



# Measuring Turbulence from Moored Acoustic Doppler Velocimeters

## A Manual to Quantifying Inflow at Tidal Energy Sites

Levi Kilcher

*National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

Jim Thomson, Joe Talbert, and Alex DeKlerk

*University of Washington*

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**Technical Report**

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## Executive Summary

This manual details a low-cost method for measuring turbulence at tidal energy sites. The critical issue with measuring tidal turbulence is positioning a sufficiently accurate velocity sensor at the height of interest to tidal devices (hub height). In the wind industry, sonic anemometers mounted on meteorological towers provide high-fidelity turbulence velocity measurements that are needed to drive device design tools and for inflow experiments; however, towers are extremely costly to install and maintain in the oceanic environment.

This work introduces a method for measuring turbulence velocity from compliant moorings. These moorings serve as a platform that position acoustic Doppler velocimeters (ADV) at turbine hub heights (the ADV is the oceanographer's sonic anemometer). These ADVs are equipped with inertial motion units (IMUs) that measure mooring motion. These independent measurements of mooring motion are then removed from the ADV-measured velocity signal in post-processing to produce stationary/earth frame estimates of turbulence velocity time series. These time series are critical for producing realistic performance and loads estimates from device simulation tools such as HydroFAST and Tidal bladed.

This manual details mooring design, instrument configuration, data processing steps, and analysis guidelines for quantifying turbulence at tidal energy sites. Because turbulence is known to reduce turbine performance and lifetime, this information is critical to classifying tidal energy sites, and performing device simulations with realistic estimates of device performance and lifetime.

This manual is intended to provide site and device developers with a complete guide for performing turbulence assessments at tidal energy sites. It includes:

- Hardware requirements and recommendations
- Instrumentation configuration details
- Guidelines for deployment and recovery planning
- Data processing and analysis details.

The key innovations described in this work are:

- The use of moorings to position ADVs at tidal turbine hub heights
- The use of IMU measurements to remove mooring motion from the measured velocity signal.

Together, the report and innovations provide a versatile and low-cost methodology for quantifying turbulence statistics that are important to tidal turbine performance, loads, and lifetime predictions. The detailed implementation of the methodology can be adapted to fit site conditions and project scope/funding considerations. This is useful for tidal energy resource characterization, tidal turbine simulation tool model-validation studies, tidal turbine performance modeling, and tidal turbine loads/lifetime modeling.

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## 1 Introduction

Turbulence is a dominant driver of the fatigue and extreme loads that determine the operational lifetime of hydrokinetic turbines. Device simulation tools, such as HydroFAST and Tidal bladed have been developed to estimate hydrokinetic turbine power performance and loading based on device mechanical-electrical models and realistic inflow conditions. These tools accelerate the pace of hydrokinetic turbine development by: helping device designers predict failure modes in preliminary designs, and providing site developers and financial institutions with estimates of the cost of energy for a particular device.

Device designers typically have all of the information necessary for creating device models for these simulations but often lack adequate knowledge of turbulent inflow conditions to produce accurate device power-performance and lifetime estimates. This gap arises from the difficulty and high cost of making turbulent inflow measurements at tidal energy sites at hydrokinetic turbine hub heights (i.e., >5 meters [m] above the seafloor). A useful approach for measuring turbulent inflow should be: affordable, suited to the energetic sites where hydrokinetic turbines will be deployed (robust), and sufficiently precise for device simulations.

This work details a methodology for measuring hub height inflow turbulence using moored acoustic Doppler velocimeters (ADV). This approach is motivated by the shortcomings of alternatives. For example, remote velocity measurements (i.e., from acoustic Doppler profilers) lack sufficient precision for device simulation, and rigid tower-mounted measurements are very expensive and technically challenging in the tidal environment. Moorings offer a low-cost, site-adaptable and robust deployment platform, and ADVs provide the necessary precision to accurately quantify turbulence.

The primary concern of this approach is that mooring motion will contaminate velocity measurements and reduce their accuracy. Here we demonstrate that measurements of mooring motion from inertial sensors can be used to correct this motion contamination. This makes mooring-based velocity measurements a sufficiently precise, low-cost and robust approach for measuring turbulent inflow at hydrokinetic turbine sites.

Section 2 describes mooring hardware and ADV configuration details specific to moored measurements. Section 3 details the processing steps for transforming moored ADV measurements into earth frame velocity signals and computing turbulence statistics from those measurements. Section 4 describes turbulence analysis methods that are useful to the hydrokinetic turbine industry and defines the applicability and limitations of the results. Readers are also encouraged to download and install the Doppler Oceanography Library for pYthoN software package (DOLfYN [lilcher.github.io/dolfyn/](https://lilcher.github.io/dolfyn/)), which provides example instrument configuration files and functions for performing the data processing and analysis steps described herein.



## 2 Measuring Turbulence

The question, “What turbulent statistics determine turbine device performance and fatigue loads?” motivates an active area of research in both the wind and hydrokinetic turbine industries. No single statistic—or group of them—has been identified that fully predicts fatigue loads, there is broad agreement that mean-shear, Reynold’s stresses, the turbulence spectrum, and spatial coherence all contribute significantly to fatigue loads.<sup>1</sup> If turbulence is conceptualized as a mixture of eddies of different sizes, orientations, and rotation speeds (Figure 1), the importance of these statistics can be understood as follows:

- Mean shear can impart a torque on the rotor shaft and induce variable loads on the blades as they rotate through the spatially nonuniform mean flow.
- The Reynold’s stresses ( $\overline{u'v'}$ ,  $\overline{u'w'}$ , and  $\overline{v'w'}$ ) indicate the orientation of the eddies in the flow. Eddies of different orientations may impart forces on distinct components of the turbine. For example, an eddy aligned with the rotor ( $\overline{v'w'}$  in Figure 1) might impart larger torque on the rotor shaft than eddies of other orientations.
- The turbulence spectra quantifies the energy of eddies of different frequencies (from which length scales  $\delta$  can be estimated). For example, an eddy with  $\delta$  similar to the blade cord ( $l_{\text{cord}}$ ) is likely to impart larger fatigue loads on the blade than a smaller or larger eddy with the same energy. Likewise, an eddy the same size as the rotor will impart a larger load on the rotor than a much smaller eddy. Quantifying the energy in these eddies is therefore important to accurately estimating the loads they induce.
- Spatial coherence quantifies the correlation of the turbulence in space, i.e., the length,  $L$ , of the eddies. It is important because longer eddies are likely to impart larger forces than shorter ones and longer eddies are likely to be anisotropic, such that  $L > \delta$ .

The first two of these, mean shear and Reynold’s stresses, can be measured using acoustic Doppler profilers (ADPs) (Thomson et al. 2012; Stacey, Monismith, and Burau 1999). The Reynold’s stresses, turbulence spectra, and spatial coherence can be measured using ADVs. Detailed turbulence measurements at tidal energy sites, therefore, require measurements using both ADPs and ADVs. The deployment of ADPs on the seafloor for this purpose is well described and commonly performed by engineers, scientists, and ocean professionals around the world. This document, therefore, focuses on measuring turbulence statistics for hydrokinetic turbine inflow using ADVs. In particular, this is accomplished using moorings to position ADVs at hydrokinetic turbine hub heights, and using inertial motion sensors (IMUs) to remove mooring motion from the ADV’s velocity measurements.

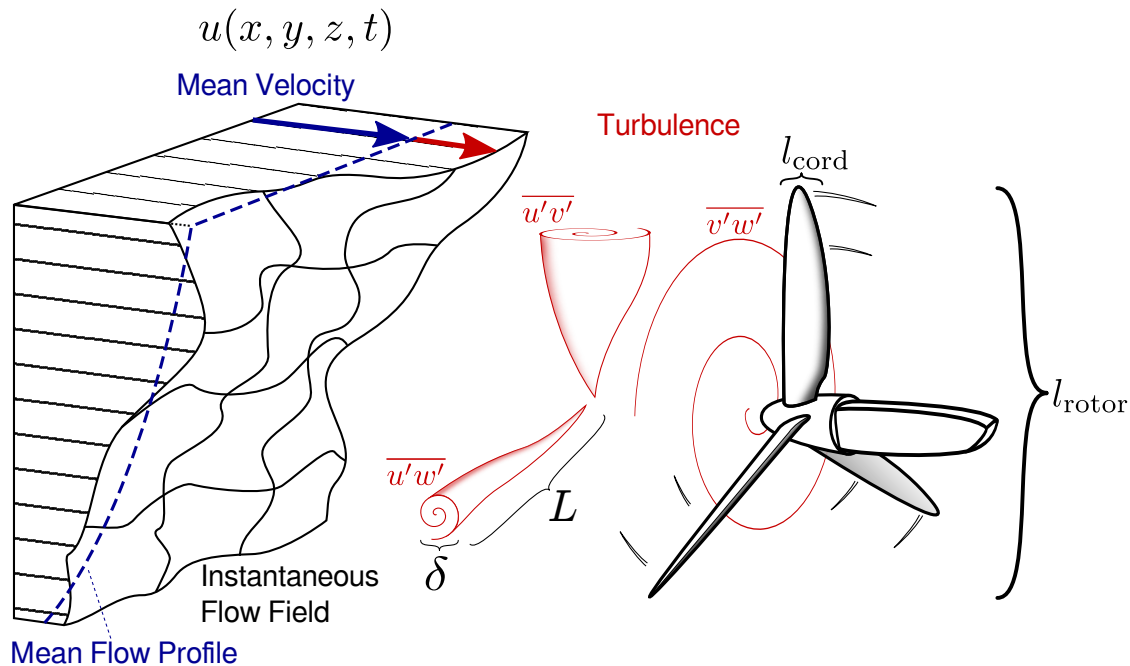
### 2.1 Mooring Hardware

This work uses two complimentary moored platforms for measuring turbulence in tidal channels. Both of these platforms are compliant moorings. The basic tidal turbulence mooring (TTM) is a simple, low-cost deployment platform that captures turbulence spectra, Reynold’s stresses, and mean velocity at turbine hub heights. This platform is ideal for characterizing turbulence details for project design and capturing basic turbulence statistics for turbine inflow experiments. The stable tidal turbulence mooring is a large, high-fidelity platform that provides the capability to measure spatial coherence. It is best suited for detailed turbine inflow experiments, high-fidelity turbulence characterization, device simulation tool model validation studies, and academic research into spatial coherence in tidal environments.

#### 2.1.1 Tidal Turbulence Mooring

The TTM is essentially an ADV mounted on a weather vane suspended between an anchor and a buoy (Thomson et al. 2013). Its primary components are a clump-weight-style anchor, an acoustically triggered release for mooring recovery, mooring lines, a ‘strongback’ vane at turbine hub height that orients the ADVs into the flow (i.e., passive yaw), and a buoy that holds the mooring lines taught (Figure 2). The clump weight is composed of three railroad wheels stacked on a central steel cylinder. A steel flange welded securely to the base of the cylinder supports the weight of the wheels. The total wet weight of the anchor is 1.2 tonnes. Galvanized anchor chains and a steel shackle

<sup>1</sup>Turbulent energy and turbulence intensity can be computed from the spectrum and mean-shear (velocity) profile.



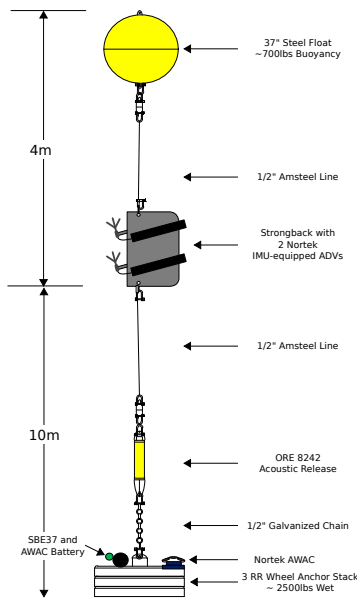
**Figure 1. Diagram of turbulent inflow to a hydrokinetic turbine**  
 The mean-flow profile is indicated in blue, and turbulent eddies of different sizes ( $\delta$ ), lengths ( $L$ ), and orientations are indicated in red. *Illustration by Levi Kilcher*

connect the top of the anchor stack to the acoustic release. At the top of the acoustic release a high-tension swivel allows the mooring line to rotate without imparting torque on the hardware below.

The buoy for the TTM is a 0.94-m-diameter spherical steel buoy that is pressure-rated for the depths to which it will be deployed (manufactured by McClane). Another high-tension swivel between the buoy and mooring line allows the buoy to spin without imparting large torques on the mooring line. A 13-millimeter (mm) Amsteel line (e.g., <http://www.amsteelblue.com/>) is used to connect the strongback vane to the buoy and acoustic release (using 16-mm shackles). Amsteel line has a high strength-to-weight ratio, low stretch, and low torque. The 13-mm line used here has a breaking strength of 13.9 tonnes, much larger than the dry weight of the mooring (<1.6 tonnes).

The ‘blow-down’ angle of the TTM was simulated using University of Victoria’s Mooring Design and Dynamics software. The observed blow-down angle of 20° at 2 meters per second (m/s) agreed well with the predictions (Thomson et al. 2012). This mooring design has been safely deployed in currents up to 3 m/s without exceeding a maximum advisable blow-down angle of 40°. If significant modifications are made to this mooring design (such as changes in mooring length, deployment depth, or other modifications to major hardware components), or if operating in much stronger currents, the new design should be re-simulated using a mooring simulation tool to determine the blow-down angle as well as tension and drag forces.

