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Natural ventilation assessment in typical open and semi-open urban environments under various wind directions

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>Semi-open street roofs protect pedestrians from strong sunshine and heavy rains. >But they may affect airflows and ventilation in urban canopy layers (UCL).> Age of air & flow rates are analyzed under wind directions of  $0^\circ, 15^\circ, 30^\circ, 45^\circ$ .> Walls fully or partly covering street roofs at  $z=H$  get the worst UCL ventilation.> Semi-open street roofs at  $z=1.2H, 1.1H$  get good ventilation and are realistic designs.

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2 **Natural ventilation assessment in typical open and semi-open urban**  
3 **environments under various wind directions**

4  
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17  
18 **Abstract**

19 Semi-open street roofs protect pedestrians from intense sunshine and rains. Their effects on  
20 natural ventilation of urban canopy layers (UCL) are less understood. This paper investigates two  
21 idealized urban models consisting of 4(2×2) or 16(4×4) buildings under a neutral atmospheric  
22 condition with parallel (0°) or non-parallel (15°,30°,45°) approaching wind. The aspect ratio  
23 (building height ( $H$ ) / street width ( $W$ )) is 1 and building width is  $B=3H$ . Computational fluid  
24 dynamic (CFD) simulations were first validated by experimental data, confirming that standard  
25  $k-\varepsilon$  model predicted airflow velocity better than RNG  $k-\varepsilon$  model, realizable  $k-\varepsilon$  model and  
26 Reynolds stress model. Three ventilation indices were numerically analyzed for ventilation  
27 assessment, including flow rates across street roofs and openings to show the mechanisms of air  
28 exchange, age of air to display how long external air reaches a place after entering UCL, and  
29 purging flow rate to quantify the net UCL ventilation capacity induced by mean flows and  
30 turbulence.

31 Five semi-open roof types are studied: Walls being hung above street roofs (coverage  
32 ratio  $\lambda_a=100\%$ ) at  $z=1.5H$ ,  $1.2H$ ,  $1.1H$  ('Hung1.5H', 'Hung1.2H', 'Hung1.1H' types); Walls partly  
33 covering street roofs ( $\lambda_a=80\%$ ) at  $z=H$  ('Partly-covered' type); Walls fully covering street roofs  
34 ( $\lambda_a=100\%$ ) at  $z=H$  ('Fully-covered' type). They basically obtain worse UCL ventilation than open  
35 street roof type due to the decreased roof ventilation. 'Hung1.1H', 'Hung1.2H', 'Hung1.5H' types  
36 are better designs than 'Fully-covered' and 'Partly-covered' types. Greater urban size contains  
37 larger UCL volume and requires longer time to ventilate. The methodologies and ventilation  
38 indices are confirmed effective to quantify UCL ventilation.

39

40 **Key words:** Semi-open street roof; natural ventilation; age of air; purging flow rate; CFD  
41 simulations; wind tunnel experiment

42

### 43 1. Introduction

44 Wind from rural areas provides cleaner rural air into urban canopy layers (UCL) to help  
45 pollutant and heat dilution. Good UCL ventilation has been known as one of the possible  
46 mitigation solutions to improve urban air environments [1-11], meanwhile ameliorate indoor air  
47 quality through building ventilation systems.

48 Complemented by wind tunnel/field experiments, computational fluid dynamics (CFD)  
49 simulations have been widely used to predict turbulent airflow, mass transports and energy  
50 budgets within, close to and above different UCLs [2,4-11, 17-26, 28-37], ranging from street  
51 canyons, street intersections, cavities and courtyards, up to structured building arrays and  
52 realistic urban areas. Good reviews on this topic can be found in the literatures [12-15]. For two-  
53 dimensional (2D) street canyons [1, 15-19], street aspect ratio (building height/street width,  $H/W$ )  
54 is the first key parameter to affect the flow regimes and pollutant dispersion. For three-  
55 dimensional (3D) urban canopy layers, total street length or urban size [8,11,30], building  
56 packing density and frontal area density [8,10,20-23], ambient wind directions [23-24, 32, 37],  
57 building layouts and height variations [8, 21-23, 25-26] etc, are significant parameters and have  
58 been widely investigated.

59 In addition to the widely studied urban models with open street roofs, semi-open street roof  
60 is one of popular urban design elements existing in the realistic urban areas to protect pedestrians  
61 from strong sunshine and reduce the inconveniences in rainy or snowy days. Such semi-open

62 street roofs have been reported and investigated by experiments and CFD simulations in the  
63 literatures [5-7], including a large naturally ventilated semi-open market building [5], a semi-  
64 open shopping mall being located in Lisbon, Portugal [6], enclosed-arcade (or semi-open)  
65 markets of Korea with eleven arcade-type designs (or semi-open street roof) [7]. Although the  
66 requirements of design are different according to various climate conditions, sufficient natural  
67 UCL ventilation has been considered as an important environment design factor for more healthy  
68 semi-open outdoor environments [5-7]. Fig. 1 shows two other kinds of semi-open street roof  
69 designs in the suburb of Guangzhou China, which are located in a subtropical region annually  
70 characterized by intense solar radiation and precipitation. Fig. 1a shows walls being hung above  
71 street roofs of a food court, and Fig. 1b displays walls partially covering street roofs of a retail  
72 center. Each shop or restaurant has its own enclosed space with air conditioners inside for  
73 cooling in summer (April to September) and with doors connected to the semi-open streets.  
74 These semi-open outdoor environments are naturally ventilated to reduce energy consumption.  
75 Such semi-open street roof designs are used to provide convenience for pedestrians, but they  
76 possibly deteriorate UCL ventilation performance. This paper aims to quantitatively evaluate  
77 these effects. Although thermal buoyancy force induced by temperature difference and  
78 atmospheric stability also influence urban airflows and UCL ventilation [19, 28-29], this paper  
79 takes the first step to consider a neutral atmospheric condition assuming that the ambient wind  
80 velocity is sufficiently large and thermal effects are negligible.

81 In building ventilation, as reviewed by Chen [27], indoor ventilation indices have been  
82 widely used to evaluate how external air enters a room and ventilates it. In recent years,  
83 researchers have started to apply similar concepts to estimate UCL ventilation [2,4-11, 24, 28-32,  
84 37], including ventilation flow rate and air change rate per hour (ACH) [4, 6-7, 28-30], pollutant  
85 exchange rate [31], pollutant retention time and purging flow rate [2,8, 24], age of air and air  
86 exchange efficiency [32], city breathability [10-11] etc. This paper emphasizes the quantitative  
87 analysis of UCL ventilation induced by rural wind assuming that rural air is relatively clean.  
88 Flow rates across street openings and street roofs are first analyzed to quantify the mechanisms  
89 of air exchange [37], moreover the local mean age of air [32] is used to quantify how long the  
90 external air can reach a place after it enters the UCL. Finally, the UCL purging flow rate [2, 8] is  
91 also applied to estimate the net UCL ventilation capacity induced by both mean flows and  
92 turbulent diffusions.

93 Tracer gas techniques [27, 44] are usually used to measure indoor ventilation indices.  
94 However for both open or semi-open outdoor spaces, ventilation indices such as age of air and  
95 purging flow rate are difficult to be measured by tracer gas techniques, since outdoor  
96 environment is not an enclosed space with more complicated openings than indoor, moreover  
97 perfect mixing and uniform pollutant generation rate in UCLs are difficult to experimentally  
98 control. Thus the literatures [5-11, 24, 28-32] usually use experimental data to validate the  
99 reliability of CFD methods in predicting concentration and airflow field, then analyze outdoor  
100 ventilation indices by using CFD simulations. This paper also utilizes similar methodologies.

101

## 102 **2. Methodologies**

### 103 **2.1 Turbulence modeling in CFD simulations**

104 Large eddy simulation (LES) models are known to perform better in predicting turbulent  
105 flows than the Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) approaches, but the applicability of  
106 LES models is more problematic due to its much longer computational time required than RANS  
107 approaches and some issues regarding the implementation of wall and inlet boundary conditions  
108 [33-34]. Considering that RANS turbulence models are more time-saving and provide reasonable  
109 results for mean flows and the spatial average flow properties [33], this paper adopted RANS  
110 turbulence models for evaluating UCL ventilation.

111 UCL ventilation relies on both mean flows and turbulence within the UCL [8, 37].  
112 According to the literatures [35-36], the modified  $k-\varepsilon$  models, for example RNG  $k-\varepsilon$  model, are  
113 able to correct the drawback of the standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model that severely over-predicts turbulent  
114 kinetic energy in separated flows around front corners of buildings, however, they fail to predict  
115 the sizes of reattachment lengths behind buildings and under-predict the velocity in weak wind  
116 regions. It is desirable to compare different RANS turbulence models in predicting urban  
117 airflows and UCL ventilation to provide a sensitivity study, including standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model, RNG  
118  $k-\varepsilon$  model, realizable  $k-\varepsilon$  model and Reynolds stress model (RSM).

119

### 120 **2.2 Experimental and CFD set-ups in the validation case**

121 This paper aims to study UCL ventilation in low-rise idealized and typical urban models  
122 consisting of two-storey buildings (about 7m tall). Wind tunnel data was first used to evaluate  
123 the reliability of CFD methodologies. As shown in Fig. 2a, Hang et al. [37] performed some



124 wind tunnel experiments to investigate the flow in a small-scale urban model with four square  
 125 building blocks (building height  $H=0.069\text{m}$ , building width  $B=3H$ ) and two crossing streets  
 126 (street width  $W=H$ , urban size  $L=7H$ ). The approaching wind was parallel to the main street and  
 127 perpendicular to the secondary streets. The scale ratio between small-scale and full-scale models  
 128 is 1:100. Thus in full-scale real conditions  $H=W\approx 7\text{m}$ ,  $B=3H\approx 21\text{m}$ ,  $L\approx 49\text{m}$ . In small-scale  
 129 models the height of 1.5 mm ( $0.22H$ ) corresponds to the face level (1.5 m) in full-scale  
 130 conditions.

131 The measurements were performed in the closed-circuit type wind tunnel at the Laboratory  
 132 of Ventilation and Air Quality, University of Gävle, Sweden, with the working section of 11m  
 133 long, 3m wide, 1.5m tall. Thus the blockage ratio is about 0.6%, which represents the percentage  
 134 of the small-scale urban model obstructing the test section area ( $3\text{m}\times 1.5\text{m}$ ) of the wind tunnel.  
 135 The stream-wise, lateral and vertical directions are represented by  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ . Hotwire anemometer  
 136 was used to measure vertical profiles of velocity ( $U_m(z)$ ) and turbulence intensity ( $I(z)$ ) in the  
 137 upstream free flow of wind tunnel (see Fig. 2b), horizontal profiles of velocity  $\bar{u}(x)$  and  
 138 turbulence intensity  $I(x)$  along the main street centerline (see Fig. 3b) at  $z=0.11H$  (7.5mm). The  
 139 sampling frequency was 100 Hz. The measurement time was 30s for each point. It is worth  
 140 mentioning that, the hotwire is only sensitive to velocity components perpendicular to it (i.e. the  
 141 vertical velocity  $\bar{w}$  and the stream-wise velocity  $\bar{u}$ ). So data measured by the hotwire were  
 142 actually  $\sqrt{\bar{u}^2 + \bar{w}^2}$ . Here the hotwire was only located where the span-wise ( $y$ ) velocity  $\bar{v}$  was  
 143 zero, including in the upstream free flow and along the main street centerline, so the measured  
 144 data were actually the velocity magnitude ( $U=\sqrt{\bar{u}^2 + \bar{v}^2 + \bar{w}^2}$ ).

145 Because there were no roughness elements in wind tunnel experiments, a thin neutral  
 146 atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) and a sharp vertical profile of velocity was produced in the  
 147 upstream free flow (see Fig. 2b). We only used the measured profiles ( $U_m(z)$  and  $I(z)$ ) in Fig. 2b  
 148 to provide boundary conditions at domain inlet in the CFD validation case. At domain inlet,  
 149 turbulent kinetic energy is defined as  $k(z)=1.5(I U_m)^2$  and its dissipation rate is  $\varepsilon(z)=C_\mu^{3/4} k^{3/2}/l$ ,  
 150 where  $C_\mu=0.09$  and  $l$  is the turbulent characteristic length scale. Note that, the maximum velocity  
 151 in the upstream free flow of wind tunnel experiments was 13.33 m/s, however in cases for  
 152 ventilation analysis, we used a realistic approaching wind (see Eq. (1a)) with a spatial mean  
 153 velocity of about 3.2 m/s, so in the validation case we actually utilized a smaller fitting velocity

154 profile (maximum velocity is 3.24 m/s, see Fig. 2b) with the same thickness of ABL as that in  
155 wind tunnel and the similar spatial mean velocity (about 3.2m/s) as that in Eq. (1a). According to  
156 Snyder [39], Reynolds-number independence can be satisfied if the Reynolds number is greater  
157 than 4000, i.e. the main structure of turbulence can be almost entirely responsible for the bulk  
158 transport of momentum and heat or mass transfer. If the velocity  $z=H=0.069\text{m}$  in the upstream  
159 free flow (see Fig. 2b) is defined as the reference velocity  $U_{\text{ref}} \approx 2.94\text{m/s}$ , the reference Reynolds  
160 number ( $Re_H = \rho U_{\text{ref}} H / \mu \approx 13887$ ) is much larger than 4000, Thus the technique of using a smaller  
161 inflow velocity (i.e. 3.24m/s) can ensure Reynolds number independence.

162 The CFD code FLUENT 6.3 [38] was used to solve the steady-state isothermal turbulent  
163 flows. For CFD simulations, we used the same small-scale urban geometries ( $H=0.069\text{m}$ ) as  
164 those in wind tunnel experiments. Only half computational domain was used to reduce the  
165 calculation time. Fig. 3a displays the computational domain and boundary conditions in the CFD  
166 validation case. The computational domain is  $14.5H$  wide (1 m) in the lateral ( $y$ ) direction and  
167  $11H$  tall (0.75 m) in the vertical ( $z$ ) direction. Thus the blockage ratio is about 1.9% (less than  
168 3%) satisfying the requirement of the literature [40]. No-slip wall boundary condition was  
169 utilized at wall surfaces, and zero normal gradient boundary condition was used at domain  
170 outlet, domain roof, domain lateral boundary, domain symmetry boundary.

171 Fig. 3b displays the grid arrangements in  $x$ - $y$  plane of the validation case. Finer grids are  
172 produced within the UCL and near wall surfaces, building corners, street openings. The grid size  
173 near the ground is  $0.036H$  ( $dz=2.5\text{mm}$ ). There are 6 cells vertically from  $z=0$  to the pedestrian  
174 height ( $z=20\text{mm}=0.29H$ ). The grid size near building roofs at  $z=H$  is  $0.022H$  ( $dz=1.5\text{mm}$ ). The  
175 horizontal grid size ( $dx$  and  $dy$ ) near building surfaces varies from  $0.022H$  to  $0.043H$ . The  
176 maximum expansion ratio from building surfaces to the surrounding is 1.15 and the total  
177 number of hexahedral cells is about 0.82 million.

178 In the CFD validation case, all CFD set-ups including computational domain size,  
179 boundary conditions and grid arrangements fulfilled the major CFD guidelines recommended by  
180 Tominaga et al. [40].

181

### 182 **2.3 CFD set-ups for flow modelling**

183 After the CFD validation case, more urban configurations with or without semi-open street  
184 roofs and various ambient wind directions were investigated. To better illustrate idealized urban

185 models, all test cases were defined as Case [number of rows-number of columns, wind direction,  
 186 roof type]. 'Open' roof type denotes open street roofs; As shown in Fig. 4a-4c, four wind  
 187 directions of  $0^\circ$ ,  $15^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$  were included. So the name of validation case is Case [2-2, 0,  
 188 Open] with four buildings (2 rows, 2 columns), a parallel approaching wind ( $0^\circ$ ) and open street  
 189 roof ('Open' roof type). As displayed in Fig. 4c, a bigger urban model with 16 buildings (4  
 190 columns, 4 rows, urban size  $L=15H \approx 105\text{m}$  in full scale) was also investigated in CFD  
 191 simulations. Besides the 'Open' roof type, Fig. 5 shows the other five types studied in CFD  
 192 simulations. 'Fully-covered' roof type (see Fig. 5a) means walls entirely covering street roofs  
 193 with a coverage ratio( $\lambda_a$ ) of 100% at  $z=H$ , and 'Partly-covered' roof type (see Fig. 5b) represents  
 194 street roofs being partly covered ( $\lambda_a=80\%$ ) by walls at  $z=H$ . Roof types of 'Hung1.5H',  
 195 'Hung1.2H' and 'Hung1.1H' (see Fig. 5c) represent walls being hung above street roofs ( $\lambda_a=100\%$ )  
 196 at  $z=1.5H$ ,  $1.2H$  and  $1.1H$ , respectively. As summarized in Table 1, total 48 test cases were  
 197 numerically investigated.

198 For test cases with a parallel approaching wind ( $0^\circ$ ), the computational domain and  
 199 boundary conditions were similar as the CFD validation case. A power-law velocity profile was  
 200 applied at domain inlet with a power-law exponent of 0.16(see Eq. (1a)). As reported by Lien  
 201 and Yee [41], it represents a neutral atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) with a depth of 1.8 m  
 202 created in the wind tunnel by using spires and floor roughness with a roughness length of  
 203 approximately  $z_0=0.001$  m. In full-scale real conditions, it corresponds to a neutrally-stratified  
 204 ABL with a surface roughness of  $z_0=0.1\text{m}$  [42] (i.e. a neutral ABL above open rural area with a  
 205 regular cover of low crop and occasional large obstacles [43]) The spatial mean velocity at  
 206 domain inlet calculated from Eq. (1a) approximately equals to that calculated from the inflow  
 207 velocity profile of the CFD validation case (see Fig. 2b).The inlet profiles of turbulent kinetic  
 208 energy and its dissipation rate were calculated by Eq. (1b)-(1c)) [30,41].

$$209 \quad \bar{u}(z) = U_0(z) = U_H (z/H)^{0.16}, \bar{v}(z) = \bar{w}(z) = 0 \quad (1a)$$

$$210 \quad k_0(z) = u_*^2 / \sqrt{C_\mu} \quad (1b)$$

$$211 \quad \varepsilon_0(z) = C_\mu^{3/4} k_0(z)^{3/2} / (\kappa_v z) \quad (1c)$$

212 where the friction velocity  $u_* = 0.24 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ ,  $\kappa_v = 0.41$  is von Karman's constant,  $U_H = 2.66 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  is the  
 213 reference velocity at  $z=H=0.069\text{m}$  of domain inlet.

214 For test cases with a non-parallel approaching wind ( $15^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$ ), there are two domain  
 215 inlets and two domain outlets(see Fig. 4a). At domain inlets, the power-law velocity profiles  
 216 (stream-wise velocity  $\bar{u} = U_0(z)\cos\theta$ , span-wise velocity  $\bar{v} = U_0(z)\sin\theta$  and vertical velocity  
 217  $\bar{w}(z) = 0$ ) and profiles of turbulent quantities in Eq. (1b)-(1c) were used to provide boundary  
 218 conditions. Zero normal gradient conditions were still used at two domain outlets and domain  
 219 roof.

220 Fig. 6a and 6b show two examples of the grid arrangements in test cases with four ( $2 \times 2$ )  
 221 buildings and semi-open street roofs. Note that, the thickness of hung walls to produce semi-  
 222 open street roofs was zero in CFD models. The grid arrangements were similar with those in the  
 223 CFD validation case except three points: The first is that the grids near semi-open street roofs  
 224 (i.e. at  $z=1.1H$ ,  $1.2H$ ,  $1.5H$ ) are also fine with a grid size of  $dz=0.014H=1\text{mm}$  (see Fig. 6b); The  
 225 second is that for test cases with 16 buildings the maximum expansion ratio of grid size from  
 226 wall surfaces to the surrounding is 1.2 which is less than 1.3 and satisfies the CFD guideline  
 227 [40];The third is that the grid number in cases with 'Partly-covered' roof type (see Fig. 6a) is a  
 228 little more than the other roof types, because fine grids with grid size of  $dy=0.029H$  were also  
 229 generated near lateral boundaries of partly-covered street roofs. The maximum grid number is  
 230 about 3.5 million in Case [4-4,45, Partly-covered].

