

# Prediction of Climatic Parameters from Physicochemical Parameters using Artificial Neural Networks: Case Study of Ain Defla (Algeria)

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## Abstract

The knowledge of the climate of a region is a primordial task in that it allows predictions of climatic parameters in the future. In this study, monthly maximum and minimum air temperature ( $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ ), relative humidity (RH), and sunshine duration (SD) were modelled by multiple linear regression (MLR), and multilayer perceptron methods (MLP). For the four climatic parameters, the internal and external validations of MLP-ANN model showed high  $R^2$  and  $Q^2$  values in the range 0.81–0.98. The agreement between calculated and experimental values confirmed the ability of ANN-based equation to predict these parameters quickly and at lower cost.

## Keywords

Climatic parameters, neural network, modelling, physicochemical parameters

## 1 Introduction

The knowledge of the climate of a region and its climatic conditions is a primordial task that allows predictions of climatic parameters in the future. Thus, more than fifty climatic parameters<sup>1</sup> are vital to sustainable climate observations. Some of these parameters include sunshine duration, humidity, wind speed, atmospheric pressure, air and water temperature, precipitation, etc. Air temperature, sunshine duration, and relative humidity are among the most important and influential climatic parameters. For example, knowledge of the change in the air temperature is of utmost importance in agriculture because extreme changes in the air temperature can damage plants and animals.<sup>2</sup> Air temperature is also involved in the evapotranspiration process inherent in the management of water resources. Moreover, knowledge of sunshine duration on the Earth's surface is of major importance not only from the climatological point of view but also for agrometeorological or biological purposes, engineering, architecture of the heat gains of buildings, as well as for other applied environmental science studies.<sup>3</sup> Humidity, in turn, plays a very important role in the formation of various weather phenomena, such as rain, floods, and thunderstorms. Aside from its influence on crop quality, humidity also plays a vital role in the drying process of certain agricultural products such as tobacco.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, estimation of relative humidity has an important role in preventing and extinguishing forest fires.<sup>5</sup>

Unfortunately, the measurement of these climatic parameters most often requires the existence of a network of meteorological stations and very high-performance measuring equipment. However, this is not the case for many

countries because of the costs, maintenance, and calibration requirements of the measuring equipment.<sup>6</sup> To overcome this imponderability, the development of alternative methods for predicting climate parameters is a widely explored area of research. This path is imposed for several reasons: economic considerations and reduction of time constraints. Artificial intelligence techniques, such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Genetic Algorithms (GA), and Fuzzy Theory are alternative methods increasingly used in meteorological events.<sup>7</sup>

During the last two decades, several authors have developed ANN models for predicting climatic factors in many countries. In a previous study, Jang et al.<sup>8</sup> proposed a model using multilayer feed-forward (MLF) neural networks to estimate air temperatures in Southern Québec (Canada). Levenberg-Marquardt back-propagation (LM-BP) was used to train the networks. In a work conducted by Chronopoulos et al.,<sup>9</sup> artificial neural network (ANN) models were developed to estimate air temperature values in the south of Greece. ANN model was found to have better performance than the MLR model. Bilgili and Sahin<sup>10</sup> used an artificial neural network that was applied to predict the long-term monthly temperature and rainfall based on the use of the meteorological data measured by the Turkish State Meteorological Service between the years 1975 and 2006.

Recently, in a study developed by Kisi and Shiri,<sup>11</sup> the capabilities of Adaptive Neuro-Fuzzy Inference System (ANFIS) and Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) were evaluated in predicting long-term monthly air temperature values at 30 weather stations of Iran. Other ANN models for forecasting air temperature have been developed in Morocco,<sup>7</sup> Turkey,<sup>12</sup> Japan,<sup>13</sup> Saudi Arabia,<sup>14</sup> Spain,<sup>15</sup> and Iran.<sup>16</sup> In addition, the ANN technique has been used to predict global solar radiation and relative humidity.<sup>17–19</sup>

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As data on climatic factors are desirable for many areas of research and applications in various fields, the objective of this study is to predict the maximum and minimum air temperature, sunshine duration, and relative humidity using ten physicochemical parameters of the water of Ghrib dam. The present work is the first study in Algeria where a multiple linear regression (MLR) and artificial neural networks ANN approach is proposed for the estimation of the four climatic factors mentioned previously. Data collected in 2003–2015 were used for the training and test phase, while the data of 2016 were used to test the predictive power of the MLP-ANN model. The performance and robustness of MLR and ANN models have been interpreted based on some statistical criteria.



Fig. 1 – Geographical location of study area

## 2 Materials and methods

### 2.1 Study area and climatic data

The study was carried out in a region of Ain Defla, located 150 km west of the capital Algiers (Fig. 1). This vast stretch of fertile land is used for agricultural purposes. The study area is located at a longitude of  $02^{\circ} 33'14.00''E$ , at latitude of  $36^{\circ} 07'52.90''N$ , and over 500 m elevation.

The observed monthly independent variables were obtained from the National Agency of Hydraulic Resources (NAHR). They were measured between the years of 2003 and 2016. The database contained four dependant variables obtained from National Office of Meteorology of Algeria (minimum air temperature ( $T_{air,min}/^{\circ}C$ ), maximum air temperature ( $T_{air,max}/^{\circ}C$ ), relative humidity (RH/%), and sunshine duration (SD/h) in addition to twelve independent variables: year (Y), month (M), water temperature ( $T_{water}$ ), oxygen saturation ( $O_{2sat}$ ) chemical oxygen demand (COD), pH, electrical con-

ductivity (EC), ammonium ion ( $NH_4^+$ ), nitrate ion ( $NO_3^-$ ), turbidity (Turb), organic matter (OM), and dry residue (DR) chosen as explanatory variables (or independent variables). The minimum and maximum values of the selected input parameters (independent variables) and output parameters (dependent variables) are presented in Table 1.

### 2.2 Model development

The purpose of this study is to build models, which are statistically robust both internally as well as externally. The data set was divided into training and test sets. The training set was dedicated to develop the models, while the test set, which included data that had not been used for the development of the models, was left for testing the optimality and the generalization ability of the developed models.<sup>20</sup> For models development, two statistical meth-

Table 1 – Minimum and maximum values of the input and output data

		Symbol	Minimum	Maximum
Inputs	water temperature/ $^{\circ}C$	$T_{water}$	8.2	35.5
	oxygen saturation/%	$O_{2sat}$	31.5	135.5
	chemical oxygen demand/ $mg\ l^{-1}$	COD	5	148
	pH value of hydrogen	pH	6.8	8.4
	electrical conductivity/ $\mu S\ cm^{-1}$	EC	1125	4083
	ammonium ion/ $mg\ l^{-1}$	$NH_4^+$	0	0.84
	nitrate ion/ $mg\ l^{-1}$	$NO_3^-$	0	31
	turbidity/NTU	Turb	0.53	11
	organic matter/ $mg\ l^{-1}$	OM	2	18
	dry residue/ $mg\ l^{-1}$	DR	411	2996
	year	Y	1	13
	month	M	1	12
Outputs	minimum air temperature/ $^{\circ}C$	$T_{air,min}$	-3.6	22.3
	maximum air temperature/ $^{\circ}C$	$T_{air,max}$	5.7	39.7
	relative humidity/%	RH	38	89
	sunshine duration/h	SD	91	379

ods were used: (1) multiple linear regression (MLR), and (2) artificial neural network (ANN).

### 2.3 Multiple linear regressions (MLR)

When the number of influencing variables is small, and when they are not collinear and have a comprehensible effect on the behaviour of the system or the observed dependent size, the MLR- models can describe quite well the complex nonlinear processes.<sup>21</sup> MLRs consist of a quantitative relationship between a group of independent variables ( $X$ ) and a dependent variable  $Y$ , as shown in Eq. (1):

$$Y = A_0 + \sum_{k=1}^N A_k X_k \quad (1)$$

where  $Y$  is the dependent climatic variable;  $X_k$  represents independent climatic variables;  $A_k$  represents the coefficients of those variables, and  $A_0$  is the intercept of the equation. The quality of the model was determined by examining the regression statistical parameters (see validation section). MLR calculations were performed using XLSTAT 2018 software.

