

1 **Retrieval and analysis of the composition of an aerosol mixture through Mie-Raman-**
2 **Fluorescence lidar observations.**

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11

12 **Abstract**

13 In the atmosphere, aerosols can originate from numerous sources, leading to the mixing of different
14 particle types. This paper introduces an approach to the partitioning of aerosol mixtures in terms
15 of backscattering coefficients. The method utilizes data collected from the Mie-Raman-
16 fluorescence lidar, with the primary input information being the aerosol backscattering coefficient
17 (β), particle depolarization ratio (δ), and fluorescence capacity (G_F). The fluorescence capacity is
18 defined as the ratio of the fluorescence backscattering coefficient to the particle backscattering
19 coefficient at the laser wavelength. By solving a system of equations that model these three
20 properties (β , δ and G_F), it is possible to characterize a three-component aerosol mixture.
21 Specifically, the paper assesses the contributions of smoke, urban, and dust aerosols to the overall
22 backscattering coefficient at 532 nm. It is important to note that aerosol properties (δ and G_F) may
23 exhibit variations even within a specified aerosol type. To estimate the associated uncertainty, we
24 employ the Monte Carlo technique, which assumes that G_F and δ are random values uniformly
25 distributed within predefined intervals. In each Monte Carlo run, a solution is obtained. Rather
26 than relying on a singular solution, an average is computed across the whole set of solutions, and
27 their dispersion serves as a metric for method uncertainty. This methodology was tested using
28 observations conducted at the ATOLL observatory, Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique,
29 University of Lille, France.

30

31 **1. Introduction**

32 Studying the physicochemical properties of atmospheric aerosols is crucial for
33 understanding their impact on Earth's radiation balance and climate. To simplify the complexity
34 of aerosol composition, it is essential to classify aerosol types. Categorization of aerosols into
35 several basic types, e.g. urban, dust, marine, biomass burning (Dubovik et al., 2002), allows to
36 cover the range of variability of observed aerosol parameters and facilitates the analysis and
37 interpretation of aerosol data. The multiwavelength Mie-Raman and HSRL (High Spectral
38 Resolution Lidar) lidar systems provide an unique opportunity to derive height-resolved particle
39 intensive properties, such as Angstrom exponents, lidar ratios, and depolarization ratios at multiple
40 wavelengths. These properties can be used as inputs for classification schemes (Burton et al., 2012,
41 2013; Groß et al., 2013; Mamouri et al., 2017; Papagiannopoulos et al., 2018; Nicolae et al., 2018;
42 Hara et al., 2018; Voudouri et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2021; Mylonaki et al., 2021; Wandinger et
43 al., 2023; Floutsi et al., 2023b). However, aerosols in the atmosphere often originate from multiple
44 sources, leading to the mixing of different particle types. To understand the impact of different
45 aerosol types within a mixture, it is necessary to quantify the content of each type.

46 In the cases involving mixtures of two aerosol types with significantly different
47 depolarization ratios, the partitioning of aerosol backscattering coefficients becomes
48 straightforward (Sugimoto and Lee, 2006; Tesche et al., 2009; Miffre et al., 2020). Burton et al.
49 (2014) have formulated the mixing rules for several aerosol intensive parameters, such as lidar
50 ratio, backscatter color ratio, depolarization ratio, and applied these rules to two-component
51 aerosol mixtures. However, the partition becomes increasingly challenging when dealing with
52 more than two types of particles. The limited number of lidar-measured intensive particle
53 properties specific to individual aerosol types contributes to this challenge. Even for a single
54 aerosol type, the measured particle parameters, such as lidar ratios, demonstrate a wide range of
55 variability (Floutsi et al., 2023a). Distinguishing between urban and smoke particles poses a
56 particular challenge as these two types exhibit similar lidar-measured properties (Floutsi et al.,
57 2023a). Therefore, additional independent information is needed to enhance the characterization
58 of aerosol parameters.

59 Independent information about aerosol properties can be obtained through fluorescence lidar
60 measurements (Reichardt et al., 2018, 2023; Veselovskii et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2021). The
61 fluorescence lidar allows evaluating the fluorescence backscattering coefficient β_F , which is
62 derived from the ratio of fluorescence and nitrogen Raman backscatters (Veselovskii et al., 2020).

63 The particle intensive property in fluorescence lidar measurements is the fluorescence capacity
64 G_F , which is the ratio of β_F to the aerosol backscattering coefficient at the laser wavelength. The
65 fluorescence capacity of smoke is approximately one order higher than that of urban particles,
66 providing a basis for distinguishing between these two aerosol types (Veselovskii et al., 2022).
67 Additionally, recent studies have shown that a classification scheme relying on two intensive
68 parameters - the particle depolarization ratio at 532 nm (δ_{532}) and the fluorescence capacity,
69 effectively separates four aerosol types: dust, smoke, pollen, and urban, as demonstrated in the
70 publication of Veselovskii et al. (2022). It is noteworthy that the classification scheme in that
71 paper does not discriminate particles based on their absorption properties, so the "urban" type
72 encompasses both continental aerosol and anthropogenic pollution. Furthermore, maritime aerosol
73 is not included in the classification at present, as the lidar observations were performed over Lille,
74 where maritime particles are not prevalent (though the possibility of its inclusion is
75 acknowledged).

76 The algorithm presented in the study of Veselovskii et al. (2022) showcases the capability
77 to perform aerosol classification with high spatiotemporal resolution. However, as mentioned
78 earlier, it is essential to quantify the content of the mixture. In this study, we extended the approach
79 beyond classification to partition aerosol mixtures in terms of the backscattering coefficients of
80 basic aerosol types. To test the algorithm, we analyzed observations at the ATOLL (ATmospheric
81 Observation at liLLe) at Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique, University of Lille, between 2020
82 and 2023, performed during periods of strong smoke and dust episodes. We begin by providing a
83 description of the lidar system (Section 2.1) and in Section 2.2, a novel approach for mixture
84 partition is presented. In the results section (Section 3), we present three case studies that
85 demonstrate how the algorithm operates. The paper concludes with a summary of our findings in
86 the conclusion section.

87

88 2. Experimental setup and approach to aerosol mixture partition

89 2.1. Lidar system.

90 The Mie-Raman-fluorescence lidar LILAS (Lille Lidar AtmosphereS) is equipped with a
91 tripled Nd:YAG laser that operates at a repetition rate of 20 Hz and has a pulse energy of
92 approximately 100 mJ at 355 nm. A 40 cm aperture Newtonian telescope is utilized to collect the
93 backscattered light, and Licel transient recorders with a range resolution of 7.5 m are employed to

94 digitize the lidar signals. This configuration allows for simultaneous detection in both analog and
95 photon counting modes. The objective of the LILAS system is to detect elastic and Raman
96 backscattering, which enables the measurement of various properties through the $3\beta+2\alpha+3\delta$ data
97 configuration. This includes three particle backscattering coefficients (β_{355} , β_{532} , β_{1064}), two
98 extinction coefficients (α_{355} , α_{532}), and three particle depolarization ratios (δ_{355} , δ_{532} , δ_{1064}). The
99 particle depolarization ratio, determined as a ratio of cross- and co-polarized components of the
100 particle backscattering coefficient, was calculated and calibrated in the same way as described in
101 Freudenthaler et al. (2009). Additionally, the LILAS system is capable of profiling the laser-
102 induced fluorescence of aerosol particles. This is achieved by using a wideband interference filter
103 with a width of 44 nm, centered at 466 nm, as suggested by Veselovskii et al. (2020). Due to the
104 strong sunlight background during daytime, the fluorescence observations are limited to nighttime
105 hours.

106 The calculation of the fluorescence capacity G_F can be performed using backscattering
107 coefficients at any laser wavelength. In our study, we specifically used β_{532} , as it is determined
108 using rotational Raman scattering and is considered to be the most reliable, thus $G_F = \frac{\beta_F}{\beta_{532}}$. To
109 supplement our measurements, additional information about atmospheric properties was obtained
110 from radiosonde measurements conducted at Herstmonceux (UK) and Beauvechain (Belgium)
111 stations, which are located approximately 160 km and 80 km away from the observation site,
112 respectively. The lidar measurements were primarily conducted vertically. In cases where
113 observations were made at an angle to the horizon, the corresponding information has been
114 included in the captions of the figures.

