

TERMINUS RESPONSE OF LEWIS GLACIER, MOUNT KENYA, KENYA, TO SINUSOIDAL NET-BALANCE FORCING†

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ABSTRACT. Climatic change occurs over a wide range of time scales. Each glacier responds in a unique fashion to this spectrum of climatic forcings. The response of the extent of the Lewis Glacier terminus to sinusoidal fluctuation in the net balance is calculated. The net balance versus elevation profile is separately translated along the orthogonal balance and elevation axes. Net balance amplitudes of 0.1 to 0.5 m a⁻¹ of ice and 10 to 50 m elevation, respectively, and periods ranging from 20 to 1000 years are covered. The time lag between forcing and terminus response is dependent on applied period, reaching a maximum of about 30 years at 1000 years period, but is independent of applied amplitude. For the shorter applied periods the response amplitude increases rapidly with period but asymptotically approaches a maximum at periods above approximately 200 years; it is linearly dependent on applied amplitude. Consideration of the Lewis Glacier response taken in perspective with similar results for other alpine glaciers identifies general characteristics of the terminus response.

RÉSUMÉ. La réponse de la langue terminale du Lewis Glacier, Mount Kenya, Kenya, à des oscillations sinusoidales du bilan de masse. Les fluctuations climatiques se produisent suivant des échelles de temps très différentes. On a calculé la réponse de la langue terminale du Lewis Glacier à une fluctuation sinusoidale du bilan de masse. Le profil des bilans en fonction de l'altitude est transcrit séparément suivant des axes orthogonaux bilan/altitude. On a couvert des amplitudes de bilans de 0,1 à 0,5 m a⁻¹ de glace et d'altitudes de 10 à 50 m respectivement sur des périodes allant de 20 à 1000 ans. Le temps de réponse entre l'incitation du bilan et le mouvement de la langue dépend de la période choisie, il atteint un maximum d'environ 30 ans pour des périodes de 1000 ans mais il est indépendant de l'amplitude. Pour les périodes plus courtes l'amplitude de la réponse augmente rapidement avec

la période mais se rapproche asymptotiquement du maximum pour des périodes de l'ordre de 200 ans; elle est linéairement liée à l'amplitude de l'incitation. La prise en compte de la réponse du Lewis Glacier en comparaison avec des résultats analogues pour d'autres glaciers alpins permet de caractériser les traits généraux de la réponse des langues.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG. Ansprechen des Zungenendes des Lewis Glacier, Mount Kenya, auf sinusförmige Schwankungen der Massenbilanz. Klimaänderungen ereignen sich über einen weiten Bereich von Zeitskalen. Jeder Gletscher spricht auf dieses Spektrum von Klimageschehnissen in ihm eigener Weise an. Es wird hier das Ansprechen des Zungenendes des Lewis Glacier auf sinusförmige Schwankungen in der Massenbilanz berechnet. Das Vertikalprofil der Massenbilanz wird getrennt längs der zueinander senkrechten Bilanz- und Höhenachsen verschoben. Dabei werden Amplituden der Massenbilanz von 0,1 bis 0,5 m a⁻¹ und Amplituden der Höhe von 10 bis 50 m behandelt, sowie Perioden von 20 bis 1000 Jahren. Der Phasenunterschied zwischen dem Klimaereignis und dem Ansprechen des Zungenendes hängt von der Periode des Klimageschehens ab, derart, dass ein Maximum von etwa 30 Jahren bei einer Periode von 1000 Jahren erreicht wird; dagegen ist der Phasenunterschied unabhängig von der Amplitude des Klimageschehens. Für die kürzeren Perioden des Klimageschehens nimmt die Amplitude des Ansprechens der Gletscherzunge rasch mit zunehmender Periode zu, aber sie erreicht ein Maximum bei Perioden oberhalb etwa 200 Jahren; das Ansprechen der Gletscherzunge hängt linear von der Amplitude des Klimageschehens ab. In Zusammenhang mit ähnlichen Ergebnissen für andere Gletscher zeigen die Betrachtungen für den Lewis Glacier allgemeine Charakteristiken des Ansprechens der Gletscherzunge auf.

