

Hybrid Spectrum Width Estimator (Decision Briefing)

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National Center for Atmospheric Research

TAC Decision

 Recommend implementation of the proposed hybrid spectrum width estimator discussed in this presentation to replace the existing pulse-pair (R0/R1) estimator (where used)

Benefits

 Improved spectrum width estimation
 Decreased bias and variance in areas of low SNR and/or small true spectrum widths

 Decreased contamination from weak trip echoes



Background

- People working on NEXRAD Turbulence Detection Algorithm (NTDA) "discovered" that the currently implemented Spectrum Width estimator (pulse-pair R0/R1) had serious deficiencies for lower signal to noise ratios and/or narrow true spectrum widths.
- This, along with an early prototype hybrid spectrum (FAA funding) width estimator was presented to TAC in March 2007. From minutes:

3. Spectrum Width Estimator Problems:

a) The TAC endorses the requirement for a more rigorous specification for the spectrum width estimator over a wider range to support the detection capabilities of the turbulence detection algorithm.

b) The TAC recognizes the requirement for improving the quality of base data as stated in TN-32: System Performance, and that a basic deficiency in the present implementation exists for use quantitatively by algorithms over a wide spectral range.

c) The TAC furthermore supports the effort to continue the analysis and validation of the proposed hybrid technique but would require more information before endorsing a Particular method.

- NCAR, with funding from ROC, further developed the hybrid spectrum width estimator presented today.
- At the September 2008 TAC meeting, the TAC requested that more case studies be presented before a decision could be made regarding the readiness of the algorithm to deploy on NEXRAD.

Relevant Requirements and Needs

From NEXRAD Active Technical Needs

 TN-31: Evolution of WSR-88D hardware and software to implement advances in technology and science (Priority # 1, March 2003 ranking)

Description: Ensure the continued capability of the WSR-88D system to implement desired mission support improvements, by employing an ongoing program to plan and execute WSR-88D upgrades.

 TN-32: System Performance (Priority # 2, March 2003 ranking)
 Description: System Performance includes assessing and

improving (1) the performance of system hardware; (2) <u>the</u> <u>quality of base data</u>; and (3) the <u>performance of the algorithms</u>.

 TN-17: Turbulence Analysis Techniques (Priority # 9, March 2003 ranking)
 Description: Develop an algorithm that will locate and quantify turbulence that is hazardous to aircraft.

Relevant Requirements and Needs (cont.)

From WSR-88D System Specification (REV G, May 2007)

	Accuracy	Precision (Note 2)
Spectrum Width	For a true spectrum width (Note 1) of 4 ms ⁻¹ the standard deviation in the estimate of the spectrum width will be less than or equal to 1.0 ms ⁻¹ including quantization errors, for SNR greater than 10 dB.	0.50 ms ⁻¹

Note 1: True spectrum width is defined as one standard deviation of the meteorological phenomenon spectrum width within a sampled volume for which the indicated accuracy applies. Stated accuracy values apply for Nyquist velocities of the system. (Gaussian spectrum assumed.)

Note 2: Precision is defined as the quantization, the smallest resolvable increment.

NCA

Note 3. Significant biases introduced by the computational technique should be minimized.

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EXISTING PULSE-PAIR ESTIMATOR



R0/R1 Pulse-Pair Estimator

R0/R1 (used on NEXRAD, both on Legacy and ORDA except at times in SZ-2):

$$\frac{\sqrt{2}v_a}{\pi} \left| \log_{10} \left(\frac{R_0}{|R_1|} \right) \right|^{1/2}$$

 $R_0 = P_T - P_N$ $P_T - \text{mean power}$ $P_N - \text{noise}$ powerBad:

Good:

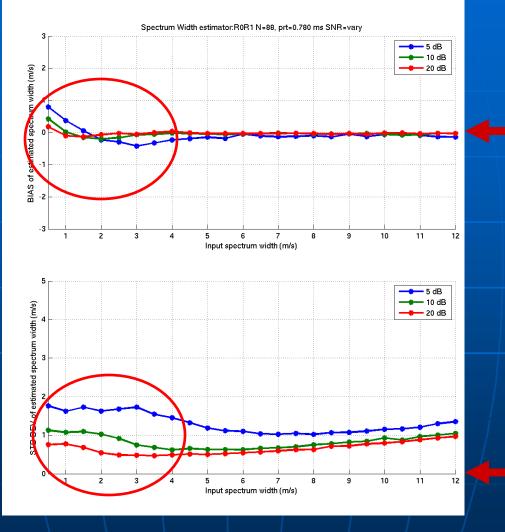
- Simple and fast
- Generally good results
- Saturation at large fraction of Nyquist velocity
- Saturates "gracefully"

- Sensitive to estimate of Noise Power P_N for low SNRs
- Sometimes R0<R1 (especially for narrow spectra)
- Assumes exactly 1 Gaussian shaped signal

The problems with R0/R1 (VCP 21 PRI 8)

Bias (m/s)





1 m/s Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

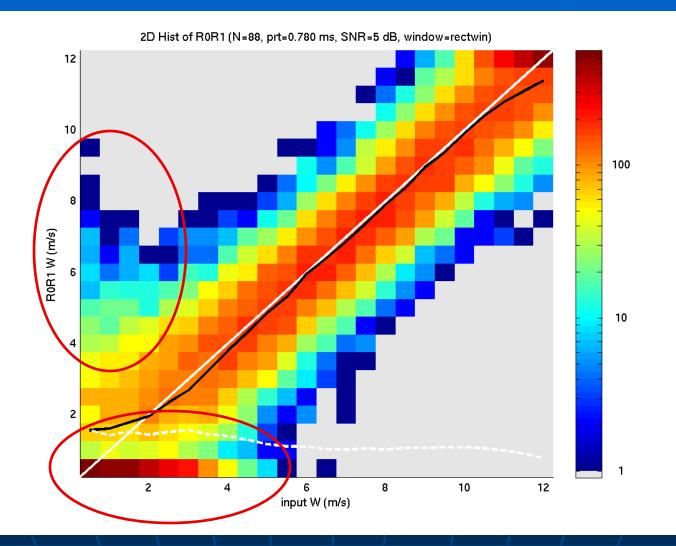
Vertical Ticks

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

Optimal

Input W (m/s)

The problems with R0/R1 (VCP 21 PRI 8)



Proposed Hybrid Estimator

Uses R0/R1, R1/R2, R1/R3 depending on guessed magnitude of spectrum width

Good:

• Fast

- Very good results
- improvements for low SNR and/or small W
- Less sensitive to estimate of noise power P_N
- Saturates like R0/R1

Bad:

- Slightly more complex
 - uses table based on number of points
 - Requires 4 estimates
- Tuning is required
- Assumes exactly 1 Gaussian shaped signal
- Can have misclassifications

Why the hybrid approach?

The various pulse-pair estimators have distinct regimes where performance is superior. Spectral techniques are great but have trouble for short dwell times (spectral broadening due to window effect).

Idea is to stick to well-understood techniques and stitch them together.

Hybrid Spectrum Width Estimator Algorithm Outline

 Compute pulse-pair spectrum width estimators (R0/R1, R1/R2, R1/R3, PPLS 2)
 PPLS 2 is pulse pair based on LS fit of R0/R1/R2

Decide whether the (normalized) spectrum width is "large", "medium", or "small"
Based on R0/R1, PPLS 2, and R1/R3
Logic design via decision trees

Use best estimator for that spectrum width size (R0/R1, R1/R2, R1/R3)

EVALUATIONS



Evaluation Methodology

Simulations

- For each N, input W, varying SNR's and PRTs generate 1000 time-series.
- For each time-series calculate R0/R1 and hybrid spectrum widths.

Case studies



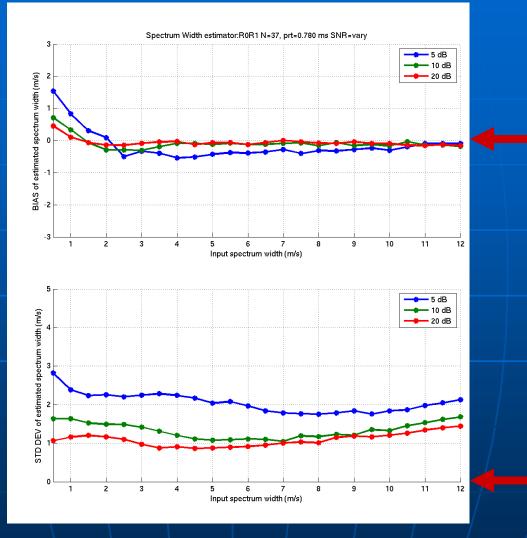
SIMULATIONS FOR VCPS 12, 11, 21, 31, AND 32



R0/R1 VCP 12, PRI 8

Bias (m/s)





Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

1 m/s

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

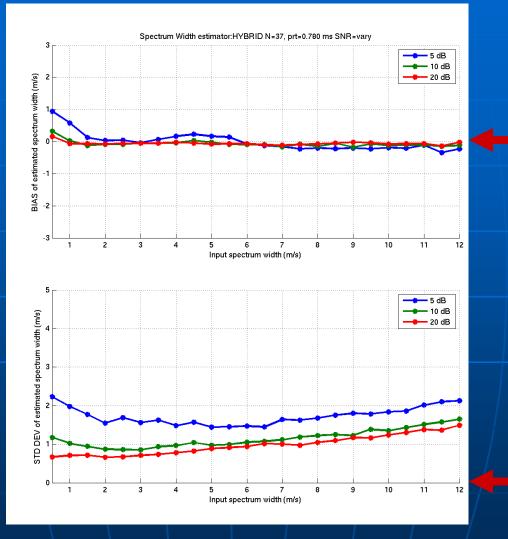
Optimal



Hybrid VCP 12, PRI 8

Bias (m/s)





Vertical Ticks 1 m/s Optimal

> Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

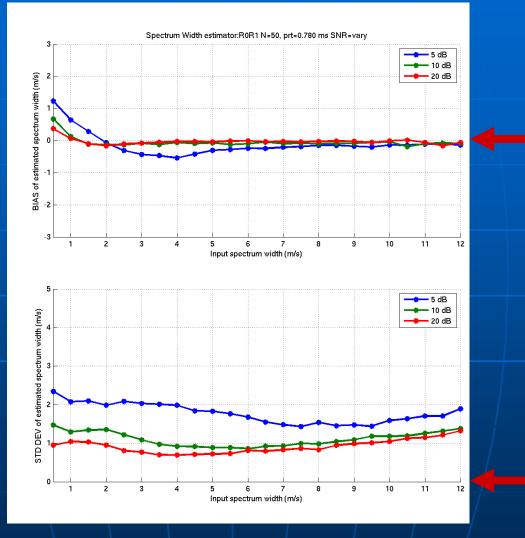
Optimal



R0/R1 VCP 11, PRI 8

Bias (m/s)





Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

1 m/s

Optimal

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

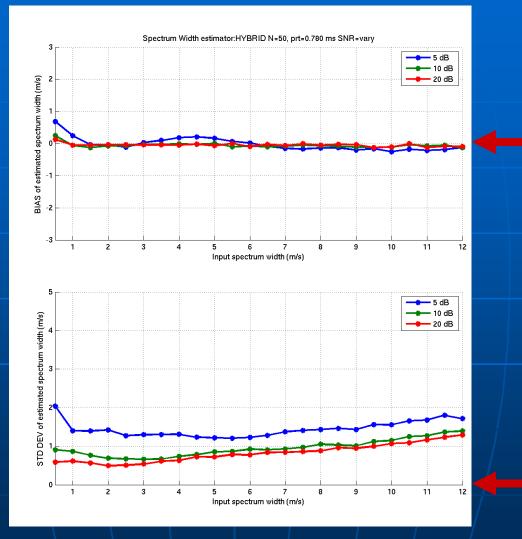
Optimal



Hybrid VCP 11, PRI 8

Bias (m/s)

