

1 Energy transformation on flow-induced motions of
2 multiple cylindrical structures with various corner
3 shapes

4 Yibo Liang (梁艺博)¹, Longbin Tao^{1, *}, Longfei Xiao (肖龙飞)^{2, 3}

5 ¹ *Department of Naval Architecture, Ocean and Marine Engineering, University of*
6 *Strathclyde, Glasgow, G4 0LZ, UK*

7 ² *State Key Laboratory of Ocean Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai,*
8 *200240, China*

9 ³ *Collaborative Innovation Centre for Advanced Ship and Deep-Sea Exploration,*
10 *Shanghai, 20040, China*

11 **Abstract**

12 A comprehensive numerical study on flow-induced motions (FIM) of a deep-
13 draft semi-submersible (DDS), a typical multiple cylindrical structure in offshore
14 engineering was carried out to investigate the energy transformation of the vortex
15 shedding process. In addition, the corner shape effect on the flow characteristics, the
16 hydrodynamic forces and the FIM responses are presented for a multiple cylindrical
17 structure with various corner shapes (sharp, rounded and chamfered) under 45° current
18 incidence. Different energy transformations, hydrodynamic characteristics and FIM
19 responses were observed due to the slight variation of the corner shape. The galloping at
20 45° incidence for a square-section shape column was observed when the corner shape
21 modified as a chamfered corner. A “re-attached vortex shedding” phenomenon is

* Corresponding author. Tel: +44 (0)141 548 3315
Email address: longbin.tao@strath.ac.uk

22 discovered when the “lock-in” happened for a chamfered corner design. Further insights
23 of the fluid physics on the flow characteristics due to the difference of the corner shape
24 are revealed. In addition, the energy transformation and the mechanism for reducing the
25 hydrodynamic forces and the FIM responses are analysed.

26 Keywords

27 Flow-induced motions (FIM); Vortex-induced motions (VIM); Corner shapes;
28 Vortex shedding; Energy transformation; Galloping

29 Introduction

30 Flow-induced motions (FIM) introduced a class of flows exhibiting a coupled
31 interaction between fluid and structure. For example, vortex-induced motions (VIM)
32 and galloping are some of this type of phenomenon. FIM attracts strong research
33 interest in the field of fluid and structure interaction. Both VIM and galloping have
34 received considerable attention in the offshore engineering discipline. Hydrodynamic
35 problems of FIM with bluff column are often encountered during the operations of
36 offshore platforms. Since the Genesis Spar commissioned in 1997^{1,2}, vortex-induced
37 motion (VIM) – a cyclic rigid body motion induced by vortex shedding has been
38 regularly observed on large floating offshore structures^{3,4} (e.g., Spar, semi-submersible
39 and tension-leg platform) due to the long-term strong loop current in the Gulf of Mexico
40 (GoM). Fujarra, *et al.*² well documented the literature about VIM during the last decade.
41 When a current flow past an offshore platform, the vortices in the wake region can
42 generate strong cyclic dynamic effects on the platform which is known as VIM. The
43 VIM is mainly characterized as the motion in the horizontal plane leading to potential

44 damage particularly causing the fatigue to mooring and riser systems. Apart from VIM,
45 the FIM phenomenon of galloping is worth to investigate as well. Studies focusing on a
46 typical square section cylinder with a flat face normal to the flow have been carried out
47 in the aerodynamic discipline since Den Hartog⁵ first proposed a criterion for the onset
48 of galloping. However, there is still lack of understanding on the galloping in the
49 hydrodynamic side.

50 Most of the floating platforms consist several columns to support the superstructure.
51 For a multi-column offshore platform (e.g. semi-submersible, tension-leg platform),
52 vortex shedding occurs around each column. A strong vortex shedding interaction can be
53 observed between each single column. Investigations on these interactions have been
54 carried out by many researchers. Liu and Jaiman⁶ performed a numerical study of vortex-
55 induced vibrations (VIV) in a side-by-side cylinder arrangement. Li, et al.⁷ further
56 investigated the coupled dynamics of VIV adjacent to a stationary wall. Recently, a
57 stability analysis of the flow-induced vibrations (FIV) of two cylinders in tandem
58 arrangement was provided by Yao and Jaiman⁸. Even with considerable research effort
59 on FIV, most of the current studies are still focusing on the low Reynolds number ($Re \approx$
60 100) problem. Literatures on the FIV study at low Reynolds numbers have been published
61 by different researchers focusing in various areas (e.g. Shen and Sun⁹, Zhu, et al.¹⁰, Jiao
62 and Wu¹¹), and most of them are expected to reveal more insight on the physics under
63 high Reynolds number in future. To date, most of the study are still limited in the laminar
64 flow problem. One of the contribution of the present work is that the Reynolds number in
65 the current study reaches to the order of 10^4 , where turbulence plays an important role in
66 the fluid-structure interaction during FIV.

67 In addition, cylinders investigated in the previous studies are either with a 2D
68 assumption or are of an infinite length. It is noted that most of the floating structures in
69 the ocean are with finite length columns and some of them are connected by pontoons.
70 Therefore, the free end effect need to be examined. Rastan, et al.¹² recently performed a
71 study on the flow around a single wall-mounted square cylinder at low Reynolds numbers.
72 There are few papers contributing to the examination of the physics of FIV on a multi
73 finite length column structure. Therefore, the second contribution of the present study is
74 to provide a comprehensive numerical study to examine the mechanism of FIV on a multi
75 finite length column structure based on our well-validated numerical model^{13,14}.

76 Apart from the Reynolds number and the free end effect, the shape of the column,
77 especially the corner shape, affects the hydrodynamic and FIM responses. The corner
78 shape of the column can alter the vortex shedding characteristics around columns
79 significantly. Bearman, *et al.*¹⁵ experimentally investigated the corner radius influence on
80 the force experienced by a square or diamond section-shaped column in an oscillating
81 flow. Their study showed that the drag coefficient of a diamond section decreases with
82 increasing the corner radius. However, the square section does not show a clear
83 relationship between drag coefficient and corner radius. Subsequently, Hu, *et al.*¹⁶
84 experimentally studied the corner radius effects on a square prism based on the particle
85 image velocimetry (PIV) measurement in the wake region. Liu, *et al.*¹⁷ recently carried
86 out a numerical study about the corner radius effects on VIM of a semi-submersible, and
87 reported that the transverse motion is significantly affected by the corner ratio of the
88 column. Tamura, *et al.*¹⁸ performed a numerical study on flow over a square column with
89 different corner shapes including sharp, rounded and chamfered. Both hydrodynamic
90 force and pressure distribution were discussed in their study. Subsequently, Tamura and

91 Miyagi¹⁹ implemented a wind tunnel test to obtain the static hydrodynamic forces (drag
92 and lift forces) on the cylinder with various corner shapes, and the authors confirmed that
93 the chamfered and rounded corners lead to decreased drag forces, as a result of a reduction
94 in wake width. Recently, Cao and Tamura²⁰ further performed a numerical study on
95 supercritical flow past a square cylinder with rounded corners. However, the square
96 cylinder itself is still a stationary structure without any motions coupled in the simulation.
97 Despite the aforementioned efforts, there is still lack of comprehensive understanding of
98 the corner shape effect, especially on the motions induced by the vortex shedding due to
99 different corner shapes. The third contribution of the current work is to provide insights
100 on the corner shape effect.

101 It is also worth noting that most research on a square cylinder focused on an angle
102 of attack at 0 degree where FIM is dominated by galloping. At an angle of attack at 45
103 degree, however, VIM dominates FIM. Zhao, et al.²¹ defined the branch/mode
104 competition in the flow-induced motions of a single square cylinder. The energy
105 transformation between the fluid and the single cylinder are well examined in their
106 experimental tests. Unlike most of the previous studies on FIM, the time-frequency
107 domain is analysed by using continuous wavelet transforms (CWT) instead of Fast
108 Fourier Transform (FFT). As a traditional way, FFT has been used by many researchers
109 on studies of FIM, Zhao, et al.²² well-illustrated the flow pattern against oscillating
110 amplitude, frequency and phase characteristics. Liu, et al.¹⁷ also tried to used frequency
111 domain analysis to investigate FIM. Gonçalves, et al.²³ applied Hilbert-Huang Transform
112 (HHT) to examine the frequency characteristics of FIM. It is noted that Continuous
113 Wavelet Transform (CWT) is very efficient in determining the damping ratio of
114 oscillating signals (e.g. identification of damping in dynamical systems). CWT can

115 illustrate the time history in the frequency domain. This new routine can provide more
116 information on the energy transformation between the fluid and oscillating structure
117 leading to a better understanding of FIM. Apart from analysing the energy transformation
118 on the frequency domain, the work done is a straight way to observe the energy
119 transformation process. Antony, et al.²⁴ investigated the work done by each column of a
120 multi-column floating structure through experiments. Liang and Tao²⁵ later performed a
121 numerical study on the work done by each column on a multiple cylindrical structure.
122 Apart from analysing the energy transformation in frequency domain, calculating the
123 work done by the structure is a straightforward way to observe the energy transformation
124 process. Antony, et al.²⁴ investigated the work done by each column of a multi-column
125 floating structure through experiments. Liang and Tao¹³ later performed a numerical
126 study on the work done by each column on a multiple cylindrical structure.

127 Based on the literature, a comprehensive numerical investigation is performed in
128 the present study to reveal further insights of the fluid physics on the effects of corner
129 shape design on vortex shedding characteristics and associated VIM by examining the
130 energy transformation of the hydrodynamic phenomenon. Considerable studies are
131 provided in the present work to exam the energy transformation based on the continuous
132 wavelet transform (CWT). It is confirmed that the flow characteristics, hydrodynamic
133 forces and the related VIM responses altered dramatically by varying the corner shape.
134 Additionally, the galloping at 45° incidence for a square-section shape column was
135 observed when the corner shape modified as a chamfered corner.

136 1. Fundamental description of FIM phenomenon

137 2.1. Description of FIM

138 As a typical cyclic rigid body motion, FIM is induced by vortex shedding from a
139 large-sized floating structure. When the current flow over a floating cylindrical
140 structure, the dynamics of the structure will be affected by the vortices that are
141 generated and then systematically shed in the downstream region, may begin oscillating
142 either in a side to side or in a fore and aft manner. If the vortex shedding frequency is
143 approaching to the natural frequency of the structure, a so-called “lock-in” phenomenon
144 can occur, which could amplify the cyclic motions of the structure dramatically. This
145 resonance phenomenon may lead to potential damage to offshore systems, especially
146 causing fatigue of the mooring and riser systems.

147 2.2. Key parameters for FIM

148 To better understand the phenomenon of FIM, primary non-dimensional
149 parameters have been introduced into the present work. In this section, all the key non-
150 dimensional parameters are presented following the equations to give general
151 information describing FIM.

152 The so-called reduced velocity (Ur) is normally used as the reference value
153 when discussing FIM, and is defined as:

$$154 \quad Ur = \frac{UT_n}{D} \quad (1)$$

155 where U is the current speed, T_n is the natural period of the structure motions in calm
156 water and D is the projected length of the column.

157 The resonance “lock-in” phenomenon for FIM problems always occurs at $Ur \approx 7$
158 indicating the natural frequency of the motion, f_n , is close to the vortex shedding

159 frequency, f_v . A dimensionless variable named as Strouhal number (St) is often used to
160 represent the vortex shedding frequency, which is given by:

$$161 \quad St = \frac{f_v D}{U} \quad (2)$$

162 where f_v is the vortex shedding frequency that is obtained from the power spectra of the
163 lift force fluctuations as suggested by Schewe²⁶, U is the free stream velocity and D is
164 the projected width of the column. The Strouhal number for square cylinders, depending
165 on the current incidence, were shown to be 0.13 and 0.17 for 0° and 45° incidence
166 respectively. These results were obtained by Norberg²⁷ from his experimental study.

167 As the vortex shedding is a flow separation phenomenon, the Reynolds number
168 is used to describe the level of the flow separation.

$$169 \quad Re = \frac{UD}{\nu}, \quad (3)$$

170 where U is the free stream velocity, D is the projected width of the column and ν is the
171 kinematic viscosity of the fresh water.

172 With Reynolds number increases, the flow characteristics around a cylinder will
173 have different separation phenomena due to the viscous effects. The vortex shedding
174 phenomenon can vary significantly by increasing the Reynolds number.

175 When flow over a cylindrical structure, the vortices periodically shed from each
176 side of the cylinder can generate cyclic hydrodynamic loads onto the structure. The
177 hydrodynamic loads are presented as the drag force coefficient (C_D) and the lift force
178 coefficient (C_L), which are defined as:

$$179 \quad C_D(t) = \frac{F_D(t)}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 A_{projected}}, \quad (4)$$

$$180 \quad C_L(t) = \frac{F_L(t)}{\frac{1}{2}\rho U^2 A_{projected}}, \quad (5)$$

181 where, $F_D(t)$ is the drag force on the structure, $F_L(t)$ is the lift force on the structure, ρ is
 182 the density of the fresh water, U is the free stream velocity and $A_{projected}$ is the projected
 183 area.

184 By excluding the wave impact, the hydrodynamic forces $F_D(t)$ and $F_L(t)$ due to
 185 current on the structure are calculated by the equation²⁸:

$$186 \quad m\ddot{X}(t) + C\dot{X}(t) + K_x X(t) = F_x(t) \quad (6)$$

$$187 \quad m\ddot{Y}(t) + C\dot{Y}(t) + K_y Y(t) = F_y(t) \quad (7)$$

188 where m is the platform mass; C is the structural damping coefficient; K_x and K_y are the
 189 linear spring constant in the in-line and transverse directions; $X(t)$ and $Y(t)$ are the
 190 displacement at in-line and transverse direction, respectively; $F_x(t)$ and $F_y(t)$ represent the
 191 in-line and transverse hydrodynamic forces acting on the structures.

192 The structural damping coefficient is very small and can be disregarded. The
 193 hydrodynamic forces which include added mass and hydrodynamic damping forces due
 194 to fluid are placed on the right side of the equations.

195 To characterize the level of FIM in general, the non-dimensional characteristic
 196 amplitude (A/D) is chosen as the common variable^{2, 3, 23, 29}, which is defined as:

$$197 \quad A/D = \sqrt{2} \times \sigma \left(\frac{y(t)}{D} \right), \quad (8)$$

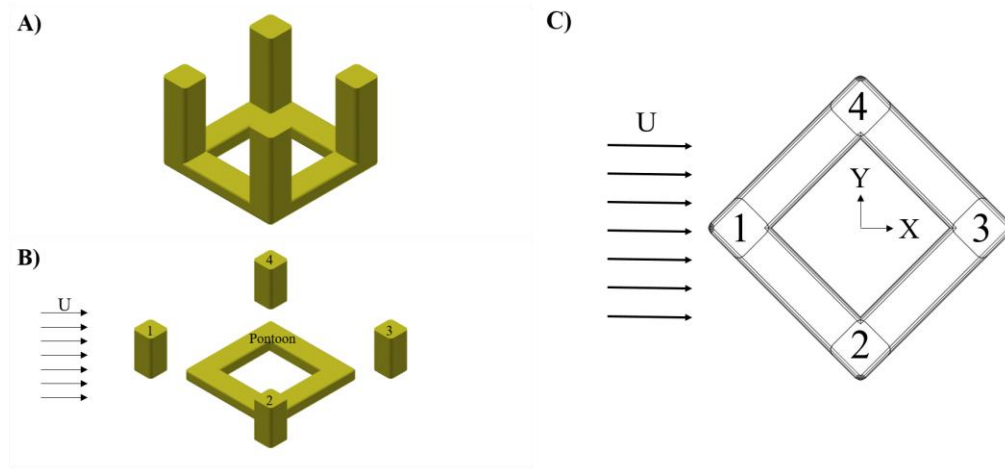
198 where σ is the standard deviation of the time series $y(t)/D$, and $y(t)$ represents the time
199 series of in-line, transverse and yaw motions. For the rotational yaw motion, the non-
200 dimensional amplitude is defined as $\sqrt{2} \times \sigma(\text{yaw}(t))$.

201 2. Numerical simulation

202 In the present study, the deep-draft semi-submersible consists of 4 columns. The
203 vortices shed from each column will generate periodically hydrodynamic loads on the
204 overall structure. Thus, the shapes of the columns and the subsequent interactions
205 between the individual vortex shedding processes due to each column, characterize the
206 VIM responses.

207 **Fig. 1** shows an overview of the semi-submersible along with the chronological
208 order of the columns. In **Table 1**, the model characteristics of the semi-submersible
209 were illustrated. As shown in **Fig. 2**, four horizontal mooring lines are attached to
210 restrain the horizontal motions of the semi-submersible model. In the present numerical
211 model, the horizontal stiffness at both the transverse and in-line directions is 66.5 N/m
212 which was scaled from a prototype mooring design. In addition, only three degrees
213 freedom motions in the horizontal plane (namely transverse, in-line and yaw) were
214 allowed in the numerical simulations.

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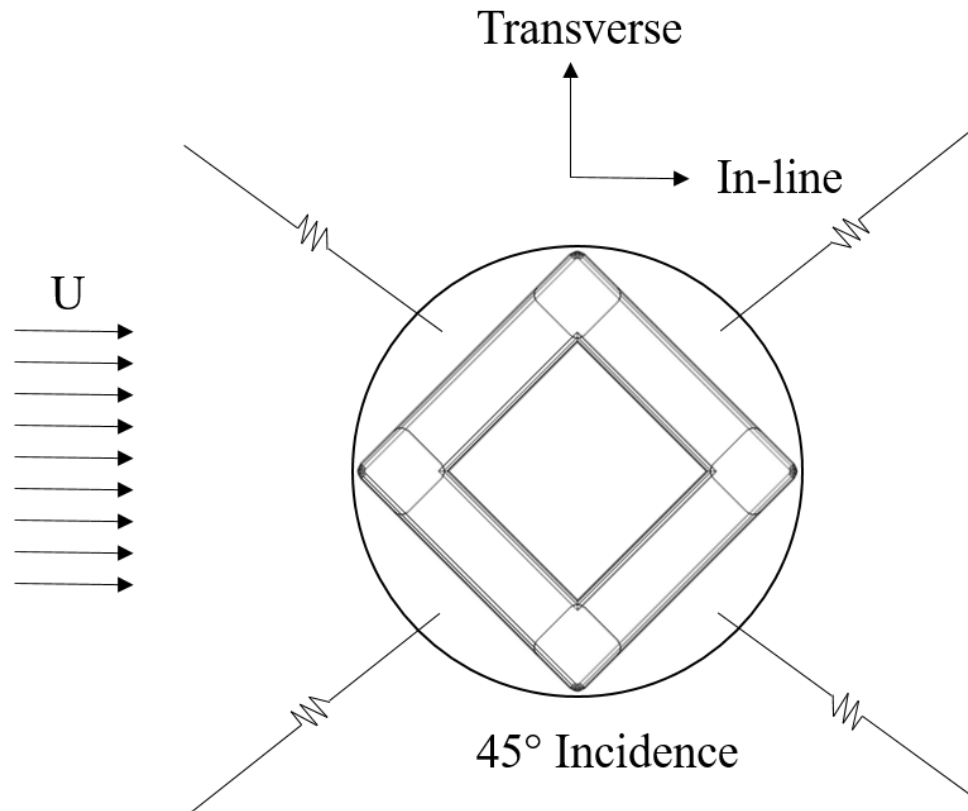


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216 **Fig. 1** Numerical model (rounded corner as an example) simulated in the present
 217 study (A is the entire model; B is the decomposed model which shows the definition of
 218 the individual members; C is the sketch of the semi-submersible).

219 **Table 1** Principle dimensions of the model semi-submersible (with a scale ratio
 220 of 1:64).

	Model (m)
Distance between centre columns (S)	1.133
Column width (L)	0.305
Immersed column height above the pontoon (H)	0.578
Pontoon height (P)	0.156



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Fig. 2 Schematic of the mooring set-up.

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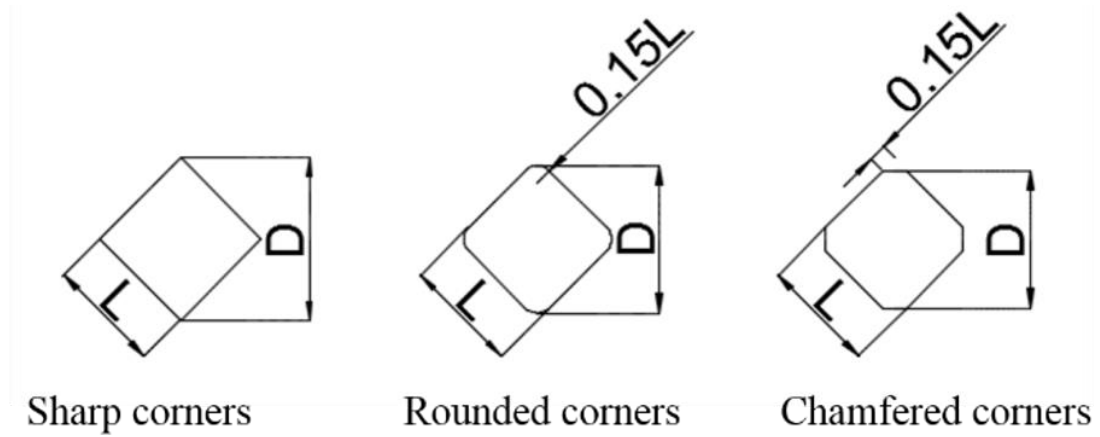
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The semi-submersible models with different corner shapes of the column are shown in **Fig. 3**. The corner ratios for both rounded corner and chamfered corner are 15% of the column width which is well within a typical range (10% ~ 20%) for designing the column of offshore platforms. Considering the contribution to buoyancy and the convenience of construction, the design of pontoons, horizontal structural members is kept the same for all three corner shape design. The geometry characteristics of all semi-submersibles are the same except for the corner shape. It is noted that, due to the corners being modified, the projected widths of each column design are slightly different at 45 degree incidence (as shown in **Fig. 3**). Additionally, the mass ratio (ratio of mass to displacement) is exactly the same for all three models. The Reynolds number is ranging from 3.6×10^4 to 1.1×10^5 in the present study.



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Fig. 3 Column sectional configurations.

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3.1. Numerical scheme

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The improved delayed detach eddy simulation (IDDES) model³⁰ with the Spalart-Almaras (SA)³¹ was used in this study. IDDES is a model capable of building a single set of formulas both for natural (D)DES applications and for the wall-modelling in large eddy simulation (WMLES)³⁰. The delayed detach eddy simulation (DDES) length scale is implemented to eliminate the modelled-stress depletion in the original DES approach, while WMLES is applied to achieve more accurate prediction of the mean velocity in the boundary layer. The boundary layers and irrotational regions are solved using the SA model. However, when the grid is fine enough, it will emulate a basic large eddy simulation (LES) subgrid scale model in the detached flow regions³². It is noted that the SA model requires $y^+ < 1$ (where $y^+ = u_*\Delta y_l/\nu$, and where u_* denotes the friction velocity at the nearest wall, Δy_l is the first layer thickness and ν is the kinematic viscosity) indicating that the viscous sublayer is properly resolved. All the simulations were carried out using a commercial CFD package, STAR-CCM+ 9. The finite volume method (FVM) is adopted to discretize the incompressible flow field³³. The second-order implicit three time levels (ITTL) scheme is applied for the temporal

252 discretization. The convective term is evaluated by using a hybrid second-order upwind
253 scheme. The SIMPLE algorithm is employed to treat the pressure and velocity coupling.

