Interactive comment on “Technical note: rectifying systematic underestimation of the specific energy required to evaporate water into the atmosphere” by Andrew S. Kowalski

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Very interesting note refining the definition of the latent heat of evaporation and its empirical dependence on temperature, of great relevance also in the eddy covariance community as related to the energy budget closure problem. I would like to point out that in my opinion the units in Tab. 1 are not correct: the L and lambda as reported are in J g⁻¹, not in J kg⁻¹. Eq. (5) is then also in J g⁻¹ instead of J kg⁻¹, unless it is multiplied by 10⁻³. Another point is the fact that in Eq. (4) the virtual temperature is used, while in my understanding Tab. 1 reports ambient temperature: I think it should be mentioned that the difference between the two is not giving relevant differences in the calculation of lambda (if so), to improve the clarity of the note.

Many thanks to the author for this work, Best Regards

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