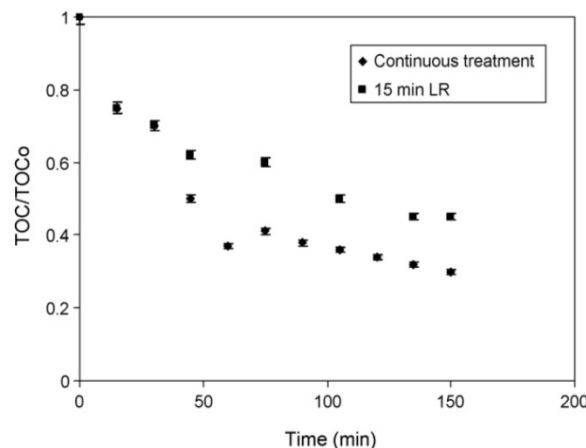
- Extent of dilution
- Operating pressure
- Oxidant loading
- Temperature
- Time
- Presence of copper winding



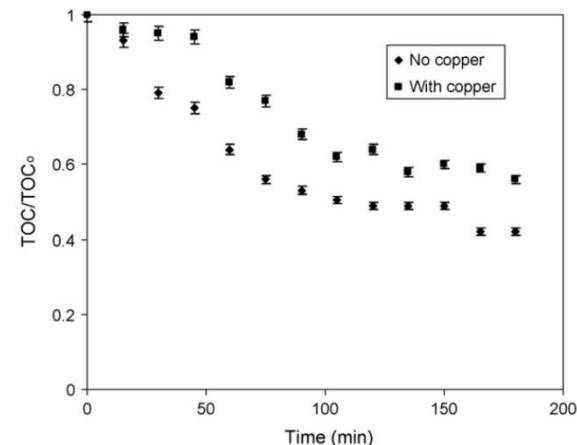
Inlet pressure



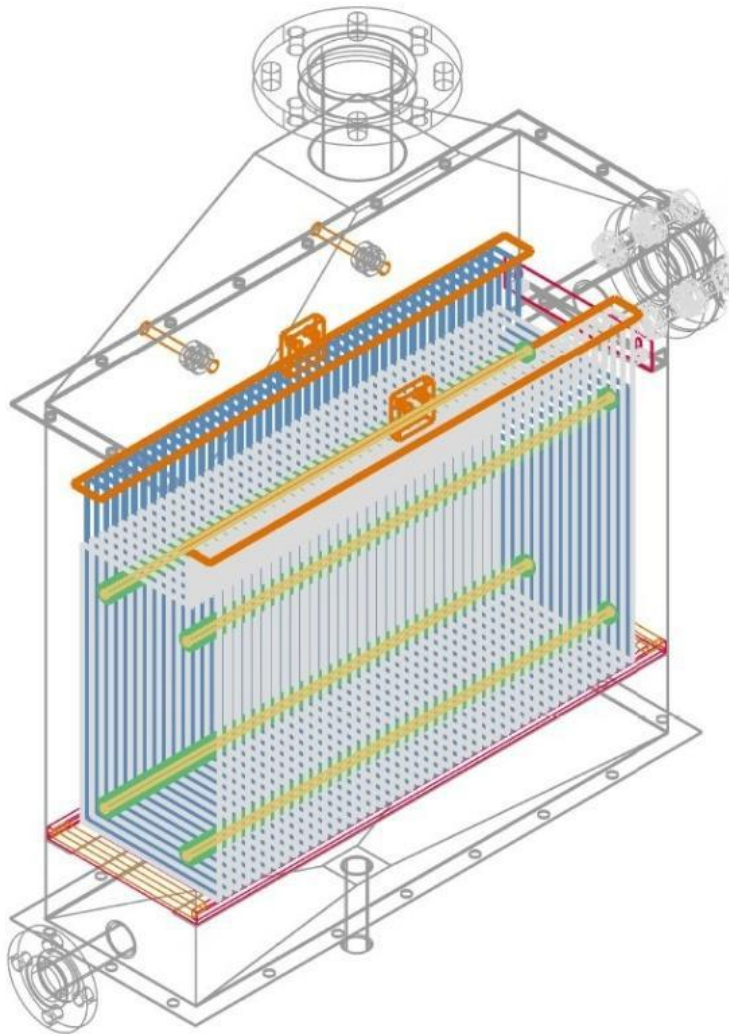
Treatment time



Presence of copper winding



Hydrodynamic Cavitation and Electrocoagulation to the Contaminated Fluid Flow



System Advantages:

- ✓ Low CAPEX & OPEX
- ✓ Low power requirements
- ✓ No chemical additions
- ✓ Low maintenance
- ✓ Minimal operator attention
- ✓ Handles a wide variation in the waste stream
- ✓ Sludge minimization
- ✓ Treats multiple contaminants

• System Capabilities

- Removes heavy metals
- Removes suspended and colloidal solids
- Breaks oil emulsions in water
- Removes fats, oil, and grease
- Removes complex organics
- Destroys & removes bacteria, viruses, and cysts
- Processes multiple contaminants

Implementation in Mining Water Treatment

- In-situ generation of bubbles in flotation applications
- Increased fines and coarse particles recovery with reduced reagent consumption at Copper Cliff, Inco Ltd., Sudbury (Zhou, 2009)
- Neutralization of drill shaft wastewater streams (Litwinienko et *al.*, 2005).

Cavitation Reactors: Potential Mine Water Treatment Solutions

Mine Wastewater	Non-Mine Wastewater
• Removal of oxyanions such as Arsenic and Selenium • Recovery of base and precious metals from effluents • Cyanide destruction • Ammonia removal	• Recovery of high value products from aqueous streams • Fermentation process water treatment • Removal of contaminants from oils

Thank you

Contact:

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