

Forecasting Ammonia Concentrations and Colour Levels using Machine Learning for Reclaimed Water Treatment Operation and Management

by

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A Thesis Submitted to
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Philosophy
in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

August 2022, Hong Kong

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This is to certify that I have examined the above MPhil thesis
and have found that it is complete and satisfactory in all respects,
and that any and all revisions required by
the thesis examination committee have been made.

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Acknowledgements

I would first express my enormous gratitude to my thesis supervisor Prof. Chii Shang for giving me the opportunity to start my MPhil degree in this research group. I was given chances to be exposed to different research topics and work with other brilliant students; most importantly, I have learned so much from his mentoring in research and life. He also encouraged me to develop the research area I am interested in. I sincerely appreciate his guidance in the last two years.

I appreciate Prof. Guanghao CHEN and Prof. Yuhsing WANG for serving on my thesis examination committee. Special thanks should go to Dr. Ran YIN for giving critical advice on my research. Dr. YIN has guided me throughout my master's degree and led me to work on a new research area.

I thank my fellow labmates in Prof. SHANG's group: Oriana JOVANOVIC, Gabriela CAS-SOL, Jing ZHAO, and Tao LI, for their support and help. Also, I thank my friends in HKUST: Yude PEI, Yugo SATO, and Kaleong CHENG for their additional help with my research.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family for their love, support, and continuous encouragement.

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Abstract

Water scarcity is a global challenge, and one of the promising ways to mitigate the water resource crisis is via wastewater reclamation. Reclaimed water can generate non-potable water to substitute the use of drinking water for irrigation or industrial processes. Water quality and aesthetics are the primary concerns in reclaimed water since undertreated water can pose health risks, and the unpleasant colour is likely to induce public misgiving. Ammoniacal nitrogen ($\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$) and colour substances exist in the reclaimed water and can severely affect the reclaimed water quality in different ways. Chlorine is commonly used for reclaimed water disinfection and requires precise dosing to satisfy endorsed quality standards. However, $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ consumes chlorine and affects the chlorine dosing. Colour substances do not consume chlorine, but it requires additional efforts and strategies to remove them from the reclaimed water. Therefore, the on-line monitoring of $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ concentrations and colour levels are usually practised in reclaimed water facilities to assist in the removal of both substances. However, the conventional on-line analyzers are wet-chemistry-based, and the measurement takes time. The limitation creates a potential issue: there may not be sufficient time for the downstream chlorine dosing system to respond to sudden surges in colour and $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ levels. To tackle this challenge, this thesis work developed time-series models based on machine learning to forecast the $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ concentrations and colour levels in the reclaimed water three hours into the future. For the training dataset, the $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$ and colour data were collected by an on-line analyzer and a customized auto-sampling spectrophotometer, respectively. Both are installed in a

reclaimed water treatment facility in Hong Kong. Baseline models for forecasting NH₃-N concentrations and colour levels were first developed with five machine learning algorithms. Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) was found to be the most effective algorithm, with the lowest MSE values of 0.0405 and 0.0148 for NH₃-N and colour forecasting models, respectively. In the training processes, novel data pre-processing methods and feature engineering techniques were implemented to enhance forecasting model performance. The data pre-processing methods were proved to enhance the quality of training datasets and improve the performance of NH₃-N and colour forecasting models by reducing the MSE values by 4.2% and 8.1%. The feature engineering results supported that the daily fluctuations in NH₃-N and colour have correlations with the urban water consumption patterns. This finding further enhanced the NH₃-N and colour forecasting model performance by reducing MSE by 8.9% and 28.6% compared to baseline models. The established models can be used to assist the disinfection control strategies based on the model predictions using traditional process control systems. This research offers novel methods and feature engineering techniques for NH₃-N concentrations and colour levels forecasting in reclaimed water for treatment optimization.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Urban water challenge increases as the cities grow larger. The World Bank estimates that the urban population worldwide will double by 2050—with severe implications of escalating water demands in cities by 50–70 percent (TheWorldBank, 2021). Global climate change has primarily affected the amount, distribution, and quality of the available fresh water in the urban water cycle. The report from (UNICEF, 2021) points out that one in four cities is facing challenges in supplying adequate water to inhabitants, and the situation is even worse in cities in the developing world. The rise of urban water usage will generate more wastewater. Thus, converting municipal/industrial wastewater into reusable water has recently drawn much attention. Reuse water increases availability by substituting freshwater for non-potable (drinkable) uses for agricultural irrigation, industrial and urban water reuse, etc. The alternative reuse water can supply many activities and save drinking water for other purposes elsewhere (Adewumi et al., 2010).

The construction of reclaimed water facilities often requires a huge amount of capital investment. Upgrading available wastewater treatment plants with reuse water treatment facilities is an economical solution accompanied by the potential of realizing resource recovery (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorus recovery) (Maryam and Büyükgüngör, 2019; Kehrein et al., 2020). The primary concern of reusing treated wastewater is the potential risks caused to public health. Under unexpected circumstances, the reclaimed water facilities can produce unqualified reclaimed water, which is harmful to the living beings (i.e., as reused water is ingested directly or through irrigated crops) and irrigated soil (Adewumi et al., 2010). In Hong Kong, reclaimed water quality is regulated with up to 10 or more water quality parameters, and any parameters that fail to meet the standard will lead to disqualification. The common practice for controlling the treated water quality is achieved through water quality control strategies. The market controllers have evolved from a simple on-off logic controller called Programmable Logic Controller (PLC), to a more advanced multi-step response controller called proportional-integral-derivative (PID), and finally to the controller consists of machine learning models.

The uses of machine learning models in the water quality controllers for assisting water quality control strategy are ground-breaking applications. Many research papers have proposed various machine learning models for replacing the PLC and PID controllers and demonstrated the benefits of machine learning models. From the study of (Librantz et al., 2018), PID and machine learning-based controllers were deployed to compare the operational costs of dosing the chlorine to the setpoint concentration in a drinking water treatment plant. The results showed that the Artificial Neural Network-based model has a more satisfactory cost reduction in a chlorination dosing control system than the PID controller. Another research finding suggests using a Support Vector Regression (SVR) model as the controller required less time to reach the set-point concentration of free chlorine residual compared to the PID controller in both simulation and experimental conditions Wang et al. (2020). Incorporating machine learning models in traditional process control systems has also been practiced by Santín et al. (2015) for avoiding violations of total nitrogen in the effluent using the decisions made by Artificial Neural Networks. Long Short-Term Model was also used to predict which process control strategy should be selected for eliminating violations of total nitrogen concentrations in the effluent Pisa et al. (2019). Forecasting water quality or predicting future events using machine learning are proved to be effective measures for controlling effluent water quality in wastewater treatment plants, making these approaches to be promising solutions for the reclaimed water treatment operation and management.

The superior performance of machine learning models comes from training high-quality datasets with a good amount of data that can fairly represent the system's dynamics. Most studies have only focused on evaluating the model performance by comparing the test loss values between models and the improvements over PID controllers without considering the collected dataset's quality. The noises in the data and the number of features (i.e., inputs or variables) are the two critical factors affecting machine learning models' accuracy and robustness. Many data pre-processing techniques are proposed and applied to enhance the dataset's quality by removing the data noise. For instance, some papers discussed pre-processed data for removing the noise in raw datasets using data smoothing filters (Cheng et al., 2020), or creating new features in addition to the original ones (Mamandipoor et al., 2020) to achieve data augmentation. Despite the efforts being made, the influences of the proposed data pre-processing techniques on the model performance have not yet been established.

Machine learning models for water quality control have two main types of algorithms, regression and classification. The former provides forecasting results of specific values, while the

latter offers a decision of yes or no (i.e., 1 or 0). The regression model is also called the forecasting model, which plays a vital role in water quality control in drinking water treatment plants (DWTPs) and wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). The forecasted results can be effectively used to provide critical information for the water quality control strategy. The need to use forecasting models is to cope with the unpredictable nature of water quality and to plan control strategies ahead. Without future information, the treatment operations are less likely to guarantee the production of effluent quality satisfying the government regulation Chen et al. (2003) regardless of how the influent water quality may vary daily. In the reclaimed water system in Shek Wu Hui Effluent Polish Plant (SWHEPP), forecasting models are recommended for effluent treatment management and operation. From the available datasets, we noticed SHWEPP effluent contains NH₃-N concentrations and colour levels which exceed the reclaimed water standard. To generate non-potable reuse water, it is critical to use on-line data to assist water quality control strategy. Currently, the available on-line sensors on-site are limited. Although the model can only train on limited data, it is still possible to train forecasting models with one feature, known as the univariate forecasting model. In this study, we will attempt to install one more on-line sensor and build machine learning models for forecasting NH₃-N concentrations and colour levels in the reclaimed water system. Meanwhile, data pre-processing and feature engineering techniques will be proposed and evaluated to address the research gaps of insufficient understanding of data pre-processing in building forecasting models in the reclaimed water system.

1.2 Objectives

The specific objectives of this thesis work are:

- (1) To build baseline univariate NH₃-N and colour forecasting models using machine learning and deep learning models.
- (2) To develop data pre-processing techniques for removing data noise to enhance model performance.
- (3) To extract relevant information from the reclaimed water system using domain knowledge for applying feature engineering techniques.
- (4) To create new features to augment the dataset's quality to improve forecasting model performance.

1.3 Organization of the thesis

In Chapter 1, “Introduction,” the background information, objectives, and organization of the thesis were presented.

Chapter 2, “Literature Review”, provides an overview of water quality control strategies in water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, and reclaimed water systems.

In Chapter 3, “Materials and Methods,” the instruments for data collection of NH₃-N concentrations and colour levels, computer programming environment, and data preparation techniques were summarized. The processes of formulating extra features for training forecasting models were illustrated.

In Chapter 4, “Results and discussion,” the performance of machine learning and deep learning models were compared. Forecasting models trained by different data pre-processing techniques and the influences of feature engineering on model performance were compared with the baseline model performance in test loss.

In Chapter 5, “Conclusions and Recommendations,” the findings obtained from this thesis work were summarized, and possible future studies were recommended.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction to water quality control

2.1.1 Automated system for water quality control

A programmable logic controller (PLC) is an industrial computer system designed for any process requiring a series of devices and equipment to operate cohesively to achieve multiple purposes in manufacturing or treatment processes. The main components of PLC include a central process unit (CPU), input modules, and output modules (I/O). CPU is responsible for processing digital signals from input modules and sending commands through output modules based on the control logic programmed on the PLC. For chemical dosing control in water treatment plants (WTPs), the PLC system receives readings from turbidity and pH sensors and uses pumps to dose aluminum solution automatically (Andhare and Palkar, 2014). The PLC system with the capability of producing real-time output commands in response to the input signals also makes it widely used in wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). For oxygen concentration control in the aeration tank, the PLC system receives signals from dissolved oxygen (DO) detectors and transmits signals to open or close the electric butterfly valves to alter the DO concentration (Zhu and Qiu, 2017). Although PLC systems are the most used systems across industries for their easy programming and reliable control, PLC system is merely a device that can be programmed to control operative devices with on-off logic (i.e., a logic control with two states). The straightforward implementation of the PLC system compromised its ability to perform complex tasks in a more dynamic water treatment environment. In reality, many WTPs or WWTPs require precise control of the treatment processes. Being aware of the limitations of the PLC systems, a more advanced controller called proportional–integral–derivative (PID) controller for receiving analog signals was developed to obtain more sophisticated controls over the operative devices.

To react to rapidly-changing environments in wastewater treatment plants, a PID controller generates an output value based on the continuous calculation of an error value $e(t)$, which is the difference between the desired setpoint (SP) and a measured process variable. Then,

the controller applies a correction based on proportional, integral, and derivative terms in the control functions. The use of the "P," "I," and "D" allows the system to quickly reach steady-states with feedback control systems (i.e., the system output is returned to the system input, which is included in the decision-making process of PID controller). Generally speaking, a PID controller is a technology (i.e., a specialist algorithm) for controlling a single device with more complex logic, while a PLC system is a physical system consisting of different modules capable of controlling dozens of devices only with two-state logic. In addition, A PID controller can be designed to operate on a PLC device and provide a more specific control strategy to a designated device. In WWTPs, a single-variable feedback analog control loop in PID can be used to control the temperature in the activated sludge treatment by stabilizing the system temperature in a shorter time (Bados and Morejon, 2020). The feedback control scheme is also applied in DWTPs to adjust the addition of chlorine dosage (i.e., also known as the disinfection process, chlorination, or post-chlorination) to reach the target concentration of free chlorine residual (FRC) (Wang and Xiang, 2019). The disinfection process is carried out in a chlorine contact tank, which provides sufficient time for the chlorine to disinfect pollutants. Since the chlorine added by the dosing device requires time to travel from the entry to the exit, the system output can only reflect the changes in water quality in a delayed time of 30 minutes. In the case of chlorination, the time lag makes feedback control difficult (Kobylinski et al., 2006) as the system is delayed in responding to any sudden surge of the pollutants when it can only receive output at the end of the disinfection process. PID controllers in WWTPs also encounter similar challenges as the increasing complexity of water quality and stricter regulations on the discharged water quality.

Many control strategies are proposed to address the challenges encountered in the process control system. For instance, feed forward-feedback control, linearized and optimal control, model-predictive control, fuzzy control (Demir and Woo, 2014), etc. Among the algorithms used in control strategies, Artificial Intelligence (AI) modeling has gained the most attention in recent years compared to modeling based on mathematical or empirical formulas. In DWTPs or WWTPs, fully understanding the treatment plants' physical, biological, and chemical interactions is very difficult. The unpredictable behaviors during the water treatment can be the significant changes in influent flow rate, water quality fluctuations, the complexity of the biological treatment process, and the large time delay between control variables and the process inputs, etc. Therefore, AI modeling shows great potential in dealing with the highly complex conditions in the treatment process (Li et al., 2021). The next sections will discuss the applica-

tions of different AI modeling methods.

2.1.2 Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) can perform cognitive tasks with the development of computational solutions. The concepts of AI are usually confused, and in fact, AI is a broad term, and any kind of algorithms or models involved in decision-making with computation fall in the domain of AI. For example, AI can be fuzzy logic and optimization algorithms, which are formulated with human design and involved in the computer decision-making processes. Another subset of AI is called machine learning (ML), but generating an ML model is different from generating a fuzzy logic model. ML uses learning algorithms to generate a model via learning from the historical or large amount of data without being explicitly programmed. ML algorithms can be classified into three categories, which are Supervised, Unsupervised, and Reinforcement learning. In the training process of supervised learning, input variables (x) and output variables (Y) will be provided. The model will learn from the provided datasets to map the x to the Y . A supervised model can generate a prediction based on the new input data (i.e., also called the unseen data). Unsupervised learning is when the dataset is not labeled, the model can learn to infer patterns in the dataset without reference to the known outputs. This type of algorithm can find similarities and differences in the data. In reinforcement learning, models are designed to constantly interact with the environment in a try-and-error way and receive rewards and punishments based on the purpose of the tasks. Generating an optimal action to achieve the lowest penalties is the primary function of a reinforcement learning model. Supervised learning is commonly used for machine learning in water quality control strategies. Regression is a supervised machine learning technique used to predict continuous values. A regression model can estimate the relationship between the input variables in the system and the output target from given datasets and then use the nonlinear relationship to map the unseen input data to predicted output data. This type of applications best fits for water quality prediction (Librantz et al., 2018), and sensor fault detection (Cecconi and Rosso, 2021), etc.

2.1.3 Machine learning and deep learning

In machine learning, popular models which researchers frequently use for training predictive models are Supporting Vector Machine (SVM), Random Forest (RF), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN). RF models are popular due to their superior performance compared to typical

machine learning algorithms. Xu et al. (2021) built an RF-based model to predict total nitrogen concentration in water bodies and proved RF models outperformed models such as K nearest neighbor (KNN), Ridge Regression, and Multilayer Perceptron (MLP). The other two widely used models, ANN and SVM, were compared carefully with the reliability and accuracy in predicting 1-day interval T-N concentration in a WWTP (Guo et al., 2015). The results showed that the SVM model has higher accuracy while the ANN model is more reliable for decision-making. Although most of the studies did not focus on the underlying causes of why SVM, RF, and ANN models have more excellent model performance, it would still seem that these models are reliable options for predicting water quality empirically.

As the computing power doubles every 18 months according to Moore’s law, implementing Deep Learning (DL)—a subset of machine learning, requires less and less computing time and becomes universal for researchers to solve everyday tasks. One way to explain a DL model is with the definition of having neural networks with more than two hidden layers (i.e., the model complexity increased and required more computing power to calculate). In DL, various architectures are specifically structured based on the problems we attempt to solve. For image processing, Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) is designed to extract essential features from the image vectors. Another famous DL architecture is the Recurrent Neural Network (RNN), which is powerful in solving time series-related applications and Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks (Li et al., 2018). In particular cases, different DL architectures can be stacked in series to solve specific tasks. A rainfall-runoff prediction model was built using CNN and RNN (Li et al., 2022). The raw data features were extracted by convolution and entered into the RNN models for processing time-series patterns. The results showed a low Kling–Gupta efficiency (KGE) of 0.75 in the high-water period. DL models can be compelling when multiple architectures are stacked into a single model to perform a specific task, which machine learning models cannot realize. That being said, DL models can achieve higher model performance in terms of prediction accuracy compared to ML models.

2.2 Water quality control with machine learning

2.2.1 Drinking water treatment plants

A drinking water treatment plant (DWTP) produces potable (i.e., drinking water) water for human consumption by removing contaminants from the source water, such as lakes or streams,

or from underground aquifers. The raw water enters DWTPs and goes through treatment units of coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection in sequence as the primary treatment scheme in the conventional DWTPs (Li et al., 2021). During the treatment process, colloids, suspended matter, pathogenic microorganisms, and organic matter are removed to meet the regulated standard. However, raw water quality is not always stable, and corresponding actions must be promptly adopted when events like the surge of pollutants or the large variability of the influent flow. In any event, the treated water from DWTPs should generate drinking water that complies with the World Health Organization's Guidelines (i.e., WHO guideline) for drinking water quality. Otherwise, the treated drinking water would either be discharged, resulting in the short-term outage of water supply to the downstream cities; or the users will receive contaminated drinking water, which can transmit diseases and cause illness.

Turbidity is one of the critical water quality indicators, which can be defined as the "optical quality" of water. The unit describing the turbidity is the Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU). High turbidity levels in raw water can impede the effectiveness of filtration and chlorination processes and potentially cause short-term outages of the water supply. Heavy rainfall and fissures within the aquifer can also lead to turbidity events that are most likely to cause high turbidity (World Health Organization, 2017). The challenge in the event of high turbidity in raw water is that it occurs rapidly, and mitigating activities must be actionable immediately. To address the sudden event of such, Stevenson and Bravo (2019) trained forecasting models based on general linear model (GLM) and RF to predict the time when the turbidity reaches higher than 7 NTU. The results indicate that both models can successfully predict the events (i.e., with accuracy between 0.81 and 0.86), and the RF model is found to have higher precision due to its ability to capture the nonlinear relationship between rainfall (mm) and turbidity (NTU).

To maintain operational costs and water quality in the coagulation process, the amount of coagulant, mainly subject to the turbidity and alkalinity in the raw water, is traditionally determined through manual sampling and analysis. Jar tests are designed to find the optimal chemical dosage for coagulation to remove the turbidity in raw water. The entire process includes on-site sampling and more than 40 minutes of laboratory work (Gani et al., 2017). To replace the laborious jar tests, Wang et al. (2022) proposed using principal component regression (PCR), support vector regression (SVR), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural network to build predictive models for estimating daily chemical dosage. Compared with the linear PCR model, nonlinear SVR and LSTM models capture more relationships between the chemical dose (e.g., ferric sulfate) and the raw water quality based on a higher R-squared value

of 0.70.

Disinfection is the last step of water treatment processes in drinking water treatment plants to generate safe potable water. In this step, chemical disinfectants such as chlorine, chloramine, or chlorine dioxide are added into the water to inactivate any remaining pathogenic microorganisms. However, the chlorination process requires precise dosing of disinfectant—too high will lead to the formation of disinfection byproducts (DBPs), and too low will result in insufficient levels of the residual disinfectant concentration. In both scenarios, the treated drinking water can pose health threats to the end-users. Although the PID controller can achieve automatic dosing of disinfectants according to the change in water quality, Wang et al. (2020) proposed a model predictive control based on machine learning models to improve the dosing process further. The study indicated that the predicted chlorine dosage from a Support Vector Regression (SVR) model could help the free chlorine residual in the water reach the setpoint concentration in a shorter time compared to the PID controller in both simulations and experimental conditions. Machine learning models can not only reduce the time required to reach setpoint concentration but also decrease the chemical usage required in DWTPs. An Artificial Neural Network-based model has proved to optimize the treatment operation by reducing the chemical usage in a chlorination dosing control system compared to using PID controller (Librantz et al., 2018).

The invariability of the raw water quality is always a big issue for disinfection. For instance, chlorine dose can be excessively dosed when the treated water contains fewer pollutants (e.g., non-organic matters and ammonia nitrogen). Excessive chlorine in water results in the waste of chemicals, which is reflected in the increased operational cost and the generation of undesired disinfection by-products (e.g., trihalomethanes (THMs), which are carcinogenic to humans). Xu et al. (2022) trained an ANN model for predicting the occurrence of THMs in tap water using simple and straightforward water quality parameters (e.g., pH, temperature, UVA_{254} and residual chlorine (Cl_2)). Despite the fact that the results showed a good model accuracy in predicting for THMs (i.e., T-THMs, TCM, and BDCM), the applications of the model are largely limited in reality due to the lack of dataset regarding quantity and quality. In fact, the lack of high-quality datasets for training ML models is a common issue, which explains, until recently, mathematical or empirical-based AI models like fuzzy logic (Gamiz et al., 2020; Godo-Pla et al., 2021) is still widely used for process control in WTPs.

2.2.2 Wastewater treatment plants

Human activities produce wastewater and discharge it from homes, businesses, factories, and commercial activities to the sewage systems which connect to wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). The function of WWTPs is to remove contaminants from sewage and water so that the treated water can be returned to the natural water body without endangering any living beings residing in the ecosystem. Undertreated wastewater can lead to harmful algal blooms or cause oxygen deficit in the water (i.e., low oxygen content can kill the fish). The steps for treating municipal wastewater involve three major categories—primary treatment, secondary treatment, and tertiary treatment. Most of the particular matters will be removed in primary treatment via settling or floating; a secondary treatment is mainly responsible for removing BOD_5 in the biological processes; in the final tertiary treatment, membrane filtration, adsorption by activated carbon, and addition of disinfectant are applied optionally to further eliminate the undesired pollutants in the water.

Wastewater is categorized and defined according to its sources of origin. Domestic wastewater is water discharged from residential sources generated by kitchen wastewater, cleaning, and personal hygiene. Industrial/commercial wastewater is generated and discharged from manufacturing and commercial activities, such as the textile industry and food and beverage processing wastewater. Institutional wastewater is generated by large institutions such as hospitals and educational facilities. Regardless of the source of the wastewater, WWTPs have to achieve at least three sustainability targets: environmental protection (i.e., minimum pollutants discharge), social acceptance (i.e., human sanitary protection), and economic development (i.e., feasible operational and management costs) (Mannina et al., 2019). To effectively achieve these goals, process control is required to reduce energy consumption, improve effluent quality, and save costs in plant operation and management. The focus of this study is on discussing the development of using process control for treatment operation and management.

Under known operational conditions of a WWTP, machine learning models can be trained to assist the plant operators in optimizing treatment processes to improve effluent quality. Wang et al. (2021) proposed a machine learning framework, utilizing a model based on Random Forest to predict the effluent Total Suspended Solid (TSS) and phosphate (PO_4). This study uses data from six on-line sensors (i.e., flow rate, TSS, pH, PO_4 , temperature, and total solids (TS) meters) across the treatment line to train the RF model. The results indicated that the influent temperature is the most influential variable for both TSS and PO_4 in the effluent, and PO_4

depends strongly on the TSS in aeration basins, etc. It has been suggested that the combined use of the RF model and analytical tools allows the author to pinpoint the critical factors influencing the effluent quality, which is regarded as an innovative approach. However, several significant drawbacks hinder such model developments using on-line sensors to collect training data. The term "training data" is a dataset used to feed into the model for the model to learn and pick up hidden patterns in the data. Many of the existing WWTPs and DWTPs are not equipped with on-line sensors, and a lack of automation and instrumentation is universal. The difficulties in installing on-line sensors include the extra costs of purchasing hardware, extra labor works for maintenance, and most importantly, the optimal locations for sensor installation.

In secondary treatment, the relationships between the sludge and wastewater quality are complex due to the complex interactions between the microorganisms and the organic matters in the reactor (Wilén et al., 2018). To fully understand and describe the interactions in such systems requires a substantial amount of data. However, installing on-line sensors everywhere in the system is impossible. Zaghloul et al. (2021) attempted to find out the ideal locations and adequate number for on-line sensor installation. The author used the data collected from the on-line sensors installed in three lab-scaled secondary treatment reactors to train machine learning models to predict effluent quality. In addition, considering the intricacy of operational conditions in the secondary treatment, the author claimed that with the use of feature selection and ensemble model (i.e., average results from multiple model outputs), overfitting could be prevented. The issue of overfitting can be understood as the model memorizing the noises too much in a training dataset, resulting the poor performance when the model is used to predict outputs from unseen data.

Similar to the secondary treatment units, an electrocoagulation reactor is also a complex system in which the operation and management are based on pH value, current density, flow rate, and the initial concentration of heavy metal ions, etc. Interestingly, instead of using an ensemble model to prevent the overfitting issue claimed by Zaghloul et al. (2021), Zhu et al. (2021) used a deep learning Long and Short-term model (LSTM) and an error compensate Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average model (ARIMA) to predict the removal rate of heavy metal ion concentration in wastewater. An LSTM-ARIMA model has strengthened the model performance compared to the solely used LSTM or ARIMA model in predicting removal rate shown by the Results. A possible rationalization of using an LSTM model without worrying about model overfitting is that deep learning is sophisticated enough for learning the nonlinear patterns in complex systems, while machine learning models like RF might fail to capture the

intricate relationships, resulting in overfitting.

Technological advancement allows easy access to real-time water quality data via on-line sensors. The collected real-time data can be used to train predictive models and assist the plant operation and management. Despite the advantages of what on-line sensors are capable of, sensor calibration and maintenance are critical. The malfunctioned sensor can induce wrong decisions for plant operation, ultimately deteriorating treatment efficiency in WWTPs. Haimi et al. (2015) suggested that reliable and moderately-priced on-line sensors are not always available; in addition, sensor malfunctions (i.e., fouling or erroneous measurement) can cause the down-time of the sensors. For the unavailable sensors (i.e., "hard-to-measure" or expensive sensors), many research works have proposed building "soft sensors." Instead of using hardware sensors to measure the water parameters, the soft sensor generates real-time values through a machine learning model, which is trained by other easy-to-measure water quality data. In the works of Wang et al. (2019), easy-to-measure variables such as pH, flow rate, TSS, and ammonium nitrate ($\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$) are input to machine learning models to predict hard-to-measure water quality parameters of COD and total phosphate (TP). Pattnaik et al. (2021) also used DO, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and temperature to train a model to predict BOD. It is believed that both research works can solve the issues of the unavailability of specific water quality sensors.

The automated treatment operation and management heavily rely on the reliability of the on-line sensors; thus, preventing and the early detection of sensors malfunctioned is the utmost concern to the plant operators. Sensor fault detections can be categorized into three groups which are (1) individual faults—outlier data that can be distinguished concerning other data points; (2) contextual faults—an anomalous instance in a specific context and normal in another; (3) collective faults—a cluster of rare instances with respect to other data trends (Chandola, 2009). Many research papers have proposed using machine learning models to help identify sensor fouling.

Two main algorithms, regression and classification, can be used to find fouling signals. A regression algorithm can identify fouling signals by calculating the difference between model-predicted outputs (e.g., ammonium or COD concentration) to the actual signals. A classification algorithm can distinguish fouling signals through the direct outputs of the model (i.e., the model outputs 2 class labels, one represents normal, and the other is abnormal). Cecconi and Rosso (2021) proposed an ammonium fault detection mechanism, utilizing a regression ANN model, along with principal component analysis (PCA) and Shewhart monitoring charts (i.e., statistical

control chart). The remarkable idea of this study is to analyze the residual between the predicted ammonium and the actual ammonium sensor signal and identify the individual and contextual faults with the help of statistical tools. Despite the fact that the accuracy of the fault detection mechanism can reach R^2 value of 0.87, the method comes with significant limitations. The author points out that to maintain the high accuracy of the predictive model, the quality of the input data needs to be carefully attended to by performing manual cleaning procedures on a weekly basis.

Research has focused on solving collective faults in sensor fault detection rather than collective faults. The primary reason is that collectives faults are hidden in regular signals, and the expert can only discover the irregularity by comparing sets of signals in series. Thus classification technique using deep learning is proposed to address collective faults in the works of Mamandipoor et al. (2020). It is believed that this is the first research paper using an LSTM network to achieve a fully automatic fault detection method in WWTPs. In contrast to other works, input variables for model training heavily rely on the experts' manual selection before inputting into models like PCA and fuzzy neural networks. The significance of using a deep learning network is its capability to capture long-term temporal dependencies from a large dataset compared to machine learning models (i.e., PCA-SVM model). The results showed that the accuracy (i.e., F1-score) from the LSTM model is 92%, outperforming the PCA-SVM model of 87%. This finding suggests that using DL models in classification problems is promising for solving collective faults.

2.2.3 Water reclamation system

The increasing demand for water in cities is mainly attributed to the rapid urbanization and the population moving from rural to urban centers. In many major cities, the evergrowing water usage and wastewater discharge drive the development of water reclamation (Lyu et al., 2016). In WWTPs, the technologies applied in water reuse include disinfecting with chlorine addition, ultra-violet (UV) irradiation, biological treatment, membrane filtration, etc (Norton-Brandão et al., 2013). However, even with the most advanced water treatment technology, the treated reclaimed water quality is still subject to the variability and variations of pollutant contents in wastewater effluent (Chen et al., 2003), and can potentially fail to meet the reclaimed water standard. The research studies propose to apply machine learning techniques to assist the disinfection process in water reclamation can be categorized into three groups (1) optimize

the treatment management in WWTPs to alleviate the loadings of water reclamation process (Al-Ghazawi and Alawneh, 2021; Viet et al., 2021); (2) actively branch out the desired, and undesired wastewater effluent for subsequent disinfection process of water reuse or direct disposal into water body (Chen et al., 2003); (3) adapt process control methods to stabilize the disinfection performance in the reclaimed water system (Demir and Woo, 2014).

Technology advancement and research studies on water reuse have been discussed for more than two decades. However, there are not too many research publications that aim to improve the reclaimed water system as a whole in recent years. The economic reasons behind constructing water reuse facilities could be a major obstacle for the government sectors. The economic burden of either building new reclaimed water institutions in new locations or retrofitting existing WWTPs is overwhelming (Adewumi et al., 2010). To discover more values and reusable resources from water reuse, Chojnacka et al. (2020) takes the circular economy perspective into accelerating the process of adopting water reuse systems for agriculture production. The author introduces the potential of gradually replacing chemical fertilizers with partially treated wastewater for sustainable crop production despite there are many limitations to be overcome. In Italy, the circular concept is also studied by Colella et al. (2021). Four different resource recovery scenarios were brought up, and two of the scenarios include the nutrient recovery turned into nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers. Several researchers in recent years have provided the overall potential and challenges of treated wastewater reuse in the world; it is believed the day of using reused water universally will soon come with collaboration across different disciplines.

Reclaimed water for non-potable reuses can serve for irrigation for agriculture, toilet flushing, and irrigation for landscaping, etc. Water Supply Department (WSD) will soon implement a reclaimed water supply system in SWHEPP by disinfecting the tertiary-treated sewage (i.e., MBR permeate). The produced reclaimed water will be served for non-potable reuse and is required to satisfy the water quality standards shown in Table. 2.1.

2.3 Tools and techniques for enhancing the performance of machine learning modeling

2.3.1 Programming languages

Matrix Laboratory (Matlab) is a proprietary programming and numeric computing platform used across industries and academia for data analysis, algorithm developments, and model

Table 2.1: Endorsed Reclaimed Water Quality Standards from Water Supply Department.

Parameter	Unit	Requirement ^a
<i>E. coli</i>	cfu/100 mL	Not detectable
Colour	Hazen Unit	≤ 20
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ($\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$)	mg/L as N	≤ 1
Total Residual Chlorine	mg/L	≥ 0.2
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	≥ 0.2
Turbidity	NTU	≤ 5
5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	≤ 1
pH	-	6-9
Threshold Odour Number	-	≤ 100
Synthetic detergents	mg/L	≤ 5

^a The water quality standards for all parameters are applicable at the point-of-use of the system.

buildings. In the wastewater treatment industry, Matlab is known for using an add-on software called Simulink for modeling, simulating, and analyzing the dynamic system (i.e., chemically enhanced primary clarifier (Bachis et al., 2015). The use of Matlab-Simulink in the wastewater treatment industry is known for the development of control strategies for WWTP automation. In 1987, International Water Association (IWA) developed the first mathematical model for simulation-based evaluation, which is Activated Sludge Model 1 (ASM 1), and the modified activated sludge models and Benchmark Simulation Models (BSM) was further developed in the following years (bin Talib, 2011). The difference between the two is that ASM is designed for developing control strategies exclusively in the activated sludge treatment process, and BSM 1 is to develop the automation in the entire WWTP (Ballhysa et al., 2020).

