

Wind and turbulence observations with the Mars microphone on Perseverance

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Key Points:

- Wind-induced noise is observed by the SuperCam Mars microphone on Perseverance.
- The wind speed can be estimated at high frequencies from the microphone and temperature data using a machine learning model.
- We quantify the relationship between the turbulent intensity of the wind speed and pressure drops, temperature, energy flux and opacity.

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Abstract

We utilise SuperCam’s Mars microphone to provide information on wind speed and turbulence at high frequencies on Mars. This is achieved through a correlation analysis between the microphone and meteorological data which shows that the microphone signal power has a consistent relationship with wind speed and air temperature. A calibration function is constructed using Gaussian process regression (a machine learning technique) to use the microphone signal and air temperature to produce an estimate of the wind speed. This wind speed estimate is at a high rate for in situ measurements on Mars, with a sample every 0.01 s. As a result, we determine the fast fluctuations of the wind at Jezero crater which highlights the nature of wind gusts over the martian day. We evaluate the normalised wind standard deviation (gustiness) on the estimated wind speed to analyse the turbulent behaviour. Correlations are shown between the evaluated gustiness statistic and pressure drop rates, temperature, energy fluxes and optical opacity to characterise the behaviour of high frequency turbulent intensity at Jezero crater. This has implications for future atmospheric models on Mars, taking into account turbulence at the finest scales.

Plain Language Summary

The NASA Perseverance mission sent a microphone to the surface of Mars. This microphone has recorded signals due to the wind. We examine how these recorded signals vary with other sensor data from Perseverance, which shows a link between the microphone signal, the dedicated wind speed sensor and air temperature. Based on this finding we develop a way to predict the wind speed from the microphone data using a machine learning technique. The microphone records data at a very high rate for sensors so far sent to Mars. This means that the wind speed predicted from the microphone data can be used to study its chaotic and variable behaviour on Mars to a level never seen before. We show that this chaotic and variable behaviour has links to temperature, the amount of dust particles in the atmosphere and the number of whirlwinds observed. This will lead us to better weather models for Mars.

1 Introduction

The NASA Perseverance mission searches for signs of past habitable environments in Jezero crater, part of an ancient delta on Mars (Farley et al., 2020; Mangold et al., 2021), as it also prepares for future human exploration. A large part of this search requires the determination of the dynamic processes currently at play on Mars (Dundas et al., 2021). One major contributor of day to day surface alteration is through aeolian processes, whereby dust and sand are lofted and transported. Such activity ranges from the movement of single particles and local dust lifting in dust devils, to larger scale dust lifting events by wind gusts and even dust storms which can become global (Zurek & Martin, 1993; Wang & Richardson, 2015; Newman et al., 2022; Charalambous, McClean, et al., 2021; Murdoch et al., 2021). The control and variation of these processes is yet to be fully understood, and so, in situ measurements of the dynamic atmospheric environment, particularly turbulence, can yield new insights.

Perseverance provides the first measurements of the Martian soundscape (Maurice et al., 2022; Mimoun et al., 2022). The current catalogue of recordings includes rover noises, the Ingenuity rotorcraft, shock waves from the SuperCam Laser Induced Breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS) technique and the noise of the Martian wind. The propagation and origin of these sounds depend on the properties of the atmosphere and their variation. Notably, these measurements are at a high rate (up to 100 kHz but more usually 25 kHz) and, therefore, they offer a new way to observe the high frequency atmospheric variation on Mars. This high frequency sampling of atmospheric variations is important to characterise stochastic variations in the Planetary Boundary Layer (PBL), in particu-

lar how the energy dissipates at the small scales (Maurice et al., 2022). This turbulent behaviour is linked to dust lifting and so its characterisation is important to understand the ongoing surface change on Mars (Dundas et al., 2021; Newman et al., 2022).

The aim of this work is to use the SuperCam microphone data to characterise the wind speed and its turbulent behaviour at high frequencies. To do so, we first provide a sensitivity analysis of the SuperCam microphone recordings to the properties of the ambient Martian atmosphere. In general the signal is shown to be correlated to wind speed with contributions from the variation in the wind speed (its standard deviation), temperature and pressure variation. We next use these sensitivities to produce a calibration of microphone data to wind speed and so infer a wind speed estimate based on the microphone data. This is achieved through Gaussian process (GP) regression (Williams & Rasmussen, 1995), a machine learning technique. This wind speed estimate represents the highest frequency wind speed measurement obtained on Mars so far. We examine this estimate for a range of atmospheric conditions and present an analysis of its variability in terms of gustiness, a marker of turbulent intensity. We then show how this gustiness metric correlates with measured environmental data from the Perseverance meteorological sensor package (Rodríguez-Manfredi et al., 2021) to define how turbulence in the PBL can be controlled. Moreover, we provide a comparison to pressure drop rates, another marker of turbulence. As a result, we demonstrate how the microphone can be used to extract information on turbulence at high frequencies, shedding light on the PBL dynamics.

2 Background

2.1 The Martian Planetary boundary layer

The PBL is the part of the atmosphere at the interface with the planet surface. This region represents the atmosphere directly affected by the surface and, on Mars, is where heat, momentum, chemical species and dust are mixed with the free atmosphere (Petrosyan et al., 2011; Spiga, 2019). It is therefore, crucial to the overall climate modelling of Mars (Read et al., 2015, 2017).

The thin Martian atmosphere is inefficient at heating and cooling the surface and so during the day the PBL is forced by radiative flux with little conductive influence (Petrosyan et al., 2011; Spiga, 2019). Some models, however, suggest near surface heating (and drive for convection) by sensible and radiative effects to be roughly equal (Wu et al., 2021). This is because, although the radiative heat flux is greater at the surface, most passes through the lower atmosphere without being absorbed. In general, the warming of the surface and generates large near surface temperature gradients causing instabilities and, thus, intense convective turbulence.

Convective vortices and even dust devils (dust loaded convective vortices) are a commonly observed feature on Mars (Balme & Greeley, 2006; Murphy et al., 2016; Lorenz et al., 2021; Kurgansky, 2019; Hueso et al., 2022; Spiga et al., 2021). At the InSight landing site large pressure drops have been correlated a few aeolian change events but with little dust lofting (Charalambous, McClean, et al., 2021). However, most other missions including Perseverance have seen many dust devils (Newman et al., 2022; Hueso et al., 2022). On top of dust devils, convective cells have been observed to produce large dust lifting events at Perseverance which, although less frequent, likely contribute as significantly to overall aeolian transport (Newman et al., 2022).

The Martian PBL grows throughout the daytime and can reach up to ~ 10 km. At night, however, convective motions are inhibited by surface radiative cooling which leads to the collapse of the PBL and the formation of a near surface stable layer. At this time mechanical instabilities still occur (often influenced by topography i.e. slope winds) which generate shear turbulence. The effect on turbulence of wind shear is greatest near the

134 surface as the wind speed generally follows a logarithmic profile with height (Monin et
 135 al., 2013), falling to zero at the surface. Chatain et al. (2021) demonstrated the evolu-
 136 tion of turbulence over the seasons at InSight, where shear driven turbulence was shown
 137 to be heavily prevalent during the winter and less so in summer. These features are highly
 138 visible in the seismic data recorded by InSight where each type of turbulence exhibits
 139 a clear signature in the seismic noise (Charalambous, Stott, et al., 2021). Moreover, the
 140 ability to observe marsquakes is heavily modified by the seasonal evolution of turbulence.

141 These features of turbulence are prevalent in observed wind speed records. The Viking
 142 missions provided the first in situ records of wind speed on Mars (Hess et al., 1977). Fur-
 143 ther datasets have been acquired by the Curiosity (Gómez-Elvira et al., 2012), InSight
 144 (Banfield et al., 2019, 2020) and Perseverance missions (Rodríguez-Manfredi et al., 2021;
 145 Newman et al., 2022). The Viking missions provides hourly averaged data for 1000 sols
 146 with some more complete periods of observation. On the other hand, Curiosity suffered
 147 damage on its sensing boards upon landing and recorded data using the surviving boards
 148 with reduced quality till sol 1491, when more boards were damaged, and no further data
 149 retrieval was possible (Gómez-Elvira et al., 2014). InSight has collected wind data for
 150 over a thousand sols with an almost continuous 1 Hz sampling of the first martian year
 151 of observations. The second Martian year, however, is sparsely recorded owing to power
 152 constraints. Analysis of these wind data have proved fruitful for the understanding of
 153 turbulence in the PBL. For example, Spiga et al. (2021) demonstrated a correlation be-
 154 tween ground temperature and turbulence to characterise the radiative control of the bound-
 155 ary layer. The Perseverance wind speeds were collected on a one hour on one hour off
 156 cadence and can be up to 2 Hz. However, several boards of the wind sensor were dam-
 157 aged due to wind-induced sand particle impacts especially during a regional dust storm
 158 on sols 313 and 315 (Hueso et al., 2022), thus hindering the wind retrieval with the same
 159 accuracy. Continued data retrieval requires wind sensor re-calibration activities.

160 In three dimensional fluids the turbulent energy enters the atmosphere at a source
 161 scale and generally causes eddies which continuously deconstruct into smaller eddies at
 162 the inertial scale. Finally these eddies dissipate at scales when the viscous forces acting
 163 between the particles dominate. These small scales can be investigated with high fre-
 164 quency measurements, which are possible to obtain with the microphone (Maurice et al.,
 165 2022). As a result, high frequency wind speed estimates obtained from the microphone
 166 provide important information on the Martian PBL.

