

Attenuation of ultraviolet radiation and photosynthetically active radiation in six Yunnan Plateau lakes of China based on seasonal field investigations

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ABSTRACT

Solar radiation is a primary driver affecting several physical, chemical and biological processes in lake ecosystems. The attenuation of sunlight in water is directly controlled by optically active substances. Here, the seasonal and interlake heterogeneities of the diffuse attenuation coefficients ($K_d(\lambda)$) of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) were studied based on field investigations in six Yunnan Plateau lakes (*i.e.*, Chenghai, Dianchi, Erhai, Fuxian, Lugu and Yangzong) of China, October 2014–July 2016. The results revealed that $K_d(\lambda)$ generally increased with decreasing wavelength and increasing trophic state and that $K_d(\text{UVR})$ presented higher interlake heterogeneity than $K_d(\text{PAR})$. The interlake heterogeneity surpassed the seasonal heterogeneity of $K_d(\lambda)$, whereas the intralake seasonal heterogeneity, which is related to the lake trophic state and solar spectrum, was obvious. Although the main factors affecting $K_d(\lambda)$ were chromophoric dissolved organic matter (CDOM) and phytoplankton in general, the interlake heterogeneity was found. In eutrophic, turbid shallow Lake Dianchi, CDOM primarily affected UV-B, whereas total suspended solids (TSS) and/or phytoplankton had important effects on $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$. CDOM, TSS and phytoplankton influenced the $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ in the deep mesotrophic Lake Chenghai and Lake Erhai, but the main particulate factors were different between these two lakes. In the deep, oligotrophic clear Lake Fuxian and Lake Lugu, only the significant effect of CDOM on $K_d(\text{UVR})$ in Lake Fuxian was detected. Additionally, the factors affecting $K_d(\lambda)$ in Lake Yangzong were atypical, possibly due to the artificial addition of massive amounts of ferric chloride.

INTRODUCTION

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR, 200–400 nm) and photosynthetically active radiation (PAR, 400–700 nm) are necessary components of solar radiation, which is the fundamental driving force of lake ecosystems. Because UV-C (200–280 nm) is often completely absorbed by the ozonosphere and the atmosphere, the UVR that reaches the earth surface primarily contains UV-B (280–320 nm) and UV-A (320–400 nm). The joint effects of UVR and PAR

regulate numerous physical, chemical, biological and ecological processes in aquatic ecosystems, such as thermal stratification, biogeochemical cycles, primary production, population dynamics and community structure, and even biological damage (Kirk, 2011; Häder *et al.*, 2015). The vertical propagation of sunlight in water is mainly controlled by the incident sunlight intensity and four optically active substances (OASs), namely, pure water, chromophoric dissolved organic matter (CDOM), tripton or non-algal particulates (NAPs), and phytoplankton (Kirk, 2011).

Due to the heterogeneity of OASs, sunlight attenuation varies according to the lake characteristics (De Lange, 2000; Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Rose *et al.*, 2014; Spyarakos *et al.*, 2018). For example, the diffuse attenuation coefficients ($K_d(\lambda)$) of UVR and PAR in the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau lakes are significantly lower than those of lakes in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River (Zhang *et al.*, 2011). Generally, in (clear) lakes at higher elevations, CDOM and phytoplankton contribute more to UVR attenuation (Laurion *et al.*, 2000; Sommaruga and Augustin, 2006; Rose *et al.*, 2009). In these lakes, the contents of CDOM and phytoplankton are evidently low; accordingly, sunlight attenuation becomes increasingly sensitive to variation in the catchment environment that can impact the OASs inputs and their composition and contents in the lake. Moreover, areas at higher elevations receive more UVR (Pfeifer *et al.*, 2006), and the effects of UVR on lake ecosystems may be further intensified due to its deep pen-

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etration. Strong UVR may enhance the photodegradation of CDOM (Du *et al.*, 2016) and the suppression of phytoplankton (Beecraft *et al.*, 2017). However, with the rapid development of the surrounding catchment, many lakes are now affected by eutrophication, which can change the composition and contents of partial OASs, as well as the underwater optical regimes. Song *et al.* (2018) indicated that eutrophication can promote excess algal growth and organic accumulation and further increase the contents of dissolved organic carbon. Specifically, increasing nutrient levels may promote phytoplankton biomass (Zhou *et al.*, 2016a), leading to increased abundances of autochthonous CDOM (Pacheco *et al.*, 2014; Aparicio *et al.*, 2016; Cory *et al.*, 2016), such as algae-derived components. As a result of atmospheric deposition and rivers flowing into the lake (Mladenov *et al.*, 2011; Zhang *et al.*, 2014; Zhou *et al.*, 2016b), allochthonous CDOM may also increase with increasing trophic state (Zhang *et al.*, 2018; Shang *et al.*, 2019). Moreover, eutrophication (decreased water transparency)-induced deterioration of submerged vegetation can increase the tripton content in shallow lakes due to sediment resuspension (Zhang *et al.*, 2016; Shi *et al.*, 2018).

Lakes of the Yunnan Plateau (YP) are the main components of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau Limnetic Region, one of five limnetic regions in China. These lakes are important for the production of the zone and the life of local residents (Zhou *et al.*, 2019). Unfortunately, the trophic states of many YP lakes have increased in recent decades, which has been accompanied by the deterioration of water quality and aquatic vegetation (Zhang *et al.*, 2017; Dong *et al.*, 2018; Zhou *et al.*, 2019). This deterioration is essentially correlated with the underwater optical regimes of the lakes. Al-

though previous studies have investigated the $K_d(\lambda)$ of YP lakes (Zhang *et al.*, 2007b; Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Zhou *et al.*, 2018), more research is needed. Moreover, notably, the solar global radiation and UVR of the YP are spatially and temporally heterogeneous (Zhou and Chen, 2008; Wang *et al.*, 2009), and the lakes in this area are located at different elevations and have varied trophic states (Zhou *et al.*, 2019). These characteristics imply that the $K_d(\lambda)$ and its major influencing factors in each lake are different. Therefore, we compared the interlake variations of $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$, as well as their major influencing factors, in six typical YP lakes with differing lake characteristics (*e.g.*, elevation, depth and trophic state). In addition, this study considered the seasonal heterogeneity of lakes because the attenuation of sunlight may vary among seasons (Brandão *et al.*, 2016; Rose *et al.*, 2019).

METHODS

Study lake description and field sampling

A total of six lakes (*i.e.*, Lake Chenghai (LCH), Lake Dianchi (LDC), Lake Erhai (LEH), Lake Fuxian (LFX), Lake Lugu (LLG) and Lake Yangzong (LYZ)) with differing basic limnological characteristics, such as latitude and longitude, altitude (from 1503 m to 2691 m), depth (mean, 4.4 m to 89.6 m; maxima, from 5.9 m to 155.0 m), area (from 31.7 km² to 309.0 km²) and trophic state (from oligotrophic to mesotrophic and eutrophic), were sampled in spring, summer, autumn and winter (Tab. 1). Water samples were collected at a depth of 0.5 m to determine OASs and other physical-chemical parameters.

Tab. 1. Location and basic limnological parameters of the six sampled lakes on the Yunnan Plateau.

