

**COMSOL**  
**CONFERENCE**  
2017 ROTTERDAM

Topology Optimization of a 3D-printed Acoustic  
Chamber For Photoacoustic Spectroscopy  
with COMSOL Multiphysics®

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 mtec

**KU LEUVEN**

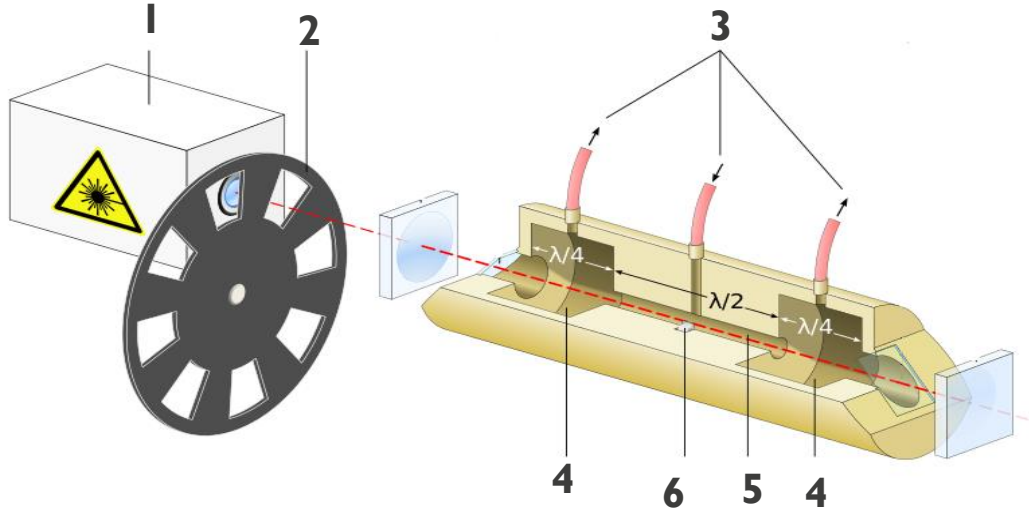
# OVERVIEW

## STRUCTURE OF THIS PRESENTATION

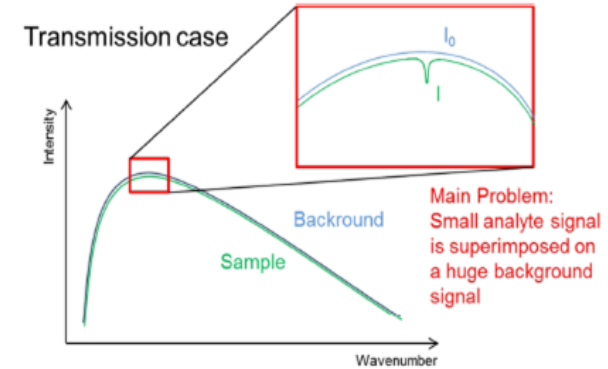
- Principles of photoacoustic spectroscopy
- What is topology optimization ?
- Problem definition and simulation set up
- Results, comparison and confirmation
- Conclusion

# PHOTOACOUSTIC SPECTROSCOPY

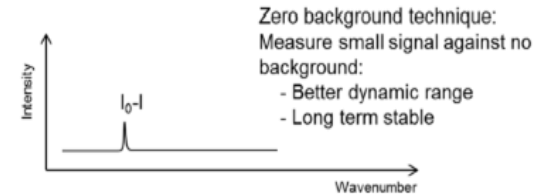
## BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GASEOUS PHOTOACOUSTIC SPECTROSCOPY AND MAIN ADVANTAGE



1. Laser emitter
  2. Chopper (amplitude modulation)
  3. Gas with analyte inlet/outlet
  4. Buffer
  5. Resonator
  6. Microphone
- } Gas chamber = cell



### Photoacoustic case



# SIGNAL IMPROVEMENT

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS TO PUSH FURTHER THE DETECTION LIMIT

