

1 **Experimental and Numerical Investigation on Tsunami Run-up Flow in**
2 **the Built Environment**

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16

17 **Abstract:** Inland tsunami flows can be greatly affected by the presence of coastal
18 buildings. The present study experimentally and numerically investigated the effects of
19 nine different building layouts on 1) the tsunami inundation process and spatial velocity
20 distribution, 2) the flow depth and velocity at a specific point, and 3) the extent of the
21 area where shielding effects take place. High-speed video footage, PIV analysis, and the
22 time history of flow depth, velocity, and momentum flux demonstrated significant
23 differences in the tsunami run-up behaviour among the different building layouts
24 considered. However, it was also shown that a decrease in the flow velocity always
25 appears in front of and immediately behind the building(s), regardless of their layouts.
26 The OpenFOAM simulations performed revealed that significant shielding effects appear
27 in the leeward side of the building. These findings can be used when considering where to
28 place evacuation buildings, as constructing them directly behind another study structure
29 could reduce construction costs and increase their stability. The obtained results were also
30 applied to partially validate the method for calculating the channeling effects of tsunami
31 loads provided in ASCE 7-16.

32

33 **Keywords:** tsunami; built environment; hydraulic experiment; inundation; OpenFOAM

34

35 **1. Introduction**

36 A tsunami can cause massive damage to coastal communities, as shown by recent events
37 such as the *2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake Tsunami*, the *2011 Tohoku Earthquake and*
38 *Tsunami*, the *2018 Palu Tsunami* and the *2018 Sunda Strait Tsunami* (see Synolakis and
39 Bernard, 2006; Mori et al., 2011; Harnantyari et al., 2020; Takabatake et al., 2019,
40 respectively). To prevent the loss of lives and property from such hazards, it is imperative
41 to understand the nature of tsunami flow as it propagates overland.

42 This inland tsunami flow can be greatly affected by the presence of buildings or
43 other structures. Although many common structures (such as residential housing,
44 warehouses) can be destroyed due to the overland flow, reinforced concrete structures
45 can often withstand the pressures exerted on them. As a result of the presence of such
46 buildings, the flow of the tsunami changes locally, causing channelling and shielding
47 effects due to flow constriction and obstruction, respectively. Such local flow effects were
48 observed during the *2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami*, where Kakinuma et al.
49 (2011) reported that a large reinforced concrete building, located in Onagawa Town,
50 Miyagi Prefecture, Japan provided shielding effects for buildings behind it. Kakinuma et
51 al. (2011) also pointed out that when the tsunami passed between two concrete buildings
52 the velocity of the flow accelerated, resulting in significant local scouring between them.
53 According to the NILIM (National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management)
54 and BRI (Building Research Institute) (2011), some wooden houses located behind a
55 sturdy building remained standing due to the effects of shielding.

56 Extensive numerical and experimental research has been performed examining
57 the interaction between tsunami-like waves and the built environment. Simamora et al.
58 (2007) compared the effects of six different building layouts on tsunami loading. They
59 indicated that when a structure is shielded by another structure, the tsunami force is
60 reduced and, the closer the shielded building is to the seaward structure, the greater the
61 effect. Oda et al. (2008) and Okamoto et al. (2009) investigated the reduction effects of
62 multiple sturdy buildings on tsunami run-up distance, velocity, and flow depth. In the
63 experiments of Nouri et al. (2010), dam-break waves were used to investigate the tsunami
64 load on a free-standing structure, showing that flow constriction due to the presence of
65 upstream obstacles increased impact forces exerted on a downstream structure. Goseberg
66 (2013) experimentally investigated the reduction effects on maximum tsunami run-up
67 distance when four different obstacle configurations aligned or staggered with rotation or
68 non-rotation. Goseberg and Schlurmann (2014) focused on the features of the tsunami
69 flow around one and two buildings placed parallel to the shoreline. Using Particle Image
70 Velocimetry (PIV), the wake angles behind the buildings were shown to increase linearly
71 as the generated tsunami propagated inland. Nakamura et al. (2014) numerically
72 simulated tsunami forces on a structure when other similar ones were around it. Thomas
73 et al. (2015) used a piston-type wavemaker to generate long-period waves in a wave basin
74 and evaluated the effects of multiple configurations of obstacles on shoreward specimens.
75 Their results demonstrated that the forces exerted on the specimen increased as the

76 distance between the pair of seaward obstacles grew, but then decreased when the gap
77 became too wide. Tomiczek et al. (2016) experimentally measured the pressure acting on
78 a structure by varying the incident tsunami waves and onshore structure configurations,
79 observing a reduction in pressure (40-70%) under various wave breaking conditions.
80 Okumura et al. (2019) focused on the effects of the position of two buildings, and
81 numerically investigated the change in tsunami overturning moment according to their
82 layouts. Winter et al. (2020) experimentally investigated the effects of neighbouring
83 structures on the resulting flow, pressure, and force on the structure. They reported that
84 the shielded structure generally experienced weaker forces, while the applied pressure
85 was higher in some locations, increasing the risk to some structural elements.

86 Some researchers have investigated the characteristics of tsunamis flowing
87 through more realistic coastal city layouts. Cox et al. (2008) conducted physical
88 experiments examining the impact of a tsunami on Seaside, Oregon, U.S.A. Prasetyo et
89 al. (2019) constructed a 1:250 scale of Onagawa Town, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, and
90 investigated the inundation behaviour using two different tsunami-like waves. The
91 experiments of Cox et al. (2008) were later numerically reproduced by Park et al. (2013),
92 and Qin et al. (2018a, 2018b). Qin et al. (2018b) modelled a tsunami inundation process
93 using both a depth-integrated 2D model (GeoClow) based on the nonlinear shallow water
94 equations and a 3D model (OpenFOAM) based on the Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes
95 equation. The results demonstrated that the three-dimensional (3D) model was able to
96 simulate the flow characteristics more accurately, though these authors also highlighted
97 the associated computational cost of the 3D model. Using a coastal community impacted
98 by the *2012 Hurricane Sandy* as a case study area, Hatzikyriakou and Lin (2017)
99 investigated the effects of the interaction between residential structures under an extreme
100 hydrodynamic condition (in this case storm surge). These authors demonstrated that
101 structures located seaward strongly influence the performance of other inland structures
102 and suggested that hardening oceanfront structures could result in enhancing the overall
103 resilience of the community.

104 The above studies have provided valuable knowledge that has increased the
105 understanding of the interaction between tsunami inland flow and the built environment.
106 While many studies have indicated that the shielding effect, which significantly reduces
107 tsunami loads on a structure landward of another one, can be important (Kakinuma et al.
108 2011; Tomiczek et al. 2017; Robertson and Mohamed 2009; Winter et al., 2020; Wüthrich
109 et al, 2018), limited studies have clarified the extent of the area where the shielding effect

110 can work effectively. Thus, it is important to understand further how the spatial
111 distribution of tsunamis flowing through various building configurations changes over
112 time using the PIV technique. To further address these issues, a 3D study was developed
113 at the Waseda University Tsunami Wave Basin, complemented by a 3D numerical model
114 developed in OpenFOAM

115 The study presented here will build upon and compare to the results of previous
116 studies outlined above. The main objectives of this study are:

- 117 1) Qualitatively and quantitatively describe the flow patterns around a range of
118 building arrangements.
- 119 2) Investigate the influence of the building arrangement on the momentum flux
120 on the leeward side of the structures.
- 121 3) Determine the areal extent of the shielding as well as governing parameters.

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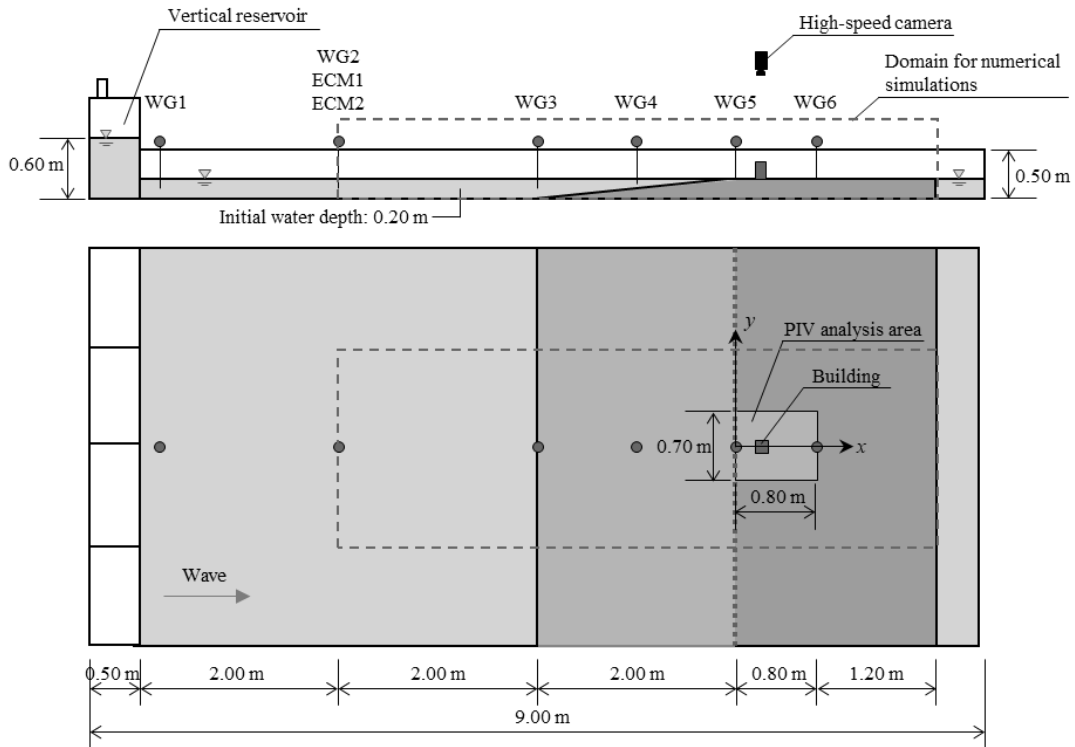
123 **2. Experimental Analysis**

124 **2.1 Experimental setup**

125 Experiments were conducted at the Tsunami Wave Basin of Waseda University in Tokyo,
126 Japan (width 4.0 m, length 9.0 m, height 0.5 m). A 2 m long stainless steel slope with an
127 angle of 1/10, representing a typical shoreline along the Japanese Pacific coastline (Stolle
128 et al., 2019), followed by a 2 m long stainless steel horizontal floor, was installed 4 m
129 away from a wave maker at the edge of the basin (**Figure 1**). In all experimental
130 conditions, the initial water level was kept 0.20 m from the bottom of the basin. In the
131 experiments, a tsunami-like wave was generated from a vertical reservoir at the end of
132 the basin. Before each experimental test, water was stored in the reservoir by a suction
133 pump. Next, the air valves at the top of the reservoir were opened, releasing the stored
134 water and creating a tsunami-like wave.

