This manuscript performs a detailed intercomparison between top-of-atmosphere albedo products derived from two different data sources: the EPIC instrument aboard the DSCOVR platform, and the CERES mission. The paper looks at long-term trends in albedo from these two products, finding that there are statistically-significant decreases in albedo in both quantities, and that, in recent years, albedo decreases are accelerating. Additionally, the paper analyzes albedo at different wavelengths and explores seasonal and diel features of albedo, which is enabled by the location (around L1) and viewing capabilities (mostly daylit portion of Earth) of EPIC from the DSCOVR platform.

Overall, there is substantial information about albedo intercomparisons between products from two different missions, as well as the spectral and temporal breakdowns of albedo to make this manuscript compelling and potentially appropriate for publication. It is important for the scientific community to be aware that top-of-atmosphere, planetary-averaged albedo observations show that there are negative, and statistically-significant trends in this quantity. Furthermore, the independent findings from both EPIC and CERES that this quantity has been decreasing provide the Earth Radiation Budget community a high degree of confidence that albedo has been, in fact, decreasing. While previous assessments have intercompared different CERES flight models, the independent validation of CERES with EPIC presents far stronger independent validation that a validation across different CERES flight models. The spectral and temporal features from EPIC are also key for the scientific community that studies albedo.

At the same time, major revisions should be performed to address several issues in the current manuscript.

First, the trend analysis needs to include confidence intervals, and the figures need to display such information. Performing trend analysis with end-points at different months, or over just a few years, can be quite problematic unless large confidence intervals are shown that reflect what is and is not significant.

An additional method of trend analysis has now been included, MLR (Multivariate Linear Regression) that deseasonalized the counts per second data and derives the linear trend and error estimates (see Fig.16). The larger decreases in and O_2 B- and A-band channels 688 and 764 nm, Fig. 16, compared to their adjacent channels 680 and

780 nm suggests decreasing cloud cover or long-term decreases in average cloud height.

Second, the authors need to analyze the extent to which trends in atmospheric quantities in the near-infrared may be impacting the albedo products derived from EPIC in ways that differ from how those quantities impact albedo products derived from CERES. For example, water vapor absorption in the NIR can impact albedo, and increasing water vapor would lead to decreasing albedo, though EPIC measurements over spectral intervals mostly in the visible, are insensitive to these effects. The CERES instrument does measure across the near-infrared water vapor absorption bands, however. The authors need to show that water vapor trends either can or cannot explain the differences between EPIC and CERES albedo recovery since 2024. The authors also need to discuss what else in the near-infrared that are missing from EPIC measurements that could impact their EPIC time-series.

The broadband albedo measurement of CERES 300 to 5000 nm are not directly comparable in magnitude to EPIC narrow-band measurements 317.5 to 780 nm. Our trend analysis for the UV, visible, and near-IR channels is based on the observed reflected irradiance in counts per second converted by a constant multiplier into Lambertian albedo, just a change in units. Trends derived from SEV corrected counts per second and Lambertian albedo are identical. Since the reflected irradiance from the Earth is dominated by the visible channels, both CERES and EPIC should see a decrease in albedo, which they do. Because of the difference in measurements as detailed by the referee, the magnitude of the derived albedo will be different and the long-term changes will be different. But both measurements show an accelerating decrease in Earth reflectivity in the 2021 to 2026 period.

Third, the authors need to discuss the shared product development infrastructure between EPIC and CERES reflected shortwave radiation products. The authors cite various papers that discuss how CERES data and product processing pipelines are used to derive EPIC reflected shortwave radiation products, so the readers need to be aware of just how independent the EPIC and CERES products are from each other.

A summary of the complicated multi-instrument CERES data is given on Page 4. This compares with the very simple direct measurements of the daily global average of

EPIC counts per second of the illuminated Earth disk. The small missing portion of the Earth disk adds a cyclic component to the time series that is removed in the deseasonalized trend analysis. Two methods of trend analysis, Lowess and MLR, are compared and shown to be identical. The MLR method gives error estimates.

Finally, the authors need to either discuss about the implications of these albedo trends for the Earth's radiation budget and energy imbalance, which they indicate in their abstract as important, or remove that language from the manuscript.

We have changed the abstract sentence related to energy balance by saying, "Both EPIC and CERES albedo data suggest that the accelerating reduced Earth reflection of sunlight back to space, mostly from clouds, is enhancing the amount of solar energy reaching the Earth's surface." Although not part of this paper, the CERES long wavelength IR data shows an increase in outgoing heat from the Earth that may approximately balance the increased solar energy input.

On a minor note, the paper's plain language summary needs to describe what CERES actually is to a reader who has not heard of this mission.

Added: CERES data are obtained from multiple satellites over its 26-year observation period and use models of the Earth's surface reflectivity. EPIC obtains a daily average of detector counts per second of the Sun illuminated Earth disk.

Thank you for your thoughtful comments. In summary, we now include an additional year's worth of data for both EPIC and CERES, we show the deseasonalized time series, slopes of the Lowess fits, and the formal trend analysis with error estimates for each EPIC wavelength band as well as the summation of the solar flux and FWHM weighted time series. The trend analysis is now performed on deseasonalized time series that have been corrected for small changes in filter transmission. We have added explicit corrections for the changing observing angle of EPIC from the Earth 12.36^{o} to 2^{o}. Major text changes are marked in green.