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LARGE EDDY SIMULATION OF THE GUST INDEX OVER A REALISTIC URBAN AREA

NURUL HUDA BINTI AHMAD

TOKYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
LARGE EDDY SIMULATION OF THE GUST INDEX OVER A REALISTIC URBAN AREA
（現実都市域におけるガスト指標のラージ・エディー・シミュレーション）

NURUL HUDA BINTI AHMAD

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Doctor of Engineering

Department of International Development Engineering
Graduate School of Science and Engineering
Tokyo Institute of Technology

MARCH 2016
“I hereby declare that I have read this thesis and in my opinion this thesis is sufficient in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of

**Doctor of Engineering.**”

Signature : 

Name of Supervisor : **PROF. DR. MANABU KANDA**

Date :
“I declare that this thesis entitled

**Large Eddy Simulation of the Gust Index over a Realistic Urban Area**

is the result of my own research except as cited in the references.

The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is
not concurrently submitted in candidature of any other degree.”

---

**Signature** : 

**Name** : **NURUL HUDA BINTI AHMAD**

**Date** :
A very honour dedication to my beloved parents, Mr. Ahmad Bin Ariffin and Mrs. Zariah Binti Che Kob, my supportive siblings and friends.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to quantitatively present a general relationship between the intensity of gust and the urban morphology. Two large eddy simulation (LES) models named as the parallelized LES model (PALM) and lattice Boltzmann model (LBM) were executed. It was confirmed that both models produce the same accuracy. The PALM was used to validate the new gust parameter while the LBM was applied to simulate and examine the gusts environment without uncertainties in the inflow condition. The coastal area of Tokyo was selected to represent the urban morphology. The simulations run over realistic geometry surfaces of the build up area with 2 m resolution in all direction to explicitly resolve the fine building shape and also the flow at the pedestrian level. It considers only the shear driven turbulence (i.e. no Coriolis force and thermal stratification) and developed the boundary layer naturally. A new parameter called the gust index (GI) was defined as the local maximum wind speed divided by the free stream velocity. This universalize definition make it comparable quantitatively at different locations within urban canopies. Moreover, this parameter is decomposed into mean wind ratio (MWR) and turbulent part ratio (TPR) component to evaluate the quality of gustiness. This procedure can mask detailed structures of individual buildings with keeping the bulk characteristics of the urban morphology. At the pedestrian level, it is quantitatively shown that the GI decrease with increasing building coverage, $\lambda_p$, which notably contribute by the TPR through out the range of $\lambda_p$ compared to the MWR. Such a result was explained by the change of flow regimes within the building canyon. Apparently, at the higher elevation above the canopy layer, the effect of the building coverage becomes irrelevant to all normalized velocity ratios and the roughness length, as a comprehensive aerodynamic property of roughness was well represented.
本論は「Large Eddy Simulation of the Gust Index over a Realistic Urban Area」（現実都市域におけるガスト指標のラージ・エディー・シミュレーション）と題し、英文で書かれ、以下の8章から構成される。

第1章「Introduction」（序論）では、おもに風工学分野と気象学分野で行われてき従来のガスト研究に関するレビューを行い、ガストの定義方法、歩行高さにおける平均風速などの旧来の成果について問題点・研究課題を提示し、本論の動機・目的について論じている。

第2章「Description of an Appropriate Spatial Gust Index」（適切な空間ガスト指標について）では突風現象の定量評価のためのガスト指標（gust index）を提案した。従来の突風率（gust factor）は最大風速と局所的な時間平均値の比として定義され、街区の淀み域でも大きな値をとりうる。これに対し外層風速との比と定義することで、突風の強さを1次元的に評価することができる。これにより街区内外での場所の比較のみならず、サイト間の比較なども可能となる。

第3章「Description of the simulation model」（シミュレーションモデルについて）では、本研究で使用した格子ボルツマン法LESモデル及び、Navier-Stokes方程式に基づくLESモデルの方程式系について記述した。また、計算対象領域である東京都臨海部の建物分布について記述した。

第4章「Validation」（モデル評価）では、格子ボルツマン法LESのモデル性能評価を目的とし、風洞実験及び使用実績豊富なNavier-Stokes式に基づくLESモデルとの比較を行い、両モデルがほぼ同程度の精度を持つこと
を明らかにした。また、ガスト指標の外力（外層風速）依存性について検討するため、実都市幾何形状を地表面に配した気流のシミュレーションを行い、大気境界層の現実的な外層風速の範囲内では、ガスト指標が外力に依存しないことを示した。

第5章 「General description of the flow field within a realistic urban area」（現実都市域における流れの性質）では、基本的な乱流統計量の性質について記述した。風洞実験における粗面及び滑面の乱流境界層との比較を行った結果、地表面近傍では違いが出るものの、境界層高度の約半分以上では地表面性状に依らない乱流統計量の相似性が概ね成り立つことを示した。

第6章 「Horizontal distribution of the flow field within a realistic urban area」（現実都市域における流れ場の水平分布構造）では、瞬間及び平均風速、レイノルズ応力の水平断面分布を描画し、地物の影響範囲について検討を行った。ガスト指標の空間分布を描画し、これについても地物との対応関係を視覚的に示した。

第7章 「General relationship between the gust index and the urban morphology」（ガスト指標と都市幾何形状の普遍的な関係）では、ガスト指標と建物分布との関係性について議論した。計算領域を水平方向の小領域に分割し、その小領域の中でガスト指標の平均値及び、マクロな建物幾何パラメータ（平均建物高さや建蔽率）を算出し、比較した。これにより歩行者レベルのガスト指標が建蔽率に対してほぼ線形に減少することを明らかにした。また、その勾配がある建蔽率を境に大きく変わることが分かり、これは従来提案されている2次元建物キャノピーの流れ分類で説明できることを示した。

第8章 「Concluding remarks」（結論）では本研究成果及び、現時点で未解決の点を記述した。

以上要するに、本論文は数値計算に基づく実都市の突風評価手法を提案するものであり、都市気象・都市計画分野で工学上高く評価される。よって、博士（工学）として価値が十分あるものと認められる。
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<tr>
<td>$Y, y$</td>
<td>Computation domain spanwise ($y$-direction)</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbol</td>
<td>Definition</td>
<td>Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Z, z$</td>
<td>Computation domain height ($z$-direction)</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
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<td>$z_0$</td>
<td>Roughness length</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\delta$</td>
<td>Boundary layer height</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\varepsilon$</td>
<td>Turbulence dissipation</td>
<td>$m^2 \cdot s^{-3}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\lambda$</td>
<td>Area index</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Delta$</td>
<td>Interval/width</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\nu$</td>
<td>Kinematic viscosity</td>
<td>$m^2 \cdot s^{-1}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\omega$</td>
<td>Weighting factor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\rho$</td>
<td>Density</td>
<td>$kg \cdot m^{-3}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\tau$</td>
<td>Relaxation time</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma$</td>
<td>Standard deviation</td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\theta$</td>
<td>Potential temperature</td>
<td>K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[ ] - Values average in patch size
[ ]$_{bin}$ - Values average in bin range

Superscript/Subscript/Accent

* ave* - Average
* b* - Bulk
* f* - Frontal
* i* - $i$-th number of sample
* ins* - Instantaneous
* loc* - Local
* max* - Maximum
* p* - Plan
* $\infty$* - Freestream
* * - Friction
* ' - Turbulent
* ~ - Ratio
---

Mean

1, 2, ... - Assigned number for the reference/point

**Abbreviation**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>ABL</td>
<td>Atmospheric boundary layer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGK</td>
<td>Bhatnagar-Gross-Krook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAD</td>
<td>Computer-aided design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFD</td>
<td>Computational fluid dynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>Coherent-structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSM</td>
<td>Coherent-structure Smagorinsky model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3Q19</td>
<td>Three dimensional, 18 discrete velocities (plus one null)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI</td>
<td>Gust index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPU</td>
<td>Graphics processing units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS</td>
<td>Grid scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMUK</td>
<td>Institute of Meteorology and Climatology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMA</td>
<td>Japan Meteorological Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBM</td>
<td>Lattice Botzmann method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LES</td>
<td>Large eddy simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST</td>
<td>Monin-Obukhov similarity theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MWR</td>
<td>Mean wind ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PALM</td>
<td>Parallelized LES model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGS</td>
<td>Subgrid-scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TKE</td>
<td>Turbulent kinetic energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TPR</td>
<td>Turbulent part ratio</td>
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Literature Review

1.1.1 General gusts definition

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defined the gusts as a sudden, brief increase wind speed above the average wind speed. Based on the U.S. weather observing practice, the wind speed is qualify as gusts when the maximum wind speed reaches at least 30 km h\(^{-1}\), deviate between the peaks and calm condition at about 17 km h\(^{-1}\) and lasting for less than 20 s. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica added that gusts cause by the turbulent flow around an obstacle which occur regularly over buildings and rough ground. From these definitions, gusts can generally describe as the disturbed air that blown in sudden, high speed and in a short period of time and it potentially gave an impact on its surrounding. In getting more clear understanding on the physical meaning of the strength of the blown wind, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) categorized the wind speed and it effect towards the pedestrian, vegetation, moving car and the infrastructure as summarized in Table 1.1.
Table 1.1  The strength of the wind blow, translated from the Classification Table of the Rain and Wind leaflet, JMA (2014).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average wind speed (m s(^{-1}))</th>
<th>Approximate wind speed (km h(^{-1}))</th>
<th>Forecast terminology</th>
<th>Indication of speed</th>
<th>Pedestrian</th>
<th>Vegetation and utility</th>
<th>On road transportation</th>
<th>Building and infrastructure</th>
<th>Instantaneous wind speed (m s(^{-1}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10~15</td>
<td>~50</td>
<td>Somehow strong wind</td>
<td>On road transportation speed</td>
<td>It is difficult to walk against the wind.</td>
<td>Whole trees and wires begin to sway.</td>
<td>Feel the crosswind if the transport in the high speed and the wind stream perpendicular to it.</td>
<td>The antenna begins to sway.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15~20</td>
<td>~70</td>
<td>Strong wind</td>
<td>Highway transportation speed</td>
<td>Walk against the wind will cause fall.</td>
<td>Wire, signboards and galvanized iron plate begins to flutter.</td>
<td>During the high-speed operation, the driver can sense the increase in the crosswind.</td>
<td>The roof, tiles, roofing material peeled off. Shutters start to shake.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20~25</td>
<td>~90</td>
<td>Very strong wind</td>
<td>Express train</td>
<td>Need to hold on to something to stand. Fear to be injured by the flying objects.</td>
<td>Broken tree or thin trunk and trees that do not have a strong roots grip begin to collapse.</td>
<td>It becomes difficult to drive at a normal speed.</td>
<td>The roof, tiles, roofing material scattered.</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25~30</td>
<td>~110</td>
<td>Strong wind</td>
<td>Highway transportation speed</td>
<td></td>
<td>Signboards fall and scattered. Road signs tilt.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Inadequate metal roof or temporary scaffolding starts to collapse.</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30~35</td>
<td>~125</td>
<td>Very strong wind</td>
<td>Highway transportation speed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exterior materials are scattered over a wide range, which exposed the base material.</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35~40</td>
<td>~140</td>
<td>Severe wind</td>
<td>Express train</td>
<td>Outdoor condition is very dangerous.</td>
<td>Many of the trees, poles and street lights fall. Block wall collapsed.</td>
<td>The wind able to rollover a moving truck.</td>
<td>May collapse a living house. May cause deformed in the steel structure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40~</td>
<td>140~</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The JMA averaged the wind speed within 10 min, while the instantaneous wind speed duration is of 3 s. Referring to Table 1.1, the instantaneous wind speed is about 1.5 times the average wind speed. The wind was measured based on the unstable atmospheric conditions. The wind speed phenomenon at a certain location and its consequence damage as described in the table may significantly differ from the nearby observation measurement due to the terrain and surrounding buildings. Although the wind speed is the same, the state of damage is different depending on the blowing way of the wind and the structure affected.

