

Reconciling Surface-Based Aerosol  
Retrievals with In-situ Aircraft  
Measurements in the Baltimore-  
Washington Area during DISCOVER-AQ.

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# Deriving Information on Surface Conditions from Column and VERTically Resolved Observations Relevant to Air Quality (DISCOVER-AQ)

## Objectives:

1. Relate column observations to surface conditions for aerosols and key trace gases  $O_3$ ,  $NO_2$ , and  $CH_2O$
2. Characterize differences in diurnal variation of surface and column observations for key trace gases and aerosols
3. Examine horizontal scales of variability affecting satellites and model calculations



# Deployment Strategy

Systematic and concurrent observations  
(column-integrated, surface, and vertically-resolved)

## NASA UC-12 (Remote sensing)

Continuous mapping of aerosols with HSRL and trace gas columns with ACAM

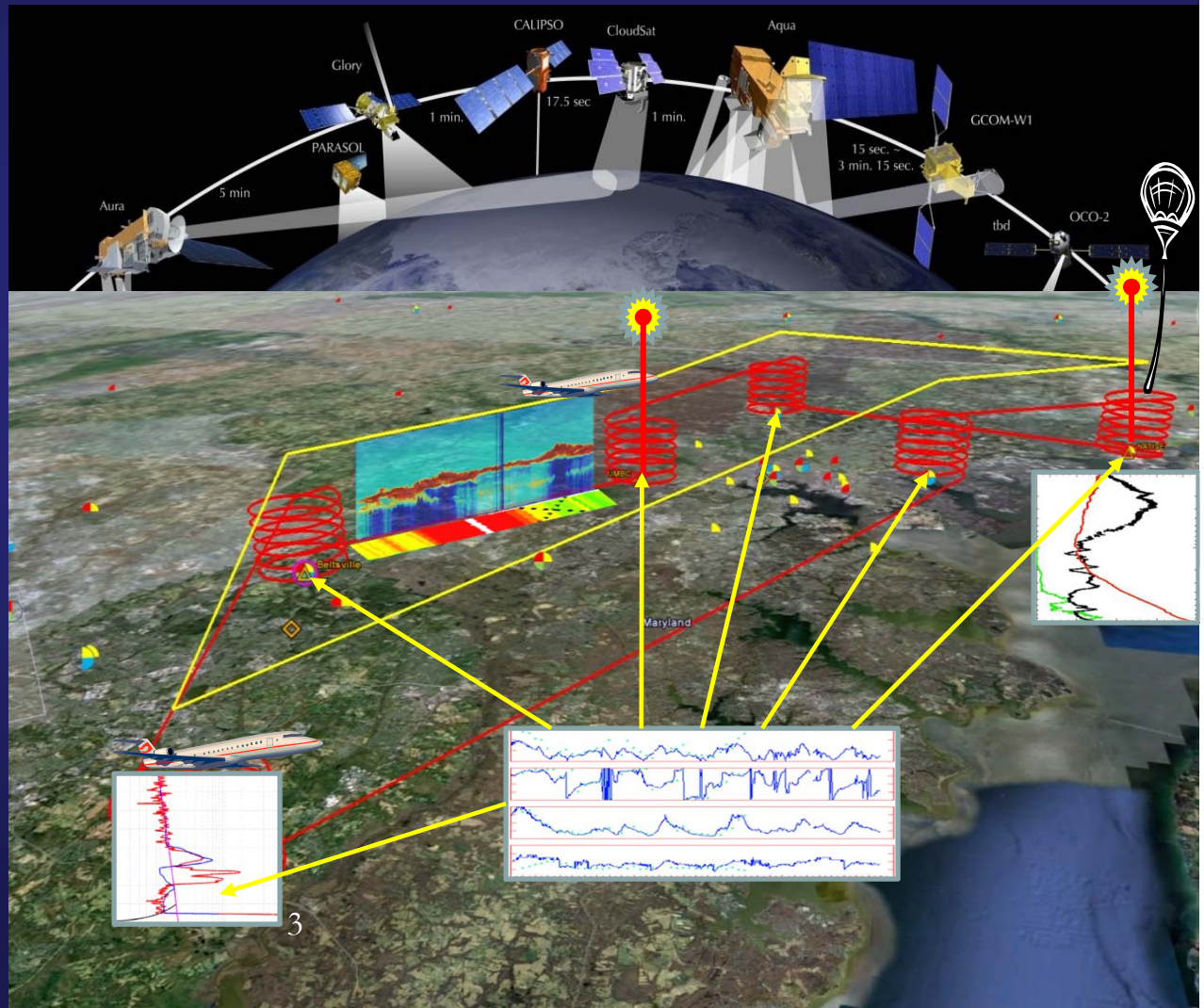
## NASA P-3B (in situ meas.)

