

Comparison of aerodynamic and radiometric surface temperature using precision weighing lysimeters

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ABSTRACT

Radiometric surface temperature (T_s) is commonly used as a surrogate for aerodynamic temperature (T_o) in computing the sensible heat flux term (H) in the energy balance. However, these temperatures may differ by several degrees, leading to possible errors (especially for large H) and their relationship is not well known. Previous researchers have established empirical and semi-empirical parameterizations of the radiometric roughness length (z_{or}) or some related form (e.g., $kB_r^{-1} = \ln[z_{om}/z_{or}]$, where z_{om} is the momentum roughness length). In this paper, we estimated $T_o - T_a$ (where T_a is air temperature at 2 m height) and z_{or} using large, precision weighing lysimeters planted with irrigated alfalfa, irrigated and dryland cotton, and dryland grain sorghum. T_s was measured by infrared thermometers mounted over the lysimeters. No apparent relations were found between ($T_o - T_a$) and ($T_s - T_a$) or between z_{or} (in the kB_r^{-1} form) and meteorological variables or leaf area index (LAI). The kB_r^{-1} parameter appeared to be most influenced by the different surface roughness of each crop type. Using constant kB_r^{-1} values established for each type of surface, the energy balance model showed reasonable agreement with H and LE derived from lysimeter measurements.

Keywords: aerodynamic temperature, radiometric temperature, lysimeters, energy balance, evapotranspiration

1. INTRODUCTION

There is considerable interest in using remotely sensed surface temperature to estimate evapotranspiration (ET), particularly for cropped surfaces, through the energy balance equation. Perhaps the most serious assumption of this method concerns the sensible heat flux term (H), specifically in using radiometric surface temperature as a surrogate for aerodynamic surface temperature. When H is small relative to other components, such as for actively transpiring cropped surfaces where soil background is absent and advective heat input is small, this does not appear to be a significant issue, and good agreement has been reported between measured ET and surface temperature – energy balance models (Hatfield et al., 1984; Reginato et al., 1985; Huband and Monteith, 1986b; Choudhury et al., 1986; Jackson et al., 1987; Moran et al., 1989). Agreement between measured and modeled ET declined, however, when H became a larger component of the energy balance, such as for partial crop cover (Hatfield et al., 1984; Jackson et al., 1987) and dry or water stressed vegetation (Kustas et al., 1989; Kalma and Jupp, 1990), implying that radiometric temperature is not always a good representation for aerodynamic temperature for these surfaces.

A number of studies reported various levels of differences between radiometric and aerodynamic surface temperature (e.g., Huband and Monteith, 1986a; Choudhury et al., 1986; Alves et al., 2000a; 2000b). The definition of aerodynamic temperature itself depends on assumptions about the heat/vapor transport roughness length (z_{oh}), which cannot be measured directly, and is therefore usually assumed to be 0.1 to 0.2 of momentum roughness length (z_{om}), since sensible heat transfer by diffusion is governed by momentum exchange. Momentum roughness length is usually assumed to be proportional to canopy height. Additional assumptions include the shape of the wind and temperature gradient curves, which can be influenced by stability, turbulence, and choice of stability functions, among other parameters (Sun et al., 1999; Mahrt and Vickers, 2004).

Choudhury et al. (1986) compared radiometric and aerodynamic temperatures (derived from lysimeters) for a full cover, non-water-stressed wheat canopy in Phoenix, Arizona. They found they were nearly equal for neutral conditions, but radiometric temperature was greater (less) than aerodynamic temperature for stable (unstable)

conditions. Considering vertical temperature gradients for lapse (unstable) and stable conditions, this implied that the radiometer was effectively viewing the top of the canopy (height h_c), and the location of the virtual source-sink for sensible heat was within the canopy (i.e., at the height of scalar roughness length above the zero plane displacement height d , or $d + z_{oh}$). Despite some differences between temperatures for non-neutral conditions, they showed that inclusion of H using radiometric temperature improved ET estimates over those when H was neglected.

Alves et al. (2000a) reported radiometric temperatures up to 7°C less than aerodynamic temperatures (derived from Bowen ratio measurements in neutral conditions) for full-cover, well-watered winter wheat and iceberg lettuce in the Mediterranean climate of Portugal. They attributed their differing results to possible inaccuracies of lysimeters used in other studies, additive errors in residual methods of estimating sensible heat flux, differences in water stressed conditions, atmospheric buoyancy/stability, and especially to the greater aridity of their location in Portugal (although many of the other studies were conducted around Phoenix, Arizona). However, their crops were drip-irrigated almost daily to the extent that they observed condensation both inside the plant canopies and on the soil surface during daytime hours, indicating saturated air inside the canopy. This would drive the source-sink for sensible and latent heat flux toward the top of the canopy and into view of the radiometer. Alves et al. (2000b), following the suggestion of Wanjura and Upchurch (1996), then showed that under these conditions, radiometric surface temperature could be interpreted as the wet bulb of the surface aerodynamic temperature.

Numerous strategies have been proposed that involve either relating radiometric temperature to aerodynamic temperature, or establishing some radiometric roughness length (denoted z_{or} in this paper) used in the bulk aerodynamic resistance equation that would give the correct H using radiometric temperature, or a combination of both. Chehbouni et al. (1996) found that the ratio of the aerodynamic- and radiometric-air vertical temperature gradients $[(T_o - T_a)/(T_s - T_a)]$ were constant throughout a given day but changed according to leaf area index (LAI) for arid grassland in the Sahel region of West Africa. They were able to correlate a reflectance vegetation index to LAI and parameterize LAI to $T_o - T_a$. They found good agreement with sensible heat flux obtained by coupled multi-source vegetation-hydrologic models and Bowen ratio measurements. Mahrt and Vickers (2004) related aerodynamic and radiometric temperature through a simple parameterization of LAI and incoming solar radiation for bare soil, grass, crops, and forests. When vegetation does not fully cover the soil, more complex approaches to estimate $T_o - T_a$ from T_s are required, such as dual-source models (Crago, 1998; Lhomme et al., 1994), or multi-angle measurements (Chehbouni et al., 2001; Merlin and Chebouni, 2004; Zibognon et al., 2002).