Gusts term might easily misunderstood as this phenomenon dependence on many factor such as its scale, source, location of occurrence, etc. Therefore, gusts were reviewed in several sections in this chapter as following.

1.1.2 Urban surface geometry and wind environment at the pedestrian level

It is vital to understand the wind flows close to the ground in densely built up areas because most activities of the residents occur at this level. Anomalous and unpredictable gusts may occur when wind flows through the maze created by a rugged urban landscape. Pedestrians and infrastructure may be harmed from such gusts, including injuries, death, damage, destruction of urban vegetation, power outages and traffic collisions as illustrated in Fig. 1.1. These negative impacts of gusts have encouraged the comprehensive study of the complex flows found within large urban areas and attempts to determine their relationships with the urban morphology.

This research empirically relate gusts at the pedestrian level with “bulk” geometrical parameters at the district or city scale, thereby identifying high-risk areas for gusts in terms of various urban morphologies.
1.1.3 **Mean wind velocity ratio at the pedestrian level**

The flow environment should be evaluated in terms not only of the gusty flow but also of the mean flow. In addition, since the concept to analyse the mean wind environment is useful also for analysing the gusty flow, the conventional studies on the mean wind ratio are reviewed.

Some studies have attempted to predict spatially averaged mean velocity profiles within urban canopies using simple models (Macdonald 2000; Martilli et al. 2002; Coceal and Belcher 2004). Although these models are very useful for approximately determining the mean wind profile within the canopy layer, they cannot precisely predict the mean wind velocity close to the ground, as demonstrated by a direct numerical simulation (Leonardi and Castro 2010). Moreover, these models are mostly validated for homogeneous building arrays rather than more realistic complicated building arrangements.

Some studies have examined the wind environment in cities at the pedestrian level in terms of the mean wind ratio (MWR), which is defined as the mean wind
speed ($U$) normalised by the free stream velocity ($U_{\infty}$). Kubota et al. (2008) conducted a wind tunnel test using scaled models of selected detached and apartment houses from real cities in Japan. They reported that the MWR decreases in areas with higher plan area index ($\lambda_p$) values. Hu and Yoshie (2013) used a computational fluid dynamics (CFDs) turbulence model as a reference urban model of a typical residential area in Shanghai, and found that the MWR was affected not only by $\lambda_p$ but also by the configuration of roughness in urban areas, variation in the heights of buildings, and wind direction. A large eddy simulation (LES) by Razak et al. (2013) for simplified but varied building arrays demonstrated a robust relationship in which the MWR decreased with an increase in the frontal area index ($\lambda_f$). Taken together, these studies suggest the possibility that the MWR can be explained by simple geometrical indices such as $\lambda_p$ and $\lambda_f$.

In this research, the similar approach was followed for the gusts. In addition, the MWR in the urban area is also evaluated.

### 1.1.4 Gusts at the pedestrian level

Researchers in the fields of wind engineering and architectural engineering have investigated gusts at the pedestrian level. The main focus has been on detailed and local flow structures around a single building or specific building clusters rather than on the overall relationship between gusts and bulk geometrical parameters at the district or city scale. Murakami et al. (1983) conducted a long-term observation of gusts around a single high-rise building and its surroundings near the surface. The large amount of data collected was analysed to make a detailed estimate of the local gust factor distribution around buildings. He and Song (1999) performed an LES to simulate the wind flow at 2 m above the ground around a group of buildings with different geometries. The gusts associated with different wind conditions were visualised in detail.
Recent developments in computational resources have allowed computations of town-scale urban airflows at high spatial resolution. Some studies have examined the effects of not only individual buildings but also groups of buildings on street-level flows. These studies conducted simulations of turbulent flow in and above cubical roughness, and revealed that turbulent organized structures are much larger than surface obstacles (Kanda et al. 2004; Kanda 2006; Castillo et al. 2011). Moreover, Inagaki et al. (2012) demonstrated that such turbulent structures predominantly determine the instantaneous flow distribution within the canopy layer. Park et al. (2013) simulated turbulent flow in an actual city with a 5 m domain resolution, and observed a tail-off in the coherent turbulent structure induced by significantly tall buildings at a great distance downstream. However, it has proven difficult to obtain a general and quantitative description of gusts at the pedestrian level and to understand their relationships with the urban morphology. This is probably due to the complexity of the building morphology, together with the three-dimensionality and intermittent nature of turbulence.

1.1.5 General meteorological studies of gusts

Most gust studies have been conducted within the framework of conventional meteorology, including the definition of gusts, the time required to define the average and/or maximum wind velocity, the statistical features of gusts, and the influential meteorological parameters of gusts (e.g., surface roughness, observation height, atmospheric stability, etc.). Such studies have not focused on the pedestrian level but rather on the surface layer based on Monin-Obukhov Similarity Theory (MOST) (Monahan and Armendariz 1971; Wieringa 1973; Wilson 2000; Verkaik 2000; Azad and Alam 2010).

The gustiness that summarized in Table 1.2, is the normalized values of the maximum wind speed by the mean wind speed. The averaging time for the mean wind speed and the interval of the maximum wind speed varies between each investigator. The factors will be lower as the maximum wind speed duration is shorter and/or the greater the mean wind speed averaging time. In term of different in
the measurement height (not shown in the table), Davis and Newstein (1968) suggested that the gust factor should decrease with height by referring the assembled data from many investigators.

**Table 1.2** Summary of gust factors, Davis and Newstein (1968).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Range of gust factor</th>
<th>Time average of mean wind speed</th>
<th>Duration of maximum wind speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brekker (1959)</td>
<td>1.30-1.08</td>
<td>varies</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cramer (1960)</td>
<td>1.62-1.38</td>
<td>10 min</td>
<td>instantaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deese (1964)</td>
<td>2.00-1.20</td>
<td>5 min</td>
<td>instantaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durst (1960)</td>
<td>1.59-1.00</td>
<td>1 h</td>
<td>1 h to 0.5 s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faber and Bell (1963)</td>
<td>2.05-1.28</td>
<td>1 h</td>
<td>Instantaneous to 1 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shellard (1965)</td>
<td>1.90-1.30</td>
<td>10 min</td>
<td>3-5 s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vellozzi and Cohen (1967)</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>1 h</td>
<td>1 s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due to the locality of the urban area, several parameters especially the mean wind speed change by points and locations mainly wind flow at the pedestrian level. Therefore, this conventional approach needs to be modified to make it universal and comparable with other locations or even experiments.

### 1.2 Background of the Research Problem

A vigorous and populous urban landscape might be vulnerable in the unpleasant wind event such as a strong gust. As a consequence of this fact, it is essential to understand the features of the wind flow within this area particularly at the pedestrian level. As reviewed above, there are so many studies related to the wind flow and/or gust at different scale. The micro- and local-scale studies might focus on the pedestrian level which consider only a single building (Murakami et al. 1983), a cluster of real building (He and Song 1999), simplified urban model (Hu and Yoshie 2013, Razak et al. 2013, Inagaki et al. 2012) or even the real urban area (Kubota et al. 2008, Park et al. 2013). It is capable to map the spatial distributions of
the wind statistics for these studies. For a bigger scale (i.e., meso-scale), the wind and/gust measured at a surface layer level at a certain location (i.e., point measurement).

It is discovered that there is lacking in understanding the gust that occur in an acceptable huge area horizontally which comprise a realistic urban roughness. Moreover, the relationship between the flow characteristics in the surface layer and those at the pedestrian level (Sect. 7.5 of Chapter 7) are not reveal yet by the previous researcher. Thus, it is suggested that there are some gaps between the results from studies undertaken in the two disciplines in which gusts are commonly studied: wind engineering (Sect. 1.1.4) and meteorology (Sect. 1.1.5).

1.3 Objective and Importance of the Study

Although the researches on gusts are many, those matching the purpose of this research are rare as reviewed in the previous sections.

Thus, this research is important to reveal the wind flow characteristics specifically the gusts within this build up area and determine a general similarity and description that can associate the different scale or level as mentioned before. It can be done by assigning an appropriate definition for the related parameter.

Furthermore, this research was highly motivated by a simulation of the wind flow over a huge urban area performed by Onodera et al. (2013). Therefore, it is feasible to achieve the final goal of this study which is to quantitatively analyse the relationship between the gust at the urban pedestrian levels and the building morphology.
1.4 Scopes of the Study

The ultimate objective of this study was achieved by coordinating the research framework as shown in Fig. 1.2. This structured workflow is elaborated in the sequential chapters. The basic understanding on gusts is reviewed in the previous section of this chapter. The conventional gust factor and proposed spatial gust index are defined in Chapter 2. Next, Chapter 3 describes the large eddy simulation (LES) models which executed mainly to resolve the instantaneous wind speed and other wind flow elements within a realistic city. The preliminary study contributes in defining an appropriate spatial gust index performed by parallelized LES model (PALM). Subsequently, the lattice Boltzmann method (LBM) was conducted to reach the main purpose of this research. Both LES models were validated and demonstrated in Chapter 4. In stead of that, the gust index defined in Chapter 2 is also justified in this chapter. Following, Chapter 5 and 6 presents the general description of the flow field by the wind profile (in the streamwise and vertical direction and the related geometrical parameters) and horizontal distribution (including the spatial gust index map) respectively; focusing on the statistics computed from the LBM simulation. The foremost part of this research as priory mentioned (Sect. 1.2) contributes in Chapter 7. Finally, the concluding remarks and several recommendations for future work are stated in Chapter 8.
1.5 Summary

In a nutshell, this chapter introduced and reviewed the wind environment in the urban area specifically the gust at the pedestrian level. A clear objective in finding the general relation between the gust index and the urban morphology empirically was stated. The general overview of the research was also described for the following chapters. It is expected that this study will contributes some knowledge about the gust in an urban area and also filling some gap between the two streams of the gust studies which are the wind engineering and the meteorology.
Figure 1.2 Research flowchart.
2.1 Introduction

This chapter will introduce a new dimensionless, spatial indicator for gusts known as the gust index. Briefly, this index is the ratio of the maximum instantaneous wind speed to the free stream velocity at a chosen height. Priorly, an established conventional gust factor will be described. Some constraint from this conventional gust factor initiate in defining the gust index. Moreover, the gust index decomposed into its components which known as the mean wind ratio and the turbulent part ratio to get more comprehensive insight.
2.2 The Spatial Gust Index

Conventionally, the gust factor, $G$, which assess the relative importance of the turbulent component to the mean velocity is defined as in Eq. 2.1;

$$G = \frac{U_{\text{max}}}{U},$$  \hspace{1cm} (2.1)

where $U_{\text{max}}$ is the instantaneous maximum wind speed over a period of time and $U$ is the mean wind speed of a certain averaging time. The gust factor is locally defining variable because $U_{\text{max}}$ and $U$ are measured at a certain location. A more general discussion is enabled by extrapolating the mean wind speed to the level of 10 m by assuming the log-law or Monin-Obukhov similarity (He and Song 1999). An averaging time of 10 min has been conventionally used for the same reason. The use of this parameter has had some success in the modelling of the gust factor in flat fields based on a similarity framework (Monahan and Armendariz 1971; Wieringa 1973; Wilson 2000; Verkaik 2000; Azad and Alam 2010). It is difficult to use this parameter when comparing results among different locations in an urban canopy because not only $U_{\text{max}}$ but also $U$ changes from point to point due to the disturbance from surrounding buildings. This can cause an infinitely large $G$ in stagnation points, irrespective of the magnitude of $U_{\text{max}}$.

