# WATER QUALITY MODELING USING ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS INCORPORATING LAND USE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT FACTORS

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DEDICATION

In Loving Memory of My Father and My Little Brother

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### ABSTRACT

Skudai River has undergone a general decline in water quality in recent years due to agricultural practices, urbanisation, industrial and other human activities in the river catchment. It is classified as "slightly contaminated" by the Department of Environment (DOE), and as such, immediate actions are needed to prevent further deterioration and improve the water quality. Majority of existing research on water quality modelling focuses on water quality data and the impact of land use on water quality, while those on the effects of sewage treatment plants (STP) discharge on river water quality have also been conducted to a certain extent. However, limited research on water quality prediction is based on land use input, existing STP, and rainfall. This is due to the complicated relationships between these three factors and water quality parameters. River systems are highly complex, hierarchical and patchy. Accurate predictions of the time series concerning the changing water quality could support early warnings on water pollution and help with management decisions. Currently, artificial intelligence (AI) technologies can simulate this behaviour and complement the inherent deficiencies. Among the latest research in integrating AI into water quality modelling, artificial neural networks (ANNs) are the most popular techniques used. This study aimed to identify and determine key water quality parameters using principal component analysis (PCA) based on land use and pollution sources, to correlate and predict water quality index (WQI) based on in-situ parameters using ANNs, and to determine and predict the relationships between land use patterns, precipitation, STP, and WQI, also using ANNs. ANNs were employed in a total of 839 physical and chemical pollution data sets from the Skudai River from 2001 to 2019 as training (70%), test (15%) and validation data (15%) for the analysis in this study. River water sampling was also carried out to evaluate the modelling results (36 data sets). ArcMap 10.4 was used to prepare the map for the changes occurring in land use, observed from 2000 to 2019 The PCAs results indicated that the parameters causing water quality variations were mainly related to physical parameters (natural) and organic pollutants (anthropogenic). The study also showed that the cascade-forward net was the optimal ANNs-water quality index-1 (ANNWQI-1) model for WQI prediction with seven parameters: DO, pH, conductivity, temperature, TDS, salinity, and turbidity with an RSME of 7.15, and a coefficient of correlation (R) of 0.92. The analysis with Spearman correlation could explain that in-situ parameters correlated with the parameters used to calculate WQI values. The best ANNWQI-2 model was a feed-forward net with land use, STP service coverage, and precipitatin data as input data, resulting in RMSE of 6.98 and R of 0.80. An input data analysis with Spearman correlation could explain that land use data, STP and rainfall data correlated with the parameters used to calculate WQI values. The integrated model of ANNWQI-3 had RMSE and R of 6.01 and 0.92, respectively. ANNWQI-1 demonstrated that accurate WQI predictions could be made, with only seven in-situ water quality parameters, while ANNWQI-3 required more comprehensive input data to get almost the same R. More importantly, the input data was in-situ water quality parameters, and no laboratory analysis was needed. The study determined the effective input parameters using PCA for successful ANN modelling while illustrating the usefulness of ANNs for WQI prediction. Ultimately, the results will give decision-makers valuable information to identify the causes of water pollution and the critical source areas that are useful for protecting the environment in terms of sustainable water resources.

