

---

# Altuğ Aksoy

## Scientist (U. Miami & NOAA)

- Current Affiliation:** Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS),  
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS),  
University of Miami, Miami, Florida  
-and-  
Hurricane Research Division (HRD), Atlantic Oceanographic and  
Meteorological Laboratory (AOML), National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Miami, Florida
- Work Address:** Hurricane Research Division, NOAA/AOML  
4301 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, FL 33149  
(305) 361-4336
- E-Mail:** Altug.Aksoy@noaa.gov
- Webpage:** <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/people/altugaksoy>
- 

## Academic Background

- ▶ **Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences** – August 2005  
Department of Atmospheric Sciences, *Texas A&M University*  
College Station, Texas  
Dissertation Title: Mesoscale Ensemble-Based Data Assimilation and Parameter Estimation  
Advisors: Dr. Fuqing Zhang and Dr. John W. Nielsen-Gammon
- ▶ **M.B.A., Finance and Investments** – January 1994  
School of Business and Public Management, *The George Washington University*  
Washington, DC
- ▶ **B.S. in Mechanical Engineering** – July 1991  
Department of Mechanical Engineering, *Boğazici University*  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Concentration: Materials and machine design

## Current Research Interests and Activities

Ensemble-based data assimilation & Ensemble Kalman filter techniques  
Hurricane data assimilation and modeling  
Radar data assimilation  
Simultaneous state and parameter estimation  
Ensemble forecasting and model development  
Hurricanes and tropical meteorology  
Convective- and vortex-scale analysis and forecasting

## Research and Teaching Experience

- ▶ **Scientist** – June 2017 – Present  
CIMAS, *University of Miami* & NOAA/AOML/HRD  
Miami, Florida
- ▶ **Associate Scientist** – February 2013 – May 2017  
CIMAS, *University of Miami* & NOAA/AOML/HRD  
Miami, Florida
- ▶ **Assistant Scientist** – July 2009 – January 2013  
CIMAS, *University of Miami* & NOAA/AOML/HRD  
Miami, Florida
- ▶ **Postdoctoral Associate** – July 2008 – July 2009  
CIMAS, *University of Miami* & NOAA/AOML/HRD  
Miami, Florida
- ▶ **Postdoctoral Fellow** – October 2005 – July 2008  
Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Division (MMM) and  
Institute for Mathematics Applied to Geosciences (IMAGe)  
*The National Center for Atmospheric Research*  
Boulder, Colorado
- ▶ **Research and Teaching Assistant** – Spring 2001 – Summer 2005  
Department of Atmospheric Sciences, *Texas A&M University*  
College Station, Texas
- ▶ **Instructor** – Fall 2002  
Department of Atmospheric Sciences, *Texas A&M University*  
College Station, Texas

## Other Professional Experience

- ▶ **Lead Project Scientist** – 2014 – Present  
NOAA *Gulfstream IV Aircraft Hurricane Reconnaissance Missions*  
Hurricane Research Division, AOML/NOAA
- ▶ **Principal Investigator** – 2014 – Present  
NOAA *Hurricane Field Program*  
Hurricane Research Division, AOML/NOAA
- ▶ **Editor** – November 2013 – Present  
*Monthly Weather Review*, American Meteorological Society
- ▶ **Associate Editor** – January 2009 – November 2013  
*Monthly Weather Review*, American Meteorological Society

► **Peer Reviewer on Scientific Journals** – 2006 – Present

*Nature Communications, Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, Monthly Weather Review, Journal of Climate, Earth Interactions, Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, Weather and Forecasting, Journal of Geophysical Research, Geophysical Research Letters, Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, Tellus, Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment*

► **Peer Reviewer for Grant Proposals** – 2012 – Present

*Various NOAA National Weather Service Grant Applications*  
*Various National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant Proposal Submissions*  
*Panelist, NASA's 2011 ROSES A33 solicitation for Earth Sciences Applications on Disasters*

► **Session Chair**

- [1] April 2016: *Data Assimilation and Observing Systems III*, 32nd Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- [2] January 2017: *Data Assimilation: Satellites and Radar*, 21st Conference on Integrated Observing and Assimilation Systems for the Atmosphere, Oceans, and Land Surface, Seattle, Washington.

