



Jack  
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ca. 1982

# Swash-zone Velocity Profiles and Bed Stress on a Natural Beach

- Motivation
- Study area and deployment
- In situ velocity data, quality control and event description
- Logarithmic law
- Bed stress and friction
- Summary and future work

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Center for Applied Coastal Research



# Motivation



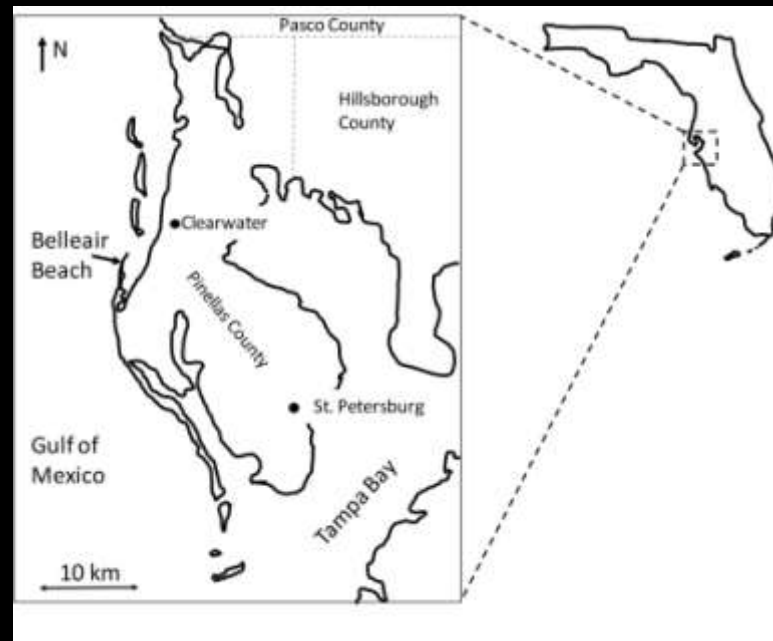
VELOCITY PROFILE: Limited data on variability as function of phase.

Lab: Measurements detailed but boundary layer development depends on mobility and roughness (PIV and LDV).

Field: Several data sets but with limited vertical coverage (Raubenheimer et al., 2004; Masselink et al., 2005).

Numerical: Generally smooth bed or quadratic drag law.

# Belleair Beach, Pinellas County, FL

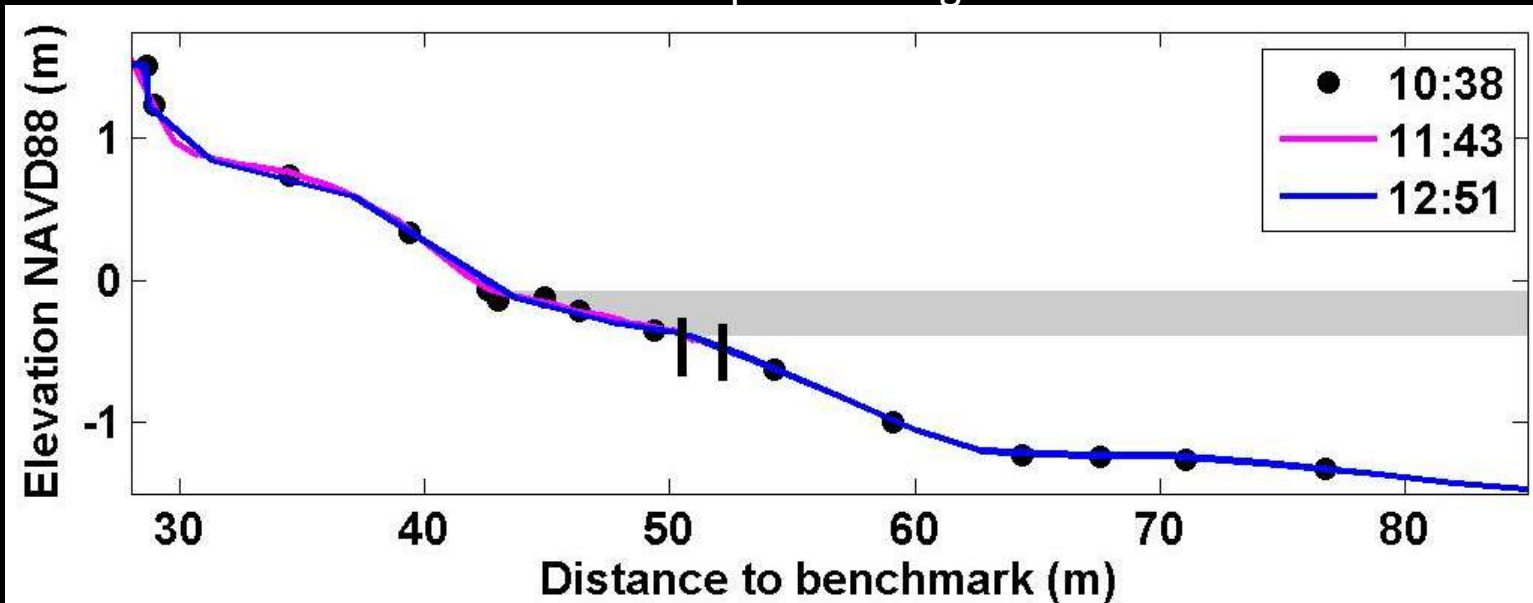


- Data collected Aug 18 and 19, 2010
- 3 Vectrino II's at different locations on foreshore
- Sample rate 100Hz or 60 Hz
- Bin spacing 1mm or 2mm



