

Response to 1st Reviewer

The authors would like to thank the reviewer for the valuable comments provided. The comments are answered below and the changes to the paper will be highlighted in yellow, while the changes which common to all reviewers are highlighted in light blue.

- 1. Table 1 and 2 do not give enough information. For example, 'Data' in Table 1 needs to list the specific parameters instead of just highlighting the data interval.**

Tables 1 and 2 have been modified as follows:

- Table 1:
 - LiDAR instrumentation type
 - Type of data measured by the LiDAR
- Table 2:
 - Met station instrumentation.

A reference to the LiDAR instrumentation has been included in line 239:

(<https://www.zxlidars.com/wind-lidars/zx-300/>, n.d.)

The tables 1 and 2 are shown below with the modifications to the tables being highlighted in yellow.

Table 1: Candidate Site parameters (Cordina, et al., 2017).

| | |
|--|---|
| Station Name | Qalet Marku LiDAR Station |
| LiDAR Type | ZephIR 300 (https://www.zxlidars.com/wind-lidars/zx-300/ , n.d.) |
| Cone Angle, | 60° |
| LiDAR aperture height above the tower rooftop. | 1 m |
| Measurement height, above the LiDAR aperture window, m | 80m |
| Data | Average hourly wind speed, wind direction, atmospheric pressure and relative humidity. |
| Data range | 1 st July, 2015 – 31 st December, 2016 |
| Geographical Coordinates | 35.946252°N, 14.45329°E |
| Average tower rooftop height above surrounding ground level | 10 m |
| Height of base of tower above sea level | 6 m |

Table 2: Reference Site parameters (Malta International Airport).

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Station Name | Luqa MIA Weather Station |
|---------------------|--------------------------|

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Measuring Instruments | Wind – Cup and vane Digital temperature probe Digital Barometer. |
| Data | Average hourly wind speed, wind direction, air temperature, atmospheric pressure and relative humidity. |
| Mast height | 10 m above ground |
| Height of site above sea level | 78 m |
| Geographical Coordinates | 35.85657°N, 14.47676°E |

2. On line 179, ‘While MCP methodologies have been developed for wind speed, they cannot be used directly for predicting wind direction.’. Could you explain this?

Nothing has been found in literature on Measurement-Corelate-Predict techniques which explicitly mentions prediction of wind direction at the candidate site. A reference on the use of vectors was found in a presentation by Bosart and Papin (Bosart & Papin, 2017), which showed a way of using a regression methodology to predict the wind direction, by breaking the wind speed vector into its respective components. MCP methodologies are normally used to predict the wind speed magnitude at the candidate site, not the direction. The methodology used creates a regression model using the wind velocity vector components to predict the wind vector components at the candidate site, hence deriving the wind direction. Bosart and Papin’s method is adapted, in this paper, to MCP methodologies.

This clarification will be included in the paper at line 197 as follows.

“While MCP methodologies have been developed for wind speed, they cannot be directly used for predicting wind direction. Nothing has been found in literature on Measurement-Corelate-Predict techniques which explicitly mentions prediction of wind direction at that candidate site. The use of wind speed vectors is a way of using a regression methodology to predict the wind direction, by breaking the wind speed vector into its respective components. MCP methodologies are normally used to predict the wind speed magnitude at the candidate site, but not the direction. Wind velocity may be negative (if one considers it as a vector) and the MCP methodology normally considers the positive value of the wind, i.e. magnitude. The methodology used creates a regression model using the wind velocity vector components to predict the wind vector components at the candidate site (Bosart & Papin, 2017).”

3. On line 243, you said ‘SSTEP 1 – the various MCP methodologies are used to compute the MCP model. This is done using wind speed and direction data at a candidate and reference site for the year 2016’. However, the paper lacks the description of the modelling. For the regression model, how many inputs are you use? Are these MCP models one-step ahead prediction model? What are the other settings in these models? For example, how many hidden layers are there in the ANN and what type of hidden neurons are selected. If the modelling information is provided, it will be clearer and easier to understand.

The MCP methodologies used in this paper are described by (Mifsud, et al., 2018). The figures reproduced below are from the reference and show a description of the ANN model used for the regression between the candidate and the reference site.

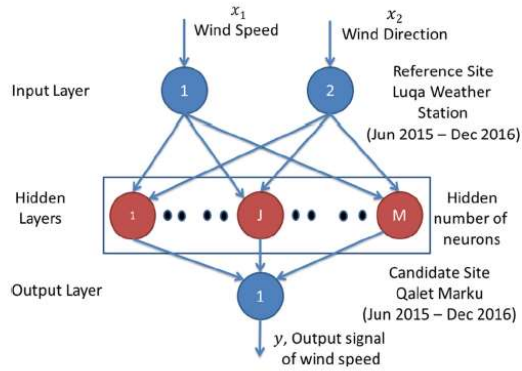


Fig. 7. Model used for Artificial Neural Network for regression between the reference site and the candidate site.

Table 6
Characteristics of the ANN used to compute the regression between the wind speed and direction at the reference site and the wind speed at the candidate site.

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Number of inputs | 2 | Wind speed in ms^{-1} and wind direction in degrees, at the reference site (Luqa Weather Station). |
| Number of outputs | 1 | Wind speed in ms^{-1} at the candidate site (LIDAR) |
| Number of layers | 3 | |
| Number of neurons in layer | 30,30,10 | |
| Training methodology. | Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm | |
| Percentage of points used for training. | 70% | |
| Percentage of points used for verification of model | 15% | |
| Percentage of points used for testing of model | 15% | |

The Multiple Linear Regression (MLR), Artificial Neural Network (ANN), Decision Trees (DT) and Support Vector Regression (SVR) models used for the prediction of wind speed, use wind speed (magnitude) and wind direction (in degrees) as input, and the wind speed at the candidate site as the target data to train the model. The models are created using 2016 wind data and 2015 wind data at the reference site is fed into the model to predict the 2015 wind speed at the candidate site.

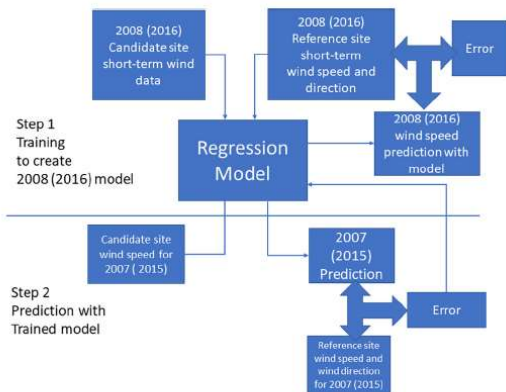


Fig. 6. Steps for constructing the regression model using 2016 data and predicting the 2015 wind speed.

The reference paper describes the MLR, Decision Tree (DT) and the Support Vector Regression (SVR) models. The data and methodologies are the same for this paper. The paper also describes the mathematical theory of the MCP methodologies and how they are applied to predict the wind at the candidate site.

MCP models are not one step ahead prediction models.

The same model structure is used for the prediction of wind direction. The input training data in this case is the vector component in the North or East Direction at the candidate site and the output of the model is the respective component at the candidate site (for 2016). The reference site data for 2015 is then run through the model to predict the north and east components of the wind. The wind direction is then derived.

Table 4 (below) will be introduced as a description of the models used in the MCP, and a description of the contents of the table will be included in line 293, as follows:

1. STEP 1 - The various MCP methodologies are used to compute the MCP model. For wind speed, the models are trained using wind speed and direction data at a candidate and reference site for the year 2016. For the wind direction the input training data is the wind velocity vector component in the North or East direction at the candidate site, and the output of the model is the respective component at the candidate site. The models are summarised in Table 4, below. Table 4 describes the inputs used to train the respective models, both for wind speed and wind direction. It also shows the parameters of the models and the respective algorithms used to train the model, such as Least-Squares for MLR and the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm for ANN.

Table 4: Description of the regression methodologies used for the Measure-Correlate-Predict Method

| MCP methodology | Wind Speed | Wind Direction |
|------------------------|--|--|
| MLR | <p>Independent variable: Wind speed magnitude at reference site.</p> <p>Dependent variable: Wind Speed magnitude at candidate site.</p> | <p>Independent variable: Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at reference site.</p> <p>Dependent variable: Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at candidate site.</p> |
| | Methodology: Least Squares | |
| ANN | <p>Number of inputs: 2 - wind speed magnitude, wind direction at the reference site.</p> <p>Number of outputs: 1 - wind speed magnitude at candidate site.</p> | <p>Number of inputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at reference site.</p> <p>Number of outputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at candidate site.</p> |
| | <p>Number of layers: 3</p> <p>Number of neurons in layer: 30,30,10</p> <p>Training Methodology: Levenberg-Marquardt Algorithm</p> <p>Percentage of points used for training: 70%</p> <p>Percentage of points used for verification: 15%</p> | |

| | | |
|------------|--|---|
| | Percentage of points used for testing: 15% | |
| DT | Number of inputs: 2 - wind speed magnitude, wind direction at reference site. | Number of inputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at reference site. |
| | Number of outputs: 1 - wind speed at candidate site. | Number of outputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at candidate site. |
| | Number of Trees: 200 | |
| | Minimum Number of Leafs: 5 | |
| | Methodology: Tree Bagger Ensemble | |
| SVR | Number of inputs: 2 - Wind speed magnitude, wind direction at reference site. | Number of inputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at reference site. |
| | Number of outputs: 1 - Wind speed magnitude at candidate site. | Number of outputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at candidate site. |
| | Methodology: Hyperparameter optimisation. | |
| | Kernel: Gaussian | |
| | Solver: Sequential Minimal Optimisation | |

4. You mentioned that the models were created using the data for the year 2016. Have you checked that the amount of data is enough to create a satisfactory MCP model?

1. MCP are normally carried out using hourly wind data measured over the period of a year. This means that for 2016 there are 8784 data points, which is considered adequate and within the scope of the MCP methodology.

Lines 58 and line 261 have been modified accordingly:

Line 58:

The regression is carried out using concurrent wind speed and wind direction data at the reference and the candidate sites. The reference site is normally the closest meteorological station e.g. airports, and the candidate site is the location chosen for the windfarm. When the model is created, hence establishing a relationship between the wind speed at both sites, the long-term wind data at the reference can be used to predict the long-term wind speed at the candidate site.

Line 261:

The ideal number of data points used to create the MCP models is thus 8784, the number of hours in 2016. Following analysis and filtration of the wind speed data at the reference site, 98% of the data was considered as suitable for the creation of the model. The data at the reference site was all considered as suitable. Hence, the regression model was created using the concurrent 8616 wind speed and direction values. For the year 2015, 95.6% of the data was considered valid (the measurement campaign started on the 26th of June, 2015, hence there were 4368 hours of wind speed and direction measurement of which 4176 were valid data points).

