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### Swirl-Induced Hysteresis in a Sudden Expansion Flow

T. Holemans,<sup>1</sup> Z. Yang,<sup>1</sup> J. De Greef,<sup>2</sup> and M. Vanierschot<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*KU Leuven, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Group T Leuven Campus, Leuven, Belgium.*

<sup>2</sup>*KU Leuven, Sustainable Materials Processing and Recycling (SeMPeR), Group T Leuven Campus, Leuven, Belgium.*

<sup>3</sup>*North-West University, Material Science, Innovation and Modelling (MaSIM), Mmabatho, South Africa.*

(\*Corresponding author: maarten.vanierschot@kuleuven.be)

(Dated: 8 October 2024)

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Swirling sudden expansion flows are complex flow fields containing several coherent structures that depend on the swirl number and can exhibit hysteresis behavior between increasing and subsequently decreasing swirl levels. While these flows have extensively been studied in simple geometries, results involving special designed nozzles are scarce. Therefore, this paper aims to provide insights into a more complex geometry, specifically a two-step conical expansion with a converging outlet. Experimental data is acquired for changing swirl numbers at a Reynolds number in the range of 35,000. Stereoscopic Particle Image Velocimetry (S-PIV) is employed to characterize downstream flow structures, while Laser Doppler Velocimetry (LDV) is used to characterize upstream structures and to determine the inlet swirl number. Several distinct flow patterns are found as a function of the swirl number and the identified flow patterns include, in order of increasing swirl, a Closed Jet Flow (CJF), an Open Jet Flow (OJF), and a Coandă Jet Flow (CoJF). A central positive axial velocity is noted for both OJF and CoJF downstream of the expansion due to the converging outlet geometry. At higher swirl numbers, Vortex Breakdown (VB) moves upstream into the nozzle until a negative axial velocity is noted in the inlet tube. For these higher swirl numbers, no hysteresis is observed in the inlet tube between increasing and subsequently decreasing swirl. However, downstream of the nozzle, it is observed that the CoJF detaches at a lower swirl number than the swirl number required for attachment, indicating a hysteresis effect between in- and decreasing swirl.

Keywords: Swirl-induced hysteresis; Stereoscopic Particle Image Velocimetry; Laser Doppler Velocimetry; Swirling flow; Sudden expansion flow

## I. INTRODUCTION

1 Swirling flows are crucial in various engineering applications, such as aeronautics, combustion,  
 2 cyclone separators, and Ranque-Hilsch tubes, amongst others<sup>1</sup>. Over several decades, swirling  
 3 flows have proven effective in stabilizing fast-reacting flows in burners and gas turbines, enhanc-  
 4 ing flame stability and reducing pollutants in these applications<sup>2,3</sup>. Additionally, it has facilitated  
 5 innovations in gasoline and diesel engines and industrial furnaces, and other sectors<sup>1</sup>. The signifi-  
 6 cant impacts of swirl are widely recognized, including increased jet growth, enhanced entrainment,  
 7 and a faster decay rate compared to non-swirling jets. These effects become more pronounced at  
 8 higher levels of swirl<sup>4</sup>. Recently, novel applications for swirling flows have emerged in the chem-  
 9 ical sector, particularly in liquid-solid mixing. The enhanced mixing properties of swirling flows  
 10 are leveraged to maintain a suspension of solid particles in a liquid in an Swirling Flow Reactor  
 11 (SFR)<sup>5</sup>.

12 Different flow patterns can arise in a swirling flow, depending on the swirl number, geometry,  
 13 and Reynolds number ( $Re$ ), amongst others. Common coherent structures in swirling sudden  
 14 expansion flows include the Precessing Vortex Core (PVC)<sup>6</sup>, self-excited jet precession<sup>7</sup> or Vortex  
 15 Breakdown (VB)<sup>8</sup>. VB occurs when the swirl number surpasses a specific threshold in a sudden  
 16 expansion round jet<sup>8,9</sup>. Despite extensive research, there is still no consensus on the underlying  
 17 mechanisms of VB.<sup>10-15</sup>

18 Axial and radial confinements notably impact the flow characteristics in laminar swirling jets<sup>16</sup>  
 19 or in nanofluid flows.<sup>17-19</sup>. Furthermore, contraction ratio and shape of the outlet influence up-  
 20 stream flow patterns<sup>20-23</sup>. All these studies<sup>20-23</sup> consider a sudden contraction and an aspect ra-  
 21 tio ( $L/D$ ) lower than 5.25. A contraction ratio ( $CR = D/d_{outlet}$ ) above 2.56 with an aspect ratio  
 22 of 4 results in a combination of VB and a positive axial central velocity<sup>20</sup>. In addition to geo-  
 23 metrical parameters, the initial swirl distribution can modify the flow pattern following a sudden  
 24 expansion<sup>8,24</sup>. To summarize, a diverse range of parameters influence the behavior of swirling jet  
 25 flows and their associated flow patterns.

26 In the computational work of Moise and Mathew<sup>14</sup>, a transitional Reynolds number of 1,000  
 27 was examined. The study involved the manipulation of swirl numbers, both increasing and de-  
 28 creasing. A difference in radial expansion in two identical swirl number regions was observed,  
 29 resulting in a hysteresis. At intermediate swirl numbers, a bi-stability of Bubble-shaped Vortex  
 30 Breakdown (BVB) and Conical-shaped Vortex Breakdown (CVB) occurred, while regular CVB

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31 and wide-open CVB types were bi-stable at higher swirl numbers.

32 Regular CVB and wide-open CVB have been classified as Open Jet Flow (OJF) and Coandă  
33 Jet Flow (CoJF), respectively. This classification is used mainly for swirling sudden expansion  
34 flows<sup>25,26</sup>. When a stepped conical expansion flow is combined with an annular inlet tube, the  
35 OJF can be classified into two sub-classes, i.e., Low-Swirl and High-Swirl. The OJF - Low Swirl  
36 has a conical VB behind the annular obstruction. For the OJF - High Swirl, the CVB radially  
37 expands to attach to the conical wall of the first sudden expansion. This sub-classification does not  
38 apply in cases without a stepped inlet<sup>27,28</sup>, so for the remaining text only the main classification  
39 of OJF will be used. Similar to a CVB wide-open shape, CoJF is a flow field in which the flow  
40 attaches to the bottom wall perpendicular to the expansion.

41 Swirling sudden expansion flows exhibit hysteresis behavior in both laminar and turbulent  
42 regimes when increasing and subsequently decreasing the swirl. For  $Re = 180$  and  $11,000$ , re-  
43 spectively discussed in Ogus, Baelmans, and Vanierschot<sup>26</sup> and Vanierschot and Van den Bulck<sup>29</sup>,  
44 the flow transitions from a Closed Jet Flow (CJF) to an OJF-Low Swirl until finally reaching the  
45 OJF-High Swirl flow state. After decreasing the swirl, it transitions to a CoJF state, and the flow  
46 remains attached to the wall until no inlet swirl is present anymore<sup>26,29</sup>. Increasing the step size in  
47 an annular jet, Vanierschot and Van den Bulck<sup>30</sup> have shown that an unstable CoJF can be reached  
48 while increasing swirl number without any hysteresis noted.

49 Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)-simulations have demonstrated the working principles  
50 of an SFR, achieving a CoJF at moderately high swirl numbers<sup>5</sup>, in both one-phase and two-phase  
51 flows. A CoJF is essential in an SFR as it mitigates solid sedimentation due to its flow attachment  
52 to the bottom wall of the reactor. The current study provides an experimental basis of one-phase  
53 flow structures present in an SFR and their relation to inlet swirl number. Achieving a CoJF at low  
54 swirl numbers decreases the pressure drop across the swirl generator, increasing the efficiency of  
55 the system. Experimental validation is necessary to explore the possibility of achieving a CoJF at  
56 low swirl numbers due to hysteresis effects.

57 Hysteresis between an CJF, OJF and CoJF has only been observed in annular jet flows, where the  
58 interaction between a central and corner recirculation zone plays a major role in the flow pattern  
59 choice. In this study, the nozzle geometry is adapted to a two-step conical nozzle to achieve  
60 hysteretic behavior in a round jet as well. To the author's knowledge, multi-step conical round  
61 jet expansions are not considered in the literature, especially not their hysteresis behavior, which  
62 is only studied numerically for transitional round jets<sup>14</sup> or numerically and experimentally for

63 annular jets<sup>26,29</sup>. This paper presents experimental flow field measurements in a two-step conical  
 64 expansion. Using Laser Doppler Velocimetry (LDV), the inlet flow is characterized, followed  
 65 by Stereoscopic Particle Image Velocimetry (S-PIV) measurements of downstream flow fields at  
 66 different swirl numbers, both increasing and decreasing. The flow states are identified as CJF, OJF,  
 67 and CoJF. A discussion of the hysteresis behaviour is included. Contrary to one-step expansions,  
 68 the OJF is found to be more stable than the CoJF in this two-step conical expansion<sup>26,29</sup>.

## 69 II. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND DATA PROCESSING

### 70 A. Geometry

71 The geometry considered is an SFR for solid-liquid mixing processes<sup>5,31</sup>. It comprises a sudden  
 72 expansion with a step of  $0.15 d_i$  and two tapered parts for which the dimensions are depicted in  
 73 Figure 1, where  $d_i$  refers to the nozzle diameter. The first tapered part has a radial dimension  
 74  $0.16 d_i$  and is installed at  $20^\circ$ . While the second tapered part has a radial dimension of  $1.63 d_i$   
 75 and is installed at  $75^\circ$ . Both angles are measured from the centerline (x-axis). Figure 2a shows a  
 76 picture of the setup from the S-PIV laser's perspective.  
 77

78 A guide vane swirl generator, designed by Dugué and Weber<sup>32</sup>, can feed a variable swirling  
 79 flow into this sudden expansion vessel. Figure 3b depicts the guide vanes' position for maximal  
 80 swirl. This swirl generator is used in numerous studies on annular swirling jets<sup>25,27,33</sup>, and round  
 81 jets<sup>9,34,35</sup>. The annular tube is removed in this study, and a detailed view is given in Figure 3a.  
 82 Upstream of the movable block swirl generator, the flow is divided into six separate parts (yel-  
 83 low tubes in Figure 2a). This uniformly feeds the settling chamber, shown in Figure 3a. The  
 84 swirl number is experimentally calibrated using LDV, which is explained in detail in section II B.  
 85 The flow of water is regulated by a frequency-controlled centrifugal pump (Packo NP/68-50/152).  
 86 Downstream of the sudden expansion vessel, it contracts at  $45^\circ$  to an outlet diameter of  $\frac{4}{3} d_i$ , as  
 87 visualized at the top of Figure 1. The cylindrical and octagonal confinements are made of transpar-  
 88 ent PolyMethyl MethAcrylate (PMMA). The volume between the confinement and the cylinder is  
 89 filled with water to minimize refraction issues.  
 90

### 91 B. Laser Doppler Velocimetry (LDV)

92 Consistent documentation of the initial conditions for studies of free shear flows is an impor-

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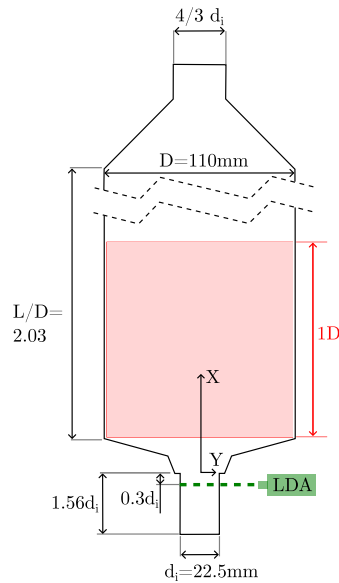


FIG. 1: Schematic drawing of the sudden expansion vessel in a side-view with the inlet at the bottom and the outlet at the top. A pink rectangle indicates the S-PIV measurement area. The measurement location of the LDV measurements is indicated by the dashed green line at  $x/d_i = -0.3$ .