167 2.2 Wind noise in microphones

168 Microphones, record the deviation from the ambient pressure referred to as sound
 169 pressure. As such, they are sensitive to wind fluctuations, such as those in a turbulent
 170 flow. The velocity of a wind flow, v , can be considered to be made up of two components
 171 as $v = U + u$ where U is the overall speed of the wind flow and u is the fluctuating
 172 component due to turbulence (Monin et al., 2013; Landau & Lifshitz, 2013). A fluctu-
 173 ating parcel of air will generate a sound wave. A given parcel of turbulence will emit a
 174 sound wave with a theoretical energy, ϵ , per unit mass and time as

$$\epsilon \sim \frac{u^8}{c^5 l}$$

175 where c is the speed of sound in the fluid and l is the lengthscale of the turbulent region
 176 (Landau & Lifshitz, 2013). This derivation specifically applies to a region of finite tur-
 177 bulence within a fluid at rest. However, a microphone will record pressure fluctuations
 178 (the dynamic pressure) which do not occur solely due to sound waves.

179 The empirical study of microphone noise due to wind has often been concerned with
 180 the impact of wind screens. Strasberg (1988) developed a scaling law for microphone noise
 181 depending on the Strouhal number of the wind screen. This was derived on data from
 182 low turbulence flows, collected indoors, and so the main source of noise is from the in-

183 teraction of the flow with the windscreen and so the pressure fluctuations recorded by
184 the microphone are due to the wake.

185 Morgan and Raspet (1992) demonstrated that in outdoor recordings the noise recorded
186 by the microphone is predominantly due to the intrinsic turbulence of the flow itself. This
187 followed from a model based on Bernoulli's principle where the pressure fluctuations of
188 a wind flow are related to its kinetic energy as $p = 0.5\rho(U^2 + u^2 + 2uU)$, with ρ the
189 density and U and u the average and fluctuation velocities as above. Their experimen-
190 tal data showed the best correlation of microphone RMS with the uU term (where the
191 mean and standard deviation of wind speed represented U and u respectively) with a
192 power law between 2 and 3. Van den Berg (2006) took this further and constructed a
193 model (with comparisons to data) for microphone wind noise based on theoretical tur-
194 bulence spectra taking into account the atmospheric stability and surface roughness, ver-
195 ifying that microphones are able to examine the atmosphere in a broader sense.

196 Chide et al. (2021) characterised the effect of wind on the SuperCam microphone
197 in a wind tunnel under Martian analogue conditions (low pressure CO_2). They found
198 a generally quadratic relationship between the wind speed and the microphone RMS. On
199 top of this, they found the wind incident direction contributed up to a factor of 2 dif-
200 ference in RMS due to induced turbulence in the wake of the SuperCam body. This was
201 more pronounced for higher wind speed and higher frequency, generally having more im-
202 pact at above 500 Hz. As these data are collected in a wind tunnel the flow is generally
203 more laminar than outdoor winds leading to a more noticeable effect.

204 The effects of winds on a microphone are determined by complex processes that
205 depend on the state of the atmosphere. This indicates that microphones can be used in
206 two ways: (i) as wind sensors (particularly for high frequency variations) by consider-
207 ing the dominant impact of the wind speed where the observed sensitivity is taken as
208 an in situ calibration and (ii) as a method to study the atmospheric state in the PBL
209 by exploiting the detail of relationships with meteorological data. As a result, studying
210 observed relationships between atmospheric data and a microphone is a means to study
211 the PBL state in the first place. Comparing the atmospheric data available on the Per-
212 severance rover to the microphone recordings will enable us to study the Martian atmo-
213 sphere, in particular, the high frequency wind variations on Mars.

214 **3 Data**

215 **3.1 Microphone recordings**

216 Perseverance carries two microphones, one in the SuperCam instrument suite (Mimoun
217 et al., 2022; Maurice et al., 2021) mounted on top of the remote sensing mast head 2.1
218 m above the ground, which can be rotated 360 degrees/pitched up and down. Another
219 microphone bolted to the rover body (on the port side 1 m) intended to listen to the en-
220 try descent and landing, referred to as the EDL microphone (Maki et al., 2020). In this
221 work we use only data from the SuperCam microphone as its calibration is well char-
222 acterised (Mimoun et al., 2022).

223 Here we exploit passive microphone recordings of the martian atmosphere, where
224 the microphone records purely the ambient sound with no simultaneous rover operations.
225 Such recordings are typically at 25 kHz and last for 167 s. The wind-related signal it-
226 self is below 1 kHz (Maurice et al., 2021; Mimoun et al., 2022). The microphone also records
227 the shock-waves from the LIBS shots in order to examine the properties of the rock (Murdoch
228 et al., 2019; Chide et al., 2019, 2020). For LIBS, the microphone records at 100 kHz as
229 the acoustic signal ranges typically from 2 kHz to 20 kHz.

230 An operational campaign was constructed to perform around eight 167s long (the
231 longest possible continuous recording (Mimoun et al., 2022)) recordings at 25 kHz ev-

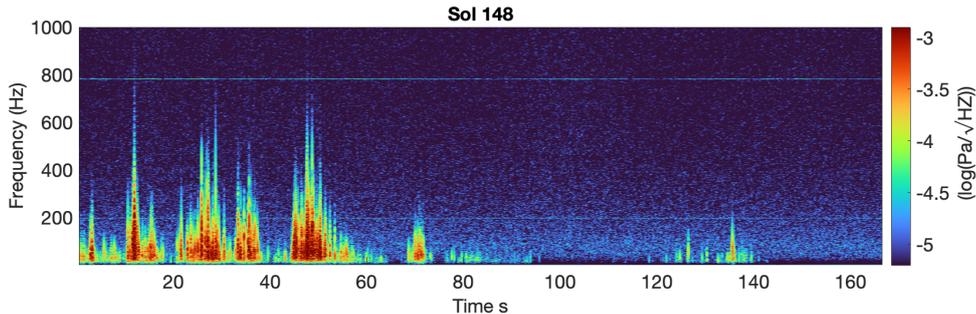


Figure 1. A spectrogram of a microphone recording taken on sol 148.

232 ery month. The aim was to extract the variation over the Martian sol but timings var-
 233 ied, for example, to prioritise day time signals (to ensure high signal to noise ratio record-
 234 ings) or due to operational constraints. Another series of recordings were taken during
 235 the “360 degree spin” calibration activity. This activity took 30s long microphone record-
 236 ings at different stopping angles while the SuperCam mast head was rotated through 360
 237 degrees in order to improve the likelihood of finding any directional impact on the wind
 238 sensitivity. The general passive recordings do not have a defined pointing.

239 The data selected cover Ls (solar longitude) 10-260 which correspond to mission
 240 sols 0-483. We predominantly analyse the microphone signal in the 20-60 Hz bandwidth.
 241 This is because it is the region most frequently excited by the wind. As mentioned above,
 242 the wind can excite frequencies up to 1 kHz but this is uncommon and as the signal arises
 243 from the lower frequencies (they are most sensitive) we choose the lowest frequency range
 244 for the microphone. The 20-60 Hz range also ensures we do not cover too large a range
 245 to include overlapping features. The impact of wind on the microphone signal can be
 246 summarised by the RMS (root mean square) of the signal within this bandwidth. Fig-
 247 ure 1 shows a spectrogram of an example recording on sol 148 with large gusts exciting
 248 frequencies up to 800 Hz. The lower frequencies, though, show stronger intensity (darker
 249 red) than the higher frequencies indicating the signal to have stronger lower frequency
 250 content.

251 3.2 Atmospheric instruments and data

252 Perseverance carries the Mars environmental dynamics analyser (MEDA) sensor
 253 package to measure the wind, air/surface temperatures and pressure on Mars (Rodriguez-
 254 Manfredi et al., 2021). MEDA measures five minutes at the start of each hour and also
 255 typically measures complete even/odd hours in even-/odd- numbered sols, resulting in
 256 complete coverage of the diurnal cycle every 2 sols. The wind sensor consists of two booms
 257 located 1.5m above the ground and separated by 120 degrees. Each boom provides in-
 258 dependently measurements of wind speed and direction and the best measurement is pro-
 259 vided by an specific algorithm calibrated on wind tunnel experiments (Rodriguez-Manfredi
 260 et al., 2021). Depending on the wind direction (which affects whether rover elements block
 261 the flow of the wind to one particular boom) one boom is selected to give the derived
 262 winds for a given period. The wind speed retrieval has a resolution of ± 0.5 m/s and ac-
 263 curacy of 1 m/s up to 10 m/s and resolution and accuracy of 10% of the wind speed above
 264 this. The wind direction retrieval has an accuracy of ± 15 degrees.

265 The pressure sensor is based on the silicon-micro-machined pressure sensor head
 266 (Barocap) and transducer technology developed by Vaisala Inc. (Rodriguez-Manfredi et
 267 al., 2021; Sanchez-Lavega et al., 2022). The MEDA PS is located inside the rover body

268 with an inlet that connects the sensor with the exterior. The pressure is measured with
 269 a sampling rate of 1 Hz.

270 Three atmospheric temperature sensors (ATS 1, 2 and 3) are located on the remote
 271 sensing mast at 1.45m and a further two (ATS 4 and 5) are located on the front of the
 272 rover at 0.85m (Rodríguez-Manfredi et al., 2021). The influence of temperature fluctu-
 273 ations on these sensors depends on the direction from which the air parcel comes from
 274 and also the influence of the rover. Each sensor records at up to 2 Hz and have a response
 275 to temperatures at 0.5s for wind speeds above 5 m/s while they have a response of 0.77s
 276 to temperatures at 0m/s. Details of the air temperature dataset are covered in Munguira
 277 et al. (2022).