References

Bosart, L. & Papin, P., 2017. *www.atmos.albany.edu*. [Online] Available at: www.atmos.albany.edu/.../2017/pptx/ATM305_Statistics_16Nov17.pptx [Accessed 3 March 2019].

Cordina, C., Farrugia, R. & Sant, T., 2017. *Wind Profiling using LiDAR at a Coastal Location on the Mediterranean Island of Malta*. s.l., s.n.

<https://www.zxlidars.com/wind-lidars/zx-300/>, n.d. [Online] [Accessed 19 January 2020].

Mifsud, M., Sant, T. & Farrugia, R., 2018. A comparison of Measure-Correlate-Predict Methodologies using Lidar as a Candidate Site Measurement Device for the Mediterranean Island of Malta. *Renewable Energy*, Issue 127, pp. 947-959.

Response to 2nd Reviewer

The authors would like to thank the reviewer for the valuable comments provided. The comments are answered below and the changes to the paper will be highlighted in green, while the changes which are answers common to all reviewers are highlighted in light blue.

1. Line 40: I don't understand this statement. Why are they equivalent?

Line 41 reworded as follows for clarity:

As the LiDAR is sited on the roof of a coastal tower, at a height of 20m above the mean sea level,, the 80m measurement height would be equivalent to an offshore wind turbine (WT) hub height of 100m above the sea surface.

2. Line 160: meandering?

Line 162:

Dynamic Wake Meandering Model

3. Line: 216: again, confusing

Clarified in line 250 as follows:

In this case the wind data measured by the LiDAR at a height of 80m, would be equivalent to a cumulative height of 100m above sea-level, which would be the hub height of the wind turbines in the windfarm. This is because the LiDAR is situated on the rooftop of a coastal tower at a height of 20m above sea level, as shown in Table 7.

4. Line 223: what was the % of data that could be used?

Inserted the below in line 261:

Following analysis and filtration of the wind speed data at the reference site, 98% of the data was considered as suitable for the creation of the model. The data at the reference site was all considered as suitable. Hence, the regression model was created using the concurrent 8616 wind speed and direction values. For the year 2015, 95.6% of the data was considered valid (the measurement campaign started on the 26th of June, 2015, hence there were 4368 hours of wind speed and direction measurement of which 4176 were valid data points).

5. Line 236: in a row

Line 280 changed as follows for a better clarification:

The windfarm is made up of 50 wind turbines. There are 10 wind turbines in a row, having a cross-wind spacing of five rotor diameters (5D). The distance between the successive rows of wind turbines, or the downwind spacing is eight rotor diameters (8D).

6. Line 278: So, if I understand correctly, an MCP model is made for wind speed. Then for wind direction, two more MCP models are created for the wind speed components, which are then used to calculate the wind direction. These latter two models could of course also be used to calculate the magnitude of the wind speed and compared to the

first MCP model. Was that done? Is there an advantage of one approach versus the other? Please comment.

You understand correctly. This was done, but the results obtained with the first method (3 MCP models), were, by far superior to the second method (2 MCP models used to calculate the magnitude and direction of the wind). The reason why still remains to be investigated, and these results are not being presented in this paper. The scope of having three models, also possibly allows analysis of different combinations of MCP methodologies, i.e. using MLR for wind speed and ANN for wind direction. This was done for a limited number of combinations and is the subject of further research.

The results presented are those using 3 MCP models of the same type, and a comparison is thus made using four regression methodologies.

This paper is modified to reflect this in line 502, as part of the conclusion:

In this case, an MCP model was created for wind speed, and two more MCP models were created for wind speed components, which were then used to calculate the wind direction. Another possible method is to calculate the magnitude of the wind speed from the models used to calculate the wind direction. This was done, but, the results from the first method, were by far superior to those from the latter method. The reason why, still needs to be investigated as part of future work, and these results are not being presented in this paper. The advantage of having three models, also allows the possibility of using different combinations of MCP methodologies, i.e. using MLR for wind speed and ANN for wind direction. This was also performed for a limited number of combinations and is also the subject of further research.

7. Line 393: More info needed on how these values were calculated. i.e. what formulas, etc.

Also, would tables 5 and 6 be more informative if they were normalized by the wind farm capacity, or average power output of the farm?

The residual values are being changed to normalised values, based on the average of the residuals. There the following paragraph is being introduced to show the formulas used to calculate the metrics. The formulas used to derive these metrics are inserted as follows:

Line 18:

The predicted power is compared to the power output generated from the actual wind and direction data by using the Normalised Mean Absolute Error (NMAE) and the Normalised Mean Squared Error (NMSE).

Line 46:

Thus, the NMAE, the NMSE and the percentage error in the overall energy yield are compared for the various methodologies and wind farm topologies.

Line 228

The results are compared by using the NMAE and the NMSE of the residuals, using the Eq (8) to Eq. (12). The residuals, e_i are the errors between the predicted and actual output power values from the windfarm,

$$e_i = P_i - P_{act_i} \quad (8)$$

The formula used to calculate the NMAE is shown in Eq. (9), whereby the errors are normalised by dividing by the average power production over the whole period of evaluation (Madsen, et al., 2005):

$$NMAE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N |e_i|}{\sum_{i=1}^N P_i} \quad (9)$$

And the Normalised Mean Square Error (NMSE) is given by:

$$NMSE = \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (e_i)^2}{P \cdot \bar{P}_{act}} \quad (10)$$

where,

$$\bar{P} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N P_i \quad (11)$$

and

$$\bar{P}_{act} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N P_{act_i} \quad (12)$$

The percentage error in overall energy yield is given by Eq (13), where:

$$e_{eng} = \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N P_i - \sum_{i=1}^N P_{act_i}}{\sum_{i=1}^N P_{act_i}} \right) \cdot 100\% \quad (13)$$

The nomenclature is modified accordingly:

- Line 553: e_i Residual, MW
 Line 552: e_{eng} Percentage error in energy yield
 Line 550: NMSE Normalised Mean Squared Error
 Line 545: NMAE Normalised Mean Absolute Error
 Line 577: N Number of data points
 Line 578: P Predicted power output from wind farm, MW
 Line 579: P_{act} Actual power output from windfarm, MW

Thus tables 6 and 7 are modified as follows:

Table 3: Summarised results for Normalised Mean Absolute Error by MCP methodology and windfarm capacity:

| Normalised Mean Absolute Error | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Wind Farm Capacity | MLR | ANN | DT | SVR |
| 250MW | 0.505 | 0.502 | 0.572 | 0.544 |

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 200MW | 0.502 | 0.499 | 0.565 | 0.539 |
| 150MW | 0.492 | 0.482 | 0.545 | 0.532 |
| 100MW | 0.484 | 0.472 | 0.537 | 0.515 |
| 50MW | 0.510 | 0.547 | 0.573 | 0.558 |

Table 4: Summarised results for the Normalised Mean Squared Error (NMSE) of the normalised residuals by MCP methodology and windfarm capacity.

| Normalised Mean Squared Error | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Wind Farm Capacity | MLR | ANN | DT | SVR |
| 250MW | 0.977 | 1.004 | 1.170 | 0.082 |
| 200MW | 0.956 | 0.979 | 1.123 | 1.052 |
| 150MW | 0.912 | 0.938 | 1.056 | 1.002 |
| 100MW | 0.834 | 0.868 | 0.960 | 0.917 |
| 50MW | 0.789 | 0.884 | 0.930 | 0.890 |

8. Line 425: I am having a hard time interpreting the results. Fundamentally, I don't see how we should distinguish between the three metrics used - MAE, MSE, and percentage error. What do they each represent, and why are they not essentially equivalent? A reader needs more information of how to interpret the results and why the three metrics are each important.

The equations for the NMAE, NMSE and percentage error are now included in lines 227 to 235. Results are now normalised.

Many references describe the use of multiple metrics to judge the quality of regression statistics (Rogers, et al., 2005), and it is important to employ more than one metric (Santamaria-Bonfil, et al., 2016). The lower the value, the better the performance of the model. Hence, the model having the lowest NMAE and NMSE, have the best performance. NMAE and NMSE are used to quantify the performance of the models. While NMAE is suitable for describing uniformly distributed errors. It also reveals any average variance between the forecast value and the true value (Hu, et al., 2013). The NMAE gives the same weight to the errors, while the NMSE gives a larger weight to the larger errors, and avoids using the absolute value.

The NMSE assumes that the errors are unbiased and follow a normal distribution. The percentage error in energy yield gives an estimate of the accuracy of the model in the long-term, as it is the difference of the sum of the total predicted energy generated over the period of evaluation, expressed as a percentage of the actual energy.

Hence an evaluation of the three metrics is necessary to evaluate the quality of the models.

This is inserted in the paper in line 182 as follows:

Several metrics may be used to evaluate the accuracy of the models (Rogers, et al., 2005), and it is important to employ more than one metric (Santamaria-Bonfil, et al., 2016) to perform the evaluation. The lower the value of the metric, the better the performance of the model. In this case the NMAE and the NMSE were used to quantify the performance of the model. The NMAE is suitable to describe the errors which are uniformly distributed round the mean, revealing also the average variance

between the true value and the predicted value (Hu, et al., 2013). The NMAE applies the same weight to the individual errors.

The NMSE is a measure of the extent of the dispersion of the errors around the mean and gives a higher weight to larger errors. It assumes that the errors are unbiased and follow a normal distribution (Santamaria-Bonfil, et al., 2016). The percentage error of the energy yield gives an estimate of the accuracy of the model for predicting the total energy generated by the wind farm over the period of evaluation. Due to the fact the each metric has disadvantages that can lead to inaccurate evaluation of the results it is not recommended to depend only on one measure (Shcherbakov, et al., 2013).

References

- Hu, J., Wang, J. & Zeng, G., 2013. A Hybrid Forecasting Approach Applied to Wind Speed Time Series. *Renewable Energy*, Volume 60, pp. 185 - 194.
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2 Analysing Uncertainties in Offshore Wind Farm Power Output using 3 Measure Correlate Predict Methodologies.

