



Eddy Covariance Method: The Basics

Liukang Xu

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Outline

1. Eddy covariance theory – Basic micrometeorology theory
2. EC data processing principles; including de-spiking, coordinate rotation, density correction (WPL), etc
4. Spectra analysis
5. QA/QC
6. Examples of long-term flux measurements

Terminology and units

Density: g air m⁻³, mol air m⁻³
密度 g CO₂ m⁻³, mol CO₂ m⁻³

Mole Fraction: μmol CO₂ per mol total air, ppm, ppb
Dry Mole Fraction: μmol CO₂ per mol dry air, ppm, ppb
摩尔比

Terminology and units for CO₂ and CH₄ flux

CO₂ flux: $\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
 $\text{mg CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ hr}^{-1}$
 $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$
 $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$

H₂O flux (E): $\text{mmol H}_2\text{O m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
(ET): $\text{mm hr}^{-1}, \text{mm day}^{-1}$

CH₄ flux: $\text{nmol CH}_4 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
 $\text{mg CH}_4 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ hr}^{-1}$
 $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$
 $\text{g C m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$

Terminology and units for energy flux

Net radiation (R_{net}): W m^{-2}
(净辐射)

Sensible heat flux (H): W m^{-2} ($\text{J m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)
(显热, 感热)

Latent heat flux (LE): $\text{LE} = \lambda E$ (W m^{-2})
(潜热)

Soil heat flux (G): W m^{-2}
(土壤热通量)

Definition of variance and covariance

$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \dots \dots \dots x_n$

$y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4 \dots \dots \dots y_n$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \text{ variance, 方差}$$

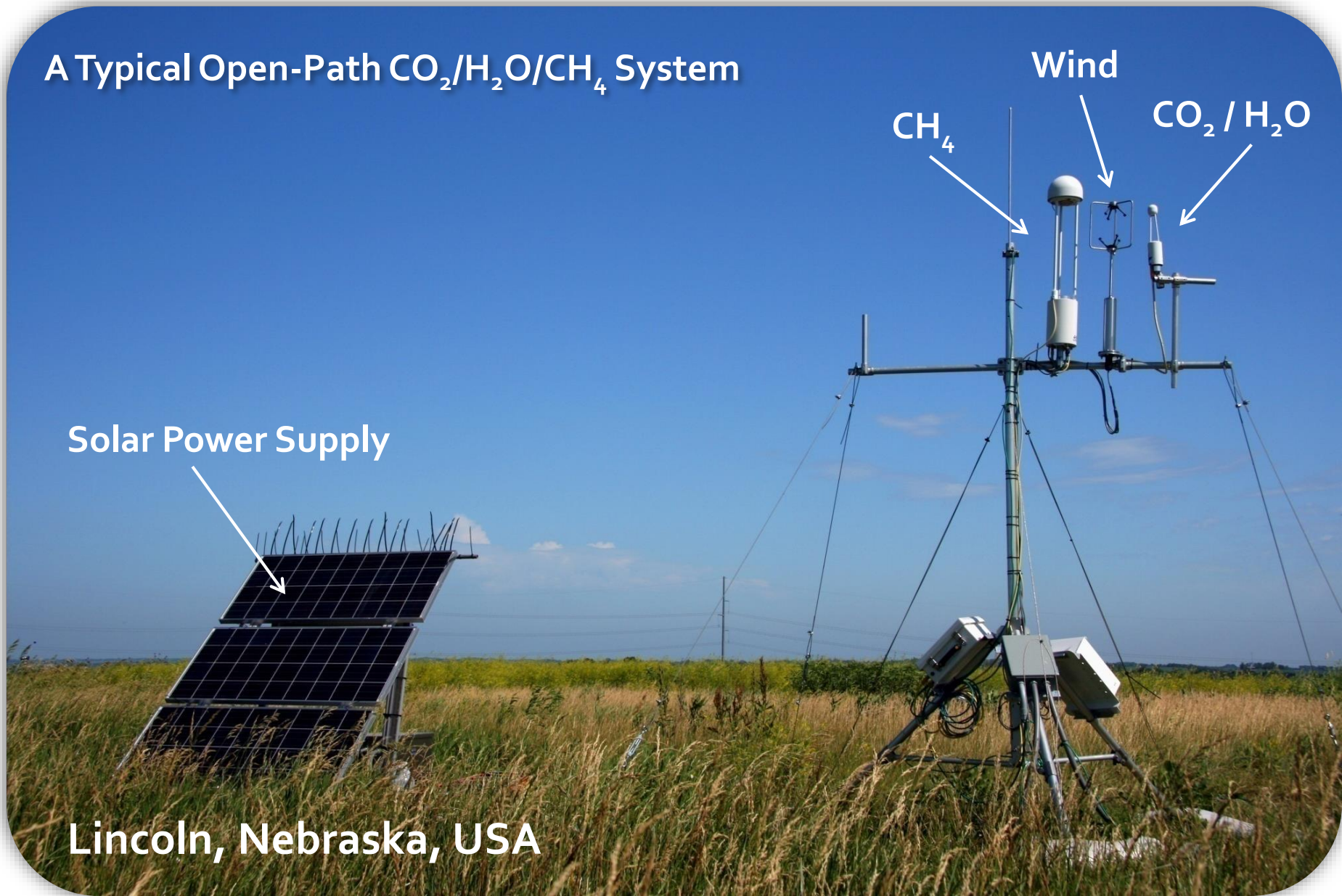
$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) = \overline{x'y'} \text{ covariance, 协方差}$$

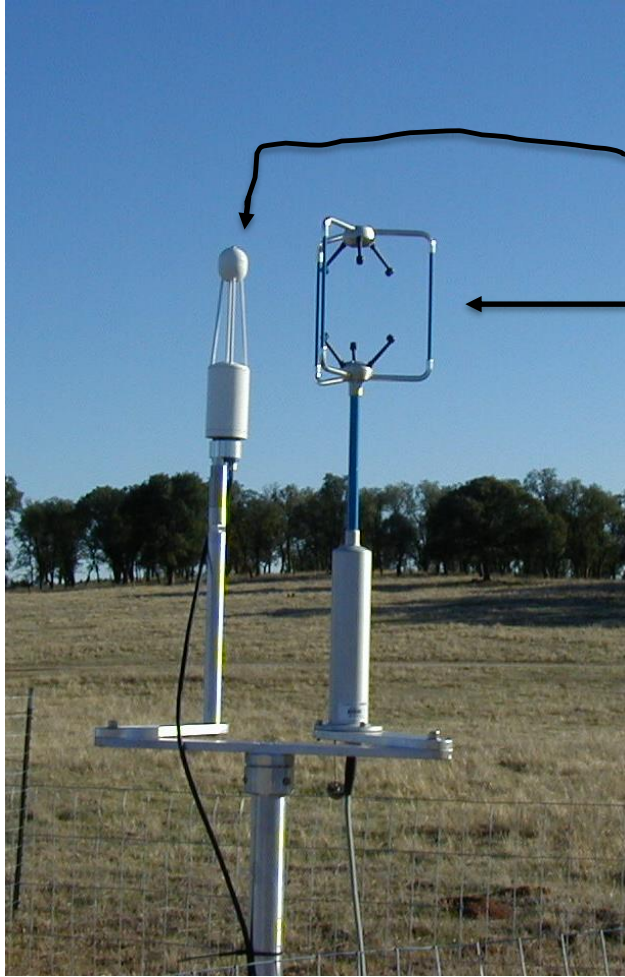
A Typical Open-Path $\text{CO}_2/\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{CH}_4$ System

Solar Power Supply

Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Wind
 CH_4
 $\text{CO}_2 / \text{H}_2\text{O}$

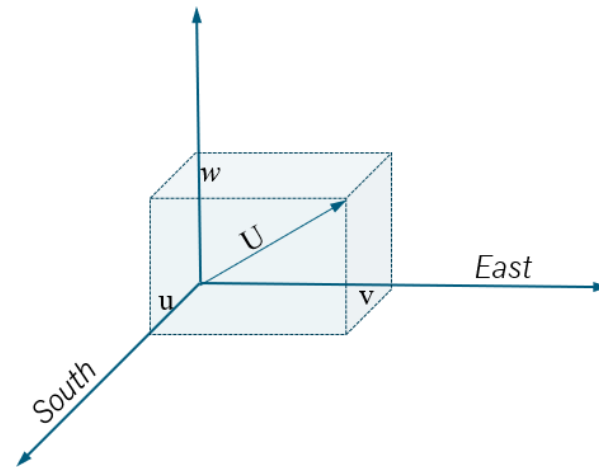




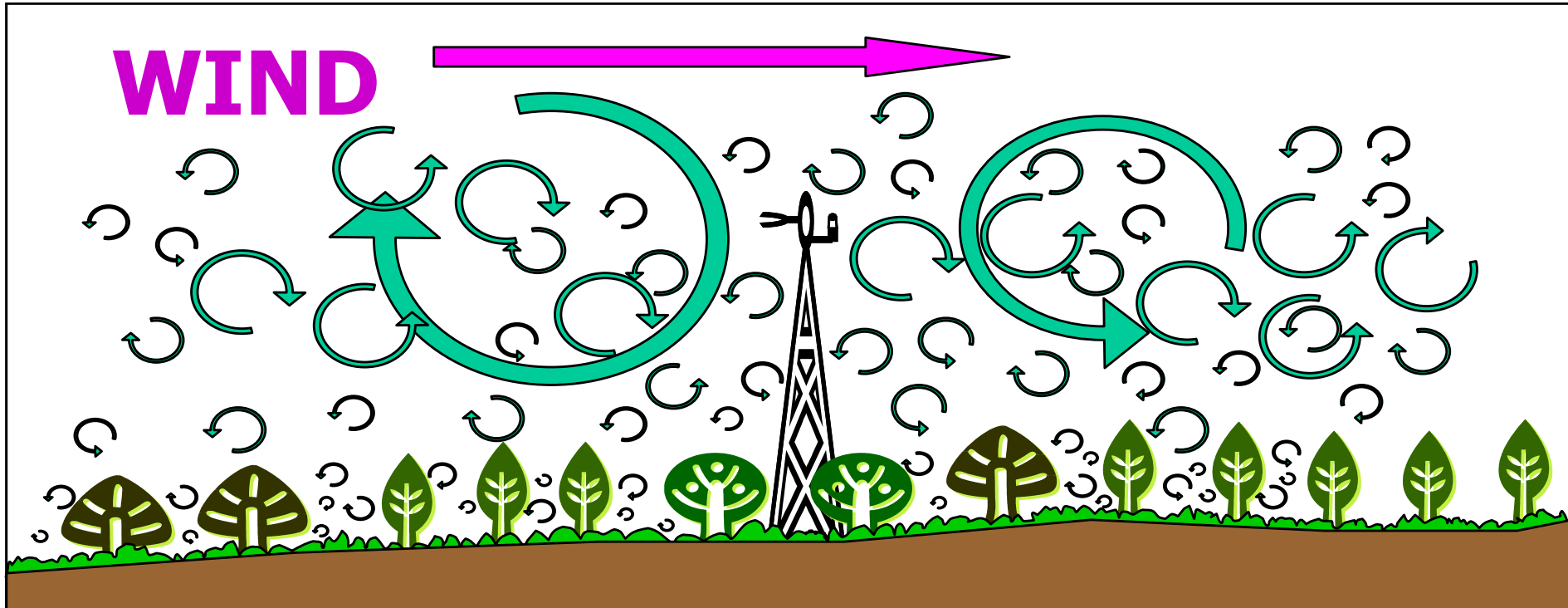
LI-7500: measures CO_2 and H_2O concentration

Sonic anemometer: u , v , w , sonic temperature

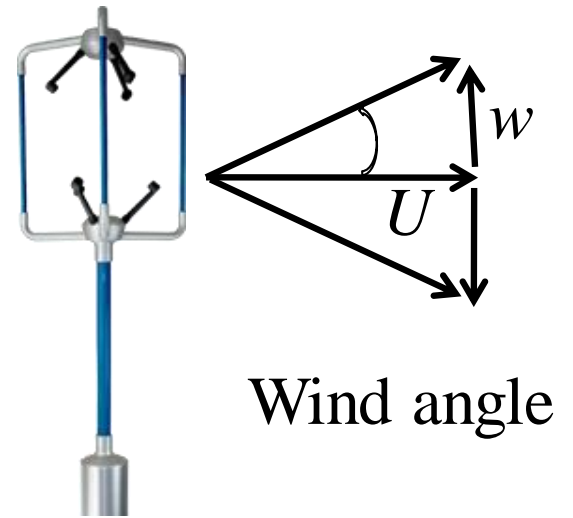
10 Hz data logging



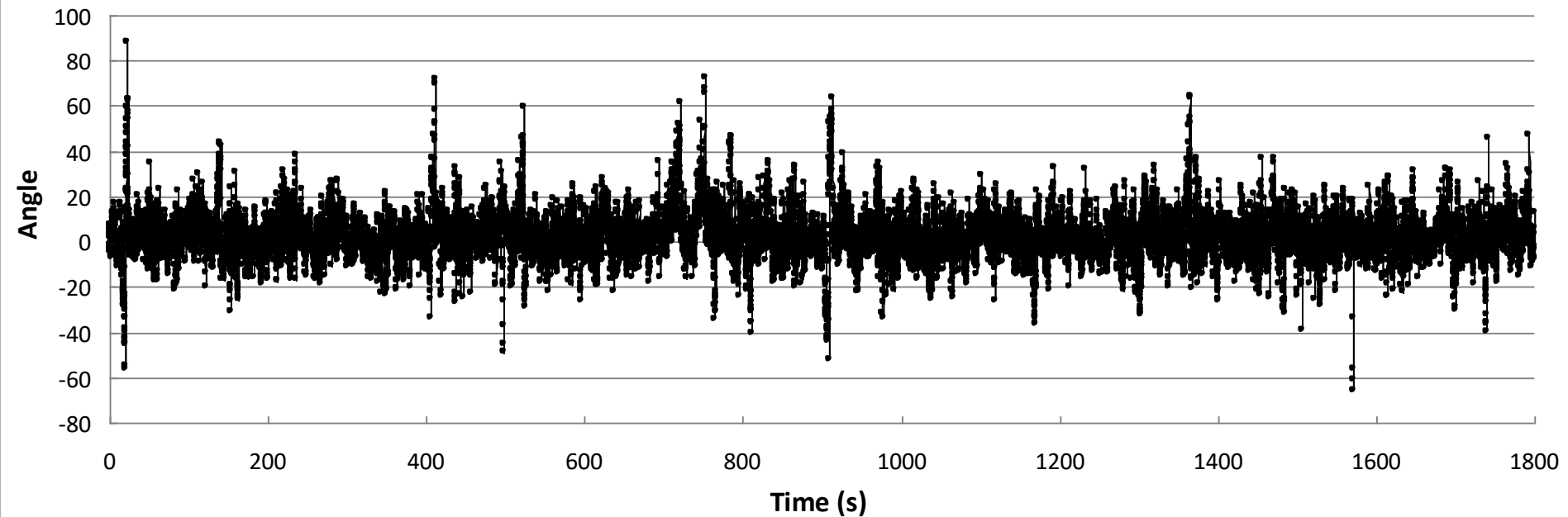
Eddy Covariance flux measurement



Here is more 10-Hz
raw data...

