

# **Lecture # 13: Vorticity and Circulation**

---

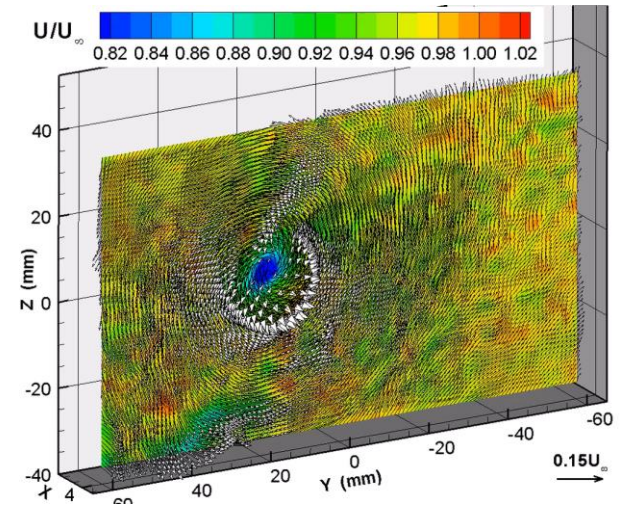
***Dr. Hui HU***

***Department of Aerospace Engineering***

***Iowa State University, 2251 Howe Hall, Ames, IA 50011-2271***

***Tel: 515-294-0094 / Email: [huhui@iastate.edu](mailto:huhui@iastate.edu)***

# □ Vorticity and Circulation



## Fluid rotation

- **Definition:** Fluid rotation at a point  $O$  (also called the angular velocity at the point) is the average angular velocity of two infinitesimal and mutually perpendicular fluid lines  $OA$  and  $OB$  instantaneously passing thorough point  $O$ .
- A fluid line is a line passing through a set of fluid particles of fixed identity.
- The average fluid rotation at a point is given by:

$$\vec{\omega} = \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \times \vec{V})$$

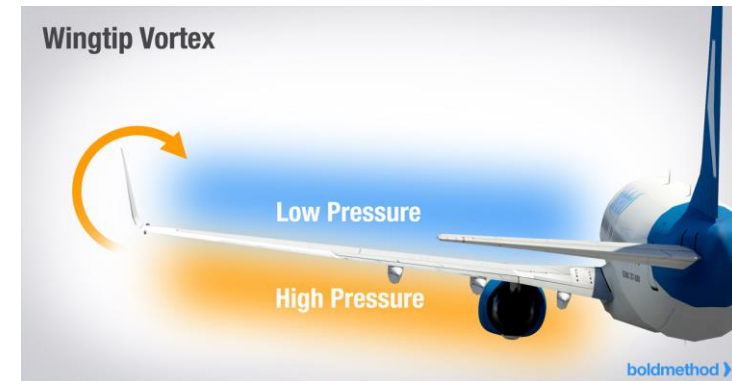
## Vorticity

- **Definition:** Vorticity is defined to be:

$$\vec{\Omega} = 2\vec{\omega} = \nabla \times \vec{V}$$

- In an irrotational velocity field as know as irrotational flow

$$\vec{\Omega} = 2\vec{\omega} = \nabla \times \vec{V} = 0$$



# □ Vorticity and Circulation

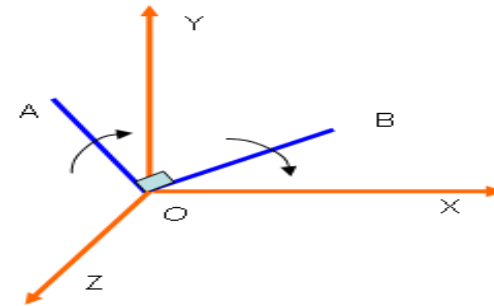
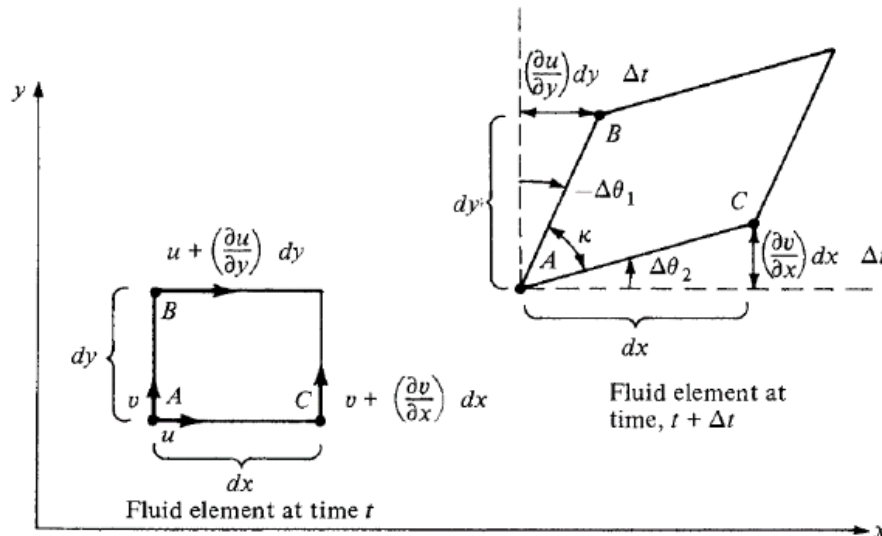
- It is defined as curl of the velocity vector

$$\vec{\Omega} = 2\vec{\omega} = \nabla \times \vec{V}$$

It is a measure of “moment of momentum” of a fluid element around its own center of mass.

- Physically, it is twice the rate of rotation of fluid element when frozen.
- Angular velocity of fluid element

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{d\theta_1}{dt} + \frac{d\theta_2}{dt} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \omega_z$$



$$\Delta\theta_1 = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \Delta t$$

$$\Delta\theta_2 = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \Delta t$$

# □ Vorticity and Circulation

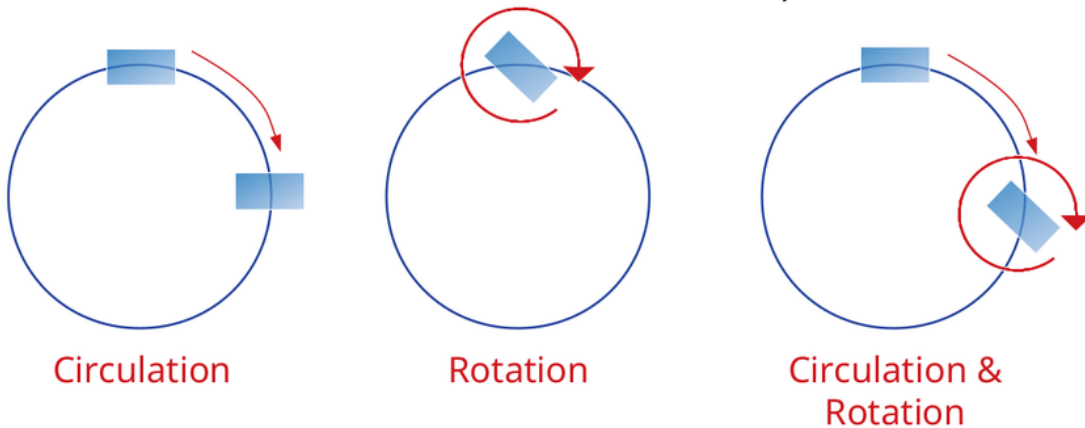
Vorticity and rotational flow

$$\vec{\Omega} = 2\vec{\omega} = \nabla \times \vec{V}$$

$\vec{\omega} = 0 \rightarrow$  irrotational flow (often means inviscid)

$\vec{\omega} \neq 0 \rightarrow$  rotational flow (viscous flow)

Note: having a circulatory motion does not always mean rotational flow!

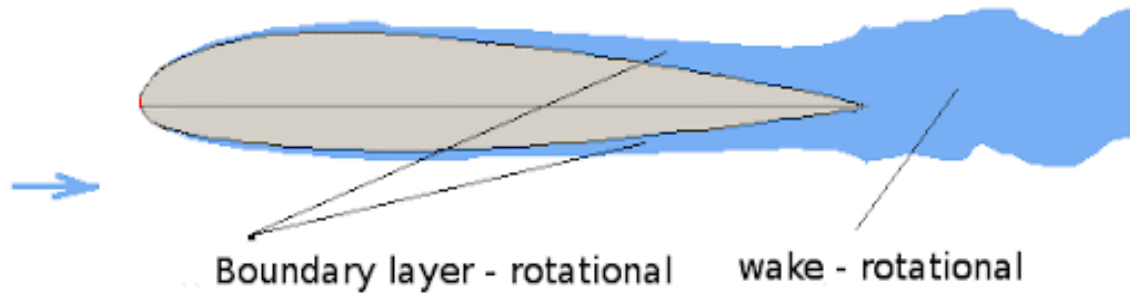


Rotational  
&  
Irrotational  
Flows

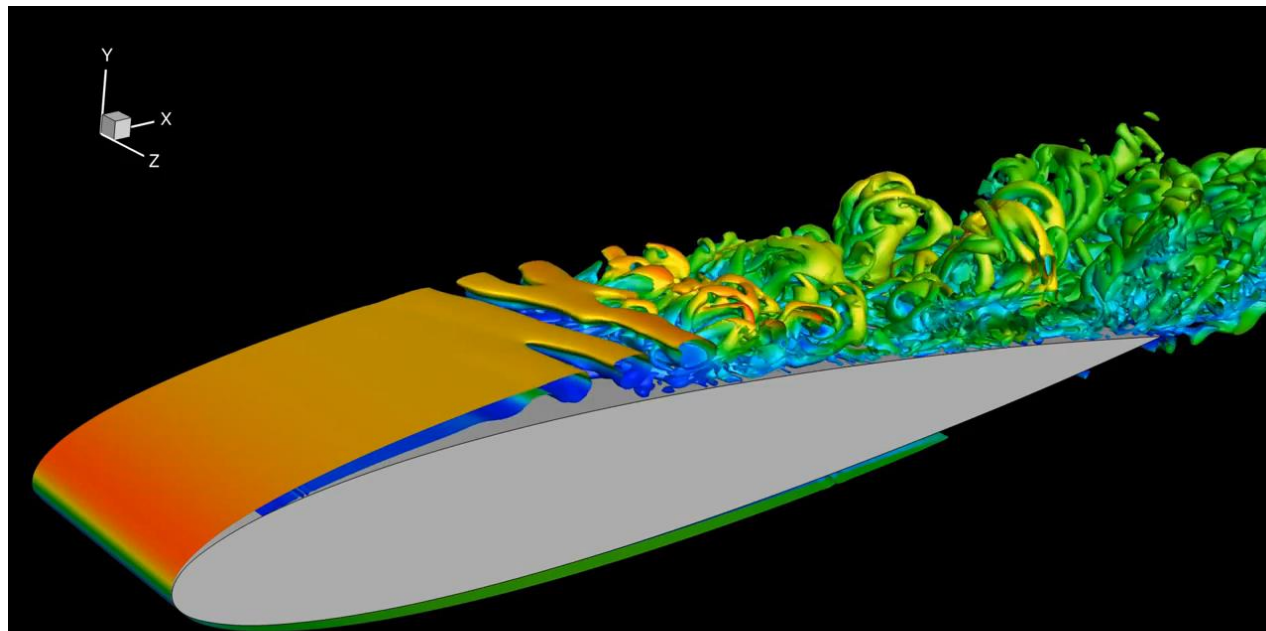


# □ Vorticity and Circulation

External flow - irrotational



***Vortex structures over a NACA0012 airfoil***



# □ Vorticity and Circulation

## Circulation

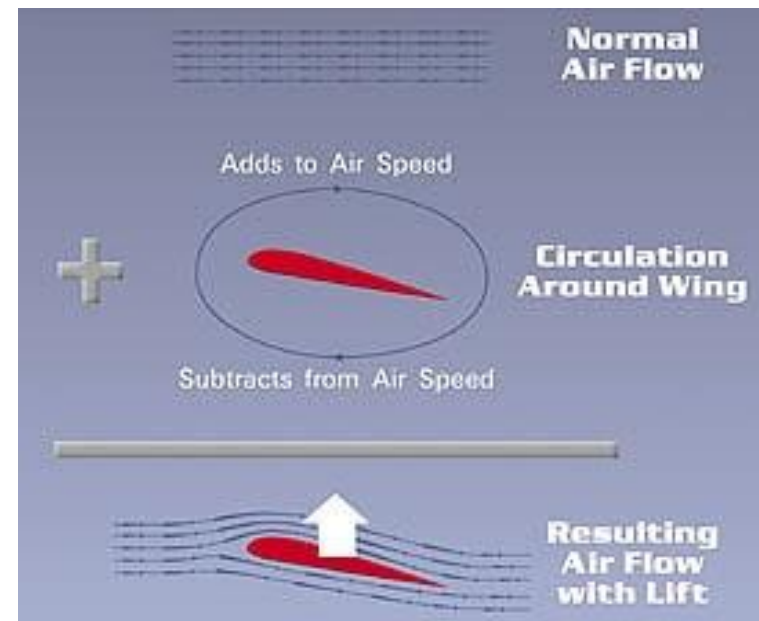
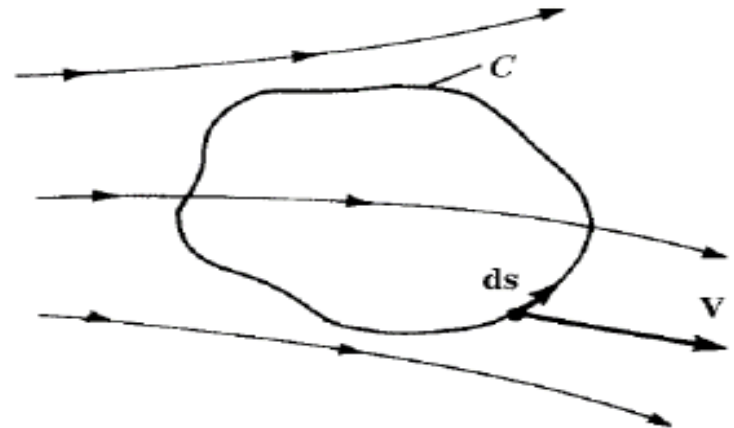
Consider a closed curve  $C$  in a flow field.  
Circulation  $\Gamma$  is defined as

$$\Gamma = \oint_C \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

It is a line integral of velocity around a closed curve in the flow.

