

Article

Stochastic Prediction of Wind Generating Resources Using the Enhanced Ensemble Model for Jeju Island's Wind Farms in South Korea

Deockho Kim and Jin Hur *

Department of Electrical Engineering, Sangmyung University, Seoul 03016, Korea; 201737009@sangmyung.kr

* Correspondence: jinhur@smu.ac.kr; Tel.: +82-2-781-7576

Academic Editor: João P. S. Catalão

Received: 10 April 2017; Accepted: 11 May 2017; Published: 14 May 2017

Abstract: Due to the intermittency of wind power generation, it is very hard to manage its system operation and planning. In order to incorporate higher wind power penetrations into power systems that maintain secure and economic power system operation, an accurate and efficient estimation of wind power outputs is needed. In this paper, we propose the stochastic prediction of wind generating resources using an enhanced ensemble model for Jeju Island's wind farms in South Korea. When selecting the potential sites of wind farms, wind speed data at points of interest are not always available. We apply the Kriging method, which is one of spatial interpolation, to estimate wind speed at potential sites. We also consider a wind profile power law to correct wind speed along the turbine height and terrain characteristics. After that, we used estimated wind speed data to calculate wind power output and select the best wind farm sites using a Weibull distribution. Probability density function (PDF) or cumulative density function (CDF) is used to estimate the probability of wind speed. The wind speed data is classified along the manufacturer's power curve data. Therefore, the probability of wind speed is also given in accordance with classified values. The average wind power output is estimated in the form of a confidence interval. The empirical data of meteorological towers from Jeju Island in Korea is used to interpolate the wind speed data spatially at potential sites. Finally, we propose the best wind farm site among the four potential wind farm sites.

Keywords: wind generating resources; ensemble model; stochastic prediction

1. Introduction

The demand for wind energy is growing rapidly all over the world. According to the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), there will be 350 GW of wind power capacity installed by 2020 [1]. The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) expects an increase of 320 GW in European wind power capacity by 2030 [2]. As wind generation capacity increases, various related technologies are considered. The maximum power point tracking (MPPT) of wind turbines is a way to obtain maximum output with certain wind resources using pitch control and dynamic operation [3–5]. The transient stability analysis of the microgrid or power system integrated with large wind farms is also under study [6,7]. In this paper, before considering stable operation and efficient control of the wind turbine, we focus on predicting the wind resources efficiently and estimating the output of the wind turbine at potential wind farm sites.

Before constructing new wind farms, it is essential to estimate the average wind power output or capacity factor in potential sites [8–10]. Generally, researchers use the wind energy density of the potential location or the turbine power curve provided by the manufacturer to estimate the wind power outputs or capacity factor. This approach can be a deterministic method and may be difficult to estimate the wind power output if there is no measured data at potential locations. In this paper,

we propose a stochastic approach for wind power estimation using a spatial interpolation, terrain characteristic, and Weibull distribution. First, we introduce a method of spatial interpolation, called the Kriging method, and the wind profile power law to estimate the wind speed at a given point of interest. This spatial approach differs from various time series or neural network-based wind speed forecasting methods using historical data [11,12]. The spatial approach can predict the wind speed at different points of interest spatially using only the current wind speed data. Second, we propose the method for wind power estimation using a Weibull distribution. Finally, we apply our method based on empirical data from the meteorological towers from Jeju Island in South Korea. The unknown wind speed data for potential points can be estimated using spatial interpolation and empirical meteorological data at various points in Jeju Island. Later, estimated wind speed data is used to model the Weibull distribution. Any wind turbine power curve data can be used to estimate the average turbine output. Based on the proposed method, we propose the best one among the four potential wind farm sites.

2. Enhanced Ensemble Model Based on Spatial Techniques

We propose the stochastic method to select the best wind farm among the potential wind farm sites using the spatial method and Weibull distribution. When planning to build a wind farm, we consider the wind speed resources at potential sites. In most cases, however, it is difficult to obtain wind speed data for the sites. In this paper, we consider the case where we do not know the wind speed data of the area of interest. We apply spatial interpolation called the Kriging method to obtain wind speed data for specific sites, thereby reducing the estimation cost of selecting the proper wind farm. The flowchart for proposed method is shown in Figure 1.

