

**AN ASSESSMENT OF WIND LOADING AND
WIND ENERGY POTENTIAL FOR SRI LANKA**

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(168004K)

Degree of Master of Philosophy

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa

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DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE & SUPERVISOR

I declare that this is my own work and this dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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Date:

DEDICATION

I will dedicate this dissertation to Dr. C. S. Lewangamage, my supervisor and mentor, as the person who always encouraged me to complete this study successfully.

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Department of Civil Engineering,
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24.06.2019

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ABSTRACT

It was more than 40 years ago that Sri Lanka last established a wind loading map after the severe cyclone that struck the country in 1978. It is strongly believed that statistical methods had not been used in developing this wind loading map. Hence, the map can either overestimate or underestimate the wind speeds at least in some of the regions of the country. Therefore, an updated map which suits the changing climate patterns experienced in the country has become a necessity. In Sri Lanka, different wind codes are being used when structures are designed to withstand wind actions. Moreover, there is no suitable wind loading map that can be used with the Eurocode 1 or BS 6399-2.

The existing wind resource maps for Sri Lanka have been developed in macro scales with low resolutions which is not adequate for effective decision making in wind power generation. Moreover, most of them represents wind speed distributions except for wind power distribution. Therefore, the industry always uses expensive methods to identify the suitable regions for the establishment of wind turbines.

As the initial stage of this study a wind loading map for Sri Lanka was developed for different return periods (5, 10, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 years) and for different averaging time periods (3-second gust, 10-minute average and hourly mean) using the wind data obtained from 24 weather stations. The data used were the monthly maximums of 3-minute average and instantaneous maximum wind speeds, recorded over a period of about 35 years. Extreme value distributions called Gringorten and Gumbel methods were tested to predict the extreme wind speeds. Finally, the Gringorten methods was adopted due to its unbiased nature. The generated wind contours for both 3-second gust and 10-minute average basic wind speeds were analyzed for defining the wind loading zones for Sri Lanka.

Altogether a new wind power distribution map was proposed for Jaffna Peninsula region in Sri Lanka which has been previously identified as a region with a higher wind energy potential. The required data was obtained from SLSEA (Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority) and the Survey Department of Sri Lanka. Computational Fluid Dynamics based model has been used for the generation of wind power distribution map. The resolution of the map has been increased up to 150 m x 150 m (5" x 5"). Coastal regions such as Veravil, Pooneryn, Ampan, Pankudativu, Kayts, Kankesanturai, Ponnalli Khadu, Karainagar, Mandaitivu and Alvai were identified as the regions which have the highest wind energy potential in Jaffna Peninsula.

Keywords: Wind loading map for Sri Lanka, Wind loading zones, Basic wind speed, Gringorten method, Wind energy forecasting, Wind power distribution, Siting of wind farms, Jaffna Peninsula

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration of the Candidate & Supervisor	i
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Figures	ix
List of Tables	xiii
List of Abbreviations	xv
List of Symbols	xvi
List of Appendices	xviii
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.1.1 Adequacy of existing wind loading map for Sri Lanka	1
1.1.2 Adequacy of existing wind resource maps for Sri Lanka	4
1.2 Scope of the Study	7
1.3 Objectives	8
1.4 Outcomes	8
1.5 Arrangement of the Dissertation	9
2. Literature Review	10
2.1 Different Standards Which are used to Calculate the Wind Actions on Structures	10
2.2 Attempts towards Wind Zone Demarcation for Several Countries	11
2.2.1 An attempt towards wind zone demarcation for Sri Lanka	11
2.2.2 Maximum wind hazard map for Sri Lanka developed by DMC	14
2.2.3 Development of basic wind speed map for Oman	16
2.2.4 Development of basic wind speed map for India	18
2.2.5 Development of wind zone map for Germany	20
2.3 Conversion between Gust Speeds for Different Averaging Periods	22

