

# Wind Turbine Wake Definition and Identification Using Velocity Deficit and Turbulence Profile

Nadia Panossian, Thomas Herges, and David Maniaci

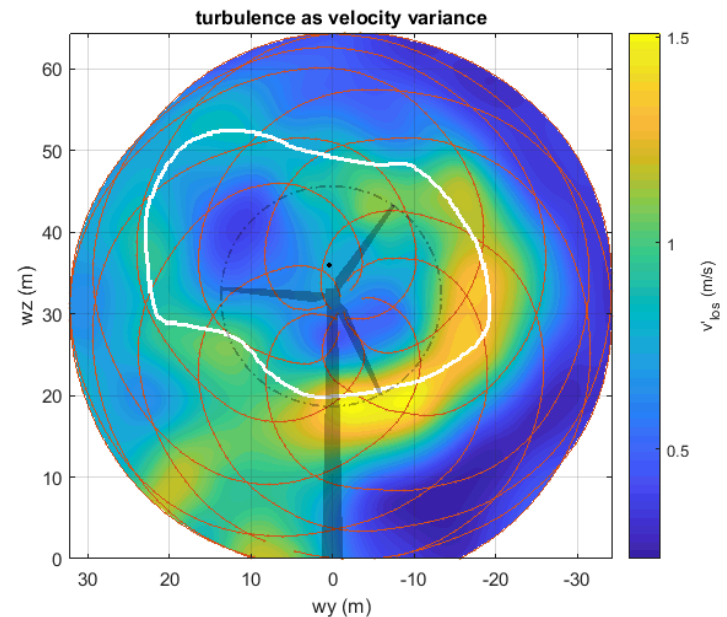
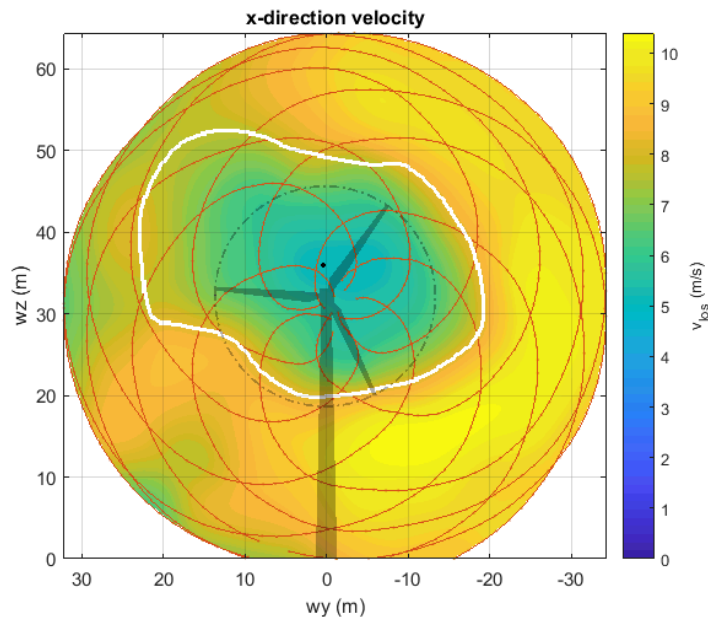
*Sandia National Laboratories*

# Agenda

- Definition of a Wake
- Comparison to velocity threshold techniques
- Method
- Results
- Conclusion

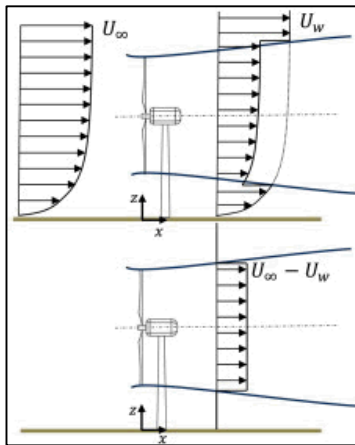
# Wake Definition

- A wake is the region of flow downstream of a turbine which has a streamwise velocity deficit and is internal to a ring of high turbulence
- Wake outline failure rate following this definition is lower than velocity threshold method for both stable and unstable cases