Therefore, a new definition of the gustiness level is proposed because the established gust factor has a different practical purposed. For this, the GI applied in this study calculated as follows:

$$\bar{U}_{\text{max}} = \frac{U_{\text{max}}}{U_\infty},$$  \hspace{1cm} (2.2)

where the instantaneous maximum wind speed is normalised to the free stream velocity $U_\infty$ instead of the local mean wind speed used in Eq. 2.1. This definition is suitable for the research purpose of examining and comparing the intensity of gusts in different areas of the same simulation domain, or even in different experiments.
Although this definition is only applicable for numerical simulations or indoor experiments, it is still useful for obtaining the general relationship between the intensity of gusts and building morphology. In the real atmosphere, geostrophic wind could be used instead of the free stream velocity.

2.3 The Gust Index and its Component

For further insight into gust characteristics, the maximum instantaneous wind speed was decomposed into a mean wind speed ($U$) and the turbulent part ($U'$) using Eq. 2.3 below:

$$U_{\text{max}} = U + U'.$$ (2.3)

The MWR was obtained by normalizing the local mean wind speed by the free stream velocity as follows:

$$\tilde{U} = \frac{U}{U_\infty}.$$ (2.4)

Following the same procedure as the GI and MWR, the turbulent part ratio (TPR) was defined as follows:

$$\tilde{U}' = \frac{U'}{U_\infty} = \frac{U_{\text{max}} - U}{U_\infty}.$$ (2.5)

The MWR has been used to analyse the mean wind distribution within an urban canopy to determine the relationship with the urban building morphology (Kubota et al. 2008; Keck et al. 2014). TPR is a new parameter that expresses the contribution of the turbulent fluctuation in gusty wind. Although this parameter has similar characteristics to the standard deviation of velocity fluctuation which has
conventionally been analysed, it can directly show the relative contributions of the MWR and TPR in observed gust events.

It should be noted that this newly defined GI with Eqs. 2.2 to 2.5 can readily provide the conventional gust factor.

2.4 Summary

This brief chapter presented the definition of the gust index and its components (i.e.; mean wind ratio and turbulent part ratio) applied in this research. The ratio between the maximum instantaneous wind speeds to the free stream velocity applied. While the conventional gust factor normalised by the local mean wind speed. This locality characteristic of the gust factor leads to misinterpret the gusts intensity at different locations. Thus, the proposed gust index is comprehensible enough to express the gusts spatially. Moreover, the gust index component which is the mean wind ratio can describe mean wind distribution. While, the turbulent part ratio articulates the contribution of the turbulent fluctuation.
CHAPTER 3

DESCRIPTION OF THE SIMULATION MODEL

3.1 Introduction

This chapter will explain the models used to simulate the wind flow within an urban area. There are two different large eddy simulation (LES) models used. The first LES model known as the parallelized large eddy model (PALM) which used as a preliminary study of the gust in an urban area and find out the most suitable gust index definition. In the second stage, the other simulation which applied the LES model combined with the lattice Boltzmann method (LBM) was executed on a realistic urban area and 100 times larger domain than the one simulated in the PALM. This simulation used to fulfil the main objective of this study which is to find the general relationship between the gust index and the urban morphology. Each of the models mentioned will be described further.
3.2 Parallelized Large Eddy Simulation Model

3.2.1 Model description

The parallelized large eddy simulation model (PALM) has been developed and maintained by Raasch and Schröter (2001) from Institute of Meteorology and Climatology (IMUK) of Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany. This open source simulation model software was widely used around the world such as United States, Brazil, China, Korea, Japan and etc. The model is used to simulate the atmospheric and oceanic flows. Thus, the urban atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) is simulated in this study.

PALM is a finite difference model which computes the approximated Navier-Stokes equations of the non-hydrostatic and incompressible Boussinesq, the first law of thermodynamics and the subgrid-scale (SGS) turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) equations. These governing equations separate the eddy by its scale and filtered implicitly with the Schumann volume-balance approach. The numerical grid discretize the equations spatially which based on the marker-and-cell method (Arakawa C grid). The third-order Runge–Kutta method (leapfrog scheme) is used for the time integration. The advection is solves by the second order central finite differences by Piacsek–Williams. The smaller than grid scale turbulence is parameterize by the SGS model which based on the modified Smagorinsky model and applied the one-and-a-half-order Deardorff subgrid closure scheme.

The final set of PALM equations is shown below:

\[
\frac{\partial \bar{u}_i}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \bar{u}_k \bar{u}_i}{\partial x_k} - \frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial \bar{p}^*}{\partial x_i} - \dot{\varepsilon}_{ijk} f_j \bar{u}_k + \varepsilon_{i3k} f_3 \bar{u}_k g + \frac{\dot{\theta}}{\theta_0} \delta_{i3} + \nu \frac{\partial^2 \bar{u}_i}{\partial x_k^2} - \frac{\partial \tau_{kk}^*}{\partial x_k} \quad (3.1)
\]
First principle (using potential temperature)

\[
\frac{\partial \bar{\theta}}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \bar{u}_k \bar{\theta}}{\partial x_k} - \frac{\partial H_k}{\partial x_k} + Q_\theta
\]

(3.2)

Equation for specific humidity (passive scalar)

\[
\frac{\partial \bar{q}}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial \bar{u}_k \bar{q}}{\partial x_k} - \frac{\partial W_k}{\partial x_k} + Q_w
\]

(3.3)

Continuity equation

\[
\frac{\partial \bar{u}_k}{\partial x_k} = 0
\]

(3.4)

Normal stresses include in the stress tensor are now included in a modified dynamic pressure

\[
\tau_{ki}^r = \tau_{ki} - \frac{1}{3} \tau_{jj} \delta_{ki}
\]

\[
\bar{\tau}^* = \bar{p}^* + \frac{1}{3} \tau_{jj} \delta_{ki}
\]

(3.5)

Subgrid-scale (SGS) stresses (fluxes) to be parameterized in the SGS model

\[
\tau_{ki} = \bar{u}_k \bar{u}_i - \bar{u}_k \bar{u}_i
\]

\[
H_k = \bar{u}_k \bar{\theta} - \bar{u}_k \bar{\theta}
\]

\[
W_k = \bar{u}_k \bar{q} - \bar{u}_k \bar{q}
\]

(3.6)

More details about PALM can be access via the online documentations which provided by the developer (https://palm.muk.uni-hannover.de).

Parallelization of the large eddy simulation (LES) model means that a different set of data were resolved by the same program code which carried out by the massively parallel occupied processor elements. Instead of that, PALM is also capable to be performed on shared memory computer.
There are many studies of the wind flow in an urban area by executing the set of governing equations from PALM such as Inagaki et al. (2012), Letzel et al. (2012), Kanda et al. (2013), Keck et al. (2014) and Park et al. (2015). Referring to those published work, PALM used in this study to simulate the gust over an urban area.

### 3.2.2 Simulation setup

The numerical domain explicitly resolves the decomposed 2 m resolution of the real urban morphologies that acquired from 3D Map Data (MAPCUBE) provided by the CAD Center. Ground topography is not considered (i.e.; flat ground). The wind simulated over an equally spaced domain of 1,000 m × 1,000 m footprint and 600 m height (500 × 500 × 300 grids) induced the shear driven turbulent flow (i.e.; no heat flux). The wind flows from the left to the right of each domain of Fig. 3.1. The domains differ by its classification of the urban surfaces namely as the commercial land, skyscrapers area and residential area.

The lateral boundary conditions of the model are cyclic and non-slip for all building and ground surfaces. While, the free-slip conditions was applied at the domain top. The rough wall function prescribed a Prandtl layer for each wall surface was based on Monin–Obukhov similarity theory. The different initial turbulent inflows were set at 3 m s\(^{-1}\), 6 m s\(^{-1}\) and 12 m s\(^{-1}\) directed along the \(x\)-axis. The simulation time was last for 3 hours.

![Figure 3.1](image)

**Figure 3.1** Building height distribution of the (a) commercial land (b) skyscrapers (c) residential area.
3.3 Lattice Boltzmann Method and Large Eddy Simulation

3.3.1 Model description

A CFD code based on the LBM has been developed to execute large-scale wind simulations over a 10 $\times$ 10 km domain of an urban area in Tokyo, with 1 m resolution (Onodera et al. 2013). A stable calculation of turbulent flows with a very high Reynolds number is possible by applying an LES to the LBM (Hou et al. 1994; Yu et al. 2005). A subgrid scale (SGS) model that implies a coherent-structure Smagorinsky model (CSM) enables local determination of the model parameter (Kobayashi and Wu 2006). This approach provides an efficient, fast and parallel computation for a large-scale simulation with a very fine resolution that is also geometrically complex (Kobayashi et al. 2008; Bernaschi et al. 2010; Onodera et al. 2013). In this study, the same model as that used by Onodera et al. (2013) was used to simulate a developing urban boundary layer under neutral stratification. A detailed description of this model has been provided by Onodera et al. (2013).

The LBM is based on a discrete equation derived from the Boltzmann equation. It treats flow as a limited number of pseudo-particles in a streaming and collision process. Because the physical space is discretised by a uniform grid, particles move into the neighbouring grid points after one time step. Discrete velocities are expressed by the D3Q19 model (Bernaschi et al. 2010; Onodera et al. 2013) which shown in Fig. 3.2. The bulk velocity is calculated by integrating the velocity distribution function in a volume. The collisions of a mass of particles are modelled by the Bhatnagar-Gross-Krook (BGK) model (Zou and He 1996; Onodera et al. 2013). This provides an advantage over the continuity in the Navier-Stokes equation.
Figure 3.2  The arrows represent the directions of the fluid populations (i.e., a set of 18 discrete velocities including one null vector corresponding to particles at rest) according to the D3Q19 scheme Bernaschi et al. (2010).

Listed are the functions contained in this model (Onodera et al. 2013). The time evolution of the discretized velocity function is

\[ f_i(x+c_i\Delta t, t+\Delta t) = f_i(x, t) - \frac{1}{\tau} \left( f_i(x, t) - f_i^{eq}(x, t) \right) + F_i(x, t) \]  \hspace{1cm} (3.7)

where \( \Delta t \) is the time interval and \( f_i^{eq}(x, t) \) is the local equilibrium distribution at the time \( t \) and position \( x \) as below.

\[ f_i^{eq} = \omega_i \rho \left( 1 + \frac{3c_i \cdot u}{c^2} + \frac{9(c_i \cdot u)^2}{2c^4} - \frac{3u^2}{2c^2} \right) \]  \hspace{1cm} (3.8)

and here \( \rho \) is the density and \( u \) is the macroscopic velocity. The relaxation time, \( \tau \) is determined using the kinematic viscosity as in Eq. 3.9,

\[ \tau = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3\nu}{c^2 \Delta t} \]  \hspace{1cm} (3.9)
The components of the 19 velocity vectors \( c_i \) in three dimensions of the D3Q19 model is as below,

\[
c_i = \begin{cases} 
(0,0,0) & i = 0, \\
(\pm c, 0, 0), (0, \pm c, 0), (0, 0, \pm c) & i = 1 - 6, \\
(\pm c, \pm c, 0), (\pm c, 0, \pm c), (0, \pm c, \pm c) & i = 7 - 18,
\end{cases}
\]  

(3.10)

and the corresponding weighting factors are,

\[
\omega_i = \begin{cases} 
1/3 & i = 0, \\
1/18 & i = 1 - 6, \\
1/36 & i = 7 - 18.
\end{cases}
\]  

(3.11)

The LES resolved the flow dynamics of large-scale structures on a grid scale (GS). An SGS model considers the effects of smaller-scale turbulent structures, and is based on the concept of eddy viscosity. In the Navier-Stokes equation, LES modelling is implemented in the turbulent diffusion term by introducing an SGS-eddy viscosity. In the LBM, SGS modelling is accomplished in a collision term using eddy viscosity, which has the same form as is modelled in the Navier-Stokes equation.

\[
v_{SGS} = C \bar{\Delta}^2 |\vec{\mathcal{S}}|
\]  

(3.12)

where \( C \) is the model coefficient, \( \bar{\Delta} \) is the filter width and \( |\vec{\mathcal{S}}| \) is the magnitude of the velocity strain tensor.