231 All transport equations were discretized by the second order upwind scheme to increase the  
 232 accuracy and reduce numerical diffusion. The SIMPLE scheme was used for the pressure and  
 233 velocity coupling. CFD simulations were run until all residuals became constant. Overall,  
 234 residual for the continuity equation was below  $10^{-4}$ , residuals for the velocity components and  $k$   
 235 were below  $10^{-7}$ , residuals for pollutant concentration and  $\varepsilon$  were below  $0.5 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $0.5 \times 10^{-4}$   
 236 respectively.

237

## 238 **2.4 Ventilation assessment indices**

### 239 **2.4.1 Age of air**

240 The local mean age of air ( $\tau_p$ ) was originally defined in indoor ventilation and can be  
 241 measured by tracer gas techniques [44]. The local age of air in UCLs represents the mean time  
 242 required for the external young air to reach a point since it enters UCLs. If the age of air in rural  
 243 areas is zero, the greater age of air in UCLs represents a greater probability to be polluted. The

244 UCL age of air depicts how rural air is supplied and distributed within UCLs. Hang et al. [32]  
 245 first introduced the homogeneous emission method [44] to numerically predict age of air in  
 246 UCLs.

247 The governing equations of time-averaged pollutant concentration ( $\bar{c}$ , kg/m<sup>3</sup>) and the age of  
 248 air ( $\tau_p$ , s) are displayed as below:

$$249 \quad \bar{u}_j \frac{\partial \tau_p}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} (K_c \frac{\partial \tau_p}{\partial x_k}) = 1 \quad (2)$$

$$250 \quad \bar{u}_j \frac{\partial \bar{c}}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} (K_c \frac{\partial \bar{c}}{\partial x_j}) = S_c \quad (3)$$

251 where  $\bar{u}_j$  is the velocity components ( $\bar{u}, \bar{v}, \bar{w}$ ) in the stream-wise ( $x$ ), span-wise ( $y$ ) and  
 252 vertical ( $z$ ) directions,  $K_c = \nu_t / S_{ct}$  is the turbulent eddy diffusivity of pollutants,  $\nu_t$  is the  
 253 kinematic eddy viscosity,  $S_{ct}$  is the turbulent Schmidt number ( $S_{ct}=0.7$ ) [8, 10, 20, 45].  $S_c$  is the  
 254 pollutant source term (kgm<sup>-3</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>).

255 In the homogeneous emission method[44], a relation between these two variables was  
 256 mathematically derived. If a homogenous pollutant release rate ( $S_c$ , kgm<sup>-3</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>) is defined in the  
 257 entire UCL, the age of air ( $\tau_p$ , s) can be calculated:

$$258 \quad \tau_p = \bar{c} / S_c \quad (4)$$

259 Eq. (4) illustrates a relationship that, with a uniform pollutant source in the entire UCL,  
 260 higher pollutant concentration at a point represents that it takes the external clean air a longer  
 261 time to arrive.

262 Fig.6c shows an example of defining uniform pollutant source in the entire UCL. In this  
 263 paper, the pollutant emission rate was small ( $S_c=10^{-7}$ kg m<sup>-3</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>) to ensure the source release  
 264 producing little disturbance to the flow field. The inflow concentration at domain inlet was  
 265 defined zero, and the zero normal flux condition was used at wall surfaces. At all other  
 266 boundaries zero normal gradient condition was utilized.

267 Because the age of air in small-scale urban models is small (scale ratio 1:100), the age of air  
 268 was normalized in Eq. (5a). To compare the age of air in the entire UCLs, this paper also  
 269 analyzed the normalized spatial mean age of air ( $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ ) in Eq. (5b)

$$270 \quad \tau_p^* = \tau_p \times 100 \quad (5a)$$

$$271 \quad \langle \tau_p^* \rangle = \int_{Vol} \tau_p^* dx dy dz / Vol \quad (5b)$$

272 where  $Vol$  is the entire UCL volume.

273

#### 274 2.4.2 Ventilation flow rates and UCL purging flow rates

275 Both mean flows and turbulent diffusions are significant factors for UCL ventilation [37]  
 276 and pollutant removal [8]. The purging flow rate represents the net flow rate induced by both  
 277 mean flows and turbulent diffusions for a volume to be purged out by wind through it. It has  
 278 been used to quantify the ventilation in UCLs [2] and at the pedestrian levels [8].

279 This paper mainly emphasizes the purging flow rate for the entire UCL. If a passive  
 280 contaminant source is generated within the entire UCL (see Fig. 6c) with a uniform emission rate  
 281 (here  $S_c = 10^{-7} \text{ kg m}^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ), the UCL purging flow rate ( $PFR, \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ ) is calculated in Eq. (6).

$$282 \quad PFR = \frac{S_c \times Vol}{\langle \bar{c} \rangle} = \frac{S_c \times Vol}{\int_{Vol} \bar{c} dx dy dz / Vol} \quad (6)$$

283 Here  $\langle \bar{c} \rangle$  is the spatially-averaged concentration in the entire UCL volume ( $Vol$ ). It is  
 284 worth mentioning that  $PFR$  is independent of pollutant sources, and illustrates the net UCL  
 285 ventilation capacity due to both mean flows and turbulent diffusion.

286 Because  $PFR$  is small for small-scale urban models (scale ratio 1:100),  $PFR$  is normalized  
 287 by the reference flow rate ( $Q_\infty$ ).

$$288 \quad PFR^* = \frac{S_c \times Vol}{\langle \bar{c} \rangle Q_\infty} = \frac{PFR}{Q_\infty} \quad (7)$$

$$289 \quad Q_\infty = H \times \int_0^H U_0(z) dz \quad (8)$$

290 where  $Q_\infty = 0.01093 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  is the flow rate far upstream through the same area with a windward  
 291 street opening (area  $A = H \times H$ ),  $U_0(z)$  is defined in Eq. (1a).

292 Fig. 4b-4c show the definition of street openings in test cases with 4 ( $2 \times 2$ ) and 16 ( $4 \times 4$ )  
 293 buildings. To quantify the ventilation pattern, all flow rates entering and leaving UCL volumes  
 294 were normalized by the reference flow rate ( $Q_\infty$ ), including  $Q^*$  due to mean flows (see Eq. (9))  
 295 and  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*(\text{turb})$  due to turbulence fluctuations across street roofs [37] (see Eq. (10)):

$$296 \quad Q^* = \int_A \vec{V} \cdot \vec{n} dA / Q_\infty \quad (9)$$

$$297 \quad Q^*_{roof} (turb) = \pm \int 0.5 \sigma_w dA / Q_\infty \quad (10)$$

298 where in Eq.(9),  $\vec{V}$  is velocity vector,  $\vec{n}$  is the normal direction of street openings or street roofs,  $A$  is  
 299 surface area; In Eq.(10),  $\sigma_w = \sqrt{w'w'} = \sqrt{2k/3}$  is the fluctuation velocity on street roofs based on  
 300 the approximation of isotropic turbulence ( $k$  is the turbulent kinetic energy).

301 Due to the flow balance by mean flows, the total flow rate leaving UCL ( $Q_{out}$ ) through  
 302 UCL boundaries equals to that entering UCL ( $Q_{in}$ ). They are named as the total flow rates by  
 303 mean flows  $Q_T$  and are normalized by the reference flow rate  $Q_\infty$ .

$$304 \quad Q_T^* = Q_{in}^* = Q_{out}^* \quad (11)$$

305 By applying the above concepts, this paper quantifies the effects of semi-open street roofs  
 306 and various wind directions on the age distribution, the ventilation pattern and the entire UCL  
 307 ventilation capacity.

308

### 309 3. Results and discussions

#### 310 3.1 Evaluation and validation of CFD results

311 Fig. 7 shows the validation of CFD results by using the measured horizontal profiles of  
 312 velocity and turbulent intensity along street centerline at  $z=0.11H$  in Case [2-2.0, Open].  $x/H=0$   
 313 denotes the location of windward street opening (at O1). The velocity was normalized by the  
 314 inflow velocity at domain inlet at the same height ( $z=0.11H$ ). In comparison to wind tunnel data,  
 315 the standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model and realizable  $k-\varepsilon$  model predicted the velocity profile better than RNG  $k-$   
 316  $\varepsilon$  model and RSM model. More importantly the standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model performed the best in  
 317 predicting airflow velocity in the downstream region of the main street. This finding agrees with  
 318 the literature [35-36] that non-standard  $k-\varepsilon$  models perform better in predicting separate flows  
 319 but do worse in predicting airflow velocity in weak wind regions. All RANS turbulence models  
 320 can only predict the shape of turbulence intensity profile, thus  $Q^*_{roof}(turb)$  calculated by CFD  
 321 simulations were only used to provide a reference study and the relative values of  $Q^*_{roof}(turb)$   
 322 among different test cases were emphasized. Since the better prediction of mean flows within



323 UCL and along the streets is more important, this paper hereby regards the standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model  
 324 as the default turbulence model in the following CFD simulations.

325 For the validation case (medium grid, 0.8 million), a finer grid arrangement with the  
 326 minimum grid size of  $0.014H$  and grid number of 1.3 million was used to perform a grid  
 327 independence study. As displayed in Fig. 7c, numerical results were not sensitive to the grid  
 328 refinement, indicating present grid arrangements in Fig. 3b were sufficiently fine.

### 330 3.2 Ventilation assessment in cases with four buildings

331 In this subsection, the effects of semi-open street roofs and various wind directions in test  
 332 cases with four buildings and two crossing streets (i.e. Case [2-2, wind direction, roof type], see  
 333 Table 1) were investigated.

#### 335 3.2.1 Effect of semi-open street roofs in four example test cases

336 Fig. 8a displays three-dimensional (3D) streamline in four test cases (only half domain,  $0^\circ$ ),  
 337 i.e. Case [2-2, 0, Open], Case [2-2, 0, Hung1.2H], Case [2-2, 0, Partly-covered], Case [2-2,  
 338 0, Fully-covered]. Channel flows are found in the main streets parallel to the approaching wind  
 339 and 3D helical flows exist in the secondary streets. These channel and helical flows produce air  
 340 exchange and turbulent diffusion through street openings and street roofs. Different semi-open  
 341 street roofs may produce various flow pattern and ventilation capacity but this effect cannot be  
 342 clearly displayed by only 3D streamlines in Fig. 8a. To quantify this effect, Fig. 8b shows the  
 343 normalized age of air ( $\tau_p^* = \tau_p \times 100$ ) in  $z=0.22H$  (i.e. 1.5m in full scale) and normalized flow  
 344 rates ( $Q^*$ ) in these four test cases. Positive values denote air entering UCLs and negative ones  
 345 represent air leaving UCLs.  $\tau_p^*$  along the main street (Street 1 and Street 3) is relatively small  
 346 (i.e. air is relatively young) because  $Q^*$  through O1 and O3 are always large ( $Q^*(O1)=1.048$  to  
 347  $0.848$ ;  $Q^*(O3)=-0.551$  to  $-0.813$ ). In the secondary streets (Street 2 and Street 4),  $Q^*$  through O2  
 348 (O4) are small (only  $0.086$  to  $-0.019$ ). Thus the roof ventilations are more significant to the  
 349 secondary streets. For example, in Case [2-2, 0, Open],  $\tau_p^*$  in Street 2 (or Street 4) is similar  
 350 with that in Street 3 because the flow rates across street roofs are comparable to those across O1  
 351 and O3, including the upward and downward flow rates due to mean flows ( $Q_{\text{roof}}^*(\text{out})=-0.825$   
 352 and  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*(\text{in})=0.148$ ), and the effective flow rate induced by turbulence fluctuations



353 ( $Q^*_{\text{roof(turb)}}= 1.211$ ). For types of 'Hung1.2H' and 'Partly-covered', roof ventilation capacity  
 354 significantly decreases, including  $Q^*_{\text{roof(out)}}=-0.825$  to  $-0.424$  and  $-0.306$ ,  $Q^*_{\text{roof(in)}}=0.148$  to  
 355  $0.116$  and  $0.008$ ,  $Q^*_{\text{roof(turb)}}=1.211$  to  $1.059$  and  $0.258$ . Moreover  $Q^*$  across O1 decreases a little  
 356 ( $1.048$  to  $0.999$  and  $0.950$ ) due to the displacement by semi-open street roofs, and  $Q^*$  across O3  
 357 increases a little ( $-0.551$  to  $-0.684$  and  $-0.685$ ). These results show that semi-open street roofs not  
 358 only pose additional flow resistances and therefore reduce the ventilation by vertical mean flows  
 359 and turbulence across street roofs, but also influence the inflow rates and redistribution of  
 360 airflows along the streets within UCL, especially driving more air across Street 3 (O3). Thus in  
 361 contrast to Case [2-2, 0, Open], models with semi-open street roofs obtain much greater  $\tau_p^*$  and  
 362 older air in the secondary streets due to the weakened roof ventilation. An extreme example is  
 363 'Fully-covered' type, in which the flow rates across street roofs are zero, and  $\tau_p^*$  in the  
 364 secondary street (125 to 225) is much greater than that in the main street (0-45). The UCL spatial  
 365 mean age of air  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  with 'Open' and 'Hung1.2H' types are 24.3 and 37.7, which is much  
 366 smaller than  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  with 'Partly-covered' and 'Fully-covered' types (54.9 and 90.4), confirming  
 367 that the 'Hung1.2H' type provide better overall UCL ventilation than 'Partly-covered' and 'Fully-  
 368 covered' types.

369

### 370 3.2.2 Effect of ambient wind directions in four example test cases

371 Fig. 9 displays 3D streamline,  $\tau_p^*$  and  $Q^*$  in Case [2-2, 0, Hung1.5H], Case [2-2, 15,  
 372 Hung1.5H], Case [2-2, 30, Hung1.5H] and Case [2-2, 45, Hung1.5H]. The flow patterns are  
 373 obviously different and flow rates are redistributed. With a parallel approaching wind, air enters  
 374 UCL through O1, O2 and O4, then leaves through O3. Moreover 3D helical flows mainly exist  
 375 in Street 2 and Street 4 where air is relatively old. With non-parallel approaching wind, air enters  
 376 UCLs across O1 and O2, then leaves through O3 and O4; Recirculation flows exist in all four  
 377 streets and  $\tau_p^*$  is relatively large in the downstream streets (Street 3 and Street 4) and in  
 378 recirculation regions. If wind directions change from  $0^\circ$  to  $15^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$ ,  $45^\circ$ , both roof ventilation and  
 379 overall UCL ventilation are improved including  $Q^*_{\text{roof(out)}}$  varies from  $-0.547$  ( $0^\circ$ ) to  $-0.939$  ( $15^\circ$ ),  
 380  $-0.919$  ( $30^\circ$ ) and  $-0.730$  ( $45^\circ$ ),  $Q^*_{\text{roof(in)}}$  changes from  $0.106$  ( $0^\circ$ ) to  $0.586$  ( $15^\circ$ ),  $1.092$  ( $30^\circ$ ) and  
 381  $1.041$  ( $45^\circ$ ), and  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  decreases from  $29.6$  ( $0^\circ$ ) to  $22.6$  ( $15^\circ$ ),  $18.9$  ( $30^\circ$ ) and  $18.5$  ( $45^\circ$ ).  
 382 These results confirm that  $30^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$  produce better UCL ventilation than  $0^\circ$  and  $15^\circ$ .

383 As discussed and reported by the literature [2, 8-11, 18-20, 24, 31-32, 45], turbulent Schmidt  
 384 numbers ( $S_{ct}$ ) may influence numerical results of pollutant dispersion. As displayed in Table 2,  
 385 the effects of different  $S_{ct}$  and turbulence models are studied in Case [2-2, 0, Open] to quantify  
 386 the sensitivity of turbulence models and  $S_{ct}$  on UCL ventilation:  $S_{ct}=1.0, 0.7$  and  $0.4$  are used in  
 387 standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model,  $S_{ct}=0.7$  in RNG  $k-\varepsilon$  model, and  $S_{ct}=0.7$  in Realizable  $k-\varepsilon$  model. With the  
 388 same standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model and  $S_{ct}$  of  $1.0, 0.7$  or  $0.4$ ,  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  in the entire UCL are  $26.4, 24.3$  and  
 389  $21.2$ , respectively, showing that smaller  $S_{ct}$  may enhance pollutant dispersion by turbulent  
 390 diffusion and slightly reduce the age of air. With the same  $S_{ct}$  of  $0.7$ , realizable  $k-\varepsilon$  model and  
 391 RNG  $k-\varepsilon$  model obtain different flow rates through O3 and street roofs which result in a little  
 392 greater  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  ( $27.2$  and  $28.2$ ) than that by standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model ( $24.3$ ). Especially  $Q^*$  across O3  
 393 predicted by RNG  $k-\varepsilon$  model is much smaller than those by the other two, which can be  
 394 explained by the fact that RNG  $k-\varepsilon$  model significantly over-predicts  $Q^*_{\text{roof(out)}}$  ( $-1.127$ ) than the  
 395 other two ( $-0.825$  and  $-0.844$ ). To be consistent, standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model with  $S_{ct}$  of  $0.7$  was selected  
 396 as the default settings in CFD simulations.

397

### 398 3.2.2 Overall ventilation assessment in cases with four (2×2) buildings

399 To quantify the effect of semi-open street roofs on UCL ventilation flow rates, Fig. 10  
 400 shows  $Q^*$  through O1-O4 and  $Q^*_{\text{roof(out)}}$ ,  $Q^*_{\text{roof(in)}}$ ,  $Q^*_{\text{roof(turb)}}$  in all test cases with 4 buildings  
 401 and wind directions of  $0^\circ$  to  $45^\circ$ . Roof types change from 'Open', 'Hung1.5H', 'Hung1.2H',  
 402 'Hung1.1H', to 'Partly-covered' and 'Fully-covered' (reading figure from left to right). Roof  
 403 ventilations for 'Fully-covered' type are all zero. For wind directions of  $0^\circ$  and  $15^\circ$  (see Fig.10a-  
 404 10b), roof type variations result in a slightly decreasing flow rates across O1 and an increasing  
 405 flow rates across O3. More importantly, the flow rates across street roofs are all significantly  
 406 weakened, including  $Q^*_{\text{roof(out)}}$  from  $-0.825$  ( $0^\circ$ ) and  $-1.156$  ( $15^\circ$ ) to  $0$ ,  $Q^*_{\text{roof(in)}}$  from  $0.148$  ( $0^\circ$ )  
 407 and  $0.619$  ( $15^\circ$ ) to  $0$ , and  $Q^*_{\text{roof(turb)}}$  from  $1.211$  ( $0^\circ$ ) and  $1.315$  ( $15^\circ$ ) to  $0$ . Moreover,  $Q^*$  across  
 408 O2 and O4 are relatively small for wind direction of  $0^\circ$  (see Fig. 10a), but they become  
 409 considerably large for wind direction of  $15^\circ$  (see Fig. 10b). For wind directions of  $30^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$   
 410 (see Fig.10c-10d), similar findings exist due to such roof type variations that all roof ventilation  
 411 indices decrease quickly and  $Q^*$  across street openings decrease a little.

412 To quantify the reduction of UCL ventilation as roof types varying from 'Open' type to  
 413 'Fully-covered' type, the normalized ventilation ratio (*NVR*) is defined as the value of ventilation  
 414 indices in a case divided by those with 'open street roofs' and the same wind direction. Thus for  
 415 cases with open street roofs,  $NVR=1$ , and  $Q^*$  across street roofs for 'Fully-covered' roof type are  
 416 all zero ( $NVR=0$ ). Fig. 11 displays  $Q^*_{\text{roof}}(\text{in})$  and  $Q^*_{\text{roof}}(\text{out})$ ,  $Q^*_{\text{roof}}(\text{turb})$ , total normalized flow  
 417 rates by mean flows ( $Q_T^*$ ), normalized UCL purging flow rate ( $PFR^*$ ),  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  in the entire  
 418 UCL, and their *NVR* values for all 24 cases with 4 buildings. With the same roof type, wind  
 419 direction of  $30^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$  obtain greater  $Q^*_{\text{roof}}(\text{in})$  and  $Q^*_{\text{roof}}(\text{turb})$ , larger  $Q_T^*$  and  $PFR^*$ , smaller  
 420  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ , showing that  $30^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$  produce better UCL ventilation than  $0^\circ$  and  $15^\circ$ . In addition,  
 421 Fig.11a-11b also confirm that, all roof ventilation indices decrease as roof type varies from  
 422 'Open' to 'Partly-covered', and *NVR* for 'Partly-covered' type are as small as 5.6% to 34% for  
 423  $Q^*_{\text{roof}}(\text{in})$ , 18.0%-37.1% for  $Q^*_{\text{roof}}(\text{out})$ , and 21.3%-22.6% for  $Q^*_{\text{roof}}(\text{turb})$  respectively. Fig.  
 424 11c-11d displays that overall UCL ventilation basically decreases from 'Open' type to 'Fully-  
 425 covered' type, indicated by the fact as below: the *NVR* of  $Q_T^*$  are 87%-99% for 'Hung1.5H' type,  
 426 81%-92% for 'Hung1.2H' type, 67%-78% for 'Hung1.1H' type, 57%-72% for 'Partly-covered'  
 427 type and 41%-62% for 'Fully-covered' type; the *NVR* of  $PFR^*$  are from 82%-110%, 64%-110%,  
 428 52%-104% to 44%-87% and 27%-64%, and the *NVR* of  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  are from 90%-122%, 91%-  
 429 155%, 96%-190% to 115%-226% and 156-373%. Overall, Fig. 11d-11e confirm that roof types  
 430 of 'Hung1.5H', 'Hung1.2H' and 'Hung1.1H' may produce relatively considerable UCL ventilation  
 431 in contrast to 'Open' type (i.e. *NVR* are 52%-110% for  $PFR^*$  and 91%-190% for  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ ).  
 432 Considering 'Hung1.1H' and 'Hung1.2H' types are more realistic, they are proposed as better  
 433 semi-open street roof configurations. Meanwhile, Fig. 11d-11e also verify that, if roof types  
 434 change from 'Open' to 'Fully-covered', overall UCL ventilation with  $0^\circ$  wind direction may  
 435 decrease much more significantly (*NVR* are 100% to 27% for  $PFR^*$ , and 100% to 372% for  
 436  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ ) than the other wind directions, because the secondary streets with  $0^\circ$  wind direction and  
 437 semi-open street roofs tend to be poorly ventilated.

