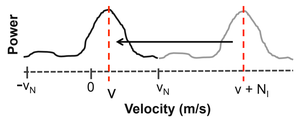
Dealiasing Radar Doppler Velocities Using Two Novel Unfolding Algorithms

Jonathan Helmus[1], Scott Collis[1], Kirk North[2], Pavlos Kollias[2]
1. Argonne National Laboratory
2. McGill University

Argonne National Laboratory is a U.S. Department of Energy laboratory managed by U Chicago Argonne, LLC.

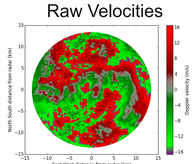
Introduction

Radial Doppler velocities measured by weather radars are limited in range due to the phase based nature of the measurement. When the velocities of the scattering particles are outside of this range, the values measured are folded or aliased into this limited range.

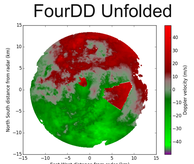


Various algorithms have been designed to unfold or dealias the measured velocities to determine the true atmospheric velocities. Unfortunately when applied to data from ARM's scanning radars, these algorithms often produce imperfect results.

Raw Velocities



FourDD Unfolded



Raw and unfolded velocities from the ARM CSAPR radar in the SGP corrected using FourDD [1]. Data is from the first 150 gates of a PPI scan at the highest elevation (42°) collected at 10:47 UCT on May 20, 2011

Algorithm Description

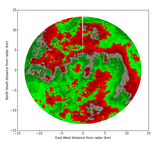
Multi-dimensional phase unwrapping

The multi-dimensional phase unwrapping algorithm uses a technique originally developed for unfolding phases in the analysis of optical fringe-patterns [2, 3]. Doppler velocities are first converted into phase measurements and then placed in a rectangular grid. A reliability value is calculated for each point and edge in this grid. The grid is then unwrapped edge-by-edge by minimizing the difference between the two phases with any correction being applied to the smaller group of points. Edges with highest reliability are unwrapped first.

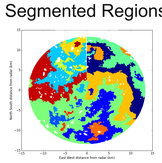
Region based dealiasing

The region based dealiasing algorithm unfolds Doppler velocities in a manner similar to what a human would do when performing hand-dealiasing. Similar methods have been previously proposed [4, 5]. First regions of similar velocities are identified in the radar sweep.

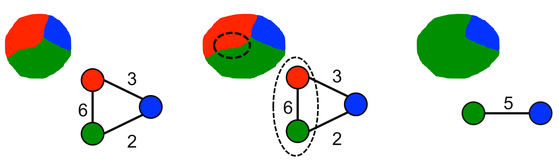
Raw Velocities



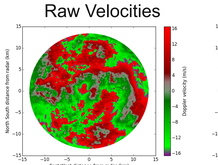
Segmented Regions



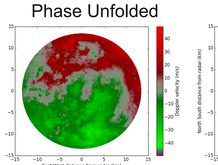
These regions are then unwrapped against each other by minimizing the velocity differences between all bordering gates. Regions with the largest number of shared edges are unwrapped fist. This step is accomplished by modeling the regions and edges as a dynamic network graph.



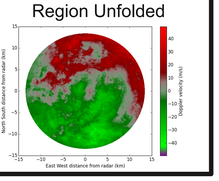
Raw Velocities



Phase Unfolded



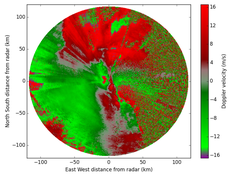
Region Unfolded



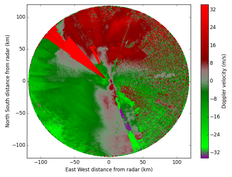
Results from ARM Scanning Precipitation Radars

CSAPR

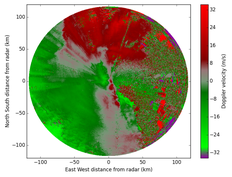
Raw Velocities



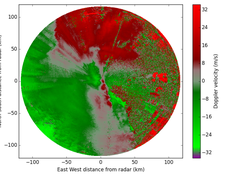
FourDD Unfolded



Phase Unfolded



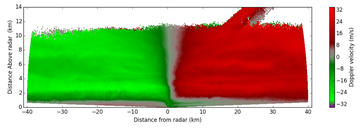
Region Unfolded



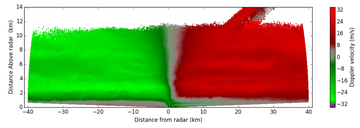
Doppler velocities from the ARM CSAPR radar at the SGP site corrected using FourDD [1], multi-dimensional phase unwrapping, and the region based dealiasing algorithms. Data is from the lowest PPI scan with an elevation of 0.75° collected at 10:47 UTC on May 20, 2011.

XSAPR

Phase Unfolded



Region Unfolded



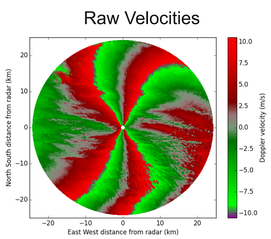
Raw Velocities

Doppler velocities from the ARM XSAPR at the SGP I5 site collected at 11:36 UTC on May 20, 2011. Data is from an RHI scan. Gates with reflectivity below -5 dbZ were excluded when unfolding.