254 The governing Navier-Stokes equations solved for the incompressible flow can
255 be written as:

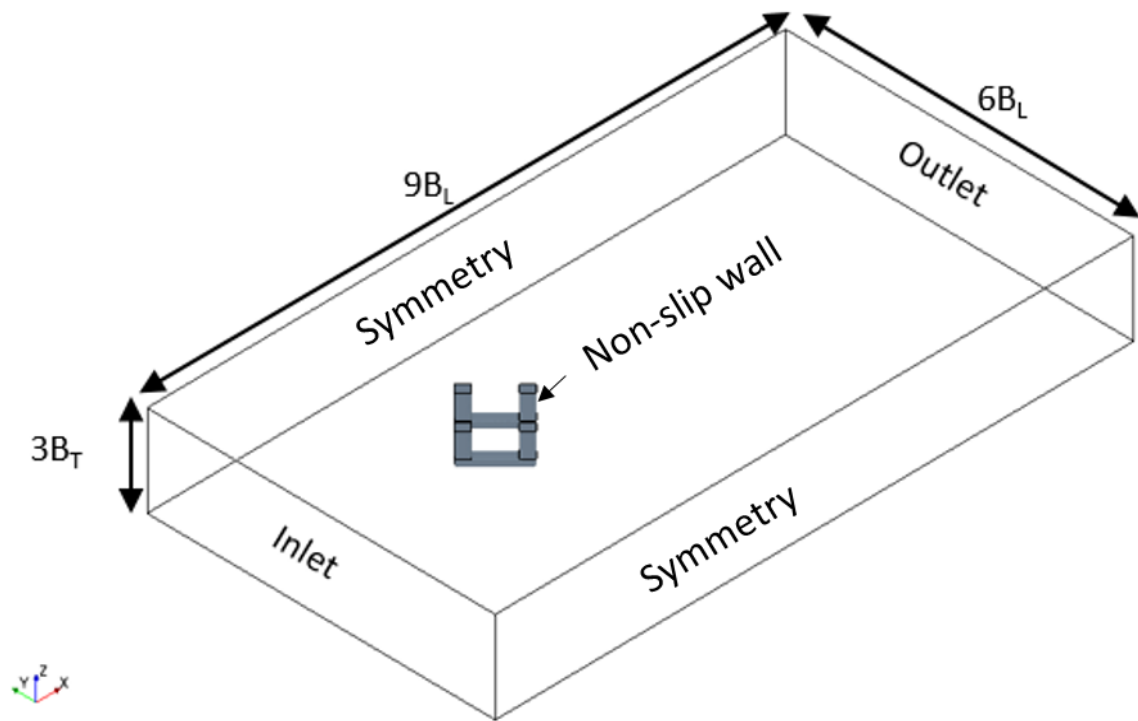
$$256 \quad \nabla \cdot \bar{u} = 0, \quad (9)$$

$$257 \quad \frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} + \bar{u} \cdot \nabla \bar{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \nabla^2 \bar{u} + \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla \tau \quad (10)$$

258 where ∇ is the Hamiltonian operator; u is the velocity vector; t is the time; p is
259 the pressure; ρ is the density of water; ν is the kinematic viscosity of the water; The last
260 term of Equation (10) is the Reynolds stress tensor $\tau = -\rho \overline{u' u'}$, where u' denotes the
261 fluctuating velocity. The Reynolds stress tensor is an additional term that represents the
262 effects of turbulence.

263 3.2. Computational domain.

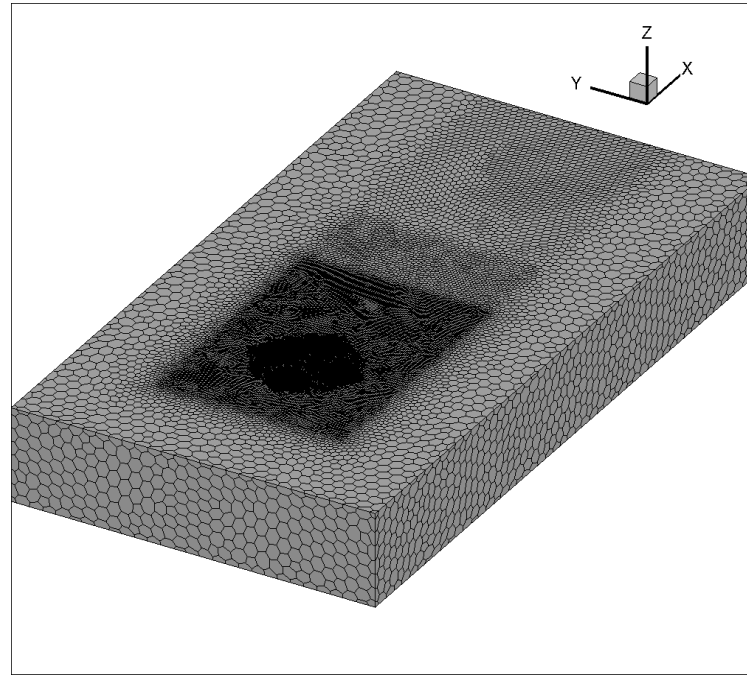
264 The computational domain size is chosen based on previous experience with
265 modelling vortex-induced motions of the benchmark DDS over a similar parameter
266 space¹⁴. For all of the simulations, a $9B_L \times 6B_L \times 3B_T$ sized computational domain (see
267 **Fig. 4**) was used in the present simulations (where B_L is the overall width of the
268 structure and B_T is the draft of the structure). More specifically, the domain was
269 considered to be sufficiently large to eliminate both the far field effects from the
270 boundaries and the three-dimensional effects from a spanwise cross flow direction^{13, 14}.



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272 **Fig. 4** Computational domain.

273 The computational domain was modelled with a three-dimensional mesh of
 274 elements. A polyhedral mesh³² was used in this study. The overall element mesh
 275 domain is illustrated in **Fig. 5**. In the present study, a near wall refinement method
 276 named “Prism Layer Mesher³²” was adopted with a core volume mesh to generate
 277 orthogonal prismatic cells next to wall surfaces. This layer of cells is necessary to
 278 improve the accuracy of the flow solution³². The y^+ values were smaller than 1 in all
 279 simulations to improve the performance of the boundary layer simulation. Five regional
 280 refinements were added in the domain in order to refine both the near wake and the far
 281 wake regions.



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283 **Fig. 5** Visualization of the mesh of the semi-submersible.

284 The boundary conditions are kept the same in all the simulations. At the inlet, a
285 uniform and constant flow velocity is specified directly for all sensitivity studies. Along
286 the outlet boundary, the pressure is prescribed to be equal to zero. The velocity at the
287 boundary is extrapolated from the interior using reconstruction gradients³². For the
288 body surface of the semi-submersible, a no-slip boundary condition is specified³². It is
289 noted that the Froude number is quite small ($Fr < 0.2$, $Fr = U/\sqrt{gD}$, where U is the
290 current velocity, g is the acceleration of gravity and D is the projected width of the
291 column) in all simulations of the present investigation. As observed in the physical
292 model tests¹³, the free surface effects were rather limited and can be ignored. Therefore,
293 only the submerged geometry is considered, and the geometry of the structure above the
294 waterline will not affect the simulation results.

295 3.3. Sensitivity study and Validation

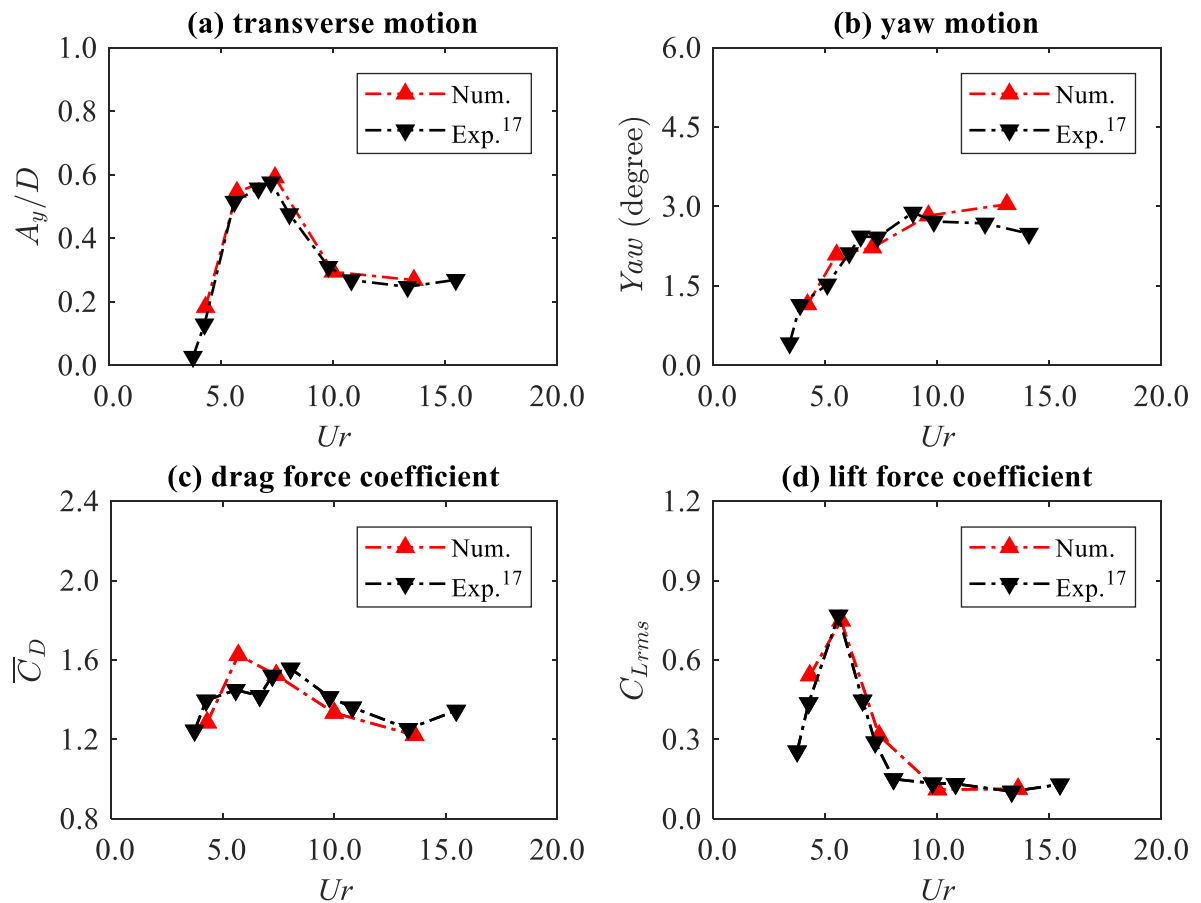
296 In order to investigate the numerical mesh sensitivity of the calculated results, a
 297 mesh sensitivity study had been carried out with different levels of refinement grids
 298 resolution following the guideline proposed by Celik, *et al.*³⁴ at a Reynolds number of
 299 1.1×10^5 . Mesh refinement are varied from coarse (with a grid number of 9.4×10^5) to
 300 fine (with a grid number of 6.9×10^6). Additionally, a time step convergence study had
 301 been performed with the non-dimensional time step ($\Delta t U/D$, where Δt is the time step,
 302 U is the inlet velocity and D is the projected length of the column) varied from 0.016 to
 303 0.004. Comprehensive description with details of the procedure on the mesh and time
 304 step convergence study can be found in our previous works^{13,14}. In the present work,
 305 the non-dimensional time step is chosen as 0.008 with a grid number of 3.4×10^6 ^{13,14}.
 306 Additional convergence test is conducted in the present investigation, namely the
 307 numerical model with a rounded corner is further validated with the experimental
 308 measurements obtained from the towing tank test¹⁴. In the present study, the results for
 309 all cases were obtained by averaging after more than fifteen FIM oscillation cycles.

310 **Table 2** Validation of the natural periods of the motions in calm water.

	Natural period of transverse motion, $T_{0transverse}$ (s)	Natural period of yaw motion, T_{0yaw} (s)
Numerical	20.5	19.7
Experimental ¹⁴	20.1	18.3

311 In **Table 2**, the natural period obtained from the present numerical model is
 312 validated against the experimental data. It is shown that the present numerical model has
 313 a good agreement with the experimental results (7.7% relative variation for yaw motion
 314 and 2.0% relative variation for transverse motion).

315 As can be seen in **Fig. 6**, the present numerical predictions show a good
 316 agreement with the previous experimental results for both hydrodynamic forces and
 317 motion response. Thus, the numerical model can be applied with confidence in future
 318 VIM simulations.



319

320 **Fig. 6** Validations between the present numerical model (rounded corner) and
 321 previous experimental results. (a) non-dimensional transverse amplitude; (b) non-
 322 dimensional yaw amplitude; (c) mean drag coefficient; (d) root-mean-square lift
 323 coefficient.

324 3. Results and discussion

325 Comprehensive numerical simulations of VIM were conducted to examine the
 326 effects of corner shape. The motion responses, hydrodynamic forces and flow patterns
 327 around DDS with columns of three different corner shapes are investigated under five
 328 reduced velocities with a current heading of 45 degree. All the results were collected for
 329 simulations more than fifteen cycles of the VIM transverse oscillation period in the
 330 present study.

331 4.1. Natural period of the motions in calm water

332 **Table 3** illustrates the numerical predictions of the natural period of the motions in calm
 333 water. It demonstrates that the rounded corner shape structure has the smallest natural
 334 period among the three designs while the DDS with sharp corner design has the largest
 335 natural period. This is mainly due to the modification of the corner decreasing the
 336 hydrodynamic damping of the structure.

337 **Table 3** Natural periods of the motions in calm water.

Corner shape	Natural period of transverse motion, $T_{0transverse}$ (s)	Natural period of yaw motion, T_{0yaw} (s)
Sharp	21.3	20.3
Rounded	20.5	19.7
Chamfered	20.6	19.7

338 4.2. Energy transformation on flow-induced motions

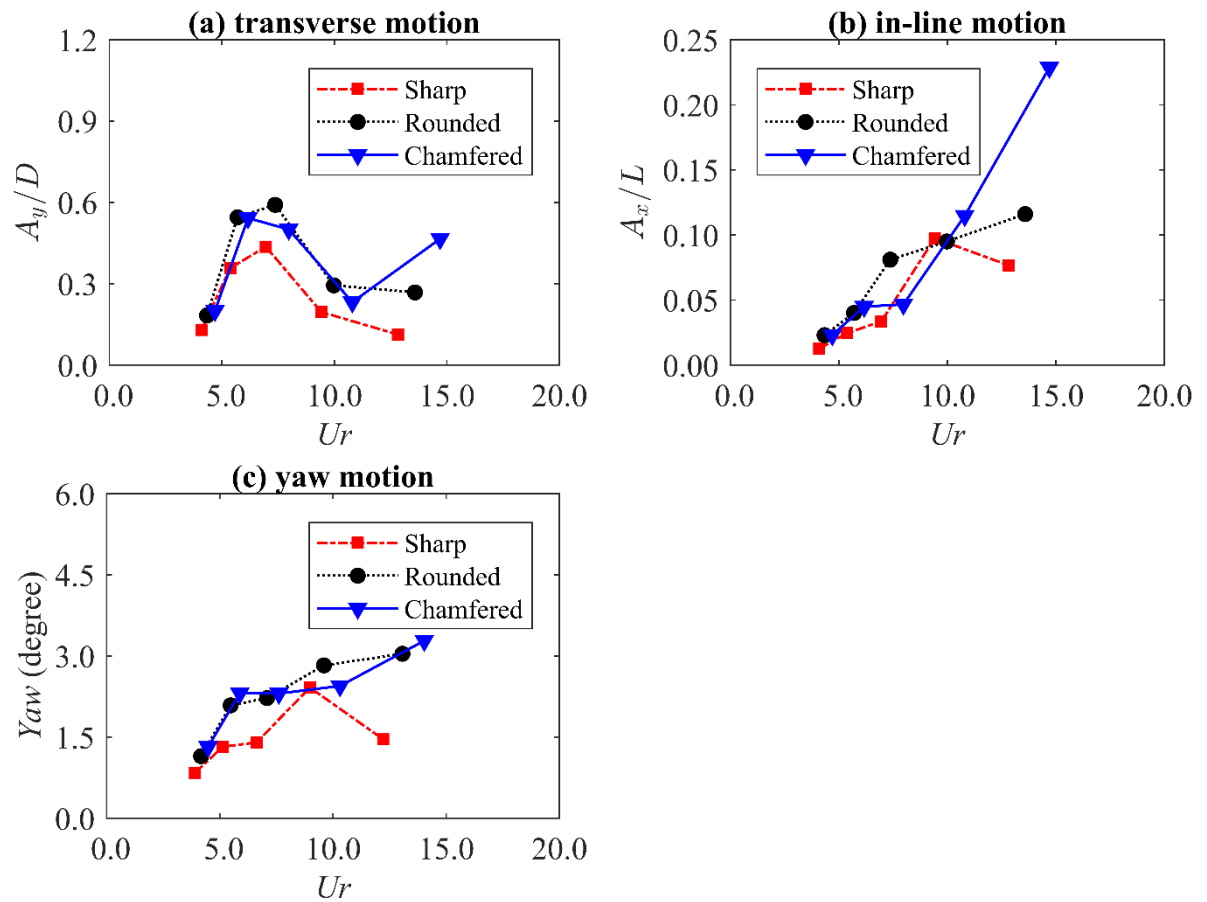
339 During the FIM process, the energy can be transferred between the fluid flow and the
 340 oscillating structure. Motion response and hydrodynamic forces are generated as a result
 341 of the energy transformation. In order to gain some deep insights of the transformation
 342 process, frequency domain analysis is provided in the present study. The phase angle
 343 between the lift coefficient and transverse motion amplitude are further discussed. As a

344 straightforward way to observe the complex energy transformation, the work done on
345 different structure members are further calculated and presented.

346 4.2.1. Motion characteristics

347 **Fig. 7**, which compares the numerical results among three different corner shape
348 designs, presents the non-dimensional characteristic amplitudes (transverse, in-line and
349 yaw motions) under 45 degree incidence. As seen in **Fig. 7**, the largest A_y/D for all three
350 design occurs at $Ur \approx 7.0$. The “lock-in” region occurs in the range of $6.0 \leq Ur \leq 9.0$.
351 The structure with rounded corner shows the most significant motion in the transverse
352 motion. It can be observed that the structure with the sharp corner design has the best
353 transverse motion response among the structures with three different corner shapes.
354 However, as shown in **Fig. 7**, the non-dimensional transverse amplitudes of the
355 structure with chamfered corner are very close to the rounded corner cases in the “pre
356 lock-in” and “lock-in” regions. Since the project length of the chamfered corner column
357 is 93% of the rounded corner column’s project length, the actual transverse motion
358 response of the structure with chamfered corner is smaller than the rounded corner case
359 in the “pre lock-in” and “lock-in” regions. It is noticed that the chamfered corner case
360 has a rapid increment in the “post lock-in” region for all three horizontal mode motions.
361 In contrast to the sharp and rounded corners, the galloping at 45° incidence for a square-
362 section shape column was clearly evident when the corner shape modified as chamfered
363 where the motion response increases without self-limiting (see **Fig. 7**). Regarding the
364 in-line motion, the “lock-in” occurs for a sharp corner structure is found at $Ur \approx 9$. By
365 modifying the corner shape, the “lock-in” is shifted to a smaller Ur . The “lock-in” in the
366 in-line direction occurs for a rounded corner structure is around $Ur = 7$, while for a
367 chamfered corner structure, the “lock-in” occurs at $Ur \approx 6$. It is observed that the

368 rounded corner and chamfered corner cases have similar yaw motion responses, and the
 369 structure with sharp corner significantly reduced the yaw motion responses.



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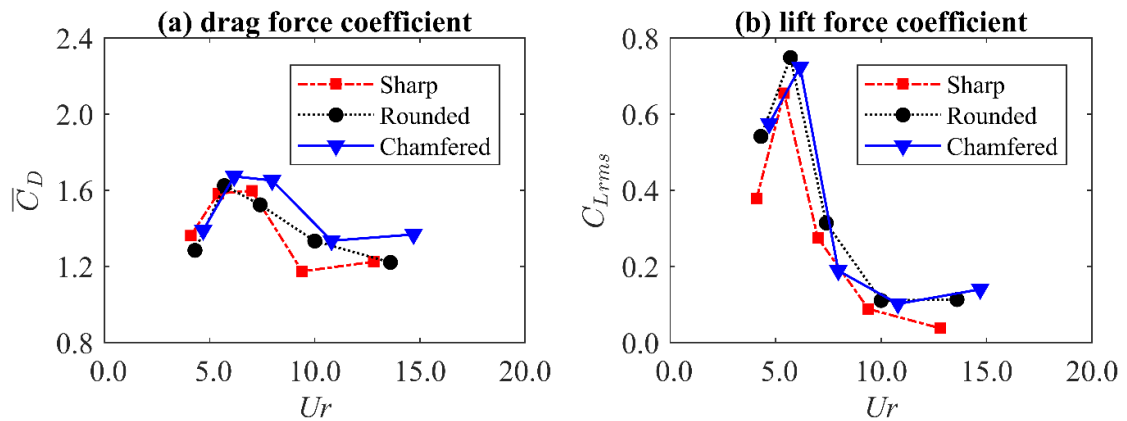
371 **Fig. 7** Non-dimensional transverse, in-line and yaw characteristics amplitudes.

372 (a) Transverse motion; (b) in-line motion; (c) yaw motion.

373 4.2.2. Drag and lift forces on the structure

374 In addition to the motion responses, the drag and lift coefficient for all three designs are
 375 evaluated and shown in **Fig. 8**. It is clearly observed that, the chamfered corner has the
 376 largest \bar{C}_D among three corner shape designs. This is due to the chamfered corner has
 377 introduced a flat plane into the projected area normal to the current direction. The flat
 378 plane at the chamfered corner can increase the drag force on the column. For the lift
 379 coefficient, it is shown that the sharp corner case has the minimum C_{Lrms} which leads

380 the structure exhibiting the smallest transverse motion among all three corner shape
 381 designs. It is noted that the near-wake flow structure is sensitive to the change of the
 382 leading corner design. For a sharp corner column, the flow separation point is fixed on
 383 the leading corner edge. However, for a rounded or chamfered corner design, the
 384 separation point changes during the motion. As the pressure distribution is altered due
 385 to the reattachment on the lateral face strongly influencing the pressure distribution on
 386 the column, the fluctuation lift force on the column is changed accordingly. Therefore, it
 387 further leads to a structure with a sharp corner showing C_{Lrms} being significantly
 388 reduced. As shown in **Fig. 8**, both \bar{C}_D and C_{Lrms} increase when “lock-in” occurs as the
 389 consequence of the fluctuations of the force on the structure excited by resonance.



390
 391 **Fig. 8** Mean drag coefficient (\bar{C}_D) and root mean square lift coefficient (C_{Lrms}). (a)
 392 mean drag force coefficient; (b) root mean square lift coefficient.

393 4.2.3 Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history.

394 **Fig. 9**, **Fig. 10** and **Fig. 11** present the time history of transverse motion and lift
 395 coefficient for three different corner designs respectively. Also shown in the figures are
 396 the Power Spectrum Density (PSD) for both transverse motion and lift coefficient
 397 obtained by transferring to the frequency domain. The fluctuation of lift coefficients for

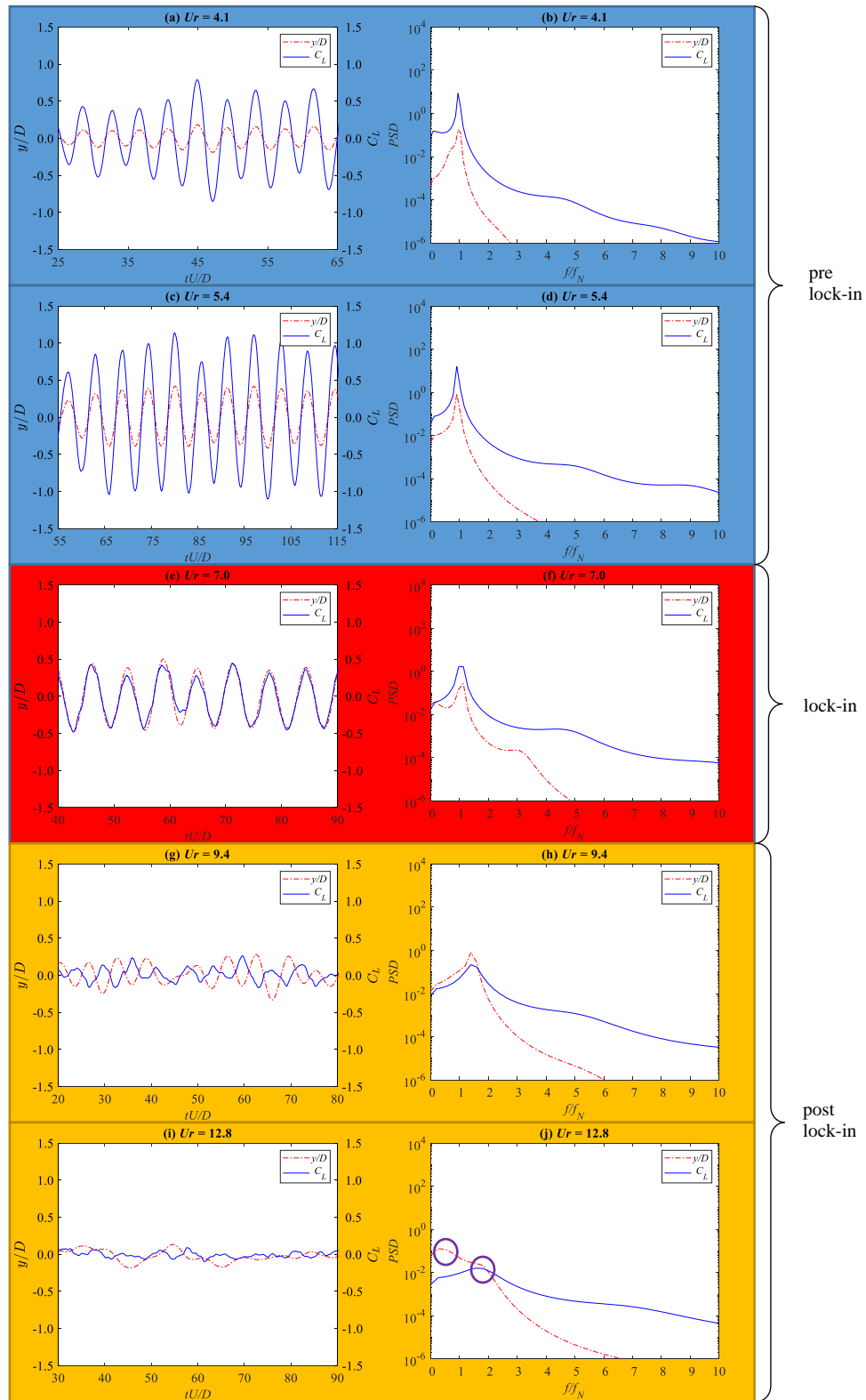
398 all three designs are synchronised (have the same phase angle and fluctuation period)
399 with the transverse motions in the “pre lock-in” and “post lock-in”. Especially for the
400 sharp corner design, the transverse motion and lift coefficient are fully synchronised
401 when $Ur = 7$ where the “lock-in” occurs. This indicates that the energy dissipated by the
402 damping is closed to the energy added by the external force. The system therefore
403 reaches its maximum amplitude. However, in the present study, when the motions of the
404 structure shift to the “post lock-in” region, the fluctuation of lift coefficients for all three
405 corner designs are no longer synchronised with the transverse motions. As seen in **Fig.**
406 **9 (g) (i), Fig. 10 (g) (i) and Fig. 11 (g)**, a phase delay has been observed in the “post
407 lock-in” region. To further elucidate the response of the structure and the lift force on
408 the structure for various reduced velocities, the power spectrum density of the
409 transverse motions and the lift coefficient are present in **Fig. 9, Fig. 10 and Fig. 11**. The
410 dominant transverse motion frequency and vortex shedding frequency are both close to
411 the transverse natural frequency in still water at the “pre lock-in” and “lock-in” regions
412 (f_y/f_N and $f_s/f_N \approx 1$). In addition, a new phenomenon is observed for the chamfered
413 design at $Ur = 6.2$. Unlike the sharp or rounded corner, in the “lock-in” region, a
414 relatively small peak (0.1% amplitude of the dominated peak) is observed in the
415 frequency domain (see **Fig. 11 (d)**) apart from the dominated peak (especially for the
416 C_L). This indicates that there is a “secondary vortex-shedding” phenomenon existing
417 during the “lock-in”. Further discussion based on the flow patterns will be provided in
418 section 4.3.

