**Atmospheric
Measurement
Techniques
Discussions**

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

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".

Interactive comment on Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss., 5, 2169, 2012.

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