



# Turbulent flow predictions of MHK turbine arrays using physics-informed convolutional neural networks

---

Zexia Zhang and Ali Khosronejad

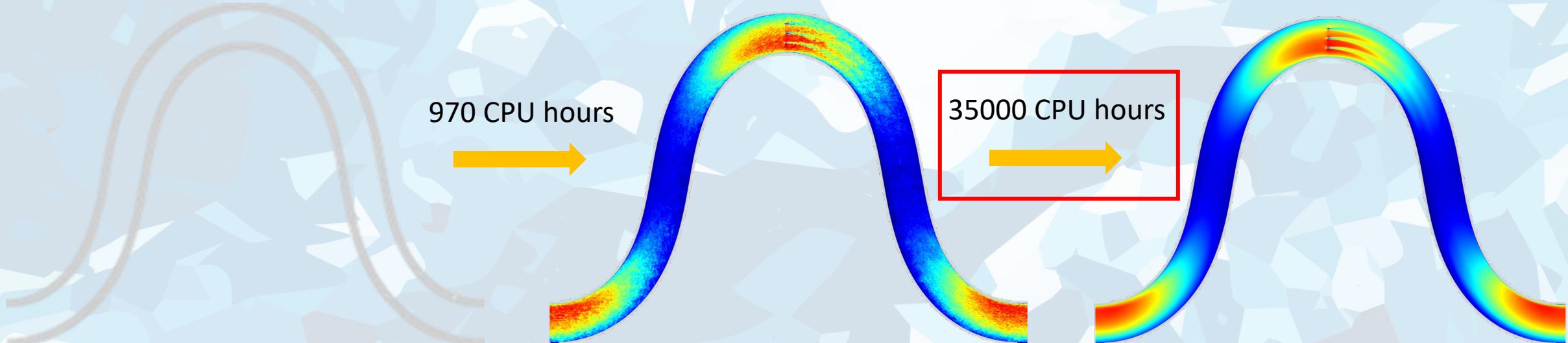
Civil Engineering Department, College of Engineering & Applied Sciences,  
Stony Brook University





# Motivation

Large Eddy Simulations (LES) of large-scale rivers are very expensive, especially on calculating statistical properties, i.e.  $\bar{u}$ ,  $\bar{v}$ ,  $\bar{w}$ ,  $\overline{u'u'}$ ,  $\overline{v'v'}$ ,  $\overline{w'w'}$ , etc.



Large- scale virtual meandering river

River size:  $2110 \text{ m} \times 100 \text{ m} \times 3.3 \text{ m}$

Grid:  $6601 \times 501 \times 21 = 6.9 \times 10^7$

Time-averaged flow field

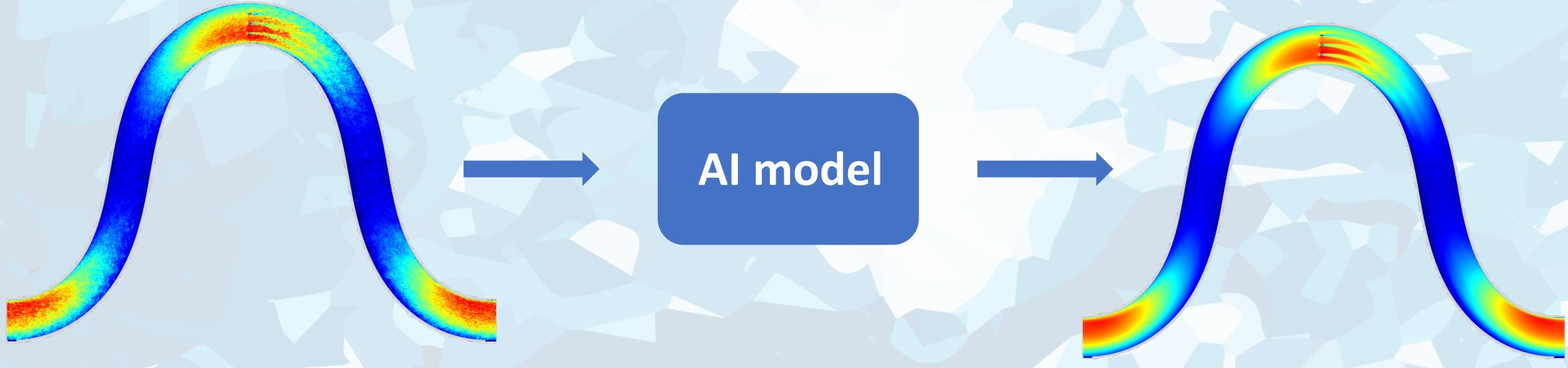


# Motivation

**Can we use artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to reduce the cost?**



# Strategy



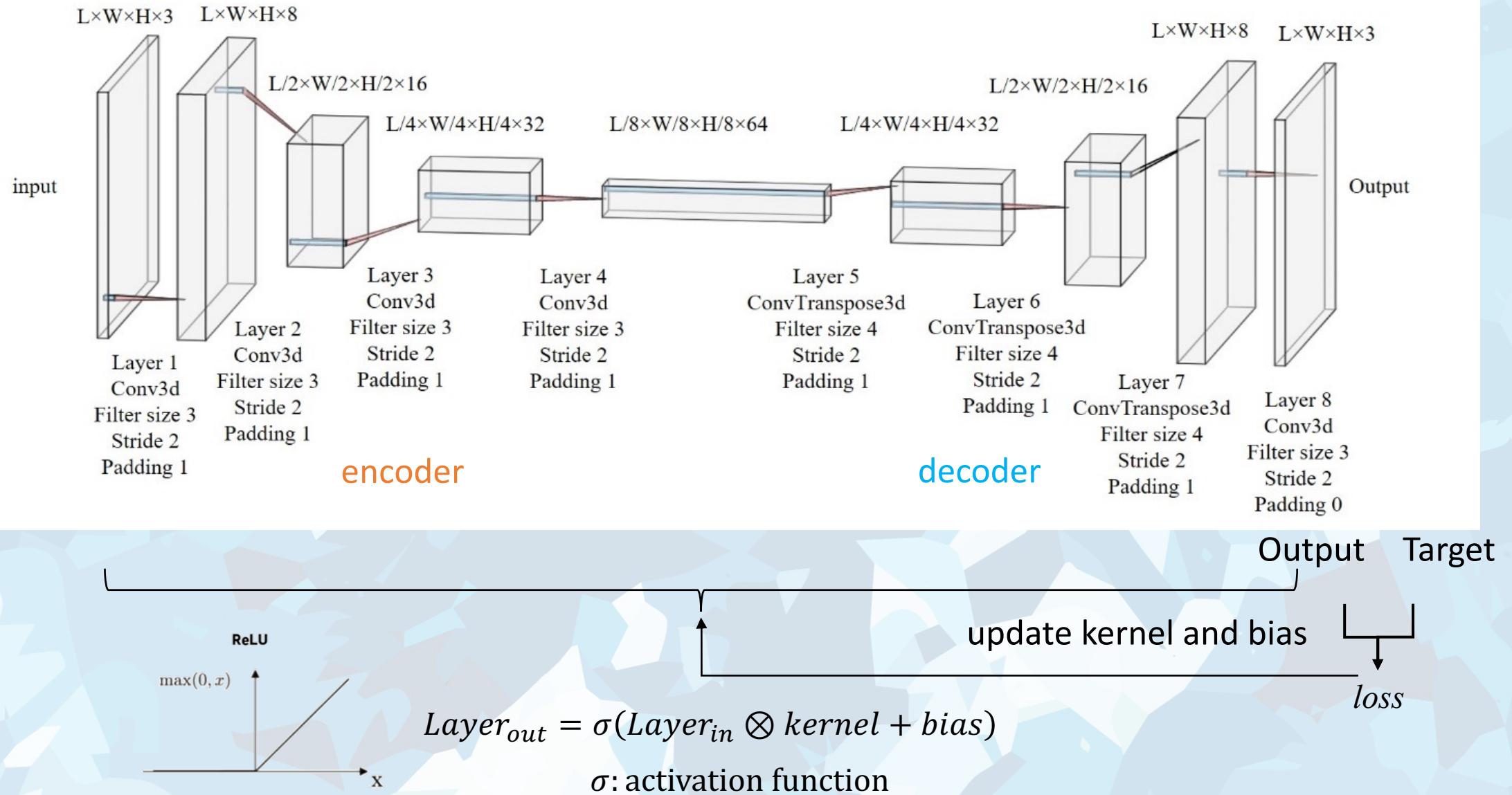
Fully-converged instantaneous  
turbulent flow field

AI model

Time-averaged flow field



# Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)





# Loss function and Physics constraints

Governing equations for mean velocity:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Div} v &= 0 \\ M &= \operatorname{Conv} + P + \operatorname{Diff} + RS \end{aligned}$$

Difference between LES and CNN results:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \operatorname{Div} v &= \operatorname{Div}_{CNN} - \operatorname{Div}_{LES} \\ \Delta M &= M_{CNN} - M_{LES} \end{aligned}$$

Loss function of CNN:

CNN

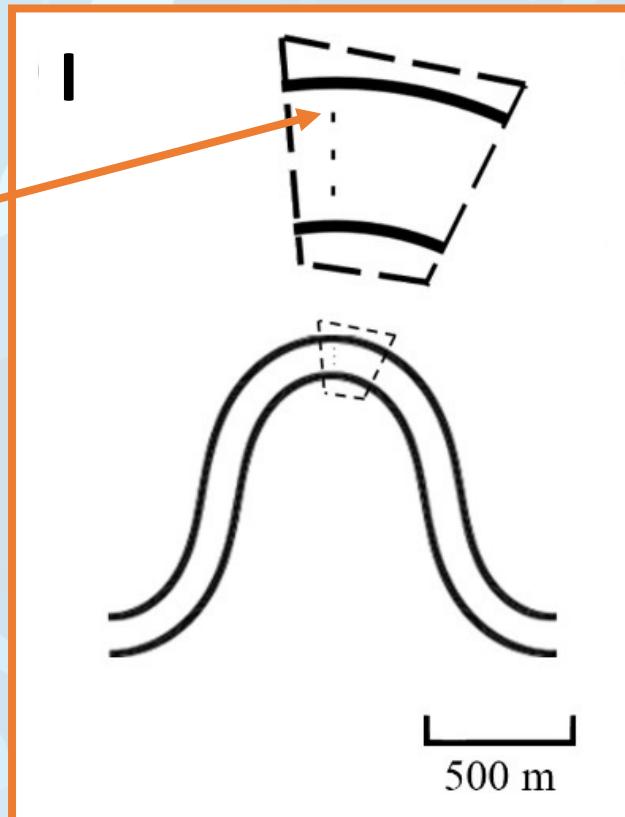
PICNN

$$\boxed{\text{Loss} = MSE(\Phi_{CNN} - \Phi_{LES}) + MSE(\Delta \operatorname{Div} v) + MSE(\Delta M)}$$

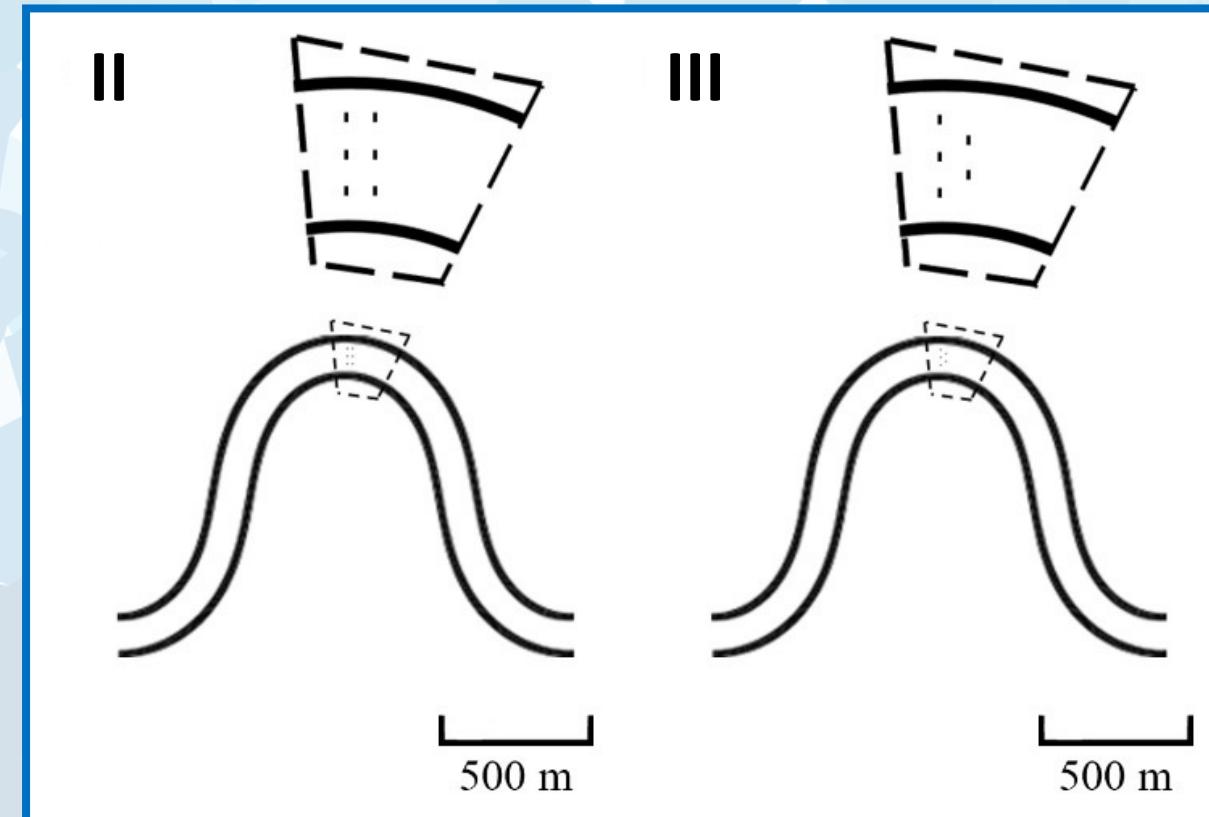


# Training and validation cases

Turbines  
 $D = 1.5 \text{ m}$



Training case



Validation cases

\* Virtual Rivers are developed by Ajay B. Limaye from Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia