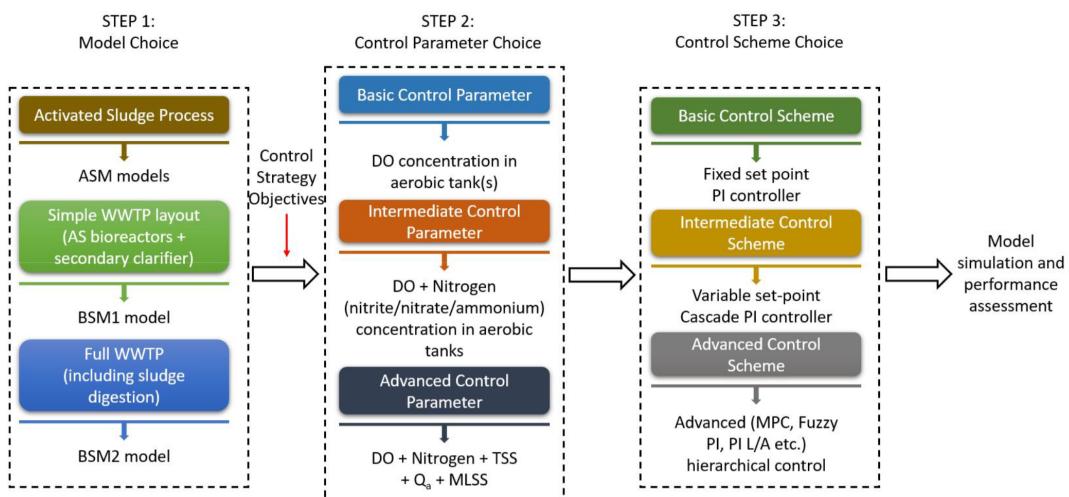


Figure 2.1: Proposed framework for control strategy designed by Ballhysa et al. (2020).

In recent years, many publications presented an exciting way to demonstrate how machine learning-based model predictive control (MPC) can outperform the conventional PID controller in WWTPs using BSM. Fig. 2.1 shows how the control scheme choice iterates from fixed set point PI controller to advanced MPC control, etc. The researchers use Matlab-Simulink to simulate the treatment processes in WWTPs. At the same time, the block of PID controllers is replaced with machine learning models, and the effluent quality or treatment system performance can be differentiated via BSM simulated results. Wang et al. (2020) compared the stability of chlorinated water quality in the effluent of a DWTP with two control strategies, which are PID feedback controls and a predictive model-based support vector machine (SVM). The BSM simulated results showed that the SVM model required 21 minutes less to reach the residual chlorine setpoint than PID feedback controls. A proposed neuro-fuzzy PID controller (i.e., a hybrid machine learning model consisting of neural networks and fuzzy logic) also showed superior performance in optimizing the chlorine dosing rate to minimize the chance of errors (Hong et al., 2012). The significance of using BSM in Matlab-Simulink enables the performance of traditional and machine learning-based control strategies can be compared in objective and fair scenarios, also providing the practicability of machine learning to the experts in the field. Matlab is a powerful and resourceful platform providing various machine learning functions, including point-and-click apps for training and evaluation, available classification and regression algorithms, Automatic machine learning (AutoML), etc (MathWorks, 2022c). The direct access to the abundant features and the integration of Simulink make Matlab an appealing option for many researchers in the wastewater treatment industry, especially in the research domain of machine learning and control strategy simulation. Despite the countless benefits of using Matlab, the Python programming language stands out differently.

Python is a high-level, interpreted, and object-oriented programming language and features simple and easy-to-learn syntax providing good readability (Fundation, 2022). The large developer community (e.g., GitHub and Stackoverflow) and open-source access (i.e., free of charge) have made Python an ideal tool for machine learning starters. The most cutting-edge research in the field of Artificial Intelligence is often led by Tech Giants like Google and Amazon, which conduct research via Python (e.g., machine learning frameworks of TensorFlow (Google)in Python), as well as the big research community using Python. All the latest updates and developments relating to machine learning architectures and techniques are usually accessible in the open-source Python community, including the example codes. Contrary to Python, users of commercial software Matlab need to wait for the software engineers working in Matlab

to update the latest machine learning applications onto the Matlab platform, which is a time-consuming process and creates a delay of time and accessibilities to many resources (Castro, 2018). Machine learning developers in the wastewater treatment industry can freely choose between the programming methods based on the research need. Those looking for mature machine learning algorithms can simply use Matlab and be satisfied with the functionalities; on the other hand, those who intend to incorporate more new techniques and architectures in machine learning models can consider using Python as the programming language. Interestingly, MathWorks recently announced using Python functions in Simulink Model (MathWorks, 2022a); despite the update from Matlab, to the best of my knowledge, there are no research papers developing machine learning algorithms on Python and running on Matlab-Simulink.

2.3.2 Data pre-processing techniques

The ubiquitous sensors installed in WWTPs for treatment automation generate a massive amount of data on a daily basis. Before being used for any purposes, the data must be understandable for explanation and relevant enough for water experts to extract valuable information (Kehrein et al., 2020). Without the help of Artificial Intelligence, data manipulation before training machine learning models can be time-consuming and challenging. The specifically designed algorithms can perform data evaluation and augmentation to improve data quality. Any statistical or machine learning algorithms which can complete these tasks are known as the data pre-processing techniques. The causes of sensors rendering undesired data with low quality are the limitations of the hardware sensors and the dynamics of the sampling locations. In general, the false data generated by sensors can be described in eight distinct states (Rosen et al., 2008; Newhart et al., 2019):

- 1) Operational: Sensor is working properly with normal measurement noise.
- 2) Excessive drift: When a sensor outputs a value progressively further from the truevalue.
- 3) Shift: When the output of the sensor is a constant amount away from its true value.
- 4) Fixed value: When the sensor is stuck and keeps repeating the same value.
- 5) Complete failure: Similar to a fixed value fault, but the sensors either give offthemaximum or minimum, value, zero or no value at all.
- 6) Wrong gain: When signals away from the calibration point are under- or over-amplified bythe sensor.
- 7) Calibration: The sharp change in sensor output directly following a calibration.

8) Isolated fault: When a single point in a series shows an incorrect value.

The researchers and experts have been proposing solutions for filling the data gaps created by sensor faults and maintenance operations. However, the number and length of missing values are mainly subject to the dynamics of the system being monitored and other factors. In their open-source wastewater data treatment toolkit, De Mulder et al. (2018) has recommended five data imputation strategies aimed at data generated from water resource recovery facilities:

- 1) Interpolate.
- 2) Use a correlation with other available measurement signals.
- 3) Replace with a corresponding value in an average daily profile.
- 4) Repeat the values obtained on the preceding day.
- 5) Replace with the output of a model.

The efficient monitoring of sensors and proper use of the data for developing control strategies in the wastewater treatment industry rely on careful data quality control. In recent years, automated data evaluation has drawn the attention of experts and researchers in this field as manual detection of sensor fouling is unrealistic because the tasks are labor-intensive and laborious. Alferes et al. (2013) presented three practical approaches for data quality validation, which are capable of automated calculating single abnormal values and collective faults over a long period. The author claimed that the significance of the research work is performing a data quality validation scheme on the multivariate dataset. The pitfall of the study is that despite the promising approaches proposed, the validity still depends on the thresholds or acceptability limits in the actual WWTPs. Similar to the data imputation strategies, the real situation differs tremendously across different WWTPs. That being said, instead of providing general guidance on how to manipulate data, the focus should be emphasized on how to use algorithms to help users understand, analyze, and process the fouling data.

2.3.3 Feature engineering techniques

Feature engineering aims to enrich the raw dataset by selecting, manipulating, and transforming data, which forms a better dataset relating to the underlying targets to be learned by the machine learning model. Feature engineering and data pre-processing are easily confused with each other. The fundamental difference between the two is that the former creates essential

features not included in the raw data; the latter is a data noise removal and cleaning process. In the study of Mamandipoor et al. (2020), feature engineering was performed to generate five extra features, which are the statistical metrics of mean, maximum, minimum, variance, and standard deviation of a specific input feature. However, in comparing the final results, the author only emphasized evaluating model accuracies across varied machine learning models (i.e, PCA-SVM and LSTM models). Another interesting technique used by Zaghloul et al. (2021) is to create the gradient values of an input variable to assist the model in better learning the trend of the historical removal rate of water parameters in aerobic granular sludge reactors. Similar to the results shown in the work of Mamandipoor et al. (2020), the influence of how engineered features affect the ultimate model accuracy is excluded in the results and discussion part. Thus, creating a lack of knowledge in how significant the feature engineered inputs are to the model accuracy and which techniques can be used in which scenarios.

There is considerable ambiguity concerning the necessity of using feature-engineered inputs in training predictive models in WWTPs. In predicting total nitrogen (TN) in the effluent, Guo et al. (2015) input nine features and performed feature sensitivity analysis, which can capture the change of the output values attributed to the change input. The result showed that the top three most significant inputs, temperature, TN flow, and pH, are critical in predicting TN. The author claimed physical related cause-and-effect relationships between the effluent TN and those top three effective features could be elucidated by the machine learning model. In another work on predicting influent BOD concentration, the study clearly stated that using five inputs instead of three will cause model overfitting. Three inputs for model training were considered sufficient (Alsulaili and Refaie, 2021). Variables created from feature engineering have no physical properties, leading to extra unexplainable essence in addition to the black-box nature of machine learning models. Besides, extra model inputs from feature engineering can also cause overfitting if the data quality is not carefully evaluated. Said by Andrew Ng, "Coming up with features is difficult, time-consuming, requires expert knowledge. Applied machine learning is basically feature engineering". From the quote and the recent studies, we are uncertain how feature engineering techniques can practically help the development of machine learning models in the wastewater treatment industry. More research is required to elucidate further the effectiveness of performing feature engineering.

CHAPTER 3

METHODS AND MATERIALS

3.1 Wastewater treatment plant description

3.1.1 Wastewater treatment process in SWHEPP

Shek Wu Hui Effluent Polish Plant (SWHEPP) is a secondary sewage treatment plant that treats the municipal wastewater from Sheung Shui/Fanling Districts and the treated leachate effluent from North East New Territories (NENT) leachate treatment plant. The plant was designed for 300,000 population equivalents (PE) in 2001, and in 2009, the daily treatment capacity was expanded from 80,000 m³/day to 93,000 m³/day. SHWEPP is operated and maintained by Drainage Services Department (DSD), and the plant will be upgraded to a tertiary treatment level to increase the treatment capacity of 190,000 m³/day by the end of 2025. As shown in Fig. 3.1, the treatment plant consists of primary sedimentation, secondary biological treatment, and final sedimentation, followed by a membrane bioreactor (MBR), which provides an advanced level of organic and suspended solids removal. A low volume of the MBR effluent was pumped to an effluent container n the MBR location to monitor the effluent quality in real-time. An ammoniacal nitrogen on-line sensor and a colour level on-line analyzer are installed in the effluent container, indicated as (a) and (b) in Fig. 3.1.

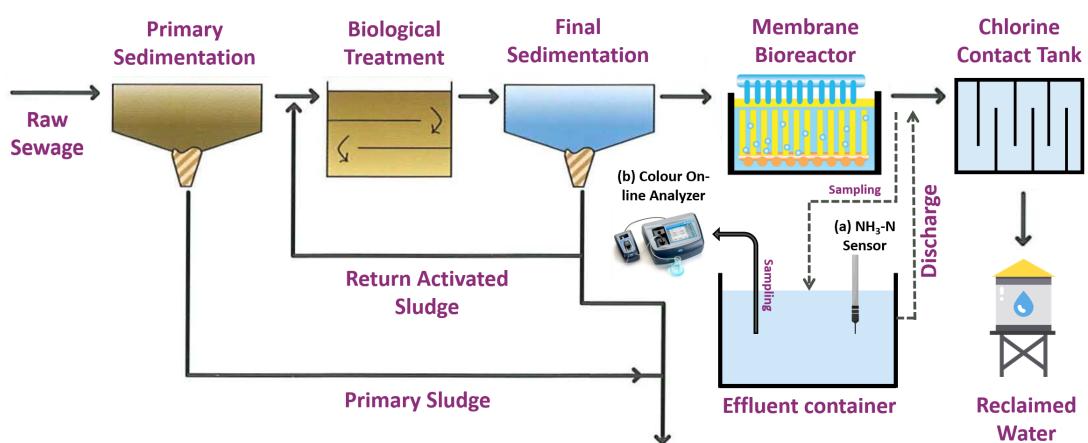


Figure 3.1: Sewage treatment process flowchart at SWHEPP (adapted from Drainage Services Department 2020)

3.2 Data collection and preparation



Figure 3.2: Colour levels and ammonia concentrations were measured in the effluent container (i.e., on the right of the image.) A water pump transported MBR effluent to the effluent container continuously in real-time. The black vault on the left of the image contained a laptop and a colour spectrophotometer.

3.2.1 On-line data monitoring and collection

To enable us to perform on-line monitoring of ammonium concentrations ($\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$) in the MBR effluent, an Ammonium and Potassium Probe, AmmoLyt® Plus 700 IQ (Xylem Company) was installed as Fig. 3.3a in the effluent container, as shown in Fig. 3.2. The operation was commenced on 27 April 2021 and completed on 27 March 2022. The ion-selective electrode (ISE) probe provides continuous and reagentless monitoring of ammonium and potassium at the configured interval of one measurement per minute. Due to the ISE probe cannot differentiate the potential difference caused by ammonium and potassium ions in the electrodes, the on-line monitoring of ammonium concentrations requires continuous calibration using potassium concentrations.

The instrument records ammonium concentration as $\text{NH}_4\text{-N mg/L}$, a form to express the sum of nitrogen found in reduced nitrogen (III) form. Ammonia has a reported pKa of 9.25 (National Center for Biotechnology Information, 2022), meaning ammonium is a primary species under

the pH of 9.25 in water. In WWTPs, the pH in water typically ranges from pH of 7–8, making the NH₄-N concentrations the dominant species. Both ammonia and ammonium contain one nitrogen atom; 1 mg/L NH₃-N is the same as 1 mg/L NH₄-N. Thus, to prevent confusion, in the following paragraph, the unit of NH₄-N will be expressed by NH₃-N, which is the unit used in the water quality standard. The collection of on-line ammonia data was achieved through downloading CSV files from the website connected to the IQ Sensor Controller (Xylem Company), as shown in Fig. 3.3b.



(a) AmmoLyt®Plus 700 IQ,
Xylem.

(b) DIQ/S 284-EF controller,
Xylem.

Figure 3.3: instruments of on-line ammonium monitoring system.

Hourly monitoring of the colour levels of MBR effluent was conducted from 5 October 2021 to 26 February 2022 by using a custom-made on-line colour analyzer. The default spectrophotometer as Fig. 3.4a and a peristaltic pump as Fig. 3.4b is only capable of initiating a single measurement of colour level by pressing the "READ" button on the DR3900 panel. To achieve continuous sampling and analyzing colour levels without human intervention, an actuator with a programmable time function was mounted on the panel of DR3900, as shown in Fig. 3.4c.

The automatic sampling and analyzing of the colour level begins with the actuator clicking on the "READ" button to initiate the colour analysis at a fixed interval of 30 minutes. 3 mL of sample was collected from the effluent container and delivered to the spectrophotometer cell. After the spectrophotometer analyzed the sample, the data was transmitted to an automatic data acquisition and storage software pre-installed on the laptop. The DR3900 device was connected to a laptop, which receives the real-time data and stores it on data management software from Hach company. To access the real-time data from the laptop, Google Remote Desktop was used to operate the laptop via Internet cloud services using any devices having access to the Internet. The entire process is illustrated in Fig. 3.6. After the measurement, the sample will be

discharged to the effluent container, and the on-line colour monitoring system is left idle until the subsequent measurement.



(a) SIP10 peristaltic pump,
Hach Company



(b) DR3900 spectrophotome-
ter, Hach Company

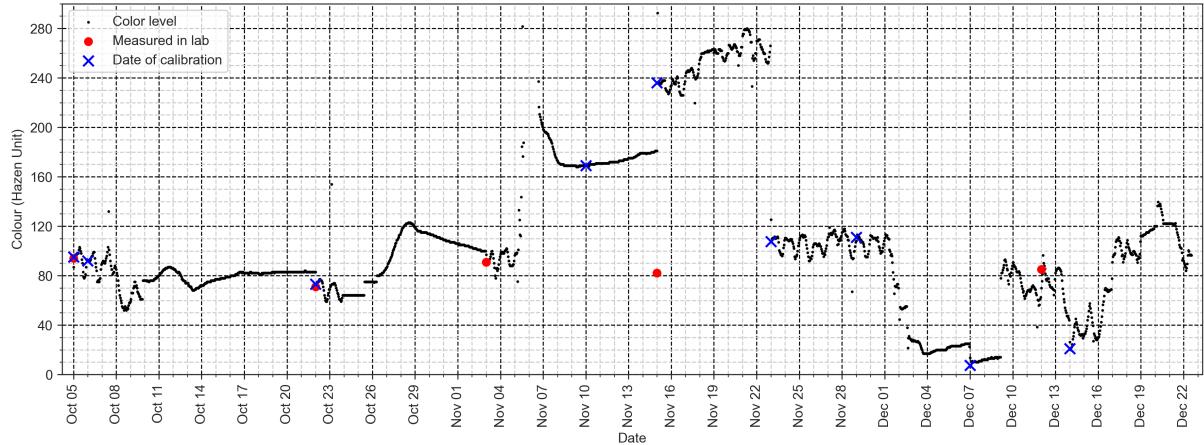


(c) Customized clicker/actuator with programmable timer

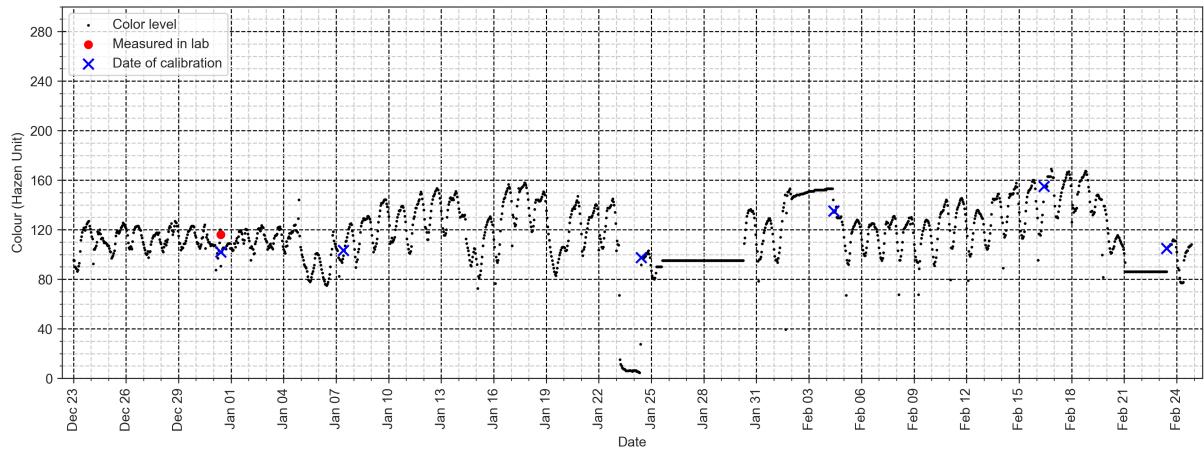
Figure 3.4: Instruments of on-line colour analysis system.

As shown in Fig. 3.5, the maintenance and calibration of the DR3900 spectrophotometer are performed on a weekly basis. During the maintenance, the DR3900 device was shut off, and 100 mg/L chlorine solution was pumped into the sampling tubes and the plastic cuvette for disinfection and cleansing. The cleansing of the tubes and cuvette were manually inspected with eyes to make sure no foreign objects were stuck inside. De-ionized water was brought to the site to perform the spectrophotometer calibration after the reboot of DR3900.

In the proposed model training methods, ammonia and colour data are input into the training forecasting models. Thus, the colour and ammonia data as features should be collected from the same period of time with the same dataset size. In addition, abnormal data caused by sensor downtime should also be excluded. Thus, we chose the ammonia and colour data from 23 December 2021 to 22 January, as shown in Fig. 3.7 (see Appendix. refraw-nh3-colour-data).



(a) Data collected from 5 October 2021 to 22 December 2021.



(b) Data collected from 23 December 2021 to 24 February 2022.

Figure 3.5: The dates of manually calibration and colour level measured in the laboratory were plotted as blue crosses and red dots.

3.2.2 Loss function for model evaluation

Loss functions are used to determine the error between the model outputs (i.e., prediction or forecasting values) and the given target value (DeepAI, 2022). The bigger the difference between the ground truth y and the model outputs \hat{y} , the higher the value of the loss function is, meaning the model performed poorer. A low value for the loss means the model performed well. The selection of the types of loss function is essential for training the model to perform specific tasks. This study uses Mean Squared Error (MSE) to evaluate the regression models. The values of MSE will never be negative and are formally defined by the following equation:

$$MSE = \frac{\sum(y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{n} \quad (3.2.1)$$

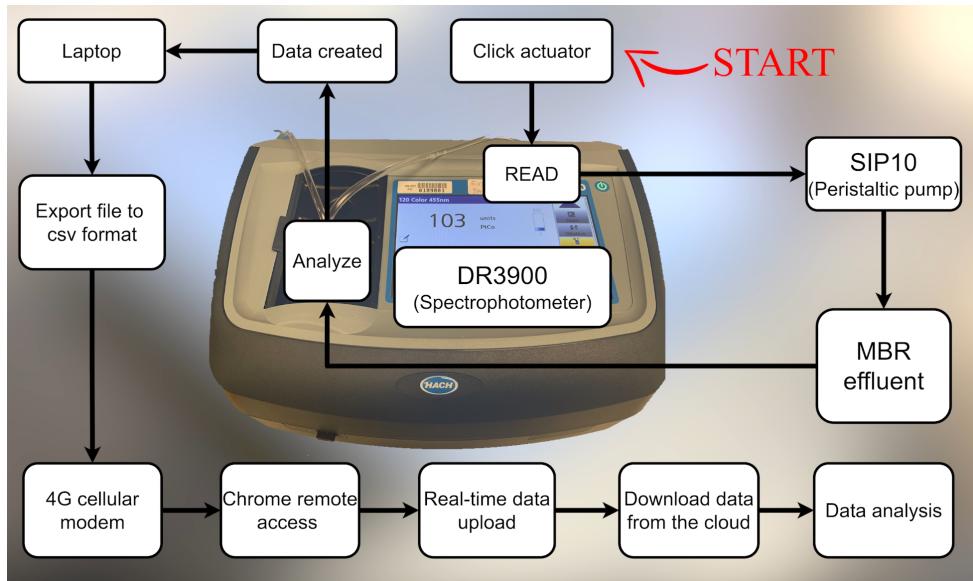


Figure 3.6: Schematic diagram of the custom-made on-line colour analysis system.

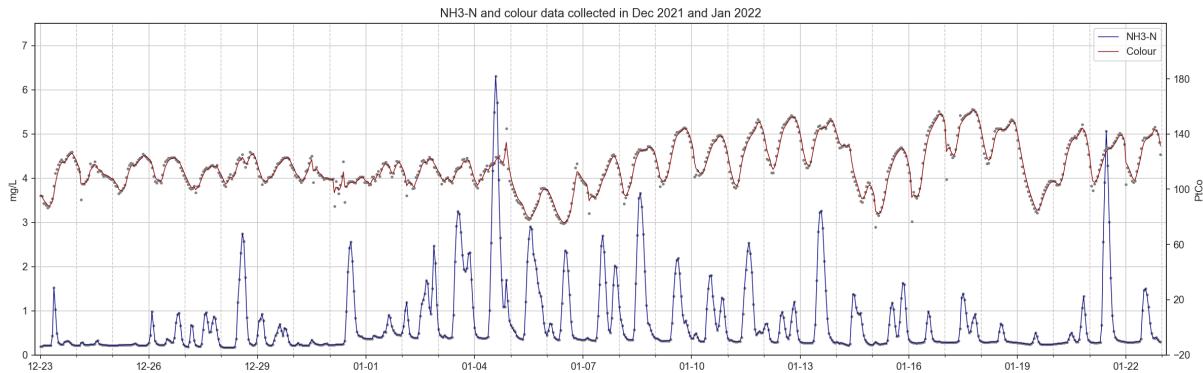


Figure 3.7: Ammonia and colour data collected from 23 December 2021 to 22 January 2022.

3.2.3 Data cleaning and pre-processing

In this study, ammonia concentrations and colour levels forecasting models will be trained, and the model training steps are shown in Fig. 3.8. The training processes are split into two sections; one is the baseline model training steps, and the other is the proposed model training steps. The training steps of the first section used cleaned data to train forecasting models and generated baseline model performance, which will be further compared with the model performance generated in the second section. The second section includes using pre-processed datasets (i.e., data smoothing) and feature engineering enhanced datasets to train the forecasting model.

The raw data embedded in the original CSV files has many problems, such as missing values, extreme low or high values, unreadable texts, etc. Thus, data cleaning and pre-processing

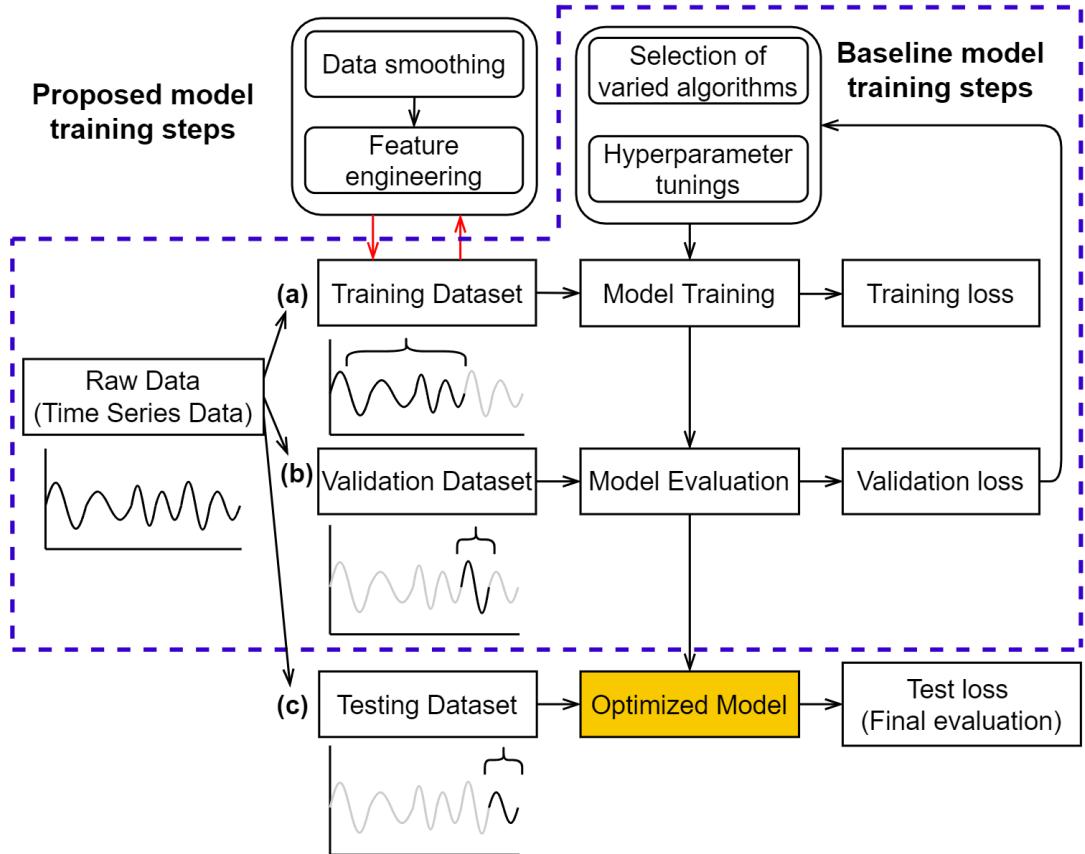


Figure 3.8: Training steps of the machine learning models.

are necessary for a more effective model training process. Python programming language and related libraries such as Numpy and Pandas were used to clean and pre-process the raw dataset for further usage. The raw ammonia dataset collected from the instrument contained 44,640 samples (data points) with eight variables, giving a matrix size of 44,640 x 8, and the samples were collected in time series at 1-minute intervals. The colour level raw dataset collected from the laptop contained 1488 samples with 34 variables, giving a matrix size of 1488 x 34, and the samples were collected in time series at 30-minute intervals.

Extreme values were manually removed before the colour and ammonia datasets were averaged into time-series data at 1-hour intervals. For the ammonia dataset, we replaced the values higher than 7.0 mg/L with NaN (i.e., Not a number), and further interpolation was used to fill up the NaN along with the missing values in the dataset. For colour dataset, we manually took out the relatively low data points on the days when the maintenance and calibration tasks were performed; extremely values higher than 300 Hazen Unit were also replaced by NaN. Same as the data cleaning method used for the ammonia dataset, the missing values and NaN were filled up with interpolation.

3.2.3.1 Data smoothing with Savitzky-Golay and EWMA filter

Data smoothing was performed using the same methods on ammonia concentrations and colour levels datasets. One of the effective ways to remove the noise from the dataset is to apply data smoothing filters. Two filters were applied in this study, Savitzky-Golay (SG) and Exponentially Weighted Moving Average (EWMA) filters.

An SG filter is a digital filter that can be applied to a set of digital data points for the purpose of smoothing the data without distorting the data tendency. This is achieved via convolution by fitting successive subsets of adjacent data points with a low-degree polynomial using linear least-squares (Wikipedia, 2022b). The illustration is shown in Fig. 3.9a, and the procedures of how data points are smoothed are presented in the following steps:

- 1) Extract short-time window (i.e., blue dots in Fig.3.9a)
- 2) Determine polynomial degree (e.g., different polynomial degree is compared in Fig. 3.9a).
- 3) Find the smoothed data point (i.e., at center of the window).
- 4) Repeat for shifted window (e.g., similar to moving average).

The equation to describe the smoothed value of Y_j can be expressed in Eq. 3.2.2:

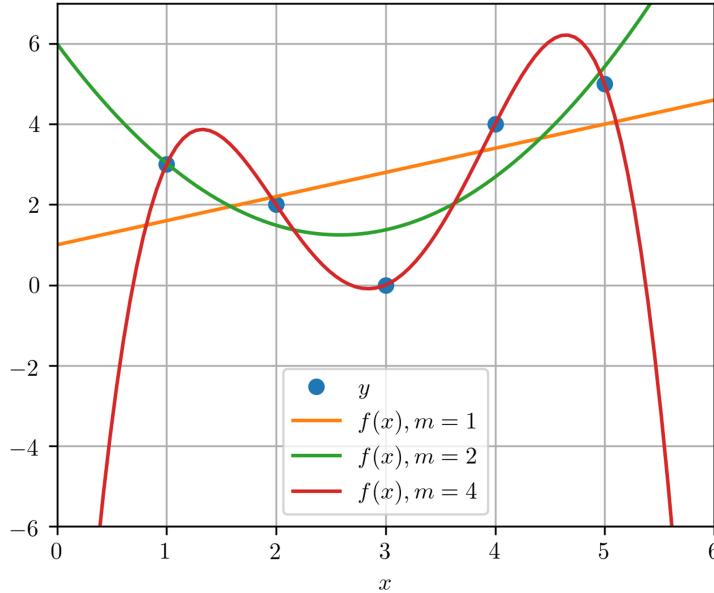
$$Y_j = (C \otimes y)_j = \sum_{i=\frac{1-m}{2}}^{\frac{m-1}{2}} C_i y_{j+i}, \frac{m+1}{2} \leq j \leq n - \frac{m-1}{2} \quad (3.2.2)$$

where Y_j corresponds to the j^{th} smoothed data point, m to the window size (i.e., numer of data points intended to smooth out) and C_i to the convolution coefficients (i.e., determined by Savitzky and Golay (1964)).

