

Response to Referees' Comments

Response to Reviewer #2:

The manuscript addresses a critical and challenging issue in aerosol effects on weather and climate, i.e. the influence of aerosol vertical structure on boundary layer stability and height. The two-year concurrent observations from micropulse lidar, sun-photometer, and radiosonde were employed to provide direct and quantitative evidence on the aerosol radiative effects on the boundary layer development. The contrasting effects of different aerosol vertical structures identified by this study are important to know and call on a better representation of aerosol vertical profile in numerical models for future aerosol effect assessment. The paper is well written overall, and its scientific merit is clear. I recommend its publication with ACP, while I also have comments below for the authors to address.

Response: We appreciate the reviewer's positive and constructive comments on our work. All of the comments and concerns raised by the referee have been carefully considered and incorporated into this revision. Our detailed responses to the reviewer's questions and comments are listed below.

- 1. Figure 2, are the data here from three cases or composites from all available observations? I have the similar question for Figs. 3-7 as well. Please clarify the data source and sampling range in the figure captions.*

Response: We clarify that the results are averaged from all available observations during the study period. We added the number of samples in the panels or in the descriptions of the figures. The latter are carefully checked to assure that the data sources are clearly stated.

- 2. Is R^* in Figure 3 for linear regression and R^* in Figure 5 for the inverse fitting?*

Better to use different symbols for different types of regression.

Response: Revised, per your suggestion.

3. *As shown in Figure 5, the weakly absorbing aerosols can also suppress PBLH. I assume it is caused by the reduction in solar radiation reaching the surface and the consequent suppression in surface latent/sensible heat fluxes. Since the authors have performed the radiation transfer simulations, I'm wondering if they can illustrate the importance of atmospheric heating and surface cooling for PBL development when absorbing aerosols are present.*

Response: Thanks for raising this point. We clarify that both absorbing and weakly absorbing aerosols reduce the radiation reaching the lower atmosphere and the surface, thus suppressing the PBLH. Both decreasing and inverse aerosol structures can cool the surface and suppress sensible heat, thereby stabilizing the PBL. Despite the different aerosol structures, aerosols cause a notable stabilizing effect near the surface.

On the other hand, for the decreasing with height structure, the abundance of aerosols near the surface generates a stronger aerosol heating rate in the lower PBL than in the upper PBL. Such aerosol radiative forcing decreases the potential temperature gradient ($d\theta/dz$) in the middle to upper PBL, further strengthening vertical convection in the middle to upper PBL. The opposite aerosol effects on PBL stability weakens the aerosol-PBL feedback, as is shown in our study. For the inverse aerosol structure, the significant heating effect in the upper PBL facilitates the formation of a temperature inversion and further increases the stability and suppresses the PBLH. The notable increase in stability lead to the strong, positive aerosol feedback, as is demonstrated in Figure R1 (the revised Figure 9).

Turbulent fluxes and eddies in the PBL can spread out and redistribute the radiative effects induced by aerosols. We need to resort to numerical simulations to quantify the aerosol impacts on the PBL. Since the aerosol vertical distribution

is still poorly represented in numerical models, improvements in model simulations are warranted to better understand the aerosol-PBL interaction quantitatively. This is an ongoing study by our team that will be presented in a future paper.

A detailed discussion has been incorporated into the revised Section 3.3 and Section 4.

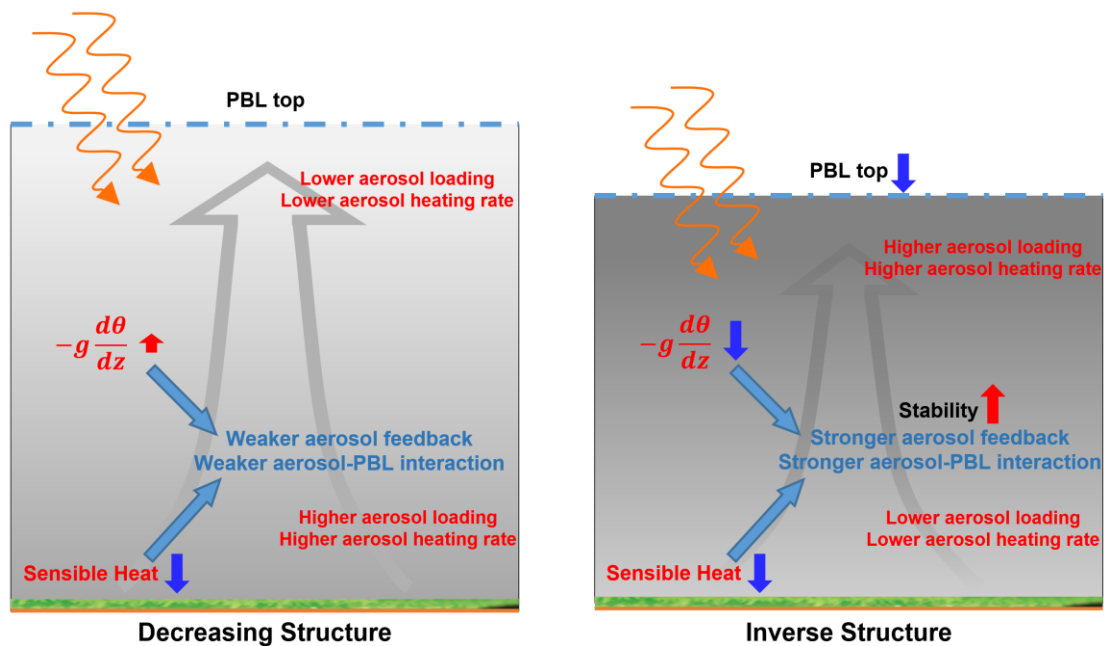


Figure R1. Schematic diagrams describing aerosol-PBL interactions when decreasing and inverse aerosol structures are present. The blue dash-dotted line indicates the top of the PBL. Orange curved arrows indicate solar radiation. The background grey arrow shows the vertical transport of humidity, aerosols, and heat. The background greyscale indicates the pollution level.

4. L285-286, the sentence is hard to follow. What do you mean by “significant heating in the different parts of PBL”?

Response: We revised this sentence as follows:

“Figure 7 shows that the vertical distributions of the heating rate differ drastically

among the different aerosol structures.”

5. *Since the authors possess ample observations data, can you show the occurrence/frequency of each aerosol vertical structure within PBL (decreasing, inverse, and well-mixed)? It is interesting to know the relative importance of those three structures in the real atmosphere. Moreover, can you sort out what factors determine those distributions within PBL?*

Response: Per your guidance, we present the number of samples for each aerosol structure during the study period in the revised Section 3.1.

“The number of samples and percentages of decreasing, well-mixed, and increasing aerosol structures are 998 (51%), 611 (32%), and 330 (17%), respectively.”

The decreasing structure is more frequent during the afternoon, partly due to the entrainment process. Through the development of a PBL, entrainment brings dry and clean air from the free atmosphere into the PBL, diluting the aerosol loading in the upper PBL. Note that multiple entangled factors can contribute to the formation of different aerosol structures within the PBL, including synoptic patterns, new particle formation, vertical turbulence, horizontal transport, entrainment rates, to name a few. The complexity of this issue is an important reason for the poor representation of the aerosol vertical distribution in numerical models.

This discussion has been incorporated into the revised Section 3.2.

6. *L309-315 and Figure 9. What is the physical/chemical mechanism of the negative feedback, i.e. stable PBL leads to less aerosol formation? The color of big red arrow in the upper part of Figure should be changed to blue, as it is about negative feedback.*

Response: A low PBLH and high stability increase the aerosol loading. This mechanism is straightforward and clear. We investigate the opposite effect: how aerosols affect the PBL via their feedbacks. If the aerosol heating effect is much stronger on near surface than upper PBL, aerosol can decrease the stability in PBL, and cause the negative feedback. Negative feedback partly offset the PBL's impact on the aerosol loading. The large variations in the impact of aerosols on stability and PBL development lead to different magnitudes in the aerosol-PBL interaction.

This discussion has been incorporated into the revised Section 3.3. We also use a revised figure (Figure R1) to replace the previous Figure 9 to better demonstrate the interactions.

7. *L334, it should be Wang et al. 2013.*

Response: Revised.

8. *Please remove "conclusive" from the title, as it is a very subjective word.*

Response: Per your comment, we changed it to "significant".