### 2.4 Artificial neural network (ANN)

Artificial neural networks (ANNs) are biologically inspired intelligent techniques. Various models of neural networks are available, each with its specific properties and benefits for particular applications. One of the most successful and most popular is the multilayered perceptron artificial neural networks (MLP-ANN).<sup>20</sup> MLP-ANN structure consists of one input layer (it corresponds to the twelve independent climatic variables), one intermediate or hidden layer, and output layer corresponding to the four dependent climatic variables (Fig. 2). Each layer can have a number of neurons, which are connected linearly by weights to the neurons in the neighbouring layers. In this study, MLP-ANN calculations were performed by the STATISTICA software (STATISTICA 10.0, Tulsa, StatSoft Inc., OK, USA).

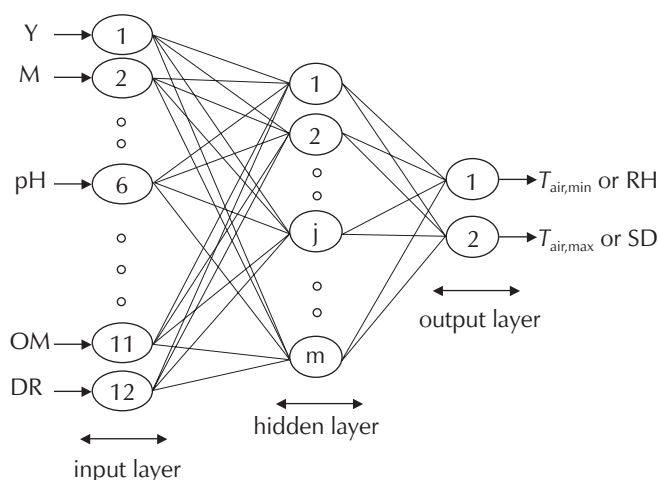


Fig. 2 – MLP-ANN architecture

### 2.5 Validation of models

Recent studies<sup>20,23</sup> have indicated that validation is an important and necessary step to test the performance and robustness of models. There are several validation approaches, including internal validation and external validation. Furthermore, external validation is a significant and necessary validation method used to determine both the generalizability and the true predictive ability of the models. The most important statistical parameters used in our study to check the performance of the model are the root mean square error (RMSE), the determination coefficient ( $R^2$ ), the cross validated correlation coefficient ( $Q^2$ ), and the  $r_m^2$  metrics ( $r_m^2$ ,  $\Delta r_m^2$ ) values for the training and test set. For large deviations between the predicted and observed response values, satisfactory  $Q^2$  values may be obtained if the molecules exhibit a considerably broad range of response data. However, the  $r_m^2$  metrics prevent this error and reflect model predictability in a better way.<sup>24</sup> The equations of these statistical parameters are available in the literature.<sup>23</sup>

## 3 Results and discussion

### 3.1 VIF and correlation analysis

In any multiple linear regression analysis, there must be ensured that there is no multicollinearity between the used independent variables (input variables). The variance inflation factor (VIF) is used to check this multicollinearity. If VIF falls into the range of 1–5, the variables are not correlated with each other and the related model is acceptable.<sup>22</sup> In addition, the value of the correlation coefficient of each pair of independent variables gives us information on their degree of independence. The value of the VIF and the correlation coefficients were calculated by XLSTAT software. As may be seen from Table 2, all the variables have VIF values of <2.994, indicating that the obtained model has statistical significance. In addition, as indicated by Table S2a to S2d (in supplementary files), the higher value of the correlation coefficient of each pair of independent variables were equal to 0.682, which means that the variables were independent.

Table 2 – VIF analysis of independent variables

Independent variables	$T_{air,max}/^{\circ}C$	$T_{air,min}/^{\circ}C$	RH/%	SD/h
Y	1.506	1.506	1.503	1.501
M	1.230	1.229	1.232	1.233
$T_{water}$	1.450	1.454	1.449	1.451
$O_{2sat}$	1.281	1.282	1.277	1.280
COD	1.246	1.245	1.238	1.237
pH	1.194	1.193	1.195	1.179
EC	2.992	2.940	2.993	2.994
$NH_4^+$	1.205	1.205	1.204	1.202
$NO_3^-$	1.227	1.219	1.228	1.227
Turb	1.132	1.134	1.133	1.132
OM	1.153	1.148	1.156	1.150
DR	2.930	2.881	2.932	2.942



### 3.2 Results of MLR models

The MLR models obtained for the prediction of  $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD are represented by the following equations (2 to 5) with the reported statistical parameters:

$$T_{air,min} (^{\circ}\text{C}) = -8.427 - 1.356\text{E-}02*Y - 9.828\text{E-}02*M + 0.905*T_{water} - 1.342\text{E-}02*O_{2sat} + 3.723\text{E-}02*COD - 0.906*\text{pH} + 2.541\text{E-}03*EC - 4.622*\text{NH}_4^+ + 0.154*\text{NO}_3^- + 0.287*\text{Turb} + 0.289*\text{OM} - 2.137\text{E-}03*\text{DR} \quad (2)$$

$$(n = 156, R^2 = 0.72, \text{RMSE} = 3.778, Q^2 = 0.680, F = 31.137, p < 0.0001)$$

$$T_{air,max} (^{\circ}\text{C}) = -25.727 + 0.229*Y - 0.224*M + 1.161*T_{water} - 8.046\text{E-}03*O_{2sat} - 2.435\text{E-}02*COD + 5.0644*\text{pH} - 3.568\text{E-}03*EC + 5.040*\text{NH}_4^+ - 0.144*\text{NO}_3^- - 0.834*\text{Turb} - 6.876\text{E-}02*\text{OM} + 2.761\text{E-}03*\text{DR} \quad (3)$$

$$(n = 156, R^2 = 0.79, \text{RMSE} = 4.264, Q^2 = 0.758, F = 45.222, p < 0.0001)$$

$$\text{RH} (\%) = 144.400 - 0.250*Y + 0.720*M - 1.636*T_{water} - 4.530\text{E-}02*O_{2sat} - 1.698\text{E-}02*COD - 6.181*\text{pH} + 1.731\text{E-}03*EC - 4.310*\text{NH}_4^+ - 0.174*\text{NO}_3^- + 1.145*\text{Turb} - 0.186*\text{OM} - 2.666\text{E-}03*\text{DR} \quad (4)$$

$$(n = 156, R^2 = 0.67, \text{RMSE} = 8.080, Q^2 = 0.620, F = 24.400, p < 0.0001)$$

$$\text{SD} (\text{h}) = -93.909 + 1.857*Y - 6.471*M + 9.701*T_{water} + 0.322*O_{2sat} + 0.131*COD + 20.445*\text{pH} + 2.966*EC + 19.850*\text{NH}_4^+ + 0.996*\text{NO}_3^- - 5.980*\text{Turb} + 0.213*\text{OM} + 7.061\text{E-}04*\text{DR} \quad (5)$$

$$(n = 156, R^2 = 0.66, \text{RMSE} = 46.979, Q^2 = 0.677, F = 23.065, p < 0.0001)$$

According to the MLR models, the predicted minimum air temperature, maximum air temperature, relative humidity, and sunshine duration are listed in Table S1 (Supplementary file). As may be seen in Table S1, the predicted values for  $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD are satisfactory. The large  $F$  ratio (31.137; 45.222; 24.400, and 23.065) indicates that equations (2 to 5) are sufficient to predict the four dependent variables.

### 3.3 Results of MLP-ANN models

To obtain an optimal architecture of the network, one must proceed essentially with an optimization of the elements

of the network. In addition, the database distribution, the activation functions (for hidden neurons and output neurons), the number of neurons in the hidden layer, and the learning algorithms were optimized after several trials. The optimal performance of the model was evaluated in terms of RMSE.<sup>25</sup> The monthly values between the years 2003 and 2015 of climatic data and physicochemical parameters of Ghrib dam water ( $Y$ ,  $M$ ,  $T_{water}$ ,  $O_{2sat}$ ,  $COD$ ,  $\text{pH}$ ,  $EC$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{Turb}$ ,  $\text{OM}$ , and  $\text{DR}$ ) were used to train and test the network. A total of 156 data samples were used. The results of the optimization of the MLP-ANN model are presented in Table S3 in the supplementary file. The predictive results of the MLP-ANN models obtained are presented in Table S1 (see Supplementary file). Fig. 3 shows the regression line of the model equation, i.e., predicted against experimental values of  $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD for the training and validation set highlighted by different symbols. Fig. 3 indicates that experimental values are in good agreement with predicted values of  $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD. Furthermore, the main performance parameters of the MLP-ANN models are presented in Table 3. As shown in Table 3, all the values of the statistical parameters [ $R^2$ ,  $Q^2_{LOO}$  (LOO: Leave-one-out) and RMSE] of the training set are acceptable. For the test set, the criteria of statistical acceptability are satisfactory, which proves that these models have a good predictive power. Therefore, these results reveal that the MLP-ANN model not only performed well in model development, but also had an excellent prediction.

