

# Airborne and Ground-based Wake Vortex Measurements with Pulsed Lidar

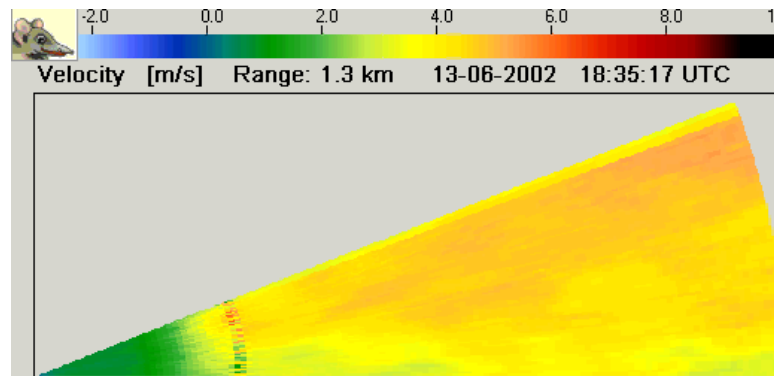
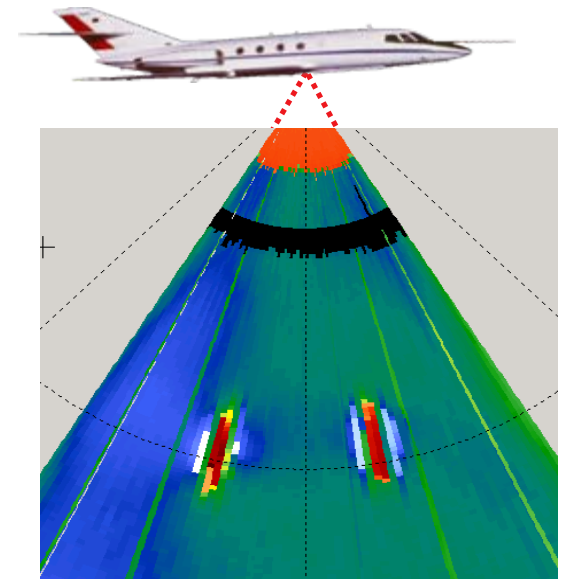
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Honours to:

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Rudolph Simmet, Igor Smalikho,  
Andreas Wiegele**





# Outline

- Technical details of DLR's 2 $\mu$ m pulsed Lidar
- Evaluation steps for wake characterisation:  
position, spacing, orientation, circulation
- Results from ground-based measurements
- Results from airborne measurements on board of *Falcon*

# Campaigns with DLR's Lidar

## Wake vortex detection along flight path (safety)

- MFLAME - scanning the flight corridor during final approach
- I-Wake - first attempt to detect vortices from a/c along flight path
- GreenWake - airborne detection of atmospheric disturbances
- DELICAT - airborne detection of clear-air turbulence

## Wake vortex characterisation (physics)

- WakeOP (Wirbelschleppe, 2001), WakeTarbes (C-Wake, 2002)
- Ground (F/T-1) and airborne (ATTAS try-out, F/T-2) meas.(AWIATOR, 03,05,06)
- WakeFRA, Wakelstres (Airbus, 2004)
- Ground and airborne back-to-back meas. A380 / A340 / B747 (Airbus, 2006)
- Departing a/c at Frankfurt (CREDOS, 2006-07)

## Flight corridor monitoring (wake vortex forecast check)

- Test of WV advisory system WSVBS at Frankfurt (Wirbelschleppe, 2006-07)
- Test of WSVBS for single runway in München (Wetter & Fliegen, summer 2010)

# Technical details of DLR's Lidar

pulsed Doppler, heterodyne  
light backscattered by aerosols

Transceiver MAG-1 (prototype CTI -> LM):

Tm:LuAG laser

wavelength                      2.022  $\mu\text{m}$

repetition rate                  500 Hz

pulse energy                    2 mJ

pulse length                    0.5  $\mu\text{s}$

Off-axis telescope:

aperture                        10 cm

Scanner (2 prisms):

elevation sector                0 - 30°

scan speed                      2 °/s

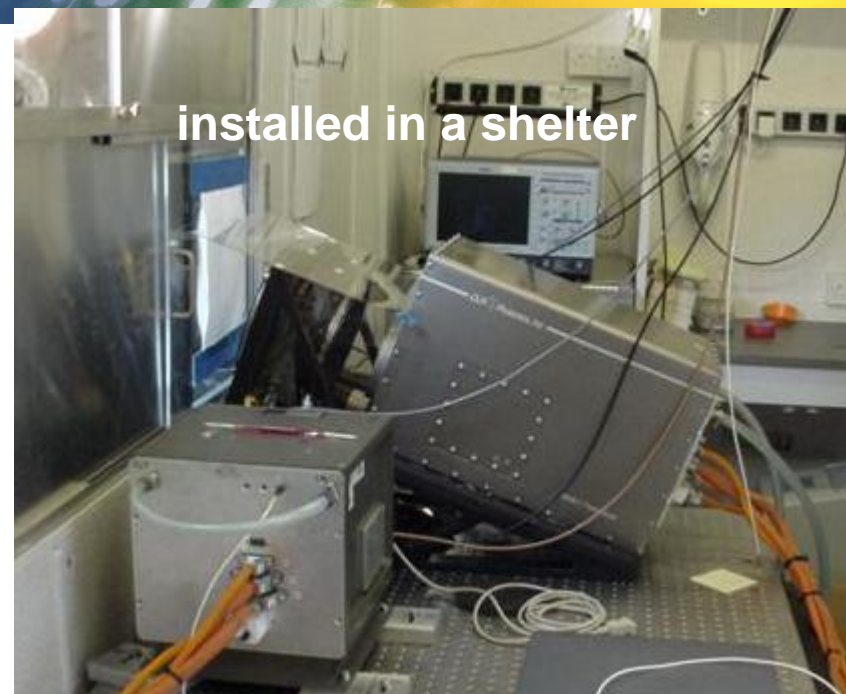
Data acquisition:

early digitising                500 MHz

with quick-look

Signal processing:

four-stage algorithm



installed in a shelter



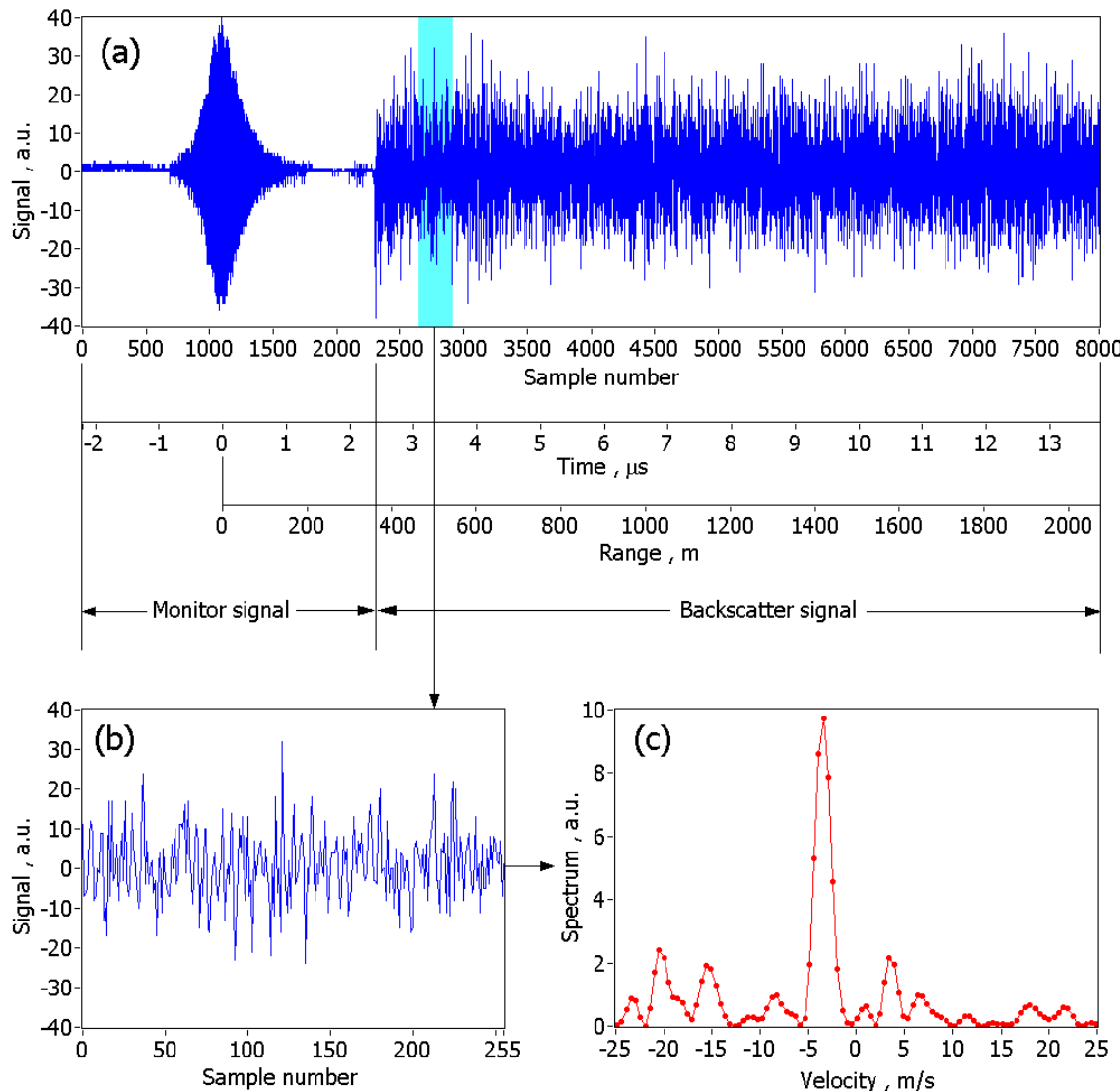
installed in DLR's  
*Falcon*

# Evaluation steps for wake vortex characterisation

## Four-stage process: Stage 0

raw data:

