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Comparison of floating chamber and eddy covariance measurements of lake greenhouse gas fluxes

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Abstract. Fluxes of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4) from lakes may have a large impact on the magnitude of the terrestrial carbon sink. Traditionally lake fluxes have been measured using the floating chamber (FC) technique; however, several recent studies use the eddy covariance (EC) method. We present simultaneous flux measurements using both methods at lake Tämnaren in Sweden during field campaigns in 2011 and 2012. Only very few similar studies exist. For CO_2 flux, the two methods agree relatively well during some periods, but deviate substantially at other times. The large discrepancies might be caused by heterogeneity of partial pressure of CO_2 (pCO_{2w}) in the EC flux footprint. The methods agree better for CH_4 fluxes. It is, however, clear that short-term discontinuous FC measurements are likely to miss important high flux events.

1 Introduction

Atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as methane (CH_4) and carbon dioxide (CO_2), have increased significantly since pre-industrial times (Forster et al., 2007). Knowledge of both natural and anthropogenic sources and sinks of these greenhouse gases is needed for a better understanding of the global carbon cycle. During the last decade several studies have shown that lakes, even though they cover < 3 % of the land surface (Downing et al., 2006), can significantly change the magnitude of the terrestrial carbon sink, through exchange processes involving both CO_2 (e.g. Cole et al., 2007) and CH_4 (e.g. Bastviken et al., 2011). Hence,

it is important to further study lake processes involving CO_2 and CH_4 flux.

The diffusive flux of a gas is controlled by the difference in concentration of the gas in the water and air and the efficiency of the gas transfer:

$$F_{gas} = k \times \left(C_{gas,w} - C_{gas,eq} \right), \tag{1}$$

where F_{gas} is the gas flux ($mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}$), k is the transfer velocity ($m\,s^{-1}$) and $C_{gas,w}$ ($mol\,m^{-3}$) is the gas concentrations in the water. $C_{gas,eq}$ ($mol\,m^{-3}$) is the gas concentration in equilibrium with the partial pressure of the gas in the air above the water surface as calculated with Henry's law (Cole and Caraco, 1998). The transfer velocity is normally parameterized using the 10 m wind speed only (e.g. Cole and Caraco, 1998; Wanninkhof, 1992). However, many studies have stressed that other processes such as microwave breaking (Zappa et al., 2001), bubbles (e.g. Woolf, 1993) and water-side convection (e.g. Eugster et al., 2003; MacIntyre et al., 2001; Rutgersson and Smedman, 2010; Rutgersson et al., 2011) also affect the transfer velocity.

Instead of calculating the gas flux with Eq. (1), direct measurements of gas accumulation in floating chambers (the FC method) and the eddy covariance (EC) method can be used. The FC method is an inexpensive and simple method frequently used to measure gas fluxes from lakes (e.g. Bastviken et al., 2011; Huttunen et al., 2003; Riera et al., 1999). It can, however, be questioned how well FC measurements represent the flux from the entire lake, since the chambers only cover a very small area, typically a few tenths of a square metre. If the chambers are sampled manually the

method is labour intense. For CO_2, which typically equilibrates rapidly with chamber headspace, short deployment periods (e.g. 20–40 min) are necessary. For CH_4 longer measurements (e.g. 24 h) are possible (Bastviken et al., 2010). When both CO_2 and CH_4 are studied, short-term chamber deployments are common typically only during daytime, giving discontinuous measurements.

The EC method requires high frequency sampling using instrumentation with high resolution. The EC flux represents the flux originating from an upwind area called the footprint, typically several hundred square metres, varying in size depending on e.g. the height of the instruments above the surface, the atmospheric stability, surface roughness and wind speed. The EC method has frequently been used to measure gas fluxes from terrestrial sites and oceans (e.g. Baldocchi, 2003; Rutgersson et al., 2011; Sahlée et al., 2007). During recent years EC measurements have been made also over lakes, mainly for CO_2 flux (e.g. Eugster et al., 2003; Huotari et al., 2011; Jonsson et al., 2008; Vesala et al., 2006) but in a few cases also for CH_4 flux (Eugster et al., 2011; Podgrajsek et al., 2014; Sahlée et al., 2014; Schubert et al., 2012). The EC method yields continuous measurements with limited labour, but requires expensive instrumentations and extensive data post-processing.

Importantly, fluxes measured with the EC and FC methods represent different surface source areas. If fluxes are horizontally heterogeneous in an EC footprint area where the chambers are located, it is likely that the fluxes measured with the two methods will disagree.

