

Fluorescence lidar observations of wildfire smoke inside cirrus: A contribution to smoke-cirrus - interaction research

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Abstract

A remote sensing method, based on fluorescence lidar measurements, that allows to detect and to quantify the smoke content in upper troposphere and lower stratosphere (UTLS) is presented. The unique point of this approach is that, smoke and cirrus properties are observed in the same air volume simultaneously. In the article, we provide results of fluorescence and multiwavelength Mie-Raman lidar measurements performed at ATOLL observatory from Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique, University of Lille, during strong smoke episodes in the summer and autumn seasons of 2020. The aerosol fluorescence was induced by 355 nm laser radiation and the fluorescence backscattering was measured in a single spectral channel, centered at 466 nm of 14 nm width. To estimate smoke properties, such as number, surface area and volume concentration, the conversion factors, which link the fluorescence backscattering and the smoke microphysical properties, are derived from the synergy of multiwavelength Mie-Raman and fluorescence lidar observations. Based on two case studies, we demonstrate that the fluorescence lidar technique provides possibility to estimate the smoke surface area concentration within freshly formed cirrus layers. This value was used in smoke INP parameterization scheme to predict ice crystal number concentrations in cirrus generation cells.

Introduction

Aerosol particles in the upper tropospheric and lower stratospheric (UTLS) height regime play an important role in processes of heterogeneous ice formation, however our current understanding of these processes is insufficient for a trustworthy implementation in numerical

weather and climate prediction models. The ability of aerosol particles to act as ice nucleating particles (INP) depends on meteorological factors such as temperature and ice supersaturation (as a function of vertical velocity) as well as on the aerosol type in the layer in which cirrus developed (Kanji et al., 2017). Heterogeneous ice nucleation initiated by insoluble inorganic materials such as mineral dust has been studied since a long time (e.g., DeMott et al 2010, 2015; Hoose and Möhler, 2012; Murray et al., 2012; Boose et al., 2016; Schrod et al., 2017; Ansmann et al. 2019b), while the potential of omnipresent organic particles, especially of frequently occurring aged, long-range-transported wildfire smoke particles, to act as INP is less well explored and thus not well understood (Knopf et al., 2018). Wildfire smoke can reach the lower stratosphere via pyro-cumulonimbus (pyroCb) convection (Fromm et al., 2010; Peterson et al., 2018, 2021; Hu et al., 2019; Khaykin et al., 2020) or via self-lifting processes (Boers et al., 2010, Ohneiser et al., 2021). It is widely assumed that the ability of smoke particles to serve as INP mainly depends on the organic material (OM) in the shell of the coated smoke particles (Knopf et al., 2018), but may also depend on mineral components in the smoke particles (Jahl et al., 2021). The ice nucleation efficiency may increase with increasing duration of the long-range transport as Jahl et al. (2021) suggested. Disregarding the progress made in this atmospheric research field during the last years, the link between ice nucleation efficiency and the smoke particle chemical and morphological properties is still largely unresolved (China et al., 2017; Knopf et al., 2018).

To contribute to the field of smoke-cirrus-interaction research, we present a **note** sensing method that allows us simultaneously to detect and quantify the **smoke** amount inside of cirrus layers together with cirrus properties and to provide INP estimates in regions close to **cloud** top where ice formation usually begins. The unique point of our approach is that, for the first time, smoke and cirrus properties are observed in the same air volume simultaneously. Recently, a first attempt (closure study) was performed to investigate the smoke impact on High Arctic cirrus formation (Engelmann et al. 2021). However, the aerosol measurements had to be performed outside the clouds layers, and then the **assumption** was needed that the **found** aerosol (and estimated INP) concentration levels also hold inside the cirrus layers. **Now** we are able to directly determine INP-relevant smoke parameters inside the cirrus layer during ice nucleation events. This also offers the opportunity to **illuminate** whether an INP reservoir can be depleted in

cirrus evolution processes or not. Furthermore, this new lidar detection method permits a clear discrimination between, e.g., smoke and mineral dust INPs.

Multiwavelength Mie-Raman lidars or High Spectral Resolution lidars (HSRL) are favorable instruments to profile the physical properties of aerosol particles in troposphere. In particular, the inversion of so-called $3\beta+2\alpha$ lidar observations, based on the measurement of height profiles of three aerosol backscatter coefficients at 355, 532, and 1064 nm and two extinction coefficients at 355 and 532 nm, allows us to estimate smoke microphysical properties (Müller et al., 1999, 2005; Veselovskii et al., 2002, 2015). However, the aerosol content in UTLS height range can be low, so that particle extinction coefficients cannot be determined with sufficient accuracy and are thus not available in the lidar inversion data analysis. To resolve this issue Ansmann et al. (2019a, 2021) used the synergy of polarization lidar measurements and Aerosol Robotic Network (AERONET) sunphotometer observations (Holben et al., 1998) to derived conversion factors (to convert backscatter coefficients into microphysical particle properties) and to estimate INP concentrations for dust and smoke aerosols with the retrieved aerosol surface area concentration as aerosol input.

Dust particles are very efficient ice nuclei in contrast to wildfire smoke particles. In this context, the question arises: How can we unambiguously discriminate smoke from dust particles? This is realized by integrating a fluorescence channel into a multiwavelength aerosol lidar (Reichardt et al., 2017; Veselovskii et al., 2020; 2021). The fluorescence capacity of smoke (ratio of fluorescence backscattering to the overall aerosol backscattering), significantly exceeds corresponding values for other types of aerosol, such as dust or anthropogenic particles (Veselovskii et al., 2020; 2021), and thus allows us to discriminate smoke from other aerosol types. The fluorescence technique provides therefore the unique opportunity to monitor ice formation in well identified wildfire smoke layers, and thus to create a good basis for long-term investigations of smoke cirrus interaction.

In this article, we present results of fluorescence and multiwavelength Mie-Raman lidar measurements performed at the ATOLL (ATmospheric Observation at liLLe) Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique, University of Lille, during strong smoke episodes in the summer and autumn seasons of 2020. The results demonstrate that the fluorescence lidar is capable to monitor the smoke in the UTLS height range and inside the cirrus clouds formed at or below the tropopause. We start with a brief description of the experimental setup in Sect.2. In the first part

of the result section (Sect.3.1 and 3.2), it is explained how smoke optical properties can be quantified by using fluorescence backscattering information and how we can estimate smoke microphysical properties (volume, surface area, and number concentration) from measured fluorescence backscatter coefficients. In this approach, multiwavelength Mie-Raman aerosol lidar observations are used in addition. Values of the smoke particle surface area concentration are then the aerosol input in the smoke INP estimation. A case study is discussed in Sect.3.2. Two case studies are then presented in Sect.3.3 to demonstrate the capability of a fluorescence lidar to monitor ice formation in extended smoke layers and to provide detailed information on aerosol microphysical properties and smoke-related INP concentration levels.

2. Experimental setup

The multiwavelength Mie-Raman lidar LILAS (Lille Lidar AtmosphereS) is based on a tripled Nd:YAG laser with a 20 Hz repetition rate and pulse energy of 70 mJ at 355 nm. Backscattered light is collected by a 40 cm aperture Newtonian telescope and the lidar signals are digitized with Licel transient recorders of 7.5 m range resolution, allowing simultaneous detection in the analog and photon counting mode. The system is designed for simultaneous detection of elastic and Raman backscattering, allowing the so called $3\beta+2\alpha+3\delta$ data configuration, including three particle backscattering (β_{355} , β_{532} , β_{1064}), two extinction (α_{355} , α_{532}) coefficients along with three particle depolarization ratios (δ_{355} , δ_{532} , δ_{1064}). The particle depolarization ratio, determined as a ratio of cross- and co-polarized components of the particle backscattering coefficient, was calculated and calibrated in the same way as described in Freudenthaler et al. (2009). The aerosol extinction and backscattering coefficients at 355 and 532 nm were calculated from Mie-Raman observations (Ansmann et al., 1992), while β_{1064} was derived by the Klett method (Fernald, 1984; Klett, 1985). Additional information about atmospheric parameters was available from radiosonde measurements performed at Herstmonceux (UK) and Beauvecchain (Belgium) stations, located 160 km and 80 km away from the observation site respectively.

