Interactive comment on “Cloud base height retrieval from multi-angle satellite data” by Christoph Böhm et al.

Anonymous Referee #5

Received and published: 30 October 2018

The attempt to derive cloud base heights from MISR data is interesting, but as far as I can tell they basically take the minimum retrieved cloud height, assume it corresponds to the base height and move on from there. The authors need to state more clearly that this algorithm is only valid over broken clouds, and indeed I would be very interested in seeing a study of the accuracy of the results as a function of scene structure and degree of brokenness, and also as a function of the number of unobscured cloud top and side pixels as available in the MISR TC_ALBEDO product. I am willing to reconsider the paper if the authors perform such a study as I think that would be much more interesting than just the minor algorithm parameters such as R, N and P.

Additionally they need to clarify which MISR product they are using (TC_STEREO or TC_CLOUD), and which type of SDCM (WindCorrected or WithoutWindCorrection). I am unsure if they are using Stereo or Cloud, because they mention the correct short name for Cloud, but list the wind resolution as being 70.6 km and Stereo is at 70.4 km and Cloud retrieves its winds at 17.6 km. I am hoping this is just a typo on their part but I’m not sure. It is my opinion that they need to use the WindCorrected heights from the TC_CLOUD product.