### ABSTRAK

Sungai Skudai telah mengalami penurunan kualiti air secara umum dalam beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini kerana amalan pertanian, pembandaran, perindustrian dan kegiatan lain manusia yang berlaku di tadahan sungai. Sungai ini diklasifikasikan sebagai "sedikit tercemar" oleh Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS), dan oleh itu, tindakan segera diperlukan untuk mencegah kemerosotan lebih lanjut dan untuk meningkatkan kualiti air. Sebilangan besar kajian sedia ada berkaitan pemodelan kualiti air memfokuskan kepada data kualiti air dan impak penggunaan tanah terhadap kualiti air, sementara kajian mengenai kesan pelepasan dari loji rawatan kumbahan (STP) terhadap kualiti air sungai juga telah dilakukan, pada tahap tertentu. Walau bagaimanapun, kajian mengenai ramalan kualiti air, berdasarkan input penggunaan tanah, STP sedia ada, dan curahan hujan adalah sangat terbatas. Ini disebabkan hubungan yang rumit antara ketiga-tiga faktor dan parameter kualiti air. Sistem sungai sangat kompleks, berhierarki dan tidak sekata. Ramalan yang tepat bagi siri masa, berkaitan dengan perubahan kualiti air, dapat mengukuhkan amaran awal mengenai pencemaran air dan membantu keputusan yang berkaitan dengan pengurusan sumber air. Pada masa ini, teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI) mampu mensimulasikan tingkah laku ini dan melengkapkan kekurangan yang wujud. Antara kajian mutakhir dalam mengintegrasikan AI ke dalam pemodelan kualiti air, artificial neural networks (ANN) ialah teknik yang paling popular digunakan. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenal pasti dan menentukan parameter kualiti air utama, menggunakan analisis komponen utama (PCA), berdasarkan penggunaan tanah dan sumber pencemaran, untuk menghubungkait dan meramalkan indeks kualiti air (IKA) berdasarkan parameter in-situ menggunakan ANN, dan untuk menentu dan meramalkan hubungan antara pola penggunaan tanah, curahan hujan, STP, dan IKA, juga menggunakan ANN. ANN telah digunakan untuk sejumlah 839 kumpulan data pencemaran fizikal dan kimia dari Sungai Skudai, bagi tempoh 2001 hingga 2019, sebagai data latihan (70%), ujian (15%) dan pengesahan (15%) untuk analisis dalam kajian ini. Pengambilan sampel air sungai juga dilakukan untuk menilai hasil pemodelan (36 set data). ArcMap 10.4 diguna untuk menyediakan peta bagi perubahan yang berlaku dalam penggunaan tanah, yang diperhatikan dari tahun 2000 hingga 2019. Hasil PCA menunjukkan bahawa parameter yang menyebabkan kepelbagaian kualiti air adalah terutamanya berkaitan dengan parameter fizikal (semula jadi) dan bahan pencemar organik (antropogenik). Kajian ini juga menunjukkan bahawa, cascadeforward net ialah model 1 artificial neural networks - Indeks Kualiti Air (ANNWOI-1) yang optimum bagi ramalan IKA dengan tujuh parameter: DO, pH, kekonduksian, suhu, TDS, saliniti, dan kekeruhan dengan nilai RSME 7.15, dan pekali korelasi (R) 0.92. Analisis dengan korelasi Spearman boleh menjelaskan bahawa parameter in-situ berkorelasi dengan parameter vang digunakan untuk mengira nilai IKA. Model ANN-IKA-2 yang terbaik jalah feed-forward net dengan penggunaan tanah, liputan perkhidmatan STP, dan data kerpasan, sebagai data input, yang menghasilkan nilai RMSE 6.98 dan koefisien korelasi 0.80. Analisis data input dengan korelasi Spearman boleh menjelaskan bahawa data guna tanah, STP dan data hujan berkorelasi dengan parameter yang digunakan untuk mengira nilai IKA. Hasil model bersepadu ANN-IKA-3 mempunyai nilai RMSE 6.01 dan koefisien korelasi 0.92. ANN-IKA-1 menunjukkan bahawa, ramalan IKA yang tepat dapat dilakukan dengan hanya tujuh parameter kualiti air in situ, sementara ANN-IKA-3 memerlukan data input yang lebih komprehensif untuk mendapatkan R yang hampir sama. Lebih penting lagi, data input adalah dalam bentuk parameter kualiti air in situ, dan analisis makmal tidak diperlukan. Kajian ini dapat menentukan parameter input yang berkesan menggunakan PCA untuk pemodelan ANN yang berjaya, selain menjelaskan kegunaan ANN untuk ramalan IKA. Pada akhirnya, hasil yang didapati akan memberikan maklumat bernilai kepada pembuat keputusan untuk mengenalpasti penyebab pencemaran air dan juga kawasan sumber kritikal yang berguna bagi melindungi alam sekitar daripada sudut sumber air yang lestari.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

### TITLE

	DECL	ARATION	iii
	DEDI	CATION	iv
	ACKN	IOWLEDGEMENT	v
	ABST	RACT	vi
	ABST	RAK	vii
	TABL	E OF CONTENTS	viii
	LIST	OF TABLES	xiv
	LIST	OF FIGURES	xviii
	LIST	<b>OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xxi
	LIST	OF MODEL NOTATION	xxiii
	LIST	OF APPENDICES	xxiv
CHAPTER	R 1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1	Background	1
	1.2	Problem Statement	4
	1.3	Research Objective	7
	1.4	Scope of The Study	7
	1.5	Significant of Study	8
	1.6	Organisation of Thesis	9
CHAPTER	2	LITERATURE REVIEW	11
	2.1	Introduction	11
	2.2	Water Resource and Management	11

2.3	Water Quality	13
	2.3.1 Parameters	13
	2.3.2 Water Quality Index	17
2.4	Factors affecting River Water Quality	22
	2.4.1 Land Use	24

	2.4.2 Climate Change	25
	2.4.3 Sewage Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant	29
2.5	Principal Component Analysis	30
	2.5.1 Definition and Procedure in Principal Component Analysis	30
	2.5.2 Application Principal Component Analysis	34
2.6	River Water Quality Modelling	34
	2.6.1 The Benefit of the Water Quality Model	34
	2.6.2 Limitation of the Existing Water Quality Model	37
2.7	Artificial Intelligence	40
	2.7.1 Why Artificial Intelligence	40
	2.7.2 Artificial Intelligence Application in Water Quality Prediction	42
2.8	Artificial Neural Networks	46
	2.8.1 Definition of Artificial Neural Networks	46
	2.8.2 Artificial Neural Networks Application in Water Quality Prediction	51
2.9	Research Trend and Need	54
CHAPTER 3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	57
3.1	Introduction	57
3.2	Study Area	57
3.3	Equipment and Material	59
	3.3.1 Laboratory Equipment and Chemicals	59
	3.3.2 Software	61
3.4	Analytical Methods	62
3.5	Data Collection	62
	3.5.1 Water Quality	62
	3.5.2 Secondary Data	65
3.6	Phase 1 Principal Component Analysis	67
	3.6.1 Data Preparation	68
	3.6.1.1 Land Use	68