Pressure response of a PAS cell

$$p = K_{geom} \frac{(\gamma - 1) L Q}{\omega V} \alpha P_L$$

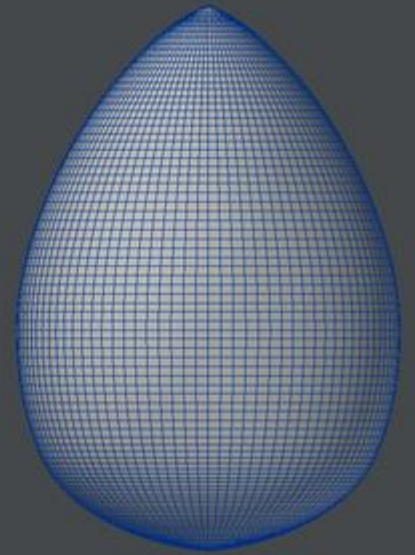
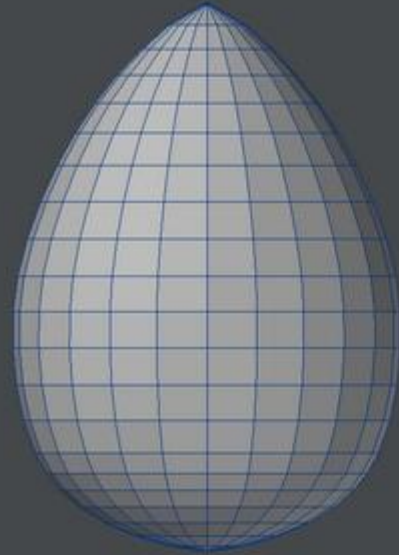
$p$	Pressure @ microphone
$L$	Laser path length
$V$	Cell volume
$Q$	Quality factor of the cell
$\omega$	Frequency of operation
$\alpha$	Analyte absorption coefficient
$P_L$	Laser power
$\gamma$	Buffer gas constant ratio

Ways for improvement

- Downsizing ( $V$ )
- Multiple laser beam crossing (mirrors) ( $L$ )
- Noble gas as a buffer ( $\gamma$ )
- Higher laser power ( $P_L$ )

$K_{geom}$   
Geometry of the cell ?

CAN WE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE  
RETRIEVED SIGNAL BY JUST TAILORING  
THE CELL SHAPE ?



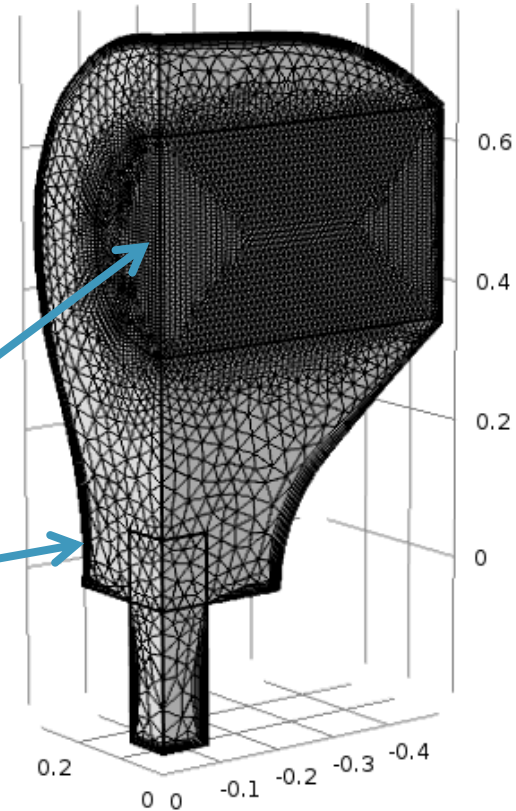
# SIMULATION OF THE PHOTOACOUSTIC EFFECT

## DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

Use Thermoacoustic module to take into account thermal and viscous losses

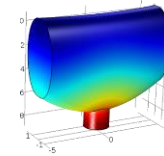
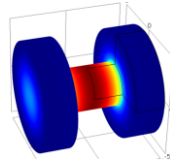
Harmonic excitation  $\Rightarrow$  Frequency domain study