Response to Reviewer #1:

Aerosol-planetary boundary layer (PBL) interaction is proposed as an important mechanism to stabilize the atmosphere and exacerbate surface air pollution. Attempts to analyze aerosol-PBL interaction by using observation data are rare and worth encouraging. Thus, I recommend a minor revision before publication. The detail comments or suggestions are shown below:

Response: We appreciate the reviewer's positive and constructive comments on our work. All of the comments and concerns raised by the referee have been carefully considered and incorporated into this revision. Our detailed responses to the reviewer's questions and comments are listed below.

- 1. My main concern about this study is how to get cause-effect from correlations. As we know, PBL has a strong impact on surface aerosol concentration and aerosol vertical profile (forward effect). Compared to that, the impact of aerosol on PBL (reverse effect) can be treated as a perturbation. Thus, it is hard to get the contribution of reverse effect only. For example, Line 265 to 272. It is claimed that "In general, there are stronger correlations between PBLH and PM_{2.5} under inverse aerosols structure. This phenomenon indicates that the absorbing aerosol could play a more important role in the inverse aerosol structure.". Let's imagine that the decreasing and inverse profile are formed by specific PBL structure, we may get a similar relationship between PBL height and PM_{2.5} in Figure 5. Moreover, it is possible that the correlations are caused by some other factors, simultaneously, like the front process or precipitation.*

Response: Indeed, the PBL and aerosols mutually affect each other. While it is challenging to differentiate their respective impacts on each other, we have used the MPL-derived PBLH and in situ PM_{2.5} data to show their correlation, which can indicate the overall intensity of aerosol-PBL interaction, but cannot represent the feedback intensity. Since we considered only cloud-free cases, rainfall would

not affect the correlations. But many other factors do affect the PBLH- $PM_{2.5}$ correlations, as well as the aerosol-PBL interaction. Therefore, the correlations cannot explain the causality and aerosol feedback loop. The correlations between PBLH and $PM_{2.5}$ provide hints about the differences in aerosol-PBL interactions for different aerosol structures. Using SBDART constrained by ample observations, we investigated the vertical profiles of radiative forcing induced by aerosols and its impacts on atmospheric stability.

A detailed discussion has been incorporated into the revised Section 3.2.

2. *I don't quite understand the role of Figure 6 and the corresponding part of the manuscript. It seems that Figure 6 does not support the topic directly and may be considered to be moved to SI.*

Response: We apologize for not clearly describing and elaborating on the role of Figure 6 in making an important point.

In general, the inverse structure is characterized by higher aerosol loading and a lower PBLH, whereas the decreasing structure is characterized by light pollution and a well-developed PBL. For the inverse structure, the lower PBLH growth rate, along with high aerosol loading, can be explained by the strong aerosol-PBL interaction. The diurnal variations in aerosols and the PBL are controlled by many factors. The strong aerosol-stability interaction generates an unfavorable condition for aerosol vertical dissipation in the vertical, so surface aerosol loading can continuously accumulate due to emissions.

The discussion has been incorporated into the revised Section 3.2.

3. *More quantitative analysis is needed in the Results part. I can barely find the detail of quantitative discussion figures, especially in 3.3. I'm not sure if Figure 7 is a specific case, a statistic scenario or just a diagram? It seems there are too many*

diagrams in the manuscript.

Response: Figure 7 presents statistical results derived from all available measurements (same as Figure 6). We revised the figure description to avoid any misunderstanding. Based on observations, we calculate the aerosol radiative forcing by SBDART for all cases. We can then obtain averaged diurnal cycles of the vertical profile of aerosol radiative forcing for different aerosol structures.

4. *It might be helpful to show some statistical information and meteorological condition information. For example, the occurrence/frequency of each aerosol vertical structure within PBL. Does it occur in specific seasons or weather conditions?*

Response: We added the number of AEC profiles for different aerosol structures during the study period in the revised Section 3.1.

“The number of samples and percentages of decreasing, well-mixed, and increasing aerosol structures are 998 (51%), 611 (32%), and 330 (17%), respectively.”

All three types of profiles commonly occur in the real atmosphere. The decreasing structure is more frequent during the afternoon, partly due to the entrainment at the top of a PBL. Through the PBL development, entrainment brings dry and clean air from the free atmosphere into the PBL, diluting the aerosol loading in the upper PBL.

Multiple entangled factors are related to the formation of different aerosol structures within the PBL, including synoptic patterns, new particle formation, vertical turbulence, horizontal transport, entrainment rates, to name a few. The complexity of this issue is an important reason for the poor representation of aerosol vertical distributions in numerical models. We will further investigate this issue, which will be presented in a future paper.

27 **Abstract.** Aerosol-planetary boundary layer (PBL) interaction was proposed as an
28 important mechanism to stabilize the atmosphere and exacerbate surface air pollution.
29 Despite the tremendous progress made in understanding this process, its magnitude and
30 significance still ~~bear~~have large uncertainties and vary largely with aerosol distribution
31 and meteorological conditions. In this study, we ~~particularly~~ focus on the role of aerosol
32 vertical distribution on thermodynamic stability and PBL development by jointly using
33 ~~the~~ micropulse lidar, ~~sun photometers~~sunphotometer, and radiosonde measurements
34 ~~undertaken in~~ Beijing. Despite ~~complex~~ the complexity of aerosol vertical distributions,
35 ~~the~~ cloud-free aerosol structures can be largely classified into three types: well-mixed,
36 decreasing with height, and ~~the inverse~~. ~~Under these different aerosol vertical~~ inverse
37 structures, ~~the~~ The aerosol-PBL ~~relationships~~relationship and ~~the~~ diurnal cycles of the
38 ~~PBL~~PBL height and $PM_{2.5}$ associated with these different aerosol vertical structures
39 show distinct ~~characters~~characteristics. The vertical distribution of aerosol radiative
40 forcing differs drastically among the three types with strong heating in the lower,
41 ~~mid~~middle, and upper PBL, respectively. Such a discrepancy in heating rate affects the
42 atmospheric buoyancy and stability differently in the three distinct aerosol structures.
43 Absorbing ~~aerosols~~aerosols have ~~a~~the weak effect of stabilizing the ~~low~~lower
44 atmosphere under the decreasing structure than under the inverse structure. As a result,
45 the aerosol-PBL interaction can be strengthened by the inverse aerosol structure, and
46 can be potentially neutralized by the decreasing structure. Moreover, aerosols can both
47 enhance and suppress the PBL stability, leading to both positive and negative feedback
48 loops. This study attempts to improve our understanding of the aerosol-PBL interaction,

49 ~~which shows~~showing the importance of the ~~observation~~observational constraint of
50 aerosol vertical distribution for simulating ~~the~~this interaction and consequent feedbacks.

51 **1. Introduction**

52 Aerosols ~~critically~~have a critical impact on the ~~Earth's~~earth's climate through
53 aerosol-cloud interactions (ACI) and aerosol-radiation interactions (ARI), ~~and~~. They
54 also continue to contribute toward the considerable uncertainty ~~to quantifications and~~
55 ~~interpretations of~~in quantifying and interpreting the ~~Earth's~~earth's changing radiation
56 budget and hydrological cycles (Charlson et al., 1992; Ackerman et al., 2004; Boucher
57 et al., 2013; Z. Li et al., 2011, 2017a; J. Guo et al., 2017; 2018, 2019a). Despite the
58 great advances made in ~~observation~~the past decades in observational and modeling
59 studies of ~~the~~ aerosol effects ~~in the past decades~~, it is still a challenge to accurately
60 quantify ~~the~~aerosol effects on the climate system due to inadequate understanding of
61 some mechanisms and strong variations in aerosol type, loading, and vertical
62 distribution (Haywood and Boucher, 2000; Jacobson et al., 2001; Carslaw et al., 2013;
63 J. Huang et al., 2015; J. Guo et al., 2016a; Z. Li et al., 2016; WangWei et al., 20192019a,
64 2019b). Aerosols ~~are known to can~~ interact with thermodynamic stability through ARI
65 (Atwater, 1971; Bond et al., 2013). Absorbing aerosols can stabilize the atmosphere
66 (Ramanathan et al., 2001; Y. Wang et al., 2013; Ding et al., 2016), ~~whereas they~~ and
67 may also enhance convection and precipitation under certain conditions (Menon et al.,
68 2002; Z. Li et al., 2017).

