Applied Workshop: Doppler Lidars for Wind Energy

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Applied Workshop: Doppler Lidars for Wind Energy

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How and what does a Doppler lidar measure?

• Doppler lidars measure motion, unlike ranging lidars (which can only measure distance)

• Simplified measurement process:
  – Laser light (near infrared, 1.5 μm) is emitted
  – Beam interacts with aerosols (particles) suspended in the air
  – The light frequency (wavelength) is shifted by the apparent speed
  – The backscatter signal is received and digitized
  – The dominant frequency is found by spectral analysis
  – Using the Doppler shift and speed of light, the radial velocity is obtained
    \[ \Delta f = \frac{v_r}{c} f_0; \text{where } \Delta f = f - f_0 \]

• True wind speed & radial wind speed relationship
  \[ v_r = v \times \cos(\theta) \]
  \( \theta = \) beam alignment relative to the wind direction
  When parallel: \( v_r = \) true wind speed;
  when perpendicular \( v_r = 0 \) speed

Figure source: Vasiljevic (2015)
Two varieties: Pulsed vs. continuous wave (CW)

**Pulsed**
- Collimated beam (parallel rays)
- Measures all distances at once
- Uses time of flight to differentiate ranges
- Probe volume is constant with distance
- Blind zone exist close to telescope

**Continuous Wave**
- Focused beam
- Measures one distance at a time
- Must refocus to measure at another point
- Probe volume is a $4^{th}$ power function of focus range
- Can measure very close to telescope

Figure source: Photonics.com

Figure source: Simley et.al. 2018
Doppler lidar applications in wind energy

- Wind resource assessment (e.g. wind profiles, big picture over complex terrain)
- Validation of other sensors and as an independent observation
- Power performance assessment (ensure turbine performs as expected)
- Validation of models (e.g. wind atlases, LES)
- Turbine wake and inflow measurements (e.g. validating wake and load models)
- Wind turbine & wind farm control
- Forecasting (either data assimilation into NWP or using statistical models)
## Common commercial systems

### Ground based profilers
- Leosphere WindCube V2
- Zephir 300
- Pentalum SpiDAR
- Mitsubishi CWL
- Windar Wind Eye/Vision (2/4 beam)

### Nacelle
- Zephir Dual Mode
- Avent (Leosphere) WindIris (4 beam)
- Mitsubishi NL (9 beam)

### Scanning
- Leosphere WindCube 1/2/400S
- Halo StreamLine XR
- Lockheed Martin WindTracer
- Galion Lidar
Common measurement techniques

- Line of sight (LOS)
- Doppler beam swing (DBS)
- Velocity azimuth display (VAD)
- Plan position indicator (PPI)
- Range height indicator (RHI)

Others
- Dual Doppler
- Triple Doppler
- Adaptive
- Complex
## Sizing up

### Strengths

- Portable / relatively fast to deploy and move
- Spatial measurement
- Measures remotely (no tower, no flow distortion)
- Configurable ranges
- Scanning lidar trajectories are configurable (point/area/volume)
- Validation history against calibrated sensors

### Challenges

- Only radial measurements
- Measurements are spatially averaged (probe volume)
- Limited by low backscatter signal in certain conditions (availability)
- Eye/laser safety
- Power consumption
- Beam blockage
- Requires expert knowledge
- Limited inclusion in standards
- Limited “bankability” (acceptance)
Data formats

- Most devices output measurements in CSV text format, 1 file per 10 minutes
- Community isn’t united yet, but we are starting to get there!
- FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable)
- e-WindLidar: standardization group
  - Metadata cards
  - Lidaco: modular converter to netCDF4 format
  - Data catalogue (citable with DOI, permissions system)
  - Common tools and data products: spectra > radial speeds > vector > flow parameters
  - Upcoming workshop: October 3rd @ DTU Risø
Closing remarks

• DTU PhD summer school on Remote Sensing for Wind Energy
  – June 24-28, 2019 @ Risø (1 week, 2.5 ECTS)

• Questions?

• Let’s begin the exercise!
• If you want to follow/play along on your own computer:
  – Download Python Anaconda distribution (3.6.x version) - add to PATH env. variable
    https://www.anaconda.com/download/
  – Clone repository, or download files from GitHub page:
  – Navigate to where you saved the files (file explorer or shell)
    • If file explorer on windows: Shift + Right Click > Open command window here
    • “jupyter notebook” will launch a browser window
    • Open the .ipynb file