

## V.5. The energy balance

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Lake Titicaca is a unique example of a large, deep, tropical lake (between latitudes 15°25 and 16°35 south) located at 3810 m altitude. A priori one might think that this high altitude location may confer a special type of thermal regulation upon it. The various studies that have been carried out on this subject (Kessler, 1970; Carmouze *et al.*, 1983; Richerson *et al.*, 1977 and Taylor and Aquize Jaen, 1984) provide:

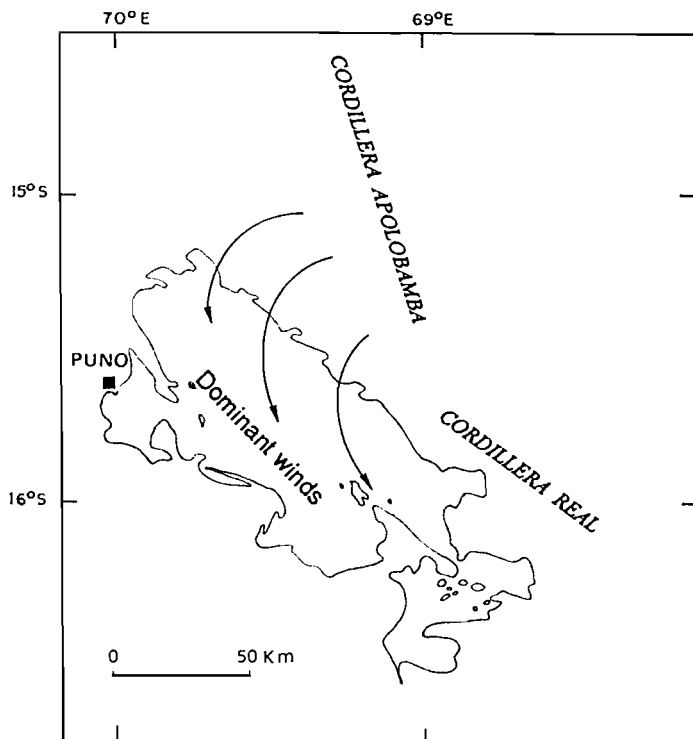
- 1) a better understanding of the micro-climate created by the lake on the surrounding region,
- 2) a definition of the factors which control the temperature of the lake and its thermal stratification,
- 3) an estimate of the rate of evaporation which is one of the terms of the hydrological balance.

The energy balance of the water body contains two terms which should balance. The first is the algebraic sum of two components: the short wavelength radiation balance,  $Q_S$ , and the long wavelength radiation balance,  $Q_T$ . The second term represents the exchanges by conduction within the water mass  $Q_L$ , by convection at the water atmosphere interface  $Q_C$ , and by evaporation,  $Q_E$ .

The total balance is represented by:

$$Q_s + Q_T = Q_c + Q_L \quad (1)$$

The heat provided by inputs from rainfall and rivers and thermal phenomena associated with biogeochemical reactions, convection through the lake bed and geothermal energy are ignored. These various heat flows are closely related to one another. The thermal balance is subjected to the external forcing factors of solar radiation and the state of the atmosphere (temperature, air humidity, cloud cover, wind speed, etc.), the latter also being influenced by the thermal response of the water body itself, that is to say the microclimate it creates. In the final analysis, it is the water temperature (or the total heat content of the lake) which adopts a value so that the sum of the terms of the energy balance tends towards zero. The water temperature represents one of the main readjustment factors influencing the long wave-



*Figure 1.* Location of Lake Titicaca and the Puno meteorological station. The dominant winds are indicated.

length radiation emitted by the lake, the evaporation and the thermal convection.

Because the solar radiation and the atmospheric conditions vary continuously on a daily, seasonal and annual basis, a succession of energy balances tends to become established at the water-atmosphere interface and within the water mass. The effect of changes in the inputs and outputs of energy at these levels, is either to draw in energy from the environment or to release energy into it, leading to changes in the total quantity of heat stored and its distribution within the lake.

In this chapter we will describe the exchanges occurring at the water-atmosphere interface and their consequences on the changes in the heat reserves of the lake. The vertical distribution of these reserves reflected in the thermal stratification is described in Chapter V.4.

Any hydrological or energy balance is typified by the period chosen. The balance that is to be described is based on meteorological data recorded at Puno (Peru) between 1954 and 1987 and temperature data in the Lago Grande collected between 1976 and 1979. It should be noted that the Puno meteorological station is exposed to the dominant winds (Fig. 1). These data

are insufficient on a small time-scale for analysis of diurnal changes, and refer to too short a time period for annual variations in energy flux to be evaluated. Nevertheless, a monthly energy balance can be drawn up.

### Radiation balance within the lake

#### *Solar radiation absorbed at short wavelengths*

The total solar radiation, which represents the light energy from direct and diffuse solar radiation falling on a horizontal surface, can be easily calculated in relation to the latitude of the site of observation and the state of the overlying atmospheric layer.