According to the recommendation of Tropsha et al.<sup>26</sup> and Golbraikh et al.,<sup>27</sup> if the difference between  $R^2$  and  $Q^2_{LOO}$  does not exceed 0.3, there is no overfitting in the model. In the present work, these two parameters have identical values (0.94), indicating no overfitting in the MLP-ANN models. In addition, PRESS is a good estimate of the real prediction error of the model.<sup>28</sup> To be a reasonable QSAR model, PRESS/SSY should be smaller than 0.4, and a value of this ratio smaller than 0.1 indicates an excellent model. As part of this study, the PRESS/SSY ratio for  $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD was 0.062, 0.059, 0.145, and 0.114, respectively, proving that the developed model predicted better than chance.

Moreover, Fig. 4 illustrates the comparison between the observed and estimated four monthly mean climatic parameters ( $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD) using the two MLP-ANN models. It was found that both neural network models reproduced the four climatic parameters very well over several years.

To compare both the performance and the quality of prediction of the two models used in this work (MLR and MLP-

Table 3 – Statistical parameters and their values in MLP-ANN models

	Internal validation				External validation					
	$n$	$R^2$	RMSE	$Q^2_{LOO}$	$N$	$R^2$	RMSE	$Q^2_{pred}$	$r_m^2$	$\Delta r_m^2$
$T_{air,min}$	141	0.94	1.73	0.94	15	0.95	1.55	0.94	0.92	0.04
$T_{air,max}$	141	0.94	2.20	0.94	15	0.98	1.21	0.98	0.93	0.02
RH	141	0.85	5.15	0.85	15	0.82	6.03	0.81	0.69	0.17
SD	141	0.89	26.32	0.89	15	0.87	24.37	0.88	0.81	0.03
Threshold value		0.60		0.50		0.60		0.60	0.50	< 0.2

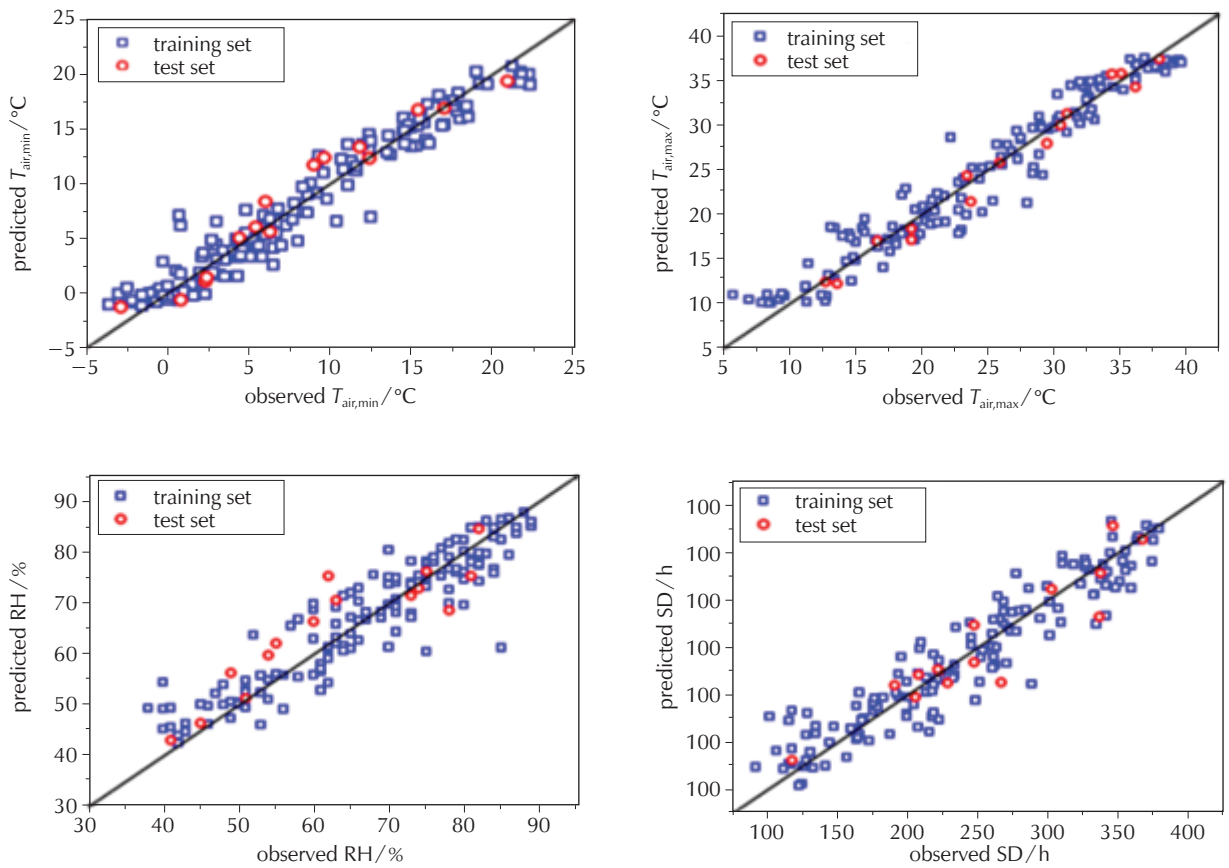


Fig. 3 – Plot of predicted values of  $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD from the MLP-ANN model vs. observed values for the training, and test sets

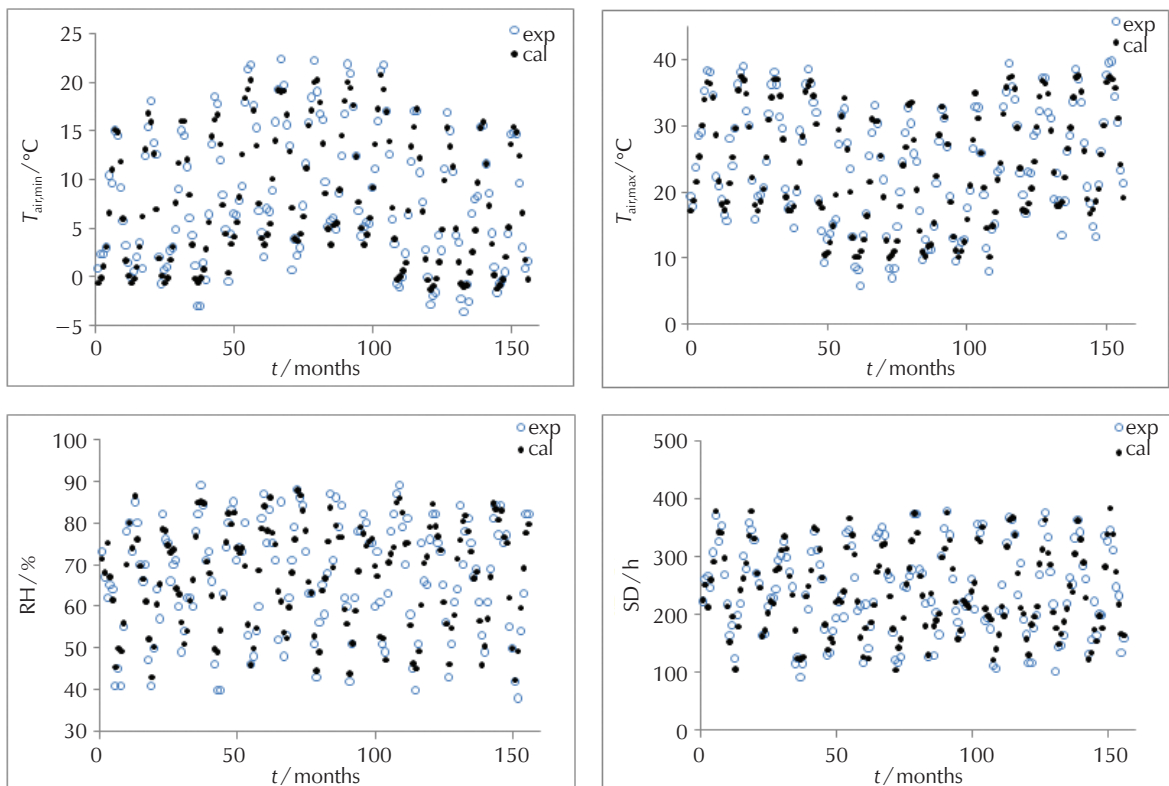


Fig. 4 – Comparison between the observed and estimated monthly mean climatic parameters ( $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD) using the two MLP-ANN models

