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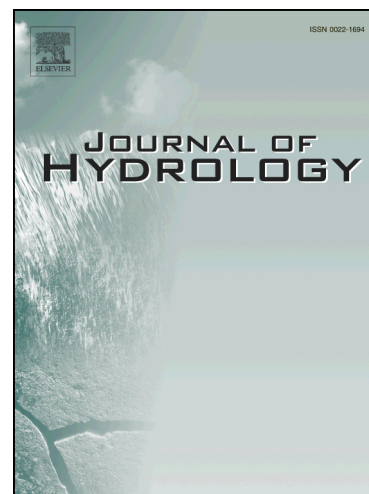
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A Novel Approach for Predicting Monthly Water Demand by Combining Singular Spectrum Analysis with Neural Networks

Salah L. Zubaidi ^{a,b}, Jayne Dooley ^a, Rafid M. Alkhaddar^a, Mawada Abdellatif ^a,
Hussein Al-Bugharbee ^c, Sandra Ortega-Martorell ^d

^a Department of Civil Engineering, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK

^b Department of Civil Engineering, University of Wasit, Wasit, Iraq

^c Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Wasit, Wasit, Iraq

^d Department of Applied Mathematics, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK

Abstract

Valid and dependable water demand prediction is a major element of the effective and sustainable expansion of municipal water infrastructures. This study provides a novel approach to quantifying water demand through the assessment of climatic factors, using a combination of a pretreatment signal technique, a hybrid particle swarm optimisation algorithm and an artificial neural network (PSO-ANN). The Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA) technique was adopted to decompose and reconstruct water consumption in relation to six weather variables, to create a seasonal and stochastic time series. The results revealed that SSA is a powerful technique, capable of decomposing the original time series into many independent components including trend, oscillatory behaviours and noise. In addition, the PSO-ANN algorithm was shown to be a reliable prediction model, outperforming the hybrid Backtracking Search Algorithm BSA-ANN in terms of fitness function (RMSE). The findings of this study also support the view that water demand is driven by climatological variables.

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