We have used the method of calculation developed by Perrin de Brichambaut and Lamboley (1968). These workers start with the daily total of solar radiation incident at the top of the earth's atmosphere,  $G_0$ , averaged for each month, and then calculate the solar radiation at the earth's surface in fine weather,  $G_{\max}$ . This calculation requires that a certain number of assumptions be made relating to the altitude, the transparency of the atmosphere, the quantities of condensable water vapour and ozone. The following assumptions were made in the calculation of  $G_{\max}$ : atmospheric pressure,  $P = 1000$  mb; quantity of condensable water vapour,  $w = \text{cm}$ , coefficient of atmospheric transparency  $B = 0.07$ .

At  $15^\circ\text{S}$ , the latitude of Lake Titicaca, the values for total incident radiation at sea level in  $\text{J cm}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$  are:

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
$G_{\max}$	3200	3125	2950	2650	2250	2075	2125	2375	2750	3050	3200	3250

Corrections need to be made to take into account the true environmental conditions. At the altitude of the lake (3810 m) the total radiation must be increased by 4% just because of decreased scattering from gas molecules (1% per 1000 m altitude). The quantity of condensable water vapour,  $w$ , was determined from the water vapour pressure at the lake's surface,  $f_a$ , using Hann's formula:

$$w \text{ (cm)} = 0.17 \times f_a \text{ (mb)} \quad (2)$$

$f_a$  being on average equal to 5.8 mb and  $w \approx 1$  cm. This value introduces a correction of +3%. The transparency coefficient,  $B$ , which defines the quantity of aerosols contained in the column of atmosphere above the observation point is of the order of 0.025 for a pure atmosphere. This factor decreases with altitude according to the formula  $B_p = B \times P/1000$ , where  $P$  = the atmospheric pressure in mb. At Lake Titicaca this value must be close to 0.015. The influence of  $B$  on  $G_{\max}$  is slight, because the decrease in direct radiation

is partially compensated by an increase in diffuse radiation. However, because of the effect of scattering of solar radiation by the water body, this influence is indirectly increased. For an albedo of water close to 0.07 and  $B = 0.015$ , according to Perrin de Brichambaut and Lamboley,  $G_{\max}$  must be increased by +6%. In total for Lake Titicaca, the values of  $G_{\max}$  must then be increased by 13%.

A figure for total mean radiation,  $G$ , is derived from the corrected values, taking into account the duration of sunshine. To do this Perrin de Brichambaut and Lamboley have drawn up a table of correspondence between the proportion of sunshine hours (i.e. the ratio between the mean measured hours of sunshine,  $S$ , and the maximum theoretical sunshine hours,  $S_{\max}$ , for continuous fine weather) and the ratio  $G/G_{\max}$ , based on Angström's formula:

$$G/G_{\max} = 0.76 \times S/S_{\max} + 0.24$$

$S/S_{\max}$	0	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0
$G/G_{\max}$	0.24	0.42	0.58	0.65	0.73	0.86	1.0

The values of  $G$  have thus been calculated from sunshine duration data recorded at Puno (Table 1).

Part of the solar radiation,  $G$ , is dispersed in all directions by reflection and scattering from the water body surface. This fraction, or albedo, is close to 0.07 in the case of a lake. The energy absorbed by Lake Titicaca in the form of short wavelength radiation can therefore be estimated as:  $Q_s = G(1 - 0.07)$ .

The values obtained vary between  $2628 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in October and  $1864 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in June, the mean annual value being  $2190 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  (Fig. 2).

#### *Long wavelength radiation from the earth*

This radiation includes two components of long wavelength radiation; one is the radiation emitted by the water body and the other the radiation emitted by the atmosphere away from the lake, both representing losses of energy for the lake.

#### *Emission from the lake*

Water has a behaviour close to that of a black body. The energy emitted by the lake is estimated from the Stefan-Boltzmann equation:

$$Ml = \epsilon \times \sigma \times T_e^4 \quad (3)$$

Table 1. Monthly means for: maximum and minimum air temperatures near the water body  $\Theta_{a\text{ moy}}$ ,  $\Theta_{a\text{ max}}$ ,  $\Theta_{a\text{ min}}$ ; surface water temperature of the lake  $\Theta_c$ ; partial pressure of water vapour 1 m above the water body,  $f_a$ ; saturation pressure of water vapour at the temperature  $\Theta$ ,  $F_c$ ; atmospheric pressure,  $P$ ; proportion of sunshine hours,  $S/S_{\text{max}}$ ; cloud cover,  $N$  and the wind speed at 2 m above the ground,  $U$ , from daily data recorded at Puno between 1964 and 1978, with the exception of  $\Theta_c$ , which come from measurements made in the Lago Grande in 1977 to 1979. (1)  $\Theta_{a\text{ moy}}$  was estimated from  $\Theta_{a\text{ max}}$  and  $\Theta_{a\text{ min}}$  taking into account relative lengths of night and day during the course of the year.