93 tant aspect to allow comparison between studies<sup>24,36–39</sup>. The jet inlet profile of the current study is  
 94 measured using a 1D LDV FiberFlow system of Dantec Dynamics. Both the profiles and their as-  
 95 sociated swirl numbers are discussed extensively in Section II E. Essential information about these  
 96 measurements is included in the current section. An adjustment to the conventional swirl number  
 97 is done to calibrate the inlet flow field. The conventional swirl number does eliminate the pressure  
 98 term and turbulent fluctuation stresses, and an adjustment to its integration radius will change its  
 99 final value. However, it can still serve as a useful estimator of the degree of swirl for categorizing  
 100 swirl injectors, as long as the integration limit and axial position are specified, as discussed in  
 101 detail by Vignat, Durox, and Candel<sup>40</sup>. Ideally, the inlet profile should be measured as close to the  
 102 sudden expansion as possible, to limit errors due to a non-ideal definition of the swirl number<sup>40</sup>.  
 103 However, at this position, the first step of the sudden expansion blocks the top laser beam when  
 104 measuring the axial velocity. The closest measurement position possible is at  $-6.8\text{mm}$  upstream

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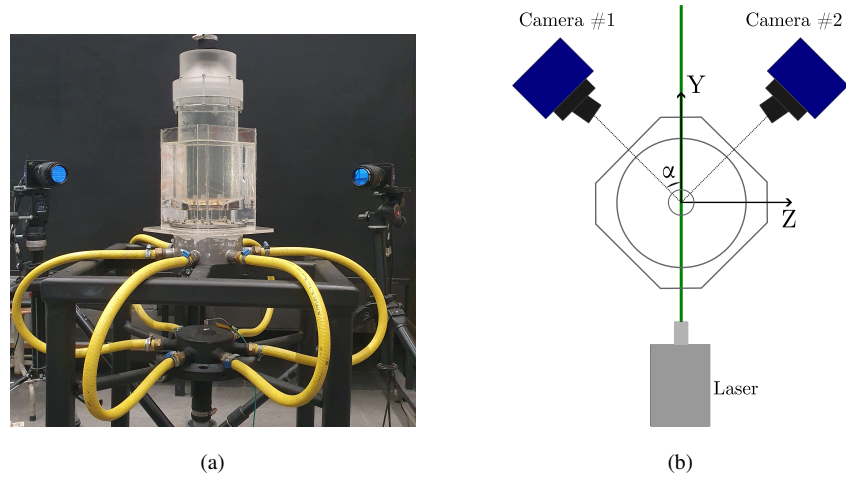


FIG. 2: S-PIV configuration both in a photograph and a top-view schematic representation. (a) Photograph of the cameras and sudden expansion vessel, viewed from the laser perspective. (b) Schematic representation of the S-PIV configuration, top view.

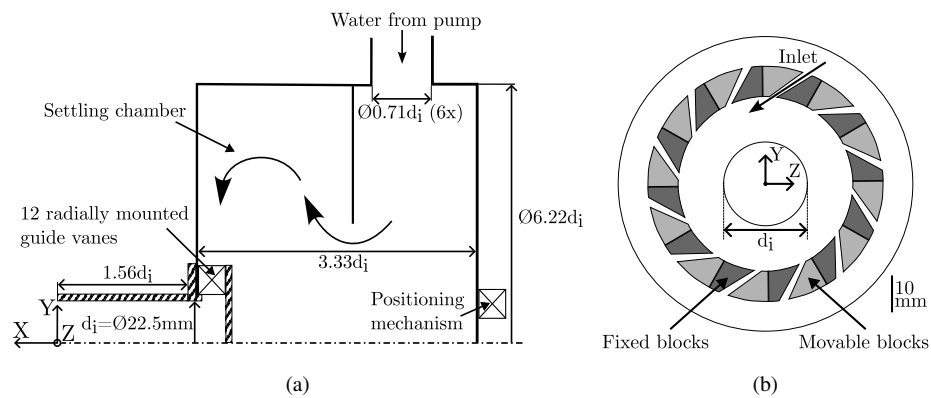


FIG. 3: Schematic representation of the swirl generator and positioning of the guide vanes. (a) 30kW movable block swirl generator as designed by Dugué and Weber<sup>32</sup>. (b) Position of the guide vanes of the swirl generator to produce a maximal swirling inlet flow.

Optics			Refractive indices <sup>41</sup>		
Focal length	Expansion factor	Wavelength	$n_{PMMA}$	$n_{air}$	$n_{water}$
310 mm	1.98	532 nm	1.49	1.00	1.33

TABLE I: Details about the optics in the LDV setup and the refractive indices considered in Appendix A.

	Fringe spacing [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	Depth [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]
No refractions	2.27	671
Axial measurements	2.27	896
Tangential measurements	[2.27–2.37]	[896–935]

TABLE II: Details about the fringe spacing and the depth of the measurement volume for three conditions. "No refractions," where there are no interfaces between the probe and measurement volume (added for reference). "Axial measurements," where all interfaces are straight. "Tangential measurements," where interfaces are both straight and circular, as shown in Figure 4.

105 ( $x/d_i = -0.3$ ), where both the axial and tangential velocity can be measured subsequently. Fig-  
 106 ure 1 shows this position as a green dotted line. The following formula calculates an adjusted swirl  
 107 number ( $S_{0.84}$ ), which is the conventional swirl number adjusted to only include 84% of the total  
 108 inlet pipe's diameter ( $d_i$ ). This adjustment is necessary due to refraction limitations at the pipe's  
 109 edges, so the integration limit becomes  $|y| = 0.42 d_i$ :

$$S_{0.84} = \frac{\int_0^{0.42 d_i} \bar{u} \bar{w} r^2 dr}{\frac{d_i}{2} \int_0^{0.42 d_i} \bar{u}^2 r dr}, \quad (1)$$

110 where  $r$  is the radial position in the inlet tube. The mean axial or tangential velocities at a specific  
 111 location are denoted as  $\bar{u}$  and  $\bar{w}$ , respectively.

112 Details about the optics and the refractive indices considered can be found in Table I. Due to  
 113 refractions into the circular test section, the fringe spacing and measurement volume change, as  
 114 indicated in Table II. The width and height of the measurement volume are nearly equal for all  
 115 measurements with a value close to 79  $\mu\text{m}$ .  
 116

117 The LDV probe is installed on an YZ-translation stage to allow for the centering of the laser  
 118 and precise movement throughout the inlet tube. An axisymmetric flow field is expected based  
 119 on previous studies using the same swirl generator<sup>42,43</sup>. This axisymmetry is used to locate the  
 120

121 inlet tube center for axial and tangential velocity measurements. Due to refractions, the axial  
 122 and tangential velocity measurement locations are slightly different. These refractions result in  
 123 a linear spatial shift for the axial measurements, which is noted in Equation 2. After locating  
 124 the inlet tube's center, the subsequent displacements of the LDV probe are depicted as  $\Delta$ . The  
 125 actual measurement location at this probe's position is  $x_{6,axial}$ . In essence, a fixed displacement of  
 126 the measurement volume also occurs. This is, however, irrelevant since the center of the tube is  
 127 determined by a calibration measurement, so only the movement of the probe needs to be scaled  
 128 linearly, with its corresponding scaling factor according to Equation 2,

$$x_{6,axial} = \frac{\tan(\alpha_1)\Delta}{\tan\left(\arcsin\left(\frac{n_{air}}{n_{water}}\alpha_1\right)\right)}. \quad (2)$$

129 For the tangential measurements, the interfaces at the tube are circular, resulting in a non-linear  
 130 spatial shift and a shift in the physical properties of the LDV's measurement volume. This is  
 131 visually represented for one measurement position in Figure 4. Both the fringe spacing and the  
 132 measurement volume change throughout the measurements with the range indicated in Table II.  
 133 The geometric variables, indicated on Figure 4 are  $p_1=5.0$  mm,  $p_2=10.0$  mm,  $L_1=73.8$  mm, and  
 134  $R = d_i/2=11.2$  mm. The first angle ( $\alpha_1$ ) and  $y_1$  are properties of the LDV probe and its optics.  
 135 All intersection points between an interface and the laser beam are identified with their respective  
 136 x- and y-coordinates. The relationship between the position of the LDV probe ( $L_1$ ) and the actual  
 137 measurement position ( $x_6$ ) is determined using Equations A1 to A14, explained in Appendix A.  
 138 These equations are based on trigonometry and Snell's law. The measured velocities with the LDV  
 139 hardware and software are corrected to represent the correct velocities.

### 140 C. Stereoscopic Particle Image Velocimetry (S-PIV)

141 The measurements downstream of the step are performed using S-PIV. Two cameras are posi-  
 142 tioned at angles of  $49.4^\circ$  and  $51.5^\circ$ , with reference to the normal vector of the laser sheet, corre-  
 143 sponding to  $\alpha$  in Figure 2. The laser is positioned to illuminate the center of the sudden expansion  
 144 vessel as depicted in Figures 1 and 2. The two cameras used are Imager SX6M cameras equipped  
 145 with an AF Micro-Nikkor 60mm  $f/2.8D$  lens. The laser is a 200 mJ pulsed laser of Litron with a  
 146 wavelength of 532 nm. Fluorescent Red Microspheres (FRM) from Cospheric with a density of  
 147  $\rho = 995$  kg/m<sup>3</sup> and a diameter of 40 – 47  $\mu$ m are used as seeding particles. The combination of an

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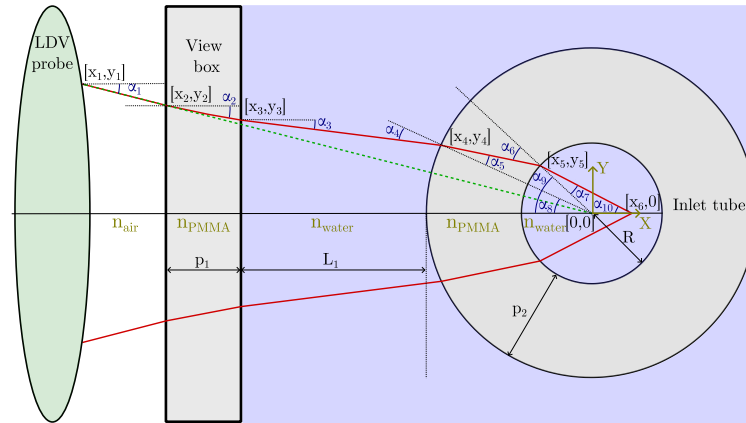


FIG. 4: Visualization of the refractions in the inlet pipe due to the different medium interfaces for tangential velocity measurements. The green dashed line shows the expected laser path without any refractions, which would measure in the exact center of the tube. The red line shows the actual line the laser will follow based on the refractions between each medium interface. The grey areas show all PMMA materials. The purple region represents the water inside the inlet tube and surrounding the inlet tube within the view box.

148 optical edge filter at a wavelength of 540nm on both cameras and fluorescent particles minimize  
 149 laser reflections near the walls. By using a 3D calibration plate, any remaining refraction errors  
 150 are corrected. Self-calibration is also performed to adjust for possible misalignment in the laser  
 151 sheet during the original calibration. The acquired images are processed to obtain velocity fields  
 152 by Davis 10.1.2, by a multi-pass algorithm with two final passes of interrogation windows  $32 \times 32$ ,  
 153 featuring an overlap of 50%. The final spatial resolution of the vectors is 0.77 mm. After each  
 154 interrogation pass, two criteria are used to delete possible erroneous vectors. Firstly, any vector  
 155 showing a correlation value lower than 0.5 is removed. Secondly, a 4-pass regional median fil-  
 156 ter deletes vectors if they deviate more than 3 standard deviations from the regional median. If  
 157 the second or third highest peak in correlation values does not deviate more than four standard  
 158 deviations from the regional median, they replace the original highest peak vector. These two  
 159 post-processing steps are also applied to the final vector field. Finally, any vectors missing after  
 160 these post-processing steps are interpolated from their neighbors.

161 **D. Accuracy of optical measurement techniques**

162 Errors from both LDV and S-PIV measurements are similar to a certain extent. The errors in  
 163 both measurements can be divided into systematic and random errors<sup>44</sup>. The systematic errors  
 164 are mainly due to misalignment in the setup and tracing accuracy of the seeding particles. The  
 165 former is kept as small as possible by carefully aligning the laser sheet and the calibration plate for  
 166 S-PIV. The latter is achieved since the seeding particles' Stokes number is sufficiently low<sup>45</sup>. Any  
 167 setup's misalignment will result in a large erroneous radial velocity originating from projection  
 168 errors, which interpret the tangential velocity as a radial velocity. The centering of the laser is  
 169 fine-tuned based on subsequent measurements, in which the non-physical central radial velocity  
 170 due to misalignment is minimized.

171 Both measurement techniques are spatially low-pass, averaging the flow, with S-PIV having a  
 172 larger filter than LDV. For the LDV data, due to the non-uniform sampling rate, both axial and  
 173 tangential velocities are corrected using a transit time weighing on the raw measurement data to  
 174 correct for any statistical bias towards higher velocities, as described by Buchhave, George, and  
 175 Lumley<sup>46</sup>, and George<sup>47</sup>.

