

Interactive comment on “Soil moisture and matric potential – An open field comparison of sensor systems” by Conrad Jackisch et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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The presented data set comprises a very carefully designed and comprehensive comparison of commercial soil moisture measurement systems. This is of great interest to many soil hydrologists worldwide who are planning own field installations or have to interpret such time series. I have the impression that the experiment was conducted with great care and a decent knowledge of these kinds of sensor systems. The measurement period of a few months is unfortunately not very long and doesn't include very wet situations (to my understanding). And the specific soil seems to have a quite narrow range of variability in the observed soil water content. Nevertheless, I would suggest that this data set and the associated publication are well-worth being published.

What can we expect from analyzing this data set? As mentioned at the very end of the manuscript, the data will not allow for finding a "best" soil moisture measurement sys-

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tem. Much more important is the potential of this comparison study to make us aware of the large spread in the absolute values and the need in the individual calibration of these sensors to the specific soil conditions.

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