Std (m/s)



Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

1 m/s

Optimal

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

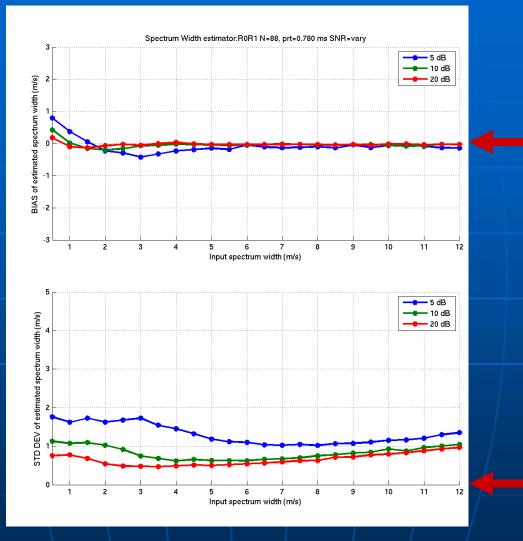
Optimal

Input W (m/s)

R0/R1 VCP 21, PRI 8

Bias (m/s)

Std (m/s)



Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

1 m/s

Optimal

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

Optimal

Input W (m/s)

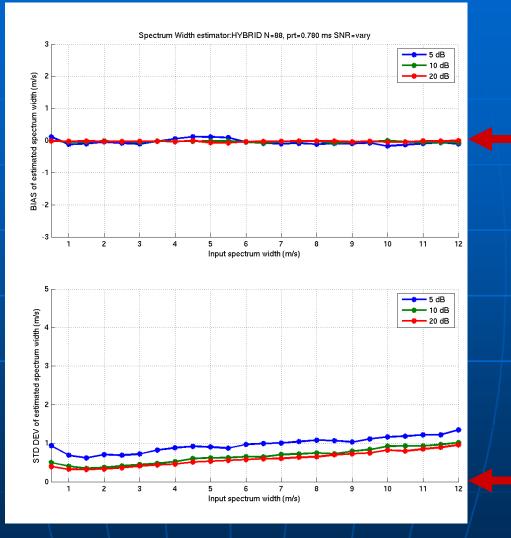
NCAR

21

Hybrid VCP 21, PRI 8

Bias (m/s)





Vertical Ticks 1 m/s Optimal

> Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

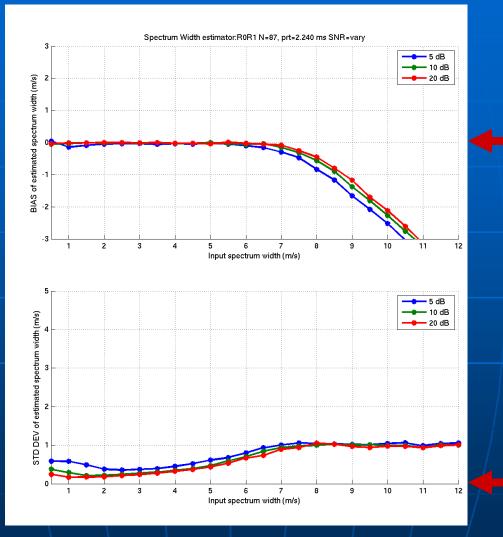
Optimal



R0/R1 VCP 31, PRI 2

Bias (m/s)





Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

1 m/s

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

Optimal

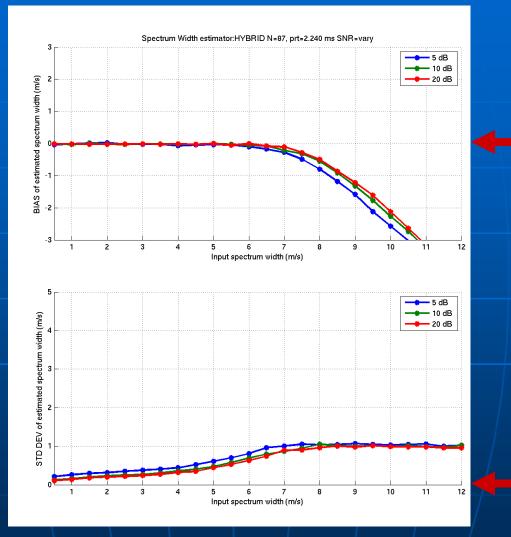
Input W (m/s)

23

Hybrid VCP 31, PRI 2

Bias (m/s)





1 m/s Optimal

Vertical Ticks

Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

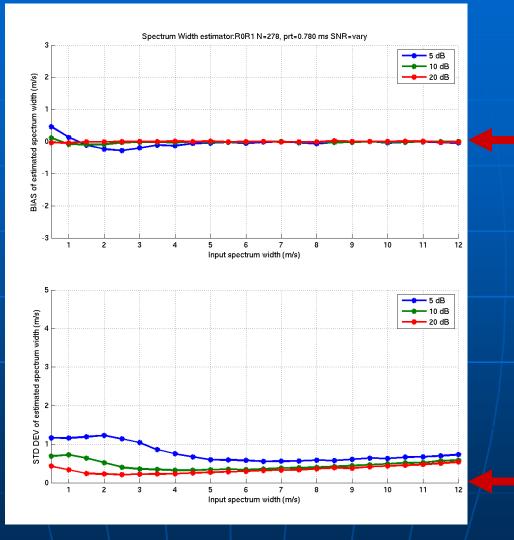
Optimal



R0/R1 VCP 32, PRI 8

Bias (m/s)





1 m/s Optimal

Vertical Ticks

Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

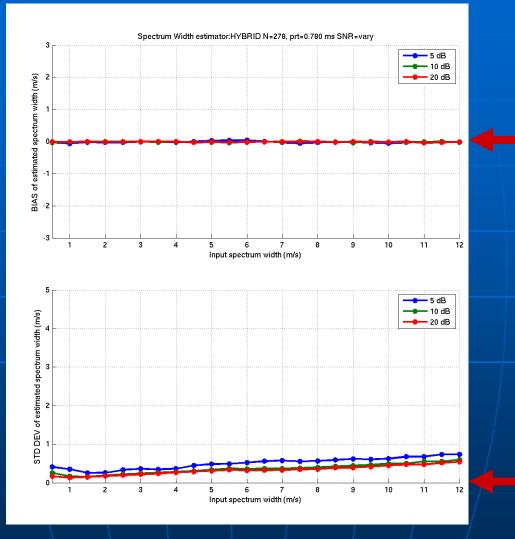
Optimal

Input W (m/s)

Hybrid VCP 32, PRI 8

Bias (m/s)





1 m/s Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

Optimal

CASE STUDIES



Case Studies

Have evaluated on 30 cases, spanning the VCPs 11, 12, 21, 31, and 32. (from standpoint of PRT/dwell times evaluation of VCPs 121, 211, 212, and 221 are "covered" by these cases) These case studies span a range of weather phenomena including convective (including tornadic) storms, stratiform rain, winter weather, strong low level jet, etc.)

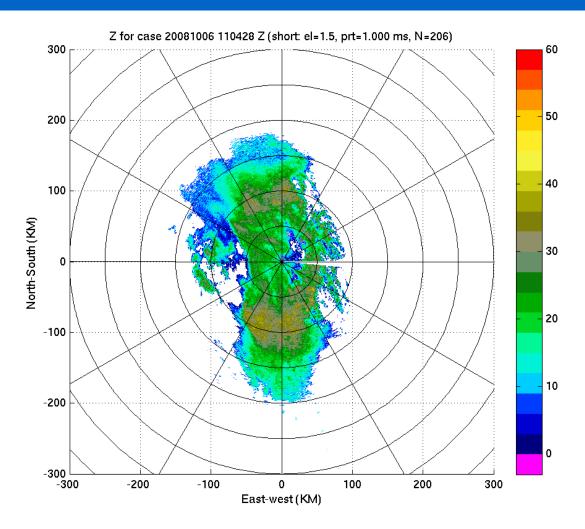
Case Studies

- Clutter filtering has been applied (map based on CMD)
- Range un-folding was not performed so that data is all contained within one range ring.
- Data censoring: Z<0, SNR<0 are shown blank.
 PR<5, strong CSRs are colored purple.
 - These are lower than normal operational settings.
- Presented here are some spectra with Gaussian fits using both R0/R1 and Hybrid estimators. These come from "gates" where there was a significant difference between the two estimators.

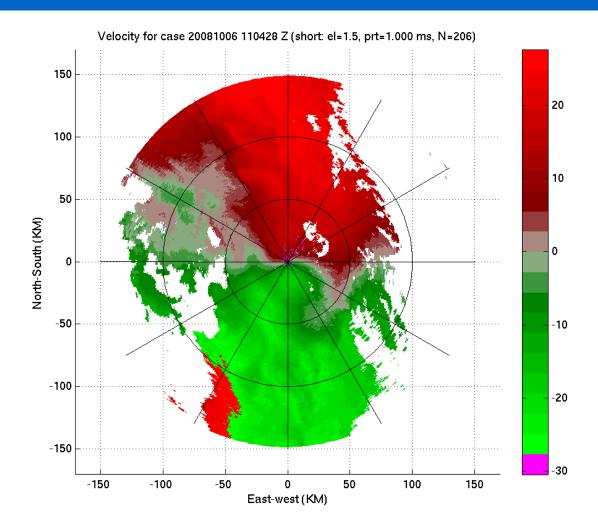
"A strong cold front was located in western OK. Convective storms and widespread rain developed along and ahead of the advancing cold front." - NSSL/ROC I&Q archive

CASE 1: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5

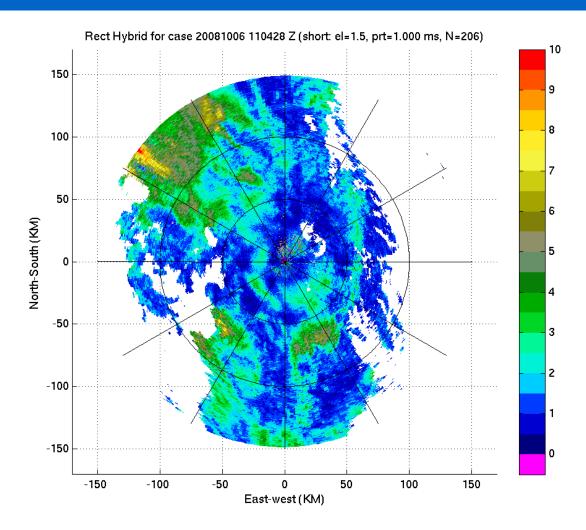
Z: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