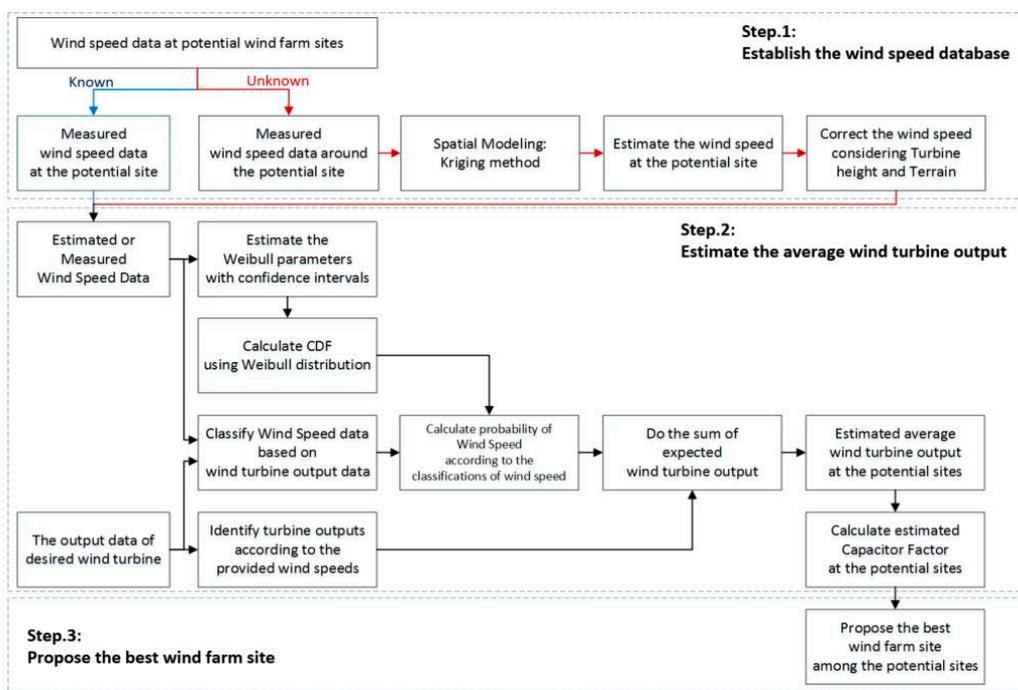


Figure 1. Flowchart for the enhanced ensemble model.

2.1. Step 1: Establish the Wind Speed Database Using a Spatial Modeling

Spatial modeling is a modeling technique for analyzing spatially distributed physical phenomena and data. It is widely used in various fields such as Geographic Information System (GIS), ecology, energy, and engineering [13–16]. Spatial modeling can estimate the value of the specific site without the accumulation of historical data. It is a useful technique for considering the proper wind farm site in that it does not require time-consuming works to acquire wind resource data.

The Kriging is one of the spatial interpolation methods based on regression against observed α_i values of neighbor data points, weighted according to spatial covariance values. The general formula for the Ordinary Kriging method is shown in Equation (1) [17,18].

$$\alpha^* = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \alpha_i \tag{1}$$

$$\text{s.t } \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$$

where α^* is the estimated value of the point of interest, n is a number of neighbor data points, λ_i is a weight with regard to spatial distances between two points. All weights must sum to one to avoid biased models in the ordinary Kriging method. This method can be expressed as shown in Figure 2 as below.

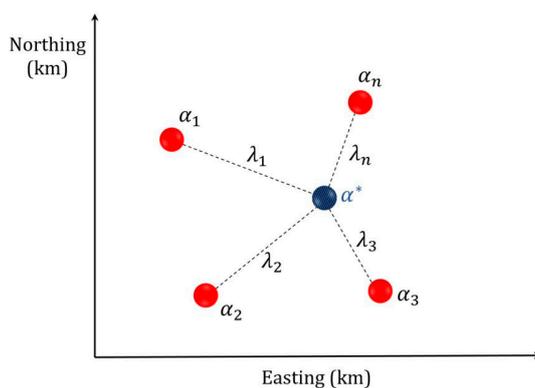


Figure 2. Graphical expression of the Kriging method.

The estimated wind speed is corrected according to the height of turbine and the characteristics of the terrain. We use the wind profile power law in the proposed method. The wind profile power law is a relationship between the elevation and wind speeds. The wind profile power law equation is shown in Equation (2), where U_0 is the wind speed at measured height h_0 , and U is the wind speed at extrapolated height h [19].

$$U = U_0 \left(\frac{h}{h_0} \right)^\alpha \tag{2}$$

The wind speed shear exponent α relies on the terrain characteristic of the installed wind turbine. The general wind speed shear exponents depending on the terrain characteristic are shown in Table 1 [20].

