

# Predicting Water Level Fluctuations in Lake Michigan-Huron Using Wavelet-Expert System Methods

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**Abstract** Understanding and forecasting water level fluctuations in Lake Michigan-Huron is important for a variety of water resource management operations such as flood control, local water supply management, shoreline maintenance, ecosystem sustainability, recreation, and economic development. In this study, wavelet transform, fuzzy logic and multilayer perceptron techniques are combined to obtain new approaches for forecasting lake level fluctuation. The wavelet approach is used to decompose water level time series into its spectral bands. Predictive models have been developed as stand-alone fuzzy logic, stand-alone multilayer perceptron combined wavelet-fuzzy and combined wavelet-multilayer perceptron models in order to forecast the water level fluctuations. The models were tested to predict the current water level (at  $t$  monthly time step) and lead times including  $t+3$ ,  $t+6$ ,  $t+9$  and  $t+12$  time steps from the water levels at two previous time steps ( $t-2$  and  $t-1$ ). In this study, the historic water level data was obtained from Lake Michigan-Huron for the period between 1855 and 2006. For the model development, monthly water level data was divided into two groups. The training group consists of the data for the first 101 years (from 1855 to 1955) with 1212 data points, which were, then, used to predict the water levels for remaining 51 years (from 1956 to 2006). The results reveal that all the four models can predict the water levels quite accurately. In comparison, the combined wavelet-fuzzy logic and combined wavelet-multilayer perceptron models outperformed the stand-alone fuzzy and multilayer perceptron models for lead times of 1, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months. This comparison was performed based on the root mean squared error (RMSE), the coefficient of efficiency (CE), the mean absolute deviation (MAD) and the skill score (SS) between observed data and prediction results.

**Keywords** Lake Michigan-Huron · Wavelet · Water level fluctuations · Wavelet-Fuzzy logic · Wavelet-multilayer perceptron

## 1 Introduction

Lakes Michigan, Huron, Superior, Erie and Ontario, which are collectively known as the Great Lakes, constitute the largest freshwater resource in the United States. Among them, lakes

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Michigan and Huron are interconnected by a deep channel through the Straits of Mackinac, which are considered to behave hydraulically as one lake, and they are referred as Lake Michigan-Huron (Bishop 1990; Brinkman 2000). These two lakes are individually found to exhibit very similar patterns in terms of water level variability.

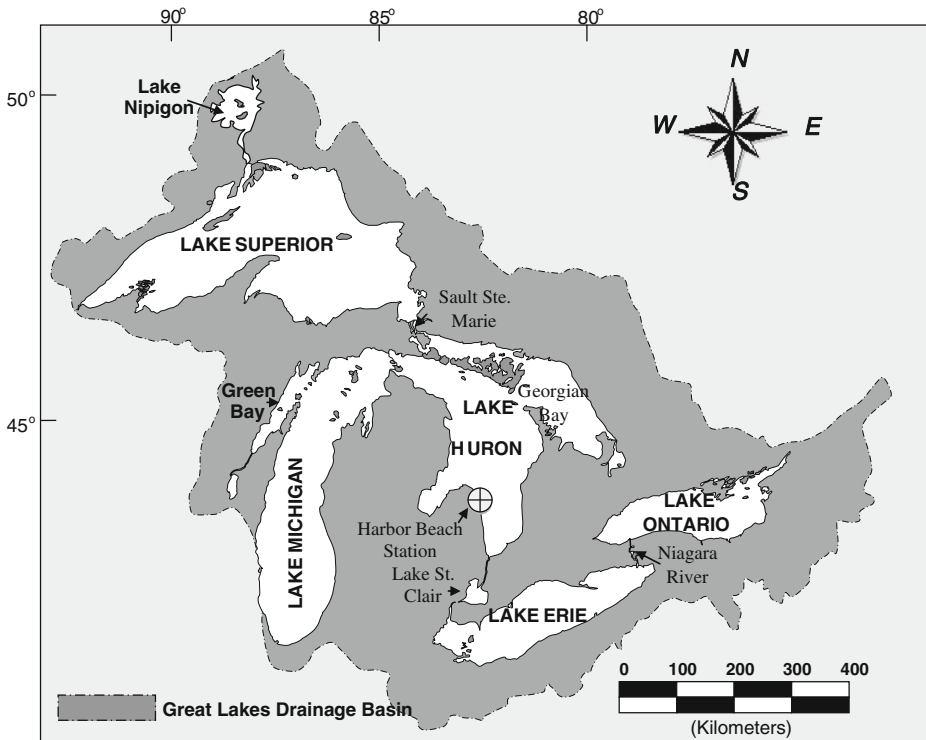
Water level changes in the Lake Michigan-Huron represent a change in water availability or stored water volume. These changes occur on several timescales. The seasonal variability in the water level reflects the annual hydrologic cycle in the Great Lakes Basin. Water level fluctuations in Lake Michigan-Huron also occur on longer timescales such as interannual, decadal and higher. These fluctuations reflect the influence of large-scale climatic processes through their effect on precipitation and river flow in the Great Lakes Basin and surrounding areas (Changnon 1987, 2004; Thompson and Baedke 1997; Baedke and Thompson 2000; Argyilan and Forman 2003; Assel et al. 2004; Booth et al. 2002; Ghanbari and Bravo 2008; Harnahan et al. 2009; Hartmann 1990; Polderman and Pryor 2004).

Water level fluctuations can directly affect the hydrology and ecology within the lake and the surrounding watersheds (Coops et al. 2003; Leira and Cantonati 2008; Webb 2008). High water levels can degrade reservoir operations, affect the lakeside plant and animal communities and result in shoreline erosion (Meadows et al. 1997). High levels of water may also boost the amount of nutrients from runoff and flooded lakeshore soils. In addition, fluctuating water levels may lead to erosion of the lakebed by exposing new surfaces. Erosion may occur at low, average and high water levels. High water levels can intensify the erosion process. On the other hand, low water levels may adversely affect water supply in the area, and cause stressful conditions for fish and other aquatic species. Wide variations in lake level result in the formation of wetlands surrounding the lake area. Lake level changes may also influence a variety of human activities including commercial shipping and recreational boating. In addition, water level variations can serve as a proxy for climate change in the Great Lakes region and adjoining areas.

Forecasting the water levels in Lake Michigan-Huron is useful for a variety of water resources management operations including flood control, local water supply management, shoreline maintenance, ecosystem sustainability, recreation, and economic development. Only a few researchers have studied on predicting water levels in the Great Lakes (Cohn and Robinson 1976; DeCooke and Merejian 1967; Irvine and Eberthardt 1992; Slivitzky and Mathier 1993; Lofgren et al. 2002). Almost all of these studies were performed using conventional parametric time series modeling techniques. Several studies on wavelet models have been published in the literature (Makarynskyy et al. 2004; Lee et al. 2007; Zhang et al. 2010). Recently, Cengiz (2011) applied continuous wavelet transforms and global spectrums in order to determine periodic structures and water level variations with time scale. It was found that the periodic components vary between 1-year (annual cycle) and 43-year scales in the Great Lakes water levels. In addition, major lake level periodicities are generally determined as an annual cycle. To my best knowledge, wavelet-expert system methods have not been used for predicting lake level changes in the Great Lakes Basin. The purpose of this work was, therefore, to develop predictive models for water level changes in Lake Michigan-Huron using wavelet-expert system methods such as wavelet-fuzzy logic and wavelet-multilayer perceptron. Fuzzy logic and multilayer perceptron models were also used to assess the efficiency of the wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron methods developed here.

