



# ***Interactive comment on “A case study of wind farm effects using two wake parameterizations in WRF (V3.7) in the presence of low level jets” by Xiaoli G. Larsén and Jana Fischereit***

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## **Response to the comments about the submitted paper**

***A case study of wind farm effects using two wake parameterizations in WRF (V3.7.1) in the presence of low level jets***

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We thank the reviewer for the constructive comments. We have addressed each and every one of them and modified the paper accordingly. Our detailed answers follow.

Please note that reviewers' comments are in italics while our answers are not. Additions to the original manuscript are indicated in blue.

To this reply, we attach here two files: text file README.md and a marked-up revision of the paper. We will update the new version of our zenodo-repository as the next step, following this response-to-reviewer. Please read the README.md-file for all the updates. [There are some complications with the online compiling with figures, so we also attach the figure-file and a prepared version of reply separately.]

GMDD

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### General

*The study by Larsén and Fischereit investigates two different wind farm wake parametrisation that are in principle available for the mesoscale model WRF during a situation with low level jets. Thus, the study generally addresses two important topics of mesoscale meteorology: the simulation of low level jets as well as the topic of larger scale wake effects and could thus in principle be an important scientific contribution. However, there are several major points and a number of minor points that the authors should address before consideration the publication as research paper in GMD. As these points require from my point of view re-simulation and re-interpretation of parts of the results, I recommend publication after major revisions.*

Interactive  
comment

### Major Points

**Comment R2.M1** *Bug in Fitch parametrization: The authors mention the bug in the Fitch parametrization that was announced and corrected in June 2020 and discussed in the publication by Archer et al. 2020. However, large parts of the results that the author discuss are due to this bug in the parametrization. One prominent example is the high TKE above the farm, e.g. in Fig. 11c. The reason that other studies like the Siedersleben et al., 2020 are affected as well is not a reason for obviously using a parametrization that contains a bug! Thus, I see the need for correcting the bug in the WRF version used by the authors, re-running and re-discussing all results with this new version.*

**Answer to R2.M1** This is a good point. The previous version of text may not have made these following points clear. The bug is that the turbine-induced TKE is not

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corrected implemented in the TKE advection scheme. Siedersleben et al., 2020 used the version with the bug included, and they came to the conclusion that “with advection turned-off gives better results”. In our previous version, we actually used the bug-corrected version, but also with advection turned-off. In the new version, most analyses are based on the bug-corrected version, including both advection-on and advection-off. New figures are made (Fig.6 to Fig. 15). A brief discussion is also provided on the differences brought by the bug, in order to give an idea how much one can refer to existing publications that are based on the bug version.

**Comment R2.M2** *Erroneous turbine data: Table 2 contains several wrong information about the wind farm details. These should be corrected and the simulations re-run. The ones I could identify are: Alpha Ventus contains of 12 turbines of two different turbine types (Adwen M5000-116 (southern part) and Servion 5M (northern part)), Bard Offshore contains of 80 turbines of the BARD 5.0 turbine with a rotor diameter of 122 m. Horns Rev 2 has a hub height of 68 meters. Please correct those and carefully check all others and re-run the model simulations.*

**Answer to R2.M2** Thank you for spotting this. There was indeed a mistake in the Table regarding the Horns Rev 2 hub height, though we confirm that we used 68 m as hub height in the actual simulation – it was a typo in the Table. We also checked all the other turbine models and corrected any other mistakes. Please also note that we did not write clearly that this table does not contain the actual wind turbine models for each farm, but the turbine models that we used for the different farms. We tried to use the actual turbine model as far as possible, but unfortunately thrust and power curves were not available to us for all turbine models. In those cases we used a replacement model. Details on these replacements have been added to our zenodo-README and it is now more clearly stated in the text as well as in the table caption. We apologize for any confusion.

We also report here that by correcting these turbines (hub height in Gode Wind,

different turbine models in alpha ventus), the results are very similar, suggesting these turbines do not have a large effect on the existing analysis in this study, with Fig. R1 as an example.

