



Absorbing aerosol radiative effects in the limb-scatter viewing geometry

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Abstract. The limb-scatter satellite viewing geometry is well suited to detecting low-concentration aerosols in the upper troposphere due to its long observation path length (~ 200 km), high vertical resolution (~ 1 – 2 km) and good geographic coverage. We use the fully three-dimensional radiative transfer code SASKTRAN to simulate the sensitivity of limb-scatter viewing Odin/OSIRIS satellite measurements to absorbing mineral dust and carbonaceous aerosols (smoke and pure soot), as well as to non-absorbing sulfate aerosols and ice in the upper troposphere.

At long wavelengths (813 nm) the addition of all aerosols (except soot) to an air only atmosphere produced a radiance increase as compared to air only, on account of the low Rayleigh scattering in air only at 813 nm. The radiance reduction due to soot aerosol was negligible ($< 0.1\%$) at all heights (0–100 km).

At short wavelengths (337, 377, 452 nm), we found that the addition of any aerosol species to an air only atmosphere caused a decrease in single-scattered radiation due to an extinction of Rayleigh scattering in the direction of OSIRIS. The reduction was clearly related to particle size first, with absorption responsible for second-order effects only. Multiple-scattered radiation could either increase or decrease in the presence of an aerosol species, depending both on particle size and absorption. Large scatterers (ice, mineral dust) all increased multiple-scattered radiation within, below and above the aerosol layer. Small, highly absorbing pure soot particles produced a negligible multiple-scattering response ($< 0.1\%$) at all heights, primarily confined to within

and below the soot layer. Medium-sized scatterers produced a multiple-scattering response that depended on their absorbing properties. Increased radiances were simulated as compared to air only at all short wavelengths (337, 377 and 452 nm) for sulfate aerosol particles (non-absorbing) while decreased radiances were simulated for smoke particles (absorbing) at 337 and 377 nm, where multiple scattering involving the medium-sized carbonaceous particles amplified their absorbing properties. At 452 nm, however, this effect was attenuated and albedo-dependent.

At short wavelengths, the combined effect of single scattering decreases and multiple scattering increases led to complex total radiance signatures that generally could not unambiguously distinguish absorbing versus non-absorbing aerosols. Smoke aerosols led to a total radiance decrease (as compared to air only) at all altitudes above the aerosol layer (15–100 km). This unique signature was a result of the aerosols' strong absorbing properties, non-negligible scattering efficiency, and number concentrations high enough to make multiple scattering effects due to the aerosol itself significant. Thus, in the limb-scatter viewing geometry scene darkening above the aerosol layer is unambiguously due to absorption whereas scene darkening within and below the aerosol layer can simply be the result of a reduction in single-scattered radiance. Our simulations show a greater scene darkening for decreasing wavelengths, increasing surface albedo, decreasing solar zenith angle, and increasing particle number concentration, however, at 337 nm this effect did not exceed 0.5% of the total radiance due to air

only, making the unique identification of medium-sized carbonaceous aerosols, i.e., smoke, difficult. Scene darkening (or brightening) varies linearly with particle number concentration over three orders of magnitude.

A fortuitous, unexpected implication of our analysis is that limb-scatter retrievals of aerosol extinction are not sensitive to external information about aerosol absorption.

1 Introduction

Atmospheric aerosol particles in the upper troposphere cause a strong climate forcing via their direct and indirect radiative effects. Considerable uncertainty in these radiative effects arises from the paucity of observations of chemical composition and spatial distribution of aerosols in the upper troposphere/lower stratosphere (UTLS) region. At present, observations of upper tropospheric aerosol are sparse, coming primarily from infrequent aircraft campaigns. Advances in satellite remote sensing could yield global 3-D observations of atmospheric aerosols in the UTLS.

The limb-scatter satellite viewing geometry is well suited to detecting low-concentration aerosols in the upper troposphere due to its long observation path length (~ 200 km), high vertical resolution (~ 1 – 2 km) and good geographic coverage. A possible complication in a retrieval of aerosol extinction in the UTLS is the need for a priori information on aerosol single scattering albedo. Thus, it is important to characterize the signal of absorbing aerosols (mineral dust and carbonaceous aerosols) in limb-scatter satellite observations and to compare it to the signal arising from non-absorbing aerosols (sulfate and ice). Such an analysis also contributes to the goal of inferring aerosol composition from limb-scatter satellite observations.

Past, present and upcoming measurements of UTLS aerosols from satellite-based platforms in limb-viewing mode are summarized in Table 1 and include both direct solar/stellar occultation and limb-scattered sunlight measurements. Most retrievals have used occultation techniques with sparse coverage and have focused on the lower stratosphere, where aerosol composition is more homogeneous. Of instruments capable of UV/Vis measurements in limb-scattered viewing mode, only OSIRIS and OMPS are at present operational, with OSIRIS providing the longest observational record since 2001. The suitability of SCIAMACHY limb-viewing measurements for deriving stratospheric aerosol extinction has recently been demonstrated (Taha et al., 2011; Ernst et al., 2012). Finally, OSIRIS measurements of limb-scattered sunlight have been used to derive subvisual cirrus frequency of occurrence and cloud optical depth in the UTLS (Bourassa et al., 2005), volcanic stratospheric aerosol concentrations (Bourassa et al., 2010) and their climatic effects (Kravitz et al., 2010, 2011; Haywood et al., 2010), as well as ozone and other trace gas vertical profiles such as

NO₂ and BrO (Haley et al., 2004; Degenstein et al., 2009; Bourassa et al., 2011; McLinden et al., 2010). Moreover, Bourassa et al. (2007) present a retrieval of stratospheric aerosol number concentration assuming a particle size distribution. A retrieval of stratospheric aerosol size information by incorporating the 1.5 μ m channel information is described by Bourassa et al. (2008a).

Of the satellite-based measurements discussed above, little attention has been devoted to the retrieval of aerosol extinction in the upper troposphere. None have reported attempts to discriminate aerosol composition. We note that significant work on aerosol typing, especially in the lower troposphere, has been performed by the CALIPSO satellite team, which uses the depolarization and color ratio of a 532 and 1064 nm laser together with season, altitude and signal threshold to infer aerosol type (Omar et al., 2009). In this study, we use the fully three-dimensional radiative transfer code SASKTRAN (Bourassa et al., 2008b), to simulate the sensitivity of limb-scatter viewing Odin/OSIRIS measurements to upper tropospheric absorbing and non-absorbing aerosols.

2 Methodology

The radiative transfer calculations in our study are carried out using SASKTRAN, which is a C++ code optimized to run efficiently on a multi-threaded desktop and Linux platforms. SASKTRAN evaluates the scalar equation of radiative transfer with multiple scattering while employing a fully three-dimensional, spherical shell model of the atmosphere. The atmospheric model within SASKTRAN incorporates scattering by air molecules and aerosols with altitude-dependent cross-sections and phase functions, which can be either calculated or specified directly. The aerosol scatterers can additionally be given absorbing properties via their index of refraction. Temperature-dependent absorption can be specified for an expandable list of gaseous species, e.g., O₃ and NO₂. Scattering is traced exactly for first and second order scattering events using the successive orders of scattering approach; higher-order scattering term contributions at a given point along the OSIRIS line-of-sight are estimated by integrating the previous order scattering source term at the local zenith. Reflection at the Earth's surface is modeled as Lambertian. Details of the method and implementation are discussed by Bourassa et al. (2008b).

All simulations discussed below were performed at two albedos, $a = [0, 1]$, four wavelengths, $\lambda = [337, 377, 452, 813$ nm], and two scan geometries. OSIRIS scan 34 196 006 corresponds to the lowest observation solar zenith angle for OSIRIS (SZA = $\sim 65^\circ$), a latitude of $\sim 70^\circ$, a longitude of $\sim 170^\circ$, and an observation solar azimuth angle (SAA) of $\sim 70^\circ$. Scan 33 736 001 corresponds to a high SZA ($\sim 87^\circ$), a latitude of $\sim 35^\circ$, a longitude of $\sim 111^\circ$, and an SAA of $\sim 64^\circ$, which is very similar to that of the low-SZA scan. The solar scattering angle of the two scans is similar and $\sim 68^\circ$,

Table 1. Satellite retrievals of aerosol extinction in the UTLS using the limb-viewing technique.

Instrument	Geometry	Coverage	Channels	Technique
HALOE	Solar occultation	1991–2005	5 gas channels (2.45–5.26 μm) also used for aerosols	gas filter and broad-band radiometer
POAM III	Solar occultation	1998–2005	9 channels (353–1060 nm) including 7 for gases and 6 for aerosols (with functional overlap)	photometer
SAM II	Solar occultation	1978–1993	1 channel for aerosols at 1.0 μm (0.038 μm bandwidth)	photometer
SAGE I	Solar occultation	1979–1982	4 channels (385–1000 nm) for aerosols and O_3 , NO_2	photometer
SAGE II	Solar occultation	1984–2005	7 channels (385–1020 nm) for aerosols, O_3 , NO_2 , H_2O	photometer
SAGE III*	Solar occultation and limb-scattered sunlight	2001–2006	290–1030 nm	grating spectrometer
OSIRIS*	Limb-scattered sunlight	2001–	270–810 nm	grating spectrometer
SCIAMACHY	Limb-scattered sunlight	2002–2012	240–314 nm, 309–405 nm 394–620 nm, 604–805 nm 785–1050 nm, 1000–1750 nm	grating spectrometer
GOMOS**	Stellar occultation	2002–2012	248–371/387–693 nm 750–776 nm 915–956 nm	grating spectrometer
ACE-FTS	Solar occultation	2004–	750–4400 cm^{-1} (mid-IR)	FTIR spectrometer
OMPS	Limb-scattered sunlight	2011–	290–1000 nm	grating spectrometer

* Instruments for which particle size and/or number concentration retrievals have been attempted. ** Instruments for which an extinction ratio has been shown to contain size information.

allowing us to compare the effect of increasing observation SZA on sensitivity to UTLS aerosols.

