# Supporting Information Decomposing Bulk Electrical Conductivity of Streamflow to Recover Individual Solute Concentrations at High Frequency

Paolo Benettin<sup>\*,†</sup> and Boris M. van Breukelen<sup>‡</sup>

*†Laboratory of Ecohydrology ENAC/IIE/ECHO, École Polytechinque Fédérale de Lausanne, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland.* 

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Water Management, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Delft University of Technology, 2628 CN Delft, The Netherlands.

E-mail: paolo.benettin@epfl.ch

Phone: +41 21 69 33773

### Contents

S1 ]	Introduction to the Supporting Information material	S-3
S2 ]	Implementing main equations relating EC to ion concentration	S-3
S31	Upper Hafren water quality dataset: data source, selection and prepara	L <b>-</b>
t	tion	S-5
<b>S</b> 4 ]	Details of the application to the Upper Hafren dataset	S-7
C k	S4.1 Measured and computed EC	S-7
C k	S4.2 Coefficients $a_i$	S-7
C N	S4.3 Weights $f_i$ and interpolation error $\ldots \ldots \ldots$	S-9
ç	S4.4 Solute concentration estimates for all ions	S-11
S51	Linear regressions between EC and solute concentration	8–15
C h	S5.1 Ordinary regressions with EC for Cl and Na	S-15
C h	S5.2 Comparisons between the proposed methodology and linear regressions $\ldots$	S-16
S6 ]	PHREEQC input file	5–18
Ref	erences	5–23

# S1 Introduction to the Supporting Information material

The Supporting Information material includes theoretical and operational details to compute the electrical conducticity (EC) of an aqueous solution starting from the mass concentration of the dissolved species. Files and instructions for the implementation of the main equations using the software PHREEQC, as well as details on the Upper Hafren (UHF) data preparation, are here provided.

# S2 Implementing main equations relating EC to ion concentration

The set of equations used to represent EC as the sum of different ion species can be easily implemented in any programming software. The use of a specific geochemical program, however, can be convenient as useful chemical properties (e.g., the electrochemical activity coefficient) and elementary operations (like the charge balance) are typically built-in. For this reason, we implemented all model equations using the free software PHREEQC (version 3.3.8), which is a general purpose geochemical model made available for free by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). PHREEQC has a built-in function to calculate the electrical conductivity (or Specific Conductance) of a solution at a given temperature from the specified concentrations, the calculated activity coefficients, and the given diffusion coefficients of all the charged species. The methodology is described in the PHREEQC version 3 manual<sup>1</sup>, in more detail at http://www.hydrochemistry.eu/exmpls/sc.html, and it is briefly summarized here.

EC is computed by PHREEQC as (main text, equation (1)):

$$EC = \sum_{i} \left( \Lambda_m^0 \, m \, \gamma_{EC} \right) \tag{S1}$$

where for each solute species:  $\Lambda_m^0$  is the molar conductivity [S/m/(mol/m<sup>3</sup>)], *m* is the molar concentration [mol/m<sup>3</sup>], and  $\gamma_{EC}$  [-] is the electrochemical activity coefficient.

The molar conductivity of a solute species and its diffusion coefficient are related by

$$\Lambda_m^0 = \frac{z^2 F^2}{RT} D_w \tag{S2}$$

where z is the charge number [-], F is Faraday's constant (96485.33289 Coulomb/mol), R is the gas constant (8.3144621 J/°K/mol), T is the absolute temperature [°K], and  $D_w$  the diffusion coefficient [m<sup>2</sup>/s] of the solute species. The diffusion coefficient is corrected for the given temperature with:

$$(D_w)_T = (D_w)_{298} \cdot (T/298) \cdot (\eta_{298}/\eta_T)$$
(S3)

where  $\eta$  is the viscosity of water. To remove the temperature effect on  $\Lambda^0$  and  $\gamma_{EC}$ , EC measurements are typically reported at the standard temperature of 25°C (EC<sub>2</sub>5).

The electrochemical activity coefficient of a solute species,  $\gamma_{EC}$ , is related to the Debye-Hückel activity coefficient, $\gamma_{DH}$ , and is calculated by PHREEQC for an ionic strength I < 0.36|z| as:

$$\log(\gamma_{EC}) = \log(\gamma_{DH}) \frac{0.6}{|z|^{0.5}} \tag{S4}$$

Equations (S1-S4) were manually implemented for each individual solute in the PHREEQC input file *compute\_EC* reported in section S6. The file only needs to be filled with solute concentrations and it is set to create two output tables: *output\_a.dat*, which includes the chemical coefficients  $a_i = \Lambda^0 \gamma_{EC} / M [(\mu S/cm) / (mg/L)]$ , where M is the solute molar mass; and *output\_EC.dat*, which includes  $EC_i$  for each individual solute and can be used to evaluate the individual solute contribution  $f_i$ . Further details about input and output data are provided directly within the file. The application to the UHF dataset is described below.