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8 **Keywords:** Measure Correlate Predict, Wake Model, Offshore Wind Farms, LiDAR

9 Abstract

10 *This paper investigates the uncertainties resulting from different Measure-Correlate-Predict methods*
11 *to project the power and energy yield from a wind farm. The analysis is based on a case study that*
12 *utilizes short-term data acquired from a LiDAR wind measurement system deployed at a coastal site in*
13 *the northern part of the island of Malta and long-term measurements from the island's international*
14 *airport. The wind speed at the candidate site is measured by means of a LiDAR system. The predicted*
15 *power output for a hypothetical offshore wind farm from the various MCP methodologies is compared*
16 *to the actual power output obtained directly from the input of LiDAR data to establish which MCP*
17 *methodology best predicts the power generated.*

18 *The power output from the wind farm is predicted by inputting wind speed and direction derived from*
19 *the different MCP methods into windPRO®¹. The predicted power is compared to the power output*
20 *generated from the actual wind and direction data by using the Normalised Mean Absolute Error*
21 *(NMAE) and the Normalised Mean Squared Error (NMSE). This methodology will establish which*
22 *combination of MCP methodology and wind farm configuration will have the least prediction error.*

23 *The best MCP methodology which combines prediction of wind speed and wind direction, together with*
24 *the topology of the wind farm, is that using Multiple Linear Regression (MLR). However, the study*
25 *concludes that the other MCP methodologies cannot be discarded as it is always best to compare*
26 *different combinations of MCP methodologies for wind speed and wind direction, together with different*
27 *wake models and wind farm topologies.*

28 1 Introduction

29 The Measure-Correlate-Predict (MCP) methodology introduces uncertainty due to its inherent
30 statistical nature. Recent developments have seen the introduction of new computational regression
31 techniques such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) and Machine Learning, which include Decision
32 Trees (DT) and Support Vector Regression (SVR). In a previous study, Light Detection and Ranging
33 (LiDAR) data was used to compare the results of the various regression methodologies at different
34 LiDAR measurement heights (Mifsud, et al., 2018) with the reference site being Malta International
35 Airport (MIA), Luqa, and the candidate site being a coastal watch tower at Qalet Marku on the Northern
36 part of the island. This study uses the same wind data for the year 2016 to construct the MCP models.
37 However, this time the prediction is carried out on both wind speed and wind direction. Wind speed
38 and direction are then predicted for the period June – December 2015. This is done for the different
39 MCP models. The predicted wind speed and wind direction time series are then fed into a wind farm
40 model implemented in windPRO® Ver. 2.7 to model the overall energy yield, considering wake losses.
41 The power output for various wind farm configurations is obtained for each methodology. As the
42 LiDAR is sited on the roof of a coastal tower, at a height of 20m above mean sea level, the wind data
43 measured at a height of 80m would be equivalent to a wind turbine (WT) hub height of 100m above the
44 sea surface.

Commented [MDM1]: Response to 2nd Reviewer Point 7.

Commented [MDM2]: Response to 2nd Reviewer Point 1.

¹ <https://www.emd.dk/windpro>.

45 The power output in each case is compared to that obtained when the actual wind data is fed to the wind
46 farm model. Thus, the NMAE, the NMSE and the percentage error in the overall energy yield are
47 compared for the various methodologies and wind farm topologies. This is therefore a study about the
48 uncertainties introduced by the various statistical methods, which is then further complicated by the
49 windfarm layout. It is innovative due to the use of an MCP methodology to predict both the wind speed
50 and the wind direction. The following literature review describes different MCP methodologies, four of
51 which are then used in the prediction of wind speed and wind direction. The wake models are also
52 described. This is followed by a description of the methodology used in the study, together with a
53 description of the hypothetical wind farm used as a basis for this study. Finally, the results are presented
54 and discussed.

Commented [MDM3]: Response to 2nd Reviewer Point 7.

55 2. Literature Review

56 The first MCP methods estimated the mean long-term annual wind speed (Carta, et al., 2013). MCP
57 methods later made use of Simple Linear Regression (SLR) (Rogers, et al., 2005) to establish a
58 relationship between hourly wind characteristics of the candidate and the reference sites. A Multiple
59 Linear Regression is a regression model that involves more than one regressor variable (Montgomery,
60 et al., 2006). The regression is carried out using concurrent wind speed and wind direction data
61 at the reference and the candidate sites. The reference site is normally the closest
62 meteorological station e.g. airports, and the candidate site is the location chosen for the
63 windfarm. When the model is created, hence establishing a relationship between the wind speed
64 at both sites, the long-term wind data at the reference can be used to predict the long-term wind
65 speed at the candidate site. More recent models established non-linear type relationships (Clive, 2004;
66 Carta & Velazquez, 2011) by employing statistical learning (Hastie, et al., 2009). Amongst these are
67 algorithms such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) (Bilgili, et al., 2007; Monfared, et al., 2009) and
68 the more recent Machine Learning (ML) techniques, which include Support Vector Regression (SVR)
69 (Oztopal, 2006; Zhao, et al., 2010; Scholkopf & Smola, 2002; Alpaydin, 2010) and Decision Trees
70 (DTs) (James, et al., 2015; Alpaydin, 2010).

Commented [mm4]: Response to Reviewer 1. Point 4

71 A study (Carta, et al., 2013) reviewed many MCP methodologies. These included the method of ratios,
72 first-order linear regression, higher than first-order linear methods, non-linear methods and probabilistic
73 methods. The authors were also concerned with the uncertainties associated with MCP methodologies
74 and argued that users of MCP methodologies have little information on which to determine the
75 uncertainty of the methodology. One methodology to measure this uncertainty is to use the full set of
76 data from the concurrent period to train the model and assess its quality.

77 Another study by Rogers compared four different MCP methodologies (Rogers, et al., 2005). These
78 included a linear regression model, the distributions of ratios of the wind speeds at the two sites, an
79 SVR model and another method based on the ratio of the standard deviations of the two data sets. The
80 authors concluded that SVR gave the best results. In a different study, the same authors (Rogers, et al.,
81 2005b) also analysed the uncertainties introduced with the use of MCP techniques. They concluded that
82 linear regression methodologies could seriously underestimate uncertainties due to serial correlation of
83 data. Another study shows that a proper assessment of uncertainty is critical for judging the feasibility
84 and risk of a potential wind farm development, and the authors describe the risk of oversimplifying and
85 assuming uncertainties (Lackner, et al., 2012).

86 A hybrid MCP method (Zhang, et al., 2014) which involved adding different weights depending on the
87 distance and elevation of the candidate site to the reference sites, was applied to the input of five MCP
88 methodologies. The methods used consisted of the Linear Regression, Variance Ratio, Weibull scale,
89 ANNs and SVR methods. The results were assessed in terms of metrics such as the Mean Squared Error
90 and Mean Absolute Error. Other authors (Perea, et al., 2011) evaluated three methodologies. One
91 method included a linear regression, which was derived from the bivariate normal joint distribution and
92 the Weibull regression method. The other method was based on conditional probability density
93 functions applied to the joint distributions of the reference and the candidate sites. The results from
94 these two methodologies were in turn compared to SVR. Although the conclusion was that the SVR

95 method predicted all the parameters very accurately, the probability density function based on the
96 Weibull distribution was better in terms of prediction accuracy.

97 The ability of ANNs to recognise patterns in complex data sets means that they can also be used to
98 correlate and predict wind speed and wind direction (Zhang, et al., 2014). A neural network contains an
99 input layer, one or more hidden layers of neurons and an output layer. A learning process updates the
100 weights of the interconnections and biases between the neurons in the various layers. The Levenberg-
101 Marquardt (Principe, et al., 2000) algorithm may be used for this purpose. The regression is performed
102 by means of feedforward networks (Alpaydin, 2010) with *multilayer perceptrons* (MLP).

103 Another study (Velazquez, et al., 2011) utilised wind speed and direction from various reference
104 stations. These were introduced into the input layer of an ANN. It was concluded that when wind
105 direction was used as an angular magnitude to the input signal, the model gave better results. Estimation
106 errors also decreased as the number of reference stations was increased. The authors concluded that
107 ANNs are superior to other methods for predicting long-term wind data.

108 The use of ANNs for long-term predictions was also investigated by Bechrakis (Bechrakis, et al., 2004)
109 using wind speed and direction measurements from just one reference station and compared these to
110 standard MCP algorithms. This resulted in an improved prediction accuracy of 5 to 12%. Unfortunately,
111 many models that use various reference stations use only the recorded wind speeds as input. The
112 topologies of the ANNs used have only a single neuron in the input layer, with the output signal being
113 the wind speed at the candidate site (Monfared, et al., 2009; Oztopal, 2006; Bilgili, et al., 2009).

114 Data from meteorological stations possessing long measurement periods provide a large amount of
115 potential inputs for MCP methods. Apart from wind speed and direction, inputs can also include other
116 climatological variables such as air temperature, relative humidity and atmospheric pressure. Hence, a
117 multivariate MCP methodology may be utilised (Patane, et al., 2011). This technique considers all the
118 inputs and extracts the maximum amount of information at the sites. Since some input variables may
119 be inter-correlated, or may not provide information about the target site wind characteristics, the
120 methodology is a two-stage process. Input variables are analysed and those that contain little or
121 redundant information about the candidate site wind characteristics are discarded, following which, a
122 multivariate regression is performed. It was concluded from the results of the tests made that the
123 methodology was more accurate than standard MCP methods, with the quality of the estimation of the
124 long-term wind resource increasing by 19%.

125 SVR is the adaptation of Support Vector Machines to the regression problem. This technique was
126 developed by Vapnik (Vapnik, 1995; Vapnik, et al., 1998) to solve classification problems. SVR
127 (Alpaydin, 2010) is popular within the renewable energy community, being a unique way to construct
128 smooth and nonlinear regression approximations (Diaz, et al., 2017). The analysis of MCP models using
129 SVR techniques shows that SVR is one of the techniques which best represents ML state-of-the-art
130 (Diaz, et al., 2017). This is not only due to its prediction capability, but also to its property of universal
131 approximation to any continuous function, and an efficient and stable algorithm that provides a unique
132 solution to the estimation problem (Diaz, et al., 2017). Different hyperparameters were used to study
133 the SVR methodology. Other studies describe how SVR may be adapted to wind speed prediction
134 (Zhao, et al., 2010).

135 Another recent study shows the importance of DTs in improving the regression results for MCP (Diaz,
136 et al., 2018). The study applied five different MCP techniques to mean hourly wind speed and direction,
137 together with air density, using the data from ten weather stations in the Canary Islands. The study
138 showed that the models using SVR and DTs provided better results than ANNs. A DT is a hierarchical
139 data structure which implements the 'divide and conquer' rule and it may also be applied to the
140 regression problem (Hastie, et al., 2009; Alpaydin, 2010; James, et al., 2015).