The strongback vane was designed to be a robust and low-cost component that effectively holds an ADV head (or two) upstream of the mooring line and the ADV body nearby and rigidly fixed to its head (Figure 3). All components of the strongback vane, including shackles, are constructed from nonmagnetic materials (high-density plastics and nonmagnetic stainless steel) so that the IMU-compass can accurately resolve the undistorted magnetic field of the Earth (i.e., measure north). If magnetic materials must be used in the vicinity (within  $\approx 2$  m) of the ADV body, the IMU compass should be recalibrated in the presence of those magnetic materials and in the exact orientation as they will be deployed (Nortek 2005). At its leading edge, flat-stock, nonmagnetic stainless steel (NMSS) sandwiches the plastic fin to form the strongback ‘backbone’. Holes in the top and bottom of the backbone connect it—via NMSS shackles—to the mooring line (Figure 3). The ADV heads and bodies are tilted 15° from vertical axis of the strongback to account for ‘mooring blow-down’ of 10°–20° at 2 m/s.



**Figure 2. Schematic diagram of the tidal turbulence mooring**  
*Illustration by Jim Thomson, University of Washington*

### 2.1.2 Stable TTM

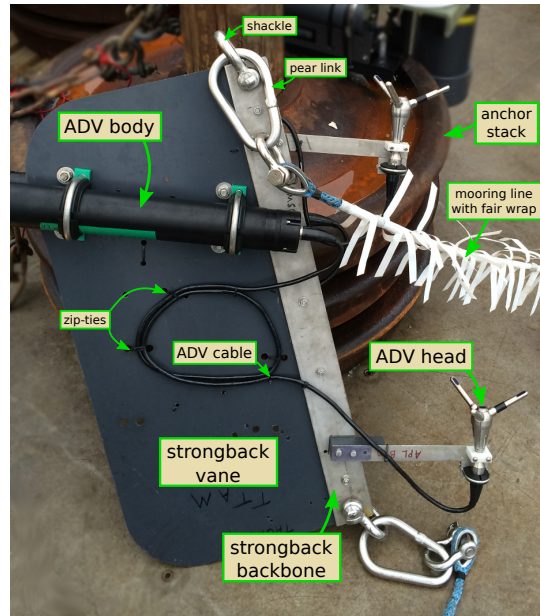
The stable TTM (STTM) utilizes a customized StableMoor buoy (DeepWater Buoyancy) as the buoyancy source and instrument platform. The buoy is 3.5 m long, 0.46 m in diameter, and has tail fins with a tail ring that is 0.91 m in diameter. The slender buoy is designed to maximize the lift-to-drag ratio of the platform. The basic StableMoor design was modified to include space for two ADV pressure cases, and an oval crossbeam near the nose that positions ADV heads 1.5 m apart laterally to the inflow direction (Figure 4). This configuration allows the STTM to serve as a platform for measuring spatial coherence in the cross-stream direction. The StableMoor buoy provides its own source of buoyancy, so the buoy only requires an anchor and tether. Lift, drag, and buoyancy coefficients should be checked to confirm that the buoy will not collide with the seafloor.

The STTM can also be configured without the crossbeam and with an ADV mounted ahead of the nose. This configuration allows for very stable measurements of turbulence spectra. The STTM can also hold an acoustic Doppler profiler (ADP) in its hull. When the ADP is downward-looking and measures the bottom motion it provides an independent measure of the mooring motion. This independent estimate of mooring motion is valuable for quantifying uncertainty in low-frequency mooring motions.

## 2.2 Instrument Configuration

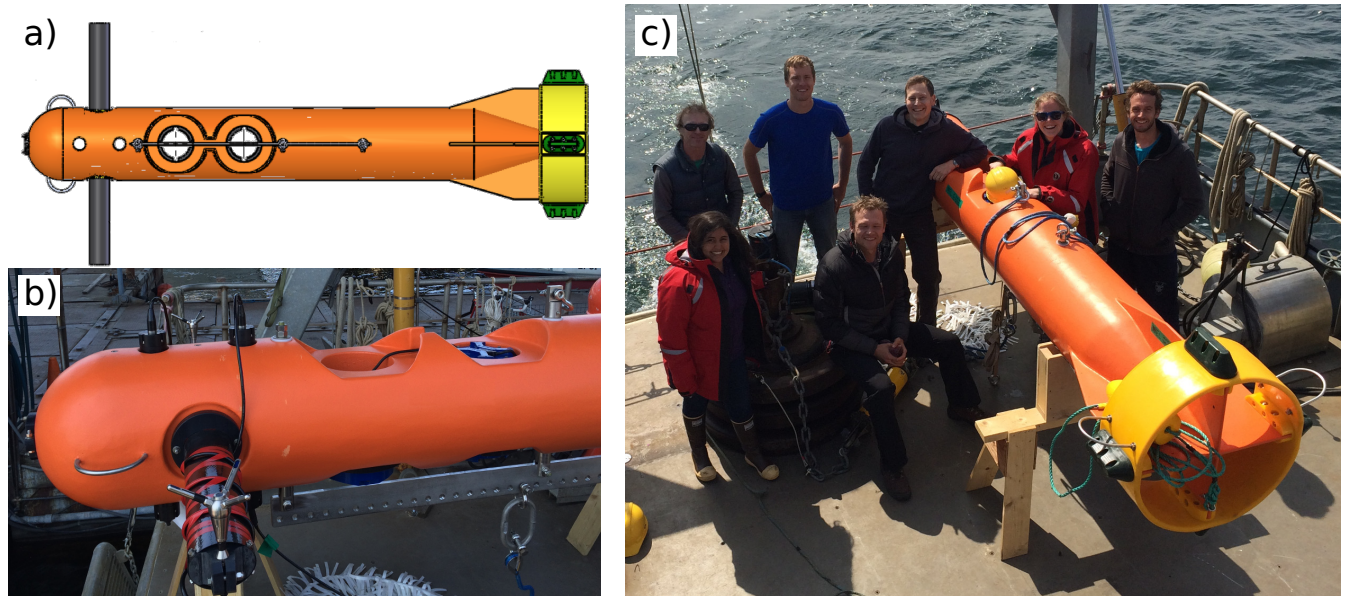
When preparing instrumentation for deployment always follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Be sure to:

- Perform bench tests several weeks prior to the deployment to allow for replacing faulty components, if necessary.
- Install batteries with sufficient capacity for the deployment. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for determining battery life.
- Seal pressure cases carefully and install dessicant (moisture-absorbing) packs to reduce the risk of water damage to electrical hardware.
- Synchronize instrument clocks to a single computer clock that has been recently synchronized to Internet time via Network Time Protocol (NTP).
- Configure the instrument appropriately for the deployment.



**Figure 3. ADVs mounted on a strongback vane prior to deployment**

The heads and bodies are tilted at  $15^\circ$  to account for mooring blow-down. NMSS shackles and pear links connect the strongback to the mooring lines. The strongback is leaning against the anchor stack (railroad wheels). White fair wrap on the mooring lines is used to reduce strumming. Plastic ‘zip-ties’ are used to fasten the ADV cables to the vane. NMSS u-bolts and rubber gaskets fasten the ADV body to the fin. A 25-mm NMSS angle positions the ADV heads approximately 250 mm forward of the vane’s leading edge. *Photo by Levi Kilcher, NREL*



**Figure 4. Images of the stable TTM**

a) Diagram of STTM with the crossbeam. *Illustration from DeepWater Buoyancy* b) Photo of STTM nose with the crossbeam and ADVs mounted prior to deployment. ADV heads are mounted at the crossbeam ends, and the pressure cases are clamped in the nose of the buoy’s hull. A downward-looking ADP is mounted in the midsection of the hull. *Photo by Levi Kilcher, NREL* c) The STTM is recovered and the crossbeam is removed. The science team is happy after a successful deployment (from left: Maricarmen Paris, Joe Talbert, Alex DeKlerk, Levi Kilcher, Jim Thomson, Jenni Rinker, and Sam Harding). *Photo from Andy Reay-Ellers, University of Washington*

To produce high-fidelity spectra and spatial coherence estimates from moored ADV measurements, motion-sensor measurements must be tightly synchronized with ADV velocity measurements. Currently, the Nortek Vector is the only instrument that can be purchased ‘off the shelf’ with a tightly synchronized IMU. These instruments were used for the TTM test deployments. The data from those deployments are used in the example analyses in this manual.

### 2.2.1 Record Position and Orientation of the ADV Head

For deployments involving cabled-head IMU-ADV (i.e., as in Figure 3), it is critical to record the position and orientation of the ADV head relative to the ADV body (pressure case). Details of the definitions of these coordinate systems can be found in Appendix A. The variables should be measured as accurately as possible, as errors will propagate through motion-correction calculations and lead to errors in the motion-corrected velocity measurements.

### 2.2.2 Software Configuration

At least as important as recording the orientation of the ADV head relative to the ADV body is configuring the ADV to record the correct data channels for performing motion correction. The following three primary data channels are needed to perform motion correction:

1. **The linear acceleration** vector,  $\vec{a}$ , is integrated to obtain an estimate of the translational velocity of the ADV body and head.
2. **The angular rotation rate** vector,  $\vec{\omega}$ , is used to estimate the velocity of the head caused by rotation of the ADV about the IMU.
3. **The (body) orientation** matrix,  $\mathbf{R}$ , provides the orientation of the ADV body relative to the earth. It is used (with  $\mathbf{H}$ ) to estimate the earth frame orientation of the ADV head, and thus the velocity vector in the earth frame. It is also used to remove gravity from the linear acceleration measurement (see Section 3).

The Nortek Vector can be purchased with a MicroStrain GDM-GX3-25 ‘miniature attitude heading reference system’ (MicroStrain 2014). The 3DM-GX3-25 can output all three of these channels. Sampled and stored by the same controller, the Vector velocity measurements and 3DM-GX3-25 motion and orientation measurements are tightly synchronized (to within  $10^{-2}$  seconds [s]), allowing for high-fidelity motion-correction in post-processing. New versions of the Nortek software (bundled with a new Vector) allow the user to select which data streams from the 3DM-GX3-25 are stored in the Vector output data file.

To set a Vector to record the correct data, open the “Vector” program and go to `Deployment » Planning » Use Existing`. The following settings—on the ‘Standard’ tab—are required to be able to perform motion correction (Figure 5):

1. Check the box to the left of `IMU:`.  
This tells the Vector to use and record information from the IMU.
2. Select `Accl AngR Mag xF` from the `IMU:` drop-down menu.  
This tells the Vector to record the acceleration (Accl), Angular Rate (AngR), Magnetometer (Mag), and Orientation Matrix (xF) signals<sup>2</sup>.
3. For the `Coordinate system` select `XYZ`.  
This instructs the Vector to record data in the ADV-head coordinate system.

For most measurements of turbulence at tidal energy sites, the following recommendations may also apply:

1. Set the `Sampling Rate` to `16 Hz`.  
In most tidal environments lower sampling frequencies will not resolve all of the turbulence scales. Higher sampling frequencies are typically dominated by instrument noise.
2. Set `Geography` to `Open ocean`.

<sup>2</sup>The magnetometer signal is not needed for motion correction, but the other three signals are. Note that this is the only option that provides the orientation matrix, which is required for motion correction.

This instructs the ADV to operate in ‘high’ power mode, which increases data quality. Consider upgrading batteries (use two lithium batteries if necessary), or using burst sampling before using lower power ‘Surf zone’ or ‘River’ setting. See the instrument manual for further details.

3. Set the `Nominal velocity range` to `+/- 4 m/s`.

Tidal velocities at most tidal energy sites will be in this range. Use the higher range of `+/- 7 m/s` if there is reason to believe the velocities will be larger than 4 m/s (at the expense of some data quality).

4. Set `Speed of Sound` to `Measured`.

The Nortek Vector uses a temperature sensor and a fixed `Salinity` value to calculate an estimate of the speed of sound (which is important to the velocity measurements). If the salinity is not known, consider measuring it.

5. Modify the burst interval settings to maximize data return. It is valuable to capture as much turbulence data as possible. Once the above settings have been set, follow these guidelines to maximize data recovery:

- A. Use `Continuous sampling` if possible. Consider purchasing additional (e.g., lithium) batteries to maximize data return.

- B. If continuous sampling will deplete available batteries before the end of the deployment use burst sampling:

- i. Set the `Number of samples per burst` to capture 10–20 minutes (min) of data.<sup>3</sup>

- ii. Set the `Battery pack` selection to the batteries that are available.<sup>4</sup>

- iii. Adjust the burst interval—which must be greater than the sampling period—until `Battery utilization` is between 90% and 100%.

6. Be sure that the memory card in your ADV has sufficient capacity for the deployment. See the instrument’s documentation for details on clearing the memory card if necessary.

7. Synchronize the computer used to configure the instrument with Internet time via NTP and select the time zone the ADV data should be recorded in. Restart the computer to ensure the new time settings propagate to the instrument.

For convenience, the DOLfYN software package provides a sample Nortek Vector configuration file, `Nortek_Vector_with_IMU.dep` (in the `<DOLfYN-root>/config_files/ADV/` folder) with the settings described above. To use one of these files, download it, open it with the Nortek Vector software, and then view and adjust parameters in the ‘deployment’ pane as needed.<sup>5</sup> The IMU-related options will be initialized correctly when using this file.