Parameters	Lake Chenghai	Lake Dianchi	Lake Erhai	Lake Fuxian	Lake Lugu	Lake Yangzong
Latitude (N)	26°27'~26°38'	24°40'~25°02'	25°36'~25°58'	24°21'~24°38'	27°41'~27°45'	24°51'~24°58'
Longitude (E)	100°38'~100°41'	102°36'~102°47'	100°06'~100°18'	102°49'~102°57'	100°45'~100°50'	102°58'~103°01'
Altitude (m)	1503	1887	1973	1721	2691	1771
Mean depth (m)	25.7	4.4	10.2	89.6	40.3	19.5
Maximum depth (m)	35.1	5.9	20.7	155.0	93.5	30.0
Area (km ²)	77.2	309.0	249.0	211.0	48.5	31.7
COD _{Mn} (mg/L)	5.23±0.60	7.97±0.98	4.47±0.87	1.53±0.21	1.50±0.25	3.81±0.27
TN (mg/L)	0.70±0.12	2.73±0.63	0.52±0.50	0.11±0.05	0.07±0.04	0.44±0.18
TP (mg/L)	0.05±0.02	0.14±0.06	0.04±0.03	0.03±0.02	0.01±0.00	0.09±0.05
Chl <i>a</i> (µg/L)	11.36±7.81	39.60±19.10	7.52±4.34	1.56±0.62	0.15±0.17	24.23±13.54
TLI _{C4}	46.68±2.88	62.98±3.68	40.11±5.66	22.67±5.66	8.96±3.74	48.15±3.09
Sampling sites	9	13	11	16	9	6
Sampling time	Oct., 2014; Jan., Apr., Jul., 2015	Oct., 2014; Jan., Apr., Jul., 2015	Oct., 2014; Jan., Apr., Jul., 2015	Oct., 2014; Jan., Apr., 2015; Jul., 2016	Oct., 2014; Jan., Apr., Jul., 2015	Oct., 2014; Jan., Apr., 2015; Jul., 2016

COD_{Mn} (mean±SD), chemical oxygen demand by manganese; TN (mean±SD), total nitrogen; TP (mean±SD), total phosphorus; Chl *a* (mean±SD), chlorophyll *a*; TLI_{C4} (mean±SD), comprehensive trophic state index based on four water quality indices: COD_{Mn}, TN, TP and Chl *a*. Oct., Jan., Apr. and Jul. represent autumn, winter, spring and summer, respectively.

Underwater irradiance profile measurement

The underwater downward irradiance of UV-B (305 nm, 313 nm, 320 nm), UV-A (340 nm, 380 nm, 395 nm) and PAR at different depths ranged from 0 to 3.5 m in the mixed layer were measured by a UV-visible radiation meter (PUV-2500, Biospherical Instruments Inc., USA) at all sampling sites of the six lakes. The $K_d(\lambda)$ was calculated according to equation (1) (Kirk, 2011).

$$K_d(\lambda) = -\frac{1}{z} \ln \frac{E_d(\lambda, z)}{E_d(\lambda, 0)} \quad (\text{eq. 1})$$

where $K_d(\lambda)$ is the diffuse attenuation coefficient of each solar spectrum (wavelength, λ), and $E_d(\lambda, z)$ and $E_d(\lambda, 0)$ are the values of the downward irradiance of λ at a depth of z m and just below the surface (0 m), respectively.

OAS and physical-chemical parameter measurements

Water samples were filtered through GF/F filter membranes (0.70 μm porosity, Whatman, UK) and then filtered through cellulose filter membranes (0.22 μm porosity, Merck Millipore, Germany) to determine the CDOM absorption. The optical density of CDOM at the wavelength λ ($D(\lambda)$) was measured with a range of 200–800 nm (1 nm interval) using a 5 cm quartz cell on a UV-visible spectrophotometer (UV-2550PC, Shimadzu, Japan). The absorption coefficient of CDOM at the wavelength λ ($a_g(\lambda)$) was corrected and calculated from $D(\lambda)$ according to equation (2) (Zhang *et al.*, 2007a).

$$a_g(\lambda) = \frac{2.303[D(\lambda) - \frac{D(700)\lambda}{700}]}{r} \quad (\text{eq. 2})$$

where r is the cuvette path length in m (0.05 m here). The $a_g(254)$ was selected to characterize the CDOM abundance (Zhang *et al.*, 2014).

Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*, represents phytoplankton biomass), total suspended solid (TSS, includes phytoplankton and NAPs), total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP) and the chemical oxygen demand by manganese (COD_{Mn}) values were measured according to the standard methods described by the Editorial Board of Water and Wastewater Monitoring and Analysis Methods of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (China, 2002). The four-factor comprehensive trophic state index (TLI_{C4} involving the four parameters Chl *a*, TN, TP and COD_{Mn}) was calculated for each sample according to equation (3) (Jin and Tu, 1990).

$$TLI_{C4} = \sum_{j=1}^4 W_i \times (a_j + b_j \times \ln C_{jx}) \quad (\text{eq. 3})$$

where W_i is the weight of each parameter, a_j and b_j are constants related to each parameter, which are obtained from Jin and Tu (1990); C_{jx} is the value of each parameter (*i.e.*, Chl *a*, $\mu\text{g/L}$; TN, mg/L ; TP, mg/L ; COD_{Mn} , mg/L).

Statistical analysis

The multi-independent-sample nonparametric test (Kruskal-Wallis one-way ANOVA, Stepwise step-down), two-way analysis of variance, Spearman correlation and stepwise regression analyses were all conducted using Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) Statistics (ver. 24.0, IBM, Armonk, NY, USA); for the two-way analysis of variance and the stepwise regression, the data of each dependent variable were transformed by natural logarithm; $P < 0.05$ was considered significant, and $P < 0.01$ was considered extremely significant.

RESULTS

Variations in $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$

Generally, the average values (mean $\pm$ SD) for all the samples of $K_d(305)$, $K_d(313)$, $K_d(320)$, $K_d(340)$, $K_d(380)$, $K_d(395)$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ are $5.04 \pm 4.52 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $4.67 \pm 4.66 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $4.48 \pm 4.63 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $3.65 \pm 4.10 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $2.47 \pm 3.00 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $2.40 \pm 2.94 \text{ m}^{-1}$ and $0.98 \pm 0.94 \text{ m}^{-1}$, respectively. For further analyses, the UV-B at 313 nm and the UV-A at 380 nm were chosen to represent UVR in the following sections. In terms of $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, the average values of LCH, LDC, LEH, LFX, LLG and LYZ are $3.59 \pm 0.47 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $13.30 \pm 1.96 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $5.21 \pm 0.45 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $1.03 \pm 0.13 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $0.59 \pm 0.09 \text{ m}^{-1}$ and $2.90 \pm 0.28 \text{ m}^{-1}$, respectively (Fig. 1) and differed significantly among the lakes ($P < 0.01$). For $K_d(\text{UV-A})$, the average values of LCH, LDC, LEH, LFX, LLG and LYZ are $1.49 \pm 0.28 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $8.00 \pm 2.13 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $2.28 \pm 0.45 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $0.43 \pm 0.12 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $0.26 \pm 0.08 \text{ m}^{-1}$ and $1.36 \pm 0.20 \text{ m}^{-1}$, respectively (Fig. 1), and also significantly differed among the lakes ($P < 0.01$). Finally, with respect to $K_d(\text{PAR})$, the average values of LCH, LDC, LEH, LFX, LLG and LYZ are $0.77 \pm 0.13 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $2.72 \pm 0.65 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $0.78 \pm 0.17 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $0.34 \pm 0.13 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $0.25 \pm 0.08 \text{ m}^{-1}$ and $0.74 \pm 0.16 \text{ m}^{-1}$, respectively (Fig. 1); no significant differences are observed among three mesotrophic lakes LCH, LEH and LYZ ($P = 0.384$). The $K_d(\text{PAR})$ value of LDC is significantly higher than the $K_d(\text{PAR})$ values of LCH, LEH and LYZ ($P < 0.01$), which are significantly higher than the $K_d(\text{PAR})$ value of LFX ($P < 0.01$). Furthermore, the $K_d(\text{PAR})$ of LFX is significantly higher than that of LLG ($P < 0.01$).

