

To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Tim Pobst entitled "Statistical Analyses on Legacy Data for the GRSM Stream Survey." I have examined the final paper copy of this thesis for form and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, with a major in Environmental Engineering.

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Dr. John Schwartz, Major Professor

We have read this thesis  
and recommend its acceptance:

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Dr. Bruce Robinson

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Accepted for the Council:

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(Original signatures are on file with official student records.)

# **Statistical Analyses on Legacy Data for the GRSM Stream Survey**

A Thesis Presented for

The Master of Science

Degree

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Tim Pobst

May 2014

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# Acknowledgements

I would like to thank... Dr. Schwartz, Keil Neff, Matt, and Steve Moore.

I would like to thank all the faculty and staff in the civil and environmental engineering program. I was never lacking in offered help, from Larry and Ken to the Professors and the secretaries.

I would like to thank Dr.Schwartz for giving me the opportunity for a graduate degree. My responsibilities involved a lot of field work in the Great Smokey Mountains and I never bored of bragging about it.

I would like to thank Matt Kulp and Steve Moore of wildlife and fisheries in the GRSM for funding me and any work done in the park.

I would like to thank Mei Cai and Keil Neff who were post-docs for much of the time I was working on my degree. Sometimes it was like having multiple bosses saying different things at once but most of time it was multiple mentors that could help me if one was unavailable.

I would like to thank Chris Rollison and Keil Neff for teaching me everything I need to know to help on the GRSM projects.

I would like to thank Jordan Hayes and Matt Aplin who were the two primary undergraduate helpers regarding GRSM work.

# Abstract

Abstract text goes here...

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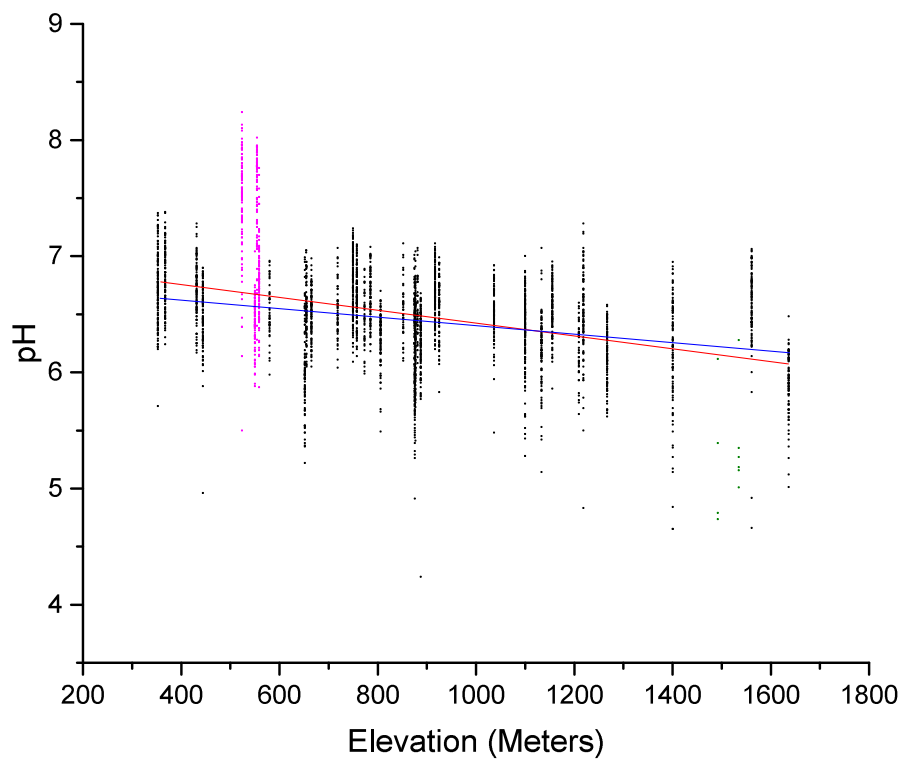
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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Text and tables should show up.



**Figure 1.1:** pH plotted vs. Elevation. With and without outliers.

Acid rain is believed to negatively affect The Great Smokey Mountain National Park. Acid Deposition, more commonly known as Acid Rain, is a constant problem for the park. Acid Deposition occurs when the emissions of sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) are released into the atmosphere. Acid deposition greatly impacts surface water and the surrounding environment. The acidification of bodies of water can be either chronic or episodic. Chronic acidification occurs when the pH of the water is consistently low. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) is located in the southern Appalachian region. In order to monitor acid deposition the park has a program called the Inventory and Assessment of Acid Deposition Effects (IADE).

Figure 1-1

This figure shows all pH data from 1993 to 2012 vs. Elevation (m). The red trend line shows a negative correlation between elevation and pH.

Figure 1 is a graph of all measured pH values for Stream Survey between the years 1993 and 2012. In support of GRSM natural resource management, stream water quality has been monitored over this period.

Table 1 shows the current historical elevation classes with the number of sites that fall into each class. The National Park Service is currently developing a Vital Sign Monitoring Program to assess the health of the park's natural resources.

Objectives of this study were to:

- \begin{itemize}

- \item characterize time trends in stream pH and acidic anions among elevation ranges

- \item characterize sampling variance based on available water quality data, within elevation ranges

- \end{itemize}

- \begin{itemize}

- \item Has stream pH and acid anion concentrations changed among three time periods?

- \begin{itemize}

- \item ANOVA

- \item Time trends

- \end{itemize}

- \item What is the statistical power for water quality parameters based on frequency of sampling?

```
\begin{itemize}
\item Post Hoc Analysis
\item A Priori Analysis
\end{itemize}
\end{itemize}
```

The thesis is organized into two separate chapters following the two above research

# Chapter 2

## Trend Analysis

### 2.1 Methods

#### 2.1.1 Introduction

Trend analysis is a great way to characterize the park's water quality using data collected through the stream survey. It is used to state the condition of the parks water bodies while trying to predict where the water quality is headed in the future. A trend analysis on the stream survey data was conducted in 2002 and published in [Robinson et al. \(2008\)](#) and then again in 2009 for the Biotics Effects report ([Meijun Cai, 2012](#)). This statistical procedure is used to discover sudden and gradual trends over time. Of the ten elevation bands analyzed in [Robinson et al. \(2008\)](#) six had negative Julian date coefficients and the other four had no trend. Of the 67 sites studied in the biotic effects report most showed no trend, 22 showed an increase in pH and 2 showed a decrease([Meijun Cai, 2012](#)). The trend analysis will use stream survey data from 1993 to 2012 using the statistical programs JMP and SPSS for analysis.



### 2.1.2 Body

Water quality is an ongoing concern for the park. The acidification of the streams can have significant negative effects on wildlife and vegetation. The stream survey collects water samples all over the park to monitor the health of the water.

The data used in these analyses are collected through the park wide stream survey. The stream survey includes six stream systems and five of them are collected every two months and analyzed in a lab for many water quality variables including pH, ANC,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and some metals. The stream survey water quality data includes measurements for pH, ANC, conductivity, acid anions ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , ammonia ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ), the base cations ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ , and  $\text{Na}^+$ ), dissolved metals (Al, Cu, Fe, Mn, Si and Zn). A ManTech<sup>TM</sup> autotitrator was used for pH, ANC, and conductivity. A Dionex<sup>TM</sup> ion chromatograph (IC) was used for the analysis of  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{NH}_4^+$ . A Thermo-Scientific<sup>TM</sup> Inductively Coupled Plasma - Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES) was used for the study of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ , Al, Cu, Fe, Mn, Si and Zn.

Twenty years of data were available for this paper from the years 1993 to 2012. A single trend line containing all 20 years is unrealistic because it will not show why there is a difference in the previous trend analyses or if there was a change in trend after 2008. The opposite trends reported in Robinson et al. (2008) and Meijun Cai (2012) suggest an inflection point in the trend line somewhere between 2002 and 2009. For this reason, and for easier comparison of results, a separate data set will be sectioned off from 1993 to 2002 to equal the years analyzed in Robinson et al. (2008). A third data set will be created after the year 2008 because this is the year that the Kingston and Bull run power plants installed scrubbers onto their smoke stack exhaust. The hypothesis being the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations will be noticeably different, and this difference could indicate a need for further study. These three time sets will be analyzed separately.

**Table 2.1:** These elevation classes were created to add more weight to the higher elevations

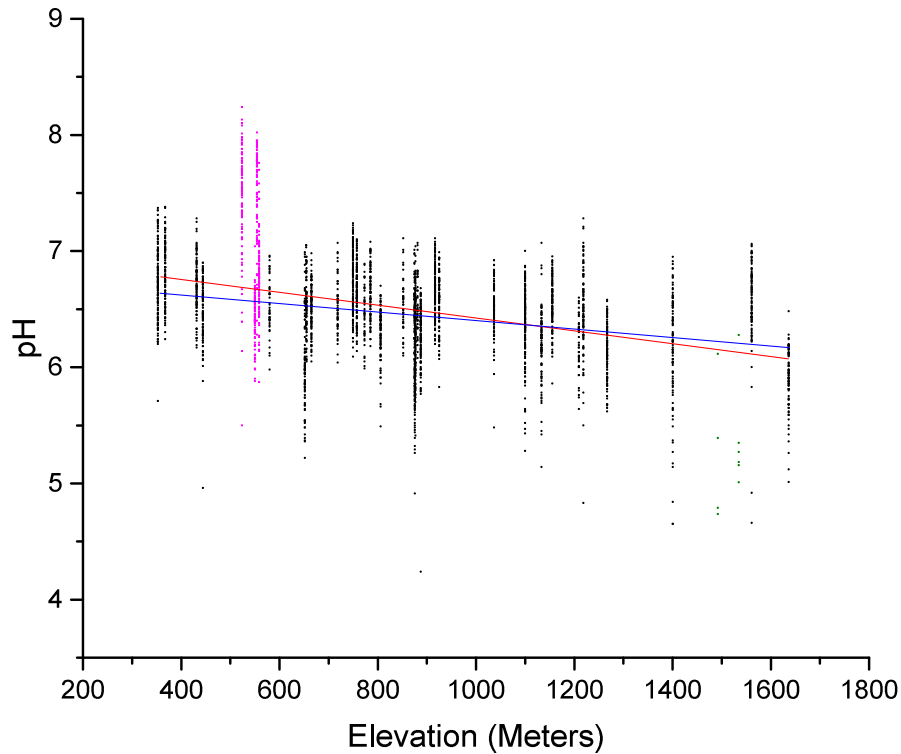
Elevation Classes	Meters (Feet)	n	Site #
1	304.8-609.6 (1000-2000)	5	13 ,23, 24, 30, 479
2	609.6-762 (2000-2500)	9	4, 311, 268, 480, 310, 483, 147, 148, 484
3	762-914.4 (2500-3000)	13	114, 481, 482, 149, 66, 492, 137, 293, 270, 493, 485, 144, 224
4	914.4-1066.8 (3000-3500)	4	143, 142, 73, 71
5	1066.8-1371.6 (3500-4500)	4	74, 221, 251, 233
6	1371.6 < (4500 <)	2	253, 234

Two more factor divisions of the data include dividing the data by elevation classes and four dependent variables (pH, ANC,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) . The elevation classes used in this paper were set up to include a minimum number of sites in order that the upper classes would not be too weak to be useful. The divisions are presented here in [Table 2.1](#). These are different from the historic eleven elevation bands which were separated by arbitrary 500 foot intervals. Some of the upper bands only contained one site. The more sites you have the closer you get to fully describing the water quality and after years of collection this one site can describe its own features but it cannot describe characteristics of the elevation band very well. Elevation is an important part in water quality and because the upper elevations are most effected by acid rain there needs to be enough sites in each band to make them statistically sound ([Weathers et al., 2006](#)). Without adding sites, the best way to do this is to reorganize the elevation bands. Dividing all the data into three different time sets, six elevation bands and studying four different dependents will create 72 different trend lines.

## Instruments

All of the statistical analysis was completed in statistical software. Initial data smoothing and influential data points were found using JMP 9. A power analysis

was performed using G\*power, and all other statistical analyses were performed using SPSS.



**Figure 2.1:** pH plotted vs. Elevation. With and without outliers.

Several plots were created in order to reduce the variance of the data before any statistical analysis was attempted. JMP was chosen for this task based on its ease of use in plotting data. A plot of pH vs. time visually represents the existence of a positive trend in the pH data from 1993 to 2012. [Figure 2.1](#) shows the pH vs. elevation plot. It shows two trend lines, one which represents the trend of all of the data points and the other represents the trend after the influential points are removed. Both of the trends are negative as elevation increases but the trend line containing the influential points is steeper. pH was plotted against the month that the sample was collected to check for seasonality. Seasonality was expected and found for pH

over one year. The variance caused by seasonality will be removed with sine and cosine functions.

