Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 14, 1791–1821, 2014 www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/14/1791/2014/ doi:10.5194/acpd-14-1791-2014 © Author(s) 2014. CC Attribution 3.0 License.



This discussion paper is/has been under review for the journal Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics (ACP). Please refer to the corresponding final paper in ACP if available.

Comparison of surface and column measurements of aerosol scattering properties over the western North Atlantic Ocean at Bermuda

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Received: 23 August 2013 - Accepted: 8 January 2014 - Published: 21 January 2014

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Published by Copernicus Publications on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.





Abstract

Light scattering and spectral absorption by size-resolved aerosols in near-surface air at Tudor Hill, Bermuda were measured continuously between January and June 2009. Vertical distributions of aerosol backscattering and column-averaged aerosol optical

- ⁵ properties were characterized in parallel with a Micro-pulse lidar (MPL) and an automated sun-sky radiometer. Aerosol optical properties measured near the surface were often significantly correlated with those averaged over the column. These include scattering by near-surface bulk aerosol at 530 nm vs. column aerosol optical depth (AOD), near-surface sub-µm scattering fraction vs. column averaged sub-µm scattering frac-
- tion, the column averaged Angstrom exponent derived using a column integrated size distribution and complex refractive index. The relative contribution of submicron aerosol light scattering to total aerosol light scattering shows a slight enhancement of the column contribution of submicron particles over the surface measurements. Physical factors such as surface level wind speed have a more important affect on bulk aerosol light scattering at the surface.
- ¹⁵ light scattering at the surface.

1 Introduction

Aerosols play an important role in the radiation budget of Earth–Atmosphere system by scattering and absorbing solar and terrestrial radiation (direct effect) and by modulating microphysical properties and associated albedos of clouds (indirect effect) (Kaufman

- et al., 2006). Aerosols originate from multiple sources including the surface ocean, fossil-fuel and biomass combustion, deflation of surface soils, and nucleation pathways, each of which impart distinct chemical and physical characteristics. Aerosols are also transported thousands of kilometers by prevailing winds, and their physiochemical properties evolve over time via multiphase chemical transformations, cloud process-
- ²⁵ ing, and deposition. Consequently, their radiative properties vary significantly over time and space (Forster et al., 2007). Large uncertainties in the radiative influences of at-





mospheric aerosols represent a major constraint in our ability to predict Earth's climate (IPCC, 2007).

Detailed measurements of near-surface aerosol characteristics provide important constraints in developing reliable retrieval algorithms for remotely sensed parameters. ⁵ More generally, synchronized measurements from ground- and satellite-based platforms facilitate more reliable spatial and temporal extrapolation of the chemical, physical, and optical properties of aerosols and their associated climatic implications (Russel et al., 2000; Bates et al., 2006). For logistical reasons, long-term measurement campaigns of aerosol physiochemical properties are typically limited to surface sites. These measurements are often assumed to be representative of the overlying aerosol

¹⁰ These measurements are often assumed to be representative of the overlying aerosol column, or at least of the aerosol boundary layer. Paired measurements of optical properties through the column allow this assumption to be evaluated explicitly (Voss et al., 2001a).

In this study the optical and physical characteristics of aerosols were measured si-¹⁵ multaneously in near-surface air and in the overlying column at Bermuda during winter and spring 2009. Paired data ensembles are compared to evaluate the representativeness of near-surface optical properties for the overlying column.

2 Methods

2.1 Site description and sampling strategy

Bermuda (32.24° N, 64.87° W) is influenced by the long-range transport of chemically and optically distinct air masses originating from different source regions, the relative importance of which vary seasonally (Galloway et al., 1989; Moody et al., 1995, 2013; Anderson et al., 1996). Westerly flow, which is most frequent during winter and spring, transports emission products from North America, over the western North Atlantic, to
 the island. Southerly and southeasterly flow, which is most prevalent during summer, transports Saharan dust intermixed with emission products from Europe and Africa to





the island. Similar flow patterns also deliver aged marine air from the central Atlantic that contains relatively minor concentrations of constituents originating from continental sources. The chemical and physical characteristics of all air mass types evolve during transport via chemical processing including interactions with marine-derived aerosols and gases, entrainment from the free troposphere, and wet and dry deposition.

