

**SIMULATION OF WIND RESPONSE OF TALL
BUILDINGS USING
COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS –
A CASE STUDY**

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Master of Science Degree in Structural Engineering

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Sri Lanka

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of
Science

Department of Civil Engineering
University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka
APRIL 2021

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ABSTRACT

High-rise buildings with unique architectural features has become popular in Sri Lanka in last few decades. Interaction of wind with buildings with complex geometry leads to a complex building-wind environment. However, all codes of practice and standards are only applicable for buildings with simple geometry and height limitations. Moreover, all wind codes mainly present static based calculation. Generally, the static analysis is suitable only for structures less than 50 m height. Therefore, the actual wind effect is difficult to assess by the wind loading codes, hence recommend using Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) models.

In this research, wind loads and its effects are calculated on a 31-storey high rise building utilizing three different international wind loading codes/standards, namely CP3 CHAPTER V-2:1972, BSEN 1991-4:2005 with SLS EN 1991-1-4:2019, AS/NZ 1170.2:2011 by encountering different factors and methods specified. The estimated forces are compared with each other since the different codes introduced different factors to estimate wind turbulent characteristics. Numerical Simulation has been carried out for the same building using RANS approach (Spalart-Allmaras). Comparison is carried out between the results obtained from simulation and code based calculations. This study has been used to evaluate the applicability / limitations of codes of practice via numerical simulation and identify the more suitable wind loading code. AS/NZS 1170.2:2011 is more suitable to evaluate the wind loads and their effects on tall buildings due to its advanced flow parameters. In addition, S-A turbulent model well performed in evaluating the complex building – wind environment accurately and different flow features such as vortices, wake formations etc. are clearly observed. The advantages of commercially available CFD software on complex fluid -structure problems has been discussed in terms of time, cost and accuracy of results opposed to other methods such as codes of practice and wind tunnel testing.

Specially dedicated to my beloved sister.....

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Table of Contents

ABSTRACT	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Figures.....	x
List of Tables	xiv
List of Abbreviations.....	xv
List of Appendices	xix
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Wind Loading and its Effects on Tall Buildings.....	2
1.2 International Codes of Practice for Wind Loading	4
1.3 CFD in Wind Engineering	5
1.4 Problem Definition.....	6
1.5 Objective	7
1.6 Scope of Work and Expected Outcome	8
1.7 Chapter Organization	8
2. LITERATURE REVIEW ON PREVIOUS STUDIES AND FLUID FLOW AROUND BUILDINGS.....	10
2.1 Previous Studies.....	10
2.1.1 Summary.....	24
2.2 Analysis and Modelling of Fluid Flow around Buildings – Theoretical Framework ..	25
2.2.1 Wind loading on tall buildings	27
2.2.2 Velocity components of a wind flow.....	29
2.2.3 Building performances and the optimal structure design under the wind action..	33
2.2.4 Estimating wind loads using codes of practice.....	34
2.2.4.1 Static and dynamic analysis.....	34
2.2.4.2 CP3 Chapter V-2:1972	35
2.2.4.3 Euro Code – BSEN 1991-1-4:2005 and NA SLS EN 1991-1-4:2019.....	36
2.2.4.4 Australian Code – AS/NZS 1170.2:2011	38
2.2.5 CFD in wind engineering	39

2.2.5.1 Averaged Navier Stoke’s equations (RANS)	40
2.2.5.2 Turbulence models	41
2.2.5.3 Spalart –Allmaras (S-A) turbulence model	43
2.2.6 FSI – Coupling type – fluid and solid.....	45
2.2.7 Summary of analysis and modelling.....	47
3. ESTIMATION OF STATIC BASED WIND FORCES.....	49
3.1 Case Study - 31 Storey Apartment Building Located in Colombo Suburb	50
3.2 Wind Zones in Sri Lanka	52
3.3 Estimation of Wind Forces for Tall Building by Codes of Practice	53
3.3.1 Estimation of wind forces for tall building by CP3: Chapter V-2:1972.....	53
3.3.1.1 Design wind speed.....	54
3.3.1.2 Dynamic pressure (q).....	55
3.3.2 Estimation of wind forces for tall building by BS-EN1991-1-4:2005.....	57
3.3.2.1 Fundamental value of basic wind velocity	58
3.3.2.2 Basic velocity pressure and peak velocity pressure.....	61
3.3.3 Estimation of wind forces for tall building by AS/NZS 1170.2:2011	64
3.3.3.1 Site wind speed.....	65
3.3.3.2 Design frictional drag force per unit area	67
3.4 Summary	71
4. SIMULATION OF WIND RESPONSE USING COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS (CFD).....	72
4.1 Testing Against a Known Case Study.....	72
4.1.1 Results comparison.....	75
4.2 Wind Simulation for 102 m Height Building.....	77
4.3 Selection of Size of Fluid Domain (for undisturbed flow)	79
4.4 Material and Section Properties	81
4.5 Meshing & Element Choices	82
4.5.1 Fluid.....	82
4.5.2 First grid cell height.....	83
4.5.3 Grid discretization	85
4.5.4 Mesh validation	87

