



Mapping 532 nm lidar ratios for CALIPSO-classified marine aerosols using MODIS AOD constrained retrievals and GOCART model simulations

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Abstract. The NASA-CNES Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observations (CALIPSO) mission provided a spaceborne global record of atmospheric aerosol and cloud profiles from June 2006 to June 2023. As an elastic backscatter lidar, the CALIPSO Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) typically required an assumption of the aerosol lidar ratio (extinction-to-backscatter ratio; S_a) to retrieve aerosol extinction and column-integrated aerosol optical depth (AOD). In all previous versions of its data products, the CALIPSO extinction algorithms first determine the aerosol types then assign one S_a value globally for each aerosol type (e.g., 23 sr for marine at 532 nm). One of the major changes for the final CALIPSO data products release (Version 5, or V5) is the implementation of regional and seasonal S_a tables for CALIOP-classified “marine” aerosols. In this study, we describe the process of creating the tables using 12 years (June 2006–August 2018) of Aqua Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) total column AODs to constrain collocated CALIOP backscatter profiles in a Fernald inversion scheme and infer S_a (at 532 nm), focusing solely on the CALIOP “marine” aerosol type. The Goddard Chemistry Aerosol Radiation and Transport (GOCART) global aerosol model is used to estimate sea salt vol-

ume fraction (SSVF) that are collocated with the constrained S_a retrievals. Patterns of smaller SSVF ($< 65\%$) and larger constrained S_a (> 40 sr) are found near land masses, while larger SSVF ($> 95\%$) and smaller constrained S_a (< 30 sr) are generally observed in the remote oceans. The inverse empirical relationship found between modeled SSVF and constrained S_a over global oceans yields values of ~ 21 sr for SSVF of 100 % (i.e., “pure” marine) and ~ 58 sr for SSVF of 0 % (i.e., the absence of marine aerosol). This relationship is applied to develop regional and seasonal hybrid (retrieval and model-assisted) climatological S_a maps for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols; i.e., when MODIS-constrained results are not available, the model-assisted values are used. These hybrid S_a maps are subsequently used to retrieve new CALIPSO Level 2 (L2) aerosol extinction profiles and column AODs in the V5 release. For a 4-month (January, April, July, and October 2015) analysis, the V5 L2 CALIPSO AODs compared better to CALIPSO Ocean Derived Column Optical Depth (ODCOD) than the CALIPSO Version 4.51 (V4.51) standard AODs in several regions, most notably the Bay of Bengal/Arabian Sea, where smoke/pollution typically mixes with marine aerosols. Also, the V5 CALIPSO AODs likely provide a lower AOD bias and root-mean-square-error

than V4.51 AODs relative to coastal and island Aerosol Robotic Network (AERONET) AODs, as found in a validation study using data from June 2006 through October 2022. The technique described in this study contributes to CALIPSO's final V5 data products release and provides critical S_a information for future spaceborne elastic backscatter lidars.

1 Introduction

Acquiring observations since June 2006, the Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) instrument aboard the NASA-CNES Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observations (CALIPSO) satellite delivered a long-term (~ 17 -year) global record of vertical profiles of Earth's atmosphere (Winker et al., 2010) before ceasing operations in June 2023. CALIOP measured the vertical structure of atmospheric aerosols and clouds, providing critical information about their many roles in the Earth's radiation budget (e.g., Kato et al., 2011; Thorsen et al., 2017) and air quality (e.g., Kar et al., 2015; Toth et al., 2014, 2019, 2022). As an elastic backscatter lidar system, CALIOP directly measured range-resolved profiles of attenuated backscatter coefficients at 532 and 1064 nm. To retrieve extinction coefficients, unattenuated backscatter, and optical depths (i.e., height integration of extinction coefficient), which are the primary quantities of interest for a variety of applications in the scientific community, elastic backscatter lidars generally need additional information and/or assumptions regarding the lidar ratio (S_a) – i.e., the ratio between particulate extinction and backscatter coefficients – and assume that the S_a remains constant throughout the vertical extent of any layer (e.g., Spinhirne et al., 1980; Ackermann, 1998). The S_a is an intensive parameter that depends on several microphysical factors, including composition, size, shape, and refractive index (e.g., Ackermann, 1998), and thus varies according to aerosol type or species (e.g., Burton et al., 2012; Floutsi et al., 2023).

The S_a values used in the CALIOP aerosol retrieval algorithms are based on the tropospheric aerosol types derived via a cluster analysis using Aerosol Robotic Network (AERONET) data (Omar et al., 2005), from which CALIPSO's six original aerosol types were defined. At each wavelength, each aerosol type is assumed to be characterized by a single, globally constant S_a paired with a fixed standard deviation that describes the S_a natural variability within the type (Omar et al., 2009). For the “clean marine” type, a value of 20 ± 6 sr at 532 nm was chosen based on measured size distributions of hydrated marine aerosols acquired during the Shoreline Environment Aerosol Study (SEAS) (Masonis et al., 2003). The value of 20 sr for clean marine was retained through CALIPSO Version 3 (V3) but was updated to a value of 23 sr in Version 4.10 (V4.10), such that CALIPSO's standard marine S_a was more consistent with measurements

Table 1. S_a and corresponding estimated uncertainties (in units of sr) at 532 nm for each tropospheric aerosol type in the CALIPSO Version 4 algorithms (adapted from Kim et al., 2018).

Tropospheric Aerosol Type	V4 532 nm S_a (sr)
Marine	23 ± 5
Dusty Marine	37 ± 15
Dust	44 ± 9
Polluted Dust	55 ± 22
Clean Continental	53 ± 24
Polluted Continental/Smoke	70 ± 25
Elevated Smoke	70 ± 16

made during a number of field campaigns (Kim et al., 2018). These include the Second Aerosol Characterization Experiment (ACE 2; e.g., Ansmann et al., 2001), Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX; e.g., Welton et al., 2002), and airborne High Spectral Resolution Lidar (HSRL) underflights of CALIPSO (e.g., Rogers et al., 2014). Relevant details of these campaigns are found in Table 2. Note that several studies reported lower marine aerosol optical depths (AODs) for CALIPSO compared to Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS; e.g., Oo and Holz, 2011), Synergized Optical Depth of Aerosols (SODA; e.g., Dawson et al., 2015), and HSRL (e.g., Rogers et al., 2014). These discrepancies were at least partly attributed to the assignment of incorrect S_a , including through possible aerosol misclassification.

Also, while there were only six CALIPSO aerosol types through V3, the V4.10 release introduced a seventh aerosol type: dusty marine. This type was added to account for mixtures of marine and dust aerosol occurring over the oceans, especially Saharan dust during transport across the Atlantic Ocean (e.g., Liu et al., 2008; Groß et al., 2016; Kuciauskas et al., 2018). In V3, these features would typically be classified (incorrectly) as polluted dust, as airborne HSRL measurements of S_a for CALIPSO “polluted dust” aerosol layers (~ 35 sr) suggest a mixture of dust and marine as opposed to that of dust and smoke (Burton et al., 2013). Kim et al. (2018) report that the frequency of the polluted dust aerosol type over oceans significantly decreases with the introduction of the new dusty marine type. The characteristic S_a for dusty marine, 37 ± 15 sr, was computed from the dust (44 sr) and clean marine (23 sr) S_a by assuming a dust to clean marine mixing ratio of 65 : 35 (by surface area). Table 1 shows the V4.10 CALIPSO S_a values, and estimated uncertainty ranges, for each of the seven CALIPSO tropospheric aerosol types. The S_a at 532 nm range from 23 sr (marine) to 70 sr (polluted continental/smoke and elevated smoke). These same values continued to be used through the release of CALIPSO's Version 4.51 (V4.51) data products.

The V4.51 tropospheric aerosol classification algorithm (Fig. 1) uses a number of parameters, including CALIOP

estimated particulate depolarization ratio (EPDR), surface type, CALIOP 532 nm integrated attenuated backscatter (IAB), and CALIOP layer height. The CALIOP marine aerosol classification requires an aerosol layer to be detected over water, with its top altitude ≤ 2.5 km, and either an $\text{IAB} > 0.01 \text{ sr}^{-1}$ and $\text{EPDR} < 0.075$, or $\text{IAB} \leq 0.01 \text{ sr}^{-1}$ and $\text{EPDR} < 0.05$. The CALIOP dusty marine aerosol classification requires an aerosol layer to be detected over water with its base altitude below 2.5 km and EPDR between 0.075 and 0.2.

Sea salt aerosol is the primary aerosol species over the oceans and is generated by sea spray/bubble bursting through wave breaking (e.g., O'Dowd and De Leeuw, 2007). Marine aerosol, of which sea salt is the dominant component, also consist of a host of other aerosol species generated from natural and anthropogenic sources (e.g., Lewis and Schwartz, 2004). Due to the extensive coverage of oceans over Earth's surface, marine aerosol is a major component of the atmospheric aerosol composition near the surface (e.g., Murphy et al., 2019). In general, the size distribution of marine aerosol is dominated by the coarse mode, with some fine mode (e.g., Porter and Clarke, 1997; Yu et al., 2019). However, this can vary by the surface wind speeds, as higher speeds can lead to a greater number of larger particles. The resultant S_a for this scenario may tend to be smaller, as larger particles tend to exhibit smaller S_a (e.g., Masonis et al., 2003; Dawson et al., 2015). In addition to winds, relative humidity (RH) also affects marine aerosol size through particle hygroscopic growth, as higher RHs lead to larger particles, thus impacting the S_a (e.g., Ackermann, 1998). Also, in terms of the impact of sea salt sphericity on S_a , Haarig et al. (2017) found similar S_a for non-spherical and spherical sea salt aerosols using Raman lidar. A more recent study (Ferrare et al., 2023) arrived at a similar conclusion using HSRL measurements.

In this study, we investigate the regional and seasonal patterns of CALIOP-classified marine aerosol S_a with the goal of providing tables indexed by latitude, longitude, and season as an improvement over the single value currently used globally. We focus on aerosol classified as "marine" by CALIOP due to the large sample size of this aerosol type, and because a more robust MODIS AOD dataset exists over ocean compared to over land. For example, MODIS AOD retrievals over land are difficult due to the large variability in surface characteristics and exhibit larger uncertainties ($\pm(0.05 + 15\%)$) than over ocean ($+(0.04 + 10\%)$, $-(0.02 + 10\%)$) (Levy et al., 2013). This over-ocean MODIS AOD dataset provides a critical component of this study in creating the S_a tables (as described in the next section).

A number of studies have investigated marine S_a through a variety of instruments and methods, some global in scale and others focusing on specific oceanic regions (Table 2). One global analysis, Dawson et al. (2015), derived S_a using SODA AOD and CALIOP IAB, and segmented results as a function of surface wind speeds from the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer – EOS (AMSR-E). A global

mean S_a over oceans of 26 sr was found, with a wind dependence on the S_a values derived (e.g., ~ 32 sr for wind speeds less than 4 m s^{-1} but ~ 22 sr for wind speeds greater than 15 m s^{-1}). Another global study, Li et al. (2022), used SODA AOD to constrain the CALIOP backscatter profiles and derive S_a using a Fernald inversion scheme (Fernald et al., 1972; Fernald, 1984) similar to the one used for this work. Li et al. (2022) further segmented these derived S_a as a function of CALIOP aerosol type. They found global CALIOP-classified marine 532 nm S_a values of 24–25 sr (medians) and 26–28 sr (means). A spatial pattern in S_a was also found, with lower S_a in the remote oceans, and higher values near coasts (e.g., Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea). This was attributed to CALIOP misclassifying these features as marine rather than a mix of marine aerosol and pollution. A similar spatial pattern in S_a is found in this study (Sect. 4).

Some studies have used shipborne Micropulse lidar (MPL) backscatter profiles (at 523 nm), constrained by AOD from Microtops handheld sunphotometers, to derive over-ocean S_a from an inversion technique (Voss et al., 2001; Welton et al., 2002; Schmid et al., 2003; Groß et al., 2011). A more recent study, Wang et al. (2020), retrieved S_a from measurements acquired at "a rural site with no significant near-source emissions" in northern Taiwan using backscatter profiles (at 527 nm) from the Micropulse Lidar Network constrained by AERONET AOD. S_a values were 30 ± 12 sr when the aerosol source was marine (i.e., advection from the Pacific Ocean), but were notably higher (39 ± 16 sr) when the aerosol source is from the Asian continent (i.e., pollution).

Other studies have used Raman lidars (e.g., Franke et al., 2001; Müller et al., 2007; Ansmann et al., 2001; Rittmeister et al., 2017; Bohlmann et al., 2018; Groß et al., 2011; Papagiannopoulos et al., 2016) and backscatter lidars (e.g., Young et al., 1993) to investigate S_a in marine environments.

HSRLs can directly measure S_a and thus have also been used to study marine S_a . Burton et al. (2012) found 532 nm S_a in the 15–25 sr range over the Caribbean Sea from airborne HSRL measurements. Using coincident HSRL/CALIOP profiles acquired during CALIPSO calibration validation studies, Rogers et al. (2014) found that, for aerosol layers classified by CALIOP as "marine", HSRL measured 532 nm S_a of ~ 26 sr during daytime, ~ 28 sr at nighttime, and ~ 27 sr for daytime and nighttime combined. Note that the histograms of Rogers et al. (2014) show a pronounced peak for marine S_a in the low 20s sr, with a small number of outliers that skew the average to larger values. This suggests that "clean marine" exhibits a fairly stable value but that the S_a of the marine boundary layer (MBL) can be raised if continental aerosol mixes into it.