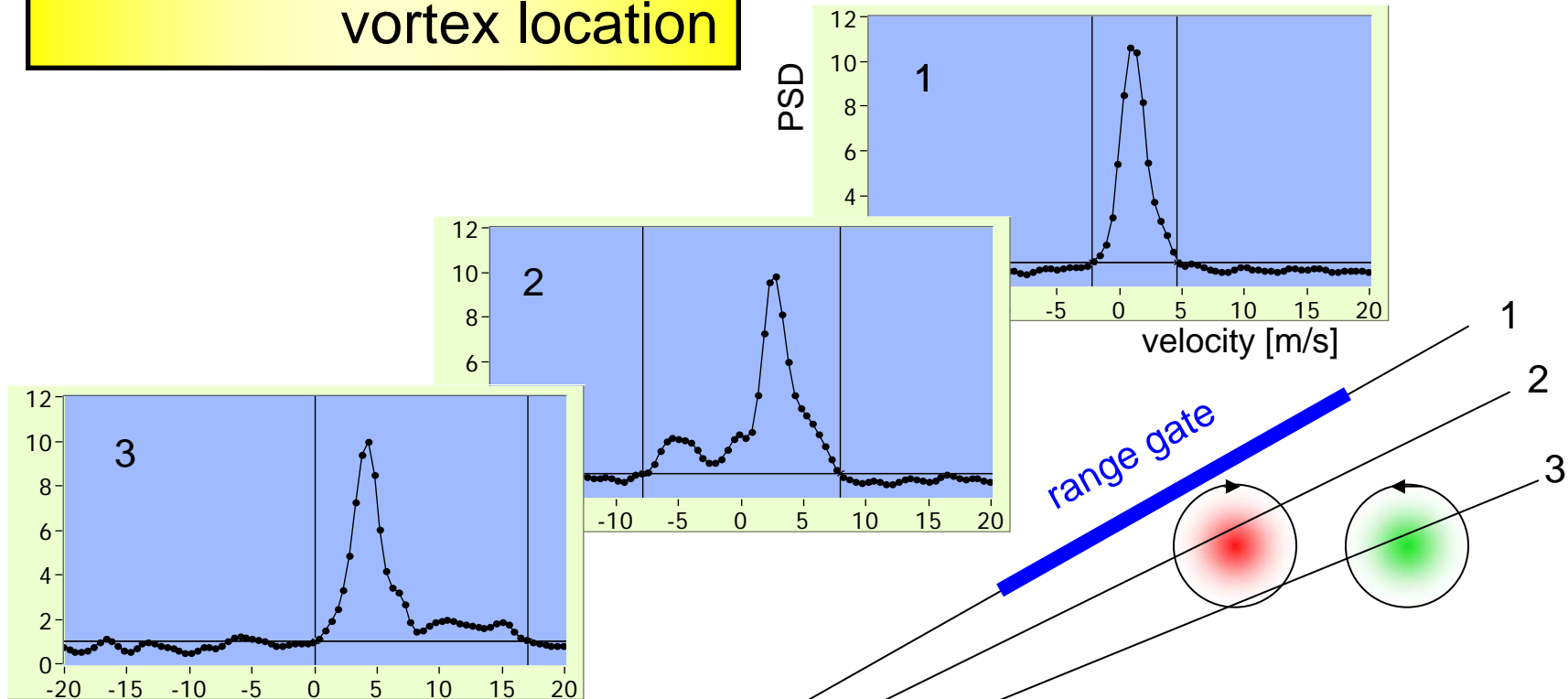
- heterodyne signal of laser pulse
- atmospheric backscatter signal (2 ns/sample)



Doppler spectra:

- Fourier transform (256 samples)
- with zero padding (768 samples)

# Stage 1: Spectra at wake vortex location



25 shots accumulated  
definition of velocity minima and maxima:

- selection of threshold
- search of first intersections

left and right of main spectral peak

Lidar

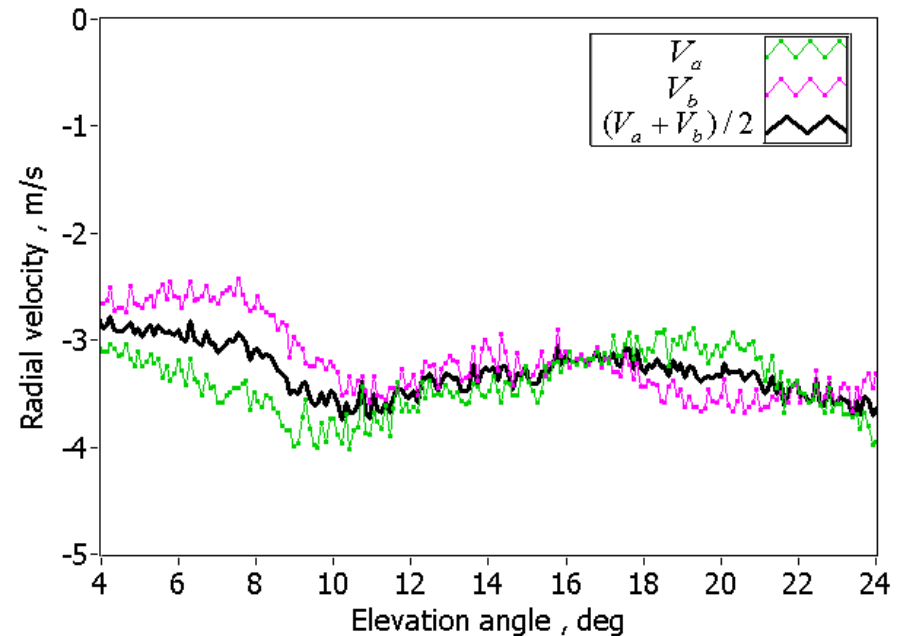
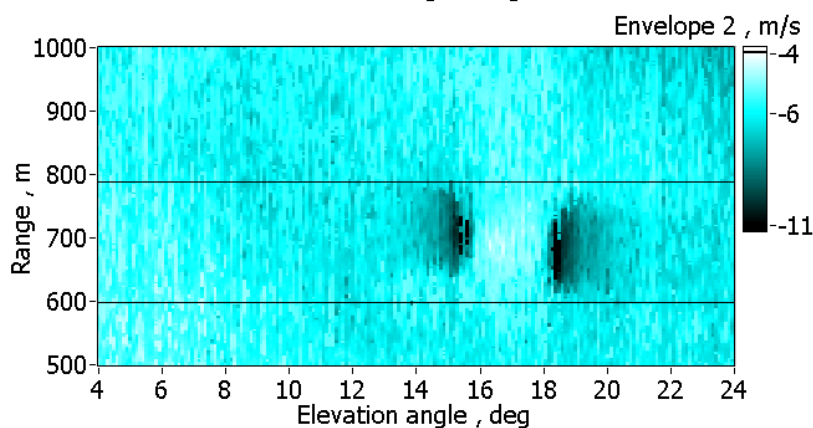
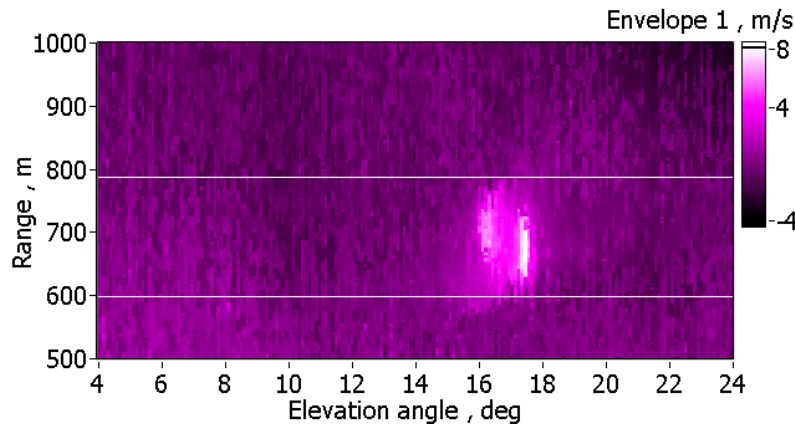
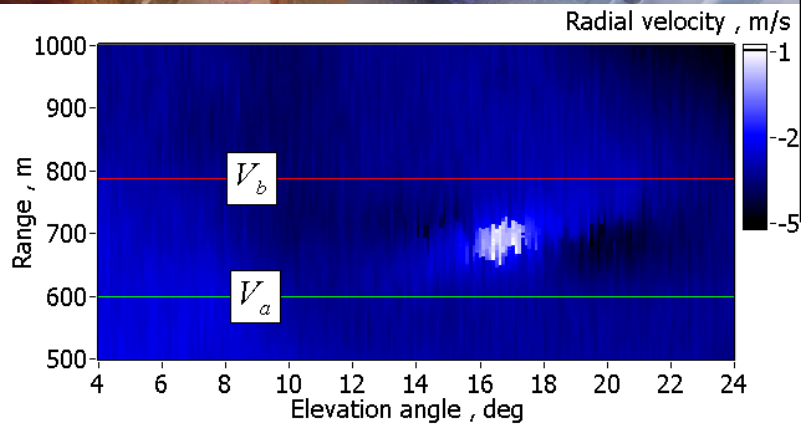
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WakeNet-3 / GreenWake WS on WV & Wind Monitoring, 29. -30. March 2010 at Thales R&D in Palaiseau, 6