ANN), a statistical comparison of the two models is given in Table 4. The correlation coefficients with values > 0.68 indicated that the predicted values were acceptable. However, the prediction determined by the MLP-ANN model was considerably better than those given by the MLR model. Therefore, a substantial improvement of the statistical parameters for the MLP-ANN model can be noted. Thus, it can be concluded that the MLP-ANN model has better predictive power than the MLR model. This means that the model obtained with an MLP-ANN allows to a large extent the establishment of a nonlinear relationship between output variables ( $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD) and the input variables ( $Y$ ,  $M$ ,  $T_{water}$ ,  $O_{2\ sat}$ , COD, pH, EC,  $NH_4^+$ ,  $NO_3^-$ , Turb, OM, and DR).

Table 4 – Comparison of statistical data obtained by the two models

	Models	<i>n</i>	<i>R</i> <sup>2</sup>	RMSE	<i>Q</i> <sup>2</sup> or <i>Q</i> <sup>2</sup> <sub>LOO</sub>
<i>T</i> <sub>air,min</sub>	MLP-ANN	156	0.96	1.72	0.94
	MLR		0.72	3.78	0.68
<i>T</i> <sub>air,max</sub>	MLP-ANN	156	0.98	2.12	0.94
	MLR		0.79	4.26	0.76
RH	MLP-ANN	156	0.99	5.25	0.85
	MLR		0.67	8.08	0.62
SD	MLP-ANN	156	0.98	26.14	0.89
	MLR		0.67	46.98	0.68

### 3.4 Application of artificial neural network-based equation

Two architectures of the MLP-ANN network were obtained. For  $T_{air,min}$  and  $T_{air,max}$  the network has twelve inputs ( $x_{i,j}, i = 1$  to 12), one output ( $Z = T_{air,min}$  or  $Z = T_{air,max}$ ), and four neurons in the hidden layer. The two transfer functions used in this study are hyperbolic tangent and logistic function. Their mathematical definitions are given in Eqs. (6) and (7):

$$f(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}} \tag{6}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \tag{7}$$

Each of these twelve neurons in input layer receives one input ( $X_{i,j}, i = 1$  to 12) and broadcasts such signal to each one of the hidden layer's neurons. Each hidden neuron computes its transfer function and sends its result ( $Y_{i,j}, j = 1$  to 4) to the output layer's neuron, which finally produces the response of the network ( $Z$ ). The output signal of each hidden neuron ( $Y_j$ ) is calculated as:

$$Y_j = f \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right] = \frac{\exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right) - \exp \left( - \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right)}{\exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right) + \exp \left( - \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right)} \tag{8}$$

while the output of the network is given by:

$$Z = f \left[ \sum_{j=1}^4 w_{1,j} Y_j + b_1 \right] = \frac{1}{1 + \exp \left( - \sum_{j=1}^4 w_{1,j} Y_j + b_1 \right)} \tag{9}$$

For RH and SD, the network has twelve inputs ( $x_{i,j}, i = 1$  to 12), one output ( $Z = RH$  or  $Z = SD$ ) and seven neurons in the hidden layer. The two transfer functions used in this study are hyperbolic tangent and identity function. The output signal of each hidden neuron ( $Y_j$ ) is calculated as:

$$Y_j = f \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right] = \frac{\exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right) - \exp \left( - \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right)}{\exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right) + \exp \left( - \sum_{i=1}^{12} w_{i,j} X_i + b_j \right)} \tag{10}$$

while the output of the network is given by:

$$Z = f \left[ \sum_{j=1}^7 w_{1,j} Y_j + b_1 \right] = \sum_{j=1}^7 w_{1,j} Y_j + b_1 \tag{11}$$

In Eqs. (9 and 11),  $w_{i,j}$  are the weights of the connections between the input and hidden neurons,  $X_i$  are the input variables, and  $b_j$  is the bias on hidden neuron  $j$ . Similarly,  $w_{1,j}$  represents the weights of the connections between the hidden and the output neuron, and  $b_1$  is the bias on the output neuron.

The contribution of the input variables on the output was determined by a sensitivity analysis using the "Weight" method and thus for each neural network (NN1 and NN2). This method, proposed by Carson<sup>29</sup> then taken by Goh,<sup>30</sup> provides a quantification of the relative importance of the inputs on the output of neural network. The contribution results are shown in Fig. 5. For NN1, the most important variables that may influence air temperature ( $T_{air,min}$  and  $T_{air,max}$ ) are year and month with a contribution of 47 %. For NN2, the month has the largest contribution of 19 %, and the other inputs have a close importance on the outputs (relative humidity and sunshine duration).

The two MLP-ANN models were tested to predict the climatic parameters ( $T_{air,min}$ ,  $T_{air,max}$ , RH, and SD) during the year 2016. This prediction was made using the mathematical formulas (Eqs. 9 and 11). With these formulas, the four climatic parameters were calculated and carried out for

