Water Quality Modeling in Kranji Catchment

by

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B.S. Environmental Engineering Massachusetts Institute of Technology, June 2010

ARCHIVES

SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL **AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING IN** PARTIAL **FULFILLMENT** OF THE **REQUIREMENTS** FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF **ENGINEERING IN** CIVIL **AND** ENVIRONMENTAL **ENGINEERING AT** THE **MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE** OF **TECHNOLOGY**

JUNE 2010

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Signature of Author:

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering May 21, 2010

Chairman, Departmental Committee for Graduate Students

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SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING ON MAY 21, 2010 IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ENGINEERING IN CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Abstract

This thesis describes the process and results of applying the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) to characterize bacterial fate and transport in the Kranji Catchment of Singapore. The goal of this process is to predict bacterial loading to Kranji Reservoir under the forcing of weather and other variables. Necessary data and input values were collected or estimated and input into the model. One of the most important of these values is the bacterial die-off rate. This rate must be accurate for the model to provide accurate predictions of bacterial loadings. In order to obtain a value for the bacterial die-off rate, an attenuation study was conducted. The results of this study were not typical. Bacterial growth was observed to occur during dark hours, and decay was observed to occur during sunlit hours. The resulting light and dark decay constants were combined for use in the model. The specific bacterial loading rates associated with the various agricultural activities occurring in the catchment are not available and thus were roughly estimated. Point source loadings were also estimated. Four years of model simulation daily output were analyzed, and results for specific subcatchments with differing character are discussed. This application of SWAT shows a good ability to make qualitative predictions of the presence or absence of bacteria; however, quantitative agreement between model predictions and field observations is poor. This run of the model is like a first draft—more refinement and more information are needed before it **will** make accurate predictions; however, the framework is in place.

Thesis Supervisor: Peter Shanahan Title: Senior Lecturer of Civil and Environmental Engineering $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2.$

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Acknowledgements

To Pete Shanahan, for his endless support, patience, and expertise.

To Eveline Ekklesia, Dr. Lloyd Chua, and Mr. **Alwi** Alkaff, for their tireless support of our work in Singapore.

To Adriana, Amruta, and Kevin, for being a great group to work with and to laugh with.

To Steve, for teaching me more about being an engineer than any of my classes at MIT.

To Kat, Liz, and Alyssa, for helping me keep my life together.

To Dina, for voluntarily p-setting with me for three years.

To Mom, Dad, and family, for your love and support.

To Katie Scott, for an unforgettable spring break.

To the MIT Varsity Women's Soccer Team, past and present, for being my family at **MIT.**

To the MIT Women's Rugby Club, for rocking my socks.

To the sistas of Lambda Iota Zeta and Pi Omega Tau: may the pink and pink live on in infamy!

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1 Introduction

This chapter was written as part of a collaborative effort with Kevin Foley, Adriana Mendez, and Amruta Sudhalkar.

1.1 Singapore

The Republic of Singapore is an island city-state situated at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, 137 kilometers (85 mi) north of the equator. At 710.2 km² (274.2 square miles), Singapore is considered a microstate (a state with less than **1000 km2** of non-sea area) and the smallest nation in Southeast Asia. Located at the southern **tip** of the Malay Peninsula and across from the large Indonesian island of Sumatra (Figure **1.1),** Singapore controls the Strait of Malacca. Approximately one-fourth of today's global trade passes through this strait connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Figure **1.1:** Map showing location of Singapore (GoogleMaps, **2010)**

The British East India Company founded Singapore in **1819** as a trading colony. Singapore became one of the most important commercial and military centers of the British Empire, and the hub of British power in Southeast Asia. In **1963,** Singapore achieved independence from Britain and merged with Malaya, Sabah, and Sarawak (Southeast Asian states) to form Malaysia. The union was short-lived, and two years later, Singapore became an independent republic, on August **9,** *1965.*

1.1.1 Economy

Singapore has had an open economy since it was established as a British trading post in **1819** (Abeysinghe, **2007).** After Singapore gained independence in **1965,** its economy grew *8.5%* per year until **1990** (Krugman, 1994). This incredible growth rate was primarily due to the mobilization of the population; employment rose from **27%** to **51%** (Krugman, 1994). During this period, education of the workforce also drastically increased from more than half of all workers having no formal education to about two-thirds of all workers having completed

secondary school (Krugman, 1994). In 2004, Singapore's gross national income **(GN)** was **US\$113** billion, making it one of the 40 largest economies in the world (Abeysinghe, **2007),** an impressive feat for such a small country **(by** area and population).

