

Interactive comment on “Global and regional evaluation of over-land spectral aerosol optical depth retrievals from SeaWiFS” by A. M. Sayer et al.

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This paper describes a validation analysis of the recently released over-land SeaWiFS aerosol retrieval dataset. The manuscript is very well written, although could be a little shorter to accommodate an average reader's attention span, like mine. It is a very detailed and comprehensive study covering different validation aspects and providing comparison to both AERONET data and MODIS and MISR datasets. I recommend this paper for publication.

I also have several recommendations to slightly improve this paper: 1) A brief mention of SeaWiFS original resolution and aggregated resolution during aerosol retrieval

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would be helpful. 2) A definition of QAs=1-3 with short description of differences among different QA levels would benefit the paper, as well as the user community. 3) p. 2176: Definition, or explanation of the expected error (EE) as given is incomprehensible and should be simplified, e.g. as "1 sigma based on AERONET as truth".

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