438

### 439 3.3 Ventilation assessment in test cases with sixteen buildings

440 What happen if urban size enlarges? To quantify this effect, test cases with 16 buildings are  
 441 investigated, as summarized in Table 1. Fig. 12 displays normalized age of air in four test cases,

442 i.e. Case [4-4, 0, Hung1.2H], Case [4-4, 15, Hung1.2H], Case [4-4, 30, Hung1.2H], Case [4-4, 45,  
 443 Hung1.2H]. The ventilation patterns are similar with those consisting of 4 buildings. For wind  
 444 direction of  $0^\circ$ , air mainly enters UCL across windward street openings of O1a, O1b, O1c, and  
 445 leaves UCL through leeward openings of O3a, O3b, O3c. For wind directions of  $15^\circ$ ,  $30^\circ$ , and  
 446  $45^\circ$ , air enters UCL through O1a to O1c and O2a to O2c, then leaves UCL across O2a to O2c  
 447 and O4a to O4c. Age of air is relatively large and air is old in recirculation regions and  
 448 downstream regions.

449 UCL ventilation indices and their normalized ventilation ratios (*NVR*) in all 24 test cases  
 450 with 16 buildings are quantitatively analyzed, including  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (in) and  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (out) in Fig. 13a,  
 451  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (turb) in Fig. 13b,  $Q_T^*$  in Fig. 13c, *PFR*\* in Fig. 13d and  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  in the entire UCL in Fig.  
 452 13e. It is found that UCL ventilation indices basically become a little better if wind directions  
 453 change from  $0^\circ$  and  $15^\circ$  to  $30^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$ . More importantly, roof type variations from 'Open' to  
 454 'Fully-covered' produce a large decreasing rate of overall UCL ventilation and obtain  
 455 macroscopically older air, which can be represented by the below data. For roof ventilation  
 456 indices(see Fig. 13a-13b), *NVR* for 'Fully-covered' type are all zero, and those for 'Partly-  
 457 covered' type are 11%-23% for  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (in), 28%-39% for  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (out), and 16%-22% for  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$   
 458 (turb). For overall UCL ventilation, *NVR* of  $Q_T^*$  (see Fig. 13c) are 81%-96% for 'Hung1.5H' type,  
 459 78%-87% for 'Hung1.2H' type, 65%-86% for 'Hung1.1H' type, 52%-61% for 'Partly-covered'  
 460 type and 28%-50% for 'Fully-covered' type, and *NVR* of *PFR*\*(see Fig. 13d) for the above roof  
 461 types are 84%-90%, 76%-87%, 65%-86%, 52%-68%, and 36%-45% respectively, moreover *NVR*  
 462 of  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  increase from 111%-120%, 115%-131%, 116%-154% to 148%-192%, 223%-279%  
 463 (i.e. air becomes older). Results also confirm that, 'Hung1.5H', 'Hung1.2H' and 'Hung1.1H' types  
 464 produce a little smaller but comparable UCL ventilation in contrast to 'Open' type. Thus for cases  
 465 with 16 buildings, the roof types of 'Hung1.2H' and 'Hung1.1H' are better choices considering  
 466 they are more realistic designs.

467

### 468 3.4 Effect of urban size on UCL ventilation

469 To quantify how overall UCL ventilations change if building number or urban size  
 470 increases, Fig. 13b-13e also compares  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (turb),  $Q_T^*$ , *PFR*\* and  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  between urban  
 471 models with 4 or 16 buildings (the smaller or bigger model). By analyzing Fig. 13b-13d,  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$

472 (turb),  $Q_T^*$  and  $PFR^*$  in the bigger model are found several times (about 3.2-4.7 for  $Q_{roof}^*$ , 1.2-  
 473 2.6 for  $Q_T^*$ , 0.8-3.5 for  $PFR^*$ ) larger than those in the smaller model. Larger urban model  
 474 obtains greater ventilation capacity because their total area of street openings and street roofs are  
 475 2 and 5.2 times greater than the smaller one. However it does not represent larger urban model  
 476 can produces better overall UCL ventilation. It can be confirmed by Fig. 13e that  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$  in the  
 477 bigger model is about 1.4 to 3.5 times as great as that in the smaller model, showing that the  
 478 bigger model obtains macroscopically older air. It is because the bigger model has a UCL  
 479 volume of 5.2 times larger than that in the smaller model and requires longer time for wind to  
 480 flow through.

481

### 482 **3.5 Discussions and Future outlooks**

483 Further investigations are still required before formulating a practical guidelines for these  
 484 semi-open street roof designs, such as the effect of the surrounding building height, the effect of  
 485 atmospheric thermal stratification (not neutral) and buoyancy force due to solar shading, the  
 486 analysis of rain-cover and shading capability etc. This paper is one of the first attempts to  
 487 quantify and address a relationship between semi-open street roof configurations and UCL  
 488 ventilation indices. The methodologies and techniques utilized in this paper are promising, and  
 489 possibly provide a valid tool to investigate UCL ventilation in other types of idealized or realistic  
 490 urban configurations.

491

### 492 **4. Conclusions**

493 The arrangements of semi-open street roofs in urban space are effective to protect  
 494 pedestrians from strong sunshine and heavy rains or snows. Their effects on urban canopy layer  
 495 (UCL) ventilation are still not fully understood. This paper numerically quantified how five types  
 496 of semi-open street roofs influence isothermal turbulent airflows and UCL ventilation  
 497 performance under a neutral atmospheric condition with various ambient wind directions ( $0^\circ, 15^\circ,$   
 498  $30^\circ, 45^\circ$ ). Two small-scale idealized urban models were investigated consisting of 4 ( $2 \times 2$ ) or 16  
 499 ( $4 \times 4$ ) buildings with uniform building height of  $H=0.069\text{m}$ , and street aspect ratio of  $H/W=1$ ,  
 500 corresponding to full-scale urban models of about 7m tall, 49m and 105m long as the scale ratio  
 501 is 1:100. In contrast to 'Open' roof type (open street roof), five kinds of semi-open street roofs  
 502 were included: Walls are hung above open street roofs (coverage ratio  $\lambda_a=100\%$ ) at  $z=1.1H, 1.2H,$

503 1.5H, i.e. types of 'Hung1.1H', 'Hung1.2H', 'Hung1.5H'; Walls partly cover street roofs at  $z=H$   
 504 ( $\lambda_a=80\%$ ), i.e. 'Partly-covered' type; Walls are set up to cover the entire street roof at  $z=H$   
 505 ( $\lambda_a=100\%$ ), i.e. 'Fully-covered' type. The age of air and its spatial mean value, flow rates across  
 506 street openings and street roofs, the UCL purging flow rate were numerically analyzed to  
 507 quantify UCL ventilation.

508 Results show that the prediction of airflow velocity by using standard  $k-\varepsilon$  model agreed  
 509 better with wind tunnel data than other three RANS turbulence models. Semi-open street roofs  
 510 significantly influence UCL ventilation patterns and redistribute flow rates across street openings  
 511 and street roofs. As roof types vary from 'Open' to 'Hung1.5H', 'Hung1.2H', 'Hung1.1H' then to  
 512 'Partly-covered' and 'Fully-covered', both roof ventilation and overall UCL ventilation  
 513 performance are basically weakened. The net UCL ventilation is the worst for the 'Fully-covered'  
 514 type, followed by the 'Partly-covered' type. The roof types of 'Hung1.2H' and 'Hung1.1H' are  
 515 proposed because they produce comparable UCL ventilation, meanwhile are more realistic roof  
 516 designs. Oblique ambient wind directions of  $30^\circ$  and  $45^\circ$  obtain better UCL ventilation than  $15^\circ$   
 517 and  $0^\circ$ . If the building number increases from 4 ( $2\times 2$ ) to 16 ( $4\times 4$ ), air in the entire UCL becomes  
 518 macroscopically older because the greater UCL volume requires longer time for rural wind to  
 519 flow through.

520

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526

## 527 Nomenclature

|     |                                    |   |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 528 | $A$                                | area of a surface ( $m^2$ )   |
| 529 | $B, H, L, W$                       | building width, building height, total length, street width                     |
| 530 | $\bar{c}, \langle \bar{c} \rangle$ | time-averaged pollutant concentration ( $kgm^{-3}$ ) and its spatial mean value |
| 531 | $K_c, \nu_t$                       | turbulent eddy diffusivity of pollutant and momentum $K_c = \nu_t / S_{ct}$     |
| 532 | $k, \varepsilon$                   | turbulent kinetic energy and its dissipation rate                               |

|     |                            |   |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| 533 | $\vec{n}$                  | normal direction of street openings or canopy roofs                         |
| 534 | $NVR$                      | normalized ventilation ratio in contrast to models with 'open' street roofs |
| 535 | $PFR, PFR^*$               | purging flow rate and its normalized value ( $PFR^*=PFR/Q_\infty$ )         |
| 536 | $Q^*$                      | normalized flow rate through street openings or street roofs                |
| 537 | $Q_{in}^*, Q_{out}^*$      | normalized total inflow and outflow rate for entire UCL                     |
| 538 | $Q_T^*$                    | total ventilation flow rate by mean flows ( $m^3s^{-1}$ )                   |
| 539 | $Q_\infty$                 | reference flow rate in upstream free flow to normalize flow rates           |
| 540 | $Q_{roof}^* (turb)$        | normalized effective flow rate across street roofs by turbulence            |
| 541 | $Q_{roof}^* (in)$          | normalized inflow rate across street roofs by downward flows                |
| 542 | $Q_{roof}^* (out)$         | normalized outflow rate across street roofs by upward outflows              |
| 543 | $S_c$                      | pollutant release rate  |
| 544 | $S_\alpha$                 | turbulent Schmidt number  |
| 545 | $\sigma_w$                 | fluctuation velocity on street roofs  |
| 546 | $\tau_p, \tau_p^*$         | age of air (s) and its normalized value                                     |
| 547 | $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ | normalized spatial mean age of air  |
| 548 | $U_m, I_m$                 | velocity, turbulence intensity measured in upstream free flow               |
| 549 | $U_0(z)$                   | velocity profiles used at CFD domain inlet for ventilation cases            |
| 550 | $U_H$                      | reference velocity (2.66m/s) at $z=H$                                       |
| 551 | $\bar{u}_j, x_j$           | velocity and coordinate components  |
| 552 | $\bar{v}$                  | velocity vector   |
| 553 | $Vol$                      | control volume  |
| 554 | $x, y, z$                  | stream-wise, span-wise, vertical directions                                 |

555

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662

### 663 **Figure list**

664 Fig. 1. Two urban configurations of semi-open street roof design: (a) Walls being hung above  
 665 street roofs of food court, (b) Walls being partly covered by street roof height ( $z=H$ ) of retail  
 666 center.

667

668 Fig. 2. Model descriptions of experimental model: (a) The idealized urban model with 4  
 669 buildings and open street roof, (b) Vertical profiles of velocity and turbulence intensity in the  
 670 upstream free flow of wind tunnel experiment.

671

672 Fig. 3. (a) Computational domain for cases with a parallel approaching wind ( $0^\circ$ ) and half domain  
 673 size, (b) Grid arrangements in  $x$ - $y$  plane in the validation case.

674

675 Fig. 4. (a) Computational domain with oblique wind direction and full domain size. Model  
 676 descriptions of urban models with (b) 4 ( $2 \times 2$ ) buildings and (c) 16 ( $4 \times 4$ ) buildings.

677

678 Fig. 5. (a) 'Fully-covered' roof type: walls fully cover street roofs at  $z=H$  (b) 'Partly-covered' roof  
 679 type: walls partly cover street roofs at  $z=H$ , (c) Types of 'Hung1.5H', 'Hung1.2H', 'Hung1.1H':  
 680 walls are hung above street roofs at  $z=1.1H$ ,  $1.2H$ ,  $1.5H$ .

681

682 Fig. 6. Two examples of grid arrangements for urban geometries with 4 buildings: (a) in  $x$ - $y$   
 683 plane, (b) in  $x$ - $z$  plane. (c) Definition of uniform pollutant source in UCL volume.

684

685 Fig. 7. Validation profiles of (a) velocity and (b) turbulence intensity along the street centerline  
 686 at  $z=0.11H$  by using different turbulence models. (c) Horizontal profiles of velocity for a grid  
 687 independence study.

688

689 Fig. 8. (a) 3D streamline, (b)  $\tau_p^*$  in  $z=0.22H$  and  $Q^*$  in Case [2-2, 0, Open], Case [2-2, 0,  
 690 Hung1.2H], Case [2-2, 0, Partly-covered], Case [2-2, 0, Fully-covered].

691

692 Fig. 9. (a) 3D streamline, (b)  $\tau_p^*$  and  $Q^*$  in Case [2-2, 0, Hung1.5H], Case [2-2, 15, Hung1.5H],  
 693 Case [2-2, 30, Hung1.5H], Case [2-2, 45, Hung1.5H]. Note that in Fig. 9b, negative values of  $Q^*$   
 694 by mean flows denote air leaving UCL and positive ones represent air entering UCL.

695

696 Fig. 10.  $Q^*$  in urban models with 4 buildings and wind directions of (a)  $0^\circ$ , (b)  $15^\circ$ , (c)  $30^\circ$ ,  
 697 (d)  $45^\circ$ .

698

699 Fig. 11. Ventilation indices and their  $NVR$  for test cases with 4 buildings: (a)  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (in) and  
 700  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (out), (b)  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (turb), (c)  $Q_T^*$ , (d)  $PFR^*$ , (e)  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ .

701

702 Fig. 12.  $\tau_p^*$  in  $z=0.22H$  in (a) Case [4-4, 0, Hung1.2H], (b) Case [4-4, 15, Hung1.2H], (c) Case  
 703 [4-4, 30, Hung1.2H], (d) Case [4-4, 45, Hung1.2H].

704

705 Fig. 13. Ventilation indices and their  $NVR$ : (a)  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (in) and  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (out) in 24 test cases with  
 706 16 buildings, In all 48 test cases: (b)  $Q_{\text{roof}}^*$  (turb), (c)  $Q_T^*$ , (d)  $PFR^*$ , (e)  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ .

Table 1 Model descriptions of 48 test cases.

| 2 rows, 2 columns (2×2)  |                                       | 4 rows, 4 columns (4×4)  |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Case name*               | Ambient wind direction $\theta^\circ$ | Case name                | Ambient wind direction $\theta^\circ$ |
| [2-2, 0, Open]           | 0°                                    | [4-4, 0, Open]           | 0°                                    |
| [2-2, 0, Hung1.5H]       |                                       | [4-4, 0, Hung1.5H]       |                                       |
| [2-2, 0, Hung1.2H]       |                                       | [4-4, 0, Hung1.2H]       |                                       |
| [2-2, 0, Hung1.1H]       |                                       | [4-4, 0, Hung1.1H]       |                                       |
| [2-2, 0,Partly-covered]  |                                       | [4-4, 0,Partly-covered]  |                                       |
| [2-2, 0, Fully-covered]  |                                       | [4-4, 0, Fully-covered]  |                                       |
|                          |                                       |                          |                                       |
| [2-2, 15, Open]          | 15°                                   | [4-4, 15, Open]          | 15°                                   |
| [2-2, 15, Hung1.5H]      |                                       | [4-4, 15, Hung1.5H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 15, Hung1.2H]      |                                       | [4-4, 15, Hung1.2H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 15, Hung1.1H]      |                                       | [4-4, 15, Hung1.1H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 15,Partly-covered] |                                       | [4-4, 15,Partly-covered] |                                       |
| [2-2, 15, Fully-covered] |                                       | [4-4, 15, Fully-covered] |                                       |
|                          |                                       |                          |                                       |
| [2-2, 30, Open]          | 30°                                   | [4-4, 30, Open]          | 30°                                   |
| [2-2, 30, Hung1.5H]      |                                       | [4-4, 30, Hung1.5H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 30, Hung1.2H]      |                                       | [4-4, 30, Hung1.2H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 30, Hung1.1H]      |                                       | [4-4, 30, Hung1.1H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 30,Partly-covered] |                                       | [4-4, 30,Partly-covered] |                                       |
| [2-2, 30, Fully-covered] |                                       | [4-4, 30, Fully-covered] |                                       |
|                          |                                       |                          |                                       |
| [2-2, 45, Open]          | 45°                                   | [4-4, 45, Open]          | 45°                                   |
| [2-2, 45, Hung1.5H]      |                                       | [4-4, 45, Hung1.5H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 45, Hung1.2H]      |                                       | [4-4, 45, Hung1.2H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 45, Hung1.1H]      |                                       | [4-4, 45, Hung1.1H]      |                                       |
| [2-2, 45,Partly-covered] |                                       | [4-4, 45,Partly-covered] |                                       |
| [2-2, 45, Fully-covered] |                                       | [4-4, 45, Fully-covered] |                                       |
|                          |                                       |                          |                                       |

\*Case name is defined as [row number-column number, wind direction ( $\theta^\circ$ ), roof type]. 'Open' denotes open street roofs; 'Fully-covered' and 'Partly-covered' means solid walls 'fully or 'partly cover' street roofs at  $z=H$ . 'Hung1.5H, Hung1.2H and Hung1.1H' represent solid walls are 'Hung' above street roofs at  $z=1.5H, 1.2H$  and  $1.1H$ .

Table 2 Effect of turbulence models and turbulent Schmidt number ( $Sc_t$ ) on  $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ ,  $PFR^*$  and  $Q_T^*$  in the entire UCL,  $Q_{\text{roof}}(\text{turb})^*$  and  $Q^*$  across O3 in Case [2-2, 0, Open].

| Turbulence models          | $Sc_t$ | $\langle \tau_p^* \rangle$ | $PFR^*$ | $Q_T^*$ | $Q_{\text{roof}}^*(\text{out})$ | $Q_{\text{roof}}^*(\text{in})$ | $Q_{\text{roof}}^*(\text{turb})$ | $Q^*(\text{O3})$ |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Standard $k-\varepsilon$   | 0.4    | 21.2                       | 1.847   | 1.376   | -0.825                          | 0.148                          | 1.211                            | -0.551           |
|                            | 0.7    | 24.3                       | 1.609   |         |                                 |                                |                                  |                  |
|                            | 1.0    | 26.4                       | 1.482   |         |                                 |                                |                                  |                  |
| Realizable $k-\varepsilon$ | 0.7    | 27.2                       | 1.439   | 1.401   | -0.844                          | 0.145                          | 1.066                            | -0.536           |
| RNG $k-\varepsilon$        | 0.7    | 28.8                       | 1.358   | 1.378   | -1.127                          | 0.181                          | 0.919                            | -0.274           |

\*Negative values denote air leaving UCL and positive ones represent air entering it.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 1. Hang et al.

