



Simultaneous Temperature and Wind Profiling in the Troposphere and Lower Stratosphere Using a Rayleigh Doppler Lidar with a Fizeau-Interferometer-Based High-Spectral-Resolution Receiver

5 Liangyu Pu^{1,2}, Tingdi Chen^{1,2,3*}, Yuli Han^{1,2,3}, Zhaowang Su^{1,2}, Yiming Song¹, Zhu Meng^{1,2}, Yuxin Wen¹,
Chong Chen², Dongsong Sun^{1,2}, Xianghui Xue^{1,2,3}, Xiankang Dou^{1,2}

¹School of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China.

²Hefei National Laboratory, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China.

10 ³Anhui Mengcheng Geophysics National Observation and Research Station, University of Science and Technology of China,
Hefei, China.

*Correspondence to: Tingdi Chen (ctd@ustc.edu.cn)

Abstract. Simultaneous profiling of atmospheric wind and temperature are essential for investigating atmospheric dynamics and wave–mean flow interactions. However, conventional molecular Rayleigh lidar techniques, such as hydrostatic integration for temperature retrieval and double-edge discrimination for wind measurement, perform best in aerosol-poor regions and can suffer substantial biases in the troposphere because narrowband Mie scattering contaminates the broadband molecular signal. To overcome this limitation, we developed a high-spectral-resolution lidar (HSRL) receiver based on a Fizeau interferometer and a 32-channel linear photomultiplier-tube array, which spatially resolves the Rayleigh–Brillouin (RB) spectrum across the detector array, allowing Doppler shift and thermally induced spectral broadening to be determined simultaneously and thereby enabling joint wind and temperature retrieval without frequency scanning. Numerical simulations were first performed to optimize the spectral sampling characteristics of the receiver, identifying the 32-channel configuration as a favorable compromise between spectral resolution and signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) over the 2–20 km altitude range. Field measurements were conducted in Urumqi, Xinjiang, China (43.8° N, 87.6° E). Wind profiles were retrieved from 2 to 20 km with a temporal resolution of 10 min, while temperature profiles were independently retrieved from 5.3 to 20 km with a temporal resolution of 5 min. The vertical resolutions were 60 m below 10 km and 300 m above 10 km. Compared with radiosonde measurements, the retrieved temperatures showed mean absolute temperature differences of 1.19 K at 5.3–10 km and 2.10 K above 10 km. Below 5.3 km, wind retrieval used model temperature as an auxiliary input, yielding mean absolute differences of 2.34 and 2.50 m s⁻¹ for the zonal and meridional wind components, respectively. In the fully lidar-based joint-retrieval region above 5.3 km, the corresponding wind differences were 1.84 and 2.97 m s⁻¹ at 5.3–10 km and 3.02 and 3.08 m s⁻¹ above 10 km. These results demonstrate that the proposed scan-free multichannel Fizeau-interferometer HSRL enables reliable temperature profiling from the middle troposphere to the lower stratosphere, while extending wind measurements into



the lower troposphere. The proposed receiver provides a compact spectral architecture with potential for future airborne and spaceborne Doppler lidar applications.

1 Introduction

Atmospheric temperature and wind are two fundamental state variables governing atmospheric dynamics and thermodynamics. Vertically resolved observations of these quantities are essential for studies of atmospheric waves and their interactions with the background circulation, for the evaluation and initialization of numerical weather prediction models, and for climate research. Radiosondes provide accurate in situ measurements of both temperature and wind but are generally limited in temporal resolution. Lidar, in contrast, offers continuous remote sensing with high temporal and vertical resolution and has therefore become an important tool for profiling atmospheric temperature and wind over extended altitude ranges.

A variety of lidar techniques have been developed for atmospheric temperature and wind measurements. Conventional Rayleigh temperature lidar retrieves temperature from molecular number-density profiles through hydrostatic integration and has been widely used for observations of the middle atmosphere (Hauchecorne and Chanin, 1980; Kaifler and Kaifler, 2021). Its application toward lower altitudes, however, becomes increasingly challenging because aerosol Mie scattering contaminates the molecular return and introduces biases into the retrieved density and temperature profiles. Rotational Raman lidar provides an alternative approach for tropospheric temperature profiling because the temperature dependence of the relative intensities of rotational Raman lines can be exploited without relying on hydrostatic integration (Behrendt and Reichardt, 2000; Behrendt et al., 2002; Radlach et al., 2008), although the relatively weak Raman scattering signal generally limits the achievable measurement range and temporal resolution. At higher altitudes, resonance lidar can extend temperature observations into the mesosphere and lower thermosphere (Alpers et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2026). Atmospheric wind, on the other hand, can be measured by Doppler wind lidar through the frequency shift of light backscattered from molecules or aerosols. Direct-detection Doppler wind lidar based on molecular scattering has been demonstrated from ground-based, airborne, and spaceborne platforms (Garnier and Chanin, 1992; Dou et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2026; Witschas et al., 2022a; Liu et al., 2002). Nevertheless, molecular Doppler wind retrieval is sensitive to the shape of the Rayleigh–Brillouin (RB) spectrum, which depends on atmospheric temperature and pressure. Consequently, uncertainties in the assumed atmospheric thermodynamic state can propagate into the retrieved wind velocity.

High-spectral-resolution measurements of the atmospheric RB spectrum provide a promising means of addressing these limitations. The molecular backscatter spectrum simultaneously contains dynamical and thermodynamic information: its spectral displacement is determined by the line-of-sight (LOS) Doppler velocity, whereas its spectral shape and width depend primarily on atmospheric temperature and pressure. Resolving the RB spectrum therefore provides the physical basis for retrieving wind and temperature from the same molecular backscatter signal. Moreover, because aerosol Mie scattering produces a considerably narrower spectral feature than molecular RB scattering, high-spectral-resolution measurements can



distinguish the aerosol and molecular contributions, which is particularly important for extending molecular lidar measurements into the aerosol-rich troposphere.

Considerable progress has been made in exploiting RB scattering for atmospheric temperature measurements. Accurate forward modeling of the RB spectrum is commonly based on the Tenti S6 model, which has been extensively investigated under atmospherically relevant temperature and pressure conditions (Hua and Kobayashi, 2005; Witschas et al., 2014a). Analytical approximations have also been developed to reduce the computational burden associated with repeated evaluation of the RB spectrum while maintaining sufficient spectral accuracy for atmospheric retrieval (Witschas, 2011a, b). Using a frequency-scanning Fabry–Perot interferometer, Witschas et al. demonstrated daytime atmospheric temperature measurements from resolved RB spectra and subsequently extended the technique to airborne measurements (Witschas et al., 2021; Witschas et al., 2016; Witschas et al., 2014b).

Although frequency scanning enables detailed reconstruction of the RB spectrum, sequential spectral sampling increases measurement time and system complexity and may be disadvantageous for rapidly varying atmospheric conditions or moving platforms (Liu et al., 2019). To overcome this limitation, Xu et al. (2020, 2021) developed an imaging high-spectral-resolution lidar receiver based on a Fizeau interferometer and a linear photomultiplier-tube (PMT) array. In this configuration, different spectral components are mapped onto different detector channels so that the complete RB spectrum can be recorded simultaneously without frequency scanning. Field measurements demonstrated tropospheric temperature profiling from 4.0 to 9.2 km with a temporal resolution of 5 min and a vertical resolution of 300 m, with systematic temperature errors below 3 K and random uncertainties of approximately 1.7–2.3 K (Xu et al., 2020; Xu et al., 2021). Such a multichannel imaging configuration is particularly attractive for atmospheric measurements because it converts the instantaneous optical spectrum directly into a spatially resolved intensity distribution.

Fizeau interferometers are also well suited to Doppler frequency measurements (Mckay, 2002). They have been investigated in direct-detection atmospheric wind lidar systems (Bu et al., 2006; Shen et al., 2007) and were implemented as the Mie spectrometer of the Atmospheric Laser Doppler Instrument (ALADIN) aboard the Aeolus satellite, where Doppler frequency shifts of narrowband aerosol and cloud returns were converted into spatial displacements on the detector (Witschas et al., 2022b; Vaughan et al., 2025). These developments demonstrate the capability of Fizeau interferometers to encode spectral frequency information into spatial detector signals with high sensitivity and stability. When combined with a scanning lidar telescope, LOS Doppler measurements obtained at different viewing azimuths can further be combined to retrieve horizontal wind components. This capability is particularly important for atmospheric dynamics applications, for which zonal and meridional winds rather than a single LOS velocity are generally required.

