? Something strange?



Changes in atmospheric AOT retrieved from MODIS (on board Terra and Aqua), MISR (Terra), and SeaWiFS (OrbView-2) during the past decade

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Yoon, J., Burrows, J. P., Vountas, M., von Hoyningen-Huene, W., Chang, D. Y., Richter, A., and Hilboll, A.: Changes in atmospheric aerosol loading retrieved from space based measurements during the past decade, Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 13, 26001-26041, doi:10.5194/acpd-13-26001-2013, 2013.

Key words

Limited temporal sampling

- Polar-orbiting satellite
- Local equatorial crossing time: 10:30 a.m.(Terra), 12:20 p.m.(OrbView-2), 01:30 p.m.(Aqua)

Cloud-free Aerosol Optical Thickness

- Passive visible sensor
- Cloud occurrence-> no AOT retrieval -> small number of retrievals -> climatological means (e.g. monthly, seasonal, and annual means) without statistical representativeness

Different trend estimates



Diurnal cycle



Interim conclusions

"There is a good chance of deriving different trends from the limited samplings."

"Therefore, we need to analyze the trends of atmospheric aerosols from multiple satellite observations to estimate the trend close to actual trend."

Cloud occurrence



New weighted trend model

• The monthly AOTs are used for fitting the linear regression where *R*² is minimized by

$$R^{2}(A,B) = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \left(wt_{t} \times \left(y_{t} - A - Bx_{t} - \widetilde{y}^{m} \right) \right)^{2}$$

, where

wt_t = {1, for simple linear (unweighted) trend $\sqrt{n_t} / (\sigma_t / y_t)$ for weighted trend

Simple linear trend



Weighted trend



Cloud variation



Interim conclusions

"Cloud occurrence prevents to retrieve cloud-free AOT using a passive visible sensor, and therefore influences in calculating monthly means with statistical representativeness."

" A new trend model, i.e. weighted least squares regression, successfully reduces its uncertainty in the trend estimates."

Significant regional trends



Significant regional trends



Trend estimates over East China



Now in Seoul, South Korea



[http://article.joins.com]

Highlights of this talk

- This study shows the uncertainty from limited temporal sampling and cloud occurrence in trend estimates of cloud-free aerosol optical thickness.
- Further studies about global AOT trends using multiple satellite data and weighted trend model are needed to know the actual change in global aerosols.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

[http://www.theweddinginvitation.co.uk/blog/2011/seasons-greetings/]

Comparison between different samplings



Trend validations with AERONET



Global Cloud Fraction



Time series of MYD AOT

