

WIND TURBINES WAKE LOSS MODEL

Rutgers University, April 2021

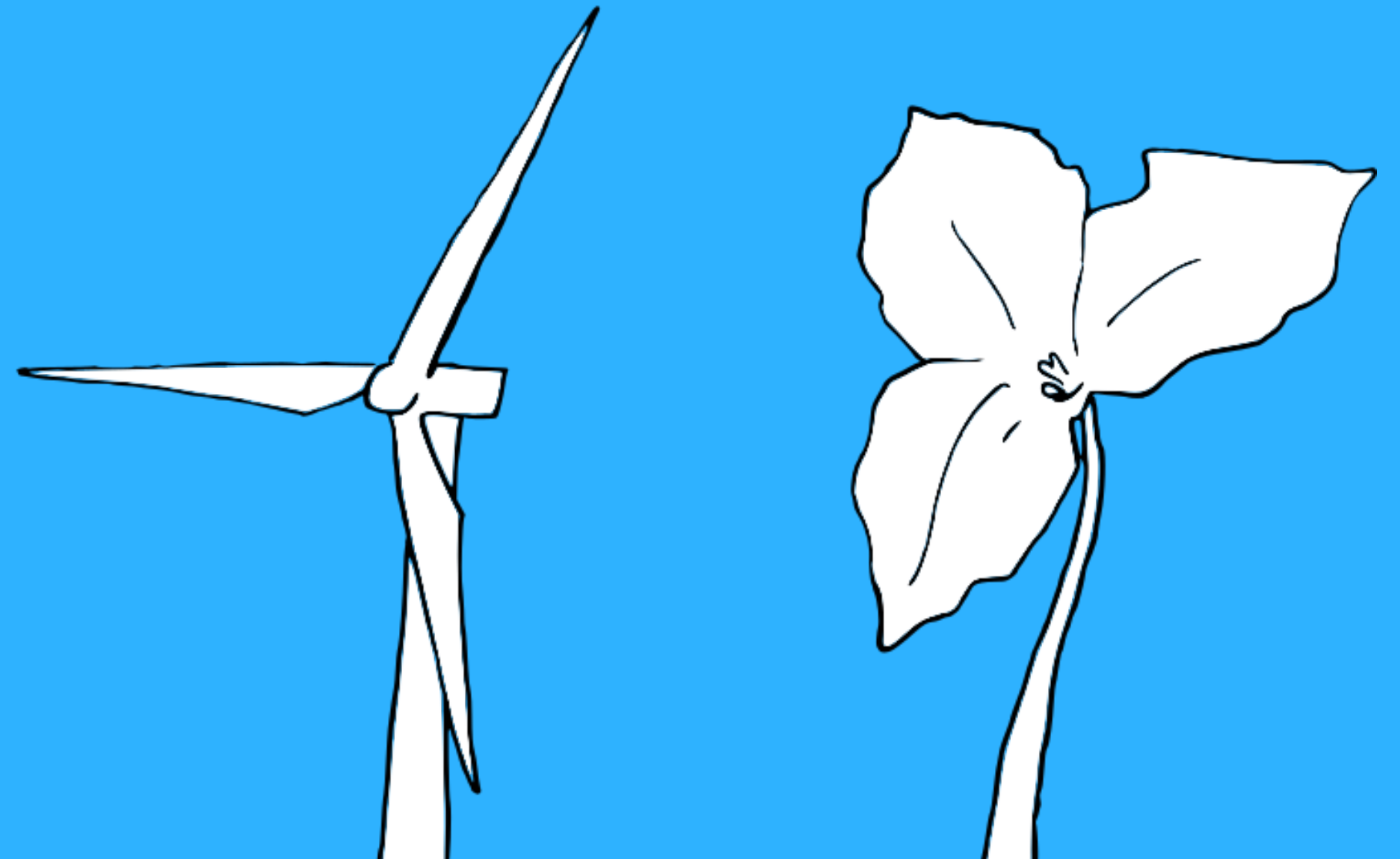


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Around 1% of the solar energy absorbed by Earth is converted to **kinetic energy** in the atmosphere.

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This kinetic energy ultimately dissipates through friction on **land** or **water surfaces**.

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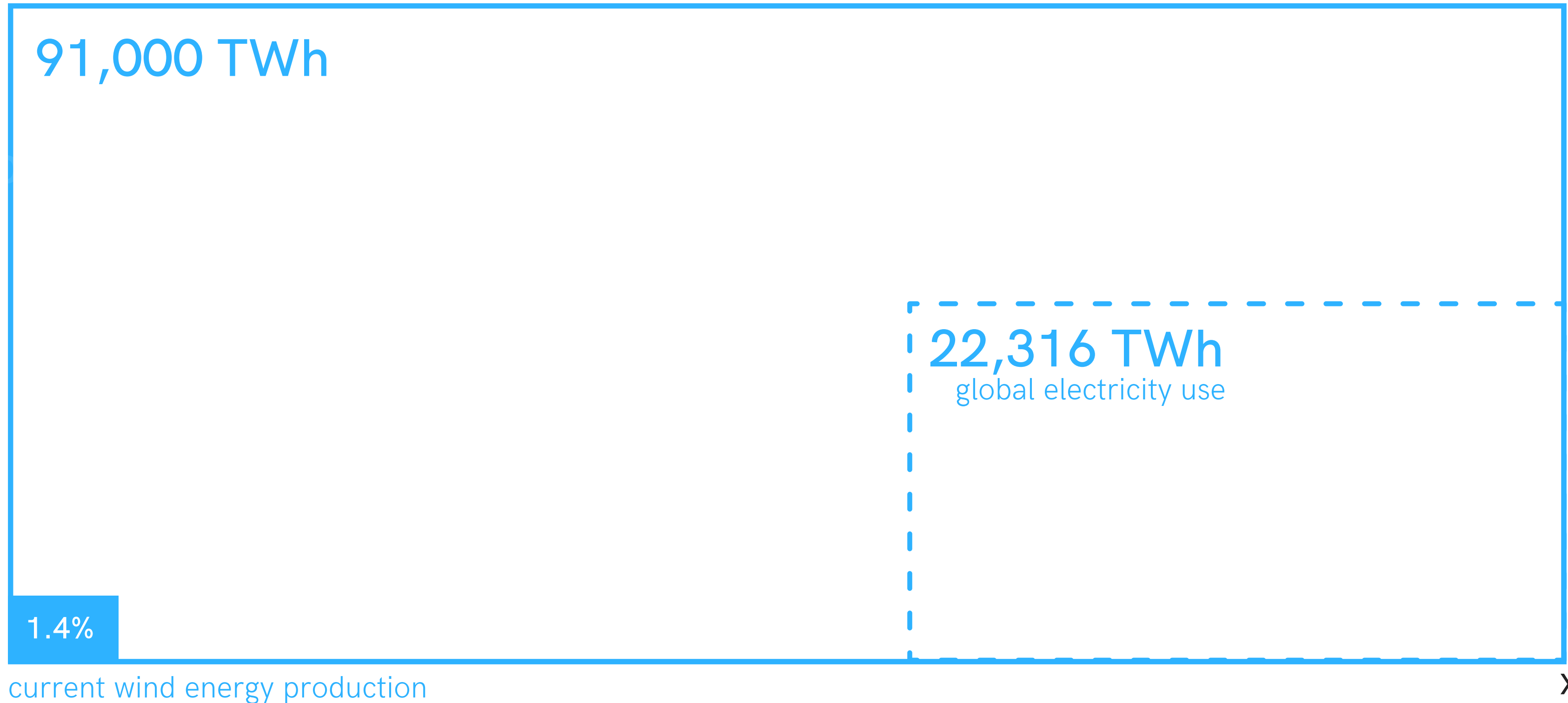
Around 1% of the solar energy absorbed by Earth is converted to **kinetic energy** in the atmosphere.

Through turbines and generators, we could convert this energy into **electricity**.

This kinetic energy ultimately dissipates through friction on **land** or **water surfaces**.

Accounting for areas unsuitable for wind turbine installations, we see **great potential** for energy generation.

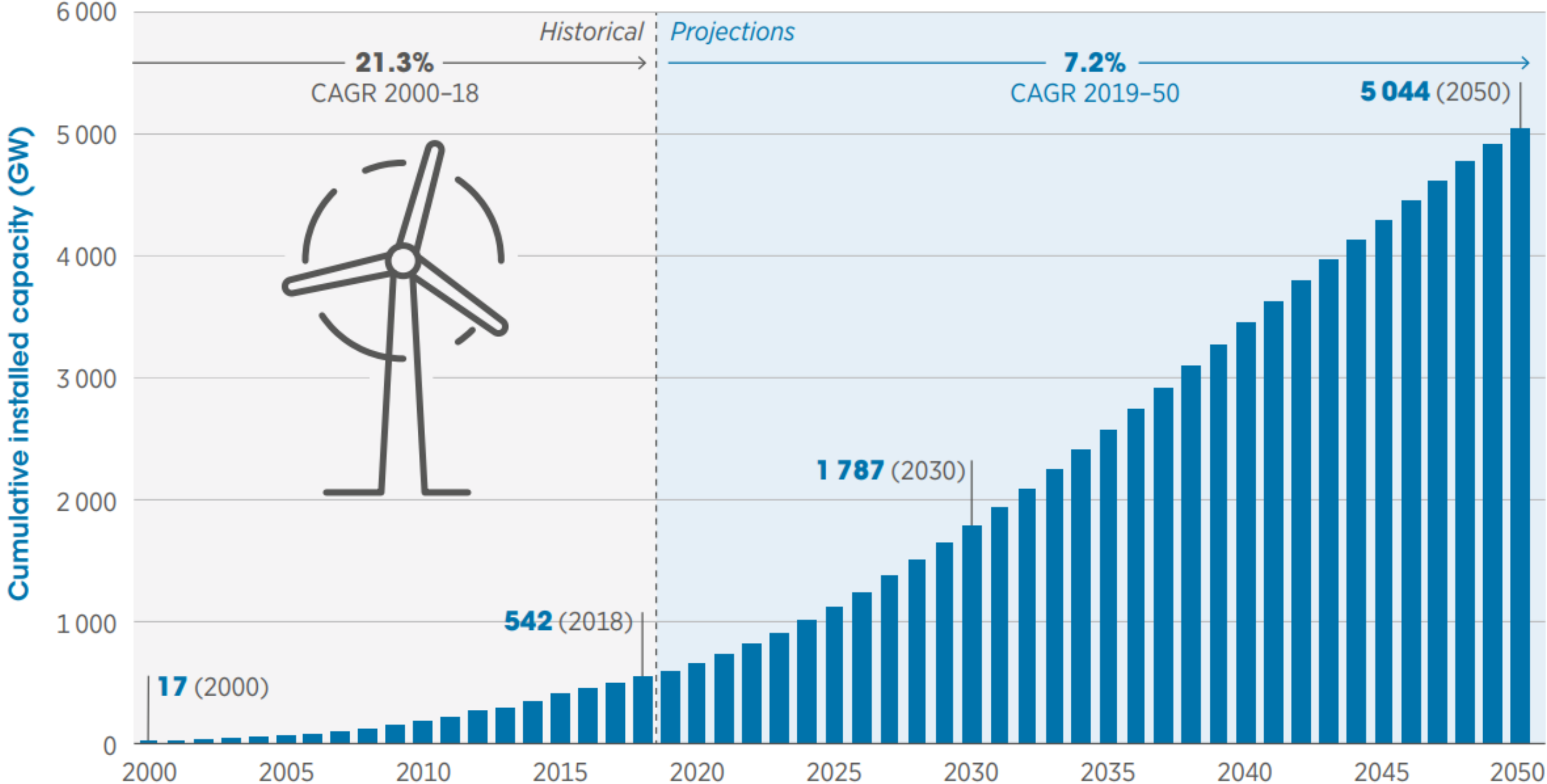
Wind Annual Energy Generation Potential*