## Stage 2:

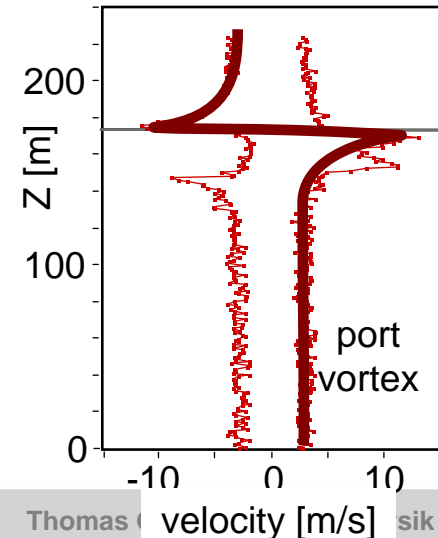
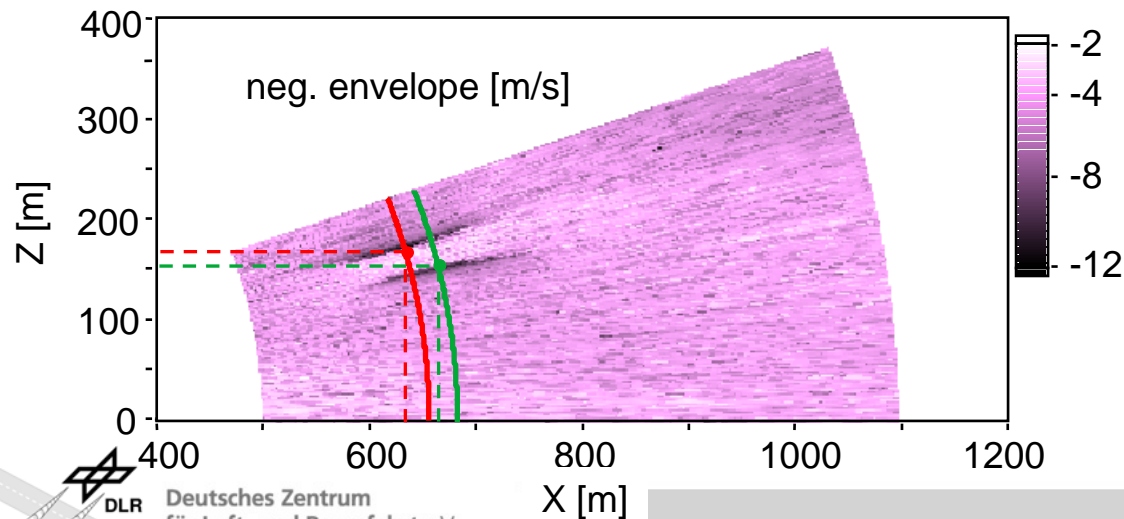
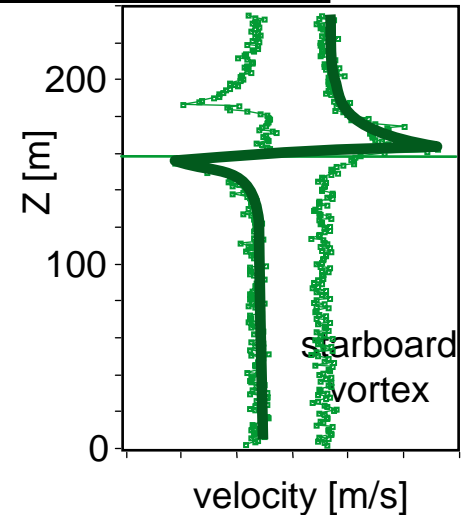
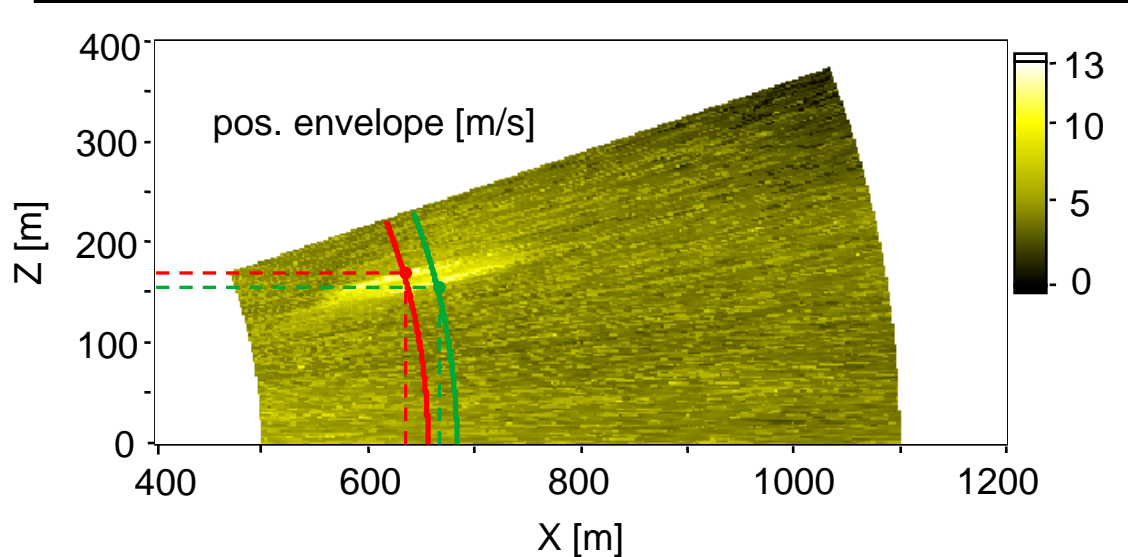
- eliminate background wind
- determine envelopes



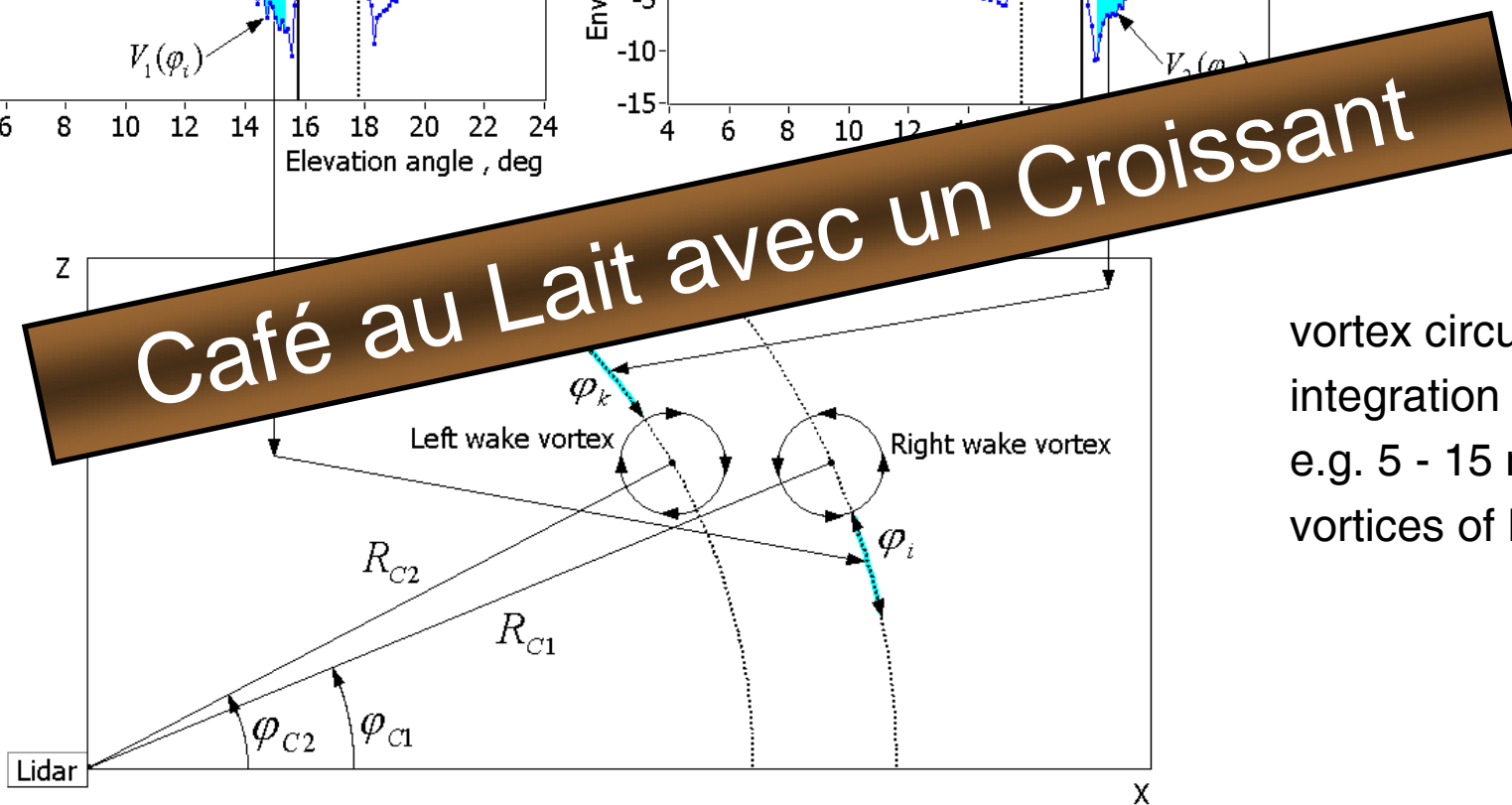
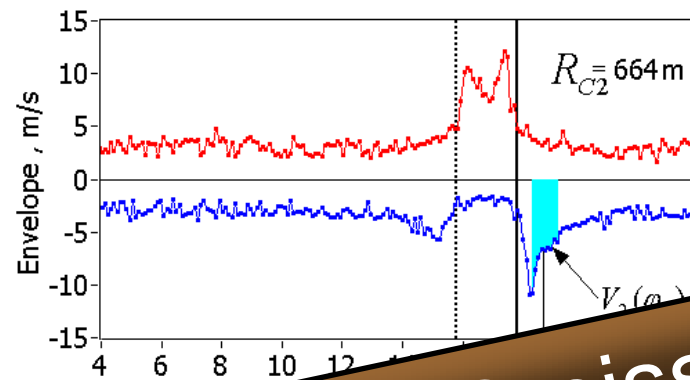
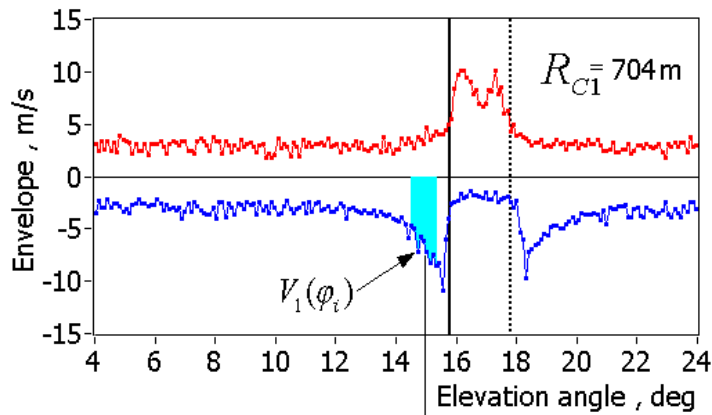
background wind

positive and negative envelopes  
of radial (LOS) velocities

**Stage 3:** (i) range and elevation of max/min signal strength:  
estimation of core position  
(ii) profiles of tangential velocity at identified ranges



