

RADAR AND OPTICAL STUDIES OF THE ATMOSPHERE

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by

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Contents

Contents	i
List of Tables	iii
List of Figures.....	iv
Acknowledgments	vi
Abstract.....	vii
Declaration.....	viii
Organization of the Thesis.....	ix
1. Introduction	1
1.1 University Research	1
1.2 Current research	9
1.3 University Research Outcomes	11
1.4 <i>ATRAD</i> Research and Development	13
1.5 <i>ATRAD R&D</i> Outcomes.....	14
1.6 References not cited elsewhere in the thesis	14
2. Curriculum Vitae	17
2.1 Education	17
2.2 Positions Held	17
2.3 Membership of Professional Bodies and Societies	18
2.4 Professional Activities	18
2.5 Research	19
2.6 Teaching.....	19
2.7 University Administration.....	19
3. List of Publications	23
3.1 Publications in refereed journals.....	23
3.2 Refereed Conference Papers	29
3.3 Unrefereed Conference Papers and Reports	30
3.4 Invited Oral Presentations	35
3.5 Contributed oral papers.....	38

4. Research Grants	51
5. Research Supervision.....	53
5.1 Honours Students & Projects Supervised.....	53
5.2 <i>M.Sc.</i> Student Supervision	54
5.3 <i>PhD</i> Student Supervision	54
5.4 Post Doctoral Fellows & Research Associates	55
6. Commentary and Selected Journal Publications.....	57
6.1 Introduction	57
7. Selected Commercial Radar Systems	727
7.1 Overview	727
7.2 <i>VHF</i> Radar.....	735
7.3 <i>MF/HF</i> Radar	754
7.4 Radar Sub-systems	759
7.5 <i>ATRAD</i> Acquisition, Display, Analysis and Control (<i>ADAC</i>) Software.....	763
8. Summary and Conclusions	767
8.1 University work.....	767
8.2 Applied Research and Development.....	769
8.3 Conclusion.....	770
Appendix 1: Citation Summary	773
Appendix 2: Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	775

List of Tables

Table 1: Research Instrumentation at Buckland Park.....	10
Table 2 Types of Atmospheric Radar	729
Table 3 Radars produced prior to the formation of Adelaide Radar Systems.....	730
Table 4 Radars produced by Adelaide Radar Systems and <i>ATRAD</i>	730

List of Figures

Figure 1 Radars or major radar sub-systems produced by <i>ATRAD</i>	727
Figure 2 The schematic diagram of the dual <i>SA / DBS VHF ST</i> radar.....	736
Figure 3 Antenna field of the Davis Station, Antarctica <i>VHF ST</i> radar.	737
Figure 4 Esrange space launch facility (left), and Wakkanai <i>VHF</i> radar (right)	738
Figure 5 Mount Gambier <i>VHF</i> radar (left), and Davis Station <i>VHF</i> radar (right)....	738
Figure 6 Kühlungsborn <i>VHF</i> radar (left), and the Andøya <i>VHF</i> radar (right).....	739
Figure 7 (above) Schematic diagram of the <i>VHF DBS ST</i> radar.	740
Figure 8 Part of the Buckland Park field site.....	741
Figure 9a (above) the 55 MHz <i>ST</i> array at <i>BP</i>	741
Figure 10 the <i>UKMO</i> wind profiler antenna array on South Uist.....	742
Figure 11 the <i>VHF</i> antenna array at Jinqian (left), and at Wuhan (right).....	742
Figure 12 the <i>VHF</i> antenna array at Xian (left), and at Kunming, China (right).....	743
Figure 13 the <i>VHF</i> antenna array at Woomera (left), and Xian radar hardware.	743
Figure 14 Schematic diagram of the combination <i>ST / Meteor</i> radar.	745
Figure 15 (above) the Wuhan antenna array.....	745
Figure 16 Kunming <i>ST</i> radar hardware (left), and <i>BP MDR Tx</i> antenna (right).....	746
Figure 17 (above) Schematic diagram of the Meteor Detection Radar (<i>MDR</i>).....	747
Figure 18 <i>Tx</i> antenna at Svalbard (left), and the Kunming <i>MDR</i> (right).....	748
Figure 19 <i>KGI MDR Rx</i> antennas (left), and Kunming <i>MDR Rx</i> array (right)	748
Figure 20 (above) Schematic of the <i>IR</i> to be installed Hainan Island.	750
Figure 21 Shigaraki <i>IR</i> antenna (left), and radar returns at Sakata (right).....	750
Figure 22 Shigaraki radar equipment (left), and radar array (right).	750
Figure 23 Map of Australia showing <i>ATRAD BLT</i> and <i>ST</i> radars	752
Figure 24 (above) Schematic diagram of the <i>BL</i> and <i>BLT VHF SA</i> radars.....	753
Figure 25 Adelaide Airport <i>BLT</i> radar (left) and Darwin <i>BLT</i> hardware (right).....	753
Figure 26 Schematic diagram of the <i>MF Spaced Antenna</i> radar	755
Figure 27 <i>MF SA</i> radar at Pontianak (left); 64 kW <i>MF</i> radar equipment (right)	755
Figure 28 (above) Schematic of the <i>MF DBS</i> radar installed on Andøya.	757
Figure 29 Antenna of the Andøya <i>MF DBS radar</i> (left), and its installation (right)	757
Figure 30 aerial view of <i>BP</i> (left), and the working <i>SAURA</i> radar (right).....	758
Figure 31 the <i>VTX-1</i> tube <i>PA</i> (left), and the <i>VTX-6 Tx</i> (right).....	760
Figure 32 the 12 kW <i>BLT</i> radar (left) and a 4 kW <i>STX-I PA</i> (right).....	761

