Appendix 9. Model Archival Summary for Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen Concentration at U.S. Geological Survey Site 06888990, Kansas River above Topeka Weir at Topeka, Kansas, during November 2018 through June 2021

This model archival summary summarizes the total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN; U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] parameter code 00625; total concentration of organic nitrogen and ammonia) concentration model developed to compute 15-minute TKN concentrations from November 2018 onward. This model is specific to USGS site 06888990, the Kansas River above Topeka Weir at Topeka, Kansas, during this study period and cannot be applied to data collected from other sites on the Kansas River or data collected from other waterbodies.

Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Site and Model Information

Site number: 06888990
Site name: Kansas River above Topeka Weir at Topeka, Kans.
Location: Lat 39°04'19", long 95°42'58" referenced to North American Datum of 1927, in NW 1/4 sec.23, T.11 S., R.15 E., Shawnee County, Kans., hydrologic unit 10270102.

Equipment: A Xylem YSI EXO2 water-quality monitor equipped with sensors for water temperature, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity (TBY), and chlorophyll and phycocyanin fluorescence was installed during November 2018 through June 2021. Readings from the water-quality monitor were recorded every 15 minutes and transmitted by way of satellite, hourly.

Date model was created: December 8, 2021

Model-calibration data period: November 28, 2018, through June 21, 2021

Model-application date: November 28, 2018, onward

Model-Calibration Dataset

All data were collected using USGS protocols (Wagner and others, 2006; U.S. Geological Survey, variously dated) and are stored in the USGS National Water Information System (U.S. Geological Survey, 2022) database and available to the public. Ordinary least squares analysis was used to develop regression models using R programming language (R Core Team, 2022). Potential explanatory variables that were evaluated individually and in combination included streamflow, water temperature, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, pH, TBY, and chlorophyll and phycocyanin fluorescence. These potential explanatory variables were interpolated within the 15-minute continuous record based on sample time. The maximum time span between two continuous data points used for interpolation was 2 hours (in order to preserve the sample dataset, field monitor averages obtained during sample collection were used for model development data if no continuous data were available or if gaps larger than 2 hours in the continuous data record resulted in missing interpolated data). Seasonal components (sine and cosine variables) also were evaluated as potential explanatory variables. Previously published explanatory variables (Rasmussen and others, 2005; Foster and Graham, 2016; Williams, 2021) at other Kansas River sites were strongly considered for continuity in model form.

The final selected regression model was based on 34 concurrent measurements of TKN concentration and sensor-measured TBY during November 28, 2018, through June 21, 2021. Samples were collected throughout the range of continuously observed hydrologic conditions. No samples had concentrations below laboratory minimum reporting limits.

Potential outliers initially were identified using scatterplots of the TKN and TBY model-calibration data (Rasmussen and others, 2009). Studentized residuals from the model were inspected for values greater than three or less than negative three (Pardoe, 2020). Values outside of that range were considered potential outliers and were investigated. Additionally, computations of leverage, Cook's distance (Cook's D), and difference in fits (DFFITS) statistics were used to estimate potential outlier effect on the final selected regression model (Cook, 1977; Helsel and others, 2020). Outliers were investigated for potential removal from the model-calibration dataset by confirming correct database entry, evaluating laboratory analytical performance, and reviewing field notes associated with the sample in question (Rasmussen and others, 2009). All potential outliers were not determined to have errors associated with sample collection, processing, or analysis and were therefore considered valid.

Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen Sampling Details

During November 2018 through February 2019, samples were collected using the equal-width increment collection method (U.S. Geological Survey, variously dated). In March 2019, sample collection location changed to the southern bank of the Kansas River above Topeka Weir using the single-vertical collection method (U.S. Geological Survey, variously dated) to avoid safety risks caused by a nearby low-head dam. All samples were composited for analysis (U.S. Geological Survey, variously dated). During November 2018 through June 2020, samples were collected on a biweekly to monthly basis. During July 2020 through June 2021, samples were collected on a monthly to quarterly basis, depending on flow conditions. Samples occasionally were collected during targeted reservoir release and runoff events to get a more representative dataset. A FISP US DH–81, DH–95, D–95, or D–96a depth integrating sampler was used. Samples were analyzed for TKN concentration at the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado.