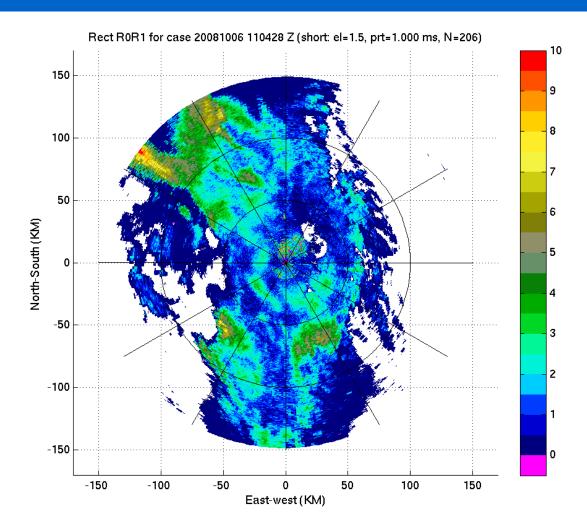
V: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



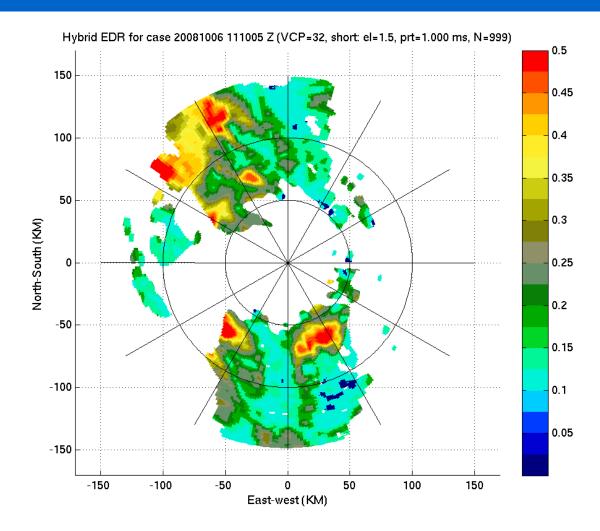
HYBRID: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



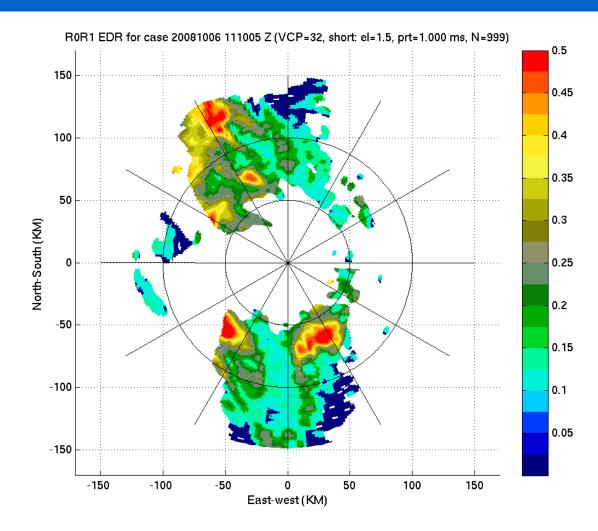
R0/R1: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



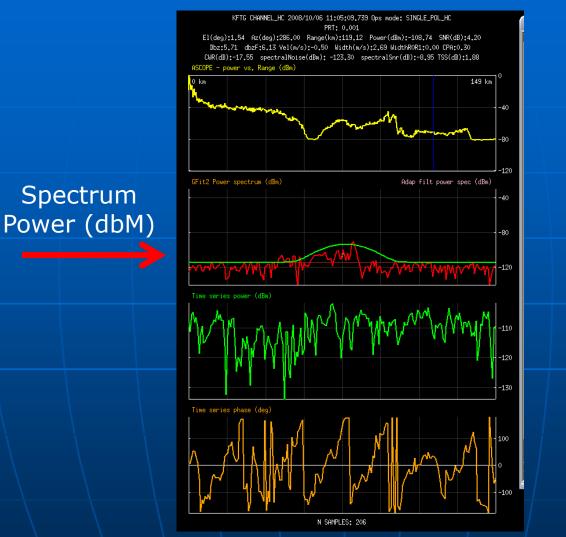
EDR HYB: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



EDR R0R1: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



SPECTRA: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



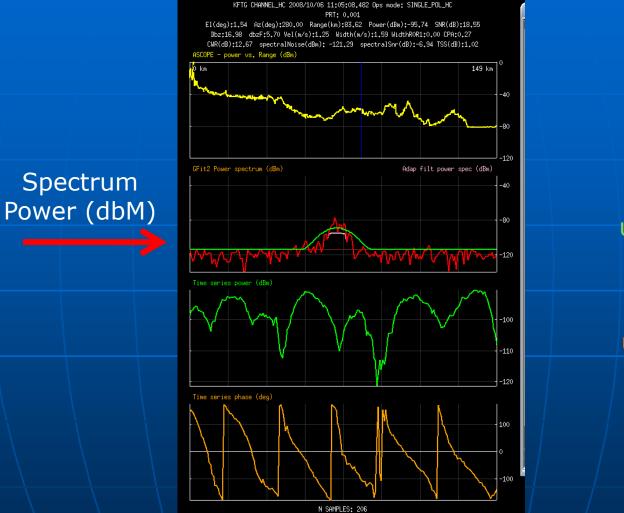
Red = Empirical Spectrum

Green = Gaussian fit using Hybrid

Brown = Gaussian fit using R0/R1

Comment: low SNR. R0R1 says 0 m/s

SPECTRA: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



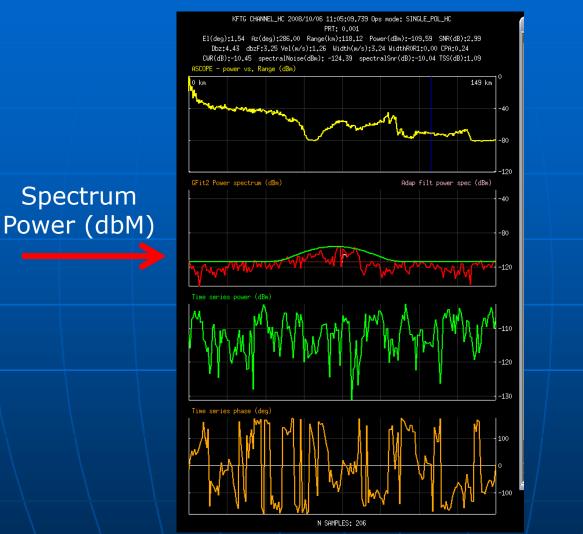
Red = Empirical Spectrum

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Brown = Gaussian fit using R0/R1

Comment: low SNR. R0R1 says 0 m/s

SPECTRA: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5



Red = Empirical Spectrum

Green = Gaussian fit using Hybrid

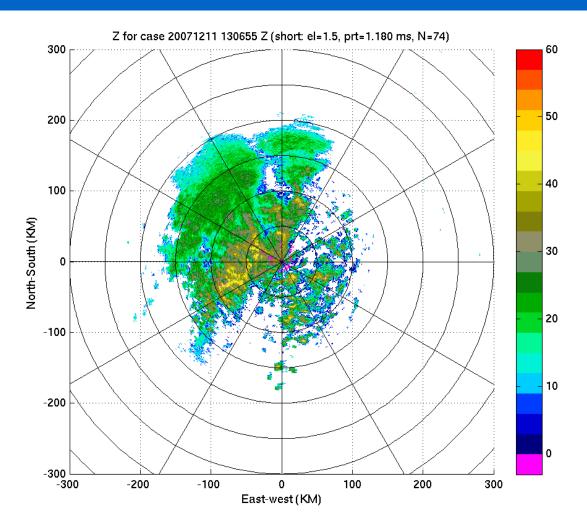
Brown = Gaussian fit using R0/R1

Comment: low SNR. R0R1 says 0 m/s

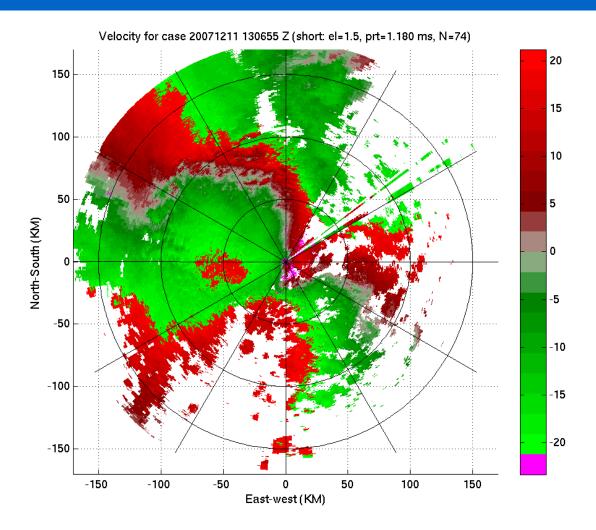
"During the data collection period, a very powerful upper level storm was located over NM. Cold surface and low level temperatures led to mixed precipitation over a large part of OK. Strong overrunning conditions lead to substantial amounts of freezing rain. Embedded convective cells streamed over OK dropping heavy liquid/freezing precipitation.... Sunrise, 75% of state covered by rain"

CASE 2: KCRI 2007/12/11 1302Z VCP 22 (LIKE 21), PRI 4

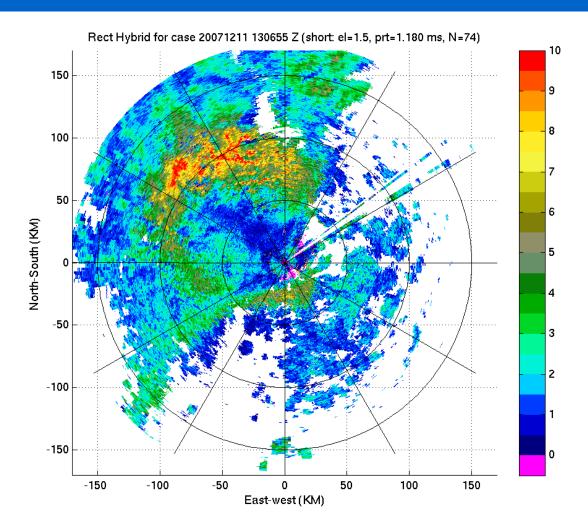
Z: KCRI 2007/12/11 1302Z VCP ~21, PRI 4



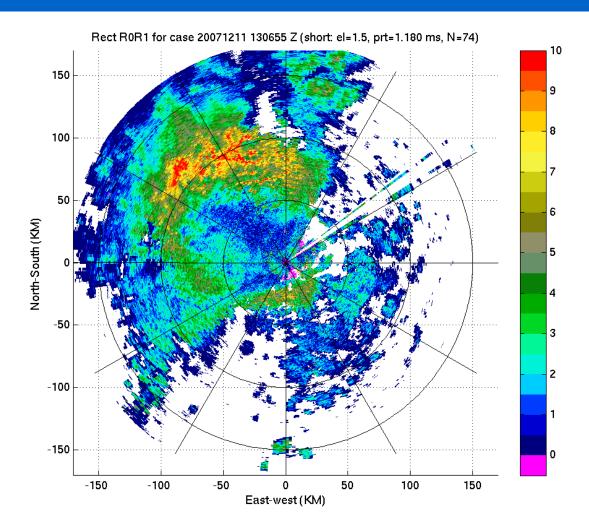
V: KCRI 2007/12/11 1302Z VCP ~21, PRI 4



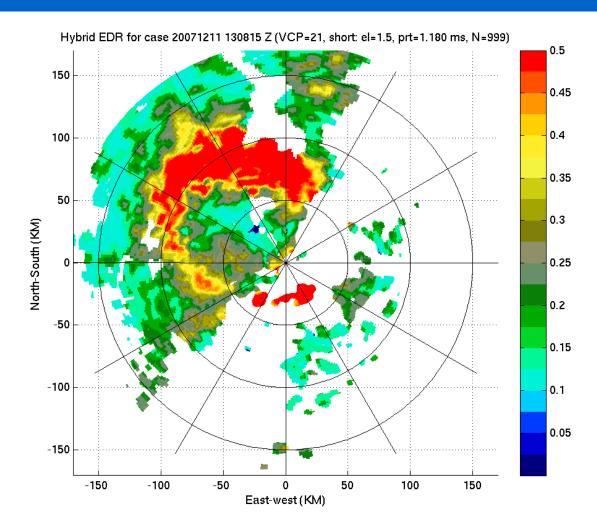
HYBRID: KCRI 2007/12/11 1302Z VCP ~21, PRI 4