Concepts for simultaneously retrieving atmospheric wind and temperature from high-spectral-resolution molecular scattering have been proposed and investigated previously. However, practical implementation remains challenging for several reasons. First, the receiver must resolve both the displacement and the shape of the RB spectrum with sufficient spectral sampling and SNR over a broad altitude range. Second, simultaneous wind and temperature retrieval constitutes a coupled inverse problem because spectral displacement and spectral broadening must be distinguished under measurement noise, aerosol contamination,



and changing atmospheric conditions. Iterative spectral-fitting methods can therefore suffer from slow convergence, sensitivity to initial values, or unstable solutions at low SNR. Third, a single LOS measurement provides only the projected wind velocity, whereas retrieving physically useful horizontal wind vectors requires integration of the spectral receiver with a multi-directional scanning lidar system. A measurement architecture that combines scan-free full-spectrum acquisition, stable joint spectral inversion, and multi-azimuth wind measurements would therefore provide an important step toward operational simultaneous profiling of atmospheric temperature and vector wind.

In this study, we develop a multichannel Fizeau-interferometer HSRL receiver and integrate it into a scanning Doppler wind lidar previously developed at the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC). The receiver employs a 32-channel linear PMT array to spatially resolve the atmospheric RB spectrum in a single acquisition without frequency scanning. The Doppler displacement of the spectrum is used to determine LOS wind velocity, while its temperature-dependent spectral shape provides the information required for temperature retrieval. The scanning telescope directs the lidar beam toward different azimuthal directions, allowing multiple LOS measurements to be combined and thereby enabling retrieval of the zonal and meridional wind components.

In addition to the receiver development, a fast iterative retrieval algorithm is developed for the joint inversion of wind and temperature from the measured multichannel RB spectrum. The algorithm is designed to accelerate convergence while improving the robustness and stability of the coupled wind–temperature retrieval, particularly under varying SNR conditions. Numerical simulations are first used to optimize the receiver configuration, including the number of detector channels and the wedge angle of the Fizeau interferometer, and to characterize the retrieval performance. The complete system is subsequently evaluated through field measurements in Urumqi, China. Wind profiles are retrieved over an altitude range of 2–20 km, while fully lidar-based simultaneous wind and temperature retrieval is demonstrated from 5.3 to 20 km. The retrieved zonal and meridional wind components and temperature profiles are evaluated against collocated radiosonde measurements. The results demonstrate a measurement framework that combines scan-free multichannel RB spectroscopy, multi-directional Doppler wind sensing, and fast iterative joint retrieval, providing a compact and robust approach for simultaneous atmospheric wind and temperature profiling and a potential receiver architecture for future ground-based, airborne, and spaceborne Doppler lidar systems.

2 Measurement Principle

The measurement principle of the designed HSRL receiver is shown in Fig. 1. The atmospheric backscattering spectrum collected by the telescope, consisting of molecular RB scattering and aerosol Mie scattering, passes through the Fizeau interferometer and produces equal-thickness interference fringes. The spectral distribution is thereby converted into a spatial intensity distribution on the linear PMT, enabling multichannel photon collection without frequency scanning.

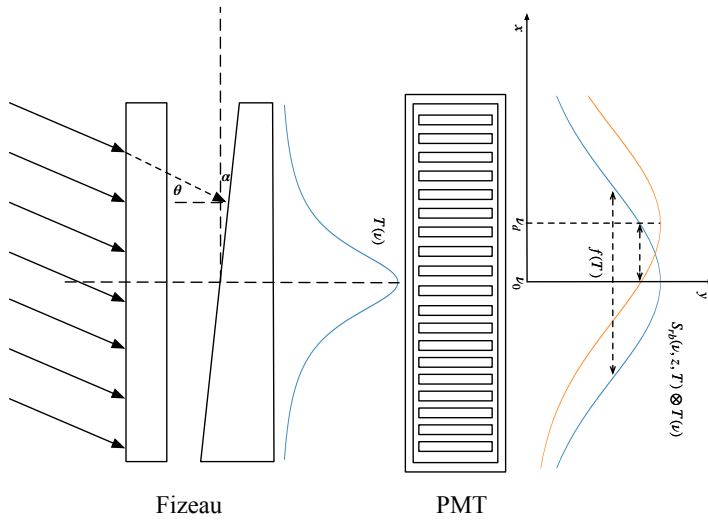


Figure 1: Schematic diagram of simultaneous wind and temperature measurement by Fizeau interferometer.

When temperature and wind information are extracted from the molecular RB spectrum, the two parameters are intrinsically coupled. The atmospheric temperature determines the width and detailed shape of the Rayleigh–Brillouin spectrum, whereas the line-of-sight wind velocity introduces a Doppler frequency shift of the spectrum. After spectral-to-spatial conversion by the Fizeau interferometer, both effects jointly modify the intensity distribution recorded by the linear PMT. Therefore, temperature and Doppler frequency shift must be retrieved simultaneously through spectral fitting rather than independently.

2.1 Wind measurement

Wind velocity is gained through fringe technique. A multibeam Fizeau wedge achieves static spectral scanning by means of varying distance between two plates of wedge. Generally, in direct-detection Doppler wind sensing, both the wedge angle and the divergence angle are small. The intensity distribution of the interference fringe is approximately described by the Airy function (Liu et al., 2002):

$$A(\phi) = \frac{(1-R)^2}{1-2R \cos(\phi)+R^2}, \quad (1)$$

where R is the reflectance of the inner surface, ϕ is the phase factor, $\phi = 4\pi L\nu/c$ which is related to the plate spacing L and the frequency of incident light. Due to the wedge angle between the two optical plates, there are different spacings L at different positions of the Fizeau interferometer. Taking the center point of the Fizeau interferometer as the coordinate origin, where $x=0$ (According to Fig.1.), the expression for spacing L can be obtained as: $L = L_0 - \alpha y$, where L_0 is the plate spacing at the center, and α is the wedge angle. In summary, the relationship between the stripe position x and the frequency shift ν_d can be derived as follows:



$$x = \frac{v_d L_0}{\alpha(v_0 + v_d)}, \quad (2)$$

where v_0 is the frequency of the laser. According to the Doppler effect of light: $v_d = \pm 2v_r c/v_0$, where v_r is the radial wind speed, $\pm$ represents the relationship between the radial wind speed and the direction of laser emission (Shen et al., 2007). When v_d is sufficiently small relative to v_0 , the relationship between x and v_r can be obtained:

$$150 \quad x = \frac{v_d L_0}{\alpha v_0} = \frac{2v_r L_0}{\alpha c}, \quad (3)$$

2.2 Temperature measurement

Atmospheric temperature can be retrieved by analysing the shape of the RB spectrum. The Tenti S6 model is one of the most accurate models currently available for describing the RB spectral line shape. In the Tenti S6 model, two dimensionless parameters, a and b , are used to characterize the RB spectral line (Witschas, 2011a, b).

$$155 \quad a = \omega / \sqrt{2} k v_0, \quad (4)$$

$$b = n k_b T / \sqrt{2} k v_0 \eta, \quad (5)$$

In Eq. (4) and (5), v_0 represents molecular thermal motion, $v_0 = \sqrt{k_b T/m}$, where m is the molecular mass, η is the viscous shear coefficient, ω is the angular frequency, n is the number density, k_b is the Boltzmann constant, and k is the wave vector, $k = 4\pi/\lambda \sin(\theta/2)$, where θ is the divergence angle. Under the molecular kinetic equation and the ideal gas equation, a and