115

116 **2.2. Approach for the mixture partition**

117 The lidar system measures up to nine independent properties of aerosols. However, our
118 main focus is on separation the backscatters of individual aerosol types with high spatiotemporal
119 resolution. To calculate parameters related to the extinction coefficient, such as lidar ratio or
120 extinction Angstrom exponent, it is necessary to average lidar profiles over a substantial
121 spatiotemporal interval. In this study, as a first step, we use three parameters with high resolution
122 in both height and temporal domains: the backscattering coefficient β_{532} , the depolarization ratio
123 δ_{532} and the fluorescence capacity G_F . Moreover, the calculation process partially cancels out the

124 overlap functions, allowing us to derive β_{532} , δ_{532} and G_F closer to the ground compared to aerosol
 125 extinction. We are considering a scenario where only three externally mixed aerosol types occur,
 126 such as smoke (s), dust (d), and urban (u). The aerosol and fluorescence backscattering coefficients
 127 (β_{532} and β_F) are the sum of their respective contributions.

$$128 \quad \beta_{532} = \beta_{532}^s + \beta_{532}^d + \beta_{532}^u \quad (1)$$

$$129 \quad \beta_F = \beta_F^s + \beta_F^d + \beta_F^u \quad (2)$$

130 The fluorescence capacities for each aerosol type are:

$$131 \quad G_F^i = \frac{\beta_F^i}{\beta_{532}^i} \quad (3)$$

132 where $i = s, d, u$. The fractions of β_{532} for individual aerosol types are:

$$133 \quad \eta_i = \frac{\beta_{532}^i}{\beta_{532}} \quad (4)$$

134 By definition:

$$135 \quad \eta_s + \eta_d + \eta_u = 1. \quad (5)$$

136 The fluorescence capacity can be expressed as a linear combination of the fluorescence
 137 capacities of each aerosol type, as shown in Eq. 6:

$$138 \quad G_F = \eta_s G_F^s + \eta_d G_F^d + \eta_u G_F^u \quad (6)$$

139 The particle depolarization ratio is a ratio of the cross- and co-polarized component of the
 140 backscattering coefficient: $\delta_{532} = \frac{\beta_{532}^\perp}{\beta_{532}^\parallel}$. However, for the mixture analysis, the use of the

141 depolarization potential $\delta'_{532} = \frac{\delta_{532}}{1 + \delta_{532}}$ is preferable, because δ' , the same as G_F , is a linear

142 combination of the depolarization potentials of individual particle types ($\delta'_{532}^s, \delta'_{532}^d, \delta'_{532}^u$), as outlined
 143 by Burton et al. (2014).

$$144 \quad \delta'_{532} = \eta_s \delta'_{532}^s + \eta_d \delta'_{532}^d + \eta_u \delta'_{532}^u \quad (7)$$

145 Finally, we have a system of three equations (5-7) from which we can determine the relative
 146 contributions of each aerosol type by finding η_s , η_d and η_u . In our study, we solve the system (Eq.
 147 5-7) using the least squares method with an additional constraint on the non-negativity of solutions.
 148 As mentioned earlier, the particle parameters may vary within predetermined ranges, even for a

149 specific aerosol type. However, the exact values of G_F^i and δ_{532}' at a specific height/time pixel are
150 unknown. To address the uncertainty in η_i , we employ the Monte Carlo technique, assuming that
151 G_F^i and δ_{532}' are random values uniformly distributed within the predetermined intervals. For each
152 Monte Carlo trial, random values of G_F^i and δ_{532}' are generated. Instead of relying on a single
153 solution, we conduct a series of Monte Carlo trials in order to obtain a set of solutions and calculate
154 the average of this set. The dispersion of these solutions is taken as a measure of method
155 uncertainty. The number of Monte Carlo trials was set to 100 and further increase in this number
156 did not significantly impact either the final average or the dispersion of solutions. In our
157 classification scheme, we include four types of aerosols (smoke, pollen, urban, dust). Nevertheless,
158 the system of equations (Eq. 5-7) consists of only three equations. Given that it is highly unlikely
159 to have all four aerosol types coexisting at a single height/time pixel, one of the four types can be
160 excluded a priori based on a G_F - δ_{532} diagram or other pertinent considerations. Another option is
161 to exclude one aerosol type at each height/time pixel based on the lidar data itself, as described
162 below. Such method we will call Automatic Type Selection (ATS)

163 For ATS, we solve the system Eq. 5-7 for the triplets (S, P, U) , (S, P, D) , (S, D, U) , and $(P,$
164 $D, U)$, where S, D, U, P denote Smoke, Dust, Urban, Pollen, respectively. To determine which
165 aerosol types can be excluded, we use the discrepancy for Eq. 6 and 7 as a criterion. Specifically,
166 we calculate the difference between the input data (G_F - δ_{532}) and the corresponding values obtained
167 by substituting the solution into the right-hand side of Eq. 6 and 7. The aerosol triplet that provides
168 the least discrepancy is chosen for this single Monte Carlo trial and for the height/time pixel. This
169 procedure is repeated for every Monte Carlo trial, and after averaging, the spatiotemporal
170 distributions of η_s , η_p , η_u , and η_d are evaluated.

171

172 **3. Application of partition algorithm to lidar observations**

173 **3.1. Range of particle parameters used in inversion scheme.**

174 The uncertainty of the partitioning of backscattering coefficients depends on the range of
175 G_F and δ_{532} variations in each aerosol type. To establish this range, we analyzed measurement
176 sessions at the ATOLL for the period of 2020-2023. Our focus was on observation episodes
177 characterized by stable atmospheric conditions, where only a single aerosol type predominated, at
178 least within specific height/time intervals. Moreover, we took precautions to ensure that the

179 relative humidity in the selected intervals remained below 60% to minimize the impact of particle
 180 hygroscopic growth. The example of such impact is presented in Fig.6 of Veselovskii et al. (2024).
 181 Based on the obtained results, we summarized the ranges of parameter variation in Table 1. The
 182 ranges are slightly different from the ones in Table 1 of Veselovskii et al. (2022), because since
 183 that publication numerous observations were performed, providing more material for analysis. The
 184 depolarization ratios δ_{532} for smoke and urban particles fall within the range of 2%-8%, while for
 185 dust, this range is 25%-35%. The depolarization ratio of long transported dust can be lower, but at
 186 this stage, we do not consider possible modifications of dust properties during transportation. We
 187 attribute lower values of δ_{532} to the mixing of dust with pollutants (urban aerosol in our model).
 188 Should be mentioned, that depolarization ratio of smoke in the upper troposphere can be as high
 189 as 20% (Ohneiser et al., 2020), however, in the low and middle troposphere, where partitioning
 190 was performed, we limited δ_{532} by the value of 8%.

191 The fluorescence capacity of smoke is high, due to the presence of organic carbon. In the
 192 upper troposphere G_F can reach 10×10^{-4} (Veselovskii et al., 2024), but below 8 km, it mainly falls
 193 within the range of $(2.5-4.5) \times 10^{-4}$. For dust and urban particles, the values of fluorescence
 194 capacities are within the intervals of $(0.05-0.45) \times 10^{-4}$ and $(0.2-0.8) \times 10^{-4}$, respectively.
 195 Determining the ranges of δ_{532} and G_F for pollen is particularly challenging because, in the north
 196 of France, pollen is commonly mixed with other aerosol types. Moreover, the depolarization of
 197 pollen particles varies significantly from one type to another (Cao et al., 2010). In the Lille area,
 198 one dominant taxon is birch (Veselovskii et al., 2021) with a depolarization ratio of δ_{532} at around
 199 30% (Cholleton et al., 2022). In our analysis, the depolarization ratio is set within the 30%-40%
 200 interval. The pollen consist of biological materials and their fluorescence capacity is higher than
 201 that of urban particles. From our measurements the variation range of G_F for pollen is estimated
 202 to be within $(1.0-2.5) \times 10^{-4}$.

203
 204 Table 1. Variation ranges of fluorescence capacity and the particle depolarization ratio for different
 205 types of aerosols.

Type	$G_F, 10^{-4}$	$\delta_{532}, \%$
Smoke	2.5÷4.5	2.0÷8
Pollen	1÷2.5	30÷40

Urban	0.2÷0.8	2.0÷8
Dust	0.05÷0.45	25÷35

206

207 Below, we present three examples of applying the described approach to measurements performed
 208 at the ATOLL observatory.

209

210 **3.2. Episode on March 27-28, 2022. Three types of particles are observed within different**
 211 **spatiotemporal domains.**

212 The spatiotemporal distributions of the aerosol backscattering coefficient β_{532} , the particle
 213 depolarization ratio δ_{532} , and the fluorescence capacity G_F on March 27-28, 2022, are shown in
 214 Fig.1. Relative humidity decreased with height, ranging from 70% at 600 m to 55% at 1800 m.
 215 Aerosols were primarily found below 2500 m, with several distinguishable particle types identified.
 216 The particle depolarization ratio increased to 30% at 2000 m during the 20:00-22:00 UTC period,
 217 indicating the presence of dust. Additionally, high values of the fluorescence capacity (up to
 218 2.5×10^{-4}) for the 00:00-05:00 UTC period suggest the presence of smoke.