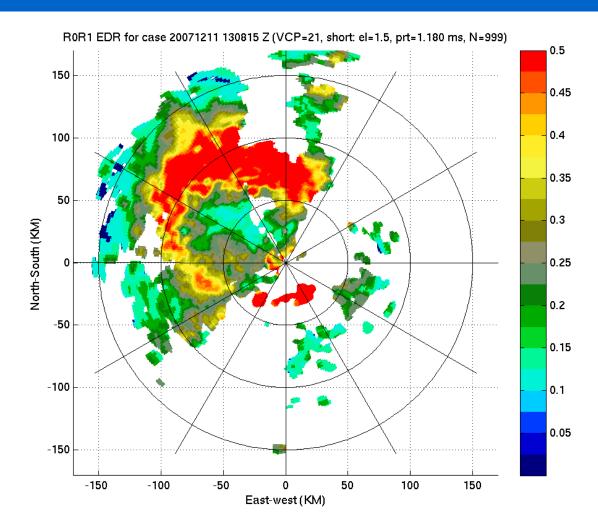
R0/R1: KCRI 2007/12/11 1302Z VCP ~21, PRI 4

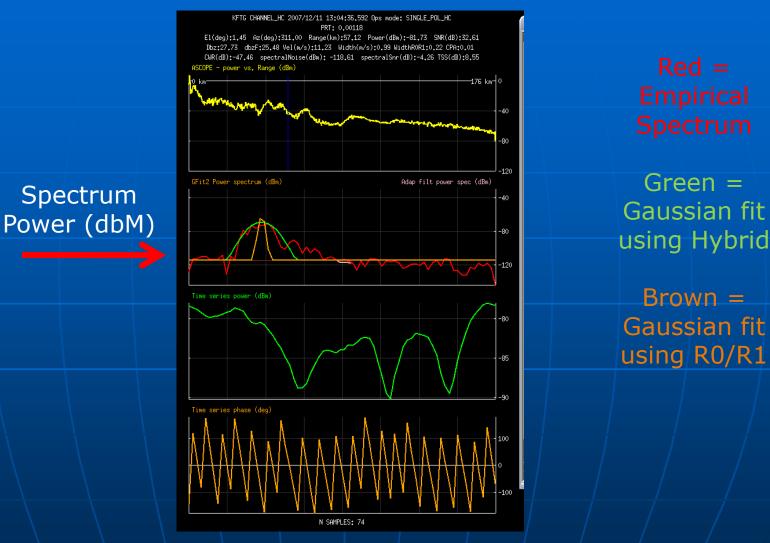


EDR HYB: KCRI 2007/12/11 1302Z VCP ~21, PRI 4

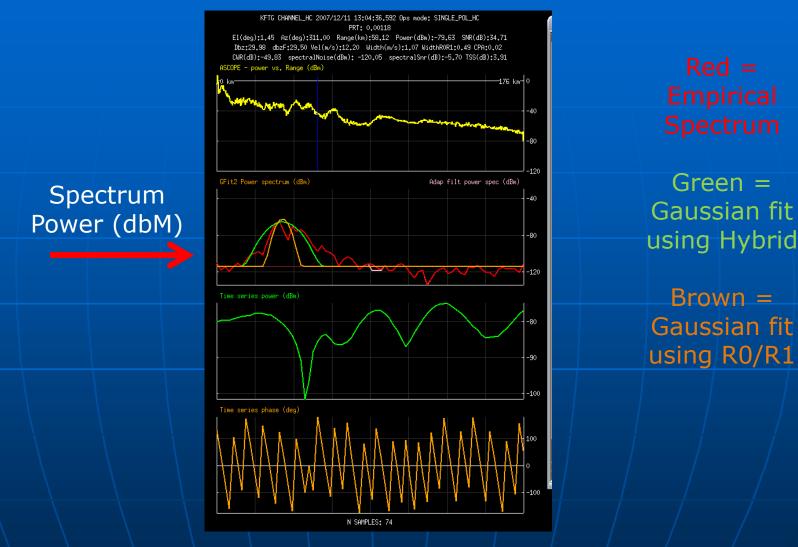


EDR R0R1: KCRI 2007/12/11 1302Z VCP ~21, PRI 4

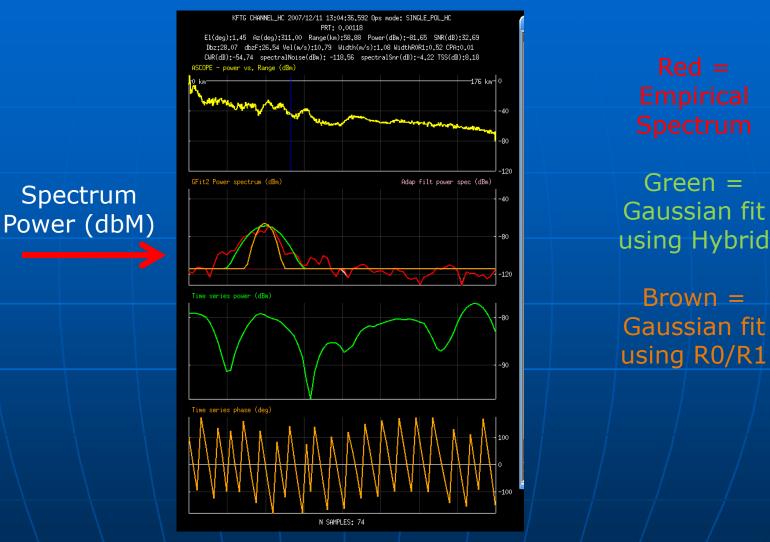




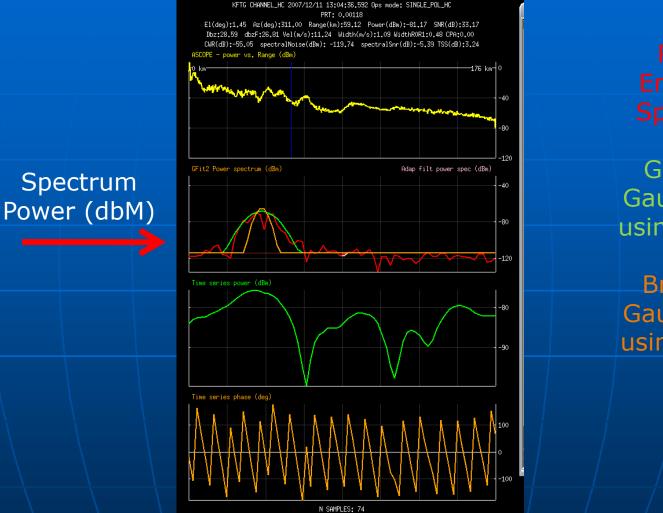
Comment: narrow spectrum. R0R1 underestimating



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Comment: narrow spectrum. R0R1 underestimating

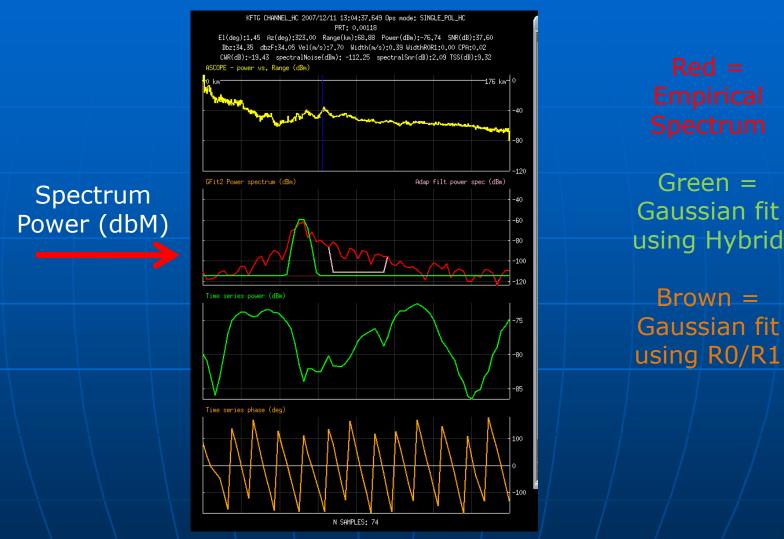


Red = Empirical Spectrum

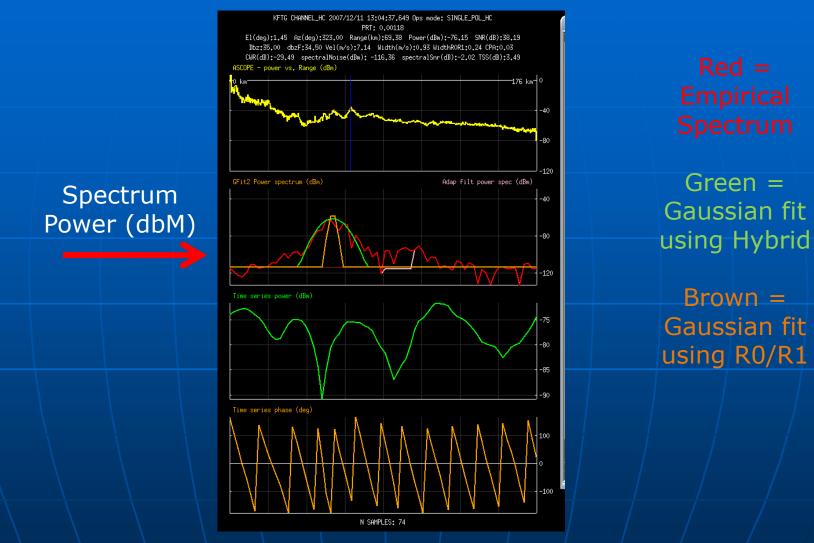
Green = Gaussian fit using Hybrid

Brown = Gaussian fit using R0/R1

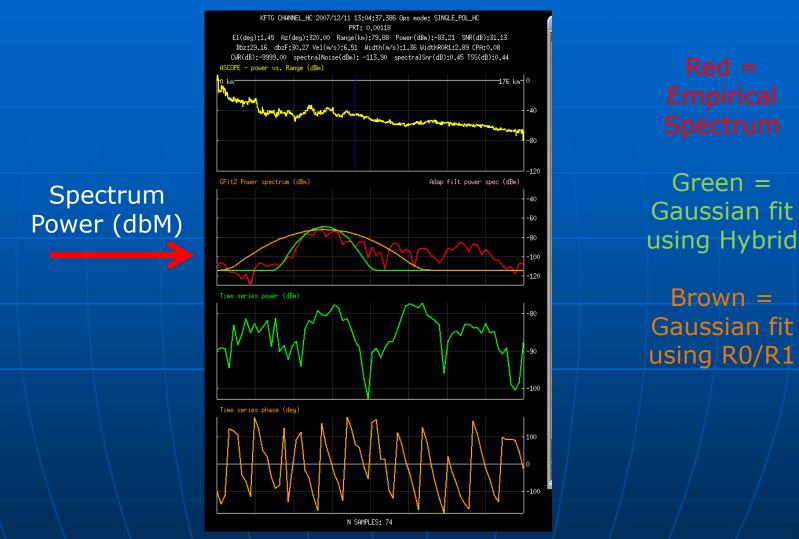
Comment: narrow spectrum. R0R1 underestimating



