

An overview of the Data for Jooriland[☆]

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Abstract

This article is designed to provide an overview of the data being used to optimise the sampling scheme currently used by the SCA. Current

Keywords:

Introduction

Water quality sampling is common place and required by law to allow catchment management agencies to maintain the health of a catchment. It is now well established that Australian streams have the highest levels of nutrient exports during storm events. Due to this relationship, sampling schemes are currently shifting from a monthly sampling basis, to a event-based sampling scheme. The shift has caused a necessary shift in the statistics that are currently used to analyses the data.

The data obtained from the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) has a continuous discharge data set starting early 1960 and ending in 2009. The water quality dataset currently being used was supplied mid 2008. This dataset starts in 1991 and ends in 2008. This dataset is heavily biased with the starting of this dataset, being only collected via routine and flood, samples. This bias leads to the belief that the data in the early part of the data set has missed several key events.

Background

The Sydney Catchment Authority is in charge of the drinking water for the metropolitan area of Sydney. The catchment is a large catchment, that stretches from Gouldburn in the South to Bathurst in the North. The catchment is characterized by low lying hills in the south, which is dryer th...

Data Summary

The data collected from the SCA covers a variety of variables. This paper will only cover EC,TP,TN, and NTU variables. An overview of the data is provided in table 1.

Correlation plots between the variables are also provided in figure 1. The correlation plots provide an overview of the relationships between the various water quality variables and the associated discharge.

Table 1: Summary statistics of data

Statistic	pH	EC	NTU	TN	TP	Discharge
Min	6.50	0.02	0.54	0.17	0.00	0.00
Max	9.16	0.71	1000.00	14.80	2.28	2507.99
Mean	7.84	0.29	67.43	0.87	0.07	163.40
Median	7.80	0.30	15.70	0.60	0.02	42.03
Stdev	0.53	0.11	140.88	1.00	0.15	335.10
n	285.00	1125.00	1314.00	523.00	513.00	1375.00

The samples of the water quality variables have been collected using a variety of methods. These methods are summarized in table 2. Figure blah shows the correlation between discharge and total Phosphorus, for each sample type.

Table 2: Quanity of sample types in relation to water quality variable

Sample type	pH	EC	TP	TN	NTU
unknown	60	0	128	128	120
automatic	25	850	121	124	926
composite	1	35	25	31	35
duplicate	3	3	4	4	3
flood	0	22	19	18	18
N	0	0	0	0	0
monthly grab	166	167	168	168	165
ad-hoc grab	30	39	38	40	38
W	0	9	10	10	9

It is important to examine the effect of the sample type, on the quality of the desired relationship. A brief example of this is shown in figure 2.

[☆]This document is designed to provide a quick overview of the data.

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Transformation of data

Data related to stream flow in Australia is often highly skewed, due to the nature of the system. It is therefore necessary to transform the data for regression based analysis. The most common technique is the use of the natural log transformation. Various methods are now possible to be used to transform the data. This report will use the flexibility of the box-cox transformation, which can if appropriate use the natural log transformation. The distribution of most of all variables is shown in figure 3.

Figure 4 shows the range of possible lambda values for the transformation of total Phosphorous, with 95% confidence intervals.

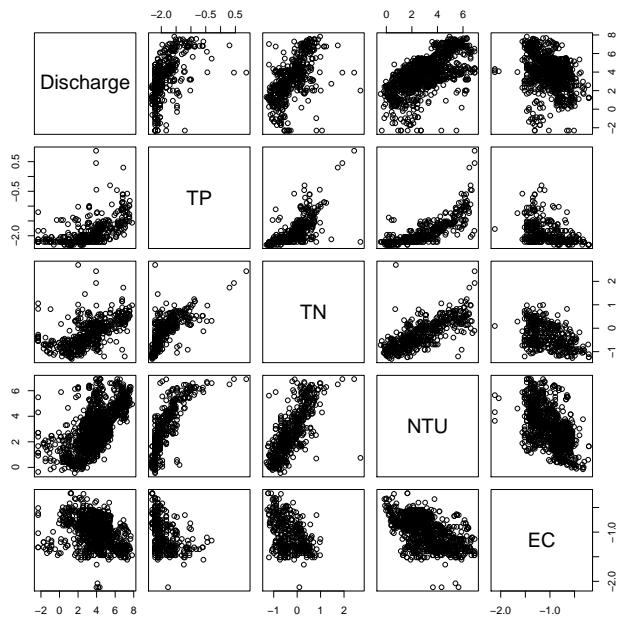


Figure 1: Scatter plot of water quality variables. All variables are log transformed.