The flux chambers and EC methods have been compared in several studies of terrestrial sites (e.g. Wang et al., 2010) and wetlands (e.g. Godwin et al., 2013). Chambers and the EC methods are in relatively good agreement in these studies, and the discrepancy still observed is mainly due to spatial heterogeneity of the gas flux. Comparisons over water bodies are sparse (Eugster et al., 2011; Schubert et al., 2012), yet the results, only for CH_4 flux, show that the methods are of the same order of magnitude. Since both methods are widely used, further parallel studies with more direct comparisons are needed.

In this study, we compare 51 and 18 simultaneous measurements with the FC and EC methods of CH_4 and CO_2 fluxes, respectively. Additionally, spatial variability of CH_4 flux using the FC method is studied.

2 Methods

2.1 Site

The flux measurements were made at lake Tämnaren in central Sweden (60°09′ N, 17°20′ E). The lake is shallow with a mean depth of 1.3 m (maximum depth of 2 m) and covers an area of 38 km^2. Mixed forest surrounds the lake except to the
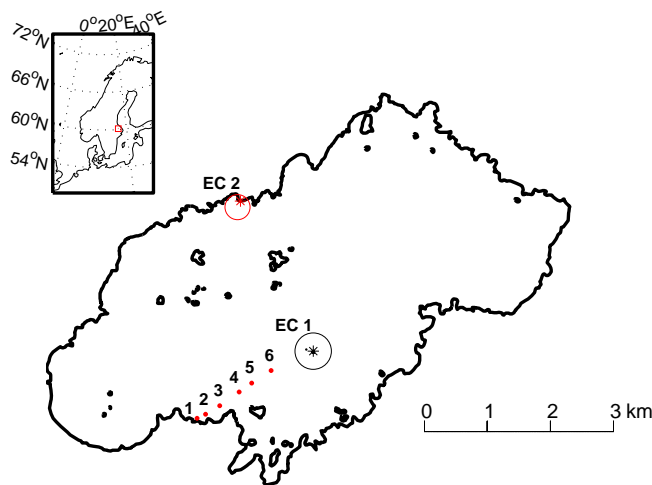

Figure 1. Map of Lake Tämnaren. Upper left inset map marks the position of the lake (red box). The two EC towers denoted with EC1, positioned on the Rättarharet Island and EC2, positioned on the northwest shore (marked with black and red stars). The black and red circles around EC1 and EC2 represent approximate positions of FCs placed in the footprint of the towers. The red dots, numbered 1–6, represent the positions of the chambers used in the transect.

north where there are agriculture fields and the lake has an extensive cover of submersed macrophytes.

2.2 Instrumentation and data collection

From September 2010 to September 2012 an EC tower was situated on the small island called Rättarharet in the centre of the lake, approximately 1 km from the nearest land, to the south east (Fig. 1). The tower (EC1) was equipped with the following EC instrumentation 4.7 m above the lake surface: sonic anemometer (WindMonitor, Gill Instruments, Lymington, UK) for measurements of the 3-D wind components and virtual (sonic) temperature, LI-7700 open gas analyser for CH_4 measurements (LI-COR Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA) and LI-7500A open path gas analyser for CO_2 and water vapour measurements (LI-COR Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA). Additional instrumentation in the tower is described in Podgrajsek et al. (2014) and Sahlée et al. (2014). Between 7 June 2011 and 9 June 2011 a first intensive flux measuring field campaign was conducted. During the campaign the FCs were placed in the footprint of the tower (Fig. 1). A mean FC flux of 4–6 chambers was used to compare to the mean value of the simultaneous EC measurement. The FC deployment time ranged between 30 min and 5 h for CH_4 flux measurements and was 30 min for the CO_2 flux measurements. During fall, 1 September 2011 to 19 October 2011, FC measurements were made biweekly in the footprint of EC1.

A second field campaign was held between 12 June 2012 and 15 June 2012. During this campaign an additional EC tower (EC2) was mounted on the northwest shore of

Tämnaren (Fig. 1). The second tower was equipped with a sonic anemometer for 3-D wind components (USA-1, METEK, Elmshorn, Germany) and virtual (sonic) temperature, a LI-7500 open-path gas analyser for CO_2 and H_2O measurements (LI-COR Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA) and a LI-7700 open-path gas analyser for CH_4 measurements (LI-COR Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA). Five FCs were deployed in the footprint of EC2 (Fig. 1) in four deployments with deployment times ranging from 5 to 22 h. Additionally, a float was situated approximately 70 m west of EC1 with a SAMI sensor (Submersible autonomous moored instrument, Sunburst Sensors, MT, USA) continuously measuring partial pressure of CO_2 in the water (pCO_{2w}). During this campaign, additional FC measurements were made in a transect from the shore to EC1 (Fig. 1) to study spatial variations in CH_4 flux. The deployment times for these FC measurements ranged from 30 min to 5.5 h.