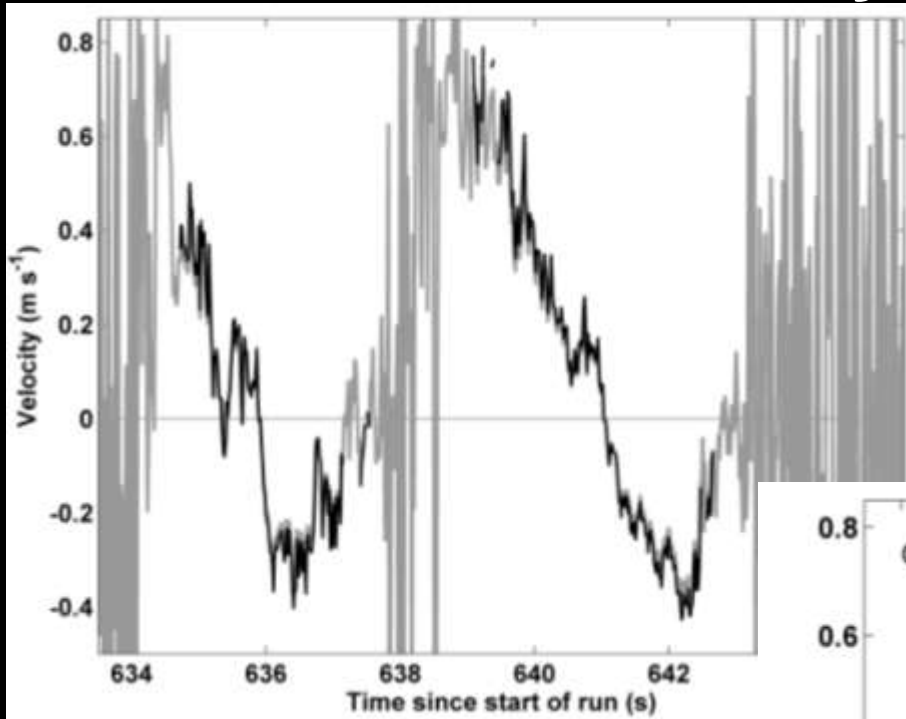
# Belleair Beach, Pinellas County, FL

Beach profiles Aug 18

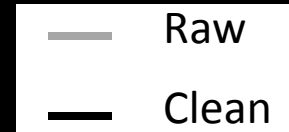


- Foreshore slope  $\approx 1:20$
- Beach step height of 0.1 – 0.2 m during slack tide
- Foreshore composed of fine sand and shell material ( $d_{50} = 0.2$  mm)
- Significant wave heights = 0.2 to 0.4 m (considerable daily variability influenced by wind)
- Incidence angle small (not measured) but alongshore currents (max 0.3 m/s)