278 Ground temperature, atmospheric opacity and atmospheric downwelling flux val-
 279 ues are obtained from the thermal infrared (TIRS) sensor (Smith et al., 2022; Sebastián
 280 et al., 2020, 2021). The data recorded by the MEDA sensors enable the estimation of
 281 turbulent (sensible) heat flux. The values used in this paper are retrieved through sim-
 282 ilarity theory in Martínez et al. (2022).

283 **4 The sensitivity of the SuperCam microphone to atmospheric data**

284 Figure 2 (a) demonstrates the relationship between the wind speed, as measured
 285 by MEDA, and the root mean square (RMS) of the microphone signal in the 20-60 Hz
 286 frequency bandwidth. Each dot represents a 30 s section of microphone data either cut
 287 from the 167 s recordings or recorded directly in the 360 degree turn operation. This can
 288 be seen as a calibration of the microphone signal to the MEDA wind speed which can
 289 be approximated by a fourth order power law for wind speeds above 2 m/s as demon-
 290 strated. Winds below 2 m/s do not commonly generate any signal on the microphone.

291 Morgan and Raspert (1992) found the best correlation of the microphone signal power
 292 was with a product of the mean and standard deviation of the wind speed, where the
 293 standard deviation approximates the variable component of the wind. This relationship
 294 is examined for the SuperCam microphone in Figure 2 (b), which is also approximated
 295 by a fourth order power law. There is little difference in the level of correlation between
 296 the microphone RMS and the mean or the product of mean and standard deviation of
 297 the MEDA wind speed. This may be because the 30 s timescales are too short mean-
 298 ing the evaluated mean and standard deviation is not robust enough to represent the fluc-
 299 tuating and average components of the wind. However, using only 167 s length record-
 300 ings does not show a significant change either. Note that the fourth order power law (for
 301 both Figure 2 (a) and (b)) is steeper to those found in Morgan and Raspert (1992) which
 302 are between 2-3. The wind speed does not explain all the variation in Figure 2 (a), how-
 303 ever, and there is a significant statistical spread/variance in the correlation. The spread
 304 is also not entirely random. For example, at wind speeds between 2 and 4.5 m/s there
 305 is a cluster of recordings which does not exhibit any microphone signal power while oth-
 306 ers at the same speed do.

307 The statistical spread in Figure 2 (a) could be accounted for by correlations to other
 308 atmospheric data. To that end, Figure 2 (c) also shows the correlation of the microphone
 309 RMS with the wind speed, air temperature (T_a), ground temperature (T_g), the temper-
 310 ature gradient between air and ground ($T_g - T_a$) and pressure standard deviation. The
 311 diagonal of the scatter plot matrix shows the Kernel Density Estimate (KDE) of the prob-
 312 ability density function (PDF) of each variable in order to show their distributions over
 313 the microphone recordings.

314 The pressure standard deviation has been shown to be well correlated to wind speed
 315 in Charalambous, Stott, et al. (2021) for InSight, and is also the case here as shown in
 316 Figure 2 (c). To that end, the correlation between the microphone RMS and pressure
 317 standard deviation shows similar features to the Figure 2 (a). In particular, the cluster

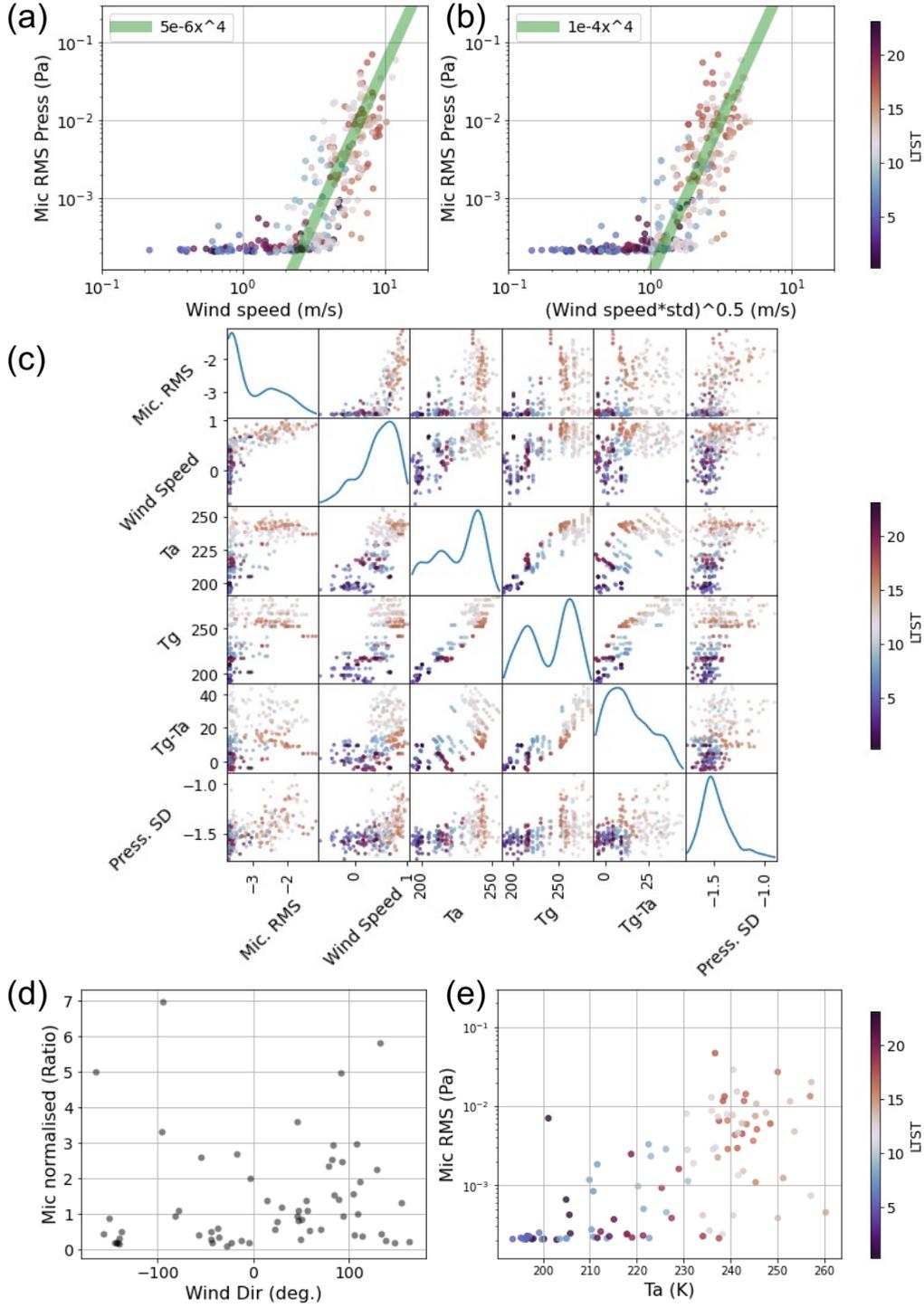


Figure 2. (a) scatter plot of the microphone RMS against mean wind speed for 30s chunks with a 4th order power law approximation shown in green. (b) scatter plot of the microphone RMS against the product of mean and standard deviation of the wind speed over 30s chunks with a 4th order power law approximation shown in green. (c) scatter plots to show correlation between key parameters (log of Mic RMS, log of wind speed, Air temperature (T_a), ground temperature (T_g) temperature gradient ($T_a - T_g$) and Pressure standard deviation (SD)) where each dot represents a 30s chunk of data and the diagonal plots are the KDE estimate of the PDF of each variable. (d) Incident wind direction to the microphone against the Mic RMS normalised by the power law approximation in (b) for full 167s microphone recordings with a wind speed > 3 m/s. (e) scatter plot of the microphone RMS against air temperature at 1.45m against the microphone RMS colour coded by LTST of recording.

318 of points with low microphone signal even though there is larger winds is more exagger-
 319 ated for the pressure standard deviation. These points are typically at nighttime or late
 320 morning suggesting they are either for a more stable atmosphere (less turbulent flows
 321 which the microphone is less sensitive to) or where turbulence is less persistent and we
 322 observe a lull. This highlights that the microphone is particularly sensitive to the tur-
 323 bulent fluctuations, u , rather than the steady U winds.

324 There is a somewhat consistent relationship between the microphone RMS and the
 325 air temperature, ground temperature and ground to air temperature difference. These
 326 variables share a forcing mechanism and are, in turn, correlated to each other as shown
 327 in 2 (c). The thermal gradient, $T_g - T_a$, is the generative mechanism for the convective
 328 turbulent winds seen by the microphone. However, the relationship with air tempera-
 329 ture is the most consistent and is shown in greater detail (for averages over 167s instead)
 330 in Figure 2 (e). These correlations have more of a wedge shape, rather than a simple lin-
 331 ear correlation, suggesting that the temperatures dictate an upper bound on the signal
 332 power in the microphone data. The superior correlation with air temperature may be
 333 due to the ATS sensors which have a fast response time and their fluctuations are shown
 334 to be due to turbulence in De la Torre Juárez et al. (2022); Munguira et al. (2022). On
 335 the other hand, the ground temperature data does not fluctuate on such scales and its
 336 value depends on the surface thermal inertia and albedo, which change as the rover moves
 337 (Martinez et al., 2022). Moreover, the impact of ground temperature on the thermal gra-
 338 dient which impacts the wind field would be an average over the terrain.

339 Notice that there is an outlying black point in Figure 2 (e) with a large signal at
 340 around $T_a = 200$ K compared to recordings at a similar temperature. This corresponds
 341 to a period of nocturnal turbulence (analysed for Perseverance in Pla Garcia (2022)) which
 342 occurred at 20 minutes after midnight local true solar time (LTST).