219 Fig.2a presents the G_F - δ_{532} diagram for these measurements (Veselovskii et al., 2022). The
 220 red boxes represent the parameter ranges used for aerosol classification, which are slightly broader
 221 than those outlined in Table 1 to account for mixtures where one type is predominant. Dust, smoke,
 222 and urban particles can be distinguished on the diagram, together with intervals indicating mixed
 223 particle types. Although March is typically a pollen season in Lille, pollen particles did not
 224 significantly contribute to the observed episode. Utilizing this classification scheme, we assess the
 225 spatiotemporal distribution of aerosol types in Fig.2b, following the methodology outlined in
 226 Veselovskii et al. (2022). Regions predominated by dust, smoke, and urban particles are clearly
 227 identified. A small amount of pollen is observed towards the end of the session at approximately
 228 700 m height. The grey color in Fig.2b represents aerosol mixtures where the particle type cannot
 229 be definitively identified. The aerosol classification presented in Fig. 2b finds support in the results
 230 of the HYSPLIT Backward Trajectory Analysis (Stein et al., 2015) depicted in Figure 3.
 231 Specifically, the air masses below 1000 m height were transported over the Belgium, and the
 232 presence of urban aerosol is expected. Conversely, the air masses above 1500 m were transported
 233 over regions with extensive forest fires in Greece, suggesting a potential mixture of smoke and
 234 dust.

235 By applying the partition technique described in Sect.2.2, we can determine the contribution
236 of each particle type to the total backscattering coefficient β_{532} . The spatiotemporal distributions of
237 η_s , η_u , and η_d in Fig.4 were assessed assuming that pollen contribution can be neglected. The
238 algorithm operates smoothly, showing distributions without any unrealistic high-frequency
239 oscillations. By observing the distributions, it can be concluded that the smoke plume actually
240 contains a significant amount of urban aerosol, while the dust plume does not show the presence
241 of other particle types.

242 The distributions in Fig.4 represent the mean values of η_s , η_u , and η_d . To understand the
243 uncertainty caused by potential variations in particle characteristics, Fig.5 displays the vertical
244 profiles of η_s , η_u , and η_d for the period between 21:00-22:00 UTC, along with the corresponding
245 standard deviations. Urban particles are predominant below 1000 m with a deviation from the
246 mean value of roughly 5%. Above 1500 m, η_u decreases to 0.05 and the uncertainty increases to
247 100%. Conversely, dust can be disregarded below 1000 m, but becomes predominant above 1000
248 m. Smoke contribution during the considered time period is low and only becomes noticeable
249 ($\eta_s \sim 0.15$) in the 1250-1500 m range. As mentioned earlier, the results in Fig. 4 were obtained
250 without considering pollen. To assess the potential impact of pollen on the results, the partition
251 was carried out for four aerosol types using the ATS approach, as described in Section 2.2. The
252 corresponding profiles of $\eta_{s,4}$, $\eta_{u,4}$, and $\eta_{d,4}$, are depicted in Fig.5 with magenta lines. Notably, the
253 profiles obtained for three and four aerosol types are similar. Pollen does have some effect on
254 smoke contribution (η_s decreased from 0.14 to 0.1), but its influence on dust and urban particle
255 contribution is negligible.

256

257 **3.3. Episode on October 1-2, 2023. Different types of aerosol form the layer structure.**

258 Observations at ATOLL in 2023 were notable for frequent intensive smoke events. North
259 American wildfire smoke, transported over the Atlantic, was observed from mid-May until
260 October. In some autumn episodes, smoke descended from the troposphere to ground level. One
261 such episode is shown in Fig.6, which presents the spatiotemporal distributions of β_{532} , δ_{532} , and
262 G_F during the night of October 1-2, 2023. During this period, the relative humidity decreased with
263 height, from 50% at 500 m to 30% at 3500 m. Strong aerosol layers were observed up to 5 km in
264 height, and the depolarization ratio δ_{532} exceeded 25% above 2000 m, indicating the predominance
265 of dust. However, below 1000 m, a low depolarization ratio ($\delta_{532} < 8\%$) was accompanied by a

266 high fluorescence capacity of particles (up to 3.0×10^{-4}), identifying them as smoke. The $G_F\text{-}\delta_{532}$
 267 diagram in Fig.7a highlights the pixels attributed to dust, smoke, and urban particles. There are
 268 also intervals where these types were mixed. These regions with mixed aerosols are represented
 269 by the grey color in the distribution of particle types in Fig.7b. The results of aerosol classification
 270 agree with HYSPLIT backward trajectories analysis. Fig.8 shows the five-days back trajectories
 271 over Lille on October 2, 2023, at 00:00 UTC. The air masses over the Atlantic, containing North
 272 American smoke, descend from 5000 m to the ground, leading to the predominance of smoke over
 273 Lille at 500 m. The air masses at 1500 m are transported over the continent and may contain
 274 pollutants, whereas the air masses at 2700 m arrive from Africa and are loaded with dust. Fig. 9
 275 depicts the spatiotemporal distributions of η_s , η_u , η_d , derived in assumption that only three aerosol
 276 types occur. Urban aerosol is localized primarily between the smoke and dust layers. Vertical
 277 profiles of η_s , η_u , η_d for the 22:00-23:00 UTC period are presented in Fig.10. Smoke predominates
 278 below 1000 m, with a smoke contribution ($\eta_s=0.7$ at 750 m) evaluated with an uncertainty of about
 279 20%. The contribution of urban particles within the smoke layer (at 750 m) is $\eta_u=0.3$, with a
 280 corresponding uncertainty of approximately 30%. Dust predominates above 2000 m ($\eta_d=0.8$), and
 281 the uncertainty of η_d estimation is below 15%. Although the existence of pollen in October is quite
 282 improbable, for testing purposes, we performed an inversion for four aerosol types using the ATS
 283 method (magenta lines in Fig.10). The impact of including pollen is most pronounced for dust at
 284 1750 m, where η_d is about 25% decreased. However, the values obtained still fall within the
 285 estimated range of uncertainty. From the examples considered, we conclude that the contributions
 286 of three aerosol components to the backscattering coefficient can be determined through joint
 287 fluorescence and polarization measurements. The volume concentration, V_i , of i-th aerosol
 288 component can be estimated from the backscattering coefficient using the corresponding lidar ratio,
 289 S_{532}^i , and the extinction-to-volume conversion factors C_V^i (Mamouri and Ansmann, 2017;
 290 Ansmann et al., 2019, 2021; He et al., 2023). Thus, for the i-th aerosol component:

$$291 \quad V_i = \beta_{532} \times \eta_i \times S_{532}^i \times C_V^i \quad (8)$$

292 The values of the conversion factors at 532 nm, derived from AERONET observations, along with
 293 some reported lidar ratios, are summarized in Table 2. Therefore, the presented information allows
 294 us to quantify the composition of the aerosol mixture.

295

296 Table 2. Lidar ratios (S_{532}^i) and extinction-to-volume conversion factors (C_V^i) for different types
 297 of aerosol.

Type	Lidar ratio S_{532}^i , sr	C_V^i , $\mu\text{m}^3\text{cm}^{-3}/\text{Mm}^{-1}$
Urban	53-70 ¹	0.3-0.41 ²
Smoke (North American, aged)	55-73 ¹ 50-78 ⁵	0.13 ⁴
Dust (North Africa)	40-50 ⁴	0.61-0.64 ² 0.67-0.73 ³ 0.64-0.67 ⁶

298 ¹Burton et al., 2013; ²Mamouri and Ansmann, 2017; ³Ansmann et al., 2019; ⁴Ansmann et al., 2021; ⁵Hu et al.,
 299 2022; ⁶He et al., 2023.

300

301 **3.4. Heatwave over Lille in July 2022.**

302 The heatwave in France in July 2022 was attributed to a high-pressure system known as the
 303 Azores High, which usually sits off Spain and pushed farther north, resulting in elevated
 304 temperatures and multiple fires. The Sun photometer and lidar observations at ATOLL consistently
 305 recorded an increase in aerosol content over Lille in the middle of July 2022. Fig.11 displays the
 306 aerosol optical depth (AOD) at 500 nm and the Angstrom exponent for 380/500 nm wavelengths
 307 provided by AERONET. Lidar observations were performed from July 16 to July 23, as shown in
 308 the frame in Fig.10. Within this interval, the optical depth increased, reaching its peak on July 18.
 309 The Angstrom exponent decreased, indicating the presence of dust. Fig.11 shows the column-
 310 integrated particle volume, provided by AERONET, presented separately for the fine and coarse
 311 mode particles. After July 16, the volume of the coarse mode increased approximately fourfold,
 312 while the fine mode did not show significant changes, further supporting the presence of dust
 313 particles. Unfortunately, volume retrievals are not available after July 20 due to the presence of
 314 clouds. The methodology outlined in Sect. 2.2 was used to analyze the composition of aerosols
 315 during the heatwave.