## 2.3 Deployment Planning

Safe, efficient, and accurate deployment of scientific equipment in the oceanic environment is a science of its own. Careful planning is critical to deployment safety and success. Hydrokinetic turbine sites are locations with strong currents that add to the difficulty and complexity of deploying scientific equipment. As a result, it is highly recommended that deployment in these conditions be led by experienced professionals in the field. At the very least, enlist such professionals to advise the planning and deployment process.

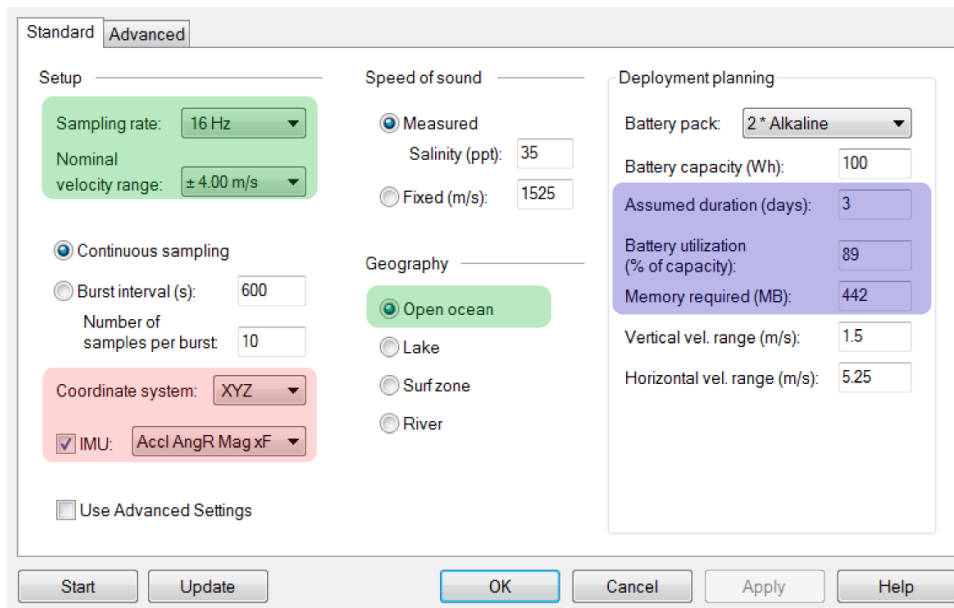
A well-written research cruise plan should include the following:

- Scientific objectives
- A detailed schedule of all activities needed to accomplish objectives
- Noteworthy environmental conditions at the deployment site (e.g., tidal amplitude, current amplitude, probable weather conditions, and daylight hours)

<sup>3</sup>At 16 Hz a 10-minute burst will have  $(10\text{minute}) \cdot (60\text{seconds/minute}) \cdot (16\text{samples/second}) = 9,616$  samples.

<sup>4</sup>It is not recommend to use recharged lithium-ion batteries. The capacity of these batteries can be less than expected after several uses.

<sup>5</sup>Older versions of Nortek’s Vector configuration software will not load this file correctly. Be sure to use a version that supports the MicroS-train chip (version 136b6 or later).



**Figure 5. Nortek Vector software deployment planning pane with typical settings for quantifying turbulence using IMU-equipped ADVs**

Required settings are highlighted in red and recommended settings are in green. The blue box points out the battery consumption and memory requirement estimates for the settings shown. *Illustration by Levi Kilcher, NREL*

- Schematic diagrams of hardware that will be deployed
- A list of all personnel involved in the deployment
- Maps of deployment locations that include notable bathymetric features (e.g., subsurface ridges or canyons) and human infrastructure hazards (e.g., buoys or other equipment)
- A risk assessment and risk mitigation plan.

The schedule is one of the most important parts of the cruise plan. It should include personnel arrival/departure times, ship arrival/departure times, ship-loading and ship-preparation periods, transit periods between port and deployment locations, and target deployment times. Deployment and recovery should be conducted during slack tides to minimize risks associated with the strong currents present during ebb and flood. When preparing the schedule it is important to allow ‘contingency’ time for each period. The instruments should be deployed for at least two full tidal cycles, and ideally up to six or more tidal cycles. Site characterization measurements for power availability should be much longer (see Polagye and Thomson 2013).

### 3 Data Processing

Data processing involves reading raw data from an instrument and converting it to a form that can be readily analyzed. In general it includes cleaning (removing) data points that are caused by instrument errors, converting data to consistent scientific units, producing high- or mid-level variables from the raw data, and averaging.

During the analysis stage unexpected or unrealistic results will indicate errors in the data. When this happens it is necessary to cycle back through data processing steps to inspect raw data, locate the source of the error, and clean (remove) erroneous points from the dataset. The difference between good and erroneous data is generally obvious, but when it is not and no viable justification can be made for removing the unexpected data, one should err on the side of keeping it and, if necessary, treating it as a special case.

Fortunately, the reliability of velocity measurements from instruments such as ADVs and ADPs is high, the uncertainties well understood, and methods for cleaning data are well-defined (e.g., Goring and Nikora 2002). Instruments generally provide estimates of various sources of uncertainty and other errors as part of their output data streams (e.g., ‘error velocity’ and beam ‘correlation’) that aid in cleaning data. This means that it is now possible to generate meaningful and reliable statistics with minimal user input and inspection. The DOLfYN software package includes tools and scripts for processing and analyzing turbulence measurements that were made following the procedures in this document.

There are four major steps to processing moored ADV data:

1. Read the raw data from the ADV data file and crop it to the period of interest
2. Remove ADV head motion from the measured velocity and rotate it into a useful coordinate system
3. Clean erroneous points from the ADV data record
4. Compute turbulence statistics and averages.

It is common practice to save the results of some or all of these steps so that later analysis does not require reprocessing (which sometimes requires significant CPU time). The DOLfYN software package has tools for performing each of these steps, and for saving data along the way. See Appendix B for an example processing script.

#### 3.1 Reading Data

ADVs typically record data internally in a compact vendor-defined binary format. The vendor will generally publish the details of the data format (e.g., Røstad 2011), and also release software tools for viewing this data and/or writing it to other common data formats (e.g., comma-separated, tab-delimited formats, Matlab format, or other increasingly common standards such as HDF5).

Nortek provides software tools for converting raw/binary ‘.vec’ files to Matlab format (see <http://www.nortek-as.com/en/support/software>), and the DOLfYN software package is capable of reading these files directly into Python NumPy arrays (Appendix B, line 40). A data set will also generally need to be ‘cropped’ to the period of interest (e.g., when the instrument was in place on the seafloor, as shown in Figure B.1).

#### 3.2 Motion Correction

Raw turbulence measurements from moored ADVs will be contaminated by mooring motion. When IMU measurements are tightly synchronized with standard ADV velocity estimates, the IMU measurements can be used to reduce this contamination. This involves removing the ADV head motion,  $\vec{u}_h^c$ , from the measured velocity,  $\vec{u}_m^c$ , to estimate the ‘motion corrected’ velocity in the earth frame:

$$\vec{u}^c(t) = \vec{u}_m^c(t) + \vec{u}_h^c(t) \quad (3.1)$$

Here superscript ‘e’s denote the earth coordinate system. Note that the ‘+’ sign is correct because the velocity that is measured by the ADV head due to its motion is in the opposite direction of the head motion. We now break  $\vec{u}_h^c$  into two parts,  $\vec{u}_h^c = \vec{u}_a^c + \vec{u}_w^c$ .



### 3.2.1 Translational Motion

The first part of  $\vec{u}_h^e$  is an estimate of the linear motion of the ADV:

$$\vec{u}_a^e(t) = \int \{\vec{a}^e(t)\}_{HP(f_a)} dt \quad (3.2)$$

Here,  $\vec{a}^e(t)$  is the IMU-measured acceleration signal rotated into the earth frame<sup>6</sup>, and  $\{\}_{HP(f_a)}$  denotes an appropriate high-pass filter of frequency  $f_a$ . The acceleration must be filtered in this way to remove the influence of gravity and that of low-frequency bias (bias drift) that is inherent to IMU acceleration measurements.

Bench tests of the MicroStrain IMU indicate that its accelerometers drift for frequencies  $< 10^{-2}$  Hz, i.e. a minute or more (Egeland 2014). Therefore, to remove bias drift in  $\vec{a}$  that, when integrated according to Eq. (3.2), leads to large errors in  $\vec{u}_a^e$  this document recommends using  $f_a = 0.033$  Hz (30 s). On the other hand, real motions at and below  $f_a$  will not be accurately accounted for in  $\vec{u}_a^e$ , and will therefore persist as low-frequency motion contamination in the estimate of  $\vec{u}$ .

For moorings with low-frequency motion that is limited by the mooring line itself—i.e. the mooring anchor does not move—this is a reasonable approach. Assuming that the displacement of the ADV head from the mooring’s neutral position is likely to be  $< 20\%$  of its distance from the bottom, then the low-frequency motion (i.e. below  $f_a = 0.03$  Hz) of a 10-m tether will be  $< 0.07$  m/s. In other words, for a 10-m mooring the choice of  $f_a = 0.03$  Hz allows for low-frequency motion contamination on the order of 0.07 m/s to persist. This is a notable but relatively minor level of uncertainty in the context of the highly energetic flows that exist at tidal energy sites. Further details on accelerometer drift can be found in Egeland 2014.

### 3.2.2 Rotational Motion

The second component,  $\vec{u}_h^e$ , is rotational motion of the ADV head about the IMU:

$$\vec{u}_\omega^e(t) = \mathbf{R}^T(t) \cdot (\vec{\omega}^*(t) \times \vec{\ell}^*) \quad (3.3)$$

Here  $\vec{\omega}^*$  is the IMU-measured rotation-rate,  $\vec{\ell}^* = \vec{l}_{\text{head}}^* - \vec{l}_{\text{imu}}^*$  is the vector from the IMU to the ADV head,  $\times$  indicates a cross-product, and superscript \*s denotes a quantity in the ‘ADV body’ coordinate system. This coordinate system is used explicitly here to emphasize that  $\vec{\ell}^*$  is constant in time. Matrix multiplication (denoted by ‘ $\cdot$ ’) with the inverse ADV body orientation matrix,  $\mathbf{R}^T(t)$ , is used to rotate the ‘body-frame rotation-induced velocity’ into the earth frame. For details on these coordinate systems and the definition of the orientation matrix see Appendix A.

All of the motion correction steps described above can be performed using DOLfYN’s `adv.io.motion` module. To do this, the user must specify  $\mathbf{H}$  and  $\vec{l}_{\text{head}}^*$  as ‘properties’ of the raw (cleaned) ADV data object, and select a value for  $f_a$  (e.g., lines 18, 23, 34, and 111 of Appendix B). For those unfamiliar with Python, the ‘`motcorrect_vector.py`’ script bundled with DOLfYN provides a command-line interface for performing this motion correction and saves the motion-corrected data in Matlab format. In that case,  $\mathbf{H}$  and  $\vec{l}_{\text{head}}^*$  are specified in an input ‘orient’ file, and  $f_a$  can be specified as a command-line option.

### 3.2.3 Select a Local Coordinate System

Prior to performing any averaging and computing other statistics it is often useful to rotate the measurements into a locally meaningful coordinate system. For the purposes of quantifying turbulence at hydrokinetic turbine sites it is common practice to rotate the data into a coordinate system in which  $u$  is the ‘stream-wise’ velocity,  $v$  is the ‘cross-stream’ velocity, and  $w$  is in the ‘up’ direction. For details on selecting, estimating, and transforming into such a coordinate system see Appendix A.2.

<sup>6</sup>That is,  $\vec{a}^e(t) = \mathbf{R}^T(t) \cdot \vec{a}^*(t)$ , see Appendix A for details.

### 3.3 Cleaning Data

Data ‘cleaning’ is a two-step process of 1) identifying erroneous points in an otherwise good data set and 2) replacing them with either: a) reasonable estimates of the values at those points, or b) ‘error values’ (e.g., NaN = ‘not-a-number’), which explicitly indicate that the points are invalid. Recommended methods for identifying erroneous data include:

- Search the data for manufacturer-defined ‘error values’ (if the manufacturer defines these<sup>7</sup>).
- Search for values outside a reasonable range. For example, tidal velocities are typically less than 4 m/s; therefore, a velocity measurement greater than 5 m/s is probably erroneous. Histograms can be useful for identifying the reasonable velocity range.
- Utilize diagnostic data from the instrument. For example, low values of correlation—the similarity of the send and receive acoustic pulses—can sometimes indicate erroneous data.
- Apply ‘spike detection’ algorithms to the velocity signal. Although turbulence is, by definition, unsteady and chaotic, it is not discontinuous. Large and sharp spikes in the velocity signal are almost always erroneous.

Modern ADVs often produce data of sufficiently high quality that only a relatively small number of spike-type erroneous data points are present in the raw data (after cropping). In these cases spike detection is usually sufficient to identify erroneous points. The recommended spike-identification method is documented in Goring and Nikora 2002 and Wahl 2003, and implemented in DOLfYN’s `adv.clean.GN2002` function.