1. INTRODUCTION

Lewis Glacier on Mount Kenya (lat. 0°09'S., long. 37°19'E.) is the subject of a climate-monitoring program in which both recent climatic change in East Africa and the interaction between climate and glacier are being studied (Hastenrath, 1975; Caukwell and Hastenrath, 1977; Hastenrath and Caukwell, 1979; Hastenrath and Kruss, [1981], 1982; Bhatt and others, [1982]; Kruss, in press). For the most important earlier work on Lewis Glacier the reader should refer to Troll and Wien (1949) and Charnley (1959). Of considerable interest in the context of the present project is the response of Lewis Glacier to given climatic forcings, an effect which is dependent on the time scale and magnitude of the climatic event as well as on the physical characteristics of the glacier itself. In view of the link between climate, net balance, and the glacier, general characteristics can be investigated by examining net balance variation. A calculation is made of the response of the extent of the Lewis Glacier terminus to repeated sinusoidal netbalance oscillations of various periods and amplitudes.

The technique used involves first the modeling of a steady-state glacier of a certain length. This is accomplished by translating the vertical net-balance profile by the amount necessary to produce the required length. Sinusoidal perturbations are then applied about the displaced net balance and the terminus response is monitored.

For Lewis Glacier, two separate steady states of

the correct length are computed; one by translating the curve of net balance versus elevation with respect to the balance axis; the other by moving this curve along the orthogonal elevation axis. The former translation is essentially a precipitation effect with the glacier receiving a snow-fall increase over its entire area. The latter is most directly described as a change in equilibrium-line altitude (Allison and Kruss, 1977). The repeated sinusoidal fluctuations are then applied along the same axis as the initial translation, and the pseudo-sinusoidal glacier reaction is quantitatively analyzed for terminus-response amplitude and terminus time lag. Terminus-response amplitude is defined as half the difference between the maximum and minimum glacier lengths measured along a modeled central line. Time lag is the time elapsing between a net-balance event and the corresponding glacier reaction and is measured from applied net-balance extreme to terminus-response extreme.

2. GLACIER DYNAMICS

The numerical glacier model developed for this study is an extension of the deformational model of Budd and Jenssen ([1975]). It is essentially a two-dimensional, short-time-step model, but a three-dimensional parameterization of the continuity equation is included. The basic glacier variables which must be computed are ice velocity and depth and glacier surface elevation and extent. Velocity, depth, and surface elevation are determined at grid points spaced evenly along a longitudinal modeled line, whilst terminus position is followed between grid points. All values are re-calculated over repeated short time intervals (0.1 year for Lewis

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Glacier). Earlier versions of this basic model have been employed for studies of various non-surging and surging glaciers (Budd, 1975; Allison and Kruss, 1977; Budd and McInnes, [1978]). Close matching has been found between calculated and observed values of ice depth, surface velocity, and glacier extent.

For the Lewis Glacier calculations, a simplified flow scheme derived from the general model is used. Budd and Jenssen ([1975]) suggest that for ordinary glaciers the large-scale average-velocity distribution may be computed assuming deformation only with no basal slip. Reproduction of the velocity with this assumption is sufficient for this study. For non-surging, temperate glaciers in middle and high latitudes, Budd and Jenssen ([1975]) and Smith (unpublished) employed computation schemes which includes only a deformational ice-velocity formulation. Allison and Kruss (1977) modeled the retreat of the (tropical) Carstensz Glacier also with a deformational model. The matching between computed results and observed velocity values found for a range of valley glaciers using a non-sliding velocity scheme suggests the possibility of employing such an approach for this study of Lewis Glacier, which is a slow-moving temperate glacier (maximum velocity less than 5 m a⁻¹ in 1978).

The present model, excluding the basal-sliding segment, is outlined in Table I: Table I defines one complete computation cycle in the sequence programmed, each pass through this sequence constituting one time step. The equation numbers in this table refer to equations in the text. The total surface velocity U_s (see total velocity block of Table I) is the sum of the surface deformational velocity V_s (Equation (2) in Table I) and the sliding velocity V_b . The deformational-velocity scheme follows from Budd and Jenssen ([1975]). The change in ice depth ΔZ over a time step, and hence the ice depth Z itself, is determined from considerations of glacier net balance and

internal ice re-distribution, whilst ice-surface elevation E is the bedrock elevation b plus the ice depth (see ice-depth block of Table I). The exact glacier length X is also determined from continuity (Equations (16) to (18)). Budd and Jenssen (1975) during their modeling found the second right-hand term of Equation (4) in Table I to be very small. This also proved to be true for Lewis Glacier during some initial computations. Hence, this longitudinal stress "correction" term is not included in the computations reported here. The specific flow model employed in this study is described by the Table I equations with $\frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial x}$ and V_b both set to zero.