In situ profiling of aerosols and trace gases over surface measurement sites

→ 247 spirals

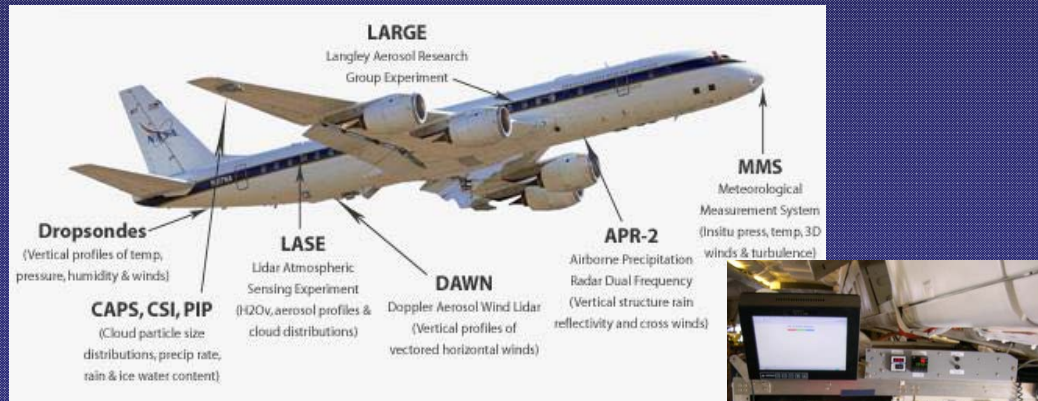
## Ground sites

In situ and remote sensing measurements of trace gas and aerosol



# Instrumentation

## LARGE Instrumentation



- **Aerosol Concentrations:**
  - Total and Non-Volatile
  - CCN spectra
- **Aerosol Sizes (10 nm -5 $\mu$ m)**
- **Chemical Composition**
  - filter collection and analyses for ionic content
- **Optical Properties:**
  - Scattering (Dry and Wet)
  - Absorption Coefficients (Extinction)
  - Single Scattering Albedo



## Ground-based Instrumentation

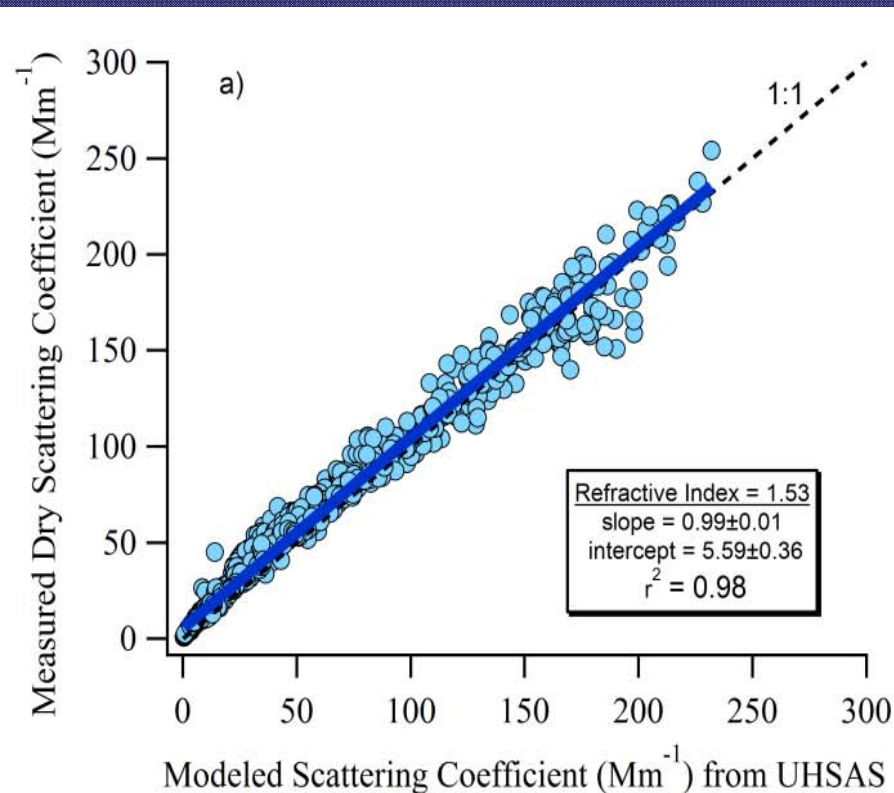
- **MDE sites :**
  - PM 2.5
  - MTO (P, RH, Precip, Temp, RAD, WS, WD)
  - Gases (O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>)
- **Aeronet :**
  - AOD
  - Size Distribution
  - Angstrom Exponent