All of Singapore's gross domestic product **(GDP)** is generated via the industrial **(27.8%)** and service **(72.2%)** sectors **(CIA).** The service sector is dominated **by** financial services, business services, and services exported to visiting tourists (Abeysinghe, **2007).** Due to the island's small population and lack of natural resources, the industrial portion of Singapore's economy relies almost exclusively on exporting products and importing intermediates (Abeysinghe, **2007).** Like much of Asia, Singapore's primary exports are electronics (Table **1.1).**

Table **1.1:** Exports of Singapore **(MTI, 2007)**

While Singapore exports most of the goods it produces, it also imports most of the goods it consumes. This economic system means that Singapore relies heavily on multinational corporations (Abeysinghe, **2007).** In fact, foreign direct investment has been the main source of capital inflow since Singapore established independence (Abeysinghe, **2007).**

The Monetary Authority of Singapore **(MAS)** is the central bank of Singapore (Abeysinghe, **2007).** The **MAS** targets the nominal effective exchange rate to maintain price stability, a system that has worked very well for them thus far (Abeysinghe, **2007).** The government of Singapore has a very conservative fiscal stance overall (they accumulate large budget surpluses in nonrecessionary years), but they are willing to cut taxes and other charges to help businesses when needed (Abeysinghe, **2007).** Overall, the economy of Singapore is very robust and is capable of withstanding fluctuations in the world market.

1.1.2 Water Issues in Singapore

Singapore is **a** water scarce country even though it receives over 2,400 mm of rainfall annually. This city-state has **a** surface area of approximately **700** square kilometers, and this imposes **a** limit on the extent to which water can be stored locally (Tortajada, **2006).** Although Singapore has the highest GDP per capita in Southeast Asia, it has less than 1,000 m³ of water available per person from within the country (categorizing it as a "water-stressed" country). Malaysia, which currently provides about 40% of Singapore's water needs, has one hundred and sixty eight times the annual per capita internal renewable water resources of Singapore (Lee, *2005).* These statistics can be seen in Table 1.2.

Country	Annual Renewable Water Resources: Total (km^3)	Annual Renewable Water Resources: Per Capita (m^3)	Annual Water Withdrawals: Total (km^3)	Annual Water Withdrawals: Per Capita (m ³)	GDP Per Capita in 2000 (US ₅)	Population in 2000 (millions)	
Cambodia	476	32,876	4.1	311	274	12.2	
Indonesia	2,830	12,749	82.8	391	750	103.5	
Laos PDR	334	57,638	3.0	567	328	5.2	
Malaysia	580	23,316	9.0	392	3,870	23.2	
Myanmar	1,046	20,870	33.2	699	142	49.0	
Philippines	479	5,884	28.5	377	981	76.3	
Singapore		139	$- - -$		23,071	4.0	
Thailand	410	6,459	87.1	1,429	1,963	62.4	
Vietnam	891	10,805	71.4	914	403	77.7	

Table 1.2: Water Resources of Asian Countries, **GDP** Per Capita, and Population: Year 2000 **(UNDP, 2005)**

The Singapore Public Utilities Board **(PUB)** is responsible for management of the water systems of Singapore. This includes drinking water treatment and supply, wastewater treatment, and storm water management. In an effort to reduce Singapore's dependence on external sources of water, **PUB** has diversified its water sources extensively in the last decade.

PUB has adopted the *Four National Taps Strategy* for ensuring a sustainable supply of water to its population (Xie, **2006).** The four taps strategy consists of the following elements:

\rightarrow Local Catchments:

Singapore currently has **15** reservoirs that collect rainwater, aided **by** a network of canals, drains and river channels. The larger reservoirs can be seen in Table **1.3.**

Name of Reservoir	Year Completed	Storage Capacity (million m ³)
MacRitchie	1867 (enlarged in 1894)	4.2
Lower Pierce	1912	2.8
Seletar	1935 (enlarged in 1969)	24.1
Upper Pierce	1974	27.8
Kranji/Jandan	1975	22.5
Western Catchment	1981	31.4
Bedok/Sungei Seletar	1986	23.2
Total		136.0

Table **1.3:** Singapore's Reservoirs and Storage Capacity (Wung and Pei, **2009)**