69 Thermodynamic stability in the planetary boundary layer (PBL) dictates the PBL
70 development (~~Garret 1994; Stull, 1988; W. Zhang et al., 2018~~), thereby dominating the
71 vertical dissipation of surface pollutants to some ~~degrees~~degree. Aerosols, in turn, have
72 important feedbacks on the stability in the PBL, depending on ~~the~~ aerosol properties,

73 especially ~~those of the~~ light-absorption-absorbing aerosols (e.g., black, organic, and
74 brown carbon). However, due to large uncertainties in aerosol radiative forcing, it
75 remains a challenge to quantify the impact of aerosols on thermodynamic stability and
76 PBL development. Conventionally, increasing the aerosol absorption tends to stabilize
77 the atmosphere, leading to a reduced PBL height (PBLH). A more stable atmosphere
78 and lower PBLH will, in turn, increase the surface aerosol loading, which is the well-
79 established positive feedback loop in the aerosol-PBL interaction (e.g., H. Wang et al.,
80 2015; Ding et al., 2016; Petäjä et al., 2016; Dong et al., 2017; Zou et al., 2017; Q. Huang
81 et al., 2018; Z. Wang et al., 2018); H. Wang et al., 2019). However, such a positive
82 feedback loop may not be real for all situations and is subject to confounding factors
83 such as aerosol type, aerosol vertical distribution, soil moisture, and PBL regime (J.
84 Guo et al., 2019; Lou et al., 2019). Geiß et al. (2017) reported the ambiguous
85 ~~relationships~~ relationship between surface aerosol loading and PBLH, while our
86 previous study revealed weak correlations between surface pollutants and the PBLH in
87 mountainous or clean regions (Su et al., 2018). ~~A recent study by~~ Lou et al. (2019)
88 ~~shows~~ showed that ~~aerosol has an even~~ aerosols have a positive correlation with the
89 PBLH under ~~the~~ stable PBL conditions, indicating the importance of thermodynamic
90 conditions in the PBL ~~really matters~~.

91 Among others, numerical models are one of the viable methods used to determine
92 ~~the~~ aerosol impacts on stability and PBL (e.g., J. Wang et al., 2014; Ding et al., 2016;
93 Y. Wang et al., 2018; Zhou et al., 2018); ~~Wang et al., 2014~~). The aerosol optical
94 ~~depths~~ depth (AOD), a measure of aerosol columnar loading, is usually taken into

95 account in model simulations. However, ~~the~~ aerosol vertical distribution in models is
96 generally prescribed and may differ ~~largely~~ greatly from the real situation, ~~which highly~~
97 ~~varies in the PBL and is closely linked to the significant uncertainties in aerosol~~
98 ~~radiative effects.~~ With observational constraints, the role of aerosol vertical
99 ~~distribution~~ distributions in aerosol-PBL interactions warrants ~~a~~ further investigation.

100 ~~Coincidentally, we have ample~~ Ample observational datasets ~~over~~ for Beijing ~~are~~
101 available, including aerosol vertical ~~distribution~~ distributions derived from lidar, optical
102 properties derived from ~~sun photometer~~, the sunphotometer, profiles of meteorological
103 variables from radiosonde (RS), ~~as well as~~ and surface PM_{2.5} and meteorological
104 parameters. Based on these measurements, a radiative transfer model is used to simulate
105 the vertical profiles of aerosol radiative forcing that are employed to investigate the
106 impact of aerosols on ~~the~~ buoyancy in the lower atmosphere.

107 The paper is structured as follows: Section 2 introduces the datasets and methods
108 used. ~~The~~ Section 3 presents analyses of aerosol-PBL ~~interaction~~ interactions under
109 different aerosol vertical structures ~~are presented in Section 3.~~ Section 5 ~~4~~ discusses the
110 results with a brief summary.

111

112 **2. Data and Method**

113 **2.1. Site description**

114 ~~In this study, we~~ We utilized data from multiple sources in Beijing, a megacity
115 located ~~at~~ in the North China Plain. As one of the most densely populated and ~~well-~~
116 urbanized regions in the world, Beijing is a polluted region with high concentrations of

117 absorbing aerosols (Y. Zhang et al., 2019). The micropulse lidar (MPL) located ~~at~~
118 Beijing was operated continuously by Peking University (39.99°N, 116.31°E) from
119 ~~Mar~~March 2016 to ~~Dec~~December 2018, with a temporal resolution of ~~15s~~15 s and a
120 vertical resolution of ~~15m~~15 m. Due to incomplete laser ~~pulses~~~~correction~~~~pulse~~
121 ~~corrections~~, the near-surface ~~lidar~~ blind ~~zones for lidar zone~~ is ~0.15 km. Background
122 subtraction, saturation, after-pulse, overlap, and range corrections are applied to raw
123 MPL data to calculate the normalized signals (Yang et al., 2013; Su et al., ~~2018~~;
124 ~~The~~2017a). MPL data on raining days are excluded. Level 1.5 AOD and single-
125 scattering albedos (SSA) are employed at multiple wavelengths (i.e.: ~~0.44~~0.44 ~~0.5~~0.5 ~~0.67~~0.67
126 ~~0.87~~0.87 ~~and~~ ~~1.02~~1.02 ~~μm~~μm) from the Beijing RAD1 (40°N, 116.38°E) Aerosol Robotic
127 Network (AERONET) site ~~during from~~ 2011– to 2018, ~~at~~ ~~under~~ cloud-free conditions
128 (Holben et al., 1998; ~~Zhang et al., 2017~~; Smirnov et al., 2000; ~~Y. Zhang et al., 2017~~).

129 The ~~radiosonde~~(RS) station (39.80°N, 116.47°E) ~~of~~~~in~~ Beijing ~~is~~, operated by ~~the~~ China
130 Meteorological Administration, ~~which~~ is ~25 km from the MPL site. The variables
131 observed at the RS station include ~~the meteorology~~~~meteorological~~ data and profiles of
132 water vapor, temperature, pressure, and wind. The vertical resolution of ~~the~~ RS is
133 altitude dependent and generally less than 8 m (J. Guo et al., 2016b; W. Zhang et al.,
134 2018). ~~The~~ RS is routinely launched at 0800 Local Time (LT) and 2000 LT ~~for~~ each day,
135 and ~~is~~ also ~~is~~ launched at 1400 LT in ~~the~~ summer (June-July-August). ~~The~~ RS
136 measurements are collected during 2011–2018. To reduce small-scale ~~bias~~~~biases~~ and
137 ~~to~~ obtain a ~~stable~~~~picture of the~~ regional variation ~~of~~~~in~~ particulate matter with the
138 diameter smaller than 2.5 μm (PM_{2.5}), we acquire mean PM_{2.5} data from twenty

139 environmental monitoring stations located within 20 km from the lidar site, including
140 one station ~~of~~ at the Beijing Embassy of the United States. ~~The~~ Figure 1 shows the
141 topography of Beijing ~~is presented in Figure 1~~. The green square indicates the MPL site,
142 and the yellow triangle indicates the AERONET station. The brown star represents the
143 ~~radiosonde (RS)~~ station, and the red pink dots represent the PM_{2.5} sites.

144 2.2. Statistical analysis methods

145 ~~Here the~~ The statistical significance is tested by two independent statistical methods,
146 namely, the least-squares regression and the Kendall' tau (MK) test (Mann, 1945;
147 Kendall, 1975); ~~J. Li et al., 2016~~. Least-squares regression typically assumes a
148 Gaussian data distribution in the trend analysis, whereas the MK test is a nonparametric
149 test without any assumed functional form. The latter is more suitable for data that do
150 not follow a certain distribution. To improve the robustness of the analysis, a
151 relationship is considered ~~to be~~ significant when the confidence level is above 99% for
152 both the least-squares regression and the MK test. Hereafter, "significant" indicates
153 that the correlation is statistically significant at the 99% confidence level.

154 ~~In this study, we~~ We primarily use the linear-fit method to build ~~the~~ relationships
155 between different parameters, ~~and the~~. The Pearson correlation coefficient derived from
156 the linear regression analysis measures the degree to which the data fit a linear
157 relationship. However, following our recent work (Su et al., 2018), ~~the~~ inverse fitting
158 ~~($f(x) = A/x + B$)~~ is used to establish the relationship between PBLH and PM_{2.5}.
159 ~~During this time, the~~ The magnitude of the correlation coefficient (R^+) is designed to
160 measure the degree to which the data fit an inverse relationship. Since the relationship

161 between the PBLH and $PM_{2.5}$ is non-linear, the inverse fitting ~~is more suitable to~~
162 ~~characterize~~ better characterizes this relationship.

