

# GROUND-BASED REMOTE SENSING OF THE BOUNDARY LAYER AND OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

Stefan Emeis  
[stefan.emeis@kit.edu](mailto:stefan.emeis@kit.edu)

INSTITUTE OF METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATE RESEARCH, Atmospheric Environmental Research



## **Instruments:**

surface-based (land, buoys, ships, ...) scanning instruments

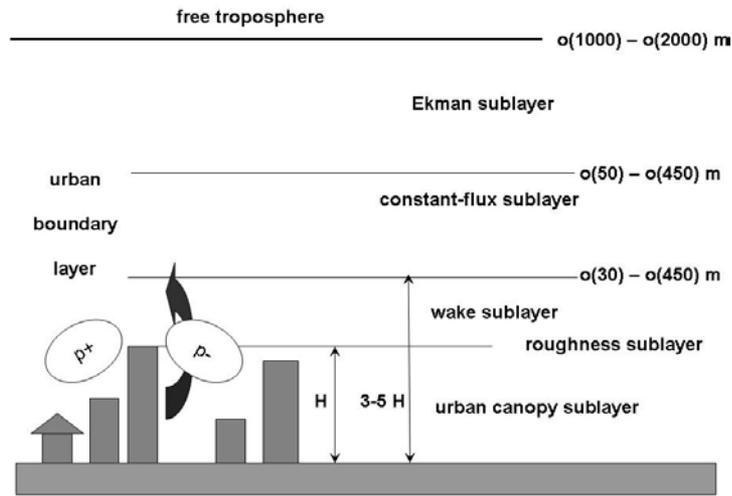
airborne platforms: aircraft, drones

## **Sites:**

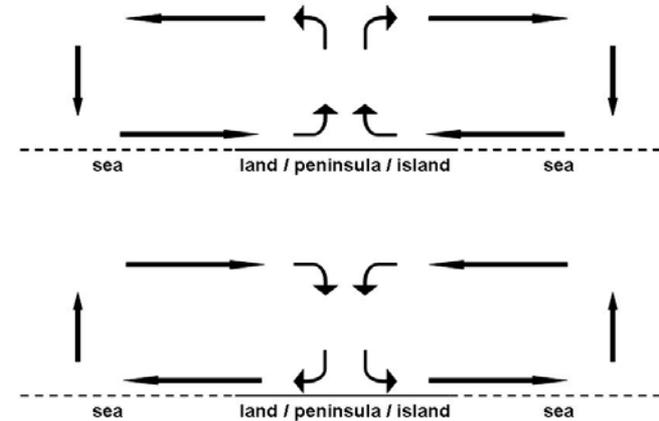
atmospheric boundary layers in flat and complex terrain,  
(coastal) megacities, offshore wind farms

## **Topics:**

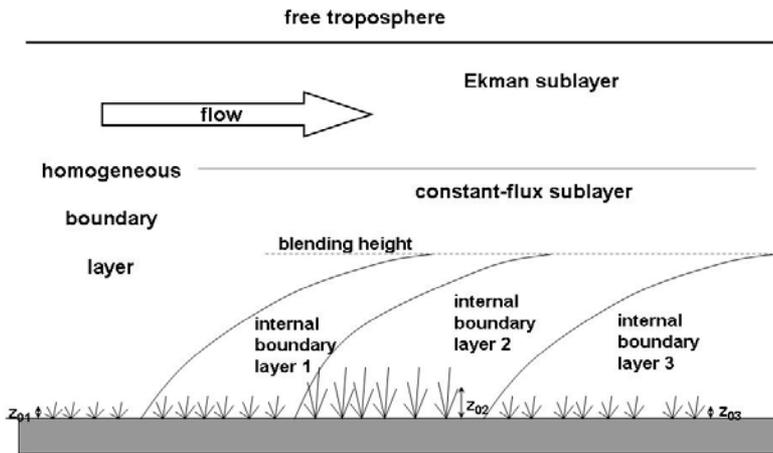
internal boundary layers, boundary layer height, air quality,  
land-sea wind systems, low-level jets, wind resources



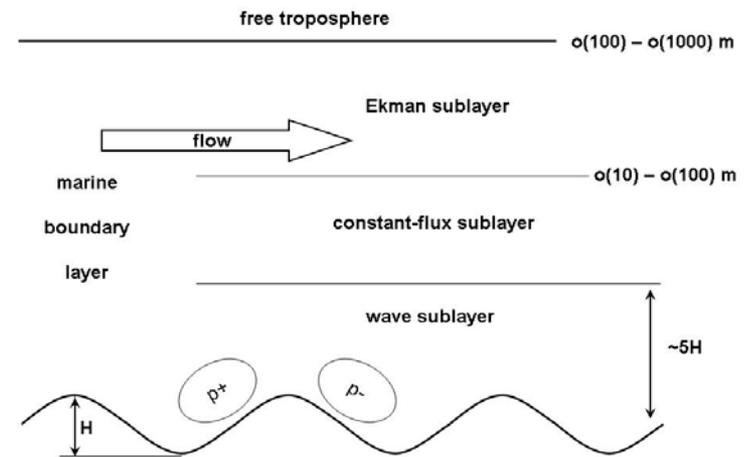
**urban BL**



**thermally induced secondary circulations**



**internal BLs**

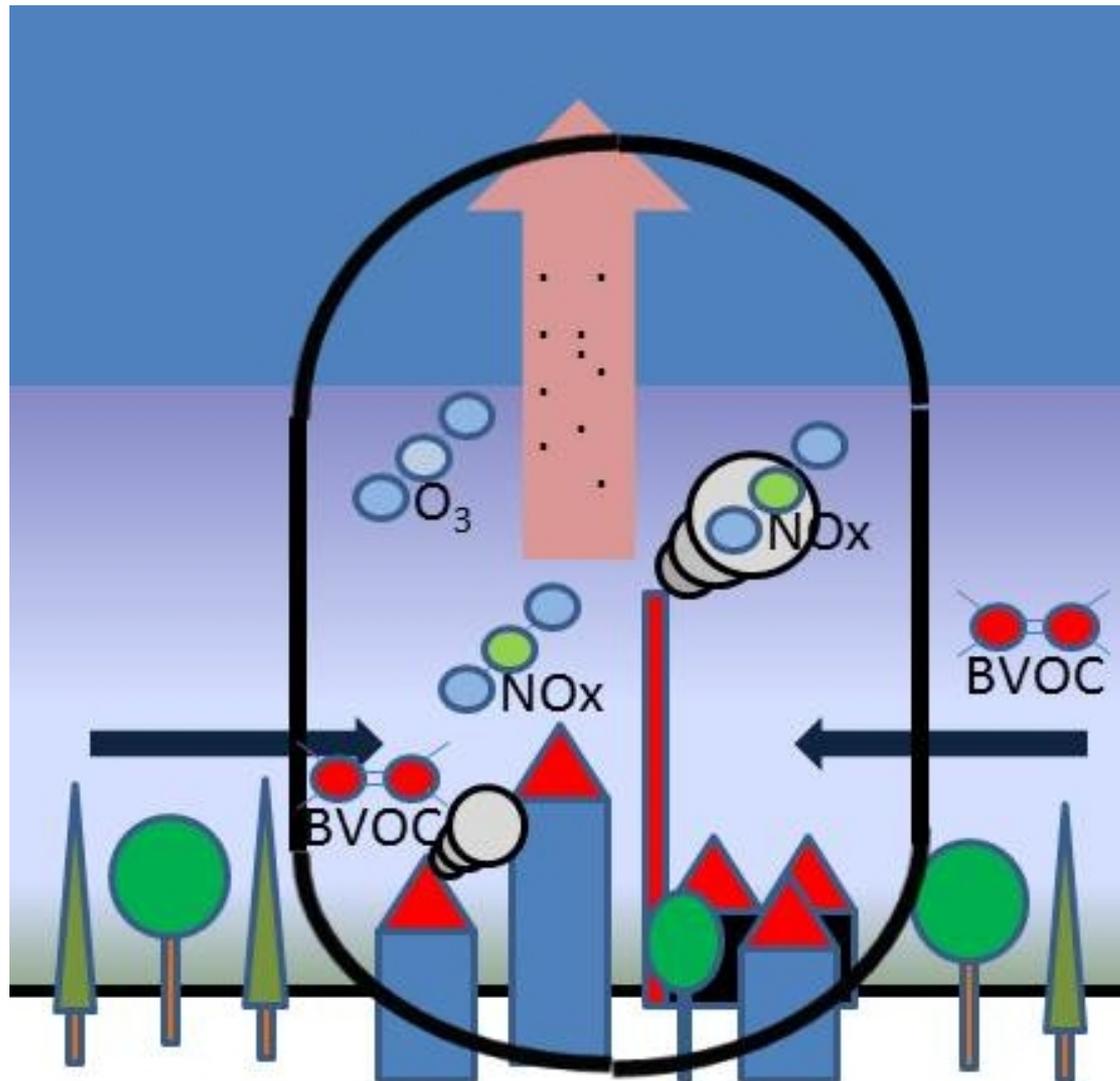


**marine BL**



Photo: 2011 Stefan Emeis

## **Warmer cities influence local and regional climate (Clouds over Manhattan on May 28, 2011)**



Swedish offshore farm Lillgrund  
(Öresund) 110.4 MW  
48 turbines (2.3 MW)



Coastal farm near Rødby  
(Denmark)



## Erected and planned offshore wind farms in the North Sea



## Measurement techniques

### in situ

temperature  
humidity  
wind (speed, direction, turbulence)  
pressure  
radiation (UV, SW, LW, sunshine)  
cloudiness  
precipitation (rain, snow, hail)  
visibility  
atmospheric electricity

air quality (gases, aerosols)  
radioactivity

sea surface temperature  
waves (height, speed, direction)

### remote sensing

temperature  
humidity (?)  
wind (speed, direction, turbulence)

optical depth  
ceiling, cloud-top temperatures  
precipitation  
optical backscatter intensity

air quality (gases, aerosols)

sea surface temperature  
waves (height, speed, direction)

## Platforms

underground  
 surface  
 shelter or screen  
 (street) cars  
 buoy  
 ship, oil rig  
 mast  
 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)  
 ultralight aircraft  
 tethered balloon  
 constant-level balloon  
 radiosonde  
 aircraft  
 satellite

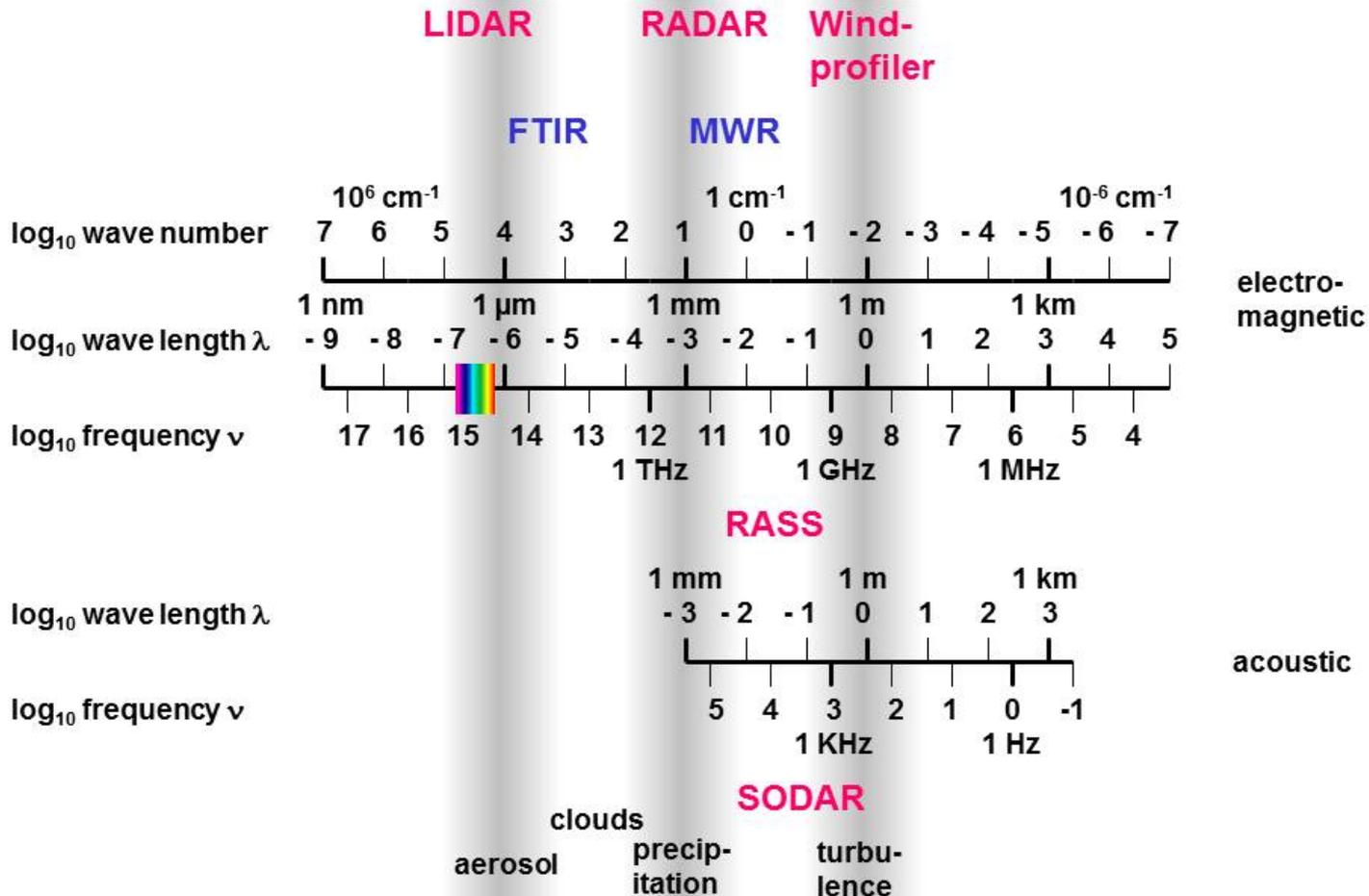
## Characteristics/variables

soil temperature, soil moisture,  
 surface properties, surface fluxes,  
 2 m height, near-surface air properties,  
 near-surface properties  
 near-surface characteristics  
 some meters above the sea,  
 up to some hundred meters,  
 up to several hundreds of metres  
 up to several kilometres  
 up to several hundred meters,  
 floats in a given height,  
 up to 30 km height,  
 flexible flight track,  
 only remote sensing

## Types of measurement

continuous, in-situ  
 continuous, in-situ, remote sensing  
 continuous, in-situ  
 continuous, along route  
 continuous, in-situ, remote sensing  
 in-situ along seaways  
 continuous, in-situ, profile  
 in-situ along flight path  
 in situ along flight path  
 sequential profile measurements  
 in-situ along flight path  
 single profile measurement  
 in-situ+remote along flight path  
 remote sensing, path-averaged, sounding

## Remote sensing of the atmosphere



# SODAR

**algorithms for the determination of  
mixing-layer height**

**and low-level jet observations**

**SODAR**, acoustic backscatter, Doppler shift analysis → wind, turbulence

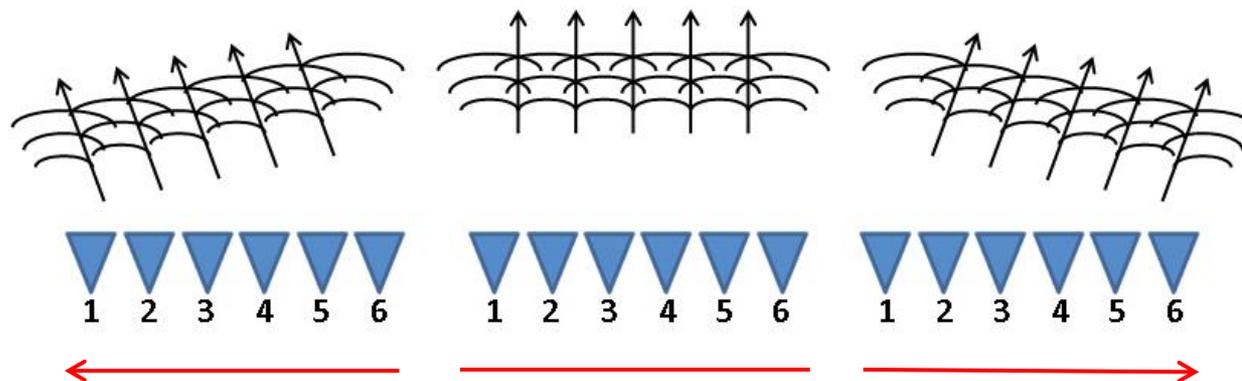
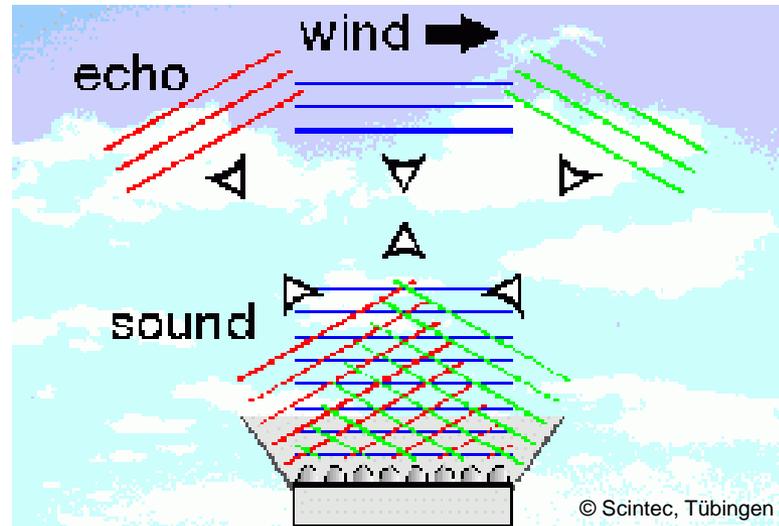


**three antennas**

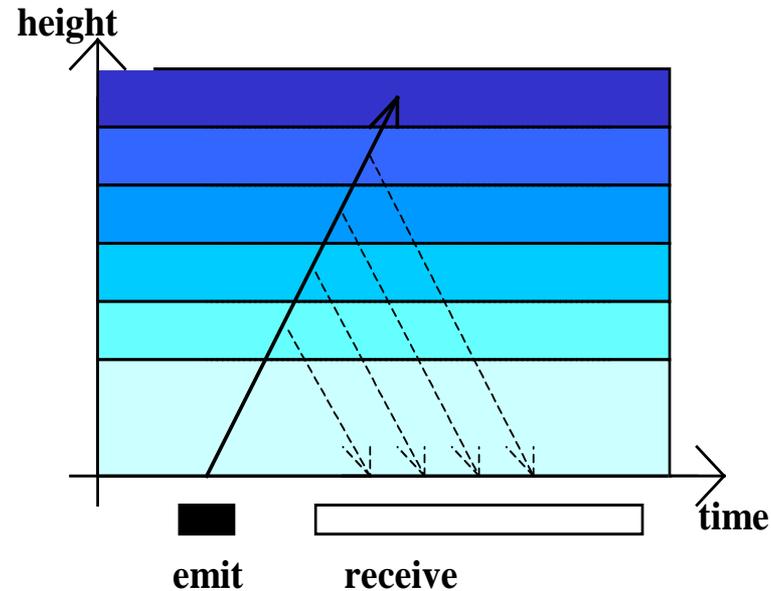


**phased-array**

## Basic principle of a phased-array sodar



# monostatic SODAR: measuring principles



deduction:

sound travel time	=	height
backscatter intensity	=	turbulence
Doppler-shift	=	wind speed

