

**Unraveling mechanisms of mechanical shear stress-regulated high nitrite
production in denitrification: granular structure and metagenomic evidence**

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Text S1 The detailed parameters for calculating shear stress

The mechanical shear stress of the continuous-flow reactor was calculated according to the following formula:

$$P = N_p \rho N^3 D^5$$
$$\tau = \sqrt{\frac{\mu N_p \rho N^3 D^5}{V}}$$

Where

P : power input (W);

N_p : impeller constant;

ρ : fluid density (kg/m³);

N: rotation speed (rev/s);

D: impeller diameter (m);

μ : dynamic viscosity (Pa s);

V: reactor volume (m³);

τ : shear stress (Pa)

Text S2 The detailed operation of metagenomic analysis

DNA was extracted and fragmented for the construction of the end-paired library and PCR amplification. High-quality reads were selected using Fastp software (Chen et al., 2018) (<http://opengene.org/fastp/>, version 0.20.0). The optimized sequences were assembled using MEGAHIT software (Li et al., 2015) (<https://github.com/voutcn/megahit>, version 1.1.2), and open reading frame (ORF) were predicted on the assembled contigs using Prodigal (Hyatt et al., 2010) (<https://github.com/hyattpd/Prodigal>, version 2.6.3). The predicted gene sequences were then clustered to form a non-redundant gene set using CD-HIT software (Fu et al., 2012) (<http://www.bioinformatics.org/cd-hit/>). High-quality reads from each sample were aligned against the non-redundant gene set with SOAPaligner software (Li et al., 2008) (<http://soap.genomics.org.cn/>, version 2.21) with a 95% identity threshold to determine gene abundance. Finally, the data were further analyzed with species annotation using the Non-redundant Protein Database (NR) and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes Databases (KEGG).

Table S1 The composition of mineral and trace element solution

Solution	Concentration (g/L)	Reference
	CaCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	0.14
Mineral substances	MgSO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	0.14
	KH ₂ PO ₄	0.03
Trace element I	EDTA·2Na	5.78
	FeSO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	9.15
	EDTA·2Na	17.36
	ZnSO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	0.43
	CuSO ₄ ·5H ₂ O	0.25
Trace element II	NaMoO ₄ ·2H ₂ O	0.22
	NiCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O	0.19
	H ₃ BO ₄	0.014
	MnCl ₂ ·4H ₂ O	0.99
	CoCl ₂ ·6H ₂ O	0.24

(Fan et al., 2022)

Table S2 The types, names, and sampling times of the microbial structure samples collected from different reactors

Reactor	Sludge types	Sample name	Sampling time
UCS-1	granular sludge	U1_1	Phase II-i
	flocculated sludge	U1_2	Phase II-i
	granular sludge	U1_3	Phase IV-ii
	flocculated sludge	U1_4	Phase IV-ii
	effluent sludge	U1_5	Phase IV-iii
UCS-2	granular sludge	U2_1	Phase II-i
	flocculated sludge	U2_2	Phase II-i
	granular sludge	U2_3	Phase IV-ii
	flocculated sludge	U2_4	Phase IV-ii
	effluent sludge	U2_5	Phase IV-iii

Table S3 The proportion of elements in PDG core based on the SEM

Reactor	C wt (%)	N wt (%)	O wt (%)	Mg wt (%)	Ca wt (%)	Total (%)
UCS-1	11.4	2.2	40.4	1.1	44.9	100
UCS-2	7.7	0	32.2	0.4	59.7	100