Regarding seasonal changes, an analysis incorporating all six lakes reveals no significant seasonal variations in $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ ($P > 0.05$). However, the independent analysis of each lake demonstrates that the $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ values of LCH, LDC, LEH and LYZ are all significantly different across seasons ($P < 0.01$). In LFX, $K_d(\text{UV-B})$ and $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ have significant seasonal differences ($P < 0.01$), whereas $K_d(\text{PAR})$ is not significantly different across seasons ($P > 0.05$). The $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ values of LLG are not significantly different across seasons

($P>0.05$). The two-way analysis of variance comparing the six lakes and the four seasons indicates that the lake and its interaction with the season significantly contribute to the variations of $\text{Ln}(K_d(313))$, $\text{Ln}(K_d(380))$ and $\text{Ln}(K_d(\text{PAR}))$, but the season is not (Tab. 2).

Variations in CDOM absorptions and the contents of Chl *a* and TSS

As shown in Fig. 2, the CDOM absorptions are greatly different among the six lakes and seem to be different among the four seasons in each lake; the average values of $a_g(254)$ of LCH, LDC, LEH, LFX, LLG and LYZ are $15.22\pm0.53 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $20.08\pm1.37 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $13.44\pm0.72 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $3.64\pm0.65 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $2.68\pm0.77 \text{ m}^{-1}$ and $8.80\pm0.64 \text{ m}^{-1}$, respectively. The average Chl *a* concentrations of LCH, LDC, LEH, LFX, LLG and LYZ are $11.36\pm7.81 \mu\text{g/L}$, $39.60\pm$

$19.10 \mu\text{g/L}$, $7.52\pm4.34 \mu\text{g/L}$, $1.56\pm0.62 \mu\text{g/L}$, $0.15\pm0.17 \mu\text{g/L}$ and $24.23\pm13.54 \mu\text{g/L}$, respectively (Tab. 1 and Fig. 3). Regarding the TSS concentrations (Fig. 4), the average values of LCH, LDC, LEH, LFX, LLG and LYZ are $7.46\pm6.21 \text{ mg/L}$, $38.15\pm22.31 \text{ mg/L}$, $5.14\pm2.85 \text{ mg/L}$, $1.24\pm0.54 \text{ mg/L}$, $0.64\pm0.55 \text{ mg/L}$ and $17.03\pm13.92 \text{ mg/L}$, respectively. The values of $a_g(254)$, Chl *a* and TSS are all significantly different among the lakes ($P<0.01$). In terms of seasonal change, the analysis incorporating all six lakes shows no significant seasonal differences in $a_g(254)$, Chl *a* and TSS ($P>0.05$); nevertheless, separate analyses of each lake suggest that all six lakes have significant seasonal differences in these three OASs ($P<0.01$). In spite of these, the lake (dominant one), the season and their interaction all have significant contributions to the variations of the three OASs (Tab. 2).

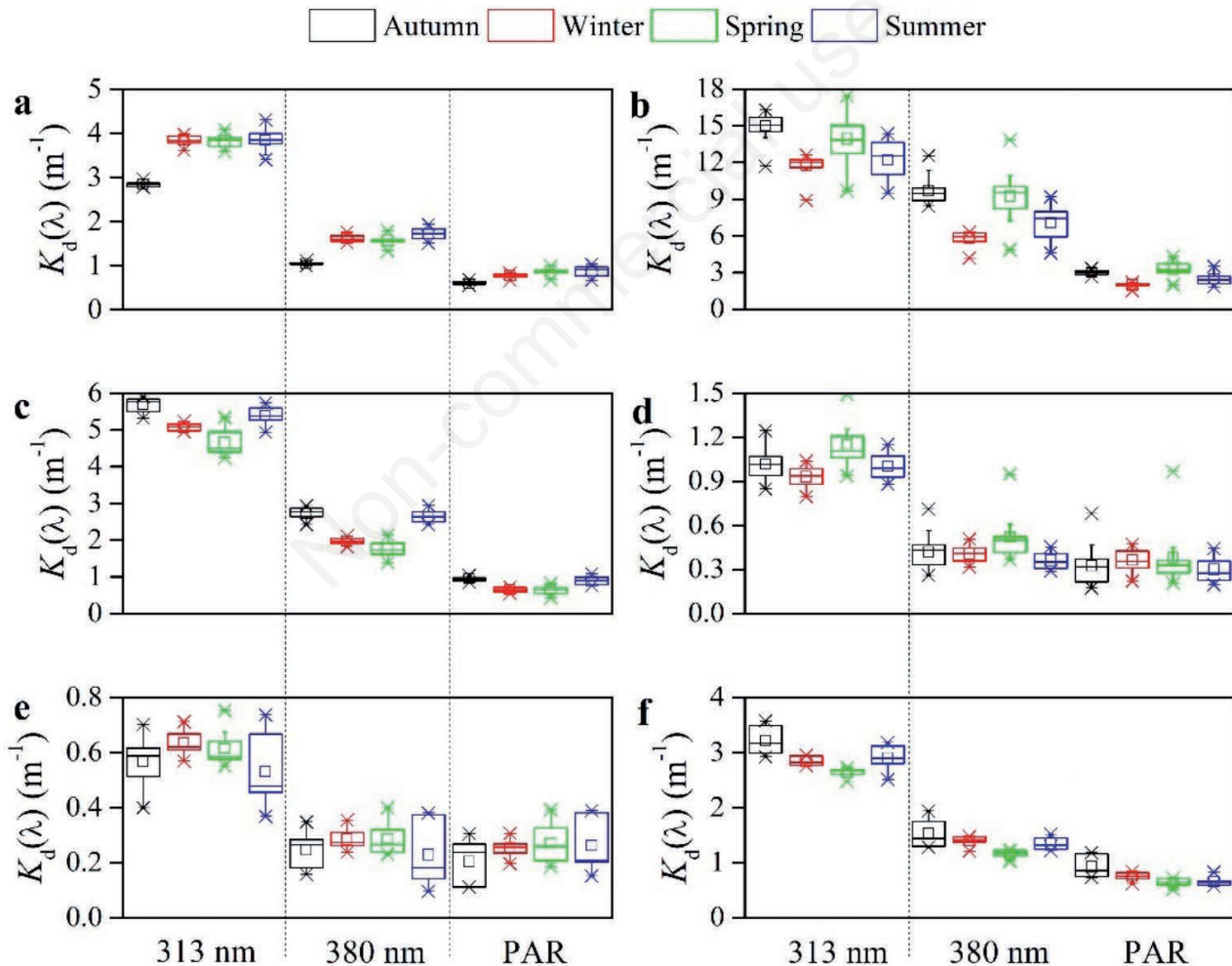


Fig. 1. Seasonal variations in the diffuse attenuation coefficients of UV-B (313 nm), UV-A (380 nm) and PAR (400–700 nm) in Lake Chenghai (a), Lake Dianchi (b), Lake Erhai (c), Lake Fuxian (d), Lake Lugu (e) and Lake Yangzong (f). The upper and lower borders and the internal horizontal line of each box represent upper quartile, lower quartile and median, respectively; “—” represents minimum and maximum values, “*” represents 1% and 99% values, “□” represents mean value.