# Velocity Data - QC



“swash” data

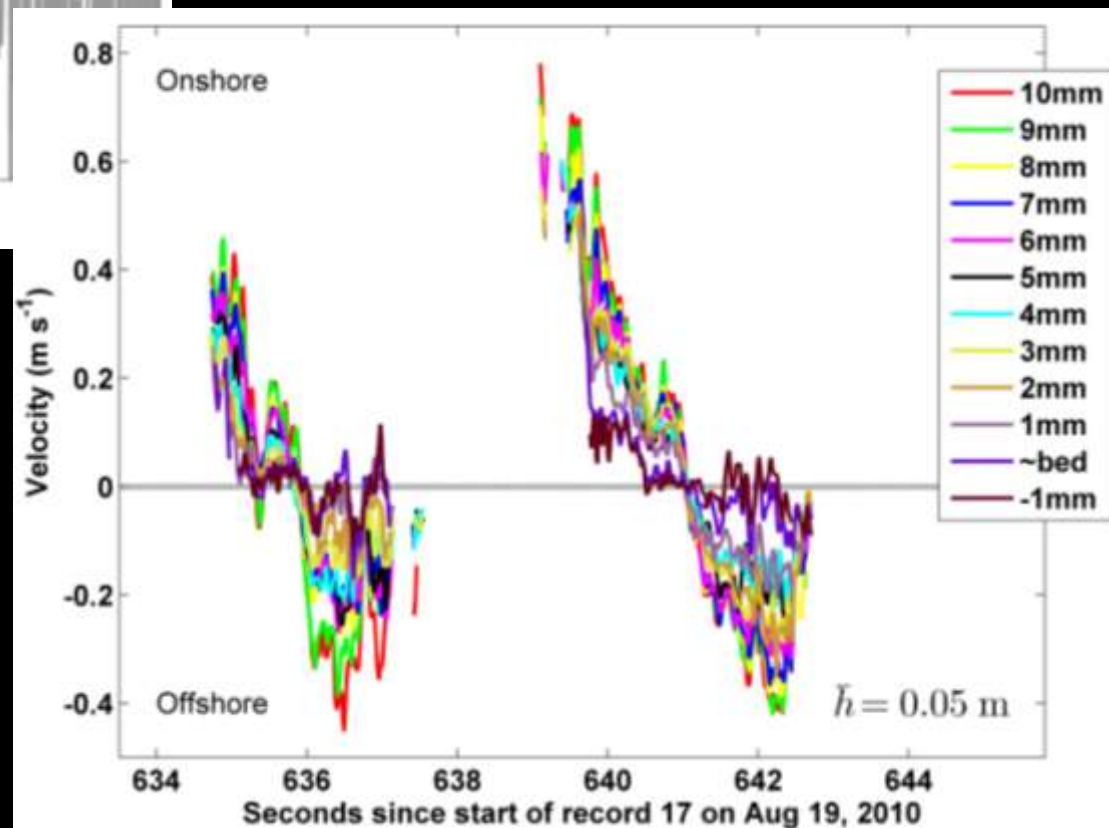


- 16 data records

Data Removal if any beam

Amplitude < -10 dB (could also use SNR)

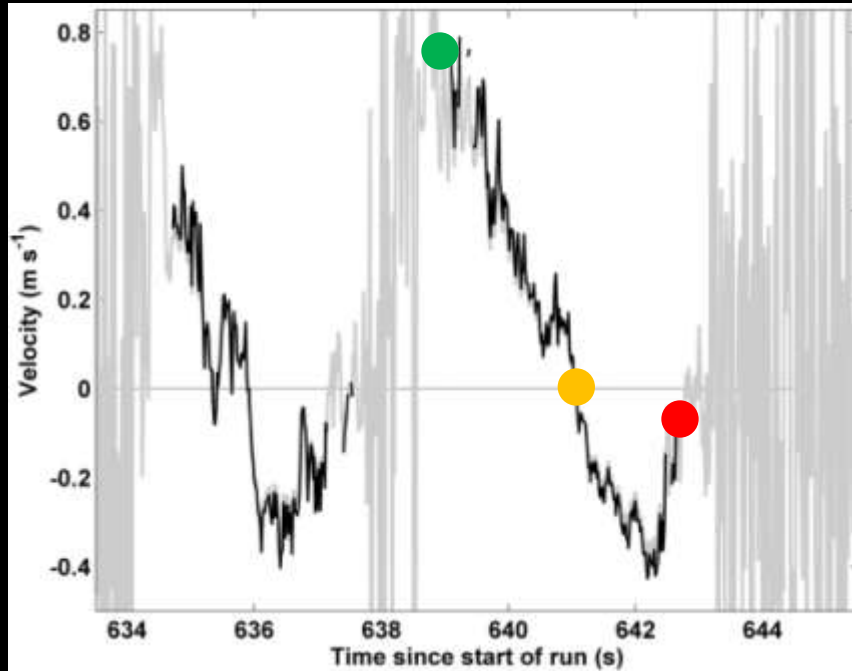
Correlation < 60-70



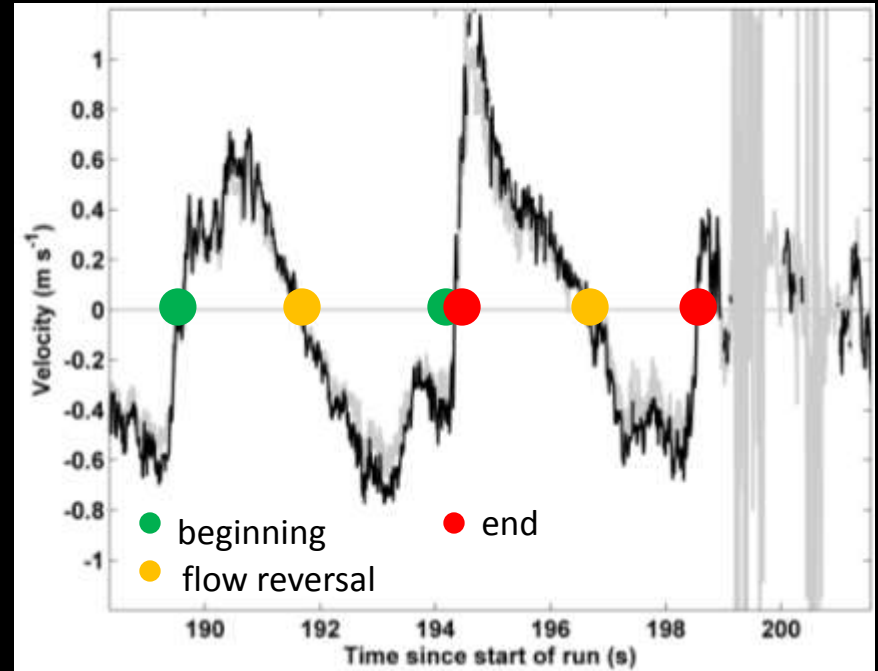
# Event Description

Want to “look” at ensemble averages. How to do?

