

Performance of S-Shaped Diffusers: Experimental and Numerical Studies

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Abstract: The paper presents comprehensive experimental and numerical studies on water flow through rectangular S-shaped diffusers. The experimental setup was designed and constructed to perform the measurements which have been carried out on twelve models of S-shaped diffusers. The measurements of pressure distributions along the outer and inner walls of the S-shaped diffuser were performed for different parameters including area ratios, curvature ratios, inflow Reynolds numbers, turning angles (45°/45°, 60°/60°, 90°/90°), and flow paths (45°/45°, 60°/30°, 30°/60°). The energy-loss coefficients for each model are based on detailed measurements of the wall pressure distributions along walls of the S-shaped diffuser models including long upstream and downstream tangents. The energy-loss coefficient data were plotted as a function of Reynolds number for the tested models at different geometrical parameters. The experimental data for different S-diffuser configurations have been used for assessing credibility of the numerical code using different turbulence models. High performances of computations with turbulence closure provided by the standard k-ε model have been carried out for prediction of the performance of S-diffusers at different inflow and geometrical conditions. The results showed that the diffuser energy-loss coefficient is strongly affected by the geometrical parameters of S-shaped diffuser and inflow Reynolds number. Increasing area ratio, curvature ratio, and inflow Reynolds number increase the diffuser performance. The turning angle plays an important role in improving the S-shaped diffuser performance. But, the diffuser performance decreases, when the turning angle is larger than 60° and the flow path changes far than the symmetric path (45°/45°).

Keywords: Water flow; diffuser performance; turn angle; energy losses; S-Shaped diffusers

Nomenclature

A	Cross-sectional area, m^2
AR	S-shaped area ratio = A_{exit} / A_{inlet}
B	Height of the cross section diffuser, m
C_d	Discharge coefficient of the orifice flow meter
C_p	Static pressure recovery coefficient $C_p = (P_x - P_{ref}) / (0.5 \rho_{ref} U_{ref}^2)$
$C_{p(I)}$	Ideal static pressure coefficient
C_{pi}	Static pressure recovery coefficient on the inner wall
C_{po}	Static pressure recovery coefficient on the outer wall
CR	S-diffuser curvature –ratio = R_c / W
CC	Concave wall
CV	Convex wall

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D_H	Hydraulic diameter, m
K_d	Energy loss coefficient, $K_d = \left[(1 - AR^{-2}) - (C_{P(exit)} - C_{P(inlet)}) \right]$
M	Model number
P	Pressure, Pa
P_{exit}	S-shaped diffuser exit pressure, Pa
P_{inlet}	S-shaped diffuser inlet pressure, Pa
Q	Fluid flow rate, m ³ /s
R_c	Diffuser centre line arc radius, m
Re	REYNOLDS number
U_{ref}	Reference velocity is the mean streamwise velocity at the diffuser inlet, m/s
U	Water axial velocity inside the diffuser parallel to the diffuser centreline, m/s
U_{exit}	Exit flow velocity, m/s
U_{inlet}	Inlet flow velocity, $U_{inlet} = U_{ref}$, m/s
V_w	Water volume, m ³
W	Inlet width, m
W_{exit}	Exit width, m
X	Distance along diffuser centreline, measured from the reference location, m

Greek Symbols

μ	Dynamics viscosity, Pa.s
ν	Kinematics viscosity, m ² /s
μ_w	Water viscosity, Pa.s
ρ_w	Water density, Kg/m ³
ρ_m	Mercury density, Kg/m ³
$\theta_1^\circ / \theta_2^\circ$	S-shaped diffuser first bend angle, second bend angle

Subscripts

d	Diffuser condition
exit	Exit diffuser condition
inlet	Inlet diffuser condition
I	Ideal
i	Inner wall (CC wall +CV wall)
o	Outer wall (CV wall +CC wall)
ref	Reference value
W	Water
x	Location value
1	S-shaped diffuser first bend
2	S-shaped diffuser second bend

List of abbreviations

CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamics
EXP	Experimental data
FP	S-shaped diffuser flow path
SDS	Sodium dodecyl sulphate
TA	S-shaped diffuser turn angle
WP	Wetted perimeter, m

List of chemical symbols

CCL_4	Carbon Tetra Chloride
$CH_3 (CH_3)_{11}OSO_3Na$	Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate

1. Introduction

S-shaped curved diffusers are necessary in fluid flow to decelerate and turn the fluid simultaneously. S-shaped diffusers are used in vanned diffusers of centrifugal pump passages, in steam turbine and in the interconnecting ducts between the components of the gas turbines. They are also used as an aircraft intake ducts, commercial and military aircrafts. Commercial aircraft uses ducts (including S-duct) to allow the thrust vector from rear mounted engines to be aligned with the axis of the aircraft. Military aircraft uses diffusing S-ducts to allow a reduction in the overall aircraft length and to decrease the strength of the radar waves returned in the direction of their origin. Pressure gradients, resulting from streamline curvature, can produce significant secondary flows. Additionally, the adverse stream-wise pressure gradient, caused by increasing cross-sectional area, can lead to flow separation. Flow separation in S-duct will cause flow distortion, which can result in high cycle fatigue, generated by unsteady dynamics loads.

The ability to quickly predict complicated flow phenomena without experimental testing is obviously desirable for designers. Therefore, different studies were considered previously.

Literature review on single phase flow through S-shaped curved diffuser, [1, 2], indicates that the overall pressure recovery coefficient of the S-shaped diffuser increases by increasing the inflow Reynolds number, the turbulence intensity, area ratio and curvature ratio. S-shaped diffuser flow constitutes the most complex type of flows because there are rotational and three dimensional flows in small aspect ratio. Consequently, S-shaped diffuser flows are difficult to investigate both experimentally and numerically. S-shaped curved diffuser of varying lengths and aspect ratios has been employed in the past to study the streamline curvature effects and secondary motions in single phase flows. One of the main features of flow in S-shaped curved diffuser is the presence of centrifugal force (because of the curvature) which gives rise to the radial pressure gradient normal to the streamline direction that varies inversely with the radius of curvature of the streamline and consequently pressure driven secondary motion. Curvature also affects turbulence structure (i.e., the Reynolds stresses) and hence the stress-driven secondary flows is much smaller and may not be observable [3]. Generally, the literature considered developing flow in S-shaped curved diffusers to study the effects of S-diffuser parameters on the diffuser performance.

Reneau et al. [4] studied the design and performance of curved diffusers. They concluded; that for the same flow conditions, pressure recovery coefficient and efficiency of curved diffuser are lower than that of straight diffuser. The mean flow field in a diffusing bend of 40 degrees was measured by McMillan [6]. He found that; as a result of adverse pressure gradient there are secondary flows causing a flow momentum boundary layer fluid on the inner wall (convex wall). A low-speed fluid in the boundary layer on the top and bottom walls is forced towards the convex wall by the pressure gradient and continuity of flow accelerates the fluid in the central portion of the channel towards the concave wall causing secondary cells.

Taylor et al. [7, 8] studied the developing flow in S-shaped ducts of square and circular cross-sections. They found that; pressure-driven secondary flows arise in the first bend of the duct and near the outer wall of the second bend. Sullerey [9] performed a comparison between straight diffuser and curved diffuser. He concluded that the straight diffuser performance is higher than that of curved diffuser and with increasing the free-stream turbulence the pressure recovery coefficient for each type increases. The velocity and the pressure characteristics of the water flow in an S-shaped diffusing duct with asymmetric inlet conditions have been measured by Whitelaw and Yu [10] and simulated by Whitelaw and Yu [11]. The results showed that the Navier-Stokes equations are appropriate to predict the details of the near wall flows and rapid flow distortion which it is noticed in the second half of the S-duct.

Bansod and Bradshaw [5] noticed that streamwise favorable pressure gradient exists after the second bend. While secondary flow separation of the boundary layer is generated on the far side of second bend for S-duct. Turbulent flow velocity characteristics in a round cross-

sectional S-shaped diffusing duct were measured by Whitelaw and Yu [12]. They found that; the region of separation is shown or exist with two thicknesses of inlet boundary layers, and is larger with the thinner inlet boundary layer. Studies to clarify the flow behavior in S-shaped duct are introduced by Britchford et. al. [13, 14]. They indicated that the flow within the S-shaped duct is significantly influenced by the effects of streamwise pressure gradients and flow curvature. The flows through S-shaped annular, inter-turbine diffusers were studied by Glyn [15]. He showed that; the total pressure loss coefficient is low at a swirl angle of approximately 15 degrees. Anderson et al. [16] performed study on computing separating flows within a diffusion inlet S-duct. They found that: micro-vanes can control distortion level with more improvement to the total pressure recovery.

Bruns et al. [17] performed an experimental investigation of a three-dimensional turbulent boundary layer in an 'S'-shaped duct. They showed that the reverse of the curvature leads to the crossover of the transverse velocity component near the side walls. Gupta et al. [18] studied the effect of aspect ratio and curvature on characteristics of S-shaped rectangular diffusers using CFD. They showed that; the uniformity of longitudinal velocity and the pressure coefficient decrease with increase in the diffuser turn angle. A comparative study of RANS models was performed by Garbaruk et al. [19] on the same S-shaped duct studied in Bruns et al. [17]. They found that; high ratings of the S-A model, which are based on the results of calculations of two-dimensional boundary layers.