## 2 Study Area and Data

A geographical map showing the locations of the Great Lakes is presented in Fig. 1. The Great Lakes watershed can be divided into a southern lowland region and a northern upland region.



**Fig. 1** Geographical map showing the locations of the Great Lakes

The lowland region includes the Erie and Michigan basins and the most of the Huron and Ontario basins. The upland region contains the most of the Superior basin and parts of the Ontario basin (Larson and Schaetzl 2001). The Great Lakes Basin, including the international section of the St. Lawrence River above Cromwall, Ontario, and Massena, New York, covers about 402 km<sup>2</sup> (Neff and Nicholas 2005). It includes parts of eight states and one province: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ontario. About 59 % of the basin is located in the United States, and about 41 % is in Canada. The basin is about 1125 km long from north to south, and about 1450 km long from the west to the outlet of Lake Ontario at Cromwell and Massena in the east. The population of the basin is about 33 million. Major commerce and industries in the basin include manufacturing, tourism and agriculture (Wilcox et al. 2007).

Lake Erie is the shallowest part of the Great Lakes with an average depth of 19 m, followed by Lakes Huron (60 m), Michigan (85 m), Ontario (87 m), and Superior (148 m). As mentioned in Section 1, the lakes Michigan and Huron are considered to behave hydraulically as one lake, and are referred to as Lake Michigan-Huron. Water levels in Lake Michigan-Huron have been accurately monitored since the middle of the nineteenth century. Monthly historical data of water levels in Lake Michigan-Huron was obtained from <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/now/wlevels/dbd/GLWLDDataDownloads2.html> for the period between 1855 and 2006. Also, the water levels data was measured at Harbor Beach Station as depicted in Fig. 1.

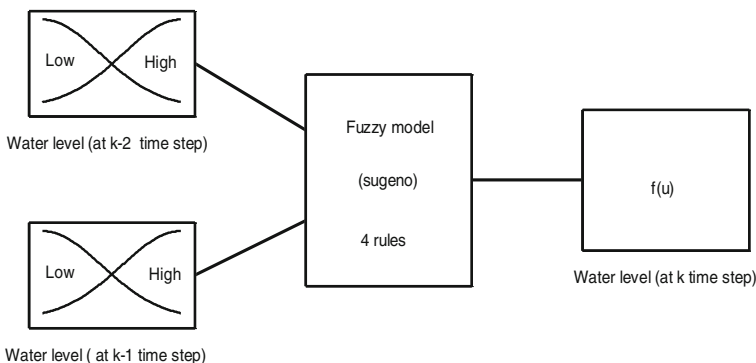
### 3 Methodology

#### 3.1 Expert System Methods

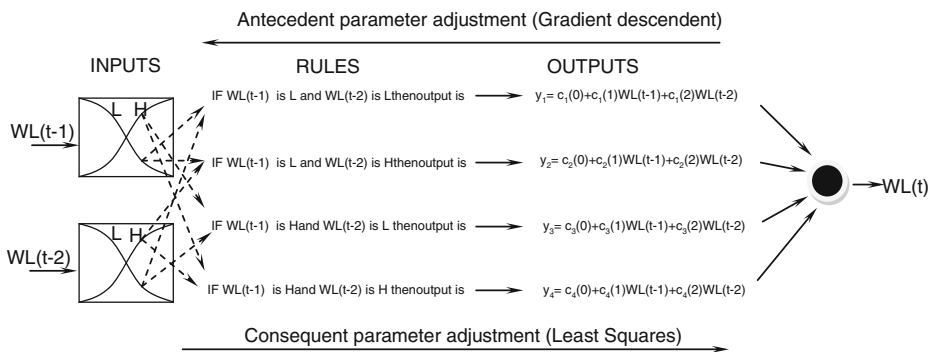
Expert system consists of a family of methods that imitate human intelligence with the goal to create tools with human-like capabilities such as learning, reasoning and decision making. These methods are based on fuzzy logic, multilayer perceptron and genetic algorithms etc. (Zadeh 1994; Haykin 1994; Sales et al. 1994; Goldberg 1989; See and Openshaw 1999). Advances in soft computing have led to the development of new methods for solving complex nonlinear systems which could not be addressed by traditional methods. Expert system techniques are being increasingly used for modeling and forecasting nonlinear time series in diverse applications.

#### 3.2 Fuzzy Logic Model

Recently, fuzzy inference systems based on fuzzy logic set theory have been applied to many areas ranging from sociology to hydrology (Altunkaynak 2010; Altunkaynak and Şen 2007; Altunkaynak et al. 2005; Chang and Chang 2006; Alvisi et al. 2006; Bardossy and Duckstein 1995; Bogardi et al. 2003; Chang et al. 2005; Hatiboglu et al. 2010; Katambara and Ndiritu 2009; Nayak et al. 2004; Ozelkan and Duckstein 2001; Ozger 2009; Sen and Altunkaynak 2006; Tsoukalas and Uhrig 1997; Uyumaz et al. 2006; Xiong et al. 2001). The main idea behind fuzzy logic is using soft borders rather than using crisp borders. In classical set theory, an element is either a member of a set or not. In contrast, a fuzzy set contains elements with varying degrees of membership ranging between 0 and 1. This feature provides a very flexible tool for fuzzy inference system. A fuzzy inference system establishes a link between the inputs and outputs. For the present study on Lake Michigan-Huron, a fuzzy inference system was used with two inputs and one output. The system configuration is shown in Fig. 2. The fuzzy inference system uses a number of components such as membership functions, logical operations, and IF-THEN rules. The membership functions are used to determine the weights of the fuzzy IF-THEN rules, and these rules are employed to connect the inputs to outputs. In this study, the Takagi-Sugeno architecture with these inputs, outputs and fuzzy rules were used as shown in Fig. 3. There are mainly two different inference systems which are proposed by Mamdani (1974) and Takagi and Sugeno (1985). The Mamdani approach can process verbal data (Altunkaynak 2010; Sen and Altunkaynak 2009; Hatiboglu et al. 2010). It can be very useful where numerical data is absent. On the other hand, the Takagi-Sugeno approach is very



**Fig. 2** Configuration of the fuzzy inference system



**Fig. 3** Takagi-Sugeno architecture demonstrating inputs and outputs of system

effective when a large amount of numerical data exists. We use the Takagi-Sugeno approach (Takagi and Sugeno 1985). A sample fuzzy rule is shown as:

$$R_r : \text{IF}(I_1 \text{ is } S(1), I_2 \text{ is } S(2), \dots, I_m \text{ is } S(m)), \text{ THEN } y_r = f_r(I_1, I_2, \dots, I_m) \quad (1)$$

where  $S(i)$  is a fuzzy set of the input variable  $I_j$  in the  $r$ -th IF-THEN rule,  $m$  the number of input variables,  $f_r(\cdot)$  a function of the  $m$  input variables, and  $y_r$  is the output of the  $r$ -th IF-THEN inference rule  $R_r$ . Application of the Takagi-Sugeno fuzzy inference system involves the following steps: (a) fuzzification of inputs by membership functions which hold information on the elements of the set and their membership degrees to the set, (b) determining the weights of each rule using a fuzzy operator, namely, the min (minimum) or prod (product) operator, (c) shaping the consequent part after determining the weights (between 0 and 1) of each rule from the previous step, (d) aggregation of all outputs obtained from the shaped consequent part, and (e) defuzzification to obtain a single value from the aggregated outputs. It is possible to express the general algorithm of the Takagi-Sugeno fuzzy inference system as follows. Assume that there are  $R_r$  ( $r=1, 2, \dots, n$ ) rules in the fuzzy IF-THEN rules system.

