

REVIEW OF ACOUSTICAL METHODS OF PROBING THE ATMOSPHERIC BOUNDARY LAYER

J. FORTUNA and E. KOZACZKA

Military Technical Academy
Department of Civil Engineering and Geodesy
(01-489 Warszawa 49)
Naval Academy
(81-929 Gdynia)

The paper presents the review of the methods of remote probing of the lower atmosphere by using the acoustic sounders. Sodar's constructions, their possibilities and usefulness are also presented. By leading to an understanding of the mechanisms underlying the origin of acoustic echoes, sodars provide new insight into the physical processes affecting the lower atmosphere.

1. Introduction

At 1946 GILMAN *et al.* [45] built a precursor of the acoustic sounder, a device acting like an "acoustic radar" which they named the "sodar" for sonic detection and ranging. In the sodar a loudspeaker transmitted sound pulses upwards into the atmosphere, a microphone received the scattered waves and, after filtering and detection, a motion picture camera recorded the display of the received signal on an oscilloscope. Since calculation showed that even in a strong convection the gradient could not account for the strength of the returned signal, the authors ascribed the scattering of sound to some unknown inhomogeneities or turbulence in the atmosphere.

Pursuit of the same problem, understanding of the radio propagation, induced Mc ALLISTER [80] to return to the earlier concept of the sodar, but with three major changes: a vastly improved transmitting antenna permitting operation just below 1000 Hz and at ranges up to 1.5 km; use of the transmitting antenna itself (with a transmit-receive switching circuit) for the receiver and, perhaps most important, use of the facsimile recorder, adopted from sonar, for the received signal. In the facsimile recorder, each pulse produced a vertical trace whose darkness varies with the received signal strength from a particular height in the atmosphere, a height proportional to the ordinate on the chart. With his new instrument, which he preferred to call an "acoustic sounder" Mc Allister obtained very clear pictures, including one showing the striking presence of internal waves ("gravity waves"). Following Gilman *et al.* Mc Allister attributed the scattering of the sound waves to "temperature discontinuities" or atmospheric inhomogeneities.

During this period, LITTLE [66] initiated a program at the Wave Propagation Laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the study of optical propagation and remote sensing of the atmosphere by means of laser beams. The program resulted in a new acquaintance with the work of the Russian school, e.g. with the monograph of TATARSKI [104] and the related acoustic studies of KALLISTRATORA [61] and MONIN [82]. In the following year a pair of coordinated papers by LITTLE [67] and MC ALLISTER [83] appeared. Using the turbulent scattering theory, Little for the first time obtained quantitative estimates of the received signal strength, the estimates being in good agreement with later experimental results. Little suggested certain improvements of the echosonde techniques which in addition to the display of atmospheric structure, would give vertical profiles of winds (by using the Doppler effect), three-dimensional spectra of temperature and wind fluctuations, and vertical profiles of humidity (by using a multifrequency system). Later research has followed up all of these suggestions. Figure 1 shows thermal plumes detected by Mc ALLISTER [81].

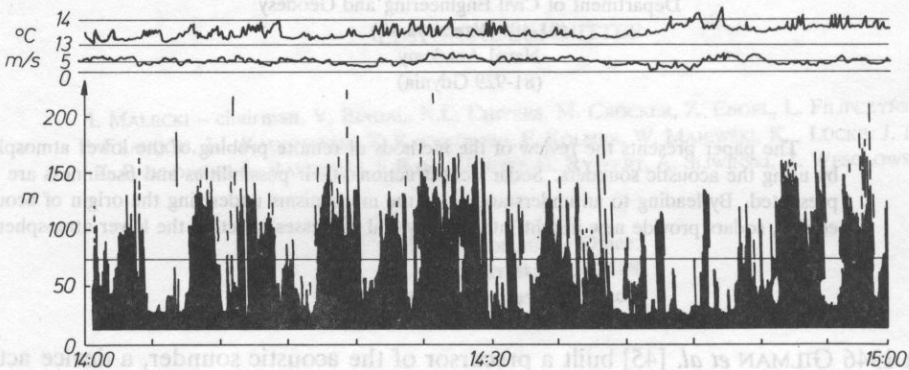


FIG. 1. The first thermal plumes shown by an sodar [81].

2. Propagation of sound in the atmosphere

2.1. Estimating refractive effects in acoustic sounding

Inhomogeneities in the atmospheric wind and temperature fields introduce refractive errors in the measured Doppler shift, in the angular dependence of scatter by irregularities, and in the location of the atmospheric volume. The approaches to solve the problems of refraction belong to two classes 1) full solution of the generalized wave equation for particularly simple boundary conditions, usually using the method of expansion into modes [102, 52], and 2) — treatment of refraction by the ray theory method in which (under the criterion that dimensions, such as beam diameters and reciprocals of refractive index gradients, remain much larger than the wavelength) only the paths of energy and the energy flow density retain any significance [43, 44, 90]. GEORGES and CLIFFORD [43] have obtained correction formulas for the effect of refraction on Doppler echo-sounding of wind. They [44] found that the correction remained small up to at least 1 km range, and that the correction depended on the square of the wind Mach number M .

In producing a relatively complex ray tracing model it is necessary to differentiate between two important quantities — the wave-number vector and the ray-path vector of the sound [90]. There is a simple relationship connecting the two vectors (see Fig. 2).

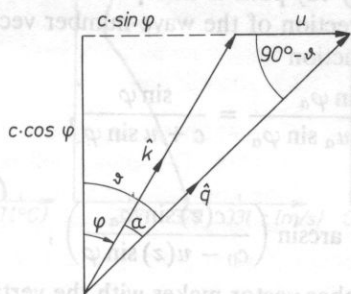


FIG. 2. The relationship between the unit wave-number vector \hat{k} , the unit ray-path vector \hat{q} , the local speed of sound c , and the wind speed u .

Obviously, the wave-number vector and the ray-path vector are parallel only when there is no wind. The local speed of sound is assumed to be a function of temperature only

$$c = (\gamma RT)^{1/2}, \tag{2.1}$$

where $\gamma = c_p/c_v = 1.40$ (ratio of specific heats), $R = 287 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ (gas constant for dry air), yielding $c = 20.05T^{1/2}$.

Differentiating (2.1) with respect to z and eliminating the constant we obtain

$$\frac{dc}{dz} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{c}{T} \frac{dT}{dz}, \tag{2.2}$$

showing that a constant temperature gradient within a layer leads to a constant sound-speed gradient within the layer if the variations in these quantities are much smaller than their absolute values.

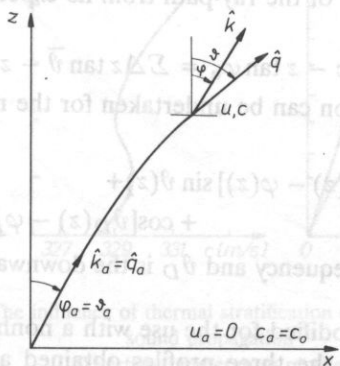


FIG. 3. φ and ψ as a function of height showing that the wave number vector and ray-path vector are parallel at the antenna.

The wind speed within the antenna (not necessarily at the "ground" is taken as zero so that the wave number vector and ray-path vector are parallel there, thus defining the interrogation angle (see Fig. 3). The antenna radiates not only along its axis but also off axis within a cone of angles. The ray-path is interpreted as the path of biased mean of all the energy radiated. The direction of the wave-number vector at any level can be calculated using Snell's law of refraction

$$\frac{\sin \varphi_a}{c_a + u_a \sin \varphi_a} = \frac{\sin \varphi}{c + u \sin \varphi}, \quad (2.3)$$

which can be solved to give

$$\varphi(z) = \arcsin \left(\frac{c(z) \sin \varphi_a}{c_0 - u(z) \sin \varphi} \right), \quad (2.4)$$

where φ is the angle the wave-number vector makes with the vertical and $u(z)$ the (horizontal) wind velocity at height z . The subscripts (a) refer to the conditions at or within the antenna, whereas the subscript (0) refer to the conditions at the ground.

The time necessary for the sound to travel across the layer is given by

$$t = \Delta z / \bar{c} \cos \bar{\varphi}(z) \quad (2.5)$$

where Δz is the thickness of the layer, and the bars refer to the average value of the variable within the layer which is simply the arithmetic mean of their values at the top and bottom of the slice.

The angle between the wave-number and ray-path vectors is given by

$$\alpha = \arctan \left(\frac{u \cos \varphi}{c + u \sin \varphi} \right). \quad (2.6)$$

The angle between the ray-path vector and the vertical direction is then simply at any height z equal to

$$\vartheta(z) = \varphi(z) + \alpha(z). \quad (2.7)$$

Now the additional displacement of the ray downwind after traversing the slice is

$$\Delta x = \Delta z \tan \bar{\vartheta}. \quad (2.8)$$

Horizontal displacement δx of the ray-path from its expected rectilinear path can be calculated

$$\delta x = \Sigma \Delta x - z \tan \varphi_a = \Sigma \Delta z \tan \bar{\vartheta} - z \tan \vartheta_a \quad (2.9)$$

A similar series of calculation can be undertaken for the reflected ray [43]

The Doppler shift Δf is

$$\Delta f = f_0 [u(z)/c(z)] \{ \cos[\vartheta(z) - \varphi(z)] \sin \vartheta(z) + \cos[\vartheta_D(z) - \varphi_D(z)] \sin \vartheta_D(z) \}, \quad (2.10)$$

where f_0 is the interrogating frequency and ϑ_D is the downward scattered ray-path direction.

The model can be easily modified for the use with a nonhorizontal wind field [90].

The model was applied to the three profiles obtained at 13.00, 19.00 GMT on 15 January 1990, at 0.1.00, 16 January 1990 at Malbork. An interrogation angle 20° was used.

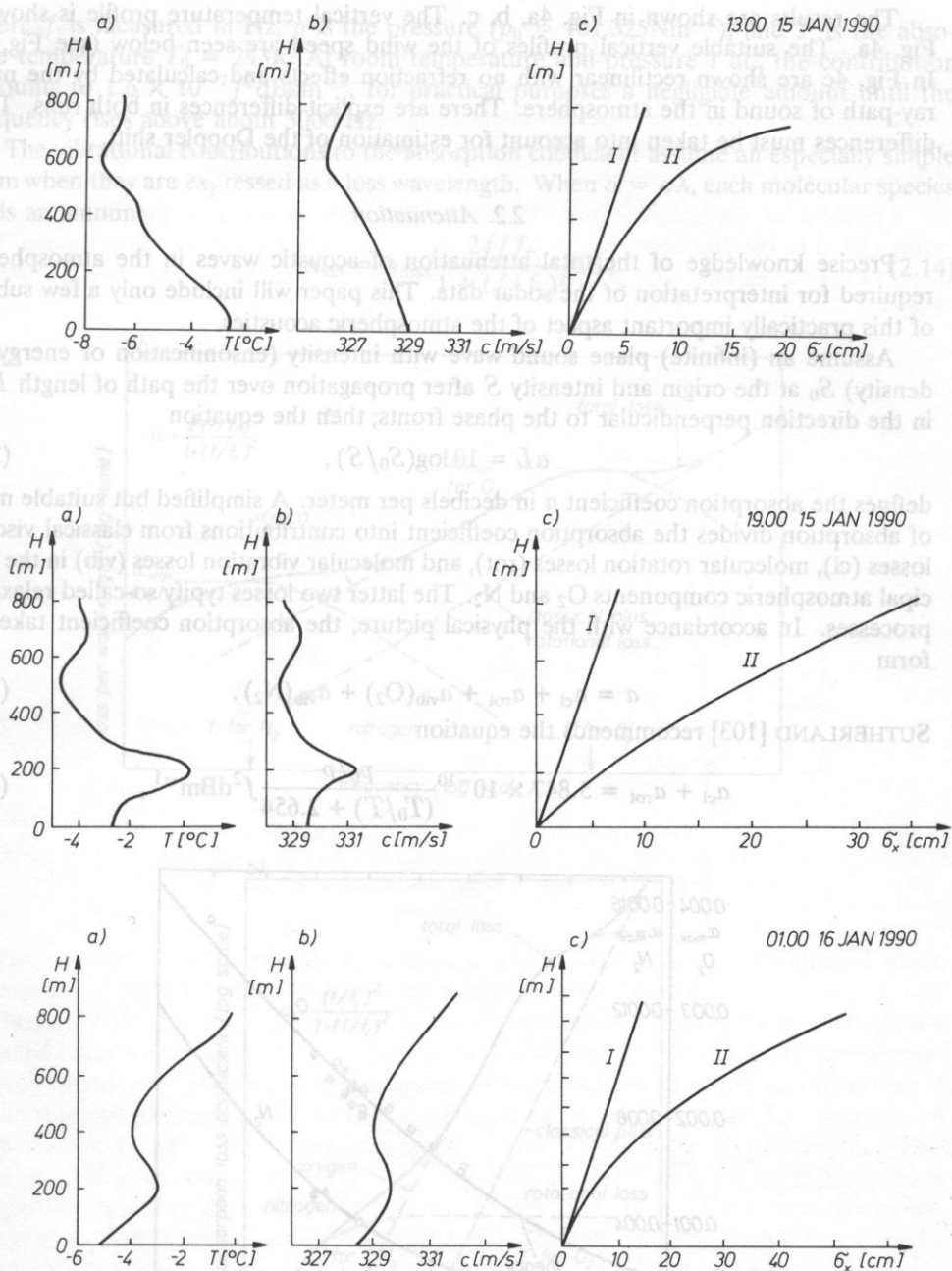


FIG. 4. The influence of thermal stratification of atmosphere on sound propagation

- a) vertical temperature profile,
 b) vertical profiles of wind speed,
 c) differences between the rectilinear and calculated path of sound.

The results are shown in Fig. 4a, b, c. The vertical temperature profile is shown in Fig. 4a. The suitable vertical profiles of the wind speed are seen below (see Fig. 4b). In Fig. 4c are shown rectilinear with no refraction effects and calculated by the model ray-path of sound in the atmosphere. There are explicit differences in both runs. These differences must be taken into account for estimation of the Doppler shift.

2.2. Attenuation

Precise knowledge of the total attenuation of acoustic waves in the atmosphere is required for interpretation of the sodar data. This paper will include only a few subjects of this practically important aspect of the atmospheric acoustics.

Assume an (infinite) plane sound wave with intensity (ensoufflement or energy flux density) S_0 at the origin and intensity S after propagation over the path of length $L(m)$ in the direction perpendicular to the phase fronts; then the equation

$$aL = 10 \log(S_0/S), \tag{2.11}$$

defines the absorption coefficient a in decibels per meter. A simplified but suitable model of absorption divides the absorption coefficient into contributions from classical viscosity losses (cl), molecular rotation losses (rot), and molecular vibration losses (vib) in the principal atmospheric components O_2 and N_2 . The latter two losses typify so-called relaxation processes. In accordance with the physical picture, the absorption coefficient takes the form

$$a = a_{cl} + a_{rot} + a_{vib}(O_2) + a_{vib}(N_2). \tag{2.12}$$

SUTHERLAND [103] recommends the equation

$$a_{cl} + a_{rot} = 5.847 \times 10^{-10} \frac{p_0/p}{(T_0/T) + 2.654} f^2 \text{dBm}^{-1}, \tag{2.13}$$

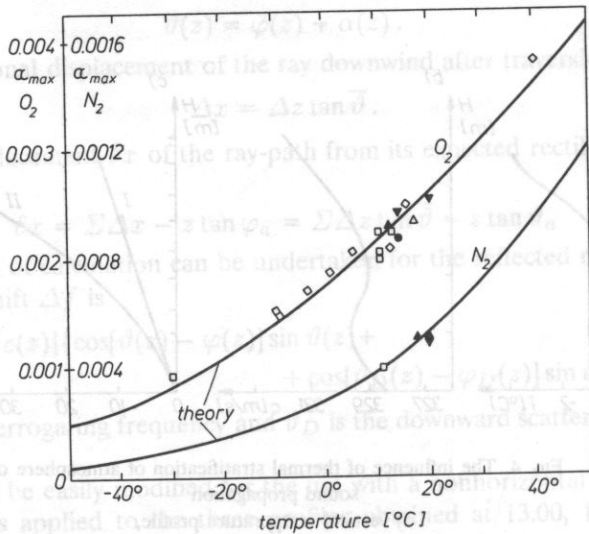


FIG. 5. Maximum absorption coefficient per wavelength due to O_2 and N_2 [17].

where f is measured in Hz, p is the pressure ($p_0 = 101.325\text{Nm}^{-2}$), and T is the absolute temperature $T_0 = 293\text{K}$. At room temperature and pressure 1 at., the contribution amounts to $1.6 \times 10^{-7} f^2 \text{dBkm}^{-1}$, for practical purposes a negligible amount until the frequency rises above about 3000 Hz.

The vibrational contributions to the absorption coefficient assume an especially simple form when they are expressed as a loss wavelength. When $\alpha = a\lambda$, each molecular species adds an amount

$$\alpha_{\text{vib}} = \alpha_{\text{max}} \frac{2f/f_r}{1 + (f/f_r)^2} \text{dB} \quad (2.14)$$

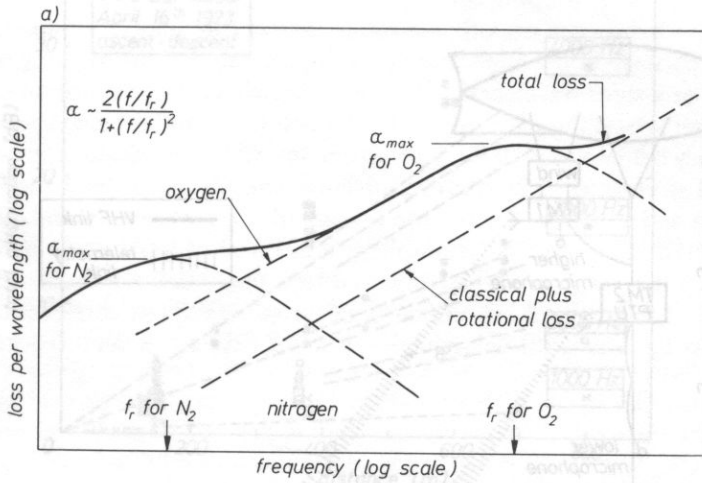


FIG. 5. Variation of the total attenuation versus distance.

The experimental molecular attenuation is shown by the shaded sectors (for details see the text).

The theoretical attenuation is represented by the shaded sectors, the widths of which correspond to the $\pm 5\%$ measurement errors.

BROWN and CLIFF theory of attenuation of sound by turbulence, the so-called "excess attenuation" theory of attenuation of sound by turbulence is not an intrinsic property of the medium, but depends on the particular details of the source and the receiver etc. This is regarded primarily as the loss of energy from the source and the receiver.

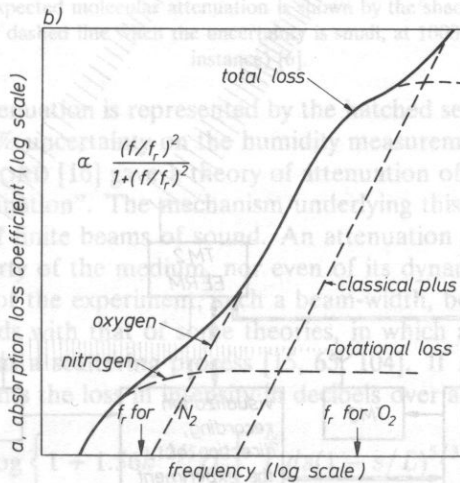


FIG. 6. Frequency dependence of absorption coefficient a) per unit wavelength α and b) per unit distance a [103].