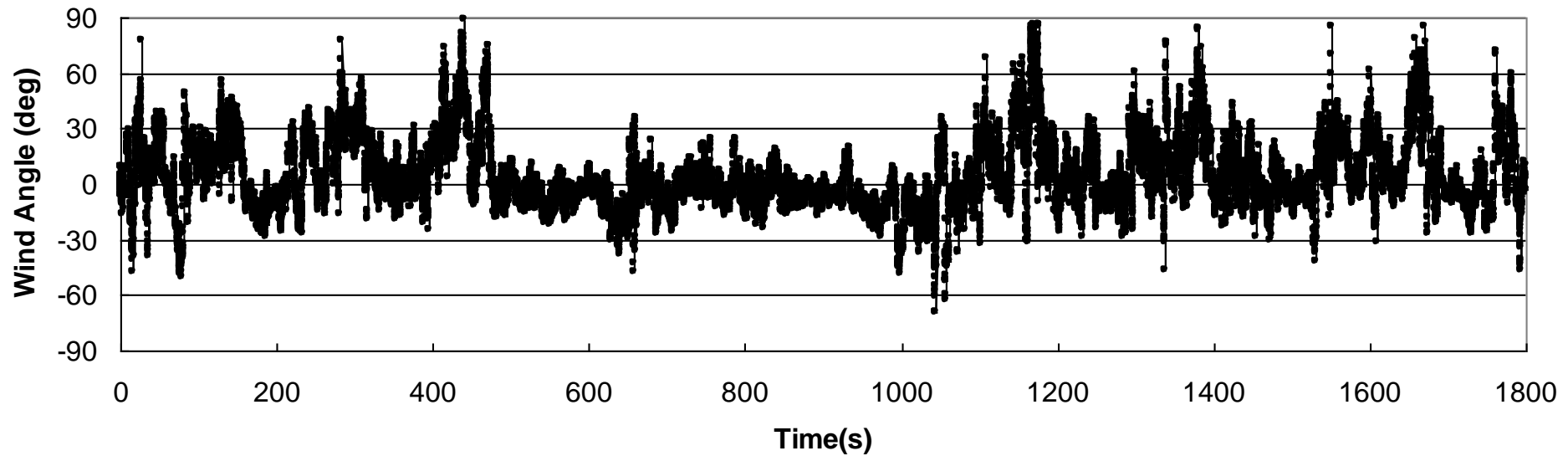


California Grassland 2 m tall tower, DOY104 1200



More on wind angle...

California Oak Sananna, 23 m tall tower, DOY157 1130



Vertical profile for environmental variables

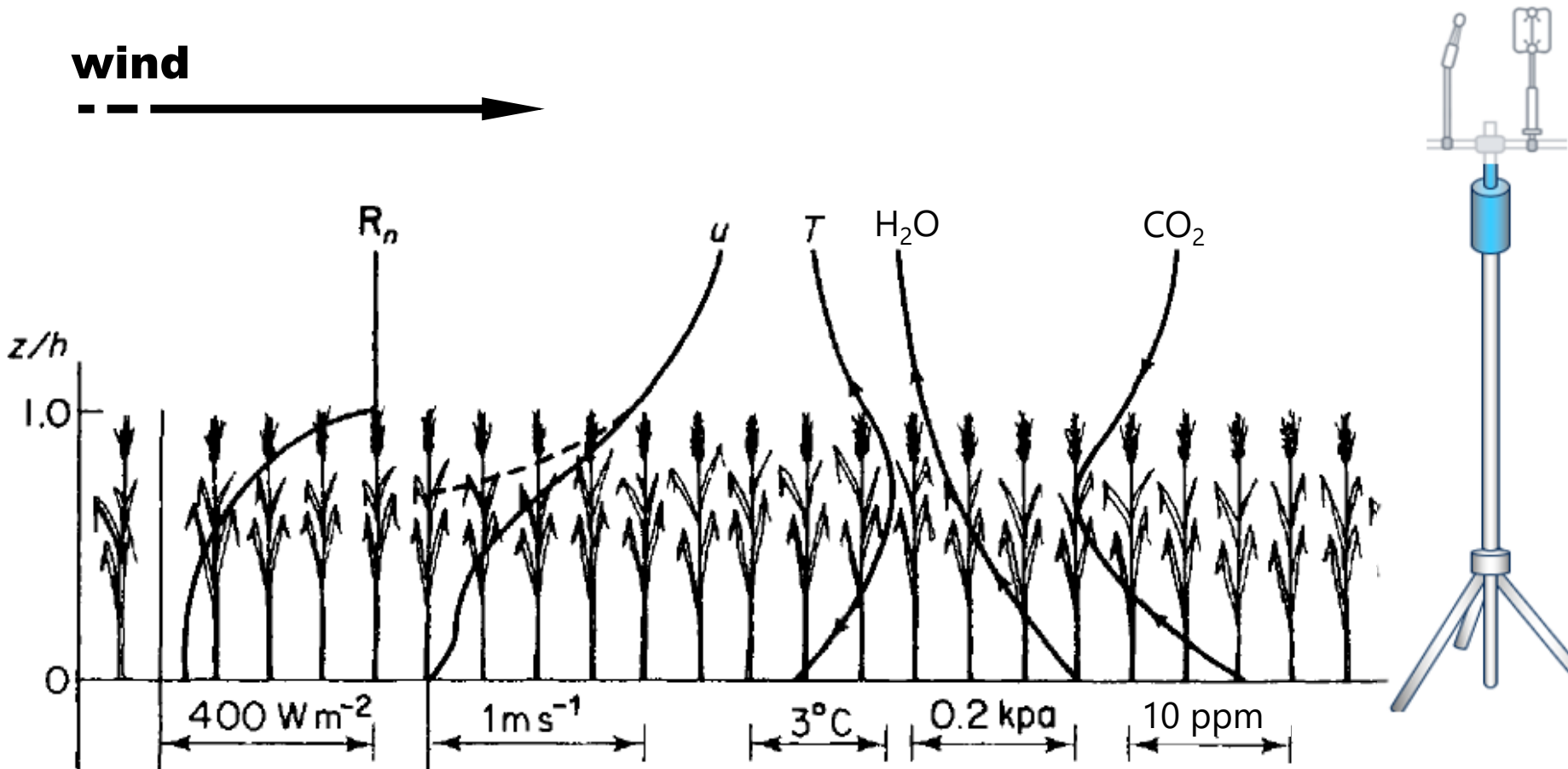
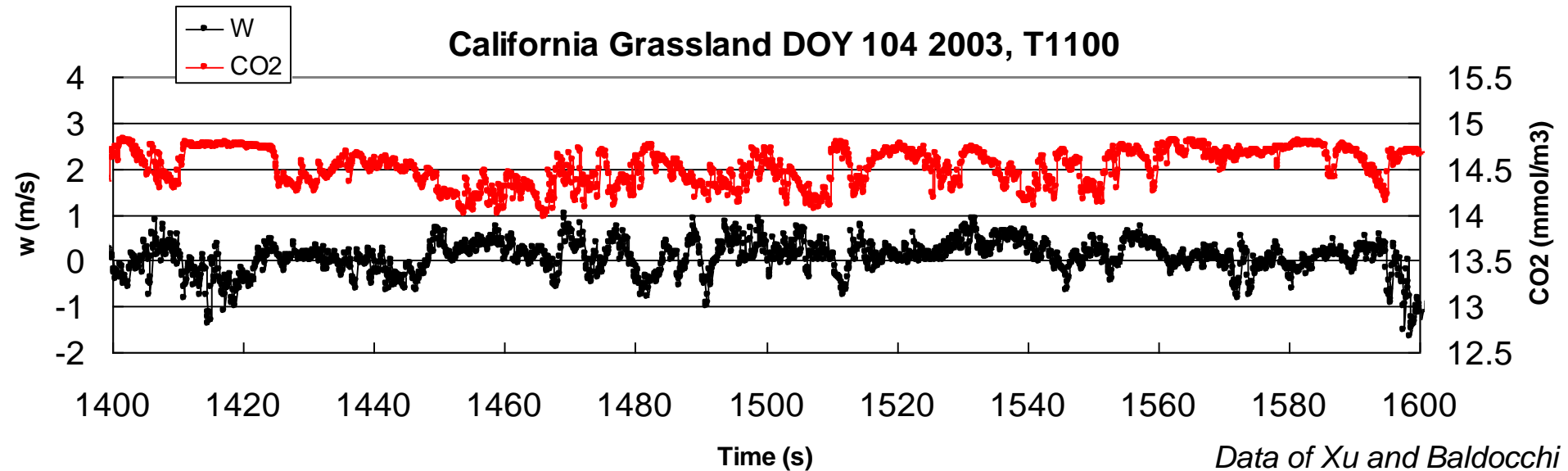
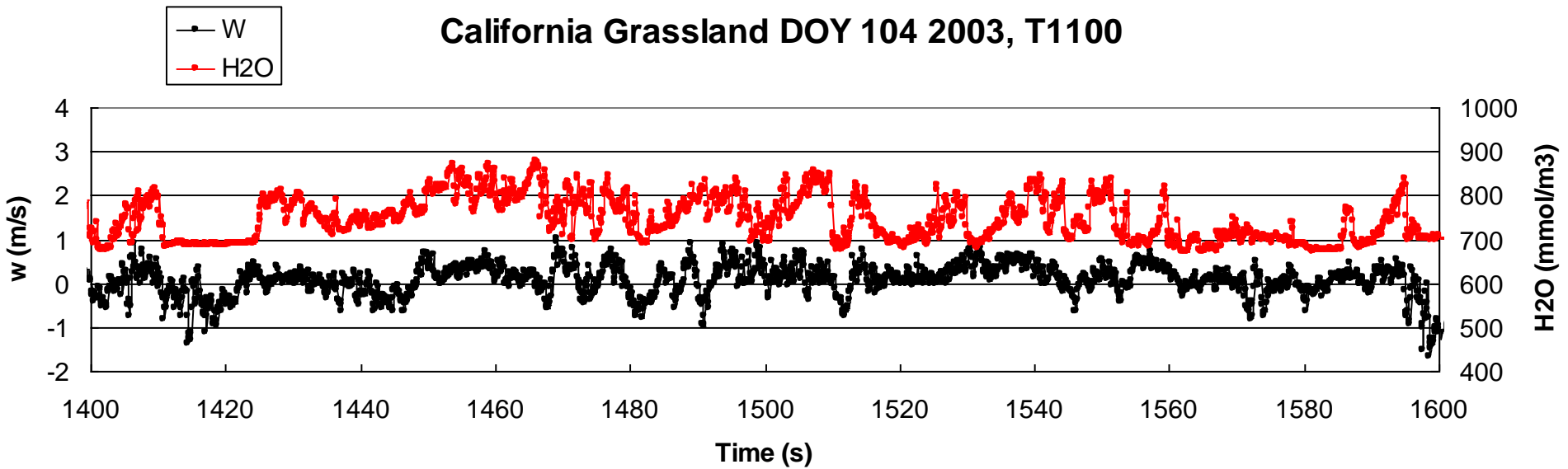


Fig. 16.5. Monteith and Unsworth, 2013. Environmental Physics.

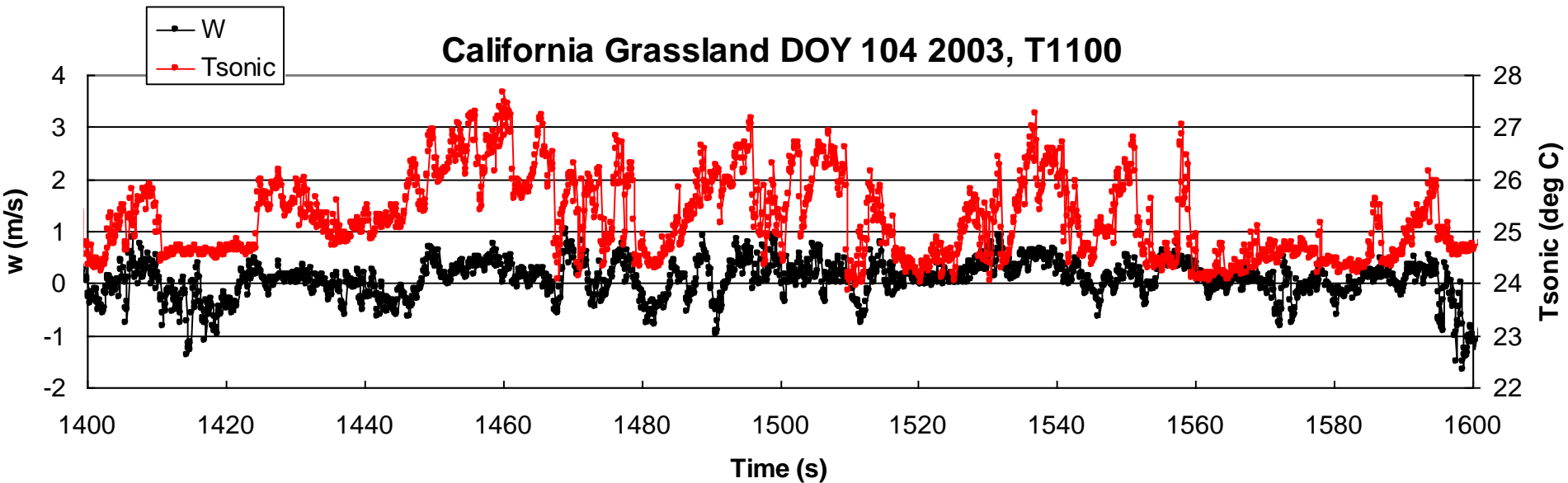
Let's see some
10-Hz real data!



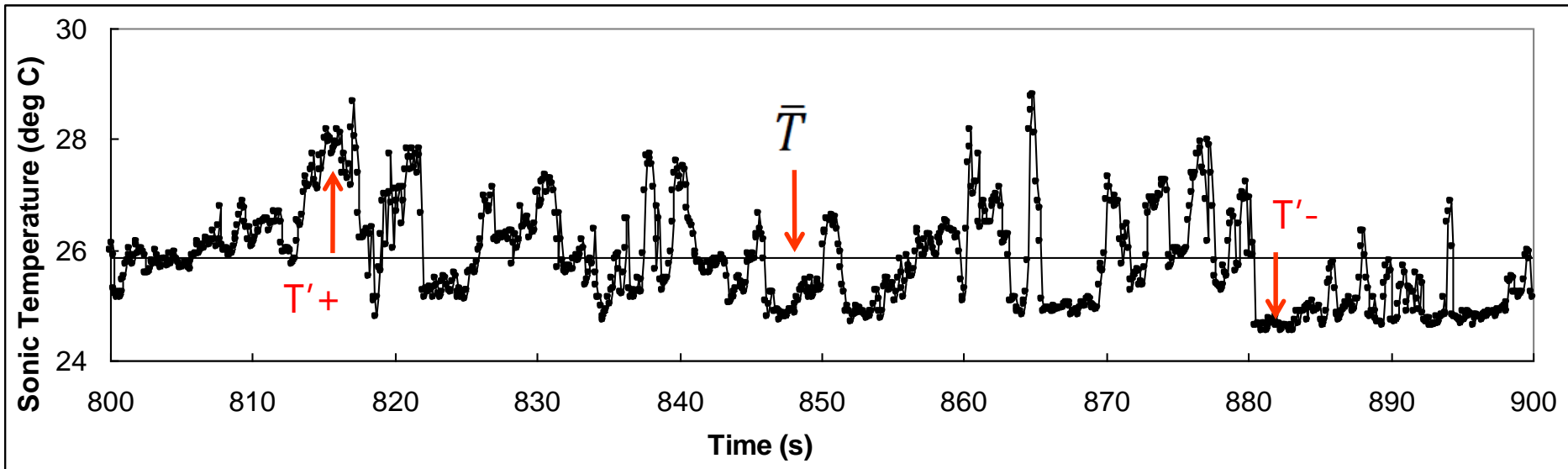
California Grassland DOY 104 2003, T1100



California Grassland DOY 104 2003, T1100



Reynolds' Averaging Rules



$$x = \bar{x} + x' \quad \bar{x}' = 0$$

$$\overline{x + y} = \bar{x} + \bar{y}$$

$$\overline{xy} = \overline{(\bar{x} + x')(\bar{y} + y')} = \overline{(\bar{x}\bar{y} + \bar{x}y' + x'\bar{y} + x'y')}$$

$$= \overline{\bar{x}\bar{y}} + \overline{x'y'}$$

↑ Covariance; 协方差

EC theory: Complete equations

$$F = \overline{w\bar{c}}$$

$$F = \overline{(\bar{w} + w')(\bar{c} + c')}$$

$$F = \overline{\bar{w}\bar{c} + \bar{w}c' + w'\bar{c} + w'c'}$$

Mean of w is zero

The average of deviation
from the mean is zero

$$F = \overline{w'c'}$$

$$F = \frac{m}{s} \times \frac{\mu\text{mol CO}_2}{m^3} = \frac{\mu\text{mol}}{m^2 s}$$

Density unit!