Relationships between $K_d(\lambda)$ and the three OASs

To determine the correlation between $K_d(\lambda)$ and the content of the main OAS that affects $K_d(\lambda)$, a Spearman

correlation analysis was performed between $K_d(\lambda)$ and $a_g(254)$, Chl *a* and TSS. In general, $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ are significantly positively correlated with $a_g(254)$, Chl *a* and TSS. However, the correlation

Tab. 2. Results of the two-way analysis of variance comparing the six lakes and the four seasons for $\text{Ln}(K_d(\lambda))$, $\text{Ln}(a_g(254))$, $\text{Ln}(\text{Chl } a)$ and $\text{Ln}(\text{TSS})$.

Parameter	Lakes	F value Seasons	Interaction	R^2_{adj}	N
$\text{Ln}(K_d(313))$	5720.802***	1.475 ^{ns}	12.650***	0.992	249
$\text{Ln}(K_d(380))$	1930.801***	1.345 ^{ns}	12.203***	0.976	248
$\text{Ln}(K_d(\text{PAR}))$	639.099***	1.131 ^{ns}	6.886***	0.931	248
$\text{Ln}(a_g(254))$	3221.486***	28.456***	12.160***	0.985	250
$\text{Ln}(\text{Chl } a)$	1655.674***	33.798***	24.459***	0.972	256
$\text{Ln}(\text{TSS})$	765.206***	7.401***	26.610***	0.943	256

Lakes, $df = 5$; Seasons, $df = 3$; interaction, $df = 15$ exception for $\text{Ln}(a_g(254))$ that $df = 14$. *** $P < 0.001$; ns, no significance ($P > 0.05$).

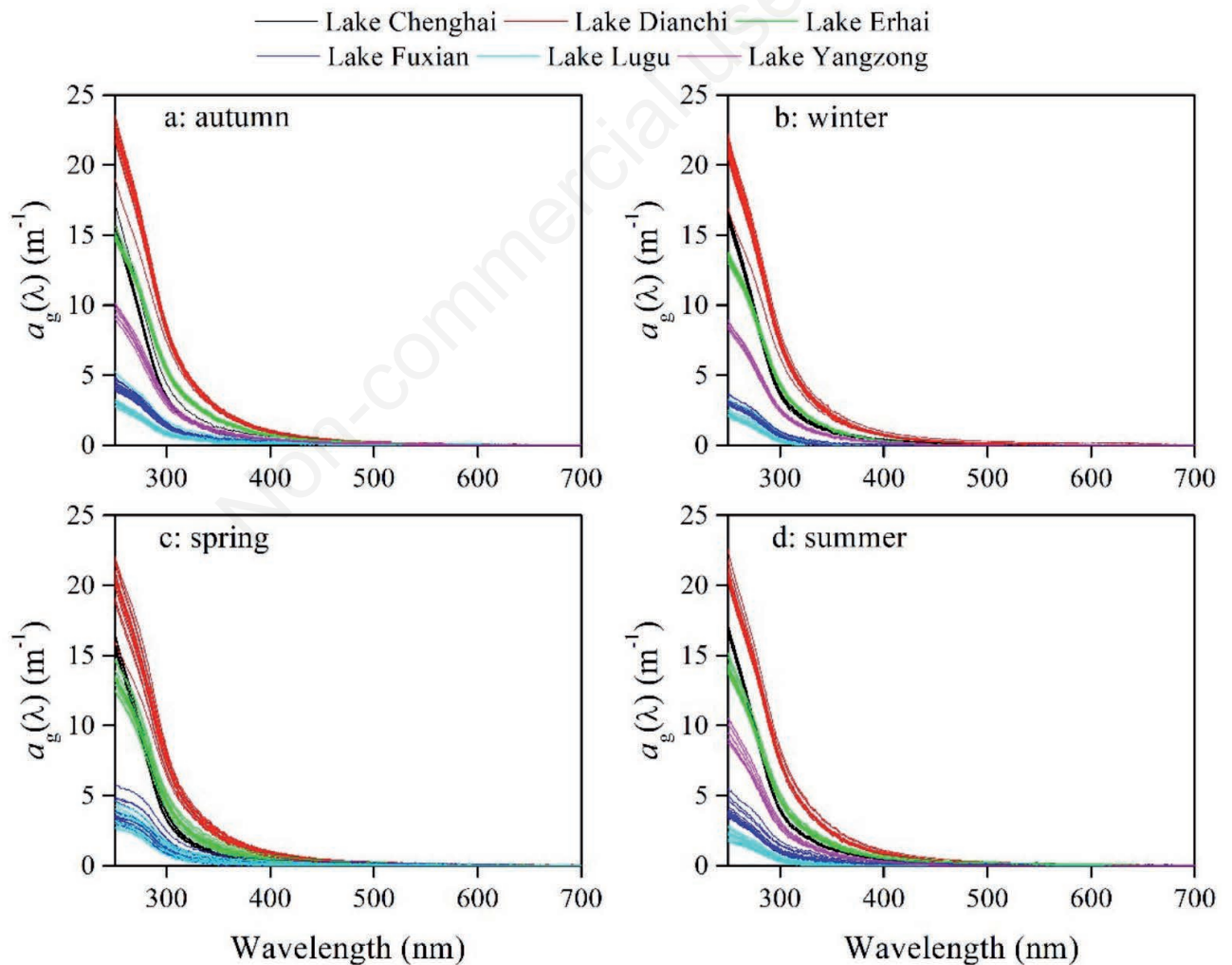


Fig. 2. Seasonal absorption spectra (250–700 nm) of chromophoric dissolved organic matter (CDOM) in the six lakes (no data of Lake Yangzong in spring).