Here f_r represents the frequency of the particular absorption peak and α_{\max} — the magnitude of α_{vib} at the peak. Most of the literature uses the dimensionless loss in nepers per wavelength $\hat{\alpha}_{\max}$, in place of α_{\max} in decibels; thus $\alpha_{\max} = 10 \ln \hat{\alpha}_{\max} = 4.343 \alpha_{\max}$. Figure 5 shows the behaviour of $\alpha_{\max} \text{O}_2$ and $\alpha_{\max} \text{N}_2$. Figure 6 shows the qualitative behaviour of both the total absorption coefficient a and the absorption per wavelength α .

AUBRY *et al.* [6] have conducted a tethered balloon experiment for measuring total attenuation in the frequency range 1000–5600 Hz along the vertical path of several hundred meters in extent. The arrangement of the elements in the experiments is shown in Fig. 7.

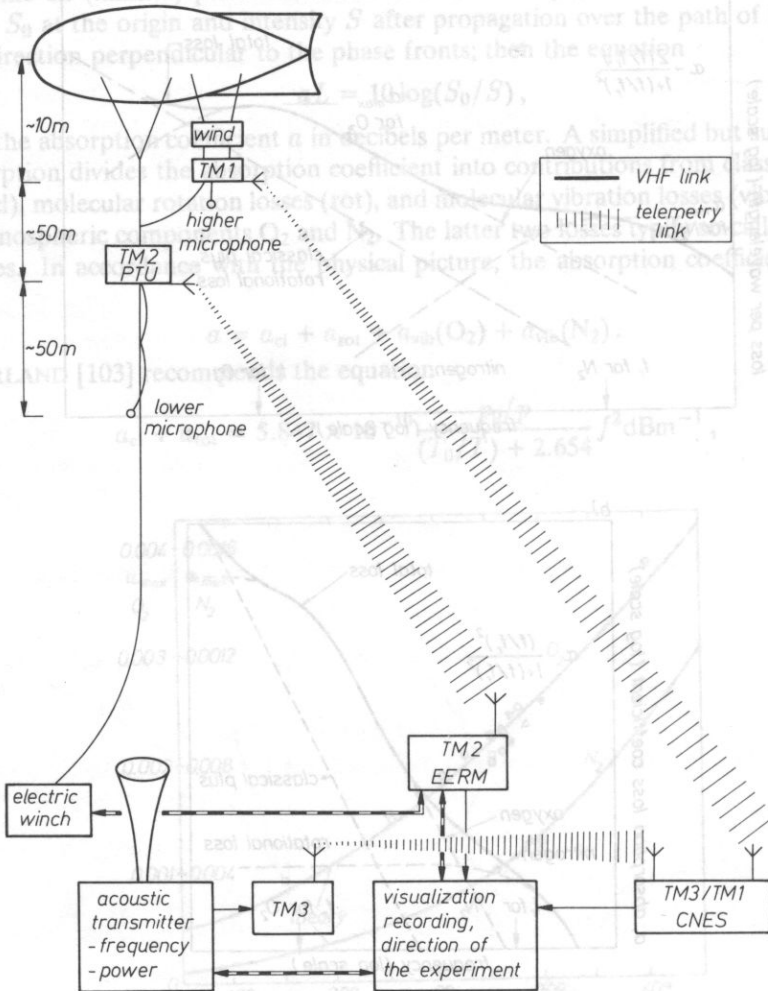


FIG. 7. Functional relation between the various telemetry systems and the operation of the experiment.

An experiment was conducted as follows: the balloon is stopped at a predetermined level, and each frequency is transmitted continuously for about 2 min. After about 15 min, when the complete set has been transmitted, the altitude of the balloon is changed. Application of two microphones separated by 100 m allowed to probe the acoustic field every 100 m stopping the balloon at 200 m intervals. When measurements are performed during both the ascent and descent, a complete sequence of measurements required about 3 hours. The total attenuation versus distance is presented in Fig. 8 [6].

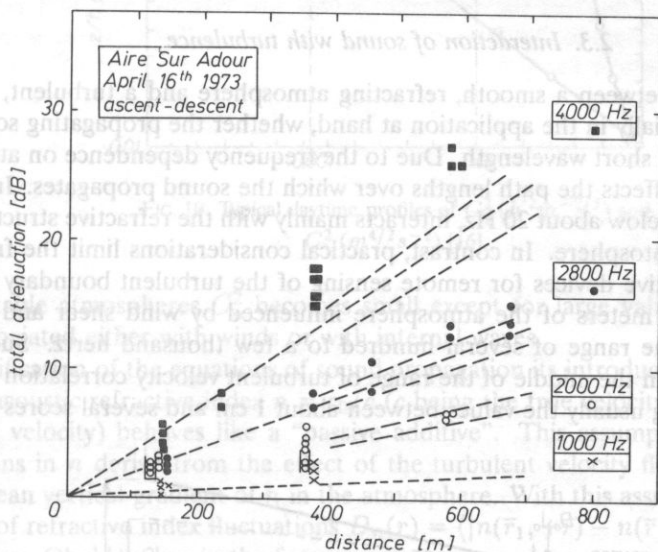


FIG. 8. Variation of the total attenuation versus distance. The expected molecular attenuation is shown by the shaded sectors (or dashed line when the uncertainty is small, at 1000 Hz for instance) [6].

The theoretical attenuation is represented by the hatched sectors, the widths of which correspond to the $\pm 5\%$ uncertainty on the humidity measurements.

BROWN and CLIFFORD [16] gave a theory of attenuation of sound by turbulence, the so-called "excess attenuation". The mechanism underlying this theory is the turbulence-induced broadening of finite beams of sound. An attenuation of sound by turbulence is not an intrinsic property of the medium, nor even of its dynamic state, but depends on the particular details of the experiment, such a beam-width, beam orientation etc. This point of view is at odds with that of some theories, in which attenuation by turbulence is regarded primarily as a scattering process [15, 65, 104]. If D_0 is the diameter of the source and a_e represents the loss in intensity in decibels over a path length L is given by

$$a_e = 10 \log \left\{ 1 + 1.56k^{12/5} D_0^2 \left[\int_0^L ds (1 - s/L)^{5/3} C_n^2(s) \right]^{6/5} \right\}, \quad (2.15)$$

or, for the case of constant C_n^2

$$a_e L = 10 \log(1 + 0.48k^{12/5} D_0^2 L^{6/5} C_n^{12/5}), \quad (2.16)$$

where L is the path length of sound beam, S is the distance from transmitter along the path, C_n^2 is the structure parameter of refractive index fluctuations, and k is instantaneous wave number $k = \omega/c_0 = 2\pi/\lambda$. It was shown that the theory of BROWN and CLIFFORD [16] yields results which are in qualitative agreement with observations. When inertial range scattering cross-section (2.22) and echosounder equation (2.23) are used for measurements of the structure parameter for temperature fluctuations C_T^2 and the structure parameter velocity fluctuations C_v^2 excess attenuation can introduce considerable errors into the results.

2.3. Interaction of sound with turbulence

The distinction between a smooth, refracting atmosphere and a turbulent, scattering atmosphere lies partially in the application at hand, whether the propagating sound has a long wavelength or a short wavelength. Due to the frequency dependence on attenuation, this distortion also affects the path lengths over which the sound propagates. Infrasound, having a frequency below about 20 Hz, interacts mainly with the refractive structure of the troposphere and stratosphere. In contrast, practical considerations limit the frequencies of sound used in active devices for remote sensing of the turbulent boundary layer (the lowest few hundred meters of the atmosphere influenced by wind shear and heat flow at the surface) to the range of several hundred to a few thousand hertz. Such shorter wavelengths lie just in the middle of the range of turbulent velocity correlation lengths or "eddy" scales, having usually the values between about 1 cm and several scores of meters.

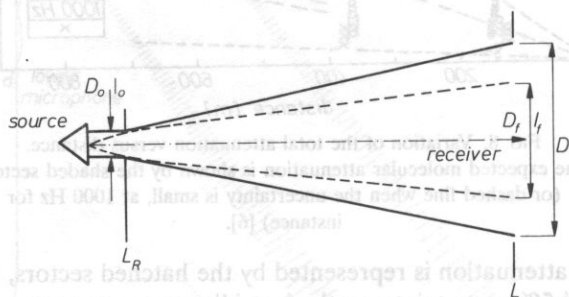


FIG. 9. Geometry of an acoustic beam propagation through turbulence [16].

Because of the acoustic wavelengths ordinarily found in problems of the propagation of sound through turbulence one can almost always assume that the structure function of the turbulent velocity fluctuations

$$D(\bar{r}_1, \bar{r}) = \langle |v(\bar{r}_1 + \bar{r}) - v(\bar{r}_1)|^2 \rangle, \quad (2.17)$$

(where angle brackets denote ensemble averaging) satisfies both the conditions of isotropy and local homogeneity $D(\bar{r}_1, \bar{r}) = D(r)$, and the Kolmogorov-Obukhov inertial range law

$$D(r) = C_v^2 r^{2/3}, \quad (2.18)$$

where $r = |\bar{r}|$. Equation (2.18) also defines the turbulent velocity fluctuation "structure constant" C_v^2 . Figure 10 shows that for the unstable case, C_v^2 varies with altitude.

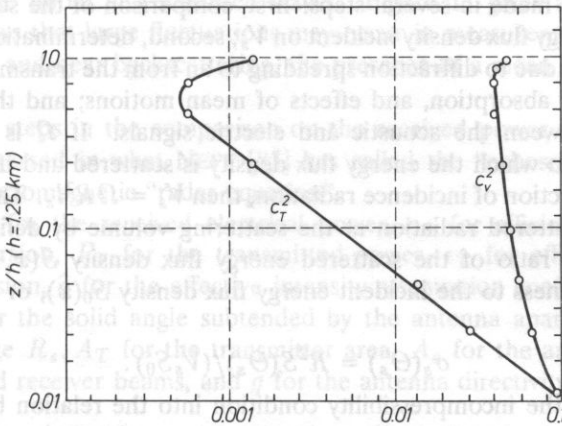


FIG. 10. Typical daytime profiles of $C_T^2 (K^2 m^{-2/3})$ and $C_V^2 (m^4/2 s^{-2})$ [16].

For stable atmospheres C_v^2 becomes small except for large values in layers of large shear associated either with winds or with internal waves.

Simplification of the equations of sound propagation is introduced by the assumption that the acoustic refractive index $n = c_0/c$ (c being the true velocity of sound and c_0 the reference velocity) behaves like a “passive additive”. This assumption implies that the fluctuations in n derive from the effect of the turbulent velocity fluctuation field acting on the mean vertical gradient of n in the atmosphere. With this assumption the structure function of refractive index fluctuations $D_n(r) = \langle |n(\bar{r}_1, +\bar{r}) - n(\bar{r}_1)|^2 \rangle$ also satisfies the Kolmogorov-Obukhov law in the form

$$D_n(r) = C_n^2 r^{2/3}. \tag{2.19}$$

The velocity of sound in a mixture of perfect gases depends on the temperature T and the combined molecular weight m according to the formula $c^2 = \gamma kT/m$, where γ is the combined specific heat ratio and k the Boltzmann constant. Writing $T = T_0 + T'$, where T_0 is the equilibrium temperature and e/p_0 for the ratio of the vapour pressure of water to the total pressure, WESELY [112], obtained the formula for the structure constant for refractivity fluctuations

$$C_n^2 = C_T^2/4T_0^2 + 2(0.307)C_{eT}/4p_0T_0 + (0.307)^2 C_e^2/4p_0^2, \tag{2.20}$$

where C_{eT}^2 is the parameter of cross-correlation of humidity and the temperature fluctuations.

2.4. Scattering

Scattering of sound by atmospheric fluctuation in “turbulence Mach number” and acoustic refractive index is the physical mechanism underlying the operation of the echosounder. Measurement of the characteristics of the received signal and comparison with the known properties of the transmitted signal provide all the acoustically obtainable information about the atmosphere in the scattering volume V_s at the range R . Such a

comparison must be made in several steps: first, comparison of the scattered energy flux density with the energy flux density incident on V_s ; second, determination of changes in the energy flux densities due to diffraction spreading to an from the transmitting and receiving antennas, molecular absorption, and effects of mean motions; and third, determination of the relations between the acoustic and electric signals. If Ω is the solid angle in the direction Θ_s into which the energy flux density is scattered and if l_s is the thickness measured in the direction of incidence radiation, then $V_s = \Omega R^2 l_s$. Thus we can compare the incident and scattered radiation at the scattering volume by defining the scattering cross-section as the ratio of the scattered energy flux density $S(x, \Theta_s)$ per unit solid angle and unit thickness to the incident energy flux density $S_0(x)$, or by using the above expression for V_s :

$$\sigma_s(\Theta_s) = R^2 S(\Theta_s) / (V_s S_0). \tag{2.21}$$

If we introduce the incompressibility condition into the relation between wave scattering and the inertial range three-dimensional spectrum of turbulence, and use the Born approximation to the acoustic equation, we can obtain an exact solution for $\sigma_s(\Theta_s)$.

MONIN [69] expressed the inertial range scattering cross-section as

$$\sigma_s(\Theta_s) = 1.52 k_0^{1/3} \cos^2 \Theta_s \{ a 13 C_n^2 + \cos^2(\Theta_s/2) C_v^2 / 4 C_0^2 \} \cdot [2 \sin(\Theta_s/2)]^{-11/3}, \tag{2.22}$$

where C_n^2 depends on temperature and water vapour fluctuation intensities according to (2.20). We see that when $\Theta = 90^\circ$ the scattering cross-section vanishes, and when $\Theta_s = 180^\circ$ (monostatic sounding), only the fluctuation in N contributes to σ_s . We should expect some changes in $\sigma_s(\Theta_s)$ when the mean wind is no longer zero, even if the frozen turbulence condition is applied to a coordinate system moving with the mean wind. CLIFFORD and BROWN [29] have found the principal effect a shift in the position of the zero cross-section at $\Theta_s = 90^\circ$ to a nearby angle, resulting from rotations of the

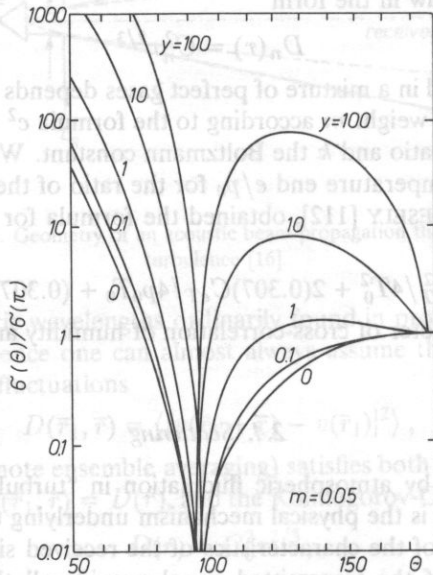


FIG. 11. Typical deformation in a scattering cross-section due to a 15ms^{-1} mean wind, where $\gamma = C_v^2 T_0^2 / C_r^2 C_0^2$ [29].

wave vectors of the initial and scattered waves. Figure 11 gives a typical example of the effect and shows that large fluctuations may occur in measurements near $\Theta_s = 90^\circ$. For backscattering and near backscattering, the presence of a mean wind produces small changes in σ_s .

The remaining steps in the comparison on the received power with the transmitted power can be expressed in what NEFF [85] has called the "echosounder equation", in analogy to the electromagnetic "radar equation".

If we use P_M for the received electrical power, ϵ_R for efficiency of the acoustic-to-electrical conversion, P_T for the transmitted power, ϵ_T for efficiency of electrical-to-acoustic conversion, \hat{a} for the effective intensity attenuation coefficient in nepers per meter, A_R/R_s^2 for the solid angle subtended by the antenna aperture A_R in square meters at the range R_s , A_T for the transmitter area, A_c for the area common to both the transmitter and receiver beams, and g for the antenna directivity gain factor, we can write

$$P_R/\epsilon_R = \epsilon_T P_T \exp[-\hat{a}(R_0 + R_s)] \cdot [(1 + \bar{e}_s \cdot \bar{M})A(\Theta_s(l_p/2)(gA_R/R_s^2)\sigma_s(\Theta_s))]. \quad (2.23)$$

Here \bar{M} is the turbulence Mach vector, the \bar{e}_s — unit vector in the direction of the scattered wave, l_p — length of scattered signal. The dimensionless aspect factor $A(\Theta_s)$ equals 1 for monostatic echosounders and approximately equals A_c/A_T for angles near 180° . For the general bistatic case, exact value of A requires computer solutions. Equation (2.23) represents the key link between the theory and experiment, the link between echosonde electrical power measurements and the values of C_n^2 and C_V^2 appearing in the theoretical relationship between wave scattering and turbulence.

3. Acoustic systems and constructions

MCALLISTER [80] used a sounder in the monostatic configuration in which the transmitting and receiving transducers are identical or, at least, nearly collocated. The simplified block diagram shown in Fig. 12 describes the equipment of McAllister.

In this system an acoustic tone burst is amplified, and the audio-signal P_T is sent through a switching device to the transmission transducer. After a suitable delay the transducer is switched to the receiving mode, in which the echo signal P_R is passed to the receiver amplifier and then to a display or recording device.

The present-day acoustic sounding arrangements are shown in Fig. 13.

In the case of a bistatic sounder, the scattering angle is less than 180° , and so the system is sensitive to scattering from both the temperature and velocity fluctuations.

In order to produce detectable echo signals, a high acoustic transmission power is desirable. This can be achieved with high electrical power to the antenna, implying high power handling capability and high antenna efficiency. For a high receiving power it is necessary to use an antenna with a large collecting area and to use the frequencies at which the atmospheric absorption is small, the acoustic absorption increasing rapidly with frequency. However, if the antenna is too large, the width of the beam becomes too narrow, what results in significant sound energy being lost due to refraction by wind [50, 73].

It is usually possible to construct amplifier with noise level well below the environmental noise contribution. However, in very quiet environments, the thermal noise in the

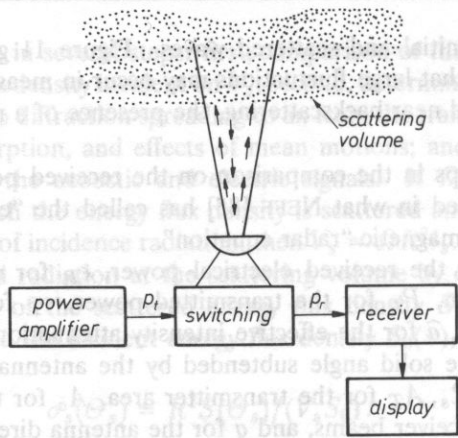


FIG. 12. Simplified block diagram of a monostatic sounder.