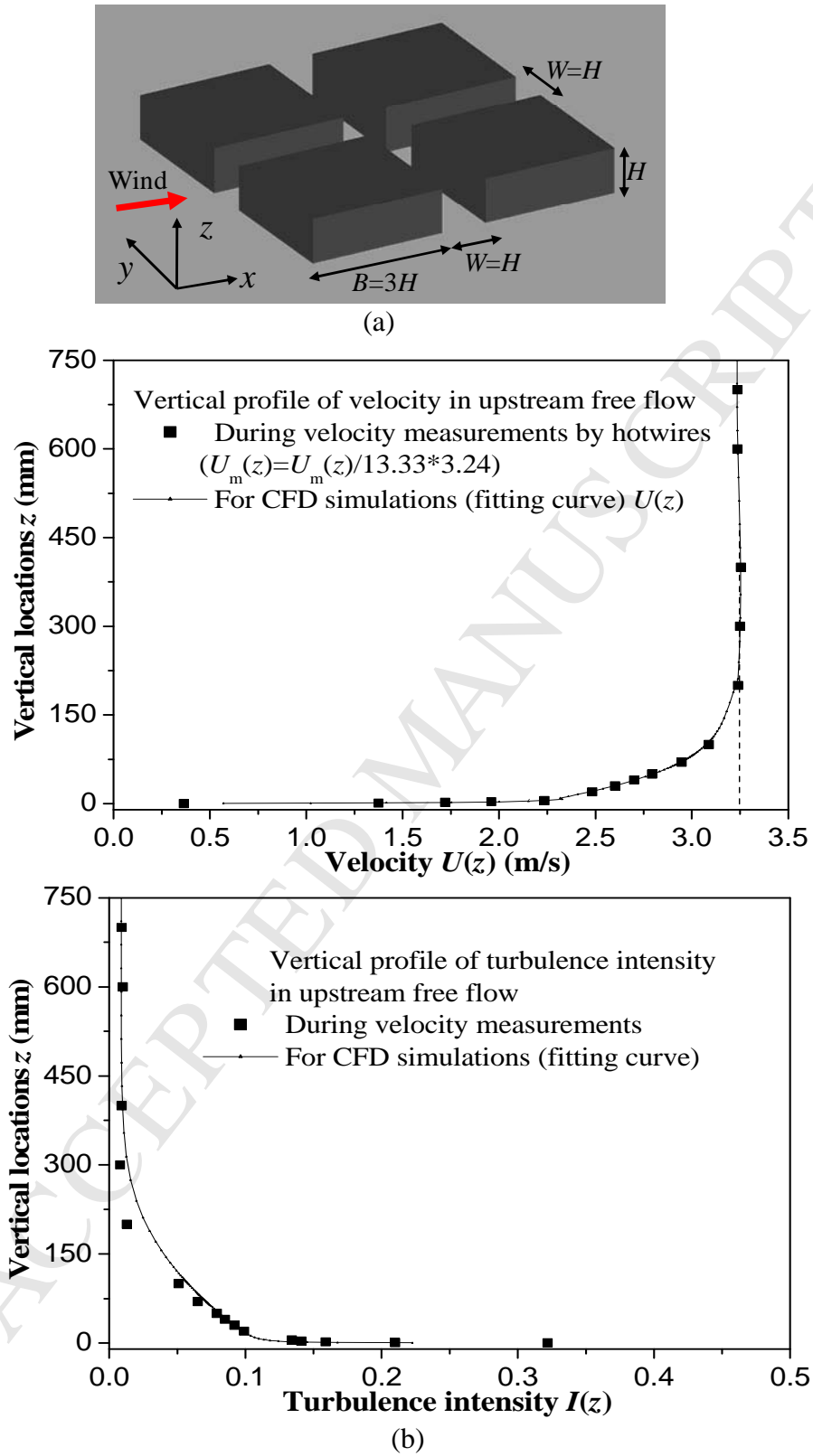


Fig. 2. Hang et al.



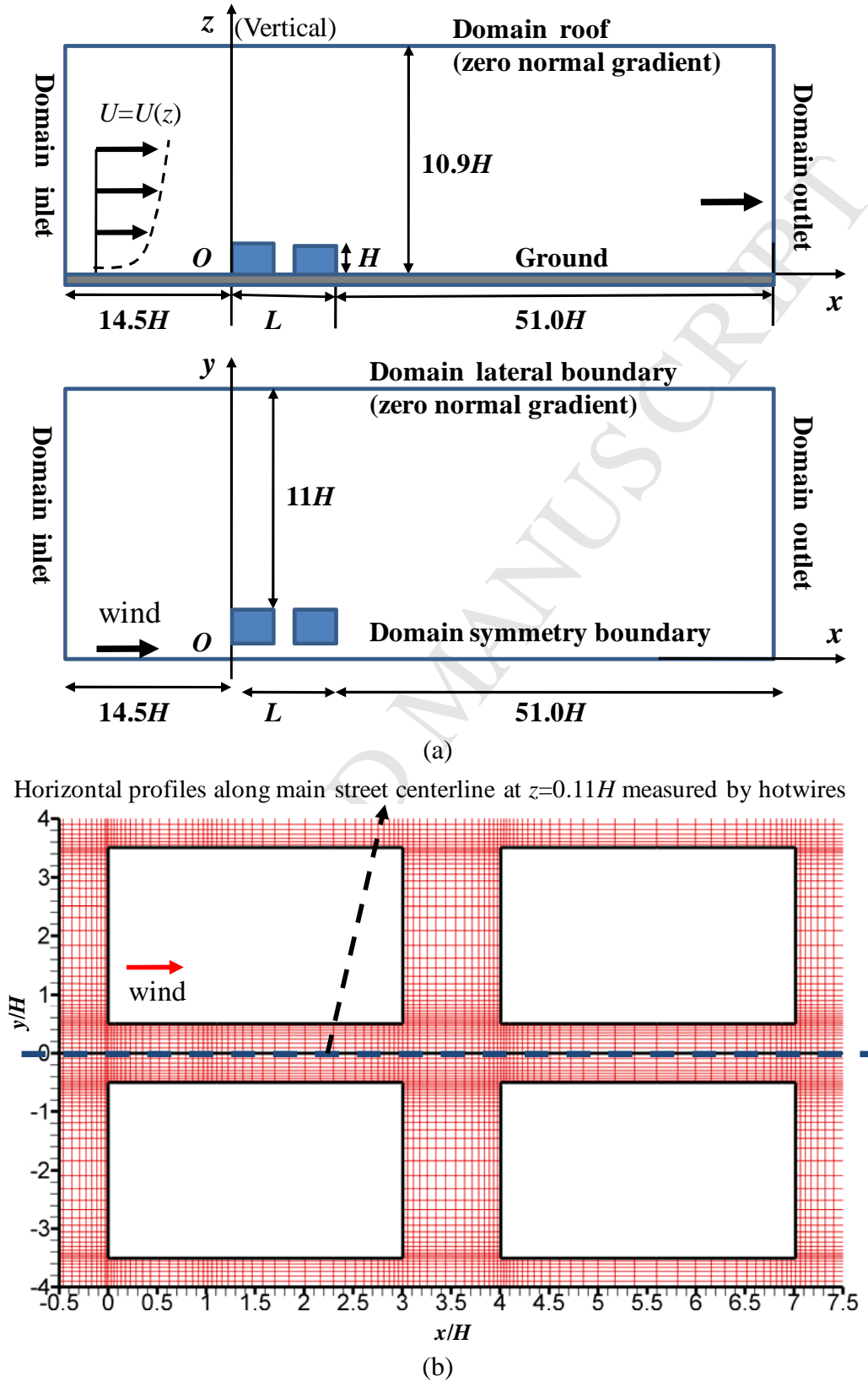
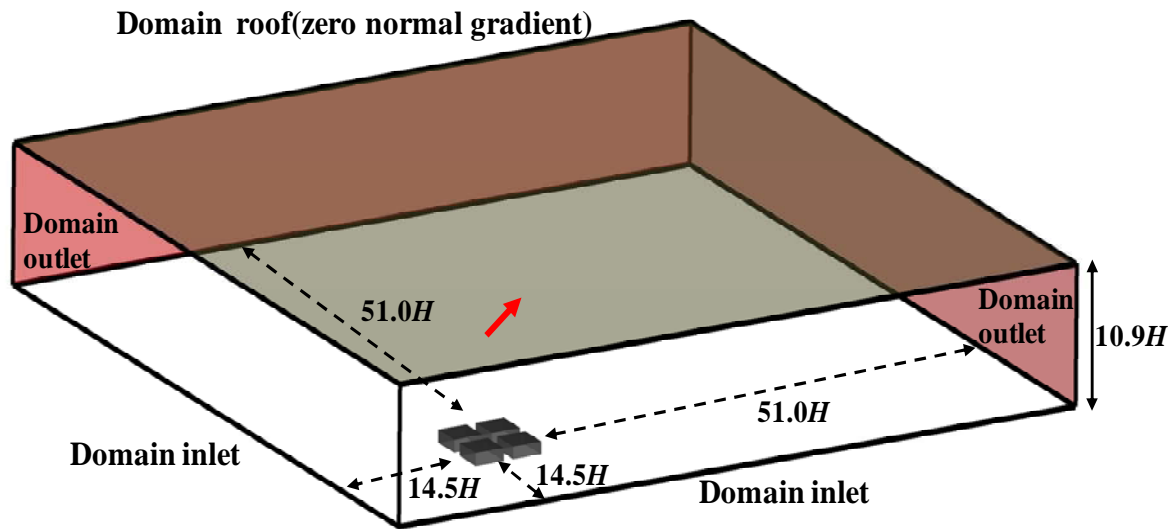
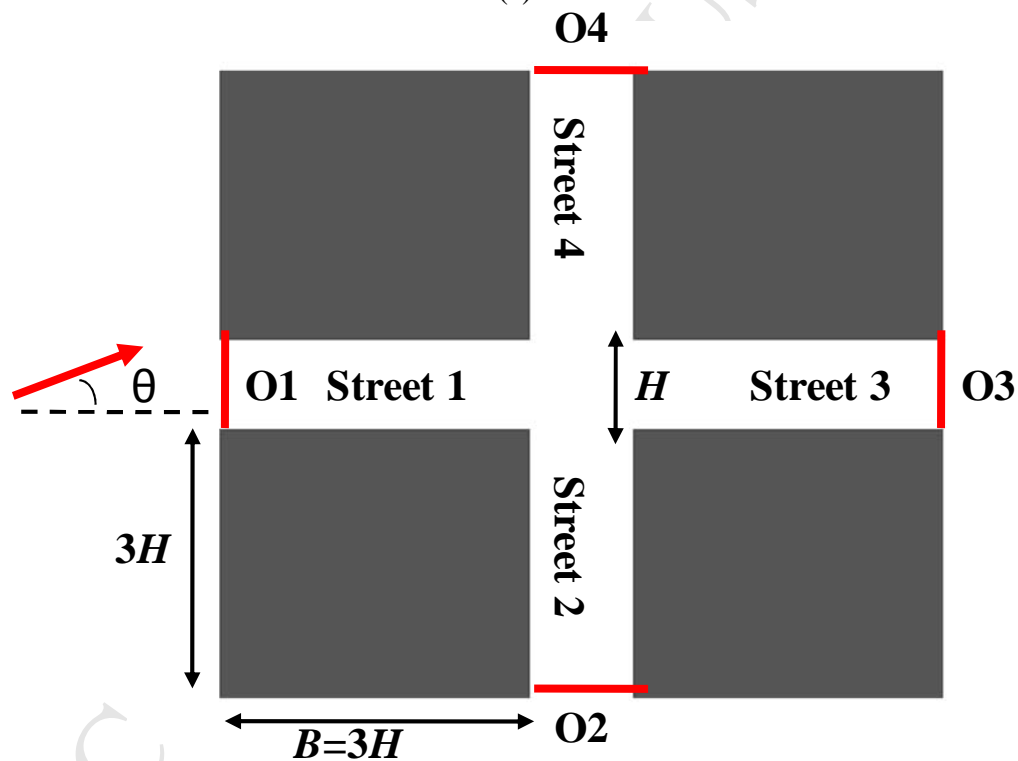


Fig. 3 Hang et al.





(a)



(b)

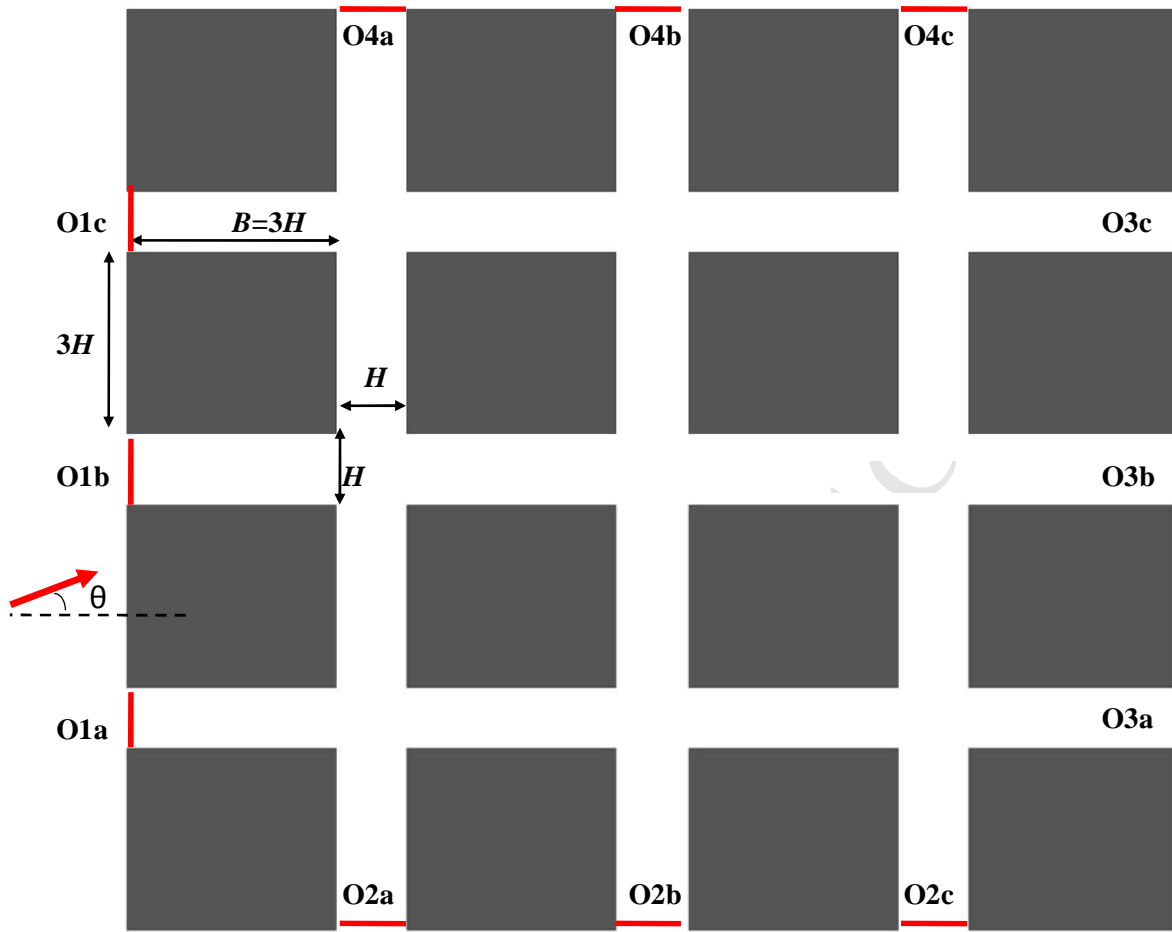
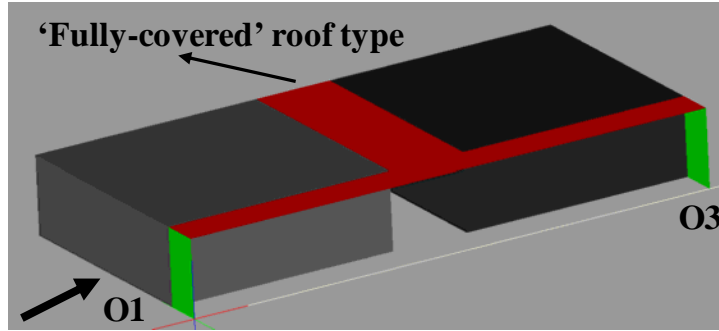
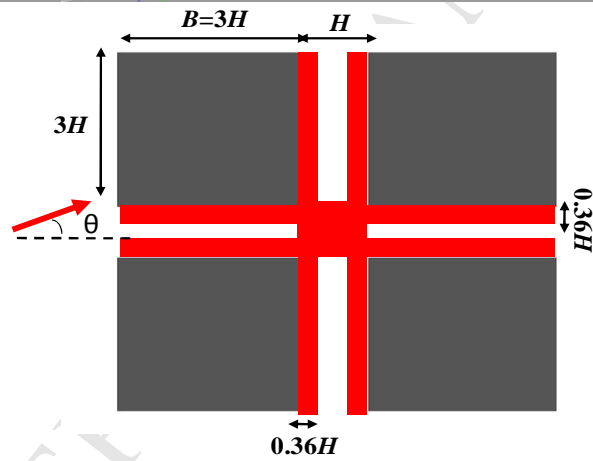
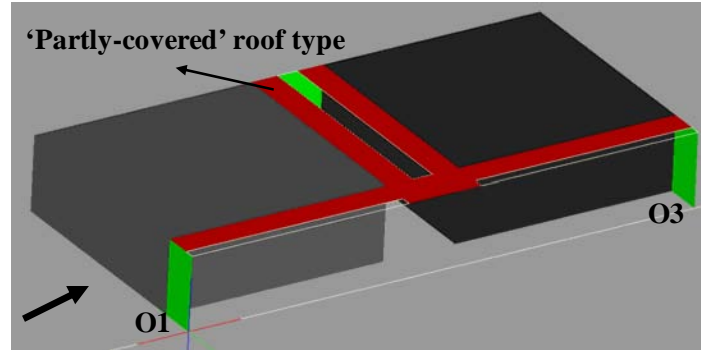


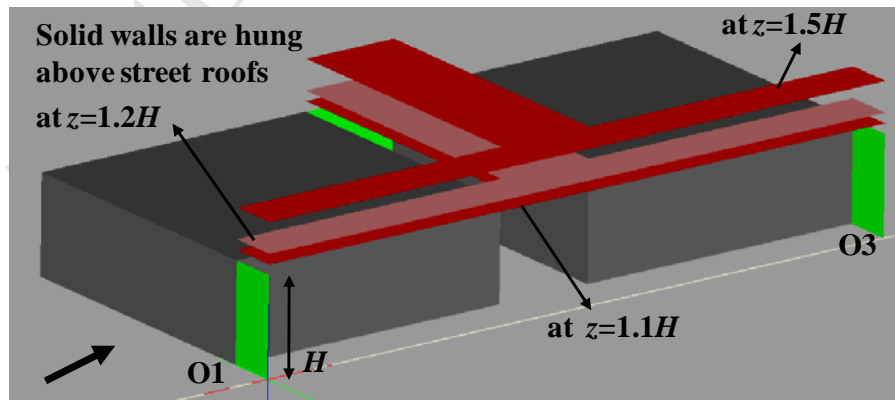
Fig. 4. Hang et al. (c)



(a) Enclosed street roof



(b)



(c)

Fig. 5. Hang et al.