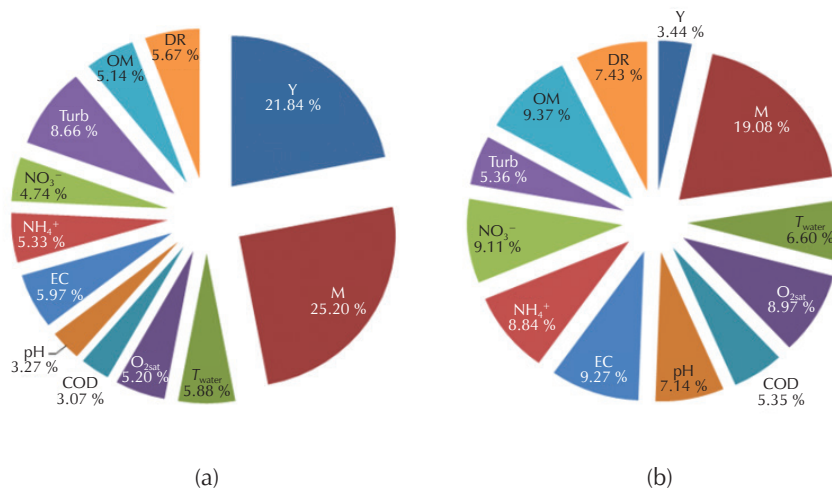


Fig. 5 – Relative importance of different inputs: (a) NN1, (b) NN2

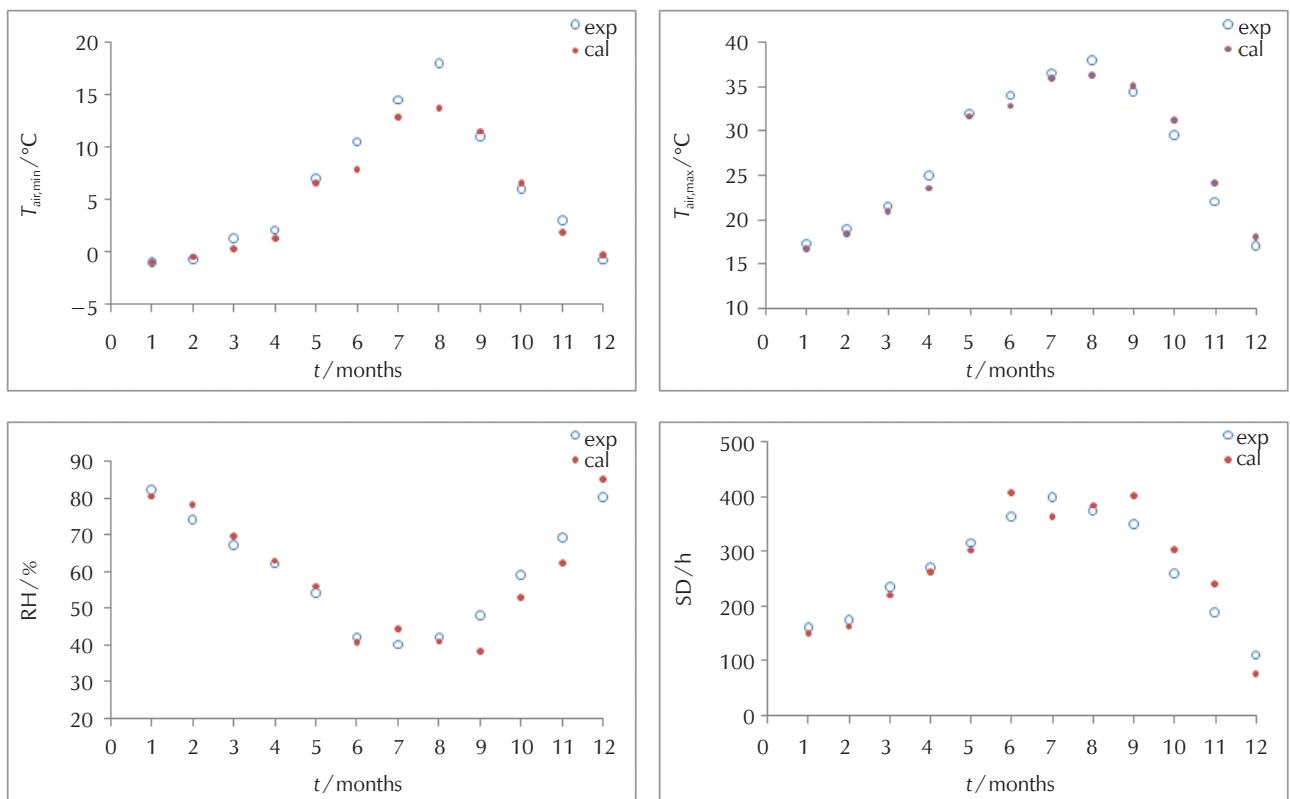


Fig. 6 – Observed and predicted climatic parameters ( $T_{\text{air,min}}$ ,  $T_{\text{air,max}}$ , RH and SD) for 2016

comparison with experimental values (Table S4 in Supplementary file). The results are shown in Fig. 6. It has been found that the monthly-predicted values of these climatic parameters are close to the measured values.

#### 4 Conclusion

In this study, two statistical approaches (MLR and MLP-ANN) were developed based on twelve independent vari-

ables (year, month, water temperature, oxygen saturation, chemical oxygen demand, pH, electrical conductivity, ammonium ion, nitrate ion, turbidity, organic matter, and dry residue) to predict successively the maximum and minimum air temperature, the relative humidity, and sunshine duration in the area of Ain Defla of Algeria. The models were trained, and tested using a sample of 156 data of climatic and physicochemical parameters of Ghib dam water (Ain Defla), measured monthly over a period of 13 years, from 2003 and 2015. The monthly data for the year 2016



were used to test the predictive power of the MLP-ANN model. The variation inflation factor (VIF) and correlation analysis showed the rightness of the choice of the twelve variables. The predicted values obtained with the MLR and MLP-ANN models were compared to each other and with the experimental data. However, this comparison showed a higher predictive capability of the MLP-ANN. The built MLP-ANN model was subjected to internal and external validation. It showed good  $R^2$  and  $Q^2_{\text{LOO}}$  values for the training set, good values of  $R^2$  and  $Q^2_{\text{pred}}$  for the test set. In addition, the robustness and predictive power of the model were verified by  $r_m^2$  and  $\Delta r_m^2$ . Moreover, the estimation of the 4 parameters ( $T_{\text{air,min}}$ ,  $T_{\text{air,max}}$ , RH, and SD) based on the developed mathematical equation using the weights of the network gave very good results when applied to the year 2016. Thus, compared to the methods used by the meteorological services for the estimation of the maximum and minimum air temperature, relative humidity and sunshine duration, it is obvious that the MLP-ANN model is faster and cheaper. Therefore, this model has great economic benefits for a developing country like Algeria.

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#### List of abbreviations

ANFIS	– Adaptive Neuro-Fuzzy Inference System
ANN	– Artificial Neural Network
BFGS	– Broyden–Fletcher–Goldfarb–Shanno
COD	– Chemical Oxygen Demand
DR	– Dry Residue
EC	– Electrical Conductivity
GA	– Genetic Algorithms
LM-BP	– Levenberg-Marquardt Back-Propagation
M	– Month
MLF	– Multi-Layer Feed-forward
MLP	– Multi-Layer Perceptron
MLR	– Multiple Linear Regressions
NAHR	– National Agency of Hydraulic Resources
NOM	– National Office of Meteorology
OM	– Organic Matter
RH	– Relative Humidity
RMSE	– Root Mean Square Error
SD	– Sunshine Duration
Turb	– Turbidity
VIF	– Variation Inflation Factor
WMO	– World Meteorological Organization
Y	– Year

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## SAŽETAK

### Predviđanje klimatskih parametara iz fizikalno-kemijskih parametara pomoću umjetnih neuronskih mreža: studija slučaja Ain Defla (Alžir)

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Poznavanje klime neke regije osnovni je zadatak jer omogućuje predviđanje klimatskih parametara u budućnosti. U ovom su istraživanju maksimalna i minimalna mjesečna temperatura zraka ( $T_{\text{air, min}}$ ,  $T_{\text{air, max}}$ ), relativna vlažnost (RH) i trajanje sunčeve svjetlosti (SD) modelirani višestrukom linearnom regresijom (MLR) i višeslojnim perceptronskim metodama (MLP). Za četiri klimatska parametra interna i eksterna validacija modela MLP-ANN pokazala je visoke vrijednosti  $R^2$  i  $Q^2$  u području 0,81 – 0,98. Usklađenost izračunatih i eksperimentalnih vrijednosti potvrdilo je da jednadžba temeljena na ANN-u brzo i uz niže troškove predviđa te parametre.

#### Ključne riječi

Klimatski parametri, neuronska mreža, modeliranje, fizikalno-kemijski parametri

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**Supplementary file**

*Table S1* – Dataset and Corresponding Observed Values in Addition to Multiple Linear Regression and Artificial Neural Network predicted values of the maximum and minimum air temperature, the relative humidity and sunshine duration.

