

Scattering [Properties](#) and Lidar Characteristics of Asian Dust Particles Based on Realistic
Shape Models

To be submitted to ACP

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Abstract

The lidar backscattering properties of Asian dust particles, namely the lidar ratio (S) and backscattering depolarization ratio (δ), were studied using a discrete dipole approximation (DDA) model. The three-dimensional morphology of the dust particles was reconstructed in fine detail using the focused ion-beam (FIB) tomography technique. An index based on the symmetry of the scattering matrix was developed to assess the convergence for the random orientation condition using DDA. Both the S and δ exhibit an asymptotic trend with dust particle size: the S initially decreases while the δ increases with size, before both approach their asymptotic values. The lidar properties were found to have statistically insignificant dependence on effective sphericity. The presence of strongly absorbing minerals, such as magnetite, can greatly reduce the dust's single-scattering albedo and δ . Utilizing the robust asymptotic trend behavior, two parameterization schemes were developed: one to estimate the δ of a single dust particle given its size, and the other to estimate the δ of polydisperse dust particles with a lognormal particle size distribution given the effective radius. The parameterization scheme was compared with results based on the TAMUdust2020 database, showing that hexahedra reasonably represent realistic particle geometries for light-scattering computations.

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1. Introduction

Dust aerosols are an important component of the Earth System, interacting with Earth's energy, water, and carbon cycles. Directly, dust aerosols scatter and absorb both shortwave and longwave radiation, influencing the planet's energy balance (Tegen et al., 1996; Miller and Tegen, 1998; Myhre et al., 2013; Song et al., 2018, 2022). By scattering incoming solar radiation, dust aerosols contribute to cooling the atmosphere and surface regionally, impacting temperatures and affecting atmospheric circulation patterns (Evan et al., 2006; Lau and Kim, 2007; Zhang et al., 2022).

The transport of dust aerosols also has far-reaching implications. The long-range transport of Asian dust is frequently observed on the United States' west coast with considerable impacts on the air quality and climate (Yu et al., 2012; Creamean et al., 2014; Wu et al., 2015). It is also observed impacting Taiwan through similar transport mechanisms (Lin et al., 2007). In fact, mineral dust from the Taklimakan desert has been found to be transported a full rotation around the globe (Uno et al., 2009). Moreover, the deposition of dust aerosol during the long-range transport brings essential nutrients such as iron and phosphorus from terrestrial sources to marine ecosystems, being part of biogeochemical cycles across vast distances (Baker et al., 2003; Yu et al., 2015b; Westberry et al., 2023). Asian dust deposition in the East China Sea stimulates phytoplankton growth and primary productivity, influencing marine food webs and carbon cycling (Kong, S. S.-K. et al., 2022).

Lidar is an important tool for remote sensing measurements of airborne dust particles. As demonstrated in many previous studies (Omar et al., 2009; Burton et al., 2012), it allows us to

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Evan et al. 2006
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2006GL026408>

Lau and Kim 2007
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2007GL031538>

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distinguish dust aerosols from clouds and other types of aerosols, track their long-range transport and study their evolution as they interact with the environment such as clouds, atmospheric [gases](#), and other aerosols. Among others, elastic backscattering lidars are one of [the](#) most widely used types of lidar. For example, Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observations (CALIPSO), is a NASA-French satellite mission that implements a two-wavelength elastic lidar Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) at 532 nm and 1064 nm wavelengths (Winker et al., 2009). Ground-based lidar networks such as the NASA Micro-Pulse Lidar Network (MPLNET) use single wavelength measurements for extinction, backscattering, and depolarization profiles (Welton et al., 2001). [The EarthCARE mission utilizes ATmospheric LIDar \(ATLID\), a 355 nm wavelength laser and high-spectral resolution receiver, allowing it to directly measure both lidar ratio and extinction coefficient \(Illingworth et al., 2015; Donovan et al., 2024\). Ground based lidars operating at 532 nm and 1064 nm throughout Eastern Asia are also useful for monitoring dust transport and air quality, running as part of Asian Development Bank \(ADB\) and Global Environment Facility \(GEF\) \(Sugimoto et al., 2008\).](#)

2. Theoretical Background

Lidar ratio (S) and depolarization ratio (δ) are two most important parameters for lidar-based remote sensing of aerosols and clouds. For a single dust particle, the S , referred to as the extinction-to-backscatter coefficient, is defined as (Platt, 1979; Ansmann et al., 1992; Mattis et al., 2002; Liu et al., 2002)

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110 where σ is the extinction coefficient and ω and P_{11} are the single-scattering albedo and phase
 111 function of the dust particle, respectively. For the purposes of this paper, P_{11} is normalized to 1
 112 when integrating across all scattering directions. $\beta = P_{11}(\theta_s = \pi) C_{sca}$ is the backscattering
 113 coefficient at the exact backscattering direction. When considering a multitude of particles,

$$\beta = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_{11}(r_v, \theta_s = \pi) C_{sca}(r_v) n(r_v) d \ln r_v, \quad (2)$$

114 Where r_v is the volume-equivalent sphere radius and $n(r_v) = dN/d \ln r_v$ defines a normalized
 115 particle size distribution ($n(r_v)$).

116

117 For Raman lidar and high spectral resolution lidar systems, the lidar ratio can be derived directly
 118 from the observed extinction and backscatter without assumptions about the composition (Müller
 119 et al., 2007). However, for elastic backscattering lidars, the lidar ratio cannot be directly
 120 measured. As a result, assumptions need to be made about the composition of the atmosphere.

121 Therefore, the lidar ratio is fundamentally important for elastic lidars like CALIOP and
 122 MPLNET to convert the direct attenuated backscatter observations to an extinction profile
 123 (Young et al., 2018) and derived quantities such as dust aerosol optical depth (Yu et al., 2015a;
 124 Song et al., 2021).

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126 Depolarization ratio δ is the ratio of the perpendicular or cross-polarized component to the
 127 parallel component of polarized backscattering signal. For backscattering lidar the
 128 depolarization ratio is defined as

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$$\delta = \frac{1 - \frac{P_{22}(\theta_S = \pi)}{P_{11}(\theta_S = \pi)}}{1 + \frac{P_{22}(\theta_S = \pi)}{P_{11}(\theta_S = \pi)}} \quad (3)$$

where P_{ij} is the ij -th element of the particle's scattering matrix (Kong, S. et al., 2022). δ is often used for aerosol type (Kim et al., 2018) and cloud phase classifications (Hu et al., 2009). First, if lidar backscattering is dominated by single scattering, δ is close to zero for spherical particles like sulfate aerosols and water droplets. In contrast, δ is notably greater for nonspherical particles like dust aerosols and ice crystals. Moreover, the considerable δ differences between spherical fine particles and nonspherical coarse dust particles also enables the separation of dust extinction from the total extinction profile retrieved by CALIOP (Yu et al., 2015; Song et al., 2021).

Because of the fundamental importance of S and δ for lidar based dust remote sensing, previous studies have made substantial effort to understand the connection between dust particle properties, e.g., shape and size, and their lidar characteristics, in particular the S and δ (e.g., Dubovik et al., 2006; Gasteiger et al., 2011; Liu J. et al., 2015; Kahnert et al., 2020; Saito et al., 2021; Saito and Yang, 2021; Kong, S. et al., 2022). The common methodology used in these studies is to use light scattering models, such as the T-matrix (Mishchenko et al., 1996; Bi and Yang, 2014b) and Discrete Dipole Approximation (DDA) model (Draine and Flatau, 1994, 2013; Yurkin and Hoekstra, 2007, 2011), to compute the scattering properties including S and δ of dust aerosols and then study the potential dependence on particle properties. Although these studies have greatly improved our understanding and paved the foundation for the current aerosol retrieval algorithms, they share a common limitation as they all used hypothetical dust particle shape models, such as spheroid (Dubovik et al., 2006), irregular polyhedron (Saito et al., 2021), Gaussian random sphere (Muinonen et al., 1996; Liu J. et al., 2015; Kahnert et al., 2020), tri-

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axial spheroids (Meng et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2023), and super-spheroid (Kong, S. et al., 2022) to simulate dust particle shapes that are weakly or *not* constrained by observations. The reason for this is probably two-fold. Most microscopic observations of dust particles in the literature are two-dimensional (2D) images based on scanning or transmission electron microscopes (SEM or TEM), while three-dimensional (3-D) observations are extremely rare. In addition, the implementation of complex shapes in scattering models is also a challenging task. For example, until recently the widely used T-matrix code based on the extended boundary condition method (Mishchenko et al., 1996) is primarily applicable only to rotationally symmetric particles such as spheroid. It is worth noting that the T-matrix method implementation based on the invariant imbedding T-matrix method is applicable to arbitrary shapes (Bi and Yang, 2014a). Aware of the limitation of hypothetical dust particle shape, these studies often use dust scattering properties from laboratory measurements as benchmark to select an optimal set of hypothetical shapes that [can generate similar scattering properties, e.g., lidar characteristics, as measurements](#) (Saito et al., 2021; Kong, S. et al., 2022). Nevertheless, the use of hypothetical instead of realistic dust shape inevitably leads to some important questions. Is the match of the dust scattering properties a result of a good shape model or a fortunate coincidence? If an optimal shape model is selected based on one set of dust scattering observations (e.g., [δ at 532 nm](#)), can this model automatically simulate other scattering properties (e.g., [δ at other wavelengths](#))? Obviously, one way to address the above questions is to use realistic shape models in the computation of dust scattering properties. A few studies have made attempts [in this direction](#). For example, Lindqvist et al. (2014) developed a so-called stereogrammetric surface retrieval method to construct 3-D dust shapes from 2D SEM dust images [and Kemppinen et al. \(2015 b\) used a surface roughening model to add detail to the model. Ishimoto et al. \(2010\) and Kemppinen et al. \(2015 a\) used a](#)

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Ishimoto, H., Zaizen, Y., Uchiyama, A., Masuda, K., & Mano, Y. (2010). Shape modeling of mineral dust particles for light-scattering calculations using the spatial Poisson–Voronoi tessellation. *Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiative Transfer*, 111(16), 2434-2443.

