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**REAL-TIME WATER QUALITY MODELLING WITH ENSEMBLE  
KALMAN FILTER FOR STATE AND PARAMETER ESTIMATION IN  
WATER DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS**

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## **Abstract**

This study presents a novel approach for real time water quality state (chlorine concentration) and reaction parameter estimation in Water Distribution Systems (WDS) using Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF) based data assimilation techniques. Two different types of EnKF based methods are used in this study: (a) Non-Iterative Restart-EnKF (NIR-EnKF) and Iterative Restart-EnKF (IR-EnKF). Use of these data assimilation frameworks for addressing key uncertainties in water quality models such as (i) uncertainty in the source or initial concentration of chlorine and (ii) uncertainty in wall reaction parameter, is studied. The effect of ensemble size, number and location of measurement nodes, measurement error and noise are also studied extensively in this work. The performance of the methodology proposed is tested on two different water networks: (i) Brushy Plains Network; (ii) and a big, city-wide WDS, Bangalore inflow network. The results of the simulation study show that, both NIR-EnKF and IR-EnKF methods are appropriate for dealing with uncertainty in source chlorine concentration, whereas IR-EnKF method performs better than NIR-EnKF method in case of reaction parameter uncertainty.

## Introduction

Advancement in engineering and nanotechnology has resulted in the development of several sensors that can log online water quality data such as residual chlorine, pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen etc. in Water Distribution Systems (WDS) (Suresh et al. 2014). Installation of these online sensors help in safeguarding the WDS against accidental and intentional contamination (Hall et al.2007). But, deployment of these sensors at all the nodes of a WDS is not feasible, considering the cost that will be incurred in doing so. Hence, sensors are placed only at a few strategic locations in the WDS (Aral et al. 2009; Ostfeld et al. 2008; Hart and Murray2010, Simone et al. 2016). In such systems with limited sampling locations, data assimilation creates the best estimate of the system state at the non-measurement nodes. In this work, the main objective is to assimilate the real time chlorine concentration data from these sensors, in a water quality model, for estimating the water quality state and parameters of the WDS in real time.

In this work, water quality state refers to the chlorine concentration at all the nodes of the WDS. Traditional methods for nodal chlorine concentration estimation involve a well calibrated water quality simulation model. In literature, numerous alternate methods for state and parameter estimation methods are available. A few of them are, inverse modelling (Clark et al. 1993; Biswas et al.1993; Rossman et al. 1994; Munavalli and Kumar 2004 &2005), time series analysis (Rodriguez and Serodes 1998; Polycarpou et al. 2002; Bowden et al. 2006; Gibbs et al. 2006) and soft computational methods such as neural networks, genetic algorithm, machine learning etc. (Rodriguez and Serodes1998; Baxter et al. 1999, 2001; Serodes et al. 2001; Milot et al. 2002; Maier et al. 2004; Gibbs et al. 2006; Bowden et al. 2006; May et al. 2008; D D'Souza and Kumar 2010; Soyupak et al. 2011). Water quality models are sensitive to uncertainties in parameters like reaction coefficient, initial concentration, hydraulic model errors, structural errors, demand uncertainties etc. (May et al.

2008). Data assimilation techniques were found to perform better than inverse modelling approaches, even in presence various of system uncertainties. (Liu et al. 2012). Also, unlike most of the conventional methods, data assimilation methods are also capable of incorporating real time sensor data for estimating the system state and parameters, thereby, making it an efficient tool for real time modelling of dynamic systems (Hendricks Franssen and Kinzelbach 2008).

Application of data assimilation span across numerous scientific disciplines such as electrical systems (Beides and Heydt 1991; Doucet et al. 2001; Blood and Krough 2008), oceanic sciences (Park and Kaneko 2000; Carton and Giese 2008), meteorological/atmospheric sciences (van Loon et al. 2000; Kalnay 2003), groundwater (Dre'court et al. 2006; Hendricks Franssen et al. 2008) , gas and petroleum engineering (Benkherouf and Allidina 1988, Emarashabaik et al. 2002, Liu et al.2005), surface water quality (Pastres et al. 2003).

In WDS, existing applications of data assimilation techniques are mainly focused on hydraulic state estimation and event detection (Kang and Lansey 2009; Ye and Fenner 2010 & 2013; Jung and Lansey 2014, Okeya et al. 2014). It was observed that, most of the techniques used for hydraulic state estimation involves a linear data assimilation technique, such as - Kalman Filter or Extended Kalman Filters etc. (Hutton et al. 2014) . Owing to the high non-linearity of the water quality models, these linear data assimilation models cannot be applied directly for water quality state estimation in WDS. Hence, in this study, Monte Carlo based Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF) (Burgers et al. 1998) was used for chlorine data assimilation . This method is applied to WDS under two different uncertainties : (i) Source concentration ( $C_0$ ) uncertainty , (ii) wall decay parameter uncertainty ( $k_w$ ). Two different variants of EnKF (non-iterative and iterative EnKF) were formulated in this study and these methods were altered to deal with the problem of model variable initialization at intermediate time steps by implementing the Restart technique (Geir et al. 2003). These methods were

tested on two WDS: (i) Brushy plains network (Rossman et al. 1994) (ii) and a big, city-wide WDS, Bangalore inflow network (Manohar and Mohan Kumar 2013). In this study, it is assumed that the hydraulic model of the WDS is fully calibrated and hence, the uncertainties related to pipe roughness coefficient and systems demands are not considered.

The main objectives of this study is to compare the two variants of EnKF for application in water quality state estimation under system parameter uncertainties. Different scenarios are tested for assessing the applicability of these data assimilation methods. These scenarios studied are : Scenario (i) : The source concentration value ( $C_o$ ), is considered uncertain; Scenario ii: The reaction parameter value ( $k_w$ ), is considered uncertain. For each of these scenarios, the following sub-scenarios are also studied in this work : Sub-scenario (a). the number of realizations ( $n$ ) are varied ; Sub-scenario (b). The number ( $m$ ) and location of sensors are varied, Sub-scenario (c), measurement error and measurement noise is considered, in order to understand the sensitivity of data assimilation model.

## Methodology

The over-all methodology adopted in this study has two parts: (i) Hydraulic and water quality simulation and (ii) water quality data assimilation model.

## Water Quality Prediction Model

In this study, the water quality simulation (i.e. prediction) model consists of hydraulic and chlorine reaction and transport components, modelled using EPANET (Rossman 2000). A mass balance equation based one directional advection- dominated transport and reaction kinetics is used for chlorine concentration modelling in WDS. The partial differential equation governing chlorine transport in a pipe is:

$$\frac{\partial C_i(x,t)}{\partial t} + v_i \frac{\partial C_i(x,t)}{\partial x} - R[C_i(x,t)] = 0 \quad (1)$$

where,  $C_i(x, t)$  is the chlorine concentration at any point  $x$  within link  $i$ , at time  $t$ .  $v_i$  is the mean flow velocity of the water; and  $R[C_i(x, t)]$  is the reaction- rate expression. In this study, a first order wall and first order bulk reaction model is being used:

$$R[C_i(x, t)] = -k_b C_i(x, t) - \frac{k_w k_f}{r_h(k_w + k_f)} C_i(x, t) \quad (2)$$

where,  $k_b$  is the first order decay rate constant in the bulk flow (1/day),  $k_w$  is the wall decay parameter (m/day),  $k_f$  is the mass-transfer coefficient (m/day) and  $r_h$  is the hydraulic radius of pipe (one half the pipe radius).

More details about water quality modelling in WDS is available in the literature (Biswas et al. 1993; Clark et al. 1993 & 1995; Hallam et al. 2002; Grayman et al. 1988; Munavalli and Kumar 2005; Rossman et al. 1994; Vasconcelos et al. 1997).

Accurate modelling of chlorine concentrations in a WDS needs accurate understanding of decay mechanisms in the bulk water and on the pipe walls. Uncertainty analysis of water quality models have established the wall decay coefficient as the most sensitive parameter for water quality model output (Pasha and Lansey 2010). The wall decay coefficient in a WDS depends on the diameter of the pipe, flow in the pipe, concentration of chlorine, pipe service age etc. (Al-Jasser 2007; Fisher et al. 2017), whereas the bulk decay parameter mainly depends on the source water properties, and it seldom varies unless there is change in the source water quality. Along with decay parameters for chlorine in WDS, the water quality model output is sensitive to the source concentration value as well. The source chlorine concentration ( $C_0$ ) is usually monitored in WDS, but in case of measurement errors or sensor failure, the estimate of chlorine concentration across the system might vary and will lead to under or overdosing of the disinfectant. Hence, in this study, we are dealing with two different system uncertainties in water quality model development: (i) uncertainty in the input data or in this case, source concentration of chlorine ( $C_0$ ) and (ii) uncertainty in the wall

reaction parameter for chlorine reaction in pipelines ( $k_w$ ). In this study, the uncertainties related to the hydraulic model such as demand uncertainty, pipe roughness coefficient etc. are not considered, since accounting for these uncertainties make the problem more complex, and the EnKF based data assimilation methodologies adopted in this study cannot be directly applied to deal with these uncertainties.

## **Data assimilation for water quality state and parameter estimation**

Data assimilation involves estimating the state of a particular system based on the predictions and observations leading up to the present time. EnKF (Evensen 1994; Burgers et al. 1998; Evensen 2003), is a Monte Carlo implementation of the Bayesian update problem. EnKF is a special case of Kalman Filter (Kalman 1960) which uses ensembles or stochastic realization (with different parameter and initial condition values) for approximating the states of the system. EnKF based data assimilation consists of two steps: (i) Prediction step and (ii) Update step. In the prediction step, a forward simulation model is used to predict the system state as in equation (3):

$$x_{t+1}^i = f(x_t^i, u_t^i, \theta, t) + \omega_t, i = 1, \dots, n \quad (3)$$

According to equation (3), the  $x_{t+1}^i$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  ensemble member forecast at time  $t+1$ , and  $x_t^i$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  updated ensemble member at time  $t$ . Here,  $f$  is the forward simulation model (in this case, EPANET water quality model of the system).  $\omega_t$  is the process noise (assumed to be zero in this study),  $\theta$  is the system parameters,  $u_t$  are the forcing data or the system inputs. Ensembles of the forcing data ( $u_t^i$ ) are created by adding noise  $\varepsilon_t^i$ , sampled from a distribution of mean zero and variance,  $\Sigma_t^u$ , to the input data  $u_t$ .

$$u_t^i = u_t + \varepsilon_t^i, \varepsilon_t^i \sim N(0, \Sigma_t^u) \quad (4)$$



167 The parameters in this study are: pipe roughness coefficient ( $C$ ), hourly demand multiplier  
 168 ( $d_m$ ), initial concentration of chlorine ( $C_0$ ), chlorine reaction parameters. Among the above  
 169 listed parameters,  $C$  and  $d_m$  are assumed to be known, hence can be classified as system input  
 170  $u$ . Additional inputs required for predicting the system states are the network boundary  
 171 conditions (tanks initial level, reservoir head etc.) and base demand values at the nodes. .