419 In addition to the motion response of and hydrodynamic forces on the structures, the
420 frequency response, as well as the phase angle between the transverse motion and the
421 lift coefficient of the structure, can provide further insight over the energy transfer from

422 the fluid flow to the structure during VIM. Thus, the non-dimensional response
423 frequency f_y/f_N and non-dimensional vortex shedding frequency f_s/f_N are presented in
424 **Fig. 12**. It is noted that f_y/f_N and f_s/f_N are the same at the “pre lock-in” and “lock-in”
425 region for all three different corner designs with a value of approximately 1. When the
426 VIM shifted to the “post lock-in” region, the non-dimensional vortex shedding
427 frequency is increased and the non-dimensional response frequency is equal to f_s/f_N at
428 $Ur \approx 10$. Beyond $Ur \approx 12$, however, f_y/f_N is evidently bifurcating while f_s/f_N continues
429 to increase. Two equal weighted peaks (purple circles in the figures) are observed in
430 **Fig. 9 (i)**, **Fig. 10(i)**, and **Fig. 11(i)**. It is noted that the dominant peak f_y/f_N is decreased,
431 gradually moving away from f_s/f_N and dropping below the dividing line of $f/f_N = 1$.
432 However, the significant secondary peak of f_y/f_N (* marked in **Fig. 12**) still remains the
433 same as f_s/f_N .

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Fig. 9 Time history of lift coefficient and transverse motion for sharp corner design. (a, c, e, g, i are in time domain; b, d, f, h, j are in the frequency domain). (a) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at $Ur = 4.1$; (b) Motion trajectory and

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438 lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 4.1$; (c) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient
439 time history at $Ur = 5.4$; (d) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in frequency domain
440 at $Ur = 5.4$; (e) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at $Ur = 7.0$; (f) Motion
441 trajectory and lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 7.0$; (g) Motion trajectory and
442 lift coefficient time history at $Ur = 9.4$; (h) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in
443 frequency domain at $Ur = 9.4$; (i) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at
444 $Ur = 12.8$; (j) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 12.8$.

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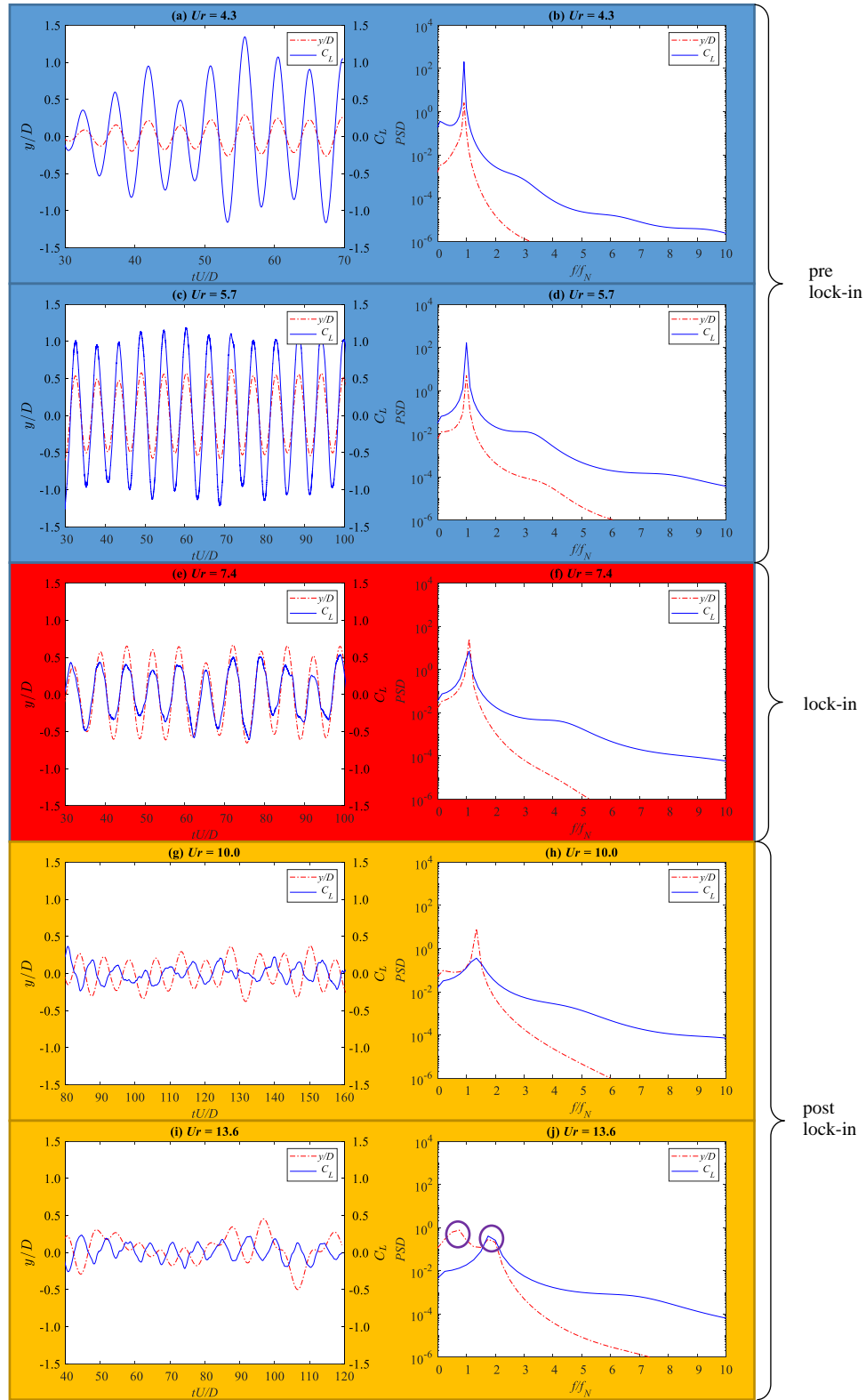


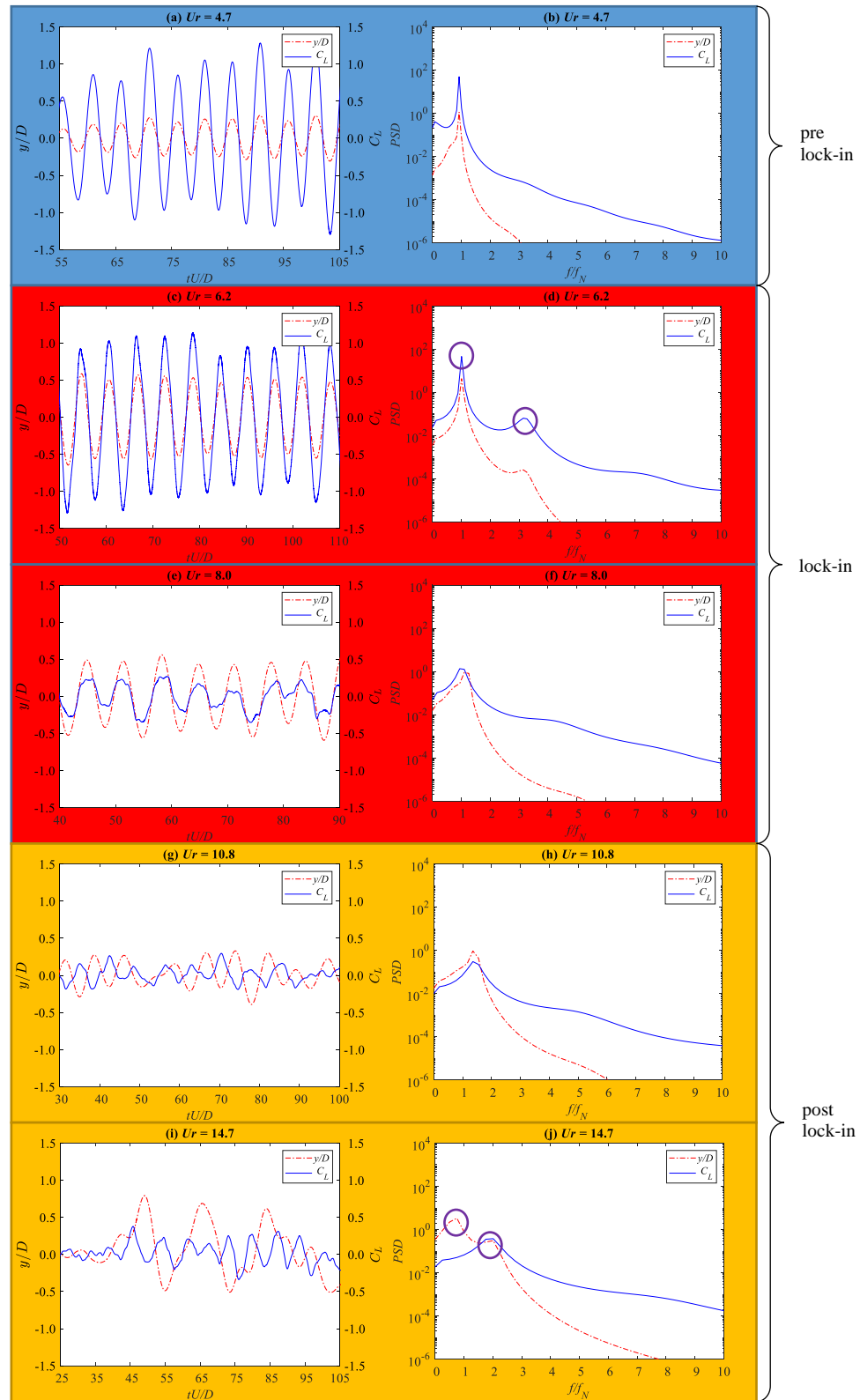
Fig. 10 Time history of lift coefficient and transverse motion for rounded corner design. (a, c, e, g, i are in time domain; b, d, f, h, j are in the frequency domain). (a) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at $Ur = 4.3$; (b) Motion trajectory and

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450 lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 4.3$; (c) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient
451 time history at $Ur = 5.7$; (d) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in frequency domain
452 at $Ur = 5.7$; (e) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at $Ur = 7.4$; (f) Motion
453 trajectory and lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 7.4$; (g) Motion trajectory and
454 lift coefficient time history at $Ur = 10.0$; (h) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in
455 frequency domain at $Ur = 10.0$; (i) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at
456 $Ur = 13.6$; (j) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 13.6$.

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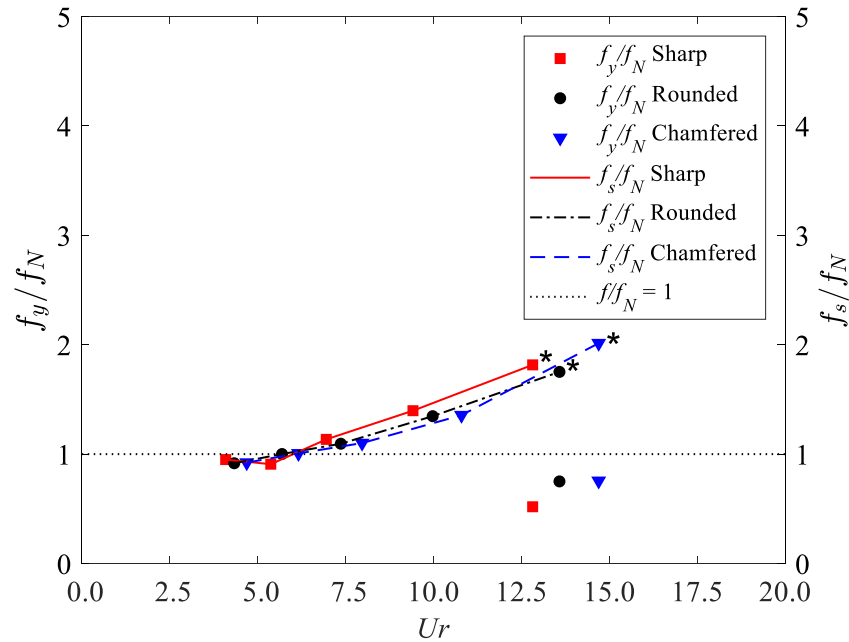
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Fig. 11 Time history of lift coefficient and transverse motion for chamfered corner design. (a, c, e, g, i are in time domain; b, d, f, h, j are in the frequency domain).

460 (a) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at $Ur = 4.7$; (b) Motion trajectory
 461 and lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 4.7$; (c) Motion trajectory and lift
 462 coefficient time history at $Ur = 6.2$; (d) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in
 463 frequency domain at $Ur = 6.2$; (e) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at
 464 $Ur = 8.0$; (f) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 8.0$; (g)
 465 Motion trajectory and lift coefficient time history at $Ur = 10.8$; (h) Motion trajectory
 466 and lift coefficient in frequency domain at $Ur = 10.8$; (i) Motion trajectory and lift
 467 coefficient time history at $Ur = 14.7$; (j) Motion trajectory and lift coefficient in
 468 frequency domain at $Ur = 14.7$.

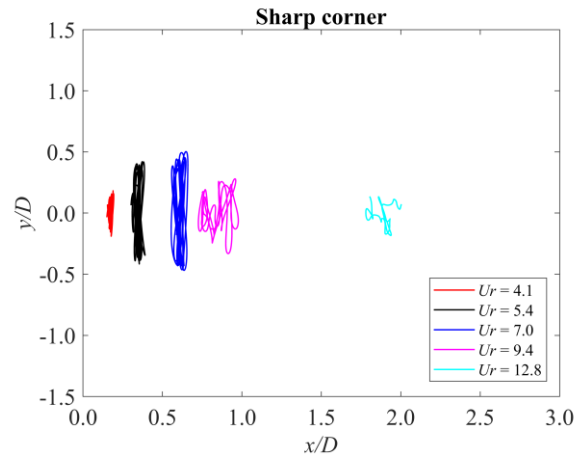


469

470 **Fig. 12** Non-dimensional transverse response frequency f_y/f_N and non-
 471 dimensional vortex shedding frequency f_s/f_N (* is the secondary peak observed in the
 472 frequency domain for f_y/f_N).

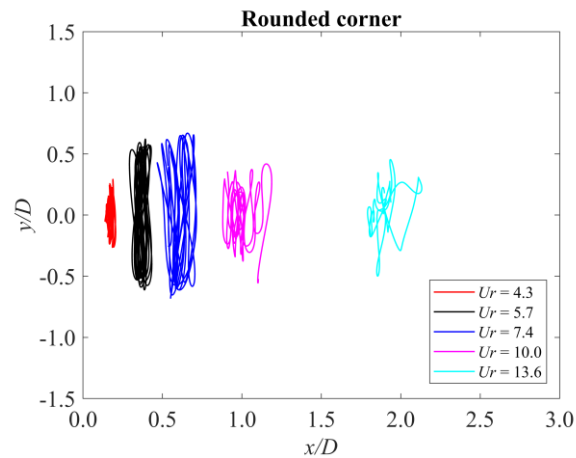
473 **Fig. 13, Fig. 14** and **Fig. 15** show the motion trajectories in the XY plane for the
 474 structure with different corner designs. Similar to a single cylinder, a typical “8” shaped
 475 trajectory is observed in the present study for all corner designs in the “lock-in” region.
 476 In the “post lock-in” region, the motion trajectory becomes more chaotic, especially

477 after $Ur = 10$. For the chamfered corner design, it is observed that the transverse motion
 478 amplitude is approximately 2.4% higher than the resonance motion amplitude (at $Ur =$
 479 6.2) in the “lock-in” region. The galloping at 45° incidence for a square-section shape
 480 column was observed when the corner shape modified as a chamfered corner.



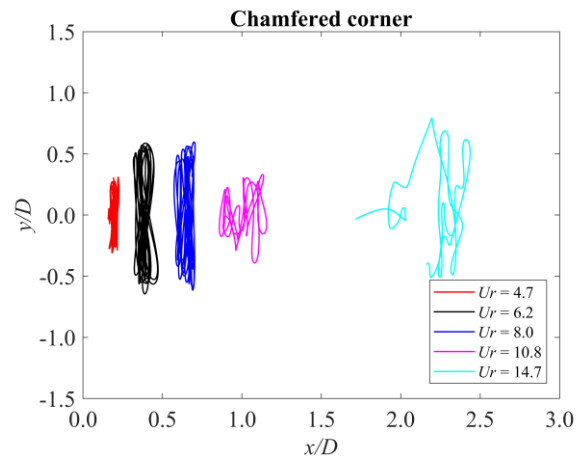
481

482 **Fig. 13** Motion trajectories in the XY plane for the sharp corner design.



483

484 **Fig. 14** Motion trajectories in the XY plane for the rounded corner design.

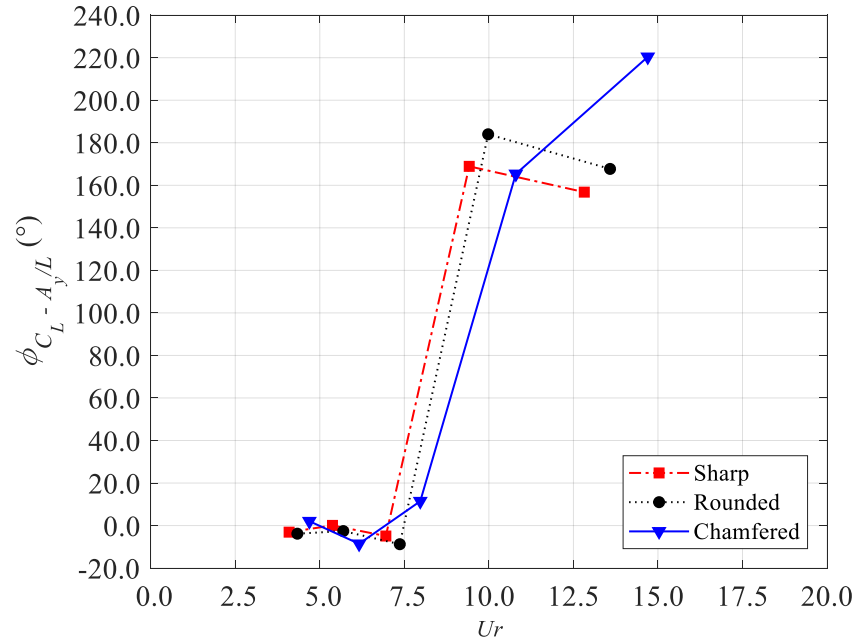


485

486 **Fig. 15** Motion trajectories in the XY plane for the chamfered corner design.

487 4.2.4. Energy transformation during the vortex shedding process

488 The phase angle ($\phi_{C_L-A_y/L}$) between the lift coefficient and transverse motion amplitude,
 489 calculated based on the averaged time lag between the local maximum points of lift
 490 coefficient and the transverse motion amplitude, is presented in **Fig. 16**. In the present
 491 study, more than fifteen cycles of the VIM transverse oscillation period are considered
 492 for time averaging. The averaged time lag is then multiplied with the frequency of
 493 vortex shedding to estimate the phase angle. As seen in **Fig. 16**, the phase angles in the
 494 “pre lock-in” and “lock-in” region are close to zero, and then begin to increase in the
 495 “post lock-in” region. After $Ur \approx 10$, the phase angle reaches approximately 180°
 496 followed by a rapid decreasing for the sharp and rounded corner designs, indicating a
 497 rapid decrease in the transverse motion response. Unlike the sharp and rounded corner
 498 designs, a distinct increasing trend of the phase angle is observed along with the
 499 reduced velocity for the chamfered corner design, and reaches around 220° at $Ur = 14.7$.
 500 This increment signifies the large transverse amplitude in the “post lock-in” region for
 501 the chamfered corner design.



502

503

Fig. 16 Phase angle between lift coefficient and transverse amplitude.

504

To examine the complex energy transformation to the structure and the corresponding

505

motion driven parts of the structures, the lift force coefficients and work done on

506

different structure members are further calculated and presented in **Fig. 17**. As seen in

507

Fig. 17 (a), for a sharp corner design, all the members of the structure are excited due to

508

the “lock-in” phenomenon. However, when the corners are modified as a rounded shape

509

(**Fig. 17** (b)), the leading upstream column (Column 1) shows a different trend. The lift

510

coefficient on the upstream column is seen to decrease while an increasing trend is

511

observed for the other members. By changing the corner shape to chamfered, the lift

512

coefficient on the portside column (Column 2) and the starboard side column (Column

513

4) shows a different trend compared with other members of the structure (**Fig. 17** (c)).

514

None resonance has been observed on the two side columns. Other members (Column

515

1, Column 3 and pontoons) are excited by the “lock-in” phenomenon. Apart from the

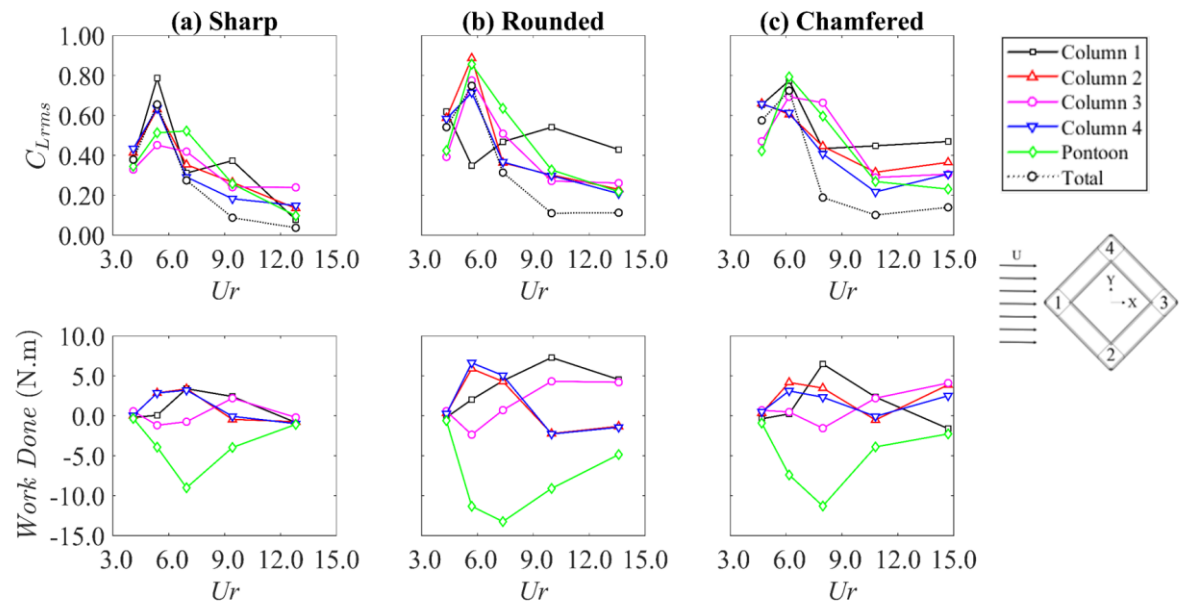
516

force distributions, a straightforward routine to examine the contribution of each

517 member to VIM is to determine the work done during the VIM for each member, and
 518 the work done by each member of the structure is shown in **Fig. 17**. The symmetrical
 519 characteristics can be clearly identified for all corner design. In addition to the findings
 520 made from the previous study¹³, the following new insights can be revealed:

521 1. Resonance of the work done by the two side columns can be observed for all
 522 designs in the present study. However, the resonance is absent to the lift force on the
 523 two side columns. Further, for the chamfered corner design, no resonance is observed in
 524 both the work done and the lift force in the current study.