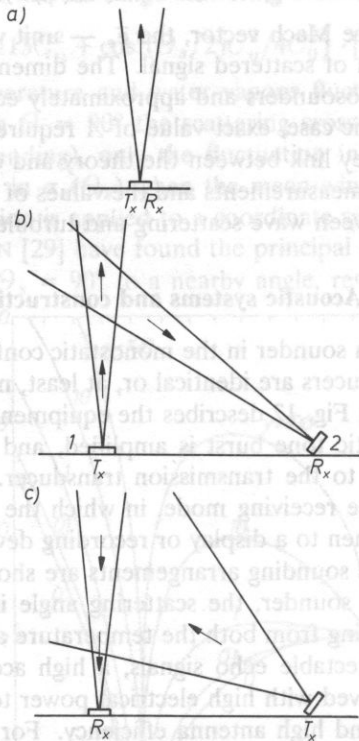


FIG. 13. Common acoustic sounding arrangements a) Monostatic single antenna used for transmission and reception b) narrow beam bistatic system for measurements at a single height, c) Broad beam transmitter probed by a narrow beam receiver used for obtaining profile information. Tx — transmitter; Rx — receiver.

receiver transducer may impose the limit on sensitivity. The intrusion of environmental noise can be minimized by a good antenna design, e.g. low side lobes and screening. Often a low-noise pre-amplifier is used in close proximity to the antenna to eliminate the problems caused by electrical pick-up when long cables (50–200 m) are used to connect the antenna to the receiver. The pre-amplifier incorporates a step-up transformer to match the antenna impedance of a few ohms to the inlet impedance of the receiver a few kilo-ohms.

In the desing of the receiver electronics the most important requirement is to separate the wanted narrow-band acoustic signal from the strong, usually broad-band, noise signal and thus a narrow-band filter is necessary.

Most conventional acoustic sounders use a carrier frequency in the region of 1 to 2 kHz with maximum useful ranges of a few hundred meters to a few kilometers. Operation at higher frequencies, greater than about 4 kHz, has a number of advantages [31, 74, 5]. However, these advantages are at the expense of reduced range because of the greater atmospheric acoustic attenuation at these frequencies.

The main limitations in the performance of an acoustic sounder often depend to a great extent on the characteristics of the antenna, since present-day electronics techniques are capable of achieving almost ideal performance in a sounding system.

There are three types of antenna in common use at frequency in the range of 1–5 kHz:

1) Conical horn antenna

This consist of one or more transducers acoustically coupled to a large impedance matching horn. The aperture diameter is usually 1–2 m to give a beam width of 5–10° and this kind of antenna is reported to have an efficiency of up to 50% [50].

2) Single horn and reflector

In this arrangement a transducer is mounted at or near the focus of a parabolic reflector. Acoustically damped microwave-type antenna reflectors of 1–2 m diameter are often used [50]. The side lobes levels of a horn and reflector system may be determined by the radiation from the transducer itself and hence extra care must be exercised in constructing the acoustic screening.

3) Array antennas

Here the antenna consists of a number of transducers usually in the form of a uniform planar array. The array characteristics, depend on both the array geometry and transducer properties, and wide variations are possible in both of these properties [73]. The polar characteristic of an array can easily be adjusted by changing the array element separation. In Fig. 14 are given the computed mean sound power levels over all azimuth angels as functions of elevation for three arrays.

These calculations are valid for square arrays of identical omnidirectional elements with a spacing of 0.15 m at a frequency of 1500 Hz and velocity of sound of 343 ms⁻¹. The improvement in beam characteristics with increasing numbers of elements is evident.

In the modern acoustic Doppler systems a system of three antennas is commonly used: one is vertical Fig. 15 and two are slanting.

There acoustic pulses had 100 ms lifetime, with a repetition rate of 4 s, corresponding to a range of about 650 m, with an observation every 17 m in height. The signals were digitized and a fast Fourier transform was performed to calculate the Doppler shift.

The electronic configuration of the FFT-type sodar is given in Fig. 16.

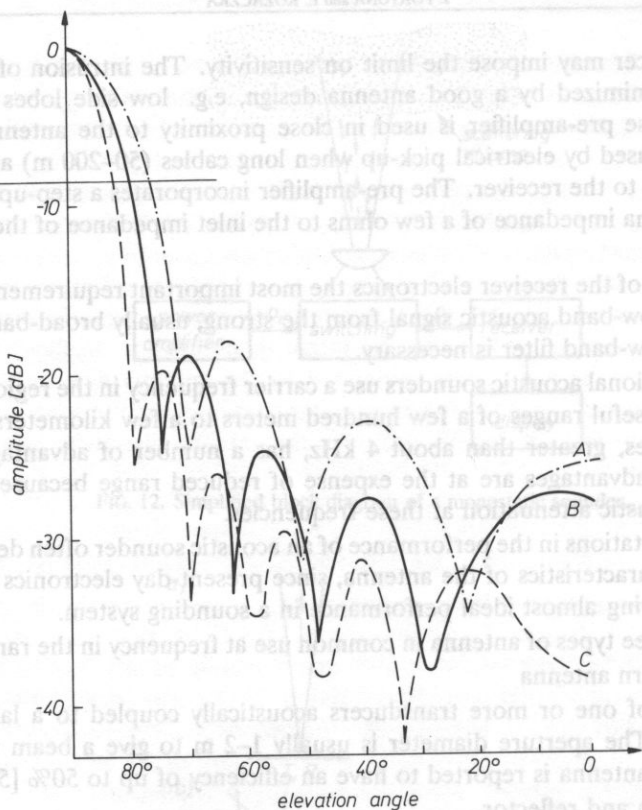


FIG. 14. The polar diagrams of three square arrays of 0.15 m spacing at 1500 Hz showing average level against of elevation A, 5 x 5; B, 7 x 7; C, 9 x 9 [73].

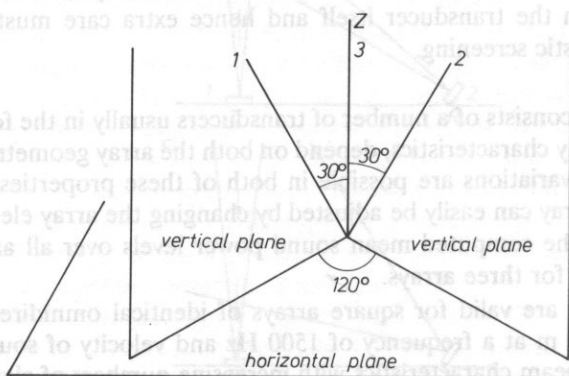


FIG. 15. Geometric configuration of the acoustic sounder three-antenna system. Antenna 1 and 2 are slanting, antenna 3 is vertical collinear with the vertical direction Z [108].

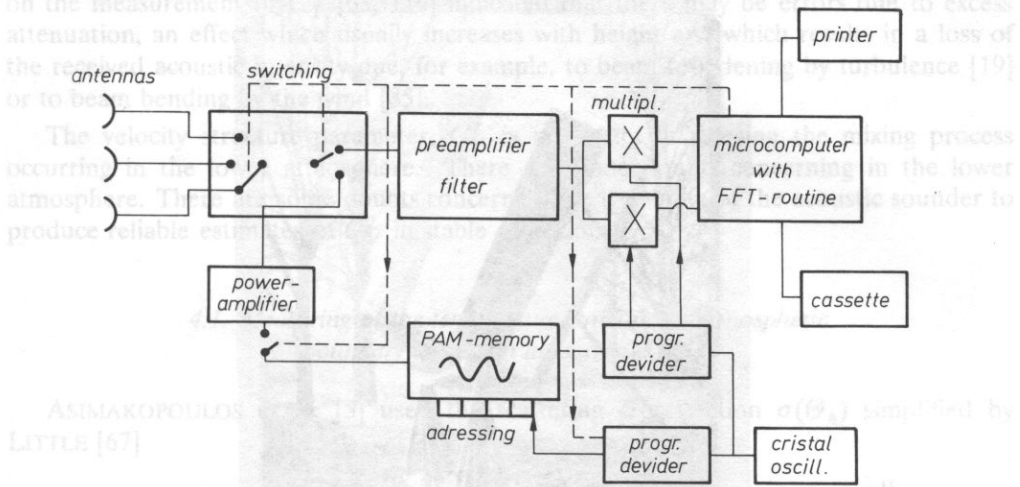


FIG. 16. Electronic configuration of the "FFT" sodar [10].

The electronics consists of emission-reception logic filtering circuits and a power amplifier. The filtering is done in two bands: 1) — the central band around the emission frequency through which the backscattered Doppler signal is coming, and 2) — two side bands which are used to monitor the magnitude of the background noise. The amplitude of the signal in both bands are measured by the microcomputer to calculate the signal-to-noise ratio.

The software in the microcomputer takes care of the following activities:

- emission-reception switching,
- sampling of signals (2 amplitudes and 1 frequency),
- invalidation of samples with poor S/N-ratio,
- correction of the frequency measurements as a function of signal,
- averaging,
- calculation of horizontal wind speed and standard deviation of the vertical component at the end of the averaging interval,
- printing of the results and storage on a cassette.

Figure 17 shows the modern acoustic sounder made by Military Technical Academy (WAT) and Naval Academy Poland. For instance, the echosonde PS/2 manufactured by Radian Co. (USA) are the following:

- 1) Doppler winds: vector, components, sigmas from 10–1000 m in 20 range gates.
- 2) Echo intensity: qualitative backscatter, C_T^2/C_n^2 from 10–2000 m in 200 range gates.
- 3) Mixing height: fully automatic mixing height, inversion detection and stability class.
- 4) Frequency: selectable from 1000–5000 Hz; 10–20 ms pulse.
- 5) Transmitting power: variable from 75–250 W.
- 6) Antenna aperture: available with 0.9 minisodar, 1.5 m or 1.8 diameter.
- 7) Unambiguous velocity: 0–30 m/s \pm 0.2 m/s.
- 8) Averaging period: 1–60 min.
- 9) Environmental: 0°–40° C, 95% humidity non condensing.

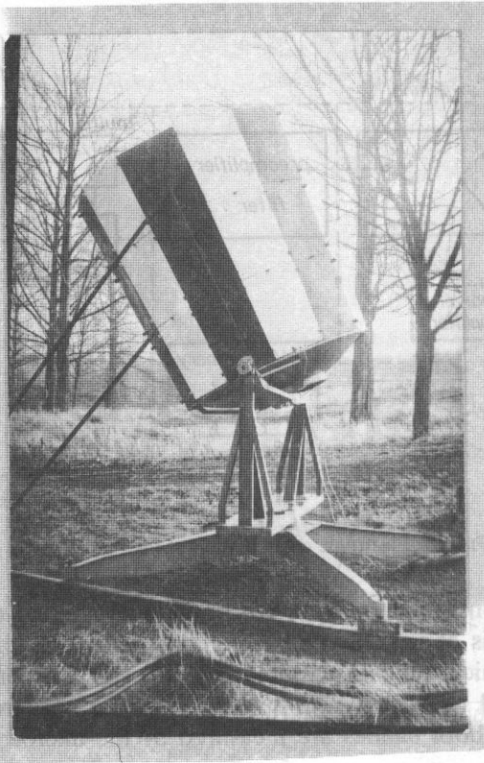


FIG. 17. Monostatic sodar made by WAT (Military Technical Academy) and AMW (Naval Academy).

- 10) Power: 115/220 vac \pm 5% 50/60 Hz.
- 11) Auxiliary inputs: 12 channels; 12-bit ADC.

4. Acoustic measurement of the parameters of the lower atmosphere

Acoustic sounding techniques have been extensively developed since the initial work of McALLISTER *et al.* [80] and LITTLE [66] provide a valuable method for remote probing of the atmospheric boundary layer. Many qualitative studies of frequently occurring atmospheric phenomena, such as thermal plumes, breaking waves and inversions have been reported [109, 116, 75, 38, 37, 22]. Qualitative information on important atmospheric parameters has also been obtained using the acoustic sounder [41, 54, 116, 38, 93]. The wind velocity has been derived from the Doppler shift of scattered sound, vertical velocity spectra and the velocity structure parameter C_V^2 can also be obtained from these measurements.

The temperature structure C_T^2 has been estimated from the magnitude of the returned signal of a monostatic sounder [33, 109, 116, 75, 38, 5, 76, 37, 22]. The determination of C_T^2 profiles is relevant to optical tracking [108] and could also be used to measure the vertical heat flux under the conditions of local free convection [114, 109]. Recent work

on the measurement of C_T^2 [63, 116] indicated that there may be errors due to excess attenuation, an effect which usually increases with height and which results in a loss of the received acoustic intensity due, for example, to beam broadening by turbulence [19] or to beam bending by the wind [85].

The velocity structure parameter, C_V^2 is important in assessing the mixing process occurring in the lower atmosphere. There are some doubts concerning in the lower atmosphere. There are some doubts concerning the capability of the acoustic sounder to produce reliable estimates of C_V^2 in stable conditions [75].

4.1. Measuring of the temperature structure of atmospheric boundary layer with an acoustic radar

ASIMAKOPOULOS et al. [5] used the scattering cross-section $\sigma(\Theta_s)$ simplified by LITTLE [67]

$$\sigma(\Theta_s) = 0.33k^{1/3} \cos^2 \Theta_s \left[\frac{C_V^2}{c^2} \cos^2 \left(\frac{\Theta_s}{2} \right) + 0.136 \frac{C_T^2}{T^2} \right] \cdot \left[\sin \left(\frac{\Theta_s}{2} \right) \right]^{\frac{-11}{3}}. \quad (4.1)$$

Here Θ_s is the scattering angle, k is the acoustic wave-number and C_V^2 and C_T^2 are the velocity and temperature structure parameters, respectively, defined by

$$C_V^2 = (\overline{\Delta u})^2 / \bar{r}^{2/3}, \quad (4.2)$$

$$C_T^2 = (\overline{\Delta T})^2 / \bar{r}^{2/3}. \quad (4.3)$$

Here \bar{r} is the distance between two points and Δu is the difference of the velocity components parallel to \bar{r} at these points. ΔT is the difference in temperature between the same points separated by a distance $r = (\bar{r})$ while T is absolute temperature in the scattering volume and c is the speed of sound. Equation (4.1) can be combined with the radar equation to give an expression for P_r , the received acoustic power [51]

$$P_r = P_T c \tau \sigma(\Theta_s) A_r \frac{B}{2R^2} \exp(-2\bar{\alpha}R). \quad (4.4)$$

Here P_T is the transmitted acoustic power, τ is the pulse length, A_r the collecting area of the acoustic antenna, and R the range of the scattering region; B is the beam-shape compensation factor which includes the efficiency of the loudspeaker in the receiving mode and allows for the directivity pattern of the antenna; $\bar{\alpha}$ is the mean value, averaged over the path of propagation, of the attenuation coefficient.

Using Eqs. (4.1) and (4.4) in monostatic operation for which $\Theta_s = 180^\circ$, C_T^2 can be written as

$$C_T^2 = \frac{0.54 P_r R^2 T^2 \lambda^{1/3}}{P_T c \tau A_T B} \exp(2\bar{\alpha}R), \quad (4.5)$$

where λ is the wavelength of the acoustic waves. Equation (4.5) takes into account neither the excess attenuation, i.e. the loss of acoustic intensity that results from refraction by the wind [85], nor the turbulent beam broadening [19].

The temperature structure parameter, C_T^2 can also be evaluated by means of the formula

$$C_T^2 = 13.6 S_T \left(\frac{n}{U} \right)^{2/3} n, \tag{4.6}$$

where n is the frequency in Hz, U the mean wind speed and $S_T \left(\frac{n}{U} \right)$ is the frequency spectrum.

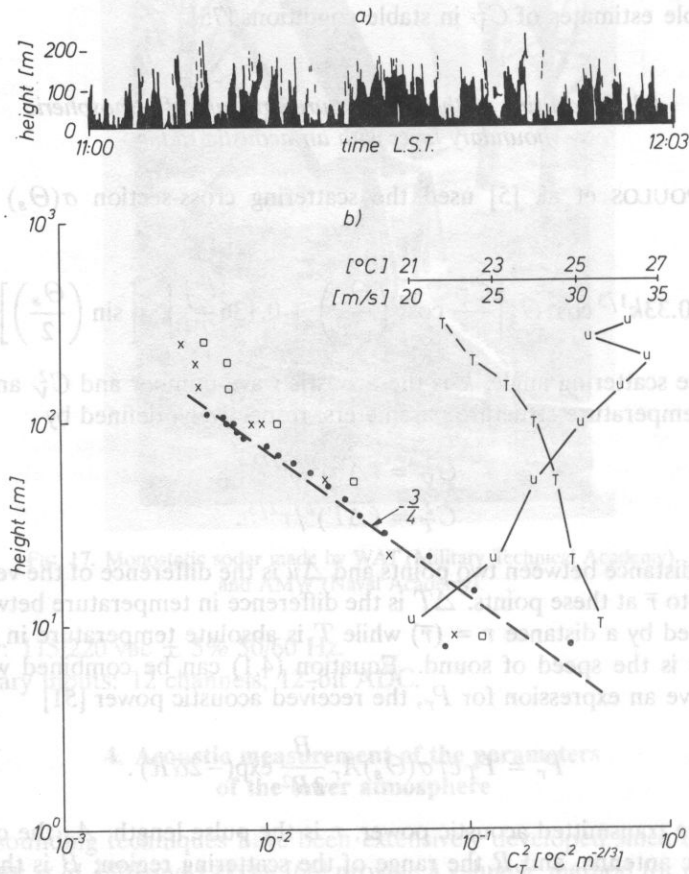


FIG. 18. Monostatic facsimile echoes from 4.7 kHz sodar for the period 11.00 to 12.00 LST on 27 August 1980 (a) and vertical profiles of mean C_T^2 estimates for the same period (b). The line represents $\sim z^{-4/3}$ variation with height and its portion is arbitrary. The C_T^2 estimates obtained by the acoustic sounder from Eq. (4.5) are indicated by (\bullet), the spectral tower estimates via Eq. (4.6) by (\square) and the "lag" tower estimates via Eq. (4.3) by (x).

In Fig. 18 profiles of C_T^2 is unstable conditions are shown along with the lower values at the appropriate heights. In Fig. 18, under unstable conditions, the agreement between the tower and the 4.7 kHz sounder is very good. The only difference between the tower and sounder measurements is at the 8 m level, where the proximity of struc-

tures near or at the base of the tower casts doubt on the assumption of isotropy that is necessary for the Eq. (4.6) utilized to reduce the tower data. The acoustic sounder estimates of C_T^2 follow the expected $-4/3$ variation with height [16] as do the tower data if the 8 m point is not taken into account. Above 100 m, the tower data diverge. This is probably due to the combination of reduced stability and large wind shear above the low level jet maximum seen in the mean wind profile, which may have introduced anisotropy.

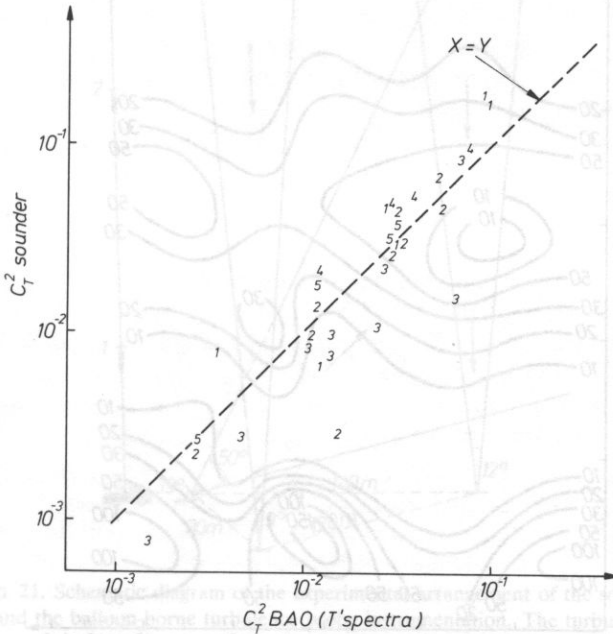


FIG. 19. Scatter diagram of acoustic sounder C_T^2 estimates against tower C_T^2 estimates.