$\theta_{a\text{ max}}$ in °C	14.5	14.2	14.1	14.3	13.7	13.2	13.0	13.8	14.3	15.6	15.9	15.1	–
$\theta_{a\text{ min}}$ in °C	5.0	5.2	4.8	3.4	1.0	–0.9	–1.3	0.2	2.0	3.2	4.0	4.8	–
$\theta_{a\text{ mean}}$ in °C (1)	9.95	9.77	9.33	8.44	6.71	5.26	5.07	6.43	7.90	9.4	10.10	10.15	8.21
$\theta_c$ in °C	13.85	14.3	14.35	13.85	13.0	12.0	11.5	11.25	11.75	12.9	13.35	13.85	13.0
$f_a$ in num.	7.5	7.9	7.7	6.5	4.9	4.0	4.0	4.6	5.4	5.5	5.9	6.8	5.89
$F_c$ in num.	15.90	16.34	16.40	15.90	15.02	14.06	13.60	13.38	13.82	14.06	15.34	15.90	15.05
$P$ in num.	646	646.1	646.7	647.1	647.1	646.7	646.5	646.3	646.3	645.7	645.4	645.4	646.2
$S$ in %	44	45	54	72	80	83	80	75	74	66	52	67.5	
$\bar{S}$ max													
$N$ in octets	6.9	6.7	6.0	4.4	3.1	2.5	2.4	3.0	4.0	4.6	5.4	6.3	4.5
$U$ in $\text{m s}^{-1}$	1.14	1.03	0.96	0.95	0.97	1.08	1.06	1.23	1.32	1.42	1.39	1.28	1.15

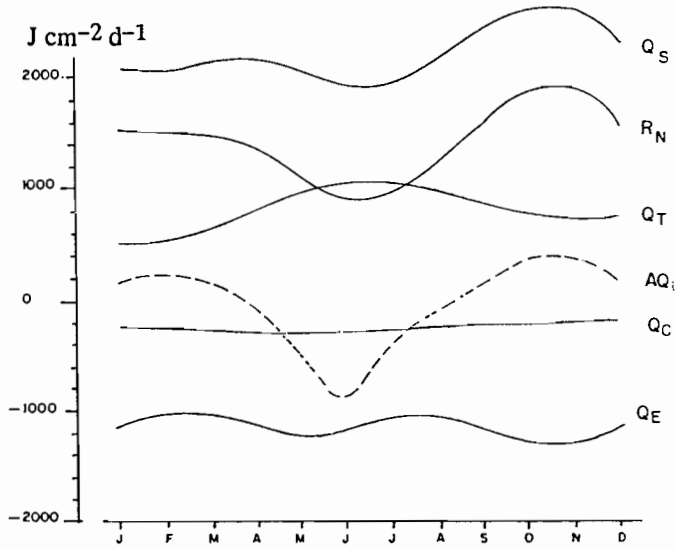


Figure 2. Mean monthly values of components of the Lake Titicaca energy balance expressed in  $\text{J cm}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ .

$Q_S$  = short wavelength solar radiation absorbed

$Q_T$  = long wavelength radiation from the lake

$Q_N = Q_S - Q_T$  = radiation balance

$Q_E$  = evaporation losses

$Q_C$  = losses by conduction

Mean monthly changes in the heat content of the lake, expressed in  $\text{J cm}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ :  $\delta Q_L$

Where  $\epsilon$  = the emissivity of water = 0.97;  $\sigma$  = the Stefan-Boltzmann constant =  $4.9 \times 10 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4} \text{ d}^{-1}$  and  $T_e$  = the surface water temperature in °Kelvin.

The mean monthly values of MI calculated from the values of  $\Theta_e$ , taken from Table 1, vary between  $-3240 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$  in March and  $-3102 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$  in August; the mean annual value being  $-3181 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ .

#### *Atmospheric radiation under clear skies*

This is the most difficult to estimate term in the radiation balance. Among the various formulae and graphical solutions used to estimate this term, we have chosen that of Brunt, which is statistically valid in the case of clear skies. This formula considers the emission of the atmosphere to be that of a black body at the air temperature at ground level, corrected by a factor taking into account the partial pressure of water vapour at ground level, since this plays a major role in the absorption and re-emission of terrestrial radiation.

$$Ma = \epsilon \times \sigma \times Ta^4(a + b \times \sqrt{fa}) \quad (4)$$

Where:  $Ma$  = the energy emission by the atmosphere towards the lake in  $J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$ ;  $\epsilon$  = the emissivity of the atmosphere;  $\sigma$  = the Stefan-Boltzmann constant;  $Ta$  = the temperature of the air at ground level in  $^{\circ}K$ , and  $fa$  = the water vapour pressure at ground level in mb. The values of the constants  $a$  and  $b$  are rather uncertain. We have used the values recommended by M. and R. Berliande (*in* Ivanoff, 1975):  $a = 0.61$  and  $b = 0.051$ .