Model Development

Ordinary least squares regression analysis was done using the *stats* (*v4.3.0*) package in R programming language (R Core Team, 2022) to relate discretely collected TKN concentration to sensor-measured TBY. The distribution of residuals (the difference between the measured and computed values) was examined for normality, and the plots of residuals were examined for homoscedasticity (departures from zero did not change substantially over the range of computed values). There was a concave-up pattern observed in the plot of residual TKN related to regression computed TKN and the plot of residual TKN related to TBY. The addition of other explanatory variables and consideration of alternative transformations did not improve this pattern. Therefore, a possible model limitation of overestimation of TKN in the low and high ranges and underestimation of TKN in the middle range should be considered when interpreting model computations. Additional model-calibration data could improve this limitation in the future.

TBY was selected as a good surrogate for TKN based on residual plots, coefficient of determination (R^2), and model standard percentage error. Values for all the aforementioned statistics, all relevant sample data, and additional statistical information are included in the Model Statistics, Data, and Plots section of this appendix.

Model Summary

The following is a summary of the final regression analysis for TKN concentration at USGS site 06888990:

TKN concentration-based model:

$$\log TKN = 0.507(\log TBY) - 0.902$$

where

log = logarithm base 10,

TKN = total nitrogen concentration, in milligrams per liter as nitrogen, and

TBY = turbidity, in formazin nephelometric units.

TBY makes physical and statistical sense as an explanatory variable for TKN because increases in TKN can be associated with precipitation runoff events which can cause increases in TBY (Rasmussen and others, 2005; Graham and others, 2018).

The logarithmically (log) transformed model may be retransformed to the original units so that TKN can be calculated directly. The retransformation introduces a bias in the calculated constituent. This bias may be corrected using Duan's bias correction factor (BCF; Duan, 1983). For this model, the calculated BCF is 1.02. The retransformed model, accounting for BCF is as follows:

$$TKN = 1.02 \times (TBY^{0.507} \times 10^{-0.902})$$

This model was developed using continuous and discrete water-quality data collected during November 2018 through June 2021. These data were collected throughout the observed range of streamflow conditions during this time. However, a limitation in model accuracy during conditions outside of those observed during November 2018 through June 2021 should be considered when interpreting model computations beyond June 2021.

Previous Models

There are no previously published models at this site. However, similar models have been published at other Kansas River sites, as documented by Rasmussen and others (2005), Foster and Graham (2016), and Williams (2021).

