



A pioneering measurement station for the estimation of surface flow velocities from digital video acquisitions

Flavia Tauro (1), Maurizio Porfiri (2), Andrea Petroselli (3), Lorenzo Giandomenico (4), Guido Bernardi (4), Francesco Mele (5), Domenico Spina (5), and Salvatore Grimaldi (1)

(1) Dipartimento per l'Innovazione nei Sistemi Biologici, Agroalimentari e Forestali, University of Tuscia, Viterbo 01100, Italy, (2) Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering, Brooklyn 11201, NY USA, (3) Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie per l'Agricoltura, le Foreste, la Natura e l'Energia, University of Tuscia, Viterbo 01100, Italy, (4) CAE S.p.A., San Lazzaro di Savena (BO) 40068, Italy, (5) Agenzia Regionale di Protezione Civile, Centro Funzionale Regionale – Regione Lazio, Rome 00185, Italy

In this poster, we present the first implementation of a permanent measurement station for the estimation of surface flow velocities from digital video acquisitions. The station is located on the Tiber River at Ponte del Foro Italico, in the center of Rome, and has been designed and realized in collaboration with CAE S.p.A. based on Mhas (multi hazard system) technology.

Based on preliminary experimental tests described in [Tauro et al., Water Resources Research 2014], the measurement station comprises a Mobotix FlexMount S15 video system and two laser modules for remote image calibration. The digital video system hosts a weatherproof internet protocol camera with two miniature sensor modules connected to the camera housing. Two separate rooms allow for a hemispherical dual lens system to simultaneously capture different fields of view of the stream. Specifically, two lenses (a Mobotix L25 lens with an 82° angle of view and a Mobotix L76 lens with a 27° angle of view) are located with their axis perpendicular to the water surface to capture the central portion of the river. The higher angle of view (L25) lens allows for acquiring a larger area of the river surface, whereas the lower angle of view (L76) lens synchronously captures finer details in the center of the L25 field of view. The digital video system is set to capture 1 minute-long videos of the river every 10 minutes. The frame acquisition frequency is set to 12 Hz and image resolution to 1024 × 768 pixels. The laser-based image calibration system features two 20 mW green lasers mounted with their beam axes perpendicular to the water surface. The laser modules are installed 1 m apart on the right and left sides of the camera. The measurement station is suspended through an aluminum bar underneath the bridge and is located at approximately 15 m from the water surface. The digital video and laser systems can be configured in real time through the internet via the integrated SIM card. Videos and settings are stored in a 1 Tb hard disk that is periodically removed and substituted for image backup.

Activated since January 2015, the measurement station will allow for noninvasively monitoring the discharge of the Tiber River in real time. In particular, captured videos will be analyzed through large scale particle image velocimetry (LSPIV) to develop surface velocity maps. Such maps will then be combined with information on the bathymetry of the river section to provide discharge data. Notably, the pilot measurement station is located next to an existing ultrasonic meter and a radar flow meter that are currently operated by the Agenzia Regionale di Protezione Civile, Centro Funzionale Regionale at Regione Lazio, Italy. We look forward to comparing estimates from the pilot station to such more established measurement equipment.

This project has been supported through the Ministero degli Affari Esteri project 2014 Italy-USA PGR00175.