# Training- mean velocity

- Run LES to produce training data

Instantaneous velocity fields

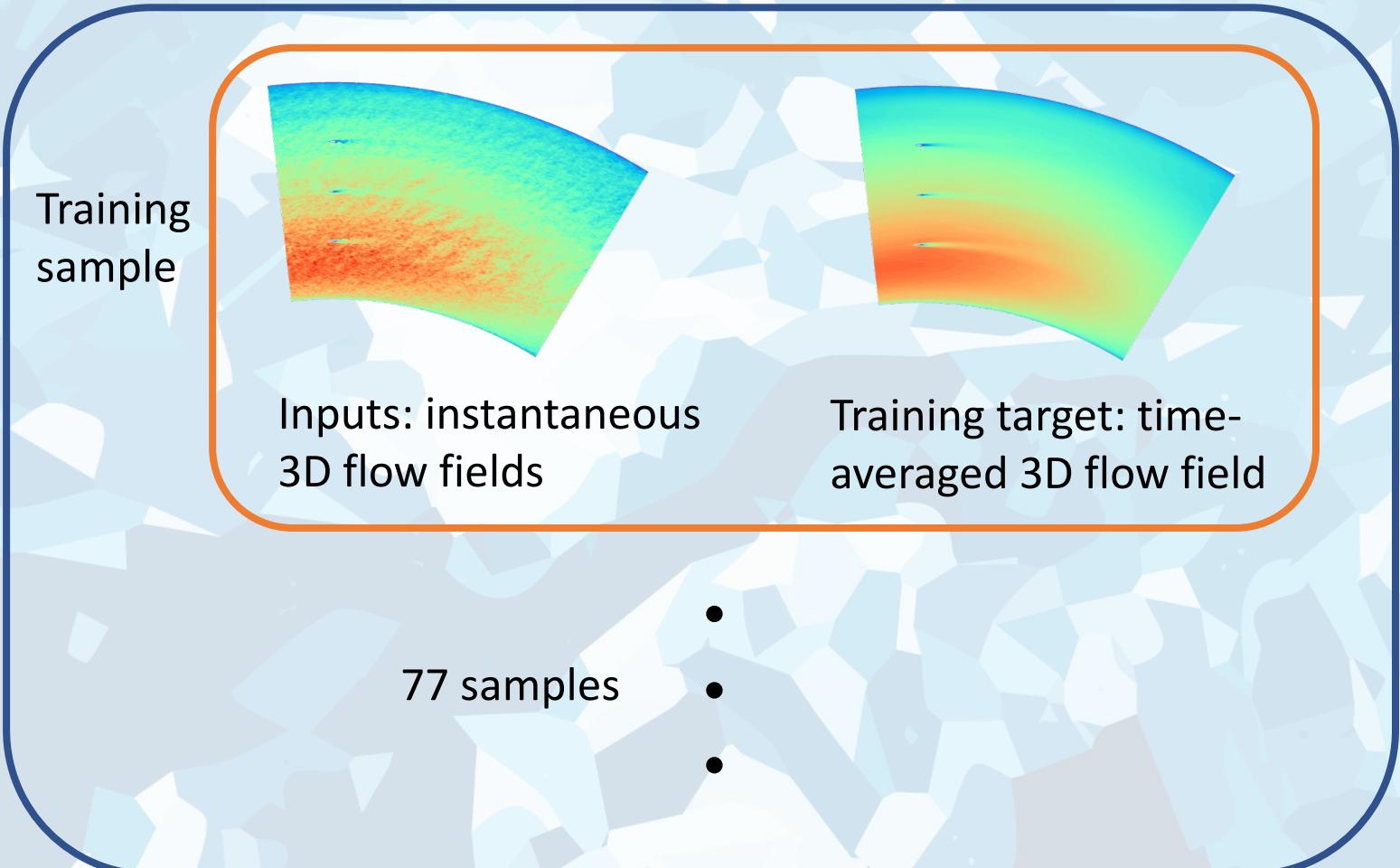
Time-averaged velocity fields

- Train the AI model

Learning rate: 0.001

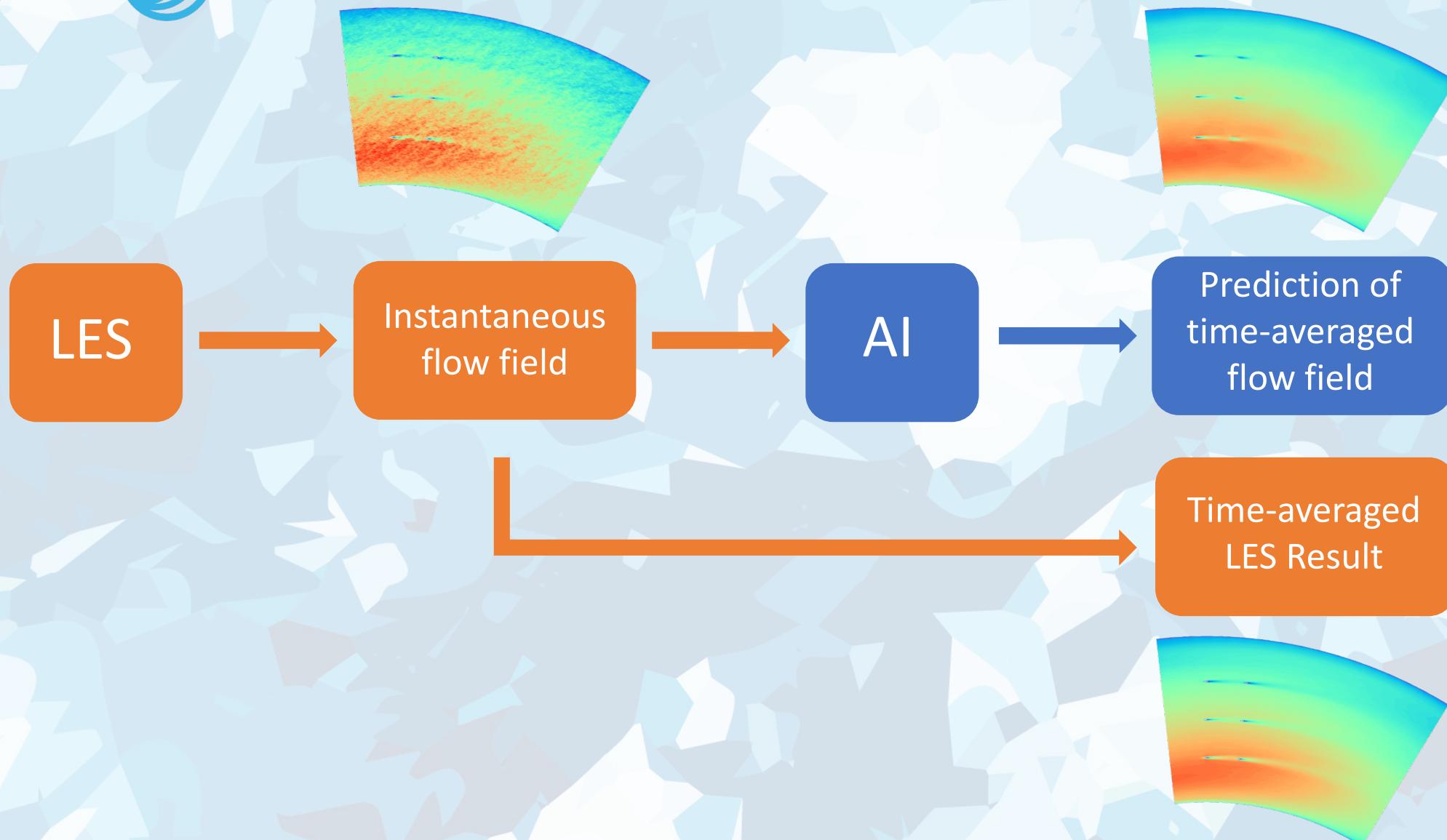
Optimizer: Adam

Converge Epochs: 1400





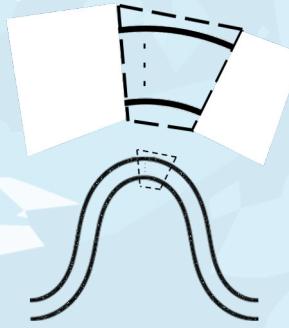
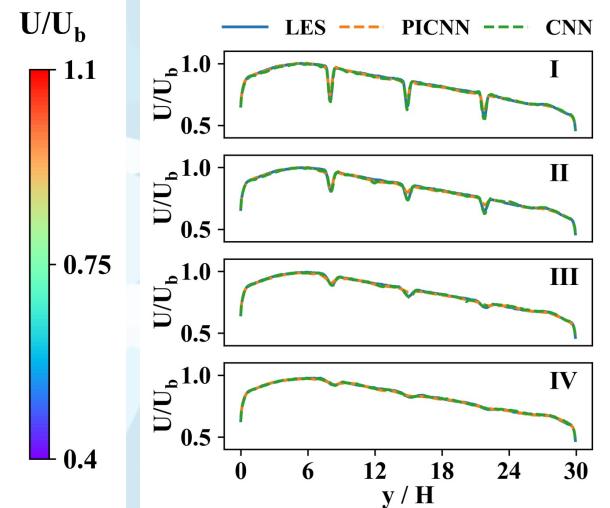
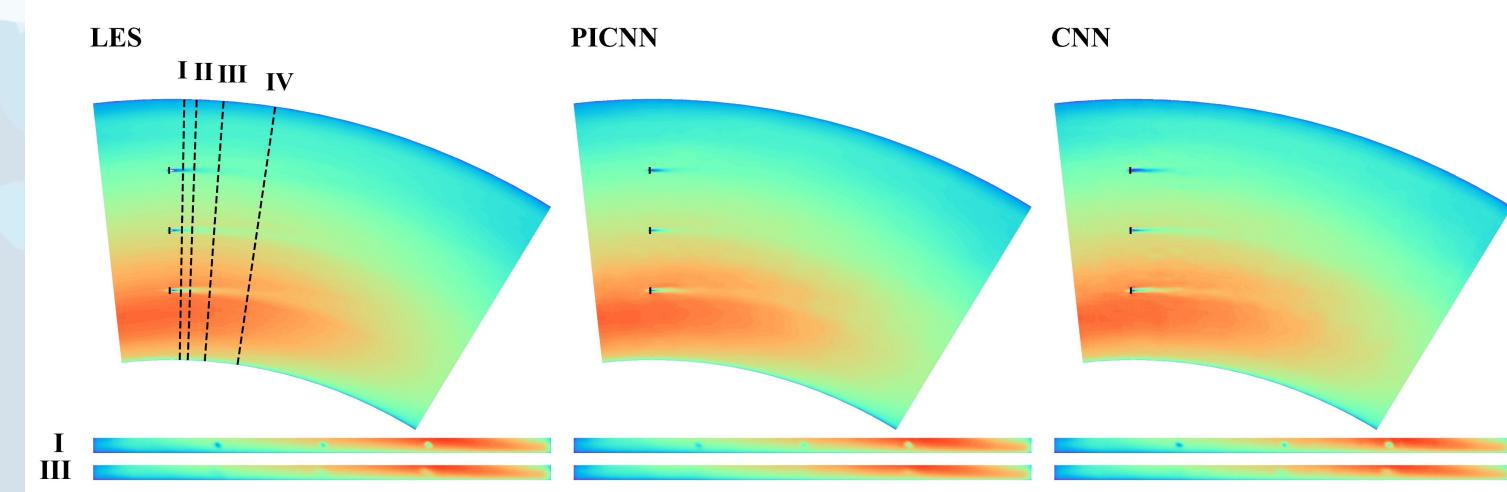
# Validation- mean velocity



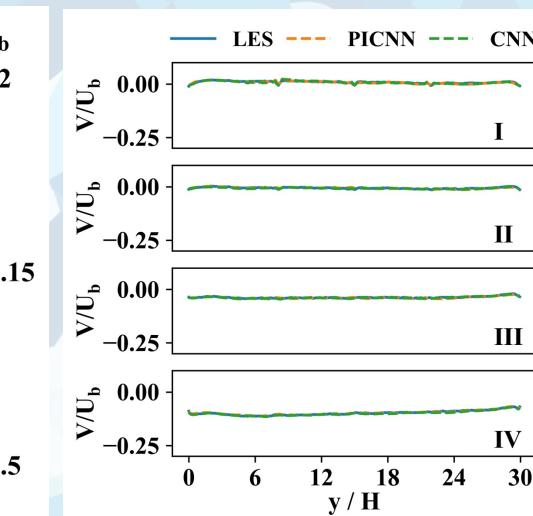
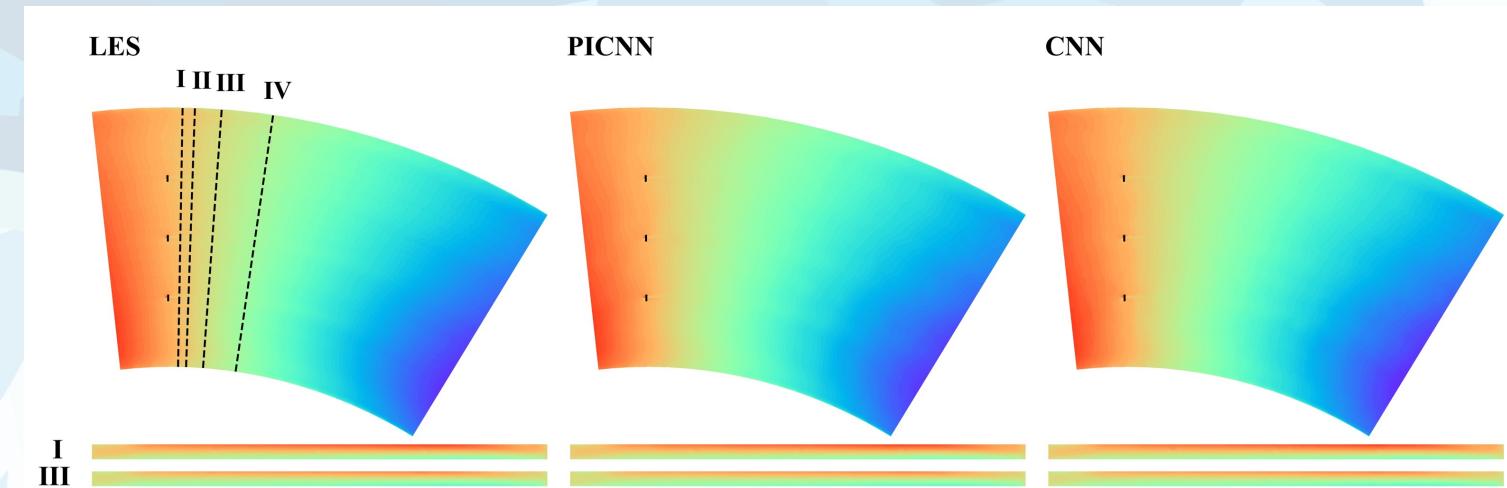


# Results- training case

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



**Percentage error:**  
 PICNN: 0.57%  
 CNN: 0.57%

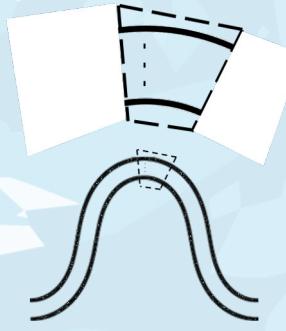
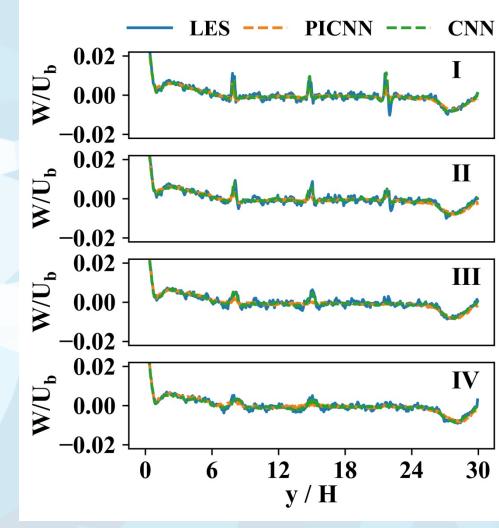
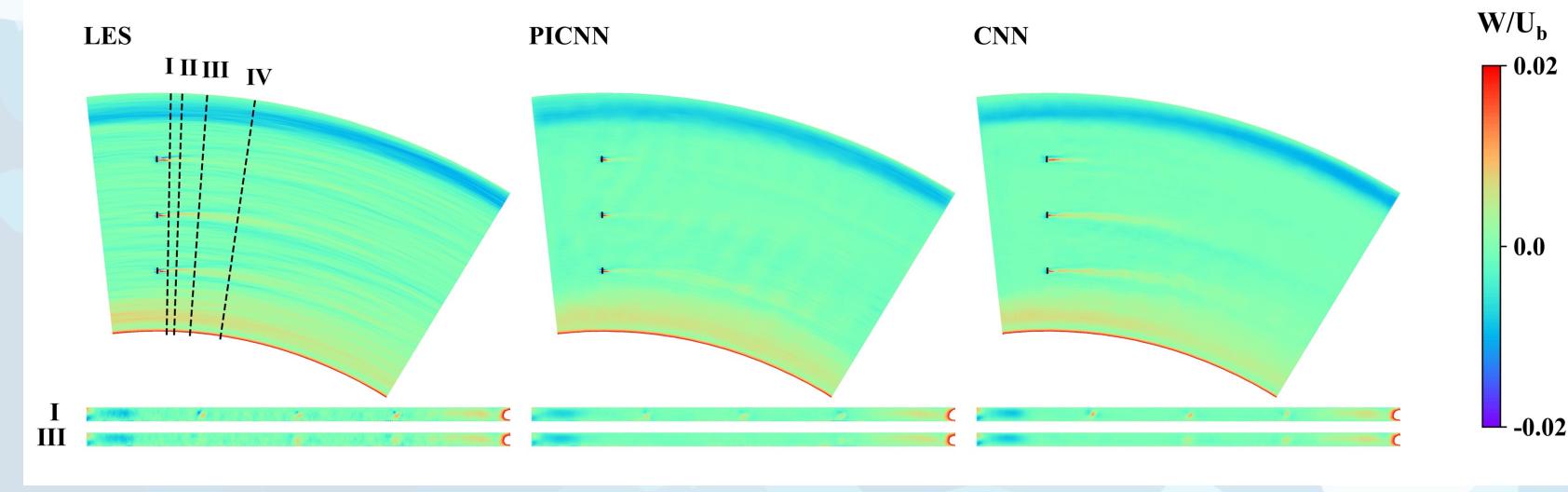