current wind energy production

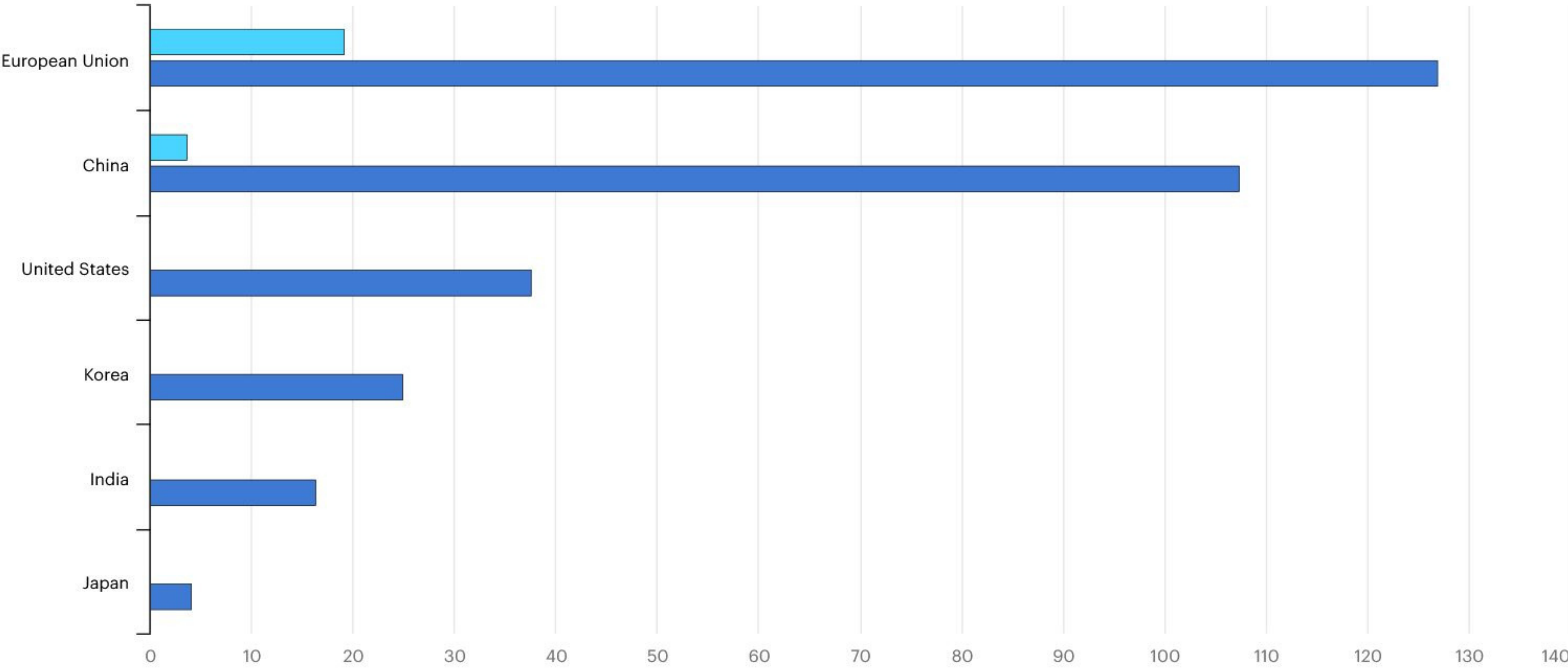
*assuming weather variability and wake loss.

Global Onshore Wind Capacity, present - 2050



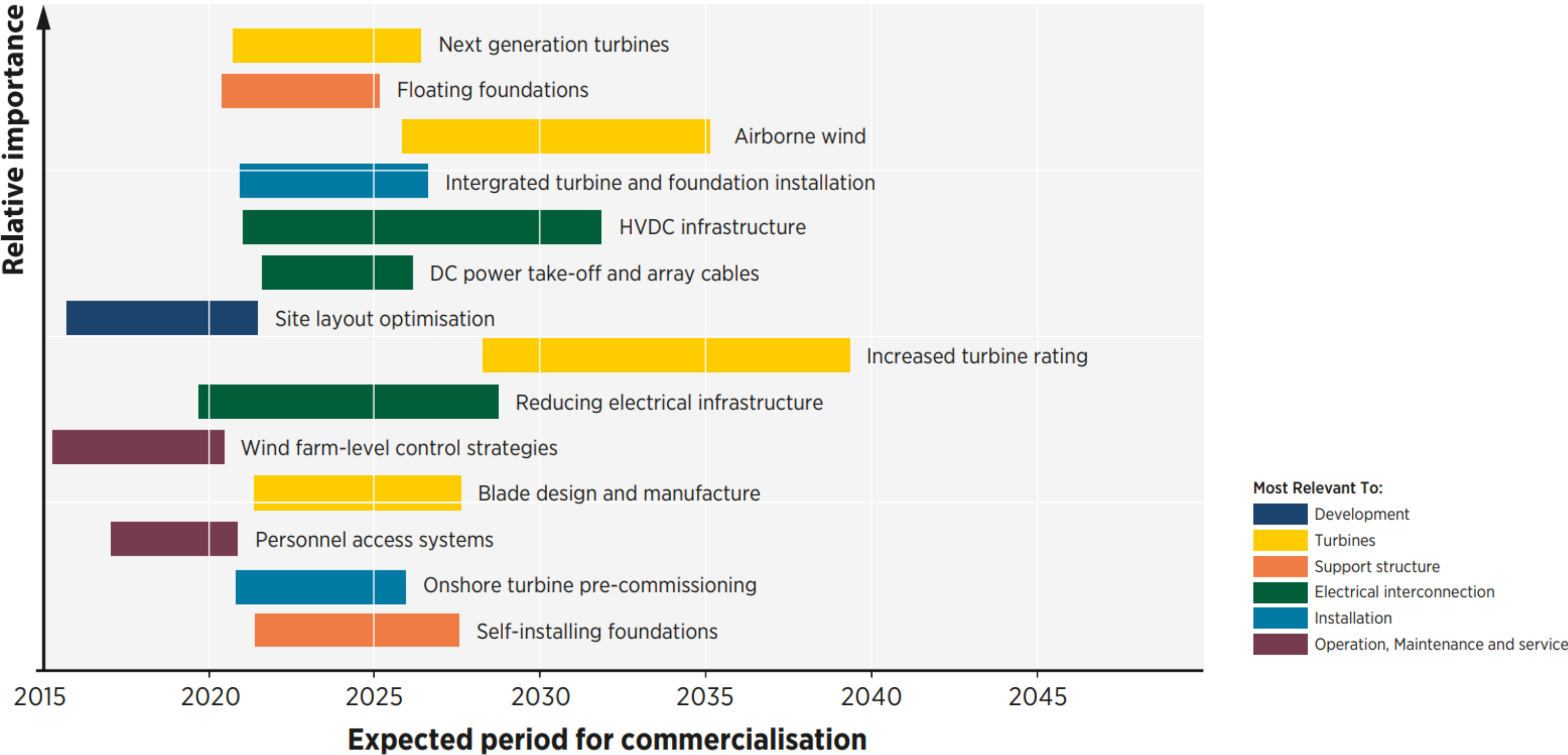
GW

Offshore Wind Capacity, 2018 and 2040



● 2018 ● 2040

Figure 28: Anticipated timing and importance of innovations in offshore wind technology.



In a world with increasing reliance on wind energy, **precise forecast** of wind power production is crucial.



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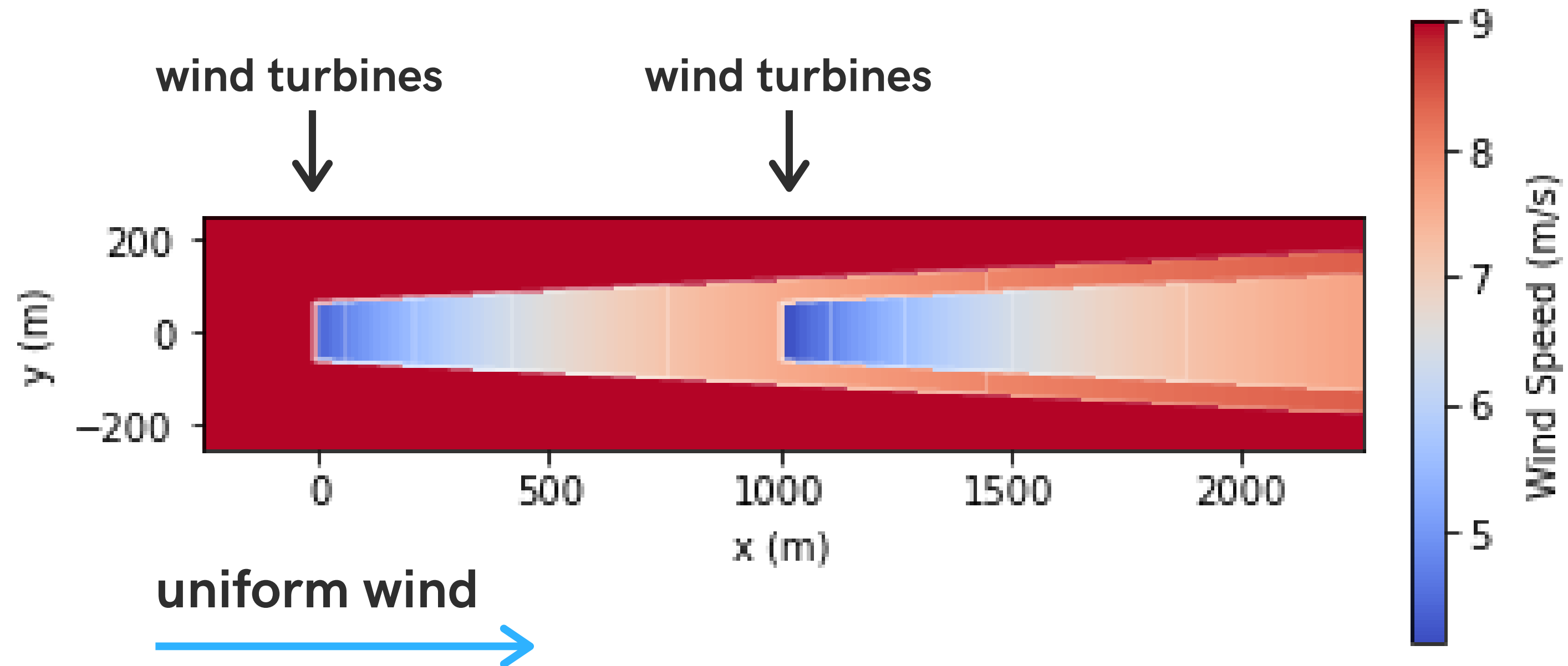
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Wake: the cylinder of wind downstream from a wind turbine.



Wake loss reduces power generation by up to

30%

For wind farms,
wake loss is one of
the most significant
sources of power
loss.

Our aim is to efficiently and accurately model wake loss.



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There exist several types of wake loss models.

Geometric Model

Great choice for time-consuming optimization algorithms.

Jensen Model

Simple and efficient model that consistently provides accurate forecast.

Frandsen Model

Analytical model that applies the momentum equation and assumes self-similarity.

XA Model

Gaussian model that accurately predicts the shape of wake loss.

Larsen Model

Analytical model recommended by EWTS II for wake loading calculation.

BPA Model

Gaussian model that is effectively axis-symmetric.

We decide to investigate the Jensen Model.

The **Jensen Model** is a simply analytic wake model used widely in wake loss forecast.

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The **Jensen Model** is a simply analytic wake model used widely in wake loss forecast.

Although more sophisticated and accurate models exist, the Jensen Model remains relevant for its **general accuracy** and **low computational cost**.

The model assumes

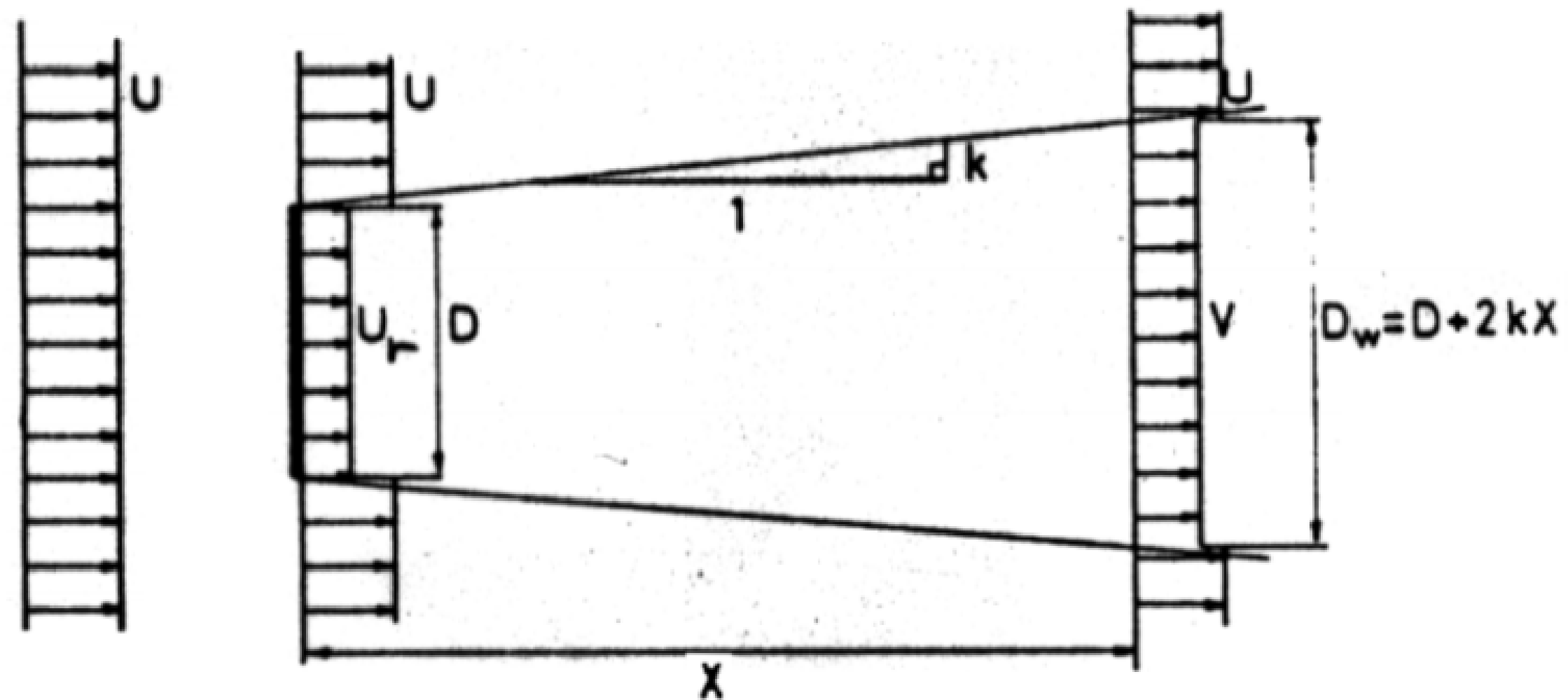
The rate of expansion, described by the **wake decay parameter, k** , is constant.