There are also non-lidar techniques that can be used to derive S_a . For one, inversions using column-integrated aerosol observations can be employed to retrieve S_a estimates (e.g., Smirnov et al., 2003; Catrall et al., 2005; Pedrós et al., 2009; Sayer et al., 2012; Bréon, 2013). Secondly, marine S_a information has been estimated from in situ backscatter neph-

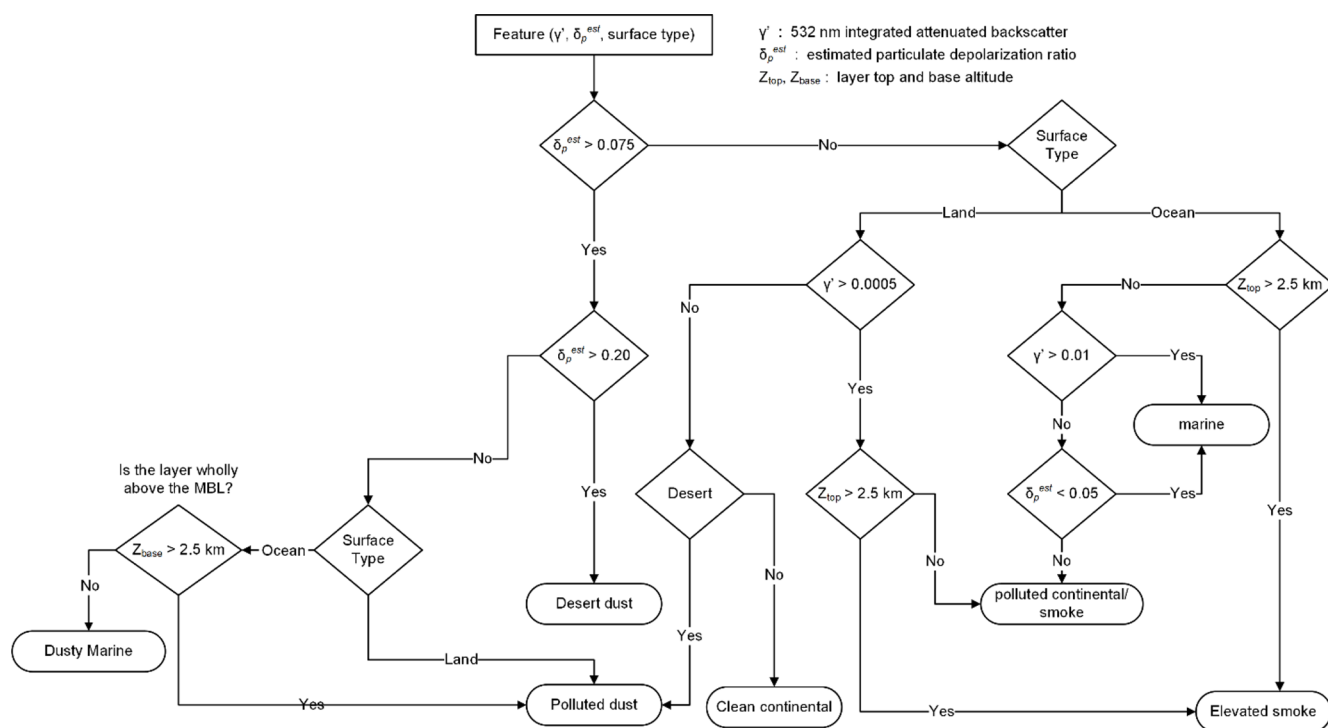


Figure 1. Flowchart of the CALIPSO Version 4 tropospheric aerosol classification algorithm and S_a selection process (Kim et al., 2018). γ' indicates 532 nm integrated attenuation backscatter (IAB), δ_p^{est} indicates the estimated particulate depolarization ratio (EPDR), and Z_{top} and Z_{base} are the layer top and base altitude, respectively.

elometer measurements, like those observed at the Cheeka Peak Observatory in the northwest corner of Washington State (Doherty et al., 1999), and on the east coast of Oahu, Hawaii during the Shoreline Environment Aerosol Study (SEAS) campaign (Masonis et al., 2003).

These studies illustrate that S_a measured over the ocean vary spatially and temporally, providing additional motivation for the creation of S_a tables that vary by region and environmental conditions. The extensive data record of CALIOP allows us to also construct S_a tables that vary seasonally. The overall goal of this study is the creation of regional and seasonal climatological S_a maps for CALIOP-classified marine aerosol by leveraging MODIS AOD retrievals to derive S_a estimates from collocated CALIOP attenuated backscatter profiles. When the data yield is insufficient, we augment our maps using S_a estimated from sea salt volume fraction (SSVF) computed using global aerosol model simulations from the Goddard Earth Observing System (GEOS) Goddard Chemistry Aerosol Radiation and Transport (GOCART). We develop a combined observational/model dataset from June 2006 (first CALIOP observations) to August 2018, when CALIPSO left the “A-Train” satellite constellation to join CloudSat in the “C-Train”, thereby terminating continuous collocation with Aqua MODIS observations. The newly developed S_a tables (by region and season) are then used to retrieve CALIPSO V5.00 aerosol extinction profiles and tro-

pospheric AODs. These are compared against AODs from an independent CALIOP retrieval algorithm, the Ocean Derived Column Optical Depth (ODCOD; Ryan et al., 2024), and against AODs from island/coastal AERONET sites (Holben et al., 1998) following Thorsen et al. (2025). The purpose of this paper is to document the approach used to develop the marine S_a tables and improve aerosol retrievals in the final CALIPSO data products release (V5). S_a tables have also been developed for the dusty marine CALIOP aerosol type using similar methods, but here we focus solely on marine. Note that the aerosol classification algorithm differentiating marine and dusty marine is unchanged between the V4.51 and V5 CALIPSO datasets. Only the S_a assignment for these aerosol types has been modified for V5.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses the various remote sensing datasets used. Section 3 discusses the methods employed for this study. Section 4 provides the results of the work, including analyses of the constrained S_a , modeled SSVF, development of the seasonal S_a climatologies, validation efforts of incorporating these S_a in the retrieval of CALIOP tropospheric AODs, and a case study over the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. A summary of the study, ongoing work, and implications for future spaceborne elastic backscatter lidars are discussed in Sect. 5.

Table 2. Literature review of S_a (mostly at or near 532 nm) in marine environments.

Study	S_a (sr)	Wavelength (nm)	Method/technique	Location
Ansmann et al. (2001)	20–25	532	Raman	Portuguese coast
Bohlmann et al. (2018)	23 ± 1	532	Raman	Atlantic Ocean
Bréon (2013)	25	670	POLDER	Remote global oceans
Burton et al. (2012)	20 ± 5	532	HSRL	Caribbean Sea
Cattrall et al. (2005)	28 ± 5	550	AERONET inversion	Various island sites
Dawson et al. (2015)	26	532	SODA AOD & CALIOP IAB	Global
Doherty et al. (1999)	21.1 ± 3.7	532	Backscatter nephelometer	Shore of northwest Washington state
Franke et al. (2001)	< 30	532	Raman	Indian Ocean
Groß et al. (2011)	$17\text{--}19 \pm 2$	532	Raman	Cape Verde
Li et al. (2022)	24–28	532	Constrained Fernald inversion (SODA/CALIOP)	Global
Masonis et al. (2003)	25 ± 3.5	532	In situ	East coast of Oahu, Hawaii
Müller et al. (2007)	23 ± 5	532	Raman	North Atlantic and Indian Oceans
Papagiannopoulos et al. (2016)	23 ± 3	532	Raman	Various European sites
Pedrós et al. (2009)	31–37	532	Sun photometer/aerosol model inversion	North Atlantic Ocean
Rittmeister et al. (2017)	17 ± 5	532	Raman	Atlantic Ocean
Rogers et al. (2014)	27 ± 14	532	HSRL	Caribbean Sea; mid-Atlantic coast of US
Sayer et al. (2012)	24–33	532	AERONET inversion	Various island sites
Schmid et al. (2003)	34	523	Constrained Fernald inversion (MPL)	Coast of Japan
Smirnov et al. (2003)	34.5	500	AERONET inversion	Lanai, Hawaii
Voss et al. (2001)	32 ± 6 36 ± 16	523	Constrained Fernald inversion (MPL)	North Atlantic Ocean South Atlantic Ocean
Wang et al. (2020)	30 ± 12	527	Constrained Fernald inversion (MPL)	Northern Taiwan
Welton et al. (2002)	33 ± 6	523	Constrained Fernald inversion (MPL)	Indian Ocean
Young et al. (1993)	> 30	532	Backscatter lidar (horizontally oriented)	Coast of northern Australia

2 Datasets

2.1 CALIPSO CALIOP

We utilize CALIPSO Version 4.51 (V4.51) data, with data release dates beginning September 2022. Specifically, 532 nm total attenuated backscatter profiles were taken from the V4.51 Level 1 files (CAL_LID_L1-Standard-V4-51). The “Feature Classification Flags” that provide high level characterization of CALIOP’s L2 layer detection and classification results were taken from the corresponding V4.51 L2 vertical feature mask (VFM) product

(CAL_LID_L2_VFM-Standard-V4-51). The VFM product was used for identifying cloud free single shot profiles in each 5 km data segment and determining aerosol top heights during the constrained retrieval process. Further, the V4.51 5 km aerosol profile product (CAL_LID_L2_05kmAPro-Standard-V4-51), specifically the “Atmospheric Volume Description” parameter, was used for partitioning the datasets by aerosol subtype and spatial averaging (i.e., averaging required for feature detection). The L3 stratospheric aerosol product (CAL_LID_L3_Stratospheric_APro-Standard-V1-00) was used to obtain the stratospheric AOD

(“Stratospheric Optical Depth” parameter). These stratospheric AODs are reported monthly at $5^\circ \times 20^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution and were constructed using only high-quality CALIOP nighttime data (Kar et al., 2019).

2.2 Aqua MODIS

The MODIS instruments, flying aboard the Terra (since 1999) and Aqua (since 2002) satellites, are passive sensors that provide column AOD retrievals at various wavelengths (Remer et al., 2005). CALIPSO flew in the “A-Train” satellite constellation with Aqua from June 2006 until September 2018 (i.e., until CALIPSO exited to join CloudSat in the “C-Train” orbit), so for over a decade the two sensors flew within a few minutes of one another, providing numerous opportunities for retrieval synergies and multi-sensor data fusion (e.g., Burton et al., 2010; Braun et al., 2019; Fujishin et al., 2024). MYD03 Geolocation 1 km files from the Collection 6.1 (C61) MODIS data release (Levy et al., 2013; Sayer et al., 2014) were used for collocation with CALIOP in this study (Sect. 3.2). The “Effective Optical Depth Best Ocean” parameter, from the matching L2 MYD04 10 km C6.1 MODIS files, is provided at four wavelengths (470, 550, 660, and 860 nm) and these were interpolated to the CALIOP visible wavelength of 532 nm through an Ångström relationship (Schuster et al., 2006) to be used in the constrained retrieval process. MODIS AODs exhibit uncertainties over land of $\pm(0.05 + 15\%)$ and over ocean of $(+(0.04 + 10\%), -(0.02 + 10\%))$ (Levy et al., 2013).

3 Methods

3.1 Constrained S_a retrieval primer

The constrained S_a retrieval method used in this paper is similar in principle to the procedure used in Li et al. (2022). CALIOP Level 1 (L1) attenuated backscatter profiles with a nominal horizontal resolution of 5 km were created by averaging all cloud-free single shot (333 m) profiles detected within 15 consecutive shots. The optical depths ascribed to these profiles are retrieved from collocated MODIS AOD data that are corrected for stratospheric contributions using the CALIOP Level 3 (L3) stratospheric aerosol product (Kar et al., 2019). S_a are retrieved for each 5 km profile by the iterated application of a Fernald solution. Beginning with an initial guess, S_a are repeatedly adjusted until the integrated Fernald solution yields an optical depth that is essentially identical to the external MODIS+CALIOP constraint. The CALIOP Level 2 (L2) products are then queried to identify those profiles in which only a single aerosol type has been detected, such that we can restrict our analysis to solely CALIOP-classified “marine” aerosols. Detailed mechanics of the retrieval scheme are given in Sect. 3.2.

3.2 Methods in detail

As the first step of this study, multiple years (2006–2018) of global daytime satellite measurements from the CALIPSO lidar L1 V4.51 (CAL_LID_L1-Standard-V4-51) and MODIS Aqua C6.1 MYD03 Geolocation 1 km and MYD04 10 km datasets were combined and individual measurements were collocated using the University of Wisconsin Space Science and Engineering Center collocations routine Collopak (Nagle and Holz, 2009). Next, we apply a constrained Fernald inversion to CALIOP attenuated backscatter profiles. In this procedure, an initial estimate of S_a is adjusted by increasingly smaller increments until the change in S_a from one iteration to the next is less than 0.0001 sr and the layer optical depth calculated using the refined value is within 0.0001 of the externally supplied optical depth constraint. The optical depth constraints in this study are derived from collocated total column MODIS AOD corrected for stratospheric contributions using CALIOP L3 products. S_a are allowed to vary over a range from -50 to 150 sr to capture a wide spectrum of S_a and because the iterations for the Fernald retrieval were numerically stable for this range (determined through sensitivity studies). Note that this approach produces a negligible fraction of negative S_a values (less than 0.05 %), and our methodology minimizes the influence of these outliers by using median values when creating the S_a maps (Sects. 3 and 4).

This passive AOD constrained lidar retrieval method has been successfully used in past studies (e.g., Ferrare et al., 2006; Burton et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2017, 2020). In this study, CALIOP L1 V4.51 backscatter profiles are cloud-cleared using information provided by the Feature Classification Flags from the CALIPSO VFM files then averaged to a 5 km horizontal resolution (i.e., 333 m backscatter profiles with clouds at any altitude are removed from the 15 shot average). The MODIS Effective Optical Depth Best Ocean parameter (at 470, 550, 660, and 860 nm), collocated with CALIOP as discussed previously, was interpolated to CALIOP’s 532 nm wavelength using an Ångström relationship (Schuster et al., 2006). To ensure high quality Ångström interpolations we required positive values for all four MODIS AODs and rejected those cases flagged as “bad retrievals” by MODIS’s Land Ocean Quality Flag. Since MODIS AOD represents aerosol loading for the entire atmospheric column and this study focuses on tropospheric aerosol S_a , the CALIPSO L3 Stratospheric Aerosol Profile Product (SAPP; Kar et al., 2019) was used to remove the contribution of stratospheric aerosols (i.e., stratospheric AOD) from the constraints used in the Fernald inversion scheme. The SAPP is produced on a monthly basis at a spatial resolution of 5° latitude $\times$ 20° longitude using only nighttime CALIOP measurements. Under the assumption that the distribution of stratospheric aerosol is diurnally invariant, a stratospheric AOD was assigned to each 5 km CALIOP profile through temporal and spatial collocation. This stratospheric

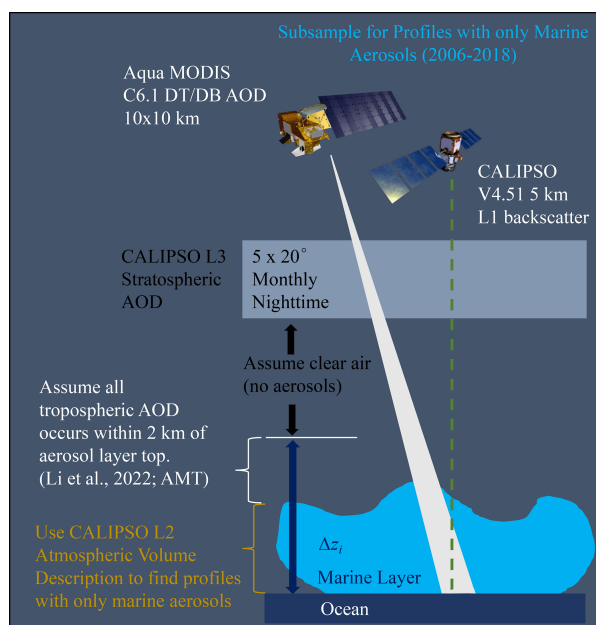


Figure 2. Schematic of the overall approach for this study (2006–2018). The CALIPSO Level 2 Atmospheric Volume Description parameter is used to find 5 km columns containing only marine aerosols, with at least some of the aerosol being detected using only 5 km spatial averaging. We assume all tropospheric AOD occurs within 2 km of the aerosol layer top (Li et al., 2022) and that “clear air” (i.e., no aerosol) exists from this altitude upward to the stratosphere. We subtract the CALIPSO Level 3 stratospheric AOD (available at $5^\circ \times 20^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution, at monthly intervals, and nighttime only) from the Collection 6.1 Aqua MODIS total column AOD to constrain the CALIPSO Version 4.51 5 km Level 1 backscatter profiles in a Fernald inversion scheme (Fernald et al., 1972; Fernald, 1984).