525 2. The work done by the pontoons is highly related to the transverse motion. The
 526 pontoon reduces the VIM response throughout the reduced velocity range. In addition,
 527 as the transverse motion being more severe, the effect is stronger for the pontoons to
 528 restrain the motion in the “lock-in” region.



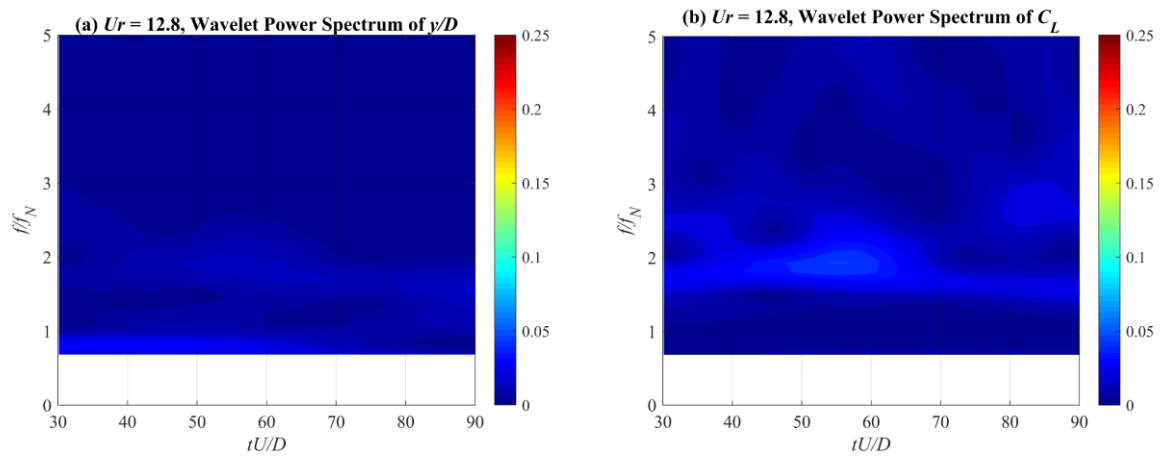
529

530 **Fig. 17** Root mean square lift coefficient ($C_{L_{rms}}$) and work done on each
 531 member of the structure. (a) sharp corner design; (b) rounded corner design; (c)
 532 chamfered corner design.

533 As seen in **Fig. 9**, **Fig. 10** and **Fig. 11**, in the “pre lock-in” and “lock-in” region, the
534 motion response frequency (f_y) and vortex shedding frequency (f_s) are both well located
535 around the natural frequency of the structure. This indicates a pure energy transfer from
536 the vortex shedding to the VIM motion of the structure. However, when it shifts to the
537 “post lock-in” region, the motion response frequency (f_y) and vortex shedding frequency
538 (f_s) start to show a different trend with the vortex shedding frequency (f_s) increasing to a
539 higher level while two peaks appearing in the motion responses frequency (f_y) domain.
540 This indicates a more complex energy transformation between the flow and the
541 structure.

542 In addition to the phase angle and work done analysis, to provide time-series analysis
543 that can reveal some energy transformation process in the dynamic system, the vortex-
544 induced motions were analysed with continuous wavelet transform (CWT). The CWT
545 provides temporally resolved frequency analysis to give insight into the dynamics of
546 VIM through the time traces in the “post lock-in” region. As seen in **Fig. 18**, the
547 dominant vortex shedding frequency (f_s) for a sharp corner design is nearly two times of
548 the natural frequency of the structure (f_N). It can be observed that the energy existed
549 during the VIM is relatively low when compared with the other two corner shape
550 designs. This also indicates the extremely small transverse amplitude of the structure.
551 By modifying the corner shape to a rounded corner, the energy contours based on
552 continuous wavelet transform are altered significantly as shown in **Fig. 19**. It can be
553 seen that, the vortex shedding frequency (f_s) fluctuates around two times of the natural
554 frequency of the structure (f_N). The motion response frequency (f_y) is equally distributed
555 around the natural frequency of the structure (f_N) and at two times of f_N . In parts of the

556 time series, these two equally weighted frequency can be merged together leading to a
 557 high energy density as shown in **Fig. 19**. When the corner shape changed to a
 558 chamfered one, further considerable change can be observed for the energy contours
 559 shown in **Fig. 20**. The vortex shedding frequency increases to a higher level where the
 560 highest vortex shedding frequency can reach up to more than 3 times of the structural
 561 natural frequency (f_N). However, the majority of the energy in the transverse motion
 562 response is located at the frequency range lower than the natural frequency (f_N). This
 563 indicates the development of the galloping phenomenon. In addition, the energy density
 564 of the chamfered corner is much higher than the other two corner shape designs.



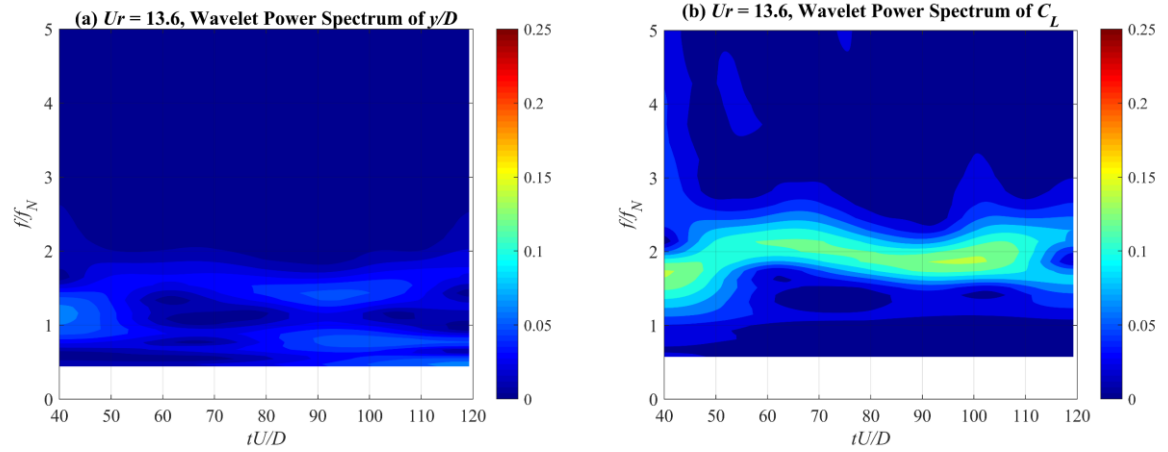
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566 **Fig. 18** Time series of the non-dimensional (a) transverse motion response
 567 frequency and (b) vortex shedding frequency with the frequency energy contours based
 568 on continuous wavelet transforms in the “post lock-in” region for a sharp corner design.

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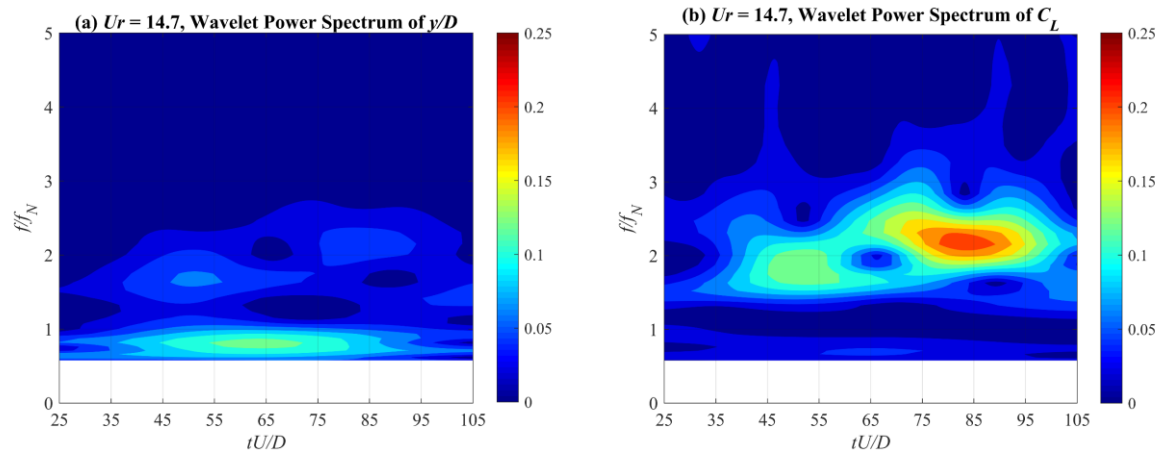
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Fig. 19 Time series of the non-dimensional (a) transverse motion response frequency and (b) vortex shedding frequency with the frequency energy contours based on continuous wavelet transforms in the “post lock-in” region for a rounded corner design.

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578

Fig. 20 Time series of the non-dimensional (a) transverse motion response frequency and (b) vortex shedding frequency with the frequency energy contours based on continuous wavelet transforms in the “post lock-in” region for a chamfered corner design.

579

4.3. Flow patterns

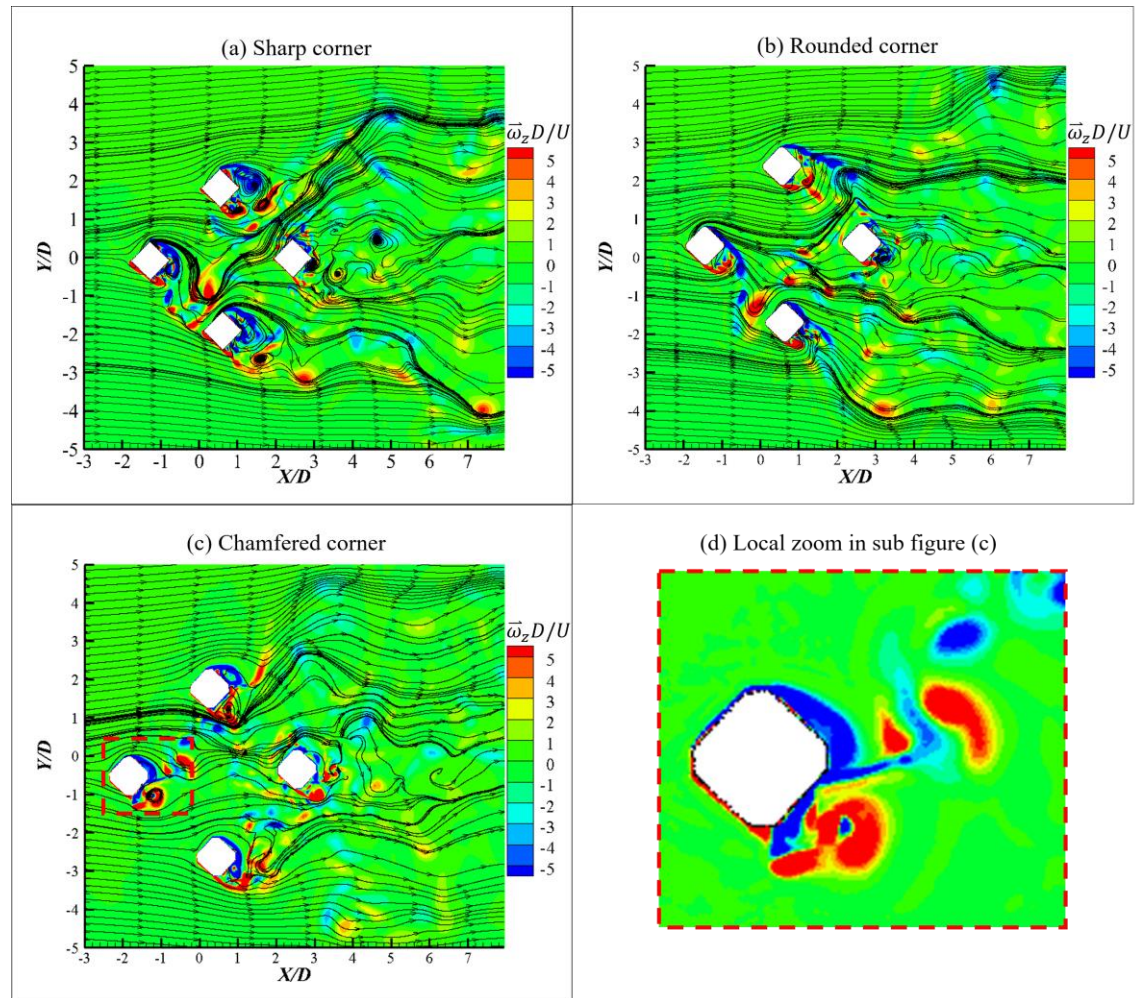
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4.3.1. Instantaneous vorticity and streamline

581 In order to have a general visual appreciation of the vortex shedding patterns, the
 582 vorticity contours with instantaneous streamlines in the “lock-in” region are plotted in
 583 **Fig. 21**. The non-dimensional spanwise vorticity is used to describe the vorticity in the
 584 present work:

$$585 \quad \text{non-dimensional spanwise vorticity} = \bar{\omega}_z D/U, \quad (11)$$

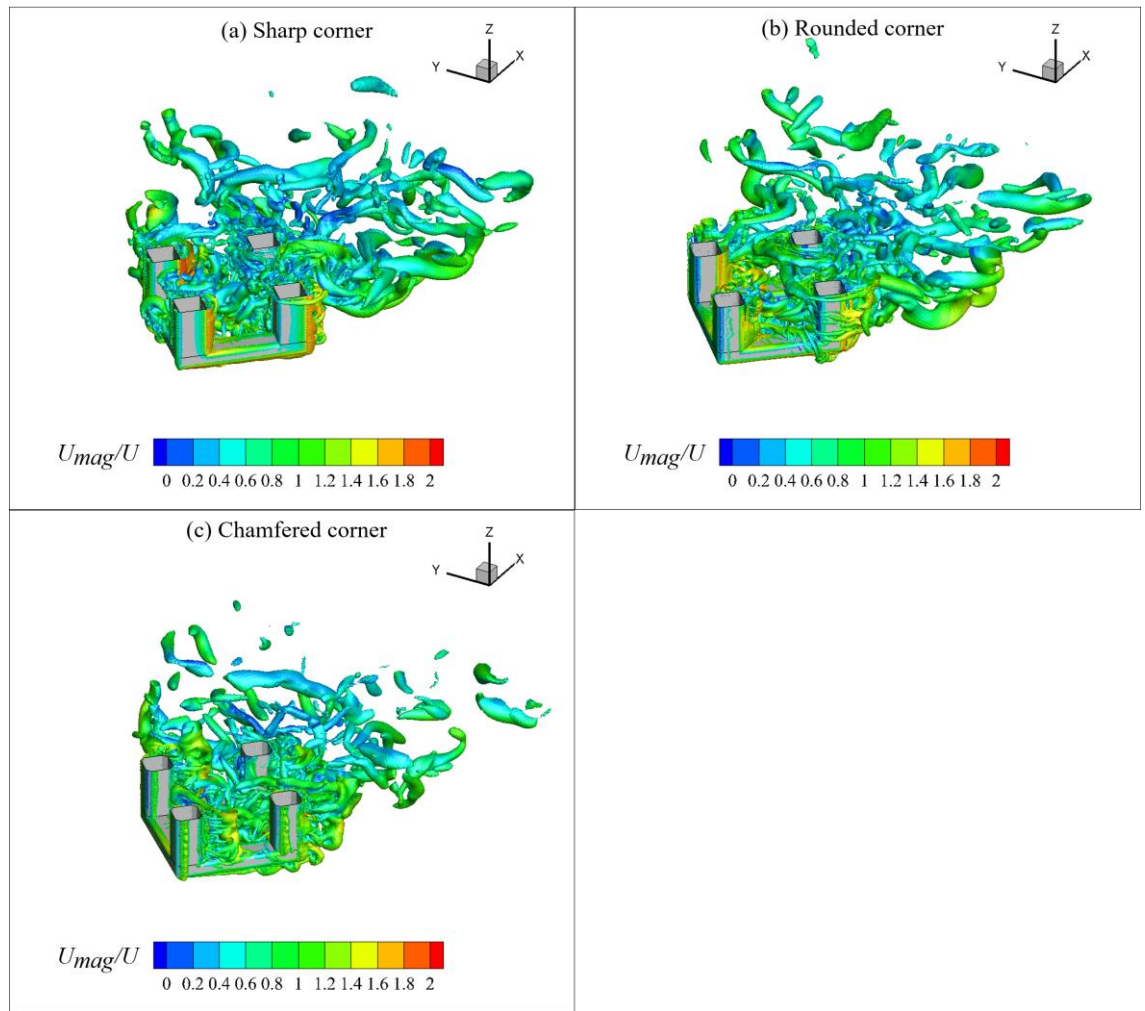
586 where, $\bar{\omega}_z$ is the z component of the vorticity, D is the projected length of the column
 587 and U is the current speed.



588

589 **Fig. 21** Instantaneous vorticity contours and streamline for different corner
 590 designs. (a) sharp corner design; (b) rounded corner design; (c) chamfered corner
 591 design; (d) a local zoom vorticity contour in (c).

592 As seen in **Fig. 21**, the vortices shed from the upstream corner are finally separated
593 from the side column for both sharp and rounded corner. However, for a chamfered
594 corner shape design case, a unique “re-attached vortex shedding” phenomenon is
595 observed in **Fig. 21** (d). The vortices shed from the upstream corner of the column will
596 be separated at one side of the column. However, due to the large amplitude transverse
597 motion and the corner design, it will be “re-attached” to the downstream corner of the
598 column and further reaching to the other side corner of the column. This indicates a
599 higher vortex shedding frequency within one dominated vortex shedding period for the
600 overall structure as shown in **Fig. 11(b)**. This “re-attached” phenomenon has been only
601 observed for the chamfered corner case at the “lock-in” region. It is noted that the
602 energy of this high frequency “re-attach vortex shedding” is extremely small compared
603 with the overall vortex shedding frequency.



604

605 **Fig. 22** Isometric view representation of Q -criterion of the three different corner
 606 design covered by the non-dimensional velocity contours. (a) sharp corner design; (b)
 607 rounded corner design; (c) chamfered corner design.

608 To further understand the structures of the wake regions associated with the
 609 three different corner shape designs, a vortex identification method based on the Q -
 610 criterion has been employed in the present study. **Fig. 22** presents the Q -criterion based
 611 vertical structures for the three corner designs. The isosurfaces are shown at a constant
 612 positive value where $Q = 0.1$ and covered by the non-dimensional velocity contours. It
 613 can be clearly seen that the sharp corner design only has a single separation point at the

614 upstream corner while the chamfered corner design has two separation points at the
615 upstream corner.

616 4. Conclusions

617 This paper presents a numerical study focusing on the energy transformation on flow-
618 induced motions of multiple cylindrical structures with various corner shapes. Three
619 different corner shapes were considered, i.e. sharp, rounded and chamfered. The
620 differences of the flow characteristics, the hydrodynamic forces as well as the motion
621 responses are investigated. Based on the relationship between the hydrodynamic forces
622 and the motion responses, the energy transformation between the flow and the structure
623 are further discussed in a perspective of phase angle, work done and frequency energy
624 contours.

625 By examining the characteristics mentioned above, a galloping at 45° incidence for a
626 square-section shape column is observed when the corner shape modified as a
627 chamfered corner. In addition, a “re-attached vortex shedding” phenomenon is
628 identified when the “lock-in” happened for a chamfered corner design. The cause of this
629 phenomenon is explained by the instantaneous vorticity contours presented in the
630 current study.

631 The analysis of the energy transformation between the flow and the structure revealed
632 that modifying the corner shape had a large effect on the energy transformation leading
633 to a significant change in the hydrodynamic forces and the FIM motion responses.

634 This study focuses on the 45 degree flow incidence, hence more incidences should be
635 considered and examined in order to obtain a more generalized understanding of the
636 energy transformation process during FIM of a multi-column floating structure.

637 Acknowledgement

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641 (Grant No.EP/K000225/1).