163 2.3. PBLH and buoyancy derived from RS

164 The RS vertical resolution varies according to the balloon ascending rate, ~~and. The~~
165 RS ~~is recorded~~ records measurements every 1.2s ~~2 s~~, which represents an approximate
166 vertical resolution of 5–8 m. Prior to the retrieval of the PBLH, we further resample ~~the~~
167 ~~radiosonde~~ RS data to achieve a vertical resolution of 5-hPa with linear interpolation.

168 We follow a well-established method developed by Liu and Liang (2010) to derive the
169 PBLH based on ~~the~~ profiles of the potential temperature gradient that takes into account
170 ~~of~~ different stability conditions. In this study, we only focus on PBL ~~PBLs~~ driven by
171 buoyancy, ~~and thus, the PBLs~~ PBLs driven by ~~the~~ low-level jets ~~will be~~ are excluded
172 using the RS-derived wind profiles ~~from radiosonde~~ (Liu and Liang, 2010; Miao et al.,
173 2018).

174 The static stability ~~in~~ of the atmosphere is determined by the buoyancy force, which
175 ~~can be~~ is expressed as (Wallace and Hobbs, 2006):

$$176 \quad B = \frac{d^2z}{dt^2} = \frac{T' - T}{T} g = -g \Delta z \frac{1}{\theta} \frac{d\theta}{dz}, \quad (1)$$

177 where z is the height of the air parcel, and t indicates the time. T' represents the
178 temperature of the parcel ~~and~~, T represents the temperature of the environment, and
179 θ is the virtual potential temperature of the environment. ~~For a certain~~ An atmospheric
180 layer, ~~the atmosphere is identified as a~~ is convective condition ~~when~~ if the buoyancy
181 is above zero, ~~but is identified as a~~ and stable condition ~~when~~ the buoyancy is below
182 zero. If the buoyancy is near zero, the atmosphere is ~~under a neutral condition~~. Based

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183 on the identification method for PBL ~~type~~ (Liu and Liang, 2010; W. Zhang et al.,
184 2018), we present profiles of buoyancy forcing for ~~a~~-stable, neutral, and convective
185 ~~PBL~~PBLs (Figure 2a). ~~Clearly, the~~Results shown are averages from 3069 radiosonde
186 ~~measurements, of which 438 cases are convective PBLs, 714 cases are neutral PBLs,~~
187 ~~and 1916 cases are stable PBLs.~~ The strongest upward or downward forcing occurs near
188 the surface. ~~Figure~~Figures 2b-c further show the height-~~de~~pendent correlation
189 coefficients between buoyancy and PBLH/PM_{2.5} with an interpolation window of
190 ~~0.2km. Note~~2 km. Note that the PBLH and surface PM_{2.5} are fixed for the entire
191 column, and the buoyancy is height-~~de~~pendent. Due to the insufficient development of
192 ~~the~~ PBL, we do not use RS data at 0800 LT here. To exclude the impact induced by the
193 dragging effects of rainfall, we only ~~use the~~consider cases without precipitation within
194 the past 24 hours. Strong upward buoyancy can uplift ~~the~~ PBLH and mitigate ~~the~~
195 surface pollutants, especially in the ~~low~~lower atmosphere. Thus, we integrate the
196 buoyancy forcing within the lowest ~~1km~~1 km (red line in ~~Figure~~Figures 2b-c), ~~which is~~
197 defined as the ~~low~~lower-atmosphere buoyancy (LAB). As shown in ~~Figure~~Figures 3a-
198 b, ~~the~~LAB shows strong negative correlations with ~~and~~ PM_{2.5} but positive correlations
199 ~~with are negatively correlated, and LAB and PBLH. The are positively correlated.~~ LAB
200 also has a significant negative ~~correlations~~correlation with absorbing aerosol optical
201 depth. ~~It could~~ (Figure 3c). This may be ~~partly caused by~~due to the stabilizing effect of
202 absorbing ~~aerosol~~aerosols on the atmosphere, ~~which is~~ widely reported in many
203 previous studies (H. Wang et al., 2015; Ding et al., 2016; Petäjä et al., 2016; Dong et
204 al., 2017; Z. Li et al., ~~2017~~2017b; X. Huang et al., 2018).

205 **2.4. PBLH and aerosol extinction coefficient derived from MPL**

206 MPL data from Beijing were used to retrieve the PBLH during ~~the~~ daytime (0800-
207 ~~=~~1900 LT). ~~Multiple~~Many methods have been developed for retrieving the PBLH from
208 MPL measurements, ~~such as e.g., the~~ signal threshold (Melfi et al., 1985), ~~the~~ maximum
209 of the signal variance (Hooper and Eloranta, 1986), ~~the~~ minimum of the signal profile
210 derivative (Flamant et al., 1997), and ~~the~~ wavelet transform (Cohn and Angevine, 2000;
211 Davis et al., 2000; Su et al., ~~2017~~2017b; ~~Chu et al., 2019~~). To derive the PBLH from
212 MPL data, we adopted previous well-established approaches with several refinements,
213 which ~~has~~have already been validated by long-term data ~~over~~collected at the Southern
214 Great Plains (~~ARM SGP~~) site (Sawyer and Li, 2013; Su et al., ~~2019~~2020).

215 ~~Initially, we~~We initially identify the local maximum positions (range: 0.25-~~4~~4
216 ~~km~~ km) in the covariance transform function collocated with a signal gradient larger than
217 a certain threshold. We further estimated the shot noise (σ) induced by background light
218 and dark ~~current~~currents for each profile, and then set the ~~certain~~ threshold as 3σ . The
219 initial PBLH retrieval (~~0800LT~~at 0800 LT) is constrained by the PBLH value derived
220 from ~~the~~ morning RS ~~sounding~~. Then, the following PBLHs ~~would be~~retrieved
221 using a stability-~~dependent~~ model based on continuity. ~~The boundary~~Boundary layer
222 clouds are identified to diagnose the PBLH for cloudy cases. Figure 3d presents the
223 comparison of summertime PBLH results derived from MPL and RS at 1400 LT, ~~and~~
224 ~~the~~showing good agreement ~~is reasonably good~~($R = 0.79$).

225 Multiple studies have provided a well-established algorithm to retrieve the vertical
226 profiles of aerosol extinction coefficient (AEC) from MPL (~~eg~~data (e.g., Fernald, 1984;

227 Klett, 1985; Liu et al., 2012). ~~Then, the~~The Klett method is further ~~applied for~~
228 ~~retrieving used to retrieve~~ extinction profiles (Klett, 1985). The column-averaged
229 extinction-to-backscatter ratio (~~the~~ so-called lidar ratio) is an important parameter in
230 the retrieval ~~processes~~process and is constrained using ~~AERONET-derived~~ AOD at
231 ~~0.5 μ m derived from AERONET-5 μ m. The AEC is assumed to be equal within the blind~~
232 ~~zone~~. The overall uncertainties from ~~the~~ overlap function, ~~the~~ lidar ratio, ~~the~~ effects of
233 multiple scattering, and ~~noises are estimated to noise~~ fall within ~~a~~the range of 20–30%
234 in the retrieval ~~processes~~process (He et al., 2006).

235 2.5. Estimation of the impacts of aerosols on buoyancy

236 To ~~illustrate the show~~ vertical ~~profile~~profiles of aerosol radiative forcing, the Santa
237 Barbara DISORT Atmospheric Radiative Transfer (SBDART) model (Ricchiazzi et al.,
238 1998) was used to simulate the atmospheric heating rate (dT/dt) induced by
239 ~~aerosol~~aerosols (Liu et al., 2012; Dong et al., 2017). ~~The integrated~~Integrated aerosol
240 inputs include AODs, ~~and~~-SSAs (i.e., ~~at~~ 0.44, 0.67, 0.87, and 1.02 ~~μ m~~0.2 μ m) retrieved
241 from AERONET measurements, ~~as well as the~~and AEC profiles at 0.5 ~~μ m~~5 μ m
242 obtained from the MPL. We also use ~~the~~MODISModerate Resolution Imaging
243 ~~Spectroradiometer~~ surface ~~reflectance~~reflectances as ~~the an~~ additional ~~inputs~~input
244 (<https://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/dataproduct/mod09.php>). —We further use heating
245 ~~rate~~rates induced by aerosols to estimate the ~~impacts~~impact of aerosols on buoyancy.