Much of the variance in [Figure 2.1](#) can be attributed to known influences in the stream survey data: Abrams creek watershed, sites that are affected by anakeesta geology, and stormflow ([Neff et al., 2012](#)). Comparatively Abrams is a low elevation, low slope area where the underlying geology is Cades Sandstone, which buffers against acid rain very well. This sandstone contributes to high ANC values which in turn keep the mean pH levels higher than the rest of the sites in the survey. Site numbers 237 and 252 are sites which are down hill of road cuts that have exposed the underlying anakeesta formation to runoff. The anakeesta formation contains sulfidic slate, which can have the same negative effect of acid deposition, and keeps the pH values of streams very low.

Stormflow is both influential and detrimental to GRSM water quality. Storms can bring high intensity rain fall which can very quickly reduce the pH and ANC of streams. In streams with low ANC and pH, episodic stream acidification can be harmful to aquatic life ([Neff et al., 2009](#)). Stormflow runoff can have a higher contribution to stream acidification than baseflow because it transports protons left in the upper layers of the soil by acid deposition. Stream acidification caused by stormflow can cause base cation exchange through the leaching of the surrounding soil. When the inherent base cation minerals run out, excess  $H^+$  and Al will be released into the water. Increasing the  $H^+$  concentration will lower the pH, and Al is toxic to biotics. Healthy streams can rebound to normal pH values; unhealthy streams can have permanently lowered ANC due to leaching. Measurements taken from stormflow can show uncharacteristically low pH values and high amounts of metals from leaching. In this way, stormflow is sometimes considered an influential group on the rest of the data, because the measurements are significantly different from the average. Dr. Cai characterized all of the available water quality data between 1993 and 2010 as storm flow or baseflow; this work is summarized in [Meijun Cai \(2012\)](#). Water quality data after 2010 had not been characterized. If all stormflow

observations are to be kept in the data, the years 2011 and 2012 would need to be characterized. Quick analyses were run to see how influential stormflow was on the data as a whole, and it turned out that some were and many were not. Instead of throwing out all of the stormflow observations at once, single influential observations could be explained by stormflow and removed. They can be removed on a case by case basis during the regression method.

The regression process includes preparing the data and identifying influential observations. The output of a step-wise regression analysis performed in SPSS can be configured to complete many different analyses in order to smooth the data. The different tests applied for this paper include tests for normality, heteroscedasticity, cook's D, DFBETAS, and DFFITS. As observations were identified by cook's d, DFBETAS, and or DFFITS as influential, they were individually analyzed to determine what made them influential. Modification or removal of an influential observation had to be justified, or it would remain an outlier. An example of modification of the data included a pH value that read 16.47 was changed to 6.47. Another example is that some conductivity values were obvious copies of the ANC value for the same observation. These conductivity values were removed. Some influential observations were not as obvious and if they could not be labeled as storm flow or human error they would be kept. After sufficient attention was given to the influential observations the analysis was re-run and more influential observations could be found, and attention would need be given to these also. This process was completed for all four of the dependent variables, (pH , ANC,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ).

The step-wise variable selection process requires a list of variables to choose from. These variables are reported in [Table C.1](#). The variables chosen for this list were chosen from those chemistry values recorded in the full stream survey dataset. One benefit of choosing only variables directly from the stream survey dataset is a high ease of repeatability for the future. The step-wise process regulates entry into the equations by the probability of the F statistic. If this statistic were between .05 and .10 then the variable could stay. The variables selected were used to create

the fixed models presented in Table 2.2. If any of the time variables were chosen by the step-wise method then the others were added. This was done to ensure the Julian date coefficient was present along with  $\sin(\theta)$  and  $\cos(\theta)$  for seasonality. Many variables are present in the stream survey database, some are measurements but others were derived. Mathematically seasonality can be modeled with the  $\sin(\theta)$  and  $\cos(\theta)$  variables as shown in Helsel and Hirsch (1992). They represent each day of the year as a fraction of the year and place the lowest pH on January 1 and the highest on July 1. The variable BC (base cations) represent the sums of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ , and  $\text{Na}^+$  measurements. Correlations were run between each of the proposed variables and both ANC and BC were found to be better described as  $\log_2(\text{ANC})$  and  $\log_2(\text{BC})$ .

**Table 2.2:** Equations created through step-wise variable selection

Dependent (n)	Model	Adjusted $r^2$	Model p
pH (3116)	$.673 \times \log_2(\text{Sum Base Cations}) + (-.368 \times \text{NO}_3) + (.262 \times \text{Julian Day}) + (-.266 \times \text{SO}_4) + (-.050 \times \cos(\theta))$	0.630	<0.001
ANC (3116)	$(.415 \times \text{Sum Base Cations}) + (-.185 \times \text{SO}_4) + (.595 \times \text{Conductivity}) + (-.102 \times \text{NO}_3) + (.019 \times \text{Julian Date}) + (.005 \times \text{Cl}) + (.005 \times \sin(\theta))$	0.984	0.049
$\text{NO}_3$ (3116)	$(-.295 \times \text{SO}_4) + (-3.183 \times \text{ANC}) + (2.19 \times \text{Conductivity}) + (.923 \times \text{Sum Base Cations}) + (.120 \times \text{Julian Date}) + (.051 \times \text{Cl}) + (.047 \times \sin(\theta)) + (.031 \times \cos(\theta))$	0.498	0.017
$\text{SO}_4$ (3116)	$(-.166 \times \text{NO}_3) + (2.318 \times \text{Conductivity}) + (-3.229 \times \text{ANC}) + (1.033 \times \text{Sum Base Cations}) + (.042 \times \text{Julian Date})$	0.720	<0.001

The difficulty in modeling a time trend is the high amount of variation within the datasets. While trying to determine a time trend other variables are added besides those that explain a trend in time. All of the equations contain the time variables (julian date,  $\sin(\theta)$ , and  $\cos(\theta)$ ) along with the chosen chemical variables. Because

of the difficulty of explaining what the Julian date coefficient really means along side the chemical variables a second set of equations was created for analysis. These equations use only the three time variables to describe each of the dependents.

Elevation was not a significant predictor for any of the dependent water quality variables chosen. The dependent variables were regressed using simple linear regression against elevation in meters in order to determine their trends by elevation. These trends encompass all elevations; no elevation bands were used.

## 2.2 Results

Julian date coefficients are reported in Robinson et al. (2008) for each of the eleven historic elevation classes and across each of the dependent variables (pH, ANC,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ , and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ). Julian date coefficients for this paper were reported in similar tables. Table D.1 records the Julian date coefficients calculated using the equations in Table 2.2 and Table D.2 records the Julian date coefficients for equations containing only the three time variables. Each trend line is represented by its Julian date coefficient, the  $r^2$  value for the trend line, and its statistical significance.

2 of the 72 trend lines in Table D.1 are insignificant. In contrast 50 of the 72 trend lines in Table D.2 are insignificant. Setting the linear regression  $\alpha$  at .05 forces any trend with a p-value greater than .05 to be insignificant. Insignificance rejects the hypothesis that  $\beta(\text{the coefficient}) \neq 0$ . A p-value greater than .05 means that there is greater than a 5% chance that  $\beta = 0$  or in this case the Julian date coefficient = 0.

### 2.2.1 Step-wise Julian date coefficients

#### pH

The Julian date coefficients In Table D.1 for pH showed negative time trends in three statistically significant regression lines, all in the time range of 1993-2002. These lines

were in elevation classes 2, 3, and 5. There is one degrading trend in the third time set (2009-2012) and in the fifth elevation class but it is insignificant. Most of the trend lines report that pH is increasing over time.

## ANC

Trends for ANC fluctuate while evaluating across time sets and elevation classes . Eleven of the lines are positive, and seven are negative. Two of the three negative trends for ANC in set 2 have a smaller slope in set 3, and one of the degrading trends in set 2 becomes positive in set 3. When comparing time set 2 to set 3, ANC trends are growing over time.

## Nitrate

$\text{NO}_3^-$  trends in set 2 are all positive. In set 3  $\text{NO}_3^-$  has a decreasing trend in elevation class 4. The  $\text{NO}_3^-$  trends for set 1 are half positive and half negative. But from the years 2003 to 2008 all of the  $\text{NO}_3^-$  trends are positive. In set 3, the trend in elevation class 4 has a negative trend.

## Sulfate

$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  has mixed positive and negative trends for set 1 but all positive trends for set 2. Half of the  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  trends in set 3 are negative ( 1, 3, and 6).

## 2.2.2 Julian date coefficients from time variables only

In [Table D.2](#) only 20 of the 72 regression lines are significant, those that have acceptable p-values less than .05.

## pH

The dependent variable pH in set 1 has zero significant lines, set 2 and 3 combined are slightly less than half insignificant trend lines. The insignificance of the trend



lines leaves them untrustworthy, but the trend values themselves are quite similar to those calculated in [Table D.1](#).

## ANC

There are only two significant regression lines in for ANC in [Table D.2](#). Elevation class 5 in set 1 has a decreasing trend at  $-.148$ , there are no significant lines in set 2 and set 3 elevation class 5 has a positive trend at  $.891$ .

## Nitrate and Sulfate

$\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  both had negative trends in set 1 class 1. These are the only significant decreasing trends exhibited for either  $\text{NO}_3^-$  or  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in [Table D.2](#). Both have positive trends in set 2 at elevation classes 1,2,4 and 6, and neither variable have significant lines in set 3.

### 2.2.3 Elevation trends

The aim of [Table 2.3](#) is to calculate the change in water quality values for every 1000 meters of elevation. The base cations were added as a dependent for this analysis. All of the pH and ANC values decrease as elevation increases and all of the  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , and base cations dependents increase as elevation increases. Every value in the right most column decreases for the water quality dependents as the table moves forward in time sets except for the base cations.

### 2.2.4 Results by Comparison

In comparing table 4 from [Robinson et al. \(2008\)](#) with [Table D.1](#) from this study, it needs to be noted that the elevation classes are different and the data sets have slightly changed throughout the years. The largest difference is the reduction of 90 sites to 43. Abrams was not included in this analysis but was included in [Robinson et al. \(2008\)](#). This difference could explain the differences seen in the old elevation

**Table 2.3:** Dependents regressed against elevation (m) only.

set	Dependent	n	slope	$r^2$	per +1000m
1	pH	1357	.000	.173	-0.411
	ANC	1354	-.056	.199	-56.227
	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	1161	.032	.372	32.211
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	1343	.037	.108	37.371
	SBC	1358	.013	.005	13.065
2	pH	997	.000	.094	-0.391
	ANC	997	-.051	.157	-50.970
	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	995	.031	.307	30.677
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	1029	.036	.098	35.793
	SBC	1031	.016	.009	15.537
3	pH	757	.000	.061	-0.286
	ANC	757	-.036	.087	-35.689
	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	757	.026	.195	25.924
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	757	.030	.101	29.715
	SBC	757	.020	.014	19.905

classes from [Robinson et al. \(2008\)](#) of 1,2, and 3 and elevation class 1 in this study. Two sites (237, 252) that are in the new elevation class 6 were left out of the statistical analysis as influential observations. These correspond to historic elevation class 9.

One interesting comparison between table 4 of [Robinson et al. \(2008\)](#) and set 1 of this study are the differences in pH coefficients. All of the pH trends presented in table 4 of [Robinson et al. \(2008\)](#) are negative which is what led to the statements that pH is dropping and can continue to dangerous levels in the future. However, only half the time trend trends for set 1 for pH found in this study were negative in [Table D.1](#). All of the rest of the pH trends for Julian date for both trend analyses are positive when they are significant.

**pH and ANC** For a data set of 92 sites within the time frame of 1993 to 2009 [Meijun Cai \(2012\)](#) reports a decrease for pH and ANC of -0.32 pH units and -35.73  $\mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$  per 1000-ft elevation gain or 302-m elevation gain respectively. These values are close to those found in this study for the years of 2009-2012, but the slopes in set

1 and 2 are much steeper. In set 3, pH is significantly lower with a trend of  $-0.0286$  pH units per 1000-m gain and ANC is a little bit lower with a trend of  $-35.689 \mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$  per 1000-m gain (Table 2.3).

**Nitrate and Sulfate** The positive  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  trends seem to decrease by  $2 \mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$  between set 1 and set 2 in Table 2.3 and then by  $6 \mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$  between set 2 and set 3. In contrast, an insignificant negative trend with elevation was found in Meijun Cai (2012) for the years 1993 to 2009.  $\text{NO}_3^-$  follows a similar pattern as  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in Table 2.3 which is also in agreement with findings in Weathers et al. (2006). As the trends for  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  decrease over the time sets the base cations increase by  $2 \mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$  between set 1 and set 2 and then by almost  $5 \mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$  between set 2 and set 3.

## 2.3 Discussion

It is interesting that the step-wise process did not choose elevation as an independent variable for any of the dependent variables. Figure 2.1 clearly shows a decreasing trend for pH while increasing the elevation. Individual elevation classes might be too small to show a significant elevation trend. Increasing acidification with increased elevation was observed in Meijun Cai (2012) will analyzing the entire 1993 to 2009 dataset available. This suggests that there is an elevation trend it is just not as important as other factors when studying acidification in the GRSM.