		3.6.1.3	Sewage Treatment Plant and Industry Data	71
		3.6.1.4	Water Quality Data	72
	3.6.2	Principal	Component Analysis	72
3.7	Phase Index		ificial Neural Networks Water Quality	73
	3.7.1	Model D	evelopment the ANNWQI-1 Model	76
		3.7.1.1	Normalised Data	76
		3.7.1.2	Experimental Set up for the ANNWQI-1 Model	77
	3.7.2	Evaluatio Model	on and Analysis of the ANNWQI1 - 1	78
		3.7.2.1	Mean Square Error, Root Mean Square Error, and Coefficient of Correlation	78
3.8	Phase Index		ificial Neural Networks Water Quality	80
	3.8.1	Model I Model	Development of the ANNWQI - 2	83
		3.8.1.1	Normalised Data	83
		3.8.1.2	Experimental Set up of the ANNWQI -2 Model	84
	3.8.2	Evaluatio Model	on and Analysis of the ANNWQI - 2	85
		3.8.2.1	Mean Square Error, Root Mean Square Error, and Coefficient of Correlation	85
3.9		4 - The y Index - 3	Artificial Neural Networks Water	85
	3.9.1	Model I Model	Development of the ANNWQI - 3	89
		3.9.1.1	Normalised Data	89
		3.9.1.2	Experiment Set up of the ANNWQI - 3 Model	90
	3.9.2	Evaluatio Model	on and Analysis of the ANNWQI - 3	91

		3.9.2.1	Mean Square Error, Root Mean Square Error, and Coefficient of Correlation	91
CHAPTER 4			AND KEY OF WATER RAMETERS	93
4.1	Study	Area		93
	4.1.1	Delineat	ion of the Skudai River Watershed	93
	4.1.2	Skudai F	River as Source of Raw Water	94
	4.1.3	Land Us	e Each Sub Watershed	96
		4.1.3.1	Sub-Watershed 1	97
		4.1.3.2	Sub Watershed 2	98
		4.1.3.3	Sub Watershed 3	100
		4.1.3.4	Sub Watershed 4	101
		4.1.3.5	Overall Watershed	102
	4.1.4	Rainfall	Data	106
	4.1.5	Water Q	uality Data	110
4.2	Princi	pal Comp	onent Analysis	117
	4.2.1	Samplin Upstrear	g Station 1 at Skudai River Watershed- n	118
		4.2.1.1	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	118
		4.2.1.2	Anti-image Matrix	119
		4.2.1.3	Communalities	120
		4.2.1.4	Determination of the number of factors	121
	4.2.2	Samplin Upstrear	g Station 2 at Skudai River Watershed- n	128
		4.2.2.1	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	128
		4.2.2.2	Anti-image Matrix	129
		4.2.2.3	Communalities	129
		4.2.2.4	Determination of the Number of Factors	130

	4.2.3	Samplin Upstrear	g Station 3 at Skudai River Watershed- n	138
		4.2.3.1	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	138
		4.2.3.2	Anti-image Matrix	139
		4.2.3.3	Communalities	140
		4.2.3.4	Determination of the number of factors	140
	4.2.4	Samplin Upstrear	g Station 4 at Skudai River Watershed- n	150
		4.2.4.1	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	150
		4.2.4.2	Anti-image Matrix	151
		4.2.4.3	Communalities	152
		4.2.4.4	Determination of the number of factors	152
	4.2.5	-	g Station 1-4 at Skudai River ed-Upstream	159
		4.2.5.1	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	160
		4.2.5.2	Anti-image Matrix	160
		4.2.5.3	Communalities	161
		4.2.5.4	Determination of the number of factors	162
4.3	Chapt	er Summa	ıry	171
CHAPTER 5			NEURAL NETWORK-WATER DEX MODEL	177
5.1	The A 1 Mod		leural Networks Water Quality Index -	177
	5.1.1	Data Inp	out The ANNWQI-1 Model	177
	5.1.2	The Bes	t Analysis of The ANNWQI-1 Model	179
	5.1.3	Results	of the ANNWQI-1 Model	185
5.2	The A 2 Mod		leural Networks Water Quality Index –	187
	5.2.1	Data Inp	out The ANNWQI-2 Model	187

	5.2.2 The Best Analysis of The ANNWQI-2 Model	189
	5.2.3 Results of the ANNWQI-2 Model	196
5.3	The Artificial Neural Networks Water Quality Index – 3 Model	198
	5.3.1 Data Input The ANNWQI-3 Model	198
	5.3.2 The Best Analysis of The ANNWQI-3 Model	201
	5.3.3 Results of the ANNWQI-3 Model	207
5.4	Chapter 5 Summary	208
CHAPTER 6	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	211
6.1	Conclusions	211
6.2	Recommendations	213
REFERENCES		215
LIST OF PUBLI	ICATIONS	285

# LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Table 2.1	Other priority pollutants generated by industrial and domestic activities (Metcalf and Eddy, 2014)	15
Table 3.1	List of reagents used in the study	60
Table 3.2	List of equipment used in the study	60
Table 3.3	List of software used in this study	61
Table 3.4	Methods for analysis parameter used in this study	62
Table 3.5	Sampling station at the Skudai River watershed-upstream	64
Table 3.6	List of secondary data used in this study	66
Table 3.7	Features and operating in ArcMap 10.4.1 to delineation watershed	68
Table 3.8	Features and operating in ArcMap 10.4.1 for land use preparation	69
Table 3.9	Data used in the ANNWQI-1 model development and evaluation	74
Table 3.10	Summary parameter setup for the ANNWQI-1 model	77
Table 3.11	Data used in the ANNWQI-2 model development and evaluation	81
Table 3.12	Summary parameter setup for the ANNWQI-2 model	84
Table 3.13	Data used in the ANNWQI-3 model development and evaluation	87
Table 3.14	Summary parameter setup for The ANNWQI-3 Model	90
Table 4.1	Area of the Skudai River sub-watersheds	94
Table 4.2	Rainfall gauging station at the Skudai River watershed-upstream	107
Table 4.3	T-Test of rainfall data 2001-2019	110
Table 4.4	Descriptive statistic water quality data in sampling station 1	112
Table 4.5	Descriptive statistic water quality data in sampling station 2	113