Gopaliya et al. [18] performed computational studies on analysis of performance characteristics of S-shaped diffuser with offset. They concluded that; the pressure recovery coefficient (C_p) decreases with increase in offset. Increasing Reynolds number leads to increase of C_p . Sinha et al. [19] used computational fluid dynamics (CFD) to improve the performance characteristics of an S-shaped rectangular diffuser by momentum injection. They concluded that; delay in separation results in improved pressure recovery coefficient and the total pressure loss coefficient decreases. The turbulent flow inside a combined bend-diffuser configuration with a rectangular cross section was experimentally and numerically studied by El-Askary and Nasr [20]. They showed that; there is an optimum diffuser angle which depends on the inflow Reynolds number and produces the minimum pressure loss and hence good performance of such complex geometry is obtained. CFD analysis of performance characteristics of S-shaped diffusers with combined horizontal and vertical offsets was conducted by Gopaliya et al. [21]. They concluded that; non-uniformity increases in case of S-shaped diffuser with rectangular outlet and with semi-circular outlet. also increase in Reynolds number leads to increase in outlet pressure recovery for both types of diffuser under study.

Sinha and Majumdar [22] investigated numerically and experimentally the flow through annular curved diffusers. They concluded that; the pressure coefficient increases sharply with area ratio and the standard k- ϵ model is the suitable one for simulation. Numerical validation of flow through an S-shaped diffuser was performed by Das et al. [23]. They showed that; high velocity is shifted towards outer wall due to generation of secondary motion, which caused due to the combined effect of the centrifugal action of the center-line curvature and adverse pressure gradient. Turning angle effect on the flow through a diffusing S-duct was conducted by Abdellatif et al. [24]. They concluded that: separation regions are characterized with high turbulence levels and occur near the convex wall of the S-duct first bend and increased by the increase of turning angle, which hardly affects the pressure coefficient. Biswas et al. [25] investigated the flow in a constant area rectangular curved duct. They concluded that; wall pressures minimum and maximum occur at the inner and the outer walls respectively under influence of curvature radius and turn angle of the curved duct. Also flow at exit is purely non-uniform in nature due to the strong secondary motion.

Experimental flow investigation of curved diffuser was conducted by El-Askary et al. [26]. They concluded that: outer wall pressure coefficient is higher than that the inner wall and the S-shaped diffuser energy-loss coefficient, K_d , is found to be inversely proportional to the

generalized Reynolds number, diffuser area ratio and diffuser curvature ratio. Experimental and computational studies on S-duct diffuser were conducted and various combinations of submerged-vortex generators (SVG) were tested by Pau et al. [27]. They concluded that; as skewed inflow condition, the outflow of the S-duct diffuser is distorted and reduces the duct performance so using submerged-vortex generators makes the flow more uniform at diffuser exit. The effect of momentum imparting on different performance characteristics of S-shaped diffuser has been studied by Gopaliya et al. [28]. They concluded that: momentum imparting increases the exit static pressure coefficient of the S-shaped diffusers and the non-uniformity at diffuser exit decreases by placing a rotating cylinder across the S- diffuser width. The focused literature review indicated the importance of studies performed on S-diffuser and curved-diffuser. However, the first type has a narrow space of studies, either experimental or numerical.

The main objective of the present work is to gain insight into the rectangular S-shaped curved diffuser performance carrying water. The effects of the inflow Reynolds number and the geometrical parameters of the S-shaped curved diffuser such as the area ratio, curvature ratio, flow path and turning angle are considered in order to extract general conclusions. First, outer and inner wall static pressure distributions are experimentally measured and compared with the numerically predicted values. Based on the measured and computed wall-pressure distributions the S-shaped diffuser loss coefficient will be extracted and discussed under different inflow and geometrical conditions.

2. Analytical Study

The energy equation applied between the entrance (inlet) and exit of the S-shaped diffuser reads: [26]

$$h_{inlet} + \frac{U_{ref}^2}{2g} = h_{exit} + \frac{U_{exit}^2}{2g} + h_{loss} \quad (1)$$

$$h_{loss} = (h_{inlet} - h_{exit}) + \frac{(U_{ref}^2 - U_{exit}^2 / AR^2)}{2g} \quad (2)$$

$$h_{loss} = \frac{(P_{inlet} - P_{exit})}{\rho_w g} + \frac{U_{ref}^2 (1 - 1/AR^2)}{2g} \quad (3)$$

With h_{inlet} and h_{exit} are the pressure heads at inlet and exit of the S-shaped diffuser, respectively, while U_{ref} and U_{exit} are the time-averaged mean velocities at diffuser inlet and exit, respectively and ρ_w is the water density. The pressure coefficient is:

$$C_p = \frac{(P_x - P_{ref})}{0.5 \rho_w U_{ref}^2} \quad (4)$$

Where, P_x is the measured local wall pressure, P_{ref} is the reference pressure which is taken as diffuser inlet pressure on outer-wall, whereas the reference location (position zero point; $x = y = z = 0 \text{ m}$) is taken at the diffuser entrance on inner-wall. The loss coefficient (Kd) can then be determined from this equation:

$$K_d = \left(C_{p(inlet)} - C_{p(exit)} + 1 - AR^{-2} \right) \quad (5)$$

From which the loss head can be computed as:

$$h_{loss} = K_d \frac{U_{ref}^2}{2g} \quad (6)$$

Where $C_{p(inlet)}$ and $C_{p(exit)}$ are the pressure coefficients at inlet and exit of the S-diffuser, respectively and $AR = A_{exit} / A_{inlet}$ is the diffuser area ratio. The area ratios for the considered geometries are: $AR = 3$ for models 1, 7, 8 and 9, while $AR = 2$ for models 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12, and $AR = 1.5$ for model 3, see Table 1.

3. Experimental Setup and Procedure

Figure 1 shows the test rig (Schematic and Photograph, Fig. 1.a, c,) including the S-diffuser test section, Fig. 1.b, of constant height ($B = 80$ mm), inlet width ($W = 20$ mm), upstream tangent duct length of $40 D_H$ and downstream tangent duct length of $50 D_H$. The convex / concave radius of curvature (R_c) varies from 100 to 250 mm according to the tested model, see Table 1. Different exit widths (w_{exit}) of 30, 40 and 60 mm are considered; see Fig. 1-b, c for controlling the area ratio. The water is prepared from tap water in a large tank of 0.5 m³ capacity, then it is circulated through the test rig using a centrifugal pump of 2 kW power. The flow rate is measured by a calibrated orifice meter. Multi-tube manometer is used to measure static pressure distributions along the outer and inner walls of the S-shaped curved diffusers (test sections), the upstream and downstream tangents. The measuring fluid used in the manometer is Carbon Tetra Chloride (CCL_4). This liquid does not mix with water and has specific gravity of 1.4. By using this liquid the static pressure at each tapping hole can be measured by the difference-head of the used measuring liquid.

4. Uncertainty Analysis

Before being documented for any analysis or design, the data obtained from experimental studies should be validated. The experimental errors may be of two types, namely fixed and random errors. Fixed error can be removed by proper calibration or correction while random error cannot be removed. The factors that introduce random error are uncertain by their nature. Uncertainty analysis should be conducted on all data collected from all measurements in order to quantify the data and validate the accuracy. As known, the flow resistance coefficient of the tested S-shaped diffuser, K_d (S-shaped diffuser energy-loss coefficient) is given by equation (7) as:

$$K_d = h_{loss} \frac{2g}{U_{ref}^2} = h_{loss} \frac{2g}{(Q/A)_{ref}^2} = h_{loss} \frac{2gB^2W^2}{Q^2} \quad (7)$$

in which, Q is the volume flow rate measured by calibrated orifice meter and h_{loss} is the loss head through the S-diffuser. The precision uncertainty of K_d is due to uncertainties for all independent variables of them. The precision uncertainty ($\delta K_d / K_d$) can be represented as indicated in Taylor [28]:

$$\frac{\delta K_d}{K_d} = \pm \left\{ \left(\frac{h_{loss}}{K_d} \frac{\partial K_d}{\partial h_{loss}} \frac{\delta h_{loss}}{h_{loss}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{B}{K_d} \frac{\partial K_d}{\partial B} \frac{\delta B}{B} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{W}{K_d} \frac{\partial K_d}{\partial W} \frac{\delta W}{W} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{Q}{K_d} \frac{\partial K_d}{\partial Q} \frac{\delta Q}{Q} \right)^2 \right\}^{1/2} \quad (8)$$

Where, $\delta h_{loss} / h_{loss}$, $\delta B / B$, $\delta W / W$ and $\delta Q / Q$ are the precision uncertainties for independent variables h_{loss} , B , W and Q , respectively. The reasonable estimate of the uncertainty intervals due to random error in the present experimental study is taken as plus or minus half the smallest scale division (the least count) of the instrument used in conducting the measurement. Thus, δh_{loss} , δB and δW are taken to be 0.5 mm. The discharge Q is measured using the calibrated orifice meter and calculated from the orifice meter equation as follows:

$$Q = C_d \frac{A_o A_p}{\sqrt{A_p^2 - A_o^2}} \sqrt{2g \Delta H_o \frac{\rho_m - \rho_w}{\rho_w}} \quad (9)$$

Where c_d is the orifice discharge coefficient, A_o is the orifice area, A_p is the pipe cross-section area, ΔH_o is the mercury head-difference in the mercury U-tube manometer and ρ_m is the mercury density in the manometer. The precision uncertainty of the discharge ($\delta Q / Q$) can be computed as:

$$\frac{\delta Q}{Q} = \pm \left\{ \left(\frac{\Delta H_o}{Q} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial \Delta H_o} \frac{\delta \Delta H_o}{\Delta H_o} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{D_p}{Q} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial D_p} \frac{\delta D_p}{D_p} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{d_o}{Q} \frac{\partial Q}{\partial d_o} \frac{\delta d_o}{d_o} \right)^2 \right\}^{1/2} \quad (10)$$

Thus, the precision uncertainties of the energy-loss coefficient can be obtained. Table 2 presents the range of energy loss coefficient and percentage precision uncertainty of resistance coefficient ($\pm u_{k_d} \%$) during all measurements.