Comment: Wide spectrum. Both underestimating



Comment: Wide spectrum. Both underestimating, though NCAR hybrid fits better

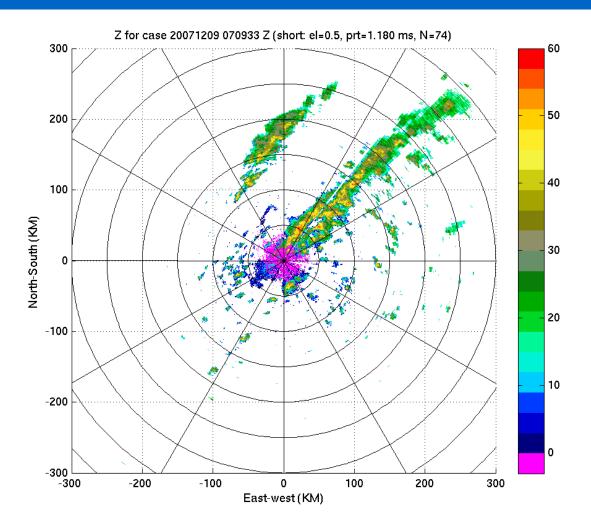


Comment: Wide spectrum. R0/R1 fits better.

"During the data collection period, a very powerful upper level storm was located over NM. Cold surface and low level temperatures led to mixed precipitation over a large part of OK. Strong overrunning conditions lead to substantial amounts of freezing rain. Embedded convective cells streamed over OK dropping heavy liquid/freezing precipitation.... Narrow line through OKC to Tulsa, smaller line from Enid to Kansas border"

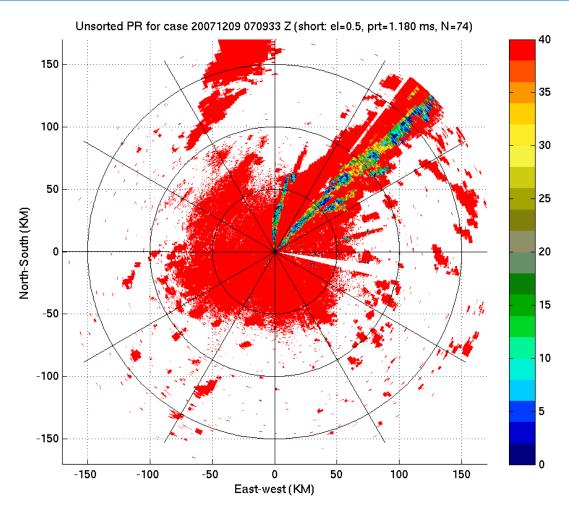
CASE 3: KCRI 2007/12/09 0705Z VCP 22 (LIKE 21), PRI 4

Z: KCRI 2007/12/09 0705Z VCP ~21, PRI 4



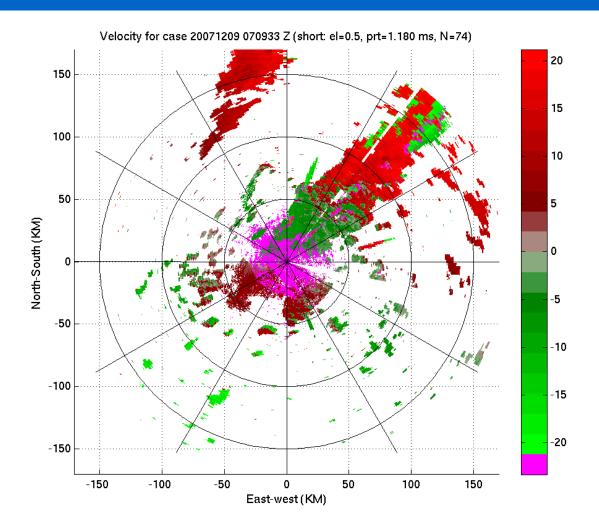
POWER RATIO: KCRI 2007/12/09 0705Z VCP ~21,

PRI 4

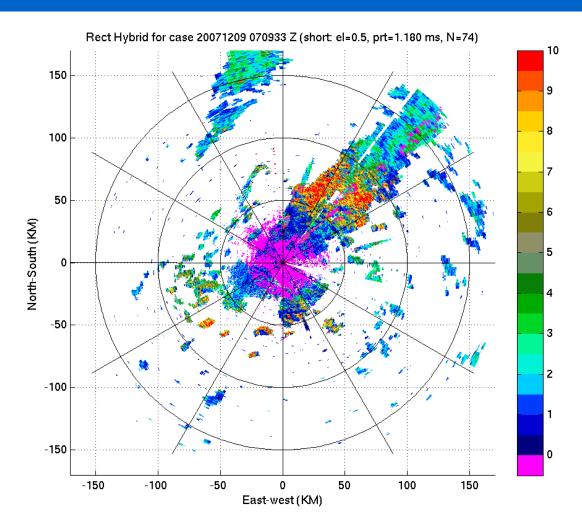


Power Ratio is the strong trip divided by the weak trip. The weak trip will contaminate the strong trip estimators when PR is smaller.

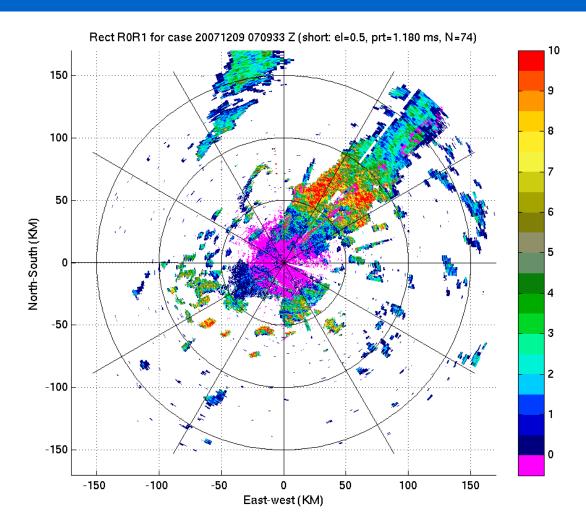
V: KCRI 2007/12/09 0705Z VCP ~21, PRI 4



HYBRID: KCRI 2007/12/09 0705Z VCP ~21, PRI 4



R0/R1: KCRI 2007/12/09 0705Z VCP ~21, PRI 4





Spectrum

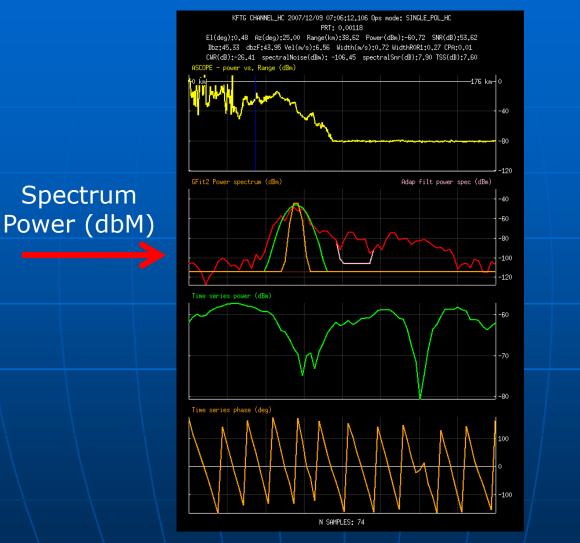
Power (dbM)

Red = Empirical Spectrum

Green = Gaussian fit using Hybrid

Brown = Gaussian fit using R0/R1

Comment: Wide spectrum. Both underestimating, though NCAR R0/R1 somewhat better

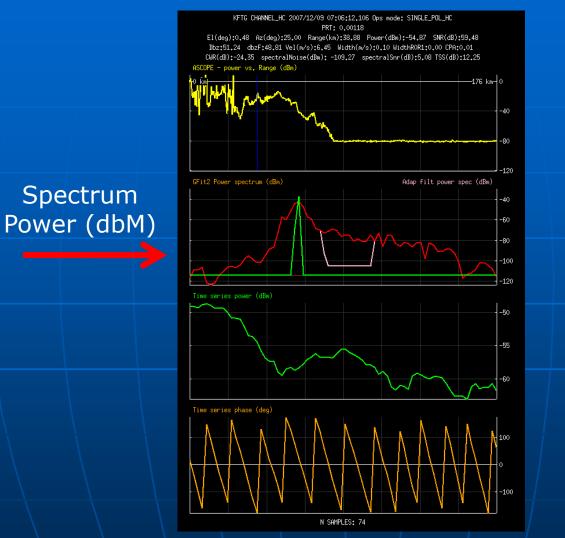


Spectrum

Green = Gaussian fit using Hybrid

Brown =Gaussian fit using R0/R1

Comment: Wide spectrum. Both underestimating, though NCAR Hybrid somewhat better



Green = Gaussian fit using Hybrid

Brown =Gaussian fit using R0/R1

Comment: Wide spectrum. Both underestimating.

NCAR

Spectrum



Red = Empirical Spectrum

Green = Gaussian fit using Hybrid

Brown = Gaussian fit using R0/R1

Comment: Wide spectrum. Both doing OK.

NCAR

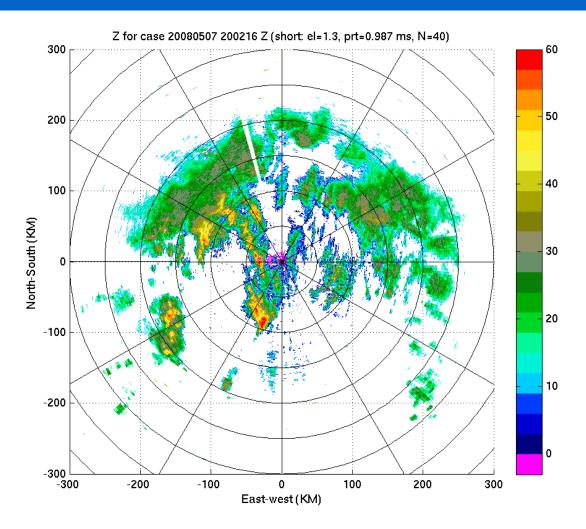
Spectrum

Power (dbM)

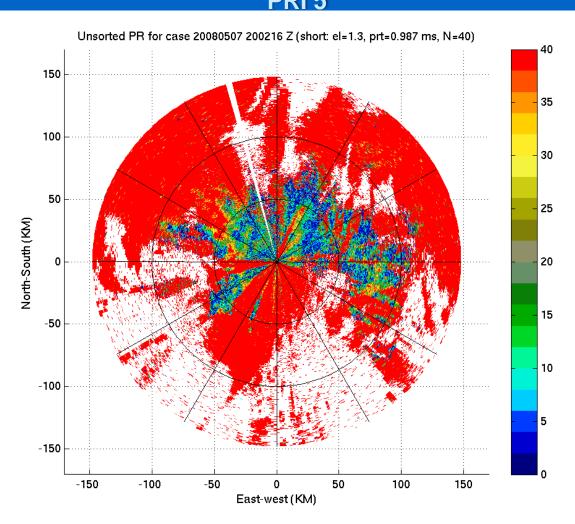
"Strong storms were embedded in stratiform precip all day.... Ap began at 2022Z and lasted until at least 2246Z."