# Validation of the P-3B Measurements

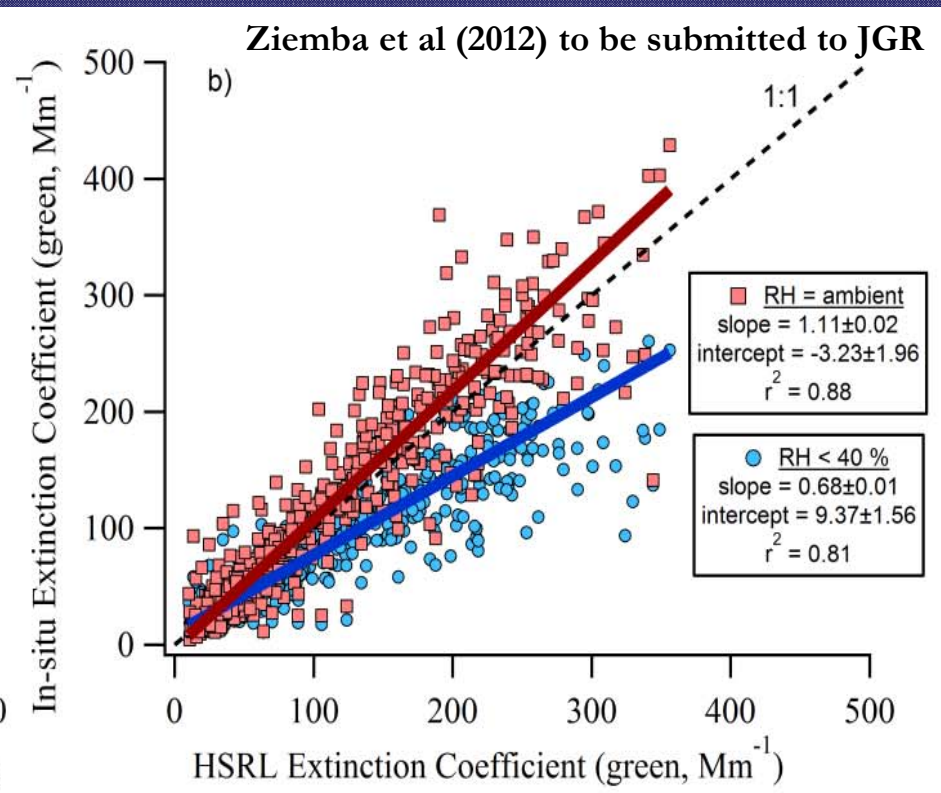
## Scattering coefficient :

- In-situ measurement (Neph)
- Mie calculation from in-situ size distribution



## Extinction coefficient :

- In-situ measurement (Neph + PSAP)
- High Spectral Resolution Lidar (UC-12)