135 To investigate the tsunami inland flow around the building models, an area with
136 a length of 0.8 m and a width of 0.7 m was set as the target for PIV analysis. To improve
137 the accuracy of this PIV analysis, the floor of the target area was covered with a vinyl
138 chloride plate and painted with oil paint (to suppress light reflection). The edge of the
139 target area was defined as the origin of the x and z axes, and its centreline was defined as
140 the origin of the y -axis (see **Figure 1**).

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143 **Figure 1** Schematic diagram of the tsunami wave basin. Small circles represent wave
 144 gauges and electromagnetic current meters. The dashed rectangular area corresponds to
 145 the domain range used for the numerical simulation (as detailed later).

146

147 A total of six capacitance-type wave gauges, WGs (CHT6-30/40, manufactured
 148 by KENEK Co. Ltd.), were used to record the water surface elevations. Four of them
 149 were installed in the offshore area and two were installed onshore (see **Figure 1**). A
 150 reference point was arbitrarily set at $x = 0.80$ m, and $y = 0.0$ m, which is at the same
 151 position as WG6. Time histories of the flow depth and velocity recorded at this point will
 152 be discussed later. Two electromagnetic current meters, ECMs (VMT2-200-04P/04PL,
 153 manufactured by KENEK Co. Ltd.) were also installed at the same position as WG2 to
 154 measure the flow velocity at a height of 0.15 m (ECM1) and 0.10 m (ECM2) from the
 155 bottom.

156 A high-speed camera (K4, manufactured by KATO KOKEN Co. Ltd. with a 1024
 157 pixel (px) \times 1024 px resolution) was mounted above the basin and used to measure the
 158 change in the spatial distribution of the velocity. In order to capture the water movement
 159 around the structure, styrene beads (particle size between 0.3 and 0.6 cm) were evenly
 160 distributed over the sea area before generating a tsunami-like wave. The captured images
 161 were later analyzed using a high-performance fluid analysis software (FlowExpert2D2C,
 162 KATO KOKEN Co. Ltd.), and converted to the plane flow velocity. In the analysis,
 163 particles having higher luminance were first selected inside the interrogation area (which

164 was set to be 0.02 m \times 0.02 m), and tracked in the next image using a search window
165 having 0.15 m in x direction (flow direction) and 0.05 m in y direction. Through the
166 procedure, the velocities in the analysis area (see **Figure 1**) could be obtained. Velocity
167 at the position of WG6 was also obtained from the video image associated with PIV
168 analysis. The sampling frequency of all the instruments was set to be 200 Hz.

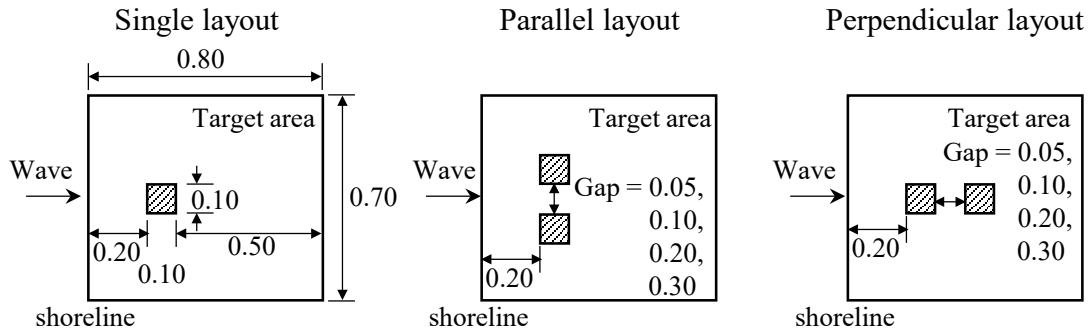
169 The recordings of the high-speed camera were synchronized with the recording of
170 WGs and ECMs using an LED light. The LED light was placed inside the view of the
171 high-speed camera and connected to the Data Acquisition System, DAS (ADS2016,
172 KENEK Co. Ltd.) used for recording WGs and ECMs. When the LED light turned on,
173 the glowing light bulb was recorded by the high-speed camera and the change in voltage
174 in the WGs was also recorded by DAS, which allows the data to be synchronized to within
175 0.01 s (Stolle et al. 2018; Iimura et al. 2020).

176

177 *2.2 Experimental protocol*

178 Rectangular wooden prisms (0.10 m length, 0.10 m width, 0.20 m height) were used to
179 represent the obstacles (buildings). The size of the buildings was determined by
180 considering the range of view of the high-speed camera and the typical size of a residential
181 building in Japan. The experiments were performed at a scale of 1:80. The edges of the
182 models were covered with vinyl chloride tape to make their surface roughness similar to
183 that of the surface slope. The seaward distance between the shoreline and the building(s)
184 was set to 0.20 m. Three different layouts were tested: a single building, two buildings
185 aligned parallel to the shoreline, and two buildings aligned perpendicular to the shoreline
186 (see **Figure 2**). A case without buildings was also tested, in order to observe the
187 unhindered progress of the wave over land. For the parallel and perpendicular layout
188 cases, the gap width varied from 0.05 to 0.30 m (at 5 cm interval increments). Thus, a
189 total of nine building layouts were considered (see **Table 1**).

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192 **Figure 2** Building layouts used in the experiments (units: m). The rectangle area shown
 193 (length of 0.80 m and a width of 0.70 m) indicates the target area used for the PIV analysis
 194 (see **Figure 1**).
 195

196 **Table 1** Experimental protocol. The experimental categories are named to represent the
 197 initial conditions.

Experimental category	Layout	Gap (m)
N0	No buildings	-
S0	Single	-
PA05	Parallel	0.05
PA10	Parallel	0.10
PA20	Parallel	0.20
PA30	Parallel	0.30
PE05	Perpendicular	0.05
PE10	Perpendicular	0.10
PE20	Perpendicular	0.20
PE30	Perpendicular	0.30

198

199 The blockage ratio ($BR = 1 - W_c/W$) was used to define the structures with a
 200 parallel layout using the definition from the ASCE 7 Chapter 6 (ASCE, 2016), which
 201 defines the width of the channel between the outermost extent of the structures and the
 202 width of the structures as the exposed area of the structure.

203 The authors first repeated the case where no buildings were present or there was
 204 only one (single layout) five times, and confirmed that that the maximum values of water
 205 level and flow velocity recorded at each run were always within a 5% difference from the
 206 averaged value over all runs. After this, all other cases were repeated only three times.
 207 After confirming that the differences in values among the three runs were minimal for the
 208 recorded time histories of WGs and ECMs, the authors decided to use the results of the
 209 first run of each case for the subsequent analysis. However, the results having the largest
 210 value of the Luminance correlation coefficient among each run were used for the PIV
 211 analysis, as this can greatly help improve the accuracy of the PIV analysis. To make a
 212 comparison among cases easier, the time when the water level at the position of WG1

213 exceeded 0.5 cm was defined to be the start time for all the cases (i.e. at this moment t
214 was defined to be 0.0 s).

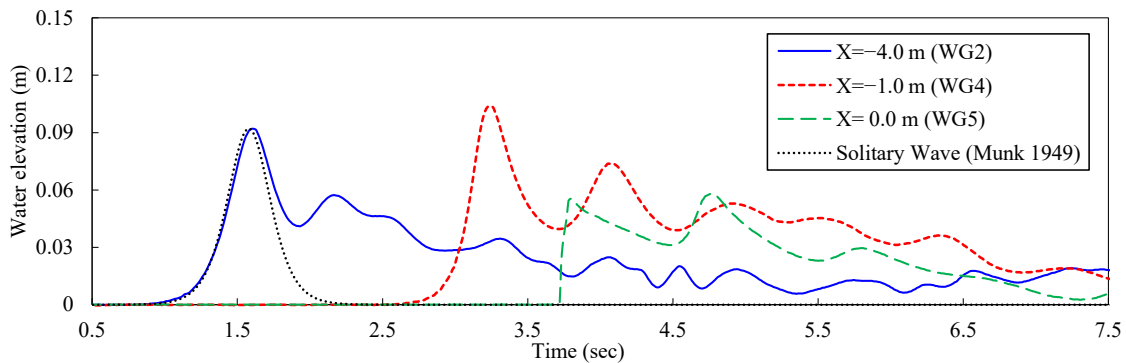
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216 **2.3 Experimental results**

217 *2.3.1. Hydrodynamics*

218 **Figure 3** shows the time history of the water surface elevation recorded at at WG2, WG3
219 and WG5. As shown in the figure, at the offshore point (WG2) the front profile of the
220 wave resembles a solitary wave (measured time history at WG2 is compared with the
221 theoretical results of Munk, 1949), but with an elongated tail. The waves underwent
222 shoaling while traveling over the slope (WG4), broke between WG4 and WG5, and
223 propagated over land as a bore. Dividing the distance between WG4 and WG5 by the
224 time required for the wave crest to pass through them, the offshore wave propagation
225 velocity near the shoreline was calculated to be 1.75 m/s (following the approach
226 described in Takabatake et al., 2020a, though it should be noted that this is just the wave
227 propagation velocity near the shoreline, and the bulk of the wave behind it may have a
228 slightly different velocity). Since the scale of the present experiment was 1:80, the wave
229 front velocity is estimated to be 15.7 m/s on the prototype scale (if Froude scaling law is
230 applied). This resembles the offshore wave front velocity estimated near the shoreline
231 (see Sanuki et al., 2013) for the *2011 Tohoku Earthquake Tsunami* (around 12 to 14 m/s).
232 The same approach applied to WG5 and WG6 resulted in the onshore wave propagation
233 velocity near the shoreline to be 2.22 m/s (19.9 m/s on the prototype scale). It should be
234 noted that the generated wave had a relatively short wave period when compared to a real
235 tsunami. Thus, the main focus of the present research is on the characteristics of a tsunami
236 flow during the early stages of its impact, and not on the subsequent inundation flow. In
237 addition, while two wave crests were recorded at WG5, only the effects of the first wave
238 were investigated.

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242 **Figure 3** Time history of water elevation when no buildings are present. The blue line
 243 represents the time history at $x = -4.0$ m (WG2), the dotted red line represents the time
 244 history at $x = -1.0$ m (WG4), and the green line represents the time history at $x = 0.0$ m
 245 (WG5).