The lidar system is also capable to perform aerosol fluorescence measurements. A part of the fluorescence spectrum is selected by a wideband interference filter of 44 nm width centered at 466 nm (Veselovskii et al., 2020; 2021). The strong sunlight background at daytime restricts the fluorescence observations to nighttime hours. To characterize the fluorescence properties of

aerosol, the fluorescence backscattering coefficient β_F is calculated from the ratio of fluorescence and nitrogen Raman backscatters, as described in Veselovskii et al. (2020). This approach allows to evaluate the absolute values of β_F , if the relative sensitivity of the channels is calibrated and the nitrogen Raman scattering differential cross section σ_R is known. In our research we used $\sigma_R=2.744*10^{-30}$ cm²sr⁻¹ at 355 nm from Venable et al. (2011). All β_F profiles presented in this work were smoothed with the Savitzky – Golay method, using second order polynomial with 21 points in the window. The efficiency of fluorescence backscattering with respect to elastic backscattering β_{532} is characterized by the fluorescence capacity $G_F = \frac{\beta_F}{\beta_{532}}$.

For most of atmospheric particles β_F is proportional to the volume of dry matter, while dependence of β_{532} on particle size is more complicated. As a result, G_F depends not only on aerosol type, but also on particle size and the relative humidity RH. We recall also, that only a part of the fluorescence spectra was selected by the interference filter in the receiver, so provided values of β_F and G_F are specific for the filter used. Analyzing the fluorescence measurements we should keep in mind, that the sensitivity of this technique can be limited by the fluorescence of optics in the lidar receiver. The minimal value of G_F , which we measured during observation in cloudy conditions in the lower troposphere was about 2×10^{-8} . Thus, at least, in the measurements with G_F above this value, the contribution of optics fluorescence can be ignored.

3. Results of the measurements

3.1. Observation of smoke particles in UTLS

Smoke particles produced by intensive fires and transported across the Atlantic are regularly observed in the UTLS height range over Europe (Müller et al., 2005; Hu et al., 2019; Baars et al., 2019, 2021). One of such events, observed over Lille in the night of 4-5 November 2020, is shown in Fig.1. The figure provides height – time displays of the range corrected lidar signal and the volume depolarization ratio at 1064 nm together with the fluorescence backscattering coefficient. A narrow smoke layer occurred in the upper troposphere in the period from 23:00 – 06:00 UTC. The smoke was detected at heights above 12 km after midnight. The particles caused a low volume depolarization ratio (<5%) at 1064 nm and strong fluorescence backscattering ($\beta_F > 1.2 \times 10^{-4}$ Mm⁻¹sr⁻¹). The backward trajectory analysis indicated that the

aerosol layer was transported over the Atlantic and contained products of North American wild fires.

Vertical profiles of aerosol β_{532} and fluorescence β_F backscattering coefficients for the period from 02:00 - 05:30 UTC are shown in Fig.2a. The fluorescence capacity G_F in the center of smoke layer (not shown) was about 4.5×10^{-4} . The depolarization ratio of aged smoke in the UTLS height range usually shows a strong spectral dependence (Haarig et al., 2018; Hu et al., 2019). For the case presented in Fig.2a the particle depolarization ratio in the center of the smoke layer decreased from $16 \pm 4\%$ at 355 nm (δ_{355}) to $4 \pm 1\%$ at 1064 (δ_{1064}). The tropopause height H_{tr} was at about 13000 m, thus the main part of the smoke layer was below the tropopause. By the end of day the smoke layer became weaker ($\beta_F < 0.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$) and ascended up to 14500 m, which is above the tropopause. Corresponding vertical profiles of β_{532} and β_F are shown in Fig.2b. The fluorescence capacity in the center of the layer is about 4.5×10^{-4} , which is close to the value observed during 02:00 - 05:30 UTC period.

An important advantages of the fluorescence lidar technique is the ability to monitor smoke particles inside cirrus clouds. The results of smoke observations in the presence of ice clouds are shown in Fig.3. Cirrus clouds occurred during the whole night in the height range from 6.0 km – 10.0 km. To quantify the fluorescence backscattering inside the cloud (which was rather weak in this case), the lidar signals were averaged over the full 18:00 – 06:00 UTC time interval in Fig.3a. The fluorescence backscatter coefficient shown in Fig.3c decreased from $\beta_F = 0.015 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$ at 5000 m (near the cloud base) to a minimum value of $0.01 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$ at 7000 m inside the cirrus layer. Above the tropopause the fluorescence backscattering increased strongly and reached the maximum (about $0.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$) in 11000 m -13000 m height.

The analysis of fluorescence measurements performed during strong smoke episodes in the summer and autumn of 2020, when smoke layers from North American fires frequently reached Europe, demonstrates that the fluorescence capacity varied within the range of 2.8×10^{-4} to 4.5×10^{-4} . The variations are a function of smoke composition, relative humidity and particle size. However, in the upper troposphere, where relative humidity is low, G_F was normally close to 4.5×10^{-4} . This relatively low range of G_F variations allows the estimation of the backscattering coefficient attributed to the smoke particles from fluorescence measurements as:

$$\beta_{532}^s = \frac{\beta_F}{G_F}. \quad (1)$$

Fig.3d shows the smoke backscattering coefficient β_{532}^s , calculated from β_F for $G_F=4.5 \times 10^{-4}$, together with β_{532} . The dynamical range of β_{532} variations is high. To make smoke backscattering visible above H_{Tr} , β_{532} is plotted in expanded scale in Fig.3d. The β_{532}^s values, though being strongly oscillating above the tropopause, match the β_{532} indicating that the smoke contribution to backscattering was predominant.

3.2. Estimation of smoke particles content based on fluorescence measurements

The possibility to detect fluorescence backscattering inside the cirrus clouds reveals also the opportunity for a quantitative characterization of the smoke content. This can be realized by a synergistic use of fluorescence and multiwavelength Mie – Raman lidar observations. For the smoke layers with sufficient optical depth, the number N , surface area S and volume V concentrations can be evaluated, by inverting the $3\beta+2\alpha$ observations consisting of three backscatter coefficients (355, 532, 1064 nm) and two extinction coefficients (355, 532 nm) (Müller et al., 1999; Veselovskii et al., 2002). The conversion factors C_N , C_S , C_V , introduced as

$$C_N = \frac{N}{\beta_F}, C_S = \frac{S}{\beta_F}, C_V = \frac{V}{\beta_F}, \quad (3)$$

allow the estimation of N , S , and V from fluorescence backscattering.