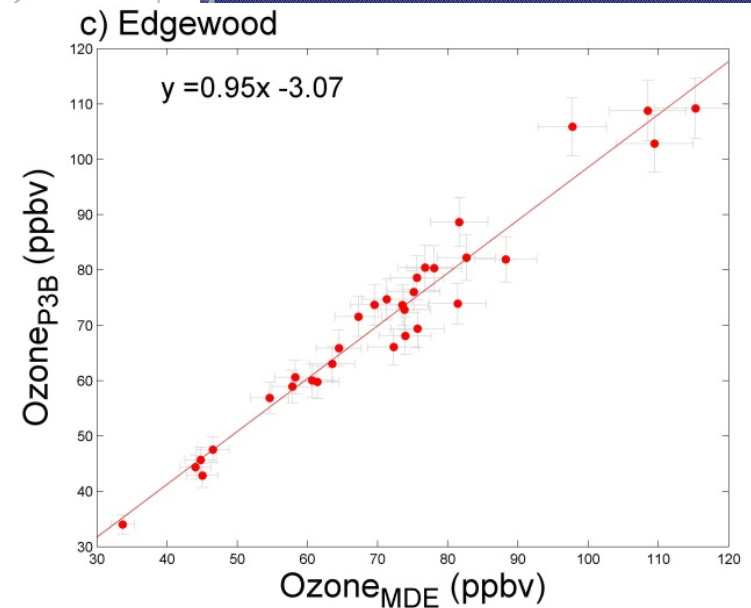
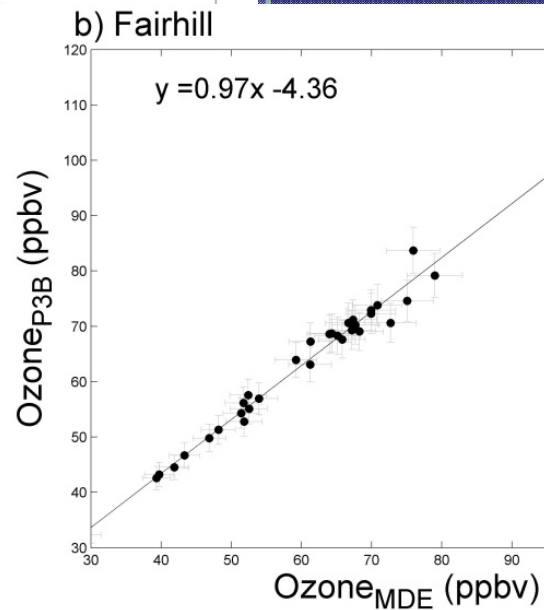
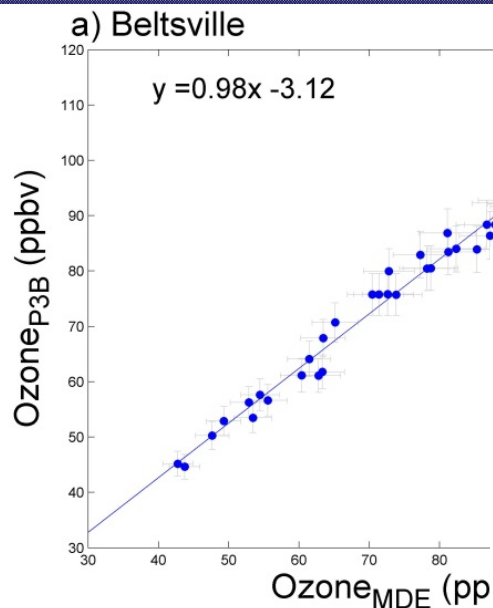


- Confidence in the dry size distribution and the scattering coefficient measurements
- Particle loss in the aerosol inlet are likely negligible
- The hygroscopicity model reproduces  $\sigma_{\text{ext,amb}}$  quite well.