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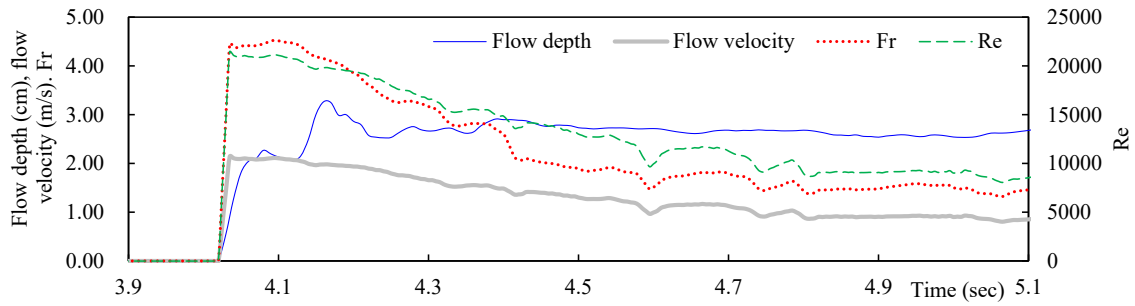
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Figure 4 shows time history of flow depth, velocity, Froude number (F_r) and Reynolds number (R_e) recorded at $x = 0.80$ m without buildings. R_e and F_r were calculated using the recorded velocity (obtained from PIV analysis) and building width (0.10 m). Without buildings, the wave reached $x = 0.80$ m at around $t = 4.0$ s. The flow depth reached a maximum at around $t = 4.2$ s and remained at about the same value until $t = 5.1$ s. In contrast, the flow velocity reached its maximum value when the wave arrived at the reference point, and then gradually decreased. Relatively high F_r was recorded at the moment when the wave reached the reference point, due to the small flow depth at the front of the wave. Then, F_r gradually reduced but remained over 1.0 until $t = 5.1$ s, which means that the flow was supercritical. During a tsunami event, a high F_r of the inundation flow would only be observed near the coastline (though it should be noted that this would be heavily influenced by topography and the slope of the terrain and bed). In fact, Hayashi et al. (2013) estimated the F_r for the tsunami inundating the Sendai Plain during the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, and showed that F_r gradually decreased with distance from the coastline. Specifically, they demonstrated that while F_r was over 2.0 at 1,000 m from the coastline, it reduced to around 0.5 at 1,800 m. Thus, the results obtained can only be considered to be applicable to buildings situated in the vicinity of the coastline.



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267 **Figure 4** Time history of flow depth, velocity, Froude number (F_r) and Reynolds
 268 number (R_e) at $x = 0.80$ m for N0 case.

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270 2.3.2. Observations

271 **Figure 5** compares snapshots of the flow conditions taken using the high-speed camera
 272 for different building layouts. For the case of a single building, the flow was separated
 273 after the incident wave reached the building. The leeward (protected) area was gradually
 274 filled with water from both sides as the incident wave propagated landwards. When the
 275 separated flows collided behind the building, a hydraulic jump was generated due to the
 276 rapid increase in the depth of the flow (see **Figure 5a-iii**), evolving into a wake. Focusing
 277 on the front side of the building, the water surface raised immediately after the arrival of
 278 the wave (see **Figure 5a-i**), and a bow wave was subsequently generated. Then, a part of
 279 the bow wave propagated offshore, while the other part propagated in the direction of the
 280 stream, resulting in a complex water surface topography. The dashed red line in **Fig. 5a-**
 281 **iv** shows the position of the bow wave, implying that the depth of flow along this line is
 282 deeper than elsewhere.

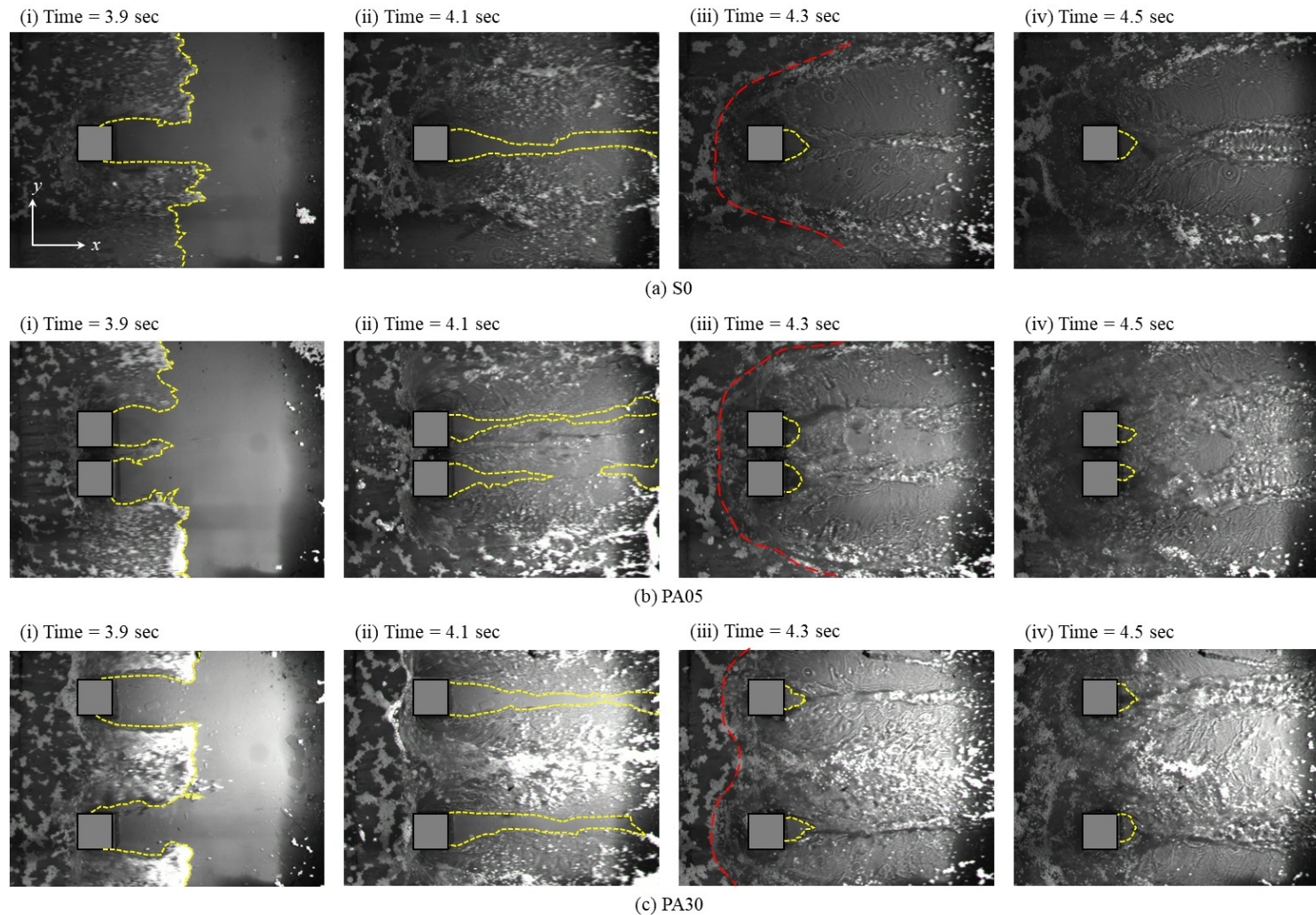
283 **Figures 5b and 5c** show snapshots of the parallel layouts. **Figure 5b** shows the
 284 results for a gap of 5 cm (referred to as PA05, see **Table 1**) and **Figure 5c** shows the
 285 results for a gap of 30 cm (referred to as PA30). Comparing the front edge of the incoming
 286 tsunami between these two cases at $t = 3.9$ sec, the PA30 tsunami front reached further
 287 inland, especially behind the gap. This could be due to the greater blockage effect of
 288 PA05. At $t = 4.1$ sec, a slightly larger area was remained dry behind the buildings for
 289 PA30. After $t = 4.3$ sec, a hydraulic jump and its associated wake were observed in both
 290 cases. When focusing on the bow waves generated in front of each building, in the case
 291 of PA005, they merged at $t = 4.3$ sec into one large bow wave (see red line in **Figure 5b-**
 292 **iii**). In contrast, for a gap of 30 cm, the generated bow waves did not merge completely

293 (see red line in **Figure 5c-iii**). As a result, in the case of PA30 a part of the bow wave
294 propagated between the gap, generating strong turbulence behind it.

295 **Figures 6a and 6b** show snapshots for the perpendicular layouts. The general
296 features of the flow were similar to those described for the single and parallel layouts. A
297 bow wave was generated in front of the seaward building, and a wake was created behind
298 the landward building. However, in the case of PE010 the rise in water level in front of
299 the seaward building appears higher than in other cases (see the red line in **Figure 6a-iii**).
300 This is probably due to the closer position of the landward building, which may have
301 prevented the separated flows from merging behind the seaward building. A more
302 complicated flow pattern was observed in the space between the obstacles. For instance,
303 when an incoming wave entered the space of PE020, a hydraulic jump appeared behind
304 the seaward obstacle, but a bow wave also occurred in front of the landward obstacle (see
305 **Figure 6b-iv**).

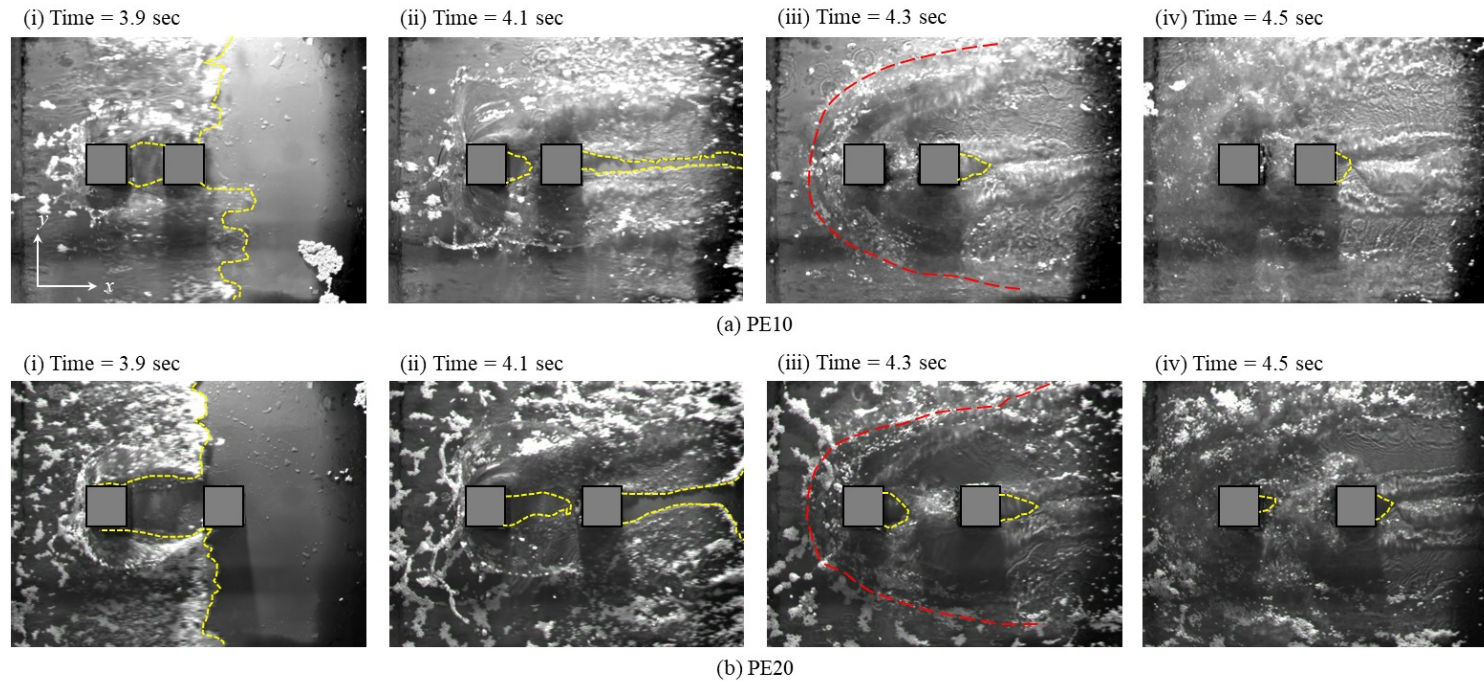
306 Finally, it is worth noting that in the early stages of tsunami inundation the space
307 immediately behind the buildings was kept dry, regardless of the layout (as shown in the
308 area surrounded by dotted yellow lines).