The mean monthly values of  $Ma$  were thus calculated from the  $\Theta a$  and  $Fa$  data in Table 1.  $Ma$  varies from  $-2288\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  in February to  $-2021\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  in July, the mean value being  $-2179\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  (Table 2).

### *The long wavelength terrestrial radiation balance*

In fine weather, the terrestrial radiation balance  $Q_{T_0}$  is equal to  $Ma - Ml$ . This value is reduced under cloudy conditions because the radiation by the atmosphere increases the greater the cloud cover and the lower the cloud ceiling.

Among the various proposed empirical formulae relating the mean value for terrestrial radiation under cloudy conditions,  $Q_T$ , to that of the mean value under clear skies  $Q_{T_0}$  and to cloud cover  $N$ , we have chosen that of Berliande (*in* Ivanoff, 1975):  $Q_T = Q_{T_0} (1 - c \cdot Nm)$ , where  $m = 1.75$  and  $c = 0.57$  (value adopted for latitude  $15^{\circ}S$ ). Values for cloud cover in octets,  $N$ , from Table 1, have been rescaled from 0 to 1.

The long wavelength radiation balance for each month calculated using this method shows that there is a loss of energy which is at a maximum in June ( $-1025\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$ ) and a minimum in January ( $-518\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$ ), the mean loss over the year being  $-782\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  (Table 2, Fig. 2).

### *The radiation balance*

The radiation balance,  $R_N$ , which is the quantity of energy available, is equal to the difference between  $Q_S$  and  $Q_T$ . It varies from  $839\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  in June to  $1903\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  in November, the mean value over the whole year being  $1409\ J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  (Fig. 2).

### **The heat content of the lake, evaporation, conduction**

The quantity of energy in the form of radiation available at the lake surface determines the exchanges of energy between the water and atmosphere by evaporation,  $Q_E$ , and by thermal convection,  $Q_C$ , and within the water itself

by changes in the energy content of the lake,  $\delta Q_L$ , according to the following equation:

$$R = \delta Q_L + Q_c + Q_E$$

The terms of this equation, including the monthly evaporation rates,  $E$ , will be calculated from values of  $Q_E$  and we will propose a semi-empirical formula for the estimation of  $E$ .

### *Changes in the heat stored in the lake*

The heat content of the lake per unit area has been calculated as follows: the lake was divided into layers of equal depth in which the heat content was calculated. This content is equal to the product of the proportional area that each layer represents in terms of the total lake area, the thickness of the layer and its mean temperature. The sum of values for each layer gives the total quantity of heat contained in the lake (Dussard, 1966).

The calculation was carried out using temperature profiles that we recorded in the Lago Grande from 1977 to 1979 and the bathymetric profile drawn up for the lake by Boulangé and Aquize Jaen (1981).

After estimating the quantities of heat stored in the lake,  $Q_L$ , in each month, the changes from month to month  $\delta Q_L$  were calculated (Tables 2 and 3, Fig. 3). The lake has a maximum loss of heat in June of  $667 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  and a maximum heat gain in October of  $378 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ . It should be noted that the maximum monthly change in heat reserves of the lake is of the order of  $50 \times 10^3 \text{ J month}^{-1}$  and only represents 8% of the mean annual value of the reserves.

It is not easy to compare the changes in heat content over the course of a year from one lake to another, since these changes depend not only on the climatic conditions of the region, but also on the morphology of the lake and of its catchment. To overcome this difficulty, Taylor and Aquize Jaen (1986) have proposed a dimensionless index,  $S$ , which they call the stored heat flux:

$$S = \sigma S / \beta / T$$

Where:  $\sigma S$  = standardised monthly changes in stored heat.  $\beta$  = the difference between the maximum and minimum monthly values of stored heat  $T$  = the time (months) between the month with the lowest heat content and that with the highest content. From the data in Table 3:  $\sigma S = 10\,417 \text{ J cm}^{-2}$ ;  $\beta = 50\,995 \text{ J cm}^{-2}$  and  $T = 8$  months; from which  $S = 1.63$ .