316 In Fig.13, we can see the spatiotemporal distributions of β_{532} , δ_{532} and G_F for four
 317 measurement sessions between July 16 and July 23, 2022. On July 16-17, after midnight, a dust
 318 layer with δ_{532} exceeding 20% appeared at a height of 5 km. The following night (July 17-18), the
 319 lower border of the dust layer descended to 2 km. By the night of July 18-19, we observed strong

320 aerosol backscattering (above $1.0 \text{ Mm}^{-1}\text{sr}^{-1}$) from the ground up to a height of 5 km. Dust was
321 primarily found within two height ranges: 0.75-2.0 km and 3.0-5.0 km, where the particle
322 depolarization ratio δ_{532} exceeded 20%. The aerosol between these dust layers showed high
323 fluorescence capacity (above 2.0×10^{-4}), indicating the presence of smoke. Unfortunately, we could
324 not make long-term lidar observations from July 19-21 due to cloud cover. However, by the night
325 of July 22-23, we observed localized aerosols below 3 km. The values of δ_{532} and G_F were below
326 10% and 1.0×10^{-4} , respectively, which is typical for urban particles. The relative humidity during
327 the measurements for July 16-19 was below 60 % within the height range being considered. On
328 the night of July 22-23, the relative humidity was higher, reaching up to 80%. In Fig.14, we provide
329 the G_F - δ_{532} diagrams for the measurements shown in Fig.13. On the night of July 16-17, the
330 clusters corresponding to dust and smoke/urban particles are distinct. However, for July 17-19,
331 dust was mixed with smoke and urban particles, resulting in a characteristic pattern on the G_F - δ_{532}
332 diagram (Veselovskii et al., 2022). By the night of July 22-23, only one cluster, corresponding to
333 urban aerosol, was observed. The distributions of particle types in Fig.14 for the period of July 16-
334 19 contain extended gray regions where different types of particles are mixed and cannot be
335 identified. In Fig.15, we can see the partition technique used to evaluate the contributions of dust,
336 smoke, and urban aerosol to β_{532} . From this analysis, we can conclude that on the night of July 16-
337 17, the aerosol below 2.5 km was a mixture of smoke and urban particles, and the elevated dust
338 layer (00:00-03:00 UTC) contained a significant amount of urban particles (η_u is up to 0.4). On
339 July 18-19, the aerosol between the two dust layers, within the height range of 2-3 km, was also a
340 mixture of smoke and urban particles.

341 The aerosol classification based on fluorescence and depolarization measurements is
342 supported by the analysis of backward trajectories. Fig.16 shows the five-day backward
343 trajectories for four measurement sessions from Figure 15 at altitudes of 1500 m, 3000 m, and
344 4500 m. On July 16-17, the dust layer above 4000 m originates from North Africa, while smoke
345 at 3000 m is likely transported from North America. The air masses at 3000 m on July 17-18 are
346 transported from Africa over regions of wildfires in Spain, indicating a mixture of dust and smoke.
347 Smoke at 3000 m on July 18-19 again originates from wildfires in Spain, while the source of the
348 dust layers at 1500 m and 4000 m is in Africa. **Finally, on July 22-23, the heat wave was over.** The
349 air masses arrive from the West outside dust and smoke sources, and aerosol in Fig. 15 within the
350 1000-3000 m range is identified as urban.

351 As mentioned, the volume concentration of each component can be estimated using Eq. 8.
352 Fig.17 presents the vertical profiles of volume concentration for smoke, urban, and dust particles
353 for four measurement sessions from Fig.15. In the calculations, we used the mean values of η_s , η_u ,
354 η_d , as well as the mean values of the lidar ratios and fluorescence capacity from Table 2. The lidar
355 ratios used for smoke, urban, and dust are 64 sr, 61 sr, and 45 sr, respectively, and the fluorescence
356 capacity values are 0.13×10^{-4} , 0.35×10^{-4} , and 0.7×10^{-4} . The main contributors to the volume are
357 urban and dust particles, with smoke contributing noticeably only on July 18 and 19, but with a
358 volume density still below $5 \mu\text{m}^3\text{cm}^{-3}$. The volume concentration can be recalculated to the mass
359 concentration, if the particle density is known. The profiles of mass concentration are shown in
360 Fig.17 as dash lines. In computations we utilized a smoke density of $\rho_s=1.15 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (Ansmann et
361 al., 2021) and a dust density of $\rho_d=2.6 \text{ g/cm}^3$ (He et al., 2023). For urban aerosol a density of
362 $\rho_u=1.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$ was selected for sulfate particles.

363 To assess the validity of our volume estimations, we compared our results with AERONET
364 retrievals. For this comparison, the volume density profiles of each component from Fig.17 were
365 extrapolated to the ground, and the total column-integrated volume was calculated. The results are
366 depicted in Fig.12 by stars, with an additional measurement on July 19 (22:00-23:00) included. It
367 is evident that the results provided by AERONET are in reasonable agreement with the results
368 provided by the lidar.

369

370 Conclusion

371 In conclusion, this study introduces an approach to partition aerosol mixtures in terms of
372 backscattering coefficients, based on fluorescence and polarization lidar measurements.
373 Specifically, we used the particle depolarization ratio at 532 nm and the fluorescence capacity,
374 allowing for the partitioning of a three-component aerosol mixture at every height/time pixel. The
375 robustness of this approach is demonstrated through testing with Mie-Raman-fluorescence lidar
376 observations at the ATOLL instrumental site, providing valuable insights into the composition and
377 dynamics of atmospheric aerosols. One notable advantage of the proposed approach is its
378 applicability even in conditions of low aerosol content or for aerosol layers in the upper
379 troposphere, where deriving profiles of extinction coefficients might be challenging. Additionally,
380 backscattering coefficients of aerosol components can be converted to particle volume densities
381 using corresponding lidar ratios along with extinction-to-volume conversion factors. While this

382 conversion provides a rough volume estimation, considering the variability of the lidar ratios and
383 the conversion factors within a given aerosol type, a comparison of lidar-derived particle volume
384 during the heatwave over Lille in July 2022 demonstrates promising agreement with AERONET
385 retrievals. At this stage, we have simplified our classification scheme by incorporating four aerosol
386 types: smoke, dust, pollen, and urban particles. It is important to note that the use of fluorescence
387 is an efficient way to distinguish between urban and smoke particles, which is a challenge for other
388 methods that do not utilize fluorescence. However, we recognize the need to expand our approach
389 to include additional aerosol types, particularly those with strong absorption such as polluted urban
390 aerosol. This expansion will involve incorporating additional particle parameters, like lidar ratios,
391 and is planned for our future research. It is crucial to acknowledge that the particle hygroscopic
392 growth complicates the use of fluorescence capacity, resulting in increased uncertainty. To address
393 this, we aim to utilize the additional independent information about aerosol type provided by the
394 fluorescence spectrum. Importantly, the fluorescence spectrum is not affected by relative humidity.
395 In our future research, we plan to further enhance the fluorescence capabilities by increasing the
396 number of fluorescence channels in the lidar.

397

398 **Data availability.** Lidar measurements are available upon request
399 (philippe.goloub@univ-lille.fr).

400

401 **Author contributions.** IV processed the data and wrote the paper. BB prepared the program for
402 aerosol mixture partitioning. QH performed meteorological analysis. TP, GD and WB performed
403 lidar measurements in Lille. PG supervised the project and helped with paper preparation. MK and
404 NK participated in algorithms development and data analysis.

405 .

406 **Competing interests.** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

407

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418

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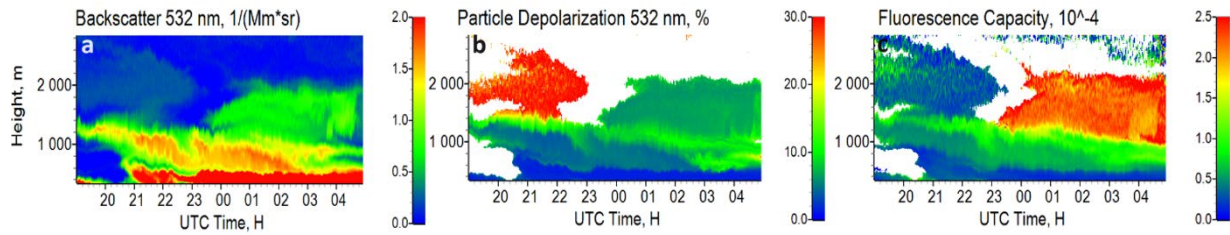
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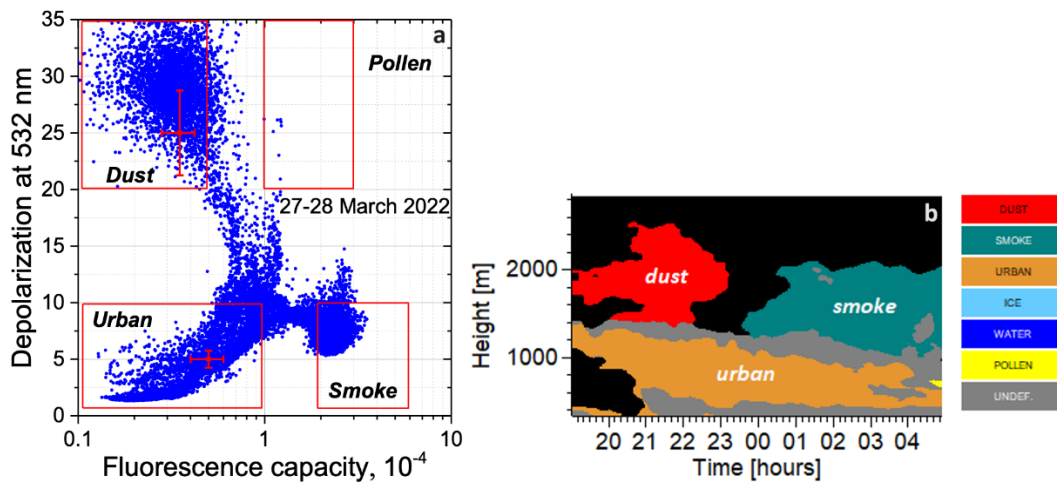
549 Fig.1. Spatiotemporal distributions of (a) the backscattering coefficient at 532 nm, (b) particle
550 depolarization ratio at 532 nm and (c) fluorescence capacity during the night of March 27-28,
551 2022. The depolarization ratio and fluorescence capacity are calculated only for the values $\beta_{532} > 0.1$
552 $\text{Mm}^{-1}\text{sr}^{-1}$. The measurements were taken at an angle of 45° to the horizon.