\rightarrow NEWater (Reclaimed Wastewater):

Singapore currently has four wastewater reclamation plants with a fifth plant expected to be completed **by** 2010. Together, these plants **will** meet **30%** of Singapore's current water needs **by** 2010 (Tortajada, **2006).**

\rightarrow Desalination:

Singapore has been operating a desalination plant in Tuas since *2005.* This plant can produce **30** million gallons of water per day **(136,000** cubic meters) and is one of the region's largest seawater reverse-osmosis plants. This plant meets **8%** of Singapore's current water needs (Tortajada, **2006). A** summary of Singapore's domestic water statistics is provided in Table 1.4

	2002	2003	2004
Number of raw water reservoirs in Singapore	14	14	14
Number of NEWater Plants (For Recycling Water)		$\overline{2}$	$\overline{3}$
Volume of Used Water Treated Per Day $(1,000m^3/day)^{16}$	1.315	1.360	1.369
Water Tariffs			
Domestic (consumption $\leq 40 \text{ m}^3$ per month) (cents/ $m3$)	117	117	117
Domestic (consumption $> 40m3$ per month) (cents/ m^3)	140	140	140
Shipping (cents/ m^3)	192.	192	192
Sale of Water in Singapore	1.259	1.224	1.203
Domestic $(1000 \text{ m}^2/\text{day})$	687	690	686
Non-domestic $(1000 \text{ m}^3/\text{day})$	572.	534	517
Domestic water consumption per person (litres/day)	165	165	162

Table 1.4: Domestic Water Statistics **(NEA, 2005)**

\rightarrow Import of water from Malaysia:

 \mathcal{L}

An important source of water supply for Singapore comes from Malaysia. Singapore imports water from Malaysia under two existing "Water Agreements" signed **by** the two countries in **1961** (the Tebrau and Scudai Water Agreement) and **1962** (the Johor River Water Agreement). Under these agreements, Singapore is allowed to draw up to 336 MGD $(1.53 \text{ million m}^3 \text{ per day})$. In these Agreements, Singapore pays Malaysia **0.03** Singapore dollars for every **1,000** gallons drawn from the rivers (Lee, **2005).**

In addition to Water Supply Management, **PUB** has adopted effective strategies for Water Demand Management, Community Involvement, Private Sector Participation, Govemance, and Continuous Improvement to develop a holistic approach to water management that addresses the entire water cycle, not just supply.

Singapore's directives on water management at the national level have been effectively translated to the local level. This is evident from the efficient management of Singapore's reservoirs at the local level.

1.2 Kranji Reservoir and Catchment

The Kranji Reservoir in the Kranji Catchment (Figure 1.2) is located within the Western Catchment of Singapore. It is in the Northwestern corner of the island (1°25^{*}N, 103°43^{*}E) **(NTU, 2008).**

The Kranji Reservoir was created in *1975* **by** the damming of an estuary that drained into the Johor Straits that separate the Malaysian mainland from Singapore. The reservoir is approximately 647 hectares and the catchment is approximately **6,076** hectares in area. The catchment has four tributaries: Kangkar River, Tengah River, and Pengsiang River in the South, and Pangsua River in the North **(NTU, 2008).** The catchment has a variety of land-uses, including forests, reserved areas, agriculture, and residential areas.

Figure 1.2: Map of Kranji Catchment and Kranji Reservoir (GoogleMaps, 2010)

1.2.1 Management of Kranji Reservoir

PUB wants to use its water resources not just for providing water, but also to provide a recreational venue for the people of Singapore. To achieve this goal, **PUB** launched the Active Beautiful Clean Waters Program in an effort to achieve national waters that are: Active **-** open for different recreational activities such as boating or fishing. Beautiful **-** aesthetically pleasing in a way that the nation's inhabitants can enjoy. Clean **-** of sufficient quality for domestic, industrial, and recreational uses.

The program has a variety of elements, one of which is using drinking water reservoirs for recreation. **By** improving the quality, aesthetics, and access to Singapore's waterways, **PUB** hopes to foster a greater sense of ownership and respect for water in Singaporean communities.