343 The MEDA wind sensor currently only determines horizontal wind speeds. This
 344 means that vertical wind speeds are not known, which would produce signal on the mi-
 345 crophone in the same way. Vertical wind speeds are generally lower than horizontal (0.2
 346 of the size of horizontal wind speed is used as a rule of thumb Lorenz (2022)) and are
 347 often correlated to horizontal winds. Chide et al. (2022) demonstrate an analysis of ther-
 348 mal fluctuations based on sound speed measurements from recordings of the LIBS shock-
 349 wave. This indicates the presence of significant, fast thermal fluctuations, both vertical
 350 and horizontal.

351 Another aspect to investigate is the impact of wind direction. Chide et al. (2021)
 352 showed that wind incidence on the SuperCam head produced up to a factor of 2 change
 353 in the microphone signal power, owing to the wake generated. Figure 2 (d) shows the
 354 wind incidence direction (relative to the pointing direction of the microphone) against
 355 microphone RMS divided by the fourth order power law fit for recordings of wind speed
 356 above 3 m/s, with the aim of normalising the effect of wind speed. As splitting the record-
 357 ings into 30s chunks provides a bias in number of data points for specific conditions (as
 358 mentioned above atmospheric stability also plays a part) we consider only the full 167s
 359 recordings along with the 30s recordings taken during the “360 degree spin” activity. The
 360 data do not demonstrate a clear pattern to suggest that wind incidence direction is im-
 361 portant.

362 The observed spread in the relationship with wind speed is greater than the fac-
 363 tor of 2 observed in Chide et al. (2021) and so other factors may obscure the effect. On
 364 top of an effect (from turbulent wake generation) of the wind incidence with the Super-
 365 Cam head, additional wind directionality effects may occur due to the mast elevation
 366 or the wind incidence with the rover. For example, the Radioisotope Thermal Gener-
 367 ator (RTG) is a source of heat, which would interfere with recordings pointing to the back
 368 of the rover. On the other hand, consider that the effect of directionality observed in Chide
 369 et al. (2021) is suggested to be due to turbulent wake induced by the SuperCam head.

370 According to Morgan and Raspet (1992) and Van den Berg (2006), these effects are only
 371 likely to be significant compared to the signal power from the turbulence of the flow it-
 372 self when the flow has low inherent turbulence. As a result, the impact should not be
 373 as prevalent in the Martian data compared to the wind tunnel data analysed in Chide
 374 et al. (2021). Furthermore, the power law relationship to the wind speed observed on
 375 Mars is of order 4 and not the 2 found in testing, indicating a different mechanism. The
 376 20-60 Hz bandwidth we examine is also fairly low frequency compared to the analysis
 377 in Chide et al. (2021), which indicated less sensitivity to wind direction for lower frequency
 378 signals. As a result, although some directional sensitivity cannot be ruled out, the wind
 379 direction does not provide clear information to describe the observed microphone sig-
 380 nal from the data and it is also not expected to contribute significantly.

381 5 Wind speed estimation with Gaussian process regression

382 The goal now is to produce a wind speed estimation based on the microphone sig-
 383 nal. In order to produce such a prediction, a calibration function must be obtained. Fig-
 384 ure 2 (a) demonstrated a fourth order power law approximation between the microphone
 385 RMS and wind speed, which is the dominant relationship. However, there is consider-
 386 able statistical spread. The air temperature was also shown to have a consistent rela-
 387 tionship with the microphone (and indeed the wind speed) and so may explain further
 388 variance. To that end, we use both the microphone RMS and air temperature data as
 389 inputs to a calibration model for the prediction of the wind speed.

390 5.1 Gaussian process regression for a calibration function

391 Supervised machine learning techniques represent a good choice for such curve fit-
 392 ting problems. In this application we desire a smooth calibration function so as to prop-
 393 agate the signal properties of the microphone data rather than find the best fitting per-
 394 formance. This is because the MEDA wind sensor has its own calibration grid and we
 395 do not want to directly fit this but rather examine the different qualities/abilities from
 396 each of the respective sensors. On top of this, powerful fitting methods such as neural
 397 networks typically require several thousand data points as a minimum. As a result, we
 398 choose to implement Gaussian process (GP) regression for the task. We present a brief
 399 introduction to GP regression here and refer the reader to Williams and Rasmussen (1995)
 400 for a full review.

401 Gaussian processes are non-parametric, that is, they are not constrained to a func-
 402 tional form such as a power law. As a result, the calibration function does not suffer from
 403 artefacts due to an arbitrary construction. Instead a GP regression finds a distribution
 404 of potential functions which would fit the data as

$$405 \mathbf{f} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{K}) \quad (1)$$

406 where \mathbf{f} represents a vector of outputs of the function which is normally distributed in
 407 terms of the mean function \mathbf{m} (specified as a vector and often set to zero following data
 408 normalisation) and \mathbf{K} is the covariance matrix of the data. In this way, the output of
 the function is normally distributed.

409 The covariance matrix is calculated based on a kernel function, evaluated for a given
 410 input sample x with another sample x' as $k(x, x')$, where the matrix \mathbf{K} consists of val-
 411 ues of $k(x, x')$ for several input samples X . The kernel function dictates the properties
 412 (e.g. smoothness) of the potential functions which can fit the data and are designed to
 413 give a valid covariance matrix for a normal distribution as above. One such kernel func-
 414 tion (see Williams and Rasmussen (1995) for a variety of kernel choices) is the radial ba-
 415 sis function (RBF) given by

$$k(x, x') = \sigma^2 \exp\left(-\frac{\|x - x'\|^2}{2l^2}\right)$$

416 where σ and l are the variance and characteristic lengthscale. These are termed hyper-
 417 parameters and determine the variance and smoothness for functions dependent on the
 418 distance between inputs x and x' . These hyperparameters are optimised (through a pro-
 419 cess known as marginalisation, see Williams and Rasmussen (1995)) for a given set of
 420 training data in our case the multivariate input, denoted X , of the microphone RMS and
 421 air temperature and the output/target, denoted \mathbf{y} , of the corresponding observed wind
 422 speed.

423 The trained GP model represents a posterior distribution of functions \mathbf{f} (in equa-
 424 tion (1)) given the training data as $\mathbf{f}|X, \mathbf{y}$. To obtain a prediction for a set of new pre-
 425 viously unseen inputs X^* we must infer from the conditional distribution $\mathbf{f}|X, \mathbf{y}, X^*$. The
 426 expected (mean) value of the distribution is taken as the prediction/estimate but dis-
 427 tribution also yields the variance, leading to a quantification of the uncertainty of a pre-
 428 dicted output for a new data point. In this way, the GP regression acts to interpolate
 429 the training data to provide predictions.

430 For our application, we trained a GP model using the GPy package (GPy, since
 431 2012) in Python. The microphone RMS and the MEDA air temperature were chosen as
 432 inputs while the MEDA wind speed represents the output for training. An RBF was cho-
 433 sen as a kernel function with independent lengthscales for the microphone RMS and air
 434 temperature. The training data were the average values from 68 (80%) of the total num-
 435 ber of 167s recordings (86). These were used to optimise the hyperparameters. The re-
 436 maining 18 (20%) were used as test data to verify the fit for unseen data and ensure there
 437 is no overfitting. The trained GP model prediction for both the training and test data
 438 had a root mean square error of 1.3 m/s.

439 5.2 Wind speed estimates analysis

440 The trained GP model trained above was used to produce wind speed estimates
 441 over the available microphone recordings. To that end, the running RMS envelope was
 442 calculated for each microphone recording as a continuous input. The RMS was calcu-
 443 lated for the microphone signal over 1 s windows with an overlap of 99% between each
 444 successive window. This represents a sample every 0.01 s and the ATS data were inter-
 445 polated to match. This yields high frequency wind speed signals over each 167 s length
 446 recording.

447 Figure 3 (a) and (b) shows two example wind speed estimates from the GP model.
 448 The top panel of each sub figure shows the wind speed retrieval from the MEDA sen-
 449 sor over that period in blue and the GP prediction based on the microphone data in black
 450 with the 95% confidence interval in shaded blue. In order to show the inputs for the GP
 451 model prediction the second and third panels shows the raw microphone RMS envelope
 452 and the ATS sensor data respectively. The lowest value of the air temperature over the
 453 recording is taken as the input, which in both recordings is predominantly from ATS 1.

454 The first recording in Figure 3 (a) is taken around noon LTST when the surface
 455 to air thermal gradient is highest and at the height of convective activity. On the other
 456 hand, the second recording Figure 3 (b) is taken late in the afternoon after 1700 LTST
 457 just before the PBL collapses to show a contrast in conditions (Munguira et al., 2022).
 458 In both cases there is a good agreement between the microphone-based estimate and the
 459 MEDA wind speed which is almost always within the 95% confidence interval of the pre-
 460 diction for each example. In contrast, however, the microphone-based recordings gen-
 461 erally exhibit sharper variations than the MEDA retrievals.