The model assumes

The rate of expansion, described by the **wake decay parameter, k** , is constant.

In other words, wind velocity is constant in the horizontal direction of the wake.

The end result is a **top-hat** wake distribution.



The Jensen Model is driven by the following equation

$$1 - \frac{U}{U_a} = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - C_t}}{\left(1 + \frac{kx}{r}\right)^2}$$

x = distance from the upstream turbine

U = wind speed of interest

U_a = ambient wind speed

r = rotor radius

C_t = thrust coefficient

k = wake decay coefficient

The thrust coefficient, C_t , depends on both wind speed and the characteristics of the wind turbines.

$$C_t = \frac{T}{1/2\rho AU_a^2}$$

u_1 = ambient wind speed

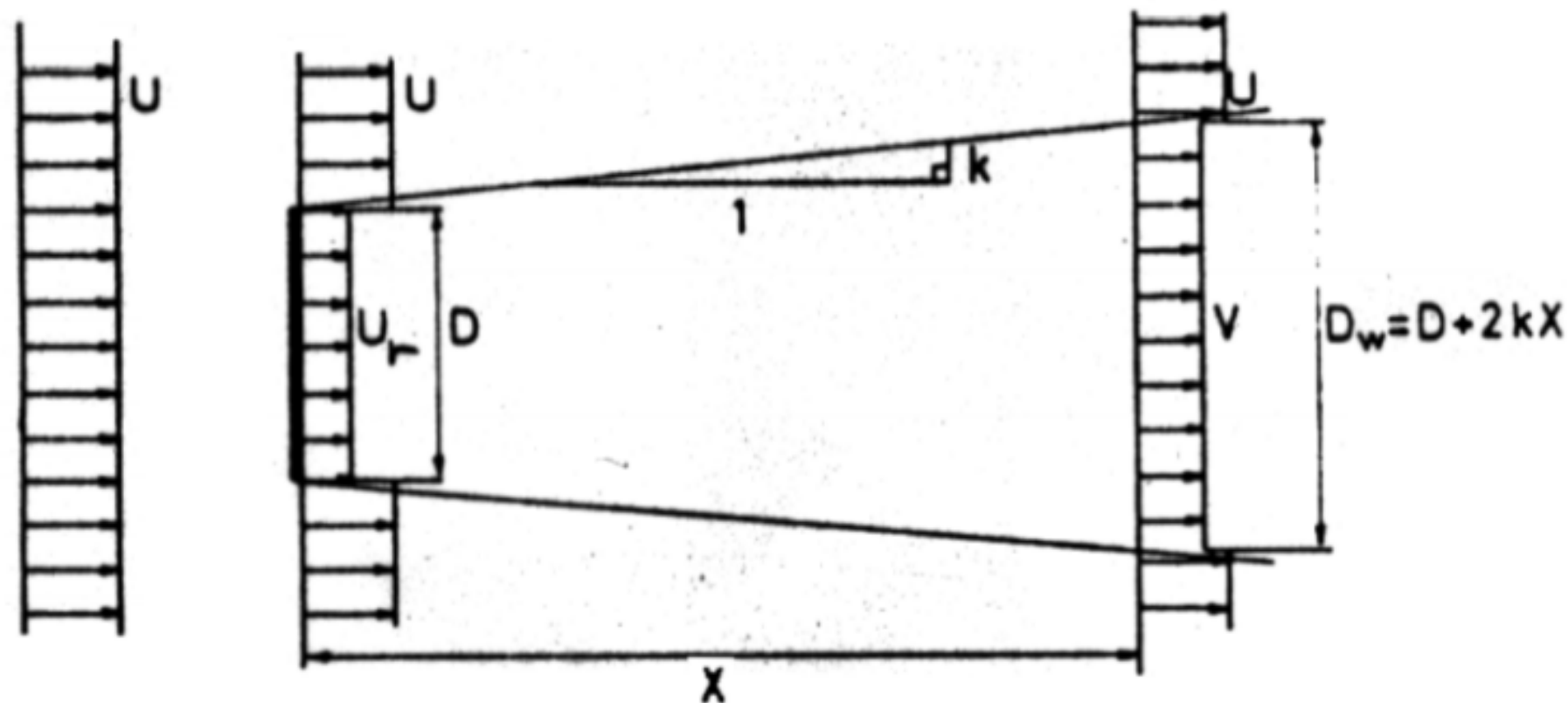
ρ = air density

A = rotor disk area

T = wind turbine thrust

Since the Jensen model assumes wake to be rectangular-shaped, we can approximate T as

$$T = -\rho A_w U (U_a - U)$$



A_w = wake area

D = rotor diameter

$$A_w = 1/2x[D + (D + 2kx)]$$

Therefore

$$C_t = \frac{Ux(U_a - U)(2D + 2kx)}{1/4D^2\pi U_a^2}$$

$$1 - \frac{U}{U_a} = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - C_t}}{\left(1 + \frac{kx}{r}\right)^2}$$

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Using a set of benchmark data, we aim to evaluate the accuracy of a Jensen Model across **a range of k values.**



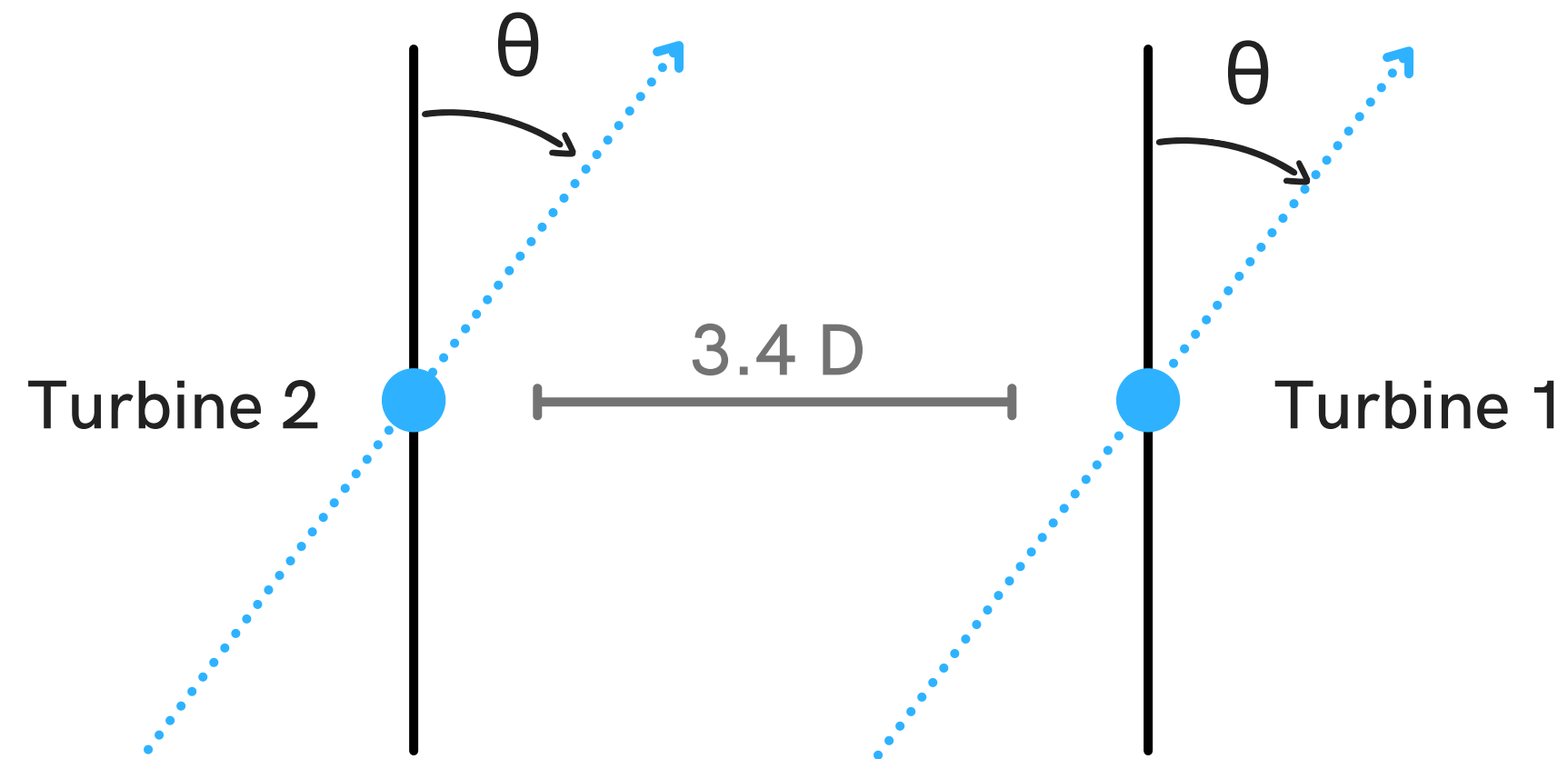
Our benchmark data come from an U.S. onshore wind farm with about 200 wind turbines.

The data are composed of wind speed, wind direction of a pair of wind turbines at 10 min intervals over one year.



The pair of turbines is chosen such that no other turbines are within $10D$.

BENCHMARK DATA



θ = wind direction (degree)

D = rotor diameter (90 m)