**Percentage error:**  
 PICNN: 1.23%  
 CNN: 1.79%

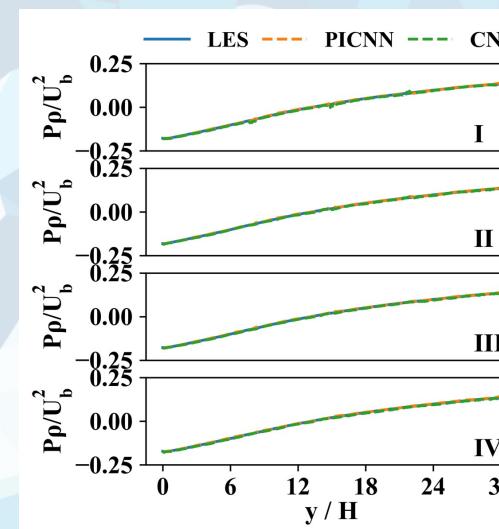
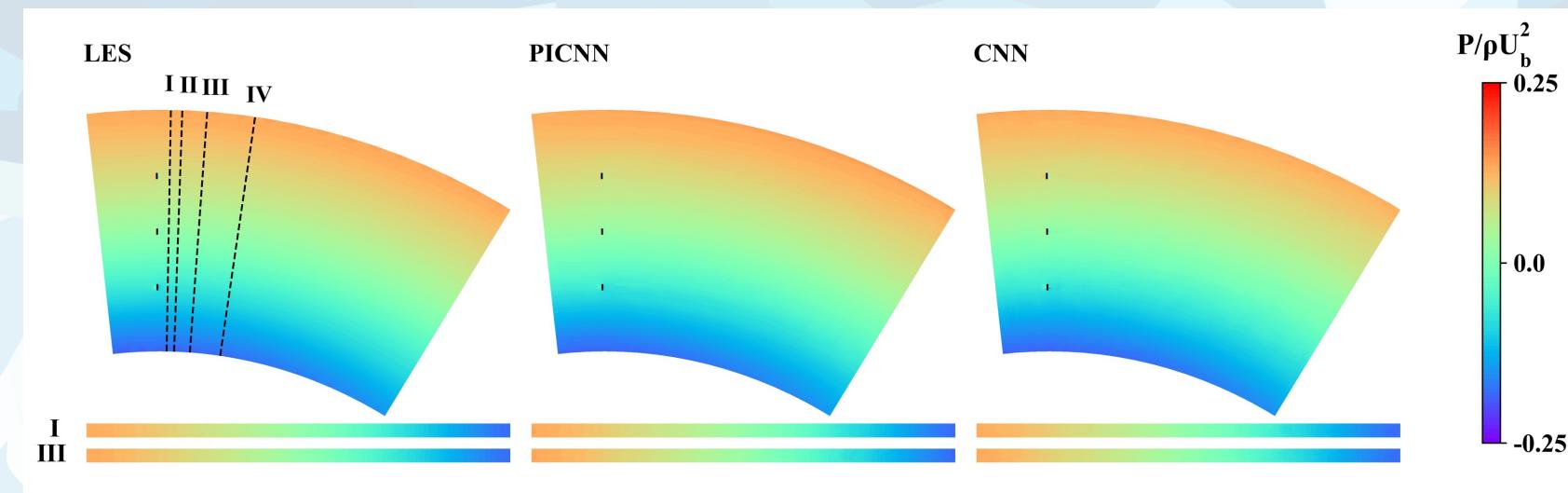


# Results- training case

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



Percentage error:  
 PICNN: 22.22%  
 CNN: 38.65%

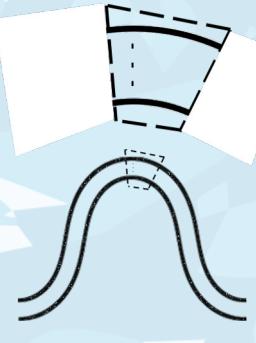
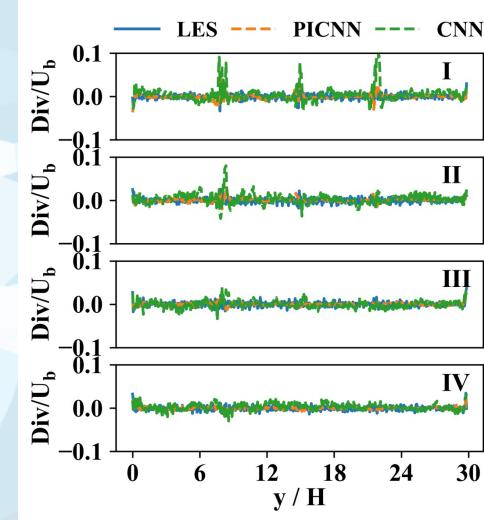
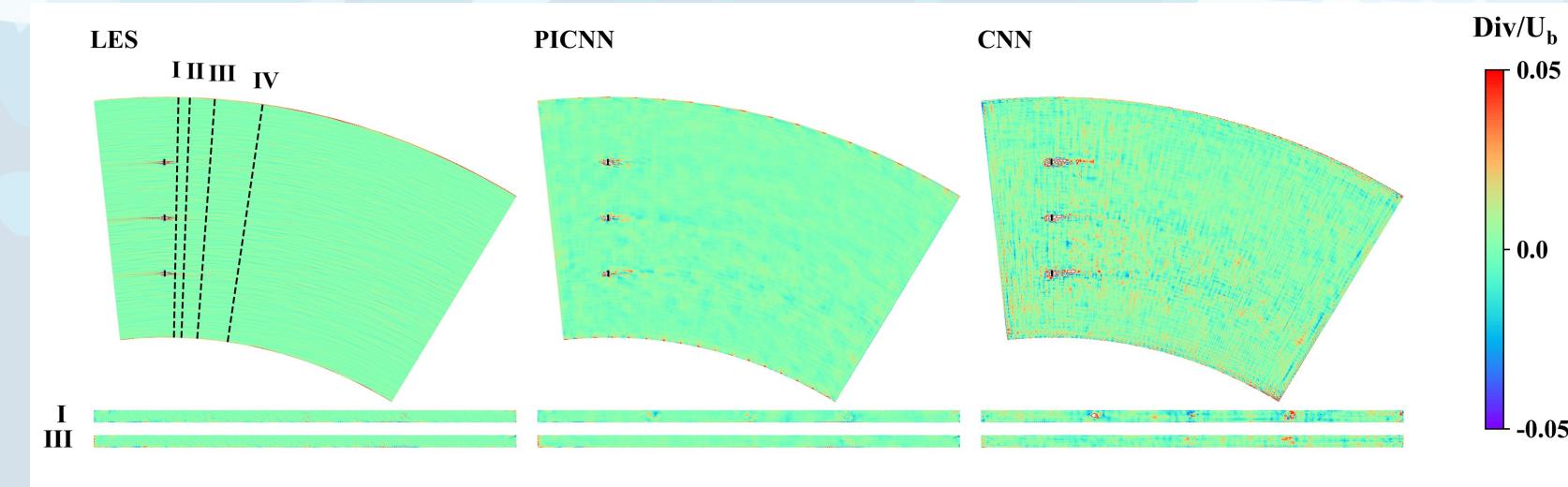


Percentage error:  
 PICNN: 2.02%  
 CNN: 5.15%



# Results- training case

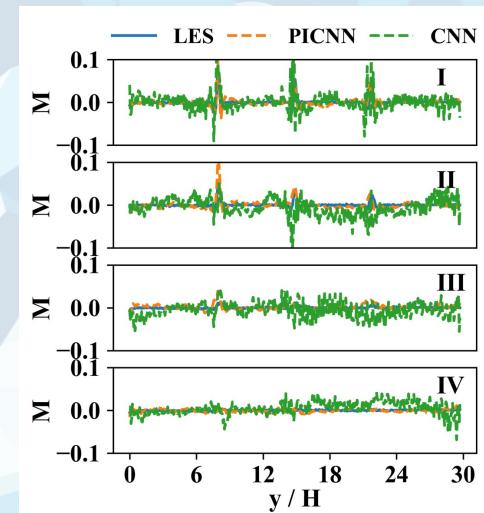
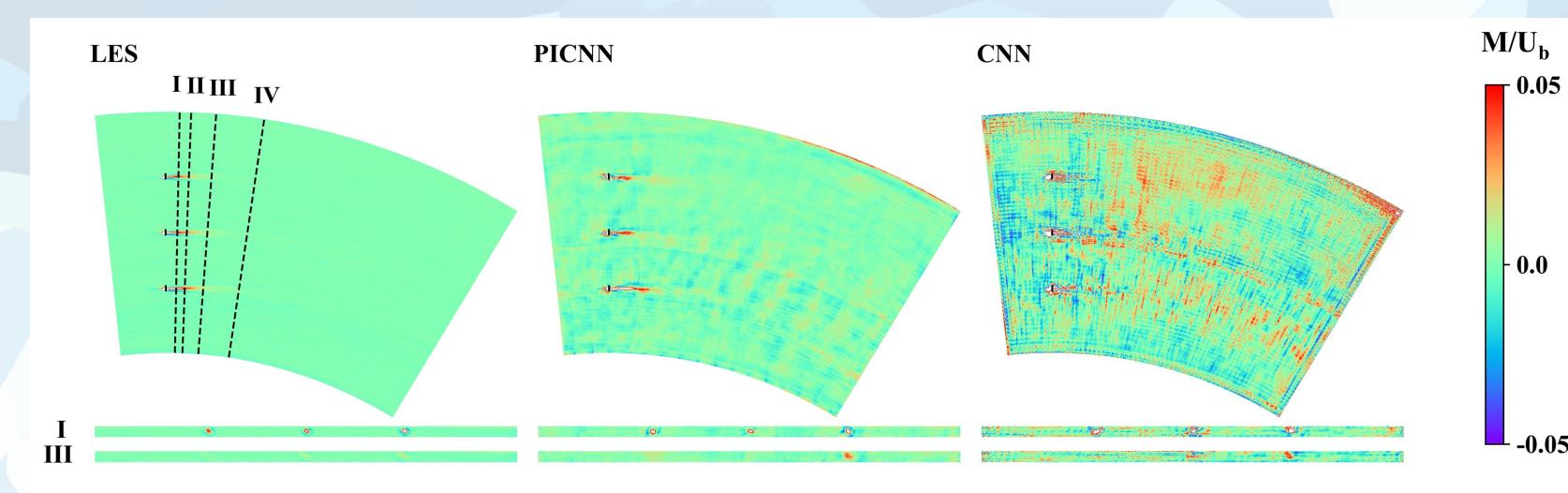
$$\|\Delta\psi\|_2 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)})^2}$$



$$\|\Delta Div\|_2 :$$

PICNN: 0.0079

CNN: 0.0135



$$\|\Delta M\|_2 :$$

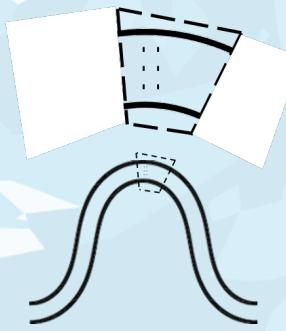
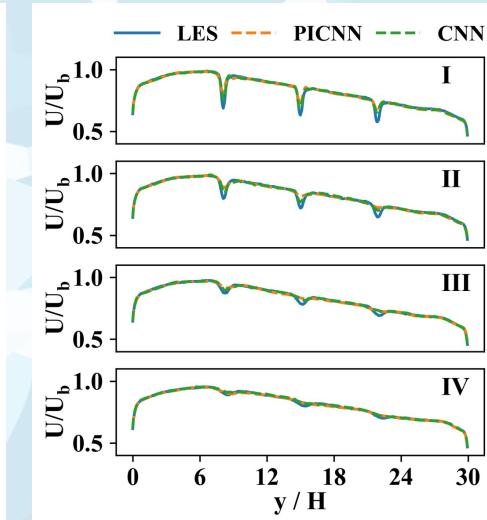
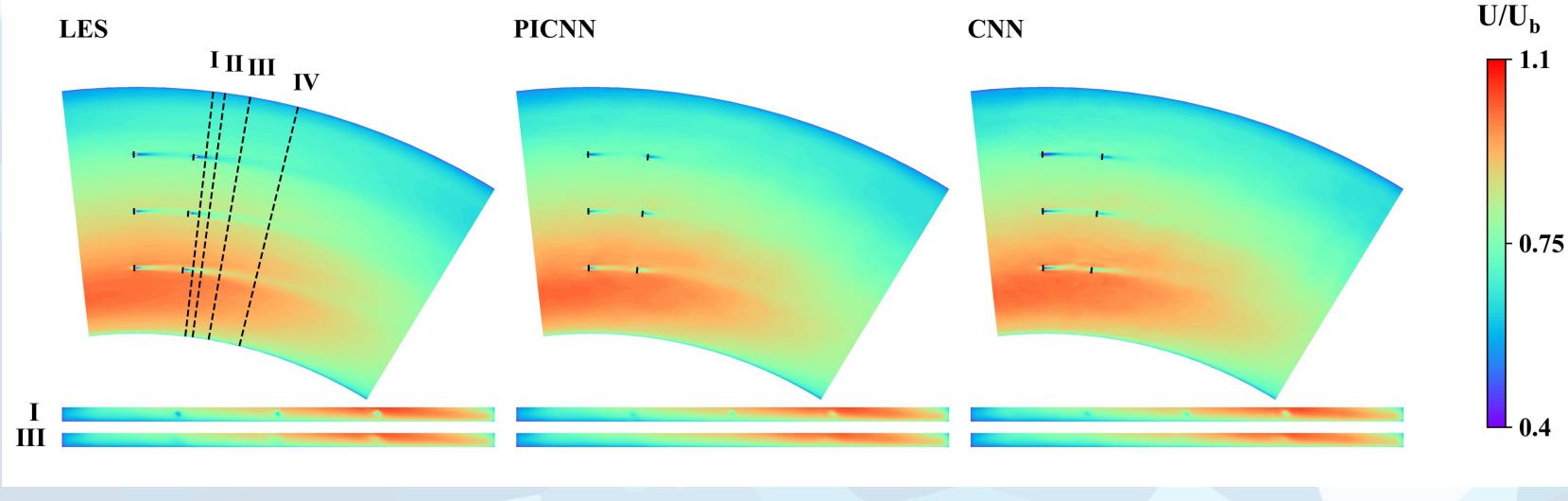
PICNN: 0.0066

CNN: 0.0184

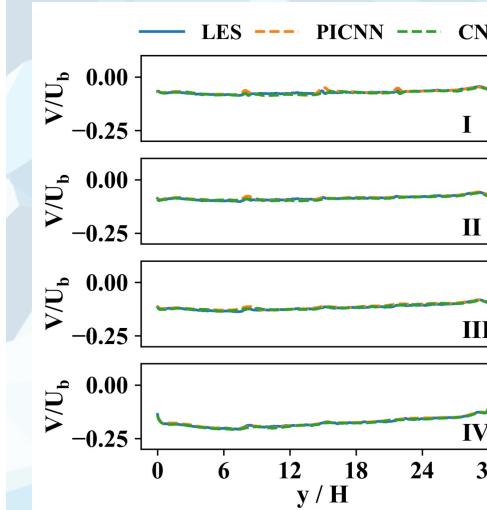
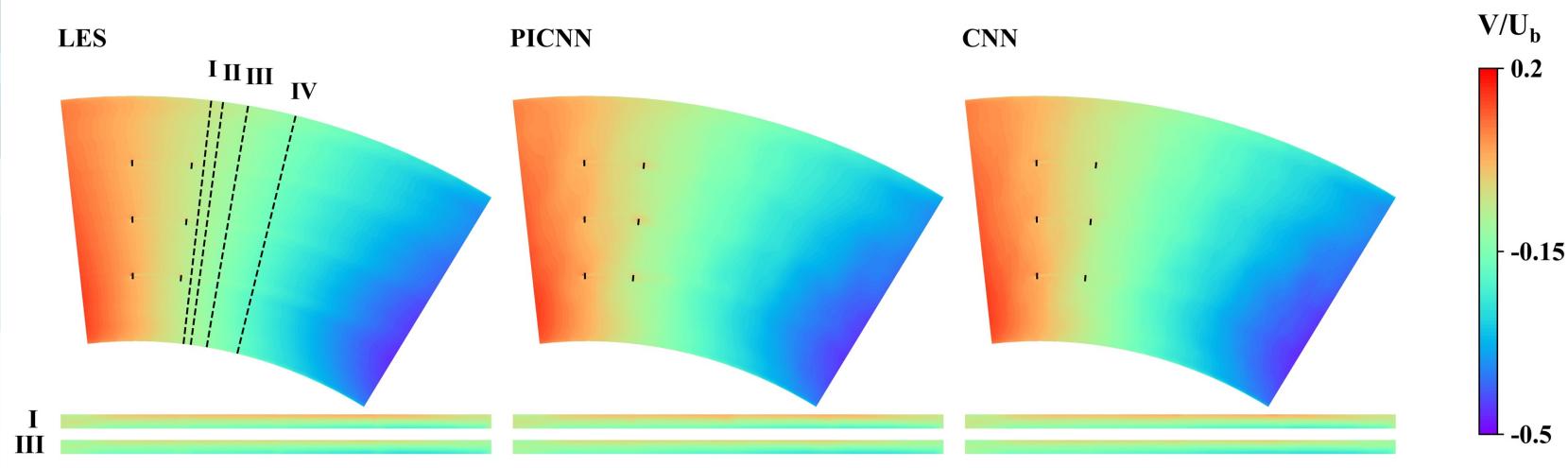