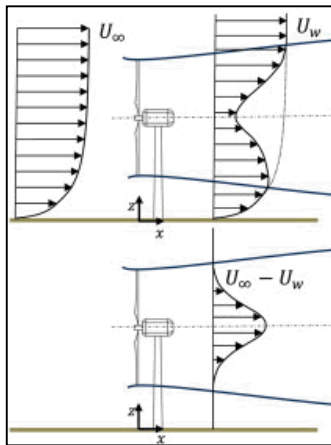


# Alternative definitions

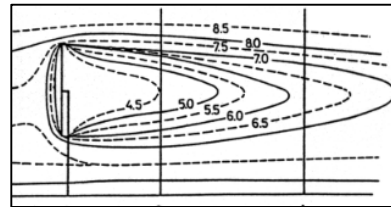
## Top-Hat Fit



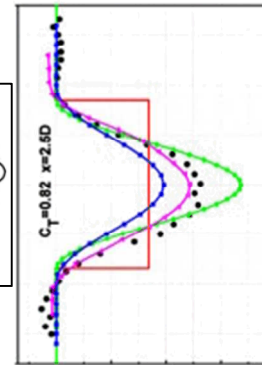
## Gaussian Fit



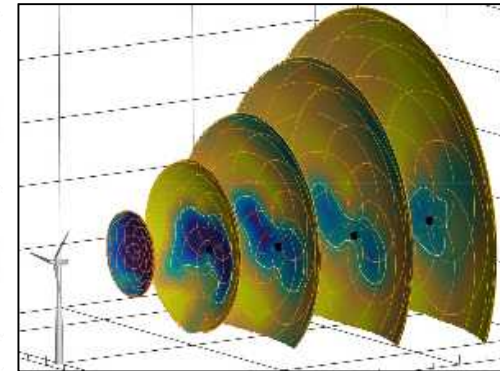
## Parabolic Fit



## Cosine Fit



## Velocity Threshold



Top-Hat and Gaussian Fit images from reference 1

Parabolic Fit, Cosine Fit and Velocity threshold images from references 2-4 respectively

# Advantages of Turbulence Ring

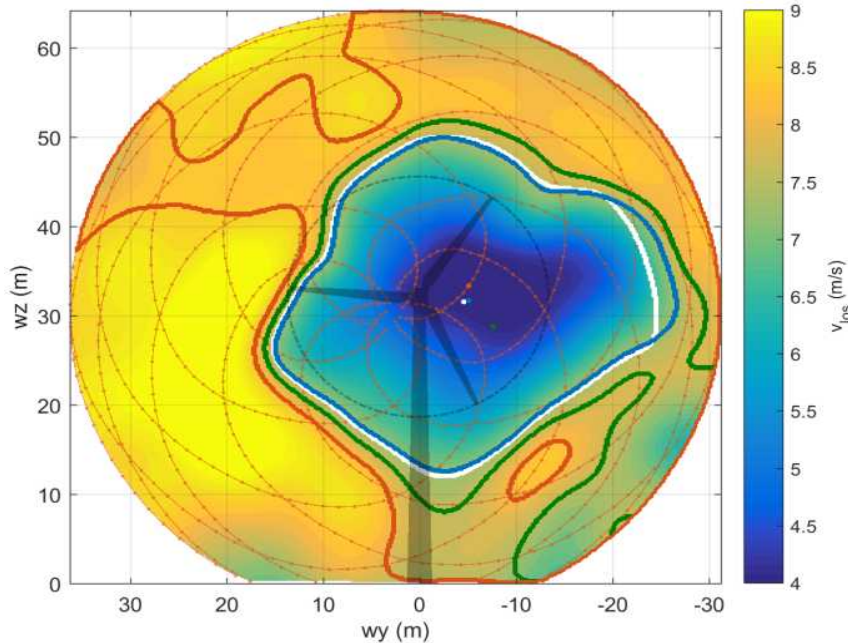
## Definition

- Non arbitrary boundary condition
- Useful for wake identification and tracking without user input
- Yields consistent results even in non-stable inflow or high yaw scenarios
- Allows for non circular wake shapes
- Accurate wake identification and non-arbitrary boundaries can be used to standardize wake tracking