As this simulation is designed for a large scale and encloses a realistic and complex urban area, the CSM can be applied (Kobayashi et al. 2008). The CSM models the small-scale turbulent diffusion using the second invariant of a velocity gradient tensor. This model is suitable for parallel computing without an averaging process because the model parameter is calculated using locally-defined variables only.
The model coefficient $C_{CSM}$ is calculated by treating the coherent structure $F_{CS}$ as a function of the velocity gradient tensor $Q$ and its magnitude $E$. The formula for the stated parameters listed as in Eq. 3.13.

$$C_{CSM} = C |F_{CS}|^{3/2}$$
$$F_{CS} = \frac{Q}{E} (-1 \leq F_{CS} \leq 1)$$
$$Q = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \bar{u}_j}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \bar{u}_i}{\partial x_j}, \quad E = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \bar{u}_j}{\partial x_i} \right)^2$$

The coefficient $C' = 1/20$ is a fix model parameter and it is optimized for a wide range simulations.

### 3.3.2 Simulation setup

It is likely that gusts are affected by the buildings in the upwind direction. Thus, the gust distribution in a developing boundary layer from the coastal edge of the buildings was examined using a numerical simulation. Part of a coastal area in Tokyo was chosen for the simulation as shown in Fig. 3.3 and 3.4. In this setting, a large computational domain along the streamwise direction was required to develop a boundary layer high enough to obtain robust statistics within an urban canopy that was free from the boundary layer height. Therefore, a large domain size (19.2 km streamwise $[X]$, 4.8 km spanwise $[Y]$ and 1 km vertical direction $[Z]$) was used. A fine grid resolution of 2 m in all directions was used to explicitly resolve the individual building shapes and also the flow at the pedestrian level. This provided a $9600 \times 2400 \times 500$ mesh for this computational domain. A realistic building geometry in a coastal area of Tokyo was implemented in the geometry of the ground morphology without the topographical elevation. Other than the building geometry, this model did not consider any difference in the solid surface conditions. Part of Tokyo Bay was included, which extended to a few kilometres from the inlet, and was expressed as a flat surface without any buildings.
For the boundary conditions, a continuous bulk uniform inflow of 10 m s\(^{-1}\) was applied at the domain inlet. The flow blew from the coastal area toward the inland urban area. The outlet boundary applied the radiation condition. A spanwise periodic boundary condition was used in the domain. A no-slip boundary condition was imposed on a solid surface. The bounce-back scheme makes it easy to implement the no-slip velocity condition with complex shapes. In the bounce-back rule, a particle that collides with a stationary wall will be reflected in the opposite direction of its velocity and returned to its original location (He et al. 1997; Yin and Zhang 2012; Onodera et al. 2013). The top of the domain is treated the same as the condition of the grid next to the bottom wall where the slip velocity can be resolved (He et al. 1997). Moreover, the artificial wave due to a very sensitive simulation output at the domain top boundary was damped. This deficit also encountered by
setting an appropriate simulation domain height. The thermal stratification and the Coriolis force are not considered in this simulation, which considers only the shear driven turbulence.

The simulation time was 4320 s and the computation was performed by the 900 graphics processing units (GPUs) of a supercomputer facility (TSUBAME 2.5). It needs a very small time step which is 0.008 s due to the instability in resolving the discrete equation of the lattice Boltzmann equation. The final 600 s was used for the analysis when the boundary layer had already reached a quasi-steady state. The simulation finished within 40 h, due to the numerical algorithm of the LBM, using massively parallel GPU computing in the supercomputer system. The model had the same accuracy as that reported by Castillo et al. (2011) (data not shown).

3.4 Summary

As a conclusion, there are two main large eddy simulations (LES) model used in this study. The first model which is parallelized large eddy simulation model (PALM) performed mainly to find out the suitable gust index definition. In fulfilling the final goal of this study, the simulation was conducted over a huge domain by executing the large eddy simulation that applied the lattice Boltzmann method (LBM). The discretized equation derived from the Boltzmann equation provides an advantage over the continuity in the Navier-Stokes equation. Thus, the LBM approach provides an efficient, fast and parallel computation for a large-scale simulation with a very fine resolution and geometrically complex. However, each of the simulation models contributed a great role in the research outcomes. Concisely, a general relationship between the gust index and the urban morphology can be revealed from the simulations output.
CHAPTER 4

VALIDATION

4.1 Introduction

Extending from the previous chapter, the simulation models (i.e.; the lattice Boltzmann method (LBM) and the parallelized LES model (PALM)) executed in this research will be validated with an established wind tunnel test results to confirm their performances. In the second part, the probability distribution function use to justify the most appropriate description to represent the spatial gust index. The outputs from PALM provide several denominator candidates to be tested in defining the new gust index. Both, the simulation models and the new gust index were the foremost elements in generalising the relationship between the gusts event and the urban morphology.
4.2 Simulation Models Inter-comparison

In the first stage, the accuracy of the parallelized large eddy simulation model (PALM) compared with the wind tunnel test results from Martinuzzi and Tropea (1993). This validation was also done by Letzel et al. (2008). Then, the PALM numerical model verified with the large eddy simulation (LES) that performed with the lattice Boltzmann method (LBM).

The airflow around an isolated cube as shown in Fig. 4.1 performed for both numerical methods as was done before in the wind tunnel experiment. Moreover, PALM was an established model for the atmospheric boundary layer study on the flat and the real city as listed in sect. 3.2.1.

![Diagram](image)

**Figure 4.1** Domain setting for the validation simulation. Red lines show each measurement location ($x/H = -1, 0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2.5$).

Figure 4.2 shows the vertical distribution of the average wind speed ratio between the main flow, $U$ and the inflow, $U_p$ obtained from the simulation results. The profiles shown was plotted for several locations (i.e.; before, in the middle and after the cube). A number of different grid resolution, $N$, applied in the simulation. The profiles show a good agreement with the experimental results as the grid resolution increased.
Figure 4.2  Vertical profile of the average wind speed, $U$, normalized to the bulk inflow cross-section average wind speed, $U_b$. Experiment data shown by the dotted line. Each profile represents the position mentioned in Fig. 4.1.

The vertical (cube centre) and horizontal (bottom layer) cross-sections of the time averaged streamline shown in Fig. 4.3. Focusing to the vertical cross-section of the $N = 32$ case, the swirling flow line near the bottom of the cube downwind side can be seen. Such streamline is not reproduced in the coarser spatial resolution. However, the streamlines for the horizontal cross-section does not show an essential difference although the domain resolution changed.

Figure 4.3  The streamlines around the cube centre vertical cross-section and lowermost horizontal cross-sectional. $N$ is the number of grids to resolve the cube piece.
The vertical profile of $U/U_b$ compute from PALM and LBM-LES compared as in Fig. 4.4. Different resolution, i.e. $N = 16$, 32 and 64, set-up for both simulations. PALM and LBM-LES profiles fit well when $N = 64$ for all location measured. However, the domain resolution of an actual simulation conducted for this research was fixed to $2 \text{ m} (~N = 32)$ and homogeneous in all direction for an economical computation in term of time and cost.

**Figure 4.4** Comparison between the PALM and LBM-LES vertical profile of $U/U_b$. Domain resolution of (a) $3 \text{ m} (N =16)$, (b) $1.5 \text{ m} (N =32)$ and (c) $0.75 \text{ m} (N =64)$ is homogeneous in all direction ($dx=dy=dz$).
4.3 Justification of the Gust Index Definition

The instantaneous maximum wind speed distribution $U_{\text{max}}$ was plotted as shown in Fig. 4.5. Several denominators namely the spatial averaged wind speed, $U_{\text{ave}}$, friction velocity $U^*$, local wind speed, $U_{\text{loc}}$, freestream velocity, $U_\infty$, at certain reference level, used to normalize the $U_{\text{max}}$ and define the spatial gust index (GI) (Huda et al. 2014; Huda et al. 2015). All the wind speeds measured at 2 m height except for the $U_\infty$ (i.e.; at 600 m or domain top).

**Figure 4.5** Probability density distribution of the (i) maximum wind speed, $U_{\text{max}}$ and for four different definitions of the gust index, (ii) $U_{\text{max}}/U_{\text{ave}}$, (iii) $U_{\text{max}}/U^*$, (iv) $U_{\text{max}}/U_{\text{loc}}$, (v) $U_{\text{max}}/U_\infty$ for the (a) commercial land (b) skyscrapers (c) residential area. Different line colours show the change in the input wind speed.

From the analysis done, the $U_{\text{max}}/U_\infty$ as in Fig. 4.5v was proposed as the feasible gust index definition to be used in this study. The probability density
distributions of this definition were independence with the change in the input wind. Moreover, the $U_\infty$ is homogeneous spatially and temporally at the measured height. The other two definitions which are $U_{\text{max}}/U_{\text{ave}}$ and $U_{\text{max}}/U^*$ seem to be acceptable. However, $U_{\text{ave}}$ changes with height which lead it to be impossible in the consideration while the $U^*$ is difficult to be obtained. Moreover, both are not homogeneous throughout the simulation domain. The other definition, which is $U_{\text{max}}/U_{\text{loc}}$ obviously dependant to the change in the simulation inflows and this ratio eliminated.

4.4 Summary

This chapter consist of two main subjects. The simulation models, the PALM and LBM were verified with the results from the wind tunnel test on an isolated cube. The vertical profile of the average wind speed examine at selected locations. The profiles show a good agreement with the experimental results as the grid resolution increased. The profiles from different domain resolution also compared. Consequently, the 0.75 m ($N = 64$) resolution gave the best fit profiles between the PALM and LBM simulations. However, the 2 m ($\sim N = 32$) domain resolution in all direction still gave a compatible results and was chosen for the actual simulations for an efficient computation in term of time and cost. Next, the justification of a representative gust index which is appropriate for the spatial distribution was done. The ratio between the maximum instantaneous wind speeds to the free stream velocity applied in generalising the relationship between the gusts event and the urban morphology.
CHAPTER 5

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FLOW FIELD WITHIN A REALISTIC
URBAN AREA

5.1 Introduction

General description of the flow field from the simulation output will be presented in this chapter. It is divided into two main parts which focus on the boundary layer development together with the parameters of the realistic urban domain and the wind profile in streamwise and vertical direction. Besides understanding the flow characteristics, all the figures illustrated confirm the correctness of the simulations executed. The data presented here retrieved from the large eddy simulation (LES) that applied the lattice Boltzmann method (LBM).
5.2 Urban Geometry Parameters and Boundary Layer Development

The building height in the three dimensional and the plan views were shown previously in Fig. 3.3 and 3.4 of Chapter 3 respectively. Figure 5.1 statistically presents the averaged values (in spanwise) of the important parameters that describe the simulation domain.

