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Comparisons of full correlation analysis (FCA) and imaging Doppler interferometry (IDI) winds using the Buckland Park MF radar

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Abstract. We present results from three years of mesospheric and thermospheric wind measurements obtained using full correlation analysis (FCA) and imaging Doppler interferometry (IDI) for the Buckland Park MF radar. The IDI winds show excellent agreement with the FCA winds, both for short (2-min) and longer term (hourly, fortnightly) comparisons. An extension to a commonly used statistical analysis technique is introduced to show that the IDI winds are approximately 10% larger than the FCA winds, which we attribute to an underestimation of the FCA winds rather than an indication that IDI overestimates the wind velocity. Although the distribution of IDI effective scattering positions are shown to be consistent with volume scatter predictions, the velocity comparisons contradict volume scatter predictions that the IDI velocity will be overestimated. However, reanalysis of a 14-day data set suggests the lack of overestimation is due to the radial velocity threshold used in the analysis, and that removal of this threshold produces the volume scatter predicted overestimation of the IDI velocities. The merits of using hourly IDI estimates versus hourly averaged 2-min IDI estimates are presented, suggesting that hourly estimated turbulent velocities are overestimated.

Key words. Ionosphere (instruments and techniques) – Radio science (instruments and techniques) – Meteorology and atmospheric dynamics (instruments and techniques)

1 Introduction

Spaced antenna (SA) radar techniques have been used for the estimation of atmospheric wind velocities for over 60 years. “Correlation” techniques have most commonly been employed, such as the “full correlation analysis” (FCA) (e.g.

Briggs, 1984). FCA produces two velocity estimates: the “apparent” and “true” velocities. The true velocity accounts for the effects of random changes and anisotropy in the ground diffraction pattern, and is thus generally considered the better velocity estimate. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to FCA velocity hereafter refer to the true velocity. The FCA also provides information on the spatial and temporal characteristics of the ground diffraction pattern. In recent years a number of “interferometric” techniques have been developed. One class of interferometric techniques consist of the “Doppler-sorted imaging” analyses (e.g. Adams et al., 1985; Meek and Manson, 1987; Franke et al., 1990). These analyses use cross-spectral phase information resulting from Doppler sorting to locate discrete scattering positions for each Doppler frequency, and then combine the scattering positions and Doppler frequency information to determine the 3-D wind velocity.

The fundamental assumption of the imaging interferometric analyses is that the cross-spectral phase at each Doppler frequency bin results from a single scatterer. If two or more scatterers contribute to the same Doppler frequency bin, the resultant “effective” scattering position will not necessarily coincide with either of the actual scattering positions. The “single scatterer” situation contrasts with the “volume scatter” situation assumed for FCA, where scatterers are assumed to be distributed throughout the radar volume, and a potentially large number of scatterers contribute to each Doppler frequency bin. There has been little attempt to theoretically analyze the imaging interferometric techniques due to the difficulty in theoretically modeling unsmoothed cross-spectra (e.g. Franke et al., 1990). Briggs (1995) used the FCA theoretical model to investigate the imaging interferometric analyses in the volume scatter situation. These investigations suggested that the effective scattering positions estimated by imaging interferometry in the volume scatter situation lie along a line, and approach the zenith as the

magnitude of the turbulent motions increase. As a result, the interferometric velocity increasingly overestimates the actual wind velocity as the magnitude of the turbulent velocity increases (e.g. Vandeppeer and Reid, 1995a). The volume scatter predictions of Briggs (1995) were further confirmed using a radar backscatter simulation model (e.g. Holdsworth and Reid, 1995b).

This paper describes the implementation of imaging Doppler interferometry (IDI) using the Buckland Park MF (BPMF) radar. This study was motivated both by the quality of the routine IDI observations of Jones et al. (1997) and Charles and Jones (1999), and a desire to determine the experimental validity of the volume scatter predictions. Section 2 discusses the imaging interferometry technique, while Sect. 3 describes the BPMF radar and IDI implementation. Section 4 presents the IDI estimated effective scattering positions. Section 5 presents comparisons of the FCA and IDI results using an extension of the statistical comparison technique of Hocking et al. (2001). Section 6 presents a discussion of the results in terms of volume scatter predictions, while Sect. 7 presents a summary of the results. The results presented in this paper represent the longest term comparison of IDI with any alternative wind estimation technique to date, far exceeding the four-month Dynasonde-IDI and meteor wind comparisons of Jones et al. (2003).

2 Imaging Doppler interferometry and the volume scatter situation

The imaging interferometric analyses assume the cross-spectral phase at each Doppler frequency results from a single scatterer. Criteria to verify that the information at Doppler frequencies conforms with that expected from an individual scatterer have therefore been developed. The IDI technique (e.g. Adams et al., 1985; Adams et al., 1986; Brosnahan and Adams, 1993) uses two orthogonal rows of receiving antennas. Doppler frequencies exhibiting sufficiently linear phase variation along both rows of antennas are assumed to be indicative of plane-wave incidence, and therefore discrete scatter. Meek and Manson (1987) assume that Doppler frequencies with simultaneous local maxima in the power-spectra for each receiving antenna are indicative of scatter from a single discrete location. Furthermore, they advocate the use of an extra receiving antenna in order to calculate the normalized phase discrepancy as a further criterion. In contrast, Franke et al. (1990) successfully applied interferometric analyses without use of any single scatterer criterion.

The “single scatterer” and “volume scatter” situation assumed by the FCA represent limiting cases of the type of scattering mechanisms expected for MF radars. The volume scatter predictions of Briggs (1995) suggest that the effective scattering positions (ESPs) estimated by an imaging interferometry lie along a line, and approach the zenith as the magnitude of the turbulent motions increase. Further, the predictions also suggest that the cross-spectral phase (or phase difference) at any Doppler frequency varies linearly

with antenna spacing. Thus, the condition of phase linearity along a row of antennas that is assumed to be indicative of scatter from a single scatterer (e.g. Adams et al., 1985; Adams et al., 1986; Brosnahan and Adams, 1993) is also produced in the volume scatter situation. The phase linearity criterion therefore does not represent an unequivocal test for scatter from a single scatterer. Based on the findings of Briggs (1995), it further follows that the interferometric velocity increasingly overestimates the actual wind velocity as the magnitude of the turbulent velocity increases (e.g. Vandeppeer and Reid, 1995a). One fact that has not previously been noted to our knowledge is that the volume scatter predicted ESP azimuth (hereafter “preferred azimuth”) is equivalent to the direction of the FCA apparent velocity.

The volume scatter predictions of Briggs (1995) assume linear cross-spectral phase variation with Doppler frequency. Cross-spectral phases obtained experimentally are usually distributed about a linear variation with Doppler frequency (e.g. Holdsworth, 1997), with the “width” of this distribution decreasing with increasing averaging, either in terms of Doppler frequency or time (i.e. incoherent averaging). It follows that if the volume scatter predictions of Briggs (1995) are applicable experimentally, then the ESPs will be distributed about the line predicted by Briggs (1995). This situation was observed experimentally between 70 and 84 km using the Buckland Park MF radar by Vandeppeer and Reid (1995a).

The difficulty in directly relating the volume scatter predictions to experimental results led Holdsworth and Reid (1995b) to investigate imaging interferometry using a radar backscatter model (e.g. Holdsworth and Reid, 1995a). This model allows for the simulation of a range of mean wind velocities, turbulent velocities, and variable numbers of scatterers, allowing simulations ranging from the discrete scatter situation assumed by IDI (a small number of scatterers) to the volume scatter situation assumed by FCA (a large number of scatterers). The model also allows for the verification of the ESPs, since the actual scattering positions are known. The simulated results illustrate that imaging interferometric techniques successfully estimate the actual scattering positions and the model input wind velocity for small numbers (from 10 to 20) of scatterers. As the number of scatterers was increased, the results increasingly agreed with those predicted by Briggs (1995) and Vandeppeer and Reid (1995a), in that the ESPs cluster about a line along the preferred azimuth, and approached the zenith as the magnitude of the turbulent motions increase, and that the velocity increasingly overestimated the model wind velocity as the magnitude of the turbulent velocity increased.