Wind Direction vs. Difference of wind speeds at two wind turbines

u_1 = wind speed at wind
turbine 1

u_2 = wind speed at wind
turbine 2

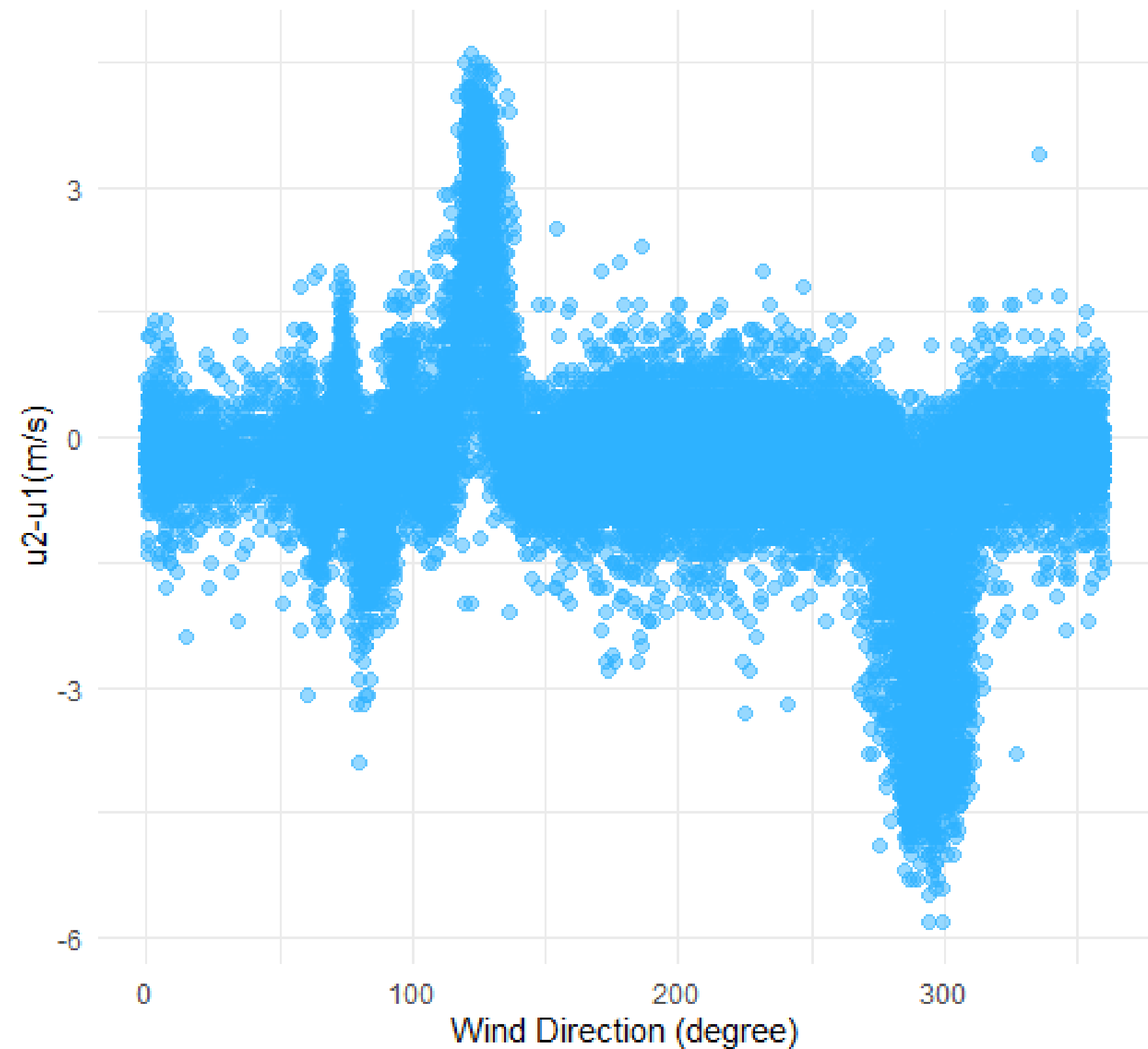


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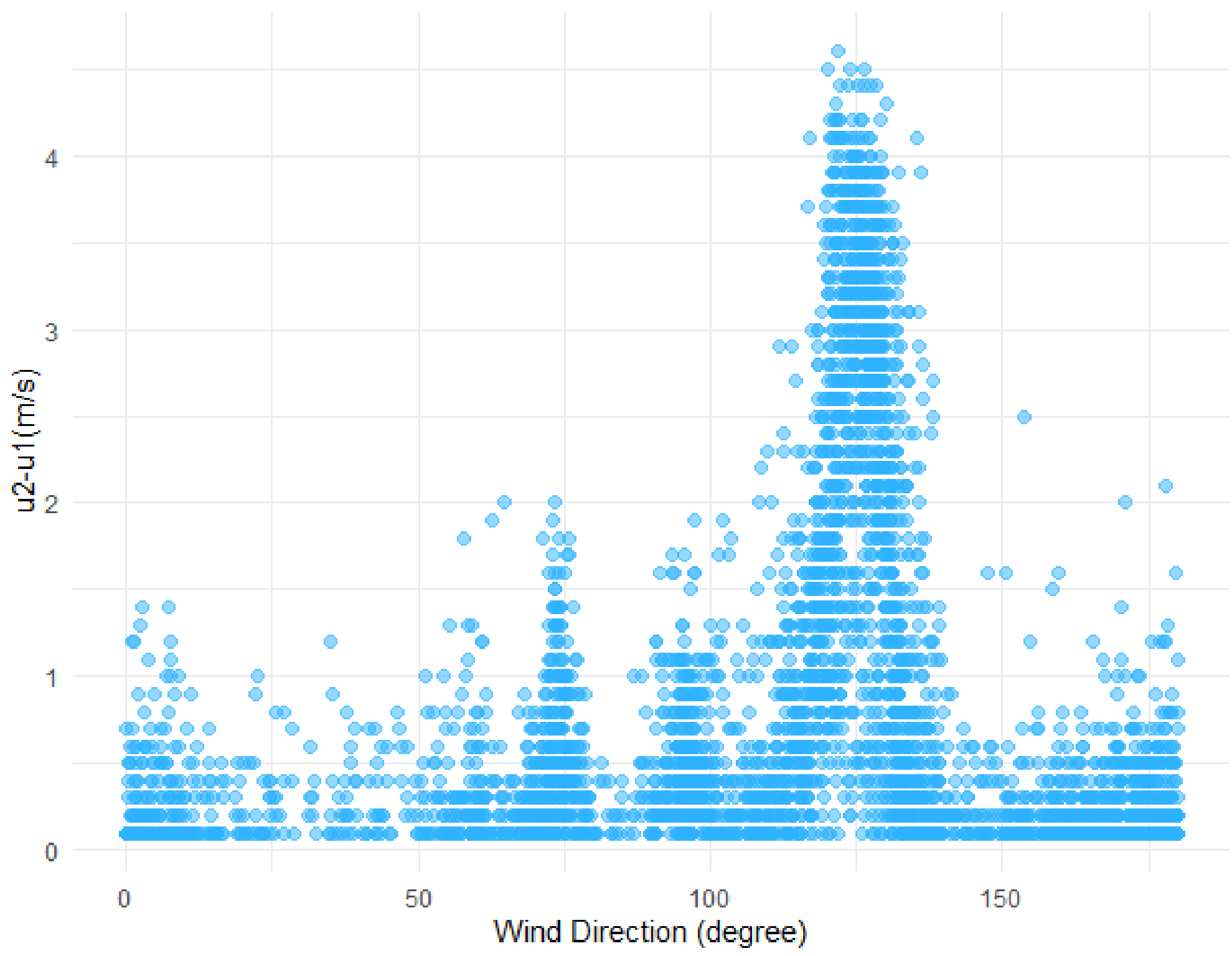
Result

Credits

Wind Direction vs. Difference of wind speeds at two wind turbines

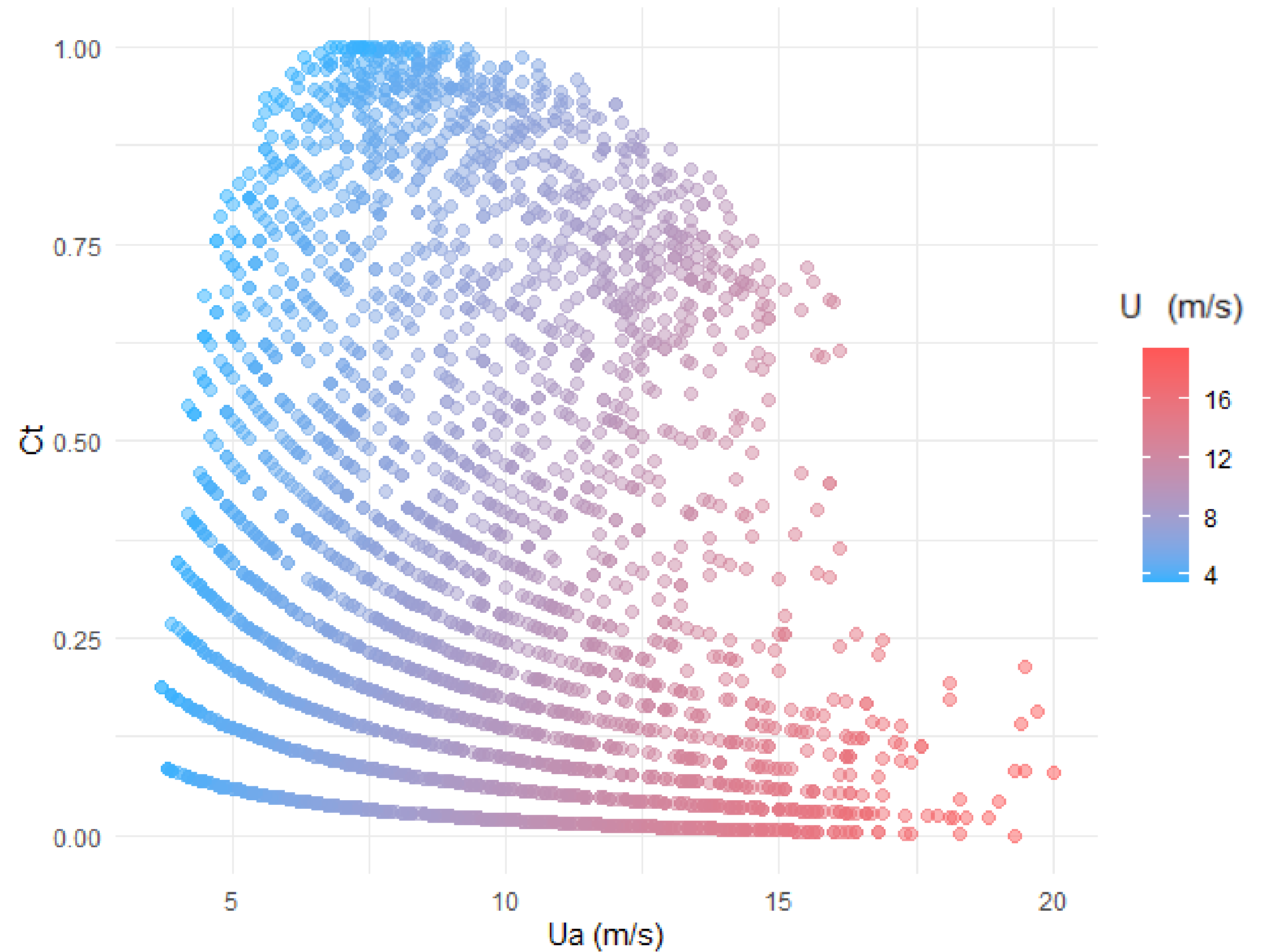
$$0 < \theta < 180$$

$$V_2 - V_1 > 0$$

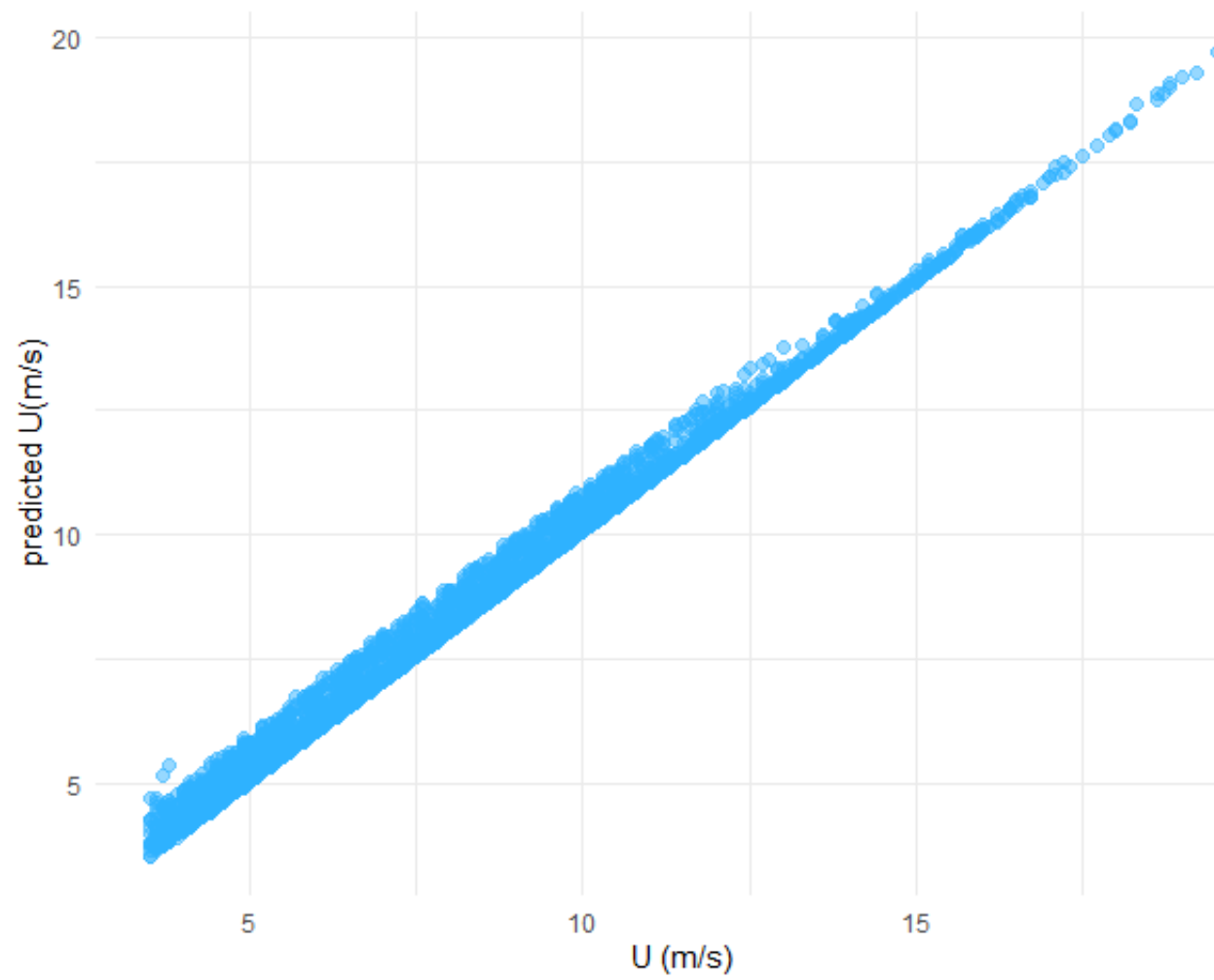


Ambient Wind Speed (U_a) vs. Thrust Coefficient (C_t)