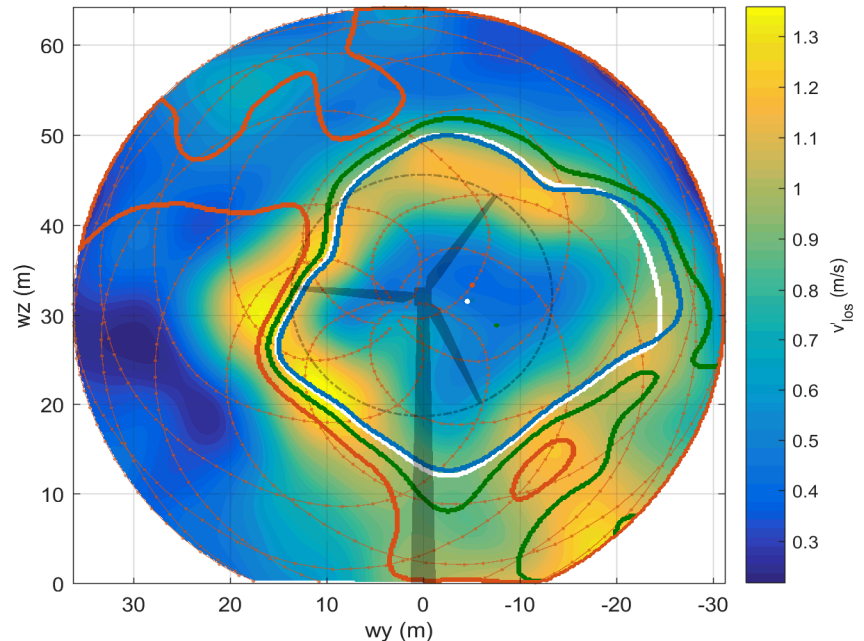
# Preliminary Benchmarking

- Sample wake determination:
  - White: TI ring method
  - Blue: 1.0 m/s velocity threshold
  - Green: 0.5 m/s velocity threshold
  - Red: 0 m/s velocity threshold
- 1.0 m/s is close to TI ring method