On 23-24 June 2020, a strong smoke layer was observed in 4500 – 5500 m height during the whole night (Fig.4). The vertical profiles of the aerosol backscattering and extinction coefficients ($3\beta+2\alpha$) are shown in Fig.5a, while the particle depolarization ratios δ_{355} , δ_{532} , δ_{1064} and the lidar ratios at 355 nm and 532 nm (LR_{355} , LR_{532}) are presented in Fig.5b. The depolarization ratio decreases with wavelength from $9 \pm 1.5\%$ at 355 nm to $1.5 \pm 0.3\%$ at 1064 nm and the lidar ratio at 532 nm significantly exceeds corresponding value at 355 nm (80 ± 12 sr and 50 ± 7.5 sr respectively), which is typical for aged smoke (Müller et al., 2005). The multiwavelength observations were inverted to determine the particle effective radius r_{eff} , number, surface area and volume concentrations for seven height bins inside the smoke layer. The effective radius r_{eff} in Fig.5c increases through the layer from 0.15 μm to 0.2 μm simultaneously with the increase of the fluorescence capacity G_F from 2.8×10^{-4} to 3.6×10^{-4} .

Retrieved values of N , S , V were used for calculation of conversion factors (Eq. 3) for each height bin. In the center of the smoke layer (at 4.9 km) the factors are: $C_N=88 \times 10^4 \frac{cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}}$, $C_S=35 \times 10^4 \frac{\mu m^2 cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}}$, and $C_V=2.4 \times 10^4 \frac{\mu m^3 cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}}$. Thus, when β_F is given in $Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}$, the calculated values of N , S , and V are given in cm^{-3} , $\mu m^2 cm^{-3}$ and $\mu m^3 cm^{-3}$ respectively. Fluorescence backscattering is proportional to the particle volume concentration, so C_V is not sensitive to the effective radius variation. The conversion factors C_N and C_S , on the contrary, depend on the particle size. Fig.5d shows the profiles of N , S , V obtained by inversion of $3\beta+2\alpha$ observations (symbols) together with corresponding values (N_F , S_F , V_F) obtained from β_F , using the mean conversion factors for seven height bins considered. The volume concentrations V and V_F agree well for all seven height bins. For the surface area concentrations the agreement is still good, but for N and N_F the difference is up to 30%. We need to emphasize, that the conversion factors presented are specific for our lidar system (for the interference filter installed in fluorescence channel). It is worthwhile to mention that the ratio V/α_{532} of the volume concentration V in Fig.5d to the extinction coefficient α at 532 nm in Fig.5a, as well as the ratio S/α_{532} , are very close to respective extinction-to-volume and extinction-to-surface-area-concentration conversion factors presented for aged wildfire smoke by Ansmann et al. (2021).

The conversion factors depend on the smoke composition. To estimate the variation range of C_N , C_S , C_V , several smoke episodes were analyzed and corresponding results are presented in Table 1. The table provides the fluorescence capacity G_F and the conversion factors at the heights, where $3\beta+2\alpha$ data could be calculated. Mean values of C_N , C_S , C_V derived for these episodes and corresponding standard deviations are:

$$C_N=(61 \pm 32) \times 10^4 \frac{cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}}; \quad C_S=(28 \pm 6.4) \times 10^4 \frac{\mu m^2 cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}}; \quad C_V=(2.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^4 \frac{\mu m^3 cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}} \quad (4)$$

Thus, the expected uncertainties in the N , S and V estimations from fluorescence measurements are of 50%, 25%, and 10% respectively, which is comparable with uncertainty of inversion of $3\beta+2\alpha$ observations (Veselovskii et al., 2002; Pérez-Ramírez et al., 2013). Table 1 shows also the volume and surface area concentrations of the smoke particles obtained from the inversion of $3\beta+2\alpha$ observations (V , S) and calculated from β_F (V_F , S_F) using the conversion factors in Eq.

(4). Standard deviations of V_F and S_F from corresponding values of $V_{3\beta+2\alpha}$ and $S_{3\beta+2\alpha}$ are 10% and 25% respectively.

The conversion factors in Eq. (4) are now used to estimate the smoke microphysical properties inside the cloud, assuming in addition that the predominant contribution to the fluorescence is provided by the smoke. Table 2 summarizes the number, surface area, and volume concentrations of smoke particles inside the ice clouds, estimated from fluorescence measurements for four episodes considered in this paper. On September 12-13, 2020, the smoke layer with high fluorescence and low depolarization ratio at 1064 nm (below 4%) was observed during the whole night inside the 2.0 km – 5.0 km height range. The cirrus cloud occurred above 11000 m also during the whole night. Fig.6a presents vertical profiles of the aerosol β_{532} and fluorescence β_F backscattering coefficients. Fluorescence backscattering shows a maximum at 3.5 km, but it is detected even inside the cloud. The smoke backscattering coefficient β_{532}^s , computed from β_F for $G_F=3.6\times10^{-4}$ agrees well with β_{532} inside the 2.0 – 10.0 km height range (Fig.6b). The height profile of the surface area concentration of the smoke particles, calculated from β_F using the respective conversion factor in Eq. (4), is shown in Fig.6c. In the smoke layer, S is up to $60 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{cm}^3$, while in the center of the cloud in 12 km – 13 km height the average value of S is $1.6\pm0.4 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{cm}^3$. Corresponding values of number and volume concentrations in the cloud center are $3.5\pm1.8 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and $0.13\pm0.013 \mu\text{m}^3/\text{cm}^3$.

The temperature in the cloud ranged from about -50°C to almost -70°C and was -68°C at cirrus top in Fig.6b where ice nucleation usually starts. We applied the immersion freezing INP parameterization of Knopf and Alpert (2013) for Leonardite (a standard humic acid surrogate material) and assume that this humic compound represents the amorphous organic coating of smoke particles. The INP parameterization for smoke particles is summarized for lidar applications in Ansmann et al. (2021). The selected parameterization allows the estimation of the INP concentration as a function of ambient air temperature (freezing temperature), ice supersaturation, particle surface area, and time period for which a certain level of ice supersaturation is given. We simply assume a constant ice supersaturation of around 1.45 during a time period of 600 s (upwind phase of a typical gravity wave in the upper troposphere). The temperature at cirrus top height is set to -68°C and the aerosol surface area concentration to $2.0 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{cm}^3$ as indicated in Fig.6c. The obtained INP concentrations of $1\text{-}10 \text{ L}^{-1}$ for these meteorological and aerosol environmental conditions can be regarded as the predicted number

concentration of ice crystals nucleated in the cirrus top region. Ice crystal number concentration of 1-10 L⁻¹ are typical values in cirrus layers when heterogeneous ice nucleation dominates. It should be mentioned that the required very high ice supersaturation levels of close to 1.5 (ice supersaturation of 1.1-1.2 is sufficient in case of mineral dust particles) are still lower than the threshold supersaturation level of >1.5 at which homogeneous freezing starts to dominate. At low updraft velocities around 10-25 cm/s, as usually given in gravity waves in the upper troposphere (Barahona et al., 2017), heterogeneous ice nucleation very likely dominates the ice production when cirrus evolves in detected aerosol layers.