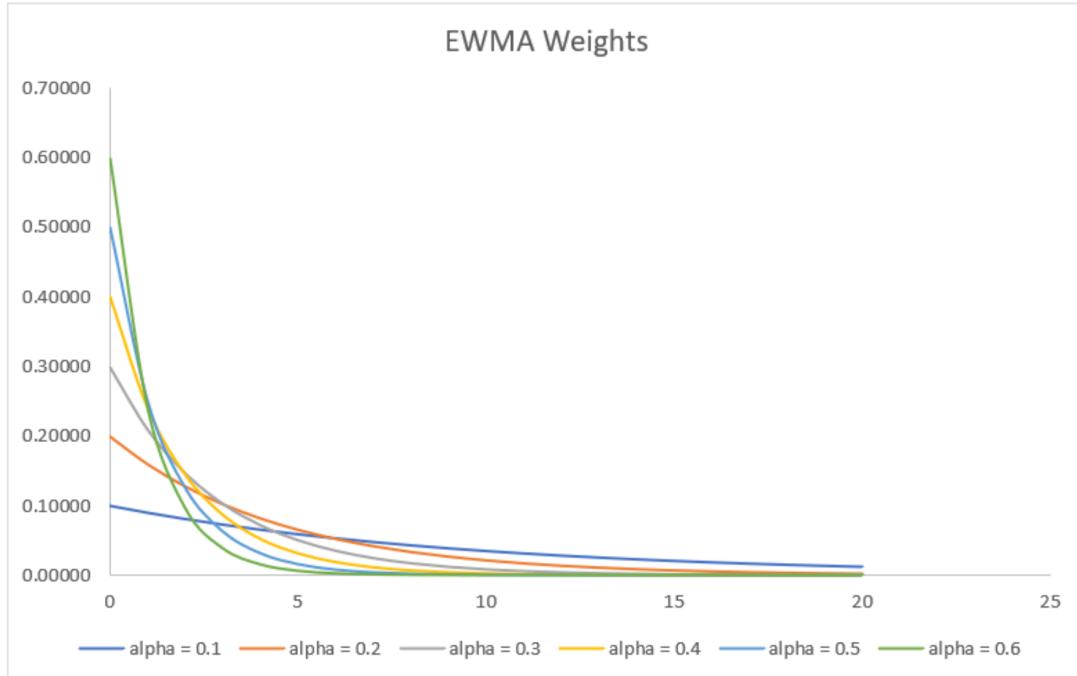
Exponentially weighted moving average (EWMA), also known as autoregressive (AR) filtering, is a technique that filters measurements. An EWMA filter smoothes a measured data point by exponentially averaging that particular point with all previous measurements. The EWMA equation can be expressed in Eq. 3.2.3:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \frac{2}{span + 1} \\ y_0 &= x_0 \\ y_t &= (1 - \alpha)y_{t-1} + \alpha x_t \end{aligned} \quad (3.2.3)$$

where α corresponds to the decay parameters, x_t to the value at a time period, y_t to the value of the EWMA at any time period t, span to the window size.



(a) SG filter with different polynomial degree (Taal, 2017).



(b) Examples of weights with exponential decay at varied alpha values (CFI, 2022).

Figure 3.9: Illustration of the influence of different polynomial degrees in the fitting of SG filter and the weight decay with varied alpha values in EWMA filter.

Both SG and EWMA filters are required to select the hyperparameters, the selected values are presented in Table. 3.1.

Table 3.1: The selected hyperparameters for SG and EWMA filters.

Group Name	Window size	Polynomial degree
SG-5	5	2
SG-7	7	2
SG-9	9	2
EWMA-2	2	-
EWMA-3	3	-
EWMA-4	4	-

Fig. 3.10 and Fig. 3.11 show the influences of different windows sizes of SG and EWMA filters on ammonia concentrations and colour levels datasets.

3.2.3.2 Outlier Removal

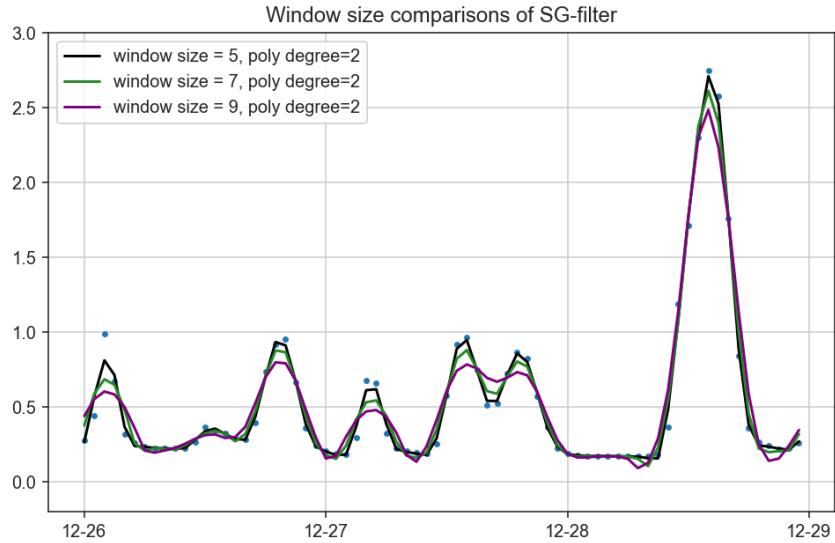
Although the extreme values in the raw ammonia dataset were removed based on basic rules (i.e., concentrations higher than 7.0 mg/L), the ammonia sensor can still collectively capture unideal data points. In the outlier removal process, we intended to identify the collective faults of ammonia data in the unit of an entire day. Two abnormal conditions were defined to determine whether the ammonia data on a specific day shows collective fault:

- 1) NH₃-N fluctuation ≤ 0.1 (i.e., lower than the sensor resolution).
- 2) No diurnal fluctuation (i.e., Fluctuation = peak value – bottom line value).

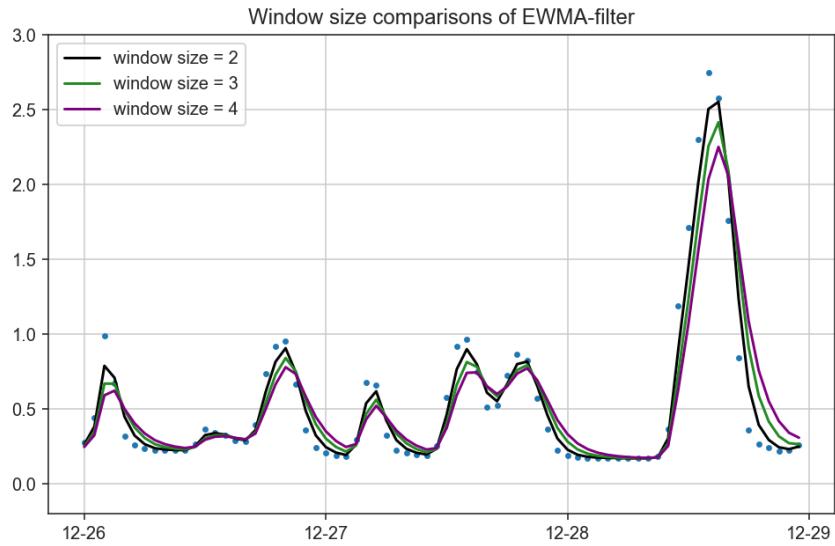
Peak analysis was performed on the daily ammonia data to automatically identify normal or abnormal signals. The analysis takes a one-dimension array (i.e., the data form of ammonia in a day) and finds all local maximum values by comparing neighbouring values. This function will also provide information such as width and prominence, as in Fig. 3.12 to help us identify whether the diurnal fluctuation exists.

3.2.3.3 Feature Engineering

We have carefully observed and analyzed the SWHEPP influent to create new features from the raw datasets based on our domain knowledge. We discovered that the SWHEPP influent consists of treated landfill effluent from NENT landfill leachate site and municipal wastewater, as shown in Fig. 3.13. We observed that with a higher blending ratio, which was calculated from the daily volume of treated leachate effluent divided by the daily inflow volume of SHWEPP,



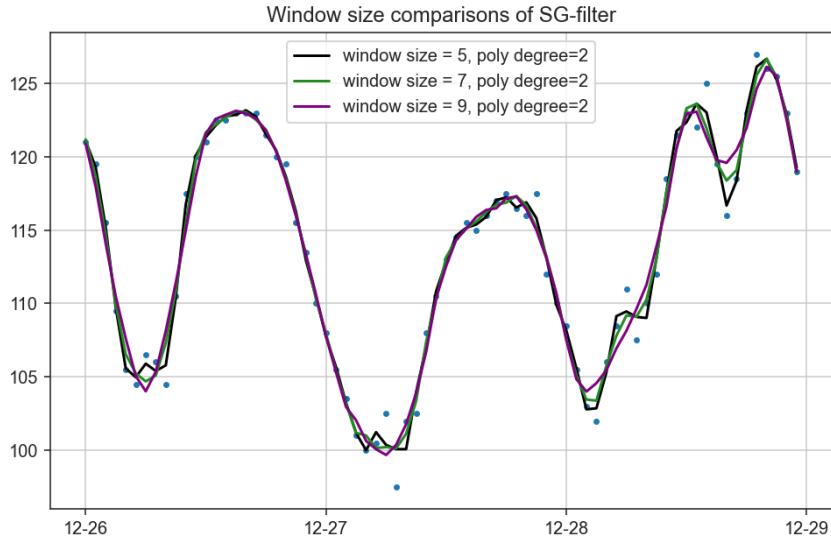
(a) Ammonia data filtered by SG filters with different window sizes.



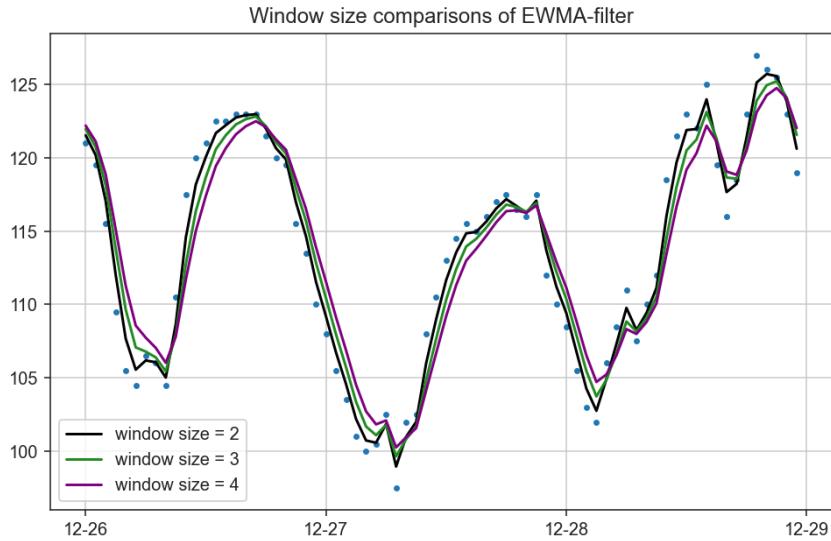
(b) Ammonia data filtered by EWMA filters with different window sizes.

Figure 3.10: Comparisons of the applying different window sizes on ammonia concentration datasets.

the colour level were also higher, as shown in Fig 3.15a. With the Pearson coefficient of 0.68, the increased volume of treated leachate effluent in the public sewage system was proportional to the increase of the colour levels in the SHWEPP influent, while the ammonia concentrations was mainly from the municipal wastewater. During the mixing of both types of wastewater, as in Fig. 3.14a, substances contributing to colour levels were diluted by the municipal wastewater; at the same time, the ammonia concentrations was also diluted by the treated leachate effluent. In Fig. 3.15b, we can observe that the time when the lowest colour level of the day occurred was close to when the highest ammonia concentration was observed. The changes in colour



(a) Colour data filtered by SG filters with different window sizes.



(b) Colour data filtered by EWMA filters with different window sizes.

Figure 3.11: Comparisons of the applying different window sizes on colour level datasets.

levels and ammonia concentrations were interactive. Thus, in feature engineering, colour level data was selected for training the ammonia forecasting model; ammonia data was selected for the training colour forecasting model, as shown in Fig. 3.20.

The feature creation for training NH₃-N forecasting model was inspired by the research work of Abu-Bakar et al. (2021). The author summarized the four types of hourly household water consumption patterns as in Fig. 3.16, which correlates the specific time of the day to the volume of water consumed in households. In other words, as fresh water is consumed, wastewater is generated simultaneously; the wastewater then enters the public sewage system and increases ammonia concentrations. As shown in Fig. 3.17, the peak analysis tool helped

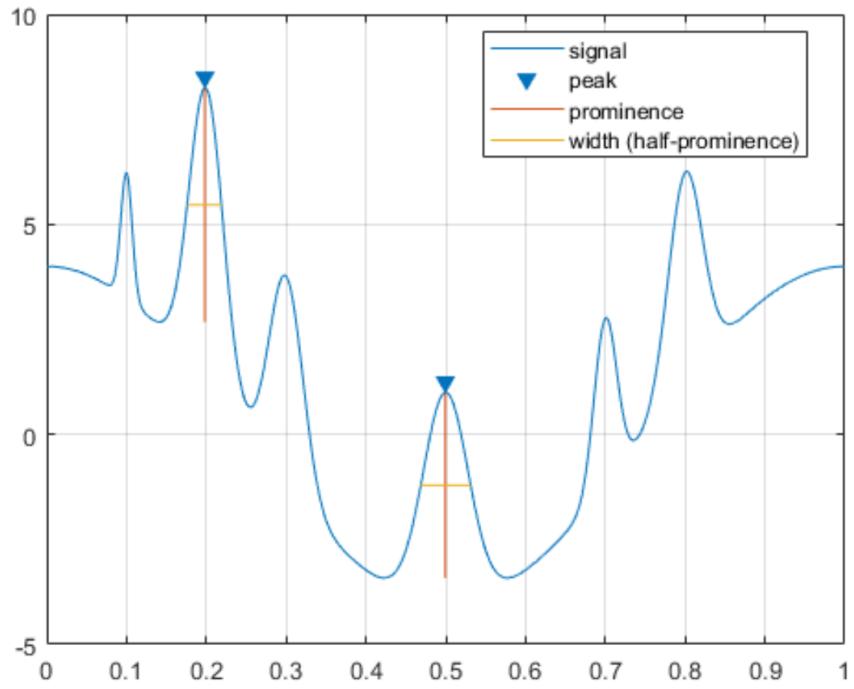


Figure 3.12: Illustration of peak analysis. Four important elements were automatically calculated by the function (MathWorks, 2022b).

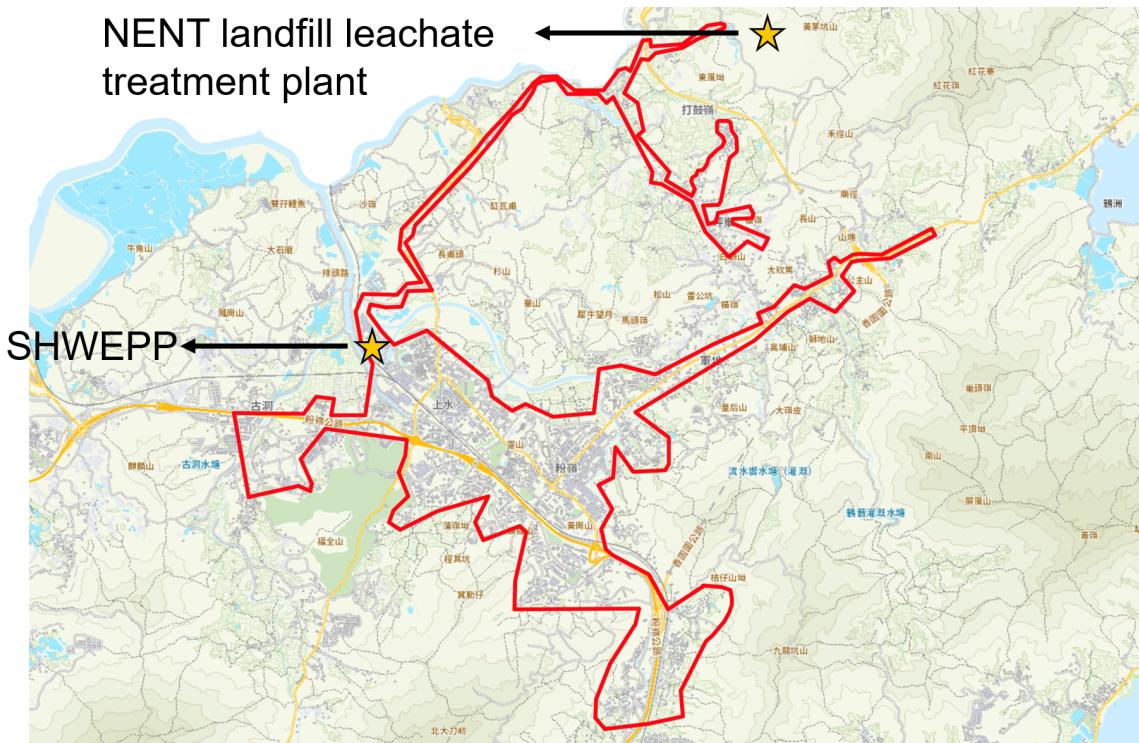
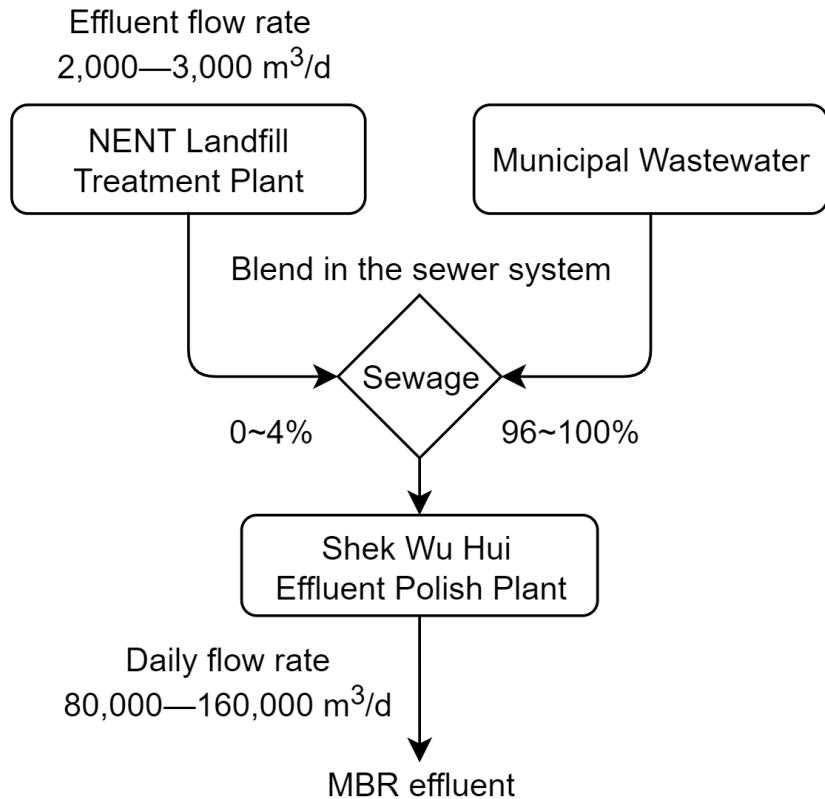
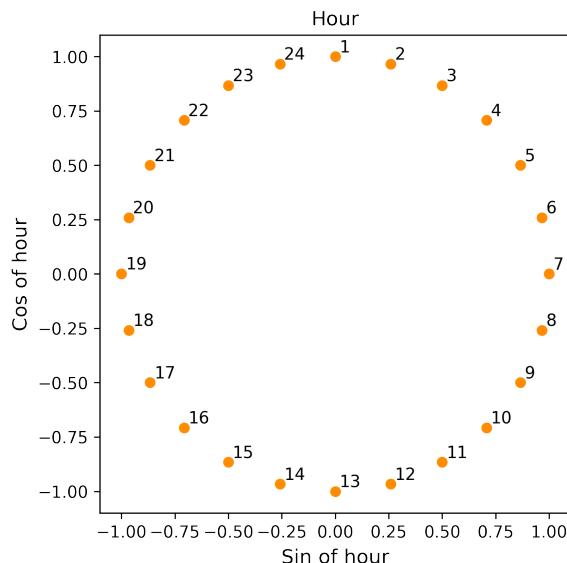


Figure 3.13: Sewer system coverage of SHWEPP. The covered areas (i.e., area circled in red boundary) include Fanling/Sheung-Shui new towns and NENT landfill leachate treatment plant.

us to identify the ammonia concentrations' peak hours, which occurred around 13:00 to 14:00, and 20:00 to 21:00. This discovery indicates the periodicity of the NH₃-N patterns exists, and



(a) Flowchart showing the blending of treated leachate effluent with municipal wastewater.

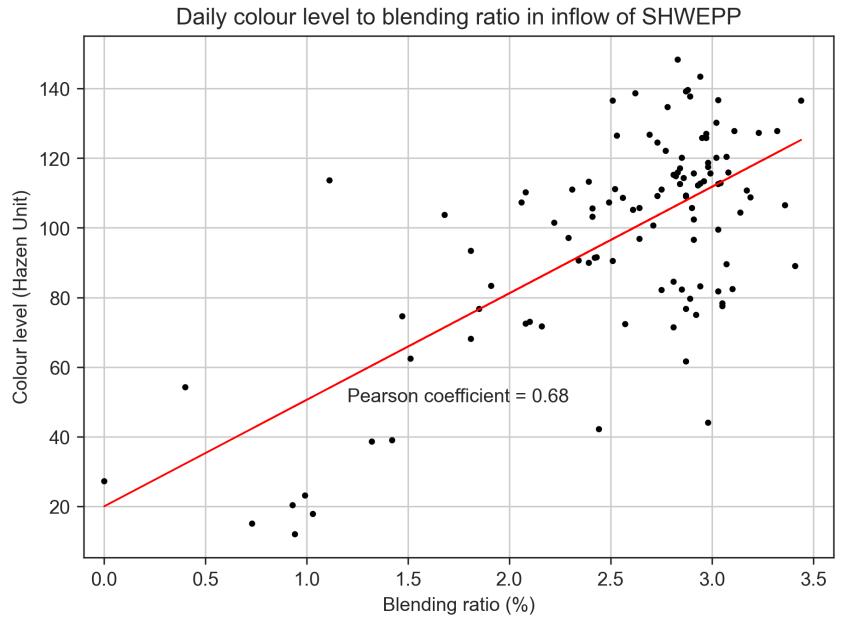


(b) Position encoding of hour components.

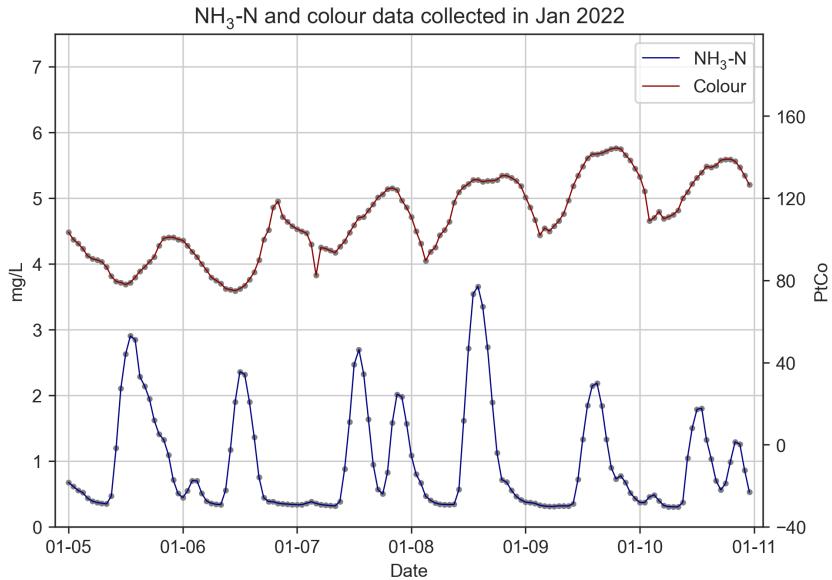
Figure 3.14: Analysis of influent quality composition and the illustration of the position encoding.

can be potentially transformed into features for training NH₃-N forecasting models.

Cai et al. (2020) states that the capture of the periodicity of the data during model training, a



(a) Coefficient between blending ratio and colour levels.



(b) Trend comparison of ammonia concentrations and colour levels.

Figure 3.15: Observed ammonia concentrations and colour levels in SHWEPP influent.

position encoding (PE) strategy is required. PE strategy is known for its use in the Transformer model to preserve the order of elements in a sequence (e.g., the order of words in a sentence) when modeling sequences. In solving the time series problem, the PE strategy can also be adopted and has been proved to help capture the periodicity of the time series data. The element-wise addition of PE can be achieved through periodic functions of sine and cosine, which is used to encode sequential information in the time series data of the input vector (i.e., feature) with a position encoding vector (Wu et al., 2020). The PE vector was achieved in the following steps:

- 1) The timestamp is represented as three elements—hour, day, and month.
- 2) Each element will be decomposed into sine and cosine components.
- 3) Last step is applied to hours and days to make all elements represented cyclically.

The formulation of PE vectors to represent hour components is shown in Eq. 3.2.4, adapted from (Ahmed et al., 2022):

$$\begin{aligned} \sin_{hour} &= \sin\left(\frac{2\pi t_{hour}}{24}\right) \\ \cos_{hour} &= \cos\left(\frac{2\pi t_{hour}}{24}\right) \end{aligned} \quad (3.2.4)$$

where \sin_{hour} and \cos_{hour} corresponds to the hour elements, t_{hour} corresponds to which hour of the input data.

Due to the size of the datasets used in this study for training ammonia and colour forecasting model being 31 days, only the hour element was transformed into sine and cosine components as in Fig. 3.14b.

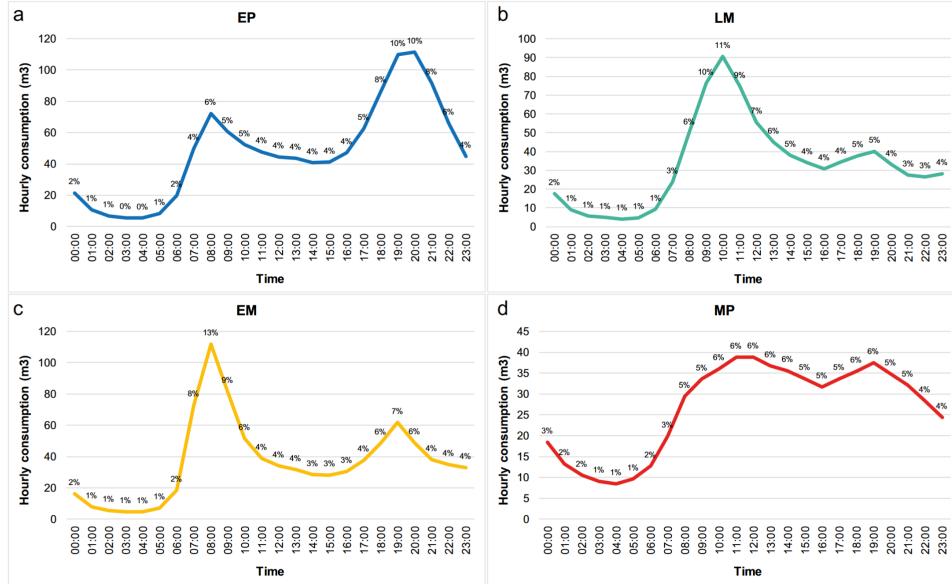


Figure 3.16: Hourly water consumption patterns in households (Abu-Bakar et al., 2021). (a) Cumulative pattern and percentage of hourly consumption for households in the “Evening Peak (EP)” cluster (b) Cumulative pattern and percentage of hourly consumption for households in the “Late Morning Peak Peak (LM)” cluster. (c) Cumulative pattern and percentage of hourly consumption for households in the “Early Morning Peak (EM)” cluster. (d) Cumulative pattern and percentage of hourly consumption for households in the “Multiple Peak (MP)” cluster. Consumption is in (m^3).

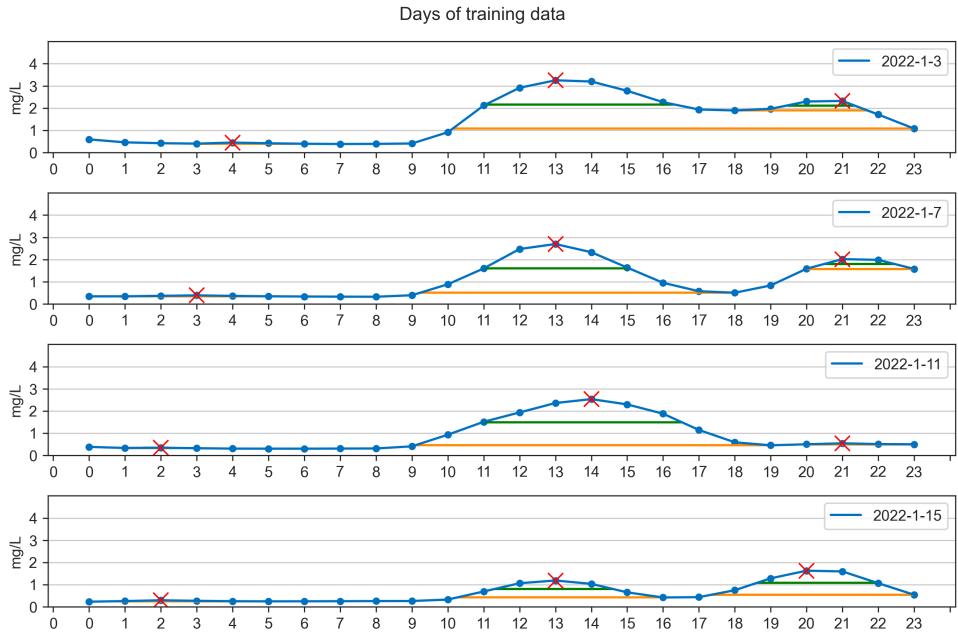


Figure 3.17: The daily patterns of ammonia concentrations on 3, 7, 11, and 15 January 2022.

3.2.4 Data transformation

Before the pre-processed data was fed into the models for training, we need to split the data into three clusters, which were training (60%), validation (20%), and testing dataset (20%). Among each cluster, the data will be further split into input variables \mathbf{X} and output variables \mathbf{Y} (i.e., training X/training Y, testing X/testing Y). During the training process, machine learning algorithms will learn a target function f to best map \mathbf{X} to \mathbf{Y} . A training dataset is a set of examples (e.g., historical data) for models to learn the hidden trends and information in the data, shown in (a) in Fig. 3.8. Training loss is calculated by taking the sum of loss for each pair of input and output in the training dataset after every training cycle (i.e., epoch).

Fig. 3.18 illustrates the concept of the forecasting model's training and forecasting process. In training set 1, the blue block represents the observed values, while the yellow block is the datapoint from the training dataset \mathbf{Y} . The model is required to learn how to map the blue block to the yellow block; the times of model learning is equivalent to the length of the training dataset deducted by the length of the sliding time window (i.e., the sliding time window refers to the length of the input data). Once the training process is complete, the model will be able to generate a value, known as the inference, prediction, or forecast, given the input.

In this study, the model is designed to forecast values three hours into the future using the values from the past 24 hours. As shown in Fig. 3.19b, to forecast one hour into the future,

the model will be input with 24 hours of observed values from the testing dataset, and the model will generate a value known as the forecasted values of the 25th hour. For predicting two hours into the future, the model will be input with 23 hours of observed values and the first forecasted values (i.e., the 25th hour). For forecasting three hours into the future, the model will be input with 22 hours of observed values and two forecasted values from the last two forecasting processes to generate the value, known as the 26th hour. As the sliding time window moves toward the future forecast horizons, the model forecasted results would rely more on the forecasted values instead of the observed values, making the forecasted values less reliable. In this study, a forecast horizon of three was selected for testing the reliability of the model forecasting performance.

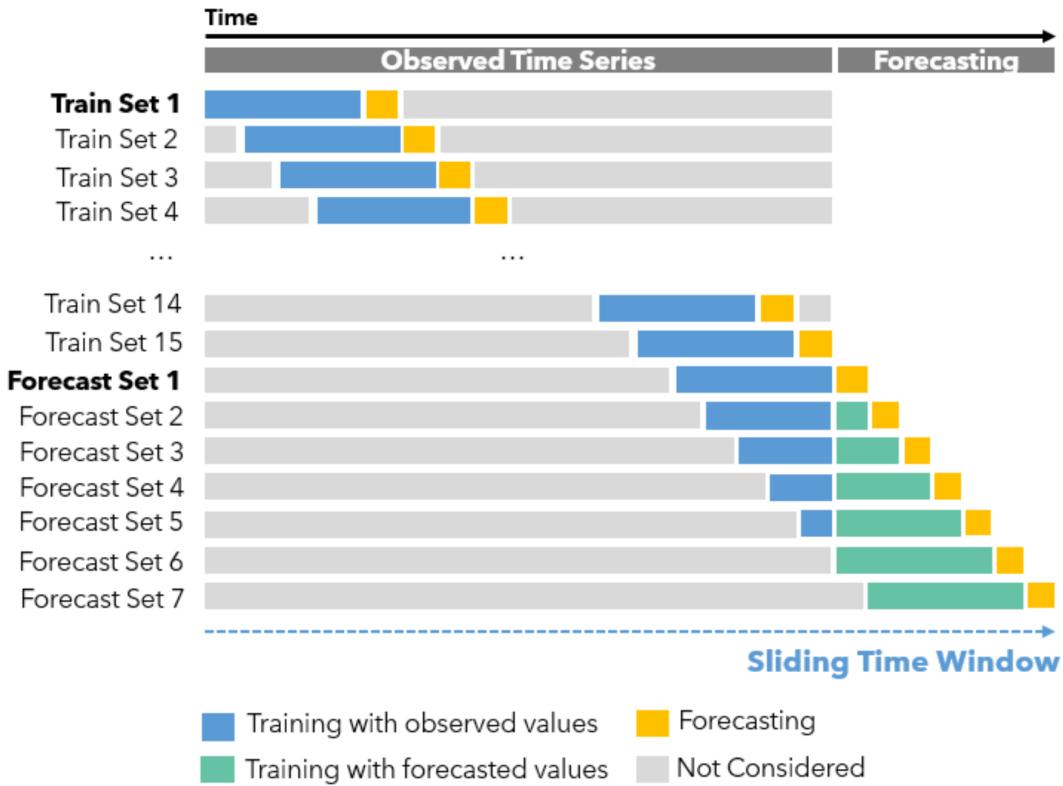
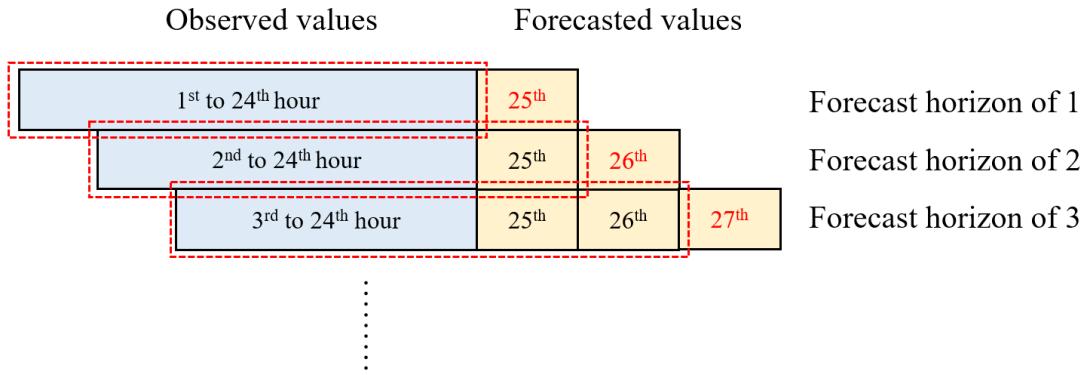


Figure 3.18: Concept of forecasting models (Liu, 2020).