	$T_{min}exp$	$T_{max}exp$	RH exp	SD exp	ANN				MLR			
					$T_{min}pred$	$T_{max}pred$	RH pred	SD pred	$T_{min}pred$	$T_{max}pred$	RH pred	SD pred
Training set												
1	2.3	17.8	67	260	-0.07992405	18.6241019	68.0847993	250.796657	1.45803646	18.0314877	73.5891052	202.950104
2	3	28.5	65	245	3.1273103	25.2983454	67.1105016	260.133422	3.6376592	23.7412115	68.0850488	232.953339
3	10.4	29	64	307	6.58125597	29.9822889	61.4966499	290.911592	7.56349068	28.0189493	59.8628856	279.739656
4	9.6	35.3	41	370	11.0016389	33.9834816	45.4694527	378.635359	8.9155865	33.3086993	53.7334802	313.658564
5	15	38.3	45	326	15.1272877	36.5436624	49.976338	342.854639	14.1399	32.6415721	53.046161	318.311166
6	14.5	38	41	353	14.8608548	36.3370679	49.253527	341.163891	13.9412284	35.8097742	50.5859154	328.860295
7	9.2	34.5	55	268	11.8363414	34.288886	55.957307	298.0316	15.0365044	37.2179539	49.2183538	336.022468
8	5.7	22.2	78	217	6.02063857	28.6249266	69.9137741	214.176235	10.2698541	25.1300326	66.6777103	232.933902
9	3.2	20.8	80	163	1.67095128	21.5929136	80.0929154	152.303044	4.86370102	18.5411789	77.2421123	166.744599
10	1.4	18.7	73	182	0.15800217	18.1426653	73.9025149	196.705717	0.89640012	18.036908	78.2105335	158.7877
11	0	16.5	85	124	-0.6033702	17.1934544	86.4320853	105.72702	-0.17164135	21.2918305	71.4385358	224.342248
12	0.6	15.5	80	199	-0.15644145	18.423856	76.056151	179.440122	-1.85454704	20.8066468	74.0920217	210.352242
13	2	28	70	218	1.02421394	21.2816433	69.6788089	242.290867	3.51762034	22.8792074	67.4861682	244.078501
14	3.5	23.8	66	301	3.08086032	25.2245927	66.5171863	262.558605	4.3382844	23.2707558	68.5823761	239.677729
15	0.8	29.6	70	279	6.18020749	29.5251691	61.2194327	288.422395	7.4900991	23.8938322	65.1967435	252.207775
16	12.4	36.2	47	359	13.1065046	35.4174825	52.1199543	335.92519	14.7203401	32.8732167	53.0173119	323.35982
17	18	39	50	329	15.9302486	36.9285149	50.3502776	331.504769	16.071326	37.6127902	47.2379499	337.530076
18	13.7	32.2	64	271	12.6352087	34.8484085	60.5410277	270.636269	16.6097391	33.9777747	52.6001302	310.739815
19	12.5	30	57	253	6.95593371	29.7473373	65.3808935	246.573663	12.6675071	29.9437248	58.0348823	291.043985
20	2	21.7	82	163	1.92007834	22.0887336	78.4009929	162.661769	7.46086151	20.8624688	72.2184656	199.503957
21	-0.7	15.7	76	167	0.09748854	18.0030818	78.0646119	173.220368	3.27825478	13.3423405	81.1071768	153.644746
22	0.7	19.3	75	213	-0.64308503	17.0744728	74.6276297	202.39947	0.96144834	16.8262621	75.1046587	206.194325
23	1	19.5	66	229	-0.0819554	18.5566285	72.8895773	222.970353	2.00306504	17.773013	74.3394064	207.287869
24	2.7	20.5	70	229	1.74233928	20.3376085	73.588887	219.10037	3.13478209	19.3873362	72.8988367	209.966097
25	3	24.6	71	244	3.10109844	25.221587	64.2488769	275.987425	5.6565781	27.1559816	61.8744263	266.43062
26	4.8	31.8	60	294	7.59678566	30.9215686	62.8484439	280.474552	9.62351651	26.1458097	63.0423753	260.302052
27	15	38	54	326	15.991106	36.9937816	50.9808926	334.513313	16.4572205	36.092575	49.8263791	329.796339
28	14.5	36.2	62	299	16.0201602	36.9647484	54.1766163	314.306048	16.9261929	33.8894591	56.8003389	297.446907
29	11.3	31.3	62	273	12.0801201	34.4430459	61.280219	266.904436	15.9502685	32.1628024	57.1417623	289.665875
30	4.3	20.3	78	115	3.29772478	19.2379157	76.6480734	172.339524	5.69608367	23.2495092	70.1174054	206.981828
31	1.1	17.4	82	125	-0.17769639	17.2394132	84.8442441	123.569157	1.79904193	11.2491122	89.4147526	97.442804
32	-3	18	89	91	-0.5337787	17.0704776	85.0383497	123.318967	0.72706491	15.6265649	79.0177209	183.034348
33	-3	14.5	84	115	-0.06588245	17.8245978	84.712579	126.323765	-0.15343454	13.2871637	81.6419258	167.841395
34	1.5	20	71	233	0.82064046	20.5647518	70.6860489	231.76784	2.42894225	21.3614473	70.6912259	224.865956
35	-0.3	29.2	73	208	2.87291351	24.4355289	67.9029163	248.476751	3.080623	19.3836829	73.6799284	201.232444
36	6.4	27.5	66	309	5.6393994	28.4188713	62.5429097	276.430216	2.98234549	19.1593995	74.3995159	194.761606
37	13.6	36.2	46	344	14.4034711	35.1742706	49.684097	349.499705	15.4922211	33.3089404	52.4895742	324.723056
38	18.5	38.5	40	310	16.0998934	36.009009	49.0939521	346.589215	15.5469753	29.4406614	55.8691639	309.961355
39	17.8	36.3	40	286	16.6521601	36.7940057	54.302754	312.233772	19.5857862	35.8810991	49.942035	339.275402
40	12	33.5	63	260	13.6253466	34.5413878	62.0201627	264.244522	19.4875087	35.6568157	50.6616224	332.804564
41	8.4	32	74	175	7.4224061	30.2008278	75.3428353	182.315847	13.7422126	30.4112845	60.1193121	266.316113
42	4.8	18.7	80	130	4.43899221	18.3129571	82.3196053	138.967635	7.93183673	18.8838558	78.1400541	171.320605
43	-0.5	14	83	134	0.44967183	17.5825837	79.5934852	158.58688	0.48516388	19.7608813	79.0704401	152.337663
44	4.4	9.2	85	172	3.41277753	10.446044	82.3835071	151.094318	3.65410155	12.846049	81.8104716	173.441126
45	6.5	12.8	71	193	4.13770045	10.8214811	73.9705896	221.695512	4.35788038	17.2086982	70.8616938	221.882736
46	7.8	15	73	233	8.21357451	14.8090439	73.9425891	220.844018	9.29956699	13.6791402	73.0626604	212.15325
47	9.3	15.7	80	195	12.5583034	19.4792266	69.5528755	239.782657	5.95719176	24.3593475	66.3179126	246.395891
48	17.9	27.2	53	341	18.3186888	29.3529728	55.6759965	315.573977	13.8966211	32.7267226	54.1294595	318.782871
49	21.3	31.6	46	346	19.2698753	31.4520683	46.0205136	366.352808	19.0345801	33.4528596	45.4247852	362.348101
50	21.7	32.5	48	318	20.2354546	34.1733654	49.8735839	337.333612	22.5523339	37.9362786	46.13865	368.798696

Table S1 – (continued)