172 From  $x_{t+1}^i$ , the predicted states of the system,  $\hat{y}_{t+1}^i$ , the predicted measurements are  
 173 computed as

$$174 \quad \hat{y}_{t+1}^i = h(x_{t+1}^i, \theta) \quad (5)$$

175 where  $h$  shows the relationship between the system states, parameters and the  
 176 observations/measurements.

177  $y_{t+1}$  is the field observation at the  $t+1^{th}$  time step, for which ensembles are generated by  
 178 adding a noise,  $\lambda_{t+1}^i$ .

$$179 \quad y_{t+1}^i = y_{t+1} + \lambda_{t+1}^i, \lambda_{t+1}^i \sim N(0, \Sigma_{t+1}^y) \quad (6)$$

180 The forecasted states ensembles (equation 3) are updated using a linear correction equation  
 181 according to the standard Kalman filter (equation 7):

$$182 \quad x_{t+1}^i = x_{t+1}^i + K_{t+1}(y_{t+1}^i - \hat{y}_{t+1}^i) \quad (7)$$

183 Here,  $K_{t+1}$  is the Kalman gain matrix which is estimated from the covariance matrices as  
 184 shown in equation 8 (Moradkhani et al.,2005):

$$185 \quad K_{t+1} = \Sigma_{t+1}^{xy} [\Sigma_{t+1}^{yy} + \Sigma_{t+1}^y]^{-1} \quad (8)$$

186 where,  $\Sigma_{t+1}^{xy}$  is the forecast cross covariance of a priori state estimate  $x_{t+1}^i$  and prediction  
 187  $\hat{y}_{t+1}^i$ , and  $\Sigma_{t+1}^{yy}$  is the forecast error covariance of prediction  $\hat{y}_{t+1}^i$ . In equation (7), the term  
 188  $K_{t+1}(Y_t - \hat{Y}_t)$ , is the perturbation vector (Hendricks Franssen and Kinzelbach 2008). In

equation (3), one of the key assumption is that the system parameter  $\theta$  is deterministic. In scenarios, where the parameters  $\theta$  are unknown or uncertain, non-iterative or iterative EnKF methods need to be used. These methods enable estimation of the uncertain system parameter along with states using the real time observations from the field. In this work, the system state and the model parameters ( $C_0$  and  $k_w$ ) are updated using two ensemble-based data assimilation methodologies: (i) Non-Iterative Restart EnKF (NIR-EnKF), and (ii) Iterative Restart EnKF (IR-EnKF).

In non-iterative- EnKF method, the parameter and the system states are combined to form an augmented state vector, which enable simultaneous estimation of states and parameters (Naevdal et al. 2003; Hendriks Franssen 2008). Whereas, in an iterative-EnKF, first the parameters are updated using the current system measurements, and the updated parameters are used to predict and update the system states for the same time step (Moradkhani et al. 2005). In both non-iterative and iterative EnKF methods, after updating the system parameter, the forward simulation model (equation 3) is restarted from  $t: 0$ . This technique of starting the simulation from  $t:0$  is called Restart EnKF (Gu and Oliver 2007, Hendricks Franssen and Kinzelbach 2008, Song et al., 2014). In this study, Restart procedure was implemented to reduce the error in EnKF model output due to parameter and system initialization during intermediate water quality time steps.

### **Non-Iterative Restart EnKF**

As mentioned earlier, in this approach, the states and the parameters are updated jointly. If there are  $N$  states and  $M$  parameters, the augmented state vector will be of size  $(N+M,I)$ . Forecasted ensembles of system parameters are created by adding a noise  $\zeta_t^i$  with covariance  $\Sigma_t^0$  to the updated parameter value of the previous timestep.

$$\theta_{t+1}^i = \theta_t^i + \zeta_t^i, \quad \zeta_t^i \sim N(0, \Sigma_t^0) \quad (9)$$

213 These forecasted parameter ensembles  $\theta_{t+1}^{i-}$ , are updated (equation 10) simultaneously with  
 214 the forecasted states  $x_{t+1}^{i-}$  (equation 7)

$$215 \quad \theta_{t+1}^i = \theta_{t+1}^{i-} + K_{t+1}^\theta (y_{t+1}^i - \hat{y}_{t+1}^i) \quad (10)$$

216 Here,  $K_{t+1}^\theta$ , is the Kalman gain for updating the model parameter.

$$217 \quad K_{t+1}^\theta = \Sigma_{t+1}^{\theta y} [\Sigma_{t+1}^{yy} + \Sigma_{t+1}^y]^{-1} \quad (11)$$

218 Here  $\Sigma_{t+1}^{\theta y}$  is the cross covariance of the predicted parameter and measurement ensembles.

219 Rest of the terms are same as that of EnKF. The state vector is updated using equation (8)

220 and the corresponding Kalman gain is calculated as in equation (9). In this method, after each

221 time step (after updating the states and parameter ensembles), the simulation is restarted from

222  $t:0$  [ i.e. Equation 3 is run from  $t: 0$  for this algorithm, making it a NIR-EnKF].

## 223 **Iterative Restart EnKF**

224 IR-EnKF involves sequential forecast and update of parameters, followed by forecast and

225 update of system states for a particular time period. In this method, the updated parameters

226 (calculated using equation (10)),  $\theta_{t+1}^i$ , are used to forecast the system states for the same time

227 step  $(t+I)$  (Equation 12).

$$228 \quad x_{t+1}^{i-} = f(x_t^i, u_t^i, \theta_{t+1}^i, t) \quad (12)$$

229  $\theta_{t+1}^i$  is the updated parameters for the time step  $t+I$ . The a priori water quality state of the

230 system  $x_{t+1}^{i-}$ , is updated using the Kalman gain for state correction (Equation 8).

231 This two-step approach is supposed to limit the problems associated with the linearization of

232 the relation between parameters and the observations.

## 233 **Filter Inbreeding**

During data assimilation, if the number of realizations are small, there exists an error due to sampling, and it will be reflected in the error covariance matrix. When there are insufficient realizations to span the model state space, the estimated error covariance will degrade after each time step, and this process is known as Filter inbreeding (Houtekamer and Mitchell1998; Lorenc2003). Whitaker and Hamill (2002) had suggested that the perturbations introduced in observations can also result in filter inbreeding.

Different methods are available in the literature for mitigating filter inbreeding effects (Anderson and Anderson 1999; Hamill et al. 2000; Anderson 2007). In this study, a mitigation approach based on a damping factor  $\alpha$  is used to analyse the effect of measurement errors and measurement noise on the data assimilation model output. The value of  $\alpha$  varies between 0 and 1(Hendricks Franssen and Kinzelbach 2008), and the state update equation is modified as follows:

$$x_{t+1}^i = x_{t+1}^{i-} + \alpha K_{t+1}^x (y_{t+1}^i - \hat{y}_{t+1}^i) \quad (13)$$

The data assimilation algorithms were implemented using the EPANET Toolkit in MATLAB.

## Case Studies

The EnKF based data assimilation methodologies developed for water quality state estimation in WDS is tested and validated in two WDS: (i) Brushy plains WDS and (ii) Bangalore inflow network. This section provides details on the two networks used in this study.

### Case Study 1: Brushy Plains WDS

This network has been used in various studies related to water quality and WDS hydraulics (Rossman et al.1994; Boccelli et al. 1998; Nilsson et al. 2005; May et al. 2008; Clark 2015).

257 Details of this WDS are available in Rossman et al. (1994), in which chlorine concentration  
 258 data from 8 sampling nodes across the network can be found. The estimated bulk reaction  
 259 coefficient value for this WDS was found to be -0.55 /day, and the wall reaction coefficient  
 260 value was found to be in the range of -0.45 to -0.15 m/day. The source concentration of  
 261 chlorine is maintained at 1.1-1.16 mg/L, injected at a constant rate at the pumping station.  
 262 Fig.1 shows the schematic of Brushy Plains WDS. Eight nodes were selected as measurement  
 263 nodes for this network (in accordance with earlier research carried out on this network,  
 264 Rossman et al. (1994)). Those measurement nodes are: 3,6,10,11,19, 25, 28 and 34. Synthetic  
 265 chlorine measurements were generated every 15 minutes for the total duration of simulation  
 266 (16 hours). The hydraulic time step of the simulation was about 60 minutes.

267 Data assimilation was carried out for scenario (i) and scenario (ii). Sub-scenarios (a), (b) and  
 268 (c) were also studied for this case study. For scenario (i) and scenario (ii), the initial  
 269 ensembles of parameters ( $C_0$  and  $k_w$ ) were sampled from a normal distribution, respectively.  
 270 Both NIR-EnKF and IR-EnKF were tested for their application under (i) uncertainty in  $C_0$   
 271 value and (ii) uncertainty in  $k_w$  value, for this WDS.

272 For sub-scenario (a), various sizes of stochastic realizations ( $n$ ) ranging from 20 -100 were  
 273 generated for studying the variation in model accuracy with ensemble sizes. Sub-scenario (b)  
 274 is simulated by reducing the number of measurement nodes ( $m$ ). The number of measurement  
 275 nodes ( $m$ ) in the system are varied from 4 to 8 nodes, there by varying the measurement  
 276 density in the system from 22 to 11percent. Two different sets of measurements are studied,  
 277 each with 4 data sets. Measurement set A consists of data from nodes 3,6, 10 and 11,  
 278 concentrated near to the pumping station, and measurement set B consisting of data from  
 279 nodes 19, 25, 28 and 34, concentrated near to the tank. Varying the measurement locations  
 280 and the measurement density in the WDS gives an idea of its effect on data assimilation.

