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Glacial Lake Assisted Melting (GLAM)



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A few key questions

How fast are Himalayan glacial lakes forming and growing?

How is suspended sediment implicated in radiative transfer, mass and energy balance of lakes and glaciers?

What is the energy and mass balance of glacial lakes and lakes' effects on glacier mass balance?

GLAM- Lakes (empirical- Shugar leads)

GLAM- Ice Flow (empirical-Haritashya leads)

GLAM- Icebergs (empirical-Watson leads)

GLAM- BioLith RT (numerical-Furfaro/Schiassi lead)

Today mostly this

GLAM- LITE (Lake, Icemass, and Thermal Energy Balance)(analytical- Kargel leads)

Spatio-temporal glacial lake mapping using Google Earth Engine

Dan H Shugar & Aaron Burr

Goal: map only glacial lakes accurately, automatically



Goal: map only glacial lakes accurately, automatically



Automated & manual comparison at Imja Tsho



- Generally good fit between manual (blue) and automated digitizing (black).
- Some errors due to brash ice, bergy bits, few cloud-free scenes in given year, etc.
- Next steps incorporate ASTER, make code elegant so works across larger area through time.





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April thaw

0°C, thin melting ice

 $0^{\circ}C 4^{\circ}C$

Uniform 4°C water





Uniform 4°C water









Wind-driven iceberg motion and forced convection mixes the lake down to iceberg roots

Active mixing and thermally cycled layer (due to iceberg motion and seasonal cycle)

4-degree bottom water, stable stratification



Thulagi Glacier/Lake





Thulagi Lake iceberg, area and above-surface volume, from drone imagery, SfM



Iceberg melting, figure of merit, I:

Thulagi Lake iceberg melting from the Sep 7-9 event. Ice mostly melted after 60 days. The intial estimated 544,000 m³ of calved ice = 4.99 x 10⁸ kg would require 333,000 J/kg to melt = 1.66 x 10¹⁴ J.

How plausible is it that so much ice could melt in a few weeks?

MODEL 1: Heat comes from the deep lake thermal reservoir.

(1) Assume reservoir temperature = 4 °C.

(2) Reservoir volume = $6.75 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^3 = 6.75 \times 10^{10} \text{ kg} = 6.75 \times 10^{13} \text{ g}$.

(3) Energy reservoir (above 0° C) = 2.7 x 10^{14} Cal = 1.13 x 10^{15} J.

(4) CONCLUSION: The deep lake thermal reservoir is a factor of 7 greater than the energy needed to melt all that ice.

Iceberg melting, figure of merit, II:

Thulagi Lake iceberg melting from the Sep 7-9 event. Ice mostly melted after 60 days. The intial estimated 544,000 m³ of calved ice = 4.99 x 10⁸ kg would require 333,000 J/kg to melt = 1.66 x 10¹⁴ J.

How plausible is it that so much ice could melt in a few weeks?

MODEL 2: Heat comes from concurrent solar heating.

(1) Thulagi Lake area = $900,000 \text{ m}^2$.

(2) Assume 450 W/m² absorption for 4 hours daily for 60 days.

(3) Energy aborption = $3.1 \times 10^{14} \text{ J}$.

(4) CONCLUSION: Concurrent solar heating would add twice as much energy as needed to melt all the calved ice.

So there is plenty energy to melt the ice.

Where does the rest of the energy go?

So there is plenty energy to melt the ice.

Where does the rest of the energy go?

WE WILL TELL YOU NEXT YEAR!









Glacier Lake Assisted Melting (GLAM)

GLAM BioLith RT

Lakes Bio-Lithological Optical/RT Modeling, Water Components Concentration Retrieval/Mapping Effort, and Lake Temperature Distribution Simulations

Overview

- IOPs, Physics occuring in the water: Absorption coefficient, backscattering coefficient, extinction coefficient, and single scattering albedo are Inherent Optical Properties (IOPs) of a water body. They depend only on the medium composition
- AOPs, what a satellite sees: Radiance reflectance, remote sensing reflectance, and irradiance reflectance are Apparent Optical Properties (AOPs) of a water system. They also depend on the incoming light's geometric distribution
- Stuff in the water (as well as the water itself): Physical components such as Phytoplankton, detritus, colored dissolved organic matter, and inorganic particles that are present in the water body influence the IOPs; and hence the AOPs of the water column
- Water components concentrations, IOPs, and AOPs are related through mathematical equations called Bio-Lithological Optical/Radiative Transfer (RT) models [1]. This is what we are building.
- This is why we are building it: The Radiative Transfer affects how much and where solar energy is absorbed by the water, hence heating of the lake:

Goals

- Development of Bio-Lithological Optical/RT models for glacier lakes water (forward modeling)
- Validation of Bio-Lithological Optical/RT models via sensitive analysis and in-situ water samples (from Imja lake and Thulagi lake, Himalaya)
- Estimating the concentration of the physical components that are deposited into the lake due to glacier dynamics via Bio-Lithological Optical/RT model inversion (inverse modeling)
- Using the retrieved concentrations to run temperature distribution simulation for the lakes of interest

Forward Modeling



Achievements

- **GLAM BioLith RT**: Matlab code for Bio-Lithological Optical/RT forward and inverse modeling, based on [1,2,3,4]
 - Radiative Heat Transfer Equations (RHTEs): Matlab code for spherically visible irradiance and the temperature distributions in lake water simulations [8]



Coming next

- Water component concentrations retrieval via GLAM-BioLith RT inversion (classical and Bayesian)
- Temperature distribution simulation by using **RHTEs** with retrieved water component concentrations as inputs

References

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