Model Statistics, Data, and Plots

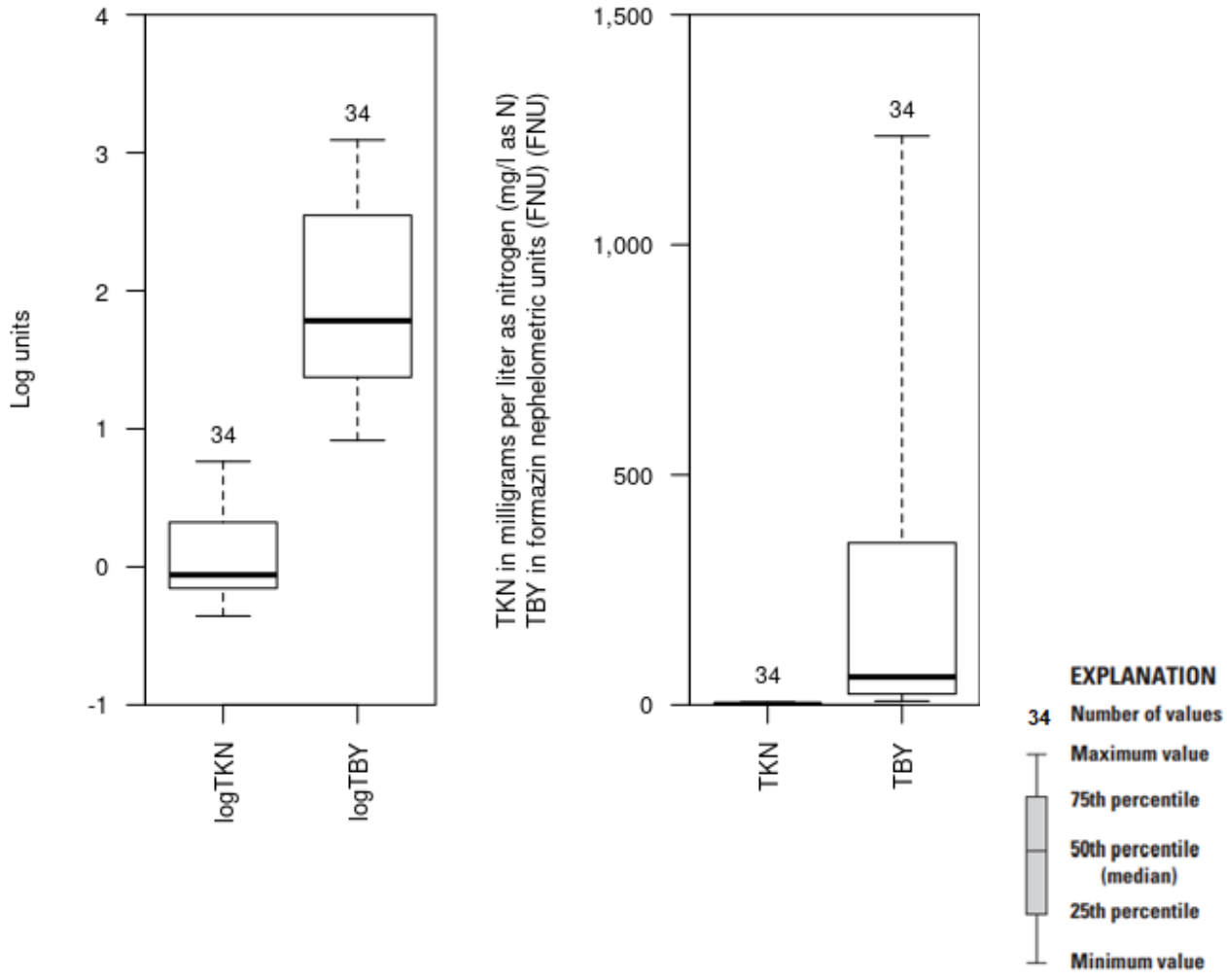
Model

$\log TKN = + 0.507(\log TBY) - 0.902$

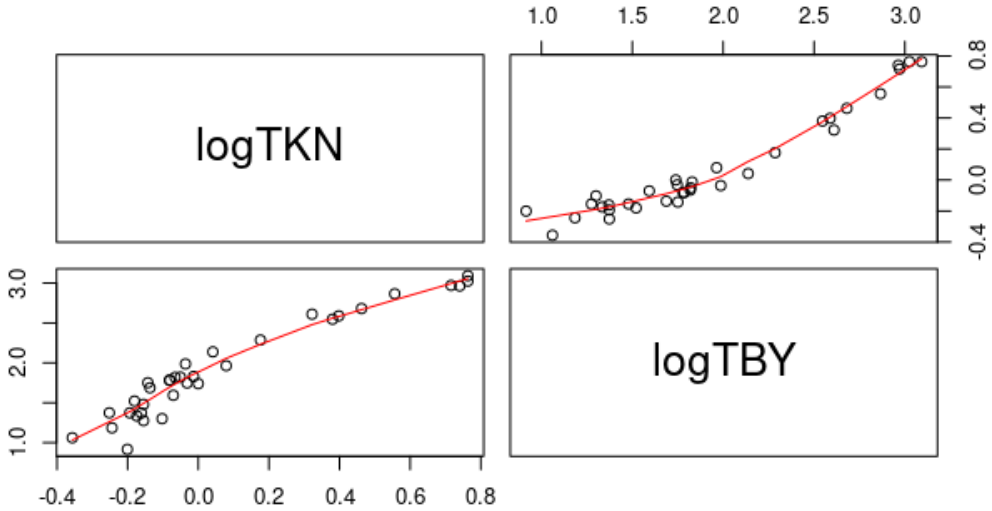
Variable Summary Statistics

	logTKN	TKN	logTBY	TBY
Minimum	-0.3570	0.440	0.916	8.23
1st Quartile	-0.1550	0.700	1.370	23.6
Median	-0.0581	0.875	1.780	60.6
Mean	0.0740	1.65	1.930	230
3rd Quartile	0.3220	2.10	2.550	352
Maximum	0.7630	5.80	3.090	1,240

Box Plots



Exploratory Plots



Red line shows the locally weighted scatterplot smoothing (LOWESS).

The x- and y-axis labels for a given bivariate plot are defined by the intersecting row and column labels.

