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Interactive comment on "Evaluating two methods of estimating error variances from multiple data sets using an error model" *by* Therese Rieckh and Richard Anthes

T. Rieckh

rieckh@ucar.edu

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We thank Dr. Vogelzang for his interesting comment and illustrative example using the 2CH method, which we interpret as supporting our conclusion in the paper that the 2CH method is very sensitive to bias errors. As he says, the agreement of the 2CH method using the scatterometer and buoy data with the results from the TC method is likely because the scatterometer and the buoy data have only small biases with respect to each other (calibration scalings very close to 1.0). However, the use of ECMWF data with the scatterometer data produces large errors using the 2CH method because the ECMWF data have larger biases with respect to the scatterometer data (calibration

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scaling ∼0.95). Thus these biases cause the large errors in the 2CH method when using scatterometer and ECMWF data sets (as shown in his Table) and calibration of the two data sets is necessary to eliminate the biases when using the 2CH method.

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