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Figure 5 Snapshots of flow condition taken with the high-speed camera for (a) single layout, (b and c) parallel layouts (gap=5 cm, 30 cm). Dotted yellow lines indicate the boundary between wet and dry areas. Dashed red lines indicate the location of bow waves at $t = 4.3$ sec.



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Figure 6 Snapshots of flow condition taken with the high-speed camera for (a and b) perpendicular layouts (gap = 10 cm, 20 cm). Dotted yellow lines indicate the boundary between wet and dry areas. Dashed red lines indicate the location of bow waves at $t = 4.3$ sec.

318 2.3.3. *Velocity field*

319 **Figure 7** shows the spatial distribution of flow velocity averaged over $t = 4.25\text{--}4.50$ s
320 (the time during which the wave front was passing through the target area), obtained
321 through the surface PIV analysis (essentially meaning that the values correspond to the
322 velocity of the water surface). The flow velocity was normalized over the value recorded
323 in the absence of any buildings.

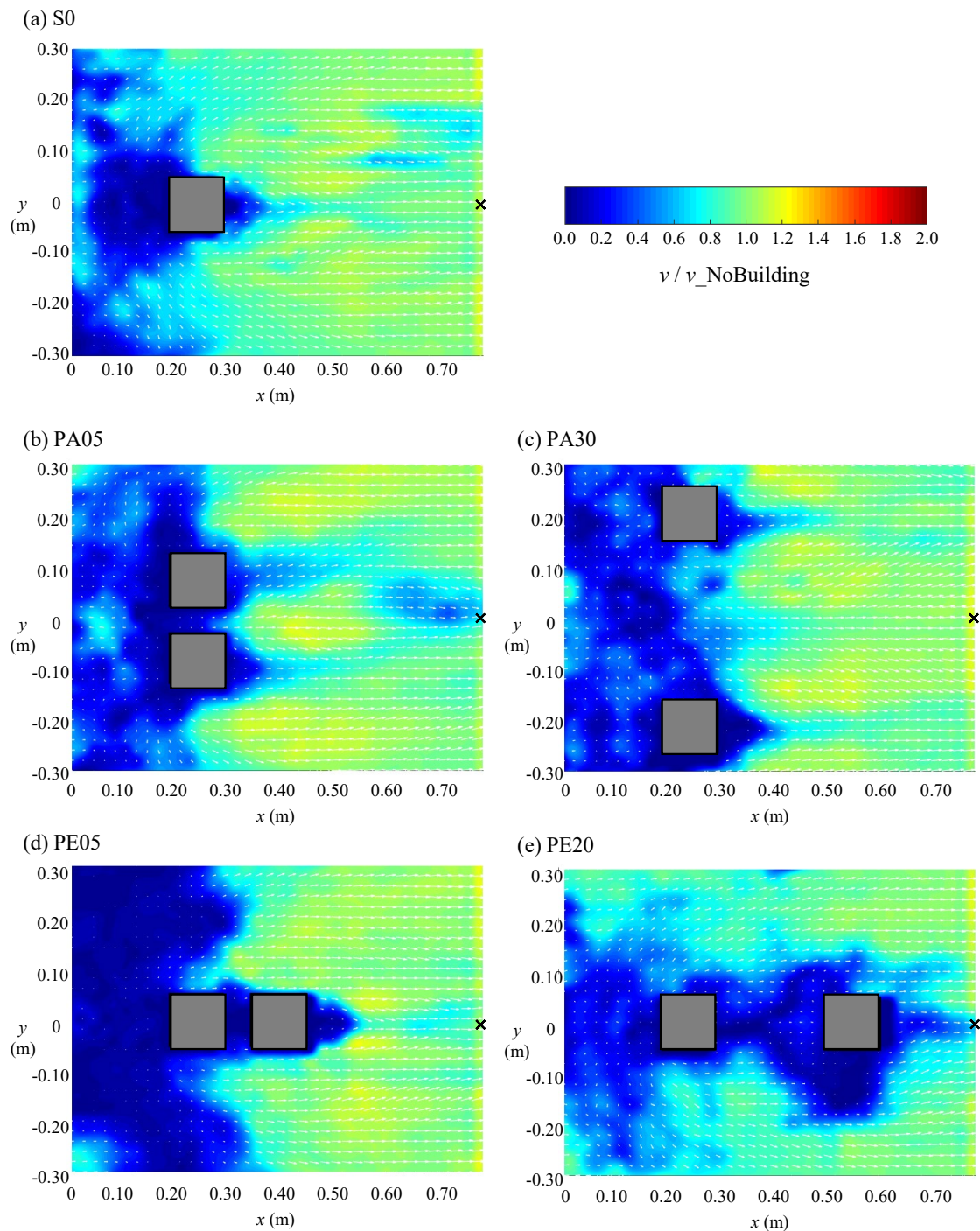
324 In all cases, the flow velocity in the area around $x = 0.0 - 0.20$ m decreased
325 significantly. Although the width of the building is only 0.10 m, the low-velocity zone is
326 wider than it. In the S0 and PE05 cases, over 40% lower velocities were observed from y
327 $= -0.15$ m to $y = 0.15$ m (at $x = 0.0 - 0.20$ m), which corresponds to three times the width
328 of the building. In the leeward side of the building, areas with significantly lower velocity
329 were also found. In the single case, the flow velocities at $x = 0.30 - 0.40$ m and $y = 0.0$ m
330 decreased by more than 70% compared to those recorded without the building (see **Figure**
331 **7a**).

332 In the parallel layout, the velocity in front of and behind the buildings decreased,
333 but that behind the gap increased by about 10-30% ($x = 0.40 - 0.80$ m). Despite the flow
334 contraction, the velocity between the buildings ($x = 0.20 - 0.30$ m) was less than that in
335 the case without the buildings. This is probably due to the increased depth of flow and
336 the fact that PIV only measures the velocity at the surface (and that near the bottom of
337 the channel could have been higher).

338 Focusing on the perpendicular layout, the authors found that for the PE20 layout
339 the lower velocity areas spread widely in the space between the two buildings (see **Figure**
340 **7e**). Since hydraulic jumps and bow waves occur clearly in the case of PE20, it is
341 considered that such abrupt changes in the flow greatly affect the flow conditions around
342 the space between the two buildings. In contrast, around the seaward building in the PE05
343 layout, the flow velocity was shown to drop more significantly (see the area where $x =$
344 $0.20 - 0.35$ m).

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349 **Figure 7** Normalized velocity field obtained from the surface PIV analysis for (a) single
 350 layout, (b and c) parallel layouts (gap = 5, 30 cm), and (d and e) perpendicular layouts
 351 (gap = 5, 20 cm). The values were normalized to the value recorded for the case without
 352 buildings and corresponds to the average value between $t = 4.25$ s and $t = 4.5$ s. The black
 353 cross in each image indicates the reference point.

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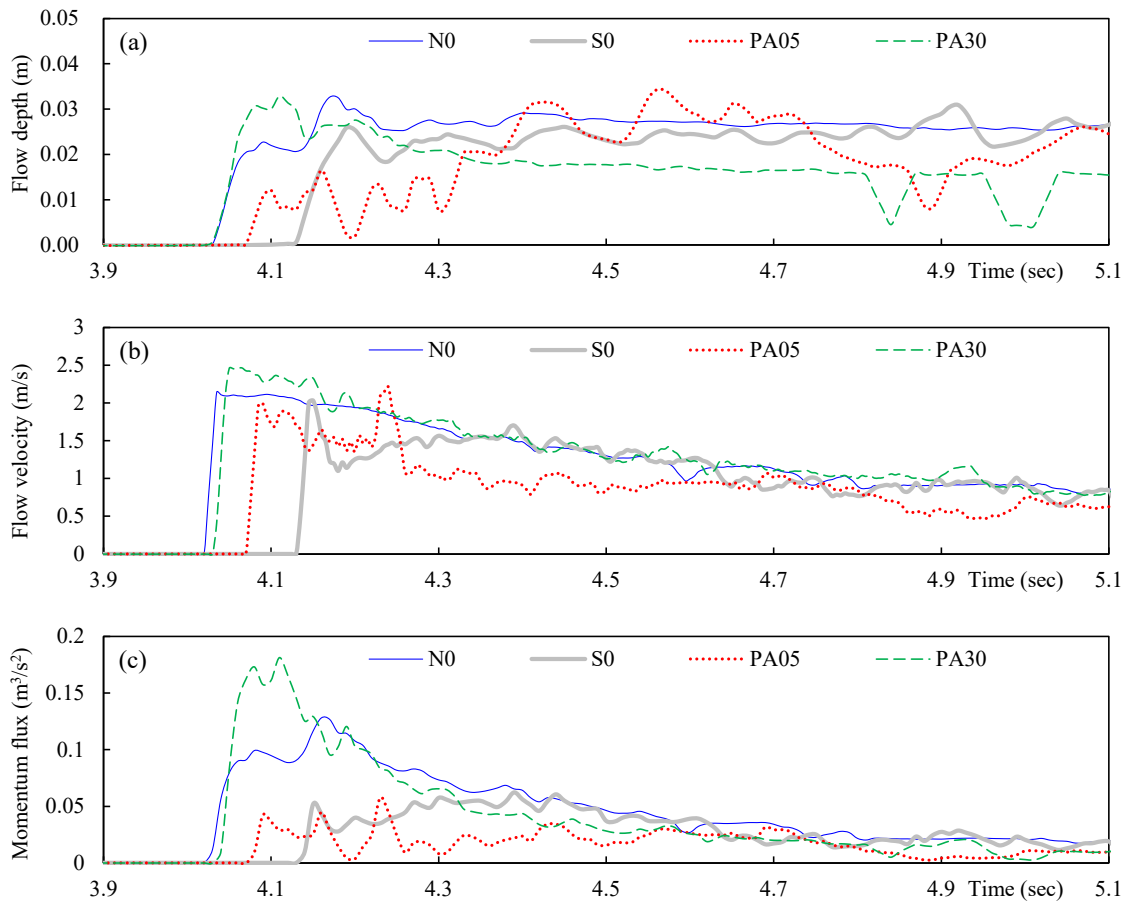
355 2.3.4. Time history of flow depth, velocity, momentum flux at the reference point