Basic Model Statistics

Number of observations	34
Standard error (RMSE)	0.0915
Mean model standard percentage error (MSPE)	21.2
Coefficient of determination (R^2)	0.925
Adjusted coefficient of determination (Adj. R^2)	0.922
Bias correction factor (BCF)	1.02

Explanatory Variables

	Coefficients	Standard Error	t value	Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept)	-0.902	0.0517	-17.4	6.63e-18
logTBY	0.507	0.0256	19.8	1.59e-19

Correlation Matrix

	Intercept	E.vars
Intercept	1.000	-0.953
E.vars	-0.953	1.000

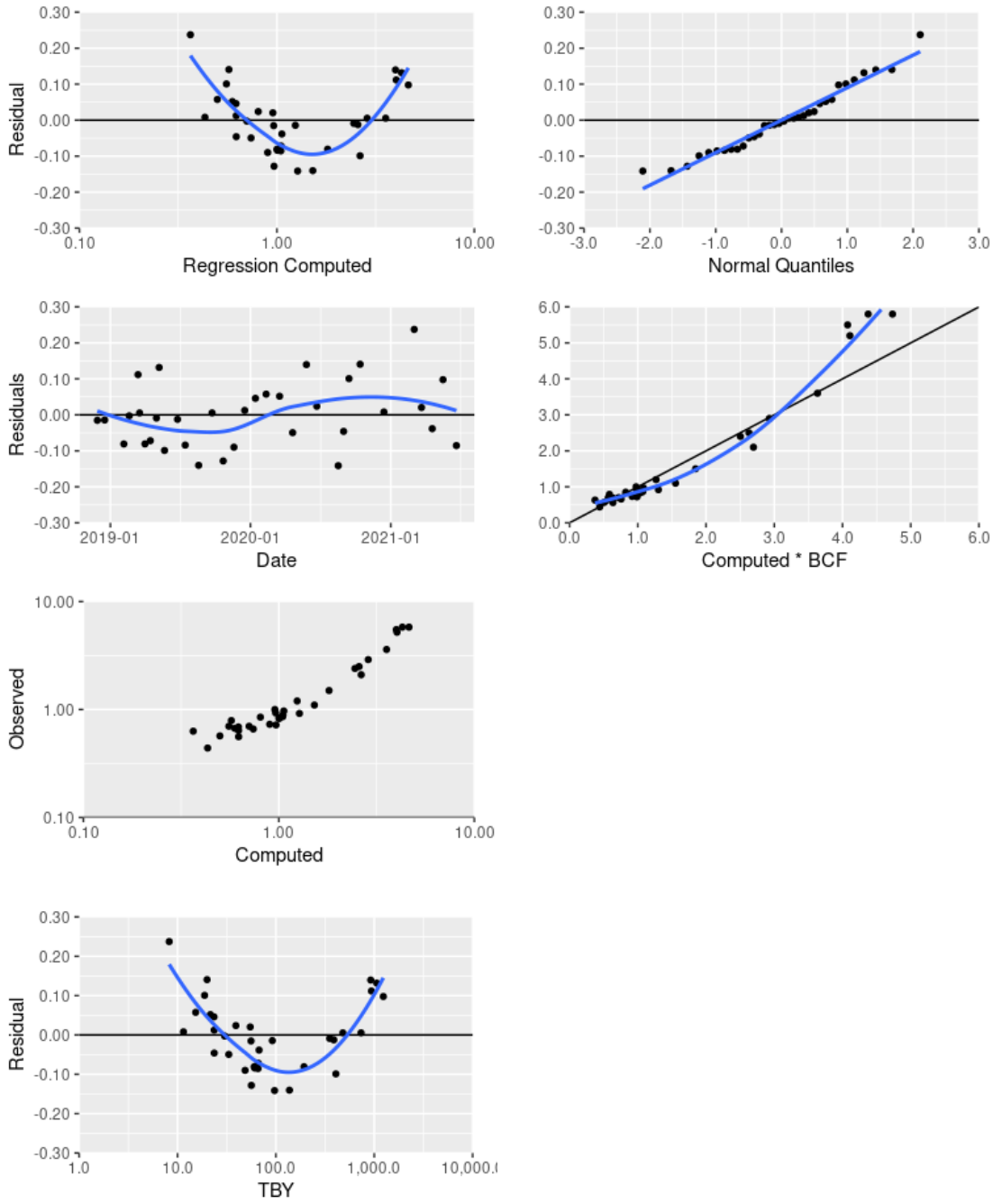
Outlier Test Criteria

Leverage	Cook's D	DFFITS
0.176	0.194	0.485

Flagged Observations

	logTKN	Estimate	Residual	Standard Residual	Studentized Residual	Leverage	Cook's D	DFFITS
201905080920	0.763	0.632	0.132	1.54	1.57	0.124	0.168	0.592
202005260810	0.740	0.601	0.140	1.62	1.67	0.114	0.169	0.597
202103030820	-0.201	-0.438	0.237	2.75	3.10	0.109	0.464	1.080

