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Supplement of

Collocation mismatch uncertainties in satellite aerosol retrieval validation

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| DIST (deg) | $\Delta t: 0.10$ h | | | | $\Delta t: 0.25$ h | | | | $\Delta t: 0.50$ h | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----|
| | R | τ_{ADV} | τ_{AERO} | N | R | τ_{ADV} | τ_{AERO} | N | R | τ_{ADV} | τ_{AERO} | N |
| 0.05 | 0.926 | 0.215 | 0.199 | 92 | 0.914 | 0.220 | 0.197 | 139 | 0.897 | 0.226 | 0.199 | 168 |
| 0.10 | 0.885 | 0.226 | 0.189 | 118 | 0.904 | 0.241 | 0.201 | 189 | 0.906 | 0.241 | 0.201 | 222 |
| 0.15 | 0.939 | 0.222 | 0.188 | 126 | 0.927 | 0.237 | 0.198 | 203 | 0.929 | 0.238 | 0.197 | 237 |
| 0.20 | 0.936 | 0.218 | 0.184 | 133 | 0.938 | 0.230 | 0.195 | 210 | 0.934 | 0.233 | 0.194 | 248 |
| 0.30 | 0.942 | 0.217 | 0.183 | 138 | 0.939 | 0.230 | 0.195 | 218 | 0.934 | 0.232 | 0.194 | 256 |
| 0.40 | 0.946 | 0.214 | 0.180 | 141 | 0.945 | 0.226 | 0.192 | 222 | 0.941 | 0.230 | 0.193 | 261 |
| 0.50 | 0.944 | 0.212 | 0.178 | 144 | 0.944 | 0.224 | 0.190 | 226 | 0.942 | 0.228 | 0.191 | 265 |
| 0.60 | 0.943 | 0.212 | 0.178 | 144 | 0.945 | 0.225 | 0.192 | 227 | 0.943 | 0.229 | 0.193 | 266 |
| 0.70 | 0.942 | 0.211 | 0.178 | 144 | 0.944 | 0.224 | 0.192 | 227 | 0.942 | 0.227 | 0.193 | 266 |
| 1.00 | 0.942 | 0.208 | 0.178 | 144 | 0.941 | 0.221 | 0.192 | 227 | 0.938 | 0.225 | 0.193 | 266 |
| DIST (deg) | $\Delta t: 1.00$ h | | | | $\Delta t: 1.50$ h | | | | $\Delta t: 2.00$ h | | | |
| | R | τ_{ADV} | τ_{AERO} | N | R | τ_{ADV} | τ_{AERO} | N | R | τ_{ADV} | τ_{AERO} | N |
| 0.05 | 0.882 | 0.228 | 0.202 | 189 | 0.875 | 0.229 | 0.199 | 196 | 0.868 | 0.234 | 0.199 | 203 |
| 0.10 | 0.894 | 0.249 | 0.206 | 256 | 0.893 | 0.249 | 0.204 | 265 | 0.888 | 0.251 | 0.203 | 273 |
| 0.15 | 0.921 | 0.249 | 0.204 | 273 | 0.920 | 0.248 | 0.201 | 284 | 0.915 | 0.250 | 0.201 | 293 |
| 0.20 | 0.929 | 0.243 | 0.201 | 285 | 0.929 | 0.242 | 0.198 | 296 | 0.916 | 0.246 | 0.197 | 307 |
| 0.30 | 0.923 | 0.243 | 0.201 | 294 | 0.922 | 0.246 | 0.201 | 308 | 0.916 | 0.249 | 0.199 | 319 |
| 0.40 | 0.935 | 0.241 | 0.201 | 300 | 0.935 | 0.244 | 0.201 | 314 | 0.926 | 0.248 | 0.200 | 326 |
| 0.50 | 0.934 | 0.239 | 0.199 | 304 | 0.936 | 0.244 | 0.201 | 320 | 0.925 | 0.250 | 0.201 | 333 |
| 0.60 | 0.937 | 0.239 | 0.201 | 305 | 0.936 | 0.245 | 0.202 | 321 | 0.926 | 0.250 | 0.203 | 334 |
| 0.70 | 0.936 | 0.238 | 0.201 | 305 | 0.935 | 0.244 | 0.202 | 321 | 0.925 | 0.249 | 0.203 | 334 |
| 1.00 | 0.933 | 0.236 | 0.201 | 305 | 0.934 | 0.241 | 0.202 | 321 | 0.924 | 0.247 | 0.203 | 334 |

Table S1: Dependence of the AOD correlation coefficient R , the average AOD of the matching cases for AATSR (τ_{ADV}) and for AERONET (τ_{AERO}), and the number of matches N on the sampling parameters d and Δt , as shown in Fig. 4.

| DIST (deg) | $\Delta t: 0.10$ h | | | | $\Delta t: 0.25$ h | | | | $\Delta t: 0.50$ h | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|
| | R_σ | σ_{ADV} | σ_{AERO} | N_σ | R_σ | σ_{ADV} | σ_{AERO} | N_σ | R_σ | σ_{ADV} | σ_{AERO} | N_σ |
| 0.05 | NaN | NaN | NaN | 0 | NaN | NaN | NaN | 0 | NaN | NaN | NaN | 0 |
| 0.10 | 0.475 | 0.057 | 0.018 | 7 | 0.207 | 0.044 | 0.016 | 16 | 0.340 | 0.047 | 0.019 | 21 |
| 0.15 | 0.101 | 0.052 | 0.018 | 35 | 0.021 | 0.044 | 0.019 | 77 | 0.019 | 0.055 | 0.020 | 113 |
| 0.20 | 0.216 | 0.061 | 0.022 | 71 | 0.256 | 0.059 | 0.021 | 142 | 0.150 | 0.066 | 0.021 | 185 |
| 0.30 | 0.141 | 0.066 | 0.023 | 105 | 0.292 | 0.065 | 0.023 | 191 | 0.201 | 0.069 | 0.023 | 231 |
| 0.40 | 0.265 | 0.069 | 0.025 | 122 | 0.382 | 0.068 | 0.024 | 203 | 0.342 | 0.072 | 0.025 | 243 |
| 0.50 | 0.198 | 0.072 | 0.026 | 132 | 0.393 | 0.071 | 0.028 | 218 | 0.348 | 0.075 | 0.028 | 258 |
| 0.60 | 0.188 | 0.077 | 0.027 | 136 | 0.380 | 0.075 | 0.029 | 221 | 0.367 | 0.078 | 0.029 | 260 |
| 0.70 | 0.280 | 0.079 | 0.030 | 141 | 0.406 | 0.076 | 0.030 | 225 | 0.395 | 0.079 | 0.029 | 263 |
| 1.00 | 0.358 | 0.080 | 0.031 | 144 | 0.476 | 0.077 | 0.030 | 225 | 0.461 | 0.080 | 0.030 | 263 |
| DIST (deg) | $\Delta t: 1.00$ h | | | | $\Delta t: 1.50$ h | | | | $\Delta t: 2.00$ h | | | |
| | R_σ | σ_{ADV} | σ_{AERO} | N_σ | R_σ | σ_{ADV} | σ_{AERO} | N_σ | R_σ | σ_{ADV} | σ_{AERO} | N_σ |
| 0.05 | NaN | NaN | NaN | 0 | NaN | NaN | NaN | 0 | NaN | NaN | NaN | 0 |
| 0.10 | 0.258 | 0.054 | 0.020 | 26 | 0.392 | 0.061 | 0.018 | 28 | 0.304 | 0.063 | 0.018 | 30 |
| 0.15 | 0.021 | 0.067 | 0.022 | 142 | 0.056 | 0.066 | 0.020 | 148 | 0.022 | 0.066 | 0.020 | 156 |
| 0.20 | 0.284 | 0.070 | 0.023 | 224 | 0.235 | 0.070 | 0.021 | 238 | 0.179 | 0.071 | 0.022 | 248 |
| 0.30 | 0.353 | 0.072 | 0.024 | 272 | 0.348 | 0.072 | 0.023 | 288 | 0.253 | 0.074 | 0.023 | 300 |
| 0.40 | 0.505 | 0.076 | 0.026 | 283 | 0.507 | 0.077 | 0.025 | 297 | 0.470 | 0.079 | 0.026 | 309 |
| 0.50 | 0.473 | 0.078 | 0.028 | 298 | 0.475 | 0.079 | 0.026 | 314 | 0.462 | 0.080 | 0.027 | 327 |
| 0.60 | 0.476 | 0.082 | 0.029 | 301 | 0.467 | 0.083 | 0.027 | 320 | 0.461 | 0.084 | 0.028 | 333 |
| 0.70 | 0.511 | 0.084 | 0.030 | 305 | 0.488 | 0.084 | 0.028 | 321 | 0.491 | 0.086 | 0.028 | 334 |
| 1.00 | 0.572 | 0.085 | 0.030 | 305 | 0.551 | 0.086 | 0.028 | 321 | 0.558 | 0.087 | 0.028 | 334 |