5. Numerical Study

In the present study, CFD simulations are carried out using ANSYS R-15.0 with software Fluid Flow Fluent (FFF) which applies 3D-RANS (Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes equations) method by [29]. Preliminary investigations are done using a range of turbulence models to validate the CFD code with the experimental data obtained for all tested S-diffuser models of rectangular cross-section. The flow field is predicted using three turbulence models namely, standard $k-\omega$ (S-K- ω), shear stress transport $k-\omega$ (SST-K- ω) and standard $k-\epsilon$ (S-k- ϵ) models. The comparisons with the present measurements show that the pressure coefficient profile is successfully predicted using the last turbulence model (S-k- ϵ), see Fig. 2. Therefore, the S-k- ϵ model is used as a solution turbulence model for simulating the water flow with maximum $Re = 34000$ based on inlet hydraulic diameter of 32 mm and maximum average velocity at diffuser inlet = 1.07 m/s. In order to predict the flow in the S-shaped diffuser accurately, it is important to ensure that the inlet conditions match with the solver.

5.1. Resolution Effects

The computations of S-diffuser with its two tangents (upstream and downstream) are carried out for different grid sizes (mesh cells of 500000, 1080000 and 1500000 cells, see Fig. 3.a) and static pressure coefficient was monitored for each grid with experimental measurements. The results indicate that the medium grid (1080000) can be used as it produces suitable data in view of the comparisons with the experimental results of the pressure coefficient, see Fig. 3.b.

6. Results and Discussion

In the present study, it is aimed to extract the energy-loss coefficients (flow resistance coefficients) for the S-shaped curved diffusers with different area ratios: (1.5, 2, and 3), different curvature ratios ($CR = R_c / W = 5, 7.5, \text{ and } 12.5$), different flow paths ($45^\circ/45^\circ$, $60^\circ/30^\circ$ and $30^\circ/60^\circ$), and different turn angles ($45^\circ/45^\circ$, $60^\circ/60^\circ$ and $90^\circ/90^\circ$). However, the geometrical parameters of all models of the S-shaped curved diffusers are given in Table 1.

The results are presented experimentally and numerically for the water flow in S-shaped diffuser as the pressure distributions and hence the S- diffusers energy loss coefficients. Measurements are performed at different diffuser inflow Reynolds numbers range of $9000 \leq Re \leq 34000$ where $Re = (\rho_w U_{ref} D_H / \mu_w)$ with $D_H = [2WB / (W + B)]$ (the hydraulic diameter). The static pressure and the energy-loss coefficients are affected by inflow Reynolds number, diffuser area ratio, diffuser curvature ratio, diffuser turn angle and diffuser flow path as the following experimental and numerical studies. All the following computations are based on S-k- ϵ as a suitable turbulence model for simulations.

6.1 Wall Pressure Distributions

Wall static pressure is measured as stated before in 2.2, and by applying equation 4, pressure recovery coefficient is obtained. The experimental and numerical studies are conducted for the twelve S-diffuser tested models to indicate the effect of inflow Reynolds number (34000, 24000 and 18000) on the static pressure recovery coefficient at outer and inner walls of the S-shaped diffusers (Fig. 4). From the results in Fig. 4 it is clear that the static pressure recovery coefficient of the S-shaped diffusers is found to be directly proportional to the diffuser inflow Reynolds number with a noticeable decrease in the adverse pressure gradient inside the S-shaped diffuser. This leads to a decrease of the boundary layer thickness on the walls and hence reduces the chances of separation in the S-shaped diffuser. Therefore, the performance of S-shaped diffuser can improved with accelerating the inflow. Generally, the higher wall pressure distribution is observed on the outer walls of all models, because of the presence of radial pressure gradient generated by the centrifugal force. One notices that there is a distinct reduction of pressure along the outer-wall and the inner-wall of the upstream and downstream tangent ducts of the S-shaped diffuser.

The comparison of experimental data with the computational predicted values of pressure coefficient reveals good agreement between them. This comparison includes the effects of S-diffuser geometrical parameters, area ratio, curvature ratio, turn angle and flow path on the diffuser pressure coefficient at $Re=34000$ for all tested models as shown in Figs. 5, 6, 7 and 8, respectively.

However, increasing the area ratio causes enhancement of the axial pressure gradients and this can be clearly visible in Fig. 5 in which the walls pressure increases for models 2 and 1 of the higher area ratio. The jump of the inner wall pressure distribution at $X_i/W=5$ which is followed by a strong decreases of the pressure to $X_i/W \cong 7$, and then a gradual increase may be an indicator of flow separation on that wall. The variations of curvature radius shown in Fig. 6 will strongly affect on the performance of diffuser, whereas the turn angle does not affect the pressure recovery coefficient, see Fig. 7. Fig. 8 shows the pressure recovery coefficient under different diffuser flow paths, which will be discussed later.

6.2 Diffuser Performance

In the present section, attempts have been made to understand performance of water flow in S-shaped diffusers through the energy-loss characteristics. The S-shaped diffuser energy-loss coefficient is expressed in terms of diffuser inflow Reynolds number. The energy-loss coefficient of the S-shaped diffusers decreases as the area ratio or the curvature ratio increases as shown in Figs. 9 and 10 respectively. The effect of S-diffuser symmetric turn angle is shown in Fig. 11, and the loss coefficient is observed hardly affected by change of the turn

angle (models 7, 8, and 9). The S-shaped diffuser energy-loss coefficient is strongly affected by diffuser flow path since it is noticed clearly that it increases with symmetric turn angle and decreases with asymmetric turn angle (models 10, 11, and 12) as shown in Fig. 12. The effect of diffuser inflow Reynolds number (ranged from 9000 to 34000) on the energy-loss coefficient for all S-diffuser tested models is shown in Fig.13.

From the results in Figs. 9-12 it is noticed that: energy-loss coefficient of the S-shaped diffusers with water flow is found to be inversely proportional to area ratio, curvature ratio, symmetry of the S-shaped diffuser turn angle and inflow Reynolds number. The diffuser energy-loss coefficient approaches asymptotic values for high diffuser inflow Reynolds number. For the same radius of curvature, i.e. an equal main-flow pass, the pressure gain from the widest diffuser (the highest area ratio) is higher than the energy lost due to intensive secondary flows produced; it means that the diffuser energy loss decreases with increasing the area ratio, see Fig. 9.

The main reason of the curvature ratio effects is the decreasing of the centrifugal force created in the S-shaped curved diffuser with increasing the curvature ratio, which is responsible for secondary flow generation, as the curvature ratio decreases the energy loss in the S-shaped diffuser increases for the different flows, because of the generation of strong secondary flows (with small radius of curvature) superimposed on the mean flow, see Fig. 10. This behavior is attributed to the change of turbulence intensity which may be affected by the area ratio and the curvature ratio of the S- diffusers. The diffuser energy-loss coefficient is slowly affected by change of the symmetric turn angle because of the different three models turn angles are symmetric, see Fig. 11. These cause low water flow resistance through the S- diffusers. At the same Reynolds number, the same curvature radius and the same sum of the two bends turn angles (90°) the energy-loss coefficient of the S-shaped diffuser increases with asymmetric turn angle and decreases with symmetric turn angle (45°/45°), see Fig. 12. This behavior tends to the created secondary flows because of the strong turn of S-shaped curved diffuser. This indicates the lower resistance to the water flow in the case of symmetric turn angle. The presence of asymmetric turn angle increases the drag of water to move in the S-shaped diffuser and this enhances the energy loss of the S-shaped diffuser.

6.3 The Best Diffuser Model

The experimental and numerical energy loss coefficients of all tested S-shaped diffuser models are presented in Fig. 13. The energy loss coefficient decreases with high Reynolds number because of the reduction of adverse pressure gradient generated in the S-shaped diffuser, see Fig. 14. The comparisons reveal that the flow in S-shaped diffuser model (3) exhibits greater values of the diffuser energy-loss coefficient than the other models, while model (7) exhibits the lowest value of the energy-loss coefficient compared with the other tested models. Therefore, the best design modeller of the S-shaped diffusers is model (7) which has area ratio of 3, curvature ratio of 7.5, and symmetric centre-line turn angle of (60°/60°).

6.4 Loss Coefficient Correlation

A general new correlation of the S-diffuser loss coefficient (not previously considered) for the present studied cases exploring the ranges of geometrical parameters and inflow Reynolds number range can be extracted from the experimental data.

Correlation equation can be extracted from the curve fitting and can be written as:

$$K_d = \frac{7.15 \times 10^{-5} \times \theta_1^{0.10} \times [\theta_2 / \theta_1]^{0.90}}{Re^{1.255} \times CR^{0.666} \times AR^{1.333}} \quad (11)$$

The effects of S-diffuser geometrical parameters; area ratio, curvature ratio, turn angle, and flow path on the correlated diffuser energy-loss coefficient are shown in Figs. 15 to 17, in which good comparisons between the developed correlation and the present results.