## Velocity Profile

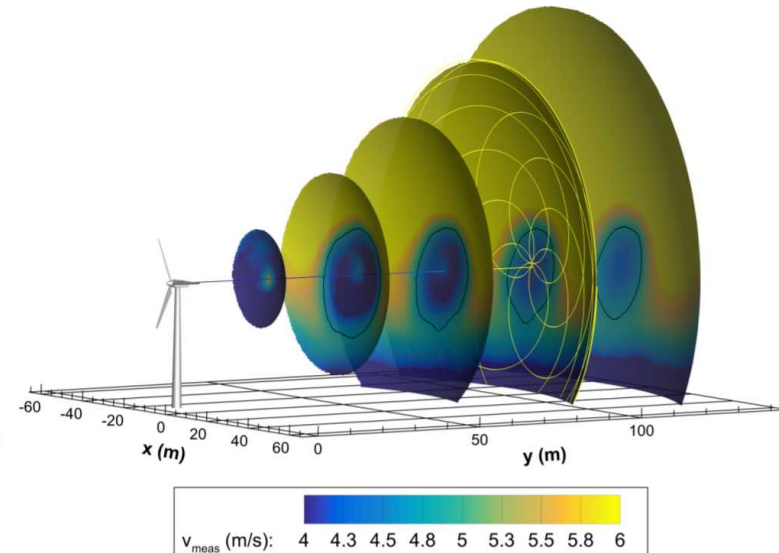
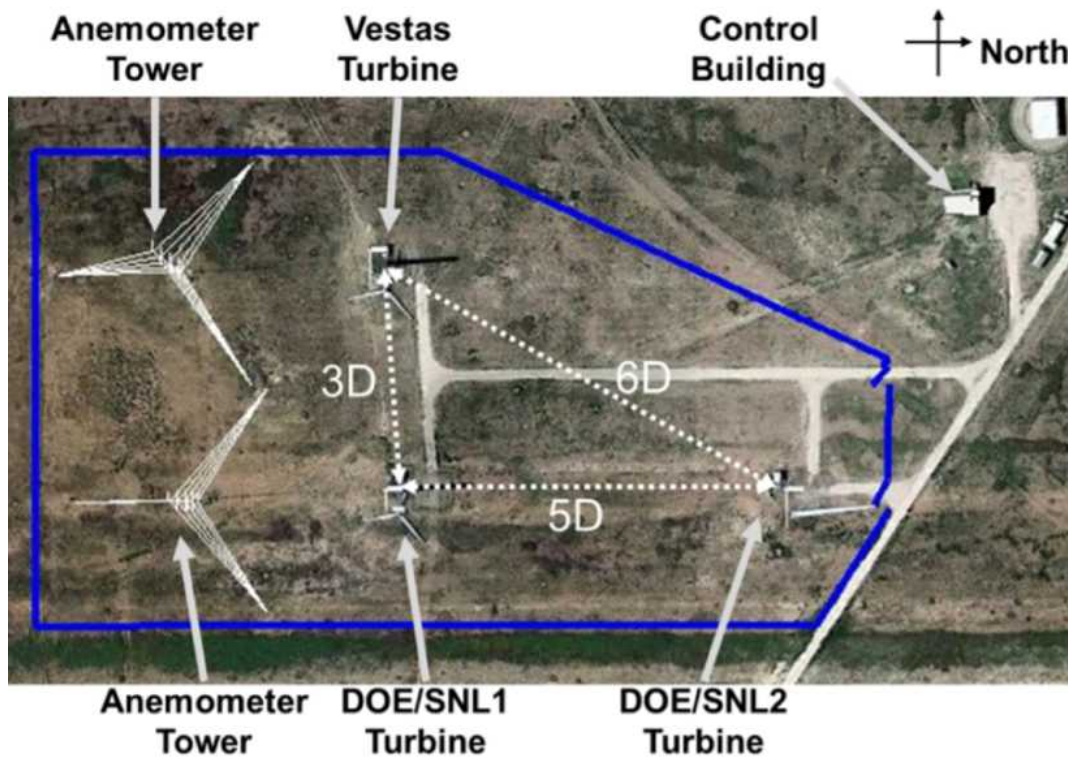