Each digit represents the average of 1 hr. The numbers 1, 2 and 3 correspond to data obtained by the 4.7 kHz sounder at height 11, 22 and 50 m, respectively.

Numbers 4 and 5 correspond to data obtained by the 6.5 kHz sounder at 11 and 22 m. The line indicates perfect correlation [5].

Figure 19 shows the 1-hr averages for three different heights (11, 22, 50 m) from both sounders 4.7 kHz and 6.5 kHz and the tower. These runs cover both stable and convective conditions.

Figure 20 shows the distribution of C_T^2 on the time-height cross-section. From Fig. 20 it is seen that the distribution of C_T^2 has a horizontally stratified structure and many centers of C_T^2 exist in these layers. It also illustrates the fact that the horizontal distribution of C_T^2 is not uniform.

Figure 20 shows the distribution of C_T^2 on a time-height cross-section in unstable stratification. Figure 20 illustrates the presence of thermal plumes, characteristic of these conditions. It should also be noted that C_T^2 considerably increases within thermal plumes compared with the level outside the plumes. MOUSLEY *et al.* [76] have presented interesting results in measuring the temperature structure parameter C_T^2 using a novel bistatic

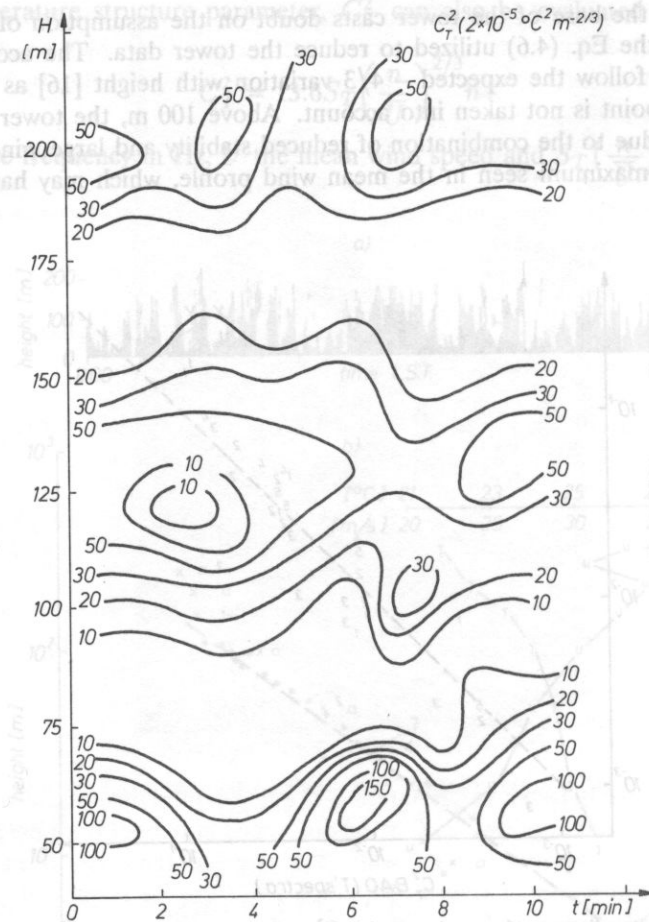


FIG. 20. Contour diagram of C_T^2 (stable stratification) [116].

sounder comprising a fan beam transmitter and a vertically directed receiver. Simultaneous profiles of the temperature structure parameter are obtained using a conventional monostatic sounder.

The experimental arrangement involving two synchronized acoustic sounders and the mobile balloon-borne turbulence probe system is illustrated in Fig. 21.

One sounder is a conventional vertically directed monostatic device with a single array antenna and is used to obtain profiles of the temperature structure parameter (C_T^2) up to height of 340 m. The other sounder is a novel bistatic system comprising a tilted fan beam transmitting array antenna located 140 m away from a vertically directed receiving array. This arrangement has the advantage that the receiving antenna points in the direction of the least ambient noise, which is usually produced mainly by wind or vehicles. Additionally, full advantage can be taken of the side lobe level reduction produced by the acoustic screening.

5. Measuring local phenomena and structure of the atmosphere by means of acoustic sounders

During the last few years much experimental effort has been devoted to the quantitative evaluation of acoustic sounding as a technique for remote probing of the lower atmosphere. The availability of acoustic facsimile records has provided a valuable insight into the structure of the boundary layer. The most important parameters which are measured are the amplitude and frequency spectra of the echoes which contain quantitative information on the structure of temperature and wind fluctuations in the boundary layer. For example, the occurrence of low-level thermal plumes could be of importance in assessing the occurrence of low-level turbulence. The occurrence of vertical velocity variance and turbulence dissipation can be used to assess the conditions concerning the diffusion of pollutants in the atmosphere.

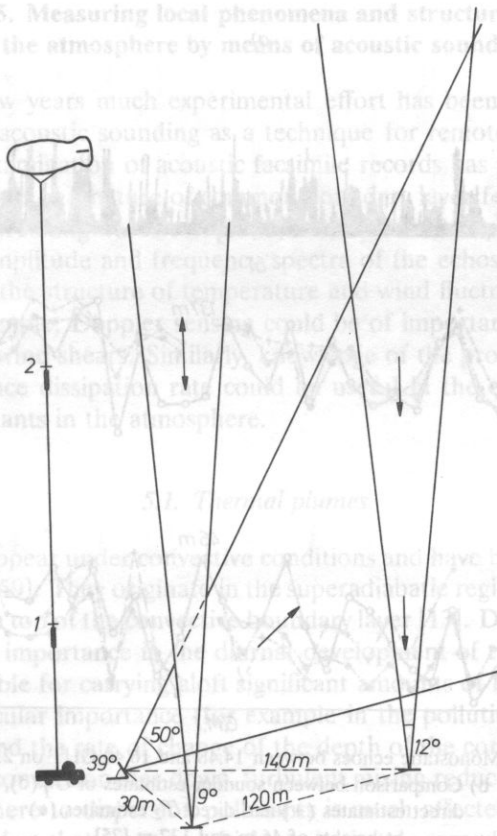


FIG. 21. Schematic diagram of the experimental arrangement of the sounders and the balloon-borne turbulence probe instrumentation. The turbulence probe heights are indicated by the numbers 1 and 2.

Figure 22 (a, b) shows the corresponding bistatic facsimile recording with the comparison of sounder and turbulence C_T^2 probe estimates. The corresponding monostatic facsimile is also shown (Fig. 22a) and illustrates the presence of thermal plumes.

There is a strong correlation between the C_T^2 -plots at the two heights due to the vertical organization of thermal plume structures. The mean spectral C_T^2 values at 46 m and 137 m of $5.4 \times 10^{-4} K^2 m^{-2/3}$, respectively, are of the same orders as those reported by KAIMAL [58] and CAUGHEY [23] for these heights in the convective boundary layer.

WEIL *et al.* [109] described a method of evaluation of heat flux profile in the well-mixed layer and heat flux of the surface layer using the vertical velocity variance measured by the Doppler shift of the acoustic sounder. Moreover, they made a comparative evaluation of the different expressions for C_T^2 in the convective boundary layer, and showed that measurement of the vertical velocity variance w'^2 and of the inversion height Z_i , by means of an acoustic sounder, could give good C_T^2 estimates. Their method has the advantage of short measuring times necessary to compute the heat flux and makes it possible to take account of several thermal plumes.

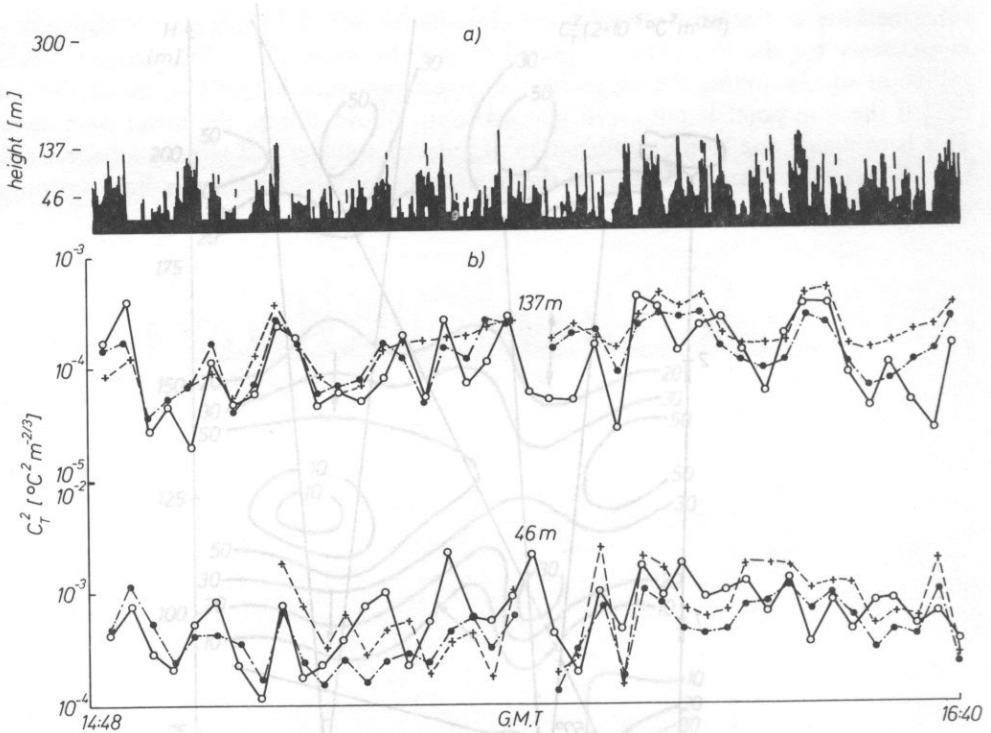


FIG. 22. a) Monostatic echoes between 14.48 and 16.40 GMT on 21 June 1977,
 b) Comparison between sounder estimates of C_T^2 (o),
 direct estimates (+) and direct T_2 estimates (•)
 at heights of 46 m and 137 m [75].

Table 1. Evaluation of Q_0 Kms^{-1} [109]

Local time	h' (m)	Z_i (m)	Q_0 (Kms^{-1})	
			Evaluated by vertical velocity variance method	INRA
0658-0728	220	200	0.047	0.052
0728-0758	260	260	0.067	0.052
1032-1102	645	660	0.11	0.09
1102-1132	750	755	0.16	0.09

Here Q_0 — surface layer heat flux, Z_i — inversion heights, h' — height at which heat flux vanishes.

Table 1 shows the good agreement between the two methods of surface heat flux computation.

The results illustrate the usefulness of the method presented there to observe changes in heat flux with time.

To conclude indirect measurements of PBL parameters can be more representative than direct measurements, because the latter can be sensitive to local conditions, particularly in the surface layer [115].

5. Measuring local phenomena and structure of the atmosphere by means of acoustic sounders

During the last few years much experimental effort has been devoted to the quantitative evaluation of acoustic sounding as a technique for remote probing of the lower atmosphere. Visual examination of acoustic facsimile records has provided a valuable insight into the occurrence and nature of common boundary layer features; thermal plums, nocturnal inversions, breaking waves etc. [33, 1, 24, 39]. However, of a potentially greater importance are the amplitude and frequency spectra of the echos which contain quantitative information on the structure of temperature and wind fluctuations in the boundary layer studies. For example, Doppler sensing could be of importance in assessing the occurrence of low-level wind shears. Similarly, knowledge of the profiles of vertical velocity variance and turbulence dissipation rate could be useful in the experiments concerning the diffusion of pollutants in the atmosphere.

5.1. Thermal plumes

Thermal plumes appear under convective conditions and have been observed by in-situ sensor for same time [59]. They originate in the superadiabatic region near the ground and normally extend to the top of the convective boundary layer [13]. Direct observations show that they are of great importance in the diurnal development of the boundary layer over land and are responsible for carrying aloft significant amounts of heat and moisture from the surface. Of particular importance (for example in the pollution studies), is the time onset of convection and the rate of change of the depth of the convective layer. Similarly in the evening, when convection dies down, turbulent mixing reduced dramatically and the ability of the atmosphere to dispersion pollutants is much affected. Considerations such as these illustrate the fact that a system which can remotely record the state of convection over long periods of time is likely to be of considerable usefulness.

A typical example of thermal plume structures as recorded by an acoustic sounder is shown in Fig. 23a. This was recorded on a clear day in light wind conditions over a dry short grass surface in summer, using a monostatic sounder operating at 2048 Hz [75].

The plume structure seen by the sounder extends to a height of about 200 m while the apparent plume diameter contracts or sometimes remains approximately constant as a function of height. The transmitted frequency determines not only the atmospheric absorption of the acoustic signal, and hence the range of the system, but is also related to the scale of the atmospheric turbulence which the sounder will observe. An example of acoustic sounder facsimile recordings of thermal plumes obtained by simultaneous application of three soundings frequencies is shown in Fig. 23. Figure 23a,b,c were obtained from closely spaced sounders operating at 2.05 kHz, 4.7 kHz and 6.5 kHz, respectively. The three records, although showing different plume heights, do nevertheless agree remarkably well as for as the relative positions and basic shapes of the plumes are concerned. Normally the monostatic acoustic sounders are directed vertically or at a large angle to the horizontal direction. This is necessary, particularly for a sounder at the ground level, since reflections from near objects (e.g. trees and buildings) or from the ground itself can be received via the antenna side lobes. These echoes are often of greater amplitude than the atmosphere returns. However, sounders which operate at the relatively high

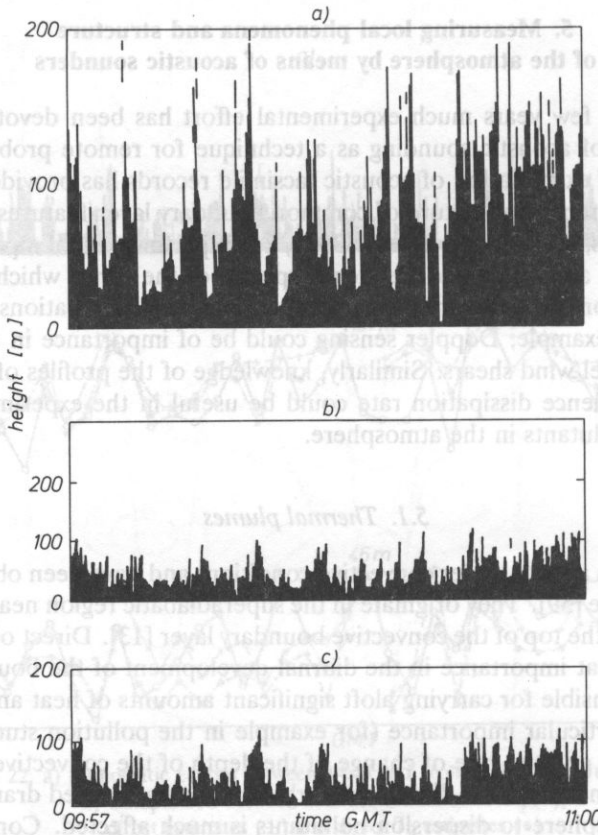


FIG. 23. Acoustic sounder facsimile records of thermal plumes for the period 09.57 — 11.00 GMT on 18 August 1978, obtained using three sounders operating at frequency a) 2048 Hz, b) 4.7 kHz, c) 6.5 kHz [75].

frequencies of 4.7 and 6.5 kHz [74] use small antennas, the side lobes of which can be efficiently screened with a minimum of acoustic absorbing material. The main disadvantage of using high-frequency sound is the reduction of the useful range from which echoes may be received. For these sounders, the maximum range is about 200–300 m. Due to their portability, these antennas can readily be mounted on a tower and directed almost horizontally. The convective boundary layer can be studied by simultaneous application of horizontal and vertical acoustic sounding.

MOULSLEY et al. [74] used 6.5 kHz and 4.7 kHz sounders to investigate convective structures of the boundary layer. The 4.7 kHz sounder was directed vertically and 6.5 kHz sounder could be directed at angles between 0 and 15 deg above the horizon. The sounders were operated with pulse duration of either 31 or 62 ms and to a pulse repetition frequency of 0.5 Hz, which corresponds to a maximum unambiguous range of about 340 m. Figure 24 shows facsimile records obtained from simultaneous horizontal and vertical soundings. For each of the records, the lower half of the figure shows the conventional vertical monostatic record. We can observe the presence of thermal plumes and the commonly observed intense low-level echoes together with a fairly rapid decrease in

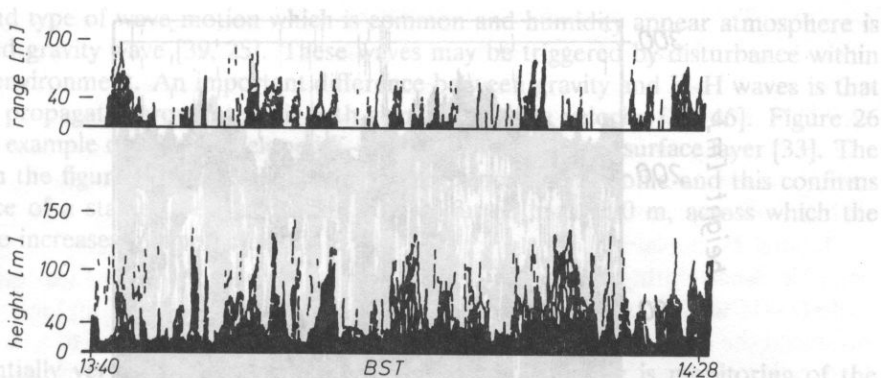


FIG. 24. Facsimile records for 18 September, 1978 between 13.40 and 14.28 BST.

The upper trace is due to the horizontal sounder pointing downwind at an angle of elevation of 5 deg. The lower trace is due to the vertically pointing sounder. From MOUSLEY *et al.* [74].

echo strength with height, corresponding to the reduction of the temperature structure parameter in convective conditions (KAIMAL *et al.* [58]).

The remarkable degree of similarity between the facsimile record of vertical and horizontal sounding is noteworthy. The significant differences, however, are the angle appearance of the plumes when sounding downwind, the less marked reduction of the echo signal with range, and the absence of a high echo strength at a close range.

The horizontal sounding technique may provide quantitative information on the spatial variability of atmospheric turbulence which could prove to be particularly interesting under stable conditions, when the interpretation of vertical sounding return is difficult.

5.2. Inversions

One of the most useful applications of acoustic sounding may well prove to be the monitoring of inversions within the lowest few kilometers of the atmosphere. These are regions in which the temperature increases with height, contrary to the normal decrease typical of the troposphere.

Inversions are of great meteorological significance since their presence may indicate preferred regions for strong wind shear which can be of importance to aviation. They can also sometimes limit the growth of the convective boundary layer and, hence, influence such parameters as the maximum daytime temperature, visibility etc. In some cases the height of the lowest inversion may be taken as the depth of the convective boundary layer which is an important scaling parameter in the description of turbulence in the lower atmosphere, and is relevant to the dispersal of pollutants.

An acoustic record taken on 28 October 1975 between 13.35–14.45 GMT, when the convective boundary layer was capped by a strong (~ 10 K) inversion with a base at about 200 m, is shown in Fig. 25.

The interaction of turbulent convective plumes with the region of strong temperature gradients generates an intense echo layer. This interface represents the maximum convection on this day and may be taken as the boundary layer depth [60].