AOD was then subtracted from the column MODIS AOD to obtain an AOD to use in the Fernald inversion. Also, it is assumed that all tropospheric AOD is found within 2 km above the highest detected aerosol top (determined by the CALIPSO VFM product), which results in the upper altitude limit during the Fernald retrievals of S_a (Fig. 2). This upper altitude limit was based on the SODA-CALIPSO work of Li et al. (2022), which determined the 2 km value through a past investigation of CALIPSO-SODA/airborne HSRL comparisons (Painemal et al., 2019) and further supported by a CALIPSO/airborne HSRL study (Burton et al., 2013). Results of sensitivity studies of CALIPSO-SODA S_a by varying this upper altitude limit are found in Li et al. (2022).

The Atmospheric Volume Description parameter in the aerosol profile data was used to obtain feature classification information, in addition to horizontal averaging required for feature detection (5, 20, or 80 km) and Feature Type QA (quality assurance) flags. The CALIOP profiles used in the S_a retrievals were restricted to those reporting only marine aerosols with the highest quality assurance classification

(i.e., Feature Type QA = 3). An additional filtering step involved including only those profiles in which at least part of the aerosol layer was detected at a 5 km horizontal averaging resolution. Levying this requirement yields four possible scenarios: marine aerosol detected only at 5, at 5 and 20, at 5 and 80, and at 5, 20, and 80 km. This “some 5 km” requirement was implemented based on discussions in Li et al. (2022) regarding the confidence of the CALIPSO aerosol classification as it relates to spatial averaging. Li et al. (2022) conclude that lower confidences should be assigned to longer averages (i.e., 80 km), because while the extended averaging is necessary to increase the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) for the detection of tenuous aerosol layers, using these larger distances increases the likelihood of averaging over a heterogeneous scene.

4 Results

4.1 Developing the relationship between the MODIS AOD constrained S_a retrievals and modeled sea salt volume fraction ($1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ latitude/longitude grid)

The goal of this study is to produce data driven and empirically derived S_a maps over global oceans on seasonal scales. However, MODIS AODs are only available for daytime observations and have seasonally limited data coverage (due in part to glint regions with no MODIS AOD), which introduces large, periodic swaths of missing data in the retrieved S_a maps. To mitigate this issue, we first leveraged the GEOS GOCART model to obtain a characterization of the amount of sea salt aerosol in a given region of the ocean and then used these estimations to examine their relationship with the available constrained S_a retrievals. The GEOS GOCART model provides simulations of the dominant aerosol species found in the atmosphere, such as sulfate, carbon, dust, and sea salt (Ginoux et al., 2001; Chin et al., 2002; Mian Chin et al., 2009; Chin et al., 2014; Colarco et al., 2010). The model accounts for aerosol emissions from anthropogenic and natural sources, surface wind speeds, advection, convection, and boundary layer turbulent mixing. The model is driven by the meteorological reanalysis from the Modern Era Reanalysis for Research and Applications version 2 (MERRA-2) with the GEOS system, provided by the NASA Global Modeling and Assimilation Office (GMAO). In this study, we used the model version GEOS-i33p2 BASE simulations from 2006 to 2018 that are archived at the AeroCom server as part of the AeroCom Phase III model experiments (descriptions available at <https://aerocom.met.no/experiments/UTLS/>, last access: 14 November 2025). These simulations are available at $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ horizontal grid spacing and 72 vertical layers with daily temporal resolution.

GOCART simulates aerosol properties and concentrations for various aerosol species, including the following with one dry size bin: sulfate (SO_4^{2-}), ammonium (NH_4^+), black car-

bon (BC), brown carbon (BrC), and organic carbon (OC). Each of the carbonaceous aerosols include a hydrophobic and hydrophilic (aged) component. Other aerosol species are represented in the model by their size-aggregated bins, including nitrate (NO₃; three size bins), dust (five size bins), and sea salt (five size bins). To obtain the specific volume (i.e., volume per unit mass) of each aerosol species at each vertical level, aerosol mass mixing ratios (in kg kg⁻¹) were divided by their respective particle densities (in kg m⁻³), as provided in Collow et al. (2023). The specific volume fraction of sea salt aerosol within 2.5 km altitude from the surface was computed by summing the specific volume of sea salt aerosol ($Z < 2.5$ km) and dividing it by the specific volume of all aerosols ($Z < 2.5$ km) for each 1° × 1° latitude/longitude model grid box. The altitude threshold of 2.5 km is used to be consistent with the V4 CALIPSO marine aerosol type classification (Fig. 1; Kim et al., 2018). Note that we refer to these specific volume fraction for sea salt aerosols as sea salt volume fractions (SSVF), and that they are for total sea salt (all model size bins), such that both fine and coarse sea salt are included. Also, we exclude dust aerosol from these SSVF computations, as we assume the CALIPSO algorithms adequately differentiate dust aerosols from other types (i.e., due to the typically large depolarization ratios characteristic of dust, e.g., Liu et al., 2008; Burton et al., 2015).

We created a 1° × 1° latitude/longitude gridded dataset by collocating the daily modeled SSVF with the Fernald-retrieved CALIOP-MODIS S_a ; i.e., the S_a found within each 1° × 1° latitude/longitude model grid box were matched with the corresponding modeled SSVF. Only those grid boxes with at least 9 positive S_a retrievals and an S_a relative standard error (RSE) less than or equal to 10 % are used. This gridded dataset was used to develop the relationship between SSVF and S_a and subsequently used to construct seasonal S_a maps at a coarser (i.e., 2° × 4.8°) resolution (discussed in Sect. 4.2).

Figure 3a shows the global spatial distribution of median 532 nm constrained S_a for the entire 12-year (2006–2018) dataset. The corresponding sampling map is shown in Fig. 3b. Each grid cell reports results obtained from daytime CALIOP profiles in which only marine aerosol was detected and further filtered for sampling (≥ 9 points) and RSE (≤ 10 %). Note the lack of S_a retrievals in the high latitudes north of 60° or south of -60°, which occur due to these sampling requirements. As shown in Sect. 4.2, the model-assisted S_a will be relied upon in these regions. Also note the band of few retrievals around -160° longitude due to a collocated CALIOP/MODIS sampling artifact, which has been found in other studies (e.g., Ryan et al., 2024). The 1° × 1° latitude/longitude grid spacing makes this feature more pronounced.

We note that augmenting the MODIS AODs with AODs from the CALIPSO ODCOD retrievals (Ryan et al., 2024) would help increase our S_a sample numbers, especially in polar regions. However, we chose instead to reserve the ODCOD dataset for an independent validation of the V5 AODs

Table 3. June 2006–August 2018 annual descriptive statistics for the global over-ocean non-gridded dataset of MODIS AOD constrained S_a for marine aerosols, only for those CALIOP aerosol profiles with some 5 km horizontal averaging and Feature Type QA = 3. These represent the points that were used to create Fig. 3.

	Annual
Number	3 283 795
Minimum	0.003 sr
Maximum	145.01 sr
Mean	24.61 sr
Median	23.37 sr
Standard Deviation	10.80 sr

retrieved using the temporally and spatially varying S_a reported in the newly developed S_a tables (Sect. 4.3).

A pattern in S_a is evident (Fig. 3a), as larger S_a (> 40 sr) tend to be found near land masses, and smaller S_a (< 30 sr) are generally observed in the remote oceans (global median value of ~ 23 sr and global mean of ~ 25 sr; Table 3). This pattern in S_a suggests different aerosol types/mixtures dominating in different regions. Larger S_a indicates a mixture of marine and non-marine aerosols whereas smaller S_a indicates more pristine “clean” marine aerosols. However, there are some regions in which S_a are not enhanced near coasts (e.g., North America, western Europe, some of Africa) even though continental outflow exists in these regions. When long range aerosol transport and mixing into the MBL occurs at these locations, CALIOP may be identifying other aerosol types and the potentially impacted MBLs are being excluded.

In the remote oceans, S_a varies with latitude. For example, remote oceanic S_a in the Tropical region (about -20 to 20° latitude) are in the range of 25–40 sr, while those in the mid-to-high latitudes (< -20 or $> 20^\circ$) are generally below 25 sr. This may be related to patterns in dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and/or chlorophyll over the oceans (e.g., Kettle et al., 1999), long-range transport of continental aerosols, or small biases in the MODIS retrieval. The S_a patterns closely match those of Aqua MODIS AOD, and thus the higher AODs in the tropics may be influenced by a small AOD bias and/or the presence of non-sea salt aerosols. Also, it is possible there may be some stratospheric AOD biases in the CALIPSO L3 stratospheric aerosol product. The exact cause of this phenomenon is out of the scope of this paper, however, and thus is left for a separate study.

A comparison of the S_a literature review (Table 1) and Fig. 3a reveals there is a general agreement between the patterns of CALIOP-MODIS S_a and the over-ocean S_a in other studies obtained from a variety of methods/techniques. For example, the 36 and 33 sr in the southeast Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean, respectively, agree well with the 30–40 sr range we find from our constrained S_a retrievals. Also, the 34 sr value off the Asia coast is near our 35–45 sr constrained S_a . In addition, the 23 sr value off the coast of southern

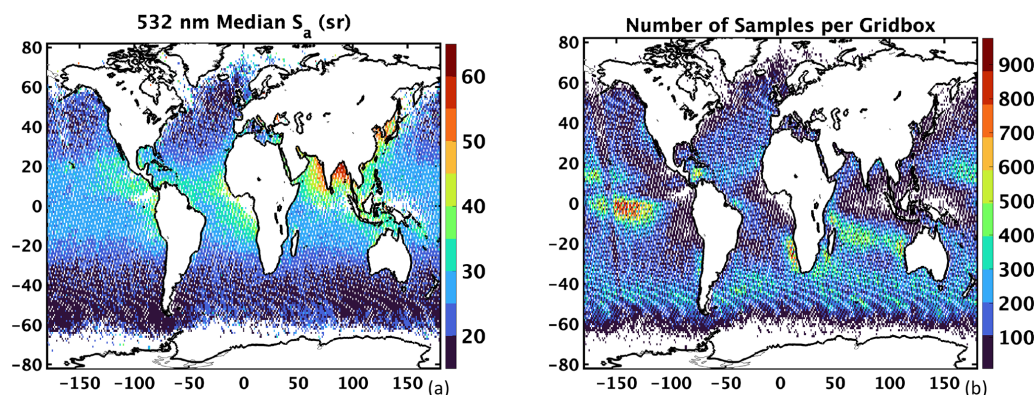


Figure 3. Twelve-year (2006–2018) (a) spatial median of S_a retrievals and (b) corresponding number of samples per grid box, at $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution during daytime for profiles with only CALIOP-classified marine aerosols. Medians and samples are shown only for those grid boxes with at least 9 points and S_a relative standard error (RSE) less than or equal to 10 %.

Africa, indicative of a cleaner marine aerosol environment, agrees well with our values of less than 25 sr.

The 12-year mean GOCART SSVF, collocated with the retrieved S_a (Fig. 3a), are shown in Fig. 4. These SSVF exclude dust and represent the total SS (i.e., fine and coarse mode SS aerosols). Smaller SSVFs (< 60 %) are found near land masses, indicating the presence of advected pollution and/or biomass burning smoke aerosols in these regions. Conversely, in the remote oceans, the model SSVFs are large (> 90 %) and suggest the presence of greater amounts of “pure” marine aerosols and thus less influence from pollution/biomass burning smoke. Note that this pattern is the inverse of the S_a spatial distribution (Fig. 3a), such that regions with low SSVFs generally correspond to higher S_a , and regions with high SSVFs generally correspond to lower S_a . Also, these spatial variations in S_a and SSVF are supported by patterns in MODIS fine mode fraction (FMF; not shown), with smaller FMFs found in the remote oceans and larger FMFs found near coasts, consistent with other MODIS FMF studies (e.g., Reid et al., 2022).