The model performance in the presence of measurement errors and Gaussian noise for  $n$ : 20 is also studied in detail, using a damping factor  $\alpha$ .(scenario (c)). In the sub-scenarios (a) and (b), the measurements used were assumed to be perfect, i.e. without any systematic errors or random noise. In order to replicate field measurements, the simulated measurement values were corrupted to generate noisy measurements and bad measurements. Hence, in this sub-scenario, two types of measurement ambiguities were considered: (i) systematic error, where a fixed value of 0.2 mg/L is added to a few of the measurements nodes (nodes 19, 25, 27 and 33); (ii) random noise, where a Gaussian noise of mean zero and standard deviation 0.05 mg/L is added to readings from all the measurement nodes. Presence of noise or error in the measurements usually induces filter inbreeding during data assimilation. Different values of damping factor  $\alpha$  was used to mitigate the effects of these observational errors.

## **Case Study 2: Bangalore Inflow Network**

The second case study is carried out as a verification problem, to validate the algorithm and to establish its applicability on a large WDS for a big city. The Bangalore water supply network is maintained and operated by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and was established by Karnataka Govt. during different time periods: Stage I of the system was established in year the 1974, Stage 2 was established in year the 1983, Stage 3 (year 1993) and Stage 4 Phase 1 (year 2002). Stage 1 of this network supplies about 140 MLD of water, Stage 2 supplies another 140 MLD, followed by 315 MLD by Stage 3 and 315 MLD by Stage 4 Phase 1, all of it amounting to a total of 910 MLD of water for Bangalore city. Since the system was established in different stages, zoning of pipes are carried out for Hazen William C value and wall decay parameter  $k_w$ . Further details of this network are available in Manohar and Kumar (2013). The hydraulic model of the WDS used was calibrated using field values.

A schematic of Bangalore inflow WDS is given in Fig. 2. In this network, the pipes are grouped into 4 different class: pipes 1-41, 42-69, 70-137 and 138-180 and the  $k_w$  values are -1 (Stage I), -0.75 (Stage II), -0.5 (Stage III) and -0.25 m/day (Stage IV Phase I). The first order bulk reaction coefficient is taken as  $2.0 \text{ day}^{-1}$ , and a constant chlorine concentration of 0.75 mg/L is assumed to be injected from all the four sources (Munavalli and Kumar, 2003 & 2005). The consumer demands are loaded on the GLRs and are assumed to vary temporally based on a bi-modal demand pattern (peak factor: 1.6, and 1.2).

A total of 60 measurement nodes are assumed to be present in this network. The chlorine measurements were generated once every 15 minutes for a total duration of 16 hours. The hydraulic time step is about 60 minutes. As in the case study 1, two different scenarios are tested for this network: scenario (i) uncertainty in source concentration ( $C_0$ ) and scenario (ii) uncertainty in wall decay coefficients ( $k_{w1}$ ,  $k_{w2}$ ,  $k_{w3}$  and  $k_{w4}$ ) for all the pipe groups. In the previous case study, the global wall reaction coefficient is considered ( $k_w$  value same for all the pipes in the WDS), where as in this study, a zoned wall reaction coefficient is considered. Complexity of this WDS is much higher than the previous case study owing to its size and multi-source supply. For this case study, the conclusions drawn from the previous case study are used to reduce the computational complexity, and to validate the developed algorithms.

## Performance criteria

Two different performance measures are used in this study to assess the data assimilation accuracy: (i) Average Absolute Error (AAE) and (ii) Average Ensemble Standard Deviation (AESD) (Hendricks Franssen and Kinzelback 2008):

$$AAE = \frac{1}{M \cdot T} \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{t=1}^T |\bar{x}_{i,t} - y_{i,t}|, \quad i: 1, 2, \dots, M \quad (14)$$

$$AESD = \frac{1}{M \cdot T} \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{t=1}^T \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{j=1}^n (x_{i,j,t} - \bar{x}_{i,t})^2}{n}} \quad (15)$$

where,  $x$  is the simulated chlorine concentration for each realizations,  $y$  is the measured chlorine concentration at the node,  $\bar{x}$  indicate the ensemble average value,  $T$  is the total time of simulation,  $M$  is the number of non-measurement nodes in the WDS and  $n$  indicates the number of stochastic realizations (number of ensembles) [  $j : 1, 2, \dots, n$  ]. Here, AAE and AESD indicate the overall performance of the EnKF based data assimilation techniques for the entire time of simulation,  $T$ , for the WDS.

Visual comparison based on simulated and measured values of free chlorine at different measurement nodes in the WDS are also carried out to assess the model performance. Mean Average Percentage Error (MAPE) for the entire duration of simulation is also calculated to assess the WDS performance under different scenarios.

## **Results and Discussions**

In this section, the results obtained for each case study and the corresponding scenarios are presented and discussed in detail.

### **Case Study 1: Brushy Plains WDS**

Scenario (i) and scenario (ii) were tested for this case study along with sub-scenarios (a), (b) and (c). The results of this study is presented in the following sections.

#### **Scenario (i): Uncertainty in source chlorine concentrations ( $C_0$ )**

The main observations of this study are summarised below:

Comparison of NIR-EnKF and IR-EnKF: Fig.3 shows the variation of MAPE for the WDS for the duration of simulation. It can be deduced from Fig.3, that both NIR-EnKF and IR-EnKF, reduced the prediction error to 10 % by the end of simulation (IR-EnKF reduced the MAPE to 5% by the end of simulation). The AAE values estimated at all the nodes in the WDS for the duration of simulation ranged from 0-0.19mg/L. For this scenario, the



difference between NIR-EnKF and IR-EnKF is negligible. It is observed that, IR-EnKF is slightly more accurate than NIR-EnKF, whereas IR-EnKF takes more computational time than NIR-EnKF

Sub-scenario (a): Simulations are carried for different values of  $n$ , and it is observed that, as the number of stochastic realizations ( $n$ ) increased, the model output accuracy increased, but for  $n$  values greater than 20, change in the AAE values are negligible (Table 1). Filter inbreeding was not observed in any of these simulated results, even for  $n=20$ . As the  $n$  value was increased from 20 to 100, the estimated AESD values increased for each node for the duration of simulation. The AESD values are higher than AAE values, for most of the nodes. This indicates adequate spread of the updated state ensemble. Similar results were observed in data assimilation studies in the groundwater domain. (Hendriks Franssen and Kinzelbach, 2008). In Hendriks Franssen and Kinzelbach (2008), it was observed that AESD in the estimated log-transmissivity increased with the number of realizations.

Sub-scenario (b): This sub-scenario was simulated for  $n=20$ . In this study, it was found that the location and number of measurements points were essential for reducing the AAE for the assimilated quality states in WDS (see Table 1). Fig.4 shows that, measurement set A is able to assimilate the water quality measurements for the entire WDS, and it is better than measurement set B, as set B gives higher values of MAPE (around 30-55% higher) at certain time steps. Among measurement sets A and B, measurement set A is able to estimate chlorine concentration at almost all the nodes with substantial accuracy. It might be due to the fact that, set A is very close to the pump station which is a boundary condition for Brushy Plains WDS, and it is the chlorine source as well.

Sub-scenario (c): Table 2. illustrates the effect of damping factor on the model output, in presence of measurement error and measurement noise. Under  $C_0$  uncertainty,  $\alpha :1$  could

handle the measurement errors during data assimilation at all the nodes in the WDS, for the duration of simulation (Fig. 5(a)),but the AAE for this sub-scenario is higher than the scenario when no measurement error was present (Table 1).

For mitigating the effects of measurement noise in the system, clearly  $\alpha: 1$  is better than all other values of  $\alpha$  (see Fig.5(b)) .  $\alpha: 0.1$  and  $0.01$  have better model output at a few time steps (Fig. 5(b) and Table 2). Hence, it can be concluded that for a given WDS, the effect of measurement noise and measurement error on model performance is negligible and  $n: 20$  is adequate to simulate the system state at all time periods, without covariance degradation. The quality of the state estimates were found to be affected by measurement noise and errors, but  $\alpha: 1$  provides a better estimate of the states compared to other values of the damping factor. Lower values of  $\alpha$  gives better results during certain time-steps because, at these time-steps, the impact of spurious numerical co-variances on the updating of states is reduced(i.e. the value perturbation vector(  $K(Y_t - \hat{Y}_t)$  )is reduced at these time-steps (Hendricks Franssen and Kinzelbach, 2008).

#### **Scenario (ii): Uncertainty in wall reaction coefficient, $k_w$**

In this scenario, the wall reaction coefficient is used as the uncertain input to the water quality data assimilation model. The initial/source chlorine concentration is considered known (1.1-1.16 mg/L). NIR- EnKF and IR-EnKF methods are compared for chlorine concentration estimation by assimilating the field measurements under uncertainty in the  $k_w$  value, for different sub-scenarios.

Comparison of NIR-EnKF and IR-EnKF: Table 3 summarizes the AAE and AESD for the WDS, for the duration of study, for different scenarios. Also, the MAPE for the system reduced to  $< 5\%$  for IR-EnKF at the end of simulation (see Fig.6). It can be observed that IR-EnKF is better than NIR-EnKF when dealing with uncertainty in the wall reaction coefficient

during data assimilation. Due to the nonlinear relationship between the parameter and the observations, iterative filters are more appropriate for state estimation in WDS under reaction parameter uncertainty.

Sub-scenario (a): The effect of the number of realizations on the model output was similar to scenario (i). When the number of ensembles was increased from 20-100, AAE values were found to reduce, but the reduction in AAE is not substantial for  $n > 20$  (Table 3).

Sub-scenario (b) : Fig.7 shows the MAPE values of the estimated chlorine concentration for the WDS under  $k_w$  uncertainty, for measurement set A and measurement set B. It is clear from Fig.7 that, for every time steps, set A performs better than set B. The overall performance of the data assimilation technique reduces with reduction in the number of measurement nodes.

Sub-scenario (c) : It was found that model performance was unaffected by measurement error, though  $\alpha: 1$  and  $\alpha: 0.1$  had similar response at all nodes, at all time-steps (Table 2.). When measurement noise was introduced, it was found that,  $\alpha: 0.1$ , performed better than  $\alpha: 1$  for most of the time-steps (see Fig.8(b)), but the improvement in model performance was not substantial (the change in MAPE was about 1-2%). Hence, it can be deduced that, noise or error induced degeneration of the covariance matrix was not much in this WDS for  $n: 20$ .