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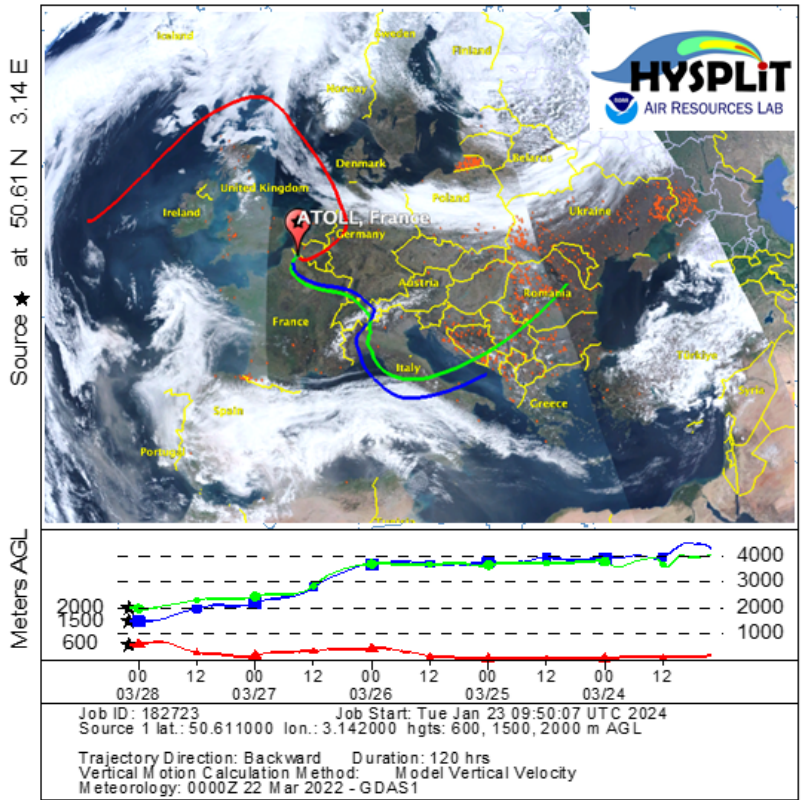


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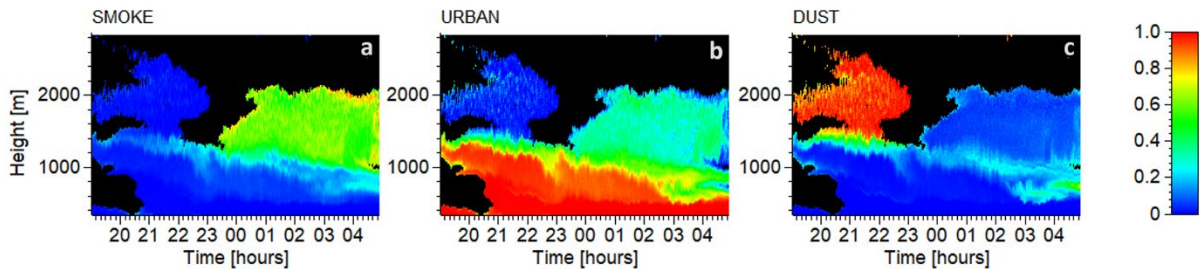
558 Fig.2. (a) The $\delta_{532}-G_F$ diagram for observations in the height range of 350 m–2800 m and (b) the
559 spatiotemporal distribution of aerosol types during the night of March 27–28, 2022.

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NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL
 Backward trajectories ending at 0200 UTC 28 Mar 22
 GDAS Meteorological Data

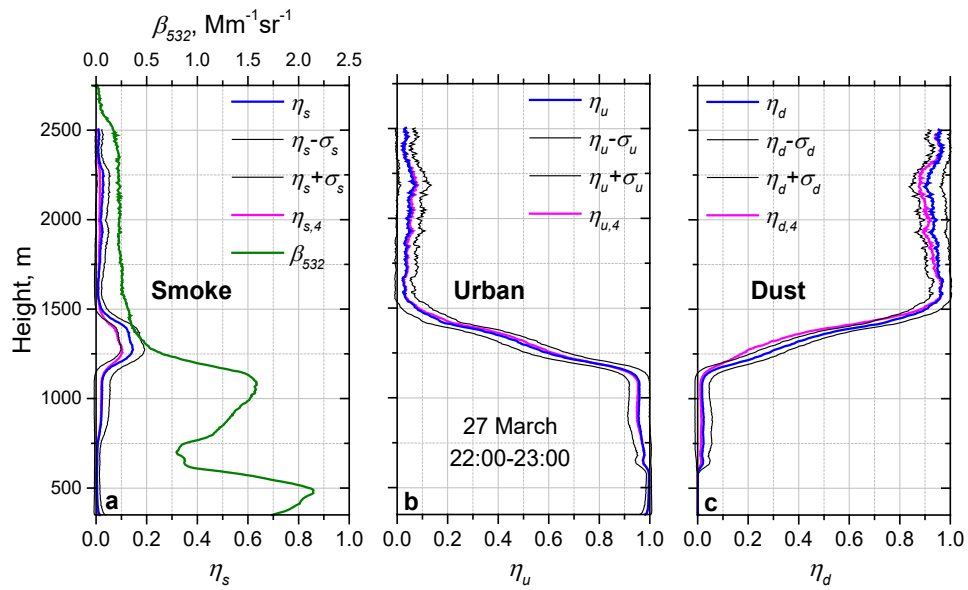


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 562 Fig.3. The HYSPLIT five-day backward trajectories for the air mass over Lille at altitudes 600 m,
 563 1500 m, and 2000 m on March 28, 2022 at 02:00 UTC. Red dots depict the regions of forest fires.
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 568 Fig.4. Relative contributions of (a) smoke (η_s), (b) urban (η_u), and (c) dust (η_d) particles to the
 569 backscattering coefficient β_{532} during the night of March 27–28, 2022.
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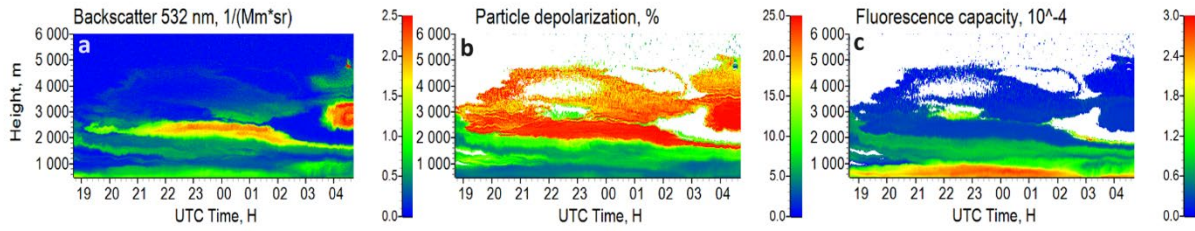


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573 Fig.5. Vertical profiles of the relative contributions of smoke (η_s), urban (η_u), and dust (η_d) particles
 574 to the backscattering coefficient β_{532} on March 27, 2022. These profiles are derived under the
 575 assumption that only three aerosol types occur. The black lines depict the deviation of solutions
 576 from the mean value ($\eta_i \pm \sigma_i$). Magenta lines show the relative contributions of smoke, urban and
 577 dust particles ($\eta_{s,4}$, $\eta_{u,4}$, $\eta_{d,4}$) when four aerosol types (including pollen) are considered.