# S3 Upper Hafren water quality dataset: data source, selection and preparation

The Upper Hafren (UHF) dataset is part of the Plynlimon high-frequency water quality dataset<sup>2,3</sup>, which includes 7-hour frequency grab samples of precipitation and streamflow for the Hafren catchment (mid-Wales). Data were collected in the period 2007-2009 and comprise more than 40 elements. It is to be noted that water quality parameters as pH, EC (at  $25^{\circ}$ C) and Gran Alkalinity were measured in the lab (and not in the field) for the same 7-hour frequency samples as all other elements (although measurements were done on unfiltered samples for these parameters). The complete dataset can be downloaded through the data portal of the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, together with metadata about field and analytical methods. For the analyses, we selected UHF data over the period 04/12/2007 12:00 - 27/01/2009 05:00, to avoid major gaps in EC measurements. The major solute species selected for the analysis were: sodium  $(Na^+)$ , calcium  $(Ca^{2+})$ , magnesium  $(Mg^{2+})$ , potassium  $(K^+)$ , chloride  $(Cl^-)$ , sulphate  $(SO_4^{2-})$  and nitrate  $(NO_3^-)$ . Further, H<sup>+</sup> concentration was derived from pH [-] and  $HCO_3^-$  was computed from speciation calculation with Gran Alkalinity  $[\mu Eq/l]$ , pH, and main ions as input. Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) could contribute to Gran Alkalinity<sup>4</sup>, but we expect its part to be small in this catchment as negative Gran Alkalinities in half of the samples could largely be explained by pH and did not point to a DOC contribution. Some large gaps in the Gran Alkalinity dataset were filled through a linear regression with pH, where available (Figure S1). Such an approximation, although rough, is better than assuming a fixed value for the missing Gran Alkalinity and it allows extending EC computations to a much larger number of samples. Samples with missing values of EC, pH,  $SO_4^{2-}$ , Cl<sup>-</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, or Mg<sup>2+</sup> (total amount 188) were disregarded for the analyses. A final number of 1252 samples was hence used in the computations. The mean values of major ions, pH, Gran Alkalinity and EC are reported in Table S1.

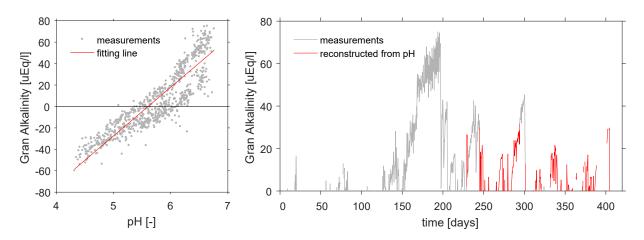


Figure S1: Reconstruction of missing Gran Alkalinity values (right panel) through a regression with pH (left panel). Only positive Gran Alkalinity values are reported in the plot, as bicarbonates become negligible for negative alkalinity values. Regression line is  $Alk = 43 \cdot pH - 235$ , coefficient of determination R<sup>2</sup>=0.78. Total number of reconstructed (positive) Alkalinity values is 185. Alkalinity could not be computed on the 188 samples where a pH value was missing.

variable	mean value
$Na^+ (mg/l)$	3.28
$Ca^{2+}$ (mg/l)	0.48
$Mg^{2+}$ (mg/l)	0.56
$K^+ (mg/l)$	0.12
$Cl^{-} (mg/l)$	5.54
$SO_4^{2-}$ (mg/l)	1.97
$NO_3^-$ (mg/l)	0.15
рН (-)	5.66
Gran Alkalinity ( $\mu Eq/l$ )	3.57
EC ( $\mu$ S/cm)	29.06

Table S1: Mean values of the measured variables used in the analyses

### S4 Details of the application to the Upper Hafren dataset

The prepared UHF dataset was inserted into the PHREEQC input file to compute EC for each individual solute in the solution. All the computations are done for the standard temperature of 25°C.

#### S4.1 Measured and computed EC

EC obtained from the implementation of equation (S1) is compared to the measured values in Figure S2. The result is generally accurate, with 95% of the errors within  $\pm 10\%$  and 66% of the error within  $\pm 5\%$ . The mean error is slightly negative (-3%), reflecting that some minor elements that can contribute EC may have not been accounted for, but their contribution is rather limited as the 9 major elements are able to cover, on average, 97% of EC. It is worth noting that the UHF stream presents rather challenging conditions for EC estimation as it is a dilute, low-conductivity system with acidic conditions during high flows. The overall correct representation of the measured EC signal indicates that solute contributions to EC computed through equation (S1) are generally appropriate. Local inaccuracies like the errors around day 50 are likely related to the low pH conditions (<5) which make the relationship between H<sup>+</sup> and EC more complicated. In these conditions, it was shown<sup>5</sup> that equation (S1) may overestimate the actual contribution of H<sup>+</sup> to EC, but the contributions of the other ions, which are the main focus of our approach, are not affected.