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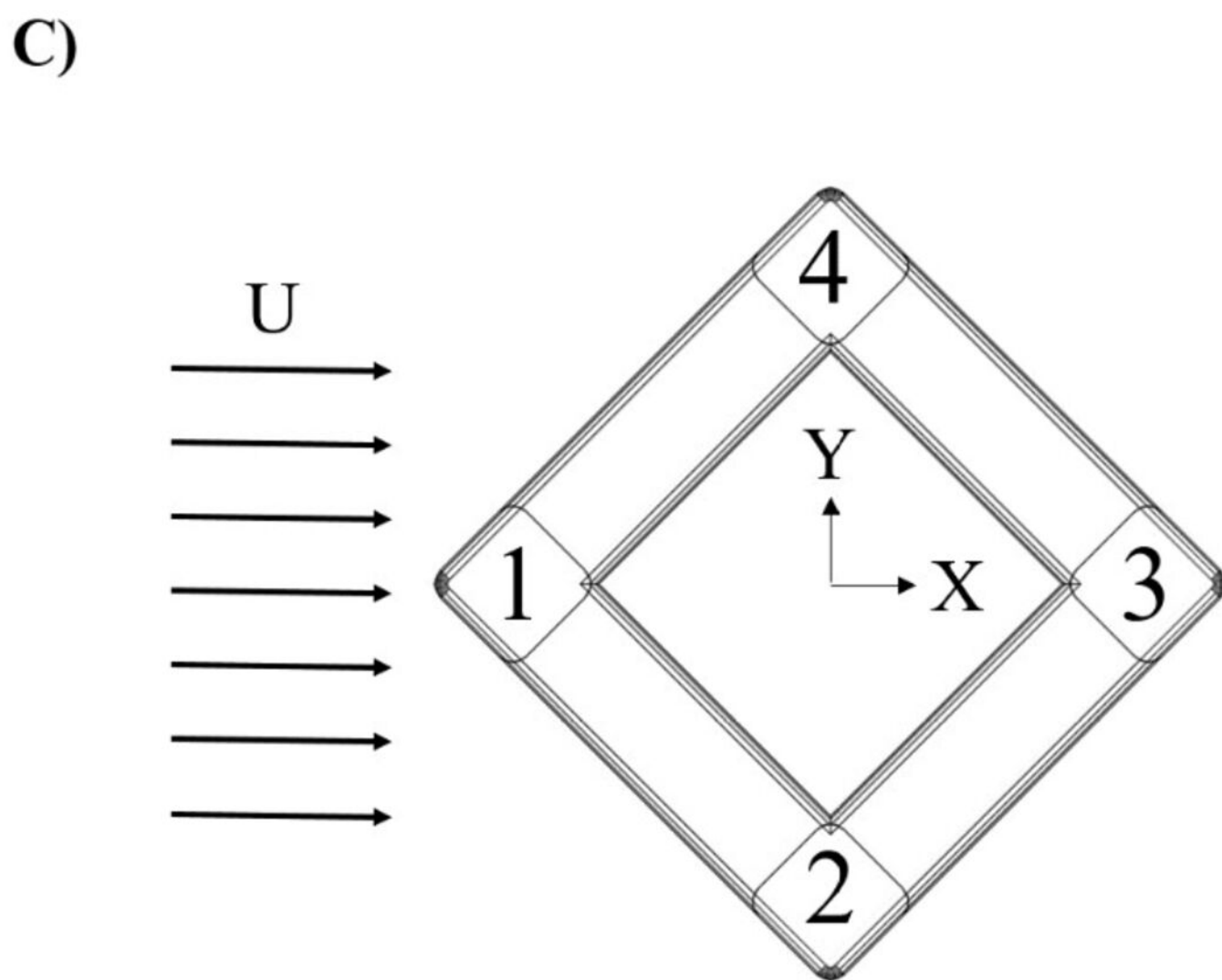
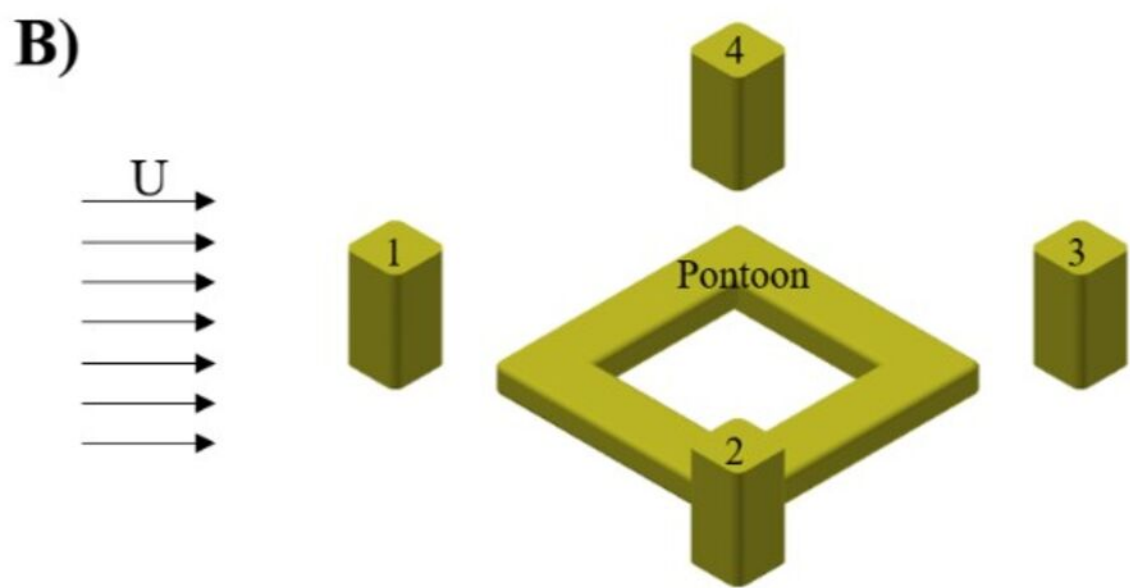
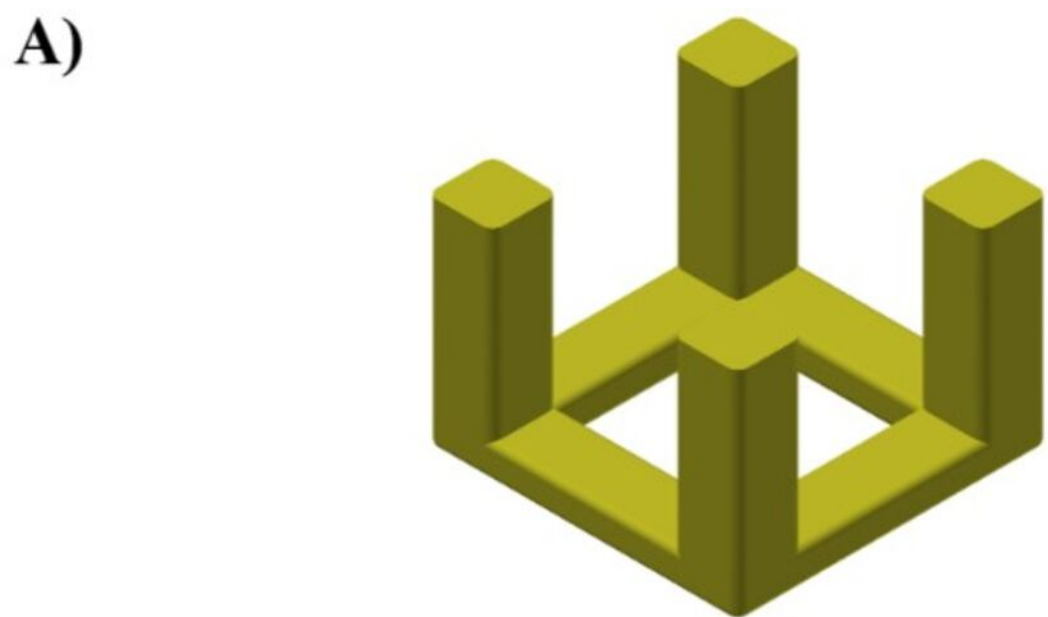
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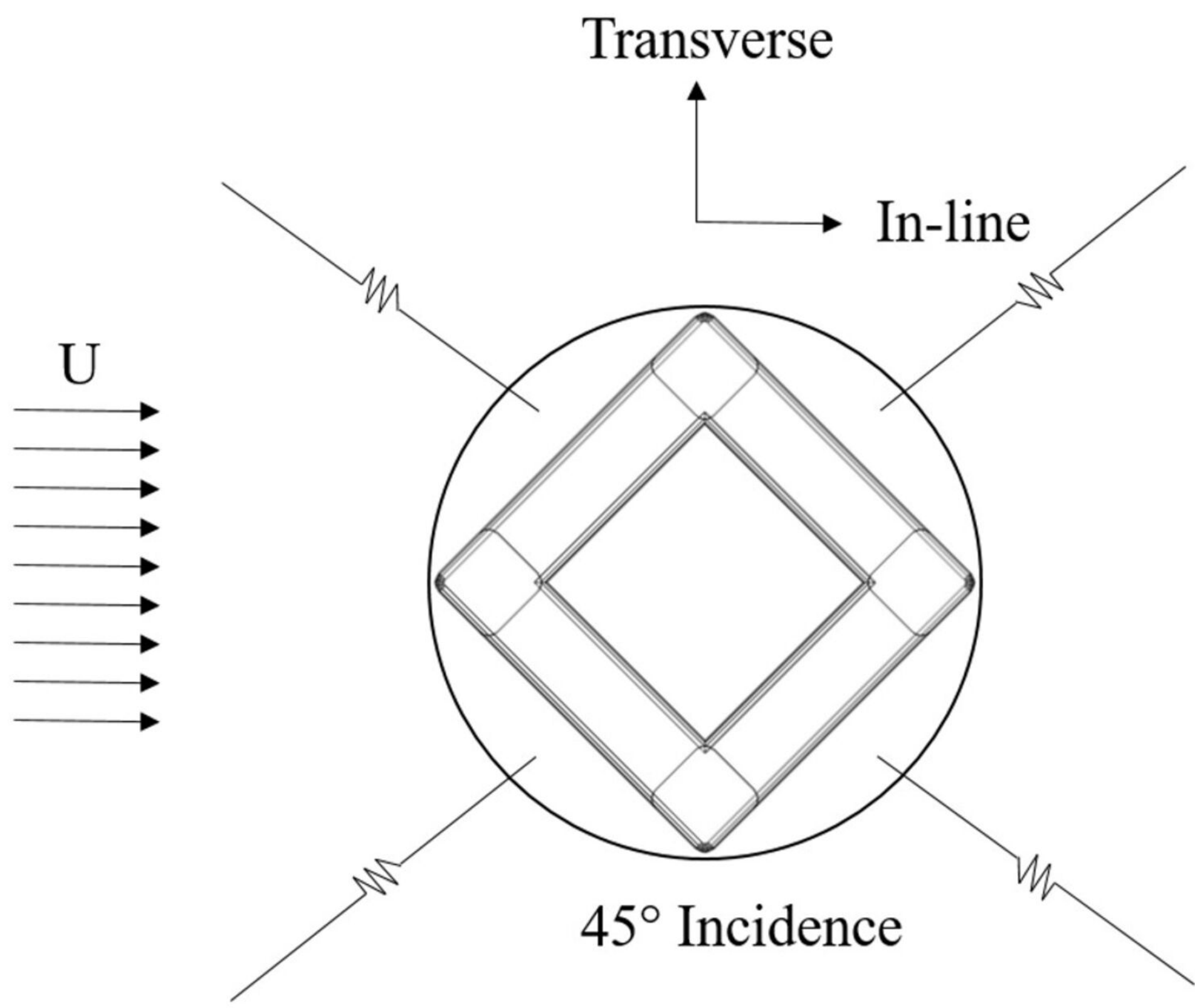
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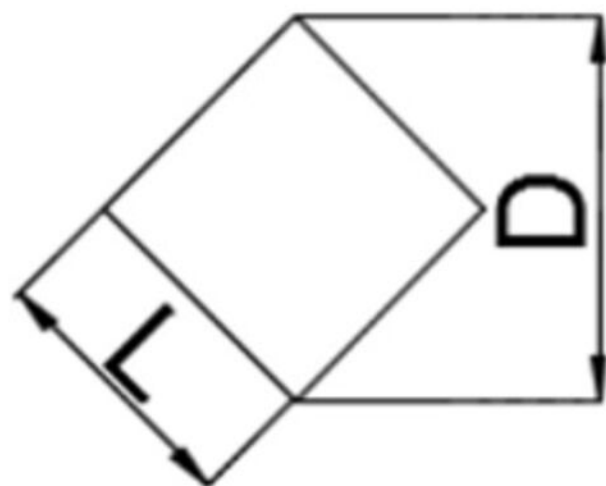
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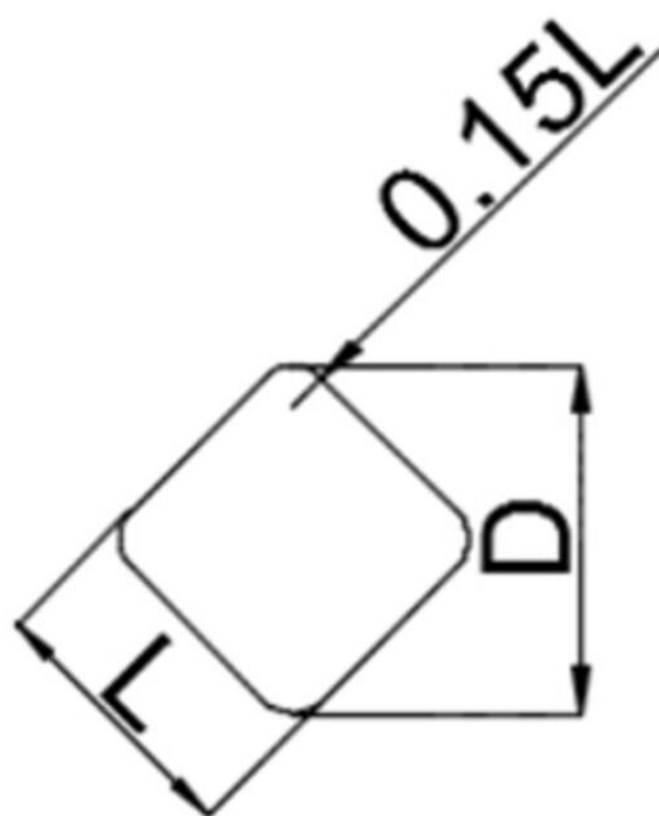
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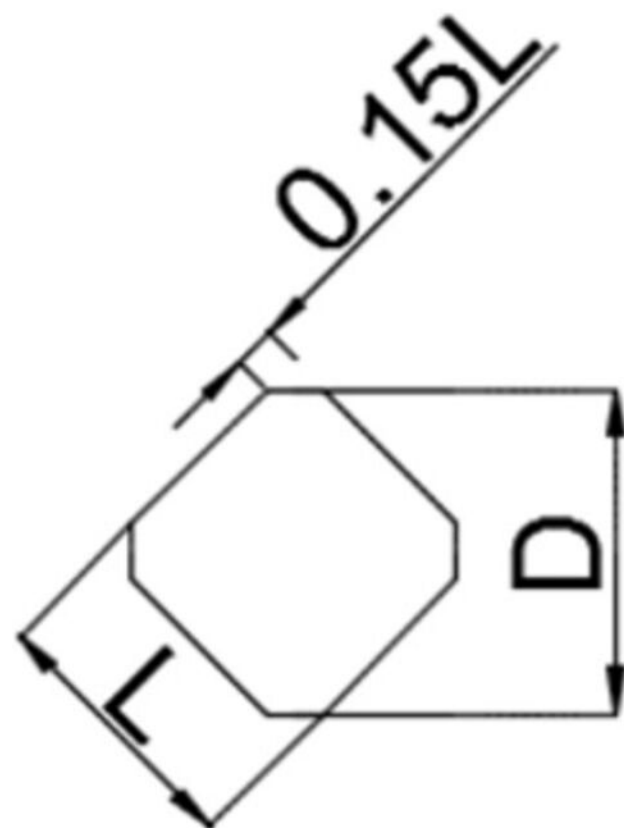




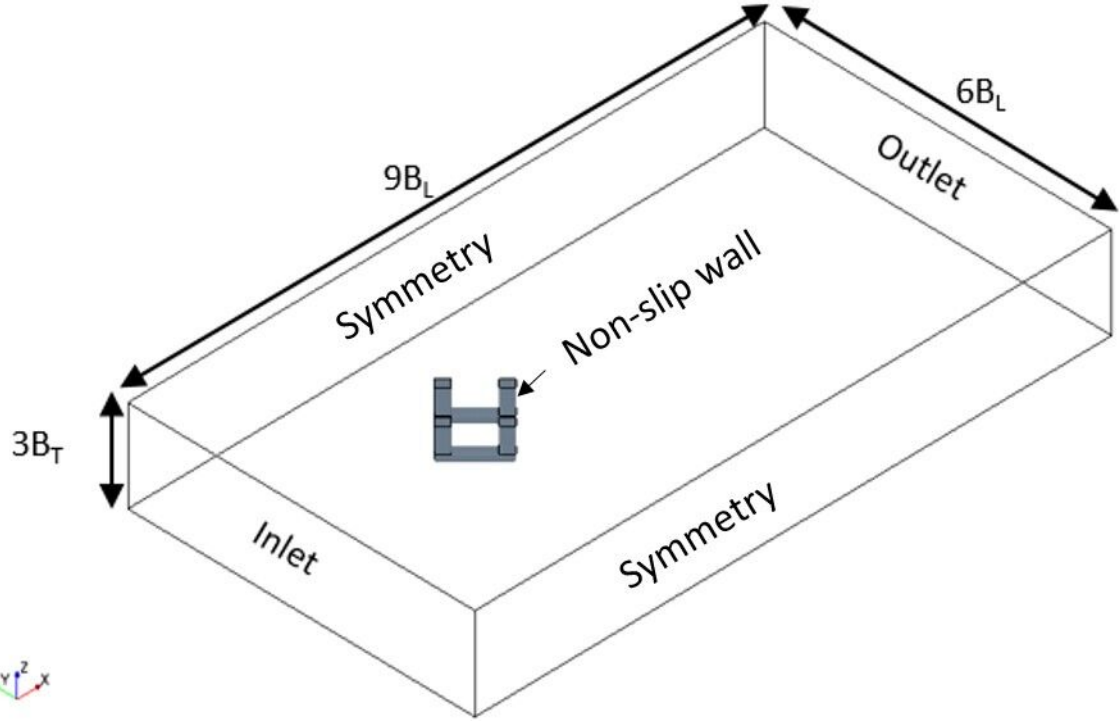
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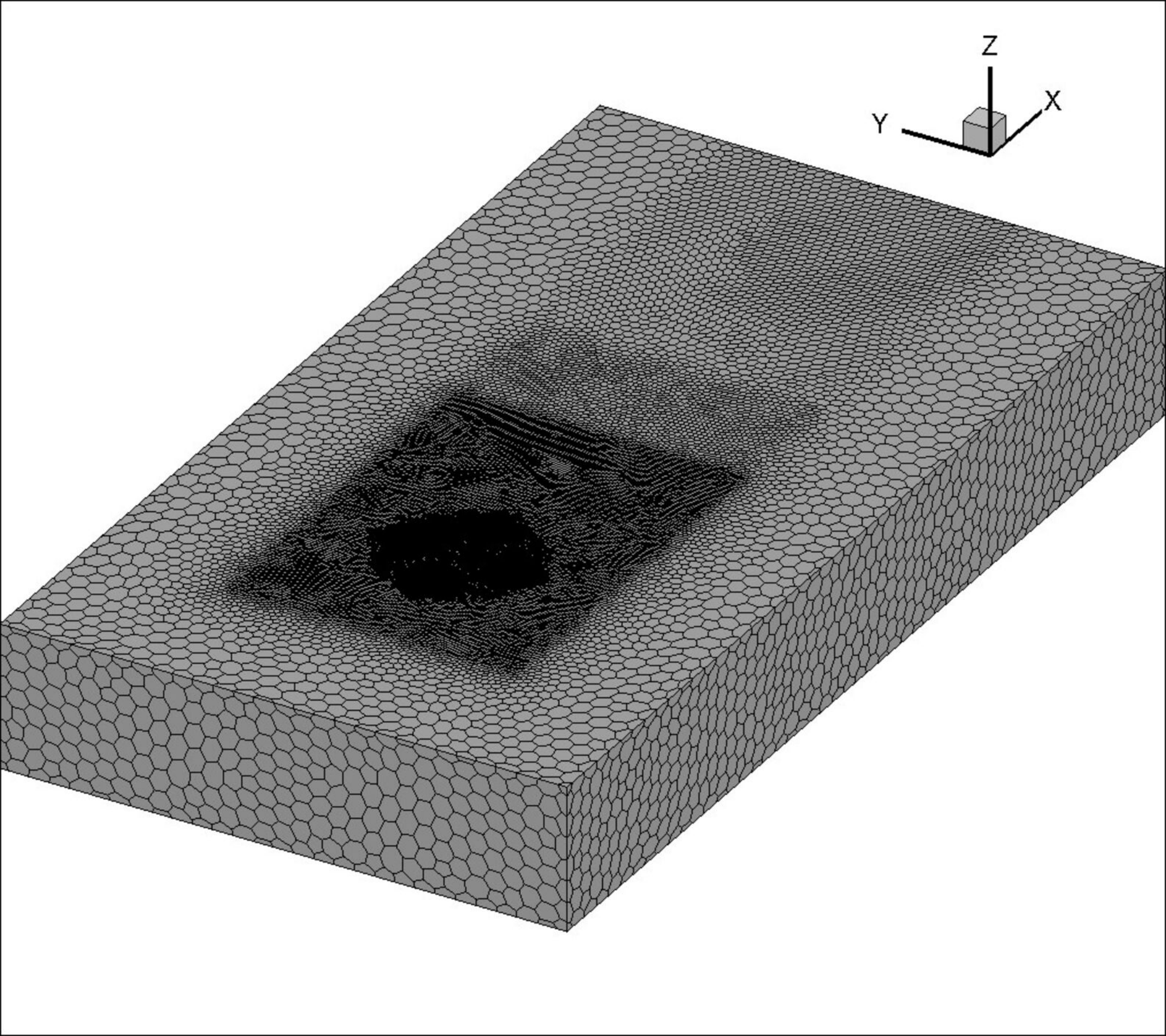


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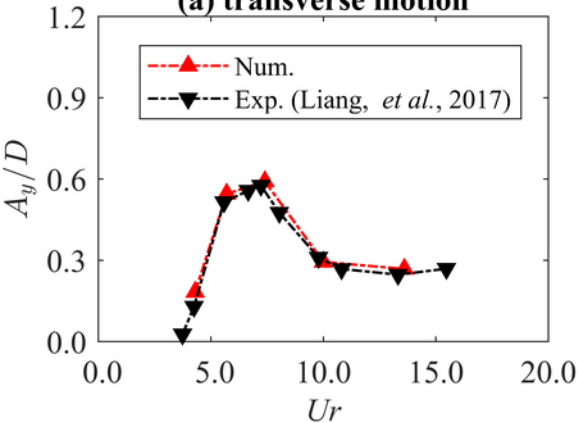


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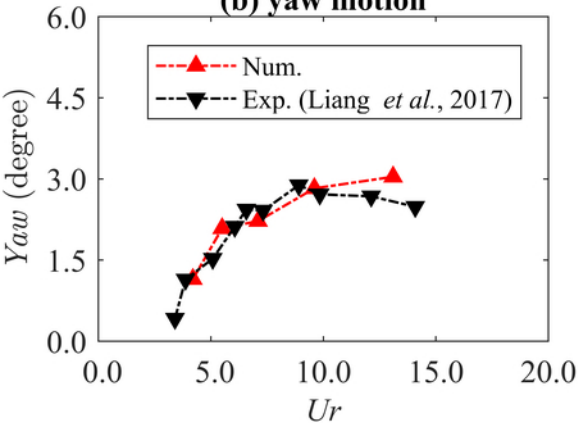




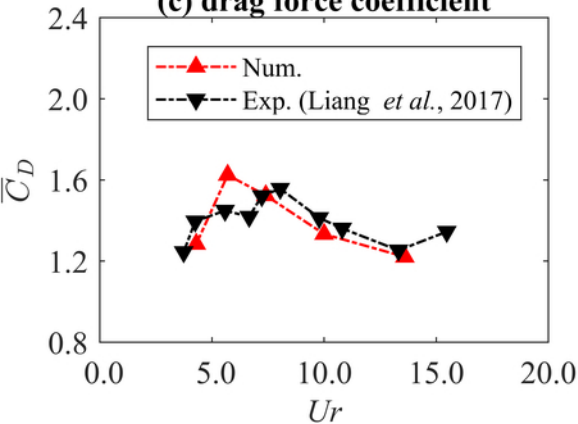
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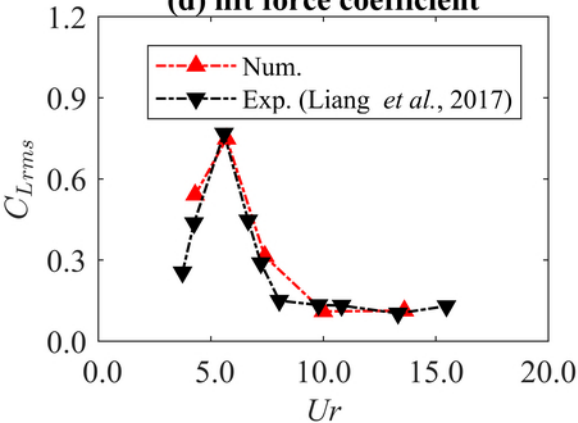
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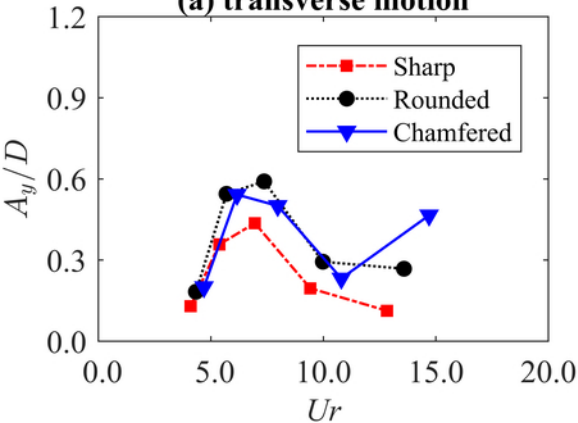
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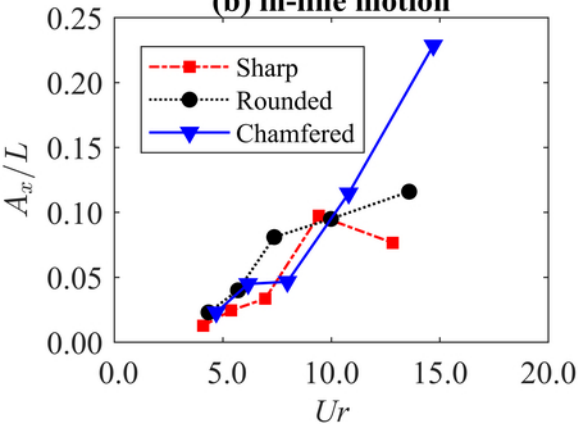
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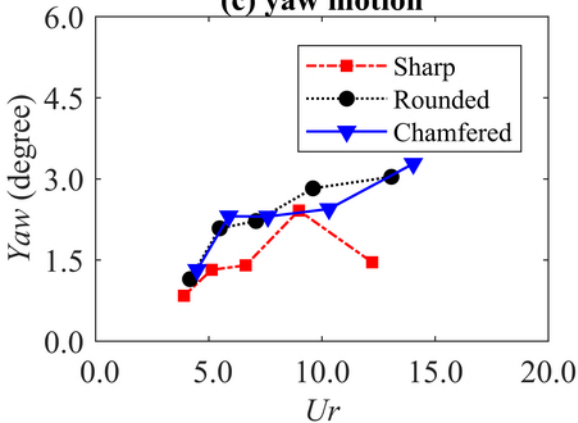
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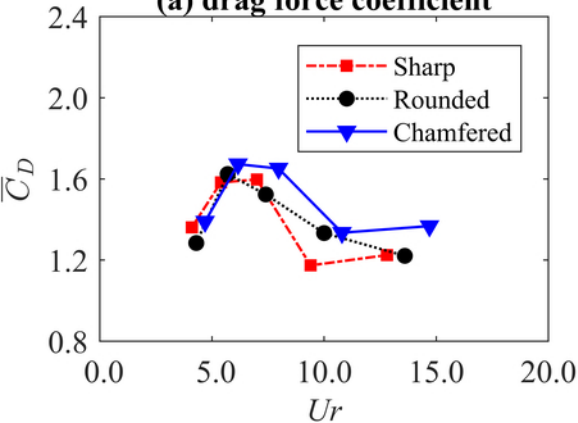
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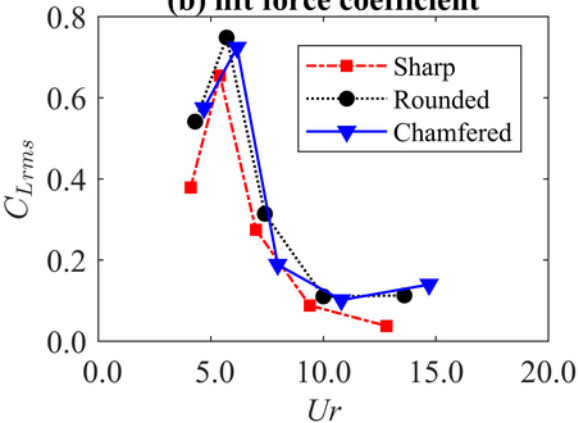
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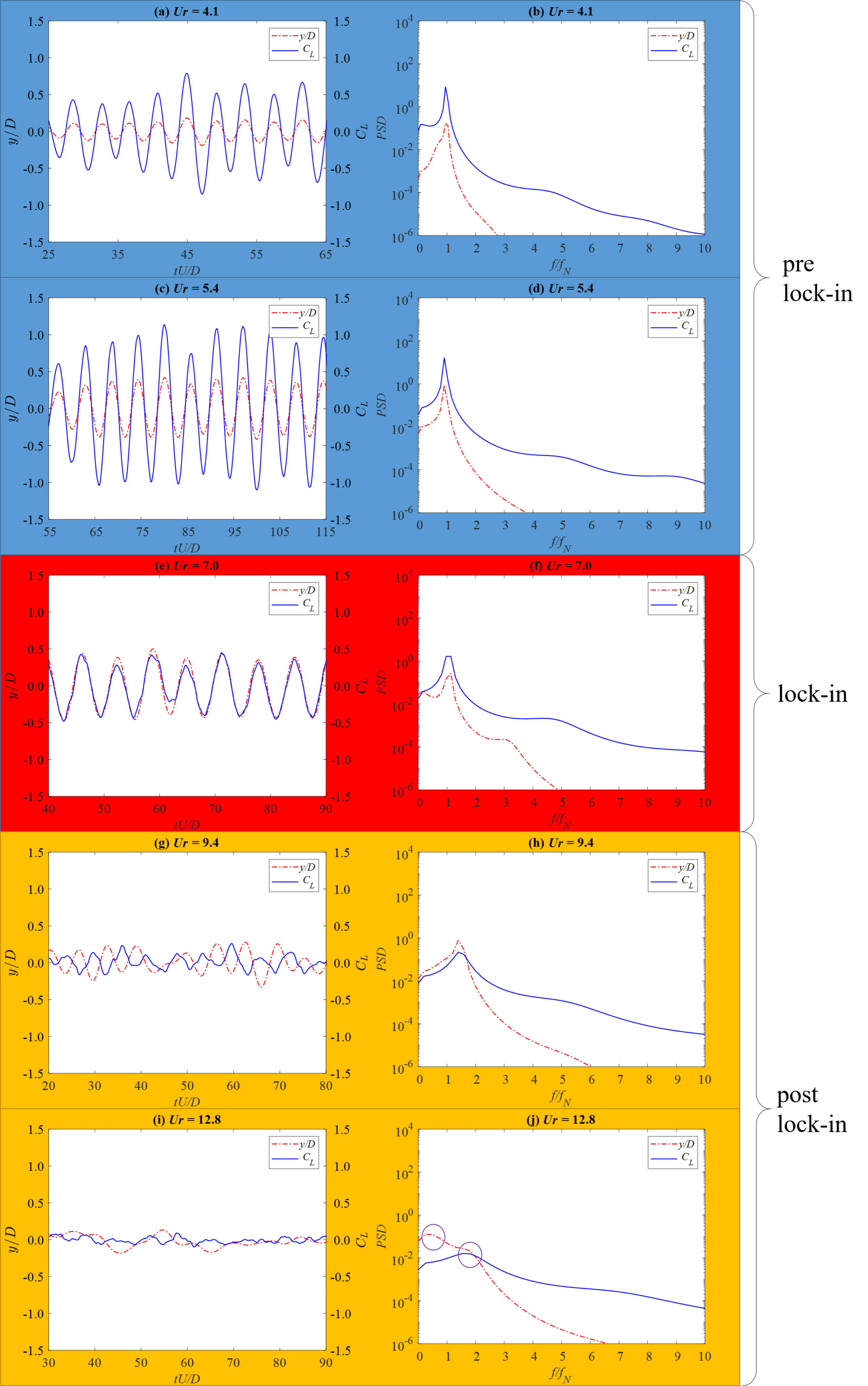