As the next step, we quantify the relationship between modeled SSVF and the constrained S_a by computing the median constrained S_a as a function of SSVF (in 5 % SSVF bins) using the gridded datasets of each parameter (Figs. 3a and 4). Figure 5 shows MODIS AOD constrained S_a (Fig. 3a) binned as a function of modeled SSVF (Fig. 4) in a series of box and whisker plots. Consistent with the spatial patterns discussed previously, there is a distinct increase in S_a as the SSVF decreases. This is due to other types of aerosols (e.g., anthropogenic pollution) becoming more dominant than sea salt aerosols when SSVF is low. A 2nd order polynomial fit to the medians of these data (Eq. 1) yields model-assisted S_a ($S_{a,model}$) intercept values of ~ 21 sr for SSVF of 100 % (i.e., “pure” marine) and ~ 58 sr for SSVF of 0 % (i.e., no marine aerosols present). Figure 5 also shows the number of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ latitude/longitude grid boxes in each 5 % SSVF bin. The number of points per bin increase with increasing SSVF,

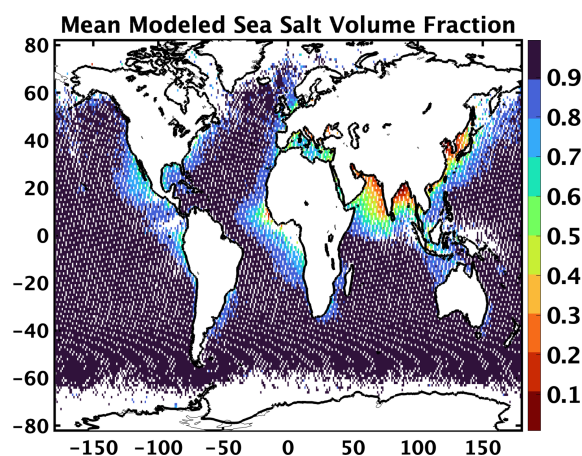


Figure 4. Twelve-year (2006–2018) spatial mean SSVF ($Z < 2.5$ km) from GEOS/GOCART at $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution (collocated with the constrained S_a retrievals of Fig. 3a).

ranging from 17 for the 0 %–5 % SSVF bin to over 14 000 for the 95 %–100 % SSVF bin.

$$S_{a,model} = 57.5 - 33.4(SSVF) - 3.2(SSVF^2) \quad (1)$$

4.2 Creating the seasonal S_a climatologies ($2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude grid)

In the previous section, we discussed the details of establishing the relationship between the annual modeled SSVFs and S_a retrievals using data aggregated on a $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid, as this is the native resolution of the GEOS GOCART simulations used here. However, after conducting a CALIOP sampling analysis that considers the 16 d CALIPSO orbit repeat cycle (not shown), we found $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ is the optimal grid spacing to maximize the uniformity of CALIOP samples per

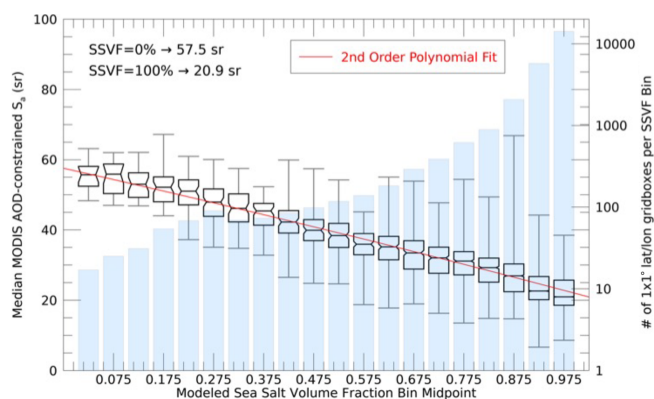


Figure 5. Box and whisker plots of median MODIS AOD constrained S_a retrievals as a function of collocated modeled SSVF (binned for every 5 % SSVF). The whiskers show the minimum and maximum values of each bin, and the boxplot notches indicate the confidence intervals around the median for each box. The red curve denotes the second order polynomial fit to the medians of each boxplot, with intersect values of 57.5 sr for a SSVF of 0 % and 20.9 sr for a SSVF of 100 %. The light blue bars show the number of points (i.e., in $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ latitude/longitude grid boxes) per SSVF bin.

latitude/longitude bin while still maintaining the regional fidelity of the lidar dataset. Thus, from this point forward, all maps shown in this paper will be shown at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution. Additionally, as discussed earlier, the goal of this study is to establish CALIOP-classified marine S_a maps on seasonal scales. The analyses were thus segmented into four seasons: December, January, and February (DJF), March, April, and May (MAM), June, July, and August (JJA), and September, October, and November (SON). In this section, we describe the process and results of building the CALIPSO V5 CALIOP-classified marine aerosol S_a maps on seasonal scales using the modeled SSVF/ S_a retrieval relationship from Sect. 4.1.

The process begins with seasonal maps of the median S_a from retrievals alone, as shown in Fig. 6. Here we require a minimum of 50 points in each latitude/longitude grid box for each season to compute the median S_a value. This threshold was selected after conducting sensitivity studies to ensure a statistically robust characterization of the S_a , while also accounting for satellite data coverage seasonally within each grid box over the study period. Compared to the annual S_a retrieval map (Fig. 3a), the seasonal retrieval coverages in Fig. 6 exhibit sometimes large decreases that vary by season. This is most notable in the Northern Hemisphere (NH) during JJA (Fig. 6c) but also occurs in the Southern Oceans and Arctic region. The lack of data in the NH is due to sun glint from MODIS that happens in the months of June and July (e.g., Kittaka et al., 2011), which results in few AOD retrievals and thus few constrained S_a retrievals. Also, note the lack of retrievals over the waters surrounding the Indian Subcontinent in MAM (possibly due to cloud cover) and Oceania

for each season (possibly due to significant cloud cover associated with the Indo-Pacific Warm Pool). For context, the number of samples for each grid box meeting our 50-point minimum requirement is shown in Fig. 7, with areas of greatest sampling in the remote Pacific Ocean and southern Indian Ocean. In terms of S_a value, the seasonal S_a retrievals show a pattern similar to the 12-year median S_a (Fig. 3a) for most seasons, with higher S_a in the Tropics and lower in mid to high latitudes. Also, elevated S_a values are evident in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea in DJF (Fig. 6a) and SON (Fig. 6d).

The next step is to create maps of mean modeled SSVF at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ grid spacing by re-gridding the $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ SSVFs to this coarser resolution using the 12-year (2006–2018) GEOS/GOCART dataset (i.e., averaging all of the $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ SSVFs that are found within each $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ grid box). The resultant mean SSVFs below 2.5 km for each season are shown in Fig. 8. For all seasons, large SSVFs (> 90 %) are found for most of the oceans (especially in remote regions), while lower SSVFs are found near coastlines and in the Arctic. For the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, lower SSVFs are found for all seasons except JJA. These patterns are indicative of seasonal aerosol transport based on the global atmospheric circulation simulated by the GOCART model, including the Indian monsoon (as discussed in more detail in Sect. 4.4). The Southern Oceans exhibit a decrease in SSVF compared to other remote ocean regions, but this is not nearly as pronounced as in the Arctic, for which low SSVFs are found (e.g., < 30 % during MAM and JJA; Fig. 8b and c, respectively). It is clear from the SSVFs of Fig. 8 that the model characterizes the Arctic atmosphere below 2.5 km with smaller amounts of sea salt aerosols, implying a greater presence of other aerosol types. This is consistent with observational evidence of non-sea salt aerosols in the Arctic either from Russian wildfires/biomass burning (e.g., Warneke et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2024) or anthropogenic aerosols transported from other regions (e.g., Singh et al., 2010; Petäjä et al., 2020; Schmale et al., 2022; Zhao et al., 2022). Other studies that report on this topic are summarized in Kokhanovsky and Tomasi (2020).

The maps of Fig. 8 are next used with Eq. (1) to create the model-assisted S_a maps shown in Fig. 9. Clear patterns of S_a are found, with lower S_a in areas of high SSVF (e.g., remote oceans) and higher S_a in areas of low SSVF (e.g., near coasts). The S_a values in Fig. 9 range from ~ 21 to ~ 58 sr, as these are the intersect values of Eq. (1). A region with some of the highest model-assisted S_a is the Arctic, for which low SSVFs are found (Fig. 8). This is most pronounced in MAM (Fig. 9b) and JJA (Fig. 9c). These large (> 50 sr) model-assisted S_a are consistent with a relatively small sample of 532 nm Raman lidar observations in the Arctic. For example, S_a up to ~ 50 sr were found during the spring 2014 Arctic haze season in Spitzbergen (Ritter et al., 2016), and even larger S_a (58–82 sr) were measured in this same region during an Arctic haze event the following

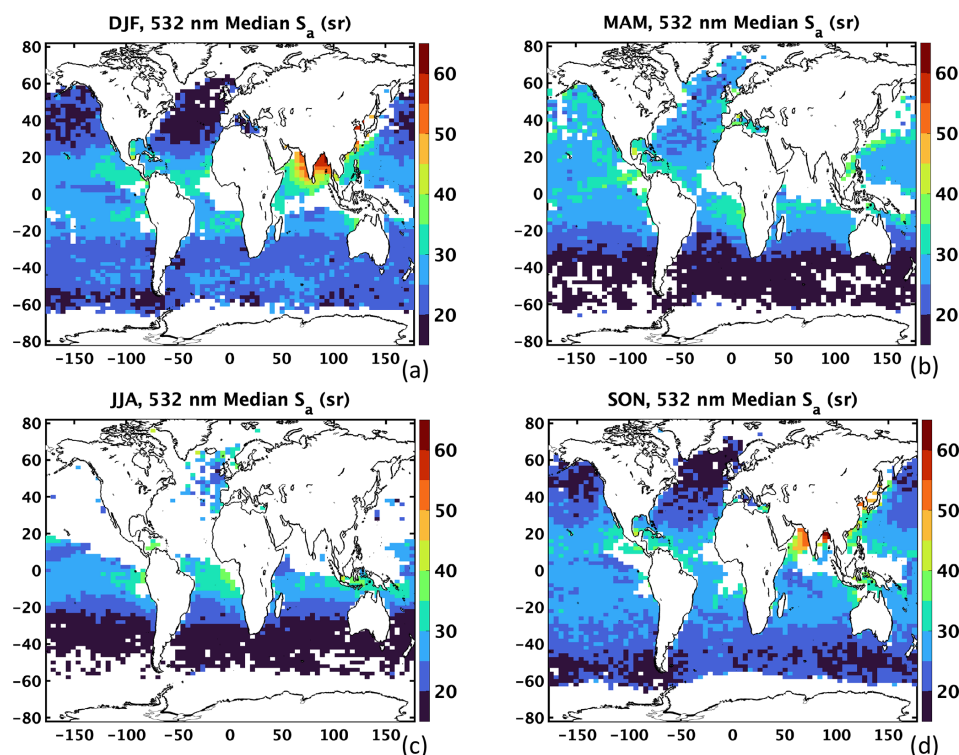


Figure 6. Twelve-year (2006–2018) spatial median of MODIS AOD constrained S_a retrievals at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution during daytime for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols for (a) DJF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA, and (d) SON. Medians are shown for those grid boxes containing at least 50 points.

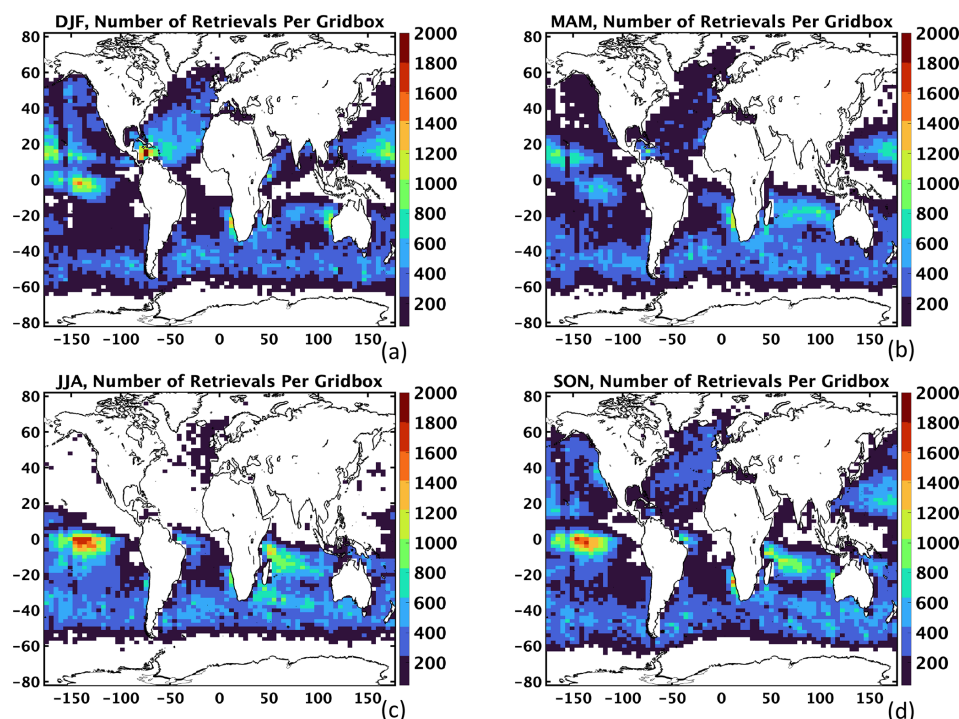


Figure 7. Twelve-year (2006–2018) number of samples per $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude grid box of MODIS AOD constrained S_a retrievals during daytime for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols, only for those grid boxes with at least 50 points (Fig. 6), for (a) DJF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA, and (d) SON.

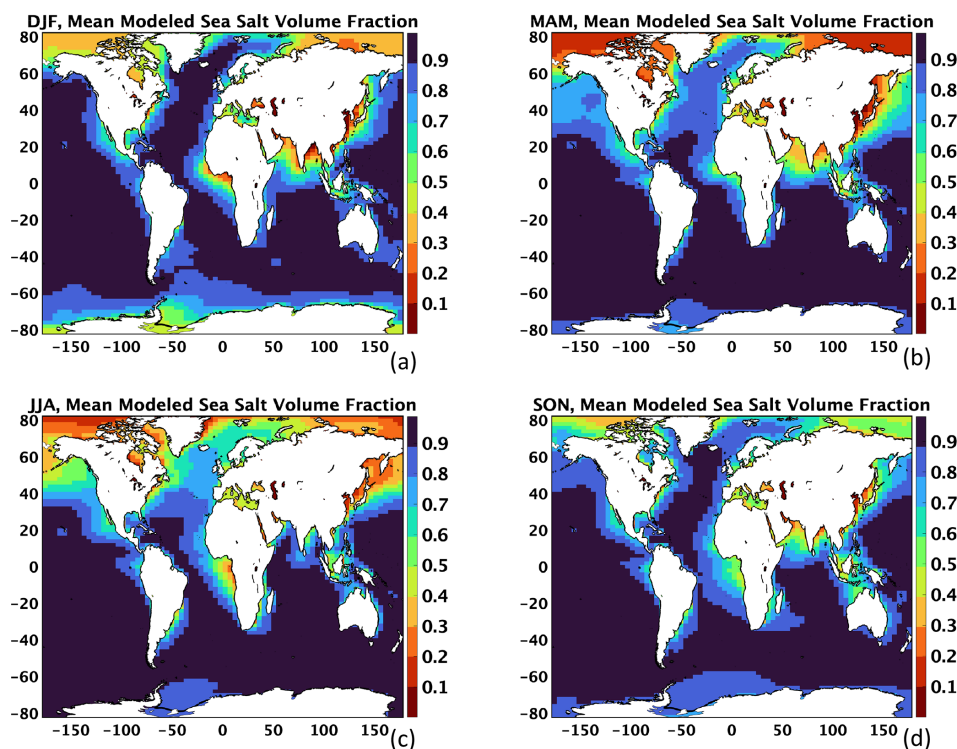


Figure 8. Twelve-year (2006–2018) spatial mean SSVF ($Z < 2.5$ km) from GEOS/GOCART at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution for (a) DJF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA, and (d) SON.

spring (Stachlewska et al., 2018). In addition, Engelmann et al. (2021) observed S_a greater than 70 sr in the North Pole region ($85\text{--}88.5^\circ\text{N}$), which they attribute to long-range transport of smoke aerosols.