2.4	Probabilistic Methods of Predicting Extreme Wind Speeds	26
2.4.1	Gumbel distribution	26
2.4.2	Gringorten distribution	27
2.4.3	Generalized extreme value distribution	28
2.5	Attempts towards Demarcating Wind Energy Resource Atlases for Sri Lanka	29
2.5.1	Wind energy resource atlas of Sri Lanka and the Maldives developed by NREL	29
2.5.2	Wind resource atlas of Sri Lanka developed by AWS Truepower, LLC	34
2.5.3	Wind resource atlas of Sri Lanka developed by Vortex	36
2.5.4	Average wind hazard map of Sri Lanka developed by DMC	38
2.5.5	Solar and wind resource assessment in Sri Lanka by NERDC	40
2.6	WAsP (Wind Atlas Analysis and Application Program)	40
2.7	Several Approaches Made towards Wind Energy Forecasting	41
2.8	Some Important Relationships in Wind Engineering	43
2.9	Summary of the Chapter	45
3.	Data Collection	48
3.1	Wind Data Available in the Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka	48
3.2	Wind Data Available in SLSEA	51
3.3	Geographical Maps Available in the Survey Department of Sri Lanka	54
3.4	Summary of the Chapter	55
4.	Development of Wind Loading map	56
4.1	Methodology	56
4.2	Kriging Interpolation for a Two Dimensional Spatial System	57
4.3	Conversion between 3-Second Gust and the Other Averaging Periods	57
4.4	Determination of Extreme Wind Speeds	60

4.5	Generating of the Wind Loading Map	66
4.6	Proposed Modification to the Generated Map	73
4.7	Summary of the Chapter	74
5.	Development of Wind Power Distribution Map	76
5.1	Methodology	76
5.2	Identifying a Suitable Region for the Study	77
5.3	Procedure to Generate the Wind Power Distribution Map Using WAsP	77
5.3.1	Basic principles and mathematical models used in WAsP	81
5.3.2	Feeding the data to the software	82
5.3.3	Defining the coordinates	83
5.3.4	Modelling the topography of the region	85
5.3.4.1	Surface roughness	85
5.3.4.2	Orography	86
5.3.4.3	Sheltering effect	86
5.3.5	Defining roughness characteristics in WAsP	86
5.3.6	Feeding the wind data to WAsP	88
5.4	Generation of Maps	88
5.5	Comparison of the Results	91
5.6	Summary of the Chapter	94
6.	Conclusions and Recommendations	97
6.1	Conclusions	97
6.2	Recommendations	98
	Reference List	100
Appendix – A:	Positioning of Weather Measuring Instruments in the Wind Masts	103
Appendix – B:	Graphs Generated by Applying the Gringorten and Gumbel Methods for the Weather Stations in Sri Lanka	106
Appendix – C:	Graphs Generated to Visualize the Monthly Variations in Wind for Northern Region in Sri Lanka	130
	Vita	132

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page	
Figure 1.1	Existing wind loading zones for Sri Lanka	2
Figure 2.1	Wind loading zones proposed by Nandalal and Abeyruwan	12
Figure 2.2	Tracks of past cyclones and storms through Sri Lanka	13
Figure 2.3	Maximum wind hazard map of Sri Lanka developed by DMC	15
Figure 2.4	Basic wind speeds for Oman which was determined by Alnuaimi et al.	17
Figure 2.5	Basic wind speed map for India suggested by Lakshmanan et al.	19
Figure 2.6	Wind zone map for Germany proposed by Kasperski	21
Figure 2.7	Comparison between instantaneous maximum and 3-second gust	22
Figure 2.8	Roughness lengths (Z_o) for different types of surfaces	24
Figure 2.9	Wind energy resource map of Sri Lanka developed by NREL	30
Figure 2.10	Wind electric potential of Sri Lanka based on districts (Areas with a wind power density more than 300 Wm^{-2} were considered)	31
Figure 2.11	Wind electric potential of Sri Lanka based on districts (Areas with a wind power density more than 400 Wm^{-2} were considered)	33
Figure 2.12	Wind resource map for Sri Lanka developed by AWS Truepower, LLC	35
Figure 2.13	Wind resource atlas of Sri Lanka developed by Vortex	37
Figure 2.14	Average wind hazard map of Sri Lanka developed by DMC	39
Figure 3.1	Guidelines for measuring wind speeds using Beaufort scale	51
Figure 3.2	Wind and solar measuring stations in Sri Lanka	52
Figure 3.3	Index to 1:50000 maps of Sri Lanka	54
Figure 4.1	Application of Gringorten and Gumbel methods for Bandarawela station	64

