Interactive comment on “Discriminating Between Clouds and Aerosols in the CALIOP Version 4.1 Data Products” by Zhaoyan Liu et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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It is very clear that the authors have put a lot of effort in organizing and preparing the material for publication, and I believe it is ready for publication as is. The only fault is that it is a long paper, however I believe the length is justified given the importance of the work described here: CALIOP has collected more than 12 years of atmospheric data, and this paper describes the improvements to one of the core algorithms for the level 2 data processing. Down-stream CALIOP algorithms such as the extinction retrieval depend on accurate cloud/aerosol discrimination. This paper is a must read for anyone that uses CALIOP V4 data products.