7. Conclusions

Based on the experimental and numerical results, and related discussions the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1-For all tested models the static pressure recovery coefficient (C_p) decreases through the upstream tangent and the downstream tangent by different values from an S-shaped diffuser model to other. While, it increases through the S-diffuser by different values from a model to other.
- 2-The energy-loss coefficient of S-shaped diffusers is found to be inversely proportional to the generalized Reynolds number, Re .
- 3-For S-shaped diffusers as the area ratio (AR) increases from 1.5 to 3.0, and the curvature ratio ($CR=R_c/W$) increases from 5 to 12.5, the energy-loss coefficient decreases.
- 4-As the turn angle increases from $45^\circ/45^\circ$ to $90^\circ/90^\circ$, the energy-loss coefficient hardly increases since magnitudes of the counter rotating vortices being higher for the higher angle of turn.
- 5-As the flow path changes as $45^\circ/45^\circ$, $30^\circ/60^\circ$, $60^\circ/30^\circ$ the energy-loss coefficient strongly increases respectively.
- 6-The best design modeller of the S-diffusers is model (7) which has area ratio of 3, curvature ratio of 7.5, and symmetric centre-line turn angle of ($60^\circ/60^\circ$) which exhibits the lowest value of the energy-loss coefficient compared with the other models.
- 7-Good correlations equation is obtained and valid all cases studied in this paper.

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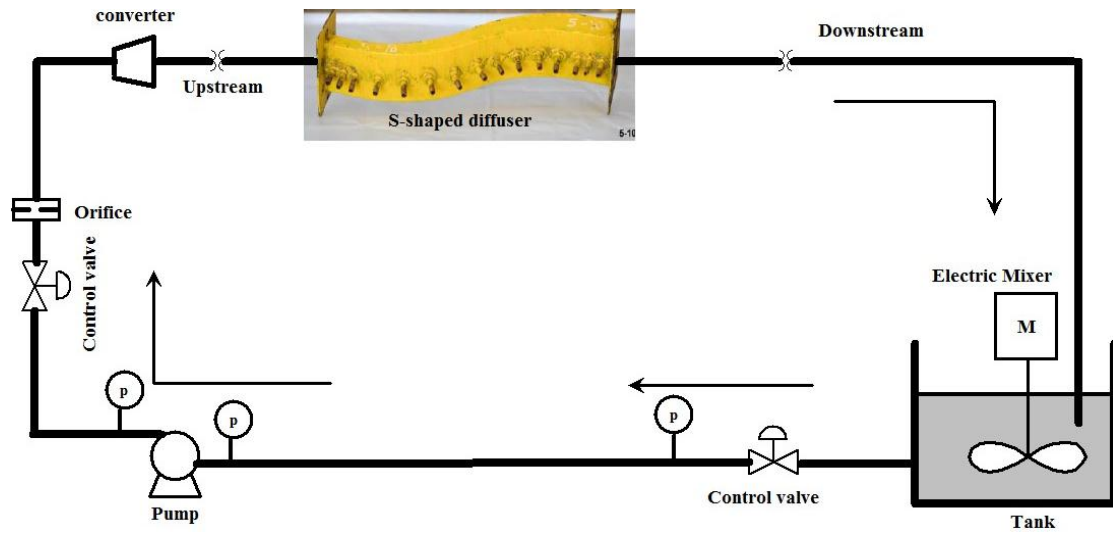
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Table.1 the Geometrical parameters of S-shaped diffuser models with B=8, W=2 and $A_{inlet}=16$ (dimensions in cm)

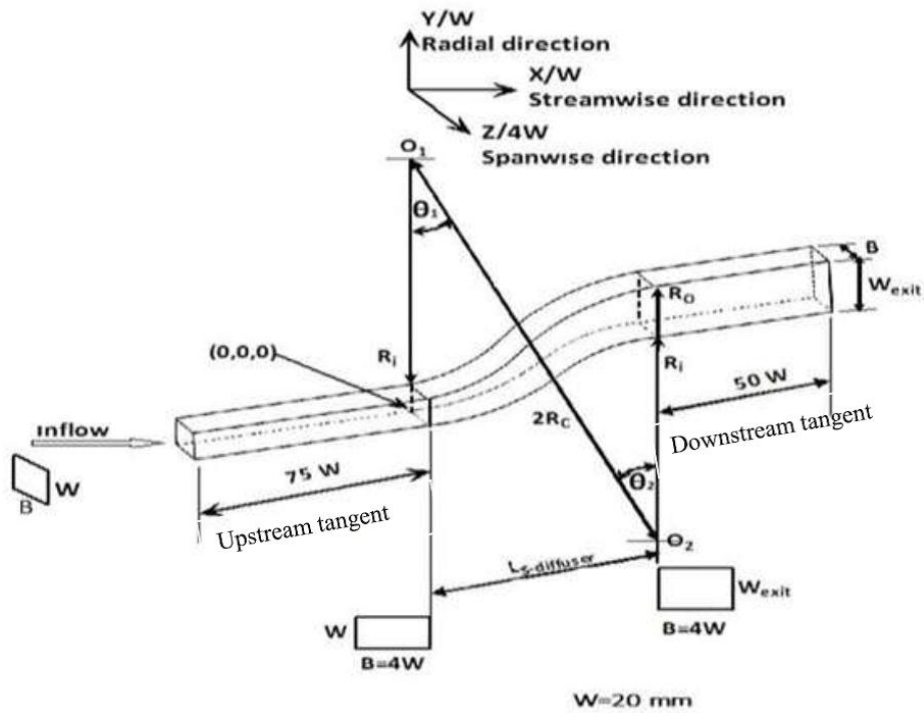
Diffuser model	1&9	2&4	3	5&10	6	7	8	11	12
Θ_1/Θ_2	45°/45°	45°/45°	45°/45°	45°/45°	45°/45°	60°/60°	90°/90°	60°/30°	30°/60°
R_c	15	15	15	25	10	15	15	25	25
W_{exit}	6	4	3	4	4	6	6	4	4
A_{exit}	48	32	24	32	32	48	48	32	32
AR	3	2	1.5	2	2	3	3	2	2
CR	7.5	7.5	7.5	12.5	5	7.5	7.5	12.5	12.5

Table.2 Uncertainty of the energy-loss coefficients of the S-shaped diffuser models with water flow

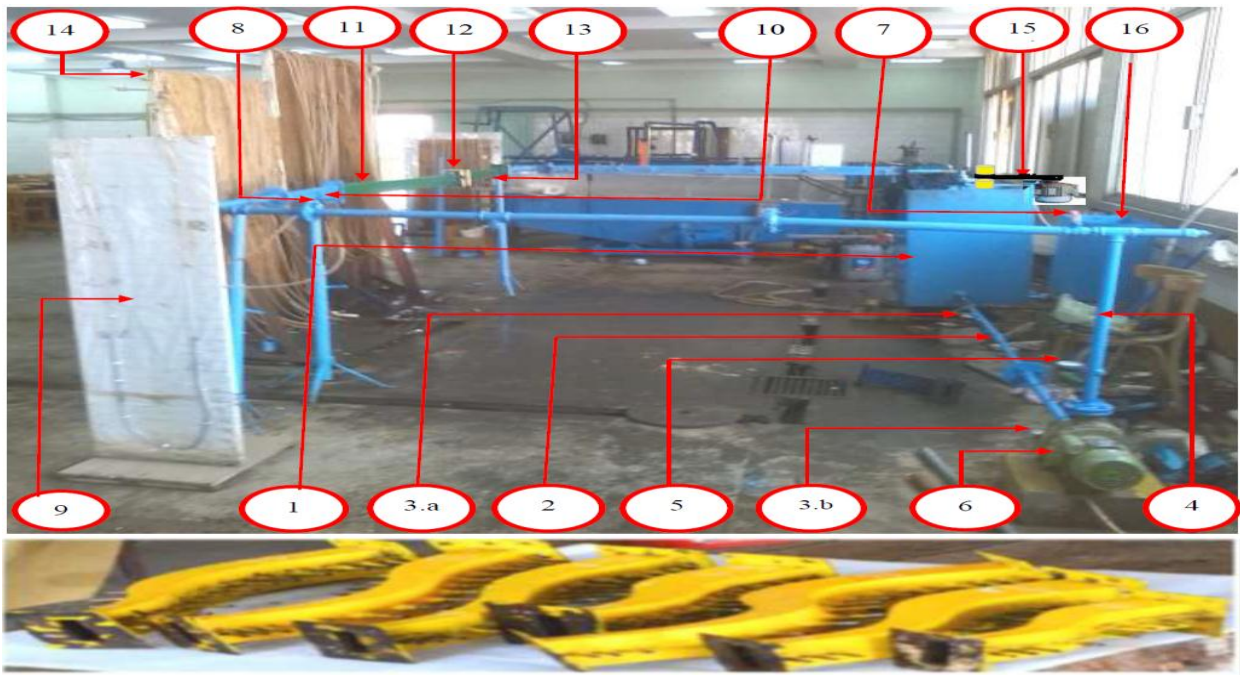
Diffuser model	Range of K_d	Percentage uncertainty $\pm U_{k_d}$ %
1&9	$0.09 \leq K_d \leq 0.69$	$2.2 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 2.7$
2&4	$0.26 \leq K_d \leq 0.86$	$2.9 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 3.2$
3	$0.48 \leq K_d \leq 1.1$	$2.8 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 3.2$
5&10	$0.18 \leq K_d \leq 0.80$	$3.6 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 4.0$
6	$0.36 \leq K_d \leq 0.96$	$2.7 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 3$
7	$0.05 \leq K_d \leq 0.65$	$2.6 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 2.9$
8	$0.14 \leq K_d \leq 0.74$	$3.0 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 3.5$
11	$0.42 \leq K_d \leq 0.98$	$3.3 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 3.9$
12	$0.31 \leq K_d \leq 0.91$	$3.1 \leq \pm U_{k_d} \% \leq 3.6$



(a) Schematic diagram of the circuit (Not to scale)



(b) Test Physical model of S-diffuser (Not to scale)