176 Random errors are quantifiable based on statistics. The uncertainties on both the mean and the  
 177 standard deviation can be calculated as<sup>48</sup>:

$$\delta_{\bar{u}} = \sigma_{\bar{u}_{true}} \sqrt{\frac{1}{N_{eff}}} Z_{\alpha/2}, \quad \delta_{\sigma_{\bar{u}}} = \sigma_{\bar{u}_{true}} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2(N_{eff}-1)}} Z_{\alpha/2}, \quad (3)$$

178 where  $\delta_{\bar{u}}$  is the uncertainty of the time-averaged velocity component and  $\delta_{\sigma_{\bar{u}}}$  is the uncertainty  
 179 of the standard deviation.  $Z_{\alpha/2}$  is 1.96 for a 95% confidence interval. The effective number of  
 180 samples  $N_{eff}$  is determined for each location based on Equation 4<sup>48</sup>:

$$N_{eff} = \frac{N}{\sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \rho(n\Delta t)}, \quad (4)$$

181 where  $N$  is the total number of snapshots and  $\rho(n\Delta t)$  is the auto-correlation of these samples, of  
 182 which a summation is taken. The summation is stopped once the correlation values reach zero for  
 183 the first time. True standard deviation ( $\sigma_{\bar{u}_{true}}$ ) is determined by the following formula for S-PIV<sup>48</sup>:

$$\sigma_{\bar{u}_{true}}^2 = \sigma_{\bar{u}}^2 - \overline{\delta_u^2}, \quad (5)$$

184 where  $\sigma_{\bar{u}}$  is the standard deviation, which is the sum of  $\sigma_{\bar{u}_{true}}$  (true standard deviation) and  $\overline{\delta_u^2}$   
 185 (mean square of instantaneous measurement uncertainty). For LDV  $\sigma_{\bar{u}_{true}}$  is equal to  $\sigma_{\bar{u}}$ , due to it

186 being an absolute measurement technique. Representative profiles of  $\bar{u}$  and  $\sigma_{\bar{u}}$  with their corre-  
 187 sponding uncertainties,  $\delta_{\bar{u}}$  and  $\delta_{\sigma_{\bar{u}}}$ , are plotted at multiple sections in the sudden expansion vessel  
 188 in Appendices II and III for all S-PIV measurements. The calculations for  $v$  and  $w$  are identical  
 189 to the ones above. The LDV results with their corresponding error bars for each measurement are  
 190 plotted in Figure 5.

### 191 E. Calibration of the swirl generator

192 The LDV measurements' Reynolds number is  $33,000 \pm 2,000$ , calculated as  $Re = \frac{\bar{u}_{inlet} d_i \rho}{\mu}$ .  
 193 This Reynolds number corresponds to the flow in a 30kW swirl burner, for which the swirl gen-  
 194 erator was initially designed. However, this Reynolds number is also representative for higher  
 195 Reynolds numbers, usually found in industrial-sized setups, as the hysteresis is Reynolds indepen-  
 196 dent in the turbulent regime<sup>25</sup>. The swirl number is gradually increased by rotating the movable  
 197 blocks inside the swirl generator with a servo motor. An Arduino controls this motor, and a cor-  
 198 rection for the gear's backlash is included. The average inlet flow velocity in the nozzle ( $\bar{u}_{inlet}$ )  
 199 and the temperature of the liquid are measured for each data set. The tangential data set is scaled  
 200 to correspond to the same inlet flow speed as the axial data set for calculating each swirl num-  
 201 ber. The flow rate is within 10.9% similar and the Reynolds number within 5.6%, for subsequent  
 202 axial- and tangential measurements. An important note is that the axial and tangential velocities  
 203 are measured for increasing swirl numbers. The swirl numbers for decreasing swirl have the same  
 204 geometrical inlet flow as the corresponding increasing swirl case. This simplification has been  
 205 validated by measuring three radial positions for both increasing and decreasing swirl numbers,  
 206 and no difference is observed between these. Figure 5 shows the normalized axial and tangential  
 208 velocity for each geometrical configuration of the swirl generator.

209 A high level of axisymmetry is observed between  $y/d_i \leq 0$  and  $y/d_i > 0$ , depicted as blue  
 210 and red, respectively. This axisymmetry is similar to previous studies using the same swirl  
 211 generator<sup>34,42,43</sup>.  $S_{0.84}$  is calculated for both  $y/d_i \leq 0$  and  $y/d_i > 0$ , of which the average results  
 212 in the final value for  $S_{0.84}$ .

213 For  $S_{0.84} = 0$  and 0.10 (Figures 5a and 5b), the axial velocity profile is similar to a power law  
 214 velocity profile<sup>49</sup>, with  $S_{0.84} = 0.10$  evolving more towards a top-hat profile<sup>38,50,51</sup>. The tangential  
 215 profile fluctuates around zero for  $S_{0.84} = 0$ . At  $S_{0.84} = 0.10$ , the tangential profile increases until  
 216  $|y|/d_i = 0.2$ , leveling at 0.15. From  $S_{0.84} = 0.27$  (Figure 5c) onwards, the gradient of the axial

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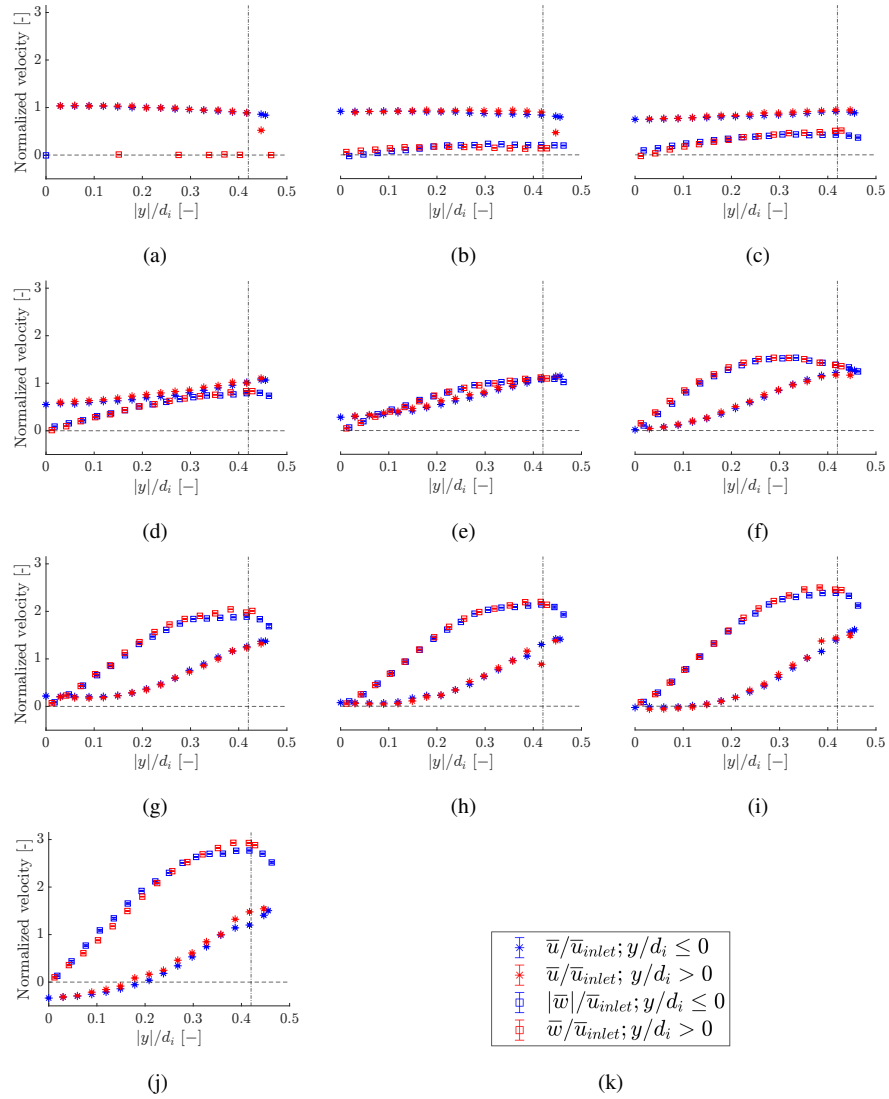


FIG. 5: Axial and tangential velocity profiles at  $x/d = -0.3$ , measured with LDV, for different swirl settings of the swirl generator. A dash-dotted vertical line is shown at the limit value of  $|y|/d_i = 0.42$ , utilized in Equation 1. A dashed horizontal line is shown to indicate a zero-velocity. (a)  $S_{0.84} = 0$ . (b)  $S_{0.84} = 0.10$ . (c)  $S_{0.84} = 0.27$ . (d)  $S_{0.84} = 0.48$ . (e)  $S_{0.84} = 0.73$ . (f)  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$ . (g)  $S_{0.84} = 1.50$ . (h)  $S_{0.84} = 1.65$ . (i)  $S_{0.84} = 1.74$ . (j)  $S_{0.84} = 1.95$ . (k) Legend for plots 5a to 5j.

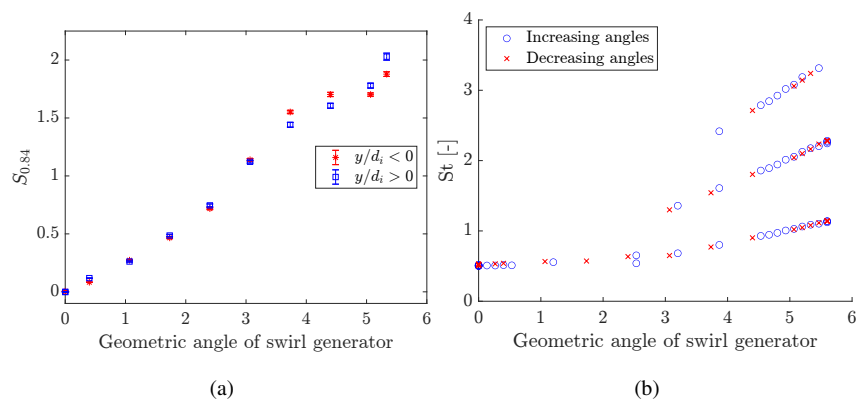


FIG. 6: Both the swirl number and its corresponding frequencies for different geometrical settings of the swirl generator. (a) Geometric angle of the swirl generator with its corresponding swirl number ( $S_{0.84}$ ), with both the positive and negative side depicted. (b) Geometric angle of the swirl generator with its corresponding frequencies obtained from a Power Spectral Density (PSD), including their hysteresis behavior. Each measurement is done at  $y/d_i = 0.38$ .

217 profile increases towards the edge of the inlet pipe.

218 The center velocity of the axial velocity profile decreases with increasing swirl, as can be  
 219 observed in Figure 5. At  $S_{0.84} = 1.74$  (Figure 5i) a central recirculation appears. This is expected  
 220 since, at high swirl numbers, the recirculation zone associated with VB enters the nozzle<sup>52,53</sup>.

221 The LDV data is used to identify frequencies present in the inlet flow field. A representative  
 222 PSD plot, shown in Figure 7a, illustrates tangential velocity measurements of  $S_{0.84} = 1.95$  at  
 223  $y/d_i = 0.38$ . The PSD employs Welch's method<sup>54</sup>, providing a smoother profile with a spectral  
 224 resolution of 0.004. Multiple criteria define peaks in the PSD: they must exceed  $-30dB$ , possess  
 225 a prominence of at least  $6dB$ , and amount at least twice the mean value of surrounding samples  
 226 when considering 15 spectral points on each side of the respective peak. Prominence defines the  
 227 peak to its intrinsic height by defining it as the minimum decrease between the current peak and  
 228 any higher neighboring peaks. The PSD depicted in Figure 7a shows three identifiable peaks  
 229 adhering to these criteria. While stricter criteria could be applied, these might overlook low-power  
 230 harmonics. The established settings effectively identify most peaks while minimizing erroneous  
 231 identifications. For low swirl numbers,  $S_{0.84} = 0.10 - 0.27$ , only faint peaks in the tangential  
 232 velocity spectra are observed, with only one or two complying with the criteria, as depicted in

