

General comment

The authors have replied to all comments and taken into account all suggestions for additional analyses. The paper is improved to a large extent, due both to the added discussions, as well as the re-structured content. I recommend acceptance of the manuscript after the following minor revisions:

Specific comments

(line numbers refer to the marked-up version of the revised manuscript)

Lines 107-111: the added discussion on MODIS C6 should be moved to the end of this paragraph, i.e. after the discussion on validation studies concerning C5.

Lines 235-237: these two sentences belong to the figure caption and should be removed from the main text.

Lines 420-421: "AOD is much larger than these cities/regions" is repeated in the same sentence. Please rephrase.

Line 471: Figure 8 shows that AOD and ADRF are anti-correlated. Shouldn't a negative value of the correlation coefficient be expected?

Figure 8: Please mention in the figure caption that these data are deseasonalized. The legend is also probably wrong (continuous red line should be AOD?), and the red dashed line (AOD fitting trend) seems to match exactly the zero line. Please check.