- i) For each application of  $R_r$ , the output  $y_r$  is determined as a function  $f_r$  in the consequent part.

$$y_r = f_r(I_1, I_2, I_3, \dots, I_m) = c_r(0) + c_r(1)I_1 + \dots + c_r(m)I_m \quad (2)$$

- ii) Weights of the fuzzy rule are calculated as

$$w_r = (d_1^r \wedge d_2^r \wedge d_3^r, \dots, d_k^r) \times R^r \quad (3)$$

Here,  $d_1^r, d_2^r, \dots, d_k^r$  indicate the membership degrees obtained from input variables for the  $r$ -th rule. Occurrence probability of the rule is  $R^r$ , which is considered 1 due to its simplicity, and the character  $\wedge$  stands for min operations.

- iii) The desired final output,  $O$ , is calculated from the weighted average of all  $y_r$  with the rule weights  $w_r$ .

$$O = \frac{\sum_{r=1}^n w_r y_r}{\sum_{r=1}^n w_r} \quad (4)$$

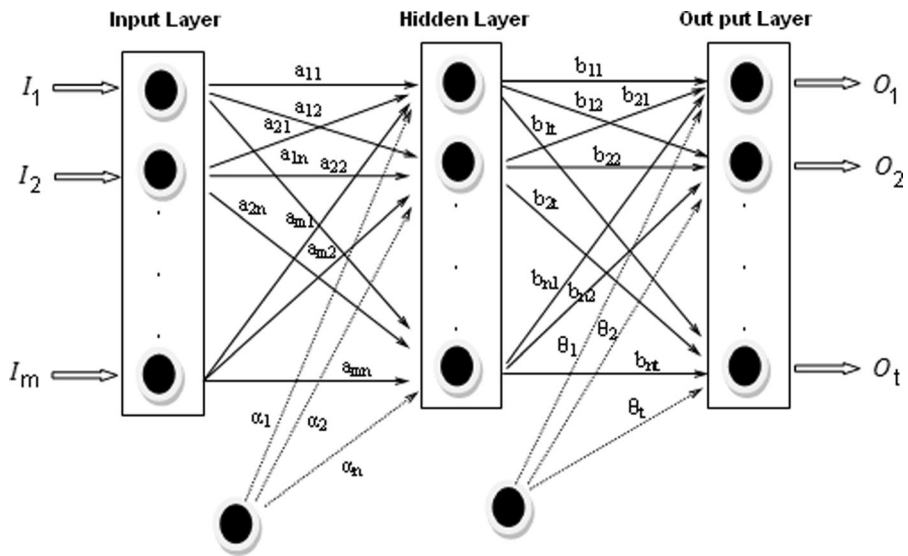
### 3.3 Multilayer Perceptron Model

The Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), essentially a powerful black-box model, have a flexible mathematical structure that is capable of identifying complex non-linear relationships between inputs and outputs without predefined knowledge of the underlying physical processes involved in the transformation (Seckin et al. 2013). An Artificial Neural Network (ANN) is a computationally efficient alternative for addressing a problem (Chen et al. 2013).

The concept of the artificial neural network (ANN) was introduced in 1958 by Rosenblatt in the form of a single-layer feed forward network called perceptron. Following this, the multilayer perceptron (MLP) consisting of three or more layers was developed, but these ANN applications could not be used effectively to analyze complex systems until Rumelhart et al. (1986) proposed the back propagation algorithm as a means of training the network. Since then, ANNs have enjoyed their popularity in many applications including hydrological processes (Abrahart et al. 2004; Altunkaynak 2007; Altunkaynak and Strom 2009; Alvisi et al. 2006; ASCE Committee 2000; Bardossy et al. 2006; Campolo et al. 1999; Dawson and Wilby 2001; Daliakopoulos et al. 2005; Govindaraju and Rao 2000; Hartmann et al. 2007; Jain and Kumar 2007; Krishna et al. 2008; Lliadis and Maris 2007; Maier and Dandy 2000; May and Sivakumar 2009; Mutlu et al. 2008; Nayak et al. 2006; Panagoulis 2006; Ramirez et al. 2005; Riad et al. 2004; Thimuralaiah and Deo 2000; Mohanty et al. 2010). According to Desalegn and Babel (2011), ANNs have become quite popular in the analysis of non-linear and non-stationary hydrologic data. During the past decade, there have been further interests in using ANNs in conjunction with other expert system techniques such as fuzzy logic and genetic algorithms (Altunkaynak 2009, 2013; Firat and Gungor 2008; Katambara and Ndiritu 2009; Wu and Chau 2006; Nayak et al. 2004). Desalegn and Babel (2011) used ANN to develop a model for a long-term streamflow forecasting at a stream gauging station in the Awash River Basin, Ethiopia. There are a vast number of additional reports on ANNs and their applications in the literature (Samarsinghe 2007). For the present purpose, the characteristic features of a three-layer perceptron, which is one of the simplest and the most commonly used multilayer perceptron architecture, is briefly described and this was also used here.

The architecture of a fully-connected three-layer perceptron is depicted in Fig. 4. It consists of an input layer, a hidden layer and an output layer. There are  $m$  input neurons,  $n$  neurons in the hidden layer, and  $t$  neurons in the output layer. Each neuron from the input layer is connected by a weight to each neuron in the hidden layer; similarly, the neurons in the hidden layer are connected to each neuron in the output layer. The input and output signals of the network are designated by  $I_1, I_2, \dots, I_m$ , and  $O_1, O_2, \dots, O_t$ , respectively. The output signals forming the hidden neurons are denoted by  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n$ . The bias for the  $j$ th-th hidden neuron is  $\alpha_j$ , and  $\theta_k$  is the bias for the  $k$ th neuron in the output layer. The weight of the connection from an input neuron  $i$  to a hidden neuron  $j$  is denoted by  $a_{ij}$ , whereas  $b_{jk}$  represents the weight of the connection from a hidden neuron  $j$  to a neuron  $k$  in the output layer. The connection weights in this network can be determined by training the network. The input to the  $j$ th neuron in the hidden layer is the weighted sum of the input signals ( $I_1, I_2, \dots, I_m$ ) and the bias. The output form of this hidden neuron is given by:

$$h_j = f \left( \alpha_j + \sum_{i=1}^m a_{ij} I_i \right), \quad (5)$$



**Fig. 4** Configuration of a three-layer perceptron with  $m$  nodes in the input layer,  $n$  nodes in the hidden layer, and  $p$  nodes in the output layer

where  $f(\cdot)$  is an activation function. Similarly, the output from the  $k$ th neuron in the output layer is given by:

$$O_k = g\left(\theta_k + \sum_{j=1}^n b_{jk} h_j\right). \quad (6)$$

Here,  $g(\cdot)$  is an activation function for the output layer. The activation function for the hidden and output layers can be chosen from a variety of functions such as a linear function, step function, sigmoid or tangent sigmoid (tansig) function. The multilayer perceptron can be trained by several approaches using observed data to determine the optimum weights. For this purpose, we used the back propagation training algorithm as given by Rumelhart et al. (1986).

The number of neurons in a hidden layer improves the skill of the network to model complex systems. However, it does not necessarily mean that the higher the number of neurons, the more capable the model is. Excessive number of neurons may cause over-learning in most cases and degrade the performance of the network (Altunkaynak 2007). In this study, tansig and pureline functions were employed in the hidden and output layers, respectively, because they give better prediction results compared to other activation functions.

