

We thank the reviewers for the time she/he spent in the detailed reading of our work and for recognizing our efforts attempting to improve our manuscript.

Referee #1, Report #1

General Comments

The authors have done a reasonable job of responding to the reviews.

I will again note to the editor that the authors intend to use the journal's editing services to improve the English, so I am not commenting on that aspect.

Specific Comments

1. Near-equivalence of cal and uncal combinations with gauge: Although the focus of the manuscript is on the combination method, I have been concerned that the work was done with IMERG Final, which is not available in near-real time and therefore cannot be used in a future near-real-time application. At least in this revision, it is clear that the bulk ratio adjustments used in the IMERG Final cal do not strongly influence the results compared to uncal when Final is combined with gauge in the approach being studied. This is very good news, because the near-real-time IMERG Early and Late in Version 07 have a climatological version of the gauge adjustment for cal, which cannot provide the same degree of accuracy as the month-to-month adjustment as in Final cal. But, this study seems to show that the cal/uncal distinction is not important when gauges are used. I think adding a comment to this effect when future application is discussed might be useful.

Thanks for the suggestion, we added the following sentence:

LL179-181: "Note the IMERG Final product is considered for demonstrative purposes because such product is not available in near-real time and therefore it cannot be used in an operational context that require near-real-time constrains."

2. IMERG data availability: Should the specific URL for the IMERG data be stated in the data availability section? Version 05 might be hard to point to, so the editor might need to weigh in on whether the authors can just point to the current archive, which is Version 07.

Thanks for the comment: Version 05 is not immediately available for consultation, although as when there was the transition from V04 to V05 they suggested contacting them (<https://gpm.nasa.gov/data-news/gpm-v05-data-announcement-and-imerg>).

3. IMERG version: As an aside: for the purposes of studying the combination scheme, it is fine to use IMERG Version 5 data, but I will point out that Version 07 Final is now available for future work, and I hear Early and Late are moving to Version 07 with the start of June.

Thanks for the suggestion, we added the sentence to detail:

LL182-183: "It is worth noting that in this study IMERG ver. 5 is used while a new version 7 is ready to be issued at the time of the publication of our study. However, the methodological value of the combination approach shown should not be affected by the product version updates, although quantitative checks could merit attention in a future work."

Referee #2, Report #2

For final publication, the manuscript should be:
accepted as is

Thank you