246 Theoretically, the rate of change in buoyancy for a certain layer ~~can be~~is expressed
247 as:

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{T_0 - \Gamma_d \Delta z - T}{T} g \right) = \frac{\left(\frac{dT_0}{dt} - \frac{dT}{dt} \right) T + \frac{dT}{dt} (\Gamma_d - \Gamma) \Delta z}{T^2} g, \quad (2)$$

249 where most parameters are defined in the same way as in Eq. (1), and Γ_d (Γ)
 250 represents the dry adiabatic lapse rate (environmental lapse rate). We ~~will~~ primarily
 251 focus on the rate of change rate in buoyancy during the noontime period (1100–~~1500LT~~–
 252 1500 LT), when the PBL is well developed, and aerosol radiative forcing is strong. The
 253 rate of change rate in buoyancy (dB/dt) induced by aerosols is largely determined by
 254 the aerosol heating rate, which can be produced by the radiative transfer model.
 255 Additional inputs include the environmental lapse rate and temperature, ~~which are~~
 256 obtained from noontime RS soundings in the summer. For other times, the
 257 environmental lapse rate and temperature are obtained from MERRA-2 reanalysis data,
 258 which assimilates coarse-resolution RS ~~observation~~observations (Rienecker et al.,
 259 2011). In this way, we can estimate dB/dt induced by aerosols with a primary focus
 260 on the daytime. ~~Note~~Note that the errors in MERRA-2 data ~~would~~ lead to the
 261 uncertainties in the ~~estimated dB/dt~~ estimated dB/dt . A 1–3 K ~~uncertainties~~uncertainty
 262 in MERRA-2 ~~temperature~~temperatures (Gelaro et al., 2017) ~~lead~~leads to 1–3% relative
 263 biases in the estimated dB/dt . Considering the large variation in dB/dt ~~under~~for
 264 different aerosol structures, the biases resulting from MERRA-2 data are not a ~~very~~
 265 serious issue.

266

267 3. Results

268 3.1. Classification of different aerosol structure scenarios

269 By altering the adiabatic heating rate of the atmosphere, the aerosol vertical

270 distribution is of great importance to the PBL. Based on cloud-free AEC profiles in the
271 PBL, aerosol vertical structures can be classified into three types: well-mixed,
272 decreasing with height, and ~~its inverse,~~ *increasing with height*. If AEC varies by less
273 than 20% within the lowest 80% of ~~the~~ PBL, it is considered a well-mixed structure.
274 For the other cases, a decreasing structure indicates a peak in AEC near the surface, and
275 the inverse structure indicates a peak in AEC in the middle or upper PBL.

276 To investigate the vertical variation ~~of~~ *in* AEC within the PBL, the evolution of ~~the~~
277 PBLH has ~~been to be~~ taken into account. Following previous studies (~~Kuang et al., 2017;~~
278 Ferrero et al., 2014), ~~the;~~ *Kuang et al., 2017*), vertical profiles were normalized by
279 introducing a standardized height (H_s), ~~which was~~ calculated as follows:

$$280 \quad H_s = \frac{z - PBLH}{PBLH}, \quad (3)$$

281 where z is the height above the ground, and H_s is 0 at the PBL top and -1 at ground
282 level. ~~Then, Figure 4 shows~~ the normalized vertical profiles of AEC ~~during~~ *derived from*
283 *MPL data for different aerosol structures around* noontime. ~~The number of samples and~~
284 ~~percentages of decreasing, well-mixed, and increasing aerosol structures~~ are ~~shown in~~
285 ~~Figure 4~~ *998 (51%), 611 (32%), and 330 (17%), respectively*. Since a temperature
286 inversion located at the PBL top traps moisture and aerosols, there is a sharp decrease
287 in the AEC *profile* from the PBL upper boundary to ~~the~~ free atmosphere. ~~The~~ *Variations*
288 ~~in the~~ aerosol vertical distribution largely ~~varies depending~~ *depend* on different
289 conditions, but share similar features ~~under~~ *among the* different aerosol structure
290 patterns. Despite complex aerosol vertical distributions, these three types of profiles
291 can account for most of the cloud-free cases.

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292 **3.2. PBLH and PM_{2.5} under different aerosol structure scenarios**

293 Absorbing aerosols ~~trend~~tend to have a positive feedback with the PBLH, ~~while~~
294 ~~aerosols and the aerosol~~ vertical distribution plays a critical role in this process. We
295 investigate the relationship between MPL-derived PBLH and PM_{2.5} for absorbing (daily
296 average SSA \leq 0.85) or weakly absorbing (daily average SSA $>$ 0.9) aerosols ~~under~~
297 ~~inverse/declining for increasing/decreasing~~ aerosol structures during 0900–1900 LT
298 (Figure 5). The PBLH-PM_{2.5} relationships can represent the intensity of the aerosol-
299 PBL interaction. In general, there are stronger correlations between PBLH and PM_{2.5}
300 ~~under for the~~ inverse ~~aerosols~~aerosol structure. ~~Under such structure, the PBLH-PM_{2.5}~~
301 ~~correlation also remains considerably stronger for absorbing than weakly absorbing~~
302 ~~cases.~~ This is likely caused by substantial heating in the upper PBL, ~~which would~~
303 ~~facilitate~~facilitating the formation of a temperature inversion and further
304 ~~increase~~increasing the stability ~~in of~~ the PBL. ~~While, under declining aerosols~~For the
305 decreasing aerosol structure, ~~the~~ aerosols may not significantly redistribute ~~the~~
306 adiabatic energy. ~~This phenomenon indicates~~Hence, the PBLH-PM_{2.5} correlation is
307 relatively weak. Significant PBLH-PM_{2.5} correlations are found for both absorbing and
308 weakly absorbing cases, indicating that the absorbing aerosol could scattering aerosols
309 may also play a more an important role in the aerosol-PBL interaction, especially for
310 the inverse aerosol structure. _

311 ~~The~~Figure 6 presents the averaged diurnal cycles of AEC, PBLH, and PM_{2.5} for
312 different aerosol vertical structures ~~are presented in Figure 6, classified~~ based on the
313 ~~measurements made in Beijing-average AEC profiles during noontime.~~ High humidity

314 cases (surface relative humidity > 90%) and strong wind cases (wind speed > 5 m s⁻¹)
315 are excluded. ~~Theoretically~~ Here, both AEC and PBLH are derived from MPL data. Data
316 are collected on 371 available days, of which 191 days have decreasing aerosol
317 structures, 122 days have well-mixed aerosol structures, and 58 days have inverse
318 aerosol structures. Multiple entangled factors can contribute to the formation of
319 different aerosol structures within the PBL, including synoptic patterns, new particle
320 formation, vertical turbulence, horizontal transport, entrainment rates, to name a few.
321 In general, the inverse structure is characterized by higher aerosol loadings and lower
322 PBLHs, whereas the decreasing structure is characterized by light pollution and a well-
323 developed PBL. In theory, PM_{2.5} should generally decrease with increasing PBLH in
324 the morning ~~and forenoon~~ due to the dilution effect. This situation is demonstrated
325 clearly for decreasing aerosol structures. However, PM_{2.5} continuously grows during
326 the daytime ~~under when an~~ inverse aerosol ~~structures~~ structure is present, regardless of
327 the PBLH diurnal cycle. ~~Despite~~ Even though many factors control the diurnal
328 variations ~~of aerosol in aerosols~~ and ~~the PBL are controlled by many factors~~, the strong
329 aerosol-stability interaction ~~may be an underlying scheme that further~~
330 ~~enhances~~ generates an unfavorable condition for the vertical dissipation of aerosols, so
331 the surface aerosol loading ~~during the daytime~~ can continuously accumulate due to
332 emissions.

333 The correlations and statistical results concerning the PBLH and PM_{2.5} provide
334 hints about the differences in aerosol-PBL interactions for different aerosol structures.
335 However, these results cannot explain the feedback loop and causality. Therefore, we

336 further use the SBDART model with the constraint of ample observations to investigate
337 the vertical profiles of radiative forcing induced by aerosols and its impacts on
338 atmospheric stability.