- Gaussian radial repartition of heat power = laser heating
- Air bulk modulus : 17  $\mu$ Poise
- Boundary layer =  $\max(d_{th}, d_{visc})$



# IMPACT OF THE CELL SHAPE

## ALL SHAPES FIT A 1 CM<sup>3</sup> VOLUME



**Buffered  
cylinder  
Ø 4 mm**

**Heart  
+ res.**

Target  
eigenfrequency  
(kHz)

26

24,7

Q factor

67,877

95

Cell constant  
(Pa.cm/W)

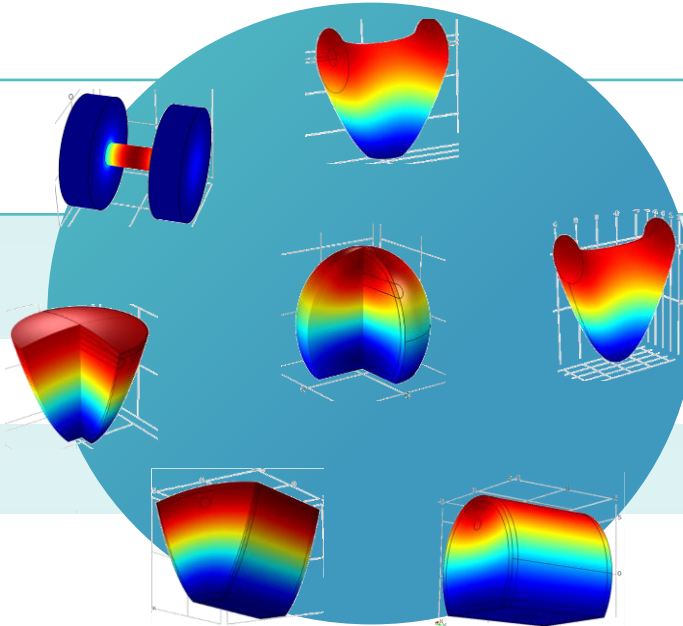
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17062

Average  
pressure at  
mic's location  
(Pa)

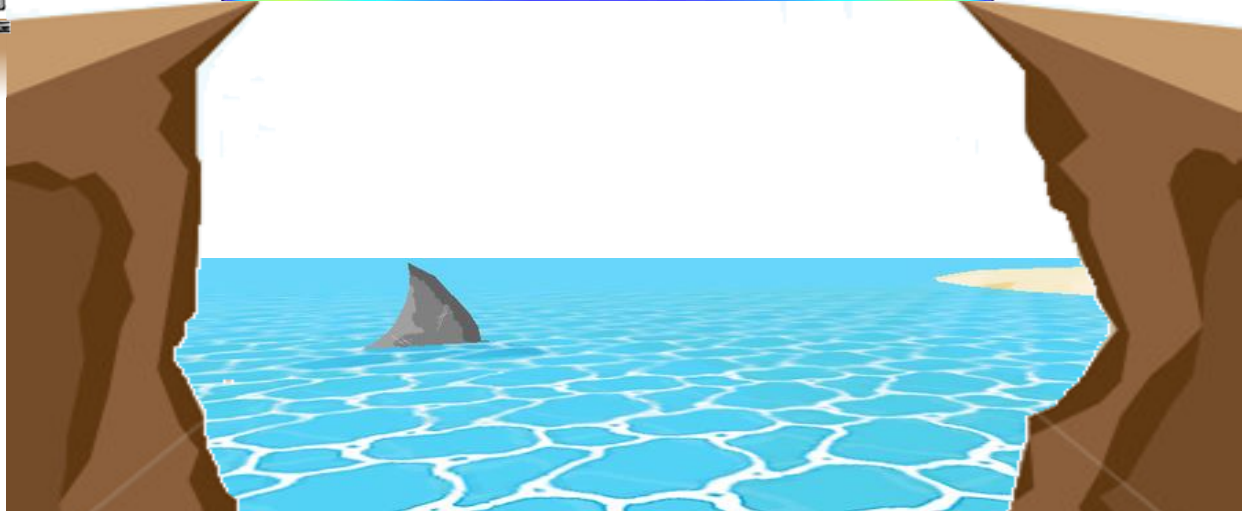
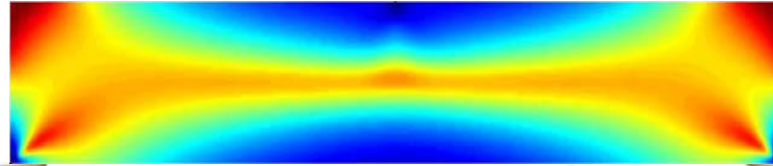
4,0266