analysis results for different seasons exhibit no evident discrepancies, while those for different lakes vary greatly (Tab. 3). Moreover, a stepwise regression analysis between $\ln(K_d(\lambda))$ and the three OASs was performed to further compare the main influential factors of $K_d(\lambda)$ among the six lakes. In LCH, $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ are all significantly positively correlated with $a_g(254)$, Chl *a* and TSS (Tab. 3); CDOM and TSS are the main factors for $K_d(\text{UVR})$, CDOM is the main factor for $K_d(\text{PAR})$ (Tab. 4). In LDC, $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ are all significantly positively correlated with Chl *a* and TSS, but $a_g(254)$ is significantly positively correlated only with $K_d(\text{UV-B})$ (Tab. 3); CDOM and TSS are the main factors for $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, while TSS and phytoplankton are the main factors for $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$, respectively (Tab. 4). In LEH, except for between $K_d(\text{UV-B})$ and TSS, there are significant positive correlations among $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$

and $a_g(254)$, Chl *a* and TSS (Tab. 3); CDOM is the main factor for $K_d(\text{UVR})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$, while phytoplankton is also the main factor for $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ (Tab. 4). The analysis of LFX shows a significant positive correlation only between $a_g(254)$ and $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, whereas that of LGH shows a significant correlation (negative) only between TSS and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ (Tab. 3); however, the stepwise regression indicates that CDOM also has an effect on $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ in LFX (Tab. 4). For LYZ, there is a significant correlation only between $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and Chl *a*; a weak correlation is found between $K_d(\text{UV-B})$ and $a_g(254)$ ($P=0.076$) (Tab. 3), but no significant regression is detected (Tab. 4). According to an analysis incorporating all the samples, CDOM and phytoplankton are the two main influential factors for each $K_d(\lambda)$ (Tab. 4), where the standardized beta coefficients of $a_g(254)$ and Chl *a* are 0.893 and 0.104 for $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, 0.820 and 0.189 for $K_d(\text{UV-A})$, 0.717 and 0.290 for $K_d(\text{PAR})$, respectively; specially, this

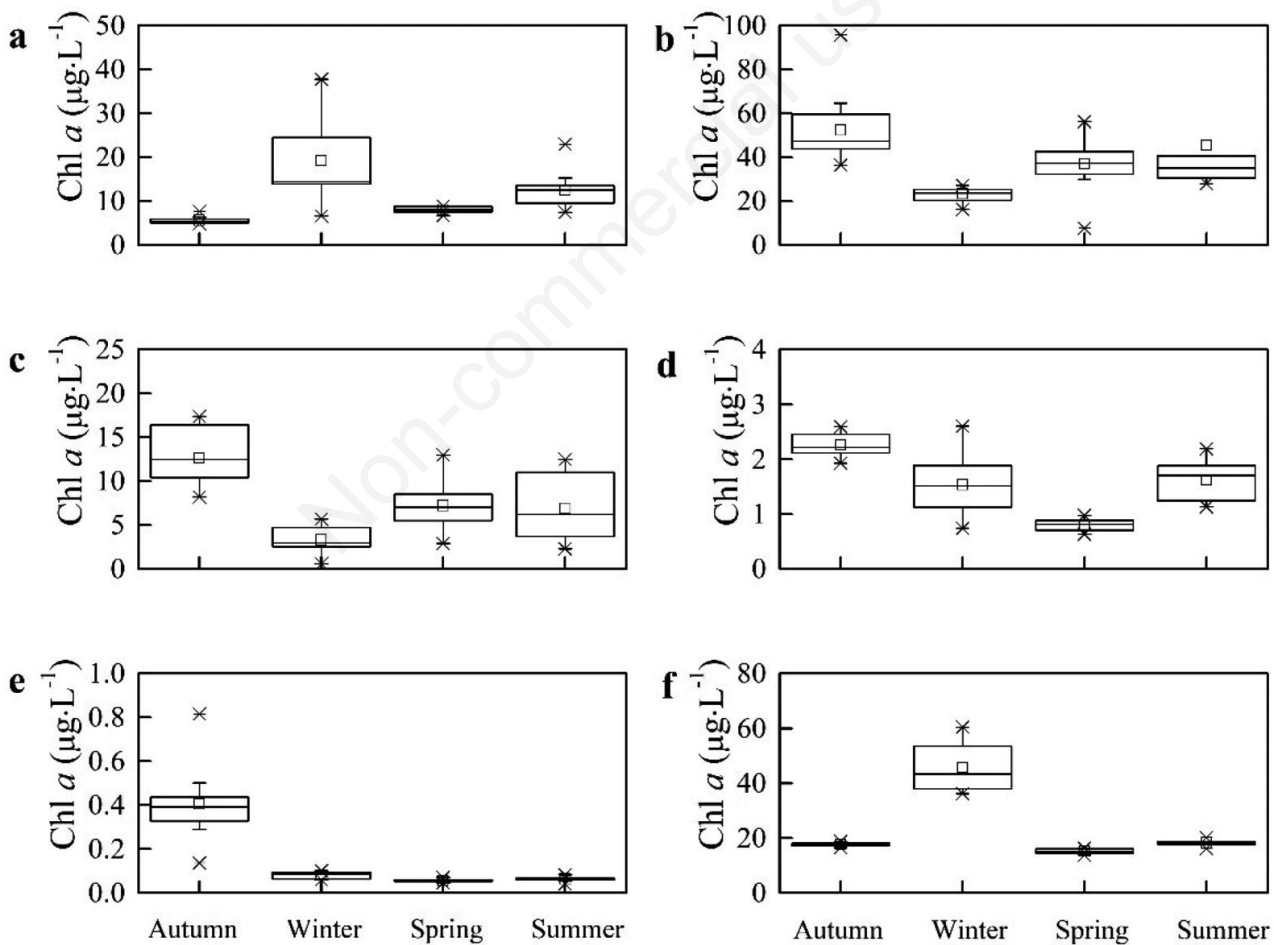


Fig. 3. Seasonal variations in chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) concentrations in Lake Chenghai (a), Lake Dianchi (b), Lake Erhai (c), Lake Fuxian (d), Lake Lugu (e) and Lake Yangzong (f). The upper and lower borders and the internal horizontal line of each box represent upper quartile, lower quartile and median, respectively; “—” represents minimum and maximum values, “x” represents 1% and 99% values, “□” represents mean value.

trend of the standardized beta coefficients is the same as the regression result for each season. Additionally, $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ all exponentially increase

with the trophic state represented by TLI_{C4} ; it seems that the $K_d(\lambda)$ does not increase significantly with the TLI_{C4} among the three mesotrophic lakes (Fig. 5).

Tab. 3. Spearman correlations between $K_d(\lambda)$ and the three optically active substances.

$K_d(\lambda)$	Parameter	Total	Lake						Season			
			LCH	LDC	LEH	LFX	LLG	LYZ	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer
$K_d(313)$	$a_g(254)$	0.909**	0.448**	0.398**	0.637**	0.473**	-0.128	0.428	0.885**	0.910**	0.863**	0.921**
	Chl <i>a</i>	0.841**	0.660**	0.460**	0.492**	-0.218	-0.056	0.290	0.937**	0.677**	0.844**	0.843**
	TSS	0.835**	0.704**	0.486**	0.260	-0.116	-0.143	-0.273	0.886**	0.684**	0.837**	0.842**
$K_d(380)$	$a_g(254)$	0.895**	0.617**	0.226	0.610**	0.208	-0.067	0.086	0.867**	0.907**	0.870**	0.901**
	Chl <i>a</i>	0.846**	0.669**	0.551**	0.516**	-0.172	-0.132	0.542**	0.943**	0.676**	0.850**	0.825**
	TSS	0.840**	0.658**	0.513**	0.328*	-0.115	-0.200	-0.071	0.894**	0.681**	0.844**	0.821**
$K_d(\text{PAR})$	$a_g(254)$	0.887**	0.473**	0.125	0.627**	0.050	-0.173	0.065	0.838**	0.909**	0.887**	0.909**
	Chl <i>a</i>	0.866**	0.463**	0.597**	0.601**	-0.055	-0.314	0.207	0.936**	0.846**	0.814**	0.845**
	TSS	0.853**	0.544**	0.483**	0.416**	0.015	-0.390*	-0.157	0.892**	0.852**	0.811**	0.842**

* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$.