The FCA and interferometric velocity comparisons of Holdsworth and Reid (1995b) show very good agreement with those found experimentally (e.g. Franke et al., 1990; Meek and Manson, 1987; Brown et al., 1995; Turek et al., 1995, 1998), while the ESP alignment showed similar agreement to that of Vandeppeer and Reid (1995a) between 70 and 84 km. Despite this agreement Holdsworth and Reid (1995b) were careful not to suggest that the volume scatter

was applicable experimentally, or that the interferometric techniques would fail experimentally. However, Roper and Brosnahan (1997) and Turek et al. (1998) appear to have interpreted the results as implying otherwise. Quoting verbatim from both: “Holdsworth and Reid (1995b) were unable to recover the actual scatterer positions and concluded that the scatterers identified by the IDI technique were fictitious.” The results of Holdsworth and Reid (1995b) in fact suggest this is only the case in the volume scatter situation – Fig. 2 of their paper illustrates that the actual scatterer positions are recovered reasonably well for smaller numbers of scatterers. The reference to being “unable to recover the original scatterer” is further misleading in that it may be interpreted as implying a deficiency in the model and/or analysis used. If this was the case the actual scatterer positions would not have been recovered for a smaller number of scatterers. A further misinterpretation of the volume scatter predictions made by Turek et al. (1998) relates to their observation of a random distribution of ESPs at heights below 84 km, and evidence of a preferred azimuth of ESPs above 84 km. The preferred azimuth above 84 km was observed to not be aligned with the IDI wind direction, leading the authors to conclude that they did not find evidence of ESP alignment along the volume scatter predicted preferred azimuth. However, as described above, the preferred azimuth is along the direction of the FCA apparent velocity direction, rather than the IDI velocity direction.

The actual scattering mechanism for MF partial reflections is still poorly understood (e.g. Lesicar and Hocking, 1992). The discrete and volume scatter situations are extrema, and experimental observations are most likely some combination of the two which varies according to height, season, and site. This may well explain differences observed by some investigators, such as the lack of overlap of the height regions where Turek et al. (1998) (above 84 km) and Vandeeper and Reid (1995a) (70 to 84 km) find evidence of preferred azimuths, despite the fact that these authors used essentially the same analysis, i.e. IDI with two perpendicular receiving antennas arms, using linear phase variation along both rows of antennas as a “single scatterer” criteria. Long-term comparisons, such as those presented in this paper, provide the potential to investigate scattering mechanisms, at least on the basis of height and season.

3 IDI implementation using the Buckland Park MF radar

The Buckland Park MF radar is located 35 km north of Adelaide (34°38' S, 138°29' E), and operates at a frequency of 1.98 MHz. The antenna array consists of a 1-km diameter array of 89 individually accessible north-south and east-west aligned half-wave dipoles. The radar was upgraded between 1991 and 1995 (e.g. Reid et al., 1995), which involved the refurbishment of the entire antenna array and the commissioning of new transmission and radar data acquisition (RDAS) systems. The antenna array can now also be used for

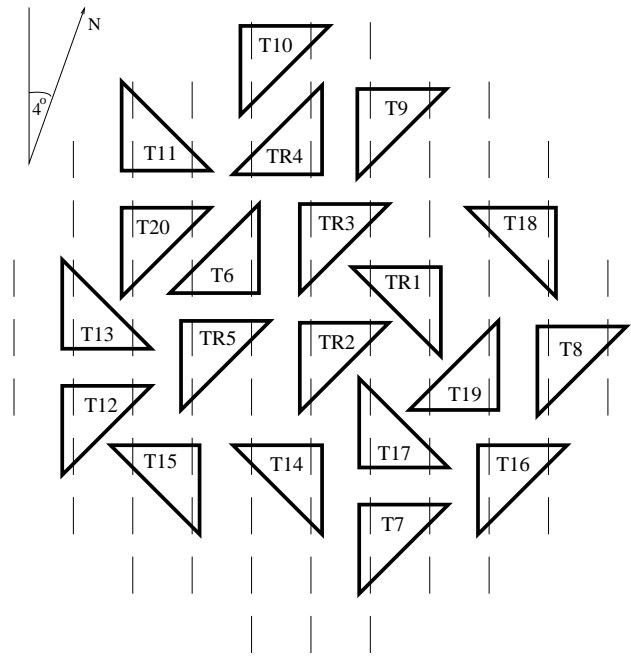
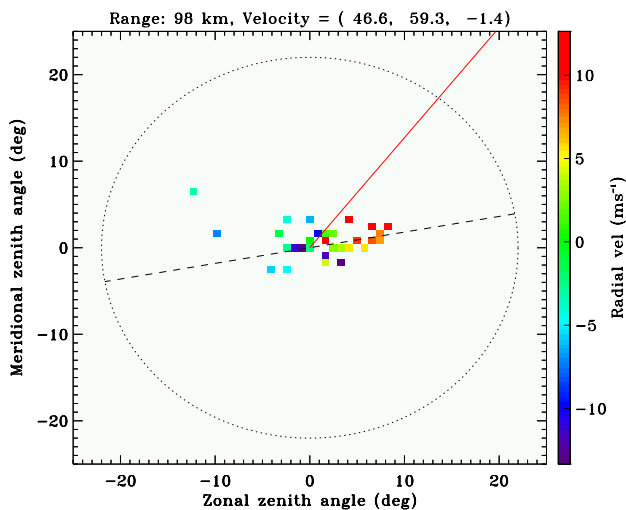


Fig. 1. North-south antenna configuration employed for Buckland Park MF radar from 20 December 2001 to the present. Each vertical line represents a single north-south aligned antenna. The triangles denote the antennas used for observations, and the appropriate transmit channel. Antenna groups denoted TR_i and T_i were connected to transmitter i . Antenna groups denoted TR_i were connected to receiver i via T/R switch i .

transmission, enabling the BPMF to perform Doppler beam steering (e.g. Vandeeper and Reid, 1995a). Routine observations using the refurbished radar commenced 7 May 1996 (e.g. Holdsworth and Reid, 2004). Full correlation analysis (FCA) has been applied throughout the observations, providing estimates of the dynamics and the spatial and temporal properties of the radiowave scatterers (e.g. Holdsworth and Reid, 1997; Holdsworth et al., 2001). Imaging Doppler interferometry (IDI) was introduced on 20 August 2000. Both the FCA and IDI analyses form part of a commercially available package supplied by Atmospheric Radar Systems Pty. Ltd. (ATRAD) (e.g. Holdsworth and Reid, 2004). The antenna configuration has been periodically modified throughout the observations to allow for implementation of different analysis techniques, and to avoid use of antennas and/or feeder cables which develop problems. The data presented in this paper were acquired using two different antenna configurations. The configuration shown in Fig. 1 has been used from 20 December 2001. FCA is applied to data collected using receivers 1, 2, and 3 (antenna spacings 152.3, 152.3, and 182.8 m, hereafter “FCA-small”), and 1, 4 and 5 (304.7, 318.1, and 356.6 m, “FCA-large”). IDI is applied to data collected using receivers 1, 2 and 3. The small spacing was chosen for IDI to reduce the possibility of angle of arrival (AOA) ambiguities resulting from use of spacings exceeding $\lambda/2$.

Table 1. Rejection criteria for IDI analysis.