## The SODAR equation:

$$P_R = r^2 (c_s \tau A \varepsilon / 2) P_0 \beta_s e^{-2\sigma r} + P_{bg}$$

$P_R$  received power,

$P_0$  emitted power,

$\varepsilon$  antenna efficiency,

$A$  effective antenna area,

$\sigma$  sound absorption in air due to classical and molecular absorption due to the collision of water molecules with the oxygen and nitrogen molecules of the air,

$r$  distance between the scattering volume and the instrument,

$\tau$  pulse duration (typically between 20 and 100 ms),

$\beta_s$  backscattering cross-section (typically in the order of  $10^{-11} \text{ m}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$ ),

$c_s$  sound speed,

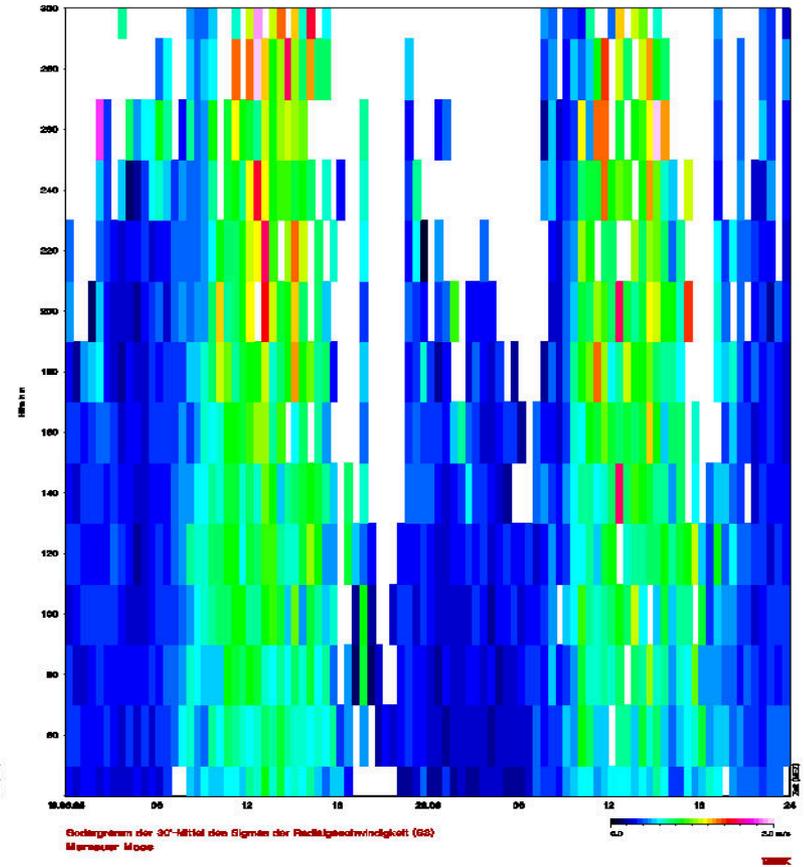
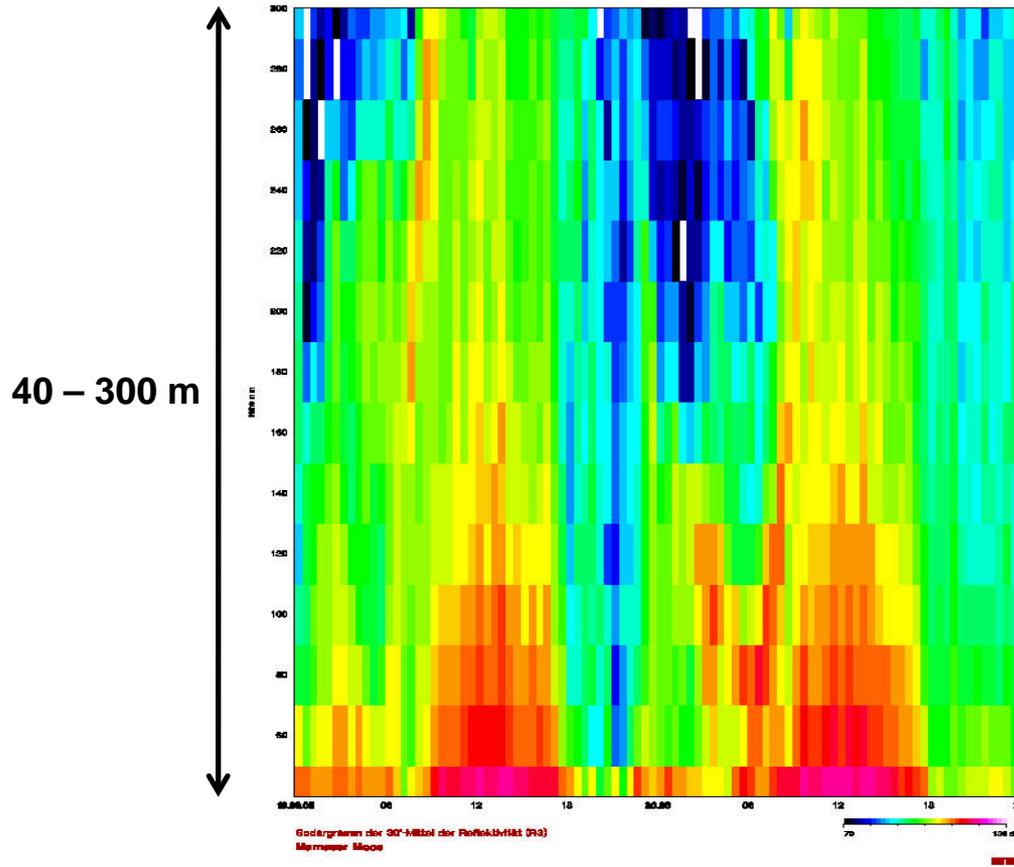
$P_{bg}$  background noise.

Emitted power:  $\sim 10^3 \text{ W}$ , received (backscattered) power:  $10^{-15} \text{ W}$

# SODAR sample plot (daytime convective BL)

## acoustic backscatter intensity

## sigma w

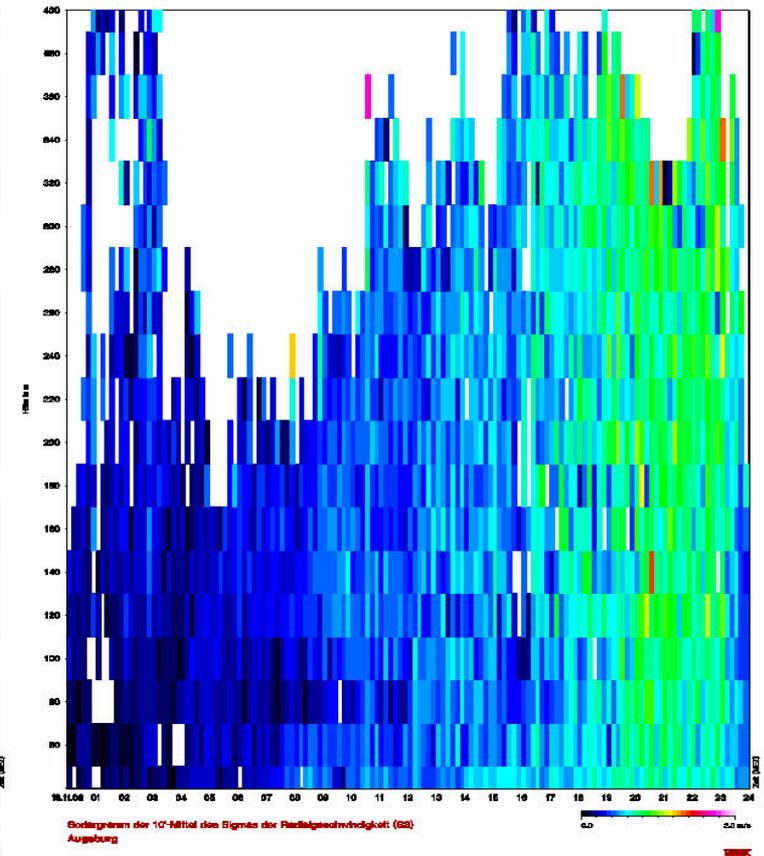
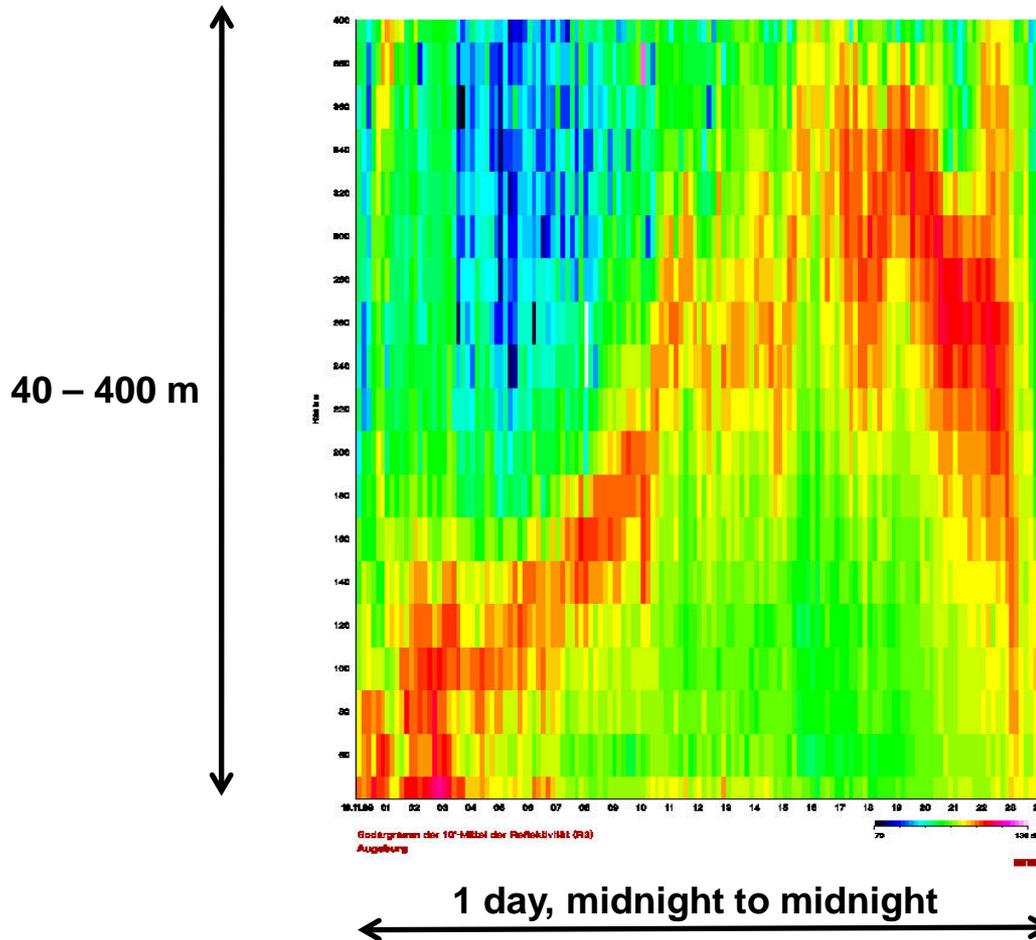


2 days, midnight to midnight

# SODAR sample plot (lifted inversion)

## acoustic backscatter intensity

## sigma w

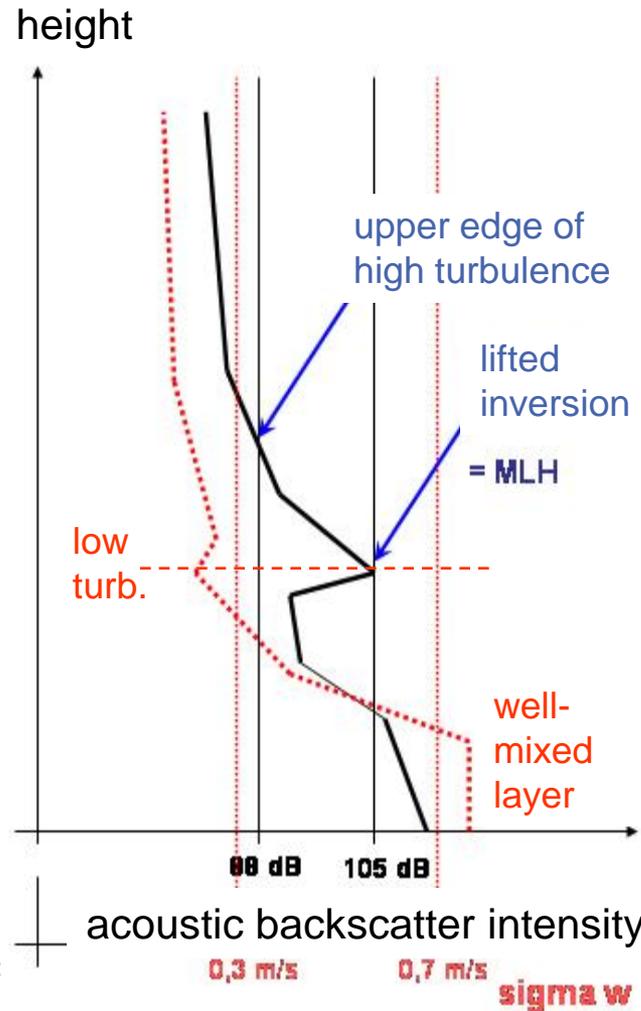


# Algorithms to detect MLH from SODAR data

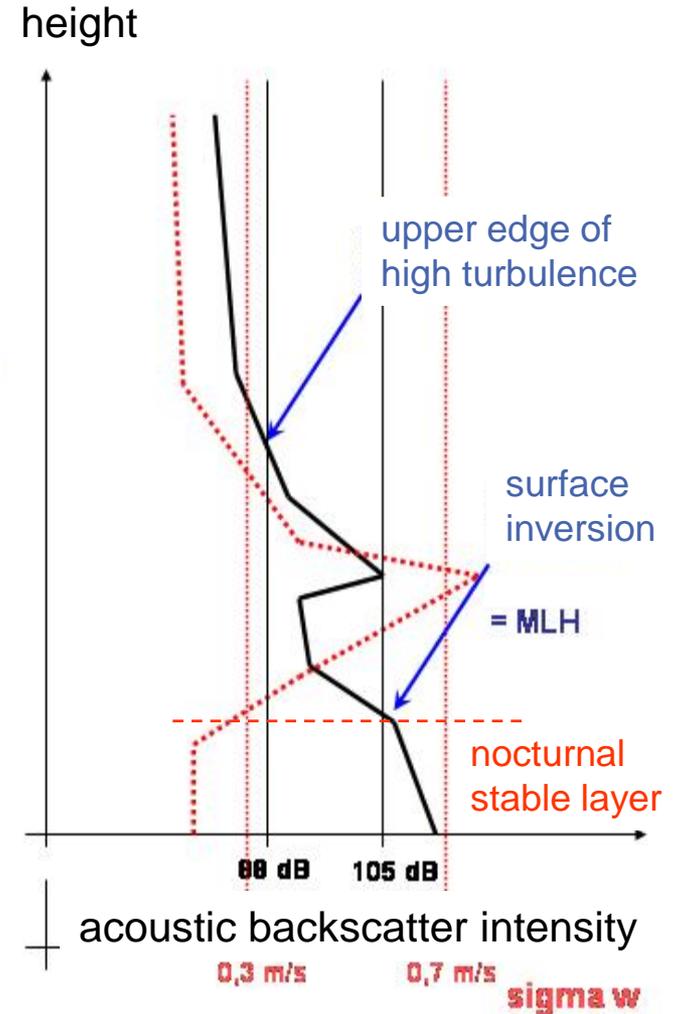
**criterion 1:**  
 upper edge  
 of high  
 turbulence

**criterion 2:**  
 surface and  
 lifted  
 inversions

MLH = Min (C1, C2)



example 1: daytime

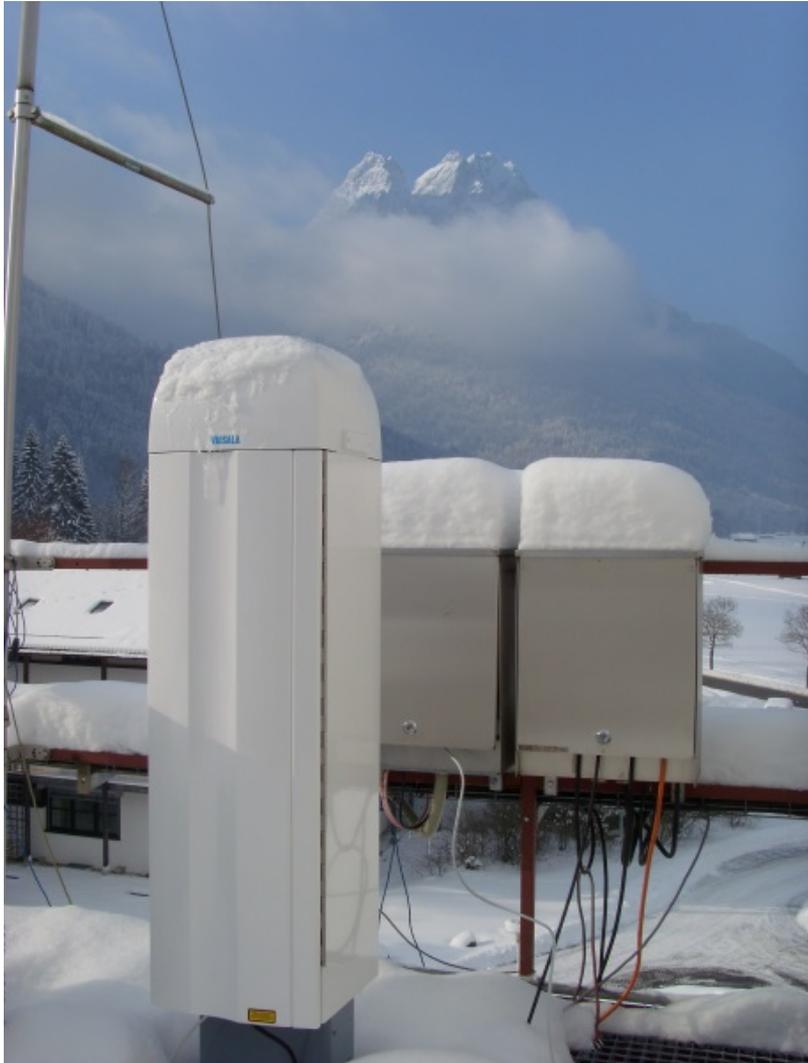


example 2: night-time

Emeis, S., K. Schäfer, C. Münkel, 2008:  
 Surface-based remote sensing of the  
 mixing-layer height – a review.  
 Meteorol. Z., 17, 621-630.