Table S2: Dependence of the AOD variability correlation coefficient R_σ , the average spatial standard deviation of AOD over the matching cases for AATSR (σ_{ADV}) and for AERONET ($\sigma_{\text{AERO}}^{\text{NEAR}}$), and the number of matches N_σ on the sampling parameters d and Δt , as shown in Fig. 6. Here we have applied the thresholds $N_{\text{ADV}} > 2$ and $N_{\text{NEAR}} > 2$.

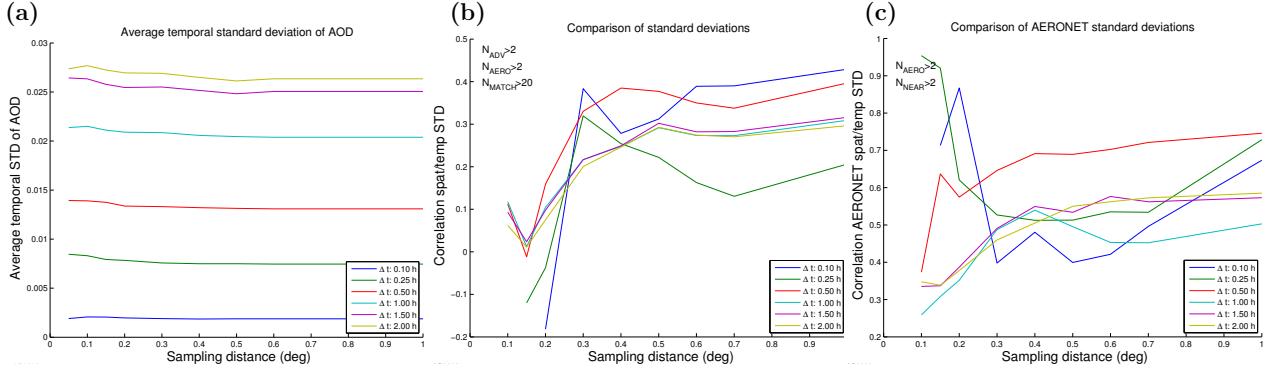


Figure S1: (a) Dependence of the standard deviation of AERONET AOD observations within the temporal sampling window on the sampling parameters. (b) Correlation between the temporal variability of AERONET AOD and the spatial variability of AATSR AOD (for collocated matches) as function of the sampling distance for various temporal sampling window sizes. Here we have required that the number of samples for AATSR and AERONET is at least 3 and the number of remaining matches is at least 20. (c) Same as (b), but for the spatial variability from nearby AERONET sites.

| Date | Time | | ΔAOD | AATSR | | | AERONET | | | MODIS | | |
|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| | AATSR | MODIS | | N | AOD | STD | N | AOD | STD | N | AOD | STD |
| 06/03 | 15:30 | 16:50 | 0.04 | 124 | 0.11 | 0.065 | 9 | 0.07 | 0.004 | 31 | 0.06 | 0.041 |
| 06/08 | 15:46 | 15:30 | 0.02 | 110 | 0.30 | 0.086 | 20 | 0.29 | 0.031 | 45 | 0.40 | 0.063 |
| 06/30 | 15:40 | 16:30 | 0.04 | 118 | 0.12 | 0.095 | 26 | 0.08 | 0.016 | 35 | 0.06 | 0.051 |
| 07/11 | 15:37 | 16:15 | 0.00 | 103 | 0.43 | 0.084 | 24 | 0.43 | 0.035 | 89 | 0.51 | 0.078 |
| 07/14 | 15:27 | 16:45 | 0.06 | 79 | 0.11 | 0.080 | 30 | 0.05 | 0.010 | 34 | 0.04 | 0.038 |
| 07/19 | 15:44 | - | 0.13 | 27 | 0.73 | 0.139 | 8 | 0.60 | 0.128 | - | - | - |
| 07/22 | 15:34 | 15:55 | -0.00 | 125 | 0.42 | 0.069 | 30 | 0.42 | 0.038 | 82 | 0.53 | 0.063 |
| 07/27 | 15:50 | 16:15 | 0.01 | 78 | 0.06 | 0.033 | 35 | 0.05 | 0.011 | 81 | 0.06 | 0.032 |
| 07/30 | 15:41 | 16:45 | -0.01 | 101 | 0.09 | 0.051 | 34 | 0.10 | 0.017 | 23 | 0.12 | 0.044 |
| 08/02 | 15:31 | 15:35 | 0.05 | 119 | 0.21 | 0.112 | 28 | 0.16 | 0.050 | 47 | 0.27 | 0.089 |
| 08/07 | 15:47 | - | -0.07 | 18 | 0.47 | 0.178 | 3 | 0.54 | 0.084 | - | - | - |
| 08/10 | 15:37 | - | 0.15 | 46 | 0.25 | 0.149 | 19 | 0.10 | 0.014 | - | - | - |

Table S3: Daily comparison of AATSR, AERONET, and MODIS results averaged over the whole study area, as shown in Fig. 7. 'Time' shows the AATSR overpass time and the corresponding value for the nearest MODIS Terra orbit with data. $\Delta\text{AOD} = \tau_{\text{AATSR}} - \tau_{\text{AERO}}$, N is the number of valid pixels (AATSR and MODIS) or the number of sites with data at the overpass time (AERONET), 'AOD' is the AOD averaged over the whole area, and 'STD' is the standard deviation of AOD in the area. The AERONET data is first averaged over a one hour time window centered at the overpass time. For MODIS we use a single Terra orbit closest in time to the AATSR overpass.