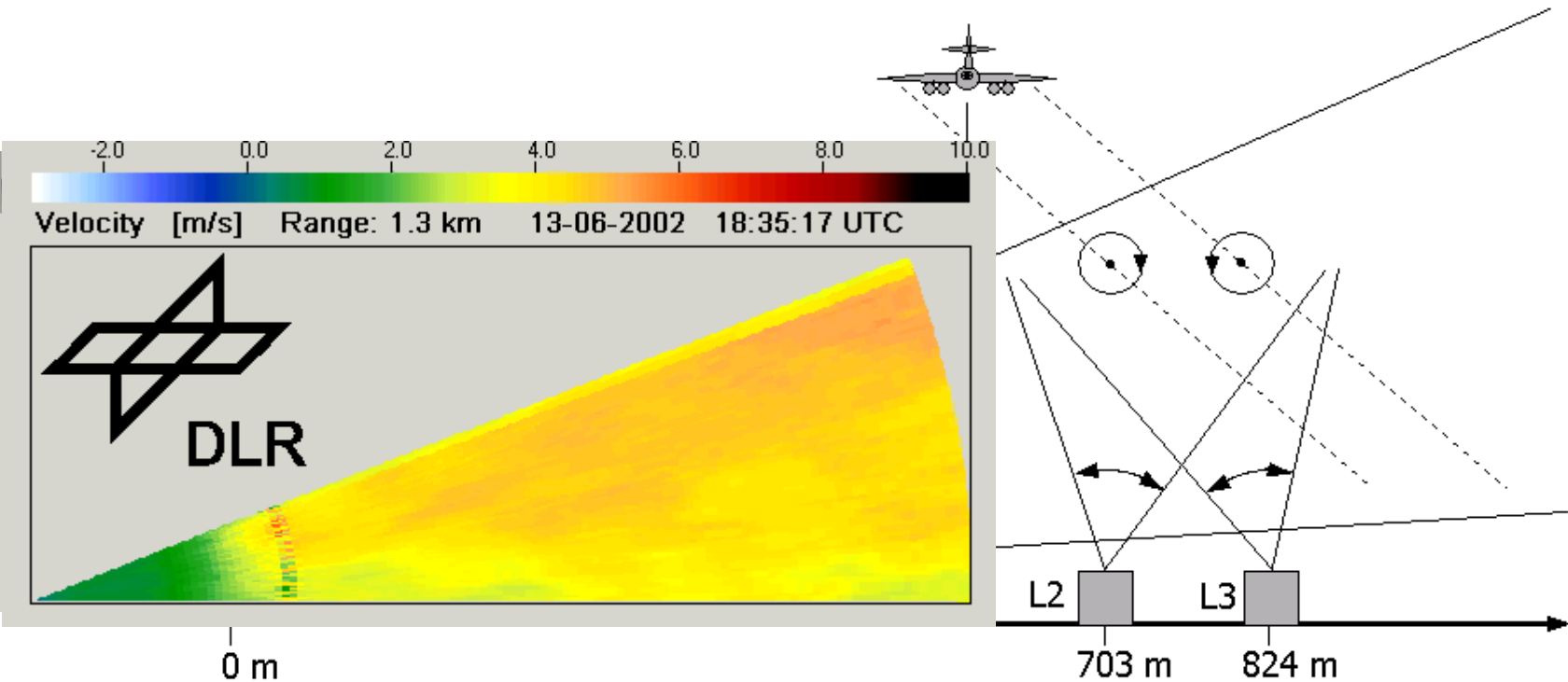
# Stage 4: compute circulation



vortex circulation:  
integration method  
e.g. 5 - 15 m for  
vortices of large a/c

# Pulsed Lidar as a vortex characterising field instrument

*C-Wake* and *AWIATOR* (F/T-1) campaigns in Tarbes 2002/2003



2  $\mu\text{m}$  pulsed Lidar (DLR)

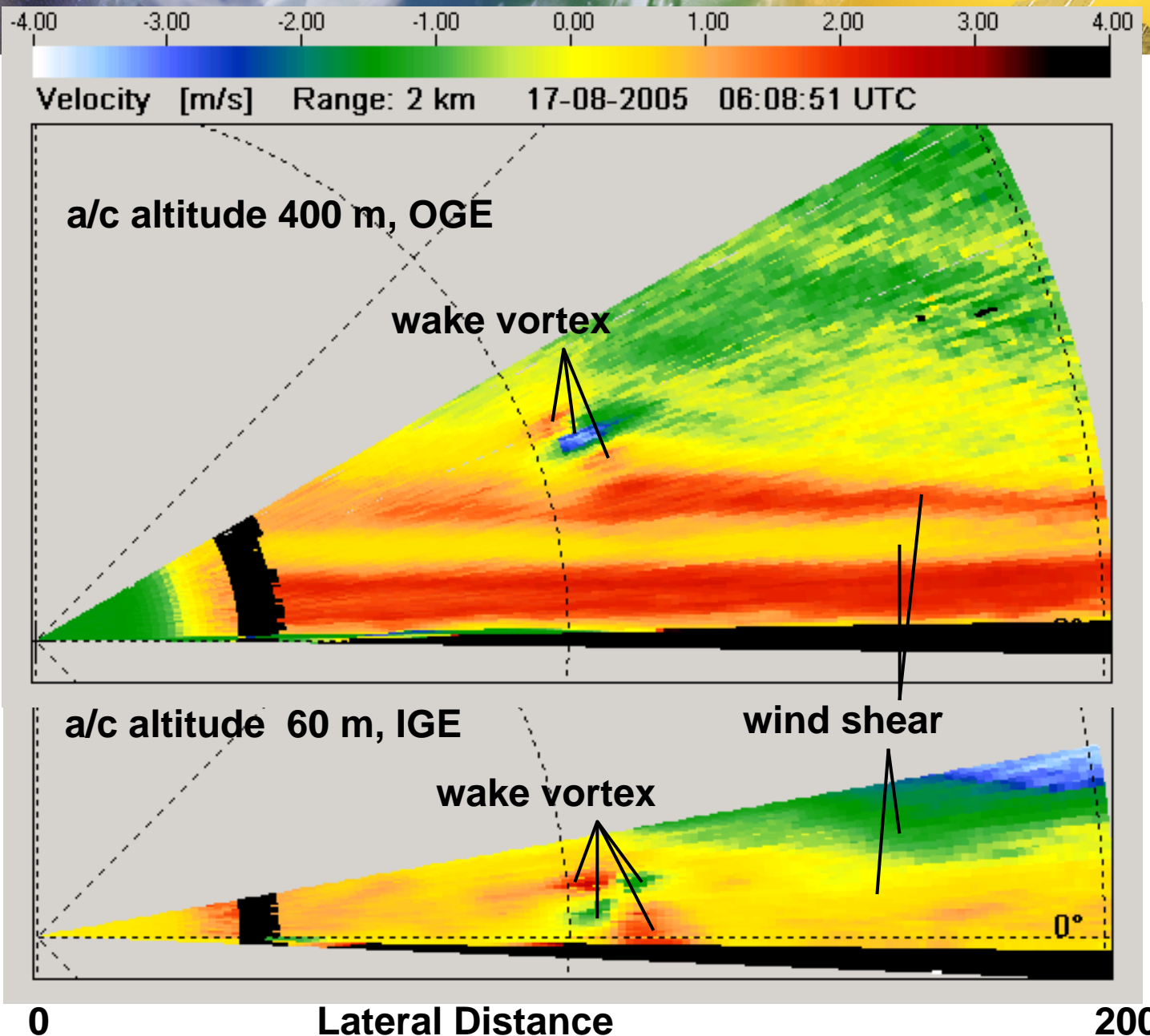
10  $\mu\text{m}$ , cw Lidars (QinetiQ 2002 & ONERA 2002-03)

# Signatures in LIDAR quick-looks

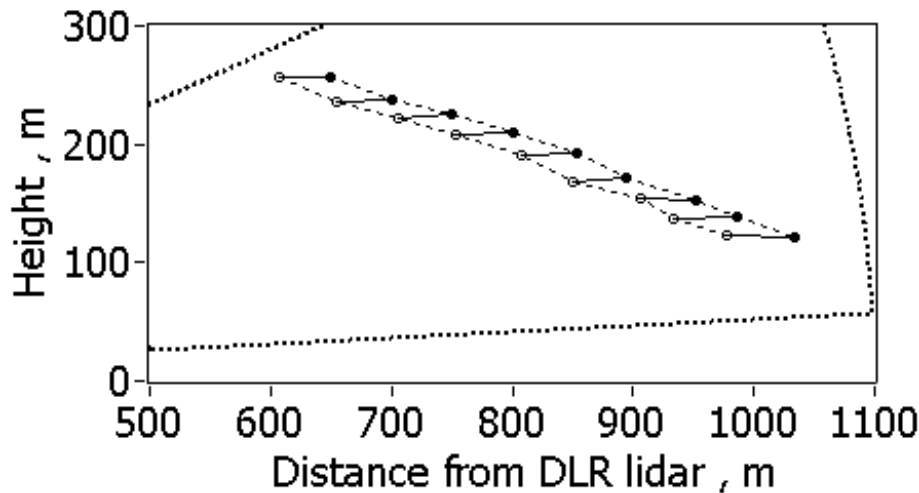
1100 m

Height

350



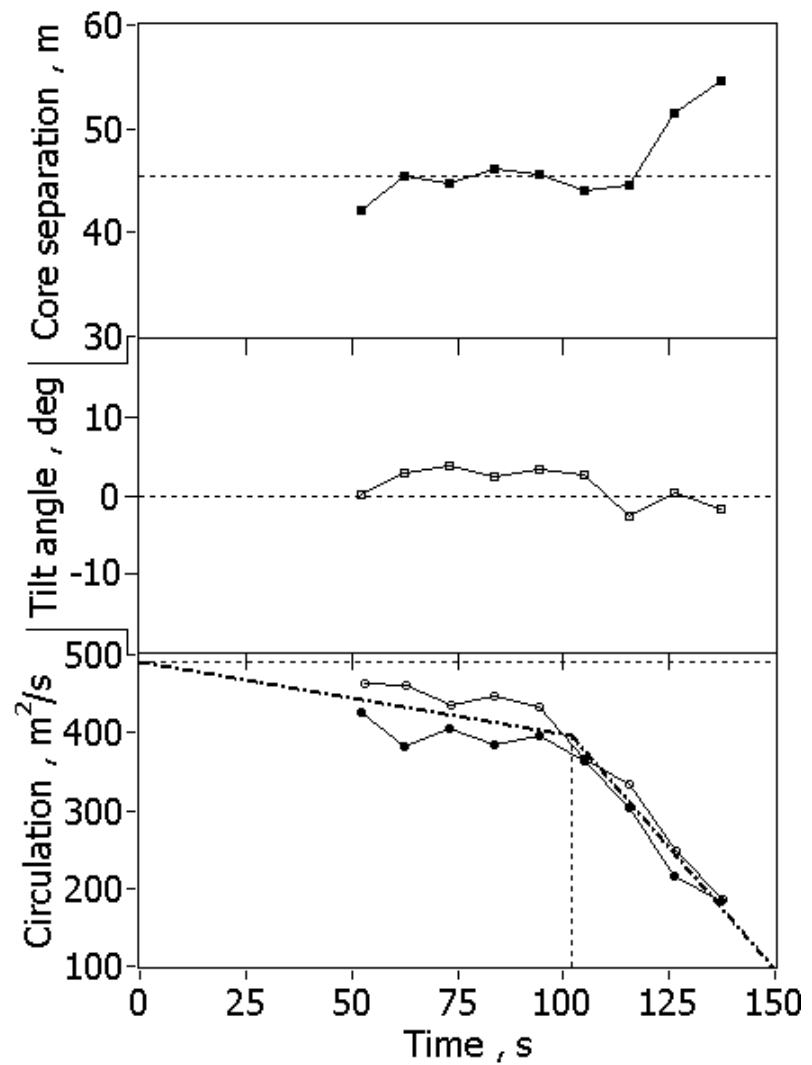
# Wake vortices of A340-300 over-flight 4-22