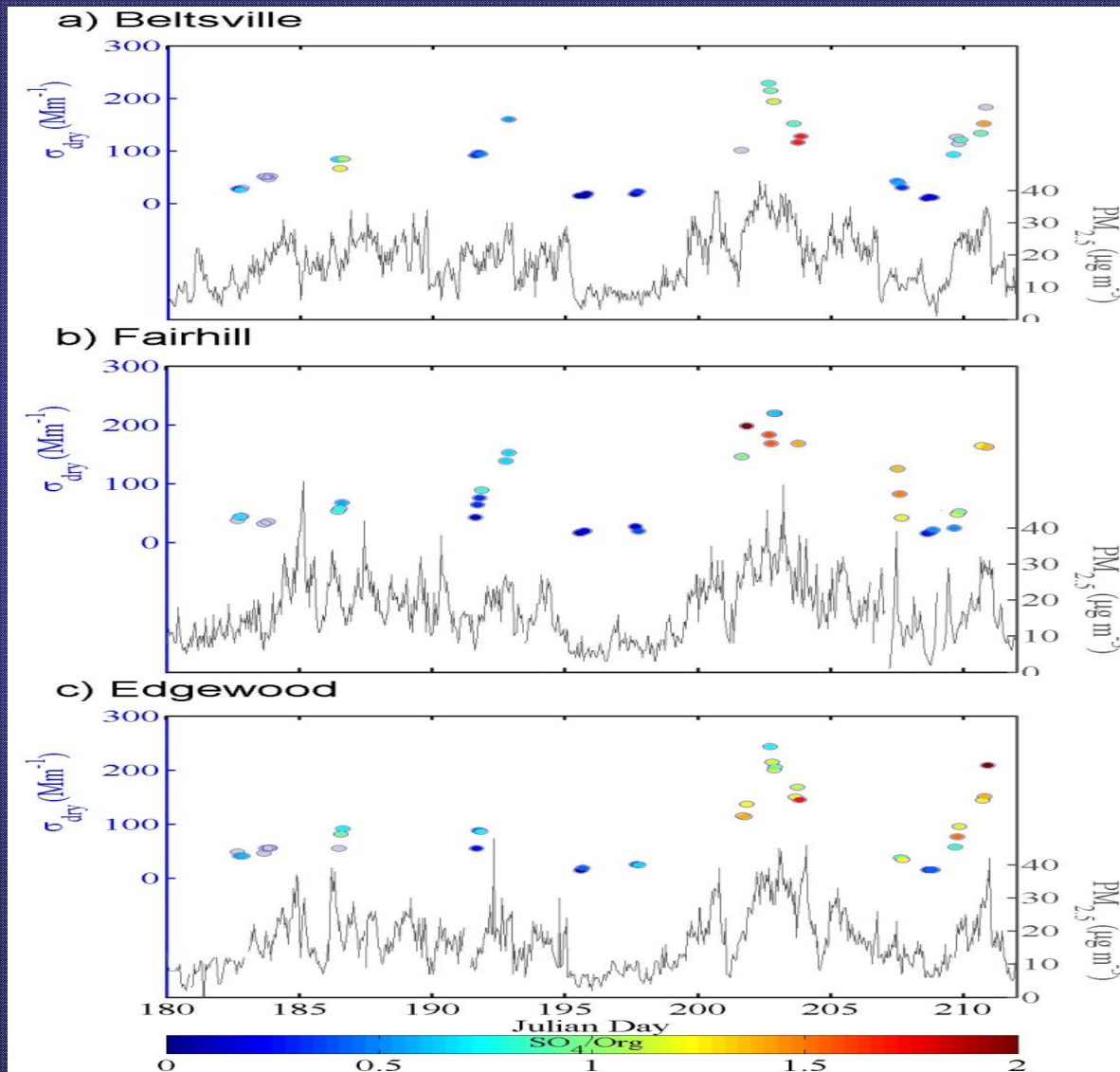
# Homogeneity of the BL

- Ozone measured at the lower level of the P3B profiles and at the ground sites are similar

→ The surface layer is then well mixed and the P3B measurements are representative to the surface layer.