Figure 4.2	Application of Gringorten and Gumbel methods for Nuwara Eliya station	65
Figure 4.3	Application of Gringorten and Gumbel methods for Hambantota station	65
Figure 4.4	Basic wind speed contours for Sri Lanka in 3-second gust wind speeds	67
Figure 4.5	Basic wind speed contours for Sri Lanka in 10-minute average wind speeds	68
Figure 4.6	District based wind loading zones for Sri Lanka in 3-second gust wind speeds	69
Figure 4.7	District based wind loading zones for Sri Lanka in 10-minute average wind speeds	70
Figure 4.8	Proposed wind loading zones for Sri Lanka	72
Figure 5.1	Selected 1:50000 scaled survey maps and wind measuring stations for the analysis	78
Figure 5.2	Wind atlas development procedure in WAsP	79
Figure 5.3	Conversion of GPS coordinates to Kandawala coordinate system using the World Coordinate Converter (online)	84
Figure 5.4	Sample of coordinates defined map	84
Figure 5.5	Defining of surface roughness in WAsP	87
Figure 5.6	Digitized maps after defining the surface roughness values	88
Figure 5.7	Wind power distribution map generated by WAsP	89
Figure 5.8	Finalized wind power distribution map after increasing the resolutions using MATLAB software	90
Figure 5.9	Wind roses to illustrate annual distribution of wind for Ponnalai and Pooneryn stations	91
Figure 5.10	Comparison between the proposed and existing wind resource maps for Sri Lanka	92
Figure A.1	Instrument installation on Ponnalai station by SLSEA	103
Figure A.2	Instrument installation on Pooneryn station by SLSEA	104
Figure A.3	Instrument installation on Kokkilai station by SLSEA	105

Figure B.1	Application of Gringorten method for Anuradhapura station	106
Figure B.2	Application of Gumbel method for Anuradhapura station	106
Figure B.3	Application of Gringorten method for Badulla station	107
Figure B.4	Application of Gumbel method for Badulla station	107
Figure B.5	Application of Gringorten method for Bandarawela station	108
Figure B.6	Application of Gumbel method for Bandarawela station	108
Figure B.7	Application of Gringorten method for Batticaloa station	109
Figure B.8	Application of Gumbel method for Batticaloa station	109
Figure B.9	Application of Gringorten method for Colombo station	110
Figure B.10	Application of Gumbel method for Colombo station	110
Figure B.11	Application of Gringorten method for Deniyaya station	111
Figure B.12	Application of Gumbel method for Deniyaya station	111
Figure B.13	Application of Gringorten method for Galle station	112
Figure B.14	Application of Gumbel method for Galle station	112
Figure B.15	Application of Gringorten method for Hambantota station	113
Figure B.16	Application of Gumbel method for Hambantota station	113
Figure B.17	Application of Gringorten method for Jaffna station	114
Figure B.18	Application of Gumbel method for Jaffna station	114
Figure B.19	Application of Gringorten method for Katugastota station	115
Figure B.20	Application of Gumbel method for Katugastota station	115
Figure B.21	Application of Gringorten method for Katunayake station	116
Figure B.22	Application of Gumbel method for Katunayake station	116
Figure B.23	Application of Gringorten method for Kurunegala station	117
Figure B.24	Application of Gumbel method for Kurunegala station	117
Figure B.25	Application of Gringorten method for Maha Iluppallama station	118
Figure B.26	Application of Gumbel method for Maha Iluppallama station	118
Figure B.27	Application of Gringorten method for Mannar station	119
Figure B.28	Application of Gumbel method for Mannar station	119
Figure B.29	Application of Gringorten method for Monaragala station	120
Figure B.30	Application of Gumbel method for Monaragala station	120
Figure B.31	Application of Gringorten method for Nuwara Eliya station	121
Figure B.32	Application of Gumbel method for Nuwara Eliya station	121

Figure B.33	Application of Gringorten method for Polonnaruwa station	122
Figure B.34	Application of Gumbel method for Polonnaruwa station	122
Figure B.35	Application of Gringorten method for Pottuvil station	123
Figure B.36	Application of Gumbel method for Pottuvil station	123
Figure B.37	Application of Gringorten method for Puttalam station	124
Figure B.38	Application of Gumbel method for Puttalam station	124
Figure B.39	Application of Gringorten method for Rathmalana station	125
Figure B.40	Application of Gumbel method for Rathmalana station	125
Figure B.41	Application of Gringorten method for Ratnapura station	126
Figure B.42	Application of Gumbel method for Ratnapura station	126
Figure B.43	Application of Gringorten method for Tawalama station	127
Figure B.44	Application of Gumbel method for Tawalama station	127
Figure B.45	Application of Gringorten method for Trincomalee station	128
Figure B.46	Application of Gumbel method for Trincomalee station	128
Figure B.47	Application of Gringorten method for Vavuniya station	129
Figure B.48	Application of Gumbel method for Vavuniya station	129
Figure C.1	Wind roses for Ponnalai station for each month of the year	130
Figure C.1	Wind roses for Pooneryn station for each month of the year	131