Error code	Explanation
0	No error - analysis result ok.
1	Time series unsuitable for analysis
2	Fewer than three scatterers available at this height
3	Horizontal Velocity $>200 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
4	Vertical velocity magnitude $>10 \text{ m s}^{-1}$
5	Scatterer azimuth estimate not available
6	Turbulent velocity estimate not available

**Fig. 2.** Example of wind (red line) and scatterer azimuth (dashed line) estimation.

The IDI analysis implemented is almost identical to that of Franke et al. (1990). The motivation for using this analysis was twofold. First, it does use “single scatterer” criterion, and therefore has no limitations regarding antenna configuration. Second, it yields velocities in best agreement with the FCA true velocity, whereas other IDI technique yields velocities equal to or approaching the FCA apparent velocity, which is expected to overestimate the actual velocity. All Doppler frequencies with radial velocities within $\pm 14 \text{ m s}^{-1}$, AOAs within 20° of zenith, and powers 15 dB above the noise floor are used in the analysis. Two-minute and hourly wind velocities are estimated. The two-minute estimates are made using AOAs and radial velocities estimated from an individual two-minute data acquisition, while hourly estimates are made using AOAs and radial velocities estimates from 30 two-minute data acquisition. Hourly IDI winds can also be estimated by hourly averaging the 2-min IDI winds. Such hourly wind estimates are hereafter referred to as “hourly averaged”, while those made using 30 two-minute data acquisitions are referred to as “hourly estimated”. Turbulent velocities are estimated as described by Roper and Brosna-

han (1997), using a 5° threshold, rather than 2° . The larger threshold used in this study is necessary since the analysis is applied using two-minute AOA skymaps, when there are occasionally few AOAs within 2° of zenith. Preferred azimuths are also determined by applying a total least-squares fit to AOAs, assuming equal measurement errors in each component. The root-mean-square (RMS) zenith angle of the AOAs is also stored. The AOAs are not stored as default, but can be archived if required. The rejection criteria used are shown in Table 1. Criterion 1 rejects data where the signal amplitude is too low, or interference is present. Criterion 2 is applied as IDI requires a minimum of three scatterers for a valid 3-D wind velocity determination. Criteria 3 and 4 reject non-sensical data. Criterion 5 indicates the preferred azimuth could not be reliably estimated. In this case all parameters other than scatterer azimuth are still valid. Criterion 6 indicates that a turbulent velocity could not be reliably estimated. In this case parameters other than turbulent velocity are still valid. A typical example of the ESPs and the resulting wind velocity and preferred azimuths for a 2-min record is shown in Fig. 2. In addition to the online analysed data sets, a 14-day raw data set from 19 January 2000 to 3 February 2000 has been analysed offline using the same analysis procedures to produce an additional analysed data set to the routine analysed data set.

Hourly updated latest results from both the FCA and IDI analyses are available at URLs <http://www.physics.adelaide.edu.au/atmospheric> and <http://www.atrad.com.au/results.html>.

4 Effective scattering positions (ESPs)

The volume scatter investigations of Briggs (1995) suggest that the ESPs should lie along a preferred azimuth, corresponding to the FCA apparent velocity direction. Histograms of the difference between the preferred azimuth and the FCA apparent velocity are shown in Fig. 3. These results suggest that the distribution of ESP azimuths is centered around the azimuth predicted by volume scatter arguments. However, we note that the distribution at heights above 80 km appears to peak at negative values $\geq -2.5^\circ$, while distribution at heights above 80 km appears to peak at positive values $\leq 2.5^\circ$. We are not sure of the cause of this effect, but suspect it may be either a radar introduced bias, such as a phase calibration error. Broadening of distribution is seen around 80 km and above 90 km.

Histograms of ESPs for various height ranges from 19 January 2000 to 3 February 2000 are shown in Fig. 4. The ESPs are spread over an increasing range of zenith angles with increasing height, consistent with typical MF radar observations that aspect sensitivity decreases with increasing height (e.g. Holdsworth and Reid, 2004). Between 90 and 100 km ESPs are observed out to 30° , which is well beyond the transmit half-power half-width of $\approx 5^\circ$. The distribution of ESPs is circularly symmetric, except between 60 and 70 km where the ESPs are elongated along the East-West direction. The

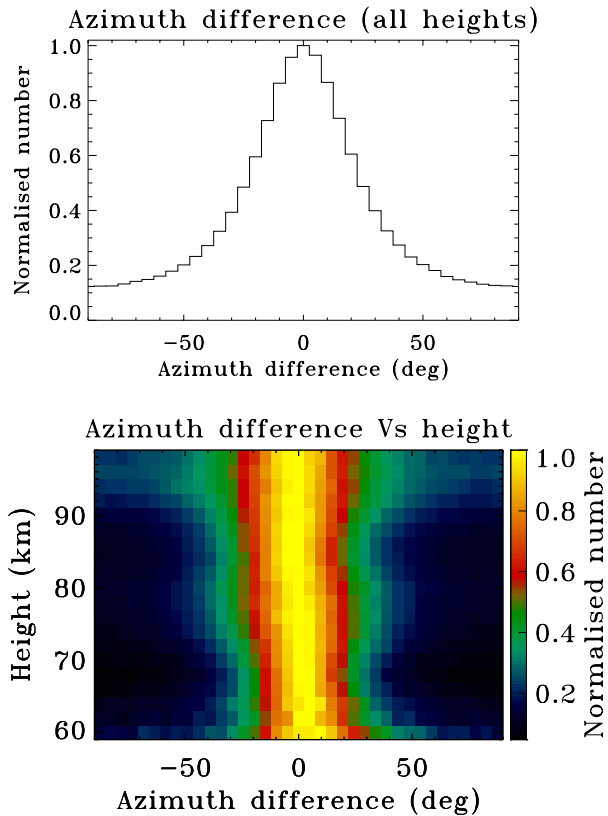


Fig. 3. Difference between effective scattering positions azimuth estimated using least-squares fit and the volume scatter predicted preferred azimuth over the entire observation period.

mean FCA winds at these heights during mid-summer are strongly westerly (e.g. Holdsworth and Reid, 2004), as are the FCA apparent and IDI winds. These results therefore further support the volume scatter predictions that the ESPs lie along a preferred azimuth corresponding to the FCA apparent velocity direction.

5 Comparison of FCA and IDI winds

5.1 Statistical comparison technique

In order to meaningfully compare the FCA and IDI winds, we have selected four statistical indicators to assess the velocity components estimated by each technique. The indicators used are based on agreement (correlation), relative magnitude, relative variance, and data acceptance percentage. The data acceptance percentage is defined relative to the number of data with a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) exceeding -3 dB. This is used in preference to the more commonly used definition relative to the total number of time/height samples, as it is a measure of the technique itself rather than the combination of the technique, the radar system, and the atmosphere. While it is acknowledged that these indicators

may vary diurnally, seasonally, and with height, the aim of the comparisons is to provide statistics describing the techniques over all measurement conditions. Daily estimates of each indicator are first determined. Mean and standard deviations of the daily estimates are then calculated for comparative purposes.

The relative magnitudes of the velocity components for each technique are estimated using the statistical comparison technique of Hocking et al. (2001). This technique compares two measurements x and y of a parameter v without a-priori knowledge of system measurement errors σ_x and σ_y . The technique does not assume that the measurement errors are contained in only one parameter, as is the case in standard least-squares estimation techniques. The technique allows for the determination of the relationship between the relative magnitude (or gain) of two parameters and their measurement errors. The gain can only uniquely be determined if estimates of the measurement errors are known. The observed measurement errors contain the measurement errors specific to each measurement, and also a component related to the differences in the two techniques. For instance, for comparison of all-sky meteor and MF radar velocities the measurement error contains a component relating to the different fields of view used by two radars. The technique assumes v , σ_x and σ_y are normally distributed and independent. In the following this technique is applied to compare FCA and IDI winds. Since these winds are estimated using the same radar data the measurement errors relate to the individual techniques themselves.