The function of a validation dataset, as in (b) in Fig. 3.8, is used to assess the model performance until we obtain the optimized hyperparameter settings, including the number of neurons in machine learning models, epoch, etc. The hyperparameter settings for each model will be discussed in the next section. The validation loss plays a vital role during the model training. The adjustments of the hyperparameters will directly reflect on the change of the validation loss; the lower the values, the better the model performance is. As the optimized model is obtained, a testing dataset is used to evaluate the performance of the forecasting model, as shown in (c)

Observed values	Forecasted values
1 st to 24 th hour	25 th
2 nd to 25 th hour	26 th
3 rd to 26 th hour	27 th
⋮	

(a) Training process for each training set.



(b) Inference process for different forecast horizons.

Figure 3.19: Illustration of the training and inference process used in this study.

in Fig. 3.8. The testing datasets will only be input into the models when the models were tuned to the optimized settings and ready for the final evaluation. The testing datasets are also known as the unseen datasets, which can fairly evaluate the model performance. If the model tuning process was performed on the testing dataset, the model performance would be biased since the hyperparameters were adjusted in favour of the evaluation of the testing dataset.

In Fig. 3.8, the hyperparameters will remain the same once the optimized values were found, thus generating a baseline model performance from different machine learning algorithms. The baseline results will be further compared with the results from the model trained by the proposed model training steps, which include datasets that have been performed data smoothing and feature engineering techniques.

3.2.5 Feature selection

Fig. 3.20 illustrates which features were selected during the model training processes. In baseline model training steps, for both ammonia and colour forecasting models, only one fea-

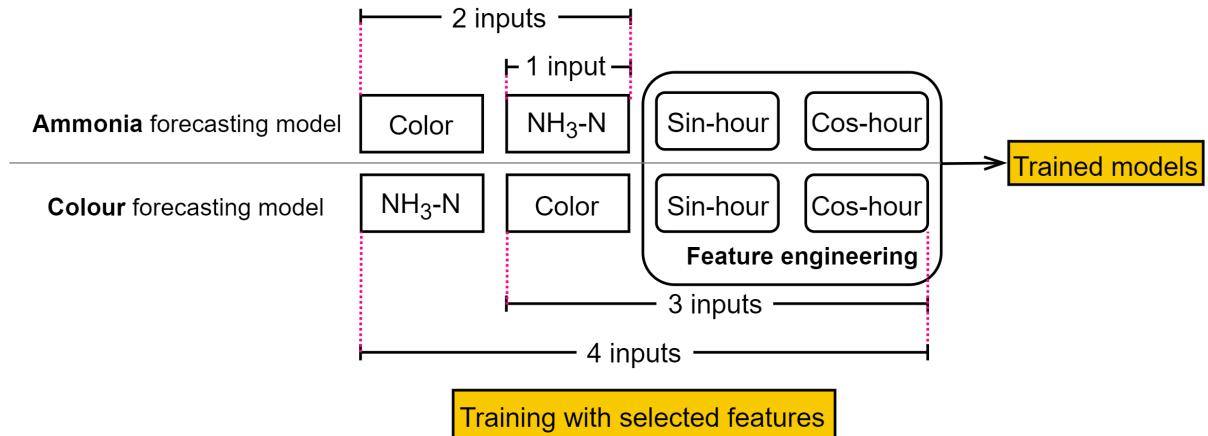


Figure 3.20: Illustration of feature selections for model training.

ture was used for training for each model, which was ammonia and colour data, respectively. Following the baseline model training steps, the model trained by a single feature will generate baseline models. The results from the final evaluation will be defined as the baseline model performance, which will be compared with the model evaluated results from the proposed model training steps. Once the baseline model performance is obtained, more features will be input to the model training processes in the order of two features, three features, and four features.

3.3 Machine learning models

3.3.1 Random Forest

The machine learning model used in this study (i.e., not deep learning models) is random forest (RF). It is an ensemble method in which the final output is obtained by averaging the results from multiple tree learners (Wang et al., 2021), as shown in Fig. 3.21a. The training algorithm applies the general technique of bootstrap aggregating, also known as bagging, to tree learners. Given a training set $X = x_1, \dots, x_n$ with targets $Y = y_1, \dots, y_n$, bagging repeatedly (B times) selects a random sample with replacement (i.e., not putting the samples back to the population) of the training set and fits trees to these samples (Wikipedia, 2022a), RF generate outputs through the following steps:

For $b = 1, \dots, B$:

- 1) Sample (with replacement) n training examples from X, Y , call these X_b, Y_b .
- 2) Train a regression tree f_b on X_b, Y_b .
- 3) Predict unseen samples x' by averaging the predictions from all the regression tree learners

on x' as in Eq. 3.3.1:

$$\hat{f} = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B f_b(x') \quad (3.3.1)$$

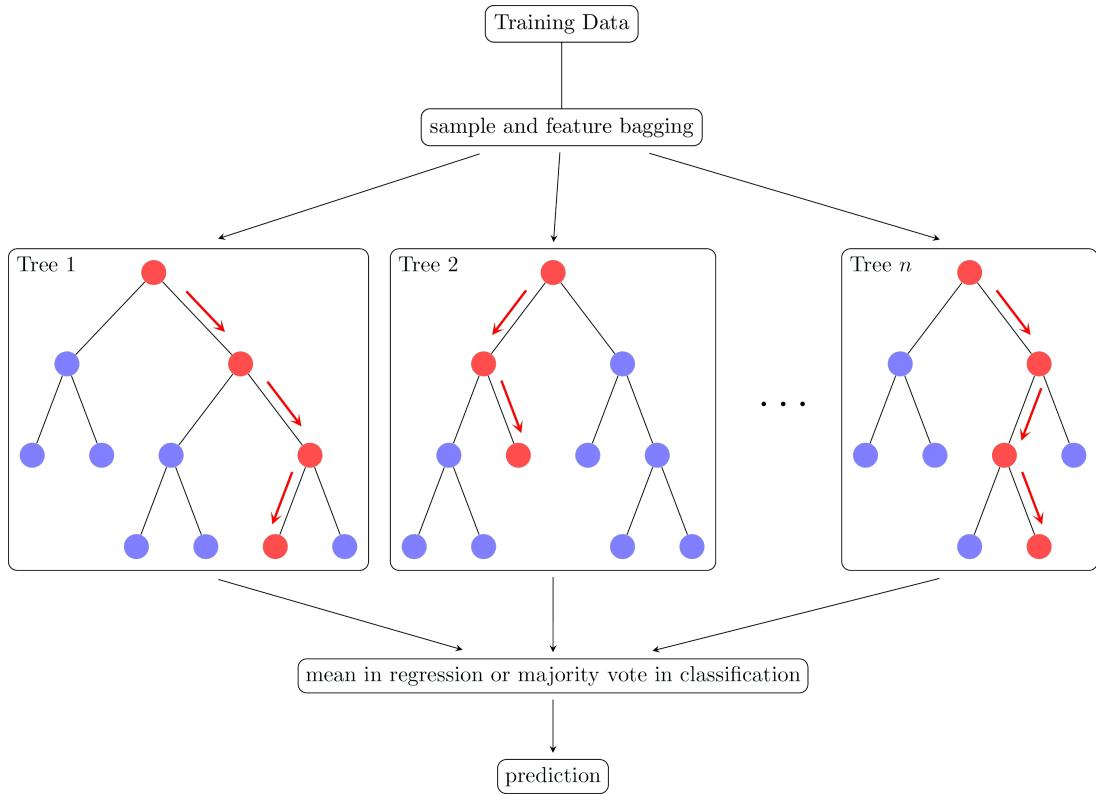
3.3.2 Deep Neural Network

Artificial Neural Network (ANN) is a broad term that encompasses any form of Deep Learning model. A typical ANN consists of input, hidden, and output layers, and each layer comprises multiple neurons (i.e., nodes). The connected neurons simulate the human brain by processing and transmitting input signals to the next nodes (Mohseni-Dargah et al., 2022). What sets it apart from an ANN model and a DNN model is that the former contains only one hidden layer while the latter has more than one, as shown in Fig. 3.21b. The DNN models are nonlinear, which finds the correct mathematical manipulation to turn the input into the output (Bangaloreai, 2018).

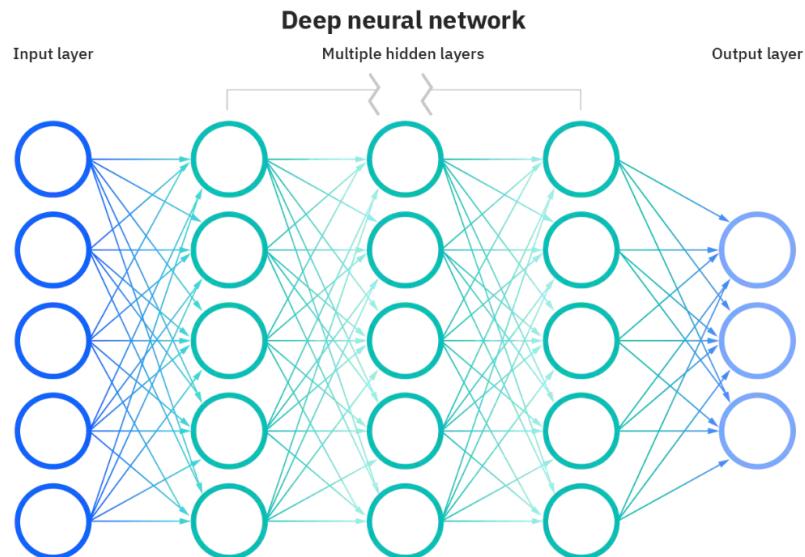
3.3.3 Recurrent Neural Network

A recurrent neural network (RNN) is a type of Artificial Neural Network designed to work with sequence data. For instance, sequence data are time series, DNA, language, speech, sequences of user actions data, etc. The ammonia concentrations and colour levels data were time-series data, a series of data points listed in minute orders (Donges, 2021). A distinguishing characteristic of RNN is that they share parameters across each layer of the network by allowing information to be passed from the last step of the network to the next. Unlike RNN, feedforward networks like DNN have different weights across each node. The reuse of previous information for making the decision on RNN makes it capable of "learning" from the previous inputs. The realization of the memorizing function is through a memory unit called hidden state (i.e., a vector contains weights) in RNN architecture, which enables RNN to persist data, thus capturing short-term dependencies. The RNN architecture is presented in Fig. 3.22a. The general formulation of a RNN is expressed in Eq. 3.3.2 (Mamandipoor et al., 2020):

$$h_t = \sigma(W^h h_{t-1} + W^x x_t + b) \quad (3.3.2)$$



(a) Random Forest (RF) (Riebesell, 2022).



(b) Deep Neural Network (DNN) (IBM, 2022).

Figure 3.21: Illustration of RF and DNN model structure.

where x_t is the current input, h_t is the current hidden state (output), h_{t-1} is the previous output, W^x is the weights of the hidden state, W^h is the weight of the input, b is the bias, σ is the sigmoid activation function.

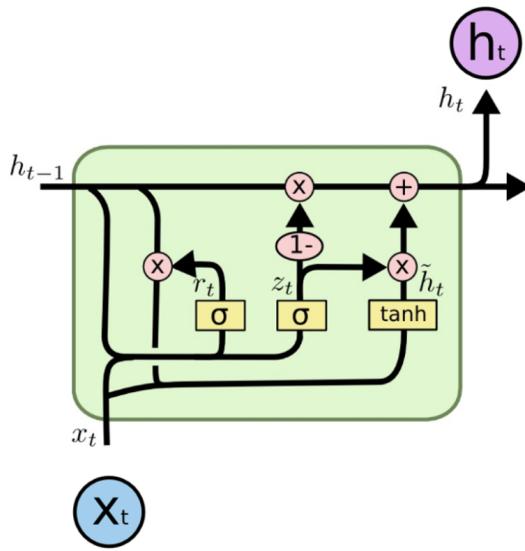
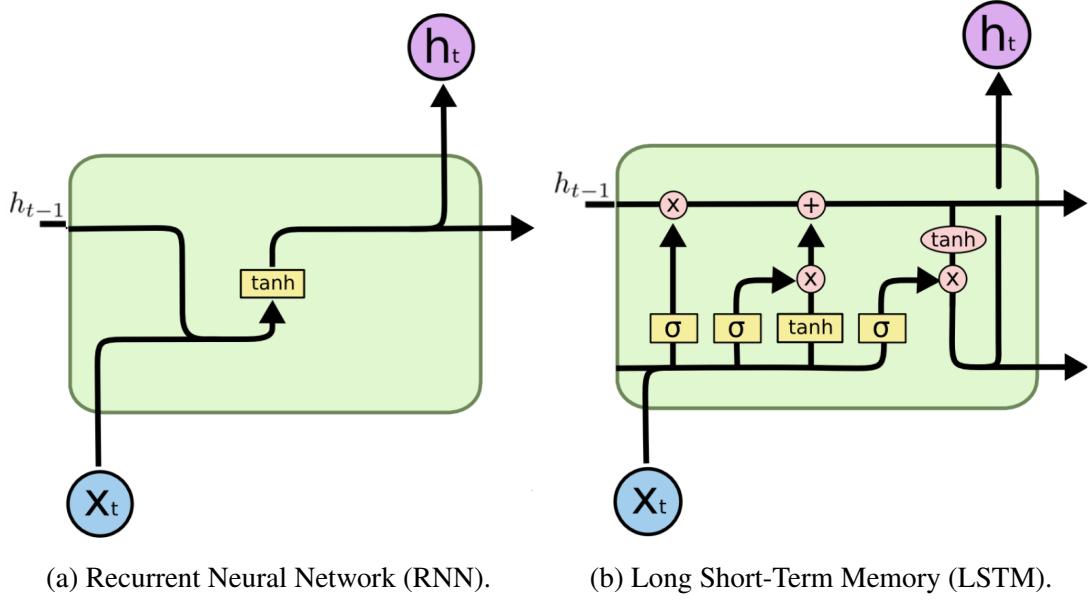


Figure 3.22: Variant architectures of Recurrent Neural Networks (adapted from Olah (2015)). x_t corresponds to the current input, h_{t-1} to the last hidden state (output), h_t to the current output, \tanh is the tangent activation function, σ is the sigmoid activation function, \times is the vector pointwise multiplication, $+$ is the vector pointwise addition.

3.3.4 Long Short-Term Memory

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) is a deep recurrent neural network (RNN), an advanced and improved version of RNN. The advent of LSTM solves problems requiring long-term temporal dependencies that RNN cannot learn due to the simple model architecture. The fundamental LSTM network is built on memory blocks called "cells", which are responsible for

transferring and receiving the states (i.e., vectors) recording the information from the previous cells. In a cell block, there is an input gate, a forget gate, and an output gate. The function of these three gates is to control the movement of the information into and out of the cell via the sigmoid function. The inputs of the cell will first go through a forget gate (f_t) as Eq. 3.3.3a, where the function will multiply each element in the input states by values ranging from 0 to 1 to realize the effect of "forget." Next, an input gate (i_t) as in Eq. 3.3.3b will decide whether the new information should be updated or ignored by the sigmoid function (i.e., 0 or 1), followed by a tangent function giving the weight of importance (i.e., -1 to 1) to the values which passed by as in Eq. 3.3.3c. New memory then is appended to the previous memory C_{t-1} resulting a new C_t . Lastly, output values (h_t) is obtained based on output cell state (O_t) as in Eq. 3.3.3e and Eq. 3.3.3f (Le et al., 2019). The equations for LSTM structure are shown in Eq. 3.3.3:

$$f_t = \sigma(W_f[h_{t-1}, X_t] + b_f) \quad (3.3.3a)$$

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i[h_{t-1}, X_t] + b_i) \quad (3.3.3b)$$

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_n[h_{t-1}, X_t] + b_n) \quad (3.3.3c)$$

$$C_t = C_{t-1}f_t + \tilde{C}_ti_t \quad (3.3.3d)$$

$$O_t = \sigma(W_o[h_{t-1}, X_t] + b_o) \quad (3.3.3e)$$

$$h_t = O_t \tanh(C_t) \quad (3.3.3f)$$

where f_t corresponds to the forget gate, i_t to the input gate, \tilde{C}_t to the candidate cell state, C_t to the current cell state, O_t to the output cell state, h_t to the output values, σ to the sigmoid function, X_t to the current input, \tanh to the tangent function, W and b are the weight matrices and bias of the corresponding output gate, respectively.

3.3.5 Gated Recurrent Unit

Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) model is a variant of the LSTM model; by combining the forget gate and input gate into an update gate as in Fig. 3.22c, GRU has fewer parameters compared to LSTM. The advantage of GRU over LSTM is less computing power required while maintaining a similar model performance compared to LSTM. The inputs of the GRU model first enter the update gate (z_t) as in Eq. 3.3.4a, where the function will help the model determine how much of the past information needs to be passed along to the future via sigmoid functions, and then followed by the reset gate (r_t) as in Eq. 3.3.4b, which is used to decide how much of the past

information to forget. Although Eq. 3.3.4a and Eq. 3.3.4b have the same inputs of X_t and h_{t-1} , the usages of the gates are different. The outputs of the reset gate will be used to determine the candidate hidden state (\tilde{h}_t) as in Eq. 3.3.4c, where the tangent function will determine the importance of the current input (X_t), reset gate output, and previous hidden state (h_t). At the last step, the output values (h_t) is calculated from the candidate hidden state (\tilde{h}_t), previous hidden state (h_{t-1}), and the outputs of update gate as in Eq. 3.3.4d. The equations of GRU structures are presented in Eq. 3.3.4 (Cheng et al., 2020):

$$z_t = \sigma(X_t W_{xz} + h_{t-1} W_{hz} + b_z) \quad (3.3.4a)$$

$$r_t = \sigma(X_t W_{xr} + h_{t-1} W_{hr} + b_r) \quad (3.3.4b)$$

$$\tilde{h}_t = \tanh(X_t W_{xh} + (r_t \circ h_{t-1}) W_{hh} + b_h) \quad (3.3.4c)$$

$$h_t = z_t \circ h_{t-1} + (1 - z_t) \circ \tilde{h}_t \quad (3.3.4d)$$

where z_t corresponds to the update gate, r_t to the reset gate, \tilde{h}_t to the candidate hidden state, h_t to the output values, σ to the sigmoid function, \tanh to the tangent function, X_t to the current input, W and the b are the weight matrices and bias of the corresponding output gate, respectively.

3.3.6 Configurations of machine learning models

Hyperparameters are variables that we need to set before applying a learning algorithm to a dataset (Agrawal, 2019). For different tasks and datasets, the optimized hyperparameters vary, which makes the seeking of hyperparameters challenging. For RF models, only one hyperparameter needs to be selected—the number of estimators. As shown in Fig. 3.21a, each estimator, known as the tree in the forest, makes a decision. Therefore, we need to set the number of estimators for making a forecast. In this study, we tried different numbers of estimators and selected 500 estimators ultimately.

For training neural networks (NNs), the selection of hyperparameters is much more. The hyperparameters in NNs can be split into two categories, as shown in the followings:

Optimized hyperparameters

- 1) Learning rate
- 2) Number of epochs
- 3) Mini batch size

Model-specific hyperparameters

- 1) Number of hidden units (neurons)
- 2) Number of layers

The learning rate is a tuning parameter in an optimization algorithm that determines the step size at each iteration while moving toward a minimum of a loss function. An iteration describes the number of times a batch of data passed through the algorithm. In our study, the training data has a length of 432, with a batch size of one; the model will iterate 432 times to complete one epoch. There is a trade-off between the rate of convergence and overshooting when determining an optimal learning rate. A too high learning rate leads to a learning step jump over minima as in Fig. 3.23c, yet a too low learning rate will either be too slow to converge or get stuck in a local minimum loss as in Fig 3.23a. A good size of learning rate should reach the minimum loss at a reasonable time, as in Fig. 3.23b. However, searching for the most optimal learning rate can be time-consuming and a waste of computing power. In this study, we used a learning rate scheduler to achieve the same effect of using a decent learning rate. The scheduler can be set to reduce the learning rate as the epoch increases. When the algorithm detects the test loss is not reducing during the training within a designated epoch time, the learning rate will be multiplied by a customized factor. A factor of 0.5 and a patience of 10 were used in this study. The effect of using a learning rate scheduler is shown in Fig. 3.23d.

In model-specific hyperparameter tuning, the number of neurons and the number of layers need to be determined based on the complexity of our training dataset. The ammonia and colour datasets are considered simple and small datasets. In the hyperparameter tunings of the deep learning models, we simplified the model structure by lowering the number of layers to 1 except for the DNN model. If the number of hidden layers decreased to one, the DNN models would be called the ANN models according to the definition. The number of neurons was set to 10 to maintain simple deep learning models to prevent overfitting.

The settings of the optimized hyperparameters are listed in the followings in the final iteration of model hyperparameter tuning:

Optimized hyperparameters

- 1) Learning rate: 5e-05
- 2) Number of epochs: 100
- 3) Batch size: 1

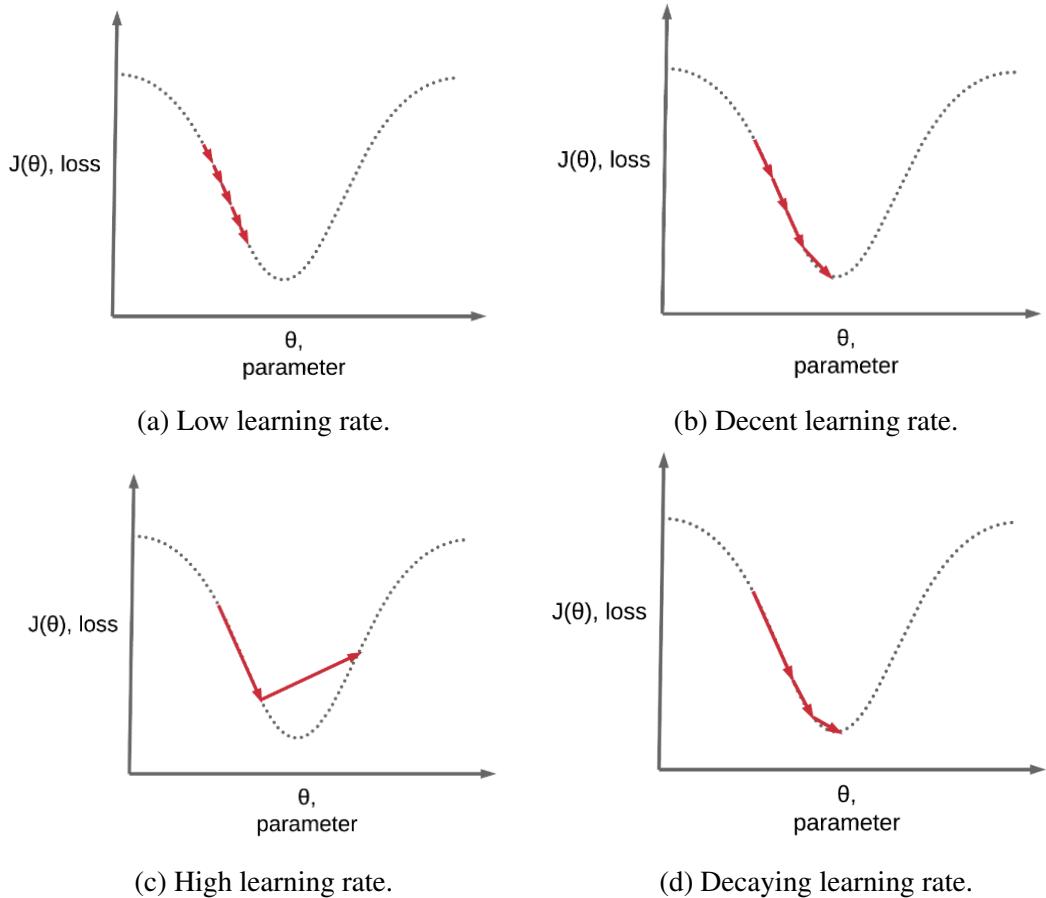


Figure 3.23: Illustration of how different step sizes of learning rate reach the minimum loss (Ritchie Ng, 2019).

Table 3.2: Final model configurations.

Model	Input	h.d ^a	Output	Num. of Exp ^b	Comments
RF	24 ^c	-	3	3	Estimators = 500
DNN	24	2	1	3	h.d = 10 neurons
RNN	24	1	1	3	h.d = 10 neurons
GRU	24	1	1	3	h.d = 10 neurons
LSTM	24	1	1	3	h.d = 10 neurons

^a Hidden layer.

^b The times the experiments were repeated.

^c 24 hourly data points were input into the models for training.

CHAPTER 4

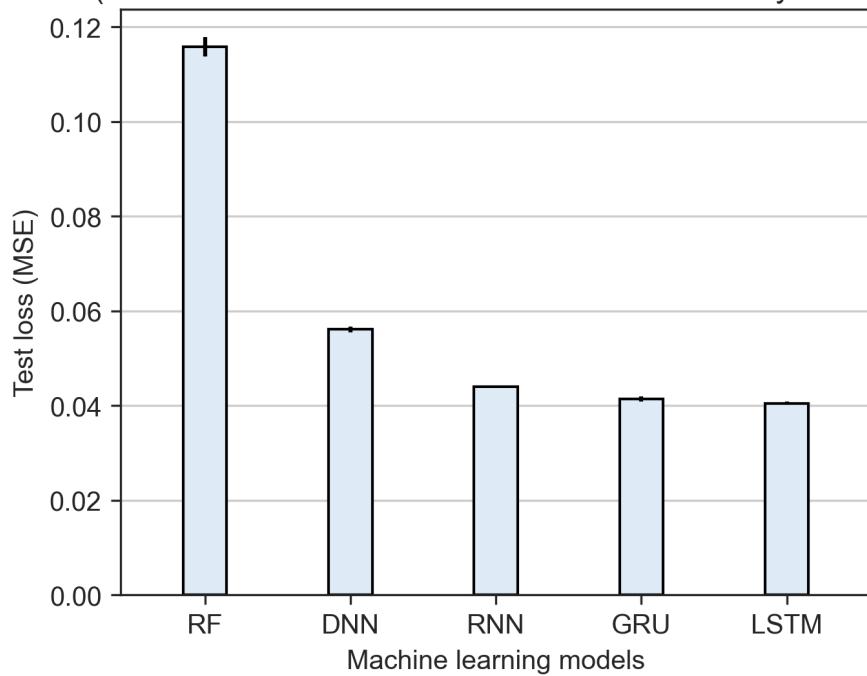
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Baseline performance of the forecasting models

In this study, five machine learning algorithms were trained with univariate datasets to predict the ammonia concentrations and colour levels in the reclaimed water system. All baseline models are trained by training datasets which were not applied with data pre-processing and feature engineering techniques. The forecasting model performance is presented in Fig. 4.1. As shown in Fig. 4.1a, the test loss values of RF, DNN, RNN, GRU, and LSTM models are 0.1158, 0.0561, 0.0440, 0.0414, and 0.0405, respectively (see Appendix. A.1). RF model is the least capable model in forecasting ammonia concentrations, given that its test loss is significantly higher than all the other four deep learning models. The cause of poor RF model performance can be attributed to its simple model structure. RF model generates results based on the averaging results from each decision tree (i.e., each decision tree will generate a prediction based on entropy and information gain). There is only one available hyperparameter for tuning RF models: the estimators (i.e., the number of the decision tree). Therefore, throughout the entire model tuning process. We observed the RF model had the lowest test loss at the beginning among all the models, and the increased estimators did not help lower the test loss values. Meanwhile, several iterations of hyperparameter tunings help the deep learning models to reduce the test loss values to critical values, which were lower than the test loss of the RF model. The gradual reductions of test loss values for deep learning models can be attributed to the nature of their complex model architectures (i.e., a good quantity of neurons, neurons are designed to perform unique functions) and the available hyperparameters for tuning. For instance, the number of hidden layers, number of neurons, learning rate, and epoch are adjustable. The customizable hyperparameters in the deep learning models allow the researchers to fully explore the possibilities of training better models, and the superior performance is reflected in the values of test loss obtained from the optimized hyperparameter settings.

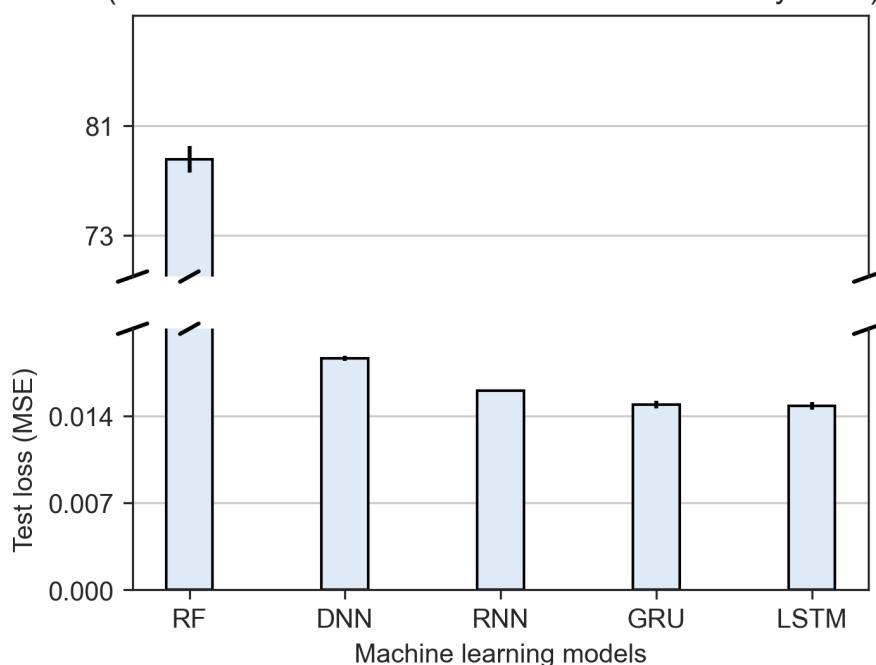
GRU and LSTM models learn the data in similar ways by utilizing memorizing cells to pass and receive critical information from the previous memorizing cells, known as the architecture

Baseline model performance in forecasting NH₃-N.
(Evaluated on test dataset from 16 to 22 January 2022)



(a) Test loss values from five ammonia forecasting models.

Baseline model performance in forecasting colour.
(Evaluated on test dataset from 16 to 22 January 2022)



(b) Test loss values from five colour forecasting models.

Figure 4.1: Baseline performance of the ammonia and colour forecasting models.

of recurrent neural network. Compared to RNN models, both models contain more "gates" in the architectures to help control the flow of information, enabling the models to capture more details. The number of gates in RNN, GRU, and LSTM is one, three, and four; theoretically, GRU and LSTM can learn more information from the data based on a greater number of gates. The results in Fig. 4.1a showed good agreement with our understanding that LSTM performed better than GRU, followed by RNN models based on the values of test loss. For DNN models, the lack of memorizing cells in the model architecture relates to the poorer capability of learning information hidden in time-series datasets. In other words, DNN models cannot comprehend the information hidden in each datapoint in sequence, making the time-series dataset merely a common set of data. The DNN model with a test loss of 0.0440, higher than the 0.0414 of the RNN models, fully justifies the need to use the architecture of recurrent neural networks for training ammonia forecasting models.