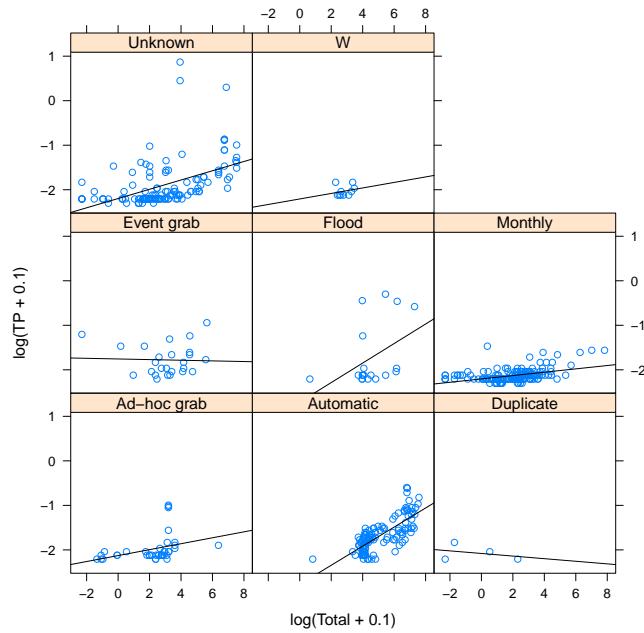


Figure 2: Scatter plot of total Phosphorous and discharge relevant to each sample type. All variables are log transformed.

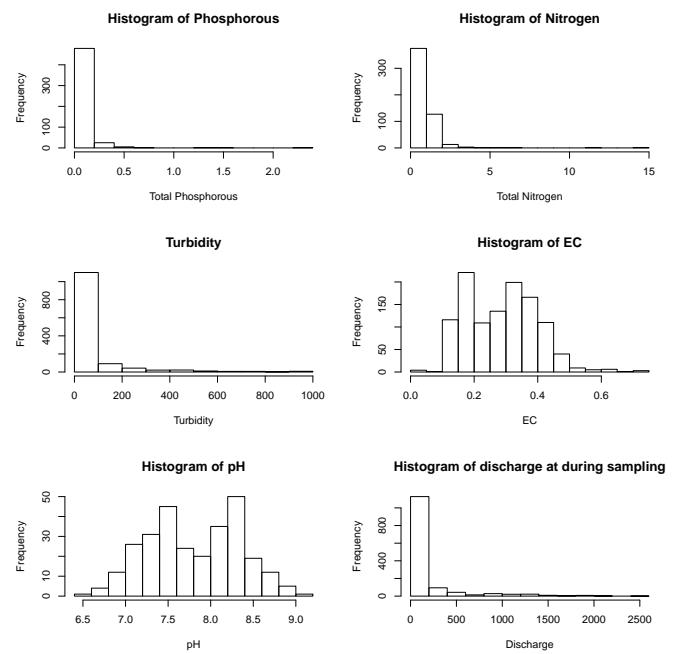


Figure 3: Histogram of each water quality variable and the associated discharge.

Autocorrelation within the data

As the data is part of a time series it can be assumed that there is autocorrelation between the samples. This section of the report will examine the autocorrelation within the data. It is possible to investigate the discharge data using transnational time series methods. Spatial semi-variograms will be used to examine the autocorrelation with the water quality variables, and the discharge at the associated with the quality samples. Figure 5 shows that there is correlation for up to two hours, and the acf shows that that there is a steady rate of decay of correlation. From using the R package geoR the use of the function likfit was used with the summary of the model given in figure 6.

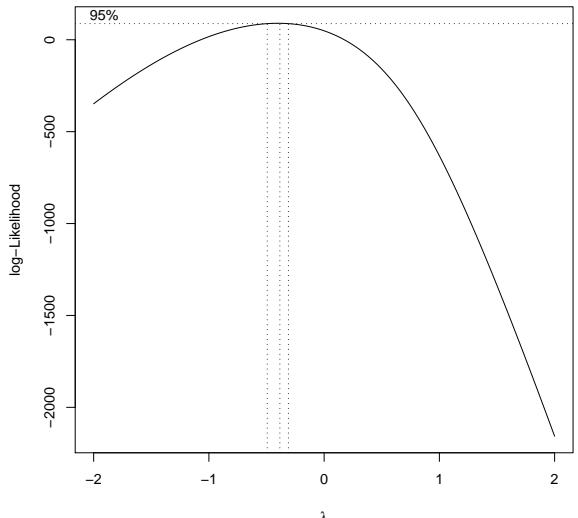


Figure 4: Fitted lambda value for the box-cox transformation of total Phosphorous.

