

Interactive comment on “Multistatic meteor radar observations of gravity wave-tidal interaction over Southern Australia” by Andrew J. Spargo et al.

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Received and published: 5 May 2019

[12pt]article

Review of Multistatic meteor radar observations of gravity wave-tidal interaction over South Australia.

by Andrew J. Spargo et al.

(Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss. AMT-2019-138)

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Discussion paper



This clearly written, very detailed paper, reports on a statistical simulation of bistatic meteor radar data including assumed realistic noise, biases, measurement errors, based on actual meteor distributions, and added perturbations from expected gravity wave parameters - the object being to estimate typical biases and uncertainties of e.g., $\langle u'w' \rangle$, under various filtering and refection criteria.

A quite interesting observation is that the addition of a remote receiving site, which seemingly increases the diversity of meteor echoes does not contribute except by numbers: an expensive way to discover that, but valuable nonetheless.

Sporadic meteor distributions measured by radar are not uniform, e.g. in azimuth - they can vary hour to hour and day to day depending on the orientation of the source regions. This model is based on actual distributions. How much error in GW forcing could be due to non-uniform distributions, which are inherent in the use of meteor radar.

Pg 10 line 5: are the decay times for the remote site expected to be the same as for the main site?

Pg 11 line 21. Was the tidal phase adjusted for each meteor's position or is that correction judged to be overkill?

Pg 12 Line 5: I have brought this up before and been shot down - so I will try again. It appears that a basic assumption of the method is that the atmospheric motion at the meteor is perpendicular to the trail: that is, that the echoing region has a vertical

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mitigate this concern to some extent.

AMTD

Pg 12 line 10 - it's not clear what is meant by a (square?) radial/AOA pair - does that refer to a single meteor ?

Interactive comment

Pg 12 Line 17 is there an extra "i" in this equation?

Figure 5,6 red(-dish) lines (and yellow) are almost invisible (despite the caption, I don't see any thick lines). Figure 7 is good (probably because all lines are thick - when some should be thin. Solid and dashed thick might look better.

Fig 13 The zero U and peak forcing 'line' are very close over the plotted heights. It appears that U leads the forcing. Curious.

Minor:

Pg. 6 line 20 "Spatially distributed..."?

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