#### S4.2 Coefficients $a_i$

The coefficients  $a_i$  were directly taken from the generated PHREEQC output files. Such coefficients can vary with time because  $\Lambda_m^0$  and  $\gamma_{EC}$  can change in time. The former does not change in our case because all computations are referred to a fixed temperature of 25°C. The latter, instead, changes with the Ionic strength I of the solution ( $\gamma_{EC}$  decreases for increasing I), but as the total ion concentration has little changes in the observed timeseries

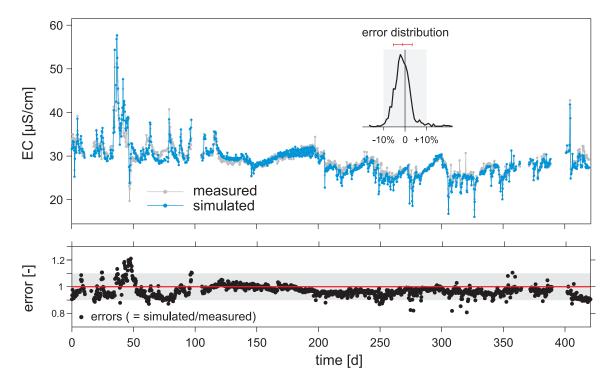


Figure S2: Top: comparison between EC computed through equation (S1) and measured EC on the 7-hour Upper Hafren dataset. The inset shows the error distribution, with the red bar indicating the mean and the standard deviation of the distribution. Bottom: timeseries of simulation errors expressed as  $EC_{simul}/EC_{meas}$ .

(as typically in natural fresh water systems), I and hence  $\gamma_{EC}$  have very little variations. Therefore, the coefficients  $a_i$  only have minor variations in time, as illustrated in Figure S3.

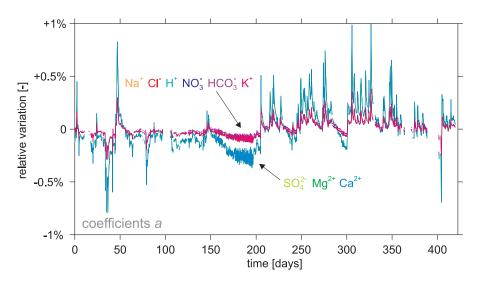


Figure S3: Relative variations of the coefficients a with respect to their mean. Maximum variations are roughly  $\pm 1\%$ . Ions with absolute charge 2 have slightly larger variations with respect to ions with unitary absolute charge. Although all coefficients are plotted, some are not visible because of almost perfect overlappings.

#### S4.3 Weights $f_i$ and interpolation error

For the 9 major ions, the weights  $f_i$  are computed as the ratio between  $EC_i$  (computed from equation (S1) and the measured EC signal. For this reason, the sum of the weights  $f_i$  can be different from 1 according to the error on EC estimation (Figure S2, lower panel). As the different contributions  $EC_i$  are evaluated independently from one another, the weights can be computed for the available measured ions even if other ion's concentrations are missing. The only consequence in this case is that one cannot verify the overall accuracy of equation (S1) in simulating the measured EC.

The weights analysis for the complete UHF dataset is described in the main text (Section Proof of Concept). Here, we investigate the error of the weights  $f_i$  arising from a linear interpolation of low-frequency subsamples of  $f_i$ . Figure S4 shows, for each ion, the "true"

value of the weight (as obtained from high-frequency measurements) and the estimate from the linear interpolation of biweekly samples. As the UHF dataset includes 7-hour samples, biweekly subsamples are obtained by selecting 1 every 48 samples, hence they always occur at the same time of the day (which depends on the choice of the first extracted sample). Occasionally, 3-week subsamples were considered if the biweekly samples corresponded to a missing value (as this is what happens in real field conditions). The relative error of the interpolation was evaluated by taking the relative difference between the true and the interpolated value (Figure S5). For Cl, Na, Mg, SO<sub>4</sub> and Ca, the error timeseries is rather similar in shape but differs in magnitude. Solutes with higher contributions to EC like Cl and Na tend to have lower relative errors. For example, the mean absolute error for Cl or Na is about 3 times lower than for Ca.