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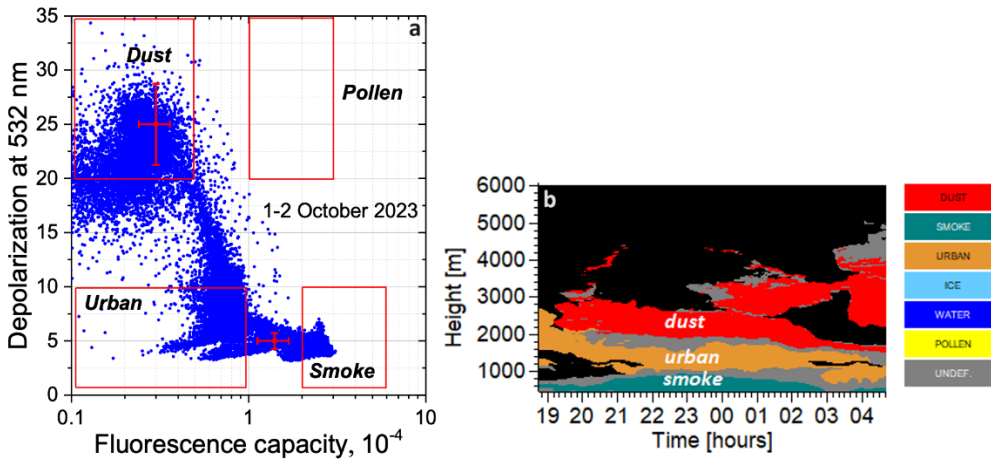
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581 Fig.6. Spatiotemporal distributions of (a) the backscattering coefficient at 532 nm,
582 depolarization ratio at 532 nm and (c) fluorescence capacity during the night of October 1-2, 2023.
583 The depolarization ratio and fluorescence capacity are calculated only for values of $\beta_{532} > 0.1 \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1}$.
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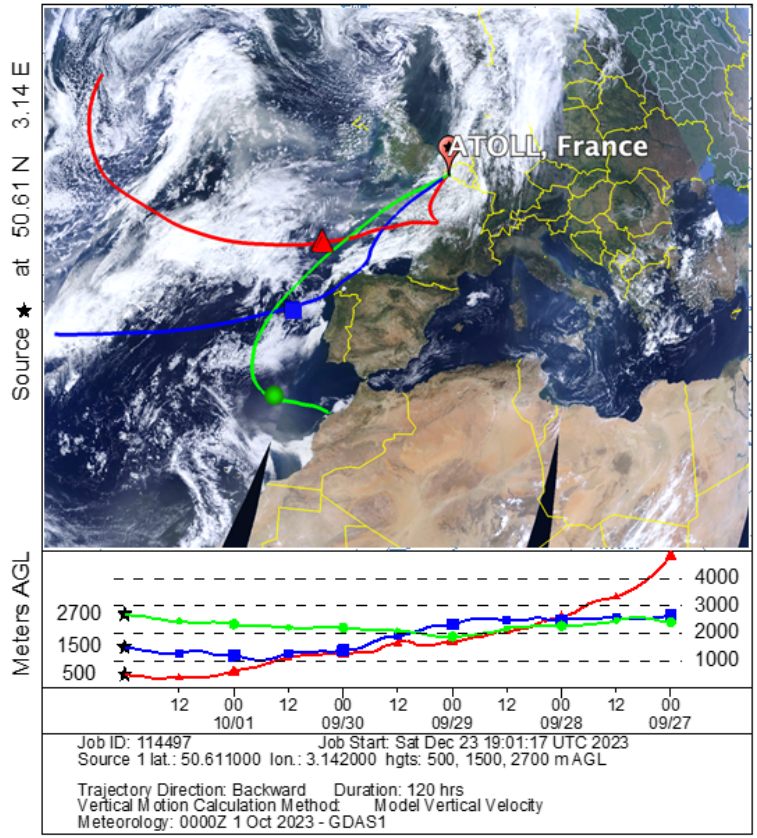


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587 Fig.7. (a) The δ_{532} - G_F diagram and (b) the spatiotemporal distribution of aerosol types during the
588 night of October 1-2, 2023.

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NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL
 Backward trajectories ending at 0000 UTC 02 Oct 23
 GDAS Meteorological Data

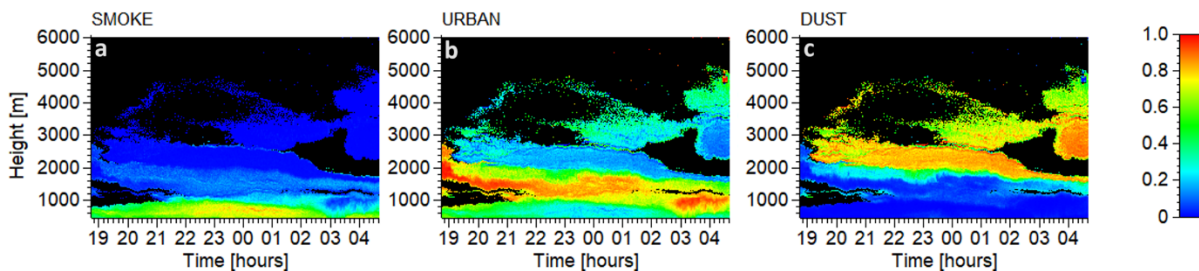


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591 Fig.8. The HYSPLIT five-day backward trajectories for the air mass over Lille at altitudes 500 m,
 592 1500 m, and 2700 m on October 2, 2023 at 00:00 UTC.

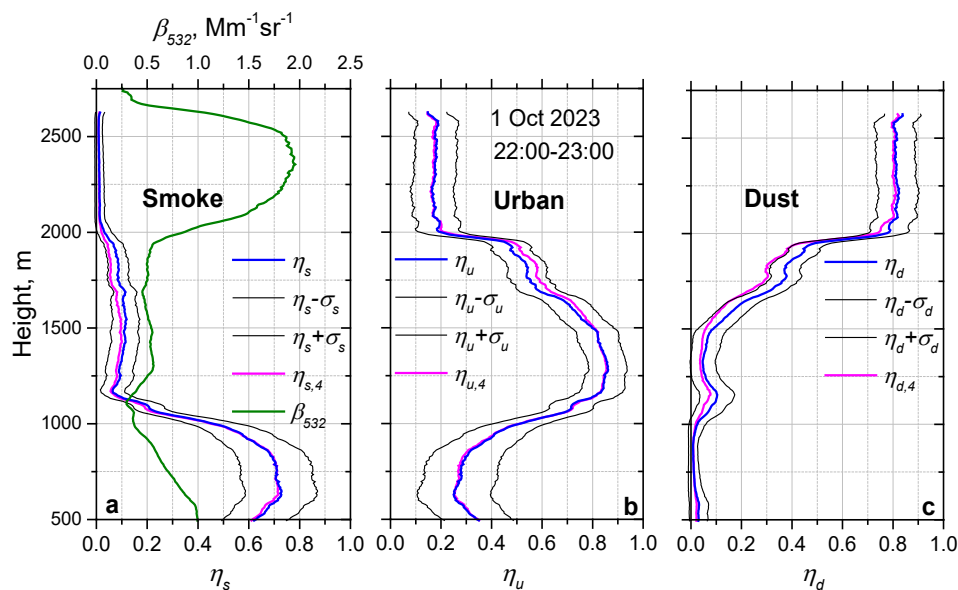
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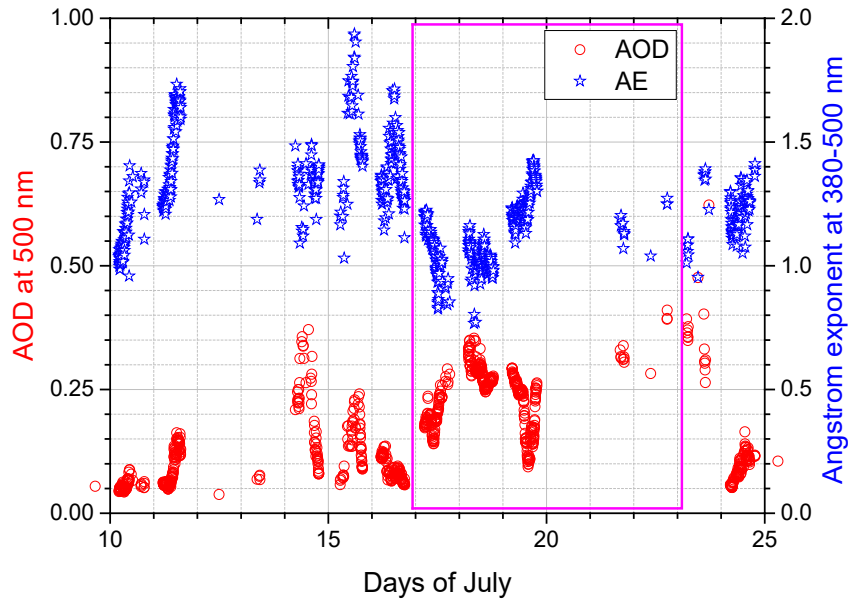
595
 596 Fig.9. The relative contributions of (a) smoke (η_s), (b) urban (η_u), and (c) dust (η_d) particles to the
 597 backscattering coefficient β_{532} during the night of October 1-2, 2023.