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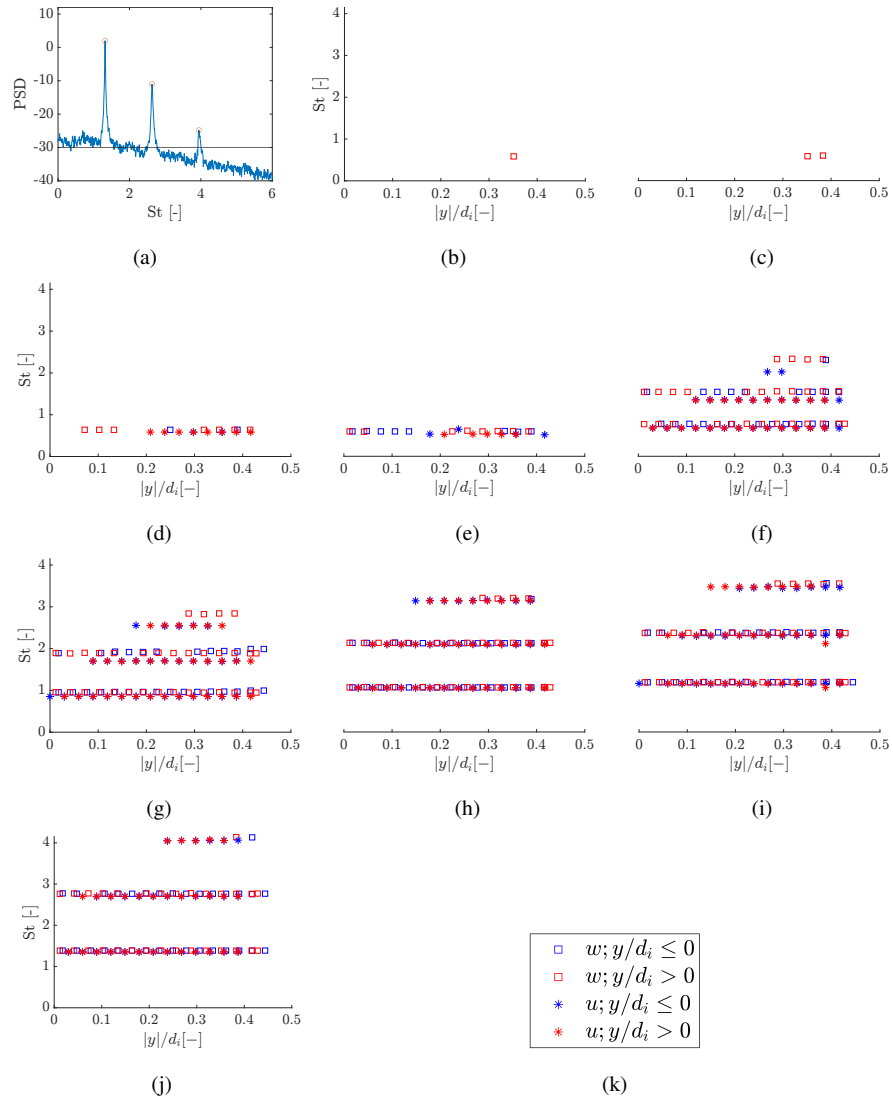


FIG. 7: Strouhal number ( $St = f d_i / \bar{u}_{inlet}$ ) obtained from a PSD for the axial and tangential velocity measurements at  $x/d = -0.3$ , measured with LDV, for different swirl settings of the swirl generator. (a) Example of a PSD spectrum for  $S_{0.84} = 1.95$  and  $y/d_i = 0.38$ . (b)  $S_{0.84} = 0.10$ . (c)  $S_{0.84} = 0.27$ . (d)  $S_{0.84} = 0.48$ . (e)  $S_{0.84} = 0.73$ . (f)  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$ . (g)  $S_{0.84} = 1.50$ . (h)  $S_{0.84} = 1.65$ . (i)  $S_{0.84} = 1.74$ . (j)  $S_{0.84} = 1.95$ . (k) Legend for plots 7b to 7j.

233 Figures 7b and 7c. From  $S_{0.84} = 0.48$  onwards, consistently similar values emerge throughout  
 234 the nozzle's PSD analysis. Notably, from  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$  onwards, multiple peaks are observed in  
 235 the PSD spectrum, indicating harmonics. As the swirl number increases, the energy content of  
 236 the coherent structure and its harmonics grows. For  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$ ,  $S_{0.84} = 1.50$  &  $S_{0.84} = 1.74$ ,  
 237 a deviation appears between the axial and tangential Strouhal number, most likely due to the  
 238 frequency jitter. The structures and their harmonics are more present between  $0.2 < |y|/d_i < 0.4$ ,  
 239 as is depicted in Figure 7. At  $|y|/d_i > 0.4$ , the acquisition rate of the LDV probe is lower due  
 240 to a lower sensitivity setting to counteract the wall reflections. This lower acquisition rate lowers  
 241 the highest frequency observable in the spectrum. The acquired value for  $S_{0.84}$  for different swirl  
 242 generator positions, both for  $y/d_i \leq 0$  and  $y/d_i > 0$ , is depicted Figure 6a.

243 Similar Strouhal numbers and harmonics have been observed in previous studies<sup>5,6,33</sup>. Vanier-  
 244 schot *et al.*<sup>33</sup> studied an annular swirling jet with a swirl number of 0.36, identifying both a single  
 245 and double helical PVC ( $St = 0.27$  &  $St = 0.56$ ), the latter being not a harmonic of the former.  
 246 For a similar inlet geometry to this study, with the adjustments of an annular outlet and two-phase  
 247 flow, Yang *et al.*<sup>5</sup> observed a PVC ( $St \approx 1$ ) and its second harmonic ( $St \approx 2$ ) for a swirl number  
 248 of 1.7, using CFD simulations. Syred<sup>6</sup> summarized studies demonstrating a linear relationship  
 249 between Strouhal and swirl numbers, which found similar values as discussed in this paper. A  
 250 PVC precesses around the central axis, which is the most likely reason for being less observable  
 251 in the central measurements ( $|y|/d_i < 0.2$ ). Up to the third harmonic of the PVC is observed at  
 252 the higher swirl number measurements. Figure 6b presents tangential velocity measurements' fre-  
 253 quencies at  $y/d_i = 0.38$  for various swirl numbers, both increasing and decreasing. It shows no  
 254 hysteresis behavior concerning identified frequencies.

### 255 III. TIME-AVERAGED FLOW FIELDS

256 The S-PIV measurements acquire data at seven geometric positions of the swirl generator, while  
 257 the LDV data have a slightly higher resolution with ten data points. The LDV calibration data,  
 258 visualized in Figure 6a, are fitted with a logistics (also frequently called Sigmoid) function, which  
 259 approaches a maximum value close to the highest geometrical input angle. This fitted function  
 260 is utilized to interpolate the S-PIV swirl numbers from the LDV data. The error considered is  
 261 determined as the linear interpolation of the two closest geometric angles of the LDV data set and  
 262 their respective errors. Every S-PIV measurement consists of 1500 individual measurements. The

263 average acquisition frequency is around  $7.5Hz$ . The different flow patterns are identified with the  
 264 three velocity components and the stream function  $\phi$ <sup>55</sup>,

$$\phi(x, r) = \frac{2\pi \int_0^{r_{max}} \bar{u}(x, r) r dr}{Q}, \quad (6)$$

265 where  $r_{max}$  is the furthest radial point for which an axial velocity is available,  $Q$  is the volumet-  
 266 ric flow rate measured during the experiment [ $m^3/s$ ]. In the following subsections, III A, III B  
 267 and III C, a representative profile of each distinguishable flow pattern (CJF, OJF, and CoJF) is  
 268 shown and discussed in detail. An overview of all measurements is given in the appendices. The  
 269 mean of each velocity component and the corresponding Root Mean Square (RMS) velocity are  
 270 shown in Appendices II and III, respectively, while the stream functions and in-plane vectors are  
 271 depicted in Appendices IV and V, respectively.

#### 272 A. Closed Jet Flow (CJF)

273 Figure 8 visualizes a representative flow profile of a CJF at  $S_{0.84} = 0$ . A CJF has streamlines  
 274 in the center without any Central Recirculation Zone (CRZ), similar to jet flow. A precessing  
 275 structure is present in this condition, extensively discussed in Holemans *et al.*<sup>7</sup>. A similar precess-  
 276 ing structure is present in this flow field based on a Spectral Proper Orthogonal Decomposition  
 277 (SPOD) analysis<sup>56</sup>, with a Strouhal number of 0.0026, which is close to values reported by Hole-  
 278 mans *et al.*<sup>34</sup>. The tangential velocity profiles are zero within measurement accuracy.

#### 279 B. Open Jet Flow (OJF)

280 Figure 9 visualizes a representative flow profile of an OJF at  $S_{0.84} = 0.35$ . A similar flow field  
 281 is present at  $S_{0.84} = 0.16$  and  $0.69$ . An OJF has streamlines which expand radially, recirculating  
 282 to the center. Due to the geometry of the outlet, limited recirculation in the center and a positive  
 283 central jet are observed. In literature, a positive central axial velocity is seen for a contraction ratio  
 284 of 2.56 and higher<sup>20</sup>, similar to the contraction ratio of 3.67 in the current study. An essential  
 285 difference with previous studies is the outlet shape, which is a  $45^\circ$  contraction instead of a sudden  
 286 one. The size of a CRZ depends on a high rate of decay of swirl velocity<sup>22</sup>, which is not achieved  
 287 due to the confinement. This leads to a small CRZ, reaching into the nozzle<sup>23,52,53</sup>. The decrease in  
 288 central axial velocity can also be observed in the LDV measurements for increasing swirl numbers.

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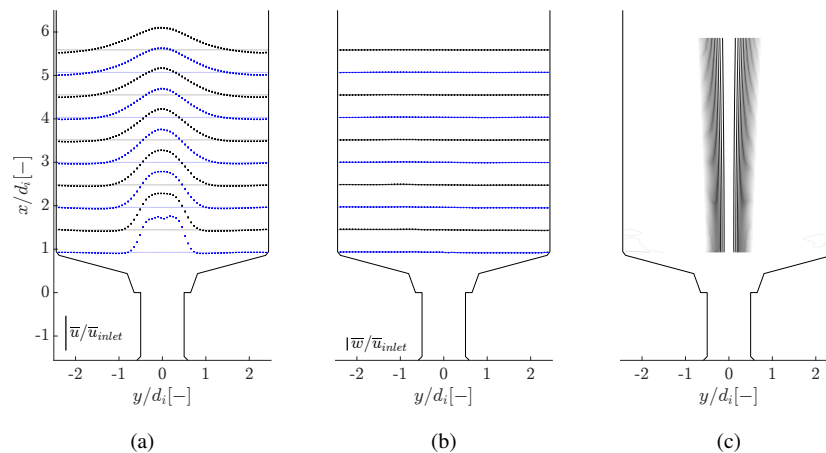


FIG. 8: Visualization of a CJF at  $S_{0.84} = 0$ , displayed in the geometry. Left and middle: axial and tangential velocity profiles are depicted with their error bars. Only one in two data points is shown to improve readability, and the colors alternate between black and blue to distinguish the plots easily. Right: isocontours of the stream function ( $\phi(x,r)$ ). (a) Axial velocity profiles. (b) Tangential velocity profiles. (c) Stream function ( $\phi$ ).

289 In the current study, the central positive velocity exists significantly further upstream, most likely  
 290 due to the aspect ratio ( $L/D$ ) being half of the aspect ratio considered in Li and Gutmark<sup>20</sup>. For  
 291 the tangential velocity, a high gradient is observed in the center, which propagates through the  
 292 domain. Similar behavior is seen in Escudier, Nickson, and Poole<sup>23</sup> with an outlet contraction  
 293 ratio of 2.2.

### 294 C. Coandă Jet Flow (CoJF)

295 Figure 10 visualizes a representative flow profile of a CoJF at  $S_{0.84} = 1.78$ . A similar flow  
 296 field is present at  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$  and 1.52. An OJF has streamlines which strongly expand radially,  
 297 attaching to the second tapered part of the inlet. This jet is simultaneously present with a central  
 298 jet flow. The higher RMS values in the central region of this flow field originate from a wobbling  
 299 motion of the jet, as discussed by Holemans *et al.*<sup>34</sup>. The recirculation zone, originating from a  
 300 VB, is going further into the nozzle, which decreases the central axial velocity values, as seen in  
 301 the LDV measurements. A more extensive discussion of this flow field can be found in Holemans

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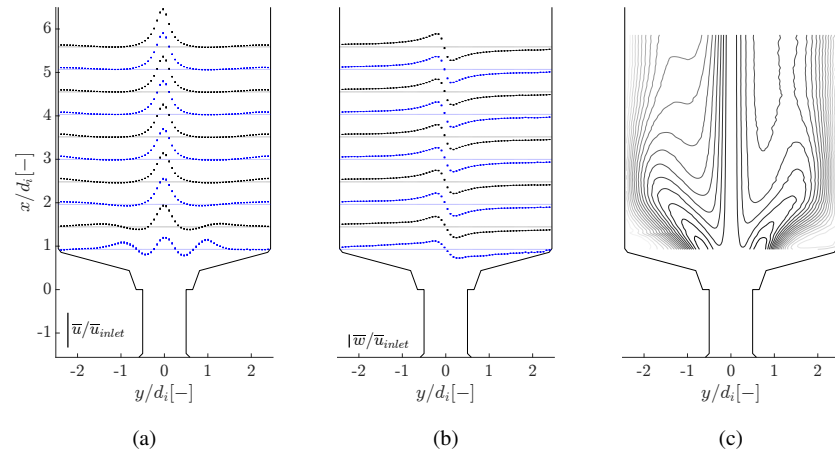


FIG. 9: Visualization of an OJF at  $S_{0.84} = 0.35$ , displayed in the geometry. Identical figure composition as Figure 8. (a) Axial velocity profiles. (b) Tangential velocity profiles. (c) Stream function ( $\phi$ ).

