

**AVAPS Dropsonde Report for ACTIVATE**  
**Winter and Summer Campaign 2020**  
**Updated R1: 20230131**

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Any questions, comments, or concerns with the sonde data can be directed to the PI and/or the DM. Users are strongly encouraged to consult with the PI and/or DM for data usage. More information about individual sondes is available in the header of each data file.

**For R1 Data:**

All soundings were reprocessed from raw data. The details of this processing are described in Vömel et al. (2023): Dropsonde observations during the Aerosol Cloud meTeorology Interactions oVer the western ATLantic Experiment, Scientific Data, submitted.

Most changes compared to release R0 are minor and it is not expected that studies are required to use the updated data set.

Release R1 contains more data compared to the previous releases.

New users of the ACTIVATE dropsonde data should use release R1.

The most significant difference to the earlier release R0 are:

\* All soundings processed with the same ASPEN version (3.4.7)

\* Almost all profiles contain more data closer to the aircraft (on average 700 m more data).

\* Twenty three soundings were added to the archive, which had not been included in the initial data release. Test flight soundings were also included in this release.

- \* Vertical wind speed were bias adjusted and noise to due pressure sensor removed.  
The vertical wind data field is called "Wwind" instead of "Ascent".  
Studies using vertical winds must use the vertical wind speed estimate of release R1.  
See Vömel et al. (2023) for details on the vertical wind calculations.
- \* The precision of latitude and longitude was increased from 2 decimals to 6 decimals.
- \* All parameters may see insignificant changes in values due to updates in smoothing and filtering.
- \* Data files contain a few additional metadata fields, in particular launch latitude, longitude, and altitude.
- \* For a few soundings the launch time and launch lat/lon was updated.  
The correct launch time is part of the metadata and may be inconsistent with the file name (see Vömel et al. for additional information).  
The date stamps in the filename between release R0 and release R1 are consistent.
- \* Four soundings have significant changes in the reported pressure after a missing offset correction was applied

## Overview

Aerosol Cloud meTeorology Interactions oVer the western ATlantic Experiment (ACTIVATE) conducted two deployments in 2020, the first deployment conducted from February-March 2020 (Spring) and the second deployed from August-September 2020 (Summer). The Airborne Vertical Atmospheric Profiling System (AVAPS) was mounted on the NASA King Air (UC12) and utilized the NCAR NRD41 mini sondes for the duration of the mission. A total of 167 sondes were launched for both deployments, with 59 sondes launched in the winter deployment and 108 launched in the summer deployment. Sonde release strategies were determined on a flight by flight basis. There were three commonly conducted flight tracks; a “statistical survey” (out to a certain point and back), a “process study” (a circle of sonde launches around a determined point), and a “satellite overpass” (flying under the satellite track, dropping sondes along the path). Table 1 contains information about each flight including the number of sondes launched, the transit path taken, and the approximate direction the sondes were launched after transit.

Table 1. Summary of Sondes for the ACTIVATE, Spring and Summer 2020 Campaign

Flight #	Day (YYYYMMDD)	# Sondes	ZIBUT or OXANA	Direction after Corridor	Flight Type*
RF01	20200214	4	ZIBUT	NE	SS
RF02	20200215	4	OXANA	SE	SS