4.5.5 Structural model	89
4.6 Boundary Conditions	90
4.6.1 Fluid.....	90
4.6.2 Structure	91
4.7 Selection of Wind Profile.....	92
4.8 Comparison between the Actual Wind Profile (Based on Power Law or Logarithmic) and Manually Calculated Wind Profile.....	96
4.9 Turbulence Models	100
4.9.1 Spalart –Allmaras (S-A)	100
4.10 Coupling Type – Fluid and Solid.....	101
4.11 Summary	103
5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	104
5.1 Parametric Study between Wind Profiles by Codes of Practice	104
5.2 Comparison of Along Wind Pressure Estimated on 31 Storey Apartment Building with Codes of Practice	112
5.3 Wind Flow Patterns around the Building.....	118
5.4 Wind Loads on the Building.....	120
5.4.1 Wind loads on the structure - 0 ⁰ wind direction (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011).....	120
5.4.2 Wind loads on the structure - 90 ⁰ wind direction (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011).....	122
5.5 Building Performance under Wind Action (wind-induced vibration)	124
5.5.1 Displacement of the structure - 0 ⁰ wind direction (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011).....	124
5.5.2 Displacement along the Structure Height -Tower 1	126
5.5.3 Displacement of the structure- 90 ⁰ wind direction (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011).....	126
5.5.4 Displacement along the structure height - Tower 1	128
5.6 Comparison of Along Wind Pressure Results.....	130
5.7 Velocity Field Development around the Building (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011).....	144
5.8 Pressure Field Development around the Building (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011).....	145
5.9 Summary	147
6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	148
6.1 Conclusions.....	148

6.2 Recommendations for Future Works	151
REFERENCES	152

Appendix A: Wind load calculation for 31 storey building according to
CP3 CHAPTERV-2:1972

Appendix B: Wind load calculation for 31 storey building according to
BSEN1991-1-4:2005

Appendix C: Wind load calculation for 31 storey building according to
AS/NZS 1170.2-2011

Appendix D: Advanced parameters used for the numerical modelling

List of Figures

Figure 1.1 Wind flow movement over a structure	2
Figure 1.2 Stream lines of a flow over a building model (Mendis, et al., 2007).....	3
Figure 1.3 Component of tall building response to wind excitation (Gerges & Benuska, 2013)	3
Figure 2.1 Schematic representation of wind flow pattern around the high-rise building (Bernek & Kotten, 1979).....	29
Figure 2.2 Schematic representation of the mean atmospheric boundary layer flow around an isolated sharp-edged building (Blocken, et al., 2011)	29
Figure 2.3 Mean wind profile for four different terrain categories (Mendis, et al., 2007)	31
Figure 2.4 Solution algorithm for strong two-way coupling (Benra, et al., 2011)	47
Figure 3.1 Plan view of the building (a) from ground to 6 th floor (b) 6 th - 30 th floor)	50
Figure 3.2 (a) 3-D view (b) floor levels of the building (wind force calculated)	51
Figure 3.3 (a) 0 ^o wind direction and (b) 90 ^o wind direction to the structure.....	51
Figure 3.4 Wind zone map in Sri Lanka (Design Manual “Design building for high winds”, 1978).....	52
Figure 3.5 Steps of wind force calculation for CP3: Chapter V-2:1972.....	53
Figure 3.6 Steps of wind force calculation for BS-EN1991-1-4:2005 with SLS EN 1991-1-4:2019.....	57
Figure 3.7 Terrain Categories	59
Figure 3.8 Influence of high-rise building by neighbouring structures	60
Figure 3.9 Obstruction height and upwind spacing	61
Figure 3.10 Shape of velocity profile.....	62
Figure 3.11 Steps of wind force calculation for AS/NZS 1170.2:2011	64
Figure 3.12 Terrain category definition	66
Figure 3.13 Level at which action effects - s	67
Figure 4.1 Fluid domain	74
Figure 4.2 Structure domain	74