141 The use of LiDAR for wind resource assessment (Probst & Cardenas, 2010) shows a distinct advantage
142 of this method over the traditional cup and wind vane measurements. This is demonstrated by studies
143 carried out using different MCP methods such as SLR and ratio analysis. However, no analysis with
144 ANNs, DTs or SVR is carried out. A more recent study (Mifsud, et al., 2018), which utilised the same
145 data as this current study, analysed the accuracy of different MCP methodologies and their capability

146 according to LiDAR measurement height. The study concluded that the MCP accuracy depended on
147 both methodology and measurement height at the candidate site. Other studies using LiDAR at the same
148 measurement site were also carried out. These analysed the turbulent behaviour of the wind data
149 (Cordina, et al., 2017).

150 The issue of wake losses in a wind farm has been described by several authors and can be minimised
151 by optimising the layout of the wind farm (Manwell, et al., 2009). A short literature review of wake
152 models is now presented.

153 Wake models are classified into four categories (Manwell, et al., 2009) which are: Surface roughness
154 models (Bossanyi, et al., 1980), Semi-empirical models (Lissaman & Bates, 1977), (Vermeulen, 1980),
155 Eddy viscosity models (Ainslie, 1985), and Navier-Stokes solutions (Crespo & Hernandez, 1986),
156 (Crespo & Hernandez, 1993). A review of wind turbine wake models (Sanderson, n.d.), shows the effects
157 of reduced power production due to lower incident wind speed and the effect on the wind turbine rotors
158 due to increased turbulence. The author presents a number of reasons on why the focus on numerical
159 simulation is preferred to experimentation; this is mainly due to the use of Computational Fluid
160 Dynamics (CFD). One study presents the mathematical theory behind a simple wake model and that for
161 a multiple wake model (Gonzalez-Longatt, et al., 2012) while another study (Churchfield, 2013)
162 describes a hierarchy of wake models ranging from the empirical to large-eddy simulation (LES). Some
163 of the models compared include Ainslie's Model (Ainslie, 1985), Frandsen's model (Frandsen, 2005),
164 and Jensen's Model (Jensen, 1983). The **Dynamic Wake Meandering Model** is another method which
165 is described (Larsen, et al., 2008) and also validated (Larsen, et al., 2013) in a study carried out on the
166 Egmond ann Zee offshore wind farm. Another study (Barthelmie, et al., 2006), compares wake model
167 simulations for offshore wind farms, with the wake profiles being measured by Sonic Detection and
168 Ranging (SoDAR). In this case, the models gave a wide range of predictions and it was not possible to
169 identify a model with superior projections with respect to the measurements.

Commented [mm5]: Response to Reviewer 2, Point 2

170 In some studies, it is necessary for any wake model used to be straightforward, dependent on relatively
171 few wake measurements and economic in terms of the necessary computing power. Despite their
172 relative simplicity, these models tend to give results which are in reasonable agreement with the
173 available data in the case of a single wake within a small wind farm and a simple meteorological
174 environment. In addition, a comparison of different wake models does not suggest any particular
175 difference in terms of accuracy, between the sophisticated and simplified models (Manwell, et al.,
176 2009).

177 The use of wake models can also be illustrated by considering a semi-empirical model (Katić, et al,
178 1986) that is often used for wind farm output predictions. This model attempts to characterise the energy
179 content in the flow field whilst ignoring the details of the exact nature of the flow field, which is assumed
180 to consist of an expanding wake with uniform velocity deficit that decreases with distance downstream
181 (Manwell, et al., 2009).

182 The N.Ø. Jensen (Jensen, 1983) is a simple wake model based on the assumption of a wake with a linear
183 wake cone. The results from this model are comparable to experimental results.

184 Several metrics may be used to evaluate the accuracy of the models (Rogers, et al., 2005), and it is
185 important to employ more than one metric (Santamaria-Bonfil, et al., 2016) to perform the evaluation.
186 The lower the value of the metric, the better the performance of the model. In this case the Normalised
187 NMAE and the NMSE were used to quantify the performance of the model. The purpose of using
188 normalised values is to provide results which are independent of wind farm sizes (Madsen, et al., 2005).

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189 The NMAE is suitable to describe the errors which are uniformly distributed round the mean, revealing
190 also the average variance between the true value and the predicted value (Hu, et al., 2013). The NMAE
191 applies the same weight to the individual errors. The NMSE is a measure of the extent of the dispersion
192 of the errors around the mean and gives a higher weight to larger errors. It assumes that the errors are
193 unbiased and follow a normal distribution (Santamaria-Bonfil, et al., 2016). The percentage error of the
194 energy yield gives an estimate of the accuracy of the model for predicting the total energy generated by
195 the wind farm over the period of evaluation. Due to the fact the each metric has disadvantages that can

196 lead to inaccurate evaluation of the results, it is not recommended to depend only on one measure
197 (Shcherbakov, et al., 2013).

198 3. Theoretical Background

199 MCP methods are based on regression techniques. Regression can be performed by using SLR.
200 However, as mentioned above, several more powerful techniques exist amongst which are ANNs, SVR
201 and DT. While MCP methodologies have been developed for wind speed, they cannot be directly used
202 for predicting wind direction (Bosart & Papin, 2017). Nothing has been found in literature on MCP
203 techniques which explicitly mentions prediction of wind direction at that candidate site. The use of wind
204 speed vectors is a way of using a regression methodology to predict the wind direction, by breaking the
205 wind speed vector into its respective components. MCP methodologies are normally used to predict the
206 wind speed magnitude at the candidate site, but not the direction. Wind velocity may be negative (if
207 one considers it as a vector) and the MCP methodology normally considers the positive value of the
208 wind, i.e. magnitude. The methodology used creates a regression model using the wind velocity vector
209 components to predict the wind vector components at the candidate site (Bosart & Papin, 2017).

210 The methodology is based upon a simple relationship between the meteorological wind direction θ_{met}
211 and the mathematical wind direction θ_{math} such that:

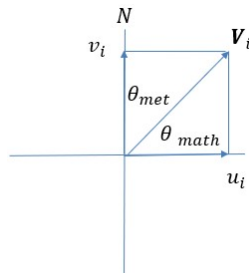
$$\theta_{math} = 90 - \theta_{met} \quad (1)$$

212 in which the wind speed vector V_i can be broken down into its vector components such that

$$u_i = |V_i| \cos \theta_{math} = |V_i| \cos(90 - \theta_{met}) \quad (2)$$

$$v_i = |V_i| \sin \theta_{math} = |V_i| \sin(90 - \theta_{met}) \quad (3)$$

213 in which case the values of u_i and v_i , which may be either positive or negative depending on the
214 direction of the wind (the value of θ_{met}), are the wind components in the North (y) and the East (x)
215 directions (axes). The relationship is shown in Figure 1.



216
217 *Figure 1: Difference between the meteorological wind direction and the mathematical wind direction and the component of*
218 *the wind vector.*

219 Also,

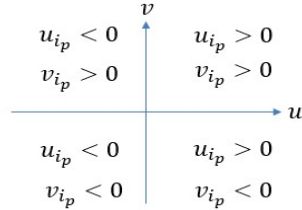
$$|V_i| = (u_i^2 + v_i^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (4)$$

220 The regression is carried out between the respective components of the wind velocity in the y and x
221 directions, hence establishing a relationship between the components at both sites. The forecasted wind
222 direction at the candidate site is then obtained from the forecasted wind components using the
223 relationship in Eq. (5):

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$$\theta_{met_{i_p}} = 90 - \tan^{-1} \frac{v_{i_p}}{u_{i_p}} \quad (5)$$

224 The value of the angle $\theta_{met_{i_p}}$ depends on the direction of u_{i_p} and v_{i_p} , as shown in Figure 2



225

226

Figure 2: Calculating the value of $\theta_{met_{i_p}}$ according to the value of u_{i_p} and v_{i_p} .

227 and in accordance with the relationships shown in Eq. (6):

$$\begin{aligned} u_{i_p} > 0 \text{ and } v_{i_p} > 0 \text{ NE winds } & 0^\circ < \theta_{met_{i_p}} < 90^\circ \\ u_{i_p} > 0 \text{ and } v_{i_p} < 0 \text{ SE winds } & 90^\circ < \theta_{met_{i_p}} < 180^\circ \\ u_{i_p} < 0 \text{ and } v_{i_p} < 0 \text{ SW winds } & 180^\circ < \theta_{met_{i_p}} < 270^\circ \\ u_{i_p} < 0 \text{ and } v_{i_p} > 0 \text{ NW winds } & 270^\circ < \theta_{met_{i_p}} < 360^\circ \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

228 and Eq. (7):

$$\begin{aligned} u_{i_p} = 0 \text{ and } v_{i_p} > 0 \text{ (North Wind) } & \theta_{met_{i_p}} = 0^\circ \\ u_{i_p} = 0 \text{ and } v_{i_p} < 0 \text{ (South Wind) } & \theta_{met_{i_p}} = 180^\circ \\ u_{i_p} > 0 \text{ and } v_{i_p} = 0 \text{ (East Wind) } & \theta_{met_{i_p}} = 90^\circ \\ u_{i_p} < 0 \text{ and } v_{i_p} = 0 \text{ (West Wind) } & \theta_{met_{i_p}} = 270^\circ \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

229 The results are compared by using the NMAE and the NMSE of the residuals, using the Eq (8) to Eq.
230 (12). The residuals, e_i are the errors between the predicted and the actual output power values
231 from the windfarm.

Commented [mm8]: Response to Reviewer 2, Point 7

$$e_i = P_i - P_{act_i} \quad (8)$$

232 The formula used to calculate the NMAE is shown in Eq (9), whereby the errors are normalised
233 by dividing by the average power production over the whole period of evaluation (Madsen, et
234 al., 2005):

$$NMAE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N |e_i|}{\sum_{i=1}^N P_i} \quad (9)$$

235 And the NMSE is given by:

$$NMSE = \frac{1}{N} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (e_i)^2}{\overline{P} \cdot \overline{P_{act}}} \quad (10)$$

236 where,

$$\bar{P} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N P_i \quad (11)$$

237 and

$$\overline{P_{act}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N P_{act_i} \quad (12)$$

238 The percentage error in overall energy yield is given by Eq (13), where:

$$e_{eng} = \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N P_i - \sum_{i=1}^N P_{act_i}}{\sum_{i=1}^N P_{act_i}} \right) \cdot 100\% \quad (13)$$

239 4. A Case Study - Site Conditions and the Modelled Offshore Windfarm

240 4.1 The reference and candidate sites

241 The reference site employed in this study is the Meteorological Office at Malta International Airport
242 (MIA), Luqa, and the candidate site is data collected by a ZephIR 300 LiDAR
243 (<https://www.zxlidars.com/wind-lidars/zx-300/>, n.d.) unit administered by the University of Malta's
244 Institute for Sustainable Energy. The unit was situated on the roof of a coastal watch tower at Qalet
245 Marku, situated in the Northern Part of the Island of Malta (Mifsud, et al., 2018). The relative location
246 of the two sites is shown in Figure 3, while Figure 4 shows a satellite image of the location of the coastal
247 watch tower.