11,26



# PURPOSE OF TOPOLOGY OPTIMIZATION

FIND THE BEST SHAPE OPTIMIZING ITS FUNCTION WHILE COMPLYING TO A SET OF CONSTRAINS



## Bridge

- Function : withstands the weight
- Constrains :
  - limited amount of material
  - light



# MATERIAL DEFINITION

THE OPTIMIZED SHAPE IS AN OPTIMISED DISTRIBUTION OF A MATERIAL PROPERTY

We are looking for material distribution  $\zeta(\mathbf{r}) \in \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if material 1} \\ 0 & \text{if } [0; 1] \\ & \text{material 2} \end{cases}$  over  $\Omega$

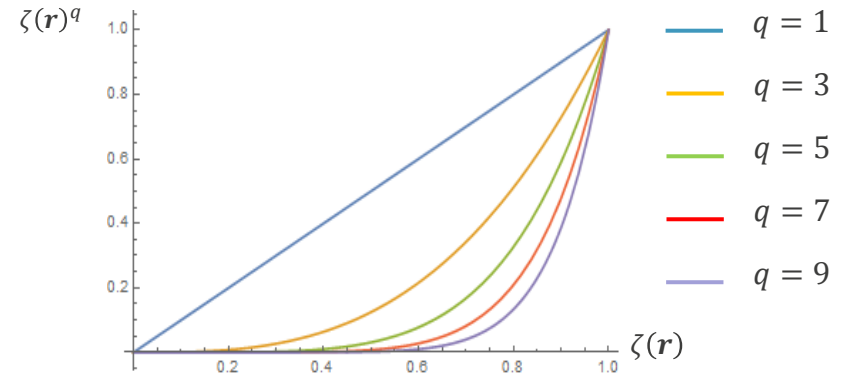
$q$  penalization parameter :  
pushes toward 0 or 1  $\zeta(\mathbf{r})^q$

Material property will depend on the position

SIMP model

(Solid Isotropic Material with Penalization)

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \rho_{mat1} + \zeta(\mathbf{r})^q (\rho_{mat2} - \rho_{mat1})$$

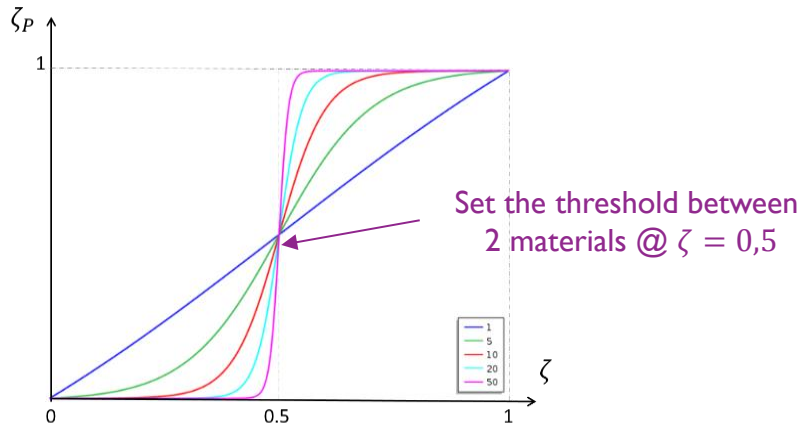


# PENALIZATION FUNCTIONS

## SET OF FUNCTIONS TO FORCE THE CONVERGENCE TOWARD DESIRED SOLUTIONS

### Heaviside projection

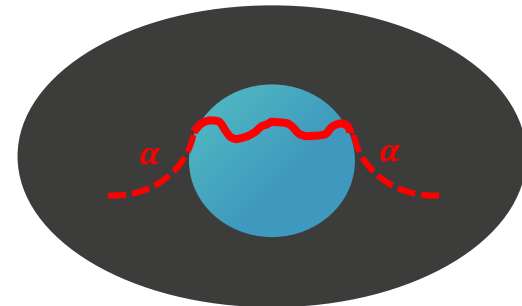
- Slow convergence of  $\zeta$  values toward 0 & 1
- Gradient based optimization techniques  
⇒ continuous function  $\zeta_P = P(\zeta)$