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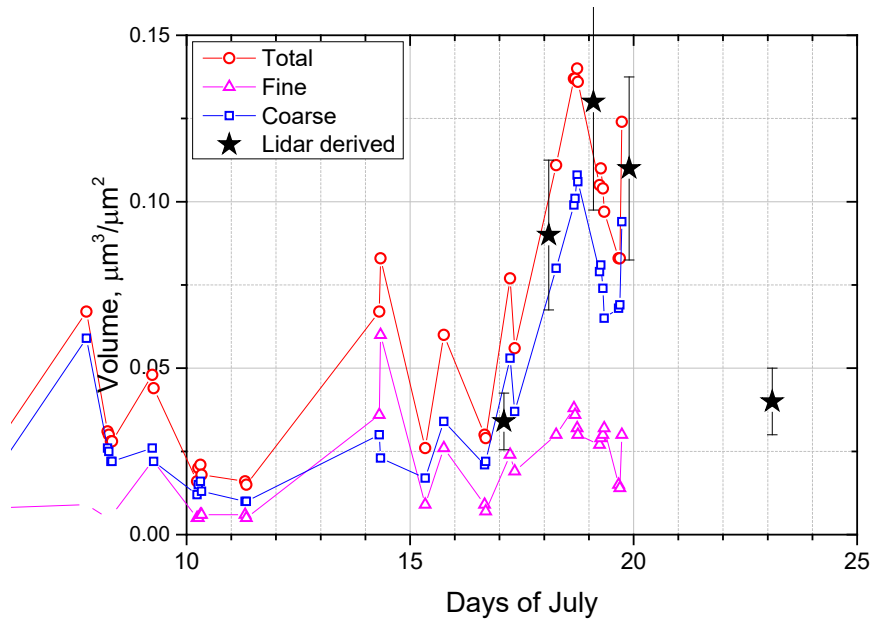


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 603 Fig.10. Vertical profiles of the relative contributions of smoke (η_s), urban (η_u), and dust (η_d)
 604 particles to the backscattering coefficient β_{532} on October 1, 2023. The profiles are derived under
 605 the assumption that only three aerosol types occur. The black lines depict the deviation of solutions
 606 from the mean value ($\eta_i \pm \sigma_i$). The magenta lines show the relative contributions of smoke, dust and
 607 urban particles ($\eta_{s,4}$, $\eta_{u,4}$, $\eta_{d,4}$) when four aerosol types (including pollen) are considered.

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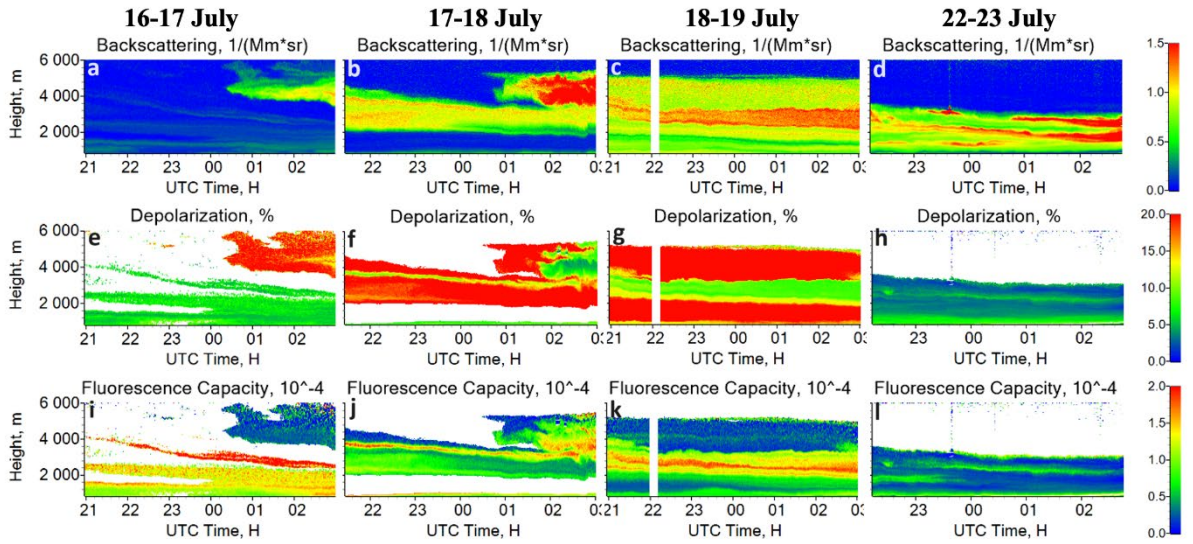


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 611 Fig.11. The aerosol optical depth (AOD) at 500 nm and the Angstrom exponent (AE) provided by
 612 AERONET over Lille in July 2022. Magenta box depicts the time period during which lidar
 613 observations in this study were analyzed.



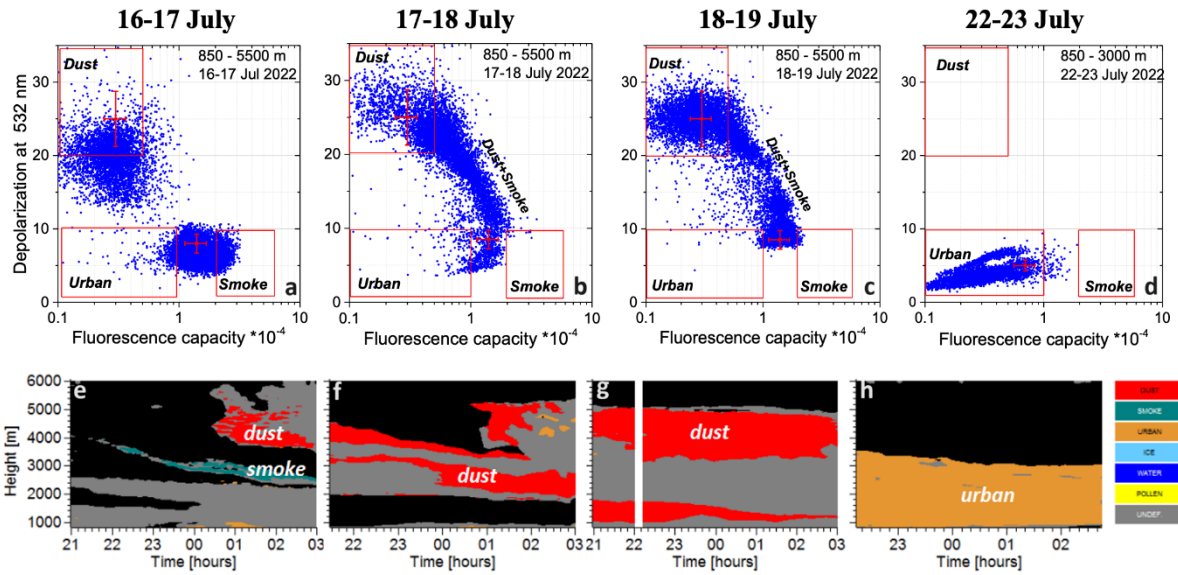
614
 615 Fig.12. Column-integrated aerosol volume (circles) in July 2022 provided by AERONET. The
 616 triangles and squares represent the volumes of the fine and coarse modes, respectively. Black stars
 617 depict the total particle volume derived from lidar observations.
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Fig.13. Spatiotemporal distributions of (a-d) the backscattering coefficient β_{532} , (e-h) the particle depolarization ratio δ_{532} , and (i-l) the fluorescence capacity G_F for the nights of July 16-17, 17-18, 18-19 and 22-23, 2022. The depolarization ratio and fluorescence capacity are calculated only for the values $\beta_{532} > 0.1 \text{ Mm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$.