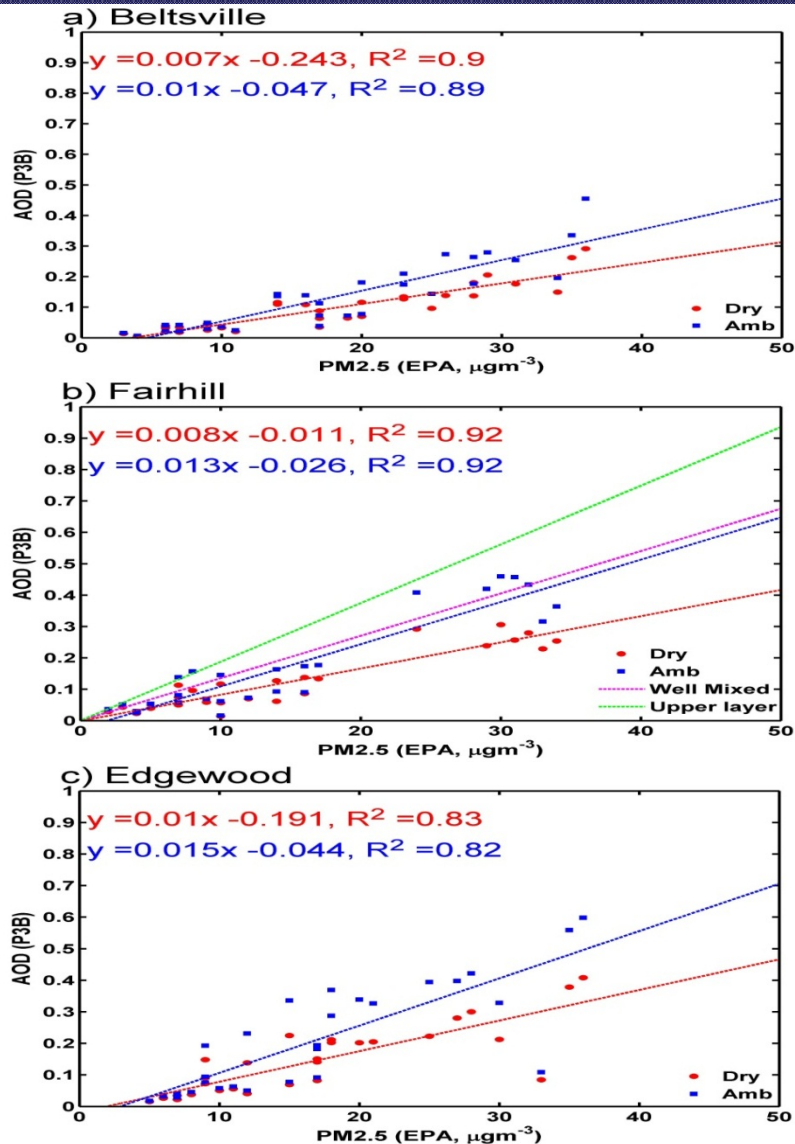


# Comparison aircraft (P-3B) with PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements

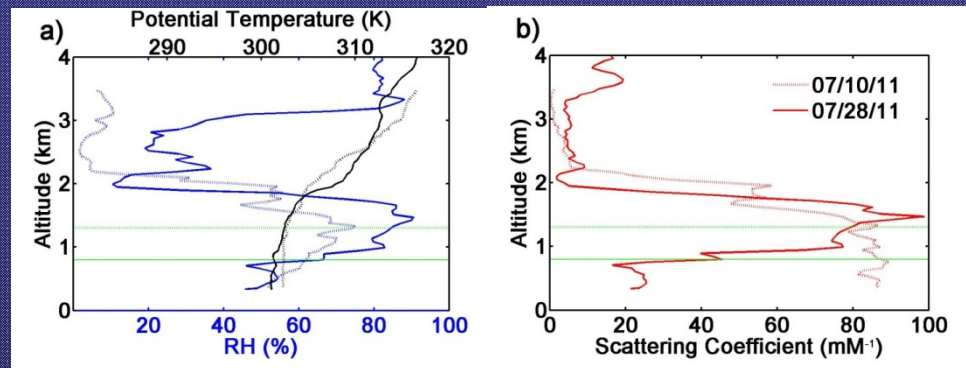


- Time series of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and scattering coefficient show a strong relationship : Beltsville and Edgewood ( $R^2 > 0.9$ ) the correlation coefficient is lower at Fairhill ( $R^2 = 0.89$ )
- High PM<sub>2.5</sub> are associated with high concentration of sulfate coming from the Ohio river valley (back-trajectories study)

# Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD)