Based on the results from sub-scenario (c) (for both scenario (i) and scenario (ii)), it is observed that measurement noise and measurement error is not creating large variations in the perturbation vector (when compared with the case when no measurement error or noise is considered) [perturbation vector :  $K(Y_t - \hat{Y}_t)$ ]. But, it should be noted that , measurement error and measurement noise reduced the accuracy of the data assimilation model (Table 1, Table 2 and Table 3).

## **Estimated Parameter Values**

Table 4 show the computed mean values for the parameters,  $C_0$  and  $k_w$  at the end of the simulation period. Mean values were computed for the simulation where  $n$ : 20. It is clear from the results that, data assimilation technique based on EnKF can be used for dynamic state estimation and parameter estimation ( $C_0$  and  $k_w$ ) in WDS under various uncertainty and measurement location scenarios. The values obtained using data assimilation techniques were found to be comparable to parameters estimated using inverse modelling methodologies (Munavalli and Kumar, 2005).

## **Case Study 2: Bangalore Inflow System**

In this case study, data from 60 measurement nodes (30 network junctions and 30 tanks) were assimilated with the network water quality model. The number and location of these 60 measurement nodes were chosen heuristically for an optimal concentration estimation across the WDS. Initially, 10 nodes were assigned across the network at random, such that they are uniformly distributed across the network. Data assimilation was carried out (for scenario (i)) , and based on the error in estimation of nodal chlorine concentration, nodes with higher error values were added to the measurement node set. The measurement nodes were added such that, no two measurements nodes were adjacent. Similar procedure was carried out for deciding the measurements tanks as well. The locations chosen include 30 tanks and 30 junctions spread across the network. Fig.9 shows the variation of AAE with  $m$  value for this study. It was found that, as  $m$  value increased, the error in estimation reduced, but the reduction in error was not substantial after certain  $m$  value. For in-depth understanding of the sensitivity of the number and location of measurements nodes on the data assimilation model accuracy, a detailed analysis need to be carried out. A detailed sensitivity analysis is beyond scope of this paper, and will be carried out in future works.

In this analysis, the tank measurements were used to assimilate the chlorine concentration values at the tanks and junction measurements were used to assimilate the chlorine concentration data at the junctions in the network, and the tank and junction states are updated simultaneously. The conclusions drawn from the previous case study was utilized here, as this case study is considered as a validation problem for water quality data assimilation application in large scale WDS. Scenario (i) and scenario (ii) are considered for this case study. The number of stochastic realizations,  $n$  is 50, for this case study, since it was observed that the AESD and AAE values do not change significantly for values of  $n > 50$ . No measurement errors are considered in this WDS. In this case study, the performance indicators (AAE and AESD) are slightly modified, since these values are calculated for each node, and are not averaged over all non-measurement nodes (i.e. in equation (14) and (15), averaging over  $M$  is not considered).

#### **Scenario (i): Uncertainty in source concentration ( $C_0$ )**

NIR-EnKF is used for state estimation in this scenario. Fig.10 show the AAE (mg/L) for non-measurement nodes and tanks in the WDS. It can be observed that NIR-EnKF is able to estimate the chlorine concentration estimate of the network with an AAE accuracy of about 0.005 - 0.2 mg/L. It is observed that the AAE values at nodes upstream and downstream of valves and pumps were generally higher (AAE  $> 0.2$  mg/L) compared to the error estimates at other nodes. This is due to the hydraulic modelling constraint associated with the forward simulation model. In the forward simulation model adopted (EPANET) in this work, valves and pumps are modelled as network links without length, i.e. the nodes upstream and downstream of these links are hypothetical. Due to of this constraint, the variation in flow velocity across the valves and pumps, generates an estimate of chlorine concentration, which is higher than the actual value. All the remaining nodes have AAE value below 0.18 mg/L, and about 75% of the nodes have AAE value below 0.12 mg/L (Fig.10). AAE for chlorine

estimates at the tanks of this network were found to be below 0.2 mg/L for all the non-measurement tanks (Fig.10). This high level of accuracy might be due to a high measurement density with respect to tanks in the network. In Fig. 10, AAE values are presented only at the non-measurement nodes in the figure; Measurement nodes, and the nodes upstream and downstream of valves and pumps are not shown in the figure.

#### **Scenario (ii): Uncertainty in wall decay coefficient ( $k_w$ )**

IR-EnKF was used to estimate the water quality state under uncertainty in reaction coefficient for case study 2. The  $k_w$  parameters were zoned in the network according to the pipe age (dependent on the phase of development of the WDS). In this case study, IR-EnKF is able to estimate the chlorine concentration at the tanks and nodes of this network with an accuracy of  $\leq 0.2$  mg/L. Fig.11 shows the AAE for all the non-measurement nodes and tanks in the WDS (AAE values are not reported at the measurement nodes, and the nodes upstream and downstream of valves and pumps in the figure). It was observed that the number of nodes with AAE  $\sim 0.2$  mg/L is greater than the previous scenario. Frequent flow reversal occurs in many pipes in this WDS, which along with disparity in  $k_w$  value across the system contributed to a higher value of AAE in many nodes. As many as 36 nodes in the system have AAE values almost equal to 0.2 mg/L. More than 75% of the nodes in this system have AAE value below 0.18 mg/L and it was observed that the tank estimates for chlorine concentration are good and all the tanks have AAE  $< 0.2$  mg/L.

#### **Estimated Parameter Values**

The parameter values estimated at the end of the simulation are given in Table 5. The ensemble mean value of  $C_0$  was calculated to be 0.7534 mg/L. Mean value for  $k_{w2}$  and  $k_{w3}$  were: -0.7784 and -0.504 m/d respectively. The  $k_{w1}$  value for this case study was estimated to be lesser than the actual value, whereas,  $k_{w4}$  value was estimated to be higher than the actual

value. Frequent flow reversal happens in pipes in group 1 ( $k_{w1}$ ) and group 4 ( $k_{w4}$ ), and grouping of pipes solely based on the service age, are the reasons for this disparity between actual and estimated  $k_{w1}$  and  $k_{w4}$  values. The estimated values are compared with the steady state-inverse modelling study carried out by Munavalli and Mohan Kumar (2003) on an earlier version of the network, which had only Stage 1, 2 and 3. From these results it is concluded that the data assimilation method is able to achieve the same level of accuracy as that of inverse modelling.

## Summary and Conclusions

This work introduces a novel method for estimating chlorine concentration across a WDS in real time using data assimilation techniques. Two variants of the EnKF are studied and applied on two WDS. The major conclusions drawn from this study are stated in this section.

In this study, it was found that, the uncertainty in the source concentration can be dealt by both NIR-EnKF and IR-EnKF. However, the computational time required for NIR-EnKF method is lesser than IR-EnKF based data assimilation method.

It was found that, the non-linear relationship between the parameters and the measurements cannot be addressed with non-iterative data assimilation methods, hence IR-EnKF was more accurate than NIR-EnKF for data assimilation in presence of  $k_w$  uncertainty. For both the case studies, the data assimilation approach was able to accurately estimate the dynamic state and parameter of the system under different input parameter uncertainties-  $C_0$  uncertainty and  $k_w$  uncertainty.

The NIR-EnKF and IR-EnKF based data assimilation technique were able to reach the good output accuracy across Brushy plains network, for state estimation under uncertainty in  $C_0$  and  $k_w$ . Since case study 2 was developed in stages, , the pipes in the WDS were grouped based on wall reaction coefficients, to estimate accurate values of the chlorine concentrations

across the system. The results of this case study illustrate the capability of EnKF based assimilation methods to deal with system uncertainties irrespective of the size of the network. The limited sensitivity analysis carried out in this study showed the variation of model accuracy with the number and location of measurement nodes. For an in-depth understanding of the sensitivity of the number and location of measurements nodes on the data assimilation model, a detailed sensitivity analysis need to be carried out.

With regard to the field application of this method, the model output will be influenced by uncertainties in the hydraulic model of the system. Uncertainties related to the hydraulic model induces additional non-linearity, in the forward simulation model, hence, the output of the proposed data assimilation methods could become sub-optimal. Also, response of the data assimilation methods when the water quality reaction equation is of different order is not considered in this study. The data assimilation models will be sensitive to the order of water quality reactions, hence uncertainty in the order of reaction equation will also reduce the model accuracy. The results obtained in this paper could certainly be improved if these system constraints are also considered.

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725 **FIGURE CAPTIONS:**

726 Fig. 1. Schematic of Brushy plains WDS - Case study 1

727 Fig. 2. Schematic of Bangalore Inflow System - Case study 2 (with Tanks and Junction ID)

728 Fig. 3. MAPE for the case study 1 under  $C_0$  uncertainty [ $n$ : 20,  $m$ : 8]

729 Fig. 4: MAPE for the case study 1 under  $C_0$  uncertainty for  $m$ : 4 [ $n$ :20, using NIR-EnKF]

730 Fig. 5. MAPE for case study 1 under  $C_0$  uncertainty (a) different  $\alpha$  for measurement error[0.2  
731 mg/L]; (b) different  $\alpha$  for measurement noise [Gaussian]; [ $n$ :20 and  $m$ : 8, using NIR-EnKF]

732 Fig. 6. MAPE for case study 1 under  $k_w$  uncertainty [ $n$ : 20,  $m$ : 8]

733 Fig. 7. MAPE for case study 1 under  $k_w$  uncertainty, for  $m$ :4 [ $n$ : 20, using IR-EnKF]

734 Fig. 8. MAPE for case study 1 under  $k_w$  uncertainty (a) different  $\alpha$  for measurement error [  
735 0.2 mg/L]; (b) different  $\alpha$  for measurement noise [Gaussian]; [ $n$ :20 and  $m$ : 8, using IR-  
736 EnKF]

737 Fig.9. AAE plots for different  $m$  values ( case study 2 - under  $C_0$  uncertainty, using NIR-  
738 EnKF )

739 Fig. 10. AAE (mg/L) for non-measurement nodes and tanks in case study 2, using NIR-EnKF  
740 [ $n$ =50, $m$ =60]

741 Fig. 11. AAE (mg/L) for non-measurement nodes and tanks in case study 2, using IR-EnKF  
742 [ $n$ =50, $m$ =60]

## Tables

Table 1. Performance of EnKF algorithms for different scenarios where  $C_0$  is uncertain

| No. of Measurements | Method   | No. of Realizations, $n$ | AAE (mg/L) | AESD(mg/L) |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| 8                   | NIR-EnKF | 20                       | 0.071      | 0.159      |
|                     | NIR-EnKF | 50                       | 0.064      | 0.167      |
|                     | NIR-EnKF | 100                      | 0.06       | 0.17       |
| 8                   | IR-EnKF  | 20                       | 0.065      | 0.124      |
|                     | IR-EnKF  | 50                       | 0.058      | 0.126      |
|                     | IR-EnKF  | 100                      | 0.058      | 0.131      |
| 4-A                 | NIR-EnKF | 20                       | 0.078      | 0.173      |
|                     | NIR-EnKF | 50                       | 0.076      | 0.183      |
|                     | NIR-EnKF | 100                      | 0.069      | 0.181      |
| 4-B                 | NIR-EnKF | 20                       | 0.124      | 0.185      |
|                     | NIR-EnKF | 50                       | 0.112      | 0.192      |
|                     | NIR-EnKF | 100                      | 0.111      | 0.193      |