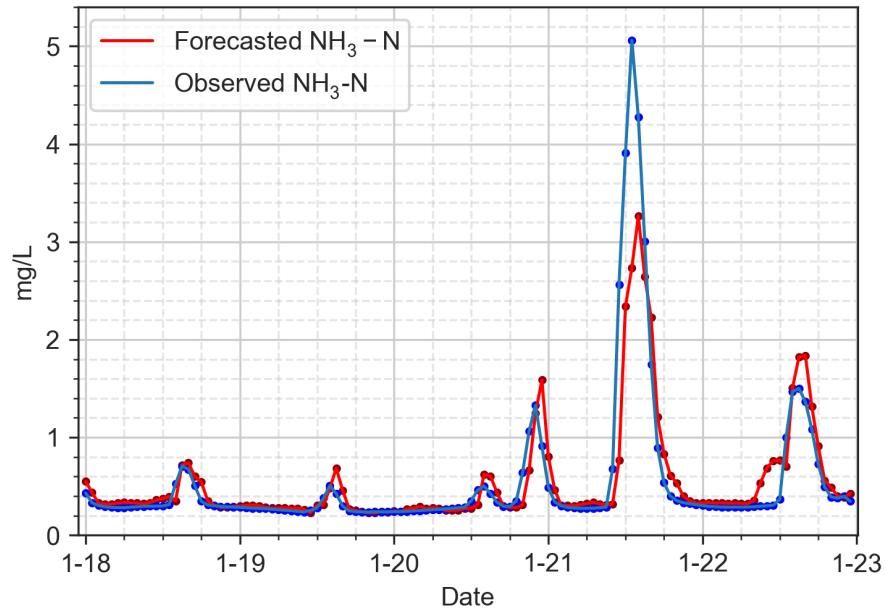
In Fig. 4.1b, the test loss from colour forecasting models are 78.5296, 0.0186, 0.0160, 0.0149, and 0.0148 for RF, DNN, RNN, GRU and LSTM models, respectively (see Appendix. A.2). We first noticed the highest test loss value of 78.5296 in the RF model compared to the other four, making RF model the worst model in forecasting colour levels. The extremely high MSE values were caused by the colour levels fluctuating in a wider range of 80 to 160 Hazen Units. The large discrepancy between the actual and predicted colour levels increases the error values, which are further amplified as the MSE values are calculated by the average of the squares of the errors. As shown in Fig. 4.3a, on 20 January 2022, the errors between the ground truth and forecasted values are up to around 30 Hazen Units, which contribute to a large increase of MSE values in the test loss. RF model is regarded as an inferior model for forecasting colour levels using the data collected in SWHEPP.

The performance of DNN, RNN, GRU, and LSTM models, from the best to the least, are identical to what we observed in the results of ammonia forecasting models. LSTM model has the lowest test loss of 0.0148, followed by the GRU, RNN, and DNN models. In colour forecasting models, the model performance of LSTM is very close to GRU, with a difference of less than 0.0001 (i.e., less than 1%). However, the lowest test loss generated from the LSTM model in all the experiment runs (i.e., three runs) is 0.0143, which is lower than 0.0146 from the GRU model. Indicating LSTM model has more potential in forecasting time-series data.

The significantly higher test loss of RF models compared to other models can be visualized by plotting the forecasted values with the ground truths (i.e., observed values). In Fig. 4.2

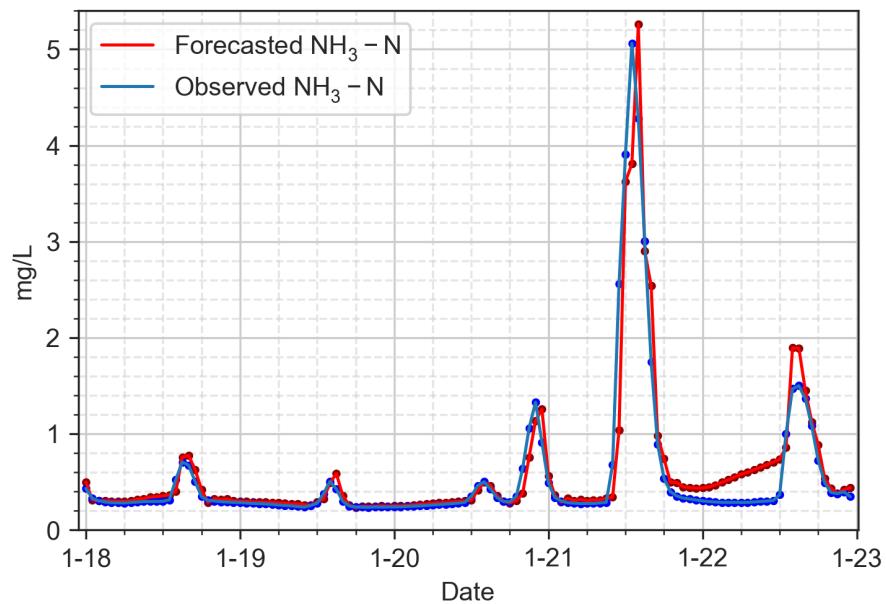
and Fig. 4.3, one-step-ahead forecast horizon of ammonia concentrations and colour levels are plotted by RF as in Fig. 4.2a and Fig. 4.3a and LSTM models as in Fig. 4.2b and Fig. 4.3b. It is easier to observe that the RF models are less capable of predicting the water quality parameters.

The ammonia forecasting results.
(R-squared=0.7743)



(a) Baseline RF model forecasting ammonia concentration.

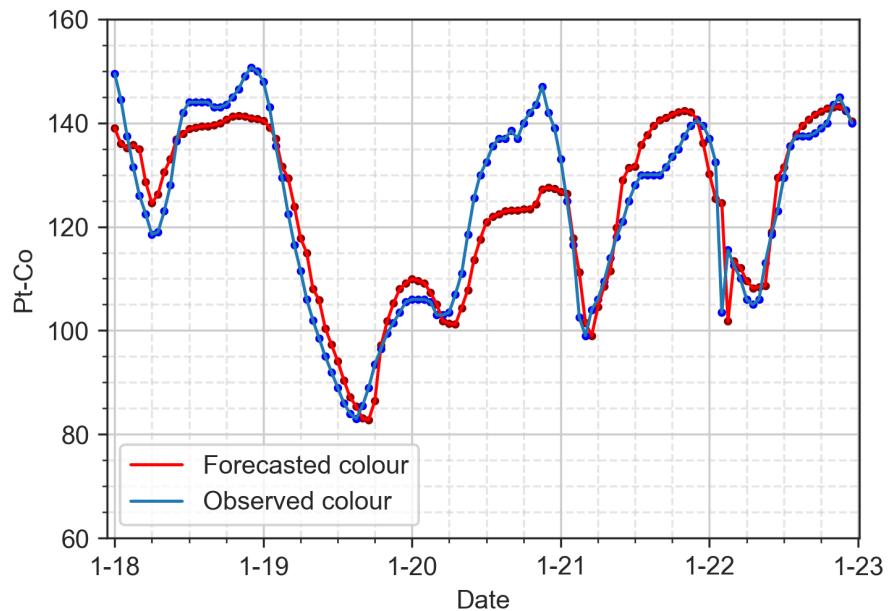
The ammonia forecasting results.
(R-squared=0.8847)



(b) Baseline LSTM model forecasting ammonia concentration.

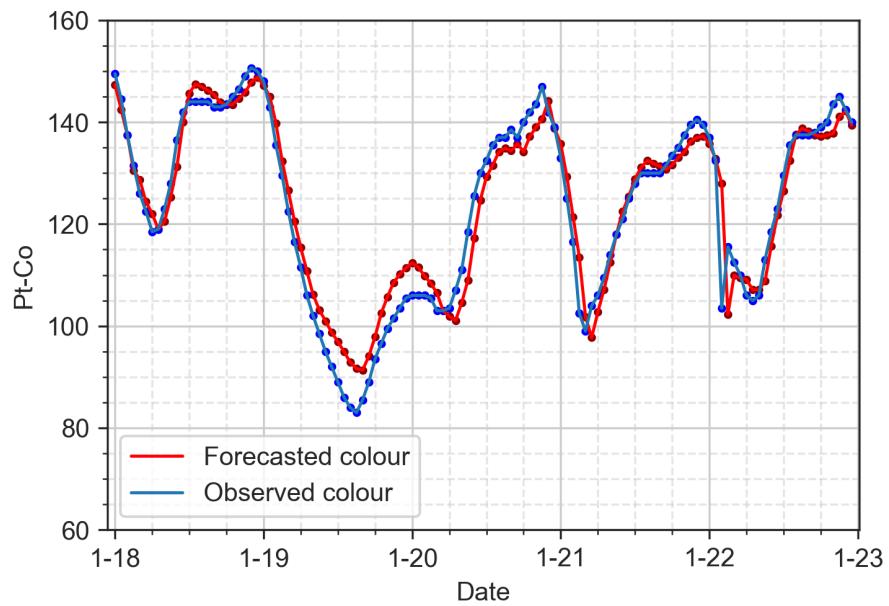
Figure 4.2: Visualization of the baseline ammonia forecasting results.

The colour forecasting results.
(R-squared=0.8295)



(a) Baseline RF model forecasting colour levels.

The colour forecasting results.
(R-squared=0.9311)



(b) Baseline LSTM model forecasting colour levels.

Figure 4.3: Visualization of the baseline colour forecasting results.

4.2 Improved performance on forecasting models using data pre-processing techniques

4.2.1 Models trained by pre-processed datasets

In this study, we investigate whether the datasets treated by the proposed data pre-processing techniques can improve the baseline model performance using the same hyperparameter settings. As shown in Table. 4.1 and Table. 4.3, we listed all the test loss values of five machine learning algorithms trained with each proposed pre-processed technique for ammonia concentrations and colour levels forecasting. The machine learning algorithm trained by datasets that were applied with SG filters at different window sizes is denoted as model-sg5, model-sg7, and model-sg9. The naming rule applies the same to EWMA filtered dataset; the method of outlier removal for ammonia data is denoted as model-or; models trained with the raw datasets are denoted as model-obs (i.e., observed dataset).

Table 4.1: Baseline performance of the ammonia forecasting model, evaluated on test dataset from **16 to 22 January 2022**. Loss values were calculated by MSE.

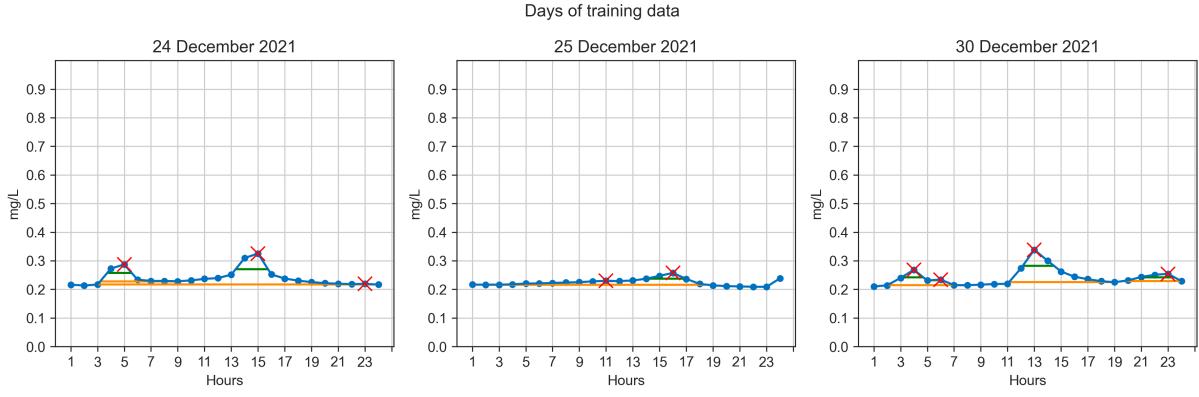
Model-Dataset	Test loss	Valid loss	Model-Dataset	Test loss	Valid loss
GRU-sg7	0.0383	1.2508	RNN-or	0.0432	1.6345
GRU-sg5	0.0385	1.2644	RNN-ew3	0.0434	1.6041
LSTM-ew3	0.0388	1.0796	RNN-obs	0.0440	1.6734
LSTM-sg5	0.0388	1.2346	RNN-sg9	0.0442	1.7046
LSTM-sg7	0.0388	1.1804	DNN-obs	0.0561	3.2383
GRU-ew2	0.0389	1.1891	DNN-sg5	0.0562	3.2170
GRU-ew4	0.0391	1.2390	DNN-ew2	0.0563	3.1677
GRU-ew3	0.0392	1.2199	DNN-ew3	0.0569	3.2317
LSTM-ew2	0.0392	1.0969	DNN-sg7	0.0570	3.2014
LSTM-ew4	0.0395	1.1219	DNN-ew4	0.0571	3.2188
GRU-sg9	0.0396	1.3097	DNN-or	0.0572	3.1972
LSTM-or	0.0398	1.2612	DNN-sg9	0.0574	3.2484
LSTM-obs	0.0405	1.3993	RF-obs	0.1158	-
GRU-or	0.0405	1.2366	RF-sg9	0.1196	-
LSTM-sg9	0.0410	1.3076	RF-ew2	0.1286	-
GRU-obs	0.0414	1.3638	RF-or	0.1294	-
RNN-sg5	0.0415	1.5088	RF-sg5	0.1298	-
RNN-ew2	0.0421	1.5425	RF-ew3	0.1313	-
RNN-sg7	0.0423	1.6267	RF-sg7	0.1409	-
RNN-ew4	0.0432	1.5992	RF-ew4	0.1441	-

The improvements in the performance of ammonia forecasting models are most significant

with models trained by SG filtered datasets. Training GRU models with an sg7 filtered dataset reduced the test loss of GRU-obs from 0.0414 to 0.0383 (-7.5%). LSTM-sg7 also successfully decreased the test loss value of LSTM-obs from 0.0405 to 0.0388 (-4.2%), while RNN-sg5 reduced the test loss value of RNN-obs from 0.0440 to 0.0415 (-5.7%). Using SG filters on the training datasets improves the performance of LSTM, GRU, and RNN models. However, the DNN and RF models trained by sg filtered datasets did not show a superior model performance compared to the test loss values of 0.0561 and 0.1158 of DNN-obs and RF-obs, respectively. Given that DNN and RF models perceive the data points as clusters of individuals, data smoothing using SG filters is not expected to help improve their model performance. SG filter smoothes the data points by convoluting both previous and subsequent data points, making a series of data points correlated or linked with each other. Such data property is believed to be captured by the memorizing cells in recurrent neural networks, such as RNN, GRU, and LSTM models. From the results in Table. 4.1, all the recurrent neural networks-based models outperformed all the DNN and RF models. It can be concluded that DNN and RF models are poor options for training time-series models, even with the use of the SG filter technique.

The RNN-or, GRU-or, and LSTM-or models, which were trained with datasets applied with outlier removal methods, showed lower test loss values of 0.0432 (-1.8%), 0.0405 (-2.2%), and 0.0398 (1.7%) compared to test loss values of 0.0440, 0.0414, and 0.0405 from RNN-obs, GRU-obs, and LSTM-obs, respectively. We also noticed that the improvements of RNN-or, GRU-or, and LSTM-or are minor compared with the models trained by SG and EWMA filtered datasets. In this method, three days of abnormal data were removed from an 18-day dataset as in Fig. 4.4, which accounts for around 15% of the data. Despite the fact that 15% of the data was removed, the improvement in lowering the test loss values was slight. It is suggested that the deep learning models are smart enough to neglect the noise in the training datasets while performing forecasts from the test dataset.

RNN, GRU, and LSTM models trained by EWMA filtered datasets also showed good improvements in the model performance. RNN-ew2, GRU-ew2, and LSTM-ew3 showed lower test loss of 0.0421 (4.3%), 0.0389 (6.0%), and 0.0388 (4.2%) compared to RNN-obs, GRU-obs, and LSTM-obs of 0.0440, 0.0414, and 0.0405, respectively. EWMA filters modified the data points by averaging the value of the current data points with previous ones, making the data property almost identical to the SG filtered data. Both SG and EWMA filters similarly influenced the baseline models, in which LSTM obtained the lowest test loss values, followed by GRU and RNN models. By far, the results only suggest that both filters are robust techniques



(a) Validation dataset from January 2022.

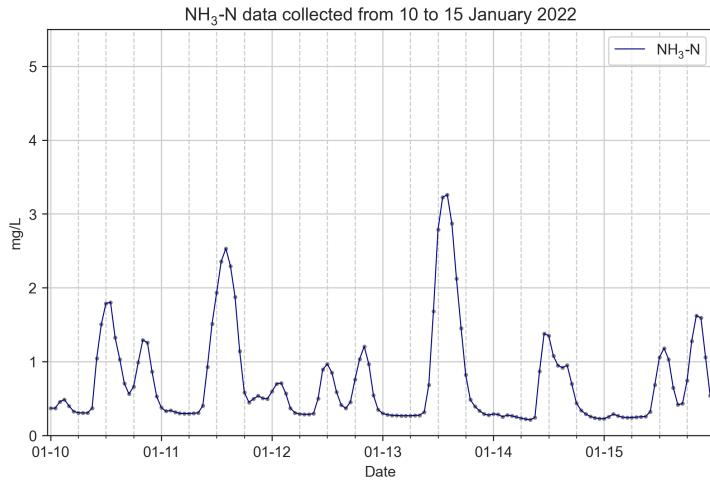
Figure 4.4: Results of the removed outliers from the training dataset.

in terms of lowering the test loss, yet we cannot draw conclusions about which filter is more effective in improving the model performance. In addition, we discovered our test loss values to be abnormal when inspecting models' validation loss and the test loss values.

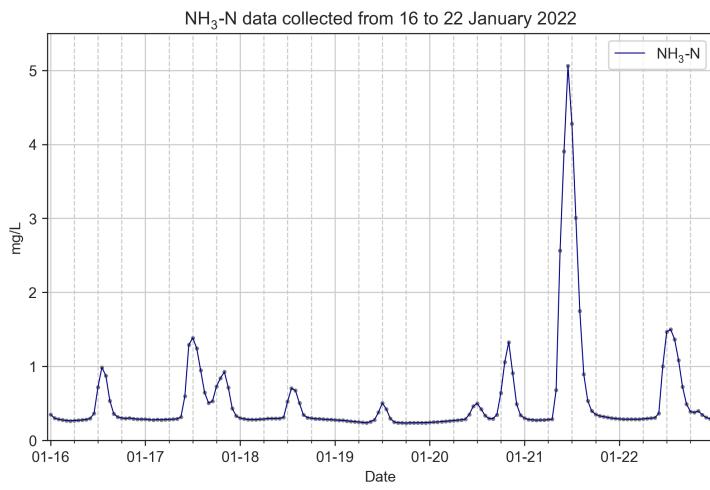
Empirically, the best-performed Model-Dataset combination should match the lowest test with the lowest validation loss values when using the same testing dataset to evaluate a group of models. For instance, the GRU-sg7 model in forecasting ammonia has the lowest test loss of 0.0383, yet the validation loss of 1.2508 only ranks tenth among the validation loss values. The top three lowest validation loss models are LSTM-ew3, LSTM-ew2 and LSTM-ew4, yet the top three lowest test loss models are from GUR-sg7, GRU-sg5, and LSTM-ew3 models. This finding points to the potential heterogeneity between the validation and testing datasets. The limitation of this study's validation and testing datasets is the small dataset size, resulting in specific daily fluctuation patterns of ammonia may only occur in the testing dataset. In all the available ammonia data, we selected the data from October 2021 as the second testing dataset for its high similarity to the validation dataset in January 2022.

As shown in Fig. 4.5, the fluctuation patterns of NH₃-N in validation dataset as in Fig. 4.5a is much resemble to the testing dataset from Fig. 4.5c compared to testing dataset from Fig. 4.5b. Further tests were carried out using a testing dataset from October to re-evaluate the model performance from Table. 4.1. It is expected that the Model-Dataset ranks of test and validation loss values from the lowest to the highest will change. To the best of my understanding, the comparisons between testing and validation loss are not discussed in the currently available research papers in the modelling of the wastewater treatment industry.

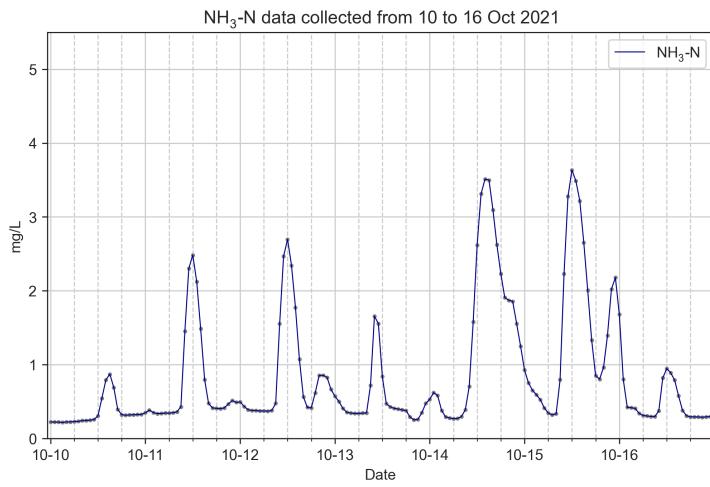
As shown in Table. 4.2, the models with the top lowest test loss values are 0.0158, 0.0161,



(a) Validation dataset from January 2022.



(b) Testing dataset from January 2022.



(c) Testing dataset from October 2021.

Figure 4.5: Illustration of the heterogeneity and homogeneity between validation and different testing datasets.

0.0163 for LSTM-ew3, LSTM-ew2, and LSTM-ew4, which match the top three lowest validation loss values of 1.0796, 1.0969, and 0.1219. This is in good agreement with how the heterogeneity of the datasets can impact the model performance. The evaluations of the ammonia forecasting models in October 2021 showed completely different outcomes compared to those in January 2022. Instead of GRU, LSTM becomes the best model for training the ammonia forecasting model. For LSTM models, the top three Model-Dataset combinations are LSTM-ew3, LSTM-ew2, and LSTM-ew4; for GRU models, they are GRU-ew3, GRU-ew4, and GRU-ew2; for RNN models are RNN-ew4, RNN-ew2, and RNN-ew3. It is evident that EWMA filters have a more significant influence on the model performance for all the recurrent neural network models than SG filters. However, given the small dataset size, caution must be taken if the EWMA filter is applied in future works.

Table 4.2: Baseline performance of the ammonia forecasting models, evaluated on test dataset from **10 to 16 October 2021**. Loss values were calculated by MSE.

Model-Dataset	Test loss	Valid loss	Model-Dataset	Test loss	Valid loss
LSTM-ew3	0.0158	1.0796	RNN-or	0.0197	1.6345
LSTM-ew2	0.0161	1.0969	RNN-sg7	0.0201	1.6267
LSTM-ew4	0.0163	1.1219	RNN-sg9	0.0205	1.7046
LSTM-sg5	0.0166	1.2346	RNN-obs	0.0206	1.6734
GRU-ew3	0.0167	1.2199	DNN-ew3	0.0316	3.2317
GRU-ew4	0.0169	1.2390	DNN-or	0.0316	3.1972
GRU-ew2	0.0170	1.1891	DNN-sg7	0.0316	3.2014
GRU-sg9	0.0174	1.3097	DNN-ew2	0.0318	3.1677
LSTM-obs	0.0175	1.2366	DNN-ew4	0.0319	3.2188
LSTM-or	0.0177	1.2612	DNN-obs	0.0319	3.2383
GRU-sg5	0.0178	1.2644	DNN-sg5	0.0319	3.2170
GRU-sg7	0.0180	1.2508	DNN-sg9	0.0319	3.2484
LSTM-sg7	0.0180	1.1804	RF-sg9	0.1307	-
GRU-or	0.0187	1.3993	RF-sg7	0.1311	-
LSTM-sg9	0.0188	1.3076	RF-sg5	0.1343	-
GRU-obs	0.0189	1.3638	RF-ew2	0.1346	-
RNN-ew4	0.0190	1.5992	RF-ew3	0.1368	-
RNN-ew2	0.0191	1.5425	RF-obs	0.1443	-
RNN-ew3	0.0193	1.6041	RF-ew4	0.1451	-
RNN-sg5	0.0195	1.5088	RF-or	0.1477	-

The test loss values of the colour forecasting models are presented in Table. 4.3. The top six lowest test loss models are LSTM-ew4, LSTM-ew2, LSTM-ew3, GRU-ew3, GRU-ew2, and GRU ew4 with the values of 0.0136, 0.0138, 0.0138, 0.0140, 0.0142, and 0.0143, respectively. LSTM models are shown to be the best-performed model in forecasting colour levels.

The results also suggest that all the top lowest test loss models are trained by EWMA filtered datasets. We found that LSTM, GRU, and RNN models trained by EWMA filtered datasets generated the top lowest test loss values compared to the same models trained by SG filtered datasets. Interestingly, in both colour and ammonia forecasting models, LSTM models trained by EWMA filtered dataset showed the most superior performance, as shown in Table. 4.2 and Table. 4.3. LSTM models trained with EWMA filtered datasets are proved to be the best model and pre-processing techniques for training colour forecasting models in this study.

In the investigation of how a small dataset can influence the model results, we found that the top three lowest validation loss values are LSTM-sg9, LSTM-sg7, and LSTM-ew4, which rank the 7th, 20th, and 1st as the lowest test loss values. In this study, there is no extra colour testing dataset we can retrieve from the historical dataset, despite the fact that we were keen to investigate the homogeneity and heterogeneity of the colour validation and testing dataset. Compromises have to be made during the analysis of colour forecasting models.

Table 4.3: Baseline performance of the colour forecasting models, evaluated on test dataset from **16 to 22 January 2022**. Loss values were calculated by MSE.

Model-Dataset	Test loss	Valid loss	Model-Dataset	Test loss	Valid loss
LSTM-ew4	0.0136	0.7515	RNN-obs	0.0160	1.0623
LSTM-ew2	0.0138	0.8011	LSTM-sg7	0.0161	0.7439
LSTM-ew3	0.0138	0.7547	LSTM-sg5	0.0168	0.8355
GRU-ew3	0.0140	0.8068	DNN-sg5	0.0180	1.4702
GRU-ew2	0.0142	0.8330	DNN-sg7	0.0180	1.4823
GRU-ew4	0.0143	0.7694	DNN-sg9	0.0180	1.4574
LSTM-sg9	0.0143	0.7137	DNN-ew4	0.0181	1.4632
RNN-ew3	0.0144	0.8492	DNN-ew3	0.0182	1.4716
RNN-ew4	0.0147	0.8476	DNN-ew2	0.0183	1.4946
RNN-sg9	0.0147	0.8363	DNN-obs	0.0186	1.5397
LSTM-obs	0.0148	0.9744	RF-sg9	63.6847	
GRU-obs	0.0149	0.9927	RF-sg7	73.8263	
RNN-ew2	0.0150	0.9083	RF-ew3	75.1974	-
GRU-sg9	0.0151	0.7575	RF-ew4	77.8829	-
RNN-sg5	0.0158	0.8846	RF-obs	78.5296	-
RNN-sg7	0.0158	0.8755	RF-ew2	78.8753	-
GRU-sg7	0.0159	0.7791	RF-sg5	81.0696	-
GRU-sg5	0.0160	0.8080	-	-	-

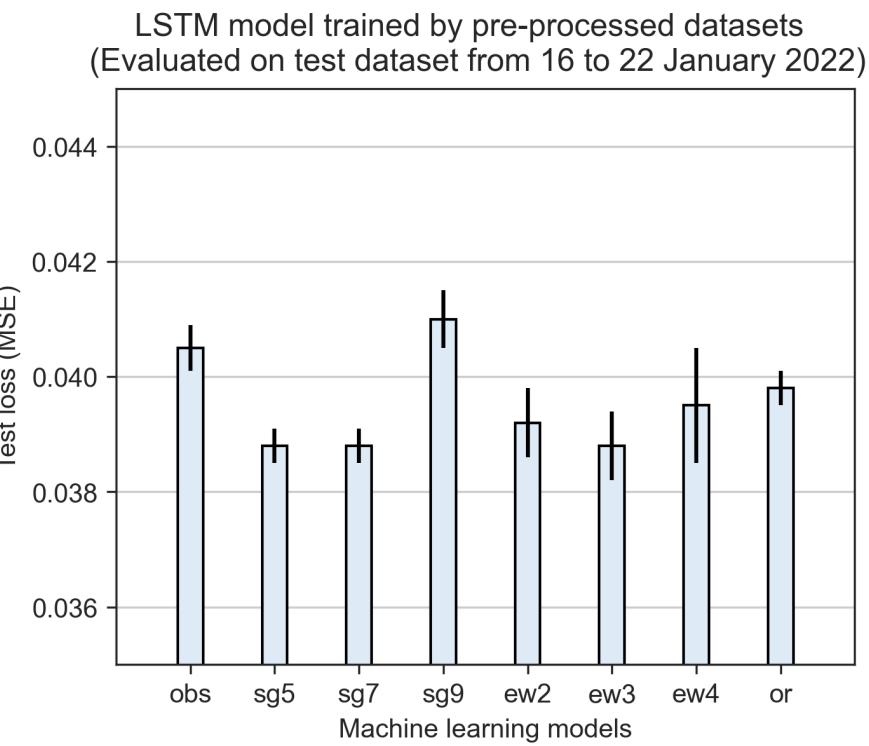
By comparing the baseline performance and the influences of data pre-processing techniques on machine learning models, our findings appear to be well substantiated by using LSTM models for training ammonia and colour forecasting models due to their outstanding

model performance evaluated by test loss values. Although EWMA filters showed surprising effects on improving the performance of most models, the conclusions of determining which pre-processing techniques are the optimum option should be treated with caution. Thus, the testings of the proposed model training processes will include all the pre-processing techniques for model training, and LSTM will be used as the only machine learning model.

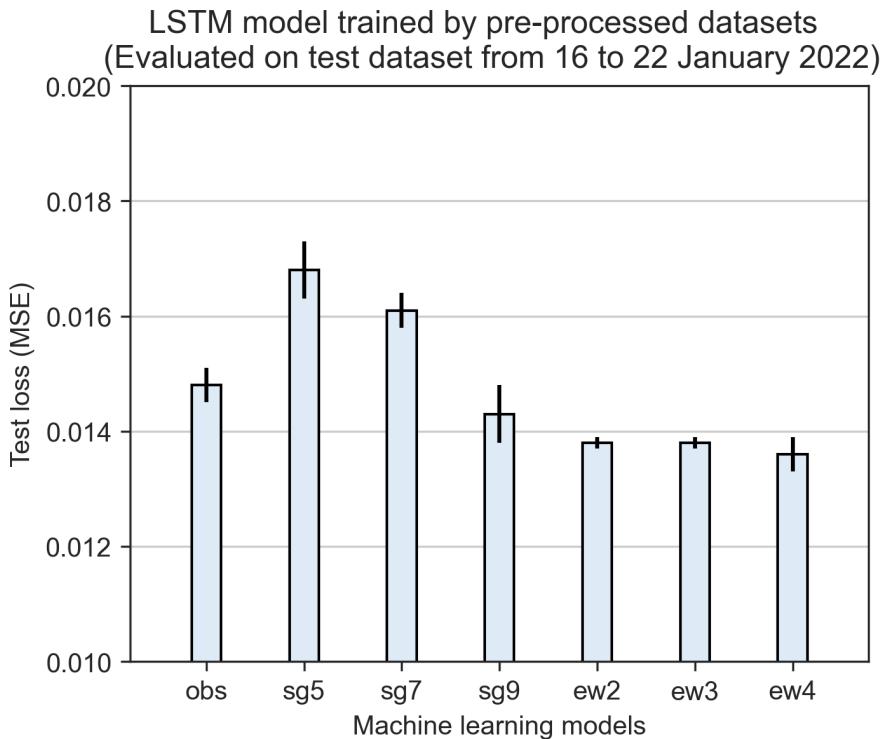
4.2.2 The effects of window sizes of the data smoothing filters

The influences of window sizes in the data smoothing process are investigated using LSTM models and illustrated in Fig. 4.6. Larger and smaller SG window sizes have different impacts on ammonia and colour forecasting models. In ammonia forecasting models, as shown in Fig. 4.6a, LSTM models trained with SG filtered datasets with window sizes of 5, 7, and 9 have the test loss values of 0.0388, 0.0388, and 0.0410. The results suggested that modifying data points at higher degrees may negatively affect the model training process. The results from models trained by EWMA filtered datasets showed good agreement with this finding. The model trained with EWMA filtered datasets with the windows size of 2, 3, and 4 have the test loss values of 0.0392, 0.0388, and 0.0395. A higher test loss value is observed in LSTM-ew4 compared to LSTM-ew3.

For colour forecasting models, as shown in Fig. 4.6b, LSTM models trained by SG filtered datasets with window sizes of 5, 7, and 9 have test loss values of 0.0168, 0.0161, and 0.0143. LSTM models trained by EWMA filtered datasets with window sizes of 2, 3, and 4 showed test loss values of 0.0138, 0.0138, and 0.0136. From these results, we observed that larger window sizes helped the models achieve lower test loss for colour forecasting models, which does not support what we have concluded for the ammonia forecasting models. One possible explanation for the contradictory results is that ammonia and colour data have different sensitivity toward the data smoothing filters. For instance, ammonia concentrations change between the values of 1.0 to 7.0 mg/L, while colour levels vary from 80 to 160 Hazen Units, making the values of filtered data points less significant in colour data. In other words, if ammonia data points are shifted from the original values after applying data smoothing techniques, the values might be biased considering the fluctuated range of ammonia is small, while the shifted colour level data can be less biased among the sample regarding the fluctuation range of colour level is much larger. By far, we can not conclude how to select the window sizes of the data smoothing filters. The unpredictable influences of applying data smoothing filters on forecasting models impede



(a) Baseline performance of ammonia forecasting models trained by LSTM.



(b) Baseline performance of the colour forecasting models trained by LSTM.

Figure 4.6: Baseline performance of the ammonia and colour forecasting models.

the determination of the optimum data smoothing techniques in the subsequent experiments.

