

Interactive comment on “Tropopause altitude determination from temperature profiles of reduced altitude resolution” by Nils König et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The paper by Koenig et al, addresses an important topic concerning the determination of the tropopause altitude from high resolution data using low resolution kernels. These have to be applied e.g. when comparing high resolution vertical data to satellite observations, when filtering oder interpolating data sets of different vertical resolution. The authors provide a systematic analysis using SHADOZ sonde data. They test for the effect of different resolutions (kernels) on the WMO lapse rate tropopause and cold point tropopause altitudes. They find, that the tropopause altitudes of the kernel weighted fine scale profiles differ significantly from the tropopause altitudes of the original data. Importantly they conclude that there is no correction scheme applicable to account for the displacement.

The paper is sound and I regard it as highly relevant and recommend it for publication

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almost as it is. The authors could easily expand the scientific importance of their work by extending their analysis adding a systematic analysis of the cold point temperatures as well for different resolutions. Since the temperatures are crucial for the analysis of humidity transport, this would add another important aspect to this nice and important study.

Specific: It would be interesting to plot the cold point temperature in the same way as Fig.7. Which implications does this have for the water vapor saturation mixing ratio?

Why are the differences mostly negative with decreasing resolution (Fig3, especially Fig.7)?

Technical: Are there differences in the kernels used in Fig.1 and Fig.6? If not, is Fig.6 necessary for the paper? p. 11, line 6. "coaErse"

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