Taylor and Aquize Jaen (1984) from their own data and those of Richerson *et al.* (1977), calculated values of 1.45 and 1.54, respectively, and noted that values normally found in lakes in temperate regions are lower, of the order



Table 2. Components of the mean monthly energy balance within the Lago Grande. The results are expressed in  $J\ cm^{-2}\ d^{-1}$ .  $Q_s$  = solar energy absorbed;  $M_L$  = energy emitted by the lake surface;  $M_a$  = energy emitted by the atmosphere towards the lake under clear skies;  $Q_T$  = quantity of heat lost by terrestrial radiation;  $R_n$  = radiation balance;  $\delta QL$  = changes in the heat content of the lake.  $Q_E$  = heat lost by evaporation;  $Q_C$  = heat lost by turbulent convection. B = Bowen ratio.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Annual mean
$Q_s$	2.070	2.046	2.132	2.171	2.025	1.864	1.947	2.142	2.399	2.628	2.581	2.296	2.190
$M_L$	-3.215	-3.236	-3.240	-3.215	-3.177	-3.135	-3.114	-3.102	-3.122	-3.148	-3.194	-3.215	-3.181
$M_a$	2.290	2.288	2.267	2.203	2.100	2.027	2.021	2.083	2.155	2.206	2.243	2.268	2.179
$Q_T$	-518	-552	-637	-809	-956	-1.025	-1.016	-914	-803	-737	-678	-741	-782
$R_n$	1.552	1.494	1.494	1.361	1.065	839	930	1.228	1.596	1.890	1.903	1.554	1.409
$\Delta Q_L$	190	232	182	-53	-478	-667	-399	-73	169	378	349	182	-
B	0.192	0.226	0.243	0.241	0.259	0.258	0.282	0.227	0.190	0.155	0.145	0.168	0.215
$Q_E$	-1.142	-1.029	-1.055	-1.139	-1.225	-1.197	-1.036	-1.060	-1.199	-1.309	-1.357	-1.174	-1.160
$Q_C$	-219	-232	-256	-274	-317	-309	-292	-240	-228	-203	-197	-197	-248

Table 3. Heat content of the Lago Grande in the first month,  $Q_L$ , and the mean monthly changes  $\delta Q_L$ . The results are expressed in  $J\ cm^{-2}$ . (Note that the monthly values of  $\delta Q_L$  are expressed in mean daily values for each month in Table 2).

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
$Q_L$	613.310	619.205	625.750	631.395	629.815	615.015	595.015	582.650	580.400	585.475	597.190	607.665
$\Delta Q_L$	5.895	6.545	5.645	-1.580	-14.800	-20.000	-12.370	-2.250	5.075	11.715	10.475	5.645

of 1.15, thus underlining the wider range of changes in heat content in tropical lakes.

*Exchanges by evaporation and convection*

Exchanges by evaporation and convection are difficult to estimate. Various semi-empirical formulae exist, but one of the best ways of estimating them is to derive the sum of their values from the energy balance, and then calculate their separate values from Bowen’s ratio, B. This ratio reflects the fact that the coefficients of the transfers of water vapour and of heat at the air-water interface are very close to another.

$$B = Q_c/Q_E = C_p.P/0.621.L \times \Theta_e - \Theta_a/F_e - f_a$$

Where:  $\Theta_a$  = the air temperature;  $\Theta_e$  = the water temperature;  $C_p$  = the specific heat capacity of air at atmospheric pressure =  $1005\ J\ g^{-1}$ ;  $L$  = the latent heat of evaporation of water in  $J\ g^{-1}$  (This is a function of the surface water temperature  $\Theta_e$ :  $L = 2495 - 2.38\ \Theta_e$ );  $P$  = the atmospheric pressure;  $F_e$  = the partial pressure of water vapour at saturation at the temperature  $\Theta_e$  and  $f_a$  = the actual pressure of water vapour in the air just above the lake’s surface.

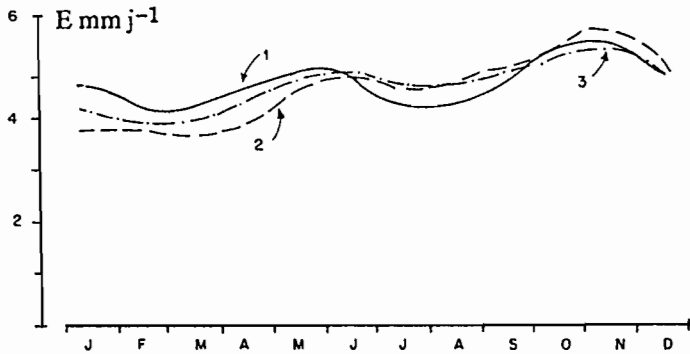


Figure 3. Mean monthly values for evaporation rates from Lake Titicaca in  $mm\ d^{-1}$ .  
 (1) Curve obtained from the energy balance  
 (2) Curve derived from the relationship  $E = 0.477 (F_e - f_a) U_{2m}$   
 (3) Curve derived from the relationship  $E = 0.17 + U_m (F_e - f_a)$   
 E being the mean monthly evaporation rate in  $mm\ d^{-1}$ ,  $F_e - f_a$  the humidity deficit in mb and  $U_{2m}$  the wind speed 2 m above ground level in  $m\ s^{-1}$ .