The chemical and physical properties of near-surface aerosols at Bermuda have been characterized by several programs (e.g., Galloway et al., 1993; Moody et al., 1995, 2013; Keene and Savoie, 1998; Keene et al., 2002; Savoie et al., 2002; Turekian et al., 2003) and the site is widely viewed within the research community as a critical baseline site for long-term climate-relevant observations (e.g. see planning documents for the international and US Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) http://www.solas-int.org/resources/books.html and http://data. bco-dmo.org/US_SOLAS/US-SOLAS_Science_Implementation_Strategy.pdf, respectively, and documentation for the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN) http://www.gewex.org/bsrn.html).

Between January and June 2009, optical properties of aerosols in near-surface air and in the overlying column were measured continuously at the Tudor Hill Atmospheric Observatory on the western coast of Bermuda. Inlets for sample air were located at the top of a 23 m scaffolding tower (43 m a.m.s.l.) that had been installed and operated previously by the AEROCE program (Galloway et al., 1993; Savoie et al., 2002). Each measurement technique is described in detail below.

2.2 Measured and calculated characteristics of near-surface aerosols

2.2.1 Scattering

Light scattering coefficients of near-surface aerosols at a wavelength of 530 nm were measured continuously with a Radiance Research M903 integrating nephelometer (Li et al., 1996). Ambient aerosols were drawn through an omni-directional inlet (Liu et al., 1983) at the top of the tower and transmitted to the instrument at the base of the tower



via a laminar flow plenum. Air from the center of the plenum was drawn through an inlet heated to a temperature 28 ± 5 °C to dehydrate aerosols prior to analysis, an inertial impactor to differentiate size fractions, and then the nephelometer. The switched impactor was configured with aerodynamic size cuts of 10.0 and 1.0 µm diameter to al-

- ternately characterize scattering by bulk and sub-um diameter size fractions. Scattering by super-µm size fractions was calculated by difference (bulk minus sub-µm). Temperature and RH in the sampling chamber were monitored and recorded. The nephelometer was routinely calibrated with clean CO₂ (Anderson and Ogren, 1998). During each hour, clean particle-free air was introduced into the chamber to obtain a zero value for 20 min, scattering by bulk aerosol was measured for 20 min, and scattering by sub-um

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aerosol was measured for 20 min.

The scattering coefficient (in Mm⁻¹) at 530 nm for each size fraction (sub-µm and bulk) in near surface air $(b_{size-surf})$ was calculated via

$$b_{\text{size-surf}} = \left| \frac{b_{\text{size-surf}} - b_{\text{zero}}}{b_{\text{cal}} - b_{\text{zero}}} \right| \cdot 20 \,\text{Mm}^{-1} \tag{1}$$

where $b_{size-samp}$ is scattering measured in ambient samples, b_{cal} is scattering by clean CO_2 , b_{zero} is scattering by particle free air. The scattering coefficient due to clean CO_2 is 20 Mm^{-1} based on the average temperature $28 \pm 5 \degree \text{C}$ and pressure $995 \pm 11 \text{ mb}$ (Anderson and Ogren, 1998). The scattering coefficients were then filtered to remove values outside the operating range specified by the manufacturer (1 to $1000 \,\mathrm{Mm}^{-1}$). 20 Values exceeding the upper limit typically reflected artifacts associated with overheating of the instrument. The continuous data set was then filtered to extract the subset of scattering data that corresponded to periods of no precipitation during which on-shore winds were from the open-ocean sector at velocities greater than 1 m s⁻¹ thereby mini-

mizing local influences. The reported values of the scattering coefficient were adjusted 25 to account for truncation error, which exist due to the internal geometry of the instrument that prevents measurement in the near forward and near backward scattering region. Anderson and Ogren (1998) showed that the nephelometer is sensitive to scat-