# Results- validation case I

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



Percentage error:  
 PICNN: 0.71%  
 CNN: 0.72%

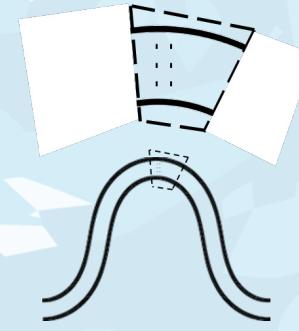
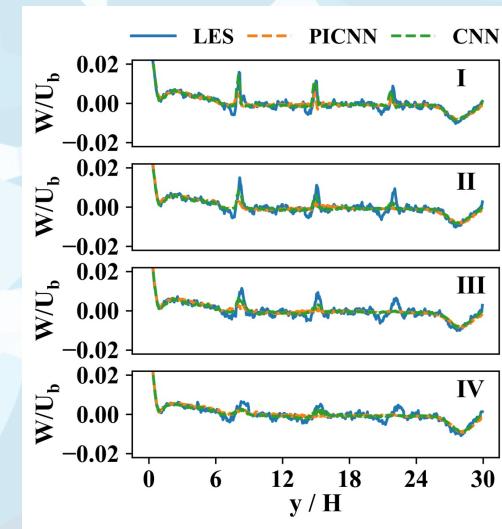
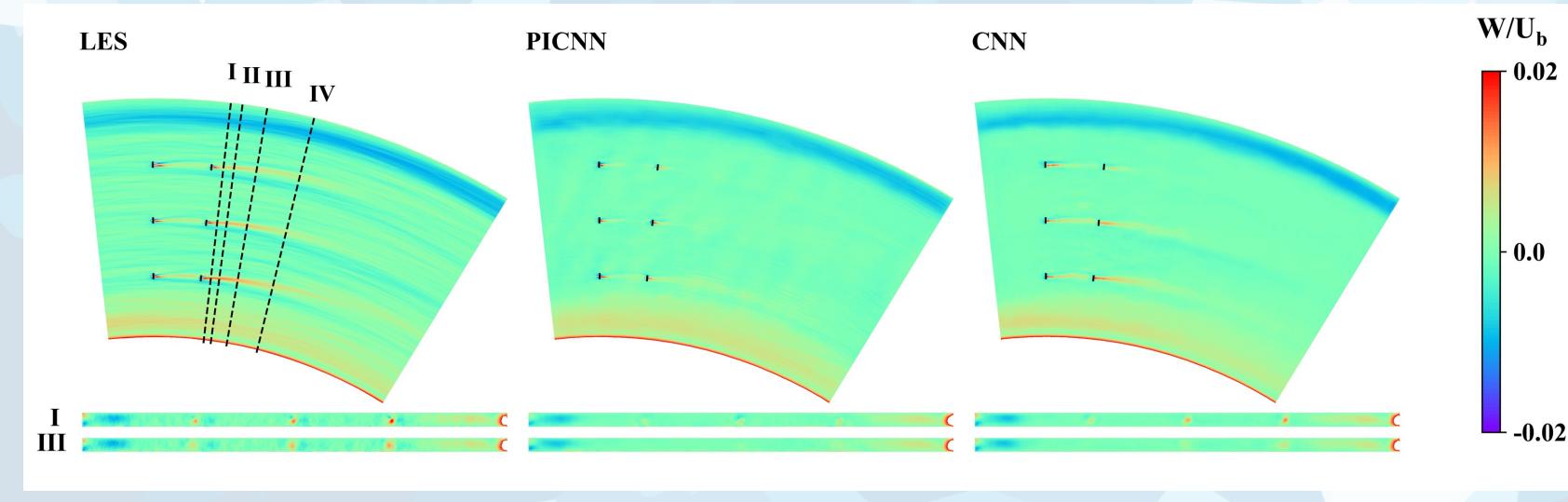


Percentage error:  
 PICNN: 1.92%  
 CNN: 2.06%

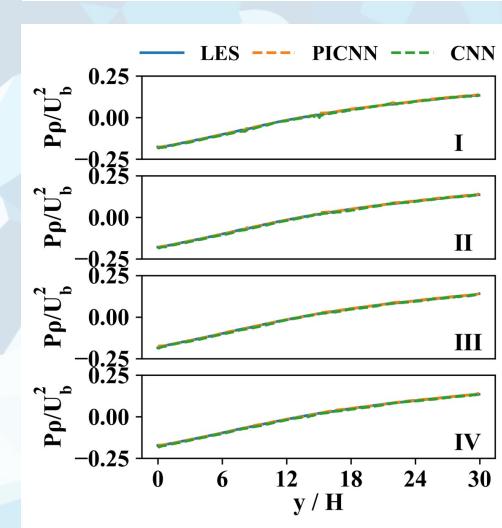
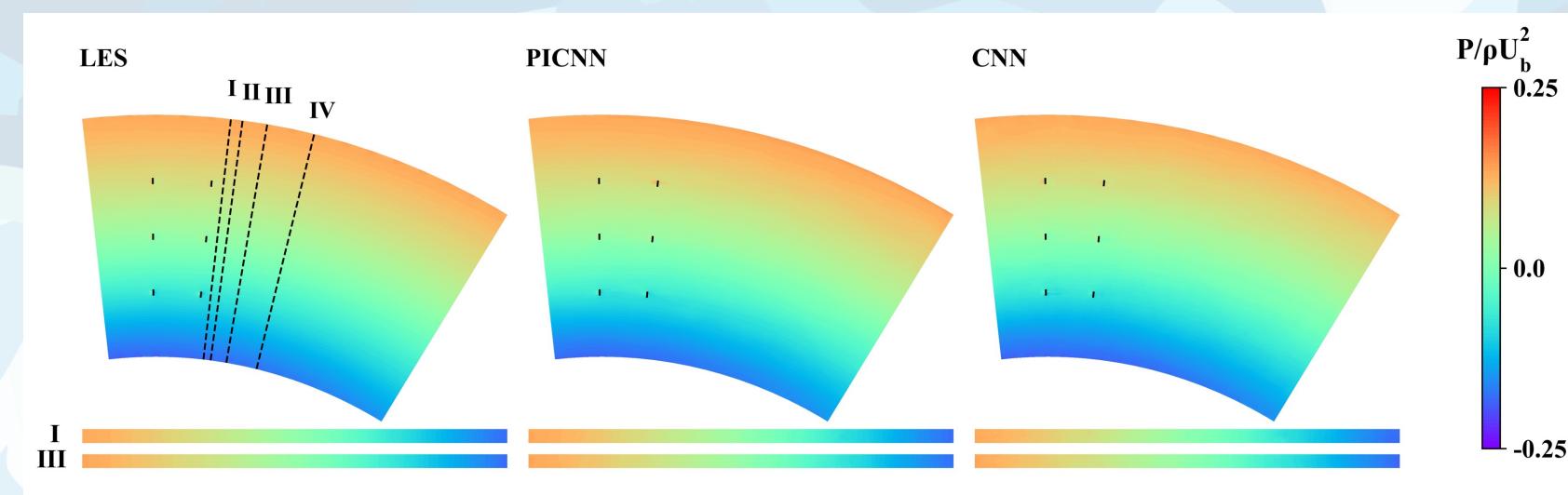


# Results- validation case I

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



Percentage error:  
PICNN: 30.80%  
CNN: 44.77%

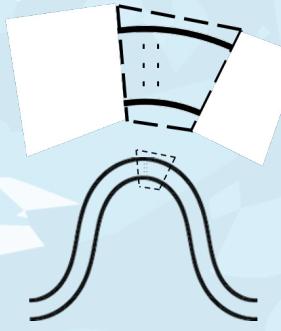
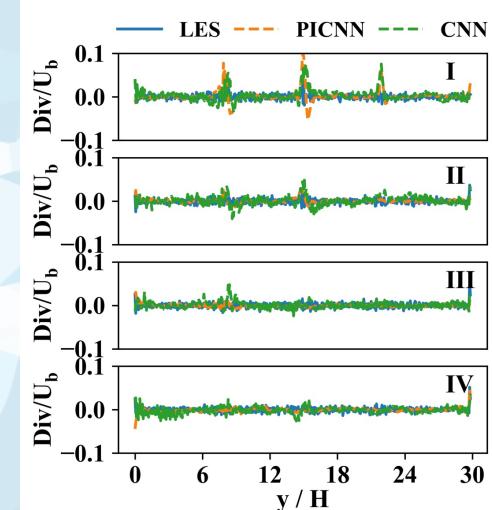
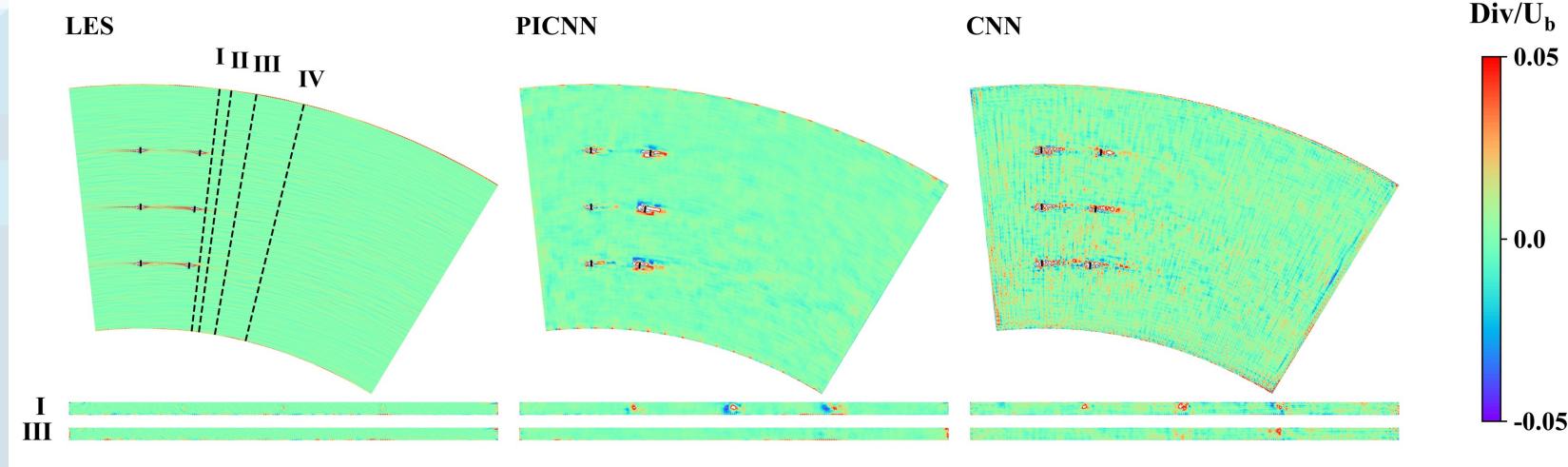


Percentage error:  
PICNN: 2.12%  
CNN: 5.38%



# Results- validation case I

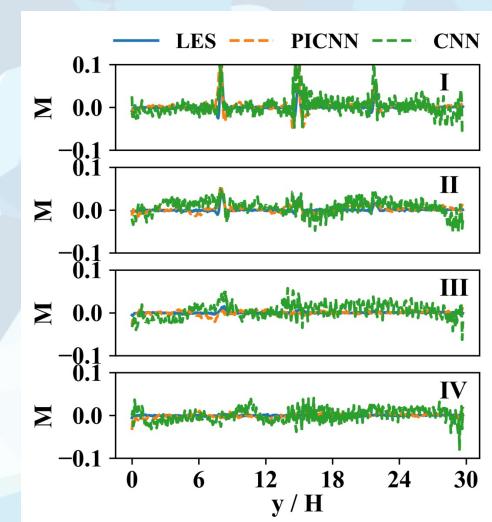
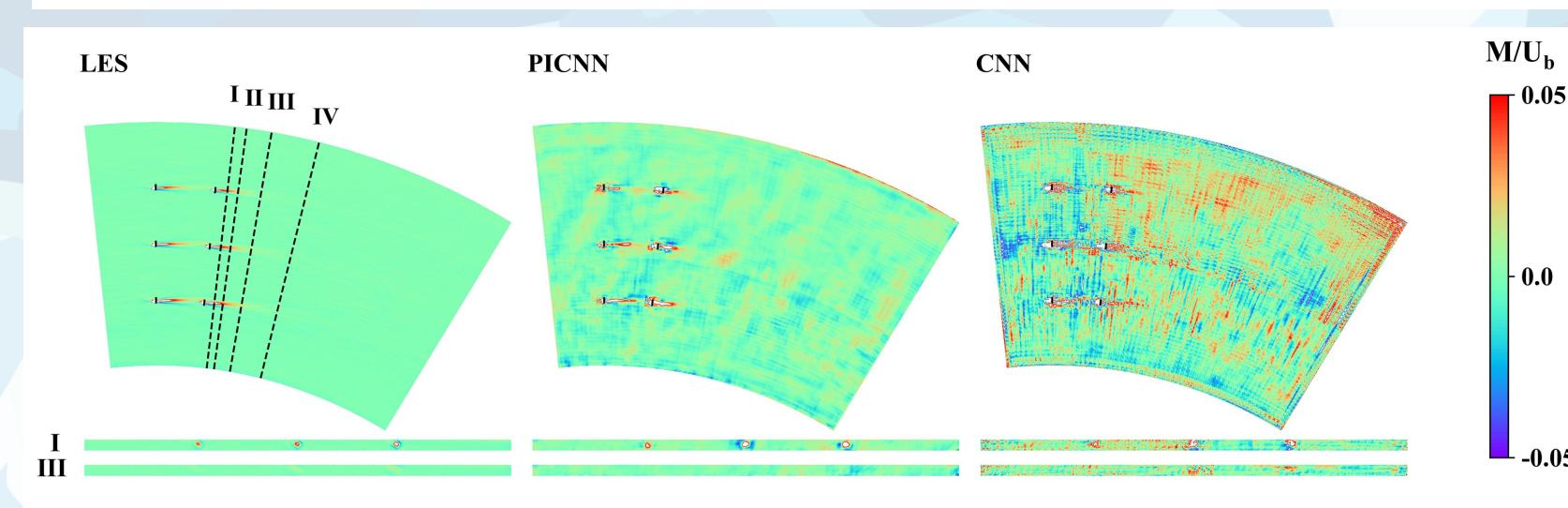
$$\|\Delta\psi\|_2 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)})^2}$$