The importance of $\frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial x}$ in the calculation of velocity can also be estimated using an iterative approach to the solution of the set of equations (modified by a stress shape factor) involving longitudinal stress outlined in Paterson (1981, p. 89-91) (personal communication from I.M. Whillans). Solutions were obtained for the regions of mean positive and negative down-glacier velocity gradients. Setting $\frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial x}$ to zero was found to be quite an acceptable approximation within the limits of ice modeling.

Regarding the surface velocity, this model was employed by Hastenrath and Kruss ([1981], 1982) in computing the velocity of Lewis Glacier since late in the nineteenth century; it was found that surface velocities could be well reproduced. Bhatt and others ([1982]) also used this model in estimating the bedrock topography beneath Lewis Glacier in 1978 from known values of the surface velocity and details of the topography. The numerical calculations gave ice depths comfortably within the error ranges of results from seismic and gravimetric analyses. Bhatt and others ([1982] and Hastenrath and Kruss ([1981], 1982) both discuss the particular suitability of this basic model to the specific situation of Lewis Glacier.

Calculation of the deformational ice velocity is of primary importance in this study. Many researchers

TABLE I. THE CALCULATION ROUTINE OF THE LEWIS GLACIER FLOW MODEL

deformational velocity		
α	$= -\frac{\partial E}{\partial x}$	(6)
τ_c	$= s\rho gZ \sin \alpha$	(5)
τ_b	$= \tau_c - 2\frac{\partial Z \overline{\sigma_x}}{\partial x}$	$\frac{\partial Z \overline{\sigma_x}}{\partial x} = 0$ (4)
V_i	$= k\tau_b^n Z$	(1)
V_s	$= \frac{n+2}{n+1} V_i$	(2)
total velocity		
U_s	$= V_s + V_b$	$V_b = 0$
ice depth		
ΔZ	$= \left\{ A - \frac{1}{W_s} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(C_v U_s \frac{m}{m+1} W_s Z \right) \right\} \Delta t$	(14)
Z	$= Z + \Delta Z$	
E	$= b + Z$	
glacier length		
$M_{a(t)}$	$= M_{a(t-1)} + \left(A W_s r + C_v U_s \frac{m}{m+1} W_s Z \right) \Delta t$	(16)
r	$= \frac{J+1}{J} \frac{M_{a(t)}}{W_s Z}$	(17)
X	$= (N_g - 1) \delta X + r$	(18)

- A net balance
- b bedrock elevation
- C_v cross-section velocity ratio = \bar{V}/U_s
- E ice-surface elevation
- g gravitational acceleration
- J power of longitudinal snout shape
- k flow law constant
- m power of valley shape
- $M_{a(t)}$ ice volume past last grid point
- n power of flow law
- N_g number of grid points in use
- r distance from last grid point to terminus
- s stress shape factor
- Δt time step
- U_s surface velocity
- \bar{V} cross-section mean velocity
- V_b basal-sliding velocity
- V_i averaged deformational velocity (vertical average)
- V_s surface deformational velocity
- W_s surface width
- X glacier length
- δX grid point spacing
- x down-glacier axis or position
- Z ice depth on modeled line
- α ice surface slope
- ρ ice density
- $\frac{\partial \sigma_x}{\partial x}$ longitudinal stress deviator
- τ_b basal shear stress
- τ_c gravitational stress

have utilized flow laws of ice to relate velocity and shear stress. Budd (1969) discusses several flow laws applicable to differing stress ranges which involve the deformational velocity V_i and the basal shear stress τ_b . In this model, a straightforward power flow law is used as only a comparatively small τ_b range need be covered, i.e.

$$V_i = k \tau_b^n Z \tag{1}$$

where V_i is the vertically-averaged mean deformational velocity, Z is ice depth, and k and n are empirically-determined constants. Glen (1955) and Mellor (1959) found n to be between 3 and 4 for stresses greater than one bar. For lower stresses, up to approximately 0.5 bar, Mellor and Smith (1966) suggest that n is close to one. Present-day basal stresses of Lewis Glacier are of the order of one bar and less, and hence an intermediate value for n is used. This value is used by Budd (1975) and is near to that of Budd and Jenssen ([1975]). However, the value of n is not strictly defined for a valley glacier; if anything, n may be larger than 2. The effect on the computed retreat of Lewis Glacier of changing n from 2 to 3 is explored by Kruss (in press). The values of k input for Lewis Glacier are 0.16 and 0.14 bar⁻ⁿ a⁻¹ for n equals 2 and 3, respectively, from a formulation for temperate ice by Budd and Jenssen ([1975]).