### 3.4 Wavelet Transform

A wavelet is an irregular and asymmetric waveform which constitutes the hub of the wavelet transform. Currently, wavelet transformation is most important in terms of time and frequency analysis. According to specific purposes, wavelet transforms can be classified as continuous wavelet transforms, discrete wavelet transforms, and complex wavelet transforms etc. As opposed to Fourier series, wavelet analysis separates a series into shifted and scaled part of the mother wavelet. The information about time and frequency is provided by the transformed signal. Fourier transformation includes information with short time transformation. Wavelet

transformation includes short time and also indicates the resolution in time at higher analysis frequencies of the main function (Torrence and Compo 1998). The time series can be divided into its sub-series using both time and frequency domains by wavelet transform. The wavelet transform facilitates determining the occurrence time of the low and high frequency information. According to Cobaner (2013), the wavelet transform is capable of computing separately for different segments of the time-domain signal at different frequencies and is the important derivative of the Fourier transform. In other words, it decomposes the signal into a mutually orthogonal set of wavelets. This is a technique that can be applied to all kind of time series.

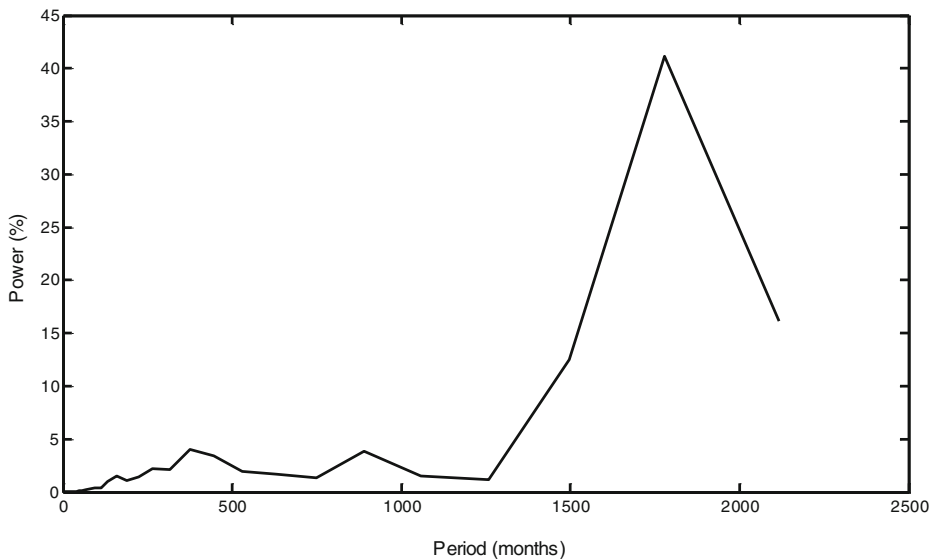
A special wavelet function  $\psi(t)$ , which is called mother wavelet, is determined before initiating any application. Daughter wavelets are generated by using mother wavelet. New generated wavelets are translated and scaled versions of the mother wavelet. The function can be applied for both wavelet decomposition and composition transforms (Torrence and Compo 1998). A wavelet function  $\psi(a,b)$  is given as:

$$\Psi(a, b) = b^{-1/2} \Psi\left(\frac{t-a}{b}\right) \quad (7)$$

where,  $t$  is time, and  $a$  and  $b$  are position and scale parameters, respectively. The continuous wavelet transform (CWT) was applied in this study. Continuous time series can be divided into wavelets using CWT, which has the ability to superpose time and frequency representation of signals. Figure 5 shows the power of the wavelet transform for the water level time series data. Power is calculated by taking the square of absolute value of  $W(a,b)$ . The squared absolute value gives information on the relative power at a certain scale.

The CWT of time series  $f(t)$  is defined as follows:

$$W(a, b) = b^{-1/2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) \Psi^*\left(\frac{t-a}{b}\right) dt \quad (8)$$



**Fig. 5** Average wavelet spectra for water level series



where  $*$  is the complex conjugate. The Morlet wavelet function was used for the application. Morlet wavelet is defined as the product of a complex exponential wave and a Gaussian envelope. Information in detail about decomposition procedures can be found in the study by Torrence and Compo (1998).

### 3.5 Wavelet Band Decomposition

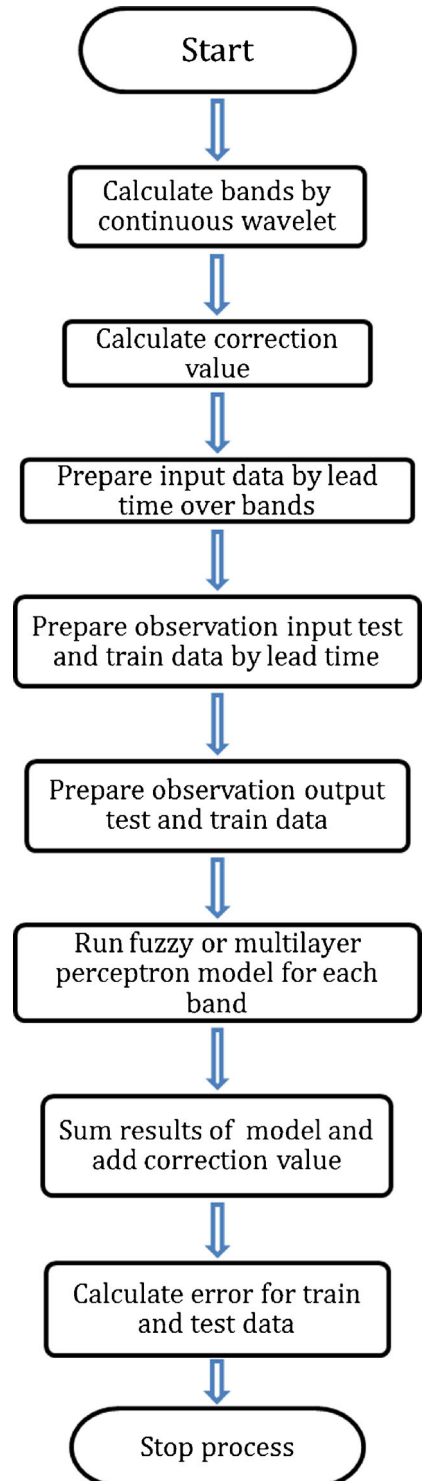
Selection of bands having significant power is the most important step for wavelet modeling. To date, no decomposition rule that divides time series into several bands has been developed. Using the average wavelet spectra for band separation constitutes the main approach. No band selection algorithm has been developed in the literature so far. Significant spectral bands can be found from average wavelet spectra. Considering the power distribution, bands that contain power peaks can be selected as spectral bands in the study. Significant spectral bands that are detected from average wavelet spectra are then inversely transformed to obtain new subseries. Six bands are used and the band intervals are 0–9, 10–15, 16–20, 21–29, 30–32 and 33–41 which corresponds to bands-1,2,3,4,5 and 6, respectively. The water level series are separated into six sub-bands using average wavelet spectra as shown in Fig. 5. Significant power at specific intervals in the average wavelet spectra can be observed from this figure. Each of the intervals includes at least one peak power determined as sub-bands of the variable concerned. It is not possible to see the specific information directly from the time series. However, the characteristic of time series such as trend, periodicity, noise etc. can be seen by using the sub-bands of the time series. Each sub-band holds a property that belongs to the observed data. For instance, the lower level band which shows the variation at high frequencies gives insight about the noisy part of the data. Higher level band which represents the low frequencies holds information about long term cycles.