The scalar roughness length (z_{oh}) can be regarded as an additional resistance to momentum transfer (and is therefore less than z_{om}) and is often expressed as (Chamberlain, 1968):

$$kB^{-1} = \ln \left[\frac{z_{om}}{z_{oh}} \right]. \quad (1)$$

The kB^{-1} parameter has been described by simple empirical models and has usually been verified by Bowen ratio or eddy correlation measurements. Kustas et al. (1989; 1994) related kB^{-1} to the product of wind speed and radiometric-air temperature difference $[u(T_s - T_a)]$ over desert brush and semiarid grassland. Similarly, Zhang et al. (1995) used the product of friction velocity (u_*) and radiometric-air temperature difference $[u_*(T_s - T_a)]$ over forest and crops. Qualls and Brutsaert (1996) showed that the spatial distribution of z_{oh} used in Monin-Obukov similarity theory depended largely on LAI for prairie grass and, on a theoretical basis, u_* temporally. It is possible the dependence of z_{oh} on $T_s - T_a$ observed by others may actually be in part due to its dependence on LAI. Lhomme et al. (2000) described a parameterization of B^{-1} in terms of sensor view angle and LAI, and this was used by Suleiman and Crago (2004) to estimate ET of grassland through a dimensionless temperature parameter (instead of the residual energy balance).

The objective of this paper is to test the energy balance equation using ground-based radiometric surface temperatures recorded over large, precision weighing lysimeters for several years of irrigated and dryland full cover crops in the Southern High Plains region of Texas. We will assess what differences, if any, exist between radiometric and aerodynamic surface temperatures, and determine if such differences can be alleviated by a simple kB^{-1} parameterization under the wide range of climatic conditions found at this location.

2. ENERGY BALANCE EQUATIONS

The energy balance equation considers one-dimensional energy flux at the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum and is given as:

$$LE = R_n - G - H \quad (2)$$

where LE is the latent heat flux, R_n is the net radiation at the surface, G is the soil heat flux, and H is the sensible heat flux, all in units of ($W m^{-2}$). The available energy ($R_n - G$) may be measured directly, or estimated by meteorological measurements (Allen et al., 1998), where R_n is mainly a function of incoming solar radiation and humidity and G is a fraction of R_n , or also include reflected and emitted radiation that is spatially-distributed (Jackson et al., 1985).

Sensible heat flux H is given by a temperature gradient-resistance equation,

$$H = -\frac{\rho C_p}{r_a} (T_o - T_a) \quad (3)$$

where ρ is the density of air ($kg m^{-3}$), C_p is the specific heat of air ($=1013 kJ kg^{-1} ^\circ C^{-1}$), T_o and T_a are the aerodynamic surface and air temperatures, respectively ($^\circ C$), and r_a is the bulk aerodynamic resistance for heat and momentum transfer ($s m^{-1}$).

The bulk aerodynamic resistance is

$$r_a = \frac{\ln \left[\frac{z-d}{z_{oh}} \right] - \Psi_h}{ku_*} \quad (4)$$

where z is the reference height above the canopy (in the fully adjusted boundary layer) where temperature and wind speed are measured (m), d is the zero plane displacement (m), z_{oh} is the scalar roughness length for sensible heat transfer (m), Ψ_h is a stability correction function for heat transfer (dimensionless), k is the von Karman ($= 0.41$), and u_* is the friction velocity, given by

$$u_* = \frac{ku}{\ln \left[\frac{z-d}{z_{om}} \right] - \Psi_m} \quad (5)$$

where u is the wind speed ($m s^{-1}$), z_{om} is the roughness height for momentum (m), Ψ_m is the stability correction function for momentum (dimensionless), and all other terms are as defined previously.

The d and z_{om} terms are commonly taken as a fraction of the canopy height for full cover, uniform crops [e.g., 0.67 and 0.123, respectively (Allen et al., 1989; Tolk et al. 1995)]. Perrier (1982) and Pereira et al. (1999) give expressions that account for leaf area index, which we found gave better results than constant values:

$$d = h_c \left[1 - \frac{2}{LAI} \left(1 - e^{-LAI/2} \right) \right] \quad (6)$$

$$z_{om} = h_c e^{-LAI/2} \left(1 - e^{-LAI/2} \right) \quad (7)$$

where h_c is the canopy height (m) and LAI is leaf area index (one side of leaf area per ground area), and equations (6) and (7) are valid for $LAI \geq 0.5$. The z_{oh} term is commonly assumed to be a constant fraction of z_{om} because the former is governed by the latter:

$$z_{oh} = az_{om} \quad (8)$$

For full cover crops, $a = 0.1$ and for tall or partial cover crops, $a = 0.2$ (Monteith, 1973; Campbell, 1977; Brutsaert, 1982; Allen et al., 1989; Jensen et al., 1990). These expressions assume that the vegetation can be reduced to a "big leaf," which is extensive, level, at height $d + z_{oh}$, where all exchanges of sensible at latent heat (vapor) occur (Monteith, 1973). In the case of full cover, non-water stressed vegetation, or low atmospheric demand, the area toward the top of the canopy (between $d + z_{oh}$ and h_c) can also contribute significantly to vapor flux, as demonstrated by Alves et al. (2000a), hence an alternative is to replace z_{oh} with $h_c - d$ in equation (4) (Perrier, 1975). This places the big leaf at the top of the canopy.

