

Interactive comment on “On the importance of cascading moisture recycling in South America” by D. C. Zemp et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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This paper discusses the recycling ration in the Amazon using a complex network approach. The problem is clearly important and the approach interesting. However, it is not clear to me what new results are really obtained (besides a fancy display of complex network terminology) nor whether these results are robust.

I urge the authors to rewrite the papers using a description which is easier to read and follow for the readers of ACP, as well as address the following points:

1. How do the results depend on the resolution (temporal and spatial) of the fields and on the various choices that are adopted in the proposed method
2. Is the cascading recycling ratio robustly defined? Can the authors provide examples (synthetic examples) where the method can recover what was put in?

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3. What are the error bars on the estimates provided in the paper?
4. What is new which could not be obtained with more standard methods? And what is new, can be tested and believed?

I urge for a major revision.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 14, 17479, 2014.