The mean monthly values of  $Q_E + Q_C$  were thus calculated from equation (1) and those of B from data presented in Table 1. The separate values of  $Q_E$  and  $Q_C$  (Table 2) were obtained from equation (5).

Losses by evaporation range from  $-1357 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in November to  $-1029 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in February and those by turbulent convection from  $-309 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in June to  $-197 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in November (Fig. 2).

*Evaporation rates derived from the energy balance, semi-empirical formulae*

The mean monthly evaporation rate, E, was derived from the relationship  $E = Q_E/L$ ; where E is expressed in  $\text{cm d}^{-1}$ ;  $Q_E$  in  $\text{J cm}^{-2}$  and L, the latent heat of evaporation in  $\text{J g}^{-1}$ .

The results (Fig. 3) show that the evaporation rates range from  $4.2$  to  $5.3 \text{ mm d}^{-1}$ , the minimum being in May and the maximum in November. The mean annual rate of  $1720 \text{ mm}$  is very close to the value of  $1740 \text{ mm/year}$  obtained from the hydrological balance of the Lago Grande by Carmouze and Aquize Jaen (1981).

Kessler (1970) and Richerson *et al.* (1977) have also calculated rates of evaporation of  $1714$  and  $1900 \text{ mm/year}$ , respectively, from the heat balance and values of  $1480$  and  $1344 \text{ mm/year}$  from the hydrological balance. The most recent estimate made by Taylor and Aquize Jaen (1984) from the heat balance is  $1350 \text{ mm/year}$ .

The semi-empirical formulae which are used to calculate the evaporation rates are mostly derived from the approximate expression for this variable derived from the general aerodynamic model:

$$E = \frac{D_a/A_a \times C_z 0.622/P (F_e - f_a) U_z}{P}$$

Where:  $D_a$  = the coefficient of turbulent diffusion of the atmosphere in the vertical plane;  $A_a$  = the coefficient of turbulent viscosity of the atmosphere in the vertical plane;  $C_z$  = the friction coefficient at distance Z at which the wind speed,  $U_z$ , is measured.

These variables are difficult to measure. Jacobs (1951) chose to determine a mean value for this group of variables by combining the energy balance method giving  $Q_E$  and equation (6):

$$E = Q_E/L = k(F_e - f_a) \cdot U_{6m} \tag{7}$$

Taking the 4 oceanic regions, he obtained values of k varying between extremes of  $0.11$  and  $0.20$  (E being expressed in  $\text{mm d}^{-1}$ , F and f in mb and U in  $\text{m s}^{-1}$  at  $6 \text{ m}$  above the water surface). Using the same method for Lake Titicaca, a mean annual value of k of  $0.477$  was obtained. It should be noted that these values of k are not directly comparable, because for

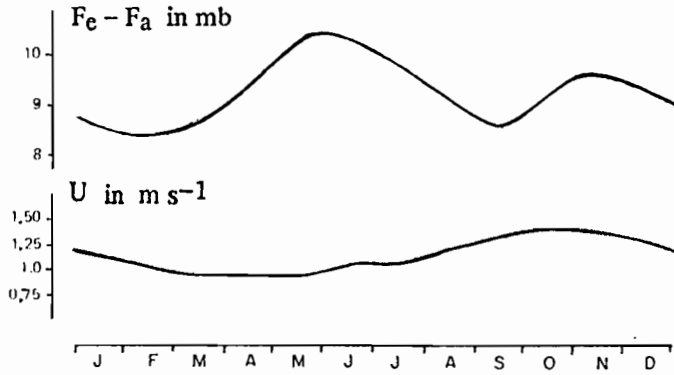


Figure 4. Monthly values for the humidity deficit of the air,  $F_e - f_a$ , at Puno and the wind speed at 2 m above ground level.

Titicaca,  $U$  was measured at 2 m above ground level. Equation (7) thus becomes:

$$E = 0.4777 (F_e - f_a) \cdot U_{2m}$$

The mean monthly evaporation rates were calculated from this equation using the data presented in Table 1. The graph obtained shows wide deviations from that obtained from the energy balance (Fig. 3). The deviations are to a large extent due to the variable  $U$ , because the slope of the monthly evaporation curve given by the balance method (Fig. 3) is close to that of  $F_e - f_a$  and different from that of  $U$  (Fig. 4). To obtain a better agreement between the two methods it is therefore necessary to use formulae giving less weight to the wind factor, such as:  $E = (k_1 + k_2 U_{2m}) \times (F_e - f_a)$ . A satisfactory adjustment was obtained by taking the following values for  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ :

$$k_1 = 0.17, k_2 = 0.30$$

which give

$$E = (0.17 + 0.30 U_{2m}) \times (F_e - f_a) \quad (9) \text{ (Fig. 3)}$$

Note that Laevastu (*in* Ivanoff, 1975) used values of  $k_1 = 0.26$ ,  $k_2 = 0.077$  in oceanic environments. These values are different from ours, but they referred to wind speeds at 10 m above the water surface and not at 2 m as in our case. It is therefore probable that the use of meteorological data from another station around the lake would lead to a change in values of  $k_1$  and  $k_2$ .