302 *et al.*<sup>34</sup>. From  $S_{0.84} = 1.52$  onwards, a double peak axial velocity forms at a sufficient distance  
 303 from the expansion. This radial expansion into two peaks also reduces the maximum velocity of  
 304 these peaks.

#### 305 IV. HYSTERESIS MAP

306 The different flow structures observed while increasing ( $\uparrow$ ) the swirl number are identified and  
 307 discussed in the previous section. When the swirl number is decreased ( $\downarrow$ ), different flow structures  
 308 are noted at the same swirl numbers, indicating hysteresis behavior. A visual representation of  
 309 this hysteresis is depicted in Figure 11. A representative stream function plot of each flow state  
 310 is visualized, specifically, a CJF at  $S_{0.84} = 0$  (start), an OJF at  $S_{0.84} = 0.69 \uparrow$ , and a CoJF at  
 311  $S_{0.84} = 1.78 \uparrow$ .

312 The flow structures of each measurement are shown in the different appendices. A similarity  
 313 in the respective flow fields is evident in several pairs of increasing and decreasing swirl num-  
 314 bers. Specifically, the following pairs, denoting first the increasing case and then the decreasing  
 315 swirl number:  $S_{0.84} = [0.16; 0.69]$  (increasing OJF),  $S_{0.84} = [1.13; 1.52]$  (increasing CoJF) and  
 316  $S_{0.84} = [0.35; 1.13]$  (decreasing OJF). These pairs exhibit comparable velocity profiles, RMS pro-

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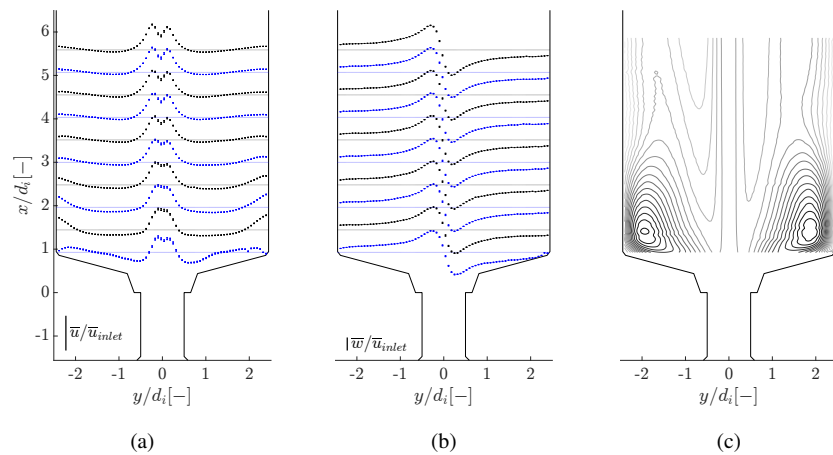


FIG. 10: Visualization of a CoJF at  $S_{0.84} = 1.78$ , displayed in the geometry. Identical figure composition as Figure 8. (a) Axial velocity profiles. (b) Tangential velocity profiles. (c) Stream function ( $\phi$ ).

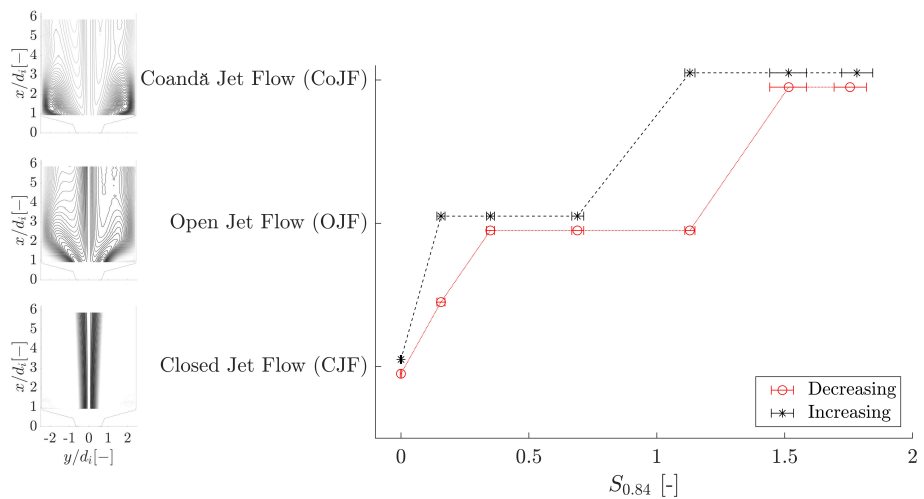


FIG. 11: Flow patterns identified of a swirling jet downstream of a two-step conical expansion and its transition map related to changing swirl number. A representative stream function plot of each flow pattern is added to the figure.

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317 files, and stream functions. As the swirl increases, the occurrence of VB marks the transition  
 318 towards an OJF. This VB bubble originates upstream of the inlet tube, as in the LDV measure-  
 319 ments in Figure 5, it is not yet visible. The bubble behaves like a bluff body to the flow in the inlet  
 320 tube, creating a central jet in the middle of the geometry. As the swirl number increases, the size  
 321 of this bubble grows and it moves more upstream in the inlet tube, hence blocking the flow more.  
 322 Due to the conservation of angular momentum,  $r\omega$ , the central jets rotates faster and faster in the  
 323 wake of the bubble. This fast rotation induces radial pressure gradients, i.e.

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial r} = \rho \frac{V_z^2}{r}. \quad (7)$$

324 If the radial expansion of the flow is sufficiently large, the Coanda effect in the sudden expansion  
 325 pulls the jet towards the wall, similar to annular jet flows with a stepped-conical expansion<sup>25</sup>. If  
 326 the swirl number is decreased from maximum swirl, the opposite effect occurs. The VB bubble  
 327 size decreases and hysteretic behavior of VB<sup>14</sup> is most likely responsible for the hysteresis at  
 328  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$ . Further decreasing the swirl reduces the size of the bubble and moves its location  
 329 upstream of the inlet tube. This results in a decrease in radial expansion of the OJF. For  $S_{0.84} =$   
 330  $0.35 \downarrow$ , a profile with a subtle OJF is observed, pushing the VB almost fully into the nozzle. In  
 331 some cases in the literature, i.e., Moise and Mathew<sup>14</sup>, CoJF flow can be reached if the swirl  
 332 number is increased enough and will only disappear at a lower swirl number. In previous one-step  
 333 conical expansion research, CoJF was reached only by decreasing the swirl number and not in  
 334 the increasing case<sup>26,29</sup>. The hysteresis shown in Figure 11 is inverse to these expectations. This  
 335 implies that low swirl numbers cannot be used to achieve CoJF in an SFR for enhancing efficiency.  
 336 OJF appears more stable than CoJF at high swirl numbers for a two-step conical expansion, as is  
 337 noted in Figure 11.

338 In the decreasing swirl case, a similar precessing structure, as discussed in Section III A is  
 339 present in the flow field with a Strouhal number of 0.0028, at zero swirl. The jet spreading can be  
 340 quantified using the jet half-width or the opening angle. The jet half-width is defined as the angle of  
 341 the line connecting locations where the axial velocity is 50% of the jet's centerline velocity. The  
 342 opening angle is defined as the line connecting locations where the axial velocity crosses zero.  
 343 The decreasing swirl case with  $S = 0$  shows slightly higher values for jet spreading compared  
 344 to the starting case. Specifically, there is an increase of  $2.27^\circ$  and  $3.26^\circ$ , for the jet-half width  
 345 and opening angle, respectively. However, both variables exhibit a high spread for this type of  
 346 flow, as shown in Holemans *et al.*<sup>34</sup>, with a standard deviation of 0.40 and 0.59, respectively.

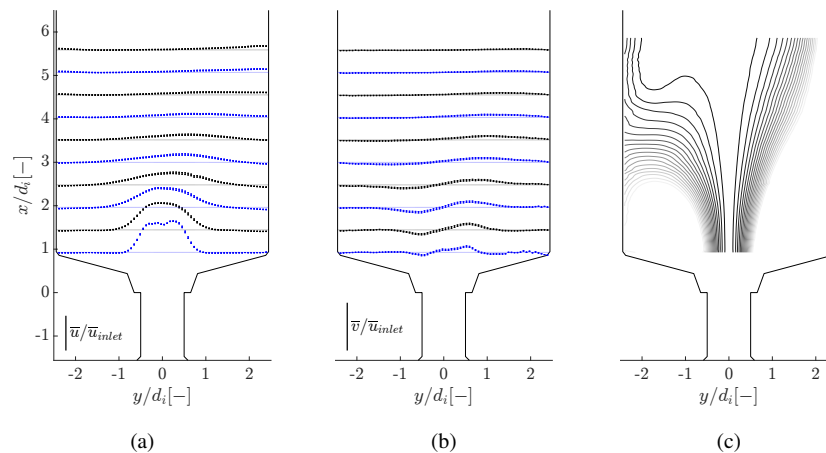


FIG. 12: Visualization of a non-axisymmetric jet at  $S_{0.84} = 0.16 \downarrow$ , displayed in the geometry. Identical figure composition as Figure 8. (a) Axial velocity profiles. (b) Radial velocity profiles. (c) Stream function ( $\phi$ ).

347 The dimensionless maximum of the tangential velocity, in the S-PIV measurements, is three times  
 348 higher for the decreasing swirl case than an equivalent increasing case. Similar behavior is noted  
 349 in the LDV measurements, where a residual tangential velocity in the nozzle is observed. While  
 350 decreasing the swirl number, at a low swirl number ( $S_{0.84} = 0.16$ ), a non-axisymmetric jet is  
 351 observed, visualized in Figure 12. The time-averaged flow field of the jet shows a deviation of  
 352 the jet for the axial and radial velocity to one side, with its right side opening up and its left  
 353 side exhibiting some recirculation. From  $S_{0.84} = 1.52 \uparrow$  and only until  $S_{0.84} = 1.76 \downarrow$ , a double  
 354 peak axial velocity forms at a sufficient distance from the expansion. Some hysteresis effects are  
 355 also observed in the LDV measurements, where the tangential velocity remained higher at low  
 356 swirl numbers  $S_{0.84} < 0.25$  for the decreasing swirl case. At higher swirl numbers, no hysteresis  
 357 behavior is observed in the nozzle neither for the velocity magnitudes, nor for the temporal spectra.  
 358

## 359 V. DYNAMICS OF FLOW PATTERNS

360 It is well known that swirling flows are inherently unsteady and can feature complex structures  
 361 like VB or PVCs. To unravel the large scale coherent structures, a POD analysis was performed on  
 362 the OJF and the CoJF. Results show that the coherent structures of both the OJF and CoJF are very

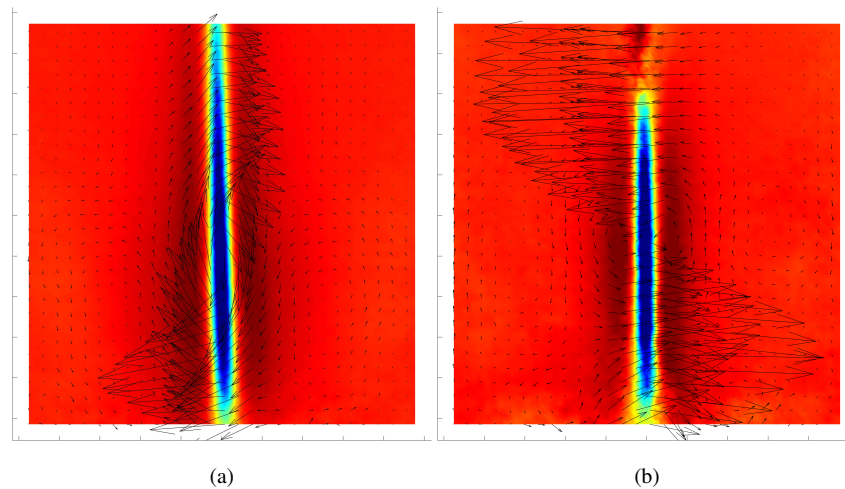


FIG. 13: Spatial POD modes with the highest energy content for the CoJF at  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$ . The vectors denote the in-plane velocity vectors, while the out-of-plane velocity is depicted by the color values. The colorbar is in arbitrary units to increase visibility. (a) Mode one of the pair. (b) Mode two of the pair.

363 similar at all swirl numbers and hence only 2 representative flow fields are shown, corresponding  
 364 to the hysteresis location at  $S_{0.84}=1.13$  in Figure 11.