## Turbulence Profile

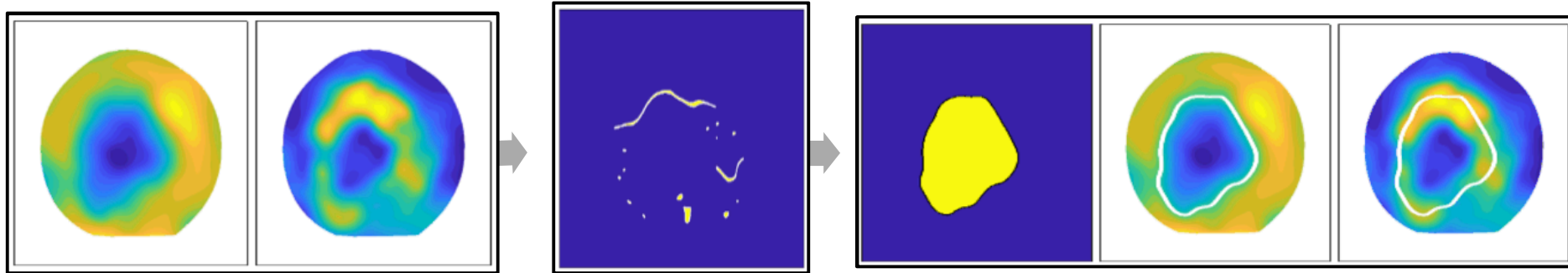


# Data Collection

- Sandia Scaled Wind Farm Technology (SWiFT) Facility
- Denmark Technical University SpinnerLidar



# Method



Interpolate 2 second rosette scans to velocity (left) and variance (right) images

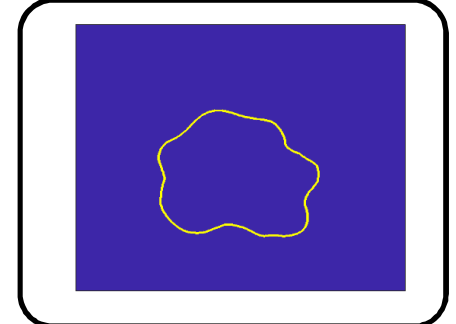
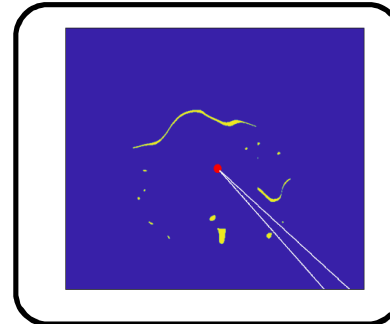
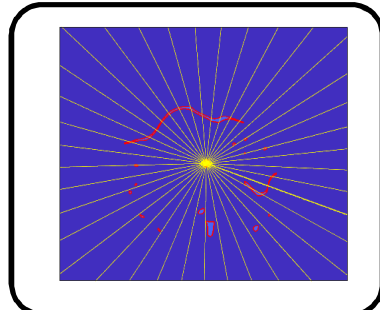
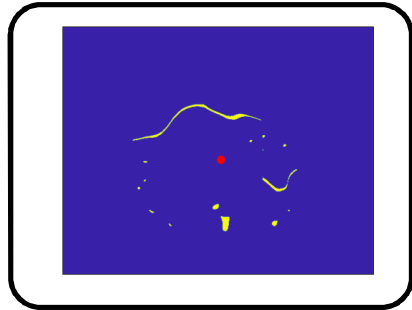
$$v_{meas} - v_{atmos} = v_{deficit}$$

$$turbulence \approx \text{var}(v_{meas})$$

Find local maxima of turbulence intensity using the gradient zeros (yellow markings)  
Fill in turbulence ring and close gaps

The wake is the region where  $v_{deficit}$  is negative within the turbulence ring

# Method: filling in TI ring gaps



Use average  $y$  and  $z$  coordinates to find centroid of velocity deficit area

Convert turbulence local maxima coordinates into polar coordinates

Scan radially from the centroid and identify any angles without a turbulence maxima boundary