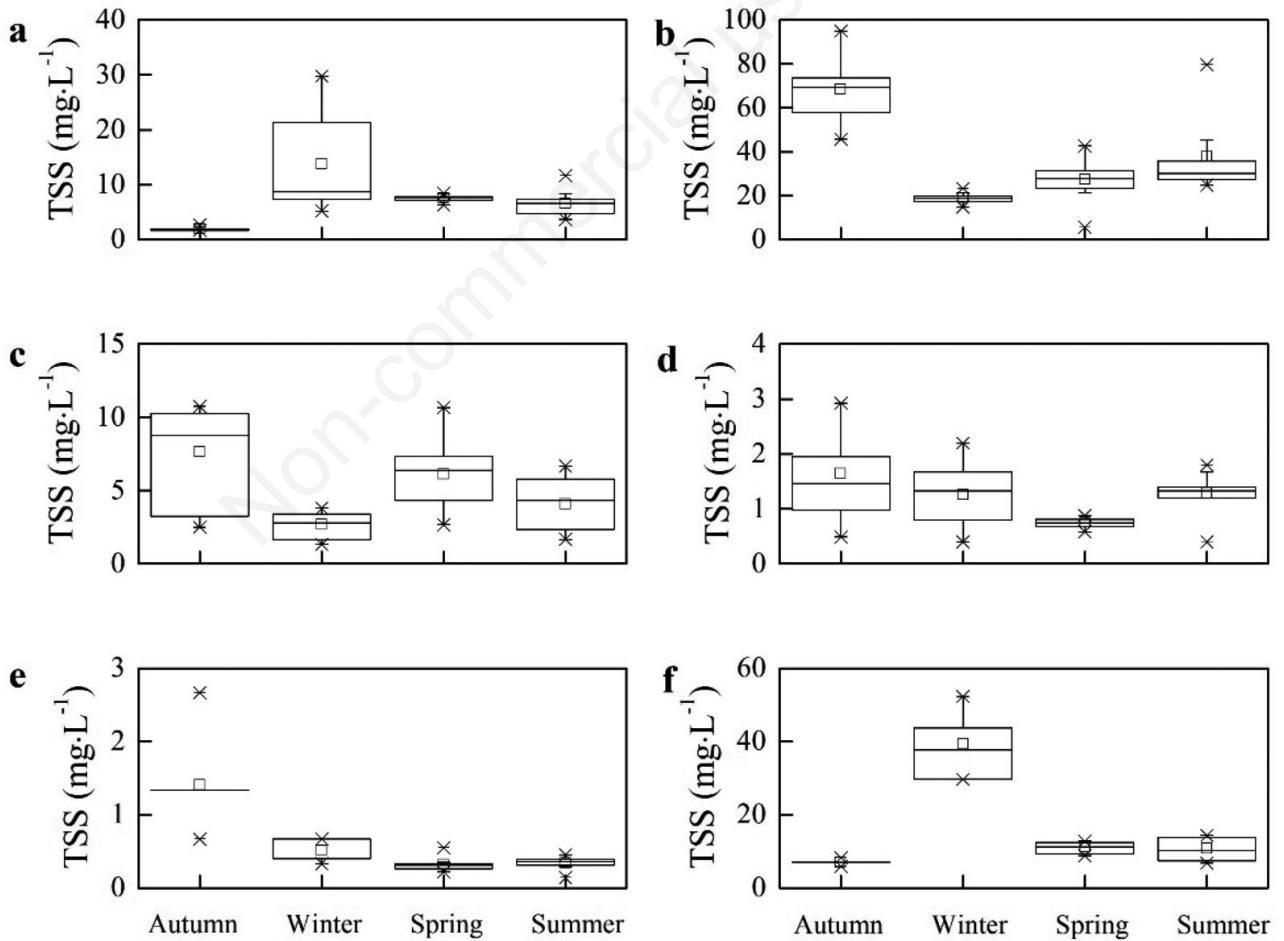


Fig. 4. Seasonal variations in the concentration of total suspended solids (TSS) in Lake Chenghai (a), Lake Dianchi (b), Lake Erhai (c), Lake Fuxian (d), Lake Lugu (e) and Lake Yangzong (f). The upper and lower borders and the internal horizontal line of each box represent upper quartile, lower quartile and median, respectively; “—” represents minimum and maximum values, “×” represents 1% and 99% values, “□” represents mean value.

DISCUSSION

The optical properties of alpine lakes, which are sentinels of environmental change because of their extreme sensitivity (Mladenov *et al.*, 2009; Mladenov *et al.*, 2011), typically differ from those of other lakes (Rose *et al.*, 2009; Zhang *et al.*, 2011) and experience significant shifts under changing environments (Laurion *et al.*, 2000; Sommaruga and Augustin, 2006; Rose *et al.*, 2009; Zhou *et al.*, 2019), although alpine lakes are more autochthonous than subalpine lakes in general (Rose *et al.*, 2015). There are many studies on water optical properties specifically

$K_d(\lambda)$ of mountain lakes, *e.g.*, Alps lakes (Laurion *et al.*, 2000; Sommaruga and Augustin, 2006), Andes lakes (Pérez *et al.*, 2002; Aguilera *et al.*, 2013) and other lakes across continents (Rose *et al.*, 2009; 2014; 2015), but the *in situ* data of $K_d(\lambda)$ in lakes of the Yunnan Plateau are scarce (Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Zhou *et al.*, 2018). In the present study, the seasonal values of $K_d(\text{UVR})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ and their major (direct) influencing factors of the six typical Yunnan Plateau lakes are given, and the spectral, seasonal and interlake heterogeneities of them are further compared.

Sunlight attenuation is characterized by spectrum het-

Tab. 4. Stepwise regression between $\text{Ln}(K_d(\lambda))$ and $a_g(254)$, Chl *a* and TSS.