After points have been identified as erroneous they will need to be replaced. For a few cases of sparsely distributed erroneous data points they can be replaced with interpolated values (DOLfYN’s `adv.clean.GN2002` function uses a least-squares cubic polynomial) without introducing significant interpolation-related biases. This approach produces a data set that can be further processed without the difficulty of dealing with NaN values.

If, on the other hand, there are segments of data with large fractions of erroneous points (>10%–20%) interpolation may introduce significant bias to a myriad of statistics of the data. In these cases it is best to crop out the erroneous segment (perhaps creating two distinct data sets that can be rejoined later), or to assign NaN values to the erroneous points. In general, the choice between these options will depend on the objectives of the analysis or the preference of the investigator. For the purposes of this document, in which spectral analysis is a primary result, assigning NaN values will make spectral analysis difficult to the point that it is best to simply split the data record to remove the erroneous segments and reassemble it in later stages of processing.

### 3.4 Turbulence Metrics and Averaging

Having cleaned the raw data and computed an estimate of the velocity vector in a useful coordinate system,  $\bar{u}$ , one can finally begin estimating the turbulence statistics and average (mean) flow properties the measurements were designed to capture. For each component of velocity,  $\vec{u} = (u, v, w)$ , turbulence is defined by separating the instantaneous velocity (e.g.,  $u$ ) into ‘average’ ( $\bar{u}$ ) and ‘turbulent’ ( $u'$ ) pieces<sup>8</sup>:

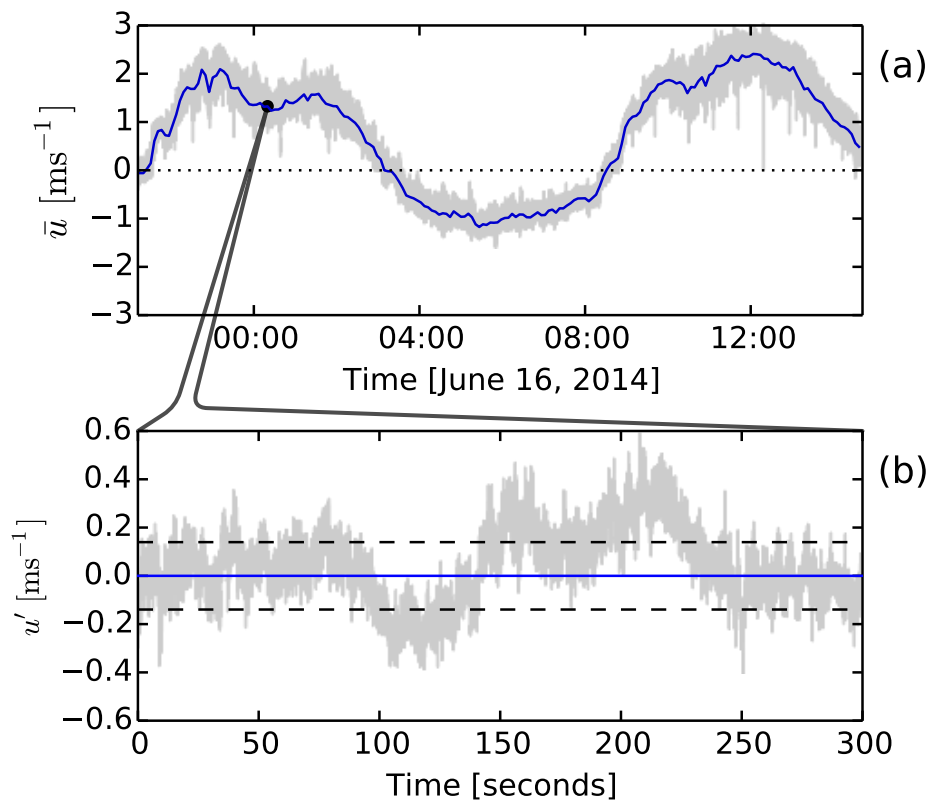
$$u = \bar{u} + u' \tag{3.4}$$

Where the over-bar denotes a ‘suitable average,’ over a period  $\Delta t$ , such that  $\overline{u'} = 0$ . For hydrokinetic turbines, it is useful to choose  $\Delta t$ , such that  $\bar{u}$  is the flow in which the turbine is designed to efficiently convert into useful energy, whereas the turbulence is what contributes to fatigue loads that decrease device lifetime. That is,  $\Delta t$  should be somewhat longer than a typical hydrokinetic turbine ramp-up time (tens of seconds to a minute or two). Defined this way, a turbine can be considered to be in a ‘steady operational state’ so long as changes in  $\bar{u}$  are small compared to  $\bar{u}$  itself. Turbulent velocity fluctuations can then be treated as disturbances to a hydrokinetic turbine’s ‘steady operation.’

A time scale,  $\Delta t$ , must be chosen such that the tidal flow has stationary statistics (i.e., stable mean and variance) for that duration of tide. If  $\Delta t$  is too long, the tidal variation itself will contaminate the results. The wind energy industry uses  $\Delta t = 10$  min (International Electrotechnical Commission 2005), which is appropriate for large modern wind

<sup>7</sup>The velocity data in Nortek Vector (.vec) files do not contain an error value.

<sup>8</sup>Some discussions include a ‘wave velocity,’ but for simplicity, it is not included here at this time.



**Figure 6. An example velocity time series measured using a TTM at Admiralty Inlet**

a) The mean stream-wise velocity ( $\bar{u}$ , blue,  $\Delta t = 5$ -minute) is overlaid on the full signal (grey), and b) shows a 5-minute data window of the turbulent piece of the streamwise velocity,  $u'$ . The dashed lines indicate one standard deviation.

turbines (with long ramp-up times); however, the smaller size of current hydrokinetic turbines suggests that they may respond faster, therefore, a smaller  $\Delta t$  might be appropriate (Gunawan, Neary, and Colby 2014). On the other hand, if turbulence is to be treated as the primary driver of device fatigue loads, one should be careful not to implicitly neglect energetic low-frequency turbulence by selecting  $\Delta t$  to be too short.

With these considerations in mind, and until further work provides more details on the relationship between turbulent inflow and hydrokinetic turbine loads, we recommend using  $\Delta t = 2\text{--}10$  minutes. The exact choice of  $\Delta t$ —within this range—is unlikely to alter the results significantly, and should be adjusted depending on the goals of the analysis. For example, when fitting theoretical spectra to observations for the purpose of input to stochastic flow simulation tools such as TurbSim (Jonkman 2009), it is desirable to include lower frequencies in the fit, and therefore it is reasonable to use a longer  $\Delta t$  (5–10 min).

With  $\Delta t$  chosen, the ADV data record is broken into segments in which turbulence statistics are computed. In this way the time series of instantaneous velocity,  $\vec{u}$  (at the instrument sample rate, e.g., 16 Hertz [Hz]), is converted to a time series of turbulence statistics (with time-step  $\Delta t$ , shown in Figure 6). It is recommended to save data at this level to allow for quick and easy access during analysis.

The remainder of this section defines several turbulence variables that are commonly used in the hydrokinetic turbine industry and can be computed from moored ADV measurements. Furthermore, DOLfYN’s adv.io.turbulence module provides a two-line interface for performing averaging and computing all of these statistics (e.g., lines 123–124 in Appendix B).

### 3.4.1 Turbulence Intensity

Turbulence intensity is used throughout the wind industry and other engineering fields as a zero<sup>th</sup>-order metric for quantifying turbulence. It is defined as the ratio of the standard deviation of horizontal velocity magnitude ( $U = \sqrt{u^2 + v^2}$ ) to its mean:

$$I = \frac{\text{std}(U)}{\bar{U}} \quad (3.5)$$

Turbulence intensity is often quoted in units of percent (i.e.,  $100 \cdot I$ ). It is useful because it is easy to understand, and—in many observations of atmospheric and oceanic turbulence—is relatively constant for  $\bar{U} \gg 0$ . On the other hand,  $I$  has often been criticized for being too simple (in particular, that it only includes information about horizontal velocity) such that it does not provide enough information about the turbulence for various applications.

### 3.4.2 Turbulent Kinetic Energy

Turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) quantifies the total energy contained in turbulence:

$$E_{TKE} = \overline{u'u'} + \overline{v'v'} + \overline{w'w'} \quad (3.6)$$

Like  $I$ ,  $E_{TKE}$  is useful because it is relatively simple. As a scalar quantity that includes all turbulence components, it has been studied at length by turbulence scientists and has a well-defined ‘budget’ equation that is the basis of turbulence theory. For some purposes it may be useful to investigate each component of  $E_{TKE}$  individually. It has been suggested that a turbulence intensity based on TKE, that is  $I_{TKE} = \sqrt{E_{TKE}}/\bar{U}$ , would be more meaningful to engineering applications; however, this approach has not gained wide acceptance.

### 3.4.3 Reynold’s Stresses

Reynold’s stresses are correlations between velocity components and are fundamentally important to turbulent flow fields. Unlike  $E_{TKE}$ , Reynold’s stresses appear in the mean-flow equation explicitly as terms that transport (move) momentum from high- to low-velocity regions. Because of how they appear in the mean-flow equation, Reynold’s stresses are typically treated as three distinct components:  $\overline{u'v'}$ ,  $\overline{u'w'}$ , and  $\overline{v'w'}$ <sup>9</sup>. Several studies have found evidence

<sup>9</sup>In many formalisms of turbulence the Reynold’s stresses are components of off-diagonal elements of the Reynold’s stress tensor. In these arenas the diagonal elements of that tensor are the components of  $E_{TKE}$ .

that they are correlated with increased wind turbine fatigue loads (e.g., Kelley et al. 2002; Kelley et al. 2005), which has begun to elevate their importance in the wind energy field.

### 3.4.4 Turbulence Auto Spectra

Turbulence velocity auto spectra (hereafter referred to as ‘spectra’) are estimates of the distribution of turbulent energy as a function of frequency. That is, a spectrum quantifies the amount of energy in the velocity at a range of time scales. Furthermore, for the measurement approach described herein, time scales can be converted into length scales using Taylor’s frozen flow hypothesis (i.e.,  $l_i = \bar{u}/f_i$ ), spectra quantify the distribution of turbulent energy at different length scales. When considering turbulence to be a complex interaction of eddies from very small to very large scales, the spectrum quantifies the energy (rotation speed) of the eddies as a function of their size ( $\delta$ , Figure 1).

Hydrokinetic turbines respond to each scale of velocity fluctuations differently. Hydrokinetic turbine simulation tools (such as Tidal bladed and HydroFAST<sup>10</sup>) are capable of estimating the loads induced by these fluctuations, but the critical information of how energetic those fluctuations are must be provided as input to these tools. Fortunately, spectra provide exactly this information: the distribution of energy as a function of eddy size.

Spectra are estimated from fast Fourier transforms (FFTs) of the turbulent velocity:

$$S\{u\}(f) = |\mathcal{F}(u)|^2 \quad (3.7)$$

In this work, FFTs [denoted by  $\mathcal{F}(\cdot)$ ] are computed by removing a linear trend from  $u$ <sup>11</sup> and applying hanning windows to reduce spectral reddening (Priestley 1981). Spectra are normalized so that  $\int S\{u\}(f)df = \overline{u'u'}$ .

### 3.4.5 Spatial Coherence

Spatial coherence is an estimate of the correlation of velocity components, over spatial distances, as a function of frequency. That is, where spectra indicate the energy in eddies as a function of their size ( $\delta$ ), coherence is an estimator of their ‘length’ ( $L$ ). For three-dimensional isotropic turbulence, these length scales should be similar. For the largest eddies, which are expected to be depth-limited and thus two-dimensional and anisotropic, it is likely that  $L$  will greatly exceed  $\delta$ . Knowledge of the ‘length’ of these large eddies is important to hydrokinetic turbine design because they are the most energetic, and if their dimensions match that of hydrokinetic turbine components they are likely to have a larger impact on the hydrokinetic turbine.

The  $u$ -component spatial coherence is estimated as<sup>12</sup>:

$$\Gamma_{ij}\{u\}(f) = \frac{|\langle \mathcal{F}(u_i)\mathcal{F}(u_j) \rangle|^2}{\langle S\{u_i\} \rangle \langle S\{u_j\} \rangle} \quad (3.8)$$

Where  $\langle \rangle$  denotes an ensemble average, and  $i$  and  $j$  denote different measurement points in space.

<sup>10</sup>Based on the National Wind Technology Center’s FAST wind turbine simulation tool.

<sup>11</sup>Note that removing a linear trend means that  $\mathcal{F}(u) = \mathcal{F}(u')$ .

<sup>12</sup>Equivalent expressions apply for the  $v$  and  $w$  components.

## 4 Data Analysis

This section presents example analyses of moored ADV data that provide potentially useful information for hydrokinetic turbine site- and device-developers, and discusses the accuracy and limitations of the approach.

### 4.1 Initial Inspection: Time Series and Histograms

As a first step in most analysis of velocity data, it is useful to plot the velocity and other turbulence statistics as a function of time. In the example data in Figure 7 the tidal currents reach 2 m/s. During this period, at this location, the floods are significantly larger than the ebb. The mean velocity appears to be a reasonable estimate: there is a clear tidal signal, there are no sudden dramatic jumps in the values, and the magnitude of the velocity agrees with previous measurements at this site, which gives us confidence that our methods have produced a reliable data set (Figure 7a).