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tering of light in the angular range of ~ 7°–170°. The truncation error is present both during calibration of the nephelometer and during measurement of aerosol light scattering. In this text we have used an average correction factor for scattering by sub-µm and bulk aerosols, 1.08 ± 0.004 and 1.18 ± 0.04 respectively, which were determined based

- on calculations from Mie theory. The input parameters, aerosol volume size distribution, and index of refraction were obtained from AERONET inversions (Holben et al., 1988) for the Bermuda site (e.g. see Sect. 2.3.1). The relative contribution of particle free air to this correction factor was calculated using a Rayleigh scattering phase function (Ensor et al., 1970).
- Note that aerosol absorption was also measured at the site, using a filter reflectance technique (Aryal et al., 2014), but this measurement will not be used in the present paper because there was no corresponding column measurement with which to compare.

2.3 Measurements and calculated characteristics of the atmospheric column

15 2.3.1 Sun and sky radiometer

An automated CIMEL sun and sky radiometer was deployed at the top of the tower in December 2007 as a part of AERONET (Aerosol Robotic Network). Numerous publications describe the instrumentation, data acquisition, retrieval algorithm, calibration procedures, cloud-screening procedures as well as the uncertainty of the final products (Halban et al., 1009; Smirney et al., 2000). Direct color irrediance is managed at cight

²⁰ (Holben et al., 1998; Smirnov et al., 2000). Direct solar irradiance is measured at eight spectral channels 340, 380, 440, 500, 675, 870, and 1020 nm and used to compute the aerosol optical depth (AOD, τ). Direct solar irradiance at 940 nm is used to retrieve precipitable water vapor. The uncertainty in retrieval of τ under cloud free conditions is < ±0.01 for λ > 440 nm and < ±0.02 for shorter wavelengths (Holben et al., 1998; Eck et al., 1999).

In addition, sky radiance was measured at 440, 670, 870, and 1020 nm through a large range of scattering angles from the sun several times in the day. The sky



radiance and direct solar irradiance were used, assuming a constant aerosol profile, to retrieve the column averaged size distribution and the spectral refractive index. AERONET provides inversion products for three data quality levels: level 1.0 (unscreened), level 1.5 (automatically cloud screened) following the methodology as described by A. Smirnov et al. (2000), and level 2 (cloud screened and quality assured). The analysis reported here is based on level 2 products.

Dubovick et al. (2000) investigated the accuracy of the AERONET inversion products and found that while the size distribution of the aerosols could be resolved reliably at all aerosol optical depths, the inversion for the complex index of refraction was sensitive

- ¹⁰ to this factor. The real portion of the index of refraction had an uncertainty of 0.05 for $\tau_{440} < 0.2$, and the imaginary part had an uncertainty of 80–100 % for these low values. The complex index of refraction was reliably retrieved for $\tau_{440} > 0.4$. In the data set used in this paper we had no cases with $\tau_{440} > 0.4$, and only one case with $\tau_{440} > 0.2$. We had to use the complex index of refraction resulting from the inversion in our Mie calculations, described below, and accept that the uncertainty in this value could be
- large. Because the imaginary part of the index of refraction determines the absorption of the aerosol, and was highly uncertain, thus there was no accurate derived column absorption property with which to compare the surface values.

2.3.2 Micro-pulse lidar

- A Micro-pulse lidar (MPL, Spinhirne et al., 1995) was installed at the base of the tower in March 2008 and operated continuously during the measurement period as part of NASA's MPL Network (MPLNET, Welton et al., 2001). The MPL system employs an optical transceiver that acts as both transmitter and receiver (telescope) and consists of a diode pumped ND: YLF (neodymium-doped YLF, acronym for yttrium lithium fluoride)
 laser at 527 nm, an Single Photon Counting Module (SPCM) Avalanche Photo Diode
- (APD) detector, a signal processing unit, and data processor. MPLNET level 1 signal profiles and associated uncertainties (Campbell et al., 2002; Welton et al., 2002) are generated continuously, at 75 m vertical and 1 min time resolutions. Profiles of aerosol