We performed an analysis of single, multiple, and total limb-scattered radiance signatures arising from gradually adding components to the model atmosphere as follows: (1) simulate air molecules alone (no absorbing gaseous species or scattering/absorbing aerosol species), (2) simulate a given aerosol component alone, (3) simulate air molecules together with the single aerosol component. The radiances are broken down into single scattering and multiple scattering components, the latter obtained from taking the difference between a SASKTRAN calculation performed for 50 scattering orders and a single scattering calculation. We examine multiple-scattered radiation separately from single-scattered radiation to better understand the vertical distribution of the change in scattered signal at OSIRIS due to the addition of an aerosol layer. Furthermore, this separation into single- and multiple-scattered radiation gives us additional insight into the relative role of absorption and scattering in the limb-viewing geometry.

The single scattering and multiple scattering components both include aerosol absorption as specified via its complex refractive index. In all cases that an aerosol layer was simulated, it was placed in a 5 km layer between 10–15 km in the atmosphere, at some number concentration, ρ . The aerosol layers were specified with a lognormal size distribution with the properties shown in Table 2. Air molecules, when simulated, occupied the entire model atmosphere from

0–100 km. Our simulations included the same set of tangent heights, regardless of which species were present in the model atmosphere.

2.1 Mineral dust aerosol properties

Mineral dust aerosol was modeled as comprising log-normally distributed spherical particles with a realistic mode radius ($\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$) and mode width ($\sim 1.6 \mu\text{m}$) following Tegen (2003). The number concentration of 0.2 cm^{-3} in the aerosol layer represents a 20-fold dust enhancement above the typical free-tropospheric background of ice-active nuclei of $\sim 0.01 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (DeMott et al., 2003). While ice nuclei concentrations between 1 and 20 cm^{-3} have been measured in the boundary layer near dust emission sources (Ansmann et al., 2008), such high concentrations are not realistic to use in simulations involving the UTLS region. As shown by Wiacek et al. (2010), most mineral dust will have undergone cloud-processing and washout before reaching the upper troposphere, in addition to dilution caused by the expansion of rising air parcels.

In order to separate the effects of absorption and scattering, an absorbing (D1) and a non-absorbing (D2) dust were simulated separately. The detailed scattering and absorption characteristics are given in Table 3. The optical thickness of the 5 km dust layer at an SZA of $\sim 65^\circ$ ($\sim 2X$ path length) and at an SZA of $\sim 87^\circ$ ($\sim 20X$ path length) corresponds to the two scan geometries in our study, with vertical optical thickness in the 5 km layer also shown. The

Table 2. Physical (number concentration ρ , lognormal mode radius, r , lognormal mode width, σ) and optical (complex index of refraction n_r , n_i) properties of aerosol layers simulated either alone (between 10–15 km) or in conjunction with air molecules (between 0–100 km).

Aerosol	ρ [cm ⁻³]	r, σ [μ m]	n_r				n_i			
			337 nm	377 nm	452 nm	813 nm	337 nm	377 nm	452 nm	813 nm
Absorbing dust (D1)	0.2	1.0, 1.6	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.953×10^{-2}	1.380×10^{-2}	6.928×10^{-3}	6.441×10^{-4}
Non-absorbing dust (D2)	0.2	1.0, 1.6	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	0	0	0	0
Pure soot (PS)	20	0.0125, 1.6	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79
Smoke (SM)	20	0.075, 1.6	1.51	1.51	1.51	1.53	0.1157	0.0890	2.677×10^{-2}	1.653×10^{-2}
Sulfate aerosol (SO ₄)	30	0.08, 1.6	1.47	1.45	1.43	1.43	1.0×10^{-10}	2.1×10^{-10}	2.5×10^{-9}	8.8×10^{-8}
Ice (ICE)	0.2	1.0, 1.6	1.33	1.32	1.32	1.30	5.5×10^{-9}	2.7×10^{-9}	1.7×10^{-9}	1.5×10^{-7}

Table 3. Scattering, absorption and extinction cross-sections (k_s , k_a , k_e , respectively) of absorbing dust (D1) and the scattering cross-section of non-absorbing dust (D2) as a function of wavelength (λ). The single scatter albedo (ω , unitless) of D1 is also shown. Note that the scattering optical thickness of D2 is equivalent to the extinction optical thickness of D1. The scattering, absorption and extinction optical thickness (τ_s , τ_a , τ_e , respectively, unitless) is shown for a 5 km layer of D1, as described in Table 2, under three viewing conditions.

λ [nm]	D1				ω	D2			5 km layer (vertical)			5 km layer (SZA = 65°)			5 km layer (SZA = 87°)		
	k_s [cm ²]	k_a [cm ²]	k_e [cm ²]	k_s [cm ²]		τ_s	τ_a	τ_e	τ_s	τ_a	τ_e	τ_s	τ_a	τ_e			
337	6.46×10^{-8}	4.37×10^{-8}	1.08×10^{-7}	0.60	1.08×10^{-7}	0.0065	0.0044	0.0108	0.0153	0.0104	0.0256	0.1235	0.0836	0.2071			
377	7.14×10^{-8}	3.79×10^{-8}	1.09×10^{-7}	0.65	1.09×10^{-7}	0.0071	0.0038	0.0109	0.0169	0.0090	0.0258	0.1363	0.0724	0.2087			
452	8.65×10^{-8}	2.43×10^{-8}	1.11×10^{-7}	0.78	1.11×10^{-7}	0.0087	0.0024	0.0111	0.0205	0.0057	0.0262	0.1653	0.0464	0.2117			
813	1.15×10^{-7}	2.23×10^{-9}	1.18×10^{-7}	0.98	1.18×10^{-7}	0.0115	0.0002	0.0118	0.0273	0.0005	0.0278	0.2205	0.0043	0.2248			

real index of refraction of mineral dust was set to $n_r = 1.55$ at all wavelengths, which is in line with the work of Sokolik and Toon (1999). The imaginary index of refraction of mineral dust is based on the field measurements of Müller et al. (2009) and includes a steep decrease in absorption towards visible and infrared wavelengths (Table 2). Our choice of relatively absorbing and large mineral dust particles leads to lower single scatter albedo values than those reported in the literature for AERONET and other ground-based techniques (Müller et al., 2012). These low single scattering albedos allow assessment of an upper limit of aerosol absorption. Finally, we carried out radiative transfer calculations with identically absorbing and similarly distributed mixtures of spheroid particles and found the effects of particle non-sphericity to be small.

2.2 Carbonaceous aerosol properties

Carbonaceous aerosol particle properties were modeled as either highly absorbing small particles (pure soot) or less absorbing bigger particles (smoke). In the case of pure soot, an index of refraction of $1.95-0.79i$ was used for all wavelengths, based on the work of Bond and Bergstrom (2006). This high absorption value represents a limiting case that is more relevant for primary emitted spherules/granules ($r \sim 12.5$ nm) unlikely to be found in the upper troposphere. For smoke ($r \sim 75$ nm), which is affected by aging and coating processes in the atmosphere, we used a combination of index of refraction values obtained from AERONET observations (Holben et al., 1998) and other sources (Table 2).

The AERONET values were based on Level 2.0 data (<http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov>) from the station at Ilorin (8.3° N, 4.3° E) during strong and non-dust-contaminated biomass burning emissions on 8 January 2008. For our simulations at 813 nm, we took the average of retrieved real and imaginary indices at 675 nm and 870 nm reported for 8 January 2008, while at 452 nm we applied the 440 nm values available from this AERONET inversion. We increased the complex index of refraction in the near-UV based on its known spectral dependence (Kirchstetter et al., 2004) and used the 390 nm results of Dinar et al. (2008, Table 4) in our 377 nm simulations. Dinar et al. (2008) worked with ~ 100 nm radius particles containing variable fractions of humic-like substances (HULIS) internally mixed with ammonium sulfate (AS) and black carbon (BC); we chose the complex index of refraction corresponding to 70 % HULIS, 28 % AS and 2 % BC. Finally, for our simulations at 337 nm we applied a 30 % spectral increase to the 377 nm complex index of refraction, following the work of Jethva and Torres (2011).