356 **Figure 8** shows the time history of flow depth, surface water velocity, and momentum
357 flux at the reference point ($x = 0.8$ m, $y = 0.0$ m, see **Figure 7** for the location of this
358 point) for the case with no buildings and a single building with a parallel layout gap of
359 0.05 m and 0.30 m. The momentum flux M_x in the flow direction is calculated by the
360 following equation:

$$M_x = hv_x^2 \quad (1)$$

361 where h is the flow depth recorded by WG6, and v_x is the surface water velocity obtained
362 from the PIV analysis at the same position of WG6 (in the x -direction). As explained
363 earlier, in the case without buildings, while the flow depth value remained relatively
364 constant, the velocity gradually decreased after the arrival of the wave. The maximum
365 value of M_x appeared around $t = 4.2$ s, which corresponds to the time when the flow depth
366 was maximum. In the S0 case, the incident wave reached the reference point at about $t =$
367 4.1 s. A relatively low M_x was recorded up until $t = 4.3$ s, since both the flow depth and
368 velocity were smaller than when no building was present. In the PA05, the incident wave
369 reached this point slightly earlier than for the S0, but the flow depth took longer to
370 increase. As in this case the gap between the buildings is small, the incoming water mass
371 cannot easily enter the space, leading to a slower increase in the flow depth behind the
372 gap. Therefore, a relatively high surface water velocity was recorded with the arrival of
373 the incident wave, but M_x remained low due to the small flow depth. In the PA30, the
374 incoming wave was concentrated behind the gap, and thus the flow depth increased faster
375 than in other cases. As both flow depth and velocity were maximized almost
376 simultaneously, the maximum M_x was approximately 1.5 times that of the scenario
377 without buildings.

378

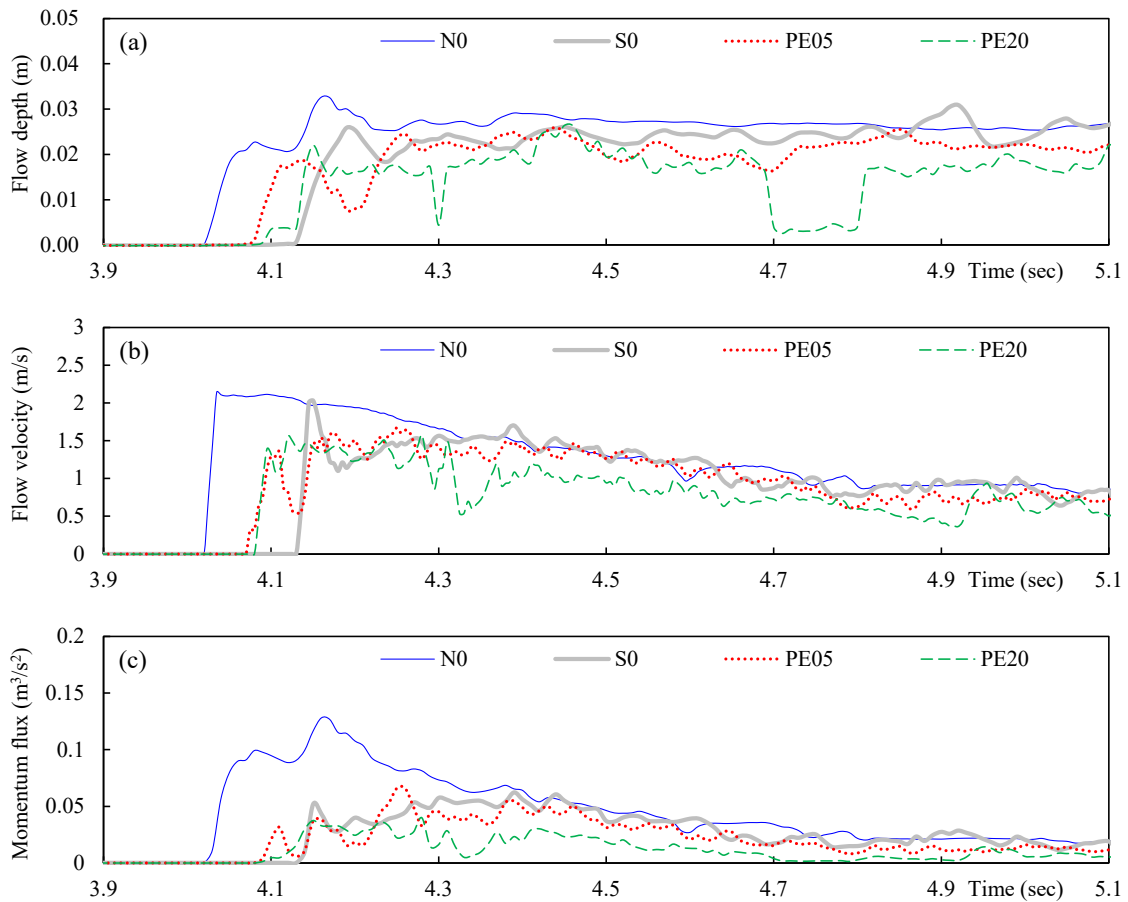


379

380 **Figure 8** Time series plots of the experiment at the reference point for the no building,
 381 single, and parallel layouts: (a) flow depth, (b) surface water velocity, and (c) momentum
 382 flux. The blue line represents the case with no building, the thick grey line represents the
 383 single layout, the dotted red line represents a parallel layout with a gap = 0.05 m, and the
 384 dashed green line represents the parallel layout with a gap = 0.30 m.
 385

386 **Figure 9** shows the time history of flow depth, surface water velocity, and
 387 momentum flux at the reference point for the cases without buildings, a single building,
 388 and perpendicular layout with gaps of 0.05 m and 0.20 m. In general, the time history for
 389 PE05 and PE20 is similar to the time history for the single layout. However, after $t = 4.3$
 390 s, the surface water velocity and M_x for PE20 became smaller than the others due to the
 391 shielding effect.

392



393

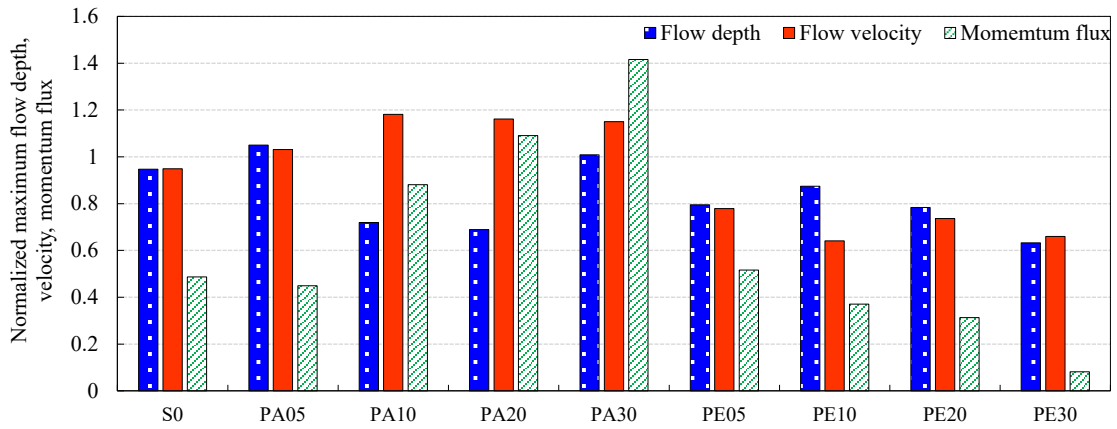
394 **Figure 9** Time series plots of the experiment at the reference point for the no building,
 395 single and parallel layout cases; (a) flow depth, (b) surface water velocity and (c)
 396 momentum flux. The blue line represents the case with no buildings present, the grey
 397 thick line represents the single layout, the red dot line represents the perpendicular layout
 398 with a gap = 0.05 m and the green dash line represents the perpendicular layout with a
 399 gap = 0.20 m.

400

401 **Figure 10** shows the maximum values of flow depth, velocity, and M_x recorded
 402 at the same reference point at the initial stage of the tsunami inundation (until $t = 5.1$ s).
 403 Again, the authors normalized the values to those recorded in the absence of buildings.
 404 In the single and perpendicular layouts, all values were smaller than in the case without
 405 building. In contrast, in the parallel layout, although the maximum surface water velocity
 406 was always slightly higher, the maximum flow depths of PA10 and PA20 were lower.
 407 There are clearer trends in the maximum momentum fluxes that depend on the size of the
 408 gap. For perpendicular layouts, as the gap size is larger, the maximum M_x became smaller.
 409 However, for the parallel layouts a higher maximum M_x was recorded as the gap size
 410 increased. The maximum M_x for PA05 was almost 40% smaller than for the case without
 411 buildings, but it was higher for PA30 by about 140%. This suggests that tsunami loads

412 on a building behind a gap created by two buildings could be significantly affected by the
 413 size of this opening.

414



415

416 **Figure 10** Maximum flow depth, velocity, and momentum flux recorded at the reference
 417 point during the initial stage of the tsunami inundation (until $t = 5.1$ s). The values were
 418 normalized to those recorded for the case without buildings.

419

420 3. Numerical Analysis

421 3.1. OpenFOAM

422 The experimental results show that the arrangement of buildings would significantly
 423 influence the flow features around and behind them. To deepen the understanding of the
 424 flow characteristics, the authors performed numerical simulations that focused on the
 425 shadowed area behind the buildings.

426 OpenFOAM (Open source Fields Operation and Manipulation, version 2.4.0) was
 427 used for the present numerical analysis. From the various solvers available in
 428 OpenFOAM, the authors chose the solver referred to as “interFoam”, which can simulate
 429 a two-phase flow separated by a free surface. A number of existing studies have utilized
 430 the solver and reported to have had succeeded in reproducing a tsunami-like wave
 431 recorded in laboratory experiments (e.g. Douglas et al., 2015; Oda et al., 2014; Iimura et
 432 al., 2020; Sarjamee et al., 2014). The governing equations used in the interFoam solver
 433 are the continuity equation (Eq.1) and the Navier-Stokes equation for incompressible
 434 flows (Eq.2).

435

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{U} = 0 \quad (1)$$

436
$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{U} \mathbf{U}) = -\nabla p^* + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau} + \rho \mathbf{g} + f_s \quad (2)$$

437 where \mathbf{U} is the velocity vector, ρ is the fluid density, t is the time, p^* is the
 438 pseudodynamic pressure, $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ is the viscous stress tensor, \mathbf{g} is the gravitational acceleration
 439 vector, and f_s is the body force corresponding to the surface tension. In the interFoam
 440 solver these equations are discretized by the finite volume method, and then solved using
 441 the Pressure Implicit with Splitting of Operators (PISO) method (Issa, 1986). The free
 442 surface movement is tracked based on the technique of the Volume of Fluid (VOF) as
 443 shown in Eq.3 and 4.