Table 4.6	Descriptive statistic water quality data in sampling station 3	114
Table 4.7	Descriptive statistic water quality data in sampling station 4	115
Table 4.8	KMO and Bartlett's Test on iteration 1 of PCA sampling station 1	118
Table 4.9	Measure of sampling adequacy iteration 1 of PCA sampling station 1	119
Table 4.10	Communalities on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 1	121
Table 4.11	Total variance explained on iteration 5 of PCA sampling station 1	122
Table 4.12	Component matrix on iteration 5 of PCA sampling station 1	124
Table 4.13	Rotated component matrix on iteration 5 of PCA sampling station 1	126
Table 4.14	Summary VF and parameters on Iteration 5 of PCA sampling station 1	126
Table 4.15	KMO and Bartlett's Test on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 2	128
Table 4.16	Measure of sampling adequacy on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 2	129
Table 4.17	Communalities on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 2	130
Table 4.18	Total variance explained on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 2	131
Table 4.19	Component matrix on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 2	133
Table 4.20	Rotated component matrix on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 2	135
Table 4.21	Summary VF and parameters on Iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 2	136
Table 4.22	KMO and Bartlett's Test on iteration 3 of PCA sampling station 3	139
Table 4.23	Measure of sampling adequacy on iteration 3 of PCA sampling station 3	139
Table 4.24	Communalities on iteration 3 of PCA sampling station 3	140
Table 4.25	Total variance explained on iteration 3 of PCA sampling station 3	141

Table 4.26	Component matrix on iteration 3 of PCA sampling station 3	144
Table 4.27	Rotated component matrix on iteration 5 of PCA sampling station 3	146
Table 4.28	Summary VF and parameters on iteration 3 of PCA sampling station 3	148
Table 4.29	KMO and Bartlett's Test on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 4	151
Table 4.30	Measure of sampling adequacy on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 4	151
Table 4.31	Communalities on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 4	152
Table 4.32	Total variance explained on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 4	153
Table 4.33	Component matrix on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 4	155
Table 4.34	Rotated component matrix on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 4	157
Table 4.35	Summary VF and parameters on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 4	158
Table 4.36	KMO and Bartlett's Test on iteration 4 of PCA sampling stations 1-4	160
Table 4.37	Measure of sampling adequacy iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 1-4	161
Table 4.38	Communalities on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 1-4	162
Table 4.39	Total variance explained on iteration 4 of PCA sampling stations 1-4	163
Table 4.40	Component matrix on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 1-4	165
Table 4.41	Rotated component matrix on iteration 5 of PCA sampling station 1-4	167
Table 4.42	Summary VF and parameters on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 1-4	169
Table 4.43	Summary of PCA sampling stations 1-4	172
Table 4.44	Summary total variance of the parameters at sampling station 1-4	174
Table 5.1	Brief description of train data for the ANNWQI-1 model	177

Table 5.2Brief description of evaluation data for the ANNWQI-1<br/>model178

### LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO	D. TITLE	PAGE
Figure 1.1	River water quality trend from 2005 to 2016 (DOE, 2016)	3
Figure 2.1	ANN (MLP) with one hidden layer (adopted from Seo et al., 2016)	48
Figure 3.1	Framework of research	58
Figure 3.2	The map of the Skudai River watershed-upstream	59
Figure 3.3	The location of the water quality station in the Skudai River watershed-upstream	63
Figure 3.4	Sampling stations 1-4 at the Skudai River watershed- upstream	63
Figure 3.4	Sampling stations 1-4 at the Skudai River watershed- upstream (cont.)	64
Figure 3.5	Flowchart in Phase 1, including PCA Analysis	67
Figure 3.6	The framework of the ANNWQI-1 model	75
Figure 3.7	The running process of the ANNWQI-1 model in Matlab R2018a	76
Figure 3.8	The ANNWQI-1 model's network architecture	78
Figure 3.9	The framework of the ANNWQI-2 model	82
Figure 3.10	The running process of the ANNWQI-2 model in Matlab R2018a	83
Figure 3.11	The ANNWQI-2 Model's Network Architecture	85
Figure 3.12	The Framework of The ANNWQI-3 Model	88
Figure 3.13	The Running Process of The ANNWQI-3 Model in Matlab R2018a	89
Figure 3.14	The ANNWQI-3 Model's Network Architecture	91
Figure 4.1	Sub-watersheds of the Skudai River	93
Figure 4.2	Water total production in Sultan Ismail WTP (2013-2017)	95
Figure 4.3	Study area of the Skudai River watershed-upstream	96
Figure 4.4	Profile of land use at the SW-1 of the Skudai River watershed from 2000 to 2018	97