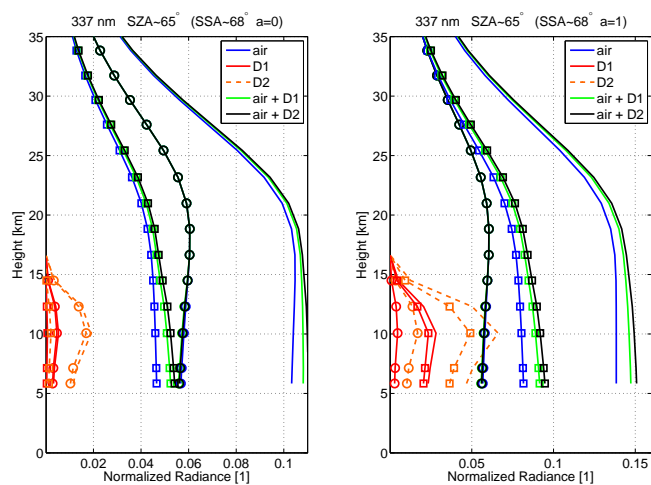
The number concentrations used in our carbonaceous simulations were informed by ECHAM5-HAM model outputs presented by Zhang et al. (2010) for insoluble Aitken-sized particles ($r \sim 5-50$ nm), which do not include dust. We report simulation results that use $\rho = 20$ cm⁻³ for both particle types, and sensitivity simulations with $\rho = 0.2$ cm⁻³ and $\rho = 200$ cm⁻³. The vertical optical thickness of the carbonaceous particles is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Vertical extinction optical thickness in a 5 km layer due to all simulated species, as described in Table 2.

	337 nm	377 nm	452 nm	813 nm
D1 or D2	0.01084	0.01092	0.01108	0.01176
PS	0.00004	0.00004	0.00003	0.00001
SM	0.00764	0.00756	0.00729	0.00520
SO4	0.00974	0.00804	0.00572	0.00152
ICE	0.01090	0.01100	0.01120	0.01270

Table 5. Calculated size parameters ($x = 2\pi r/\lambda$) as a function of wavelength and particle size.

Particle type	Radius	337 nm	813 nm	Scattering type
Air	$\sim 3\text{\AA}$	0.006	0.002	Rayleigh
Dust/Ice	$r \sim 1\ \mu\text{m}$	19	8	Mie
Pure soot	$r \sim 12.5\ \text{nm}$	0.2	0.1	weak Mie
Smoke	$r \sim 75\ \text{nm}$	1.40	0.58	Mie
Sulfate aerosol	$r \sim 80\ \text{nm}$	1.49	0.62	Mie

**Fig. 1.** Simulated limb radiance [normalized to a solar input of 1] versus height at 337 nm for a surface albedo of 0 (left panel) and 1 (right panel). Color distinguishes combinations of air between 0–100 km, an absorbing dust (D1) between 10–15 km, and a non-absorbing dust (D2) also between 10–15 km. Solid and dotted lines without markers indicate total radiance while lines with circle and square markers indicate single and multiple-scattered radiance, respectively, including absorption for D1. SZA indicates solar zenith angle. SAA indicates solar azimuth angle.

2.3 Sulfate aerosol properties

Sulfate aerosol particles were modeled as log-normally distributed ($r = 0.08\ \mu\text{m}$, $\sigma = 1.6\ \mu\text{m}$) based on previous studies, e.g., Bourassa et al. (2008a). More specifically we used a climatology of sulfate aerosol number concentrations compiled from OSIRIS retrievals between 25°N and 55°N as well as 70°E to 120°W , i.e., Asia and Pacific, for May of a single year (2008). In the absence of reliable OSIRIS sulfate aerosol retrieval results below the 380 K potential temperature surface, the measurement-average sulfate aerosol profile was set to $30\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ below $\sim 18\ \text{km}$, for all heights in the troposphere as appropriate, i.e., $30\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ in the 10–15 km aerosol layer region and $0\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ everywhere else. This number concentration corresponds well to that presented by Zhang et al. (2010) based on ECHAM5-HAM model outputs in the accumulation soluble mode at 200 hPa between 30°N and 60°N .

The sulfate aerosol (75 wt. % solution) index of refraction is that built into SASKTRAN and based on the work of Palmer and Williams (1975) for wavelengths above 360 nm and Torres et al. (1995) for wavelengths below 360 nm. The index of refraction at the four wavelengths of our simulations is listed in Table 2, while the vertical optical thickness of our sulfate aerosols is shown in Table 4.

2.4 Ice aerosol properties

In nadir-viewing active remote-sensing applications, it is not always easy to distinguish dust and ice particles of a similar size because both particle types are depolarizing. While this is also the case in the long-path limb-viewing geometry, we anticipated that the absorbing properties of mineral dust may start to play a discernible role in its radiance signature. To assess the effect of mineral dust absorption, we modeled (non-absorbing) ice particles of the same size and number concentration as mineral dust aerosol, i.e., $r = 1\ \mu\text{m}$, $\sigma = 1.6\ \mu\text{m}$, $\rho = 0.2\ \text{cm}^{-3}$ in the 5 km slab from 10–15 km altitude. The ice index of refraction used was that built into SASKTRAN, which is detailed in Table 2, while the vertical optical thickness of these small ice particles is shown in Table 4.

2.5 Size parameters

Table 5 shows calculated size parameters ($x = 2\pi r/\lambda$) corresponding to each aerosol type using the size distribution mode radius employed by the forward model calculations. For air, a particle size of 3\AA was used. Scattering was classified into Rayleigh, Mie and Geometric regimes using the size parameter value of 0.002 as the transition to Rayleigh scattering, 0.2 as the transition to Mie Scattering and 2000 as the transition to Geometric scattering.

3 Results and discussion

Here we examine SASKTRAN radiative transfer calculations of the sensitivity of wavelength-dependent OSIRIS observations to different aerosol types. First, the results for a calculation with pure air are discussed. Figures 1 through 4 show simulated limb radiance at a given wavelength as a

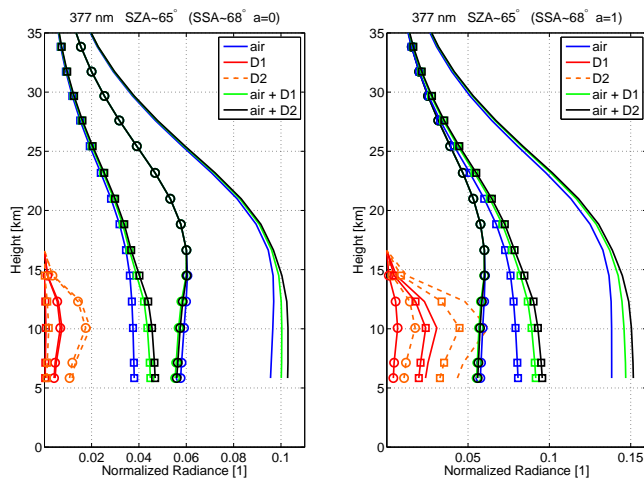


Fig. 2. As in Fig. 1 but at 377 nm.

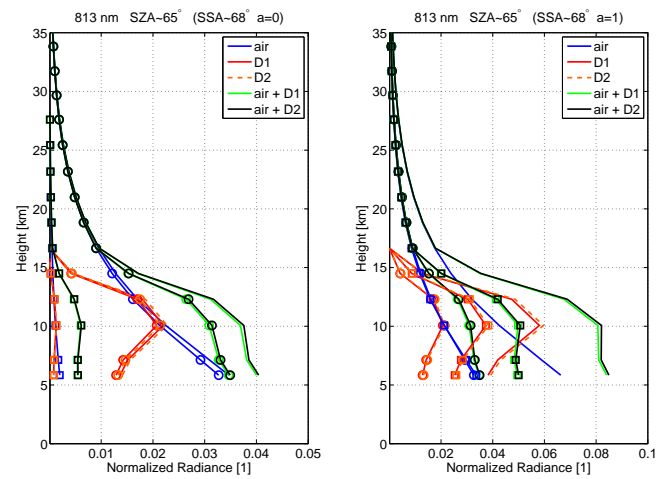


Fig. 4. As in Fig. 1 but at 813 nm.

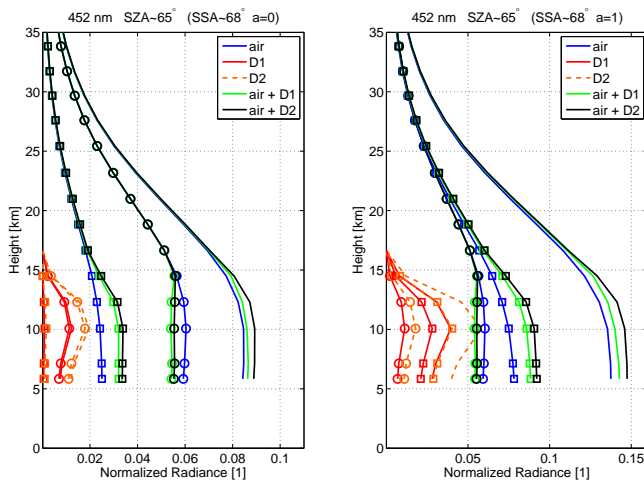


Fig. 3. As in Fig. 1 but at 452 nm.

function of height, normalized to the input solar radiance at that wavelength. The left panel of each figure shows simulated radiances for a surface albedo of 0 while the right panel shows simulations for a surface albedo of 1. Solid lines denote the total simulated radiance obtained through a calculation with 50 scattering orders. Lines with circle markers denote single-scattered radiances only while lines with square markers denote multiple-scattered radiances (two to 50 scattering orders). Single and multiple-scattered radiances add up to give total radiance. Line color indicates the species included in the simulation, where blue refers to air only, simulated between 0–100 km.