Later, you will see  $\Gamma$  is directly related to the lift generated around a body.

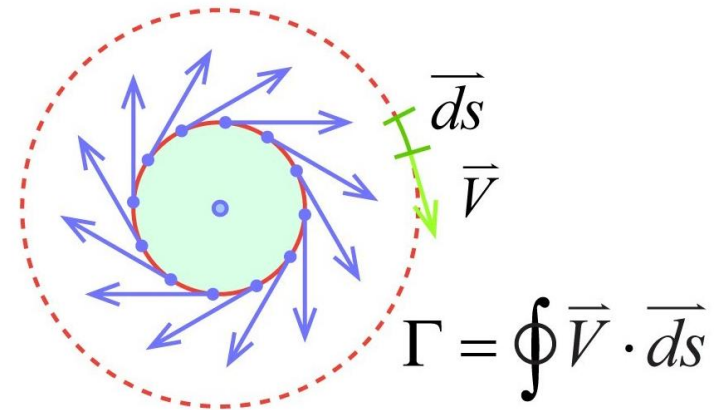
$\Gamma > 0$  counterclockwise and  $< 0$  clockwise (note Anderson textbook uses the opposite definition).



# □ Vorticity and Circulation

Circulation is related to the vorticity by Stoke's theorem

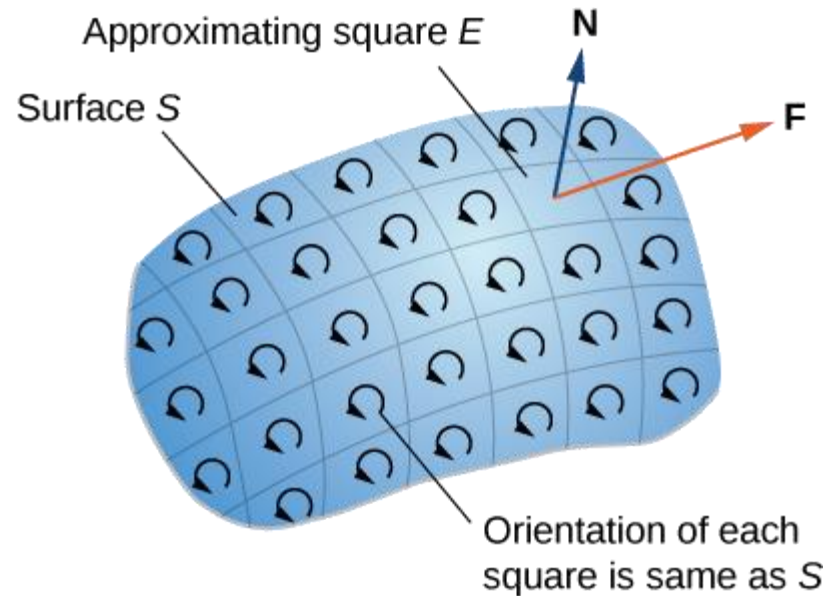
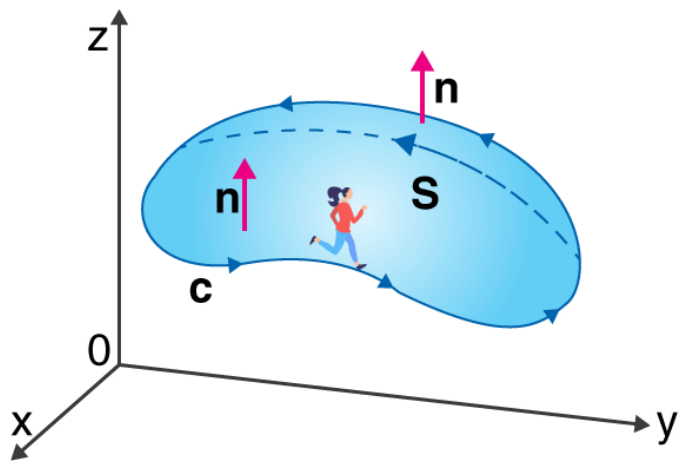
$$\Gamma = \oint_C \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{s} = \iint_S (\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{V}) \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iint_S \vec{\Omega} \cdot \hat{n} dS$$



Where  $S$  is the area enclosed by curve  $C$ .

Also

$$(\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{V}) \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{d\Gamma}{dS} \vec{\Omega} \cdot \hat{n} = \frac{d\Gamma}{dS}$$



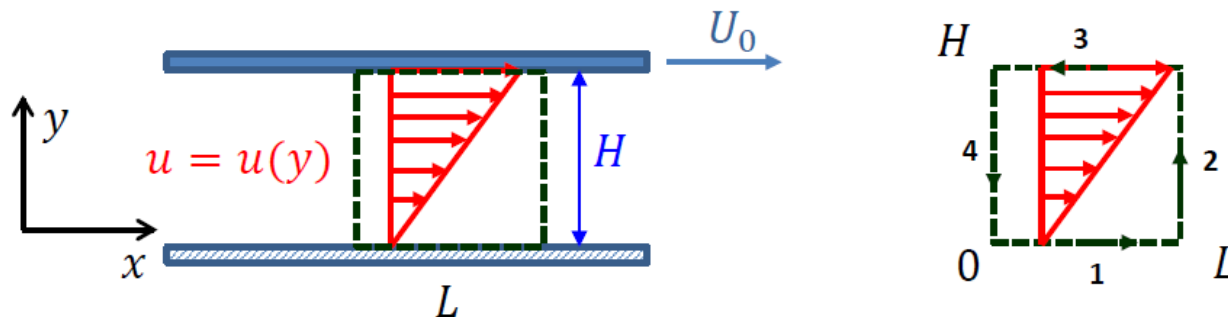
# □ Vorticity and Circulation

- **Example 01:**

Couette flow

Steady incompressible flow between two large plates. The top plate moves with constant velocity  $U_0$  but the bottom plate is fixed. The velocity distribution in the gap is given as  $u(y) = \frac{U_0}{H} y$ . Calculate circulation for the rectangular box shown.

Find the vorticity for this flow and verify circulation-vorticity relationship.



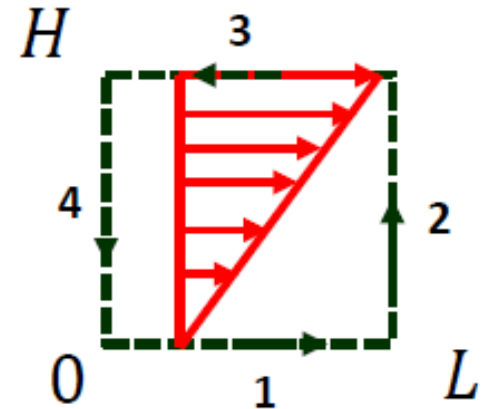
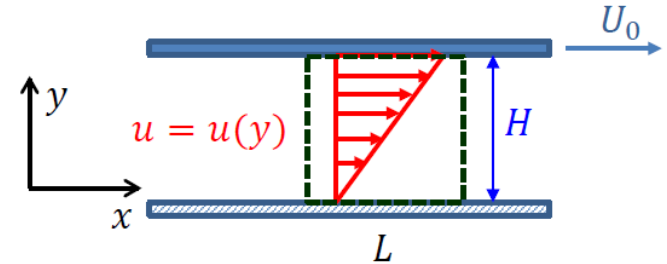
# □ Vorticity and Circulation

- *Solution of example 01:*

$$\Gamma = \oint_C \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

$$= \int_1 0 \hat{i} \cdot \hat{i} dx + \int_2 u(y) \hat{i} \cdot \hat{j} dy + \int_3 U_0 \hat{i} \cdot (-\hat{i}) dx + \int_4 u(y) \hat{i} \cdot (-\hat{j}) dy$$

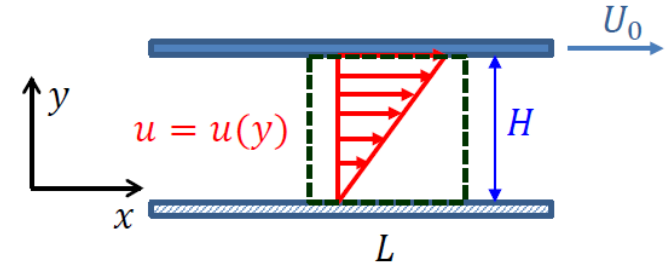
$$\Gamma = \int_0^L -U_0 dx = -U_0 L$$





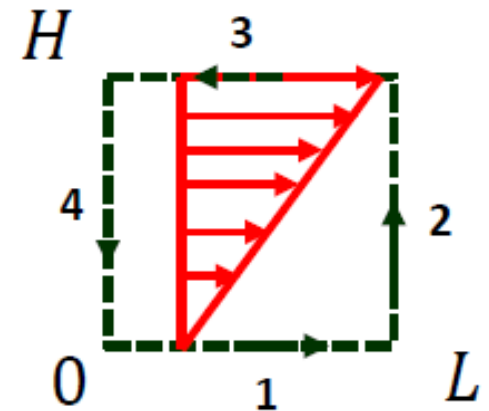
# □ Vorticity and Circulation

- *Solution of example 01:*



$$\vec{\Omega} = 2\omega_z \hat{k} = \left( \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) \hat{k} = -\frac{U_0}{H} \hat{k}$$

$$\Gamma = \iint_S \vec{\Omega} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \int_0^L \int_0^H -\frac{U_0}{H} \hat{k} \cdot \hat{k} dy dx = \int_0^L -\frac{U_0}{H} H dx = -U_0 L$$



Which is the same result obtained using definition of the circulation

# □ Vorticity and Circulation

## • Example 02:

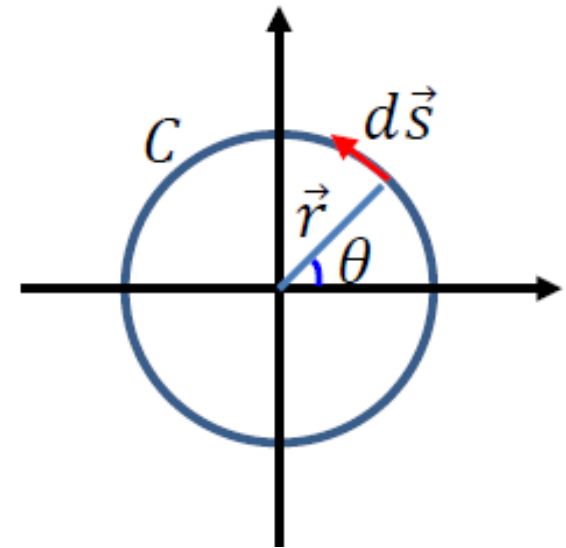
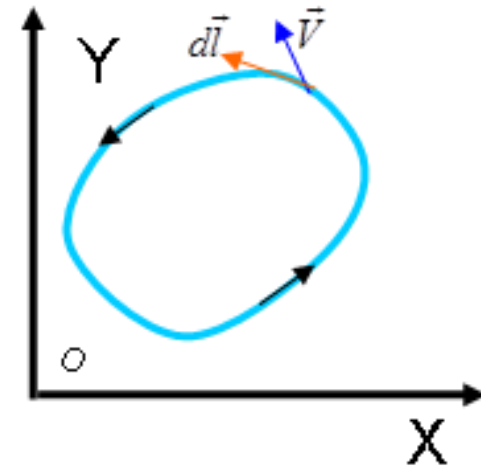
- Velocity field for 'vortex flow' is given as

$$u = \frac{cy}{x^2 + y^2}, \quad v = -\frac{cx}{x^2 + y^2}$$

Where  $c$  is a constant.

Find circulation around a circular curve with radius  $r$

Calculate vorticity field and verify circulation and vorticity relationship.