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Voronoi tessellation-based algorithm to mimic dust internal structure. Järvinen et al. (2016) compared the lidar backscattering properties based on the constructed 3-D dust shapes with laboratory measurements and found reasonable agreements. An important finding from this study is that δ of realistic dust particles at 532 nm first increase with particle size but seems to approach an asymptotic constant value of ~ 0.30 for coarse dust particles.

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The main objective of this study is to better understand the lidar backscattering properties of dust particles with realistic shapes. The dust shape models used here are based on the focused ion-beam (FIB) tomography technique, aided by the energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) and SEM imaging, developed by Conny et al. (2014) and Conny and Ortiz-Montalvo (2017), which as far as we know is the most direct and faithful measurement of the shape and morphology of single dust particles. In addition to shape measurement, the EDX is used to measure the mineral composition of dust particles, which in turn enables the estimation of the complex refractive index (CRI) of dust particles. Based on the measured dust particle shape and estimated CRI, Conny et al. (2019, 2020) simulated and studied the scattering properties such as single scattering albedo and phase functions of the dust samples using the DDASCAT model (Draine and Flatau, 1994, 2013).

In this study, we focus on the lidar backscattering properties of realistic dust samples obtained from FIB tomography measurements (Conny et al., 2019). For simplicity, we will refer to these dust samples as "FIB dust samples." We are particularly interested in the following questions:

How do the S and δ of realistic dust samples vary with particle size, shape, mineral composition, and lidar spectral channel? The remaining portion of the paper is organized as follows: First, in

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Section 2, we introduce the dust samples used in this study, along with their origins and properties. We also explain the Amsterdam Discrete Dipole Approximation (ADDA) model and introduce a convergence index to determine the number of orientations necessary for calculating the optical properties under the random orientation condition. In Section 3, we examine how the lidar backscattering properties of the dust samples depend on dust properties, including size, shape, and mineral composition. In Section 4, we present two dust δ parameterization schemes: one to estimate the δ of a single dust particle based on its size, and the other to estimate the δ of dust particles with a lognormal particle size distribution based on the effective radius. Finally, in Section 5, we summarize the main findings and conclusions of this study.

3. Data and model

3.1. FIB Dust Samples

The ~~thirteen~~ dust particles ~~measured by FIB~~ were obtained from the Mauna Loa Observatory (19° 32' 10"N, 155° 34' 34"W) on the island of Hawaii between March 15 and April 26, 2011. Six of these particles were collected during the daytime. Following Conny et al. (2019), these particles will be referred to as the "D" sample (e.g., "3D" indicates that the sample was collected during the daytime of day 3). The other eight particles were collected at night and are referred to as "N" samples. The properties of these particles, including their shape, size, and composition, as well as the measurement techniques, have been extensively documented in (Conny et al., 2019, 2020). Conny et al., (2019) analyzed the back trajectories from the Mauna Loa Observatory during this time interval, suggesting that their samples likely originated as Asian dust. Out of curiosity, we collocated the CALIOP observations with the back trajectories from the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPPLIT) model (Stein et al.,

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257 2015; Rolph et al., 2017) from March 25, 2011, 0000 UTC to March 18, 2011, 0000 UTC,
258 starting from the Mauna Loa Observatory. The lidar depolarization ratio observations and
259 aerosol classification (Figure 1c and e) results show large amounts of dust along the later portion
260 of the projected path March 23rd, 2011. The back trajectories and CALIOP observations confirm
261 that the FIB dust samples are likely long-range transported Asian dust particles, more specifically
262 from the Gobi Desert, consistent with Conny et al. (2019). This may be an important distinction
263 as Asian dust exhibits some differences in optical properties when compared to other regions
264 such as the Sahara (Hofer et al., 2020; Floutsi et al., 2023), particularly in regards to the mineral
265 composition discussion in Section 3.2 and 4.3. However, to our knowledge, there is no evidence
266 to suggest that morphology of dust particles is strongly tied to regional origin. Therefore, while
267 these dust particles are suspected to be of Gobi origin, we believe these dust samples to be useful
268 for characterization of atmospheric dust more generally.

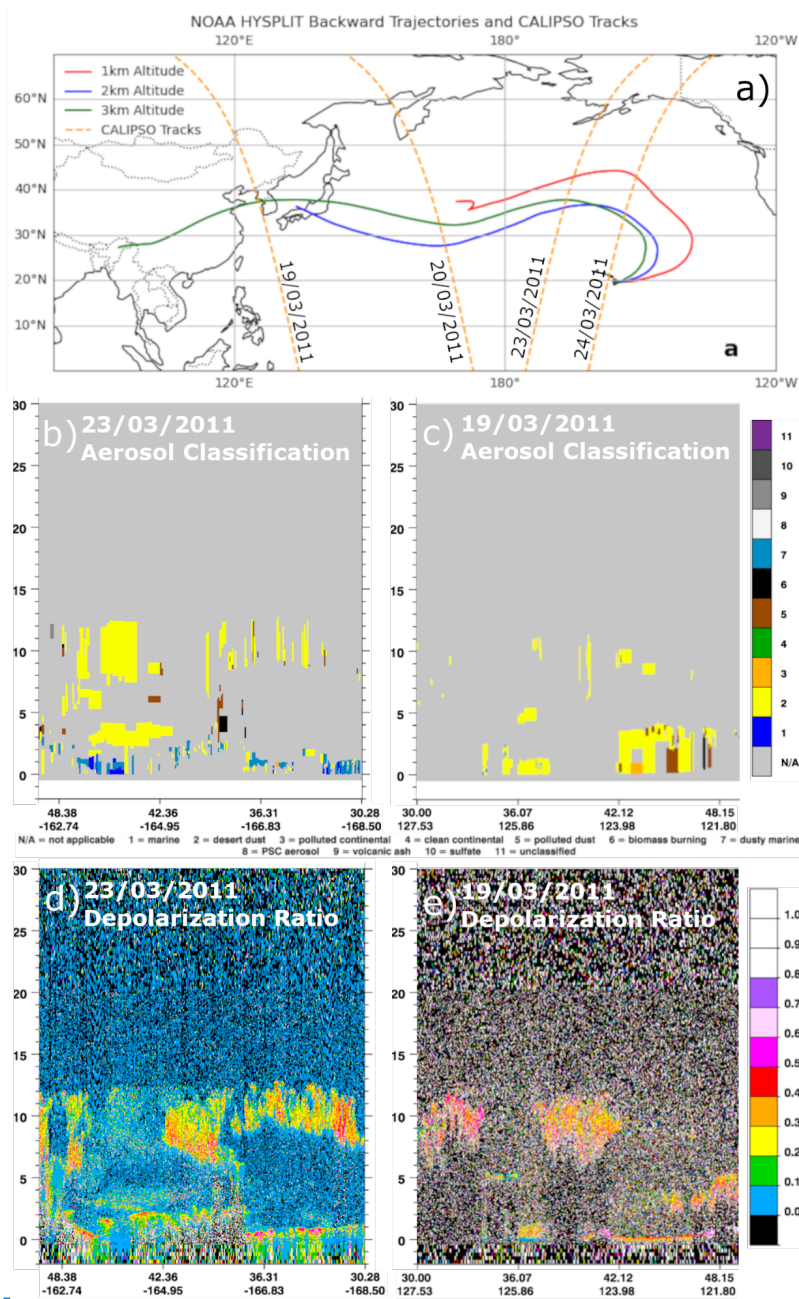
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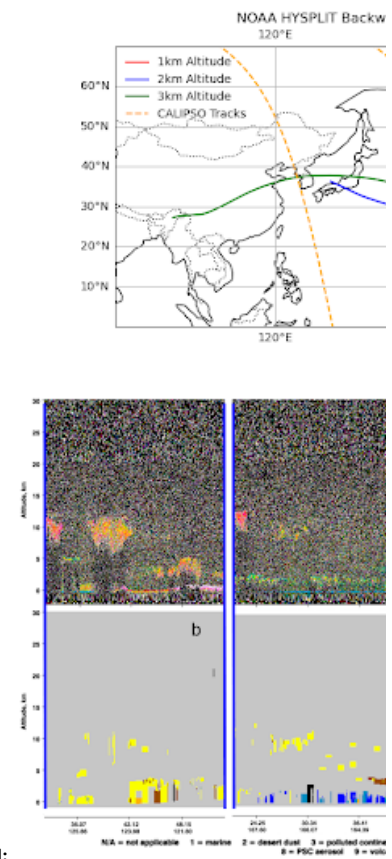
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276 **Figure 1.** (a) NOAA HYSPLIT Backward Trajectory paths from March 25th, 2011 0000 UTC

277 to March 18th, 2011 0000 UTC starting from Mauna Loa Observatory shown in solid lines.

