

### <General Comments>

This manuscript presents the new lake mass balance scheme (MLAKE) in ISBA-CTRIP model. As lake is usually not explicitly treated in the land surface component of global climate models, this work on the description of lake model development and analysis has a potential contribution to Earth system modelling community. I found the model description is well written, while some improvements are needed mainly on the presentation quality before publication. Detailed comments are summarized below.

All of the authors and co-authors would like to thank the referee for the time which he/she has allocated to the detailed revision of this paper and her/his positive comments about our work that we feel have helped us to make an improved version of the manuscript. [Responses to comments and subsequent changes are detailed below in blue.](#)

### <Specific Comments>

Abstract: First paragraph

This paragraph on the research background is too long as a part of the abstract. Please think about shortening this by summarizing an important point.

[L3-5 have been deleted in order to shorten the abstract has been shortened.](#)

L44: Lakes are of fundamental importance to ensure

The first paragraph is too long. You can start the second paragraph from this sentence, as importance of lakes is explained from this part, while the previous part discusses about hydrological cycle in climate system.

[We have removed the first paragraph and modified the introduction sentence with :](#)

P.2, L.28

[« Only 2.5 % of the total water mass of the planet is defined as fresh water, and only a very small fraction is directly accessible for human consumption \(Oki and Kanae, 2006\). Lakes are of fundamental importance to ensure freshwater supply to the 800 million people which have insufficient safe drinking water, according to the World Health Organization \(WHO, 2010; Marsily et al., 2018\).»](#)

L50: Where present, lakes play a triple role in the Earth system...

Again, you can start a new paragraph here, focusing on the roles of the lake. Probably, you can explain each of the three roles in a separated paragraph, as the explanation of each role contains several sentences. This will largely increase readability. Also, it is very difficult to guess what is “triple roles” only from this sentence. This sentence only contains: 1) energy and water balance in GCM, 2) impact on local climate and hydrology. Based on the following discussion, “3) interaction with biogeochemical cycle” is missing from this sentence.

Corrections related to the organisation have been added (addition of new paragraphs) and we have made an effort to improve the readability of the three roles. These three roles are 1) change in surface energy fluxes and ocean circulation, 2) impact the climate from local to continental scale, 3) interaction with the regional water cycle

L52: First, they influence...

In addition to the lake surface impact on atmosphere, the changes in timing and volume of freshwater discharge to oceans might affect both local and global ocean circulations. This is better to be included as the first role of lakes in Earth System.

In response, we have added the potential impact of lake fluxes on local and global ocean circulations.

P.2, L39;

In addition, lakes influence the freshwater flux variability which in the end interact with the local (Sauvage et al, 2018) and global ocean circulation (Rahmstorf, 1995).

L57 "Economic lever"

Is it appropriate to use the word "economic" in this context? We may say "ecological lever". If "economic lever" is more suitable, please explain.

The lake ecological importance has been added in the paragraph.

« Second, as sentinels of climate change, lakes must not only be seen as water reservoirs but also as a major ecological levers. »

However, lakes are important sources of socio-economic development in the related regions through the ecosystem services that population take back from these water bodies.

We added a note P.3, L73 and a reference to this : Schallenberg et al, 2013. Ecosystem services of lakes.

L98: In the recent years, many studies have focused on

Again, I think this paragraph is too long, and you can start a new sentence from here focusing on recent studies on lake representation.

P3. L89

We started a new paragraph to improve the flow of the introduction

L139: Section 5 shows the  
Description of "Section 4" is missing.

As suggested by Referee#2, this section has been removed.

L189: Manning equation

Strictly, Manning's equation is to give friction energy loss. Flow velocity is not directly given only from the Manning's roughness equation, and it should be "kinematic wave approximation of shallow water equation, with Manning's roughness equation as friction energy term).

We totally agree on the lack of clarity in this sentence . Changes have been made:

P.6, L.173

« Streamflow routing is simulated using CTRIP (Fig.1) which integrates a dynamic computation of river flows based on a kinematic wave approximation which is solved using Manning's roughness equation as a friction energy dissipation term which is dependent on the characteristics of the river section. »

L205: This resolution framework assures the resolution is done

It is not clear what the authors want to mean by the phrase "the resolution is done". Please explain.

