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L2A+

Enhanced Aeolus L2A for depolarizing targets and impact on aerosol research and NWP

"ASKOS ground-based datasets in support of L2A+" Deliverable Item 02 [DI02] (Version 2.0)

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1. ESA-L2A+ DI02 – Overview

This document consists the Deliverable Item 02 (DI02) – Version 2 (V2) submitted to the European Space Agency (ESA) by the consortium of the project "Enhanced Aeolus L2A for depolarizing targets and impact on aerosol research and NWP" (L2A+). In accordance with WP2000, the V1 of the DI02 was initially submitted at KO + 6 months and updated at KO + 12 months.

The overall objective of WP2000 in L2A+ is to provide datasets of ground-based measurements conducted during ASKOS for the L2A+ product validation and model evaluation studies. In particular, a unique feature mask over Mindelo (D2) was created for this purpose, based on the Cloudnet and EARLINET lidar target categorization. Aerosol optical properties, wind speed (Mindelo), and radiosonde profiles obtained at Sal were also considered for the ASKOS measurement periods. Height-resolved dust properties are of high relevance for L2A+ and, therefore, POLIPHON (Mamouri and Ansmann 2014, 2016) was applied to the ground-based PollyXT lidar data to retrieve the estimation of the vertically-resolved dust fraction above Mindelo (D5). Due to the high importance of DI05 to L2A+ an earlier delivery of its V1 was succeeded at KO + 6 months, instead of the originally scheduled delivery at $KO + 12$. V2 of D₅ is delivered as scheduled at $KO + 12$ months.

2. Introduction

In June 2021, within the framework of the ASKOS/JATAC campaign at Mindelo, Cape Verde (2021- 2022), TROPOS deployed a ground-based, multiwavelength-Raman-polarization lidar PollyXT, a HALO wind lidar, a CIMEL sun-photometer, and an RPG microwave radiometer. All instruments were continuously measuring during all the ASKOS intensive measurement periods (September 2021, June, and September 2022).

All PollyXT lidar measurements and products have been publicly available in near-real-time via polly.tropos.de (last access: 10 January 2024).

In addition, an EarthCARE-like aerosol typing algorithm, HETEAC- Flex (Floutsi et al., 2023), was applied to the data from the ground-based lidar in Mindelo to retrieve the mixing ratio (in terms of relative volume) of four aerosol components (representing the most abundant aerosol types in nature) along with the volume concentration of mineral dust (described in detail in Section 6). Table 1 summarizes the different datasets provided within WP2000, along with their sources,

formats, availabilities and versions. In addition, tables with the complete variable list, dimensions and units for the most important WP2000 datasets is provided in the appendix. Currently, the dataset of WP2000 is hosted by NOA and the credential information can be found in DI05.

Table 1: Products delivered in the framework of L2A+ WP2000.

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3. Data set of time series of height-resolved feature mask over Mindelo for September 2021 including aerosol optical properties

A comprehensive overview of the PollyXT lidar measurements conducted during the ASKOS intensive measurement periods is shown in Fig. 1. The attenuated backscatter coefficient at 1064 nm (Fig. 1a, 1c, 1e) in combination with the volume depolarization ratio at 532 nm (Fig. 1b, 1d, 1f) reveal that the typical aerosol conditions above Mindelo are a clean marine boundary layer (MBL; nondepolarizing spherical particles), with a dust aerosol layer (depolarizing non-spherical particles) on top of that.

For the ASKOS intensive measurement months, a total number of 1469 profiles of aerosol optical properties were derived and delivered as part of D2.

Figure 1: Overview of the lidar attenuated backscatter coefficient at 1064 nm (left column) and volume depolarization ratio at 532 nm (right column) as retrieved from the PollyXT lidar during the ASKOS operations in September 2021 (a, b), June 2022 (c, d), and September 2022 (e, f).

Based on a synergistic use of lidar and radar, a novel cloud and feature mask has been created for Mindelo. To achieve this, the EARLINET automatic target categorization based on lidar data (Baars et al., 2017) is being used in combination with the Cloudnet classification (CLU 2023) retrieved in synergistic use with ESAs cloud radar. The final product, which is the combined target classification, utilizes the aerosol classification based on the lidar data and the cloud classification from radar in a common grid. An example of this new feature mask is provided in Fig. 2. On this day (15 September

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2021), we see that the MBL consists mainly of large, spherical aerosol (marine) with significant anthropogenic contributions (small aerosol) from around 06:00 to 20:00 UTC. After 20:00 UTC, liquid droplet clouds started to form. Above the MBL, between 2 and 4 km, a mineral dust aerosol layer was present. At around 12 km, a cirrus cloud was observed.

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The Cloudnet target classification is one of the highest-level products, i.e., it requires several information from multiple instruments. Therefore, the creation of this target classification failed relatively often (mainly due to technical problems with the cloud radar). This was the case for several days within the ASKOS intensive measurement periods, resulting in an availability of the combined target classification mask for a total of 55 days only.

Figure 2: Combined target classification from lidar and radar synergy for 15 September 2021 at Mindelo, Cabo Verde.

4. Documentation on time series of profiles of wind speed over Mindelo and radiosonde profiles obtained at Sal

Wind speed and direction

Doppler wind lidar measurements were acquired continuously during all the ASKOS intensive measurement periods. An overview of the wind speed (a, c, e) and direction (b, d, f) for the months of September 2021 (top row), June 2022 (middle row) and September 2022 (bottom row) is shown in Fig. 3. Horizontal wind can be derived in the PBL and in the SAL in case of sufficient backscatter signal. In cases of low aerosol load (e.g., on the 20 September 2021), no winds can be derived above the PBL.