Table 2. Average Absolute Error (AAE (mg/L)) calculated for different scenarios and  $\alpha$  values for dealing with measurement ambiguity during data assimilation

| Parameter | $\alpha$ Value | Measurement error (AAE in mg/L) | Measurement noise (AAE in mg/L) |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| $C_0$     | 1              | 0.083                           | 0.239                           |
|           | 0.1            | 0.358                           | 0.375                           |
|           | 0.01           | 0.225                           | 0.2                             |
|           | 0.001          | 0.566                           | 0.334                           |
| $k_w$     | 1              | 0.063                           | 0.064                           |
|           | 0.1            | 0.07                            | 0.058                           |
|           | 0.01           | 0.138                           | 0.126                           |
|           | 0.001          | 0.078                           | 0.146                           |

757

Table 3. Performance of EnKF algorithms for different scenarios where  $k_w$  is uncertain

| No. of Measurements | Method   | No. of Realizations, $n$ | AAE (mg/L) | AESD(mg/L) |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| 8                   | NIR-EnKF | 20                       | 0.175      | 0.075      |
|                     | NIR-EnKF | 50                       | 0.157      | 0.08       |
|                     | NIR-EnKF | 100                      | 0.157      | 0.08       |
| 8                   | IR-EnKF  | 20                       | 0.056      | 0.075      |
|                     | IR-EnKF  | 50                       | 0.055      | 0.079      |
|                     | IR-EnKF  | 100                      | 0.054      | 0.08       |
| 4-A                 | IR-EnKF  | 20                       | 0.063      | 0.081      |
|                     | IR-EnKF  | 50                       | 0.06       | 0.082      |
|                     | IR-EnKF  | 100                      | 0.06       | 0.085      |
| 4-B                 | IR-EnKF  | 20                       | 0.08       | 0.101      |
|                     | IR-EnKF  | 50                       | 0.71       | 0.105      |
|                     | IR-EnKF  | 100                      | 0.69       | 0.107      |

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759

Table 4. Computed mean value of the parameters at the end of simulation for case study 1 (n:20) for different scenarios (Method inside the bracket is the method used for the parameter estimation)

760

| Parameter    | True Value | NIR-EnKF | IR-EnKF | Measurement set A (Method) | Measurement set B (Method) | Measurement Error (Method) | Measurement Noise (Method) | Literature (Inverse Modelling) |
|--------------|------------|----------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $C_0$ (mg/L) | 1.15       | 1.124    | 1.087   | 1.147<br>(NIR-EnKF)        | 1.297<br>(NIR-EnKF)        | 1.169<br>(NIR-EnKF)        | 1.131<br>(NIR-EnKF)        | Not Available                  |
| $k_w$ (m/d)  | -0.3       | -1.538   | -0.272  | -0.211<br>(IR-EnKF)        | -0.347<br>(IR-EnKF)        | -0.228<br>(IR-EnKF)        | -0.276<br>(IR-EnKF)        | -0.365*                        |

761

\*Munavalli and Kumar, 2005

762

Table 5. Computed mean value of the parameters at the end of simulation for case study 2 (n:50) for different scenarios

763

| Parameter | Unit | Observed Value | Computed Ensemble Mean | Inverse Modelling |
|-----------|------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| $C_0$     | mg/L | 0.75           | 0.753                  | 0.71 <sup>#</sup> |
| $k_{w1}$  | m/d  | -1             | -0.842                 | -1.1066*          |
| $k_{w2}$  | m/d  | -0.75          | -0.766                 | -0.7993*          |
| $k_{w3}$  | m/d  | -0.5           | -0.503                 | -0.4924*          |
| $k_{w4}$  | m/d  | -0.25          | -0.327                 | Not Available     |

764

\*Munavalli and Kumar, 2003

765

<sup>#</sup> Munavalli, 2002

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767

Figure 1

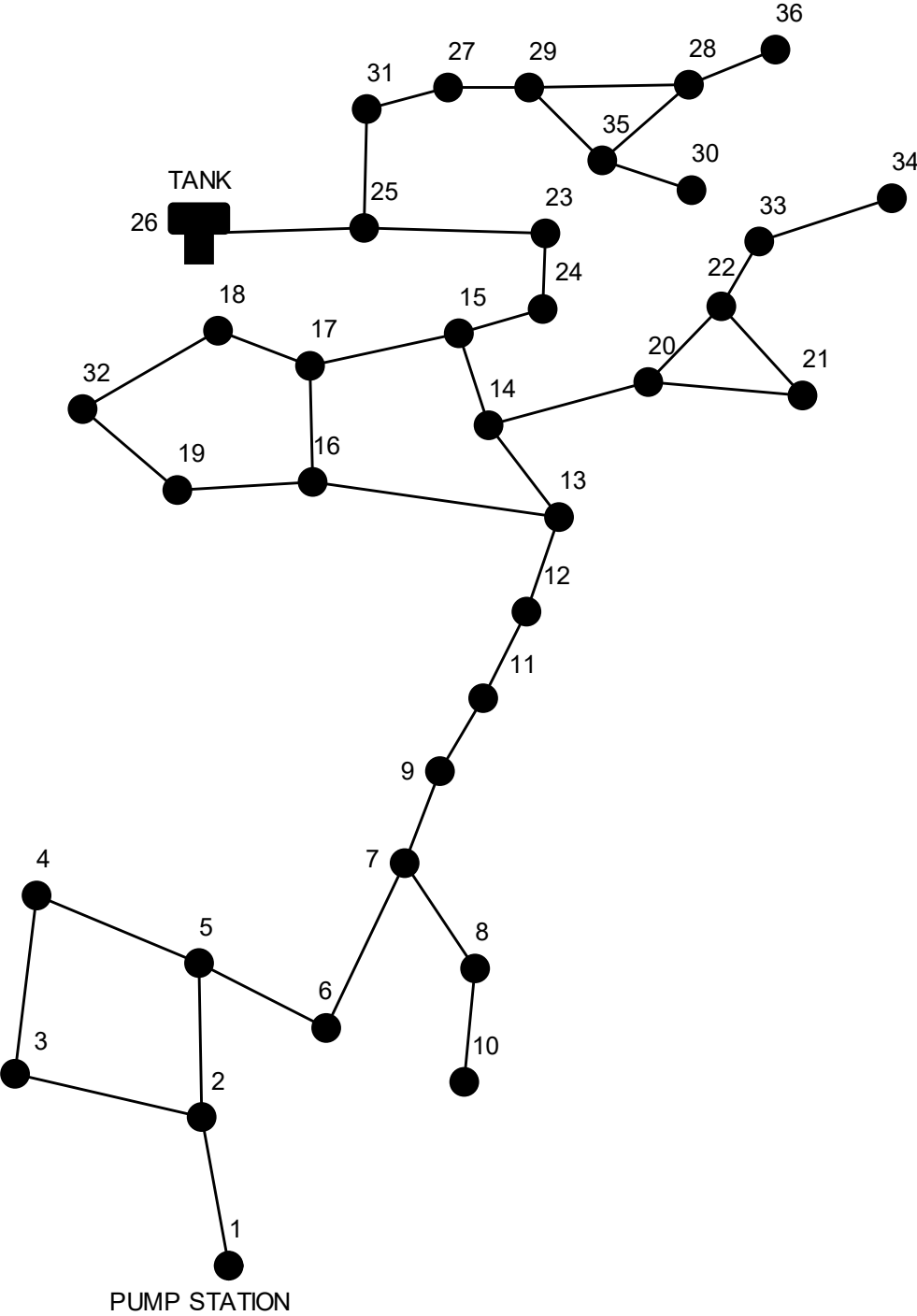


Figure 2

[Click here to access/download;Figure;Figure 2.pdf](#)