Figure 4.3(a) Fluid domain 3D - 8 node hexahedral elements, FC3D8 (b) Structure domain 3D - 8 node hexahedra elements -C3D8 R	75
Figure 4.4 Wind pressure on the building	76
Figure 4.5 Comparison of numerical simulation with Wind Tunnel Test Results	76
Figure 4.6(a) Plan view (0- 6 th Floor) (b) Plan view (6 th -31 st Floor) (c) 3-D view	78
Figure 4.7 Size of the fluid domain	80
Figure 4.8 ABAQUS /CFD model- Fluid domain.....	80
Figure 4.9 ABAQUS /CFD model- Mesh of the fluid domain	82
Figure 4.10 y+ definition (Turbulence Part 2 - Wall Functions and y+ Requirements, 2012)	83
Figure 4.11 Turbulent boundary layers (ANSYS-Turbulence Modeling-Introduction to ANSYS Fluent, 2014).	84
Figure 4.12 Four zone in fluid domain – Grid discretization.....	85
Figure 4.13 Grid discretization of the fluid domain – ABAQUS /CFD	86
Figure 4.14 CFD Mesh (a) Coarse -239095 elements (b) Medium -455737 elements (c) Fine - 602307elements.....	87
Figure 4.15 Wind pressure variation with the three different mesh qualities	88
Figure 4.16 Meshed structure – ABAQUS /Standard.....	89
Figure 4.17 Boundary condition -ABAQUS /CFD.....	91
Figure 4.18 Constrains of structure- ABAQUS /Standard.....	91
Figure 4.19 Inflow velocity profile according to three wind codes.....	96
Figure 4.20 Inflow velocity profile graph as per CP3 Chapter V-2:1972.....	97
Figure 4.21 Inflow velocity profile graph as per BS-EN1991-1-4:2005	98
Figure 4.22 Inflow velocity profile graph as per AS/NZS 1170.2:2011.....	99
Figure 4.23 S-A turbulent ABAQUS /CFD	101
Figure 4.24 (a) Co- boundary in fluid domain (b) Co- boundary in structure domain	102
Figure 5.1 (a) Wind directions (b) 3-D view.....	112
Figure 5.2 Along wind pressure variation on windward face-Tower-1	113
Figure 5.3 Along wind pressure variation on Leeward face-Tower1	113

Figure 5.4 Along wind pressure variation on side face-Tower1	114
Figure 5.5 Along wind pressure variation on windward face –Tower1.....	116
Figure 5.6 Along wind pressure variation on Leeward face –Tower1.....	116
Figure 5.7 Along wind pressure variation on side face –Tower1.....	117
Figure 5.8 Velocity field around the building – V1.....	119
Figure 5.9 Different wind flow pattern around the building	119
Figure 5.10 Vorticity (vorticity 3) around the building	119
Figure 5.11 Force measured nodes –Tower 1 and 2	120
Figure 5.12 Along wind (TF1) and crosswind force (TF3)-Tower 1 –Lower part..	121
Figure 5.13 Along wind (TF1) and crosswind (TF3) force -Tower 2 –Lower part..	121
Figure 5.14 Along wind (TF1) and crosswind (TF3) force – Tower 1 and 2 –Upper part	121
Figure 5.15 Force measured nodes –Tower 1 & Tower 2.....	122
Figure 5.16 Along wind (TF1) and crosswind (TF3) force -Tower 1 –Lower part..	122
Figure 5.17 Along wind (TF1) and crosswind (TF3) force –Tower 2- Lower part..	123
Figure 5.18 Along wind (TF1) and crosswind (TF3) force – Tower 1 and 2 –Upper part	123
Figure 5.19 Displacement measured nodes & building configuration.....	124
Figure 5.20 Displacement graph for U1 (X dir ⁿ) and U3 (Z dir ⁿ) (units – m , sec)	124
Figure 5.21 Displacement - U1 (X dir ⁿ) and U3 (Z dir ⁿ).....	125
Figure 5.22 Displacement –Tower1 - U1 (X dir ⁿ)	125
Figure 5.23 Displacement measured nodes & building configuration.....	126
Figure 5.24 Displacement graph for U1 (X dir ⁿ) and U3 (Z dir ⁿ) (units – m , sec)	126
Figure 5.25 Displacement graph for U1 (X dir ⁿ) and U3 (Z dir ⁿ) (units – m , sec)	127
Figure 5.26 (a) Wind pressure variation around the structure (b) vortices around Tower 1.....	128
Figure 5.27 Displacement–Tower1 - U1 (X dir ⁿ).....	128