The stability correction functions (Ψ_h and Ψ_m) are based on Monin-Obukhov similarity theory (Monin and Obukhov, 1954). For neutral conditions, $\Psi_h = \Psi_m = 0$. For stable conditions, expressions for Ψ_h and Ψ_m are (Webb, 1970):

$$\Psi_h = \Psi_m = -5 \frac{z-d}{L} \quad (9)$$

where L is the Monin-Obukhov length, expressed as:

$$L = \frac{\rho C_p u_*^3 (T_o + 273.16)}{gkH} \quad (10)$$

where g is the acceleration of gravity ($= 9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2}$) and all other terms are as defined previously. Note that T_o is converted to Kelvin (K) temperature by the addition of 273.16. Equation (10) is in the form where H is positive toward the canopy, and $L > 0$ for stable and $L < 0$ for unstable conditions. For unstable conditions, expressions for Ψ_h and Ψ_m are (Paulson, 1970):

$$\Psi_h = 2 \ln \left[\frac{1 + X^2}{2} \right]$$

(11)

$$\Psi_m = 2 \ln \left[\frac{1 + X}{2} \right] + \ln \left[\frac{1 + X^2}{2} \right] - 2 \arctan(X) + \frac{\pi}{2} \quad (12)$$

where

$$X = \left[1 - 16 \frac{(z-d)}{L} \right]^{0.25} \quad (13)$$

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 Location and lysimeters

Crop water use was measured by four large precision weighing lysimeters at Bushland, Texas (35° 11' N lat., 102° 06' W long., 1,170 m elevation M.S.L.). The climate is semi-arid with a high evaporative demand of about 2600 mm per year (Class A pan evaporation) and low precipitation of 470 mm per year (63-year average). Evaporative demand and precipitation during the growing season (May to September) are 1550 mm and 320 mm, respectively. Strong advection of heat energy from the South and Southwest is typical, especially during March through June when average 24-hr wind runs at a 2-m height exceed 460 km. The soil was a Pullman clay loam (fine, mixed, thermic torrertic Paleustolls) with slow permeability, having a dense B2 layer from about 0.15- to 0.40-m depth and a calcic horizon that begins at about 1.2- to 1.5-m depth (Taylor et al., 1963; Unger and Pringle, 1981). The four lysimeters are arranged in a square pattern in a 20 ha field, where each lysimeter is located in the center of a 5 ha quadrant, designated NE, SE, NW, and SW. The east quadrants are irrigated with a hose-fed Lindsay* (Lindsay Manufacturing, Omaha, Neb.) lateral move sprinkler, and the west quadrants are dryland and not irrigated (except for a preplant and post emergence irrigation in some years when preseason precipitation was inadequate for germination). The lysimeters have a 9 m² area and 2.3 m deep monolithic cores. Change in lysimeter mass was converted to ET on a depth basis with a precision of 0.05 mm and reported every 0.5 hr (Marek et al., 1988; Howell et al., 1995). ET depth (mm per 0.5 hr) was then multiplied by the latent heat of vaporization (with a unit conversion factor of 1361.11) to obtain half-hourly averages of latent heat flux (W m⁻²). For full cover crops, ET values were multiplied by 0.9868 to account for the crop canopy extending over the 9.5 mm thick lysimeter walls and midway across the 10 mm air gap, which increased the total area contributing to ET to 9.18 m².

3.2 Crop surfaces

Crop surfaces in this study included irrigated alfalfa and dryland grain sorghum in 1997, 1998, and 1999, irrigated cotton in 2000 and 2001, and dryland cotton in 2000. All crops on the lysimeters and surrounding fields were managed similarly. Alfalfa (Pioneer 5454) was seeded on 13 and 14 September 1995 at a rate of 28 kg ha⁻¹ at 0.20 m spacing, and maintained in a well-watered condition except for several days before each harvest (10% to 50% bloom). Additional details of the alfalfa crop are given in Evett et al. (2000).

Short season grain sorghum (Pioneer 8699) was seeded on 4 June 1997, 24 June 1998, and 28-29 June 1999 in east-west oriented rows without raised beds, and harvested on 14 October 1997, 8 October 1998, and 18 October 1999. Seed spacings were 0.76 m and 0.25 m on the NW and SW quadrants respectively, in 1997, and 0.25 m and 0.76 m on the NW and SW quadrants respectively, in 1998 and 1999. Plants were thinned to 13 plants m⁻² on the lysimeters 3-4 days following emergence each year. The grain sorghum crops were irrigated once before and once after planting (25 mm each) in 1997 and 1998 but no irrigation was applied in 1999.

Irrigated and dryland cotton (Paymaster 2145) was seeded on 16-17 May 2000 and 16-17 May 2001. (The 2001 dryland cotton data was not used in this study because much of the infrared surface temperature data was missing). Irrigated cotton was seeded at 21 and 20 plants m⁻² in 2000 and 2001, respectively, on east-west raised beds spaced 0.76 m with furrow dikes to store irrigation and rainfall. Dryland cotton was seeded at 17 plants m⁻² on east-west rows without beds or dikes at 0.76 m and 0.25 m spacing in the NW and SW quadrants, respectively. The irrigated cotton in the NE and SW quadrants was irrigated at 50% and 100%, respectively, of the full crop water use in both years. Irrigated cotton was harvested 14 November 2000 and 30 October 2001, and dryland cotton was harvested on 18 October 2000. Additional details of the cotton crops, lysimeters, and irrigation equipment are given in Howell et al. (2002).

* The mention of trade or manufacturer names is made for information only and does not imply an endorsement, recommendation, or exclusion by USDA-Agricultural Research Service.

3.3 Plant and micrometeorological measurements

Plant measurements and samples were taken periodically at key growth stages at 1.0 to 1.5 m² sites around each lysimeter. Leaf area was measured with a LI-COR leaf area meter (model LI-3100, Lincoln, Neb.), and the meter accuracy was verified periodically with a 0.005 m² standard disk. Plant height and LAI were linearly interpolated between sample dates to estimate these parameters for each day of the growing season.