Commented [mm9]: Response to Reviewer 1, Point 1



248
249 *Figure 3: Map of Malta showing relative location of the candidate and the reference sites (Google,*
250 *2019) (© Google Maps 2019).*



Figure 4: Satellite imagery of the Qalet Marku coastal watch tower, located on a promontory near Bahar ic-Caghaq (Google, 2019) (© Google Maps 2019).

Table 1 and Table 2 show the properties of the candidate and the reference sites respectively (Cordina, et al., 2017), (Mifsud, et al., 2018). In this case the wind data measured by the LiDAR at a height of 80m, would be equivalent to a cumulative height of 100m above sea-level, which would be the hub height of the wind turbines in the windfarm. This is because the LiDAR is situated on the rooftop of a coastal tower at a height of 20m above sea level, as shown in Table 7.

Table 5: Candidate Site parameters (Cordina, et al., 2017).

| | |
|--|---|
| Station Name | Qalet Marku LiDAR Station |
| LiDAR Type | ZephIR 300 (https://www.zxlidars.com/wind-lidars/zx-300/ , n.d.) |
| Cone Angle, LiDAR aperture height above the tower rooftop. | 60° 1 m |
| Measurement height, above the LiDAR aperture window, m | 80m |
| Data | Average hourly wind speed, wind direction, atmospheric pressure and relative humidity. |
| Data range | 26 th June, 2015 – 31 st December, 2016 |
| Geographical Coordinates | 35.946252°N, 14.45329°E |
| Average tower rooftop height above surrounding ground level | 10 m |
| Height of base of tower above sea level | 6 m |

Table 6: Reference Site parameters (Malta International Airport).

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Station Name | Luqa MIA Weather Station |
| Measuring Instruments | Wind – Cup and vane Digital temperature probe Digital Barometer. |
| Data | Average hourly wind speed, wind direction, air temperature, atmospheric pressure and relative humidity. |
| Mast height | 10 m above ground |
| Height of site above sea level | 78 m |
| Geographical Coordinates | 35.85657°N, 14.47676°E |

4.2 The Available Wind Data

The measurement campaign at the candidate site started on the 1st July 2015 and ended on the 31st December 2016. Hourly wind data were available for this time period from both the reference and candidate sites. The ideal number of data points used to create the MCP models is thus 8784, i.e. the

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Commented [mm11]: Response to Reviewer 1, Point 1

Commented [mm12]: Response to Reviewer 1, Point 1

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265 number of hours in 2016. Following analysis and filtration of the wind speed data at the reference site,
 266 98% of the data was considered as suitable for the creation of the model. The data at the reference site
 267 was all considered as suitable. Hence, the regression model was created using the concurrent 8616 wind
 268 speed and direction values. For the year 2015, 95.6% of the data was considered valid (the measurement
 269 campaign started on the 26th of June, 2015, hence there were 4368 hours of wind speed and direction
 270 measurement of which 4176 were valid data points).

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 Response to Reviewer 2, Point 4

271 The MCP analysis was carried out using both wind speed and wind direction. The data from the
 272 reference site were used as the independent data set. The models were created using the data for the
 273 year 2016, while the reference site wind data for 2015 used to create the predicted wind speed and wind
 274 direction as inputs to the windfarm model.

275 **4.3 The Wind Farm Design in windPRO®**

276 *Table 7: Wind Turbine Parameters used in the study (wind-turbine-models.com, 2019).*

| Wind Turbine Parameter | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Manufacturer | RE Power (Germany) |
| Rated Power | 5000 W |
| Rotor orientation | Upwind |
| Number of blades | 3 |
| Rotor Diameter | 126 m |
| Swept Area | 12469 m ² |
| Blade Type | LM |
| Cut in speed | 3.5 ms ⁻¹ |
| Rated Wind Speed | 14 ms ⁻¹ |
| Cut out speed (for off-shore) | 30 ms ⁻¹ |
| Hub-height, z | 100 m |

277 The hypothetical wind farm is located opposite the coastal watch tower of Qalet Marku [14.452498°E,
 278 35.945892°N]. windPRO® 2.7 was used to render an image of the wind farm onto an image of the
 279 LiDAR unit taken from the watch tower. This gives an indication as to the extent of the wind farm. This
 280 is shown in Figure 5, while Figure 6 shows the satellite imagery of the wind farm, showing a 250-MW
 281 capacity windfarm. The windfarm faces the North-West direction, which is the prevailing wind
 282 direction.

283 The windfarm is made up of 50 wind turbines. There are 10 wind turbines in a row, having a cross-wind
 284 spacing of five rotor diameters (5D). The distance between the successive rows of wind turbines, or the
 285 downwind spacing is eight rotor diameters (8D). Thus, considering wind turbines with a rotor diameter,
 286 D, of 126 m (for a 5 MW Wind Turbine), the distance between the turbines in the cross-wind direction
 287 is 630 m, and the distance between successive rows of wind turbines in the downwind direction is
 288 1,008 m. The wind turbine selected for use in windPRO® is the RE Power 5-MW wind turbine whose
 289 parameters are shown in Table 7.

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290
 291 *Figure 5: View of the wind farm rendered onto an image of the area and also showing the LiDAR unit.*



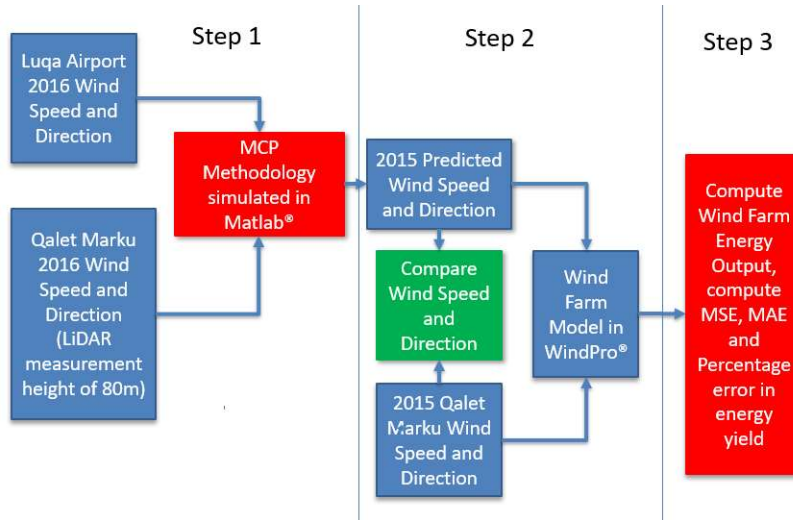
292
293 Figure 6: Satellite imagery of the wind farm showing the location of the 50 wind turbines with respect to the coastal LiDAR
294 station (Google, 2019) (© Google Maps 2019).

295 **5. Methodology**

296 Figure 7 shows the methodology applied in this paper. The study is divided into three steps as follows:

- 297 2. STEP 1 - The various MCP methodologies are used to compute the MCP model. For wind speed, the models are trained using wind speed and direction data at a candidate and reference site for the year 2016. For the wind direction the input training data is the wind velocity vector component in the North or East direction at the candidate site, and the output of the model is the respective component at the candidate site. The models are summarised in Table 4, below. Table 4 describes the inputs used to train the respective models, both for wind speed and wind direction. It also shows the parameters of the models and the algorithms used to train the model, such as Least-Squares for MLR and the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm for ANN.
- 300 3. STEP 2 - The 2015 wind speed and wind direction are predicted using the models computed in Step 1. The predicted and actual wind speed and wind direction are used to compute the power output from the wind farm. This is done by feeding the wind speed and direction data into the windPRO® model, and,
- 302 4. STEP 3 - compute and compare the MSE, NMAE and percentage error in the power.

Commented [mm16]: Response to Reviewer 1, Point 3



310
311 Figure 7: Applied methodology.

312

Table 8: Description of the regression methodologies used for the Measure-Correlate-Predict Methodology.

Commented [mm17]: Response to Reviewer 1, Point 3

| MCP methodology | Wind Speed | Wind Direction |
|-----------------|--|--|
| MLR | <p>Independent variables: 2 (Wind speed magnitude, wind direction at the reference site).</p> <p>Dependent variables: Wind Speed magnitude at candidate site.</p> <p>Methodology: Least Squares</p> | <p>Independent variable: Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at reference site.</p> <p>Dependent variable: Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at candidate site.</p> |
| ANN | <p>Number of inputs: 2 - Wind speed magnitude, wind direction at the reference site)</p> <p>Number of outputs: 1 - Wind speed magnitude at candidate site.</p> <p>Number of layers: 3</p> <p>Number of neurons in layer: 30,30,10</p> <p>Training Methodology: Levenberg-Marquardt Algorithm</p> <p>Percentage of points used for training: 70%</p> <p>Percentage of points used for verification: 15%</p> <p>Percentage of points used for testing: 15%</p> | <p>Number of inputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at reference site)</p> <p>Number of outputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at candidate site.</p> |
| DT | <p>Number of inputs: 2 - wind speed magnitude, wind direction at reference site.</p> <p>Number of outputs: 1 - wind speed at candidate site.</p> <p>Number of Trees: 200</p> <p>Minimum Number of Leafs: 5</p> <p>Methodology: Tree Bagger Ensemble</p> | <p>Number of inputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at reference site.</p> <p>Number of outputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at candidate site.</p> |
| SVR | <p>Number of inputs: 2 - wind speed magnitude, wind direction at reference site.</p> <p>Number of outputs: 1 - wind speed magnitude at candidate site.</p> <p>Methodology: Hyperparameter optimisation.</p> <p>Kernel: Gaussian</p> <p>Solver: Sequential Minimal Optimisation</p> | <p>Number of inputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at reference site.</p> <p>Number of outputs: 1 - Wind velocity vector in North and East direction at candidate site.</p> |

313 The combinations of LiDAR measurement heights and MCP methodologies are shown in Table 9.

314 Table 9: Summary of combinations of methodologies, LiDAR measurement heights and amount of wind turbines used in the
315 analysis

| 80m (equivalent to a 100m hub height) | MCP Methodology | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Simple Linear Regression (SLR) | Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) | Decision Trees (DT) | Support Vector Regression (SVR). |
| | Wind Speed, Wind Direction, predicted for 2015. Actual and predicted sequences fed into wind farm model, comparisons of wind farm power output made for a capacity of 250, 200, 150, 100 and 50 MW. | | | |

316 Regression models were created for the MCP methodologies using the reference and candidate wind
317 speed and direction for the year 2016. These regression models were created using SLR, ANN, DT and
318 SVR. A model was created for both wind speed and direction.