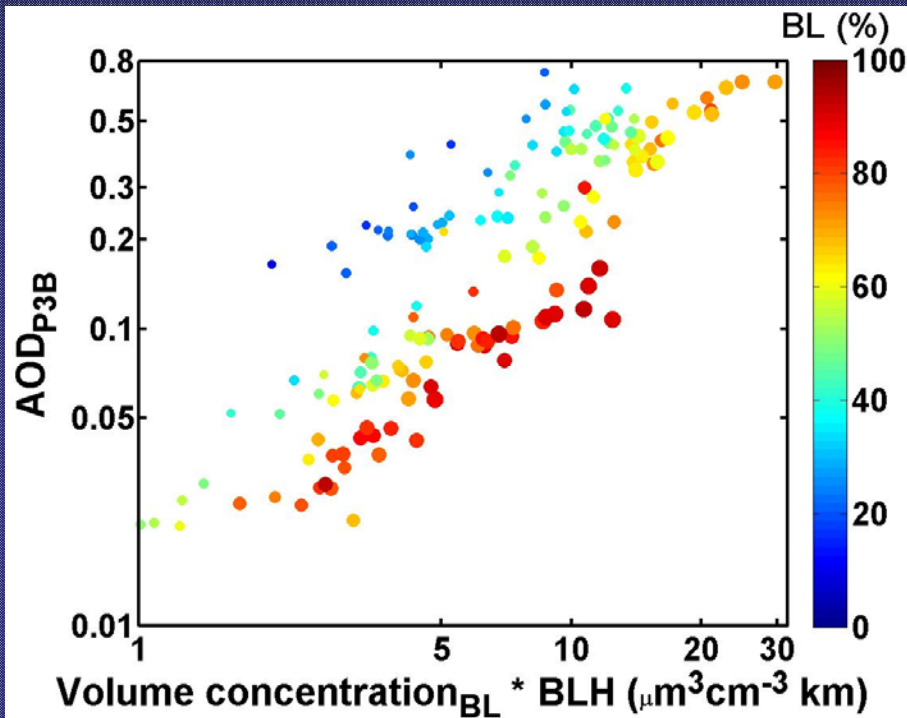
- AOD is calculated from the dry and ambient extinction measured on board the P3B.
- Comparison with the PM<sub>2.5</sub> measured in an 30 minutes window
- Correlation coefficients are high  $>0.82$  and corresponding to previous studies on the east coast of US



- Different study cases were observed:
  - Well mixed layer
  - Uplifted layer



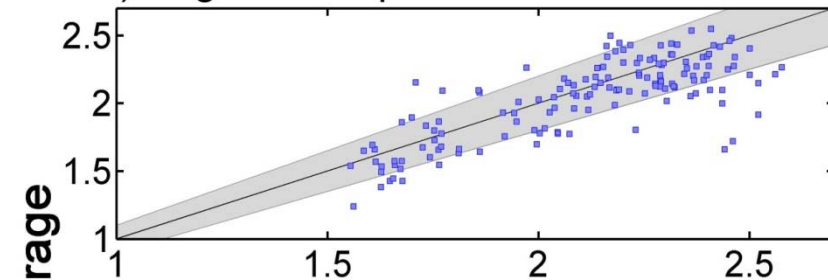
# Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD): Vertical distribution



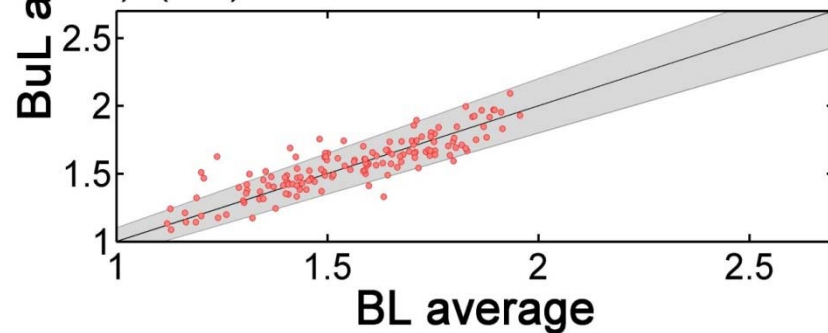
- Most of the cases observed during DAQ are 'Well mixed'
- The BL and the BuL are strongly related and the aerosols are really similar → This explain why the relationship shown before is really strong

- Knowing the vertical distribution is crucial to determine the air quality from the column integrated measurements