Micrometeorological parameters and radiometric surface temperatures were recorded from instrumented masts adjacent to each lysimeter every 6 s and reported as 0.5 hr averages. Net radiation was measured with a REBS Q*5.5 net radiometer (REBS, Seattle, Wash.), soil heat flux was measured with four REBS HFT-1 heat flux plates buried at 5 cm with parallel-wired averaging thermocouples at 2 and 4 cm over each plate. Air temperature and relative humidity (Rotronics MP 100, Huntington, N.Y.) and wind speed (Met One 014A, Grants Pass, Ore.) were measured at 2 m height over the ground surface. Rainfall was recorded with a Qualimetrics 611-B tipping bucket raingage with the orifice 1 m above the ground surface. Radiometric surface temperature was measured with an Exergen IRT/C.2-T-80 (Exergen, Newton, Mass.) infrared thermometer (IRT) pointed at the lysimeter surface at 30° from nadir and facing southward. The IRTs were insulated from the outside air to stabilize their body temperatures by inserting each one into a brass reducer bushing (9.5 mm ID x 12.7 mm OD), which was secured inside two concentric white PVC reducers (12.7 mm ID x 25.4 mm OD and 25.4 mm ID x 41.3 mm OD). A white PVC cap (25.4 mm ID x 41.3 mm OD) sealed the end opposite the IRT opening. The IRTs were checked at the beginning of each season with an Omega Black Point BB701 black body calibrator (Omega, Stamford, Conn.) from 5 to 40°C in 5°C increments in a room at ambient temperature (~20°C).

3.4 Data screening

Data were initially screened for days where measured changes in lysimeter mass could potentially compromise the integrity of latent heat flux calculations. This included rainfall events, irrigation, soil water measurements (each lysimeter contains two neutron access tubes), instrument maintenance, or harvest (alfalfa only). The energy balance – surface temperature equations assume short-term steady state flux in the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum, which can be disrupted by intermittent clouds, so data were further restricted to days where incoming solar radiation (measured at a nearby weather station east of the field with an Epply PSP pyranometer; Epply Laboratories, Newport, R.I.) and theoretical clear sky radiation (Allen et al., 1998) had a coefficient of determination of at least 0.95 between 0700 to 1900 hours CST. To ensure enough vegetation covered the soil so that radiometric temperature measurements were mainly influenced by canopy temperature, only days where LAI ≥ 0.5 for alfalfa and LAI ≥ 1.0 for cotton and sorghum were included. For energy balance calculations, half hourly averages between 1030 and 1530 CST (reported as the midpoint of the time-averaged period and do not reflect daylight savings time; i.e., 1045 to 1515) were used, when net radiation is at least 80% of its daily peak value. These times include data recorded approximately ± 2.5 hr from solar noon, which occurs 1243 to 1254 during the growing season. Finally, the data set was reduced further by considering only days between 15 May and 15 September, which is when atmospheric demand and therefore energy flux at the surface are greatest.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 shows regression results for the aerodynamic- and radiometric-air temperature gradient (i.e., $T_o - T_a$ vs. $T_s - T_a$, respectively, denoted as $T - T_a$ in Table 1), sensible heat flux (H) and latent heat flux (LE). Temperature and energy flux terms are half hour averages between 1030 and 1530 CST. Modeled latent heat flux (LE) was computed using equations (2) to (13), and sensible heat flux (H) was computed using radiometric temperature (T_s) in place of aerodynamic surface temperature (T_o) in equation (3), where the scalar roughness length for sensible heat transfer (z_{oh}) was assumed to be a constant one-tenth of the momentum roughness length (i.e., $z_{oh} = 0.1 * z_{om}$, or $a = 0.1$ in equation 8). Measured H was taken as the residual of equation (2), and $T_o - T_a$ was obtained by inverting equation (3) using measured H. It is clear from Table 1 that $(T_o - T_a)$ and $(T_s - T_a)$ are poorly correlated, even though T_o and T_s by themselves might show reasonable correlation (data not shown), at least for the present definition of T_o where $z_{oh} = 0.1 * z_{om}$. We did not find any suitable relation for any combination of surface temperatures or surface-air temperature gradients as reported by others. In addition, the regression results for H and LE, especially the slopes, are different for each type of surface, and the standard error estimate (SE) of the regressions are somewhat greater than those typically

reported in the literature (e.g., 50 to 100 W m⁻²). This may be the result of assuming the same proportionality of roughness lengths for each crop. The radiometer, however, probably views a different top portion of each crop depending on canopy structure (for a fixed view angle), and this portion is also likely to be at a different height than the supposed source-sink for H where T_o would occur. The vertical temperature gradient would then cause disagreement between T_s and T_o (Choudhury et al., 1986; Kalma and Jupp, 1990). Consequently, it may be more physically meaningful to define a radiometric roughness length (z_{or}) for T_s instead of attempting to adjust T_s.

Table 1. Regressions results between measured parameters and those from the energy balance, where z_{oh}/z_{om} = 0.1 for all surfaces.

Surface	Parameter	z _{or} /z _{om}	kB _r ⁻¹	Intercept	Linear regression					
					Slope	r ²	SE			n
Irrig. alfalfa	T - T _a (°C)	0.1	2.30	0.40	(°C)	0.54	0.64	2.23	(°C)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	T - T _a (°C)	0.1	2.30	2.01	(°C)	1.05	0.73	1.79	(°C)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	T - T _a (°C)	0.1	2.30	1.71	(°C)	0.40	0.26	1.48	(°C)	567
Irrig. alfalfa	H (W m ⁻²)	0.1	2.30	5	(W m ⁻²)	1.44	0.78	140	(W m ⁻²)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	H (W m ⁻²)	0.1	2.30	64	(W m ⁻²)	0.85	0.79	74	(W m ⁻²)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	H (W m ⁻²)	0.1	2.30	-20	(W m ⁻²)	0.80	0.29	118	(W m ⁻²)	567
Irrig. alfalfa	LE (W m ⁻²)	0.1	2.30	257	(W m ⁻²)	1.45	0.82	134	(W m ⁻²)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	LE (W m ⁻²)	0.1	2.30	-152	(W m ⁻²)	0.87	0.82	75	(W m ⁻²)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	LE (W m ⁻²)	0.1	2.30	31	(W m ⁻²)	1.11	0.53	118	(W m ⁻²)	567

Table 2. Regressions results between measured parameters and those from the energy balance, where z_{oh}/z_{om} was unique for each surface.