444
$$\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{U} \alpha + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{U}_c \alpha (1 - \alpha) = 0 \quad (3)$$

445
$$\rho = \alpha \rho_1 + (1 - \alpha) \rho_2 \quad (4)$$

446 where \mathbf{U}_c is defined as the compression velocity to control the excessive diffusion of the
 447 interface, α is the phase fraction indicating the proportion of a grid cell filled with fluid
 448 (i.e., α is equal to 1 when the cell is completely filled with water, and 0 when completely
 449 filled with air), and ρ_1 and ρ_2 are the density of water and air, respectively.

450

451 **3.2. Numerical Conditions**

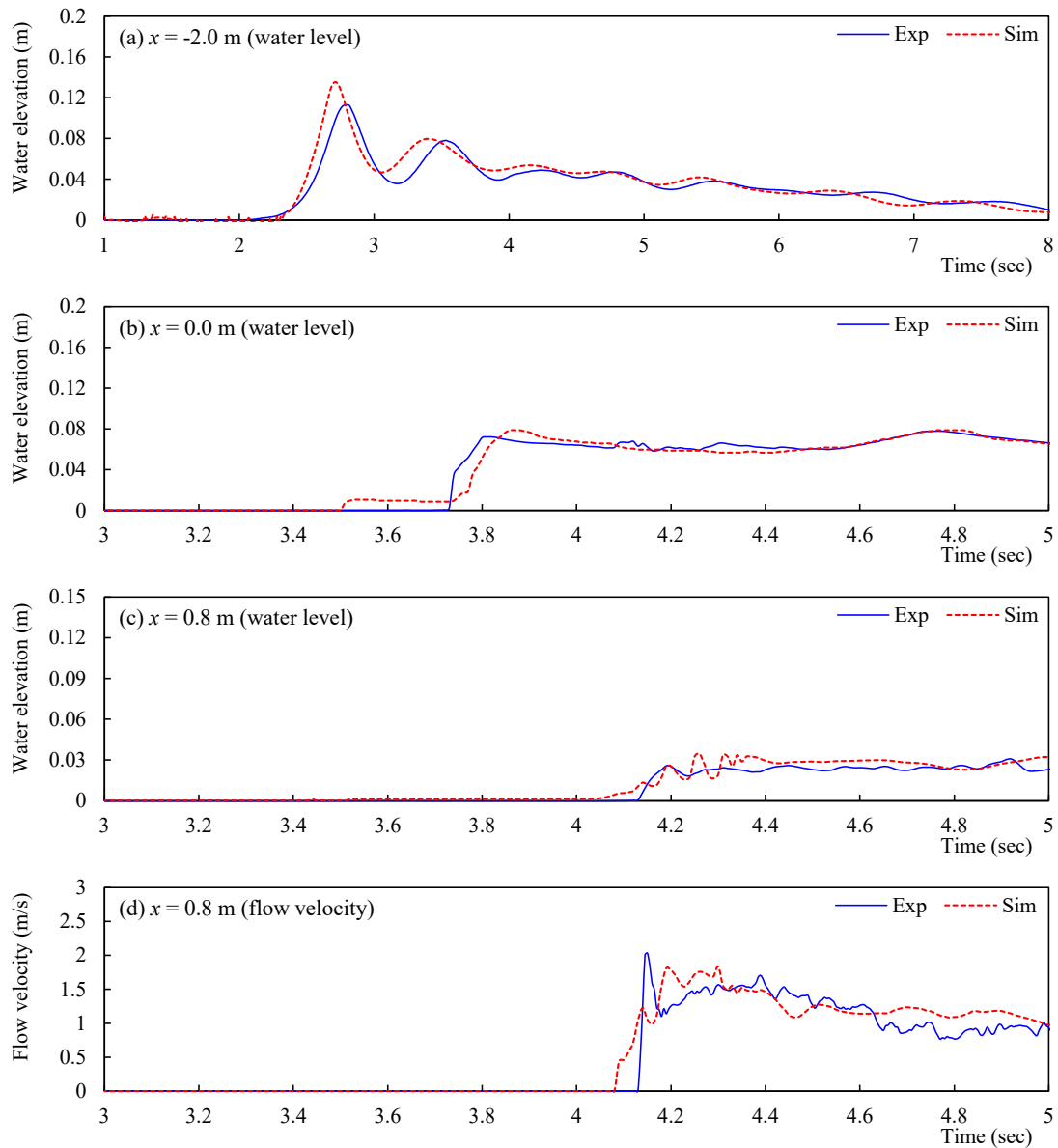
452 The computational domain used for the simulation is enclosed by the dashed rectangle
 453 shown in **Figure 1**. Mesh cell sizes are 0.05-0.0125 m in the x -direction, 0.05–0.025 m
 454 in the y -direction, and 0.05–0.00625 m in the z -direction. Finer mesh sizes were used near
 455 the landward area and building models.

456 The time histories of water surface elevation (recorded by WG2, as shown in
 457 **Figure 1**) and velocities in x direction (recorded at 0.10 m and 0.05 m from the bottom
 458 of the wave basin by ECM1 and ECM2, respectively) were inputted into the offshore
 459 boundary ($x = -4.0$ m) to reproduce the incident tsunami wave. The offshore boundary
 460 and upper boundary (located at $z = 0.80$ m) were treated as ‘patch’, which contains no
 461 geometric or topological information and is suitable for inlet and outlet faces. The bottom
 462 of the wave basin, landward area, and the surface of building models were treated as
 463 ‘wall’, and the velocity there was fixed as zero (no slip condition).

464 It is important to include a turbulence model to precisely simulate the complex
465 fluid interactions. In the present study, among the various turbulence models
466 implemented in OpenFOAM, the Spalart-Allmaras DDES (Delayed Detached Eddy
467 Simulation) model was selected. The Spalart-Allmaras DDES is based on the technique
468 of DES (Detached Eddy Simulation), in which both RANS (Reynolds Averaged Navier-
469 Stokes) and LES (Large Eddy Simulation) methods are combined (more specifically, the
470 flow near the wall is modelled by the RANS method, while the turbulence far from it is
471 calculated by LES method) (see Squires, 2004 for further explanation). Iimura et al.
472 (2020) reported that the Spalart-Allmaras DDES model is able to successfully reproduce
473 a tsunami-like wave inundating over the land area of this experimental basin.

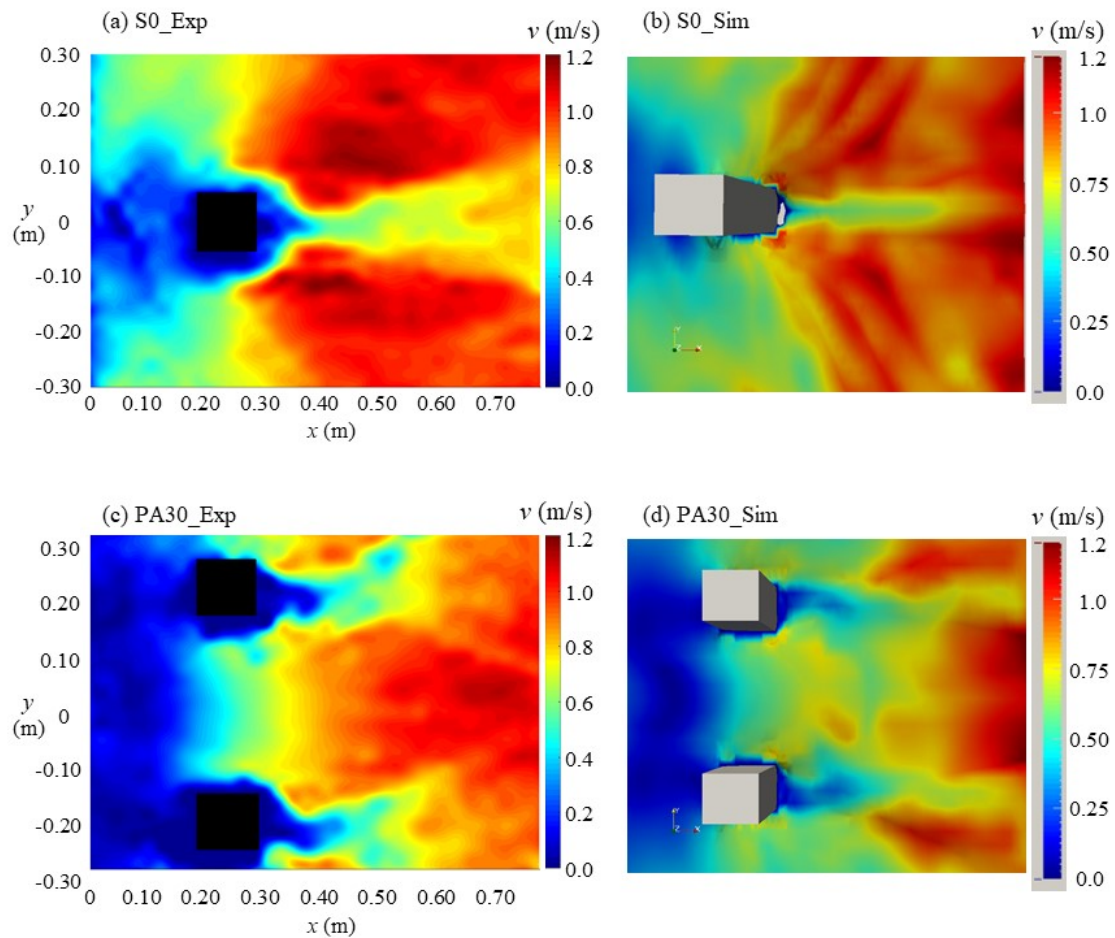
474 *3.3. Validation of the numerical simulation*

475 The authors first validated OpenFOAM to confirm that it can accurately replicate the
476 experiments conducted. **Figure 11** compares the time history of simulated and
477 experimental water surface elevation at offshore points, flow depth, and velocity at the
478 reference point for the single layout case. Despite some minor inconsistencies, the
479 OpenFOAM results are generally in good agreement with the experimental results.
480 **Figure 12** shows the velocity distribution recorded at $t = 4.25$ s for the S0 and PA30,
481 indicating that both high and low velocities were also well reproduced by the OpenFOAM
482 simulations.