Table 1. Influence of terrain characteristic on wind speed shear [20].

Wind Speed Shear	Terrain Characteristic
0.95	Coastal waters of inland sea
0.121	Flat shore of ocean small islands
0.130–0.135	Open grasslands without trees
0.143	Open slightly rolling farm land
0.128–0.170	Open level agricultural land with isolated trees
0.200	Open fields divided by los stone walls
0.220	Rough coast
0.230	Gently rolling country with bushes and small trees
0.250–0.303	Level country uniformly covered with scrub oak and pine
0.357	Wooded and treed farm land

2.2. Step 2: Estimate the Average Wind Turbine Output Using a Weibull Distribution

A Weibull distribution is a putative statistical tool for analyzing wind speed data [21–23]. The two-parameter Weibull distribution consists of scale and shape parameters. The probability density function of a Weibull distribution is shown in Equation (3), where k is the shape parameter, c is the scale parameter, and variable x is the wind speed.

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{k}{c}\right) \left(\frac{x}{c}\right)^{k-1} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x}{c}\right)^k\right]. \quad (3)$$

The cumulative density function of the Weibull distribution is represented by Equation (4), where each variable is the same as Equation (3) [24].

$$F(x) = 1 - \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x}{c}\right)^k\right]. \quad (4)$$

There are various methods for estimating Weibull distribution parameters such as the linear least square method (LLSM), the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE), and the moments method [25]. For large and complex datasets, both the LLSM and the MLE provide almost consistent results. Extensive simulation shows that the MLE method is more accurate than the LLSM method for relatively few samples [26]. As a result, we selected the MLE method to estimate the Weibull distribution parameters. Simplified estimations of these parameters using the MLE method are shown in Equations (5) and (6) [25].

$$L = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i|\phi) \quad (5)$$

$$L(x_1, x_2, \dots, k, c) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{k}{c}\right) \left(\frac{x_i}{c}\right)^{k-1} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x_i}{c}\right)^k\right] \quad (6)$$

where x is the wind speed and n is the number of wind speed data. The variable ϕ is an unknown parameter that is estimated by maximizing the likelihood function, L . After estimating the Weibull parameters, we can determine the confidence limits using the estimated variance-covariance matrix, which is the inverse of the Fisher information matrix. The confidence limits for Weibull parameters are calculated using Equations (7) and (8), where a matrix $\{vc_{ij}\}$ indicates the Fisher information matrix, \hat{k} is the estimated shape parameter, \hat{c} is the estimated scale parameter, and α represents confidence interval level [27]. Each confidence limit is determined by the standard errors of the MLE method, and they are calculated as the square roots of the diagonal components from $vc_{1,1}$ and $vc_{2,2}$.

$$\hat{k}_{lower,(1-\alpha)/2} = \frac{\hat{k}}{\exp\left[\frac{z_{1-\alpha/2}\sqrt{vc_{1,1}}}{\hat{k}}\right]}, \quad \hat{k}_{upper,(1-\alpha)/2} = \hat{k} \exp\left[\frac{z_{1-\alpha/2}\sqrt{vc_{1,1}}}{\hat{k}}\right]. \quad (7)$$

$$\hat{c}_{lower,(1-\alpha)/2} = \frac{\hat{c}}{\exp\left[\frac{z_{1-\alpha/2}\sqrt{vc_{2,2}}}{\hat{c}}\right]}, \quad \hat{c}_{upper,(1-\alpha)/2} = \hat{c} \exp\left[\frac{z_{1-\alpha/2}\sqrt{vc_{2,2}}}{\hat{c}}\right]. \quad (8)$$

2.3. Estimation of Average Wind Turbine Output Using a Weibull Distribution

The proposed stochastic algorithm for estimating the average output of a wind turbine is shown in Figure 1. The two-parameter Weibull distribution is calculated from the wind speed data, which is estimated by the Kriging method. At this point, the Weibull distribution parameters have a specific confidence interval. The estimated wind speed can be classified according to wind speed values of turbine output data that is provided by the manufacturer. The classifications of the measured wind speed data are given probabilistically using the cumulative density function of the Weibull distribution. The probability can be calculated using Equation (9) after solving Equation (4). The wind turbine output

that corresponds to the classifications of wind speed can be identified through the manufacturer's power curve data. The average output of the turbine can be calculated using Equation (10).