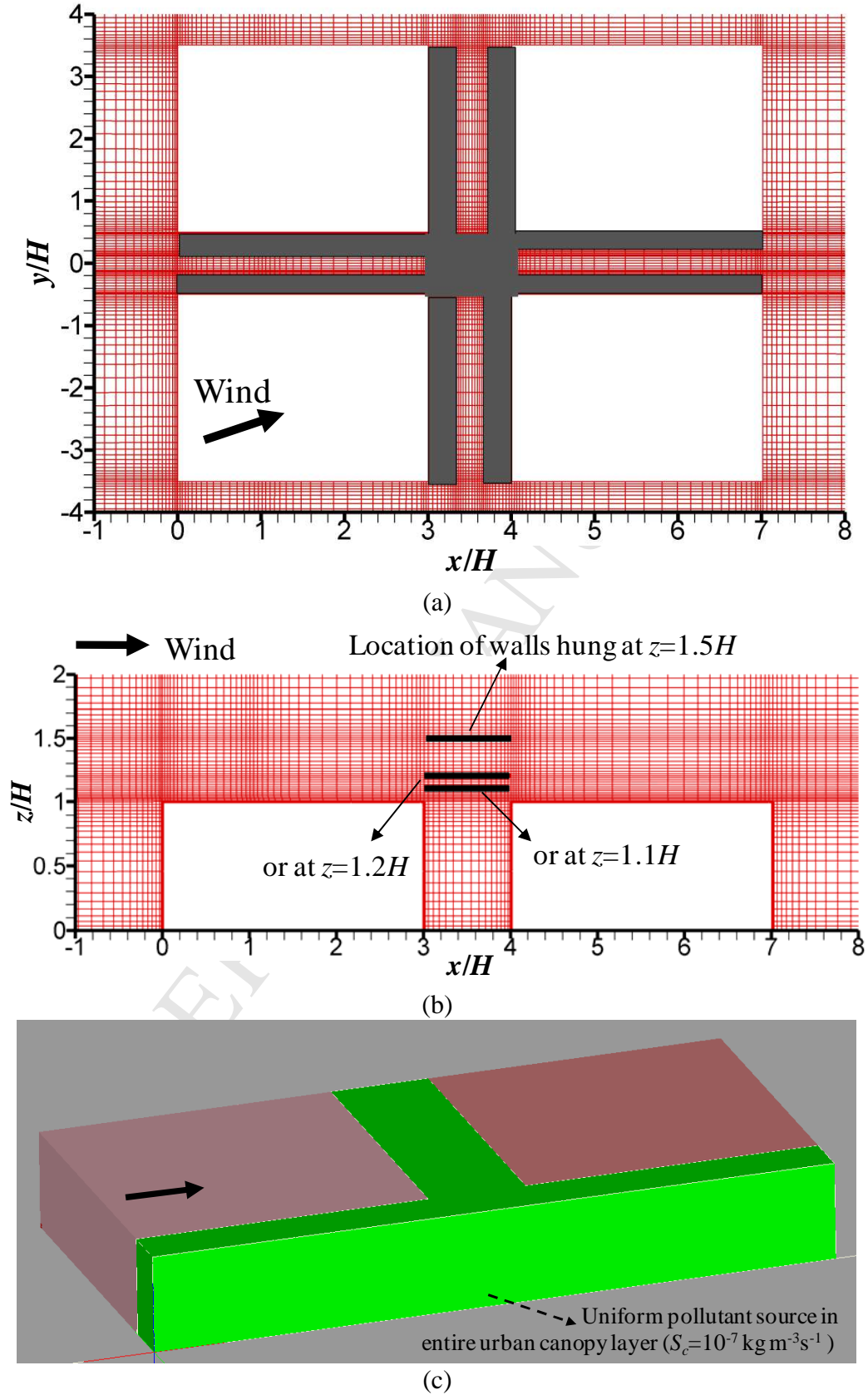


Fig.6. Hang et al.

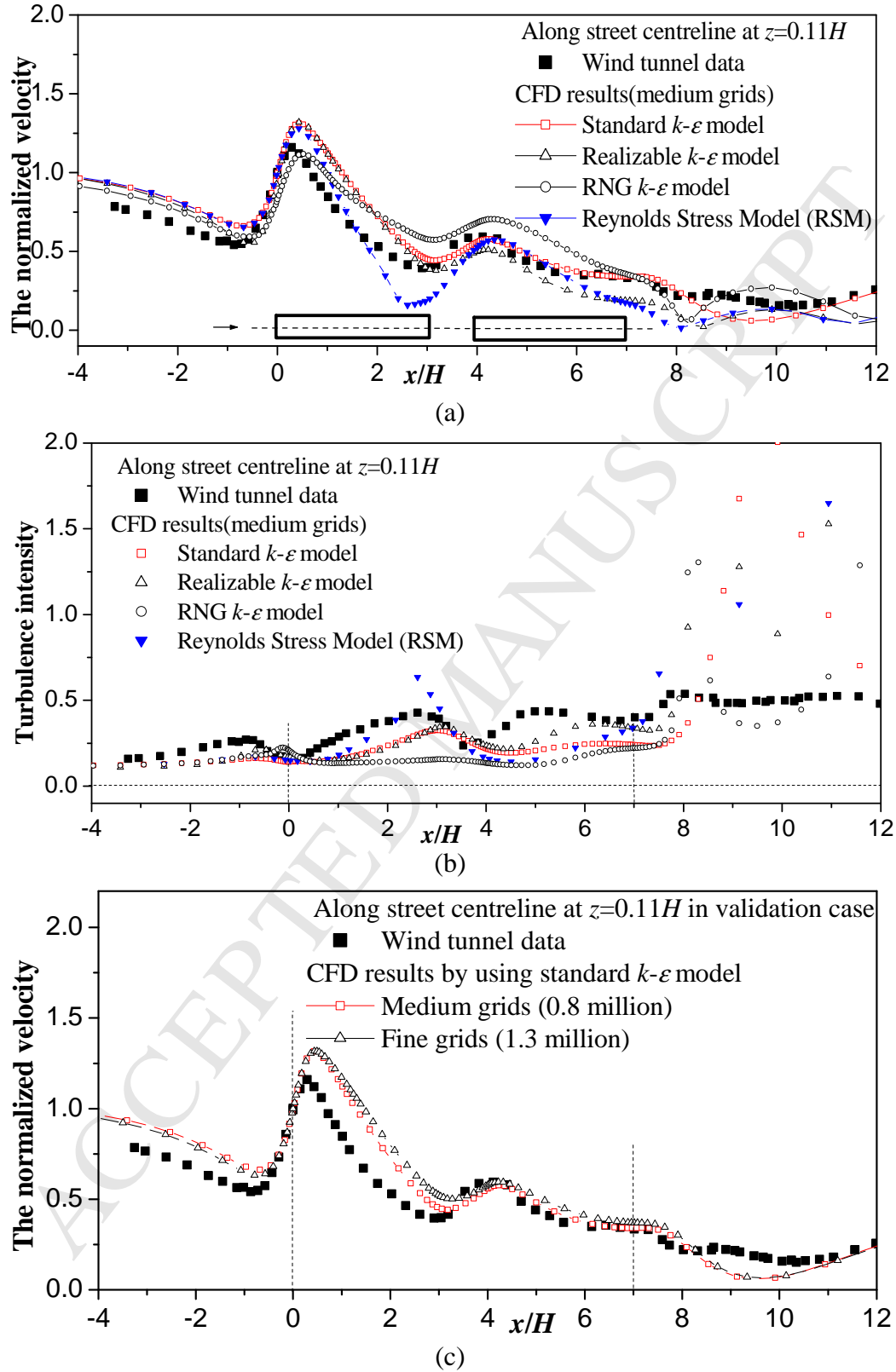
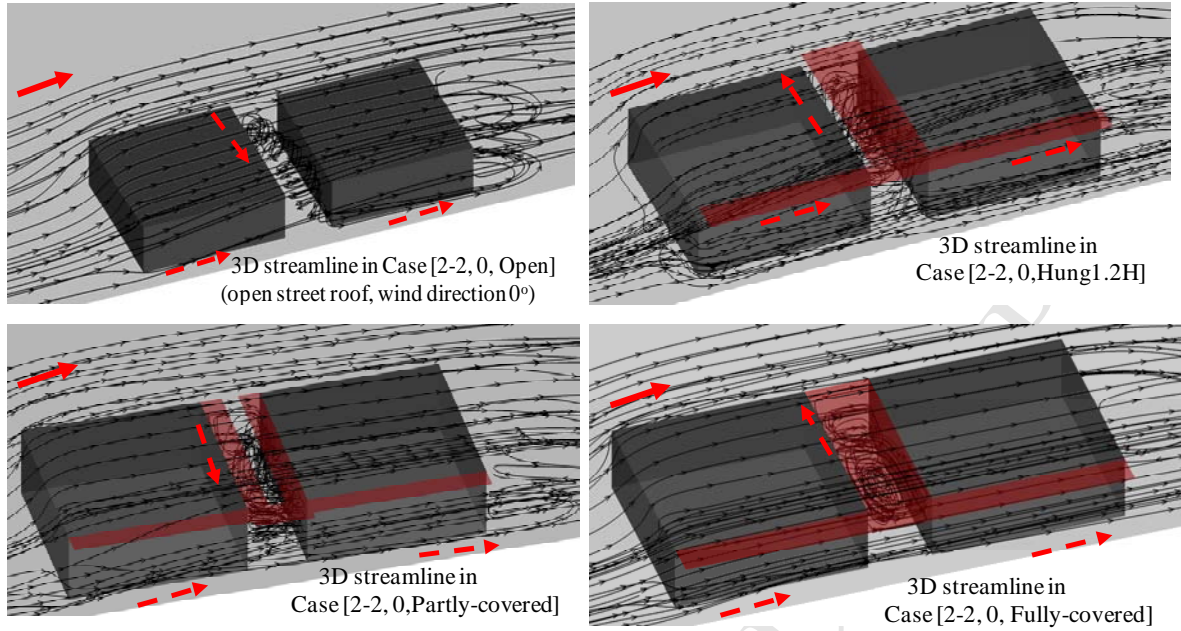
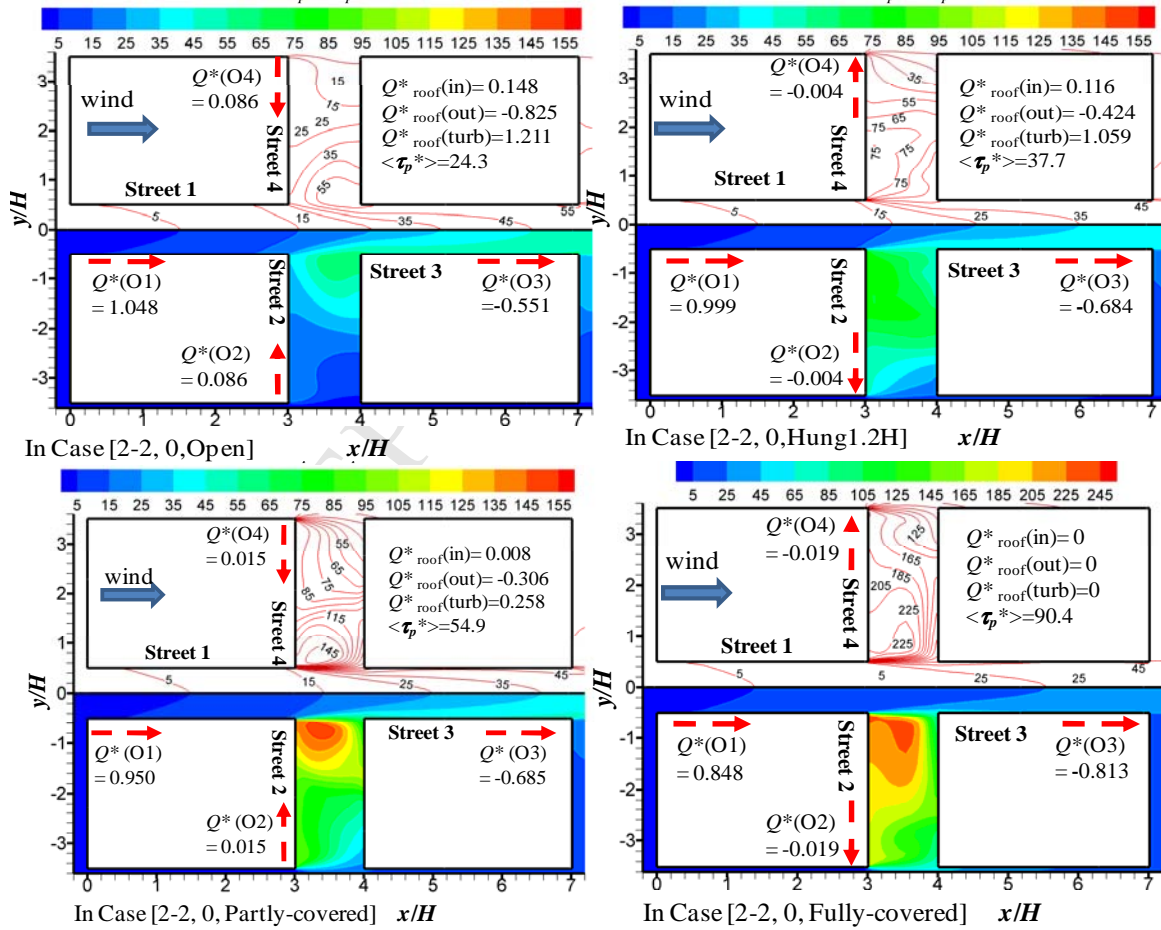


Fig. 7. Hang et al.



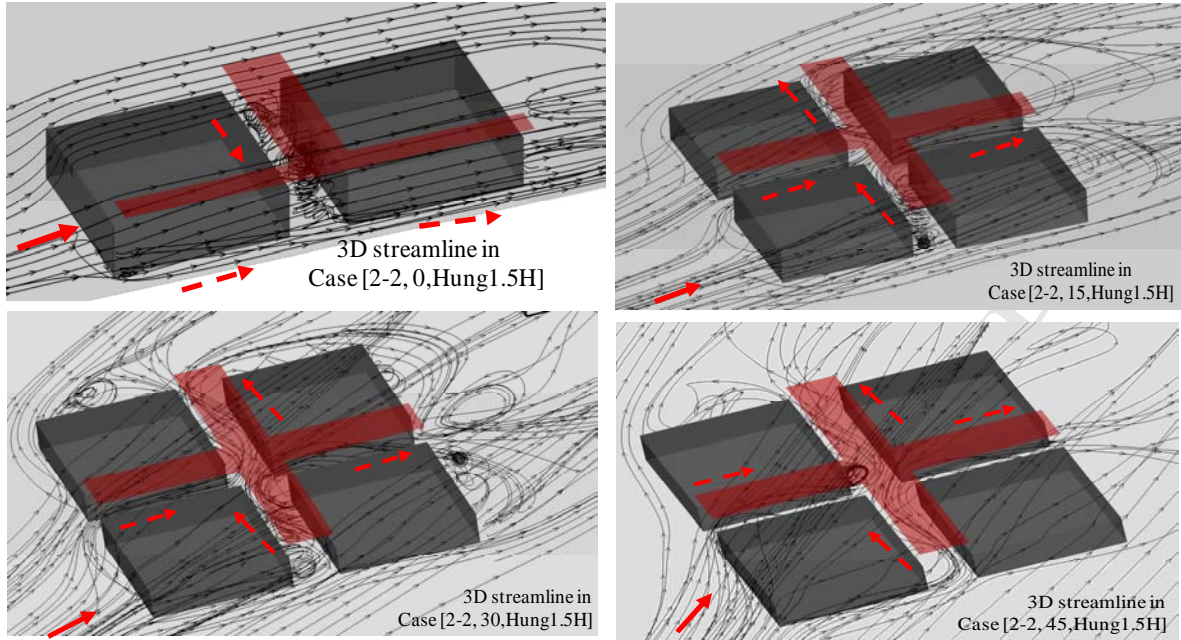
(a)

Normalized age of air ( $\tau_p^* = \tau_p \times 100$  s) in  $z=0.22H$ 

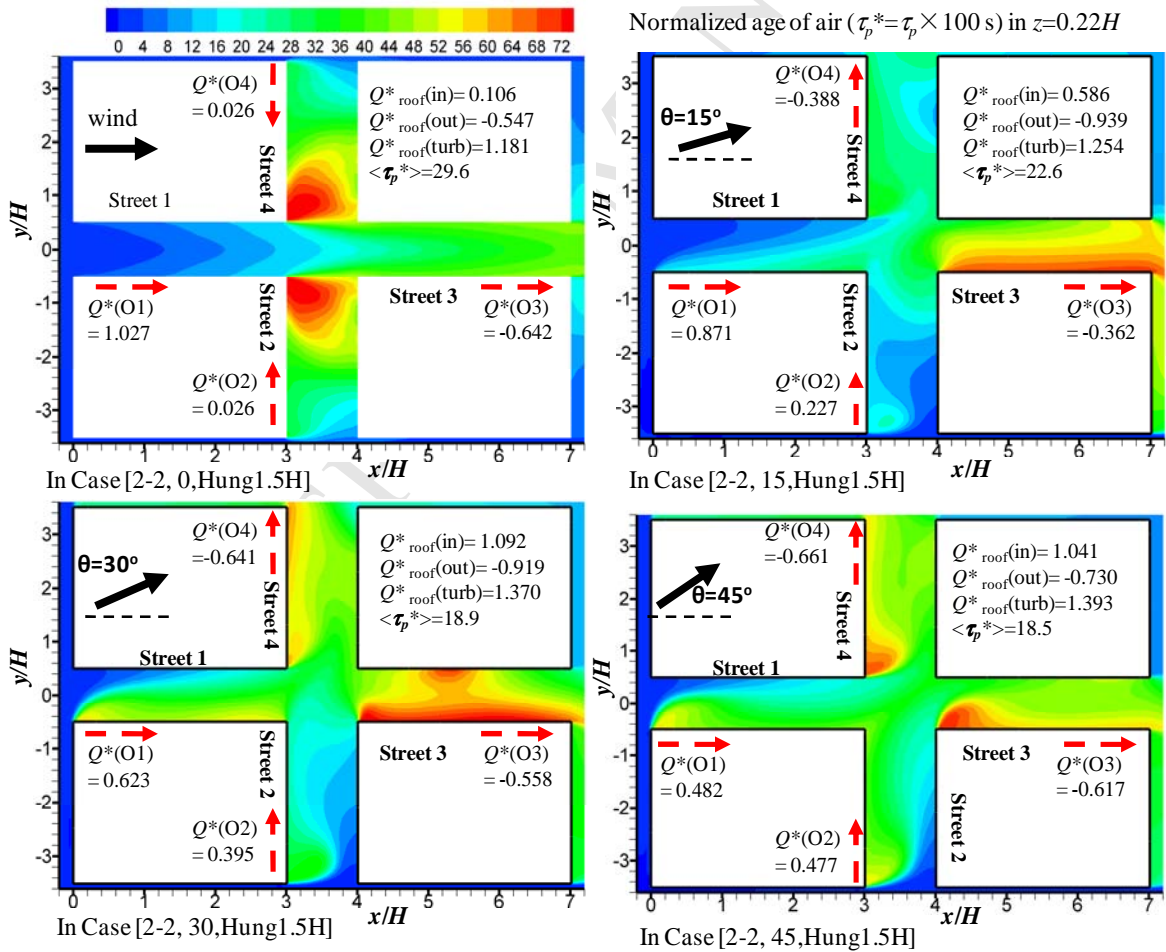
(b)

Fig. 8 Hang et al.