### Penalized damping = Pamping

- ~ no sound in the solid (impedance mismatch)
- ⇒ artificial damping
- damping coefficient

$$\alpha(P(\zeta(\mathbf{r}))) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if air} \\ K \gg 1 & \text{if solid} \end{cases}$$



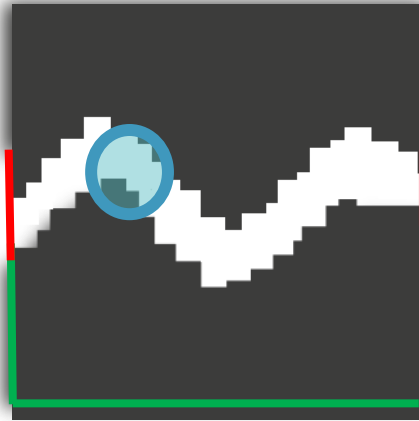
# REGULARIZATION

## SMOOTHING TECHNIQUE OF THE SOLUTION

Solution presents a checkboard pattern

Averaging  $\zeta$  the over an  $r_0$  radius circle

Typical value for  $r_0 \approx 1.5$  mesh size



Can be done by solving

$$-r_0^2 \nabla^2 \tilde{\zeta} + \tilde{\zeta} = \zeta$$



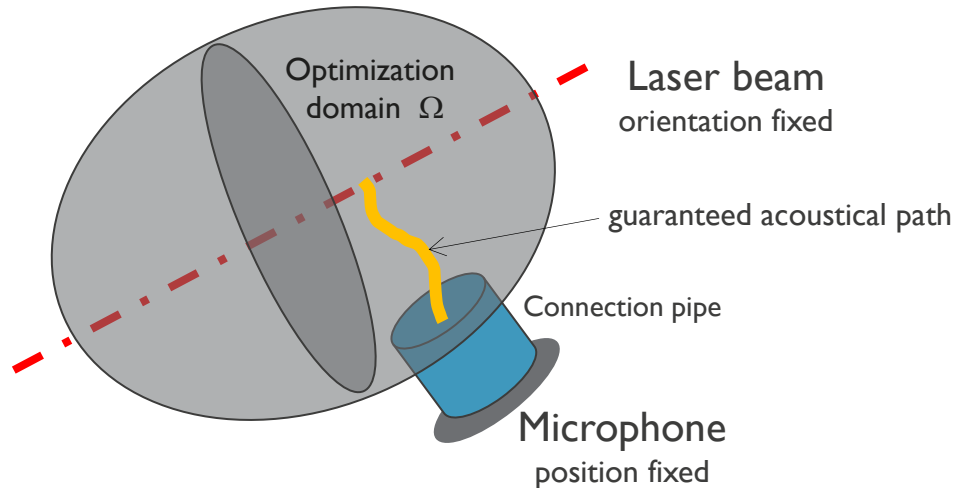
Smoothed solution  $\tilde{\zeta}$

! destructive process

BC : convenient to set material  
on desired boundaries

# OBJECTIVE AND CONSTRAINTS DEFINITION

## SETTING UP THE GEOMETRY AND OBJECTIVES FOR OPTIMIZATION



### Constraints

- Relative positioning
- Guaranteed acoustical path
