Determinación del Índice de Estado Trófico (IT) utilizando el sensoriamento remoto, levantamiento bálmétrico y datos empíricos en un reservorio tropical

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ABSTRACT

Determination of the Trophic State Index (TSI) using remote sensing, bathymetric survey and empirical data in a tropical reservoir

The reservoirs are important freshwater reserves that suffer with domestic and industrial wastes, causing qualitative and quantitative changes in their physicochemical composition, as well as causing fauna and flora impacts. One of the consequences is eutrophication, a process characterized by increased concentration of nutrients in aquatic ecosystems, mainly phosphorus and nitrogen. In order to classify waterbodies according to their trophic degrees, chlorophyll-α and phosphorus concentration data are usually obtained in water samples, feeding an equation to obtain the Trophic State Index (TSI). The method used at the present work aim to determine the TSI based on remote sensing (RS), by using the ratio between the near-infrared (NIR) and red (RED) images to infer the chlorophyll-α concentration in wet and dry seasons. This method allows a synoptic vision of the reservoir, providing support for decision-making process at low cost, especially when a large amount of data is available and/or generated, increasing quality in consonance with technological development. However, we need to consider the influence of the bottom of shallow areas when using orbital images to evaluate the waterbodies conditions, since the emerging radiation of the euphotic zone is responsible for the results reliability. Thus, it is necessary the exclusion of shallow areas, which may compromise the spectral response of the satellite images due to the bottom effects, before the development of the TSI RS Map. We created the TSI RS Maps (observed) and then we validated it with the Empirical TSI Maps (expected), obtained in 28 geo-coded points along the riverine-transition-lacustrine gradient, both for wet and dry season. We performed the chi-square test that shows how much difference exists between the observed and the expected. Both seasons presented $x^2 = 1$, $df = 27$, with critical value (0.005) of 49.64. Therefore, we found no differences between the observed and the expected. Our results reinforce the potentiality of the RS to perform the TSI favoring the identification of eutrophic areas in inland water systems with low turbidity.

Key words: limnology, chlorophyll-α, phosphorus, Secchi depth, satellite images, euphotic zone, bottom effects, cascade reservoirs, inland water

RESUMO

Determinação do Índice de Estado Trófico (IT) por meio de Sensoriamento Remoto, Levantamento Batimétrico e Dados Empíricos em um Reservatório Tropical

Os reservatórios são importantes reservas de água doce que sofrem com despejos de esgotos domésticos e industriais que causam mudanças quantitativas e qualitativas na sua composição físico-química, além de causar impactos na fauna e na flora. Uma das consequências é a eutrofização, processo que se caracteriza pelo aumento na concentração de nutrientes no ecossistema aquático, principalmente fósforo e nitrogênio. A concentração de clorofila-α e de fósforo são obtidas das amostras da água para alimentar as equações de Índice de Estado Trófico (IT). Os métodos usados no presente trabalho visam determinar o grau de trofia utilizando o sensoriamento remoto orbital (SR), que usa a razão entre as imagens das faixas do infravermelho
INTRODUCTION

The planet Earth has two thirds of its surface covered by water, however more than 98% of available water is salty and only 2% is freshwater (low salinity), which more than 68% are distributed in glaciers, 29% are in deep groundwater reservoirs that are difficult to access, and only 1.2% is available in rivers and lakes (Senra, 2001). In Brazil, freshwater availability can be considered generous, accounting for 12% of the planet’s water reserves (Senra, 2001), with a surface water production of 168,790 m³/s (Novaes, 2000). According to the São Paulo State Secretary for Water Supply, about 86% of the territory of São Paulo State is in the Paraná river basin. The public drinking water supply for the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo (MRSP) is a very important issue due to its population of 17.2 million, distributed along 39 municipalities (EMPLASA, 2000). The Cantareira System, or Cantareira Complex, is a water supply system within the MRSP, which comprises five interconnected reservoirs (Cascade Reservoirs), ending (downstream) in the Juqueri River Reservoir (also known as Paiva Castro Reservoir) and Águas Claras Reservoir, before reach the Water Treatment Plant (WTP Guarapu).