Figure 33 the *STX-II 8/20 kW Tx* (left) and the *STX-II 40 kW Tx* (right) 762

Figure 34 (above) *ADAC* Control window (left) and *DAE* display window (right). 764

Figure 35 the *FCA* display window (left) and the *DBS* display window (right) 764

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Abstract

The research described in this thesis can be categorized into three main areas. The first area concerns the interpretation of observations of various atmospheric processes and phenomena. The focus here has been on internal atmospheric gravity waves and their manifestation in radar winds and in airglow intensities, but also includes investigation of atmospheric tides and planetary scale waves, *D-region* electron densities and collision frequencies, the aspect sensitivity of backscattering and partially reflecting regions of the atmosphere, Polar Mesosphere Summer Echoes and Mesosphere Summer Echoes, meteor trails, mesospheric temperatures, long period variations in airglow intensities, and Kelvin Helmholtz Instabilities.

The second major area has been in the development of new experimental techniques and the validation of existing techniques for investigating the atmosphere. New techniques have included the dual-beam radar technique for measuring momentum fluxes, and radar Time Domain Interferometry and Hybrid Doppler Interferometry for use with multi-receiver channel Doppler radars. The Doppler Beam Steering technique in the presence of non-uniform and periodically varying wind fields has been investigated analytically, and various spaced sensor techniques have been investigated using a numerical model of atmospheric radar backscattering and by direct comparison with other techniques. The Sodium Lidar technique has been investigated through numerical model calculations and a solid state system is currently being developed.

Finally, a major activity has been the development of new radars and radar sub-systems. This has included the development of a modular Medium Frequency Doppler radar and a Medium Frequency Spaced Antenna radar, a variety of Stratosphere Troposphere / Mesosphere Stratosphere Troposphere radars, an Ionospheric radar, a Boundary Layer Tropospheric radar and an All-Sky meteor radar.

Declaration

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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Signed:

Dated: April 18, 2008

Organization of the Thesis

The body of this thesis begins with a brief overview of my research career. This is followed by my *CV*, and a complete publication list, including un-refereed articles and reports, invited presentations, and contributed oral presentations. Next there is a list of my research students and then my grant record. The main part of the thesis follows, and here I present a commentary on each refereed journal publication. When taken together these form a narrative providing the context and significance of my research. A commentary is provided for all papers, but copies of only 35 are included here. The last part of the thesis is concerned with my contribution to the design and development of radar systems. This represents a major contribution to the field and I have provided a brief commentary for each major radar type. This follows as closely as possible the format used in the first part of the thesis for refereed journal publications. A complete summary of radars produced by *Atmospheric Radar Systems Pty Ltd* and its precursor *Adelaide Radar Systems* is included in Chapter 7.