483

484 **Figure 11** Comparison of simulated and experimental time histories for S0 case: (a) water
 485 surface elevation at $x = -4.0$ m, (b) water surface elevation at $x = 0.0$ m, (c) water surface
 486 elevation at $x = 0.8$ m, and (d) surface water velocity at $x = 0.8$ m.
 487



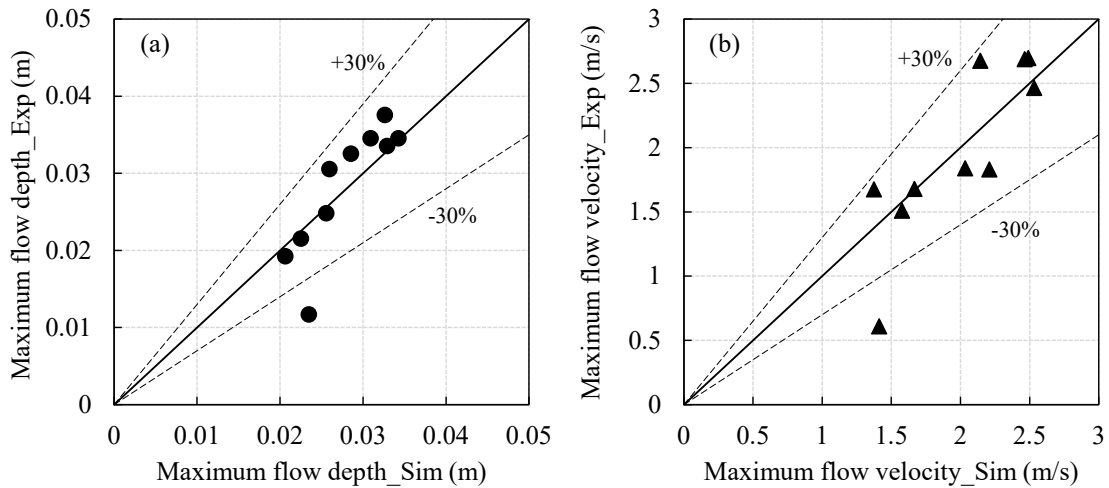
488

489 **Figure 12** Comparison of simulated and experimental velocity distribution recorded at t
 490 $= 4.25$ s. For S0: (a) experiment and (b) simulation, and for PA30: (c) experiment and (d)
 491 simulation.

492

493 **Figure 13** compares the maximum flow depth and surface water velocity at the
 494 reference point, showing a good agreement between the experiments and the OpenFOAM
 495 simulations (differences between them were within 30%, except for PA030).

496



497

498 **Figure 13.** Comparison between simulated and experimental maximum values. (a) Flow
 499 depth, (b) surface water velocity.

500

501 **3.4. Flow characteristics in the leeward area of the buildings**

502 **Figures 14 and 15** show maximum flow depths and cross-sectional averaged velocities
 503 (x -direction) simulated along the centreline of the building during the passage of the wave
 504 (for parallel layouts, the maximum values of the two buildings were averaged). In both
 505 figures, the position of the building is indicated by thick grey lines. For comparison, the
 506 results of the case without buildings are also shown.

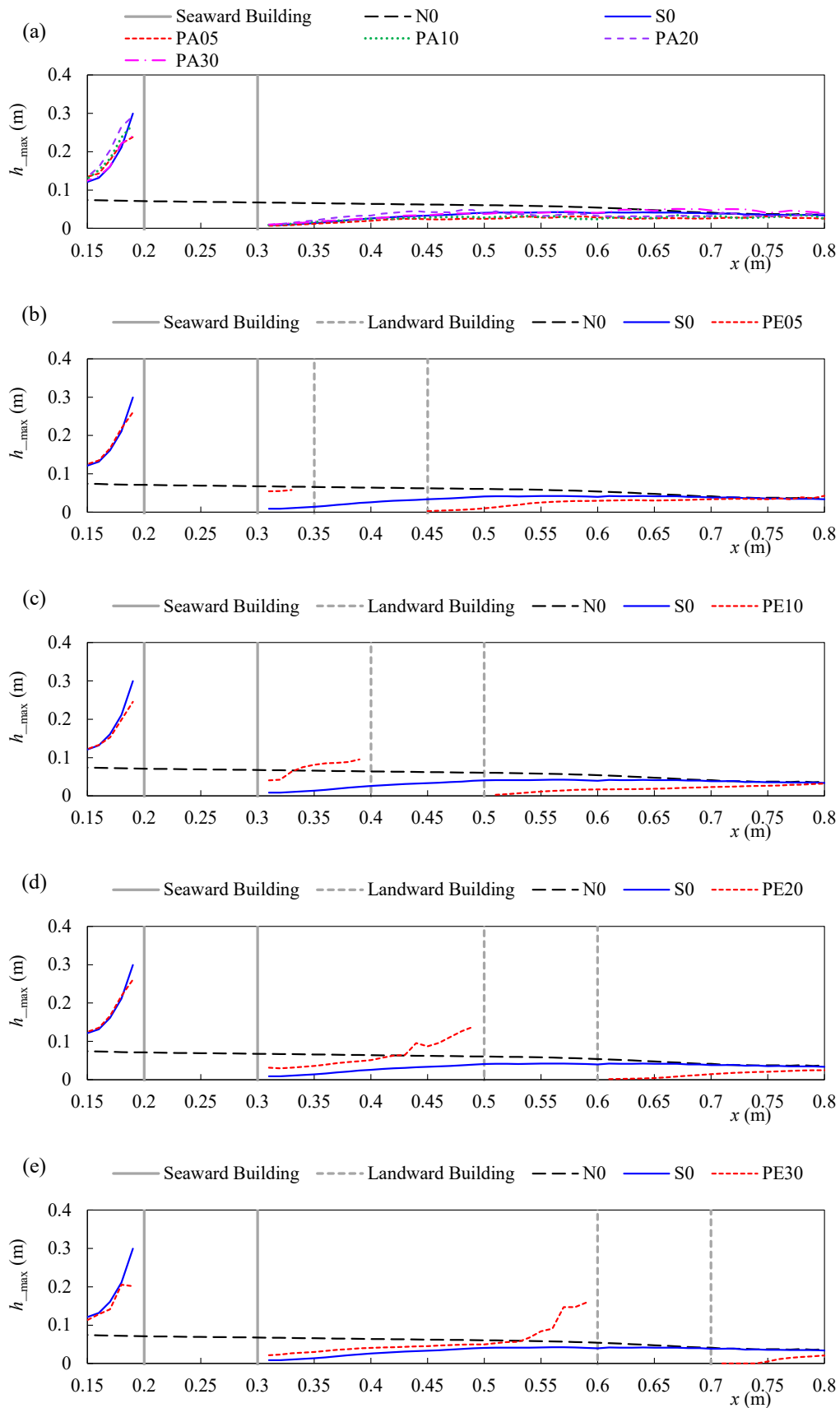
507 In the S0, the flow depth in front of the building rose to about three times that
 508 without a building. The flow depth was also shown to be significantly lower behind the
 509 building. However, at $x > 0.70$ m the flow depth returned to the same value as that of the
 510 N0 case (**Figure 14**). Near-zero velocity was simulated on the leeside of the building,
 511 which gradually increased with distance. However, the velocity did not reach the level of
 512 that where no building was present (**Figure 14**). In all parallel layouts the flow depth and
 513 velocity became similar to that of the single layout, indicating that the presence of other
 514 neighbouring buildings does not significantly affect the flow field along the centreline of
 515 each building (see **Figure 14a** and **Figure 15a**).

516 Focusing on the results of perpendicular layout, both the flow depth and velocity
 517 behind the landward building were significantly lower than the single layout. Notably, in
 518 the area within about 0.10 m behind the landward building, significantly lower flow
 519 depths and velocities were simulated. Focusing on the space between the seaward and the
 520 landward buildings, the flow depth became deeper due to the presence of the landward
 521 building in all cases. In particular, in the case of PE20 and PE30, the flow depths increased

522 rapidly in the immediate vicinity of the landward building, reaching about 50% of the
523 simulated flow depth in front of the seaward building. However, the simulated maximum
524 velocities were small, near zero in the PE05 and PE10 spaces, but approached that of the
525 single layout in the other two cases. The results suggest that the shielding effect becomes
526 more pronounced in the lee side of the building.

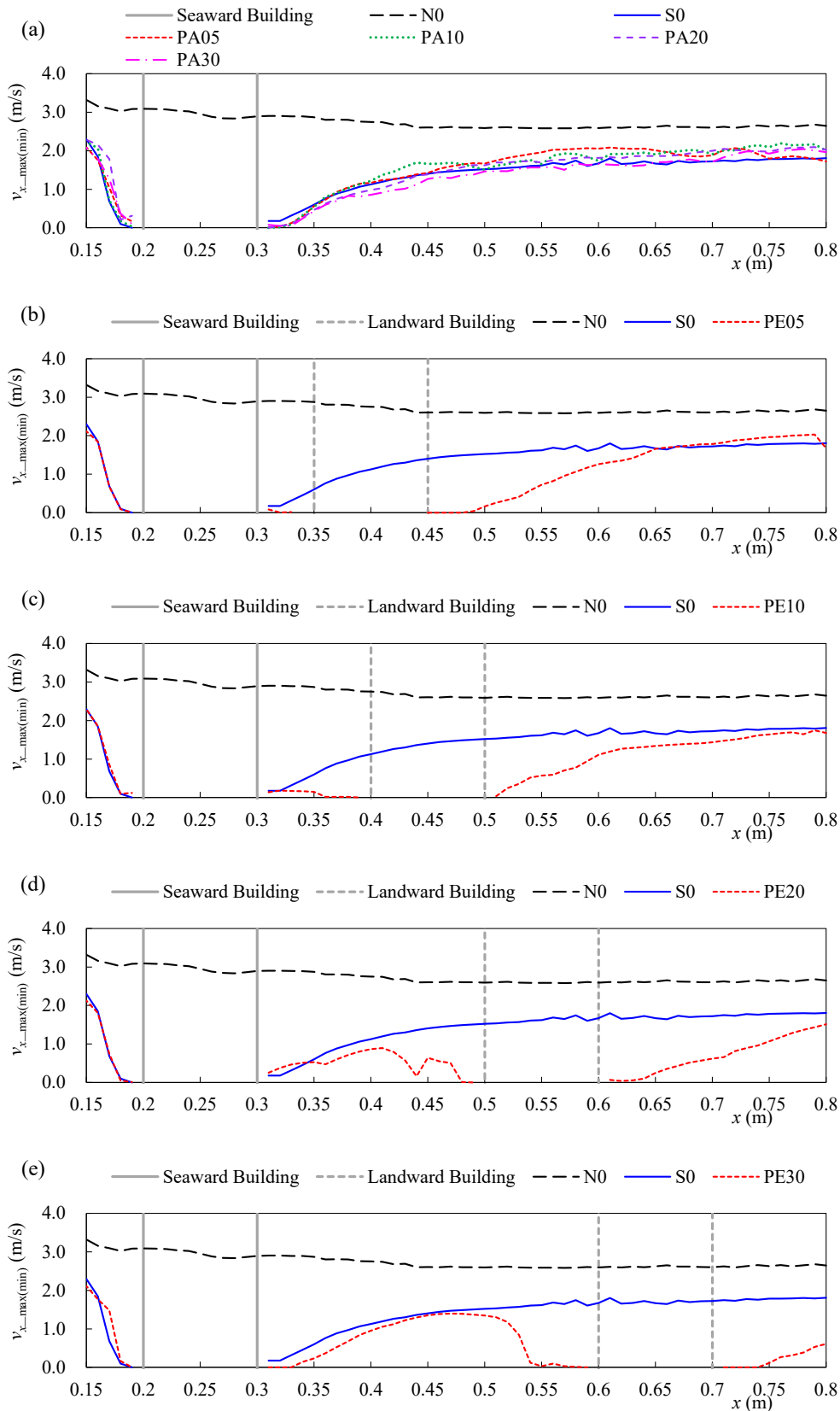
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532

Figure 14 Spatial distribution of maximum flow depth along the centreline of building/s. The results where no buildings are present and single cases are shown against the cases of (a) Parallel, (b) PE05, (c) PE10, (d) PE20, and (e) PE30.