Figure 4.5	Profile of land use at the SW-2 of the Skudai River watershed from 2000 to 2018	99
Figure 4.6	Profile of land use at the SW-3 of the Skudai River watershed from 2000 to 2018	101
Figure 4.7	Profile of land use at the SW-4 of the Skudai River watershed from 2000 to 2018	102
Figure 4.8	Land use at the Skudai River watershed-upstream 2000-2018	104
Figure 4.15	Scree plot on iteration 5 of PCA sampling station 1	123
Figure 4.16	Scree plot on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 2	132
Figure 4.17	Scree plot on iteration 3 of PCA sampling station 3	143
Figure 4.18	Scree plot on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 4	154
Figure 4.19	Scree plot on iteration 4 of PCA sampling station 1-4	165
Figure 5.1	Target distribution (probability) of WQI in: (a) Train data; (b) Evaluation data.	178
Figure 5.2	The average of RMSE for each model/experiment in the ANNWQI-1 model	180
Figure 5.3	The RMSE for each model in the ANNWQI-1 model	180
Figure 5.4	Structure network of the best of the ANNWQI-1 model	181
Figure 5.5	The modelling performance (MSE) of the best of the ANNWQI-1 model	181
Figure 5.6	The modelling performance $(R)$ of the best of the ANNWQI-1 model	182
Figure 5.7	The coefficient of correlation $(R)$ of the best of the ANNWQI-1 Model	183
Figure 5.8	The MSE performance for each model in the ANNWQI-1 model	184
Figure 5.9	The comparison of MSE in modelling and evaluation for the best of the ANNWQI-1 model	184
Figure 5.10	The target vs the predicted output from the best of the ANNWQI-1 model in the evaluation stage	185
Figure 5.11	Target distribution (probability) in: (a) Train data; (b) Evaluation data	189
Figure 5.12	The average of RMSE for each model/experiment in the ANNWQI-2 model	190

Figure 5.13	The RMSE for each model in the ANNWQI-2 model	191
Figure 5.14	Structure network of the best of the ANNWQI-2 model	191
Figure 5.15	The modelling performance (MSE) of the best of the ANNWQI-2 model	192
Figure 5.16	The modelling performance $(R)$ of the best of the ANNWQI-2 model	193
Figure 5.17	The coefficient of correlation $(R)$ of the best of the ANNWQI-2 model	194
Figure 5.18	The MSE performance for each model/experiment in the ANNWQI-2 model	195
Figure 5.19	The comparison of MSE in modelling and evaluation for the best of the ANNWQI-2 model	195
Figure 5.20	The target vs the predicted output from the best of the ANNWQI-2 model in the evaluation stage	196
Figure 5.21	Target distribution (probability) in: (a) Train data; (b) Evaluation data	201
Figure 5.22	The average of RMSE for each model/experiment in the ANNWQI-3 model	202
Figure 5.23	The RMSE for each model/experiment in the ANNWQI-3 model	202
Figure 5.24	Structure network of the best of the ANNWQI-3 model	203
Figure 5.25	The modelling performance (MSE) of the best of the ANNWQI-3 model	203
Figure 5.26	The modelling performance $(R)$ of the best of the ANNWQI-3 model	204
Figure 5.27	The coefficient of correlation $(R)$ of the best of the ANNWQI-3 model	205
Figure 5.28	The MSE performance for each model/experiment in the ANNWQI-3 model	206
Figure 5.29	The comparison of MSE in modelling and evaluation for the best of the ANNWQI-3 model	206
Figure 5.30	The target vs the predicted output from the best of the ANNWQI-3 model in the evaluation stage	207

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AI	-	Artificial Intelligence
ANNs	-	Artificial Neural Networks
BOD	-	Biological Oxygen Demand
COD	-	Chemical Oxygen Demand
Cond	-	Conductivity
DEM	-	Digital Elevation Map
DID	-	The Department of Irrigation and Drainage
DOA	-	The Department of Agricultural
DO	-	Dissolved Oxygen
DOE	-	The Department of Environment
GIS	-	Geographic Information System
IWK	-	the Indah Water Konsortium
KASA	-	the Ministry of Environment and Water
КМО	-	The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin
MaCGDI	-	Malaysian Centre for Geospatial Data Infrastructure
MatLab	-	MATrix Laboratory
MMD	-	The Malaysian Meteorological Department
MPlan	-	Malaysia Plan
MSA	-	Measure of Sampling Adequacy
MSE	-	Mean Square Error
PCA	-	Principal Component Analysis
PC	-	Principal Component
RMSE	-	root means square error
Sal	-	Salinity
SDG	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SPSS	-	Statistical Product and Service Solutions-Statistic
STP	-	Sewage Treatment Plant
TDS	-	Total Dissolved Solids
Temp	-	Temperature
TSS	-	Total Suspended Solid

UN	-	United Nation
VF	-	Varimax Factor
WQI	-	Water Quality Index

# LIST OF MODEL NOTATION

$F_1$	-	Number of variables, whose objectives are not met.	
$F_2$	-	Number of times by which the objectives are not met	
F <sub>3</sub>	-	Amount by which the objectives are not met	
F <sub>3</sub>	-	[nse/0.01nse+0.01]	
n	-	number of water quality parameters	
Qi	-	sub-index for <i>i</i> th water quality parameter	
trainlm	-	Training function Lavenberg-Marquadt	
trainbr	-	Training function Bayesian Regulation back propagation.	
trainbfg	-	Training function BFGS quasi-Newton backpropagation	
trainrp	-	Training function Resilient Back propagation	
trainscg	-	Training function Scaled Conjugate Gradient	
traincgb	-	Training function Conjugate Gradient with Powell/Beale	
		Restarts	
traincgf	-	Training function Fletcher-Reeves Conjugate Gradient	
traincgp	-	Training function Polak-Ribiére Conjugate Gradient	
trainoss	-	Training function One Step Secant	
traingdx	-	Training function Gradient descent with adaptive learning	
		rate back propagation	
Wifi	-	the weight associated with the water quality parameter	

### LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
Appendix A	Data and PCA Results	249
Appendix B	Analytical Methods	260
Appendix C	Artificial neural networks coding and results	262

#### **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Background

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) promulgated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to promote peace, prosperity, and a sustainable future for all. It recognises water management's importance in tackling global challenges, including climate change and environmental degradation (United Nations, 2020). One of the 17 goals, SDG 6, specifically addresses the clean water resources—*to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*. Two other goals, SDG 3 and SDG 11, are also closely related to the clean water resources (including river) management policy. SDG 3 addresses healthy lives and promotes well-being for all ages, while SDG 11 aims to ensure inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable human settlements. The quality of river water, particularly that used as a source of water, impacts healthy living for human settlements that are safe, resilient, and sustainable.