RF03	20200217	4	Other	NE	SS
RF09	20200227	2	ZIBUT	S	SS
RF10	20200228	11	OXANA	SE	PS
RF11	20200228	2	OXANA	NE	SS
RF12	20200229	2	ZIBUT	NE	SS
RF13	20200301	11	Other	NE	PS
RF14	20200301	2	Other	SE	SS
RF15	20200302	2	OXANA	S	SS
RF16	20200306	3	OXANA	S	SS
RF17	20200308	2	OXANA	SE	SS
RF18	20200308	2	OXANA	SE	SS
RF19	20200309	2	OXANA	SW	SS
RF20	20200311	2	ZIBUT	E	SS
RF21	20200312	2	ZIBUT	E	SS,SO
RF22	20200312	2	OXANA	S	SS
RF23	20200813	5	ZIBUT	S	SS
RF24	20200817	6	ZIBUT	N	SS
RF25	20200820	5	ZIBUT	N	SS
RF26	20200821	5	ZIBUT	NE	SS
RF27	20200825	6	ZIBUT	E	SS
RF28	20200826	6	OXANA	E	SS
RF29	20200828	8	ZIBUT	NW	SO
RF30	20200902	6	OXANA	SW	SS
RF31	20200903	6	OXANA	S	SS
RF32	20200910	4	ZIBUT	S	SS
RF33	20200911	6	ZIBUT	S	SS,SO
RF34	20200915	6	ZIBUT	NE	SS
RF36	20200921	6	ZIBUT	NE	SS
RF37	20200922	7	OXANA	SW	SS
RF38	20200923	8	ZIBUT	E	SO
RF39	20200929	13	ZIBUT	E	PS
RF40	20200930	5	ZIBUT	N	SS

\*Flight Type: SS, statistical survey; PS, Process study; SO, satellite overpass

### Sonde Performance

Overall, sonde performance was optimal for the duration of both campaigns. Table 1 highlights the overall performance parameters for the sondes during both campaigns. The spring deployment did not release as many sondes as initially expected due to aircraft maintenance at

the beginning of the campaign and also the coronavirus pandemic shutting down operations in early March 2020. For sonde performance of each individual sonde, please refer to the header for each sonde data file.

Table 1. Overview of Sondes for ACTIVATE, Spring and Summer 2020 Campaign

	Spring Deployment	Summer Deployment
Total Number of Sondes	59	108
Fast Falls	0	1
Ascent Issues	0	2
Time Sync Issues	6	2
Late Winds	0	1

### Fast Fall

During the second deployment, only one sonde failed to deploy the parachute, creating the fast fall scenario. No meaningful data could be recovered from the sonde and is not part of the archive. All other sondes from both campaigns had successful parachute deployments and transferred data down to the surface. Table 2 has the information for the fast fall sonde and the information can also be seen in the table displaying all sondes for both campaigns.

Table 2. Fast Fall Sonde Information

Sonde #	Flight #	Sonde ID	Release Date (YYMMDD)	Note
129	RF036	194220132	200921	Fast Fall

### Ascent Calculation Error

During the second deployment, ascent data for the sondes (variable name: Ascent) was added to the archived data. Two of the sondes contained incorrect ascent data and the ascent data for those sondes was removed from the archived data until it could be further examined. Table 3 contains the sondes in question. All other data outputted by the sondes in question should be correct and is present in the archive. These sondes should also be marked in the header. Please contact the PI and/or the DM with any questions regarding these sondes.

Table 3. Ascent Calculation Error Sonde Information

Sonde #	Flight #	Sonde ID	Flight Date (YYMMDD)	Time (HHMMSS.SS)	Lat	Lon	Alt

135	RF037	190630325	200922	181332.95	35.240402	-74.899031	8717.50
161	RF039	194320252	200929	162326.10	37.682392	-70.122100	8962.39

### Time Sync Error

There were times in both campaigns where the computer clock and the time in the AVAPS software were not in sync. When this happened, sondes would not transmit the sonde data properly to a format that was easy to read by the QC program (ASPEN). When this occurred, sonde data had to be recovered using the decoded binary files. This work was completed by Holger Vömel at NCAR. This created uncertainty in the launch time for these sondes. Table 4 includes the sondes that suffered from the time sync issue. The issue was prevented by ensuring that the computer time and the time in the AVAPS program were synced.