# Ceilometer

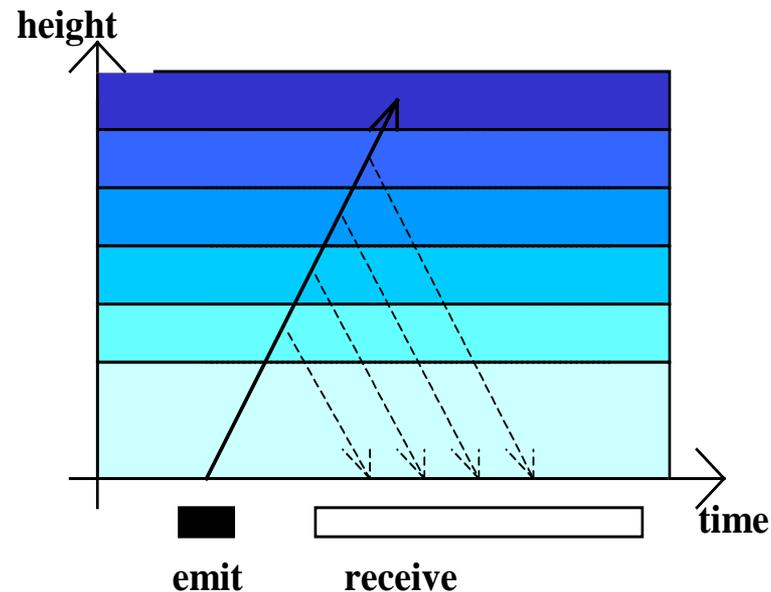
**algorithms for the determination of  
mixing-layer height**



**Ceilometer**, optical backscatter,  
pulsed emission,  
wave length  $\sim 0.9 \mu\text{m}$

→ aerosol profiles

# Ceilometer/LIDAR measuring principle



detection:

- travel time of signal = height
- backscatter intensity = particle size and number distribution
- Doppler-shift = cannot be analyzed from ceilometer data  
(available only from a Wind-LIDAR: velocity component in line of sight)

The LIDAR equation:

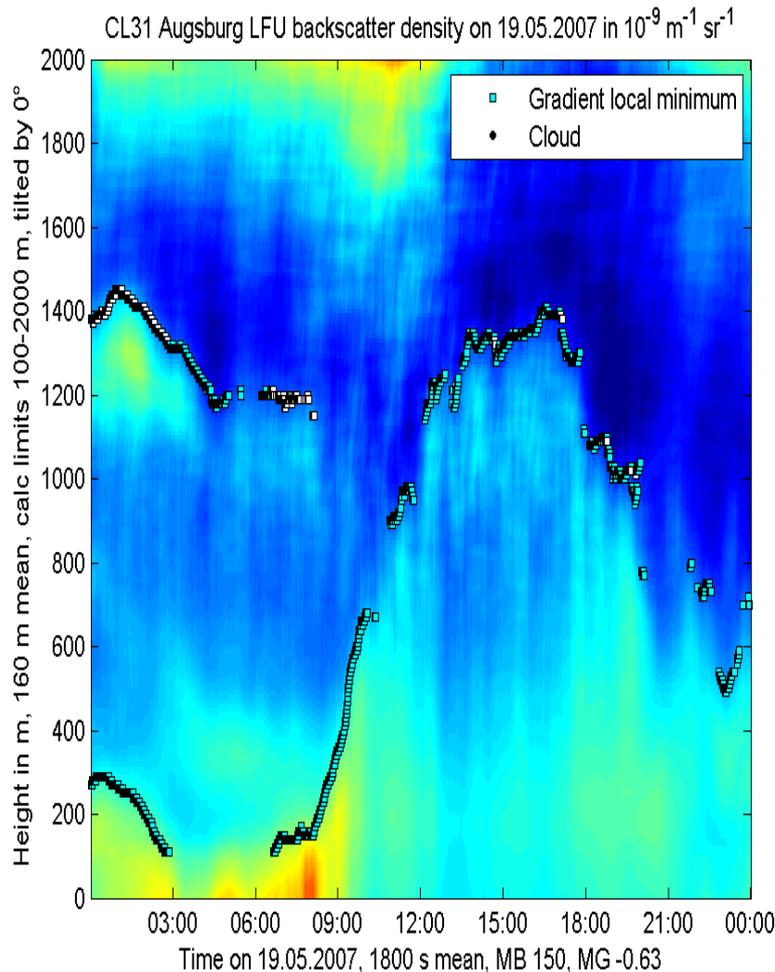
$$P_R(\lambda, r) = r^2 (c\tau A\varepsilon/2) P_0 [\beta_m(\lambda, r) + \beta_p(\lambda, r)] e^{-2\sigma r} + P_{bg}$$

- $r$**  distance between the LIDAR and the backscattering object,
- $c$**  speed of light,
- $\tau$**  pulse duration,
- $A$**  antenna area,
- $\varepsilon$**  correction term for the detector efficiency and losses due to the lenses,
- $P_0$**  emitted energy,
- $\beta_m$**  backscatter coefficient for molecules
- $\beta_p$**  backscatter coefficient for particles,
- $\sigma$**  absorption of light in the atmosphere,
- $P_{bg}$**  background noise.

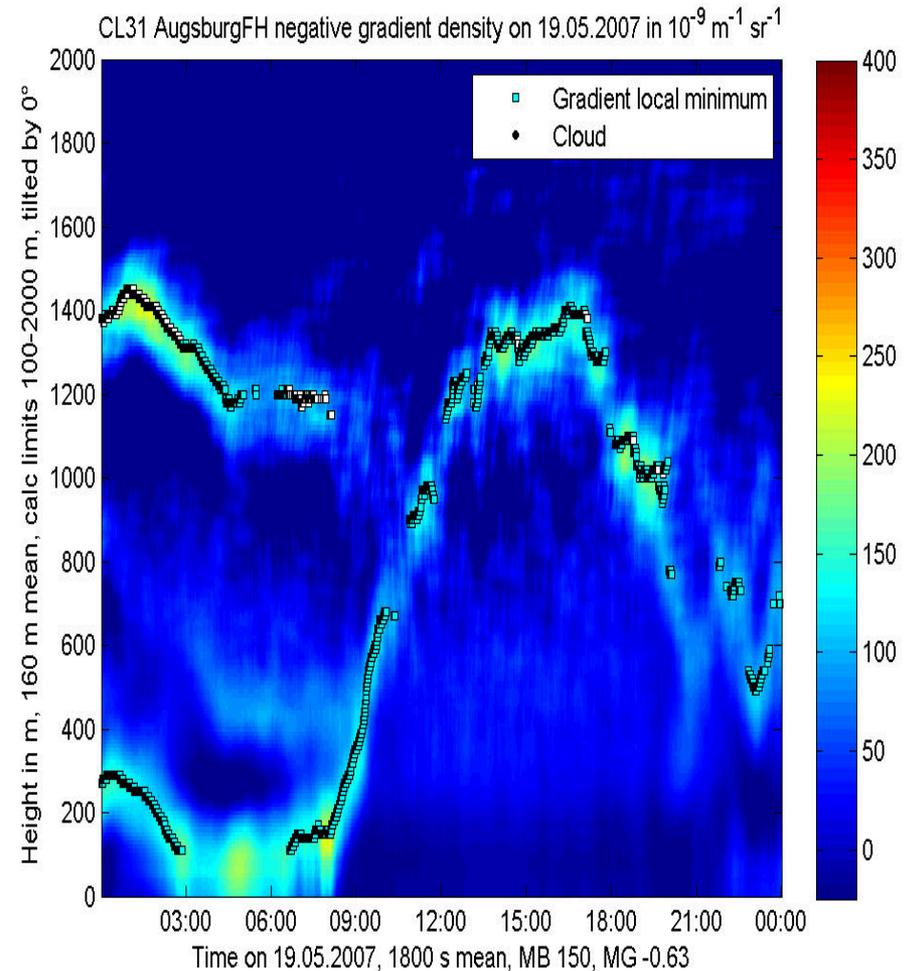
For a ceilometer  $\beta_m$  is negligible and only  $\beta_p$  is important

# ceilometer sample plot (daytime convective BL)

## optical backscatter intensity



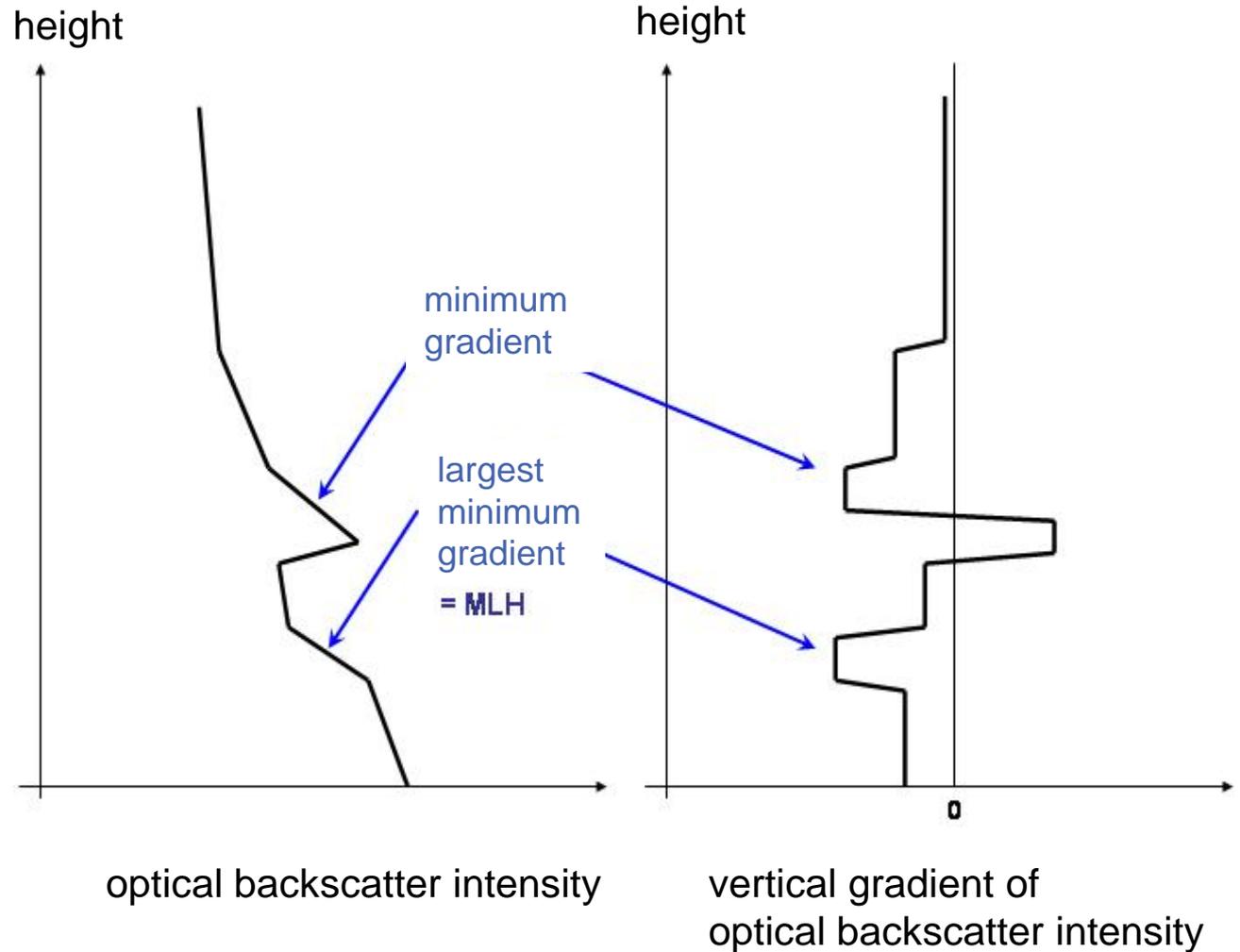
## negative vertical gradient of optical backscatter intensity



# Algorithm to detect MLH from Ceilometer-Daten

criterion

minimal vertical  
gradient of backscatter  
intensity (the most  
negative gradient)

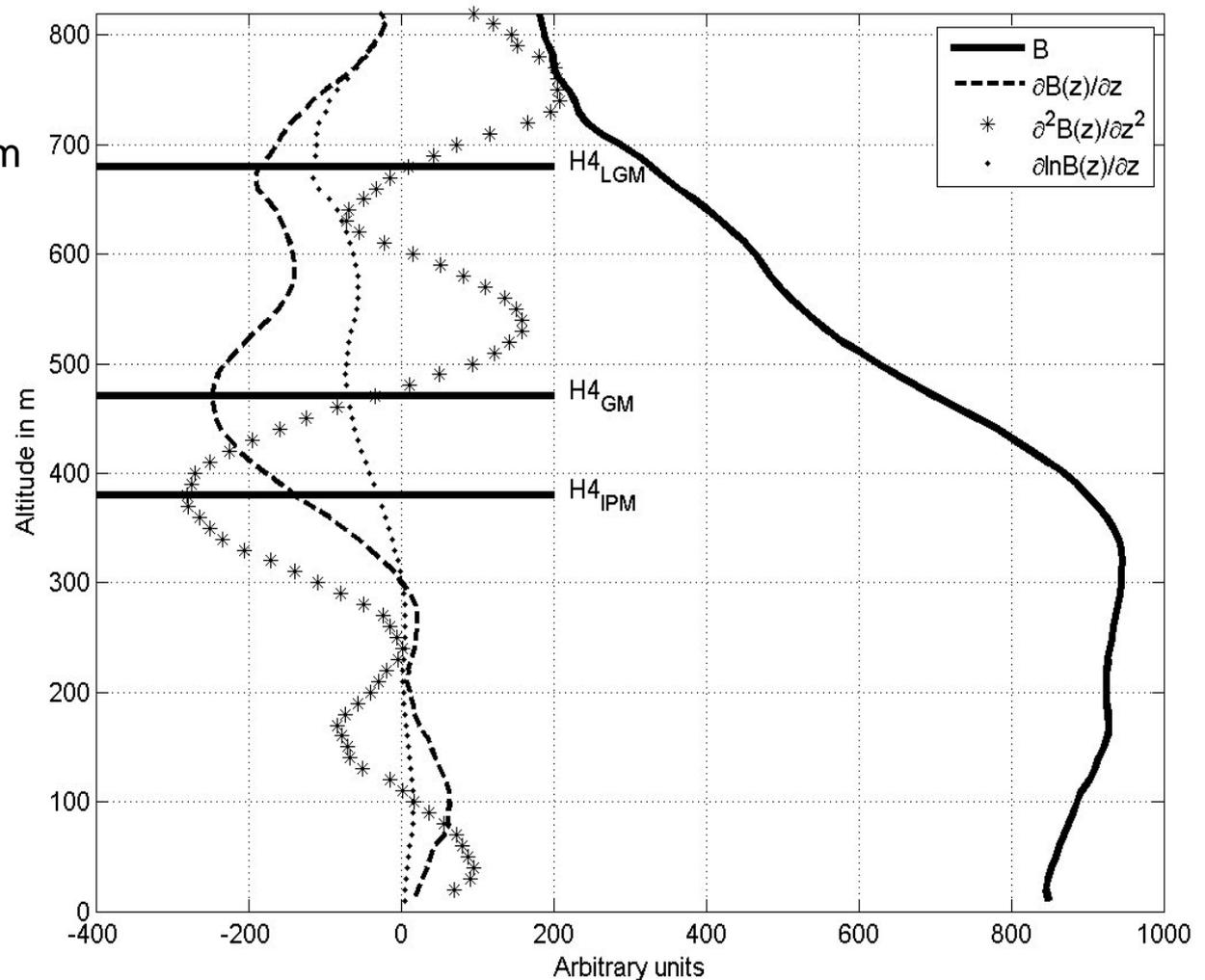


# Different gradient methods (see Sicard et al. 2006, BLM 119, 135-157)

logarithmic gradient minimum

gradient minimum

inflection point method  
(minimum of 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative)



# comparison of two different ceilometers

## LD40

two optical axes

wave length: 855 nm

height resolution: 7.5 m

max. range: 13000 m

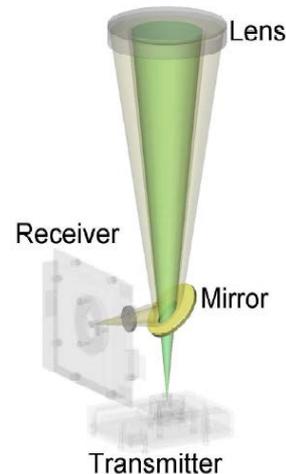
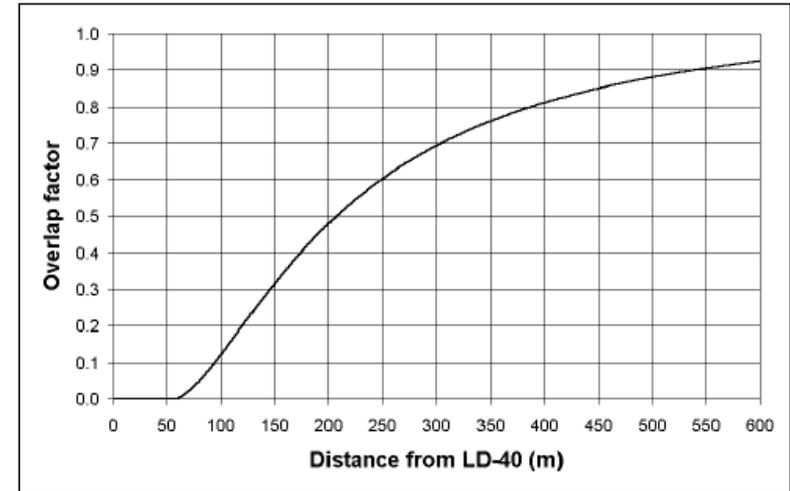
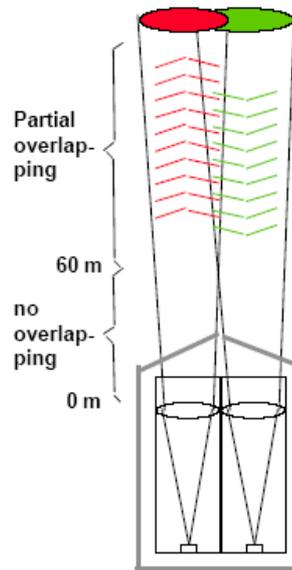
## CL31 / CL51