In order to restrict the range of possible measurement errors, we estimate the measurement errors of each velocity component v by determining the RMS difference between M time-contiguous estimates

$$\gamma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{t=1}^M (v(t+1) - v(t))^2}{2M}}, \quad (1)$$

the parameter where $v(t)$ represents the velocity component measured at time t . This represents a measure of the root-mean-square (RMS) difference in time contiguous velocity component estimates averaged over all heights. If v is normally distributed about a constant value, γ is equivalent to the root-mean-square (RMS) value of v , i.e. the measurement error of v . In the case of FCA and IDI velocity components, v contains small (gravity wave), medium (tidal) and large (planetary wave) time-scale variations, and as such, v is not distributed about a constant value. In this case γ represents the maximum measurement error which can be attributed to the technique used to estimate the velocity component. The γ estimates for the two parameters under comparison allow for the range of valid measurement errors to be restricted, thereby restricting the range of valid relative magnitudes. The effect of γ overestimating the measurement error is to increase the range of possible relative magnitudes that can be estimated, rather than bias the relative magnitude estimate. We note that in a small number (less than 3%) of cases the γ estimates do not yield a valid range of relative magnitudes,

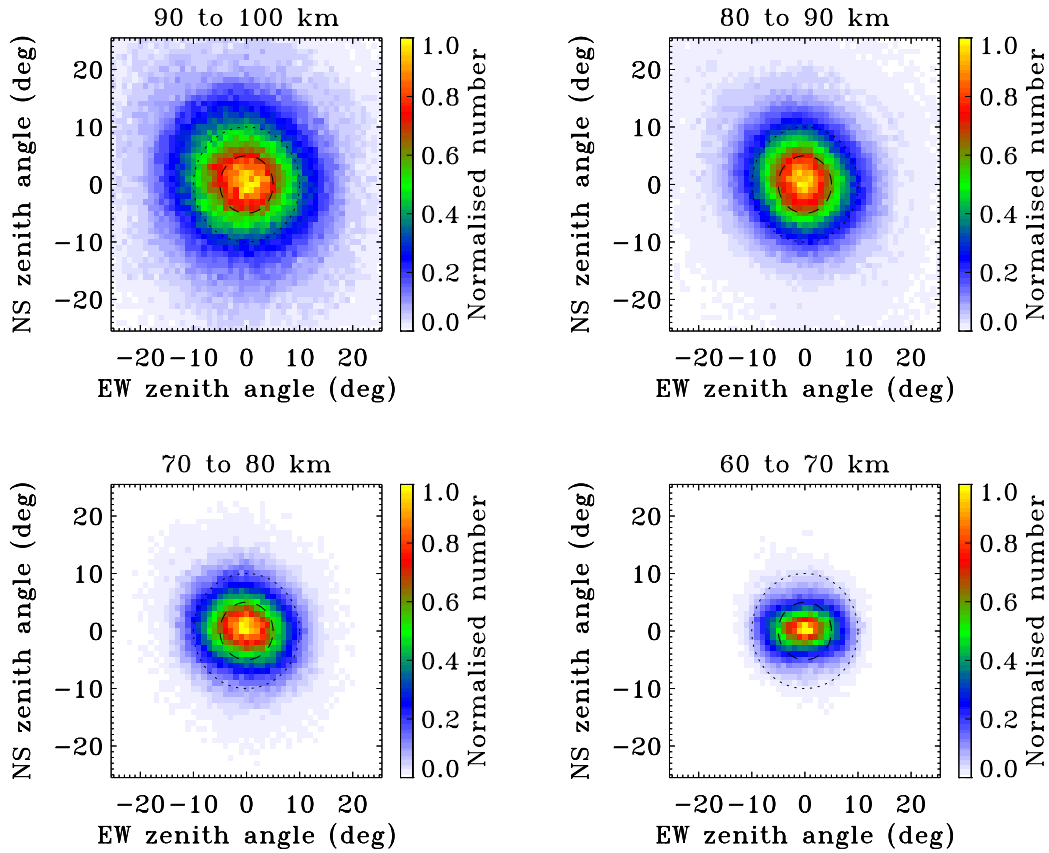


Fig. 4. Histograms of effective scattering positions for 90–100 km (top left), 80–90 km (top right), 70–80 km (bottom left) and 60–70 km (bottom right) from 19 January 2000 to 3 February 2000. The dashed and dotted line indicate the transmit beam half-power half-width and twice the half-power half-width, respectively.

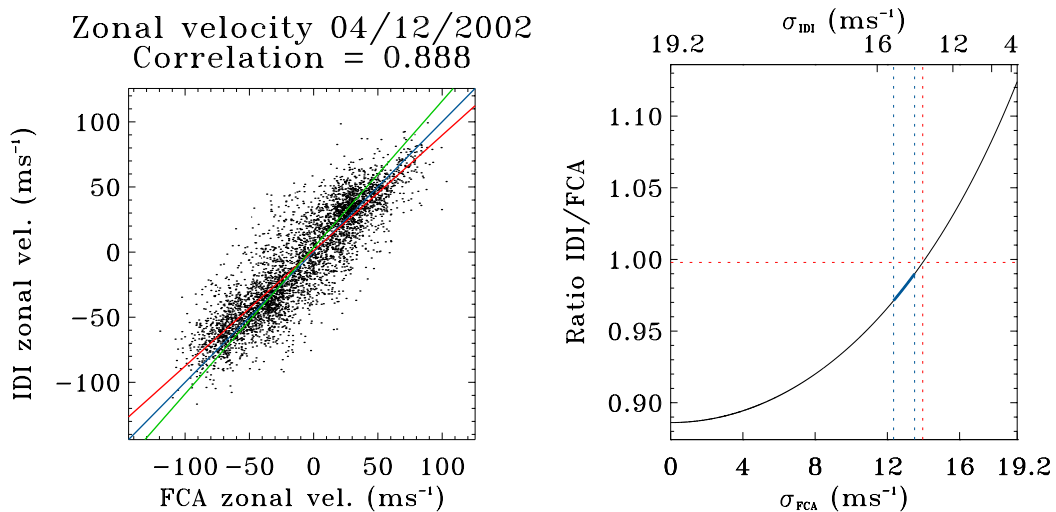


Fig. 5. Example of application of statistical comparison technique to FCA and IDI zonal velocities from 4 December 2002. Left: scatter plot of FCA vs. IDI velocities. The red and green lines indicate the results of the least-squares fit, assuming all measurement errors are present in the FCA and IDI velocities, respectively. The green line indicates FCA=IDI. Right: relationship between relative magnitude and FCA and IDI measurement errors. The blue lines indicate the range of values defined by the maximum measurement error estimated. The red dotted vertical and horizontal lines indicate equal measurement errors and the corresponding relative gains, respectively.

indicating that at least one of the γ estimates actually underestimates the measurement error σ . We believe this is the result of the data not fitting the assumptions of the analysis, i.e. that the parameters and their measurement errors are normally distributed. In this case, we treat the γ values as estimates of the minimum possible measurement error, and obtain a range of relative magnitudes. This may appear to be an unsatisfactory option, but we note that the mean lower and upper relative magnitude limits presented as follows are not biased by inclusion of such relative magnitude estimates. We can further refine γ by performing outlier rejection on the $(v(t+1)-v(t))^2$ values used in Eq. (1). We also use γ as our indicator of the relative variance of each technique, but do so in the knowledge that it contains a component related to the relative magnitude of each technique.

Figure 5 shows a typical scatter plot of one day of 2-min zonal velocity components measured by FCA-large and IDI for 4 December 2002, and the relationship between the relative magnitude of the IDI to FCA zonal winds and the FCA (σ_{FCA}) and IDI (σ_{IDI}) measurement errors. The correlation between the data sets is 0.89, indicating excellent correlation. The relative magnitude of the IDI to FCA zonal winds is 1.12 if the FCA winds are assumed to contain no measurement error (i.e. $\sigma_{\text{FCA}}=0$), 1.00 if the measurement errors are assumed to be identical (i.e. $\sigma_{\text{FCA}}=\sigma_{\text{IDI}}$), and 0.89 if the IDI winds are assumed to contain no measurement error (i.e. $\sigma_{\text{IDI}}=0$). The range of relative magnitudes does not give any clear indication of the relationship between the techniques, given that it covers the case that IDI overestimates with respect to FCA, and vice versa. The γ estimates obtained using this data set are $\sigma_{\text{FCA}}=13.5$ and $\sigma_{\text{IDI}}=15.3$. These values effectively restrict the relative magnitude range from 0.97 to 0.99, allowing us to conclude (for this data set) that the FCA-large velocities are larger than the IDI velocities.