There are a number of tall buildings \((H_{\text{max}})\) which more than 60 m height along the streamwise. In average, the building height \((H_{\text{ave}})\) is about 10 m while its standard deviation, \(\sigma_H\), lies in between 5 to 15 m. The plan area index, \(\lambda_p\), and the frontal area index, \(\lambda_f\), increase along the streamwise. The \(\lambda_f\) was calculated only in the same wind direction applied in the simulation which is from the left to the right of the domain. It is important to note that the domain ground surface is just flat (i.e.; no topography). Equations 5.1 to 5.4 used to calculate the \(H_{\text{ave}}, \sigma_H, \lambda_p\) and \(\lambda_f\) respectively. From this general building statistics, it is shown that the simulation domain contained a rough, dense and realistic urban figure except at the beginning of the domain which is just a flat inlet. These urban parameters are also important in explaining the growth of the boundary layer where it starts to develop from the first building edge.

\[
H_{\text{ave}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{i=n} H_i}{n} \quad (5.1)
\]

\[
\sigma_H = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (H_i - H_{\text{ave}})^2}{n}} \quad (5.2)
\]

\[
\lambda_p = \frac{\sum A_p}{\sum A} \quad (5.3)
\]

\[
\lambda_f = \frac{\sum A_f}{\sum A} \quad (5.4)
\]
Figure 5.1  Geometry parameter of the simulation domain. (a) Maximum building height, $H_{\text{max}}$, average building height, $H_{\text{ave}}$ and its standard deviation $\sigma_H$. (b) The plan area index, $\lambda_p$ and frontal area index, $\lambda_f$.

The boundary layer height, $\delta$ developed along the streamwise direction of the simulation domain ($x$-direction). Its development generate by the shear driven turbulent due to the urban roughness (i.e.; no buoyancy). In general, the $\delta$ is the distance normal from the ground surface to the height where $U = 0.99U_\infty$. The height increases along the $x$-direction as shown in Fig. 5.2a and reached almost 500 m. The $\delta$ ($y$-axis) and domain streamwise ($x$-axis) is illustrated in Fig 5.2b again by the logarithmic scale. The $\delta$ calculated from the simulation is compared with an experimental result from Garratt (1990). It was a neutral wind tunnel experiment to study the boundary layer growth from a smooth to rough surface and represent by $\delta = (z_{01}/z_{02})^{0.8}$. The gradient of the simulation and the experimental were match but differ in values. This is cause by the different in the surface roughness ratio. Moreover, Jiménez (2004) discovered that the roughness elements became less effective to the logarithmic layer as it ratio to the boundary layer height, $\delta/k$ more
than 40. Figure 5.2c confirm this relationship as the normalised values of the $H_{\text{ave}} / \delta$ and $\sigma_H / \delta$ is almost constant at about 0.02 for the latter half of the domain.

**Figure 5.2** Boundary layer height, $\delta$ calculated from the (a) simulation and compared with (b) Garratt (1990). (c) Normalised values of the $H_{\text{ave}}$ and $\sigma_H$ to the $\delta$. 
5.3 Wind Flow Properties

5.3.1 Streamwise profile

As shown in Fig. 5.3, the friction velocity, $u_*$, was obtained by extrapolating the $u'w'$ profiles along the domain streamwise as the $u_* = \sqrt{|u'w'|}$. The $U_\infty$ is referred to the freestream velocity at 600 m height from the ground measured from the mean velocity profile of $u$. The values multiply by 0.1 to fit it in the same scale range of the $u_*$. The other side of the $y$-axis shows the normalised boundary layer height along the domain streamwise, $d\delta/dx$. The $u_*$ is almost homogeneous in streamwise except at the domain inlet. Same goes to the $U_\infty$ and $d\delta/dx$ but there is a sudden drop at the end of the domain for the $d\delta/dx$ because the boundary layer did not develop anymore at this point.

Figure 5.3 The friction velocity, $u_*$, freestream velocity, $U_\infty$ and the normalised boundary layer height along the domain streamwise, $d\delta/dx$. 
5.3.2 Vertical profile

The flow field of the simulation also can be described by the several vertical profiles. Raupach et al. (1991) stated that the normalised vertical profiles of single-point velocity moments ($\overline{u'^2}$, $\overline{v'^2}$, $\overline{w'^2}$, $\overline{u'w'}$, and higher moments) to the $u_*$ and $\delta$ should collapse to common curves independent of wall roughness at a certain height. Figure 5.4 shows that the normalised profiles of $U$, $u'w'$ and the standard deviations $\sigma_u = (\overline{u'^2})^{1/2}$, $\sigma_v = (\overline{v'^2})^{1/2}$ and $\sigma_w = (\overline{w'^2})^{1/2}$ all ‘tied up’ onto common curves when $z/\delta$ more than 0.6. This condition is exceptional in the roughness sublayers close to the surface because a realistic urban geometry applied in this study. The vertical profiles from this study also somehow obeying the wind tunnel tests on the aligned and staggered uniform cube from Cheng and Castro (2002).

![Diagram showing profiles against z/δ of various quantities.](image)

**Figure 5.4** Profiles against $z/\delta$ of (a) $U/u_*$, (b) $\overline{u'w'}/u_*^2$, (c) $\sigma_u/u_*$, (d) $\sigma_v/u_*$ and (e) $\sigma_w/u_*$. 
5.4 Summary

Several main urban parameters such as the $H_{max}$, $H_{ave}$, $\sigma_H$, $\lambda_p$ and $\lambda_f$ of the domain enclosed in the LBM simulations described briefly. These parameters indicated the characteristics of the rough and dense urban morphology as the $\lambda_p$ and $\lambda_f$ increased along domain streamwise. There are also many high rise buildings which over 60 m height. While, the $H_{ave}$ and $\sigma_H$ values lay in between 10 m and 15 m respectively. The urban boundary layer started to develop from the beginning of the building edge and reached at almost 500 m height near the domain outlet. The general description on the streamwise and the vertical wind flows also presented in this chapter. The $U_\infty$ shown an acceptable homogeneous distribution along the streamwise compare to the $u_*$. Whereas, the vertical profiles illustrated were reliable as those profiles matched with the theoretical and experimental results from the flow over a rough-wall and the turbulent boundary layers.
CHAPTER 6

HORIZONTAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE FLOW FIELD WITHIN A REALISTIC URBAN AREA

6.1 Introduction

The horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of several flow statistics at different heights were presented in this chapter. These figures provide visual information which was referred to get a better understanding of the wind flow characteristics within and over a realistic urban area. Also, the reliability of the accomplished numerical simulations can be confirmed. Furthermore, the proposed gust index definition from Chapter 2 also used to map it spatial distribution and visually inspected in this chapter. The gust index component maps also illustrated and discussed. The data presented here mainly retrieved from the large eddy simulation (LES) that applied the lattice Boltzmann method (LBM).
6.2 Horizontal Distribution of the Flow Field

The horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of several flow statistics at different heights (i.e.; 2 m, 54 m, 98 m and 198 m) were illustrated and described briefly in this section. The flow statistics listed as the instantaneous wind velocity \(u_{\text{ins}}\), each component of the mean wind \((u, v \text{ and } w)\), instantaneous, mean and turbulent part of the Reynolds stress \((u_{\text{ins}}w_{\text{ins}}, uw \text{ and } u'w')\) and the standard deviation of the \(v\) and \(w\) component \((\sigma_v \text{ and } \sigma_w)\). Figure 6.1 to 6.11 show all those horizontal distributions. Each chosen height represent the pedestrian level, Doppler lidar height (installed on top of a building within Tokyo Tech campus), above roughness length and free stream height respectively. All mean statistics were temporally average for the last 600 s of the simulation time. The colour range assign accordingly.

6.2.1 Instantaneous wind velocity

The instantaneous wind velocity of the streamwise direction \(u_{\text{ins}}\), is shown in Fig. 6.1. Coherent streaky pattern became more apparent at higher level. The tailed streaks along the streamwise influence by the existent of the urbanize area (i.e.; high-rise buildings). It also can be seen that the streaks width change with height and fetch from the inlet. Approximately, the width of the streaks at the latter half of the horizontal distribution of the 54 m, 98 m and 198 m height, are more consistent as the boundary layer (refer to Fig. 5.2a of Chapter 5) is high enough at this point. More thinner and shorter streak pattern can be seen at 2 m height mainly at the open spaces. The flow field at this level was directly modified by the urban morphology and induced more intermittent flow distribution.
6.2.2 Mean wind velocity

Figure 6.2 to 6.4 show the mean wind of the streamwise (u), spanwise (v) and vertical (w) components respectively. The u is a dominant component compared to v and w by simply referring to the colour range of the plot. This is due to the inflow setting which is from the left to the right of the domain. The u streaks became broader in spanwise and elongate in the streamwise. The same judgement as describe for the $u_{ins}$ use to explain these patterns. However, the streaks pattern are smoothen due to the temporal average as mentioned earlier. The flow field change with height logarithmically. Therefore, the horizontal distribution became more homogeneous at higher level (i.e.; 198 m) especially at the latter half of the domain fetch. The discrete distribution pattern for v and w up to 98 m mainly modified by the urban morphology (i.e.; buildings, streets and open spaces). At 198 m, elongated streaky pattern became more distinct for both components although ‘blurred’ ground morphology still can be seen.

6.2.3 Reynolds stress

The instantaneous, mean and turbulent component of the Reynolds stress (i.e.; $u_{ins}w_{ins}$, $uw$ and $u'w'$) shown in Fig. 6.5 to 6.7 correspondingly. The colour range of all components is similar for all height except at 2 m. It makes the evaluation of this vertical transport of momentum simpler. The instantaneous and mean characteristics of the Reynolds stress did not show a significant different compared to the turbulent component. More homogeneous spatial distribution can be identified at the ground level (i.e.; 2 m). At the higher levels, the upwards (positive) and downwards (negative) momentum transport separated by the streaky structures that are elongated along the streamwise direction. It indicates that the streaky structures are predominantly important in the turbulent transport process at the upper level (i.e.; within the inertial sublayer, roughness sublayer). However, these streaky structures were also discretized along the broad streets and open spaces which signified the influence of the urban canyon on the upper layer flow field. The
turbulent characteristics became more homogeneous at the upper layer because the mean component is more significant, where the freestream profile obeying the logarithmic law.