extinction and backscatter are retrieved from 20 min cloud cleared Level 1 signal averages using the co-located AOD data as a constraint (Welton et al., 2000). This process also retrieves a column average extinction-to-backscatter ratio (or lidar ratio). Due to instrumental constraints, the lowest recoverable altitude is ~ 400 m. MPLNET data
 ⁵ quality levels are identical to AERONET, with both level 1.5 and 2 aerosol products available. In the present study we used MPLNET level 2 data, which were available at times centered on the AERONET AOD data times, so the AERONET AOD data could be used in the LIDAR inversions (Welton et al., 2000).

2.3.3 Mie calculations

- ¹⁰ Using the column averaged aerosol size distribution and index of refraction from the AERONET inversions, we calculated the column-averaged aerosol optical properties for sub-µm and bulk aerosol based on Mie scattering theory. This assumes that the aerosol population is comprised of poly-disperse, homogeneous spherical particles (complex refractive index is the same for all sizes). With Mie theory, we calculated the scattering efficiency, $Q_{\text{scatt}}(x, m)$, which is defined as the ratio of scattering cross-section of a spherical particle to its projection on the plane perpendicular to the beam propagation direction (Bohren and Huffman, 1983), where x is the size parameter (= $\pi d/\lambda$), d is the particle diameter, λ is wavelength, and m is the complex refractive index. With $Q_{\text{scatt}}(x, m)$, we calculate the column scattering portion of the AOD, τ_s , using an integral over columnar size distribution $n_c(d)$, i.e., the numbers of particles per unit lateral area per unit radius in a vertical column through the atmosphere (King
- per unit lateral area per unit radius in a vertical column through the atmosphere (King et al., 1978):

$$\tau_{\rm s} = \int_{d_{\rm min}}^{d_{\rm max}} \frac{\pi d^2}{4} Q_{\rm scatt}(x,m) n_{\rm c}(d) dd$$

where *d* is the diameter of aerosol particles in the size range between d_{min} and d_{max} .





(2)

The columnar size distribution can be rewritten in terms of the volume size distribution as:

$$n_{\rm c}(d) = \frac{6}{\pi d^4} \cdot \frac{{\rm d}V(d)}{{\rm d}\ln d}$$

The temporal complex refractive indices at 530 nm were obtained by interpolating corresponding temporal spectral AERONET inversion data between the spectral refractive index data at 438 nm and 675 nm by assuming that the aerosol refractive index is a weak function of the wavelength in this range of wavelength. The AERONET inversion gave the volume size distribution (dV(d)/dlnd) at 22 logarithmically equidistant
 points in the size range 0.1 µm ≤ d ≤ 30 µm (Dubovik and King, 2000). These ambient volume size distributions were interpolated at 0.004 µm diameter steps in the two different size ranges of d < 1µm and < 10 µm for quantitative comparison with the near surface sub and bulk-µm dehydrated aerosol data.

2.3.4 Radiosonde measurements

Radiosonde measurements were performed twice daily during our measurement period at the L. F. Wade International Airport by the Bermuda Weather Service. Data for our measurement period was downloaded from the NOAA Integrated Global Radiosonde Archive (IGRA). The radiosonde temperature data below 1 km (typically only 2–3 data points) was used to calculate a lapse rate (Calvert, 1990) for the lower atmosphere, which can be used as an indication of the stability of the atmosphere. The average atmospheric lapse rate is -6.5 °C km⁻¹, values less than this indicate a stable atmosphere, less likely to be well mixed, while values above indicate an unstable atmosphere, and more likely to be well mixed (Calvert, 1990). We also used the dew point temperature depression to calculate the relative humidity (Lawrence, 2005) and interpolate this parameter to the altitude of the lowest MPL extinction measurement (400 m).