Table 4. Time Sync Error Sonde Information

Sonde #	Flight #	Sonde ID	Flight Date (YYMMDD)	Time (HHMMSS.SS)	Lat	Lon	Alt
1	RF001	194410131	200214	172930.75	36.942004	-74.082881	6146.44
2	RF001	194240099	200214	174742.51	37.433839	-72.399397	5401.94
3	RF001	194240270	200214	182629.98	39.042251	-71.530127	6052.52
4	RF001	194220118	200215	192529.30	36.938821	-73.051771	6138.56
13	RF009	190630336	200227	183434.25	36.873949	-74.300869	8090.60
14	RF009	190530258	200227	195633.25	34.783121	-73.445979	8582.72
113	RF032	194320976	200910	174711.00	36.938140	-72.896100	8108.1
114	RF032	194230785	200910	182907.00	34.673940	-73.396670	9418.6

### Late Winds

There was only one occurrence of a sonde taking longer than a minute after launch to transmit winds data. This “Late Winds” sonde is noted in Table 5. It did take time for all the sondes to equilibrate after launch since not all aircraft data was available to the AVAPS system at launch.

Table 5. Late Winds Sonde Information

Sonde #	Flight #	Sonde ID	Flight Date (YYMMDD)	Time (HHMMSS.SS)	Lat	Lon	Alt
99	RF029	193871019	200828	190931.18	38.078036	-71.943409	8963.41

Table 6. List of all Sondes for the ACTIVATE Spring and Summer 2020 Campaign

Dropsonde Launch Log									
Line	Flight	Sonde ID	Date	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude	Status	Notes

#			YYMMDD	HHMMSS.SS	deg	deg	m, GPS		
1	RF001	194410131	200214	172930.75	36.942004	-74.082881	6146.44	Good Drop	Computer time error resulted in logging errors. Data needs to be recovered from the binary data files
2	RF001	194240099	200214	174742.51	37.433839	-72.399397	5401.94	Good Drop	Computer time error resulted in logging errors. Data needs to be recovered from the binary data files
3	RF001	194240270	200214	182629.98	39.042251	-71.530127	6052.52	Good Drop	Computer time error resulted in logging errors. Data needs to be recovered from the binary data files
4	RF001	194220118	200215	192529.30	36.938821	-73.051771	6138.56	Good Drop	Computer time error resulted in logging errors. Data needs to be recovered from the binary data files
5	RF002	194330214	200215	172514.00	35.209065	-74.818000	8726.25	Good Drop	none
6	RF002	194320278	200215	175135.00	33.830100	-73.149066	8728.70	Good Drop	none
7	RF002	194340747	200215	182313.00	33.426938	-72.546078	8743.75	Good Drop	none
8	RF002	190530082	200215	185506.00	34.576212	-74.022673	8737.54	Good Drop	none
9	RF003	194240268	200217	164400.00	38.200069	-74.332388	7624.50	Good Drop	none
10	RF003	190530266	200217	170544.00	38.067999	-72.757355	7607.85	Good Drop	none
11	RF003	194240288	200217	173058.00	39.112871	-71.647040	7579.33	Good Drop	none
12	RF003	190530270	200217	181118.00	38.488727	-73.575486	7001.51	Good Drop	none
13	RF009	190630336	200227	183434.25	36.873949	-74.300869	8090.60	Good Drop	Computer time error resulted in logging errors. Data needs to be recovered from the binary data files
14	RF009	190530258	200227	195633.25	34.783121	-73.445979	8582.72	Good Drop	Computer time error resulted in logging errors. Data needs to be recovered from the binary data files
15	RF010	194220124	200228	154012.09	33.117870	-73.342431	8574.16	Good Drop	none
16	RF010	194220133	200228	154933.11	33.112936	-73.685750	8547.14	Good Drop	none
17	RF010	194220140	200228	155618.12	33.295539	-73.974415	8516.27	Good Drop	none
18	RF010	194150640	200228	160108.13	33.588439	-74.082545	8499.54	Good Drop	none
19	RF010	194220127	200228	160452.14	33.881246	-73.962830	8488.08	Good Drop	none
20	RF010	194220122	200228	160827.15	34.066735	-73.648631	8475.86	Good Drop	none
21	RF010	194150637	200228	161503.16	34.048003	-73.292369	8481.23	Good Drop	none