↑ Trajectories of the vortex pair

Time dependence of core separation, tilt angle and vortex circulation ⇒

open circles: port vortex,  
full circles: starboard vortex



# Influence of Atmospheric Turbulence on Vortex Decay

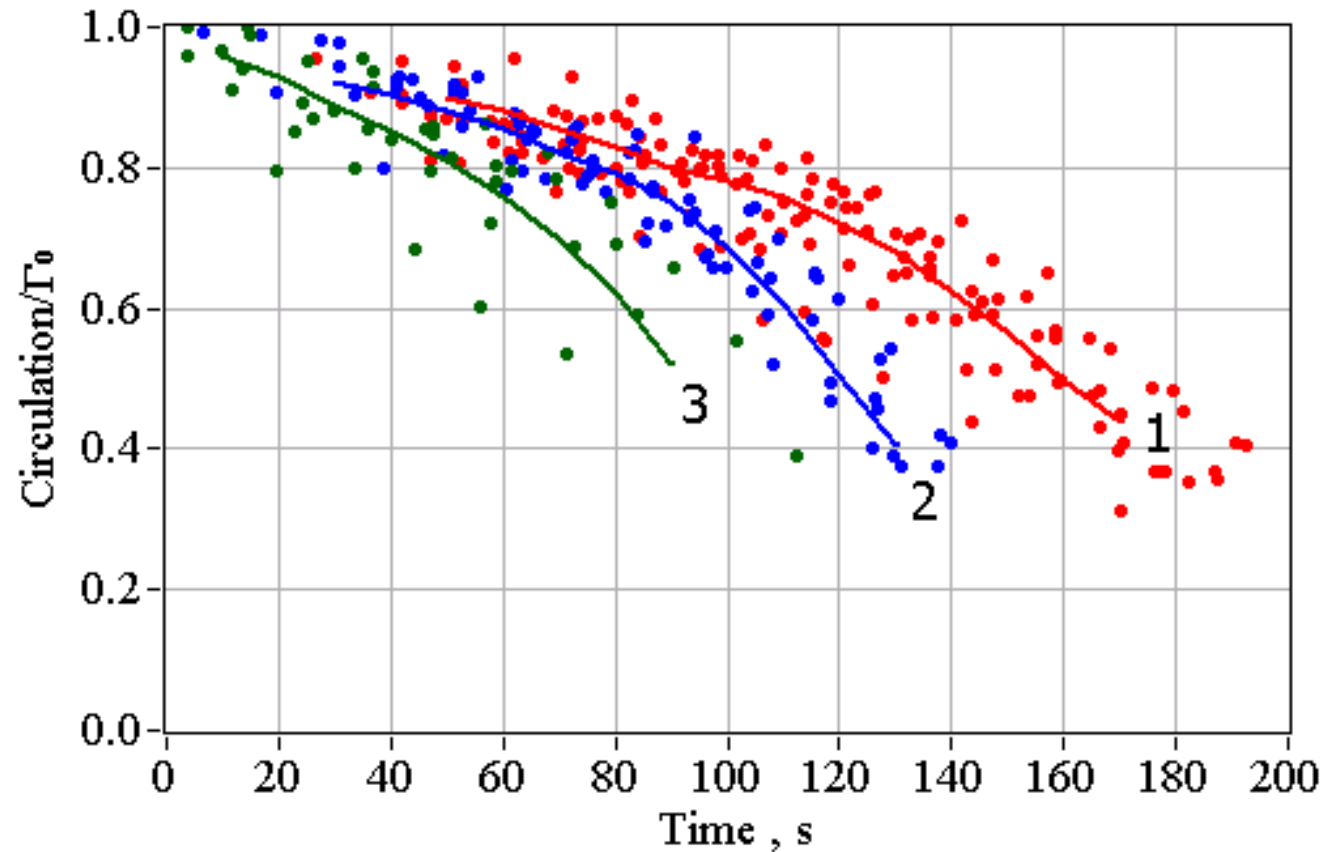
EDR =

(0.5-2)

(2-5)

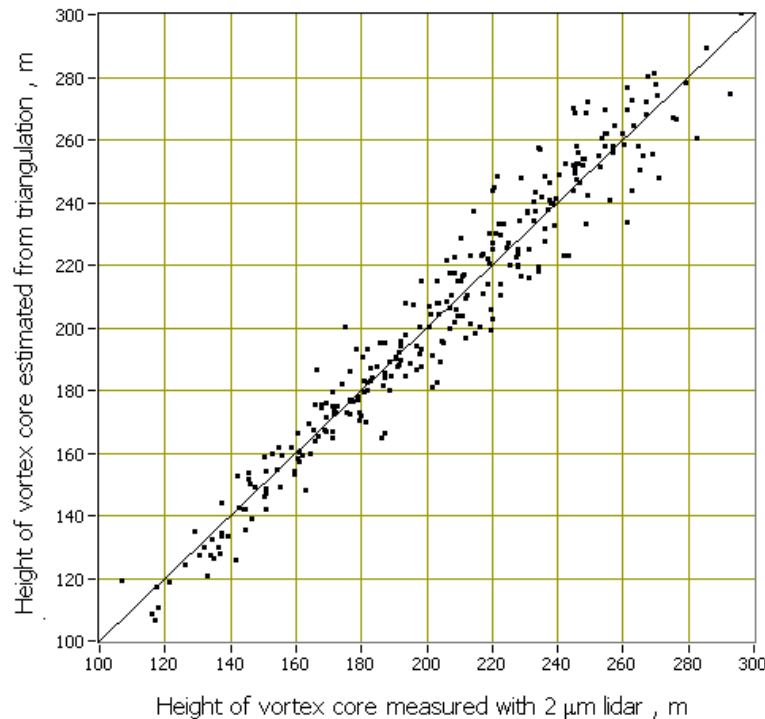
(5-20)