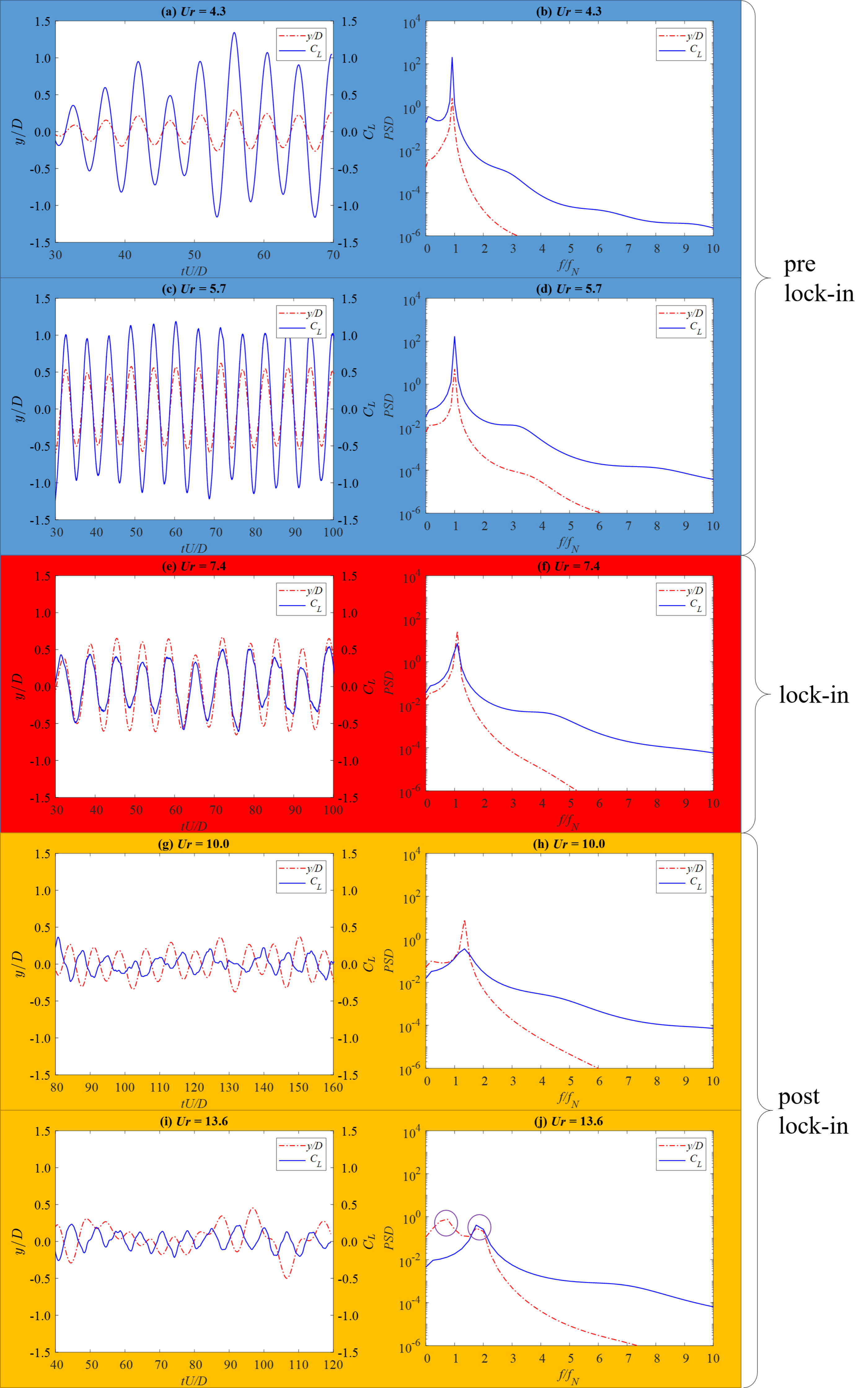
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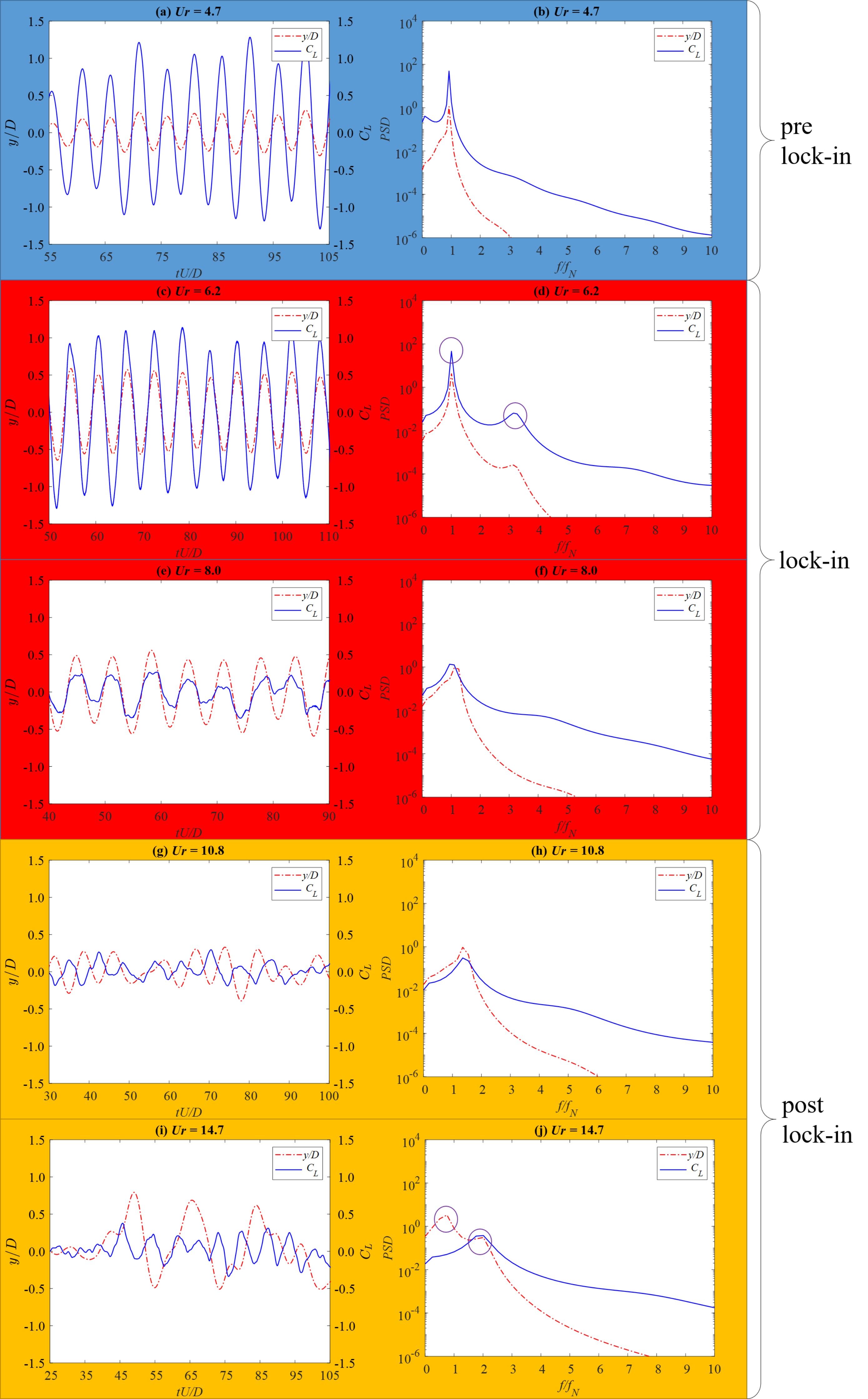


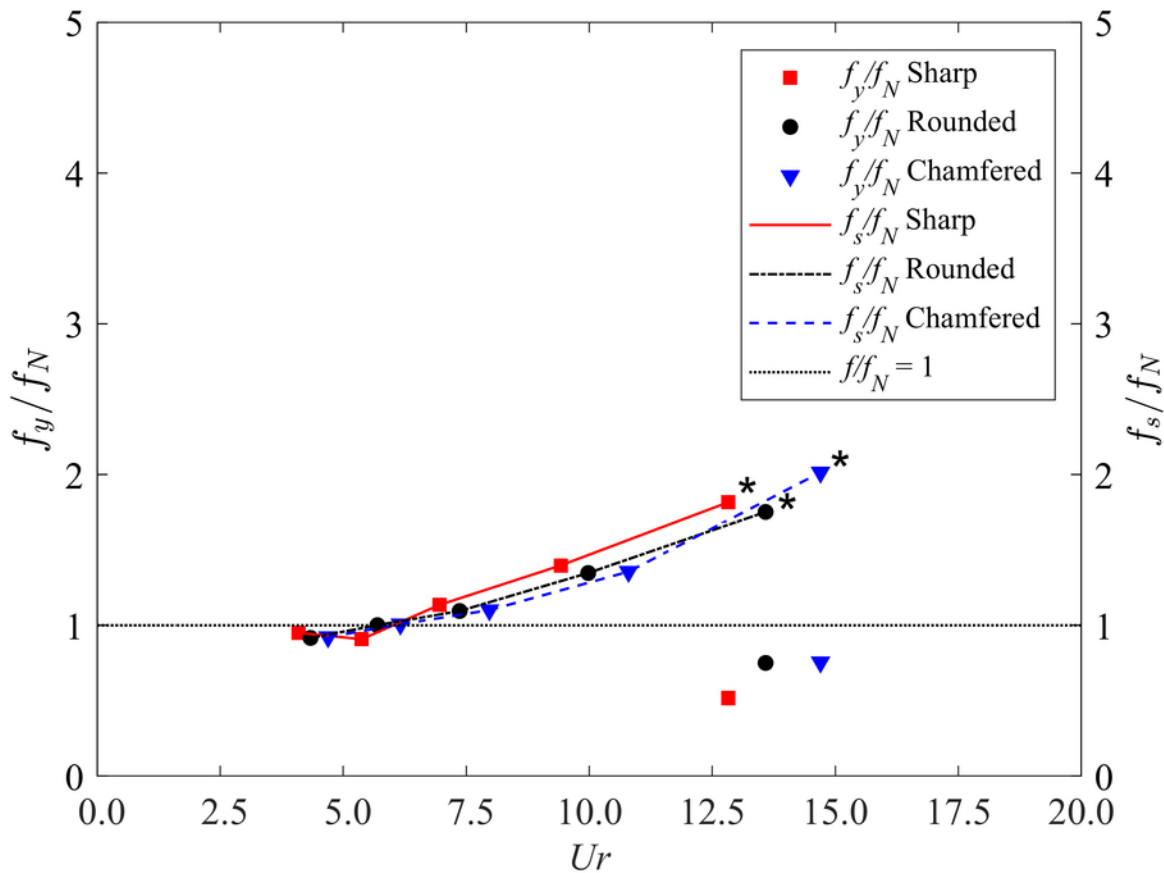
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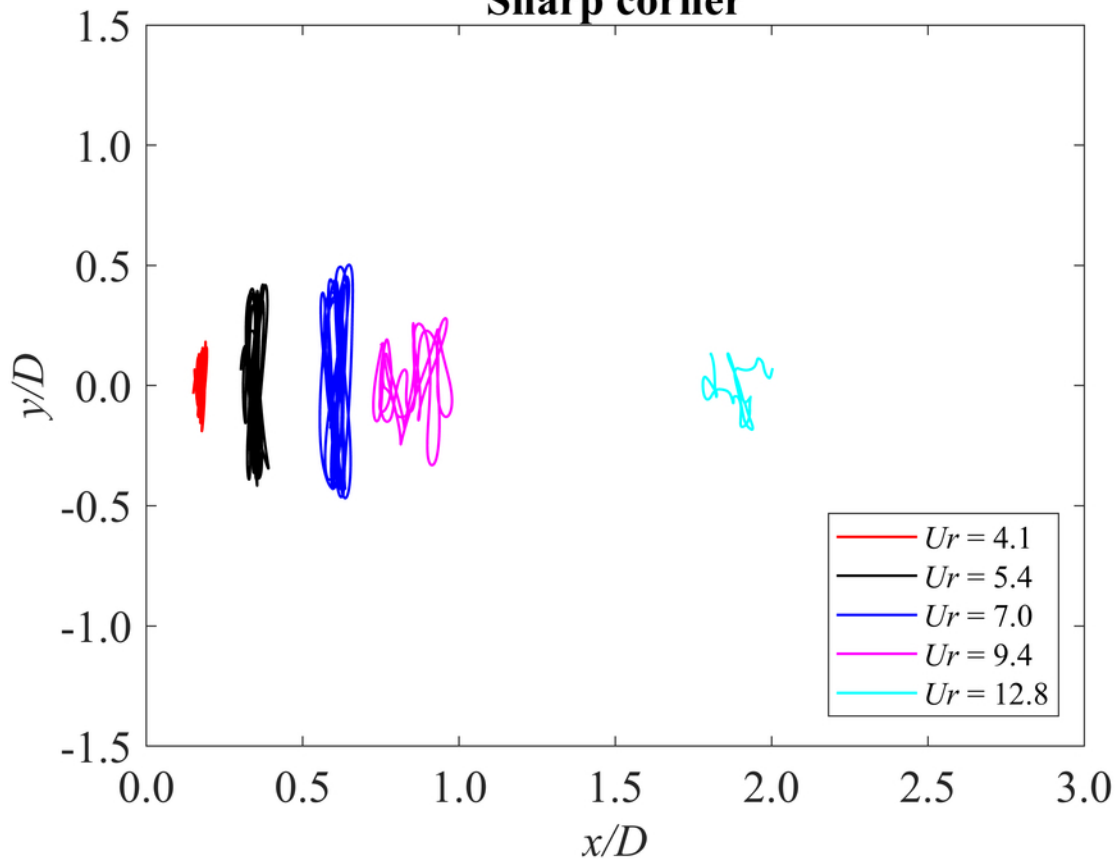




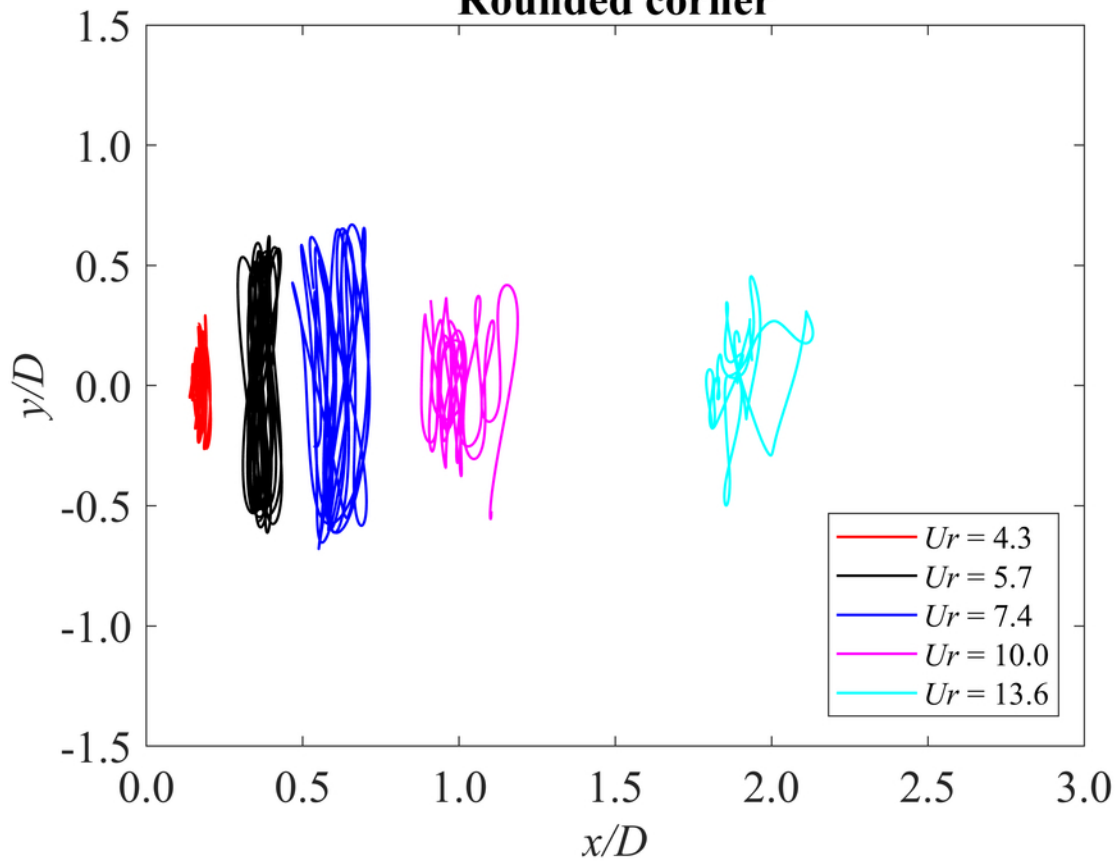




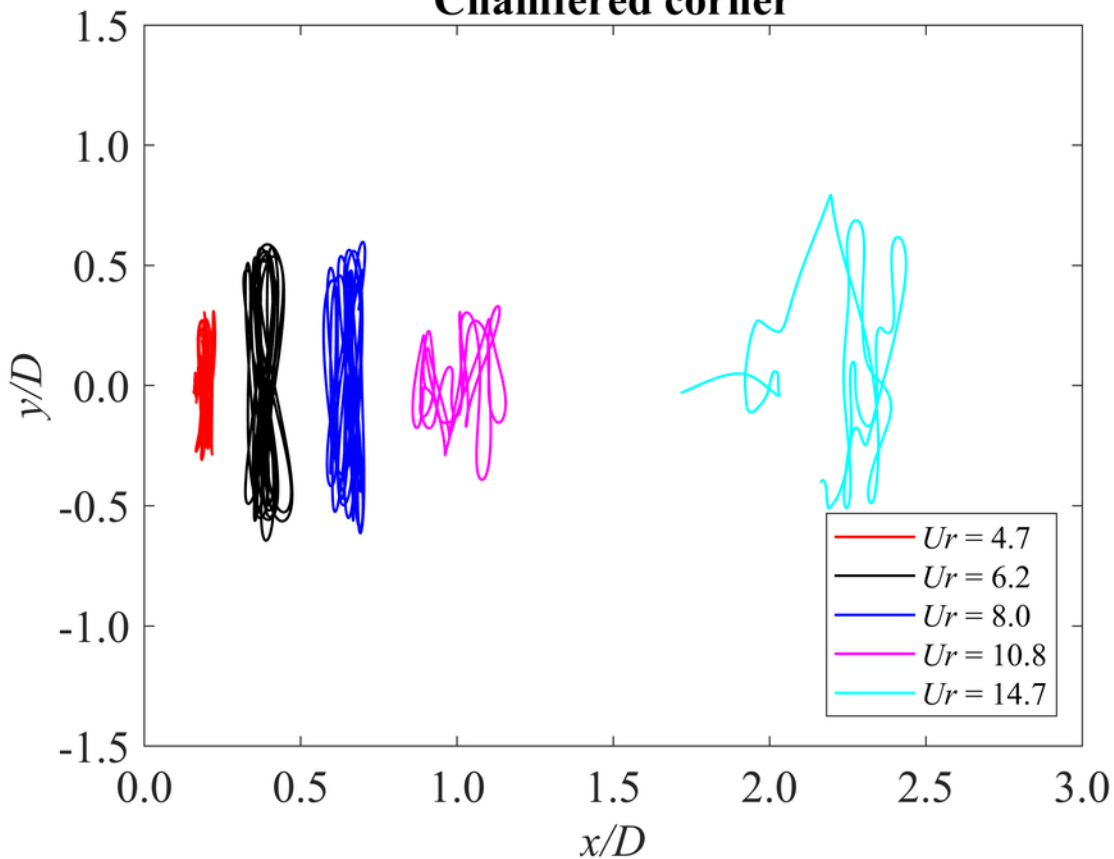
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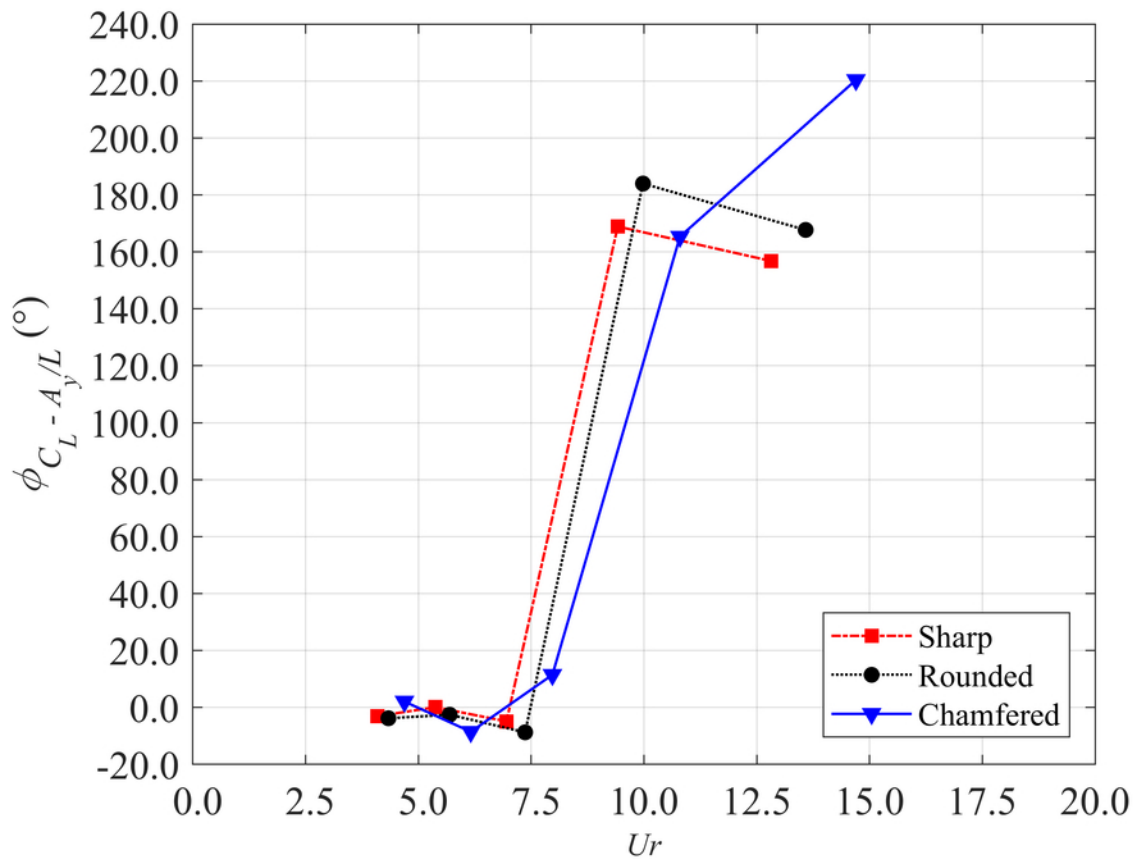


