

Interactive comment on “Surface soil moisture estimates from AMSR-E observations over an arid area, Northwest China” by L. Wang et al.

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I would like to thank the reviewers for their detailed comments on the paper and the authors for their response. This has in particular already helped to clarify issues related to the methodology. The other critical issue is validation, both of model structure/parameters and of the derived soil moisture data. This is of utmost importance because at the moment it is not yet very clear why this new retrieval model is needed. A revised version can thus only be considered for HESS if the authors significantly extend the analysis and validation.

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