

Article

# Towards a universal calibration model to predict biogenic silica and organic carbon percentages in lacustrine sediment core samples

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Version March 8, 2022 submitted to Water



**Simple Summary:** A Simple summary goes here.

**Abstract:** In many settings, biogenic silica (BSi) and total organic carbon (TOC) are widely used as proxies for temperature and/or environmental variations that are helpful in paleoclimate and paleoenvironmental reconstructions. Often, the methodology for analyzing these parameters in sediments can be expensive and time consuming (particularly for BSi). However, Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy offers an efficient alternative where many samples can be run with minimal amount of sediment and time. This technique is advantageous in that it requires small volumes of sediment (~0.01g), minimal sample preparation (mixing sample with potassium bromide powder), and instrumental analysis times are relatively rapid (a few minutes per sample). FTIR Spectroscopy quantifies BSi and TOC using infrared radiation (IR) absorbance units—as opposed to percentages of BSi or TOC—which are difficult to compare across different studies and localities. Therefore, there is a need for a systematic way to convert the results from the FTIR Spectrometer into percentages. In this research project, we address this need by building a universal calibration model using partial least squares (PLS) regression that converts BSi absorbance to percentages. We developed this model using a PLS package in R and based our model on samples from Arctic lakes in Greenland and Alaska. Our preliminary model uses a k-fold cross-validation method and utilizes three components. Ongoing work intends to improve on the model's prediction accuracy, expand our calibration model to include TOC percentages, and incorporate more BSi samples from other locations. We aim for the model to be universal and integrated into a Shiny app, where paleoclimatologists can use it on samples from various localities and compare their results. This model will prove a valuable tool in paleoclimate reconstruction by facilitating FTIR Spectroscopy on lake sediments.

**Keywords:** keyword 1; keyword 2; keyword 3 (list three to ten pertinent keywords specific to the article, yet reasonably common within the subject discipline.).

## 1. Version

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## 2. Introduction

Studying the content of biogenic silica and other organic compounds present in lake sediment cores can be a powerful tool in gaining insight into our reconstruction of past climates. The wet chemistry processes used to determine these proportions can be time consuming and costly. As a result, data on the amount of biogenic silica present in different samples is limited in quantity and resolution. Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy is a promising technique to reduce the time and money needed to determine the proportion of these compounds in lake sediments. FTIR spectroscopy involves measuring the absorbance of the infrared radiation at different wavelengths. These absorbance values are arbitrary and unitless, so interpretation is needed to make them relevant between researchers. To interpret these absorbance values, we seek to use a Partial Least Squares Regression (PLSR) model to predict the percentage of the biogenic silica in each sample. This technique has been pioneered successfully by Vogel *et al.* [1], but is not accessible to those who might wish to use FTIR spectroscopy for their samples and lack the statistical background to implement a PLSR model.

The goal of this project is to create an interface where a user can input their FTIR spectroscopy data into a PLSR model to calculate the approximate biogenic silica and total organic carbon percentages. Our work primarily includes improving the accuracy of the existing model (<https://github.com/people-r-strange/PLSmodel>) and preparing for universal input. This includes selection of the most applicable diagnostic plots to determine the accuracy of the model. Because this work will be accessible to the public, our model and corresponding interface satisfy an existing need for efficient FTIR spectroscopy interpretation. Further, greater accessibility and use of this technology may eliminate the need for expensive wet chemical processes.

## 3. Materials and Methods

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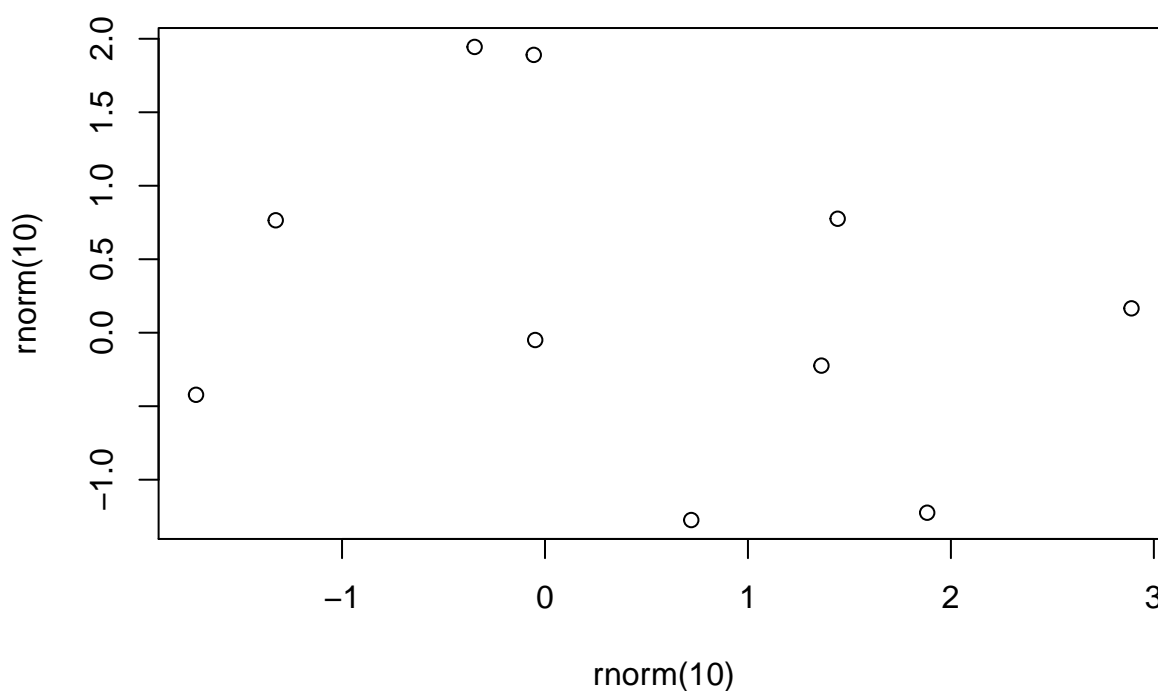
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**Figure 3.** test figure

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**Table 1.** caption here,

Title 1	Title 2	Title 3
entry 1	data	data
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table 1 above

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entry 1	data	data
entry 2	data	data

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## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

MDPI	Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute
DOAJ	Directory of open access journals
TLA	Three letter acronym
LD	linear dichroism

## Appendix A

### Appendix A.1

The appendix is an optional section that can contain details and data supplemental to the main text. For example, explanations of experimental details that would disrupt the flow of the main text, but nonetheless remain crucial to understanding and reproducing the research shown; figures of replicates for experiments of which representative data is shown in the main text can be added here if brief, or as Supplementary data. Mathematical proofs of results not central to the paper can be added as an appendix.

## Appendix B

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## References

1. Vogel, H.; Rosén, P.; Wagner, B.; Melles, M.; Persson, P. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, a new cost-effective tool for quantitative analysis of biogeochemical properties in long sediment records. *Journal of Paleolimnology* **2008**, *40*, 689–702. doi:10.1007/s10933-008-9193-7.
2. Gujer, W. *Systems Analysis for Water Technology*; Springer-Verlag: Berlin, Heidelberg, Germany, 2008.

**Sample Availability:** Samples of the compounds . . . . . are available from the authors.

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