“swash”

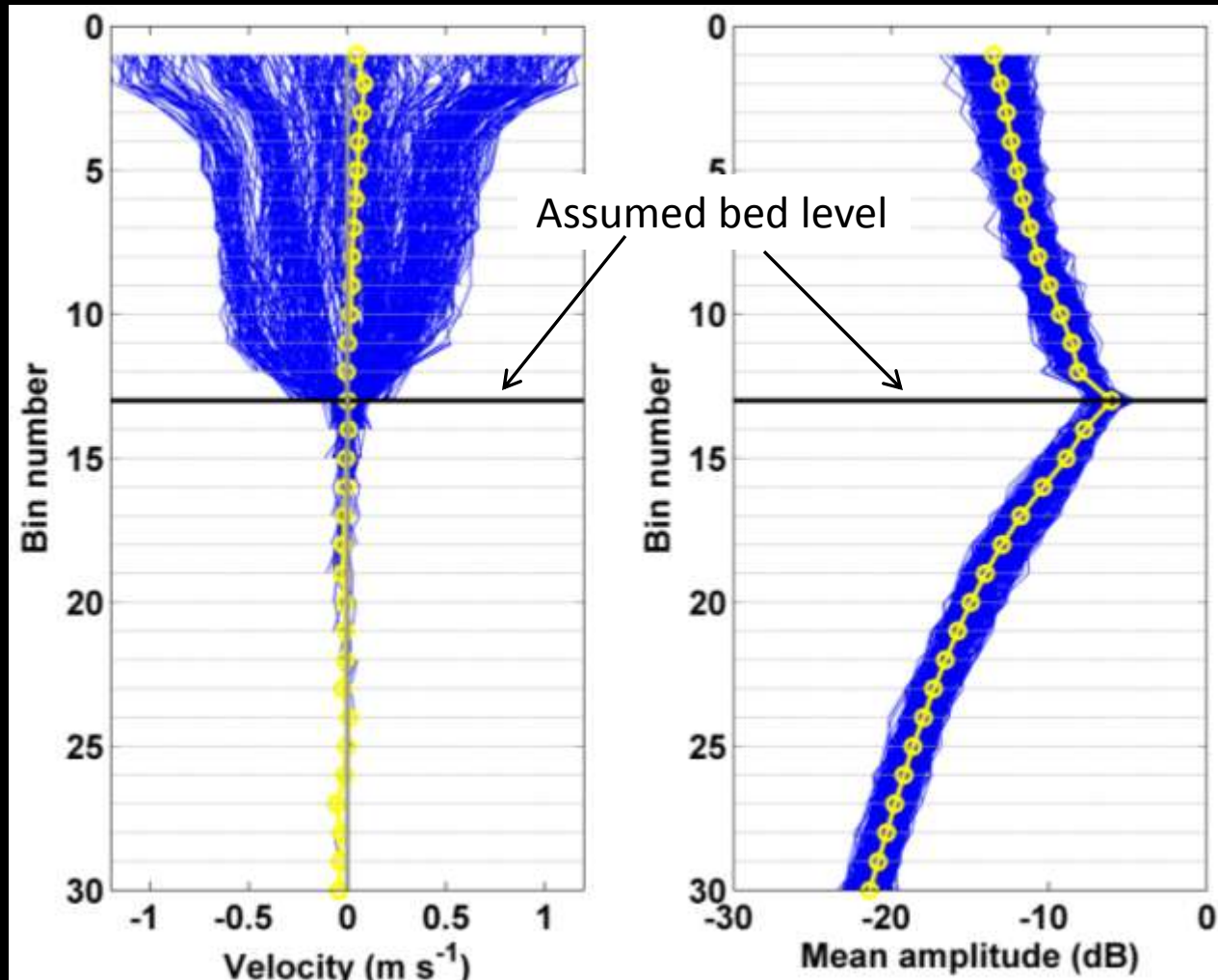


“inner surf”



- Normally zero up-crossing. Will not work here.
- All chosen by eye
- Cannot normalize by event duration
- Will corrupt phasing
- Better option is to ensemble about flow reversal

# Bed Determination



- Assumed constant over event duration
- Used mean over 4 beams and event duration
- Find first “kink” in amplitude profile
- Manually fix when necessary (~40%)

# Logarithmic Law

For fully rough turbulent (steady) flow

$$u = \frac{u_*}{\kappa} \ln \left( \frac{z - d_*}{z_0} \right)$$

$u$ : cross-shore velocity

$u_*$ : friction velocity

$z$ : elevation

$d_*$ : displacement thickness

$z_0$ : hydraulic roughness

$\kappa$ : von karman's constant (0.4)