The eutrophication comprises a suite of symptoms that reservoirs exhibit in response to fertilization with nutrients (Hutchinson, 1973). These symptoms include several physical-chemical and ecological alterations listed in the limnological literature (Straškraba, 1999; Cooke et al., 2005; Jorgensen et al., 2005; Jacoby et al., 2007; Schindler et al., 2008; Tundisi & Tundisi, 2008). The eutrophication arises from the oversupply of nutrients in aquatic ecosystems, mainly phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N), resulting in increased productivity (Esteves, 2011), which leads to overgrowth of plants and algal blooms that can form masses, floating islands or algal mats that can be displaced by the winds and accumulate on the margins, where its begin to decompose and cause unpleasant smell and production of toxic substances (Branco, 1986). Because of this process, the aquatic ecosystem changes from oligotrophic and mesotrophic to eutrophic or even hypertrophic conditions (Esteves, 2011). To classify the eutrophic state of a reservoir some parameters can be used: total P and total N, chlorophyll-a concentration, and Secchi disk depth (Andreoli et al., 2011). It is also very common the use of Trophic State Index (TSI), which is an important indicator in the decision-making process concerning the reservoir management. The Carlson (1977) TSI was adapted by Lamparelli (2004) in order to fulfill tropical specification, evaluating water quality related to nutrient enrichment and its effect on excessive algae growth and increased infestation of aquatic macrophytes. Nowadays it is the index used regularly by the official agencies (CETESB, 2013).

Another method to estimate the TSI is those based on satellite images, which can be of great
help for decision makers since it allows a synoptic view of the reservoir trophic state. The first attempts to apply remote sensing (RS) to monitoring the eutrophication process date from the 1970s, but the remote sensors available at the time were not suitable to the complexity of inland waters (George & Malthus, 2001). With the improvement and the popularization of the satellite imagery along the last decades, several other TSIIs were proposed (Novo, 2007). Yacobi et al. (2011); Gitelson et al. (2011), Dall’Olmo & Gitelson (2005), Gons et al. (2002), Gitelson & Kondratyev (1991) suggested that red (RED) and near-infrared (NIR) spectral responses can be particularly helpful to estimate chlorophyll-a concentration in eutrophic waterbody, where Colored Dissolved Organic Matter (CDOM) are abundant. Duan et al. (2007) studied Changan Lake, northeast China, demonstrated the efficiency of the ratio between NIR and RED to estimate chlorophyll-a concentration. Novo et al. (2013) proposed recently a new TSI using orbital remote sensing in Ibitinga Reservoir, part of Tietê River dam complex, located in the geographic center of the São Paulo State in the Middle Tietê River Valley. Using Monte Carlo simulation, the authors selected the most suitable model relating to chlorophyll-a concentration and simulated TM/Landsat reflectance. The ratio between NIR (TM4) and RED (TM3) provided the best model with a R² value of 0.78, enhancing the relationship between chlorophyll-a concentration and remotely sensed reflectance, since the high concentration of phytoplankton increases the reflectance in the NIR and decreases the reflectance in the RED. However, it is necessary to consider the effects of the reservoir bottom in shallow areas, which may compromise the information contained in the satellite images, being sure that the emerging radiation used to calculate the TSI comes exclusively from the euphotic zone (Kirk, 2011; Bitencourt & Mantelli, 2015).

As the costs for conventional limnological monitoring (water sampling and laboratory analysis) are high, it is important and often necessary to use monitoring methods that seek to reduce costs, in addition to optimize acquisition results. The use of new data sources and spatial analysis tools, such as RS and geoprocessing, can contribute to reducing costs, since there are satellite images and geoprocessing software packages that are free. The RS also allows an efficient and constant acquiring of data sets along the time and space, contributing with the decision-making process in the water resources management.