- Amount solid in  $\Omega$

$$0 < k_{down} \leq \frac{\int_{\Omega} \zeta dV}{V} \leq k_{up} < 1$$

Maximize the average pressure retrieved @ microphone

### Objective

$$\max! \int_{mic} |p|^2 dS$$

# BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

## SCHEMATIC VIEW AND PARALLEL BETWEEN BC AND MATERIAL TOPOLOGY

— Dirichlet BC for air :  $\tilde{\zeta} = 0$

— Dirichlet BC for solid :  $\tilde{\zeta} = 1$

— Linear sound source  $p_0 e^{j\omega t}$

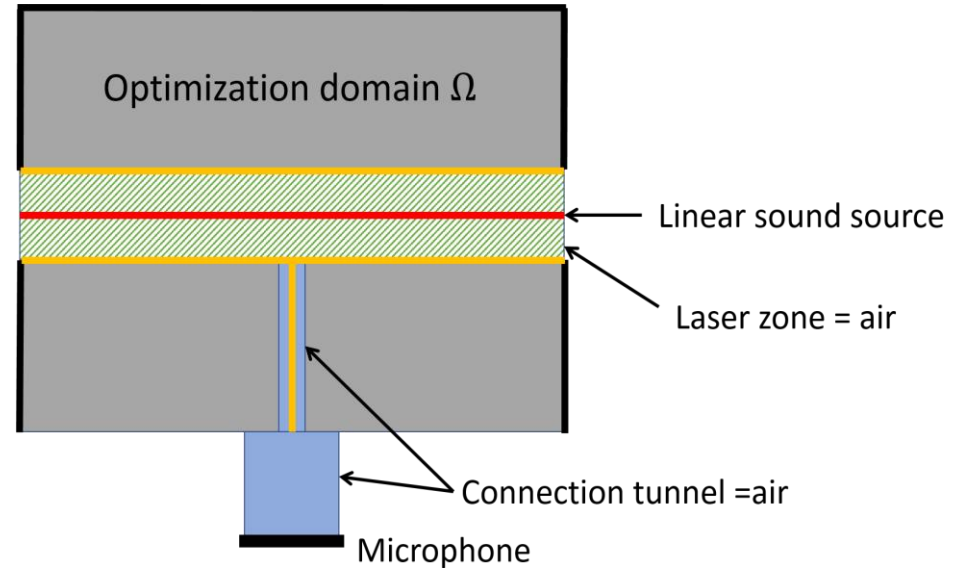
▨ laser volume

▨ sound connection

▨ Topo opt  
SIMP material

Lossless sound  
propagation

Pamping  
Lossy sound  
propagation



# COMSOL® IMPLEMENTATION

## KEY VARIABLES AND PARAMETERS TO BE IMPLEMENTED

Heaviside projection

SIMP model

**Topo Opt**

$\zeta$  def

$\zeta$  bounds

Objective

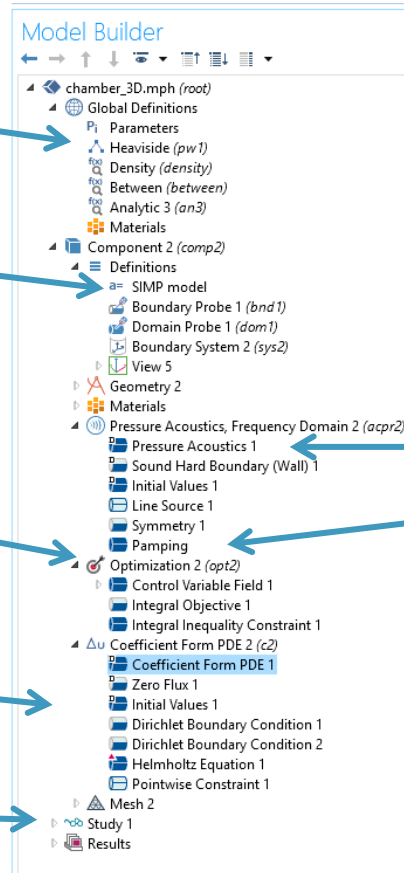
Constrains

Regularization  $\tilde{\zeta}$

$\tilde{\zeta}$  BC

Solvers available :