The Kranji Reservoir is an important element in this plan, since it is located near some of the last remaining undeveloped land in Singapore. **PUB** intends to make the Kranji Reservoir

serviceable for recreational use under the **ABC** Program. In preparation for these uses of the reservoir, the PUB commissioned a study **by** Nanyang Technological University **(NTU)** in **2008** that sought to characterize the Kranji Reservoir and Catchment and to model water quality within the reservoir (Dixon et al., **2009).**

2 Water Quality Modeling in Kranji Catchment

As discussed above, water quality in Kranji Reservoir is very important to **PUB.** As part of the Active, Beautiful and Clean **(ABC)** initiative of Singapore's Public Utilities Board **(PUB),** an effort is being put forth to make the Kranji Reservoir safe for water-contact recreational activities. In order to do this, water quality in the reservoir must comply with World Health Organization (WHO) standards for recreational use (WHO, **2003).** Part of the requirement for meeting these standards is maintaining acceptable levels of fecal indicator bacteria. This study **is** primarily interested in one fecal indicator bacterium, *Escheichia coil (E. coil).* In order to accurately model water quality within the reservoir, it is important to understand the bacterial loading to the reservoir. To this end, my primary goal was to employ a watershed-scale model to characterize the fate and transport of indicator bacteria within Kranji Catchment.

2.1 Model Selection

In order to determine a viable and appropriate water quality model for use in Kranji Catchment, **I** identified key attributes and capabilities necessary for successful characterization of bacterial fate and transport within the catchment:

- **"** Simulation of runoff quantity and composition
- **"** Simulation of bacterial transport
- Simulation of bacterial fate
- **"** Consideration of land use
- Continuous model—time step ≤ 1 day
- **"** Simulation of watershed containing urban and rural areas

Three potential models were identified which meet these criteria: the Storm Water Management Model (SWMZM) (Huber and Dickinson, **1992),** the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) (Neitsch et al., **2005),** and the Better Assessment Science Integrating point and Nonpoint Sources/Hydrologic Simulation Program-FORTRAN **(BASINS/HSPF) (USEPA,** 2001). **All** of these models are available freely from the **U.S. EPA.**

2.1.1 **Potential Model: SWMM**

As mentioned above, **PUB** commissioned a study **by NTU** to characterize Kranji Catchment and Reservoir. As part of this process, **NTU** applied XPSWMM, a commercial version of the EPA's SWMM model (Huber and Dickinson, **1992),** to characterize nutrient source loads and flow rates entering the reservoir from the contributing catchment area as a function of storm events **(NTU, 2008). SWMM** was developed to model runoff in primarily urban areas (Huber and Dickinson, **1992);** however, the majority of Kranji Catchment is undeveloped. Nevertheless, SWMM can be applied to watersheds containing both developed and undeveloped areas **(NTU, 2008). SWMM** does not have an integrated component for modeling bacterial fate and transport, which is a major drawback, considering my goals. In terms of output time step, the SWMM output time step is dependent upon the input time step, which means that as long as input data of sufficient resolution is used, a daily or sub-daily output time step is possible. Aside from the fact that it would be redundant to reapply a model that has already been applied to the catchment, my time

constraints for this project are not conducive to attempting to create bacterial fate and transport components for SWMM.

2.1.2 Potential Model: SWAT

SWAT is **a** continuous model that was developed **by** the **USDA** to simulate large complex watersheds with diverse land use and management practices (Neitsch et al., **2005).** SWAT simulates hydrologic response, including runoff quantity and quality. Additionally, SWAT does have an integrated component for bacterial fate and transport (up to two different bacteria may be modeled). Similar to SWMM, the output time step of SWAT depends on the resolution of the input data.

2.1.3 Potential Model: BASINS

BASINS is very similar to SWAT; in fact, SWAT is one of the underlying models run as part of **BASINS (USEPA,** 2001). This means that **BASINS** has all of the functionality of SWAT. However, **BASINS** also incorporates the HSPF and **QUAL2E** models, making it a more complex model. For the purposes of this study, the primary difference between **BASINS** and SWAT **is** that the instream modeling component of **BASINS** is far more complex; reaches are discretized more finely than they are in SWAT, and the flow of water and the fate and transport of chemicals within the reaches are modeled with greater complexity **(USEPA,** 2001).

2.1.4 Final Selection

After consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of each of the potential models, **I** decided to utilize SWAT to model the fate and transport of indicator bacteria within Kranji Catchment. SWMM does not have an integrated component for modeling bacterial fate and transport, so using it would have been much more difficult. Additionally, XPSWMM has previously been applied **by NTU,** and one of my objectives in completing this thesis was to apply a model from start to finish. Applying SWMM would not have met this learning objective. **BASINS** seems overly complex for the objectives of this study. The eventual loading to the reservoir is the primary output of interest, and this can effectively be modeled using SWAT. **BASINS** also possesses the functionality to do this; however, SWAT is simpler and **will** accomplish the same goals.