See Table 1 for a summary of the measurements made during the different periods.

2.3 Chamber flux measurements

Floating chambers were made of inverted plastic buckets (polymethylene/plexiglas) covered with reflective alumina tape, reaching approximately 3 cm into the water and equipped with Styrofoam floats. The chambers covered an area of $0.03 \, m^2$ and had a volume of $5 \, dm^3$. For sampling, a port was fitted, made of polyurethane tubing connected with a three-way luer-lock valve (Becton Dickinson). This chamber type yields negligible flux bias compared to "open" methods such as SF_6 tracer additions or water turbulence based measurements of gas exchange (Cole et al., 2010; Gålfalk et al., 2013). Air samples were taken using 60 mL plastic syringes (Becton Dickinson, Plastipak) equipped with three-way luer-lock valves from the chamber at the start and the end of the chamber deployment. During the field campaigns in 2011 and 2012, the air samples were analysed at the site within 24 h, using an optical greenhouse gas analyser (DLT-100, Los Gatos Research Inc.) equipped with the optional port for discrete sample injection, acquiring gas concentrations of CH_4 and CO_2. During the FC measurements in fall 2011 the samples were transferred to saltwater vials and stored up to a month prior to analysis on an Agilent 7890 gas chromatograph with a methanizer and a flame ionization detector (FID). The storage vials were prepared by filling them completely with saturated NaCl solution and capped with 10 mm thick massive butyl rubber stoppers (Apodan, Denmark). The solution was replaced with the gas sample by injecting the sample holding the vial upside down and allowing NaCl solution to escape through a second needle. This procedure was described in detail in Bastviken et al. (2010) and can be used to preserve CH_4 samples during very long periods. However, our tests showed that an irregular proportion, and sometimes as much as 10 % of the CO_2, is lost during

Table 1. Summary of measurements during different periods.

Period	Measurements
Sep 2010 to Sep 2012	EC1, air temperature, wind speed, air pressure
7 Jun 2011 to 9 Jun 2011	EC1, FCs, headspace water CO_2 and CH_4 concentrations, water and air temperature, wind speed, air pressure
1 Sep 2011 to 19 Oct 2011	EC1, FCs, air temperature, wind speed, air pressure
12 Jun 2012 to 15 Jun 2012	EC1, FCs ,EC2, headspace water CH_4 concentration, continuous pCO_{2w}, water and air temperature, wind speed, air pressure

the sample transfer, precluding the use of the storage vials to estimate CO_2 gas flux.

Using the difference of gas concentration between the initial and end sample, the FC flux of CH_4 and CO_2 can be calculated using a simple linear approximation:

$$\text{FX}_{\text{FClinear}} = \frac{V}{R \times T \times A} \times \frac{(\text{Gas}_{\text{end}} - \text{Gas}_{\text{int}})}{(t_{\text{end}} - t_{\text{int}})} \quad (2)$$