# □ Vorticity and Circulation

---

## Example - solution

It is easier to solve this problem in cylindrical (polar) coordinate system

In polar coordinates:

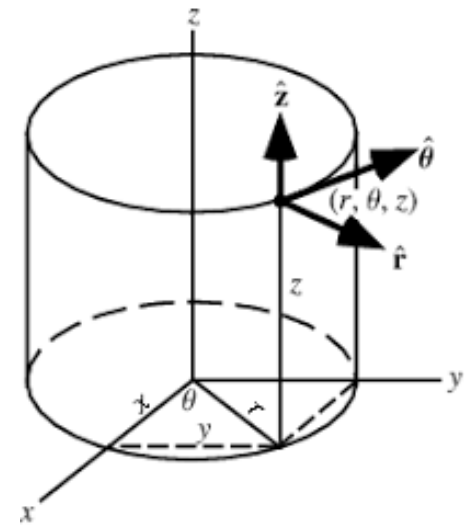
$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta$$

$$v_r = u \cos \theta + v \sin \theta$$

$$v_r = \frac{cr \sin \theta}{r^2} \cos \theta - \frac{cr \cos \theta}{r^2} \sin \theta = 0$$

$$v_\theta = -u \sin \theta + v \cos \theta$$

$$v_\theta = -\frac{cr \sin \theta}{r^2} \sin \theta - \frac{cr \cos \theta}{r^2} \cos \theta = -\frac{c}{r} (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) = -\frac{c}{r}$$



# □ Vorticity and Circulation

Consider a circle with radius  $r$  as  $C$

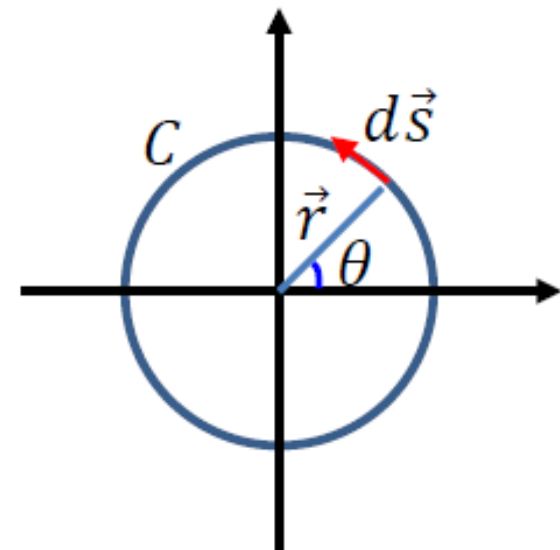
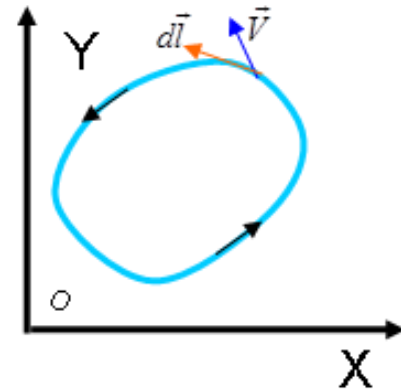
$$d\vec{s} = dr\hat{e}_r + rd\theta\hat{e}_\theta$$

$$\Gamma = \oint_C \vec{V} \cdot d\vec{s} = \oint_C (v_r\hat{e}_r + v_\theta\hat{e}_\theta) \cdot (dr\hat{e}_r + rd\theta\hat{e}_\theta)$$

$$\Gamma = \oint_C (v_r dr + rv_\theta d\theta) = \oint_C (0 + r\left(-\frac{c}{r}\right) d\theta)$$

$$\Gamma = -\oint_C c d\theta = -c \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = -c(2\pi)$$

$$\Gamma = -2\pi c$$



# □ Vorticity and Circulation

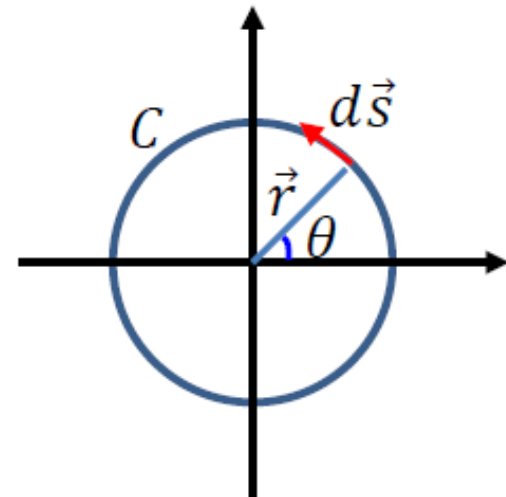
---

## Example - continued

Note for a 2D flow, the only component of vorticity that can exist is normal to the plane of motion, here  $\omega_z$

$$\omega_z = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (r v_\theta) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v_r}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} (-c) - \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (0) = 0, \quad r \neq 0$$

$$\Gamma = \iint_S \vec{\Omega} \cdot \hat{n} dS = \iint_S (0) dS = \text{const.}$$



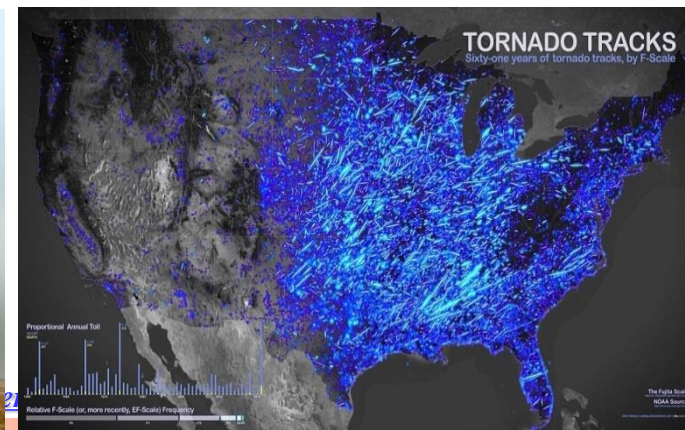
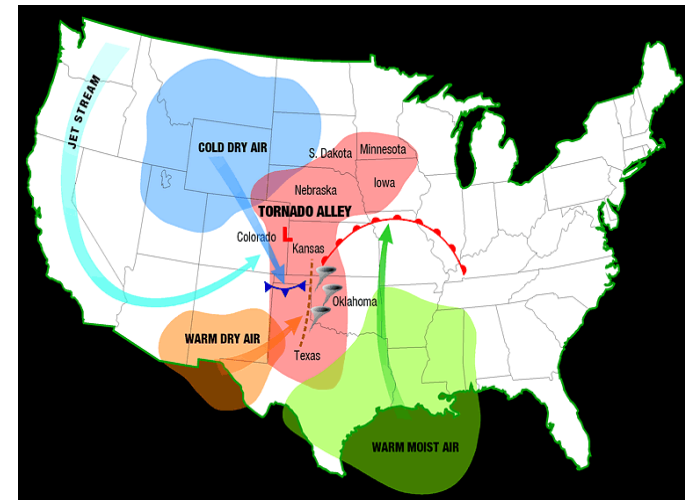
We can confirm  $\Gamma$  is a constant but can't obtain the constant this way.

---

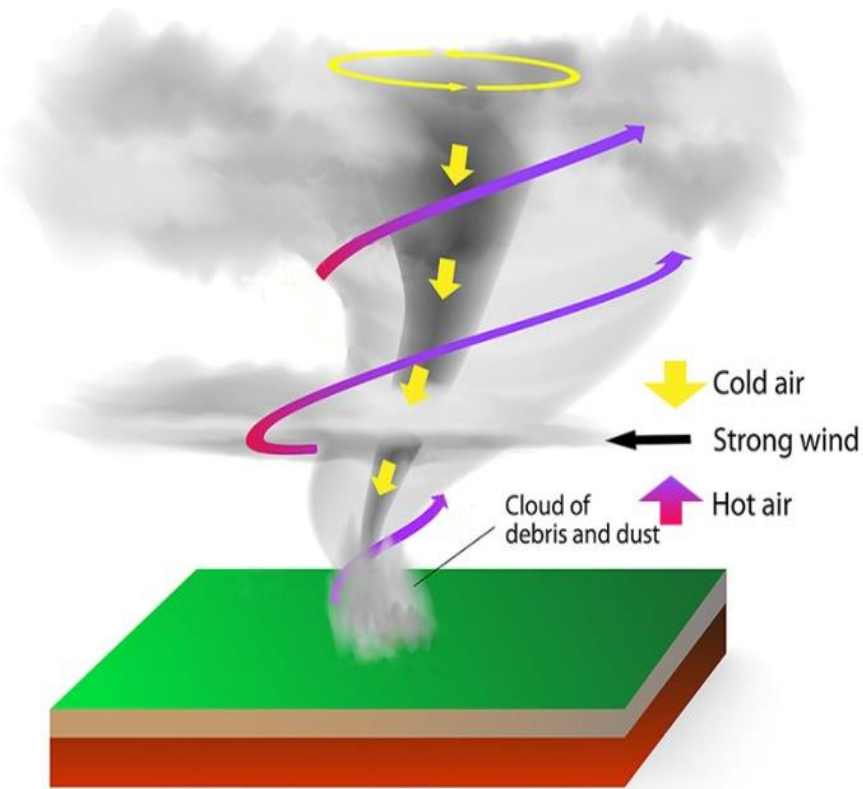


# Tornadoes in USA

- *The most violent storms on earth.*
- *Diameter of 1 mile and travel up-to 50 miles. Wind speed ranges from 20 to 135 m/s.*
- *800 ~ 1000 tornados occur each year in the U.S.*
- *Annual averaged data of 1500 injuries and 80 deaths. ~ \$1 billion worth of damage.*



# Characteristics of Tornado-like Winds and Their Induced Wind Loadings Acting on Wind Turbines



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aachWob7cmY>



# Introduction – Tornado Classifications



*EF3 tornadoes struck Woodward, Iowa (Nov. 11, 2005)*



*EF5 tornado hits Parkersburg, Iowa on Sunday 05/27/2007 and killed seven.*

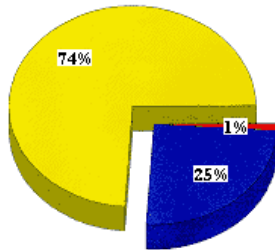


*2016, April 27 tornado in Omaha*

## Fujita Scale

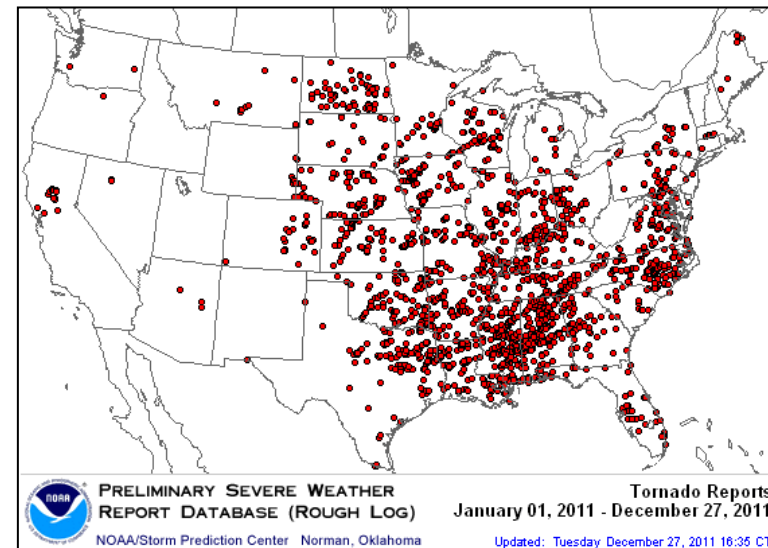
Percent of All Tornadoes 1950-1994  
by Fujita Scale Class

■ Weak F0-F1\*  
■ Strong F2-F3  
■ Violent F4-F5



<i>F-Scale</i>	<i>Intensity Phrase</i>	<i>Wind Speed</i>
<i>F0</i>	<i>Gale tornado</i>	<i>40-72 mph</i>
<i>F1</i>	<i>Moderate tornado</i>	<i>73-112 mph</i>
<i>F2</i>	<i>Significant tornado</i>	<i>113-157 mph</i>
<i>F3</i>	<i>Severe tornado</i>	<i>158-206 mph</i>
<i>F4</i>	<i>Devastating tornado</i>	<i>207-260 mph</i>
<i>F5</i>	<i>Incredible tornado</i>	<i>261-318 mph</i>
<i>F6</i>	<i>Inconceivable tornado</i>	<i>319-379 mph</i>

## • Occurrence of tornadoes in 2011 alone



# Tornado-like Vortex and ISU Tornado Simulator

Swirl ratio: The ratio of angular to radial momentum

$$S = \frac{r_1 \Gamma}{2Q} = \frac{V_\theta}{2V_r a}$$

$\Gamma$  - Circulation,  
 $V_\theta$  - Tangential velocity,  
 $V_r$  - Radial velocity,  
 $a$  - Aspect ratio.