2.2 SWAT Overview

2.2.1 Development

The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) was created for the **USDA** Agricultural Research Service **by** Dr. Jeff Arnold (Neitsch et al., **2005).** SWAT incorporates the following models into one comprehensive, continuous time, physically based, whole watershed model (Neitsch et al., **2005):**

e Simulator for Water Resources in Rural Basins (SWRRB)

- **"** Chemicals, Runoff, and Erosion from Agricultural Management Systems (CREAMS)
- e Groundwater Loading Effects on Agricultural Management Systems **(GLEAMS)**
- **"** Erosion-Productivity Impact Calculator **(EPIC)**
- Routing Outputs to Outlet (ROTO)

The primary purpose of SWAT is to model large watersheds with varying soil types, land uses, and management practices over long periods of time and to predict the impact of the watershed's composition on water, sediment, and agricultural chemical yields (Neitsch et al., **2005).** SWAT was developed to model large, primarily rural watersheds.

2.2.2 **Overview of Components**

SWAT can be used to model a multitude of physical processes; however, this study utilizes a limited number of these components. This study is primarily interested in the fate and transport of indicator bacteria within the catchment, which means none of SWAT's chemical fate and transport components were taken advantage of.

Using data input **by** the user, SWAT delineates the watershed into constituent subbasins. **A** particularly useful and convenient capability of SWAT is that it incorporates the ROTO model, which was developed specifically to model flow from subbasin to subbasin in the SWRRB model (from which SWAT was primarily developed) (Neitsch et al., **2005).** Each subbasin **is** composed of one or more Hydrologic Response Units (HRUs) with unique land use, management, soil, and slope characteristics. The HRUs are not hydraulically connected and multiple unconnected areas in the same subbasin can be part of the same HRU. The runoff and loading coming from each HRU is summed, along with any flow and loading into the subbasin, to calculate flow rate and loading coming out of the subbasin.

Water balance is the motivation behind all hydrologic activity within the watershed. SWAT simulates rainfall, canopy storage, infiltration, redistribution, evapotranspiration, lateral subsurface flow, surface runoff, tributary channels, and return flow. Weather is simulated **by** SWAT using its "Weather Generator" which generates daily weather using monthly average values for temperature, precipitation, solar radiation, wind speed, and relative humidity input **by** the user (Neitsch et al., **2005).**

Within the hydrologic simulation conducted **by** SWAT, bacterial fate and transport is also modeled. Bacterial growth and decay is modeled as a first-order process. SWAT has the capability of modeling up to two kinds of bacteria. These two species are modeled on foliage, in solution in the top **10** mm of soil, and as sorbed to soil particles in the top **10** mm of soil. Bacteria that percolate deeper into the soil profile are assumed to die. Bacteria on foliage and in the top **10** mm of the soil profile are free to interact with runoff. Bacteria may be introduced to the catchment **by** both point (e.g. outfall from a sewage treatment plant) and non-point (e.g. manure application to agricultural land) sources. **My** primary interest in modeling bacterial fate within the transport was in how the bacteria behave while being transported in reaches.

3 Fieldwork

3.1 Methods

3.1.1 Background

Fecal contamination is commonly associated with the presence of coliform bacteria. Two measures often used to quantify contamination are the concentrations of *Escheichia coli (E. coli)* and total coliforms. These fecal indicator bacteria have been found in the runoff from Kranji Catchment, as well as in Kranji Reservoir itself (Dixon et al., **2009).** As mentioned above, **PUB** would like to make Kranji Reservoir available for recreational use. In order to do this, the reservoir must maintain bacterial levels within the standards for recreational use. SWAT is equipped to model bacterial fate and transport, given parameters about the bacteria. In order to model coliform fate and transport accurately, **I** need to understand how coliform bacteria behaves in the environment in Singapore. For this reason, **I** chose to conduct a field attenuation study in Kranji Catchment.

3.1.1.1 Factors Affecting Coliform Survival

Bowie et al. **(1985)** divide the primary contributing factors that contribute to coliform disappearance into three categories: physical, physicochemical, and biochemical-biological.