The window size selections of the SG and EWMA filters in this study were chosen based on

the performance of NH₃-N and colour forecasting models. The results showed that for both SG and EWMA filters, the best model performance of both forecasting models were obtained from datasets trained by filter window sizes of 7 for SG filter and 3 for EWMA filter. The use of data smoothing filter can transform the raw data into more smoothing trends at higher window size, yet it can also deteriorate the dataset quality once the dataset is smoothed to the degree where the original data trends are less obvious. Hence, the selection of window sizes on data smoothing filters should be moderate.

4.3 Exploit hidden patterns in the MBR effluent quality to enhance model performance

4.3.1 Ammonia forecasting models

In the section of feature engineering, we have introduced the selection and creation of the extra input features for training forecasting models, as shown in Fig. 3.20. In this study, a forecasting model trained by one feature is called an univariate model and denoted as LSTM-1; a forecasting model trained by two features is called a multivariate model and denoted as LSTM-2. For models trained by three and four features are denoted as LSTM-3 and LSTM-4. In Fig. 4.7, the performance of ammonia forecasting models trained by two to four inputs (i.e., LSTM-2, LSTM-3, LSTM-4) is compared with the baseline performance (i.e., LSTM-1-obs) to demonstrate how the feature engineered features influenced on the model outputs.

As shown in Fig. 4.7, LSTM-4-obs, LSTM-3-obs, LSTM-2-obs, and LSTM-1-obs have the test loss values of 0.0432, 0.0426, 0.0411, and 0.0405, respectively. This result indicates that LSTM models trained with more features resulted in poorer model performance. Based on our understanding to the extra features such as color levels and sine/cosine features, models trained with more features are expected lower test values. The model performance from LSTM-sg7 and LSTM-sg9 fits well with what we hypothesized. The test loss values of LSTM-4-sg7, LSTM-3-sg7, LSTM-2-sg7, LSTM-1-sg7 are 0.0369, 0.0373, 0.0379, 0.0388, respectively. For LSTM-4-sg9, LSTM-3-sg9, LSTM-2-sg9, and LSTM-1-sg9, the test loss values are 0.0384, 0.0391, 0.0409, 0.0410, respectively. These findings showed that the test loss values of the LSTM models trained by sg7 and sg9 filtered datasets followed the trends of LSTM-4 < LSTM-3 < LSTM-2 < LSTM-1. The most remarkable results are from LSTM models trained by SG filtered dataset at a window size of 7. Comparing to the baseline model performance (i.e.,

LSTM-1-obs), the test loss values of LSTM-1-sg7, LSTM-2-sg7, LSTM-3-sg7 and LSTM-4-sg7 reduced by 4.2%, 6.4%, 7.9%, and 8.9%, respectively.

Our findings in the ammonia forecasting models suggest that colour level is an indispensable feature for improving the model performance. LSTM-2 models trained by datasets applied with any pre-processing techniques showed lower test loss compared to LSTM-1, except LSTM-2 trained by dataset without applying any methods. Strong evidence leads us to believe that the fluctuation of ammonia concentration is highly correlated with the colour levels in SHWEPP influent even without direct evidence.

The methods of training LSTM models on pre-processed datasets have proved their benefits in improving baseline model performance. Yet, the test loss values were only reduced slightly for those models trained with EWMA filtered datasets. As shown in Fig. 4.7, LSTM-3-ew2, LSTM-4-ew2, LSTM-3-ew4, and LSTM-4-ew4 shared very similar test loss values to LSTM-1-obs, indicating the advantages of enhanced training datasets were not fully reflected on the model performance when LSTM models were trained with EWMA filtered datasets.

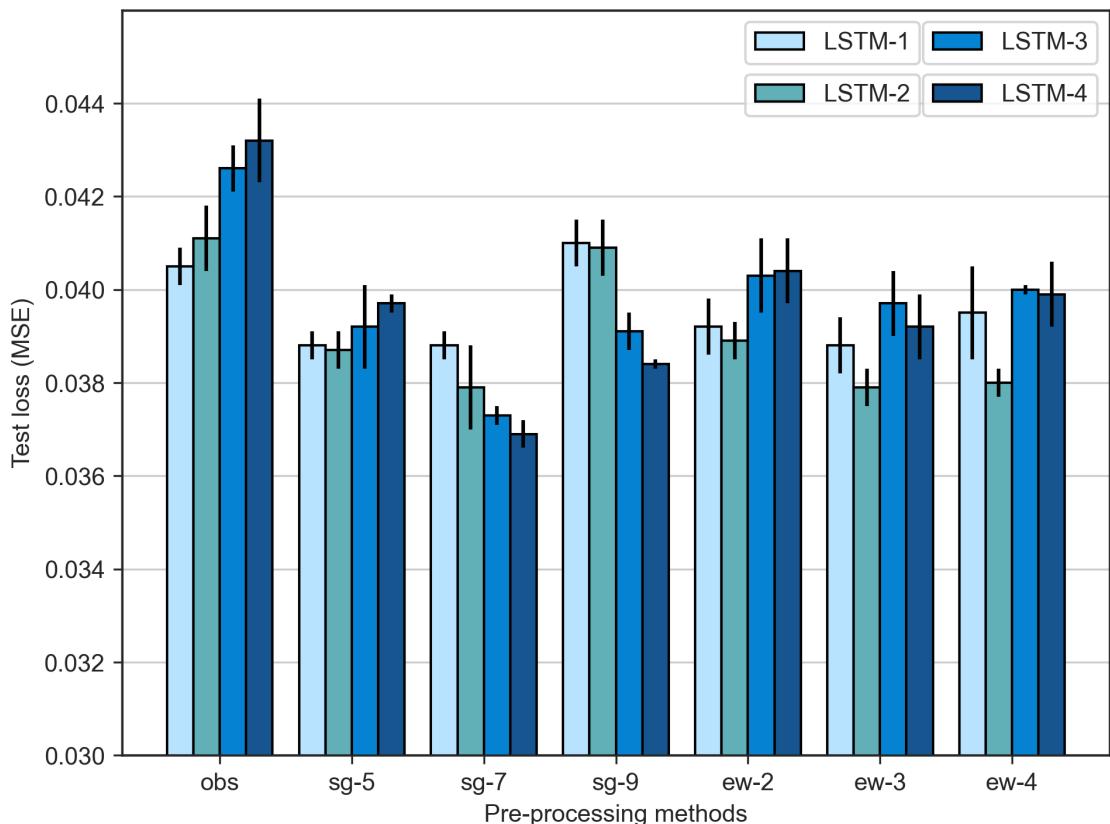


Figure 4.7: Comparisons of the model performance in forecasting ammonia concentrations.

4.3.2 Colour forecasting models

As shown in Fig. 4.8, the baseline performance is LSTM-1-obs with test loss value of 0.0148, and many models trained by both SG and EWMA filtered datasets show lower test loss values. The performance of models trained by SG filtered datasets was rather disappointing. In the results of models trained by sg-5 and sg7 filtered datasets, only LSTM-3-sg5, LSTM-3-sg7, and LSTM-4 sg-7 showed lower test loss values of 0.0144, 0.0143, and 0.0136, respectively, compared to LSTM-1-obs. Models trained by sg9 and all the EWMA filtered datasets showed improvement over LSTM-1-obs. In LSTM-3-sg9, we observed the lowest test loss value of 0.0129, which is 28.6% lower than the test loss values of 0.0148 from LSTM-1-obs.

The test loss values of LSTM-4-sg9, LSTM-4-ew2, LSTM-4-ew3, and LSTM-4-ew4 are higher than LSTM-3-sg9, LSTM-3-ew2, LSTM-3-ew3, and LSTM-3-ew4, by 0.0009, 0.0009, 0.0002, and 0.0002, respectively. This finding indicates that training with ammonia and the sine/cosine features deteriorate the model performance for color forecasting models. From what we found in the results of ammonia forecasting models, we concluded that the test loss values increase more when more features were input to the training datasets. In the colour forecasting results, the finding contrasts what we have found previously.

The interpretation for the higher test loss in LSTM-4 models in sg9, ew2, ew3, and ew4 filtered datasets compared to LSTM-3 and LSTM-2 models is that ammonia and sine/cosine features are irrelevant to the development of colour forecasting models. In the process of generating feature engineering, we observed that colour substances are mixed with municipal wastewater at the volume to volume ratio of 1 to 50. Hence, we can infer that the model outputs of forecasted colour levels are highly subject to the input of ammonia concentration. In the training process of the machine learning model, the model treats each input feature with equivalent importance; however, when the model is trained and input with unseen data, the model cannot differentiate which input feature actually influences more on the model outputs. The results suggest that it is best to train features of colour data and sin/cosine features for training color forecasting models.

4.3.3 Model forecasting results on different forecast horizons

In this study, ammonia and colour forecasting models were input with data from the past 24 hours to forecast the values three hours into the future. To demonstrate how the proposed model training methods improved the baseline model performance, the forecasted results were

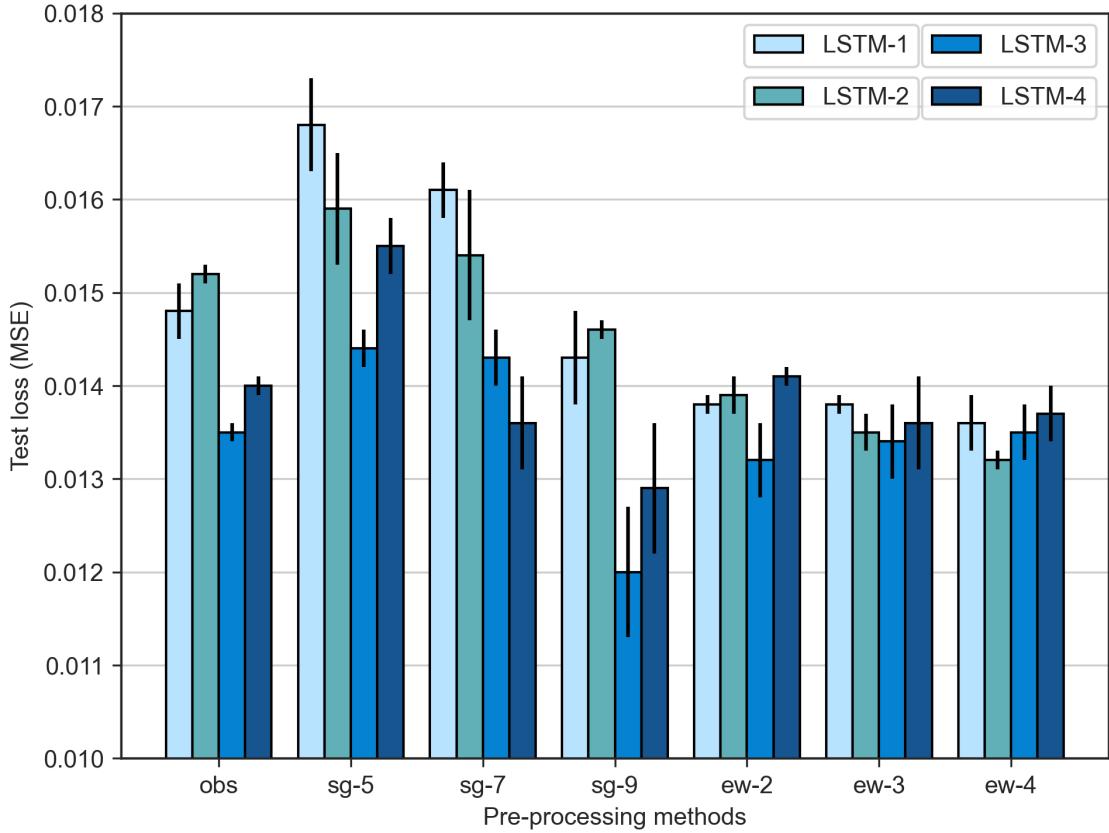
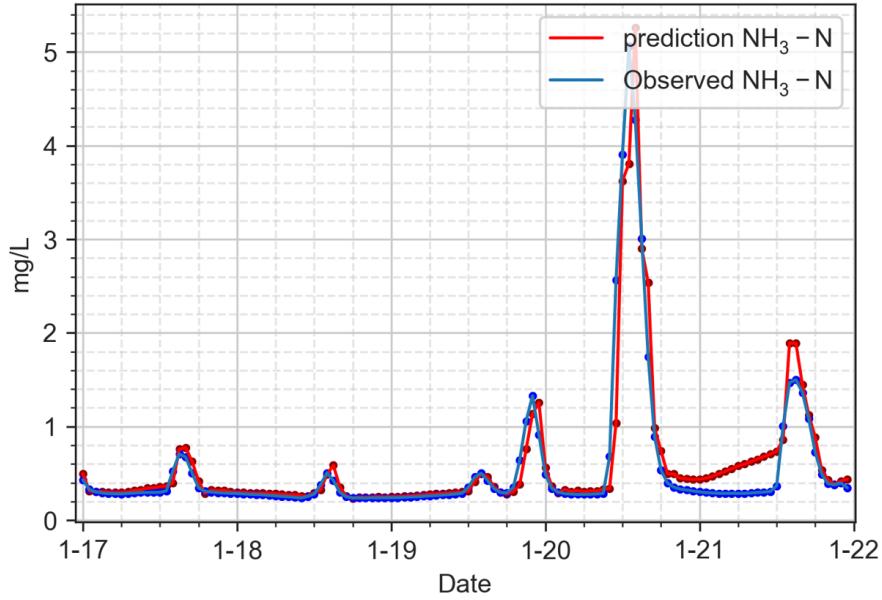


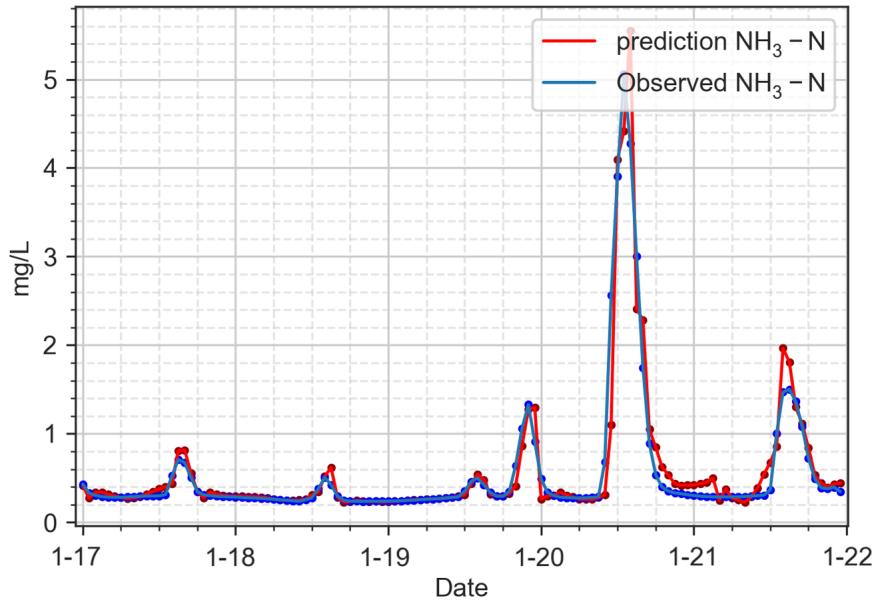
Figure 4.8: Comparisons of model performance in forecasting colour levels.

visualized for easier comparisons. As shown in Fig. 4.9, the proposed model training methods helped the model to forecast better on 21 January as in Fig. 4.9b during the low ammonia concentration period. On other days, both LSTM-1-obs and LSTM-4-sg7 shared similar accuracy in forecasting ammonia concentration.

In forecasting ammonia concentration in the second hour into the future as in Fig. 4.10, both model showed much higher MSE values of 0.2916 and 0.2351 compared to the MSE values of 0.0647 and 0.0529 from Fig. 4.9. Both models forecasted the ammonia concentration fairly on 17, 18, 19, and 20 January but forecasted poorly on 21 January. During the last two days of forecasting, the patterns of ammonia concentration were quite different compared to the previous four days. For instance, on the 20 January, the peak concentration of ammonia during the day reached to 5.0 mg/L. Both models seemed unable to precisely forecast the trend of the ammonia concentrations, resulting in overestimated ammonia concentration around noon on 21 January. The proposed model training methods did not seem to forecast better than the baseline model. Forecasting longer time horizons requires an adequate training dataset size in terms of the number of training features and the length of the dataset. The ammonia forecasting model



(a) LSTM-1-obs, MSE = 0.0647, R-squared = 0.8847

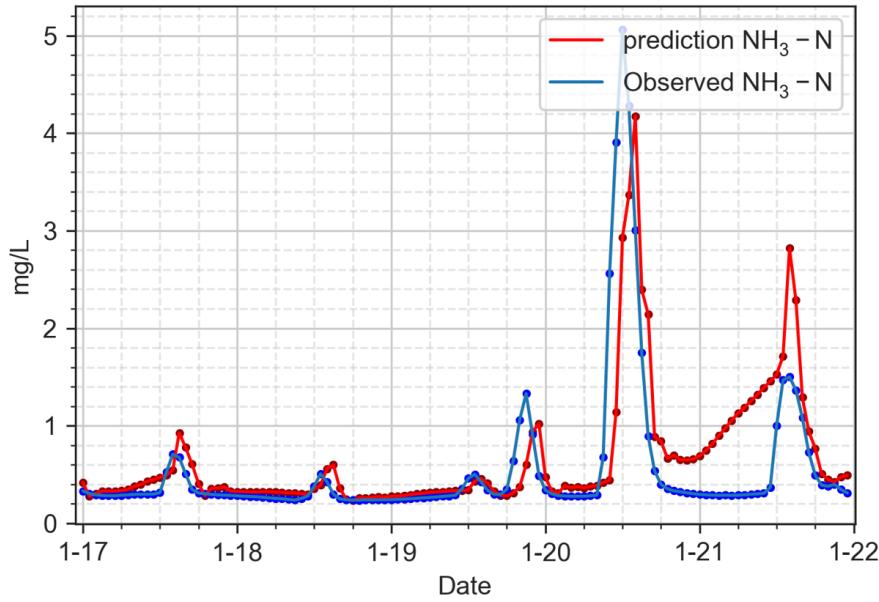


(b) LSTM-4-sg7, MSE = 0.0529, R-squared = 0.9057

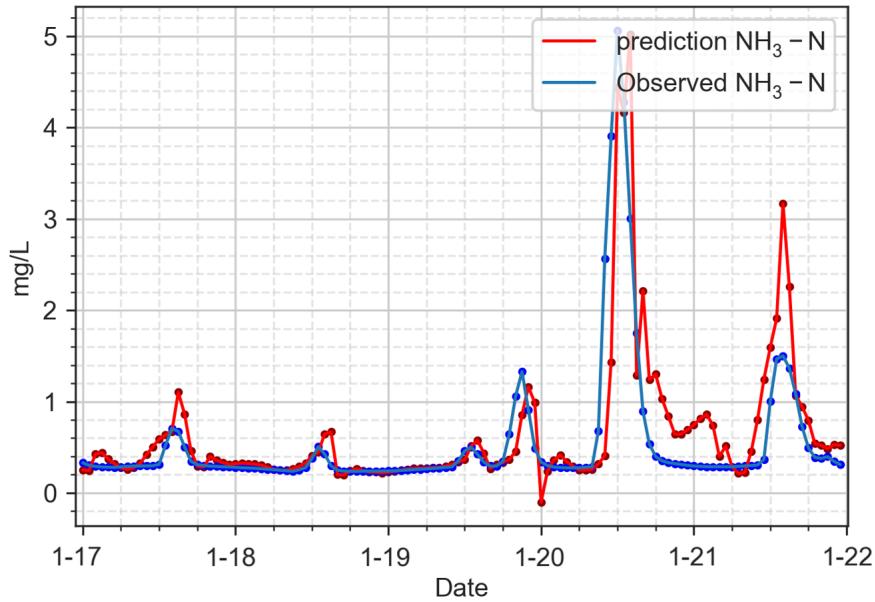
Figure 4.9: Visualization of the ammonia forecasting models at forecast horizon of one.

as in Fig. 4.10b was trained with four features with a dataset length of 18 days. Yet, the results suggested that the quantity of training dataset is not sufficient enough for forecasting two hours into the future.

In forecasting ammonia concentration at a forecast horizon of three, although the MSE values of 0.7637 from LSTM-4-sg7 are lower than 0.8025 from LSTM-1-obs, the difference between the two model performance is negligible. For the LSTM-4-sg7 model, we observed



(a) LSTM-1-obs, MSE = 0.2916, R-squared = 0.4805

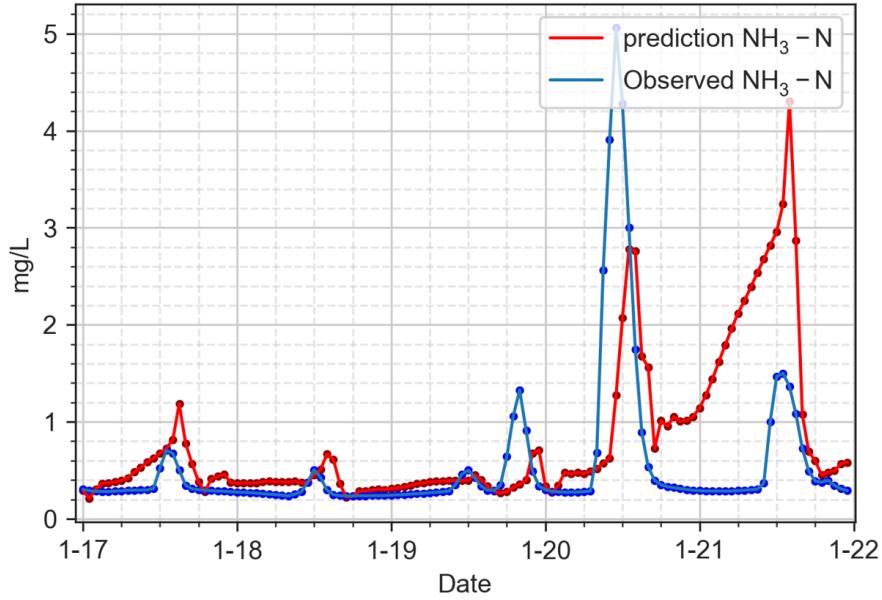


(b) LSTM-4-sg7, MSE = 0.2351, R-squared = 0.5812

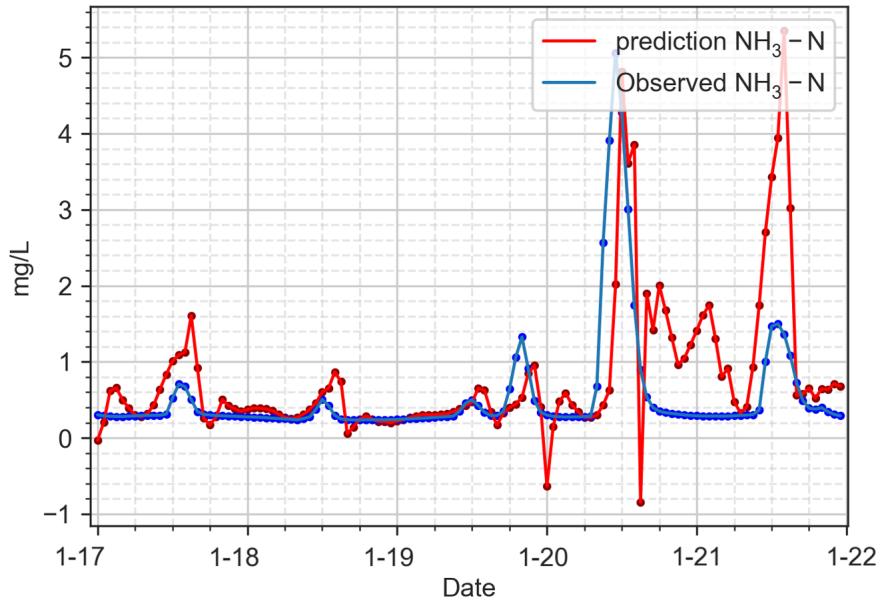
Figure 4.10: Visualization of the ammonia forecasting models at forecast horizon of two.

ammonia concentrations lower than 0 mg/L were forecasted on 20 January. Both LSTM-4-sg7 and LSTM-1-obs models poorly forecasted the peak ammonia concentration of over 5.0 mg/L on 21 January, which is 3.0 mg/L higher than the actual ammonia concentration on the same day. The results suggest that even with the use of proposed model training methods, the capability of the model performance is still limited due to the limited size of the training dataset.

LSTM-1-obs and LSTM-3-sg9 models forecasted colour levels at a forecast horizon of one



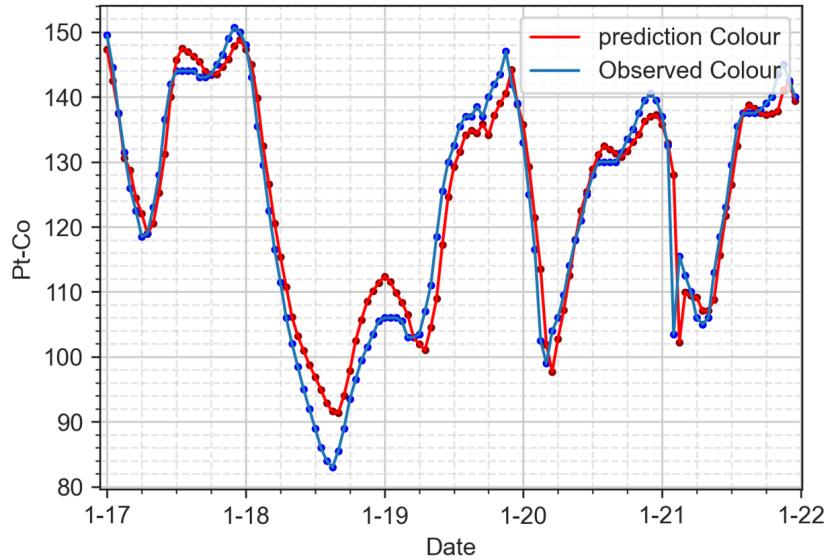
(a) LSTM-1-obs, MSE = 0.8025, R-squared = -0.4291



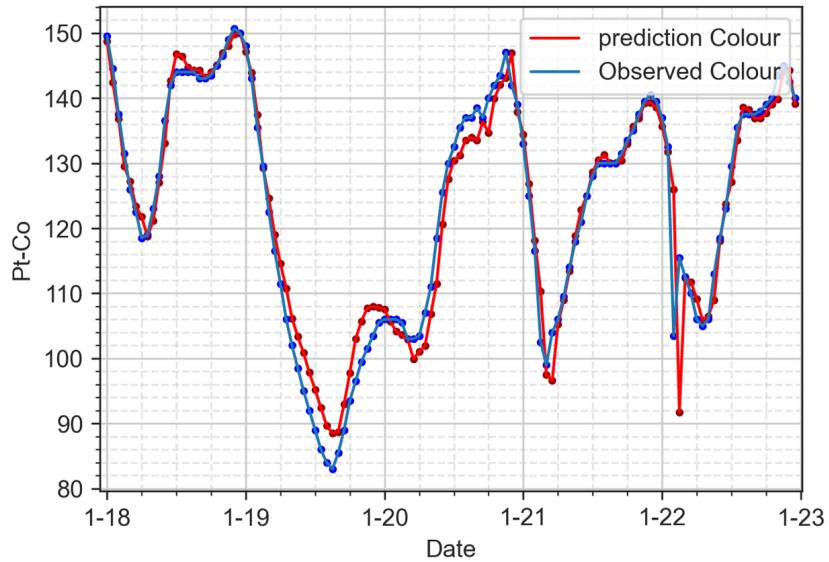
(b) LSTM-4-sg7, MSE = 0.7637, R-squared = -0.3599

Figure 4.11: Visualization of the ammonia forecasting models at forecast horizon of three.

with good MSE values of 22.4922 and 17.5955. The errors between the actual and forecasted values are mostly less than 5 Hazen Units. On 18 January, the colour levels dropped to 80 Hazen Units, and both models forecasted colour levels with errors values of up to 5 Hazen Units and higher. Although on 22 January, the LSTM-3-sg9 model forecasted the colour level of 92 Hazen Units, which is 10 Hazen Units off from the actual values, the general model performance is satisfactory.



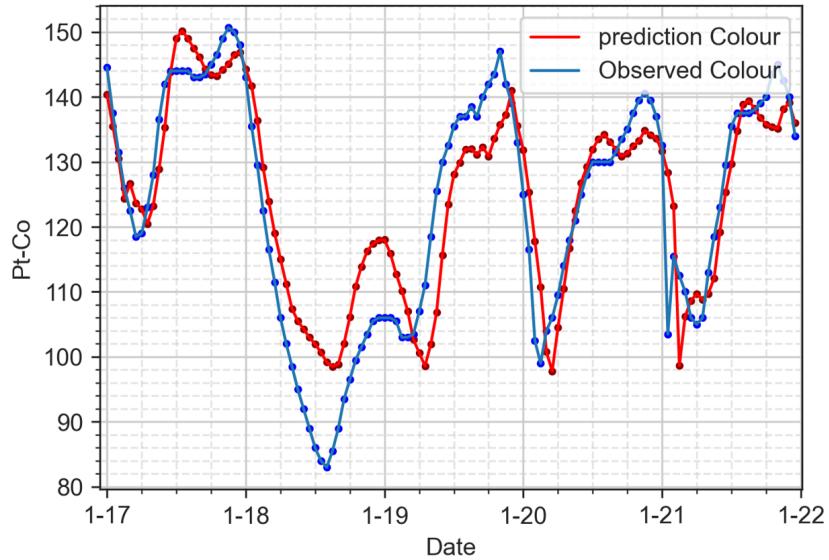
(a) LSTM-1-obs, MSE = 22.4922, R-squared = 0.9311



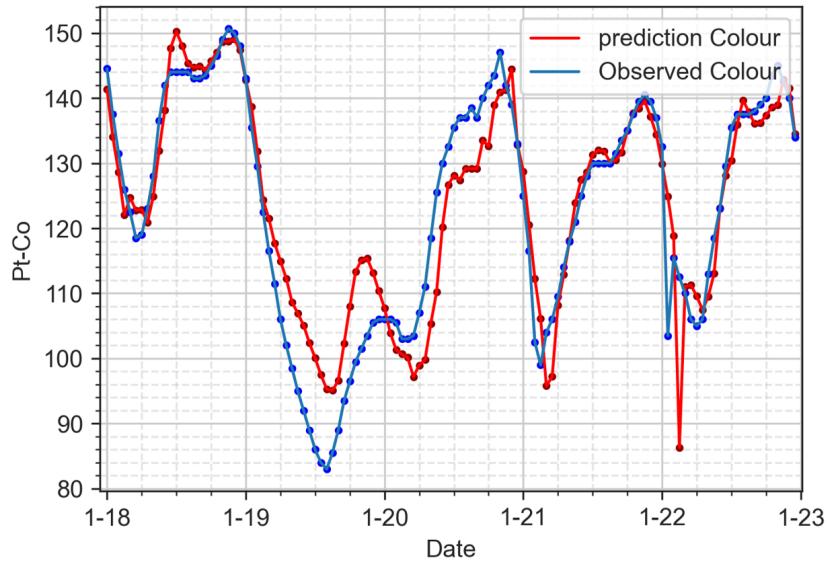
(b) LSTM-3-sg9, MSE = 17.5955, R-squared = 0.9461

Figure 4.12: Visualization of the colour forecasting models at forecast horizon of one.

In forecasting colour levels at a forecast horizon of two, the MSE values of LSTM-1-obs and LSTM-3-sg9 increased from 22.4922 and 17.5955 to 62.6678 and 47.4252. The forecasting errors expanded from less than 5 Hazen Units on average to 10 Hazen Units. In Fig. 4.13, LSTM-3-sg9 showed more reliable forecasting results compared to LSTM-1-obs by generating minor errors between the forecasted and actual values. However, the lowest forecasted colour level on 22 January has increased from 10 to 24 Hazen Unis, and we can see clearly that the models were getting less reliable in forecasting two hours into the future in forecasting colour levels. The cause of it can also be attributed to insufficient quantity of training dataset.