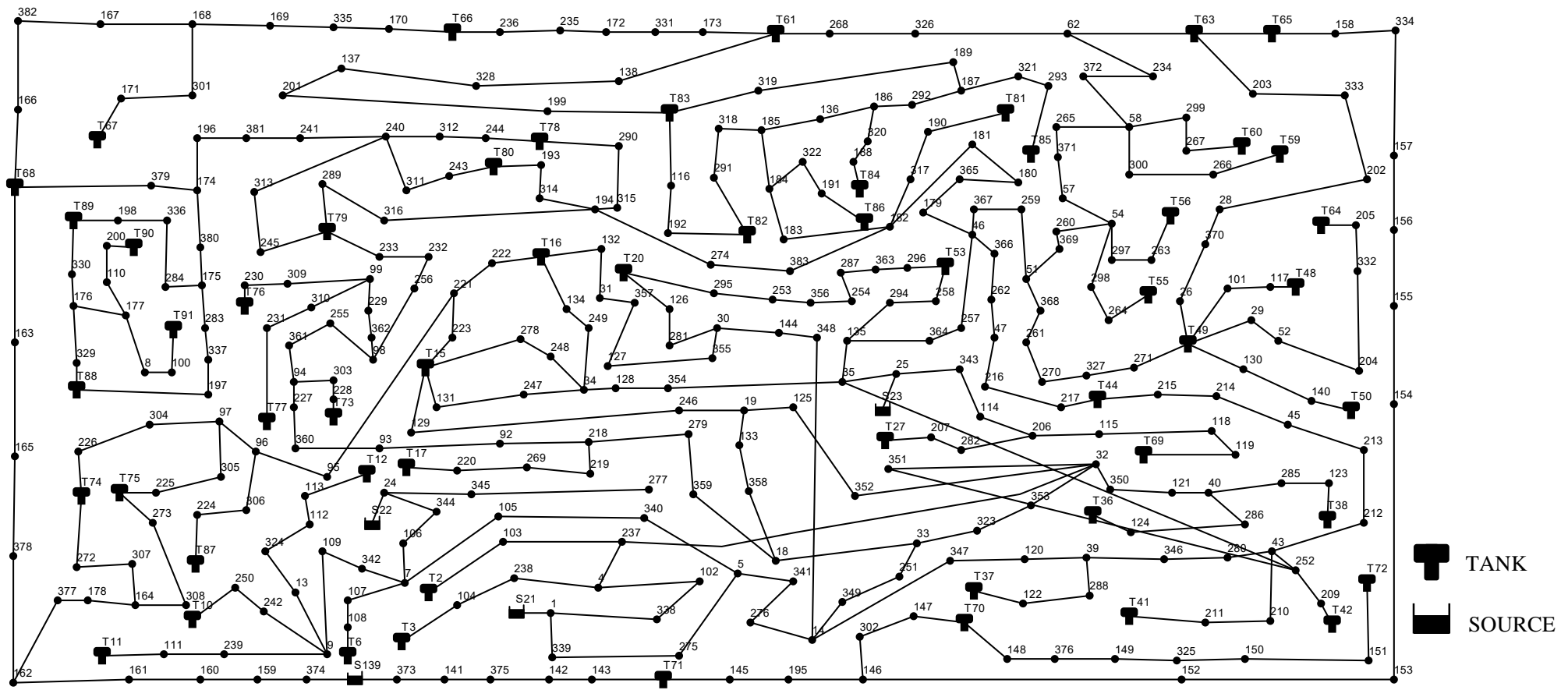


Figure 3

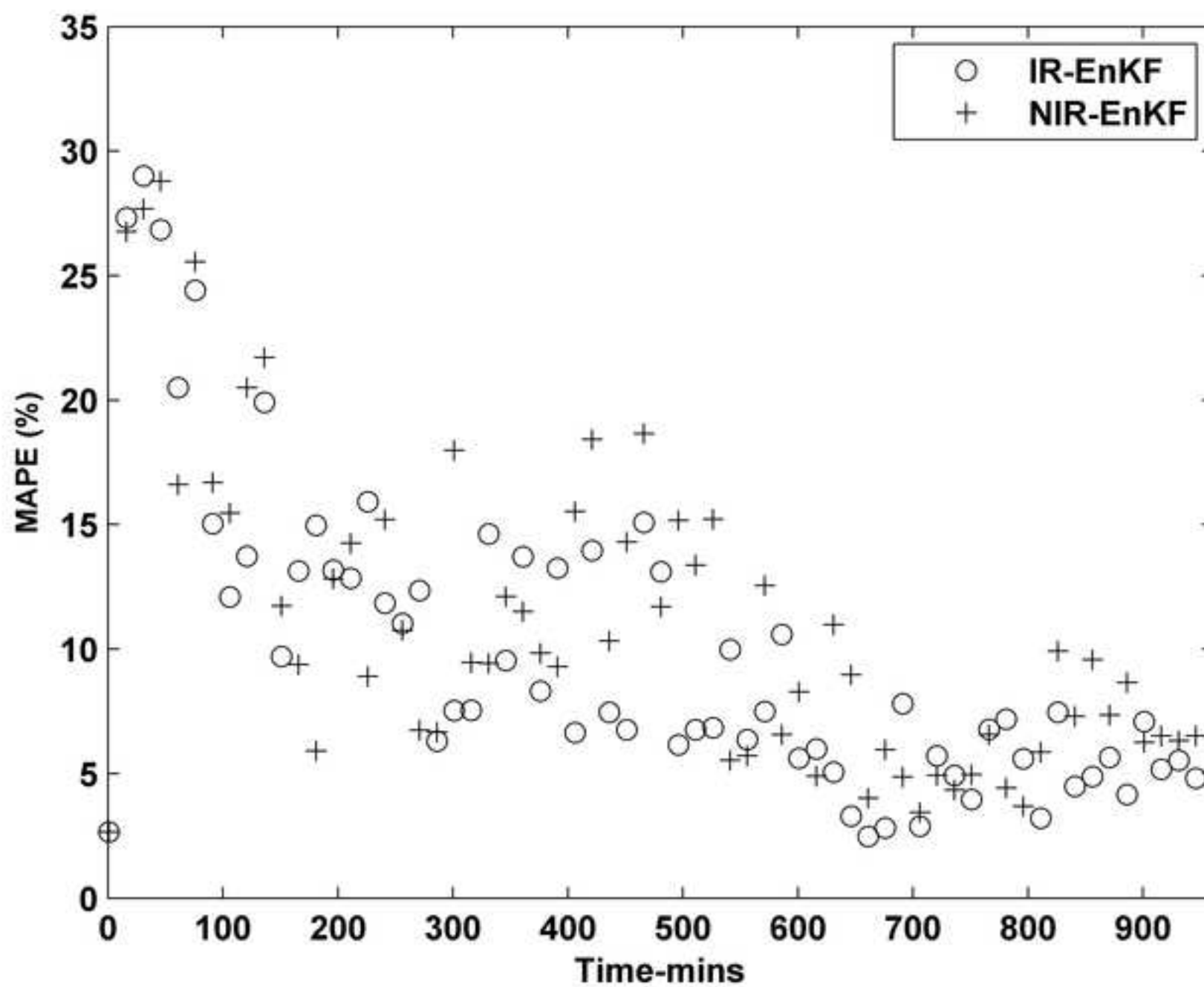


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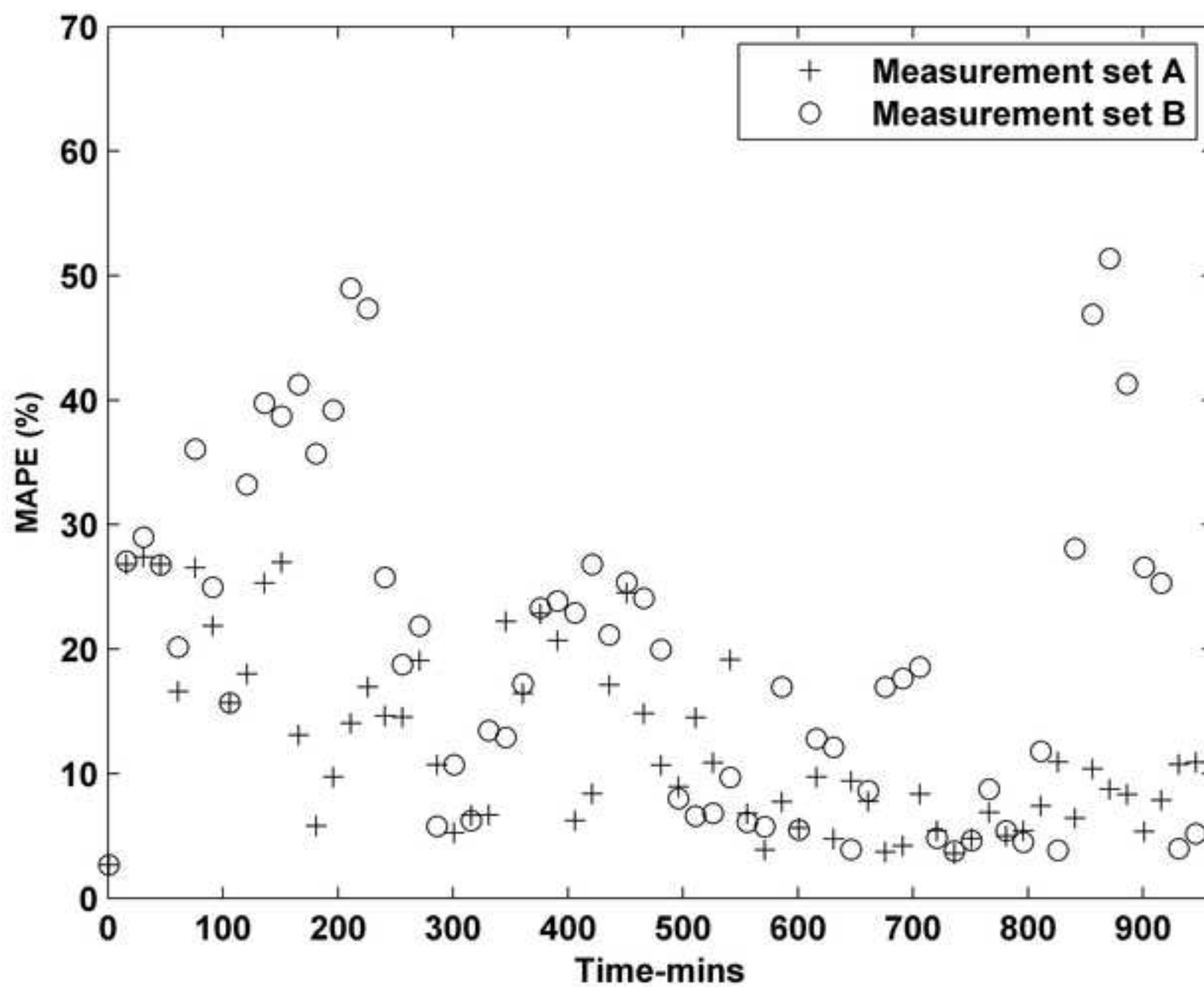