The computed weights can be used to obtain solute concentraion estimates at high frequency (main text equation (4)). By further developing equation (4), one can explicitly account for the error in the estimation of the term  $f_i(t)/a_i(t)$ :

$$C_i(t) = EC(t) \left[ \frac{f_i(t)}{a_i(t)} \right]_{est.} = EC(t) \left[ \frac{f_i(t)}{a_i(t)} \right]_{true} + EC(t) \left[ \frac{f_i(t)}{a_i(t)} \right]_{err}$$
(S5)

and by indicating with  $r_e$  the relative error on  $f_i(t)/a_i(t)$  one gets:

$$C_{i}(t) = (1 + r_{e}) EC(t) \left[\frac{f_{i}(t)}{a_{i}(t)}\right]_{true} = (1 + r_{e}) C_{i,true}$$
(S6)

As shown in Section S4.2, the coefficients  $a_i$  only have minor fluctuations, so the error on  $f_i$  directly transfers to the error on concentration estimate  $C_i$ . Therefore, solutes that are likely to be better estimated using EC are those with the more predictable weights  $f_i$ . This sets a first criterion to identify the solutes that can be better quantified with the EC-aided methodology. Weights are more predictable if their contribution is stable in time, e.g., when they have low *relative* variability. Weight variability arises when a solute behaves differently from EC, i.e., when it behaves differently from the ensemble of the other solutes.

At UHF, solutes tend to have a contrasting behavior during acidic conditions at high flows, where positive concentration peaks occur in H<sup>+</sup>, but mostly negative peaks occur in other solutes' concentration. During these occurrences, most solutes get diluted more than EC (indeed, because of the H<sup>+</sup> increase), hence the ratio  $f_i = EC_i/EC$  is characterized by sudden depressions (Figure 1, especially around days 150-200). This example suggests a potential in using pH estimates, either using relationships with flow or by deploying highfrequency sensors, to achieve better estimates of the weight variability (and, in turn, of solute concentration).

#### S4.4 Solute concentration estimates for all ions

The weights interpolated starting from biweekly measurements are here combined with highfrequency EC measurements (main text, equation 4) to provide solute concentration at high frequency. Results are reported for all ions in Figure S6. For solutes with lower weightinterpolation errors (like Cl and Na) the proposed approach is able to accurately reproduce most of the measured high-frequency solute dynamics. The period between day 0-100 is particularly illustrative because it shows that even when starting from a linear estimation of the weights  $f_i$ , the prediction can correctly reproduce the high-frequency fluctuations of the concentration signal as they are embedded in the EC signal. During such periods, the contribution of chloride and sodium to EC is rather stable (Figure S4), hence the weights could be well approximated by a linear interpolation. The estimate is instead less accurate where the contribution to EC has large fluctuations, as around days 200-250. For solutes with low contributions to EC (Ca, NO<sub>3</sub>, K, HCO<sub>3</sub>) the approach provides, as expected, a poor performance because the interpolation error on  $f_i$  is high. For solutes that are in an intermediate position (like Mg and SO<sub>4</sub>, with average weights  $\langle f_{Mg} \rangle \approx 8\%$  and  $\langle f_{SO_4} \rangle \approx 11\%$ ) the model can reproduce some high-frequency peaks, but it also misses the solute behavior in some other events, hence the overall model error is not significantly better than the simple interpolation of measured concentrations.

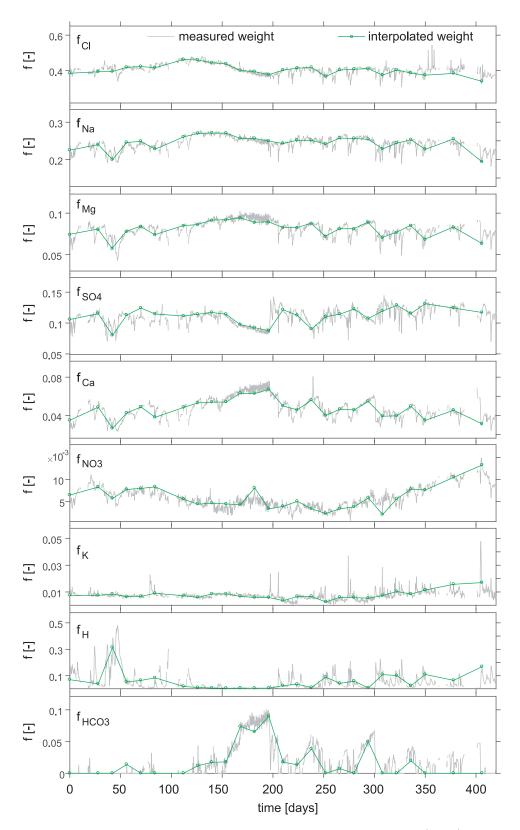


Figure S4: Weights  $f_i$  computed from high-frequency measurements (grey) and from interpolation of biweekly measurements (green).