Statistical Plots



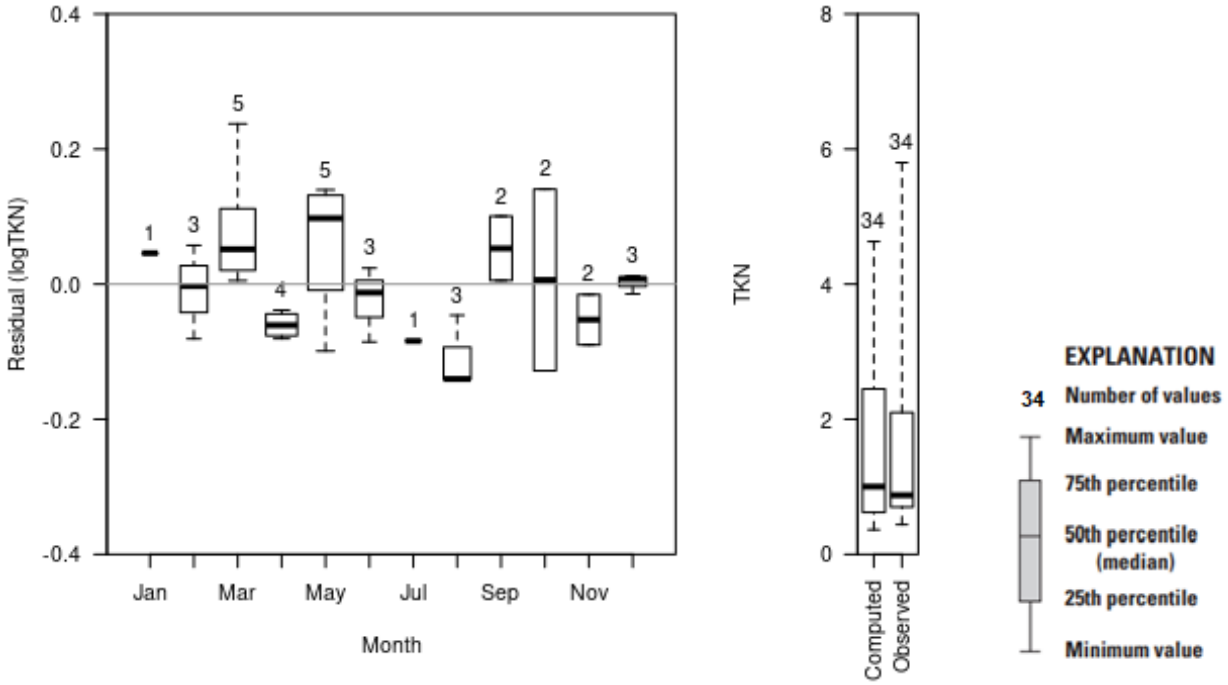
First row (left): Residual TKN related to regression computed TKN with local polynomial regression fitting, or locally estimated scatterplot smoothing (LOESS), indicated by the blue line.