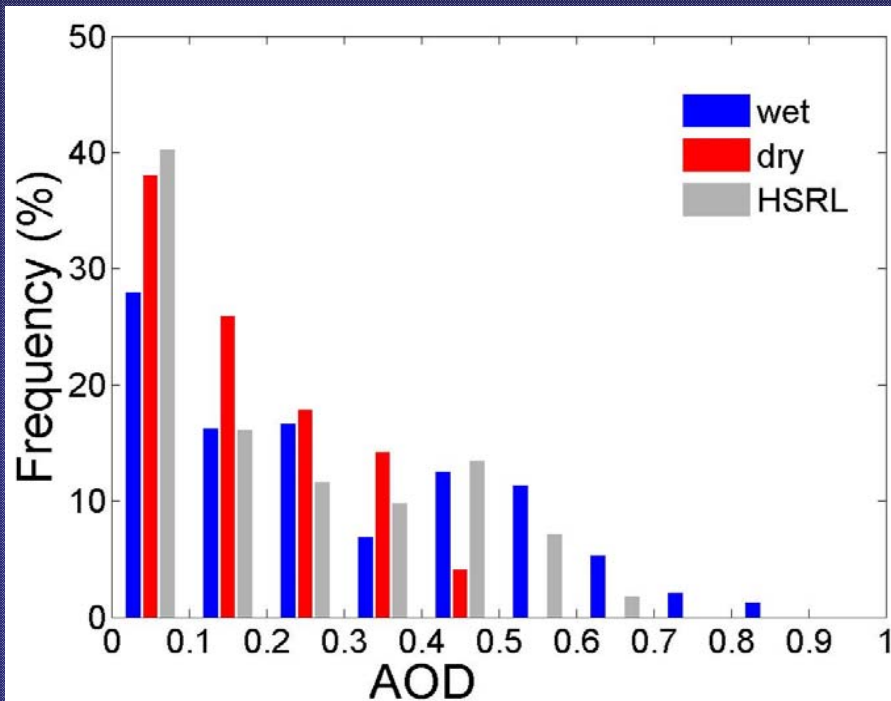
a) Angstrom Exponent



b) f(RH)



# Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD): Relative humidity

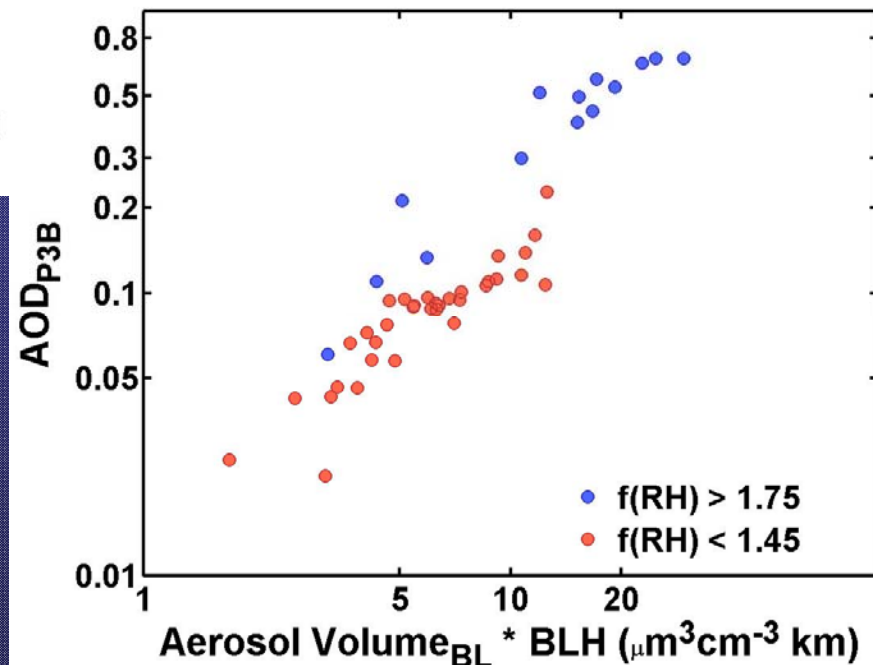


AOD  $\leq 0.3$  : driven by the aerosol loadings

AOD  $> 0.4$  :  $\rightarrow$  driven by the RH

Taking into account only the cases when the BL contribution  $> 60\%$ , the impact of the  $f(\text{RH})$  may be studied

The variability of the  $f(\text{RH})$  profiles is low  $\rightarrow$  error due to using the RH at the ground 5-8%



## Conclusions

- AOD vs PM2.5 gives a good relation but the variability would lead to wrong estimation of the PM2.5
- Including the BLH and the BL contribution show few tendencies → BLH is necessary but not enough the contribution has to be known
- RH at the ground is for this region and this period a good approximation → due to well mixed BL and/or BL and BuL strongly related to each other.
- F(RH) effect is secondary compare to the BL contribution but is still important factor of 2 + vertical variability during DAQ is low so the use of a surface measurement of f(RH). Is this always the case ?