Figure 5.28 Displacement–Tower1 – U3 (Z dirⁿ)..... 129

Figure 5.29 S-A - 0⁰ along wind pressure on (a) windward and side wall (b) leeward
..... 130

Figure 5.30 S-A - 90⁰ along wind pressure on (a) windward and side face (b) leeward
..... 130

Figure 5.31 0⁰Wind pressure comparison of CP3 Chapter V-2:1972 with CFD model
..... 131

Figure 5.32 90⁰ Wind pressure comparison of CP3 Chapter V-2:1972 with CFD model
..... 132

Figure 5.33 0⁰Wind pressure comparison of BS EN 1991-1-4:2005 with CFD model
..... 133

Figure 5.34 90⁰Wind pressure comparison of BS EN 1991-1-4:2005 with CFD model
..... 134

Figure 5.35 0⁰Wind pressure comparison of AS/NZS 1170.2:2011 with CFD model
..... 135

Figure 5.36 90⁰Wind pressure comparison of AS/NZS 1170.2:2011 with CFD model
..... 136

Figure 5.37 Complex velocity field behind the Tower 1- CP 3 Chapter V-Part2:1972
..... 140

Figure 5.38 Velocity field (V1) (a) H=1 m (b) H=21 m (c) H = 60 m 144

Figure 5.39 Pressure development (P) (a) H = 1 m (b) H = 22 m (c) H = 40 m 145

List of Tables

Table 3.1 Ground roughness, building size and height above ground, factor S_2	54
Table 3.2 External pressure co-efficient for vertical walls of rectangular plan	56
Table 3.3 External pressure co-efficient for vertical walls of rectangular building ...	62
Table 3.4 Regional wind speed related with Return period	65
Table 3.5 Terrain height multiplier –SLS Design- Region A1-A7,W &B	66
Table 3.6 Turbulence Intensity– I_z	68
Table 3.7 C_{pe} for Windward wall.....	70
Table 3.8 C_{pe} for Leeward wall.....	70
Table 3.9 C_{pe} for Side wall	70
Table 3.10 Combination factor- $K_{c,e}$	71
Table 4.1 Properties of fluid domain and structure domain	74
Table 4.2 Properties of fluid domain	80
Table 4.3 Material Properties for the fluid domain and the structure	82
Table 4.4 Properties of grids.....	86
Table 4.5 Boundary conditions of fluid domain - ABAQUS/CFD	90
Table 4.6 Values for S_2 factors	93
Table 4.7 Terrain categories and terrain parameters.....	94
Table 4.8 Roughness length for terrain categories	94
Table 4.9 Inflow wind profiles according to three international wind codes.....	95
Table 4.10 Additional inflow parameters for turbulent models-ABAQUS/CFD.....	101
Table 5.1 Parameters comparison	105
Table 5.2 Wind profile comparison	107
Table 5.3 Parameters comparison	108
Table 5.4 Parameters comparison	110