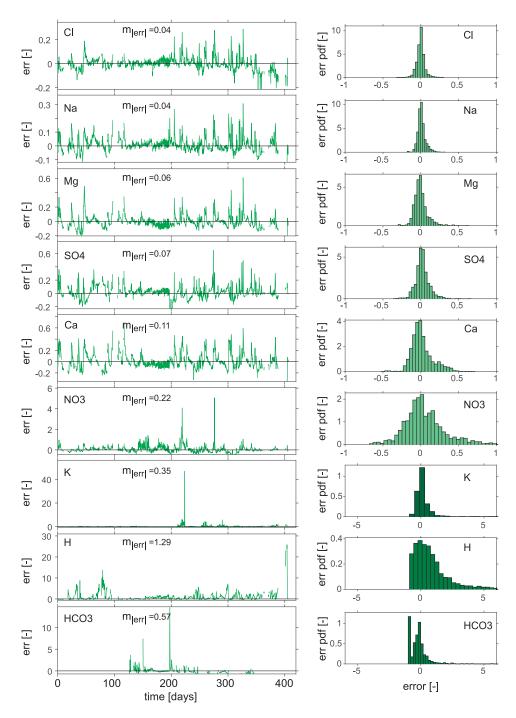


Figure S5: Weight interpolation errors, computed as the relative difference between the true and the interpolated values. Error timeseries (left) and error distribution (right). The color used for the error distribution of K, H and  $HCO_3$  is darker to highlight that the x-axis is different.

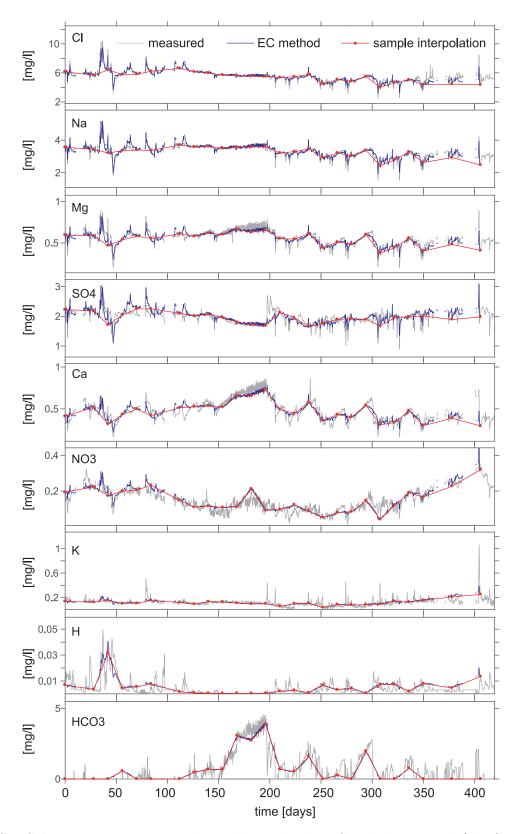


Figure S6: Solute concentration predicted through the EC-aided approach (blue) compared to high-frequency measured values (grey) and linear interpolation of biweekly measured values (red).

# S5 Linear regressions between EC and solute concentration

#### S5.1 Ordinary regressions with EC for Cl and Na

Estimates of solute concentration obtained from a linear regression with EC are useful to understand and assess the performance of the EC-aided methodology. For chloride and sodium measured at UHF, we computed least-square linear regressions of the kind:

$$C(t) = p_1 EC(t) + p_0 \tag{S7}$$

where concentrations are expressed in [mg/l] and EC in  $[\mu S/cm]$ . The regression lines are plotted in Figure S7 and the regression coefficients are reported in Table S2.

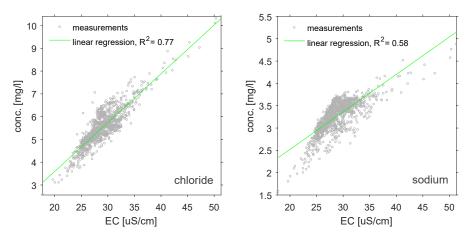


Figure S7: Regression plots for chloride (left) and sodium (right)