3.3. Ice formation inside the smoke layers.

During September 2020 we observed several episodes with ice cloud formation inside of smoke layers. One of such episodes occurred on 11-12 September 2020 and is shown in Fig.7. The height – time display of the fluorescence backscattering coefficient reveals the smoke layer in the 5.0 - 10.0 km height range. Inside this layer, we can observe a short time interval of 15 minutes with a strongly increased depolarization ratio around 10.5 km height (red spots), indicating ice cloud formation. Fig.8 shows vertical profiles of the aerosol backscattering coefficients β_{355} , β_{532} , and β_{1064} as well the particle depolarization ratios δ_{355} , δ_{532} , and δ_{1064} for two temporal intervals. The first interval (23:00 – 00:30 UTC) is prior to ice cloud formation and the second one (01:20 – 01:45 UTC) covers ice occurrence period. The depolarization ratios at all three wavelengths were < 5% below 6 km height. Above that height δ_{355} significantly increased reaching the value of 10% at 7 km (Fig.8b), which is indicative of a change of the particle shape (from spherical to irregular shape). The fluorescence capacity also changed with height, being about $G_F=4.5\times10^{-4}$ at 5.5 km and it decreases to 3.5×10^{-4} by 8 km. The profile of β_{532}^s shown in Fig.8c is calculated assuming $G_F=4.0\times10^{-4}$ and it matches well the profile of β_{532} for the whole height range. The aerosol layer at 10.5 km is thus a pure smoke layer. Ice formation at 10.5 km (Fig.8d-f) leads to a significant increase of β_{532} while β_{532}^s (or the respective fluorescence backscatter coefficient β_F) remains low and at the same level as observed below the cirrus layer, i.e., below 10 km height. The depolarization ratios at all three wavelengths increases to typical cirrus values around 40%. The temperature at 10.5 km is about -50 °C, and the surface area concentration of the smoke particles inside the cloud, estimated from

β_F , is about $10 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{cm}^3$ (see Fig.8f, thin blue line). For these temperature and aerosol conditions we yield smoke INP concentrations of $1\text{-}10 \text{ L}^{-1}$ for ice supersaturation values even below 1.4 (1.38-1.4) and updraft duration of 600 s. When comparing Fig.8c and 8f at cirrus level it seems to be that ice nucleation on the smoke particles widely depleted the smoke INP reservoir.

Another case of ice formation in the smoke layer was observed on 17-18 September 2020. Strong smoke layers occurred in the 5.0 km – 9.0 km height range as shown in Fig.9. During the period from 22:30 – 00:00 UTC, the depolarization increased at 8.5 km height, indicating ice formation. Vertical profiles of the particle parameters prior and during ice formation are shown in Fig.10. The β_{532}^s calculated for $G_F=3.5\times 10^{-4}$ matches well with β_{532} below 6.9 km and above 8.0 km (Fig.10c), but inside the 7.0 km – 8.0 km height range $\beta_{532} > \beta_{532}^s$, meaning that G_F was decreased. The depolarization ratio in the 7.0 km – 8.0 km height range shows some enhancement (Fig.10b): in particular, δ_{532} increased from 10% to 12%. Cloud formation at 8.5 km (Fig.10d) led to a significantly smaller increase of the depolarization ratio, compared to the case on 11-12 September. Prior to the cloud formation the values of δ_{1064} , δ_{532} , and δ_{355} at 8.5 km were of 3%, 10%, and 13% respectively (Fig.10b) and in the cloud corresponding depolarization ratios increase up to 9%, 15%, 20%. The reason is probably that the signal averaging period from 22:45 to 23:45 UTC includes cloud-free section. Three gravity waves obviously crossed the lidar field site and triggered ice nucleation just before 23 UTC, 15-30 minutes after 23 UTC, and around mid night (00:00 UTC). The temperature at cloud top at about 8.5-8.6 km height was close to -35°C . For this high temperature and the high particle surface area concentration of $200 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{cm}^3$ (see Fig.10d, thin blue line) we yield smoke INP concentrations of $1\text{-}10 \text{ L}^{-1}$ for a relatively low ice supersaturation of 1.30-1.33 and an updraft period of 600 s. Again, a depletion of the INP reservoir is visible after formation of the cirrus layer (see Figs.6c and 6d around and above 8.5 km height).

Conclusion

The operation of a fluorescence channel in the LILAS lidar during strong smoke events in the summer and autumn seasons of 2020 has demonstrated the ability of the fluorescence lidar technique to monitor smoke layers in the UTLS height range in large detail. The fluorescence capacity G_F of smoke particles during this period varied within a relatively small range: 2.8-

4.5×10⁻⁴, thus the use of the mean value of G_F allows to estimate the contribution of smoke to the total particle backscattering coefficient. The fluorescence lidar technique makes it possible to estimate smoke parameters, such as number, surface area and volume concentration in UTLS height range in a quantitative way by applying conversion factors (C_N , C_S , C_V) which link the fluorescence backscattering and the smoke microphysical properties. These factors, derived from the synergy of multiwavelength Mie-Raman and fluorescence lidar observations, show some variation from episode to episode, however, the use of mean values of C_N , C_S , C_V allow estimation of smoke properties in UTLS height regime with reasonable accuracy. Based on two case studies, we demonstrated that the fluorescence lidar technique provides the unique possibility to characterize the smoke particles and their amount inside cirrus cloud layers. The smoke input parameter (surface area concentration) in smoke INP parameterization schemes that are used to predict ice crystal number concentrations in cirrus generation cells, can now be estimated within freshly formed cirrus layers.

The smoke parameters such as fluorescence capacity and conversion factors were derived from observations of aged wildfire smoke, transported over Atlantic in 2020. However, smoke composition, depends on many factors, such as burning materials type, flame temperature and environmental conditions, thus the smoke fluorescence properties may also vary. Hence, it is important to perform the measurements for different locations and seasons. The fluorescence backscattering in UTLS height range is quite weak, so to perform measurements with higher temporal resolution more powerful lidar systems are needed. A dedicated high power Lidar, LIFE (Laser Induced Fluorescence Explorer), will be designed and operated at ATOLL, in the frame of OBS4CLIM/ACTRIS-France . -

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Table 1. Conversion factors C_N , C_S , and C_V , and fluorescence capacity G_F at height H for five smoke episodes. Volume and surface area concentration of smoke particles, obtained by the inversion of $3\beta+2\alpha$ lidar observations (V , S), are given together with values calculated from fluorescence measurements (V_F , S_F) and using conversion factors (Eq. 4).

Date dd/mm/yy	H , km	C_N , $10^4 \frac{cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}}$	C_S , $10^4 \frac{\mu m^2 cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}}$	C_V , $10^4 \frac{\mu m^3 cm^{-3}}{Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}}$	G_F , 10^{-4}	V , $\mu m^3/cm^3$		S , $\mu m^2/cm^3$	
						V	V_F	S	S_F
23/06/20	4.9	88	35	2.4	3.5	21	19	306	237
11/09/20	7.5	75	28	2.0	3.9	7.6	8.7	111	111
14/09/20	6.0	90	34	2.3	3.7	6.4	6.1	94	78
17/09/20	6.8	21	21	2.3	2.9	8.0	7.8	73	100
20/09/20	4.9	33	22	2.0	4.3	2.7	2.9	31	37

Table 2. Number N , surface area S , and volume V concentrations of smoke particles inside the ice cloud at height H estimated from fluorescence measurements by applying the conversion factors in Eq. (4) for four measurement sessions.