Figure 3: Overview of the Doppler wind lidar derived wind speed (left) and direction (right) during the ASKOS operations in September 2021 (a, b), June 2022 (c, d), September 2022 (e, f).

Radiosonde profiles at Sal

Radiosondes releases (Borne et al., 2023) were performed daily at Sal airport, Sal, Cabo Verde between 07 and 29 September 2021. A total number of 39 releases were performed during that time. The radiosonde schedule, which was designed to align the radiosonde releases and the Aeolus overpasses, is summarized in Table 3.

Table 2: Weekly schedule of the radiosonde releases at Sal.

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5. Vertically-resolved dust profiles

POLIPHON is a powerful tool that among others can be used for the separation of dust and non-dust aerosol by combining the unique capabilities of the polarisation lidar with the well-established global aerosol optical and microphysical climatologies of AERONET. The POLIPHON (Mamouri and Ansmann 2014, 2016) analysis comprises two steps. The first step is the analysis of the polarisation lidar observations based on the different polarisation properties of the different aerosol types to obtain vertically-resolved profiles of dust and non-dust backscatter coefficients, and thus the backscatter-related dust fraction. Then, by means of the appropriate dust extinction-to-backscatter ratios (lidar ratios), the dust and non-dust backscatter coefficients are converted to the respective dust and non-dust extinction coefficients. The second step of the analysis is the derivation of the vertically-resolved profile of the dust mass concentration (for both fine and coarse dust particles) from the respective extinction coefficients by utilising extinction-to-volume conversion factors that were determined from AERONET observations. Further products that can be derived with the POLIPHON method include the particle number, surface area, and volume concentration for dust and non-dust aerosol components as well as CCN and INP concentrations. For the purposes of L2A+, the two step POLIPHON analysis was performed.

The input for the first step POLIPHON, are the PollyNET profiles of backscatter, extinction and particle linear depolarization ratio at all available wavelengths. The output are vertically resolved profiles of dust and non-dust backscatter and extinction coefficients, as demonstrated in Fig. 4 for the 532-nm backscatter coefficient on 10 September 2021 between 19:00 and 19:56 UTC (within the Aeolus overpass).

Figure 4: Dust (blue and red lines) and non-dust (green) contribution in terms of bbackscatter coefficient (PollyXT) as derived using the two-step POLIPHON methodology for Mindelo on 10 September 2021 between 19:00 and 19:56 UTC. On the second step, the dust contribution is further separated into coarse and fine mode (red dashed and dotted line, respectively).

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6. HETEAC-Flex

HETEAC-Flex is an aerosol typing scheme based on the optimal estimation method applicable to both ground-based and spaceborne lidars (Floutsi et al., 2023). HETEAC-Flex is an EarthCARE-like algorithm that it is consistent with HETEAC (Hybrid End-To-End Aerosol Classification), an aerosol classification model that was developed for the EarthCARE mission (Wandinger et al., 2023).

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HETEAC-Flex is being applied to retrieve the relative volume contribution of four different aerosol components, which comprise two fine (absorbing and non-absorbing) and two coarse-mode (spherical and non-spherical). The aerosol components represent the most common aerosol types observed in nature, i.e., smoke, pollution, marine and desert dust, respectively. The HETEAC-Flex results can be used to calculate additional products, including the number and volume concentration per aerosol component as well as the refractive index and effective radius of the mixture.

In Version 1 of DI02, HETEAC- Flex has been applied for the four Friday Aeolus overpasses of September 2021 (03, 10, 17 and 24). An example is shown in Fig. 5. Both, HETEAC-Flex and POLIPHON are consistent in identifying the dominance of desert dust in the aerosol layer. The nondust POLIPHON contributions can be quantitatively attributed to three aerosol components with HETEAC- Flex.

Figure 5: HETEAC-Flex results for the aerosol layer observed between 2.5 and 4 km above Mindelo on 10 September 2021 between 19:00 and 19:56 UTC. The relative volume contribution for Coarse Spherical (CS), Coarse Non-Spherical (CNS), Fine absorbing (FA) and fine none absorbing (FNA) is presented.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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Appendix

The unique height-resolved feature mask utilizes multiwavelength-Raman-polarization lidar, cloud radar and microwave radiometer data and allows for high-performance cloud and feature detection (Combined Cloudnet + EARLINET lidar target categorization).

Group Subgroup Variable Units Dimensions Description **FEATURE** MASK cloudnet LWP $\left| g/m^2 \right|$ 1D Liquid water path cloudnet_radar_gas_attenuation dB 2D Two-way radar attenuation due to atmospheric gases cloudnet radar liquid attenuation dB 2D Two-way radar attenuation due to liquid water
Doppler velocity $\lceil \text{m/s} \rceil \rceil$ and $\lceil \text{m/s} \rceil$ $\lceil \text{m/s} \rceil$ $\lceil \text{m/s} \rceil$ cloudnet_radar_width $|m/s|$ 2D Spectral width cloudnet_radar_Z dBZ 2D Radar reflectivity factor

The filenames follow the structure: "YYYYMMDD_regridded_data_for_mindelo.nc"

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The dataset also includes vertically-resolved aerosol optical properties derived from the PollyXT ground-based, multiwavelength, Raman, polarization lidar measurements.

The filenames follow the structure: "YYYY_MM_DD_weekday_CPV_HH_MM_SS_HHMM_HHMM_profiles.nc"

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The 1-step POLIPHON methodology was applied to the PollyXT ground-based lidar data to derive the height-resolved dust-only optical properties.

The filename follows the structure:

"YYYY_MM_DD_weekday_CPV_HH_MM_SS_HHMM_HHMM _POLIPHON_1.nc"

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