A trend in time is also clearly evident with a simple plot of pH vs. time but the mostly insignificant trends of Table D.2 suggest otherwise. The three time variables alone are not enough to explain the dependent variables. Robinson et al. (2008) found that pH was decreasing over time when looking at stream survey data between 1993 to 2002, although this study found that most of the trends in that period are negative, the trends for 2009 to 2012 are all positive as well as the trends for 2003 to 2008. This is in agreement with values reported in Meijun Cai (2012). The differences between the results in Robinson et al. (2008) and those in Table D.1 and Table D.2 imply that

water quality is worse in the past but is getting better. Both Robinson et al. (2008) and Meijun Cai (2012) used more than double the sites of this study and Robinson et al. (2008) allowed Abrams to stay in the data. The differences in the data can account for differences in the results but it is safe to say that water quality in the park is getting healthier.

$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  has more decreasing trends for the years 2009 to 2012 than in any other time set. This is not surprising based on the values shown in Figure 3.1 in which  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations at the high elevation site Noland begin to drop along with emissions from Kingston and Bull run power plants. It is surprising that Meijun Cai (2012) found an insignificant but negative trend in  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  as elevation increases while this study shows only increasing elevation trends for all time sets. When looking at a graph of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  vs. elevation there are many higher elevation outliers present, these outliers could make the difference in findings.

Water quality is increasing. pH and ANC are rising and the pollutants  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  are decreasing. The concerns of lowering pH raised in Robinson et al. (2008) are now not as important as those for  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  desorption raised in Meijun Cai (2012). The lack of elevation trend in  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  was attributed to high elevation soil adsorption of depositional  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and a statement was made that  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  remains absorbed to soil particles as long as soil water chemistry remains high in  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentration and low in pH (Cai et al., 2011). The slope for the elevation trend of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  over the three sets is decreasing but most of the mean  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations listed in Table B.1 are increasing through time along with pH.

The advantage of using regression for trend analysis is its prediction abilities but regression is more difficult than the nonparametric methods of trend analysis. Tests for normality and heteroscedasticity along with variable transformations take care of forcing the usually nonparametric water quality data to be parametric. Nonparametric tests are more robust and do not require as much preparations to run and in the end are more reliable. Robinson et al. (2008) predicted negative trends and 9.4 years for the historic elevation class between 914 and 1067 meters to

reach a pH of 6.00. This corresponds exactly to this study's elevation band 4 which received an increasing pH trend in all three time sets. The differences being the sites used and the equations formed through the step-wise process. The equations in Robinson et al. (2008) follow the theory behind acidification much more closely where as the equations created in this study used variables already available in the running stream survey dataset. Prediction is hard and unless it is absolutely necessary to use then the Mann-Kendal test for trends would be much easier, more reliable and more robust (Helsel and Hirsch, 1992).

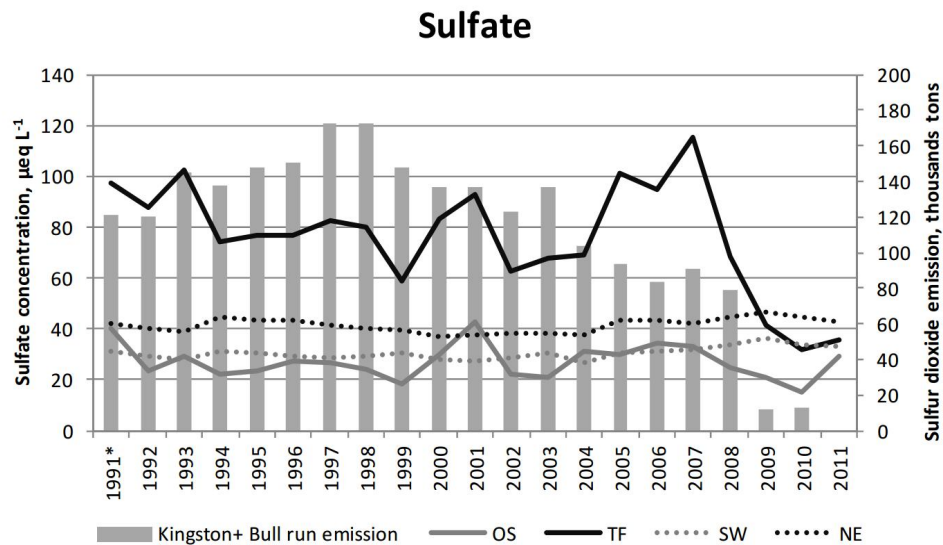
# Chapter 3

## Means Comparison

### 3.1 Methods

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

Bull run and Kingston power plants installed scrubbers in the year 2008 as mandated by the EPA. These scrubbers may have significantly reduced the amount of sulfur dioxide emitted by the smoke stacks. According to [Figure 3.1](#), which is a bar chart depicting the sum of sulfur dioxide emissions of Kingston and Bull run power plants, the sulfur dioxide concentration dropped from 80 thousand tons in 2008 to about 15 thousand tons in 2009. Interestingly the through fall  $\text{SO}_4$  concentrations dramatically decline from about  $115 \mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$  in 2007 to about  $30 \mu\text{eq L}^{-1}$  in 2010. The hypothesis is that the decrease in sulfur dioxide emissions could correlate to the decrease in  $\text{SO}_4$  concentrations measured in Noland Divide through fall. And assuming that the sulfur dioxide emissions from Kingston and Bull run power plants affect the whole GRSM park then there may be signals for this affect in the data. To examine this each time set will be tested against each other by way of means comparison methods.



**Figure 3.1:** Sulfate emmissions of Kingston and Bull run against those measured in Noland high elevation site (UTK, 2012).

## Instruments

ANOVA is the standard means comparison method. But it cannot compare more than two groups at once , and a method is needed that can compare all three time sets. The Bonferroni multiple comparisons method is an option in the SPSS statistical program and can compare more than two groups at a time. The explanation of the Bonferroni method given by the SPSS manual is that this method uses t tests to perform pairwise comparisons between group means and that the observed significance level is adjusted for the fact that multiple comparisons are being made (IBM, 2013).

The Bonferroni method will create two specific types of outputs. The first is a line graph showing the means of each group analyzed. And the second is a table of pairwise

listings of all the groups compared to each other. This table contains 95% confidence intervals and the significance associated with each comparison. These confidence intervals are produced by the difference in means between the two groups being compared. If the confidence interval includes zero then the groups are statistically the same or equal.

Using SPSS and the Bonferroni method three time sets (93-02, 03-08, 09-12) will be compared at six elevation class levels and across four water quality variables (pH, ANC, NO<sub>3</sub>, and SO<sub>4</sub>). Each group compared is the same stream survey data analyzed in chapter 2 and chapter 4 of this paper.

## 3.2 Results

**Table 3.1:** Bonferoni comparisons between multiple groups

Elevation Classes	pH			ANC			Nitrate			Sulfate		
	1-2	1-3	2-3	1-2	1-3	2-3	1-2	1-3	2-3	1-2	1-3	2-3
1	≠	≠	≠	=	=	=	≠	=	=	=	=	=
2	=	=	=	=	≠	=	≠	≠	=	≠	≠	=
3	≠	≠	≠	=	≠	=	=	≠	≠	=	=	=
4	=	≠	≠	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
5	≠	≠	≠	=	≠	≠	≠	=	≠	=	=	=
6	=	≠	≠	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=

Table 3.1 reports the Bonferoni comparison means between the four water quality variables (pH, ANC, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>) in one time set against the same water quality variable in another time set by elevation bands. In the table there are three columns per water quality variable. And each column represents the comparison of two groups of the same variable in different times. If the Bonferroni comparison found the groups to be equal then equality was represented by an equal sign. If the groups are not equal an



not equal sign was used to show this. All groups that are equal are also insignificant and all groups that are unequal are significant at a starting  $\alpha$  of .05.

The set comparisons between pH are the first comparisons presented. Mostly all the sets are different except between elevation class 2 which is all the same and class 4 and 6 which show sets 1 and 2 being equal. The next variable is ANC. The comparison found a lot of equality between the means of the ANC sets. Elevations 1, 4, and 6 are all equal. At elevations 2 and 3 set 1 and 3 are the only sets that are unequal. And at elevation 5 sets 1 and 2 are equal but set 3 is not. For  $\text{NO}_3$  elevation classes 4 and 6 are all the same and elevation 3 shows sets 1 and 2 being equal where 3 is not. Elevation class 1 is the opposite of expected showing all being equal except for sets 1 and 2. In elevation class 2 sets 3 and 2 are equal and in elevation class 5 sets 3 and 1 are equal.  $\text{SO}_4$  shows all three sets being equal across all elevation classes except for class 2. Class 2 shows only sets three and two being equal.

The bonferoni figures are presented in [section E.1](#). There are six figures for each of the water quality variables, one for each of the elevation classes. These figures can sometimes be misleading when visually comparing groups and it is always best to have the confidence intervals on hand.

### 3.3 Discussion

- Are these results a special case?
- Do these differences show up in other water quality analyses, not in the S.S.?
- What are the reasons that the means are higher or lower than expected?
- Differences between sets 2 and 3 were expected due to the scrubbers, did this occur?
- Why aren't the results as clear as the chart in the ([Meijun Cai, 2012](#))?
  - probably math

- General hypothesis about what the results suggest
  - The results suggest that a larger difference is needed to see a sulfate difference between sets 2 and 3.

# Chapter 4

## Power Analysis

### 4.1 Methods

#### 4.1.1 Introduction

The statistics performed in [chapter 2](#) come with an inherent amount of error. This error in trend analysis is defined as type II or  $\beta$  and can be seen in [Table 4.1](#). The

**Table 4.1:** Hypothesis tests from Statistical Methods in Water Resources by theUSGS ([Helsel and Hirsch, 1992](#)).

	$H_0$ is true	$H_0$ is false
Fail to Reject $H_0$	Correct decision Prob(correct decision) $= 1 - \alpha$	Type II error Prob(Type II error) $= \beta$
Reject $H_0$	Type I error Prob (Type I error) $= \alpha$ <b>Significance level</b>	Correct decision Prob (correct decision) $= 1 - \beta$ <b>Power</b>

trend analysis tests the hypothesis that a trend exists in the data. The null hypothesis is that there is no trend or the coefficient is zero. In simpler terms this means that the hypothesis for the trend analysis is that there is a positive julian date coefficient for each dataset and the null hypothesis is that there is not one.  $\beta$  describes the failure

to reject a false null hypothesis or in the case of this paper a failure to detect a trend in the data when there really is one. The opposite of  $\beta$  is the probability that a trend will be detected when it exists and is called the power of the test. A trend line with a power of 1.00 means that there is a 100% chance that the calculated slope is not zero. The post hoc power of all 144 regression lines from [chapter 2](#) were calculated with the help of the statistical program G\*power. An a priori power analysis can be used to help plan for the future by choosing a desired power and planning around it. This analysis was also completed in G\*power.

### 4.1.2 Body

The objectives of the power analysis are two fold. It will calculate the power of each trend line and also give a more efficient sample size for desired powers. The statistical program G\*power requires four inputs total. Three of these inputs are passed from the output of the trend analysis: number of observations (N), adjusted  $r^2$  and number of predictors. The fourth input is ES or effect size which is calculated by G\*power before the analysis. G\*power is a free power analysis program written by four german psychology professors. It can compute both post hoc and a priori analysis for many different statistical tests. A post hoc analysis was performed for both julian date coefficient tables from [chapter 2](#), [Table F.1](#) and [Table F.2](#). In contrast to the post hoc analysis the a priori analysis only needs to be calculated for each of the four dependent variables. This output then has to be manipulated in excel in order to determine a number of sites per elevation bands.

### 4.1.3 Procedures

#### Post hoc

The most popular power analysis methods originate from Jacob Cohen who outlined his approach in "A Power Primer" ([Cohen, 1992a](#)). Cohen displayed ways to calculate the power for eight different tests the last of which is the F test for multiple and

multiple partial correlation. The different tests are represented by their differences in calculating ES. Effect size is the only input that needs to be calculated before the analysis can be completed. The equation for the ES of a regression model presented by Cohen is equal to the correlation coefficient divided by one minus the correlation coefficient. This equation can be described as the ratio of explained to unexplained variation for the regression model. For the post hoc analysis this equation will be used to calculate an specific ES for each model presented in [Table F.1](#) and [Table F.2](#) which correspond to the models in [chapter 2](#). This calculation is completed in G\*power after inputing the correlation coefficient. G\*power uses ES along with the  $\alpha$  used for the regression model, the number observations, and number of predictors in the model to output the power of the F test. This power will be between 0 and 1.00 and will be the power acquired by the models using past data and a calculated ES.