3.1 Pure air

The single-scattered (SS) radiance of air only is identical for $a = 0$ and $a = 1$ at all wavelengths and heights since the surface albedo has no influence on single-scattered radiation

higher up in the atmosphere. The radiance profile increases from the top of the atmosphere until it reaches the “radiance knee”, where the atmosphere becomes optically thick and below which the radiance stops increasing. As the wavelength increases, Rayleigh scattering by air molecules diminishes and the height of the radiance knee decreases from ~ 20 km at 337 nm, through ~ 16 km at 377 nm and ~ 11 km at 452 nm to less than 5 km at 813 nm. The 10 km SS radiance at 813 nm is three times lower than at 337 nm due to decreased molecular scattering.

The multiple-scattered (MS) radiance of air only is smaller than the single-scattered radiance over a dark surface ($a = 0$, left figure panels) and decreases further from shorter to longer wavelengths, as expected. Over a bright surface ($a = 1$, right figure panels) the MS radiance is much enhanced with respect to the SS radiance. At $\lambda = 337, 377, 450$ nm it surpasses the SS radiance, but at $\lambda = 813$ nm it is approximately equal to it.

The total radiance due to air only is the sum of single-scattered and multiple-scattered radiance.

3.2 Mineral dust

Figures 1 through 4 also show the sensitivity of OSIRIS to mineral dust aerosol. Dust is examined in detail because it is an important absorbing species and it is an efficient ice nucleus, thus mediating cloud formation and indirect aerosol effects on climate (e.g., Wiacek et al., 2010). Red lines in the figures refer to absorbing dust only (D1), simulated as having a non-zero number density between 10–15 km. Orange lines refer to non-absorbing dust only (D2), also simulated between 10–15 km. Green refers to air plus D1, while black lines refer to air plus D2. An important general feature is that the total simulated radiance increases at all heights as the dust layer is added to the air background. While the effect of absorption is pronounced in the absence

of air (D1 vs. D2 curves) at short wavelengths (Figs. 1 to 3), this difference is much reduced when dust is placed within the Rayleigh-scattered radiance field due to air molecules (air + D1 vs. air + D2 curves). Our large absorbing dust does not lead to a scene darkening (reduction in total radiance) at short wavelengths, as might be expected from the nadir-viewing experience (e.g., Herman et al., 1997; Torres et al., 1998) with this aerosol species concentrated in thick plumes in the lower troposphere. The small effect of absorption is consistent with Chylek et al. (2003) who demonstrate the small sensitivity of the scattering phase function to the complex refractive index at scattering angles $< 120^\circ$. At long wavelengths (Fig. 4), as dust absorption decreases considerably (Table 3) and the optical thickness of the Rayleigh atmosphere is also reduced, the addition of either D1 or D2 produces a pronounced increase in simulated total radiance at the dust layer height (10–15 km). Below, we examine the details of radiative transfer for each dust type and for the single and multiple-scattered radiance components separately.

The SS radiance of dust only (both D1 and D2) is identical for $a = 0$ and $a = 1$ at all wavelengths and heights, as expected. The 10 km SS radiance of non-absorbing dust (D2) increases marginally from 337 nm towards 813 nm. This is likely due to the small increase in scattering efficiency as wavelength approaches particle size, despite smearing by poly-disperse size-distribution effects. Side-scattering, at approximately 90° to the direction of propagation, also increases slightly with wavelength in this observation geometry. In the limb-viewing geometry where the sun is never viewed directly, OSIRIS makes observations of solar radiance scattered by the atmosphere between $\sim 60^\circ$ and $\sim 120^\circ$. In the case of absorbing dust (D1), the 10 km SS radiance increases more substantially from 337 nm towards 813 nm, ultimately reaching a slightly lower value as the non-absorbing dust. This is expected based on the decreasing dust absorption towards 813 nm and a corresponding increase (78 %) in scattering efficiency (Table 3). Figure 5 shows the phase functions for absorbing dust (D1). Side-scattering increases even more with wavelength as absorption decreases from 337 to 813 nm. Overall, dust absorption decreases the 10 km SS radiance by 73 % at 337 nm (D1 with respect to D2) while the effects are small at 813 nm, as expected.

Figures 1 to 4 also show the MS radiance of dust only (both D1 and D2), which has similar characteristics to the case of air only. The MS radiance of dust is smaller than the SS radiance over a dark surface ($a = 0$; left figure panels) and greatly enhanced with respect to the SS radiance at all wavelengths over a bright surface ($a = 1$; right figure panels). Regardless of albedo, as wavelength increases from 337 to 813 nm, the 10 km MS radiance of absorbing dust (D1) increases slightly while the 10 km MS radiance of non-absorbing dust (D2) decreases slightly until the two are nearly equal at 813 nm. The increase for D1 is due to a reduction in absorption while the small decrease for D2 is likely due to a net extinction of scattered radiation out of the

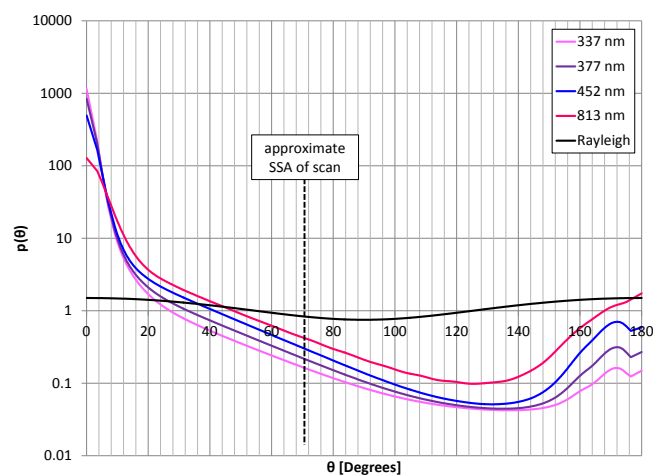


Fig. 5. SASKTRAN-calculated Mie phase functions for absorbing dust (D1) with a log-normal particle size distribution ($r = 1.0 \mu\text{m}$, $\sigma = 1.6 \mu\text{m}$). The Solar Scattering Angle (SSA) of the two scans in our study is also shown. At SSA $\sim 68^\circ$ the 813 nm phase function for non-absorbing dust (D2, not shown) is close to that of D1 and does not vary appreciably towards 337 nm. Rayleigh side-scattering from O_2 and N_2 molecules is greater for the full range of OSIRIS observation scattering angles ($\sim 60^\circ < \text{SSA} < \sim 120^\circ$).

OSIRIS line of sight, i.e., an increase in side-scattering towards OSIRIS is more than smeared out under multiple scattering conditions. Overall, dust absorption decreases the 10-km MS radiance by 69 % ($a = 0$) and 52 % ($a = 1$) at 337 nm (D1 with respect to D2) while the effects are again small at 813 nm, as expected.

Lines with circles indicate the SS radiance of air plus dust (air + D1) and air plus non-absorbing dust (air + D2). As with all other SS simulations, the SS radiances are identical for $a = 0$ and $a = 1$ at all wavelengths. The combination of SS radiance of air only and dust only does *not* add up to give the simulated SS radiance of air + dust. On the contrary, the simulated SS radiance of the air + dust combination is *reduced* between 10–15 km by *both* dust types at 337, 377 and 452 nm (but not at 813 nm, as discussed below). The biggest reduction with respect to the SS radiance of air only occurs at 452 nm, most likely because the dust layer (spanning 10–15 km) is almost entirely above the Rayleigh radiance knee found at ~ 11 km. The smallest reduction is found at 337 nm, most likely because the dust layer is found well below the knee (~ 20 km). An intermediate reduction occurs at 377 nm, when the knee is at ~ 16 km. Moreover, an increasing reduction with respect to air only for increasing wavelengths is *opposite* to the decreasing dust absorption trend with wavelength, and cannot be explained by absorption at all in the case of non-absorbing dust (D2), which exhibits the same general behavior in this respect as absorbing dust (D1). Indeed, setting dust absorption to zero only *slightly* offsets the SS radiance reduction, which is related primarily to where the dust layer is in relation to the knee of

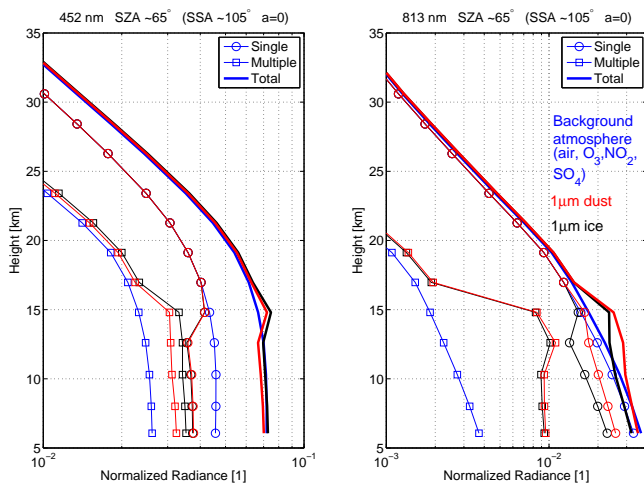


Fig. 6. The effect of a 1 km layer of dust (red) or ice (black) at 14–15 km, superimposed on a background atmosphere (blue). Round markers indicate single scattering, square markers indicate multiple scattering, and thick lines indicate total scattering.

pure Rayleigh-scattered radiance. At 10 km, absorption reduces the SS radiance of air plus dust as compared to air plus non-absorbing dust by 0.4 % at 337 nm, 1.2 % at 377 nm, and 2.5 % at 452 nm, even though absorption is greater at 337 nm than at 452 nm, decreasing smoothly between the two wavelengths. The absorbing characteristics of the particle type are entirely secondary. The reduction, when non-negligible, is due to the more forward-scattering (less OSIRIS-directed side-scattering) characteristics of dust particles as compared to air molecules. Scattering phase function is important for the single scattering scenario.