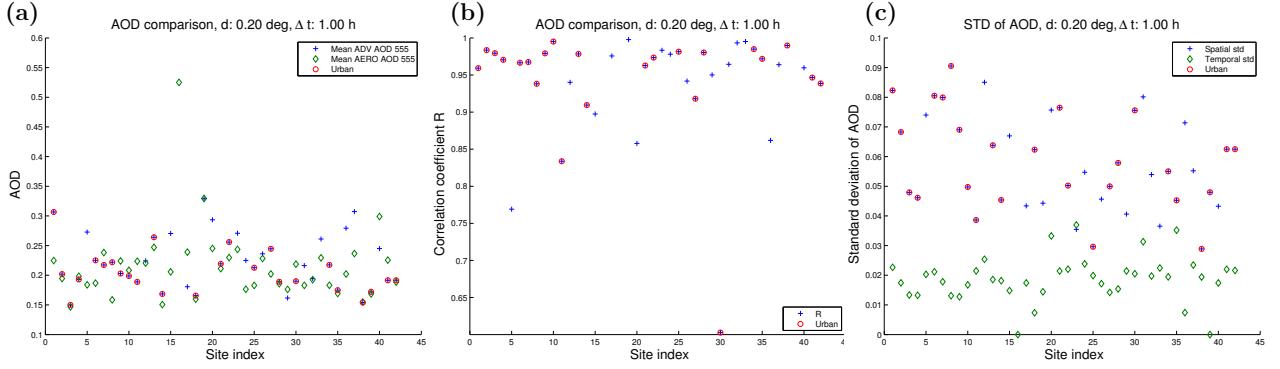


Figure S2: Comparison of AOD and standard deviation of AOD between AATSR and AERONET does not differ systematically between urban and rural sites. The urban sites are marked with red circles. **(a)** Average AATSR and AERONET AOD for individual sites over the study period. **(b)** The correlation coefficient R between AATSR and AERONET AOD for individual sites. For one of the sites (DRAGON_Padonia) the AOD correlation coefficient is particularly low (0.6) for the selected sampling parameters ($d=0.2^\circ$, $\Delta t = 1 \text{ h}$), but not necessarily for other sampling parameters. **(c)** The average spatial standard deviation of AOD for AATSR and the corresponding temporal standard deviation of AERONET AOD for individual sites.

| Ind | Site name | URB | N_m | AATSR | | AERO | | R | $\Delta\tau$ |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----|-------|-------|----------|------|----------|------|--------------|
| | | | | AOD | σ | AOD | σ | | |
| 1 | DRAGON_ABERD | 1 | 9 | 0.31 | 0.08 | 0.22 | 0.02 | 0.96 | 0.08 |
| 2 | DRAGON_ANNEA | 1 | 8 | 0.20 | 0.07 | 0.19 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.01 |
| 3 | DRAGON_ARNCC | 1 | 10 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 0.15 | 0.01 | 0.98 | 0.00 |
| 4 | DRAGON_ARNLS | 1 | 7 | 0.19 | 0.05 | 0.20 | 0.01 | 0.97 | -0.01 |
| 5 | DRAGON_Aldino | 0 | 13 | 0.27 | 0.07 | 0.18 | 0.02 | 0.77 | 0.09 |
| 6 | DRAGON_BATMR | 1 | 10 | 0.23 | 0.08 | 0.19 | 0.02 | 0.97 | 0.04 |
| 7 | DRAGON_BLDND | 1 | 11 | 0.22 | 0.08 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.97 | -0.02 |
| 8 | DRAGON_BLLRT | 1 | 8 | 0.22 | 0.09 | 0.16 | 0.01 | 0.94 | 0.06 |
| 9 | DRAGON_BLTCC | 1 | 8 | 0.20 | 0.07 | 0.22 | 0.01 | 0.98 | -0.02 |
| 10 | DRAGON_BLTNR | 1 | 8 | 0.20 | 0.05 | 0.21 | 0.02 | 1.00 | -0.01 |
| 11 | DRAGON_BOWEM | 1 | 11 | 0.19 | 0.04 | 0.22 | 0.02 | 0.83 | -0.03 |
| 12 | DRAGON_BTMDL | 0 | 9 | 0.22 | 0.09 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 0.94 | 0.00 |
| 13 | DRAGON_Beltsville | 1 | 10 | 0.26 | 0.06 | 0.25 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.02 |
| 14 | DRAGON_CLLGP | 1 | 10 | 0.17 | 0.05 | 0.15 | 0.02 | 0.91 | 0.02 |
| 15 | DRAGON_CLRST | 0 | 10 | 0.27 | 0.07 | 0.21 | 0.01 | 0.90 | 0.06 |
| 16 | DRAGON_CPSDN | 0 | 1 | NaN | NaN | 0.53 | 0.00 | NaN | NaN |
| 17 | DRAGON_EDCMS | 0 | 14 | 0.18 | 0.04 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.98 | -0.06 |
| 18 | DRAGON_ELLCT | 1 | 3 | 0.17 | 0.06 | 0.16 | 0.01 | NaN | 0.01 |
| 19 | DRAGON_EaglePoint | 0 | 4 | 0.33 | 0.04 | 0.33 | 0.01 | 1.00 | -0.00 |
| 20 | DRAGON_Edgewood | 0 | 14 | 0.29 | 0.08 | 0.25 | 0.03 | 0.86 | 0.05 |
| 21 | DRAGON_Essex | 1 | 13 | 0.22 | 0.08 | 0.21 | 0.02 | 0.96 | 0.01 |
| 22 | DRAGON_FLLST | 1 | 12 | 0.26 | 0.05 | 0.23 | 0.02 | 0.97 | 0.03 |
| 23 | DRAGON_FairHill | 0 | 13 | 0.27 | 0.04 | 0.24 | 0.04 | 0.98 | 0.03 |
| 24 | DRAGON_KentIsland | 0 | 10 | 0.22 | 0.05 | 0.18 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.05 |
| 25 | DRAGON_LAUMD | 1 | 5 | 0.21 | 0.03 | 0.18 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.03 |
| 26 | DRAGON_MNKTN | 0 | 10 | 0.24 | 0.05 | 0.23 | 0.02 | 0.94 | 0.01 |
| 27 | DRAGON_OLNES | 1 | 12 | 0.24 | 0.05 | 0.20 | 0.01 | 0.92 | 0.04 |
| 28 | DRAGON_ONNGS | 1 | 10 | 0.19 | 0.06 | 0.19 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.00 |
| 29 | DRAGON_PATUX | 0 | 9 | 0.16 | 0.04 | 0.18 | 0.02 | 0.95 | -0.01 |
| 30 | DRAGON_Padonia | 1 | 7 | 0.19 | 0.08 | 0.22 | 0.02 | 0.60 | -0.03 |
| 31 | DRAGON_Pasadena | 0 | 8 | 0.22 | 0.08 | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0.96 | 0.03 |
| 32 | DRAGON_PineyOrchard | 0 | 7 | 0.19 | 0.05 | 0.19 | 0.02 | 0.99 | 0.00 |
| 33 | DRAGON_Pylesville | 0 | 9 | 0.26 | 0.04 | 0.23 | 0.02 | 1.00 | 0.03 |
| 34 | DRAGON_SPBRK | 1 | 12 | 0.22 | 0.06 | 0.18 | 0.02 | 0.98 | 0.03 |
| 35 | DRAGON_UMRLB | 1 | 8 | 0.17 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0.04 | 0.97 | 0.01 |
| 36 | DRAGON_WSTFD | 0 | 8 | 0.28 | 0.07 | 0.20 | 0.01 | 0.86 | 0.08 |
| 37 | DRAGON_Worton | 0 | 8 | 0.31 | 0.06 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.96 | 0.07 |
| 38 | GSFC | 1 | 9 | 0.15 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.02 | 0.99 | -0.00 |
| 39 | MD_Science_Center | 1 | 3 | 0.17 | 0.05 | 0.17 | 0.00 | NaN | 0.00 |
| 40 | SERC | 0 | 6 | 0.24 | 0.04 | 0.30 | 0.02 | 0.96 | -0.05 |
| 41 | UMBC | 1 | 10 | 0.19 | 0.06 | 0.23 | 0.02 | 0.95 | -0.03 |
| 42 | UMBC_temp | 1 | 10 | 0.19 | 0.06 | 0.19 | 0.02 | 0.94 | 0.00 |
| Average | | 0.6 | 9.0 | 0.22 | 0.06 | 0.21 | 0.02 | 0.94 | 0.03 |
| Aver. (urban) | | 1.0 | 9.0 | 0.20 | 0.06 | 0.20 | 0.02 | 0.94 | 0.02 |
| Aver. (non-urban) | | 0.0 | 9.0 | 0.25 | 0.06 | 0.24 | 0.02 | 0.94 | 0.04 |