## A priori

The a priori analysis is more conditional than the straight forward calculations for the post hoc analysis. Instead of outputting a power value like the post hoc analysis, G\*power will output a value for the number of observations. The inputs for this analysis are  $\alpha$ , desired power, number of predictors, and ES. All of these inputs can be changed or manipulated based on the desired outcome. For this analysis the assumption was made that the same trend analysis as the one completed in [chapter 2](#) would be attempted in the future. Based on this assumption the same step-wise equations constructed in [Table 2.2](#) can be used to help chose the number of predictors and  $\alpha$ .

The most encompassing way to present an a priori analysis is through a power graph. The power graphs plot power on the y-axis and number of observations on the x-axis. Using this as a tool a planner can choose a desired power and get the corresponding number of observations.

Choosing an ES value and desired power will be a matter of convention. To make choosing the ES value easier Cohen has stated small, medium, and large ES values for each of the eight tests described in [Cohen \(1992a\)](#). Concerning the multiple and

multiple partial correlation test he decided on .02, .15, and .35 respectively. All of these ES values can be graphed in the power graphs by plotting different ES values as curves on the same plot. Even though all powers and all ES values can be plotted at once, some times it is useful to choose specific values. An ES value of .15 was settled upon after the power graphs for all three conventions per dependent variable were made. .02 was too small, requiring very high values for numbers of observations to reach a decent power. ES values of .35 can acquire small numbers for numbers of observations thus achieving a decent power level easier. But .15 is less than half of .35 so it minimizes the chances for insignificant results and the numbers of observations are reasonable to reach higher powers. If no argument can be made for any other desired power then Cohen suggests .80. This is chosen for its reasonable ratio of Type I error to Type II error which reflects their importance. If the power is .80 then  $\beta = .20$  and  $\alpha = .05$  and this makes the Type II error four times as likely as Type I error (Cohen, 1992b). These choices are presented in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2:** A priori calculation in G\*power when alpha, ES, and power are set to .05, .15, and .80 respectively.

	Number of predictors	$N_a$
pH	6	98
ANC	8	109
Nitrate	8	109
Sulfate	7	103
Time	3	77

The a priori power analysis can be manipulated to calculate a number of sites per elevation band for the stream survey in the GRSM. First, samples per year per elevation band are counted for the 2012 year and will be represented by n. Next the results from Table 4.2 are divided by samples per year per elevation band to get the

number of years it will take at the 2012 sampling rate to reach a power of .80.

$$yrs. = \frac{N_a}{n} \quad (4.1)$$

But, in order to get to the number of sites per elevation band required to reach a power of .80, the years will have to be held constant. If the future trend analysis is to be completed using the equation with only time variables then 77 samples will need to be collected in one year to reach a power of .80 according to [Table 4.2](#). But if the future trend analysis is to be completed using the step-wise equations from [Table 2.2](#) then at least 109 samples will need to be collected in one year to satisfy the requirements for ANC and NO<sub>3</sub>. For the step-wise equations N will be rounded up to 110 and labeled  $N_b$ . These are presented in [Table 4.3](#), which has been calculated

**Table 4.3:** samples/year to achieve a power .80 ( $N_b$ )

Years	1	2	3	4
Water Quality Variables	110	55	37	28
Time Variables	77	39	26	19

out to four years. So that instead of completing the trend analysis after one year, one could wait four years and only need to collect 28 samples per year. Subtracting the number of samples collected in one year per elevation band in 2012 from the number of samples needed to be collected per year to reach a power of .80 will provide the number of samples needed per elevation band to receive a power of .80 ( $N_c$ ).

$$N_c = N_b - n \quad (4.2)$$

To get an estimation for the number of sites needed per elevation band to achieve a power of .80, the number of samples needed per elevation band to receive a power of

.80 ( $N_c$ ) were divided by six which is number of times each site is sampled per year.

$$\#Sites = \frac{N_c}{6} \quad (4.3)$$

## 4.2 Results

### 4.2.1 Post hoc

The results of the post hoc analysis on both trend analyses are reported in [Table F.1](#) and [Table F.2](#). The tables of results are broken into the four analyzed water quality variables (pH, ANC,  $\text{NO}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_4$ ) and divided into the three time sets (93-02, 03-08, 09-12), and then further divided into the six elevation classes. Each regression line computed in [chapter 2](#) are represented by their number of observations, the adjusted  $r^2$ , the calculated ES, and finally their actual power. Of the 72 lines evaluated for power in [Table F.1](#) only eight of them were less than 1.00. Only two of the trend lines in [Table F.1](#) were insignificant. The trend line analyzed in Nitrate set 3 class 5 was insignificant but the adjusted  $r^2$  was negative and therefore the power could not be found. The trend line in pH set 3 class 5 was also insignificant and received the lowest actual power of .28. Of the 72 lines evaluated for power in [Table F.2](#) 52 of the them were insignificant. So already before the post hoc analysis is completed the trend analysis says the regression lines might not even have a trend, and power is the probability of finding a trend if there is one. By convention insignificant trends are ignored and their powers will be ignored here as well. 20 of the trend lines are significant and their powers range from .26 to 1.00. 11 of the 20 significant trend lines are above a power of .80 and 2 are .99 or greater.



## 4.2.2 A priori

### Power graphs

The traditional presentation for an a priori power analysis is the power graph. This graph plots power on the y-axis and number of observations on the x-axis and the curve will start at (0,0) and asymptotically approach a power of 1.00. Each plotted curve represents an ES of either .15 or .35, .02 is not represented because it was unreasonable. Four graphs were drawn for the five dependent variables (pH, ANC, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Time) The only real variation between the graphs are the number of predictors which are counted from [Table 2.2](#). The dependent water quality dependents ANC and NO<sub>3</sub> are represented by the same graph because the ANC and NO<sub>3</sub> equations contain the same number of predictors. All of the power graphs created by the a priori analysis have similar shapes. The curves are all the same, but their placement on the graphs are different. The power graphs for pH, ANC and NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, and Time are plotted in the appendices [Figure G.1](#), [Figure G.2](#), [Figure G.3](#), and [Figure G.4](#) respectively. [Table 4.4](#) was created for easier comparison. This table

**Table 4.4:** Sample sizes at a power of .80

ES	0.15	0.35
pH	97	45
ANC and NO3	98	51
SO4	103	48
Time	76	35

shows the sample size values for both ES curves at a power of .80. Again all are similar except for the time graph, which has at least half as many predictors in its time trend equation as the others.

### A priori manipulation

In this section a scenario is presented in which the results of the a priori analysis are manipulated to achieve the number of sites required per elevation band to receive a

power of .80. This scenario was followed through with both methods of trend lines.

**Table 4.5:** Years to acheive a power of .80

Elevation Bands	Site #	Current n/yr	pH	ANC NO <sub>3</sub>	SO <sub>4</sub>	Time variables
1	13 ,23, 24, 30, 479	26	3.77	4.19	3.96	2.96
2	4, 311, 268, 480, 310, 483, 147, 148, 484	34	2.88	3.21	3.03	2.26
3	114, 481, 482, 149, 66, 492, 137, 293, 270, 493, 485, 144, 224	62	1.58	1.76	1.66	1.24
4	143, 142, 73, 71	24	4.08	4.54	4.29	3.21
5	74, 221, 251, 233	22	4.45	4.95	4.68	3.50
6	253, 234	12	8.17	9.08	8.58	6.42

Table 4.5 records the six elevation bands along with the site numbers that belong to them. In the column labeled, current n per year, the amount of samples collected per elevation band in the year 2012 are tabulated. Using Equation 4.1 the number of years needed for each variable to reach a power of .80 is calculated. Looking at the table there are 26 samples collected in elevation band one in one year. In order to compute a trend line that receives a power of .80 with pH as the dependent, samples would need to be collected for 3.77 years before the trend line can be computed. The largest number of years is elevation class six for a trend line in ANC or NO<sub>3</sub> which requires 9.08 years. This is because it only contains two sites.

**Table 4.6:** Necessary sites scenario for water quality variables

Elevation Bands	#Samples required				# sites required			
	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs
1	84	29	11	2	14	5	2	0
2	76	21	3	-7	13	4	0	-1
3	48	-7	-25	-35	8	-1	-4	-6
4	86	31	13	4	14	5	2	1
5	88	33	15	6	15	6	2	1
6	98	43	25	16	16	7	4	3

**Table 4.7:** Necessary sites scenario for time variables

Elevation Bands	#Samples required				# sites required			
	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs
1	51	13	0	-7	9	2	0	-1
2	43	5	-8	-15	7	1	-1	-2
3	15	-24	-36	-43	3	-4	-6	-7
4	53	15	2	-5	9	2	0	-1
5	55	17	4	-3	9	3	1	0
6	65	27	14	7	11	4	2	1

Tables [Table 4.6](#) and [Table 4.7](#) correspond to the two trend analysis completed in [chapter 2](#). Each table is broken down into two sides, the left side contains number of samples while the right side contains number of sites. Each side is grouped by elevation band and calculated out to four years. [Equation 4.2](#) is used to calculate the number of samples required and these numbers are divided by six to get the right side of the tables. Each elevation band is evaluated to determine the number of observations required to achieve a power of .80 with an ES of .15 for a trend analysis using the same equations as [Table 2.2](#). The different columns tell how many years will be needed before the trend analysis can be completed. In [Table 4.6](#) for elevation class 3, 48 more samples need to be collected if a trend line for the water quality dependents with a power of .80 is to be created after one year. But if a trend line can wait to be created after two years, then there is a surplus of seven samples per year. If four years can be waited there is a surplus of 35 samples which on the right side of the table translates into a surplus of 6 whole site locations per year. [Table 4.7](#) works the same way as [Table 4.6](#) but of course it uses different variables for the trend lines.

## 4.3 Discussion

### 4.3.1 Post hoc

#### Step-wise equations

By reviewing the results of the post hoc analysis after an a priori analysis has been completed using the same regression equations it is easier to see why the results were outstanding for the step-wise equations and awful for the time based equations. Knowing that an a priori analysis on the step-wise equations will give the number of observations for a power of .80 and an ES of .15 to be about 110 from [Table 4.2](#). It can easily be seen that as the number of observations in [Table F.1](#) deviate from 110 the power declines. And because the ES is a ratio of the adjusted  $r^2$  it declines with the as the  $r^2$  does. But for a calculated ES of .15 the adjusted  $r^2$  doesn't need to be very high. The analyzed trend line for pH in time set 3 elevation class 5 has an adjusted  $r^2$  of .158 and the ES is .19. The large conventional ES given by Cohen is .35 and only 3 of the trend lines analyzed here were below that, all in pH. Assuming that a power of .80 and an ES of .15 is ideal, then this post hoc analysis uses to many observations. One way to have less observations would be to use fewer years in the analysis. Another way would be to use less sites in the survey.

#### Time variable based equations

The differences in powers between the two post hoc analysis can not be the number of observations because the number of observations used in [Table F.1](#) are the same as those [Table F.2](#). The differences are between the adjusted  $r^2$ , which are very low for [Table F.2](#), and leads to the low ES values. Overlooking the fact that most of the regression models for the time variable analysis are insignificant, most of the powers calculated in [Table F.1](#) are not terrible. Of the 20 significant lines eleven have a power equal to or above .80.

### 4.3.2 A priori

The proper results for the a priori power analysis are [Table 4.2](#) and the [power graphs](#). The power graphs themselves show every possible power and the number of observations needed to achieve it. But they are based on the specific step-wise equations that were created using this specific dataset. Because the step-wise process uses the data to create the equations, every time new data is added the equations could change. The a priori analysis assumes that these same equations, with the same number of variables, will be used to detect trends in the future. But if data is added and the step-wise process is used again then the equations may change. A more static set of equations would ease this pressure.

These power graphs can still be used by managers and planners as an educated guess. After the number of observations for a desired power is determined from the graphs the observations can be placed into the survey in a logical manner in order for better efficiency. Each chosen power and ES value can represent a different scenario. One such scenario was carried out for a power of .80 and an ES of .15. Although any value in the power graphs can be chosen these values were chosen as the most efficient.

The results of this scenario can solve two concerns of the survey: the always present money problem, and the more scientific problem of a lack of high elevation sites. The greatest results presented in [Table 4.6](#), which is the table corresponding to the step-wise equations, are those results in the last column. This column states that if the trend analysis is completed after four years of collecting data then two sites can be removed from the survey. And assuming that cost of the survey is related to the number of sites, then removing sites will save money. But removing two sites is just the outcome of a redistribution suggested by the scenario. In fact one site should be removed from elevation class two and six from class three. One site each need to be added to classes five and six and three should be added to class six. There are too

many sites in the lower elevation classes of two and three and not enough sites in the higher elevation classes of four, five, and six.