Figure 5

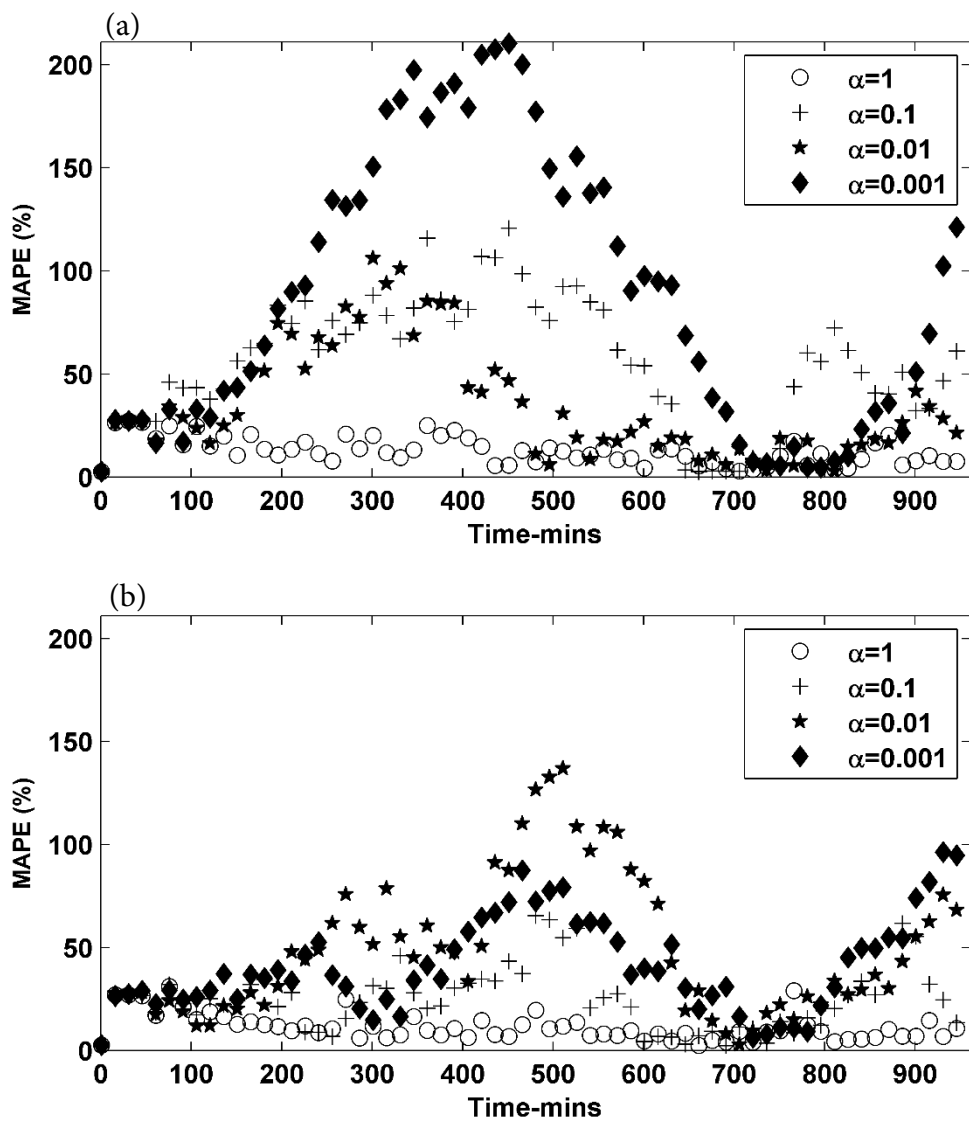




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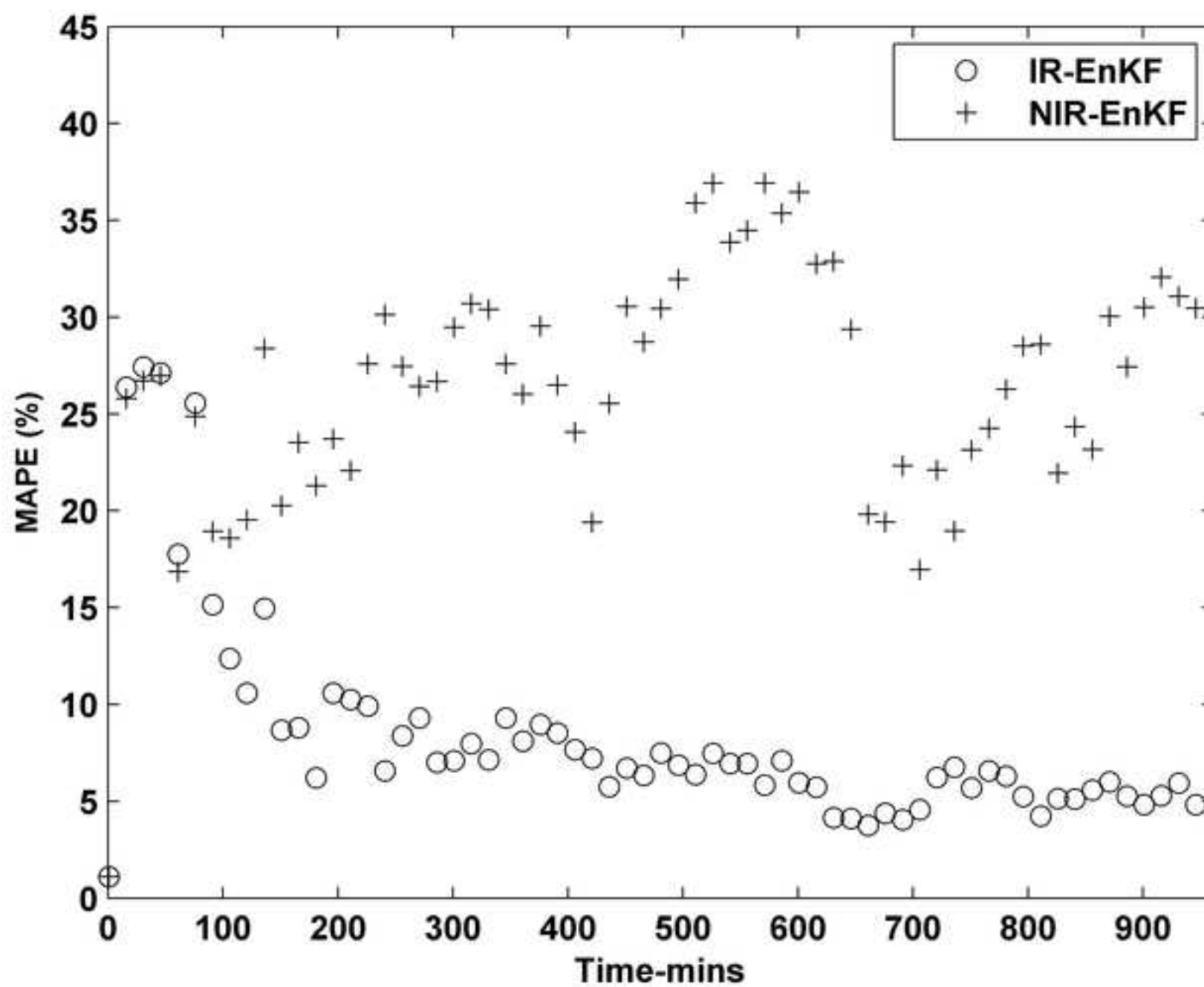


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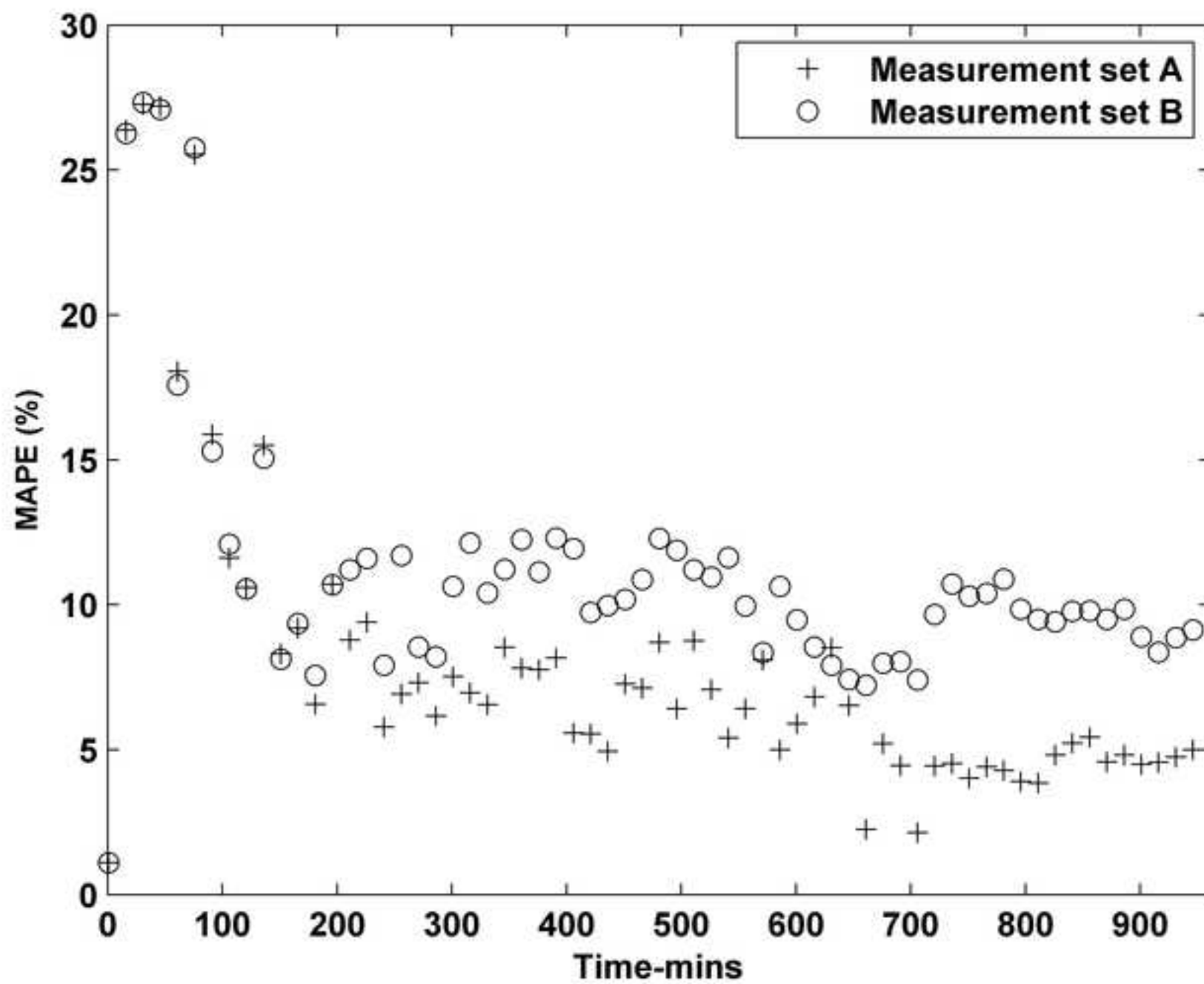
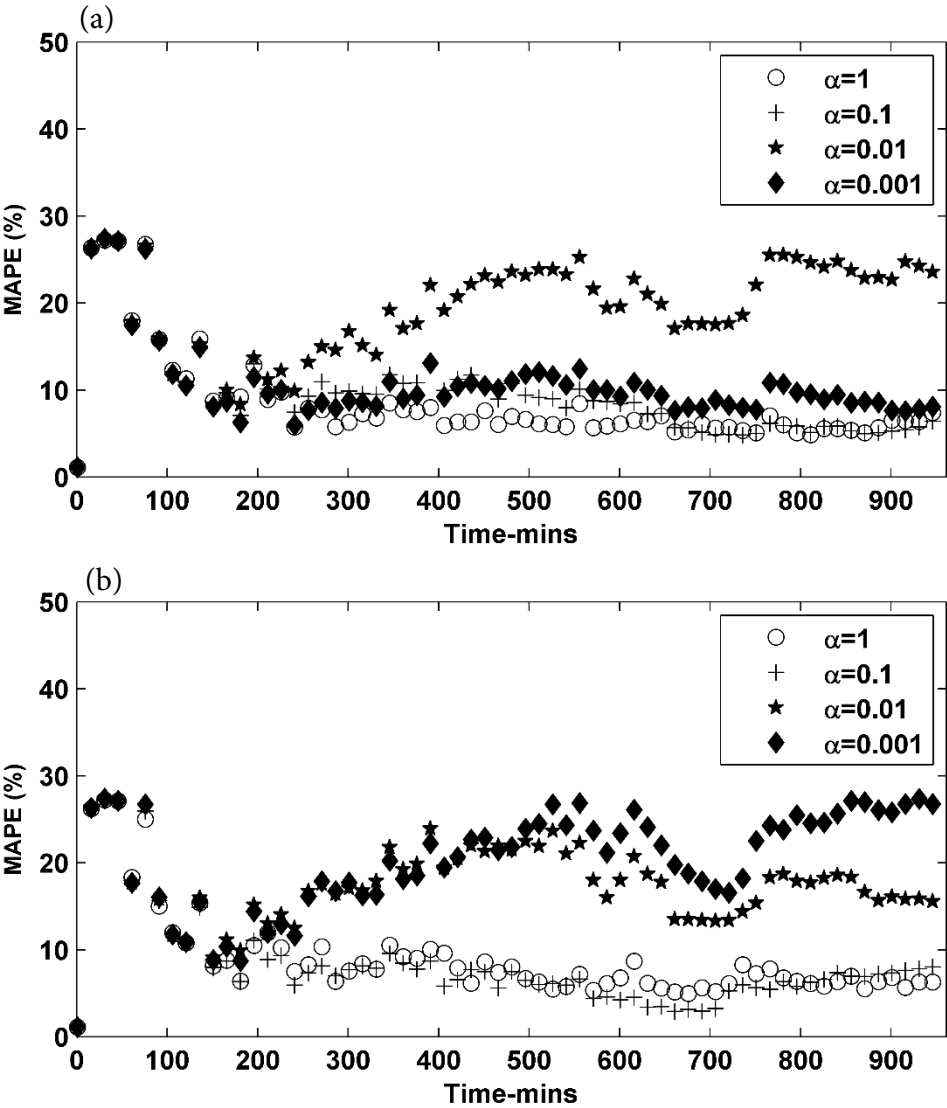