Table S2: Regression coefficients for chloride and sodium

	$p_1$	$p_0$
chloride	0.214	-0.69
$\operatorname{sodium}$	0.084	0.84

# S5.2 Comparisons between the proposed methodology and linear regressions

Linear regressions can be further investigated to understand the relationship between the weights  $f_i$  resulting from EC decomposition and the slope of the regression line. When the intercept  $(p_0)$  of the regression is close to zero, the slope  $(p_1)$  tends to approximate the 'zero-intercept' regression line, i.e., the regression line which is forced to pass by the axis origin:

$$C(t) = m EC(t) \tag{S8}$$

where the slope m can be expressed analytically as:

$$m = \frac{\sum_{k} C_k E C_k}{\sum_{k} E C_k^2} \tag{S9}$$

with the summation spanning all the available k samples for which both EC and C are known. Equation (S8) recalls main text equation 4, which reads:

$$C_i(t) = \frac{f_i(t)}{a_i(t)} EC(t)$$
(S10)

and by expressing g(t) = f(t)/a(t), equation (S10) can be reformulated as:

$$C(t) = g(t) EC(t) = \bar{g} EC(t) + g'(t) EC(t)$$
(S11)

where  $\bar{g}_i$  is the mean of g(t) and  $g'(t) = g(t) - \bar{g}$  are the deviations from the mean. The question is then how *m* is related to  $\bar{g}$ . If we substitute eq. (S11) into eq. (S9) we obtain:

$$m = \frac{\sum_{k} \bar{g} E C_{k}^{2}}{\sum_{k} E C_{k}^{2}} + \frac{\sum_{k} g_{k}' E C_{k}^{2}}{\sum_{k} E C_{k}^{2}}$$
(S12)

which simplifies into:

$$m = \bar{g} + \frac{\sum_{k} g'_{k} E C_{k}^{2}}{\sum_{k} E C_{k}^{2}}$$
(S13)

Equation (S13) shows that when the fluctuations in g are poorly correlated to  $EC^2$ , then  $\bar{g}$  tends to coincide with the slope of the zero-intercept regression line.

At UHF, the correlation between g' and  $EC^2$  is poor for both Cl and Na, causing  $\bar{g}$  and m to only differ by a factor of  $10^{-4}$ . Hence, the use of a constant, mean weight  $f_i$  in equation (S10) is equivalent to approximating solute concentration through a zero-intercept linear regression with EC. Further, as for both Cl and Na the intercept of the linear regression is rather close to zero, the use of mean  $f_i$  is very similar to a 'classic' linear regression. Results from both regressions are plotted against measurements in Figure S8. Mean absolute errors for classic and zero-intercept regressions are 5.23% and 5.33% respectively for chloride and 5.59% and 5.77% for sodium. This line of reasoning shows that in some circumstances linear

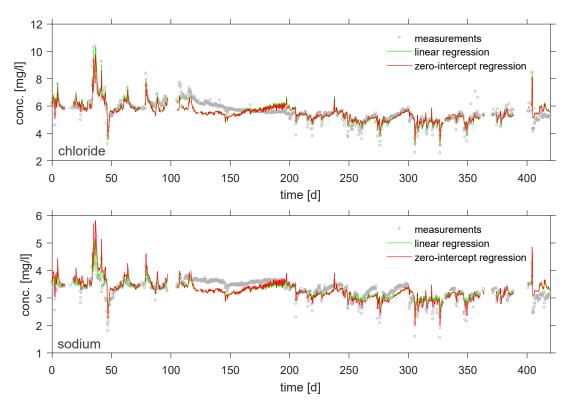


Figure S8: Measured and estimated solute concentrations for chloride (top) and sodium (bottom) obtained from a classic linear regression and from a zero-intercept linear regression.

regressions can be seen as a special case of the proposed EC approach (equation (S10)) where, instead of time-variable weights  $f_i(t)$ , the long-term mean value is used.

### S6 PHREEQC input file

The following PHREEQC input file was used in the computations of EC,  $EC_i$  and a:

DATABASE C:\Program Files (x86)\USGS\Phreeqc Interactive 3.3.9-11951\database\phreeqc.dat # DATABASE (insert here the path to phreeqc.dat file, e.g. C:\Program Files\...\database\ phreeqc.dat)

#### ######

- # PHREEQC file to compute the Electrical Conductivity (EC) of the individual ion species
   of a solution
- # Input chemical analytes are to be inserted in the SOLUTION\_SPREAD block

# Outputs are printed to file according to SELECTED\_OUTPUT and USER\_PUNCH blocks

# by Boris van Breukelen and Paolo Benettin, April 2017

#### ######

- # note: default units are here set to mg/l, but variations for individual elements can be specified (see Alkalinity below)

# note: default temperature is 25 degrees C

# note: a "description" column with IDs (e.g. A1, A2,.. An) is required.

- # note: headings needs to respect PHREEQC standard: NO3- is N(5), SO4-2 is S(6)
- # note: gram formula weight has to be specified for nitrate if mass units are grams of NO3
- # note: empty entries are allowed and considered as zero concentration or missing values