(c) Photograph of the test rig: 1. Main tank, 2. Suction pipe, 3. Suction pressure gauges, 4. Delivery pipe, 5. Delivery pressure gauge, 6. Centrifugal pump, 7. Control valve, 8. Orifice-meter, 9. U-tube manometer, 10. Converter, 11. Upstream tangent duct, 12. S-diffuser model, 13. Downstream duct, 14. Multi-tube manometer, 15. Mixer electric motor, 16. Calibration tank

Fig. 1 Experimental Setup Apparatus

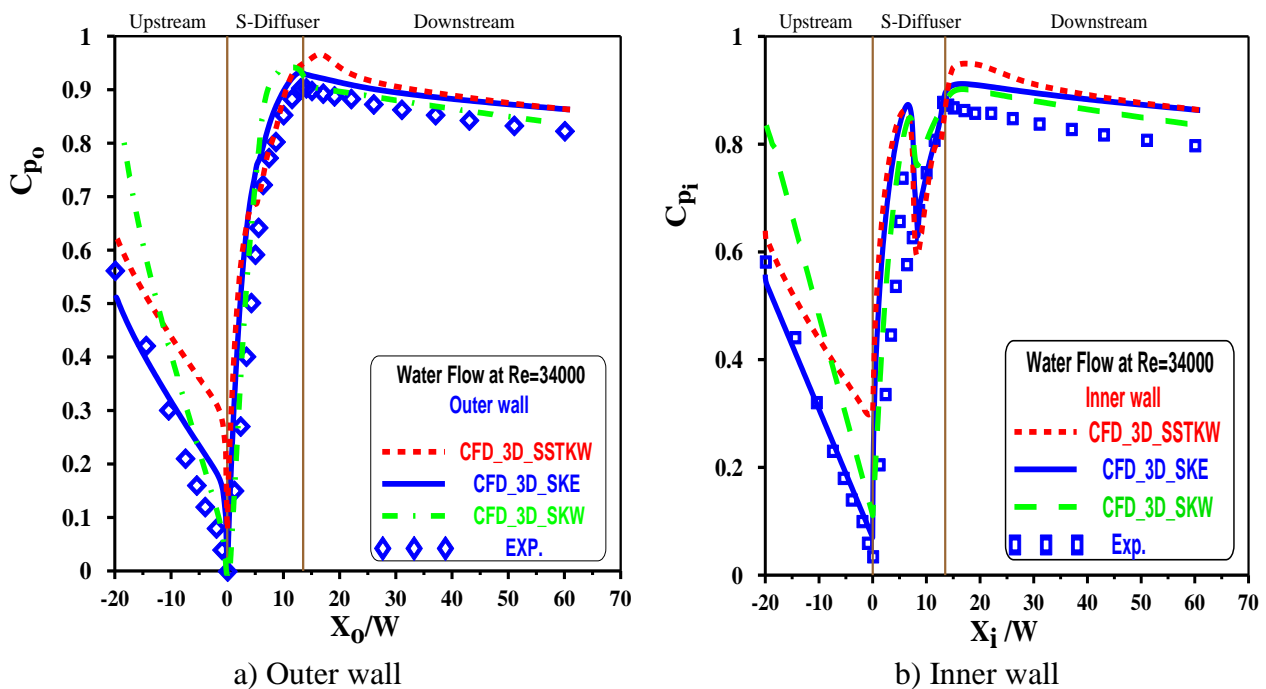
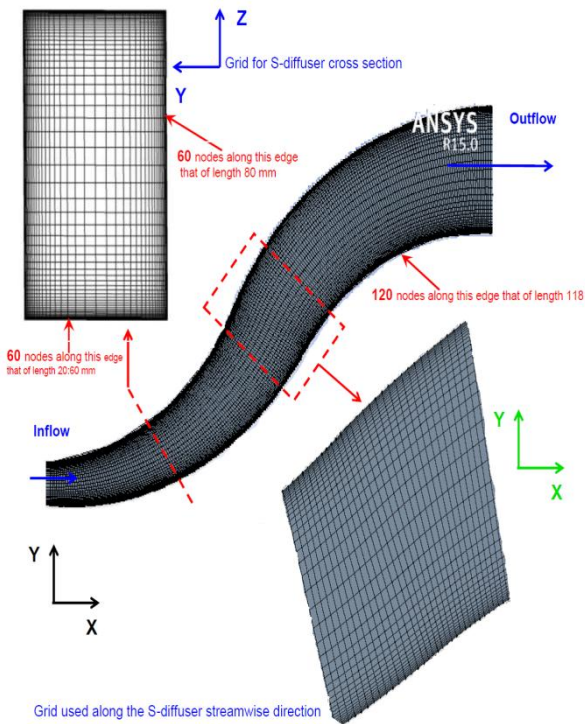
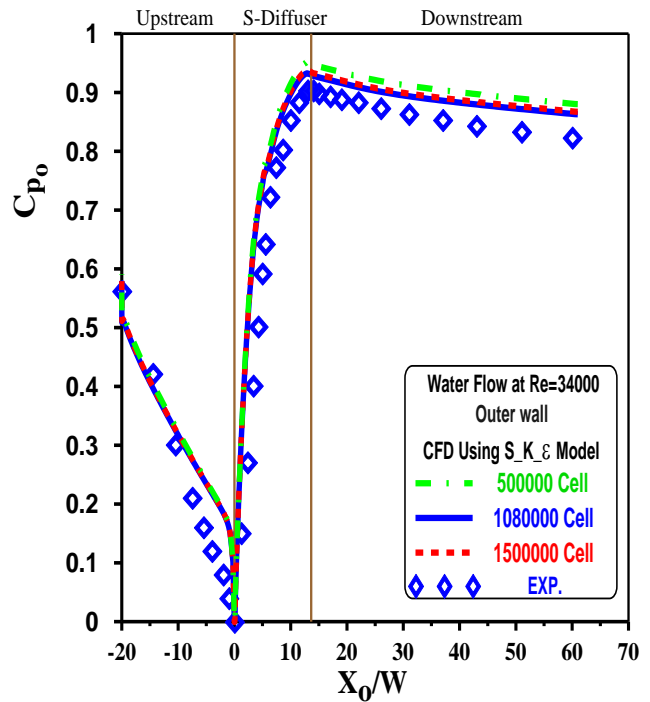


Fig. 2. Pressure coefficient distributions for model-7

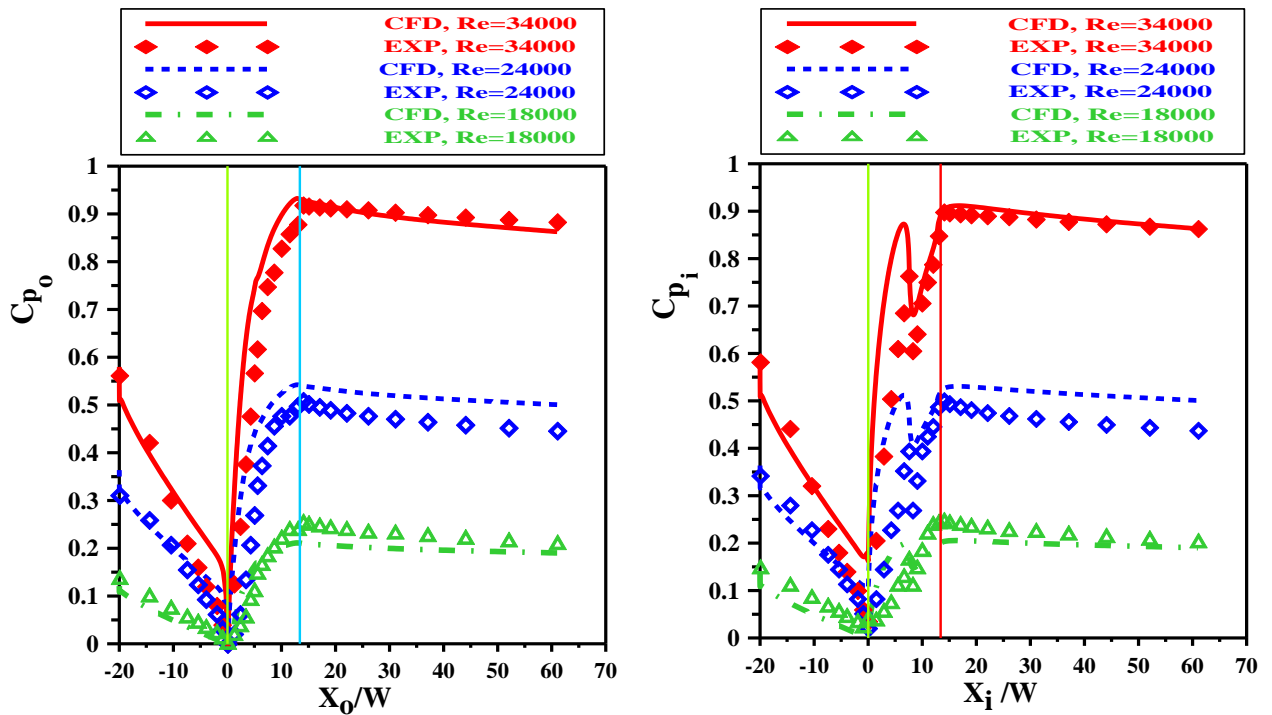


(a). Grid Used for the present Computations



(b) Outer-wall

Fig.3. Computational grid and resolutions effect on the results for model - 7



a) Outer wall

b) Inner wall

Fig. 4 Effect of Reynolds number on pressure recovery coefficient of model -7.