The instantaneous turbulence intensity has an average of 10%, but approaches 20% in some 5-min periods (7b). As is often observed in turbulent flows throughout the oceans and atmosphere the turbulence is highly intermittent: dominated by large spikes and periods of relative calm (7c). Note also that the turbulence is significantly lower for the small ebb than it is for the two (larger) floods. The Reynold's stresses show a similar pattern (7d).

Hydrokinetic turbine site developers often use histograms of velocity measurements to estimate the available power at a tidal energy site. The record in Figure 7 is not long enough to estimate annual energy production but a histogram of the measurements does provide some indication of the distribution of velocity at the site (Figure 8). During this time period, for example, more than 30% of the measurements had a  $\bar{U}$  in the range of 0.8–1.2 m/s.

### 4.2 Turbulence Spectra

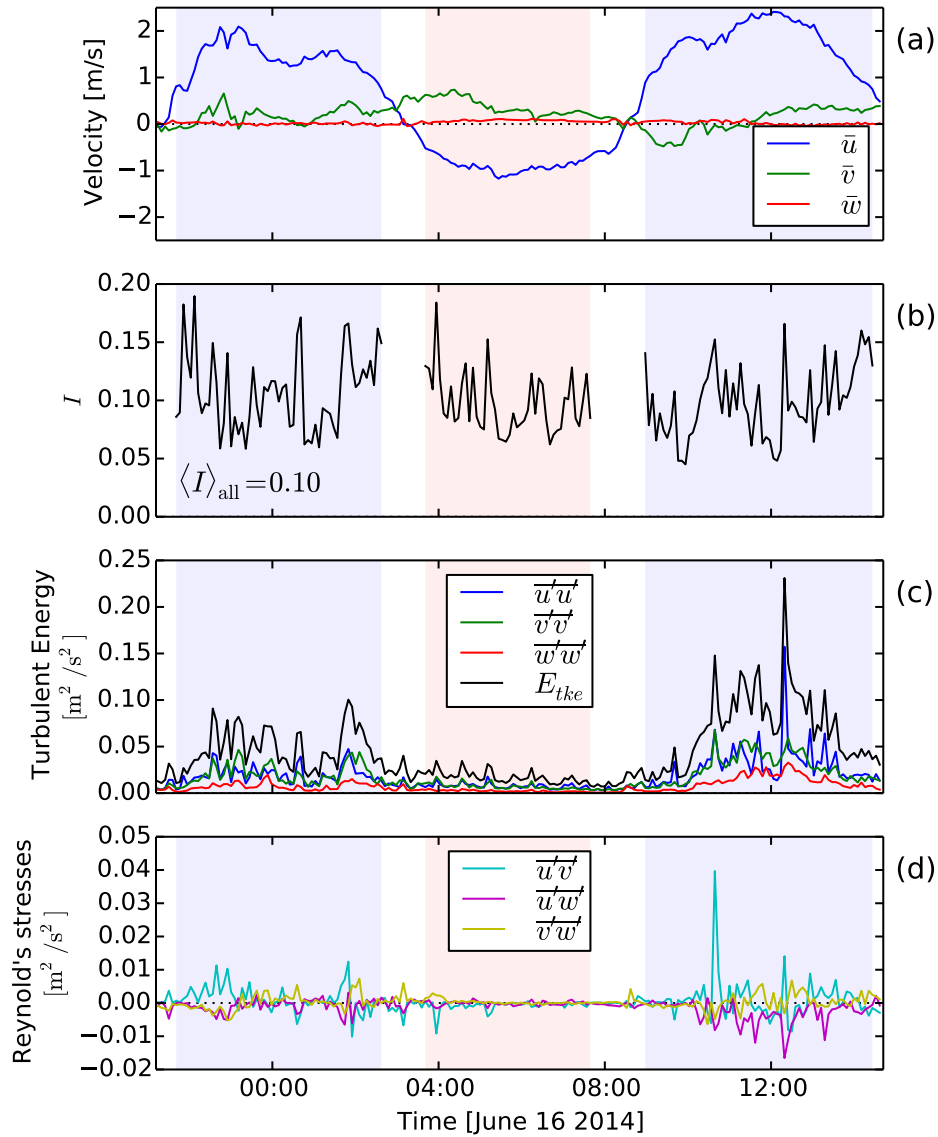
The primary purpose for making ADV measurements at hydrokinetic turbine sites is to measure the turbulence spectra. That is, ADVs resolve the inflow at a level of detail that cannot be measured with profiling instruments. Turbulence spectra are estimates of the distribution of energy as a function of frequency (eddy size). Because spectra reveal detailed information about the signal (velocity), they also reveal detailed sources of error in the measurement. It is therefore important to be aware of these errors so that one can be careful to exclude them from estimates of statistics meaningful to the flow.

Kolmogorov's theory of locally isotropic turbulence predicted that turbulence spectra would have an 'inertial sub-range' in which the amplitude of the spectral components (i.e.,  $S\{u\}$ ,  $S\{v\}$ , and  $S\{w\}$ ) will be equal, and in which the spectra will decay as  $k^{-5/3}$  (Kolmogorov 1941). This prediction has been confirmed by observation so ubiquitously in oceanic and atmospheric turbulence that it has become a defining characteristic of turbulence spectra (e.g., Figure 9a, data from Thomson et al. 2012). Based on this we expect that deviations from this behavior are likely to indicate some source of error.

There are two primary sources of error in moored ADV spectra: 1) Doppler noise, and 2) imperfect motion correction. Doppler noise has been studied at length and is easy to identify and account for. Doppler noise is a low-energy 'white-noise'<sup>13</sup> that results from uncertainty in the Doppler shift recorded by the ADV. In measurements of oceanic turbulence it is generally observed at high frequencies where the amplitude of the turbulent motions drops below the 'Doppler noise level' (Figure 9).

Estimates of  $S\{v\}$  from a TTM show a peak near 0.1 Hz that deviates from the  $f^{-5/3}$  spectral slope (Figure 9b). Comparison of the velocity spectra to the spectra of uncorrected velocity measurements,  $S\{u_m\}$ , and spectra of the head motion,  $S\{u_h\}$ , shows that this peak is caused by mooring motion (Figure 10). This comparison highlights the need for motion correction: without it spectral shapes are contaminated by mooring motion. At many frequencies, head motion is 5 times larger than the corrected signal (which is taken to be correct because it agrees with a  $f^{-5/3}$  spectral slope). Furthermore, with Kolmogorov's theory of isotropy and the  $f^{-5/3}$  slope, there is a strong theoretical footing to simply interpolate over the persistent motion contamination peak in  $S\{v\}$  to estimate the underlying real spectrum. These results suggest that motion-corrected moored ADV measurements are capable of producing accurate estimates of all three components of the turbulence spectra.

<sup>13</sup>White noise has constant amplitude with frequency.



**Figure 7. A time series of turbulence statistics measured from a TTM at Admiralty Head a) velocity, b) turbulence intensity, c) turbulent kinetic energy and its components, d) Reynold's stresses.** Shaded regions indicate ebb (red) and flood (blue) periods where  $U > 0.7$ . Turbulence intensity is only plotted during these periods because it is meaningless for small values of  $U$ . The mean  $I$  over the data record is 10%.

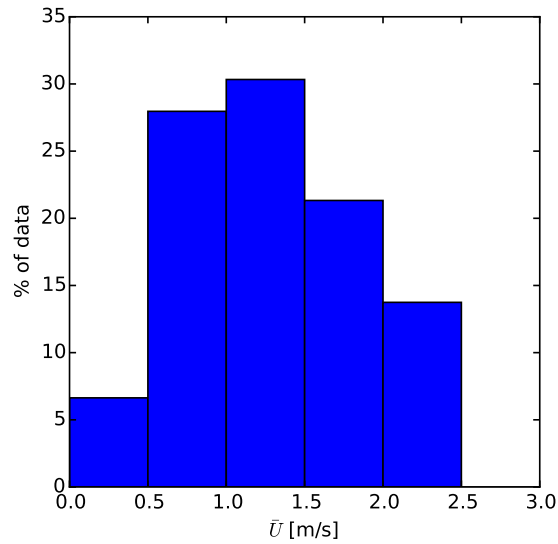


Figure 8. Histogram of mean horizontal velocity magnitude

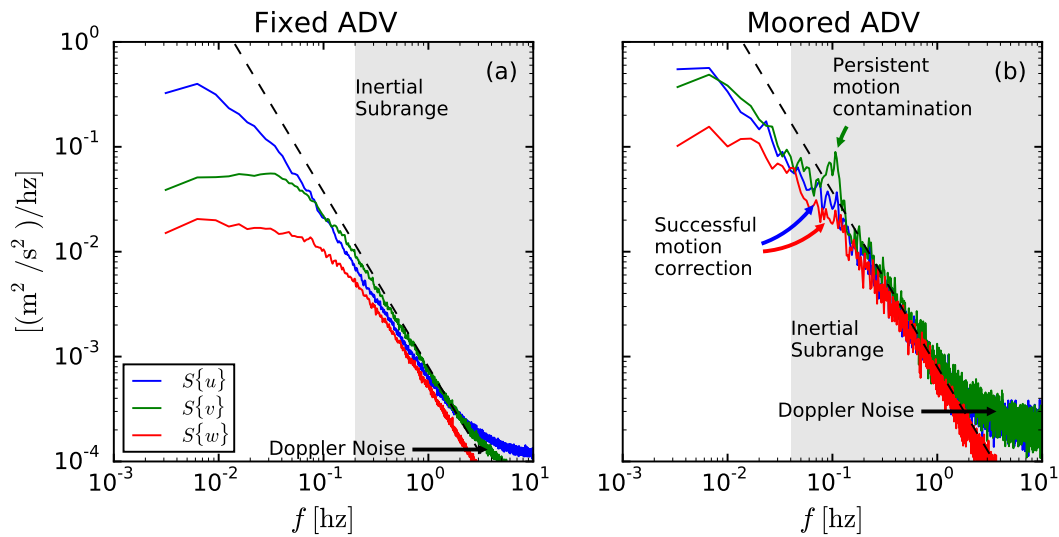
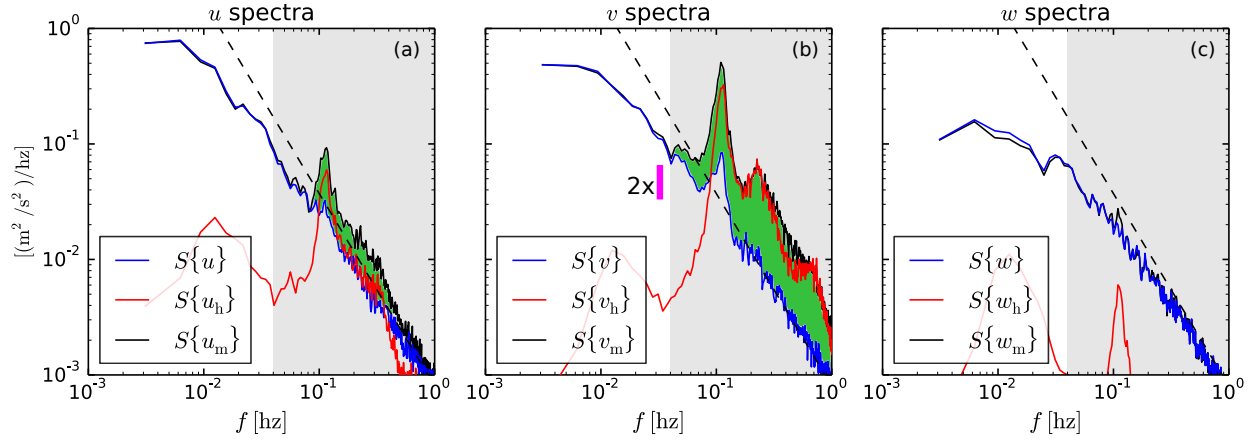


Figure 9. A comparison of the shape of spectra at two different sites from ADVs on: a rigid tripod (a), and a TTM (b)

The spectra for each velocity component,  $u$ ,  $v$ ,  $w$  are in blue, green, and red, respectively. The shaded region indicates the ‘inertial subrange,’ in which the spectra decay like  $f^{-5/3}$  and all components have nearly the same amplitude. The dashed line indicates a  $f^{-5/3}$  slope. The difference in amplitude of the spectra (between a and b) is expected because the turbulence measurements were made at different sites. In each panel the ‘Doppler noise’ level arrow points at Doppler noise that exceeds the high-frequency turbulence levels.





**Figure 10. Spectra of turbulence highlighting motion correction**

a) Shows the streamwise velocity, b) shows the cross-stream velocity, and c) shows the vertical velocity. Black lines show the uncorrected spectra, red show the spectra of head motion, and blue show the spectra after motion correction. Green shading highlights locations where motion correction reduced the spectral amplitude. The inertial subrange is shaded as it was in Figure 9.