278 North-South running dashed lines show CALIPSO tracks intersecting with the modeled dust

279 paths. Depolarization ratio and aerosol subtype classification for CALIPSO tracks intersecting

280 with modeled dust paths from NOAA HYSPLIT Backward Trajectory for March 19th and 23rd,

281 2011 (b-e, respectively). Through δ and aerosol subtype classification, a dust plume was found

282 to be present. In subplots b and c, yellow (labeled 2) corresponds with desert dust.

284 3.2. Dust particle shape and refractive index

285 As emphasized above, the primary advantage of using FIB dust samples for this study is that the

286 shape and composition of these samples are directly measured. To determine the dust shape, the

287 FIB uses a gallium ion beam, milling through each particle in 15 nm to 20 nm increments. This

288 process results in a stack of 100 to 200 cross-sectional images with dimensions of 1024 by 884

289 pixels for each particle. These cross-sectional images are then combined to reconstruct highly

290 detailed 3-D dust shapes, composed of three-dimensional pixels or voxels as illustrated by an

291 example in Figure 2.

292

293 The collection of dust samples spans a range of sizes. In this study, we quantify this for irregular

294 geometries using the volume equivalent sphere radius (r_v). Using this metric, our library covers

295 a range from 0.46 μm to 0.93 μm in r_v . The particle geometries are also assigned two aspect

296 ratios, where orientation is determined through principal component analysis of the voxel

297 coordinates. This analysis aligns the longest axis along the z -direction and the greatest variation

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from this axis with the x - and y -directions, aligning with an intuitive understanding of defining aspect ratios in three dimensions. The aspect ratios of these particles vary from 0.629 and 0.398 (particle 2N Ca-S) to more symmetrical particles with aspect ratios of 0.582 and 0.575 (particle 4N1 CaMg).

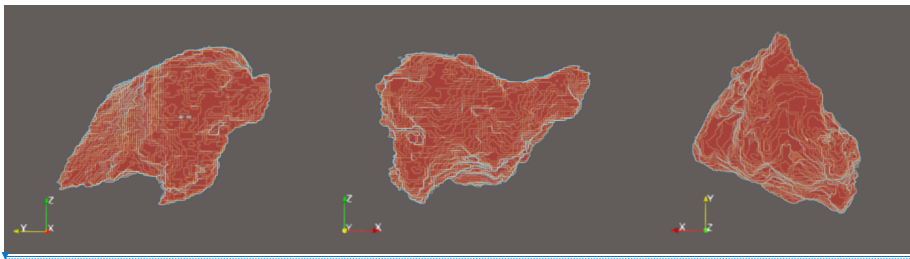


Figure 2. Orthographic projection of a sample dust particle from the FIB reconstructed database, 3D Ca-Rich.

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In addition to the FIB-based dust shape reconstruction, Conny et al. (2019) also performed the element composition and mineral phase analysis for the FIB dust samples using the SEM and energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX). They found that the dust samples can be loosely classified into three categories based on the element compositions, the mainly Calcium Magnesium based (Ca-Mg), the Calcium rich (Ca-rich) ones and lastly those primarily composed of Calcium Sulfide (Ca-S). In this study we follow this naming convention of Conny et al., 2019. To determine the refractive index of the dust samples, Conny et al. (2019) first estimated the volume fractions of possible mineral phases in the particles based on the composition analysis results. Then, the complex refractive index of each particle was determined through the average Maxwell-Garnett dielectric function based on the estimated volume fraction of each mineral

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phase. It should be noted that the iron-phase composition in the particle was assumed to be either siderite, hematite, or magnetite which [have](#) different complex refractive [indices](#). Moreover, two sets of complex refractive index were used for each iron-phase mineral to account for the variability induced by optical anisotropy. The combination of mineral differences and refractive index variability lead to several sets of final refractive index after the Maxwell-Garnett average. Take the 3D Ca-Rich particle in Figure 2 for example. Table 1 provides the [complex refractive indices](#) at 589 nm from Conny et al. (2019) [for a single particle](#). Interested readers are referred to their study for more information.

Table 1. The possible complex refractive index at 589 nm of the 3D Ca-Rich particle in Figure 2 from Conny et al. (2019).

Iron-phase mineral	Minimum Refractive Index	Minimum Refractive Index	Maximum Refractive Index	Maximum Refractive Index
	Real	Imaginary	Real	Imaginary
Magnetite	1.532	2.14E-02	1.660	2.36E-02
Hematite	1.544	2.32E-03	1.681	2.28E-03
Siderite	1.508	1.34E-05	1.648	1.34E-05

In this study, we are interested in the dust scattering properties at three commonly encountered lidar wavelengths, namely, 355 nm, 532 nm, and 1064 nm. For simplicity, we assume the same refractive index from Conny et al. (2019) for all three wavelengths, which is probably reasonable only for the 532 nm. On the other hand, because we assume the refractive index to be invariant with wavelength, the wavelength variation essentially corresponds to the variation of dust

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particle size parameter $x = 2\pi r/\lambda$, allowing us to focus on the impact of dust particle size on the lidar scattering properties. The impacts of the spectral variation of refractive index will be investigated in future studies.

3.3. ADDA model and convergence index of random orientation.

In this study, we utilize the [ADDA model version 1.4.0](#) to compute the single scattering properties, including the extinction cross section C_{ext} , single scattering albedo ω , and scattering matrix P , of each FIB dust particle. The scattering properties of dust particles depend on not only their size, shape, and refractive index, but also their orientations with respect to the incident light [and the wavelength of incident light](#). In this study we assume that dust particles are randomly oriented. The theoretical basis and numerical implementation of the ADDA model have been well documented (Yurkin and Hoekstra, 2007, 2011). It has been used in numerous previous studies to compute the scattering properties of aerosol and cloud particles (Yang et al, 2013; Gasteiger, 2011; Collier et al, 2016). The process to generate the inputs from the FIB shape measurements for the discrete dipole approximation (DDA) model has been described in detail in Conny et al. (2019). We use the same inputs and configurations in this study. The only difference is that we use the ADDA model while Conny et al. (2019) used a different DDA model, DDSCAT, by Draine and Flatau (1994). The reason we cannot directly use the DDA simulation results from Conny et al. (2019) is twofold. Firstly, their computations are conducted for an incident light at the 589 nm wavelength, whereas we are interested in lidar wavelengths of 355 nm, 532 nm, and 1064 nm. Secondly, as will be explained later, we will need a greater number of orientations to simulate random orientation for P and lidar backscattering properties

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(Konoshonkin et al., 2020) than may be sufficient for the σ_e and ω to converge. In the remainder of this section, we will introduce a practical method to determine if a sufficient number of orientations have been used in the ADDA simulations to ensure convergence in the results for random orientation computations.

For a particle with an irregular shape and arbitrary orientation, the scattering matrix P that relates the incident and scattering Stokes parameters is a 4x4 matrix with 16 elements

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} P_{11}(\theta_s) & P_{12}(\theta_s) & P_{13}(\theta_s) & P_{14}(\theta_s) \\ P_{21}(\theta_s) & P_{22}(\theta_s) & P_{23}(\theta_s) & P_{24}(\theta_s) \\ P_{31}(\theta_s) & P_{32}(\theta_s) & P_{33}(\theta_s) & P_{34}(\theta_s) \\ P_{41}(\theta_s) & P_{42}(\theta_s) & P_{43}(\theta_s) & P_{44}(\theta_s) \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

where θ_s is the scattering angle. If the particle is randomly oriented, for any orientation its reciprocal orientation is equally likely. Because of the reciprocal symmetry, the scattering matrix for randomly oriented particle with irregular shape reduces to (van de Hulst 1957; Mishchenko et al., 2002; Mishchenko and Yurkin, 2017)

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} P_{11}(\theta_s) & P_{12}(\theta_s) & P_{13}(\theta_s) & P_{14}(\theta_s) \\ P_{12}(\theta_s) & P_{22}(\theta_s) & P_{23}(\theta_s) & P_{24}(\theta_s) \\ P_{13}(\theta_s) & P_{23}(\theta_s) & P_{33}(\theta_s) & P_{34}(\theta_s) \\ P_{14}(\theta_s) & P_{24}(\theta_s) & P_{34}(\theta_s) & P_{44}(\theta_s) \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

The symmetry property of the P matrix for randomly oriented particles in Eq. (5) provides a basis to assess the convergence of random orientation simulations in ADDA. For example, utilizing the fact that $P_{41} = P_{14}$ for a randomly oriented particle we can define a convergence index (CI) for random orientation as

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407

$$CI = \int_0^\pi (P_{14}(\theta_s) - P_{41}(\theta_s))^2 d\cos(\theta_s). \quad (6)$$

408 As such, CI approaches zero when [the](#) random orientation computation converges. It should be
 409 noted that CI can also be defined based on other symmetric elements of the [scattering](#) matrix
 410 such as $P_{21} = P_{12}$, $P_{31} = -P_{13}$. For practical applications, we usually assume that particles are
 411 randomly oriented with an equal number of mirror particles. Under such a condition, or if the
 412 particle in question has mirror symmetry itself, the [scattering](#) matrix has only 6 independent
 413 elements in the form (van de Hulst 1957; Mishchenko and Yurkin, 2017; Yang et al., 2023):

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} P_{11}(\theta_s) & P_{12}(\theta_s) & 0 & 0 & P_{12}(\theta_s) & P_{22}(\theta_s) & 0 & 0 & 0 & P_{33}(\theta_s) & P_{34}(\theta_s) & 0 & 0 & -P_{34}(\theta_s) & P_{44}(\theta_s) \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

415 and a CI based on $P_{12} = P_{21}$ or $P_{34} = -P_{43}$ must be used.