### 3.6 Wavelet Combination Models

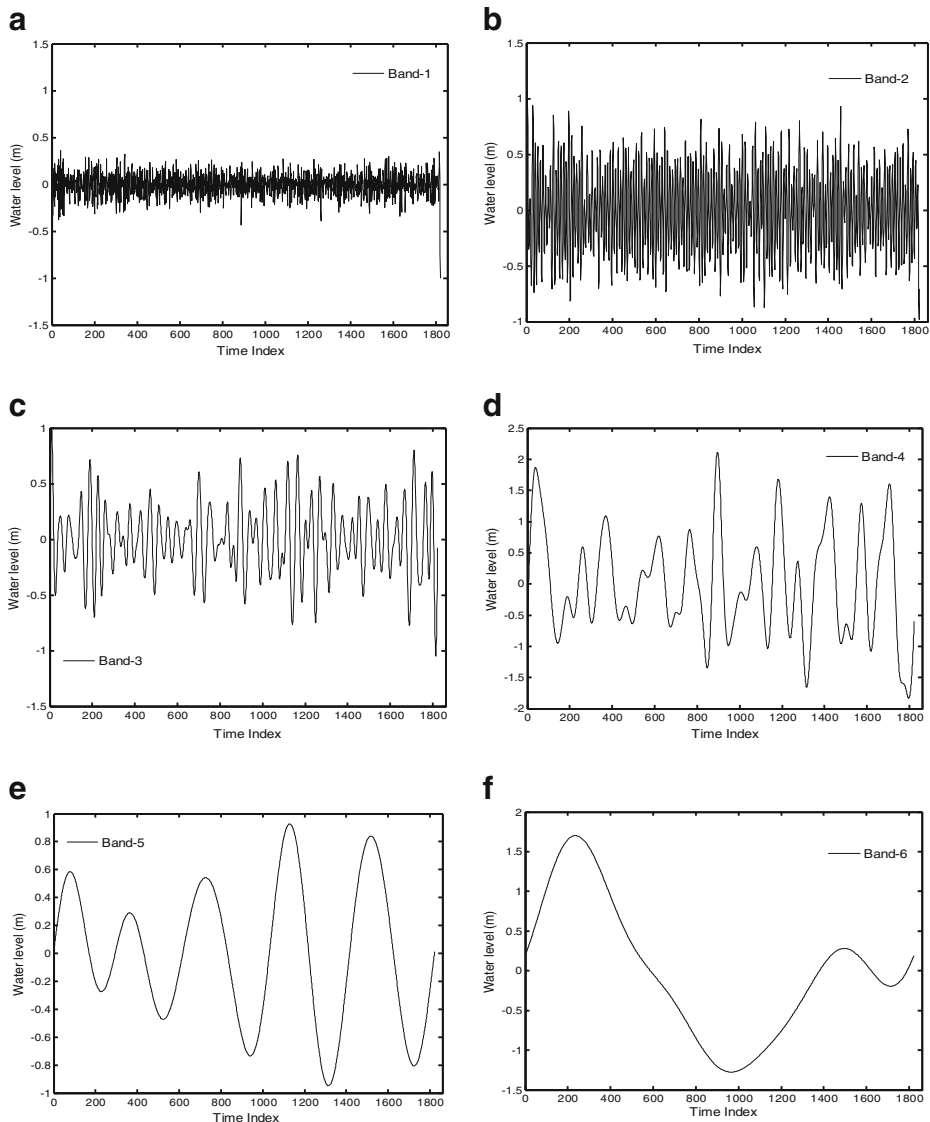
Initial processing of data is useful for solving prediction problems. It has been demonstrated that prediction performance is augmented when a preprocessing technique is used. In this study, continuous wavelet transform (CWT) was used in order to process the water level time series data. Many applications on wavelet combination models have been studied in the literature (Kim and Valdes 2003; Kucuk et al. 2009; Webster and Hoyos 2004; Nourani et al. 2009; Ozger 2010; Shiri and Kisi 2010; Shiri et al. 2011). Monthly water level time series was decomposed into sub-signals (components) using continuous wavelet transform. Two combination models, wavelet-multilayer perceptron (W-MP) and wavelet-fuzzy logic methods (W-FL) are used. The main purpose of establishing a combination model is to separate the series into its subseries and subsequently to predict each subseries using an application method.

An application of wavelet transform was performed in order to acquire different subseries; and then, predictions were undertaken using multilayer perceptron and fuzzy logic by using the decomposed sub-series as inputs. The steps followed in this approach are summarized as: (1) The significant spectral bands from average wavelet spectra were assessed and the subseries were selected, (2) multilayer perceptron and fuzzy logic were used to model each subseries, individually. (3) Finally, concerned water level time series were obtained after reconstruction of the predicted subseries. Inverse continuous wavelet transform can be used for reconstruction. The flow chart of proposed models is presented in Fig. 6.

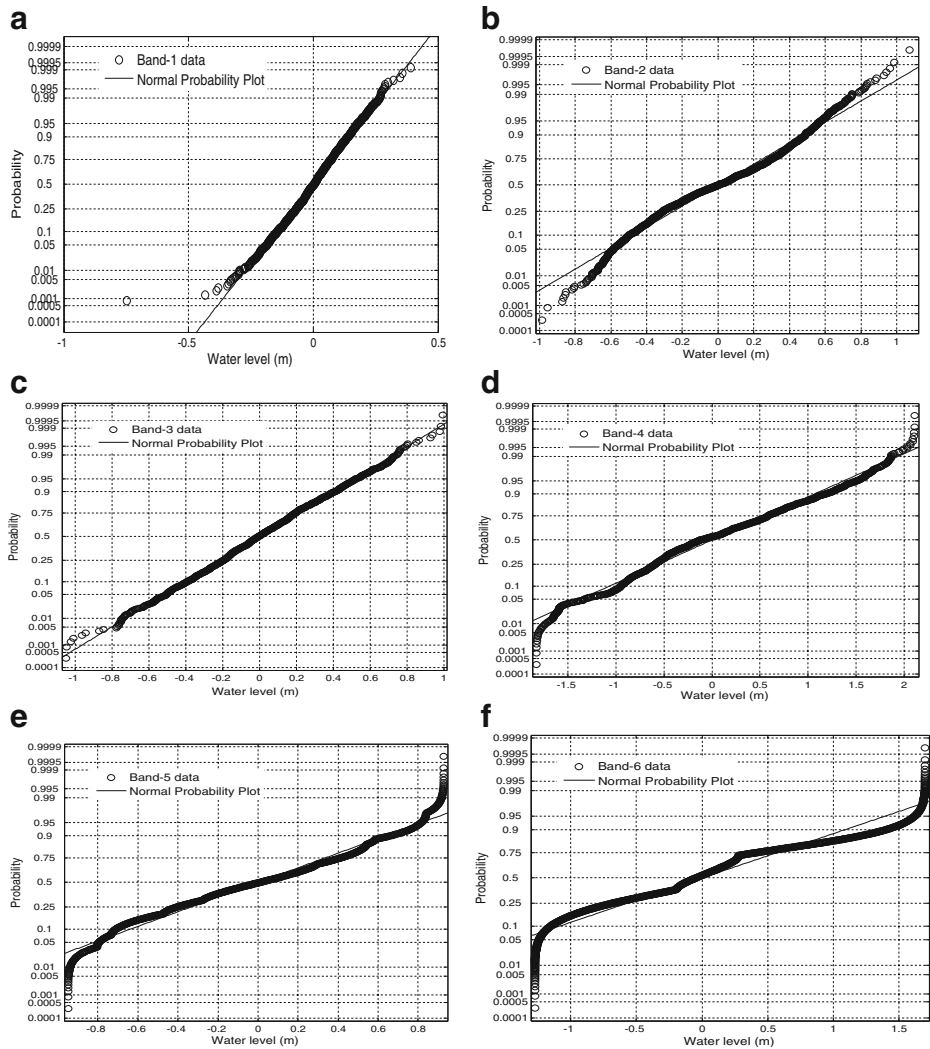
The purpose of making W-MP and W-FL combination is to predict water level for the next months including  $t$ ,  $t+3$ ,  $t+6$ ,  $t+9$  and  $t+12$  time steps from two previous records. Future lake