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# Appendix

# Appendix A

## A.1 Site Data

## A.2 Site data

	Site ID	Site Description	Watershed
1	173	Mill Creek above Abrams Creek	Abrams
2	174	Abrams Creek below Cades Cove	Abrams
3	488	Mill Creek at Pumphouse on Forge Creek Road	Abrams
4	489	Abrams Creek 300 m below trailhead bridge	Abrams
5	142	Beech Creek above Lost Bottom Creek	Cataloochee
6	143	Lost Bottom Creek (Cataloochee Creek)	Cataloochee
7	144	Palmer Creek above Pretty Hollow Creek	Cataloochee
8	147	Lower Cataloochee Creek	Cataloochee
9	148	Lower Little Cataloochee Creek	Cataloochee
10	149	Middle Cataloochee Creek at bridge	Cataloochee
11	293	Rough Fork at Caldwell House	Cataloochee
12	493	Palmer Creek at Davidson Branch Trail	Cataloochee
13	4	Lower Rock Creek	Cosby
14	114	Cosby Creek at log bridge	Cosby
15	137	Upper Rock Creek (Cosby Creek)	Cosby
16	492	Camel Hump Creek off Low Gap Trail	Cosby
17	221	Hazel Creek above cascades	Hazel
18	224	Hazel Creek just below Proctor Creek Confluence	Hazel
19	310	Bone Valley Creek (Hazel Creek)	Hazel
20	311	Hazel Creek below Haw Gap Creek	Hazel
21	479	Hazel Creek at Campsite 86	Hazel
22	480	Haw Gap Creek at bridge near Campsite 84	Hazel
23	481	Little Fork above Sugar Fork Trail	Hazel
24	482	Sugar Fork above Little Fork	Hazel
25	483	Sugar Fork above Haw Gap Creek	Hazel
26	484	Hazel Creek at Cold Spring Gap Trail	Hazel
27	485	Walker Creek above Hazel Creek Trail	Hazel
28	13	Little River at boundary	Little
29	23	Lower Middle Prong Little River	Little
30	24	Lower West Prong Little River	Little
31	30	West Prong Little Pigeon at Headquarters	Little
32	66	West Prong Little Pigeon at Chimneys Picnic Area	Little
33	71	Road Prong above barrier cascade	Little
34	73	Walker Camp Prong above Road Prong	Little
35	74	Walker Camp Prong above Alum Cave Creek	Little
36	233	Walker Camp Prong above Alum Cave	Little
37	234	Upper Road Prong	Little
38	237	Walker Camp Prong at last bridge	Little
39	251	Beech Flats above US 441 loop	Oconaluftee
40	252	Beech Flats below roadcut	Oconaluftee
41	253	Beech Flats above roadcut	Oconaluftee
42	268	Oconaluftee River below Smokemont	Oconaluftee
43	270	Beech Flats at Kephart Footbridge	Oconaluftee

**Table A.1:** GRSM Stream Survey site descriptions

	Site ID	Elevation (ft)	Elevation (m)	slope	Latitude	Longitude	Historical Elevation Classes	New elevation classes
1	173	1715	522.73	35.68	35.59104	-83.85361	3	3
2	174	1715	522.73	10.27	35.59186	-83.85308	3	3
3	488	1790	545.59	4.04	35.58349	-83.83446	4	1
4	489	1710	521.21	32.78	35.59145	-83.85397	4	1
5	142	3300	1005.84	32.42	35.63565	-83.14537	5	2
6	143	3280	999.74	35.69	35.63625	-83.14481	6	2
7	144	2990	911.35	35.66	35.63900	-83.13078	5	2
8	147	2460	749.81	16.84	35.66688	-83.07277	4	3
9	148	2475	754.38	7.58	35.66913	-83.07283	4	3
10	149	2550	777.24	4.45	35.64627	-83.07554	5	3
11	293	2755	839.72	18.73	35.62442	-83.11391	5	4
12	493	2840	865.63	33.10	35.63462	-83.11943	6	6
13	4	2080	633.98	6.11	35.76133	-83.21044	3	1
14	114	2510	765.05	13.71	35.74863	-83.20066	5	2
15	137	2750	838.20	22.92	35.74616	-83.21630	5	2
16	492	2730	832.10	25.86	35.74457	-83.19876	5	6
17	221	4000	1219.20	30.02	35.54632	-83.58283	8	3
18	224	2999	914.00	17.92	35.53212	-83.62234	6	3
19	310	2240	682.75	19.63	35.49994	-83.68014	4	4
20	311	2155	656.84	26.20	35.49377	-83.68852	4	5
21	479	1740	530.35	39.70	35.47233	-83.71933	3	5
22	480	2201	671.00	10.07	35.49474	-83.68873	4	5
23	481	2540	774.19	30.90	35.50256	-83.70835	5	5
24	482	2540	774.19	38.66	35.50236	-83.70859	5	6
25	483	2320	707.14	34.29	35.49947	-83.69494	4	6
26	484	2475	754.38	9.11	35.50331	-83.65930	5	1
27	485	2860	871.73	5.17	35.52249	-83.63101	6	1
28	13	1100	335.28	44.21	35.66763	-83.71450	2	1
29	23	1150	350.52	5.96	35.65724	-83.70979	2	1
30	24	1150	350.52	31.60	35.65682	-83.71017	2	1
31	30	1430	435.86	2.17	35.68819	-83.53672	2	1
32	66	2680	816.86	17.92	35.63723	-83.49484	5	2
33	71	3400	1036.32	31.28	35.63440	-83.47032	6	2
34	73	3360	1024.13	28.98	35.63476	-83.46931	6	2
35	74	3820	1164.34	18.07	35.62912	-83.45102	7	2
36	233	4255	1296.92	21.86	35.61830	-83.42718	8	3
37	234	5000	1524.00	23.93	35.60975	-83.45043	10	3
38	237	4520	1377.70	30.21	35.62409	-83.41692	9	3
39	251	4010	1222.25	19.03	35.60226	-83.41533	8	3
40	252	4680	1426.46	33.32	35.60666	-83.43391	9	3
41	253	4760	1450.85	26.42	35.60682	-83.43510	9	3
42	268	2169	661.00	3.31	35.55293	-83.30937	4	4
43	270	2799	853.00	22.92	35.58641	-83.36400	5	4

**Table A.2:** Site Data

# Appendix B

## Descriptive Statistics

**Table B.1:** Descriptive statistics of Water Quality in the GRSM

Set	Class	pH			ANC meql			Nitrate meql			Sulfate meql						
		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean				
1993-2002	1	327	4.96	7.90	6.57	327	-20.74	1534.47	149.76	275	0.00	49.94	12.04	325	12.32	85.01	36.09
	2	393	5.32	7.00	6.25	392	-7.43	182.95	40.75	377	1.37	73.76	26.62	390	0.00	159.51	51.68
	3	400	4.65	8.24	6.44	398	-19.97	1624.49	158.44	365	0.00	96.13	26.14	391	0.00	262.37	54.00
	4	121	6.18	7.11	6.50	120	24.45	178.00	75.84	105	2.16	28.29	11.90	119	12.34	77.74	25.16
	5	116	6.07	7.05	6.50	116	41.34	162.76	77.06	66	1.23	10.55	4.35	116	7.51	79.98	26.14
	6	110	5.77	7.06	6.41	110	15.64	165.02	68.01	81	1.56	60.46	21.13	110	14.71	61.16	28.35
2003-2008	1	255	5.22	7.95	6.65	255	-37.09	1314.56	173.48	252	0.50	62.75	16.56	261	10.00	93.23	38.85
	2	289	4.83	7.07	6.32	289	-1.88	145.95	42.20	296	0.62	67.12	29.20	298	11.64	152.55	48.19
	3	299	4.65	8.10	6.55	299	-26.45	1591.06	172.82	297	0.13	95.72	27.69	308	10.44	490.01	54.25
	4	119	5.95	7.06	6.58	119	23.36	128.28	69.90	121	1.87	55.67	17.51	123	13.88	61.31	29.04
	5	35	5.98	7.03	6.50	35	36.37	115.80	77.84	30	1.45	26.48	7.59	37	12.18	117.46	30.54
	6	97	5.79	7.05	6.44	97	6.73	130.63	55.68	98	1.09	72.79	24.88	101	10.02	65.53	34.31
2009-2012	1	191	5.42	8.02	6.77	191	-0.02	1377.93	164.72	191	0.22	62.14	16.31	190	14.61	113.83	39.63
	2	212	4.91	7.28	6.47	212	-11.74	174.52	44.45	212	4.43	72.17	30.08	212	13.45	125.36	47.41
	3	228	4.73	7.96	6.68	228	-18.28	1535.69	160.14	228	1.04	72.16	26.23	228	13.59	317.63	58.15
	4	97	6.20	7.08	6.68	97	25.70	107.58	64.13	97	0.54	34.67	18.72	97	19.89	46.66	29.33
	5	29	6.30	7.11	6.77	29	40.10	115.94	73.55	29	0.21	83.68	6.44	29	16.78	109.18	36.16
	6	76	4.24	7.09	6.52	76	-3.92	114.28	46.15	76	0.16	79.04	32.17	76	15.72	63.32	37.05

# Appendix C

## Variable selection

**Table C.1:** List of variables used for step-wise variable selection. X's for variables selected by the step-wise method, O's if variable was added after the step-wise process.

Available Variables	comments	Dependents for step-wise regression			
		pH	ANC	NO <sub>3</sub>	SO <sub>4</sub>
pH	Dependent				
ANC	Dependent			X	X
NO <sub>3</sub>	Dependent	X	X		X
SO <sub>4</sub>	Dependent	X	X	X	
Julian Date			X	X	X
Month					
Year					
Julian Date Days	Seasonality	X			
$\sin(\theta)$	Seasonality	O	X	X	O
$\cos(\theta)$	Seasonality	X	O	X	O
Sum Base Cations			X	X	X
Conductivity			X	X	X
Chloride			X	X	
Elevation (m)					
Slope					
$\log_2$ (ANC)					
$\log_2$ (Base Cations)		X			
Number of predictors		6	8	8	7



# Appendix D

## Julian Date Coefficients

### D.1 Step-wise Method

### D.2 Temporal Variables

**Table D.1:** Time trend results for specific elevation classes using variables from step-wise regression. **Bold** results are insignificant.

Time set	Elevation class	Elevation range m (ft)	Number of sites	Julian date coefficient, eq/L or pH units (model adjusted $r^2$ ) (p-value)			
				pH	ANC	Nitrate	Sulfate
1993-2002	1	304.8-609.6 (1000-2000)	5	0.069	0.007	0.034	-0.096
				0.712	0.985	0.503	0.569
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	2	609.6-762 (2000-2500)	9	-0.091	-0.036	-0.037	0.019
				0.388	0.603	0.699	0.766
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	3	762-914.4 (2500-3000)	13	-0.010	0.008	-0.013	0.024
				0.693	0.971	0.359	0.590
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	4	914.4-1066.8 (3500-3500)	4	0.019	0.015	0.058	0.061
				0.205	0.709	0.410	0.402
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	5	1066.8-1371.6 (3500-4500)	4	-0.157	-0.082	0.288	-0.133
				0.165	0.760	0.328	0.566
				0.010	0.000	0.000	0.000
	6	1371.6< (4500<)	2	0.218	0.067	-0.011	0.092
				0.505	0.802	0.871	0.716
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2003-2008	1	304.8-609.6 (1000-2000)	5	0.150	-0.004	0.038	0.039
				0.781	0.996	0.551	0.673
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	2	609.6-762 (2000-2500)	9	0.275	0.033	0.044	0.044
				0.348	0.779	0.816	0.893
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	3	762-914.4 (2500-3000)	13	0.156	0.005	0.072	0.034
				0.663	0.996	0.637	0.923
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	4	914.4-1066.8 (3500-3500)	4	0.249	-0.028	0.092	0.110
				0.400	0.779	0.405	0.343
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	5	1066.8-1371.6 (3500-4500)	4	0.137	-0.020	0.204	0.135
				0.300	0.739	0.562	0.884
				0.027	0.000	0.001	0.000
	6	1371.6< (4500<)	2	0.359	0.127	0.074	0.161
				0.317	0.812	0.832	0.844
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2009-2012	1	304.8-609.6 (1000-2000)	5	0.106	-0.002	0.026	-0.052
				0.894	0.989	0.376	0.536
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	2	609.6-762 (2000-2500)	9	0.218	0.069	0.121	0.039
				0.606	0.862	0.735	0.887
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	3	762-914.4 (2500-3000)	13	0.056	0.007	0.019	0.050
				0.766	0.997	0.598	0.915
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	4	914.4-1066.8 (3500-3500)	4	0.413	-0.006	-0.013	-0.068
				0.593	0.772	0.635	0.529
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	5	1066.8-1371.6 (3500-4500)	4	<b>-0.115</b>	0.901	<b>0.098</b>	0.015
				<b>0.158</b>	0.540	<b>-0.272</b>	0.658
				<b>0.130</b>	0.001	<b>0.975</b>	0.000
	6	1371.6< (4500<)	2	0.289	0.059	0.097	-0.059
				0.286	0.809	0.881	0.861
				0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