CASE 4: KCRI 2008/05/07 2000Z VCP 12, PRI 5

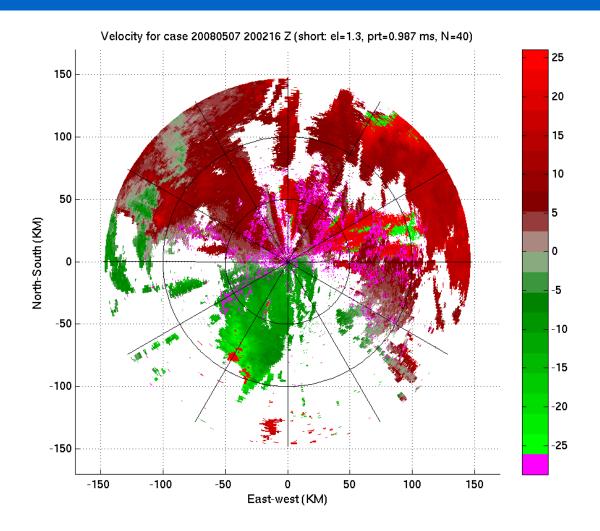
Z: KCRI 2008/05/07 2000Z VCP 12, PRI 5



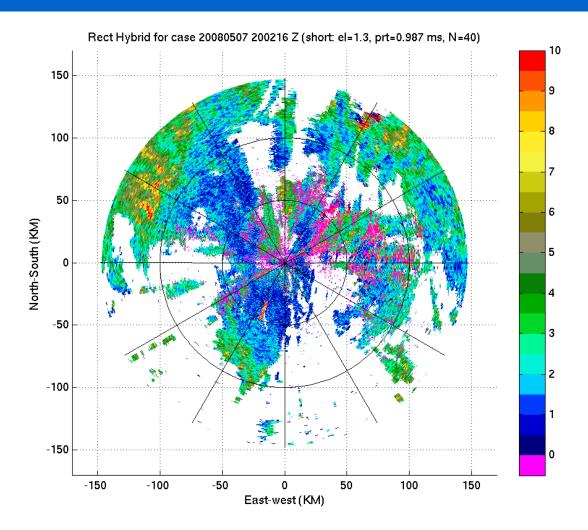
POWER RATIO: KCRI 2008/05/07 2000Z VCP 12, PRI 5



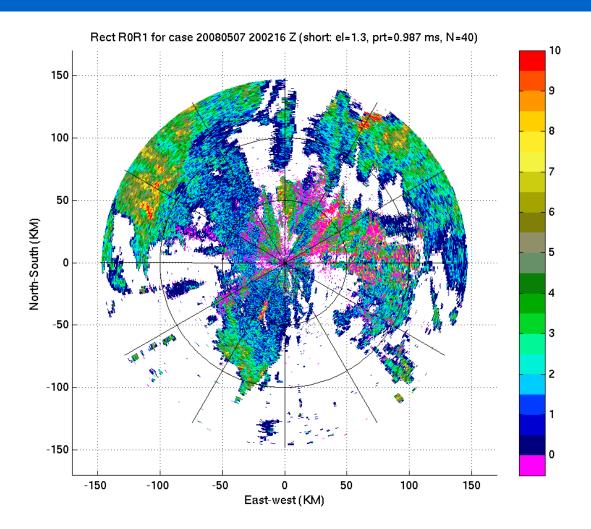
V: KCRI 2008/05/07 2000Z VCP 12, PRI 5



HYBRID: KCRI 2008/05/07 2000Z VCP 12, PRI 5



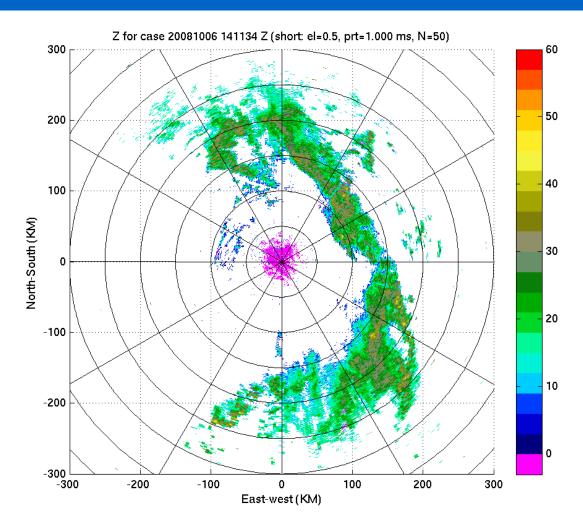
R0/R1: KCRI 2008/05/07 2000Z VCP 12, PRI 5



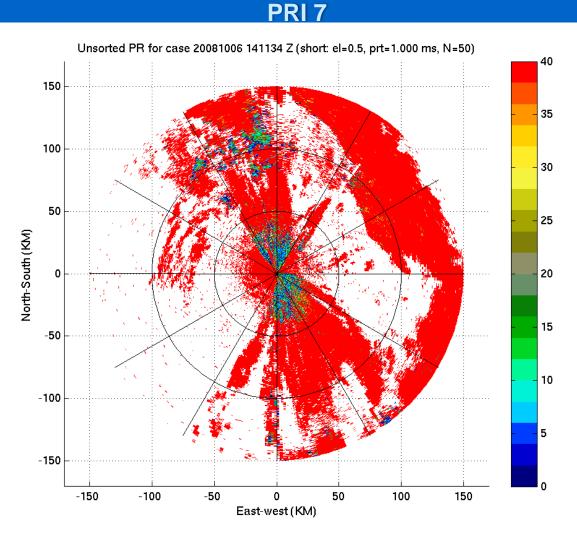
"At beginning of data collection period, a strong cold front was located in western OK. Convective storms and widespread rain developed along and ahead of the advancing cold front."

CASE 5: KOUN 2008/10/06 1410Z VCP 11, PRI 7

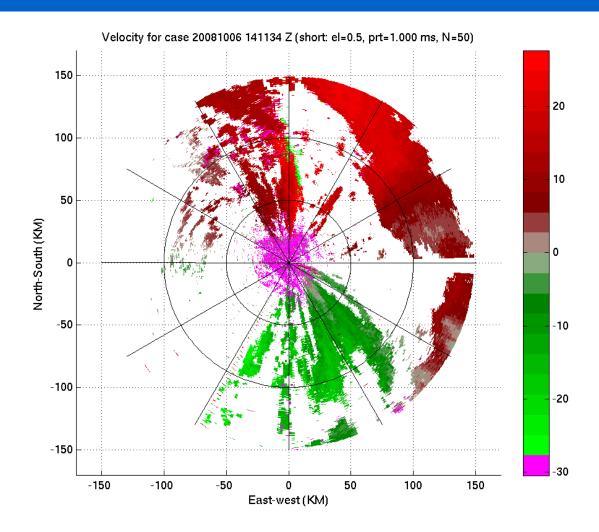
Z: KOUN 2008/10/06 1410Z VCP 11, PRI 7



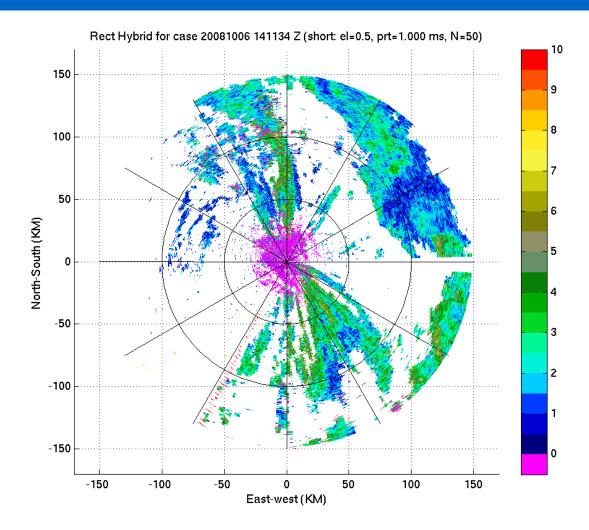
POWER RATIO: KOUN 2008/10/06 1410Z VCP 11,



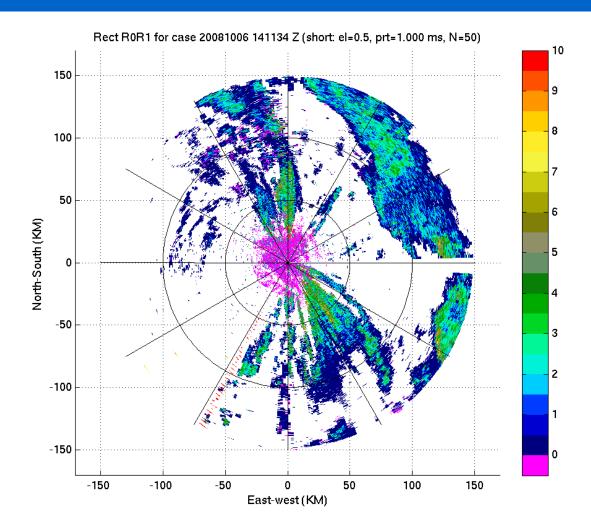
V: KOUN 2008/10/06 1410Z VCP 11, PRI 7



HYBRID: KOUN 2008/10/06 1410Z VCP 11, PRI 7



R0/R1: KOUN 2008/10/06 1410Z VCP 11, PRI 7



Summary and Conclusions

- Pulse Pair R0/R1 performs poorly for low SNRs and/or small spectrum widths.
- Proposed hybrid estimator generally outperforms the R0/R1.
 - Much lower biases and lower variances for low SNR's and small spectrum widths.
 - Relatively insensitive to overlaid echoes.
 - Occasionally performs worse (e.g. very non-Gaussian spectra), but overall benefit outweighs cost.
- Computational complexity, impact on estimator run-time is minimal.
- Improved performance means greater coverage of usable SWs (e.g. for NTDA)
 - Significant aviation user benefit since aircraft frequently fly in low-reflectivity clouds.

Recommendation

 Implement the proposed hybrid spectrum width estimator discussed in this presentation to replace the existing pulsepair (R0/R1) estimator (where used)

Questions?





SW TIM, 13-14 May 2008, slide 79

One Note:

 All work presented here presupposes the changes suggested by Torres in previous TAC meetings are implemented.

Linear Auto-Correlation Function (ACF) rather than circular
Window correction factor for ACF
Removal of other correction factor

EDR and turbulence severity

EDR (m ^{2/3} s ⁻¹)	SW (5 km) (m s ⁻¹)	SW (150 km) (m s ⁻¹)	Severity
0.0 - 0.1	0.0 - 0.4	0.0 - 1.2	Null
0.1 – 0.3	0.4 – 1.3	1.2 – 3.9	Light
0.3 - 0.5	1.3 – 2.2	3.9 - 6.6	Moderate
0.5 - 0.7	2.2 – 3.1	6.6 - 9.3	Severe
> 0.7	> 3.1	> 9.3	Extreme

Accurate estimation of small spectrum widths is essential for distinguishing null from light or moderate turbulence. This is not addressed by the current SW specification.





R0/R1/R2 Least Squares Estimator

- Poly-Pulse Pair method using R0, R1, and R2
- Proposed to be used as part of hybrid estimator.