Surface	Parameter	z _{or} /z _{om}	kB _r ⁻¹	Intercept	Linear regression					
					Slope	r ²	SE			n
Irrig. alfalfa	T - T _a (°C)	0.006	5.12	0.63	(°C)	0.83	0.66	3.27	(°C)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	T - T _a (°C)	0.2	1.61	1.71	(°C)	0.88	0.74	1.46	(°C)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	T - T _a (°C)	0.06	2.81	1.89	(°C)	0.46	0.27	1.65	(°C)	567
Irrig. alfalfa	H (W m ⁻²)	0.006	5.12	4	(W m ⁻²)	0.95	0.78	92	(W m ⁻²)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	H (W m ⁻²)	0.2	1.61	74	(W m ⁻²)	1.00	0.80	86	(W m ⁻²)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	H (W m ⁻²)	0.06	2.81	-18	(W m ⁻²)	0.71	0.29	104	(W m ⁻²)	567
Irrig. alfalfa	LE (W m ⁻²)	0.006	5.12	-1	(W m ⁻²)	1.01	0.82	93	(W m ⁻²)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	LE (W m ⁻²)	0.2	1.61	-75	(W m ⁻²)	1.00	0.82	86	(W m ⁻²)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	LE (W m ⁻²)	0.06	2.81	-20	(W m ⁻²)	1.02	0.53	108	(W m ⁻²)	567

Radiometric roughness lengths (z_{or}) were then estimated for each crop surface. Measured H and T_s were substituted into equation (3), and equations (3)-(4) were inverted to solve for z_{oh}, which is termed z_{or} since T_s was used in place of T_o. The average z_{or}/z_{om} for each crop surface was then used in the energy balance equations as before, and the results are shown in Table 2. This improved the regression results somewhat for H and LE, but not much for T_o - T_a vs. T_s - T_a. The resulting average z_{or}/z_{om} (or alternatively, kB_r⁻¹ = ln[z_{om}/z_{or}]) varies by an order of magnitude for each crop surface (i.e., 0.006 for alfalfa, 0.06 for grain sorghum, and 0.2 for cotton). This suggests the magnitude of z_{or}/z_{om} is directly related to canopy roughness (and perhaps inversely related to LAI, which would agree with the results of Qualls and Brutsaert, 1996; Lhomme et al., 2000; and Suleiman and Crago, 2004). Alfalfa, for example, has a smoother, denser surface (greater plant density), and probably greater LAI (except for several days following a harvest) relative to cotton or grain sorghum. This would attenuate wind velocity and turbulence below the top of the canopy to a greater extent than row crops (i.e., cotton or sorghum). The zero plane displacement (d), and hence the source-sink for sensible heat (d + z_{oh}), would be closer to the top of the canopy. If the radiometer viewed mostly the top portion of the canopy in this case, smaller values of z_{or}/z_{om} would result. Inspection of equation (6) shows that the zero plane

displacement (d) is directly related to LAI for a given canopy height (h_c), so that for a larger LAI, d is at a greater height in the canopy. But even when alfalfa LAI is temporarily small, its greater plant density may be a compensating factor, and, curiously, we did not observe a relationship between LAI and any form of z_{or} (e.g., z_{or}/z_{om} , $\ln[z_{or}]$, or kB_r^{-1}). Cotton, on the other hand, has a coarser plant density (and usually smaller LAI) relative to alfalfa, so d/h_c is smaller (d is deeper in the canopy) according to equation (6). Although this may allow the radiometer to view a greater portion of the canopy below the top, the resulting z_{or}/z_{om} ($= 0.2$) was still much greater than alfalfa, implying the position of d was deeper in the canopy.

The next step involved exploring what relationships may exist between various forms of the radiometric roughness length and micrometeorological parameters, since our data did not indicate a relationship with LAI. This is desirable because the specific type of vegetation and its roughness characteristics are often unknown when using spatially distributed data from airborne or satellite platforms. We found only weak relationships between kB_r^{-1} and the product of wind speed (u) or friction velocity (u_*) and $T_s - T_a$ (e.g., Kustas et al., 1989; 1994; Zhang et al., 1995); however, it should be noted that these studies used spatial rather than temporal surface temperature data, which may have had a normalizing effect on temporal micrometeorological variables. A rather strong lognormal relationship was observed between $kB_r^{-1}e^{(a/LAI)}$ (where $a = -3$) and the crop water stress index (CWSI, Jackson et al., 1981; Jackson, 1982) for all three crops (Figure 1). The CWSI baseline temperature was computed based on the wet bulb method outlined by Alves and Pereira (2000), and the upper temperature limit was obtained by setting $H = R_n - G$ and inverting equation (3). This relation is not surprising because as $CWSI \rightarrow 0$, H and $z_{or} \rightarrow 0$, and by definition $kB_r^{-1} \rightarrow \infty$. Since z_{or} also appears in the expression for CWSI and stability correction was necessary, iteration was required to obtain z_{or} . This approach, however, did not improve estimates of H or LE over those in Tables 1 or 2 because z_{or} did not always converge to reasonable values. This relation did suggest that z_{or} may be coupled to both atmospheric demand and crop water status in a manner analogous to bulk canopy resistance (Todorovic, 1999; Lecina et al., 2003).