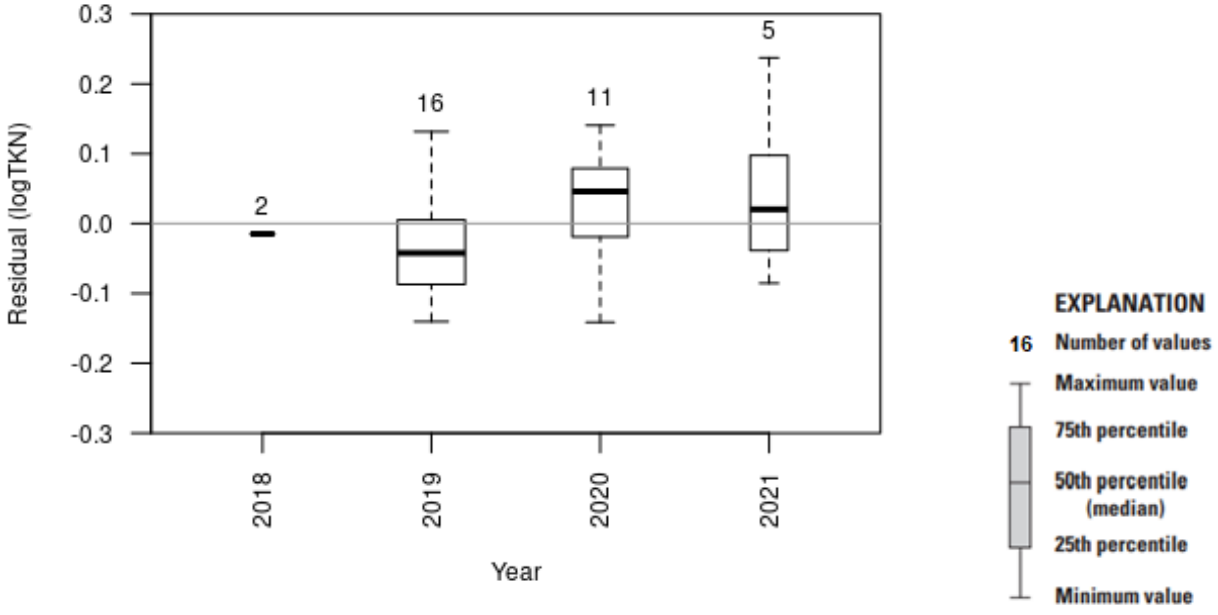
First row (right): Residual TKN related to the corresponding normal quantile of the residual with simple linear regression, indicated by the blue line.

Second row: Residual TKN related to date (left) and regression computed TKN multiplied by the BCF (right) with LOESS, indicated by the blue line.

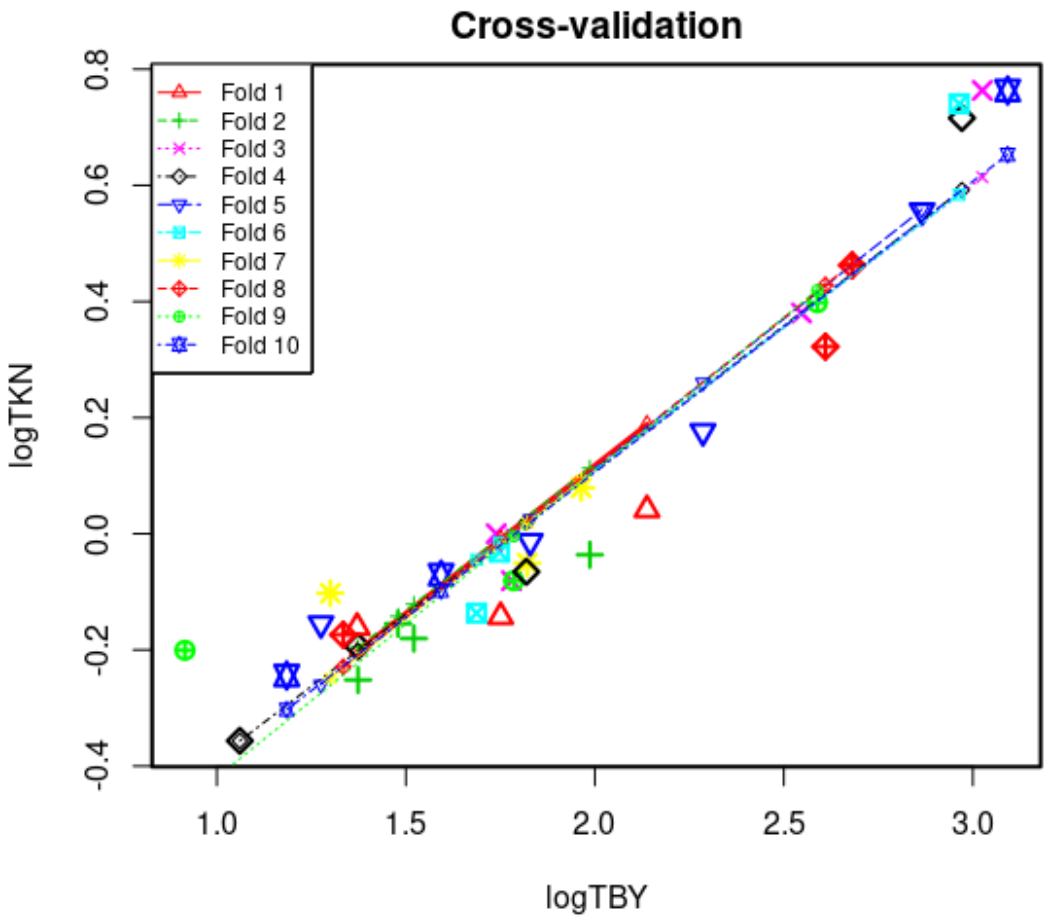
Third row: Observed TKN related to regression computed TKN.

