

A night cityscape with a large lightning bolt striking down from the sky. The lightning bolt is bright white and jagged, extending from the top of the frame down towards the city. The city lights are visible in the background, with a prominent skyscraper on the right side.

Turbine and Tower Interactions

Kirstin Bratge

What I have been working on:

- Turbine/towers interactions with LE lightning
- Determining likely turbine/tower initiated lightning flashes
- Recording the distance between strokes/isolated low altitude events and turbines/towers
- All work so far has been done on IOP3 with about 100 flashes around the turbine region

Methods

IOP_Flash #	Closest tower source	Distance (m)	Distance (km)	Turbine ID	Altitude (km)	True Distance (km)
3_51	Maple Ridge WF	336	0.336	3015604		0.336

Above, example of data collected for average of first 10 events in flash.

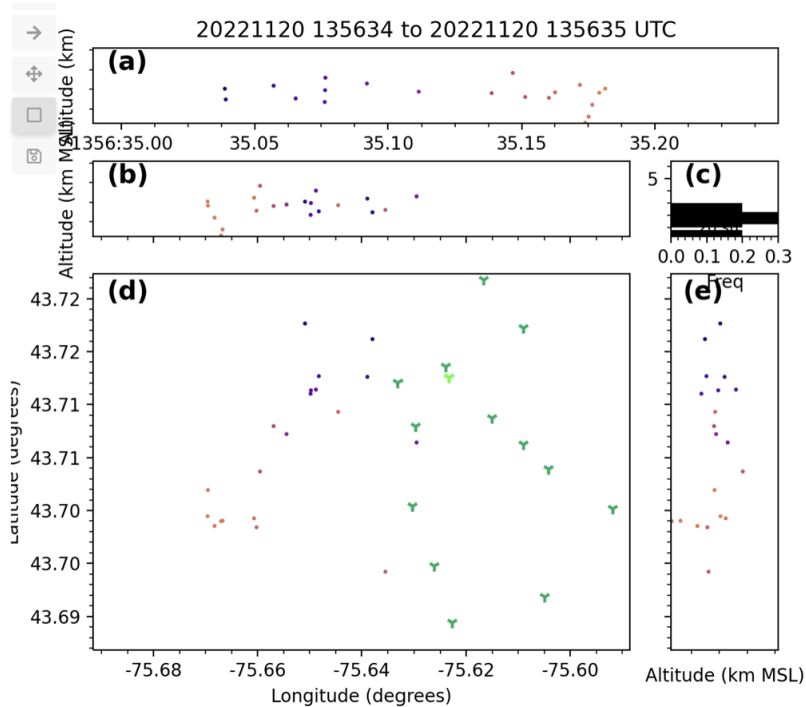
- Also recorded are data for the closest event to a tower source, the lowest altitude event, and the first event of the flash

To the right

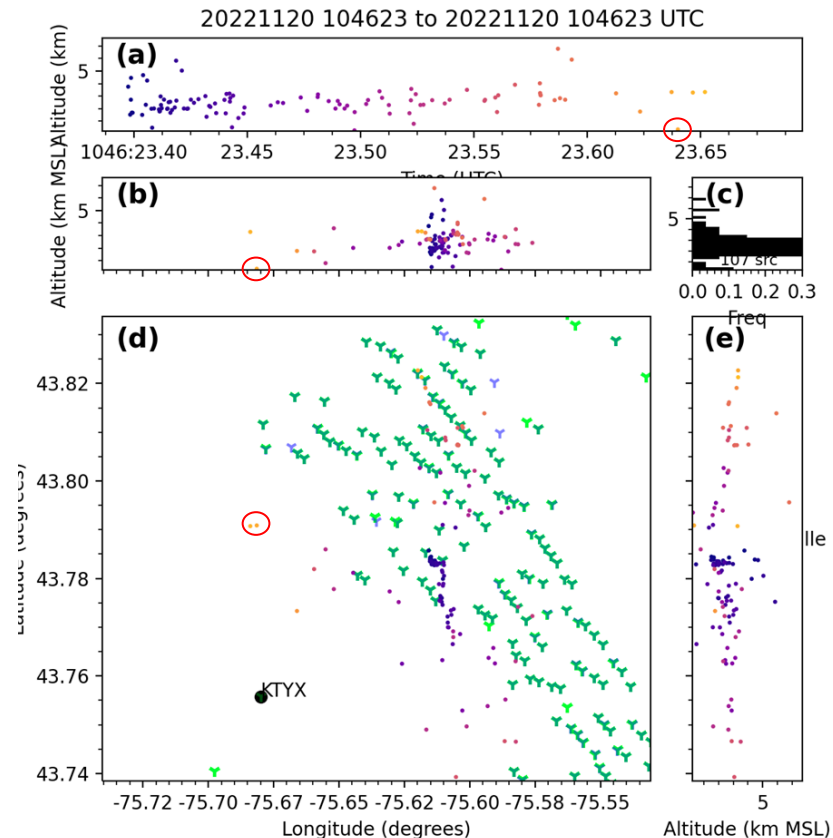
- Data for events at lowest altitude for
 - The beginning of the flash
 - Strokes
 - Isolated low altitude events

IOP_Flash #	Distance (m)	Distance (km)	Turbine ID	Altitude (km)	True Distance (km)
Flash					
3_51	513	0.513	3015604	0.890	1.027
Stroke 1	142	0.142	3015604	0.334	0.363
Isolated event 1	443	0.443	3017649	0.473	0.648
Isolated event 2	358	0.358	3017654	0.530	0.640

Stroke vs Isolated low altitude



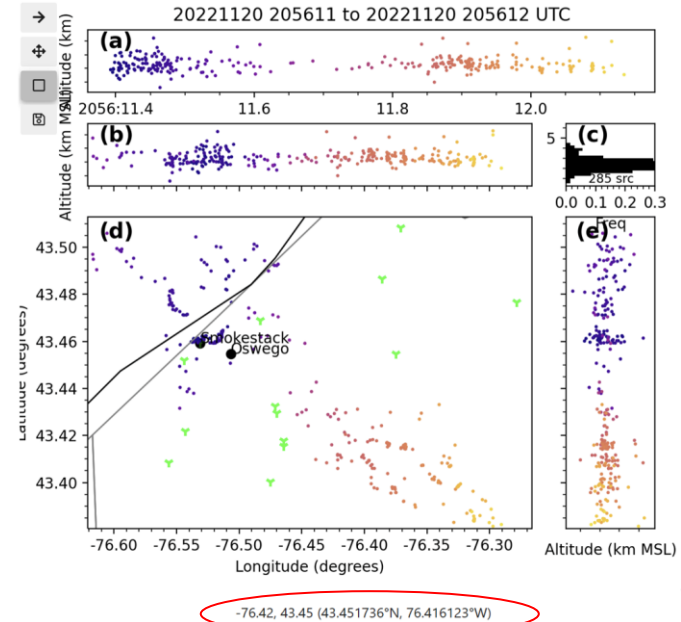
Stroke



Isolated low altitude event

Methods

- Distances measured using a GPS coordinate distance calculator with coordinates from toggling over map area
- Turbine IDs from the U.S. Wind Turbine Database
 - Not as updated as the Digital Obstacle File from the Federal Aviation administration
 - When turbine IDs are not available or dealing with towers, GPS coordinates were recorded instead
 - Working on incorporating elevation data into this work



Next Steps

- Incorporating elevation data into analysis
- Update the first half of the flashes for correlations with updated turbine/tower list (completed before that data was ready)