160 b can be written as:

$$a = 2\pi v / \sqrt{2} k v_0(T), \quad (6)$$

$$b = P(z) / \sqrt{2} k v_0(T) \eta, \quad (7)$$

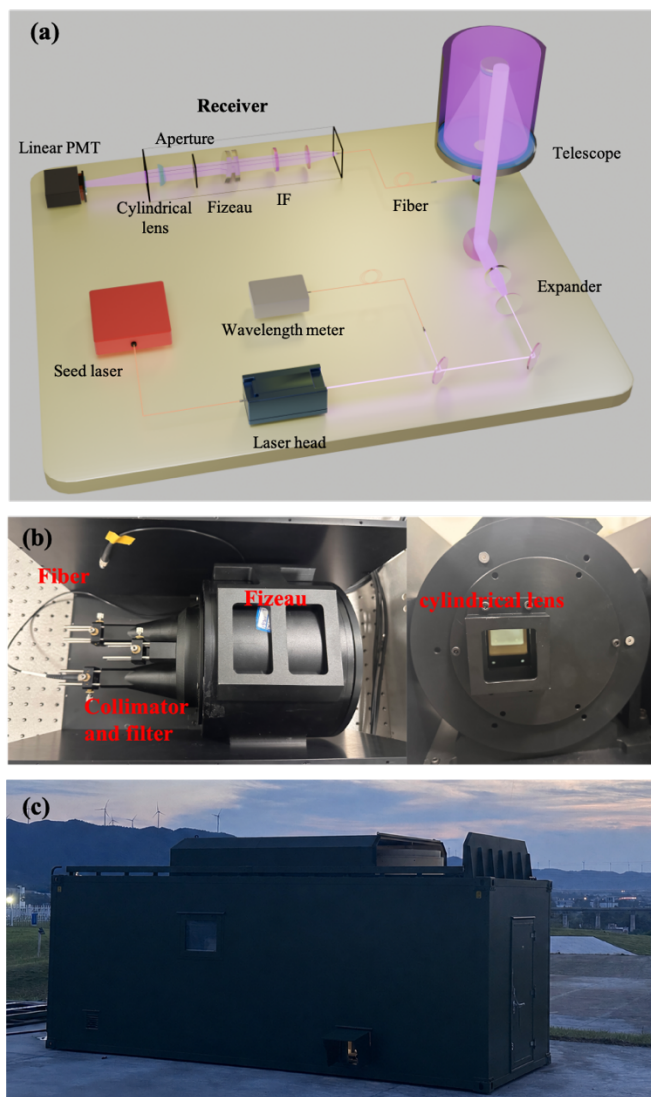
Thus, a and b represent the frequency and temperature, respectively. Substituting these into the expression for $S(a, b)$ in Tenti S6 yields Eq. (8):

$$165 \quad S_{rb}(v, z, T) = \frac{A(z, T)}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_R(z, T)} \exp\left[-\frac{a(v, T)^2}{2\sigma_R(z, T)^2}\right] \\
+ \frac{1-A(z, T)}{\sqrt{8\pi}\sigma_R(z, T)} \exp\left[-\frac{(a(v, T)-x_B(z, T))^2}{2\sigma_B(z, T)^2}\right], \quad (8) \\
+ \frac{1-A(z, T)}{\sqrt{8\pi}\sigma_R(z, T)} \exp\left[-\frac{(a(v, T)+x_B(z, T))^2}{2\sigma_B(z, T)^2}\right]$$



3 Lidar system design

3.1 Basic parameters of the lidar system



170 **Figure 2: Schematic of the developed HSRL system (a), the photograph of the Fizeau receiver (b) and the photograph of USTC Doppler wind lidar (c).**

The schematic of the developed HSRL system is shown in Fig. 2 (a). Except for the newly designed receiver shown in Fig. 2 (b), the overall lidar configuration is based on the USTC Doppler wind lidar system shown in Fig. 2 (c). The transmitter is based on a fully solid-state, injection-seeded Nd:YAG laser system, in which a 1064 nm seed beam is injected into the laser head and amplified in two stages. The amplified 1064 nm beam is subsequently converted to 354.7 nm through second- and third-harmonic generation, producing laser pulses with an energy of 30 mJ at a repetition rate of 100 Hz. The laser beam is

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expanded by a beam expander before being transmitted into the atmosphere through a coaxial optical path. A small fraction of the transmitted laser beam is directed into a wavelength meter for laser wavelength measurement, frequency locking, and stability monitoring. This reference channel ensures stable laser energy and wavelength during long-term operation. After interacting with atmospheric molecules and aerosols, the backscattered light is collected by a Cassegrain telescope with a primary mirror diameter of 1 m. The received signal is coupled into a multimode optical fiber with a core diameter of 200 μm and a numerical aperture (NA) of 0.22, and then delivered to the receiver. Within the receiver, the output beam from the optical fiber is first collimated and passes through a narrowband interference filter (IF) to suppress background radiation. The filtered signal is subsequently analyzed by a Fizeau interferometer, which converts the Doppler-shifted Rayleigh–Brillouin spectrum into a spatial interference fringe. Finally, the interference fringes emerging from the Fizeau interferometer are shaped by an aperture and then focused by a cylindrical lens onto a linear PMT. The acquired photon-counting data are transmitted to the computer for subsequent wind and temperature retrieval. The main parameters of the HSRL system are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: The basic parameters of lidar system.

Transceiver		
	Wavelength (nm)	354.7
	Repetition Rate (Hz)	100
	Pulse Energy (mJ)	30
	Laser 1/e Width	< 1GHz
Transceiver		
	Telescope aperture (m)	1
	Field of View (mrad)	0.05
	Optical efficiency (%)	85

The basic parameters of the Fizeau interferometer should be determined by RB spectrum. If we consider a small section of the Fizeau interferometer, it can be regarded as an F-P interferometer, its transmittance formula is shown in Eq. (9):

$$F(\nu) = \frac{2}{\theta_0^2} \int_0^{\theta_0} T_p \left[1 + \frac{4F^2}{\pi^2} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\pi \nu \cos \theta}{\text{FSR}} \right) \right]^{-1} d\theta, \quad (9)$$

where T_p is the peak transmittance of the interferometer, F is the reflection fineness of the interferometer, θ_0 is the divergence angle of the incident light in the Fizeau interferometer, θ is the angle of incidence in the Fizeau interferometer, ν is the frequency, and FSR is the free spectral range of the interferometer. The selection of FSR must ensure that it is greater than the width of the molecular scattering spectrum within the detection range, and not more than twice the bandwidth at 10% of the RB line peak. Therefore, the FSR of the Fizeau interferometer should be within the range of 10 GHz to 12.6 GHz. Based on



this requirement, an existing tunable etalon (ET116FS-1068) can be modified to function as a Fizeau interferometer. Its parameters are listed in Table 2:

200 **Table 2: The basic parameters of etalon.**

Etalon	
FSR (GHz)	12
Fineness	7
Spacer Length (mm)	12.5
Clear Aperture (mm)	50
Peak Transmittance	0.67

To optimize the receiver's performance, its specific parameters were optimized through simulations described in the following section.

3.2 Simulation-based parameter optimization

205 The number of channels in the linear PMT array and the wedge angle of the Fizeau interferometer are key parameters that need to be optimized according to the existing instrument configuration. Therefore, simulations are performed to evaluate the performance of the proposed receiver and determine the optimal values of these parameters.

To ensure that the convolution of the RB spectrum and the transmittance of the Fizeau interferometer can be fully captured by the linear PMT, the frequency range of the linear PMT captured can be designed to be twice the bandwidth of the RB spectrum.

210 Based on this, the wedge angle of the Fizeau interferometer can be calculated using Eq. (10):

$$\alpha = \arctan\left(\frac{2L_0\Delta\nu_{RB}}{L_{if}\nu_0}\right), \quad (10)$$

where L_{if} is the target area width of the linear PMT, L_0 is the central cavity length of the Fizeau interferometer, $\Delta\nu_{RB}$ is the RB spectral line width, and ν_0 is the laser frequency. Taking $\Delta\nu_{RB}$ as the RB spectral line bandwidth at 10 km, the PMT target area width is determined by the number of channels, after optimizing the number of channels as described below, the ideal

215 wedge angle α can be obtained.