Fourth row: Residual TKN related to TBY with LOESS, indicated by the blue line.


Residual (logTKN)
0.4
0.2
0.0
-0.2
-0.4
1
3
5
4
5
3
1
3
2
2
2
3
Jan
Mar
May
Jul
Sep
Nov
Month
TKN
8
6
4
2
0
34
34
Computed
Observed
EXPLANATION
34 Number of values
Maximum value
75th percentile
50th percentile (median)
25th percentile
Minimum value


Residual (logTKN)
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
-0.1
-0.2
-0.3
2
16
11
5
2018
2019
2020
2021
Year
EXPLANATION
16 Number of values
Maximum value
75th percentile
50th percentile (median)
25th percentile
Minimum value

Cross Validation

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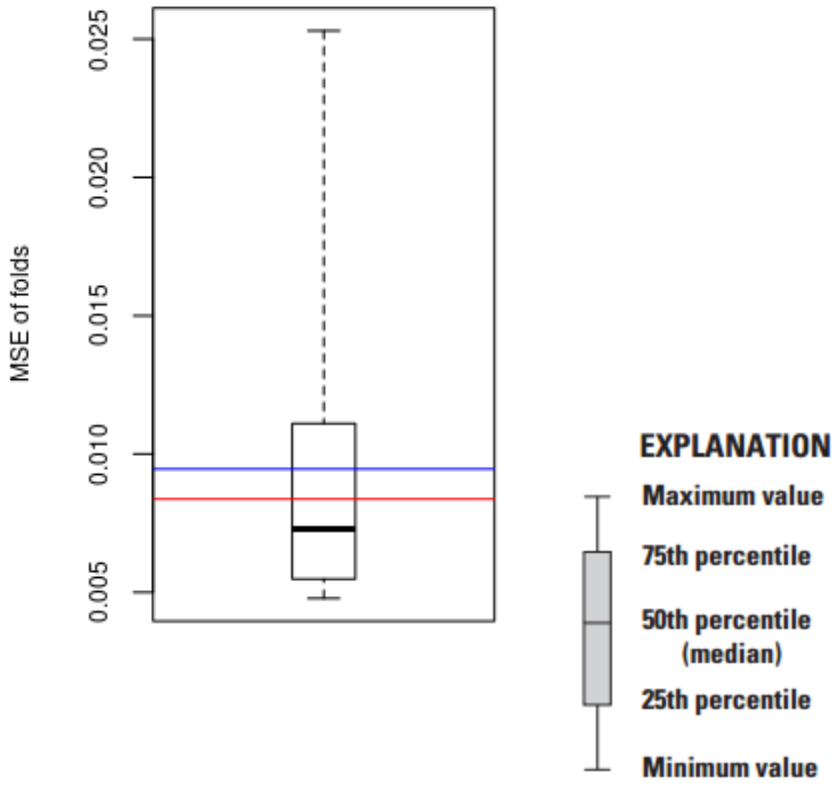
Fold - equal partition of the data (10 percent of the data).

Large symbols – observed value of a data point removed in a fold.

Small symbols – recomputed value of a data point removed in a fold.

Recomputed regression lines – adjusted regression line with one fold removed.