The main objective of this paper is to produce a TSI Map using Remote Sensing (observed) according to Novo et al. (2013) and validate it with an Empirical TSI Map (expected) performed by using field data (concentrations of chlorophyll-a and total P), for both wet and dry seasons in the Paiva Castro Reservoir. To achieve that objective, it was necessary to make some maps using models already presented in the literature and/or to create new other maps. The reservoir bathymetry map, for example, had to be created. Therefore, bathymetric field data should be sampled and analyzed beforehand. Therefore, the flowchart for bathymetry is a brand-new way of obtaining such map and the description step by step can very helpful to further decision makers. Other flowcharts are also presented to help decision makers, but they are not of our complete authorship even though they show the step by step to generate each thematic map used as the basis for development of the TSI maps, and the steps to generate the TSI maps itself. Each step was carefully examined and justified in order to improve confidence. We hope to reinforce the potentiality of the Remote Sensing data (RS) to perform the TSI in tropical reservoirs, also acquiring some important limnologic parameters like chlorophyll-a concentration, Secchi depth and euphotic zone extension, in different space and time scales depending of the resolution of the remote sensor.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

The Paiva Castro is the fifth downstream reservoir of the Cantareira System just before Águas Claras Reservoir where the water is treated to become drinkable. The System was concluded in 1973 (Figs. 1 and 2). Its watershed comprises 33 715 ha, mainly composed by native forest, herbaceous vegetation and forestry, with little
influence of urban areas. The reservoir contributes with 6.1 % of the whole Cantareira System water production. Its surface area comprises 445 ha and the retention time is 14 days, which characterizes the Paiva Castro Reservoir more lotic than lentic.

**Bathymetric Survey**

To obtain the bathymetric map of the reservoir we had three days of field work using a marine Geographical Position System (GPSMAP GARMIN 421S) coupled with a transducer to get X and Y coordinates and the reservoir depth. To check error positions, we used a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), GNSS St3040-Rtk-Sifo recepto. To get Z elevation and to determine and evaluate the errors of X and Y positions, we used the software R (2008). Further analyses were performed in order to obtain the final elevation model.

**Remote Sensing (RS)**

To develop the Euphotic Zone Map and the TSI RS Map we used Landsat 5 - Thematic Mapper (TM) images from two dates: January 9th and May 1st 2009, wet and dry season respectively. We selected those dates due to the proximity with the period in which the empirical data sampling was performed and because of the absence of clouds. We obtained the images from the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) catalog (INPE, 2016). We used the reservoir polygon obtained through bathymetric survey to constrain the reservoir area in the Landsat images.

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Using the software Terrset (Eastman, 2015), we performed the processing of the Landsat images aiming to minimize the Rayleigh scattering effects (atmospheric correction). The method of atmospheric correction was the Total Correction Model (Eastman, 2015), which includes the parameters used in the Dark Object Subtraction Model (DOS) and the Cos (t) Model developed by Chavez (1996). We also performed the radiometric correction aiming to correct the radiometric degradations due to mismatches in the calibration of the detectors and errors in the data transmission, a procedure that ensures that changes in spectral behavior, both in time and in space, are strictly related to the interaction of the electromagnetic radiation with the target, eliminating contributions of the environment in the reflectance of the target (Moreira, 2012).

**Empirical Data**

We used as empirical data the georeferenced data sampled by Macedo (2011) in 28 points along the riverine-transition-lacustrine gradient of the Paiva Castro Reservoir, at wet season (November 2008) and dry season (June 2009). She determined the total P and chlorophyll-α concentration by spectrophotometry (Wetzel & Likens, 1991; Valderrama, 1981), and the Secchi depth by Secchi disk.

**Euphotic Zone Mask**

The euphotic zone mask aims to constraint the area of analysis in the satellite images avoiding the bottom effects of shallow areas. Thus, we used the ratio between BLUE (TM2) and TM4 images to obtain the Secchi depth (Pereira et al., 2011). The next step was the development of the euphotic zone image based on Esteves (2011), Bukata et al. (1995), and Kirk (2011). We performed a logical operation to create a mask that excluded the shallow areas of the reservoir. If the extension of the euphotic zone was equal or more than depth obtained by the bathymetric survey, the area equivalent was excluded. If the extension of the euphotic zone was less than depth, the area equivalent was included, i.e., the area that will be the object to performing TSI RS. We present here a flowchart that shows the step by step to obtain the euphotic zone mask.