462 The noon recording in Figure 3 (a) shows episodic high speed gusts and low wind
 463 speed lulls. The microphone shows gusts ranging from 1-10 s in length and with wind
 464 speed peaks above 10 m/s and the confidence interval upper bound up to 14 m/s. The
 465 MEDA wind speed retrieval also shows gusts but the lengths are all of the order of 10s

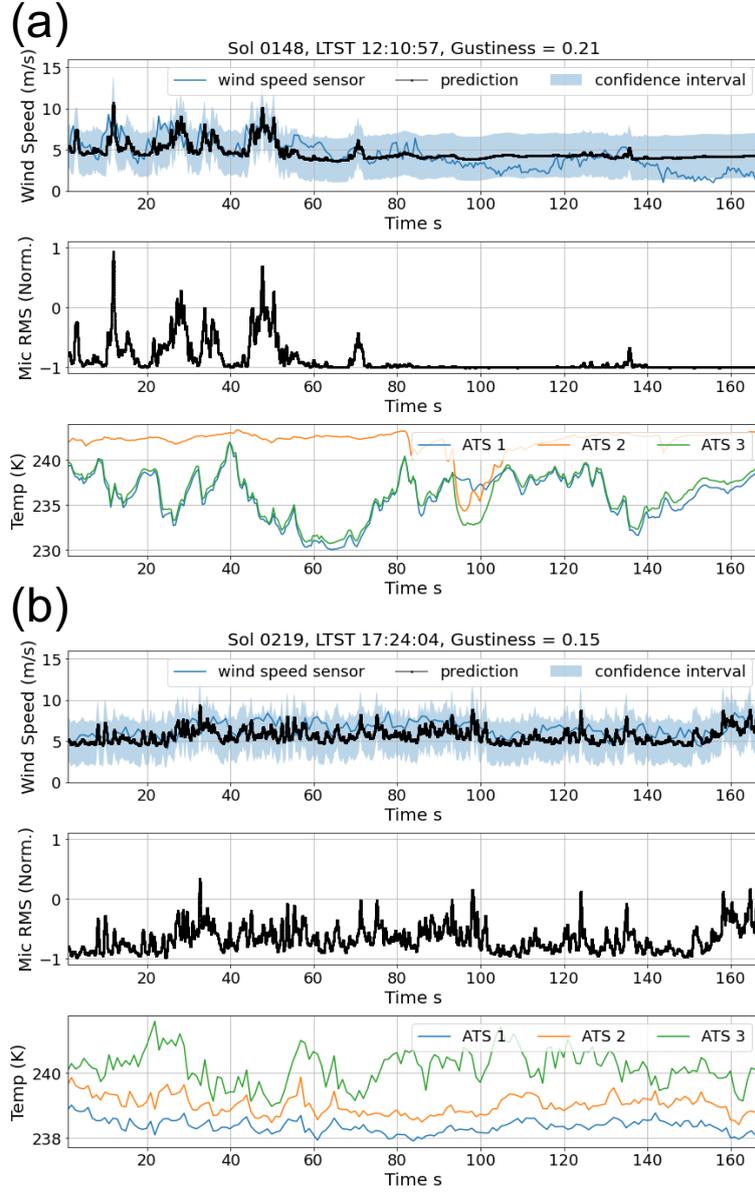


Figure 3. Wind speed estimates from the microphone and atmospheric temperature for two different recordings on sol 148 ($L_s = 75$) at 1210 LTST (a) and sol 219 ($L_s = 107$) at 1724 LTST (b). The former (a) is at the time of the largest ground to air thermal gradient with a developed PBL and the latter (b) is at the end of the afternoon just before the PBL collapse. The top panel shows the wind speed measured by MEDA (blue), the mean prediction from the GP (black) and the 95% confidence interval of the GP prediction shaded in blue. The second panel shows the RMS of the microphone signal over the recording and the bottom panel shows the raw data from ATS 1, 2 and 3, where the minimum value over the recording is used as the input to the model.

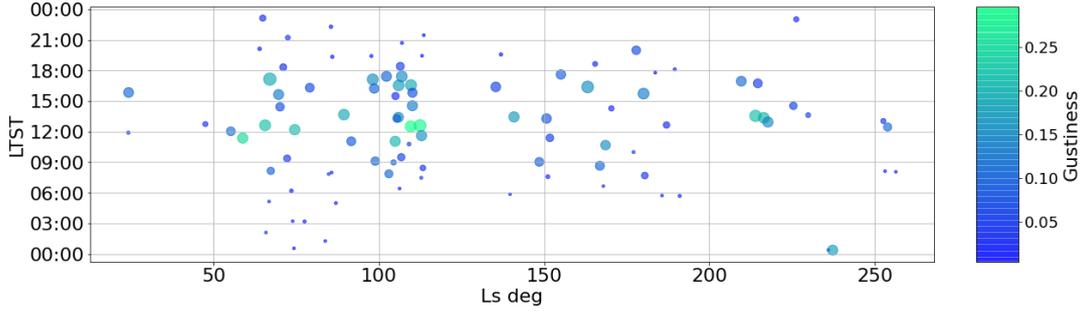


Figure 4. (a) Microphone signal power and wind speed estimate gustiness over the mission. Each dot represents a 167s microphone recording where the size of the dot is scaled according to the RMS of the recording and the colour indicates the gustiness metric for that recording.

466 with slightly lower peak wind speeds. During the low wind speed lulls the microphone
 467 estimate does not vary much, while the MEDA wind speed retrieval does show a slow
 468 change in wind speed magnitude. In this case, the wind variability is not enough to gener-
 469 ate a signal on the microphone as the microphone is not very sensitive to low wind speeds,
 470 as shown in Figure 2 (a). The later afternoon recording in Figure 3 (b) has more per-
 471 sistent fluctuating winds, where the MEDA wind speed is always between 5-9 m/s. The
 472 microphone-based wind speed indicates a similar wind level but shows greater variabil-
 473 ity than the MEDA wind speed with shorter, sharper gusts of the order of seconds. Com-
 474 pared to the noon recording, however, there are no episodic gusts. The air temperature
 475 for the afternoon recording is seen to be almost constant in comparison to the air tem-
 476 perature at noon which shows more significant fluctuation, demonstrated by the bottom
 477 panels of Figure 3 (a) and (b) respectively.

478 The microphone-based estimates, therefore, are reasonable wind speed retrievals,
 479 particularly for turbulent winds. The comparison to the MEDA wind speed retrievals
 480 shows that the microphone is able to resolve short, sharp wind gusts. These gusts have
 481 a greater degree of variability than captured by MEDA, with some showing higher wind
 482 speeds for shorter periods. This helps distinguish the different qualities of the signals at
 483 noon and late afternoon shown in Figure 3, where at noon there are clear episodic gusts
 484 and lulls and late afternoon fluctuates more consistently. On the other hand, the micro-
 485 phone is less suitable to study low level average wind speeds. The overall level of the micro-
 486 phone-based estimate does reasonably match the MEDA wind speed but it is not able to fol-
 487 low the low level variation. This is taken into account by the GP calibration as indicated
 488 by the wide range of the confidence intervals at low wind speeds.

489 6 PBL turbulence with microphone wind speed estimates

490 6.1 Microphone wind speed gustiness

491 As shown in Figure 3, the microphone wind speed estimates display high frequency
 492 variations and resolves short time gusts well. The obtained wind speed estimates could
 493 therefore be used to examine turbulence in the PBL. To do so we must consider a statist-
 494 ic to quantify turbulence within a time series. Turbulence in wind fields refers to the
 495 variability of the flow of the wind. Gustiness is a measure of turbulent intensity which
 496 characterises the level to which a flow is turbulent. The gustiness metric is given as

$$Gustiness = \frac{\sigma}{\mu}$$

497 where σ and μ are the standard deviation and mean of the wind speed signal. This is
 498 effectively a measure of the variability of the wind speed time series normalised by the
 499 average wind speed, to emphasise where a signal greatly varies compared to the ambi-
 500 ent wind speed.

501 This gustiness metric was calculated on the wind speed estimate produced by the
 502 GP prediction over each 167s microphone recording. Figure 4 shows the ambient micro-
 503 phone recordings from across the mission to date where each dot represents a recording
 504 at a particular LTST and Ls. The size of the dot is scaled to represent the RMS of the
 505 microphone signal and the colour encodes the gustiness of that recording. It can be seen
 506 that strong signal power (large RMS), and therefore strong winds, typically occur through-
 507 out the afternoon. However, this is not always coincident with strong gustiness values
 508 which tend to occur earlier in the sol from 9-13 LTST. This is consistent with Chide et
 509 al. (2022) who demonstrate that sound speed derived thermal fluctuations are greatest
 510 at this time. The wind earlier on appears more episodic where there is a mix of small
 511 and large signal power recordings. On the other hand, the later wind is more consistently
 512 strong with few small dots, low signal recordings, in the mid afternoon period.

513 6.2 Comparison to vortex rates

514 Pressure drops are another marker of pressure oscillations. Hueso et al. (2022) has
 515 provided a catalogue of pressure drops >0.3 Pa for the first 415 sols of the mission. In
 516 Figure 5 (a) we show a histogram for the number of pressure drops detected within each
 517 LTST hour compared to each gustiness value calculated on the microphone wind speed
 518 estimate. The pressure drop rates are generally low during the night time and pick up
 519 from 10 LTST, peaking at noon and dying down after 17 LTST. The overall distribu-
 520 tion of gustiness is a close match to the pressure drop rates but the gustiness has slightly
 521 heavier tails over a broader range, increasing from the nighttime lows around 7 LTST
 522 and dying off at 18 LTST. The nocturnal turbulence recording mentioned above stands
 523 out with a high gustiness (around 0.17) just after midnight.

524 As mentioned the 167s length is too short to necessarily be a robust representa-
 525 tion of the period but the distribution of these values indicates the variation of the episodic
 526 gusts. To that end, Figure 5 (c) quantifies the distribution of gustiness from the micro-
 527 phone for four hour periods over the sol. This violin plot shows the KDE estimate of the
 528 PDF of values vertically. Figure 5 (b) instead shows the distribution of the logarithm
 529 of the pressure drops size for the same four hour periods. Within each violin a horizon-
 530 tal line represents an individual observation, indicating the relative lack of observations
 531 for the microphone compared to the ability of the continuous measurements of pressure
 532 to assess the pressure drop rate. Despite this, similarities can be observed between the
 533 distributions particularly during the day time. This comparison verifies that the high
 534 frequency wind estimates from the microphone data are suitable to assess turbulence,
 535 particularly at small scales.