Table S4: AOD comparison between AATSR and individual AERONET sites in the study area for the study period. Column 'URB' is 1 for urban sites, 0 for non-urban sites. Column ' N_m ' gives the number of matches i.e. the number of AATSR overpasses in cloud-free conditions. For AATSR we show the average AOD and the average spatial standard deviation. For AERONET we show the average AOD and the average temporal standard deviation. Column 'R' shows the correlation coefficient for the collocated AOD values, and $\Delta\tau$ shows the average difference in AOD. The averages over the columns are calculated for all sites, for the 25 urban sites, and for the 17 non-urban sites, respectively. The sampling parameters used in this comparison are $d=0.20^\circ$, $\Delta t=1.00$ h.

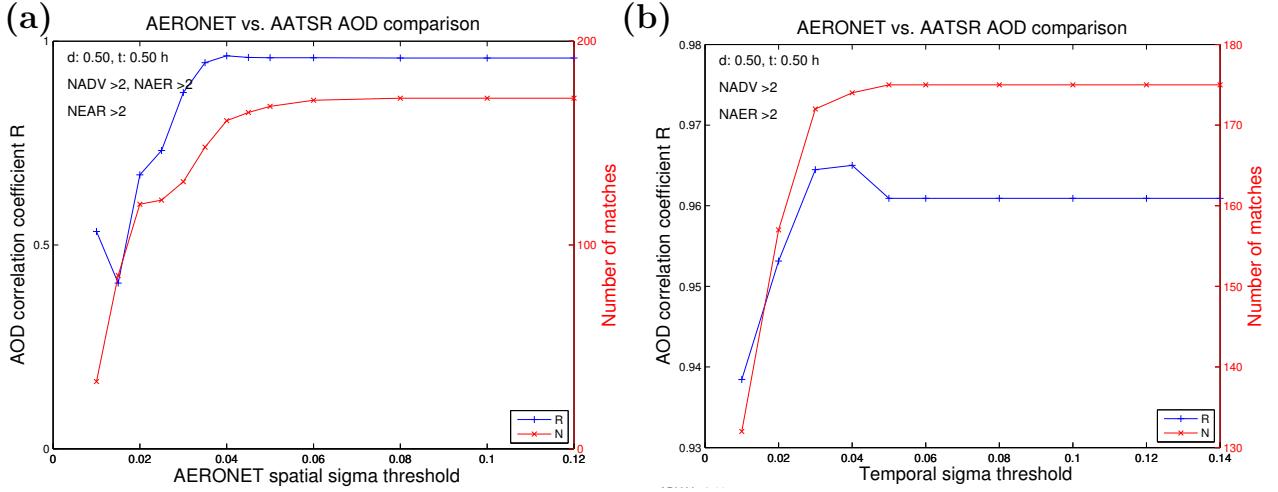


Figure S3: (a) Effect of spatial standard deviation threshold from AERONET data on the AOD correlation R . The blue line shows the AOD correlation coefficient R (left y-axis) and the red lines shows the number of remaining matches N (right y-axis) after the threshold has been applied. (b) Effect of temporal standard deviation threshold on the AOD correlation R . Here we have required that the number of samples is at least 3 when calculating the standard deviations.

| N_{ADV} | N | R | N_{AERO} | N | R | σ_{RTOA} | N | R | N_{NEAR} | N | R |
|------------------|-----|-------|-------------------|-----|-------|------------------------|-----|-------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| 0 | 248 | 0.934 | 0 | 248 | 0.934 | 0.002 | 0 | NaN | 0 | 235 | 0.930 |
| 1 | 247 | 0.934 | 1 | 203 | 0.957 | 0.004 | 15 | 0.976 | 1 | 218 | 0.944 |
| 2 | 236 | 0.935 | 2 | 164 | 0.960 | 0.005 | 47 | 0.927 | 2 | 190 | 0.942 |
| 3 | 224 | 0.927 | 3 | 125 | 0.964 | 0.006 | 94 | 0.923 | 3 | 170 | 0.949 |
| 4 | 216 | 0.940 | 4 | 75 | 0.958 | 0.007 | 157 | 0.944 | 4 | 137 | 0.946 |
| 5 | 205 | 0.960 | 5 | 32 | 0.952 | 0.008 | 191 | 0.946 | 5 | 113 | 0.964 |
| 6 | 186 | 0.971 | 6 | 27 | 0.970 | 0.010 | 237 | 0.946 | 6 | 88 | 0.971 |
| 7 | 174 | 0.972 | 7 | 26 | 0.968 | 0.012 | 246 | 0.939 | 7 | 64 | 0.975 |
| 8 | 153 | 0.974 | 8 | 25 | 0.981 | 0.014 | 246 | 0.939 | 8 | 37 | 0.975 |
| 9 | 120 | 0.974 | 9 | 24 | 0.979 | 0.016 | 247 | 0.937 | 9 | 29 | 0.978 |
| 10 | 90 | 0.973 | 10 | 23 | 0.979 | 0.018 | 247 | 0.937 | 10 | 18 | 0.975 |
| 11 | 69 | 0.966 | | | | 0.020 | 248 | 0.934 | | | |
| 12 | 39 | 0.945 | | | | | | | | | |