$$\|\Delta M\|_2 :$$

PICNN: 0.0090

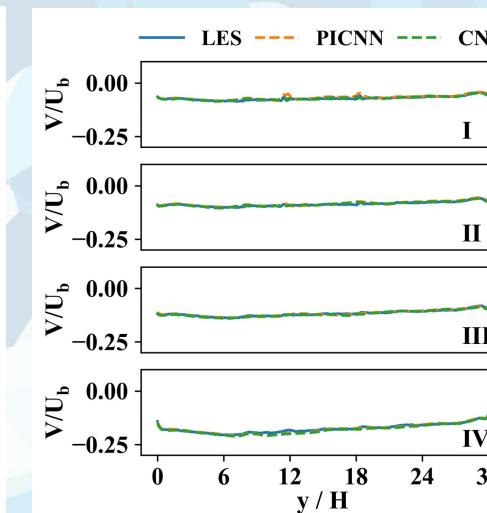
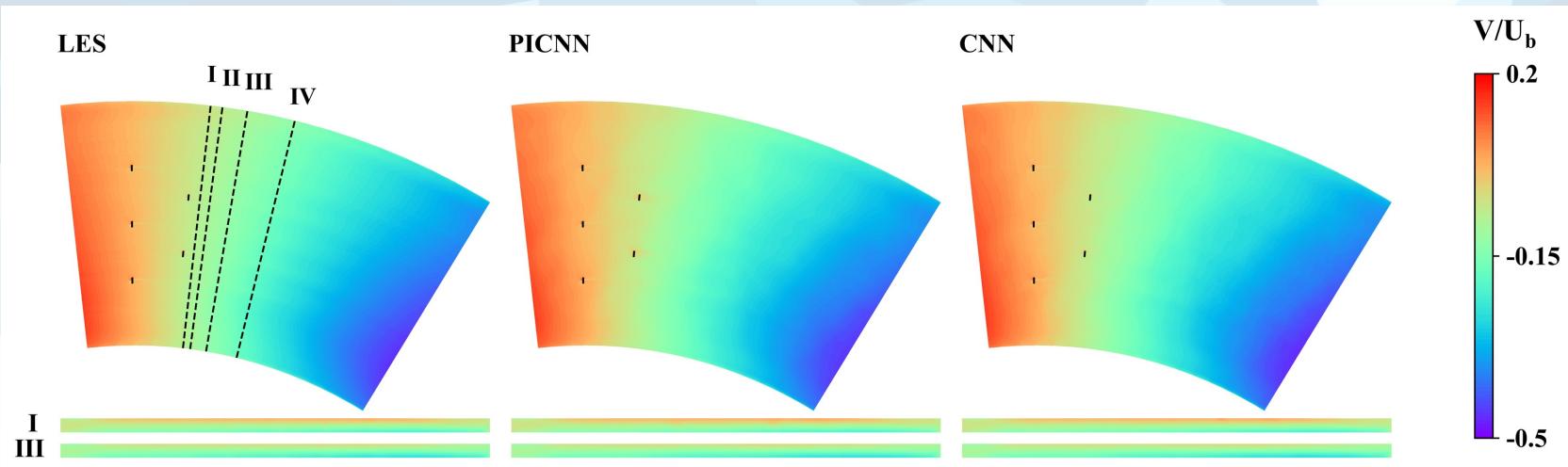
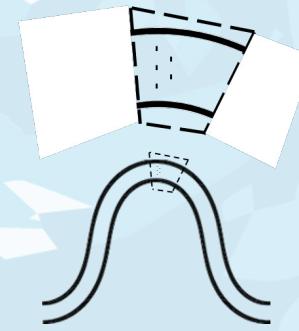
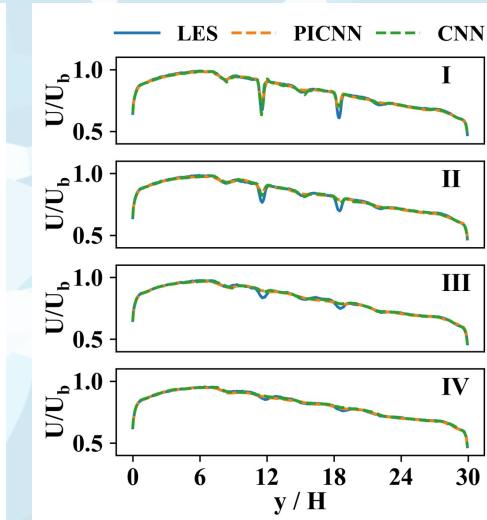
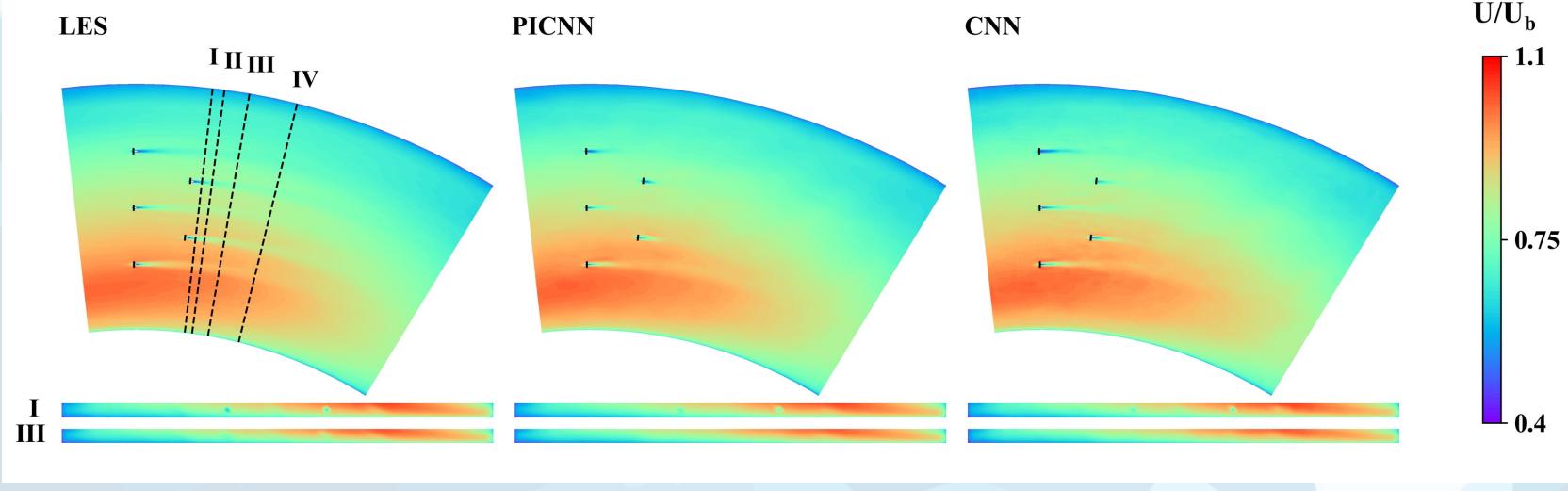
CNN: 0.0199





# Results- validation case II

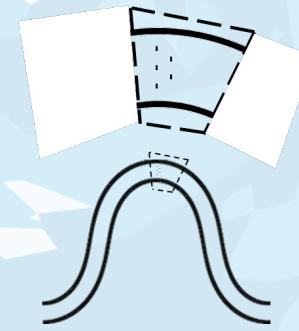
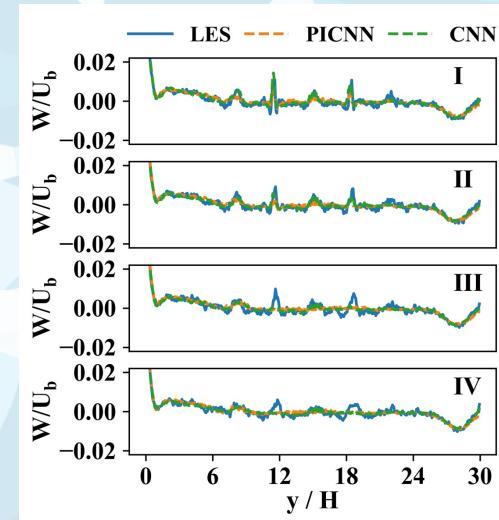
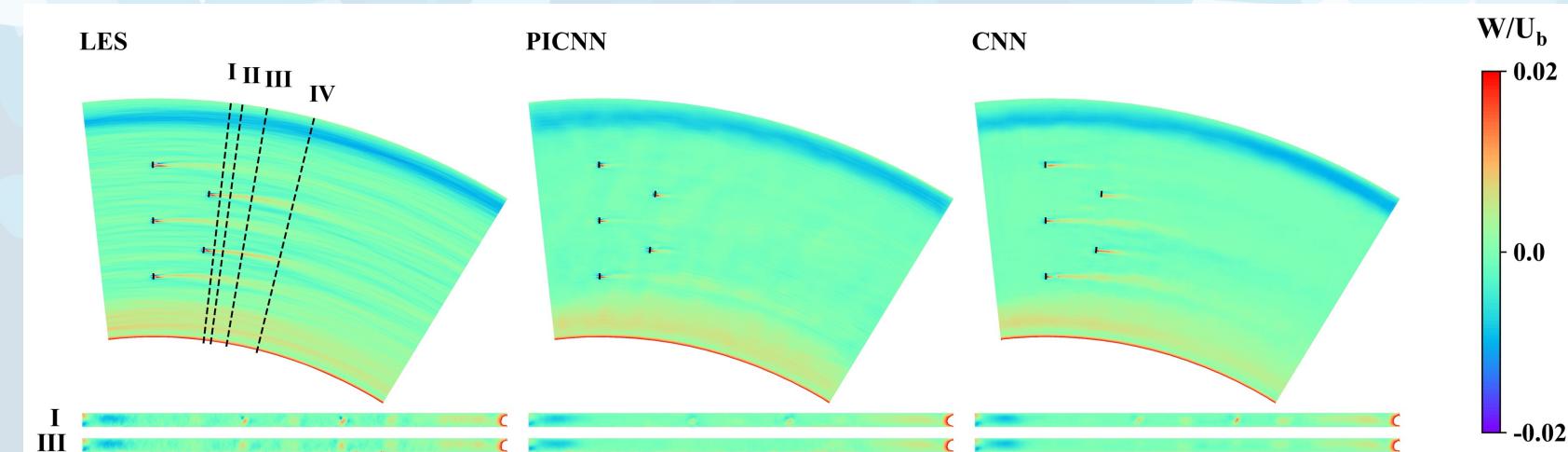
$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



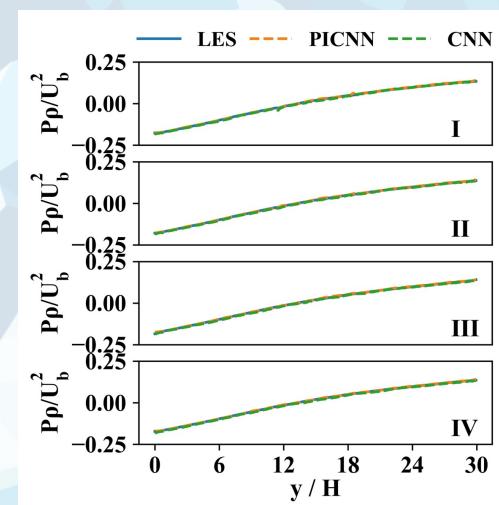
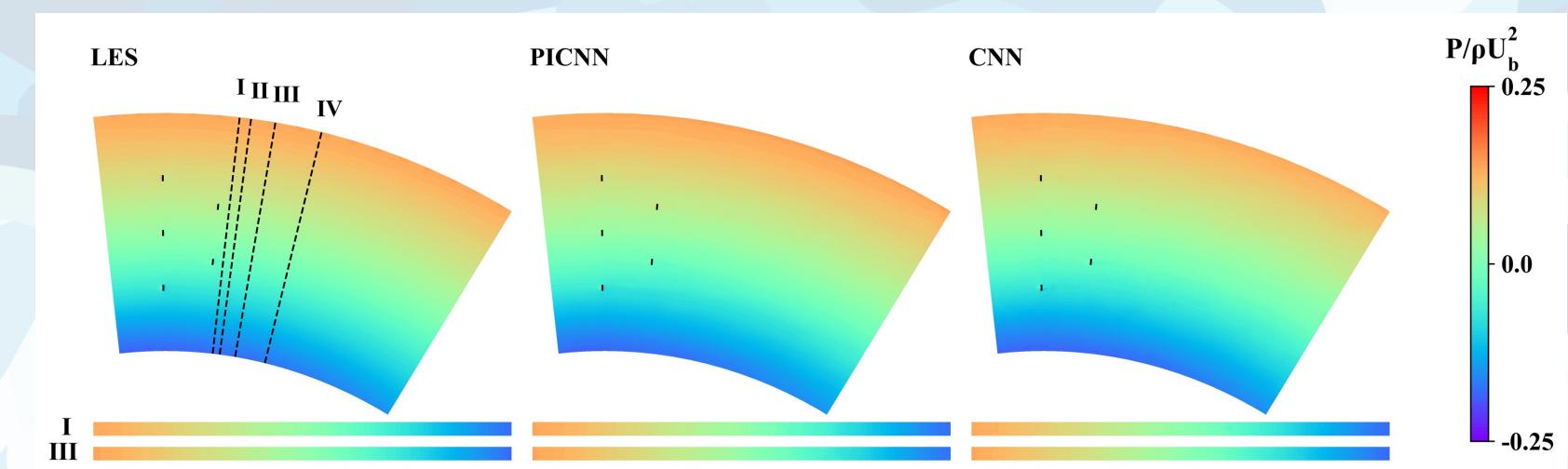


# Results- validation case II

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



Percentage error:  
 PICNN: 29.05%  
 CNN: 43.25%

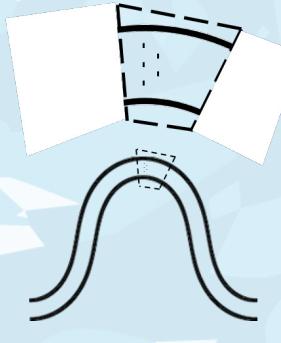
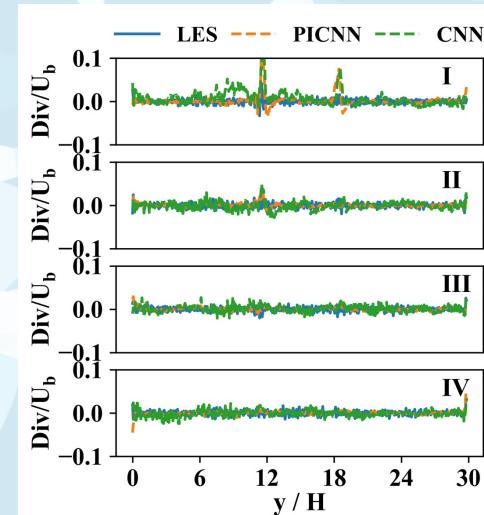
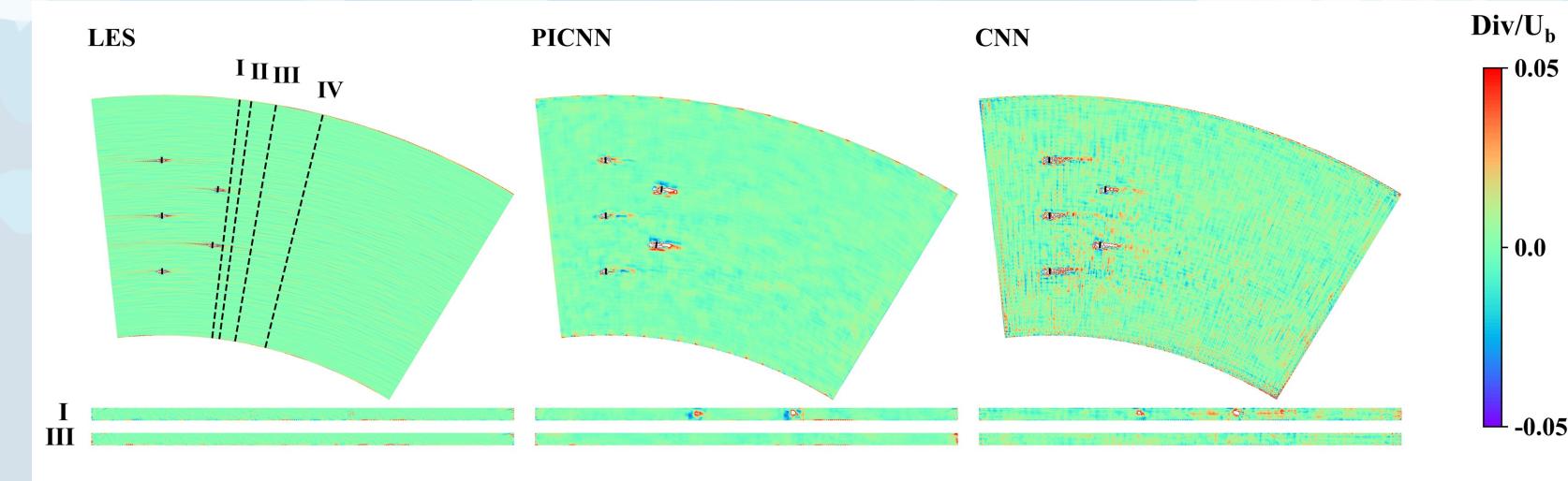