Date dd/mm/yy	Time UTC	H , km	β_F , $10^{-4} Mm^{-1}sr^{-1}$	N , cm^{-3}	S , $\mu m^2/cm^3$	V , $\mu m^3/cm^3$
12/09/20	01:20-01:45	10.5	0.32	20 ± 10	9 ± 2.3	0.7 ± 0.07
12-13/09/20	21:00-03:00	12.5	0.06	3.5 ± 1.8	1.6 ± 0.4	0.13 ± 0.013
17/09/20	22:45-23:45	8.5	6.5	400 ± 200	180 ± 45	14 ± 1.4
24-25/11/20	18:00-06:00	8.0	0.013	0.8 ± 0.4	0.36 ± 0.09	0.03 ± 0.003

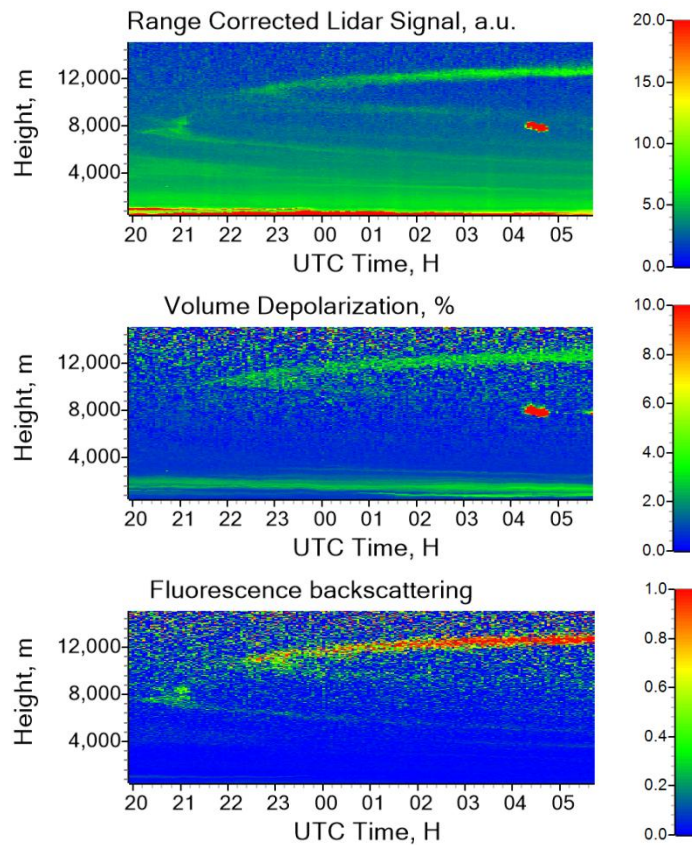


Fig.1. Range corrected lidar signal at 1064 nm, volume depolarization ratio at 1064 nm and fluorescence backscattering coefficient (in $10^{-4} \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$) on 4-5 November 2020.

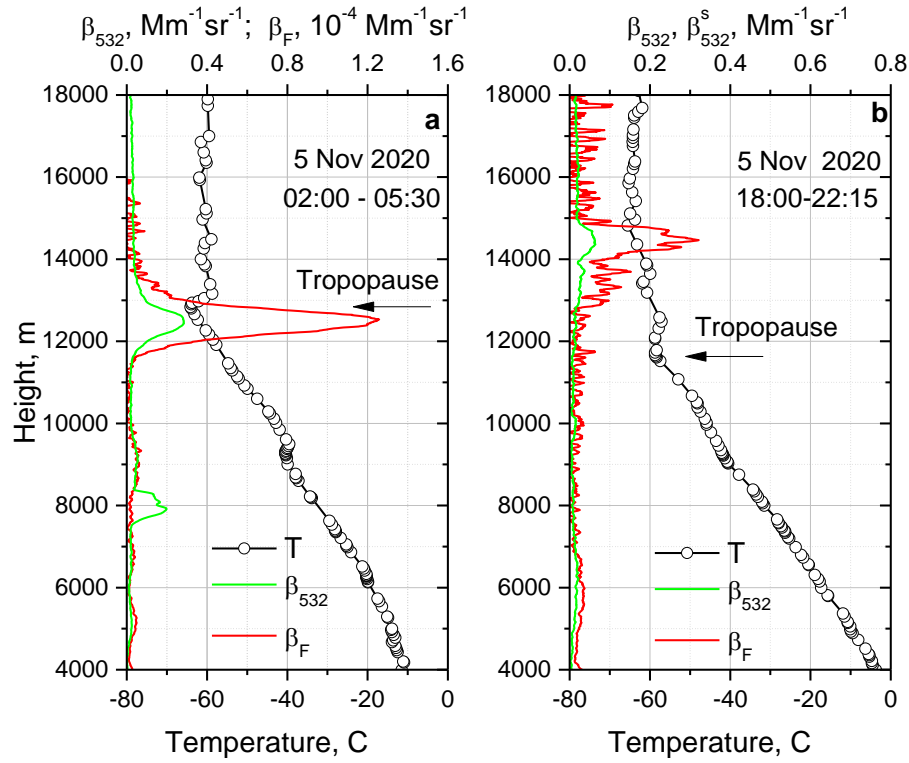
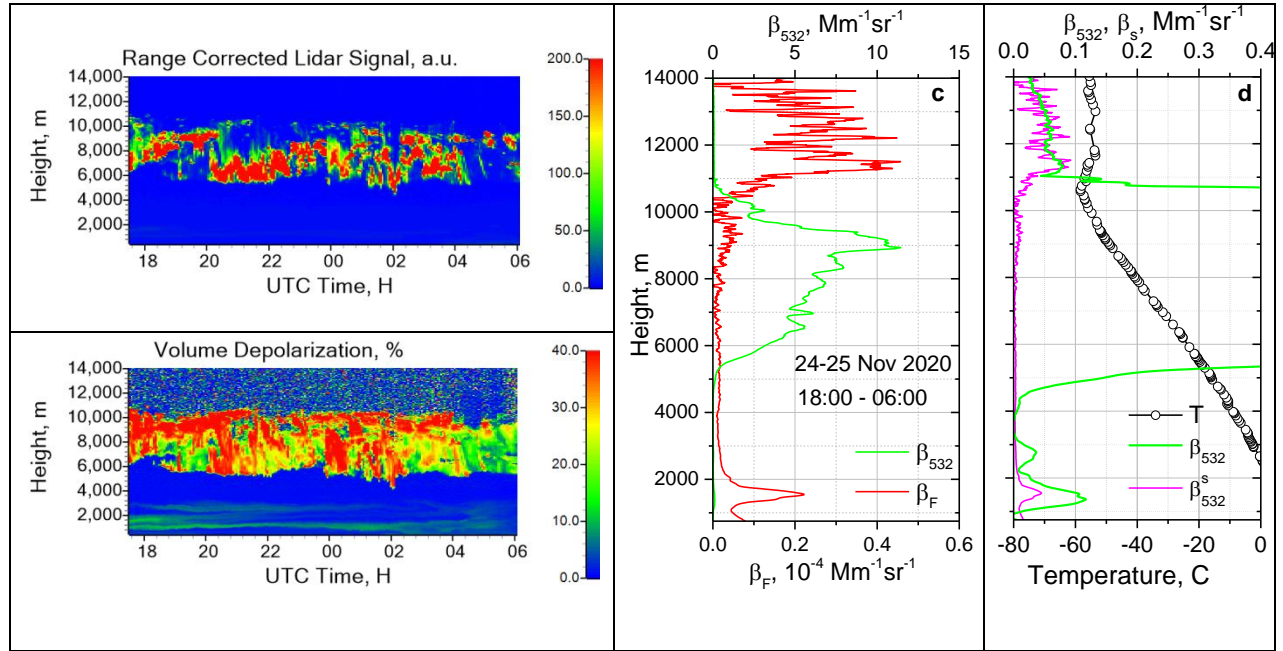


Fig.2. Vertical profiles of aerosol backscattering β_{532} and fluorescence backscattering β_F coefficients on 5 November 2020 for the periods (a) 02:00 - 5:30 UTC and (b) 18:00 - 22:15 UTC. Open symbols show the temperature profile measured by the radiosonde launched at Herstmonceux (UK).