$$F_c(x_r) = \left[1 - \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{x_r}{c}\right)^k\right\}\right] - \left[1 - \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{x_{r-1}}{c}\right)^k\right\}\right] \quad (\text{s.t. } (1 \leq r \leq m)). \quad (9)$$

$$P_{avg-es} = \sum_{r=1}^m F_c(x_r)P(x_r). \quad (10)$$

Here, m is the number of classified wind speed dataset; x_r is the upper limit of the r th wind speed dataset; $F_c(x_r)$ is the probability value corresponding to the wind speed range $[x_{r-1} < x \leq x_r]$; and $P(x_r)$ signifies the wind power output that corresponds with x_r . The variable P_{avg-es} is the mean output of the wind turbine, and $F_c(x_r)$ will have a specific range along the upper or lower limit of the Weibull distribution parameters.

3. Case Study: Stochastic Prediction of Wind Generating Resources in Jeju Island's Wind Farms in South Korea

3.1. Empirical Data and Estimated Wind Speed Using a Spatial Interpolation

In this case study, we select Jeju Island, which has many potential sites for wind power generation. To apply the Kriging method, we use location information and wind speed data measured in the 10 meteorological (MET) towers in Jeju Island of South Korea. We consider the optimal wind farm among four potential wind farm sites. Figure 3 shows four potential wind farm sites and 10 neighbor meteorological towers in Jeju Island using Google Maps. Before applying the Kriging method, we collect latitude, longitude, and elevation data for 10 meteorological towers and four potential wind farm sites. This coordinate data used in this paper is shown in Table 2. The wind speed was measured at the meteorological towers on 5–15 February 2016 in one-hour intervals, and its time series plot is shown in Figure 4.

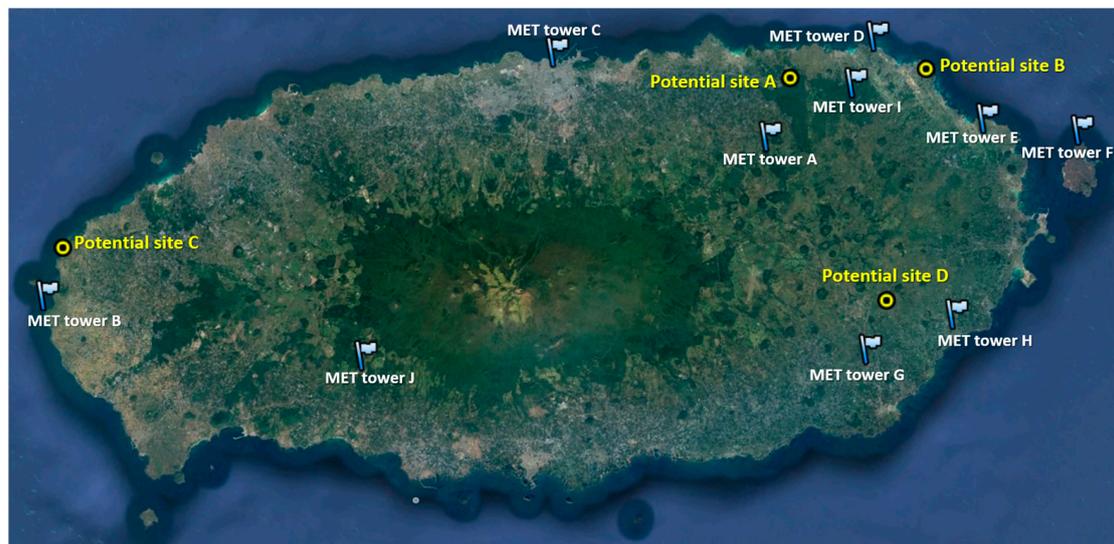


Figure 3. The location for four potential wind farms and 10 meteorological towers.

Table 2. The coordinates data for Kriging method.