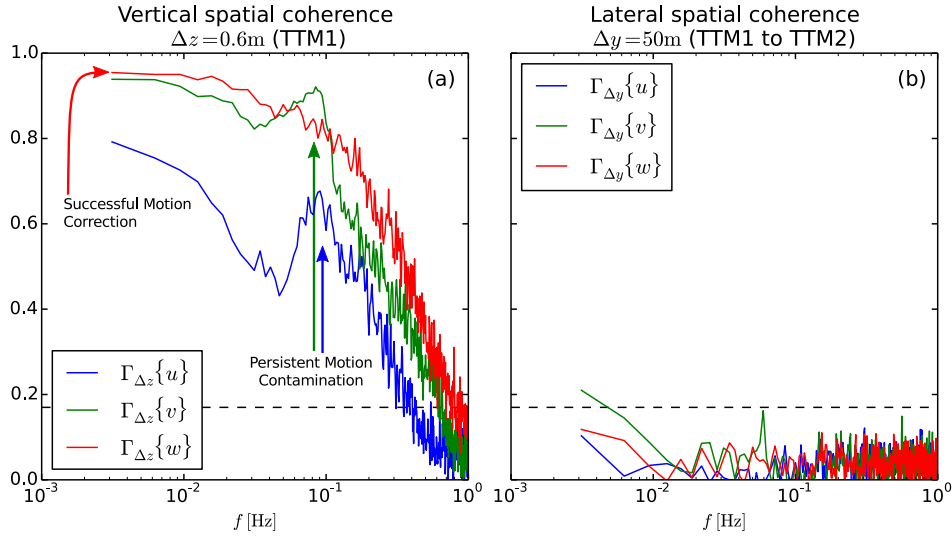
### 4.3 Spatial Coherence

Measurements of spatial coherence over the scales important to hydrokinetic turbines (e.g., rotor diameter) can be used to improve the accuracy of inflow simulations at hydrokinetic turbine sites. Vertical spatial coherence estimates from two IMU-equipped ADVs deployed on a TTM, separated by 0.6 m, are plotted in Figure 11a. The lack of motion contamination in  $S\{w_m\}$  (Figure 10), suggests that this component will have an accurate estimate of  $\Gamma_{\Delta z}\{w\}$ . Indeed, the shape of  $\Gamma_{\Delta z}\{w\}$  agrees with measurements of coherence from other environments; i.e., it has an exponential decay (Kilcher, Thomson, and Colby 2014). Unfortunately,  $\Gamma_{\Delta z}\{u\}$  and  $\Gamma_{\Delta z}\{v\}$  are contaminated by persistent mooring motion at 0.1 Hz. The peak in coherence arises because the measurements were made from the same TTM strongback vane, and the co-motion of that vane created a peak in the coherence estimate at the frequency of mooring motion.

The lateral spatial-coherence estimates between ADVs on two different TTMs show zero-spatial coherence. We believe this to be a reliable and important result: at this site (50 m water depth) and distance above the bottom (11 m), turbulence is incoherent over spatial separations of 50 m. This supports the theory that the limiting scale for spatial coherence of turbulence is controlled by the outer scale of the forcing. That is, the lateral spatial coherence is controlled by the distance from the bottom. This result suggests that turbulent loading on devices in an array with hub heights smaller than their separation distance will be uncorrelated across the array.

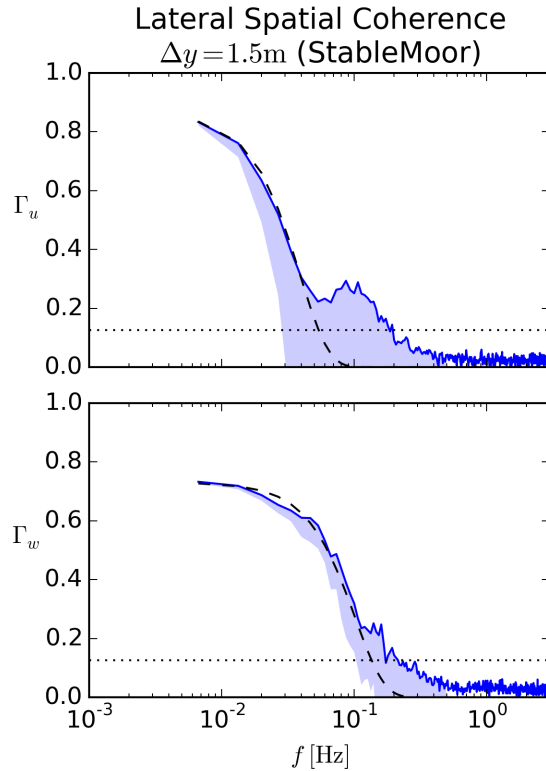
Measurements of lateral spatial coherence from the STTM have a far lower motion contamination (Figure 12).  $\Gamma\{w\}$  has minimal motion contamination at 0.15 Hz, but is otherwise an assuring estimate of spatial coherence.  $\Gamma\{u\}$  has a significant motion contamination peak at 0.1 Hz, but this peak is much smaller than the contamination in  $\Gamma\{u\}$  in Figure 11a. The differences in low-frequency amplitude of the coherence is a result of the different orientations:  $\Gamma\{w\}$  has high coherence when the measurements are separated vertically, and  $\Gamma\{u\}$  has higher coherence when the measurements are separated laterally.

The STTM-based coherence estimates are more accurate because the buoy is streamlined and has a larger inertia than the strongback vane, resulting in lower total motion. Additionally, the ADP mounted in the buoy's hull provides an independent measurement of platform motion. The ratio of this motion to the velocity measurements provides an estimate of the uncertainty in the coherence estimates. That is, because the two ADVs are on the same platform, their coherence might be enhanced by as much as the motion of the platform (shading in Figure 12). If the platform motion is much less than the measured signal, then the uncertainty is small. A best-fit exponential to the uncontaminated data provides an estimate of the spatial coherence parameters used in turbulence simulation tools such as TurbSim.



**Figure 11. Spatial coherence estimates from TTM1**

Vertical coherence estimates (a) are from ADVs on TTM1 spaced 0.6 m apart. Lateral coherence estimates (b) are between neighboring TTMs spaced 50 m apart. Dashed lines in both figures indicate the 95% confidence level above which the coherence estimates are statistically different from 0.



**Figure 12. Lateral spatial coherence estimates from the Stable TTM**

The measurement spacing is 1.5 m in the cross-stream ( $y$ ) direction. The horizontal dotted line indicates the 95% confidence level. The shaded region indicates the uncertainty from mooring motion measured by the ADP. The upper panel shows the  $u$ -component coherence, and the lower panel shows the  $w$ -component. Dashed lines indicate best fits to the data in which the uncertainty is less than 0.2.

## 5 Summary and Future Work

This document outlines the methods for making turbulence measurements at hydrokinetic turbine sites using mooring-deployed IMU-equipped ADVs. Using the data processing techniques described herein, it is possible to obtain accurate turbulence spectra estimates from these measurements. This approach produces reliable estimates of the Reynold's stresses, turbulent energy, and turbulence spectra. The  $w$ -component of vertical spatial coherence can be estimated using a tidal turbulence mooring, and the stable tidal turbulence mooring provides data that resolves lateral spatial coherence. Other existing approaches—most of which deploy instrumentation on the seafloor (either ADPs or ADVs)—do not resolve the statistics of the turbulence with sufficient accuracy (ADPs) or at the correct location (ADVs) to produce realistic inflow time series for device simulation tools.

This manual provides guidance on: designing mooring hardware that can support the instrumentation, planning deployments to capture the statistics of turbulence that are important to hydrokinetic turbines, configuring instrumentation for data collection, processing data, and quantifying statistics relevant to tidal energy. It is highly recommended that users of this manual also download and install the DOLFIN software package, as each data processing step described herein can be performed in a few lines of code. In particular, the tedious details of accounting for different coordinate systems have been simplified therein (Appendix A).

Since this project began, a new generation of higher-accuracy ADP has become commercially available. Although these modernized instruments still lack the precision of ADVs for high-fidelity turbulence measurements, they may be capable of measuring turbulence statistics in sufficient detail for site characterization and project design studies. More work is needed to validate this capability and investigate whether measurements from these instruments can be extrapolated to high frequency to provide the statistics needed for input to device simulation tools. If this capability can be demonstrated, the TTM system will be valuable in high-fidelity site characterization and model validation studies, and the new ADPs could provide an even lower cost all-in-one tool for low- to mid-fidelity site characterization.

To engineer low-cost devices, the hydrokinetic turbine industry still needs a clear understanding of the range of turbulent conditions in which turbines are likely to operate. To gain this understanding, more data—at alternate sites, with TTM moorings and new ADPs—is needed. This data would be highly valuable for incorporating turbulence information into tidal energy resource assessment and design standards, and would provide input data to standardized device simulation tools that include realistic inflow conditions across a representative distribution of site conditions.

## Feedback

Comments, questions, suggestions, or corrections should be directed to Levi Kilcher (Levi.Kilcher@nrel.gov) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

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## A Coordinate Systems

Tracking coordinate systems (i.e., ‘reference frames’ or simply ‘frames’) is a critical and somewhat tedious task for making accurate velocity measurements using moored acoustic Doppler velocimeters (ADV). The coordinate systems for doing so can be broken into two categories: 1) the ‘inertial’ or ‘stationary’ ones, into which it is the goal to transform the measurements, and 2) the moving coordinate systems, in which sensors make the measurements. The purpose of this appendix is to clearly document and define the relationships between all of the coordinate systems necessary for quantifying turbulence using moored ADVs. This appendix starts with general definitions of coordinate systems and the relationships between them (Section A.1), then details the stationary and measurement frames used herein (Sections A.2 and A.3, respectively).

### A.1 Defining Coordinate Systems

Consider two three-dimensional right-handed coordinate systems (‘a’ and ‘b’) with orthogonal basis vectors  $\hat{x}^a, \hat{y}^a, \hat{z}^a$ , and  $\hat{x}^b, \hat{y}^b, \hat{z}^b$ . In general, these coordinate systems are related by the equation:

$$\vec{r}^b = \mathbf{R}_b^a \cdot (\vec{r}^a - l_b^a) \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Here superscripts denote the coordinate system that the quantity is measured in and  $\cdot$  indicates standard matrix multiplication. The vectors  $\vec{r}^a$  and  $\vec{r}^b$  indicate the same point in space, but in the two distinct coordinate systems. In this framework the vector  $l_b^a$  is the ‘translation vector’ that specifies the origin of coordinate system ‘b’ in the ‘a’ frame, and  $\mathbf{R}_b^a$  is the ‘orientation matrix’ of ‘b’ in ‘a’. With these definitions, the following statements are true:

- A vector can be mapped from one coordinate system to the other by:

$$\vec{u}^b = \mathbf{R}_b^a \cdot \vec{u}^a \quad (\text{A.2})$$

- The inverse rotation is simply the transpose:

$$\mathbf{R}_a^b = (\mathbf{R}_b^a)^{-1} = (\mathbf{R}_b^a)^T \quad (\text{A.3})$$

- The determinant of the rotation matrix is 1:

$$\det(\mathbf{R}_b^a) = 1 \quad (\text{A.4})$$

### A.2 Stationary Frames

Throughout the main body of this document measurements are discussed in terms of two stationary coordinate systems: a) the ‘earth frame’ is the coordinate system in which motion correction is performed,\* and b) a local ‘analysis frame’ coordinate system in which turbulence is analyzed and discussed.

#### A.2.1 The Earth Frame

The earth frame is the coordinate system in which the orientation of the ADV is measured (see Section A.3.2), and is the coordinate system in which motion correction is most easily calculated and discussed (Section 3.2). This work utilizes ‘e’ superscripts to denote an east-north-up (ENU) earth coordinate system with basis vectors:

$\hat{x}^e$  East

$\hat{y}^e$  North

$\hat{z}^e$  Up

\*The earth reference frame is not technically inertial because the earth is rotating, but for the purposes of measuring turbulence in tidal straits we consider it to be stationary.

### A.2.2 The Analysis Frame

The choice of ‘analysis frame’ will, in general, depend on the data available and the goals of the analysis. For quantifying inflow to hydrokinetic turbines it is common practice to use a coordinate system where:

- $\hat{x}$  is the ‘stream-wise’ or ‘flood’ direction,
- $\hat{y}$  is the ‘cross-stream’ direction (defined by the right-hand rule relative to  $\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{z}$ )
- $\hat{z}$  is the ‘vertical up’ direction.

Note that throughout this work vector quantities with no superscript are in this local frame. The orientation of this frame relative to the earth is defined as:

$$\mathbf{S}^e = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

where  $\theta$  is the angle from the east to the ‘stream-wise’ direction.

For the purpose of estimating  $\theta$ , it is convenient to use complex notation for the horizontal velocity:

$$\tilde{U}^e = u^e + i v^e = U e^{i\phi^e} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ ,  $e \approx 2.71828$  is Euler’s number,  $U$  is the instantaneous horizontal velocity magnitude, and  $\phi^e$  is the angle of that velocity from the east.

For measurements at locations where the flow does not change direction dramatically over the measurement period (e.g., in rivers), the stream-wise direction can be estimated by averaging the horizontal velocity over the entire data record:

$$\theta_{\text{river}} = \arg(\langle \tilde{U}^e \rangle_{\text{data}}) \quad (\text{A.7})$$

where  $\langle \rangle_{\text{data}}$  denotes an average of all data, and  $\arg$  returns the complex angle of its argument.