(3)



2.3.5 Flow regime analysis

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To see if the emission source influenced the column/surface relationships the data set was classified by transport pattern. A particle dispersion model, FLEXPART (Stohl et al., 1998, 2005) was run in back trajectory mode (Stohl et al., 2003; Siebert and Frank, 2004). The FLEXPART trajectories were classified into 5 groups depending on fractional footprint residence times. These groups were portheastern United States

fractional footprint residence times. These groups were northeastern United States (NEUS), southeastern United States and the Gulf of Mexico (East-SEUS), Northern Africa and the eastern tropical Atlantic (Africa), Ocean – when the transport resulted in long residence times over the open ocean, and North – a combination of North Atlantic
 and northeastern United States. More details on this breakdown are provided in Moody et al. (2013).

3 Results and discussions

3.1 Column AOD and scattering coefficient for bulk aerosol in sectored near-surface air

- ¹⁵ Extinction is typically dominated by scattering (Kokanovsky, 2008). Consequently, if the optical properties and quantities of aerosols near the surface are representative of those in the overlying column, τ and the scattering coefficient for bulk aerosol ($b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$) near the surface should be correlated. To obtain coincident data sets, and avoid problems due to temporal variability of meteorological conditions (such as wind speed, rela-
- ²⁰ tive humidity), origins and paths of air masses (Calvello et al., 2010), we report column aerosol data that correspond to the periods of near-surface measurements. The paired hourly averaged data (AOD at 500 nm (τ_{500}) and $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$) correspond to those having a minimum of three AOD measurements.

Time series τ_{500} , and $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$ are generally correlated (Fig. 1); deviations reflect the influence of the variability in the vertical structure of the distribution of aerosol mass,





size distributions, morphology, and composition within the column (Bergin et al., 2000; Voss et al., 2001a). For example, vertical profiles of aerosol extinction from MPLNET on 23 March 2009 at 13:42 and 13:57 UTC (DOY 82), which are marked by A in Fig. 1a are shown in Fig. 2. They have an average τ_{500} but remarkably low $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$ relative to the corresponding values for entire study period. It is evident from Fig. 2 that the enhanced extinction associated with an elevated aerosol layer at approximately 1.8 km

is responsible for a high $\tau_{\rm 500}$ relative to $b_{\rm bulk-surf}$.

5

6h.

Moody et al. (2013) describe variability in aerosol characteristics as a function of atmospheric flow regime over the 3 yr period from July 2006 through June 2009. Over

- ¹⁰ the 6 month period of this study there does not seem to be a clear grouping of the measured surface $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$, nor τ by flow regime. Nor is there a clear over- or underestimate of the column τ_{500} , given the surface $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$, in specific regimes (Fig. 1b). The fit of τ_{440} was used to generate an error factor, which indicated how poorly the surface value was correlated with the column measurement. This was then plotted against
- the lower atmosphere's (less than 1 km) environmental lapse rate, as shown in Fig. 1c. There does not seem to be a dependence on either flow regime or error in prediction with lapse rate, other than the data point with the largest error did occur at a time with a low lapse rate, hence stable and possibly unmixed atmosphere. There were only two radiosonde measurements/day, and the one nearest to the optical measurement was
 used, however there could be time difference between the two measurements of up to

Monthly averages for the paired data subsets are reported in Table 1. For the entire analysis period, the mean $\tau_{500} \pm \sigma$ was 0.12 ± 0.03 and the range was 0.06 ± 0.01 to 0.22 ± 0.01 . The average value of τ_{500} was statistically indistinguishable from the global averaged oceanic AOD (~ 0.11) reported by Smirnov et al. (2009). The mean near-surface scattering coefficient, $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$ was $13.52 \pm 6.32 \,\text{Mm}^{-1}$ and the corresponding range was 2.78 ± 0.41 to $32.25 \pm 0.64 \,\text{Mm}^{-1}$. The minimum values for τ_{500} and $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$ were observed at the same times as were the maximum values. In Fig. 3, the vertical aerosol extinction profile obtained from MPLNET is shown. It is evident that in this





case, the higher aerosol concentrations below 1 km are primarily responsible for higher column AOD, $\tau_{\rm 500}.$