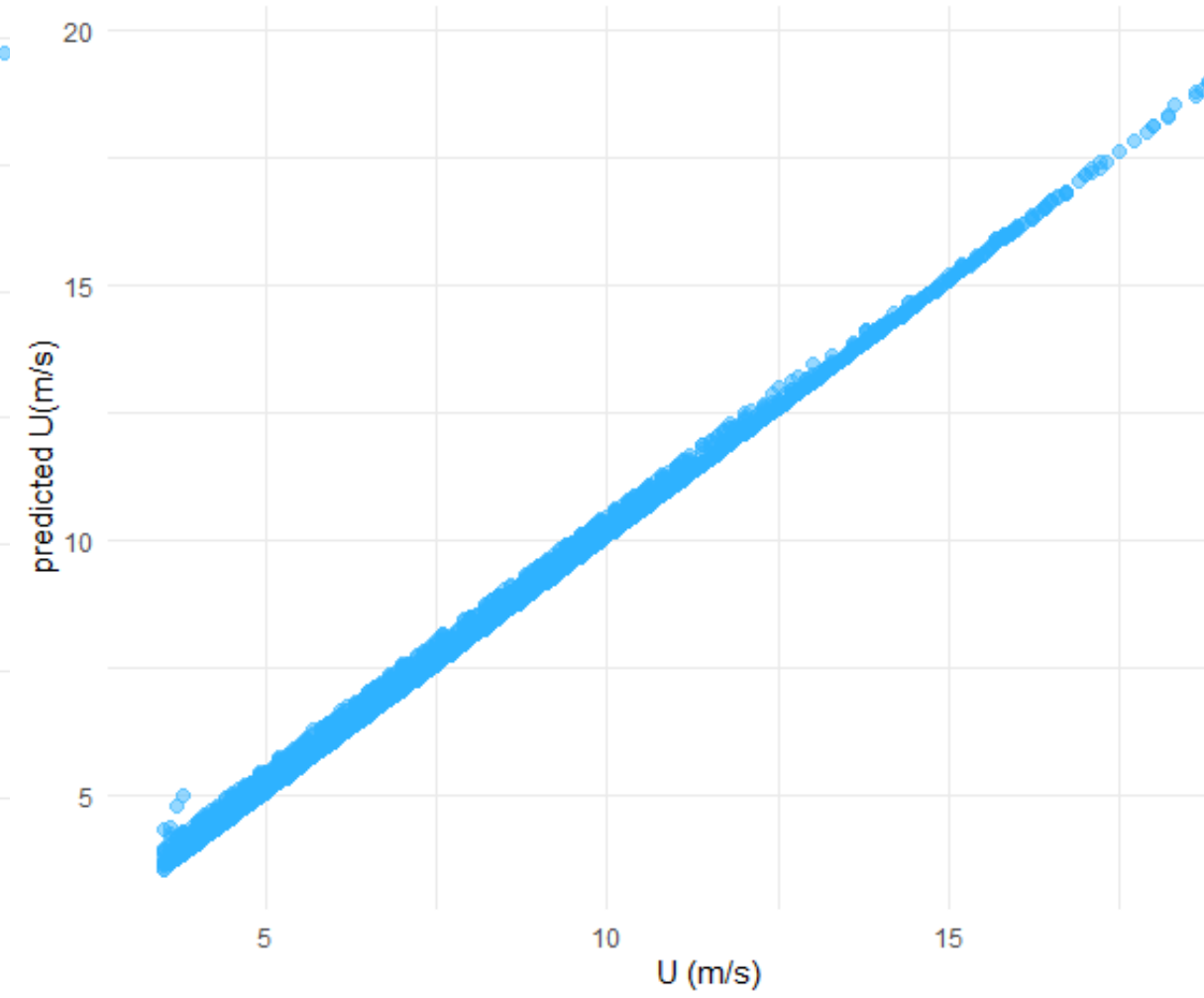
with $k = 0.06$
 $0 < \theta < 180$



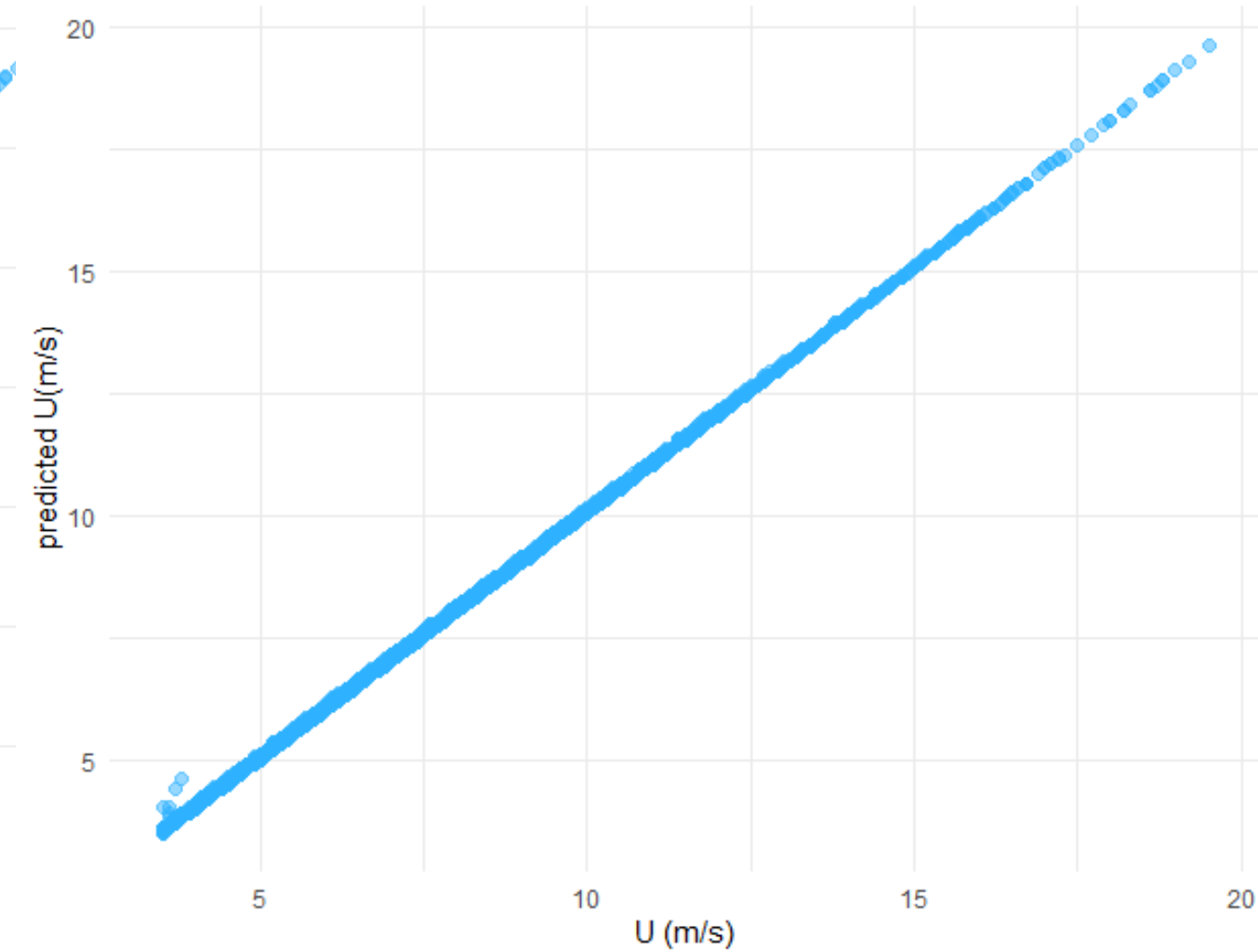
Wind Speed vs Predicted Wind Speed Across k (0 to 180 degrees)