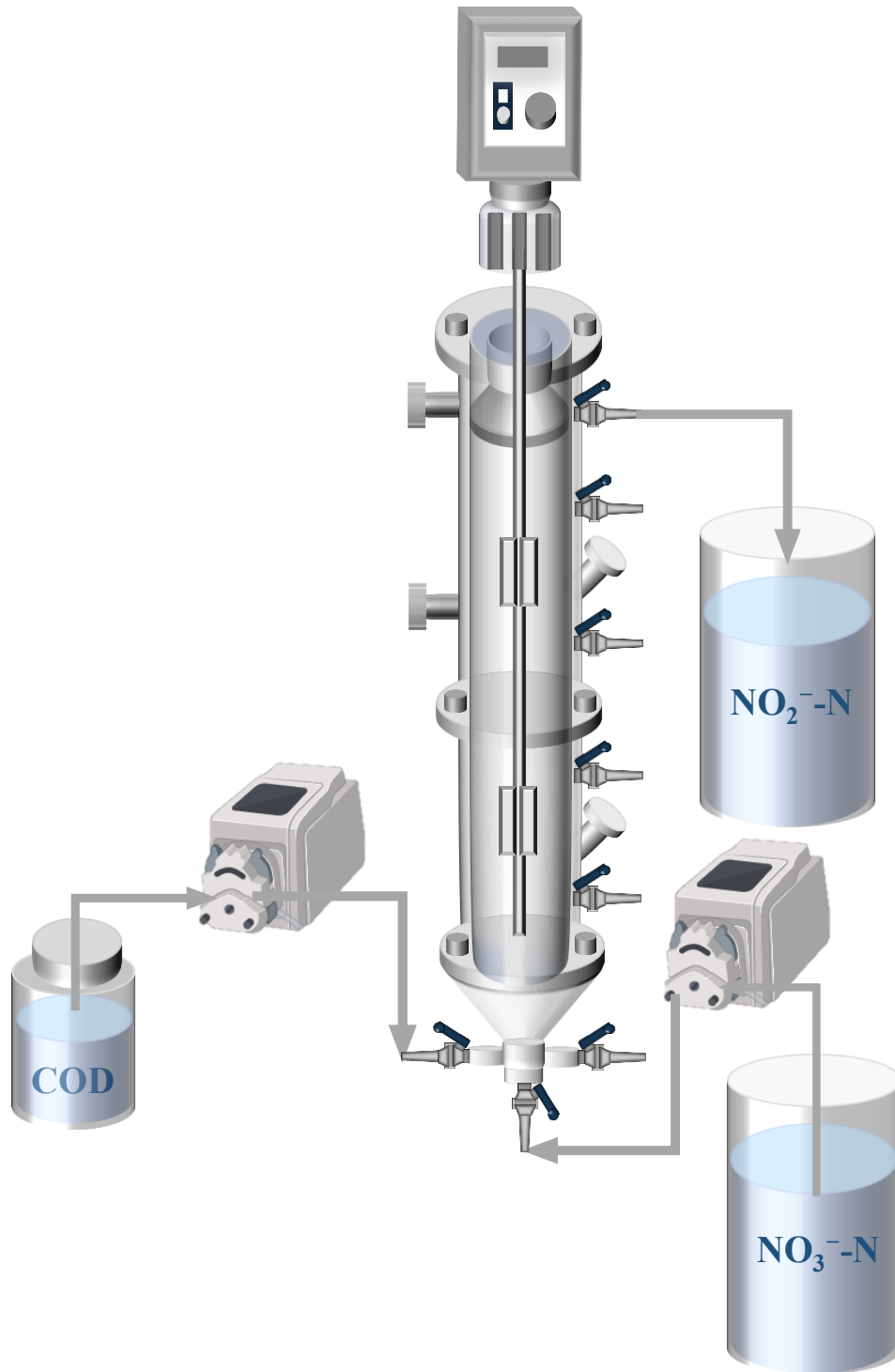


Fig. S1 The diagram of up-flow continuous stirring reactors (UCS)