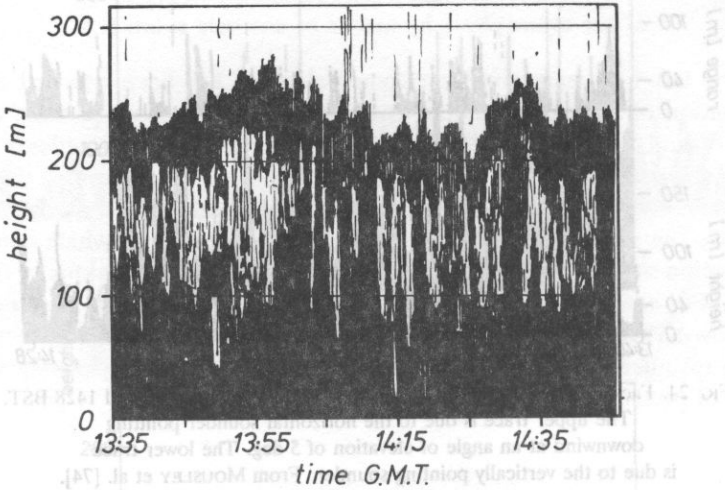


FIG. 25. Sounder facsimile chart for the period 13.35 — 14.45G HT on 28 October 1975.

5.3. Stable conditions and waves

Acoustic sounding offers an excellent method for remotely assessing the significance of wave motion [39]. The most common form of wave-like activity in the boundary layer is the Kelvin-Helmholtz (K-H) instability. This occurs in layers where the static stability is much lower than average, i.e. where large gradients of temperature and humidity appear.

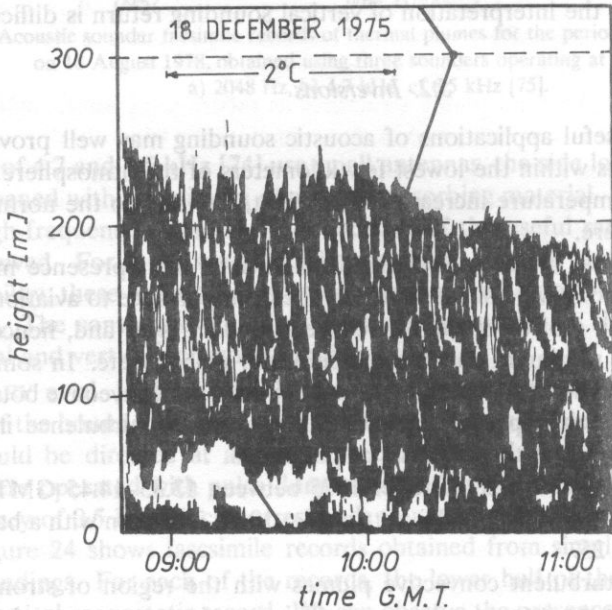


FIG. 26. Kelvin-Helmholtz waves in a surface based stable layer. The solid line indicates the temperature profile at this time [33].

A second type of wave motion which is common and humidity appear atmosphere is the so-called gravity wave [39, 25]. These waves may be triggered by disturbance within the stable environment. An important difference between gravity and K-H waves is that the former propagate through the air with significant phase velocity [39, 46]. Figure 26 presents an example of a well-developed K-H breakdown in a near surface layer [33]. The solid line in the figure indicates the current mean temperature profile and this confirms the presence of a stable layer, extending from about 60 m to 300 m, across which the temperature increases by approximately 2 K.

5.4. Acoustic sounding of clouds

A potentially very important application of acoustic sounding is monitoring of the height of low level layer cloud or fog top [87, 57]. Since the cloud layer is turbulent intense small-scale variations in temperature are generated at cloud top and, hence, they generate acoustic returns. Acoustic scattering has also been observed to occur at the boundaries of cumulus cloud [41]. An acoustic sounding system placed on the NOAA ship "Oceanographer" during GATE provided a unique meteorological data set [41]. The sounder was a radar-like device in that it emitted short bursts (200 ms) of acoustic energy at regular intervals (typically, once every 5 s). Three distinct boundary-layer situ-

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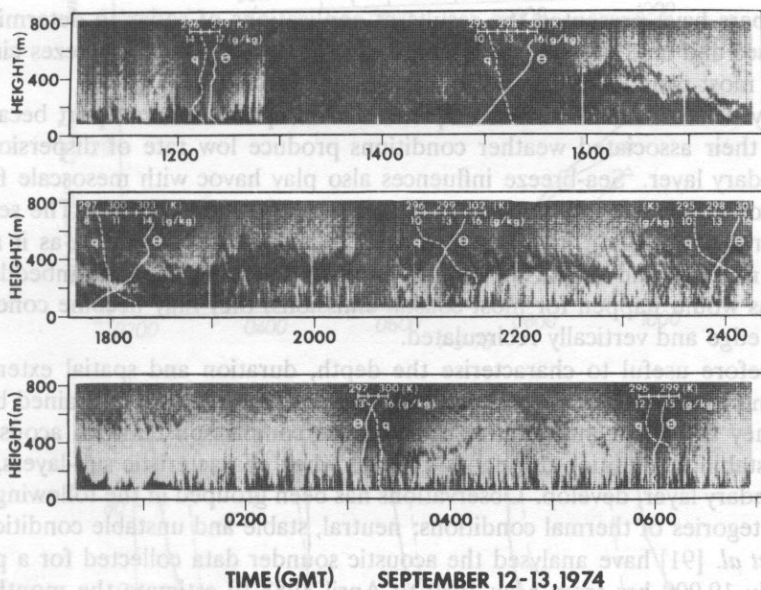


FIG. 27. An acoustic facsimile recorded during the passage of an organized squall line with radiosonde profiles of potential temperature θ and mixing ratio q . The profiles have been placed on the facsimile approximately at the correct flight times.

From GAYNOR and MANDICS [42].

ations appear on the facsimile records of backscattered acoustic intensity: 1) ubiquitous plume echoes associated with undisturbed conditions; 2) cool-air outflows (or wakes) from either squall-line or isolated cumulonimbus activity associated with disturbed conditions and 3) "hat" or "hummock" — shaped echoes associated with low-level cumulus clouds usually occurring during weakly disturbed conditions. Profiles of potential temperature and mixing ratio from radiosonde flights launched from the "Oceanographer" are compared with the acoustic data (comp. Fig. 27).

Figure 27 shows the time-height facsimile records of the intensity of backscattered acoustic signals during the passage of an intense, organized squall line. Scattering by small-scale (~ 0.1 m) turbulent temperature (and, to a lesser extent, humidity) inhomogeneities produced the dark regions seen in the record; white areas correspond to a lack of scatter. Convective plumes observed during GATE were less vigorous than those seen over land. Bulk aerodynamic fluxes of surface sensible and latent heat varied in time with the passage of thermal plumes. The rate of dissipation of turbulent kinetic energy was calculated in the upper mixed layer using an acoustic Doppler — differencing technique. Many of the dynamical aspects of the tropical marine boundary layer can be identified and analyzed using the acoustic sounder as a tool. Using Doppler derived vertical velocities along with the in situ meteorological data, were identified some of the structures seen with the sounder for marine boundary layer of atmosphere.

5.5. Sea and land breezes

Many papers have presented the results of applications of sodar to determining the structure of sea and land breezes at coastal site [1, 9, 91, 67]. The sea-breezes circulation is one of the most prominent mesoscale features in coastal areas.

The study of sea-breezes has consequence for air pollution transport because sea-breezes and their associated weather conditions produce low rate of dispersion in the coastal boundary layer. Sea-breeze influences also play havoc with mesoscale forecasts, such as would be necessary for a Nuclear Emergency (THUILLER [106]). The sea-breeze can cause a rapid transition in near-shore wind directions and stabilities as it advances inland in the morning and retreats in the afternoon. If pollutants become embedded in the sea-breeze, as would happen for most coastal emissions, they may become concentrated on the front edge and vertically recirculated.

It is therefore useful to characterise the depth, duration and spatial extent at the sea-breeze and the turbulence associated with it. Similar results were obtained by BACCI *et al.* [9]. They turn their attention to a qualitative comparison between acoustic radar returns and stability condition during sea-breezes when characteristic sub-layers, like the internal boundary layer, develop. Observations has been grouped in the following analysis into three categories of thermal conditions: neutral, stable and unstable conditions.

RAGHU *et al.* [91] have analysed the acoustic sounder data collected for a period of approximately 19,000 hrs from May 1980 to April 1983 to estimate the monthly mean percentage time of occurrence of sea breezes, thermal plumes and nocturnal inversions with respect to total time of observations.

The occurrence of sea-breezes at coastal zones reduced both the convective instability and nocturnal stability. Information about such changes in stability is useful as input to prediction models of atmospheric diffusion in a coastal industrial cities.

In recent paper JURY and SPENCER-SMITH [57] have investigated summer weather conditions along the west coast of Africa near 34°S, 18°E using Doppler acoustic sounder profiles.

Case studies were selected from two year record of composite analyses over the diurnal cycle.

AGGARWAL *et al.* [1] made observations by an acoustic sounder and on a meteorological tower at Tarapur (India). The probing range of the acoustic sounder was 700 m. The meteorological tower sensed wind and temperature at various level up to a height of 120 m. The site being close to the sea shore, the thermal environment of the lower atmosphere is controlled mostly by land and sea-breeze circulations. Thermal convective

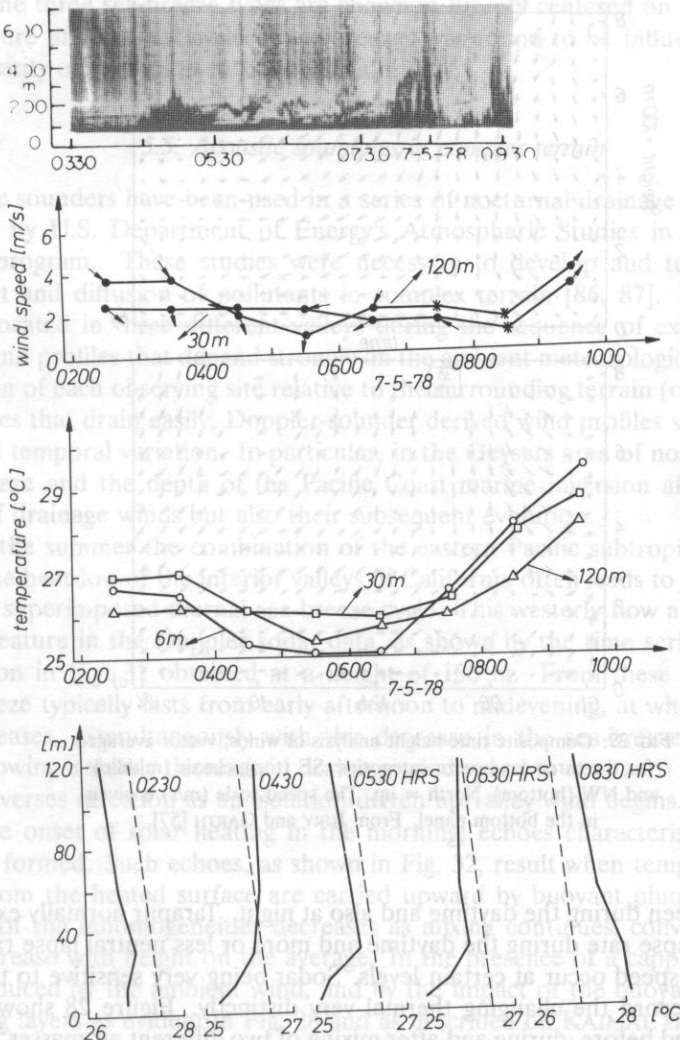


FIG. 28. Sodar structure observed in May 7, 1978 during the transition period of mixing of the different air masses [1].

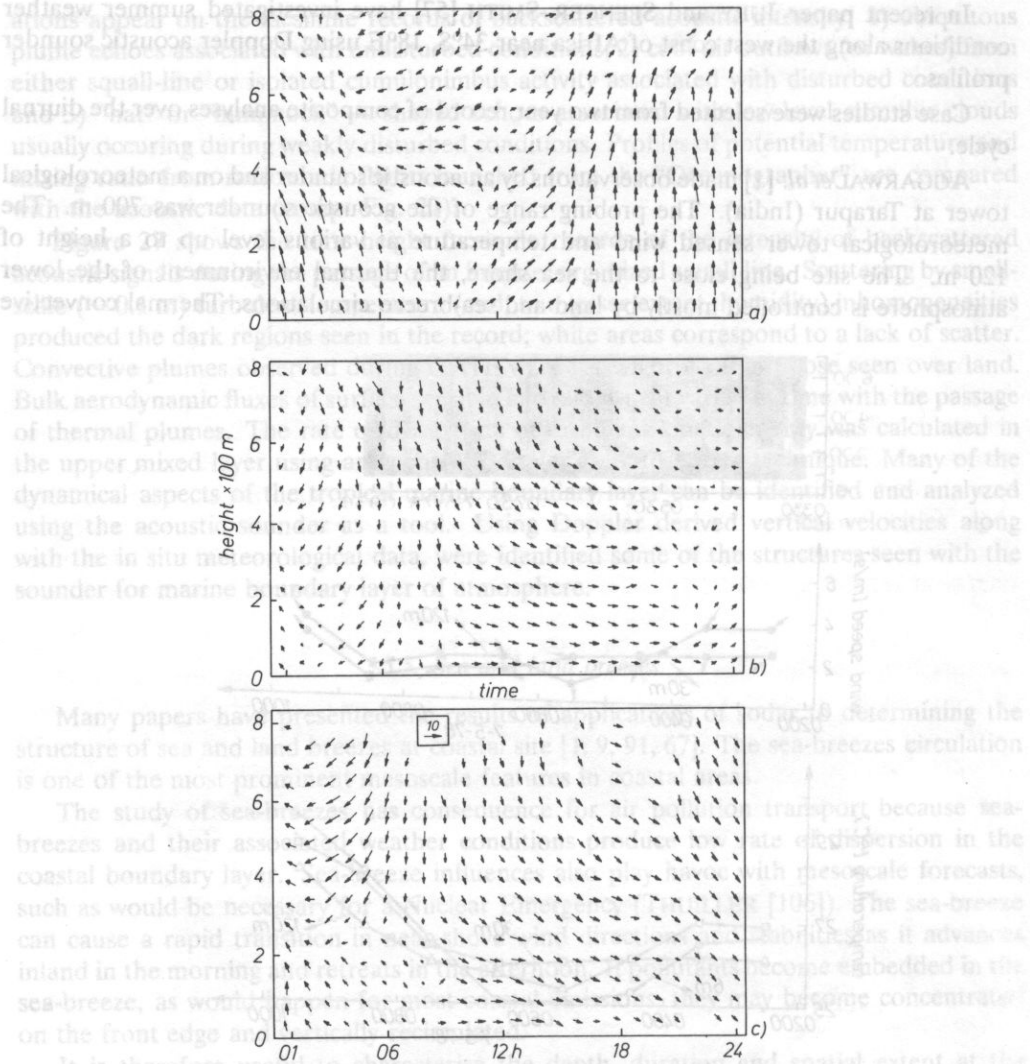


FIG. 29. Composite time-height analysis of winds, vector averaged for the three sea-breeze categories: SE (top), classic (middle) and NW (bottom), North = up. The speed scale (m/s) is given in the bottom panel. From JURY and GARTH [57].

structures were seen during the daytime and also at night. Tarapur normally experiences a super-adiabatic lapse rate during the daytime and more or less neutral lapse rate at night. Changes in wind speed occur at certain levels. Sodar being very sensitive to temperature changes, it can record the changing thermal very distinctly. Figure 28 shows the sodar echogram obtained before, during and after mixing of two different air masses. At 0.4.03 h the inversion becomes suddenly stronger (about 0.8°C) and winds show a sudden change in direction at the 6 and 30 m levels. The wind which was NNW-N at 30 m shifts to

N-NNE. This sudden change in wind direction is associated with a land breeze at the lower level. The change of wind direction from sea to land is also associated with the establishment of an elevated layer as can be seen in the echograms from 0.5.30 h onwards in Fig. 29.

The sounder climatology illustrate the four-dimensional characteristic of sea-breezes near Cape Town. It become apparent that different types of sea-breezes on the basis of the direction of the upper boundary-layer flow in relation to the time of day. The three types were named SE, classic and NW. Each of the categories represented a distinct type, the SE being a weakening and veering of the gradient trade wind, the classic being the traditional land sea-breeze and the NW being characterised by NE winds in the morning and generally NW winds in the upper boundary layer. Time-height analyses of the wind vectors of the three sea-breeze types are shown in Fig. 29 centered on mid-day.

The nature and diurnal cycle of sea-breezes was found to be influenced also by the non-stationarity of synoptic weather conditions.

5.5. Acoustic soundings in complex terrain

Acoustic sounders have been used in a series of nocturnal drainage flow experiments carried out by U.S. Department of Energy's Atmospheric Studies in Complex Terrain (ASCOT) program. These studies were necessary to develop and test better models of transport and diffusion of pollutants in complex terrain [86, 87]. Doppler acoustic sounders, located in three different valleys during the sequence of experiments, reveal drainage-wind profiles that depend strongly on the ambient meteorological conditions and the elevation of each observing site relative to the surrounding terrain (comp. Fig. 30). In elevated sites that drain easily, Doppler-sounder derived wind profiles show considerable vertical and temporal variation. In particular, in the Geysers area of northern California, the sea-breeze and the depth of the Pacific Coast marine inversion affect not only the imitation of drainage winds but also their subsequent evolution.

During the summer the combination of the eastern Pacific subtropical high pressure zone and the heat-low of the interior valleys of California often leads to a strong on shore flow with a superimposed diurnal sea-breeze cycle. This westerly flow also appeared as a persistent feature in the Doppler sodar data, as shown by the time series of wind speed and direction in Fig. 31 obtained at a height of 150 m. From these data we see that the sea-breeze typically lasts from early afternoon to midevening, at which time the wind speed decreases. Simultaneously with this decrease in the sea-breeze, drainage winds begin. Following a steady decrease in drainage wind speed to near zero by early morning, the wind reverses direction as an isolation-driven up-valley wind begins.

With the onset of solar heating in the morning, echoes characteristic of convective activity are formed. Such echoes, as shown in Fig. 32, result when temperature inhomogeneities from the heated surface are carried upward by buoyant plumes. Because the magnitude of the inhomogeneities decreases as mixing continues, convective echo magnitudes decrease with height on the average. In the presence of a capping inversion, the mixing produced by the ambient wind, and by the impact of the buoyant parcels results in scattering layers as evident in Fig. 28 and as described on KAIMAL *et al.* [60].