536 6.3 Thermal correlations with gustiness

537 Buoyancy generated turbulence occurs due to atmospheric instability from ther-
 538 mal imbalances. To that end, the correlation of the gustiness metric with the various tem-
 539 perature data recorded by Perseverance is of interest to examine the behaviour and con-
 540 trol of turbulence in the PBL. Figure 6 (a) shows scatter plots of the gustiness metric
 541 for the microphone wind speed against the same metric on the MEDA wind speed data,
 542 the wind speed data itself, air temperature, ground temperature, the ground - air tem-
 543 perature difference (gradient) and turbulent heat flux. On the diagonal of the scatter
 544 plots matrix is the KDE estimate of the PDF of each variable to show their respective
 545 distributions.

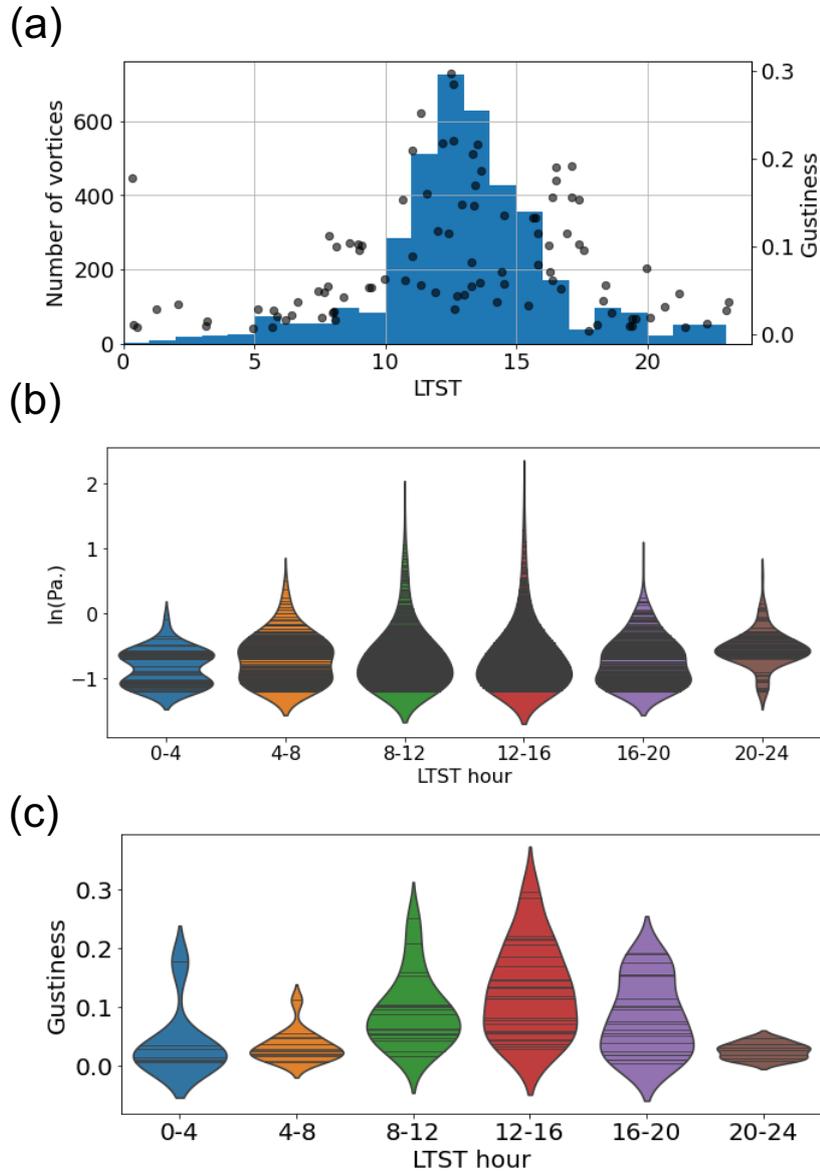


Figure 5. (a) histogram of number of pressure drops >0.3 Pa each LTST hour and gustiness of each 167s microphone recording at the LTST it occurred. (b) violin plot of pressure drops (in terms of $\ln(\text{Pa.})$) for four LTST hour groups. (c) violin plot of gustiness for four LTST hour groups.

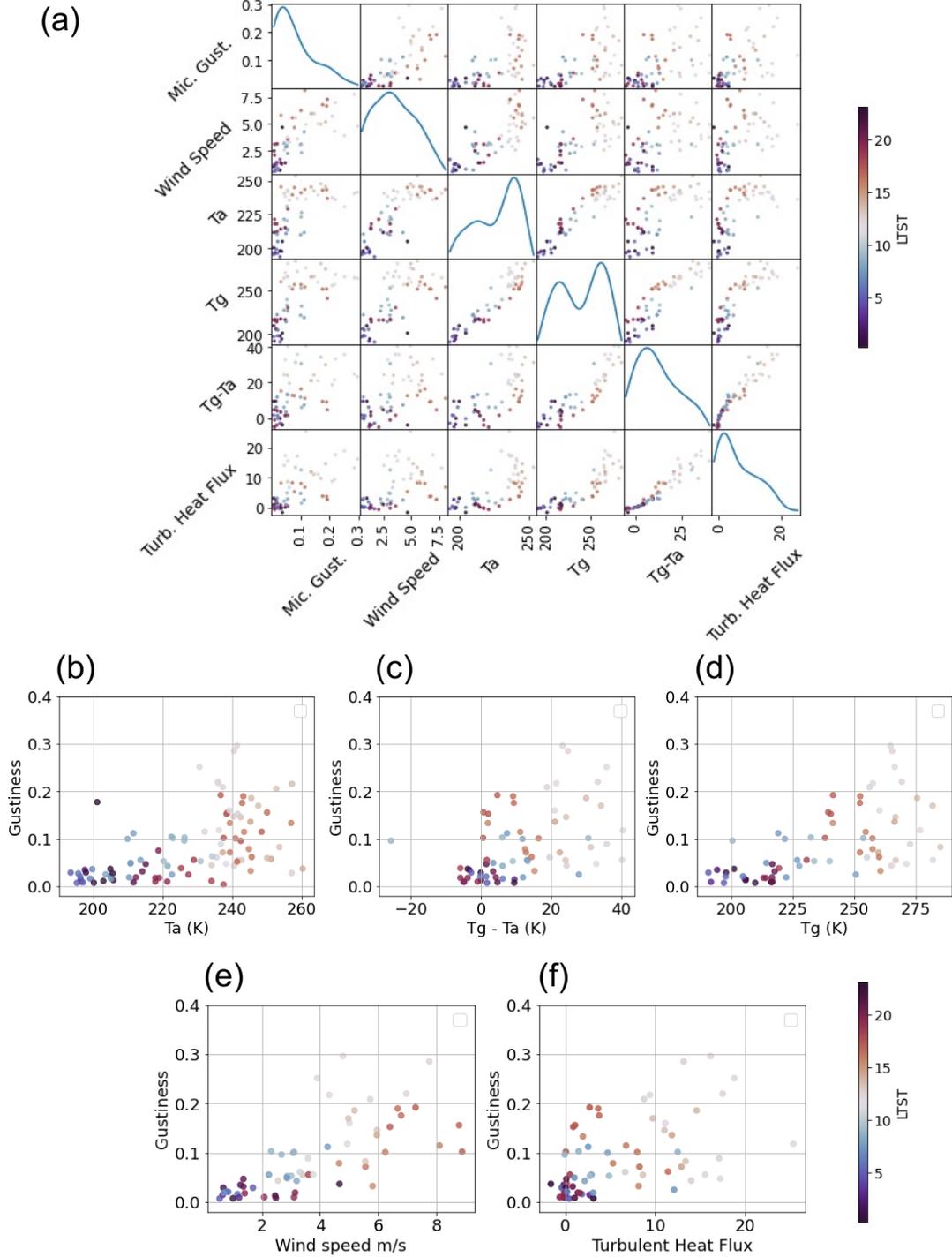


Figure 6. (a) A scatter plot matrix to show correlations between the microphone gustiness, air temperature (T_a), temperature gradient (ground (T_g) - air (T_a) temperature), ground temperature (T_g), wind speed and turbulent heat flux where each dot corresponds to a single 167 s recording. The diagonal of the matrix shows a KDE estimate of the variable PDF. (b)–(f) a scatter plot of each key parameter against the gustiness for the microphone wind speed estimate for each 167s recording.

546 The relationships between gustiness and air temperature, ground temperature, tem-
 547 perature gradient, wind speed and turbulent heat flux are each shown in more detail in
 548 Figures 6 (b)-(f). Each plot shows some positive correlation, albeit with a large spread/variance.
 549 It is important to note that these factors are somewhat degenerate, as shown by their
 550 respective correlation in Figure 6 (a), which makes establishing the dominant effects dif-
 551 ficult.