Table S5: The AOD correlation coefficients R and number of matches N when various thresholds are applied as shown in Fig. S4. Sampling distance is $d = 0.2^\circ$ and $\Delta t = 0.5h$. Columns N_{ADV} , N_{AERO} , and N_{NEAR} give the lower thresholds for the corresponding parameters, while column σ_{RTOA} gives an upper threshold.

| N_{ADV} | N_σ | R_σ | N_{AERO} | N_σ | R_σ | σ_{RTOA} | N_σ | R_σ | N_{NEAR} | N_σ | R_σ |
|------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| 0 | 265 | 0.325 | 0 | 265 | 0.325 | 0.002 | 0 | NaN | 0 | 265 | 0.325 |
| 1 | 265 | 0.325 | 1 | 219 | 0.224 | 0.004 | 1 | NaN | 1 | 263 | 0.397 |
| 2 | 262 | 0.393 | 2 | 178 | 0.267 | 0.005 | 40 | 0.843 | 2 | 260 | 0.389 |
| 3 | 259 | 0.415 | 3 | 138 | 0.248 | 0.006 | 145 | 0.583 | 3 | 256 | 0.364 |
| 4 | 259 | 0.415 | 4 | 83 | 0.407 | 0.007 | 205 | 0.578 | 4 | 247 | 0.334 |
| 5 | 258 | 0.411 | 5 | 33 | 0.226 | 0.008 | 241 | 0.541 | 5 | 241 | 0.313 |
| 6 | 256 | 0.362 | 6 | 28 | 0.260 | 0.010 | 251 | 0.413 | 6 | 239 | 0.312 |
| 7 | 255 | 0.361 | 7 | 27 | 0.288 | 0.012 | 265 | 0.325 | 7 | 237 | 0.309 |
| 8 | 254 | 0.355 | 8 | 26 | 0.394 | 0.014 | 265 | 0.325 | 8 | 236 | 0.307 |
| 9 | 252 | 0.347 | 9 | 25 | 0.408 | 0.016 | 265 | 0.325 | 9 | 236 | 0.307 |
| 10 | 249 | 0.347 | 10 | 24 | 0.308 | 0.018 | 265 | 0.325 | 10 | 234 | 0.317 |
| 11 | 248 | 0.343 | | | | 0.020 | 265 | 0.325 | | | |
| 12 | 245 | 0.321 | | | | | | | | | |

Table S6: The AOD variability correlation coefficients R_σ and number of matches N_σ when various thresholds are applied as shown in Fig. S5. Sampling distance is $d = 0.5^\circ$ and $\Delta t = 0.5h$. Columns N_{ADV} , N_{AERO} , N_{NEAR} , and σ_{RTOA} give the thresholds as explained in Table S5.

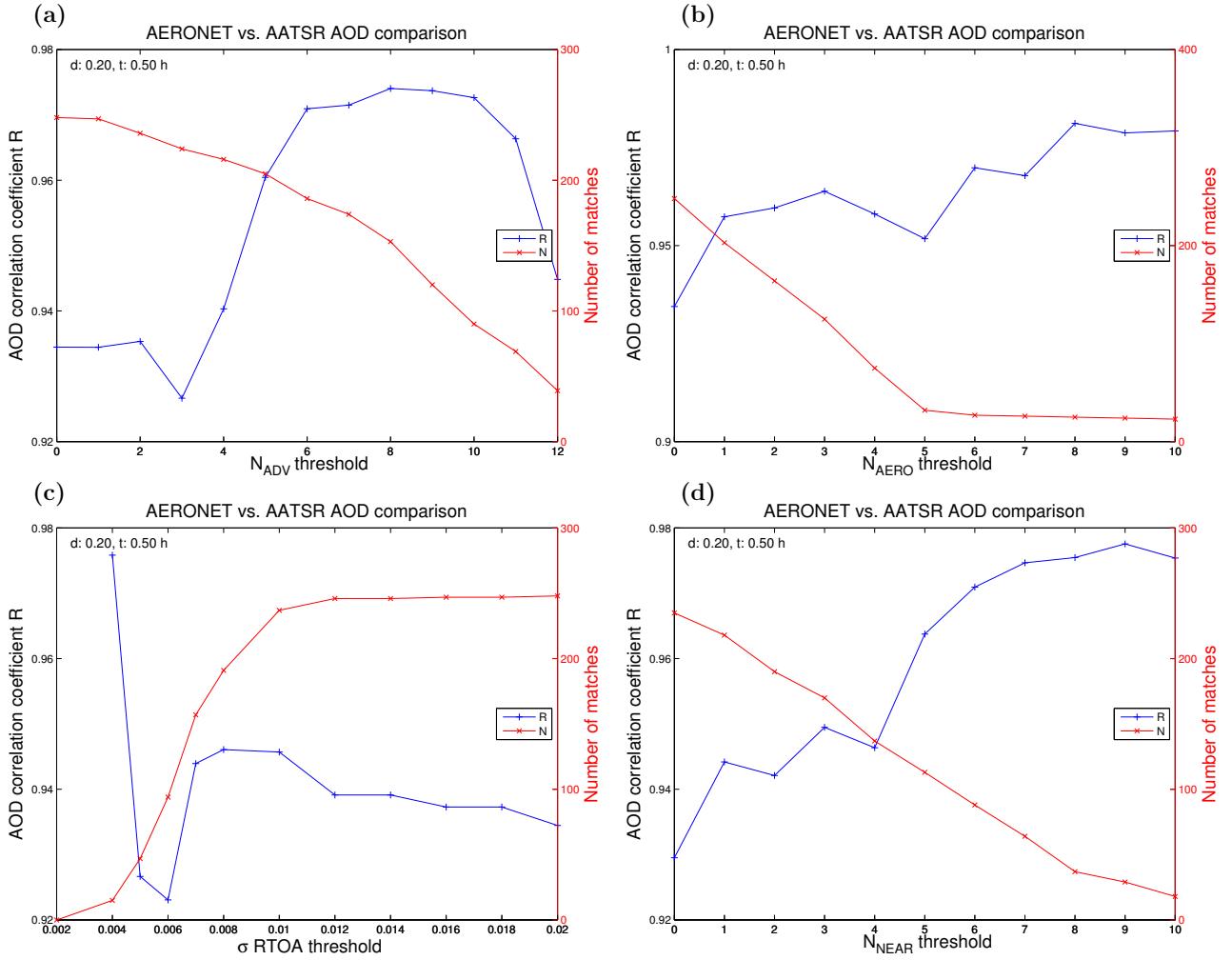


Figure S4: Effect of N_{ADV} , N_{AERO} , σ_{RTOA} , and $N_{\text{NEAR}}^{\text{near}}$ thresholds on AOD comparison. The blue lines show the correlation coefficient (left y-axis) while the red lines show the number of matches between AATSR and AERONET (right y-axis). Sampling distance is $d = 0.2^\circ$ and $\Delta t = 0.5\text{h}$. The numerical data is shown in Table S5.

| N_{ADV} | Thresholds | | | | AOD | | Std of AOD | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|-----|-------|------------|------------|
| | N_{AERO} | N_{NEAR} | σ_{RTOA} | | N | R | N_σ | R_σ |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.008 | | 239 | 0.963 | 239 | 0.589 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.006 | | 143 | 0.951 | 143 | 0.672 |
| 2 | 0 | 2 | 0.006 | | 141 | 0.951 | 141 | 0.668 |
| 2 | 2 | 0 | 0.006 | | 110 | 0.975 | 110 | 0.558 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 0.006 | | 108 | 0.975 | 108 | 0.545 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 0.006 | | 143 | 0.951 | 143 | 0.672 |

Table S7: Mixed thresholds optimized to improve AOD variability correlation for sampling parameters $d = 0.5^\circ$, $\Delta t = 0.5\text{ h}$. Columns N_{ADV} , N_{AERO} , N_{NEAR} , and σ_{RTOA} give the thresholds as explained in Table S5. Column R shows the correlation coefficient between AATSR and AERONET AOD data, N is the number of matches for the AOD comparison, R_σ is the correlation between the AOD standard deviations in the sampling area calculated from AATSR and AERONET data, and N_σ is the corresponding number of matches. (N and N_σ are not necessarily always the same since a minimum number of nearby sites is always required for calculating σ_{AOD} .)