In Fig. 33 we show echoes from the top a stratus layer. Figure 33 is an example of sodar echo pattern corresponding to low stratus filling the valley. Variations in the height

observation of complex terrain flows

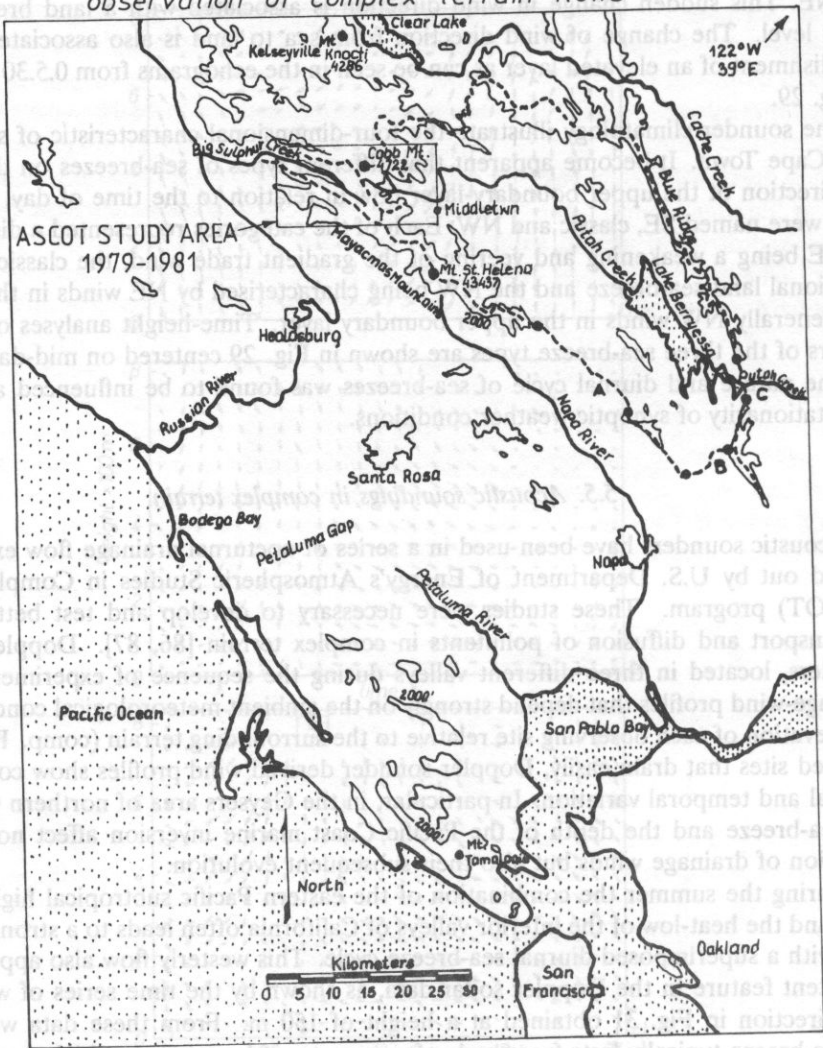


FIG. 30. Major topographic features surrounding the Geysers study area used in the ASCOT experiments carried out between 1979 and 1981.

of the echoes correspond to variations in the height of the stratus layer. The thickness of the layer presumably corresponds to the amount of shear at the top of the cloud and the thickness of inversion at or above cloud top [87].

MAZANDER and WEILL [72] presented first observations of dynamic influence of the forest on the boundary layer using two sodars. With such an experimental system, it has been possible to characterize the forest surface and boundary layers, and to estimate a difference of the turbulent frictional force between two sites differing by the nature of the canopy (forest and bare soil). Figure 34 displays the diurnal variation of the horizontal wind direction and speed observed above the two sites at an altitude level of 34 m. The

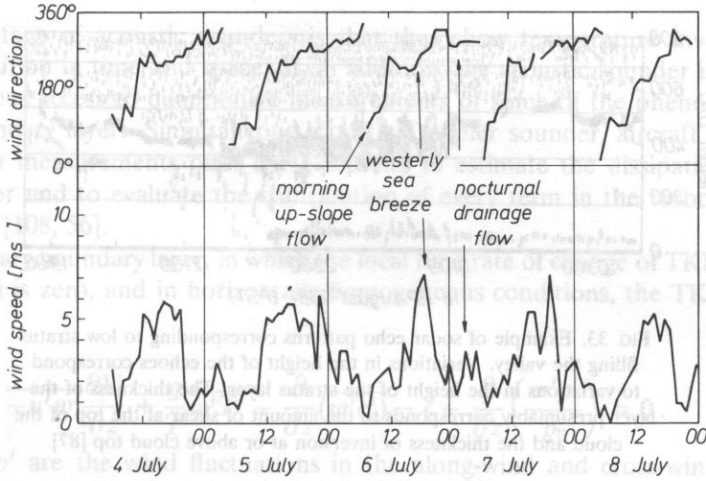


FIG. 31. Diurnal wind cycle, during well developed sea breeze regime, measured at 150 m above the surface using the Doppler sodar. The sea-breeze, nocturnal drainage, and morning upslope flows are indicated.

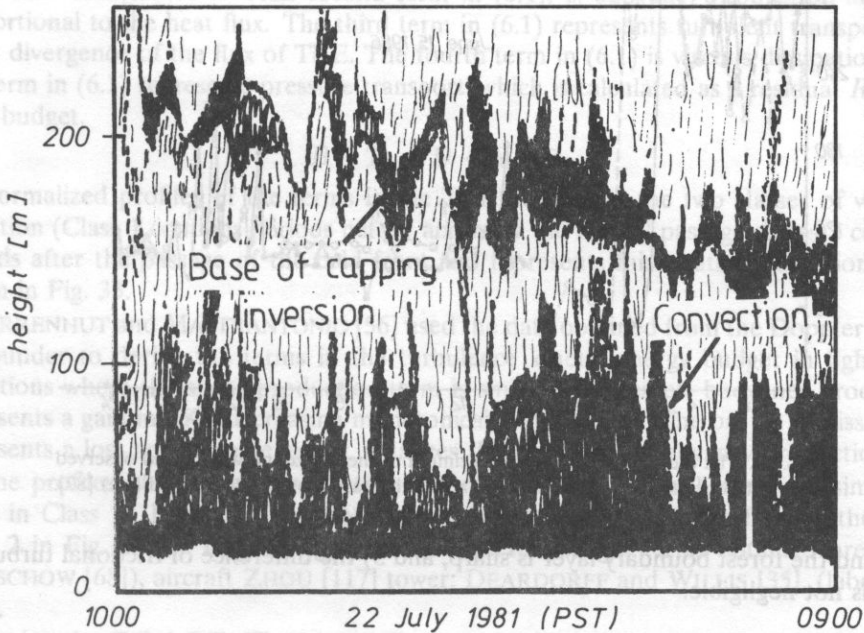


FIG. 32. Example of sodar echo patterns in the case of convection from a heated slope together with a capping inversion [87].

dashed line corresponds to the unforested area and the full line to the forested site. The sodar observations made enable us to conclude that 1) the forest frictional effect depends on the wind regime (magnitude and direction), 2) the transition between the forest surface

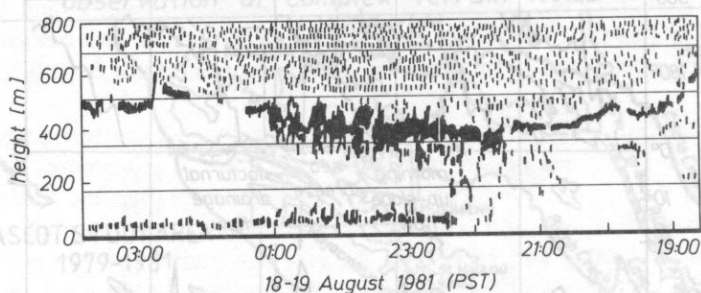


FIG. 33. Example of sodar echo patterns corresponding to low stratus filling the valley. Variations in the height of the echoes correspond to variations in the height of the stratus layer. The thickness of the layer presumably corresponds to the amount of shear at the top of the cloud and the thickness of inversion at or above cloud top [87].

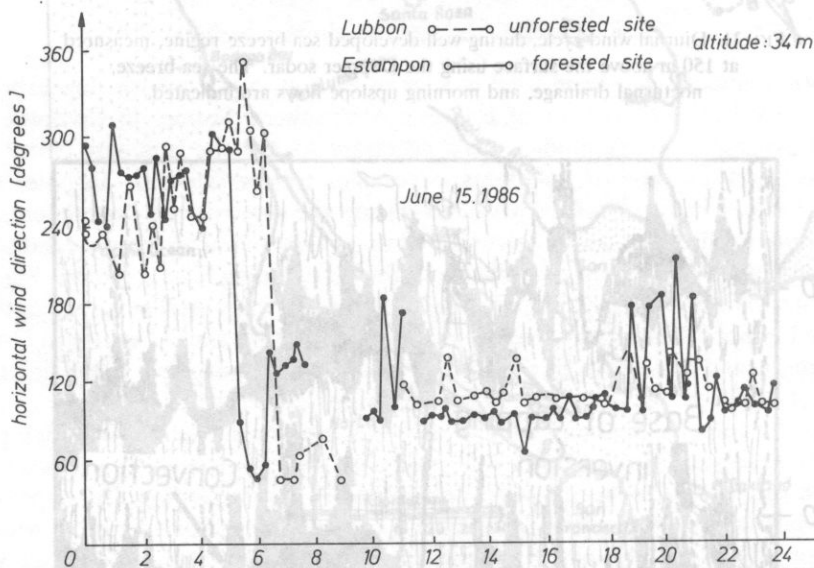


FIG. 34. The diurnal variation of the azimuth of the horizontal wind speed observed above the forested side (full line) and above the base-ground site (dashed line) [87].

layer and the forest boundary layer is sharp, and 3) the difference of frictional turbulence stress is not negligible.

6. Study of the turbulence structure of boundary layer of atmosphere

Knowledge of the turbulence structure associated with temperature inversions is of fundamental importance in boundary-layer modeling and in the study of the diffusion of contaminants.

One advantage of acoustic sounders is that they show temperature inversion layer and their evolution in time and space. If, in addition, the acoustic sounder is a Doppler sounder, one has access to quantitative measurements of some of the phenomena in the planetary boundary layer. Simultaneous acoustic Doppler sounder, aircraft and meteorological tower measurements offer the possibility to estimate the dissipation rate in a convective layer and to evaluate the contribution of every term in the turbulent kinetic energy budget [108, 56].

In a stationary boundary layer, in which the local time rate of change of TKE (turbulent kinetic energy) is zero, and in horizontally homogeneous conditions, the TKE budget is given by [21]

$$-u'w' \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} + \frac{g}{T} w'T' - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w'e') - \epsilon - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\frac{w'p'}{\rho_0} \right) = 0. \quad (6.1)$$

Here u' and v' are the wind fluctuations in the along-wind and cross-wind direction, respectively; p' is the pressure fluctuation and ρ_0 the air density, w' is wind fluctuation in vertical direction, T' is fluctuation of absolute temperature, T , ϵ is dissipation rate, V is the mean wind.

The first term in (6.1) is shear production, which represents the rate at which the mean flow contributes to TKE second term in (6.1), is buoyancy production and it is proportional to the heat flux. The third term in (6.1) represents turbulent transport and is the divergence of the flux of TKE. The fourth term in (6.1) is viscous dissipation. The last term in (6.1) represents pressure transport, which is calculated as a residual R in the TKE budget.

$$B + T_r + D + R = 0. \quad (6.2)$$

Normalized profiles of the terms in the TKE budget for the two classes of weather condition (Class 1 contains periods before and after the frontal passage, Class 2 contains periods after the passage of the cold front and represents fair-weather conditions), are shown in Fig. 35.

GREENHUT and MASTRANTONIO [56] used the data obtained from the Doppler acoustic sounder to derive the terms in the turbulence kinetic energy budget in light wind conditions where the shear production term is small. In all cases, buoyancy production represents a gain in TKE decreasing monotonically with height. The profile of dissipation represents a loss and to some extent, balances the gain due to buoyancy production.

The profiles of buoyancy production and dissipation in Class 1 are quite similar to those in Class 2. Results of GREENHUT and MASTRANTONIO in the fair weather case Class 2 in Fig. 35 are in good agreement with TKE budget terms obtained previously (LENSCHOW [68]), aircraft ZHOU [117] tower; DEARDORFF and WILLIS [35], (laboratory tank).

During the C.O.A.S.T. (Experiment Cooperative Experiment with Acoustic Sounding Techniques) Doppler sodar and minisodar were used to observation of a mesoscale shear convective. The experiment took place in April/May 1983 in the western part of the Netherlands and typical measurements and instrumental location can be found in Fig. 36.

There was discussed the decomposition of the wind velocity in the presence of mesoscale perturbations and characterized by the turbulent dissipation rate in the presence of mesoscale system.

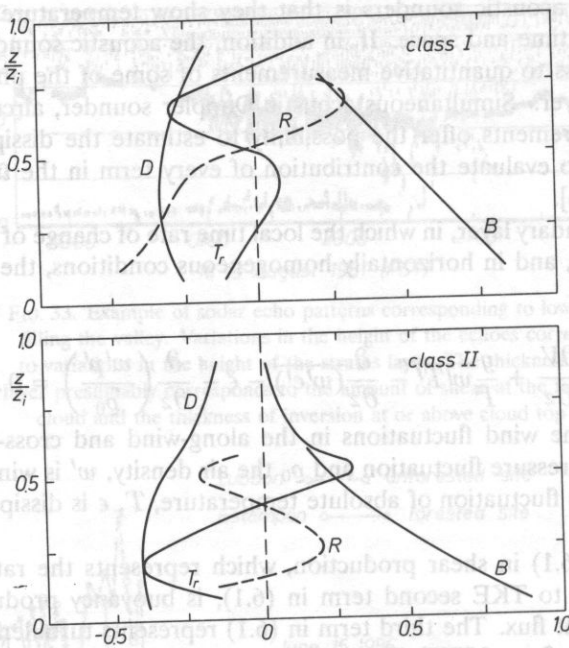


FIG. 35. Normalized profiles of the terms in the turbulence kinetic energy budget for the two classes of weather conditions [56];
 $w_* = (g/TQz_i)^{1/3}$ — vertical velocity scaling parameter,
 Q_0 is the surface value of $w'T'$, z_i is the inversion height.

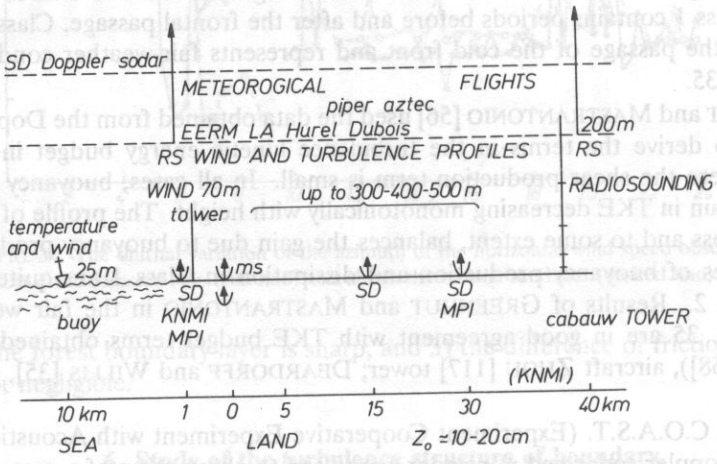


FIG. 36. Scheme of the different kinds of instruments used during COAST experiment and their location along the North-West, South-East transect: distances are indicated from the Dutch Coast SD are the Doppler sodar and RS the radiosoundings [111].

It is difficult to estimate the turbulent dissipation rate by the inertial method in the presence of mesoscale perturbation.

WEILL *et al.* [111] used a Doppler sodar to estimate turbulent dissipation rate using the structure function of velocity fluctuations, averaged on three antennas following WEILL [108]. The turbulent dissipation rate obtained by Weill *et al.* was two times larger than that expected in the well mixed layer.

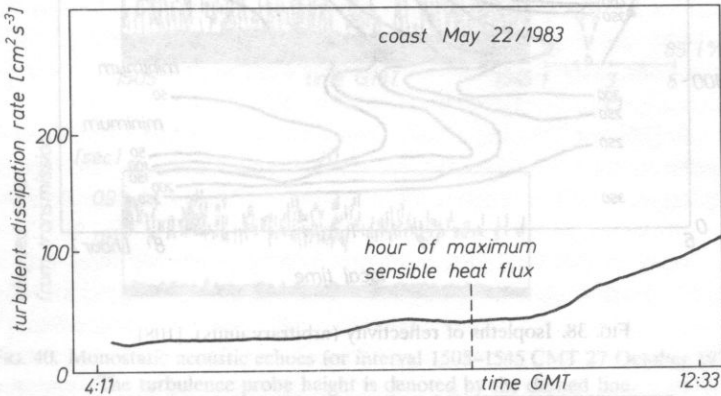


FIG. 37. Turbulence dissipation rate measured with structure function in the mixed layer, the turbulent dissipation rate is average for three antennas. The hour of the maximum of sensible heat flux is indicated [111].

Figure 37 indeed shows that the turbulent dissipation rate increases during the appearance of the mesoscale system, which is certainly due to the mechanical mesoscale momentum production since the sensible heat flux contribution calculated with the sodar vertical velocity variance is fairly smaller after 7.30: of the order of 40 to 50 W/m².

Acoustic sounder measurement made during the C.O.A.S.T. demonstrated the capability of 8 sodars to quantify the different perturbations. To go further in such an analysis and to understand correctly the mesoscale organization, a Doppler sodar is not sufficient. WEILL *et al.* [110] suggest that in future studies, micrometeorological towers should be added at sodar location, to have redundant micrometeorological measurements.

WEILL *et al.* [108] observed the structure of turbulence in an inversion layer in a homogeneous convective field of the planetary boundary layer. By comparison between isopleths of backscattering intensity and of turbulent dissipation rates, they observed that in the early morning, turbulence is advected by mechanical turbulence generated by wind shear. The same mechanism seems to be operating in the case of an inversion layer capping thermal instability, when the convective activity is not too greatly developed. The isopleths of backscattering intensity in Fig. 38 were obtained from backscattering intensity profiles averaged over 13 min.

In Fig. 38 we see the classic signature of the early morning "reflectivity": the reflectivity decreases in the surface layer, reaches a minimum of reflectivity and then increases to a maximum in the inversion layer. The height of the maximum is not very far from the inversion base, and the echo layer top, as observed in Fig. 38, is not the top of the static stable layer, but the top of the "turbulent mixing layer".

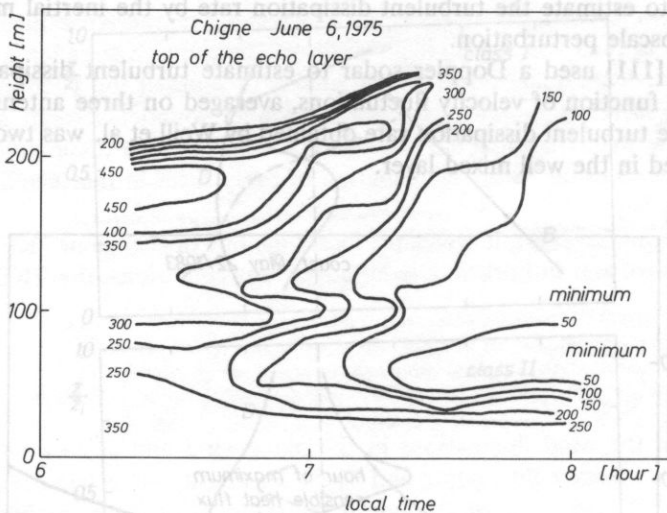


FIG. 38. Isoleths of reflectivity (arbitrary units). [108].

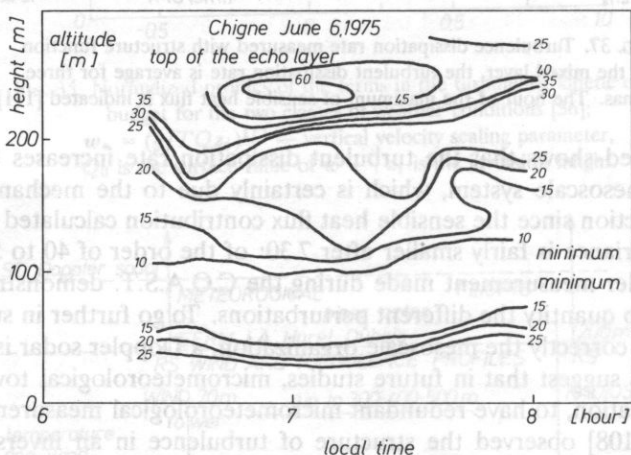


FIG. 39. Isoleths of dissipation rate ($\epsilon \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-3}$) [108].