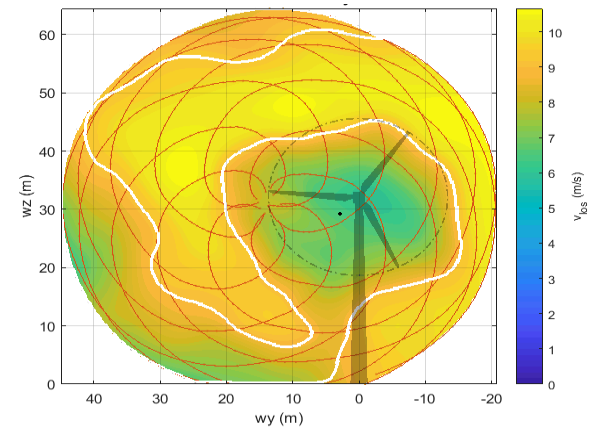
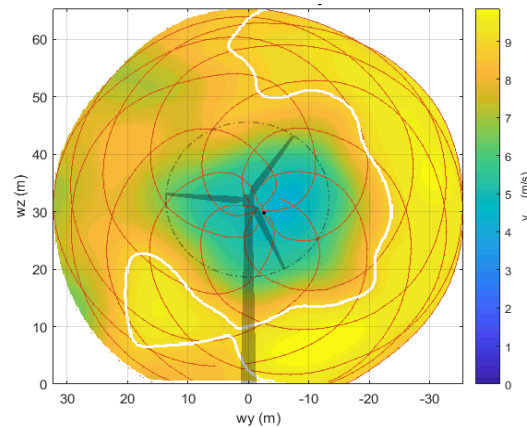
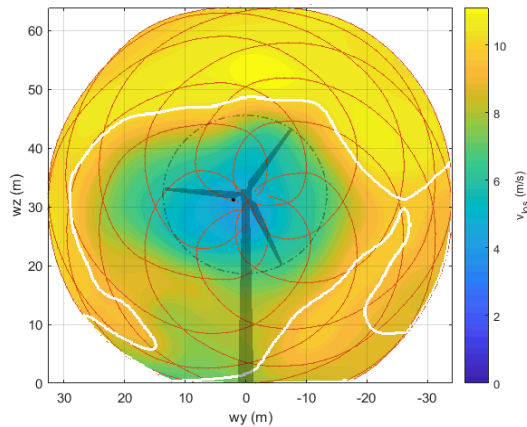
Fill in the empty angles with a linear interpolation between the radius of the boundary on either side of the gap