**Fig. 6** Flow chart of models

levels are considered as output of the model and previous lake levels as inputs for this model. The water level series are separated into six different spectral bands using wavelet transform. The water level series are separated into six sub-series as shown in Fig. 7(a–f). The water level sub-series are plotted on the probability paper as indicated in Fig. 8(a–f). Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test was used to check if the distribution fits to normal distribution. It is found that subseries of water level fit not to normal distribution for 5 % significance level except Band-3 (Fig. 8c). This result can also be understood from Fig. 7 visually.

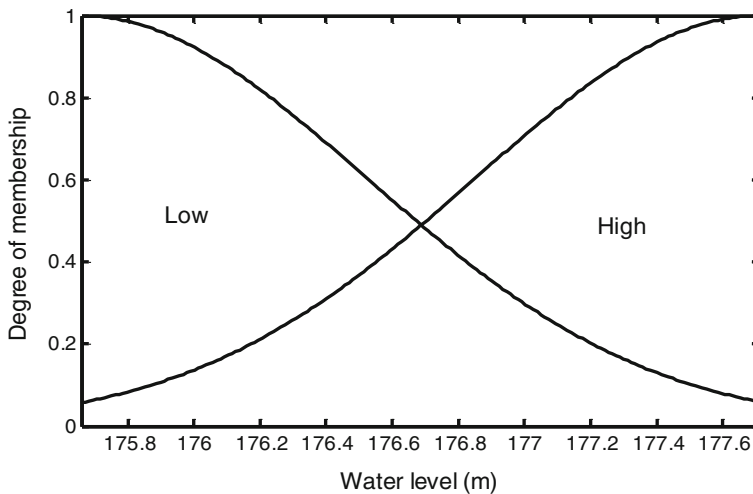


**Fig. 7** The sub-series of the water level. **a** Band-1 (0–9), **b** Band-2 (10–15), **c** Band-3 (16–20), **d** Band-4 (21–29), **e** Band-5 (30–32)



**Fig. 8** Probability plots for the subseries of water level. **a** Band-1 (0–9), **b** Band-2 (10–15), **c** Band-3 (16–20), **d** Band-4 (21–29), **e** Band-5 (30–32)

Multilayer perceptron and fuzzy logic approaches were then used in order to make relationship between inputs and outputs. Fuzzy logic, multilayer perceptron, wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models were used to predict the water level fluctuations in Lake Michigan-Huron. These models were developed and tested to predict the current water level (at time step  $t$ ) and lead times including  $t+3$ ,  $t+6$ ,  $t+9$  and  $t+12$  time steps from the water levels at two previous time steps ( $t-2$  and  $t-1$ ). In this analysis, the monthly historic water level data from January, 1855 through December, 2006 were used. The dataset was divided into two groups. The first dataset of 101 (1855–1955) years consisting of 1,212 data points were used for training (calibration), and the remaining 51 years (1956–2006) data consisting of 612 data points were used for prediction (verification). The water level series were separated into six different spectral bands as shown in Fig. 7(a–f). In addition, distribution plots of the



**Fig. 9** Division of the input variables (water level at  $k-1$  time step) into low and high fuzzy sets

bands are presented in Fig. 8(a–f). In the fuzzy logic formulation, the fuzzy input variables were divided into two fuzzy sets: Low (L) and High (H), as indicated in Fig. 9. Gaussian type membership function is used in the analysis. Two inputs and two fuzzy sets resulted in  $2 \times 2 = 4$  fuzzy rules. For the Lake Michigan-Huron level data, these rules are described in Table 1. A sample of the overall fuzzy inference system is given in Table 2.

#### 4 Results and Discussion

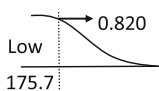
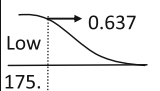
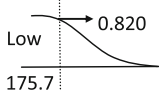
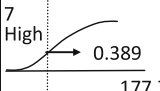
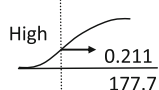
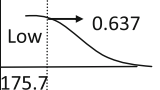
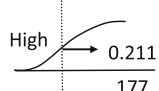
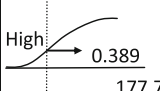
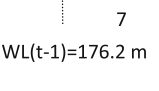
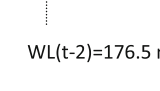
Development of a multilayer perceptron model requires selection of the appropriate number of neurons, and calibration of the weights using training data. Care should be taken in keeping the number of neurons in the hidden layer small in order to avoid over-learning by the network. Typically, anywhere between 3 and 7 neurons can be used effectively (Altunkaynak 2007). In this model, three neurons were used in the hidden layer. The functions, tansig and pureline, were used as activation functions for the hidden layer and output layer, respectively. The temporal variation of the Lake Michigan-Huron water levels is shown in Fig. 10. This is the monthly fluctuation that spans the period from 1855 to 2006.

Figures 10(a and b) depicts the time series plots of the observed water level data, training data, as well as the water levels predicted by the fuzzy logic, multilayer

**Table 1** Fuzzy rule base

Rule no	Antecedent		Consequent
	WL( $t-1$ )	WL( $t-2$ )	Output, $y$
R1	Low	Low	$y_1 = -0.801 * WL(t-1) + 1.267 * WL(t-2) + 93.593$
R2	Low	High	$y_2 = 36.116 * WL(t-1) - 34.883 * WL(t-2) - 13.208$
R3	High	Low	$y_3 = 37.905 * WL(t-1) - 36.836 * WL(t-2) - 40.619$
R4	High	High	$y_4 = -0.583 * WL(t-1) + 0.813 * WL(t-2) + 137.013$

**Table 2** A sample of the Takagi-Sugeno fuzzy inference system

Rules	Antecedent		Consequent, y	$r_i$ production
$R_1$			176.08	$0.820 \cdot 0.637 = 0.522$
$R_2$			193.58	$0.820 \cdot 0.389 = 0.319$
$R_3$			136.69	$0.211 \cdot 0.637 = 0.135$
$R_4$			177.78	$0.211 \cdot 0.389 = 0.082$
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>7 WL(t-1)=176.2 m</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>7 WL(t-2)=176.5 m</p> </div> </div>				WL(t)=176.48 m