365 The mode pair with the highest energy content for the CoJF is shown in Figure 13. This pair  
 366 describes a precession of the central jet behind the VB bubble and contains 25% of the total energy.  
 367 This mode pair is identical to the one found in the work of Holemans et al.<sup>35</sup> at maximum swirl.  
 368 The precession has a temporal dynamic of  $St = 0.04$ . The mode pair with the highest energy  
 369 content for the OJF is shown in Figure 14. The spatial structure is very similar to the CoJF. This  
 370 pair also describes a precession of the central jet behind the VB bubble and contains 20% of the  
 371 total energy. The precession itself has a temporal dynamic of  $St = 0.03$ , slightly slower than the  
 372 one of the CoJF. This difference is attributed to the large VB bubble at higher swirl numbers,  
 373 creating a larger rotational velocity near the central axis for the CoJF compared to the OJF, as also  
 374 discussed in the previous section.

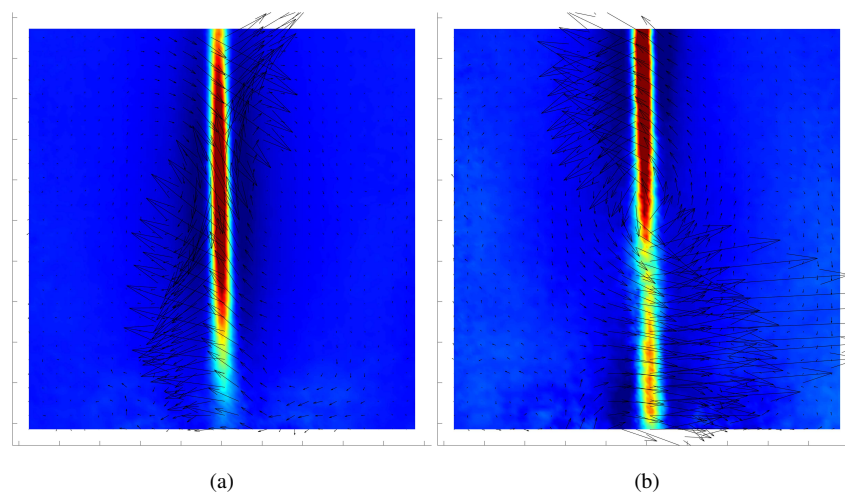


FIG. 14: Spatial POD modes with the highest energy content for the OJF at  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$ . The vectors denote the in-plane velocity vectors, while the out-of-plane velocity is depicted by the color values. The colorbar is in arbitrary units to increase visibility. (a) Mode one of the pair. (b) Mode two of the pair.

## 375 VI. CONCLUSIONS

376 A sudden expansion flow with a two-step conical expansion is characterized both upstream and  
 377 downstream of the expansion by LDV and S-PIV measurements, respectively. A varying swirling  
 378 flow inlet is calibrated by LDV measurements, which quantify the swirl number for 84% of the  
 379 inlet tube's diameter,  $S_{0.84}$ . These values showed high axisymmetric similarity. The swirl number  
 380 is increased and subsequently decreased to check for the hysteresis behavior of the flow field.  
 381 Notably, the axial velocity profiles resembled power law velocity profiles at low swirl numbers.  
 382 However, increasing swirl numbers led to a decreased central axial velocity until flow reversal,  
 383 attributed to VB, occurred beyond  $S_{0.84} = 1.74$ . From  $S_{0.84} \geq 0.48$  onwards, a PVC is observable  
 384 in the frequency spectra, and up to the third harmonic is identified for the highest swirl numbers.  
 385 At high swirl numbers, no hysteresis behavior of the jet is observed in the nozzle, neither for the  
 386 velocity profiles nor the frequency spectra. A residual tangential velocity stays present at low  
 387 swirl numbers while decreasing the swirl number, which promotes the precessing jet structure at  
 388 these low swirl numbers and increases jet spreading. S-PIV measurements identify three different

389 flow structures: CJF, OJF, and CoJF. CJF is reached at zero swirl, which transitions to OJF for  
 390  $0.16 \uparrow \leq S_{0.84} \leq 0.69 \uparrow$ . CoJF is observed for  $S_{0.84} \geq 1.13 \uparrow$ .

391 If VB is present, which is for OJF and CoJF, a positive central axial velocity emerges in com-  
 392 bination with a radially expanding jet due to the contracting outlet. At decreasing swirl numbers,  
 393 CoJF exists for  $S_{0.84} \geq 1.52 \downarrow$ , and OJF exists for  $0.35 \downarrow \leq S_{0.84} \leq 1.13 \downarrow$ . The following pairs de-  
 394 note these pairs by first stating the increasing swirl number and then the decreasing swirl number:  
 395  $S_{0.84} = [0.16; 0.69]$ ,  $S_{0.84} = [0.13; 1.52]$  and  $S_{0.84} = [0.35; 1.13]$ , showing hysteretic behavior at  
 396  $S_{0.84} = 1.13$ . This hysteretic behavior is most likely caused by hysteresis in the appearance of VB  
 397 as a function of the swirl number. Follow up research could address this by performing numerical  
 398 simulations to reveal the flow structures in the nozzle and study the influence of Reynolds number  
 399 on the characteristics of VB. With the findings in this study, flow control applications where the  
 400 swirl number is the controlling parameter could be designed to switch between flow patterns in  
 401 mixing applications, or switch flame patterns in swirl burners.

#### 402 FUNDING

403 This work was supported by 'Dienst onderzoekscoördinatie (DOC) KU Leuven' [grant number  
 404 C3/19/015].

#### 405 DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

406 Additional data that support the findings in this study are available from the corresponding  
 407 author upon reasonable request.

#### 408 CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

409 The authors have no conflicts to disclose.

#### 410 Appendix A: Refraction calculation for measuring velocities by LDV in the inlet tube

411 The ray-tracing of the LDV laser is explained in this Appendix. The formulas and nomenclature  
 412 are based on Figure 4. The values for  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$ , and  $y_1$  are known in advance since they are  
 413 specific to the setup, and can be derived from the values given in Section II B. All other values can

414 be calculated by ray tracing them. Using trigonometry,  $y_2$  can be calculated,

$$y_2 = y_1 - \tan(\alpha_1)(x_2 - x_1). \quad (\text{A1})$$

415 The view box is made from PMMA with a different refractive index ( $n_{PMMA}$ ) as the surrounding  
416 air ( $n_{air}$ ). Based on Snell's law, this results in a refracted angle,  $\alpha_2$ .

$$\alpha_2 = \arcsin\left(\frac{n_{air}}{n_{PMMA}} \sin(\alpha_1)\right). \quad (\text{A2})$$

417 The entry point into the liquid,  $y_3$ , is calculated with trigonometry, which is

$$y_3 = y_2 - \tan(\alpha_2) p_1. \quad (\text{A3})$$

418 Using Snell's law again,  $\alpha_3$  can be calculated,

$$\alpha_3 = \arcsin\left(\frac{n_{PMMA}}{n_{water}} \sin(\alpha_2)\right). \quad (\text{A4})$$

419 The ray of light will intersect with the outer circle of the inlet tube. This intersection point  $[x_4, y_4]$   
420 is calculated by combining trigonometry and the equation for a circle into one system of equations.

421 This system of equations will give two distinct solutions. The only correct solution is where  $x_4 < 0$ ,

$$\begin{cases} y_3 - y_4 = \tan(\alpha_3)(x_4 - x_3) \\ x_4^2 + y_4^2 = (R + p_2)^2. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A5})$$

422 An extra line is introduced, which connects the point  $[x_4, y_4]$  and the origin. The angle between  
423 this line and the horizontal line is  $\alpha_8$ . This can be calculated using trigonometry,

$$\alpha_8 = -\arctan\left(\frac{y_4}{x_4}\right). \quad (\text{A6})$$

424 Two cases are identified: the measurement takes place in front ( $\alpha_8 < \alpha_3$ ) or behind ( $\alpha_8 > \alpha_3$ )  
425 the tube's center. In the following equations, a  $\pm$  or  $\mp$  is used to distinguish between these two  
426 cases. For  $\alpha_8 > \alpha_3$ , the top sign is valid and for  $\alpha_8 < \alpha_3$ , the bottom sign is valid. No refractions  
427 occur at the moment that  $\alpha_8 = \alpha_3$ , and the ray trace will not change direction. This equality only  
428 happens if the measurement volume is at the exact center of the tube. The incident angle on the  
429 outer circle,  $\alpha_4$ , can be calculated with Equation A7,

$$\alpha_4 = |\alpha_8 - \alpha_3|. \quad (\text{A7})$$

430 The refractive angle inside the outer circle,  $\alpha_5$ , follows from Snell's law,

$$\alpha_5 = \arcsin\left(\frac{n_{water}}{n_{PMMA}} \sin(\alpha_4)\right). \quad (\text{A8})$$

431 For the intersection point on the inner circle of the inlet tube,  $x_5$  and  $y_5$ , a combination of trigonometry and the equation for a circle is used in a system of equations. Two distinct solutions will follow  
 432 from this system, for which only the one where  $x_5 < 0$  is valid, as explained above.

$$\begin{cases} y_4 - y_5 = -\tan(\alpha_8 \mp \alpha_5)(x_5 - x_4) \\ x_5^2 + y_5^2 = R^2 \end{cases} \quad (\text{A9})$$

434 A second extra line connects the point  $[x_5, y_5]$  and the origin. The angle between this line and the  
 435 horizontal line is  $\alpha_9$ . This angle is calculated by using trigonometry,

$$\alpha_9 = -\arctan\left(\frac{y_5}{x_5}\right). \quad (\text{A10})$$

436 The angle  $\alpha_6$  is the angle between the second extra line, the ray trace, and the incident angle on  
 437 the inner circle,

$$\alpha_6 = \alpha_5 \pm \alpha_9 \mp \alpha_8. \quad (\text{A11})$$

438 The refractive angle inside the inner circle,  $\alpha_7$ , follows from Snell's law

$$\alpha_7 = \arcsin\left(\frac{n_{PMMA}}{n_{water}} \sin(\alpha_6)\right). \quad (\text{A12})$$

439 The intersection position of the ray trace and the horizontal line,  $x_6$ , can be found using trigonometry and considering the angles  $\alpha_8$  and  $\alpha_3$ . The two lasers of the LDV probe intersect at this point,  
 440 where the measurement volume is also located. The reflected laser signal follows the same path  
 441 described in the equations above,  
 442

$$x_6 = \frac{y_5}{\tan(\alpha_9 \mp \alpha_7)} + x_5. \quad (\text{A13})$$

443 Using trigonometry,  $\alpha_{10}$  is obtained. This value is needed to calculate the fringe spacing created  
 444 due to the intersecting laser beams,

$$\alpha_{10} = \arctan\left(\frac{y_5}{x_6 - x_5}\right). \quad (\text{A14})$$

445 Equation A15 calculates the fringe spacing. In a non-refracting case,  $\alpha_{10}$  would be equal to  $\alpha_1$ . In  
 446 the axial measurements, the fringe spacing remains unchanged since the change in refractive index  
 447 and the incident angle cancel each other out. In the tangential measurement, the fringe spacing

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448 does change due to the refractions, for which Equation A15 describes this change. The LDV  
 449 velocity output values must be scaled with the ratio between  $d_{f,tangential}$  and the original fringe  
 450 spacing, both values noted in Table II,

$$d_{f,tangential} = \frac{\lambda_{water}}{2 \sin(\alpha_{10})}. \quad (A15)$$

451 Equations A14 and A15 recalculate the fringe spacing based on the refractions, with  $\lambda_{water}$  being  
 452 the wavelength of the LDV laser in the water medium, which is the original wavelength divided  
 453 by the refractive index of the medium. These formulas are inspired by a study of Gardavsky  
 454 *et al.*<sup>57</sup>. The equations are reformatted to have similar equations for each interface, which makes  
 455 the calculations less complex.