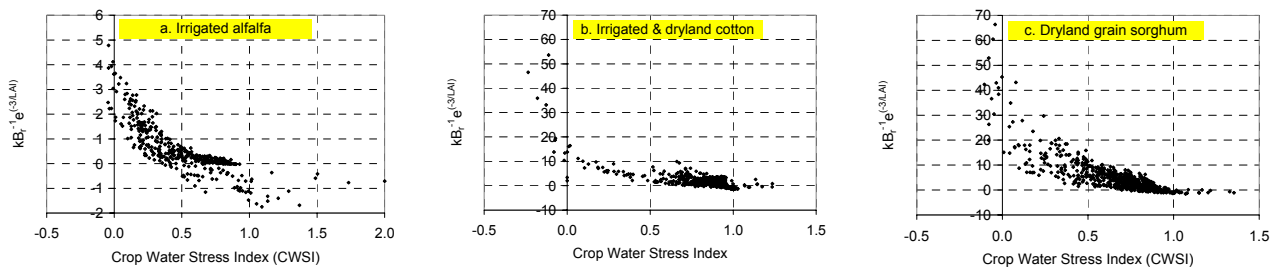


Figure 1. Relationship between $kB_r^{-1}e^{(-3/LAI)}$ and CWSI for each crop surface: (a) irrigated alfalfa; (b) irrigated and dryland cotton; and (c) dryland grain sorghum.

In light of this observation, examination of the daytime energy balance and kB_r^{-1} on a half hourly basis may provide further insight to the behavior of the radiometric roughness length. Figures 2a, b, and c show the daytime energy balance for alfalfa in the SE lysimeter in 1999 for day of year (DOY) 108, 140, and 210, respectively (positive is toward the canopy). These three days were selected to illustrate different H and LE partitioning. On DOY 108 (figure 4), $LAI = 1.9$, and the first cutting of the year had not yet occurred. A larger portion of the available energy ($R_n - G$) was partitioned to H than to LE (Bowen ratio $\beta > 1$) until about 1445, and conditions were non-advective except for a short time in the evening. On DOY 140 (figure 5), $LAI = 2.3$, and most available energy was partitioned to LE ($|\beta| \ll 1$), which included advection after about 1415. On DOY 210 (figure 6), $LAI = 3.5$, and conditions were highly advective during most of the day ($0 > \beta > -1$, and measured daily ET totaled 12.7 mm).

Figure 2d shows the resulting radiometric roughness lengths (expressed as $kB_r^{-1} = \ln[z_{om}/z_{or}]$ for graph clarity) for these three days between 1030 and 1530, when most of the daily energy flux occurs (times are shown as midpoint of each half hour average). The kB_r^{-1} values for $z_{oh}/z_{om} = 0.1$ and 0.2 are also shown. The greatest variability of kB_r^{-1} occurred on DOY 140, when H was smallest ($\pm 60 \text{ W m}^{-2}$), and the least variability on DOY 108, when H followed a trend similar to R_n , and kB_r^{-1} remained fairly constant around 8.0 ($z_{or}/z_{om} = 0.00033$). On DOY 210, when H increased during the day, kB_r^{-1} tended to decrease overall (and z_{or}/z_{om} increased, resulting in a decrease in aerodynamic resistance). In figure 2c, note the small decrease in R_n around 1245 to 1315 (apparently from light cirrus clouds). This

coincides with a small decrease in kB_r^{-1} from around 8.0 at 1215 and 7.5 at 1345 in figure 2d. It is possible that kB_r^{-1} would have otherwise remained around 7.5 to 8.0 at 1245 and 1315, which is very similar to values on DOY 140, had R_n followed theoretical clear sky radiation. This suggests that kB_r^{-1} is sensitive to sudden, if slight, changes in the energy balance. This has also been observed for $T_s - T_a$ (Pennington and Heatherly, 1989), from which kB_r^{-1} is derived. Thus it appears that when H comprises a considerable portion of the energy balance (i.e., $|\beta| > \sim 0.5$) under non-advective conditions, the kB_r^{-1} parameter does not vary greatly during daytime hours (± 2 hr from solar noon), which could be a consequence of the “self-preservation” of the evaporative fraction (Brutsaert and Chen, 1996; Suleiman and Crago, 2004, and others). Todorovic (1999) and Lecina et al. (2003) demonstrated similar behavior for bulk canopy resistance of grass maintained at reference conditions. The kB_r^{-1} parameter tends to vary more under advective conditions, and is even less predictable for smaller values of H (i.e., $|\beta| < \sim 0.1$) or for disruptions in the energy balance (e.g., intermittent clouds). As mentioned before, since small values of H do not contribute greatly to the residual energy balance (equation 2), the large variability of kB_r^{-1} when H is small is probably inconsequential.