Percentage error:  
 PICNN: 2.14%  
 CNN: 5.23%



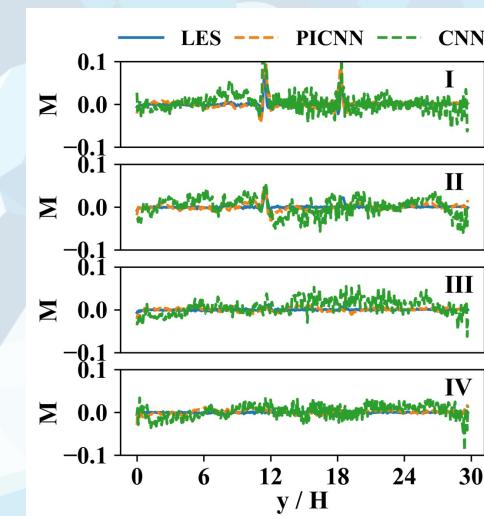
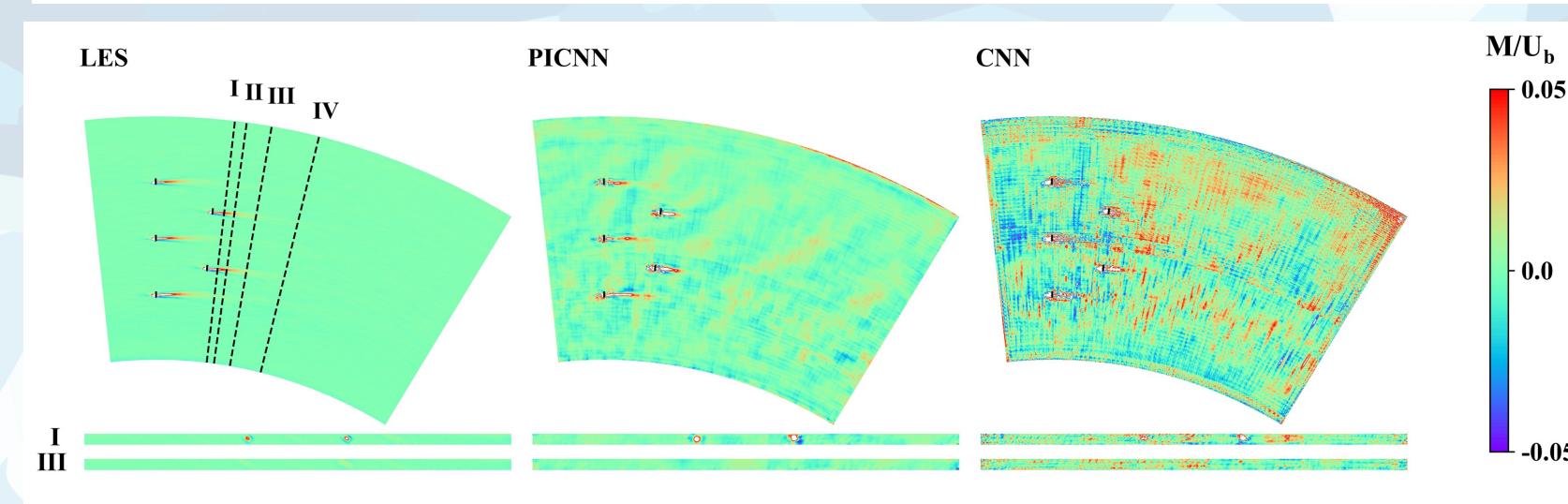
# Results- validation case II

$$\|\Delta\psi\|_2 = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)})^2}$$



$$\|\Delta M\|_2 :$$

PICNN: 0.0086  
CNN: 0.0196



$$\|\Delta M\|_2 :$$

PICNN: 0.0086  
CNN: 0.0196

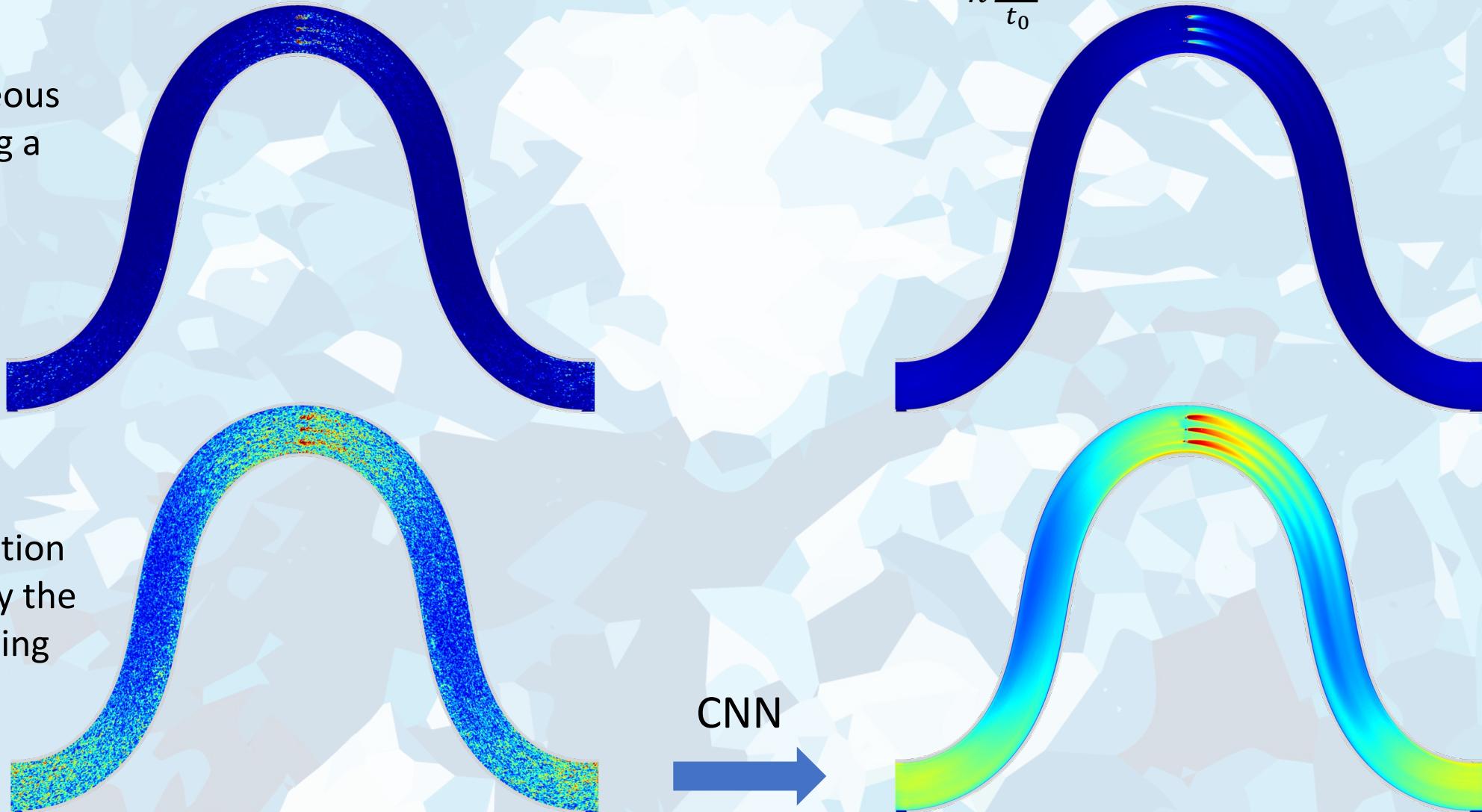


# Training- Reynolds stress

$$u'u'_{input} = (u_{LES} - \bar{u}_{CNN})(u_{LES} - \bar{u}_{CNN})$$

$$\overline{u'u'}_{output} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t_0}^{t_n} (u_{LES} - \bar{u}_{LES})(u_{LES} - \bar{u}_{LES})$$

Input is the instantaneous Reynolds stress, having a highly heterogeneous distribution

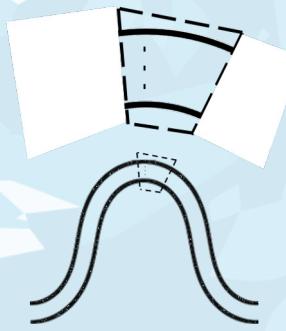
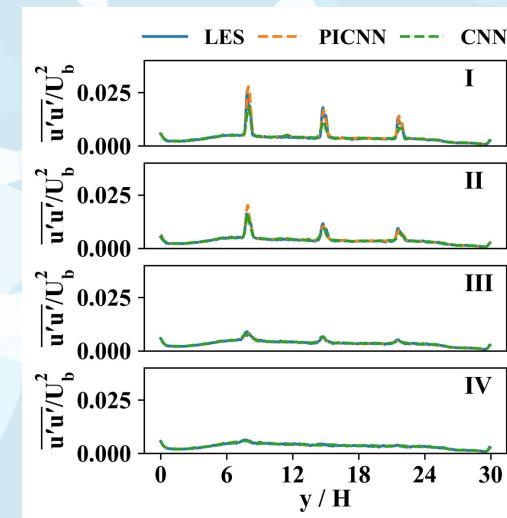
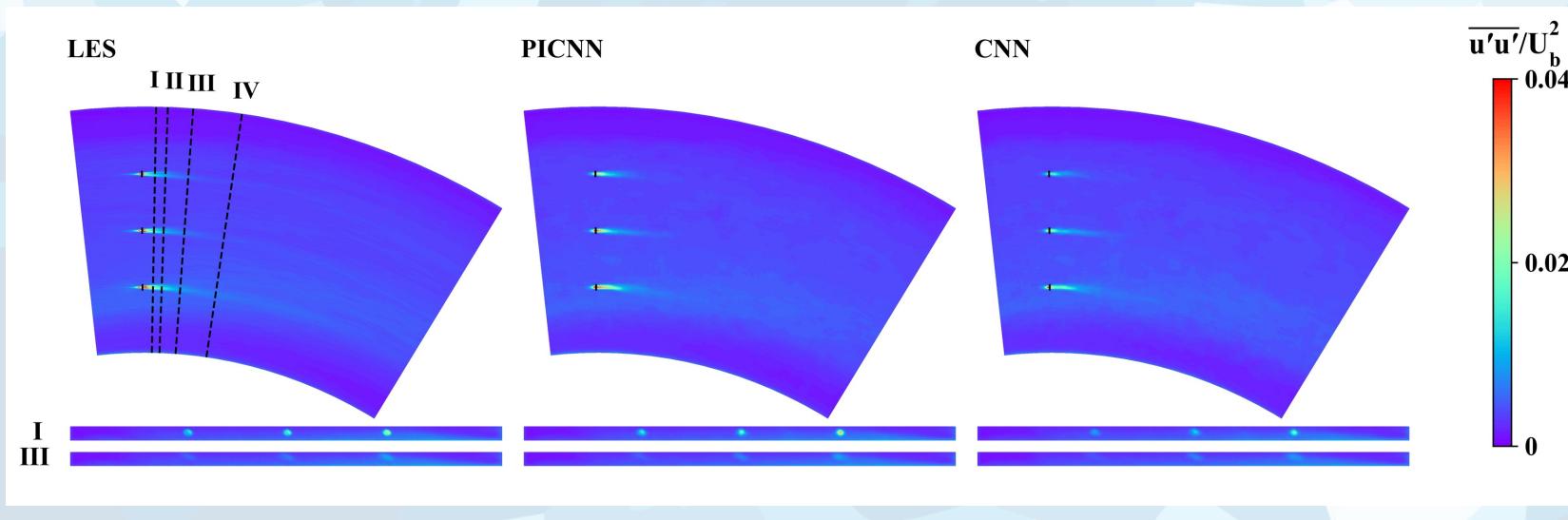


Rendering the distribution more homogeneous by the cubic root pre-processing

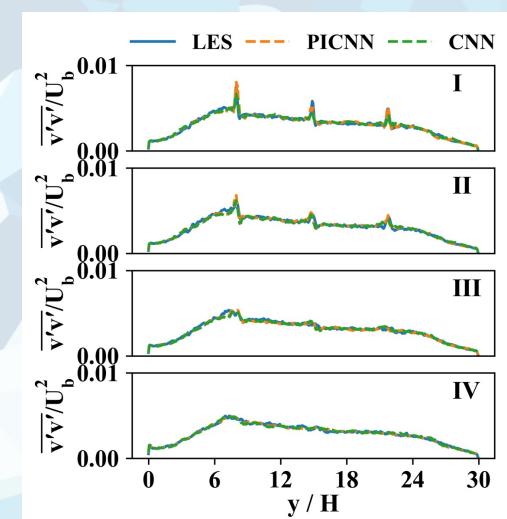
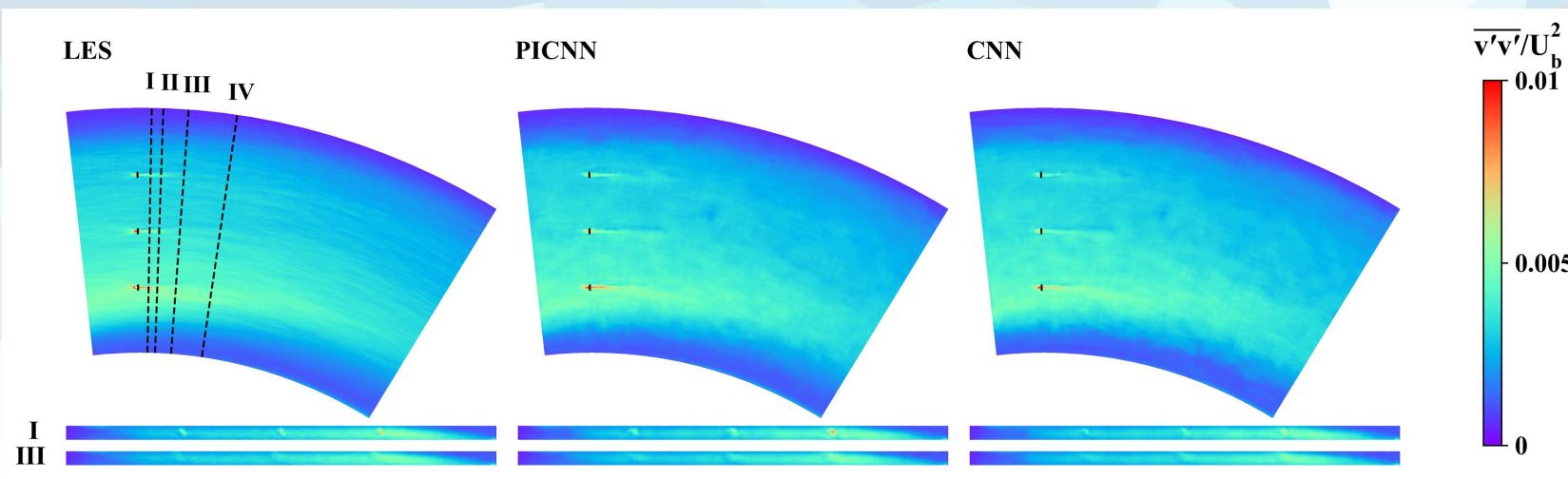


# Results- training case

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



**Percentage error:**  
 PICNN: 5.33%  
 CNN: 6.04%

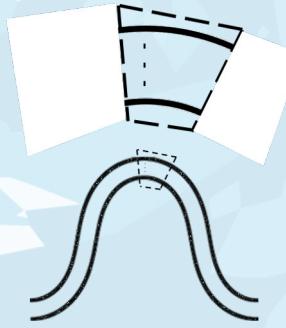
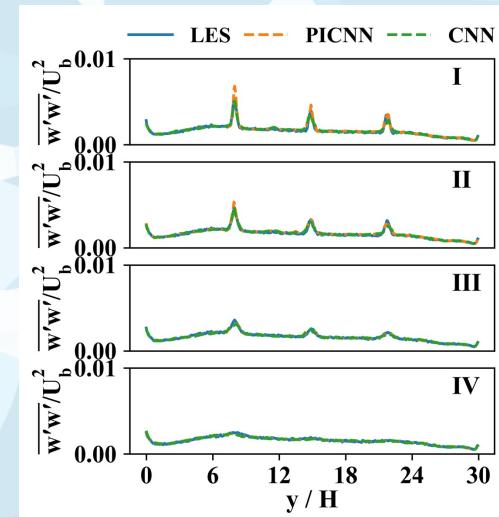
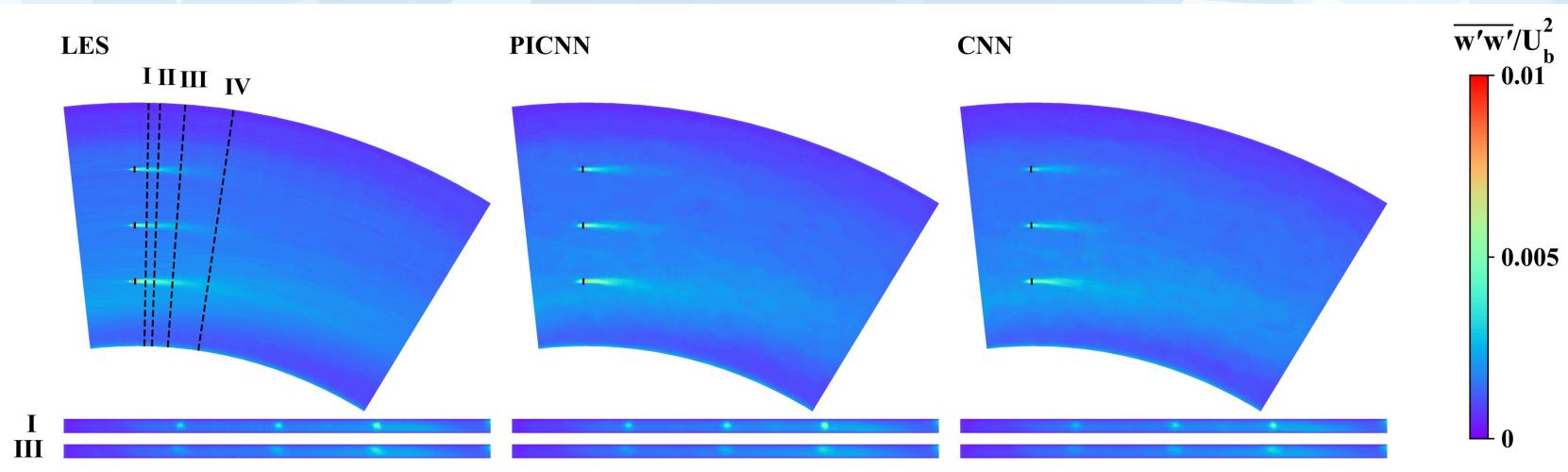