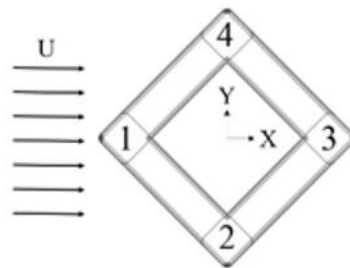
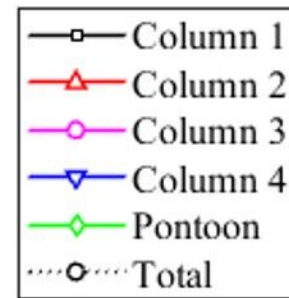
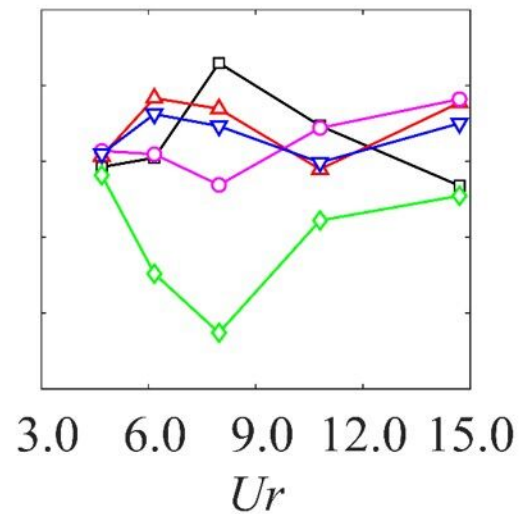
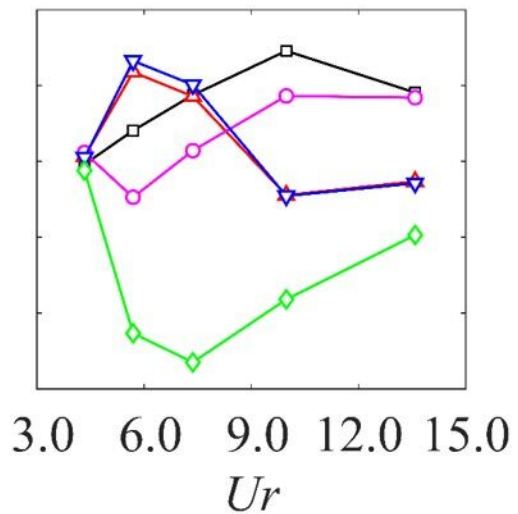
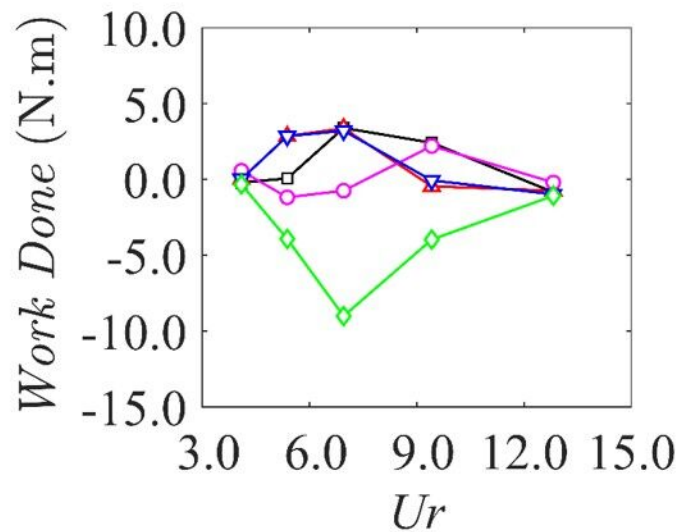
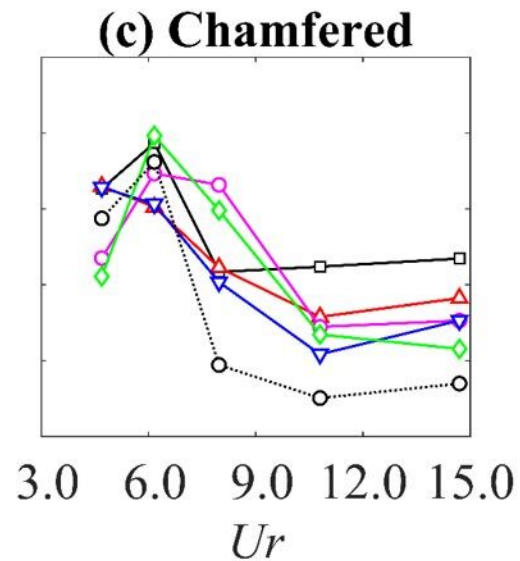
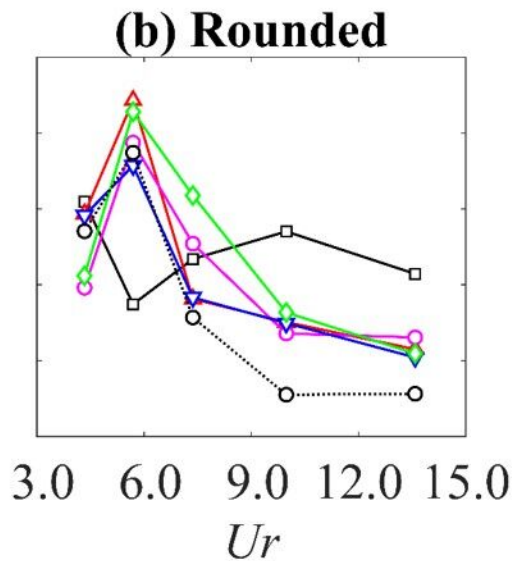
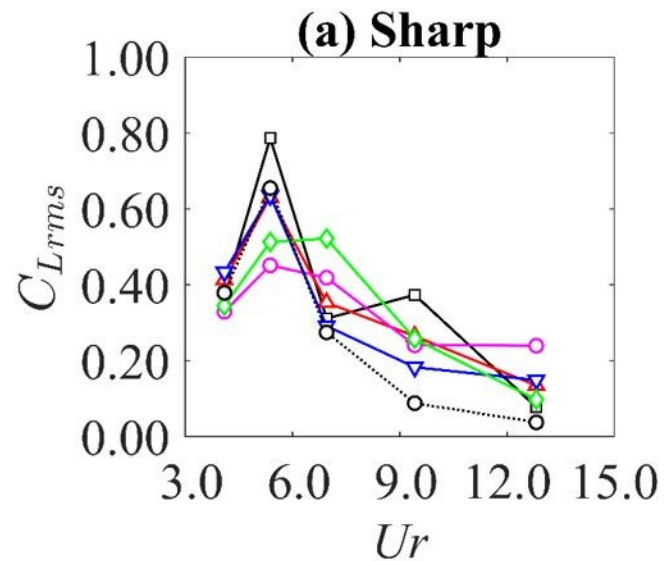
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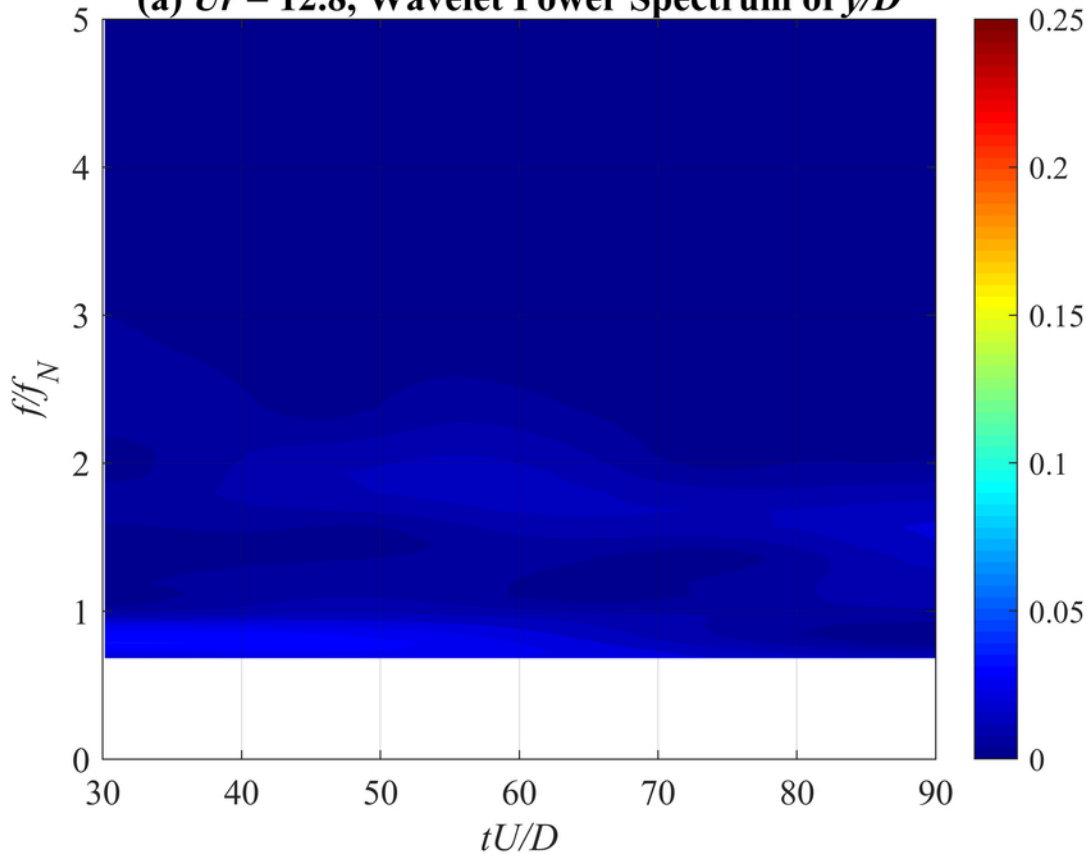
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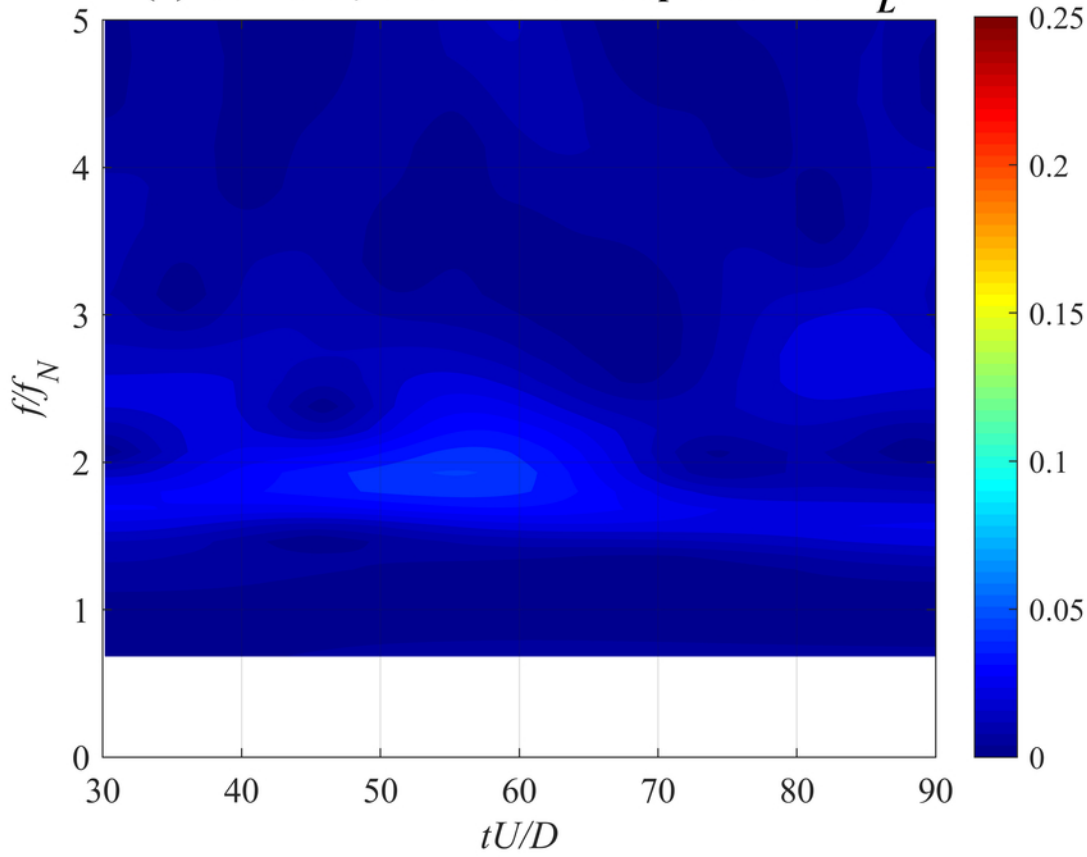