$k=0.090$, RMSD = 0.371

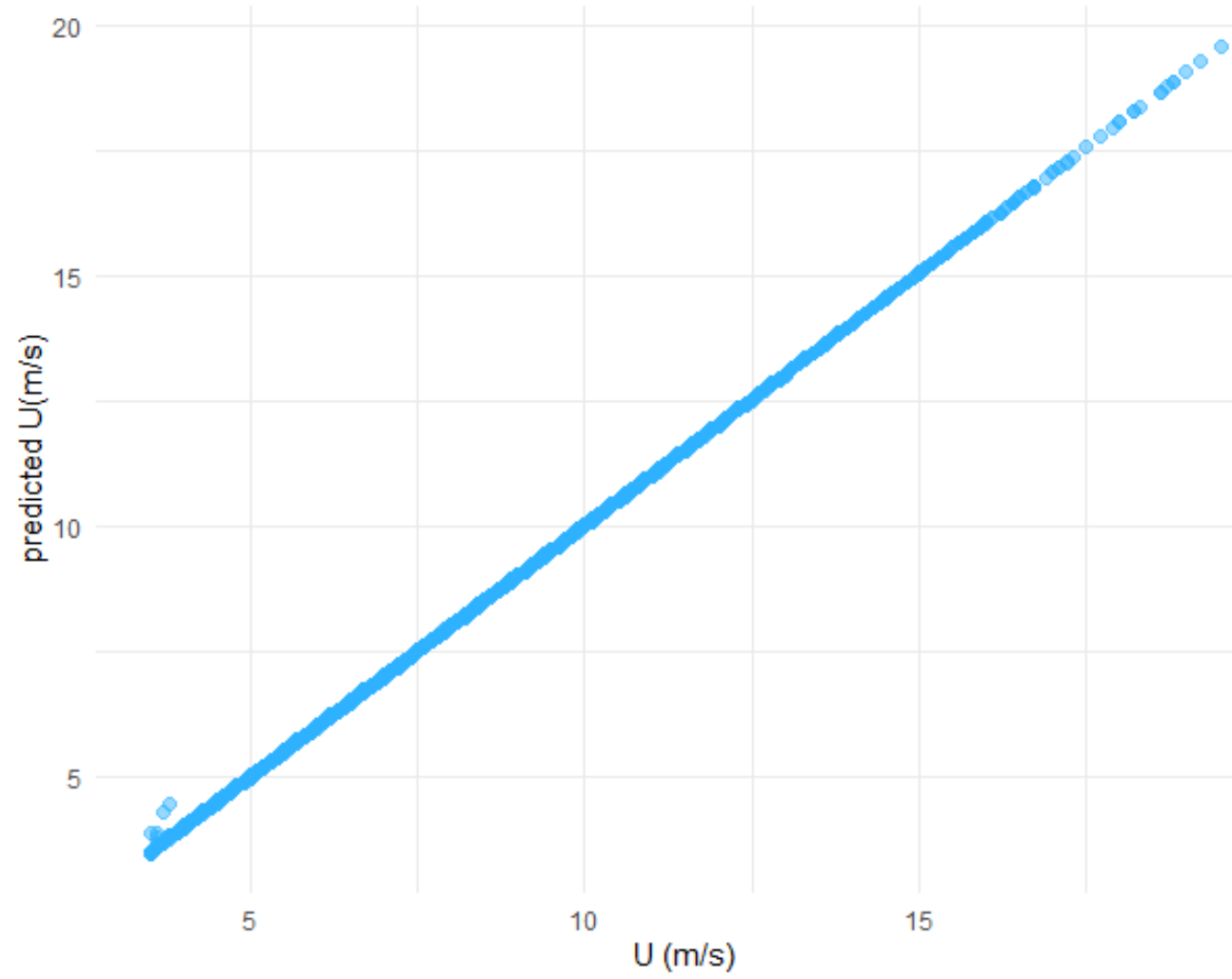


$k=0.075$, RMSD = 0.211

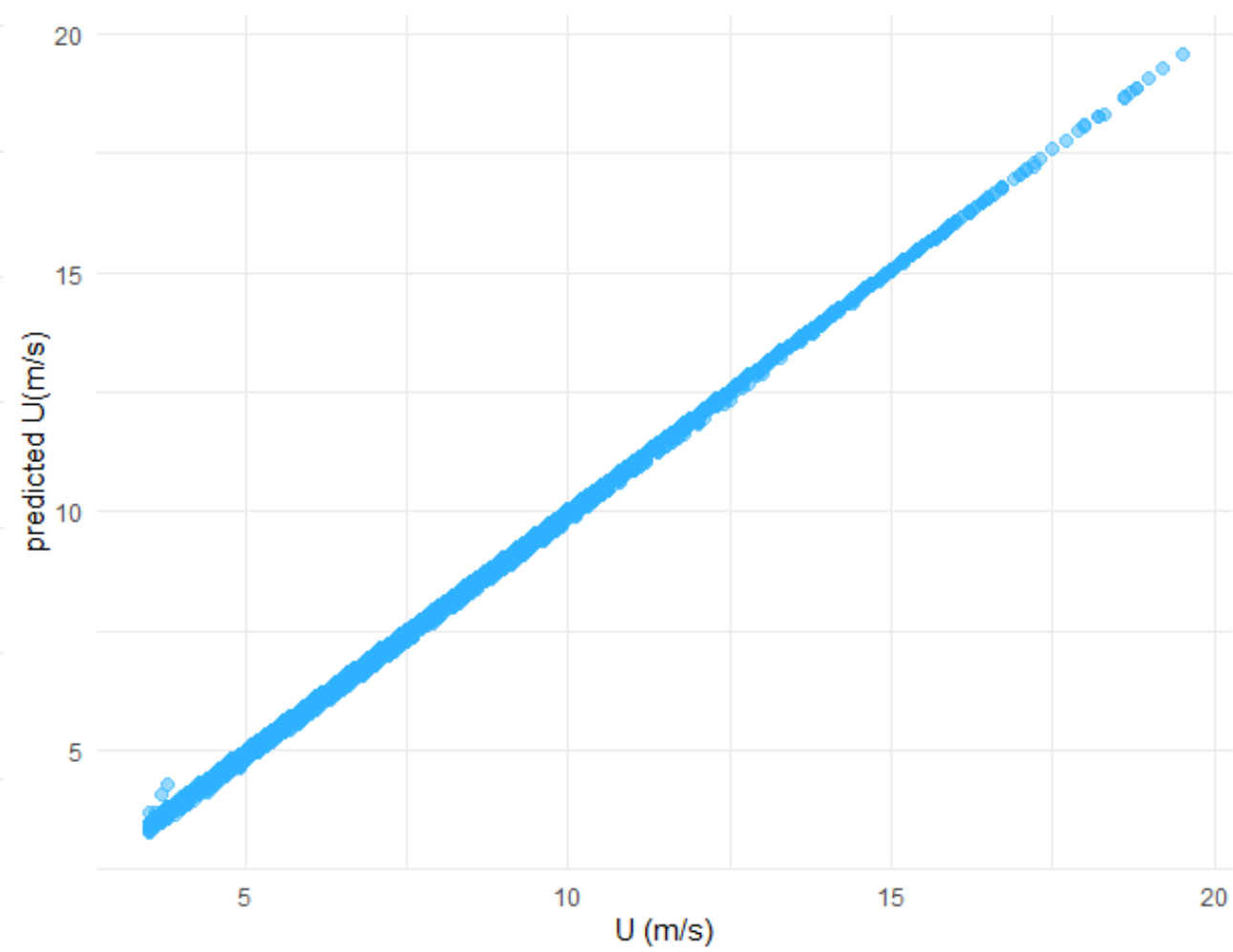


$k=0.065$, RMSD = 0.088

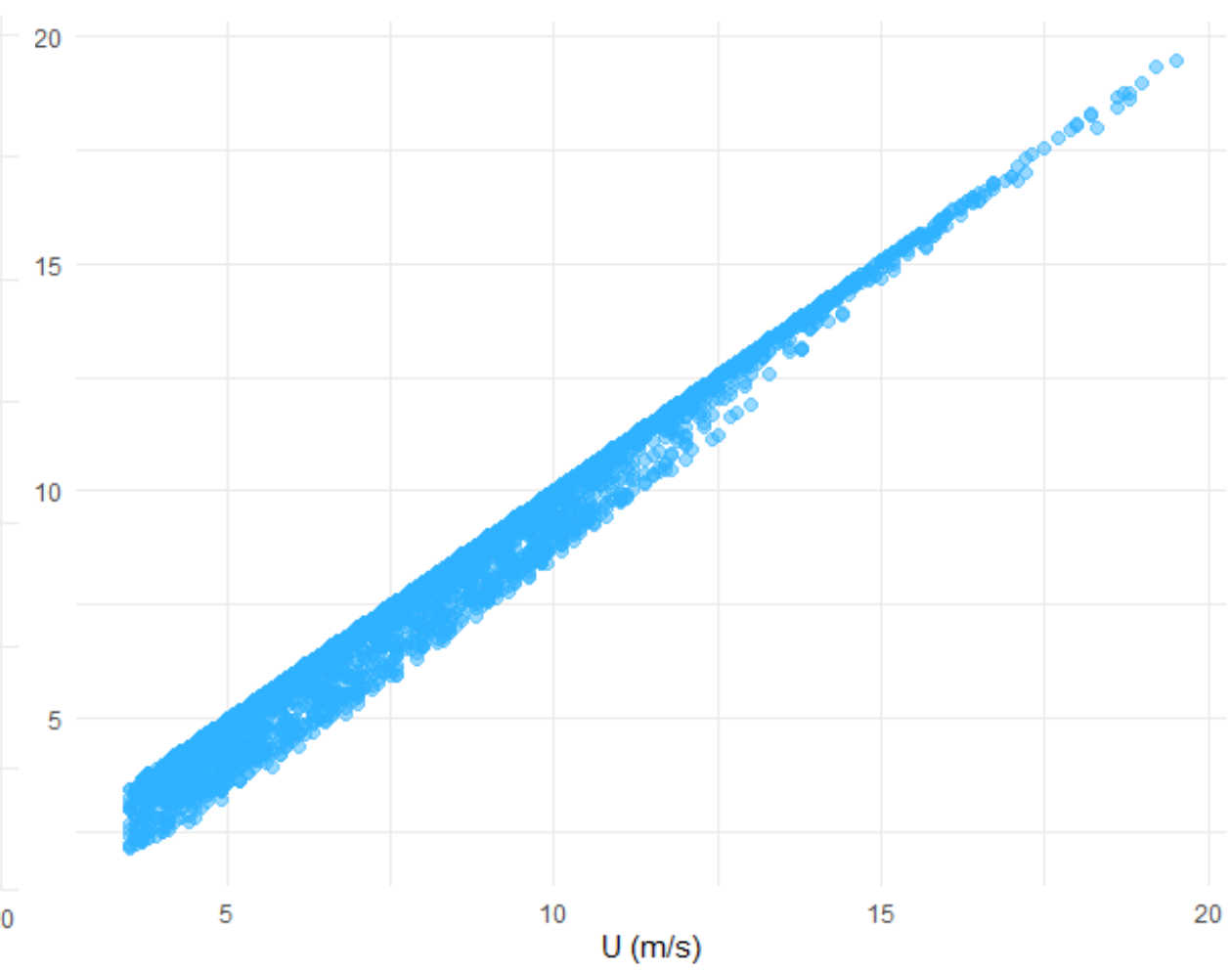
Wind Speed vs Predicted Wind Speed Across k (0 to 180 degrees cont.)