### 6.2.4 Standard deviation

Figure 6.8 and 6.10 show the standard deviation of the spanwise ($\sigma_v$) and vertical ($\sigma_w$) components respectively. While, Fig. 6.9 and 6.11 are the mean velocity (i.e.; $v$ and $w$) with the same colour range of the correspond standard deviation. The $\sigma_v$ distribution at all levels illustrated are always larger compared to the $\sigma_w$ (i.e.; more fluctuation in spanwise ($v'$) instead of vertical direction ($w'$)). Moreover, $v$ dominates the distribution over $w$ at the ground level (i.e.; 2 m). In contrast, $w$ begins to take over $v$ at 54 m and became more apparent at higher level (i.e.; 98 m and 198 m). In general, these explain that the local instantaneous in the spanwise ($v_{ins}$) at the all levels is always larger compared to the one in vertical ($w_{ins}$) as the standard deviation is given by:

\[
\sigma_A^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (A_i - \bar{A})^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} A_i'^2 = \bar{A}'^2 \\
\sigma_A = \left(\bar{A}'^2\right)^{1/2}.
\]
Figure 6.1  Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the instantaneous wind velocity, $u_{ins}$, at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.2  Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the mean wind velocity (u-component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.3 Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the mean wind velocity ($v$-component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.4 Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the mean wind velocity ($w$-component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.5  Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the Reynolds stress (instantaneous component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.6  Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the Reynolds stress (mean component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.7  Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the Reynolds stress (turbulent component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.8 Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the standard deviation (υ-component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.9  Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the mean wind velocity (ν-component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height (same as Fig. 6.3 but following the colour range of Fig. 6.8).
Figure 6.10  Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the standard deviation (w-component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height.
Figure 6.11 Horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the mean wind velocity (w-component) at 2, 54, 98 and 198 m height (same as Fig. 6.4 but following the colour range of Fig. 6.10).
6.3 Horizontal Distribution of the Gust Index and its Component

The gust at 2 m height that normalized to the freestream velocity at 600 m height (i.e.; domain top) used to plot the GI spatial distribution (Huda et al. 2014; Huda et al. 2015) as shown in Fig. 6.12. The same range of the colour contour used to differentiate the gust index distribution on the different surface geometry which categorized as the commercial land, skyscrapers and residential area. The spot of the maximum GI concentrate more within the skyscrapers and commercial land compared to the residential area. In general, the higher distribution of the gust index may occur around the taller buildings that have some open space around it compared to the lower one nearby it. The building height of these areas can be referred back in Fig. 3.1 of Chapter 3. From the figure also, it is suggested that the proposed GI definition works well and understandable for the spatial distribution.

![Figure 6.12](image)

**Figure 6.12** Gust index distribution at 2 m height for the 1,000 m × 1,000 m of the (a) commercial land, (b) skyscrapers and (c) residential area by using the proposed definition.

However, it is inadequate to quantitatively evaluate correlation between the gust and the urban parameter as the simulation done separately for different surface geometry. Therefore, another simulation was executed on a huge urban domain that considered the realistic building height variation and considerable range of the surface density. Figure 6.13 shows the horizontal distribution of the GI, MWR and TPR (as defined in Eqs. 2.2 to 2.5, Chapter 2) at 2 m height for the whole computational domain. A high GI was apparent at the domain inlet where there was
just a flat surface compared to the densely built-up area in the inland domain. The big open spaces at \( x = 0 \sim 1 \) km (near inlet), 2~3 km (\( y = 2 \sim 4.8 \) km) and 5~8 km (across the entire domain in the \( y \) diagonal) had different magnitudes of GI, which decreased with distance in the \( x \) direction. There were also several locations with a high GI within the building canopies. These locations were examined by decomposing the GI into the MWR and TPR, which were visually inspected.

![Image](image.png)

**Figure 6.13** Horizontal distribution of the (a) gust index, \( \bar{U}_{\text{max}} \), (b) mean wind ratio, \( \bar{U} \), and (c) turbulent part ratio, \( \bar{U}' \), at 2 m height.

Near the inlet, the flow field was not obstructed by any buildings and the wind speed, which indicated both the MWR and TPR, was faster than in the built-up area at the pedestrian level as seen in Fig. 6.13b, c. Another reason for the large GI
near the inlet was that the boundary layer height was low in locations where the
gusty downdraft easily penetrated close to the ground. This could explain the
decreasing GI with distance in the x direction within big open spaces. The influence
of boundary layer development is further examined in sect. 7.3 of Chapter 7.
Locations with a large GI in the built-up areas were mostly accounted for by the TPR,
which in built-up areas was comparable with the TPR in the inlet, whereas the MWR
in built-up areas was much smaller than in the inlet.

The area of focus in the white box is magnified in Fig. 6.14 to show more
detail. The proposed GI plotted in Fig. 6.14a is compared to the distribution of the
conventional gust factor (G) in Fig. 6.14b as defined in Eq. 2.1 of Chapter 2. G was
very high around the building and within the narrow street. The main reason for this
was because the local $U$ was very low and almost stagnant, which was likely to cause
a large $G$, with a small maximum wind speed relative to the surrounding area. This
conventional definition limited the main goal of this study in determining the spatial
distribution of the maximum wind that induces strong gusts at the pedestrian level.

The MWR was much lower than the TPR in the densely built-up area,
particularly in the narrow streets within the building cluster. This implies that a
group of buildings can effectively reduce the mean wind speed and generate
turbulence near the ground. This characteristic is quantified in Sect. 7.4 of Chapter 7.
Figure 6.14  Magnified view overlain with the building height of the (a) gust index, $\bar{U}_{\text{max}}$, (c) mean wind ratio, $\bar{U}$, (d) turbulent part ratio, $\bar{U}'$, from Fig. 6.13 and (b) the spatial distribution of the conventional gust factor, $G$. 
6.4 Summary

The horizontal distribution (xy-plan) of the instantaneous wind velocity, mean wind, Reynolds stress and standard deviation visualised. The wind flow characteristics of each slice at different height (i.e.; 2 m, 54 m, 98 m, 198 m) described mainly by referring the coherent streak pattern. Elongated and widen streaks in streamwise and spanwise respectively can be seen at the higher level. In contrast, near the ground, the building morphology directly modified the flow and created shorter and thinner streak pattern. Smaller domains from PALM used to examine the distribution of the GI at 2 m height spatially. The illustrated figures confirmed that the proposed GI definition works well and understandable. This GI definition imposed into the huge domain of the LBM simulation and successfully mapped the distribution at the ground level (i.e.; 2 m). Also, the new GI definition certified by comparing it with the conventional GF map. By visually inspected, the TPR seem dominated the contributed on the GI compared to the MWR. Further analysis will be presented in the next chapter to quantify the gust index and the urban parameter in obtaining their general relationship.
CHAPTER 7

GENERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GUST INDEX AND THE URBAN MORPHOLOGY

7.1 Introduction

The prime objective of this research will be presented in this chapter. The relationship between the gust index (GI) and the urban morphology being generalised by the patch approach. The averaged GI in patch and the chosen bulk urban parameter were employed to quantitatively evaluate the gusts event in an urban area. An optimum patch size relative to the whole domain size was examined to obtain the general and robust relationship. This assessment also extended for the mean wind ratio (MWR) and turbulent part ratio (TPR) for more comprehensive knowledge on the GI. Meteorologically, the consequence of the boundary layer development on the GI and its components also inspected. Furthermore, the GI and its components at the ground level (i.e.; 2 m) studied and compared with the statistics at the upper layer (i.e.; surface layer).
7.2 Determination of the Optimum Size of Patches

Takebayashi and Oku (2014) introduced a grid-partitioning method to determine the general relationship between the MWR and gross characteristics of city morphology. In this method, the horizontal domain is divided into homogeneous patch areas, and the area average of mean wind velocity is calculated for each patch for comparison with the gross building parameters in the same patch. They found a clear relationship between $\lambda_p$ and MWR. This method also applied in this study to evaluate the GI and TPR as well as the MWR for different values of $\lambda_p$. The whole simulation domain used was divided into homogeneous square patches of several sizes, ranging from 80 to 2400 m per side. The GI, MWR and TPR in each patch were averaged and $\lambda_p$ was also calculated. Although other urban parameters including $\lambda_f$ were also examined, the results shown and discussed here focus only on $\lambda_p$ because gusts at the pedestrian level had the best correlation with this parameter at the patch scales of interest. However, in the context of the height dependency of gust behaviour, roughness length ($z_0$) is also examined in sect. 7.5.

Figure 7.1 shows the relationship between these wind components and $\lambda_p$ for all patch sizes, which was averaged again for 0.02 bin increments of the $\lambda_p$. Again, this figure focuses only on the latter half of the domain to avoid the influence of boundary layer development and to clarify the relationship with the building geometry, and also only considers up to $\lambda_p = 0.5$. The adequacy of limiting the analysis to the latter half of the domain is examined in sect. 7.3. Figure 7.1 shows a clear relationship between each normalised velocity ratio and $\lambda_p$. The distributions are scattered when the $\lambda_p$ is less than 0.28 but are almost linear for all patch sizes when the $\lambda_p$ is greater than 0.28.
Figure 7.1  The bin analysis of the spatial average of the different patch sizes of the (a) gust index, $[\bar{U}_{\text{max}}]_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, (b) mean wind speed ratio, $[\bar{U}]_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, and (c) turbulent part ratio, $[\bar{U}']_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, versus the plan area index, $[\lambda_p]_{\text{bin}}$, at 2 m height for the latter half of the simulation domain.
An optimum patch size needs to be recognised to determine the general and robust relationship between the wind component and the bulk building parameter. If the patch size is too small, fine and specific morphological information (e.g., street width) becomes more important than the mean characteristics of the gross area (Takebayashi and Oku 2014). A patch area that is too large decreases the number of samples required to obtain statistically robust results in a domain of limited size. Therefore, the scatter of variables in a bin of $\lambda_p$ was evaluated to determine how the variable (e.g.; GI, MWR and TPR) is relevant to $\lambda_p$, and to find a minimum threshold value of patch size.

![Figure 7.2](image)

Figure 7.2 Standard deviation bias analysis of the different patch sizes (m$^2$) from the gust index, $[\bar{U}_{max}]_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, mean wind speed ratio, $[\bar{U}]_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, and turbulent part ratio, $[\bar{U}']_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$.

Figure 7.2 shows the bias of the standard deviation of each non-dimensional velocity component plotted for all patch size candidates. A patch size bigger than 480 \times 480 m$^2$ seem to be insensitive to the variance of each normalised velocity ratio. Therefore, this optimum patch size was used in the analyses.
7.3 Influence of Boundary Layer Development on the Normalised Velocity Ratios

Next, the large GI near the inlet, which depended on the boundary layer height ($\delta$) (Fig. 6.13 of Chapter 6) was evaluated. The $\delta$ is the distance normal from the ground surface to the height where $U = 0.99U_\infty$. On average, $\delta_1 = 105$ m, $\delta_2 = 238$ m, $\delta_3 = 346$ m and $\delta_4 = 442$ m for the first quarter (Q1) to the fourth quarter (Q4) as in Figure 7.3, respectively. Figure 7.4 shows the spatial and bin average of the GI, MWR and TPR plotted on $\lambda_p$ with different colours for the different areas, which are quarters of the entire domain separated along $x$, in the order of Q1 as the inlet and Q4 as the outlet. The value of each normalised velocity ratio at Q1 was larger than for the other quarters at the same $\lambda_p$. The values for Q2 were slightly larger than for Q3 and Q4 which were almost the same. It was confirmed that the choice of the second half of the domain for the analysis was suitable to discuss the effect of the surface geometry. It was free from the effects of boundary layer development, which was dependent on the inflow settings. In addition, the values in Q2 and Q3 were equivalent when $\lambda_p$ was smaller than 0.24. Therefore, the values for Q2 were used to cover the small sampling numbers for the low $\lambda_p$ values in the latter half of the domain, which are discussed in the following sections.

![Figure 7.3](image-url) The boundary layer development along streamwise, $x$. Also shown the quarters distance from the domain inlet (Q1) to the outlet (Q4).
Figure 7.4 The spatial and bin average of the 480 × 480 m$^2$ patches for the gust index, $[\bar{U}_{\text{max}}]_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, mean wind speed ratio $[\bar{U}]_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, and turbulent part ratio, $[\bar{U}']_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, versus the plan area index, $[\lambda_p]_{\text{bin}}$, at 2 m for the whole domain divided into four quarter in the streamwise direction.
The physical interpretation of the effects of boundary layer height was considered on each normalised velocity ratio. The wind speed drastically increased in the direction normal from the ground when the boundary layer height was low, and high-speed gusts easily approached the ground level as noted previously. When a boundary layer is high enough, the flow field within a built-up area is mostly controlled by the surface roughness, which in this case was determined by the building morphology, because the vertical wind speed distribution follows a logarithmic profile. The rate of development became milder with distance in the \( x \)-direction, and its effect became harder to recognise.