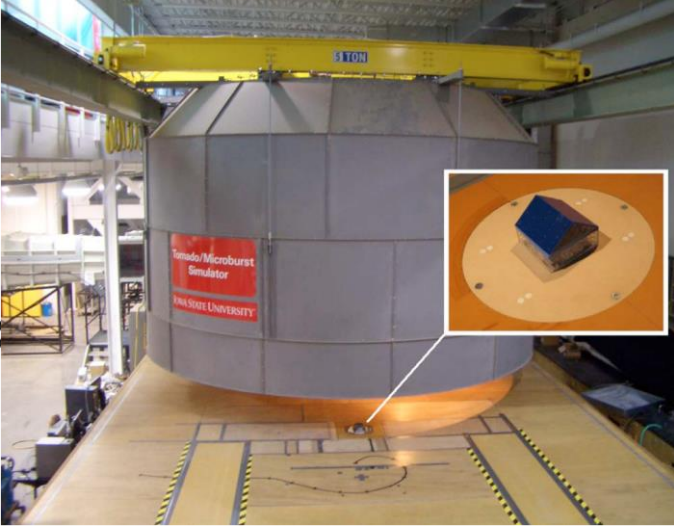
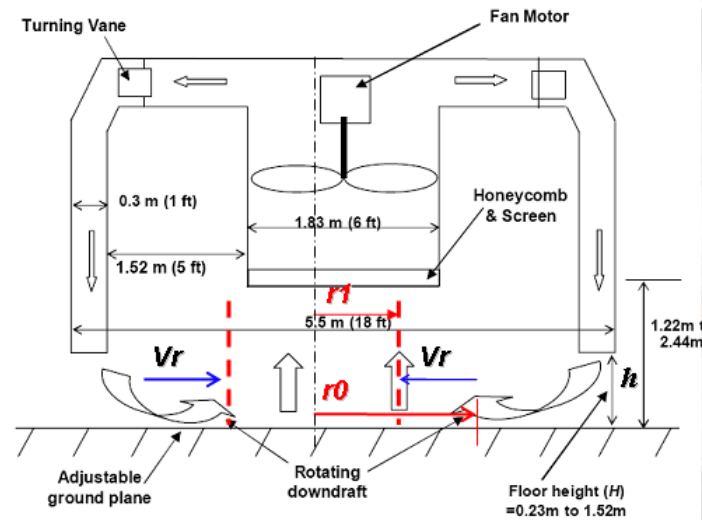
$$a = \frac{h}{r_1}$$

$h$  - Inflow depth,  
 $r_1$  - Radius of the inflow domain

**Core Radius,  $R_0$ :** the distance where the maximum  $V_0$  is found

*In the present study:*

- $V_0 = 15.0 \text{ m/s}$ ,
- $D_0 = 0.50 \text{ m}$ ,
- $S = 0.1$
- $a = 1.6$

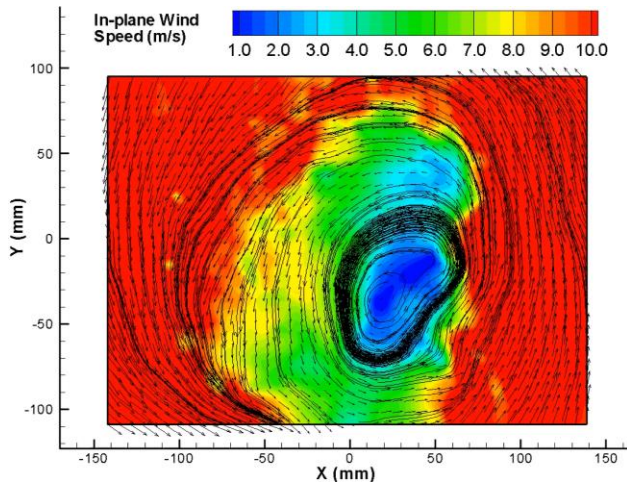


*The world largest moving  
 Tornado/Microburst Simulator  
 $D_{\text{tornado}} = 0.5 \text{ m} \sim 2.0 \text{ m}$*

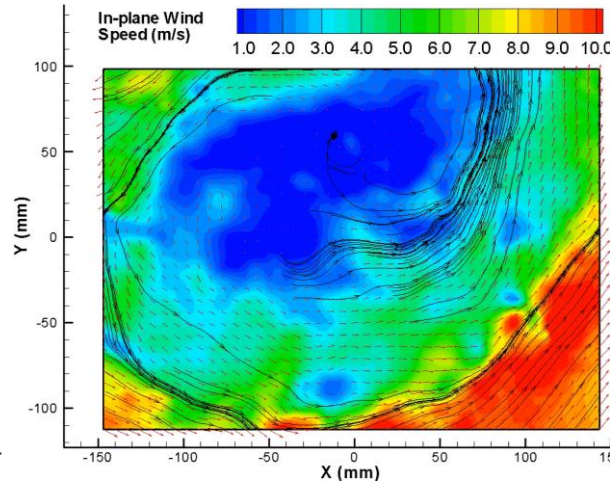


# Tornado-like Vortex at different Elevations

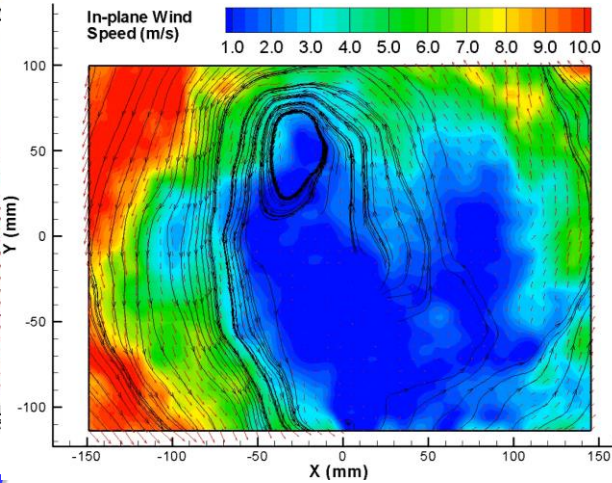
$Z/R_0 \approx 0.10$



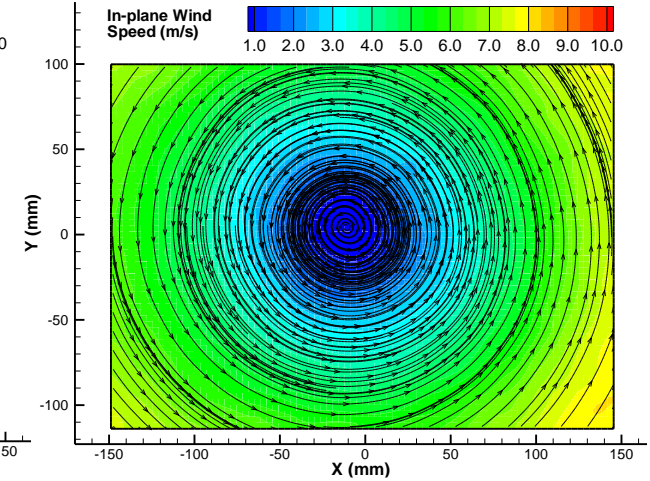
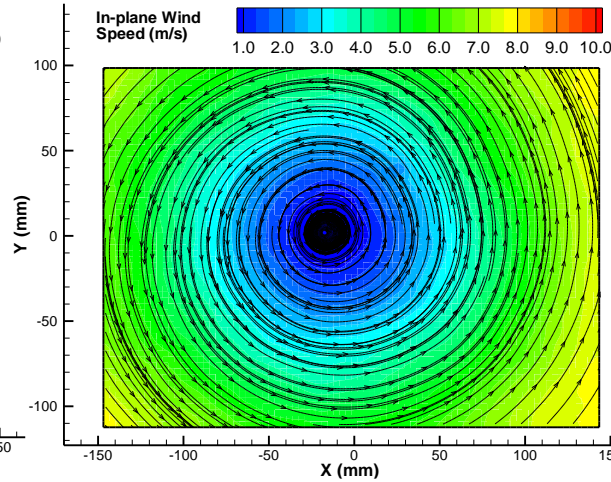
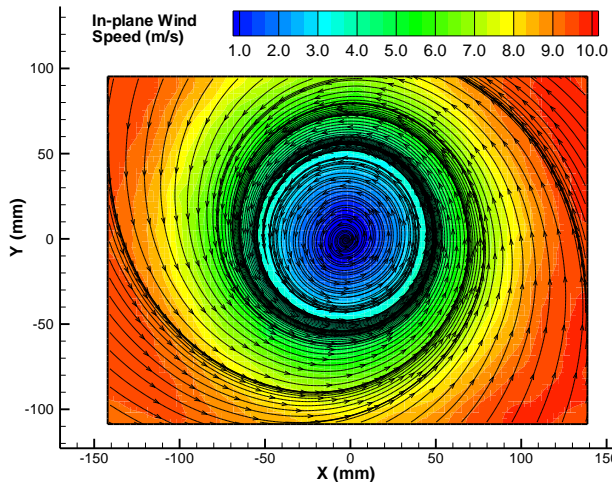
$Z/R_0 \approx 0.40$



$Z/R_0 \approx 0.70$



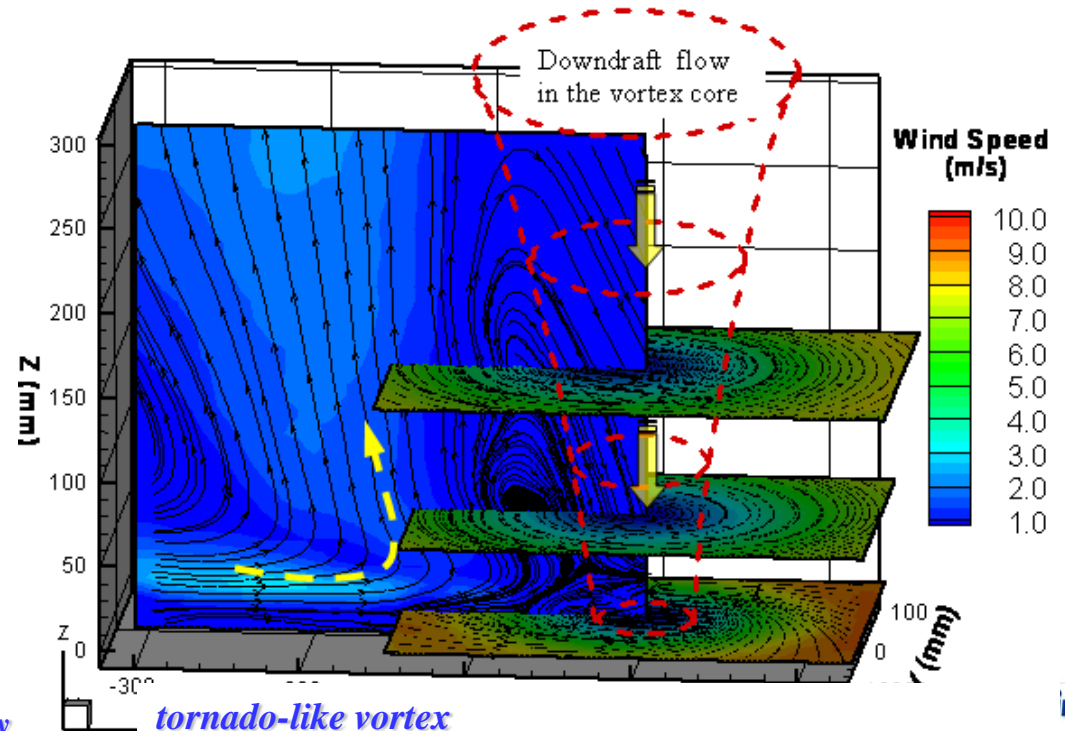
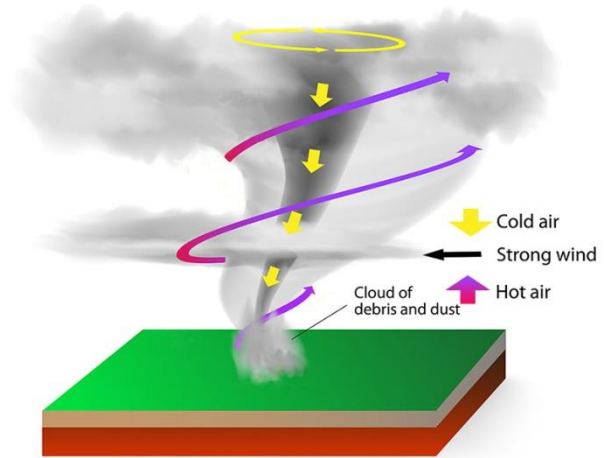
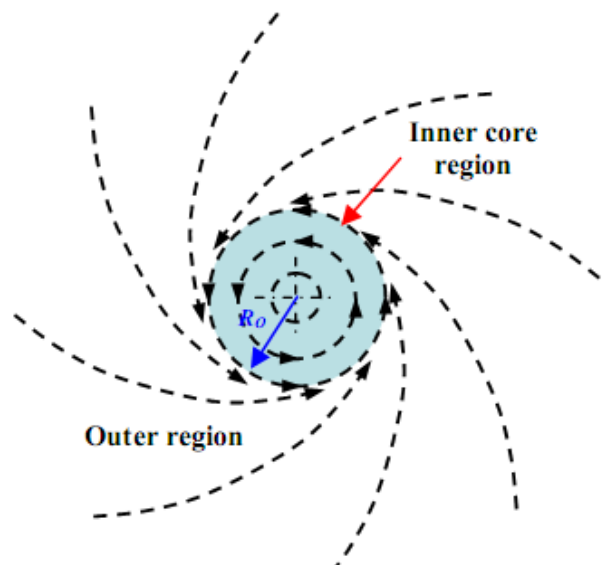
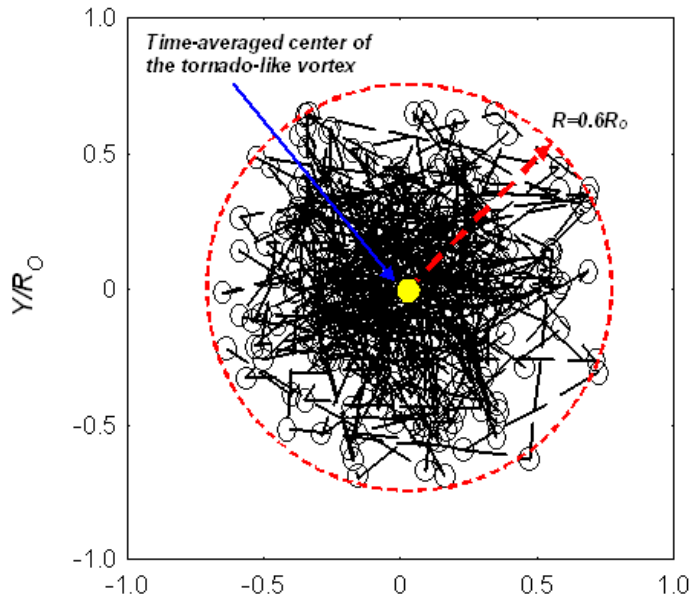
*Instantaneous flow fields*