Figure 39 shows that the dynamic structure of the turbulence is very similar to that given by the reflectivity diagram: decreasing turbulent dissipation followed by an increase up to the top of the profile.

The turbulence dissipation rate, ϵ , can also be obtained from the bistatic echo in convective conditions [23]. The facsimile recordings of the monostatic and bistatic returns are shown in Fig. 40a and b, respectively. Profiles of wind speed, temperature and relative humidity across height range of interest, are shown in Fig. 40c. The monostatic echoes indicate only weak and (quite variable) thermal activity in the lowest 100 m of the boundary layer, a region shown to be nearly adiabatic on the potential temperature profile.

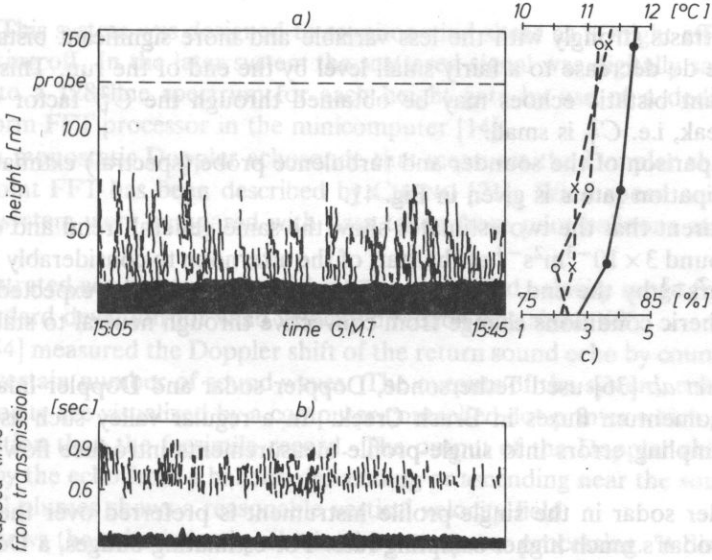


FIG. 40. Monostatic acoustic echoes for interval 1505–1545 CMT 27 October 1975. The turbulence probe height is denoted by the dashed line. b) Bistatic acoustic echoes for the same interval. The ordinate l elapsed time from transmission. c) Bathythermograph profiles of wind speed, potential temperature and humidity. --- wind speed, -x- potential temperature; -o- humidity [23].

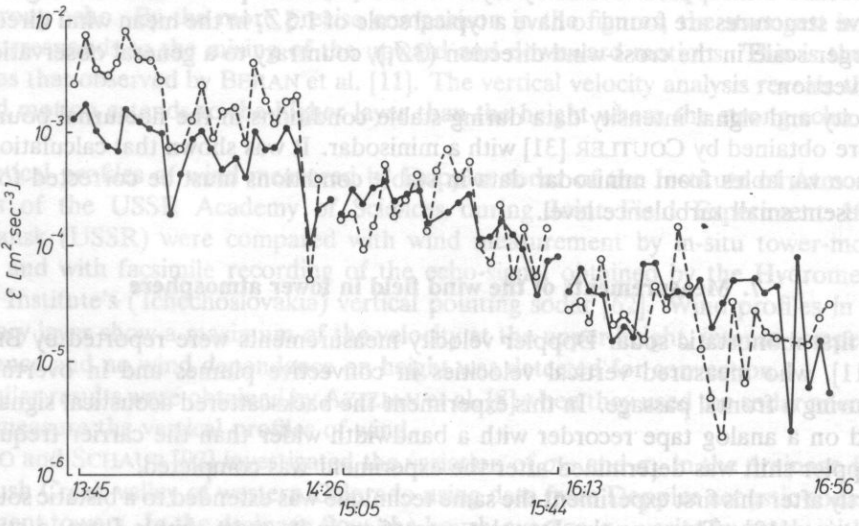


FIG. 41. Time histories of the ϵ estimates from acoustic sounder and turbulence probe on the afternoon 27 October 1975. -o- sounder, --- turbulence probe [23].

This contrasts strongly with the less variable and more significant bistatic echoes although these do decrease to a fairly small level by the end of the run. This clearly shows that significant bistatic echoes may be obtained through the C_T^2 factor when thermal activity is weak, i.e. C_T^2 is small.

The comparison of the sounder and turbulence probe (spectral) estimates of the turbulence dissipation rate ϵ is given in Fig. 41.

It is apparent that the two estimates show the same general trend and decrease from values of around $3 \times 10^{-3} \text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-3}$ at the start of the afternoon to considerably smaller values of $\sim 10^{-5} \text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-3}$ by the end. This progression complies with the expected variations of ϵ as atmospheric conditions change from convective through neutral to stable during the afternoon.

DOBOSY *et al.* [36] used Tethersonde, Doppler sodar and Doppler lidar to calculate mass and momentum fluxes in Brush Creek. In a regular valley such as Brush Creek unsteady, sampling errors into single-profile measurements introduce flow patterns phenomena.

A Doppler sodar in the single-profile instrument is preferred over the Tethersonde, because of sodar's much higher sampling rate. For estimating budgets, a Doppler lidar or equivalent remote sensor is necessary, because single profile measurements were found to have sampling errors which are too large for reliable flux divergence estimates.

The Landes experiment, gathering a dual Doppler radar, a Doppler sodar, radiosoundings and flux measurements performed during three observation periods, provided the opportunity for a study of convective structures in the planetary boundary layers [37]. Using measurements of velocity variances and one-dimensional spectra, the mean behaviour of the convective atmospheric boundary layer is studied in the production subrange. The convective structures are found to have a typical scale of $1.5Z_i$ in the mean wind direction, and a larger scale in the cross-wind direction ($3Z_i$), contrary to a general observation of free convection.

Velocity and signal intensity data during stable conditions in the nocturnal boundary layer were obtained by COUTLER [31] with a minisodar. It was shown that calculations of turbulence variables from minisodar data in stable conditions must be corrected for the often present small turbulence level.

7. Measurements of the wind field in lower atmosphere

The first monostatic sodar Doppler velocity measurements were reported by BERAN *et al.* [11], who measured vertical velocities in convective plumes and in overturning waves during a frontal passage. In this experiment the backscattered acoustical signal was recorded on an analog tape recorder with a bandwidth wider than the carrier frequency. The Doppler shift was determined after the experiment was completed.

Shortly after this first experiment the same technique was extended to a bistatic sounder configuration [12]. This was the Doppler extraction in its most simple form, a straight forward measurement of the frequency of the scattered signal, possible in the acoustic regime because of the low frequencies used.

The feasibility of measuring the profile of the total wind vector from a height of 30 m to over 600 m, even in a noisy airport environment, was demonstrated by BERAN [13]. This system utilized a minicomputer for processing the Doppler voltage desired from the analog

tracking filter. This system was designed to monitor wind shear as it might affect aircraft landing and taking off. In the later system the scattered signal was digitally sampled and transformed into a 128-line spectrum for each height gate by use of a dedicated Fast Fourier Transform FFT processor in the minicomputer [14].

A three-axis monostatic Doppler echosonde that measures the Doppler shift through use of a 100 point FFT has been described by CHONG [21]. Wind speed and direction data from this system were compared with data taken from pilot balloons at heights of 30–500 m.

The demonstrated accuracy was about 1 ms^{-1} over a wind velocity range from 1 to 10 ms^{-1} . The standard deviation for wind velocity direction was about 40° .

HAYASHI [54] measured the Doppler shift of the return sound echo by counting a time duration for a certain number of sound waves. The outputs of the system, echo intensity and vertical velocity are visualized by a computer-controlled dot-printer which gives more minute information than the facsimile record. The output of the Doppler shift analyser was calibrated by the echo from a balloon descending or ascending near the sounder. The case for thermal plumes shows a reasonable vertical velocity field.

Figure 42 shows the echo intensity obtained by computer processing. It distinguished the strong echo area and the weak area; those were not so clear in the facsimile record, even though the darkening is distorted by photographic reproduction.

Five dark areas are observed about 5, 11, 13, 15 and 17 minutes after 10.00. The derived vertical velocity field is shown in the lower two figures of Fig. 42; the middle figure shows the upward motion and the bottom the downward motion. Each dark area in the top figure (strong echo) corresponds to the dark area in the middle figure (upward motion). Descending air is thermally quiet due to the adiabatic compression and does not give strong echo. By the more precise comparison in the figures, the strongest intensity area corresponds to the mixing of the upward and downward motions. This is the same result as that observed by BERAN et al. [11]. The vertical velocity analysis reveals that the upward motion extends to the higher layer than the height where the strong echo comes back.

Vertical profiles of wind measured by Doppler sodar of the Institute of Atmosphere Physics of the USSR Academy of Sciences during Joint Field Experiment 1981 at Tsimlyansk (USSR) were compared with wind measurement by in-situ tower-mounted sensor and with facsimile recording of the echo-signal obtained by the Hydrometeorological Institute's (Tchechoslovakia) vertical pointing sodar [62]. Wind profiles in stable boundary layer show a maximum of the velocity at the upper height, intense temperature turbulence and no wind dependence on height was detected for convection.

Similar results were obtained by AZIZIAN et al. [8] when they used the sodar anemometer to measure the vertical profiles of wind.

RAO and SCHAUB [92] investigated the variation of σ_θ and σ_p in the drainage flow in the Brush Creek valley of western Colorado using data from Doppler acoustic sodars and instrument towers. In the drainage flow, the hourly average σ_θ varies inversely with wind speed according to the relation $\sigma_\theta \bar{u} \approx 0.7 \text{ ms}^{-1}$. The vertical standard deviation is much less enhanced by complex terrain than the horizontal standard deviation. The observed σ_p values were predicted fairly well by the local similarity theory.

Acoustic sounder was also used by MCKENDRY and LEWTHWAITE [64] to intensive observations of summertime up- and down-valley winds in a "dry" valley.

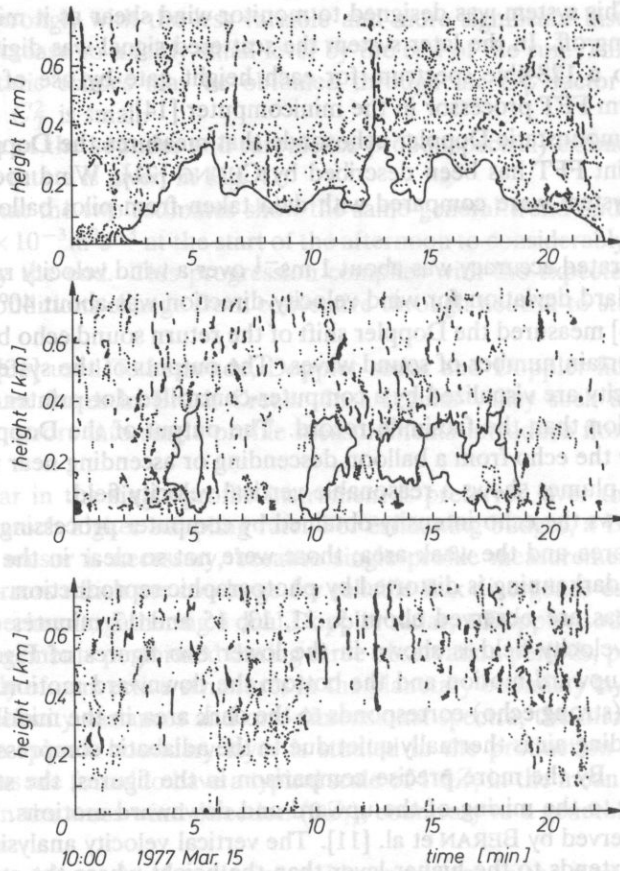


FIG. 42. Computer outputs for a 22 minutes data set 10.00 JST March 15, 1976 [54].
The return echo intensity top upward velocity center and downward velocity bottom.

In the receiver's output the echo signal is combined with noise, mostly of ambient origin, which is often comparable in strength to the signal itself.

Thus, the question arises of defining and measuring a "center frequency" value for the received echoes, representative of the average value of the wind velocity component along the axis of the sodar beam.

There are various ways whereby the "center frequency" is defined and obtained from the sodar echoes [20]. Without attempting to separate the received echo from the noise, this frequency is usually obtained by evaluating the first moment of the filtered spectrum [8] or by finding its peak [62].

The accuracy of wind determination with Doppler sodar was studied by MASTRANTONIO and FIOCCO [82]. The application of the first moment integral to the spectrum of the received echoes in unfavorable signal-to-noise conditions leads to a large systematic bias and lack of precision. Mastrantonio and Fiocco used a two-step procedure, whereby the spectrum of the echo is first localized and then the actual value of its center frequency is determined. A comparison of the precision, obtained in the measurement of vertical

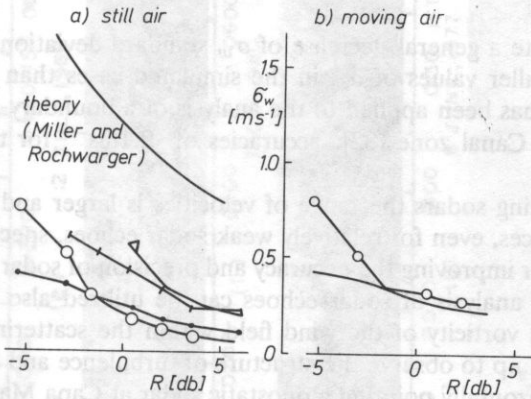


FIG. 43. Precision obtained by various methods as a function of R (ratio of the signal to noise). Open circles simulated echo two-step procedure. Solid circles: simulated echo standard analysis. Open triangles: real echo, two-step procedure. Solid triangles: real echo standard analysis [82].

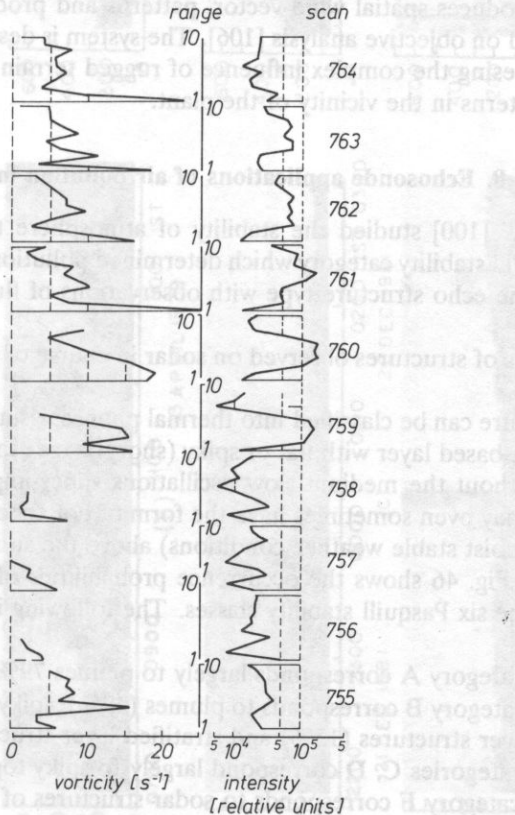


FIG. 44. Intensity (right profiles) and vorticity (left profiles) for the screens 755-764 [40].

wind velocity (w) by various methods as a function of ratio of the signal to noise (R) is shown in Fig. 43.

The curves indicate a general decrease of σ_w standard deviations with an increase in the ratio R , and smaller values of σ_w in the simulated cases than the real cases. This two-step procedure, has been applied to the analysis of a boundary-layer equipment carried out in the Suez Canal zone [82]: accuracies of 0.1ms^{-1} for the vertical velocities were claimed.

For oblique-pointing sodars the range of velocities is larger and the spectrum wider. For these circumstances, even for relatively weak sodar echoes, spectral two-step analysis provides a method for improving the accuracy and precision of sodar wind measurements.

Detailed spectral analysis of sodar echoes can be utilized also to yield information on the structure and vorticity of the wind field within the scattering volume [40]. The experiments were set up to observe the structure of turbulence and to measure the noise levels by using a horizontally pointing monostatic sodar at Capa Margherita 4559 m.a.s.l. in the Alps. Figure 44 shows the intensity and vorticity profiles obtained there.

Notice that for a monostatic sodar the intensity profiles give an indication of the thermal turbulence, while the vorticity profiles give an indication of dynamical turbulence.

A special system for real-time analysis of local wind patterns has been installed at the Emergency Operations Facility for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Doppler — sounder data produces spatial wind-vector, patterns and producing real-time displays of local fields based on objective analysis [106]. The system is designed to provide an interim solution to addressing the complex influence of rugged terrain and a coastal environment on the wind patterns in the vicinity of the plant.

8. Echosonde applications of air pollution meteorology

SIGNAL *et al.* [100] studied the stability of atmosphere to give information on the prevailing Pasquill stability category which determined pollution dispersion. This was done by comparing the echo structure type with observations of fluctuations in the horizontal wind direction.

Various types of structures observed on sodar in course of their observations are given in Fig. 45.

These structure can be classified into thermal plumes, rising layer with thermal plumes below it, surface based layer with flat or spiky (short or tail) top, and stratified layer structure with or without the medium slow oscillations super-imposed over it (stable atmosphere) which may even sometimes have the form of dot echo structures (stray or regular formed under moist stable weather conditions) above the surface based layer.

The plot in Fig. 46 shows the occurrence probabilities of the various types of sodar structures for the six Pasquill stability classes. The following is clearly seen from the plot of Fig. 46:

- 1) stability category A corresponds largely to plumes 79%;
- 2) stability category B corresponds to plumes (49%), spiky top surface layer structures (34%), rising layer structures (13%) and stratified layer structures (4%);
- 3) stability categories C, D correspond largely to spiky top layer structures;
- 4) stability category F corresponds to sodar structures of flat top surface-based layer (41%), spiky top surface-based layer (23%), stratified layer (24%) and plumes (6%).