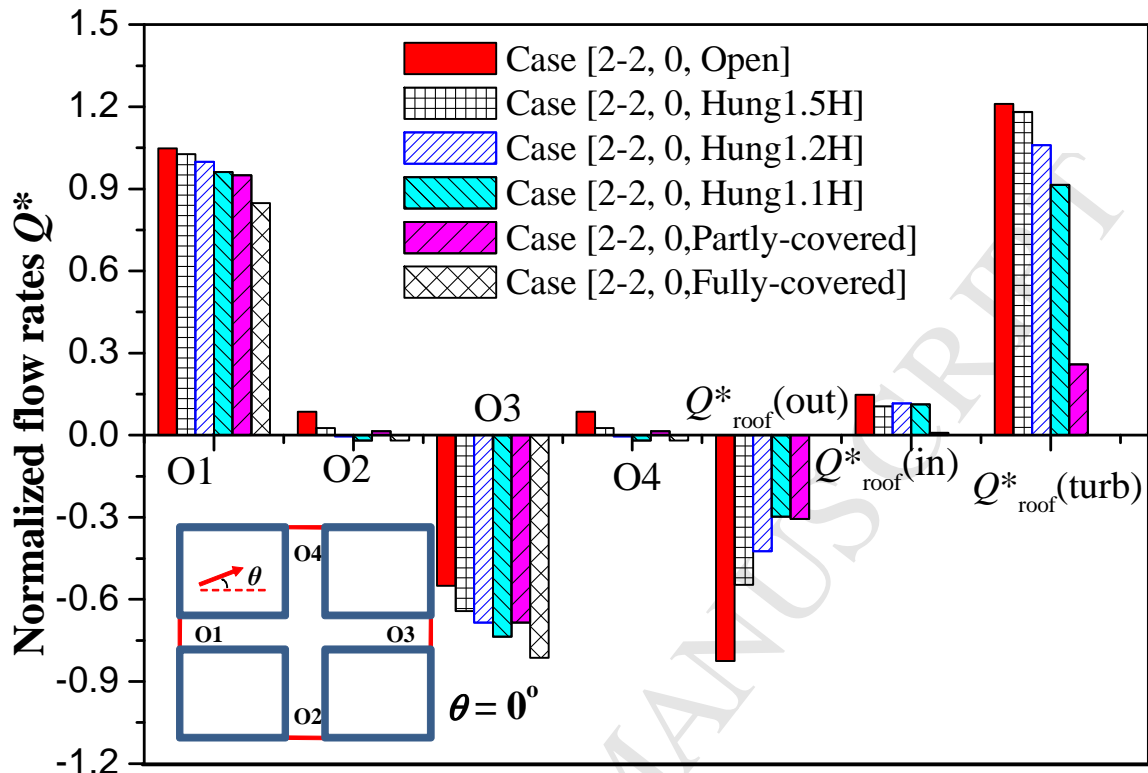


(a)

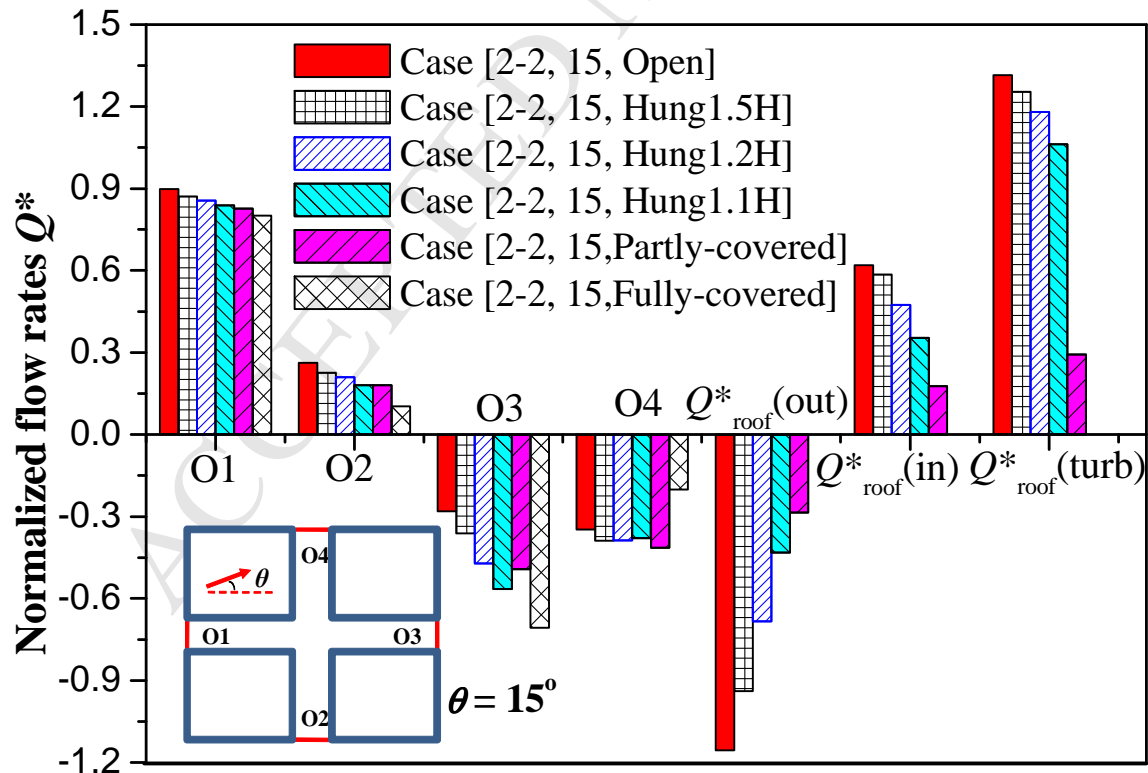


(b)

Fig. 9 Hang et al.



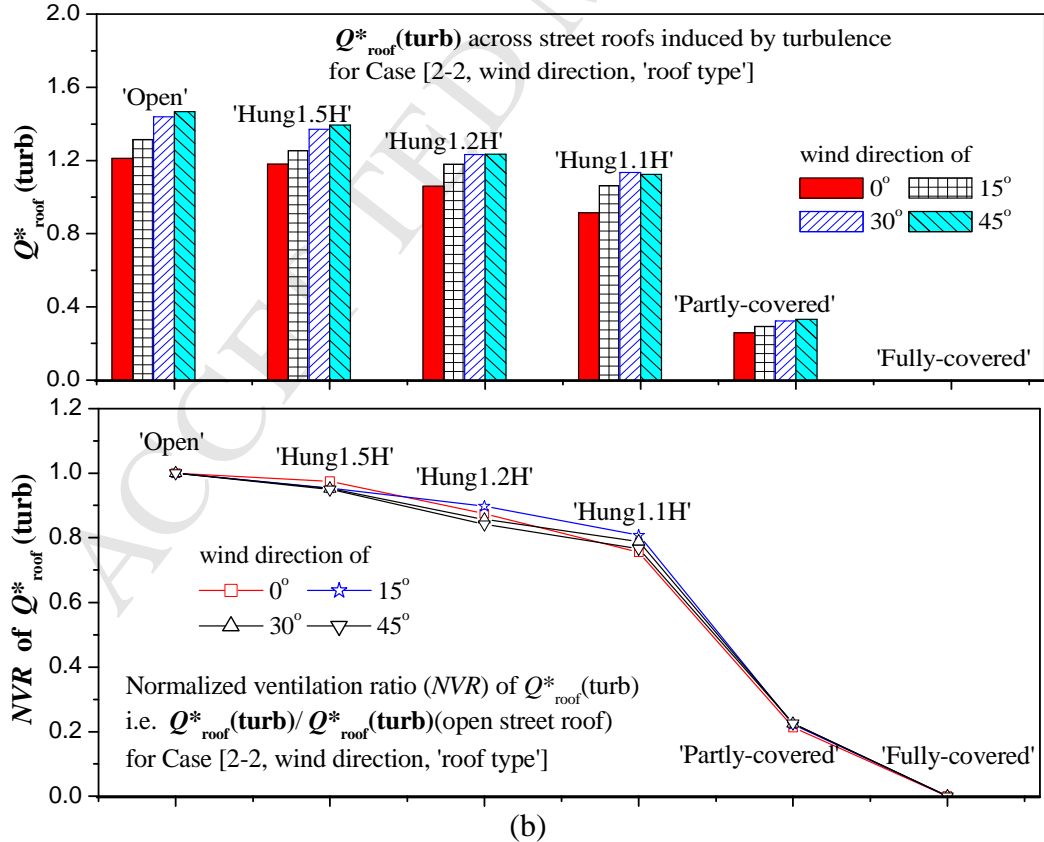
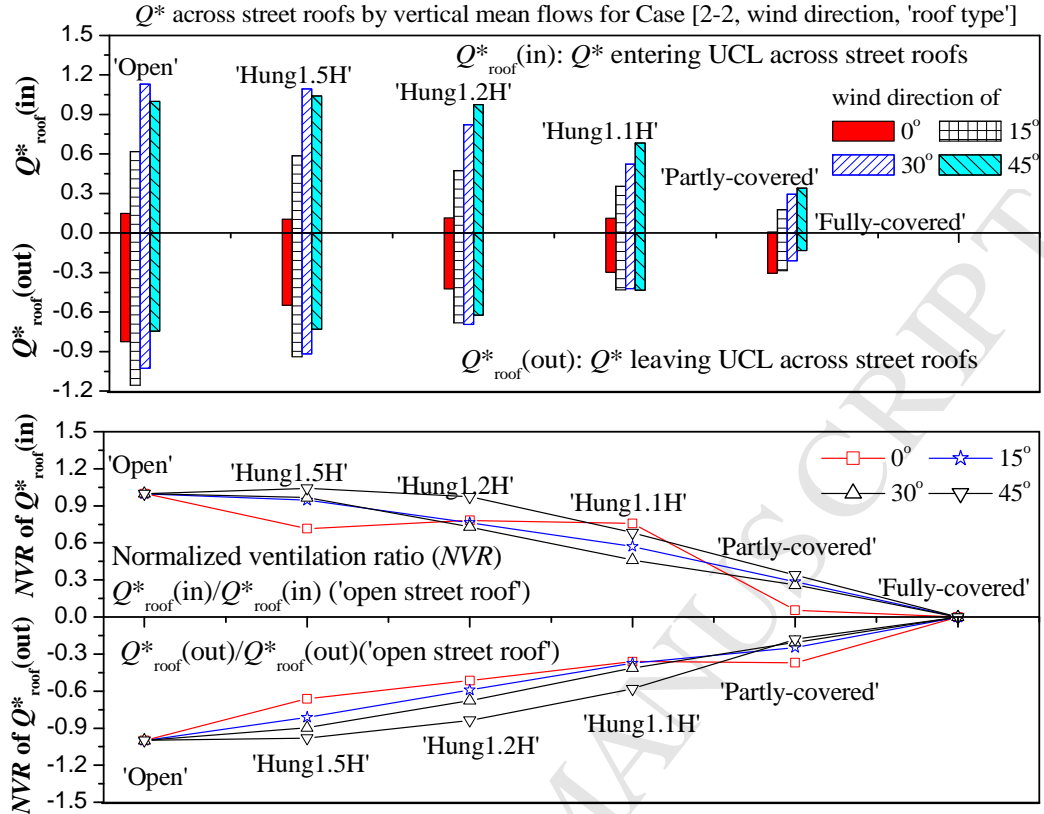
(a)

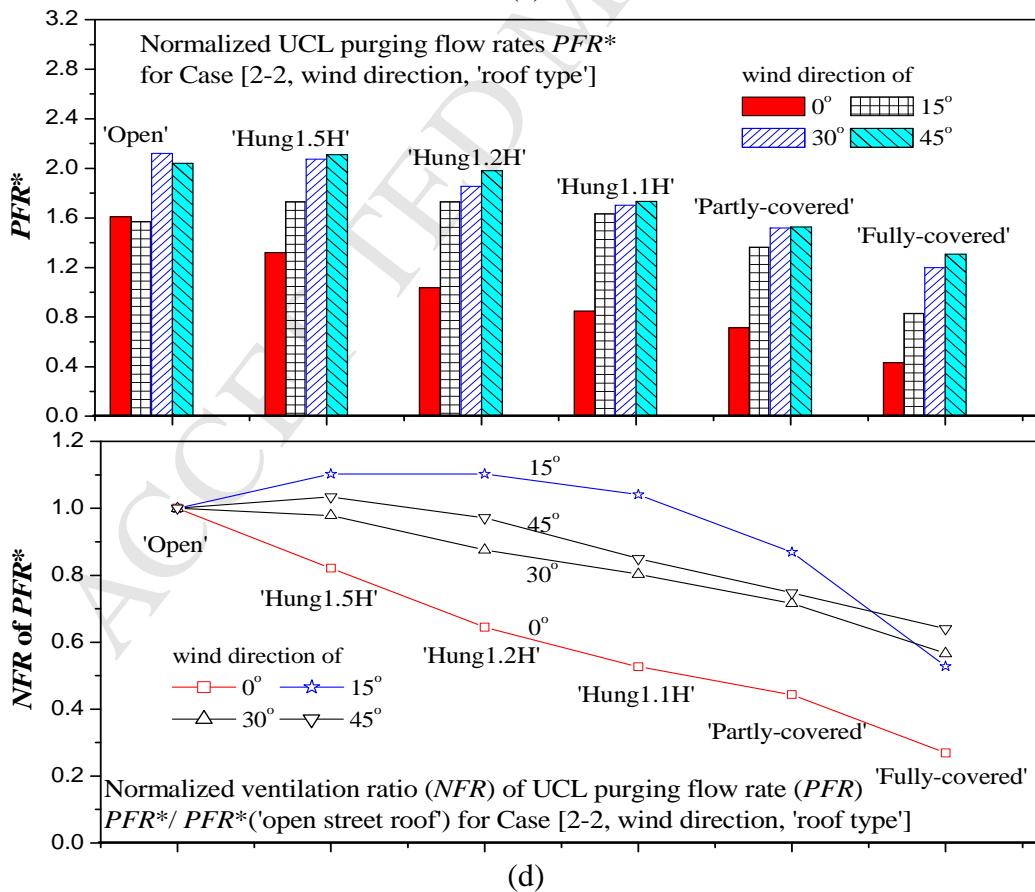
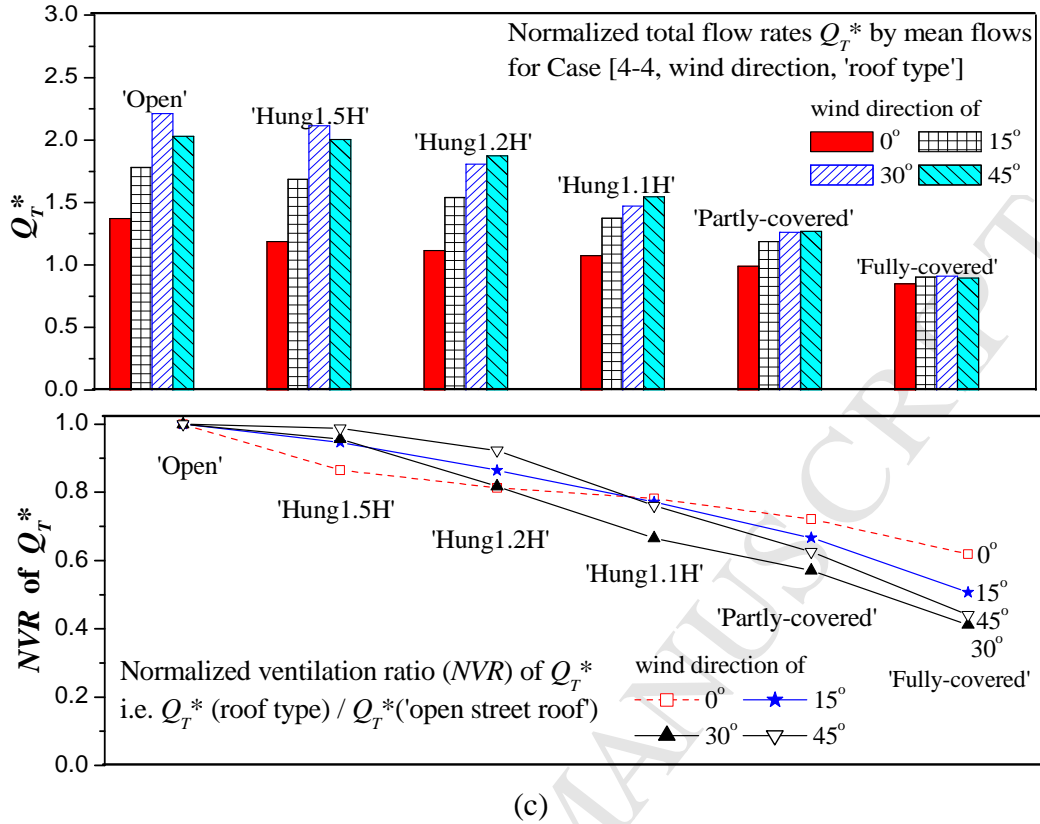


(b)









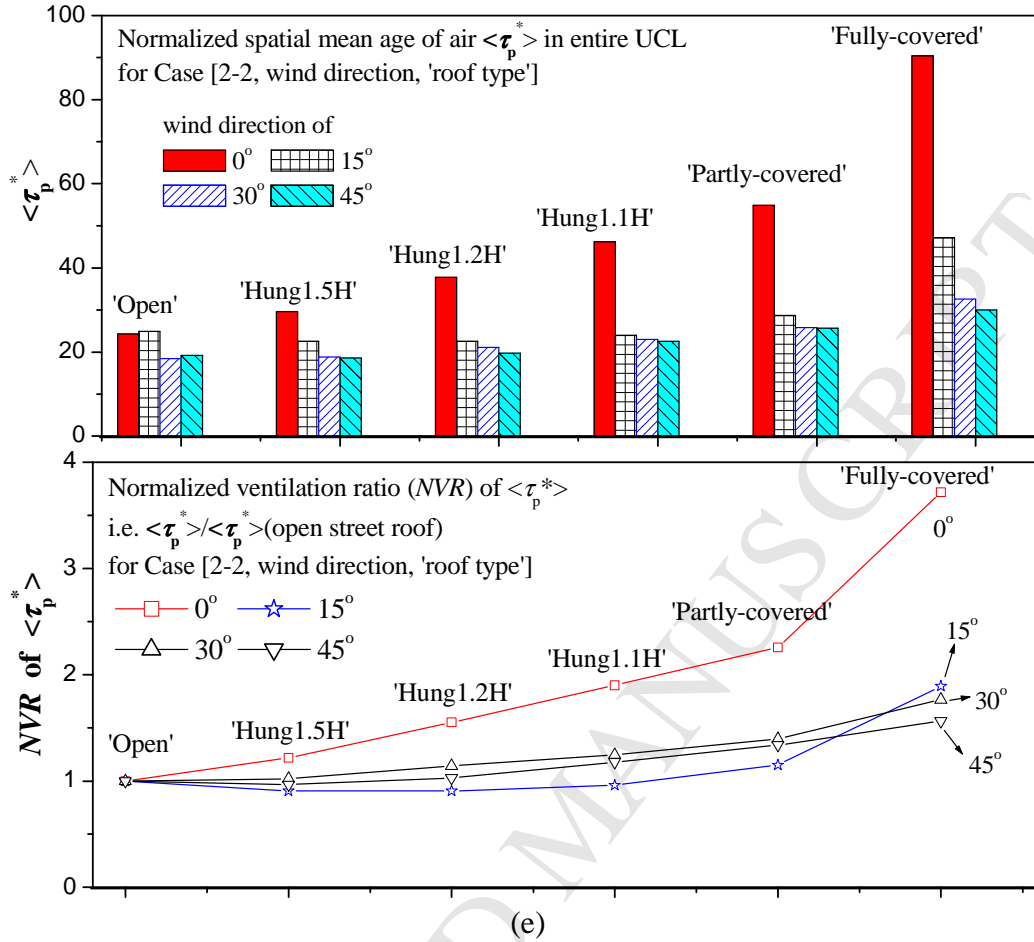
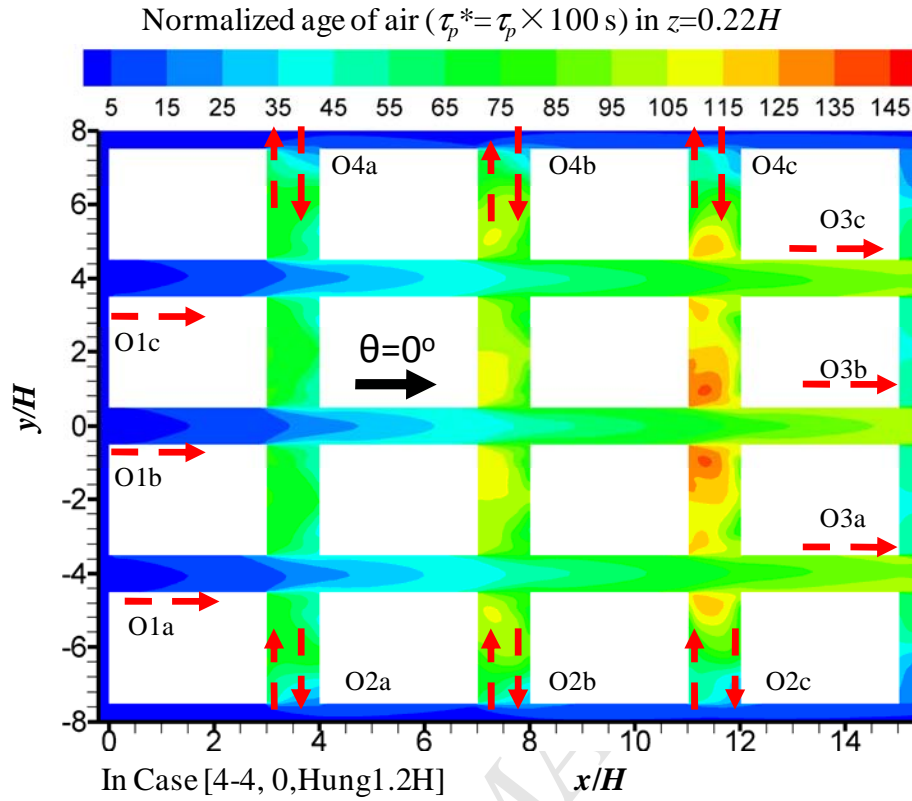
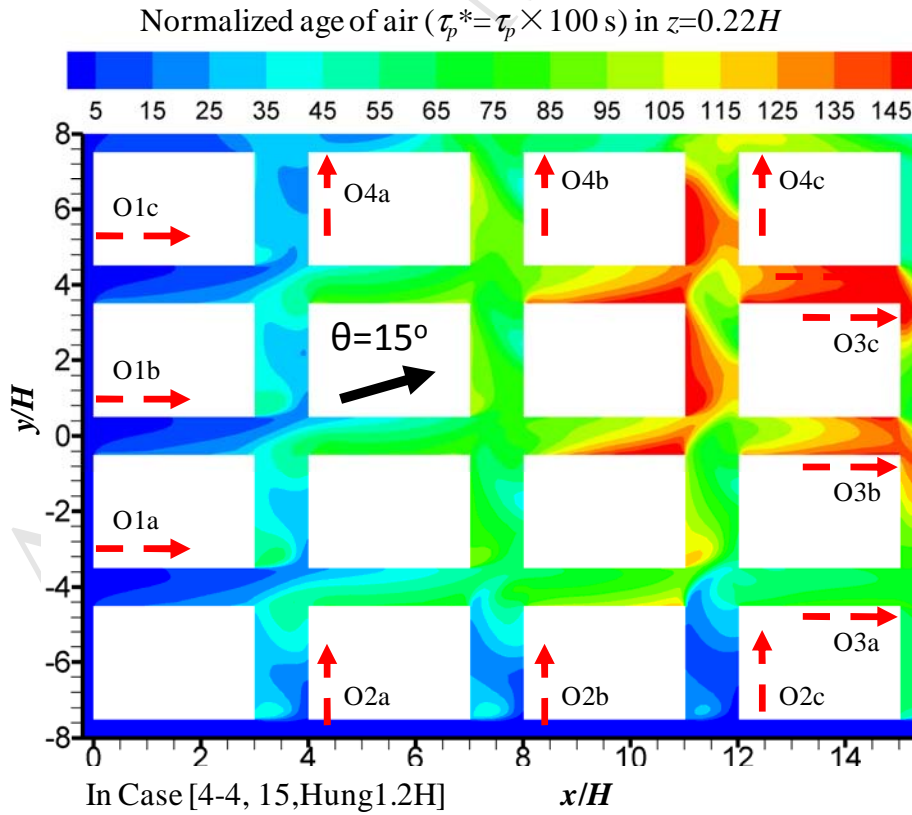