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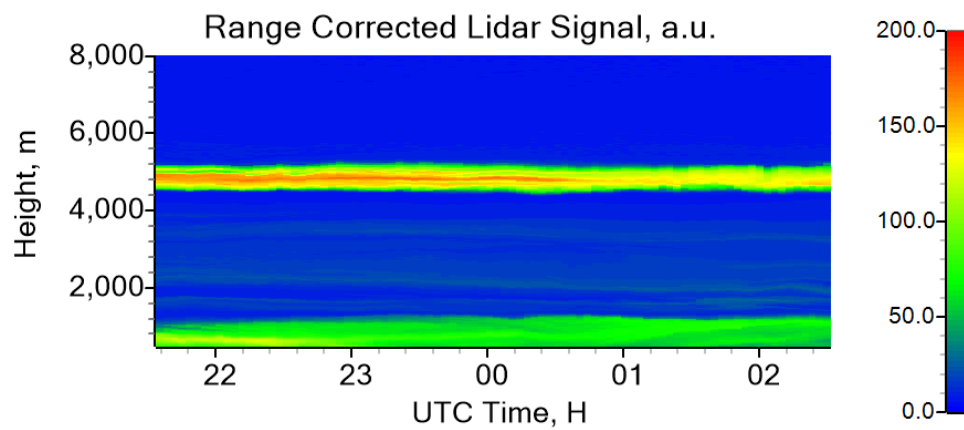
546

547 Fig.3. Smoke fluorescence in the presence of clouds on 24 – 25 November 2020. (a, b) Height –
 548 temporal distribution of the range corrected lidar signal and volume depolarization at 1064 nm.
 549 (c) Vertical profiles of the aerosol β_{532} and fluorescence β_F backscattering coefficients. (d)
 550 Aerosol backscattering β_{532} together with smoke backscattering β_{532}^s coefficient, computed from
 551 β_F for $G_F=4.5 \times 10^{-4}$. Open symbols show temperature profile measured by the radiosonde at
 552 Herstmonceux.

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Fig.4. Range corrected lidar signal at 1064 nm on 23-24 June 2020, indicating a thick smoke layer between 4500 and 5200 m height.

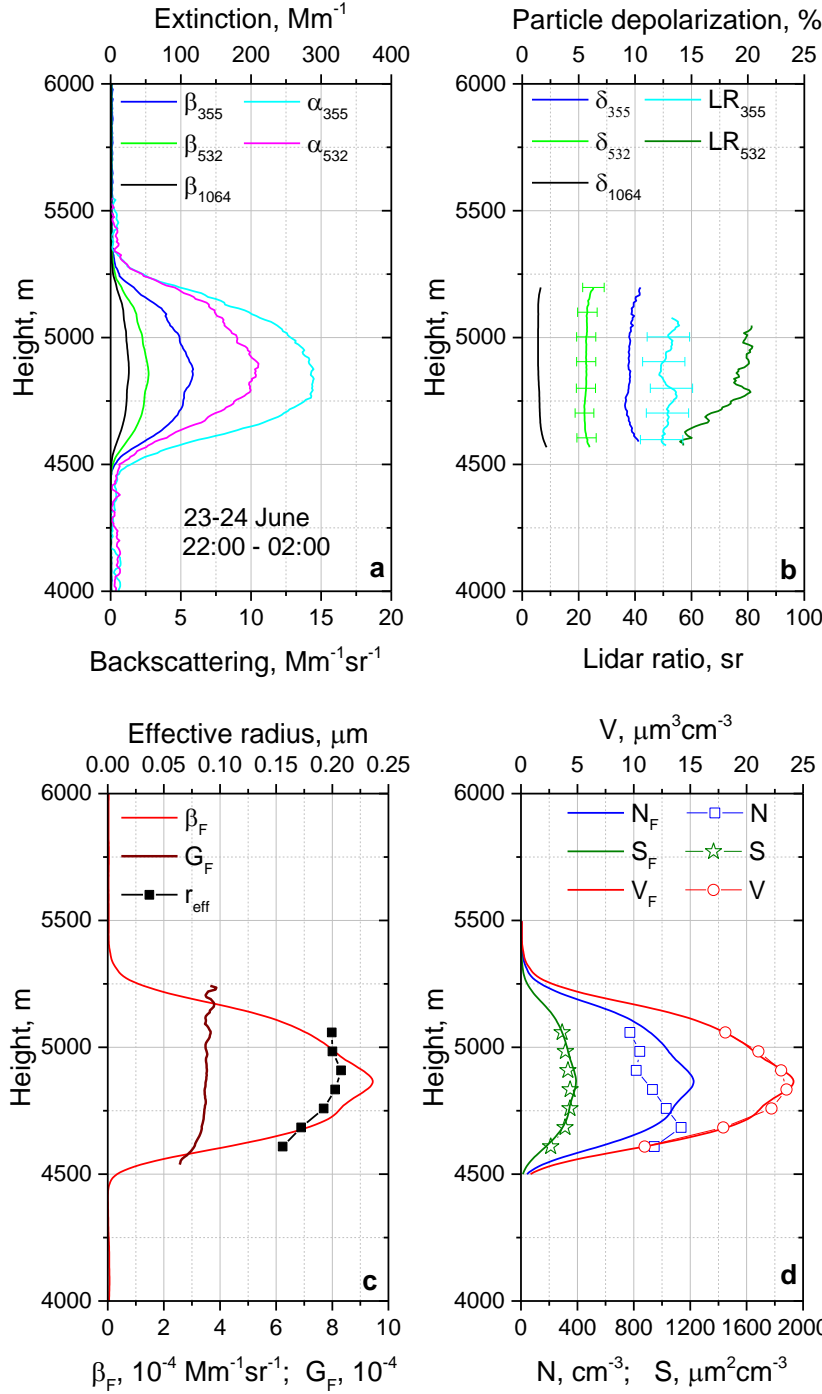


Fig.5. Smoke layer on 23-24 June 2020. (a) Vertical profiles of backscattering (β_{355} , β_{532} , β_{1064}) and extinction (α_{355} , α_{532}) coefficients. (b) Particle depolarization ratios (δ_{355} , δ_{532} , δ_{1064}) and lidar ratios (LR_{355} , LR_{532}). (c) Fluorescence backscattering (β_F), fluorescence capacity (G_F) and the particle effective radius (r_{eff}). (d) Number (N , N_F), surface area (S , S_F) and volume (V , V_F) concentrations obtained by inversion of $3\beta+2\alpha$ observations (symbols) and calculated from the fluorescence backscattering (lines) by using the mean conversion factors defined in Eq. (3).