552 The temperature difference between the air and ground is an indication of atmo-
 553 spheric instability. This implies that higher temperature gradients (in particular when
 554 the ground is warmer than the air) should generate more intense turbulence. Figure 6
 555 (c) does show that larger gradients do tend to have higher gustiness, although with sig-
 556 nificant (and increasing) variance. Munguira et al. (2022) and De la Torre Juárez et al.
 557 (2022) report a correlation between atmospheric temperature standard deviation (indi-
 558 cating turbulence) and this gradient, thus, in agreement with our findings. They demon-
 559 strate a relatively strong correlation during the unstable part of the sol and a weaker re-
 560 versed correlation for more stable conditions. The microphone gustiness also demonstrates
 561 evidence of a separate cluster for the stable periods, demonstrated in Figure 6 (c) by the
 562 darker coloured points (corresponding to early morning or late afternoon LTSTs) with
 563 low gustiness values around 0 K.

564 The overall variation of the PBL is predominantly driven by radiative flux which
 565 raises the ground temperature. This drives the instability (thermal gradient) in the PBL
 566 giving rise to buoyancy driven turbulence. Spiga et al. (2021) demonstrated that ground
 567 temperature is indeed the best explanatory variable for wind gustiness at InSight, ver-
 568 ifying the radiative control. We also find a positive correlation, shown in Figure 6 (d),
 569 in agreement with these findings. The correlation to ground temperature has an increas-
 570 ing variance with increasing ground temperature, that is, it is heteroscedastic. A sim-
 571 ilar observation can also be made in Figure 12 of Spiga et al. (2021). This increasing vari-
 572 ance (heteroscedasticity) is also occurring in many of the other demonstrated correla-
 573 tions.

574 A similar correlation with air temperature is also demonstrated in Figure 6 (b). The
 575 air temperature plot contains more data points as more coincident air temperature data
 576 was available at the point of writing. Notice that the nocturnal turbulence (black dot
 577 with gustiness = 0.17) appears as an outlier compared to atmospheric temperature, in
 578 agreement with it being due to shear rather than buoyancy. The ground temperature
 579 data for this recording was not available for comparison.

580 As mentioned, the analysis of Spiga et al. (2021) was performed on averages be-
 581 tween 11-14 LTST over the Martian season. On the other hand, our analysis is for short
 582 167 s signals taken from across the entire sol. As a result, we cannot straightforwardly
 583 decouple diurnal and seasonal factors. This is highlighted by comparing our correlation
 584 to turbulent heat flux (in Figure 6 (f)) to that in Spiga et al. (2021). We show a gen-
 585 eral increase in gustiness with turbulent heat flux (most clearly for $< 5 \text{ W/m}^2$) but Spiga
 586 et al. (2021) show a negative correlation. As their analysis is produced for the seasonal
 587 evolution of the daytime (11-14 LTST) PBL the range of turbulent heat flux examined
 588 is 12-33 W/m^2 , while we only show a few points in this range. Above $\sim 10 \text{ W/m}^2$, Fig-
 589 ure 6 (f) does not in fact show clear correlation, while the majority of points below 10
 590 W/m^2 with a more positive correlation are later afternoon to early morning, outside the
 591 period examined by Spiga et al. (2021).

592 Figure 6 (e) shows a positive correlation between wind speed and gustiness. De-
 593 spite our apparent correlation, high wind speeds have been posited to inhibit turbulence.
 594 There is some indication that noon values (lighter dots) have large turbulent intensity
 595 at lower winds speeds, while the late afternoon (red dots) show weaker gustiness for the
 596 larger values of wind speed. However, there are not enough data points to draw this con-

597 clusion. Moreover, we only observe mean wind speeds up to 10 m/s and so may not ob-
 598 serve this effect clearly.

599 **6.4 Atmospheric dust content correlation with gustiness**

600 Dust particles suspended in the Martian atmosphere have significant radiative and
 601 dynamical effects on the Martian atmosphere due to their absorption of solar radiation
 602 and their contribution to radiative fluxes in thermal infrared wavelengths (e.g., Madeleine
 603 et al. (2011)). A dustier atmosphere on Mars has often been believed to increase the sur-
 604 face shading by suspended dust particles and therefore weaken the turbulence in the plan-
 605 etary boundary layer (see review by Spiga (2019)), which then leads to a negative feed-
 606 back for dust lifting (Kahre et al., 2006; Newman et al., 2002). This, however, assumes
 607 an even distribution of dust in the atmosphere. On the contrary, Wu et al. (2021) re-
 608 ported turbulence-resolving numerical simulations able to transport dust actively in the
 609 turbulent motions resolved by their model and to examine the feedback processes be-
 610 tween turbulent dust mixing and radiative effects. They found that the lofting of dust
 611 through convective plumes causes an inhomogenous distribution of the warm dust par-
 612 ticles in the atmosphere which promotes thermal instabilities and results in stronger tur-
 613 bulence in the planetary boundary layer. In their model, this effect of inhomogenous dust
 614 distribution is particularly effective for low to moderate dust loading with several active
 615 areas of dust lifting from the surface.

616 In this section, we intend to explore whether our dataset could provide more in-
 617 sight into this process and the feedback between dust loading and turbulence in the PBL.
 618 In fact, the atmospheric conditions in Jezero crater during the first part of the Mars 2020
 619 mission are optimal to compare with the Wu et al. (2021) model results, since dust load-
 620 ing has been low to moderate and since many dust lifting events have been observed (Newman
 621 et al., 2022). We compare our dataset to regular measurements of aerosol opacity (τ)
 622 and to the downwelling atmospheric IR flux (LWd) acquired by the TIRS instrument
 623 on Perseverance, described in Smith et al. (2022). The relationship between the micro-
 624 phone gustiness and the obtained opacity and downwelling atmospheric IR flux data are
 625 shown in Figure 7.

626 The downwelling atmospheric flux is shown (in the scatter plot matrix in Figure
 627 7 (a)) to be correlated with the air temperature and, in turn, many of the relationships
 628 highlighted above in Figure 6. There is therefore a positive correlation with gustiness.
 629 In particular, there is a fairly sharp increase for values 15-20 W/m². There are a few record-
 630 ings with LWd above 20 W/m² with a large range of corresponding gustiness. Notice
 631 that the recording corresponding to a period of nocturnal turbulence (the black dot with
 632 gustiness around 0.17) appears inline with this relationship rather than as an outlier as
 633 was the case with atmospheric temperature in Figure 6 (b).

634 The effects of dust loading on turbulence suggested by Wu et al. (2021) occur over
 635 a relatively large scale compared to our observations and are due to the non-uniformity
 636 of dust distribution within the convective structures. The timescales involved for dust
 637 heterogeneity in the PBL are therefore of a few minutes but the timescales involved for
 638 a change of the mean dust optical depth over an area is of a few hours. Here we com-
 639 pare the gustiness metric with the mean value of optical depth measured by Persever-
 640 ance from the preceding 6 hours and the standard deviation of optical depth taken from
 641 the preceding 6 hours and 2 sols. These statistics of opacity do not correlate clearly with
 642 the air temperature and hence provides a contrast to the other factors examined so far.

643 Figure 7 (b) shows that there is some positive, curve shaped, correlation with the
 644 value of gustiness and mean value of opacity. This is most evident as an upper bound
 645 for noon-afternoon (light and red dots) recordings with an average opacity in the range
 646 0-0.3. The evening, nighttime and morning recordings do not correlate as well for the
 647 same values of opacity, which may be because they are not in the convective period. There