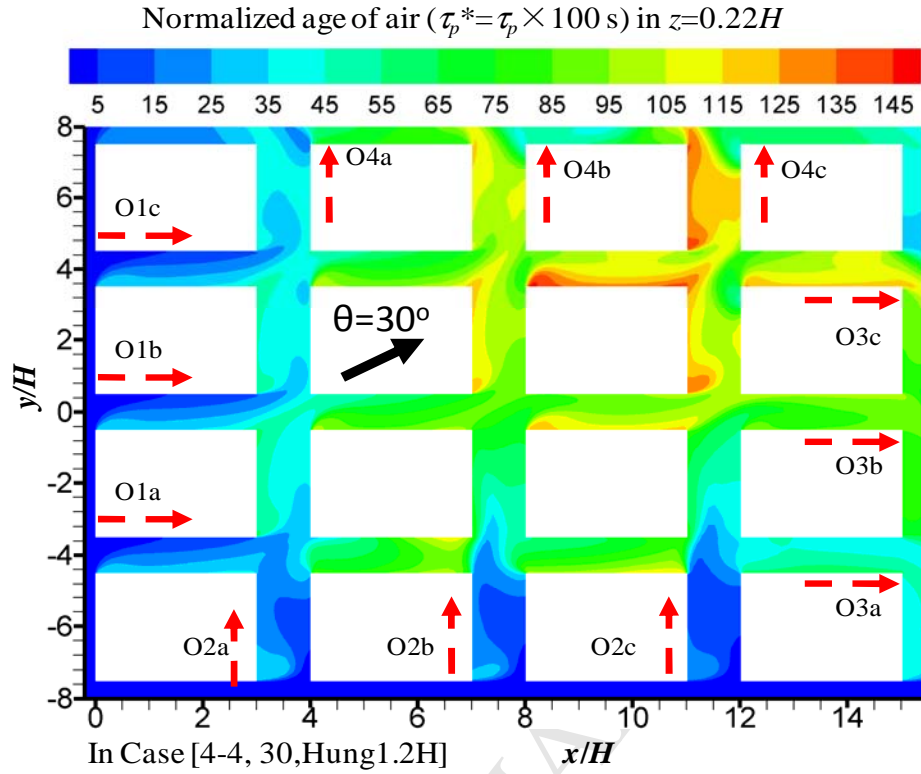
Fig. 11. Hang et al.



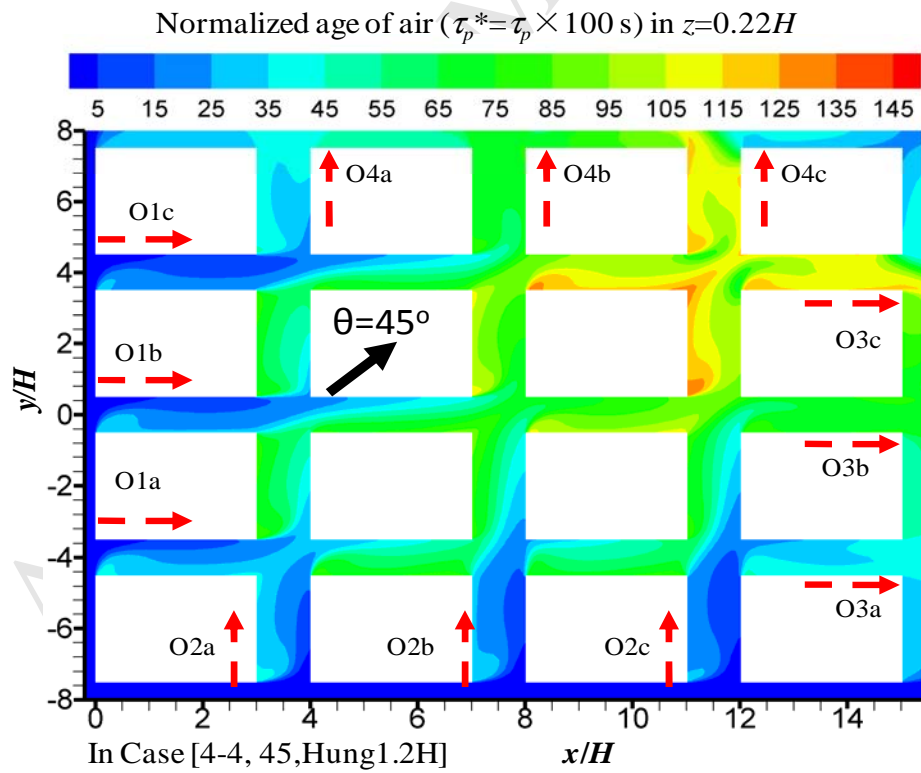
(a)



(b)

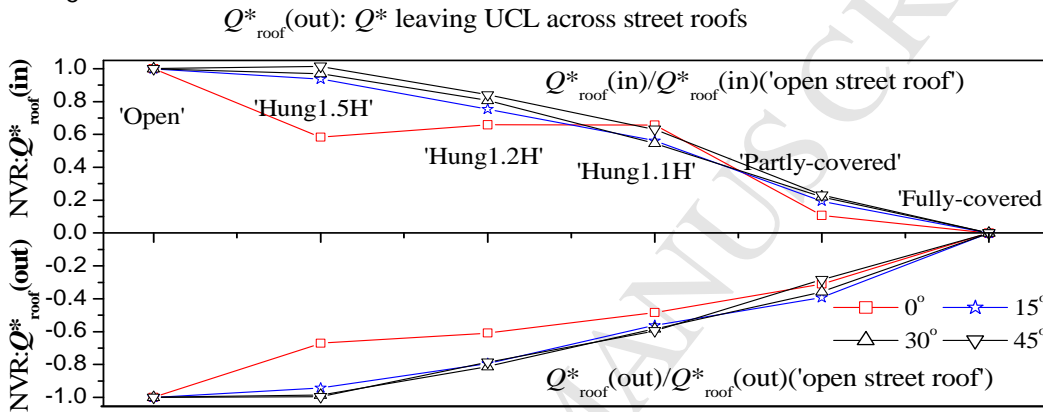
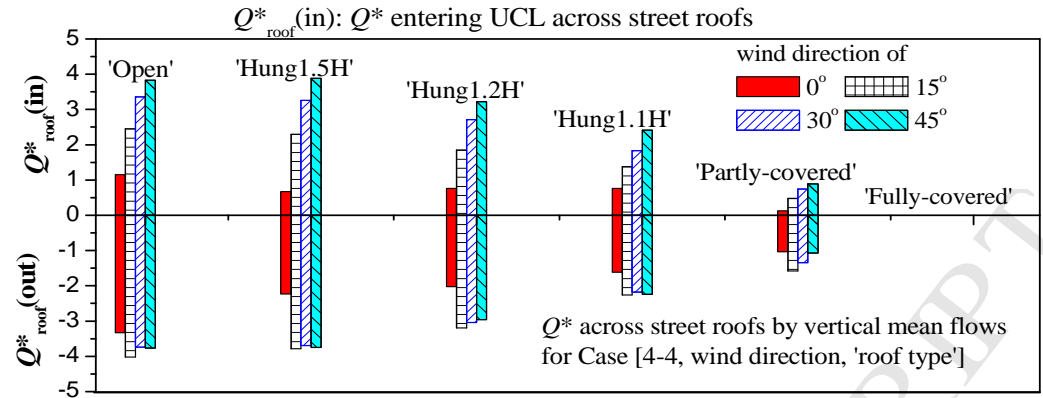


(c)

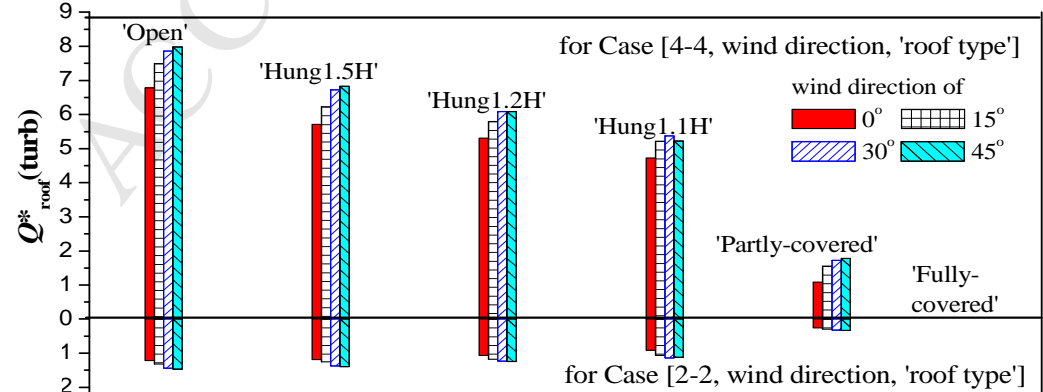
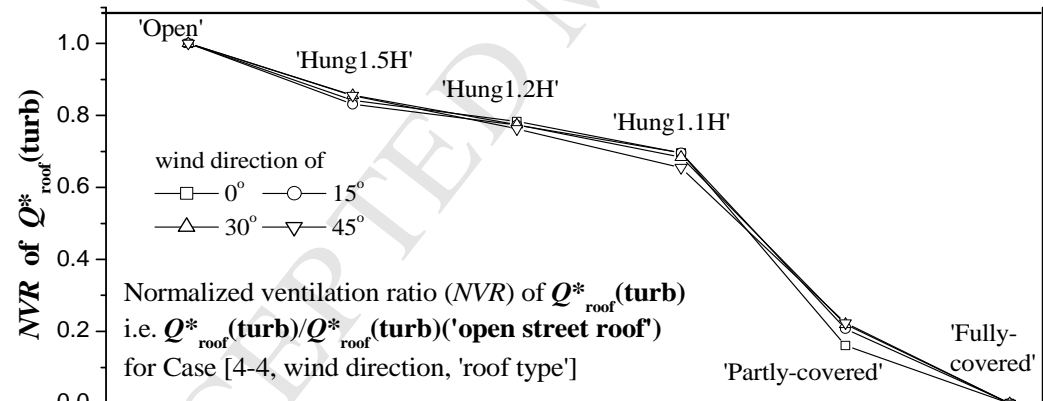


(d)

Fig. 12. Hang et al.

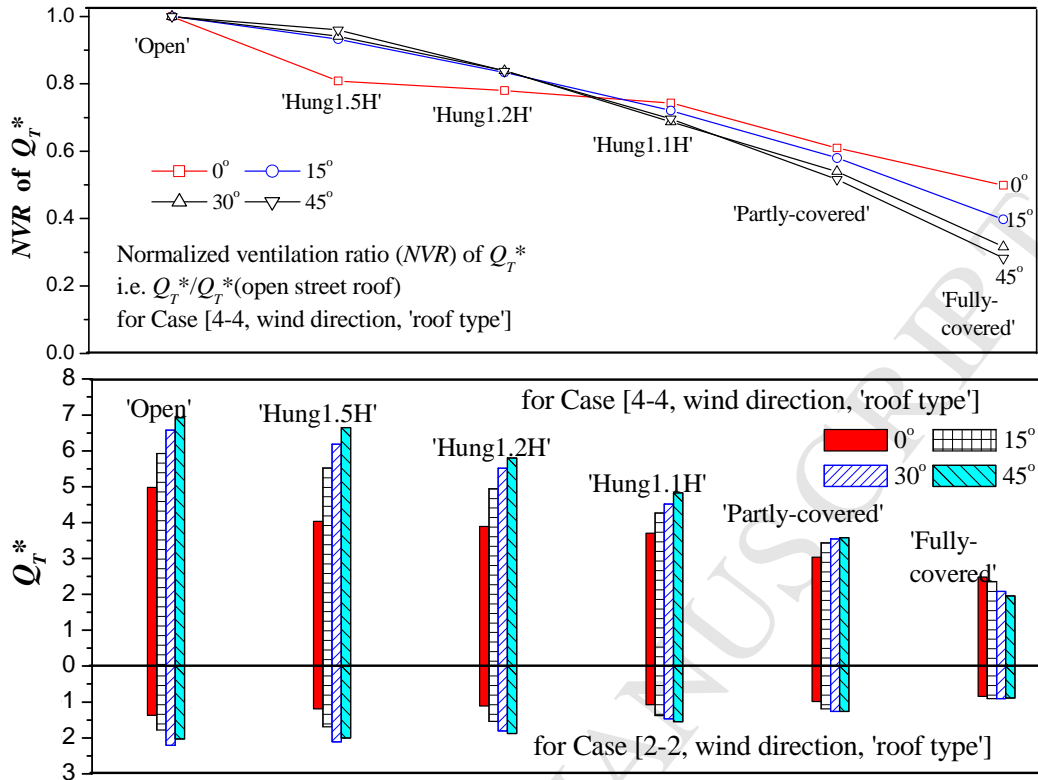


(a)

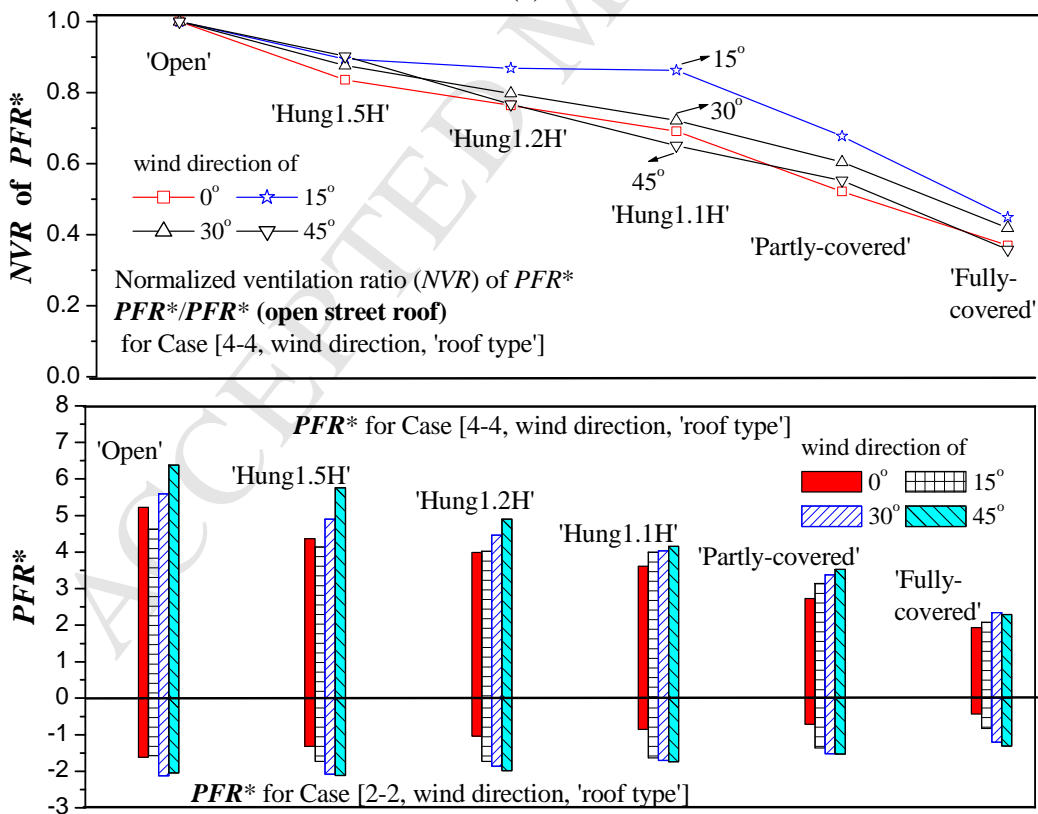


(b)

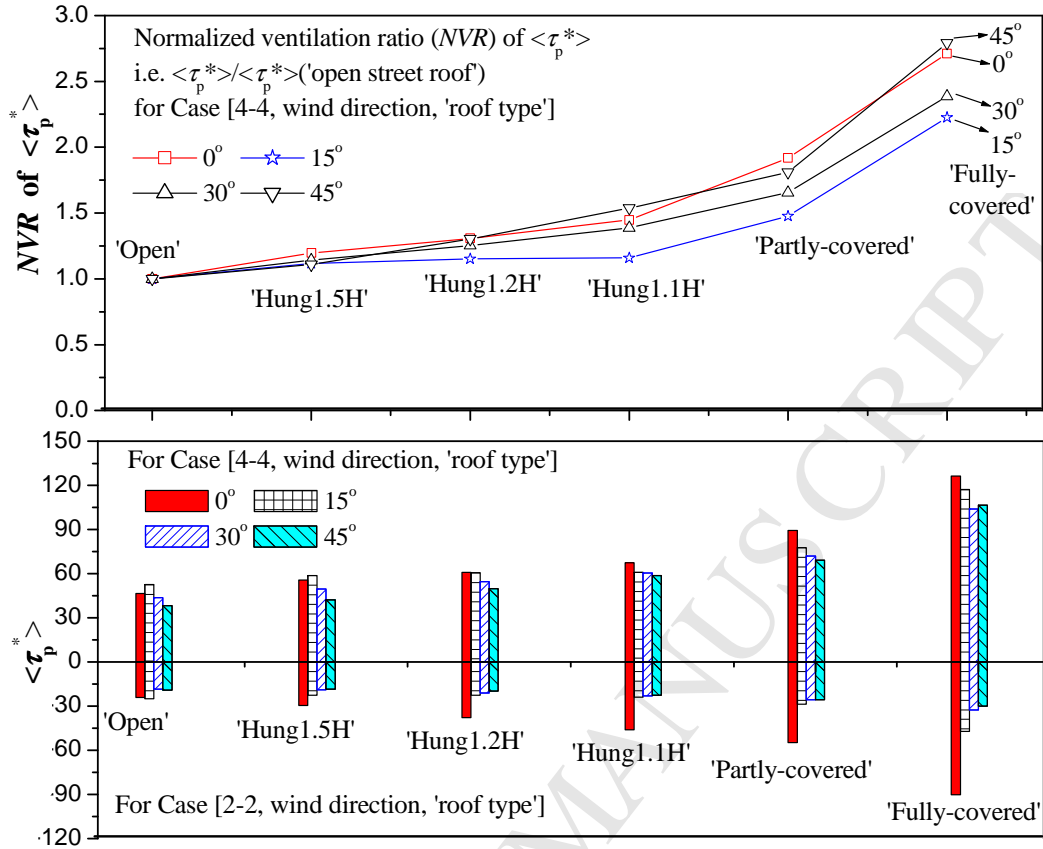




(c)