Name	Longitude (Degree)	Latitude (Degree)	Elevation (Meter)
MET Tower A	126.7090	33.4824	252
MET Tower B	126.1628	33.2938	71.5
MET Tower C	126.5297	33.5140	20.45
MET Tower D	126.7794	33.5616	34
MET Tower E	126.8777	33.5198	18
MET Tower F	126.9542	33.5228	6.36
MET Tower G	126.8168	33.3535	77.2
MET Tower H	126.8802	33.3867	17.75
MET Tower I	126.7692	33.5281	110.5
MET Tower J	126.4224	33.2914	425
Potential Wind Farm A	126.7151	33.5352	61
Potential Wind Farm B	126.8208	33.5570	10
Potential Wind Farm C	126.1663	33.3387	9
Potential Wind Farm D	126.8211	33.3992	141

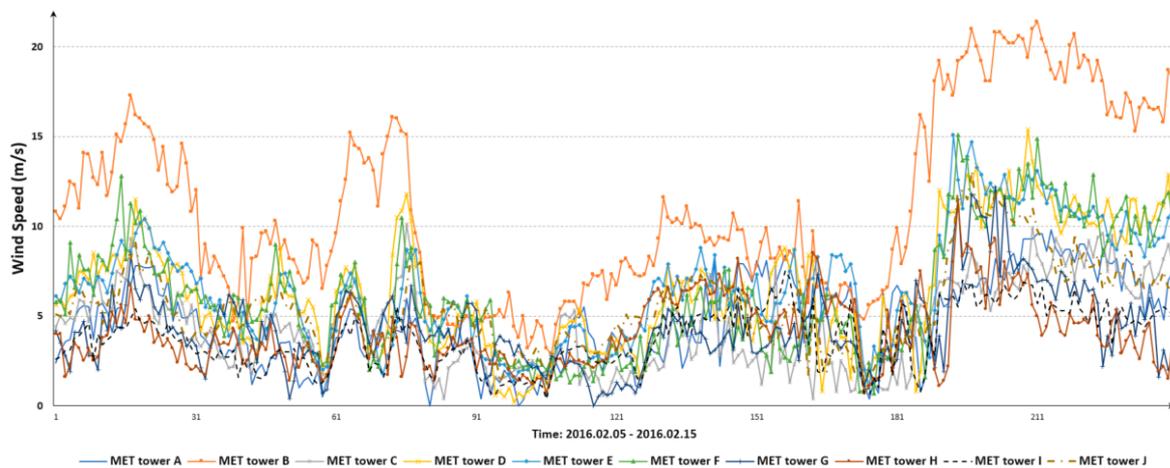


Figure 4. Measure wind speed data at 10 meteorological towers.

We used wind turbine model HJWT-2000, which has been used in some wind farms in Jeju Island for simulation. The selected turbine model can be replaced depending on the turbine to be installed if a power curve data is available. The power curve data provided by the manufacturer is shown in Figure 5. The technical data of the turbine is shown below in Table 3.

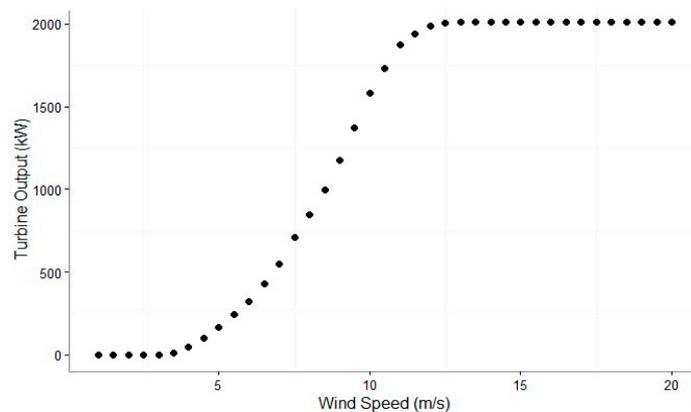


Figure 5. Power curve data used in simulation.

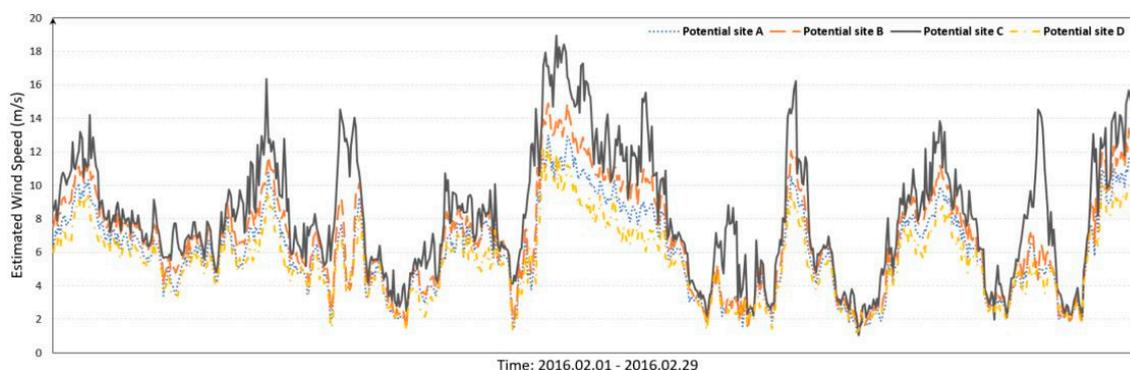
Table 3. Technical specifications of wind turbine.