![Image](image_url)

**Figure 2.** The Cantareira System (adapted from ANA, 2013). ETA: Estação de Tratamento de Água (Water Treatment Plant); RMSP: Região Metropolitana de São Paulo (Metropolitan Area of Sao Paulo). The Y-axis represents the altitude. O Sistema Cantareira (adaptado de ANA, 2013). ETA: Estação de Tratamento de Água; RMSP: Região Metropolitana de São Paulo. O eixo Y representa a altitude.
Trophic State Index (TSI)

To obtain the TSI Map using RS for wet and dry seasons, we used the TM4 and TM3 images from Landsat 5. We applied the euphotic zone mask to these images to eliminate the shallow areas and consequently the bottom effects within the spectral response registered by satellite images. Therefore, we used the model based on the TM4/TM3 ratio proposed by Novo et al. (2013) to obtain the chlorophyll-a concentration. Afterwards, we calculated the Lamparelli (2004) TSI and then we classified the TSI in the following classes: ultraoligotrophic (TSI < 47), oligotrophic (47 < TSI ≤ 52), mesotrophic (52 < TSI ≤ 59), and eutrophic (59 < TSI ≤ 63), producing the TSI RS Maps.

To develop the Empirical TSI Map firstly we calculated the Lamparelli (2004) TSI using the concentrations of chlorophyll-a and total P obtained in water samples for both seasons. As the water samples are geocoded, we performed the TIN interpolation of the TSI values and then we converted the resulting polygons into a surface image. Thereafter, we classified the Empirical TSI image in the following classes: ultraoligotrophic (TSI < 47), oligotrophic (47 < TSI ≤ 52), mesotrophic (52 < TSI ≤ 59), and eutrophic (59 < TSI ≤ 63), resulting in an Empirical TSI Maps.

Geostatistical

We validated the TSI RS Maps (observed) toward the Empirical TSI Maps (expected). We performed the validation in two ways: (a) using
the chi-square test, that shows how much difference exists between the observed and the expected; (b) using a Contingency Table or Error Matrix, where the columns represent the reference data or the data that is known to be true (empirical), and the rows are the classes that were mapped and generated from the RS data. Doing so, we obtained the Kappa Index in order to evaluate the concordance of the classification (Congalton & Mead, 1991).

RESULTS

The bathymetric survey was performed in four stages: (a) the first stage resulted from three

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days of field work, using a marine GPS with transducer installed in the boat and a DGPS; (b) the second stage was the pre-processing of sampled data, associating the information of the marine GPS with the DGPS and analyzing the difference between the X and Y axes; (c) the third stage comprises the interpolation of the sampling data by using the Triangulated Irregular Network (TIN) and the conversion into surface (Martins, 2017); and (d) the fourth stage occurred during three more days of field work, aiming to complete the bathymetric survey, fulfilling the gaps of the previously survey. Finally, 16 529 points were sampled along the reservoir of approximately 4.49·10^6 m². We determined the sample sufficiency with 1 % margin of error and 99 % confidence interval. To perform the sampling, the boat bordered the entire reservoir and then crossed two parallel lines along the reservoir. The next step was to make a zigzag from margin to margin. We recorded the data every 10 m with the boat stopped to obtain information from the marine GPS and DGPS.

The data distribution of the first bathymetric survey allows us to detect that the differences between the marine GPS and DGPS. The results were the constancy between the X and Y axes, except to a few outliers (0.75 % of the surveyed points) that we excluded based on the mean and standard deviation. The creation of the bathymetric function (Bat_{(x)} = X - 40 and Bat_{(y)} = Y - 44), allow us to adjustment of the X and Y axes for further surveys and to model the submerged relief.

After pre-processing the data using bathymet-
ric function, the data were TIN interpolated and converted them into a surface image. At this stage, the information related to the Z elevation value from the reservoir water level was recorded.

The bathymetric survey also allows us to obtain the reservoir polygon, considering the almost constant surface level of 750 m of altitude. That polygon we used to constraint the satellite images to perform all the geospatial analyses. The Figure 3 presents the flowchart of all steps to obtain the bathymetric survey. The Figure 4 reveals the submerged relief map.

