

We thank you for giving us many valuable feedbacks. As we address all the issues, the paper will be strengthened.

Regarding the comment that Zhang and Reid (2010; ACP) did the study we have done but they did better, we should've read their paper prior to the paper submission. We read their paper and many other papers in the last 2 weeks. Zhang and Reid (2010) looked at MODIS, MISR and AERONET data for the trend but did not combine them, as we did. The novelty of our study is to combine three datasets to generate AOD and then look at its trend. What is more the real strength of our study is to combine three datasets to generate fine-mode AOD. The fine-mode fraction (FMF) of AOD derived from MODIS or MISR observations is not considered reliable over land due to the uncertainty in the spectral behavior of surface albedo. The reviewer correctly pointed out Levy et al.'s (2010; ACP) study, which showed that FMF from MODIS can't be trusted over land. In our study, we attempted to overcome this barrier by combining MISR and AERONET data over land. We acknowledge that the current manuscript does not sufficiently explain the background or the significance of our work.

Currently, we are doing additional analyses to strengthen the robustness of our estimates of fine-mode AOD over land as well as over ocean.