This sentence is unclear due to the mismatch in the definition of resolution. The aim was to provide information on the capability of the numerical computation to ensure that all of the upstream portions of the network have been resolved before solving the equations in a new node. In order to improve the description, we changed the sentence with the following :

P.6, L191

« This numerical solution framework assures the computation of river discharge is performed starting from the upstream cells and then progressing to the downstream cells of the watershed. In every basin, the head-water cells have the lowest sequence order: one, which is incremented for each downstream cell. »

L274: The approach used herein to resolve this issue is

How this modification was done? Is this done manually? If so, how long did it take correct the issues in the test domains of this study? Is it feasible to perform similar amount of modifications at a global scale? Please discuss.

Thank you for raising this interesting point. In our approach, the modification is done numerically within the code by adding the considered threshold. The modification is thus applicable to both local and global scales.

P.9, L261

« The approach used herein to resolve this issue is to replace a river section by a lake pixel (corresponding to a unique node in the network) when a lake covers at least 50 % of a given grid cell »

L425: which is the second largest lake

You need to add "in terms of surface area", because the size of lakes are explained indifferent metrics throughout the manuscript.

Correction has been made by adding the proposed wording.

L465: Atmospheric forcing

Please explain why two different forcing datasets are used in this study? What is the purpose of using different forcing only for France?

Thank you for this valuable comment. The sentence has been changed in order to better explain the reason for choosing different datasets. Related to the next comment, we also added an introductory sentence before presenting the data over the France domain and the global atmospheric forcing.

P.14, L430

« It is known that biases can emerge in simulated surface/sub-surface variables in response to specific atmospheric conditions, therefore different forcing datasets were used in the study. More specifically, an extensively validated high-resolution atmospheric forcing over France was preferred to coarser global forcing that may influence hydrological responses in a negative way, especially considering the large topographic variability over France. This limits the comparison between watersheds situated in France and other basins, but it gives more credit to the results within between similar watersheds. »

L483: Biases may appear in simulated surface/sub-surface variables

This sentence is confusing, as this is “excuse” to use multiple forcing datasets. It is better to state that “multiple forcing datasets are used in this study” for better understanding of this paragraph.

Related to the previous comment, this sentence has been moved to the introductory/first sentence of this paragraph.

L513: with an average discharge increased by 0.7 %

Is it reasonable that the average discharge increased? What was the background physics mechanism? Please explain. I guess this could be due to the change in discharge timing, and it changes the discharge at the start and/or end of the simulation period resulting in a slight difference in the total discharge. In this case, the 0.7% increase is negligible and better to state “average discharge is not affected” rather than “0.7% increased”.

As mentioned in your comment, the increase of the average discharge is linked to a temporal shift induced by the lag-effect related to the lake water dynamics over the simulation period (which is the same for all simulations). The sentence has been changed with:

P.15, L485

“Lake Geneva reduces the Rhône river discharge variability on average by 22 %.”

L525: where the weir width is increased by a factor of five compared to `ctrip_mlake_w1`.

I wonder whether this simulation setting (500% of the control experiment) is reasonable or not. Given that the “lake outlet width” is observable parameter, there must be a reasonable range for this parameter. I think the sensitivity test should be designed within this “reasonable parameter range”.

Thank you for raising this interesting question.

At the time of the study, we did not have access to any information on the lake outlet width. In this context, we decided to set a range for this parameter. Even if increasing by a factor five seems to be out of range for a lake outlet, this choice is motivated by the need to look at extreme values in order to find limits in the behaviour of our model. Using such an extreme range is valuable to show that in some situations, even a larger width does not help in finding an appropriate hydrograph (for example, at the outlet of Lake Victoria).

L620: lake level variations ( $\sigma_s = 1069 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $\sigma_o = 1003 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$ ).