The surface deformational velocity V_s is obtained from V_i using

$$V_s = \frac{n+2}{n+1} V_i \tag{2}$$

which follows for a power law definition of the velocity v_z at depth z from the surface (Budd, 1969) in the expression

$$V_i = \frac{1}{Z} \left\{ V_s Z - \int_0^Z (V_s - v_z) dz \right\} \tag{3}$$

Thus, the calculation of surface velocity is dependent on the derivation of a basal-stress solution (see Equations (1) and (2)).

The form of the τ_b solution is determined by the wavelength of the surface features to be modeled. For wavelengths greater than of order ten times the ice depth, Budd (1971) has suggested that

$$\tau_b = \tau_c - 2 \frac{\partial Z}{\partial x} \overline{\sigma_x} \tag{4}$$

where $\overline{\sigma_x}$ is the vertical average of the longitudinal stress deviator and τ_c is the centerline down-slope stress. However, this equation may rather be representational than quantitative (cf. Nye, 1979; Hutter and others, 1981). Nye (1965[a]) found that the frictional effect of valley walls must be included when treating valley glaciers. This effect is embodied in the stress shape factor s of the centerline stress equation

$$\tau_c = s \rho g Z \sin \alpha \tag{5}$$

where ρ is ice density and g is gravitational acceleration. The ice surface slope α is defined by

$$\alpha = - \frac{\partial E}{\partial x} \tag{6}$$

where E is the ice-surface elevation.

The stress deviator $\overline{\sigma_x}$ is found via a flow law applicable to a wider stress range than the power approximation (Butkovich and Landauer, 1960)

$$\overline{\sigma_x} = \tau_1 \sinh^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_1} \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \right) \tag{7}$$

where τ_1 and ϵ_1 are constants of value 0.3 bar and 0.685 a⁻¹, respectively, for temperate ice (Budd and Jenssen, [1975]). V is the vertical average of the total velocity, i.e.

$$V = V_i + V_b \tag{8}$$

where V_b is the basal sliding velocity. The surface deformational velocity may be determined from Equations (1), (2), and (4) to (8). The computation sequence programmed is included in Table I.

The estimation of both ice depth and glacier length is dependent on mass continuity and must include mass addition at the ice surface and internal mass re-distribution due to glacier flow. If we take a volume element from bedrock to surface across the glacier

$$\Delta z = A \Delta t + \frac{\Delta I}{W_s \delta x} \tag{9}$$

where Δz is the change in ice depth of the element over the time interval Δt , A is the net balance, and \overline{W}_s and δx are mean width and length of the volume element, respectively. The net ice inflow ΔI is a function of the change, over δx , in cross-section mass flux, i.e.

$$\Delta I = - \delta (\overline{V} \Omega) \Delta t \tag{10}$$

where \overline{V} is cross-section mean velocity and Ω is cross-sectional area. In a similar way to Nye (1965[a]), \overline{V} is taken proportional to the centerline velocity, i.e.

$$\overline{V} = C_v U_s \tag{11}$$

where U_s is the total surface velocity and C_v , the cross-sectional velocity ratio, is dependent on valley shape. If the shape of the valley cross-section is parameterized by a simple power fit of order m , i.e.

$$z \propto W_s^m \tag{12}$$

where m is the valley power, then

$$\Omega = \frac{m}{m+1} W_s Z \tag{13}$$

Combining Equations (9) through (11) and (13) for δx small leads to

$$\frac{\Delta Z}{\Delta t} = A - \frac{1}{W_s} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(C_v U_s \cdot \frac{m}{m+1} W_s Z \right) \tag{14}$$

This equation is employed in the glacier-flow model for the computation of ice depth change over a time step. Thus, the ice depth Z and the surface elevation E are defined at any time (see ice depth block of Table I).