5.2 Two-minute winds comparisons

Holdsworth and Reid (2004) present comparisons of FCA winds measured using different antenna spacings with those obtained using spatial correlation analysis (SCA) and hybrid Doppler interferometry (HDI). The results show that the FCA true velocity measured for small (large) spacings is underestimated by around 30% (10%). This is a consequence of the ‘‘triangle size effect’’ (TSE), whereby the true velocity is increasingly underestimated as the spacing decreases. Because of the difficulty in theoretically analysing IDI it is not apparent whether IDI will suffer a similar bias, although Holdsworth and Reid (1995b) have shown IDI is susceptible to a bias analogous to the TSE at low SNRs. Although the IDI winds described in this paper are estimated using the small antenna spacing, the aforementioned 14-day raw data set has been analysed to yield IDI winds for small (hereafter IDI-small) and large (IDI-large) spacings. The statistical comparison of IDI-small and IDI-large velocities are shown in Table 2. The zonal winds are slightly larger at smaller spacings, and the meridional winds are slightly larger at larger spacings. We conclude from this that there is no

Table 2. Mean and standard deviation of daily relative magnitude minima and maxima, correlation, maximum measurement errors, and acceptance percentages for IDI-large with respect to IDI-small for 19 January 2000 to 3 February 2000.

Parameter	Zonal component	Merid. component
Relative magnitude minimum	1.02±0.02	0.98±0.07
Relative magnitude maximum	1.03±0.02	1.00±0.02
Correlation	0.85±0.03	0.83±0.03
IDI-large measurement error, ms ⁻¹	19.1±0.3	18.5±0.5
IDI-small measurement error, ms ⁻¹	17.2±0.5	17.2±0.3
IDI-large acceptance percentage, %	99.5	99.5
IDI-small acceptance percentage, %	99.5	99.5

Table 3. Mean and standard deviation of daily relative magnitude minima and maxima, correlation, maximum measurement errors, and acceptance percentages for IDI with respect to FCA-large for 20 August 2000 to 19 September 2003.

Parameter	Zonal component	Merid. component
Relative magnitude minimum	1.06±0.07	1.12±0.07
Relative magnitude maximum	1.09±0.07	1.18±0.07
Correlation	0.83±0.04	0.79±0.05
FCA-large measurement error, ms ⁻¹	12.6±1.2	12.1±1.2
IDI measurement estimate error, ms ⁻¹	12.9±1.2	12.5±1.4
FCA-large acceptance percentage, %	56.2	56.2
IDI acceptance percentage, %	95.1	95.1

convincing evidence for TSE of IDI winds. We note that the measurement errors for the smaller spacing are smaller, which is also observed for the FCA (e.g. Holdsworth, 1999b, Holdsworth and Reid, 2004). Given that the FCA-large winds are less biased than FCA-small winds, we use FCA-large winds in the following comparisons with IDI.

Table 3 shows the mean daily estimates of the four statistical indicators for the zonal and meridional velocity components throughout the observation period. The mean and standard deviation of the daily minimum and maximum relative magnitudes are 1.06±0.07 to 1.09±0.07 for the zonal component, and 1.12±0.05 to 1.18±0.07 for the meridional component, indicating, the IDI winds are approximately 8–15% larger than the FCA-large winds. The correlations for both components are around 0.8, indicating very good agreement. The measurement errors for the IDI winds are approximately 20% larger. As described above, the measurement errors contain the effects of any relative magnitude differences,

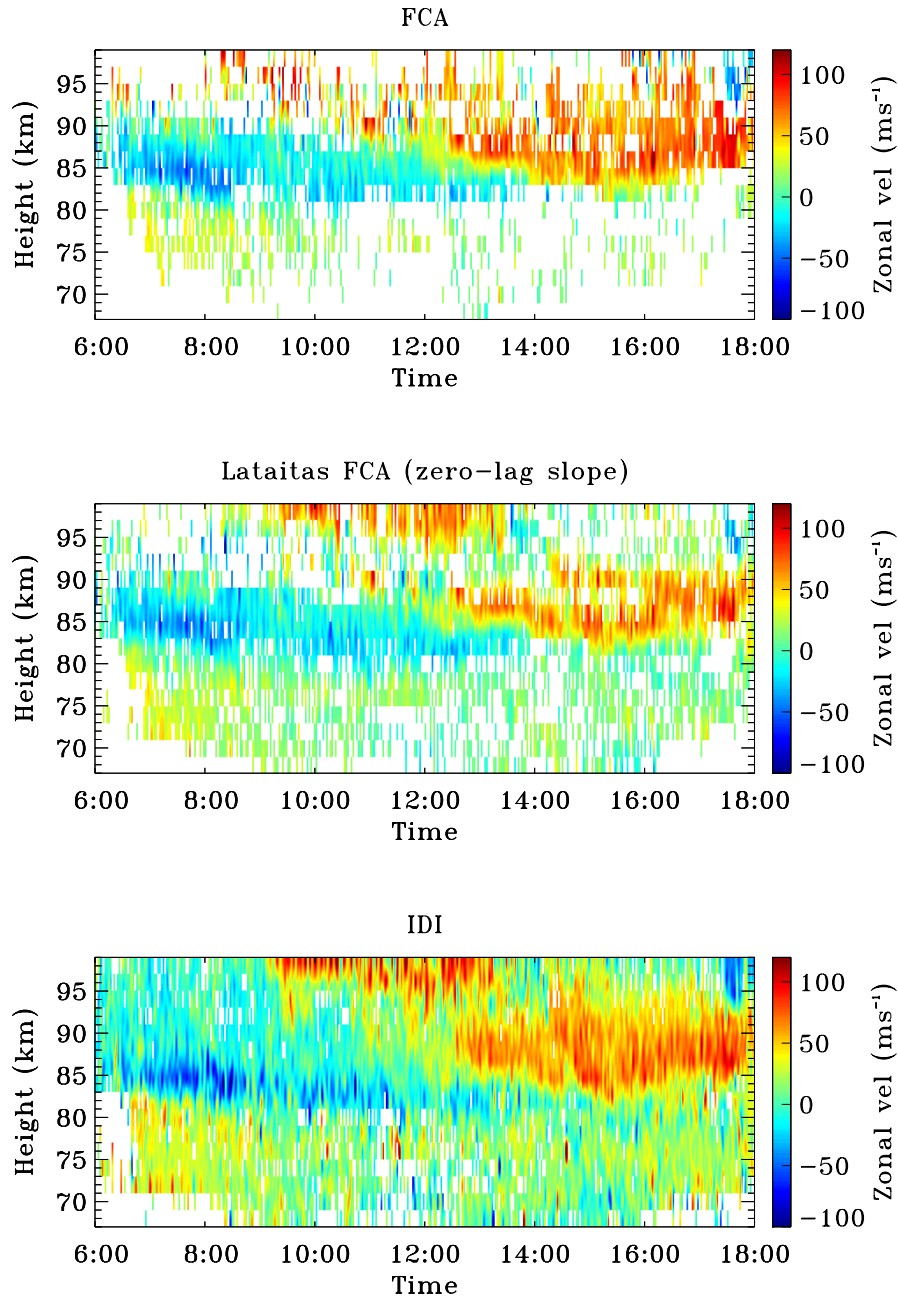


Fig. 6. Zonal wind velocities estimated during daytime 4 March 2002 by FCA (top), Lataitas zero-lag CCF slope fitting correlation analysis (middle), and IDI (bottom).

so the fact that the measurement errors exceed the relative magnitudes indicates that the measurement errors of the IDI winds are larger than the FCA-large winds. The IDI and FCA acceptance percentages are 95.1% and 56.2%, respectively. The IDI acceptance percentage is approximately constant throughout the year, while the FCA acceptance percentages range from 40% (equinox) to 80% (solstice).