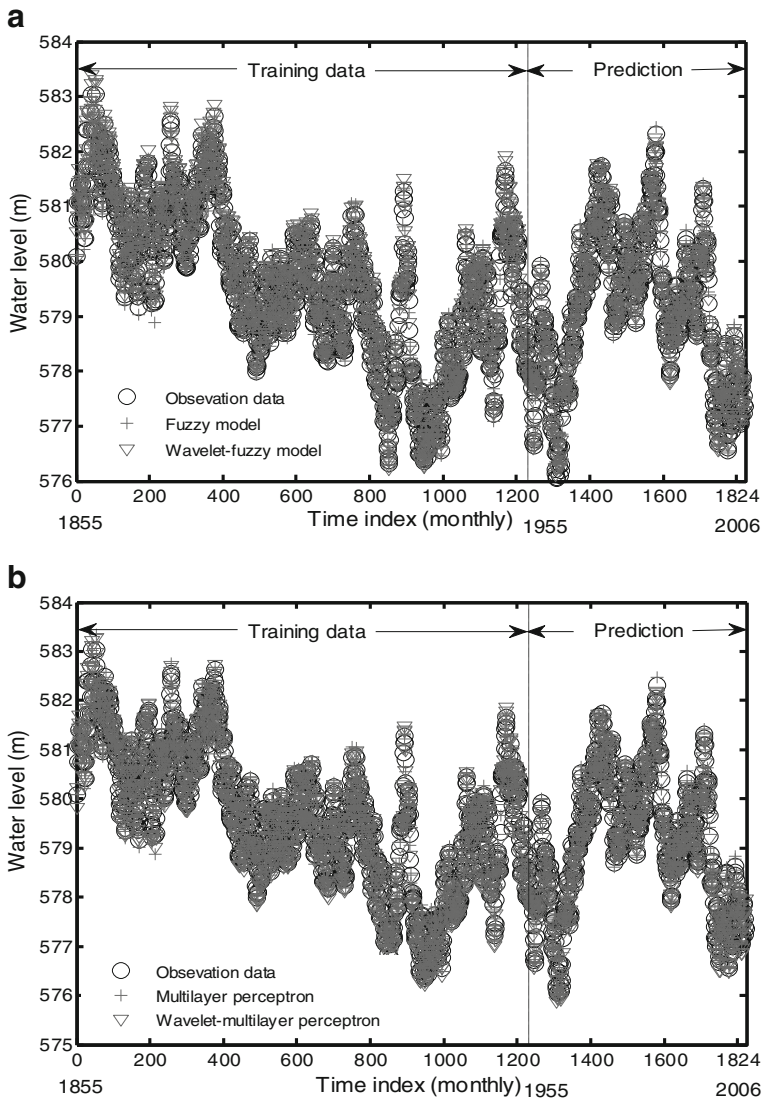
perceptron, wavelet-fuzzy, wavelet-multilayer perceptron models. Visual inspection of this figure indicates that there is a good agreement between the expert system methods and the wavelet-expert system model in predicting the water levels. Performance of these models was also assessed quantitatively using the root mean square error (RMSE), the coefficient of efficiency (CE) and the mean absolute deviation (MAD) measures, which are defined as:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (WL_{pi} - WL_{oi})^2} \quad (9)$$

$$CE = \left[ 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (WL_{pi} - WL_{oi})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (WL_{oi} - WL_a)^2} \right] \quad (10)$$

$$MAD = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |WL_{pi} - WL_{oi}| \quad (11)$$

Here,  $n$  is the total number of observations;  $WL_{pi}$ ,  $WL_{oi}$ ,  $WL_{ao}$  and  $WL_{pa}$  are predicted water level, observed data, average of the observed water levels, and average of predicted water levels respectively. For each model, the values of RMSE, CE and MAD were calculated using Eqs. (9), (10) and (11), respectively,



**Fig. 10** Comparison of water levels predicted with observed data (a) fuzzy logic and wavelet-fuzzy (b) multilayer and wavelet-multilayer perceptron methods

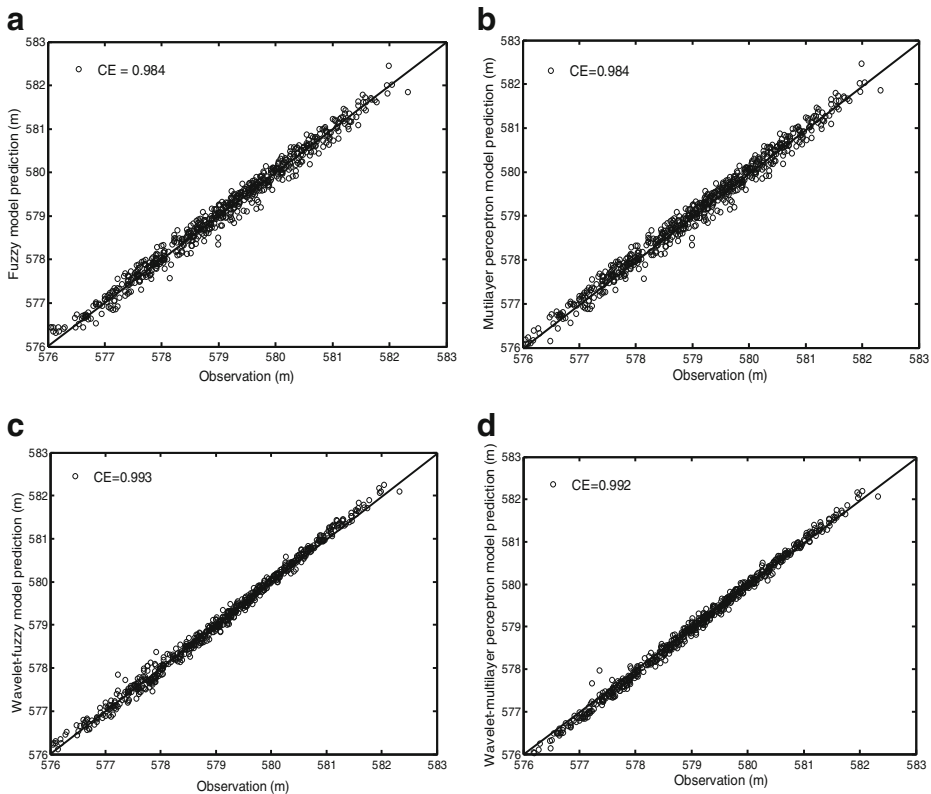
and they are listed in Table 3. Note that the RMSEs of the water level prediction for fuzzy logic, multilayer perceptron, wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models are 0.166 m, 0.165 m, 0.112 m and 0.118 m, respectively, for lead times of 1-month. Clearly, the RMSE values of the wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models are found to be very close to each other. However, the stand-alone fuzzy and multilayer perceptron models have higher RMSE values than the other two models. This indicates that prediction results of the fuzzy and multilayer perceptron models are worse than those of the two wavelet-expert system methods.

**Table 3** Performance comparison of fuzzy logic, multilayer perceptron, wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models in terms of the root mean square error (RMSE) the coefficient of efficiency (CE) and the mean absolute deviation (MAD) for lead times including  $t$ ,  $t+3$ ,  $t+6$ ,  $t+9$  and  $t+12$  time steps

Lead time	Criterion used	Fuzzy Logic	Multilayer perceptron	Wavelet-fuzzy	Wavelet-multilayer
Lag-1	RMSE (m)	0.166	0.165	0.112	0.118
	MAD (m)	0.132	0.131	0.085	0.093
	CE	0.984	0.984	0.993	0.992
Lag-3	RMSE (m)	0.494	0.494	0.139	0.136
	MAD (m)	0.399	0.399	0.111	0.109
	CE	0.861	0.860	0.989	0.989
Lag-6	RMSE (m)	0.775	0.773	0.205	0.199
	MAD (m)	0.631	0.631	0.167	0.158
	CE	0.656	0.658	0.976	0.977
Lag-9	RMSE (m)	0.744	0.744	0.251	0.246
	MAD (m)	0.617	0.617	0.204	0.196
	CE	0.683	0.683	0.964	0.965
Lag-12	RMSE (m)	0.746	0.748	0.350	0.323
	MAD (m)	0.613	0.614	0.274	0.263
	CE	0.681	0.680	0.930	0.940