319 The wind speed and wind direction for 2015 were then predicted with the models by feeding the speed
320 and direction values from the reference site from the year 2015. Thus, a sequence of predicted wind
321 speeds and wind direction time series could be compared to the actual speed and direction measured at
322 the candidate site for the year 2015. The models for the wind speed and the wind direction are
323 independent from each other.

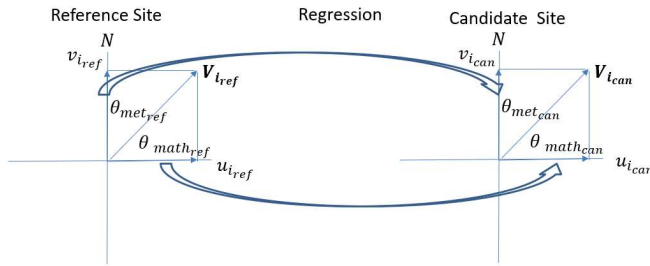


Figure 8: Application of regression methodologies to wind direction

324
325

326 In the case of wind direction, the MCP methodologies are applied as shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9.
327 Figure 8 shows that two regressions are carried out: one for the magnitude of the wind component in
328 the North direction and one for the wind component in the East direction. Thus, two models are created
329 using the wind speed and direction data of the reference and the candidate site for 2016. The two models
330 are then used to derive the predicted wind direction for 2015 at the candidate site as shown in Figure 9,
331 by using the wind components at the reference site for 2015 as inputs to the respective models. The
332 values of the wind speed in the North direction and the East direction are first predicted, and the wind
333 direction at the candidate site for 2015, θ_{met_p} , is then derived from the mathematical relationships given
334 in Eq. (6) and Eq. (7).

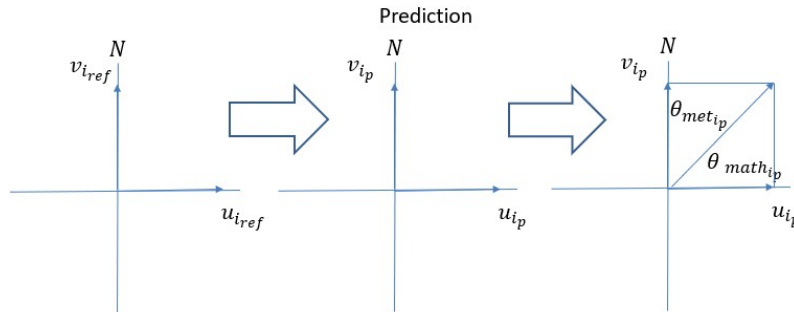


Figure 9: Predicting the wind direction

335
336

337 The sequences of wind speed and wind directions (both actual and predicted) were fed into the wind
338 farm model. This was done for different combinations of methodology and wind farm (250, 200, 150,
339 100 and 50 MW) configurations. The results were compared to determine which combination of MCP
340 methodology, and windfarm capacity would give the lowest prediction error. The prediction error for
341 the power output from the wind farm is analysed using the Mean Squared Error (MSE), the Normalised
342 Mean Absolute Error (NMAE) and the percentage error in the Overall Energy Yield for the period of
343 analysis. The results are shown in the following section.

344 6. Results

345 A summary of the results is shown below where sequences of data for a specific period of 2015 are
346 compared. These sequences are for wind speed, wind direction and power output. All MSE, NMAE and
347 percentage errors in the overall energy yield are then shown in the following tables.

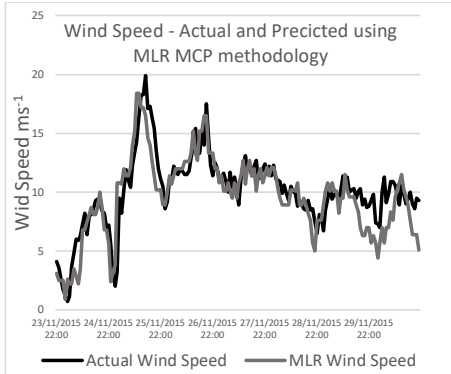
348 6.1 Wind speed and wind direction with MCP methodology.

349 6.1.1 Wind speed with MCP methodology.

350 Figure 10 to Figure 13 show the wind speed from the period 23rd November to the 30th November 2015.
351 The particular period is chosen because of the high availability of wind. The actual wind data are

352 compared with that predicted by the MLR, ANN, DT and SVR methodologies. The predicted wind
 353 values closely follow the actual wind values, for all the MCP methodologies applied.

354



355
 356 *Figure 10: Comparing actual wind speed and wind speed predicted by MLR methodology with wind data for 2015.*
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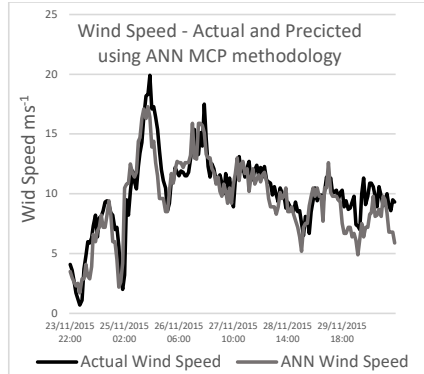
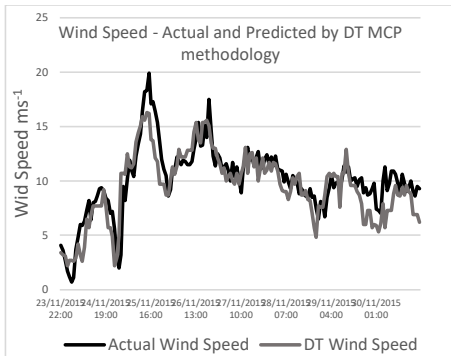


Figure 11: Comparing actual wind speed and wind speed predicted by ANN methodology with wind data for 2015.



361
 362 *Figure 12: Comparing actual wind speed and wind speed predicted by DT methodology with wind data for 2015.*
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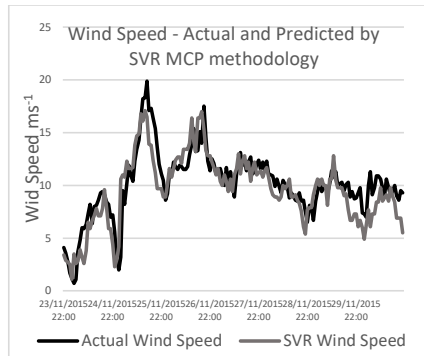
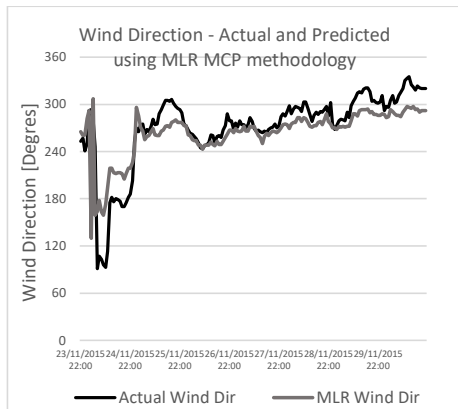


Figure 13: Comparing actual wind speed and wind speed predicted by SVR methodology with wind data for 2015.

367 **6.1.2 Wind direction with MCP methodology.**

368 Figure 14 to Figure 17 show the wind direction from the period 23rd November to the 30th November
 369 2015. As above, the actual wind direction at the candidate site is compared to that predicted by the
 370 MLR, ANN, DT and SVR methodologies. Again, as in the case for wind speed, there is a similarity
 371 between the actual and predicted wind direction values, in all cases.

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Figure 14: Comparing actual and predicted wind direction predicted by MLR methodology, with wind data for 2015.

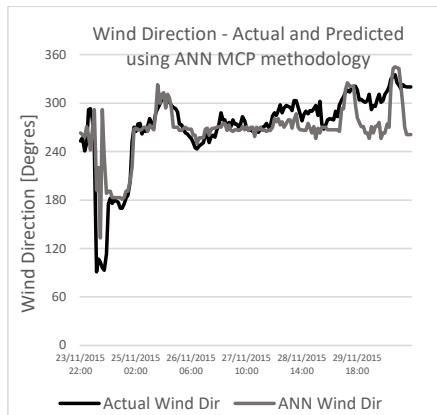
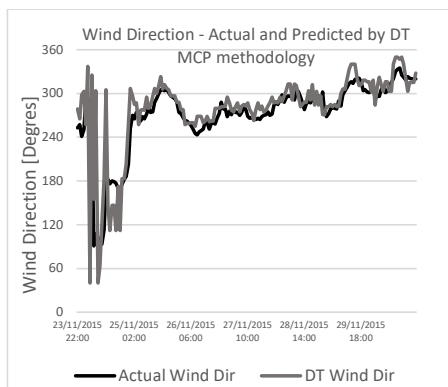


Figure 15: Comparing actual and predicted wind direction predicted by ANN methodology, with wind data for 2015.



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Figure 16: Comparing actual and predicted wind direction predicted by DT methodology, with wind data for 2015.

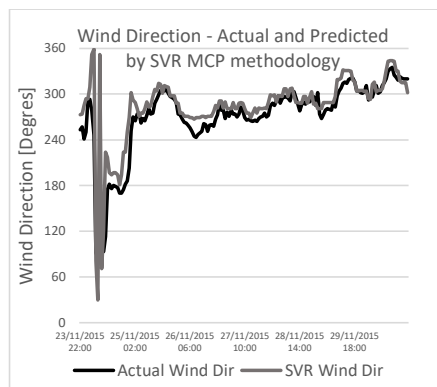
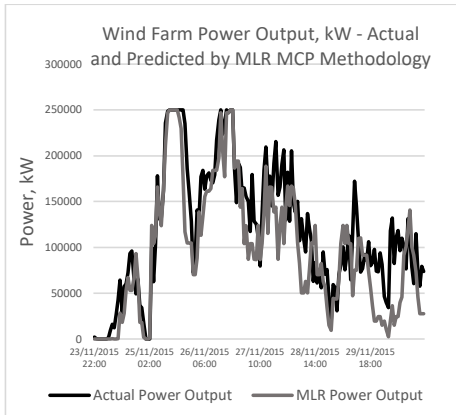


Figure 17: Comparing actual and predicted wind direction predicted by SVR methodology, with wind data for 2015.