3.2 Sub- μ m scattering fraction for sectored near-surface data and column-averaged extinction Angstrom exponent (α)

5 The sub-μm scattering fraction (R_{sub-suff}) for the aerosol population is the ratio of the scattering coefficient for the sub-μm-diameter size fraction to the scattering coefficient for bulk aerosol (i.e., b_{sub-suff}/b_{bulk-suff}) and, thus, provides an indication of the relative contribution of small particles to total scattering.

The extinction Angstrom exponent (α) was calculated from the spectral AOD using the following formula:

 $\alpha = -\log\left(\frac{\tau_1}{\tau_2}\right) / \log\left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}\right)$

Where τ_1 and τ_2 are column AOD at corresponding wavelengths λ_1 and λ_2 . When α is computed over a sufficiently large wavelength interval, including both the visible (440 nm) and near infrared (870 nm), it is sensitive to the relative contributions of fine and coarse mode particles; α increases with decreasing particle size (Schuster et al., 2006). When α is less than 1, extinction is dominated by super-µm diameter particles and when greater than 1 extinction is dominated by sub-µm diameter particles (Eck et al., 1999; Reid et al., 1998). A scatter plot of the hourly average α calculated from

- ²⁰ the instantaneous spectral AODs from AERONET at 400 nm and 870 nm vs. $R_{sub-surf}$ based on the hourly averaged near-surface sectored air is shown in Fig. 4. The correlation coefficient (0.72) between α and $R_{sub-surf}$ indicates that the relative variability in the extinction associated with the column-averaged size distribution is similar to that associated with aerosols near the surface. Relative to sub-µm aerosol size fractions,
- ²⁵ super-um size fractions are associated with greater dry-deposition velocities and consequently, on average, their concentrations decrease more rapidly with altitude (e.g., Lewis and Schwartz, 2006). Variability in vertical gradients of the size distribution as



(4)



a function of wind velocity and other factors contribute to variability around the regression line of Fig. 4.

As one would expect, the extinction Angstrom exponent varies as a function of flow regime. Low Angstrom exponents were a characteristic of the North flow (median was

0.054, with a standard deviation of 0.18). For the other flow regimes, the Angstrom exponents were generally 0.9–1.0 with standard deviations of 0.24–0.32, thus not distinguishable. An analysis of the difference between the predicted Angstrom exponent, based on *R*_{sub-surf}, and lapse rate did not show a relationship, as with Fig. 1c. In general though, there was a correlation between the magnitude of the error in predicted AOD
 and the error in the magnitude of predicted extinction Angstrom exponent. In other words, if the surface measurement was not correlated well with the column measure-

3.3 Sub-µm scattering fraction of light in sectored near-surface air and the column average

ment for one parameter, it was also true for the other.

average.

- ¹⁵ We also compared the sub- μ m scattering fraction ($R_{sub-col}$) determined with Mie calculations using the column-averaged parameters (size distribution and index of refraction) with the near-surface sub- μ m scattering fraction ($R_{sub-surf}$) based on hourly averages (Fig. 5). Results reveal a significant linear correlation. However, the surface values were typically less than the corresponding column values and relative differences were greater at lower surface $R_{sub-surf}$. This result indicates that scattering by the super- μ m size fraction was greater near the surface relative to the column, which is consistent
- size fraction was greater near the surface relative to the column, which is consistent with expectations based on the relatively greater concentrations of super- μ m diameter marine aerosol in near-surface air. We also found a dependence in relative variability as a function of wind speed (Fig. 6), $R_{sub-col}$, and $R_{sub-surf}$ are inversely correlated with ²⁵ wind speed and the slope is steeper for near-surface aerosol relative to the column

Kleefeld et al. (2002) report similar relationships. These results reflect the greater production fluxes, and higher concentrations of super-µm marine aerosols at higher





wind speeds, along with stronger vertical gradients in aerosol mass, and associated influences on light scattering by super-µm aerosol size fractions.