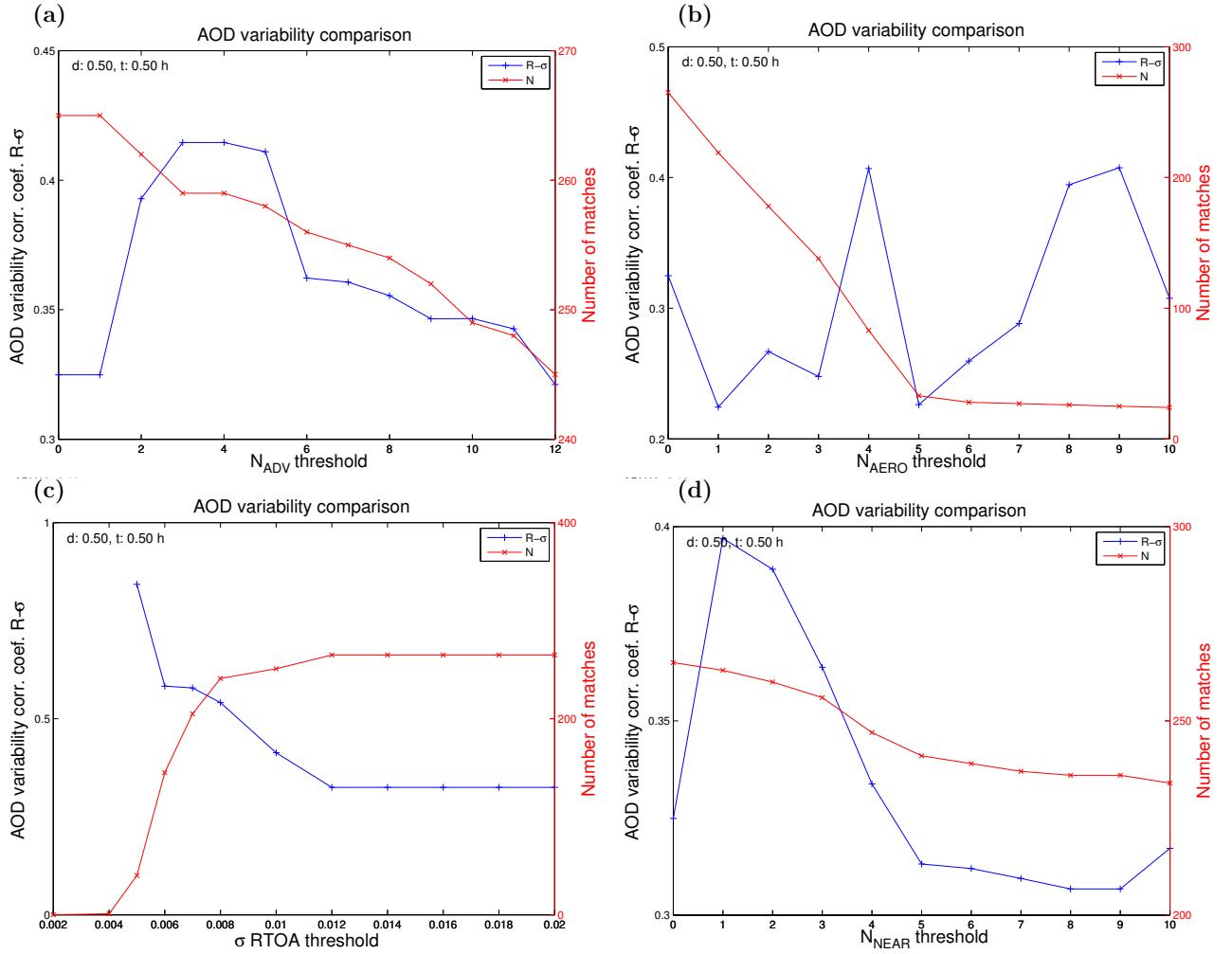


Figure S5: Same as Fig. S4, but for AOD variability (σ_{AOD}) comparison. Here we use a larger sampling radius $d = 0.5^\circ$, and $\Delta t = 0.5h$. The numerical data is shown in Table S6.