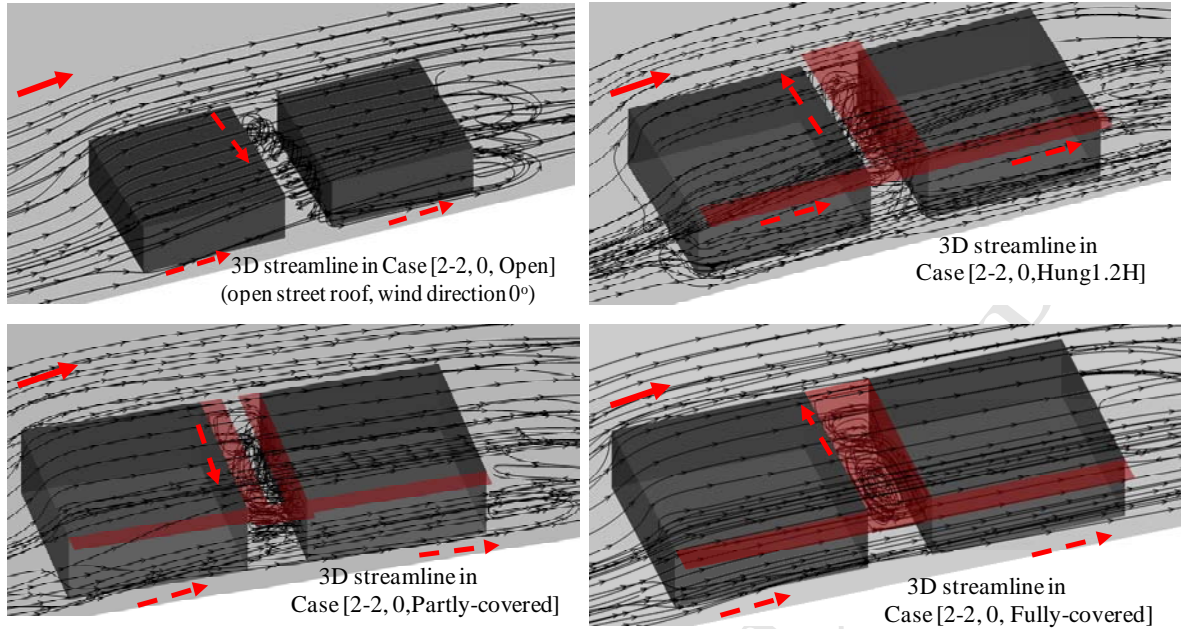


(d)

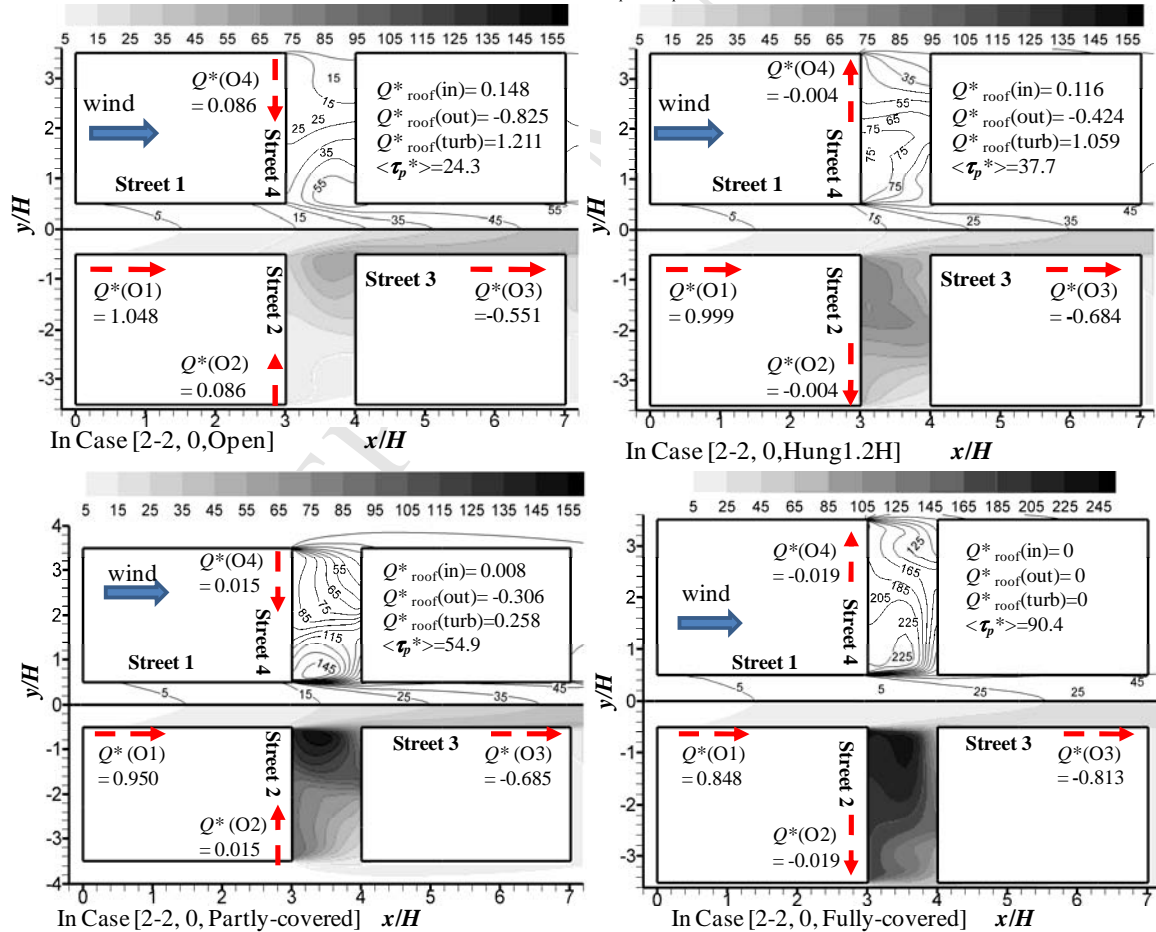


(e)

Fig. 13 Hang et al.

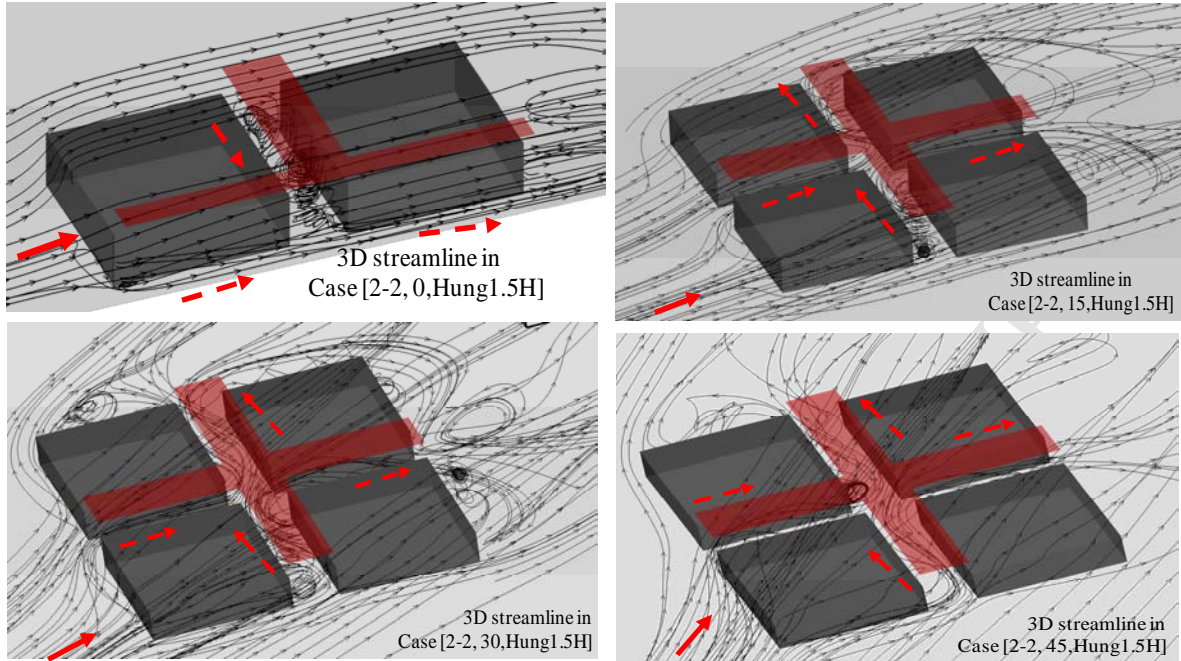


(a)

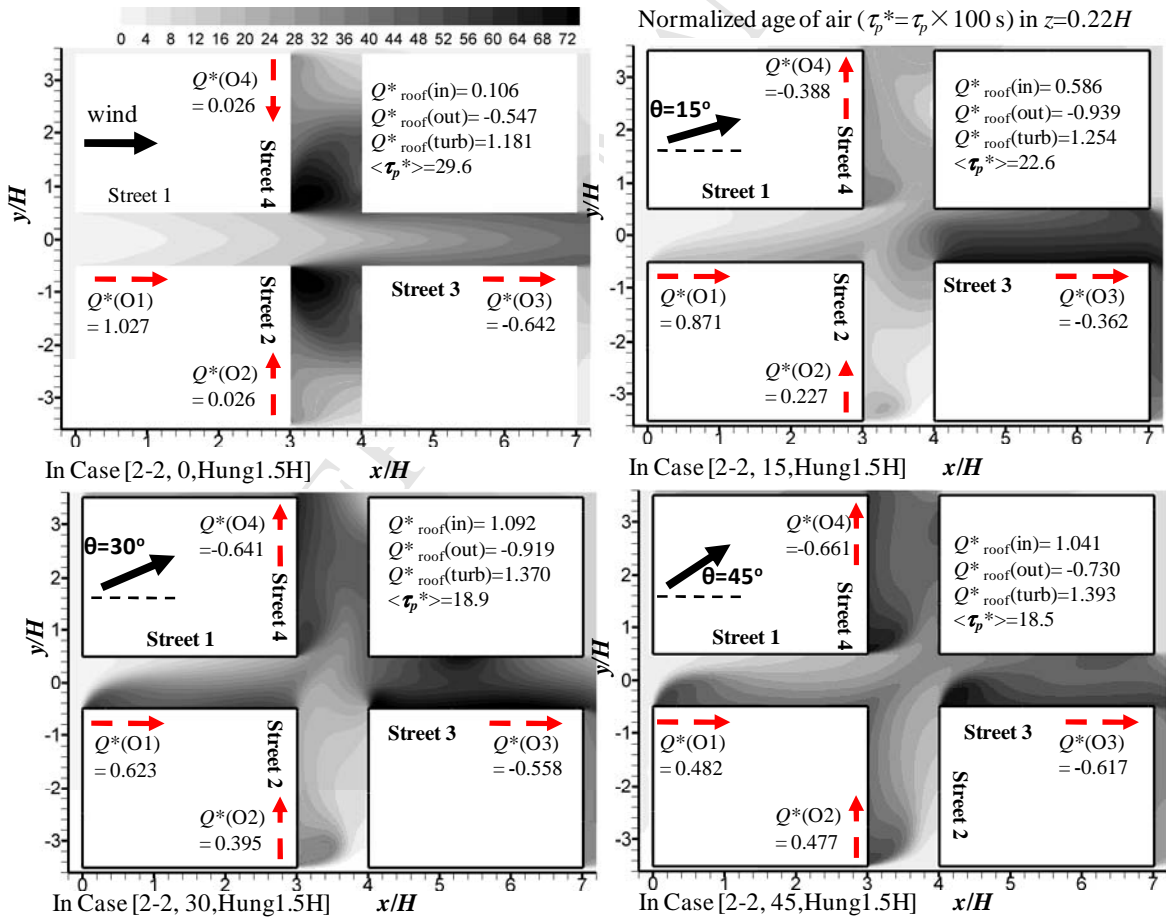
Normalized age of air ( $\tau_p^* = \tau_p \times 100$  s) in  $z=0.22H$ 

(b)

Fig. 6 Hang et al.

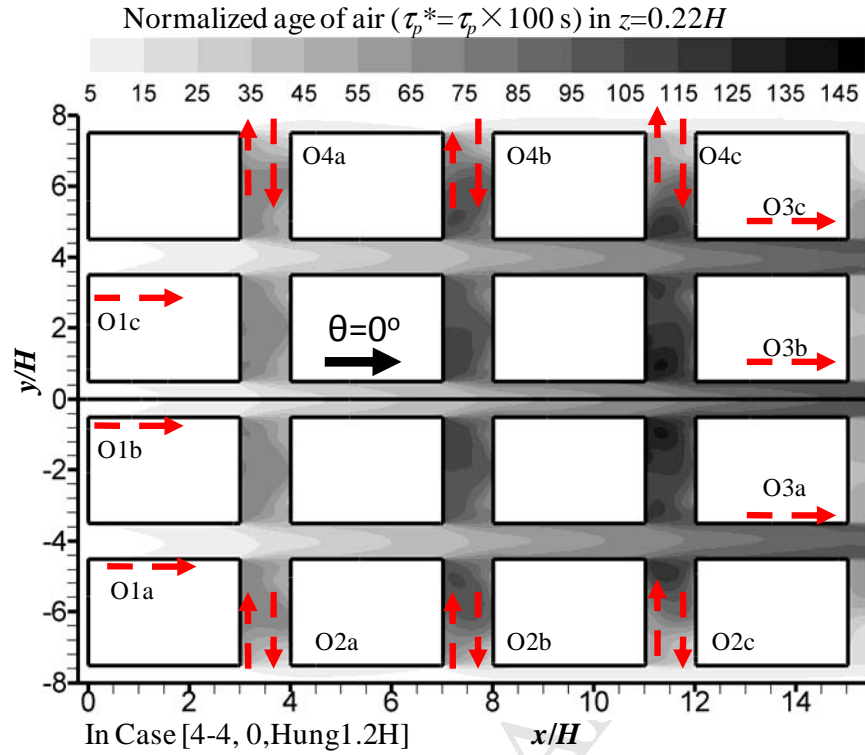


(a)

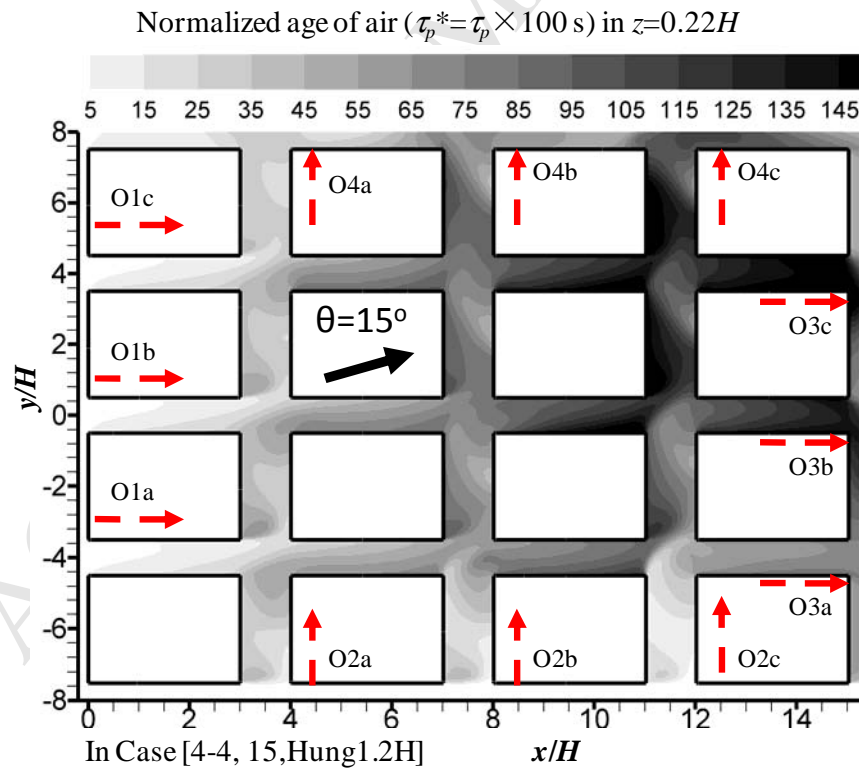


(b)

Fig. 7 Hang et al.

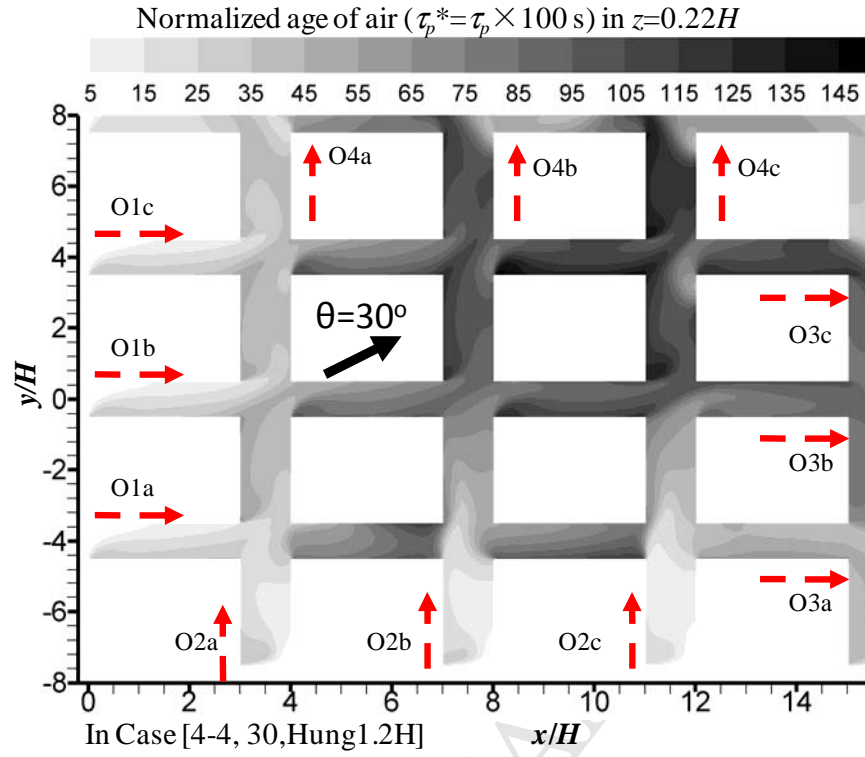


(a)

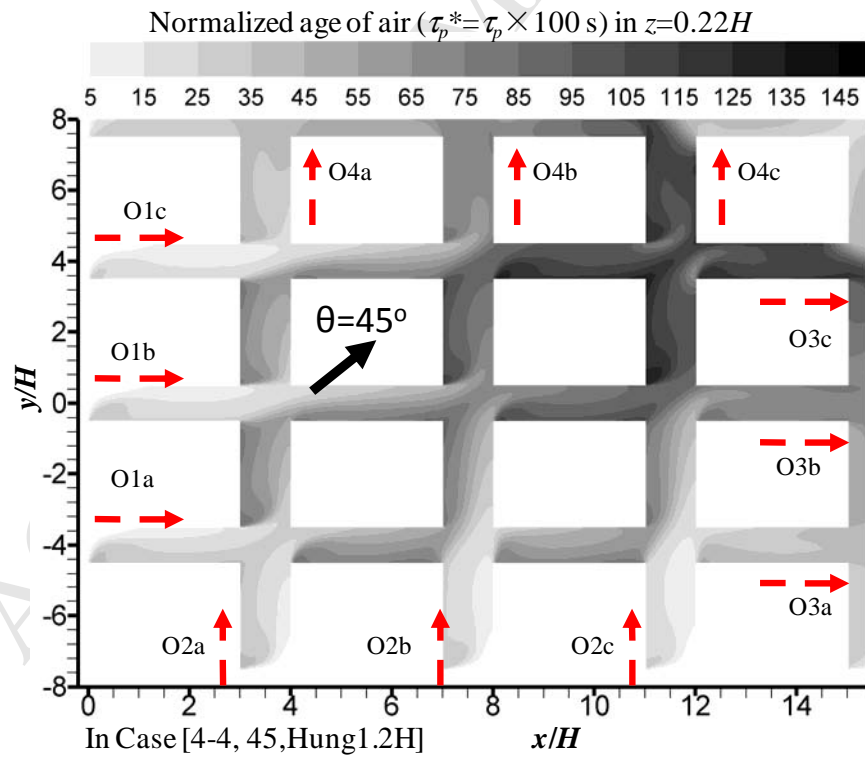


(b)





(c)



(d)

Fig. 10. Hang et al.