The parameters C_v and m are constant for each grid point. However, the surface width is recalculated after each time step from input values of reference ice depth and width, Z_{ref} and W_{ref} , respectively. From Equation (12)

$$W_s = W_{ref} \left(\frac{Z}{Z_{ref}} \right)^{1/m} \quad (15)$$

The glacier extent is determined more accurately than the grid spacing by calculating the volume of ice past the last grid point in use, and then computing the length necessary to contain this volume within a specified longitudinal snout shape (Equations (16) to (18) of Table I). The volume of ice at the current time t ($M_a(t)$) in this terminus region is the volume at the preceding time step ($M_a(t-1)$) plus the change over a time step resulting from net balance and ice inflow past the final grid point, i.e. in a similar way to Equation (14),

$$M_{a(t)} = M_{a(t-1)} + (AW_s r + C_v U_s \frac{m}{m+1} W_s Z) \Delta t \quad (16)$$

where r is the distance from the last grid point in use to the glacier terminus. The net balance is a mean over r whilst the remaining values are at the final grid point. A simple power fit of order J to this snout volume and the ice depth at the last grid point gives a snout length

$$r = \frac{J+1}{J} \frac{M_{a(t)}}{W_s Z} \quad (17)$$

Finally, the total glacier length X is the distance along the modeled line to the last grid point plus r , i.e.

$$X = (N_g - 1) \delta X + r \quad (18)$$

where N_g is the number of grid points in use and δX is the grid spacing.

Much of the data input to this model must be defined at grid points spaced 50 m apart for Lewis Glacier along a central, longitudinal modeled line. An important parameter is the bedrock elevation along this line. The bedrock topography is known below the 1978 terminus (4600 m) and at the head of the glacier (4980 m) as the Lewis Glacier commences on a rock slope. For grid points covering the present ice, the bedrock elevation has been determined using three distinct techniques (Bhatt and others, [1982]), a maximum ice depth in 1978 of less than 50 m being found.

The flow cross-sectional area and the glacier surface width at each grid point are approximated by a mathematical power-law representation of the cross-section shape, i.e. the valley power m and reference width W_{ref} and depth Z_{ref} values. As cross-section profiles at grid points within the present ice were not well defined, a valley power m of 2, which was constant for the entire glacier, was used; this value was based on the value appropriate to the exposed valley walls. Definition of m at a value other than unity allows for a modeling of cross-sectional area and surface-width variation with time. The reference width W_{ref} and depth Z_{ref} values used correspond approximately to the surface widths and ice depths at the late nineteenth-century maximum glacier.

Neither the cross-section velocity ratio C_v nor the stress shape factor s are well known although they are discussed by Nye (1965[a]). Hence, a model tuning process was followed for the final definition of these variables. Employing the Nye (1965[a]) information as a guide, C_v and s values were initially defined for each grid point. Model calculations were then carried out for a range of C_v and s values until the best fit to 1978 ice depths and surface velocities was found. For Lewis Glacier, C_v values were about 0.7 and s values were derived in the range 0.8–0.9.

Net balance is defined by altitude bands for Lewis Glacier rather than at each grid point, thus

allowing a feedback response between net balance and changes in surface elevation. The net balance employed is that constructed for the 1978/79 balance year (March to March); it exhibits maximum ablation of about 4 m a⁻¹ water equivalent near the glacier terminus and increases to a maximum accumulation rate of about 1 m a⁻¹ for the 4850–4950 m band before decreasing slowly once more at higher elevations.

3. RESULTS

The response of Lewis Glacier is modeled about a steady state of length 1.32 km which is the mean of the late-nineteenth century maximum of 1.60 km and the 1978 minimum of 1.04 km (Kruss, in press). Net-balance sinusoidal oscillation periods from 20 to 1000 years are covered, as are applied amplitudes of 0.1 to 0.5 m a⁻¹ of ice (with respect to the balance axis) and 10 to 50 m (with respect to the elevation axis). Figures 1 and 2 summarize the time lag and amplitude of the terminus response for these sinusoidal fluctuations. The plotted time lags are means over the applied net-balance amplitude range and also between the lags at the computed maximum and minimum extents, the lag behavior of the glacier at these two extremes being somewhat different.