The simulation selected (8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 192, 256, 320, 384, 448, 512) 11 groups of channel number in total. For a laser pulse emitted by a lidar, the number of photons received at a distance z is given by the lidar equation in Eq. (11):

$$N(z) = \frac{E_0}{h\nu_{laser}} \frac{A_r}{z^2} \eta_q \eta_o \beta(z) \exp\left[-2 \int_0^z \alpha(z) dz\right] \Delta z, \quad (11)$$

where E_0 is the energy of a single laser pulse; h is Planck's constant; η_q is the quantum efficiency of the detector; η_o is the optical system efficiency; ν_{laser} is the laser emission frequency; Δz is the lidar range resolution; A_r is the effective receiving

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area of the receiving telescope; $\beta(z)$ is the sum of the backscattering coefficients of aerosols and atmospheric molecules at detection distance z ; $\alpha(z)$ is the sum of the aerosol and atmospheric molecular extinction coefficients at a distance z .

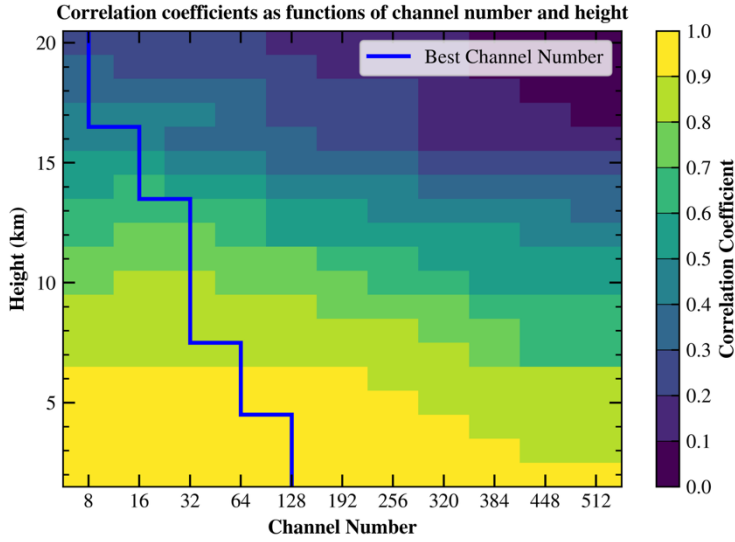
For each channel, divide $N(z)$ by the number of linear PMT channels, then multiply the result by the value for that channel obtained by convolving the Fizeau interferometer transmittance, the RB spectral line, and the laser frequency spectrum; this gives the number of photons received by that channel, as shown in Eq. (12):

$$N_j(y_j, \nu, z, T) = \frac{N(z)}{n_{channel}} \cdot \left((S_{rb}(\nu, z, T) + S_{Mie}(\nu)) \otimes F(\nu - \nu(y_j)) \otimes S_{laser}(\nu) \right), \quad (12)$$

where y_j represents the center coordinate of the j th channel of the linear PMT, where $y_j = (j + 0.5 - n_{channel}/2) \cdot pitch_{Array}$, and $pitch_{Array}$ is the distance between the centers of two adjacent detection units in the array PMT; $\nu(y_j)$ converts the position coordinates into frequency coordinates, where $\nu(y_j) = (y_j \cdot 2\Delta\nu_{RB})/L_{if}$; $S_{Mie}(\nu)$ is the Mie scattering spectrum which is represented by a delta function. Thus, for the j -th channel, the total number of returned photons can be expressed as: $N_{total} = N_j + N_d + N_b$, where N_d is the dark noise produced by the detector and N_b is the background noise. In conditions that the backscattering signal received with this lidar system is weak, the number of photons is not sufficiently high. Accordingly, the statistical distribution of N_{total} satisfies the Poisson distribution, as shown in Eq. (13):

$$P(x = n) = P_n = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!}, \quad (13)$$

The signal was simulated using a Monte Carlo method over the altitude range from 2 to 20 km. For each detector configuration, 100 independent Monte Carlo simulations were performed. In each simulation, the atmospheric scattering spectrum was reconstructed by fitting the simulated multichannel photon-counting signals, and the spectral reconstruction quality was evaluated using the Pearson correlation coefficient between the reconstructed and the original atmospheric scattering spectra. Since the retrievals of atmospheric temperature and wind velocity are both derived from the reconstructed scattering spectrum, the correlation coefficient provides an effective indicator for optimizing the detector channel number. Fig. 3 shows the dependence of the spectral reconstruction quality on the number of linear PMT channels and detection altitude.



245 **Figure 3: Influence of the detector channel number and detection altitude on the correlation coefficient between the reconstructed and the original atmospheric scattering spectra. The color bar indicates the Pearson correlation coefficient, and the blue line represents the optimal detector channel number for each height.**

As shown in Fig. 3, over the entire retrieval range of 2–20 km, the 32-channel configuration, corresponding to a Fizeau interferometer wedge angle of $3.11 \mu\text{rad}$ based on Eq. (10), provides the optimal balance between spectral resolution and SNR, thereby achieving the highest spectral reconstruction quality. Therefore, it was selected as the optimal configuration for the
 250 developed HSRL receiver.

4 Retrieval algorithm

To achieve more accurate simultaneous retrieval of atmospheric wind and temperature from the measured backscatter spectrum, an iterative retrieval algorithm based on nonlinear least-squares optimization is employed. The measured spectrum is fitted using the spectral model given in Eq. (14).

$$255 \quad N_{fit}(\nu, z, T) = (I_{RB} \cdot S_{rb}(\nu, z, T) + I_{Mie} \cdot S_{Mie}(\nu)) \otimes F(\nu) \otimes S_{laser}(\nu), \quad (14)$$

The fitting yields four parameters: the RB scattering intensity I_{RB} , the Mie scattering intensity I_{Mie} , the frequency shift ν , and the atmospheric temperature T . The overall procedure of the proposed joint retrieval algorithm is illustrated in Fig. 4.



Iterative joint retrieval of temperature and Doppler frequency shift

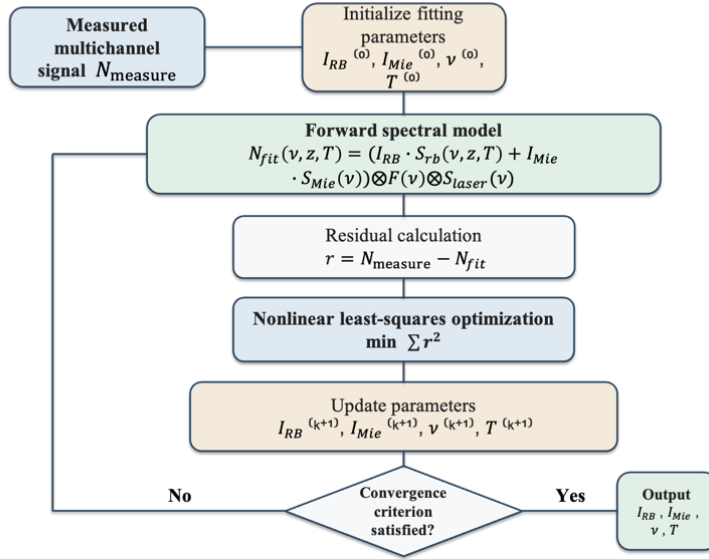


Figure 4: Flowchart of the iterative retrieval algorithm for simultaneous atmospheric wind and temperature retrieval based on nonlinear least-squares optimization.

To further verify the performance of the optimized receiver and the retrieval algorithm, 100 independent Monte Carlo simulations were carried out using the selected 32-channel configuration. For each simulation, the atmospheric scattering spectrum was reconstructed from the simulated multichannel photon-counting signals, and the atmospheric temperature and wind velocity were subsequently retrieved through Eq. (14). To examine the retrieval performance in different atmospheric regions, the height range was divided into 2–4 km and 5–20 km. The 2–4 km range is the region affected by Mie scattering, whereas the 5–20 km range was analyzed separately to evaluate the retrieval performance outside the Mie-scattering-affected region. The joint retrieval was performed using three different initial deviations—5, 10, and 20 K for temperature and 5, 10, and 20 m s⁻¹ for wind velocity—and the convergence results of the mean errors (MEs) are shown in Fig. 5.