where V is the volume of the chamber (m^3), R is the ideal gas constant ($m^3 \, atm \, K^{-1} \, mol^{-1}$), T is the air temperature (K), A is the area that the chamber cover (m^2), Gas_{int} and Gas_{end} are the gas partial pressures from the initial and end air samples (atm), respectively, and t_{int} and t_{end} are the start and end time of the measurement, respectively. However, as mentioned in the introduction, the flux of a gas over a water–air interface is driven by the concentration difference between the water and air and the transfer velocity, see Eq. (1). A flux calculated with a simple linear approximation (Eq. 2) will thus underestimate the true flux since the driving concentration difference will decrease during the sampling interval. This underestimation was compensated for by combining Eq. (1) and Eq. (2) and solving for the initial k using a non-linear differential equation. This equation describes how flux into the chamber varies over time given how the concentration gradient develops (shown in detail in Bastviken et al., 2004). When the initial k is known, Eq. (1) was used for calculating the flux. For these corrected flux calculations, also values of CH_4 and CO_2 concentrations in the water and ambient air are needed. For measurements of CH_4 concentration in the water, 40 mL of surface water was sampled with a syringe and equilibrated with 20 mL air headspace in the same syringe and shaken for at least 1 minute. The concentration of CH_4 in both the background air and the equilibrated syringe headspace was measured. With information about the headspace and water volumes, the temperature and Henry's law, the CH_4 concentration in the water was calculated as described in Bastviken et al. (2010). During the first field campaign in 2011 the same procedure as for CH_4 was used for obtaining CO_2 water concentrations, but with larger headspace to water sample volumes because of ex-
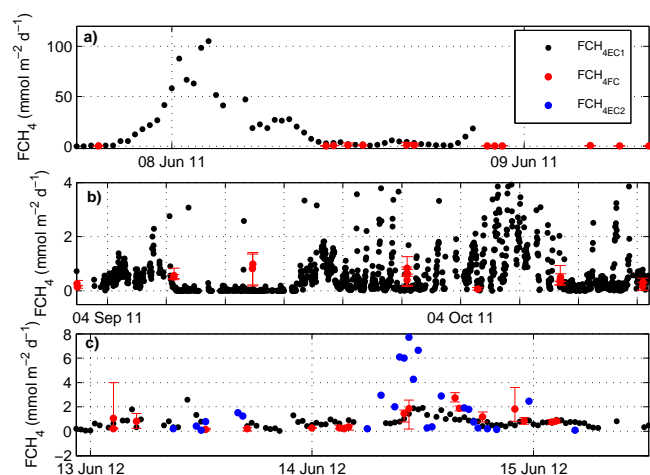
Figure 2. Time series of FCH_{4EC1} black dots, FCH_{4EC2} blue dots and FCH_{4FC} red dots (only FCs with 30 min deployment times positioned in EC1 footprint). The bars on FCH_{4FC} represent the maximum and minimum FCH_{4FC} from the individual chambers during one deployment.

pected near-equilibrium CO_2 concentrations which require high sensitivity in measurements. Therefore a sample bottle with 1075 mL water and 50 mL air headspace was used. During the second field campaign in 2012 the SAMI sensor was operational on the float and thus headspace CO_2 concentration measurements were not made.

2.4 Eddy covariance method

The following procedure for the EC flux measurements was used: double rotation of the sonic data, de-spiking and detrending over 30 min averaging periods, time lag calculations and corrections of the gas densities according to Webb et al. (1980) and McDermitt et al. (2010). For a more detailed description see Podgrajsek et al. (2014) and Sahlée et al. (2014). The EC data fulfilling the following criteria were used: wind direction from the lake, RSSI (received signal strength indicator, measure of the LI-7700 signal strength) > 30 % when logged, wind speed > 1 m s^{-1}, no precipitation and high quality power spectra.

3 Results and discussion

3.1 Methane flux comparison

Time series of CH_4 flux (FCH_4) measured with the EC method, FCH_{4EC}, and with the FC method, FCH_{4FC}, are shown in Fig. 2. During 2011 (Fig. 2a), the magnitudes of FCH_{4EC1} (mean = 6.15 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1}) were substantially larger than in 2012 (mean = 4.56 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1}). Note that only the 30 min chambers are shown in Fig. 2. Maximum values for the entire data set ranged up to 100 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1}, which is in the same range as fluxes previously reported
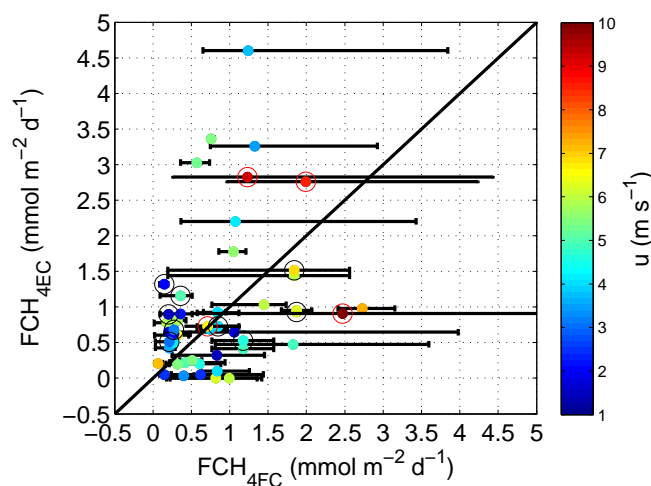

Figure 3. FCH_{4FC}, i.e. mean values of 4–6 FCs deployed in the flux footprint compared to mean values of FCH_{4EC} during the same time. The bars represent the maximum and minimum FC measurement during one deployment. The colours in the figure show the mean wind speed during the FC deployment period. Red circles enclosing filled circles represent the four comparisons of EC2 and FC. Black circles enclosing filled circles mark FCs with deployment times longer than 30 min in the EC1 footprint. The black line shows a 1 : 1 relation. The total number of direct comparisons $n = 51$.