The government of Malaysia aligned the SDGs with the national five-year development plan. During the mid-term review of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan in 2019, the government pledged a more profound commitment to implement SDGs by introducing a new framework known as the Prosperity Vision 2030 (Ministry of Environment and Water, 2021). Furthermore, Malaysia also initiated the Sustainable Malaysia 2030 to tackle environmental-related challenges. Led by the Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA), the framework is based on four pillars: empowered governance, green growth, strategic collaboration, and social inclusion. Both frameworks aim to ensure sustainable economic growth, as developments are often the leading cause of environmental degradation due to the lack of a holistic plan to balance economic and environmental gain.

Urban development, usually characterised by rapid land use changes, severely affects the quality of its surrounding. Changes in land use often significantly impact river water quality passing through the developing area. In fact, major river management problems in Malaysia are closely related to water quality issues. This caused problems for the public since the river water is used for various activities such as domestic consumption, tourism activities, fish farming, and recreation. In 2017, river water accounted for 80.5% of Malaysia's raw water supply, making them valuable natural resources (Ahmad Kamal *et al.*, 2020). In order to protect the environment, a balance between land use changes and environmental protection is needed. According to KASA (2020), in the Environmental Sustainability Plan in Malaysia 2020-2030, Malaysia planned to increase the number of clean rivers by 5% in 2023, 10% in 2025, and 25% in 2030. Thus, having a robust method to measure the impact of land use changes on water quality is particularly essential.

The Department of Environment (DOE), Malaysia, monitors 477 rivers throughout the country (DOE, 2016). The trend of the monitored river water quality from 2005 to 2016 is shown in Figure 1.1. It can be shown that there was a declining trend in clean rivers from 2005 to 2016. In 2016, 244 (47%) of the 477 rivers monitored were classified as clean, 207 (43%) as slightly polluted, and 46 (10%) rivers as contaminated. These numbers represent a significant increase compared to 29 rivers classed as polluted in 2013. A study carried out by Ariffin et al. (2015) found that most the rivers suffer from high organic matters in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), ammonia nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N), and suspended solids (SS).

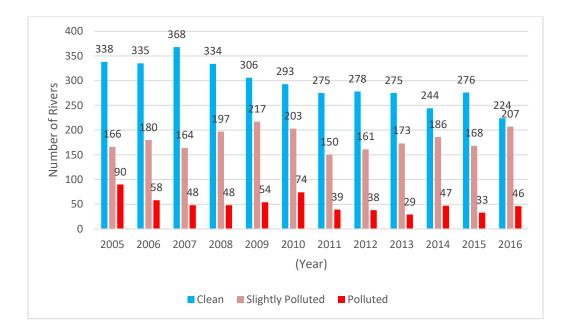


Figure 1.1 River water quality trend from 2005 to 2016 (DOE, 2016)

Biochemical Oxygen Demand, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, and SS are commonly found in domestic wastewater. The operation and maintenance of sewage treatment plants (STP) that treat domestic wastewater in most parts of Malaysia are carried out by the Indah Water Konsortium (IWK). Since IWK became fully operational in 1997, significant improvements have been made as almost all river basins are categorised by the DOE as having better water quality. According to Chan (2012), clean rivers had risen from 28% in 1993 to 64% in 2007. However, according to the DOE report in 2016, 60-70% of river water pollution was from domestic waste, including domestic wastewater (DOE, 2016). In line with the report, several researchers have found that STP negatively impacts river water quality (Vijay et al., 2016, Jerves-Cobo et al., 2018; Theoneste et al., 2020).

Skudai River is one of Johor Bahru city's primary drinking water sources, and the Skudai River watershed is the third largest watershed in Johor Bahru. Several tributaries join the mainstream and travel through housing, industrial, settlements, townships, and commercial centres before finally reaching the coast. Rapid urbanisation has had a significant negative impact on the water quality of the Skudai River and its associated ecosystems with the increasing numbers of residential, industries, commercial areas, and agriculture. Skudai River was included in the "slightly polluted" category, and immediate action is needed to reverse the water quality and prevent further degradation (Naubi *et al.*, 2016; Ahmad Kamal *et al.*, 2020). Most of the water quality stations in Skudai River were classified as Class III (slightly polluted to polluted). The river contains a high concentration of NH<sub>3</sub>-N, particularly during dry weather (Ahmad Kamal *et al.*, 2020). Therefore, understanding the relationship between land use changes, precipitation, and existing sewage treatment facility to water quality is very important to improve the prediction of water contamination in the watershed in guiding watershed land use planning in the future. And also, river management needs an intensive monitoring system program as an early warning.