386 **6.2 Wind farm power output with MCP methodology, for a windfarm capacity of**
387 **250MW.**

388 Figure 18 to Figure 21 compare the output power from the wind farm, which is derived from the actual
389 wind speed and wind direction to the power output derived from the predicted wind speed and direction.
390 This comparison is carried out for the MLR, ANN, DT and SVR methodologies. The results for a wind
391 farm capacity of 250MW are being shown. As in the case for wind speed and direction, the predicted
392 power output closely follows that obtained with the actual wind speed and direction.

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Figure 18: Comparing actual and predicted power output from the wind farm, with wind data for 2015, actual and predicted by MLR methodology. 400 401

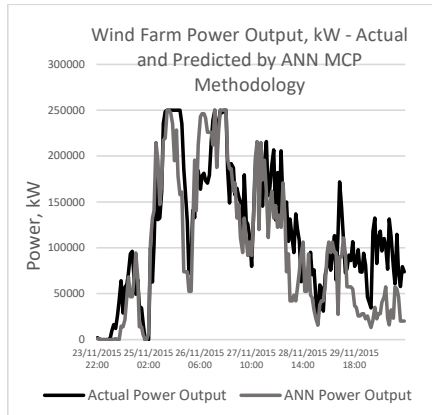
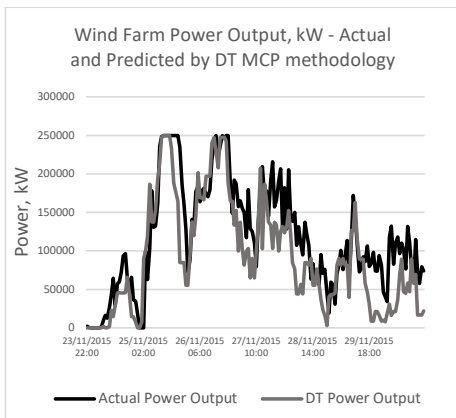


Figure 19: Comparing actual and predicted power output from the wind farm, with wind data for 2015, actual and predicted by ANN methodology.



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Figure 20: Comparing actual and predicted power output from the wind farm, with wind data for 2015, actual and predicted by DT methodology. 407 408 409

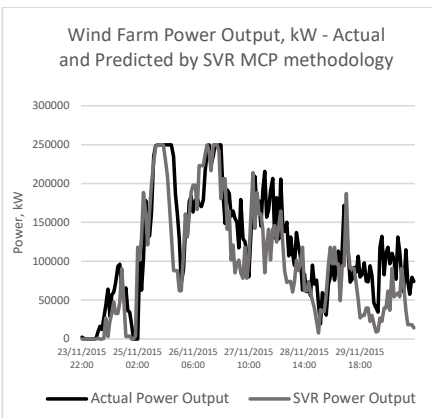


Figure 21: Comparing actual and predicted power output from the wind farm, with wind data for 2015, actual and that predicted by SVR methodology.

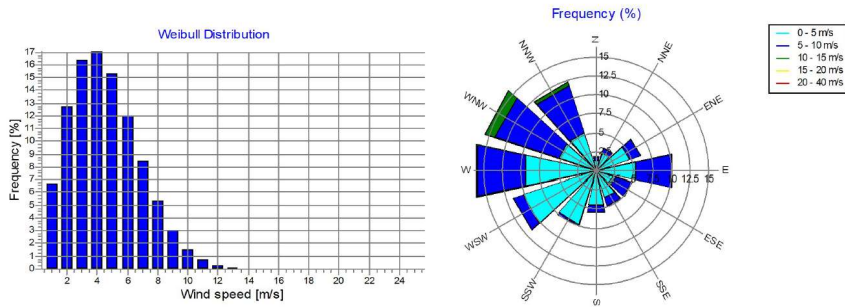
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411 A Wind Data Analysis, carried out using windPRO®, is shown in the next section. The results presented
412 are a Weibull distribution for wind speed and the wind rose. These charts are computed from the wind
413 speed and direction which are predicted by using the MLR, ANN, DT and SVR MCP methodologies.
414 Thus, the predicted wind speed and direction are compared with the results computed from the actual
415 wind data.

416 **6.3 The Actual Wind Data for 2015 measured by the LiDAR system.**

417 Figure 22 shows the Wind Data Analysis report from windPRO® for the actual LiDAR data measured
418 at the 80m level height (equivalent to a hub height of 100m). The images show the Weibull distribution
419 for the wind speed and the wind rose. The reports are used to compare the properties of the actual wind
420 measurements and the predicted wind speed and direction.

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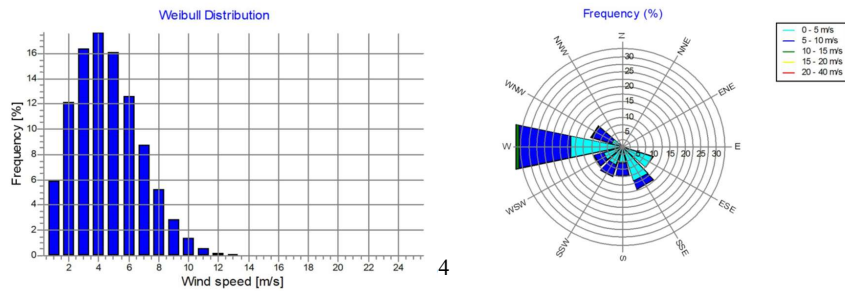


422
423 *Figure 22: windPRO® wind data analysis using actual wind data measured by the LiDAR equipment at a height of 100 m.*

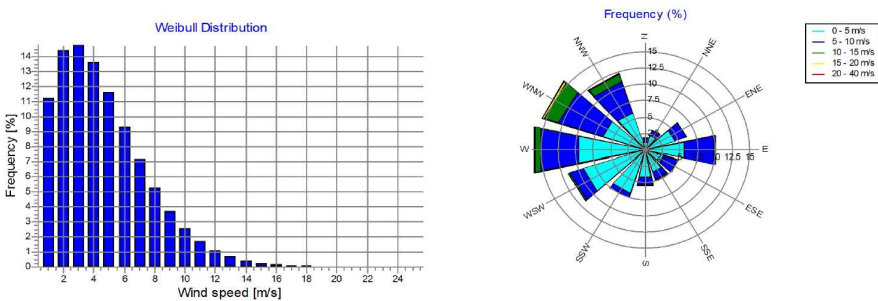
424 **6.4 Wind speed and direction predicted using the MCP methodologies.**

425 Figure 23 to Figure 26 represent the Weibull distribution and the wind rose for the wind speed and
 426 direction predicted by the MLR, ANN, DT and SVR MCP methodologies respectively, at the hub height
 427 of 100m. There exists a similarity between the Weibull plots for the actual wind data and those for the
 428 predicted wind speed, for the same measurement period. While, the wind direction predicted by the
 429 ANN and DT methodologies show a higher resemblance to that of the actual wind direction than that
 430 predicted by the MLR or SVR methodologies. Hence it is expected that the ANN and the DT
 431 methodologies would yield the least error in the predicted power output from the wind farm.

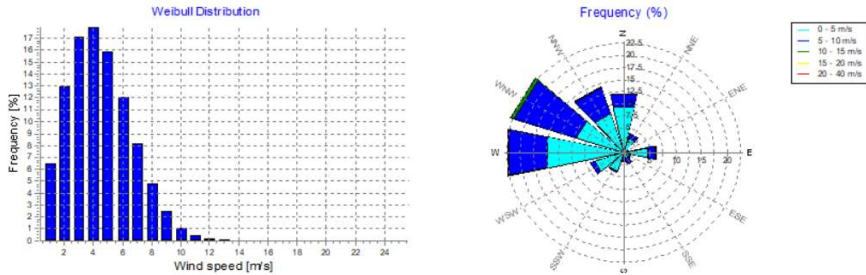
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435 *Figure 23: windPRO® wind data analysis using wind data predicted by MCP applying MLR at a hub height of 100 m.*



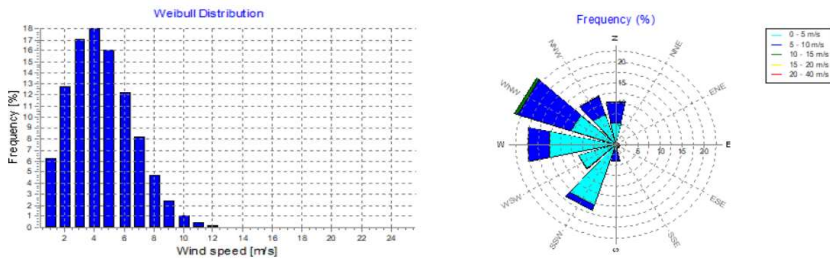
436
438 *Figure 24: windPRO® wind data analysis using wind data predicted by MCP applying ANN at a hub height of 100 m.*



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441 Figure 25: windPRO® wind data analysis using wind data predicted by MCP applying DT at a hub height of 100 m



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444 Figure 26: windPRO® wind data analysis using wind data predicted by MCP applying SVR at a hub height of 100 m

445 The results for the NMAE, the NMSE and the percentage error in the overall energy yield are
 446 summarised in Table 10 to Table 12. The tables show that the MLR and ANN methodology have the
 447 best performance in NMAE, NMSE and percentage error in energy yield. The results are consistent for
 448 all wind farm capacities under consideration. ANN is better than MLR in the case of MMAE, while
 449 MLR is slightly better than ANN in the case of the 50MW wind farm capacity. MLR is superior to
 450 ANN in the case of NMSE for all wind farm capacities. However, the differences between the MLR
 451 and the ANN methodologies are minimal and both methodologies show a better performance than the
 452 DT or SVR methodologies. Especially in the case of the overall energy yield as shown in Table 12.
 453 Graphical results are also shown in Figure 27 to Figure 29.

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454 Table 10: Summarised results for Normalised Mean Absolute Error (NMAE) by MCP methodology and windfarm capacity.