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## II. VELOCITY PROFILES OF WHOLE HYSTERESIS

### A. Axial velocity profiles

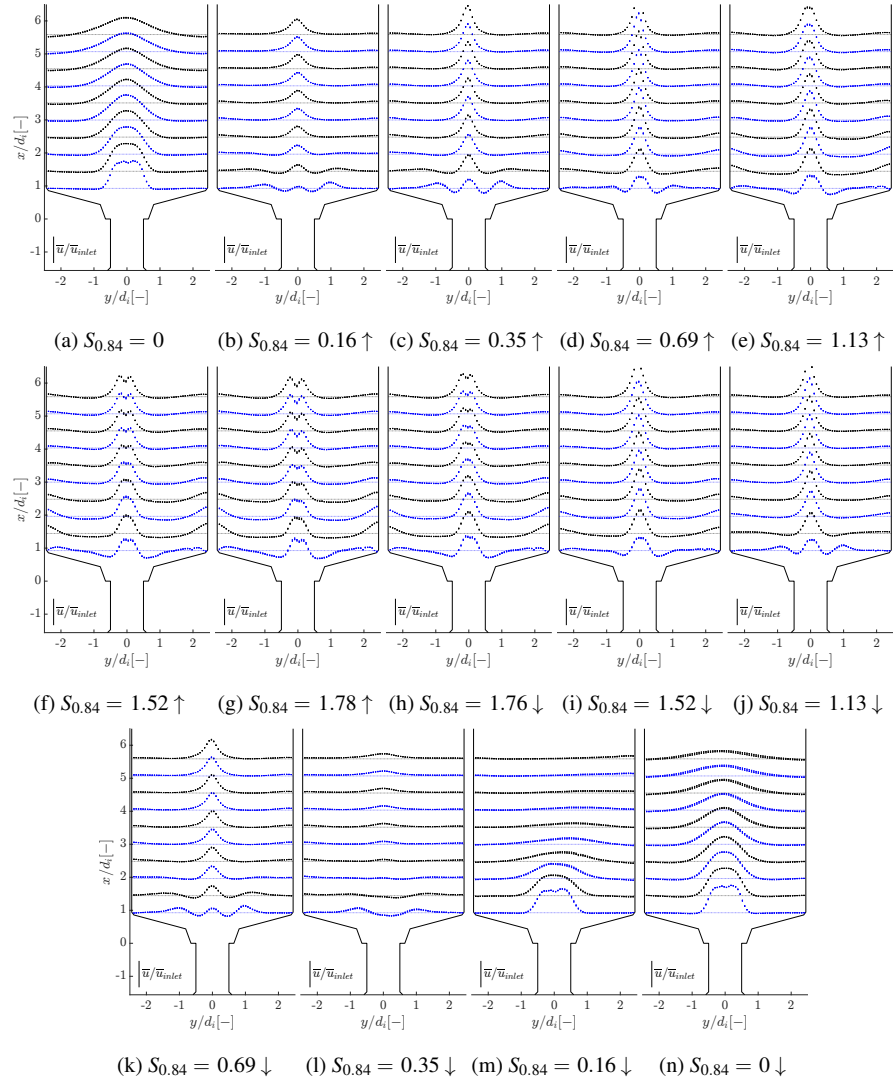


FIG. 15: Axial velocity profiles plotted in the geometry for all S-PIV measurements, both increasing ( $\uparrow$ ) and decreasing ( $\downarrow$ ) swirl. Identical figure composition as Figure 15.

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**B. Radial velocity profiles**

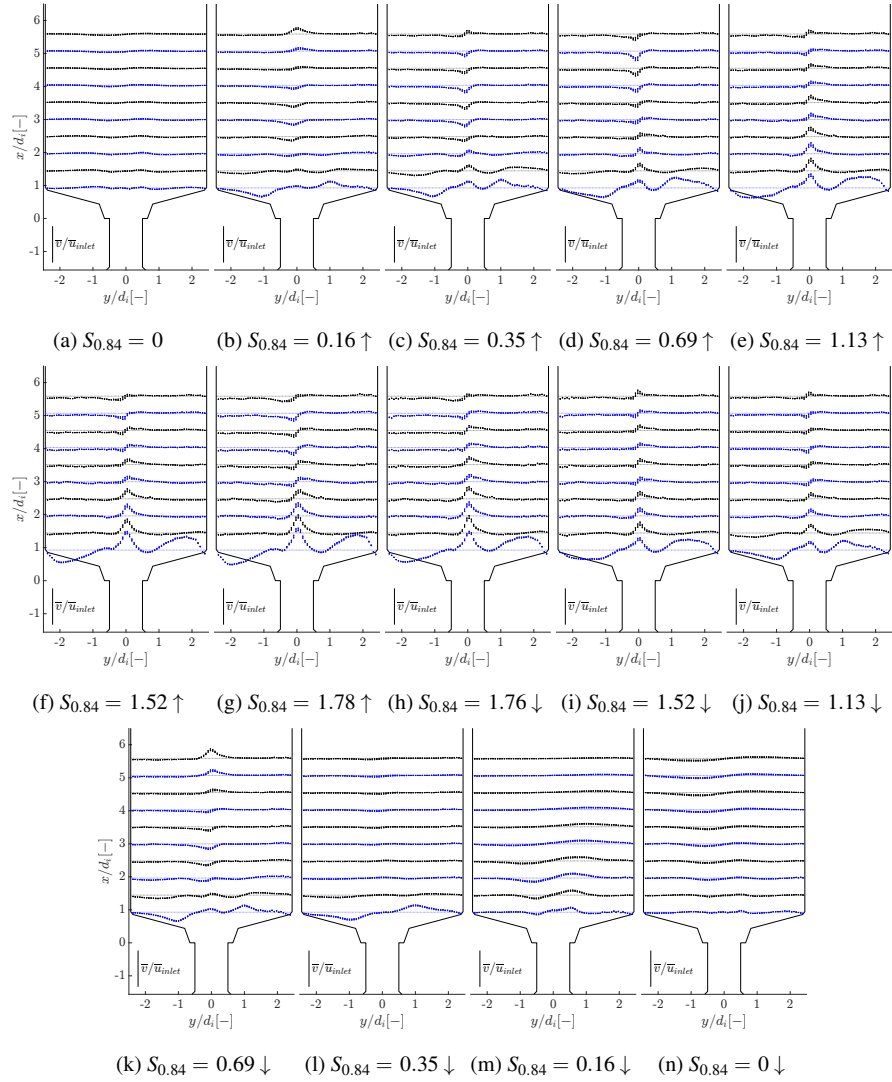


FIG. 16: Radial velocity profiles plotted in the geometry for all S-PIV measurements, both increasing ( $\uparrow$ ) and decreasing ( $\downarrow$ ) swirl. Identical figure composition as Figure 15.

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C. Tangential velocity profiles

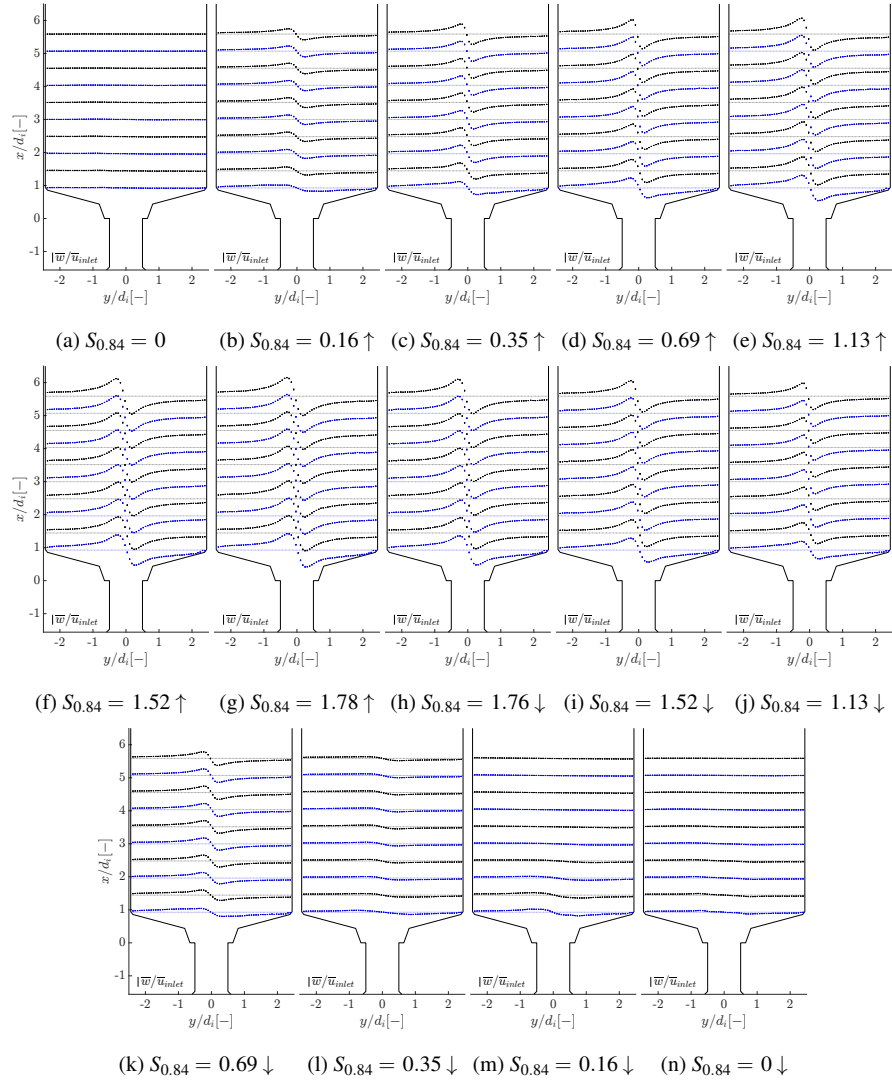


FIG. 17: Tangential velocity profiles plotted in the geometry for all S-PIV measurements, both increasing ( $\uparrow$ ) and decreasing ( $\downarrow$ ) swirl. Identical figure composition as Figure 15.

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### III. RMS PROFILES OF ALL DATA SETS

#### A. Axial RMS profiles

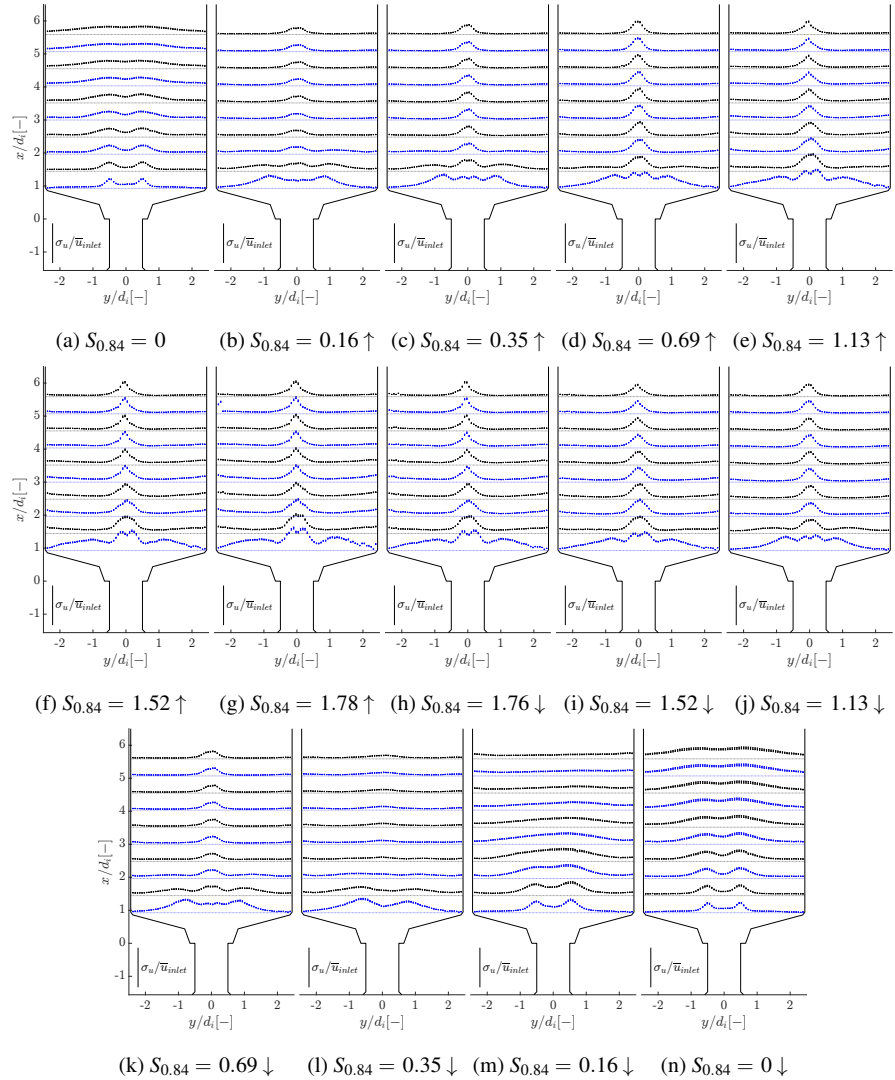


FIG. 18: Axial RMS velocity profiles plotted in the geometry for all S-PIV measurements, both increasing ( $\uparrow$ ) and decreasing ( $\downarrow$ ) swirl. Identical figure composition as Figure 15.