3.4 Comparison of surface level aerosol scattering data and extinction coefficient derived from lidar measurements

- ⁵ We compared the scattering coefficient for near-surface aerosol measured with the nephelometer with the corresponding extinction coefficient (*c*_{ext,527}) obtained at the lowest altitude bin (400 m) from the lidar inversion (Welton, 1998; Voss et al., 2001a). Direct comparison is complicated by the fact that these measurements were at different relative humidities and temperatures and correspond to slightly different altitudes. In particular, the lidar characterized scattering by hydrated aerosols at ambient relative humidity whereas the performance approximately drive aerosols at ambient relative humidity.
- humidity whereas the nephelometer characterized dry aerosols, thus differences are expected (Zieger et al., 2011). The impact of hygroscopic growth on the aerosol light scattering coefficient is usually described by the scattering enhancement factor, f (RH), at a given wavelength, λ , which is defined as
- ¹⁵ $f(RH) = b_{bulk-surf}(RH)/b_{bulk-surf}(RH_{dry})$

The scattering coefficient is typically measured with dry particles when RH < 30– 40% (WMO/GAW, 2003). Modeled and measured scattering enhancement factors (*f*(RH)) have been described for different types of aerosols such as maritime (Carrico et al., 1998, 2003; Wang et al., 2007), urban (Yan et al., 2009), continental (Sheridan et al., 2001), biomass burning (Kotchenruther and Hobbs, 1998), and free tropospheric aerosol (Fierz-Schmidhauser et al., 2010). At an ambient RH of 80%, *f*(RH) for sea salt aerosol ranges from 1.8 to 3.2 (Lewis and Schwartz, 2004).

The retrieved lidar extinction coefficient at the lowest height bin and the $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$ measured by the nephelometer are linearly correlated (r = 0.77) but the slope differs significantly from 1 (Fig. 7). The time series of the ratio of the extinction coefficient from the lidar data to the scattering coefficient from the nephelometer, $R_{\text{mpl/neph}}$, is shown in



(5)



Fig. 8. The extinction coefficient retrieved at the lowest altitude bin (400 m) was about 3.4 ± 0.3 times greater than the scattering coefficient measured with the nephelometer.

As mentioned earlier, we can use radiosonde data to calculate the RH at the lowest altitude bin of the MPL (400 m). We calculated the RH and broke our data set into 5 %

- RH bins, to evaluate variation in the inferred f(RH) as a function of RH (Fig. 9) The 5 average $R_{mpl/neph}$ exhibited little variability at RHs less than 70%, increases between 70% and 80%, and decreased at higher RHs. However, the large standard deviations within each RH bin $(> \pm 1)$ suggest that factors other than RH accounted for most of the variability. Others have found that this ratio increases with RH, highlighting the influence
- of RH on aerosol light scattering (Zieger et al., 2011). With a larger data set it might be 10 possible to eliminate the confounding issues of aerosol type to investigate the f(RH).

Conclusions 4

Using a suite of instruments operating in parallel (including a Nephelometer: Cimel Sun-photometer, MPL) we simultaneously guantified several aerosol optical properties in near-surface air and in the overlying column at Bermuda from January 2009 15 to June 2009. In most cases, optical properties near the surface were highly correlated with those in the column. When surface properties diverged significantly from the column integrated values, vertical lidar profile often revealed vertical structure that accounted for differences.

- At the higher windspeeds, enhanced production of marine aerosols sustain relatively 20 higher concentrations of super-um-diameter size fractions in near-surface air that resulted in systematic divergence between the column vs. near-surface sub-um scattering fraction. The generally good agreement between the paired measurements suggest that, in most cases, aerosol optical properties measured at the surface can be extrap-
- Discussion Paper **Discussion** Paper olated with reasonable confidence to the overlying atmosphere.