$\times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^3$

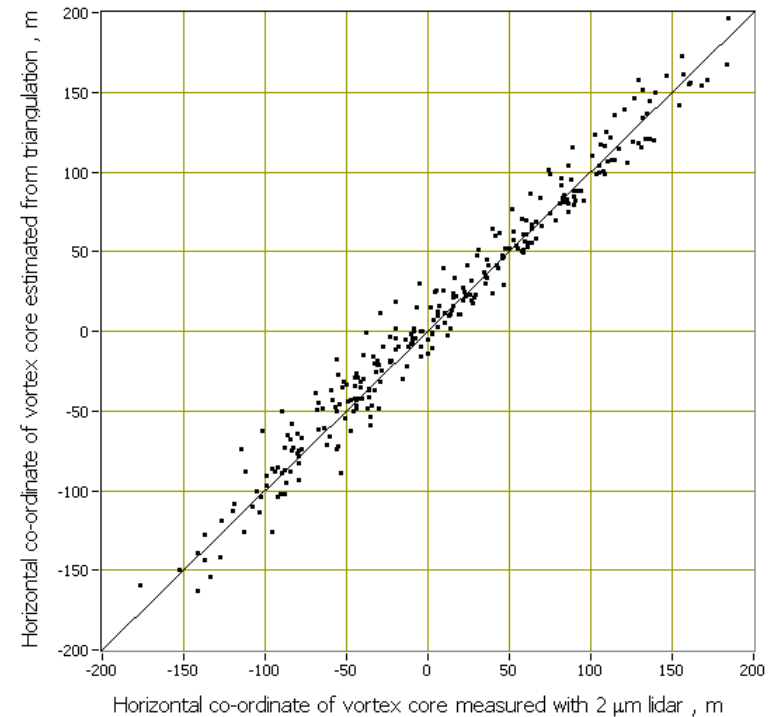


# Core trajectories

## Comparison of cw-lidar triangulation data and pulsed-lidar data (ONERA, QinetiQ, DLR)



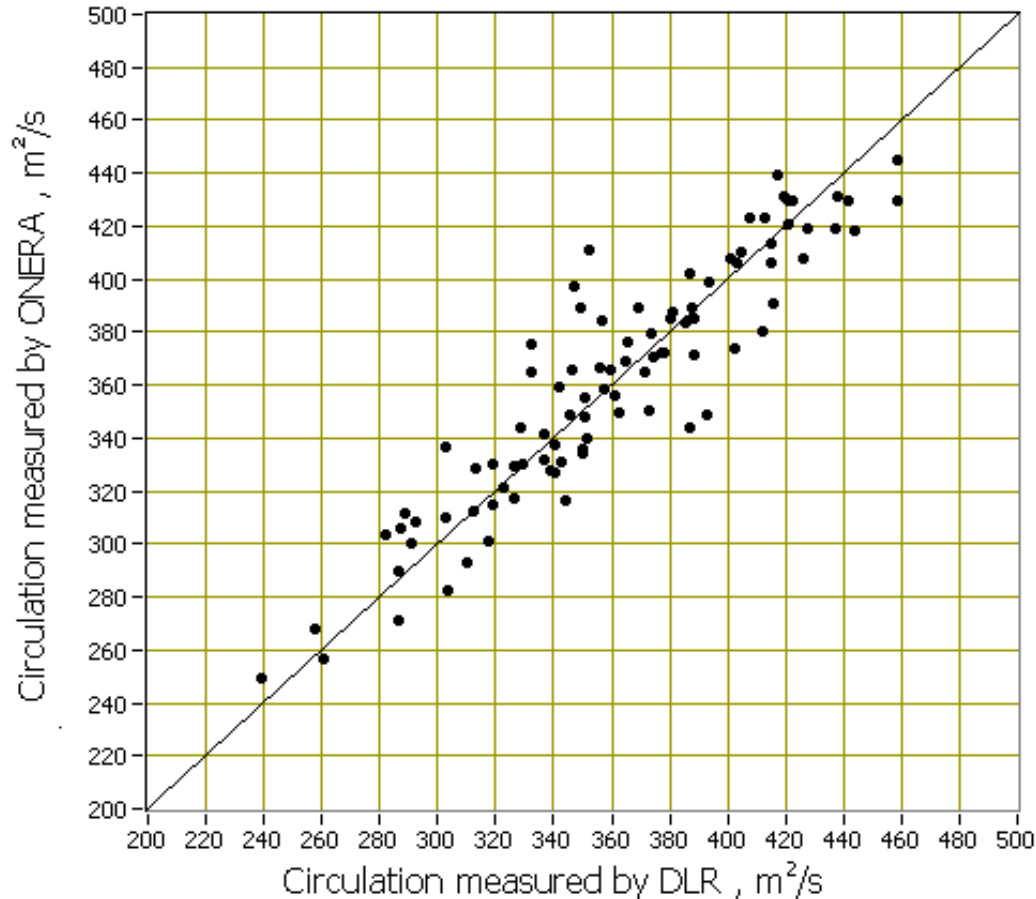
data scatter:  
height:  $\sigma = 9$  m



lateral position:  $\sigma = 13$  m

# Circulation

## Comparison of cw and pulsed lidar data (ONERA, DLR)



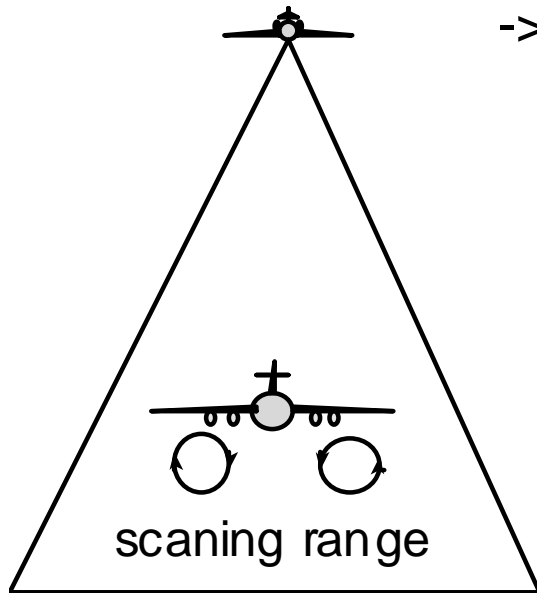
data scatter for  
circulation: **18 m<sup>2</sup>/s**

# Wake vortex characterisation by airborne lidar measurements



# Strategy of airborne lidar measurements

- At measurement altitudes only few aerosols expected
- > seeding of the vortices with smoke is prerequisite
- > flight pattern (circuit vs. chase flight) to be optimised



Three campaigns for AWIATOR:

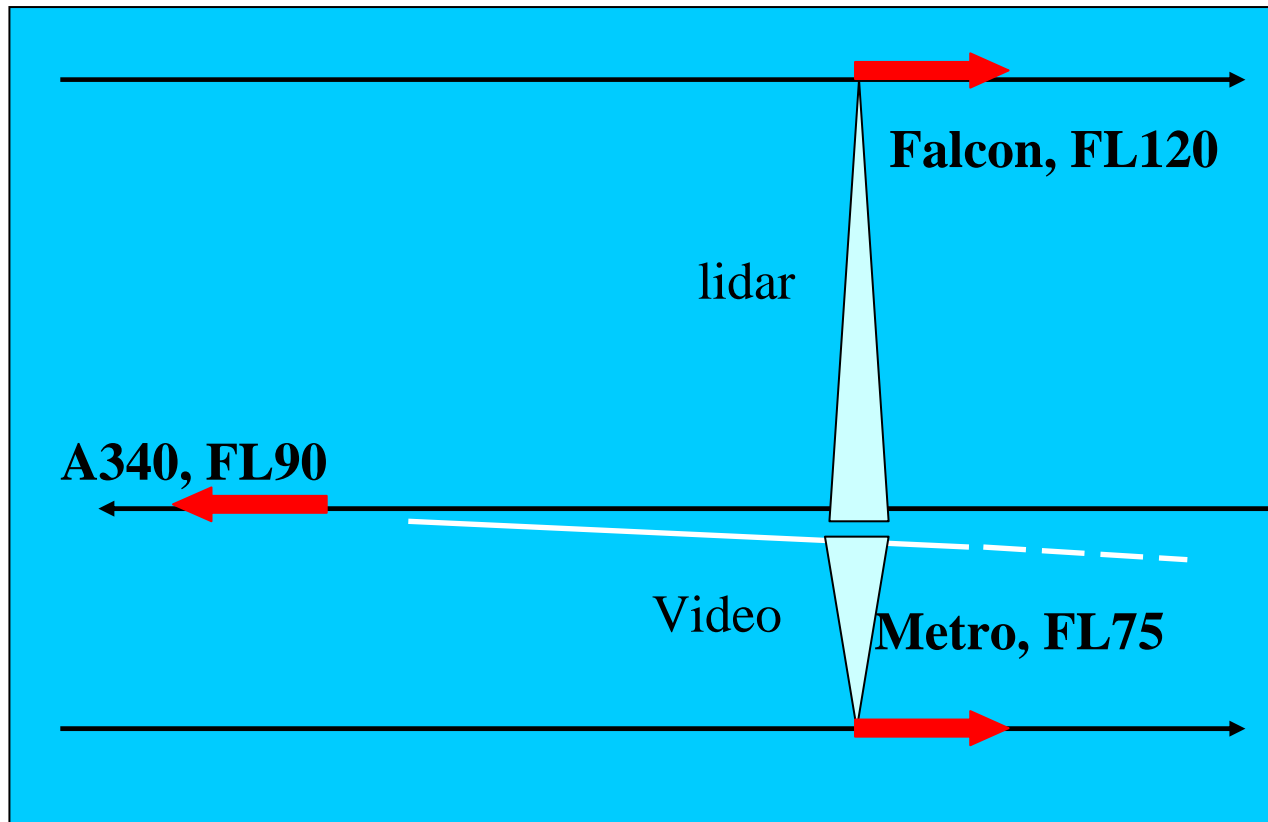
- ATTAS Try-out Oberpfaffenhofen 2005
- A340 Toulouse 9. + 15. Nov. 2006
- ATTAS Oberpfaffenhofen 24. Nov. 2006

plus three campaigns for Airbus

- A380 side by side with A340-600 or B747-400

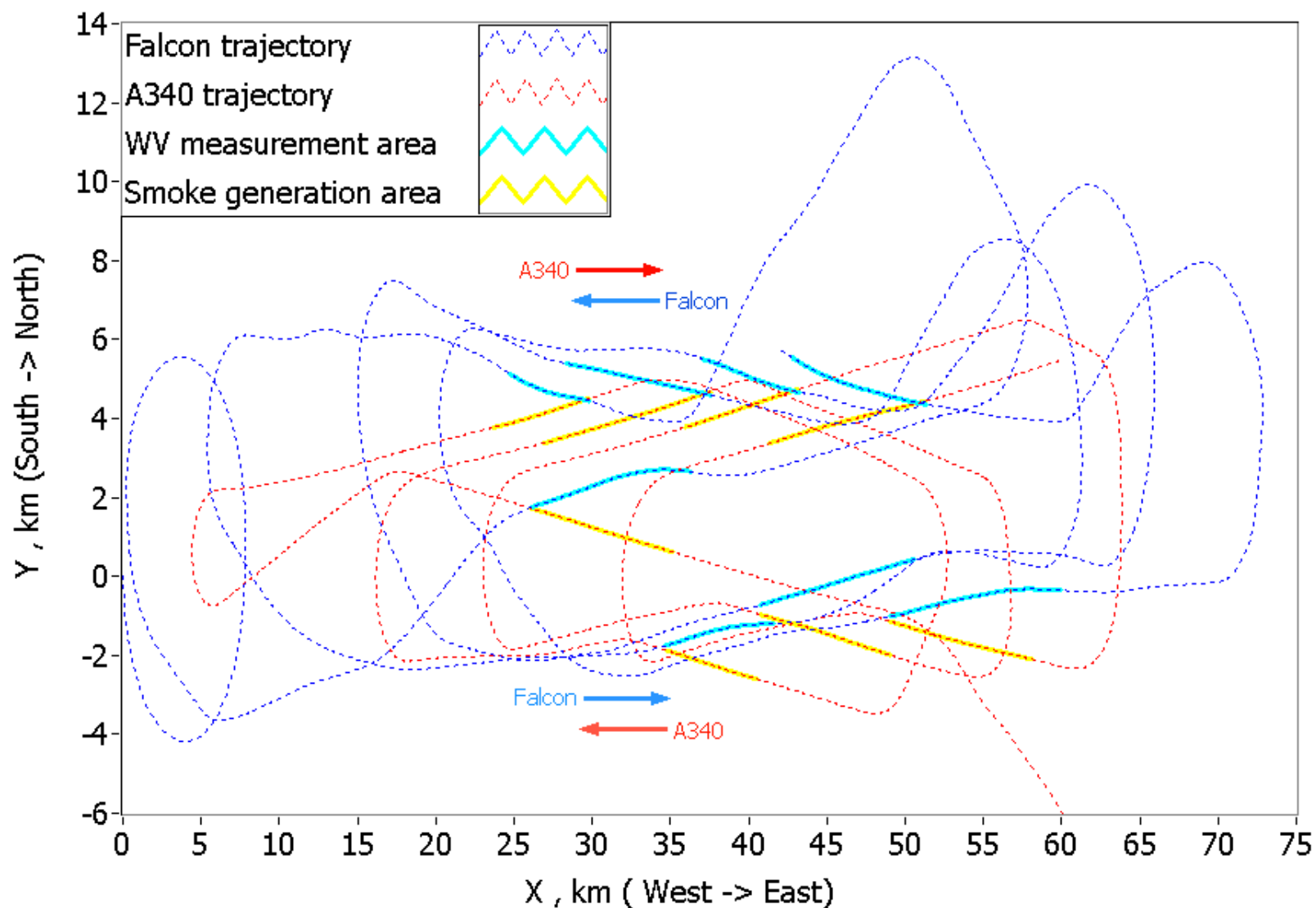


# AWIATOR strategy of airborne lidar measurements



The nominal flight paths of the A340, NLR Metro and DLR Falcon, side view, from D1.1.3-19, 15.01.07 (NLR report NLR-CR-2006-770)