339 3.3. Aerosol radiative forcing for different aerosol structures

340 Following the description in Section 2.5, we calculate the statistical means of
341 aerosol radiative forcing in the vertical for decreasing, well-mixed, and inverse aerosol
342 structures, derived from the cases. ~~The presented in Figure 6. Figure 7 shows that the~~
343 vertical distributions of the heating rate differ drastically ~~with significant heating~~
344 ~~among~~ the different ~~parts of PBL. This is caused by~~ aerosol structures. For the inverse
345 aerosol structure scenario, aerosols cause substantial heating in the upper PBL, ~~which~~
346 ~~would facilitate~~ facilitating the formation of a temperature inversion and further ~~increase~~
347 ~~the stability in the PBL. Nonetheless, under the declining aerosol structure, the~~
348 ~~abundant aerosols increasing the stability~~ in the PBL. For the decreasing aerosol
349 structure scenario, the abundance of aerosols at the bottom of PBL ~~can cause a heating~~
350 ~~effect in~~ heats the lower PBL, ~~and hence, so~~ can potentially enhance ~~the~~ convection in
351 the PBL.

352 There are considerable differences in heating rate among the three distinct aerosol
353 structures (Figure 8), which affects the atmospheric buoyancy and stability differently.
354 On average, aerosols generally suppress buoyancy in the ~~low~~ lower atmosphere. Such
355 an effect is quite notable for the inverse structure and is insignificant for the decreasing
356 structure with large standard deviations. Absorbing ~~aerosol is~~ aerosols are not very
357 helpful for stabilizing ~~low~~ the lower atmosphere ~~under the~~ when a decreasing aerosol

358 structure is present, but ~~plays~~they play an important role ~~under the~~when an inverse
359 aerosol structure is present. As such, we ~~expected~~expect the strongest aerosol-PBL
360 ~~interactions~~interaction to occur for absorbing aerosol cases ~~under the~~when an inverse
361 aerosol structure, ~~which~~ is present, consistent with the results shown in Figure 4. ~~It~~
362 ~~should be noted that there are large variations in the impact of aerosol on buoyancy.~~
363 ~~Under an inverse structure, aerosol overwhelmingly enhance the stability in low-~~
364 ~~atmosphere, whereas, under decreasing structure, aerosols have the potential to either~~
365 ~~enhance or suppress the low atmosphere stability depending on different cases~~5.

366 Figure 9 ~~illustrates the~~shows schematic ~~diagram~~diagrams of the interactions
367 between aerosols, stability, and the PBL. ~~when decreasing/inverse aerosol structures are~~
368 present. Overall, ~~aerosol both decreasing and inverse aerosol structures can cool the~~
369 surface and suppress sensible heat, thus stabilizing the PBL. In both cases, aerosols
370 have notable stabilizing effects near the surface.

371 When a decreasing aerosol structure is present, abundant aerosols near the surface
372 generate a stronger aerosol heating rate in the lower PBL than in the upper PBL. Such
373 aerosol radiative forcing lowers the potential temperature gradient ($d\theta/dz$) in the
374 middle and upper PBL and can further strengthen vertical structure critically affects the
375 convection in the middle and upper PBL. The opposite aerosol effects on PBL stability
376 lead to a relatively weak aerosol feedback and a relatively weak aerosol-PBL interaction.

377 ~~The~~When an inverse aerosol structure is present, the significant heating effect on the
378 upper PBL facilitates the formation of temperature inversion and further increases the
379 stability and aerosol loading in the near surface. Therefore, the inverse aerosol structure

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380 ~~may strengthen the aerosol-PBL interaction. Meanwhile, the aerosol-PBL interaction~~
381 ~~can be potentially neutralized by the decreasing structure. Moreover, aerosols can both~~
382 ~~enhance and suppress the PBL stability depending on different conditions, and lead to~~
383 ~~both suppresses the PBLH. The notable increase in stability lead to the strong, positive~~
384 ~~and negative feedback loops (Figure 9)-aerosol feedback.~~

385 Highly variable aerosol vertical distributions cause large variations in the impact
386 of aerosol on stability, and thus, exert important and highly variable influences on the
387 aerosol-PBL interactions. Although aerosol stabilize PBL for majority cases, aerosol
388 also can suppress the stability in low-atmosphere when aerosol heating effect is much
389 stronger on the near surface than upper PBL, and further lead to a potential negative
390 feedback loop. The positive feedback loop leads to strong aerosol-PBL interactions,
391 ~~while the~~whereas negative feedback loop ~~partly offset PBL's impacts on~~leads to weak
392 aerosol-loading-PBL interactions. It explains the paradox of the ~~impact of the PBL on~~
393 different correlations between PBLH and surface pollutants, since its magnitude,
394 significance, and even sign reportedly varies or even reverses (Quan et al., 2013; Tang
395 et al., 2015; Geiß et al., 2017; Su et al., 2018).

396

397 4. Summary and Discussion

398 Based on integrated aerosol and meteorological measurements ~~over~~made in
399 Beijing, the aerosol-PBL interaction is assessed ~~under~~for different aerosol vertical
400 structures, ~~which are i.e.,~~ decreasing, well-mixed, and inversely increasing with height,
401 ~~respectively.~~ The aerosol-PBL relationships and the diurnal cycles of PBLH and PM_{2.5}

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402 show distinct characteristics among the different aerosol vertical patterns. For the
403 decreasing aerosol structure, PM_{2.5} decreases in the morning ~~and forenoon~~ with
404 relatively large PBLH growth rates. In this situation, absorbing ~~aerosol is~~ aerosols are
405 not very helpful in stabilizing ~~low the lower~~ atmosphere. ~~Under~~ For the inverse aerosol
406 structure, PM_{2.5} continuously grows during the daytime with ~~relative~~ relatively low
407 PBLH growth ~~rate~~ rates. This phenomenon could be a sign of ~~the~~ a strong aerosol-PBL
408 interaction. The aerosol radiative forcing in the vertical ~~scale~~ for decreasing, well-
409 mixed, and inverse aerosol structures differ drastically with strong heating in the lower,
410 ~~mid~~ middle, and upper PBL_z respectively. Such a difference in heating rate affects the
411 atmospheric buoyancy and stability differently in the three distinct aerosol structures.

412 ~~Numerous studies used various models~~ Turbulent fluxes and eddies in the PBL
413 would spread out and redistribute the radiative effects induced by aerosols. Needed are
414 numerical models to ~~simulate~~ quantify the aerosol-PBL ~~interactions~~ interaction and
415 consequent feedbacks (e.g., Y. Wang et al., 2013; Ding et al., 2016; Z. Wang et al.,
416 2018; Zhou et al., 2018; ~~Wang et al., 2014~~). Aerosol vertical ~~distribution highly varies~~
417 ~~in distributions greatly vary on~~ both temporal and vertical scales, and critically affect
418 ~~the~~ aerosol radiative ~~forcing~~. ~~Nonethelesseffects~~. ~~However~~, the aerosol vertical
419 distribution ~~usually is still~~ poorly represented in numerical models, partly due to a lack
420 of observational constraints. This study reveals the important role of the aerosol vertical
421 distribution in the aerosol-PBL ~~interactions~~ interaction, which should be carefully taken
422 into account in both observational ~~analysis~~ analyses and model simulations.

423 ~~In this~~ This study, ~~we use~~ used column-averaged aerosol properties from

424 AERONET. However, the vertical variations ~~of single scattering albedo in SSA~~ and
425 aerosol type remains unknown, ~~which can induce~~inducing uncertainties in the
426 estimation of aerosol effects. In the future, we plan to use aircraft data from field
427 campaigns to better account for ~~its influences for the influence of~~ different types of
428 aerosols ~~of~~with different properties.

429

430 *Data availability.* ~~The hourly~~Hourly PM_{2.5} data are released by the Ministry of
431 Environmental Protection of China (~~data link:~~
432 <http://113.108.142.147:20035/emcpublish>). ~~The~~ MERRA-2 reanalysis data are
433 publicly available at
434 <https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/datasets?keywords=merra%20&page=1>. ~~The~~ AERONET
435 data are publicly available at <https://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov>. ~~The meteorological~~
436 Meteorological data are provided by the data center of the China Meteorological
437 Administration (~~data link:~~ <http://data.cma.cn/en>).

438

439 *Author contribution.* T.S. and Z.L. conceptualized this study. T.S. carried out the
440 analysis, with comments from other co-authors. C.L., J.L., and W.T. carried out the
441 MPL ~~observation~~observations. J.G. provided auxiliary data. W.H., C.S., W.T., J.W.,
442 and J.G. provided useful suggestions for the ~~discussion~~study. T.S. and Z.L. interpreted
443 the data and wrote the manuscript with contributions from all co-authors.