Is the unit ( $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ ) correct? As this sentence mentioned for lake level.

Thank you for pointing out this typo. The unit is correct, however the related text is not. Lake level must be changed with “observed river discharge”.

L633: The NIC score has...

What is “NCC score”? It once appears in the abstract first, and appears first time herein the maintext without any definition or explanation. Please provide the description of NIC score.

The description of NIC score is detailed in the Appendix. The reference has been added P19. L599.

L666: the worlds largest freshwater continental water body

Please explain “largest in terms of what?”

Sentence has been changed to:

“The Angara basin is dominated by Lake Baikal which is the world’s largest freshwater continental reservoir”

L693: with a net decrease in the peak discharge.

What does “net decrease in the peak discharge”? Usually the term “net” is used for the total summation, but the term is used for “peak (maximum)” here. How can we define “net decrease in the peak”?

We agree on your comment and the inadequacy of writing *net* while talking about a peak discharge. The modified sentence uses the word “significant” instead of “net”.

“with a significant decrease in the peak discharge”

L717: Simulations reveal the capability of the non-calibrated CTRIP-Mlake

This paragraph mainly discusses the impact of lake internal dynamics caused by wind, rather than discussing the overall limitation of the proposed model. The lake internal dynamic parts is better to be shown as a separate sub-section (i.e. 6.1 lake internal dynamics), as the following discussion points are explicitly shows with sub section title. I also suggest that the most significant difficulty of the internal height variation appears in the comparison between modeled and observed water levels. This point should be discussed explicitly. In addition, freezing of lake surface could cause significant difference in simulations. Is this represented in the current model? If not, better to explain as one of the major limitations.

We agree on the need to modify the organisation of this section. As proposed, we separated the sub-section with the title “lake internal dynamics”. Regarding the discussion point on the comparison between modeled and observed water levels and adding the fact the Referee#2 also pointed out the need to provide more of an explanation in this section, the following paragraph has been added:

P.22, L695:

“ One of the easiest approaches could be to also take into account simple bathymetry in order to characterise a distributed water layer. Modelling could also benefit from observations datasets. As was done for lake Geneva, these gaps could be overcome by gathering data from several measurement sites along the lake shore, but this depends on the data availability. Over the long-term, comparison between modeled and observed water levels could be improved by valuable satellite data as proposed in the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT, Biancamaria et al, 2016).”

Concerning the interesting point of the freezing of the lake surface: currently MLake is not considering this process. That’s why the following paragraph has been added to the last sub-section of the discussion “Coupling MLake to the SURFEX modelling platform”

P.25, L811:

Furthermore, the coupling will also improve the simulation of lake surface freezing which remains one of the major limitations that could influence MLake. In the current version, only Flake explicitly represents frozen lakes in terms of the lake surface energy budget.

L764: Historical Lake Victoria level drops

I think it is better to remove this “sub-section title”, to keep the consistency with other paragraphs.

We agree on the need to respect the consistency which is why we added the proposed unnumbered paragraph title “General impacts” consisting in a discussion for lake Geneva and lake Baïkal and the unnumbered paragraph title “Closer look on the Lake Victoria historical level drops” for lake Victoria.

L865: the lake outlet size

The term “lake outlet size” only appears here. Please use “lake outlet width” to keep consistency.

The sentence has been corrected.

L871: Finally.

It is a bit strange to see “Finally” after the sentence starting from “Last but not least”.

The sentence has been corrected.

Figure 3: Please change the figure caption from French to English.

The caption has been changed and the figure is the figure 4.

Figure 4: It is difficult to know what the authors want to discuss with this figure. Please explain what does this figure want to explain in the caption, for better understanding of the river/lake map preparation.

We propose to change the figure into a more understandable figure that better explains the creation of the different lake masks and their integration on the river network. The new figure is now the number 4.

Figure 9: Is it possible to add observed discharge in this figure?

Figure 9 is intended to only show the influence of the lake mass balance effect on the CTRIP simulations. It is a prior evaluation. The observations are added in the Figure 10 for a comparison between modelled and observed river discharges.