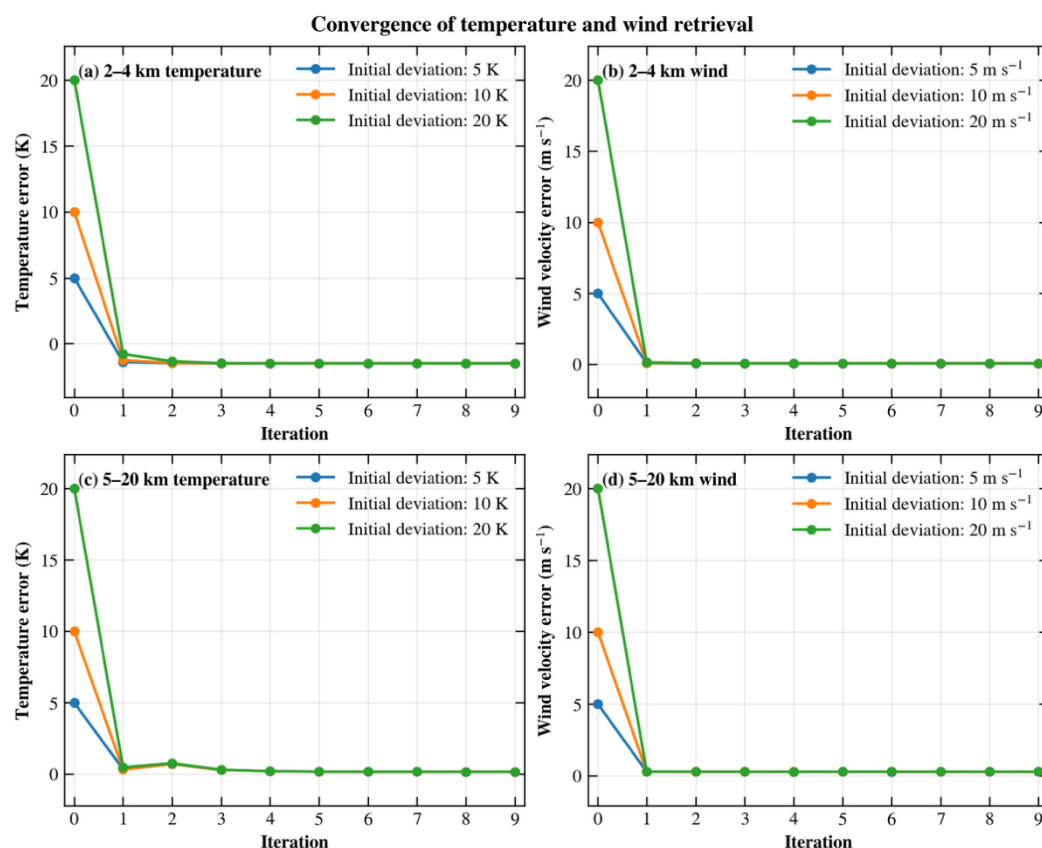


Figure 5: Convergence of the MEs of joint retrieval for different initial deviations: (a) temperature ME in the 2–4 km Mie-scattering-affected region, (b) wind-velocity ME in the 2–4 km region, (c) temperature ME in the 5–20 km region, and (d) wind-velocity ME in the 5–20 km region.

275 As shown in Fig. 5, the retrieval algorithm converges rapidly within the first few iterations across different retrieval regions and initial conditions. In the 2–4 km region affected by Mie scattering, the temperature ME converges to -1.49 K, whereas the MEs of all other retrieval results converge to approximately zero. These results validate the accuracy of the forward spectral model as well as the rapid convergence of the joint retrieval algorithm. The mean deviations of the retrieved results at each altitude and the corresponding standard deviations derived from 100 Monte Carlo simulations are shown in Fig. 6.

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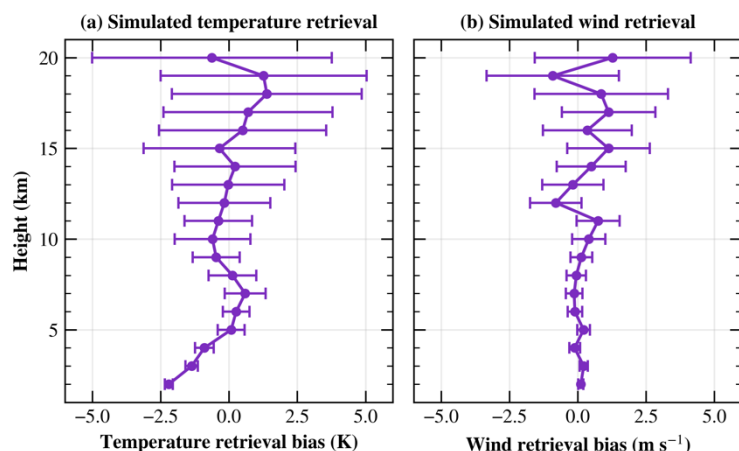


Figure 6: Mean retrieval deviations of temperature (left) and wind velocity (right) as a function of height for the optimized 32-channel Fizeau interferometer. The horizontal error bars denote the standard deviation of the retrievals estimated from 100 independent Monte Carlo simulations at each altitude.

As shown in Fig. 6, the retrieved temperature exhibits a noticeable negative bias between 2 and 4 km. This underestimation is mainly caused by the increasing contribution of Mie scattering in the lower troposphere. Over this altitude range, the temperature ME was -1.49 K, with a root-mean-square error (RMSE) of 1.58 K. From 5–20 km, where the Mie contribution decreases rapidly, the temperature retrieval agreed more closely with the true profile, with a ME of 0.16 K and a RMSE of 0.61 K. For the entire 2–20 km range, the temperature retrieval exhibited a ME of -0.10 K, a RMSE of 0.84 K and a MAE of 0.64 K, while the corresponding values for wind velocity were 0.25 , 0.63 and 0.49 m s^{-1} , respectively. The standard deviations increased from 0.15 K and 0.09 m s^{-1} at 2 km to 4.39 K and 2.86 m s^{-1} at 20 km, respectively, reflecting the reduction in photon counts and SNR with increasing altitude.

Under realistic atmospheric conditions, both the intensity of Mie scattering and the altitude range over which it dominates can vary substantially with the observation site, weather conditions and other environmental factors. Therefore, in the field experiment, the influence of Mie scattering on temperature retrieval is further evaluated under actual atmospheric conditions.

5 Experiments

5.1 Calibration

To experimentally validate the proposed receiver design, an HSRL receiver was constructed using the parameters described above. To ensure measurement accuracy, the receiver transmission function was characterized using a 355 nm continuous-wave laser in the laboratory and the 355 nm pulsed laser of the USTC Doppler wind lidar. The results are shown in Fig. 7.

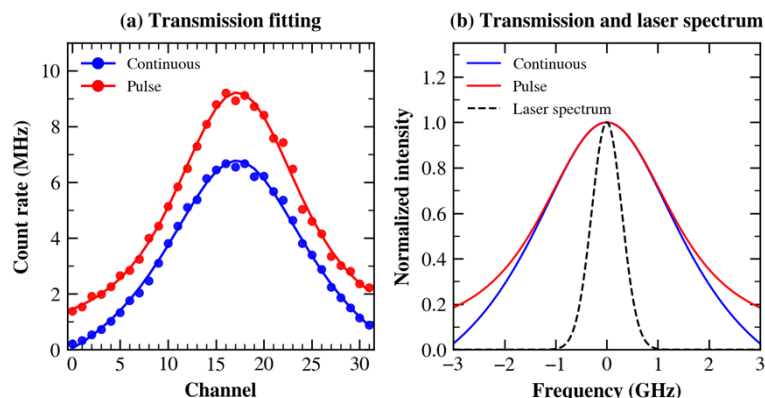


Figure 7: Receiver calibration results. (a) Receiver transmittance measured with a continuous-wave laser (blue triangles) and fitted with the Airy function (blue line), together with the response measured using a pulsed laser (red squares) and fitted by convolving the Airy transmission function with a Gaussian laser spectrum (red line). (b) Retrieved Airy transmission function of the Fizeau interferometer and the deconvolved Gaussian laser spectrum (black dashed line).

Fitting the data yields a wedge angle of $2.83 \mu\text{rad}$ ($191 \text{ MHz channel}^{-1}$) for the Fizeau interferometer and a laser linewidth of 0.67 GHz . Since the wedge angle of the Fizeau interferometer is adjusted using the PZT in the etalon, there is a slight error in the wedge angle.