For measurements at locations where velocity changes direction over the measurement period a more sophisticated method for determining a local coordinate system is often required. For tidal flows, for example, it is often useful to define the ‘stream-wise’ direction to be parallel with ebb and opposite flood (or vice-versa). This can be done by first defining:

$$\phi^\dagger = \begin{cases} 2\phi^e & \text{for } 0 < \phi^e < \pi \\ 2(\phi^e - \pi) & \text{for } \pi < \phi^e < 2\pi \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

That is,  $\phi^e$  angles in the lower half of the unit circle are rotated to be in the opposite direction, then all angles are doubled so that  $\phi^\dagger$  fills out the unit circle again. When re-combined with the velocity magnitudes,  $\phi^\dagger$ , can be used to estimate the ebb-flood direction as:

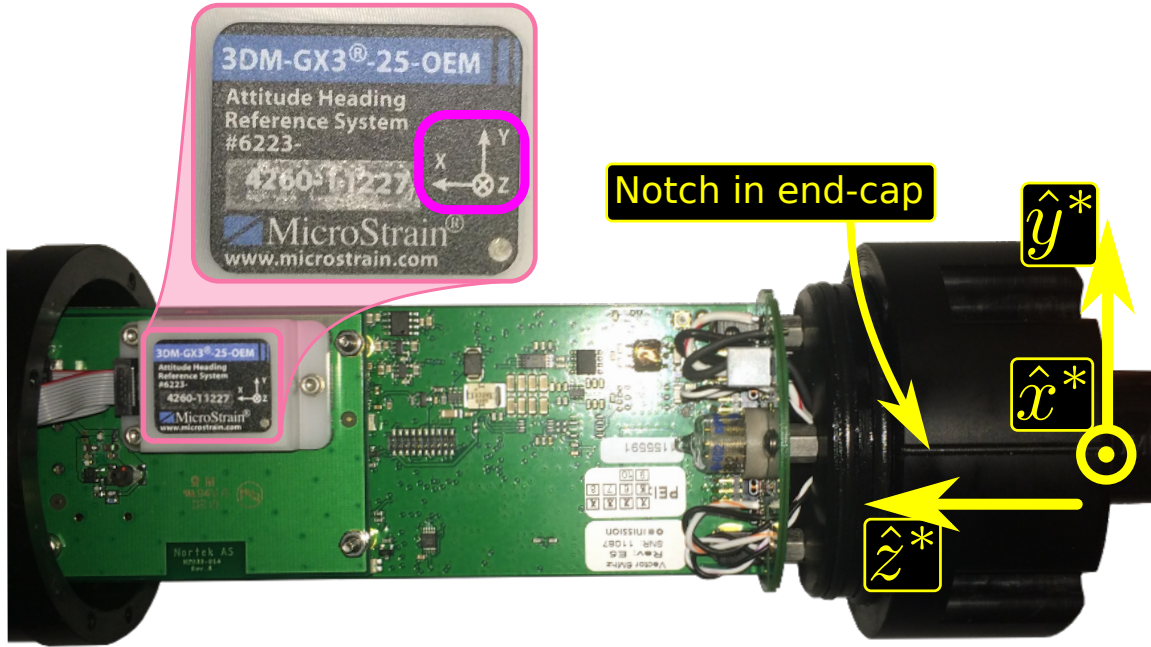
$$\theta_{\text{tide}} = \arg(\langle U e^{i\phi^\dagger} \rangle_{\text{data}}) / 2 \quad (\text{A.9})$$

The ambiguity over whether  $\theta_{\text{tide}}$  points in the direction of ebb or flood can easily be resolved knowing the geographic context of the measurements.

### A.3 Measurement Frames

To combine signals from an inertial motion sensor (IMU) with those of an ADV to perform motion correction, the coordinate systems in which each of the measurements are made must be carefully accounted for.

For the Nortek Vector instruments that were used for this work the ‘ADV-body’ coordinate system is defined as being centered on the cylinder-body axis at the point where the head cable meets its end-cap. The basis vectors of this coordinate system (shown in Figures A.1 and A.2) are:



**Figure A.1. The circuit board and pressure-case end-cap of a Nortek Vector equipped with a MicroStrain IMU**

The ADV-body coordinate system (yellow) is depicted on the right. The notch in the end-cap defines the  $\hat{x}^*$  direction (out of the page), and the  $\hat{z}^*$  direction points back along the pressure-case axis. The MicroStrain chip coordinate system is expanded and highlighted (magenta) to emphasize its orientation relative to the body. *Photo by Levi Kilcher, NREL*

$\hat{x}^*$  points from the center of the ‘head’ end-cap toward the notch in that end-cap

$\hat{y}^*$  is defined by the right-hand rule based on the other two basis vectors

$\hat{z}^*$  points from the ‘head’ end-cap toward the ‘battery’ end-cap along the body-cylinder (pressure-case) axis.

### A.3.1 The ADV Head

To transform measured velocities into a meaningful reference frame and perform motion correction, the orientation and position of the ADV head in terms of the body coordinate system must be known. The orientation matrix of the ADV head,  $\mathbf{H}$ , and translation vector<sup>†</sup>,  $\vec{r}_{\text{head}}^*$ , are defined according to:

$$\vec{x}^{\text{head}} = \mathbf{H} \cdot (\vec{x}^* - \vec{r}_{\text{head}}^*) \quad (\text{A.10})$$

where  $\vec{x}^{\text{head}}$  and  $\vec{x}^*$  are the same point in the head and body coordinate systems, respectively. Using Eq. (A.2), (A.3) and (A.10) the velocity vectors in the head frame can be transformed into the body frame by:

$$\vec{u}^* = \mathbf{H}^T \cdot \vec{u}^{\text{head}} \quad (\text{A.11})$$

For Nortek Vectors the coordinate system of the ADV head is centered on the transmit transducer face (shown in Figure A.2, Nortek 2005), and the coordinate directions are defined as:

$\hat{x}^{\text{head}}$  is the direction of one of the transducer ‘receive’ arms (marked with tape or paint)

$\hat{y}^{\text{head}}$  is defined by the right-hand rule based on the other two basis vectors

$\hat{z}^{\text{head}}$  is into the transducer face.

<sup>†</sup>The position of the ADV head origin (transmit transducer) in the body coordinate system.



For fixed-head Nortek Vector ADVs, the body frame and head frame have parallel coordinate systems (i.e.,  $\mathbf{H}$  is the identity matrix). The center of the head frame is translated 21 cm along the  $z$ -axis, i.e.,  $\vec{l}_{\text{head}}^* = (0, 0, -0.21)\text{m}$  (Nortek 2005).

For cable-head ADVs, the position and orientation of the ADV head is arbitrary. This means that when preparing to make measurements using cable-head ADVs the orientation and position of the ADV head must be accurately recorded to allow the ADV measurements to be motion corrected and transformed into the body frame during post-processing. For the example in Figure A.2a,  $\vec{l}_{\text{head}}^* = (254, 64, -165)\text{mm}$ , and:

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.12})$$

In general,  $\mathbf{H}$  will not necessarily be symmetric nor will it have so many zero elements (i.e., these characteristics are specific to the head-body alignment of the example).

### A.3.2 The IMU Coordinate System

Like the ADV head, the coordinate system in which the IMU measurements are made must be clearly defined and documented. In general, the IMU frame is related to the body coordinate system by:

$$\vec{x}^{\text{imu}} = \mathbf{A} \cdot (\vec{x}^* - \vec{l}_{\text{imu}}^*) \quad (\text{A.13})$$

For the MicroStrain 3DM-GX3-25 (IMU) as it is integrated into the Nortek Vector (Figure A.1),  $\vec{l}_{\text{imu}}^* = (0.006, 0.006, 0.150)\text{m}$ , and:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.14})$$

The DOLfYN software package automatically rotates all IMU vectors so that the orientation and motion data returned by `dolfyn.io.read_nortek` is in the ADV body frame (see the `dolfyn.io.nortek.NortekReader.sci_microstrain` source code for details). DOLfYN also adds  $\vec{l}_{\text{imu}}^*$  to  $\vec{l}_{\text{head}}^*$  to estimate  $\vec{\ell}^*$ .

#### A.3.2.1 The Orientation Matrix

To use the orientation matrix to rotate velocity measurements into an earth-fixed coordinate system it is important to understand how the orientation matrix is defined. The MicroStrain IMU outputs an orientation matrix,  $\mathbf{R}_{\text{imu}}$ , such that:

$$\vec{u}^{\text{imu}} = \mathbf{R}_{\text{imu}} \cdot \vec{u}^{\text{NED}} \quad (\text{A.15})$$

where  $\vec{u}^{\text{imu}}$  and  $\vec{u}^{\text{NED}}$  are vectors in the IMU's local coordinate system and a 'north-east-down' earth-fixed coordinate system, respectively (MicroStrain 2012); however, this coordinate system is different from the east-north-up coordinate system used here (and typically used by Nortek, Røstad 2011). That is:

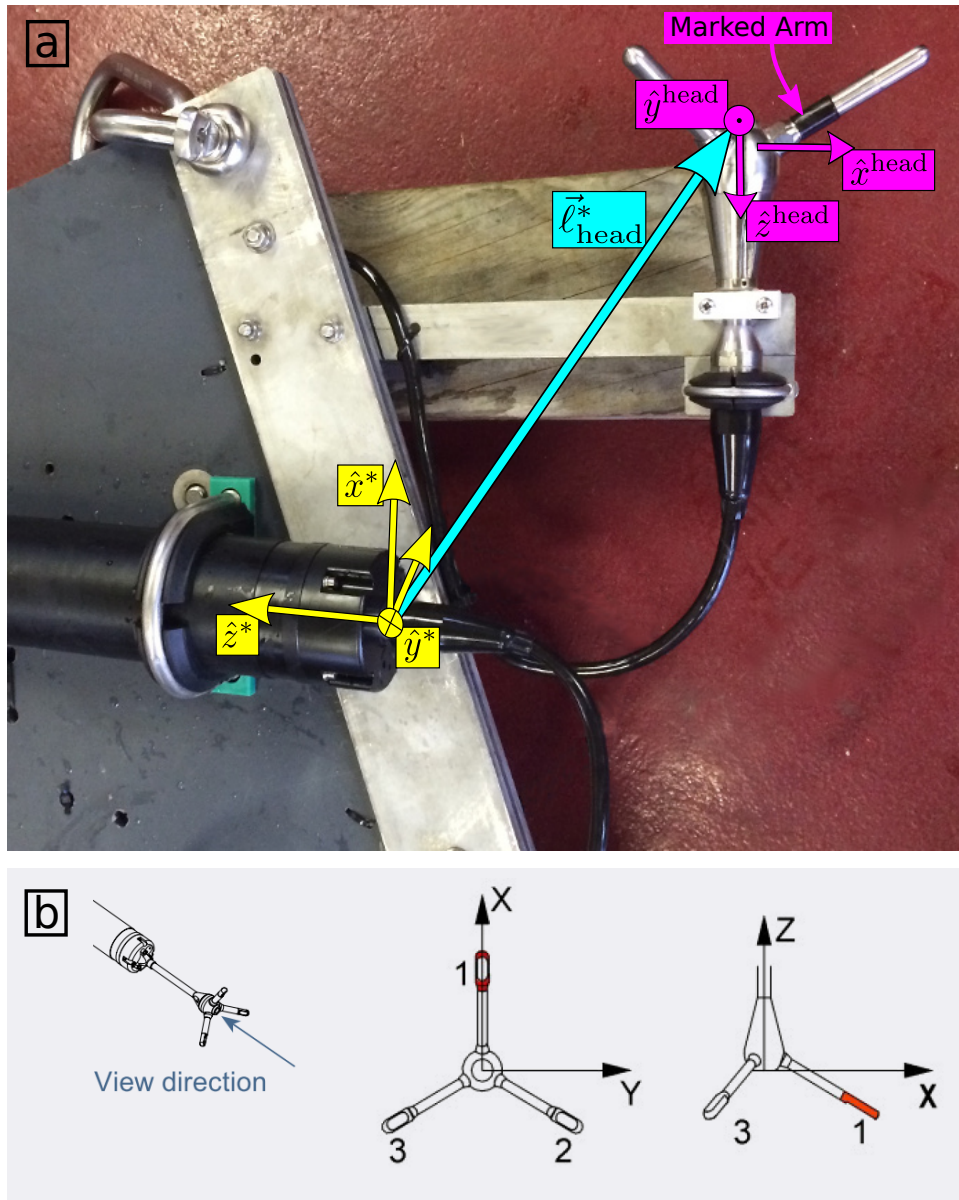
$$\vec{u} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \vec{u}^{\text{NED}} \quad (\text{A.16})$$

where:

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A.17})$$

From this and the above discussion of the orientation of the IMU in the ADV it is simple to show that the orientation matrix of the ADV body in an ENU frame is:

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{R}_{\text{imu}} \cdot \mathbf{B} \quad (\text{A.18})$$



**Figure A.2. Coordinate systems of the ADV body and head**

a) A strongback with an ADV rests on a block of wood. Coordinate systems of the ADV head (magenta) and body (yellow) are shown. The  $\hat{x}^{head}$ -direction is known by the black band around the transducer arm, and the  $\hat{x}^*$  direction is marked by a notch on the end-cap (indiscernible in the image). The cyan arrow indicates the body-to-head vector,  $\vec{l}_{head}^*$ . The perspective slightly distorts the fact that  $\hat{x}^{head} \parallel -\hat{z}^*$ ,  $\hat{y}^{head} \parallel -\hat{y}^*$  and  $\hat{z}^{head} \parallel -\hat{x}^*$ . *Photo from Levi Kilcher, NREL* b) Coordinate system of the ADV head as defined in the Nortek Vector manual (Nortek 2005). *Illustration from Nortek, Inc.*

The DOLfYN software package makes this transformation when reading the orientation matrix from Nortek Vector *.vec* files (i.e., the *'orientmat'* attribute in the data object returned by DOLfYN's `io.read_nortek` is  $\mathbf{R}$ , not  $\mathbf{R}_{imu}$ ). This way, vectors in the body frame can be rotated into the ENU earth frame by:

$$\vec{u} = \mathbf{R}^T \cdot \vec{u}^* \tag{A.19}$$

## B DOLfYN Data Processing Script

The following script details data processing steps. Figures B.1 and B.2 were created using this script and DOLfYN version 0.4 (the “Bottleneck” release). An up-to-date and fully functional version of the script will always be available in the ‘examples’ folder of the DOLfYN repository. The data file used is available in the ‘example\_data’ folder of the DOLfYN repository.