The Secchi depth values found using RS were quite homogeneous along de reservoir ranging from 2.6 m to 2.7 m mainly in the central portion of the reservoir and at the border the values were near to 2.0 m. We did not observe differences between wet and dry seasons although, the results of the empirical Secchi depth, shows a high amplitude along the reservoir, 17 times higher than RS values in wet season and 9 times higher in dry season (Table 1).

We created the Euphotic Zone Maps using the Secchi depth (SD) images obtained with RS (Fig. 5). We did not observed differences between the wet and dry season in areas that have the extension of the euphotic zone until 3 m. On the other hand, areas with the euphotic zone extension between 4-5 m present an increase of 51.2 % in the dry season, while areas with the euphotic zone extension within the range of 7 m decreases in the dry season (8.1 %).
(see Table 1). The euphotic zone mask, that we create to constraint the area to perform the TSI RS, excluded 11.5 % of the pixels (51.5 ha) to avoid the bottom effects of shallow areas. We did not observed differences between the wet and dry season.

We create the TSI RS Maps and the Empirical TSI Maps as shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7, respectively. The resulting maps represents the TSI obtained by SR (Fig. 8) and the TSI obtained empirically, using the chlorophyll-α and Total P data (Fig. 9). Both maps comprise mainly the mesotrophic class in both periods. The dry season presents an increasing of values classified into the mesotrophic class, followed by a decrease of values located into the oligotrophic class, indicating an increase of trophic degree from wet to dry season. When we compared the TSI RS Maps (observed) with the Empirical TSI Maps (expected) we found no significant differences between the observed and the expected for both seasons ($x^2 = 1, df = 27$, with critical value (0.005) of 49.64). The Kappa Index also validate the TSI RS, since the Kappa Index was reasonable (0.2180) for the wet season and very good (0.6250) for the dry season.

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DISCUSSION

Our goal was to show ways to use orbital remote sensing data to determine the trophic state degree in an artificial reservoir, diminishing the costs of data acquisition and optimizing the monitoring of reservoirs. The bathymetric map was obtained using field survey and geoprocessing techniques. We also developed a series of flowcharts that presents the step by step to obtain all maps used here to model the Trophic State Index.

The bathymetric survey allows us to model the submerged relief, to delimit the reservoir polygon, and to create the euphotic zone mask by acquiring the X and Y coordinates, the Z elevation of the water surface, and the reservoir depth, within an adequate scale and accuracy to limnologic studies. The altimetry variation of 25 m, observed in the Relief Map is related to the preterit use of the reservoir area (sand mining), before the dam construction in the 1960’s.

We obtained a homogeneous distribution of Secchi depth values along the reservoir in agreement with Pereira et al. (2011). They did not find relevant differences between the values obtained by RS of those obtained in situ, as we found in the present work. We expect to find some differences because the radiance within each pixel comprises the mean radiance of an area that varies with the spatial resolution of the satellite, whereas the field measurement is only one human observation. Therefore, the RS is much more reliable in obtaining the Secchi depth considering the limitations related to the spatial scale, whereas the Secchi depth is an inference and not a direct measure.

The use of euphotic zone mask is found to be necessary to avoid the undesirable bottom effect always present in RS data. The shallow areas must be erased because only the water within the euphotic zone can be related to limnologic parameters. Depending on the reservoir geomorphology the shallow waters can be significant or not. In this case they may not be significant, but we decide to maintain the mask in the flowchart to alert about its importance. The differences between the wet and dry season is perfectly understandable because the precipitation within the watershed during the wet season may strongly improve the turbidity. Ngabirano et al. (2016) also observed low turbidity during the dry season in reservoirs located in Uganda. They related the difference between both seasons as a decrease of concentration of small clay minerals particles, dissolved colored compounds and colloids in dry season.