Time	CO ₂ (mmol m ⁻³)	W (m s ⁻¹)	CO ₂ '	W'	W'CO ₂ '		
0	15.511	-0.253	0.108	-0.253	-0.027		
0.1	15.483	-0.348	0.080	-0.348	-0.028		
0.2	15.442	-0.290	0.039	-0.290	-0.011		
0.3	15.420	-0.052	0.017	-0.052	-0.001		
0.4	15.414	0.091	0.012	0.091	0.001		
0.5	15.409	0.159	0.006	0.159	0.001		
0.6	15.401	0.276	-0.002	0.276	-0.001		
0.7	15.407	0.401	0.004	0.401	0.002		
0.8	15.403	0.496	0.001	0.496	0.000		
.		
.		
1800	15.369	0.212	-0.034	0.212	-0.007		
mean	15.403	0.000			$\overline{w'CO_2'} = -0.014$		(mmol m⁻²s⁻¹)

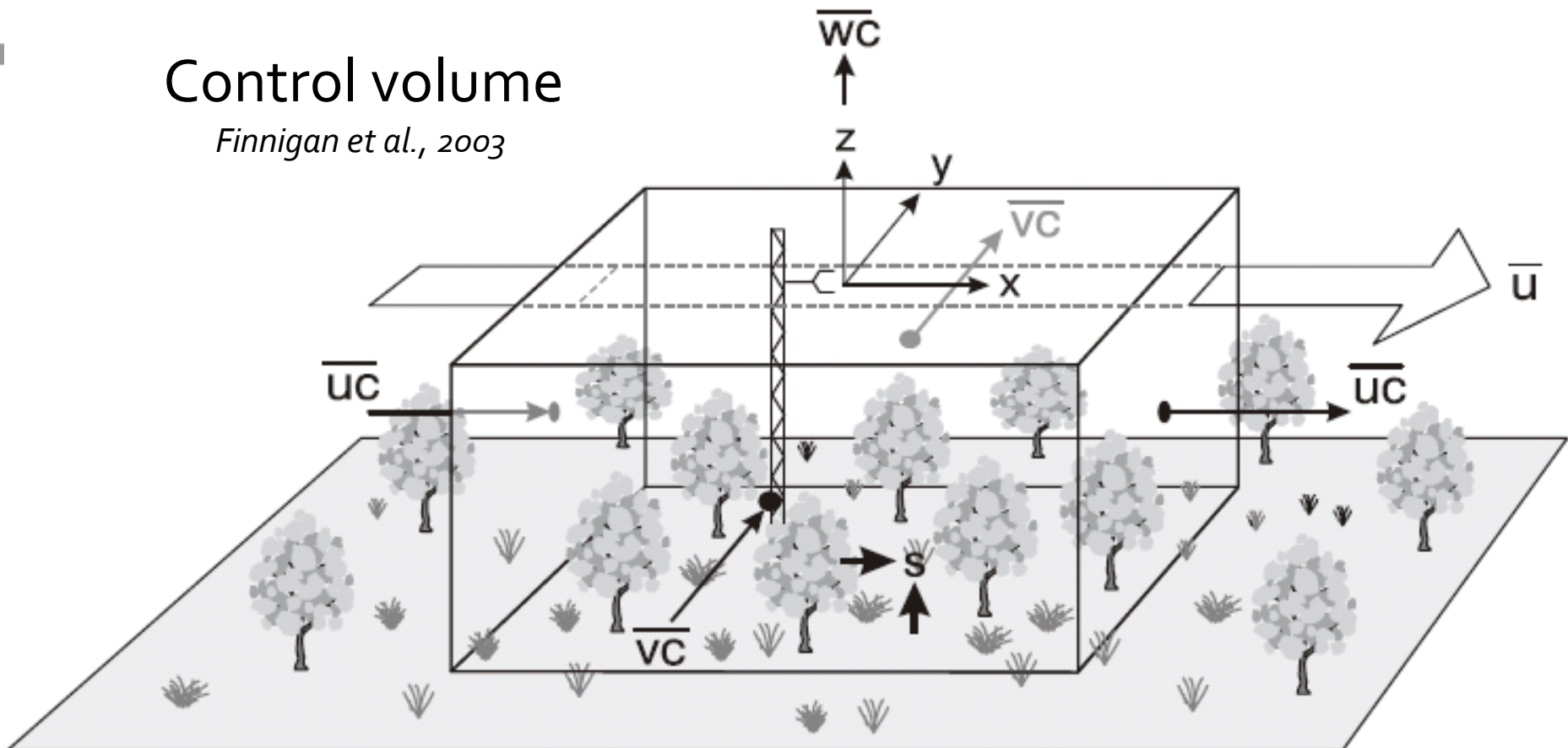
Basic assumptions:

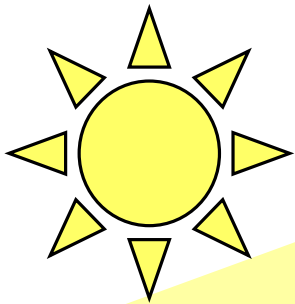
1. no horizontal divergence or convergence,

2. $\frac{d\bar{C}}{dt} = 0$ (Storage term = 0)

Control volume

Finnigan et al., 2003



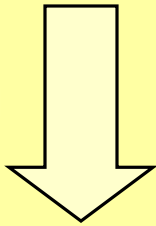


EC for energy flux measurement

$$H = \rho_a C_p \overline{w'T'} = \frac{g \text{ air}}{m^3} \times \frac{J}{g \text{ air} \cdot C} \times \frac{m}{s} \times C = \frac{J}{m^2 s} = \frac{W}{m^2}$$

$$LE = L \rho_a \overline{w'q'} = \frac{J}{g \text{ H}_2\text{O}} \times \frac{g \text{ air}}{m^3} \times \frac{m}{s} \times \frac{g \text{ H}_2\text{O}}{g \text{ air}} = \frac{J}{m^2 s} = \frac{W}{m^2}$$

Rn



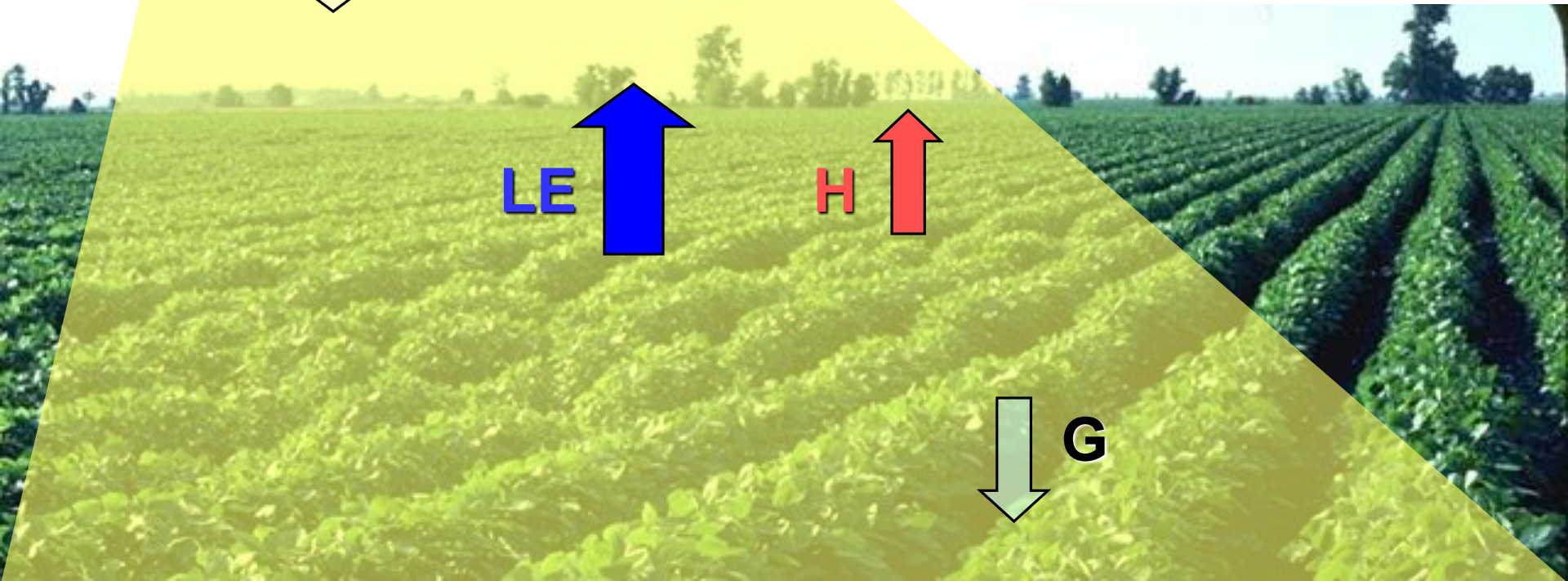
LE



H



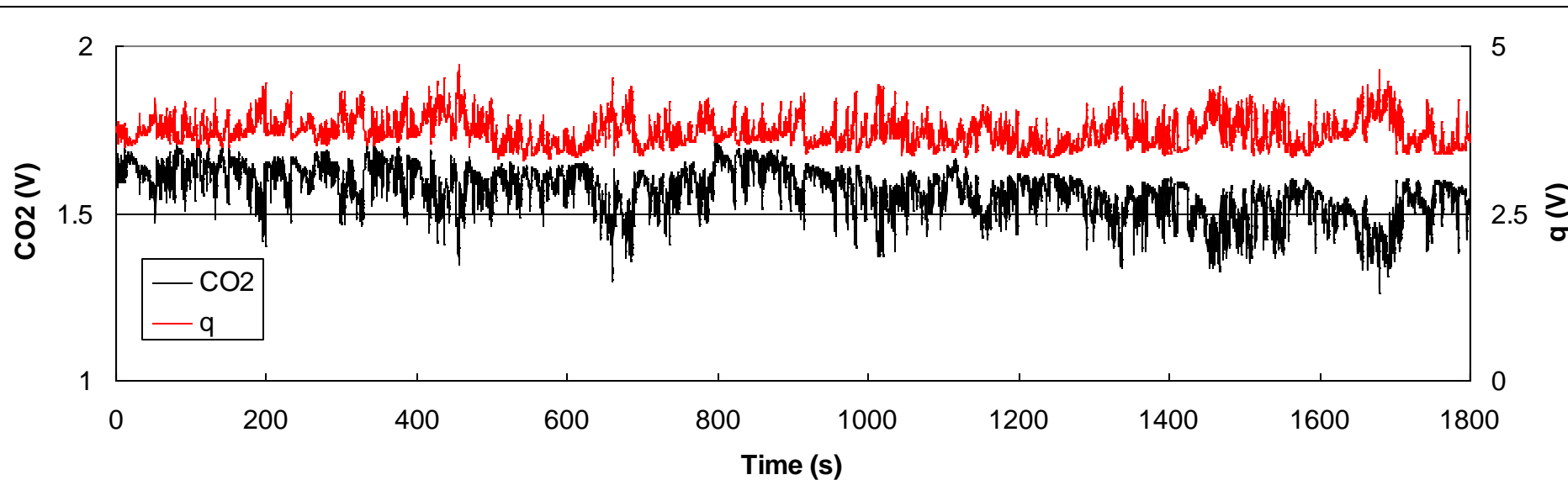
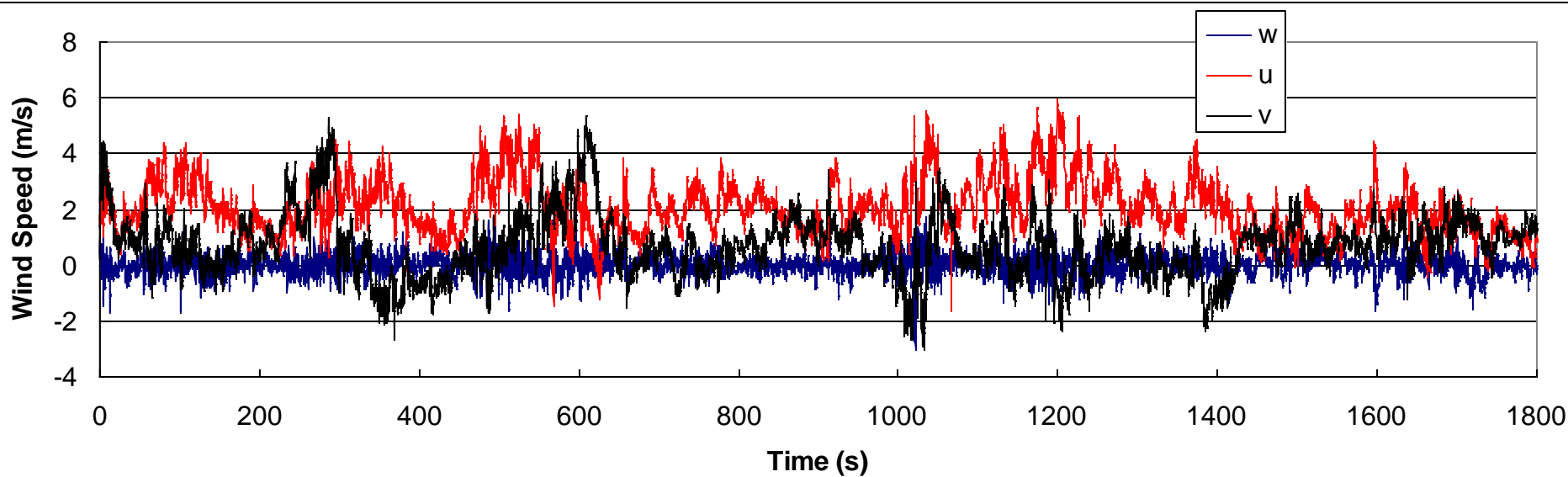
G