Technical Specifications	Values
Cut-in speed	3.5 m/s
Rated speed	12.5 m/s
Cut-out speed	20 m/s
Rated power	2000 kW
Hub height	85 m
Wind turbine generation type	Doubly Fed Induction Generation (DFIG)
Pitch controller	Individual Pitch Control

We correct the estimated wind speeds at four potential sites based on the elevation of potential sites and hub height using Equation (2). We determine the wind shear exponent according to the terrain characteristic of potential sites. The determined wind shear exponents are shown in Table 4. The results of estimating the wind speeds at four potential sites using the Ordinary Kriging method and the wind profile power law are shown in Figure 6. At that time, the estimated Kriging parameters, which are the weights for each neighbor meteorological tower, are shown in Table 5.

Table 4. Wind shear exponent based on the terrain characteristic.

Potential Wind Farm	Wind Shear Exponent α
Site A	0.23
Site B	0.121
Site C	0.121
Site D	0.22

**Figure 6.** Estimated wind speed for the four potential wind farm sites.**Table 5.** Ordinary Kriging parameter information for the potential sites.

Neighbor Site	Weights (λ) for Potential Wind Farm A	Weights (λ) for Potential Wind Farm B	Weights (λ) for Potential Wind Farm C	Weights (λ) for Potential Wind Farm D
MET Tower A	0.7219	0.0087	-0.7748	0.5461
MET Tower B	-0.1026	0.1034	0.6325	-0.1165
MET Tower C	0.0977	0.0460	-0.0223	0.1281
MET Tower D	0.1735	0.1601	-0.0230	0.1263
MET Tower E	0.1218	0.2223	-0.1326	0.2505
MET Tower F	0.2174	0.0235	-0.2519	0.2429
MET Tower G	-0.0841	0.0817	0.4461	-0.0330
MET Tower H	0.1588	0.0531	-0.1071	0.2632
MET Tower I	-0.4763	0.2393	1.3864	-0.5911
MET Tower J	0.1667	0.0553	-0.0863	0.1674

3.2. Estimate the Average Wind Turbine Output Using a Weibull Distribution

We estimate the Weibull distribution parameters based on the estimated wind speed data for four potential wind farms using Equations (5)–(8). Each Weibull parameter has 97.5% confidence limits according to Equations (7) and (8), and the results are shown in Table 6. In Table 6, we show the mean value and 97.5% confidence limits of the estimated Weibull distribution parameters.

Table 6. Estimated Weibull distribution parameters.

Potential Wind Farm	Value	Shape Parameter	Scale Parameter
Site A	Mean value	2.5073	6.8842
	97.5% Confidence interval	$2.3598 \leq k \leq 2.6548$	$6.6692 \leq c \leq 7.0991$
Site B	Mean value	2.4589	7.7656
	97.5% Confidence interval	$2.3146 \leq k \leq 2.6031$	$7.5183 \leq c \leq 8.0129$
Site C	Mean value	2.3920	9.3654
	97.5% Confidence interval	$2.2538 \leq k \leq 2.5303$	$9.0584 \leq c \leq 9.6724$
Site D	Mean value	2.6308	6.1867
	97.5% Confidence interval	$2.4780 \leq k \leq 2.7835$	$6.0024 \leq c \leq 6.3709$

The probability density function of estimated wind speed can be calculated based on the estimated Weibull distribution parameters. Figure 7 shows the probability density function of estimated wind speed for Potential Wind Farm C, where upper and lower bound represent values of the confidence level 0.975.