	$T_{\min, \text{exp}}$	$T_{\max, \text{exp}}$	RH exp	SD exp	ANN				MLR			
					$T_{\min, \text{pred}}$	$T_{\max, \text{pred}}$	RH pred	SD pred	$T_{\min, \text{pred}}$	$T_{\max, \text{pred}}$	RH pred	SD pred
Training set												
51	17.6	27.3	54	264	17.0957762	26.3586172	54.7419607	303.606096	15.6819141	28.5768035	58.8813524	291.944215
52	15.3	23.4	60	207	13.4680725	19.9650189	68.6272453	222.393262	10.2872854	26.5477816	67.6246168	232.086611
53	6.8	13.1	81	215	7.5085698	13.0292696	78.61773	160.623398	8.56255889	19.1269416	75.4904842	186.802039
54	4.6	8.6	87	117	3.95556605	10.1000683	83.9126323	126.963939	6.59022245	12.3161805	80.9082702	151.667877
55	2.1	8.2	75	217	3.33171075	10.1685965	78.1551313	176.347754	1.93385652	15.3879555	76.668061	195.64141
56	7	5.7	83	141	4.35814834	10.9701526	86.1100756	124.557448	-0.71230002	8.84645545	90.0711445	125.218532
57	6.7	13.4	75	178	5.50446069	12.6891022	77.6816084	186.476342	4.7493208	18.7692353	74.1892472	198.975305
58	8.8	16.7	71	221	10.0440993	16.3792675	74.8133632	215.736514	10.2822911	21.0705261	68.1844804	250.731454
59	15.9	25.4	52	334	14.0034086	21.4946019	63.6423117	274.333296	8.1518625	25.3942616	63.7923092	262.040154
60	19.2	28.9	85	341	19.1341643	30.9833214	61.106578	283.297677	15.8623344	32.3641802	54.9258962	322.216382
61	22.3	33.1	48	351	19.018291	30.6207086	53.8039459	319.417233	11.8511825	28.845228	61.1249083	279.841466
62	19.7	30.3	53	337	19.0851197	30.639113	52.280733	322.619878	14.8563064	26.2217832	60.7888118	285.214128
63	15.6	25.2	62	268	16.6812961	25.3875589	59.721405	275.480745	12.0445498	24.2001463	64.5944945	250.74012
64	13.5	21.8	71	262	12.872061	19.181751	68.0211077	230.919593	12.2416237	20.2433314	70.752811	235.739948
65	0.7	13.1	79	168	7.10046794	12.6499754	75.9763297	174.567679	5.83698627	15.3238651	76.5127969	180.983704
66	3.9	8.4	88	122	3.8989374	10.0462681	87.7250832	103.87515	2.3891941	4.06239748	93.1226136	91.2255471
67	2.2	6.9	86	117	3.69216989	10.4444677	86.6294575	142.821456	4.51002921	12.9336904	79.3793332	183.690145
68	3	8.3	84	127	4.41104779	11.0146496	82.9243572	157.17035	2.43861198	10.6412031	81.7687395	159.95821
69	7.3	14.7	73	248	6.1989923	12.5268987	78.1600858	193.947302	4.89744235	13.5098893	77.6732757	182.638441
70	11.6	19.9	63	245	11.1875567	17.7844729	65.7601284	252.278715	12.4279335	19.8293106	68.8906722	240.967013
71	15.8	24.4	63	265	15.5748453	24.0179042	63.1739596	279.520191	15.0657589	25.0819618	58.0305054	293.720353
72	18.4	28.9	51	277	17.1041603	26.6995271	52.8229376	327.990171	7.23542439	25.0281193	65.7680871	246.955396
73	22.2	32.7	43	374	20.0133328	33.1670987	44.6245128	374.511005	16.0470613	30.3494583	52.7347345	319.278838
74	19	30.3	56	374	20.2170972	33.4724557	49.0417711	340.592314	17.8228264	36.2030308	49.9095847	342.987086
75	16.7	25.7	65	277	17.8836676	27.8238389	63.8395615	266.490258	13.983529	30.8437741	59.0552573	278.77614
76	16.1	24.6	58	270	13.6986119	20.257649	66.6785603	233.10156	12.8160581	27.1000913	62.6898823	253.080231
77	9.8	17.1	68	218	8.61239327	14.0696064	75.5061513	180.720043	4.55894552	19.8220257	75.8634662	180.627482
78	5.2	9.6	87	127	4.97359012	10.8410104	83.5713614	130.531678	5.55598166	13.1575623	82.2033274	140.928916
79	5.8	12.7	71	222	3.34659165	10.2312865	69.2149737	235.657663	0.99581166	13.869749	80.552125	184.29873
80	6	11.2	86	128	5.31759993	11.7891562	79.3842447	180.077416	9.06845706	22.1140028	67.7162001	251.963806
81	4.8	11.2	79	204	5.51072916	11.9264514	76.60878	189.588074	0.35923311	11.2624051	83.3153818	161.935969
82	8.6	14.8	84	165	8.9761395	15.2126986	76.6397274	201.808211	4.74669303	15.6447944	75.8878157	201.176742
83	12.4	21.2	62	301	14.5104784	22.33133	59.2298719	298.135878	11.7179356	28.7338362	57.8056742	300.727802
84	16.7	27.5	60	348	18.0495791	28.5959593	55.7591911	313.184052	12.8841433	24.5332418	64.4373232	266.563755
85	21.8	32.5	42	379	19.9459107	32.8727295	43.824148	375.634666	17.4053016	33.482106	51.8106914	329.168551
86	17.5	26.8	62	261	17.5809198	27.1530002	59.0114991	279.118343	12.9525126	30.0579223	60.1633845	280.781104
87	6.8	12.9	78	187	7.70635976	13.1993127	78.9582631	158.100559	5.52309618	14.9783811	80.6547075	162.760189
88	4.2	9.4	82	167	4.99291565	11.0976025	77.3898042	172.57878	0.90177143	16.7958995	80.8830736	151.310055
89	5.1	11.3	80	221	3.33544858	10.1731304	74.5426984	223.728917	3.00007398	11.8759698	79.8388324	191.852783
90	5.6	12.4	75	213	4.34485447	10.9652893	75.4514484	217.866062	3.25376207	12.7775433	79.1776611	195.275278
91	9.2	17.6	60	261	9.15841308	15.8267606	69.7055708	239.636921	3.34490079	20.9715967	72.6133841	216.522678
92	11.1	20.1	73	209	13.5985372	20.9095018	67.1494704	255.223874	10.1494006	19.8085768	69.1680369	243.577288
93	16	26.5	61	355	17.2739789	27.7952991	52.7325162	331.238964	10.2131428	28.6248154	59.9938059	282.512498
94	21.2	32.8	51	340	20.7214589	34.9230492	52.3633918	326.388711	24.4073945	39.7817506	40.6234963	406.165019
95	21.7	32.7	49	355	19.2718427	31.0907365	47.1878875	351.717662	17.4699066	29.5817434	55.1480365	310.146768
96	12.5	19.5	78	193	13.9043604	20.5713347	72.5594378	197.829596	8.68413766	23.6791885	70.7268798	217.078311
97	5.9	11.4	82	175	7.10031287	14.4701922	74.1646209	190.901666	-0.69463766	15.5602268	85.9996364	111.256678
98	3.4	7.9	87	111	3.91588452	10.1284803	84.7820622	121.259789	5.65716978	12.4327741	79.0975646	150.975546
99	-0.7	14.3	89	106	-0.26019086	14.7735121	85.952283	140.513925	3.31396397	11.5423859	81.6120174	182.441584
100	-1.1	15	79	207	0.02797174	16.904271	82.3735655	165.323483	2.1127718	11.3975153	82.7190554	166.245499
101	0	23	70	251	0.67614855	21.7867063	74.9962276	213.311608	5.12359359	21.4552791	69.1653978	242.661696
102	6.3	32.9	58	323	6.78549225	31.7715341	55.3867283	316.928992	10.7575586	27.7164295	59.5829073	287.714195

Table S1 – (continued)