416

417 In the context of ADDA, the orientation of a particle with respect to the incidence is defined [by](#)
 418 using three Euler angles α , β , and γ . To specify a certain orientation, the particle is rotated first
 419 α on the z -axis, then β on the y -axis, and finally γ across the new z -axis through the zyz
 420 convention (Yurkin and Hoekstra, 2020). Then, to produce the scattering properties for a
 421 randomly oriented particle, ADDA averages across a large number of orientations. ADDA can
 422 do this internally through specified number of evenly spaced intervals across α , β , and γ . For α
 423 and β , ADDA calculates the scattering properties for the new orientation while for γ , or the self-
 424 rotation angle, it equivalently rotates the scattering plane to improve computational time. It

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$$\begin{bmatrix} P_{11}(\theta_s) & P_{12}(\theta_s) & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ P_{12}(\theta_s) & P_{22}(\theta_s) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & P_{33}(\theta_s) & P_{34}(\theta_s) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -P_{34}(\theta_s) & P_{44}(\theta_s) & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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calculates orientations in intervals of $2^n + 1$ for each of α , β , and γ resulting in $\{(2^n + 1)^3$ total orientations. To assess if the random orientation convergence has been achieved, one can examine the behavior of CI as well as other scattering properties of interest, as a function of the number of orientations. An example using the 3D Ca-Rich dust particle is shown in Figure 3 for $n = 1, 2, \dots, 6$. As expected, all properties converge to asymptotic values as n increases from $n = 1$ (i.e., 27 orientations) to $n = 6$ (i.e., 274,625 orientations). On the other hand, it is important to note that the scalar properties such as extinction efficiency and asymmetry factor (Figure 3a), and S and δ (Figure 3b) have converged when $n = 4$, while the CI based on certain scattering matrix elements (Figure 3c) only converged after $n = 5$. Based on this result, we employ $n = 5$ for the computations in this study. The results in Figure 3 clearly show that although one can assess the convergence of random orientation computation by observing the asymptotic behavior of scalar properties, the CI based on scattering matrix elements is a more robust index supported by fundamental physics.

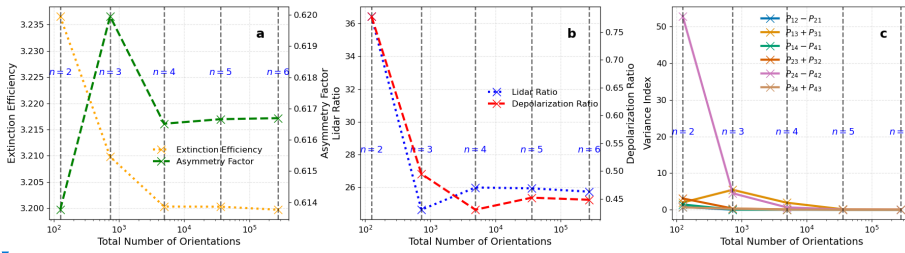


Figure 3. (a) Change in extinction efficiency and asymmetry factor with increasing number of orientations for a representation of a randomly oriented dust particle 3D Ca-Rich. (b) S and linear depolarization ratio as function of the number of orientations for dust particle 3D Ca-

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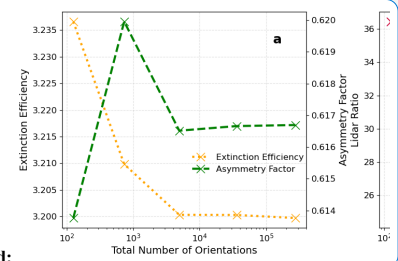
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466 Rich. (c) Convergence Index for each of dust particle 3D Ca-Rich's Mueller index pairs at 532
467 nm. Note figures start at $n = 2$.

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469 Thus, the error in computations of optical properties through ADDA is strongly tied to the
470 number of orientations used. We find in section 3 constraining refractive index through
471 mineralogy and size through proper characterization of particle size distribution are the largest
472 potential sources of error in these calculations, as ADDA's integration error has been set to less
473 than 10^{-5} and the geometries used are highly detailed, with individual dipole sizes on the order
474 of 10^3 nm^3 . This makes the numerical error negligible compared to the error in chosen
475 parameters, convergence level, and sample size through the limited set of geometries. The *CI* is
476 a tool to minimize computational error while considering computational cost.

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477
478 With the help of the newly developed *CI*, we computed the scattering properties of the FIB dust
479 samples for three commonly encountered lidar wavelengths 355 nm, 532 nm, and 1064 nm. For
480 each wavelength, more than 60 ADDA simulations are carried out corresponding to different
481 particles, as well as different refractive indices for each particle as explained above (see section
482 2.2). Figure 4 shows the scattering matrix elements P_{11} and P_{22}/P_{11} for the FIB dust samples for
483 the three lidar wavelengths, for their minimum refractive index for each mineral typing. Given
484 the realistic morphology of the FIB dust samples and extensive computational methods of
485 determining these optical properties, the FIB dust samples can serve as a benchmark for future
486 studies on simulated mineral dust scattering properties. As one can see in Figure 4 a-c, the values
487 of P_{11} in the forward scattering directions increase systematically from 1064 nm to 532 nm, and
488 355 nm, which can be explained by the increase of size parameter as wavelength decreases. In

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Figure 4 d-f, $P_{22}(\pi)/P_{11}(\pi)$ shows considerable decreases from 1064 nm to 532 nm, down
~13% on average. In contrast, the changes are relatively small from 532 nm to 355 nm. These
features will help us understand the spectral dependence of S and δ shown and discussed in the
next section.

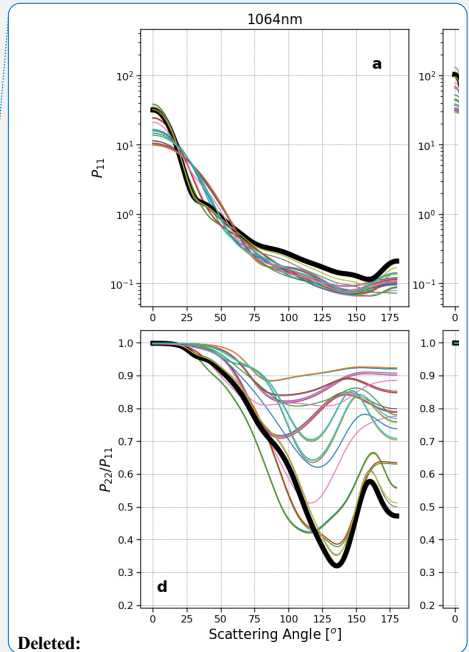
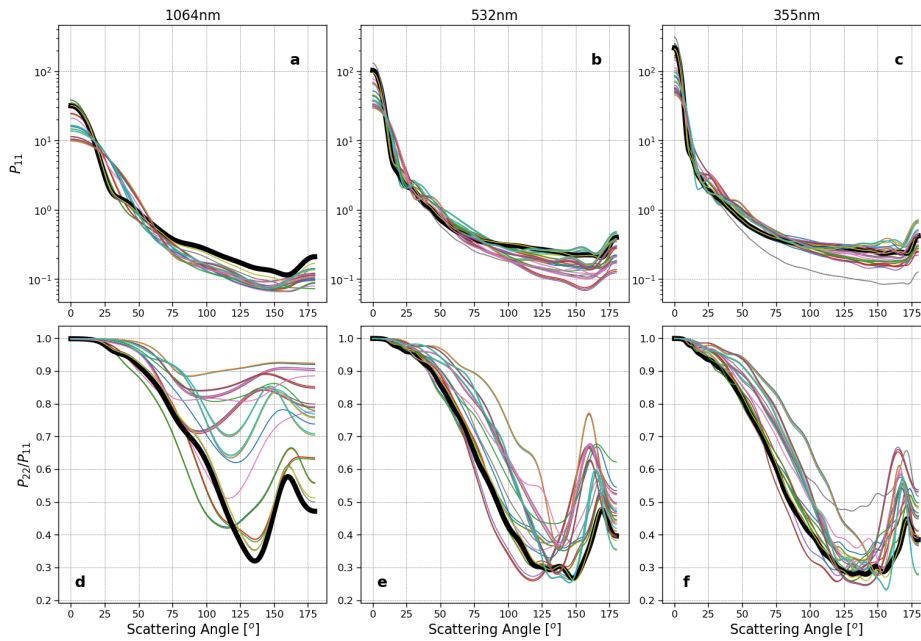


Figure 4. P_{11} and P_{22}/P_{11} for each particle geometry. Results for (a, d) 355 nm, (b, e) 532 nm,
(c, f) 1064 nm of each iron-containing mineral phase's minimum refractive index. Highlighted
in black is particle 3D Ca-Rich.

510 4. Sensitivities of lidar ratio and depolarization ratio to particle properties

511 4.1. Sensitivity to dust particle size

512 In lidar-based aerosol remote sensing, the $S - \delta$ diagram is often used to classify aerosols into

513 different types (Burton et al., 2012; Illingworth et al., 2015). The $S - \delta$ diagram for the FIB dust

514 samples is shown in Figure 5. Notably, S is negatively correlated with δ when the results for all

515 three wavelengths are combined (correlation coefficient of 0.83). Specifically, the δ at 1064 nm

516 is smaller than the corresponding values at 532 nm and 355 nm, while the opposite is true for the

517 S . The results for 532 nm and 355 nm largely overlap with each other. Recall that the same CRI

518 is used for all three wavelengths, so these spectral differences are caused by the size parameter

519 difference, i.e., the relative size of the particle with respect to the lidar wavelength. To further

520 illustrate this point, we plotted the S and δ separately as a function of the dust particle size

521 parameter, shown in Figure 6. Note that the size of the irregular particle can be defined in

522 different ways; here, we adopt the volume-equivalent size.