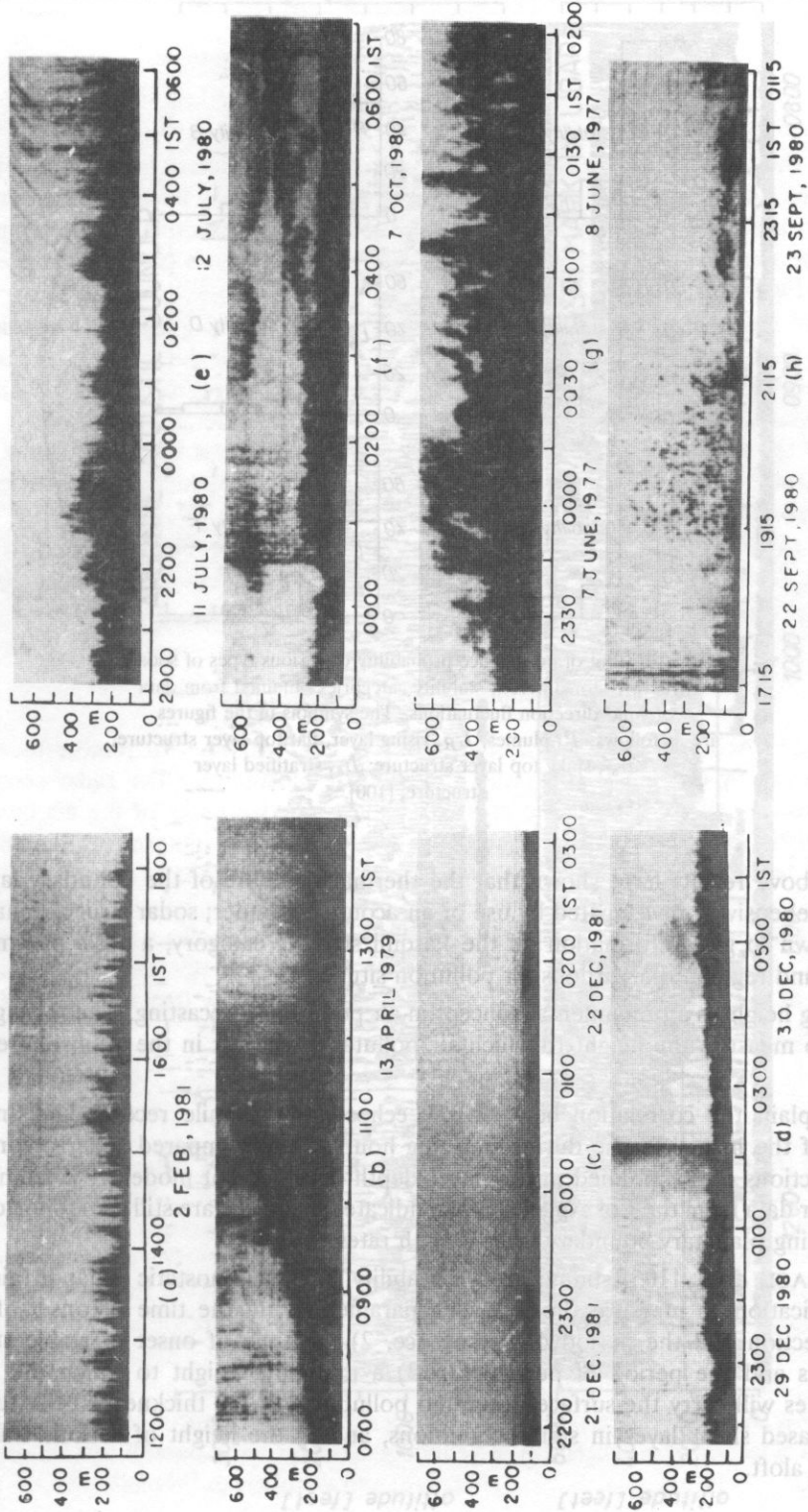


FIG. 45. Typical structures seen on sodar. a) Thermal plumes b) Rising nocturnal inversion layer with plume structure below it. c) Surface based stable layer with flat top. d) Surface based stable layer with short spikes at the top. f) Stratified layer structure without undulations. g) Stratified layer structure undulating. h) Stratified layer structure (dot echoes) [100].

FIG. 47. Comparison of sodar and radar observations of nocturnal mixed layer [107].

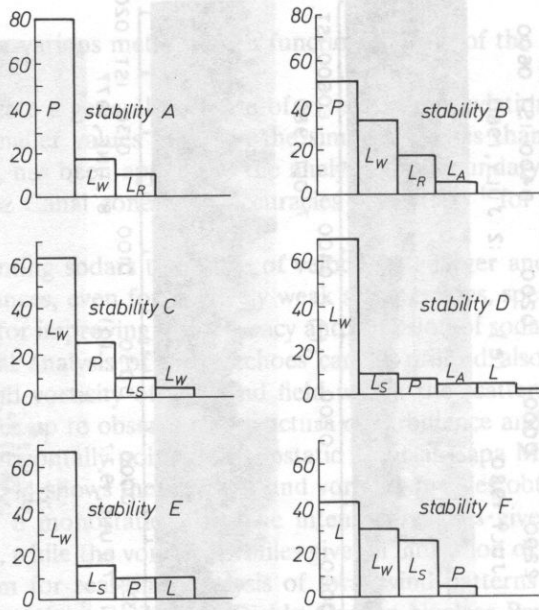


FIG. 46. Plot of occurrence probability of various types of sodar structures for different stability categories obtained from data of wind direction fluctuations. The symbols in the figures are as follows: P , plumes, L_R , rising layer, flat top layer structure; L_w , spiky top layer structure; L_s , stratified layer structure; [100].

The above results have shown that the thermal structure of the boundary layer can be comprehensively investigated by use of an acoustic sounder; sodar structure have also been shown to give information on the Pasquill stability category, a basic parameter to monitor and regulate hazzardous air pollution situations.

Mixing height is a fundamental concept in air pollution forecasting. The mixing height is used to measure the height to which air pollutants will mix in the atmosphere [3, 99, 55].

To explain the correlation between the echosonde facsimile records and analytical models of the inversion rise during morning hours, Shaw compared sodar records with the predictions of a simplified mixing layer depth development model [84]. Comparison with sodar data from the Los Angeles basin indicates that there are still some shortcomings in modelling planetary boundary layer growth rates.

TOMBACH *et al.* [105] summarized the ability of the monostatic sodar in air pollution application to measure the following parameters: 1) the time of onset of unstable convection and the period of persistence, 2) the time of onset of stable stratified conditions and the period of persistence, 3) a minimum height to which the convective plumes will carry the surface-generated pollutants, 4) the thickness of the turbulent ground-based shear layer in stable conditions, and 5) the height of various stable and inversion aloft.

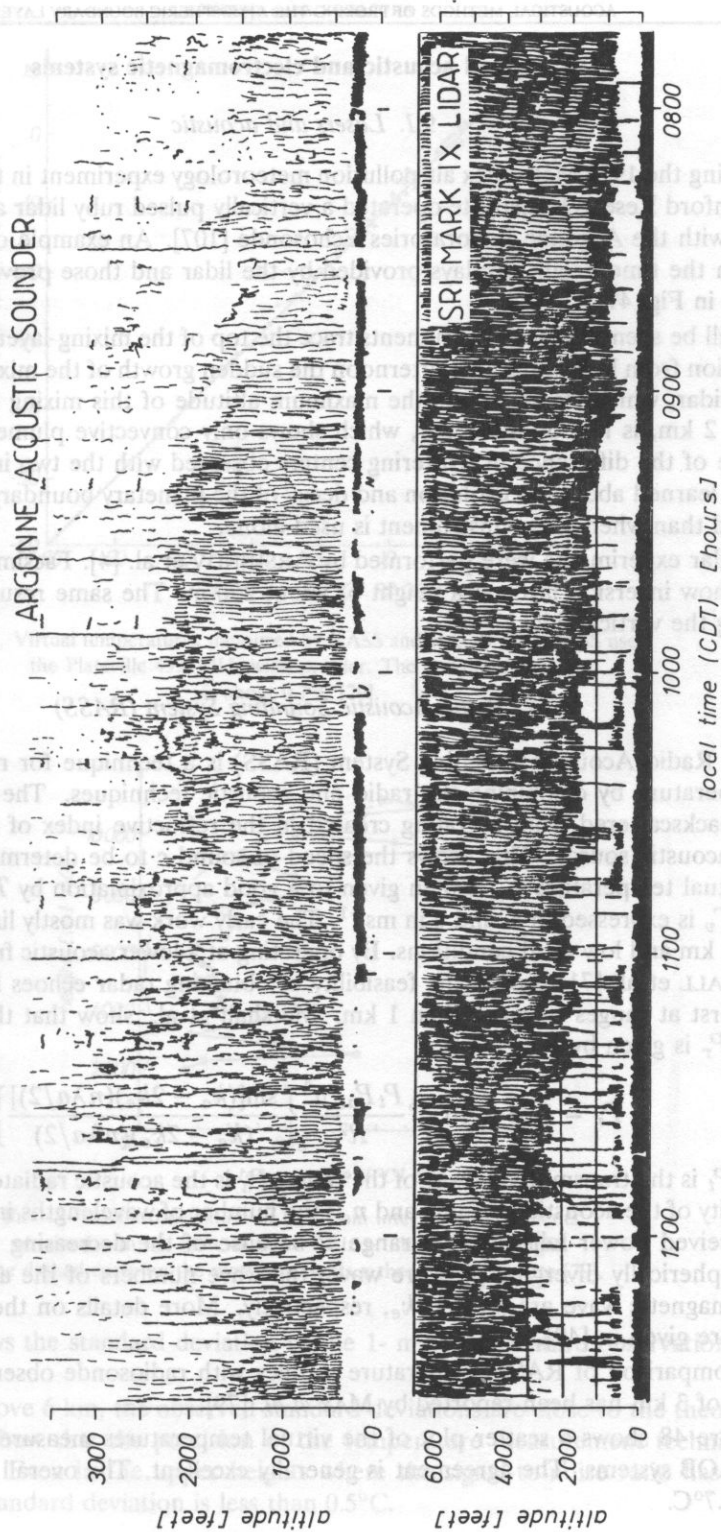


FIG. 47. Comparison of sodar (top panel) and lidar (bottom panel) display of the growth of a convectively mixed layer [107].

9. Hybrid acoustic and electromagnetic systems

9.1. Lasers and acoustic

During the 1971 Metromex air pollution meteorology experiment in the St. Louis area, the Stanford Research Institute operated a vertically pulsed ruby lidar and compared the results with the Argonne Laboratories Echosonde [107]. An example of the comparison between the time height displays provided by the lidar and those provided by the sodar is given in Fig. 47.

It will be seen that both instruments trace the top of the mixing layer as it is heated by convection from below, but that afternoon the sudden growth of the mixed layer recorded by the lidar, which clearly shows the maximum altitude of this mixing layer depth to be near 1, 2 km, is lost by the sodar, which shows only convective plumes to about 1 km. Because of the difference in scattering centers observed with the two instruments, much more is learned about the evolution and decay of the planetary boundary layer when both are used than when either instrument is used alone.

Similar experiments were performed by ARSHINOV et al. [4]. Facsimile records of the sodar show inversion layer at a height of about 250 m. The same results were obtained by using the vertical lidar.

9.2. Radio Acoustic Sounding System (RASS)

The Radio Acoustic Sounding System (RASS) is a technique for remote measuring of temperature by combining the radio and acoustic techniques. The radar senses the signal backscattered from a grating created in the refractive index of the air by a high power acoustic source. This allows the speed of sound c to be determined [see 89, 78]. The virtual temperature T_v is then given to a good approximation by $T_v = (c/20.047)^2$, where T_v is expressed in K and c in ms^{-1} . The early work was mostly limited to altitudes below 1 km and low wind conditions. By operating at a lower acoustic frequency (85 Hz), MARSHALL et al. [71] proved the feasibility of obtaining radar echoes from the acoustic tone burst at ranges of more than 1 km. Marshall et al. show that the received radar power P_r is given by

$$P_r = 1.38 \times 10^{-16} \frac{P_t P_a g n^2}{R^2} \left\{ \frac{\sin[(k_a - 2k_e)(n\lambda a/2)]}{(k_a - 2k_e)(n\lambda a/2)} \right\} \quad (9.1)$$

where P_t is the transmitted power of the radar, P_a is the acoustic radiated power, g is the directivity of the acoustic antenna, and n is the number of wavelengths in a acoustic pulse. The received power falls off with range R because of the decreasing acoustic intensity in the spherically diverging pressure wave; the wave numbers of the acoustic wave and electromagnetic wave are k_a and k_e , respectively. More details on the development of RASS are given in [49].

A comparison of RASS temperature profiles with radiosonde observation RAOB to heights of 3 km has been reported by MAY et al. [79].

Figure 48 shows a scatter plot of the virtual temperatures measured with the RASS and RAOB systems. The agreement is generally excellent. The overall rms difference is about 0.7°C .

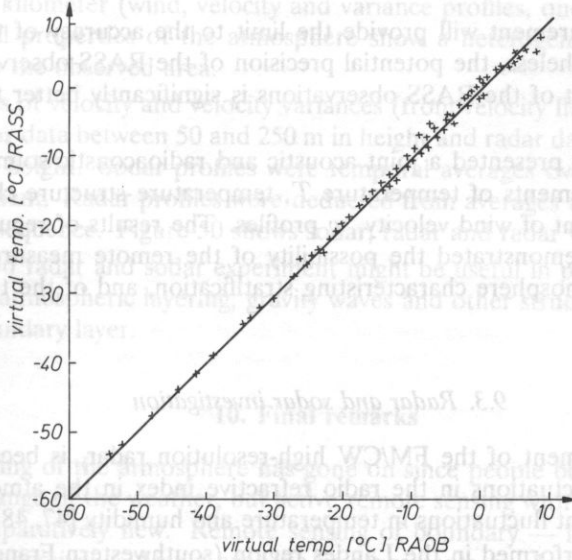


FIG. 48. Virtual temperatures measured by RASS and RAOB. The RASS used the Plateville 49.8 MHz wind profiler. The rms difference is about 0.7°C [79].

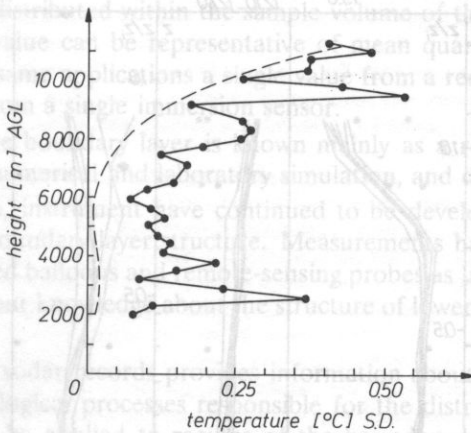


FIG. 49 Standard deviation of the 1-min interval measurements obtained with the Plateville 49.8 MHz profiler against height. The dashed curve on the plots represents a theoretical estimate [79].

Figure 49 shows the standard deviation of the 1-min temperature observations as a function of height.

At altitudes above 6 km, the observed standard deviations are close to the theoretical expectation, and show that the precision of the temperature measurement technique is better than 0.2°C . Even in the upper heights where the signal-to-noise ratio has fallen below 0 dB, the standard deviation is less than 0.5°C .

The former measurement will provide the limit to the accuracy of the temperature measurement. Nevertheless, the potential precision of the RASS observations is significantly better than that of the RASS observations is significantly better than that of the present radiosondes.

AZIZYAN *et al.* [8] presented a joint acoustic and radioacoustic sounding system for simultaneous measurements of temperature T , temperature structure characteristic C_T^2 and vertical component of wind velocity, w profiles. The results of regular observations at autumn of 1980 demonstrated the possibility of the remote measurements of main parameters of the atmosphere characterizing stratification, and of the turbulent regime of boundary layer.

9.3. Radar and sodar investigation

With the development of the FM/CW high-resolution radar, it became possible to monitor fine-scale fluctuations in the radio refractive index in the atmosphere, caused principally by turbulent fluctuations in temperature and humidity [47, 48].

An experiment performed in the Landes region (southwestern France) utilized dual Doppler radar (Ronsard system) and the Doppler sodar system in the experiment on clear air convection [48]. It provided the opportunity to develop a method for the spatial study of atmospheric structure in the PBL: the mean characteristic of the flow structures at scales

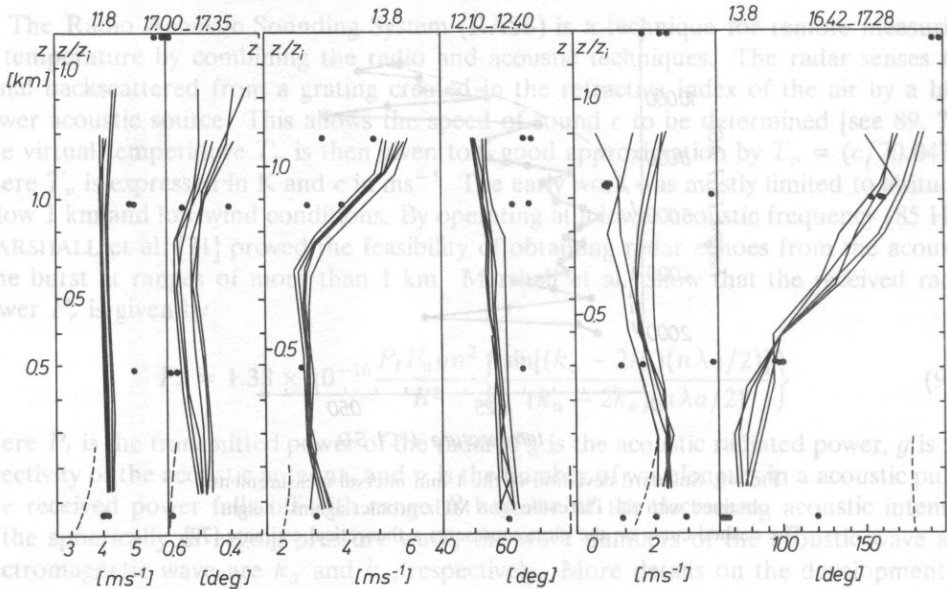


FIG. 50. Mean horizontal wind profiles during the three experiments on 11 August (11–8), 13 August noon and afternoon (13–8). Hours are indicated LST. The solid lines show the profiles of speed and direction for each sequence of 5 or 6 min, from radar data; the dashed line shows the sodar profiles taken over 20 min deviation. The directions are measured from north, Z_i = inversion height [38].

larger than one kilometer (wind, velocity and variance profiles, one-dimensional velocity spectra). Spatial properties of the atmosphere show a heterogeneity of the horizontal wind field inside the observed area.

Mean profiles of velocity and velocity variances (from velocity fluctuations) were computed using sodar data between 50 and 250 m in height and radar data from 100 or 150 m to ~ 1000 m in height. Sodar profiles were temporal averages over half and hour during each experiment. Radar profiles were deducted from averages across each horizontal plane for every sequence. Figure 50 shows sodar, radar and radar wind profiles.

The combined radar and sodar experiment might be useful in providing a more complete picture of atmospheric layering, gravity waves and other structures characteristic of the dynamic boundary layer.

10. Final remarks

Remote sensing of the atmosphere has gone on since people began watching the sky for signs of a change of the weather, but active remote sensing with intentionally directed radiation is comparatively new. Remote sensing of boundary — layer variables can be done actively or passively. Active acoustic measurements involve transmitting acoustic radiation to the region and measuring the portion of radiation that is returned from the region to sodar. Remote acoustic measurements are spatial averages over volumes that depend on the parameters of the sodar; remote sensing is suitable if spatial averages are desired. A single reading from a sodar's record is equivalent to the average of an ensemble of in situ instruments distributed within the sample volume of the remote sensor. Thus, the acoustical sensed value can be representative of mean quantity than a single-point measurement, and for some applications a single value from a remote sensor can replace a time average value from a single immersion sensor.

The structure of the boundary layer is known mainly as a result of combination of observational studies, numerical and laboratory simulation, and dimensional analysis.

In the last 40 years, instrument have continued to be developed for improving our understanding of the boundary-layer structure. Measurements have been obtained from towers, free and tethered balloons and remote-sensing probes as lidars, radars and sodars. The important part of our knowledge about the structure of lower atmosphere came from sodar studies.

The observation of sodar records provides information about the atmospheric mean fields and the meteorological processes responsible for the distribution of such echoes. Acoustic sounders can be applied to regions of the boundary layer, where regular access by other means is difficult. Due to its usefulness and relatively low cost, sodars are very interesting scientific instruments. The sodar outputs provide estimation of turbulence, shear dynamic instabilities and area-averaged surface parametrizations. The sodar measurement indicate how these measurements can be utilized to investigate physical processes important in the lower atmosphere.

Sodars have operated in diverse environments, ranging from the polar regions to the tropical oceans and new opportunities are still appearing. Application of conventional sodars and minisodars to studies in complex terrain in recent years is only one example of the potential expansion of sodar technology.

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Received on February 3, 1992