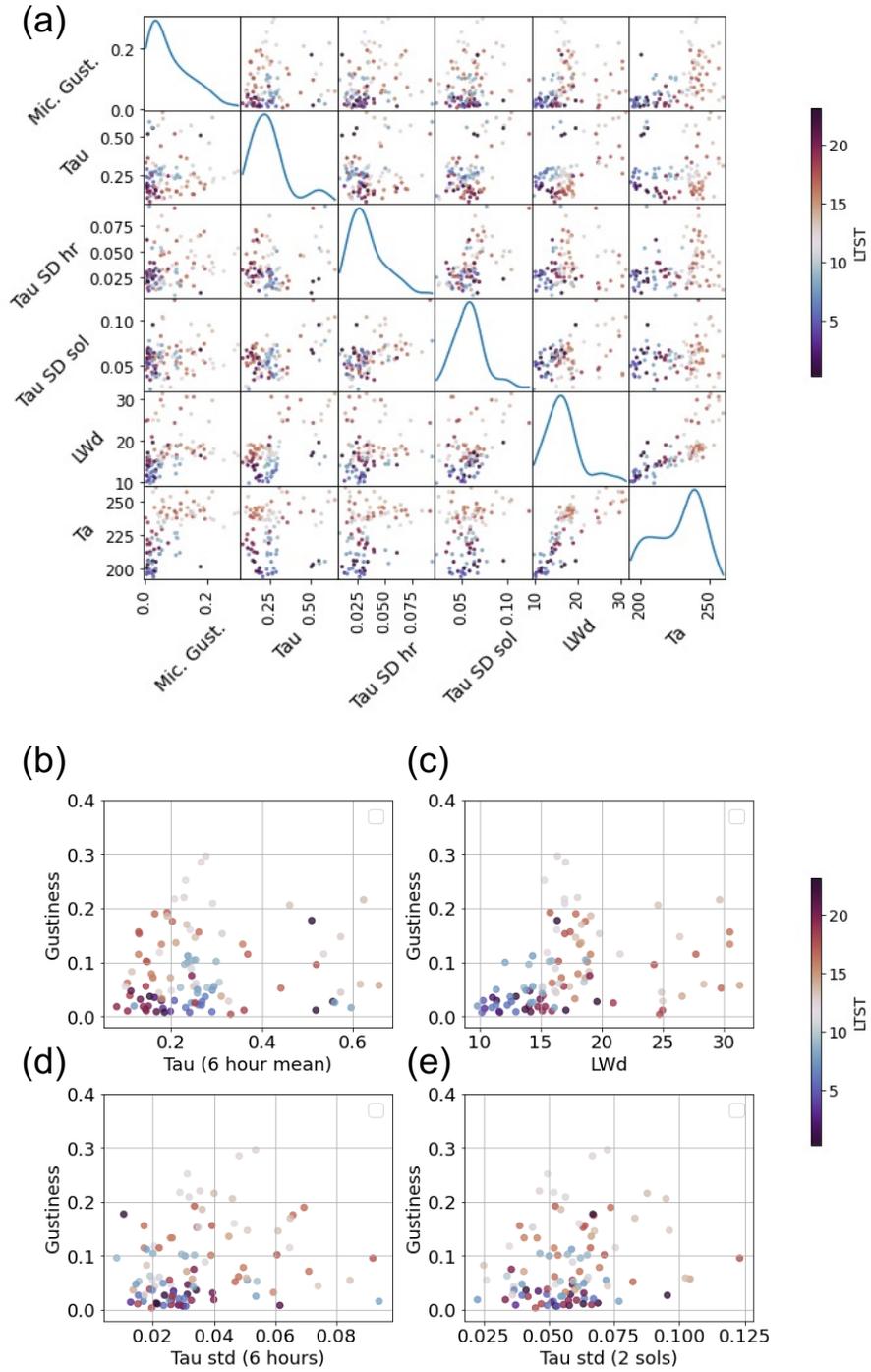


Figure 7. (a) A scatter plot matrix to show correlations between the microphone gustiness, aerosol opacity averaged over 6 hours (τ), downwelling atmospheric IR flux (LWd), the standard deviation of opacity for the preceding 6 hours (τ SD hr) and 2 sols (τ SD sol) along with air temperature (Ta). Each dot corresponds to a single 167 s recording and the diagonal of the matrix shows a KDE estimate of the variable PDF. (b)–(e) a scatter plot of each variable to the microphone gustiness.

648 are a few recordings for higher values of opacity above 0.4 which exhibit a large variance
649 of gustiness, one of which is the nocturnal turbulence recording.

650 Figures 7 (d) and (e) show the relationship between gustiness and the standard deviation
651 of opacity evaluated on the previous 6 hours and 2 sols respectively to highlight
652 the effect of variation in opacity over different scales on the turbulent intensity. In both
653 cases the increase in standard deviation tends to cause an increase in gustiness, partic-
654 ularly through looking at the daytime recordings during the convective period. This breaks
655 down somewhat for higher standard deviations (above 0.05 and 0.075 in the 6 hours and
656 2 sols data respectively) where the gustiness is lower. In comparison to the 6 hour time
657 scale, the 2 sol standard deviation has fewer values outside of the main grouping, par-
658 ticularly at higher values of standard deviations as well as the nocturnal turbulence value
659 not being an outlier. This demonstrates that both long term and short term variation
660 in opacity could contribute. The correlations between the gustiness metric and mean/standard
661 deviation of opacity are therefore consistent with the role of dust in increasing turbu-
662 lence proposed by Wu et al. (2021) to some extent. However, further analysis is required
663 to isolate the particular effects.

664 7 Discussion and conclusion

665 This paper provides high frequency wind estimates from Mars using the SuperCam
666 microphone on Perseverance. These wind estimates are based on the demonstrated re-
667 lationships between the microphone RMS and the air temperature for the Perseverance
668 data. The dominant relationship is with the wind speed, which can be approximated with
669 a fourth order power law above 2 m/s. This correlation, however, has significant statisti-
670 cal spread/variance and substructure which can be due to several unobserved factors
671 (e.g. vertical winds) and due to short recording lengths. Further information to explain
672 the variance in the correlation is given by the atmospheric data. In particular, the air
673 temperature data gives an upper bound on the microphone RMS. The way in which the
674 atmospheric stability affects the microphone data is important to take into account when
675 using the microphone to study the wind.

676 The GP calibration yields a suitable method to obtain wind speed estimates based
677 on the microphone RMS and air temperature data as it acts to interpolate the observed
678 relationships between the microphone and wind data. This allows the output to exhibit
679 the high frequency variation observed by the microphone rather than trying to overly
680 fit and reproduce the MEDA wind speed retrieval. The non-parametric form of the GP
681 model allows for variation in the calibration function to be taken into account, not strictly
682 confining to the form of a power law which is only shown to work in general. The con-
683 fidence intervals give an intrinsic understanding of the quality of the wind speed estima-
684 tion.

685 From the comparison of the MEDA and microphone-based wind speed time series,
686 we demonstrate that the microphone yields sharp fluctuations on shorter time scales than
687 possible for the MEDA wind speed sampling and therefore, information on high frequency
688 variation in the Martian atmosphere. This follows from the sensitivity analysis and prior
689 works where the microphone is more sensitive to the turbulent fluctuations, u , and so
690 the derived wind estimate is most suitable for their analysis at high frequencies.

691 The microphone-based estimate reveals episodic gusts on the 1-10 s scales with tem-
692 porarily high speeds, the distribution of which appears to change over the sol. Owing
693 to this gust resolving feature, the microphone wind speed estimate can be used to anal-
694 yse specific signals such as those made by dust devils (Murdoch et al., 2021). Further-
695 more, the fine gust resolution can be used to examine the distribution of high wind speeds
696 in turbulent conditions. The range of possible winds is well quantified also by the con-
697 fidence intervals of the GP model. The microphone wind speed estimates can therefore

698 identify periods where particle lofting thresholds could have been broken (Charalambous,
699 McClean, et al., 2021), especially for short periods. Moreover, the distributions help char-
700 acterise the variability of winds which has been proposed to be a factor in aeolian pro-
701 cess activity (Newman et al., 2022).

702 The high frequency sampling and gust resolving qualities make the microphone wind
703 estimates advantageous to analyse turbulence, whereby we are able to observe the effects
704 of small scale eddies. To that end, we calculated the gustiness metric as a marker of tur-
705 bulent intensity which was compared to pressure drop rates and other meteorological data
706 recorded by the Perseverance mission. These gustiness values obtained from the micro-
707 phone wind speed estimates incorporate both diurnal and seasonal effects and also only
708 calculated over a relatively short time period. The short timescales mean that a partic-
709 ular recording may not necessarily be representative of the PBL behaviour at that time,
710 for example, an entire recording could be during a lull in the normally gusty period around
711 noon. However, the distribution of gustiness values can help characterise the episodic
712 nature. Recall also that Perseverance moves over ground with varying thermal inertia
713 and albedo, which in turn affects the ground temperature value. The impact of this on
714 the wind field would be an average over the area, making the recorded temperature value
715 perhaps not representative either. These factors each add to the large variance demon-
716 strated by the correlations and prohibit a statistically robust determination of the driv-
717 ing factors, an already difficult task given the complexity of the stochastic system and
718 where many of the variables are correlated to each other.

719 Nevertheless, the correlations do represent a useful snapshot of PBL activity. Our
720 main observations are:

- 721 1. The gustiness values are distributed over the sol similarly to pressure drops in terms
722 of rates and sizes.
- 723 2. The gustiness is positively correlated with ground temperature, consistent with
724 the radiative forcing of the PBL and conclusions of Spiga et al. (2021).
- 725 3. Observations 1 and 2 verify that the gustiness values obtained from the high fre-
726 quency microphone wind speed estimates are reasonable estimates of turbulent
727 intensity.
- 728 4. The gustiness values tend to increase for an increase in the ground - air temper-
729 ature gradient, indicating the effect of day time atmospheric instability and con-
730 vection.
- 731 5. There is a positive correlation between the gustiness and wind speed and air tem-
732 perature and a more complex increase for the lower range of turbulent heat flux.
- 733 6. We have found a possible correlation between the mean and standard deviation
734 of atmospheric opacity and gustiness. This is particularly true for afternoon record-
735 ings during the convective period consistent with the model proposed by Wu et
736 al. (2021).
- 737 7. The relationships all show a heteroscedastic variance (an increasing variance with
738 the variable). This is in part due to the short period over which the statistic is
739 evaluated but it helps to characterise the variability at these scales, also captured
740 in the distributional analysis in Figure 5.
- 741 8. We observe a nocturnal turbulence recording which does not fit to the relation-
742 ships with temperature (it is not convective turbulence) but is consistent with a
743 relationship to downwelling atmospheric IR flux and opacity standard deviation
744 over the preceding 2 sols.

745 The suggestion of a possible link between optical opacity and turbulent intensity with
746 in situ data is particularly intriguing in the context of the results of Wu et al. (2021),
747 however, as mentioned care should be taken with drawing conclusions. In order to make
748 more robust inferences more data over a complete Martian year and a joint analysis with

749 the more continuously sampled MEDA wind, pressure and temperature data is required.
 750 This continuous analysis would provide context to specific microphone observations and
 751 aid the uncoupling of diurnal and seasonal variation. This is demonstrated in Figure 5
 752 where the distributions of the gustiness metric show links with the more complete pres-
 753 sure drop data, while indicating the current lack of density in microphone recordings.

754 This work represents a first analysis of high frequency wind speeds retrieved from
 755 a microphone on Mars. To that end, the correlations of gustiness with various meteo-
 756 rological data provides a statistical characterisation of turbulent intensity in the Mar-
 757 tian PBL. This can be used to compare to existing PBL models. Future work with a larger
 758 data set is required to extract particular features of the high frequency winds, towards
 759 defining the behaviour of the dissipative regime on Mars.

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771 Data Availability

772 All Mars 2020 MEDA data necessary to reproduce each figure shown in this manuscript
 773 are available via the Planetary Data System (PDS) Atmospheres node (DOI: 10.17189/1522849).
 774 All acoustic data are publicly available at the Planetary Data System Geosciences Node.
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