► **Co-Organizer of the NOAA HFIP Observations Workshop** – May 2011

*Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, NOAA*  
Miami, Florida

► **Adviser for National Research Council** – 2013 – Present

*Research Associateship Program*  
*Postdoctoral Fellowship Opportunity at NOAA/AOML – Miami, Florida*  
Postdoctoral Associates Advised: Jonathan Poterjoy (March 2017-Present)

► **Adviser for NOAA Hollings Scholarship Program** – 2013 – Present

*NOAA Office of Education Undergraduate Scholarship Program*  
*Internship Opportunity at NOAA/AOML – Miami, Florida*  
Hollings Scholars Advised: Robert Nystrom (2014), Rani Wiggins (2017)

► **External Consultant** – July 2012 – May 2013

**Project:** 110Y155 by the *Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey*, Ankara, Turkey

**PI:** Dr. Yurdanur Unal, *Istanbul Technical University Dept. of Meteorological Engineering*, Istanbul, Turkey

**Title:** Lagrangian model forecast of the transport and dispersion of toxic gases/particles over Istanbul by assimilating radar observed winds in a regional model

## **Publications**

### **►Refereed Journal Articles**

- [1] Steward, J., **A. Aksoy**, and Z. Haddad, 2017: Parallel direct solution of the ensemble square-root Kalman filter equations with observation principal components. *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technology*, accepted and available for early online release at <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/pdf/10.1175/JTECH-D-16-0140.1>.
- [2] **Aksoy, A.**, J. A. Zhang, B. W. Klotz, E. W. Uhlhorn, and J. J. Cione, 2017: Axisymmetric initialization of the atmosphere and ocean for idealized coupled hurricane simulations. Submitted to and conditionally accepted by *J. Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*.
- [3] Christophersen, H., **A. Aksoy**, J. Dunion, and K. Sellwood, 2017: The impact of NASA Global Hawk unmanned aircraft dropwindsonde observations on tropical cyclone track, intensity, and structure: Case studies. *Monthly Weather Review*, **145**, 1817-1830.
- [4] Aberson, S. D., **A. Aksoy**, K. J. Sellwood, T. Vukicevic, and X. Zhang, 2015: Assimilation of high-resolution tropical cyclone observations with an ensemble Kalman filter using HEDAS: Evaluation of 2008–11 HWRF forecasts. *Monthly Weather Review*, **143**, 511-523.
- [5] Vukicevic, T., **A. Aksoy**, P. Reasor, S. D. Aberson, K. J. Sellwood, and F. Marks, 2013: Joint impact of forecast tendency and state error biases in ensemble Kalman filter data assimilation of inner-core tropical cyclone observations. *Monthly Weather Review*, **141**, 2992-3006.
- [6] Lorsolo, S., J. Gamache, and **A. Aksoy**, 2013: Evaluation of the Hurricane Research Division radar analysis software using synthetic data. *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.*, **30**, 1055-1071.
- [7] **Aksoy, A.**, S. D. Aberson, T. Vukicevic, K. J. Sellwood, S. Lorsolo, and X. Zhang, 2013: Assimilation of high-resolution tropical cyclone observations with an ensemble Kalman filter using NOAA/AOML/HRD's HEDAS: Evaluation of the 2008-2011 vortex-scale analyses. *Monthly Weather Review*, **141**, 1842-1865.
- [8] Rogers, R., S. Aberson, **A. Aksoy**, and Co-Authors, 2013: NOAA's Hurricane Intensity Forecasting Experiment (IFEX): A Progress Report. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, **94**, 859-882.
- [9] **Aksoy, A.**, 2013: Storm-Relative Observations in Tropical Cyclone Data Assimilation with an Ensemble Kalman Filter. *Monthly Weather Review*, **141**, 506-522.
- [10] **Aksoy, A.**, S. Lorsolo, T. Vukicevic, K. J. Sellwood, S. D. Aberson, and F. Zhang, 2012: The HWRF Hurricane Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS) for high-resolution data: The impact of airborne Doppler radar observations in an OSSE. *Monthly Weather Review*, **140**, 1843-1862.
- [11] Lorsolo, S. and **A. Aksoy**, 2012: Wavenumber analysis of azimuthally distributed data: Assessing maximum allowable gap size. *Monthly Weather Review*, **140**, 1945-1956.
- [12] **Aksoy, A.**, D. C. Dowell, and C. Snyder, 2010: A multi-case comparative assessment of the ensemble Kalman filter for assimilation of radar observations. Part II: Short-range ensemble forecasts. *Monthly Weather Review*, **138**, 1273-1292.