(a) LSTM-1-obs, MSE = 62.6678, R-squared = 0.8053

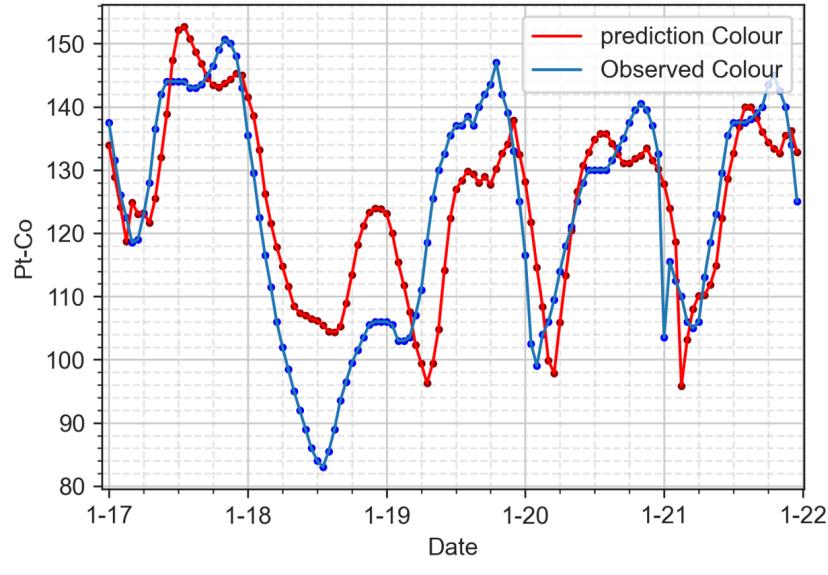


(b) LSTM-3-sg9, MSE = 47.4252, R-squared = 0.8526

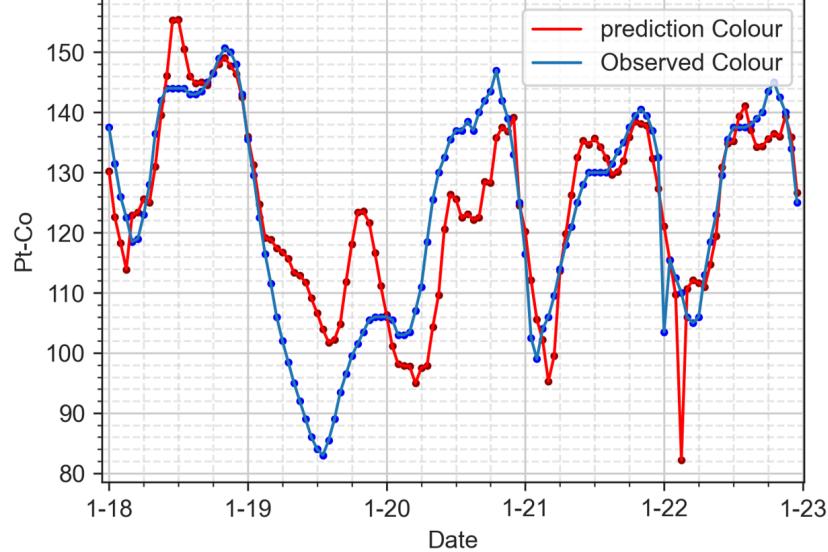
Figure 4.13: Visualization of the colour forecasting models at forecast horizon of two.

In Fig. 4.14, the MSE values of LSTM-1-obs and LSTM-3-sg9 have increased to 116.8928 and 103.4329 in forecasting colour levels at forecast horizons of three. We first noticed that both the models failed to forecast the lowest colour levels on 19 January. The significant drop in colour level can be a rare event in which the model did not learn how to react to such a change of colour levels from historical data. On the following days of 20 January, both the models underestimated the colour levels by forecasting up to 20 Hazen Units lower. The model performance deteriorated even faster than using ammonia forecasting models to forecast ammonia concentration at a forecast horizon of three. The results suggest that with much strong

fluctuation of colour levels during the day, it is not reasonable to use colour forecasting models trained with only three input features to forecast three hours into the future.



(a) LSTM-1-obs, MSE = 116.8928, R-squared = 0.6237



(b) LSTM-3-sg9, MSE = 103.4329, R-squared = 0.6750

Figure 4.14: Visualization of the colour forecasting models at forecast horizon of three.

One of the underlying causes of inaccurate forecasting results in longer forecast horizons for both forecasting NH₃-N concentration and colour levels can be attributed to the physical limitations of the MBR effluent container. When the effluent was sampled in the container, the NH₃-N and colour substances in the effluent container were not always evenly dispersed throughout the water, resulting in heterogeneity in the effluent container. Thus, the forecasted NH₃-N concentration and colour levels can deviate from the true values. Another cause of

the inaccuracy is derived from how the model inferences the forecasting values. As shown in Fig. 3.19b, the forecast horizon of two was inferred from 23 hours of the observed value and one hour of the forecasted value. Therefore, if the first forecasted value was not with pinpoint accuracy compared to the true values, the second forecasted value, which is inferred from the model based on the input of the previous forecasted value, will only become much more inaccurate. The error will be magnified with the increase in the forecast horizon.

The measurement technology of water quality can also significantly impact the accuracy of model forecasting in the long forecast horizon. In this study, we found models are more capable of forecasting colour levels for one to three hours into the future compared to NH₃-N forecasting models. The measurement technology of on-line colour is based on the spectrophotometer, which is a reliable way to measure colour levels in the water. However, the technology used for NH₃-N data collection is an ion-selective electrode sensor, which is a less robust way to measure NH₃-N compared to the conventional wet-analyzer. The NH₃-N sensor inaccuracy can be caused by the interference from other ions, the effect of the ionic strength of the solution, and potential drift during a sequence of measurements. The physical constraints of the NH₃-N sensor have made the data quality inherently poor, resulting in limited model forecasting accuracy.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 Machine learning models versus deep learning models

The selection of using which machine learning and deep learning models was not widely discussed to the best of our knowledge in modelling forecasting models in the wastewater treatment industry. This study has investigated the model performance of the machine learning model of RF and four other deep learning models of DNN, RNN, GRU, and LSTM on forecasting ammonia concentrations and colour levels in the reclaimed water system for assisting treatment operation and management. The evidence from this study suggested deep learning models are much capable of learning from historical data and generating more accurate forecasting results. In both ammonia and colour forecasting models, the test loss values of RF are much higher than those of the least-performance deep learning model of DNN. Among all the deep learning models, the results indicate that LSTM and GRU models have the lowest test loss of 0.0405 and 0.0414, respectively. However, further research works suggest that LSTM models trained with pre-processing methods generate the lowest test loss compared to GRU, making the LSTM model the most promising recurrent neural network model for training forecasting models in WWTPs.

5.1.2 Data pre-processing techniques

Our research also highlighted how the model performance could be improved by applying data pre-processing and feature engineering techniques. Generally speaking, all the proposed data smoothing and outlier removal methods reduced the test loss values compared to the baseline model performance (i.e., the window sizes of the data smoothing filters need to be carefully selected), as shown in Fig. 4.6. Ammonia and colour forecasting models trained by EWMA filtered datasets showed the lowest test loss values compared with models trained by SG filtered datasets and datasets applied with outlier removal methods. Applying an EWMA filter

on training datasets can reduce the noise and allow the important patterns to stand out more clearly. The information hidden in the convoluted data points then can be further captured by the memorizing cells in the recurrent neural networks such as GRU and LSTM.

5.1.3 Feature engineering techniques

This study is the first step towards enhancing our understanding of the potential benefits of using created features for model training. The thorough examinations of the Geomap near the SHWEPP and the investigation of water composition in the public sewage system helped us hypothesize that the change of ammonia concentrations and colour levels depend on each other. With the help of an additional colour/ammonia feature for the ammonia/colour forecasting models, the test loss was reduced by 6.4% (i.e., LSTM-2-sg7 compared to LSTM-1-obs) and 10.8% (i.e., LSTM-2-ew4 compared to LSTM-1-obs), respectively.

Moreover, the similarity between the household consumption patterns and the daily fluctuation of ammonia concentrations have unexpectedly helped us formulate the time features via positional encodings. The influence of the sine and cosine hour features on the model performance showed tremendous improvements in both ammonia and colour forecasting models. In the former, test loss dropped by 8.9% (i.e., LSTM-1-obs compared with LSTM-4-sg7) while the latter reduced by 28.6% (i.e., LSTM-1-obs compared with LSTM-3-sg9). The remarkable use of positional encoding features is that they are not limited to ammonia and colour forecasting models. Any time-series data characterized by daily fluctuation patterns can adopt the use of the features of sine and cosine hour as long as the patterns are based on actual events. In addition, the positional encoding features are not limited to the hour component, we can encode time component features from seconds to weeks, and even years, the application of it is unlimited. However, the feature engineering method comes with limitations. In the results of ammonia forecasting models, LSTM-2-obs, LSTM-3-obs, and LSTM-4-obs showed higher test loss compared to LSTM-1-obs, indicating that when the models were not trained with ammonia feature only, the model performance worsened. Our results suggested that feature engineering needs to be carefully evaluated and experimented with before its real application. Despite the limitations, the combination use of feature engineering in building ammonia and colour forecasting models in this study has fully proved its advantages.

5.2 Recommendations for future research

Due to the insufficient amount of ammonia and colour data, we cannot ensure the proposed methods in this study can also be applied to datasets of larger size and with more complex daily patterns of water quality. Therefore, it is recommended to collect a larger dataset (i.e., data collected from a longer time period) and a dataset including a variety of fluctuation patterns to support the findings of the results in this study. There are three concerns when training forecasting models with insufficient dataset size. First, a small dataset has simple and regular patterns of daily fluctuation in both NH₃-N and colour datasets. The patterns were similar on a daily basis, and days with irregular patterns were not observed. With such an easy-to-predict pattern, we could not demonstrate the advantages of using deep learning models and data enhancement techniques to forecast water quality. Second, we cannot conclude how the size of the dataset can affect the model performance. The sensitivity analysis was commonly practiced for finding the dataset size influence on model training. It is possible to increase the model performance simply by training on a larger dataset. Third, insufficient data could also lead to unstable performance when the same data smoothing techniques were applied for training different models. For instance, models trained by sg7 filtered dataset (LSTM-4-sg7 and LSTM-3-sg7) have the lowest test loss values; however, LSTM-2-ew4 has a lower test loss than LSTM-4-sg7. We failed to explain why models trained by the sg7 filtered dataset influenced ammonia forecasting models differently among LSTM-2, LSTM-3, and LSTM-4. It is necessary to elucidate the influence of each data pre-processing technique to establish robust strategies for smoothing the training datasets.

More focus should be shifted to the fouling behavior and the accuracy of the on-line sensors in the wastewater treatment plant. Despite the fact that the development of on-line sensors is mature for providing on-line data in short time intervals (e.g., every minute), the fouling behavior due to microorganisms and the accuracy of the on-line sensors subject to the measurement technology (i.e., ion-selective exchange method for measuring NH₃-N is less accurate than wet-analyzer) are major concerns. We have noticed only mild NH₃-N sensor fouling behaviors were found and did not influence the collected data quality. In future studies, the data collected from on-line sensors should be carefully analyzed to identify how much the sensor fouling behavior can potentially affect our model performance. Meanwhile, more on-line sensors should be installed in the treatment process, such as turbidity and E. coli. Installing multiple on-line sensors will allow us to develop models which are more accurate. In addition, data collected from

sensors will allow us to build a soft sensor, which can help identify the fouling behavior of the on-line sensors.

Previous research studies have demonstrated using Matlab-Simulink to simulate the improved process control strategies using machine learning model controls compared to PID or other traditional mathematical models. In future works, the study will explore writing the physical and operational characteristics of the water reclaimed system into the Matlab-Simulink. By implementing the models developed in this study on Matlab, we can investigate how the improvements in model forecasting accuracy can help the process control strategy in stabilizing the reclaimed water quality. Several metrics can be used to evaluate the machine learning model control, such as the required time to reach set-point conditions and how much reclaimed water in volume we can generate from the same amount of wastewater effluent recycled.

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APPENDIX A

RAW DATA

A.1 Raw forecasting data from ammonia and colour forecasting models

Table. A.1 and Table. A.2 present the raw forecasting data from the best NH₃-N concentration and colour forecasting models.

Table A.1: Raw forecasting results from the best NH₃-N forecasting model of LSTM-4-sg7.

Index	FC1-p ¹	FC1-o ²	FC2-p ³	FC2-o ⁴	FC3-p ⁵	FC3-o ⁶
1	0.4681	0.4306	0.3294	0.3296	0.0907	0.3029
2	0.2525	0.3296	0.2183	0.3029	0.1566	0.2902
3	0.3434	0.3029	0.4125	0.2902	0.5345	0.2838
4	0.3327	0.2902	0.3865	0.2838	0.4803	0.2818
5	0.3044	0.2838	0.3169	0.2818	0.3339	0.2805
6	0.2924	0.2818	0.2837	0.2805	0.2626	0.2862
7	0.2815	0.2805	0.2574	0.2862	0.2105	0.2895
8	0.2787	0.2862	0.2594	0.2895	0.2249	0.2946
9	0.2870	0.2895	0.2830	0.2946	0.2808	0.2956
10	0.2965	0.2946	0.3269	0.2956	0.3916	0.2962
11	0.3269	0.2956	0.4139	0.2962	0.5862	0.2977
12	0.3512	0.2962	0.4950	0.2977	0.7746	0.3130
13	0.3835	0.2977	0.5722	0.3130	0.9345	0.5237
14	0.4022	0.3130	0.6034	0.5237	0.9855	0.7060
15	0.4279	0.5237	0.6213	0.7060	0.9843	0.6740
16	0.7823	0.7060	1.0270	0.6740	1.4532	0.5044
17	0.8488	0.6740	0.8846	0.5044	0.9402	0.3460
18	0.5579	0.5044	0.4445	0.3460	0.2392	0.3090
19	0.3455	0.3460	0.2710	0.3090	0.1385	0.3006
20	0.2697	0.3090	0.2581	0.3006	0.2350	0.2936
21	0.3262	0.3006	0.3619	0.2936	0.4233	0.2901
22	0.3117	0.2936	0.3342	0.2901	0.3716	0.2866
23	0.2978	0.2901	0.3167	0.2866	0.3479	0.2846
24	0.2958	0.2866	0.3135	0.2846	0.3433	0.2801
25	0.2945	0.2846	0.3163	0.2801	0.3539	0.2758
26	0.2939	0.2801	0.3157	0.2758	0.3536	0.2737
27	0.2873	0.2758	0.3048	0.2737	0.3347	0.2703

Index	FC1-p ¹	FC1-o ²	FC2-p ³	FC2-o ⁴	FC3-p ⁵	FC3-o ⁶
28	0.2825	0.2737	0.2944	0.2703	0.3140	0.2651
29	0.2792	0.2703	0.2845	0.2651	0.2918	0.2595
30	0.2726	0.2651	0.2690	0.2595	0.2604	0.2540
31	0.2632	0.2595	0.2528	0.2540	0.2329	0.2501
32	0.2565	0.2540	0.2479	0.2501	0.2327	0.2430
33	0.2538	0.2501	0.2539	0.2430	0.2562	0.2370
34	0.2565	0.2430	0.2717	0.2370	0.3035	0.2539
35	0.2563	0.2370	0.2898	0.2539	0.3562	0.2775
36	0.2639	0.2539	0.3204	0.2775	0.4297	0.3780
37	0.3116	0.2775	0.3977	0.3780	0.5606	0.5058
38	0.3446	0.3780	0.4333	0.5058	0.5984	0.4240
39	0.5056	0.5058	0.6106	0.4240	0.7925	0.2971
40	0.6211	0.4240	0.6554	0.2971	0.7100	0.2489
41	0.3050	0.2971	0.2057	0.2489	0.0400	0.2393
42	0.1994	0.2489	0.1617	0.2393	0.0996	0.2365
43	0.2516	0.2393	0.2662	0.2365	0.2909	0.2355
44	0.2455	0.2365	0.2498	0.2355	0.2560	0.2386
45	0.2346	0.2355	0.2291	0.2386	0.2180	0.2378
46	0.2312	0.2386	0.2225	0.2378	0.2060	0.2388
47	0.2359	0.2378	0.2280	0.2388	0.2134	0.2394
48	0.2317	0.2388	0.2233	0.2394	0.2080	0.2405
49	0.2359	0.2394	0.2321	0.2405	0.2245	0.2432
50	0.2383	0.2405	0.2377	0.2432	0.2357	0.2472
51	0.2418	0.2432	0.2444	0.2472	0.2481	0.2502
52	0.2467	0.2472	0.2515	0.2502	0.2590	0.2550
53	0.2520	0.2502	0.2578	0.2550	0.2674	0.2595
54	0.2542	0.2550	0.2591	0.2595	0.2671	0.2634
55	0.2592	0.2595	0.2650	0.2634	0.2757	0.2685
56	0.2632	0.2634	0.2718	0.2685	0.2890	0.2738
57	0.2664	0.2685	0.2786	0.2738	0.3035	0.2792
58	0.2756	0.2738	0.2956	0.2792	0.3364	0.2868
59	0.2844	0.2792	0.3127	0.2868	0.3697	0.3515
60	0.2953	0.2868	0.3324	0.3515	0.4061	0.4597
61	0.3095	0.3515	0.3534	0.4597	0.4389	0.5007
62	0.4271	0.4597	0.4968	0.5007	0.6175	0.4237
63	0.5496	0.5007	0.5774	0.4237	0.6206	0.3374
64	0.4847	0.4237	0.4374	0.3374	0.3498	0.2948
65	0.3219	0.3374	0.2614	0.2948	0.1564	0.2939
66	0.2857	0.2948	0.2818	0.2939	0.2733	0.3480
67	0.2952	0.2939	0.3197	0.3480	0.3630	0.6416
68	0.3131	0.3480	0.3420	0.6416	0.3925	1.0602
69	0.4015	0.6416	0.4373	1.0602	0.4968	1.3281
70	0.8383	1.0602	0.8359	1.3281	0.8278	0.9103
71	1.2863	1.3281	1.1720	0.9103	0.9825	0.4891
72	1.3031	0.9103	0.9942	0.4891	0.4621	0.3385

Index	FC1-p ¹	FC1-o ²	FC2-p ³	FC2-o ⁴	FC3-p ⁵	FC3-o ⁶
73	0.3079	0.4891	0.0493	0.3385	0.5625	0.3004
74	0.2418	0.3385	0.2058	0.3004	0.1433	0.2831
75	0.3692	0.3004	0.4483	0.2831	0.5891	0.2783
76	0.3279	0.2831	0.3668	0.2783	0.4331	0.2748
77	0.3022	0.2783	0.3058	0.2748	0.3065	0.2753
78	0.2834	0.2748	0.2670	0.2753	0.2318	0.2757
79	0.2613	0.2753	0.2360	0.2757	0.1874	0.2805
80	0.2676	0.2757	0.2532	0.2805	0.2276	0.2866
81	0.2709	0.2805	0.2753	0.2866	0.2884	0.6789
82	0.2920	0.2866	0.3363	0.6789	0.4267	2.5632
83	0.3229	0.6789	0.4194	2.5632	0.6097	3.9073
84	1.0686	2.5632	1.3956	3.9073	1.9308	5.0615
85	4.0256	3.9073	4.3241	5.0615	4.7042	4.2786
86	4.6281	5.0615	4.2844	4.2786	3.6746	3.0053
87	5.2731	4.2786	4.6496	3.0053	3.4974	1.7469
88	2.8270	3.0053	1.6513	1.7469	0.4357	0.8934
89	1.9563	1.7469	1.5873	0.8934	0.8876	0.5357
90	1.1737	0.8934	1.1924	0.5357	1.2021	0.3974
91	0.6446	0.5357	0.8031	0.3974	1.0671	0.3521
92	0.5694	0.3974	0.8062	0.3521	1.2095	0.3310
93	0.4581	0.3521	0.6329	0.3310	0.9228	0.3216
94	0.4045	0.3310	0.5473	0.3216	0.7803	0.3113
95	0.4019	0.3216	0.5966	0.3113	0.9250	0.3020
96	0.4147	0.3113	0.6510	0.3020	1.0565	0.2947
97	0.4146	0.3020	0.6640	0.2947	1.0952	0.2905
98	0.4102	0.2947	0.6557	0.2905	1.0812	0.2871
99	0.4014	0.2905	0.6207	0.2871	0.9988	0.2861
100	0.4635	0.2871	0.5752	0.2861	0.7541	0.2872
101	0.2551	0.2861	0.2252	0.2872	0.1474	0.2857
102	0.2858	0.2872	0.2448	0.2857	0.1506	0.2870
103	0.2862	0.2857	0.2217	0.2870	0.0936	0.2906
104	0.2788	0.2870	0.2116	0.2906	0.0928	0.2958
105	0.2872	0.2906	0.2833	0.2958	0.2976	0.2999
106	0.3426	0.2958	0.4888	0.2999	0.7948	0.3059
107	0.4179	0.2999	0.7926	0.3059	1.5351	0.3667
108	0.5654	0.3059	1.2021	0.3667	2.4386	1.0031
109	0.6942	0.3667	1.5112	1.0031	3.0785	1.4677
110	0.8461	1.0031	1.7451	1.4677	3.4511	1.5000
111	1.8918	1.4677	2.9205	1.5000	4.7769	1.3646
112	1.9270	1.5000	2.2763	1.3646	2.8995	1.0821
113	1.2553	1.3646	0.9797	1.0821	0.4729	0.7251
114	1.1405	1.0821	0.9707	0.7251	0.6512	0.4920
115	0.8455	0.7251	0.7427	0.4920	0.5466	0.3896
116	0.5074	0.4920	0.4764	0.3896	0.4136	0.3778
117	0.4344	0.3896	0.4970	0.3778	0.6030	0.3970

Index	FC1-p ¹	FC1-o ²	FC2-p ³	FC2-o ⁴	FC3-p ⁵	FC3-o ⁶
118	0.3964	0.3778	0.4716	0.3970	0.6004	0.3460
119	0.4213	0.3970	0.5047	0.3460	0.6491	0.3097
120	0.4477	0.3460	0.5239	0.3097	0.6567	0.2904

Table A.2: Raw forecasting results from the best colour forecasting model of LSTM-3-sg9.

Index	FC1-p ¹	FC1-o ²	FC2-p ³	FC2-o ⁴	FC3-p ⁵	FC3-o ⁶
1	149.12	149	142.42	144	131.94	137
2	142.97	144	135.48	137	124.23	131
3	137.70	137	130.66	131	120.60	126
4	130.36	131	124.05	126	115.68	122
5	127.41	126	125.42	122	123.54	118
6	123.51	122	123.32	118	124.14	119
7	121.91	118	123.38	119	126.60	123
8	118.33	119	120.36	123	124.59	128
9	121.25	123	125.04	128	131.63	136
10	127.41	128	132.33	136	140.30	142
11	133.14	136	138.17	142	146.00	144
12	142.83	142	147.83	144	155.15	144
13	146.68	144	149.95	144	154.55	144
14	146.21	144	147.53	144	149.15	144
15	144.42	144	144.48	144	144.17	143
16	143.88	144	143.69	143	142.99	143
17	143.85	143	144.01	143	143.77	143
18	142.82	143	143.56	143	144.06	145
19	143.80	143	145.55	145	147.32	146
20	145.12	145	147.42	146	149.81	149
21	147.25	146	149.44	149	151.53	150
22	148.33	149	149.40	150	149.83	150
23	150.16	150	149.56	150	147.74	148
24	150.12	150	147.57	148	143.16	143
25	147.30	148	143.18	143	136.78	135
26	144.18	143	139.50	135	132.51	129
27	137.78	135	132.76	129	125.54	122

¹Predicted values from forecast horizon of 1

²Predicted values from forecast horizon of 2

³Predicted values from forecast horizon of 3

⁴Predicted values from forecast horizon of 4

⁵Predicted values from forecast horizon of 5

⁶Predicted values from forecast horizon of 6

Index	FC1-p ¹	FC1-o ²	FC2-p ³	FC2-o ⁴	FC3-p ⁵	FC3-o ⁶
28	129.41	129	124.80	122	118.69	116
29	124.92	122	122.25	116	119.28	111
30	118.89	116	117.74	111	117.19	106
31	114.25	111	114.67	106	116.43	102
32	110.30	106	111.69	102	115.03	98
33	105.18	102	107.20	98	111.53	95
34	102.42	98	105.64	95	111.52	92
35	99.95	95	104.08	92	110.88	89
36	97.01	92	101.58	89	108.51	86
37	94.51	89	99.30	86	106.00	84
38	91.59	86	96.23	84	102.29	83
39	88.50	84	93.11	83	98.80	85
40	87.03	83	92.46	85	98.99	89
41	87.22	85	94.17	89	102.39	93
42	92.00	89	100.96	93	111.53	96
43	97.19	93	107.43	96	119.43	99
44	102.79	96	113.38	99	125.64	101
45	105.42	99	114.95	101	125.63	103
46	107.41	101	114.93	103	122.89	105
47	107.33	103	111.99	105	116.20	106
48	106.96	105	108.56	106	108.98	106
49	106.55	106	105.48	106	102.87	106
50	104.65	106	101.76	106	97.37	105
51	103.54	106	100.21	105	95.82	103
52	103.57	105	100.66	103	97.29	103
53	103.28	103	100.73	103	98.07	103
54	100.17	103	97.48	103	94.68	107
55	101.29	103	99.25	107	97.30	111
56	102.08	107	99.98	111	97.75	118
57	106.75	111	105.14	118	103.63	125
58	111.15	118	109.69	125	108.37	130
59	120.24	125	119.47	130	119.03	132
60	127.30	130	126.36	132	125.45	135
61	130.51	132	128.56	135	125.88	137
62	131.52	135	128.33	137	123.58	137
63	134.06	137	130.22	137	124.32	138
64	134.40	137	129.87	138	122.90	137
65	133.68	138	129.32	137	122.58	140
66	136.44	137	133.69	140	129.17	142
67	134.71	140	132.79	142	129.36	143
68	140.46	142	140.15	143	138.87	147
69	142.67	143	142.38	147	141.01	142
70	143.80	147	142.62	142	139.91	139
71	147.53	142	145.52	139	141.60	133
72	137.67	139	132.59	133	124.26	125

Index	FC1-p ¹	FC1-o ²	FC2-p ³	FC2-o ⁴	FC3-p ⁵	FC3-o ⁶
73	134.50	133	128.94	125	120.17	116
74	126.76	125	120.61	116	111.39	102
75	118.05	116	112.45	102	104.67	99
76	110.24	102	106.48	99	101.95	104
77	96.00	99	94.33	104	93.21	106
78	97.62	104	99.41	106	103.20	109
79	107.71	106	111.70	109	118.79	114
80	109.40	109	112.93	114	119.59	118
81	113.05	114	116.93	118	124.05	121
82	118.23	118	122.58	121	130.08	125
83	122.25	121	126.48	125	133.39	128
84	124.72	125	128.33	128	133.92	130
85	128.73	128	131.75	130	136.04	130
86	130.72	130	132.47	130	134.66	130
87	131.45	130	131.98	130	132.26	130
88	129.93	130	129.60	130	128.62	131
89	129.70	130	129.72	131	129.19	133
90	130.14	131	131.11	133	131.82	135
91	133.00	133	135.18	135	137.41	137
92	135.86	135	138.48	137	141.14	139
93	137.28	137	139.29	139	140.95	140
94	139.60	139	140.39	140	140.22	139
95	139.68	140	137.82	139	134.11	137
96	138.85	139	134.99	137	128.62	132
97	135.90	137	130.58	132	122.29	103
98	132.14	132	126.17	103	117.23	115
99	126.68	103	120.60	115	111.88	112
100	87.40	115	79.41	112	70.88	110
101	116.04	112	117.60	110	120.67	106
102	113.17	110	113.61	106	115.38	105
103	109.26	106	109.50	105	111.22	106
104	105.08	105	106.29	106	109.37	113
105	106.18	106	109.20	113	114.64	118
106	108.94	113	113.09	118	119.91	123
107	118.65	118	123.98	123	132.11	129
108	123.76	123	128.22	129	134.80	135
109	127.15	129	130.34	135	134.83	137
110	133.60	135	135.90	137	138.87	137
111	138.51	137	139.30	137	140.05	137
112	137.91	137	136.97	137	135.21	138
113	136.39	137	134.81	138	132.12	139
114	136.35	138	135.20	139	133.08	140
115	137.49	139	137.06	140	135.85	143
116	139.14	140	139.08	143	138.26	145
117	140.26	143	139.88	145	138.50	142

Index	FC1-p ¹	FC1-o ²	FC2-p ³	FC2-o ⁴	FC3-p ⁵	FC3-o ⁶
118	144.80	145	144.25	142	142.48	140
119	144.70	142	142.42	140	138.17	134
120	139.30	140	134.79	134	127.38	125

A.2 Ammonia and colour raw data

Table A.3 presents the NH₃-N and colour raw data from 23 December 2021 to 22 January 2022.

Table A.3: Hourly NH₃-N and colour raw data.

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
1	12/23/2021 0:00	0.1957	96	373	1/7/2022 12:00	2.4726	107
2	12/23/2021 1:00	0.1963	95	374	1/7/2022 13:00	2.6969	111
3	12/23/2021 2:00	0.2098	90	375	1/7/2022 14:00	2.3277	111
4	12/23/2021 3:00	0.2130	90	376	1/7/2022 15:00	1.6357	114
5	12/23/2021 4:00	0.2148	89	377	1/7/2022 16:00	0.9491	117
6	12/23/2021 5:00	0.2114	87	378	1/7/2022 17:00	0.5679	121
7	12/23/2021 6:00	0.2114	88	379	1/7/2022 18:00	0.5012	122
8	12/23/2021 7:00	0.2097	91	380	1/7/2022 19:00	0.8294	125
9	12/23/2021 8:00	0.4309	93	381	1/7/2022 20:00	1.5842	125
10	12/23/2021 9:00	1.5203	103	382	1/7/2022 21:00	2.0177	124
11	12/23/2021 10:00	1.0336	112	383	1/7/2022 22:00	1.9825	119
12	12/23/2021 11:00	0.4894	115	384	1/7/2022 23:00	1.5737	116
13	12/23/2021 12:00	0.2883	118	385	1/8/2022 0:00	1.0880	111
14	12/23/2021 13:00	0.2497	120	386	1/8/2022 1:00	0.8010	104
15	12/23/2021 14:00	0.2376	122	387	1/8/2022 2:00	0.6673	98
16	12/23/2021 15:00	0.2405	120	388	1/8/2022 3:00	0.4680	90
17	12/23/2021 16:00	0.2886	120	389	1/8/2022 4:00	0.4051	94
18	12/23/2021 17:00	0.3033	122	390	1/8/2022 5:00	0.3641	96

¹Predicted values from forecast horizon of 1

²Predicted values from forecast horizon of 2

³Predicted values from forecast horizon of 3

⁴Predicted values from forecast horizon of 4

⁵Predicted values from forecast horizon of 5

⁶Predicted values from forecast horizon of 6

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
19	12/23/2021 18:00	0.3156	125	391	1/8/2022 6:00	0.3460	102
20	12/23/2021 19:00	0.3003	126	392	1/8/2022 7:00	0.3414	105
21	12/23/2021 20:00	0.2681	127	393	1/8/2022 8:00	0.3394	109
22	12/23/2021 21:00	0.2347	127	394	1/8/2022 9:00	0.3428	118
23	12/23/2021 22:00	0.2227	123	395	1/8/2022 10:00	0.5685	123
24	12/23/2021 23:00	0.2175	121	396	1/8/2022 11:00	1.6190	126
25	12/24/2021 0:00	0.2161	118	397	1/8/2022 12:00	2.7137	127
26	12/24/2021 1:00	0.2134	115	398	1/8/2022 13:00	3.5453	129
27	12/24/2021 2:00	0.2166	113	399	1/8/2022 14:00	3.6592	129
28	12/24/2021 3:00	0.2726	93	400	1/8/2022 15:00	3.3508	128
29	12/24/2021 4:00	0.2871	104	401	1/8/2022 16:00	2.7338	129
30	12/24/2021 5:00	0.2337	104	402	1/8/2022 17:00	1.8950	129
31	12/24/2021 6:00	0.2294	106	403	1/8/2022 18:00	1.1265	129
32	12/24/2021 7:00	0.2292	107	404	1/8/2022 19:00	0.7196	131
33	12/24/2021 8:00	0.2282	110	405	1/8/2022 20:00	0.6816	131
34	12/24/2021 9:00	0.2312	119	406	1/8/2022 21:00	0.5593	130
35	12/24/2021 10:00	0.2366	117	407	1/8/2022 22:00	0.4663	129
36	12/24/2021 11:00	0.2392	118	408	1/8/2022 23:00	0.4119	126
37	12/24/2021 12:00	0.2514	120	409	1/9/2022 0:00	0.3756	121
38	12/24/2021 13:00	0.3093	117	410	1/9/2022 1:00	0.3694	116
39	12/24/2021 14:00	0.3253	113	411	1/9/2022 2:00	0.3575	110
40	12/24/2021 15:00	0.2520	114	412	1/9/2022 3:00	0.3292	102
41	12/24/2021 16:00	0.2377	113	413	1/9/2022 4:00	0.3169	106
42	12/24/2021 17:00	0.2304	111	414	1/9/2022 5:00	0.3118	104
43	12/24/2021 18:00	0.2252	110	415	1/9/2022 6:00	0.3127	107
44	12/24/2021 19:00	0.2215	110	416	1/9/2022 7:00	0.3209	109
45	12/24/2021 20:00	0.2196	110	417	1/9/2022 8:00	0.3193	113
46	12/24/2021 21:00	0.2184	109	418	1/9/2022 9:00	0.3186	119
47	12/24/2021 22:00	0.2191	108	419	1/9/2022 10:00	0.3549	126
48	12/24/2021 23:00	0.2165	107	420	1/9/2022 11:00	0.7209	131
49	12/25/2021 0:00	0.2165	107	421	1/9/2022 12:00	1.3325	136
50	12/25/2021 1:00	0.2163	105	422	1/9/2022 13:00	1.8484	140
51	12/25/2021 2:00	0.2164	103	423	1/9/2022 14:00	2.1438	142
52	12/25/2021 3:00	0.2175	102	424	1/9/2022 15:00	2.1861	142
53	12/25/2021 4:00	0.2202	97	425	1/9/2022 16:00	1.8446	142
54	12/25/2021 5:00	0.2208	98	426	1/9/2022 17:00	1.3327	143
55	12/25/2021 6:00	0.2223	99	427	1/9/2022 18:00	0.8993	144
56	12/25/2021 7:00	0.2236	101	428	1/9/2022 19:00	0.7309	145
57	12/25/2021 8:00	0.2250	103	429	1/9/2022 20:00	0.7760	144
58	12/25/2021 9:00	0.2279	109	430	1/9/2022 21:00	0.6741	141
59	12/25/2021 10:00	0.2295	115	431	1/9/2022 22:00	0.5184	139
60	12/25/2021 11:00	0.2287	118	432	1/9/2022 23:00	0.4332	135
61	12/25/2021 12:00	0.2310	119	433	1/10/2022 0:00	0.3716	131
62	12/25/2021 13:00	0.2371	119	434	1/10/2022 1:00	0.3702	124