The benefit of Fig. 9 is that we now have global coverage (i.e., a strength of this model approach) of S_a , whereas the empirically derived S_a coverage is lacking in some areas. However, the intended purpose of these model-assisted maps is not to replace the retrievals, but to fill in the regions where there are no retrievals. Thus, we merged the seasonal S_a maps of Figs. 6 and 9 to create “hybrid” retrieval/model-assisted maps, for which each $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ grid box includes either: (a) a S_a retrieval if available and meets the 50-point minimum requirement or (b) a model-assisted S_a value for all other grid boxes. However, we implemented two additional procedures in creating the final V5 marine S_a maps. For one, based on the field measurements shown in Table 2, we set a default minimum S_a value of 15 sr (i.e., if median S_a value is less than 15 sr, we set it to 15 sr). Secondly, we implemented an outlier replacement procedure that replaced outliers with the median of the surrounding 8 grid boxes (whether retrieved or model-assisted) whenever the absolute value of the relative difference of the S_a in the center pixel of a 3×3 grid was 30 % greater than the median of the surrounding grid boxes. This was done to address some significant discontinuities observed in earlier test versions of the

S_a maps. However, they only accounted for $\sim 1\text{--}2\%$ of all grid boxes over water (Fig. 12).

Figure 10 shows the resultant final V5 S_a maps for each season for CALIPSO-classified marine aerosols. Wide areas of the oceans are characterized by S_a less than 25 sr, with some regions less than 20 sr (e.g., Southern Oceans, especially in MAM and JJA). S_a increase south of $\sim 60^\circ\text{S}$ latitude, especially in the DJF season. The largest S_a (> 50 sr) are found in the coastal regions, including Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, off the coast of Asia, west coast of Africa, and the Arctic region. While the minimum S_a is forced to 15 sr for all seasons, the maximum S_a value is ~ 56 sr for MAM. This is a model-derived S_a in the Bohai Sea (near China) that corresponds to a SSVF of 3.5 %. The maximum value for JJA is modeled as ~ 57 sr, located in the Caspian Sea (Middle East) and corresponding to a SSVF of 2.5 %. The maximum values for SON and DJF (both ~ 63 sr) are retrievals near the coast in the northern Bay of Bengal and thus are not influenced by modeled SSVF. The magnitudes of these values are undoubtedly influenced by high concentrations of anthropogenic aerosols in the region.

Each S_a of Fig. 10 is assigned a relative uncertainty value based on the following procedure. For those grid boxes with S_a retrievals, the uncertainty is computed as the median absolute deviation (MAD) divided by the median. This value is used provided it is not greater than the default V4 CALIPSO marine aerosol S_a relative uncertainty of 22 %

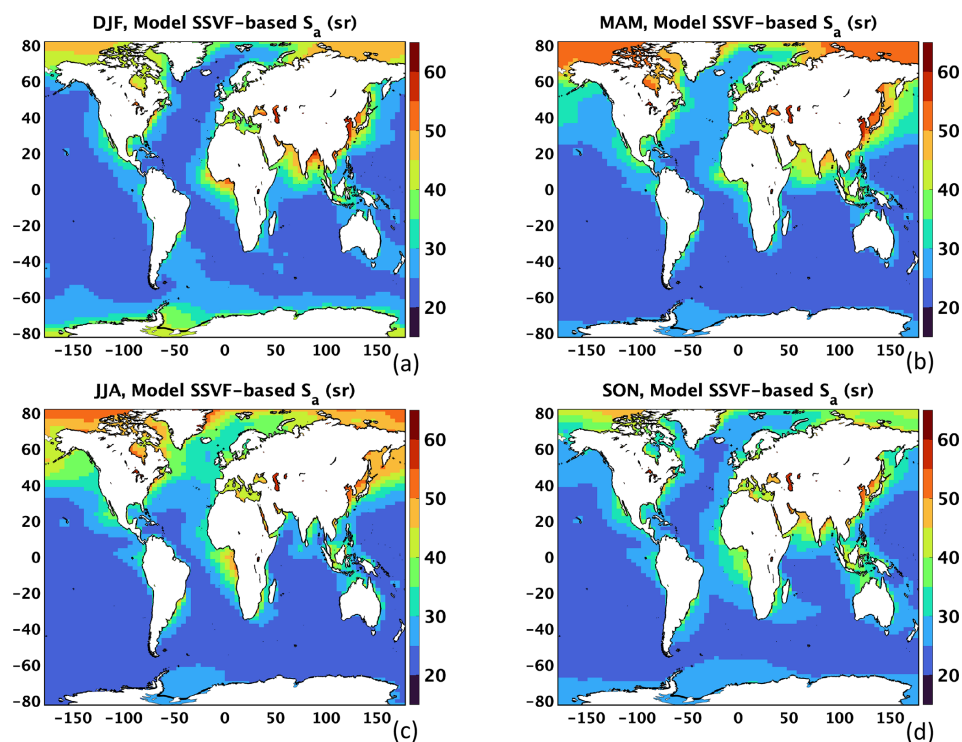


Figure 9. Twelve-year (2006–2018) model-assisted S_a derived using Fig. 8 and Eq. (1) at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution for (a) DJF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA, and (d) SON.

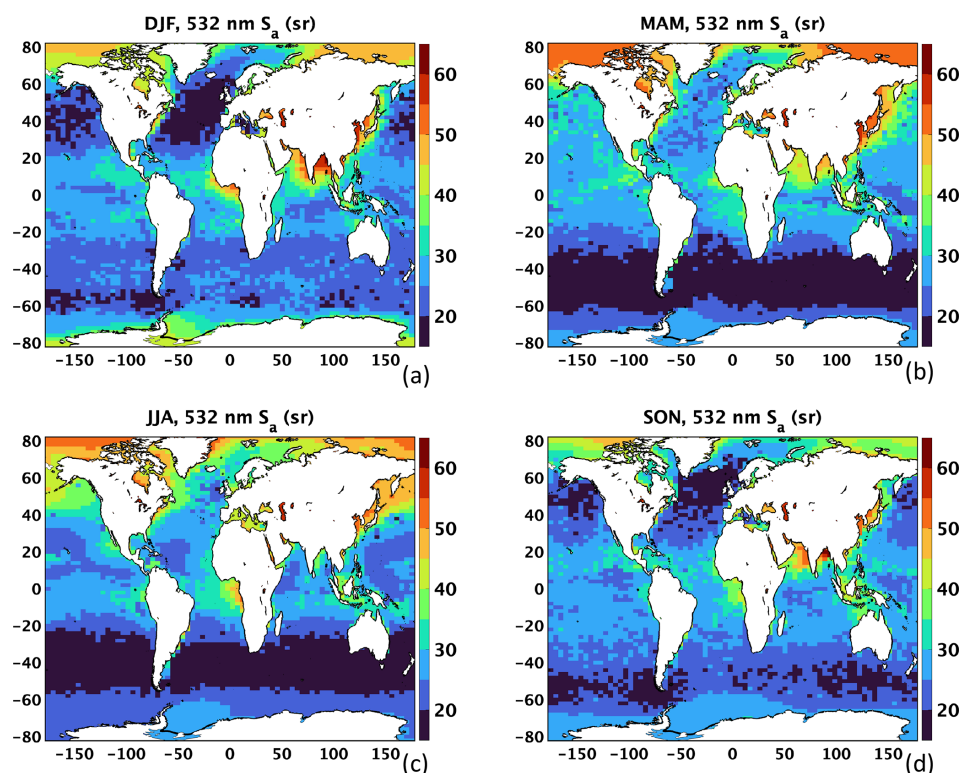


Figure 10. Twelve-year (2006–2018) hybrid S_a for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols, using the constrained retrieval, model estimation, default minimum, and outlier replacement methods, at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution for (a) DJF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA, and (d) SON. These maps represent the marine S_a tables used to create the CALIPSO Version 5 (V5) data products.

(Kim et al., 2018). If it is greater, it is set to 22 %. Likewise, those grid boxes that use the model-assisted S_a or are assigned the default minimum value of 15 sr are also assigned a relative uncertainty of 22 %. The resultant S_a relative uncertainty seasonal maps are shown in Fig. 11. Areas in red indicate those grid boxes with highest uncertainties (i.e., 22 %), whereas regions for which there are retrievals available generally exhibit uncertainties between 10 % and 20 %. Note that for those grid cells with retrievals and an assigned uncertainty of 22 %, the uncertainty median $\pm$ uncertainty MAD prior to assignment is 25 ± 2 % (DJF and MAM) and 26 ± 2 % (JJA and SON).

Figure 12 illustrates the method used to obtain the S_a value of each grid box for each season (Fig. 10). Those grid boxes with retrievals are shown in black and generally dominate the maps (with the exception of JJA). Model-assisted S_a are denoted in red, and include regions such as the Southern Oceans, Arctic, and Indonesia during all seasons, most of the Northern Hemisphere during JJA, and the Bay of Bengal/Arabian Sea during MAM. Grid boxes colored green denote the default minimum S_a value of 15 sr was used, including in DJF (North Atlantic), MAM and JJA (Southern Oceans), and SON (a few isolated grid boxes in the Southern Oceans and North Atlantic). Finally, outlier S_a computed from the smoothing procedure are shown in blue. While outliers are infrequent and located in various regions across the global oceans, they are mostly situated at the default minimum-to-model boundary around $\sim 60^\circ$ S in JJA (Fig. 12c).

4.3 Differences between V4.51 and V5 CALIPSO aerosol extinction and AOD, and preliminary validation study with ODCOD

Now that we have updated S_a values for marine aerosols as a function of region and season, we can assess the impact these S_a values have on CALIPSO L2 aerosol extinction and AOD retrievals. Note, however, that our intent is limited to providing a preliminary analysis, as the purpose of this paper is to document our technique and provide updates of the V5 CALIPSO S_a to the community, as opposed to large-scale validation (a topic planned for a future paper). The seasonal S_a maps (Fig. 10) were used in a V5 prerelease of the CALIPSO data processing software to retrieve new aerosol extinction profiles and tropospheric AODs. Four months (January, April, July, and October) of 2015 were chosen for this analysis, to ensure one month from each season was represented. We report the differences in aerosol extinction coefficients and mean AOD between V4.51 and those from the V5 prerelease (V5-PR) data. We also use the AOD computed from the CALIPSO ODCOD algorithm as an independent source of validation, as it provides an estimate of total column optical depth retrieved from the CALIOP backscatter signal return of the ocean surface (Ryan et al., 2024). ODCOD is compared with both the stan-

dard V4.51 CALIPSO tropospheric AOD and the CALIPSO V5-PR AOD obtained using the revised S_a developed in this work (Fig. 10). Note that the V4.51 ODCOD dataset has been validated against coastal/island AERONET AODs with a near-zero bias (0.011) and a root-mean-square-error (RMSE) of 0.12 (60 %) (Thorsen et al., 2025).

Specifically, daytime and nighttime granules of the CAL_LID_L2_05kmAPro-Standard-V4-51 and CAL_LID_L2_05kmAPro-Standard-V5-00-PR products were leveraged during this analysis of V5-PR aerosol extinction coefficients and AODs through the “Extinction_Coefficient_532” and “Column_Optical_Depth_Tropospheric_Aerosols_532” parameters. The AODs were compared against those of the “ODCOD_Effective_Optical_Depth_532” parameter found in the CAL_LID_L2_05kmMLay-Standard-V5-00 product. The “Scene_Flag” in this product was used to ensure the use of only cloud-free profiles containing only CALIOP-classified marine aerosols. For a more robust analysis, we also filter these data for only those ODCOD retrievals for which Bit 7 of “ODCOD_QC_Flag_532” is not set, thus indicating a confident retrieval (Ryan et al., 2024). These confident retrievals require all of the following conditions be met: the ODCOD_Effective_Optical_Depth_532 retrieval must be valid (i.e., not -9999.0), all single shots of the averaged L1 attenuated backscatter profile must have the same number of bins shifted (i.e., the “ssNumber_Bins_Shift” parameter in the CAL_LID_L2_05kmMLay-Standard-V5-00 product), the AMSR corrected MERRA-2 wind speed (i.e., magnitude of the reported ODCOD_Surface_Wind_Speeds_10m plus the ODCOD_Surface_Wind_Speed_Correction) must be between 3 and 15 m s^{-1} , the surface integrated depolarization ratio (SIDR) must be less than or equal to 0.05, and the surface 532 nm integrated attenuated backscatter (SIAB) must be less than or equal to 0.0413 sr^{-1} (daytime) or less than or equal to 0.0353 sr^{-1} (nighttime). This procedure provides a strictly filtered and robust subsample of all over-ocean cloud-free profiles that are used in our preliminary V5-PR analysis.

The aerosol extinction coefficients from V4.51 and V5-PR, and mean AODs from V4.51, V5-PR, and ODCOD, are compared for each of the 4 months (January, April, July, and October of 2015) for Global Oceans and seven regions: Southern Oceans (R1), Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea (R2), Remote Pacific Ocean (R3), North Atlantic Ocean (R4), West Coast of North America (R5), Asia Coast (R6), and West Coast of Africa (R7). The latitude and longitude boundaries for each region are shown spatially in Fig. 13. While some regions encompass a large amount of land, only the oceanic parts of each domain are used in the analysis. These regions were selected specifically to capture different aerosol model scenarios, including coastal (typically low SSVF, thus higher S_a) and open oceans (typically high SSVF, thus lower S_a), and various derived- S_a regimes in general (e.g., model versus retrieval).

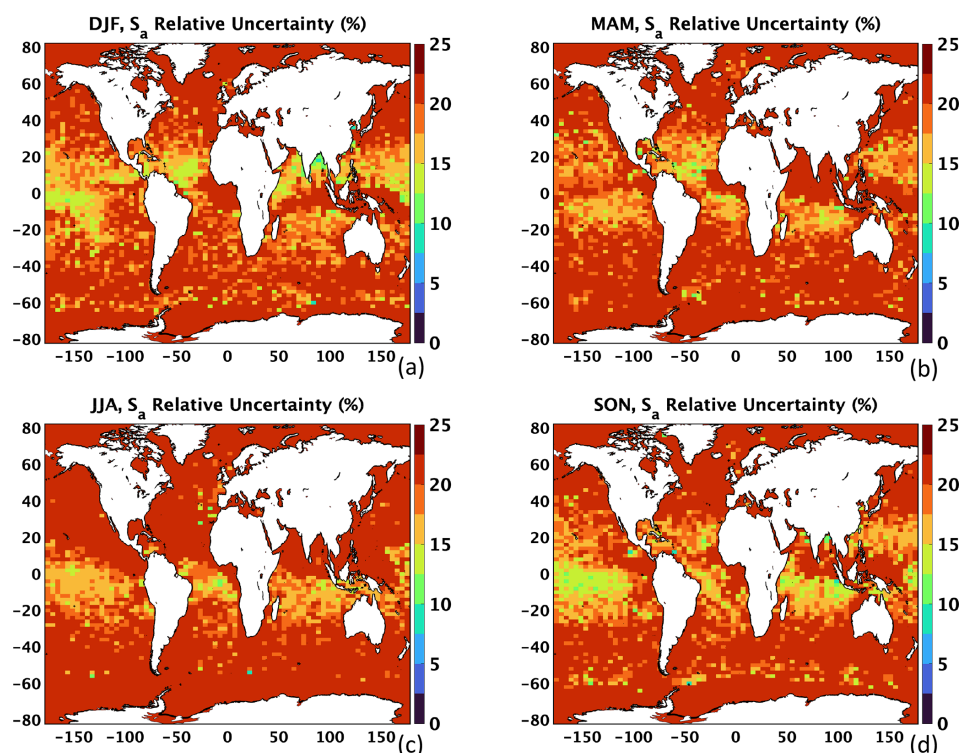


Figure 11. Twelve-year (2006–2018) S_a relative uncertainties for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution for (a) DJF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA, and (d) SON.