# Benchmarking

- Percentage Failure Rate

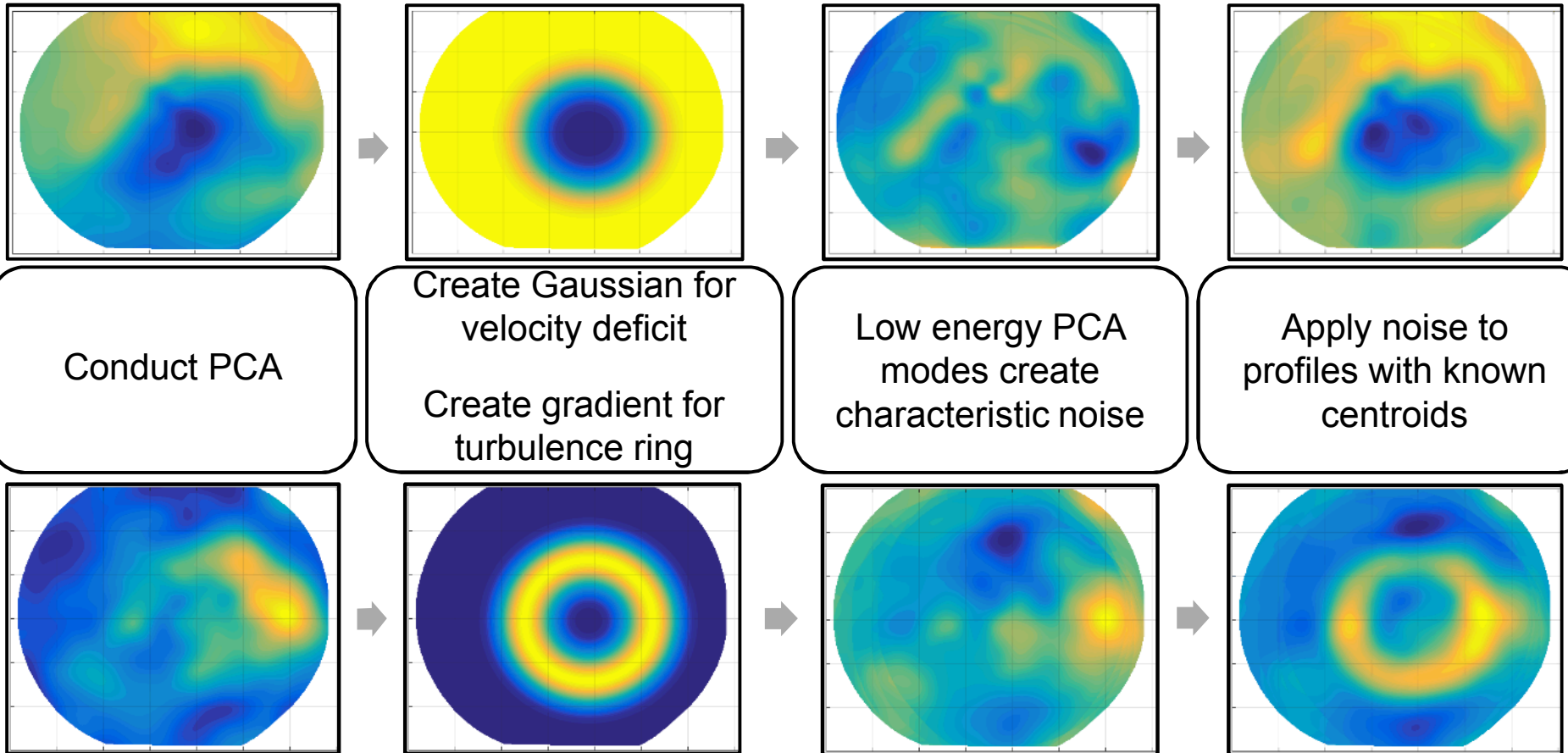
Wake Identification Method	Velocity Threshold of 0	Velocity Threshold of 0.5	Velocity Threshold of 1.0	Turbulence Intensity Ring
Stable Inflow Wake Outline Failure Rate (%)	49.2	24.4	13.0	9.84
Unstable Inflow Wake Outline Failure Rate (%)	92.9	53.5	26.5	9.86