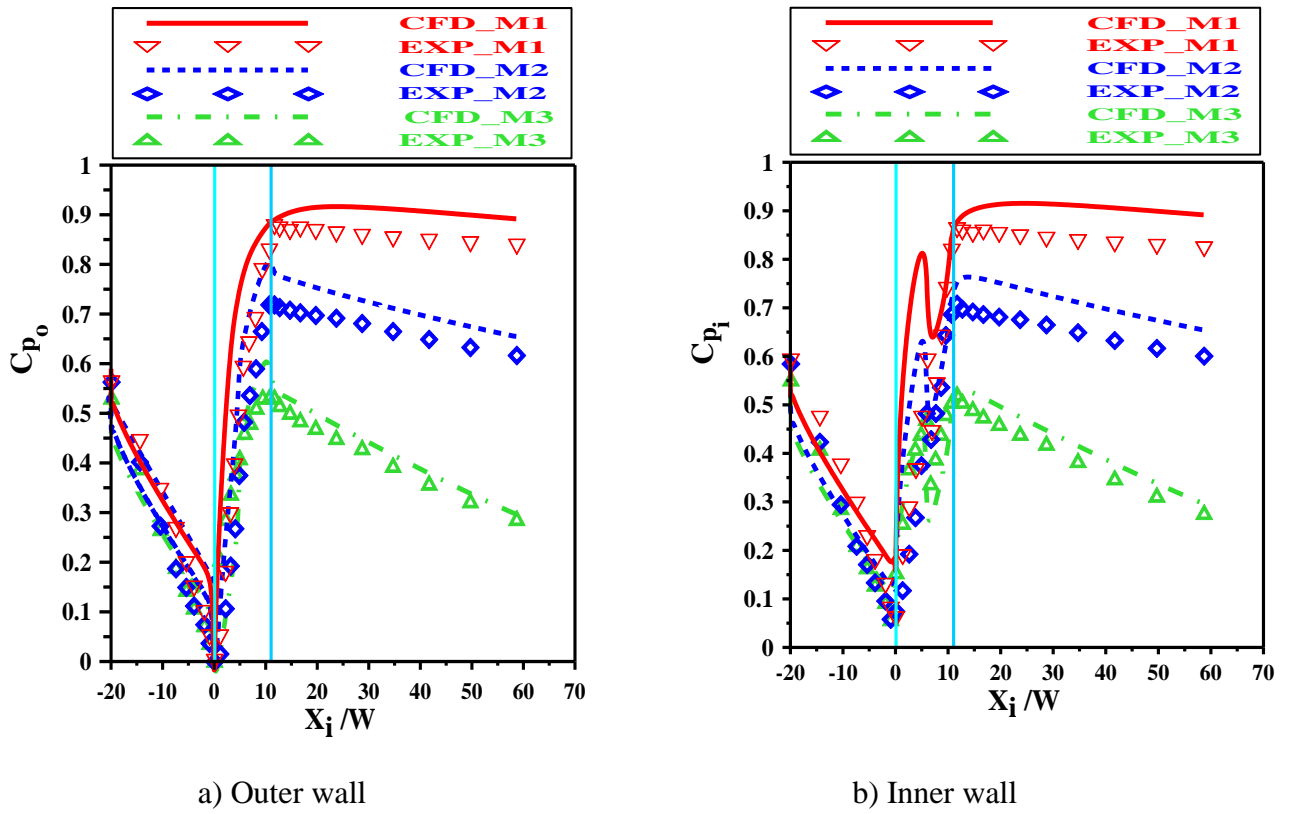


Fig. 5 Effect of S-diffuser area ratio on pressure recovery coefficient at $Re = 34,000$.

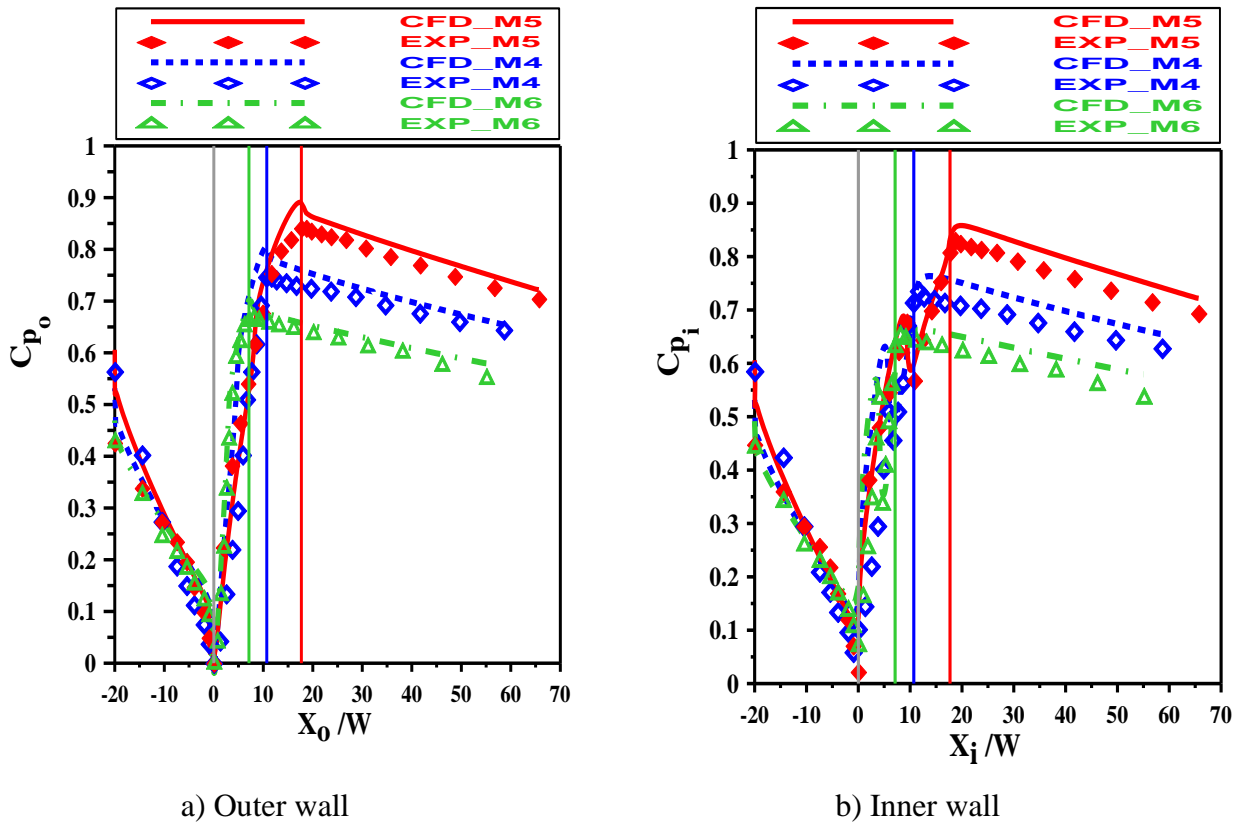


Fig. 6 Effect of S-diffuser curvature ratio on pressure recovery coefficient at $Re = 34,000$.

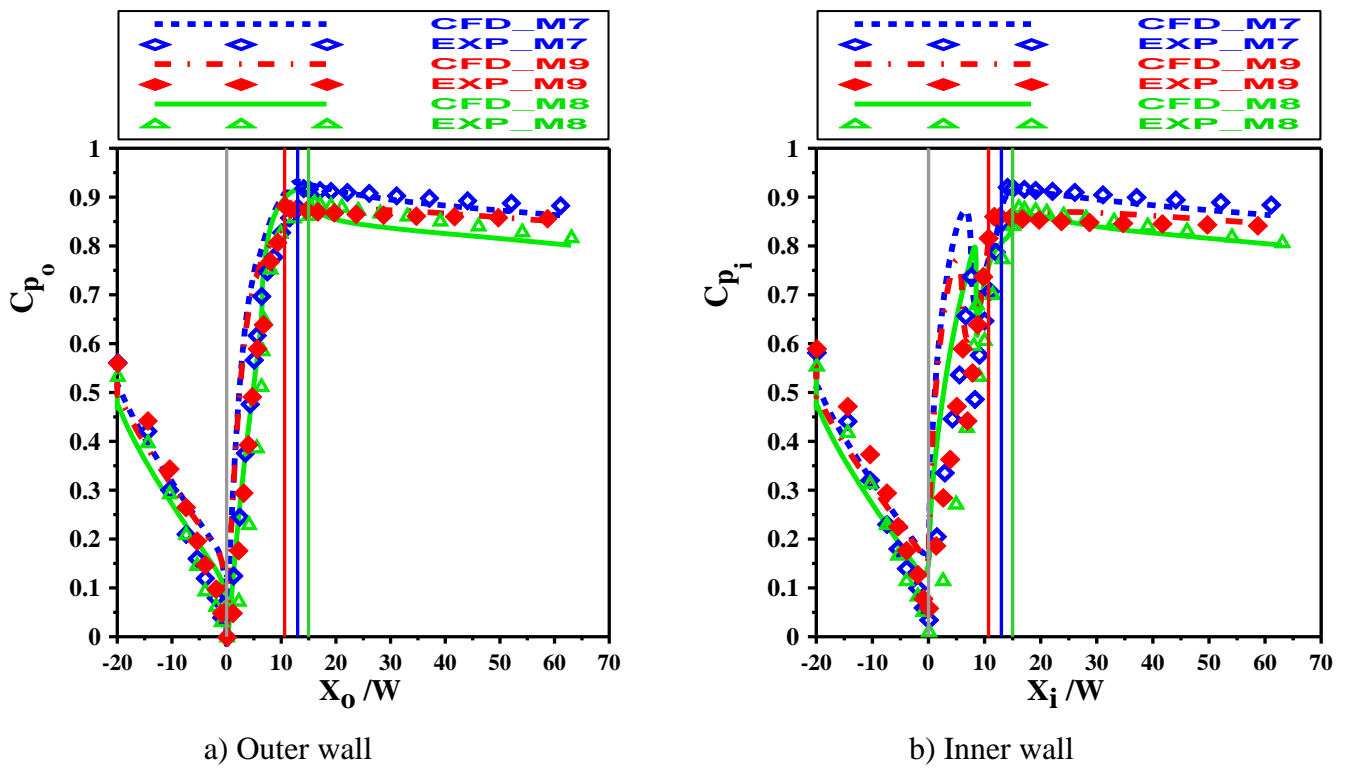


Fig. 7 Effect of S-diffuser turn angle on pressure recovery coefficient at $Re = 34,000$.