Figure 14 shows examples of the daytime comparisons of V4.51 and V5-PR CALIPSO aerosol extinction coefficient retrievals for only those profiles with CALIOP-classified marine aerosols (as determined by the L2 CALIPSO VFM product) for two regions (Southern Oceans and Bay of Bengal/Arabian Sea) and two months (January and July 2015). For context, the corresponding S_a differences are shown in the histograms of Fig. 15, computed using the “Initial_Lidar_Ratio_Aerosols_532” parameter in the CAL_LID_L2_05kmALay products as V5-PR – V4.51 (i.e., V5-PR – 23 sr). For the Southern Oceans during January 2015 (Fig. 14a), most points fall along the one-to-one line and thus indicate little change in aerosol extinction between V4.51 and V5-PR in this region and season (i.e., little departure between the V5-PR S_a , as shown in Fig. 10a, and the fixed V4.51 S_a value of 23 sr). A near-zero (0.44 sr) mean difference in V5-PR–V4.51 initial S_a is found for this region/month (Fig. 15a). However, in July 2015 (Fig. 14c), lower aerosol extinction retrievals are found for V5-PR compared to V4.51, as a result of S_a lower than 23 sr (Fig. 10c; with a mean difference of -3.59 sr, as shown in Fig. 15c).

In the Bay of Bengal/Arabian Sea region, the V5-PR aerosol extinction coefficients are far larger than those from V4.51 during January 2015 (Fig. 14b), resulting from the much larger V5-PR S_a used in this region and season (Fig. 10a) compared to 23 sr (mean difference of 29.34 sr, as shown in Fig. 15b). The V5-PR S_a are smaller during JJA

(Fig. 10c) and thus the resultant V5-PR aerosol extinction coefficients for July 2015 are closer in agreement with those from V4.51 yet still a bit larger (Fig. 14d). The corresponding mean S_a difference is 5.68 sr (Fig. 15d). This region is discussed further in a case study in Sect. 4.4.

The results of the daytime AOD analysis for 4 months of 2015 (January, April, July, and October) are shown in the bar plots of Fig. 16, with mean V4.51 AOD (in blue), mean V5-PR AOD (in orange), and mean ODCOD (in yellow). Globally, V5-PR AODs are larger than V4.51, but only by a small amount (i.e., ~ 0.01 – 0.02). Similarly for most regions/seasons, V5-PR AODs are larger than V4.51. This is indicative of larger V5-PR S_a in those regions/seasons compared to the V4.51 value of 23 sr. Sometimes the increase in AOD from V4.51 to V5-PR is minimal (e.g., ~ 0.01 in the Remote Pacific in October 2015; R3 in Fig. 16d). However, the region with the largest changes in AOD is the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea (R2), particularly during January 2015, with an AOD increase of ~ 0.20 (Fig. 16a). This is indicative of a much larger V5-PR S_a compared to V4.51 (as examined in the case study of Sect. 4.4). For other regions, like the Southern Oceans (R1), the V5-PR AOD is consistently the same or lower than V4.51, a direct result of using a S_a value similar or lower than 23 sr in this area.

The differences between V4.51 AOD and ODCOD (Fig. 16) demonstrate the performance of the V4.51 standard retrieval relative to ODCOD (our “truth” dataset) and

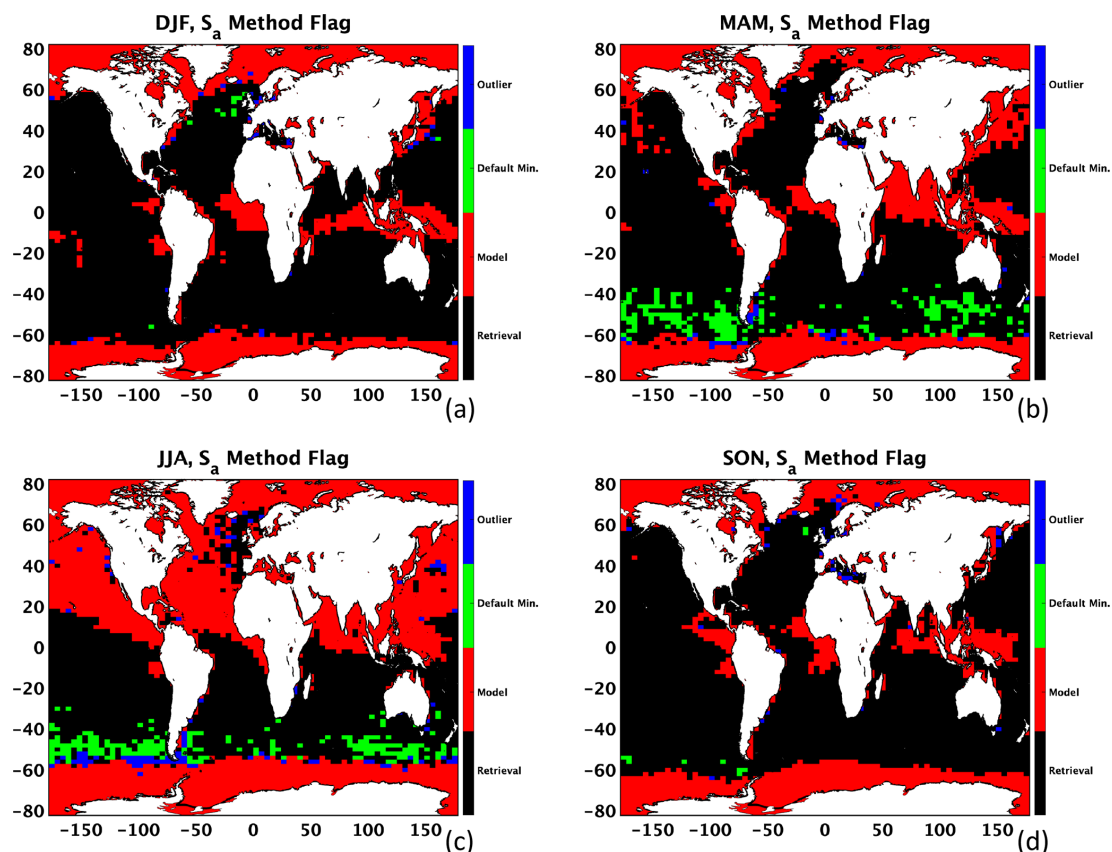


Figure 12. The S_a method flag denoting the method used to obtain the 12-year (2006–2018) hybrid S_a shown in Fig. 10, consisting of either constrained retrieval (black), model estimation (red), default minimum (green), or outlier replacement (blue). These are provided at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution for (a) DJF, (b) MAM, (c) JJA, and (d) SON.

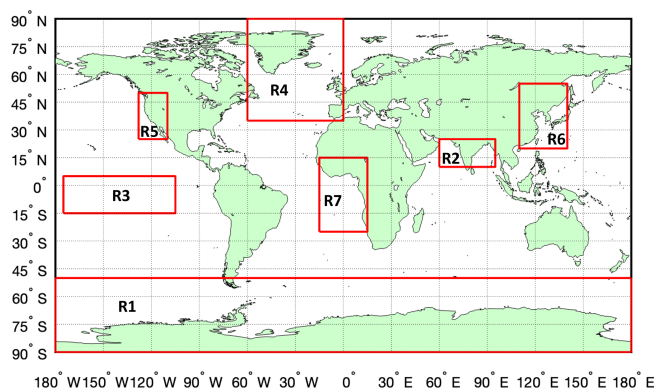


Figure 13. The latitude and longitude boundaries for each of the seven regions of the aerosol extinction coefficient and AOD study (Sect. 4.3), including Southern Oceans (R1; -90 to -50° , -180 to 180°), Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea (R2; 10 to 25° , 60 to 95°), Remote Pacific Ocean (R3; -15 to 5° , -175 to -105°), North Atlantic Ocean (R4; 35 to 90° , -60 to 0°), West Coast of North America (R5; 25 to 50° , -128 to -110°), Asia Coast (R6; 20 to 55° , 110 to 140°), and West Coast of Africa (R7; -25 to 15° , -15 to 15°).

quantify the deficiencies in the ability of the standard V4.51 CALIOP retrieval to reliably estimate the column AOD. These deficiencies can be due to both S_a selection and layer detection, such that even if the correct S_a is used, the standard retrieval is expected to be lower than ODCOD. This can be attributed to optically thin layers that are below CALIOP's direct detection thresholds and are not detected as features in the standard retrieval but are responsible for attenuation that is accounted for in the ODCOD retrieval. Toth et al. (2018) suggests that the standard retrieval generally fails to detect any layers when the column optical depths are below ~ 0.06 (estimated globally, not regionally).

Globally and for most regions/seasons, ODCOD is greater than V4.51 (as expected, i.e., due at least partly to layer detection), most notably in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea during January and April 2015. The differences between the V5-PR AOD and ODCOD demonstrate the performance of the seasonally and regionally varying S_a maps relative to ODCOD, and these are found to be generally smaller than the V4.51-ODCOD differences (i.e., V5-PR AODs exhibit a better agreement with ODCOD than V4.51, as expected). For example, in the Bay of Bengal/Arabian Sea during January 2015, the difference in mean AOD changes from ~ 0.24 be-

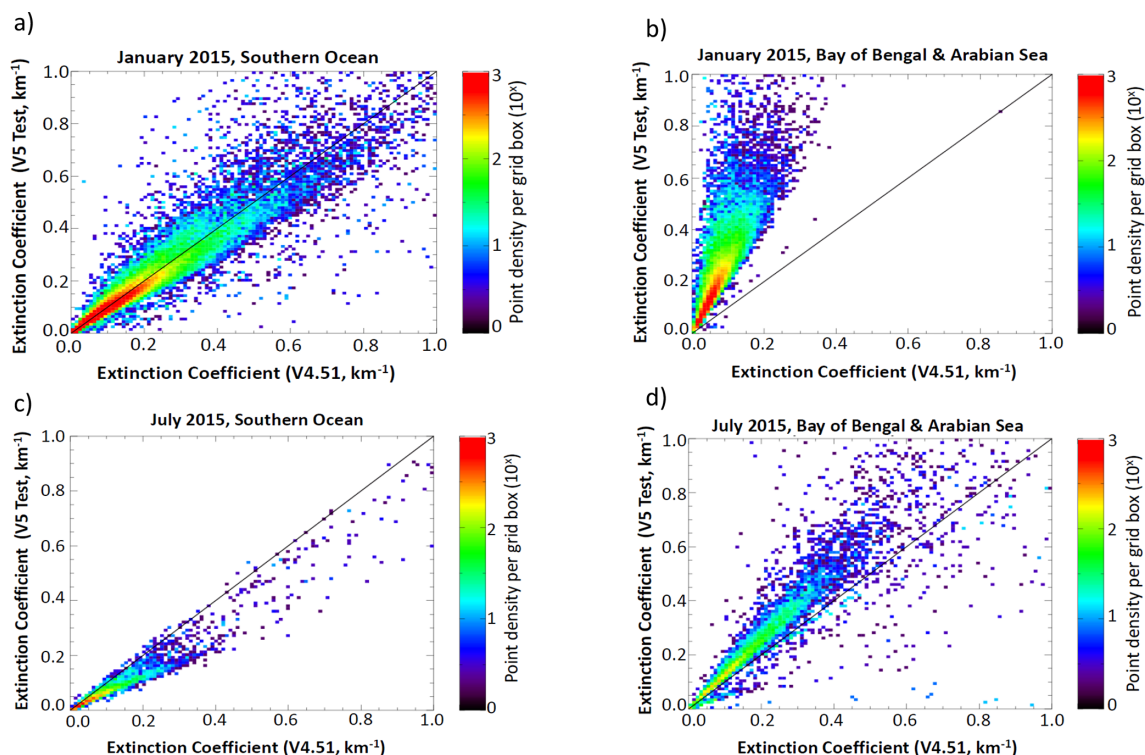


Figure 14. Scatterplots of daytime 532 nm Level 2 (L2) aerosol extinction coefficient retrievals for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols from the V4.51 versus V5-PR CALIPSO data products for the Southern Oceans region (-90 to -50° , -180 to 180°) during (a) January 2015 and (c) July 2015, as well as the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea region (10 – 25° N latitude, 60 – 95° E longitude) during (b) January 2015 and (d) July 2015. The scatterplots are color-coded by number density and the black line is the one-to-one line.

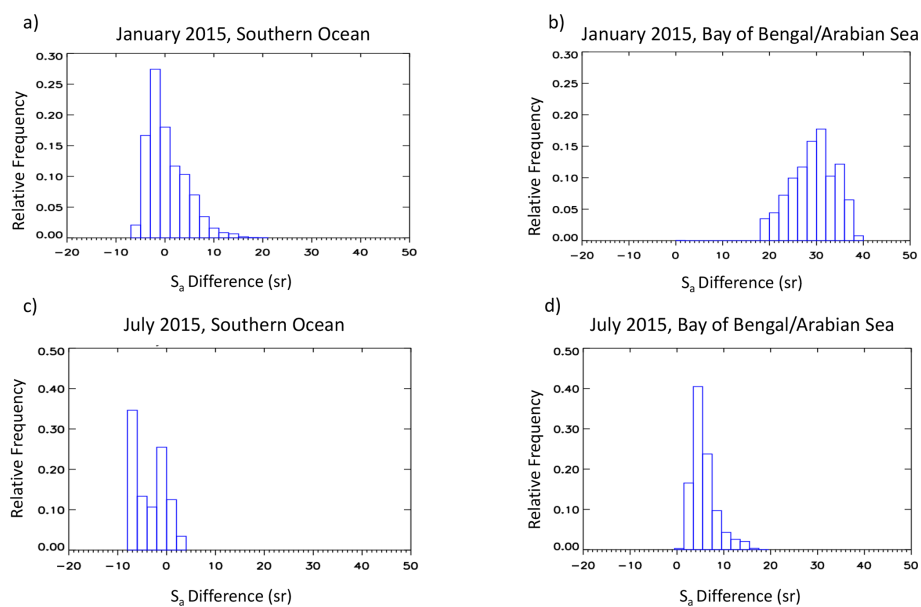


Figure 15. Histograms of daytime 532 nm Level 2 (L2) initial S_a differences between the V4.51 and V5-PR CALIPSO data products ($V5-PR - V4.51$) for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols for the Southern Oceans region (-90 to -50° , -180 to 180°) during (a) January 2015 and (c) July 2015, as well as the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea region (10 – 25° N latitude, 60 – 95° E longitude) during (b) January 2015 and (d) July 2015.