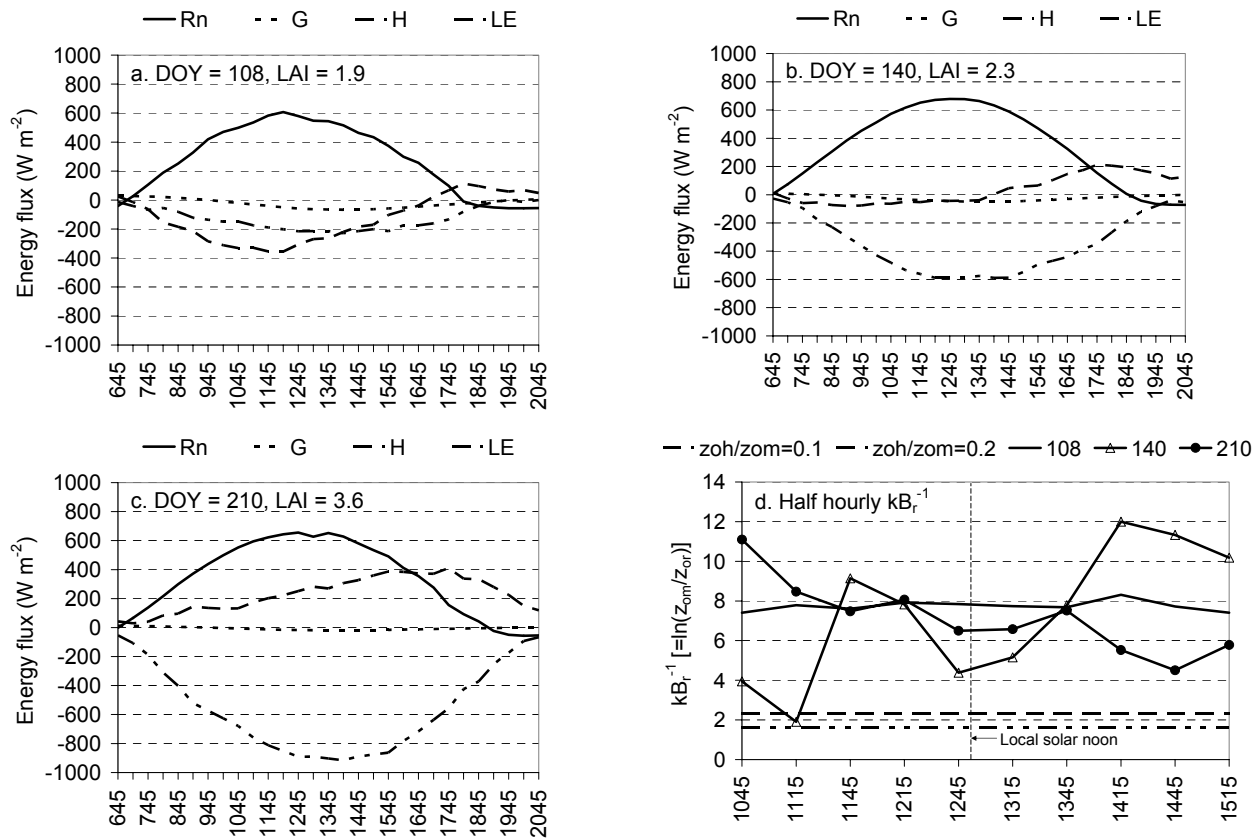


Figure 2. Daytime energy balance for irrigated alfalfa in the SE lysimeter in 1999: (a) DOY 108; (b) DOY 140; (c) DOY 210; and (d) associated kB_r^{-1} parameters for each day.

So far we have not considered the possible change in apparent emissivity (ϵ) of a surface throughout the day, which can cause error in the apparent radiometric temperature. Apparent emissivity (ϵ) can be influenced by sun-sensor angle depending on the type of surface, and possibly air temperature if it is enough to influence IRT body temperature (Fuchs and Tanner, 1966; Kimes et al., 1980; Huband and Monteith, 1986a; Wanjura and Upchurch, 1991; Lagouarde et al., 1995; Sugita and Brutsaert, 1996). Figure 3 shows alfalfa LE data (where $z_{oh}/z_{om} = 0.006$ from Table 2) for three half hour averages (1045, 1245, and 1445; i.e., approximate local solar noon ± 2 hr) and their regression lines. The 1045 and 1445 regressions lines show a considerable intercept (-58 and +56 $W m^{-2}$, respectively) but a slope near unity, and the 1245 regression line has a slope greater than unity (1.1) and an intercept greater than zero (+40 $W m^{-2}$). Similar trends were observed for cotton and grain sorghum. This suggests that some error in the energy balance – surface temperature model might be due to variation of ϵ (and perhaps confounded by z_{or}) for different times of the day.

To briefly examine this hypothesis (without physical and statistical rigor), ϵ was varied by time of day, although it would not be possible to determine the exact cause of this variation (e.g., sun elevation, sun azimuth, IRT body temperature). We did not attempt to measure the apparent emissivity or reflectivity of the surface, but a reasonable estimate for alfalfa might be $\epsilon = 0.97$ (Fuchs and Tanner, 1966). We can then estimate a new time-dependent apparent emissivity (ϵ') (neglecting reflectivity of the surrounding canopy) by rearranging the Stephan-Boltzmann relation as

$$\epsilon' = 0.97 \frac{T_s^4}{T'_s{}^4} \tag{14}$$

where T'_s is obtained by inverting equation 3 in which H was the residual from measured R_n , G, and LE. Note that T_s and T'_s must be converted to Kelvin. Half hour averages of ϵ' are then tabulated by time and crop surface, and their deviations from $\epsilon = 0.97$ (also assumed for cotton and grain sorghum) are shown in Figure 4. All surfaces began with similar values at 1045, and ϵ' increased for all surfaces from morning to afternoon. Alfalfa ϵ' had the greatest increase, and cotton the least. It appears that cotton, with its rougher surface, behaves more like a Lambertian surface (i.e., ϵ' is less dependent on direction of illumination) than alfalfa because of a greater number of multiple reflections in the canopy (Sutherland and Bartholic, 1977). However, this would not explain the continued increase in ϵ' following solar noon. It is possible that continued increases in air temperature may have elevated IRT body temperature (despite being well-insulated), which could cause increased long wave radiation within the sensor, resulting in an overestimate of measured T_s and from equation (14) an overestimate of ϵ' . It is also possible that as stable temperature gradients developed in the afternoon due to advection, the position of T'_s fell below the effective sensor view (measured T_s), resulting in $T_s > T'_s$. Or, if the position of T'_s was above T_s , the result could still be that $T_s > T'_s$ if a small lapse (unstable) gradient was present inside the canopy (Kalma and Jupp, 1990).

The use of ϵ that varies by time of day (from Figure 4) did not result in uniform improvement of the regression parameters over those of Table 2 (data not shown). This could be the result of using the same z_{or}/z_{om} parameters that were used for each surface without varying ϵ . Thus it may be possible to further reduce model error by optimizing the radiometric roughness length by time of day. To explore this (again, without physical or statistical rigor), the Excel Solver function was used to adjust the z_{or}/z_{om} parameter for each half hour average of ϵ' , with the target being to set the regression slope equal to one. Figure 5 shows the resulting kB_r^{-1} values (to two significant figures), and Table 3 shows the regression results. The kB_r^{-1} values did not vary greatly over time for each surface; however, the standard errors of regression were reduced slightly for H and LE in most cases compared to Tables 1 and 2. Thus varying the kB_r^{-1} parameter over time may improve the energy balance model.