              Minimum MSE of folds:  0.00478
                 Mean MSE of folds:  0.00945
               Median MSE of folds:  0.00729
              Maximum MSE of folds:  0.02530
 (Mean MSE of folds) / (Model MSE):  1.13000
```



Red line - Model MSE

Blue line - Mean MSE of folds

Model-Calibration Dataset

	Date	logTKN	logTBY	TKN	TBY	Computed logTKN	Computed TKN	Residual	Normal Quantiles	Censored Values
1	2018-11-28	-0.0315	1.75	0.93	55.9	-0.0163	0.984	-0.0153	-0.259	--
2	2018-12-17	0.0792	1.96	1.2	92	0.0936	1.27	-0.0144	-0.184	--
3	2019-02-05	-0.0809	1.78	0.83	60.2	3.56e-05	1.02	-0.081	-0.765	--
4	2019-02-19	-0.155	1.48	0.7	30.2	-0.152	0.72	-0.00279	0.0367	--
5	2019-03-14	0.716	2.97	5.2	935	0.604	4.11	0.112	1.11	--
6	2019-03-18	0.462	2.68	2.9	479	0.457	2.93	0.00532	0.11	--
7	2019-04-01	0.176	2.29	1.5	193	0.257	1.85	-0.0808	-0.67	--
8	2019-04-15	-0.0506	1.82	0.89	66.3	0.0213	1.07	-0.0719	-0.581	--
9	2019-05-01	0.38	2.55	2.4	352	0.389	2.5	-0.00894	-0.0367	--
10	2019-05-08	0.763	3.03	5.8	1060	0.632	4.38	0.132	1.25	--
11	2019-05-22	0.322	2.61	2.1	407	0.421	2.7	-0.099	-1.25	--
12	2019-06-25	0.398	2.59	2.5	388	0.41	2.63	-0.0125	-0.11	--
13	2019-07-15	-0.0809	1.79	0.83	61	0.00316	1.03	-0.0841	-0.867	--
14	2019-08-19	0.0414	2.14	1.1	137	0.182	1.55	-0.14	-1.68	--
15	2019-09-23	0.556	2.87	3.6	734	0.551	3.63	0.0054	0.184	--
16	2019-10-22	-0.143	1.75	0.72	56.3	-0.0145	0.988	-0.128	-1.43	--
17	2019-11-19	-0.137	1.69	0.73	48.7	-0.0467	0.918	-0.0899	-1.11	--
18	2019-12-17	-0.194	1.37	0.64	23.6	-0.206	0.636	0.0123	0.336	--
19	2020-01-14	-0.161	1.37	0.69	23.5	-0.207	0.634	0.0459	0.581	--
20	2020-02-11	-0.244	1.18	0.57	15.3	-0.302	0.51	0.0575	0.765	--

21	2020-03-17	-0.174	1.33	0.67	21.6	-0.226	0.608	0.0517	0.67	--
22	2020-04-20	-0.18	1.52	0.66	33.2	-0.131	0.756	-0.0495	-0.496	--
23	2020-05-26	0.74	2.96	5.5	920	0.601	4.07	0.14	1.43	--
24	2020-06-22	-0.0706	1.59	0.85	39.2	-0.0944	0.822	0.0238	0.496	--
25	2020-08-17	-0.0362	1.99	0.92	97	0.105	1.3	-0.141	-2.11	--
26	2020-08-31	-0.252	1.37	0.56	23.6	-0.206	0.636	-0.046	-0.415	--
27	2020-09-14	-0.155	1.28	0.7	18.9	-0.256	0.567	0.101	0.979	--
28	2020-10-13	-0.102	1.3	0.79	20	-0.243	0.584	0.141	1.68	--
29	2020-12-14	-0.357	1.06	0.44	11.5	-0.364	0.441	0.00792	0.259	--
30	2021-03-03	-0.201	0.916	0.63	8.23	-0.438	0.373	0.237	2.11	--
31	2021-03-22	0	1.74	1	54.8	-0.0204	0.975	0.0204	0.415	--
32	2021-04-19	-0.0132	1.83	0.97	67.5	0.0252	1.08	-0.0384	-0.336	--
33	2021-05-17	0.763	3.09	5.8	1240	0.666	4.73	0.0977	0.867	--
34	2021-06-21	-0.0655	1.82	0.86	65.9	0.0199	1.07	-0.0854	-0.979	--

Definitions

Cook's D: Cook's distance (Helsel and others, 2020).

DFFITS: Difference in fits statistic (Helsel and others, 2020).

E.vars: Explanatory variables.

Leverage: An outlier's measure in the x direction (Helsel and others, 2020).

LOESS: Local polynomial regression fitting, or locally estimated scatterplot smoothing (Helsel and others, 2020).

LOWESS: Locally weighted scatterplot smoothing (Cleveland, 1979; Helsel and others, 2020).

MSE: Mean square error (Helsel and others, 2020).

MSPE: Model standard percentage error (Helsel and others, 2020).

Probability(>|t|): The probability that the independent variable has no effect on the dependent variable (Helsel and others, 2020).

RMSE: Root mean square error (Helsel and others, 2020).

t value: Student's t value; the coefficient divided by its associated standard error (Helsel and others, 2020).

TBY: Turbidity, in formazin nephelometric units (USGS parameter code 63680).

TKN: Total Kjeldahl nitrogen, in milligrams per liter as N (USGS parameter code 00625).

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