533

534 **Figure 15** Spatial distribution of maximum (or minimum) flow velocity in x direction
 535 along the centerline of building(s). The results of N0 and S0 cases are shown together
 536 with the cases of (a) Parallel, (b) PE05, (c) PE10, (d) PE20, and (e) PE30.
 537

538 **4. Discussion**

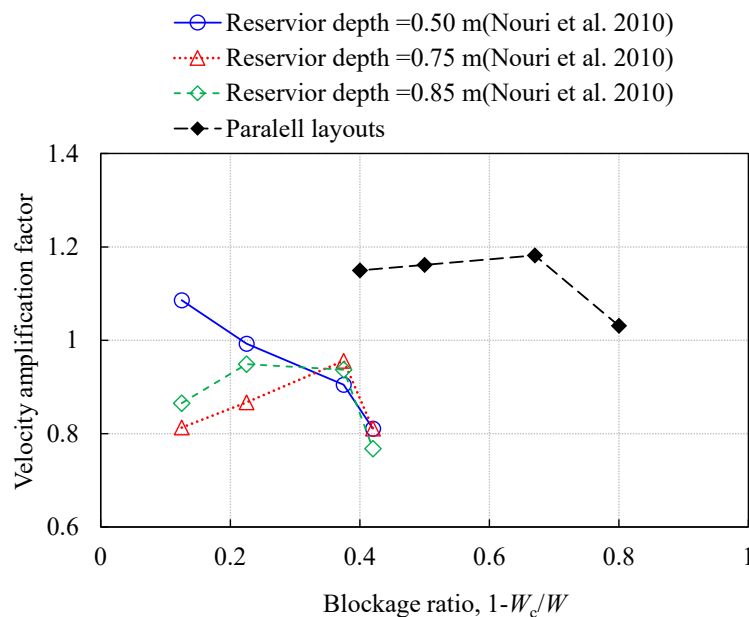
539 Video shots taken with a high-speed camera and subsequent PIV analysis revealed that
540 the flow field of the wave during its passage was significantly changed according to the
541 layout of the buildings. Notably, the PIV analysis revealed that the flow velocity
542 decreased by more than 40% over a relatively large area (at least three times wider than
543 the building width for the single and perpendicular layout cases) in front of the
544 building(s), regardless of the building layout. Several researchers have investigated the
545 effects of seaward obstacles on building situated behind them (Nouri et al. 2010; Weller
546 et al. 2020). In that sense, it is interesting for future research to focus on the impacts of
547 landward obstacles on buildings situated in front of them. As shown in this study, the
548 flow field changed significantly in front of the buildings. Thus the direction of the
549 overturning moment acting on the buildings situated in front of the landward obstacles
550 and local pressures exerted on its structural elements would be changed.

551 Experimental results showed that all flow depths, velocities, and momentum
552 fluxes at a given point are also sensitive to the layout of the buildings. No wave loadings
553 on any of the structures were recorded in this experiment, but the results of momentum
554 flux suggest that these should be significantly affected as well. While conducting a direct
555 comparison is difficult, it would be meaningful to investigate the results obtained for the
556 maximum momentum flux in light of the latest design standards for tsunami loading. The
557 ASCE 7-16 Chapter C6 describes how to calculate the effects of the blockage ratio on a
558 tsunami load. One of the methods, based on Nouri et al. (2010), suggests a force increase
559 ratio with respect to a blockage ratio (BR), defined as $1 - W_c/W$, where W is the channel
560 width, and W_c is the constricted width. Another method, based on Thomas et al. (2015),
561 expresses the force increase ratio using the wake clearance angle β . Both methods indicate
562 that if the gap between the offshore buildings is sufficiently large ($0 < BR < 0.25$, $\beta >$
563 35°), the rate of force increase becomes linearly larger with decreasing the gap (i.e., the
564 channeling effect amplifies the force). In contrast, if the gap is relatively small ($BR >$
565 0.25 , $\beta < 20^\circ$), it decreases linearly as the gap decreases (i.e., the flow is redirected due
566 to the small gap, instead of concentrating through it). The blockage rate and wake
567 clearance angles in the present experiments are $BR=0.80$, $\beta=2.4^\circ$ (PA05),
568 $BR=0.67$, $\beta=4.8^\circ$ (PA10), $BR=0.50$, $\beta=9.5^\circ$ (PA20), and $BR=0.40$, $\beta=14.0^\circ$ (PA30).
569 This means that the current experiments were all conducted in the relatively small gap
570 region, with the results agreeing well with those of Thomas et al. (2016), as the

571 normalized maximum flux also decreases linearly as the gap decreases. Therefore, the
572 present works support to some extent the validity of the methods proposed in ASCE 7-
573 16.

574 The obtained flow velocity at the reference point can also be compared with the
575 results in Nouri et al. (2010). The results of these authors' velocity amplification ratio,
576 defined as the ratio of maximum flow velocity in a given case to that where no obstacle
577 is present is shown in **Figure 16**, along with the current experimental results. The ratios
578 of BR=0.375 and BR=0.425 in Nouri et al. (2010) are always smaller than 1.0, but the
579 current results are about 1.2 even for higher BR values. Current experiments were
580 performed in a 3D basin, so the incoming wave was not influenced by the sidewalls of
581 the channel. Thus, the fact that this ratio does not decrease even when BR increases
582 suggests that 2D experiments probably underestimate the velocity amplification factors,
583 highlighting the importance of performing such experiments in a 3D basin. As velocity
584 amplification factor would also depend on the F_r , it is meaningful to investigate such
585 effects.

586



587

588 **Figure 16** Comparison of velocity amplification factor between Nouri et al. (2010) and
589 the current experiments. In Nouri et al. (2010), the depth in the reservoir was changed to
590 generate different tsunami heights.

591

592 Both experimental and simulation results showed that areas where the flow depth
593 and velocity were significantly reduced appeared within 0.10 m (equivalent to the width

594 of the building) from the leeside of the building. This finding can be used in the design
595 of evacuation buildings, which could be placed right behind a sturdy structure (ideally
596 built with reinforced concrete) to lower their costs and/or make them safer (by receiving
597 lower tsunami loads). The importance of increasing the number of available evacuation
598 buildings has been reported elsewhere in literature (Takabatake et al. 2020b-d; Jiang and
599 Muraio 2017). Especially, if a coastal area is a well-known sightseeing destination or a
600 popular beach, the number of evacuees would likely exceed the total capacity of
601 evacuation buildings during summer periods (Takabatake et al. 2017, 2018), emphasizing
602 the need to increase the number of available evacuation buildings.

603 Despite the findings above further research is clearly needed on this topic,
604 considering many of the limitations of this study. Basically, the effect of the building
605 layout on tsunami run-up flow can depend on the shape of the generated wave (such as
606 nonbreaking and breaking; only breaking waves were used in this study) and building
607 shape (such as size and angle with regards to the flow direction). The hydrodynamic
608 forcing condition used in this study was an elongated solitary wave. Solitary waves have
609 been used in several studies investigating wave forces on structures, debris transport, and
610 wave propagation. The issues with the wave duration (Madsen et al., 2008) are well-
611 known, though recent studies into impulse waves generated from landslides and ice
612 calving (Heller et al., 2019) have similar properties to solitary waves. Additionally,
613 throughout the results, the present study is compared with different wave conditions
614 including a broken and unbroken error function wave (Winter et al., 2020) and dam-break
615 wave (Nouri et al., 2010). Baldock et al. (2012) noted that broken solitary waves over a
616 horizontal slope can be approximately modelled using a dam-break wave, though with a
617 significantly reduced period. Considering the limitations of the elongated solitary wave,
618 it can be assumed that these experiments predominantly would model the incipient
619 hydrodynamics of a tsunami wave.

620 Tsunamis having different F_r would also produce different results from the
621 present study. Therefore, it is important to increase the number of experimental cases by
622 changing the shape of the “tsunami wave”, associated with a variety of F_r , and the size
623 and angle of the building models. When performing hydraulic experiments with Froude
624 similitude, maintaining a high Re is known to be important (Goseberg et al., 2015). For
625 instance, based on overtopping experiments, Schüttrumpf (2001) recommended Re to be
626 greater than 10^3 . Although the Re in the present experiment exceeds this value, it does not
627 reach the value of 1.00×10^6 (as shown in **Figure 4**) which would be a typical value for

628 an actual tsunami in the field (Bricker et al., 2015). Thus, the vortices around the buildings
629 may not be adequately modelled in the present experiments. To overcome such scaling
630 effects and reproduce the vortices more correctly, it would be important to perform
631 experiments in a larger scale. Combining these factors with various types of building
632 layouts would help to improve the understanding of the inundation flow that takes place
633 during a tsunami. Furthermore, conducting additional numerical simulations to further
634 clarify the effects of building layouts on the tsunami-run-up flow could prove to be
635 effective, given that the present work has validated the use of OpenFOAM for such
636 studies.

637

638 **5. Conclusions**

639 The purpose of this study was to investigate how different layouts of buildings affect 1)
640 the tsunami inundation process and spatial velocity distribution, 2) the flow depth and
641 velocity at a specific point, and 3) the extent of the area where shielding effects take place.
642 A total of nine different building layouts were investigated, both experimentally and
643 numerically.

644 High-speed video footage and subsequent PIV analysis showed significant
645 differences in the behaviour of the wave run-up flow among different building layouts.
646 However, the PIV analysis also revealed a decrease in the flow velocity in front of and
647 immediately behind the building(s), regardless of their layout. In front of the building(s),
648 the velocity decreased by 40% throughout an area at least three times the width of the
649 building (perpendicular to the direction of wave propagation). This suggests the need to
650 focus more on the effects of landward obstacles on structures situated in front of them. It
651 was also shown that the recorded time history of flow depth, velocity, and momentum
652 flux significantly varies among the different building layouts. The current results with
653 parallel layouts supports the validity of the method for calculating the channeling effects
654 of tsunami loads according to ASCE 7-16. However, since the observed velocity
655 amplification was different from that reported in experiments using 2D flume results
656 (Nouri et al. 2010), additional experiments using 3D wave basins are necessary to further
657 clarify the impacts of building layouts.

658 The present experiments and simulations show that areas where the flow depth
659 and velocity drop significantly appear within 0.10 m (equivalent to the width of the

660 building) from the leese of the building. The findings are especially useful in areas
661 where additional evacuation buildings are needed, as constructing them directly behind
662 another study structure could reduce construction costs and increase their stability.
663 However, it is essential to perform additional experiments and simulations using a variety
664 of incident tsunamis, sizes, and angles of the building. Other aspects, such as coastal
665 structures, accumulated debris, and changes in the channel slope, also need to be
666 considered to support the findings obtained from this study.
667

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672

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