However, it does not seem to be the case in our reservoir because it occurs in the plateau with Litofìcs rock outcrops, Cambisols, Yellow Red Latosol, and Podzolic Red Yellow soils. Analyzing Figure 2, it is possible to understand why the Paiva Castro reservoir is so peculiar: it is hilly, showing few shallow areas; it is the fifth reservoir of the Cantareira System, and it is kept in an almost constant water level along the seasons. The land used within its watershed (area of about 33 690 ha) comprises an urban areas (Mairiporã city) and some disperse human occupation (1.7 %), water of

Figure 8. The TSI RS Map: a) dry season; b) wet season. Mapa de IET produzido por sensoriamento remoto: a) estação seca; b) estação chuvosa.
various type (1.6 %), cultivate forest (3.9 %), semi natural fields (33.4 %), and semi natural forest (59.4 %), according to Martins (2017) and Kumazawa C (2018).

The TSI RS Map produced here was geostatistical validated, whereas no significant differences were found between the observed (TSI RS) and the expected (Empirical TSI). Our results agree with Novo et al. (2013) about the TM4/TM3 ratio being appropriate to cover a large range of chlorophyll-α concentration and, consequently, to access a broad of trophic states degrees, favoring the identification of eutrophic areas in inland water systems with low turbidity. The TM4/TM3 ratio is the best input variable to estimate the chlorophyll-α concentration since the absorption peak occurs in 670 nm (RED) and the spectral reflectance peak (fluorescence and phytoplankton cell backscattering) occurs in 700 nm (NIR) besides this ratio mitigates the effects of the atmospheric and water surface reflectivity on the measurements performed by the satellite sensors (Novo et al., 2013; Duan et al., 2007).

CONCLUSION

We found that the bathymetric survey is necessary to model the submerged relief. We strongly advise the exclusion of the shallow areas before use satellite images (SR) to infer any limnologic parameters within the euphotic zone. We assumed that the Secchi depth obtained by SR tends to be more reliable because each pixel reveals the mean value of a bigger area than the observed in the field. The high concentration of chlorophyll-α, one of the symptoms of eutrophication, can be detected and measured by using satellite images due to the interaction between the pigment and the electromagnetic radiation. Thereby, it is possible to acquire a large amount of data, in several scales, that is useful to determine the trophic degrees in reservoirs. The strength of the RS relies on the easy access of information, in different space and time scales, and the acquisition of images can be without cost in some governmental agencies’ website. Our results showed that RS can be reliable providing the information necessary to obtain the TSI and reinforces the potentiality of the RS to predict limnologic parameters in different space and time scales.

Figure 9. The TSI Empirical Map: a) dry season; b) wet season. Mapa de IET Empírico: a) estação seca; b) estação chuvosa.

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Finally, 16529 points were sampled along the river, fulfilling the gaps of the previously surveyed sites. Over the course of the field work, using a marine GPS with the Sf3040-Rtk-Sfto receptor, data were acquired for Z elevation and geographical position system (GPSMAP). The data obtained were used to model the submerged relief. We strongly advise the acquisition of images can be without cost in some cases, in different space and time scales, and the amount of data, in several scales, that is useful to make the most of the available information.

The main objective of this paper is to produce trophic state index (TSI) maps from remote sensing (RS) data. The study area is a reservoir located in the Brazilian Midwest, where the euphotic zone is highly extended due to the high turbidity of the water. The TSI obtained by RS (Fig. 8) and the TSI obtained empirically, using the chlorophyll-α and Total P concentrations (Fig. 9). Both maps comprise mainly the reservoir area and the surrounding area, with the euphotic zone image based on Esteves (2011), Bukata et al. (2011).

Results showed that the TSI maps produced by RS and the TSI maps produced empirically are similar, with slight differences in the spatial distribution of the euphotic zone. The results also showed that the euphotic zone is highly extended due to the high turbidity of the water. The TSI obtained by RS is lower than the TSI obtained empirically, indicating a lower trophic state.

Discussion: The TSI maps produced by RS and the TSI maps produced empirically are similar, with slight differences in the spatial distribution of the euphotic zone. The results also showed that the euphotic zone is highly extended due to the high turbidity of the water. The TSI obtained by RS is lower than the TSI obtained empirically, indicating a lower trophic state.

Conclussions: The TSI maps produced by RS are similar to the TSI maps produced empirically, indicating a lower trophic state due to the high turbidity of the water. The results also showed that the euphotic zone is highly extended due to the high turbidity of the water. The TSI obtained by RS is lower than the TSI obtained empirically, indicating a lower trophic state.