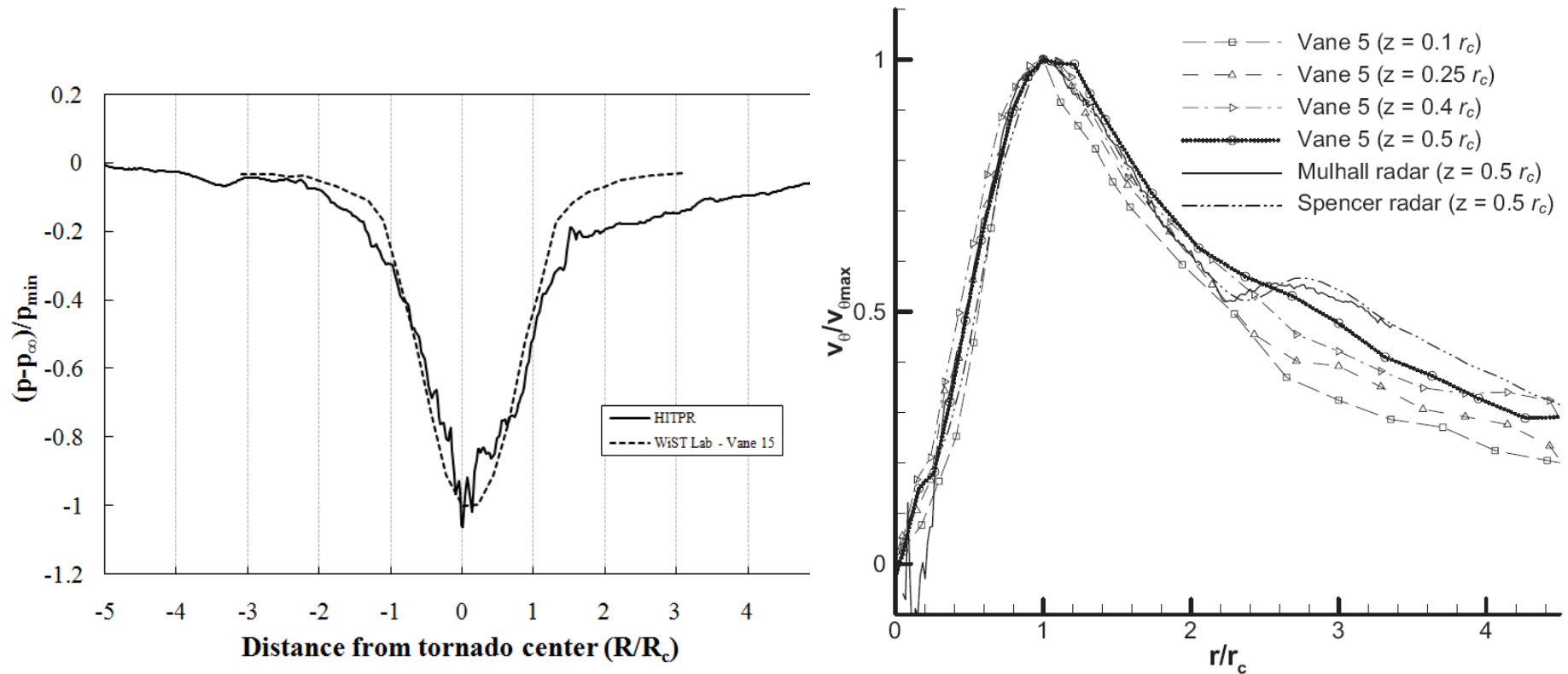
*Time-averaged flow fields*



# Flow Characteristics of a Tornado-like Vortex

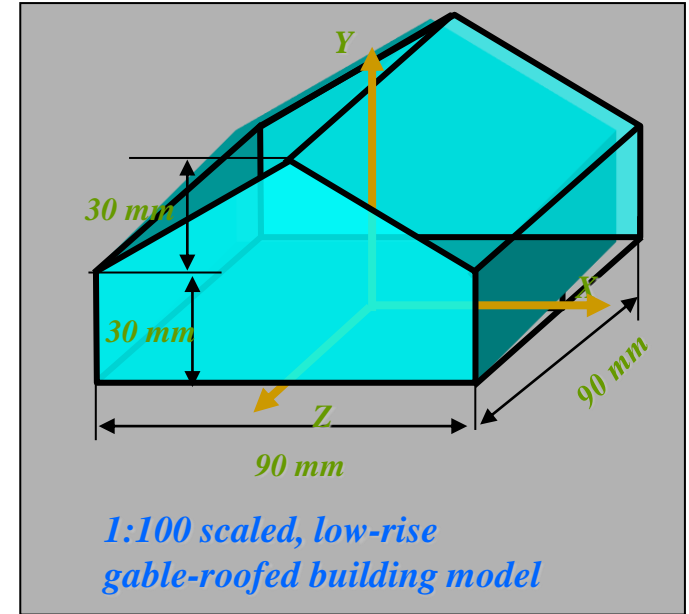
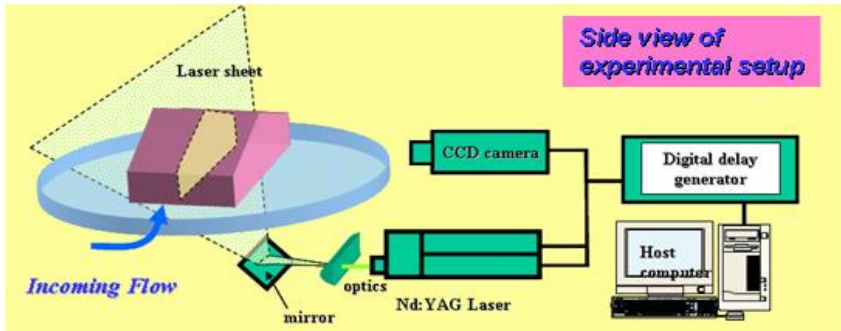
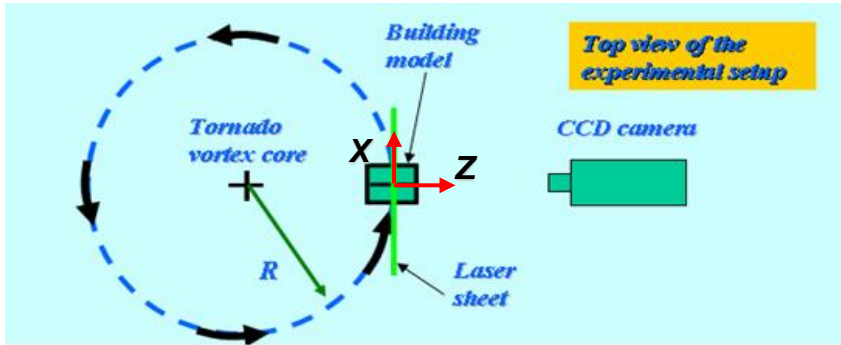


# Tornado-like Vortex Generated in Lab vs. Tornadoes in Nature

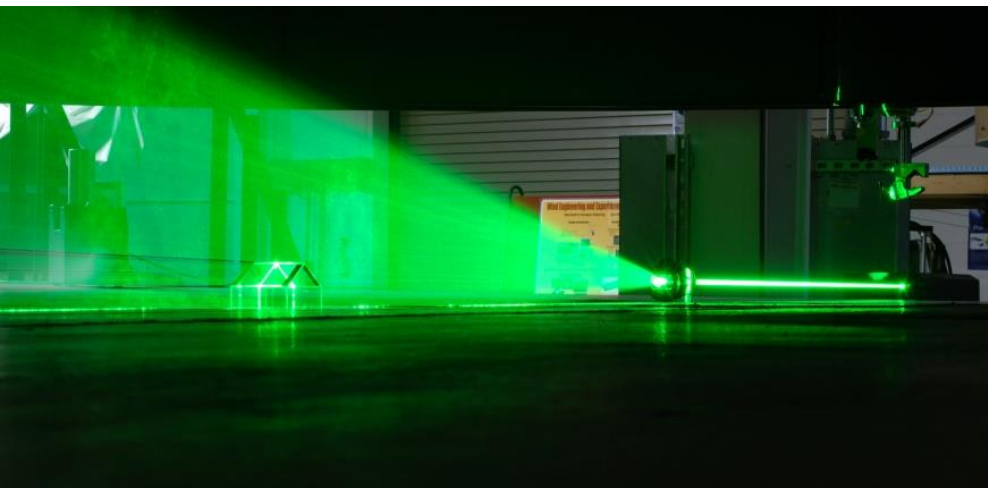
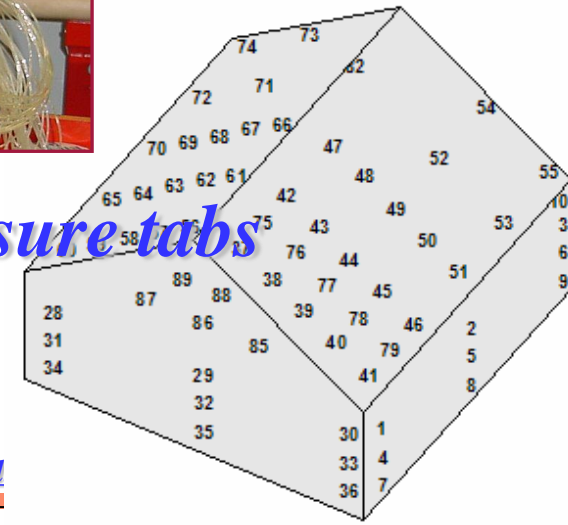