Figure 7.5 shows the distribution spatial average of the \( 480 \times 480 \text{ m}^2 \) patches (not average in bin) for the last three quarters (Q2+Q3+Q4). There were several isolated plots scattered away from the linear trendline. Therefore, patches within \( 0.415 \times \lambda_p \times 0.432 \) range were chosen in examine the boundary layer height effects on the higher values of the GI (red circle) compared to the plots closer to the line (green circle).

It was confirmed visually in Fig. 7.6 that those patches with higher GI laid on Q2 (i.e.; patch number 15, 91 and 330; refer to App. A8) while the other selected patches were distributed within the latter half domain (Q3+Q4). As explained above, the boundary layer height is still low in the former half domain, which contributed on the high GI within this area although the \( \lambda_p \) of the patches were in the same range with those in the latter half. Moreover, the patches with higher GI also have shown a significant building geometry (i.e.; building form and height), the arrangement and large open spaces. Further examination on these characteristics will be done in Sec. 7.4.
Figure 7.5  The spatial average of the $480 \times 480 \text{ m}^2$ patches for the gust index, $[\tilde{U}_{\text{max}}]$ versus the plan area index, $\lambda_p$, at 2 m for the last three quarters (Q2+Q3+Q4). Chosen isolated scatter plots (red circle) and closed to linear trendline (green circle) were $0.415 < \lambda_p < 0.432$.

![Graph showing correlation between gust index and plan area index](image)

\[ y = -0.39x + 0.27 \]
\[ R^2 = 0.79 \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patch</th>
<th>$\lambda_p$</th>
<th>$[\tilde{U}_{\text{max}}]$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>330</td>
<td>0.415382</td>
<td>0.215175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>193</td>
<td>0.415781</td>
<td>0.091679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.415903</td>
<td>0.118543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.419462</td>
<td>0.097692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.419601</td>
<td>0.210647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182</td>
<td>0.420000</td>
<td>0.114349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>339</td>
<td>0.429323</td>
<td>0.117017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177</td>
<td>0.430625</td>
<td>0.108534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>0.431007</td>
<td>0.208445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 7.6  Selected $480 \times 480 \text{ m}^2$ patches of Fig. 7.5 and its corresponding plan area index, $\lambda_p$ and gust index, $[\tilde{U}_{\text{max}}]$. Isolated scatter plot (Patch 15, 91 and 330) and closed to linear trendline (others).
### 7.4 General Relationship between Pedestrian-level Flow Characteristics and the Plan Area Index, $\lambda_p$

Figure 7.7 shows the spatial average of the $480 \times 480$ m square patches of the GI, MWR and TPR, with an average bin increment of $\lambda_p = 0.02$ for the last three quarters, which were 4.8~19.2 km from the domain inlet (Q2 + Q3 + Q4) and the latter half of the domain (Q3 + Q4). Instead of only the latter half of the domain, the last three quarters were also needed to increase the number of samples, particularly for the lower $\lambda_p$. Because the boundary layer height was still low at around 4.8 km from the domain inlet, the last three quarters had a slight positive bias from the latter half of the domain at higher $\lambda_p$ but the two regions were almost consistent in the lower $\lambda_p$.

As shown in Fig. 7.7, all of the normalised velocity ratios decreased monotonically with increasing $\lambda_p$, and the TPR profile was always dominant compared to the MWR for all $\lambda_p$ values. This means that intermittent gusty events were important for producing the maximum wind speed at the pedestrian level, and were milder in the built-up area than in the open area.

Another important feature shown in this figure is the ‘kink’ (refer to App. A9 and A10) in the profile of each normalised velocity ratio at around 0.28. The MWR decreased steeply at lower values, but was almost constant at higher ones. The TPR was almost constant at lower values but decreased at higher ones. The GI decreased almost linearly because it is the sum of the MWR and TPR. These features are described in Table 1, which shows the gradient of the lines when $\lambda_p$ is smaller or larger than 0.28. Takebayashi and Oku (2014) found a similar kink in the profile of MWR at almost the same $\lambda_p$ in their numerical simulation.
Figure 7.7  The spatial and bin average of the $480 \times 480$ m$^2$ patches for the gust index, $[\bar{U}_{\text{max}}]_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, mean wind speed ratio, $[\bar{U}]_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, and turbulent part ratio, $[\bar{U}']_{\lambda_p \text{ bin}}$, versus the plan area index, $[\lambda_p]_{\text{bin}}$, at 2 m for the last three quarters from the domain inlet (Q2 + Q3 + Q4) and the latter of the half domain (Q3 + Q4).

Table 7.1  The gradient, $m$, of the mean wind speed ratio, $[\bar{U}]$, and the turbulent part ratio, $[\bar{U}']$, for plan area indices < 0.28 and > 0.28 from selected patches of Fig. 7.7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$[\lambda_p]$</th>
<th>MWR</th>
<th>TPR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$[\lambda_p] &lt; 0.28$</td>
<td>-0.2512</td>
<td>-0.1048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$[\lambda_p] &gt; 0.28$</td>
<td>-0.0631</td>
<td>-0.1354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This could be explained by following the flow regime classification within the building canopy (Oke 1987). In the isolated flow regime (when $\lambda_p < 0.28$), the MWR depends simply on the building cover, because each obstacle individually imposes drag on the flow within the canopy. Obstacles can also efficiently generate turbulence fluctuations, which result in a constant TPR for an increasing $\lambda_p$ in this flow regime. In the skimming flow regime ($\lambda_p > 0.28$), the mean flow in the canopy layer is decoupled from the upper layer. This produces a very small MWR and also keeps the spatial variation small because the MWR is small everywhere, resulting in little variation in the MWR with increasing $\lambda_p$. For the TPR, the size of turbulent eddies are limited by the horizontal size of the narrow open spaces. This accounts for the decreasing TPR with increasing $\lambda_p$. The decrease in TPR may also be caused by the flow in the canopy layer becoming decoupled from the turbulent structures above it in the skimming flow regime (e.g.; Inagaki et al. 2012). Although separate discussions have been conducted for individual flow regimes, real cities include open spaces of various sizes, with a mixture of different flow regimes in an averaging domain. Therefore, the relative contribution of the flow regimes, which is represented by $\lambda_p$ in the current analysis, is also relevant to the variation in each normalised velocity ratio.

Zaki et al. (2011) indicated that the relationship between the drag coefficient and $\lambda_p$ changes depending on the variation in the height of building roughness because the skimming flow regime becomes less representative in such cases. This is because the drag coefficient is relevant to the flow around the upper part of tall buildings (e.g.; Xie et al. 2008; Nakayama et al. 2011; Kanda et al. 2013), which are usually isolated from each other. However, flow near the ground is still strongly influenced by the surrounding small buildings. Then, $\lambda_p$ becomes the most important parameter to consider the flow structure near the ground within the building canopy, and the consideration of flow regimes (Oke 1987) is still useful for analysing the flow properties in the three-dimensionally complex building canopies of real cities, based on morphological information.
Figure 7.8 shows several isolated plots were scattered away from the distribution that collapsed near the linear line although their $\lambda_p$ were in the same range. Therefore, the features of those patches were examined visually as shown in Fig. 7.9 to investigate the basis of the deviation. The plots and patches of Fig. 7.8 and 7.9 were only from the latter half domain to exclude the influence of the boundary layer height on the GI distribution. At a glance, the patches with higher GI compared with the one nearer to the linear line in its own $\lambda_p$ range have a similarity in the building configurations as mentioned previously in Sec. 7.3. Briefly, the patches with locally huge in volume (i.e.; large and tall buildings) will have higher GI compared to the area which enclosed with small and low rise buildings. Moreover, the surrounding open spaces also became an essential indication in contributing higher GI compared to the area where the buildings were evenly distributed. These possibilities might also important in determining the local instantaneous maximum wind speed, $U_{max}$, for the gusts alert system as shown in Fig. 1.2 and potentially analyse in detail for the future works.

### 7.5 The Gust Index and its Component at Different Heights

A distinct relationship between each normalised velocity ratio and the $\lambda_p$ at the pedestrian level was described in the previous section by mainly following the procedure introduced by Takebayashi and Oku (2014). A comprehensive review of urban microclimate studies (e.g.; Roth 2000) indicated that the roughness length parameter best represents the aerodynamic properties of building roughness and effectively reproduces the turbulence statistics above the roughness sublayer in cities. Therefore, the relevance of each normalised velocity ratio on $z_0$ together with $\lambda_p$ at the pedestrian level was briefly evaluated. Also, the manner of the relationship changes transiently to follow a similarity law in the surface layer with increasing elevation was been identified.
Figure 7.8  Same as Fig. 7.5 but only for the latter half domain (Q3+Q4).

Figure 7.9  Selected $480 \times 480$ m$^2$ patches of Fig. 7.8 and its corresponding plan area index, $\lambda_p$ and gust index, $[\bar{U}_{max}]$. Isolated scatter plot (Patch 21, 23, 260, 300, 318 and 381) and closed to linear trendline (others).
Figure 7.10 shows a comparison of the GI, MWR, TPR, $\lambda_p$ and $z_0$ at the pedestrian level (i.e.; 2 m) and 16 m height for the last two quarters. The height of 16 m is the level where the average TPR is at a maximum above the canopy layer. A modified Macdonald equation from Kanda et al. (2013) was used to calculate the $z_0$ in which the frontal area index, $\lambda_f$, the average, $H_{ave}$, and standard deviation, $\sigma_H$, of building heights, and the maximum building height, $H_{max}$, in patch domains were considered in addition to $\lambda_p$.

Figure 7.10  The gust index, $[\bar{U}_{\text{max}}]$, mean wind speed ratio, $[\bar{U}]$, and turbulent part ratio, $[\bar{U}']$, versus the plan area index, $[\lambda_p]$, and the roughness length, $[z_0]$ in the 480 $\times$ 480 m$^2$ patches at a height of 2 and 16 m for the latter half of the domain (Q3 + Q4).
Although the TPR was larger than the MWR in the bottom layer as seen previously (see, Fig. 7.10c-f), the contribution of MWR overcame that of the TPR at the higher level (see, Fig. 7.10i-l) because the increasing rate of turbulent intensity with increasing height was zero near this level (not shown). In addition, the mean wind speed increased logarithmically with increasing height up to the top of the boundary layer. At the pedestrian level, the plots of all normalised velocity ratios were more concentrated and showed a clearer dependence on $\lambda_p$ than $z_0$. At 16 m from the ground, all normalised velocity ratios depended more on $z_0$ than on $\lambda_p$. This implies that $\lambda_p$ is sufficient to comprehensively represent the wind flow characteristics at the ground level while $z_0$ is more representative in the upper layer, as seen in Roth (2000).

The velocity factors had less of an effect on $z_0$ at the pedestrian level because the magnitude of $z_0$ was mainly accounted for by the taller buildings and drag coefficient, while the smaller buildings could be mostly neglected, although they still determine the velocity factors at this level as seen in the previous section. At the higher levels, the flow structures were mainly configured by taller buildings where $z_0$, as a comprehensive aerodynamic parameter, was more relevant than $\lambda_p$.

