

***Interactive comment on “Comparison of aerosol optical depths from the Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) on Aura with results from airborne sunphotometry, other space and ground measurements during MILAGRO/INTEX-B” by J. M. Livingston et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #3**

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This paper is a very detailed satellite aerosol property retrieval validation study that should be published. The comparison verges on being tediously long, but given the paucity of appropriate data the authors made the right choice to go into such detail. I think this sort of detail is often lacking in satellite validation papers, so I am glad that it is here, especially since the conclusion is well written.

Specific comments:

C1284

Section 3.5.3 – Please be more specific about the type of surface albedo that is applied here. I suspect it is the Bihemispherical Reflectance (BHR) or ‘white-sky’ albedo in MODIS terminology (which also assumes isotropic downwelling). MODIS BHR may also be available for this area, even if the aerosol retrievals were not applied. It might be interesting to compare the MODIS 460–480nm band to SSFR and OMAERO retrievals.

I found many of the plots to be small and difficult to read, both in the onscreen and printer friendly versions. This was especially the case for the plots like in Figure 2b. I would like to see some of these multiple panel figures split into separate figures. I think figures 2, 7, 9 and 13 are especially in need of this. I would also caution against plotting with yellow, as it is nearly invisible.

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 9, 9961, 2009.

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