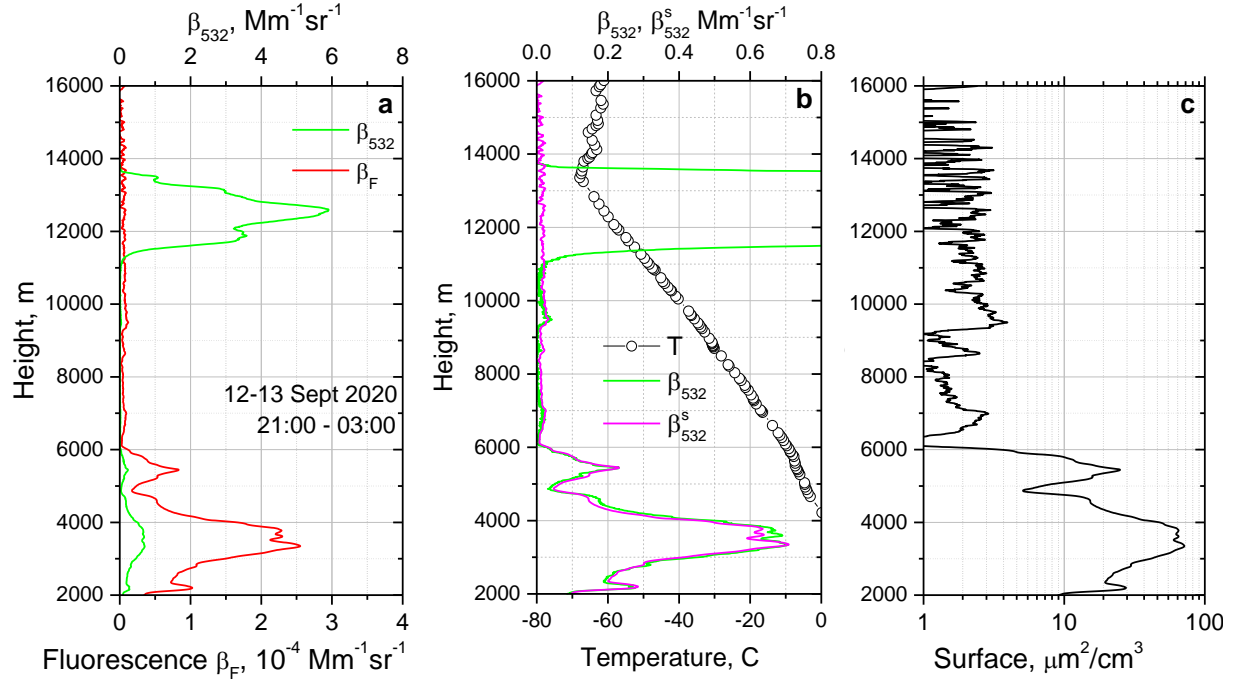


Fig.6. Observation of smoke fluorescence on 12-13 September 2020, 21:00 – 03:00 UTC. (a) Vertical profiles of the aerosol backscattering β_{532} and fluorescence backscattering β_F coefficients. (b) Aerosol backscattering β_{532} together with smoke backscattering β_{532}^s coefficient computed from β_F for $G_F=3.6 \times 10^{-4}$. (c) Surface area concentration of the smoke particles calculated from β_F by using the respective conversion factor in Eq. (4). Open symbols show the temperature profile measured by the radiosonde at Herstmonceux.

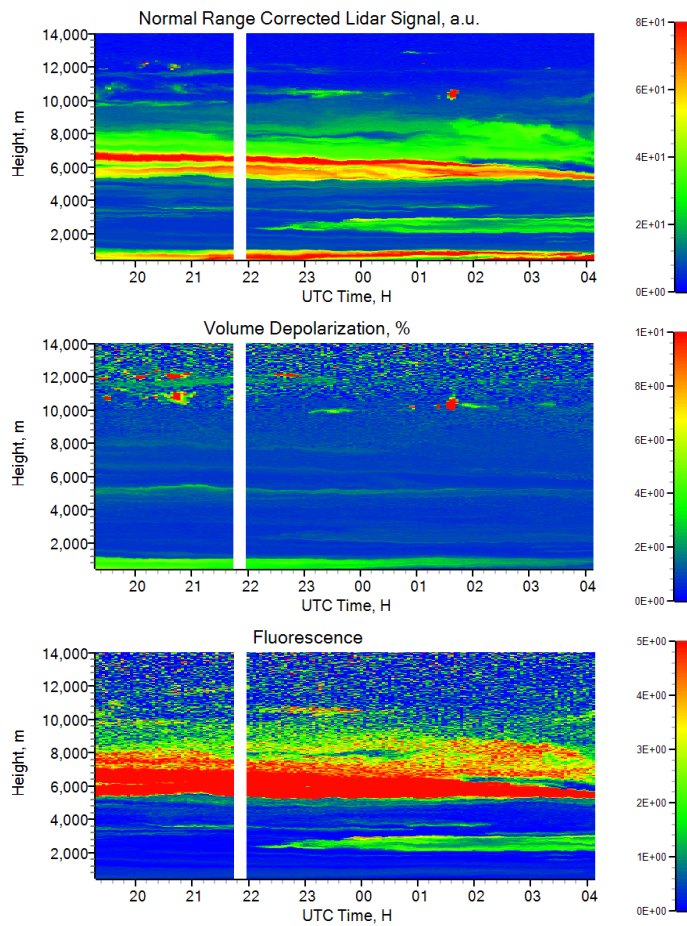


Fig.7. Formation of ice particles at heights above 10 km inside a smoke layer on 11-12 September 2020. (a) Range corrected lidar signal at 1064 nm, (b) volume depolarization ratio at 1064 nm and (c) fluorescence backscattering coefficient (in $10^{-4} \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$).