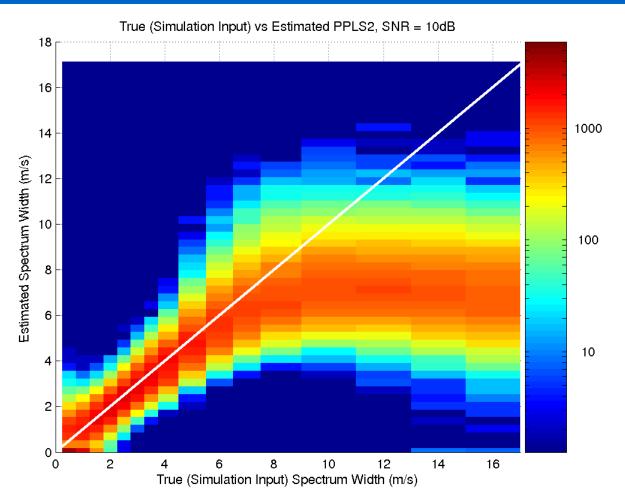
Good:

- Simple and fast
- Generally good results
- Less sensitive to estimate of noise power P_N
- Saturates more gracefully than R1/R2

Bad:

- Assumes exactly 1 Gaussian shaped signal
- Saturates for spectrum widths above ~1/3 Nyquist

PPLS2 2D Histograms – True vs. Estimated: SNR = 10dB



Simulation Studies for Tuning and Evaluation

Used I&Q simulator as detailed by R. Frehlich and M. J. Yadlowsky^{*} Varied SNR's, N, PRT's and input ("true") spectrum widths Computed estimator bias and standard deviation using 10000 timeseries per scenario

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* Frehlich, R. and M. J. Yadlowsky, 1994: Performance of mean-frequency estimators for Doppler radar and LIDAR. *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*, 11, 1217-1230; corrigenda, 12, 445-446.

Design Issues

 Decision logic tuning must take into account that some misclassifications are worse than others.

 Large parameter space that one could optimize decision logic over (PRT, N, SNR)

Keep it simple

Design Approach

To simplify:

- Work with normalized spectrum widths to mostly eliminate PRT dependence
 - PRF #8 (780 µs) is still the hardest case for a given N and SNR so this PRT is used for tuning the decision logic.
- Tuned using SNR=12 dB

Tuning Methodology

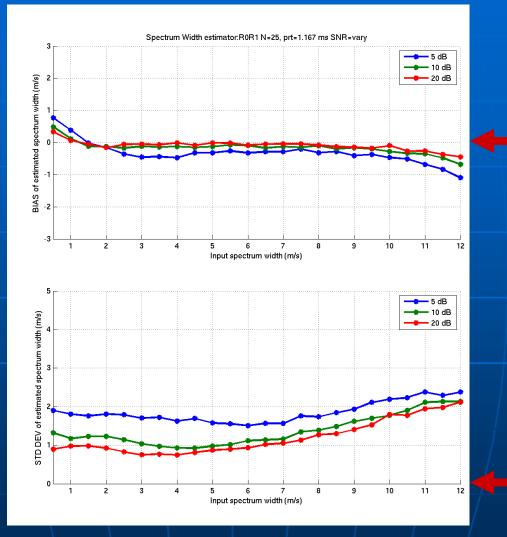
- For each N, input W, (SNR=12, PRT= 780 µs) simulate 10000 time-series.
- For each time-series calculate 10 different spectrum width estimators as well as its "category" (from true W)
- Throw estimators and classification into Decision Tree
 - Tries to find which estimator works the best as well as the "optimal" cutoffs to use.
 - Used cost matrix to weight the different misclassifications differently

SIMULATIONS FOR VCPS 12, 11, 21, 31, AND 32 (WINDOWED)

R0/R1 VCP 12, PRI 4

Bias (m/s)

Std (m/s)



Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s Vertical Ticks

Vertical Ticks

1 m/s

1 m/s

Optimal

Input W (m/s)

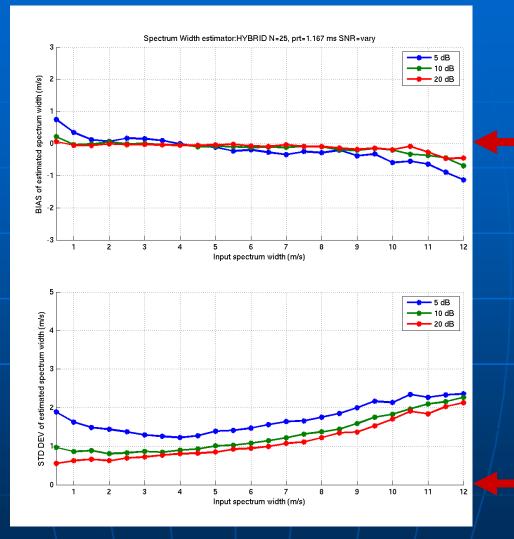
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Hybrid VCP 12, PRI 4

Bias (m/s)

Std (m/s)



1 m/s Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

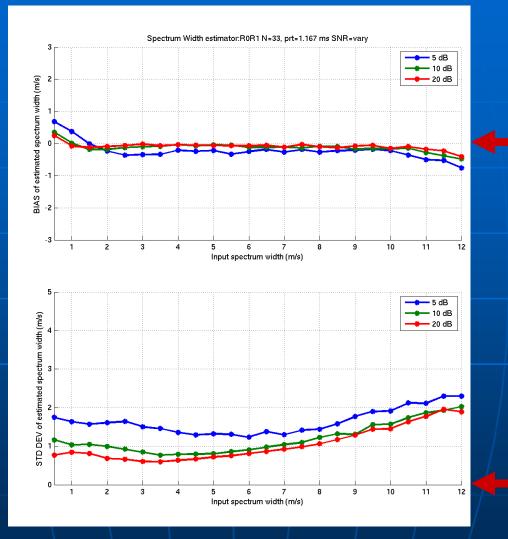
Optimal



R0/R1 VCP 11, PRI 4

Bias (m/s)

Std (m/s)



1 m/s Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

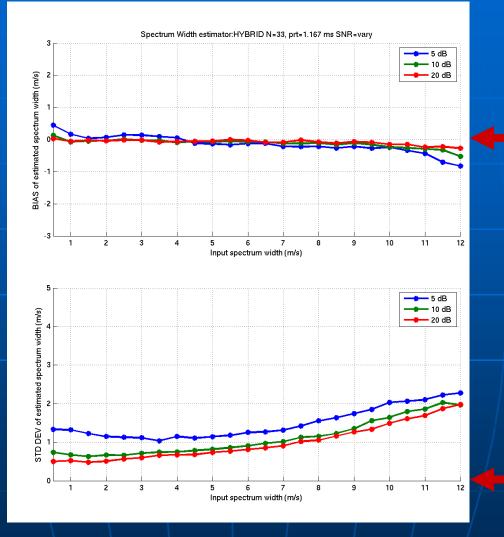
Optimal



Hybrid VCP 11, PRI 4

Bias (m/s)





Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

1 m/s

Optimal

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

Optimal

Input W (m/s)

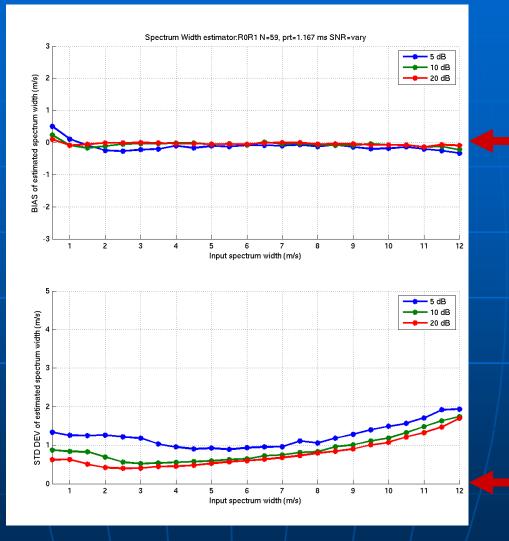
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R0/R1 VCP 21, PRI 4

Bias (m/s)





1 m/s Optimal Horizontal

Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

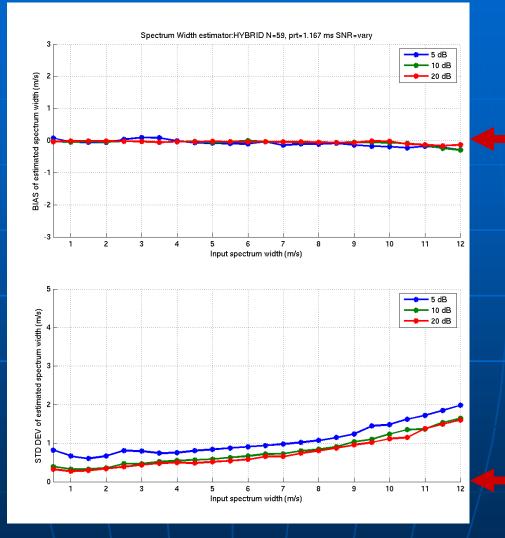
Optimal



Hybrid VCP 21, PRI 4

Bias (m/s)





Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

1 m/s

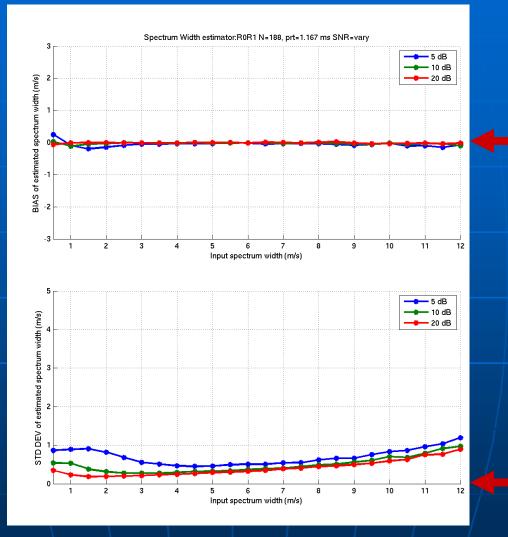
Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

Optimal

R0/R1 VCP 32, PRI 4

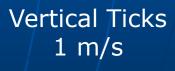
Bias (m/s)

Std (m/s)



1 m/s Optimal Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

Vertical Ticks

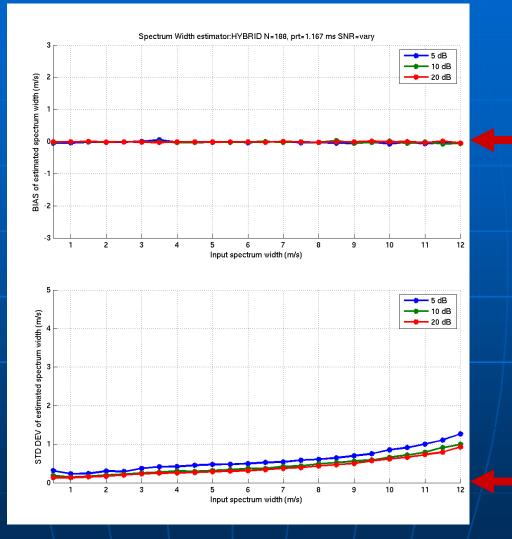


Optimal

Hybrid VCP 32, PRI 4

Bias (m/s)