# AWIATOR A340 and Falcon Flight Pattern 15.11.06 /3

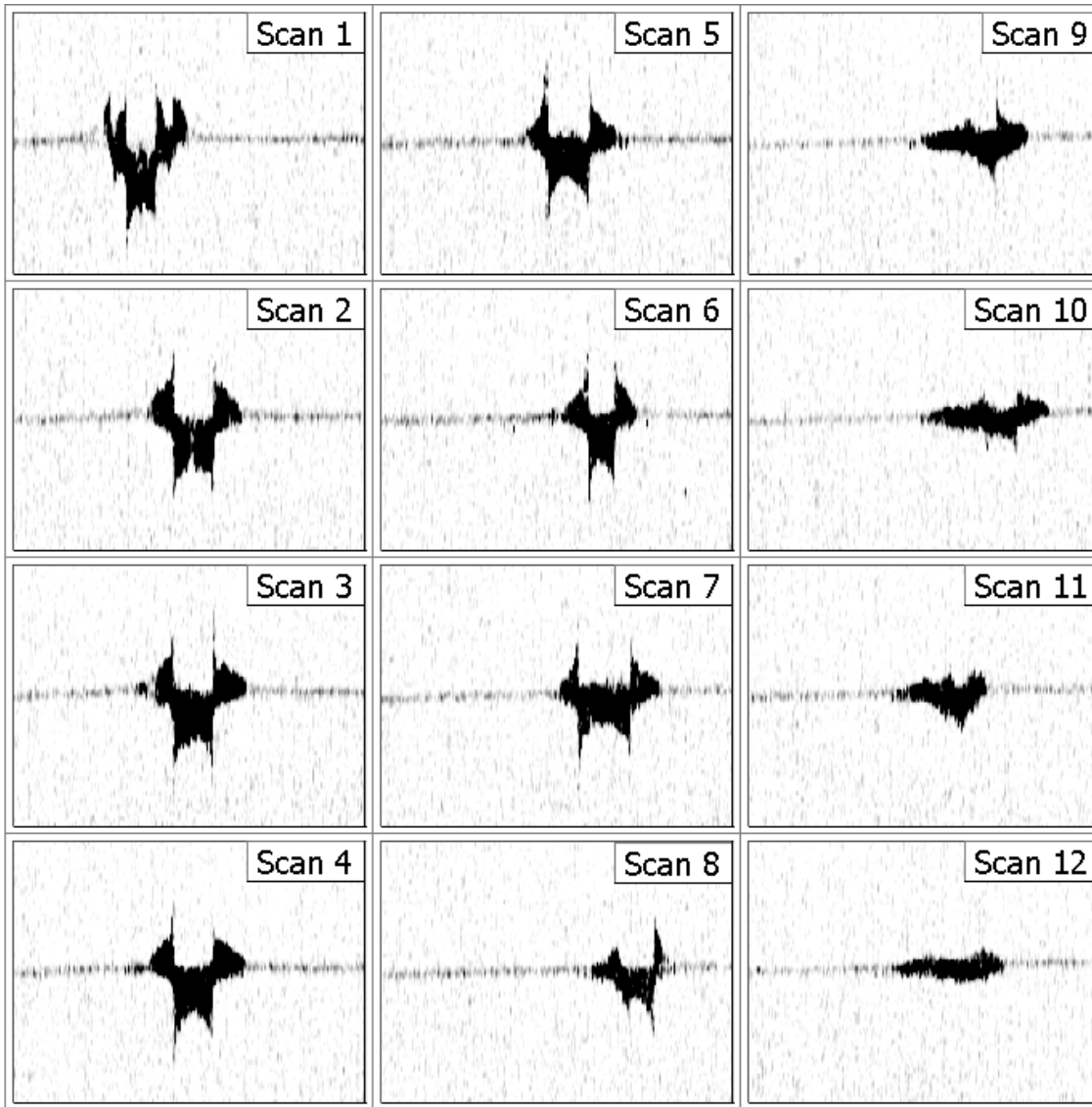




# Measured Doppler Spectra

**AWIATOR flight 1, leg 1  
9.11.06, 13:59 UTC**

Velocity (from -25 m/s to 25 m/s)



Scan angle (from -10 deg to 10 deg)



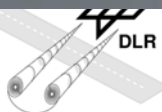
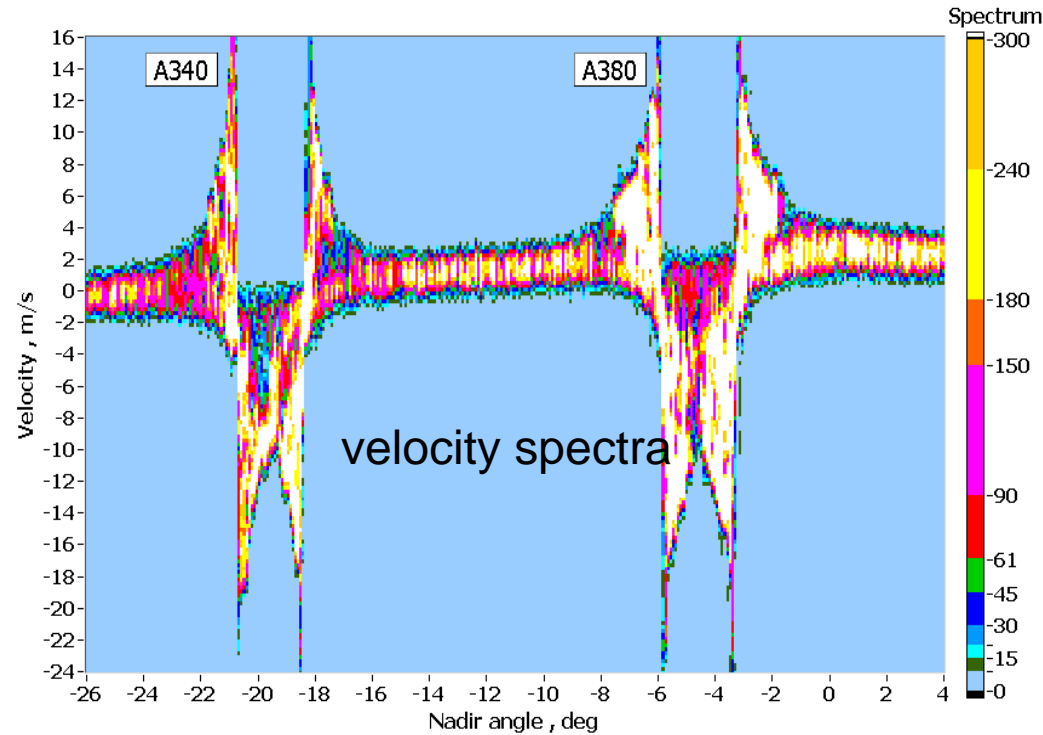
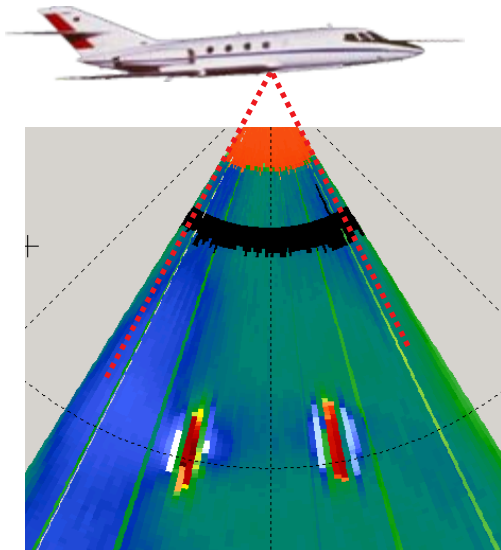
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# Airbus strategy: A340 and A380 side by side in cruise