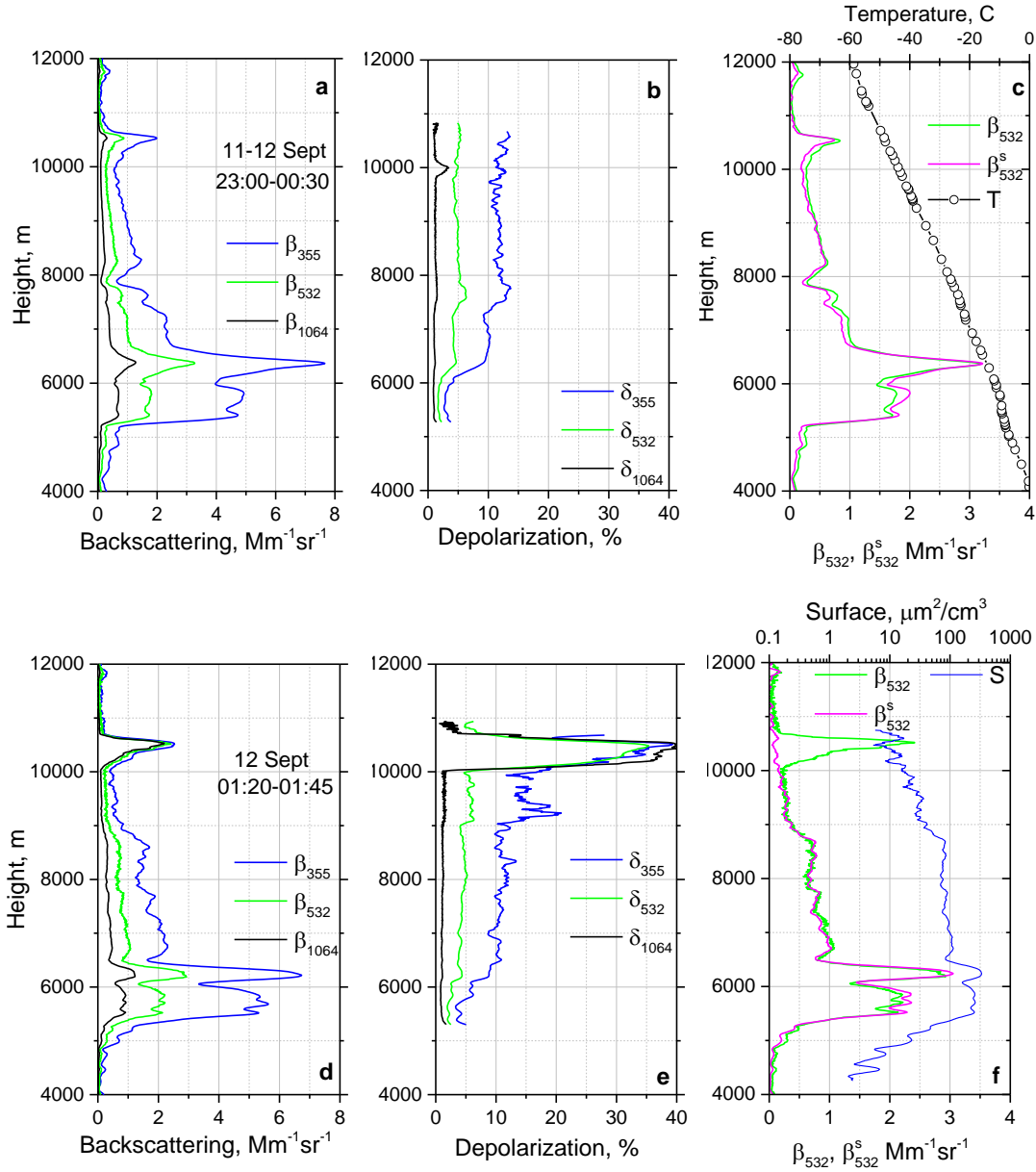


Fig.8. Formation of ice particles at 10-11 km height inside a smoke layer on 11-12 September 2020. Vertical profiles (a, d) of aerosol backscattering coefficients β_{355} , β_{532} , β_{1064} ; (b, e) the particle depolarization ratios δ_{355} , δ_{532} , δ_{1064} ; (c, f) backscattering coefficient β_{532} together with backscattering coefficient of smoke β_{532}^s , calculated from fluorescence backscattering β_F assuming $G_F=4.0\times10^{-4}$. Plot (f) shows also the surface area concentration S of the smoke particles calculated from β_F by applying the respective conversion factor in Eq. (4). Results are given for the time intervals 23:00 – 00:30 UTC and 01:20 – 01:45 UTC: prior and during ice cloud formation at 10.5 km height. The temperature profile measured by the radiosonde at Herstmonceux is shown with open symbols in panel (c).

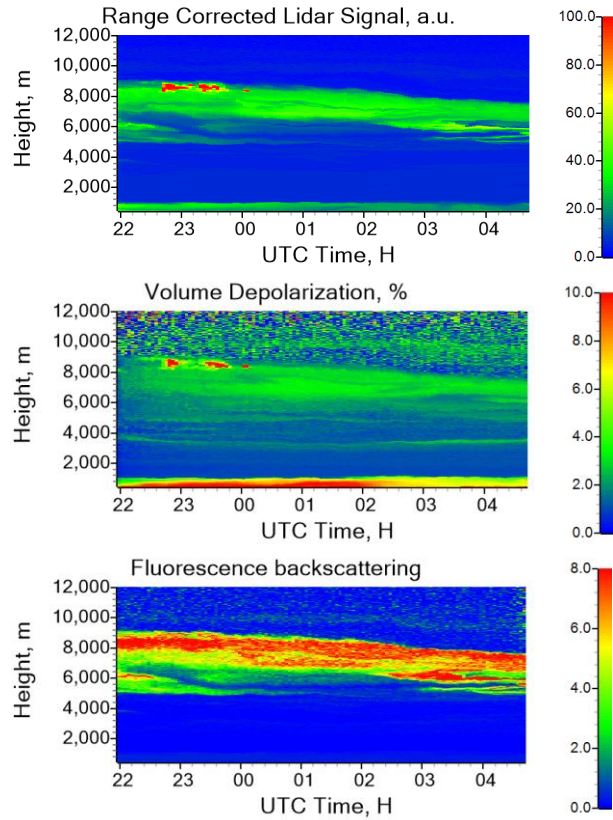
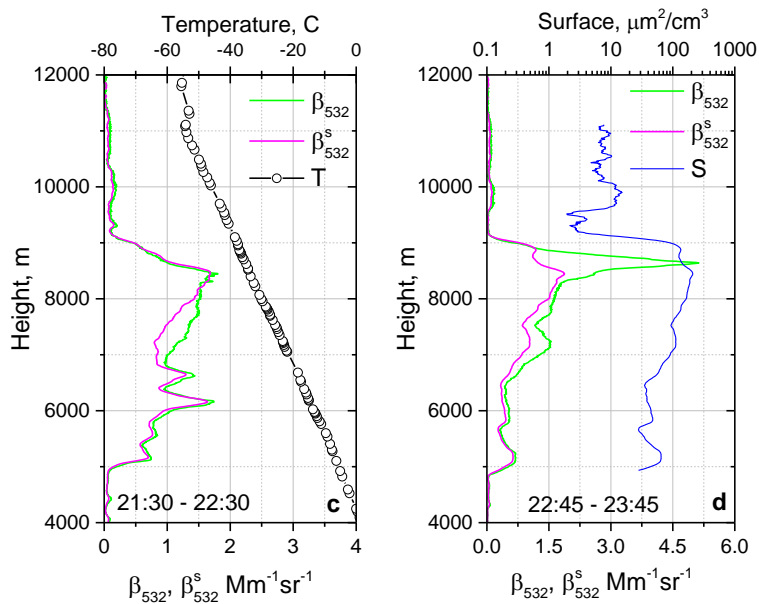
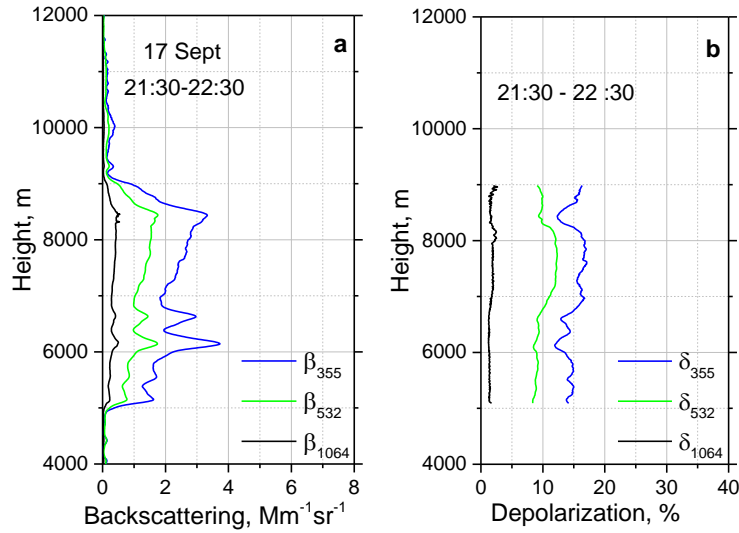


Fig.9. Formation of ice particles at heights above 8 km inside the smoke layer on 17-18 September 2020. (a) Range corrected lidar signal at 1064 nm, (b) volume depolarization ratio at 1064 nm and (c) fluorescence backscattering coefficient (in $10^{-4} \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$).



613 Fig.10. Formation of ice particles at 8.5-8.6 km height inside a smoke layer on 17 September
 614 2020. Vertical profiles of (a) aerosol backscattering coefficients β_{355} , β_{532} , β_{1064} ; (b) the particle
 615 depolarization ratios δ_{355} , δ_{532} , δ_{1064} ; (c, d) backscattering coefficient β_{532} together with
 616 backscattering coefficient of smoke β_{532}^s , calculated from fluorescence backscattering β_F
 617 assuming $G_F=3.5\times10^{-4}$. Results are given for the time intervals (a-c) 21:30 – 22:30 UTC and (d)
 618 22:45 – 23:45 UTC: prior and during ice formation at 8.5 km height. Plot (d) shows also the
 619 surface area concentration of the smoke particles calculated from β_F and by applying the
 620 respective conversion factor in Eq. (4). The temperature profile measured by the radiosonde at
 621 Herstmonceux is shown with open symbols in panel (c).
 622