one optical axis

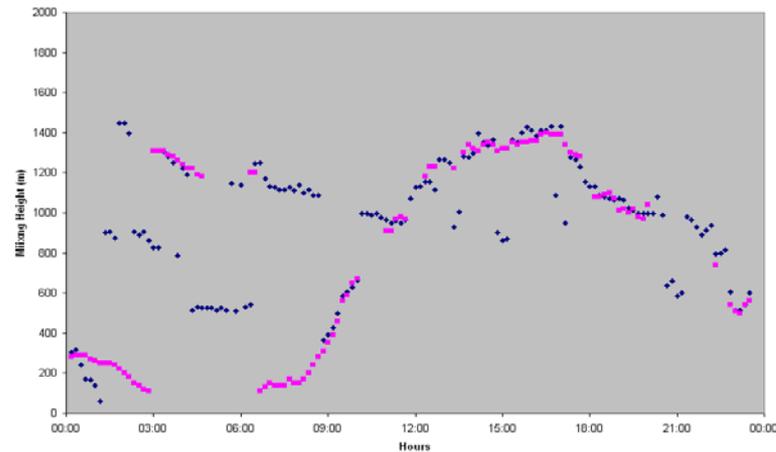
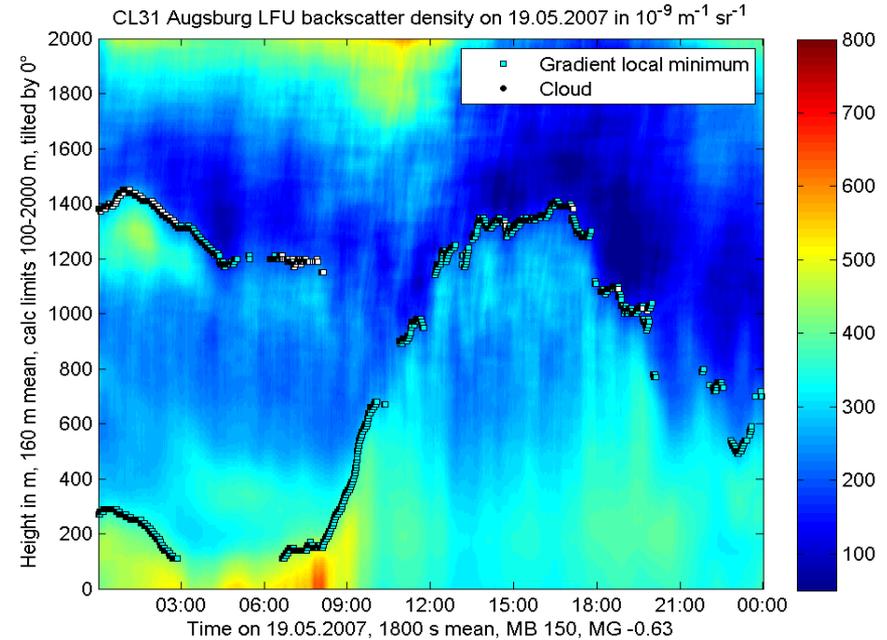
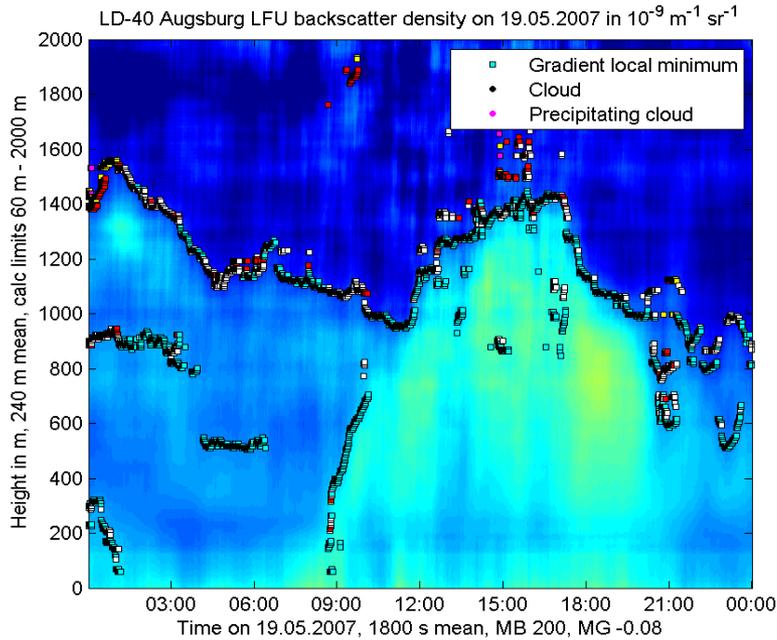
wave length: 905 nm

height resolution: 5 m

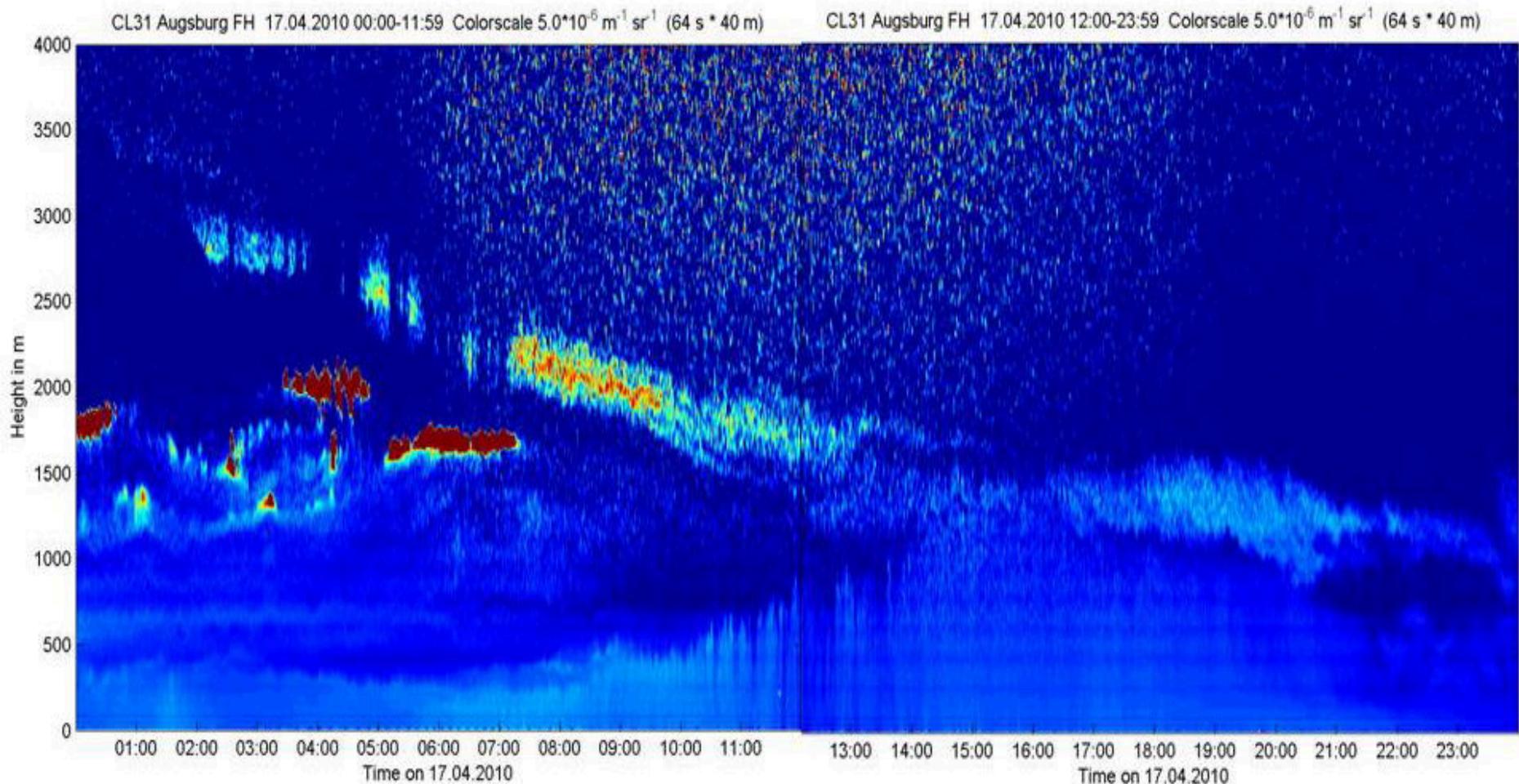
max. range: 7500 m



# comparison of LD40 and CL31



# Eyjafjallajökull ash cloud over Southern Germany



read more: Emeis, S., R. Forkel, W. Junkermann, K. Schäfer, H. Flentje, S. Gilge, W. Fricke, M. Wiegner, V. Freudenthaler, S. Groß, L. Ries, F. Meinhardt, W. Birmili, C. Münkel, F. Obleitner, P. Suppan, 2011: Measurement and simulation of the 16/17 April 2010 Eyjafjallajökull volcanic ash layer dispersion in the northern Alpine region. Atmos. Chem. Phys., 11, 2689–2701

# RASS

**principles of operation**

**examples**

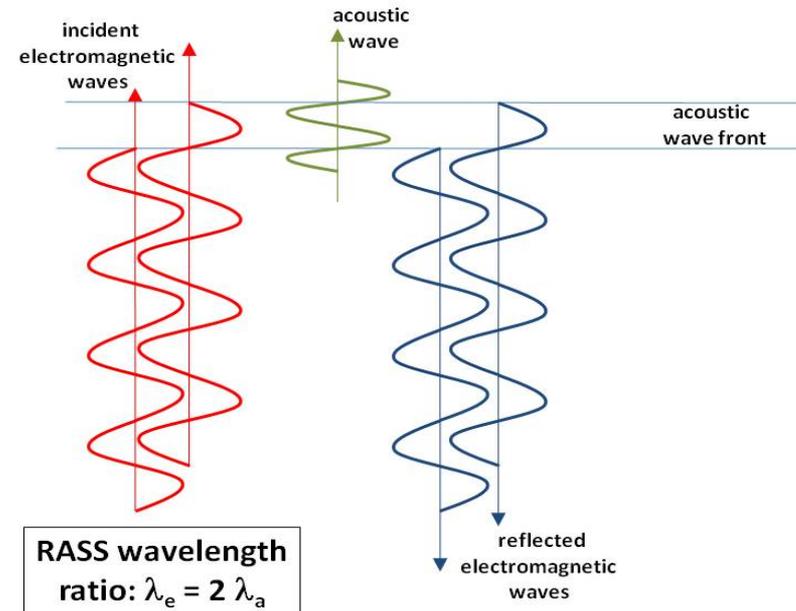
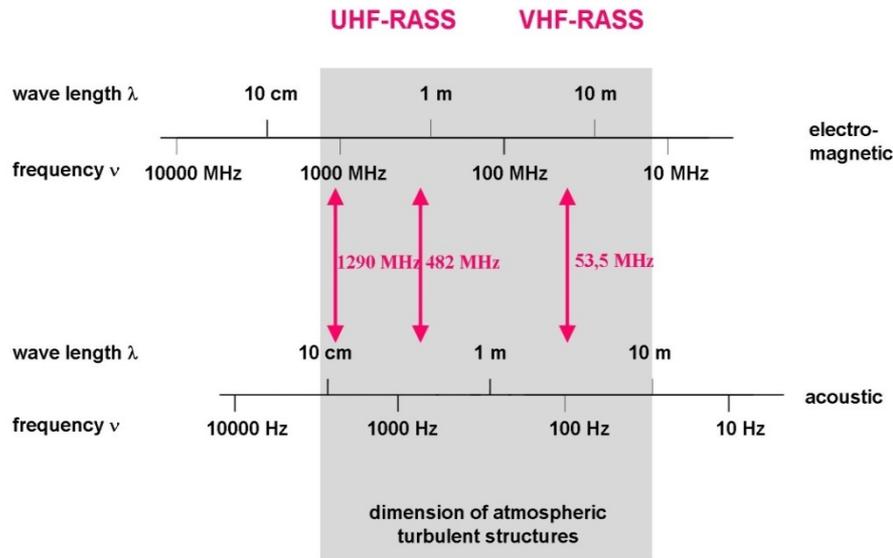
**RASS**, acoustic, electro-magnetic backscatter, →  
wind and temperature profiles



# RASS: frequencies

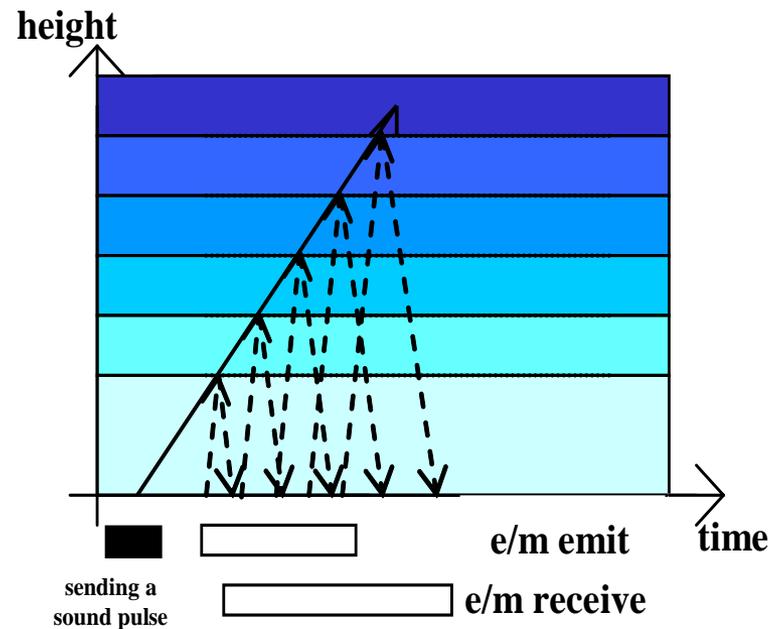
**Bragg condition:  
acoustic wavelength = 1/2 electro-magnetic wavelength**

electro-magnetic - acoustic frequency pairs for RASS devices



Emeis, S., 2010: Measurement Methods in Atmospheric Sciences - In situ and remote. Borntraeger, Stuttgart, 272 pp., 103 figs, 28 tables, ISBN 978-3-443-01066-9.

# RASS measuring principle



detection:

- |                               |                             |                      |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| travel time of em./ac. signal | = height                    |                      |
| ac. backscatter intensity     | = turbulence                | (identical to SODAR) |
| ac. Doppler-shift             | = line-of-sight wind speed  | (identical to SODAR) |
| em. Doppler shift             | = sound speed → temperature |                      |