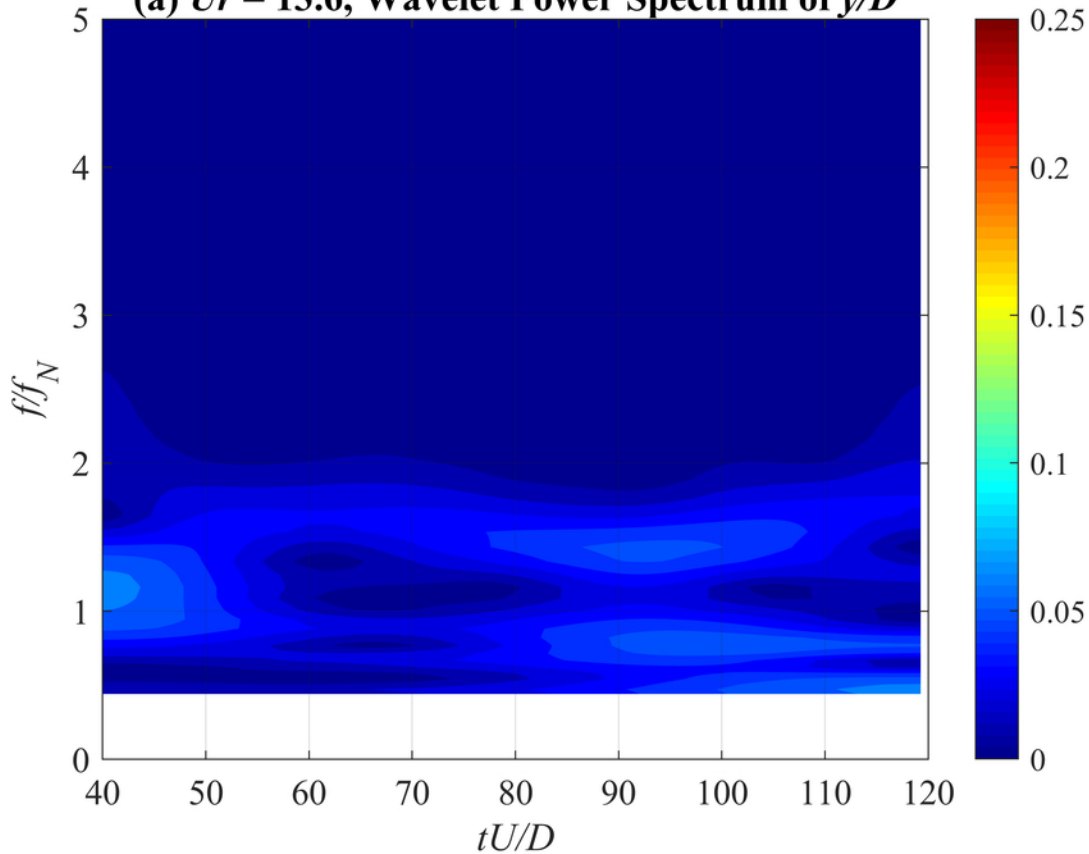
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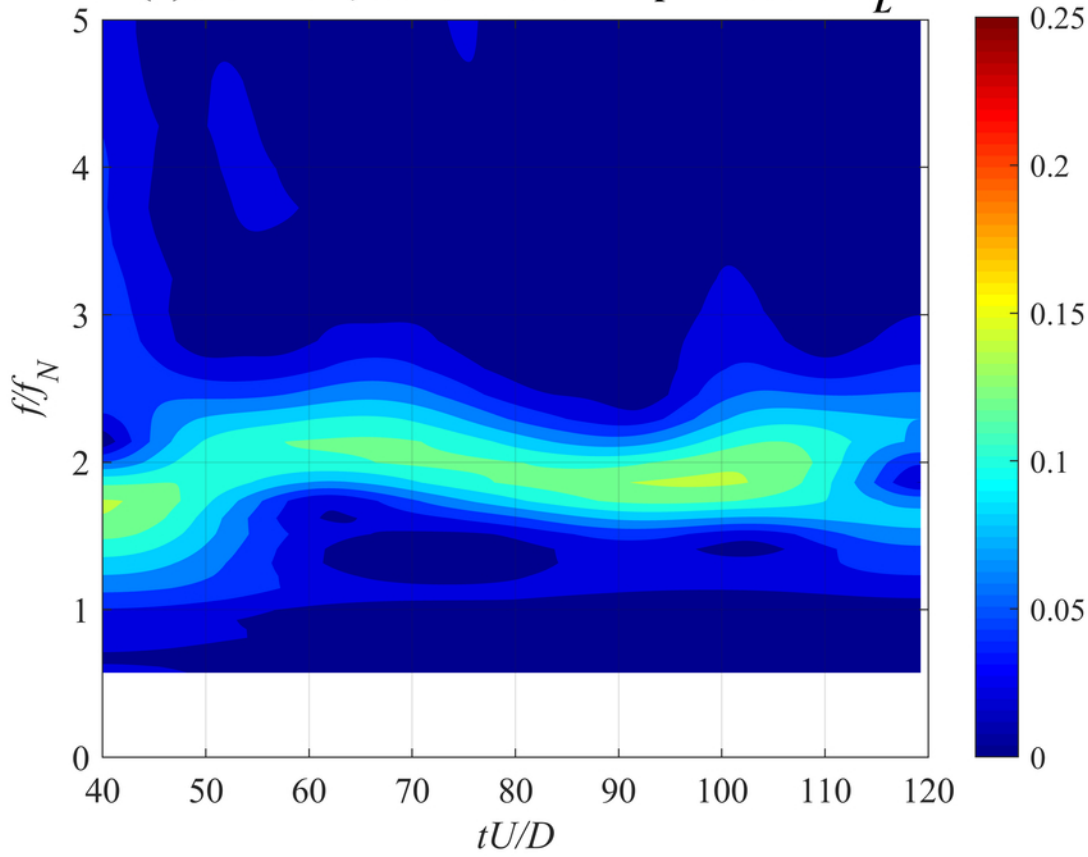
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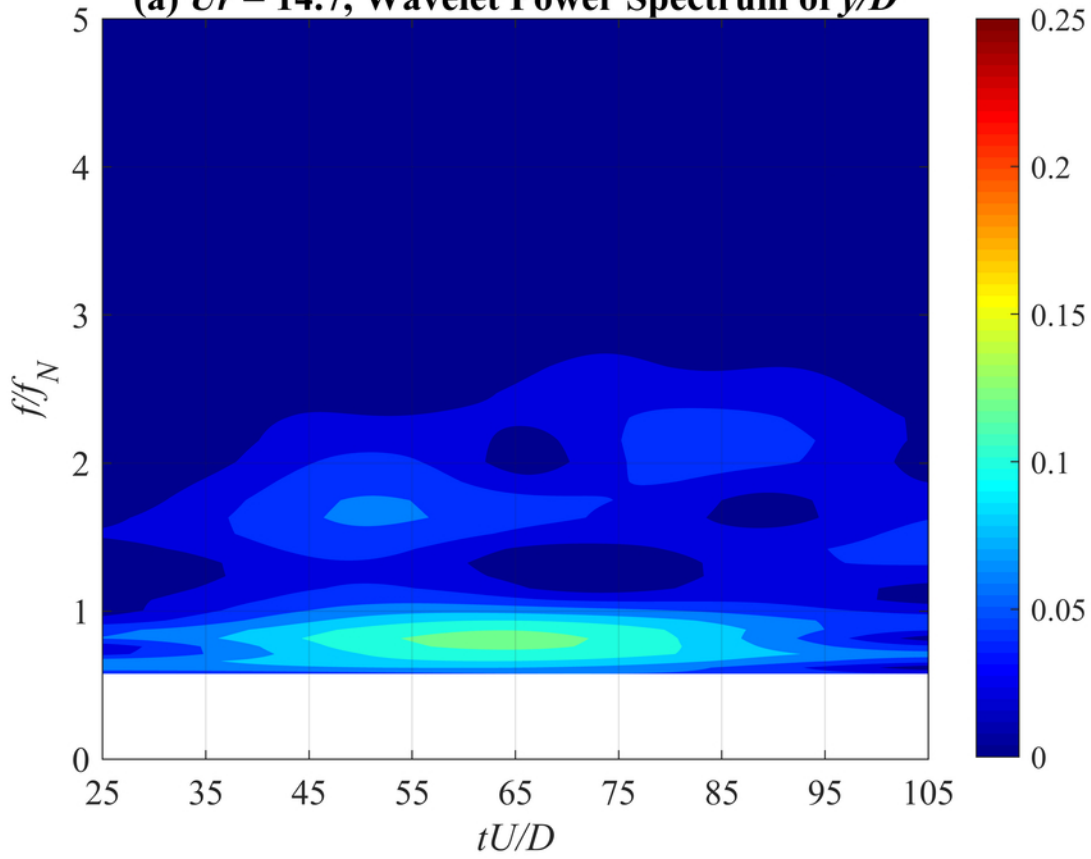
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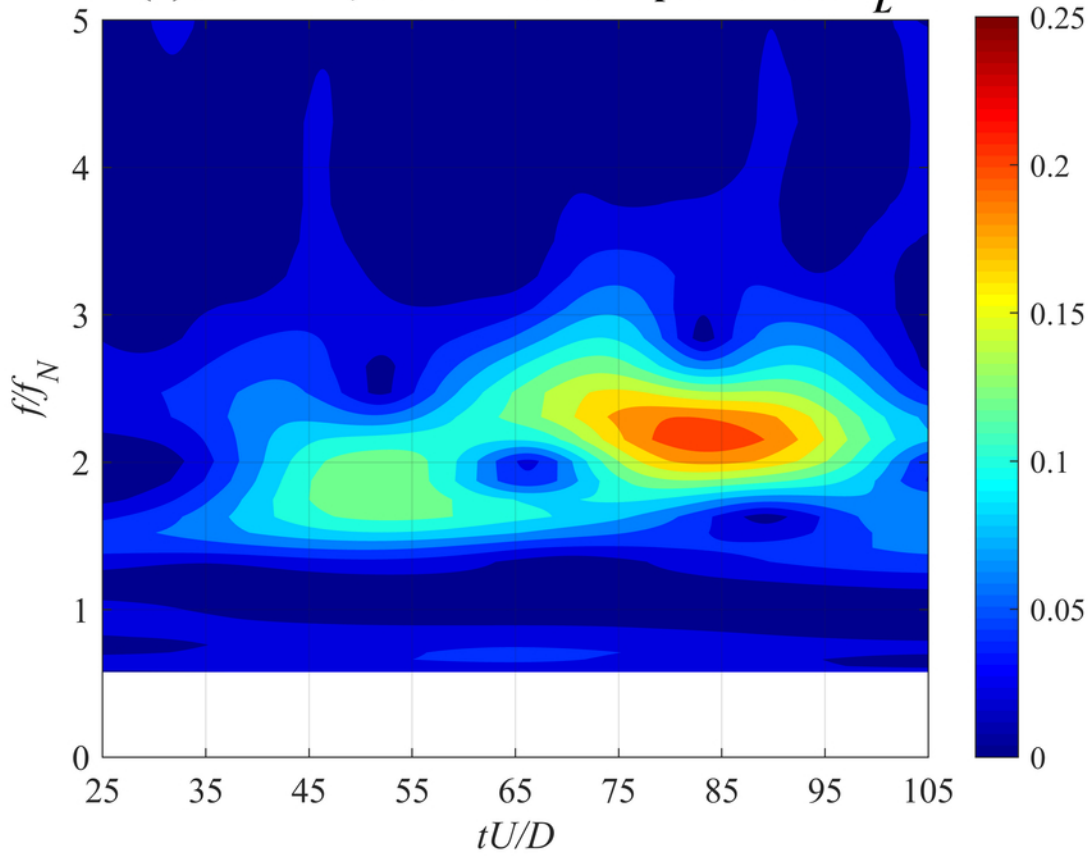
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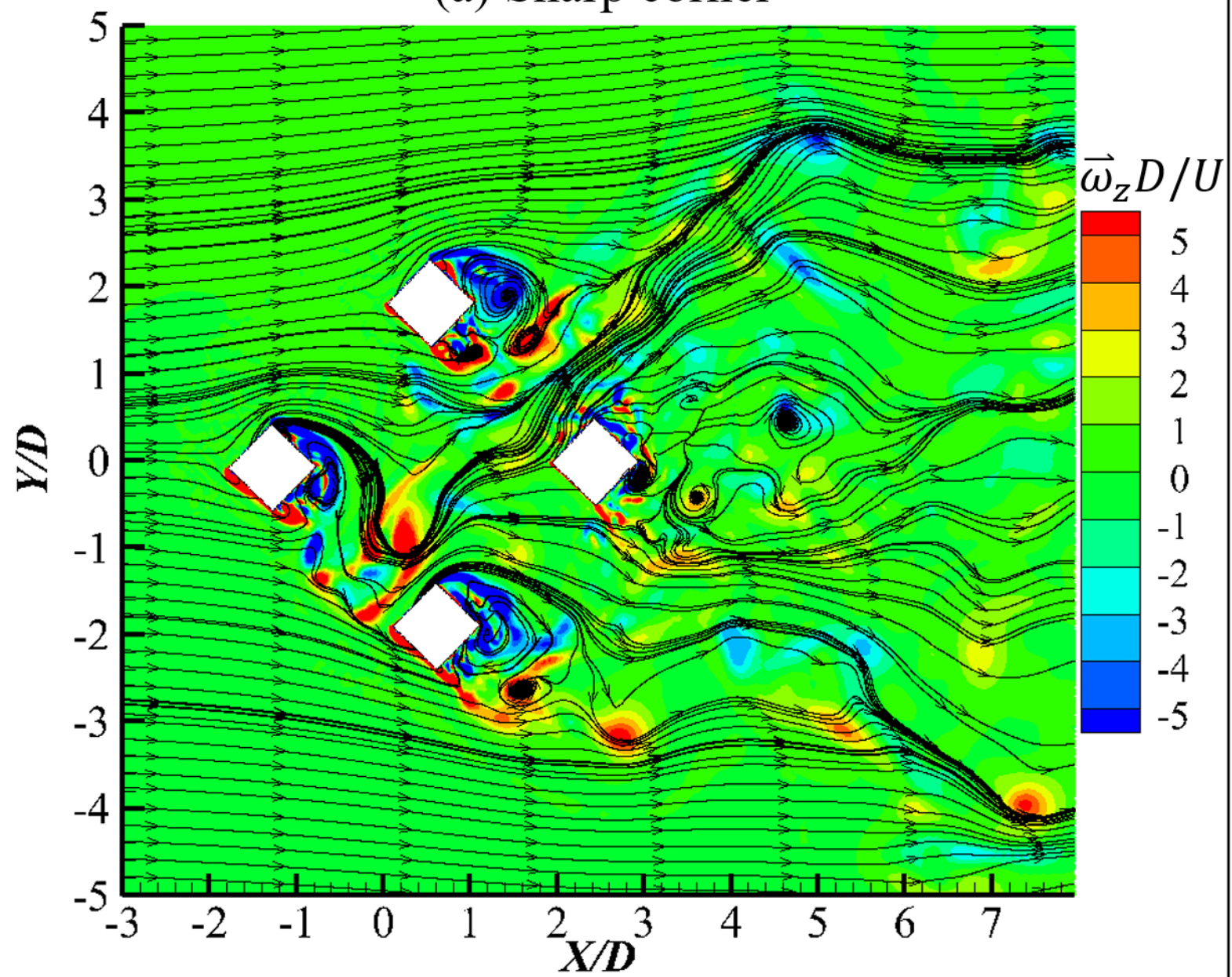
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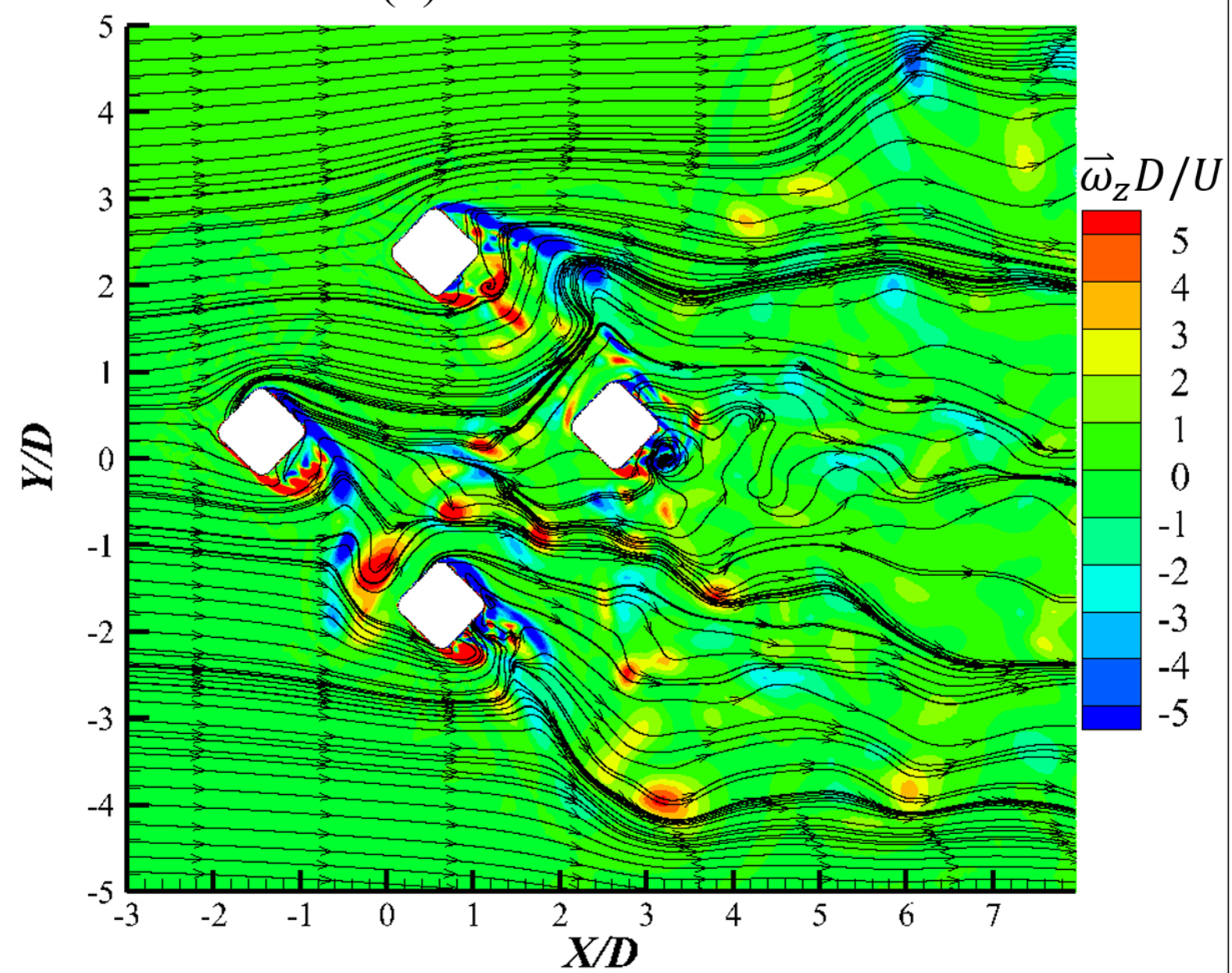
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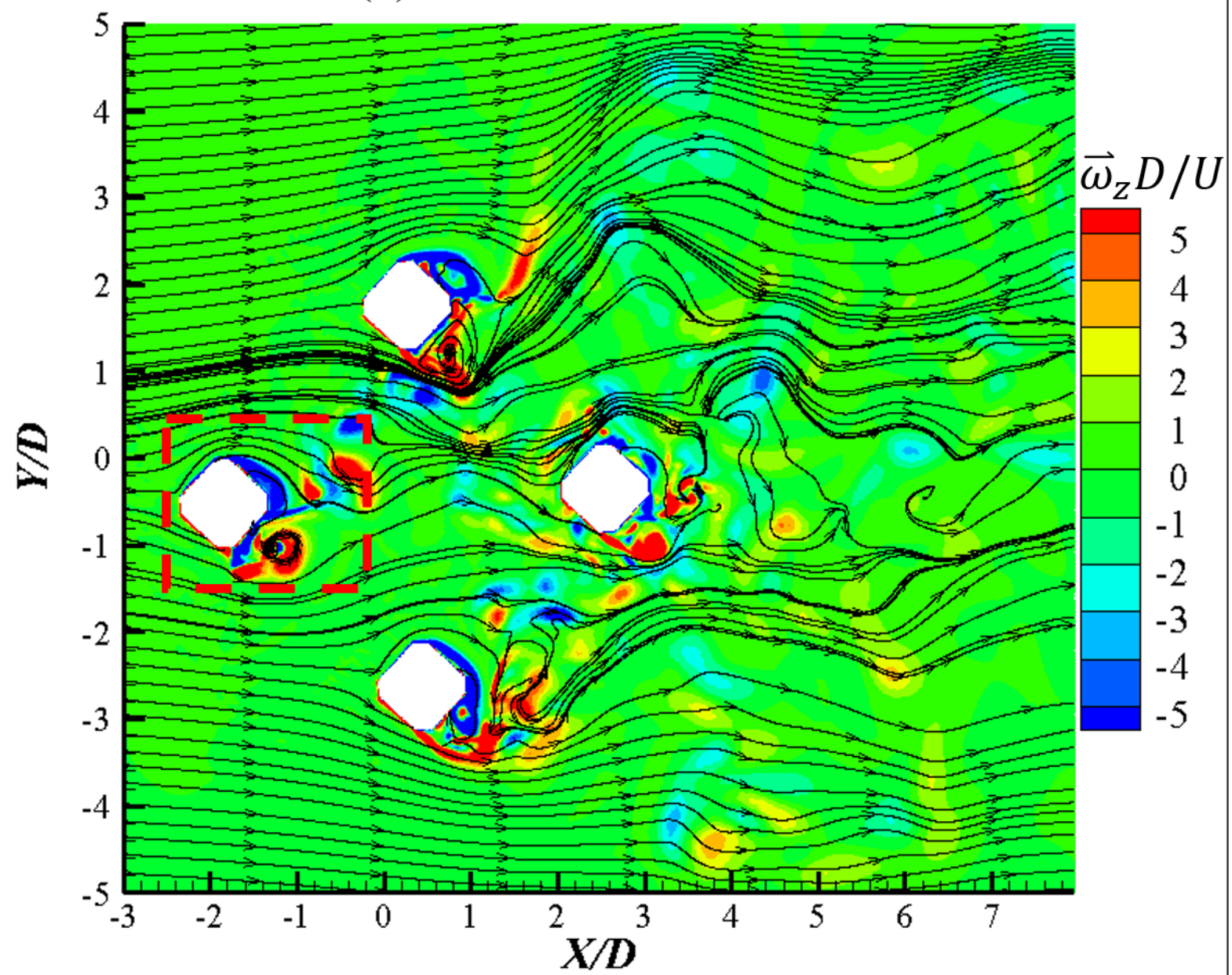
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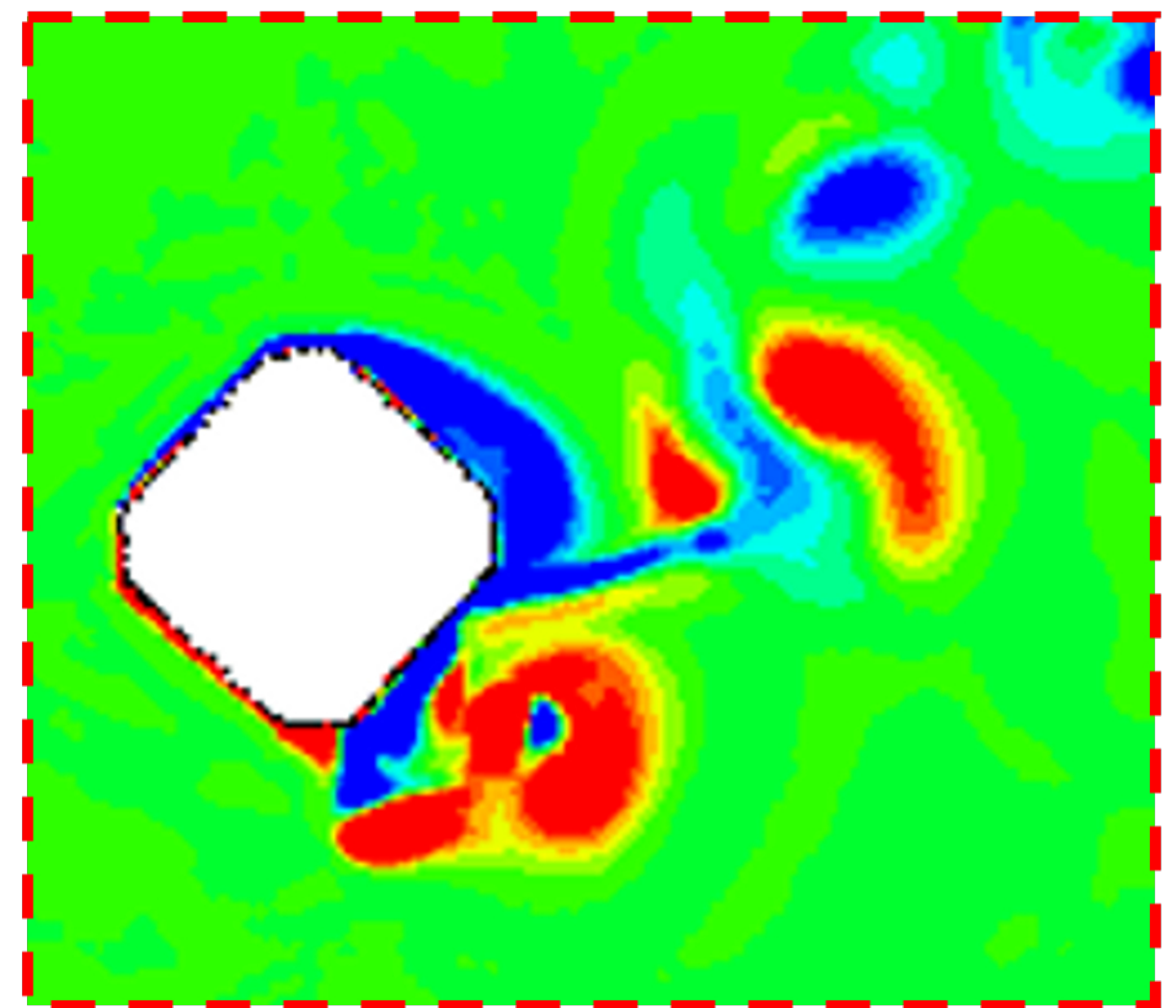
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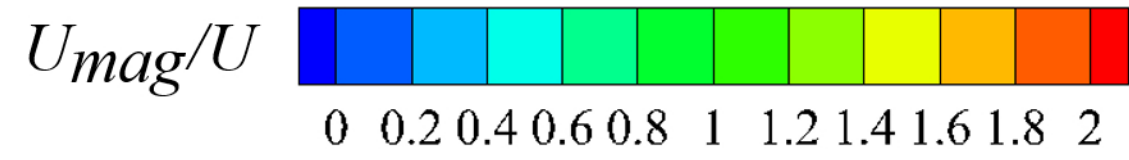
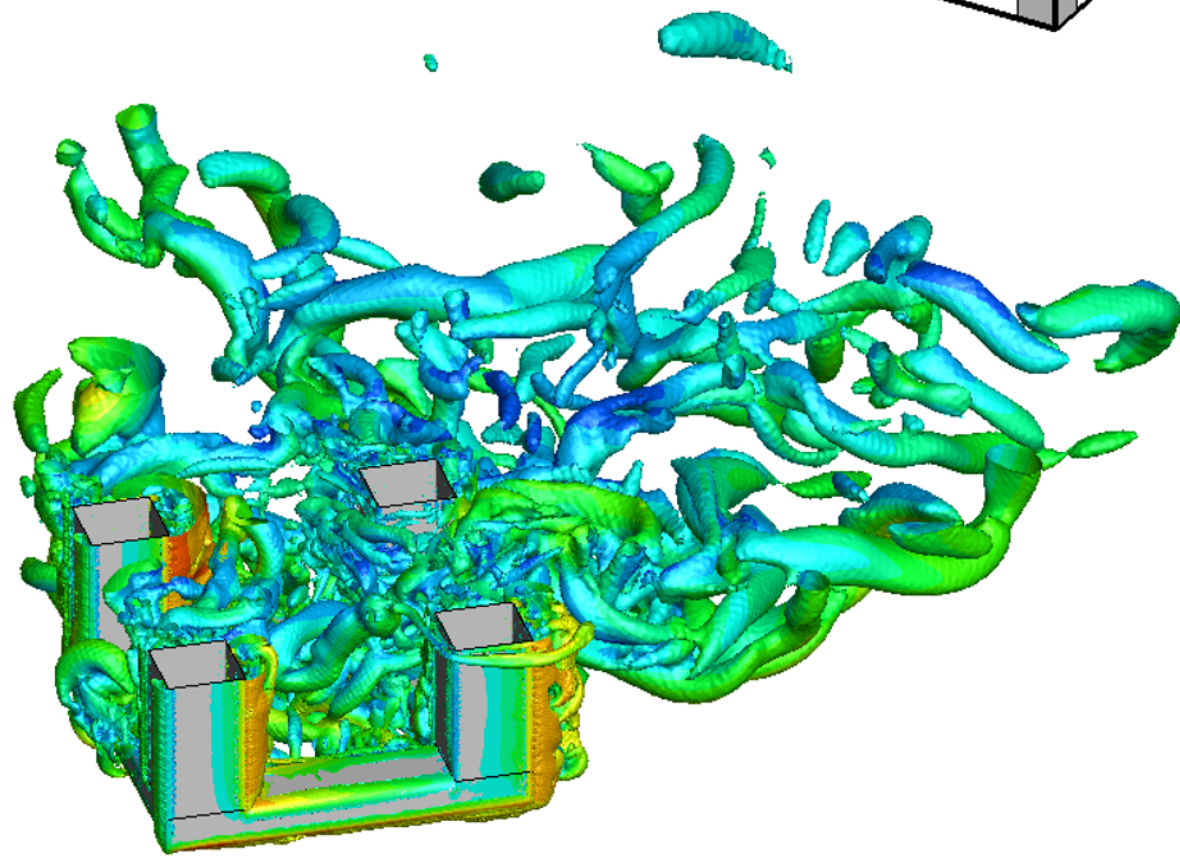
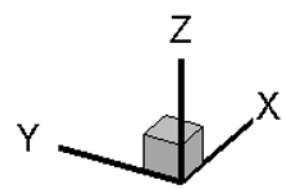
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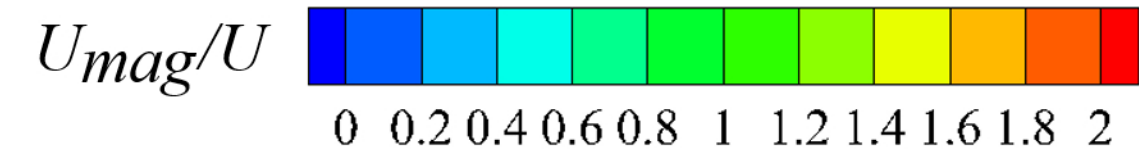
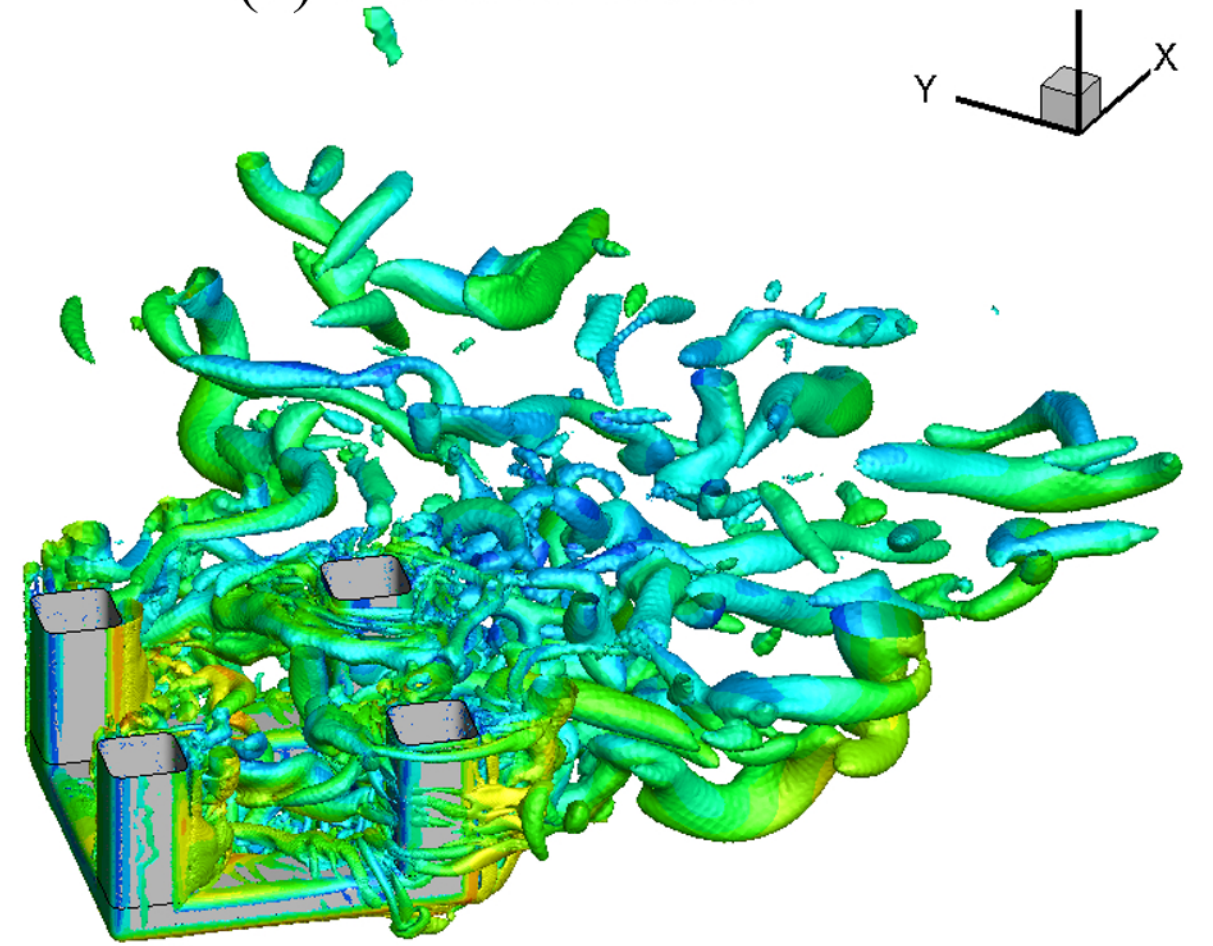
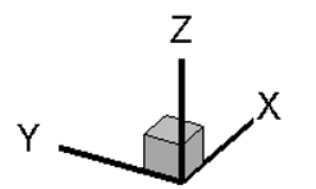
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(a) Sharp corner



(b) Rounded corner



(c) Chamfered corner