*The tornado-like vortex vs. Mulhall and Spencer tornadoes found in nature*

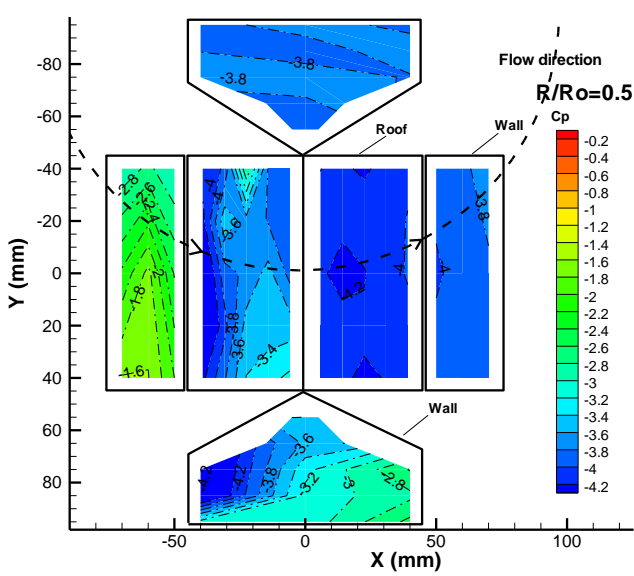
# Experimental setup



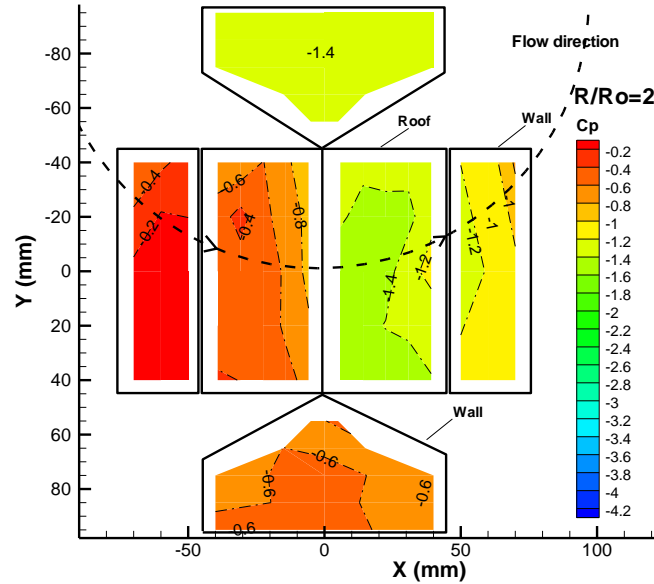
**128 pressure tabs**



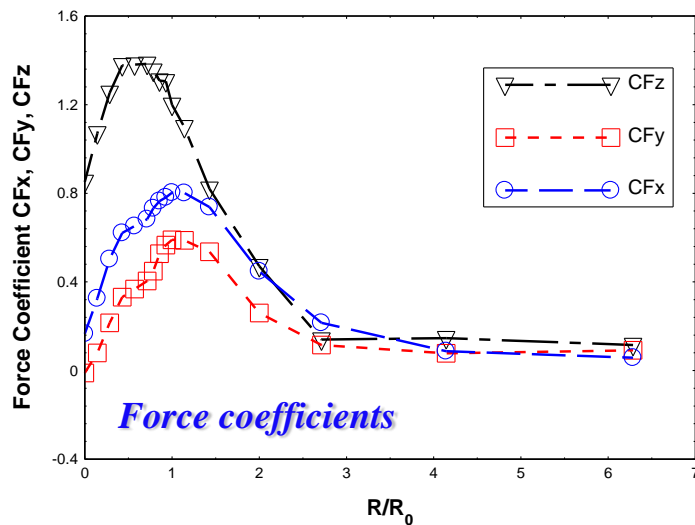
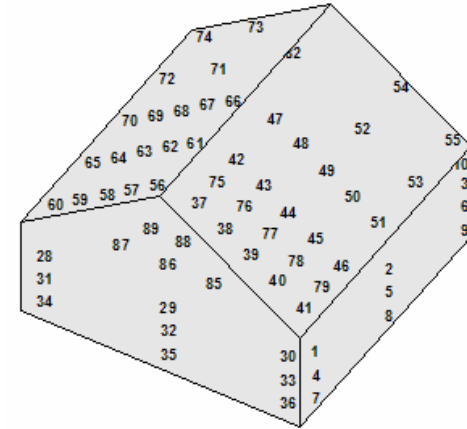
# Wind Load Measurement Results



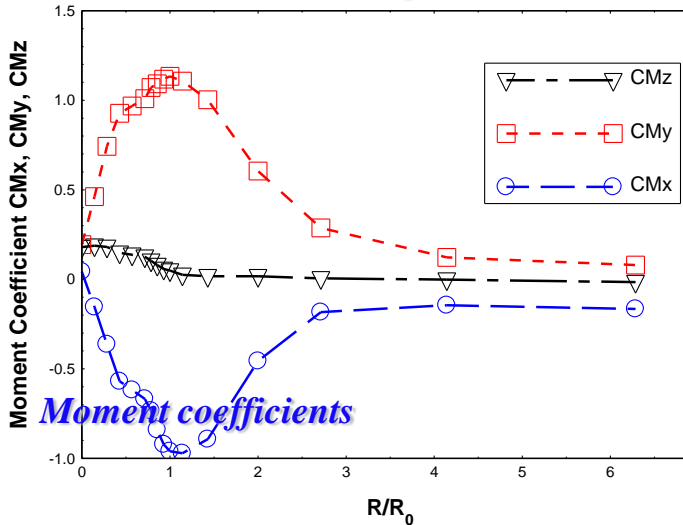
$R/R_0=0.50$



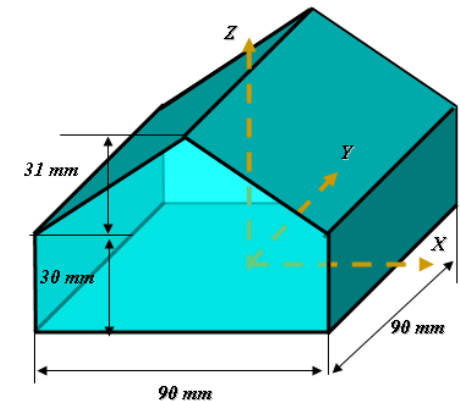
$R/R_0=2.00$



Force coefficients



Moment coefficients



Reserved!

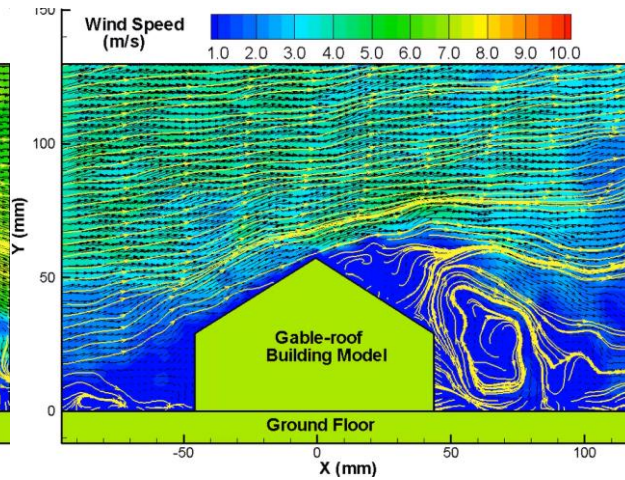
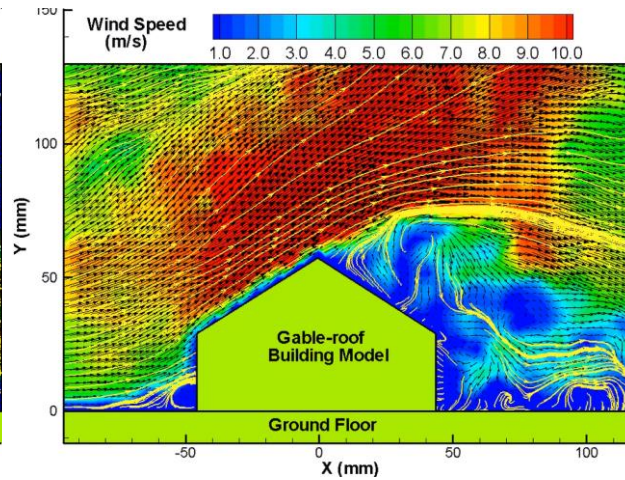
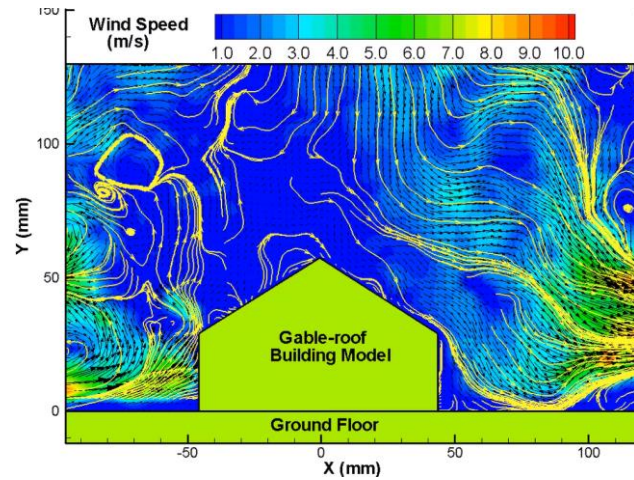


# Flow Structures around a Low-Rise Building Model in Tornado-like Winds

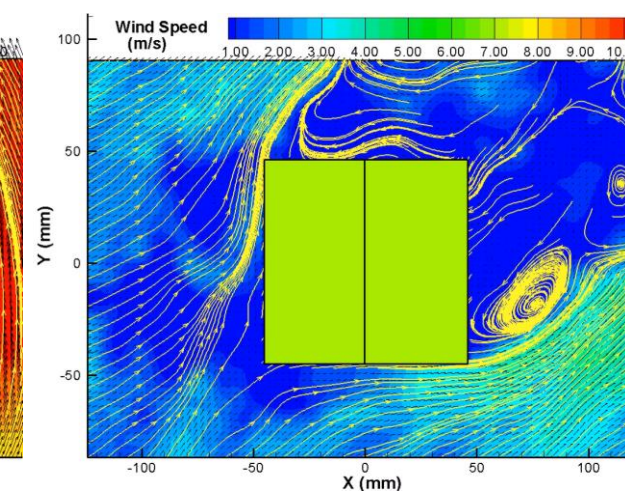
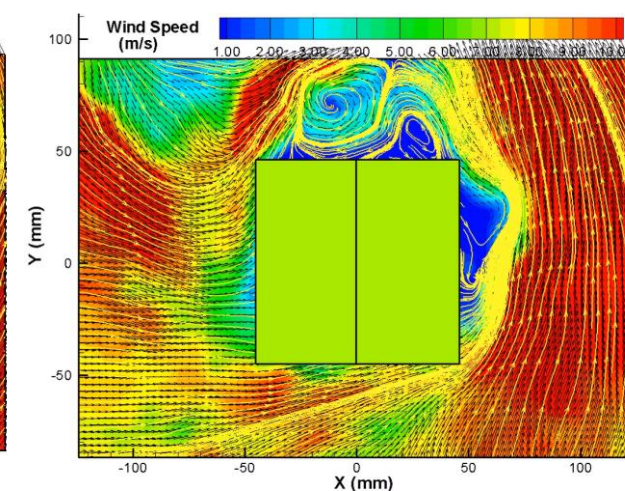
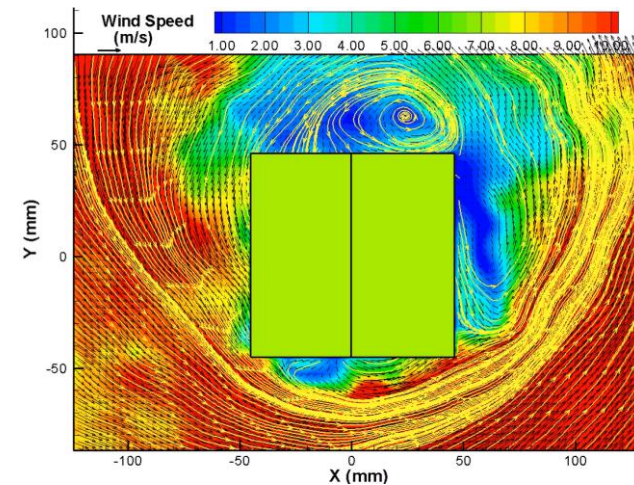
$R/R_0 \approx 0.00$

$R/R_0 \approx 1.00$

$R/R_0 \approx 4.00$



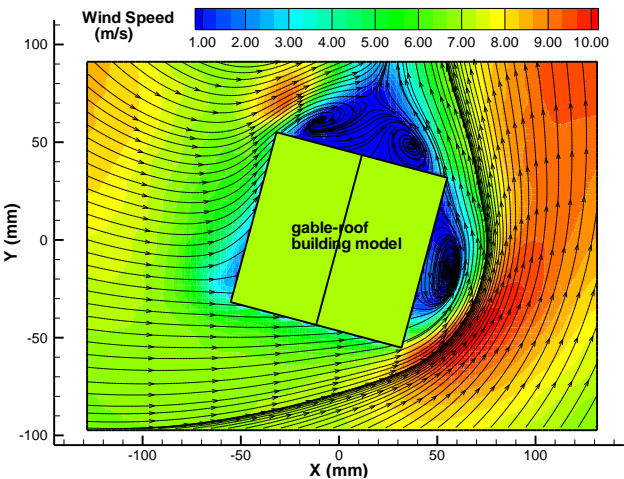
Side view



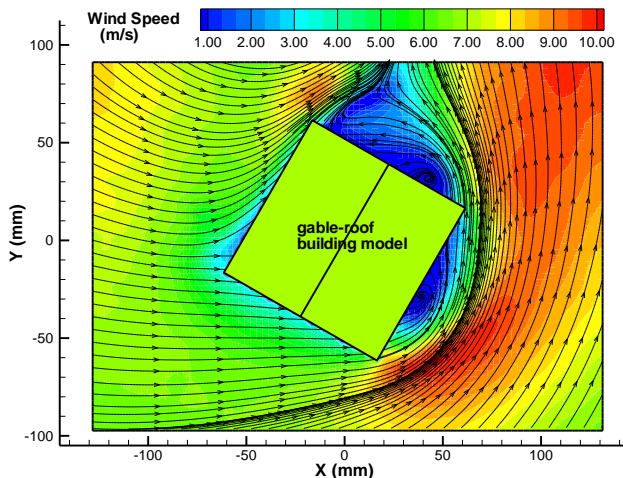
Top view



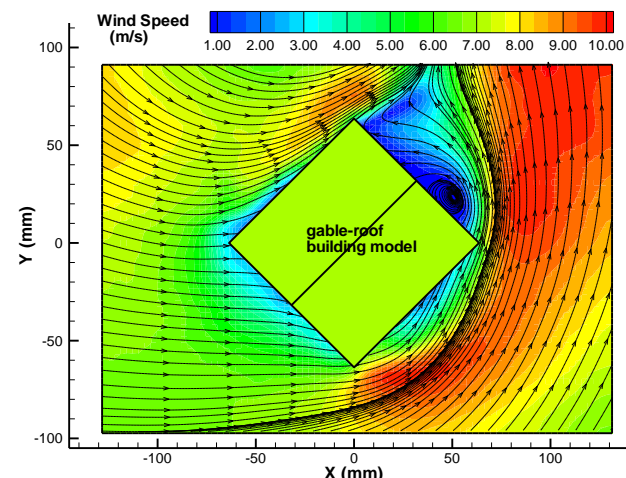
# Effects of Orientation Angle on the flow structures