A typical example of equinoctial daytime FCA and IDI zonal velocity estimates are shown in Fig. 6. Although the IDI results shows a larger number of successful velocity estimates, they also show a significant number of outliers, while

the FCA winds show very few outliers. This is because the FCA uses criteria to reject data which do not fit the model assumed by the analysis, or data that otherwise is deemed invalid in some sense (e.g. Briggs, 1984). On the other hand, the IDI analysis only rejects data if the analysis cannot be performed (criteria 1 or 2) or if the resulting velocities are clearly nonsensical (criteria 3 and 4). However, the IDI outliers can be easily removed using median outlier rejection techniques. The major rejection criteria observed for IDI are criteria 4 and 6, which reject approximately 1% and 5% of the records above 90 km, respectively. Note that although

Table 4. Mean and standard deviation of daily relative magnitude minima and maxima, and correlations for hourly estimate IDI and hourly averaged FCA-large velocities with respect to hourly averaged IDI velocities for 20 August 2000 to 19 September 2003.

Parameter	Zonal component	Merid. component
Hourly averaged FCA relative magnitude minimum	1.04±0.08	1.08±0.08
Hourly averaged FCA relative magnitude maximum	1.06±0.08	1.14±0.06
Hourly estimated IDI relative magnitude minimum	0.94±0.03	0.92±0.04
Hourly estimated IDI relative magnitude maximum	1.00±0.08	0.99±0.04
Hourly averaged FCA Correlation	0.92±0.03	0.89±0.03
Hourly averaged IDI Correlation	0.85±0.04	0.78±0.04
Hourly averaged FCA measurement error, ms ⁻¹	9.7±1.1	9.9±1.2
Hourly averaged IDI measurement error, ms ⁻¹	9.2±0.9	9.5±1.0
Hourly estimated IDI measurement error, ms ⁻¹	9.5±0.9	9.8±1.0
Hourly averaged FCA acceptance percentage, %	97.7	97.7
Hourly averaged IDI acceptance percentage, %	98.8	98.8
Hourly estimated IDI acceptance percentage, %	99.5	99.5

criterion 6 indicates that a turbulent velocity could not be estimated, a valid velocity is still estimated.

The FCA applies 19 rejection criteria, numbered 1 to 19. The smaller equinoctial FCA acceptance percentages are primarily due to rejection of data below 84 km by three rejection criteria:

3: Fading time (half-power half-width of mean autocorrelation function magnitude) exceeds 8 s.

17: Secondary maxima in the mean autocorrelation function magnitude exceeds 0.5, indicating oscillatory correlation functions.

18: Mean autocorrelation function has not passed below 0.5 at last lag of the mean autocorrelation function.

The original motivation for criteria 3, 17 and 18 was to prevent the analysis of data indicative of total reflection. This was based on arguments such as those of Hines and Rao (1968) that the FCA would not yield the correct wind velocity if the received signals were due to reflections from regions of layered surfaces perpendicular to the radar beam. The 8-s threshold for criterion 3 has been relaxed from the 6-s threshold typically used for wide beam MF radars. This is to allow for larger fading times measured for the BPFM radar, which result from larger diffraction pattern scales due to the relatively narrow transmit polar diagram used. A further motivation for criterion 17 is that oscillatory correlation functions do not fit the assumptions of the FCA, where the spatio-temporal correlation function is assumed to be a monotonically decreasing function of spatial and temporal coordinates. In early partial reflection observations, further motivation for criterion 18 was based on the need to reduce computation time by calculating the correlation functions out to a selected maximum time lag. Although criterion 17 has legitimate reason to be applied even if total reflection is not occurring, it could be argued that criteria 3 and 18 should only be applied above (say) 90 km, if they are indeed intended to

remove data indicative of total reflection. However, another motivation for the use of criteria 3 and 18 is that the accuracy of any estimated correlation parameter (i.e. a correlation or a time lag) is proportional to the fading time, leading to potentially large measurement errors in the FCA velocity estimates. This is largely supported by our attempts to relax or abandon use of criteria 3 and 18, which has produced significantly more nonsensical than sensible velocity estimates.

The issue of the specular reflection rejection criteria have led to investigation into the use of alternative correlation analyses that avoid the assumptions that spatio-temporal correlation functions are assumed to be monotonically decreasing functions of spatial and temporal coordinates, and that the spatial and temporal dependence of the spatio-temporal correlation functions are identical. Preliminary investigations (e.g. Holdsworth, 2002) have revealed that the zero-lag cross-correlation slope fitting technique (e.g. Lataitas et al., 1995; Holdsworth, 1995; Holloway et al., 1997) produces sensible velocities for records rejected by FCA. A typical example of equinoctial daytime velocity estimates obtained using the slope fitting technique are shown in Fig. 6. These results show better coverage than the FCA winds, and good agreement with the IDI velocities.

5.3 Hourly velocity comparisons

Table 4 shows the mean daily estimates of the four statistical indicators for the hourly averaged 2-min FCA-large and IDI velocities. This averaging includes outlier rejection and requires a minimum of three velocity estimates per hour to produce an average estimate. The relative magnitudes are in good agreement with the 2-min estimates. The hourly averaged correlations are 10% higher than the 2-min estimates, and the IDI measurement errors are smaller than those for FCA-large. We attribute these results to the outlier rejection

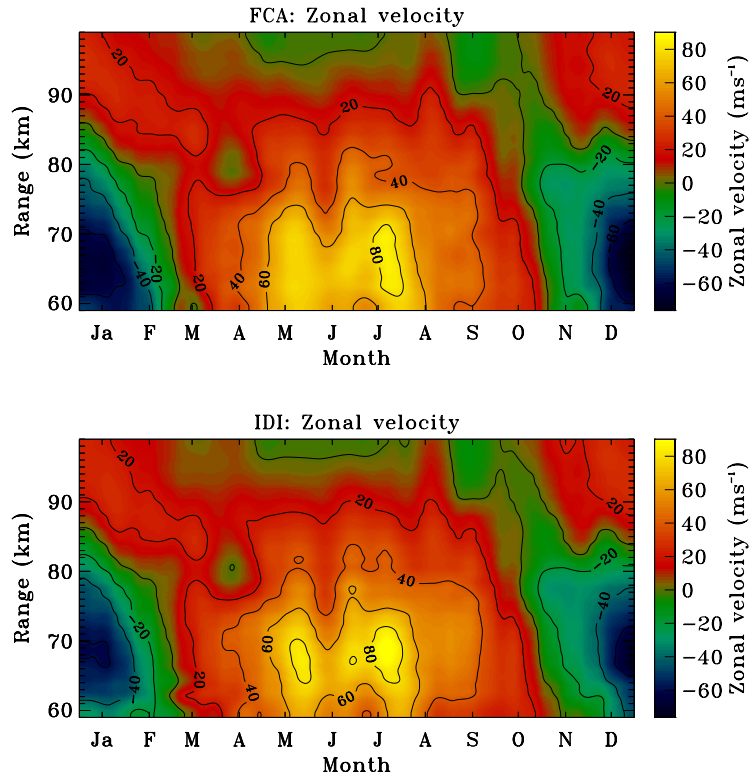


Fig. 7. Annually superposed fortnightly averaged FCA/IDI zonal winds.

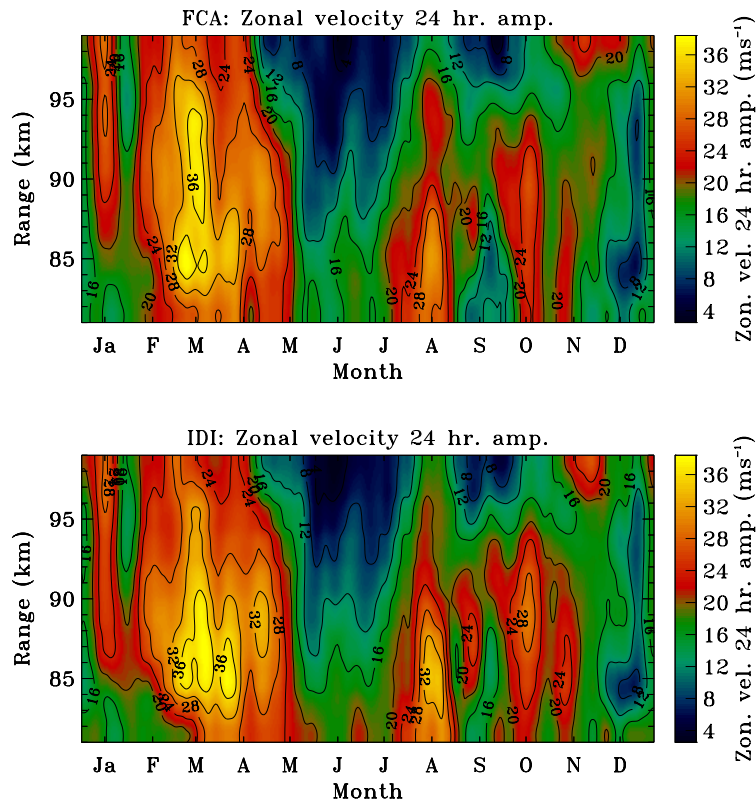


Fig. 8. Annually superposed FCA/IDI zonal winds diurnal amplitudes.