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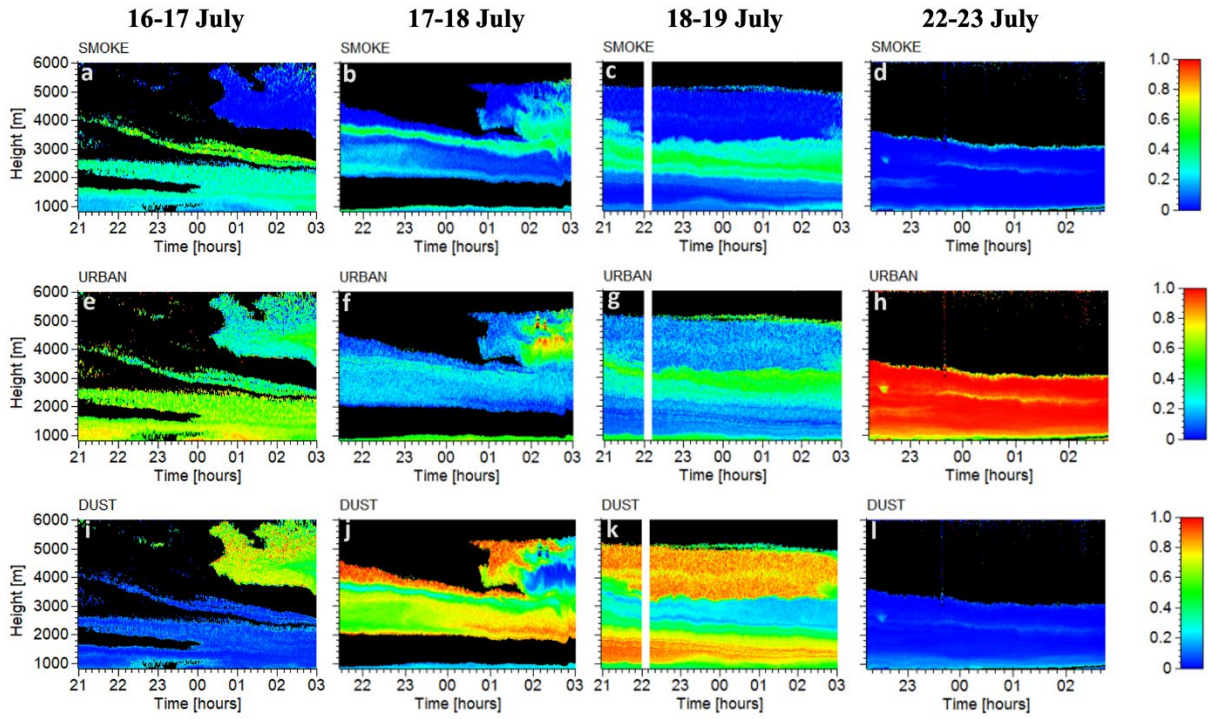
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631 Fig.14. (a-d) The $\delta_{532}-G_F$ diagram and (e-h) the spatiotemporal distribution of aerosol types for the
 632 nights of July 16-17, 17-18, 18-19 and 22-23, 2022. The grey coloring represents an undefined
 633 aerosol type.

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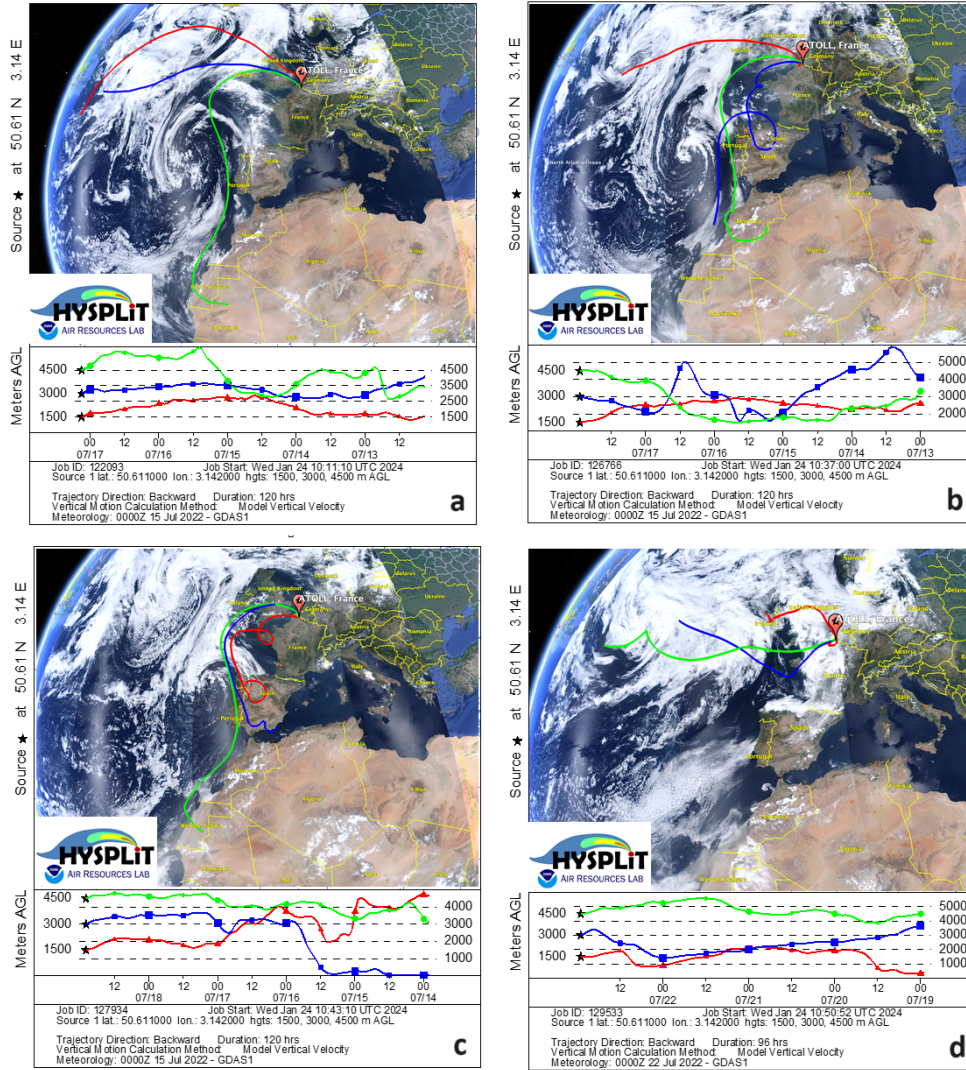


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638 Fig.15. The relative contributions of (a-d) smoke, (e-h) urban and (i-l) dust particles to the
639 backscattering coefficient at 532 nm for the nights of July 16-17, 17-18, 18-19 and 22-23, 2022.

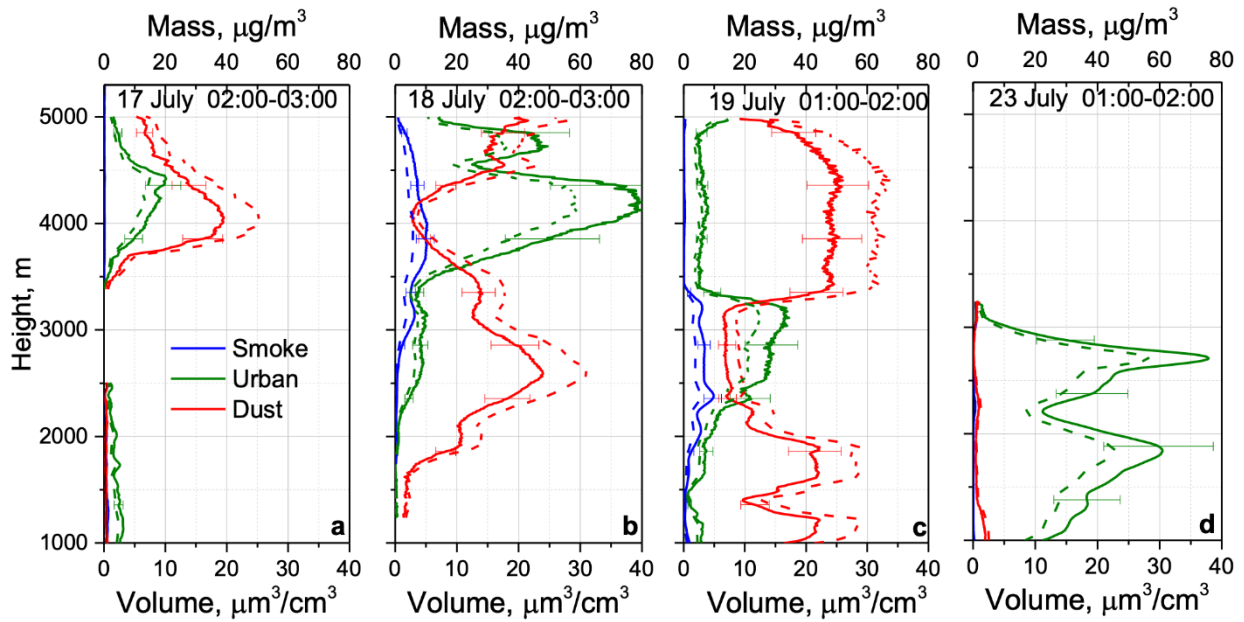
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Fig.16. The HYSPLIT five-day backward trajectories for the air mass over Lille at altitudes 1500 m, 3000 m, and 4500 m on (a) July 17, 2022 at 03:00 UTC; (b) July 17, 2022 at 23:00 UTC; (c) July 18, 2022 at 22:00 UTC; (d) July 22, 2022 at 22:00 UTC. Red dots depict the regions of forest fires.



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654 Fig.17. Vertical profiles of the volume concentration of smoke, dust and urban particles derived
 655 from η_s , η_u , and η_d presented in Fig.13, using the mean values of the lidar ratios and the conversion
 656 factors from Table 2. Profiles are shown for the episodes on (a) 17 July, (b) 18 July, (c) 19 July
 657 and (d) 23 July 2022. Dash lines depict the mass concentration calculated for the particle densities
 658 $\rho_s=1.15 \text{ g/cm}^3$, $\rho_u=1.5 \text{ g/cm}^3$, and $\rho_d=2.6 \text{ g/cm}^3$.