**Comment R2.M3** *Reproducibility: The authors are referring to the Volker et al, 2015 study for the availability of the EWP model. However that one refers to a zenodo record <https://zenodo.org/record/33435> that contains the parametrization for the WRF model version 3.4. The authors however have used WRF version 3.7. So, the actual EWP model code used in this study should be provided along with the study.*

**Answer to R2.M3** It is a good point. While the physics behind the EWP-scheme has not changed much since the original publications in 2015, the structure of the routine has. We also update that we actually used WRF version 3.7.1. The source code to the EWP scheme (file `module_wf_ewp.F`), along with other files that need to be modified (10 in total) are provided based on WRF version 3.7.1 on the zenodo-repository, now. In the README, we describe in detail, how to reproduce the simulations (starting from cloning the official WRF release, checking out v3.7.1 and add the changes). In a separate sub-directory in the zenodo-repository, we also uploaded the modified files for using the bug-fixed Fitch scheme, along with installation instructions in the README. Please read the attached README.md file for the updates. We understood it that we will update the new version of our zenodo-repository as the next step action, following this response-to-reviewer.

**Comment R2.M4** *Language: In addition, the study would benefit from a thorough review of the language as it is hard to read in several parts. The authors for example make several times use of in-line enumerations which should either be indented or rewritten so that these sentences are easier to understand.*

**Answer to R2.M4** We went through the language several time again and paid special

attention to the use of in-line enumerations.

## Minor Points

**Comment R2.1** *P1-L15: “For instance in the North Sea...” → I recommend introducing what a wind farm and a wind farm cluster is from your point of view. Also please set the reference to 4COffshore as a proper reference.*

**Answer to R2.1** The sentence regarding a wind farm and wind farm cluster has been re-written. The reference to 4COffshore is provided.

**Comment R2.2** *P1-L21: “most-used mesoscale model” → for the application of wind farm wakes*

**Answer to R2.2** The sentence is revised so that this message is clear.

**Comment R2.3** *P2-L24: “the two most commonly applied explicit wind farm parametrizations” → I suggest to explain in one sentence what the difference between an implicit and an explicit wake scheme are.*

**Answer to R2.3** Suggestion taken. We added this sentence: “There are mainly two kinds of methods to parameterize wind farm effect, one is the implicit method that parameterize the effect through an increase in surface roughness length and the other one is the explicit method that parameterize the effect through elevated momentum sink.”

**Comment R2.4** *P2-L50: “... occurred on about 65 % of the days during the campaign.” → This is true but it should be mentioned here that this is not 65 % of the time but could*

also be a short period of the day.

**Answer to R2.4** The sentence has been revised as “...they found that on about 65% of the days during the campaign LLJs occurred part time of the days.”

**Comment R2.5** P3-L59: “... open source flight data from Bundesnetzagentur ...” → *The Bundesnetzagentur which is the federal grid agency does not provide flight data. This is confusing here as the turbine coordinates originate from them not the flight data.*

**Answer to R2.5** Yes, indeed. This reference was added previously by mistake. It has been removed in the new version.

**Comment R2.6** P3-L77: “is the open access measurements” → *Grammar and language issue - Maybe: The first are the publicly available airborne measurement data?*

**Answer to R2.6** The sentence is re-written.

**Comment R2.7** P3-L82: “The flight data include (1) ...” → *One of the enumerations mentioned in Major Point 4 that should be indented or reformulated.*

**Answer to R2.7** Suggestion taken. We removed the enumerations.

**Comment R2.8** P3-L90: “... corresponding to a horizontal resolution of 0.66 m ...” → *How is this calculated? With he speed above ground of the aircraft?*

**Answer to R2.8** Yes, with the speed above ground of the aircraft. This sentence has been re-written.

**Comment R2.9** P4-L94: “The choice of the window length ...” → *I did not understand*

his sentence. Please revise.

**Answer to R2.9** We replaced “window length” with “data length”, in order to avoid confusion and revised the whole sentence.

**Comment R2.10** P4-L96: “... order of a couple of minutes, which is a reasonable time scale” → Reasonable for what? Comparing to the models output/time step/horizontal averaging?

**Answer to R2.10** This sentence has been re-written, and now it reads “...on the order of a couple of minutes, which is a reasonable integral time scale for separating boundary-layer turbulence and external fluctuations”

**Comment R2.11** P4-L101 and Fig. 3b: Please use another color than the blue dots as the turbine positions are also blue.

**Answer to R2.11** Suggestion taken, blue is changed to purple.

**Comment R2.12** P4-L104: “The second measurement type is from the ...” → Do you mean that the second dataset originates from the FINO1 met mast?

**Answer to R2.12** Yes. The sentence has been re-written.

**Comment R2.13** P4-L105: “FINO 1 is in the wake of the upstream wind farm Borkum Riffgrund...” → Again difficult to understand. Do you mean: In this situation, FINO1 is located in the wake of the wind farm Borkum Riffgrund that is operating XX km upstream?