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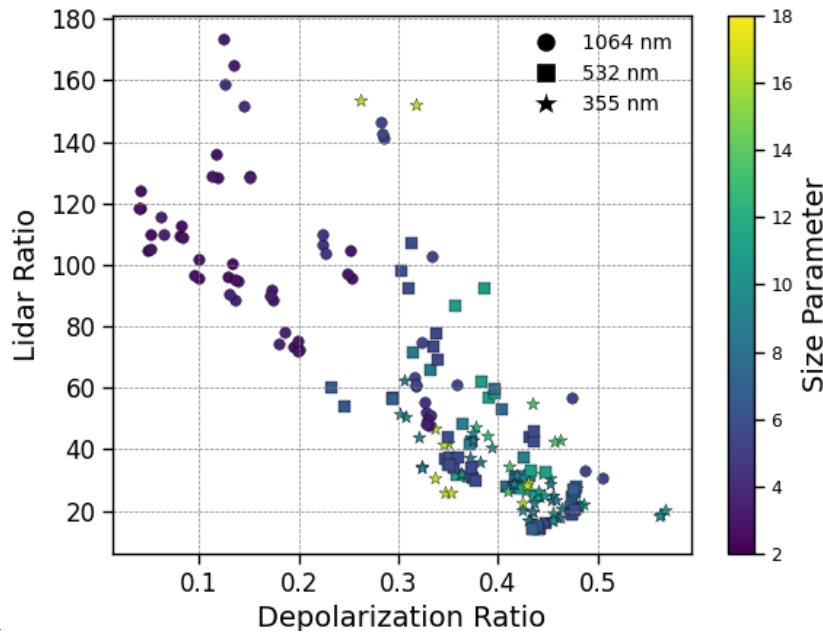
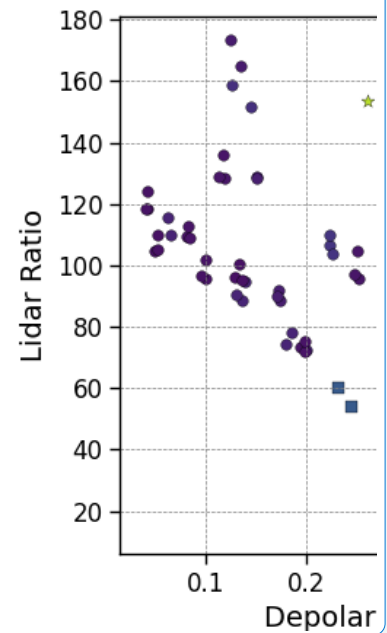


Figure 5. S - δ graph of FIB dust particles at each of 355 nm, 532 nm, and 1064 nm wavelengths for the refractive index of each mineral type found present in the particle.

Figure 6 reveals an interesting asymptotic behavior of lidar properties with respect to size, where S (Figure 6a) and δ (Figure 6b) first decreases and increases, respectively, with size parameters and then seemingly approach their asymptotic values. We use a locally weighted scatterplot smoothing regression (or LOWESS) to fit the trend in lidar optical properties with size parameters. We find that both S and δ plateau around size parameter $x \approx 8$ and then approach to their asymptotic values, $S = 35 \text{ sr}$ and $\delta = 0.41$. Notably, these results span a limited size distribution due to the sizes present in the dust particles analyzed and

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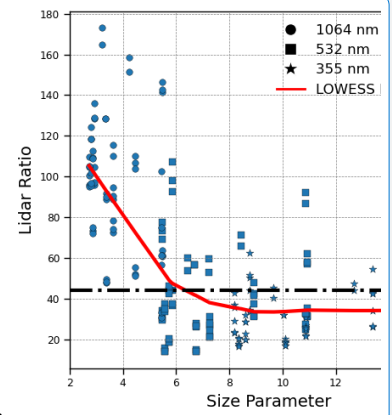
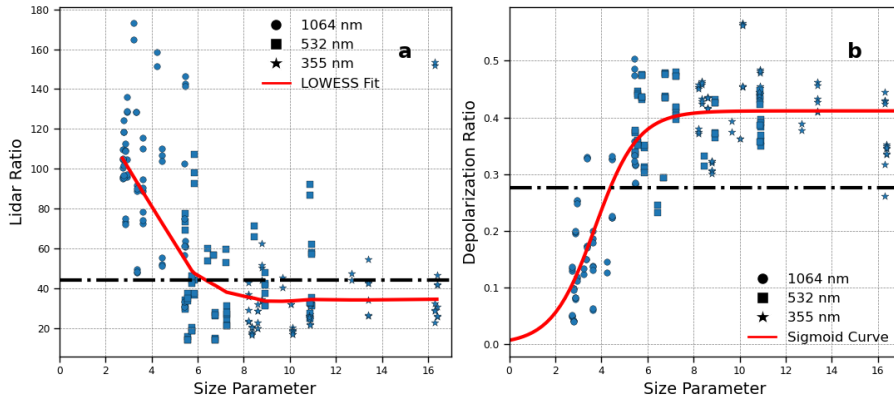
the computational expense to produce simulations of larger particles. However, the asymptotic behavior of lidar properties has also been reported in several previous studies. For example, the S and δ based on the so-called super-spheroid dust model in Kong, S. et al. (2022) showed a similar asymptotic behavior for the size parameter range between 2 and 20 (see their Figure 3), and so is the laboratory measured dust δ in Järvinen et al. (2016) (see their Figure 9).

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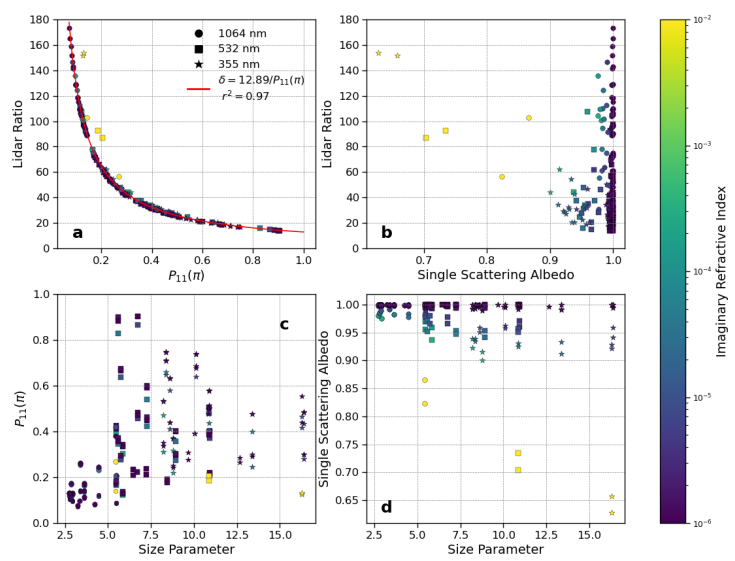
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Figure 6. Relationship between dust particle size parameter and (a) S and (b) δ . The red line is a LOWESS fit of the data for S and a Sigmoid function for δ . The black lines correspond to (a) $S = 44$, the S used for CALIPSO's aerosol classification of dust (Kim et al., 2018) and (b) $\delta = 0.277$, the median observed δ at 532 nm of the Atlantic dust transport region using CALIOP (Liu Z. et al., 2015).

Since S is a function of both $P_{11}(\pi)$ and the ω , we investigate their relative roles in determining the size dependence of S . Figure 7a shows that the values of S lie closely around the $1/P_{11}(\pi)$ line, with the r-square value around 0.97 for a simple regression of $S = 12.9/P_{11}(\pi)$. In contrast,

single-scattering albedo ω plays a lesser role in S among the particles tested due to greater similarities in values (Figure 7b). However, the outliers in Figure 7a correspond to points with much lesser ω in Figure 7b, particularly the FIB sample 3D Ca-rich (see Figure 2) using the magnetite refractive index, which has an imaginary refractive index of 0.021 to 0.024, an outlier with a magnitude ten times greater than the other mineral types present (See Table 1). In Figure 7c and d, we plot the variation of $P_{11}(\pi)$ and ω respectively as a function of size parameter. Although the variability of $P_{11}(\pi)$ is quite large, especially in the size parameter range between 5 and 10, it generally increases with size parameter. In contrast, the ω in Figure 7b shows a slight decrease with size. These results indicate that $P_{11}(\pi)$ plays a more dominant role than the ω in determining the size dependence of S in these dust samples.



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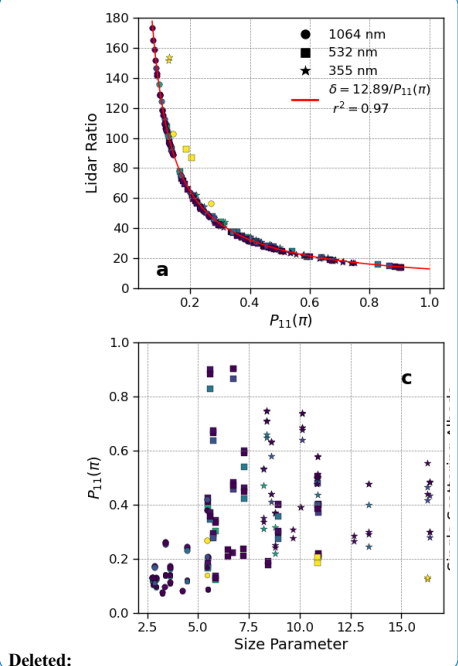
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Figure 7. S as a function of a) P_{11} and b) ω . c) P_{11} and d) ω as a function of dust size parameter. The color of each dot corresponds to the imaginary refractive index.