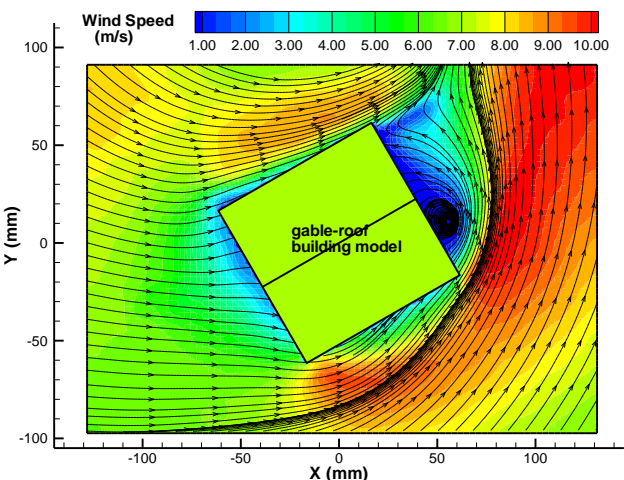
*OA=15 deg*



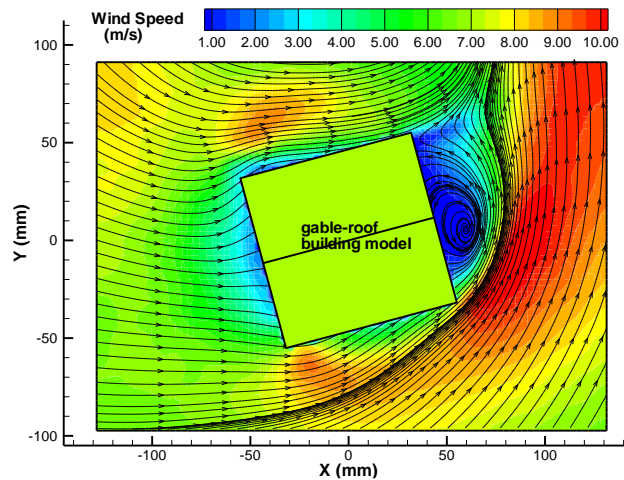
*OA=30 deg*



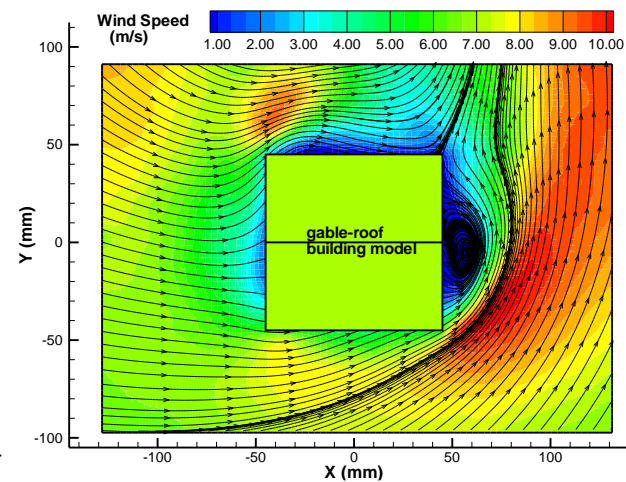
*OA=45 deg*



*OA=60 deg*

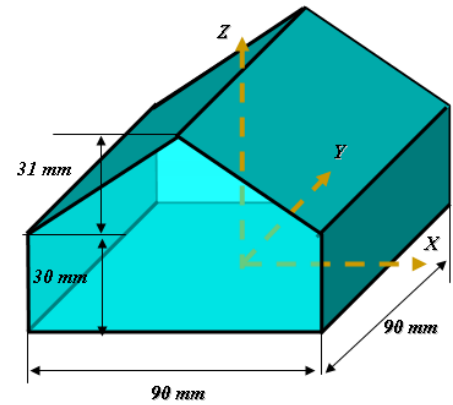
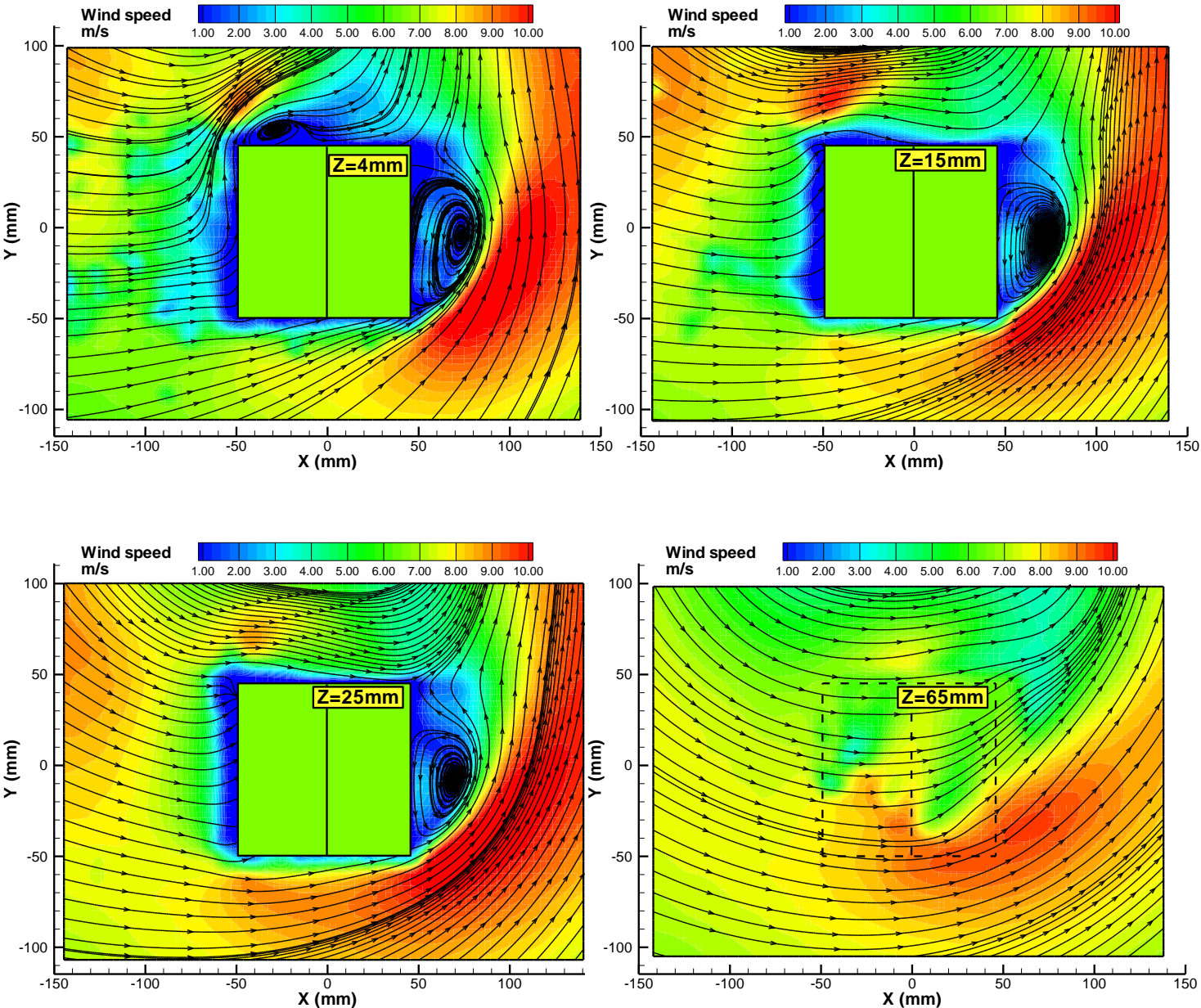


*OA=75 deg*



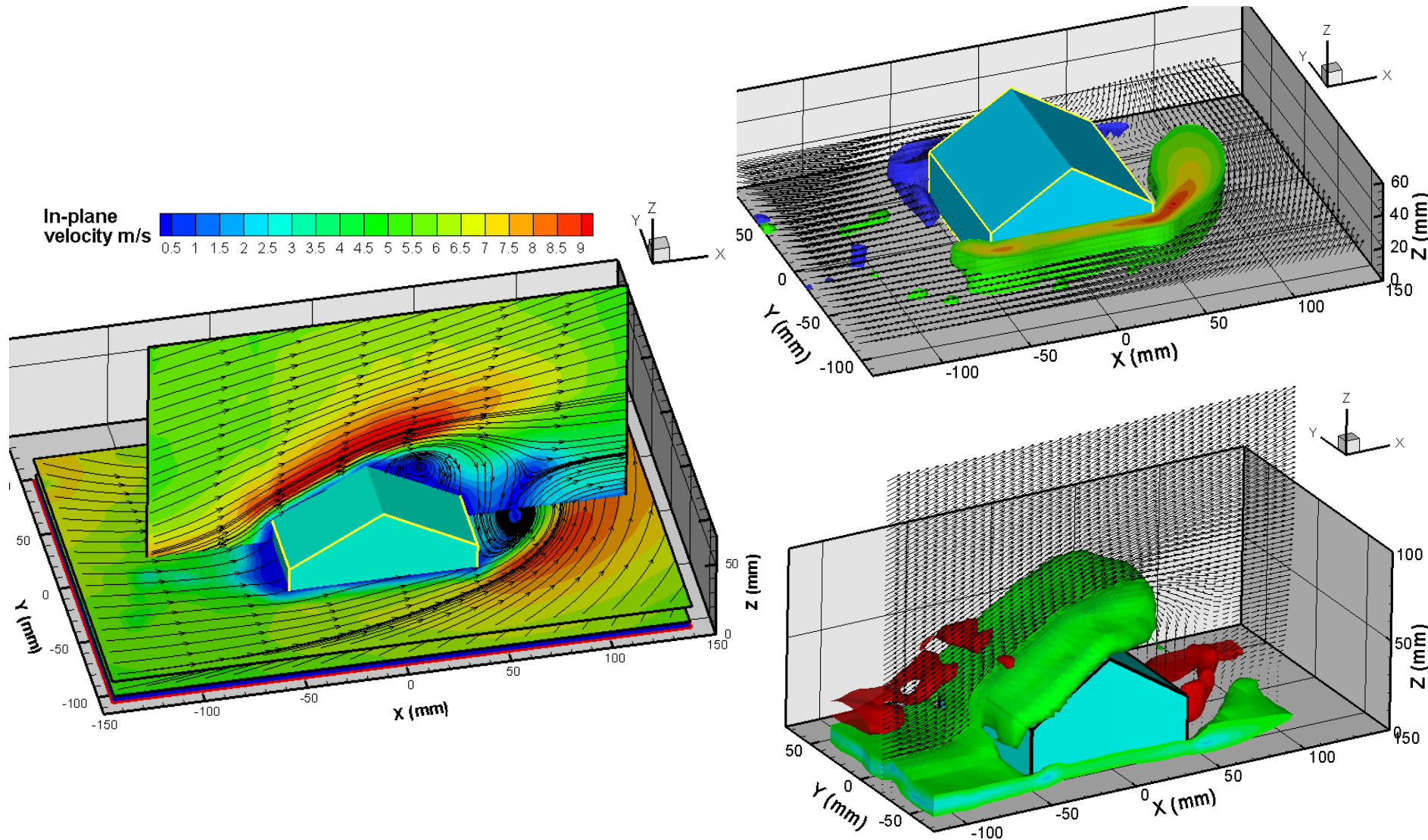
*OA=90 deg*

# Flow field around the Building Model at different elevations

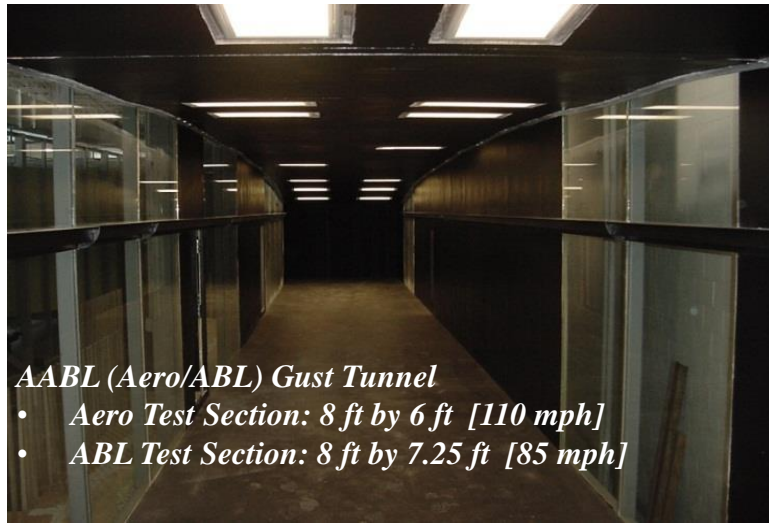




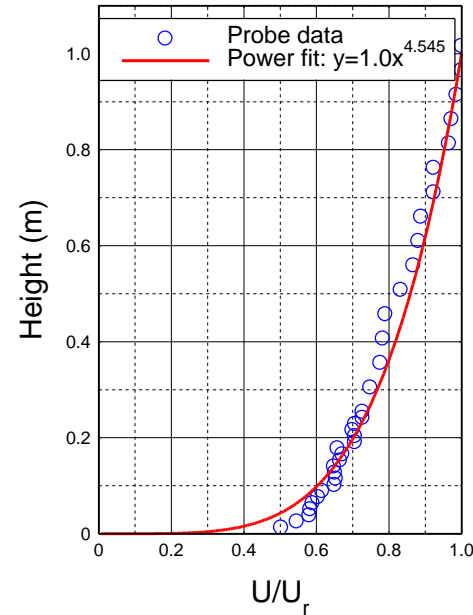
# Reconstructed 3-D flow structures around the building model