Light has been implicated as the one of the most important physical factors in coliform disappearance **by** many studies (Bowie et al., **1985).** The primary mechanism **by** which light causes coliform death has been debated in several studies, but no definitive conclusion has been reached. Sedimentation is another mechanism believed to contribute to coliform disappearance; adsorption of coliforms to suspended particles, flocculation of coliforms, and coagulation of coliforms enhance sedimentation. Because temperature influences many other processes, it **is** one of the most important physical factors affecting coliform disappearance rates.

One physicochemical factor that affects coliform disappearance is salinity, due both to osmotic effects and enhancement of light effects (Bowie et al., **1985). High pH** has also been shown to affect coliform disappearance rates. Heavy metal toxicity and redox potential also affect coliform disappearance.

The influence on disappearance rate **by** biochemical-biological factors is primarily due to nutrient levels and predator concentrations (Bowie et al., **1985).** Nutrient levels have been found to be important on their own, but also because the addition of some nutrients reduces the toxicity of some heavy metals. Nutrients may also influence the concentration of predator, which in tum influences disappearance rate.

3.1.1.2 Coliform Persistence in Tropical Climates

There is evidence that fecal indicator bacteria can occur naturally (without fecal contamination) or persist for extended periods of time in tropical environments. **A** study conducted **by** Rivera et al. **(1988)** showed the presence of fecal indicator bacteria in water collected from bromeliads in

the rain forest of Puerto Rico. This bacteria was either not of fecal origin or had persisted long after fecal contamination. The study **by** Rivera et al. raises some questions on the validity of using **E.** *co/i* and total coliforms as indicators of recent fecal contamination in a tropical environment, such as that of Singapore.

The runoff entering the drainage system in Kranji Catchment is not nearly as clean as the water sampled in the study **by** Rivera et al. **(1988);** there is definitely potential for fecal contamination of the runoff **by** humans or animals. Because **I** believe that there are sources of *E. co/i* and other coliforms present in the catchment, **I** am primarily concerned with modeling the fate and transport of these bacteria, rather than determining **if** they also occur naturally. Nonetheless, the possibility of coliform growth in Singapore's tropical waters is a potential factor in modeling the catchment.

3.1.1.3 Modeling Coliform Survival

The effects of the physical, physicochemical, and biochemical-biological factors on coliform concentration can be modeled independently or collectively using first-order kinetics, as seen in Equation **3.1** (Bowie et al., **1985).**

$$
C(t)=C_0e^{-kt} \tag{3.1}
$$

 $t =$ **time** $C(t)$ = coliform concentration at time t C_0 = initial coliform concentration $k =$ first-order decay constant

A first-order decay constant can be assigned to each factor affecting coliform survival and summed to achieve a total decay constant that can be used to model overall coliform survival. **I** am interested in the total decay constant for modeling coliforms within the catchment. While runoff composition may vary greatly throughout the catchment, it has been shown that the largest contributing factors to coliform die-off are solar radiation, salinity, sedimentation, and predation (Bowie et al., **1985).** Kranji Catchment is **6,076** hectares in area and it is safe to assume that temperature and light intensity do not vary greatly over this area. Predation is mainly a product of the concentration of predator organisms, which **I** also assume does not vary greatly throughout the catchment. Salinity greatly increases the effect of solar radiation; however, Kranji Catchment is a freshwater catchment and salinity effects are negligible.

Because coliform concentration can be modeled using first-order kinetics, it is relatively simple to compute a comprehensive decay constant when the upstream coliform concentration, downstream coliform concentration, and travel time are known. In order to obtain a comprehensive decay constant for Kranji Catchment, **I** designed and ran an attenuation study in a reach of drainage channel in KC2.

3.1.2 Setup

The attenuation study consisted of simultaneously taking a sample and releasing a tracer from the upstream end of the study area, taking a sample at the downstream end of the study area when the tracer passed, recording the travel time of the tracer, and analyzing the samples for total coliform and *E. coli* concentrations. **I** selected an appropriate reach in which to conduct the attenuation study. The reach is in KC2; it is a long, straight segment that is exposed to direct sunlight during the day. See Figure **3.1** for location of the study reach.