**Answer to R2.13** The sentence has been re-written as “a wind direction from about 240° (Fig. 5), the flow passes the wind farm Borkum Riffgrund before reaching  $F1$ , re-

sulting in reduced wind speed downwind of the farm, including at FINO 1 (see Fig. 1a)”

**Comment R2.14** *P4-L115: “LLJs over the Southern North sea ... Tay et al., 2020)” → This whole paragraph should be shifted to the introduction.*

**Answer to R2.14** We moved this part on the physics of LLJ to the introduction (page 2, line 53-55), but keep the part of discussion for model setup.

**Comment R2.15** *P4-L118: “... WRF, where important elements include model domain configuration,...” → Important elements for what?*

**Answer to R2.15** This sentence has been re-written to “[Important elements for accurately simulating LLJs using WRF include model domain configuration, initialization and boundary forcing data, horizontal and vertical spatial resolutions, PBL schemes etc., as have been explored in e.g. Nunalee and Basu \(2014\); Wagner et al. \(2019\); Kalverla et al. \(2019\); Siedersleben et al. \(2020\); Tay et al. \(2020\).](#)”

**Comment R2.16** *P4-L122: “This includes (1) ...” → see major comment 4.*

**Answer to R2.16** This paragraph has been re-written according to the reviewer’s suggestion.

**Comment R2.17** *P5-L125: “... others in Tay et al. (2020), while in Nunalee and Basu (2014), MYNN performed fine but best candidate was QNSE ...” → Are these the same sites? Also, there are six years between these studies. Implementations might also change considerably over these years.*

**Answer to R2.17** No, these are not the same sites. The text is revised to make it clear that we choose MYNN since it is the only one that works with the Fitch scheme.

**Comment R2.18** P5-L128: *“We use WRF version 3.7 to simulate this case ... (Stark et al., 2007) was used.”* → Please consider putting this model setup into a tabular overview rather than running text.

**Answer to R2.18** Table 2 is created following the reviewer’s suggestion.

**Comment R2.19** P5-L153: *“This problem is solved by increasing the land area in the southern part.”* → I guess you did not artificially increase the land but shifted ore increased the domain don’t you?

**Answer to R2.19** This sentence has been re-written: [“This problem is solved by including more area in the model domain”](#)

**Comment R2.20** P5-158: *“... and manually corrected to fit the wind farm shapes from emodnet”* → Good that you mention that you have corrected the coordinates. The Bundesnetzagentur data are known to be erroneous. Sometimes turbines are also missing. Did you make sure that the correct number of turbines per farm are included?

**Answer to R2.20** The turbine numbers are provided in Table 4 and double checked with different data sources. The updated table shows the turbine models used for the new simulations.

**Comment R2.21** P5-L159: *“with the simulated date (Table 2).”* → I guess you measurement time?

**Answer to R2.21** Yes we mean both the measurement time and the current studied case. The sentence has been revised.

**Comment R2.22** P6-L175: *“jet nose, with the lowest ones beneath 200 m and the highest ones at 350-400 m, suggesting the presence of multiple internal boundary*

*layers in associated with the flow from the land.” → Is that really true or did the jet core move with height as there is considerable time between the measurement of the profiles?*

**Answer to R2.22** Good point. Indeed, data from each profile were collected during a period of several minutes. During this period, the airplane has changed position significantly along the flight track. The multiple jet noses reflect therefore the non-homogeneity of flow in time and space. The corresponding text is revised accordingly.

**Comment R2.23** *P6-L182: “... from upstream Borkum Riffgrund wind farm” → Do you mean “originating form the Borkum Riffgrund wind farm that is located upstream”?*

**Answer to R2.23** Yes. The sentence has been re-written.

**Comment R2.24** *P6-L184: “Six 10-min modeled data ...” → This sentence is very hard to understand. Please revise.*

**Answer to R2.24** Suggestion taken and the sentence has been revised.

**Comment R2.25** *P6-L186: → One of the enumerations mentioned in Major Point 4 that should be indented or reformulated.*

**Answer to R2.25** Suggestion taken and the paragraph has been revised.

**Comment R2.26** *P6-L188: “Thus the average values from the surface to the rotor top height are comparable between the two schemes.” → Please add “in this situation”.*

**Answer to R2.26** Suggestion taken.

**Comment R2.27** *P7-L197: “The above descriptions of the wind speed for FINO1 are*

also true for point A, as can be seen in Fig. 7a. Here the EWP scheme provides a better estimate of mean wind speed.” → You should also mention/discuss here which profile looks physically more sound. The EWP scheme just provides more shear and better values at measurement height but the Fitch one looks closer to measured and high-fidelity modeled wake profiles.