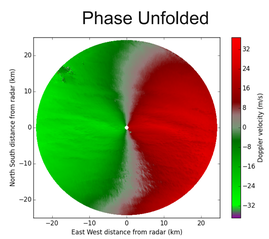
Results from ARM Scanning Cloud Radars

KaSACR

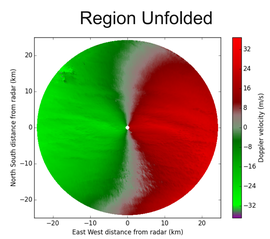
Raw Velocities



Phase Unfolded



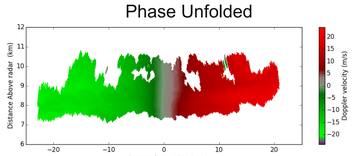
Region Unfolded



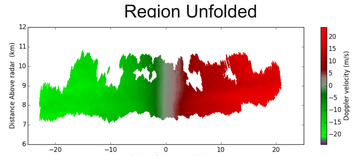
Doppler velocities from a PPI scan of the KaSACR instrument at the NSA collected at 13:21 UTC on January 14, 2014. Data is from the 1° elevation scan, no gates were excluded when unfolding.

WSACR

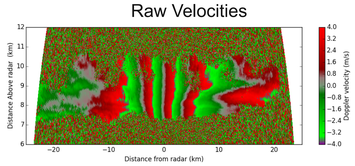
Phase Unfolded



Region Unfolded



Raw Velocities

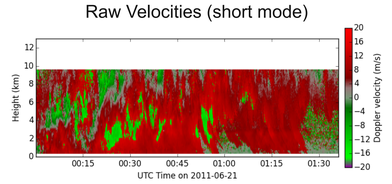


Doppler velocities of a cross wind RHI scan of the WSACR instrument in the SGP collected at 20:40 UTC on August, 20, 2012. A feature mask from the currently in-development SACRCOR VAP was used to select gates and suppress returns from noise, clutter and insects.

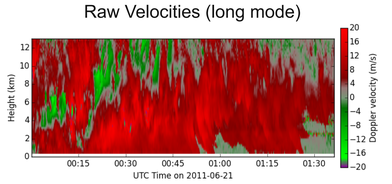
Results from a Zenith pointing ARM radar (915MHz RWP)

These dealiasing algorithms can also be used to unfold vertical velocities measured by ARM zenith pointing radars. In this example, velocities from the precipitation mode short pulse of the ARM 915 MHz RWP at the SGP central facility are unfolded using the two algorithms. The unfolded velocities agree well with the long pulse velocities collected with a larger Nyquist velocity (20.1 vs. 14.6 m/s). Data from June 21, 2011.

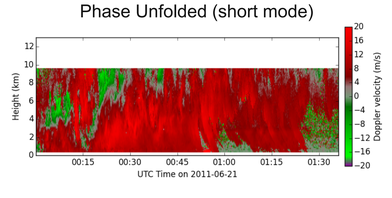
Raw Velocities (short mode)



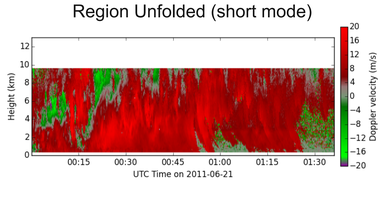
Raw Velocities (long mode)



Phase Unfolded (short mode)



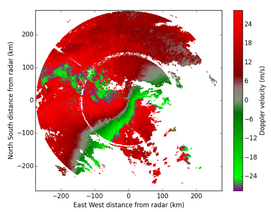
Region Unfolded (short mode)



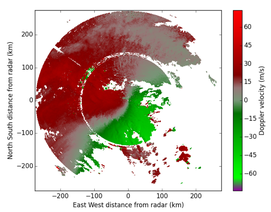
Non-ARM Radars (NEXRAD)

These new dealiasing algorithms can also be applied to non-ARM radar data. In the example below, data from the S-band NEXRAD (WSR-88D) radar located in Upton, NY (KOKX) is unfolded using both techniques. Data is from 0.5° elevation PPI scan taken on August, 28th 2011 at 7:21 UTC during which Hurrican Irene was making landfall producing winds in excess of 100 km/h.

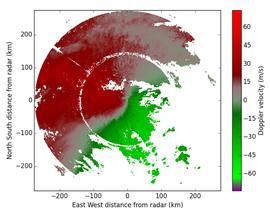
Raw Velocities



Phase Unfolded



Region Unfolded



Additional information and References

The multi-dimensional phase unwrapping, region based, and FourDD dealiasing algorithms are available in the Python ARM Radar Toolkit (Py-ART). Py-ART is an open source project which is distributed under a BSD license and available for free on GitHub. Please try out these algorithms on your data.

Fork me on GitHub

https://github.com/ARM-DOE/pyart

References:
[1] James, C. N., and R. A. Houze Jr. *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology* 18, (2001): 1674–83.
[2] Herráez, M. A., D. R. Burton, M. J. Lalor, and M. A. Gdeisat. *Applied Optics* 41, (2002): 7437–44.
[3] Hussein, A., M. Gdeisat, D. Burton, and M. Lalor. *Opt. Meas. Sys. for Ind. Inspection IV* 5856:32–40, 2005
[4] Bergen, W. R., and S. C. Albers. *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology* 5, (1988): 305–19.
[5] Zhongqi, J., and G. Wiener. *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology* 10, (1993): 798–808.

This poster has been created by UChicago Argonne, LLC, Operator of Argonne National Laboratory ("Argonne"). Argonne, a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science laboratory, is operated under Contract No. DE-AC02-06CH11357. This research was supported by the Office of Biological and Environmental Research of the U.S. Department of Energy as part of the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Climate Research Facility.