#### SOLUTION\_SPREAD

-units mg/l

#-----Description pH Alkalinity N(5) S(6) Cl Na Mg K Ca ueq/l gfw 62 A1 5.10 -17.10 0.123 1.22 7.15 3.96 0.682 0.09 0.521 # A2 etc # ... # An etc SELECTED\_OUTPUT 1 # this block allows writing an output file. Here we print the result of EC computation -reset false # avoid printing default output -file output\_EC.dat # output file name USER\_PUNCH 1 # print user-defined quantities to the selected\_output file -headings Sample\_ID EC\_tot EC\_majel EC\_error[%] EC\_H EC\_Ca EC\_C1 EC\_K EC\_NO3 EC\_Na EC\_Mg EC\_SO4 EC\_HCO3 charge\_error [%] -start # define some useful constant for the computations 10 F = 96485.33289 # C per mol 20 R = 8.3144621 # J per K per mol  $30 \text{ ff1} = 0.6 / 1^{\circ}0.5 \# \text{ group together some constants}$ 40 ff2 = 0.6 /  $2^{0.5}$  # group together some constants 50 temp25\_corr = 1 # no temperature correction needed to get the default EC at 25 C # 50 temp25\_corr = TK/298 \* (viscosity298) / (viscosityTK) # to get EC at TK temperature # calculate conductivity for the individual species # note: lg("species") is the log10 of the Debye-Huckel activity coefficient of a solution species # note: DIFF\_C("species") is the diffusion coefficient at 25 C of a solution species # note: the molar conductivity is in S/m / (mol/m3 = mmol/L), so multiply mol("species") by 1000 to obtain mmol/L

S-19

110 EC\_H = ((1<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("H+") \* temp25\_corr) \* mol("H+") \* 1000 \* 10<sup>(</sup> lg("H+") \* ff1) \* 10000 120 EC\_Ca = ((2<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("Ca+2") \* temp25\_corr) \* mol("Ca+2") \* 1000 \* 10<sup>(lg("Ca+2") \* ff2) \* 10000</sup> 130 EC\_Cl = ((1<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("Cl-") \* temp25\_corr) \* mol("Cl-") \* 1000 \* 10<sup>(lg("Cl-")</sup> \* ff1) \* 10000 140 EC\_K = ((1^2 \* F^2)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("K+") \* temp25\_corr) \* mol("K+") \* 1000 \* 10^( lg("K+") \* ff1) \* 10000 150 EC\_NO3 = ((1^2 \* F^2)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("NO3-") \* temp25\_corr) \* mol("NO3-") \* 1000 \* 10<sup>(1g("NO3-")</sup> \* ff1) \* 10000 160 EC\_Na = ((1<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("Na+") \* temp25\_corr) \* mol("Na+") \* 1000 \* 10<sup>(lg("Na+")</sup> \* ff1) \* 10000 170 EC\_Mg = ((2<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("Mg+2") \* temp25\_corr) \* mol("Mg+2") \* 1000 \* 10<sup>(lg("Mg+2")</sup> \* ff2) \* 10000 180 EC\_SO4 = ((2<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("SO4-2") \* temp25\_corr) \* mol("SO4-2") \* 1000 \* 10<sup>(1g("S04-2")</sup> \* ff2) \* 10000 190 EC HCO3 = ((1<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF C("HCO3-") \* temp25 corr) \* mol("HCO3-") \* 1000 \* 10<sup>(1g("HCO3-")</sup> \* ff1) \* 10000 195 EC\_majel = EC\_H + EC\_Ca + EC\_Cl + EC\_K + EC\_N03 + EC\_Na + EC\_Mg + EC\_S04 + EC\_HC03 # print results to output 198 PUNCH DESCRIPTION 200 PUNCH sc #total EC as computed by PHREEQC 205 PUNCH EC\_majel #total EC by considering major species only 207 PUNCH 100\*((sc-EC\_majel)/sc) #relative error on EC by considering major species only 210 PUNCH EC\_H 220 PUNCH EC Ca 230 PUNCH EC\_C1 240 PUNCH EC\_K 250 PUNCH EC\_NO3 260 PUNCH EC\_Na

# note: to report EC is in uS/cm, multiplication by 10'000 is needed

270 PUNCH EC\_Mg

S-20

280 PUNCH EC\_SO4

290 PUNCH EC\_HCO3

300 PUNCH PERCENT\_ERROR # Percent charge-balance error: 100\*(cations-|anions|)/(cations+| anions|)

-end

SELECTED\_OUTPUT 2 # this block allows writing an output file. Here the coefficients 'a' are printed