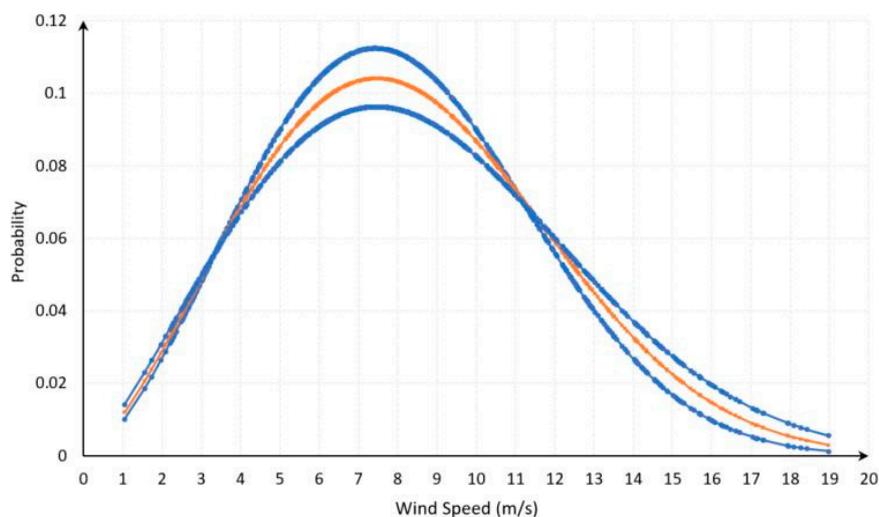


Figure 7. Probability density function of estimated wind speed for Potential Wind Farm C.

In this paper, the estimated wind speed data is divided into approximately intervals of 0.5, from 1 to cut-out speed, with respect to the turbine output from the power curve data. In our selected wind turbine, the wind speed can be divided into 39 datasets. 8 samples of simulation results for Potential Wind Farm C using Equations (9) and (10) is shown in Tables 7 and 8, wherein the confidence level of probability is 97.5%.

Table 7. Samples of estimated probability of the wind speed and power curve data for simulations.

Set No.	Wind Speed (m/s)	Probability (Lower)	Probability (Mean)	Probability (Upper)	Turbine Output (kW)
9	5	0.039035	0.040732	0.042758	103.36
10	5.5	0.042055	0.044388	0.047103	164.52
11	6	0.044505	0.047403	0.050724	241.67
12	6.5	0.046346	0.049701	0.053495	325.1
13	7	0.047553	0.051231	0.055328	429.92
14	7.5	0.048124	0.05197	0.056176	549.42
15	8	0.048073	0.051924	0.056032	711.73
16	8.5	0.047433	0.051125	0.054935	846.29

Table 8. Estimation of expected turbine outputs based on Weibull distribution.

Set No.	Wind Speed (m/s)	Turbine Output (Lower) (kW)	Turbine Output (Mean) (kW)	Turbine Output (Upper) (kW)
1	1	0.00	0.00	0.00
...
9	5	6.4220	6.7013	7.0345
10	5.5	10.1633	10.7273	11.3835
11	6	14.4687	15.4109	16.4903
12	6.5	19.9249	21.3676	22.9984
13	7	26.1265	28.1473	30.3983
14	7.5	34.2512	36.9885	39.9819
15	8	40.6840	43.9425	47.4197
16	8.5	47.3906	51.0800	54.8862
...
39	20	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Expected turbine output		935.8888	985.9220	1,023.7511

In Table 8, the average turbine output represents one-hour electric generation. This simulation procedure can be applied equally to the remaining three potential wind farms. As a result, we estimate the average wind turbine outputs of four potential wind farms for February 2016 in Jeju Island. In addition, the capacity factor can be calculated in Equation (11).

$$CF(\text{Capacitor Factor}) = \frac{\text{Mean turbine output}}{\text{Turbine rated power}} \quad (11)$$

The simulation results for the four potential wind farms are shown in Table 9. It is estimated that Potential Wind Farm C has the highest efficiency in February.

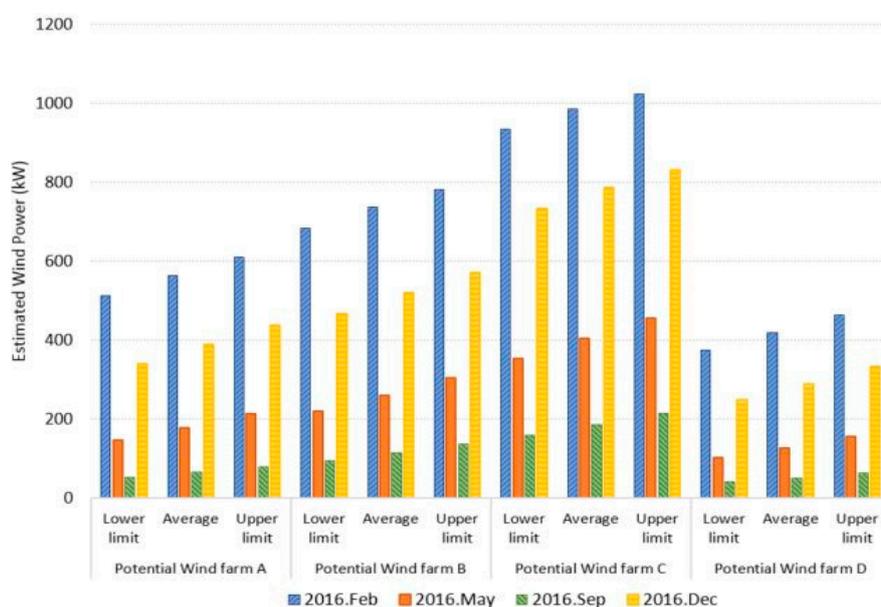
Table 9. Turbine output estimation of four potential wind farms in February.