Acknowledgements. We thank Miguel Izaguirre, Kim Zeeh and Chris Marsay for assisting in field operations and data generation and processing. Peter Sedwick and Andrew Peters supervised operations at the observatory and the Bermuda Institute for Ocean Sciences provided outstanding logistical support. Funding was provided by the National Science Foundation

through awards to the University of Miami (ATM 0541566) and the University of Virginia (ATM 0541570). Additional support was provided by NASA through the AERONET and MPLNET programs. MPLNET is supported by the NASA Radiation Sciences Program and NASA Earth Observing System.

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| Table 1. Monthly avera | ge values of $	au_{500}$, | $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}, \alpha$ and | d R _{sub-surf} with st | andard deviation (σ). |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of hourly avera | ige data (N) used | to get monthly | average aeroso | data are reported in |
| parentheses in the seco | ond column. | | | |

| Months | $\tau_{500}\pm\sigma~(N)$ | $b_{\text{bulk-surf}} \pm \sigma \text{Mm}^{-1}$ | $\alpha \pm \sigma$ | $R_{\rm sub-surf} \pm \sigma$ |
|--------|---------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jan | 0.09 ± 0.02 (9) | 16.21 ± 4.01 | 0.77 ± 0.37 | 0.61 ± 0.19 |
| Feb | 0.09 ± 0.01 (6) | 6.96 ± 3.43 | 0.76 ± 0.16 | 0.53 ± 0.04 |
| Mar | 0.10 ± 0.01 (50) | 9.35 ± 3.94 | 0.94 ± 0.21 | 0.50 ± 0.13 |
| Apr | 0.14 ± 0.03 (56) | 17.23 ± 6.55 | 1.09 ± 0.29 | 0.70 ± 0.10 |
| May | 0.13 ± 0.03 (15) | 14.82 ± 4.41 | 0.59 ± 0.15 | 0.45 ± 0.07 |
| Jun | 0.15 ± 0.06 (6) | 12.84 ± 3.47 | 1.27 ± 0.11 | 0.67 ± 0.04 |







Fig. 1. (a) Time series column τ_{500} derived from CIMEL sun-photometer (AERONET products), and the corresponding $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$ (b) scatter plot of these two parameters, and (c) lapse rate vs. τ_{500} predicted by $b_{\text{bulk-surf}}$. The line in (b) depicts a reduced major axis (RMA) regression (values in parentheses in the equation correspond to standard errors for the slope and intercept); the correlation coefficient is 0.65. Error bars depict standard deviation.







Fig. 2. Twenty-minute average MPL aerosol extinction profiles at 527 nm for two time periods on DOY 82. The error bars depict uncertainty of retrieval. τ_{500} during this period was 0.11.



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Fig. 5. (a) Time series column and near-surface sub- μ m scattering fraction of light and **(b)** the corresponding scatter plot. The solid line depicts the RMA regression, values in parentheses correspond to standard errors, and the correlation coefficient is 0.76. The dashed line is the 1 : 1 line.



Fig. 6. Scatter plot of column and near-surface scattering fraction of light vs. wind speed. The corresponding correlation coefficients are 0.42 and 0.55, respectively. The lines depict RMA regressions for the indicated paired data.



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Fig. 7. Time series (a) and scatter plot (b) of the hourly averaged daytime extinction coefficient at the lowest height bin retrieved from the MPL data ($c_{ext,527}$) vs. the scattering coefficient ($b_{bulk-surf}$). In (b) we show a RMA regression of the data and the 1 : 1 line. Values in parentheses in the equation are standard errors and the correlation coefficient is 0.71. Error bars depict standard deviation for the hourly averaged extinction coefficient, for scattering, this standard deviation is smaller than the symbol used for each data point.







Fig. 8. Time series of $R_{mpl/neph}$.



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Fig. 9. Averages and standard deviations for $R_{mpl/neph}$ over 5 % RH bins vs. ambient RH (%).