	$T_{min}^{exp}$	$T_{max}^{exp}$	RH exp	SD exp	ANN				MLR			
					$T_{min}^{pred}$	$T_{max}^{pred}$	RH pred	SD pred	$T_{min}^{pred}$	$T_{max}^{pred}$	RH pred	SD pred
Training set												
103	17	39.3	40	364	15.4281909	37.2649268	45.1280753	366.975387	15.0232819	33.2680767	53.271971	322.925099
104	17	35.8	51	339	17.2475858	37.4207373	49.3230675	337.452464	18.3166094	38.6395514	46.9947702	351.05335
105	10.7	34	75	234	12.2390823	35.5546677	60.3211908	271.16473	12.493252	36.1615653	52.8383298	313.710236
106	7.7	30	66	288	6.72002137	29.7118227	70.2522771	211.035258	9.02300055	29.6077624	63.703089	247.648776
107	2.8	22.8	65	191	1.86948633	23.5915152	71.9185548	201.653135	3.75509329	22.9344488	74.1510557	184.317222
108	0	19.5	76	165	-0.30522501	17.1730876	78.9613013	157.844457	1.12300462	19.3617486	78.2856214	149.568948
109	-2	23	82	117	-0.88463422	18.2277495	79.099419	182.93522	0.11156752	14.1547417	80.1138896	181.752409
110	-1.6	22.8	75	176	-0.16161791	20.4723802	76.7675951	196.224397	0.57421927	13.7384136	80.3473508	182.879144
111	4.3	28.4	73	199	1.56173943	24.5863006	73.5211079	213.49421	2.76123178	18.6225182	74.5070505	208.05559
112	2.7	29.1	65	268	4.84806511	29.7411679	60.9139704	287.835512	6.99415872	24.4784795	65.4477613	247.244665
113	11.1	32.2	56	359	9.88063053	34.359913	55.7311276	312.507359	9.58520146	31.1984724	57.0743895	293.076449
114	16.9	37.2	43	375	15.3116316	36.7832783	46.1352435	363.006892	13.8576363	34.6777503	52.821084	322.449629
115	15	37.2	51	333	13.4029563	36.3542391	54.6976566	305.833144	8.05107456	33.7544183	56.2361231	284.631556
116	10.8	32	61	274	11.3288042	34.8676567	57.8497498	286.842282	13.8843275	33.2441442	55.4030443	298.86876
117	4.3	31	64	217	4.9254704	29.195453	71.327714	203.795605	2.29387747	28.3184403	67.1606844	213.855101
118	3.5	18.8	84	101	1.53712955	22.8998198	75.8602709	176.584066	4.00609097	23.9795977	70.9362237	203.878846
119	-2.2	22.8	70	144	-0.68786502	17.8570513	80.3348926	149.206549	-4.10948828	20.6915919	78.6177682	143.880538
120	-3.6	18.5	78	147	-1.03242289	17.8359098	81.7077467	165.933618	8.39282541	24.115282	64.8540124	274.582926
121	-0.8	13.4	81	163	-0.8434711	18.4642231	77.9654614	188.116974	-2.10579388	18.8209468	75.2202454	197.758767
122	-2.5	18.5	75	218	0.47501185	22.1814303	73.1265253	210.351445	4.33332433	29.7444634	60.4455768	280.809563
123	6.5	26	67	263	2.57498086	26.4753933	66.6470542	249.696673	7.14050245	25.6821387	67.6808493	240.409768
124	8	28.4	69	252	4.77905387	29.6782665	68.2605628	239.115933	9.35395304	27.943119	64.6169838	274.505953
125	8.3	33.6	61	332	9.68422284	34.2262874	56.456514	305.315508	7.94602616	26.7534001	65.552593	249.475169
126	15.4	38.5	53	363	15.3283183	37.3059725	45.9473554	362.611789	12.9823667	33.7477028	55.0647943	312.007204
127	15.5	36.9	49	342	15.9368946	37.5359345	50.4541357	329.552061	12.1494336	39.4555084	51.9708511	318.871707
128	11.6	33.5	61	284	11.5881501	35.1208471	56.97223	289.590994	13.6782866	29.5889946	60.4240835	279.424726
129	8.6	27.3	69	260	7.35202559	26.1727005	66.9755869	228.406642	10.1164027	26.7064718	66.9537037	231.893022
130	4.5	20.7	81	132	3.41869509	18.8924218	84.7208435	122.326357	7.2896414	15.7802486	81.8952119	151.670238
131	1	18.1	84	156	0.18367127	16.6510621	83.2252404	133.403381	3.32073968	17.8027426	80.6067538	157.009136
132	-1.6	14.6	77	222	-1.16843045	17.369403	80.7013875	173.465383	1.97516633	18.0031329	76.5642088	209.478361
133	-0.7	13.1	84	164	-0.81525828	18.5574481	82.9199321	154.234634	1.22181314	13.653398	80.7904769	177.555304
134	-0.3	21	75	200	-0.20539098	20.3856616	76.6265324	197.100489	0.36166746	15.8039705	78.1887643	188.424186
135	0.5	26.1	77	199	2.07440801	25.5908028	75.2602935	176.682092	3.29855039	25.4592941	70.4466472	220.718915
136	14.6	37.7	50	327	13.6334865	36.5551466	49.9781049	338.512905	14.8948418	35.9666136	56.3431147	302.624198
137	14.8	39.5	42	345	15.3927077	37.3323755	42.3474421	382.975914	13.7855941	33.8121863	55.4358262	306.879217
138	14.6	39.7	38	310	14.8621209	37.0506501	49.2249149	338.342555	13.5492642	38.1913106	50.707435	327.013401
139	3	30.5	63	232	6.54915077	31.0582001	69.0665644	217.537845	11.3221202	30.183888	60.9578803	269.233767
140	0.8	23.2	82	134	1.78744242	24.0604065	77.5987297	166.398082	7.27193199	21.6141218	72.7867645	201.197798
141	1.6	21.2	82	159	-0.23311484	19.0878054	79.6966141	163.874003	1.82109446	14.3528491	85.1009106	132.742092
Test set												
142	0.8	19.2	73	222	-0.61323884	17.163936	71.3630417	224.977267	0.25826393	17.6130262	74.5943978	198.546325
143	2.3	23.7	62	266	1.10155616	21.4484684	75.2285449	212.996501	4.23870004	22.0692113	68.5410075	231.46811
144	15.4	38	41	346	16.7874737	37.4159247	42.9666575	378.567703	13.1952291	35.9681638	52.5083512	309.67513
145	9	36.2	49	302	11.7209698	34.3184441	56.2058447	311.403076	10.0637264	31.8960142	55.5307802	302.470466
146	6	29.5	60	247	8.39658053	27.9577834	66.3006452	234.024407	12.4474725	29.9005189	57.9083021	287.598492
147	6.3	13.6	74	221	5.63577868	12.2521823	72.8003342	226.697341	4.00026029	15.9135058	74.1345809	204.983339
148	20.9	31	51	337	19.3787151	31.3287071	51.1698787	328.424713	16.6046872	27.8747173	60.5739152	277.884643
149	12.4	19.2	78	207	12.3379295	18.3788692	68.4781949	220.702143	9.91956989	26.2147784	63.9527091	249.85861
150	5.4	12.7	75	228	6.06251545	12.4180468	76.1694186	212.210811	3.70613193	13.6415086	78.3731296	199.666086
151	17	25.9	63	190	16.9134137	25.8294499	70.5162544	209.645999	12.1349747	27.7140355	64.1408989	248.984814
152	2.4	23.4	81	205	1.45716262	24.3743348	75.1786873	197.583567	3.27313275	25.68649	65.7176389	237.30733
153	11.8	35.1	45	367	13.3638938	35.8383468	46.2695892	364.040719	12.5448662	30.131692	59.9517253	285.730908





Table S2d – Results of correlation analysis for sunshine duration

	Y	M	$T_{\text{water}}$	$O_{2\text{sat}}$	COD	pH	EC	$\text{NH}_4^+$	$\text{NO}_3^-$	Turb	OM	DR
Y	<b>1</b>	-0.005	-0.101	-0.262	-0.263	0.260	0.083	-0.265	-0.082	0.208	0.016	-0.110
M		<b>1</b>	0.362	0.001	0.050	0.120	0.081	-0.132	-0.121	0.006	0.118	0.135
$T_{\text{water}}$			<b>1</b>	0.314	0.112	0.214	0.020	-0.205	-0.059	-0.146	0.064	0.096
$O_{2\text{sat}}$				<b>1</b>	0.045	-0.006	0.037	0.007	-0.031	-0.024	0.217	0.115
COD					<b>1</b>	-0.142	-0.271	0.010	-0.045	-0.110	-0.155	-0.134
pH						<b>1</b>	-0.018	-0.188	-0.019	-0.022	0.054	-0.046
EC							<b>1</b>	0.103	-0.319	-0.093	0.221	0.682
$\text{NH}_4^+$								<b>1</b>	-0.111	-0.005	-0.007	0.133
$\text{NO}_3^-$									<b>1</b>	0.158	-0.063	-0.320
Turb										<b>1</b>	0.034	-0.114
OM											<b>1</b>	0.241
DR												<b>1</b>

Table S3 – Selected parameters of the optimal MLP-ANN models

MLP-ANN models	$T_{\text{air,min}}/^\circ\text{C}$	$T_{\text{air,max}}/^\circ\text{C}$	RH/%	SD/h
Number of input layer	1	1	1	1
Number of hidden layer	1	1	1	1
Number of output layer	1	1	1	1
Number of input neurons	12	12	12	12
Number of hidden neurons	4	4	7	7
Number of output neurons	1	1	1	1
Transfer function of the hidden neurons	Tanh	Tanh	Tanh	Tanh
Transfer function of the output neurons	Logistic	Logistic	Identity	Identity
Training algorithm	BFGS	BFGS	BFGS	BFGS
Training set	90 % (n = 141)	90 % (n = 141)	90 % (n = 141)	90 % (n = 141)
Test set	10 % (n = 15)	10 % (n = 15)	10 % (n = 15)	10 % (n = 15)
RMSE	1.716	2.123	5.245	26.137

Table S4 – Observed values of maximum and minimum air temperature, relative humidity and sunshine duration, and those calculated by Eqs. (9 and 11) for year 2016

Month	$T_{\text{air,min}}$		$T_{\text{air,max}}$		Month	RH		SD	
	observed	predicted	observed	predicted		observed	predicted	observed	predicted
1	-1	-0.931	17.3	16.656	1	82	80.262	160	150.422
2	-0.7	-0.495	19	18.370	2	74	78.121	175	162.275
3	1.3	0.286	21.5	20.942	3	67	69.562	234	219.598
4	2.1	1.273	25	23.567	4	62	62.759	269	262.050
5	7	6.581	32	31.667	5	54	55.895	315	300.696
6	10.5	7.922	34	32.834	6	42	40.618	362	405.323
7	14.5	12.824	36.5	35.934	7	40	44.223	397	363.004
8	18	13.680	38	36.310	8	42	40.884	373	382.639
9	11	11.517	34.4	35.130	9	48	38.319	348	399.847
10	6	6.626	29.5	31.243	10	59	52.763	259	302.147
11	3	1.918	22	24.109	11	69	62.087	188	240.172
12	-0.8	-0.276	17	18.052	12	80	84.974	110	76.242