

Interactive comment on “On the spatial variability of the regional aerosol distribution as determined from ceilometers” by Matthias Wiegner et al.

Nick Schutgens

n.a.j.schutgens@vu.nl

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It is good to see LIDAR data being used for representativity studies, which may help understand better the 4D distribution of aerosol. I wonder if you had an opportunity to look at backscatter at selected heights, and not just integrated backscatter? In our modelling study (<https://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/16/6335/2016/>), we found that representativity can vary quite a bit between column-integrated properties and profile properties. In particular, representation errors become larger closer to the surface.

I'd also like to point out that, apart from the LIDAR studies you mention, a lot of work on 1) spatio-temporal variability and 2) representation errors has been done using in-situ or satellite data. See the introduction of the aforementioned paper and a follow-up

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study from 2017.

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