Vertical Ticks 1 m/s Optimal

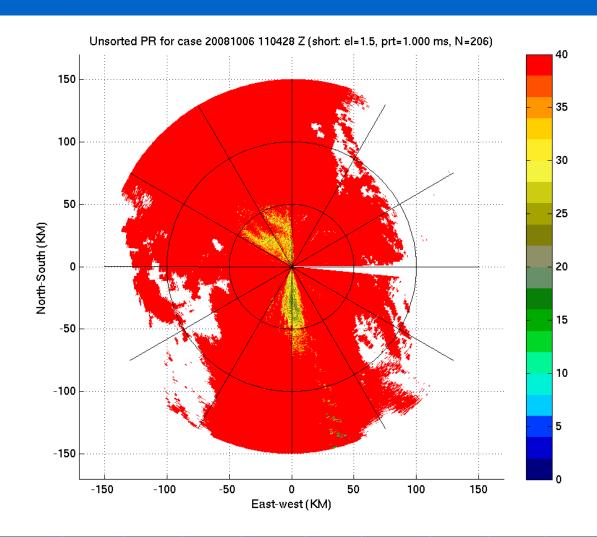
> Horizontal Ticks 2 m/s

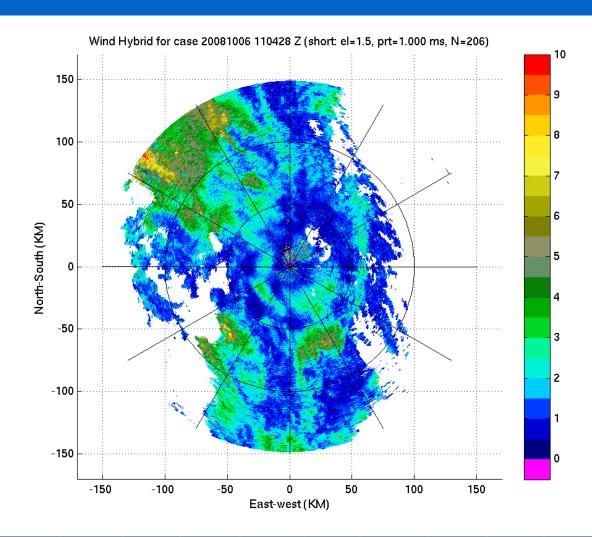
Vertical Ticks 1 m/s

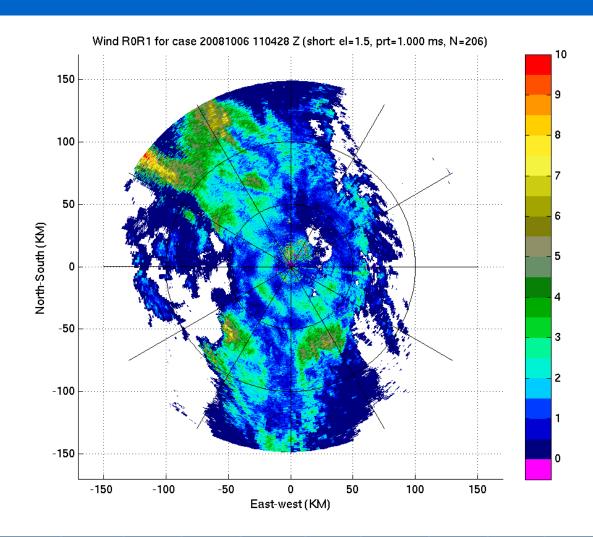
Optimal

Input W (m/s)

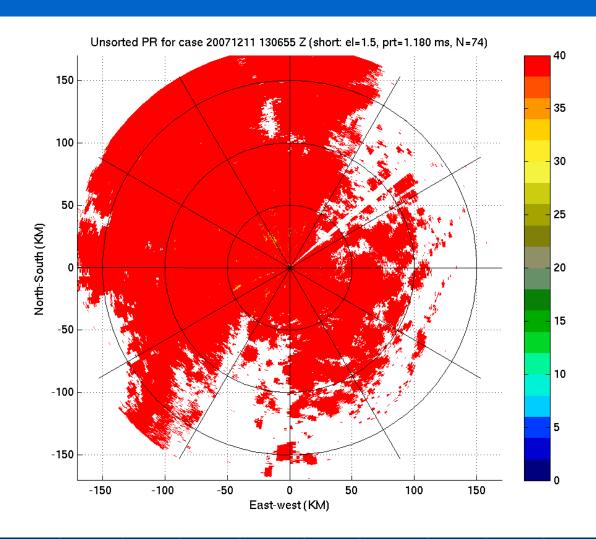
CASE 1: KOUN 2008/10/06 1100Z VCP 32, PRI 5

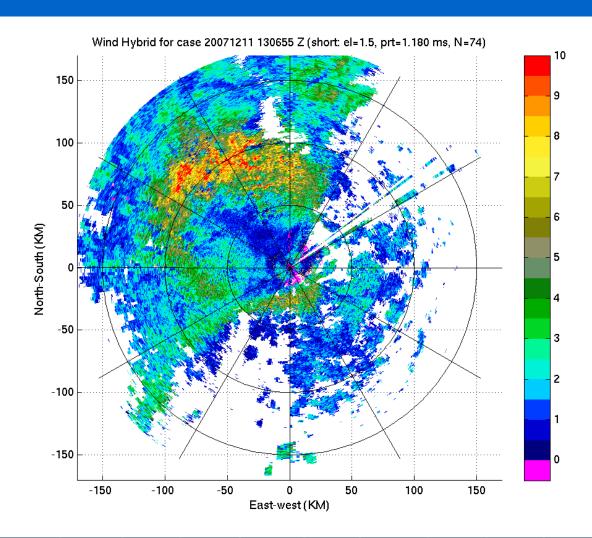


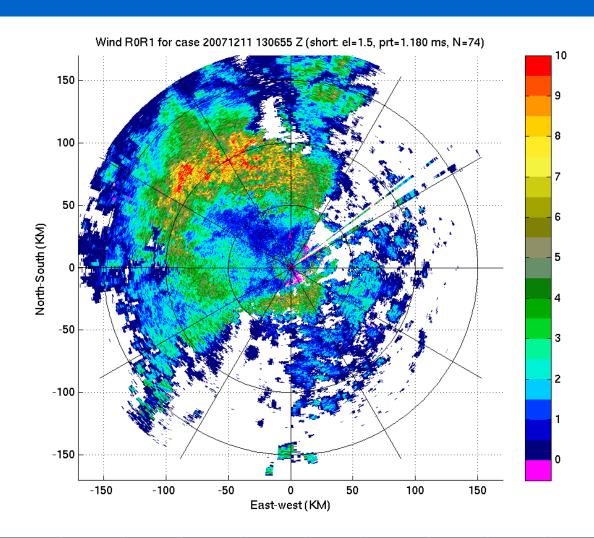




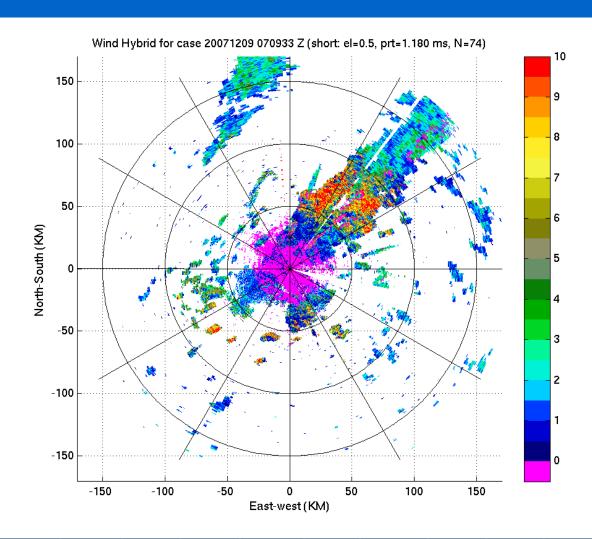
CASE 2: KCRI 2007/12/11 1302Z VCP 22 (LIKE 21), PRI 4

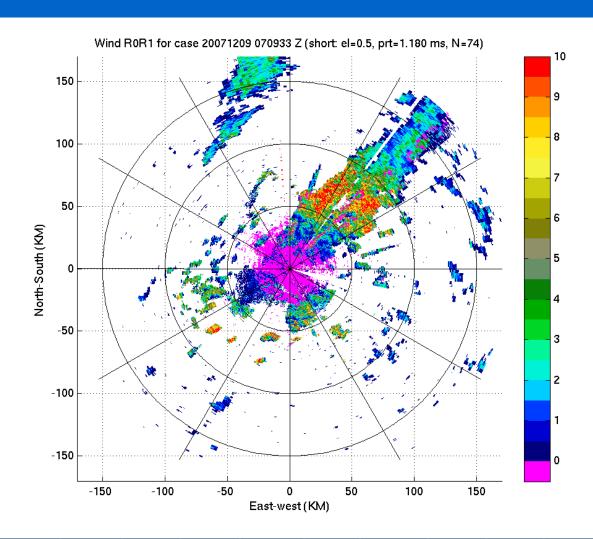






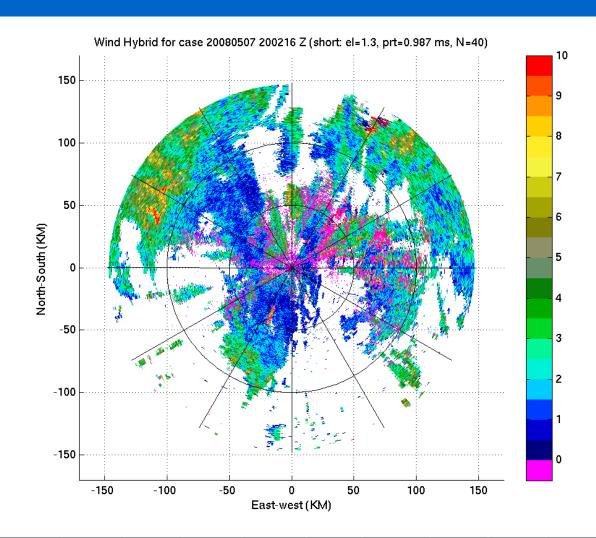
CASE 3: KCRI 2007/12/09 0705Z VCP 22 (LIKE 21), PRI 4

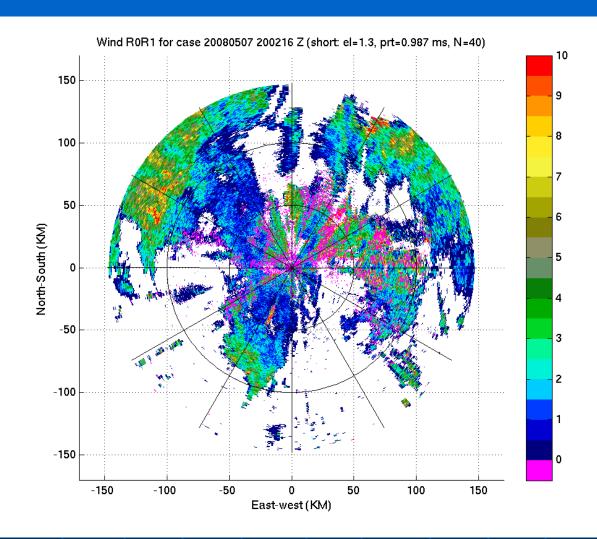




CASE 4: KCRI 2008/05/07 2000Z VCP 12, PRI 5







CASE 5: KOUN 2008/10/06 1410Z VCP 11, PRI 7