$K_d(\lambda)$	Selection	Stepwise model ($\text{Ln}(K_d(\lambda)) =$)	R^2_{adj}	P	VIF	N
$K_d(313)$	total	$-0.621 + 0.145 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.006 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.932	< 0.001	1.809	243
	LCH	$-0.003 + 0.078 a_g(254)^* + 0.01 \text{ TSS}^{**}$	0.360	< 0.001	1.116	36
	LDC	$1.664 + 0.041 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.002 \text{ TSS}^*$	0.297	< 0.001	1.173	49
	LEH	$0.696 + 0.071 a_g(254)^{**}$	0.317	< 0.001	1.000	44
	LFX ^a	$-0.317 + 0.092 a_g(254)^{**}$	0.231	< 0.001	1.000	62
	LLG	NA	NA	NA	NA	34
	LYZ	NA	NA	NA	NA	18
	Autumn	$-0.623 + 0.131 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.012 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.935	< 0.001	2.366	63
	Winter ^b	$-0.552 + 0.145 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.002 \text{ TSS}^*$	0.948	< 0.001	1.232	63
	Spring ^b	$-0.604 + 0.144 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.01 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.935	< 0.001	2.749	58
	Summer	$-0.687 + 0.157 a_g(254)^{**}$	0.924	< 0.001	1.000	59
$K_d(380)$	total	$-0.53 + 0.148 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.013 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.914	< 0.001	1.805	242
	LCH	$-2.252 + 0.166 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.014 \text{ TSS}^{**}$	0.420	< 0.001	1.116	36
	LDC	$1.815 + 0.006 \text{ TSS}^{**}$	0.237	< 0.001	1.000	49
	LEH	$-1.032 + 0.128 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.016 \text{ Chl } a^*$	0.420	< 0.001	1.266	44
	LFX ^a	$-1.233 + 0.098 a_g(254)^*$	0.051	< 0.05	1.000	62
	LLG	NA	NA	NA	NA	33
	LYZ	NA	NA	NA	NA	18
	Autumn	$-1.518 + 0.128 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.021 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.925	< 0.001	2.346	62
	Winter ^b	$-1.408 + 0.144 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.011 \text{ TSS}^{**}$	0.946	< 0.001	1.232	63
	Spring ^b	$-1.399 + 0.133 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.024 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.919	< 0.001	2.749	58
	Summer	$-1.734 + 0.179 a_g(254)^{**}$	0.906	< 0.001	1.000	59
$K_d(\text{PAR})$	total	$-1.568 + 0.092 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.014 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.874	< 0.001	1.805	242
	LCH	$-2.819 + 0.167 a_g(254)^{**}$	0.223	< 0.01	1.000	36
	LDC	$0.763 + 0.005 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.166	< 0.01	1.000	49
	LEH	$-2.054 + 0.121 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.021 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.443	< 0.001	1.266	44
	LFX	NA	NA	NA	NA	62
	LLG	NA	NA	NA	NA	33
	LYZ	NA	NA	NA	NA	18
	Autumn	$-1.637 + 0.086 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.018 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.887	< 0.001	2.346	62
	Winter	$-1.448 + 0.086 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.012 \text{ TSS}^{**}$	0.891	< 0.001	1.232	63
	Spring ^b	$-1.507 + 0.082 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.025 \text{ Chl } a^{**}$	0.873	< 0.001	2.749	58
	Summer	$-1.596 + 0.1 a_g(254)^{**} + 0.011 \text{ TSS}^{**}$	0.912	< 0.001	1.718	59

^athe last model containing the two independent variables $a_g(254)$ and Chl *a* that with a negative beta is not shown; ^bthe last model with a great collinearity between Chl *a* and TSS is not shown, even though their R^2_{adj} is slightly larger than the current one. Significance of independent variables: * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$.

erogeneity, interlake heterogeneity and seasonal heterogeneity within one lake. In this study, $K_d(\lambda)$ declines with increasing wavelength, which is consistent with previous studies (De Lange, 2000; Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Rose *et al.*, 2014; Forsström *et al.*, 2015). Moreover, many studies regarding regional or interlake heterogeneity of $K_d(\lambda)$ have been published (De Lange, 2000; Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Aguilera *et al.*, 2013; Rose *et al.*, 2014; Forsström *et al.*, 2015). For example, with the same solar spectrum, mesotrophic LEH and Lake Litang both have higher $K_d(320)$ and $K_d(360)$ values than oligotrophic LFX, and the $K_d(320)$ and $K_d(360)$ values of eutrophic Lake Dong exceed those of mesotrophic Lake Tianmu and Lake Liangzi (Zhang *et al.*, 2011). We hypothesize that the differences in the observed $K_d(\lambda)$ are due to the different contents of dissolved and particulate OASs and the sizes of their relative contribution. For example, the $K_d(\lambda)$ of the shallow LDC is greater than that of the other lakes, which is explained by the highest contents of CDOM and TSS that contains phytoplankton in LDC. $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ all exponentially increase with increasing trophic state, but no significant differences of $K_d(\text{PAR})$ are found among the three mesotrophic lakes in the present study. This result indicates that $K_d(\text{UVR})$ has a greater interlake heterogeneity than $K_d(\text{PAR})$; similarly, the contribution of interlake heterogeneity to $K_d(\lambda)$ may decrease with increasing wavelength (Tab. 2). However, $K_d(\lambda)$ does not increase exponentially with increasing trophic state in the mesotrophic lakes (Fig. 5), which may be explained by that NAPs do not necessarily increase with increasing trophic state, and that a lot of Fe(III) (LYZ) may strongly increase lake water absorption (Baffico, 2013).

With respect to seasonal changes, $K_d(\text{PAR})$ is signifi-

cantly higher in spring and summer than in autumn and winter in the shallow, hypereutrophic turbid lake Laguna Chascomús (Pérez *et al.*, 2011). The $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ values of the deep oligotrophic Lake Dom Helvécio are significantly higher in the dry season than in the rainy season, whereas the eutrophic Reservoir Pampulha exhibits the opposite trend (Brandão *et al.*, 2016). In the present study, the analysis combining all six lakes shows no seasonal heterogeneity of $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$, which means that the interlake heterogeneity surpasses the seasonal heterogeneity of $K_d(\lambda)$; this is also confirmed by the results of the two-way analysis of variance, although the change of seasons may significantly contribute to the variations of OASs (the contribution of the season is lower than that of the lake) (Tab. 2). However, the seasonal heterogeneity is evident within each lake and is related to the solar spectrum and the lake trophic state. For example, in eutrophic LDC and the three mesotrophic lakes (LCH, LEH and LYZ), all three $K_d(\lambda)$ parameters are seasonally heterogenous. However, in oligotrophic clear LFX, only $K_d(\text{UV-B})$ and $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ demonstrate seasonal heterogeneity; moreover, in more oligotrophic and clearer LYG, $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$ show no seasonal heterogeneity. This result indicates that the intralake seasonal heterogeneity of $K_d(\lambda)$ may increase with decreasing wavelength and increasing trophic state.

Due to differences in the content and composition of OASs, the major factors affecting $K_d(\lambda)$ are subjected to regional heterogeneity. For example, pure water and organic matter are considered the main influential factors of $K_d(\text{PAR})$ in lakes in Tasmania (Bowling *et al.*, 1986), the TSS is thought to be the decisive factor of $K_d(\text{PAR})$

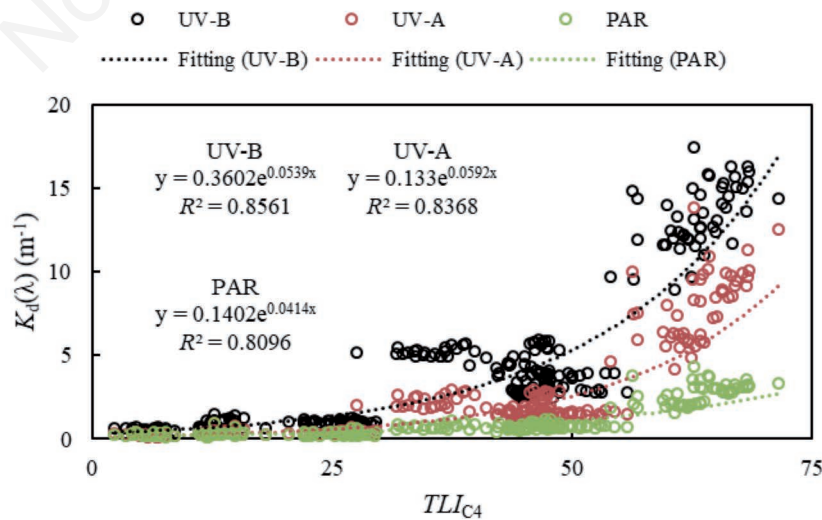


Fig. 5. Relationships of the diffuse attenuation coefficients ($K_d(\lambda)$) for UV-B (313 nm, black), UV-A (380 nm, red) and PAR (400–700 nm, green) with the trophic state (TLI_{C4}).