At 813 nm, however, the SS radiance of the air + dust combination is *increased* around 10–15 km by *both* dust types, appearing more like a linear combination of air only plus dust only. At 10 km, absorption also reduces the SS radiance of air plus dust as compared to air plus non-absorbing dust by 1.7 %, however, the combined effects of absorption and scattering result in an increase. While dust is *also* less side-scattering than air at 813 nm (Fig. 5), the simulations show (Fig. 4) an increasing SS radiance because the relative contribution of the Rayleigh-scattered radiance field at the altitude of the dust layer is much smaller (1 : 1) than at the short wavelengths (about 3 : 1), i.e., at 813 nm either dust type contributes as much as air molecules in the dust layer height in terms of the single-scattered radiance component.

Here we examine the different characteristics of dust and ice, before studying ice more closely in the context of other aerosols. Figure 6 shows a separate set of simulations at 452 and 813 nm for a thin (1 km) and dense ($\rho = 2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) dust layer situated between 14–15 km and superimposed on a background atmosphere containing air, O_3 , NO_2 and sulfate aerosols. The figure also includes simulations for an identically setup ice layer. At both wavelengths these aerosol lay-

ers are above the radiance knee. In the left panel (452 nm), the single-scattered radiance is reduced below the aerosol layers, slightly more so for ice than for dust, despite the fact that ice is practically non-absorbing at this wavelength while dust is still strongly absorbing. This is consistent with the reduction being caused by a directional decrease in scattered radiation and that the ice particles' phase function is slightly *less* side-scattering than that of dust at 452 nm (not shown). The effect of dust absorption is only apparent as a reduction in the multiply-scattered signal below 15 km. In terms of the total radiance at 452 nm, we see that both dust and ice cause an enhancement *within* the aerosol layer height, whereas *below* the layer height only dust causes an appreciable reduction in total radiance (ice causes a small total radiance reduction between 9–13 km). Without a careful consideration of single and multiple scattering, it might be tempting to attribute this total radiance reduction to a more simple absorption effect instead of a directional decrease in scattered radiation.

In the right figure panel (813 nm) the single-scattered radiance is slightly increased above the Rayleigh background by dust while ice particles still have a decreasing effect. Below the 1 km aerosol layer, the single-scattered Rayleigh background is significantly reduced by ice and also to a lesser extent by dust. Given that ice absorption is still negligible at 813 nm compared to dust absorption, the reduction in the single-scattered Rayleigh background caused by ice is once again due to its directional scattering properties. Indeed, at 813 nm, ice is even less side-scattering than dust as compared to at 452 nm (not shown). The effect of dust absorption at 813 nm is not strong enough to reduce the multiply-scattered radiance below that of ice at any height in the atmosphere, as was the case with a reduction below 15 km at 452 nm. Again, careful consideration of single and multiple scattering, as well as relative absorption and phase function effects, are needed to explain the total radiance signature due to a mixture of air and dust or air and ice.

Returning to the simulations in Figs. 1 through 4, some general statements can be made regarding the SS radiance of the combination of air and dust (or ice). First, a dust layer well below the radiance knee has negligible effects on the SS Rayleigh radiance field. Second, a dust layer around the height of the radiance knee shields the SS Rayleigh radiance field at and below the dust layer. Third, a dust layer well above the radiance knee compares with or dominates the SS Rayleigh radiance field. The extent to which the SS Rayleigh radiance shielding effect competes with the increased direct (i.e., single-) scattering effect is the extent to which combining the molecular atmosphere with dust particles is non-linear, i.e., non-additive. This interpretation only becomes clear when the effect of dust absorption is explicitly disentangled in the simulations presented in Figs. 1 through 4. Moreover, Fig. 6 shows that the effect is very similar for ice, even though there is a significant difference between dust

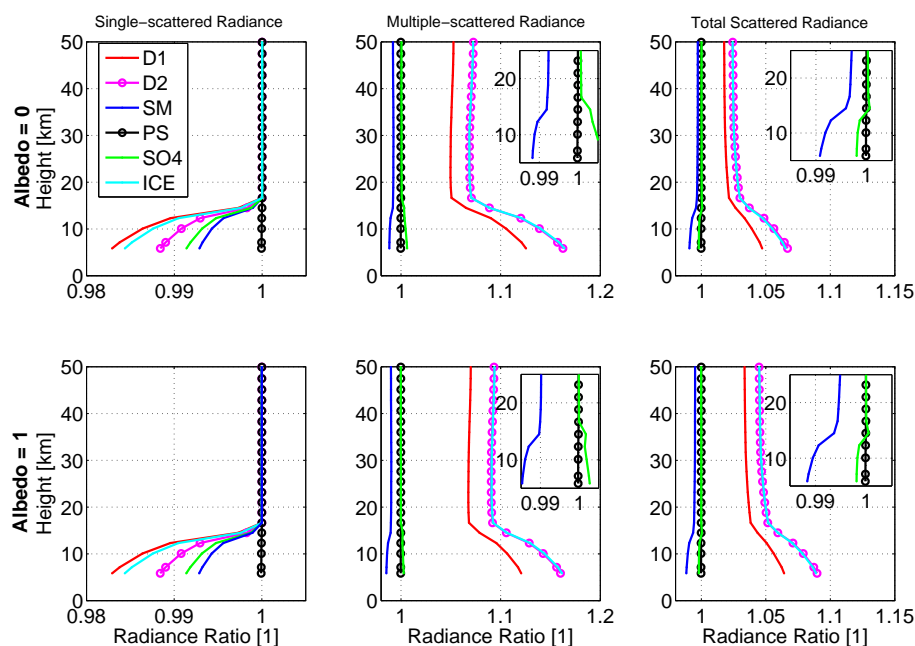


Fig. 7. Simulations of radiance due to air plus a given aerosol species divided by radiance due to air only at 337 nm. Species details are in Table 2. The left column shows single-scattered radiance, the middle column shows multiple-scattered radiance, and the right column shows total scattered radiance, as viewed by OSIRIS for SZA $\sim 65^\circ$ and for SAA $\sim 70^\circ$. The top row shows simulations for an albedo of 0 while the bottom row shows simulations for an albedo of 1.

and ice particles' absorbing properties. Overall, the absorbing effects of dust are small in this viewing geometry.

Finally, we analyze the MS radiance of air plus dust (air + D1) and air plus non-absorbing dust (air + D2). Except at the longest wavelength (Fig. 4), the mixture behaves more closely to pure air than to either of the pure dust cases. Moreover, like in the case of MS radiance in pure air, the MS radiance of the air-dust mixtures is lower than SS radiance over a dark surface and it is higher than SS radiance over a bright surface. Unlike the spatially confined effect of air-dust mixtures on SS radiance (15 km and below), the effect on MS radiance extends throughout the atmosphere (0–100 km). The effect of dust absorption, i.e., the difference between air plus dust and air plus non-absorbing dust curves is small at the shorter wavelengths and nearly negligible at 813 nm, where dust absorption is also much decreased. Most importantly, whether or not the dust is absorbing, the MS radiance of the air plus dust mixture is always higher than the MS radiance of air only, with the air plus non-absorbing dust mixture yielding the highest MS radiance, as expected. It is this increased MS radiance that is responsible for an increased total (MS + SS) radiance at all heights (discussed above), and an overall brighter scene, regardless of dust absorbing properties. We note that these conclusions and the general appearance of Figs. 1 through 4 are not influenced by particle non-sphericity. This occurs because non-spherical and spherical scattering phase functions are similar (within 8–17 % in our case) at solar scattering angles $< 90^\circ$, which leads to a neg-

ligible effect ($< 1\%$) on the single-scattered radiances. The multiple-scattered and thus also the total scattered radiances are increased within and above the non-spherical dust particles layers, leading to similar but stronger scene brightening effects.

3.3 Other aerosols: carbonaceous, sulfate and small ice particles

To understand the effect of aerosols in the limb-scatter viewing geometry more fully, we performed simulations with two types of absorbing carbonaceous particles and non-absorbing sulfate aerosol particles for the same simulation conditions of observation geometry and layer thickness as in the case of mineral dust. Small ice particles were also simulated (same size, number concentration and vertical layer placement as mineral dust), since dust and ice are often hard to distinguish in remote-sensing measurements (e.g., Omar, 2009).