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**B. Radial RMS profiles**

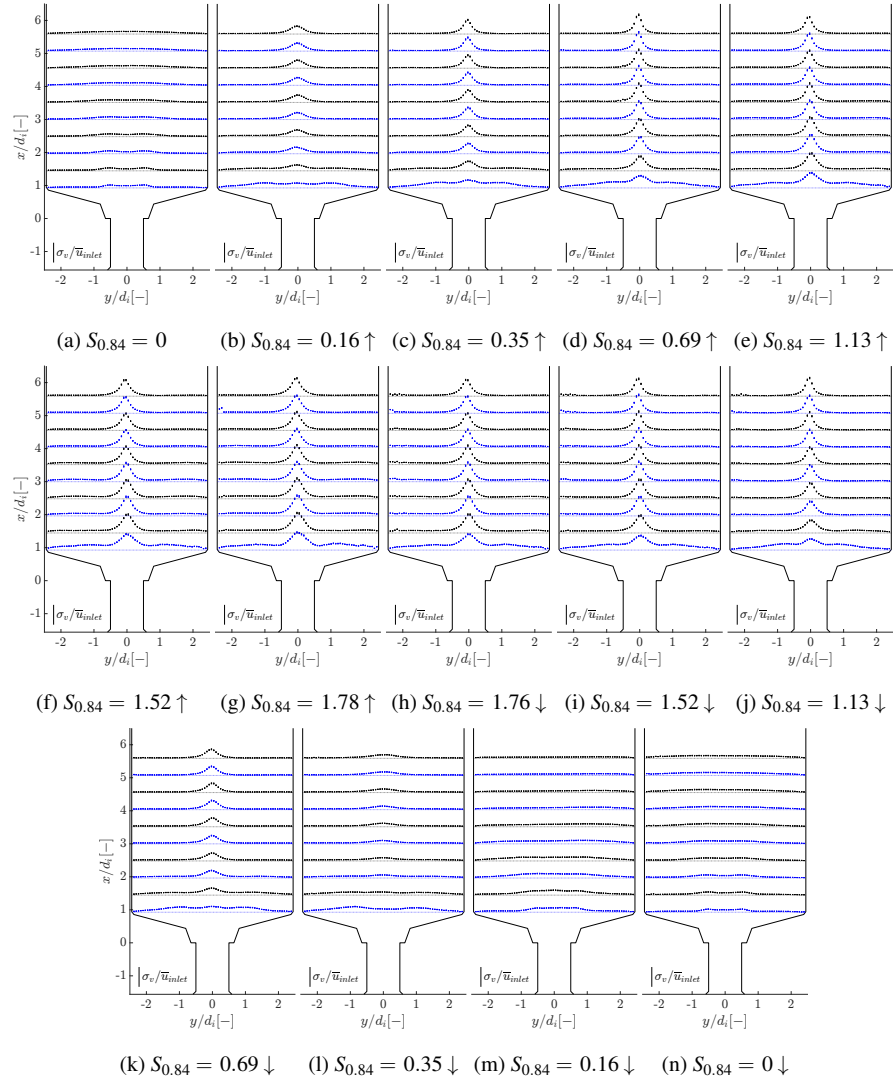


FIG. 19: Radial RMS velocity profiles plotted in the geometry for all S-PIV measurements, both increasing (↑) and decreasing (↓) swirl. Identical figure composition as Figure 15.

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C. Tangential RMS profiles

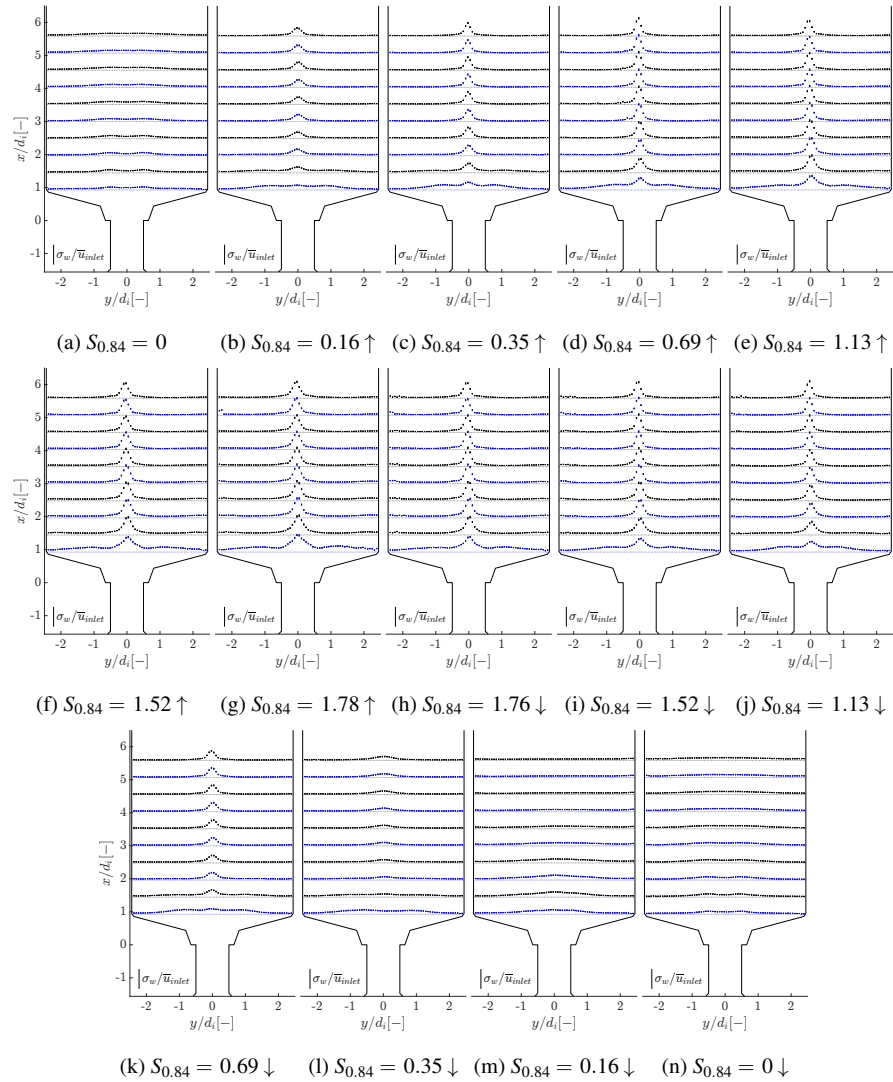


FIG. 20: Tangential RMS velocity profiles plotted in the geometry for all S-PIV measurements, both increasing (↑) and decreasing (↓) swirl. Identical figure composition as Figure 15.

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IV. STREAM FUNCTIONS ( $\phi$ ) OF ALL DATA SETS

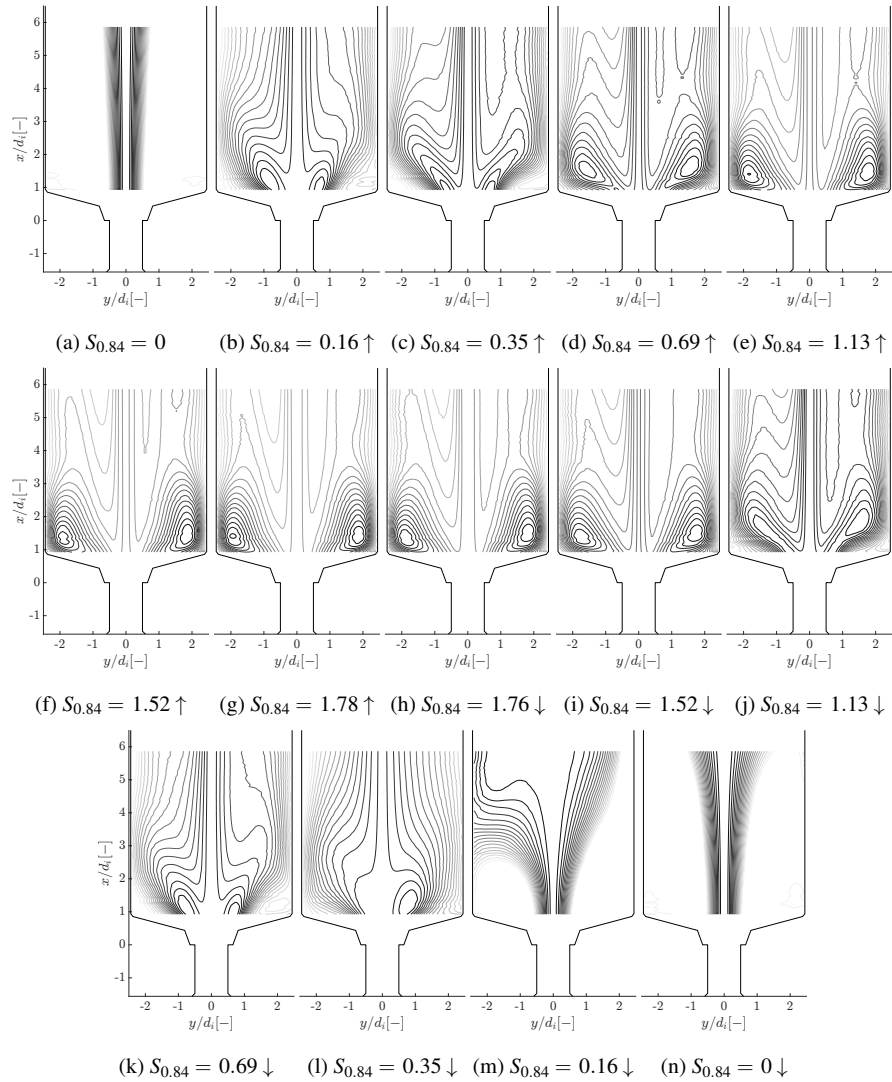


FIG. 21: Stream function  $\phi$  plotted in the geometry for all S-PIV measurements, both increasing ( $\uparrow$ ) and decreasing ( $\downarrow$ ) swirl.

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V. IN-PLANE VECTOR PLOTS OF ALL DATA SETS

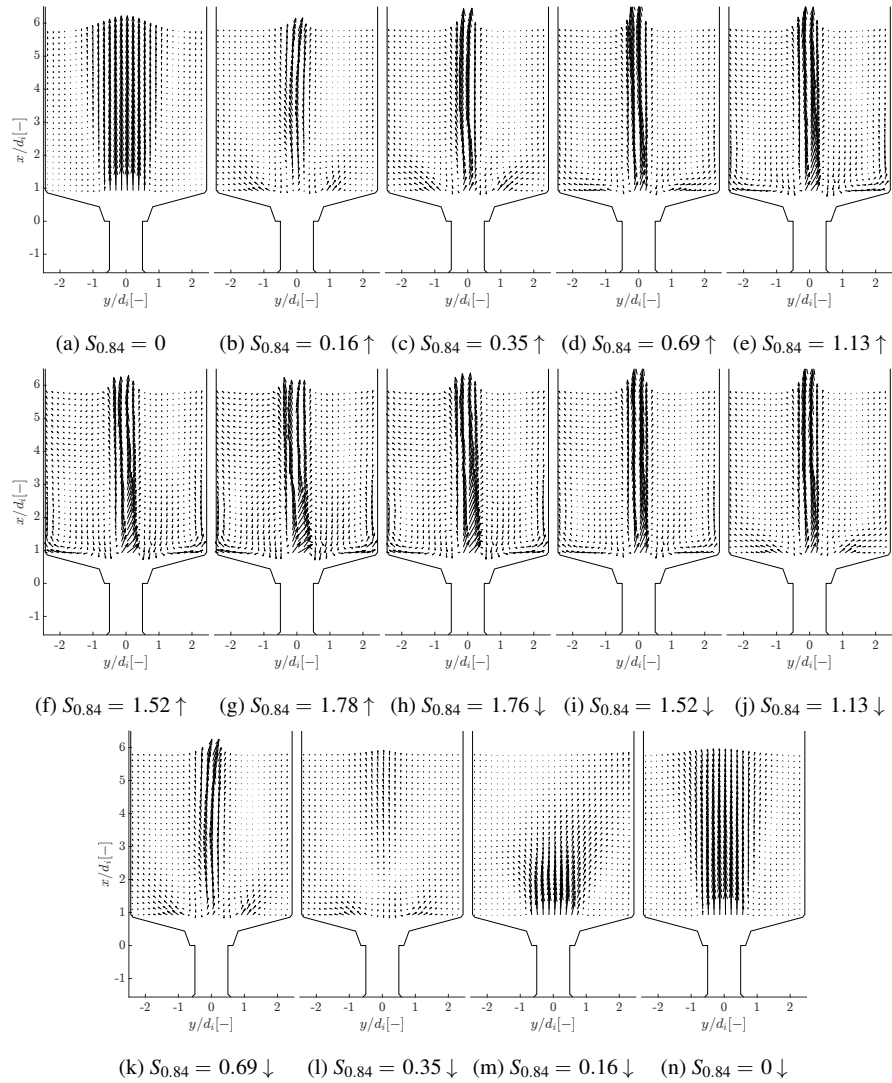


FIG. 22: In-plane vectors plotted in the geometry for all S-PIV measurements, both increasing (↑) and decreasing (↓) swirl.

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