from wetlands and peatlands (e.g. Baldocchi et al., 2012; Roulet et al., 1992). In 2011 (Fig. 2a and b), FCH_{4EC1} frequently displayed a diurnal cycle with higher values during night-time than during day. The diurnal cycle of FCH_4 is presented in detail by Podgrajsek et al. (2014) where it was suggested that the onset of a diurnal cycle of FCH_4 was controlled by water-side convection and formation of methane in the sediment. Such a pattern with convective driven high night-time fluxes was previously observed using flux chambers (Crill et al., 1988; Godwin et al., 2013), while studies from other lakes have found higher daytime CH_4 emissions (e.g. Bastviken et al., 2004, 2010; Keller and Stallard, 1994). In summer 2012 (Fig. 2c), FCH_4 was also measured from an additional EC tower positioned at the shore, FCH_{4EC2}. As expected, because of the position of the tower, the mean value of FCH_{4EC2} from 13 June 12 to 15 June 12 (mean = 1.77 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1}) was higher than both FCH_{4EC1} (mean = 0.88 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1}) and FCH_{4FC} (mean = 0.89 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1}) for the same period.

We conducted a total of 51 individual direct comparisons of FC and EC estimates of methane flux (Fig. 3). A linear best fit to the data points gives a correlation coefficient, r, of only 0.3, indicating a limited correspondence between FCH_{4EC} and FCH_{4FC}. Still, the mean relative error between the FC and EC measurements is only 0.2. The outcome of the comparison appears robust towards FC deployment time, as indicated by the similar patterns for FCs deployed with 30 min or longer deployment times (Fig. 3). Wind speed is impor-
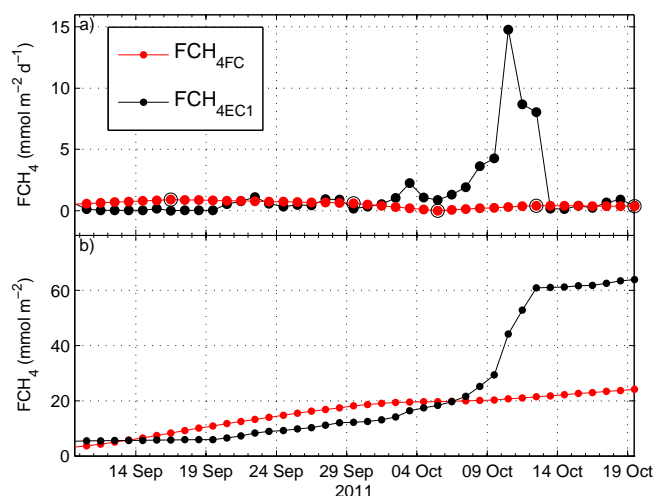
Figure 4. (a) Mean daily FCH_{4EC1}, (black dots) and FCH_{4FC} (red dots), calculated from half hour mean values of half hour fluxes showed in Fig. 2b. Gaps in the measurements have been filled by linear interpolation between the nearest neighbour. The encircled red dots indicate the FCH_{4FC} measurement occasions. **(a)** Cumulative sum of the daily FCH_{4EC1}, (black dots) and FCH_{4FC}, (red dots). Note that FCH_{4FC} estimates were not continuous but based on a limited number of 30 min daytime measurements which seems to have coincided with relatively low flux estimates from EC1. Continuous 24 h flux chamber measurements covering also the periods with high EC fluxes might therefore have resulted in better agreement than indicated by **(b)**.

tant for the efficiency of gas flux (e.g. Wanninkhof, 1992), and the FC and EC method may perform differently at different wind speeds. However, there is no indication that wind speed affects the agreement between the two methods. Comparisons at both low and high wind speeds yield similar results. Overall, magnitudes of the two method measurements are of the same order especially when taking into account the maximum and minimum chamber values.

The mean flux of both FCH_{4FC} and FCH_{4EC} measured simultaneously ($\approx 0.9\,\text{mmol m}^{-2}\,\text{d}^{-1}$) are of the same order as previously measured FCH_4 in lakes at similar latitudes as lake Tämnaren (Bastviken, 2009). However, as mentioned before, in 2011 the EC method frequently measured nighttime fluxes substantially higher than this mean value and it is unclear how the methods would compare if these high flux events were considered.