- SNOPT
- MMA

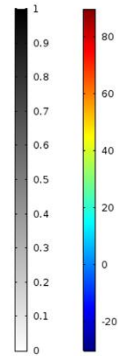
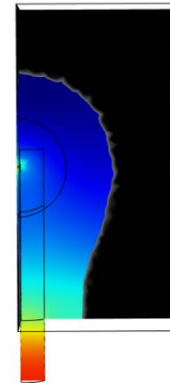
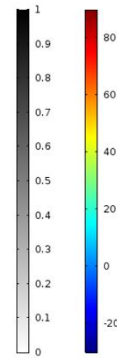
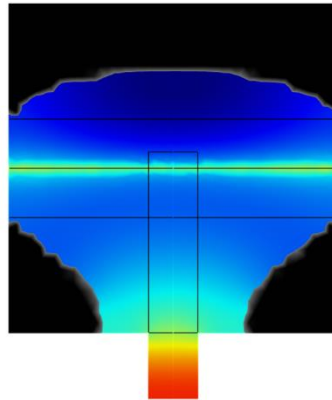
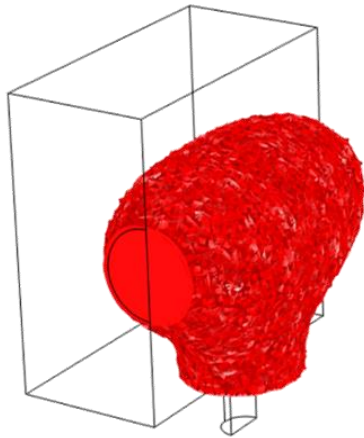


No damping

Pamping

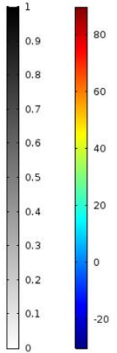
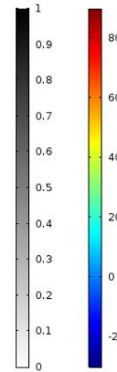
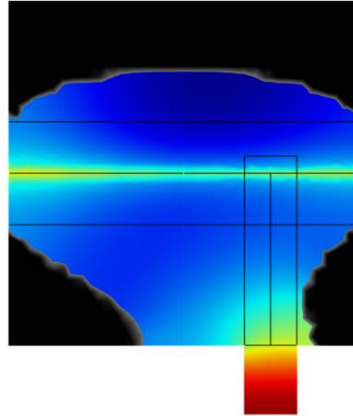
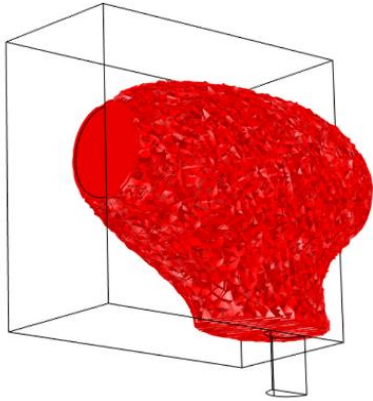
# OPTIMIZED CHAMBER @ 25 kHz