Value	Potential Wind Farm A	Potential Wind Farm B	Potential Wind Farm C	Potential Wind Farm D
Average output	562.94	736.18	985.92	418.91
Confidence interval	512.82~611.47	684.95~782.32	935.88~1,023.75	375.62~463.55
Capacity Factor	0.281	0.368	0.493	0.209

We also simulate the turbine output in May, September, and December using the proposed method. Each month represents different wind speeds, which can reveal the seasonal effects. The simulation results for the four months are shown in Table 10 and Figure 8.

Table 10. Turbine output estimation of four potential wind farms in season.

Potential Wind Farm	February (kWh)	May (kWh)	September (kWh)	December (kWh)
Site A (Confience interval)	562.94 (518.82~611.47)	178.94 (147.74~214.06)	65.56 (53.02~80.33)	388.90 (340.15~438.22)
Site B (Confience interval)	736.18 (684.95~782.32)	261.67 (220.82~305.40)	114.53 (95.16~136.95)	521.60 (467.91~572.70)
Site C (Confience interval)	985.92 (935.88~1,023.75)	404.61 (353.13~455.61)	186.61 (160.68~215.64)	787.75 (734.56~832.57)
Site D (Confience interval)	418.91 (375.62~463.55)	127.84 (103.98~155.53)	51.56 (41.64~63.21)	290.52 (250.53~333.25)

**Figure 8.** Comparison for Turbine output estimation at four potential wind farms.

As a result, Potential Wind Farm C represents the highest efficiency of the turbine output. Considering only the generation output, we can purpose the Site C among the four potential wind farms as a new wind farm.

4. Conclusions

Wind energy is rapidly increasing globally due to its high economic efficiency and lack of carbon. In terms of planning a new wind farm, a flexible and economical estimation of wind turbine output is needed to select potential installation sites. In this paper, we use one of the spatial interpolation methods called Kriging to estimate wind speed. When considering new potential wind farms, wind speed data for most new spots do not exist. Using our proposed method, when estimating the wind power, it has the economic advantages of not requiring the installation of additional meteorological towers or the accumulation of historical data to evaluate wind resources at given points of interests. The proposed method can estimate wind power when a desired turbine is installed at any desired point based on the spatial approach. In this paper, we simulate the method to propose the best wind farm in terms of electrical generation in Jeju Island in South Korea. We use wind speed measured in 10 existing meteorological towers and coordinate data at potential wind farms in Jeju Island. From the simulation results, Potential Wind Farm C is selected as the best wind farm. Considering the seasonal and spatial characteristics of wind, Potential Wind Farm C is expected to

generate higher outputs than other potential wind farms. This estimated output depends on the general power characteristics of the wind resource and turbine only and can be improved using pitch control and dynamic turbine operation. In our proposed method, the estimated wind power is provided with deterministic and probabilistic outputs. Such a method benefits from the operational aspects of the wind integrated power systems. Probabilistic outputs can indicate uncertainties in estimated power generation to system planners and operators when properly selecting new wind farm sites and operating the grid after the selected wind farm is installed. In the future, we will consider laminar wind condition and turbulence in the calculation of the optimal probability function of wind speed and perform a verification of the methodology based on the measured output data from the selected wind farm site.

Acknowledgments: This work was supported by the Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning (KETEP) and the Ministry of Trade, Industry & Energy (MOTIE) of the Republic of Korea (No. 20161210200560).

Author Contributions: Jin Hur conceived and designed the overall research; Deockho Kim developed the enhanced ensemble model and conducted the experimental simulation; Jin Hur and Deockho Kim wrote the paper; and Jin Hur guided the research direction and supervised the entire research process.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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