LIST OF TABLES

	Page	
Table 1.1	Basic wind speeds in different wind loading zones in Sri Lanka	3
Table 1.2	Different averaging time periods which have been used to define the basic wind speed in several codes of practice for wind actions	3
Table 2.1	Basic wind speed values proposed by Nandalal and Abeyruwan	14
Table 2.2	Reference wind speed values for Germany proposed by Kasperski	21
Table 2.3	Comparison between measured and theoretical values between $U_{(3-sec)}$ and $U_{(max)}$ by Hsu at selected stations in USA	23
Table 2.4	WMO recommendation for conversion between several averaging time periods for tropical cyclonic conditions	25
Table 2.5	Wind energy potential of several regions in Sri Lanka	40
Table 2.6	Roughness coefficients for different surface characteristics	45
Table 2.7	Summary of the wind resource maps developed for Sri Lanka	47
Table 3.1	A sample AWS data sheet for Anuradhapura weather station	48
Table 3.2	Available wind data of major weather stations in Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka	49
Table 3.3	Available AWS wind data in Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka	50
Table 3.4	Available types of data records in SLSEA	53
Table 4.1	Assigned 'p' Values for each AWS	58
Table 4.2	Assigned gust conversion factors for each weather station based on WMO guidelines	60
Table 4.3	Predicted extreme wind speeds using Gringorten method for each weather station and for several return periods	61
Table 4.4	Predicted extreme wind speeds using Gumbel method for each weather station and for several return periods	62

Table 4.5	RMSE ² values for each station for both Gringorten and Gumbel Method	63
Table 4.6	Proposed basic wind speeds for each wind loading zone	71
Table 5.1	Detailed comparison between the proposed and existing wind resource maps for Sri Lanka	94

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
AWS	Automatic Weather Station
CEB	Ceylon Electricity Board
CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamics
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DMC	Disaster Management Center
GEV	Generalized Extreme Value
LA	Louisiana
LKR	Sri Lankan Rupees
MS	Mississippi
NCAR	National Center for Atmospheric Research
NCEP	National Centers for Environmental Prediction
NERDC	National Engineering Research and Development Center
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NWP	Numerical Weather Prediction
RMSE	Root Mean Square Error
ROB	Rough Observation Books
SLSEA	Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority
TX	Texas
USD	United States Dollars
WAsP	Wind Atlas Analysis and Application Program
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPD	Wind Power Density
WRF	Weather Research and Forecasting

LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	Scale parameter
A_H	Average horizontal area of the object
e	The exponential constant (2.718)
$F_U(U')$	Cumulative probability distribution function of the maximum wind speeds over a defined period, for an example one year
g	The acceleration of gravity (9.8 ms^{-2})
$G_k(\alpha)$	$1/k$ times the incomplete gamma function of the two arguments $1/k$ and α^k
h	Height of the object
k	Shape factor
m	Rank
n	Number of records in the averaging interval
N	Size of the data set
p	Exponent of the power law of wind profile
P	Air pressure
P_0	Atmospheric pressure at the standard sea level (101 325 Pa), or the actual sea level adjusted pressure reading from a local airport
p'	Probability of non-exceedance
$P(u)$	Power curve
P_i	Power at the i^{th} node
P_{i+1}	Power at the $(i + 1)^{\text{th}}$ node
$Pr(u)$	Probability density function of u
R'	The specific gas constant of air ($287 \text{ Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$)
R	Return period
y	Reduced variant
S	Cross sectional area of the object facing the wind direction
T	Air temperature in Kelvins
u	Wind speed at hub height
U	Unknown wind speed at height z above ground

U_0	Known wind speed at a reference height z_0
U'	Wind speed
$U_{(1-min)}$	1-Minute average wind speed
$U_{(3-sec)}$	3-Second gust wind speed
$U_{(max)}$	Instantaneous maximum wind speed
$U_{extreme}$	Predicted extreme wind speed for a return period of R
u_i	Wind speed at the i^{th} node
u_{i+1}	Wind speed at the $(i + 1)^{\text{th}}$ node
v_i	Wind speed
WPD	Unknown wind power density at height z above ground
WPD_0	Known wind power density at a reference height z_0
z	Site elevation above sea level
z	Height of wind measurement
z_0	Roughness length
Z_0	Aerodynamic roughness length
α	Power law exponent (For well exposed areas with low surface Roughness a value of 0.143 can be used)
ρ	Air density

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Page
Appendix – A	Positioning of Weather Measuring Instruments in the Wind Masts	103
Appendix – B	Graphs Generated by Applying the Gringorten and Gumbel Methods for the Weather Stations in Sri Lanka	106
Appendix – C	Graphs Generated to Visualize the Monthly Variations in Wind for Northern Region in Sri La	130