Figure 7 shows simulations of radiance due to air plus a given aerosol species, divided by radiance due to air only at 337 nm. The left column shows single-scattered (SS) radiance; the middle column shows multiple-scattered (MS) radiance, and the right column shows total scattered radiance, as viewed by OSIRIS for the observation geometry of SZA $\sim 65^\circ$ and SAA $\sim 70^\circ$. The top row shows simulations for an albedo of 0 while the bottom row shows simulations for an albedo of 1. Figures 8, 9 and 10 are arranged in the same way, showing simulations for 377, 452 and 813 nm, respectively. At all wavelengths, the single-scattered radiance

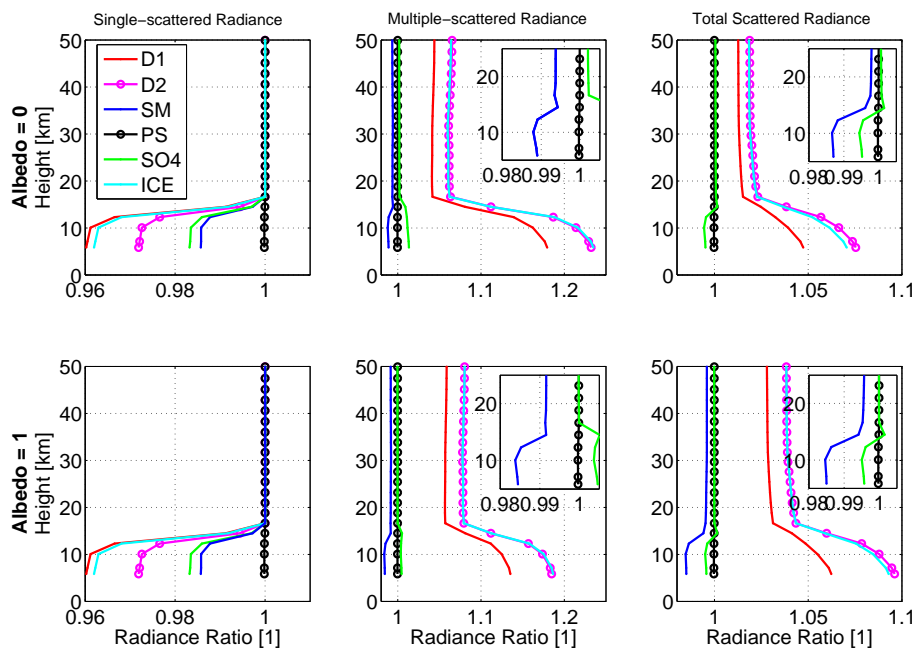


Fig. 8. As in Fig. 7 but at 377 nm.

(left column) is unaffected by surface albedo (top vs. bottom row), as expected and as discussed previously for mineral dust. At short wavelengths, all aerosol species included in our simulations, regardless of absorption, act to reduce the amount of single-scattered radiation reaching OSIRIS as compared to the situation of having purely Rayleigh-scattering air only. This is consistent with our previous discussion of mineral dust single scattering. Moreover, the most absorbing aerosol species (pure soot) has the least effect on the single-scattered radiance field of pure air (the pure soot radiance ratio is nearly coincident with 1 at all heights in the left column of Figs. 7 through 10), on account of its smallest size and least scattering efficiency. Pure soot, smoke and sulfate aerosols are simulated at similar and realistic number concentrations of 20, 20 and 30 cm^{-3} , respectively. Their sizes, however, range from a mode radius of 12.5 nm for pure soot, through 75 nm for smoke, to 80 nm for sulfate aerosol. Clearly size, phase function and number concentration determine the dominant single-scattering radiance reduction effects, not particle absorption, with the largest reduction in single-scattered radiance among these three aerosol types in fact resulting from the least absorbing sulfate aerosol particles (likely on account of their highest number concentration, as compared to the relatively more absorbing but fewer smoke particles of a very similar size). Among the three large aerosol types (D1, D2 and ICE), which are simulated at exactly the same size and number concentration, the largest reduction in single-scattered radiance is due to absorbing dust, however, the effect of negligibly absorbing ice particles is similar, showing the importance of phase function in single-scattering. Non-absorbing

dust results in the smallest reduction of the single-scattered radiance among the three large aerosol types. At 377 and 452 nm, as the radiance knee shifts below the aerosol layer, the effect of the aerosols remains qualitatively similar, but becomes larger. By 452 nm, the effect of the aerosol layer becomes more coincident with its vertical extent (10–15 km). As the absorption of D1 decreases towards 452 nm, ice overtakes D1 as the aerosol particle resulting in the greatest reduction in single-scattered radiance as compared to pure air. By 813 nm, as the single-scattered radiance of pure air decreases significantly, all the aerosol particles except pure soot lead to an *increase* in the single-scattered radiance observed by OSIRIS within the aerosol layer, which is consistent with our previous discussion of single-scattering of mineral dust.

The middle columns of Figs. 7 through 10 show the simulated ratio of the MS radiance due to an aerosol layer plus air to the MS radiance due to air only. The results for an albedo of 0 (top row) are qualitatively similar to those for an albedo of 1 (bottom row) at all wavelengths except that over a dark surface the radiance ratios are higher. This occurs because in the absence of strong Rayleigh multiple scattering over a dark surface, the multiple scattering due to the aerosol component represents a higher proportion of the total MS radiance; the effect also becomes more pronounced towards longer wavelengths, as Rayleigh scattering weakens.

The addition of large and efficiently scattering particles (D1, D2, ICE) causes an unambiguous MS signal increase within and below the aerosol layer, but also above it, too (middle columns). The total (net) radiance signal detected by OSIRIS for these large particles (right columns) is enhanced

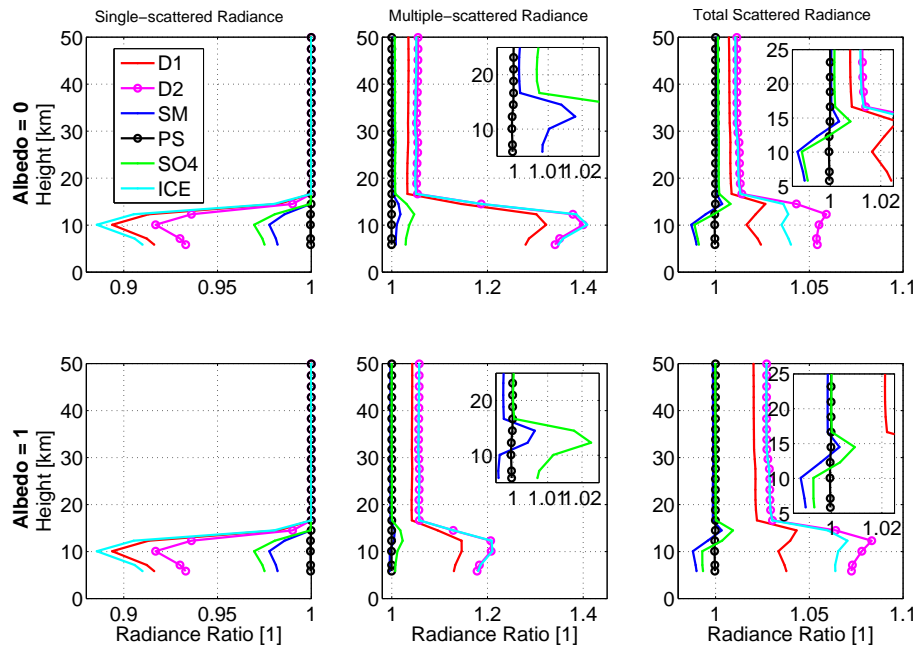


Fig. 9. As in Fig. 7 but at 452 nm.

with respect to air only (radiance ratio > 1) at all heights, despite the reductions in single-scattered signals.

MS signals from the smallest and least efficiently scattering pure soot carbonaceous particles are the smallest ($< 0.1\%$), always attenuated with respect to air only (radiance ratio < 1), most noticeable at or below the soot layer and almost negligible above it (middle column insets). As such, the net radiance signals are correspondingly small and negative at all wavelengths (right column insets).

Medium-sized absorbing particles (smoke) and medium-sized non-absorbing particles (sulfate aerosol) produce medium-sized effects on MS signals at short wavelengths (middle column insets), with one key difference between the two species. Whereas scattering sulfate aerosol particles cause an increase in MS signal within, below and – to a much lesser extent – above the aerosol layer, scattering and absorbing smoke particles can do both. For example, at 452 nm they cause an increase in MS signal within the layer that is in part offset by a decrease at all heights due to absorption effects (Fig. 9, $a = 1$). The particles' absorption effects *above* the aerosol layer (up to the top of the atmosphere) are greatest at the shortest wavelength (337 nm) and for the greatest surface albedo ($a = 1$), when multiple scattering effects involving the medium-sized carbonaceous particles are the greatest. However, the particles' absorption effects *within and below* the aerosol layer are actually greatest at 337 nm, where absorption is still high, but the radiance knee (~ 17.5 km) is not far above the top of the aerosol layer (15 km). At a longer wavelength (452 nm) the absorption effects above and below the layer are visible at an albedo of 1 (as a decrease in the

radiance ratio to values < 1 in MS signal), but no longer at an albedo of 0.