- [13] **Aksoy, A.**, D. C. Dowell, and C. Snyder, 2009: A multi-case comparative assessment of the ensemble Kalman filter for assimilation of radar observations. Part I: Storm-scale analyses. *Monthly Weather Review*, **137**, 1805-1824.
- [14] Stuart, A. L., **A. Aksoy**, F. Zhang, and J. W. Nielsen-Gammon, 2007: Ensemble-based data assimilation and targeted observation of a chemical tracer in a sea breeze model. *Atmospheric Environment*, **41**, 3082-3094.
- [15] Zhang, F., N. Bei, J. W. Nielsen-Gammon, L. Guohoi, R. Zhang, A. Stuart, and **A. Aksoy**, 2007: Impacts of meteorological uncertainties on ozone pollution predictability estimated through meteorological and photochemical ensemble forecasts. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **112**, D04304.
- [16] **Aksoy, A.**, F. Zhang, and J. W. Nielsen-Gammon, 2006: Ensemble-based state and parameter estimation in a two-dimensional sea-breeze model. *Monthly Weather Review*, **134**, 2951-2970.
- [17] **Aksoy, A.**, F. Zhang, and J. W. Nielsen-Gammon, 2006: Ensemble-based simultaneous state and parameter estimation with MM5. *Geophysical Research Letters*, **33**, L12801.
- [18] Zhang, F., Z. Meng, and **A. Aksoy**, 2006: Tests of an ensemble Kalman filter for mesoscale and regional-scale data assimilation. Part I: Perfect model experiments *Monthly Weather Review*, **134**, 722-736.
- [19] **Aksoy, A.**, F. Zhang, J. W. Nielsen-Gammon, and C. C. Epifanio, 2005: Ensemble-based data assimilation for thermally forced circulations. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, **110**, D16105.

#### ► Book Chapters

- [1] **Aksoy, A.**, 2015. Parameter Estimation. Encyclopedia of Atmospheric Sciences. 2nd edition. G. R. North, Editor-in-chief, J. Pyle and F. Zhang, Eds. Vol 4. Elsevier, 181–186.

### Recent Presentations and Seminars

- [1] **Aksoy, A.**, J. J. Cione, B. Dahl, K. Ryan, H. Christophersen, and R. Atlas, 2017: Evaluating the Impact of Hurricane Observations from the Unmanned Coyote Aircraft in Observing System Simulation Experiments. The 21st Conference on Integrated Observing and Assimilation Systems for the Atmosphere, Oceans, and Land Surface, January 2017, Seattle, Washington, American Meteorological Society.
- [2] **Aksoy, A.**, H. Christophersen, B. Dahl, K. J. Sellwood, and S. D. Aberson, 2017: Advances in Tropical Cyclone Vortex-Scale Data Assimilation using NOAA's Hurricane Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS) and Hurricane WRF (HWRF) Model. The Third Symposium on High Performance Computing for Weather, Water, and Climate, January 2017, Seattle, Washington, American Meteorological Society.
- [3] **Aksoy, A.**, 2016: An Overview of the Tropical Cyclone Data Assimilation Activities at NOAA's Hurricane Research Division. The 7th EnKF Data Assimilation Workshop, 23-27 May 2016, State College, Pennsylvania.

