

Interactive comment on “Overview of and First Observations from the TILDAE High-Altitude Balloon Mission” by Bennett A. Maruca et al.

Bennett A. Maruca et al.

bmaruca@udel.edu

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Thank you for your continued interest in our manuscript.

By "decent," are you referring to the descent portion of the flight? We unfortunately do not have any TILDAE observations from the balloon gondola's descent. NASA's standard procedure for long-duration balloon missions calls for all scientific equipment to be powered down prior to "cut down" (the severing of the gondola from the balloon) to protect the electronics from the landing. Gondolas of this type typically weigh several tons, so, even with parachutes, their descents are relatively rapid, and their landings are frequently rough.

We did consider leaving TILDAE powered on during the gondola's descent. Throughout the flight, we received an 8-Hz, averaged-down stream of TILDAE measurements

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(via satellite telemetry), so we were aware that the sonic anemometer was not returning measurements at "float" altitudes. We decided, though, that the potential gain of measurements from the comparatively brief descent did not outweigh the risk to the 200-Hz, full-cadence measurements from the ascent that were stored on TILDAE's SD cards.

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