Short-term daytime flux chamber data are often extrapolated in time, and there is a concern of biased flux estimates (Bastviken et al., 2004). A comparison between the cumulative extrapolated FC fluxes and the cumulative EC1 fluxes for FCH_4 during the fall 2011 illustrates this risk (Fig. 4). For the FC measurements, which where only made biweekly during this period, daily mean values during days with measurements were used to interpolate FCH_{4FC} until the next measuring occasion. The cumulative sum of the EC method sums

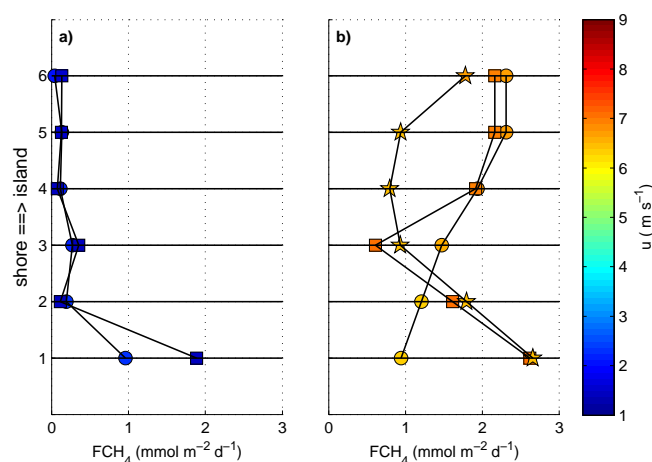**Figure 5.** FCH_{4FC} measurements conducted along a transect from the shore to the island of Rättarharet marked with numbers 1–6 in Fig. 1 for **(a)** 12 June 2012 19:30 to 13 June 2012 4:00 and **(b)** 14 June 2012 11:00 to 14 June 2012 19:00. The colours represent the wind speed and the different symbols mark chambers measured during the same time.

to over $60\,\text{mmol m}^{-2}$ during one and a half months and FC to only $24\,\text{mmol m}^{-2}$ (Fig. 4b). Although the potential problem with discontinuous flux measurements are widely recognized, they are rarely compared to continuous measurements for lakes. Our analysis highlights the need for continuous or high frequency flux measurements, e.g. by EC measurements or by other approaches such as automated FC measurements (e.g. Duc et al., 2013).

3.2 Spatial variations of FCH_4

To investigate the spatial variability of CH_4 flux in lake Tämnaren, fluxes were measured with FCs at six locations along a transect from the shoreline to Rättarharet (Fig. 1). The measurements are divided into two periods; 12 June 2012 19:30 (all times are expressed in LT) to 13 June 2012 4:00 and 14 June 2012 11:00 to 14 June 2012 19:00 (Fig. 5a and b, respectively). During the first period, the magnitudes of the fluxes are small at all positions except close to the shore, position 1 (Fig. 5a), a region previously shown to be a strong emitter of methane (Bastviken et al., 2004). During the second period, when the wind speed is relatively high compared to the first period, the fluxes are in general higher than period 1, as expected due to more efficient gas transfer (Fig. 5b). However, the spatial gradients are more variable during the second period, with one out of three horizontal gradients having the lowest flux close to the shore (circles Fig. 5b). This spatial variability of FCH_4 that is measured with the FCs in the lake could not be captured with the EC method which measures the flux over a large area. This highlights one important difference between the FC and EC methods.
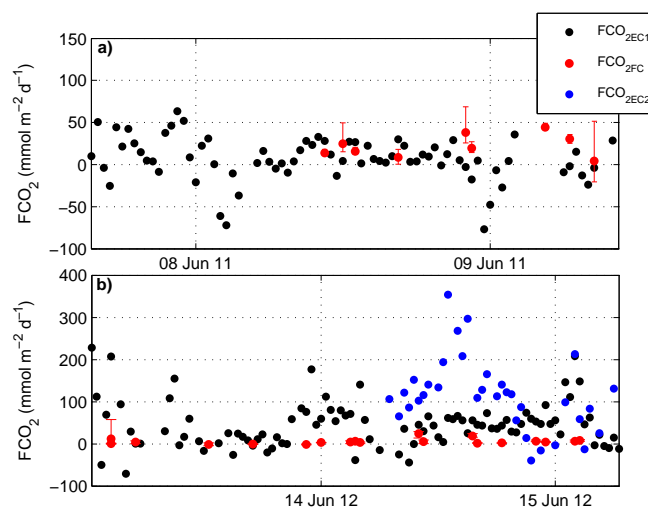
Figure 6. As Fig. 2 but for CO_2 fluxes.

Figure 7. As Fig. 3 but for CO_2 fluxes. Number of direct comparisons $n = 18$.