Following the same thought for the above S analysis, we analyze the role of $P_{11}(\pi)$ and $P_{22}(\pi)$ in determining the asymptotic behavior of δ in Figure 6b. It is seen in Figure 8a and b that both $P_{11}(\pi)$ and $P_{22}(\pi)$ increase with dust size. Interestingly, their ratio $P_{22}(\pi)/P_{11}(\pi)$ first decreases with size and then seems to approach an asymptotic value of 0.4 when dust particles are large. So, the result suggests that the asymptotic trend of δ with respect to dust size is a result of the asymptotic behavior of $P_{22}(\pi)/P_{11}(\pi)$.

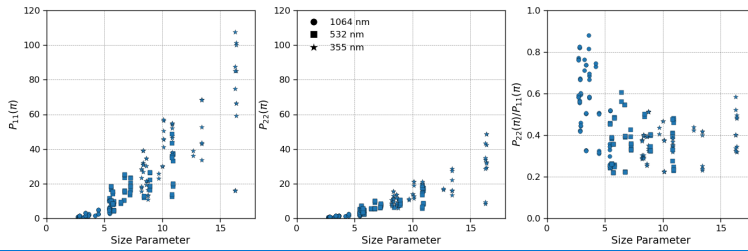


Figure 8. a) $P_{11}(\pi)$, b) $P_{22}(\pi)$ and c) $P_{22}(\pi)/P_{11}(\pi)$ as a function of the dust particle size parameter.

4.2. Sensitivity to dust shape and sphericity

Several studies have shown that constraining particle morphology is important for quantifying the δ of dust particles (Dubovik et al., 2006; Saito et al., 2021; Liu J. et al., 2015; Kahnert et al., 2020; Kong, S. et al., 2022). As explained in the introduction, most of these studies are based on

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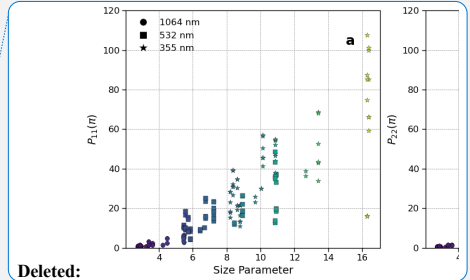
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(9)

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666 Where Ψ_{eff} is the effective sphericity and A_{proj} is the average projected area across all
667 projection directions. This gives us a wide range of effective sphericity between 0.49-0.89. As
668 shown in Figure 9, we find no clear relationship between effective sphericity and δ or S (null
669 hypothesis rejected with $p > 0.05$ for both S and δ). This may be a result of a limited set of
670 geometries of the FIB dust samples. It could also be due to the limitation of the effective
671 sphericity index in Eq. (9) failing to capture the subtle dependence of δ on dust particle shape.
672 Note that other previous studies have also found weak dependence of δ in particle sphericity
673 (e.g., [Saito and Yang, 2021](#); Kong, S. et al., 2022). Further studies are warranted to better
674 understand the relationship between the δ and morphology of dust particles. But overall, our
675 results seem to suggest that the impact of particle sphericity on δ and S is less important than
676 particle size.

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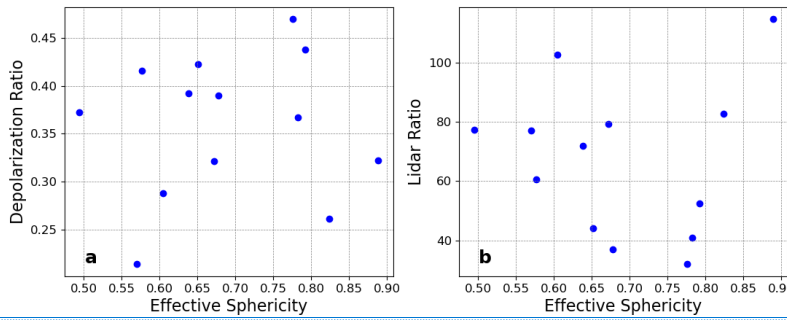
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678 **Figure 9. (a)** Effective sphericity dependence of δ . **(b)** Lidar ratio variance with effective
679 sphericity. A common volume is used by constraining the volume equivalent sphere radius to



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0.5 μm for each particle as well as a refractive index of $n = 1.5 + .005i$. A wavelength of 532 nm was used.

4.3. Sensitivity to dust mineralogy

Each particle from Conny et al.'s study (2019) was determined to have different amounts of iron in its composition through their EDX spectroscopy tests. Using this data, they determined the refractive index of each particle with the Maxwell-Garnett dielectric function described in section 2.3. The tests resulted in the percentage of elements by mass and volume, but did not reveal the mineral phase within the dust. To account for this, the study uses various possible iron containing mineral phases for each particle to determine the refractive index, as these phases have the greatest variability in possible refractive index for these particles. They also account for birefringence through a minimum and maximum value for refractive index. Each particle was given a hematite phase, while some had magnetite, ankerite, and/or siderite present. Interested readers are directed to Conny et al. 2019 for further details.

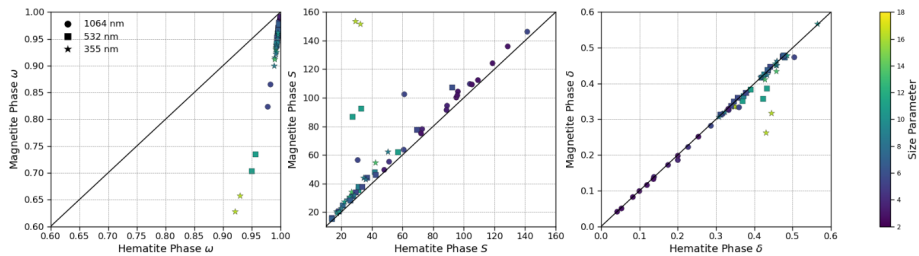


Figure 10. Variation of a) ω , b) S , and c) δ for each particle with its magnetite phase and corresponding hematite phase.

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Each of these mineral phases has a different CRI, with magnetite being the most absorbing of the iron-containing phases present (see Table 1). This results in considerable variations (up to 32%) in single scattering albedo (Figure 10a), particularly for the 3D Ca-Rich particle, which has the highest iron content by mass, ranging from 11.4 % to 7.90 % depending on the mineral phase used. In contrast, the next most iron-dense particle (4N1 Ca-Mg) contains only 4.35 % to 1.56 %. Accompanying the reduction in single scattering albedo, the S becomes systematically larger (Figure 10b), and the δ becomes smaller (Figure 10c) when hematite is replaced by magnetite. These results underscore the critical role of dust mineralogy in influencing the SSA of dust particles, as highlighted in previous studies (Li et al., 2021; Song et al., 2022, 2024). However, the effects of mineralogy on lidar-derived δ and S are comparatively smaller than the impacts from dust particle size. An important caveat to keep in mind when interpreting these results is that the same dust CRI has been used for all three wavelengths, as mentioned earlier. Dust absorption typically increases with decreasing wavelength in the visible to ultraviolet spectral region, which is not accounted for in our computations. Therefore, the impacts of mineralogy on lidar properties at the 355 nm wavelength, where dust can have strong absorption, may be underestimated. We will leave this for future studies because the spectral dependence of dust CRI is still highly uncertain due to the lack of reliable observations.

5. Parameterization schemes for dust δ

The results in Section 3 indicate that particle size plays a dominant role in determining the dust δ of FIB dust particles. As shown in Section 3.1, the dust δ exhibits an asymptotic trend with increasing size (see Figure 6b), a pattern also noted in several previous studies (Kong, S. et al.,

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2022; Järvinen et al., 2016; Kemppinen et al., 2015 a, b). The robustness of this asymptotic trend inspired us to develop two parameterization schemes for δ as a function of dust size, which will be introduced in this section. [This will allow us to extend the utility of the dust particle data to a larger range of sizes, as the individual particles have a limited range of size parameters.](#) One scheme is designed for single particles, while the other is intended for ensembles of particles with a particle size distribution. We hope that these parameterization schemes can be used to efficiently estimate the δ of dust particles without resorting to time-consuming scattering simulations.

The parameterization for single particles is straightforward. To model the asymptotic trend of individual particle δ with dust particle size, we employed a sigmoid function as follows:

$$\delta(x) = \frac{\delta_{\infty}}{1+e^{-a(x+b)}} = \frac{0.41}{1+e^{-1.09(x-3.7)}} \quad (10)$$

The sigmoid function has three parameters: δ_{∞} is the asymptotic value of δ when the size parameter is large. The other two parameters a and b control the shape of the sigmoid function. After a nonlinear curve fitting, we find $\delta_{\infty} = 0.41$, $a = 1.09$ and $b = -3.7$ ($R^2 = 0.72$). This simple parameterization can be used to estimate the δ of a single dust particle given its size and the wavelength of interest.