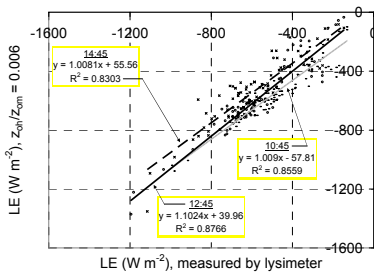


Figure 3. Irrigated alfalfa measured and modeled LE for three half hourly averages.

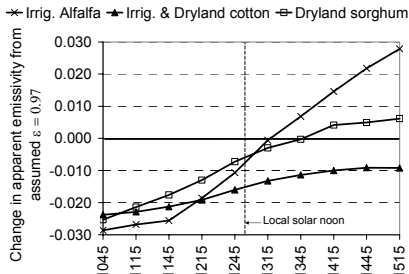


Figure 4. Half hour averages of ϵ' (from eq. 14) for each crop surface.

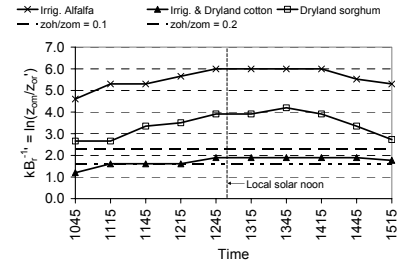


Figure 5. Half hour averages of kB_r^{-1} associated with ϵ' (from Fig. 4) for each crop surface.

Table 3. Regressions results between measured parameters and those from the energy balance, where ϵ' (from Fig. 4) and z_{oh}/z_{om} (from Fig. 5) and were varied by time of day for each surface.

Surface	Parameter	z_{or}/z_{om}	kB_r^{-1}	ϵ'	Intercept	Linear regression			n
						Slope	r^2	SE	
Irrig. alfalfa	T - T _a (°C)	Varies by time of day			0.59 (°C)	0.88	0.67	3.37 (°C)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	T - T _a (°C)	Varies by time of day			1.63 (°C)	0.92	0.77	1.41 (°C)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	T - T _a (°C)	Varies by time of day			2.00 (°C)	0.55	0.32	1.77 (°C)	567
Irrig. alfalfa	H (W m ⁻²)	Varies by time of day			-1 (W m ⁻²)	0.98	0.83	81 (W m ⁻²)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	H (W m ⁻²)	Varies by time of day			-9 (W m ⁻²)	0.97	0.78	88 (W m ⁻²)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	H (W m ⁻²)	Varies by time of day			-28 (W m ⁻²)	0.79	0.41	89 (W m ⁻²)	567
Irrig. alfalfa	LE (W m ⁻²)	Varies by time of day			-1 (W m ⁻²)	1.00	0.86	81 (W m ⁻²)	796
Irrig. & dryland cotton	LE (W m ⁻²)	Varies by time of day			-16 (W m ⁻²)	0.96	0.80	87 (W m ⁻²)	823
Dryland grain sorghum	LE (W m ⁻²)	Varies by time of day			-8 (W m ⁻²)	0.99	0.60	91 (W m ⁻²)	567

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The single source energy balance for the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum, which commonly uses radiometric temperature (T_s) as a surrogate for aerodynamic temperature (T_o) at the surface, was evaluated for several years of full cover irrigated alfalfa, irrigated and dryland cotton, and dryland grain sorghum. The model was tested against half hourly evapotranspiration (ET) data measured by large, precision weighing lysimeters in Bushland, Texas. T_s was measured and averaged each half hour by ground-based infrared thermometers mounted over the lysimeters. This is in the Southern High Plains, which is notable for its strong regional advection and wide range of climatic variability.

The energy balance was first tested using a constant scalar – momentum roughness length ratio ($z_{oh}/z_{om} = 0.1$, which is generally accepted for full cover crops). Regression results for sensible and latent heat flux (H and LE, respectively) were different for each crop, especially the slopes. No relationship was observed between the T_s and T_o – air vertical temperature gradients for any crop.

Next, the energy balance was inverted to obtain the scalar roughness length, which was termed the radiometric roughness length (z_{or}) because T_s was used in place of T_o in the sensible heat flux equation. The average z_{or} for each crop surface was used in the energy balance, which improved the regression results for H and LE but not for the vertical temperature gradients ($T_s - T_a$ and $T_o - T_a$). This implied that z_{oh}/z_{om} depended largely on the surface roughness.

Several empirical parameterizations for z_{or} (often in the $kB_r^{-1} = \ln[z_{om}/z_{or}]$ form) from previous studies were tested, but only weak relationships were found. A rather strong lognormal relation between $kB_r^{-1}e^{(a/LAI)}$ (where LAI = leaf area index and $a = -3$) and the crop water stress index (CWSI) was observed, but z_{or} (solved for by iteration because z_{or} also appears in the CWSI) often did not converge to reasonable values. For moderate to large Bowen ratios (β) without advection, the kB_r^{-1} parameter tended not to vary much for a given day, analogous to the concept of self preservation of the evaporative fraction. Variation was greatest for smaller values of $|\beta|$ (which may be inconsequential because most available energy is partitioned to LE in this case), and moderate for advective conditions.

The effect of varying apparent emissivity (ϵ) by time of day was examined. Error in the energy balance was not reduced unless z_{or}/z_{om} was also allowed to vary slightly by time of day, which then resulted in generally the smallest standard errors (SE) of the regression for H and LE. Values of ϵ and z_{or}/z_{om} (in kB_r^{-1} form) shown in this paper that vary by time of day were for illustrative purposes only and should not be used without further rigorous validation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the following for their many years of assistance and dedication in the design, maintenance, operation, improvement, and data processing of the precision weighing lysimeters at the USDA-ARS Conservation and Production Research Laboratory in Bushland, Texas: Mr. Keith Brock, Mr. Jim Cresap, Mr. Grant Johnson, Mr. M.D. McRoberts, and Mr. Brice Ruthhardt, biological technicians, Ms. Karen Copeland, soil scientist, Mr. Donald Dusek, agronomist, Dr. Arland D. Schneider, agricultural engineer (ret.), all with the USDA-ARS, and to Mr. Thomas Marek, agricultural engineer, at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Amarillo, Texas.

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