- [4] **Aksoy, A.**, J. Cione, H. Christophersen, B. Dahl, and K. Ryan, 2016: Utilizing the Coyote UAS/UASonde Observations to Improve Tropical Cyclone Data Assimilation and Prediction. Coyote UAS Summit 2016, 11-12 May 2016, Boulder, Colorado.
- [5] **Aksoy, A.**, J. Cione, H. Christophersen, and B. Dahl, 2016: Assessing the Value of the Coyote UAS Platform and Observations from the Perspective of Tropical Cyclone Data Assimilation and Prediction. The 32nd Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, April 2016, San Juan, Puerto Rico, American Meteorological Society.
- [6] **Aksoy, A.**, J. Cione, H. Christophersen, B. Dahl, B. Annane, L. Bucci, and R. Atlas, 2016: A First Look at the Impact of Coyote UAS Observations in Hurricane Edouard (2014) on Tropical Cyclone Data Assimilation and Prediction. The 20th Conference on Integrated Observing and Assimilation Systems for Atmosphere, Oceans, and Land Surface, January 2016, New Orleans, Louisiana, American Meteorological Society.
- [7] **Aksoy, A.**, B. Klotz, J. Zhang, E. Uhlhorn, J. Cione, 2014: Model Sensitivity in Idealized, Ocean-Coupled Hurricane Simulations: Perturbations of Environment, Structure, and Model Physics Parameters. The 31st Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, April 2014, San Diego, California, American Meteorological Society.
- [8] **Aksoy, A.**, 2013: Vortex-Scale Data Assimilation with HEDAS in the 2013 Season and Impacts of Parameter Perturbations. NOAA Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project Biweekly Teleconference, December 2013, Miami, Florida.
- [9] **Aksoy, A.**, J. Zhang, B. Klotz, E. Uhlhorn, and J. Cione, 2013: Parameter Sensitivity for Idealized Coupled HWRF Simulations in a Sheared Environment. NOAA Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project Annual Review, June 2013, Miami, Florida.
- [10] **Aksoy, A.**, T. Vukicevic, J. D. Whitaker, S. G. Gopalakrishnan, and S. D. Aberson, 2012: Recent Advances in vortex-scale data assimilation using NOAA/AOML/HRD's HWRF Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS). The 30th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, April 2012, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, American Meteorological Society.
- [11] **Aksoy, A.**, 2012: Assimilation of high-resolution hurricane inner-core data with the HWRF Hurricane Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS): Evaluation of the 2008-2011 vortex-scale analyses. National Hurricane Center Seminar, February 2012, Miami, Florida.
- [12] **Aksoy, A.**, S. Lorsolo, T. Vukicevic, K. Sellwood, and S. Aberson, 2011: NOAA/AOML/HRD's Hurricane Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS): A baseline study using simulated Doppler radar observations from Hurricane Paloma (2008). The 15th Symposium on Integrated Observing and Assimilation Systems for the Atmosphere, Oceans and Land Surface, January 2011, Seattle, Washington, American Meteorological Society.
- [13] **Aksoy, A.**, 2011: Advances in ensemble-based mesoscale data assimilation: Recent findings from real-data experiments with tropical cyclones and midlatitude convective storms. Istanbul Technical University Department of Meteorological Engineering Seminar, December 2010, Istanbul, Turkey.

- [14] **Aksoy, A.**, T. Vukicevic, J. D. Whitaker, S. G. Gopalakrishnan, and S. D. Aberson, 2010: Vortex-scale hurricane data assimilation: Real-data results using combined NOAA/AOML/HRD HWRF-X regional and NOAA/ESRL GFS global ensemble Kalman filter systems. The 29th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, May 2010, Tuscon, Arizona, American Meteorological Society.
- [15] **Aksoy, A.**, 2010: Vortex-scale hurricane data assimilation: Preliminary real-data results using NOAA/AOML/HRD's HWRF Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS). NOAA/AOML/HRD Internal Research Report, May 2010, Miami, Florida.
- [16] **Aksoy, A.**, T. Vukicevic, K. J. Sellwood, S. Lorsolo, S. G. Gopalakrishnan, J. Zhang, S. Aberson, and F. Zhang, 2010: Vortex-scale hurricane data assimilation: OSSE results with airborne Doppler radar and dropsondes using NOAA/AOML/HRD's HWRF Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS) The 4th Ensemble Kalman Filter Workshop, April 2010, Albany, New York.
- [17] **Aksoy, A.**, 2010: Vortex-scale hurricane data assimilation: Preliminary results with airborne Doppler radar and dropsondes using NOAA/AOML/HRD's HWRF Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS). NWS/NCEP Environmental Modeling Center Seminar, March 2010, Washington, DC.
- [18] **Aksoy, A.**, T. Vukicevic, S. Lorsolo, K. J. Sellwood, and S. Aberson, 2010: The ensemble Kalman filter system for hurricane data assimilation at NOAA/AOML/HRD: Preliminary evaluation of simulated dropwindsonde and radar Doppler observations. The 14th Symposium on Integrated Observing and Assimilation Systems for the Atmosphere, Oceans, and Land Surface, January 2010, Atlanta, Georgia, American Meteorological Society.