-file output\_a.dat # output file name

USER\_PUNCH 2 # print user-defined quantities to the selected\_output file -headings Sample\_ID a\_H a\_Ca a\_Cl a\_K a\_NO3 a\_Na a\_Mg a\_SO4 a\_HCO3 -start

- # define some useful constant for the computations
- 10 F = 96485.33289 # C per mol
- 20 R = 8.3144621 # J per K per mol
- 30 ff1 = 0.6 /  $1^0.5$  # group together some constants
- 40 ff2 = 0.6 /  $2^0.5$  # group together some constants
- 50 temp25\_corr = 1 # no temperature correction if EC is needed at 25 degrees C
- # 50 temp25\_corr = 298/TK \* (viscosityTK) / (viscosity298) # to get standard EC at 25
   degree C
- # calculate the variable a = molar\_conductivity\*electrochemical\_activity\_coefficient/ molar\_mass [uS/cm / (mg/L)] for the individual species
- # note: lg("species") is the log10 of the Debye-Huckel activity coefficient of a solution species

# note: GFW("species") is the molar mass of the species [grams]

# note: DIFF\_C("species") is the log10 of the Debye-Huckel activity coefficient of a solution species

# note: to report EC is in uS/cm, multiplication by 10,000 is needed

110 a\_H = ((1^2 \* F^2)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("H+") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10^(lg("H+") \* ff1) / GFW
 ("H+") \* 10000

S-21

```
-end
END
```

```
290 PUNCH a HCO3
```

```
280 PUNCH a_SO4
```

```
270 PUNCH a_Mg
```

```
260 PUNCH a_Na
```

```
250 PUNCH a_NO3
```

- 240 PUNCH a K

- 230 PUNCH a\_Cl
- 220 PUNCH a\_Ca
- 210 PUNCH a\_H
- **198 PUNCH DESCRIPTION**
- # print results to output

ff1) / GFW("HCO3-") \* 10000

- 180 a\_S04 = ((2<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("S04-2") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10<sup>(1g("S04-2")</sup> \* ff2) / GFW("SO4-2") \* 10000 190 a\_HCO3 = ((1^2 \* F^2)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("HCO3-") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10^(lg("HCO3-") \*
- GFW("Na+") \* 10000 170 a\_Mg = ((2<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("Mg+2") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10<sup>(lg("Mg+2")</sup> \* ff2) / GFW("Mg+2") \* 10000
- / GFW("NO3-") \* 10000 160 a\_Na = ((1<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("Na+") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10<sup>(lg("Na+")</sup> \* ff1) /
- ("K+") \* 10000 150 a\_NO3 = ((1<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("NO3-") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10<sup>(1g("NO3-")</sup> \* ff1)
- GFW("Cl-") \* 10000 140 a\_K = ((1<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("K+") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10<sup>(1g("K+")</sup> \* ff1) / GFW
- / GFW("Ca+2") \* 10000 130 a\_Cl = ((1<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("Cl-") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10<sup>(lg("Cl-")</sup> \* ff1) /
- 120 a\_Ca = ((2<sup>2</sup> \* F<sup>2</sup>)/(R\*TK)) \* (DIFF\_C("Ca+2") \* temp25\_corr) \* 10<sup>(lg("Ca+2")</sup> \* ff2)

### References

- Parkhurst, D. L.; Appelo, C. A. J. Description of input and examples for PHREEQC version 3–A computer program for speciation, batch-reaction, one-dimensional transport, and inverse geochemical calculations. 2013.
- (2) Neal, C.; Reynolds, B.; Rowland, P.; Norris, D.; Kirchner, J. W.; Neal, M.; Sleep, D.; Lawlor, A.; Woods, C.; Thacker, S. et al. High-frequency water quality time series in precipitation and streamflow: From fragmentary signals to scientific challenge. *Science* of the Total Environment 2012, 434, 3–12.
- (3) Neal, C.; Reynolds, B.; Kirchner, J. W.; Rowland, P.; Norris, D.; Sleep, D.; Lawlor, A.; Woods, C.; Thacker, S.; Guyatt, H. et al. High-frequency precipitation and stream water quality time series from Plynlimon, Wales: an openly accessible data resource spanning the periodic table. *Hydrological Processes* **2013**, *27*, 2531–2539.
- (4) Hunt, C. W.; Salisbury, J. E.; Vandemark, D. Contribution of non-carbonate anions to total alkalinity and overestimation of pCO<sub>2</sub> in New England and New Brunswick rivers. *Biogeosciences* **2011**, *8*, 3069–3076.
- (5) McCleskey, R. B. New Method for Electrical Conductivity Temperature Compensation. Environmental Science & Technology 2013, 47, 9874–9881, PMID: 23895179.