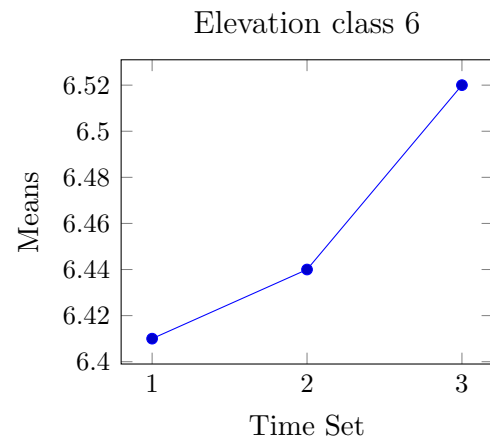
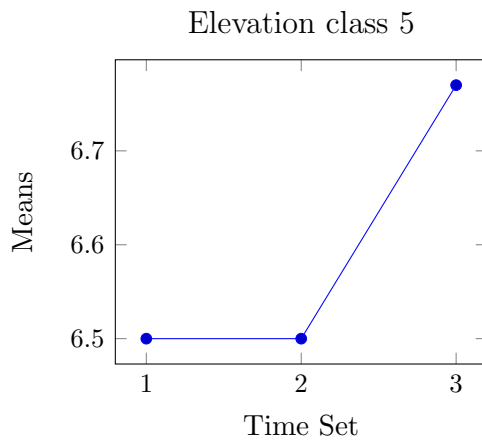
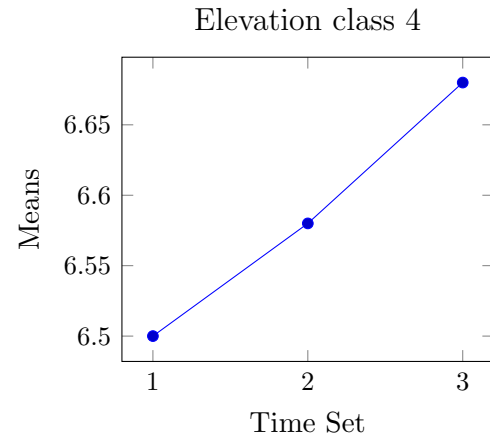
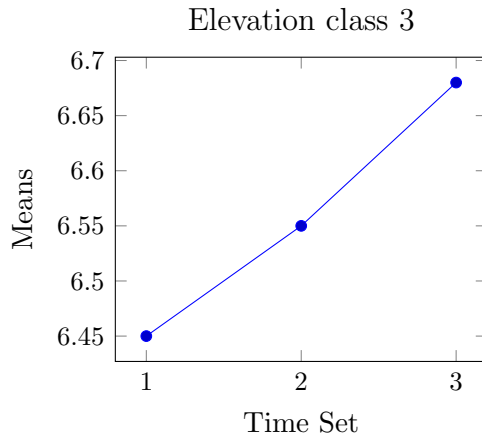
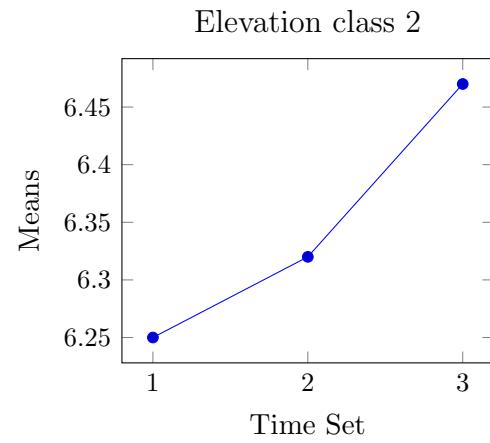
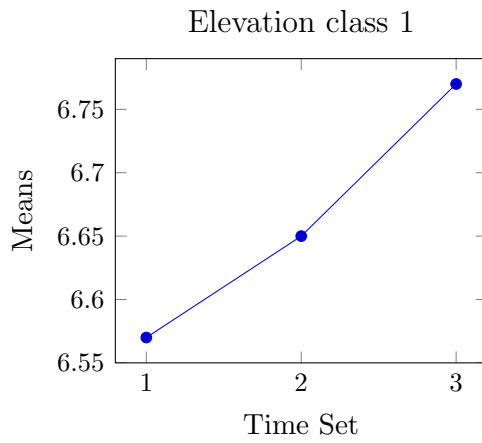
**Table D.2:** Time trend results for specific elevation classes using julian date, cosine( $\theta$ ), and sine( $\theta$ ) only. **Bold** results are insignificant.

Time set	Elevation class	Elevation range m (ft)	Number of sites	Julian date coefficient, eq/L or pH units (model adjusted r <sup>2</sup> ) (p-value)			
				pH	ANC	Nitrate	Sulfate
1993-2002	1	304.8-609.6 (1000-2000)	5	<b>0.054</b>	<b>0.089</b>	-0.138	-0.190
				<b>0.047</b>	<b>0.024</b>	0.016	0.045
				<b>0.321</b>	<b>0.106</b>	0.022	0.001
	2	609.6-762 (2000-2500)	9	<b>-0.090</b>	<b>-0.060</b>	<b>-0.060</b>	<b>-0.075</b>
				<b>0.128</b>	<b>0.189</b>	<b>0.017</b>	<b>0.009</b>
				<b>0.060</b>	<b>0.195</b>	<b>0.248</b>	<b>0.142</b>
	3	762-914.4 (2500-3000)	13	<b>-0.012</b>	<b>-0.030</b>	<b>-0.048</b>	<b>-0.047</b>
				<b>0.013</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.004</b>	<b>-0.004</b>
				<b>0.817</b>	<b>0.550</b>	<b>0.365</b>	<b>0.355</b>
	4	914.4-1066.8 (3500-3500)	4	<b>-0.047</b>	<b>-0.151</b>	<b>-0.009</b>	<b>0.095</b>
				<b>0.059</b>	<b>0.294</b>	<b>-0.027</b>	<b>-0.016</b>
				<b>.597</b>	<b>0.055</b>	<b>0.926</b>	<b>0.313</b>
	5	1066.8-1371.6 (3500-4500)	4	<b>-0.151</b>	-0.148	0.330	<b>0.092</b>
				<b>0.051</b>	0.381	0.120	<b>-0.010</b>
				<b>.100</b>	0.047	0.006	<b>0.331</b>
	6	1371.6< (4500<)	2	<b>.156</b>	<b>-0.016</b>	<b>-0.208</b>	<b>-0.036</b>
				<b>.096</b>	<b>0.075</b>	<b>0.092</b>	<b>-0.009</b>
				<b>.092</b>	<b>0.863</b>	<b>0.058</b>	<b>0.707</b>
2003-2008	1	304.8-609.6 (1000-2000)	5	.139	<b>0.009</b>	0.155	0.192
				0.040	<b>0.001</b>	0.061	0.043
				0.025	<b>0.888</b>	0.012	0.002
	2	609.6-762 (2000-2500)	9	0.145	<b>-0.090</b>	0.178	0.138
				0.061	<b>0.081</b>	0.043	0.014
				0.012	<b>0.114</b>	0.002	0.017
	3	762-914.4 (2500-3000)	13	<b>0.103</b>	<b>-0.006</b>	<b>0.047</b>	<b>0.099</b>
				<b>0.020</b>	<b>-0.003</b>	<b>-0.003</b>	<b>0.006</b>
				<b>0.075</b>	<b>0.925</b>	<b>0.418</b>	<b>0.085</b>
	4	914.4-1066.8 (3500-3500)	4	0.235	<b>-0.029</b>	0.193	0.192
				0.148	<b>0.180</b>	0.086	0.023
				0.007	<b>0.728</b>	0.030	0.035
	5	1066.8-1371.6 (3500-4500)	4	<b>0.135</b>	<b>-0.112</b>	<b>-0.176</b>	<b>0.067</b>
				<b>-0.069</b>	<b>0.337</b>	<b>-0.082</b>	<b>-0.024</b>
				<b>0.466</b>	<b>0.443</b>	<b>0.401</b>	<b>0.701</b>
	6	1371.6< (4500<)	2	0.204	<b>-0.108</b>	0.236	0.307
				0.081	<b>0.094</b>	0.046	0.074
				0.041	<b>0.274</b>	0.020	0.002
2009-2012	1	304.8-609.6 (1000-2000)	5	<b>0.111</b>	<b>0.026</b>	<b>-0.036</b>	<b>-0.092</b>
				<b>0.028</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.018</b>	<b>0.005</b>
				<b>0.122</b>	<b>0.718</b>	<b>0.619</b>	<b>0.207</b>
	2	609.6-762 (2000-2500)	9	0.141	<b>0.017</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>-0.062</b>
				0.052	<b>0.056</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>-0.010</b>
				0.037	<b>0.800</b>	<b>0.767</b>	<b>0.376</b>
	3	762-914.4 (2500-3000)	13	<b>-0.034</b>	<b>-0.027</b>	<b>-0.036</b>	<b>0.078</b>
				<b>-0.009</b>	<b>-0.002</b>	<b>-0.004</b>	<b>-0.007</b>
				<b>0.611</b>	<b>0.684</b>	<b>0.592</b>	<b>0.246</b>
	4	914.4-1066.8 (3500-3500)	4	0.405	<b>0.032</b>	<b>-0.067</b>	<b>-0.129</b>
				0.200	<b>0.161</b>	<b>-0.016</b>	<b>-0.011</b>
				0.000	<b>0.733</b>	<b>0.518</b>	<b>0.215</b>
	5	1066.8-1371.6 (3500-4500)	4	<b>-0.031</b>	0.891	<b>0.052</b>	<b>-0.414</b>
				<b>0.218</b>	0.466	<b>-0.039</b>	<b>-0.076</b>
				<b>0.934</b>	0.007	<b>0.904</b>	<b>0.347</b>
	6	1371.6< (4500<)	2	0.264	<b>0.083</b>	<b>-0.021</b>	<b>-0.214</b>
				0.039	<b>0.058</b>	<b>-0.016</b>	<b>0.007</b>
				0.023	<b>0.462</b>	<b>0.859</b>	<b>0.068</b>

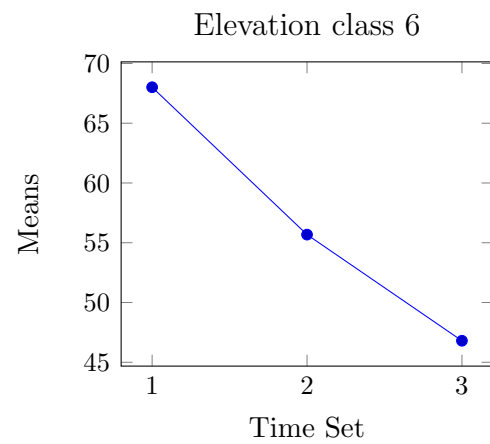
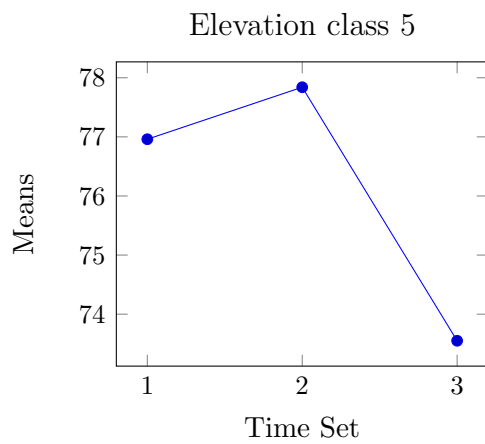
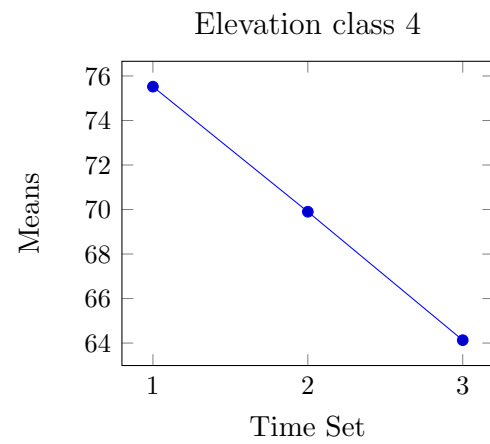
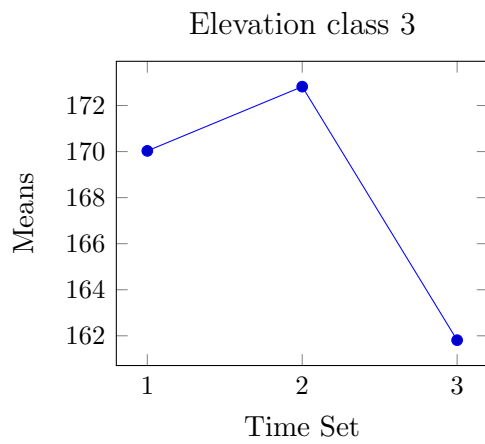
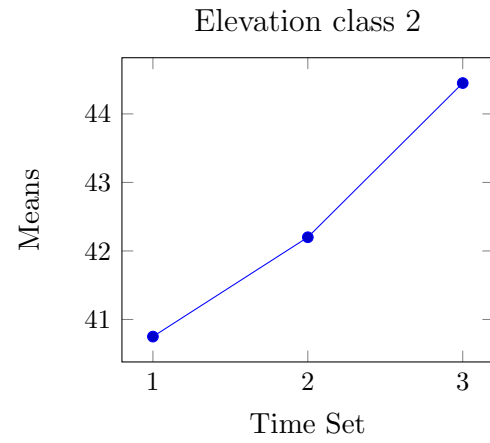
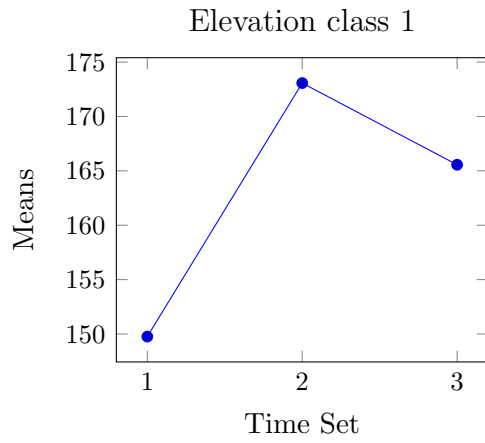
# Appendix E

