

***Interactive comment on* “Technical Note: Estimating aerosol effects on cloud radiative forcing” by S. J. Ghan**

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The refined way to compute the aerosol-cloud radiative effect Steve Ghan proposes is a useful one and should be considered seriously by the modelling community. I believe, however, that some specifications and discussions are lacking in his current description.

1. “Forcing” is a delicate term. I believe the forthcoming IPCC report includes an attempt to define a new terminology, or else the cited paper by Lohmann et al. (Atmos. Chem. Phys. 2010) has some discussion on the term. I understand the author defines forcing as difference in top-of-atmosphere net radiation between two simulations with prescribed climatological sea-surface temperature distributions, but this should be clarified.

2. The “clean” radiation computations involve no-aerosol atmospheres. For cloud droplet and ice crystal number concentrations, a “clean” equivalent is impossible. How are these computed in the “ F_{clean} ” computed?
3. The clear-sky water vapour contribution merits discussion (see, e.g., Sohn et al., Atmos. Chem. Phys. 2010).

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 13, 18771, 2013.