### The unusual nature of the energy balance

– Because of its high altitude situation, Lake Titicaca receives 13% greater solar radiation during fine weather than it would receive if it were at sea level. On the other hand, the sunshine duration ( $245 \text{ h month}^{-1}$ ) is not very high; at the same latitude higher values can occur, such as at Lake Chad at  $13^\circ\text{N}$  which has  $288 \text{ h month}^{-1}$ . However, this increase in sunshine only amounts to an increase in solar energy of 3 to 4%. In total, the solar radiation received by Lake Titicaca, with a mean annual value of  $2190 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ , is higher than that received by other environments at approximately the same latitudes.

The seasonal variations in solar radiation are in part attenuated by the fact that in the season when the solar radiation reaching the top of the atmosphere is at its lowest (i.e. June-July-August) the sunshine hours are at their greatest. The between-month variation in incident radiation, which amounts to 42% of the mean value in fine weather, is reduced to 32% because of seasonal changes in cloud cover.

– The losses by terrestrial long wavelength radiation,  $Q_T$ , at the lake surface are greatest when the difference between the surface water temperature,  $\Theta_e$  and the temperature of the overlying air,  $\Theta_a$ , is slight. However, in the case of Lake Titicaca, the difference between  $\Theta_e$  and  $\Theta_a$  (expressed as the daily average) varies between  $3.5^\circ\text{C}$  and  $5^\circ\text{C}$  throughout the year. If the water temperature were to fall to that of the air, the radiation losses would be 20% less. In addition,  $\Theta_e$  and  $\Theta_a$  are on average 10 to  $15^\circ\text{C}$  lower than they would be at sea level at the same latitude. Under the conditions occurring at low altitude, the terrestrial solar radiation losses would be reduced by 10 to 15%.

Overall, at Lake Titicaca, again because of its high altitude, the long wavelength radiation losses are 30 to 35% higher than those which would occur if it were situated at sea level. Seasonal variations in terrestrial radiation are very pronounced, with extreme values differing by + 32% from the annual mean value. These variations are nevertheless attenuated by the fact that the differences in water and air temperatures are greatest when the partial pressure of water vapour is at its lowest in the southern winter, whereas the reverse occurs in summer. The seasonal variations are still much less than the diurnal changes (which are not dealt with in this chapter) due to the wide range of  $\Theta_e$  and especially  $\Theta_a$  over the 24 hours.

– The radiation balance provides the value for the energy available within the water body. In the case of Lake Titicaca, the increase in the gain in short wavelength radiation (ca. 10%), because of its situation at 3800 m altitude, is roughly compensated for by an increase in losses by long wavelength radiation (ca. 30 to 35%). This implies that the sum of the losses by evaporation and conduction is of the same order of magnitude as that recorded in low-altitude lakes.

– The energy losses by evaporation, averaging  $1160 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  over the year, correspond to an evaporation rate of  $1720 \text{ mm year}^{-1}$ . This value is of the same order of magnitude as that recorded in other tropical lakes. It should be recalled that the evaporation rate is mainly a function of the water vapour deficit,  $F_a - f_e$ , and of the wind speed  $U$ .  $F_a - f_e$  is on average 9.16 mb, a relatively high value, although the water and air temperatures are low compared to those occurring at low altitudes. This value is explained by the low relative humidity (the mean annual value of  $f_e = 50\%$ ) and by the fact that the daily mean water temperature is always 4 to  $5^\circ\text{C}$  above that of the air. A simple calculation shows in fact that if the water temperature were reduced to that of the air, the water vapour deficit,  $F_a - f_e$ , would be 5.15 mb, a value that when substituted in formula (8) would lead to a decrease in the evaporation rate of 40 to 45%. The wind speed, which is not very high on average ( $1.15 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  at 2 m above ground level), has nevertheless an effective action in renewing the air mass which would otherwise tend to become saturated on contact with the water, since the temperature gradient at the surface of the water body is such that it leads to the formation of an unstable stratification for most of the time.

The changes in evaporation rates over the year reflect those in the humidity deficit,  $F_a - f_e$ , the wind speed playing a minor role. However, the winds, which are lighter in May-June, tend to reduce the increase in evaporation at this period due to the strong humidity deficit.

– Exchanges by thermal convection represent losses of heat from the lake throughout the year, when the day is taken as the time unit.