**Percentage error:**  
 PICNN: 4.52%  
 CNN: 5.00%

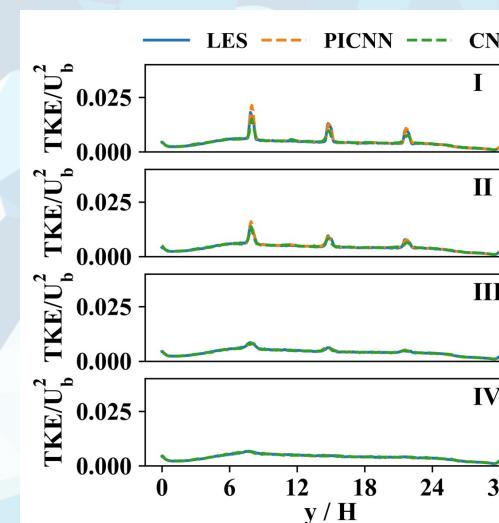
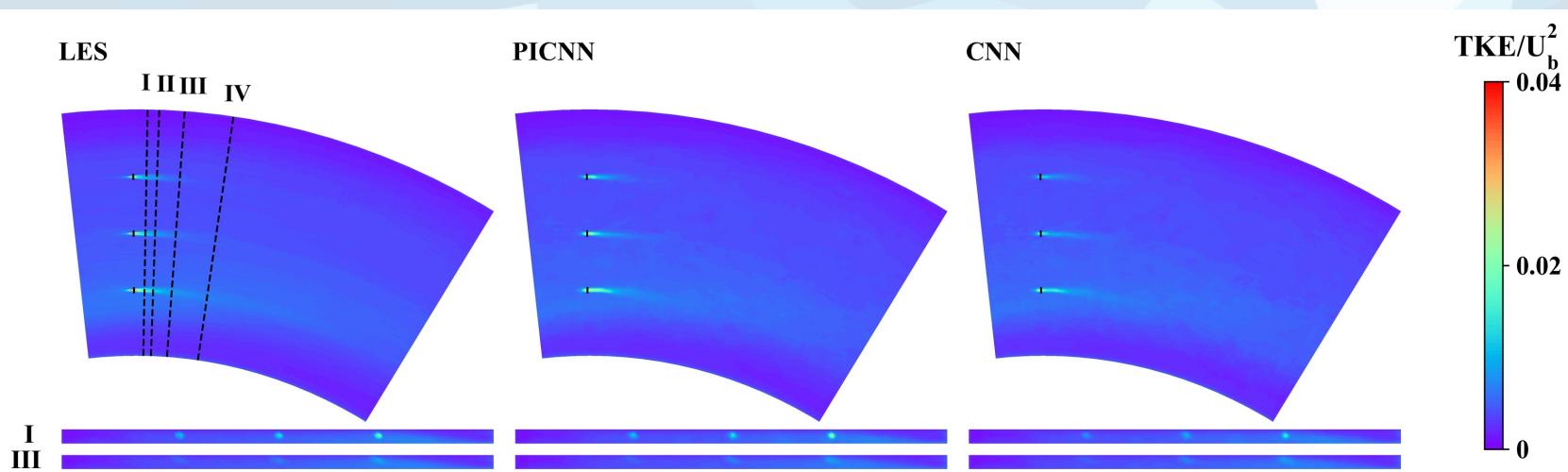


# Results- training case

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



**Percentage error:**  
PICNN: 4.70%  
CNN: 5.05%

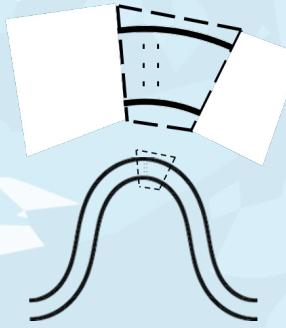
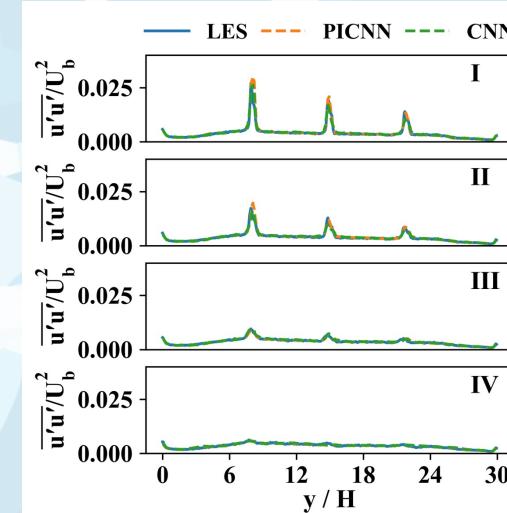
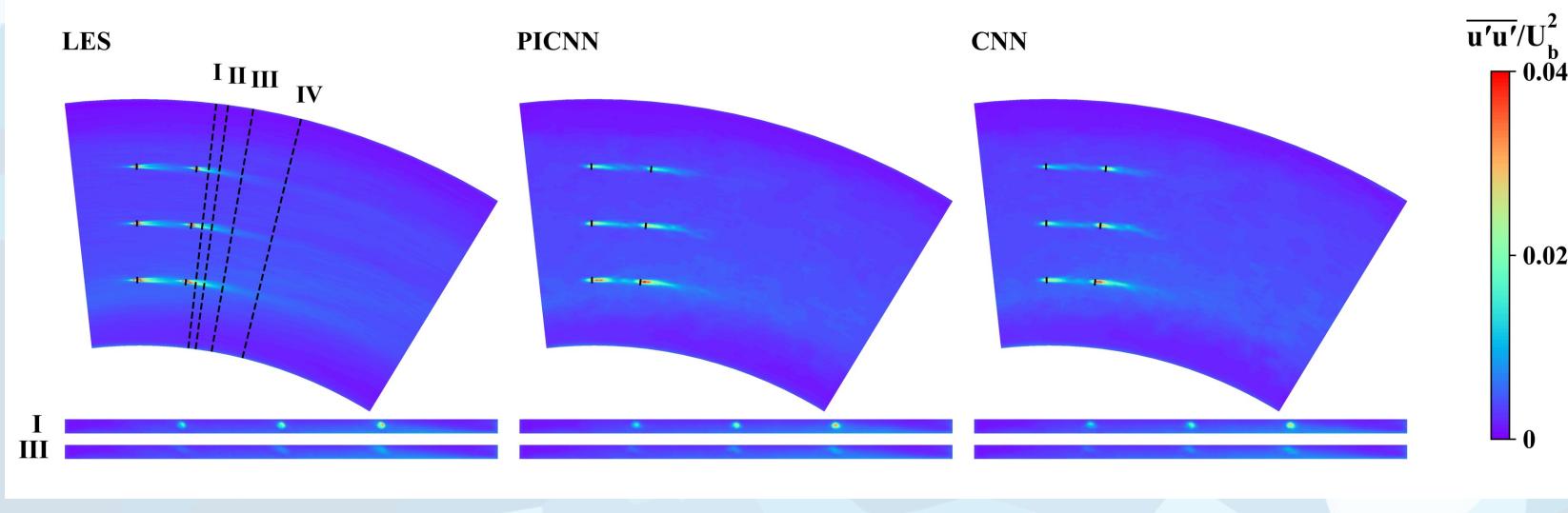


**Percentage error:**  
PICNN: 3.93%  
CNN: 4.51%

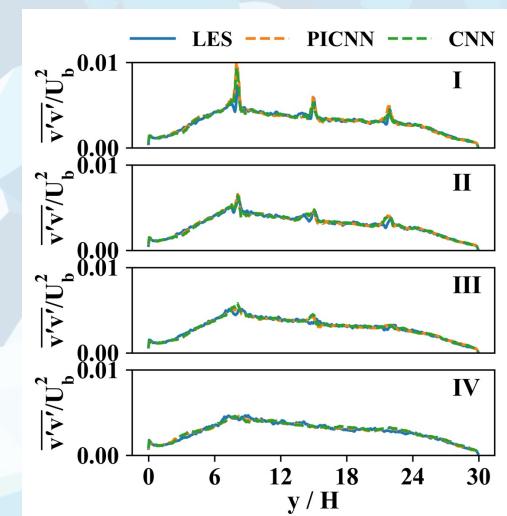
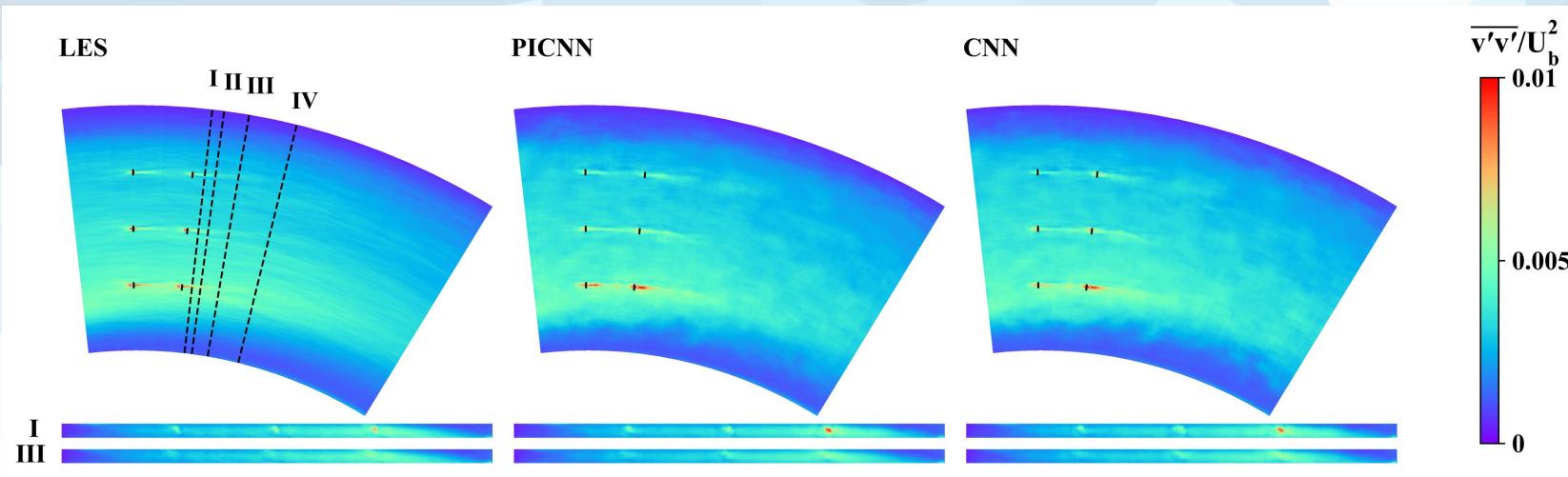


# Results- validation case I

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



**Percentage error:**  
PICNN: 6.80%  
CNN: 7.25%

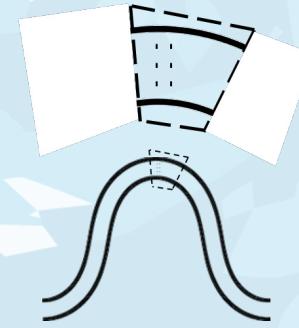
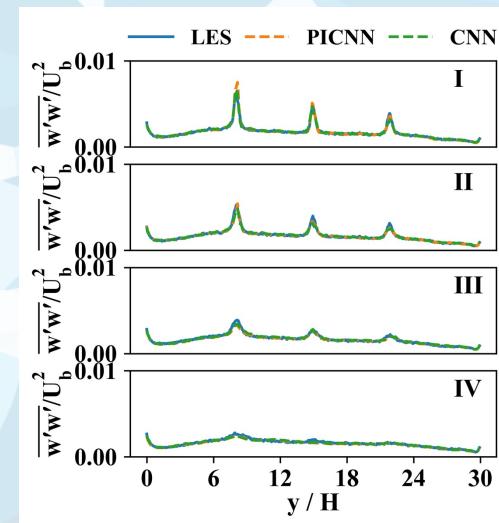
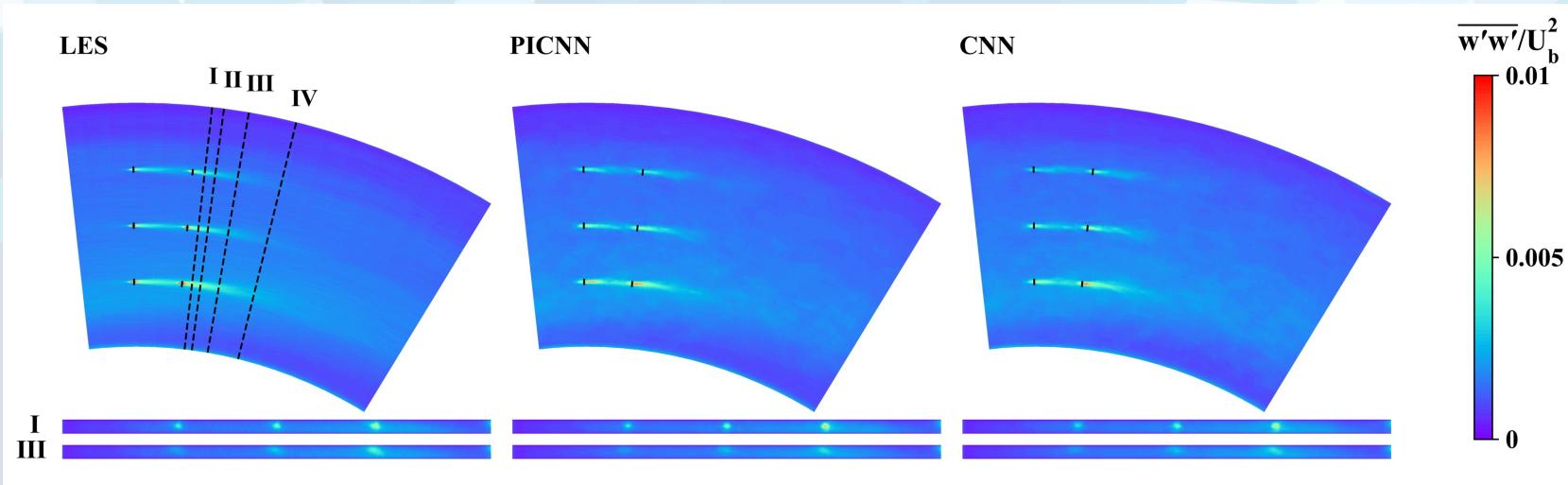