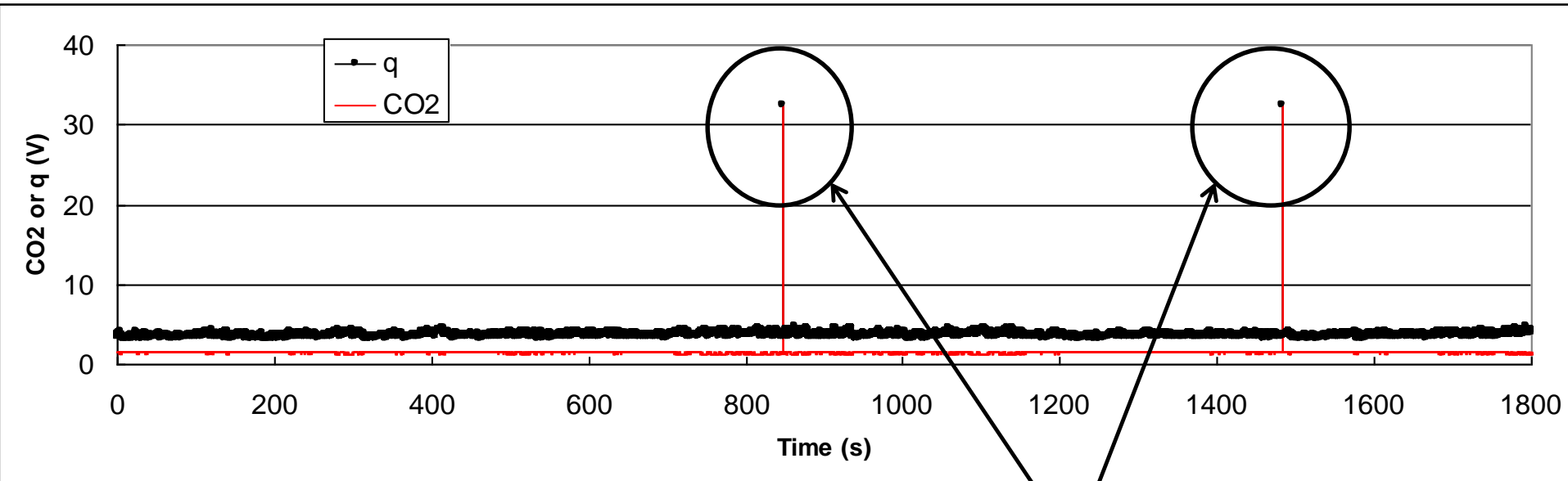
Fluxes from EC technique

- *Gas flux: F_{CO_2} , ET , F_{CH_4}*
- *Energy flux: H , LE , G , R_n*

Data Processing: de-spiking



Data Processing: de-spiking ...sometimes, you see this

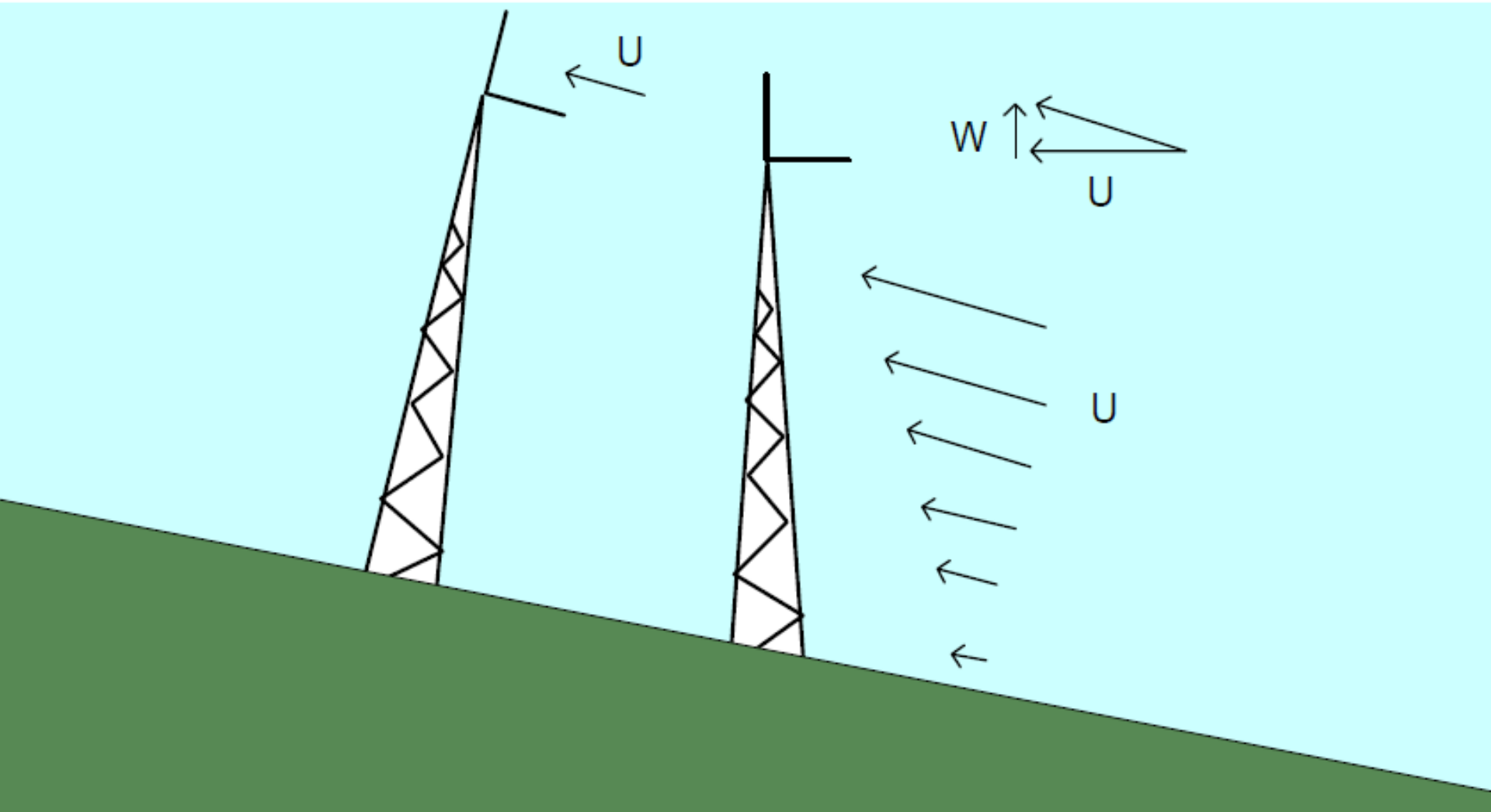


We need to get rid of spikes.

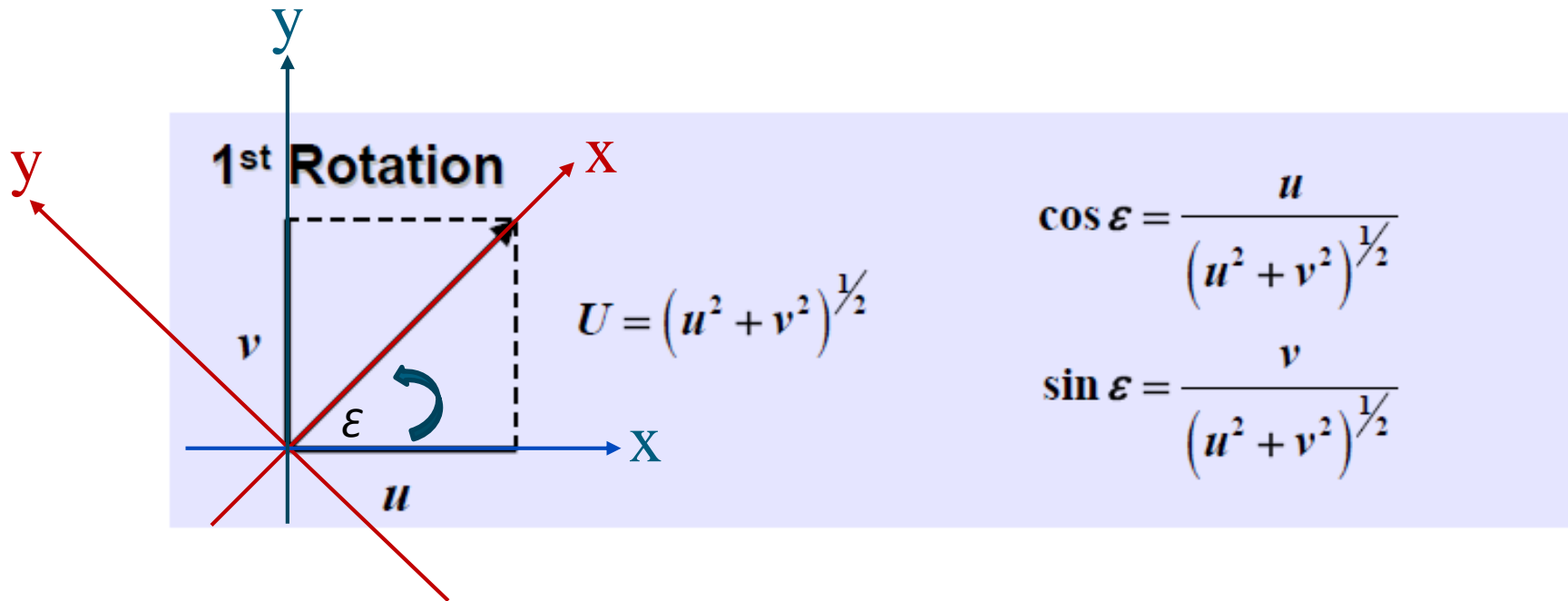
Data Processing: de-spiking

- unreasonable u, v, w
- $\text{abs}(u', v', w') > nx\text{std}; n = 4 - 6$
- $\text{Abs}(\text{CO}_2', \text{H}_2\text{O}') > nx\text{std}; n = 4-6$
- other criteria

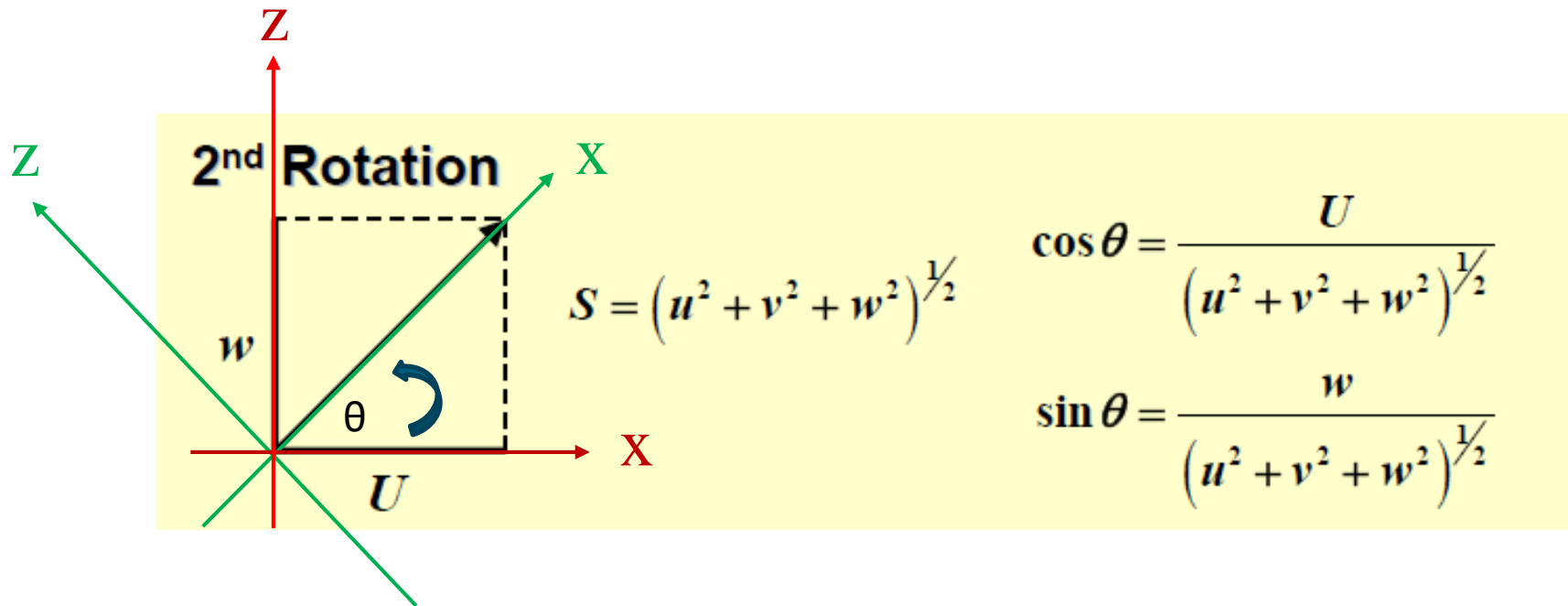
Data Processing: Coordinate rotation



Data Processing: Coordinate rotation



Data Processing: Coordinate rotation



Data Processing: Coordinate rotation

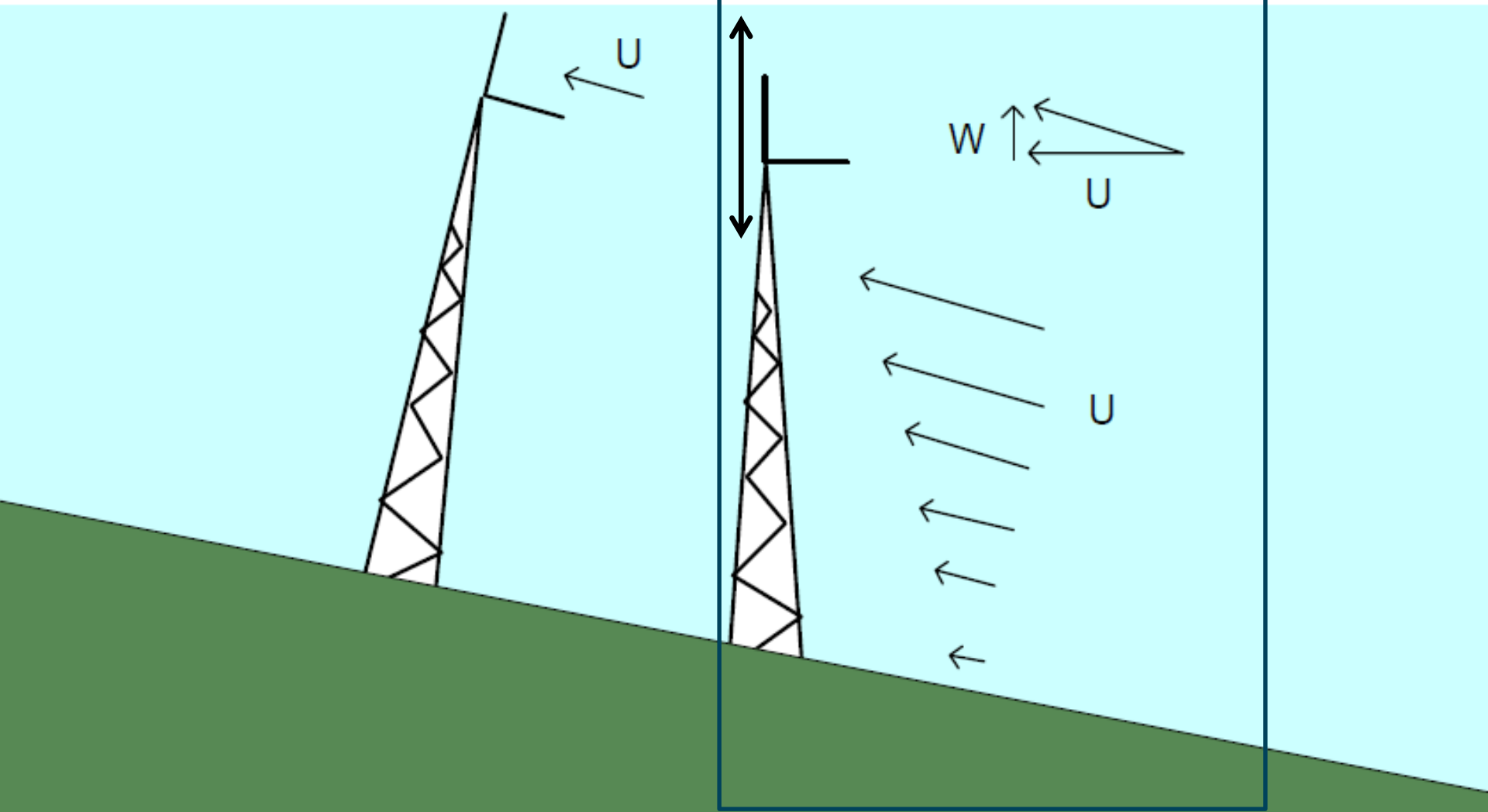
$$\overline{W'c'} = \overline{w'c'}\cos\theta - \overline{u'c'}\sin\theta\cos\varepsilon - \overline{v'c'}\sin\theta\sin\varepsilon$$

If the sonic is perfectly leveled along with the ground surface, then no coordinate rotation is needed!