The total (net) radiance signal for sulfate aerosol particles (right column insets) exhibits an increase above air only levels at the top of the sulfate aerosol layer and a decrease below air only levels within and below the sulfate aerosol layer. The total (net) radiance signal for smoke particles is similar in shape and magnitude to that of sulfate aerosol at 452 nm (right column insets), where the particles' absorption effects are least amplified due to a weaker multiple scattering effect. At the shortest wavelength (337 nm, right column insets), the total radiance ratio of medium-sized carbonaceous particles is always attenuated (radiance ratio < 1) with respect to air only levels since the particles' absorption effects are now more amplified due to a stronger multiple-scattering effect. There is more attenuation within and below the smoke layer than within. It is clear that the multiple-scattering effects within the air layer itself do not amplify aerosol absorption because if that were the case then the pure soot particles would produce strong absorption signals. Finally, at long wavelengths (813 nm) both medium-sized aerosol particles (smoke and sulfate aerosol) produce very similar MS signals due to their similar scattering effects. The MS and total (net) radiance ratios are > 1 at all heights for both species.

In summary, the *presence* of absorbing medium-sized particles (e.g., smoke) can in theory be discerned at the shortest wavelengths using the fact that they create a small ($\sim 1\%$) attenuation in signal with respect to air only (radiance ratio < 1) in the entire atmosphere *above* the aerosol layer, originating from the MS radiance component. No other aerosol type in our study has this signal. However, attenuated total

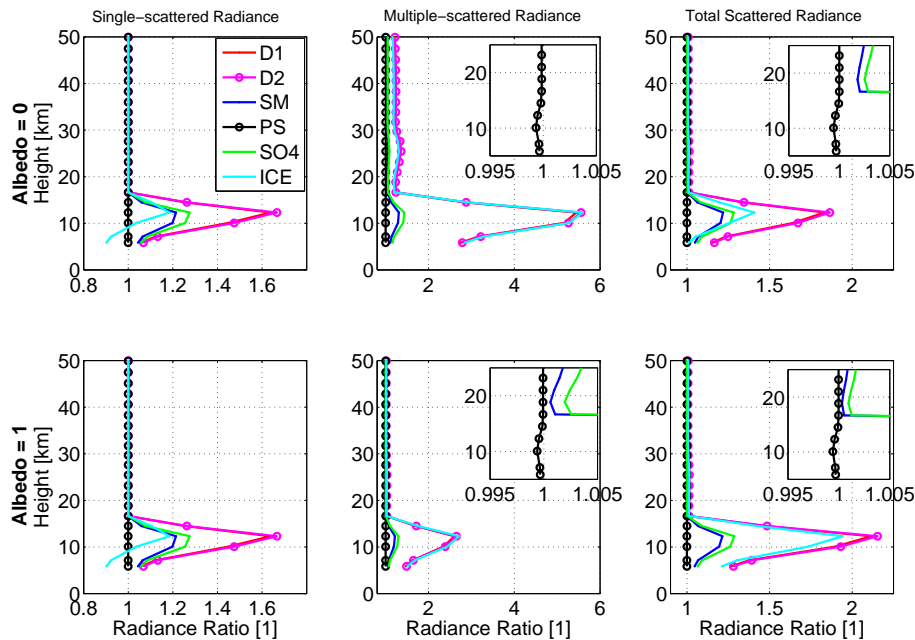


Fig. 10. As in Fig. 7 but at 813 nm. D2 obscures D1 almost completely due to low D1 absorption at 813 nm.

radiance signals *at and below* a layer of absorbing medium-sized particles are due to the combination of a reduction in SS radiances through scattering effects and a reduction in MS radiances through absorption effects. The already small MS radiance reduction can vanish completely or even turn to a small radiance *increase* if the complex index of refraction at near-UV wavelengths is reduced (calculations for this type of aerosol are shown in the discussion version of this paper). Moreover, an attenuation in total radiance can result from the presence of sulfate aerosol.

3.4 Sensitivity to carbonaceous aerosol

Overall, the addition of a moderately absorbing scatterer, i.e., dust, results in increased radiances at all heights due to increased multiple scattering effects, even at the shortest wavelengths, where dust absorption is high. This is why even at 35 km the scene appears brighter with dust in it than without. In this section, we examine the effect of medium-sized smoke aerosols and small-sized pure soot aerosols on total OSIRIS radiances for various combinations of carbonaceous particle size, absorption, number concentration and surface albedo. Table 6 shows the percent difference at ~ 35 km altitude between a simulation including only air and air plus carbonaceous aerosols in a 5 km layer extending from 10 to 15 km. Negative values mean that the introduction of pure soot has *reduced* the radiance at ~ 35 km altitude with respect to the case of air only. The scene darkening effect is more pronounced for an albedo of 1. The percent increase or decrease in radiance as compared to pure air conditions is linear with particle number concentration. That is, once a given

index of refraction, particle size and surface brightness determine the *sign* of the particle's effect at ~ 35 km, number concentration is only a scaling factor, even up to $\rho = 200 \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

A scene darkening at ~ 35 km of up to -4.54% (337 nm) and -0.38% (813 nm) results for smoke particles over a bright surface and under extremely high particle number concentrations ($\rho = 200 \text{ cm}^{-3}$). Otherwise, for more realistic number concentrations of the same particle type, e.g., $\rho = 20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, we get roughly $10\times$ smaller scene darkening of only -0.49% (337 nm) and -0.04% (813 nm). This is comparable to the OSIRIS measurement precision, which is approximately 0.1 % at 337 nm and 1 % at 813 nm. Small and strongly absorbing pure soot particles produce a negligible scene darkening of less than -0.09% (337 nm) and -0.04% (813 nm) over all ranges of number concentrations and albedos used in the simulations.

We also calculated the limiting case of a scene darkening at ~ 35 km for hypothetical “hybrid” particles with a size corresponding to smoke and an absorption corresponding to pure soot. For the highest number concentration, this lead to a scene darkening of -4.5% ($a = 0$) and -8.2% ($a = 1$) at 337 nm. At 813 nm, there was a scene *brightening* of 1.2 % over a dark surface ($a = 0$) and a scene darkening of -7.7% over a bright surface ($a = 1$). At a number of concentration of $\rho = 20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, the scene darkening was reduced to -0.5% ($a = 0$) and -0.9% ($a = 1$) at 337 nm. At 813 nm, the effect was a brightening of 0.1 % ($a = 0$) and a darkening of -0.9% ($a = 1$).

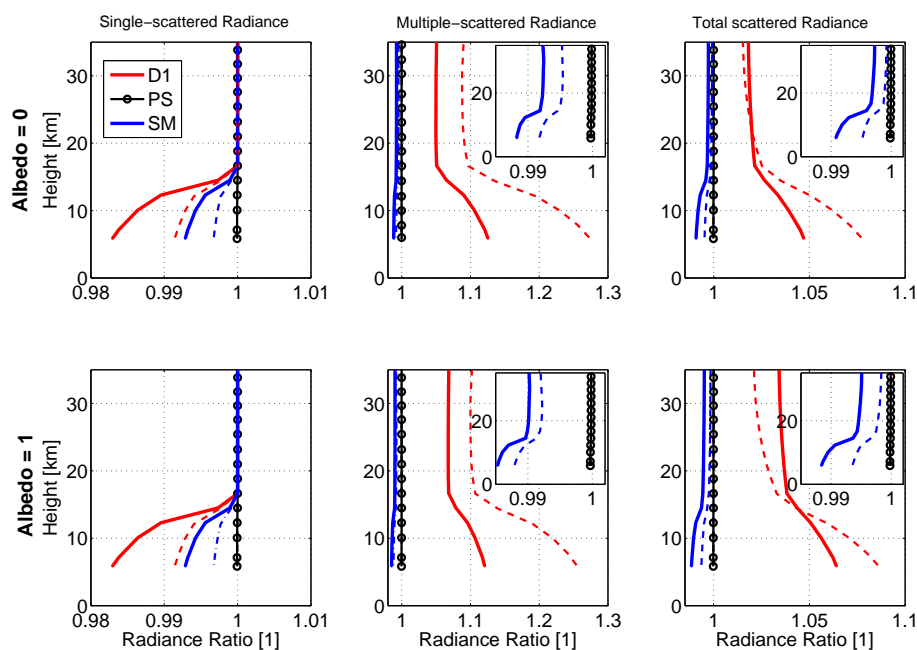


Fig. 11. A comparison of single-scattered, multiple-scattered and total scattered radiance at 337 nm for absorbing dust (D1), pure soot (PS) and smoke (SM) at solar zenith angles of 65° (thick solid lines) and 87° (thinner dashed lines). PS for low SZA is also distinguished with circle markers and completely obscures PS for high SZA.

3.5 Effect of SZA on mineral dust and smoke

The limb-viewing radiance simulations described up to this point were performed at an SZA of $\sim 65^\circ$. In this section, we report the effect of increasing the SZA to $\sim 87^\circ$ on simulations of mineral dust (D1) and smoke.