### adv\_example01.py

```
1 # To get started first import the DOLfYN ADV advanced programming
2 # interface (API):
3 import dolfyn.adv.api as avm
4
5 # Import matplotlib tools for plotting the data:
6 from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
7 import matplotlib.dates as dt
8 import numpy as np
9
10 #####
11 # User input and customization
12
13 # The file to load:
14 fname = './example_data/vector_data_imu01.vec'
15 # This file is available at:
16 # http://goo.gl/yckXtG
17
18 # This is the vector from the ADV head to the body frame, in meters,
19 # in the ADV coordinate system.
20 body2head_vec = np.array([0.48, -0.07, -0.27])
21
22 # This is the orientation matrix of the ADV head relative to the body.
23 # In this case the head was aligned with the body, so it is the
24 # identity matrix:
25 body2head_rotmat = np.eye(3)
26
27 # The time range of interest.
28 t_range = [
29     # The instrument was in place starting at 12:08:30 on June 12,
30     # 2012.
31     dt.date2num(dt.datetime.datetime(2012, 6, 12, 12, 8, 30)),
32     # The data is good to the end of the file.
33     np.inf
34 ]
35
36 # This is the filter to use for motion correction:
37 accel_filter = 0.1
38
39 # End user input section.
40 #####
41
42 # Read a file containing adv data:
43 dat_raw = avm.read_nortek(fname)
44
45 # Crop the data for t_range using DOLfYN's 'subset' method (creates a
46 # copy):
```

```

47 t_range_inds = (t_range[0] < dat_raw.mpltime) & (dat_raw.mpltime < t_range[1])
48 dat = dat_raw.subset(t_range_inds)
49 dat.props['body2head_vec'] = body2head_vec
50 dat.props['body2head_rotmat'] = body2head_rotmat
51
52 # Then clean the file using the Goring+Nikora method:
53 avm.clean.GN2002(dat)
54
55 #####
56 # Create a figure for comparing screened data to the original.
57 fig = plt.figure(1, figsize=[8, 4])
58 fig.clf()
59 ax = fig.add_axes([.14, .14, .8, .74])
60
61 # Plot the raw (unscreened) data:
62 ax.plot(dat_raw.mpltime, dat_raw.u, 'r-', rasterized=True)
63
64 # Plot the screened data:
65 ax.plot(dat.mpltime, dat.u, 'g-', rasterized=True)
66 bads = np.abs(dat.u - dat_raw.u[t_range_inds])
67 ax.text(0.55, 0.95,
68         "%0.2f%% of the data were 'cleaned' \nby the Goring and Nikora method."
69         % (np.float(sum(bads > 0)) / len(bads) * 100),
70         transform=ax.transAxes,
71         va='top',
72         ha='left',
73         )
74
75 # Add some annotations:
76 ax.axvspan(dt.date2num(dt.datetime.datetime(2012, 6, 12, 12)),
77           t_range[0], zorder=-10, facecolor='0.9',
78           edgcolor='none')
79 ax.text(0.13, 0.9, 'Mooring_falling\ntoward_seafloor',
80         ha='center', va='top', transform=ax.transAxes,
81         size='small')
82 ax.text(t_range[0] + 0.0001, 0.6, 'Mooring_on_seafloor',
83         size='small',
84         ha='left')
85 ax.annotate('', (t_range[0] + 0.006, 0.3),
86            (t_range[0], 0.3),
87            arrowprops=dict(facecolor='black', shrink=0.0),
88            ha='right')
89
90 # Finalize the figure
91 # Format the time axis:
92 tkr = dt.MinuteLocator(interval=5)
93 frmt = dt.DateFormatter('%H:%M')
94 ax.xaxis.set_major_locator(tkr)
95 ax.xaxis.set_minor_locator(dt.MinuteLocator(interval=1))
96 ax.xaxis.set_major_formatter(frmt)
97 ax.set_ylim([-3, 3])
98
99 # Label the axes:
100 ax.set_ylabel('$u$, \mathrm{[m/s]}$', size='large')

```

```

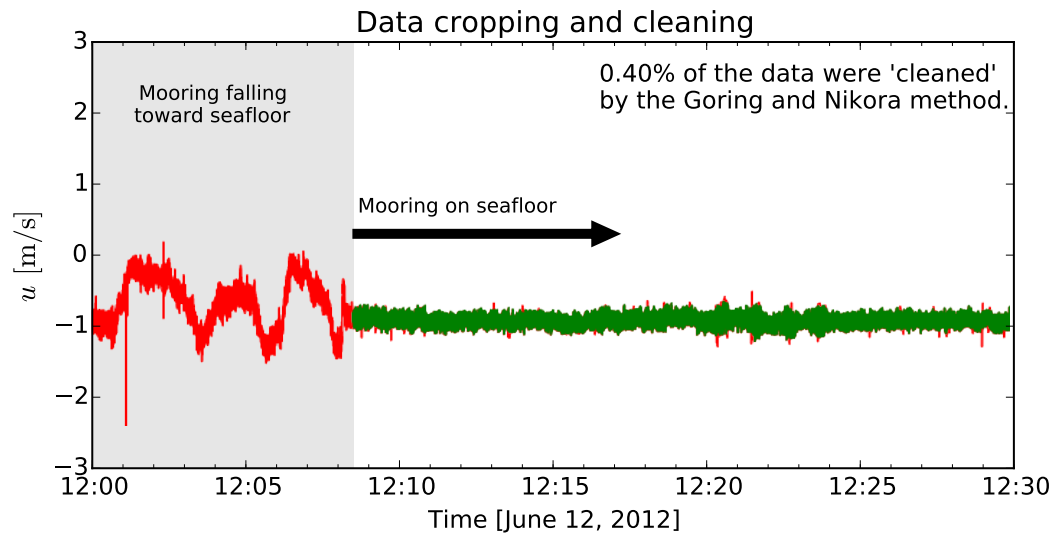
101 ax.set_xlabel('Time_[June_12,_2012]')
102 ax.set_title('Data_cropping_and_cleaning')
103 ax.set_xlim([dt.date2num(dt.datetime.datetime(2012, 6, 12, 12)),
104             dt.date2num(dt.datetime.datetime(2012, 6, 12, 12, 30))])
105
106 # Save the figure:
107 fig.savefig('./fig/crop_data.pdf')
108 # end cropping figure
109 #####
110
111 dat_cln = dat.copy()
112
113 # Perform motion correction (including rotation into earth frame):
114 avm.motion.correct_motion(dat, accel_filter)
115
116 # Rotate the uncorrected data into the earth frame,
117 # for comparison to motion correction:
118 avm.rotate.inst2earth(dat_cln)
119
120 #ax.plot(dat.mpltime, dat.u, 'b-')
121
122 # Then rotate it into a 'principal axes frame':
123 avm.rotate.earth2principal(dat)
124 avm.rotate.earth2principal(dat_cln)
125
126 # Average the data and compute turbulence statistics
127 dat_bin = avm.calc_turbulence(dat, n_bin=19200,
128                               n_fft=4096)
129 dat_cln_bin = avm.calc_turbulence(dat_cln, n_bin=19200,
130                                   n_fft=4096)
131
132 # At any point you can save the data:
133 dat_bin.save('adv_data_rotated2principal.h5')
134
135 # And reload the data:
136 dat_bin_copy = avm.load('adv_data_rotated2principal.h5')
137
138 #####
139 # Figure to look at spectra
140 fig2 = plt.figure(2, figsize=[6, 6])
141 fig2.clf()
142 ax = fig2.add_axes([.14, .14, .8, .74])
143
144 ax.loglog(dat_bin.freq, dat_bin.Suu_hz.mean(0),
145           'b-', label='motion_corrected')
146 ax.loglog(dat_cln_bin.freq, dat_cln_bin.Suu_hz.mean(0),
147           'r-', label='no_motion_correction')
148
149 # Add some annotations
150 ax.axhline(1.7e-4, color='k', zorder=21)
151 ax.text(2e-3, 1.7e-4, 'Doppler_noise_level', va='bottom', ha='left',)
152
153 ax.text(1, 2e-2, 'Motion\nCorrection')
154 ax.annotate('', (3.6e-1, 3e-3), (1, 2e-2),

```

```

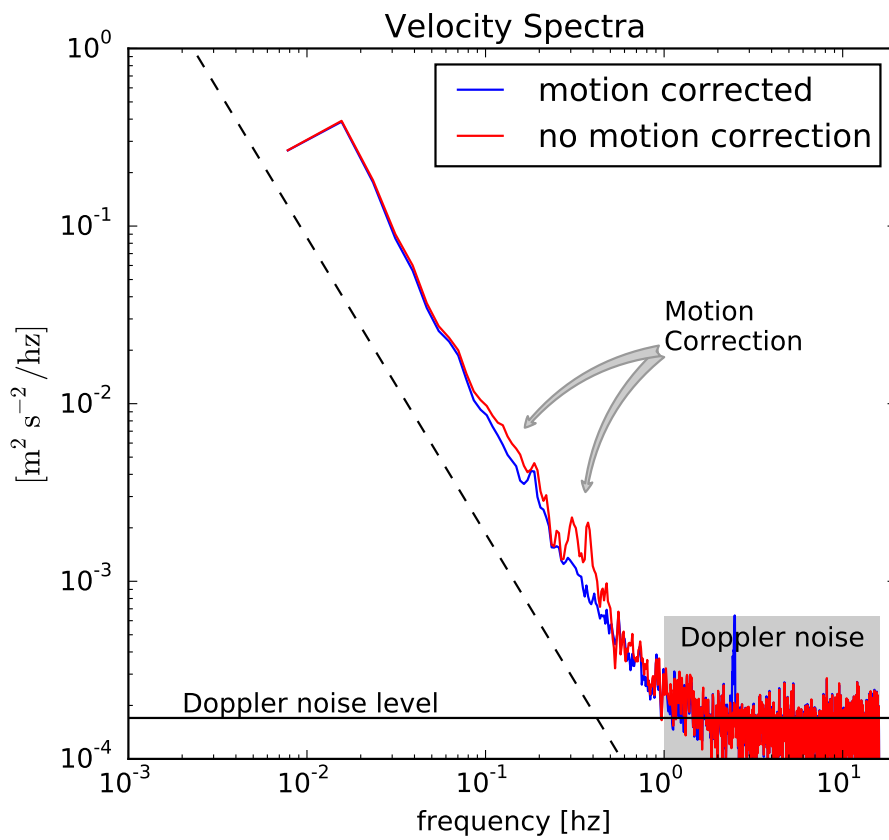
155         arrowprops={'arrowstyle': 'fancy',
156                     'connectionstyle': 'arc3,rad=0.2',
157                     'facecolor': '0.8',
158                     'edgecolor': '0.6',
159                     },
160         ha='center',
161     )
162
163 ax.annotate('', (1.6e-1, 7e-3), (1, 2e-2),
164             arrowprops={'arrowstyle': 'fancy',
165                         'connectionstyle': 'arc3,rad=0.2',
166                         'facecolor': '0.8',
167                         'edgecolor': '0.6',
168                         },
169             ha='center',
170         )
171
172 # Finalize the figure
173 ax.set_xlim([1e-3, 20])
174 ax.set_ylim([1e-4, 1])
175 ax.set_xlabel('frequency_[hz]')
176 ax.set_ylabel('$\mathrm{[m^2s^{-2}/hz]}$', size='large')
177
178 f_tmp = np.logspace(-3, 1)
179 ax.plot(f_tmp, 4e-5 * f_tmp ** (-5. / 3), 'k--')
180
181 ax.set_title('Velocity_Spectra')
182 ax.legend()
183 ax.axvspan(1, 16, 0, .2, facecolor='0.8', zorder=-10, edgecolor='none')
184 ax.text(4, 4e-4, 'Doppler_noise', va='bottom', ha='center',
185         #bbox=dict(facecolor='w', alpha=0.9, edgecolor='none'),
186         zorder=20)
187
188 fig2.savefig('./fig/motion_vel_spec.pdf')

```



**Figure B.1.** The 'crop\_data.pdf' figure generated by the `adv_example01.py` script  
 The uncropped, uncleaned data is in red, and the cropped and cleaned data is in green.





**Figure B.2.** The 'motion\_vel\_spec.pdf' figure generated by the `adv_example01.py` script  
 Spikes in the spectra from motion contamination (red) are removed by motion correction (blue). The dashed line indicates a  $f^{-5/3}$  slope.