## ANOVA/Bonferoni

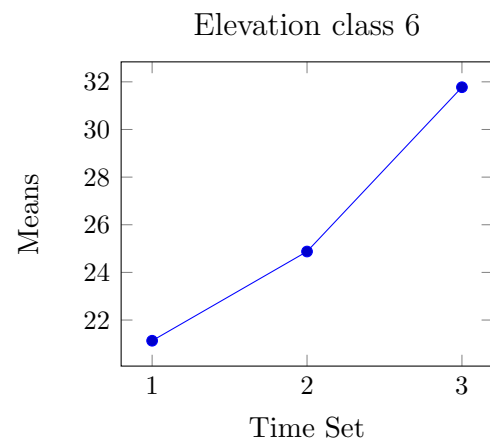
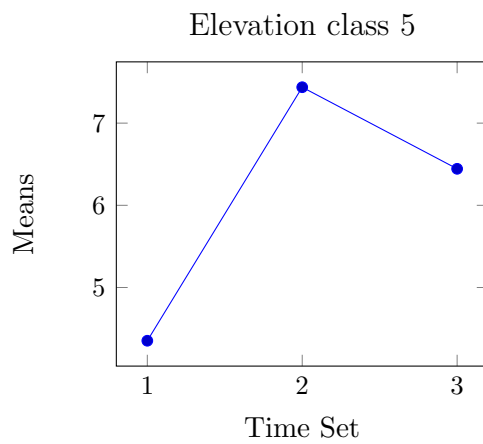
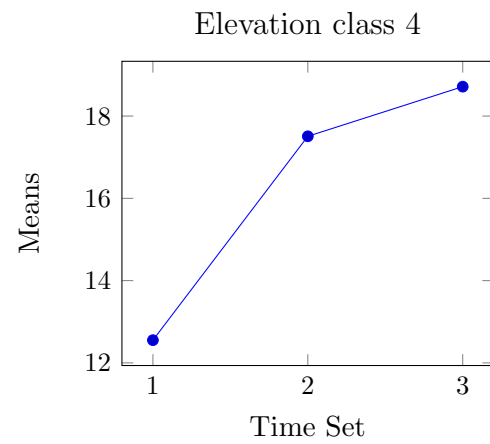
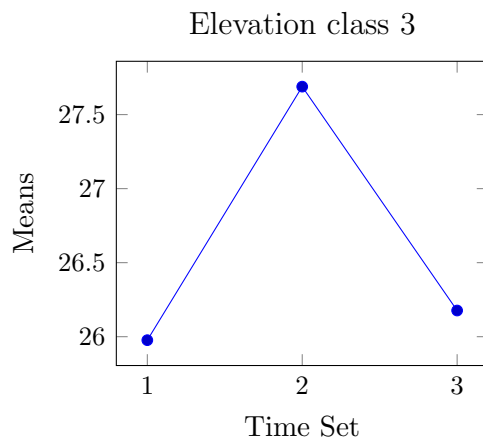
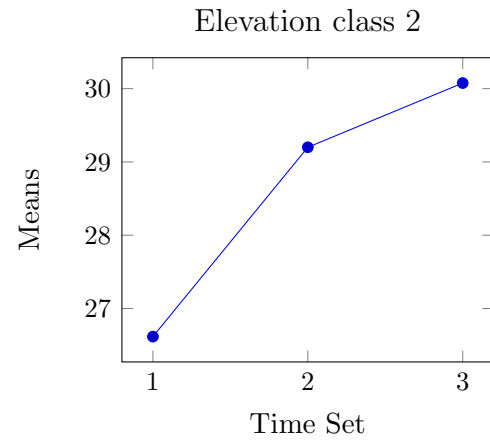
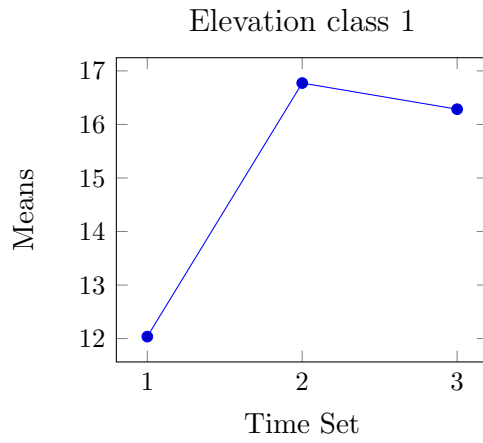
## E.1 pH



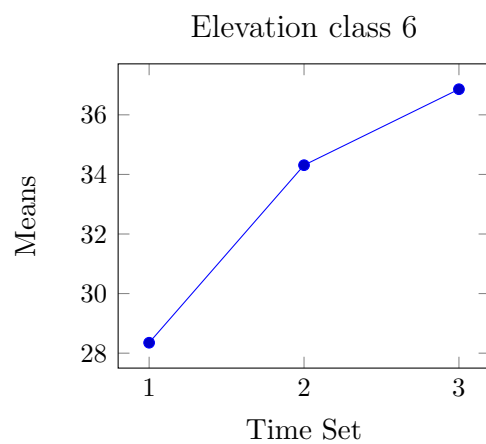
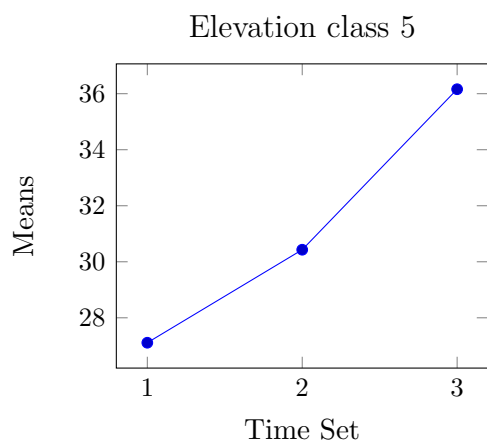
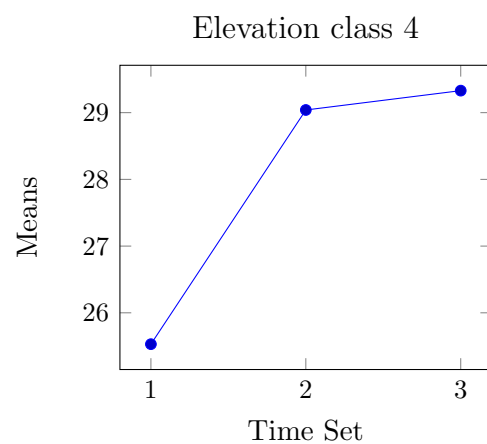
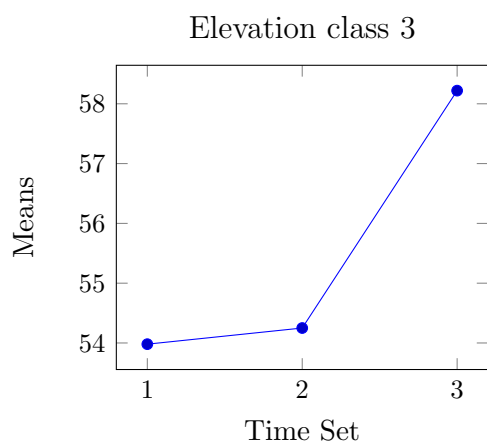
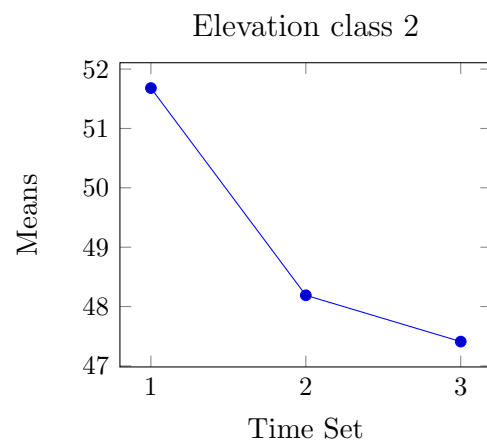
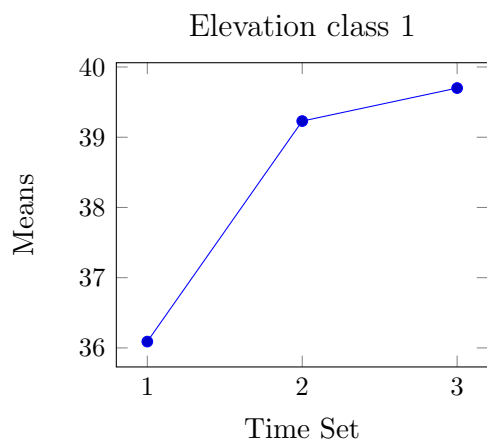
## E.2 ANC



## E.3 Nitrate



## E.4 Sulfate





# Appendix F

## Post Hoc Power Analysis

### F.1 Step-Wise Variables

### F.2 Temperol variables



**Table F.2:** Post hoc power analysis using G\*power a calculated ES, an alpha of .05 with the variables:  $\text{sine}(\theta)$ ,  $\text{cosine}(\theta)$ , and julian date only. **Bold** results are insignificant.

Set	Class	N	pH			ANCmeqL			NitratemeqL			SulfatemeqL		
			Adjusted $r^2$	Effect Size	Actual Power	N	Adjusted $r^2$	Effect Size	Actual Power	N	Adjusted $r^2$	Effect Size	Actual Power	N
1993-2002	1	327	<b>0.047</b>	0.049	0.93	327	<b>0.024</b>	0.02	0.65	275	0.016	0.02	0.39	325
	2	393	<b>0.128</b>	0.15	1.00	392	<b>0.189</b>	0.23	1.00	377	<b>0.017</b>	0.02	0.55	390
	3	400	<b>0.013</b>	0.01	0.46	398	<b>0.000</b>	0.00	0.06	365	<b>-0.004</b>	NA	NA	391
	4	121	<b>0.059</b>	0.06	0.61	120	<b>0.294</b>	0.42	1.00	105	<b>-0.027</b>	NA	NA	119
	5	116	<b>0.051</b>	0.05	0.52	116	0.381	0.62	1.00	66	0.120	0.14	0.68	116
	6	110	<b>0.096</b>	0.11	0.81	110	<b>0.075</b>	0.08	0.69	81	<b>0.092</b>	0.10	0.64	110
2003-2008	1	255	0.040	0.04	0.78	255	<b>0.001</b>	0.00	0.07	252	0.061	0.06	0.94	261
	2	289	0.061	0.06	0.96	289	<b>0.081</b>	0.09	0.99	296	0.043	0.04	0.87	298
	3	299	<b>0.020</b>	0.02	0.52	299	<b>-0.003</b>	NA	NA	297	<b>-0.003</b>	NA	NA	308
	4	119	0.148	0.17	0.97	119	<b>0.180</b>	0.22	0.99	121	0.086	0.09	0.80	123
	5	35	<b>-0.069</b>	NA	NA	35	<b>0.337</b>	0.51	0.93	30	<b>-0.082</b>	NA	NA	37
	6	97	0.081	0.09	0.67	97	<b>0.094</b>	0.10	0.74	98	0.046	0.05	0.40	101
2009-2012	1	191	<b>0.028</b>	0.03	0.47	191	<b>0.000</b>	0.00	0.05	191	<b>0.018</b>	0.02	0.31	190
	2	212	0.052	0.05	0.82	212	<b>0.056</b>	0.06	0.85	212	<b>0.011</b>	0.01	0.22	212
	3	228	<b>-0.009</b>	NA	NA	228	<b>-0.002</b>	NA	NA	228	<b>-0.004</b>	NA	NA	228
	4	97	0.200	0.25	0.99	97	<b>0.161</b>	0.19	0.96	97	<b>-0.016</b>	NA	NA	97
	5	29	<b>0.218</b>	0.28	0.58	29	0.466	0.87	0.98	29	<b>-0.039</b>	NA	NA	29
	6	76	0.039	0.04	0.27	76	<b>0.058</b>	0.06	0.39	76	<b>-0.016</b>	NA	NA	76