Fundamental  
definition of friction  
velocity

$$\tau = \rho u_*^2$$

$\tau$ : bed shear stress

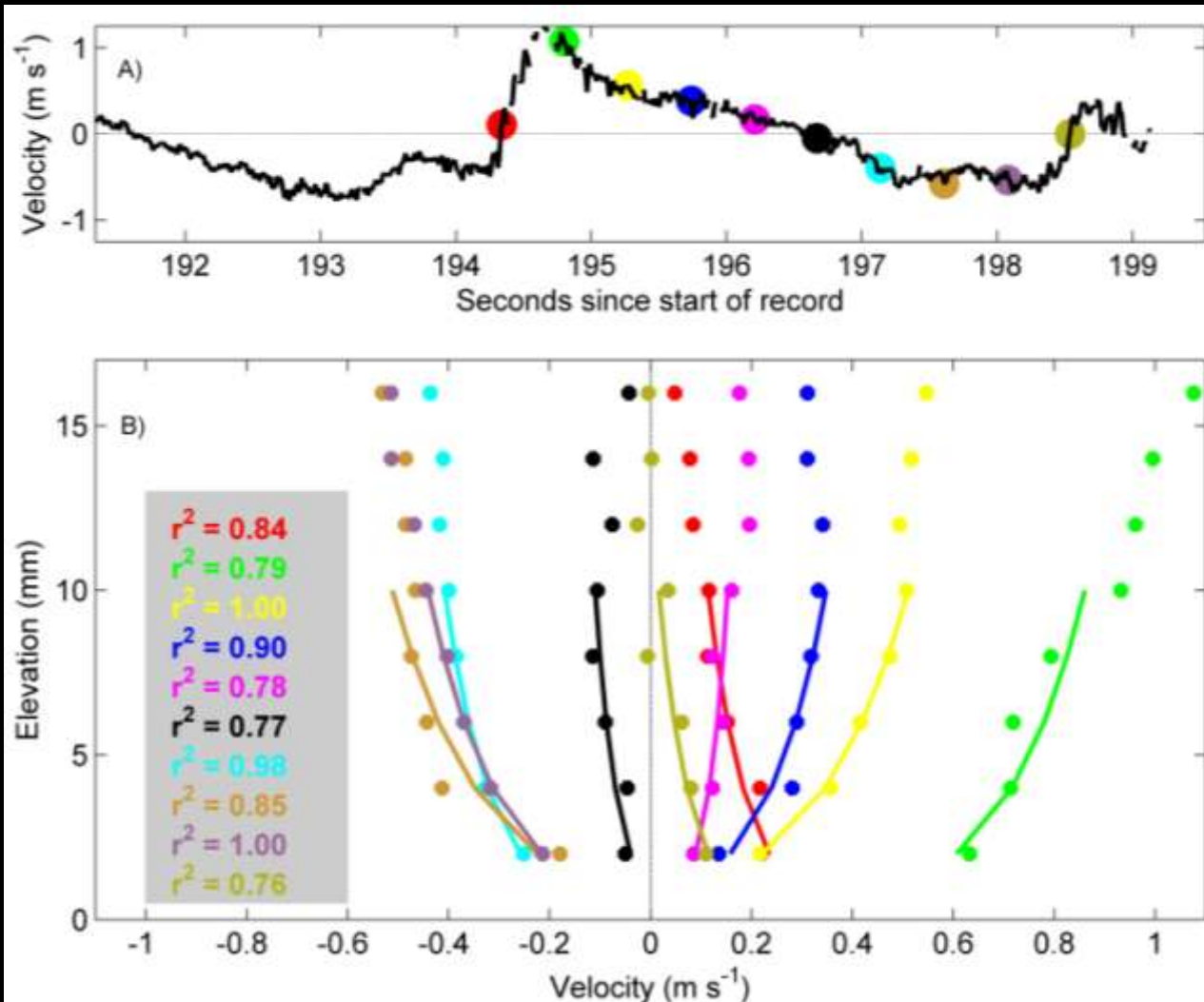
$\rho$ : fluid density

Quadratic drag law  
assumption leads to  
friction coefficient  
estimation

$$f = \frac{2u_* |u_*|}{u |u|}$$

$f$ : friction coefficient

# Example Log Profiles



Issues:

how many to points to include in fit? **5**

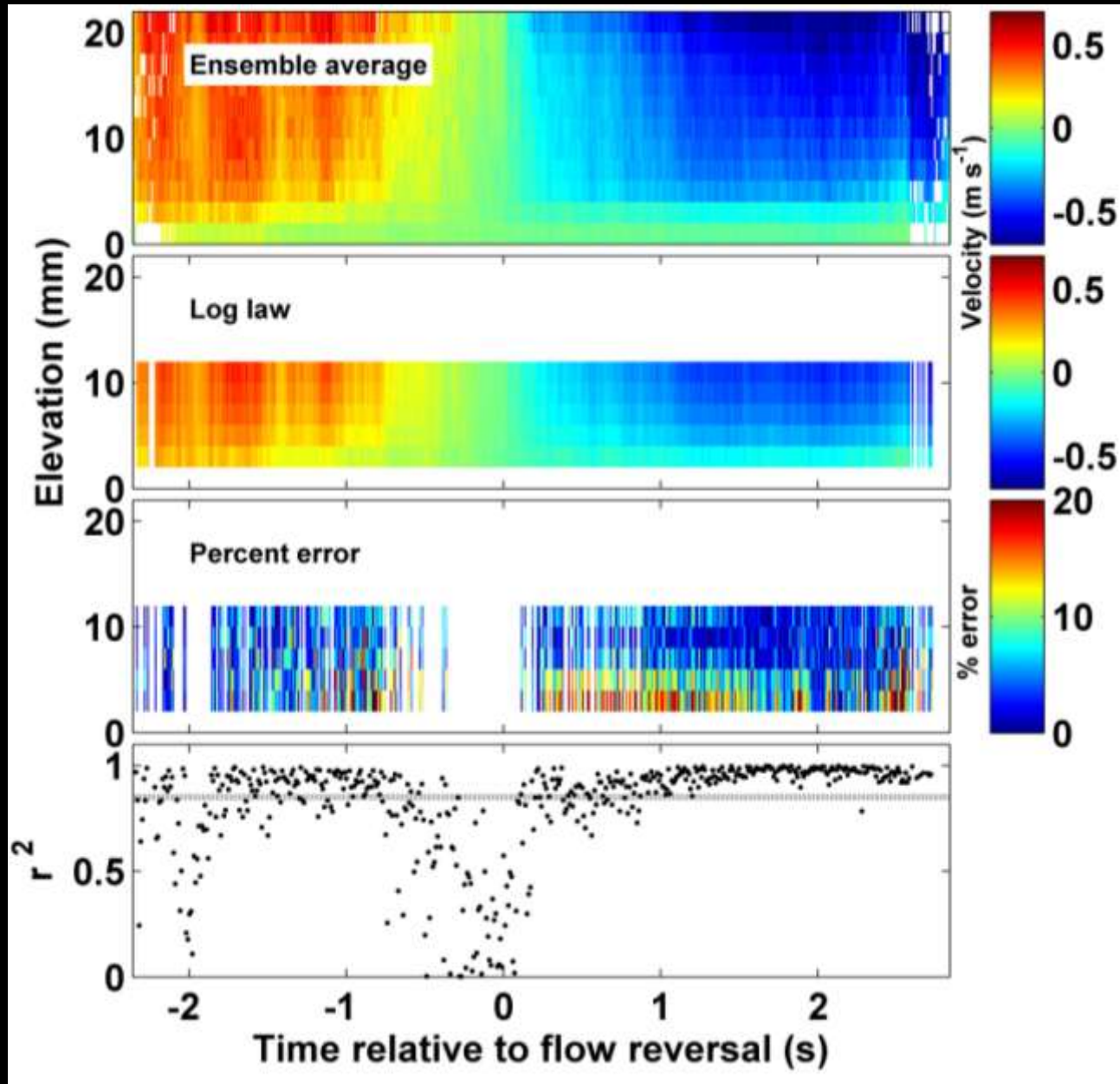
How high off bed for fit? **1 cm**

Which  $r^2$  constitutes "good" fit? **0.85**

Example indicates "good" fits away from flow reversal

Single instances with no filtering.