In analysing the water quality of freshwater ecosystems, a robust method is crucial. The lifeblood of best water resource management lies in accurate, precise, and reliable predictions of future phenomena (Dogan et al., 2009; Ömer Faruk, 2010; Najah et al., 2013; Nourani et al., 2014). More accurate and reliable monitoring may lead to more appropriate policies to keep pollution within the tolerable level. Different techniques, ranging from regression-based methods such as linear and multilinear regression to watershed models, can examine land use's impact on water quality. If there are sufficient data sets of high quality, then Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) could be used effectively to predict water quality (Kalin *et al.*, 2010).

### **1.2 Problem Statement**

Over the past few decades, researchers have been developing method to assess the general quality of surface water, known as the Water Quality Index (WQI). Water Quality Index is one of the most effective tools for providing feedback on water quality to policymakers and environmentalists. It is helpful to determine river water suitability for various uses, including irrigation, aquaculture, and domestic use. Water quality knowledge and the WQI assessment play an essential role in controlling and managing water quality. The index uses several parameters, including chemical, physical, and biological properties, to measure water quality with a single numerical value (Khalil et al., 2011; Najah et al., 2013; Sahoo et al., 2015). National Standard Malaysia for WQI consists of six parameters; BOD (needed a five-day laboratory analysis), COD, NH<sub>3</sub>-N, TSS, pH, and DO. Monitoring river water quality using WQI is costly and requires some effort. Since 2017, DOE has monitored the Skudai river bimonthly.

Methods of water quality assessment have constantly been improving, along with increasing awareness of the quality of the water environment. Principal component analysis (PCA), a statistical method for multivariate data analysis, is commonly used to discover correlations between original indicator variables and transform them into independent principal components. Principal component analysis has been used to identify the spatial and temporal changes in water quality and possible pollution sources (Jiang et al., 2020; Shi et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2020; Zhao et al., 2020). Many researchers have used this method to determine rivers' most crucial water quality parameters (Varol et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2016; Zeinalzadeh and Rezaei, 2017; Jahin et al., 2020). This method also reduces the number of characters, allowing relationships between individuals and variables. Furthermore, PCA is considered effective in eliminating redundant information (Laghzal et al., 2016; Tripathi and Singal, 2019; Golabi et al., 2020; Venkateswarlu et al., 2020). The general WQI approach is based on the most common factors described in three steps: parameter selection, quality function determination, and sub-index aggregation with mathematical expressions (Tyagi *et al.*, 2020). The selection of parameters is usually carried out using expert judgment (individual interviews, interactive groups, and the Delphi method) and statistical methods (Pearson's correlation coefficient dan PCA/factor analysis) (Sutadian & Muttil, 2016; Banda & Kumarasamy, 2021). Following the success of many researchers in utilising PCA, this approach can be used to select parameters that play an essential role in WQI values.

Water quality modelling plays an essential role in river basin management. It can predict the trend of water quality characteristics following the watershed's current environmental quality and the rules for the transfer and transformation of pollutants in river watersheds. Due to uncertainties of water quality data—including size and heterogeneity, randomness, obscurity, inaccuracy, non-stationary, and the non-linear relation between the parameters of water quality—the prediction accuracy of traditional models has been limited. Artificial intelligence (AI) techniques can simulate this behaviour and complement the weakness. Several researchers have found that factors having non-linear relationships among many parameters may affect water quality predictions. This substantial constraint cannot be solved by conventional data processing (Zhao *et al.*, 2007; Singh *et al.*, 2009; Barzegar *et al.*, 2016). In recent decades, several studies exploring the use of AI in water quality modelling have shown encouraging results (Diamantopoulou et al., 2005; Palani et al., 2008; Dogan et al., 2009; Singh et al., 2009; Kim & Seo, 2015; Najah et al., 2011; Sarkar & Pandey, 2015; Salami Shahid & Ehteshami, 2016). Artificial neural networks are AI techniques with flexible mathematical structures that can identify complex non-linear relationships between input and output data compared to other classical modelling techniques (Najah *et al.*, 2013a; Barzegar *et al.*, 2016; Elkiran *et al.*, 2018; Zhang *et al.*, 2019). From 2007 to 2019, the most predicted parameters for ANNs were dissolved oxygen (DO), BOD, SS, and temperature (T). There is still a lack of predictive studies using in-situ parameters as input (e.g., DO, pH, conductivity, temperature, salinity, total dissolved solids (TDS), and turbidity). Most ANNs studies used laboratory analysis parameters as input or output (BOD, chemical oxygen demand (COD), SS, etc.).

The majority of existing research about water quality modelling focuses on water quality data and the impact of land use on water quality, while those on the effects of STPs discharges on river water quality have also been conducted to a certain extent (Seanego and Moyo, 2013; Cahoon et al., 2016). However, research on water quality prediction using land use input, existing STP, and rainfall has not yet been carried out. This is due to the complicated relationship between the abovementioned factors and water quality parameters. Moreover, limited water quality modelling studies utilize ANNs that consider these factors (in-situ parameters, land use, precipitation, and existing STP). And also, to date, the limited water quality index model integrates in-situ water quality parameters with land use, rainfall, and STP as input data.

This study aimed to fill the existing research gap by using in-situ parameters, spatial data, precipitation, and the existing STP as input data in the ANNs model. It attempted to demonstrate its applicability to predicting the WQI. The AI approach is an advanced method that allows multiple data inputs from the raw time series. Integrating the three factors above with the ANN model is an interesting research

problem, especially in water resource forecasting problems where the input data are heterogeneous, complex, stochastic, and non-stationary.

