

Interactive comment on “Replacing Missing Values in the Standard MISR Radiometric Camera-by-Camera Cloud Mask (RCCM) Data Product” by Michel M. Verstraete et al.

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This paper is well written and makes the valid point that while the number of "missing" pixels in the RCCM data may be small overall that they disproportionately affect areas close to local-mode sites which can be a real concern for people studying those particular regions of the earth.

Two comments:

(a) While the stated fill value of the RCCM is 255, this only occurs for blocks outside the first-block to end-block range. Blocks within the visible range will only use 0

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(NoRetrieval) as a fill value even for the extreme edges of the block that are off the swath-edge. I could not tell from the paper if this affects the algorithm at all.

(b) I could not tell from the paper if the authors considered the affect of sunglint on their filling algorithm. The RCCM is calculated for all available radiances and even though the singlint mask is available in the same product it does not enter into the RCCM calculations so the affected areas will almost always be classified as Cloudy even if they are in fact Clear. The filling-in algorithm as described does not mention checking the glitter mask so it may be biasing the filled-in RCCM pixels towards the Cloudy side because it is accepting "false-cloud-caused-by-glint" data values at face value.

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