# Ensemble Average Example

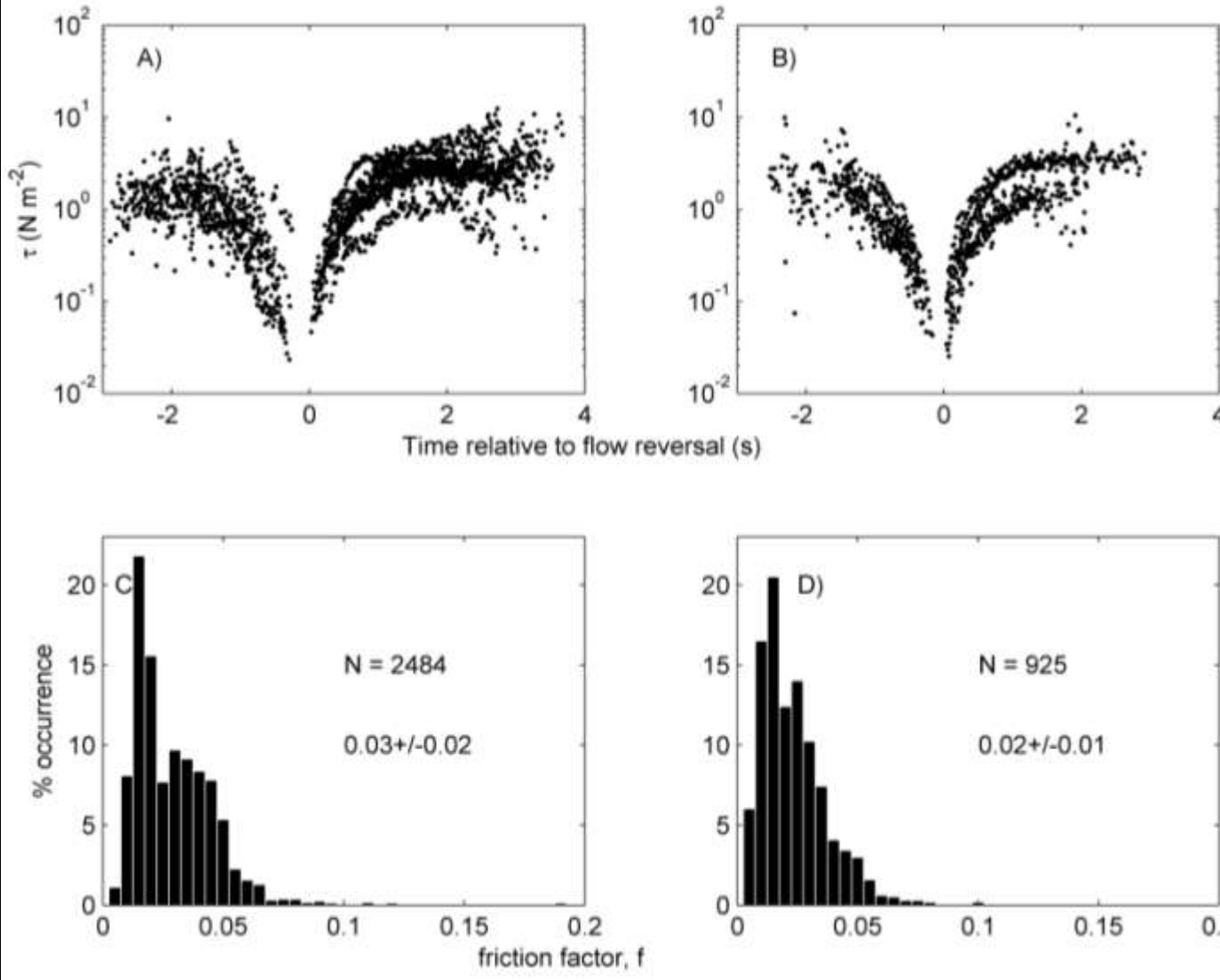


- Requires minimum of 6 data point at any spatio-temporal location
- Example with  $N = 16$
- Other records had from 16 to 64 events
- Clear evolution of boundary layer
- Log law is robust for majority of ensemble average

# Stress and Friction for All Ensembles

“Inner surf zone”

“Swash zone”



- Data points from 657 total events as 16 ensemble averages

- Shape similar to that found over fixed beds in the lab.

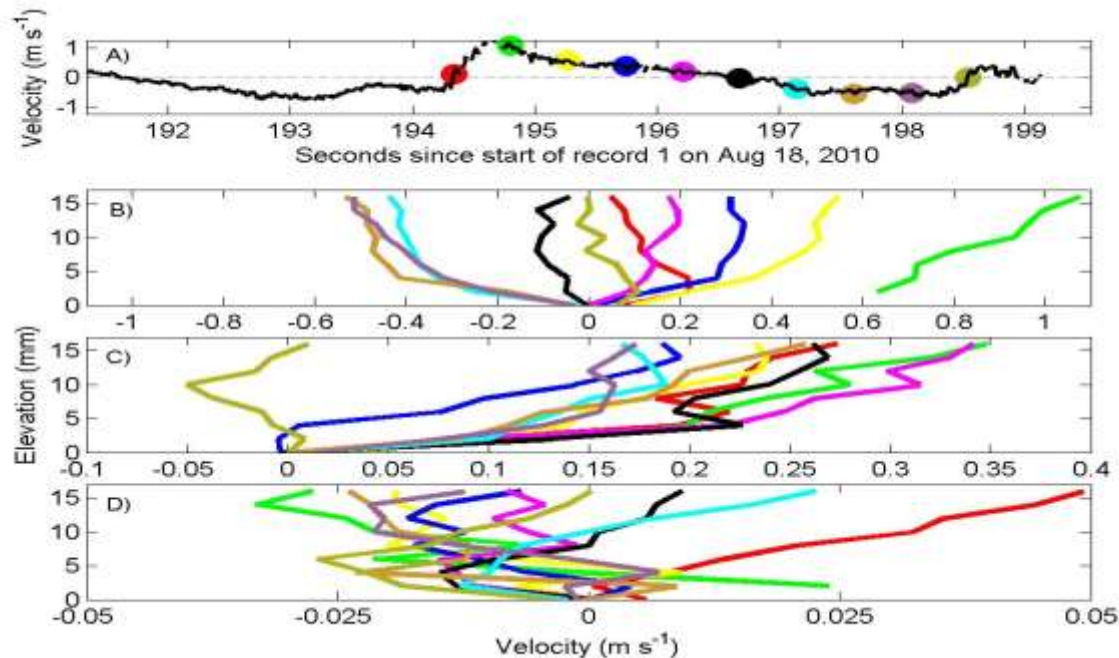
- Different than field effort using hot wire anemometer (Conley and Griffin, 2004)

# Summary

- Vectrino II capable of resolving boundary layer profile on natural beach over mobile bed.
- To my knowledge, first time has been done at this resolution in the field
- Velocities during times away from initial shoreward movement and flow reversal conform to log law
- Determining bed level during event could be an issue
- Bed stresses from this model are commensurate with fixed-bed lab studies over much larger grains