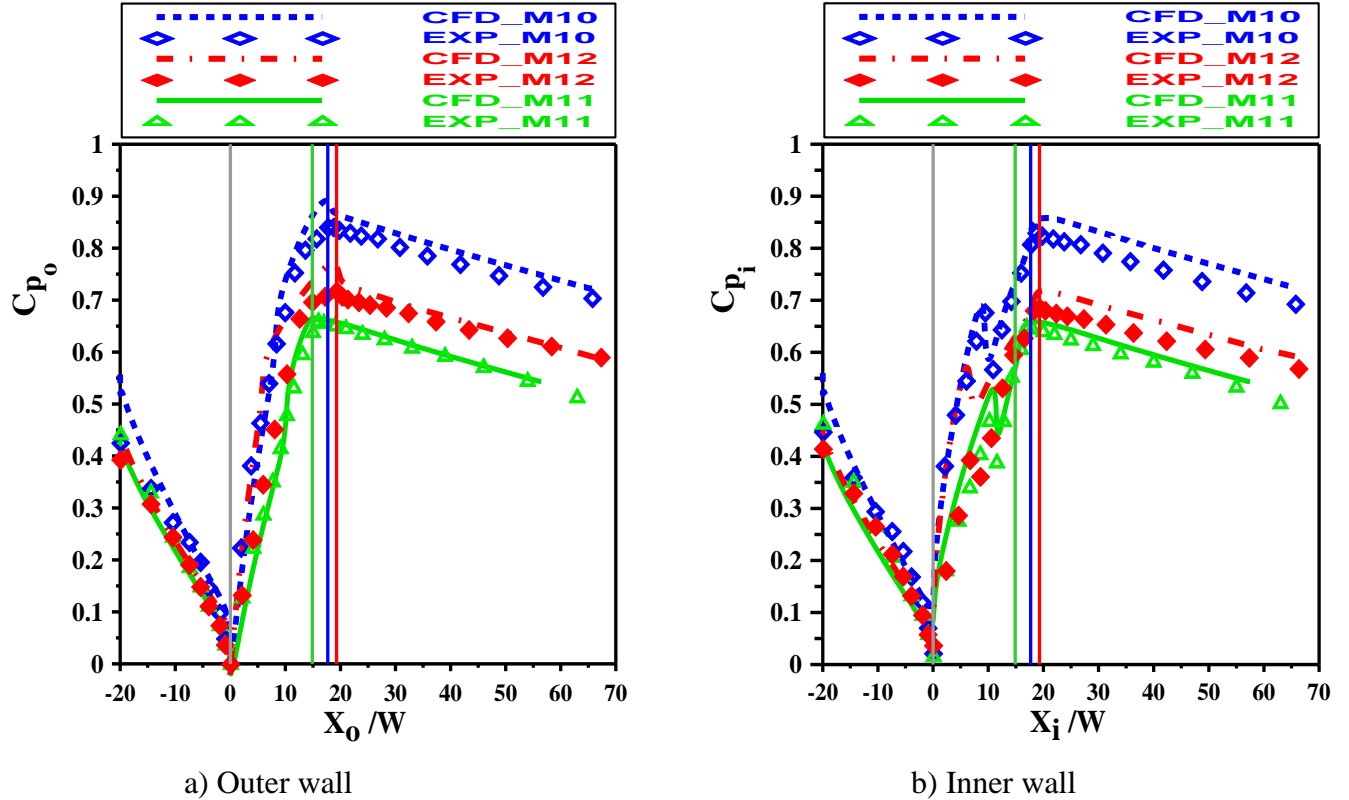


Fig.8 Effect of S- diffuser flow path on pressure recovery coefficient at $Re = 34,000$.

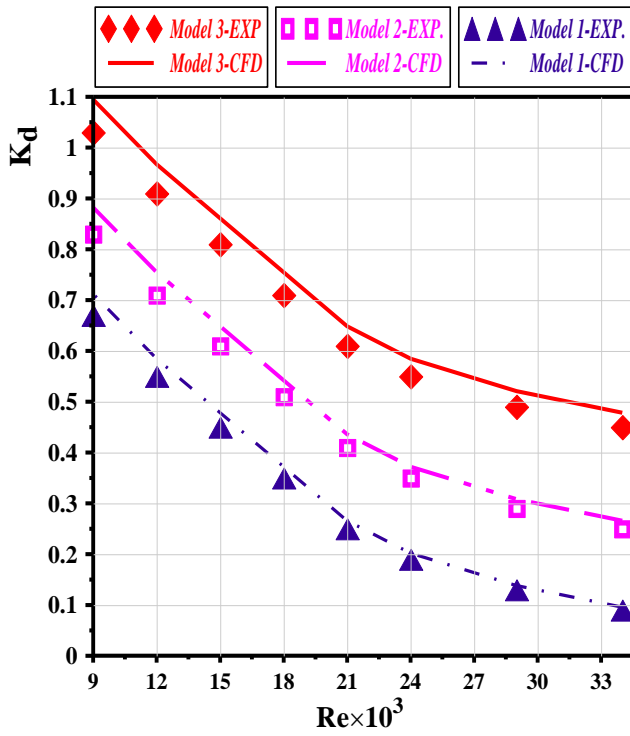


Fig.9 Effect of diffuser area ratio on the diffuser energy-loss coefficient.

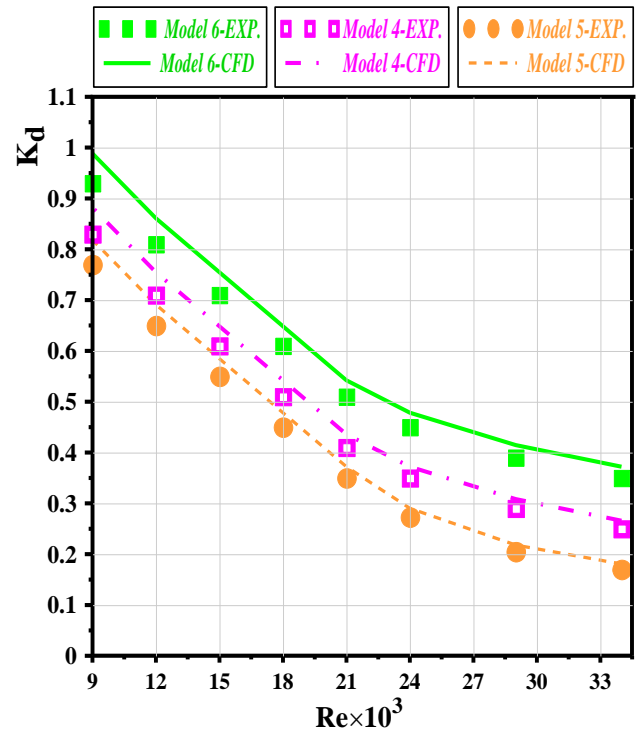


Fig.10 Effect of diffuser curvature ratio on the diffuser energy-loss coefficient.

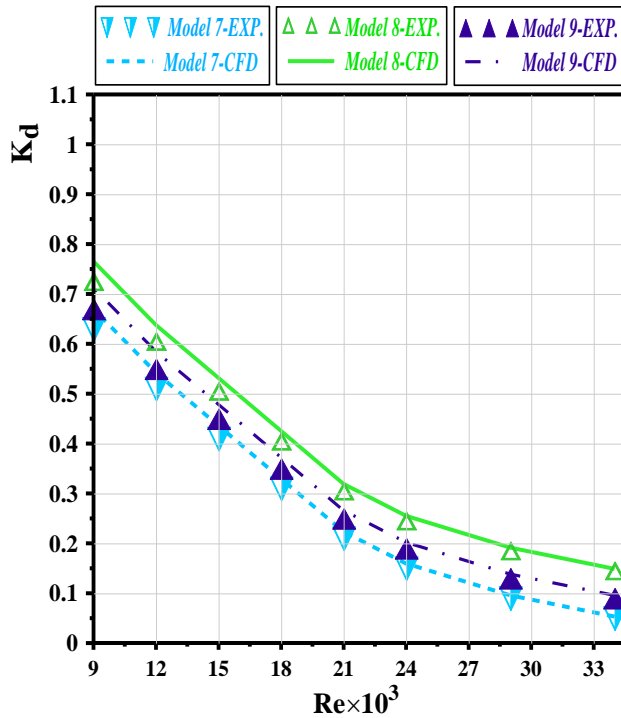


Fig. 11 Effect of diffuser turn angle on the diffuser energy-loss coefficient.