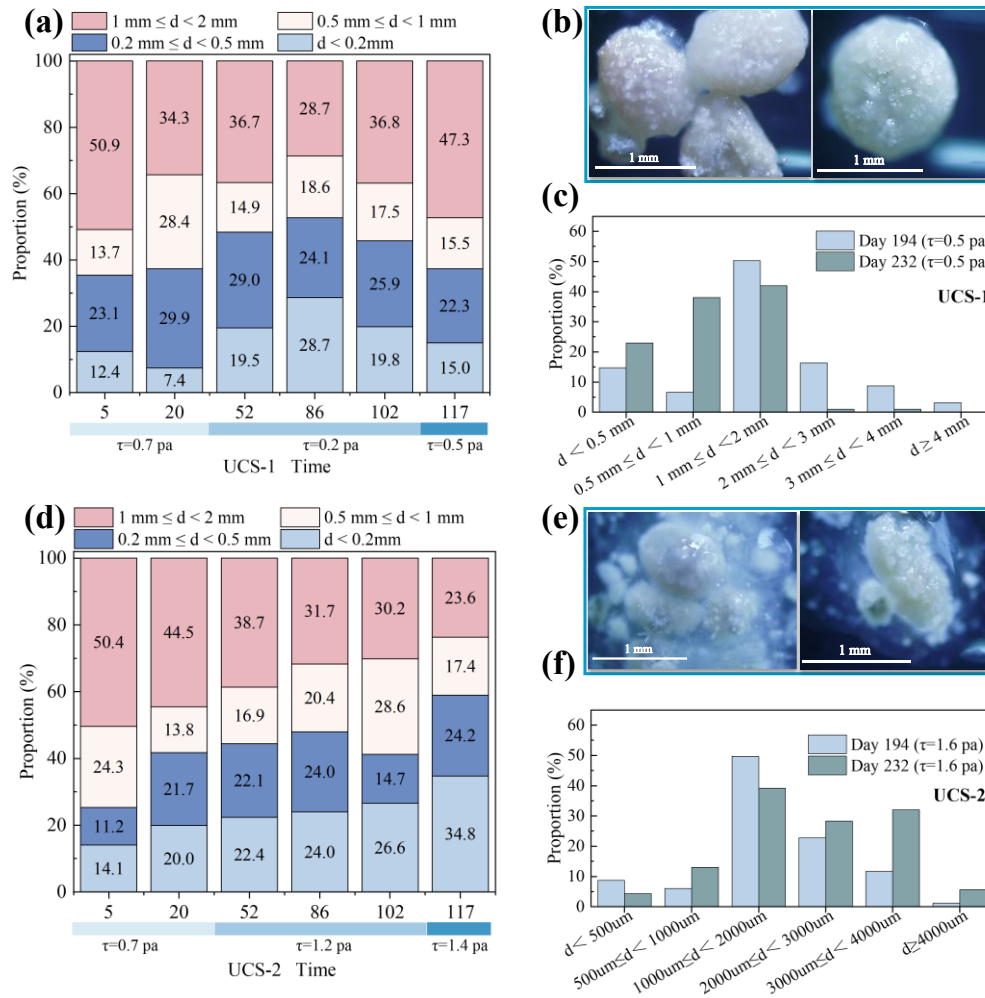


Fig. S2 The changes in the **(a)** size distribution of PDG detected by the laser particle size analyzer, **(b)** the morphology of the sludge, and **(c)** the particle size range of the screened sludge in UCS-1, and the changes in the **(d)** size distribution of PDG detected by the laser particle size analyzer, **(e)** the morphology of the sludge, and **(f)** the particle size range of the screened sludge in UCS-2.