5.2 Effect of Mie scattering on temperature retrieval

To evaluate the effect of Mie scattering on temperature retrieval, measurements were performed using the USTC Doppler wind lidar in Xinjiang, China, at 14:00 UTC. The telescope was oriented vertically with a total integration time of 5 min. The vertical resolution was 60 m below 10 km and 300 m above 10 km. By fitting the raw experimental data, the RB and Mie spectra can be separated, and the atmospheric temperature can be retrieved. The retrieved temperature, together with the relative RB and Mie scattering intensities, can subsequently be used to assess the influence of Mie scattering on the temperature retrieval.

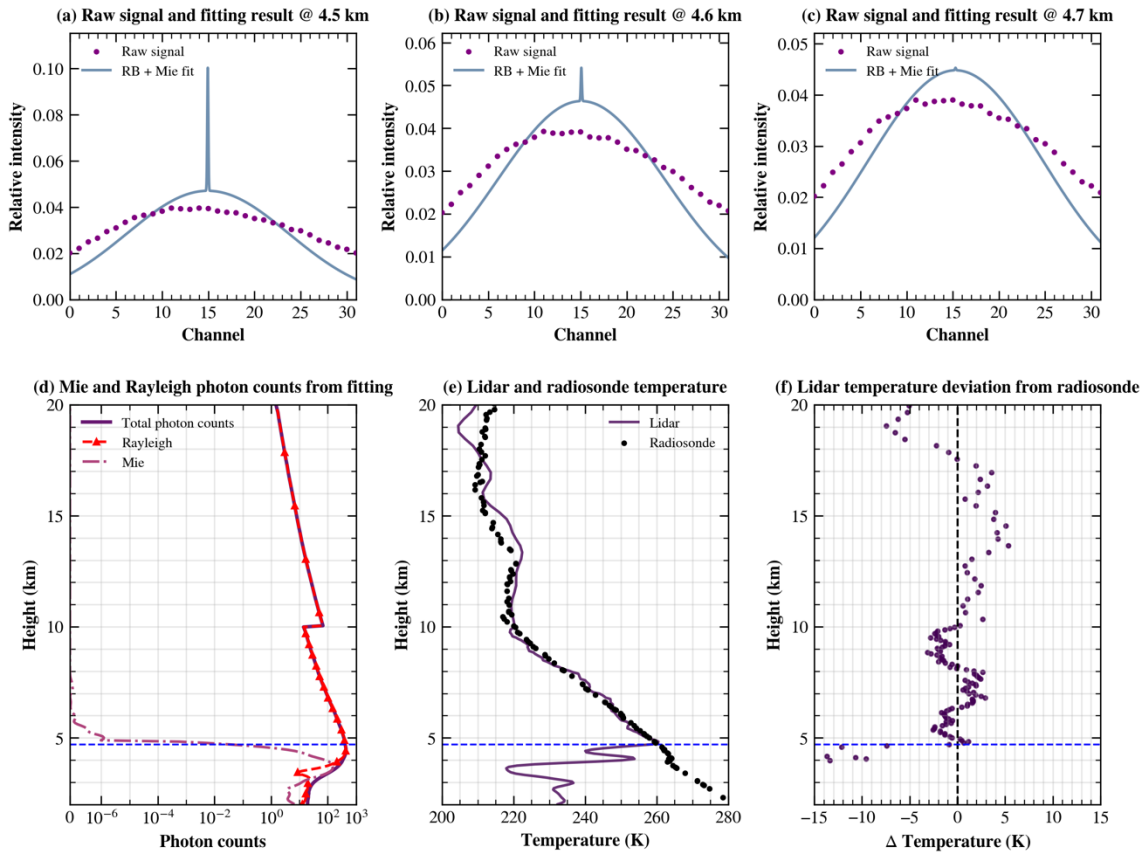


Figure 8: Spectral fitting results and evaluation of the influence of Mie scattering on temperature retrieval. (a–c) Measured interference signals and corresponding spectral fitting results at 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7 km. (d) Retrieved total, RB, and Mie photon counts. (e) Comparison between the lidar-retrieved and radiosonde temperature profiles. (f) Temperature difference (lidar minus radiosonde). The blue dashed line indicates the lower boundary of the temperature retrieval (4.7 km).

As shown in Fig. 8, the Mie scattering energy decreases rapidly above 4.5 km. By analysing the relationship between the Mie scattering signal fraction and the temperature retrieval difference relative to the radiosonde measurements, the lower boundary for reliable temperature retrieval was determined. The enhanced Mie scattering layer between 2 and 5 km introduces significant errors in the retrieved temperature. Therefore, temperature retrieval is performed only where the Mie scattering signal fraction is below 0.01%. The lower boundary for temperature retrieval is therefore not fixed but depends on the aerosol and cloud conditions during each observation. For the measurement shown in Fig. 8, this criterion corresponds to an altitude of approximately 4.7 km. For the height range from the onset of telescope–laser overlap to the temperature retrieval boundary, wind retrieval is carried out using model-derived temperature as the input.

5.3 Simultaneous measurement of temperature and wind speed

Measurements were performed using the USTC Doppler wind lidar in Xinjiang, China (43.8° N, 87.6° E), at 20:00 UTC under conditions with thin clouds near 5 km. During the measurements, the telescope was tilted by 15° from the vertical and



sequentially pointed toward the east, south, west, and north, with an integration time of 5 min in each direction. For ease of interpretation, the measured spectra at each altitude were normalized to unit area. The resulting spectra, covering the altitude range from 2 to 20 km, have a temporal resolution of 5 min and vertical resolutions of 60 m below 10 km and 300 m above 10 km, as shown in Fig. 9.

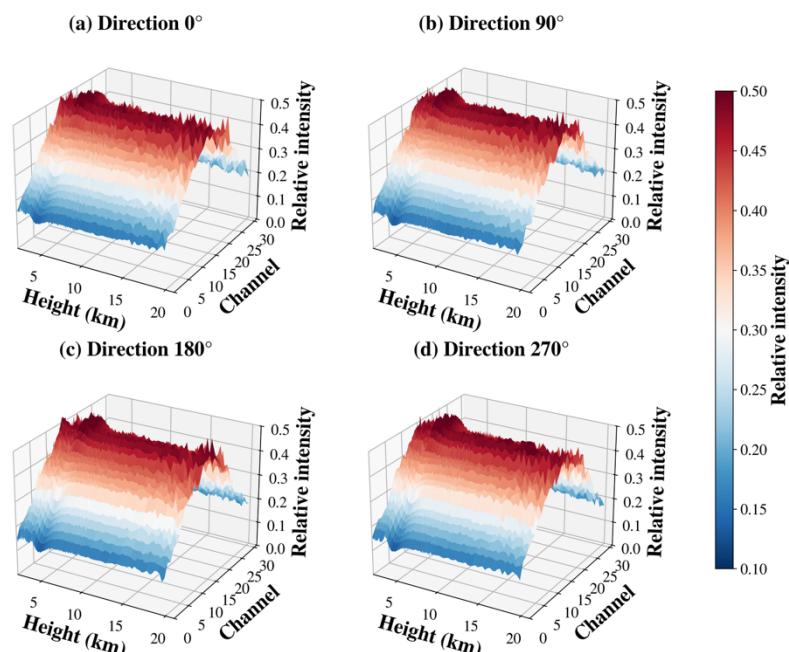


Figure 9: Spectra measured in four directions ranging from 2 km to 20 km and normalized to unit area.

Figure 9 shows the raw data measured by the HSRL system. Because the system uses an off-axis design, signals below 2 km are outside the telescope field of view; therefore, the measurements start at 2 km. The atmospheric scattering spectrum measured near 5 km is significantly influenced by thin clouds, which effectively narrows the observed spectral profile and degrades the accuracy of molecular spectral retrieval. Therefore, based on the Mie-contamination threshold determined above, temperature retrievals are performed only above 5.3 km. The temperature and wind profiles retrieved from the spectral data shown in Fig. 9 are presented in Figs. 10 and 11, respectively, together with their deviations from the radiosonde measurements.

