

Interactive comment on “From Doktor Kurowski’s Schneegrenze to our modern glacier equilibrium line altitude (ELA)” by R. J. Braithwaite

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Ramón Pellitero refers to the fact that I cite Soruco et al. (2009) in line 21 on page 3183 but I fail to list it in the reference list. Perhaps worse, in a private e-mail to me, Hans Müller points out that I incorrectly ascribe Kurowski (1891) to the Berliner Geographische Abhandlungen rather than to Penck’s Geographische Abhandlungen. At several places in my paper I mention poor referencing by others but I am clearly guilty of this myself! I am very sorry and I thank Ramón Pellitero and Hans Müller for their corrections.

Hans Müller also mentions that my equation (3) at line 18 on page 3172 cannot be correct as it stands. This is true but easily fixed by removing the t subscript from the specific balance b so that it becomes b with subscript i. With this change, equation (3)

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is consistent with Kurowski (1891) who did not envisage a time series of mass balance but only considered the altitude-distribution of mass balance that gives a balanced-budget for the whole glacier.

There is a small error in line 2 of Table 1 where “mid” should read “H with subscript mid”. In Table 2 the bottom line should read “Combining cases (3) and (4)”.

References

- Kurowski, L. Die Höhe der Schneegrenze mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Finsteraarhorn-Gruppe. Penck’s Geographischer Abhandlungen 5, 1, 119–160, 1891.
Soruco, A., C. Vincent, B. Francou, P. Ribstein, T. Berger, J. E. Sicart, P. Wagnon, Y. Arnaud, V. Favier and Y. Lejeune. Mass balance of Glaciar Zongo, Bolivia, between 1956 and 2006, using glaciological, hydrological and geodetic methods. Annals of Glaciology 50, 50, 1–8, 2009.

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