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
q_b	Basic velocity pressure (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
q_p	Peak velocity pressure (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
$\tilde{\omega}$	Spalart–Allmaras variable
Re_L	Reynolds Number based on your problem's characteristic length scale
$V_{des,\theta}$	Building orthogonal design wind speed (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
$V_{sit,\beta}$	Site Design wind speed (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
δ_{ij}	Kronecker delta
Δt	Small time step
Δy	distance of the first node from the wall
A	Altitude (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
A_{ref}	Reference area of individual surface (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
b	Width of the structure (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
B_s	Background factor (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
B_{sh}	Average breadth of the structure heights s and h (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
C_{alt}	Altitude correction factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
c_d	dilatational wave speed
C_{dir}	Directional factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
C_{dyn}	Dynamic response factor (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
C_e	Exposure factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
$C_{e,T}$	Exposure Correction factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
C_{fig}	Aerodynamic shape factor (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
$C_o(z)$	Orography factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
C_p	Pressure coefficient
$C_r(z)$	Roughness factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)

$C_{r,T}(z)$	Roughness correction factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
$C_s C_d$	Structural factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
C_{season}	Seasonal factor (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
d	Distance from the closest surface
E	Young's modulus
E	Effective height 10 m above Y (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
E_t	$(\pi/4)$ times the spectrum of turbulence (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
G	Gust Effect Factor
GLF	Gust Loading Factor
G_q	Gust Factor for wind Load Effect
g_R	Peak factor for the resonant response (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
g_v	Peak factor for the upwind velocity fluctuations(AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
h	Height to top of the tower (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
H	Building height
h_{mk}	distance between m-th and k-th cells that lie near the fluid-structure interface
H_s	Height factor for the resonant response (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
I_h	Turbulent Intensity (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
K_a	Area reduction factor (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
$K_{c,e}$	Combination factor (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
K_l	Local pressure factor (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
K_p	Peak factor for the upwind velocity (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
K_p	Porous cladding reduction factor (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
k_r	terrain factor depending on the roughness length
L	flow characteristic length scale
L_h	A measure of the integral turbulence length scale
L_{min}	Smallest element dimension in the FEA mesh
M_d	Wind directional multiplier (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
M_s	Shielding Multiplier (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
M_t	Topographical Multiplier (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)

$M_{z, cat}$	Terrain height Multiplier (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
N	Reduced frequency (non- dimensional) (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
n_a	First mode natural frequency of vibration of a structure in the along-wind direction in hertz. (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
P	Pressure
q	Dynamic pressure (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
R^2	Resonance Response Part (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
R_e	Reynold's number
R_h, R_b	Aerodynamic admittance (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
s	Height of the level which wind action effects are calculated (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
S	Size reduction factor (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
S_1	Topography factor CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
S_2	Ground roughness, building size & height above ground factor (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
S_3	Statistical based factor (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
S_4	Directional factor (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
S_{ij}	Mean rate of strain tensor
U^*	Frictional velocity
V	Average wind speed
V	Basic wind speed
V'	Fluctuation wind speed
$V_{10,3}$	3 s speed at 10 m height in open terrain category (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
$V_{10,3}$	3 s speed at 10 m height in open terrain category (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
V_b	Basic wind velocity (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
$V_{b, map}$	Characteristic 10 minutes mean wind velocity before altitude correction (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
$V_{b,0}$	Fundamental value of basic wind speed (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
V_H	Wind speed at 'H' height (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
V_{Ht}	t s speed at height H in appropriate category (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)

V_m	Mean wind velocity (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
V_{mk}	velocity of the fluid between those cells
V_R	Regional 3 s gust wind speed (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
V_s	Design wind speed
V_t	Wind velocity at any given instantaneous time ‘t’
v_t	Turbulent Eddy viscosity
W_e	Wind pressure on surface (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
Y	level corresponding to general roof top level or obstruction level(CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
Y^+	non-dimensional distance between from the wall to first mesh node
z_0	Roughness length.
z_{max}	maximum height taken as 200 m
z_{min}	minimum height defined (BSEN 1991-1-4:2005)
α	Power law exponent (CP3 Chapter V-2:1972)
α	Lame constant
κ	Von Karman’s constant
λ	Lame constant
ξ	Ratio of structural damping (AS/NZS 1170.2:2011)
S	Rotational tensor
ρ	Density of fluid

List of Appendices

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix A | Wind load calculation for 31 storey building according to CP3 CHAPTERV-2:1972 |
| Appendix B | Wind load calculation for 31 storey building according to BSEN1991-1-4:2005 |
| Appendix C | Wind load calculation for 31 storey building according to AS/NZS 1170.2-2011 |
| Appendix D | Advanced parameters used for the numerical modelling |