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
63	12/25/2021 14:00	0.2472	117	435	1/10/2022 2:00	0.4578	109
64	12/25/2021 15:00	0.2572	118	436	1/10/2022 3:00	0.4878	111
65	12/25/2021 16:00	0.2366	120	437	1/10/2022 4:00	0.3999	114
66	12/25/2021 17:00	0.2188	122	438	1/10/2022 5:00	0.3270	110
67	12/25/2021 18:00	0.2140	123	439	1/10/2022 6:00	0.3086	111
68	12/25/2021 19:00	0.2112	124	440	1/10/2022 7:00	0.3066	112
69	12/25/2021 20:00	0.2101	126	441	1/10/2022 8:00	0.3053	114
70	12/25/2021 21:00	0.2090	125	442	1/10/2022 9:00	0.3714	120
71	12/25/2021 22:00	0.2088	124	443	1/10/2022 10:00	1.0463	123
72	12/25/2021 23:00	0.2383	122	444	1/10/2022 11:00	1.5055	127
73	12/26/2021 0:00	0.2754	121	445	1/10/2022 12:00	1.7886	130
74	12/26/2021 1:00	0.4398	120	446	1/10/2022 13:00	1.8034	133
75	12/26/2021 2:00	0.9890	116	447	1/10/2022 14:00	1.3242	136
76	12/26/2021 3:00	0.6667	110	448	1/10/2022 15:00	1.0328	135
77	12/26/2021 4:00	0.3142	106	449	1/10/2022 16:00	0.7038	136
78	12/26/2021 5:00	0.2570	105	450	1/10/2022 17:00	0.5628	139
79	12/26/2021 6:00	0.2334	107	451	1/10/2022 18:00	0.6618	139
80	12/26/2021 7:00	0.2218	106	452	1/10/2022 19:00	0.9901	139
81	12/26/2021 8:00	0.2221	105	453	1/10/2022 20:00	1.2928	138
82	12/26/2021 9:00	0.2217	111	454	1/10/2022 21:00	1.2590	135
83	12/26/2021 10:00	0.2214	118	455	1/10/2022 22:00	0.8635	131
84	12/26/2021 11:00	0.2598	120	456	1/10/2022 23:00	0.5288	127
85	12/26/2021 12:00	0.3605	121	457	1/11/2022 0:00	0.3783	120
86	12/26/2021 13:00	0.3421	123	458	1/11/2022 1:00	0.3298	113
87	12/26/2021 14:00	0.3211	123	459	1/11/2022 2:00	0.3389	108
88	12/26/2021 15:00	0.2865	123	460	1/11/2022 3:00	0.3184	105
89	12/26/2021 16:00	0.2817	123	461	1/11/2022 4:00	0.3005	102
90	12/26/2021 17:00	0.3897	123	462	1/11/2022 5:00	0.2988	101
91	12/26/2021 18:00	0.7323	122	463	1/11/2022 6:00	0.2978	103
92	12/26/2021 19:00	0.9170	120	464	1/11/2022 7:00	0.3028	107
93	12/26/2021 20:00	0.9489	120	465	1/11/2022 8:00	0.3070	117
94	12/26/2021 21:00	0.6630	116	466	1/11/2022 9:00	0.4034	124
95	12/26/2021 22:00	0.3555	114	467	1/11/2022 10:00	0.9276	129
96	12/26/2021 23:00	0.2387	110	468	1/11/2022 11:00	1.5103	131
97	12/27/2021 0:00	0.2029	108	469	1/11/2022 12:00	1.9314	134
98	12/27/2021 1:00	0.1879	106	470	1/11/2022 13:00	2.3566	138
99	12/27/2021 2:00	0.1818	104	471	1/11/2022 14:00	2.5317	138
100	12/27/2021 3:00	0.2941	101	472	1/11/2022 15:00	2.2939	141
101	12/27/2021 4:00	0.6736	100	473	1/11/2022 16:00	1.8748	141
102	12/27/2021 5:00	0.6558	101	474	1/11/2022 17:00	1.1421	143
103	12/27/2021 6:00	0.3242	103	475	1/11/2022 18:00	0.5850	145
104	12/27/2021 7:00	0.2236	98	476	1/11/2022 19:00	0.4498	149
105	12/27/2021 8:00	0.2020	102	477	1/11/2022 20:00	0.4962	151
106	12/27/2021 9:00	0.1914	103	478	1/11/2022 21:00	0.5378	149

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
107	12/27/2021 10:00	0.1872	108	479	1/11/2022 22:00	0.5043	145
108	12/27/2021 11:00	0.2513	111	480	1/11/2022 23:00	0.4960	141
109	12/27/2021 12:00	0.5725	113	481	1/12/2022 0:00	0.5962	136
110	12/27/2021 13:00	0.9155	115	482	1/12/2022 1:00	0.7000	129
111	12/27/2021 14:00	0.9646	116	483	1/12/2022 2:00	0.7108	122
112	12/27/2021 15:00	0.7462	115	484	1/12/2022 3:00	0.5675	121
113	12/27/2021 16:00	0.5116	116	485	1/12/2022 4:00	0.3683	118
114	12/27/2021 17:00	0.5204	117	486	1/12/2022 5:00	0.3068	112
115	12/27/2021 18:00	0.7211	118	487	1/12/2022 6:00	0.2927	112
116	12/27/2021 19:00	0.8641	117	488	1/12/2022 7:00	0.2871	118
117	12/27/2021 20:00	0.8233	116	489	1/12/2022 8:00	0.2880	124
118	12/27/2021 21:00	0.5692	118	490	1/12/2022 9:00	0.2973	130
119	12/27/2021 22:00	0.3612	112	491	1/12/2022 10:00	0.5014	135
120	12/27/2021 23:00	0.2214	110	492	1/12/2022 11:00	0.8932	141
121	12/28/2021 0:00	0.1883	109	493	1/12/2022 12:00	0.9684	145
122	12/28/2021 1:00	0.1744	106	494	1/12/2022 13:00	0.8495	147
123	12/28/2021 2:00	0.1710	103	495	1/12/2022 14:00	0.5894	148
124	12/28/2021 3:00	0.1695	102	496	1/12/2022 15:00	0.4137	149
125	12/28/2021 4:00	0.1692	106	497	1/12/2022 16:00	0.3680	151
126	12/28/2021 5:00	0.1684	109	498	1/12/2022 17:00	0.4534	152
127	12/28/2021 6:00	0.1669	111	499	1/12/2022 18:00	0.7596	154
128	12/28/2021 7:00	0.1665	108	500	1/12/2022 19:00	1.0367	153
129	12/28/2021 8:00	0.1681	110	501	1/12/2022 20:00	1.2047	152
130	12/28/2021 9:00	0.1797	112	502	1/12/2022 21:00	0.9671	150
131	12/28/2021 10:00	0.3640	119	503	1/12/2022 22:00	0.5465	146
132	12/28/2021 11:00	1.1859	122	504	1/12/2022 23:00	0.3511	142
133	12/28/2021 12:00	1.7137	123	505	1/13/2022 0:00	0.2995	135
134	12/28/2021 13:00	2.3015	122	506	1/13/2022 1:00	0.2825	129
135	12/28/2021 14:00	2.7475	125	507	1/13/2022 2:00	0.2735	121
136	12/28/2021 15:00	2.5750	120	508	1/13/2022 3:00	0.2716	119
137	12/28/2021 16:00	1.7582	116	509	1/13/2022 4:00	0.2680	116
138	12/28/2021 17:00	0.8409	119	510	1/13/2022 5:00	0.2690	116
139	12/28/2021 18:00	0.3540	123	511	1/13/2022 6:00	0.2683	117
140	12/28/2021 19:00	0.2629	127	512	1/13/2022 7:00	0.2721	120
141	12/28/2021 20:00	0.2397	126	513	1/13/2022 8:00	0.2751	130
142	12/28/2021 21:00	0.2171	126	514	1/13/2022 9:00	0.3172	136
143	12/28/2021 22:00	0.2228	123	515	1/13/2022 10:00	0.6869	141
144	12/28/2021 23:00	0.2548	119	516	1/13/2022 11:00	1.6818	143
145	12/29/2021 0:00	0.4429	115	517	1/13/2022 12:00	2.7883	146
146	12/29/2021 1:00	0.7714	110	518	1/13/2022 13:00	3.2241	146
147	12/29/2021 2:00	0.8130	109	519	1/13/2022 14:00	3.2605	144
148	12/29/2021 3:00	0.9240	104	520	1/13/2022 15:00	2.8709	145
149	12/29/2021 4:00	0.7721	106	521	1/13/2022 16:00	2.1209	146
150	12/29/2021 5:00	0.3972	105	522	1/13/2022 17:00	1.4542	144

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
151	12/29/2021 6:00	0.2593	106	523	1/13/2022 18:00	0.8228	148
152	12/29/2021 7:00	0.2296	109	524	1/13/2022 19:00	0.4863	150
153	12/29/2021 8:00	0.2158	109	525	1/13/2022 20:00	0.3928	151
154	12/29/2021 9:00	0.2125	109	526	1/13/2022 21:00	0.3352	150
155	12/29/2021 10:00	0.2330	111	527	1/13/2022 22:00	0.2909	147
156	12/29/2021 11:00	0.3245	114	528	1/13/2022 23:00	0.2761	142
157	12/29/2021 12:00	0.4485	116	529	1/14/2022 0:00	0.2923	137
158	12/29/2021 13:00	0.5053	119	530	1/14/2022 1:00	0.2858	134
159	12/29/2021 14:00	0.6286	119	531	1/14/2022 2:00	0.2544	130
160	12/29/2021 15:00	0.6933	120	532	1/14/2022 3:00	0.2759	131
161	12/29/2021 16:00	0.5437	121	533	1/14/2022 4:00	0.2655	131
162	12/29/2021 17:00	0.4341	123	534	1/14/2022 5:00	0.2511	132
163	12/29/2021 18:00	0.6095	123	535	1/14/2022 6:00	0.2360	131
164	12/29/2021 19:00	0.5853	123	536	1/14/2022 7:00	0.2219	131
165	12/29/2021 20:00	0.4430	123	537	1/14/2022 8:00	0.2127	132
166	12/29/2021 21:00	0.2942	122	538	1/14/2022 9:00	0.2453	129
167	12/29/2021 22:00	0.2396	118	539	1/14/2022 10:00	0.8679	113
168	12/29/2021 23:00	0.2179	116	540	1/14/2022 11:00	1.3799	109
169	12/30/2021 0:00	0.2099	114	541	1/14/2022 12:00	1.3520	106
170	12/30/2021 1:00	0.2140	110	542	1/14/2022 13:00	1.0795	103
171	12/30/2021 2:00	0.2399	109	543	1/14/2022 14:00	0.9486	100
172	12/30/2021 3:00	0.2684	109	544	1/14/2022 15:00	0.9189	96
173	12/30/2021 4:00	0.2308	107	545	1/14/2022 16:00	0.9503	92
174	12/30/2021 5:00	0.2340	105	546	1/14/2022 17:00	0.6978	91
175	12/30/2021 6:00	0.2146	107	547	1/14/2022 18:00	0.4396	94
176	12/30/2021 7:00	0.2144	108	548	1/14/2022 19:00	0.3421	98
177	12/30/2021 8:00	0.2163	113	549	1/14/2022 20:00	0.2922	102
178	12/30/2021 9:00	0.2185	114	550	1/14/2022 21:00	0.2584	105
179	12/30/2021 10:00	0.2192	119	551	1/14/2022 22:00	0.2389	105
180	12/30/2021 11:00	0.2736	123	552	1/14/2022 23:00	0.2296	101
181	12/30/2021 12:00	0.3383	124	553	1/15/2022 0:00	0.2270	97
182	12/30/2021 13:00	0.2996	105	554	1/15/2022 1:00	0.2544	92
183	12/30/2021 14:00	0.2624	114	555	1/15/2022 2:00	0.2899	73
184	12/30/2021 15:00	0.2441	116	556	1/15/2022 3:00	0.2656	83
185	12/30/2021 16:00	0.2354	112	557	1/15/2022 4:00	0.2487	81
186	12/30/2021 17:00	0.2283	110	558	1/15/2022 5:00	0.2420	84
187	12/30/2021 18:00	0.2249	110	559	1/15/2022 6:00	0.2447	87
188	12/30/2021 19:00	0.2311	109	560	1/15/2022 7:00	0.2493	93
189	12/30/2021 20:00	0.2434	107	561	1/15/2022 8:00	0.2543	98
190	12/30/2021 21:00	0.2508	108	562	1/15/2022 9:00	0.2572	107
191	12/30/2021 22:00	0.2543	108	563	1/15/2022 10:00	0.3234	113
192	12/30/2021 23:00	0.2285	108	564	1/15/2022 11:00	0.6876	116
193	12/31/2021 0:00	0.2229	107	565	1/15/2022 12:00	1.0593	118
194	12/31/2021 1:00	0.2226	107	566	1/15/2022 13:00	1.1814	122

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
195	12/31/2021 2:00	0.2247	108	567	1/15/2022 14:00	1.0308	124
196	12/31/2021 3:00	0.2283	88	568	1/15/2022 15:00	0.6478	126
197	12/31/2021 4:00	0.2321	106	569	1/15/2022 16:00	0.4167	128
198	12/31/2021 5:00	0.2361	101	570	1/15/2022 17:00	0.4315	129
199	12/31/2021 6:00	0.2359	97	571	1/15/2022 18:00	0.7446	130
200	12/31/2021 7:00	0.2388	103	572	1/15/2022 19:00	1.2804	131
201	12/31/2021 8:00	0.2403	110	573	1/15/2022 20:00	1.6243	129
202	12/31/2021 9:00	0.2434	120	574	1/15/2022 21:00	1.5917	127
203	12/31/2021 10:00	0.3167	91	575	1/15/2022 22:00	1.0588	124
204	12/31/2021 11:00	0.9801	102	576	1/15/2022 23:00	0.5392	118
205	12/31/2021 12:00	1.8776	105	577	1/16/2022 0:00	0.3489	112
206	12/31/2021 13:00	2.4211	106	578	1/16/2022 1:00	0.3018	106
207	12/31/2021 14:00	2.5580	106	579	1/16/2022 2:00	0.2851	77
208	12/31/2021 15:00	2.1233	106	580	1/16/2022 3:00	0.2767	98
209	12/31/2021 16:00	1.4464	105	581	1/16/2022 4:00	0.2703	95
210	12/31/2021 17:00	0.8362	105	582	1/16/2022 5:00	0.2654	94
211	12/31/2021 18:00	0.5226	107	583	1/16/2022 6:00	0.2693	96
212	12/31/2021 19:00	0.4409	108	584	1/16/2022 7:00	0.2723	101
213	12/31/2021 20:00	0.4258	109	585	1/16/2022 8:00	0.2765	108
214	12/31/2021 21:00	0.4173	109	586	1/16/2022 9:00	0.2824	119
215	12/31/2021 22:00	0.3876	109	587	1/16/2022 10:00	0.2967	129
216	12/31/2021 23:00	0.3739	105	588	1/16/2022 11:00	0.3635	133
217	1/1/2022 0:00	0.3672	105	589	1/16/2022 12:00	0.7212	139
218	1/1/2022 1:00	0.3646	105	590	1/16/2022 13:00	0.9877	143
219	1/1/2022 2:00	0.3644	103	591	1/16/2022 14:00	0.8727	145
220	1/1/2022 3:00	0.3662	104	592	1/16/2022 15:00	0.5371	146
221	1/1/2022 4:00	0.3659	109	593	1/16/2022 16:00	0.3599	149
222	1/1/2022 5:00	0.4367	109	594	1/16/2022 17:00	0.3169	151
223	1/1/2022 6:00	0.4269	106	595	1/16/2022 18:00	0.3042	152
224	1/1/2022 7:00	0.4072	111	596	1/16/2022 19:00	0.2977	154
225	1/1/2022 8:00	0.4009	113	597	1/16/2022 20:00	0.3025	157
226	1/1/2022 9:00	0.3995	110	598	1/16/2022 21:00	0.2945	155
227	1/1/2022 10:00	0.3943	115	599	1/16/2022 22:00	0.2880	154
228	1/1/2022 11:00	0.4269	119	600	1/16/2022 23:00	0.2878	150
229	1/1/2022 12:00	0.5256	119	601	1/17/2022 0:00	0.2871	143
230	1/1/2022 13:00	0.5127	120	602	1/17/2022 1:00	0.2802	107
231	1/1/2022 14:00	0.6863	118	603	1/17/2022 2:00	0.2773	132
232	1/1/2022 15:00	0.9015	117	604	1/17/2022 3:00	0.2815	130
233	1/1/2022 16:00	0.8412	112	605	1/17/2022 4:00	0.2799	125
234	1/1/2022 17:00	0.6487	109	606	1/17/2022 5:00	0.2825	123
235	1/1/2022 18:00	0.5573	112	607	1/17/2022 6:00	0.2846	124
236	1/1/2022 19:00	0.4987	117	608	1/17/2022 7:00	0.2874	129
237	1/1/2022 20:00	0.4675	121	609	1/17/2022 8:00	0.2908	139
238	1/1/2022 21:00	0.4510	120	610	1/17/2022 9:00	0.3150	145

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
239	1/1/2022 22:00	0.4526	120	611	1/17/2022 10:00	0.5968	154
240	1/1/2022 23:00	0.4489	117	612	1/17/2022 11:00	1.2911	151
241	1/2/2022 0:00	0.4978	114	613	1/17/2022 12:00	1.3864	152
242	1/2/2022 1:00	0.6479	111	614	1/17/2022 13:00	1.2458	153
243	1/2/2022 2:00	1.0046	106	615	1/17/2022 14:00	0.9471	154
244	1/2/2022 3:00	1.1916	96	616	1/17/2022 15:00	0.6463	155
245	1/2/2022 4:00	0.7898	107	617	1/17/2022 16:00	0.5055	155
246	1/2/2022 5:00	0.4814	105	618	1/17/2022 17:00	0.5317	156
247	1/2/2022 6:00	0.4256	104	619	1/17/2022 18:00	0.7301	158
248	1/2/2022 7:00	0.3964	101	620	1/17/2022 19:00	0.8406	158
249	1/2/2022 8:00	0.3868	101	621	1/17/2022 20:00	0.9265	156
250	1/2/2022 9:00	0.3816	109	622	1/17/2022 21:00	0.7145	154
251	1/2/2022 10:00	0.3807	111	623	1/17/2022 22:00	0.4306	150
252	1/2/2022 11:00	0.4939	113	624	1/17/2022 23:00	0.3296	145
253	1/2/2022 12:00	0.8855	117	625	1/18/2022 0:00	0.3030	138
254	1/2/2022 13:00	1.1564	121	626	1/18/2022 1:00	0.2902	132
255	1/2/2022 14:00	1.2478	121	627	1/18/2022 2:00	0.2839	126
256	1/2/2022 15:00	1.3875	120	628	1/18/2022 3:00	0.2818	123
257	1/2/2022 16:00	1.6847	119	629	1/18/2022 4:00	0.2806	119
258	1/2/2022 17:00	1.6196	122	630	1/18/2022 5:00	0.2863	119
259	1/2/2022 18:00	1.0717	124	631	1/18/2022 6:00	0.2895	123
260	1/2/2022 19:00	0.9258	122	632	1/18/2022 7:00	0.2947	128
261	1/2/2022 20:00	1.4994	122	633	1/18/2022 8:00	0.2957	137
262	1/2/2022 21:00	2.4712	116	634	1/18/2022 9:00	0.2963	142
263	1/2/2022 22:00	2.0733	116	635	1/18/2022 10:00	0.2978	144
264	1/2/2022 23:00	1.1357	113	636	1/18/2022 11:00	0.3131	144
265	1/3/2022 0:00	0.5868	111	637	1/18/2022 12:00	0.5237	144
266	1/3/2022 1:00	0.4538	110	638	1/18/2022 13:00	0.7060	144
267	1/3/2022 2:00	0.4152	104	639	1/18/2022 14:00	0.6741	143
268	1/3/2022 3:00	0.3957	107	640	1/18/2022 15:00	0.5045	143
269	1/3/2022 4:00	0.4422	106	641	1/18/2022 16:00	0.3461	144
270	1/3/2022 5:00	0.4132	108	642	1/18/2022 17:00	0.3091	145
271	1/3/2022 6:00	0.3889	109	643	1/18/2022 18:00	0.3006	147
272	1/3/2022 7:00	0.3789	107	644	1/18/2022 19:00	0.2937	149
273	1/3/2022 8:00	0.3841	106	645	1/18/2022 20:00	0.2902	151
274	1/3/2022 9:00	0.4021	105	646	1/18/2022 21:00	0.2867	150
275	1/3/2022 10:00	0.9087	109	647	1/18/2022 22:00	0.2847	148
276	1/3/2022 11:00	2.1160	113	648	1/18/2022 23:00	0.2802	143
277	1/3/2022 12:00	2.9155	115	649	1/19/2022 0:00	0.2758	136
278	1/3/2022 13:00	3.2514	116	650	1/19/2022 1:00	0.2737	130
279	1/3/2022 14:00	3.1973	116	651	1/19/2022 2:00	0.2704	123
280	1/3/2022 15:00	2.7770	117	652	1/19/2022 3:00	0.2651	117
281	1/3/2022 16:00	2.2661	122	653	1/19/2022 4:00	0.2596	112
282	1/3/2022 17:00	1.9340	122	654	1/19/2022 5:00	0.2541	106

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
283	1/3/2022 18:00	1.8919	120	655	1/19/2022 6:00	0.2501	102
284	1/3/2022 19:00	1.9645	123	656	1/19/2022 7:00	0.2431	99
285	1/3/2022 20:00	2.2969	121	657	1/19/2022 8:00	0.2370	95
286	1/3/2022 21:00	2.3204	116	658	1/19/2022 9:00	0.2539	92
287	1/3/2022 22:00	1.7076	111	659	1/19/2022 10:00	0.2776	89
288	1/3/2022 23:00	1.0732	107	660	1/19/2022 11:00	0.3781	86
289	1/4/2022 0:00	0.6174	104	661	1/19/2022 12:00	0.5058	84
290	1/4/2022 1:00	0.4626	103	662	1/19/2022 13:00	0.4240	83
291	1/4/2022 2:00	0.4142	101	663	1/19/2022 14:00	0.2971	86
292	1/4/2022 3:00	0.3901	107	664	1/19/2022 15:00	0.2490	89
293	1/4/2022 4:00	0.3853	111	665	1/19/2022 16:00	0.2394	94
294	1/4/2022 5:00	0.3796	107	666	1/19/2022 17:00	0.2365	97
295	1/4/2022 6:00	0.3765	113	667	1/19/2022 18:00	0.2355	100
296	1/4/2022 7:00	0.3763	115	668	1/19/2022 19:00	0.2387	102
297	1/4/2022 8:00	0.3832	117	669	1/19/2022 20:00	0.2379	104
298	1/4/2022 9:00	0.4107	113	670	1/19/2022 21:00	0.2389	106
299	1/4/2022 10:00	1.0074	117	671	1/19/2022 22:00	0.2395	106
300	1/4/2022 11:00	2.5310	119	672	1/19/2022 23:00	0.2406	106
301	1/4/2022 12:00	4.1667	118	673	1/20/2022 0:00	0.2433	106
302	1/4/2022 13:00	5.4876	119	674	1/20/2022 1:00	0.2472	106
303	1/4/2022 14:00	6.3119	124	675	1/20/2022 2:00	0.2503	103
304	1/4/2022 15:00	5.7052	124	676	1/20/2022 3:00	0.2551	103
305	1/4/2022 16:00	3.9614	124	677	1/20/2022 4:00	0.2595	104
306	1/4/2022 17:00	2.6559	120	678	1/20/2022 5:00	0.2634	107
307	1/4/2022 18:00	1.6933	119	679	1/20/2022 6:00	0.2686	111
308	1/4/2022 19:00	1.0925	118	680	1/20/2022 7:00	0.2739	119
309	1/4/2022 20:00	1.0853	129	681	1/20/2022 8:00	0.2792	126
310	1/4/2022 21:00	1.7021	144	682	1/20/2022 9:00	0.2869	130
311	1/4/2022 22:00	1.2211	115	683	1/20/2022 10:00	0.3516	133
312	1/4/2022 23:00	0.7755	106	684	1/20/2022 11:00	0.4598	136
313	1/5/2022 0:00	0.6771	104	685	1/20/2022 12:00	0.5008	137
314	1/5/2022 1:00	0.6156	100	686	1/20/2022 13:00	0.4238	137
315	1/5/2022 2:00	0.5564	98	687	1/20/2022 14:00	0.3375	139
316	1/5/2022 3:00	0.5211	96	688	1/20/2022 15:00	0.2949	137
317	1/5/2022 4:00	0.4371	92	689	1/20/2022 16:00	0.2939	140
318	1/5/2022 5:00	0.3921	91	690	1/20/2022 17:00	0.3480	142
319	1/5/2022 6:00	0.3716	90	691	1/20/2022 18:00	0.6416	144
320	1/5/2022 7:00	0.3605	89	692	1/20/2022 19:00	1.0602	147
321	1/5/2022 8:00	0.3504	87	693	1/20/2022 20:00	1.3281	142
322	1/5/2022 9:00	0.4695	82	694	1/20/2022 21:00	0.9104	139
323	1/5/2022 10:00	1.1983	80	695	1/20/2022 22:00	0.4892	133
324	1/5/2022 11:00	2.1081	79	696	1/20/2022 23:00	0.3386	125
325	1/5/2022 12:00	2.6285	78	697	1/21/2022 0:00	0.3005	117
326	1/5/2022 13:00	2.9057	79	698	1/21/2022 1:00	0.2831	103

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
327	1/5/2022 14:00	2.8477	82	699	1/21/2022 2:00	0.2783	99
328	1/5/2022 15:00	2.2847	85	700	1/21/2022 3:00	0.2749	104
329	1/5/2022 16:00	2.1432	87	701	1/21/2022 4:00	0.2753	106
330	1/5/2022 17:00	1.9472	89	702	1/21/2022 5:00	0.2758	110
331	1/5/2022 18:00	1.6241	92	703	1/21/2022 6:00	0.2805	114
332	1/5/2022 19:00	1.4136	97	704	1/21/2022 7:00	0.2867	118
333	1/5/2022 20:00	1.3260	101	705	1/21/2022 8:00	0.6789	121
334	1/5/2022 21:00	1.0964	101	706	1/21/2022 9:00	2.5632	125
335	1/5/2022 22:00	0.7159	101	707	1/21/2022 10:00	3.9073	128
336	1/5/2022 23:00	0.5082	100	708	1/21/2022 11:00	5.0615	130
337	1/6/2022 0:00	0.4439	100	709	1/21/2022 12:00	4.2787	130
338	1/6/2022 1:00	0.5488	97	710	1/21/2022 13:00	3.0054	130
339	1/6/2022 2:00	0.7050	94	711	1/21/2022 14:00	1.7469	130
340	1/6/2022 3:00	0.7009	92	712	1/21/2022 15:00	0.8935	132
341	1/6/2022 4:00	0.5087	88	713	1/21/2022 16:00	0.5357	134
342	1/6/2022 5:00	0.3935	85	714	1/21/2022 17:00	0.3975	135
343	1/6/2022 6:00	0.3613	82	715	1/21/2022 18:00	0.3521	138
344	1/6/2022 7:00	0.3439	80	716	1/21/2022 19:00	0.3311	140
345	1/6/2022 8:00	0.3392	79	717	1/21/2022 20:00	0.3217	141
346	1/6/2022 9:00	0.5597	76	718	1/21/2022 21:00	0.3114	140
347	1/6/2022 10:00	1.1703	76	719	1/21/2022 22:00	0.3021	137
348	1/6/2022 11:00	1.9010	75	720	1/21/2022 23:00	0.2948	133
349	1/6/2022 12:00	2.3604	76	721	1/22/2022 0:00	0.2906	104
350	1/6/2022 13:00	2.3218	78	722	1/22/2022 1:00	0.2872	116
351	1/6/2022 14:00	1.9028	81	723	1/22/2022 2:00	0.2861	113
352	1/6/2022 15:00	1.3666	84	724	1/22/2022 3:00	0.2873	110
353	1/6/2022 16:00	0.7591	90	725	1/22/2022 4:00	0.2857	106
354	1/6/2022 17:00	0.4459	100	726	1/22/2022 5:00	0.2870	105
355	1/6/2022 18:00	0.3863	105	727	1/22/2022 6:00	0.2906	106
356	1/6/2022 19:00	0.3831	116	728	1/22/2022 7:00	0.2958	113
357	1/6/2022 20:00	0.3615	119	729	1/22/2022 8:00	0.2999	119
358	1/6/2022 21:00	0.3514	111	730	1/22/2022 9:00	0.3060	123
359	1/6/2022 22:00	0.3475	109	731	1/22/2022 10:00	0.3668	130
360	1/6/2022 23:00	0.3414	107	732	1/22/2022 11:00	1.0032	136
361	1/7/2022 0:00	0.3371	105	733	1/22/2022 12:00	1.4677	138
362	1/7/2022 1:00	0.3390	104	734	1/22/2022 13:00	1.5001	138
363	1/7/2022 2:00	0.3603	103	735	1/22/2022 14:00	1.3646	138
364	1/7/2022 3:00	0.3831	98	736	1/22/2022 15:00	1.0821	138
365	1/7/2022 4:00	0.3571	83	737	1/22/2022 16:00	0.7252	139
366	1/7/2022 5:00	0.3401	96	738	1/22/2022 17:00	0.4920	140
367	1/7/2022 6:00	0.3310	96	739	1/22/2022 18:00	0.3897	144
368	1/7/2022 7:00	0.3240	95	740	1/22/2022 19:00	0.3778	145
369	1/7/2022 8:00	0.3200	94	741	1/22/2022 20:00	0.3971	143
370	1/7/2022 9:00	0.3879	97	742	1/22/2022 21:00	0.3461	140

Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)	Index	Datetime	NH ₃ -N (mg/L)	Colour (Pt-Co)
371	1/7/2022 10:00	0.8822	99	743	1/22/2022 22:00	0.3097	134
372	1/7/2022 11:00	1.5970	103	744	1/22/2022 23:00	0.2905	125

APPENDIX B

PYTHON CODES

B.1 Python codes for machine learning models

Random Forest

```
model = RandomForestRegressor(n_estimators = 500)
```

Deep Neural Network

```
class model_MLP_1(torch.nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, n_input=1, n_hidden=10,
                 n_batch=1, n_output=1):
        super(model_MLP_1, self).__init__()
        self.input_size = n_input
        self.hidden_size = n_hidden
        self.batch_size = n_batch
        self.output_size = n_output
        self.fc1 = nn.Linear(self.input_size, self.hidden_size)
        self.relu = nn.ReLU()
        self.fc2 = nn.Linear(self.hidden_size, self.output_size)

    def forward(self, src, device):
        output = self.fc1(src[:, :, 0])
        output = self.relu(output)
        output = self.fc2(output)
        return output
```

Recurrent Neural Network

```
class RNN(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, input_size=1, hidden_size=10,
                 num_layers=1, output_size=1):
        super(RNN, self).__init__()
        self.input_size = input_size
        self.hidden_size = hidden_size
        self.num_layers = num_layers
        self.output_size = output_size
        self.rnn = nn.RNN(input_size=input_size,
                          hidden_size=hidden_size,
                          num_layers=num_layers)
```

```

    self.fc = nn.Linear(hidden_size, output_size)

def forward(self, src, device):
    h_t = torch.zeros(self.num_layers, 1, self.hidden_size)
    out, _ = self.rnn(src[:, :, 0], h_t)
    out = self.fc(out)
    return out

```

Gated Recurrent Unit

```

class GRU(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, input_size=1, hidden_size=10,
                 num_layers=1, output_size=1):
        super(GRU, self).__init__()
        self.input_size = input_size
        self.hidden_size = hidden_size
        self.num_layers = num_layers
        self.output_size = output_size
        self.gru = nn.GRU(input_size=input_size,
                          hidden_size=hidden_size,
                          num_layers=num_layers)
        self.fc = nn.Linear(hidden_size, output_size)

    def forward(self, src, device):
        h_t = torch.zeros(self.num_layers, 1,
                         self.hidden_size)
        out, _ = self.gru(src[:, :, 0], h_t)
        out = self.fc(out)
        return out

```

Long Short-Term Memory

```

class model_LSTM_1(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, n_hidden=10):
        super(model_LSTM_1, self).__init__()
        self.n_hidden = n_hidden
        self.n_layers = 1
        self.lstm = nn.LSTM(input_size = 1,
                            hidden_size = self.n_hidden)
        self.linear = nn.Linear(self.n_hidden, 1)

    def forward(self, src, device):
        h_t = torch.zeros(self.n_layers, 1, self.n_hidden)
        c_t = torch.zeros(self.n_layers, 1, self.n_hidden)
        h_t, c_t = self.lstm(src[:, :, 0], (h_t, c_t))
        output = self.linear(h_t)
        return output

```