7.6 Summary

From this chapter, a bulk relationship between the gust index GI that averaged in a square patch (i.e.; 480 × 480 m$^2$) and the plan area index that represents the urban parameter had been examined. It is quantitatively revealed that low boundary layer height enhances GI near the domain inlet, mainly owing to the turbulent component gathered from a large vertical gradient of mean wind velocity. It was found that when air velocity is high, it can easily impinge the layer near to the ground. It was also shown that the GI monotonically decreases with increasing building area coverage. Although this characteristic is seen in area-averaged quantities, it is still not obvious
the locally maximum GI in an area, which is highly related to the shapes of individual buildings, also decrease simply with increasing building coverage. There are clear gradient deflections in the profiles of MWR and TPR along $\lambda_p$ range. At the lower $\lambda_p$, MWR decrease and TPR is constant with increasing $\lambda_p$. Meanwhile, MWR is almost constant and TPR decrease with increasing $\lambda_p$ at higher $\lambda_p$. These tendencies are explained by the regime shift of the flow in canopy layer. Considering the wind flow attribute at the higher level, its structures are majorly configured by taller buildings where $z_0$, as an aerodynamic parameter, becomes a relevant parameter than $\lambda_p$. 
CHAPTER 8

CONCLUDING REMARKS

8.1 Introduction

This chapter will summarize all the work done and conclude the findings in this research. In the nutshell, the final aim of this study was successfully achieved by executing the large eddy simulation models which output a rich three dimensional dataset. The novelty was contributed by a general relationship between the intensity of gust and the urban morphology. Many more features need to be considered for the prospective work in order to comprehensively evaluate the gust occurrence within a build up area yet keep the feasibility of the study.
8.2 Research Findings

The gust characteristic within an urban canopy was examined by executing the large eddy simulation models. To generalize the discussion, followings are the major findings of this research.

1. A new indicator namely the gust index (GI) was defined as the local instantaneous maximum wind speed normalized by the free stream velocity. This spatial GI encounters the locality limitation of the conventional gust factor, $G$. The proposed GI was justified using the probability distribution function (PDF).

2. Besides the parallelized large eddy simulation (LES) model (PALM), another sophisticated large eddy simulation of the lattice Boltzmann method (LBM) was feasible to be executed over a huge domain with 2 m resolution due to the recent progress in supercomputers.

3. Two different large eddy simulation models applied at different stages of this research. After the results produced by these two models had been validated, the study suggests that results (from these two models) were of the same accuracy.

4. The reliability of the LBM simulation outcomes inspected from the streamwise and vertical profiles of the flow field and confirmed by the theoretical and experimental results of previous study.

5. The horizontal distributions of the flow field at different height also presented in order to examine the compatibility of the simulation and gain thorough understanding.

6. The GI distribution map was capable to be plotted and visually examined to get the first insight of the gusts in the build up area at any locations and height within the domain range.

7. The gustiness quality was measured by break down the GI into its components which is the mean wind ratio (MWR) and the turbulent part ratio (TPR).

8. Quantitatively, the GI and its components and also the urban parameter that averaged in a square patch, is proposed as a general quantity to compare among different locations and experiments in urban canopy. By applying this patch approach, a framework to generalise the relationship between the gusts and the urban parameter was systematically constructed.
9. It was revealed that low boundary layer height enhances GI near the domain inlet, which is mostly owing to the turbulent component. This is due to the large vertical gradient of mean wind velocity in which higher velocity air can easily impinge on to the layer closer to the pedestrian / ground level.

10. It is also shown that the GI monotonically decreases with increasing building area coverage, $\lambda_p$. There are clear bend in the profiles gradient of MWR and TPR along $\lambda_p$ range. At the lower $\lambda_p$, MWR decrease and TPR is constant with increasing $\lambda_p$. Meanwhile, MWR is almost constant and TPR decrease at higher $\lambda_p$. These tendencies are explained by the regime shift of the flow in canopy layer.

11. Considering the meteorological approach of the wind flow attribute at the higher level, its structures are majorly configured by taller buildings where the roughness length, $z_0$, becomes a relevant parameter than $\lambda_p$. Vice versa, component ratios are densely concentrated and show clearer dependence on $\lambda_p$ at the pedestrian level.

12. This research initiate an adjoin of two main streams of the gusts in urban area where one of it is focusing on the influence of detail structures of individual buildings, and the other is based on the knowledge of the similarity law such as the Monin-Obukhov similarity or its modification to the roughness sublayer.

### 8.3 Recommendations and Implications for Further Research

For further scientific understanding, the following are recommended to be investigated in the future works.

1. Several megacities chosen as the simulation domain with an acceptable domain size and sufficient range of the urban morphological parameter. Wind statistics from these megacities can be compared to confirm the relationship between the GI and the chosen urban parameter is universal and robust.
2. Instead of the urban parameter presented in this research, more urban geometrical and aerodynamics parameters can be considered to present the general relationship between the GI and the urban morphology.

3. Different directions of the input wind of certain simulation domain can be tested. The gust index performance can be examined on the wind direction dependence parameter such as the frontal area index, $\lambda_f$.

4. Besides the building heights, this research involved only flat domain bottom surface. Therefore, it can be enhanced with the ground topography for more realistic outcomes.

5. As this research was restricted to neutral stratification, the buoyancy effect could be added in the simulation condition from which the difference in the induced gusts could be compared.

6. The comparative study was limited mainly to the numerical simulation output. It would be interesting to measure the maximum instantaneous wind speed within the real urban model by using the wind tunnel experiment or field measurement (i.e. Doppler lidar). It is also suggested that the measurement points and locations representing the flow characteristics of an area should be considered.

7. The results from this gusts study can be utilised in developing the gusts alert system as shown in Fig. 1.2. The mesoscale weather prediction can provide the information about the strong wind speed. Referring to the robust general relationship of the GI and the urban bulk parameter, the expected distribution of the GI in an area can be determined. This estimation is feasible because the GI is a scalable parameter and its probability distribution function was independent with the inflow setting as mentioned in Sec. 4.3.

### 8.4 Summary

Finally, by conducting this research the queries of the overlying problems clarified at this moment. Improved outcomes are expected in near future by considering the listed recommendations.
REFERENCES


Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/index.html


Letzel MO, Krane M, Raasch S (2008) High resolution urban large-eddy simulation studies from street canyon to neighbourhood scale. Atmos Environ 42(38):8770-8784
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), http://www.noaa.gov/

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Appendix A1  Tokyo meteorological station, retrieved from Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).
Appendix A2  Tokyo wind yearly wind measurement, retrieved from Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

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### Appendix A3
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<td>9.7</td>
<td>北西</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>北北西</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>北北西</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>北北西</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>西北西</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appendix A5  Tokyo wind 10 min wind measurement, retrieved from Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>附表 2015年4月11日（4月11日ゴー）</th>
<th>附表 2015年4月11日（4月11日ゴー）</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>風向</td>
<td>風速[m/s]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>030</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>050</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>070</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>090</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appendix A6  リーフレット「雨と風（雨と風の階級表）」 [Leaflet "Rain and wind (Class tables of rain and wind)"], retrieved from Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).
Appendix A7  Comparing the streaky pattern of the instantaneous wind speed, $u_{ins}$ from the LES-LBM simulation and the Doppler lidar observation.

![Diagram showing comparison between LES-LBM simulation and Doppler lidar observation.](image)
Appendix A8  Decomposition of the whole domain into 400 patches (480 × 480 m² for each patch).
Appendix A9  Program to determine the ‘kink’ point by using multi-phase linear regression and least mean square method (run using Phyton).

```python
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np
dir = 'D:\REGRESS\'
fname = 'lamdaP_mwr.csv'

read data and find parameter
for line in lines:
    line.strip()
    cols=line.split(',
    x.append(float(cols[0])) ; y.append(float(cols[1]))

for i in range(5,150,1):
    star = i
    fit1 = np.polyfit(x[0:star],y[0:star],1) #a=fit[0]   b=fit[1]
    fit1_fn = np.poly1d(fit1)
    y_fit1 = np.polyval(fit1_fn,x[0:star])

    fit2 = np.polyfit(x[star:],y[star:],1)
    fit2_fn = np.poly1d(fit2)
    y_fit2 = np.polyval(fit2_fn,x[star:])

    if fit2[1] == float(0) or fit1[1] == float(0):
        continue

    ydiff1 = (y[star-1] - y_fit1[star-1])**2
    ydiff2 = (y[star] - y_fit2[star])**2
    ydiff = ydiff1 + ydiff2

    m[i]=float(ydiff)

x_star =  min(m,key=m.get)
error_min = m[x_star]
print "your x_0 number is: ", x_star, "and your error_min is: ", error_min

regression line 1, a1(gradient) and b1:
Rsqr1 = sstot1 / sstot1
print "regression line 1, a1(gradient) and b1:", fit1, "R^2=",Rsqr1

regression line 2, a2(gradient) and b2:
Rsqr2 = sstot2 / sstot2
print "regression line 2, a2(gradient) and b2:", fit2, "R^2=",Rsqr2

x_star = min(m,key=m.get)
error_min = m[x_star]
print "your x_0 number is: ", x_star, "and your error_min is: ", error_min

regression line 1, a1(gradient) and b1:
Rsqr1 = sstot1 / sstot1
print "regression line 1, a1(gradient) and b1:", fit1, "R^2=",Rsqr1

regression line 2, a2(gradient) and b2:
Rsqr2 = sstot2 / sstot2
print "regression line 2, a2(gradient) and b2:", fit2, "R^2=",Rsqr2

x = min(m,key=m.get)
error_min = m[x]
print "your x_0 number is: ", x, "and your error_min is: ", error_min

regression line 1, a1(gradient) and b1:
Rsqr1 = sstot1 / sstot1
print "regression line 1, a1(gradient) and b1:", fit1, "R^2=",Rsqr1

regression line 2, a2(gradient) and b2:
Rsqr2 = sstot2 / sstot2
print "regression line 2, a2(gradient) and b2:", fit2, "R^2=",Rsqr2

fig, ax = plt.subplots(1,1)
ax.set_ylim([0.0,0.3])
ax.plot(x,y,'bo')
ax.plot(x[0:x_star],y_fit1,'r.')
ax.plot(x[x_star:],y_fit2,'g.')
ax.axvline(x[x_star], color='k', linestyle='--')
ax.annotate(str(x[x_star]),xy=(x[x_star],0.005))
ax.annotate("R^2=",xy=(0.1,0.12))
ax.annotate("reg-line1:"+str(fit1),xy=(0.1,0.13))
ax.annotate("R^2=",xy=(0.05,0.01))
ax.annotate("reg-line2:"+str(fit2),xy=(0.05,0.02))
ax.annotate("x_0 defined from reg-line",xy=(0.05,0.03))

#---plot image----
fig, ax = plt.subplots(1,1)
ax.set_xlim([0.0,0.3])
ax.plot(x,y)
Appendix A10  ‘Kink’ point for the mean wind ratio, \([\bar{U}]\), and the turbulent part ratio, \(\hat{U}_t\), versus the plan area index, \(\lambda_p\). Spatial average distribution of the 480 × 480 m² patches for the last three quarters (Q2+Q3+Q4).

Min. error = 1.78 × 10⁻⁵

\[
\begin{align*}
\hat{U} & = -0.23x_1 + 0.12 \\
R_1^2 & = 0.84 \\
y_1 & = -0.09x_2 + 0.06 \\
R_2^2 & = 0.14
\end{align*}
\]

Min. error = 6.93 × 10⁻⁴

\[
\begin{align*}
\hat{U} & = -0.09x_1 + 0.15 \\
R_1^2 & = 0.54 \\
y_1 & = -0.25x_2 + 0.19 \\
R_2^2 & = 0.54
\end{align*}
\]