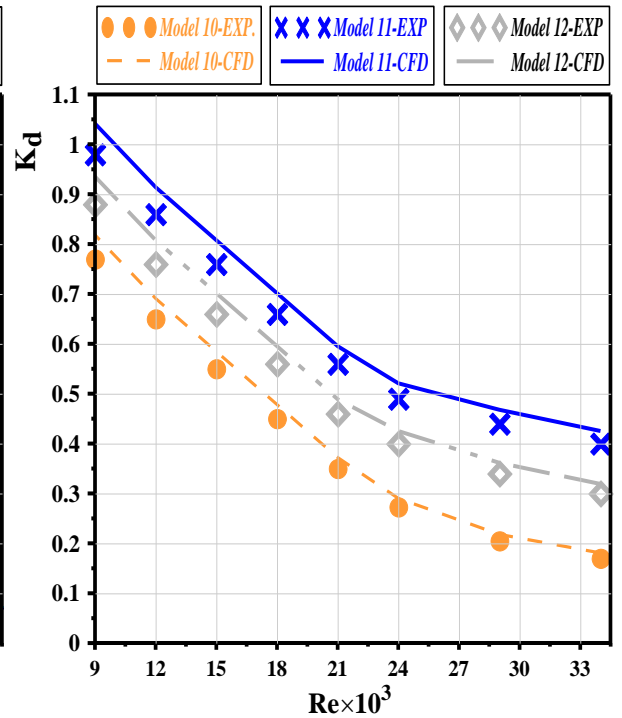


Fig. 12 Effect of diffuser flow path on the diffuser energy-loss coefficient.

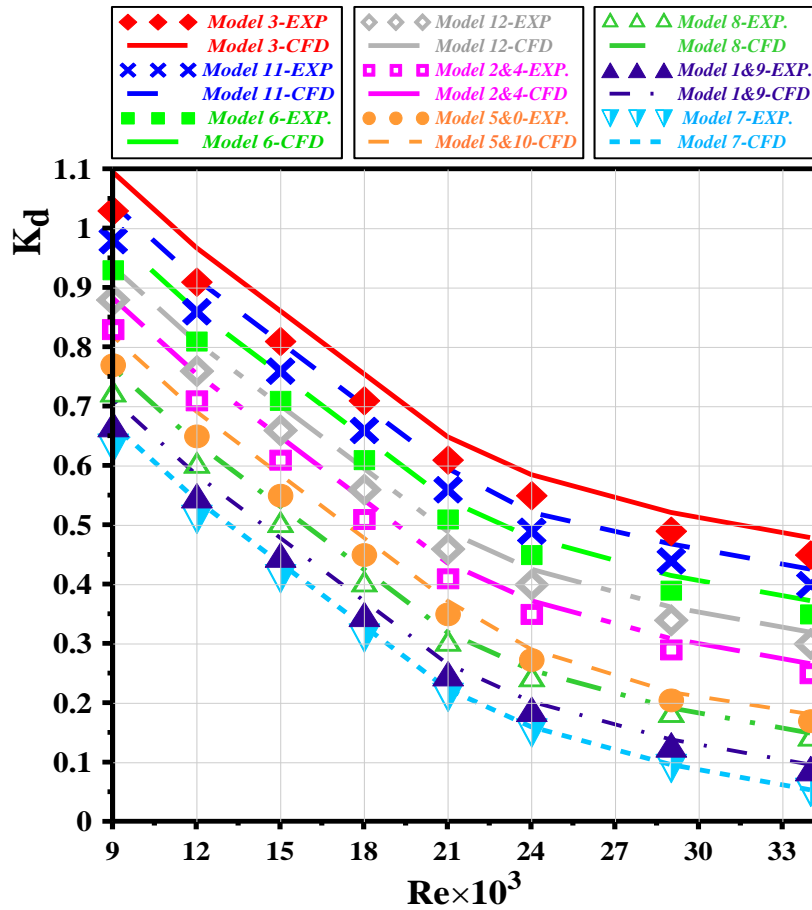


Fig.13 Effect of inflow Reynolds number on the energy-loss coefficient for all models.

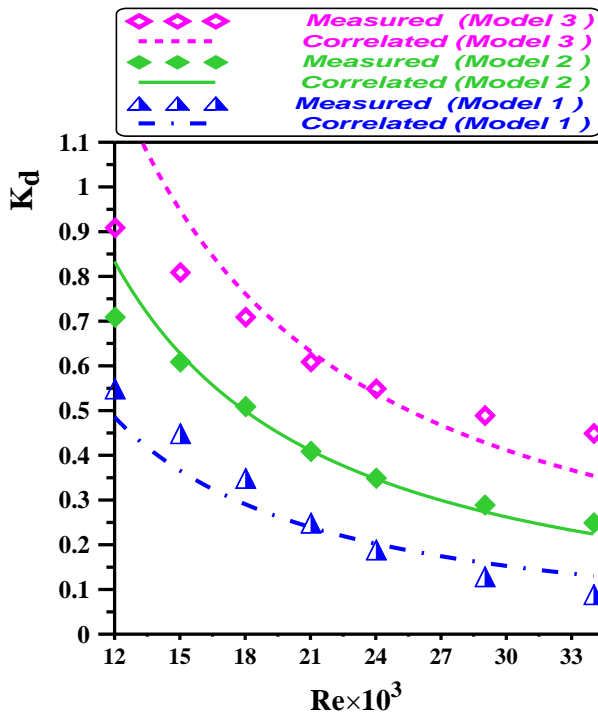


Fig. 14 Curve fitting for diffuser area ratio effect on the energy-loss coefficient.

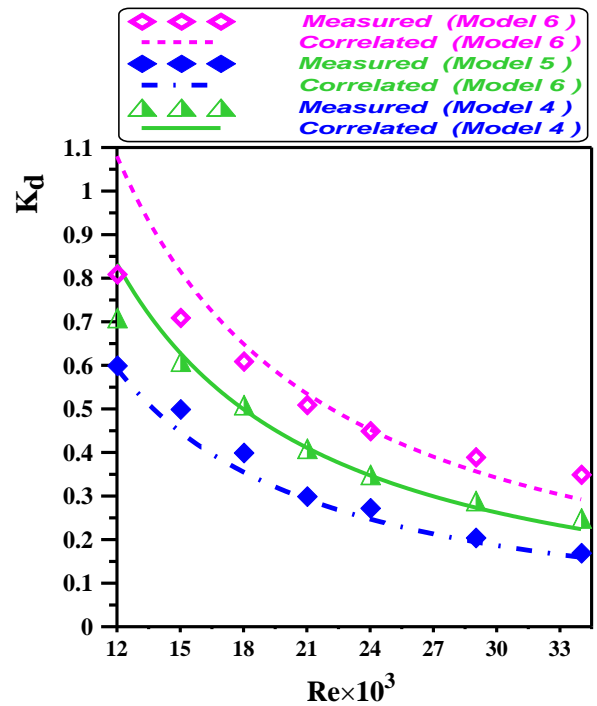


Fig. 15 Curve fitting for diffuser curvature ratio effect on the energy-loss coefficient.

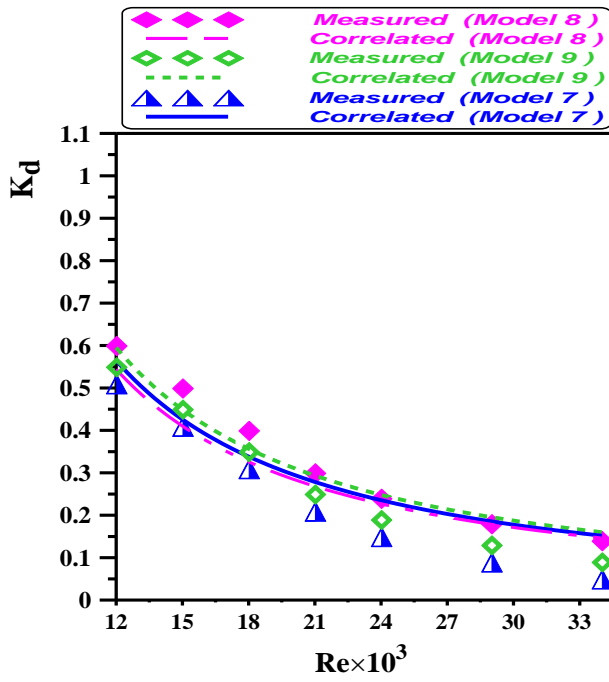


Fig. 16 Curve fitting for diffuser turn angle effect on the energy-loss coefficient.

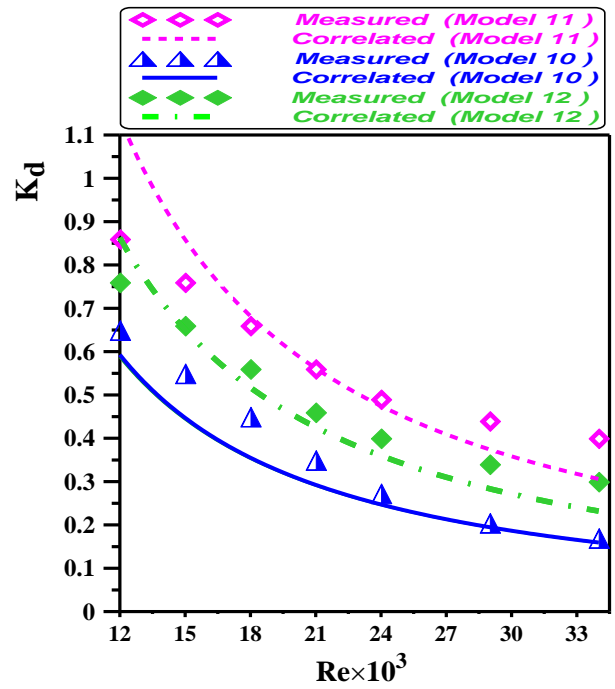


Fig. 17 Curve fitting for diffuser flow path effect on the energy-loss coefficient.