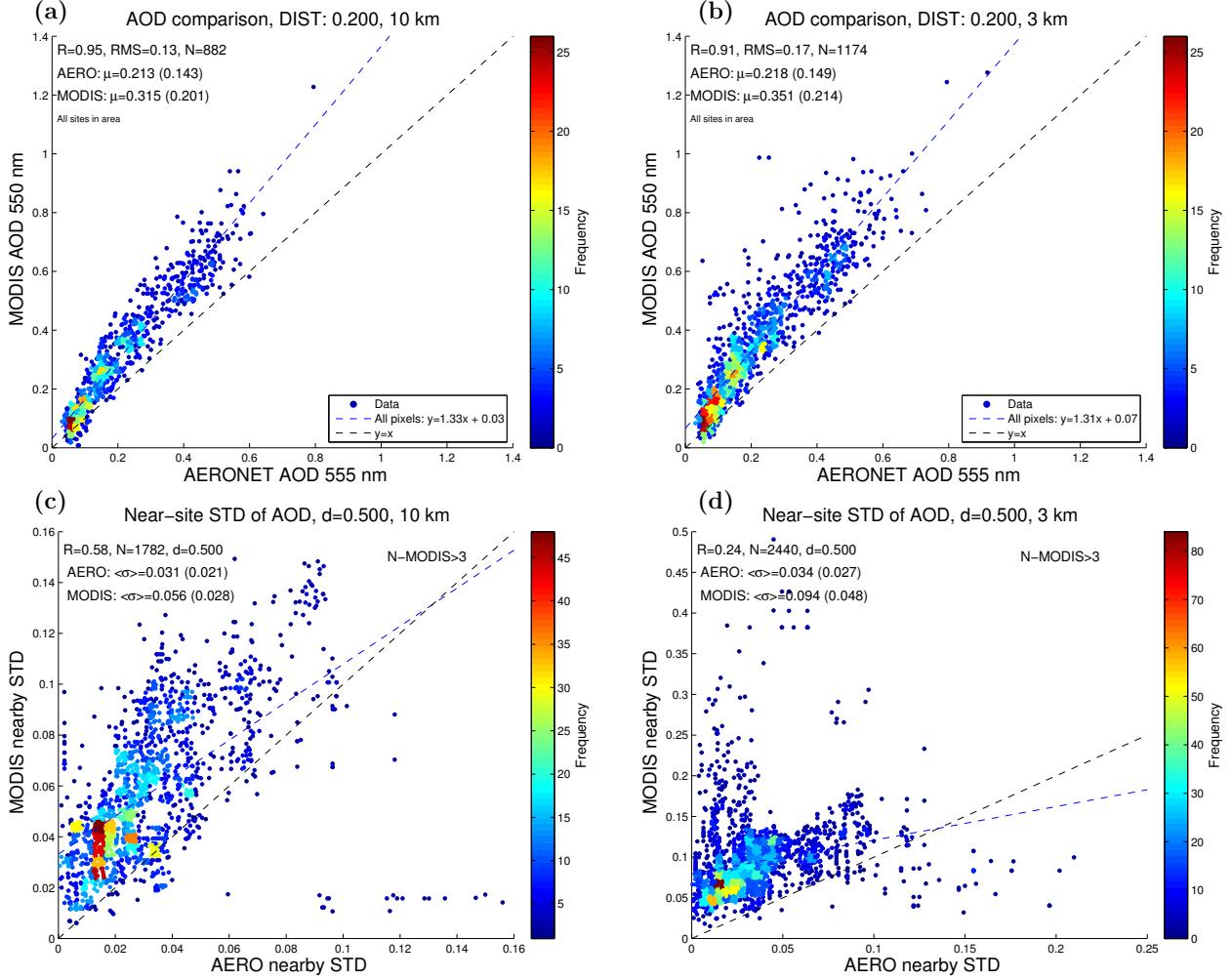


Figure S6: (a) Scatter plot of MODIS AOD against AERONET AOD with sampling distance 0.2° for the MODIS 10 km product. (b) The same for the 3 km product. (c) AOD variability scatter plot for the 10 km product with $d = 0.5^\circ$ and the threshold $N_{\text{MODIS}} > 3$. (d) The same for the 3 km product.

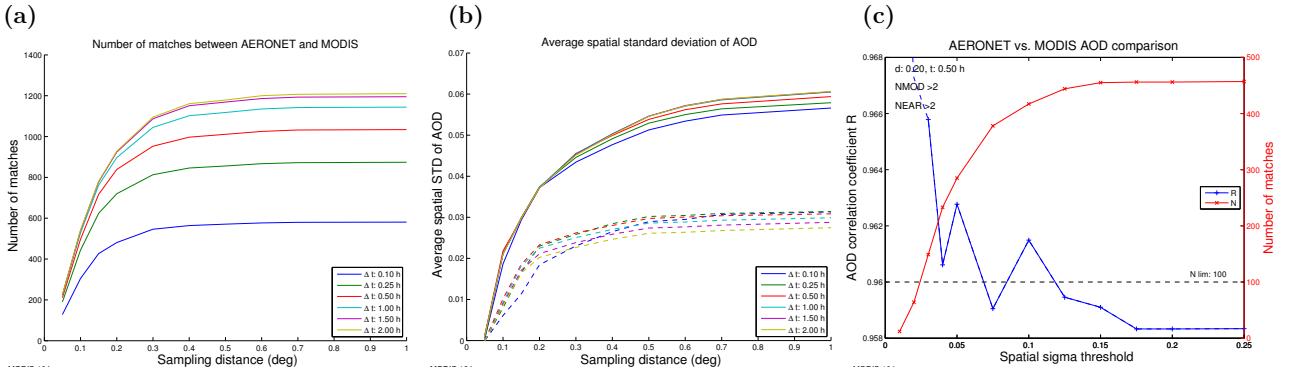


Figure S7: (a) Effect of sampling distance on the number of matches with AERONET for the MODIS 10 km product. (b) Dependence of the average standard deviation of AOD within the sampling area on the sampling distance. The solid lines are for MODIS, the dashed lines for AERONET. The colors indicate the different temporal sampling windows. (c) Effect of the AOD standard deviation threshold on the MODIS AOD comparison. Matches with MODIS AOD standard deviation higher than the threshold are removed. The AOD correlation coefficient R is then calculated for the remaining matches N .

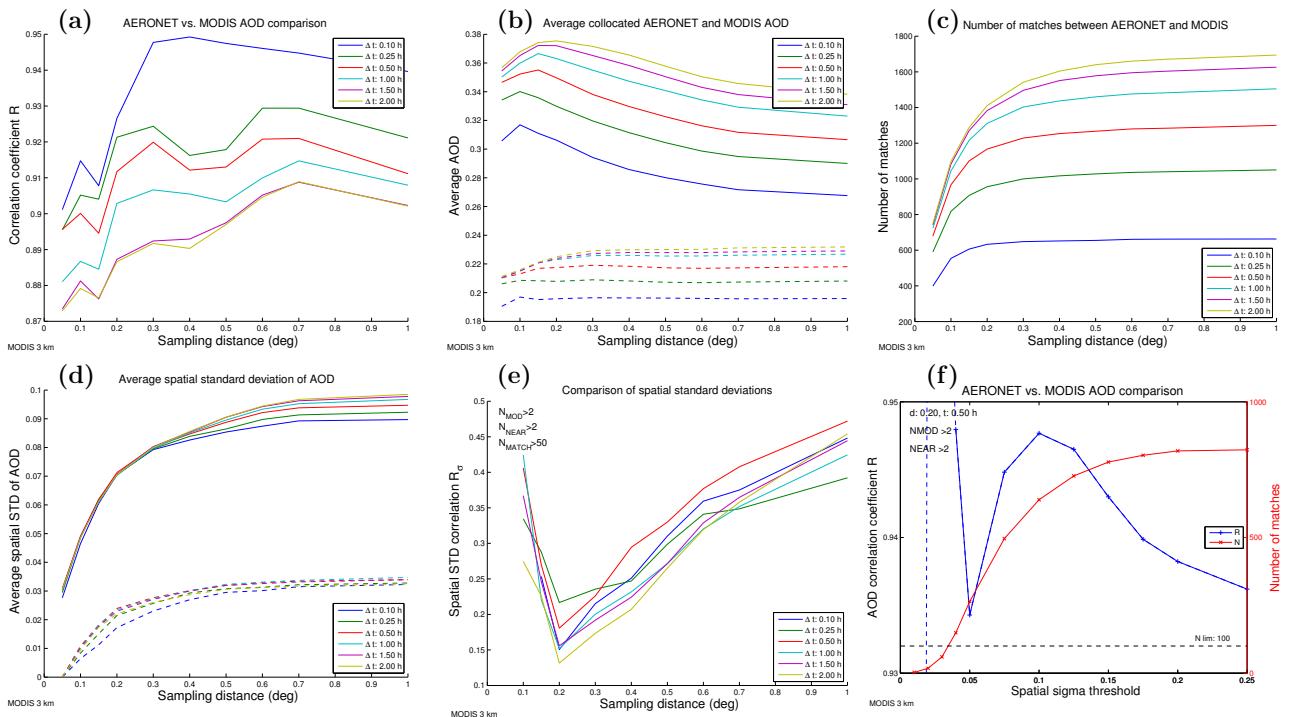


Figure S8: Effect of sampling distance on the MODIS 3 km AOD retrievals. For details, see Fig. 9 and Fig. S7.