## External Funding Support

### ►Current/Ongoing

**Funding Agency:** NOAA Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research  
**Period:** 08/01/2014 – 07/31/2017  
**Award Amount:** \$1,249,008 (three years)  
**Role:** Co-PI  
**Title:** Using NOAA UAS Assets and OSSE/DA Capabilities to Improve Sampling Strategies and Numerical Prediction of Tropical Cyclone Track, Intensity, and Structure

### ►Completed

**Funding Agency:** NOAA National Weather Service  
**Period:** 01/01/2012 – 12/31/2014  
**Award Amount:** \$213,386 (two years with one-year no-cost extension)  
**Role:** PI  
**Title:** Investigation of HWRF model error associated with surface-layer and boundary-layer parameterizations to improve vortex-scale, ensemble-based data assimilation using HEDAS

**Funding Agency:** NOAA Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research  
**Period:** 10/02/2013 – 09/30/2015  
**Award Amount:** \$1,027,950  
**Role:** Co-I  
**Title:** Services to support the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project

## Awards and Recognitions

### ►Certificate of Recognition, 2012

*U.S. Department of Commerce NOAA/AOML*

### ►Monthly Weather Review Editor's Award, 2011

*American Meteorological Society*

### ►Group Achievement Award, 2011

*Genesis and Rapid Intensification Processes, NASA*

### ►Certificate of Recognition, 2011

*U.S. Department of Commerce NOAA/AOML*

### ►College of Geosciences Graduate Excellence Scholarship, August 2003

*Texas A&M University*

### ►Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth P. Pipes Endowed Fellowship in the Geosciences, August 2002

*Texas A&M University's College of Geosciences*

## Affiliations

- ▶ **Member**, *American Geophysical Union* (2006 – present)
- ▶ **Member**, *American Meteorological Society* (1998 – present)
- ▶ **Member**, *The George Washington University M.B.A. Association* (1992 – present)
- ▶ **Member**, *Boğazici University Alumni Association* (1991 – present)

## Languages

English (proficient written and spoken)

German (competent written and spoken, graduated from Istanbul German High School)

French (basic written and spoken)

Turkish (native)

## Significant Scientific Achievements

- ▶ **Developed the Hurricane Ensemble Data Assimilation System (HEDAS) at NOAA/AOML, 2008-present:** This is a state-of-the-art, high-performance computing system to incorporate, in real time, high-resolution aircraft observations of tropical cyclones into numerical weather prediction models. Not only has this system provided the capability to obtain a more complete picture of the three-dimensional structure of tropical cyclones through the use of in-situ aircraft observations, but it is also used to demonstrate the value of such observations for numerical models by improving their forecast skill in predicting tropical cyclone intensity.
- ▶ **Developed the Storm-Relative Hurricane Observation Processing Technique at NOAA/AOML, 2013-present:** This is an advanced observation processing technique for hurricane data assimilation applications that accounts for storm motion within a given processing window and allows for homogeneous distribution of observations throughout the assimilation cycles within. This technique is now routinely used in HEDAS when sufficient vortex center data are presented in a given processing window.
- ▶ **Emerg ed as one of the pioneering atmospheric scientists in parameter estimation:** Since his Ph.D. work at *Texas A&M University*, demonstrated and advocated the utilization of meteorological observations in data assimilation systems to estimate and improve key internal features of numerical weather prediction models. He is also the author of the chapter titled "Parameter Estimation" in *Encyclopedia of Atmospheric Sciences, 2nd Edition*.
- ▶ **Developed an idealized, non-linear numerical sea breeze model at Texas A&M University, 2003-2005:** This model has been used to demonstrate the value of ensemble-based data assimilation in thermally forced circulations and later coupled with a chemical tracer model to evaluate how meteorological observations can be utilized to better model the transport of ozone in a sea breeze environment.