for lakes in northeastern China (Ma *et al.*, 2016), but the variability of $K_d(\text{PAR})$ among 16 shallow lakes of Argentina could be explained as much as 92% by CDOM and nephelometric turbidity (Pérez *et al.*, 2010). Surveys of 42 stations of 16 lakes on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau in 2006 and 2007 indicate that CDOM, rather than tripton or phytoplankton, has the most important effect on $K_d(\text{UVR})$, even though all three OASs have great impacts on $K_d(\text{PAR})$ (Zhang *et al.*, 2011). In the present study, the correlation analysis combining all six lakes and seasonal analysis shows that CDOM, phytoplankton and TSS are important influential factors for $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$, which is mainly attributed to the interlake heterogeneity of the contents of OASs, this finding is similar to that of a previous study (Zhang *et al.*, 2011). It is notable that the main influential factors for each $K_d(\lambda)$ are CDOM and phytoplankton based on the stepwise regression analysis combining all the samples (Tab. 4), unlike the findings of Zhang *et al.* (2011), which may be explained by the varied selection of lakes and the increased number of samples. Laurion *et al.* (2000) indicated that the variability of $K_d(\text{UVR})$ among 26 clear mountain lakes in Alps and Pyrenees is controlled by CDOM rather than phytoplankton, that contributed significantly to the within-lake variation of $K_d(\text{UVR})$ in deeper waters with low dissolved organic carbon. This is different from our results, which may be explained by the greater interlake heterogeneity of Chl *a* concentration among the six YP lakes with different trophic states. Additionally, the results of both the correlation combining all the samples and the regression analyses (the “total” and the seasonal analyses) imply that the effect of CDOM on $K_d(\lambda)$ decrease with increasing wavelength due to its absorption property (Fig. 2), but the effect of phytoplankton on $K_d(\text{PAR})$ is greater than that on $K_d(\text{UVR})$, this is similar to the previous results (Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Rose *et al.*, 2014). Seasonally, dissolved and particulate OASs are also the main factors for each $K_d(\lambda)$ in general (Tab. 4), this result combining with the seasonal results of the correlation analysis implies that more sampled lakes are needed to detect the seasonal changes of the main influential factors of $K_d(\lambda)$, because of larger effect of interlake than interseason on the $K_d(\lambda)$ values and the OASs currently.

For the different lakes, the effects of the OASs on $K_d(\lambda)$ are also heterogenous. In shallow, eutrophic turbid LDC, the effects of CDOM on $K_d(\lambda)$ are mostly limited to shorter-wavelength UV-B, whereas TSS (contains phytoplankton and NAPs) greatly impact $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$. Moreover, for deep mesotrophic LCH and LEH, the three OASs exhibit influences on $K_d(\text{UV-B})$, $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ and $K_d(\text{PAR})$, although the TSS has no evident influence on $K_d(\text{UV-B})$ in LEH. Nonetheless, in deep, oligotrophic clear LFX and LLG, only CDOM has a positive significant effect on $K_d(\text{UV-B})$ and a weaker

significant effect on $K_d(\text{UV-A})$ in LFX (Tab. 3 and Tab. 4), suggesting that low dissolved and particulate substances make the penetration of sunlight deeper resulting in a low $K_d(\lambda)$ value, especially for larger wavelengths in these clear lakes. Notably, since massive amounts of ferric chloride were added into LYZ from 2009 to 2011 (>6000 t), the influential factors of $K_d(\lambda)$ in LYZ differ greatly from those in LCH and LEH, even though all three lakes are deep mesotrophic lakes. These results imply that the number of effective OASs on $K_d(\lambda)$ is highest in deep mesotrophic lakes, except for in the man-made, highly disturbed LYZ, which is similar to our previous study on water transparency based on long-term datasets of three YP lakes (*i.e.*, LDC, LEH and LFX) (Zhou *et al.*, 2019). Moreover, the main particulate factors affecting $K_d(\lambda)$ are different when compared LCH to LEH, which may be related to different contribution of NAPs; these results combining with the comparison for the effects of CDOM between LFX and LLG, imply that the relative contribution of the main OASs affecting $K_d(\lambda)$ may differ in lakes with approximate trophic states. Notably, the low R^2_{adj} value of each stepwise regression in each lake indicates that there could be other important influential factors.

$K_d(\lambda)$ is an important parameter for characterizing the apparent optical properties of water bodies. Its value directly reflects the penetration capacity of sunlight radiation through the water column, which directly affects the primary productivity and distribution of submerged macrophytes. There are several challenges facing YP lakes, such as climate change (Cheng *et al.*, 2019; Li and Zha, 2019), variation in catchment land use (Xiao *et al.*, 2018), lake surface warming (Yang *et al.*, 2019), anthropogenic pollution (Ni *et al.*, 2011) and even changes in meteorologically induced hydrological conditions; these challenges can impose significant effects on the input and/or photochemical process of OASs (Mladenov *et al.*, 2009; Mladenov *et al.*, 2011; Zhang *et al.*, 2014; Zhou *et al.*, 2019; Shi *et al.*, 2020) and can profoundly affect $K_d(\lambda)$ values and even lake ecosystems. Our previous study indicated that the main (direct and indirect) driving forces of the long-term trends of water transparency differ among three YP lakes (Zhou *et al.*, 2019). A study of 18 high-latitude lakes demonstrated that the interlake heterogeneity of $K_d(\lambda)$ and its most influential factor, DOM, are related to the catchment type (Forsström *et al.*, 2015). Thus, the aforementioned driving factors and the interlake heterogeneity at the catchment perspective should be addressed in future research and lake management in the YP. For instance, the spatiotemporal heterogeneity of the major OASs affecting the intralake $K_d(\lambda)$ needs to be analyzed in conjunction with catchment characteristics, water quality, meteorological and hydrological factors (*e.g.*, solar radiation, rainfall) of each lake (Zhou *et al.*, 2018). It is necessary to conduct further field investiga-

tions that include tripton or NAPs concentrations and the absorptions of the four OASs for more comprehensive results. Additionally, we also suggest that the depth of measured underwater irradiance profiles in clear lakes should increase to improve the accuracy of $K_d(\lambda)$ fitting results, especially for long wavelengths.

CONCLUSIONS

Seasonal $K_d(\lambda)$ and its major direct influential factors of six typical lakes on the Yunnan Plateau are given and compared. $K_d(\lambda)$ generally increases with decreasing wavelength and increasing trophic state, and compared with $K_d(\text{PAR})$, $K_d(\text{UVR})$ presents more evident heterogeneity among lakes. The interlake heterogeneity of $K_d(\lambda)$ exceeds its seasonal heterogeneity, whereas seasonal heterogeneity occurs mainly within individual lakes and is related to the lake trophic state and solar spectrum. The effect of CDOM on $K_d(\text{UVR})$ is larger than $K_d(\text{PAR})$, the particulate substances exhibit the opposite trend in general, whereas the main factors affecting $K_d(\lambda)$ are subjected to interlake heterogeneity. We recommend that further studies be established from the catchment perspective and with more complete datasets for lakes and OASs.

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