444

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445 *Competing interests.* The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

446

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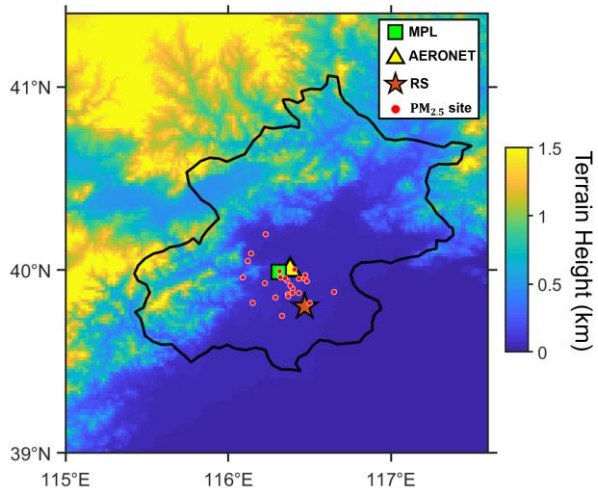
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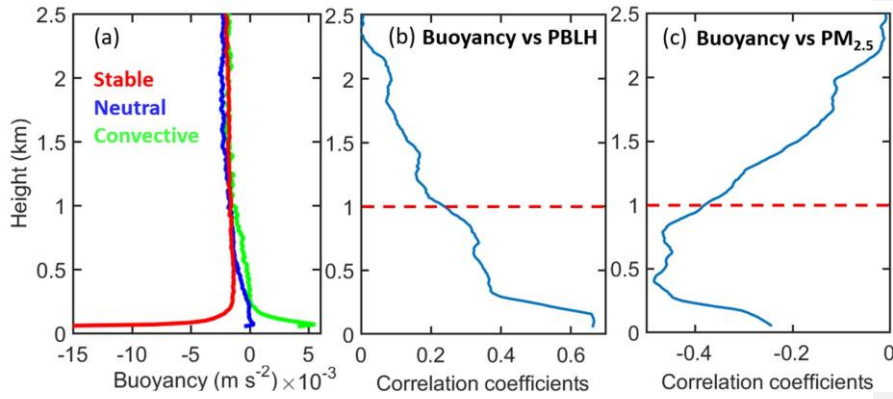
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711 **Figures**



712
713 **Figure 1.** Topography ~~condition~~ of Beijing. The green square indicates the MPL site,
714 and the yellow triangle indicates the AERONET station. The brown star
715 ~~represents shows the~~ radiosonde (RS) station, and the red pink dots ~~represents show~~ the
716 PM_{2.5} sites.

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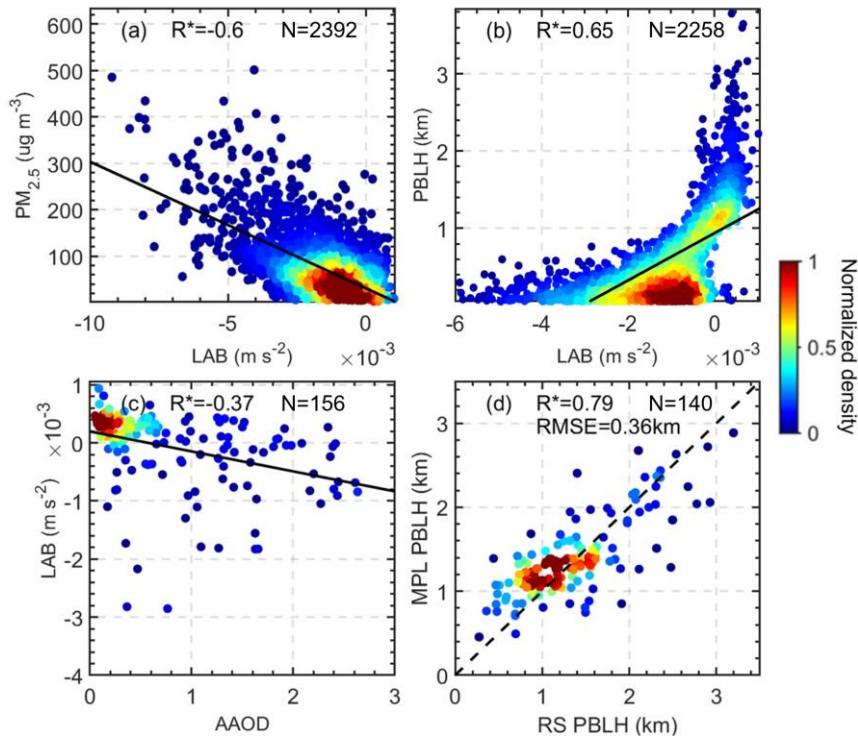
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Figure 2. (a) Vertical Averaged vertical profiles of buoyancy forcing under in stable, neutral, and convective PBL PBLs. (b) Height-dependent correlation coefficients between buoyancy and PBLH. (c) Height-dependent correlation coefficients between buoyancy and surface PM_{2.5}. Note Note that the PBLH and surface PM_{2.5} are fixed for the entire column, and the buoyancy is height-dependent. The buoyancy within low-in the lower atmosphere (< 1 km) exerts has the most important impact on the PBLH and surface PM_{2.5}. The buoyancy and PBLH are derived calculated from RS measurements made at 1400 LT and 2000 LT from 2011 to 2018.

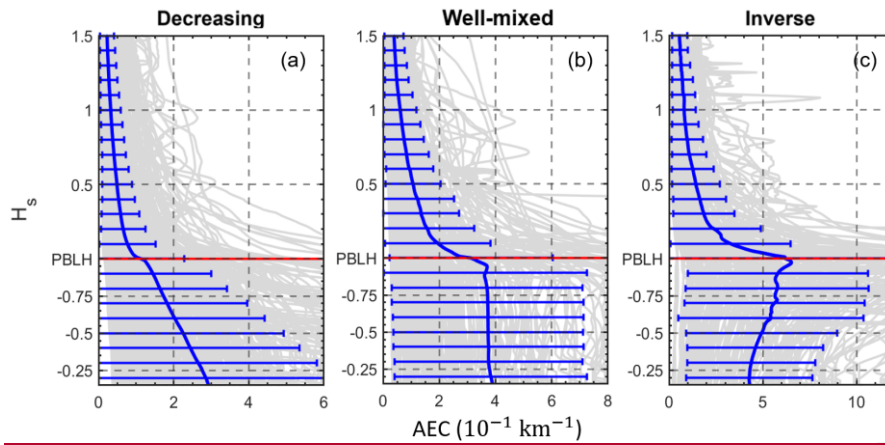


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743 **Figure 3.** (a) The relationshipsrelationship between lowlower-atmosphere buoyancy
 744 (LAB) and $PM_{2.5}$. (b) The relationshipsrelationship between LAB and PBLH. (c) The
 745 relationshipsrelationship between absorbing aerosol optical depth (AAOD) and LAB.
 746 In (a, b, c), the LAB and PBLH are derived from RS measurements made at 1400 LT
 747 and 2000 LT, and AAOD is derived from AERONET measurements. The black solid
 748 lines indicate the best-fit lines from linear regressionsregression. (d) Comparison of
 749 PBLHs derived from the MPL and RS at 1400 LT. HereEach panel gives the correlation
 750 coefficients (R), sample number (N), and in the following analysis,root-mean-square
 751 error (RMSE). R with asterisksan asterisk indicates that the correlation is statistically

752 significant at the 99% confidence level. The color-shaded dots indicate the normalized
753 sample density.