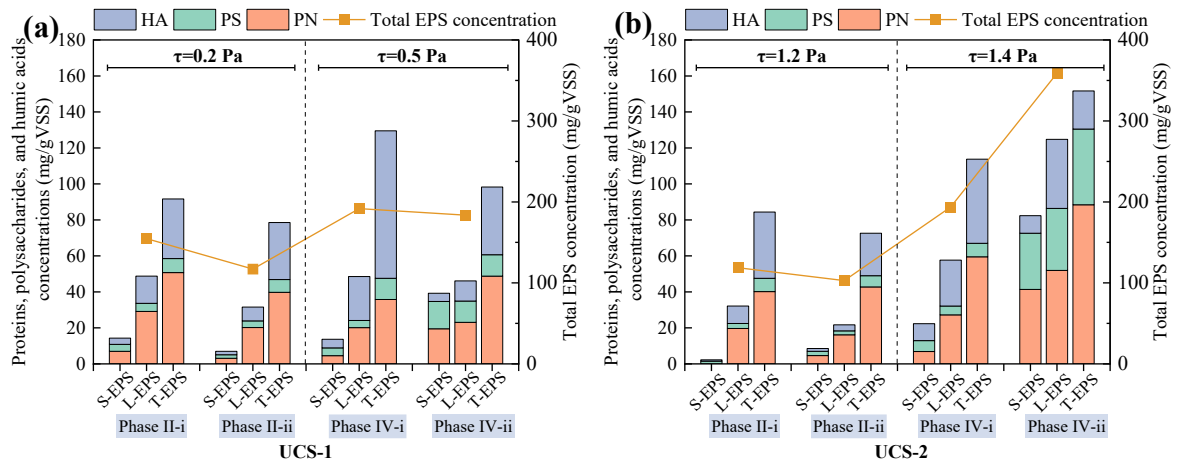


Fig. S3 The concentrations of proteins, polysaccharides, humic acids, and total EPS in

(a) UCS-1 and **(b)** UCS-2 during phase II and phase IV.

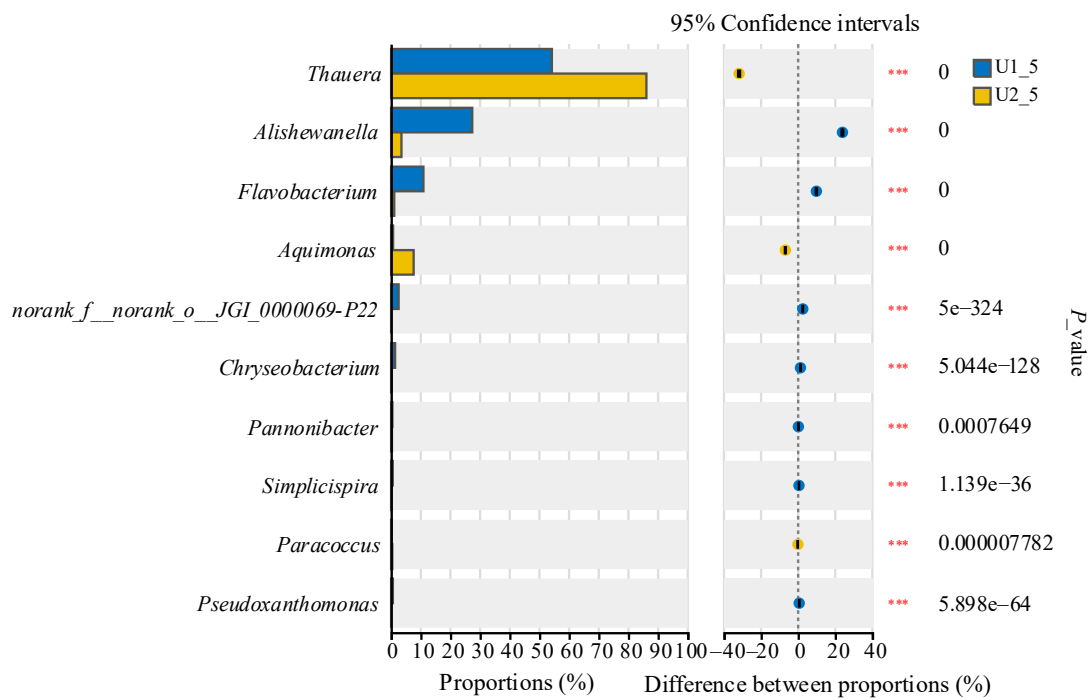


Fig. S4 Comparative analysis of microbial community at the genus level in the effluent sludge of UCS-1 and UCS-2 during phase IV-iii.

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