- Examples of outline failures



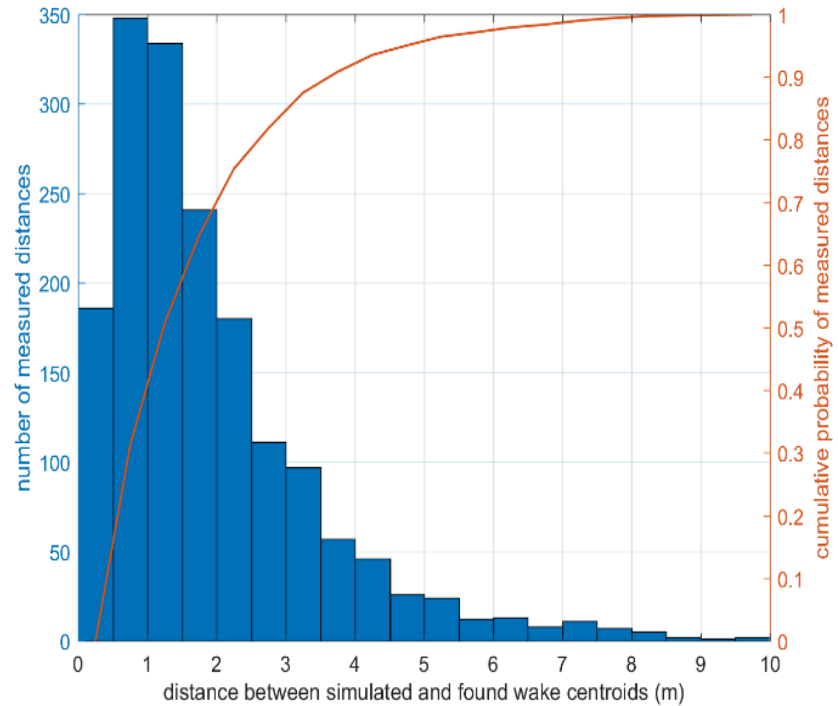
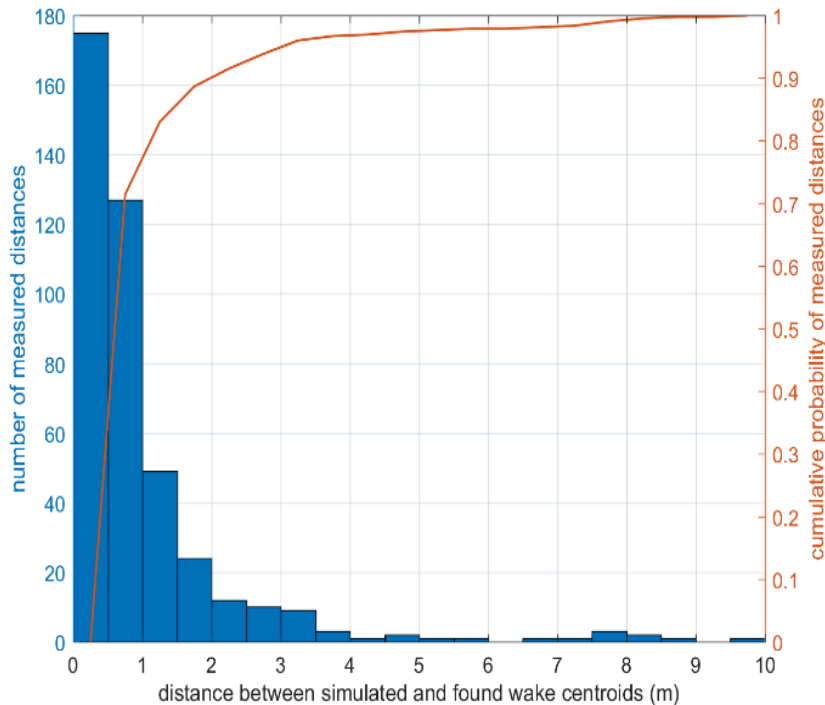
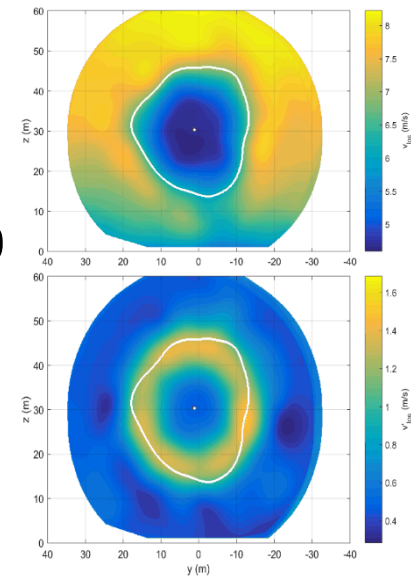
# Method: Synthetic wake generation

- TI method tested to compare specified turbulence ring and velocity deficit region to wake outline



# Results

- The wake identification algorithm's centroid was within 3.0 meters of the simulated center of the wake for 95% of the 420 stable simulated wakes tested
- The wake identification algorithm's centroid was within 5.0 meters of the simulated center of the wake for 95% of the 1700 unstable simulated wakes tested



# Conclusion

- Turbulence intensity ring method outlines wakes as defined by a streamwise velocity deficit interior to a high turbulence ring
- Failure rate of turbulence intensity ring method is lower than velocity threshold techniques in both stable and unstable inflow cases

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# PCA Method

- Principle Component Analysis: finds new axes with highest variance
- Eigen vectors and values of image matrix used to determine variance
- Find a mode → subtract variance along that axis → find next mode

$$P_{noisy} = \prod w_{PCA} i \lambda_i P$$