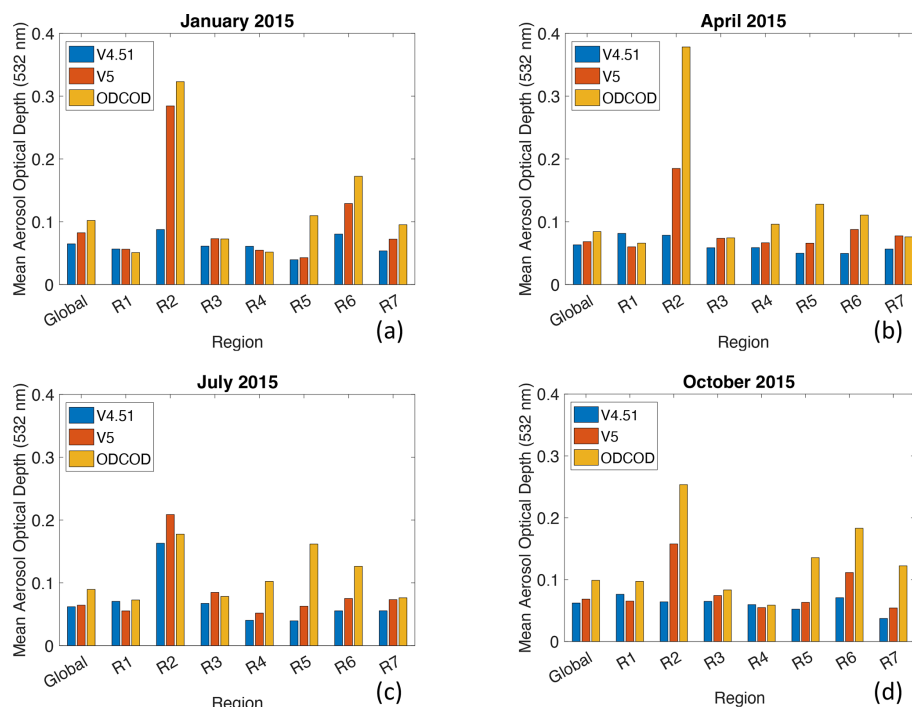


Figure 16. Bar plots of daytime mean aerosol optical depth (AOD) for CALIPSO Version 4.51 (V4.51; in blue), Version 5 (V5-PR; in orange), and ODCOD (in yellow) for (a) January 2015, (b) April 2015, (c) July 2015, and (d) October 2015. Mean AODs are shown for Global Oceans and for seven regions: Southern Oceans (R1; -90 to -50° , -180 to 180°), Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea (R2; 10 to 25° , 60 to 95°), Remote Pacific Ocean (R3; -15 to 5° , -175 to -105°), North Atlantic Ocean (R4; 35 to 90° , -60 to 0°), West Coast of North America (R5; 25 to 50° , -128 to -110°), Asia Coast (R6; 20 to 55° , 110 to 140°), and West Coast of Africa (R7; -25 to 15° , -15 to 15°). These analyses are subsampled for those CALIOP 5 km segments with valid retrievals of V4.51 tropospheric AOD, V5-PR tropospheric AOD, and ODCOD, are cloud-free, and contain only marine aerosols.

tween ODCOD and V4.51 to ~ 0.04 between ODCOD and V5-PR (note that the 0.04 value is comparable to the 0.06 value reported in Toth et al., 2018). This scenario illustrates the improvements to CALIOP AOD due to the use of the new S_a maps versus a fixed value of S_a for marine aerosols. However, differences in mean AOD ($\gtrsim 0.02$ – 0.03) still exist between V5-PR AOD and ODCOD for the global oceans (and larger for some regions/seasons), even after implementing our regionally and seasonally varying S_a (e.g., the ODCOD vs. V5-PR difference of ~ 0.19 for the Bay of Bengal/Arabian Sea in April 2015). Again, these are likely due to detection deficiencies in the standard CALIOP aerosol retrieval that are not an issue for the ODCOD algorithm (Ryan et al., 2024).

Note that results similar to those shown in Fig. 16 are found for a nighttime analysis, provided as bar plots in Appendix A (Fig. A1). Also, for context, we include in the appendix daytime bar plots for those 5 km CALIOP segments in which collocated Aqua MODIS AODs are available in addition to V4.51, V5-PR, and ODCOD (Fig. A2; however, this analysis is not as robust due to the relatively low number of MODIS data points for several seasons/regions). As a final remark, we note that uncertainties exist in the OD-

COD and standard AOD retrievals. For example, Ryan et al. (2024) report a global ODCOD median random uncertainty of $\sim 0.11 \pm 0.01$. Thus, the statistical robustness of the comparisons likely varies as a function of month/region.

4.4 S_a case study: Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea

As discussed in Sect. 4.3, the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea region featured the greatest changes to L2 CALIPSO tropospheric AOD (specifically in January 2015) when using the new seasonal S_a maps to retrieve aerosol extinction rather than a fixed S_a value. However, this was not the case in July 2015, as a much smaller change in AOD was found for this region (Fig. 16c). In this section, we explore this seasonality and link it to seasonal changes in wind speed magnitude and direction due to Indian monsoon patterns.

Figure 17a shows the 2006–2018 spatial mean modeled SSVF below 2.5 km for the DJF season, with low SSVFs (below 65 %) for the entire region. This is consistent with the generally low wind speeds and northeast wind flow found during DJF in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea (e.g., Shankar et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2020). Wind speed impacts the production of sea salt aerosols and is highly influential in modeling the amount of sea salt aerosols, as models param-

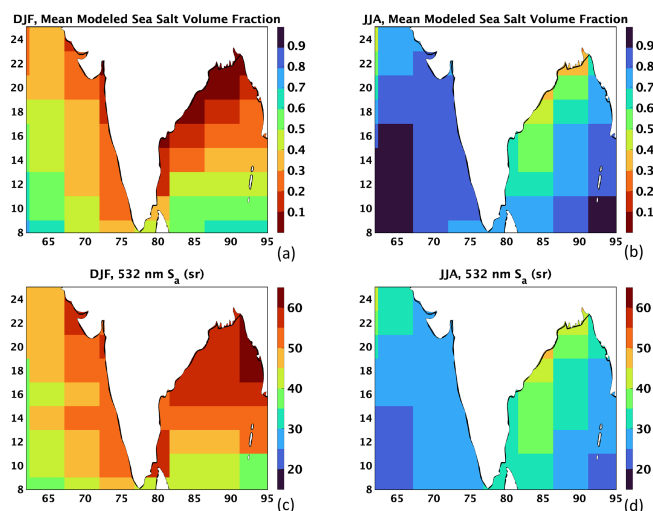


Figure 17. For 2006–2018 at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude resolution, spatial mean SSVF ($Z < 2.5$ km) from GEOS/GOCART for (a) DJF and (b) JJA, and hybrid S_a map from constrained retrievals and model estimations for (c) DJF and (d) JJA, for the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea region ($10\text{--}25^\circ$ N latitude, $60\text{--}95^\circ$ E longitude).

eterize sea salt emissions by wind speed (Chin et al., 2002). Lower wind speeds result in less sea salt aerosol, so, with all else being equal, would produce lower SSVFs. As for wind flow, since the prevailing pattern is from the northeast due to the Winter Indian Monsoon, there is a greater opportunity for transport of smoke/pollution from land sources into the marine environment and thus also lower the SSVFs. These patterns are consistent with the DJF S_a map (Fig. 17c), as much of the region exhibits S_a of greater than 45 sr, indicating a pollution/marine aerosol mixture. The opposite patterns are found for the JJA season, with larger SSVFs (Fig. 17b) and smaller S_a (Fig. 17d). This is consistent with greater wind speeds (i.e., more sea salt production) and prevailing southwest flow due to the Summer Indian Monsoon (i.e., less pollution transport).

Figure 18 shows the evaluation of the tropospheric CALIPSO AODs in the Bay of Bengal/Arabian Sea region due to the new S_a (V5-PR), shown here in 2D histogram form as an extension of the analyses from Sect. 4.3. Figure 18b reveals a better agreement between ODCOD and the V5-PR CALIOP AOD (slope = 0.69) than between ODCOD and the V4.51 standard CALIOP AOD (slope = 0.14; Fig. 18a). The RMSE also decreases for the ODCOD/V5-PR CALIOP AOD analysis (0.19; Fig. 18b) compared to that of ODCOD/V4.51 standard CALIOP AOD (0.27; Fig. 18a). This improvement in January 2015 is a result of the larger S_a (mostly retrievals) used in this region and season (Fig. 17c) compared to the fixed V4.51 CALIPSO marine S_a of 23 sr. Note that this is even more evident during comparisons to Aqua MODIS AOD (Fig. A3). The results of this case study

demonstrate the importance of performing these S_a analyses on seasonal scales.

4.5 Validation using ground-based AOD retrievals from AERONET

In a previous section, we evaluated the differences in AOD between CALIPSO Version 4.51 (fixed S_a) and the V5-PR AODs (S_a tables) and the relationship between these AODs and ODCOD for a 4-month period. Here, we perform a more extensive (June 2006–October 2022) validation of the V5-PR CALIPSO AODs using coastal and island AERONET measurements and contrasting that analysis with Version 4.51 AODs. NASA's AERONET is a global, ground-based sun photometer network that has been used for over three decades as the primary means for the validation of spaceborne aerosol retrievals (Holben et al., 1998). AOD retrievals from AERONET report uncertainties of $\pm 0.01\text{--}0.02$ (Eck et al., 1999; Barreto et al., 2016; Giles et al., 2019). The approach taken here exactly follows the study of Thorsen et al. (2025). In brief, V3 L2 cloud-screened and quality-assured AODs (Giles et al., 2019) are used, after interpolation to 532 nm using a 2nd order polynomial fit (Eck et al., 1999; Schuster et al., 2006). These AERONET AODs from coastal and island sites are spatially (within 80 km) and temporally (within 2 h) collocated with over-water CALIPSO profiles. Further methodology details (e.g., filtering, averaging, significance testing) can be found in Thorsen et al. (2025). Lastly, we limit the analysis to samples with at least one CALIOP layer classified as marine aerosol, that is, other aerosol types may also be included in the vertical profile. This methodological choice enables us to increase the data yield, allowing for a statistically robust analysis.

AOD comparisons between AERONET and CALIPSO are depicted in Fig. 19. From V4.51 to the V5-PR AODs, RMSE decreases from 0.16 (88 %) to 0.13 (72 %) and bias decreases from -0.049 (-28 %) to -0.024 (-14 %). Both V4.51 and V5-PR AODs exhibit significant ($p < 0.001$) biases. The RMSE improvement in V5-PR is not quite statistically significant at the traditional 95 % confidence level, but it is close ($p = 0.062$). These comparisons suggest modest improvements in AODs due to the new S_a tables for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols implemented in the V5-PR CALIPSO L2 algorithms. Note that the V4.51 and V5-PR AOD biases shown in Fig. 19 are both less than the 0.06 detection bias of Toth et al. (2018), as discussed in Sect. 4.3. However, since the 0.06 value was computed for global oceans, it may not always provide an accurate comparison metric for regional studies (as in the coastal/island dataset of Fig. 19).

Note that the validation efforts of the V5 S_a in this paper focused on a column-integrated aerosol perspective (i.e., AOD and comparisons with ODCOD and AERONET). However, we carried out preliminary investigations of CALIPSO aerosol extinction profiles collocated with data from air-

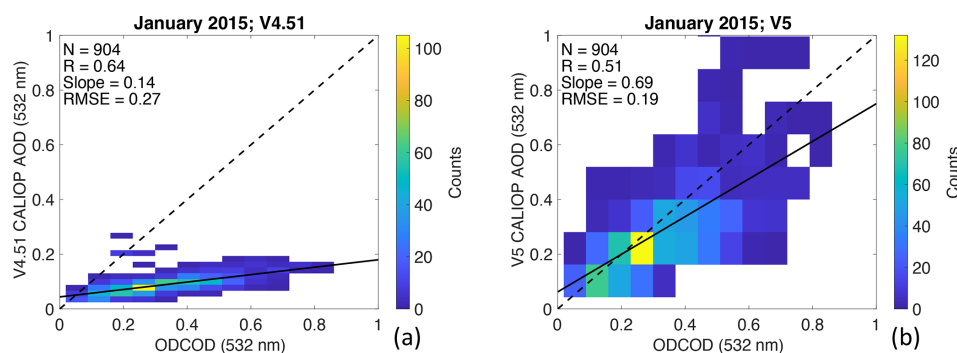


Figure 18. For the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea region (10–25° N latitude, 60–95° E longitude) during January 2015, 2D histograms of ODCOD against the (a) V4.51 CALIPSO AOD and (b) V5-PR CALIPSO AOD (i.e., using the seasonal and regional S_a), all at 532 nm. The dashed lines indicate the one-to-one lines, and the solid black lines show the lines-of-best-fit.

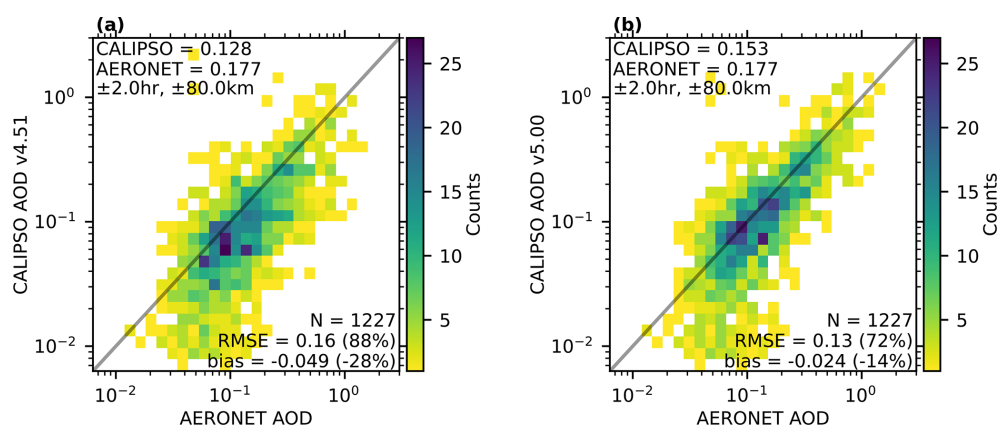


Figure 19. 2D histograms of AERONET AOD against (a) CALIPSO Version 4.51 AOD and (b) CALIPSO Version 5 AOD for June 2006 through October 2022, with at least one marine aerosol layer present in the CALIPSO profiles.

borne High Spectral Resolution Lidar (HSRL) underflights of CALIPSO, and only minimal changes between V4.51 and V5 were found (thus not provided here). This is because the majority of underflights were in areas (e.g., Sargasso Sea) with small changes in S_a (i.e., the V5 S_a were similar to 23 sr for marine). Airborne HSRL underflights of CALIPSO are not available for regions in which we expect the greatest impact to aerosol extinction profiles (e.g., regions where the largest AOD changes were found, like the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea).

