A novel full scale experimental characterization of wind turbine aero-acoustic noise sources - preliminary results - DTU Orbit (17/12/2018)

The paper describes a novel full scale experiment on a 500 kW wind turbine with the main objective to characterize the aero-acoustic noise sources. The idea behind the instrumentation is to study the link and correlation between the surface pressure (SP) fluctuations in the boundary layer of the blade and the noise on the ground in a distance of about one rotor diameter. In total six surface microphones were used to measure the SP at the leading edge (LE) and trailing edge (TE) of the blade. In parallel noise was measured by eight microphones placed on plates on the ground around the turbine in equidistant angles on a circle with a radius of about one rotor diameter. The data were analyzed in segments of 2.2 s which is the time for one rotor revolution. The spectra for the TE microphones on the suction side of the blade show a characteristic roll-off pattern around a frequency of 600-700 Hz. For increasing wind speed the spectral energy increases below this point and the same is seen on the ground microphones spectra. The decrease in the spectral energy above this point is also found for the blade surface microphones but not on the microphones on the ground. An interesting spectrum was observed for the microphone on the pressure side close to the TE. For increasing wind speed the spectra show a very distinct increase in spectral energy up to about 300 Hz after which the spectra collapse. As the boundary layer is laminar it is thought that this spectral energy is due to sound waves from the TE noise on the suction side.

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