**Answer to R2.27** The corresponding sentence has been re-written. Though the authors are not clear what the reviewer meant by “high-fidelity modeled wake profiles”

**Comment R2.28** P7-L200: “TKE from the Fitch scheme increases significantly with height, and for the value at point A, it is overestimated in comparison with the flight data.” → Is that still true without the bug in the parametrization?

**Answer to R2.28** As suggested by the other reviewer, we removed the star (one point from the flight track) from the analysis, following the argument that it is merely one “snapshot” at one point compared to other analysis variation in time or space is included. But to answer the question of the reviewer, our results from the previous version are using the bug-corrected version, but with advection turned-off following S2020. Compared to advection turned-off, the values are only marginally smaller using a correction factor 1, but significantly smaller using a correction factor 0.25. But as discussed in the text, a correction factor of 0.25 does not necessarily bring improved results (e.g. Fig. 6, 8, 11). As we also pointed it out, neither Archer et al. (2020) nor the current study has sufficient measurements to decide which value of the correction factor is most suitable. In the new version, we added a few lines in the discussion section addressing the difference between the versions with and without the bug (page 11, line 332-337, line 349-354) .

**Comment R2.29** P7-L207: “Here the modeled values at FINO 1 are weighted between two closest grid points (one inside and one outside the farm) according to the distances

*between the grid points and the mast location.” → I am not convinced that it is physically meaningful at all to compare data from a model grid point where a parametrization is active to measurement data. Why didn't you just use the data from the first grid point upstream?*

**Answer to R2.29** We also considered this option and made the choice of a weighted value eventually. In reality, FINO 1 is both under the wake impact of the upwind farm, and the blockage effect of the downwind farm. The horizontal wind speed gradient from the closest upwind grid point to FINO 1, which is over 1 km, is not reasonable to be ignored.

**Comment R2.30** *P7-L218: “Without taking wind farm wake into...” → Do you mean “the wind farm wakes”?*

**Answer to R2.30** Yes. The sentence is revised.

**Comment R2.31** *P8-L233: “This is a phenomenon that deserves further investigation (Djath et al.), but is beyond the scope of this study.” → Do you mean the flow below the rotor, which is in particular strong during stable stratification?*

**Answer to R2.31** No. We meant that “in a short distance downwind of the wind farms, the surface wind at 10 m from the Fitch scheme suggests a slight speedup, see the brighter color in the farm wake shadows in Fig. 1a and the white color in Fig. 9b”. We revised the sentence to make this clear.

**Comment R2.32** *P8-L256: “The abrupt increase in the TKE in the same area is likely related to this flow acceleration and is also missing in the WRF results.” → Couldn't also the different jet core heights of simulations/measurements be a reason for this?*

**Answer to R2.32** It could be and it should be worth exploring, e.g. with more mea-

surements and high fidelity models. With data we have, it is difficult to draw further conclusions on this.

**Comment R2.33** *Discussion/Conclusion: The introduction of the discussion section has the character of a conclusion. I recommend combining and restructuring sections*

**Answer to R2.33** Agree. We re-structured and revised significantly the two sections.

**Comment R2.34** *P10-L320: Low level jets and wind farm wakes have been investigated in numerous studies. In particular LES. Long-distance / mesoscale wakes might be true.*

**Answer to R2.34** We revised this sentence.

**Comment R2.35** *P11-L329: The zenodo link is not working.*

**Answer to R2.35** Apologies. We made sure that the correct links are in place.

**Comment R2.36** *P11-L335: Are FINO1 station data really available from the PANGEA database?*

**Answer to R2.36** FINO 1 data are obtained from the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH). This sentence has been revised.

**Comment R2.37** *P12 - References: Several References contain several URLs, some URLs are in italic font.*

**Answer to R2.37** Apologies for that. The reference list has been checked

**Comment R2.38** *P12 - L349: "Bärfuss K. ..." → That reference looks strange.*

**Answer to R2.38** The reference is corrected

**Comment R2.39** *Figure 9,11,12,13: Please add the quantity and unit shown to the color bars. They are provided in the captions only.*

**Answer to R2.39** The quantity unit are now shown to the color bars.

Figures/reply-fig1.pdf