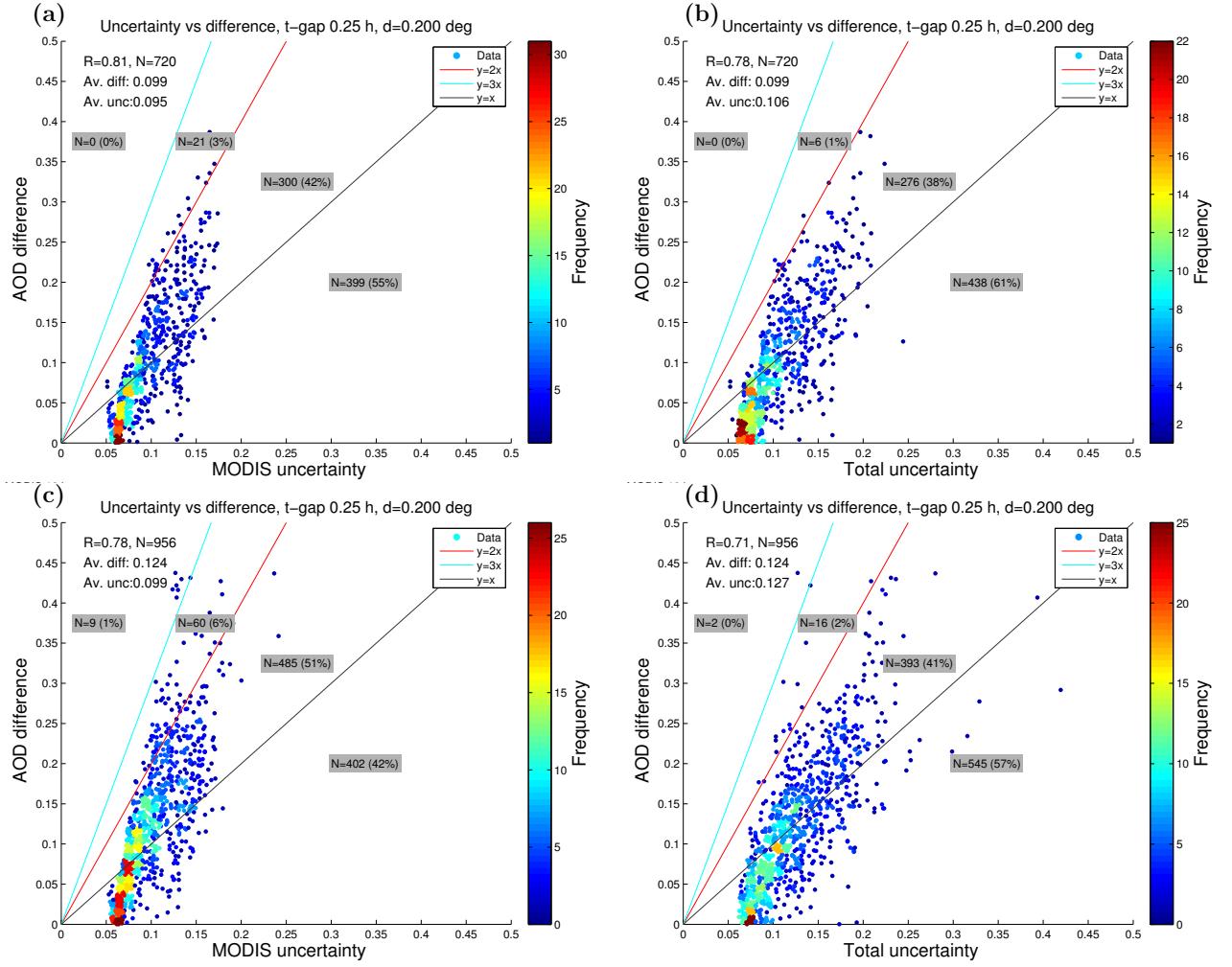


Figure S9: Scatter plot of MODIS AOD uncertainty against AOD error (difference to AERONET) for the MODIS 10 km product (top row) and the MODIS 3 km product (bottom row). Here we have used the 'expected error' values for the MODIS uncertainty. The colored lines correspond to different values of the coverage factor k (see Sect. 4.4). In the left panels we have used only the AOD uncertainties, while in the right panels the collocation mismatch uncertainty obtained from the MODIS data is included in the total uncertainty.

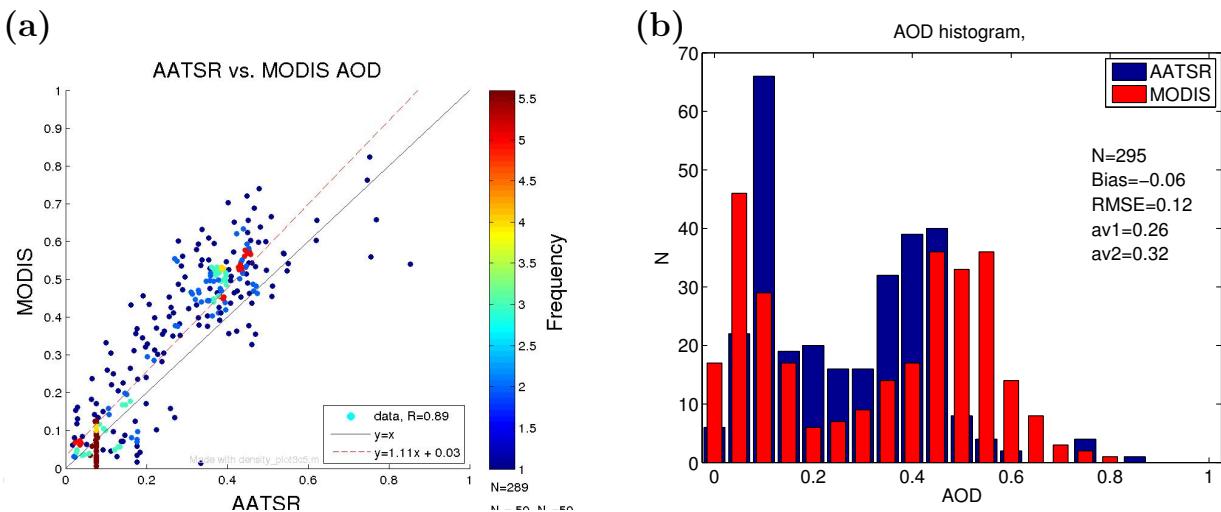


Figure S10: Comparison of collocated AATSR ADV and MODIS 10 km AOD values at 555 nm for the DRAGON 2011 campaign. The MODIS data has been resampled to the AATSR 0.1° grid. **(a)** Scatter plot of collocated AATSR and MODIS AOD values. The text inset shows the correlation coefficient $R=0.89$. **(b)** AOD histogram for AATSR and MODIS comparison. The average MODIS AOD of the collocated cases is 0.06 higher than AATSR AOD.