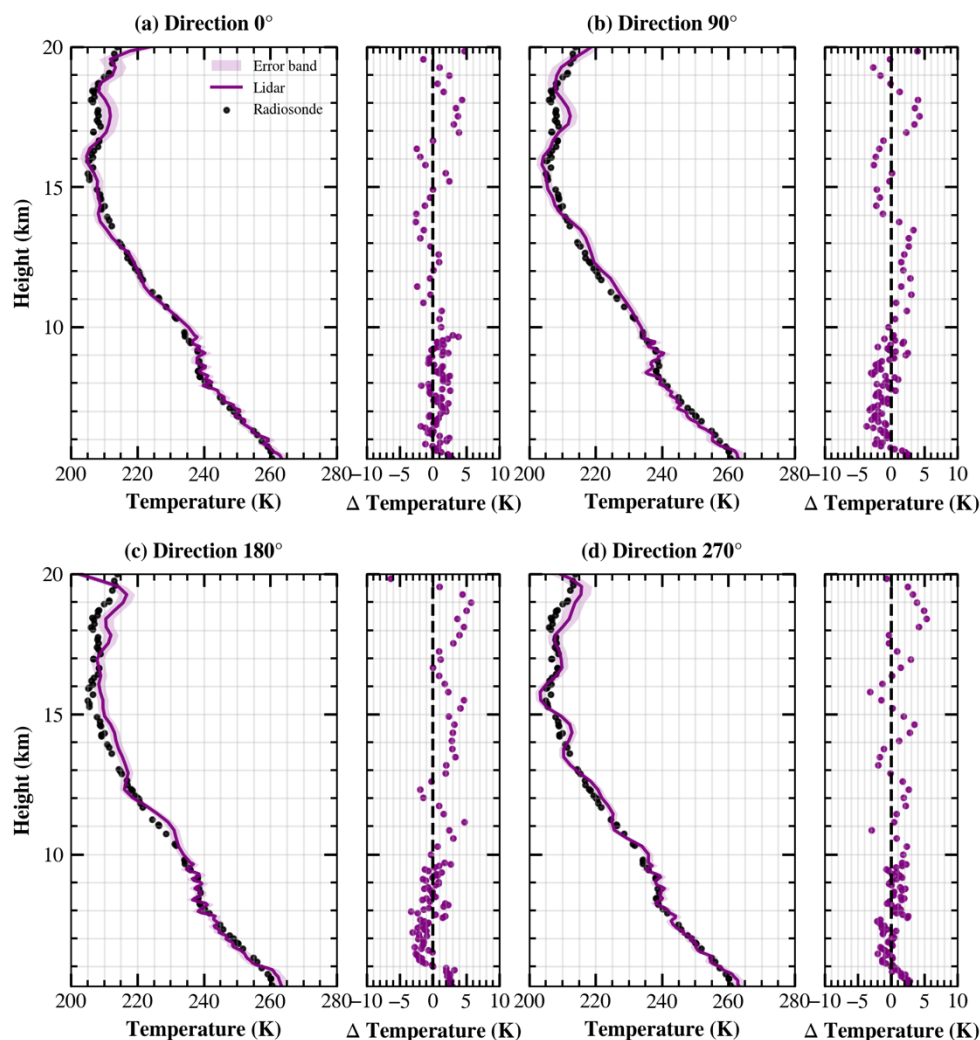


Figure 10: Temperature profiles retrieved from the lidar measurements in four directions (purple lines), together with the radiosonde temperature profile (black dots) and the corresponding temperature differences.

As shown in Fig. 10, the purple lines represent the temperature profiles retrieved from the lidar measurements, while the black dots represent the radiosonde temperature profile. The error bands indicate the fitting uncertainty, which ranges from 1.55 to 2.02 K at a range resolution of 60 m and from 1.49 to 3.04 K at a range resolution of 300 m. Compared with the radiosonde measurements, the retrieved temperatures showed absolute differences of less than 3.7 K, with a mean absolute difference of 1.19 K at a range resolution of 60 m. Above 10 km, where the range resolution was increased to 300 m, the absolute differences remained below 6.35 K, with a mean absolute difference of 2.10 K.

For wind retrieval, the fitting below 5.3 km was performed using model-provided temperatures, whereas above 5.3 km, wind velocity and temperature were retrieved simultaneously. To reduce systematic errors, the line-of-sight wind velocities



measured from the four azimuth directions were combined by differential processing before calculating the zonal and
 355 meridional wind components, as illustrated in Fig. 11.

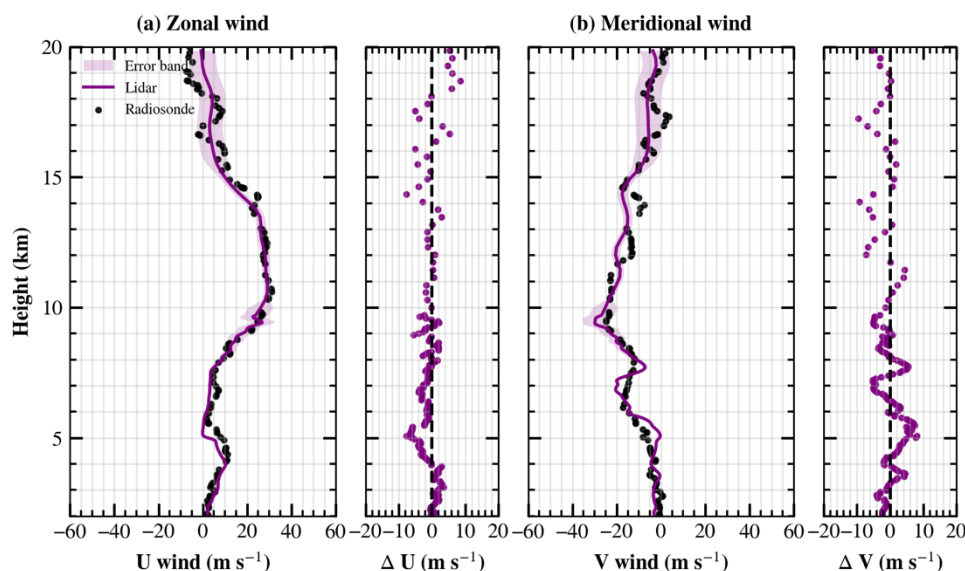


Figure 11: Retrieved zonal and meridional wind profiles (purple lines), together with the radiosonde measurements (black dots) and the corresponding wind differences.

360 The fitting uncertainty of the retrieved zonal and meridional wind components ranged from 0.47 to 1.19 m s^{-1} below 5.3 km, from 0.63 to 5.98 m s^{-1} between 5.3 and 10 km, and from 1.57 to 6.31 m s^{-1} above 10 km. In the clear-sky region between 2.0 and 4.5 km, the retrieved zonal and meridional winds agreed well with the radiosonde measurements. The zonal wind showed absolute differences of less than 3.41 m s^{-1} , with a mean absolute difference of 1.52 m s^{-1} , while the meridional wind showed absolute differences of less than 4.41 m s^{-1} , with a mean absolute difference of 1.84 m s^{-1} . Between 4.5 and 5.3 km, where thin
 365 clouds were present, the differences increased significantly. The zonal wind showed absolute differences of less than 7.44 m s^{-1} , with a mean absolute difference of 5.03 m s^{-1} , while the meridional wind showed absolute differences of less than 7.66 m s^{-1} , with a mean absolute difference of 4.67 m s^{-1} . In this altitude range, both Mie and Rayleigh scattering contributed substantially to the received signal, making it more difficult to accurately determine their relative contributions during spectral fitting. Consequently, the retrieval uncertainty increased, while the enhanced Mie scattering associated with the thin cloud
 370 layer further degraded the retrieval accuracy. Over the entire 2–5.3 km region, the mean absolute differences were 2.34 and 2.50 m s^{-1} for the zonal and meridional wind components, respectively. Between 5.3 and 10 km, where a range resolution of 60 m was used, the zonal and meridional winds showed absolute differences of less than 6.13 and 6.74 m s^{-1} , respectively, with corresponding mean absolute differences of 1.84 and 2.97 m s^{-1} . Above 10 km, where the range resolution was increased to 300 m, the zonal and meridional winds showed absolute differences of less than 8.65 and 8.78 m s^{-1} , respectively, with
 375 corresponding mean absolute differences of 3.02 and 3.08 m s^{-1} .