**RASS (radio-acoustic remote sensing)**

**measures vertical temperature profiles**

**Bragg-RASS: windprofiler plus acoustic component**

**Doppler-RASS: SODAR plus electro-magnetic component**

**UHF RASS (boundary layer)**

**VHF RASS (troposphere)**



## SODAR-RASS (Doppler-RASS) (METEK)

acoustic frequ.: 1077 Hz

radio frequ.: 474 MHz

resolution: 20 m

lowest

range gate: ca. 40 m

vertical range: 540 m



## Bragg-RASS

acoustic frequ.: about 3000 Hz

radio frequ.: 1290 MHz

resolution: 50 m

lowest

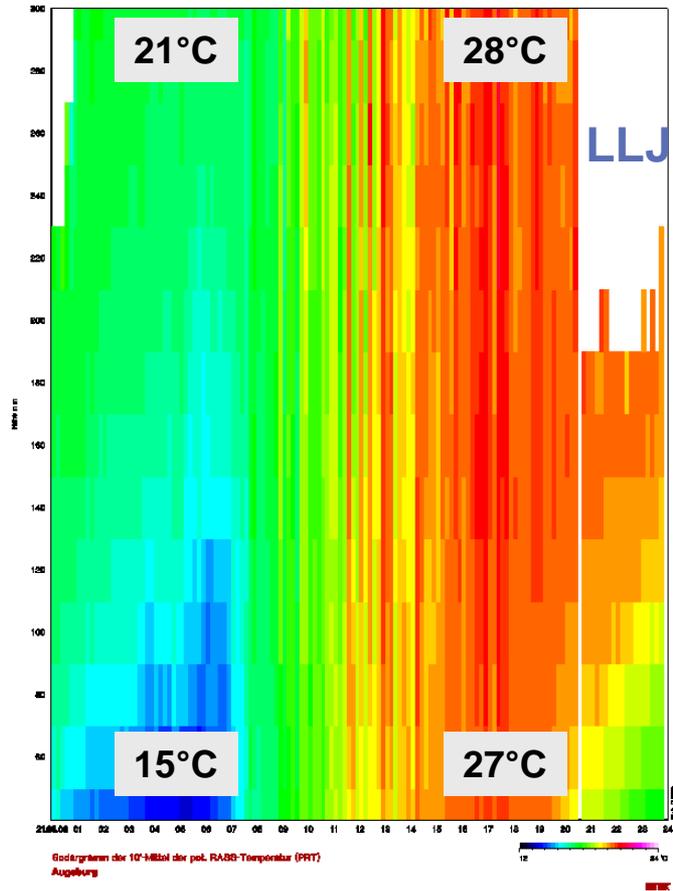
range gate: ca. 200 m

vertical range: 1000 m

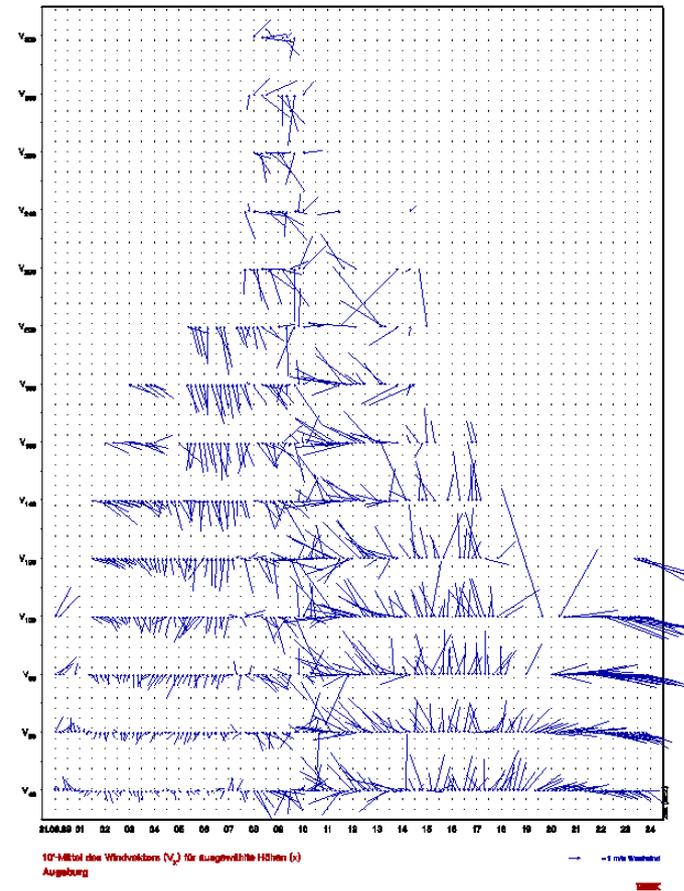
# sample RASS data: summer day

## potential temperature (left), horizontal wind (right)

300 m



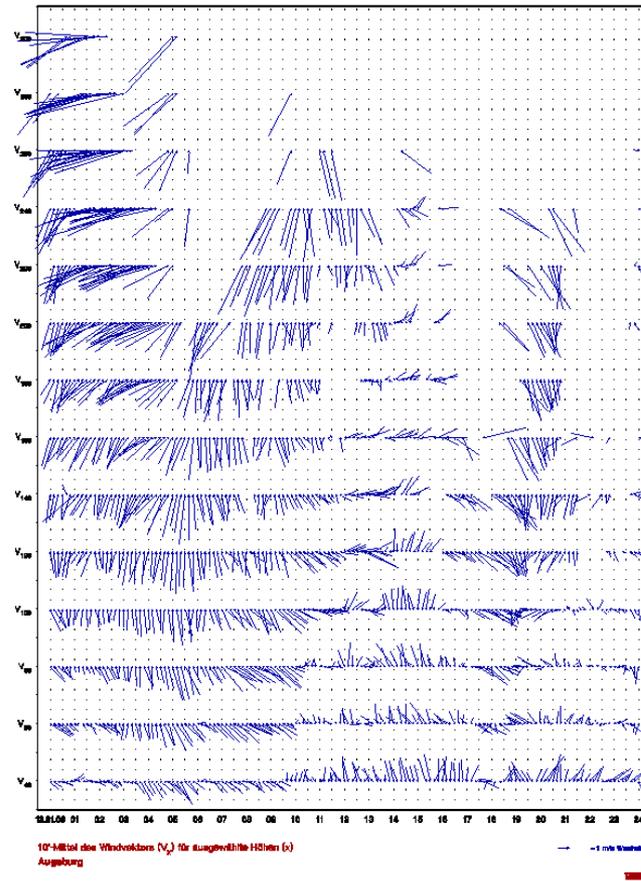
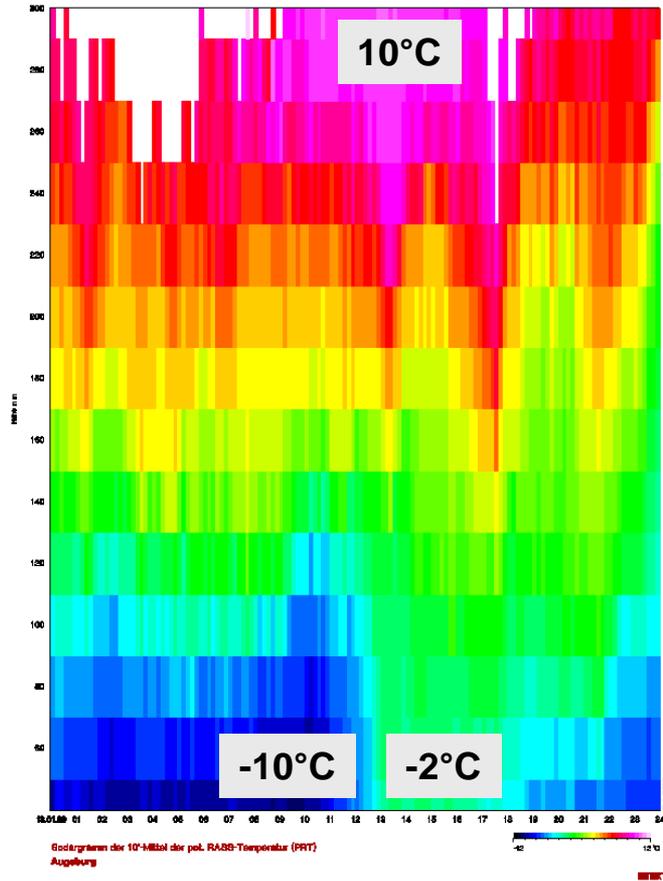
40 m



# sample RASS data: winter day

## potential temperature (left), horizontal wind (right)

300 m



# Doppler windlidar

**wind, turbulence, aerosol detection,  
mixing-layer height, low-level jet**

**Wind-LIDAR**, optical backscatter, Doppler shift analysis, wave length  $\sim 1.5 \mu\text{m}$   
 → wind and aerosol profiles

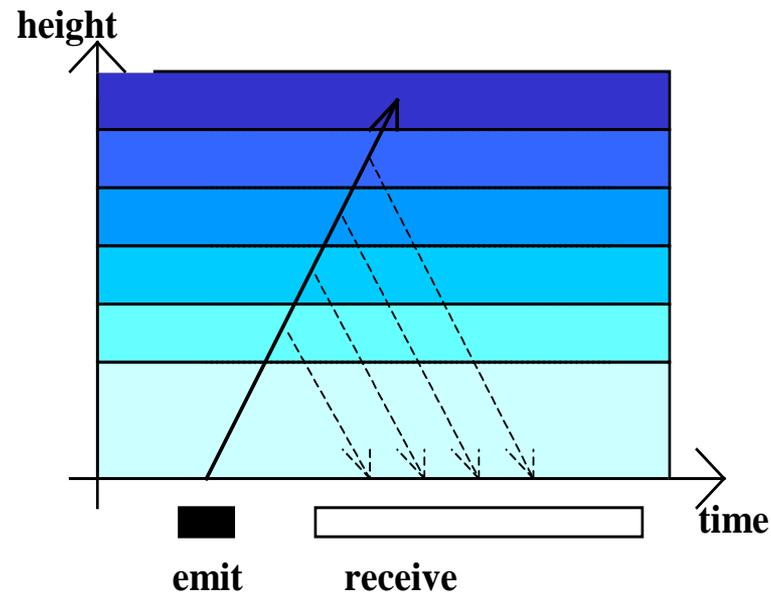
range detection by  
moving focus



range detection by  
run time



# Doppler windlidar measuring principle

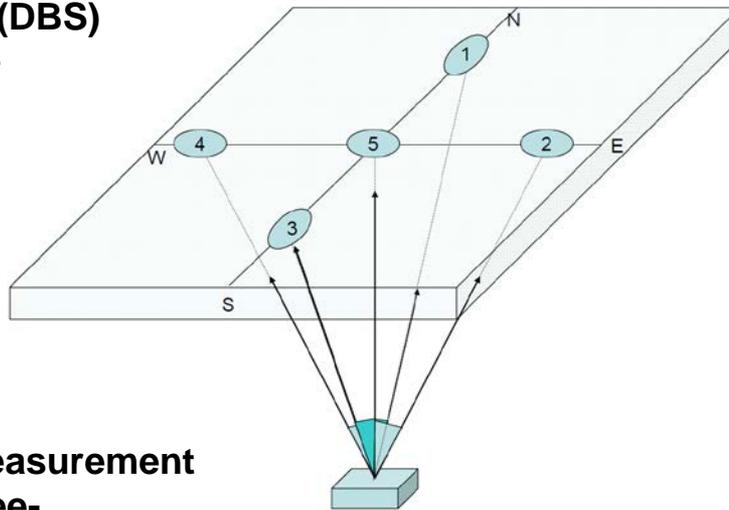


detection:

travel time of signal	= height
backscatter intensity	= particle size and number distribution
depolarisation	= particle shape
Doppler-shift	= wind speed in the line of sight

**Doppler-beam-swinging (DBS) technique**

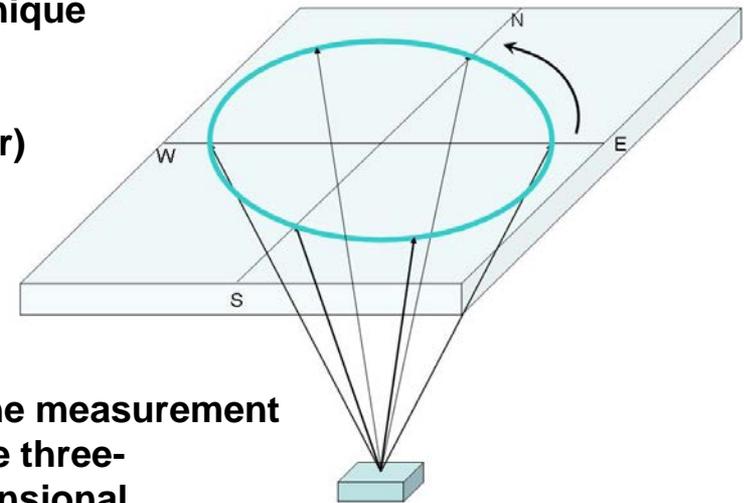
**(SODAR)**



**for the measurement of the three-dimensional wind vector**

**conical scanning technique**

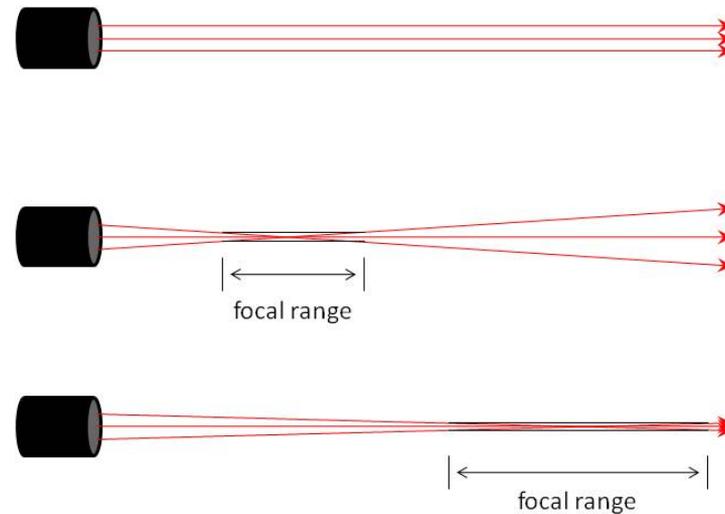
**(Lidar)**



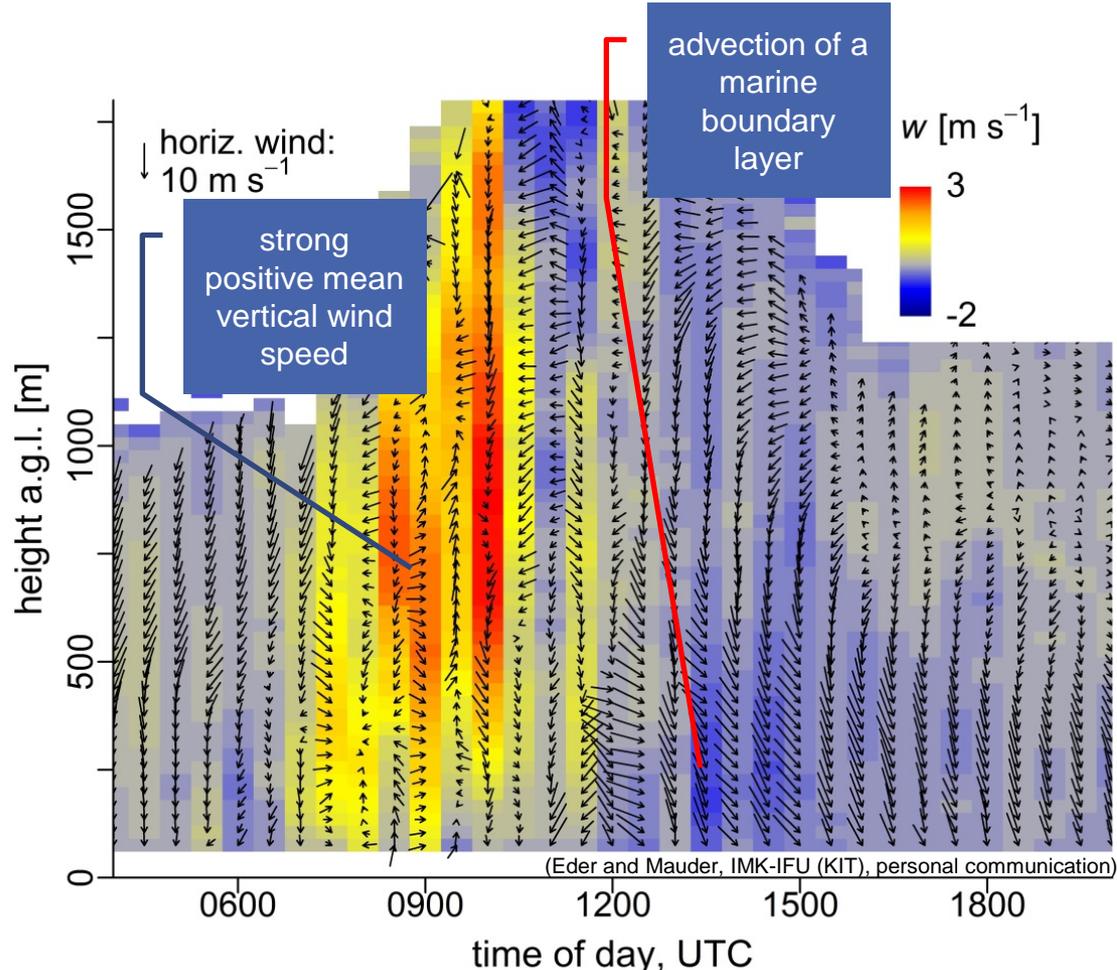
**for the measurement of the three-dimensional wind vector**

**range detection by moving focus**

**focal range gets longer at larger ranges**



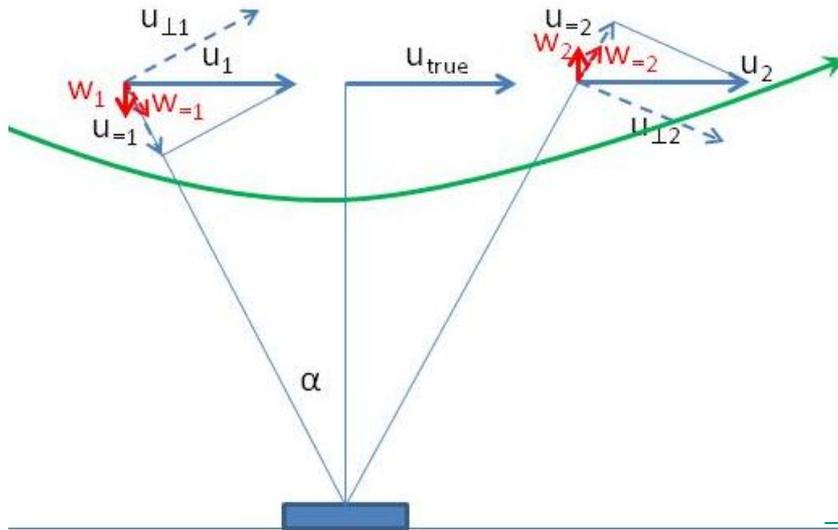
# Sample measurement: Yatir Forest, Israel



The 3-d wind field above the Yatir forest on 10 Sept 2013. The colour indicates the vertical wind component. The black arrows indicate the horizontal wind component: the direction of the arrow shows the wind direction, the length of the arrow shows the wind speed.

During the afternoon hours, there is a 180°-shift in wind direction between surface and boundary-layer top which indicates a stationary circulation. Please note that this picture is not shown in local time, but in UTC (i.e. 12:00 means 14:00 Israel winter time)

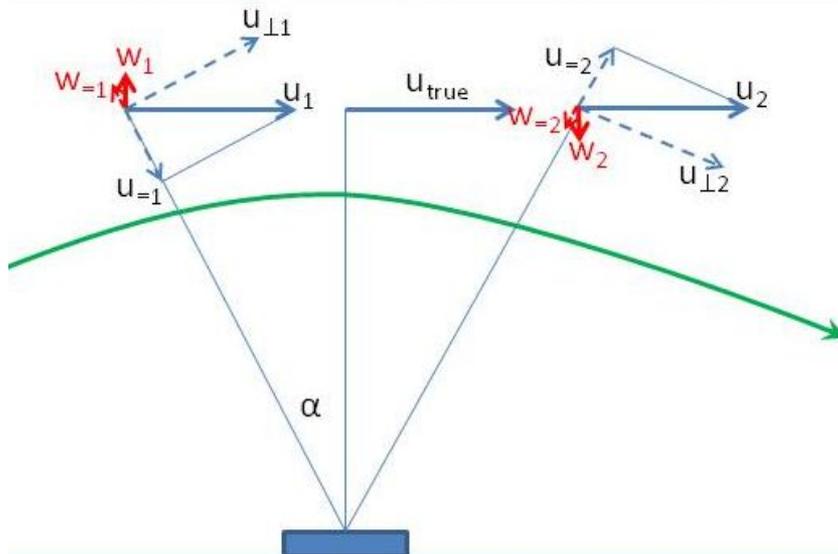
conical scanning assumes horizontal homogeneity, but:



valley:

w-component adds to u-component

→ SODAR/LIDAR measures too much wind



hill top / pass:

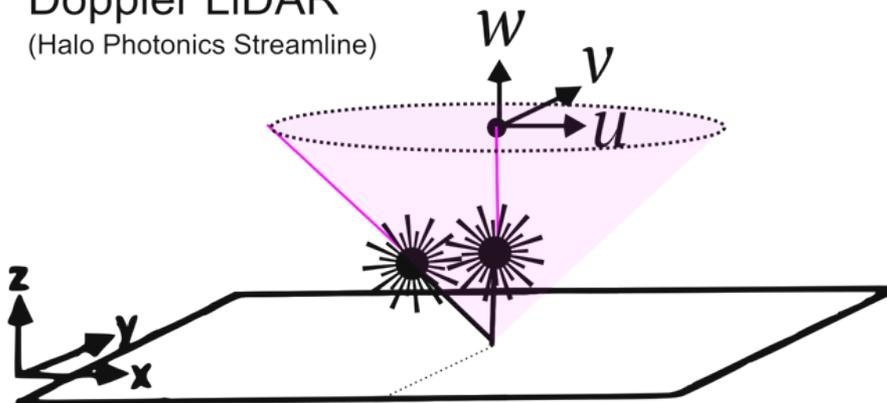
w-component reduces u-component

→ SODAR/LIDAR measures too little wind

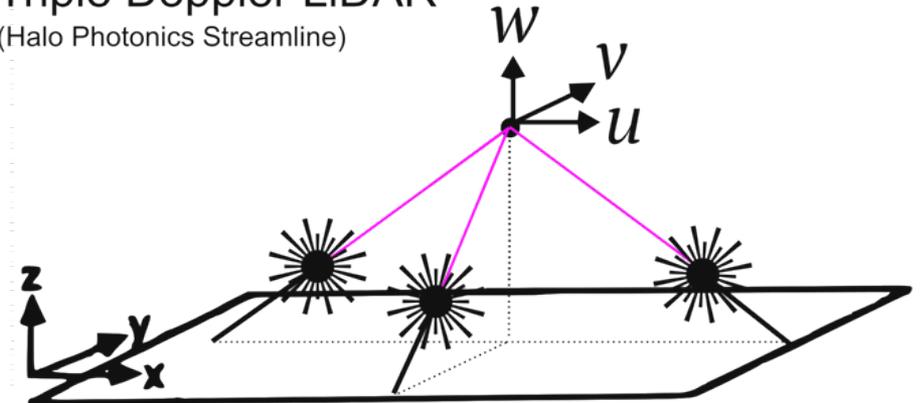
interesting for complex terrain

three wind lidars → virtual tower

Doppler LiDAR  
(Halo Photonics Streamline)



Triple Doppler LiDAR  
(Halo Photonics Streamline)



😊😊😊💧\* **RASS** delivers temperature profiles, wind profiles are additionally available.  
MLH directly from temperature profiles. LLJ from wind profiles.  
Does not work properly under high wind speeds. Restricted range.