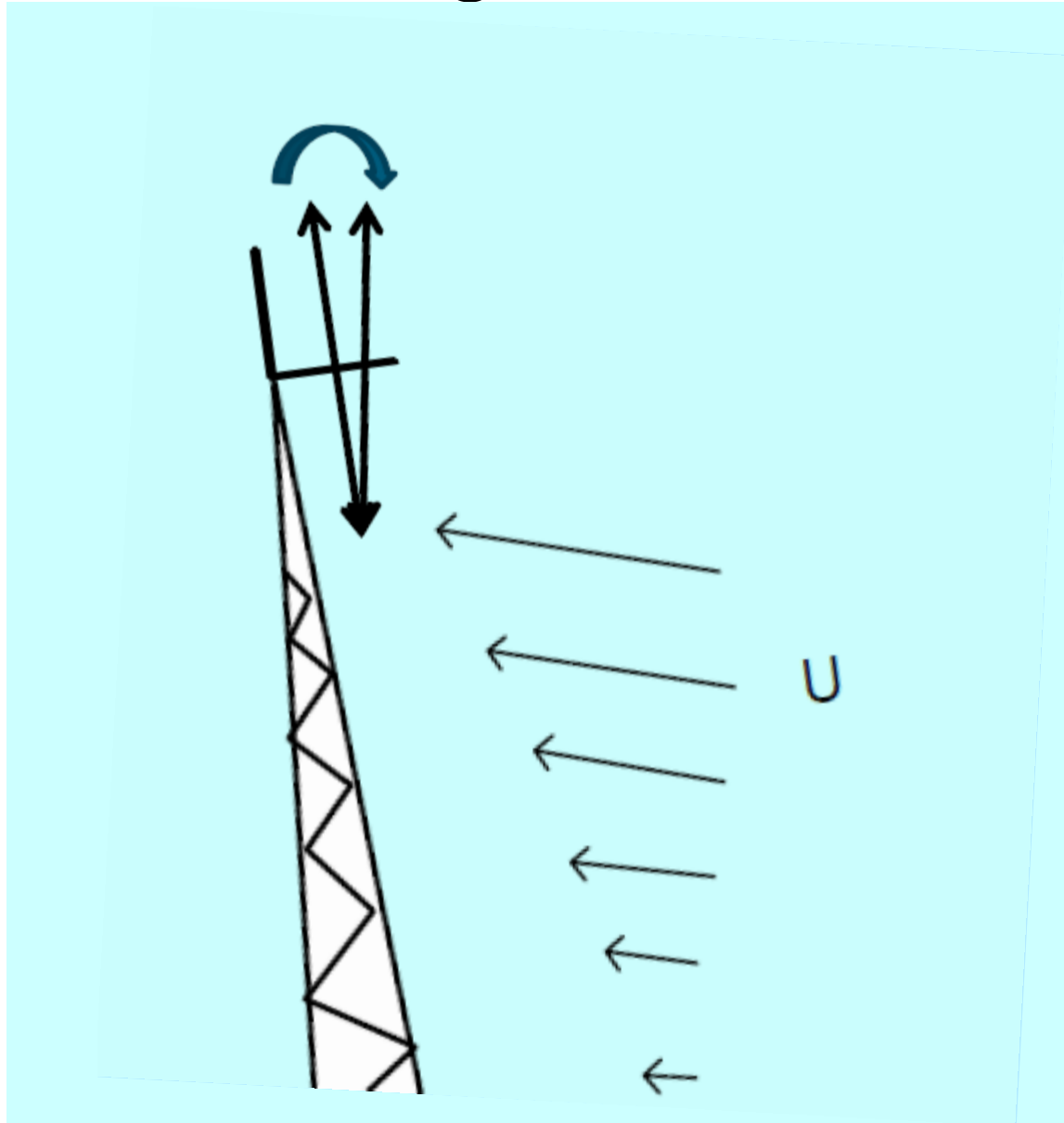
However, this is very difficult to do, if not impossible. It is much easier to rotate the coordinates to force the mean of w to zero.

Rotated Flux

Un-rotated Flux



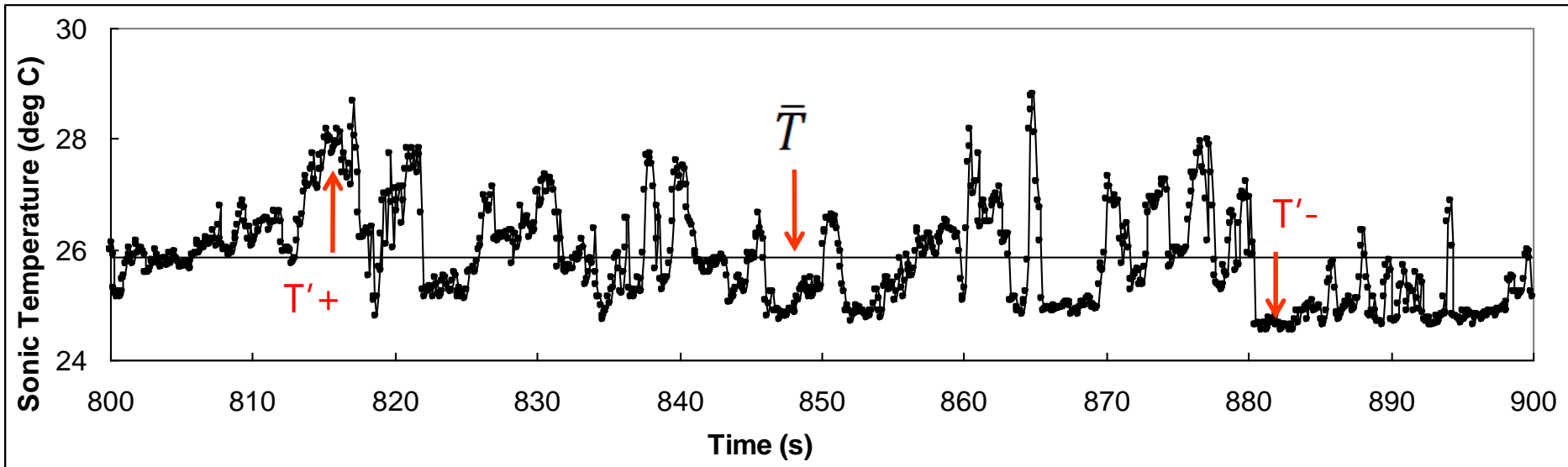
Data Processing: Coordinate rotation



Data Processing: Coordinate rotation

To determine the flux normal to the underlying surface!
计算出垂直于下垫面的通量!

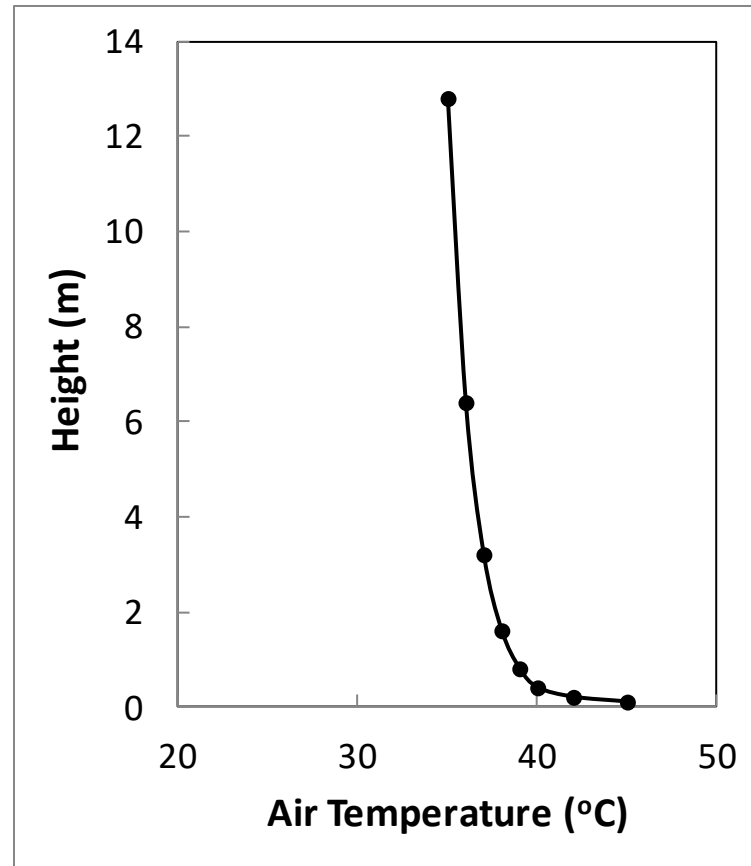
Reynolds' Averaging Rules



$$F = \overline{w'c'}$$

Covariance; 协方差

Density correction for open-path analyzer~ WPL



Imagine a situation: over a dry parking lot

No CO₂ flux

Hot, dry summer afternoon

WPL due to sensible heat flux

$$F = \overline{w'c'}$$

LI-COR open-path analyzer measures density (mmol CO₂ m⁻³). It changes with T, P.



$$\begin{array}{l} W' - \\ T' - \\ CO_2' + \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} W' + \\ T' + \\ CO_2' - \end{array}$$



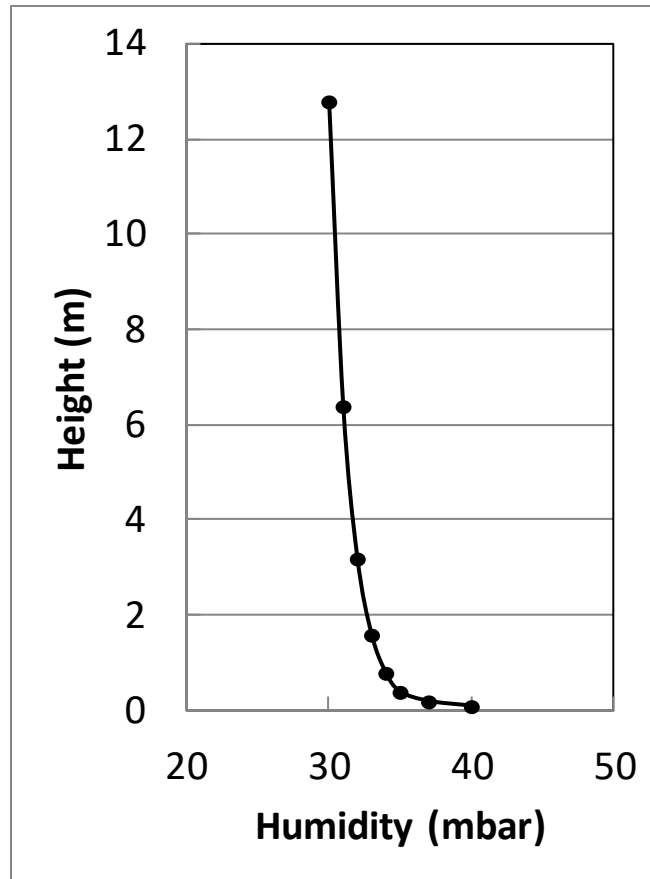
$$\overline{w'CO_2'} < 0, \text{ CO}_2 \text{ uptake?}$$

Imagine a situation: over a dry parking lot

No CO₂ flux

Hot, dry summer afternoon

WPL due to latent heat flux



Imagine a situation: over a wet parking lot

No CO₂ flux

Hot summer afternoon

WPL due to latent heat flux



$$\begin{aligned} W' &- \\ H_2O' &- \\ CO_2' &+ \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} W' &+ \\ H_2O' &+ \\ CO_2' &- \end{aligned}$$



$$\overline{w'CO_2'} < 0, \text{ CO}_2 \text{ uptake?}$$

Imagine a situation: over a wet parking lot

No CO₂ flux

Hot summer afternoon

Final density correction equation (WPL)

Webb, Pearman, Leuning Algorithm:
Correction for Density Fluctuations when using
OpenPath Sensors