At the shortest wavelength (337 nm) and over a dark surface ($a = 0$), a higher SZA decreased absolute levels of single-scattered (SS), multiple-scattered (MS), and total scattered (TS) radiances observed by OSIRIS for air plus dust, especially below the knee at ~ 20 km. However, dust absorption was not amplified appreciably by the longer path length (as compared to dust scattering) and dust still caused an increased MS and TS radiance as compared to that of air alone, as in the case of low SZA. The relative radiance levels of the air plus dust mixture to that of an air only atmosphere were in fact higher at the higher SZA for TS radiance below 15 km. This occurred because the addition of dust increased the net scattered signal levels detected by OSIRIS (Fig. 11). For the air plus smoke mixture at 337 nm and over a dark surface ($a = 0$) a higher SZA also decreased absolute levels of SS, MS, and TS radiances. As in the case of dust, smoke absorption was not amplified appreciably by the longer path length (as compared to smoke scattering) and the addition of smoke still caused just a slight *decrease* in TS radiance as compared to that of air alone, similar to the case of low SZA at all heights in the atmosphere. The highly-scattering high SZA conditions were not quite sufficient to increase the scattering effects to dominate over increased absorption effects,

however, this can be achieved with a lower complex index of refraction for the smoke particles, as scattering and absorption are in a delicate balance in this size and absorption regime. The TS radiance reduction at all heights above the smoke layer was $\sim 0.08\%$ (Fig. 11). The results at 377 and 452 nm were qualitatively similar to those at 337 nm, with the radiance knee now found at ~ 17.5 km and ~ 12.5 km.

At the shortest wavelength (337 nm) and over a bright surface ($a = 1$), the results for an air plus dust mixture were similar to results over a dark surface. This is likely because the effect of the surface (and its albedo) is low due to the atmosphere's high optical thickness. For the air plus smoke mixture at high SZA the tendency of absorption effects to dominate over scattering effects was similar to that over a dark surface, and a small TS radiance *reduction* ($< 0.15\%$) was still present at all heights above the smoke layer (Fig. 11). The results at 377 and 452 nm were again similar to those at 337 nm.

At the longest wavelength (813 nm) and over a dark surface ($a = 0$) the atmosphere is still optically thin at the high SZA, with a knee somewhere below 5 km. For the air plus dust mixture, the relative amount of SS radiance (relative to air only) was very similar at low and high SZA; the relative amount of MS radiance (again, relative to air only) was higher at high SZA, with the net result that the relative amount of TS radiance (again, relative to air only) was only slightly higher at high SZA because MS radiance is not very significant at 813 nm. In the case of the air plus smoke mixture, the relative amount of SS radiance was slightly higher

Table 6. Percent difference (at 35 km altitude) between simulations including only air vs. air plus carbonaceous aerosols in a 5 km layer extending from 10–15 km. Pure soot and smoke particles are described in Table 2, while hybrid particles have the absorption of pure soot and the size of smoke, representing a limiting case of the effect of carbonaceous aerosols in limb-scatter observations.

ρ [cm^{-3}]	$a = 0$						$a = 1$					
	Pure soot		Smoke		Hybrid		Pure Soot		Smoke		Hybrid	
	337 nm	813 nm	337 nm	813 nm	337 nm	813 nm	337 nm	813 nm	337 nm	813 nm	337 nm	813 nm
0.2	-0.0001	0.0000	-0.0028	0.0012	-0.0054	0.0014	-0.0001	-0.0001	-0.0049	-0.0004	-0.0096	-0.0087
20	-0.0050	-0.0003	-0.2746	0.1160	-0.5291	0.1366	-0.0089	-0.0035	-0.4895	-0.0402	-0.9430	-0.8604
200	-0.0500	-0.0027	-2.4633	1.1466	-4.4902	1.1967	-0.0884	-0.0350	-4.5417	-0.3778	-8.1904	-7.7199

at high SZA, the relative amount of MS radiance was very similar at high SZA, and the relative amount of TS radiance was slightly higher at high SZA. At the longest wavelength (813 nm) and over a bright surface ($a = 1$) the results for air and dust as well as air and smoke mixtures at low and high SZA were very similar to those over a dark surface ($a = 0$).

In summary, for a wide range of aerosol models and viewing geometries, limb-scatter retrievals are not sensitive to aerosol absorption.

4 Summary and outlook

The limb-scatter satellite viewing geometry is well suited to detecting low-concentration aerosols in the upper troposphere due to its long observation path length (~ 200 km), high vertical resolution (~ 1 – 2 km) and good geographic coverage. We have evaluated the signature of aerosols in limb-scatter satellite observations at ultraviolet, visible and near infrared wavelengths. We used the SASKTRAN 3-D radiative transfer code to simulate OSIRIS satellite observations, paying particular attention to the effects of absorption of solar radiation by mineral dust and carbonaceous aerosols. We also investigated the signature of ice particles of the same size and number concentration as our mineral dust aerosols, as well as the signature of sulfate aerosols. The simulated aerosols were placed between 10–15 km in the atmosphere while air molecules, when simulated, occupied the entire model atmosphere from 0–100 km. The absorbing aerosols were simulated at enhanced but realistic number concentrations. The simulations were performed at two albedos, $a = [0, 1]$, four wavelengths, $\lambda = [337, 377, 452, 813 \text{ nm}]$, and two scan geometries, corresponding to a solar zenith angle of 65° and 87° . We examined single, multiple, and total limb-scattered radiance signatures individually. Multiple scattering was calculated as the difference of a simulation with 50 scattering orders and a single-scattering simulation.

Our simulations show that absorbing dust does not lead to a scene darkening (reduction in total radiance) at short wavelengths, as might be expected from the nadir-viewing experience (e.g., Herman et al., 1997; Torres et al., 1998) with this aerosol species in the lower troposphere. The increase in total radiance at short wavelengths is the net result of a de-

crease in single-scattered (SS) radiance at and below the dust layer and an increase in multiple-scattered (MS) radiance at all heights. However, the decrease in SS radiance is primarily due to particle size affecting the direction of scattering, and not due to dust absorption effects, which we find to be small in the limb-scatter viewing geometry.

Some general statements can be made regarding the SS radiance of the combination of air and dust (or ice). First, a dust layer well below the radiance knee has negligible effects on the SS Rayleigh radiance field. Second, a dust layer around the height of the radiance knee shields the SS Rayleigh radiance field at and below the dust layer, causing a reduction. Third, a dust layer well above the radiance knee compares with or dominates the SS Rayleigh radiance field. The extent to which the SS Rayleigh radiance shielding effect competes with the increased single scattering effect is the extent to which combining the molecular atmosphere with dust particles is nonlinear, i.e., non-additive. This interpretation only becomes clear when the effect of dust absorption is explicitly disentangled. We achieved this by comparing simulations of absorbing and non-absorbing dust particles, as well as dust and ice particles of the same size. The single-scattering effect is very similar for ice, even though there is a significant difference between dust and ice particles' absorbing properties. This is because the size of the two particles is identical in our simulations.

Our simulations generalize over all particle types as follows. At long wavelengths (813 nm) the addition of all aerosols (except pure soot) to an air only atmosphere produced a radiance increase as compared to air only, on account of the low Rayleigh scattering in air only at 813 nm. The radiance reduction due to soot aerosol was negligible ($< 0.1\%$) at all heights (0–100 km).

At short wavelengths (337, 377, 452 nm), we found that the addition of any aerosol species to an air only atmosphere caused a decrease in single-scattered radiation in the direction of OSIRIS. The reduction was clearly related to particle size first, with absorption responsible for second-order effects only. Also at short wavelengths, multiple-scattered radiation could either increase or decrease in the presence of an aerosol species, depending both on particle size and absorption. Large scatterers (ice, mineral dust) all lead to an

increase in multiple-scattered radiation within, below and above the aerosol layer. Small, highly absorbing pure soot particles produced a multiple-scattering response that was a very small decrease ($< 0.1\%$) at all heights, primarily confined to within and below the soot layer. Medium-sized scatterers produced a multiple-scattering response that depended on their absorbing properties. Increased radiances were simulated as compared to air only at all short wavelengths (337, 377 and 450 nm) for sulfate aerosol particles (non-absorbing) while decreased radiances were simulated for smoke particles (absorbing) at 337 and 377 nm, where multiple scattering involving the medium-sized carbonaceous particles amplified their absorbing properties. At 452 nm, however, this effect was attenuated and albedo-dependent.

At short wavelengths, the combined effect of single scattering decreases and multiple scattering increases led to complex total radiance signatures that could not, for the most part, unambiguously distinguish absorbing versus non-absorbing aerosols except in the case of smoke aerosols that led to a total radiance decrease (as compared to air only) at all altitudes above the aerosol layer (15–100 km). This unique signature was a result of the aerosols' strong absorbing properties, non-negligible scattering efficiency, and number concentrations high enough to make multiple scattering effects due to the aerosol itself significant. Thus, we show that in the limb-scatter viewing geometry scene darkening above the aerosol layer is unambiguously due to absorption whereas scene darkening within and below the aerosol layer can simply be the result of a reduction in single-scattered radiance. Our simulations show a greater scene darkening for decreasing wavelengths, increasing surface albedo, decreasing solar zenith angle, and increasing particle number concentration, however, at 337 nm, an albedo of 1, a solar zenith angle of 65° and an unrealistic particle number concentration of 20 cm^{-3} this effect does not exceed 0.5 % of the total radiance due to air only, making the unique identification of medium-sized carbonaceous aerosols, i.e., smoke, difficult. Once scene darkening (or brightening) is established based on the particle's index of refraction and size as well as surface brightness, it is linear with particle number concentration over three orders of magnitude.

Without a careful consideration of single and multiple scattering, as well as absorption and phase function effects, it is not easy to explain the total radiance signature due to a mixture of air and dust, or air and some other aerosol. What seems like a total radiance reduction due to absorption is instead the result of a directional decrease in scattered radiation.

A fortuitous implication of our analysis is that limb-scatter retrievals of aerosol extinction are insensitive to external information about aerosol absorption.

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