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756 **Figure 4.** The ~~normalized~~ Normalized vertical profiles of aerosol extinction
757 ~~coefficients~~ coefficient (AEC) ~~under~~for (a) decreasing, (b) well-mixed, and (c)
758 ~~increasing (i.e., inverse)~~ aerosol structures. ~~The red~~Red line ~~marks~~mark the position of
759 the PBLH, ~~the~~ solid blue lines represent the average ~~profile~~profiles of corresponding
760 profiles, and ~~the~~ error bars represent the standard deviations. _

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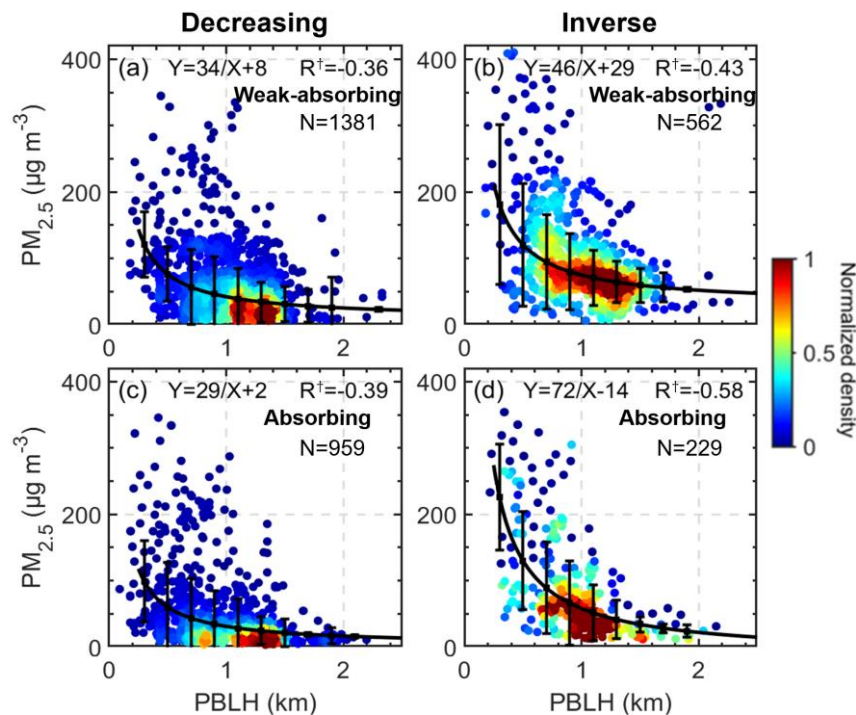
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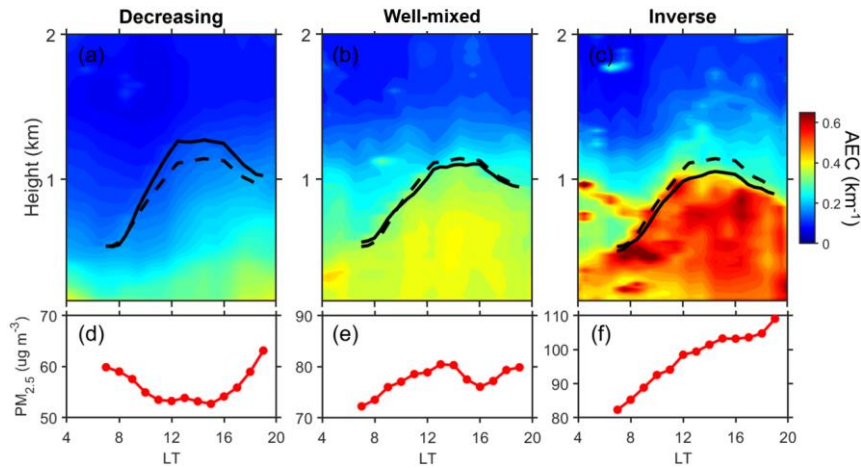


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768 **Figure 5.** The relationship between MPL-derived PBLH and $PM_{2.5}$ for (a) ~~weak-~~
 769 ~~weakly~~ absorbing and (c) absorbing ~~under aerosols for the decreasing aerosolsaerosol~~
 770 structure. The relationship between MPL-derived PBLH and $PM_{2.5}$ for (b) ~~weak-weakly~~
 771 absorbing and (d) absorbing ~~under inverse-aerosols for the increasing (i.e., inverse)~~
 772 ~~aerosol~~ structure. The ~~black~~Black lines represent the inverse ~~fit~~fits, and the whiskers
 773 indicate the standard deviations. The ~~detailed~~ fitting functions ~~and number of samples~~
 774 are given ~~at the top of~~in each panel, along with the correlation coefficient (R^\dagger) for the
 775 inverse fit.

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779 **Figure 6.** Diurnal The averaged diurnal variations in AEC for (a) decreasing, (b) well-
 780 mixed, and (c) increasing (i.e., inverse) aerosol structures. The solid Solid black lines
 781 indicate the corresponding PBLH averaged diurnal cycles. The dashed black line
 782 represents of MPL-derived PBLH under the different aerosol structures. Dashed black
 783 lines represent the mean MPL-derived PBLH diurnal eyelecycles. (d, e, f) The
 784 corresponding averaged diurnal variations in surface PM_{2.5} under the different aerosol
 785 structures.

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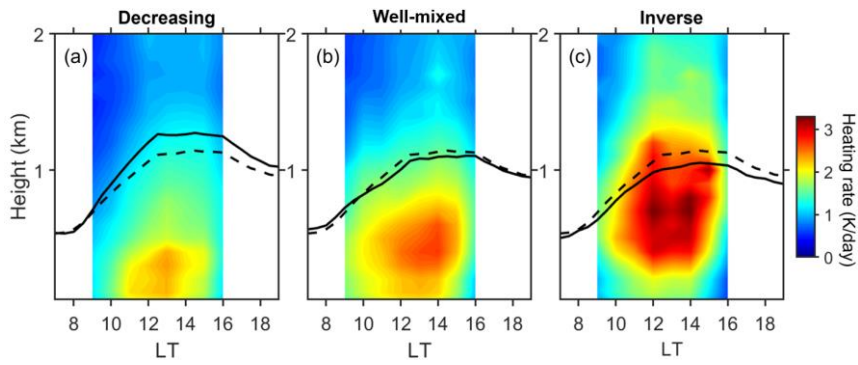
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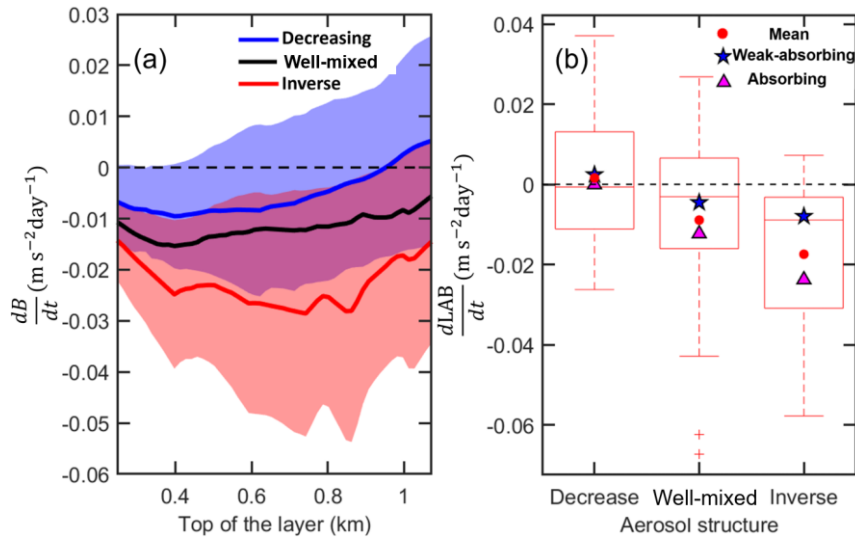
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Figure 7. The profiles of averaged diurnal variations in aerosol radiative forcing in the vertical for (a) decreasing, (b) well-mixed, and (c) increasing (i.e., inverse) structures of aerosol loading. The solid black lines indicate the corresponding PBLH mean diurnal cycles. The dashed of MPL-derived PBLH under different aerosol structures. Dashed black line represents lines represent the mean MPL-derived PBLH diurnal eyeecycles.



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811 **Figure 8.** (a) The rate of change rate in buoyancy (dB/dt) in a certain layer of the
 812 lowest atmosphere underfor decreasing (blue), well-mixed (black), and inverse (red)
 813 aerosol structures during noontime. The bottom of the layer is the surface, and the rate
 814 of change in buoyancy is subjected to the top of the layer. The shaded areas show the
 815 standard deviation deviations of the rate of change rate in buoyancy. (b) Box-and-
 816 whisker plots showing 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentile values of the rate of
 817 change rate in LAB (buoyancy within lowest 1 km 1 km) during noontime. The red Red
 818 dots indicate the mean values, while the and blue stars and pink triangles show the
 819 means for weak-weakly absorbing ($\text{SSA} > 0.9$) and absorbing ($\text{SSA} < 0.85$) cases.

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834 humidity, aerosols, and heat. The background greyscale indicates the diagram pollution

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