5 Conclusions

Twelve-years (2006–2018) of NASA CALIOP attenuated backscatter profiles, constrained by Aqua MODIS AOD, were used to derive extinction-to-backscatter ratios, known as lidar ratios (S_a), over oceans during daytime conditions at 532 nm. The S_a analysis was subsampled for only those CALIOP aerosol layers classified as “marine”, as determined by the CALIOP aerosol typing algorithm. In an improvement over the current Version 4.51 (V4.51) S_a selection scheme

that assigns a single S_a per aerosol type per wavelength, this work focuses on the creation of regional and seasonal S_a tables (at $2^\circ \times 4.8^\circ$ latitude/longitude grid spacing) that have been incorporated into the Version 5.00 (V5) CALIPSO data products release. The V4.51 value of 23 sr for CALIOP-classified marine aerosol was updated with S_a values that vary both regionally and seasonally. The bulk of the S_a tables were produced through climatological maps of S_a retrievals constrained by MODIS AOD, but data sparse regions use model-assisted values derived using the relationship between the constrained retrievals and GEOS GOCART modeled sea salt volume fractions (SSVFs). The hybrid (retrieval + model) S_a maps were used in initial validation studies by ingesting them into the CALIOP algorithms to produce new Version 5.0 prerelease (V5-PR) CALIOP aerosol extinction profiles and tropospheric AODs. These were then compared against the standard V4.51 CALIOP tropospheric AODs, the CALIPSO ODCOD parameter, and ground-based AERONET AOD retrievals.

The major findings of this study are:

1. An inverse relationship is found between the modeled SSVFs and the AOD constrained S_a of CALIOP-classified marine aerosols. In the remote oceans, larger SSVFs ($> 95\%$) correspond to smaller S_a (< 30 sr), more indicative of “pure” sea salt aerosols. Near land masses, smaller SSVFs ($< 65\%$) correspond to larger S_a (> 40 sr), indicating the influence of aerosols from land sources. A second order polynomial fit to these data yields values of 21 sr for 100 % SSVF and 58 sr for 0 % SSVF.
2. Hybrid (retrieval + model) S_a tables (i.e., latitude by longitude by season) were created for December–February (DJF), March–May (MAM), June–August (JJA), and September–November (SON). These maps capture the regional and seasonal variability of S_a , including the atmospheric patterns/movement of aerosols. For example, the monsoon patterns near India influence the amount of sea salt aerosols versus over-land aerosols and thus impact the S_a found over the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. A case study of this region demonstrated the impact of the seasonal S_a for DJF, during which the constrained S_a retrievals (> 45 sr) are substantially larger than that of the V4.51 CALIOP-classified marine value of 23 sr, thus resulting in correspondingly larger aerosol extinction and AOD retrievals in the V5 data products.
3. Global analysis of the selection method used to obtain S_a for any location shows that MODIS-constrained retrievals are used over large areas of the oceans for most seasons, with the exception being the Northern Hemisphere in JJA, where MODIS sun glint causes greatly increased reliance on the model-assisted values. The model estimation method is also used in the polar regions due to a lack of MODIS-constrained S_a retrievals.
4. An initial comparison was made between daytime V4.51 and V5-PR CALIPSO aerosol extinction coefficients retrieved over oceans within seven climatologically varying regions for 4 months in 2015 (January, April, July, and October). Similar comparisons were conducted using V5-PR AODs and collocated ODCOD retrievals. V5-PR AODs are generally larger (and better agree with ODCOD) than V4.51 AODs, as the S_a tables yield values greater than the 23 sr used uniformly by V4.51 over vast parts of the oceans. Globally, this difference is slight (~ 0.01 – 0.02), but some regional-ity exists. For example, a region with little change or a slight decrease is the Southern Oceans (i.e., V5-PR S_a are similar to or smaller than 23 sr). A region with a large increase in AOD (e.g., ~ 0.20 during January 2015) is the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea due to the large S_a increasing the retrieved aerosol extinction and subsequent AOD.
5. In a comparison with ground-based retrievals from coastal and island AERONET sites, the transition from V4.51 AODs to V5-PR AODs yields a root-mean-square-error decrease from 0.16 (88 %) to 0.13 (72 %) and a corresponding bias decrease from -0.049 (-28%) to -0.024 (-14%). This represents a modest improvement in the V5 AODs from that of the V4.51 dataset which can be attributed directly to the V5 S_a tables for CALIOP-classified marine aerosols.

In this study, we develop a synergistic fusion of passive and active remote sensing measurements to build a collection of marine aerosol S_a maps with values that vary as a function of region and season. In the CALIPSO V5 data products, the initial lidar ratios for all aerosol layers classified as marine by the CALIOP aerosol subtyping algorithm are interpolated in both time and space from these maps. These interpolated values are reported in the CALIOP V5 data products, as is a flag value that identifies these retrievals as being based on the S_a maps. Applying this technique over the ocean allows for a more realistic ocean-to-land S_a transition in coastal regions. In the previous CALIPSO S_a approach, a large step change was seen in the aerosol S_a over land and over water. The regional S_a tables created in this study help mitigate this issue and provide a smoother, more physically realistic transition in values. Despite the challenges of retrieving robust passive AODs over land surfaces, the methods presented here to develop S_a tables from AOD-constrained retrievals for over-ocean CALIOP aerosol types can, in principle, be applied to those found over land (dust, polluted dust, polluted continental/smoke, elevated smoke, and clean continental). The active/passive retrieval + aerosol model combined approach of developing S_a tables documented in this study can be adopted by future satellite missions flying elastic backscatter lidars in tandem with collocated passive sensors.

Appendix A: Additional AOD comparisons of CALIPSO V4.51, V5, ODCOD, and Aqua MODIS

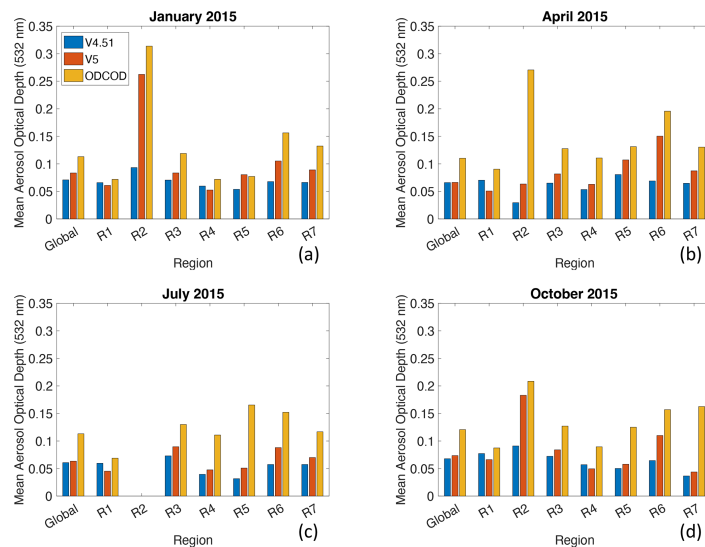


Figure A1. Bar plots of nighttime mean aerosol optical depth (AOD) for CALIPSO Version 4.51 (V4.51; in blue), Version 5 (V5; in orange), and ODCOD (in yellow) for (a) January 2015, (b) April 2015, (c) July 2015, and (d) October 2015. Mean AODs are shown for Global Oceans and for seven regions: Southern Oceans (R1; -90 to -50° , -180 to 180°), Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea (R2; 10 to 25° , 60 to 95°), Remote Pacific Ocean (R3; -15 to 5° , -175 to -105°), North Atlantic Ocean (R4; 35 to 90° , -60 to 0°), West Coast of North America (R5; 25 to 50° , -128 to -110°), Asia Coast (R6; 20 to 55° , 110 to 140°), and West Coast of Africa (R7; -25 to 15° , -15 to 15°). These analyses are subsampled for those CALIOP 5 km segments with valid retrievals of V4.51 tropospheric AOD, V5 tropospheric AOD, and ODCOD. Note the lack of data for R2 during July 2015 due to the ODCOD filtering scheme described in Sect. 4.3.

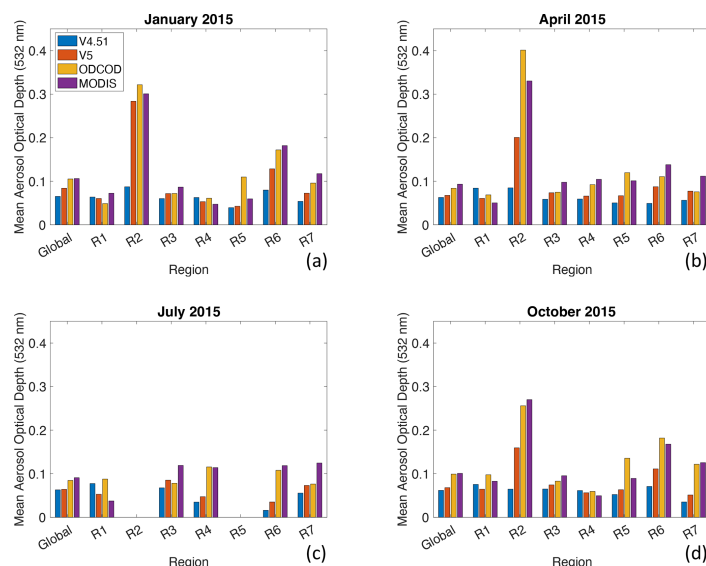


Figure A2. Bar plots of daytime mean aerosol optical depth (AOD) for CALIPSO Version 4.51 (V4.51; in blue), Version 5 (V5; in orange), ODCOD (in yellow), and collocated Aqua MODIS (in purple) for (a) January 2015, (b) April 2015, (c) July 2015, and (d) October 2015. Mean AODs are shown for Global Oceans and for seven regions: Southern Oceans (R1; -90 to -50° , -180 to 180°), Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea (R2; 10 to 25° , 60 to 95°), Remote Pacific Ocean (R3; -15 to 5° , -175 to -105°), North Atlantic Ocean (R4; 35 to 90° , -60 to 0°), West Coast of North America (R5; 25 to 50° , -128 to -110°), Asia Coast (R6; 20 to 55° , 110 to 140°), and West Coast of Africa (R7; -25 to 15° , -15 to 15°). These analyses are subsampled for those CALIOP 5 km segments with valid retrievals of V4.51 tropospheric AOD, V5 tropospheric AOD, ODCOD, and collocated Aqua MODIS AOD. Note the lack of data for R2 and R5 during July 2015.

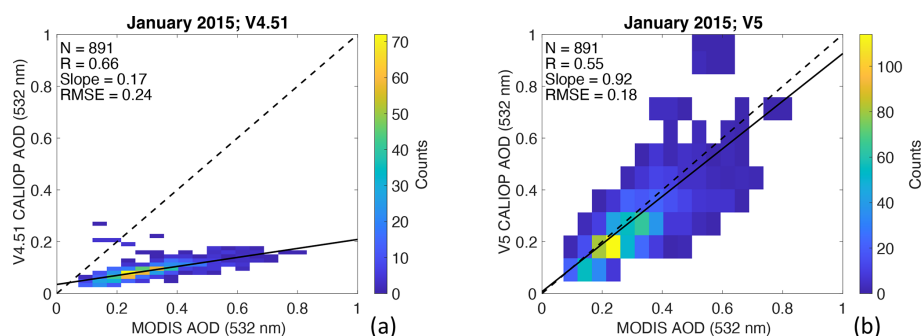


Figure A3. For January 2015 and the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea region (10 to 25° N latitude, 60 to 95° E longitude), 2D histograms of Aqua MODIS AOD against the (a) V4.51 CALIOP AOD and (b) V5 CALIOP AOD (i.e., using the seasonal and regional S_a), all at 532 nm. The dashed lines indicate the one-to-one lines, and the solid black lines show the lines-of-best-fit.

Code availability. The Collopak toolkit for collocating satellite observations is distributed by the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and publicly available at <https://www.ssec.wisc.edu/~gregq/collopak/> (last access: 14 November 2025).

Data availability. CALIPSO data are available from the NASA Langley Research Center Atmospheric Science Data Center (ASDC), including the Version 4.51:

CAL_LID_L1-Standard-V4-51

(https://doi.org/10.5067/CALIPSO/CALIPSO/CAL_LID_L1-Standard-V4-51, NASA/LARC/SD/ASDC, 2022)

CAL_LID_L2_05kmAPro-Standard-V4-51 (https://doi.org/10.5067/CALIPSO/CALIPSO/CAL_LID_L2_05kmAPro-Standard-V4-51, NASA/LARC/SD/ASDC, 2023)

CAL_LID_L2_VFM-Standard-V4-51 (https://doi.org/10.5067/CALIPSO/CALIPSO/CAL_LID_L2_VFM-Standard-V4-51, NASA/LARC/SD/ASDC, 2023)

CAL_LID_L3_Stratospheric_APro-Standard-V1-00 (https://doi.org/10.5067/CALIPSO/CALIPSO/LID_L3_STRATOSPHERIC_APRO-STANDARD-V1-00, NASA/LARC/SD/ASDC, 2018)

MODIS data are available from the Level-1 and Atmospheric Archive & Distribution System Distributed Active Archive Center (LAADS DAAC), including the Collection 6.1 Aqua MODIS 1 km Geolocation files: MYD03.061 (<https://doi.org/10.5067/MODIS/MYD03.061>, MODIS Characterization Support Team (MCST), 2017)

GEOS model data, including simulations of AeroCom Upper Troposphere Lower Stratosphere (UTLS) experiments (<https://aerocom.met.no/experiments/UTLS/>, last access: 14 November 2025), are available from the NASA Center for Climate Simulation (NCCS) server.

AERONET data, including the Version 3 Level 2 data product, are available at the NASA AERONET webpage (https://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/new_web/webtool_aod_v3.html, last access: 14 November 2025).

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