3.3 Carbon dioxide flux comparison

The time series of CO_2 flux (FCO_2) measured with the EC method (FCO_{2EC}) and the FC method (FCO_{2FC}) during the two field campaigns are shown in Fig. 6. The mean values of FCO_{2EC1} differ significantly between the two years, with mean values of 8.2 and 47.2 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1}, respectively. From fall 2011 to spring 2012 a higher amount of precipitation was observed compared to the same period in 2010/2011. The rainwater could have affected pCO_{2w} in the lake directly by transporting inorganic carbon via runoff or indirectly by transport of DOC (dissolved organic carbon). In-lake mineralization of DOC is shown to affect pCO_{2w} (Sobek et al., 2005). A higher amount of pCO_{2w} in 2012 compared to 2011 could thus lead to higher FCO_2. Other factors such as sun light and temperature could also increase pCO_{2w} due to increased respiration. However, measurements show that air temperature and incoming solar radiation were higher in 2011 than 2012. Because pCO_{2w} was not measured in 2011, these discussions are only speculations.

The magnitude of FCO_{2EC} (from both EC1 and EC2) ranges from negative values in 2011 to as high as 300 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1} in 2012. This is comparable to what previous studies using the EC method have measured above lakes: e.g. Anderson et al. (2010) measured fluxes up to 230 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1}, while Huotari et al. (2011) measured negative FCO_2 explained by extremely high primary production.

Direct comparisons of the two methods during the 2012 campaign (28, in total) disagreed substantially, by ≈ 200 mmol m^{-2} d^{-1} (Fig. 7). The highest disagreements are mostly from night-time cases. There is no indication that wind speed influences the comparison. The poor agreement between the estimates of FCO_2 is analysed further in the next section.
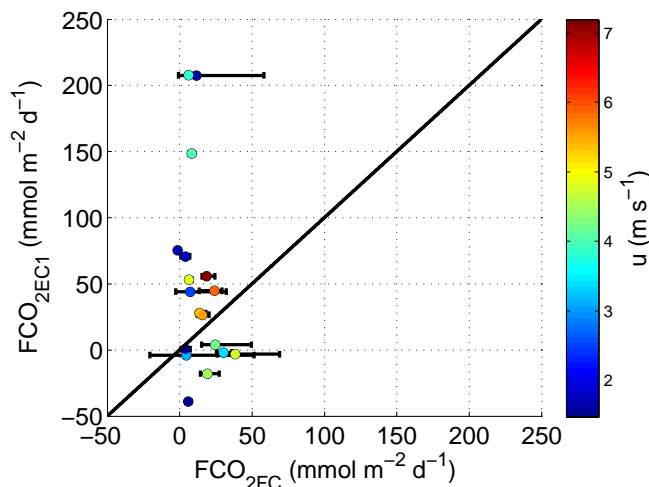
3.4 Further Analysis of FCO_2 during the 2012 Campaign

The EC and FC fluxes from the field campaign in 2012 are compared to a bulk flux estimation, Eq. (1) (Fig. 8). The pCO_{2w} value from the SAMI was used in the bulk flux estimation and the transfer velocity was parameterized using the wind speed dependent relation by Cole and Caraco (1998); $k_u = 2.07 + 0.215 \times u_u^{1.7}$. Because pCO_{2w} may be inhomogeneous in the lake both horizontally and vertically, the bulk flux was also calculated with $pCO_{2wSAMI} + 200$ ppm and pCO_{2wSAMI} to 200 ppm. The bulk flux estimation shows a peak on midday 14 June with magnitudes comparable to FCO_{2EC1} (Fig. 8). During the night between 13 and 14 June when disagreement between the EC and FC method are largest, the estimated bulk flux is more comparable to FCO_{2FC}.

Many authors have stressed that convection in lakes and oceans will enhance the gas flux and that parameterizations of k should include a dependence on convection (e.g. Eugster et al., 2003; MacIntyre et al., 2001; Rutgersson and Smedman, 2010; Rutgersson et al., 2011). Convection in the water can be estimated with the waterside buoyancy flux, B(m^2 s^{-3}), defined as