The Bowen ratio,  $B$ , is inversely proportional to the atmospheric pressure (see equation (5)). At 3800 m altitude, however, this is only 640 mb, so that the value of  $B$  is 36% lower than what it would be at the normal pressure of 1000 mb. But the relatively low air and water temperatures have the reverse effect. By taking the example of a tropical lake at low altitude with the same difference between the air and water temperatures of  $4.5^\circ\text{C}$ , but with values of around  $26^\circ\text{C}$  and the same relative humidity (50%), it can be seen from formula (4) that  $B$  decreases by 40%. In general, the altitude factor on its own does not systematically favour heat exchanges by evaporation in a lake compared to those by thermal convection and vice versa.

– The last term of the energy balance to be analysed is that of the changes in the heat reserves of the lake provoked by the uneven distribution of solar energy over the course of the year. These changes ( $631 \text{ 500 J cm}^{-2}$  at the end of March against  $580 \text{ 500 J cm}^{-2}$  at the end of August) represent thermal control by the lake since they result from the absorption of excedent solar energy in summer and its restitution in winter, the season of deficit in winter, thus attenuating the fluctuations caused by the other energy fluxes.

Thermal regulation is a function of the amplitude of seasonal changes in solar radiation, directly related to the latitude of the site, and also of the

capacities of the lake itself to exchange heat energy with the atmosphere. This capacity is related to the depth of the water column involved in heat exchanges at different seasons. In deep lakes the transport of heat with depth depends on the intensity of vertical mixing, whereas in shallow lakes it is limited by the depth of the water body itself. So, at the same latitude, deeper lakes have a greater degree of thermal regulation. The intensity of vertical mixing is a function of a large number of factors including the morphology of the site, the wind speed and fetch, the horizontal circulation of water, Coriolis force and the resistance to mixing when there is a vertical density gradient (thermal or chemical stratification). These factors will not be analysed here, but in order to determine the reasons for the uniqueness of Lake Titicaca, it is interesting to demonstrate the fact that a high altitude tropical lake has a greater heat regulation than that of a low-altitude tropical lake under the same conditions. In fact, if one considers the density gradients created by temperature gradients, it takes twice as much mechanical energy to mix two masses of water, one at 24°C and the other at 26°C (water temperatures typical of low-altitude tropical lakes) than to mix two water masses at 11.5°C and 13.5°C (water temperatures in Lake Titicaca). In other words, all things being equal, the resistance to thermal diffusion created by the penetration of the temperature front is half as great in Lake Titicaca than it would be at sea level at the same latitude, the thermal regulation is thus increased and the micro-climate created by the lake is reinforced.

## **Conclusions**

The analysis of the various terms of Lake Titicaca's energy balance has enabled the following points to be elucidated:

- the high altitude has the effect of increasing the solar radiation by 10 to 15% by inducing decreases in atmospheric transparency, scattering by gas molecules and in the thickness of condensable water vapour traversed. Because of this, the radiation emitted by the atmosphere is reduced, increasing the losses of long wavelength radiation by 30 to 35%. The sum of these opposing effects is that the energy balance, or the energy available at the lake's surface is of the same order of magnitude as for other lakes at the same latitude, but at low altitudes ( $1400$  to  $1450 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ).
- on an annual basis, the heat exchanges between the lake and the atmosphere by convection and evaporation are approximately equal to the energy balance. As a result, they have about the same value as those recorded at sea level at the same latitude (mean values: evaporation =  $1160 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ , thermal convection =  $248 \text{ J cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ). Because of the altitude, a decrease in evaporation losses might have been expected, because for the same quantity of water vapour, the deficit in the partial pressure of water vapour (to which evaporation is directly proportional) decreases with increasing air and water temperatures. A decrease in losses

by convection may also have been expected since these are directly proportional to atmospheric pressure. In practice, because of a major difference between the air and water temperatures (4 to 5°C), which maintains the local atmospheric circulation for most of the year (dominance of cold winds coming from the Western Cordillera), the thermal exchanges over a year are comparable with those recorded at sea level at the same latitude.

- changes over the course of the year in the heat content of Lake Titicaca, which result from seasonal disequilibria between the inputs and losses of energy within the water body, are very pronounced. As we have seen this is due to its great depth (100 m average) and the low water temperatures for a tropical lake (11–14°C).

The heat gains reach a maximum in October and November (378 and 349 J cm<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) whereas the losses are greatest in June (-667 J cm<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>). Taking into account its size (8448 km<sup>2</sup>), the lake releases 16.9 × 10<sup>17</sup> J of energy during the cooling period in the month of June alone and absorbs 18.7 × 10<sup>17</sup> J during the warming period between October and November. These figures give some idea of the heat regulation of Lake Titicaca and of the major thermoregulatory role that it has on the surrounding environment (Boulangé and Aquize Jaen, 1981). These workers showed that the mean annual temperature of the air and the maximum and minimum temperature values become lower the further from the lake shore. As an example, the mean annual temperature at Puno on the lake shore is 8.5°C compared to 6.5°C at Chuquibambilla 60 km to the north-west and the annual temperature range is 12°C at Puno compared to 18°C at Chuquibambilla.



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