😊😊😊💧\* **wind lidar** detects wind profiles, aerosol distribution and water droplets.  
It has to be assumed that the aerosol follows the thermal structure of the atmosphere and the wind.  
MLH from aerosol backscatter, wind speed variance, LLJ from wind profiles.  
Does not work properly in extreme clear (aerosol-free) air and during precipitation events and fog.

😊😊😊💧\*💧\* **Ceilometer** detects aerosol distribution and water droplets. It has to be assumed that the aerosol follows the thermal structure of the atmosphere.  
MLH indirectly from aerosol backscatter using a MLH algorithm.  
Does not work properly in extreme clear (aerosol-free) air and during precipitation events and fog.

😊💧\*💧\*💧\* **SODAR** detects wind profiles, temperature fluctuations and gradients, but no absolute temperature.  
MLH indirectly from acoustic backscatter (MLH algorithm). LLJ from wind profiles.  
Does not work properly under perfectly neutral stratification, with very high wind speeds, and during stronger precipitation events. Restricted range.

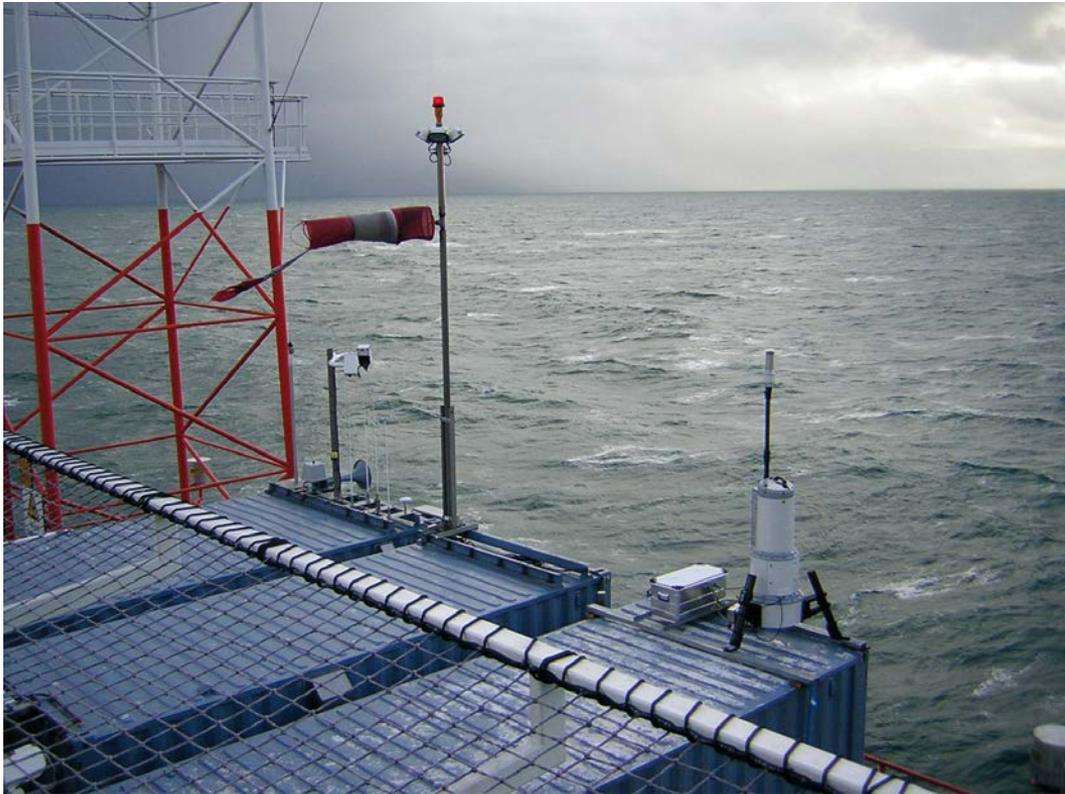
# Options for offshore wind farms

**buoys, oil rigs, satellites, ...**

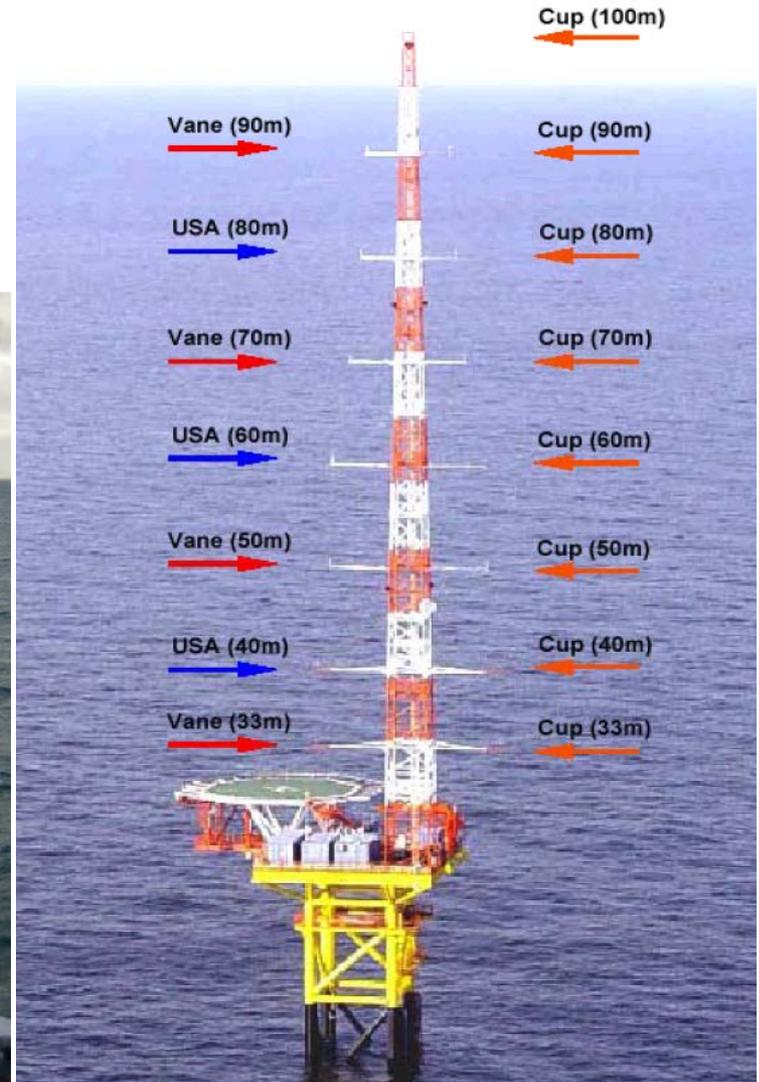
# Offshore measurements

In situ: masts

remote sensing: wind lidar on platforms



<http://www.zephirlidar.com/zephir-lidar-products/gallery/>



Neumann, T., K. Nolopp, 2007: DEWI-Magazin 30, [http://www.dewi.de/dewi\\_res/fileadmin/pdf/publications/Magazin\\_30/08.pdf](http://www.dewi.de/dewi_res/fileadmin/pdf/publications/Magazin_30/08.pdf)

# Offshore measurements

remote sensing: high-resolution wind lidar on ships

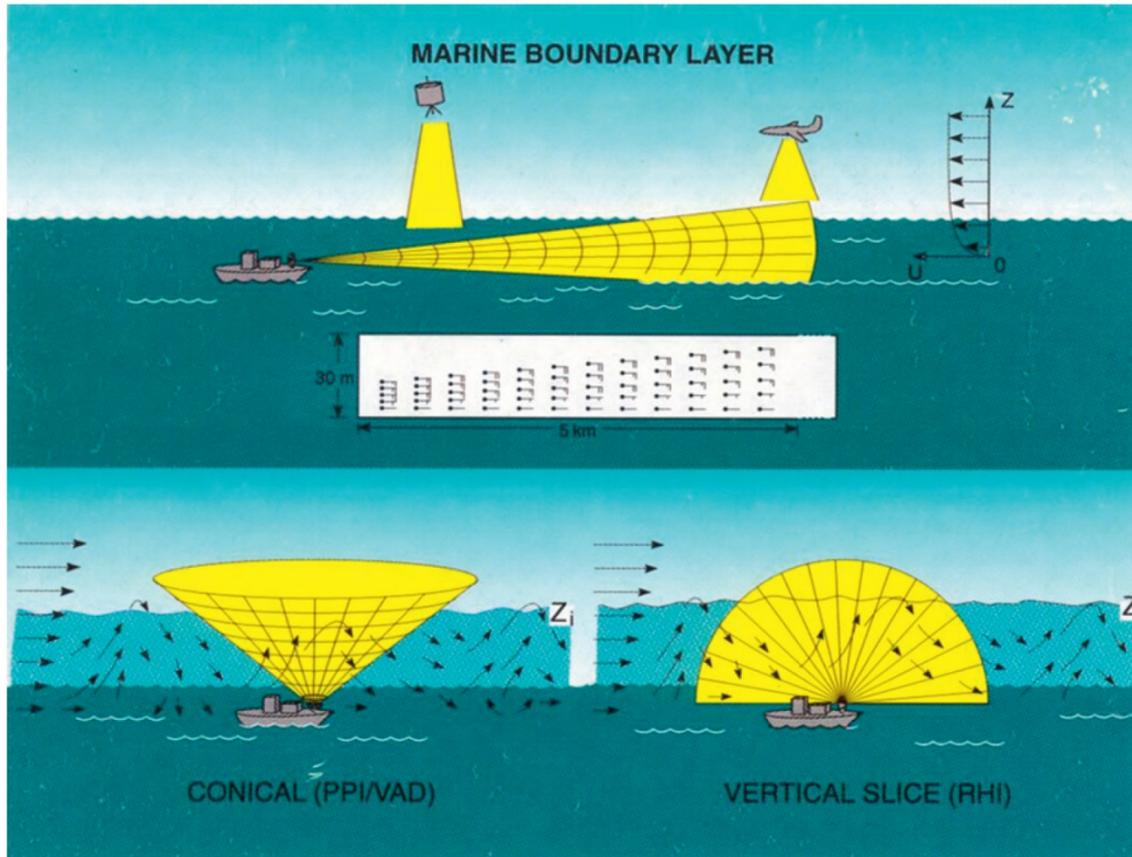


FIG. 2. Common scanning patterns used by HRDL: (top) elevation sector or “vertical slice” scan, (bottom left) azimuth or conical scan at a fixed elevation angle, and (bottom right) full 180° elevation vertical-slice scan.

Pichugina, Y. L., Banta, R. M., Brewer, W. A., Sandberg, S. P., & Hardesty, R. M., 2012: Doppler lidar-based wind-profile measurement system for offshore wind-energy and other marine boundary layer applications. *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, 51, 327-349.

# Offshore measurements

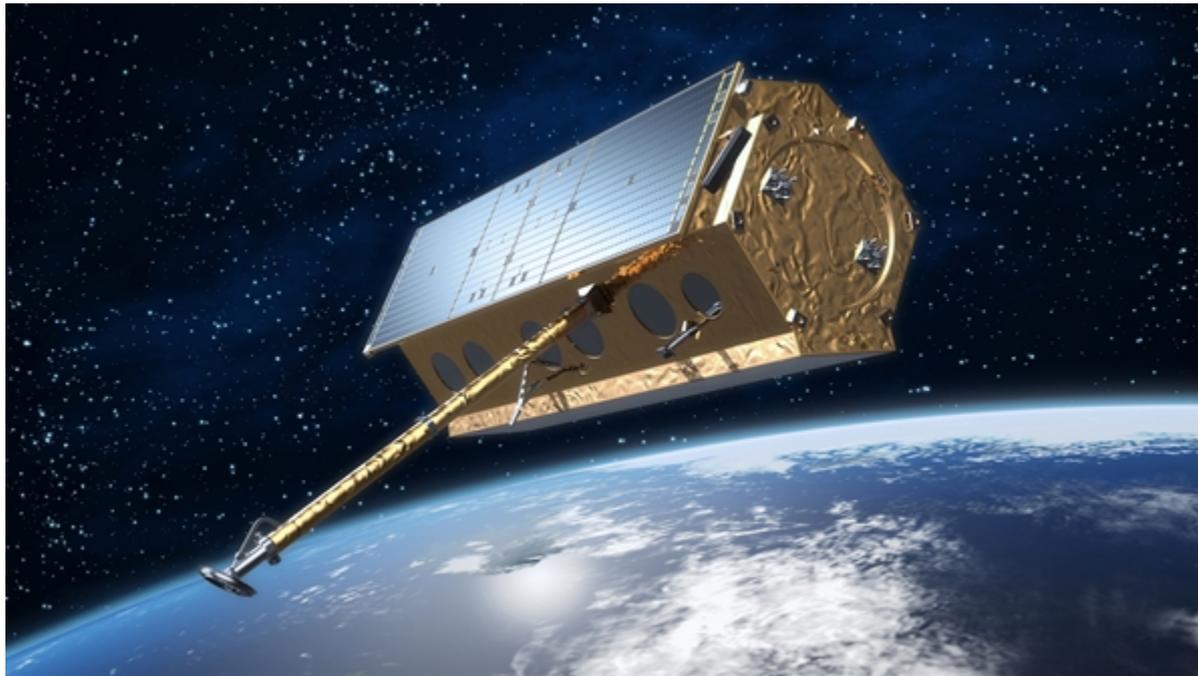
remote sensing: wind lidar on buoys (Flidar)



<http://www.rwe.com/web/cms/de/86182/rwe-innogy/presse-news/pressemitteilung/?pmid=4014556>

Flidar: <http://www.offshorewind.biz/2014/11/19/flidar-joins-norcowe/>

## Satellite-based remote sensing



[http://www.dlr.de/dlr/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-10377/565\\_read-436/#!/gallery/350](http://www.dlr.de/dlr/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-10377/565_read-436/#!/gallery/350)

**observations day and night, also through clouds**

TerraSAR-X at a glance:

Size:	4.88 metre
Diameter:	2.4 metre
Weight:	1 230 kilogramme
Payload:	ca. 400 kilogramme
Radar frequency:	9.65 GigaHertz
Power:	800 Watt (averaged)
Resolution:	1 metre, 3 metre, 16 metre (abhängig von der Bildgröße)
Carrier rocket:	Dnepr 1 (former SS-18)
Start:	15 Juni 2007, 4:14 GMT+2
Launch site:	Baikonur, Kasachstan
Height:	514 kilometres
Inclination angle against the Equator:	97.4 degrees (sun synchronised)
Life expectancy:	at least 5 years

# Satellite-based remote sensing



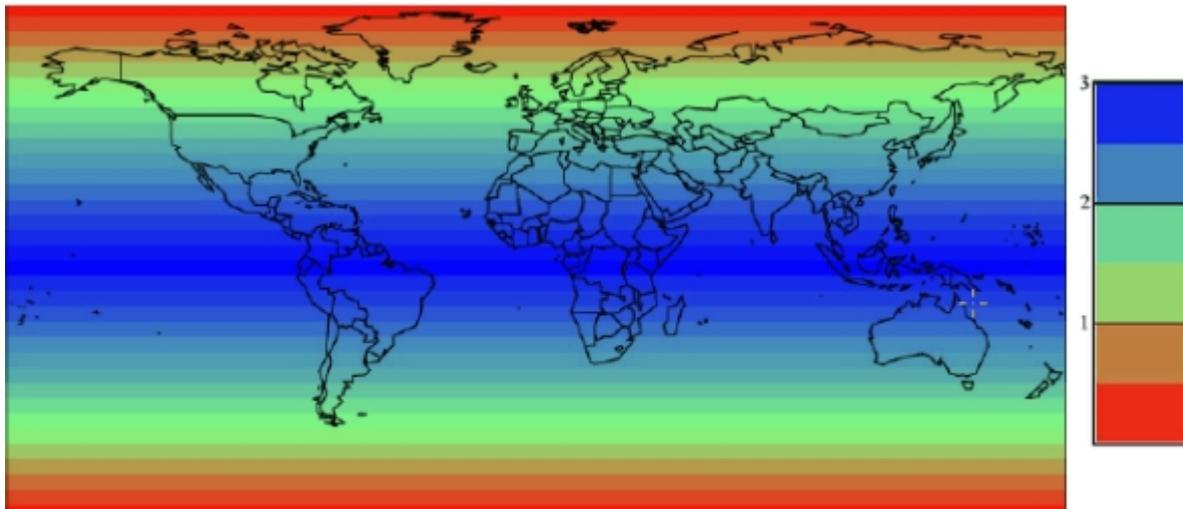
<https://sentinel.esa.int/web/sentinel/missions/sentinel-1/overview>

Sentinel-1 at a glance:

Weight:	2 300 kilogramme
Radar frequency:	5.405 GigaHertz
Power:	5 900 Watt (averaged) 5x5 metre, 5x20 metre, 5x40 metre
Resolution:	(depending on image size)
Start:	April 2014
Orbit:	
Height:	693 kilometres
Inclination angle against the Equator:	98.18 degrees (sun synchronised)
Life expectancy:	at least 12 years

## Satellite-based remote Sensing

### Sentinel-1 revisit frequency (two satellites)



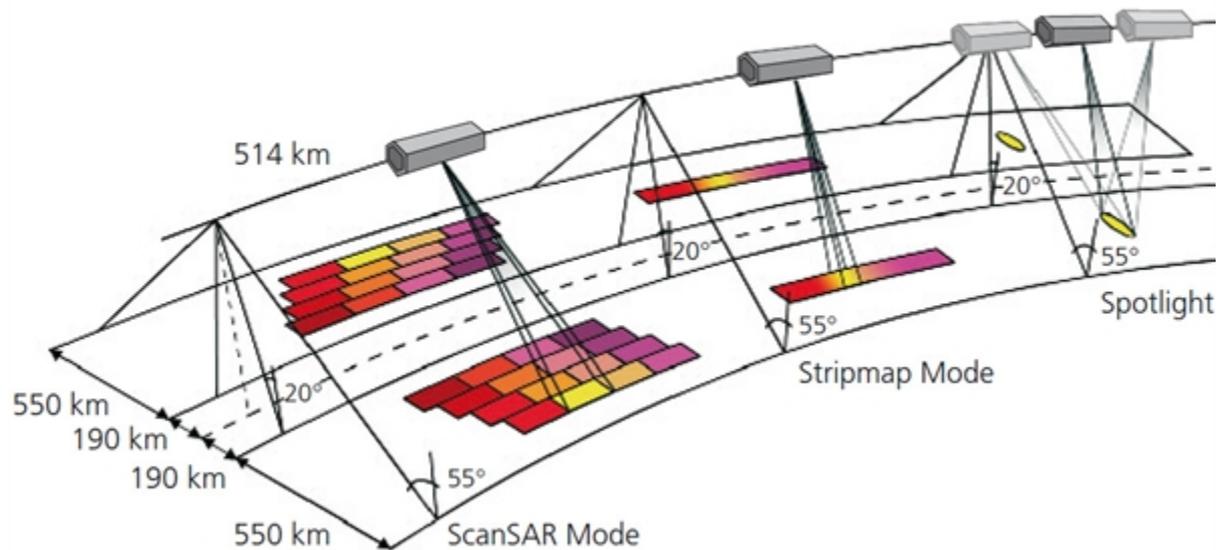
- ✓ Two satellites in a 12 day orbit
- ✓ Repeat frequency: 6 days (important for coherence)
- ✓ Revisit frequency: (asc/desc & overlap): 3 days at the equator, <1 day at high latitudes (Europe ~ 2 days)