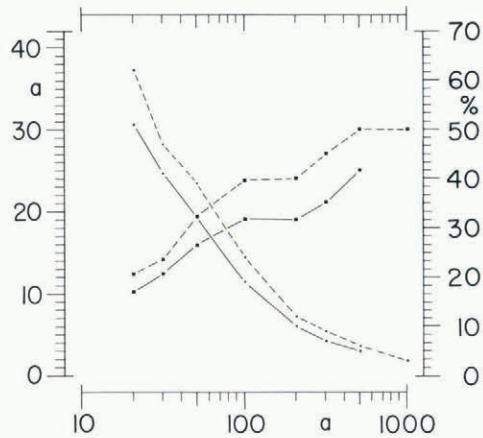


Fig. 1. Time lag between net-balance variation and Lewis Glacier terminus response. The mean time lag (ordinate) is plotted against the period of the applied sinusoidal balance oscillation (abscissa) and is expressed in years (squares, left scale) and as a percentage of the applied period (dots, right scale). Dashed and solid lines denote translation with respect to the balance and elevation axes, respectively.

The time lag between sinusoidal net balance event and glacier response (Fig. 1) exhibits a very similar pattern for translation along the balance and elevation axes, with the latter on average about 20% lower in magnitude. The time lag expressed in years increases from a minimum of about 10 years for an applied period of 20 years to a maximum at a 1000 year period of about 30 years. The time lag at 1000 years for elevation-axis translation is not given in Figure 1 because there are instability problems associated with the very small glacier minimum lengths obtained at this long period. Also included in Figure 1 is the time lag as a percentage of applied period. These curves show a rapid decrease from a maximum of more than 50% for a 20 year period to a minimum at 1000 years of only a few per cent. In contrast to this high dependence on applied period, time lag is virtually independent of net balance amplitude. At a given period, the average variation about the mean values given in Figure 1 (see above) is $\pm 5\%$.

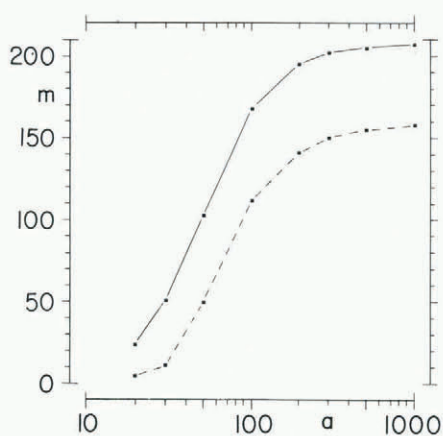


Fig. 2. Amplitude of the Lewis Glacier terminus response. The terminus response amplitude (ordinate) is plotted against the period of the applied sinusoidal balance oscillation (abscissa). A dashed line indicates a response to variation in the balance axis of amplitude 0.3 m a^{-1} of ice. A solid line indicates a translation with respect to the elevation axis of amplitude 30 m , which is most directly described as a 30 m change in equilibrium-line altitude.

The terminus-response amplitude (Fig. 2) increases rapidly with period for the higher frequencies but approaches a maximum value at periods longer than about 200 years. For the results included in Figure 2, which correspond to translations along the balance and elevation axes of 0.3 m a^{-1} of ice and 30 m respectively, the terminus-response amplitude varies from about 10 m at a 20 year period to a maximum of more than 150 m . Further, in contrast to time lag, the response amplitude was found to be linearly dependent on applied amplitude (coefficient of determination R^2 equals 1.0). However, a doubling of the applied net balance amplitude does not result in a two-fold increase in terminus amplitude, rather the change is by a mean factor of about 1.9 for Lewis Glacier.

It is relevant here to compare the characteristic results obtained for the present balance-axis study with similar results for other alpine glaciers. The terminus reaction of Hintereisferner, Austria, to sinusoidal net-balance oscillations in the balance axis has been computed for mean lengths of 9.7 and 7.7 km (Kruss, unpublished). Nye (1965[b]) estimated the frequency response of Storglaciären, Sweden, and South Cascade Glacier, U.S.A.; both glaciers have similar lengths (about 3.5 km) but Storglaciären moves at only half the speed. The frequency response calculated at 8.0 km for Berendon Glacier, Canada, is included by Untersteiner and Nye (1968). In the Hintereisferner study, changes in the terminus extent were modeled in the same way as in the present work. For the remaining glaciers, however, the glacier length was held constant and the change in the ice depth near the glacier terminus in response to harmonic net balance fluctuations was calculated. Hence, whilst it is appropriate to compare many of the results of these studies, the Hintereisferner and Lewis Glacier response amplitudes are not compatible in terms of absolute magnitude with the amplitude results for Berendon Glacier, Storglaciären, and South Cascade Glacier.