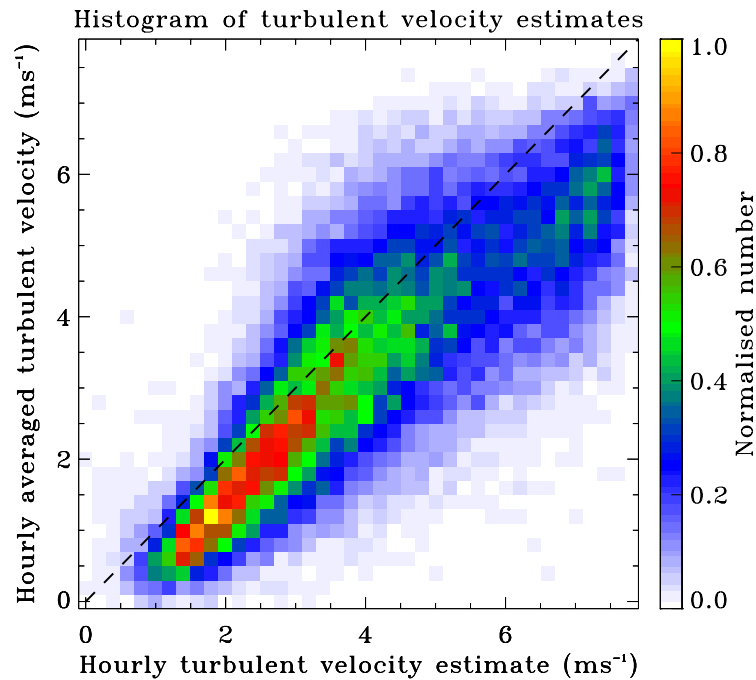


Fig. 9. Scatter plot of hourly averaged 2-min IDI turbulent velocities vs. hourly IDI turbulent velocity estimates over the entire observation period. The dashed line indicates $y=x$.

and averaging process precluding spurious 2-min IDI velocities that result from the fewer rejection criteria applied by IDI. The acceptance percentage for both techniques is close to 100%. Thus, although the average acceptance percentage for 2-min FCA velocities is only 56%, an hourly FCA velocity estimate for data with average SNR > 0 dB can almost always be made.

As described in Sect. 3, IDI is also applied to estimate 1-h wind velocity estimates. Table 4 shows the relative magnitudes and correlations for the hourly average of the 2-min winds and the hourly estimated winds. Although the correlations are high, the hourly estimated winds are approximately 5% larger than the hourly averaged winds. It is not clear to us why this is the case. The measurement errors for the hourly estimates are 3–4% larger. This is in proportion to the relative magnitude, and thus does not indicate that the hourly estimates have larger errors. There is no evidence that one estimate is preferable to the other, although, as discussed in Sect. 5.5, it appears the hourly average of the turbulent velocities is preferable to the hourly estimate.

5.4 Long-term velocity comparisons

The annual variation of the FCA and IDI zonal velocities is shown in Fig. 7. These plots represent fortnightly averages, obtained by averaging the 2-min data into hourly averages, which are then used to produce daily averages, which are, in turn used to produce fortnightly averages. The FCA and IDI winds show excellent agreement, with the IDI again

approximately 10% larger. Of note are the large winds below 70 km in winter, where the IDI winds exceed 85ms^{-1} .

Harmonic analysis of the hourly IDI and FCA estimates have also been performed. Weekly mean, semi-diurnal, diurnal and 48-h tidal components have been fitted using a 14-day data window every 7 days. A superposed plot of the zonal velocity diurnal tide amplitudes for the FCA and IDI data is shown in Fig. 8. The correlation between the FCA and IDI zonal velocity diurnal tidal amplitudes and phases is 0.94 and 0.95, respectively. The corresponding correlations for the meridional velocity (not shown) are 0.96 and 0.91, respectively. Smaller, but significant, correlations are seen in comparison of FCA and IDI estimates of other tidal components (correlations ≥ 0.68). As for the 2-min and fortnightly averaged mean winds, the IDI tidal amplitudes are again approximately 10% larger.

5.5 Turbulent velocities

Figure 9 shows a scatter plot of the hourly average of the 2-min IDI turbulent velocity estimates compared with the hourly IDI turbulent velocity estimates over the entire observation period. Since the distributions of turbulent velocities are not Gaussian, we do not attempt to apply the statistical comparison technique to this data. However, it is clear without applying this technique that the hourly estimated turbulent velocities overestimate the hourly average of the 2-min turbulent velocities. As for the FCA turbulent velocity estimation (e.g. Holdsworth et al., 2001, and the references therein), IDI turbulence estimation assumes

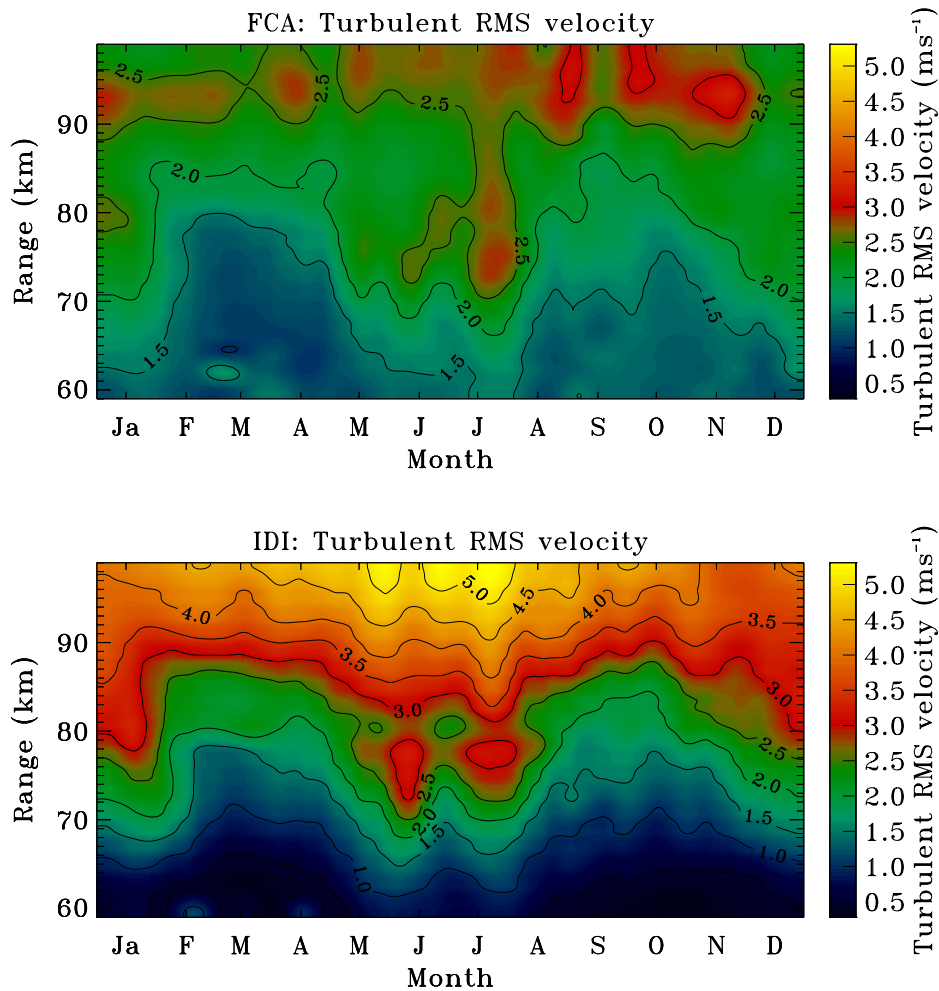


Fig. 10. Annually superposed fortnightly averaged FCA (top) and IDI (bottom) turbulent velocities.

velocity perturbations in the wind field result solely from turbulence. For the 2-min estimates only short period waves (<10 min) will produce velocity perturbations in the radial velocity field, whereas for hourly estimates waves with periods of up to several hours (<5 hours) will produce velocity perturbations in the radial velocity field. We therefore attribute the larger hourly estimated turbulent velocities to the effects of gravity waves, and suggest hourly (or larger) turbulent velocity estimates (e.g. Roper and Brosnahan, 1997) will be significantly overestimated.