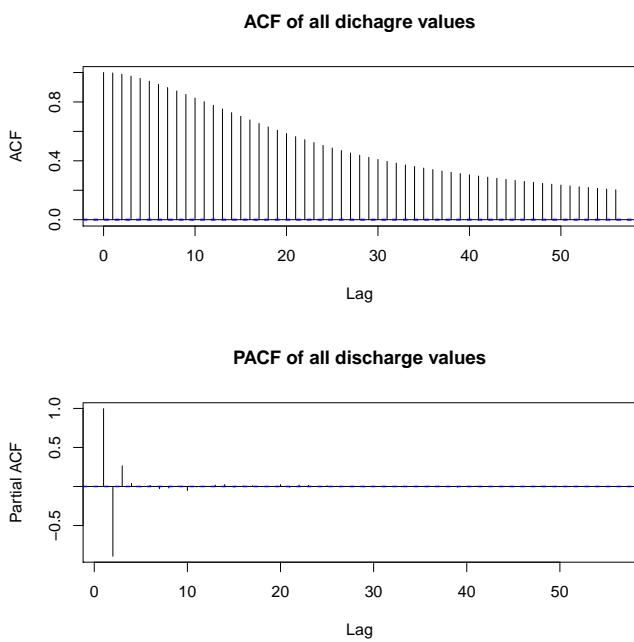


Figure 5: ACF and PACF of entire discharge time series.

```

> mlik <- likfit(temp, ini=c(0.5,0.5))
> summary(mlik)
Summary of the parameter estimation
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Estimation method: maximum likelihood
Parameters of the mean component (trend):
beta
-0.0888

Parameters of the spatial component:
correlation function: exponential
(estimated) variance parameter sigmasq (partial
sill) = 6e-04
(estimated) cor. fct. parameter phi (range
parameter) = 21.74
anisotropy parameters:
(fixed) anisotropy angle = 0 ( 0 degrees )
(fixed) anisotropy ratio = 1

Parameter of the error component:
(estimated) nugget = 2e-04

Transformation parameter:
(fixed) Box-Cox parameter = 1 (no
transformation)

Practical Range with cor=0.05 for
asymptotic range: 65.12826

Maximised Likelihood:
log.L n.params AIC BIC
"1046" "4" "-2083" "-2067"

non spatial model: log.L n.params AIC BIC "909"
"2" "-1814" "-1806"
Call: likfit(geodata = temp, ini.cov.pars =
c(0.5, 0.5))

```

Figure 6: R output of likfit model of boxcox transformed TP

From the model the semi variogram cloud is shown in figure

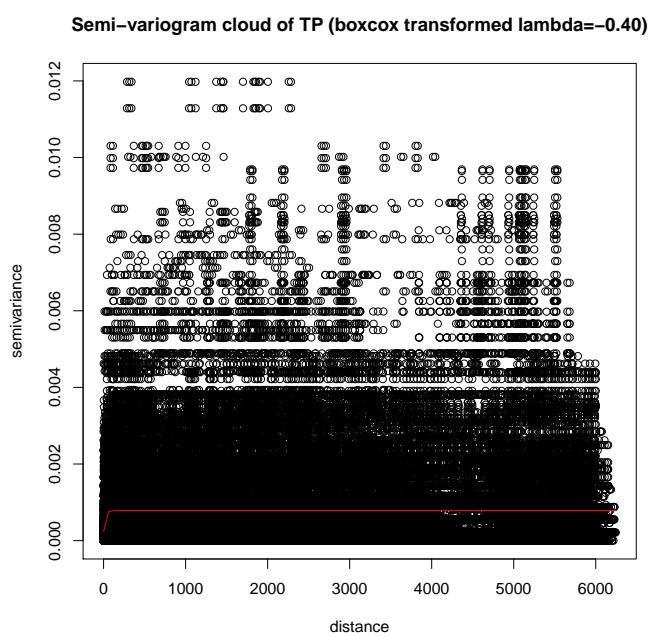


Figure 7: Semi Variogram cloud of total Phosphorus with box-cox transformation (lambda = -0.4). Red line indicates the likfit model.