# Future Work

- Still in analysis phase for these data
- Submit paper based on log law, bed stress and friction coefficient
- Need to investigate alongshore and vertical velocities
- Near bed sediment suspension compared to velocities in boundary layer
- Can use the velocity profiles to extract TKE and dissipation



Cross-shore

Alongshore

Vertical

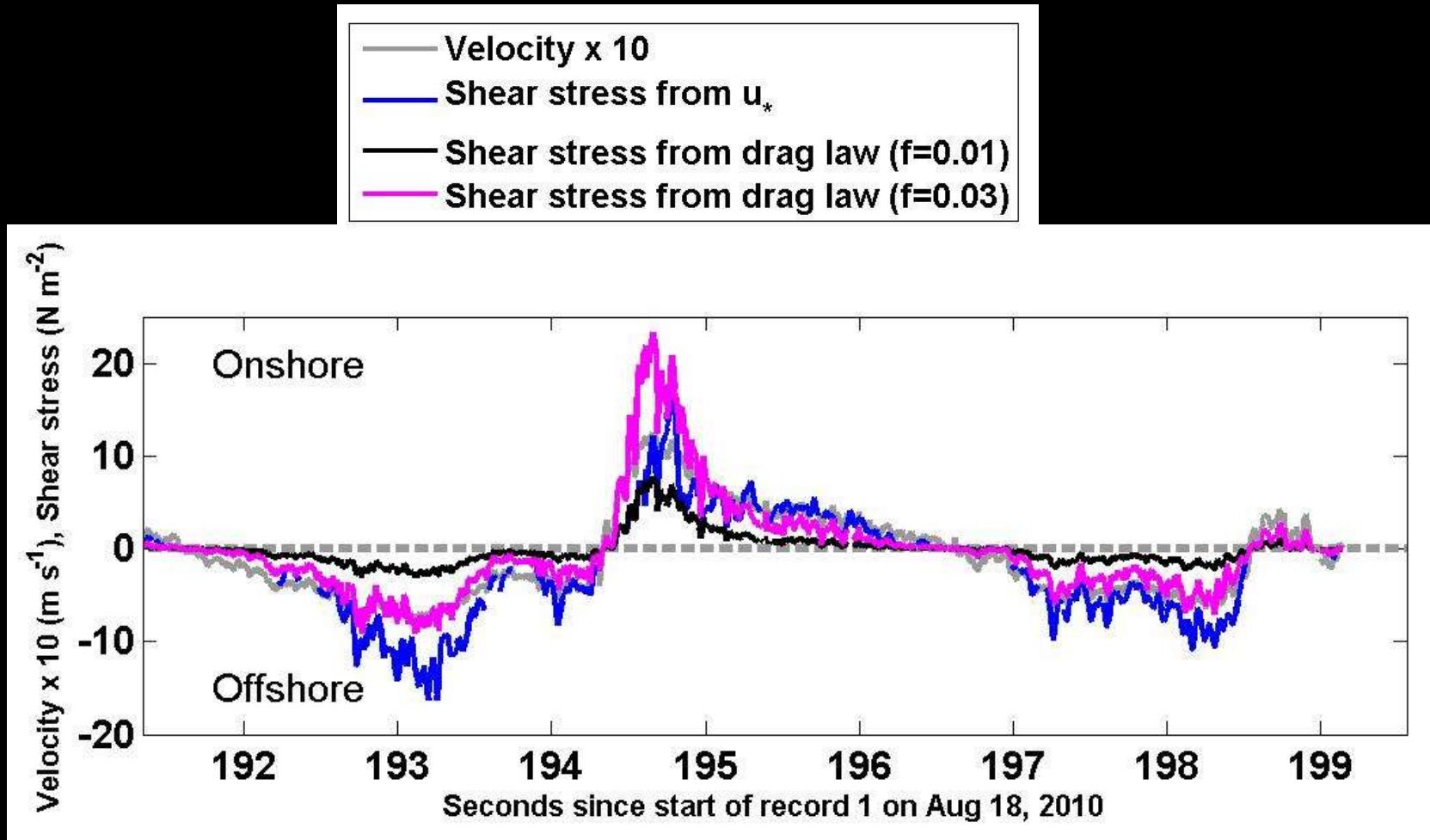
# Questions



# Motivation

- Velocity normally sampled using 1 or several (read as up to 3) electro-magnetic or ADV sensors.
- Must be placed a fixed height above bed (like any in situ current meter)
- No knowledge of the boundary layer profile, closest single-point measurements typically no lower than 2-3 cm.
- Stress usually estimated from quadratic drag law
- Requires a friction coefficient that varies due to grain size, sediment mobility and Reynolds number.
- Can perform needed measurements in lab, but over a fixed bed.
- New measurements of the boundary layer under mobile bed conditions in the field are needed.

# Bed Stress Example



- Depending on friction factor, drag law can over or under predict relative to log law approach
- Regardless of  $f$ : drag law predicts higher stress for shore-directed motion.
- Maximum stress magnitudes roughly equal for this event