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

Received and published: 11 May 2020

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...
study from 2017.