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| Normalised Mean Absolute Error | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Wind Farm Capacity | MLR | ANN | DT | SVR |
| 250MW | 0.505 | 0.502 | 0.572 | 0.544 |
| 200MW | 0.502 | 0.499 | 0.565 | 0.539 |
| 150MW | 0.492 | 0.482 | 0.545 | 0.532 |
| 100MW | 0.484 | 0.472 | 0.537 | 0.515 |
| 50MW | 0.510 | 0.547 | 0.573 | 0.558 |

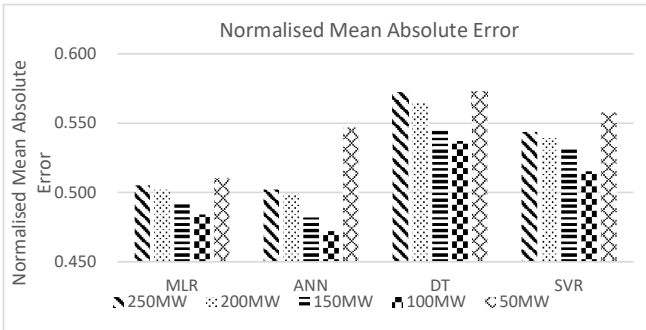
455 Table 11: Summarised results for the Normalised Mean Squared Error (NMSE) by MCP methodology and windfarm capacity.

| Normalised Mean Squared Error | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|

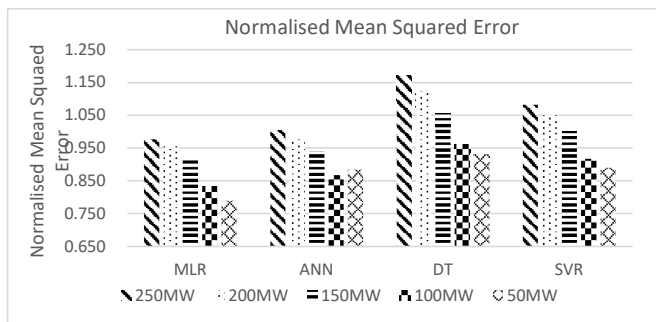
| Wind Farm Capacity | MLR | ANN | DT | SVR |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 250MW | 0.977 | 1.004 | 1.170 | 1.082 |
| 200MW | 0.956 | 0.979 | 1.123 | 1.052 |
| 150MW | 0.912 | 0.938 | 1.056 | 1.002 |
| 100MW | 0.834 | 0.868 | 0.960 | 0.917 |
| 50MW | 0.789 | 0.884 | 0.930 | 0.890 |

456 Table 12: Summarised results for percentage error in overall energy yield by MCP methodology and windfarm capacity.

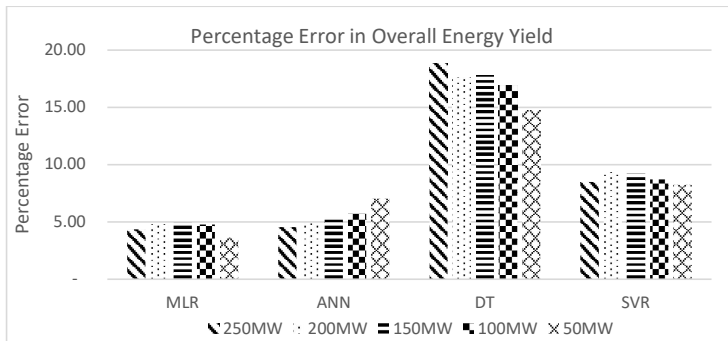
| Percentage Error in Overall Energy Yield | | | | |
|--|------|------|-------|------|
| Wind Farm Capacity | MLR | ANN | DT | SVR |
| 250MW | 4.63 | 4.54 | 18.83 | 9.44 |
| 200MW | 4.80 | 4.90 | 18.40 | 9.34 |
| 150MW | 4.92 | 5.40 | 17.78 | 9.23 |
| 100MW | 4.78 | 5.70 | 16.92 | 8.71 |
| 50MW | 3.65 | 7.03 | 14.73 | 8.23 |



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459 Figure 27: Comparison of the Normalised Mean Absolute Error for the various wind farm topologies and MCP methodology, for the 2015 energy output from the wind farm.



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461
462 Figure 28: Comparison of the Normalised Mean Squared Error for the various wind farm topologies and MCP methodology, for the 2015 energy output from the wind farm.



463
 464 *Figure 29: Comparison of the Percentage Error in Overall Energy Yield for the various wind farm topologies and MCP*
 465 *methodology, for the 2015 energy output from the wind farm.*

466 The ANN methodology also shows the best similarity to the actual wind speed and wind direction, as
 467 seen in Figure 24. In the case of the overall energy yield, the MLR and ANN methodologies show a
 468 significant improvement in percentage error over the DT and SVR methodologies. The ANN
 469 methodology is only better than the MLR methodology for the 250MW windfarm capacity. The MLR
 470 methodology has better results in the case of 200MW, 150MW, 100MW and 50MW wind farm
 471 capacities, with the percentage error being 3.65% at a windfarm capacity of 50MW, when compared to
 472 an error of 7.3% obtained with the ANN methodology.

473 Thus, the metrics show that the best methodologies for predicting the output power from the wind farm
 474 is therefore that which uses the MLR methodology, closely followed by that which uses the ANN
 475 methodology.

476 **7. Conclusions**

477 The above research has combined the use of MCP methodologies for wind speed and used a different
 478 method for predicting the wind direction at a candidate site. Three of the four MCP methodologies used
 479 are based on modern statistical learning methodologies. The data was collected from a reference site
 480 which is the Island of Malta’s international airport, while the candidate site data has been collected by
 481 means of a LiDAR wind measurement system placed on the roof top of a coastal building.

482 The wind direction at the candidate site was predicted with the various MCP methodologies by breaking
 483 down the wind velocity vector into its respective North and East direction components. The regression
 484 analysis was then carried out on the respective components at the reference and the candidate sites. The
 485 wind speed is predicted by using the magnitude of the wind speed at the respective sites for creating the
 486 regression model.

487 The projected wind speed and direction time series were applied to a hypothetical wind farm. Thus, the
 488 error introduced by the four MCP methods could be measured. This was done by calculating the NMAE,
 489 the NMSE and the percentage error in wind farm’s energy yield. The results show that the NMAE,
 490 NMSE and the percentage error in energy yield depend on the MCP methodology and the windfarm
 491 capacity, and can be used to establish an optimal MCP methodology.

492 In this case, the best MCP method was that which used MLR. Although other MCP methodologies gave
 493 larger errors, they cannot be totally discarded. It is always best to compare methodologies, comparing
 494 results by analysing residuals and errors and then choosing the best methodology on a case-by-case
 495 basis. In this case the results from the ANN methodology gave results which are very close to the MLR
 496 methodology, while the DT and SV methodologies gave larger errors.

497 Unless actual wind data is available, one cannot carry out this analysis, as the uncertainty is obtained
 498 by comparing the energy from the windfarm with predicted and actual wind data. The above analysis

499 could be done because 18 months of data were available, rather than the normal 12 months, which is
500 usual for a wind resource assessment which uses MCP methodologies.

501 The above study was limited to using the same MCP methodology for both the wind speed and direction
502 and to the N.Ø. Jansen methodology for wake losses. The layout chosen was one that ensured a
503 recommended minimum distance between the wind turbines. Different combinations of MCP
504 methodologies for wind speed and direction can be examined.

505 In this case, an MCP model was created for wind speed, and two more MCP models were created for
506 wind speed components, which were then used to calculate the wind direction. Another possible method
507 is to calculate the magnitude of the wind speed from the models used to calculate the wind direction.
508 This was done, but, the results from the first method, were by far superior to those from the latter
509 method. The reason why, still needs to be investigated as part of future work, and these results are not
510 being presented in this paper. The advantage of having three models, also allows the possibility of using
511 different combinations of MCP methodologies, i.e. using MLR for wind speed and ANN for wind
512 direction. This was also performed for a limited number of combinations and is also the subject of
513 further research

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514 Another area which warrants further study, as is trying out different windfarm topologies, or selecting
515 different wind turbines and different hub heights. It would also be of interest to study the application of
516 different wake methodologies as a possible means of decreasing the uncertainties.

517 **8. Author Contribution.**

518 Tonio Sant and Robert. N. Farrugia contributed in the preparation of the manuscript and the research
519 methodology.

520 **9. Competing Interests.**

521 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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527 Sustainable Energy's LiDAR system at Qalet Marku.

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535 **11. Nomenclature.**

| | | |
|-----|-------|------------------------------|
| 536 | ANN | Artificial Neural Network |
| 537 | CFD | Computational Fluid Dynamics |
| 538 | DT | Decision Trees |
| 539 | LiDAR | Light Detection and Ranging |
| 540 | LSE | Large Eddy Simulation |
| 541 | MCP | Measure-Correlate-Predict |
| 542 | MIA | Malta International Airport |
| 543 | MLR | Multiple Linear Regression |
| 544 | MLP | Multilayer Perceptron |

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|--|
| 545 | MSE | Mean Squared Error |
| 546 | NMAE | Normalised Mean Absolute Error |
| 547 | NMSE | Normalised Mean Squared Error |
| 548 | SLR | Simple Linear Regression |
| 549 | SoDAR | Sonic Detection and Ranging |
| 550 | SVR | Support Vector Regression |
| 551 | WT | Wind Turbine |
| 552 | V_i | Magnitude of wind speed in ms^{-1} |
| 553 | e_{norm_i} | Normalised residual |
| 554 | e_{eng} | Percentage error in energy yield |
| 555 | e_i | Residual, MW |
| 556 | u_{ip} | Predicted component of wind speed vector in easterly direction at the |
| 557 | | candidate site in ms^{-1} |
| 558 | $u_{i_{ref}}$ | Component of wind speed vector in easterly direction at the reference site in |
| 559 | | ms^{-1} |
| 560 | $u_{i_{ref}}$ | Component of wind speed vector in easterly direction at the reference site in |
| 561 | | ms^{-1} |
| 562 | u_i | Component of wind speed vector in easterly direction in ms^{-1} |
| 563 | $v_{i_{can}}$ | Component of wind speed vector in northerly direction at the candidate site in |
| 564 | | ms^{-1} |
| 565 | v_{ip} | Predicted component of wind speed vector in northerly direction at the |
| 566 | | candidate site in ms^{-1} |
| 567 | $v_{i_{ref}}$ | Component of wind speed vector in northerly direction at the reference site in |
| 568 | | ms^{-1} |
| 569 | v_i | Component of wind speed vector in northerly direction in ms^{-1} |
| 570 | z_0 | surface roughness |
| 571 | V_i | Wind speed vector (speed in ms^{-1} , wind direction in deg) |
| 572 | $\theta_{math_{ip}}$ | Predicted mathematical wind direction at the candidate site in deg |
| 573 | $\theta_{met_{ip}}$ | Predicted meteorological wind direction at the reference site in deg |
| 574 | $\theta_{met_{can}}$ | Meteorological wind direction at the candidate site in deg |
| 575 | $\theta_{met_{ref}}$ | Meteorological wind direction at the reference site in deg |
| 576 | θ_{math} | Mathematical wind direction |
| 577 | θ_{met} | Meteorological wind direction |
| 578 | D | Wind turbine diameter, m |
| 579 | N | Number of data points |
| 580 | P | Predicted power output from wind farm, MW |
| 581 | P_{act} | Actual power output from windfarm, MW |
| 582 | | |

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