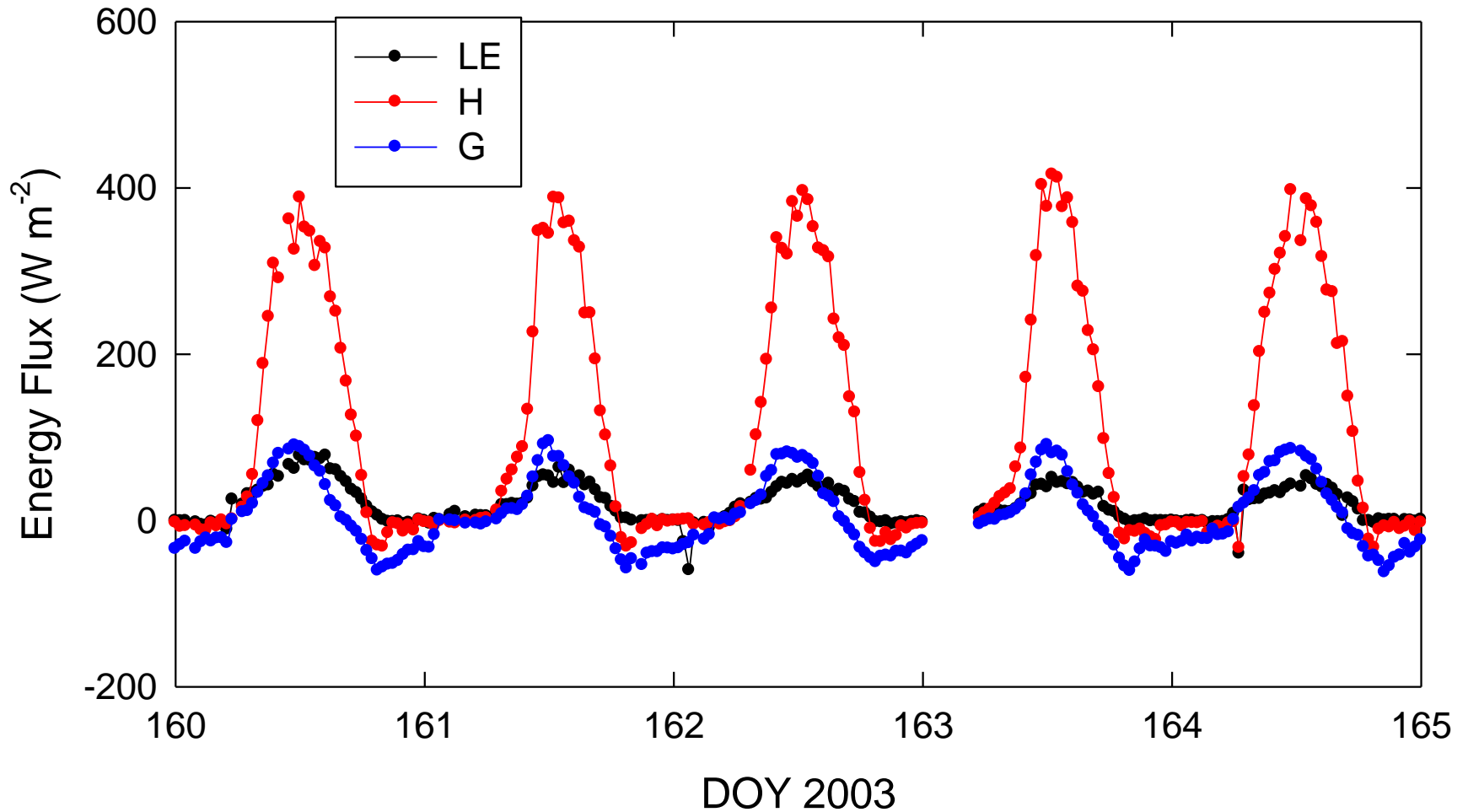
$$F_c = \overline{w' \rho_c'} + \frac{m_a}{m_v} \frac{\overline{\rho_c}}{\overline{\rho_a}} \overline{w' \rho_v'} + \left(1 + \frac{\overline{\rho_v m_a}}{\overline{\rho_a m_v}}\right) \frac{\overline{\rho_c}}{\overline{T}} \overline{w' T'}$$

Webb et al., 1980

Magnitude of the density correction

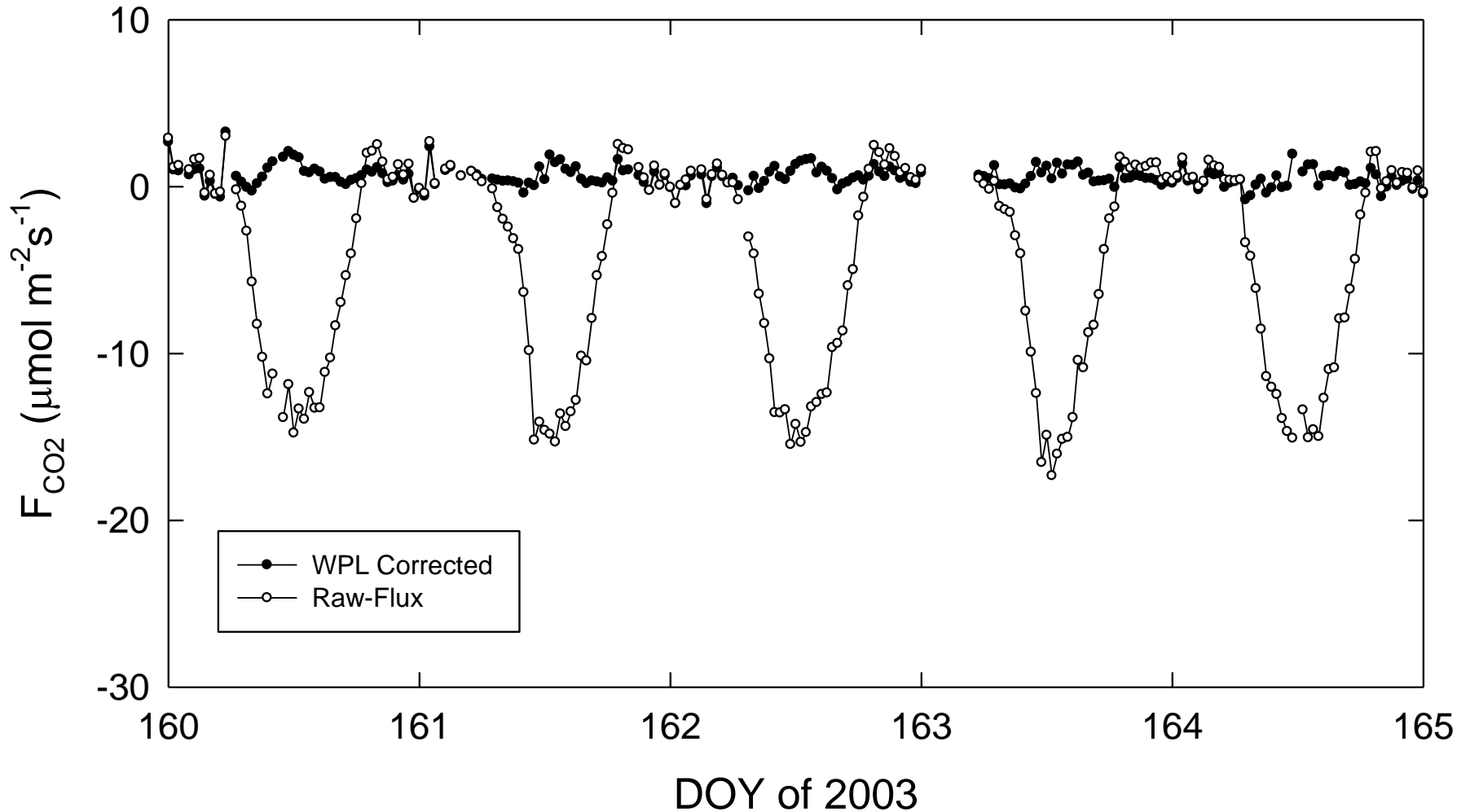


Magnitude of the density correction

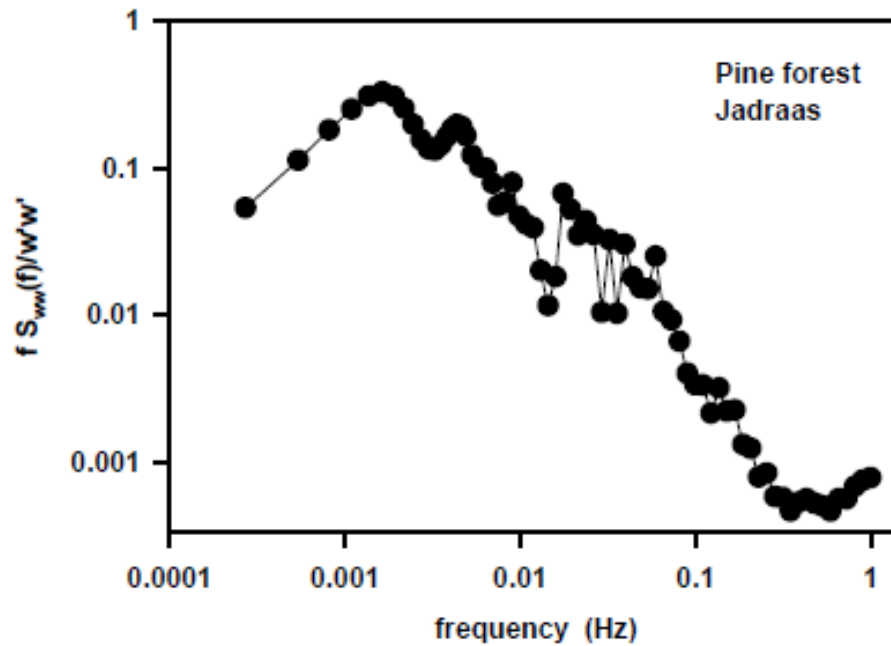
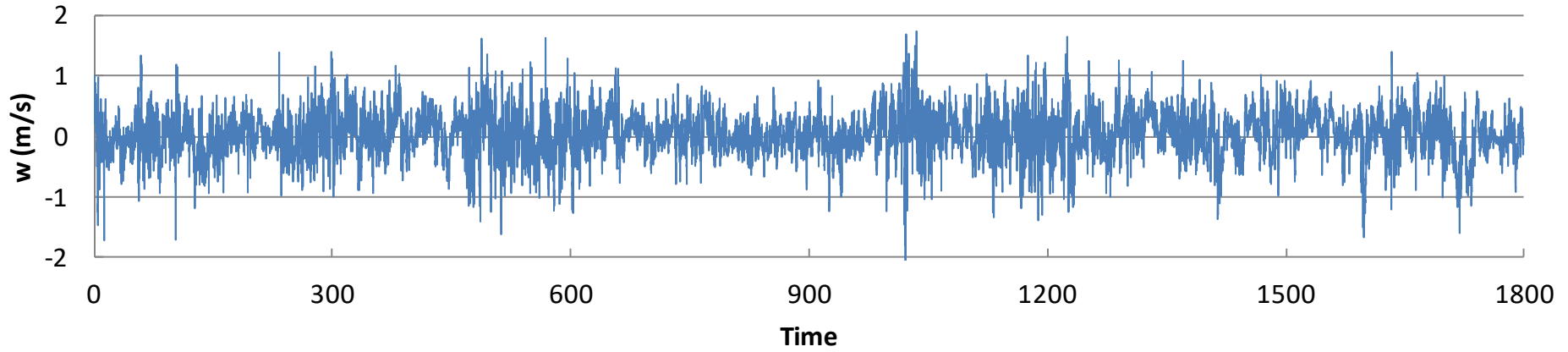


Magnitude of the density correction

California Grassland 2003, non-growing season



Power Spectra Analysis



Kinetic Energy

Kinetic energy (KE), m is mass, U is mean wind speed

$$KE = 0.5 mU^2$$

Mean Kinetic energy (MKE)

$$\frac{MKE}{m} = \frac{1}{2}(\bar{U}^2 + \bar{V}^2 + \bar{W}^2)$$

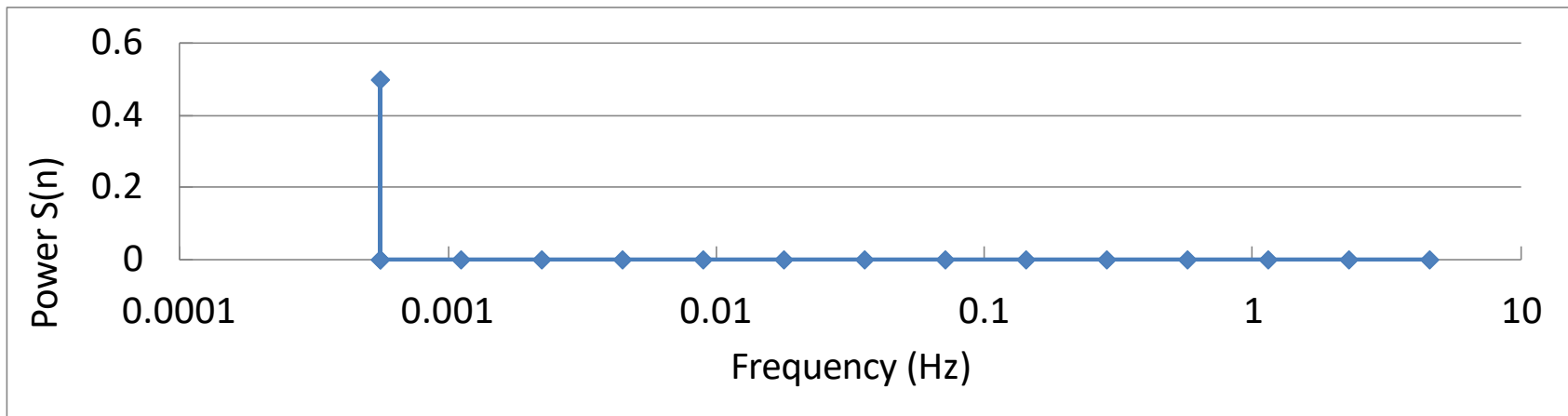
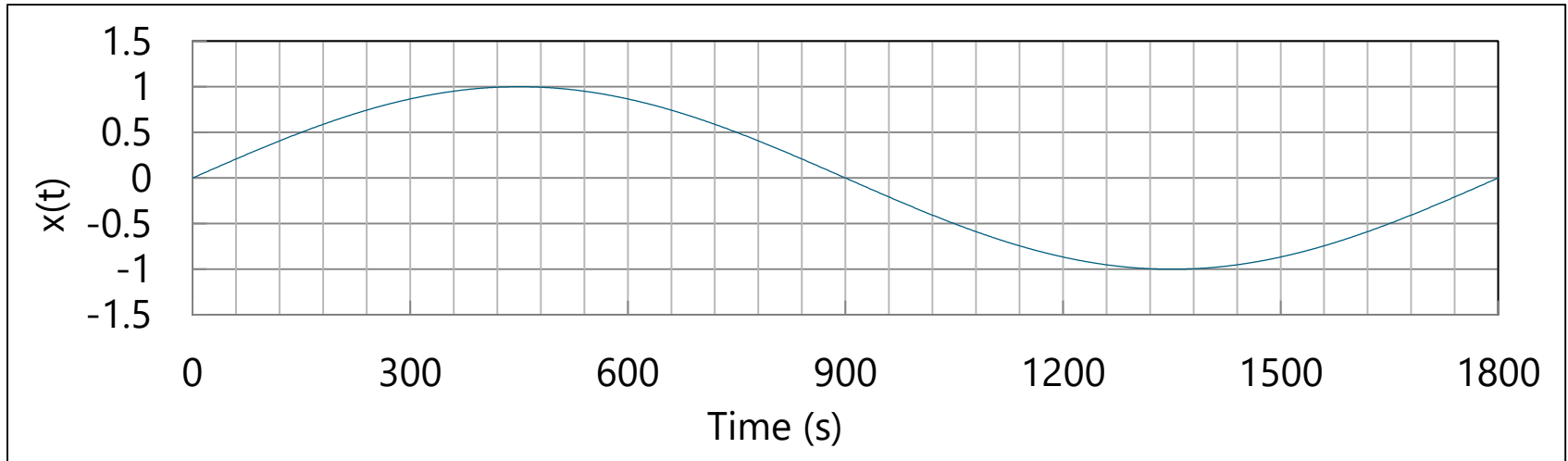
Turbulence Kinetic energy (TKE)

$$\frac{TKE}{m} = \frac{1}{2}(u'^2 + v'^2 + w'^2)$$

Period = 30 min = 1800 s
Frequency = 1/1800 = 0.000556 Hz

$$x(k) = \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{1800} k\Delta t\right)$$