Next, we will use Eq. (10) to construct a parameterization scheme for the volumetric depolarization ratio, $\langle\delta\rangle$ of a dust plume following the widely used lognormal particle size distribution ($n(r_v)$) giving us a value for δ for the ensemble of particles. To this end, we need to first make an approximation. For a given dust particle size distribution $n(r_v) = dN/d\ln r_v$, the rigorous definition of the volumetric δ is given by

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Where $x = \pi r_v / \lambda$ is the particle size parameter.

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$$\langle \delta \rangle = \frac{1 - \langle P_{22} \rangle / \langle P_{11} \rangle}{1 + \langle P_{22} \rangle / \langle P_{11} \rangle^2} \quad (11)$$

where $\langle P_{11} \rangle$ and $\langle P_{22} \rangle$ are the bulk scattering matrix elements after the averaging over $n(r_v)$.

For example,

$$\langle P_{11} \rangle = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P_{11}(r_v) C_{sca}(r_v) n(r_v) d \ln r_v}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} C_{sca}(r_v) n(r_v) d \ln r_v} \quad (12)$$

where C_{sca} is the scattering cross section of dust particle with the size of r_v . We found that it is difficult to use Eq. (11) to estimate $\langle \delta \rangle$, because neither $\langle P_{11} \rangle$ nor $\langle P_{22} \rangle$ can be easily parameterized with size parameter. To avoid this difficulty, we propose the following approximate way to estimate the $\langle \delta \rangle$ as

$$\langle \delta \rangle \approx \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(r_v) C_{sca}(r_v) n(r_v) d \ln r_v}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} C_{sca}(r_v) n(r_v) d \ln r_v} \quad (13)$$

which allows us to use the simple parameterization in Eq. (10). The accuracy of this approximation will be evaluated momentarily. Here, we convert from size parameter to volume median radius through $x_{vg} = 2\pi r_{vg} / \lambda$ as δ will vary with wavelength. Next, we need to specify the $C_{sca}(r_v)$ of single particles. Unfortunately, the size parameter span of the FIB dust samples is too small to cover the whole dust $n(r_v)$. To solve this problem, we use the TAUMdust2020 database to estimate $C_{sca}(r_v)$. TAMUdust2020 is a comprehensive database by Saito et al. (2021) that covers the scattering properties of 20 irregular hexahedral shape models over the entire practical range of particle sizes, wavelengths, and CRI of mineral dust particles. Based on the regional dust models recommended by Saito et al. (2021), an ensemble-weighted degree of sphericity of 0.7 is selected to represent the dust particles. For the dust CRI, we use the data from

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Song et al. (2022) to interpolate the TAMUdust2020 to obtain the $C_{sca}(r_v)$. In Song et al. (2022), three sets of dust CRI corresponding to the low, mean, and high concentration of hematite (Di Biagio et al., 2019) were used to compute the dust scattering properties and their direct radiative effects. Here we adopt the CRI corresponding to the mean concentration of hematite. Note that the CRI from Song et al. (2022) is spectrally dependent with increasing absorption with decreasing wavelength (see their Figure 2), which means that the 355 nm has the strongest absorption among the three lidar wavelengths considered here. Finally, for the dust $n(r_v)$, we use the lognormal distribution

$$n(r_v) = \frac{dN}{d \ln(r_v)} = \frac{N_0}{\sqrt{2\pi}(\sigma_g)} \exp \left[-\frac{(\ln(r_v/r_{vg}))^2}{(\sigma_g)^2} \right] \quad (14)$$

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where N_0 is a constant and r_{vg} is the volume median radius. We use a fixed standard deviation of $\sigma_g = 0.529$, the same standard deviation of the fine mode dust from AERONET's $n(r_v)$ in Cape Verde from Dubovik et al. (2002) shown in Figure 12, when creating the parameterization in Figure 11.

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Using the combination of the $\delta(x)$ parameterization in Eq. (10), the $C_{sca}(r_v)$ from the TAMUdust2020 database and the lognormal $n(r_v)$ in Eq. (14), we computed the volumetric dust depolarization ratio $\langle \delta \rangle$ based on the proposed approximation in Eq. (13). The result for the 532 nm $\langle \delta \rangle$ as a function of the effective size parameter is shown in Figure 11a. It is not surprising to see that the volumetric dust depolarization ratio $\langle \delta(x_{vg}) \rangle$ resembles the $\delta(x)$ for the single particles in terms of its size dependence. Further simplification is possible through a fitting of

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the newly bulk averaged depolarization ratio. We find the depolarization of the FIB realistic particles are well approximated by the following hyperbolic tangent equation:

$$\langle \delta(x_{vg}) \rangle \approx 0.41 \tanh(0.14x_{vg} + 0.09), \quad (15)$$

with an r-squared value of 0.79 as shown in Figure 11a. While this function is fitted for a wavelength of 532 nm in particular, we found that the results for the 355 nm and 1064 nm wavelengths are almost identical. This is probably because we used the same $\delta(x)$ parameterization for all three wavelengths, and only different C_{sca} due to the use of spectrally dependent CRI in Song et al. (2022). It turns out that the C_{sca} plays a minimal role in the δ value making Eq. (15) a reasonable approximation for all three lidar wavelengths given an effective particle size parameter, x_{vg} . This is supported by the comparison results shown in Figure 11b.

The solid lines correspond to the volumetric $\langle \delta \rangle$ for the three wavelengths predicted based on the parameterization Eq. (15). The dotted line corresponds to the $\langle \delta \rangle$ of irregular hexahedral computed based on the TAMUdust2020 database using the Song et al. (2022) dust CRI. It is important to note that the computation for irregular hexahedral is based on the rigorous definition of δ in Eq. (11) without any approximation. Evidently, the two sets of $\langle \delta \rangle$ agree reasonably well in terms of both spectral and size parameter dependencies. Interestingly, a decreasing trend was observed for the 355 nm δ based on the irregular hexahedral when r_{vg} is larger than about 2 μm to 3 μm , which is not seen in either our parameterization or hexahedral results for other wavelengths. As mentioned above, in the computation for the irregular hexahedral we used the spectrally dependent CRI that has a higher absorption at 355 nm. Recall the result in Figure 10c that indicates δ to decrease with dust absorption. This decreasing with size trend of δ for large r_{vg} is a result of stronger absorption at 355 nm, as it is reflected in a decrease in SSA for those particles (Saito and Yang, 2021).

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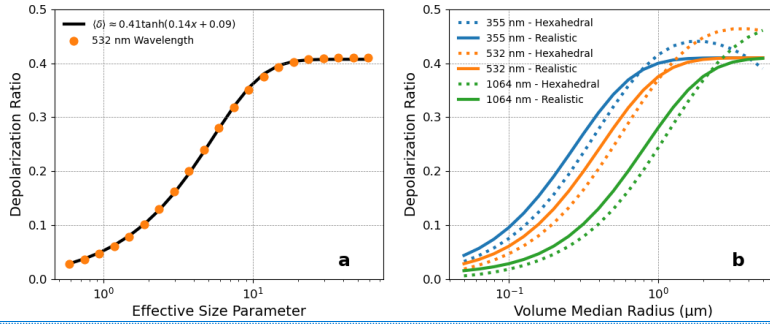
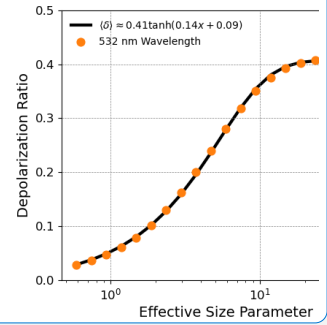


Figure 11: (a) Parameterization of realistic δ for effective size parameter using a hyperbolic tangent function. (b) Depolarization Ratio predicted for a monomodal size distribution with varying volume-equivalent median radius. The δ for realistic geometries was derived through equation 15, while hexahedral shapes used P_{11} and P_{22} parameters.

The utility of the simple parameterization scheme in Eq. (15) is further demonstrated in terms of simulating the spectral dependence of δ as shown in the following case. Here, we use the climatological dust $n(r_v)$ retrieved by the AERONET at Cape Verde as reported in Dubovik et al., (2002) (Figure 12a) to compute three sets of volumetric dust $\langle \delta \rangle$ for the three lidar wavelengths using the following three methods:

1. In the first method (black solid lines in Figure 12b), dust scattering properties are based on the irregular hexahedral model from the TAMUdust2020 database. The dust CRI is spectrally dependent from the Song et al. (2022). The $\langle \delta \rangle$ is computed based on the rigorous definition in Eq. (11) with $\langle P_{11} \rangle$ and $\langle P_{22} \rangle$ averaged over $n(r_v)$.

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2. In the second method (blue dashed lines in Figure 12b), same as the first method except that the $\langle \delta \rangle$ is computed based on the approximation method in Eq. (13).
3. In the third method (red dotted lines in Figure 12b), the $\langle \delta \rangle$ for each wavelength is simply predicted using the parameterization in Eq. (15) by converting the x_{vg} to r_{vg} .

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As such, the comparisons between the three methods enable us to assess the uncertainty associated with each step of approximation. For example, the comparison between method 1 and 2 can help us understand the uncertainty associated with the $\langle \delta \rangle$ computation using the approximation method in Eq. (13). The comparison of method 3 to the other two methods helps us understand the overall accuracy of our simple parameterization.