$$B = \frac{g a Q_{\text{eff}}}{c_{\text{pw}} \rho_{\text{w}}}, \tag{3}$$

where g is the acceleration of gravity (m s^{-2}), a is the thermal expansion coefficient (K^{-1}), Q_{eff} is the effective surface heat flux defined as the sum of the total heat flux, longwave radiation and short-wave radiation (J s^{-1} m^{-2}), c_{pw} is the specific heat of water (J kg^{-1} K^{-1}) and ρ_{w} is the density of the water (kg m^{-3}) (Imberger, 1985; Jeffery et al., 2007). Rutgersson and Smedman (2010) suggested that k parameterization can be separated into a wind speed dependent
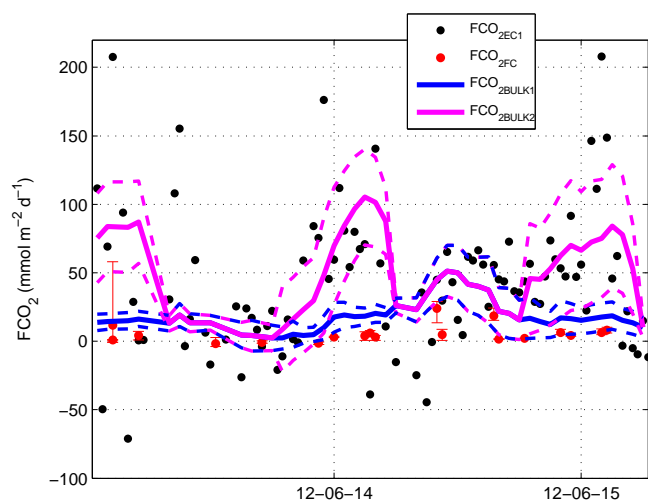
Figure 8. Time series from the field campaign in 2012, of FCO_{2EC1}, (black dots), FCO_{2FC}, (red dots), FCO_{2BULK1}, CO_2 flux calculated using the bulk flux estimation of Cole and Caraco (1998) (solid blue line) and FCO_{2BULK2}, CO_2 flux estimations using the bulk flux equation with k dependent on both wind speed and water-side convection, i.e. Rutgersson and Smedman (2010) parameterization (magenta line). The upper and lower dashed blue and magenta lines represent the bulk flux estimations using $pCO_{2wSAMI} + 200$ ppm and $pCO_{2wSAMI} - 200$ ppm, respectively.

part, k_u, and a part dependent on the waterside convection, k_c, where k_c is a function of w^* (m s^{-1}). The waterside convective velocity scale, is defined as

$$w^* = (Bz_{ml})^{1/3} \qquad (4)$$

where the mixed layer depth, z_{ml}, is set to 2 m assuming that the lake is well mixed. Using the linear relation between k_c and w^* from Rutgersson and Smedman (2010) we investigate how the convection could affect the bulk flux estimation. The results show that the new bulk flux has better agreement with FCO_{2EC1} during night-time (Fig. 8), indicating that convective mixing may be the process enhancing the night-time CO_2 flux, captured with the EC method. However, this also suggests that the flux measured with the chambers, which compared better with the bulk flux estimation only dependent on wind speed, does not properly account for water-side convection. We may speculate that this is due to microphysical conditions, that when the chamber shelters the water surface it prevents radiant cooling of the surface and thus inhibiting microscale convection that would disturb the diffusive sub-layer and enhance the flux. However, previous studies have seen that chambers can capture convection (Crill et al., 1988; Gålfalk et al., 2013) and thus it is not clear why the chambers should miss this process in Tämnaren.

4 Summary and conclusions

Two direct methods for gas flux measurements, eddy covariance and floating chamber methods, were compared for lake fluxes of CO_2 and CH_4 in Tämnaren.

For FCH_4 our results show some different but similar flux magnitudes with the two methods (Fig. 3). However, when comparing cumulative FCH_{4EC} and FCH_{4FC} for a longer period it is clear that episodic high flux events can easily be missed when using a method that does not measure continuously. The results presented in Fig. 5 show that FCH_4 varies horizontally in the lake and that this variation varies in time. This suggest that a direct comparison of FCH_4 measured with the EC and FC method, which measure fluxes representing different surface areas, will not yield the same results.

FCO_2 measured during the field campaign in 2011 showed similar flux magnitudes with both methods. However, for the field campaign in 2012 the comparison was poor (Figs. 6 and 7). The reason for this is not clear at present. While we here have identified a potential issue, we may currently only speculate about the reasons. We therefore highlight the importance of further comparisons between lake EC systems and flux chambers on lakes, specifically under conditions when water convection is a major driving force for fluxes. It is also important that future method comparisons are performed under homogeneous conditions where the influence of single factors can be isolated.

Overall, we show that although FC and EC methods yielded flux estimates in the same order of magnitude there are important differences that have to be considered. Clearly, short term, discontinuous FC measurements are likely to be biased by missing episodic flux events and possible very important diurnal variability. Further, EC and FC methods cover different areas making EC advantageous for integrated measurements over larger areas, while the FC approach is suitable for local and spatially well constrained flux measurements. Hence, EC and FC methods should be seen as supplementary rather than fully comparable methods.

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