$$k=0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, N-1$$



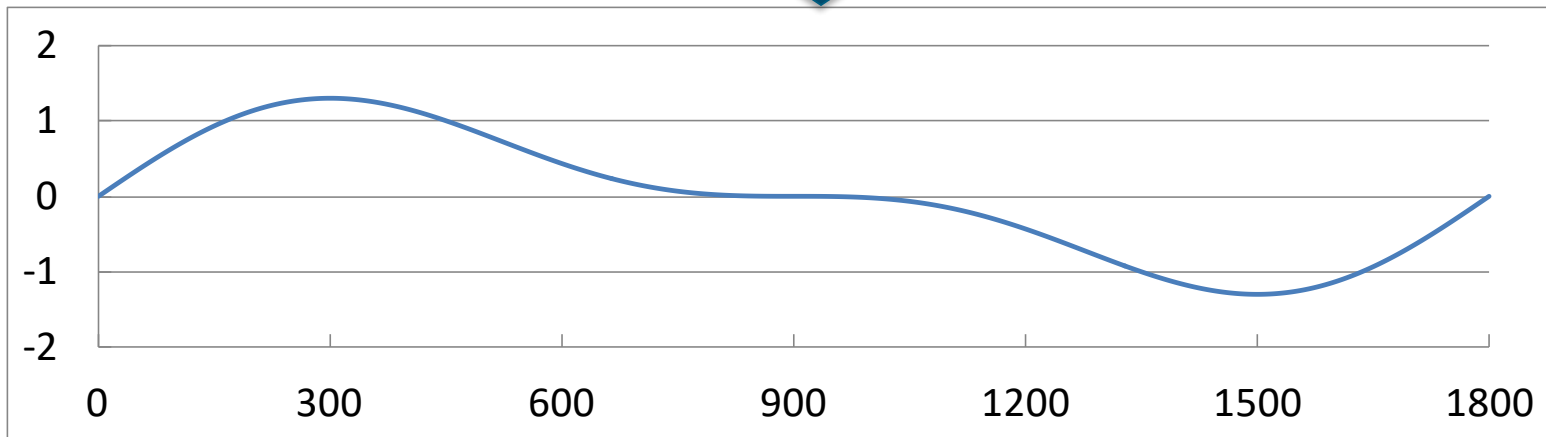
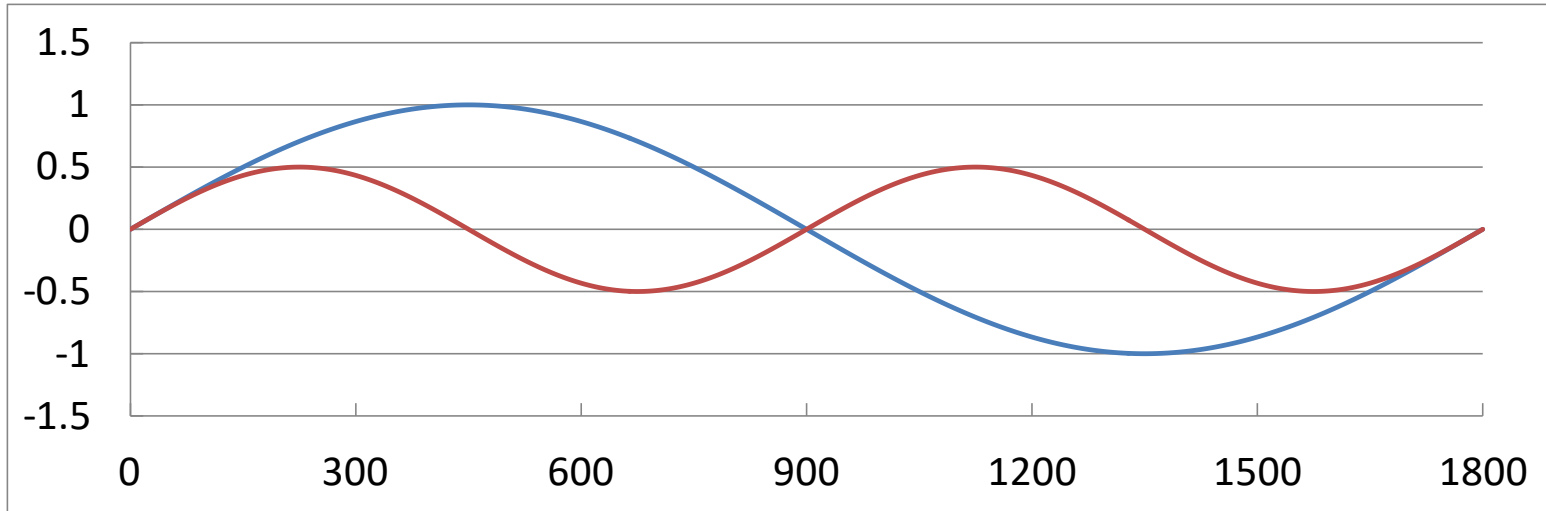
Period = 30 min = 1800 s
Frequency = $1/1800 = 0.000556$ Hz

$$x(k) = \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{1800} k\Delta t\right)$$

$k=0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, N-1$

Period = 15 min = 900 s
Frequency = $1/900 = 0.001111$ Hz

$$x(k) = \frac{1}{2} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{900} k\Delta t\right)$$



Period = 30 min = 1800 s

Frequency = $1/1800 = 0.000556$ Hz

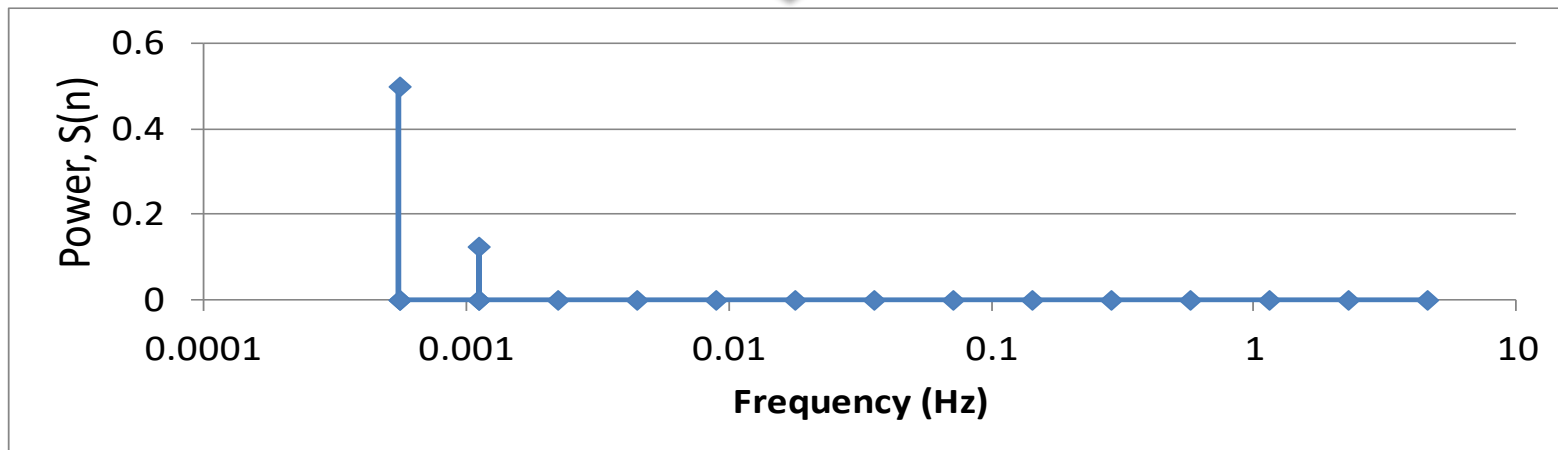
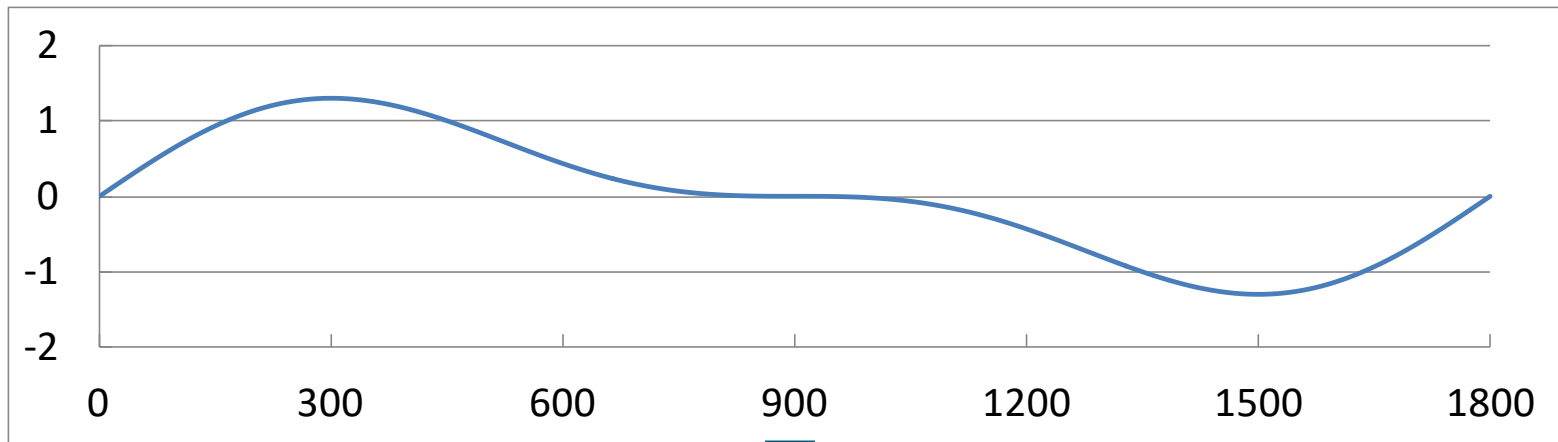
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$k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, N-1$

Period = 15 min = 900 s

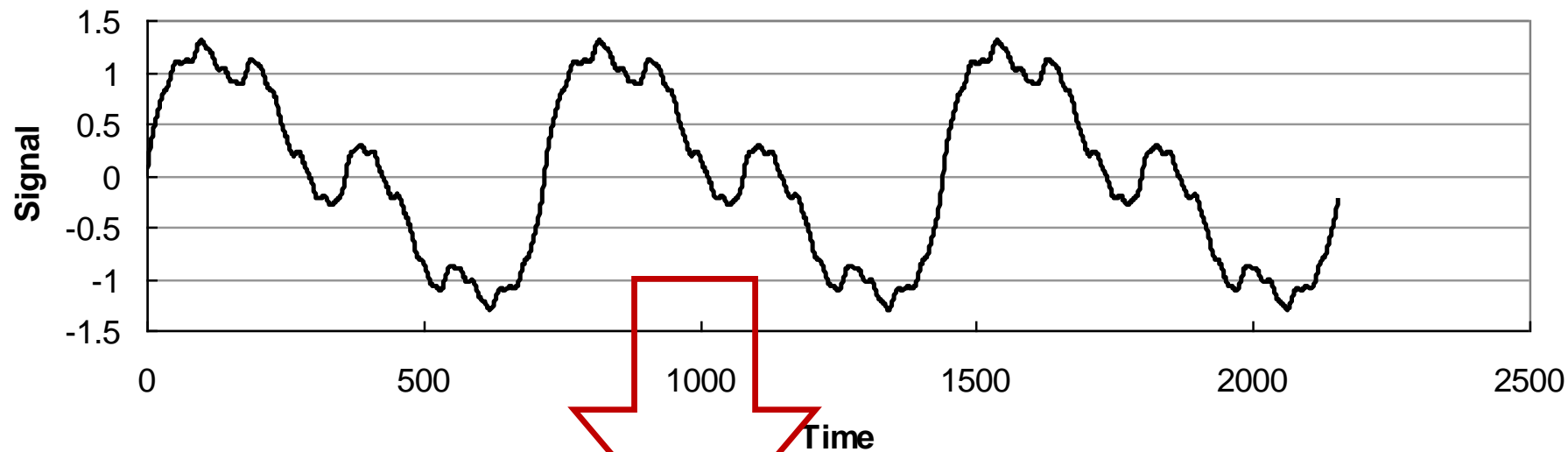
Frequency = $1/900 = 0.001111$ Hz

$$x(k) = \frac{1}{2} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{900} k\Delta t\right)$$

