

## ***Interactive comment on “Ground-based aerosol climatology of China: aerosol optical depths from the China Aerosol Remote Sensing Network (CARSNET) 2002–2013” by H. Che et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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The manuscript presented by H. Che et al. is an excellent compilation of a climatology of aerosol optical depth and Angstrom exponents in China, including a large number of sites with a good temporal coverage. Useful and reasonable comments are added to the main results, with an adequate use of references. Therefore, I consider this article to be very adequate to ACP.

I already wrote a revision for ACPD. Therefore, I will only add a few general suggestions to the authors:

- Page 12728, line 10: please define "fugitive dust"

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- Many of the figures are not explicitly referred in the text. Please refer to them in the appropriate paragraphs.
- Figures 6-15: the authors could add one or two horizontal hair-lines to the different histograms indicating the annual average for the whole database, and for the subgroup (urban, remote, etc) so the reader can easily point out the station AOD variation in relation to the group average.
- Finally, I also suggest using the acronym "AE" for Angstrom Exponent instead of "Alpha".

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