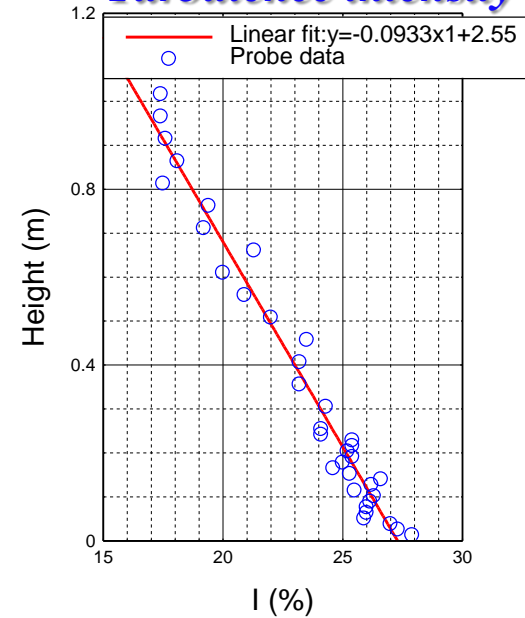
# Gable-Roof building Model in Straight-line Winds



## Velocity profile

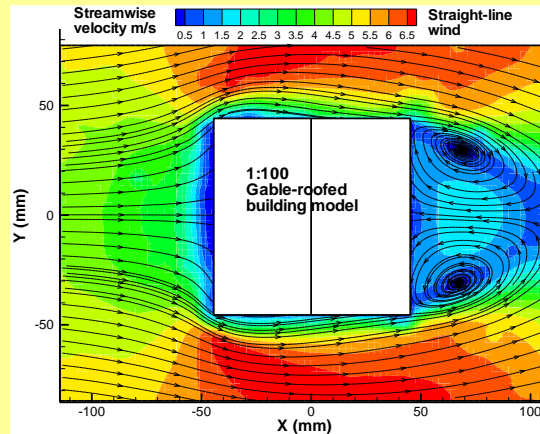
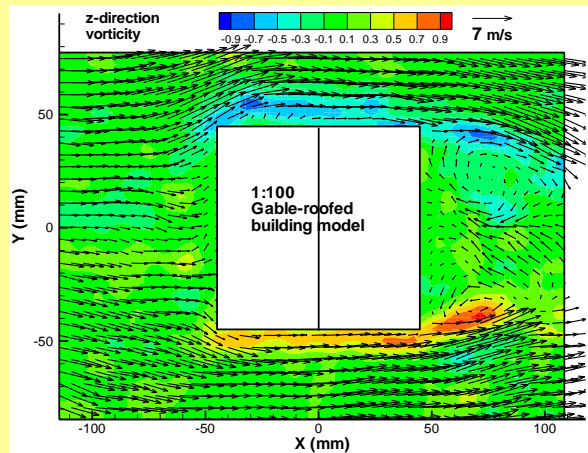
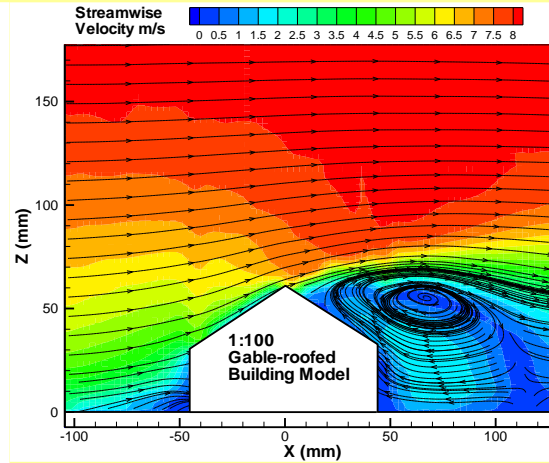
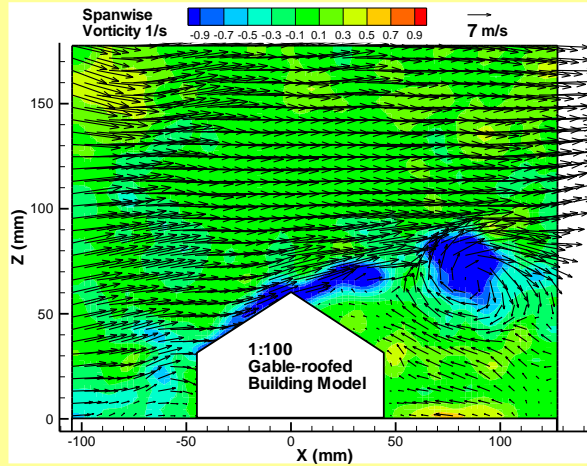


## Turbulence intensity

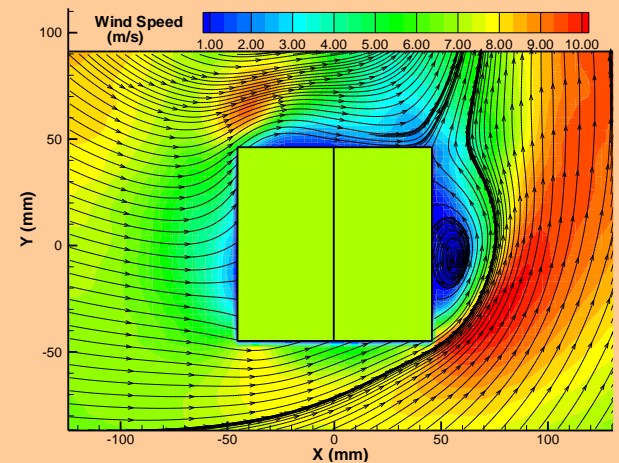
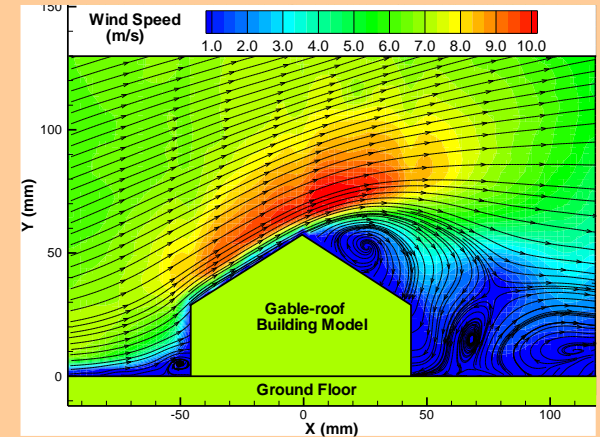


# Gable Roof Building Model in Straight-line winds vs. Tornado-like Winds

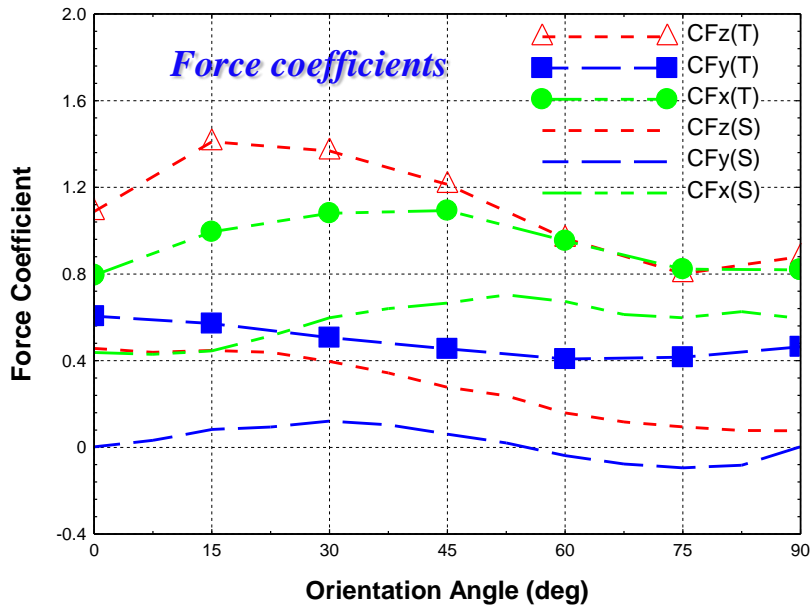
## Straight-line winds



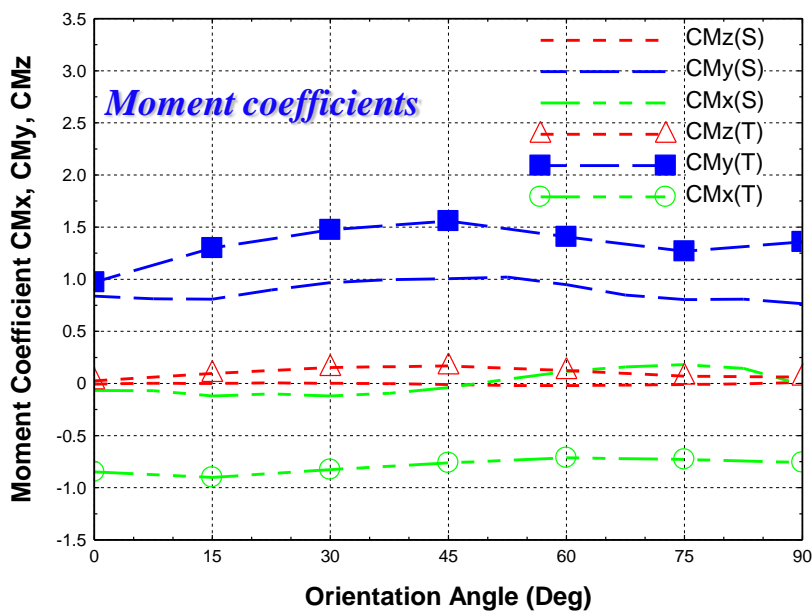
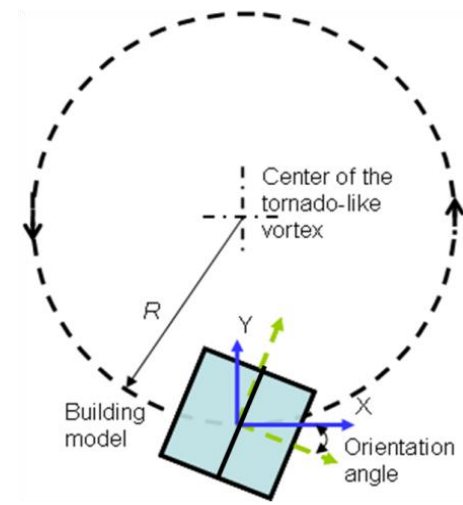
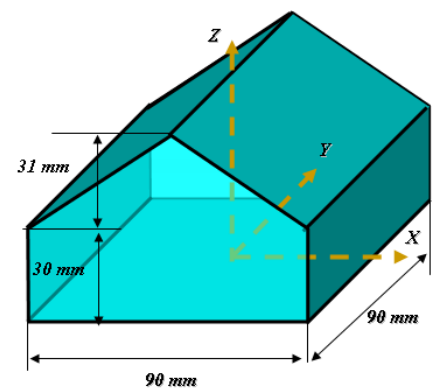
## Tornado-like winds



# Effects of Orientation Angle on Wind Load



→  
**Straight-line wind**



- *At the same wind speed at the eave height of the building, tornado-induced wind loadings would be about 2~3 times higher than those of straight-like winds.*