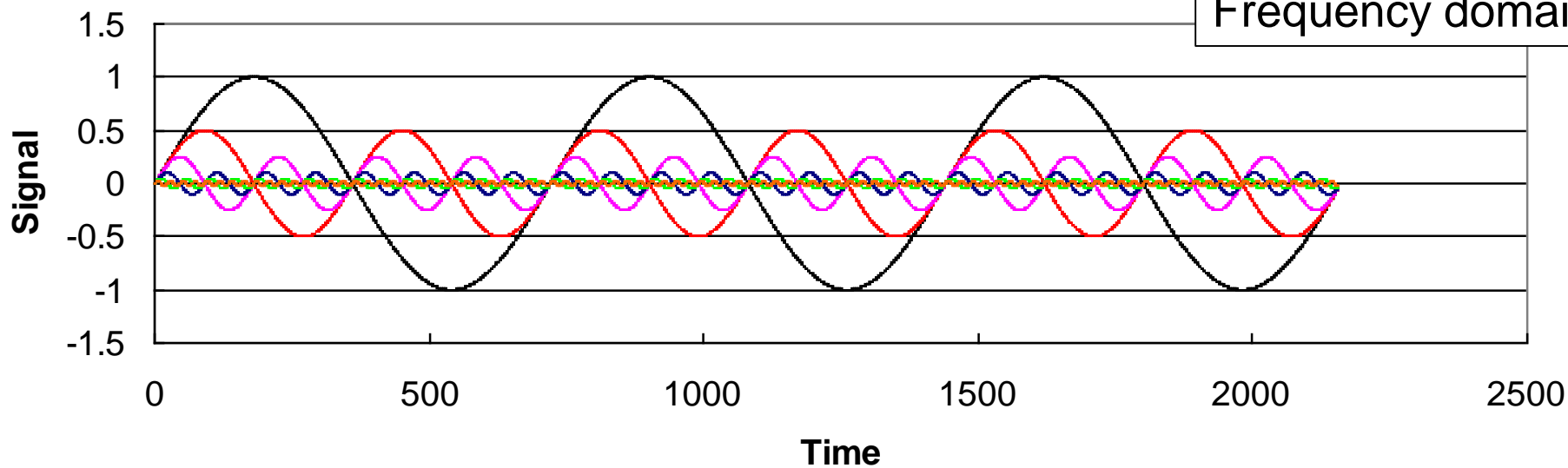


Time Series Domain

Time series domain



Frequency domain



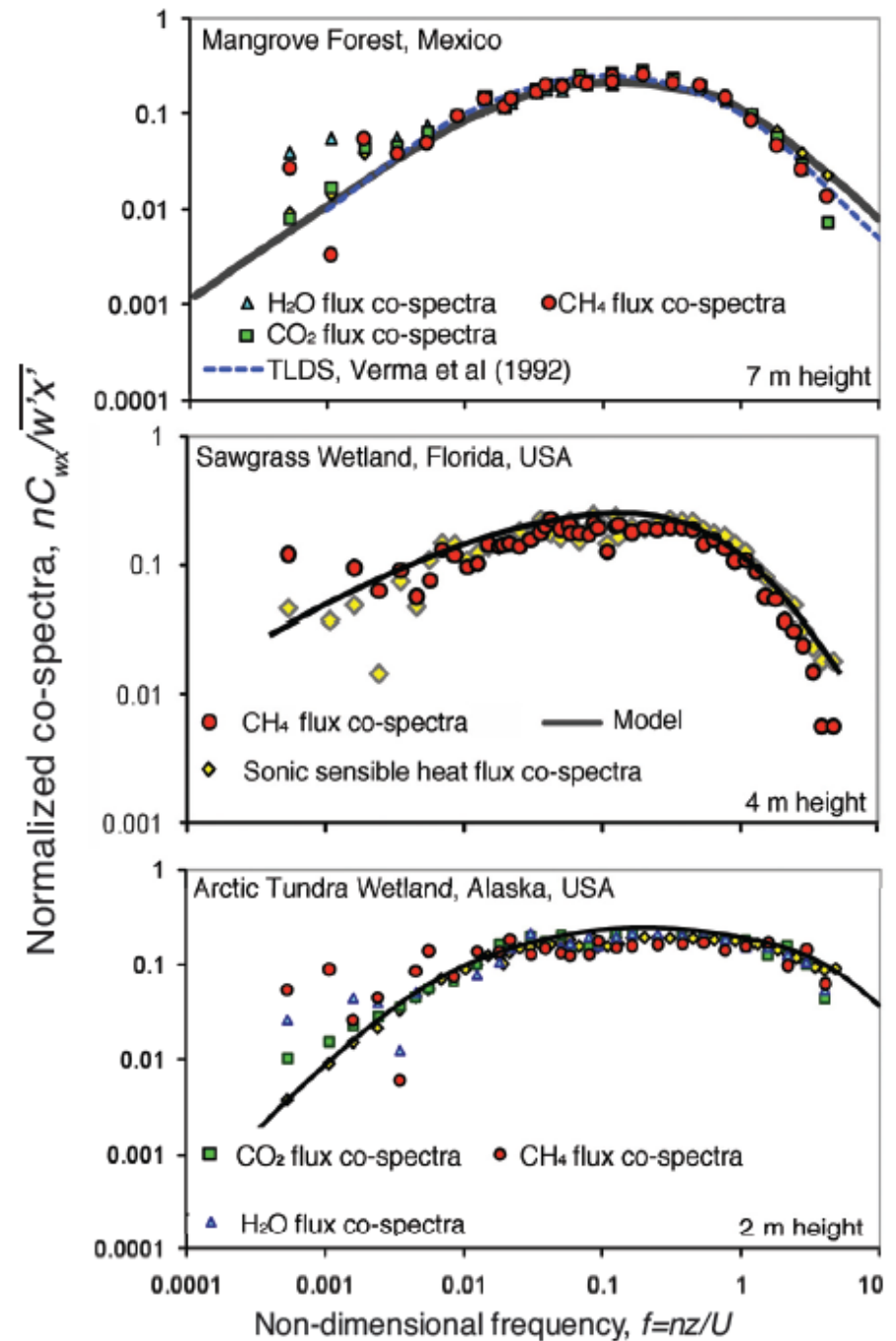
Mathematically

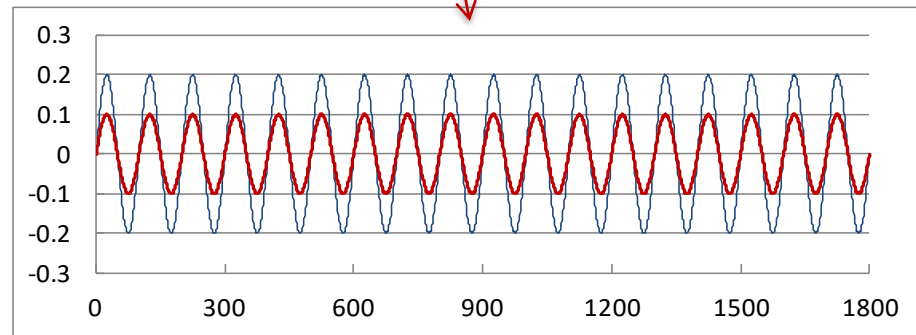
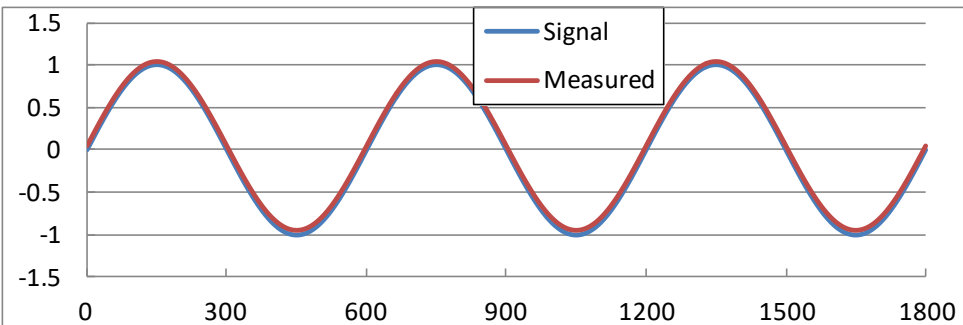
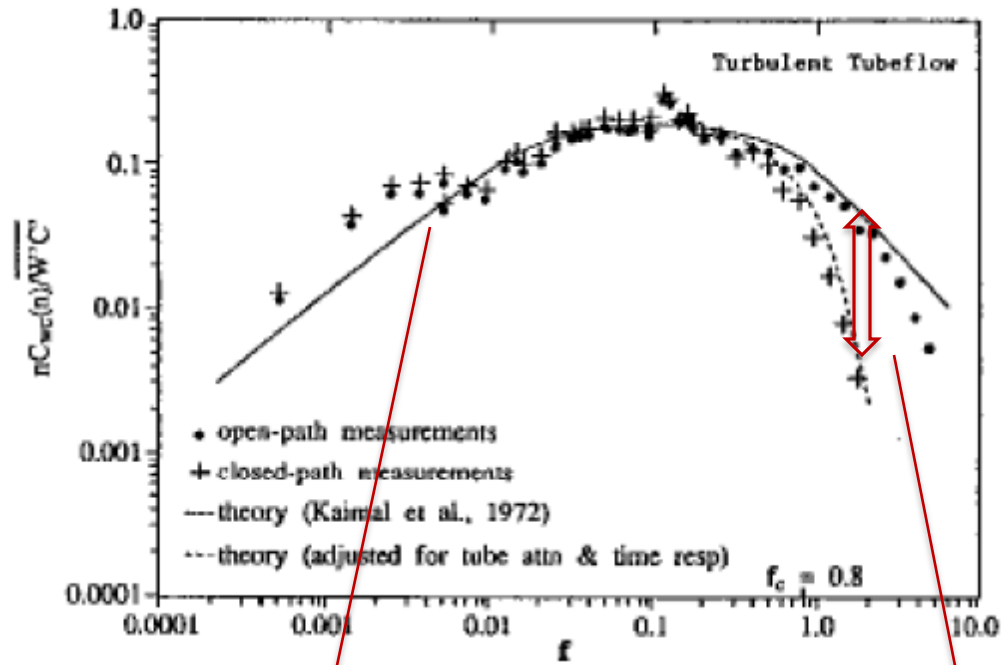
$$x(k) = \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} a_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi nk}{P} \Delta t\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} b_n \cos\left(\frac{2\pi nk}{P} \Delta t\right)$$

$$\sigma_x^2 = \int S_{(n)} dn = \frac{1}{N} \sum (x_{(k)} - \bar{x})^2 \quad \text{Variance, 方差}$$

The Power spectral density is defined as such that its integral over all frequencies is equal to the total variance

Spectra Analysis

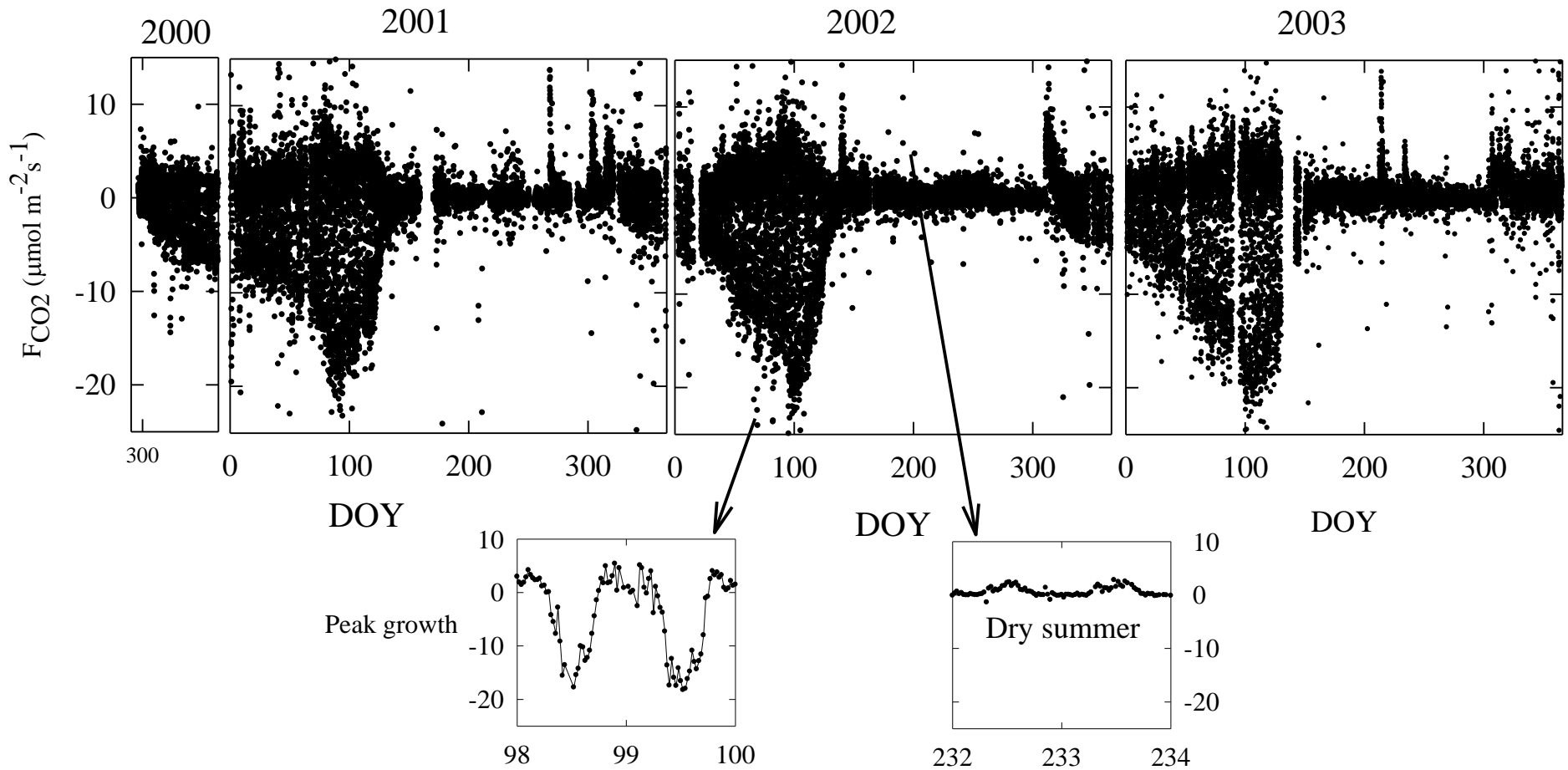




EC Flux Data QA/QC

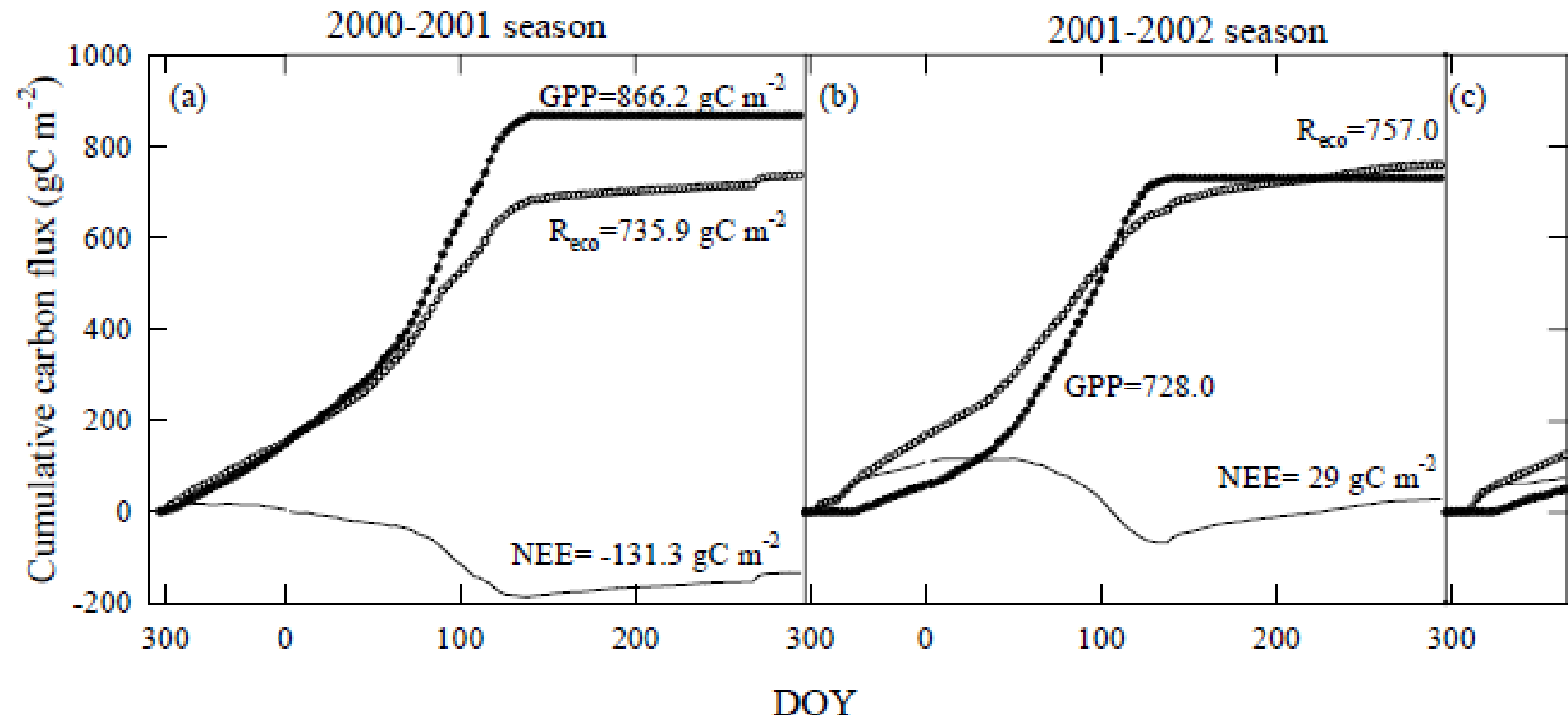
- w, u, v ~ off the scale
- T_s, q, CO_2 ~ off the scale
- If spikes $> n$ ($n \sim 10\%$)
- Reynolds stress ($u'w'$) too high
- Unreasonable skewness
- Unreasonable kurtosis
- Unreasonable flux
- other criteria

Example of long-term flux data (2000-2003) California grassland



Example of long-term flux data (2000-2003) California grassland

L. Xu, D.D. Baldocchi / Agricultural and Forest Meteorology 1232 (2004) 79–96



Advantages of the EC Method over other methods

- direct measure of the flux density,
- *in situ*,
- No disturbance on the system,
- Quasi-continuous,
- Represents a large upwind area,
- Others.

References:

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Summary

1. Eddy covariance theory – Basic micrometeorology theory
2. EC data processing principles; including de-spiking, coordinate rotation, density correction, etc
3. Spectra analysis
4. QA/QC
5. Examples of long-term flux measurements

Any questions ?