The five glaciers all exhibit time lags of order 10 years at a 20 year period, while at the longer periods the time lags approach a maximum. At a 1000 year period, the lags for Hintereisferner, Berendon Glacier, Storglaciären, South Cascade Glacier, and Lewis Glacier are about 110, 55, 55, 40, and 30 years, respectively.

The curve of time lag expressed as a percentage of applied period versus this time period exhibits a peak for each glacier except Lewis Glacier. This maximum is at about 55% and 90 years for Hintereisferner, and about 45%, 50 years; 45%, 55 years; and 45%, 25 years for Berendon Glacier, Storglaciären, and South Cascade Glacier, respectively. The Lewis Glacier maximum is evidently at a period less than or equal to 20 years (see Fig. 1) and is at least 5%. At periods below this peak, the time lag asymptotically approaches a value apparently about 25% of applied period (equivalent to 90° phase lag), whilst the curve tends towards zero at longer periods.

The time lag was found to be largely independent of applied net-balance amplitude over the range 0.1 to 0.5 m a^{-1} of ice for both Lewis Glacier and Hintereisferner. This is an inherent feature of Nye's analysis (Nye, 1965[b]).

The response amplitude approaches a maximum asymptotically at the longer periods. For a period of 1000 years, the terminus amplitudes for Hintereisferner and Lewis Glacier are about 1700 and 160 m , respectively, for an applied amplitude of 0.3 m a^{-1} of ice. At the shorter periods the terminus response is very small, being about one metre for 0.3 m a^{-1} of ice applied amplitude and 20 year period. A basic feature of Nye's approach is a linear dependence between the amplitude of the response near the terminus and the applied net-balance amplitude. Such a dependence was also found for the Hintereisferner and Lewis Glacier terminus responses.

It is relevant to discuss the importance in these Lewis Glacier calculations of the parameters C_v , s , and J (the cross-section velocity factor, stress shape factor, and the power of the longitudinal snout shape) which are dependent on the glacier dimensions. The terminus response of the Lewis is quite stable to changes in C_v and s ; there exists a stabilizing feedback between the effect on the integrated mass flux caused by varying these parameters and the opposing influences of re-adjustment in the glacier dimensions and velocity. Consider, for example, the extreme case of a steady-state glacier with net balance and surface width fixed in time. Changing C_v or s will not bring about any change in terminus position in this case; rather, re-adjustment is in the velocity and depth at each point within the glacier such that the integrated net balance remains balanced by cross-section flux. A similar though less extreme argument may be applied to this response environment, where only the integrated response of the whole glacier at the terminus is being studied.

Numerical experiments support this assertion. Varying s by 0.2 (25%) results in less than 10% changes in both computed time lag and amplitude responses. Similarly, changing C_v by 0.2 (25%) produces variations in lag and length response of at most 5%.

The terminus power J is somewhat different as it must, in part, be set to ensure smooth growth and retreat of the ice past grid points. The parameterization of the near-terminus region embodied by Equations (16) and (17) compensates for the necessarily finite and limited number of grid points. Significant changes of J from its best value will not affect the major features of the response but will result in computationally unacceptable discontinuities in terminus movement through grid points.

4. CONCLUSIONS

A number of characteristic features concerning the reaction at the glacier terminus to sinusoidal net-balance fluctuations of various frequencies and amplitudes are apparent. Time lag is dependent on applied net-balance period but essentially independent of applied amplitude. At periods below about 10 years

this lag approaches a minimum of 25% of the applied period, whilst at the longer applied periods an approach to a maximum in absolute terms is found. For Lewis Glacier this maximum is about 30 years for variation in the balance axis and about 5 years less for change in equilibrium line altitude. This difference is representative of variations in time lag to be expected depending on the particular climatic forcing involved. It occurs here because the Lewis Glacier net-balance elevation profile is very steep in the ablation zone and relatively quite flat in the accumulation zone; for such curves translation parallel to the elevation axis produces net-balance change concentrated in the lower glacier.

The response amplitude is dependent on both applied period and amplitude, the dependence in the latter case being linear. For a given applied amplitude, the response amplitude is comparatively very small at the shorter periods, i.e. periods on the order of decades and less for Lewis Glacier, and approaches a maximum asymptotically for the longer periods, greater than about 200 years for Lewis Glacier.

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