$k=0.060$, RMSD = 0.042



$k=0.055$, RMSD = 0.082

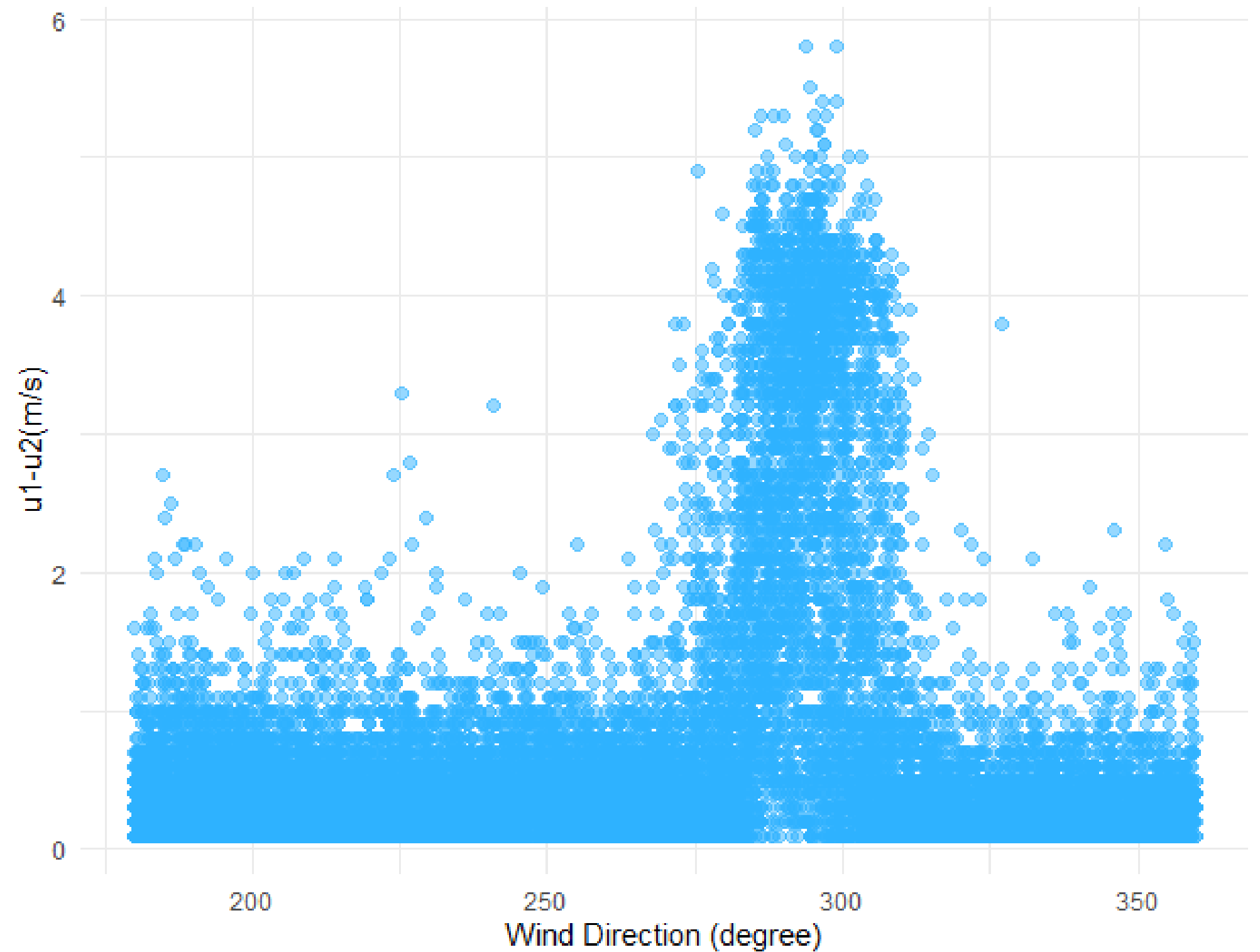


$k=0.030$, RMSD = 0.559

Wind Direction vs. Difference of wind speeds at two wind turbines

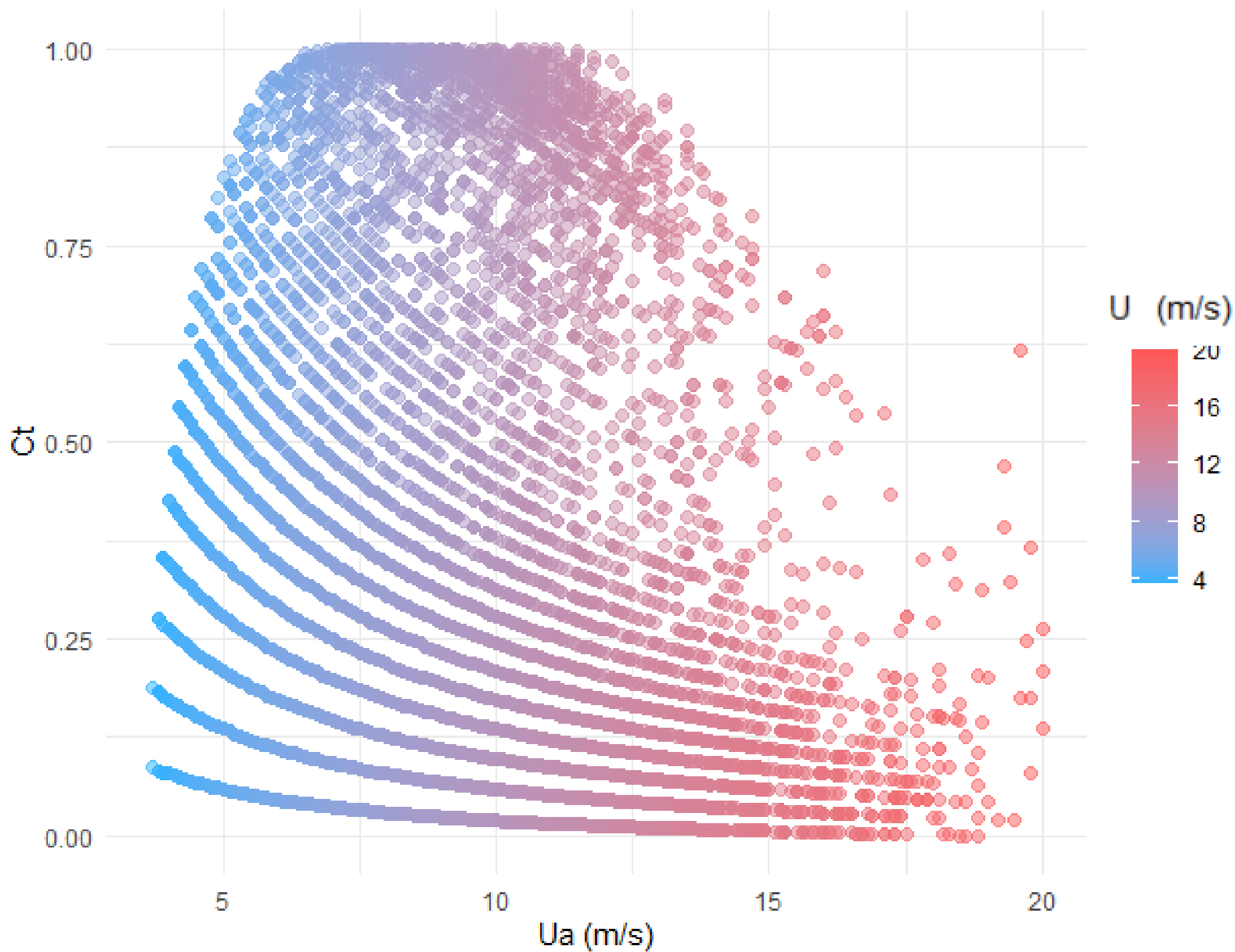
$180 < \theta < 360$

$V1 - V2 > 0$

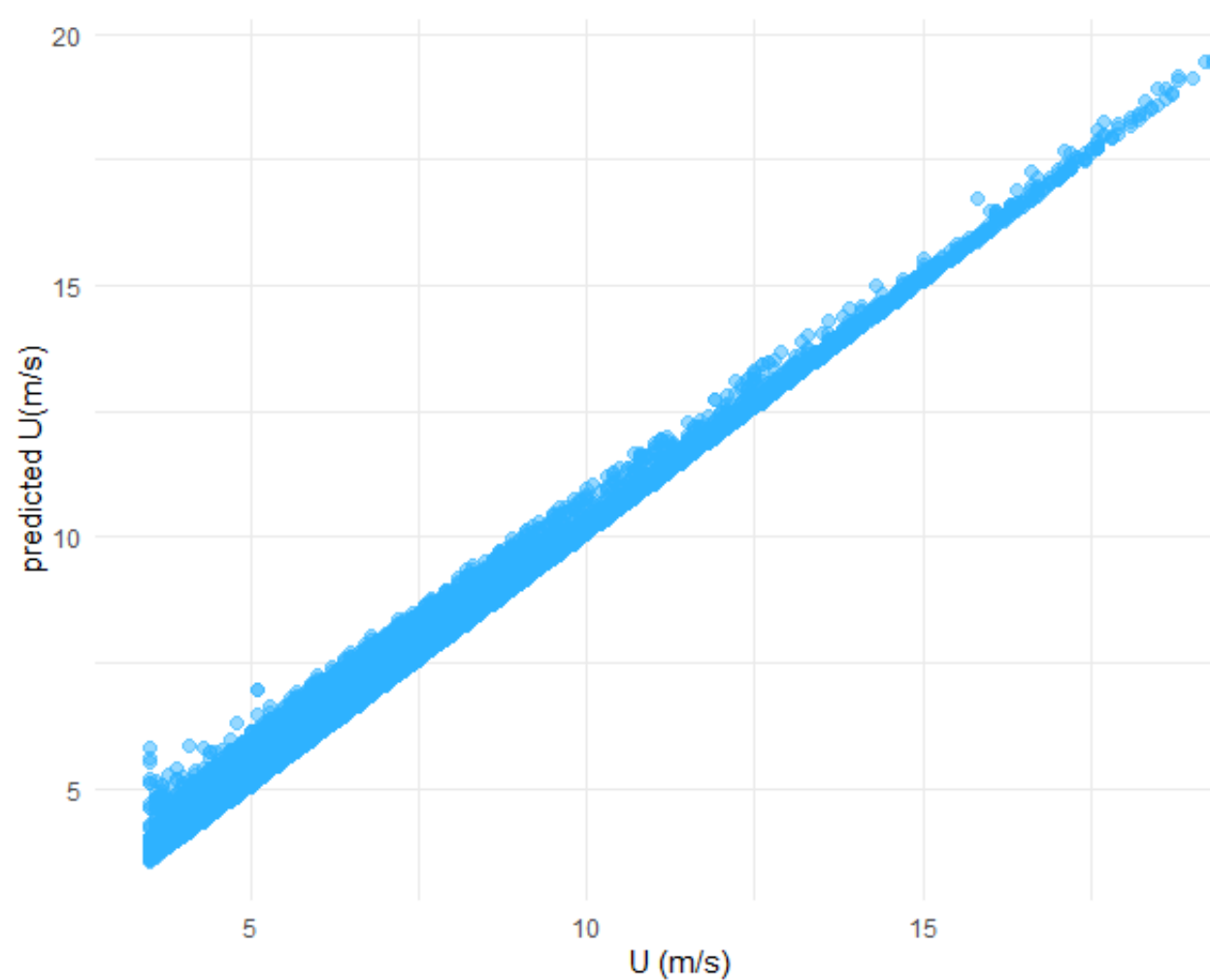


Ambient Wind Speed (U_a) vs. Thrust Coefficient (C_t)

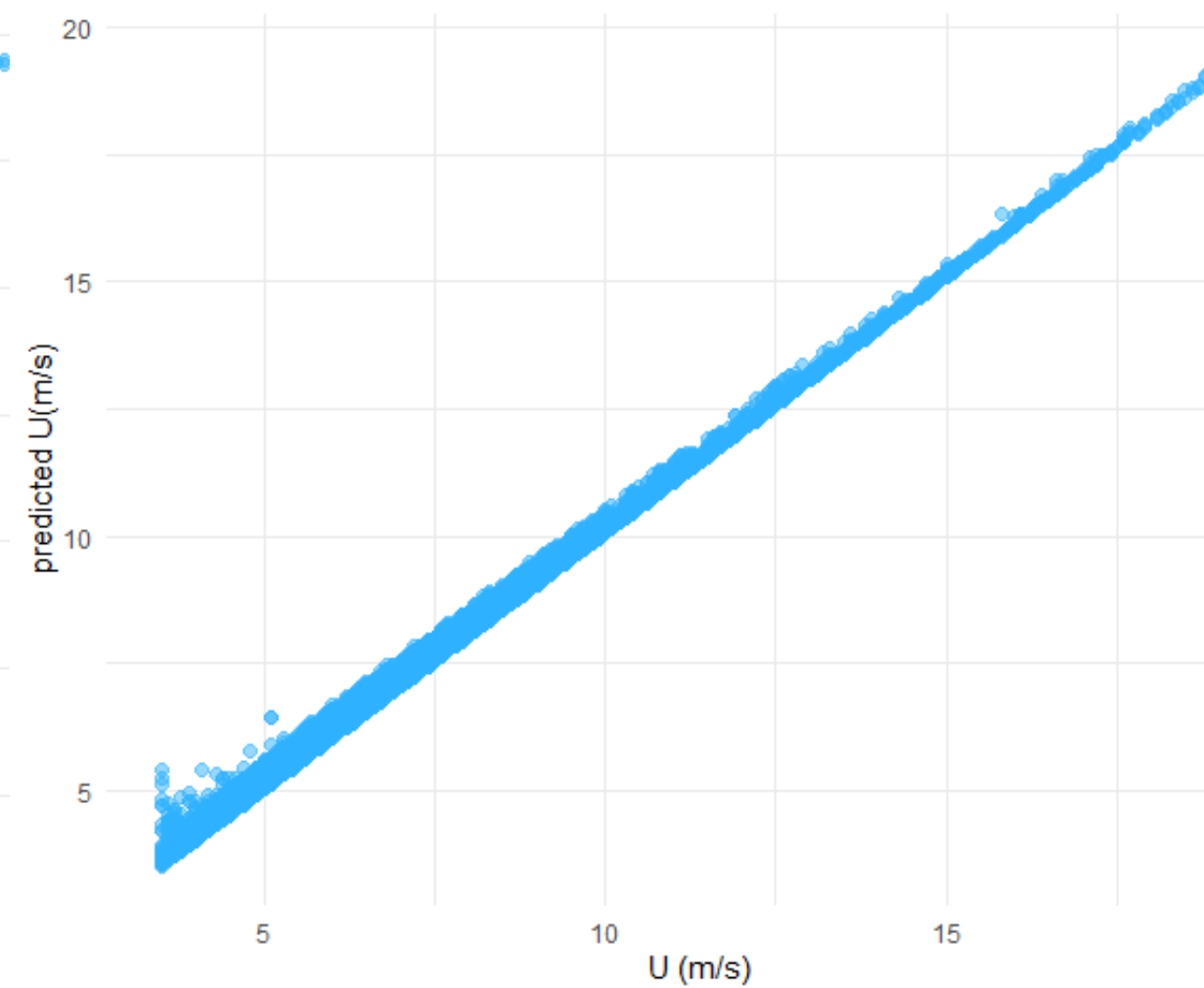
with $k = 0.06$
 $180 < \theta < 360$



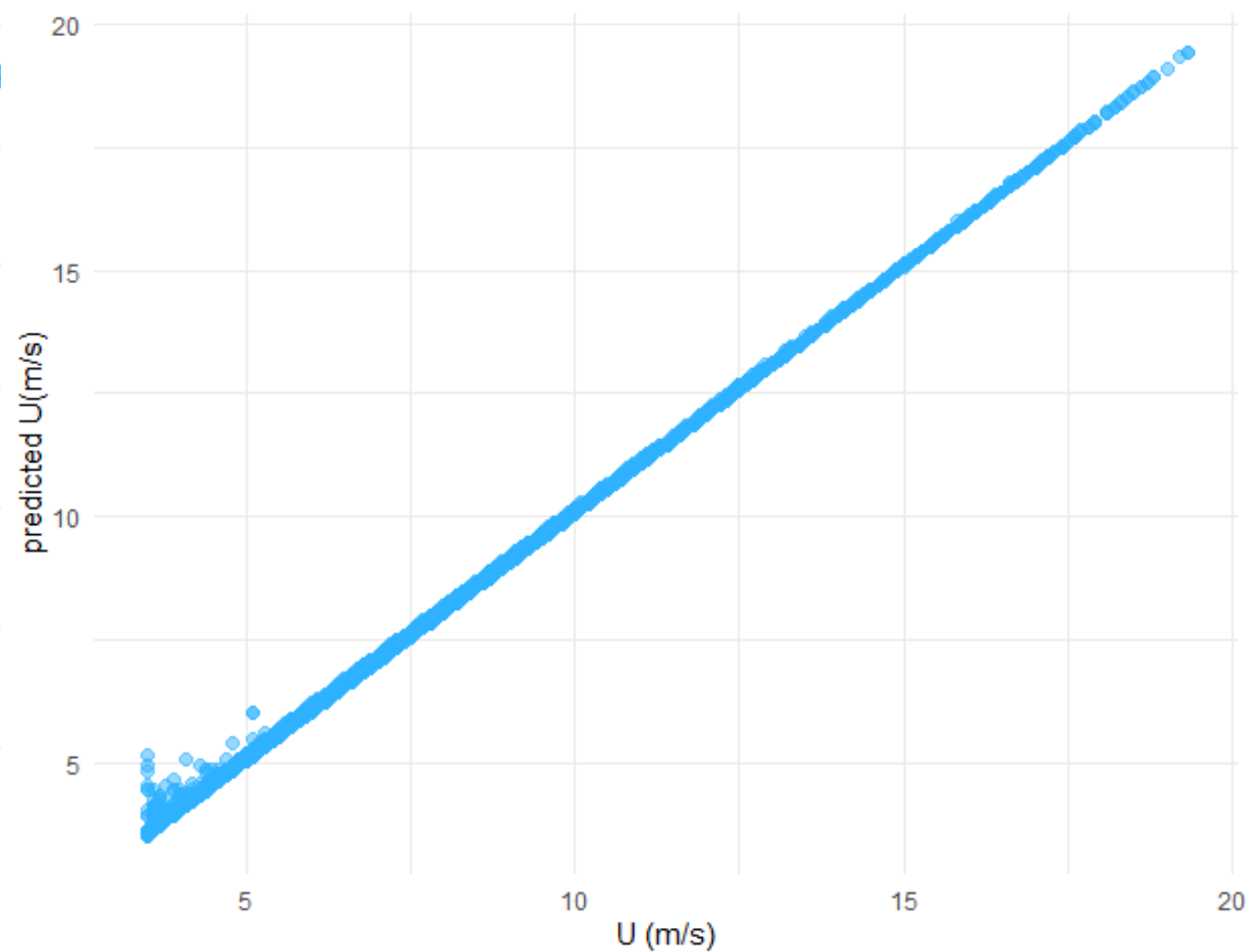
Wind Speed vs Predicted Wind Speed Across k (180 to 360 degrees)