# Appendix G

## A priori analysis

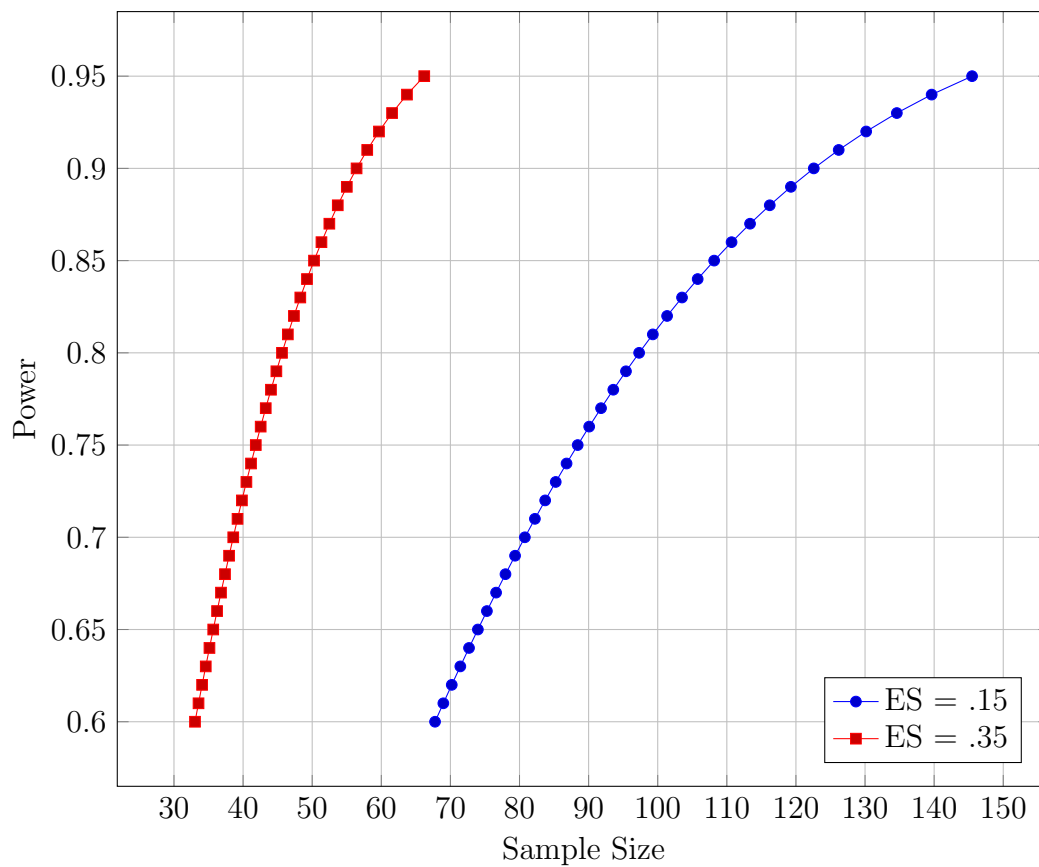
### G.1 Power graphs

#### G.1.1 pH

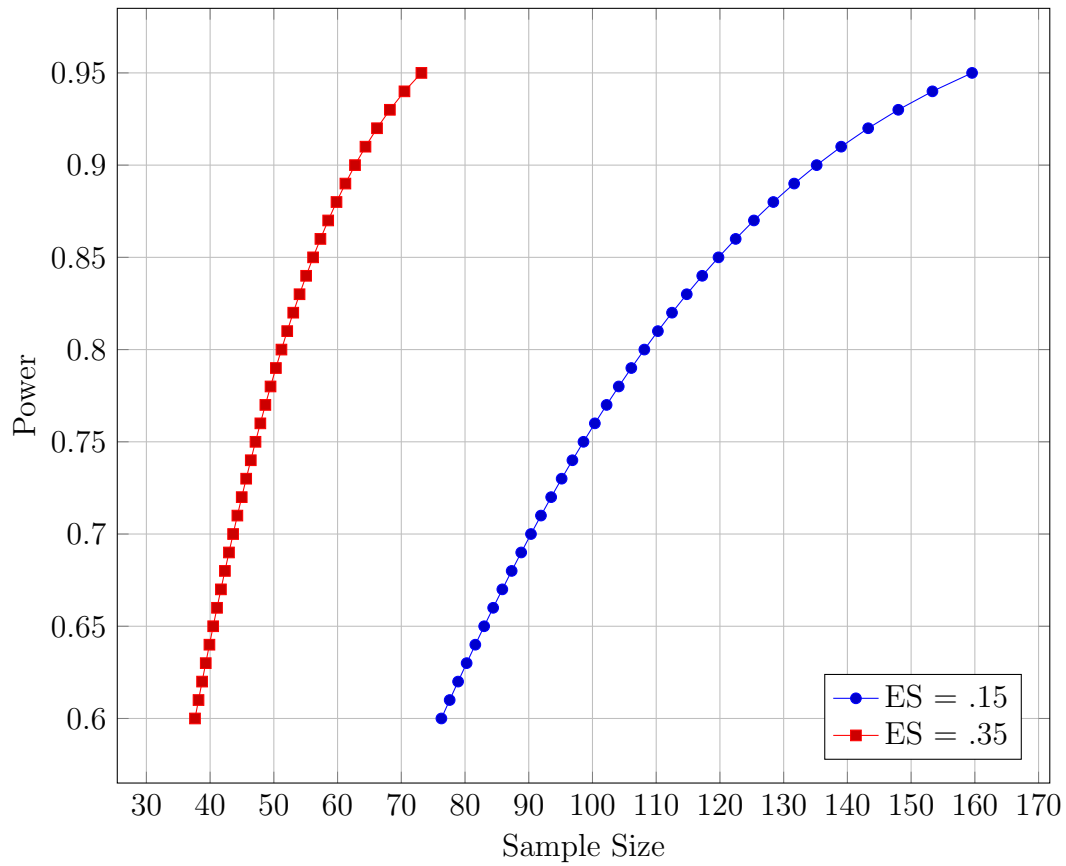
#### G.1.2 ANC and Nitrate

#### G.1.3 Sulfate

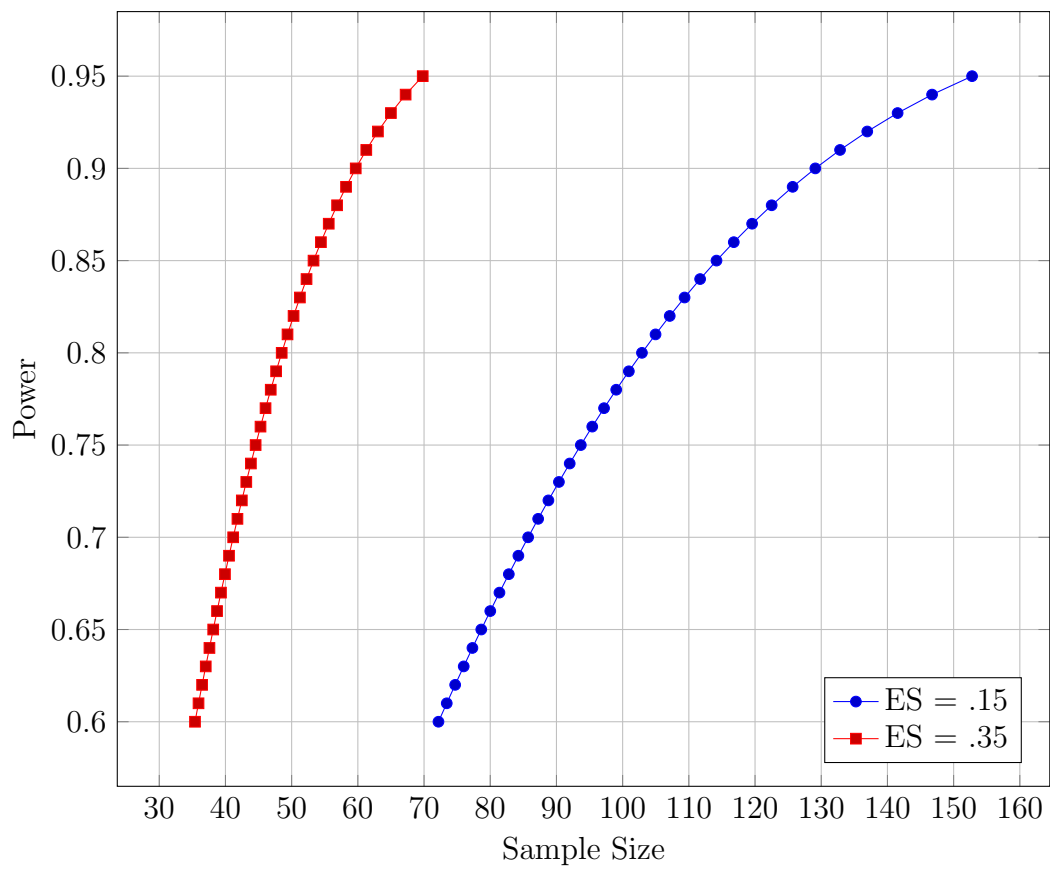
#### G.1.4 Time Variables



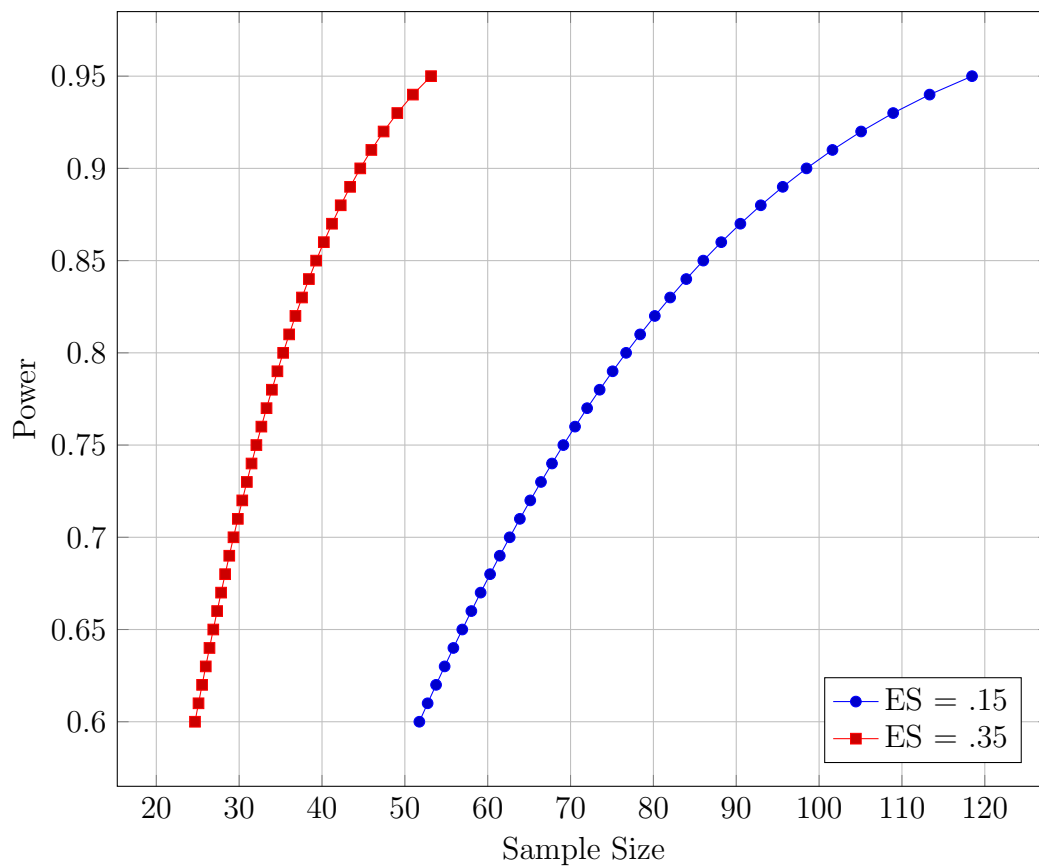
**Figure G.1:** pH Power Graph. The power is shown as a function of pH



**Figure G.2:** ANC and Nitrate Power Graphs. The power graphs for ANC and Nitrate are the same because they both have the same number of predictors.



**Figure G.3:** Sulfate Power Graph



**Figure G.4:** Time Variables Power Graph



# Vita

Tim Pobst was born in Nashville, TN on June 1st 1985 to George and Peggy Pobst. He graduated from Centennial High School near Franklin, TN and was accepted to the University of Tennessee immediately after. He was undecided for three years before deciding to try for a civil engineering degree and he finished it in spring of 2011. He stayed at the University of Tennessee to get a masters degree in environmental engineering under Dr. Schwartz.