<https://sentinel.esa.int/web/sentinel/user-guides/sentinel-1-sar/revisit-and-coverage>

## Satellite-based remote sensing

### Synthetic Aperture

extensive computer processing of subsequent data allows for an artificial aperture of up to 15 km

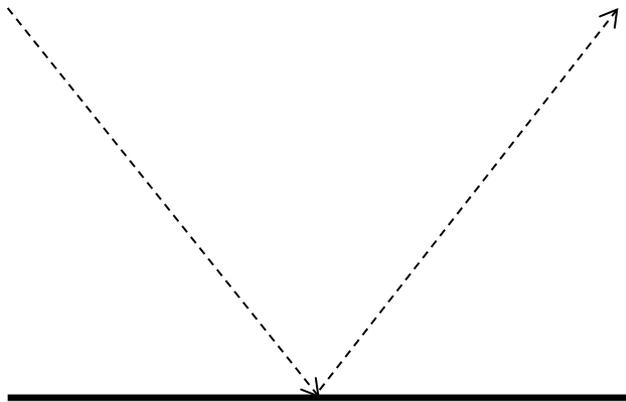


[http://www.dlr.de/dlr/de/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-10382/570\\_read-431/#/gallery/356](http://www.dlr.de/dlr/de/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-10382/570_read-431/#/gallery/356)

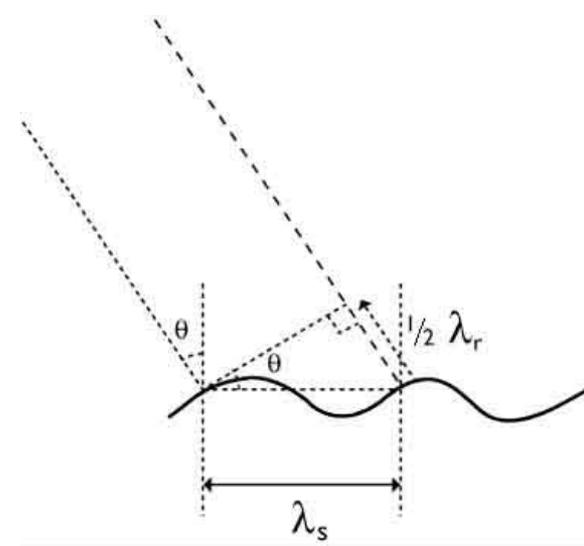
## Satellite-based remote sensing

### SAR images – basic principle of speed measurement

smooth sea surface  
no return



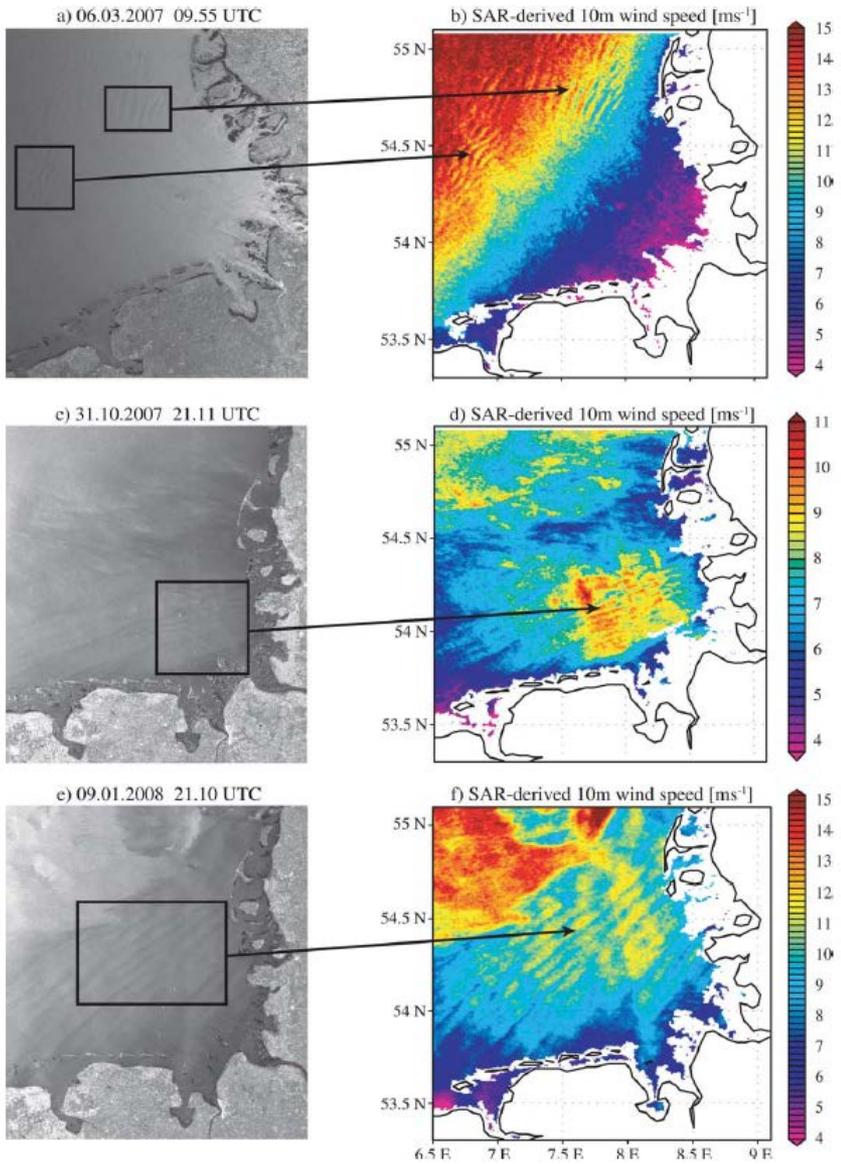
capillary waves on sea surface  
best return on Bragg condition



[https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/missions/esa-operational-eo-missions/ers/instruments/sar/applications/radar-courses/content-2/-/asset\\_publisher/qIBc6NYRXfnG/content/radar-course-2-bragg-scattering](https://earth.esa.int/web/guest/missions/esa-operational-eo-missions/ers/instruments/sar/applications/radar-courses/content-2/-/asset_publisher/qIBc6NYRXfnG/content/radar-course-2-bragg-scattering)

# Satellite-based remote sensing

wind speed fields at 10 m height in the German Bight from SAR data for three different weather situations



Source: Müller, S. E.V. Stanev, J. Schulz-Stellenfleth, J. Staneva, W. Koch, 2013: Atmospheric boundary layer rolls: Quantification of their effect on the hydrodynamics in the German Bight. JGR 118, 5036–5053.

## Satellite-based remote sensing

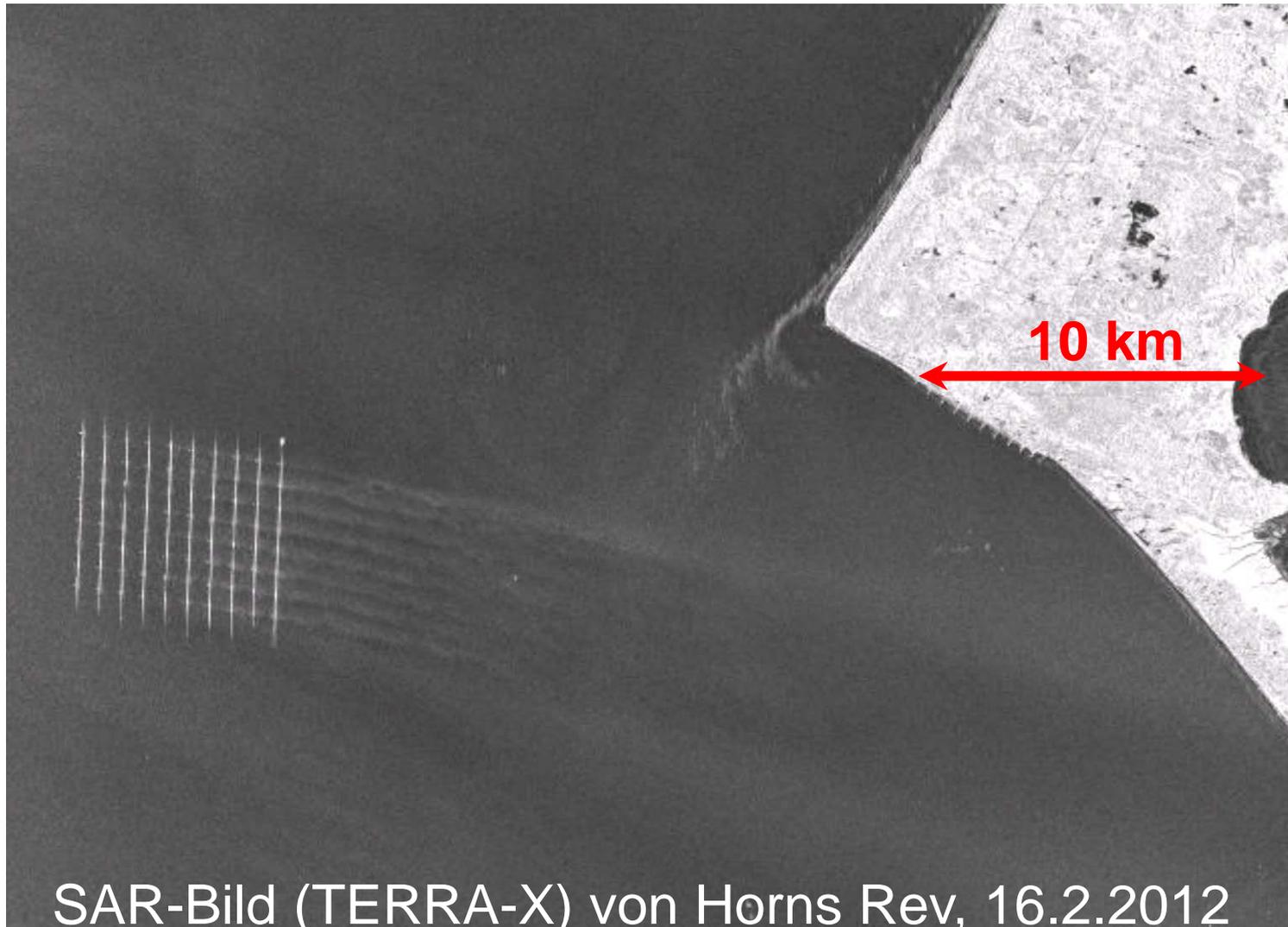
### Inversion procedure

SAR data → Normalised radar cross-section (NRCS)

→ Geophysical Model Function (GMF)

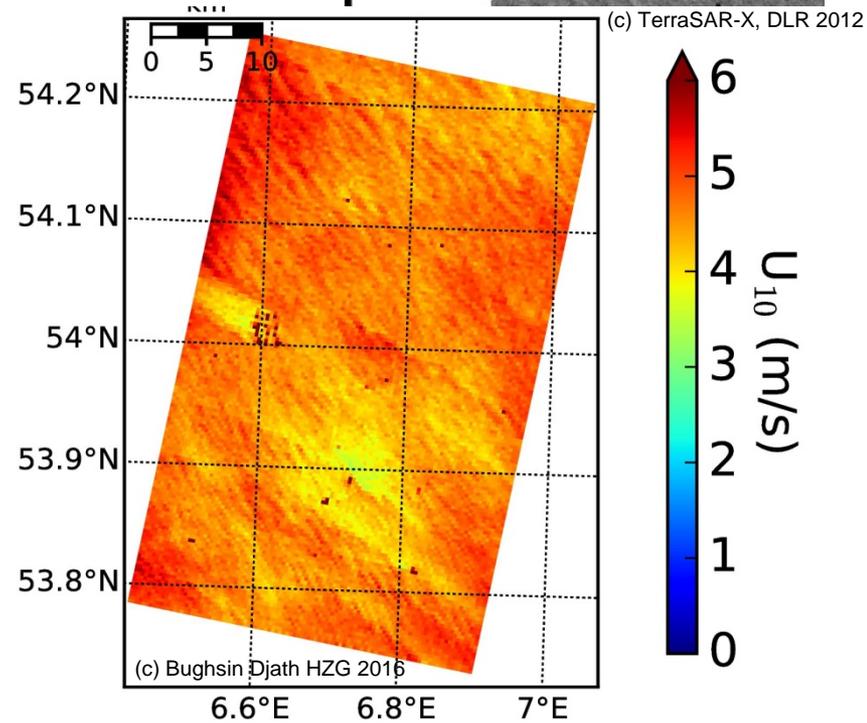
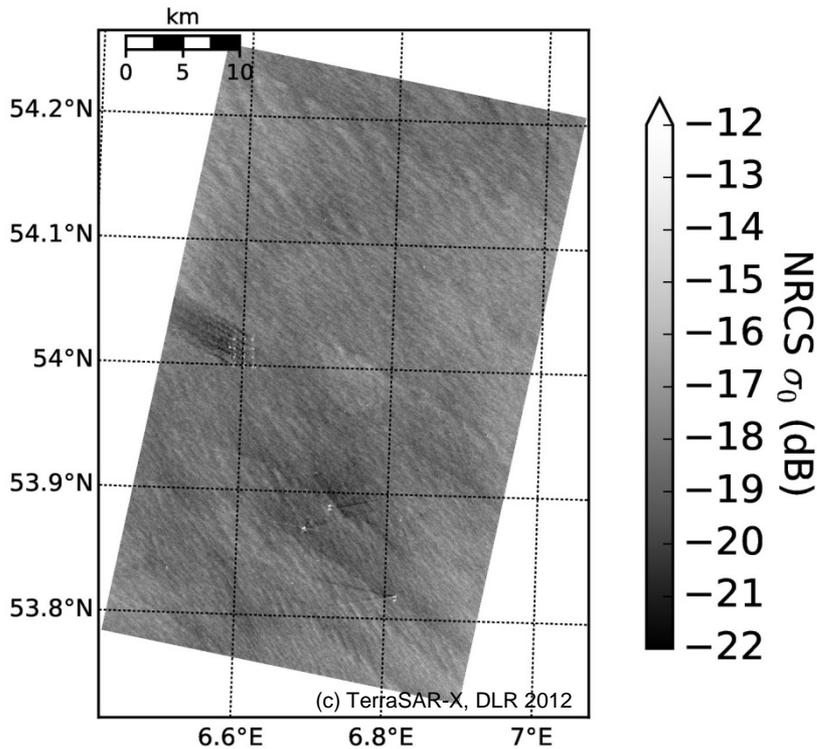
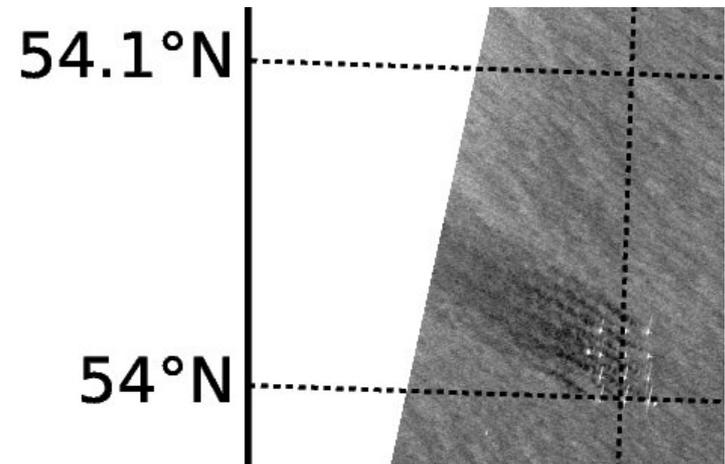
→  $u_{10}$  as function of wind direction, antenna view angle, incident angle

Li and Lehner 2014: Algorithm for Sea Surface Wind Retrieval From TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X Data. IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON GEOSCIENCE AND REMOTE SENSING, VOL. 52, NO. 5, MAY 2014, 2928-2939.