The annual variation of the fortnightly averaged (2-min) FCA and IDI turbulent velocities is shown in Fig. 10. The general trend is an increase of turbulent velocity with height, with maxima below 82 km at the solstices. The IDI turbulent velocities show a larger range of values, with smaller minima values and larger maxima values. The larger values at the upper heights are consistent with (as yet unpublished) volume scatter simulations using the radar backscatter model of Holdsworth and Reid (1995), which suggest that the IDI turbulent velocity is overestimated.

6 Interpretation of results in terms of volume scatter predictions

The ESP azimuths are clearly preferentially aligned along the azimuth predicted by volume scatter arguments. This result was also observed using the BPMF radar by Vandeeper and Reid (1995a), albeit over the limited height range of 70 to 84 km. These results differ from the current results in that they were obtained from short-term (4 h) observations, transmission using a small antenna array, and using two perpendicular receiving antennas arms. The differences in implementation are therefore significant enough to make it difficult for us to conclude why Vandeeper and Reid (1995a) found ESP azimuth agreement with the volume scattering predictions over only a limited range. It could be argued that their use of the “single scatterer” criteria limited their analysis to use only legitimate single scatterers, but in this case there should not have been agreement between the scatterer azimuths and the volume scattering predictions at any azimuth. Further, it cannot be argued that the difference is due to the larger transmit beam width used in their study, since a larger beamwidth increases the volume of scatterers sampled

at each height, which should increase the number of scatterers contributing to each Doppler frequency bin, and thereby increase the agreement with the volume scatter predictions. The results of Fig. 4 further support the suggestion that the ESPs do not represent actual scattering positions. The distributions for 90 to 100 km show significant numbers of ESPs at zenith angles outside 12 degrees, despite the transmit power being as low as 30 dB below the main lobe at such zenith angles (e.g. Holdsworth and Reid, 2004), further suggesting that the ESPs do not coincide with the actual scattering positions.

As described in Sect. 5, the FCA true velocities measured by the BPFM radar exhibit the “triangle size effect” (TSE), whereby the true velocity is increasingly underestimated as the spacing decreases. We have used the FCA winds obtained using the larger spacing in our analysis to minimise the potential of the triangle size effect to underestimate the FCA winds. Although the volume scatter radar backscatter model simulations of Holdsworth and Reid (1995) showed that the IDI winds exhibit an effect analogous to the TSE for low SNRs, the results of Table 2 suggest that there is no conclusive evidence for such an effect in the current data. Holdsworth and Reid (2004) illustrate that the FCA-large winds are underestimated by around 5% to 10% in comparison with spatial correlation analysis (SCA) and hybrid Doppler interferometric (HDI), which are both expected to exhibit less bias than FCA winds. The results of Table 3 suggests the IDI winds are approximately 8–15% larger than the FCA-large winds, suggesting good agreement with the SCA and HDI winds.

In assessing the applicability of the volume scatter predictions we assess two indicators: preferred azimuths, and the ratio of the IDI and FCA velocities. While the results of the former confirm the volume scatter predictions, the results of the latter do not. Ideally, our preference would be to produce plots of the ratio of the IDI to FCA true velocity as a function of turbulent velocity, as shown in Holdsworth and Reid (1995b). However, since the volume scatter predicted IDI to FCA true velocity ratio depends on the wind velocity, turbulent velocity, and ground diffraction pattern scale, we would require a data subset where a large range of turbulent velocities are obtained for limited ranges of velocity and pattern scale. Despite collecting three years of data, we have not been able to construct a data subset suitable for producing such a plot. Based on the agreement between the relative magnitudes of IDI, SCA and HDI velocities with respect to FCA-large velocities, we have to conclude that the IDI velocities do not appear to confirm the volume scatter predictions.

As described in Sect. 3, one of the motivations behind our application of the Franke et al. (1990) technique was that it shows good agreement with the FCA true velocity. In this regard, the agreement between the FCA and IDI results illustrated in this paper is not surprising. One aspect of IDI illustrated by Holdsworth and Reid (1995b) is the sensitivity of the IDI velocities to zenith angle and power thresholds. Recent investigations using the same model data set have revealed that the IDI velocity appears to be even more

Table 5. Mean and standard deviation of daily relative magnitude minima and maxima for IDI without use of radial velocity threshold relative to FCA-large for 19 January 2000 to 3 February 2000.

Parameter	Zonal component	Merid. component
Relative magnitude minimum	1.32±0.07	1.35±0.07
Relative magnitude maximum	1.36±0.07	1.39±0.07
Correlation	0.85±0.03	0.79±0.05

sensitive to radial velocity thresholds. To illustrate this point, the aforementioned 14-day raw data set has been reanalysed without the use of any radial velocity threshold. The relative magnitudes and correlations of the resulting IDI velocities with respect to the FCA-large velocities are shown in Table 5. These results suggest that the IDI velocity is 35% larger than the FCA-large velocity, and therefore approximately 25% larger than the SCA and HDI velocities, which we believe to be good velocity estimates. We therefore believe the good agreement between the FCA and IDI data exhibited by Franke et al. (1990) and in the current study results from the radial velocity threshold used, and that abolishing this threshold results in the IDI velocities being overestimated, in accordance with volume scatter predictions. We note that only two investigators have applied a radial velocity threshold for their IDI analysis. Franke et al. (1990) provided no reason for their use of a threshold, while Vandeppeer and Reid (1995a) used a threshold on the basis of increasing computational efficiency. There appears to be no obvious theoretical justification for using a radial velocity threshold. A second IDI analysis that does not use a radial velocity threshold has recently been implemented on-line for further investigation.

7 Summary and conclusions

The results of the short-term (2-min) and longer term (hourly, fortnightly averaged, harmonic analysis) comparisons suggest that the IDI winds are approximately 10% larger than the FCA-large winds. Apart from this factor, the FCA and IDI velocity estimates show high correlation, and hence very good agreement. However, reanalysis of a 14-day data set without the use of a radial velocity threshold yields IDI winds are that approximately 35% larger than the FCA-large winds, suggesting that the IDI winds are overestimated as predicted by volume scatter arguments.

Regardless of whether the IDI results conform with the volume scatter predictions, this study suggests that the IDI and FCA winds are comparable, and that IDI is a useful technique which has two distinct, significant advantages over the FCA. First, IDI is a significantly simpler technique to apply than FCA, requiring fewer criteria to reject bad data. Second, IDI yields considerably higher 2-min acceptance percentages. However, one disadvantage is that accurate

phase calibration is required. The phase calibration technique used for the BPMF routine observations is described in Holdsworth and Reid (2004). This technique involves periodic determination (e.g. monthly) of phase calibration values, and does not account for complex receiver gain variations that occur over smaller time scales (e.g. diurnal, Vandeppeer and Reid, 1995b). It is difficult to assess the effect of complex receiver gain variations on the IDI analysis, although this could well be investigated using the radar backscatter model of Holdsworth and Reid (1995b).

One limitation of this study is that the results cannot necessarily be considered indicative of those expected for all MF radars, due to the relatively narrow beamwidth used by BPMF radar. We therefore aim to perform a similar study by implementing IDI using a more conventional wide beam MF radar.

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