**Percentage error:**  
PICNN: 5.83%  
CNN: 5.85%

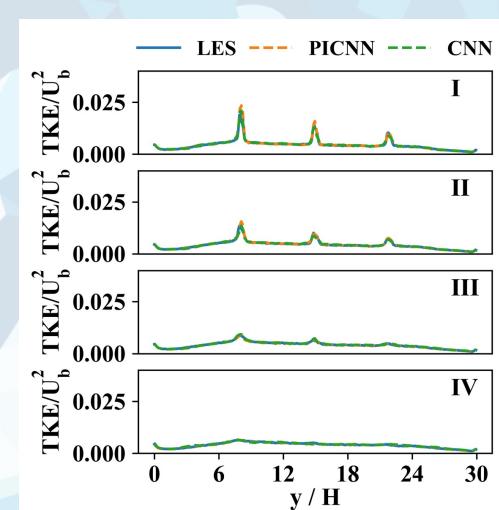
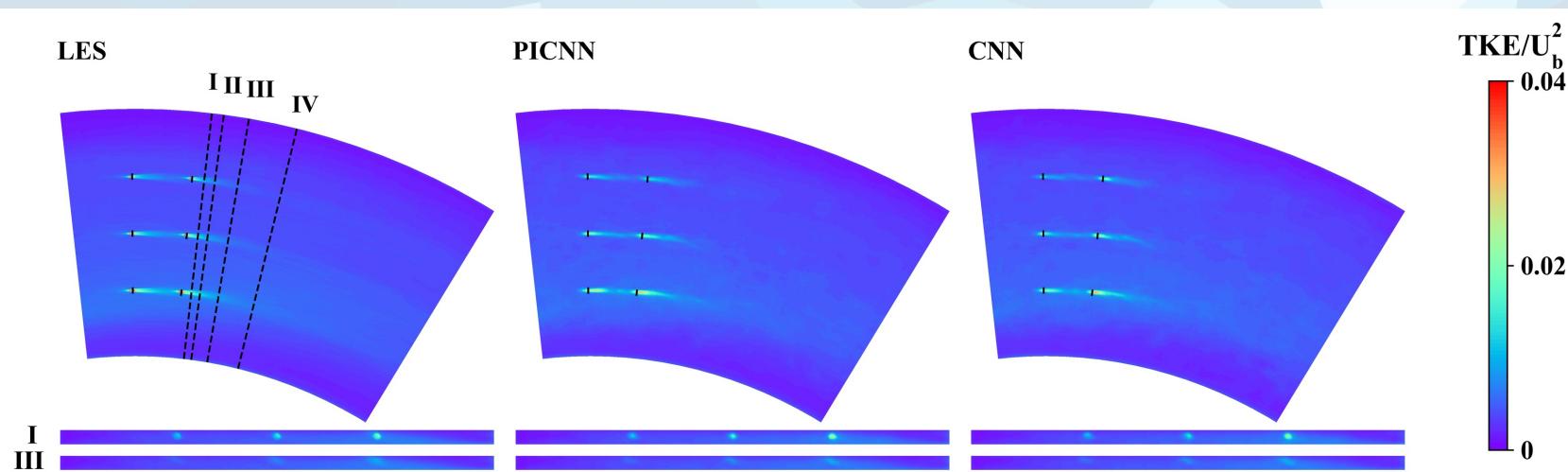


# Results- validation case I

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



**Percentage error:**  
PICNN: 5.66%  
CNN: 5.68%

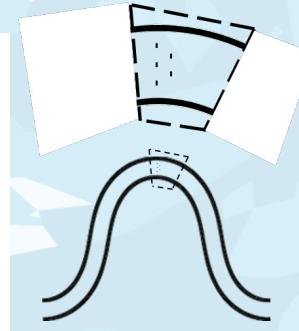
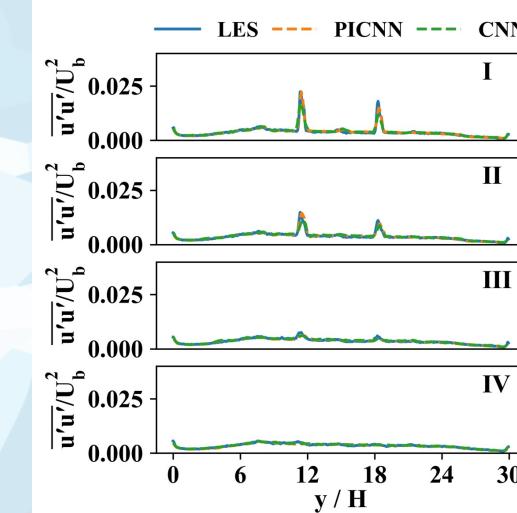
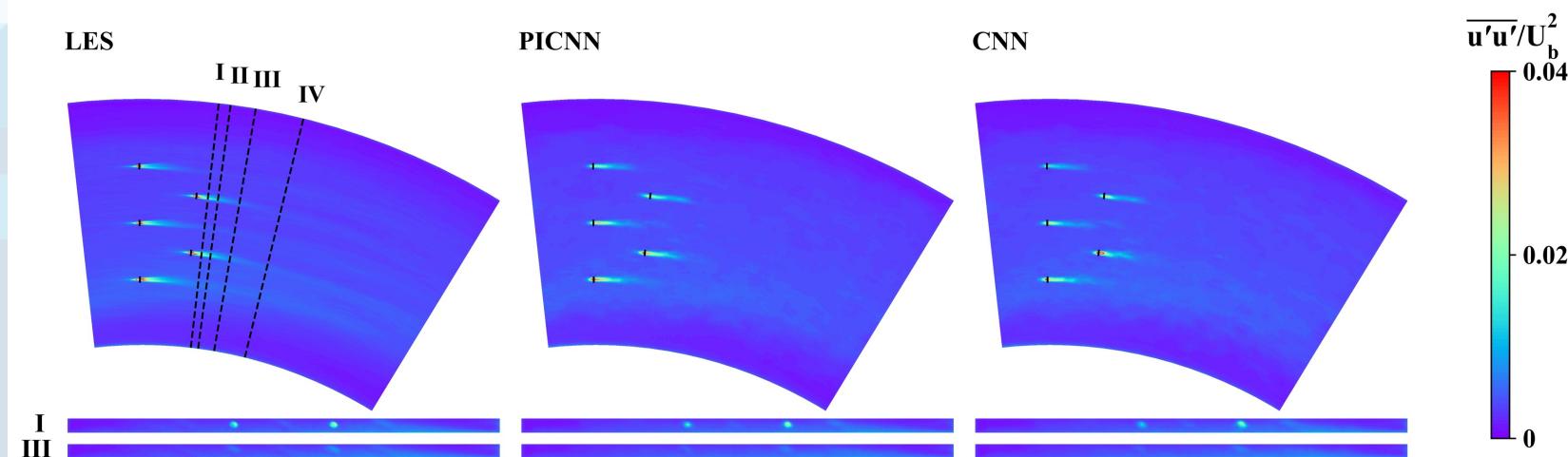


**Percentage error:**  
PICNN: 5.21%  
CNN: 5.33%

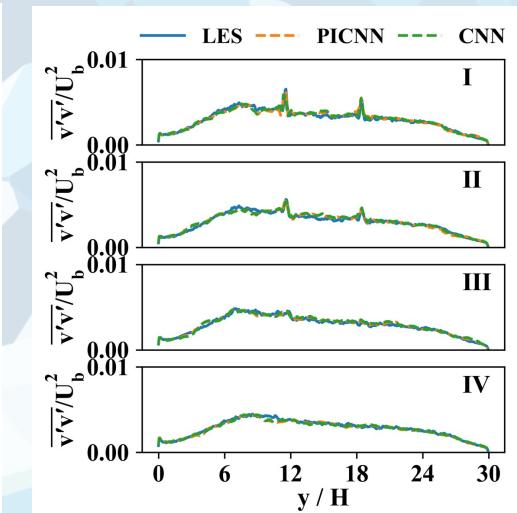
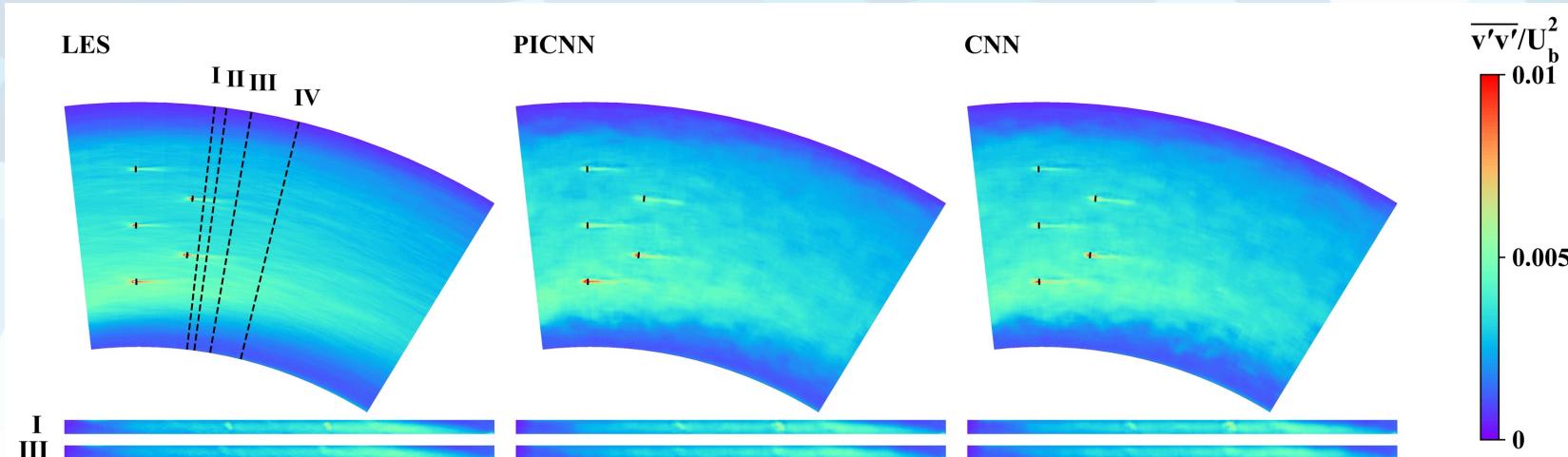


# Results- validation case II

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$



Percentage error:  
PICNN: 6.61%  
CNN: 7.10%

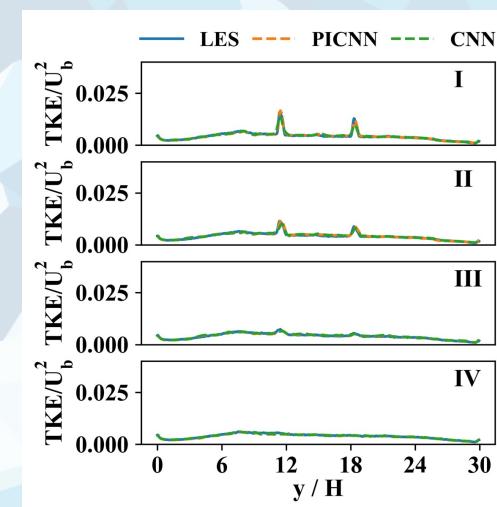
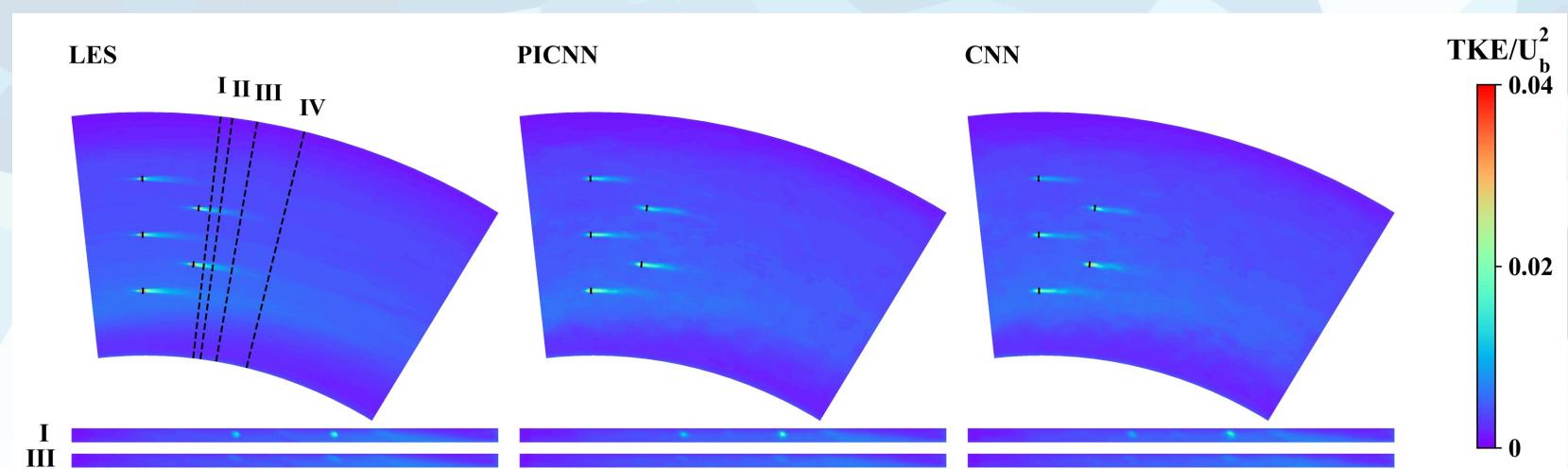
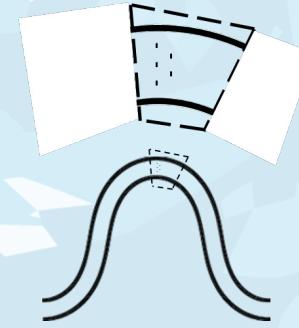
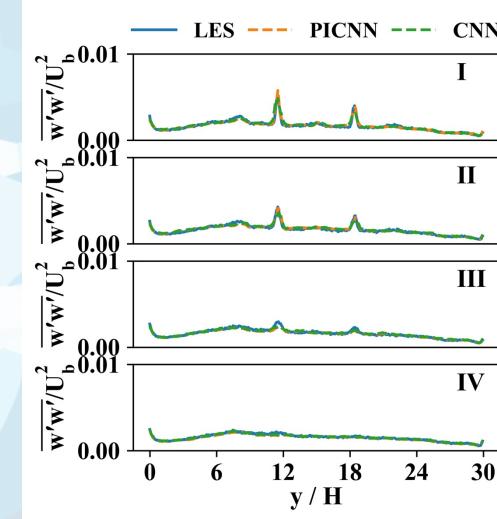
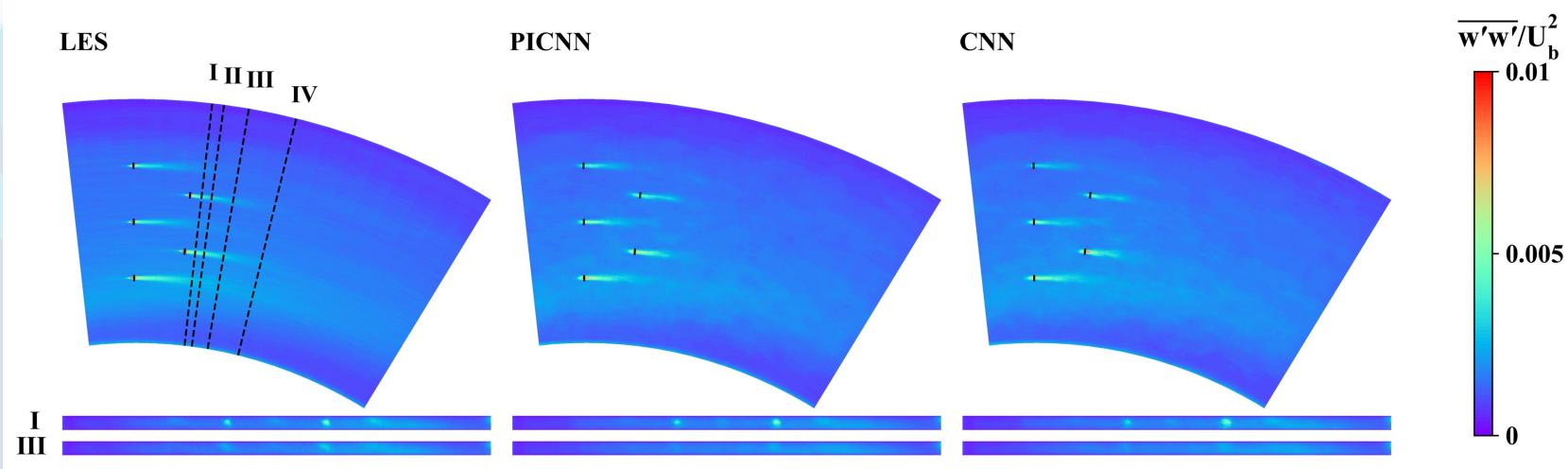


Percentage error:  
PICNN: 5.57%  
CNN: 5.73%



# Results- validation case II

$$\text{Percentage error} = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)} - \psi_{i(AI)}|}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_{i(LES)}|}$$





# Parting thoughts

- The AI model, with and without physics constraints, can successfully generate 3D realizations of the time-averaged flow field of MHK turbine arrays in large-scale meandering rivers.
- The physics constraints significantly reduce the divergence and momentum indices in the predicted flow field without impacting the computational cost or the accuracy of the predictions.
- The developed AI generates the time-averaged flow field using roughly 2.8% of the LES computational cost.





# Questions