Figure 8



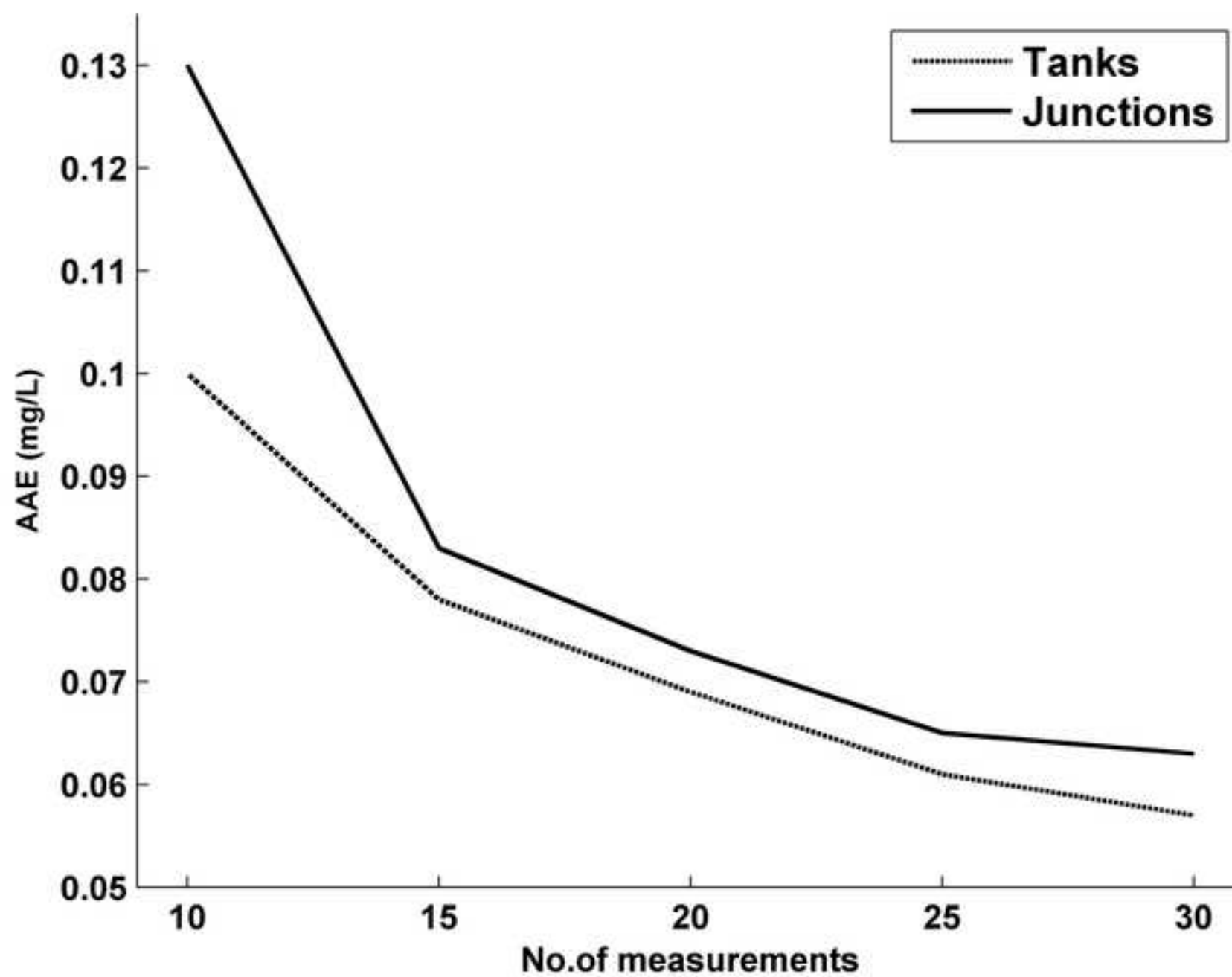


Figure 10

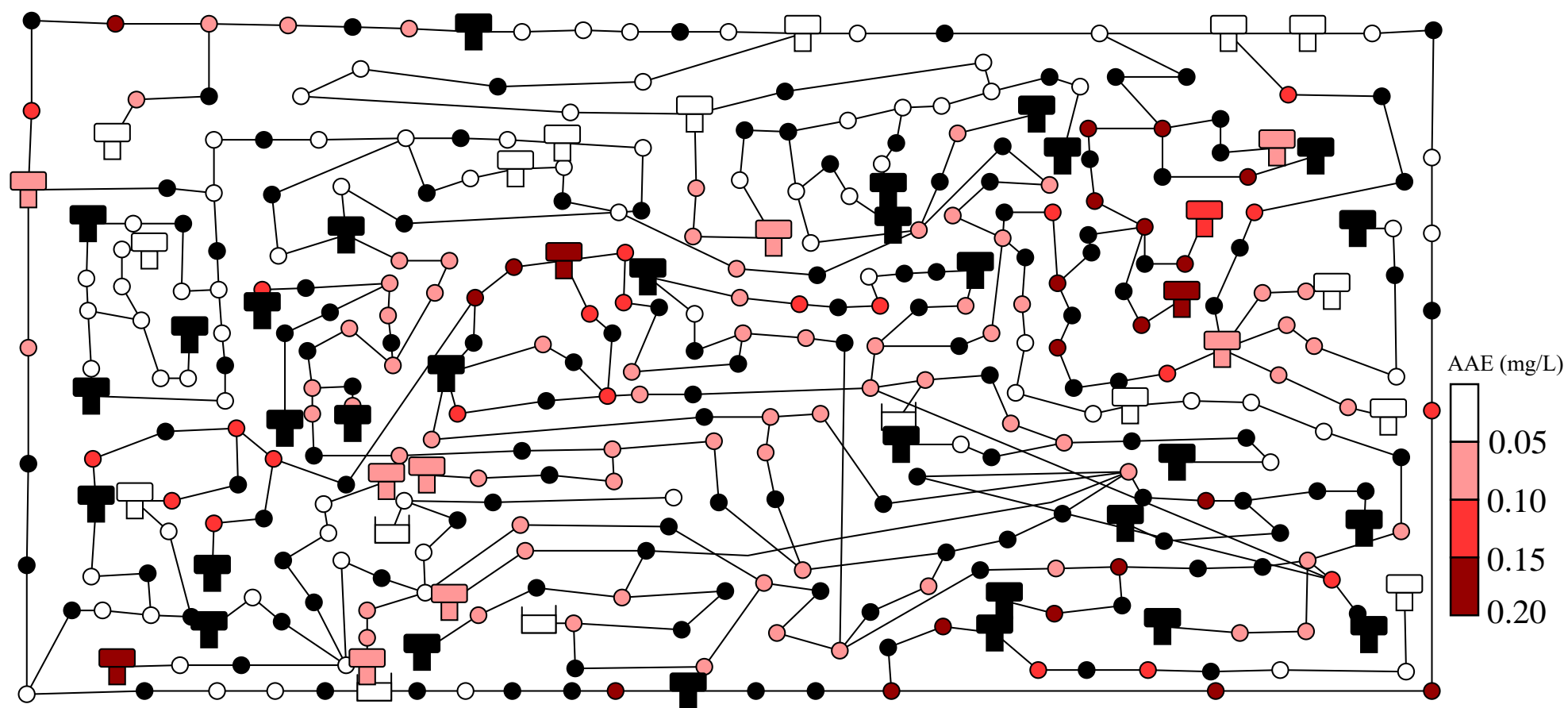


Figure 11