As seen from Table 3, the CE values of fuzzy logic, multilayer perceptron, wavelet-fuzzy, wavelet-multilayer perceptron models are 0.984, 0.985, 0.993 and 0.992, respectively, for lead times of 1-month. Also, the MAD values for fuzzy logic, multilayer perceptron, wavelet-fuzzy, wavelet-multilayer perceptron models are 0.132, 0.131, 0.085 and 0.093, respectively. These statistical values indicate the presence of high consistency between the observed data and the predicted results by these four models. The CE values for fuzzy logic and multilayer perceptron models are almost the same; however, the CE values for the expert system models are less than those of the wavelet-expert system models. RMSE and CE of the models for all the lead times are tabulated in Table 3. As can be seen from Table 3, RMSE and CE values are close to each other for fuzzy and multilayer models, and those are close to each other for each lead time in wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models. As a result, it can be concluded that performances of wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models are better than the stand-alone fuzzy and multilayer models for all lead time predictions. Water levels predicted by fuzzy logic, multilayer perceptron, wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models as compared to the observed water levels were plotted on a 1:1 line and are presented in Fig. 11(a–d). The 1:1 line (perfect model line) is also shown as the 45° degree diagonal line in this figure. Figures 11(a) and (b) indicate the presence of a very good agreement between the observed data and the fuzzy and multilayer model predictions. Figures 11(c) and (d) reveal that there is an excellent match between the observed data and the results predicted by the wavelet-fuzzy logic and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models, respectively. On the other hand, from Figures 11(c) and (d), it is clear that the results of the wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models tend to predict the observed water levels more accurately as the scattered plots are closer the 1:1 line. In addition, the scatter plots for lead time prediction at  $t+12$  time step are shown in Fig. 12 (a–d). It is clear that the scattered plots of wavelet-fuzzy logic





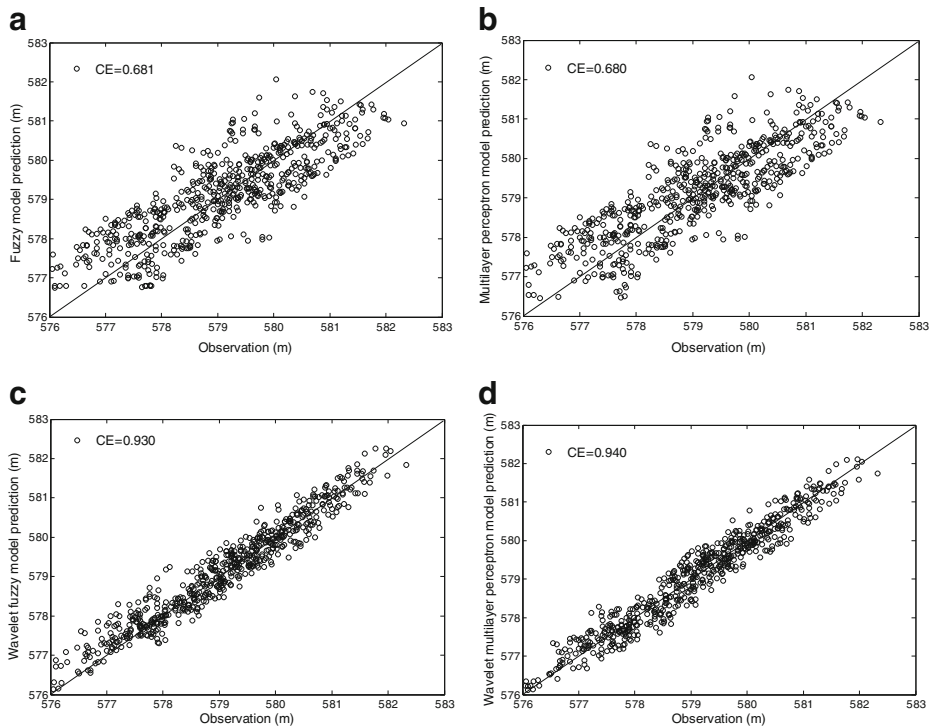
**Fig. 11** Perfect model line for current water level at  $t$  time step: (a) fuzzy model prediction, (b) multilayer perceptron model prediction (c) wavelet-fuzzy model prediction, and (d) wavelet-multilayer perceptron model prediction

and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models are better than those of fuzzy and multilayer models.

To validate the results of the models developed in this study, the skill score (SS) parameters were also calculated for wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models. The SS parameter is defined as:

$$SS = 1 - \frac{MSE_P}{MSE_R} \quad (12)$$

where,  $MSE_P$ =mean square error of wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models;  $MSE_R$ =the mean square error of fuzzy and multilayer perceptron models. Here, in order to calculate SS for wavelet-fuzzy model, reference value is taken as the mean square error of fuzzy model. Similarly, for wavelet-multilayer perceptron model, the reference value is assumed to be the mean square error of multilayer perceptron model. The SS parameters are found to be 0.549 and 0.487 for wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models, respectively. These results are presented in Table 4 for lead times 1, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months. It is clearly observed, from this table, that wavelet-fuzzy logic and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models produce very close results to each other, taking the SS values in to consideration. Therefore, it can be generalized that wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models are found to have



**Fig. 12** Perfect model line for current water level at  $t+12$  time step: (a) fuzzy model prediction, (b) multilayer perceptron model prediction (c) wavelet-fuzzy model prediction, and (d) wavelet-multilayer perceptron model prediction

better performance compared to fuzzy logic and multilayer perceptron models based on the statistical parameters.

In summary, the rule-set in the fuzzy logic model used here consists of four simple rules. it is noted that the fuzzy model can predict the water levels very accurately using these rules without depending on complicated mathematical operations and restrictive assumptions. Similarly, a three-layer feed forward multilayer perceptron with one hidden layer and three neurons in this hidden layer are found to give accurate predictions for the water levels. In comparison, the wavelet-fuzzy logic and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models outperform the fuzzy and multilayer perceptron models.

**Table 4** Performance of wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models in terms of the skill score (SS) for lead times including  $t$ ,  $t+3$ ,  $t+6$ ,  $t+9$  and  $t+12$  time steps

Lead time	Criterion used	Wavelet-fuzzy	Wavelet-multilayer
Lag-1	SS	0.549	0.487
Lag-3	SS	0.921	0.925
Lag-6	SS	0.930	0.933
Lag-9	SS	0.886	0.891
Lag-12	SS	0.780	0.813

## 5 Concluding Remarks

The wavelet technique is combined with fuzzy logic and multilayer perceptron to develop new predictive approaches. The water level series is decomposed to its spectral bands. Using fuzzy logic, multilayer perceptron, wavelet-fuzzy and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models, predictive models were developed in order to forecast water level fluctuations for Lake Michigan-Huron. Monthly historic water level data from the period 1855–2006 consisting of 1,824 data points was used for the study. In this study, the developed models are tested to predict current water level and lead time steps including 3, 6, 9 and 12 months from water levels at two previous months. For the model development, the observed data was divided into two groups. The training group consisted of the data for the first 101 years including 1,212 data points, which were used to predict the remaining 612 data points. All four models were found to predict the water levels quite accurately. Their performance was quantitatively assessed using the root mean square error, coefficient of efficiency, mean absolute deviation and skill score. Both wavelet-fuzzy logic and wavelet-multilayer perceptron models indicate a better prediction performance for all lead time steps compared to the fuzzy logic and multilayer perceptron models. One of the simplest multilayer perceptron models, the three-layer perceptron, which produced very accurate predictions for the water levels, has been employed.

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