(c) DLR 2012  
TerraSar-X

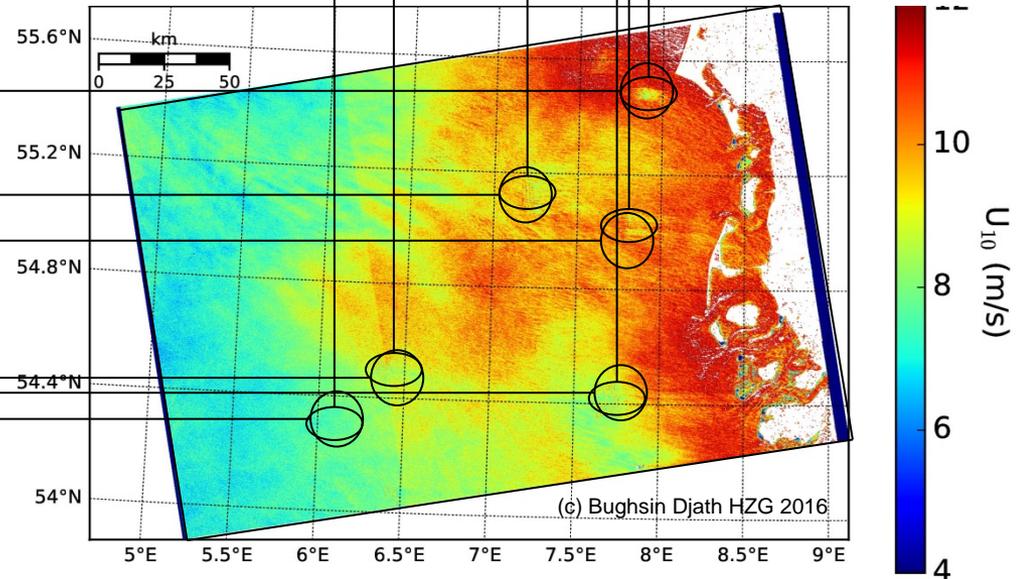
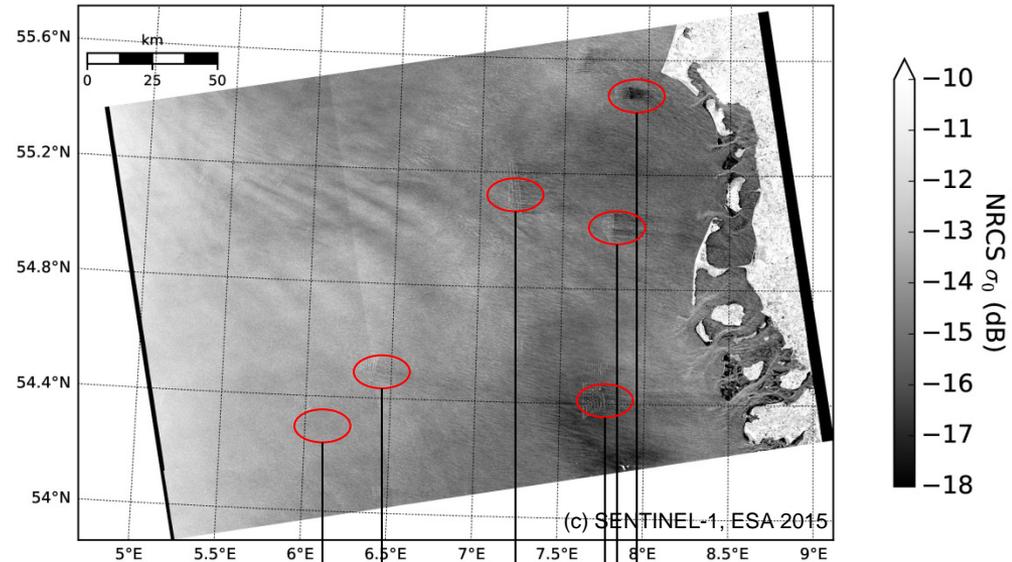
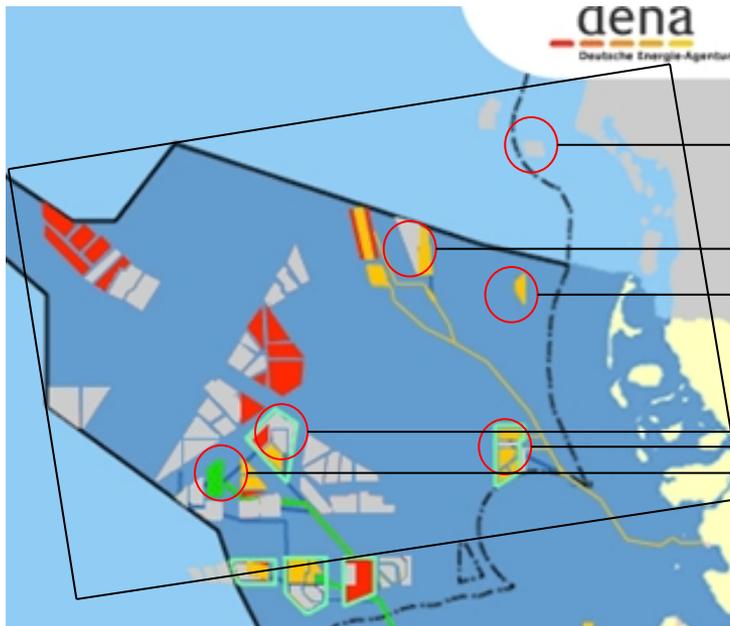
# Alpha Ventus 12. August 2012, 05:51 UTC



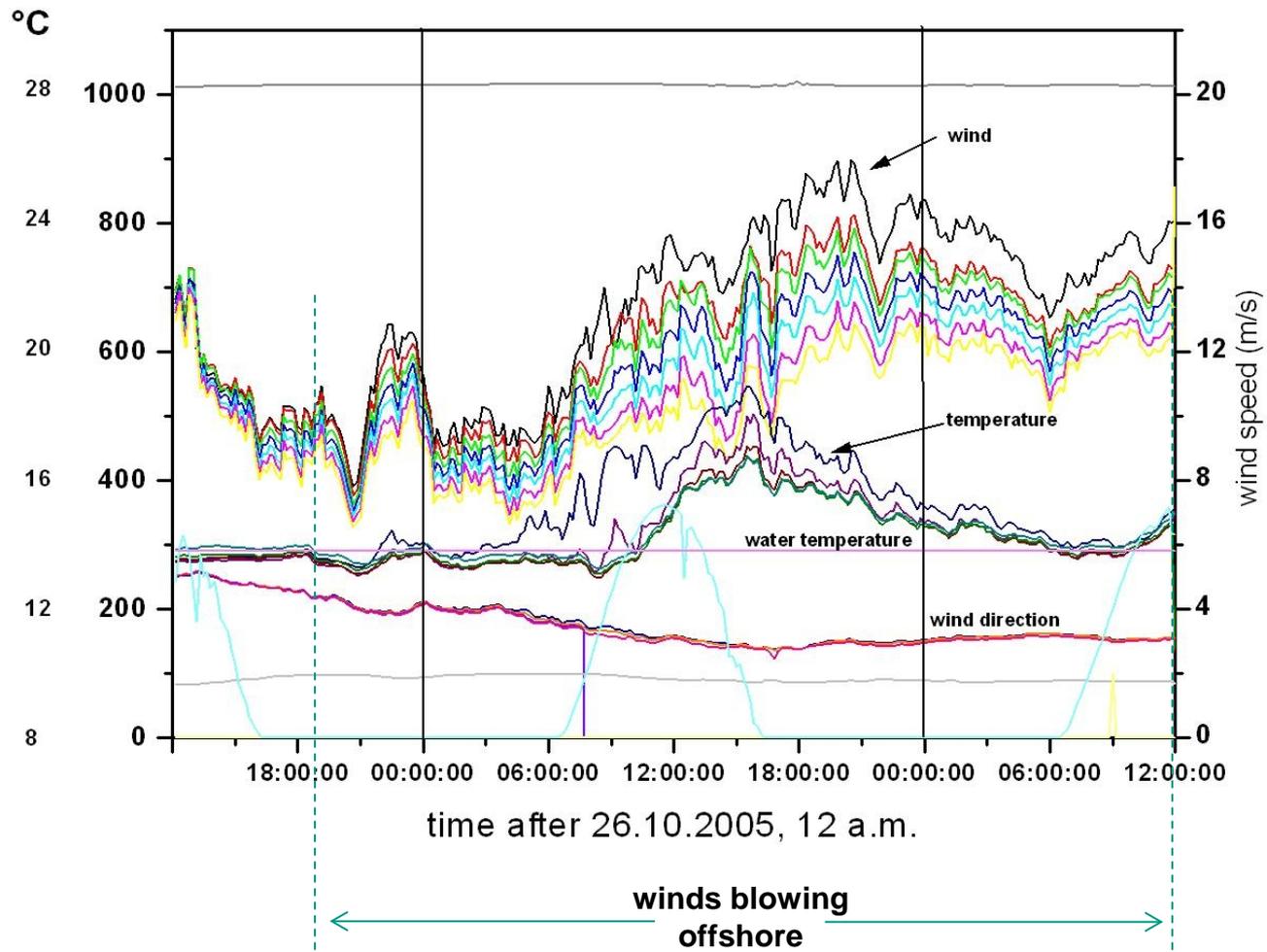
# North Sea

## 3 Juni 2015, 17:16 UTC

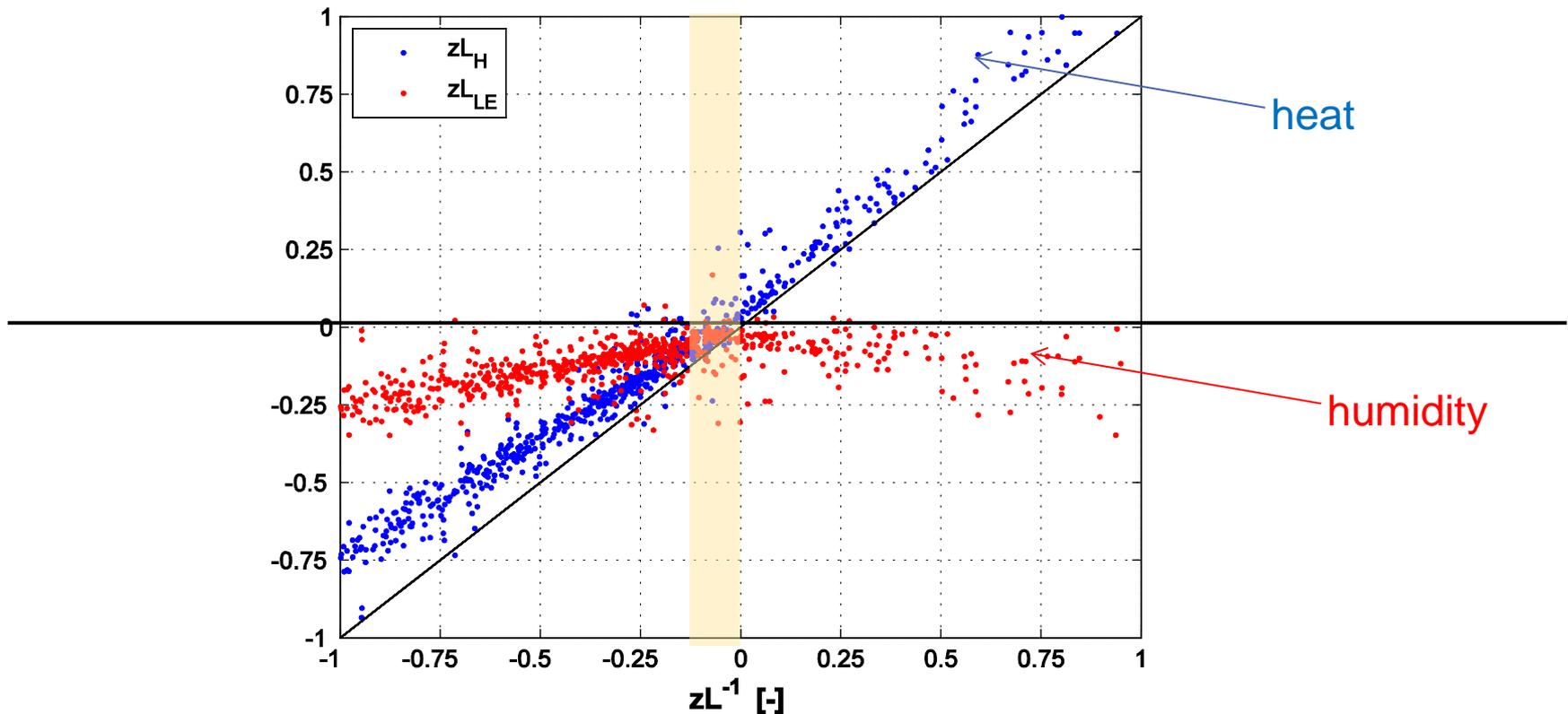
<http://www.ofw-online.de/projekte/nordseekarte.html>



## Offshore: Wind profile depending on SST – air temperature difference



## offshore: humidity profile contributes to unstable stratification (FINO1 41.5 m data for turb. heat and humidity fluxes)



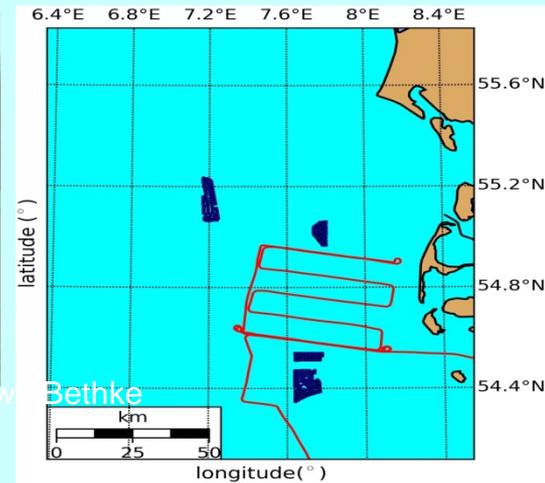
Source: RAVE-Project TUFFO, Richard Foreman

**Aircraft measurements** Four flight campaigns, two in spring and two in autumn are scheduled in order to assess the extension and characteristics of wind farm wake far fields.

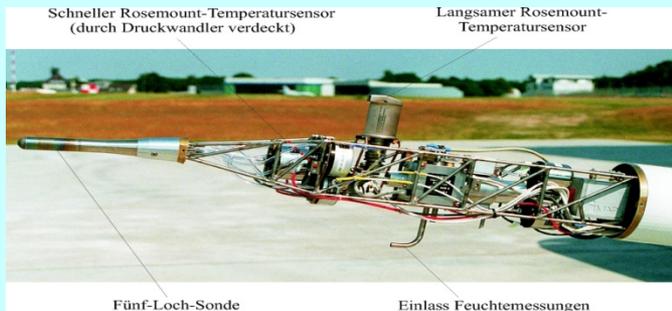


The DO 128 of the Technical University of Braunschweig

Photo: Uwe Bethke



Far wake flight pattern



Instrumentation of the nose boom:

- temperature
- humidity
- turbulence (5 hole probe)



## **Newly started research project WIPAFF (Wind PARK Far Fields)**

**11.2015 – 02.2019**

**5 Partners:**      **KIT, Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research  
Technical University of Braunschweig  
Helmholtz Centre Geesthacht  
UL International GmbH (ex: DEWI)  
University of Tübingen**

**Aircraft (Do 128) observations in the wakes**

**Analysis of satellite SAR data of wakes**

**Mesoscale wind field modelling with WRF (wave model, park parametrisation)**

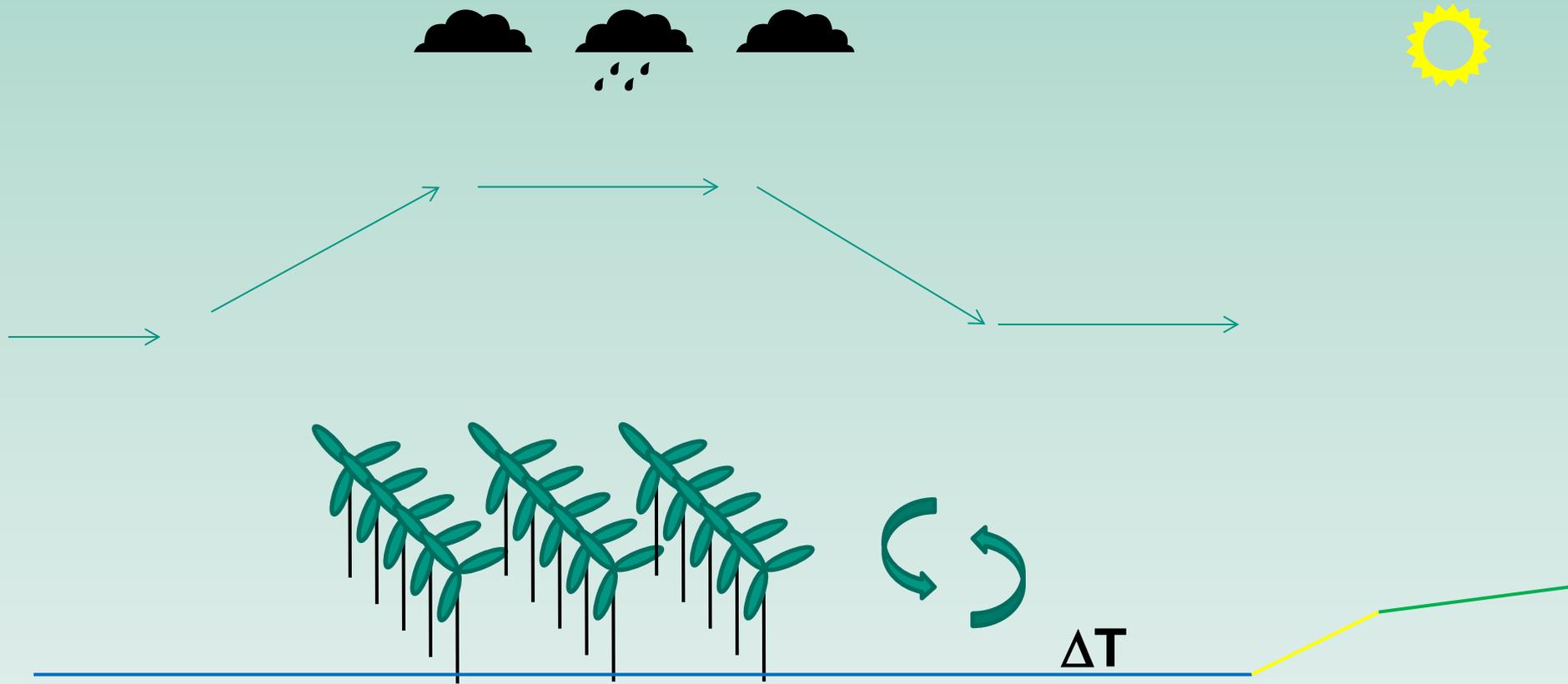
**Adjustment of analytic and industrial wind park models**

**assessment of impact on regional climate**

# Impact on regional climate

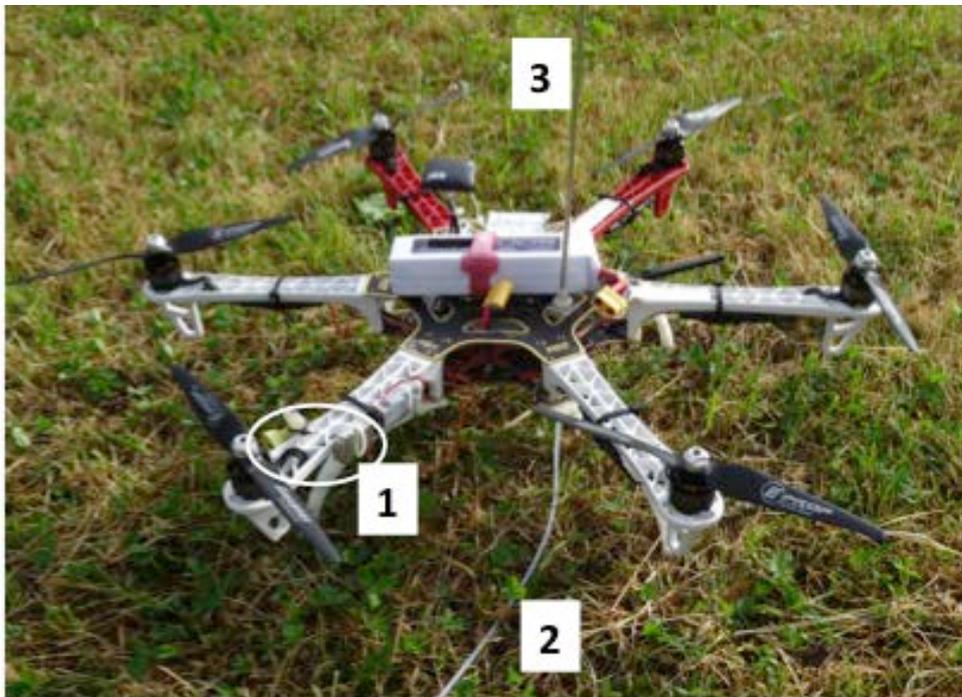
- cloud formation,
- modification of precipitation patterns
- modification of sun shine duration
- modification of wind fields

...



## airborne measurement system at IMK-IFU: drone (hexacopter)

→ see afternoon lecture



- 1 Air temperature and humidity sensors
- 2 Teflon tube
- 3 Tube extension above hexacopter

Quantifying the Environment

# Measurement Methods in Atmospheric Sciences

In situ and remote

Stefan Emeis



**Borntraeger Science Publishers**

Green Energy and Technology



Stefan Emeis

# Wind Energy Meteorology

Atmospheric Physics for Wind Power Generation

 Springer



**Thank You  
for your  
attention**