### **1.3 Research Objective**

This study involves the development of water quality models using ANNs. The developed model is aimed to assess the influences of land use, precipitation, and sewage treatment plant on a catchment system using the Skudai River catchment as a case study. The followings are the objectives for this study:

- (a) To identify and determine key water quality parameters using PCA based on land use and pollution sources.
- (b) To correlate and predict WQI values based on in-situ parameters using ANNs.
- (c) To determine and predict the relationship between land use patterns, precipitation, sewage treatment plant, and WQI using the ANNs model.
- (d) To develop a WQI Prediction Model using ANNs that integrate the in-situ water quality parameters with land use, precipitation, and existing sewage treatment plant.

### 1.4 Scope of The Study

The study focused on developing the ANNs model to predict the WQI of the Skudai River upstream watershed. Several inputs are required to create a WQI prediction model, including water quality data, land use data, rainfall data, and existing STP data. The water quality data used in this study were obtained from the DOE (2001 to 2019). The historical land use data for 2000, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2015, and 2018 were obtained from the Malaysian Centre for Geospatial Data Infrastructure (MaCGDI), and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) Malaysia processed using ArcMap 10.4. Then rainfall data (2001-2020) used in this study was provided by the

Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) and the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD). The existing STP development data (1995-2019) were collected from IWK, while the type and amount of industries (2018) were obtained from DOE.

Identification of the key parameters affecting water quality and assessing the correlation between physical and chemical parameters using PCA performed using SPSS 25. The WQI model was developed using Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) Back Propagation was done using Matlab R2018. The model was trained and tested using time series water data (2001-2019), and the results were validated with the experimental data from the fields. Four water quality stations were selected at upstream of the Skudai River. Data collection was carried out four times between February and March 2020 and six times between July and October 2020. Modelling performance was analysed using Mean Square Error (MSE), root means square error (RMSE), and coefficient of correlation (R).

#### 1.5 Significant of Study

The significances of this study are as follows:

- (a) This study provides information regarding the relationship between physical and chemical water parameters using PCA. Principal Component Analysis is commonly used to identify the spatial and temporal changes in water quality and possible pollution sources and determine the essential water quality parameters in the river. These features can reduce the number of water quality parameters, focusing only on the main parameters and can be used as an alternative approach to determining parameters for calculating the value of the water quality index.
- (b) Water quality monitoring by the DOE is carried out every two months at specific sampling points for river monitoring purposes. The samples are analysed for six parameters to determine the river's WQI value and health status. A newly-developed model, the Artificial Neural Networks Water Quality Index 1 (ANNWQI-1) model, has been proposed to assist river

monitoring. This model will predict the water quality index only by analysing the in-situ parameters. This will significantly reduce the cost of water quality monitoring, enhance the monitoring's frequency and ability, and provide a better tool for managing the river water quality.

- (c) Water quality monitoring is a representative and quantitative collection of information on water quality's physical, biological, and chemical characteristics. Various approaches were made to select the location of the most optimum sampling point for water quality monitoring. The Artificial Neural Networks Water Quality Index-2 (ANNWQI-2) model predicts WQI using input data: land use, rainfall, and existing STPs location. Therefore ANNWQI-2 model enables WQI prediction in an area with similar physiographic characteristics. Especially where the sampling station is unavailable or in an unmonitored watershed.
- (d) The WQI model using the Artificial Neural Networks Water Quality Index-3 (ANNWQI-3) model integrates the ANNWQI-1 and ANNWQI-2 models. Using the ANNWQI-3 model, it is also possible to simulate future WQI values during land use change and STP development. Moreover, the model also helps find effective measures to raise the WQI value. 0. Hence, the model can be used as an input for crucial decision-making.

### **1.6** Organisation of Thesis

This thesis is structured and designed in six chapters to present the study methods, analysis, results, discussion, and recommendation. The study objectives, problem statements, scope, and contribution to knowledge are described in Chapter 1. Chapter 2 provides a general overview and literature review related to the research methodology and materials used. Chapter 3 presents the framework of research, materials, and methods used to achieve the study objectives. The pre-processing data, to determine key water quality parameters using PCA is shown in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 presents the results and analysis of Model Water Quality 1, 2, and 3. The discussion of the results obtained in this study is included in the same chapter. Finally, in Chapter

6, the conclusion of the findings is presented along with recommendations for future research.

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## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

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- 3. Ariani Dwi Astuti, Azmi Bin Aris, Mohd Ridza Mohd Haniffah, Mohd Razman Bin Salim, Shamila Binti Azman, and Salmiati (2022). The Power of Artificial Neural Network Approach: Water Quality Index Prediction Using Insitu Parameter in Skudai River, Malaysia. Environmental Science: Water Research & Technology. (WOS Q1 Submitted).
- Ariani Dwi Astuti, The Miracle of Artificial Intelligence: Water Quality Index Prediction Model in Skudai River using In-situ Parameters. in Graduate Research Exhibition (GREx 2021) Category Engineering, Research Carnival Week 2021. 16 June 2021, PGSS and SPS UTM. (Poster Presentation Competition, Silver Medal Award)
- 5. Ariani Dwi Astuti, The Power of Artificial Intelligence: Water Quality Index Prediction Model in Skudai River using In-situ Parameters. in 4th Research Canvas Competition 2021, 30 September 2021, UTM Library, UTM Alumni and Springer Nature Asia Pacific. (Poster Presentation Competition, Third Prize)