measured by downward looking lidar  
on board of *Falcon*



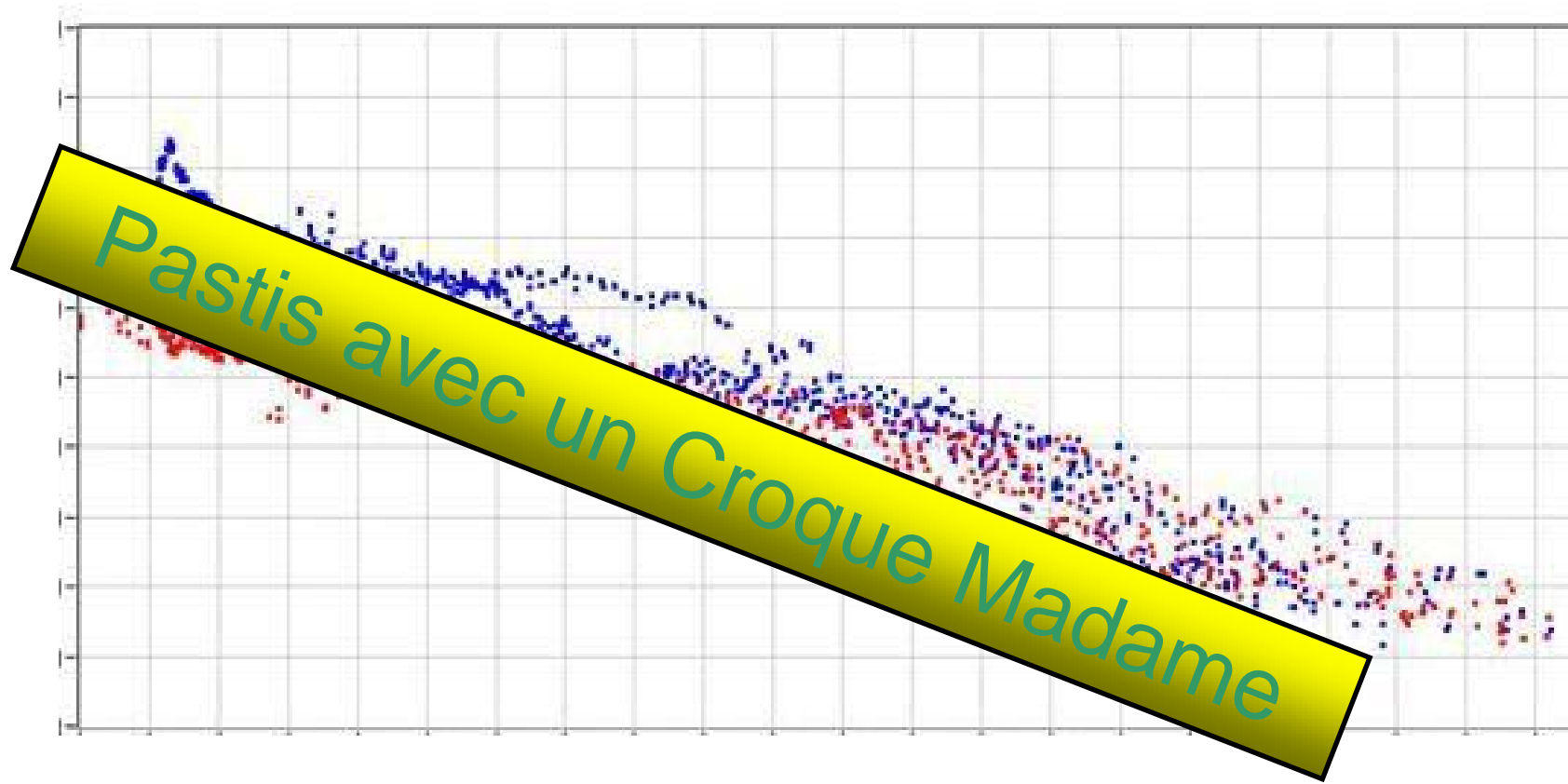
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# Circulation of A380 and A340 vortices

circulation



vortex age



# Conclusions

- 2  $\mu\text{m}$  **pulsed lidar** used for the first time as a **wake measuring** device
- First **airborne** measurements of aircraft wake vortices
- Transceiver, scanner & data acquisition optimised for **characterisation** of wake vortices: four-stage data-processing algorithm
- Precise vortex trajectory, core separation, tilt angle, and circulation can be derived
- Results of pulsed lidar **verified** by comparison with triangulated cw lidars (based upon vortices from A340 and VFW614 -ATTAS- a/c including atmospheric effects) :
  - standard deviations of vertical and lateral core positions 9 and 13 m,
  - standard deviation of circulation 18  $\text{m}^2/\text{s}$
- Augmentation of signal-to-noise ratio is prerequisite for airborne measurements: smoke or contrails

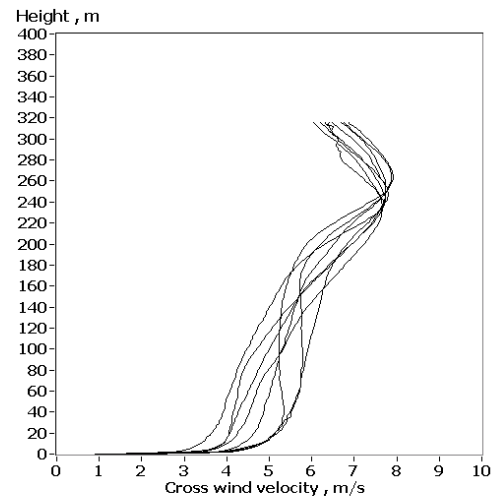
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# Vertical profiles of cross wind measured by pulsed lidar

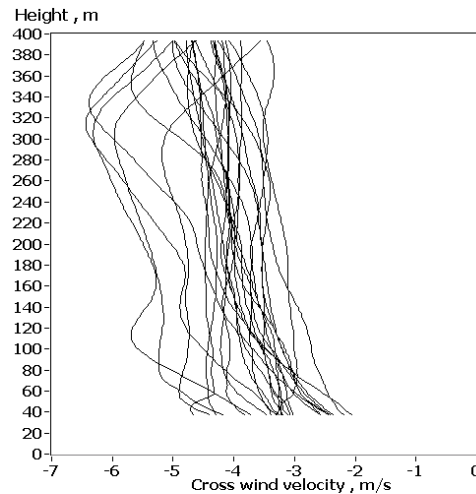
12.06.02

8 profiles (5:46:50 - 6:30:44)



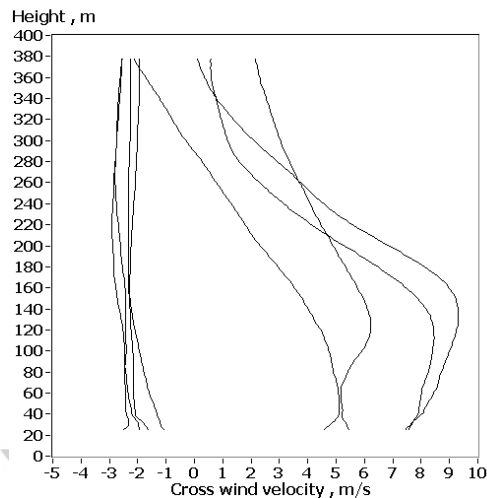
13.06.02

6 profiles (16:37:17 - 17:10:13) + 7 profiles (18:12:08 - 18:50:52) + 12 profiles (19:01:51 - 20:07:44) = 25 profiles



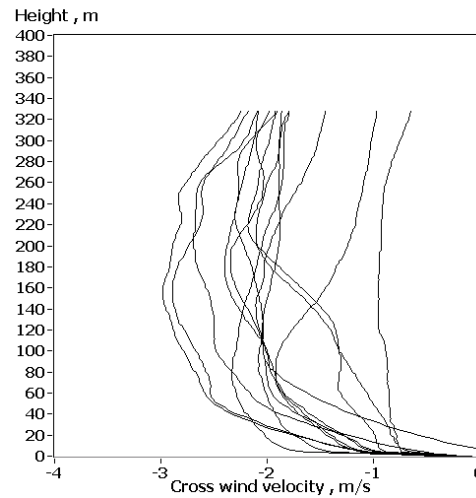
14.06.02

2 profiles (16:55:43 - 17:06:40) + 6 profiles (18:13:59 - 18:47:21) = 8 profiles



17.06.02

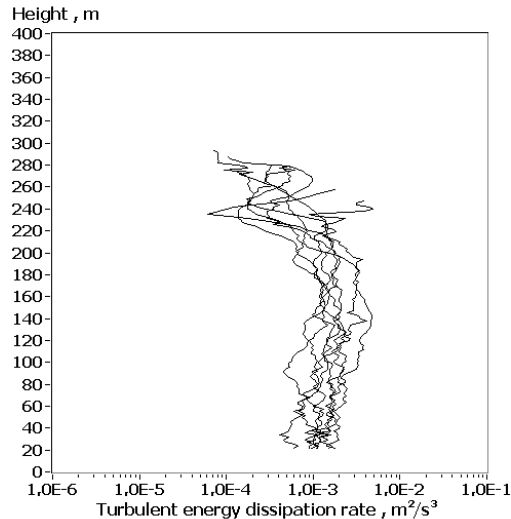
5 profiles (18:10:44 - 18:38:07) + 4 profiles (19:12:11 - 19:33:54) + 4 profiles (19:44:45 - 20:07:27) = 13 profiles



# Turbulent energy dissipation rate from pulsed lidar wind measurements

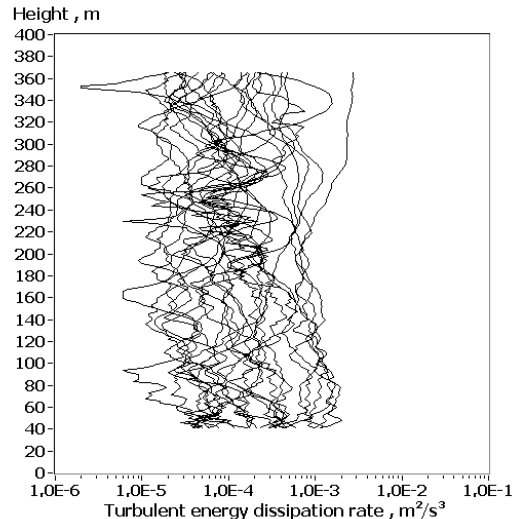
12.06.02

8 profiles (5:46:50 - 6:30:44)



13.06.02

6 profiles (16:37:17 - 17:10:13) + 7 profiles (18:12:08 - 18:50:52) +  
+ 12 profiles (19:01:51 - 20:07:44) = 25 profiles



$$\hat{\varepsilon} = \left[ \frac{\hat{D}(r_2) - \hat{D}(r_1)}{2(r_2^{2/3} - r_1^{2/3})} \right]^{3/2}$$

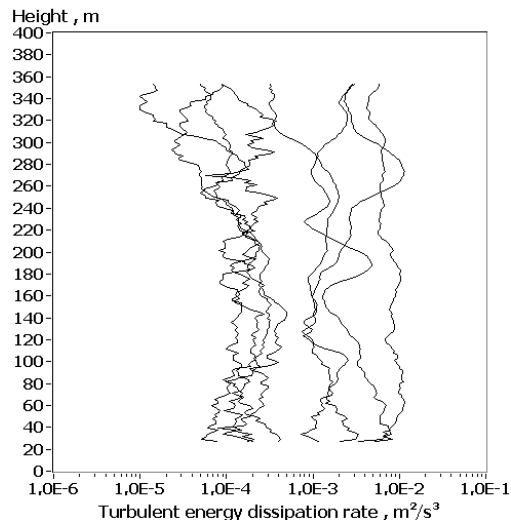
where

$$\hat{D}(r_i) = \langle [V_r(R + r_i) - V_r(R)]^2 \rangle$$

$$i = 1, 2; \quad r_1 = 60 \text{ m}; \quad r_2 = 120 \text{ m}$$

14.06.02

2 profiles (16:55:43 - 17:06:40) +  
+ 6 profiles (18:13:59 - 18:47:21) = 8 profiles



17.06.02

5 profiles (18:10:44 - 18:38:07) + 4 profiles (19:12:11 - 19:33:54) +  
+ 4 profiles (19:44:45 - 20:07:27) = 13 profiles