Figure 12 presents continuous measurements obtained during a separate observation period. Based on the aerosol conditions during this measurement, the lower boundary for temperature retrieval was approximately 5 km. Simultaneous retrievals of wind and temperature were achieved from 5 to 20 km, whereas wind retrievals from 2 to 5 km were performed using model-provided temperature constraints. For a more comprehensive characterization of the vertical temperature structure, the temperature retrieval was extended to 25 km. The retrieved temperature profiles have a temporal resolution of 5 min. Because the telescope sequentially scans different azimuth directions, wind retrieval requires measurements from two consecutive scan positions, resulting in a temporal resolution of 10 min.

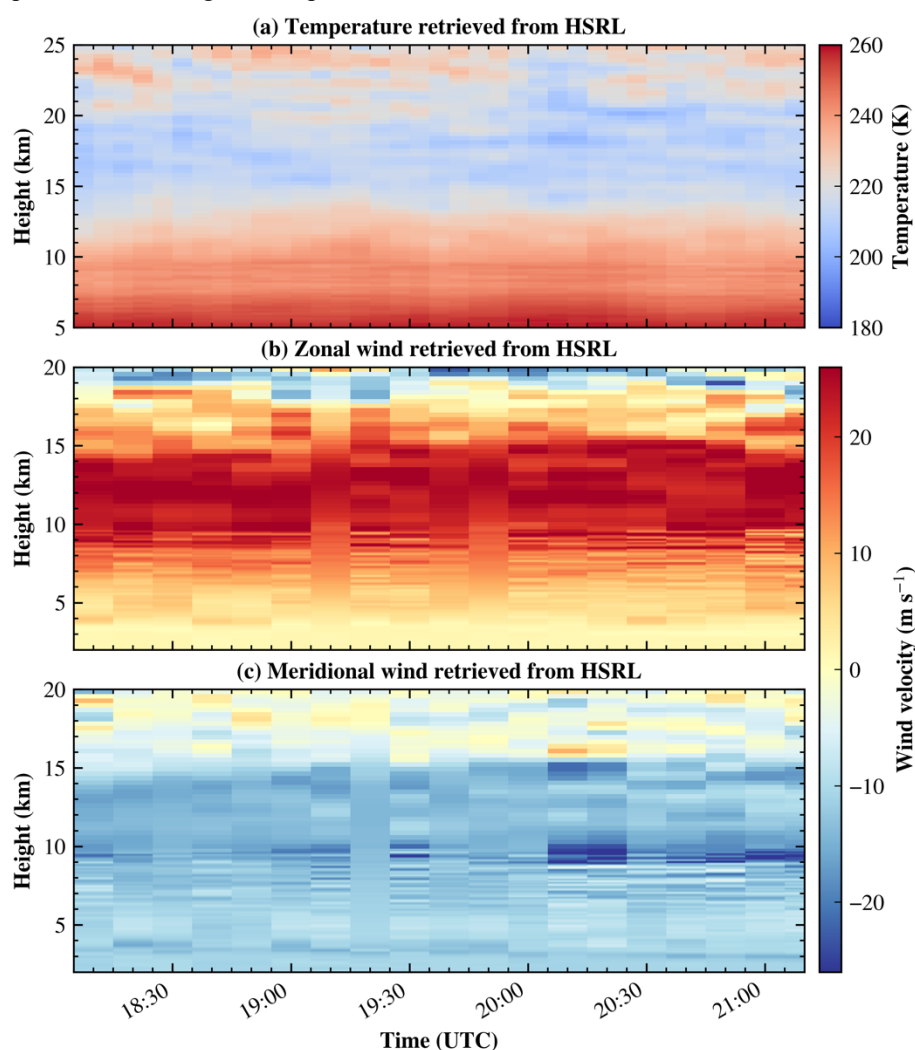


Figure 12: Time–height distributions of the retrieved temperature (a), zonal winds (b) and meridional winds (c).

As shown in Fig. 12, the temporal stability of the continuous observations was evaluated using the standard deviation of the retrieved profiles. The standard deviation of the retrieved temperature ranged from 0.61 to 4.83 K over the altitude range of 5–20 km. The standard deviations of the retrieved meridional and zonal winds ranged from 0.15 to 8.56 m s⁻¹ and from 0.24



to 5.97 m s^{-1} , respectively. For both wind components, the largest standard deviations were observed between 9 and 15 km, corresponding to the altitude range of the westerly jet, where relatively strong winds and enhanced atmospheric variability resulted in larger temporal fluctuations.

6 Summary

In this study, we developed a Fizeau-interferometer-based HSRL receiver for simultaneous atmospheric wind and temperature measurements. By combining spectral-to-spatial conversion with a 32-channel linear PMT array, the complete atmospheric scattering spectrum can be recorded in a single measurement without frequency scanning, enabling simultaneous retrieval of atmospheric wind velocity and temperature through spectral fitting. This receiver architecture eliminates the need for frequency scanning while maintaining the capability to simultaneously retrieve both atmospheric parameters.

Simulation results demonstrated that the optimized 32-channel configuration provides an appropriate balance between spectral resolution and photon utilization over the 2–20 km altitude range. Field experiments further verified reliable wind retrievals from 2 to 20 km and simultaneous wind–temperature retrievals from 5.3 to 20 km, with good agreement with radiosonde observations, demonstrating the feasibility of simultaneous atmospheric wind and temperature measurements using a multichannel Fizeau interferometer without frequency scanning.

The results indicate that the retrieval performance is limited by different factors at different altitudes. In the lower troposphere, the received photon counts are sufficiently high, and the retrieval accuracy is mainly limited by the strong Mie scattering, which obscures the broad molecular RB spectrum and increases the difficulty of separating the molecular and aerosol scattering components. Under these conditions, increasing the spectral sampling density is more beneficial than further improving the SNR. Therefore, a Fizeau interferometer with a smaller wedge angle, combined with a detector having a larger number of channels, would provide finer spectral sampling of the atmospheric scattering spectrum, enabling more accurate reconstruction of spectral features and more reliable separation of the molecular and aerosol scattering components. This configuration reduces the frequency interval represented by each detector channel, allowing finer sampling of the atmospheric scattering spectrum.

In contrast, at higher altitudes the molecular backscatter signal decreases rapidly, and the retrieval uncertainty is primarily limited by photon noise rather than spectral sampling. Under these conditions, redistributing the received photons into fewer detector channels becomes more important than preserving fine spectral details. A Fizeau interferometer with a larger wedge angle compresses the atmospheric scattering spectrum into fewer detector channels, thereby increasing the photon counts per channel and improving the SNR. Although this results in a coarser spectral sampling, the enhanced photon utilization provides more robust spectral fitting and improves the retrieval precision of both atmospheric temperature and wind velocity under low-signal conditions.

These considerations suggest that an adaptive multichannel Fizeau receiver employing different wedge angles for different altitude ranges could provide a more optimal balance between spectral resolution and photon efficiency than a single fixed



420 configuration. Such a receiver would exploit high spectral resolution in the lower atmosphere while maximizing photon utilization in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere, thereby extending the measurement capability and improving the overall retrieval performance. In addition, the present receiver employs a PZT-tuned Fizeau interferometer, whose wedge angle is susceptible to long-term environmental variations and mechanical drift. Replacing the current design with a fixed-gap Fizeau interferometer would improve the long-term stability and robustness of the receiver, making it more suitable for continuous ground-based observations as well as future airborne and spaceborne Doppler lidar applications.

The proposed system provides a practical approach for simultaneous wind and temperature measurements in the troposphere and lower stratosphere and demonstrates the potential of multichannel Fizeau-based HSRL for future ground-based, airborne, and spaceborne atmospheric remote sensing.

430 *Code and data availability.* The source code for the forward model used in this study is publicly available on Zenodo at (Pu, 2026) <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.22196460>. The lidar data in this work can be downloaded from Science Data Bank repository at (Pu et al., 2026) <https://doi.org/10.57760/sciencedb.00zrn>.

435 *Author contributions.* DS, TC, YH, XX, and XD conceived the research. LP and YS contributed to the investigation. LP conducted the experiments, characterized the system, and analysed the data. LP prepared the manuscript under the guidance of TC, YH, and DS. TC, YH, DS, ZS, and ZM contributed to scientific discussions. TC and YW supported data curation. TC was responsible for project administration, while TC and XX acquired the research funding. All co-authors contributed to reviewing and proofreading the manuscript.

440 *Competing interests.* The contact author has declared that none of the authors has any competing interests.

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