## MICROPHONE LOCATION SET @ THE CENTRE



# OPTIMIZED CHAMBER @ 25 kHz

MICROPHONE LOCATION SHIFTED FROM THE CENTRE





# COMPARISON BETWEEN PAS CELLS

## CRITERIONS TO COMPLY TO MAKE CORRECT COMPARISONS OF TWO CELLS

Pressure response of a PAS cell

$$p = \frac{p}{Q} K_{geom} \frac{(\gamma - 1) L Q}{\omega W} \propto P_L$$

2 PAS cells are equivalent if they have the same

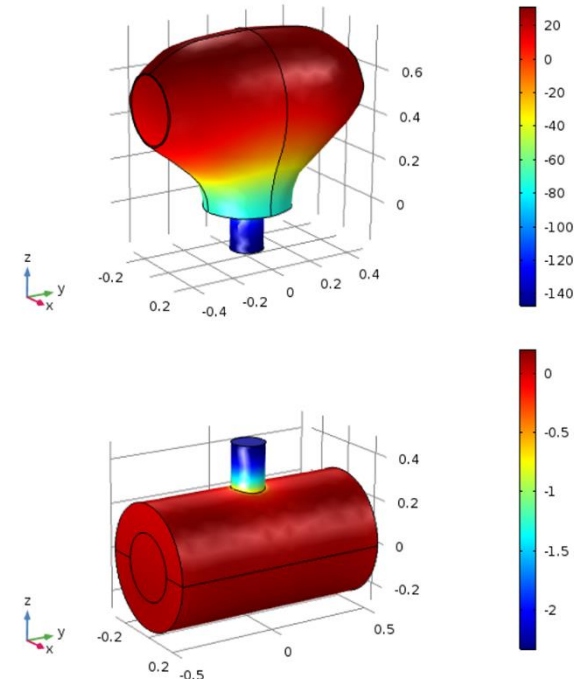
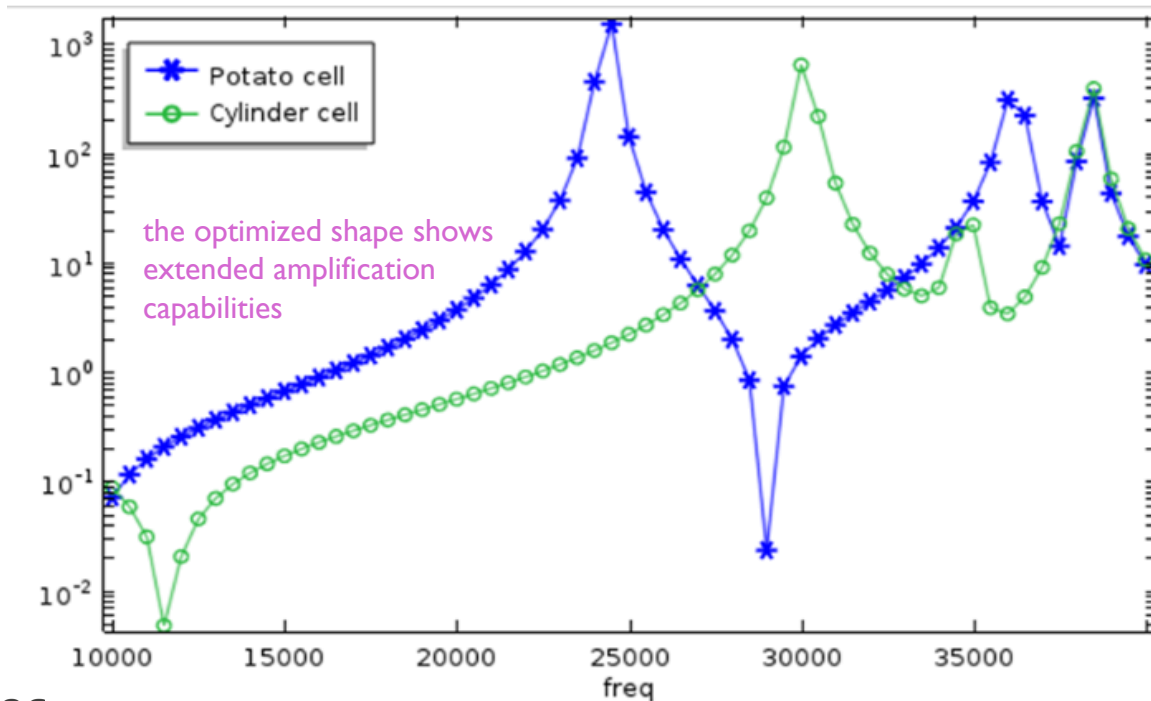
- Volume V
- Laser path length L
- Buffer gas  $\gamma$
- Absorbed laser power  $\alpha P_L$

The rest is shape dependent

# CONFIRMATION OF SIGNAL IMPROVEMENT THANKS TO TOPOLOGY OPTIMIZATION

## COMPARISON OF SIMULATED PHOTOACOUSTIC SIGNAL FROM TWO CELLS

Frequency domain analysis





- Topology optimization of PAS cell was undertaken
- Building and setting up the COMSOL model
- Definition of equivalency between cells for improvement signal assessment
- Comparison and confirmation of improved signal simulated



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