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In order to use the full $n(r_v)$ with method 3, a weighting by backscatter coefficient is utilized such that (Mamouri and Ansmann, 2014)

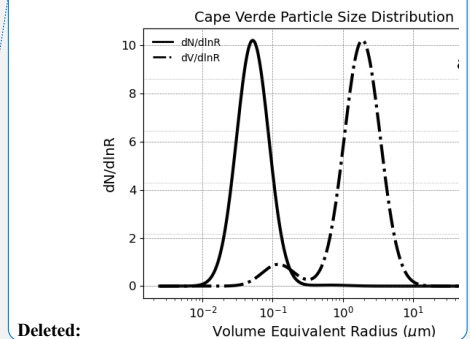
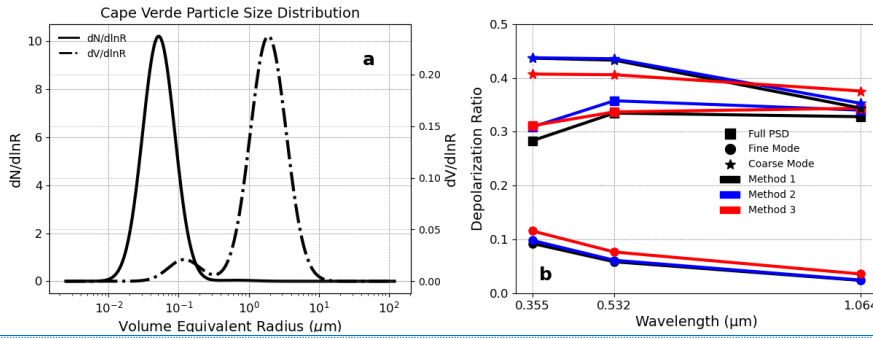
$$\langle \delta \rangle = \frac{\beta_f \delta_f (1 + \delta_c) + \beta_c \delta_c (1 + \delta_f)}{\beta_f (1 + \delta_c) + \beta_c (1 + \delta_f)} \quad (16)$$

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where β is calculated from the TAMUdust2020 database.

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926 **Figure 12.** (a) Dust particle size distribution for Cape Verde using AERONET, adapted from
 927 Dubovik et al. (2002). (b) Depolarization Ratio of fine and coarse mode for hexahedral dust
 928 and FIB reconstruction using approximation methods 1, 2, and 3 as described [in the text](#).
 929
 930 The [resulting comparison](#) in Figure 12 [shows](#) all three methods simulate a substantially smaller
 931 δ for the fine mode than the coarse mode. [Additionally](#), the fine mode δ based on all three
 932 methods exhibits a decreasing trend with wavelength which is a result of the fast-increasing trend
 933 of δ with dust particle size parameter for fine mode dust particles (See Figure 6). The differences
 934 in the fine mode δ between the three methods are mostly smaller than 0.05, with the method 3
 935 result based on the simple parameterization scheme slightly larger than the other two methods.
 936 Finally, for the coarse mode dust δ , the results based on the simple parameterization (method 3)
 937 are close to spectrally neutral and smaller than [methods 1 and 2](#) for 355 and 532 nm, while the
 938 use of TAMUdust2020 decreases δ at 1064 nm.
 939
 940 Interestingly, the full-size distribution δ_s based on [methods 1 and 2](#) exhibit an inverse “v” shape,
 941 with the maximum at the 532nm and decreasing toward both 355 nm and 1064 nm. Such an
 942 inverse “v” shape spectral signature of dust δ has also been observed recently by (Haarig et al.,
 943 2022) over Leipzig, Germany, in February and March 2021 during a transported Sahara dust
 944 event (see their Figure 5). As aforementioned, our δ parameterization scheme [using method 3](#)
 945 [and the parameterization of the FIB dust samples](#) does not take into account the spectral
 946 dependence of dust CRI and the corresponding change of absorption. In [methods 1 and 2](#), we
 947 use the CRI from Song et al. (2022) which has a stronger absorption at 355 nm, which leads to
 948 a decrease of δ from 532 nm to 355 nm. Therefore, our results indicate that the inverse “v” shape

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spectral signature of dust δ is a result of competing effects of dust size and absorption. The decrease of δ from 532 nm to 1064 nm is the result of dust size while the decrease from 532 nm to 355 nm is a result of dust absorption.

Despite the limitation of spectrally independent CRI, the overall accuracy of our parameterization scheme is satisfying, partly due to the error cancellation between the overestimation of the fine mode δ and underestimation of coarse mode δ . For example, after summation of fine and coarse modes, the δ of the whole $n(r_v)$ for the 532nm wavelength is $\langle \delta \rangle \approx 0.335$ based on method 1, while method 3 based on our simple parameterization is $\langle \delta \rangle \approx 0.334$.

Comparing the dust δ of the full $n(r_v)$ to that of fine mode δ and coarse mode δ also gives us interesting results. Both fine and coarse modes individually decrease with wavelength despite the inverse “v” shape spectral signature of the full $n(r_v)$. This characteristic is quite nicely explained by an interpretation of Eq. (16). Across each wavelength, $\beta_f < \beta_c$ so $\langle \delta \rangle$ is greater than a simple average of both fine and coarse modes. But β_c increases with wavelength. Therefore, despite δ_f and δ_c decreasing spectrally, δ_c has a greater weighting in the equation. In other words, more of the backscattered signal is due to larger particles as wavelength increases, which are the particles exhibiting greater depolarization. Competing factors of β and δ further reinforces the absorption and size impact on δ . Thus, the comparisons shown in Figure 12 are promising.

The utility of this parameterization likely comes from the inverse problem. Given the reliance on TAMUdust2020 for β , reconstructing the δ from a $n(r_v)$ still requires use of simplified

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theoretical geometries for some amount of the calculation. However, given a retrieved backscattering coefficient, δ , and $n(r_v)$, using Eq. (15) and (16) creates a succinct method of retrieving β_f and β_c , separating fine and coarse fraction of dust according to Mamouri and Ansmann (2014).

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Specifically in coarse mode analysis, there are some limitations of our study. The sigmoid parameterization leads to a very flat parameterization of δ for particles greater than $1 \mu\text{m}$ in volume equivalent radius seen in both Figure 11b and 12b which may be further refined with larger particles, currently unavailable due to computational cost. It is also important to note our study uses a wavelength-independent refractive index based on 589 nm, causing this work to miss some spectral dependency that may cause the coarse mode differences in each wavelength when using the globally averaged refractive index (see Figure 11b). The competing effects of size and mineral composition of dust particles have been observed in studies of spectral dependence of δ (Haarig et al., 2022), which we will investigate in future studies.

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6. Conclusions and summary

In this study, we utilized the ADDA model to compute the scattering properties of FIB dust samples and derived the S and δ at three widely used lidar wavelengths: 355 nm, 532 nm, and 1064 nm. The advantage of this study compared to previous work is the use of realistic dust shapes reconstructed through the FIB tomography technique. The characterization of single scattering properties of these realistic samples through rigorous computational techniques should serve well as benchmark data for the dust scattering community. We investigated the dependence

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of dust S and δ on dust particle size, shape, and mineral composition. The results lead to the following conclusions:

- Both the S and δ exhibit an asymptotic trend with dust particle size: the S initially decreases while the δ increases with size, before both approach their asymptotic values.
- The lidar properties were found to have only a weak dependence on effective sphericity.
- The presence of strongly absorbing minerals, such as magnetite, can greatly reduce the dust's single scattering albedo and δ , while increasing S .

In addition to these scientific findings, the convergence index introduced in Section 3.3 and the δ parameterization schemes described in Section 5 may be useful for future research on light scattering by nonspherical particles and lidar-based remote sensing. The convergence index can be used to assess the convergence of random orientation computation using the DDA method.

The δ parameterization scheme in Eq. (15) can be used to estimate the δ of dust with a lognormal size distribution $n(r_v)$, which can help us understand the variation of dust size based on δ observations and the separation of fine and coarse mode dust (Mamouri and Ansmann, 2014).

Certain limitations of this study need also to be addressed, particularly regarding the parameterization scheme of Section 5. This model's parameterization leads to a flattened coarse-mode in an attempt to extrapolate upon the limited size range available due to computational limits of DDA. Therefore, it may not have fully captured the optical properties for use with particularly large size parameters. Additionally, the wavelength-independent complex refractive index based on 589 nm measurements was applied to all three lidar wavelengths, simplifying the spectral differences in lidar properties, particularly at 355 nm where absorption from iron-phase minerals is more significant. Future studies on the coarse mode and spectral variation of dust

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Disclaimer

Certain commercial equipment, instruments, or materials, commercial or non-commercial, are identified in this paper in order to specify the experimental procedure adequately. Such identification does not imply recommendation or endorsement of any product or service by NIST, nor does it imply that the materials or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose. The opinions, recommendations, findings, and conclusions in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of NIST or the United States Government.

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lidar properties will improve the parameterization and applicability of the parameterization scheme and ability to utilize the FIB dust samples for atmospheric observations.

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Data Availability. The scattering properties generated for the lidar properties of the FIB dust samples presented in this work are made available under <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15684438> through publication with Zenodo as a netcdf file. Readers interested in the original shape models are directed to Conny et al., 2019, for data availability.

Author Contributions. ZZ proposed and conceptualized the work, providing both funding acquisition and supervision of the project. All authors contributed to review & editing of the manuscript. JD helped to design the convergence index. MS and PY provided the TAMUdust2020 database for comparison to the FIB dust particles and MS provided insight into particle sphericity. JZ and QS assisted in data curation and interpretation for FIB dust lidar property results and global refractive index data. ASL and ZZ contributed to the original draft preparation of the manuscript. ASL contributed to the methodology, data collection,

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