$k=0.090$, RMSD = 0.310

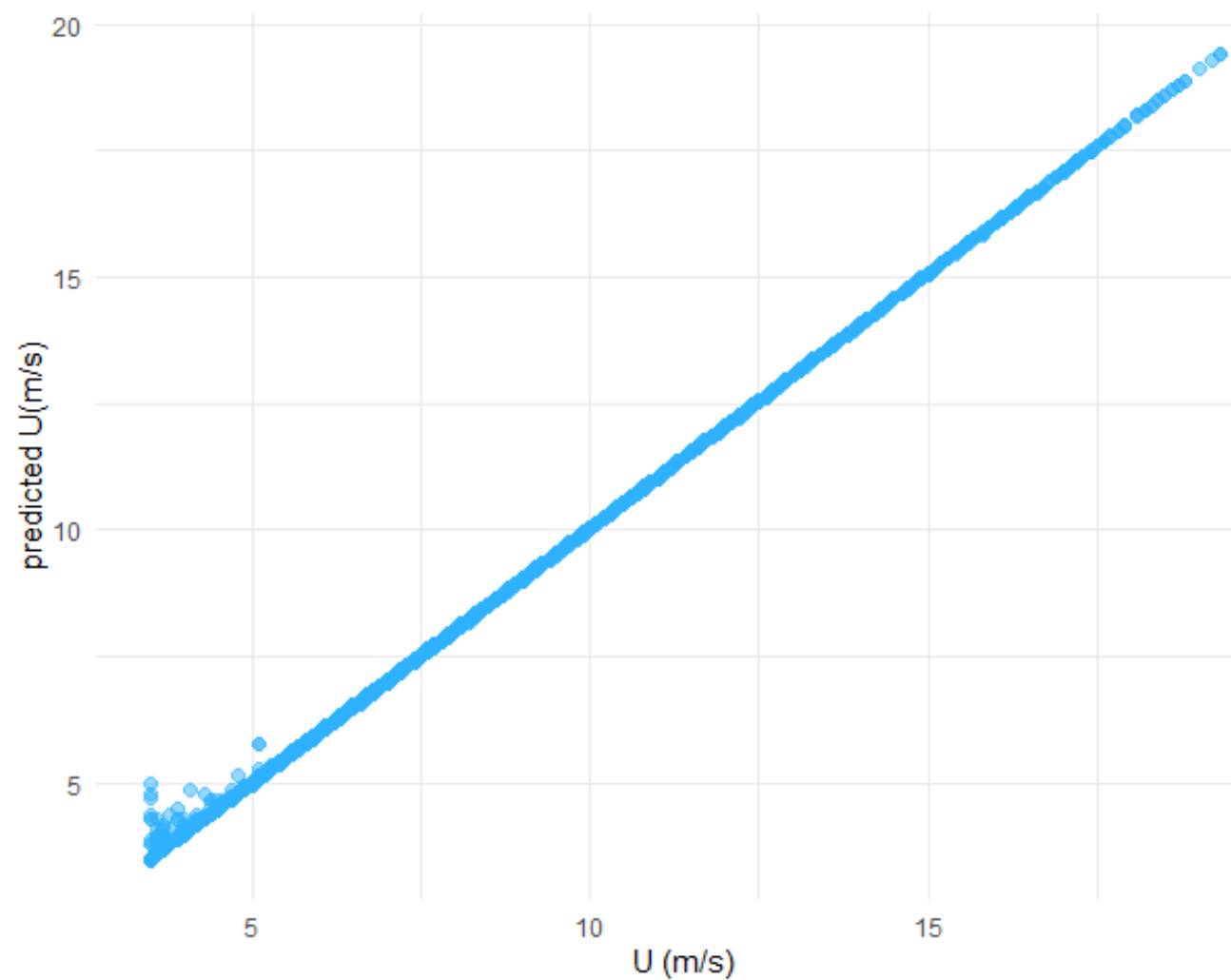


$k=0.075$, RMSD = 0.179

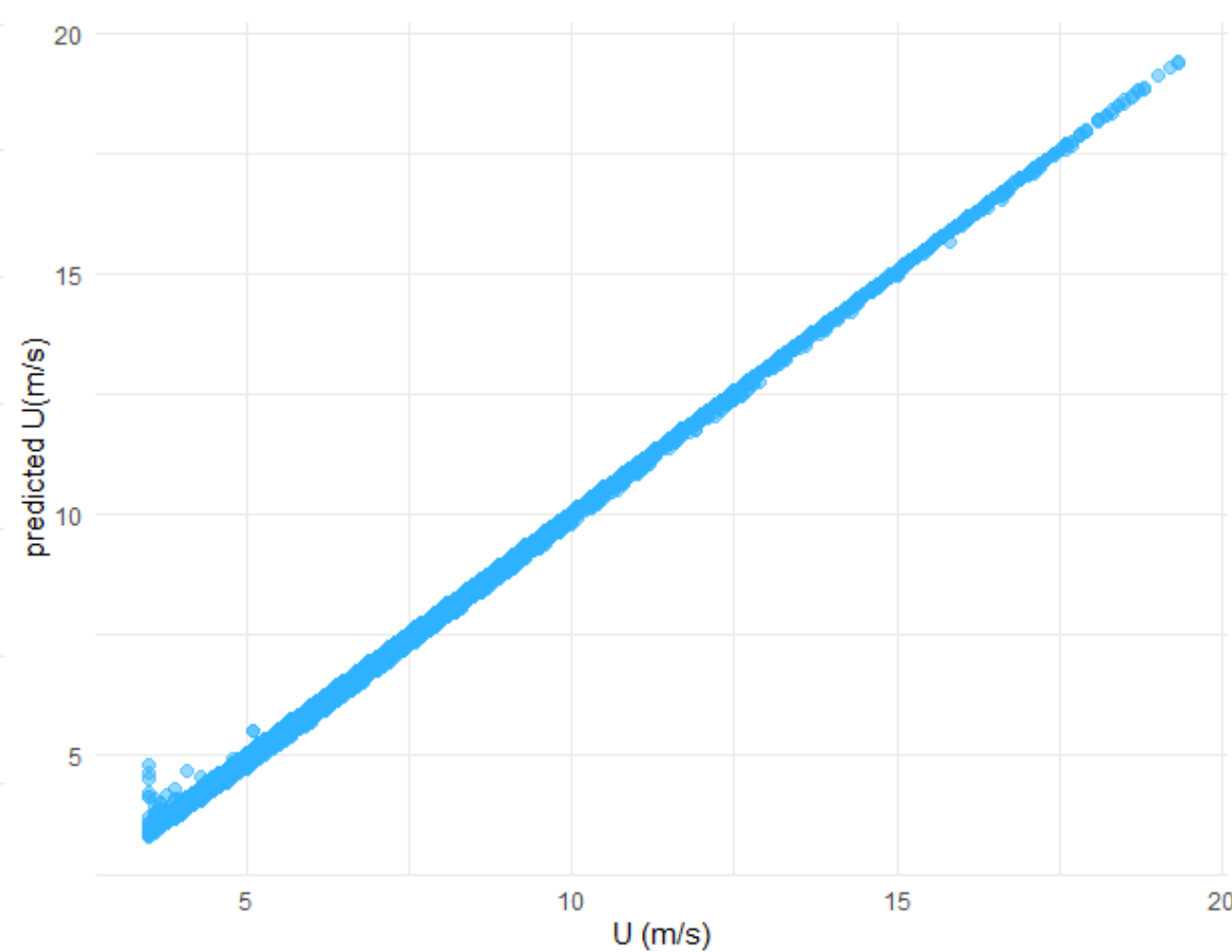


$k=0.065$, RMSD = 0.083

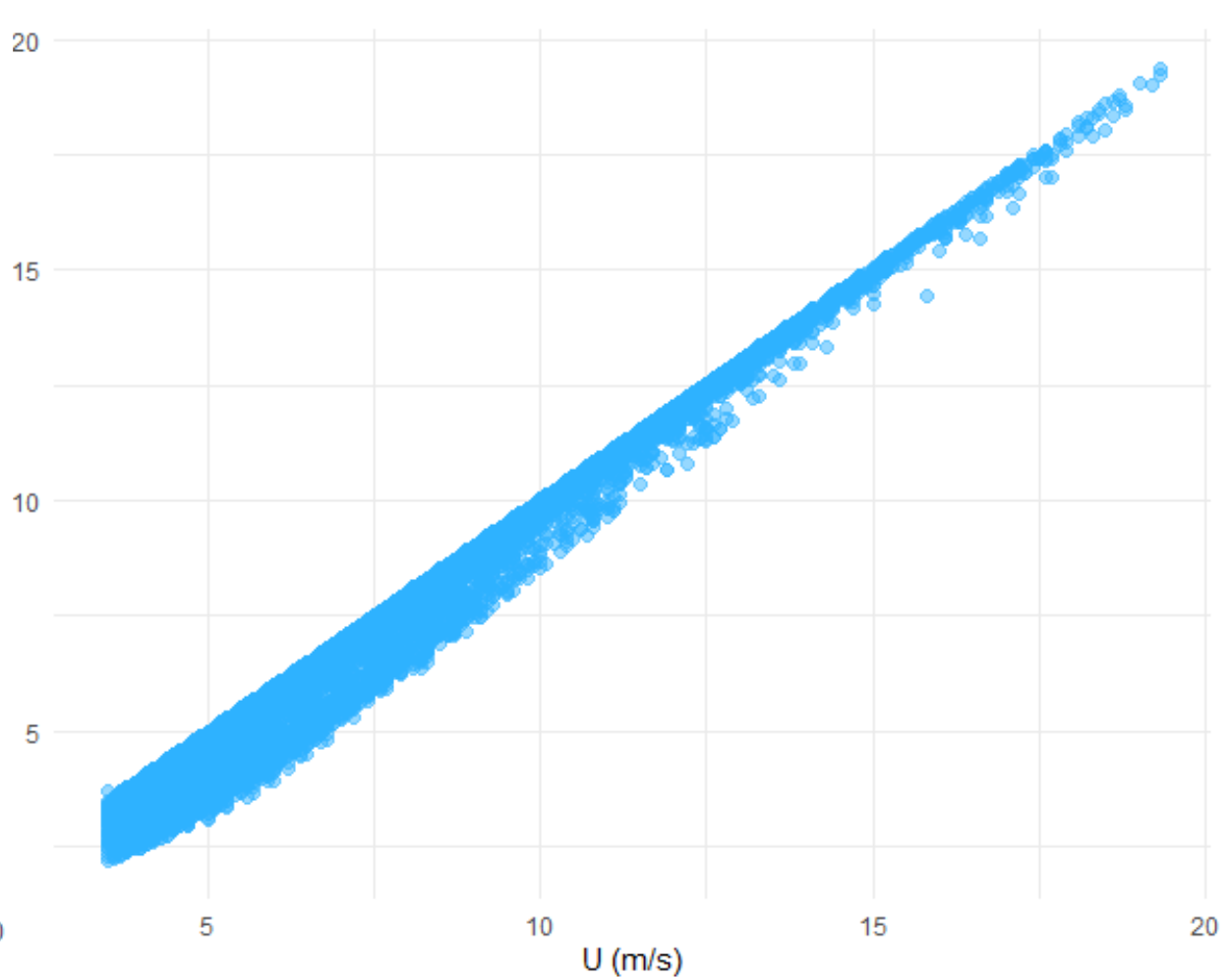
Wind Speed vs Predicted Wind Speed Across k (180 to 360 degrees cont.)



$k=0.060$, RMSD = 0.049



$k=0.055$, RMSD = 0.072



$k=0.030$, RMSD = 0.455

We found that the **popular k value** for onshore wind farms, $k=0.075$, **underestimates** the wake loss effect.

The most accurate k value is **$k = 0.060$** .

The Jensen Model is more accurate in higher wind speed conditions, and it loses its accuracy for wind speed < 5 m/s.

With a k value best suited for the given onshore wind farm, the Jensen Model has excellent accuracy.

The Next Steps

- For future research, we wish to test the Jensen Model using offshore wind farm data.

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Ahmed Aziz Ezzat

Sincere thanks to Dr. Ezzat for his guidance and patience throughout the research.

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Sincere thanks to Anny for studying together.

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Austin Wang

Sincere thanks to Austin for studying together.

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Thank you.

Xiangyue Wang

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