Figure **3.1:** Location of attenuation study (GoogleMaps, **2010).**

Figure **3.1** shows that the upstream end of the reach is the confluence point of three smaller drains. This presented a bit of a challenge in that the flows from the three smaller drains do not mix for a good portion of the drain length. It was important that the channel be well-mixed so that **I** could be sure **I** was sampling the same parcel of water at both the upstream and downstream ends of the study area. After several unsuccessful attempts at designing, building, and using a toothed weir to mix the channel, we decided to use concrete blocks to find a configuration that would work to mix the channel. After several attempts, we arrived at the configuration shown in Figure **3.2.** The blocks induced a hydraulic jump that caused rapid mixing. We used visual inspection of rhodamine and fluorescein dye released upstream of the blocks to determine at what point the channel became well-mixed after the hydraulic **jump. A** schematic of the final setup is shown in Figure **3.3.**

After experimentation with a few different tracers, **I** decided to use leaves floating in the channel. Their low profile kept them out of the wind, moving at the same velocity as the water in the channel, and they were very easy to track. Leaves were also much simpler to use than salt or dye, which would have required sensing equipment to measure concentration. For each repetition of the test, one leaf was used as a tracer.

Figure **3.2:** Induced hydraulic jump to promote mixing of three confluent channels at upstream end of attenuation study.

Figure **3.3:** Schematic of attenuation study. Starting point of study also marks point at which channel became well-mixed. String was placed across the channel at Start and End points.

The procedure for the attenuation study was fairly straightforward. For quality-control purposes, a blank sample consisting of bottled water stored in a sterile 100-mL Whirl-Pak@ bag was stored on ice in a cooler from the beginning of the attenuation study. **A** tracer leaf was selected and released in the center channel upstream of the hydraulic jump. As the leaf passed under the string at the upstream end of the study area, a 100-mL sample was collected there in a sterile 100-mL Whirl-Pak@ bag. Simultaneously, the travel time stopwatch was started. The sample was then labeled and placed in the cooler of ice containing the blank. As the tracer leaf passed under the string at the downstream end of the study area, another sample was collected from the downstream point and the travel time was recorded. This sample was also labeled and stored in the cooler of ice. This procedure was repeated five and four times for the light and dark studies, respectively. The light study was conducted starting at 11:00 on January 14, 2010. The dark study was conducted starting at **19:30** on January **19,** 2010. After completion of each study, the samples were transported back to the laboratory and analyzed for E.Coli and total coliforms.

3.1.3 Sample Analysis

Samples were analyzed using **IDEXX** Quanti-Tray@/2000 trays and Colilert@ reagent (IDEXX, **2007; IDEXX,** 2002). Three dilutions of each sample were prepared: **1:10, 1:100, 1:10,000.** This was to ensure that at least one valid reading was obtained for each sample (counts not too **high** or too low). **A** 1 00-mL sample of each dilution was prepared in a washed and autoclaved glass container. For the **1:10** dilution, **90** mL of deionized **(DI)** water and **10** mL of sample were combined. The **DI** water was measured using a sterile graduated cylinder. The sample was measured using an Eppendorf Research Pippette@ set to 1 mL. **A** new sterile Eppendorf **Tip@** was used for each sample. For the **1:100** dilution, **99** mL of **DI** water and **ImL** of sample were used. The same measurement tools were used. For the **1:10,000** dilution, **99** mL of **DI** water and 1 mL of **1:100** dilution were used. For each 100-mL dilution sample, 1 aliquot of Colilert@ reagent was added. This was mixed until the Colilert@ dissolved. The mixture was then poured into a labeled Quanti-Tray@/2000 tray and sealed in the Quanti-Tray@ Sealer. The trays were then incubated at 34'C for 24-28 hours. After the incubation period, the trays were read. Wells yellow in color tested positive for total coliform and wells yellow in color that also fluoresced under 365-nm UV light tested positive for *E. coli.* The number of positive large and small wells was recorded for total coliforms and *E. coli* for each tray. These procedures were followed in accordance with published IDEXX procedures for IDEXX Quanti-Tray@/2000 and Colilert@ (IDEXX, **2007;** IDEXX, 2002). Bacteria were quantified **by** reference to the most probable number (MPN) table distributed with IDEXX Quanti-Tray@/2000 trays.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 Calculated Decay Rates

Following analysis of the samples from the light and dark attenuation studies, **I** used Equation **3.1** to calculate decay rates for each dilution of each study repetition with valid upstream and downstream readings. **I** then calculated an average decay rate for both light and dark conditions for *E. coli* and total coliforms. See Table 3.1 below. Table 3.1 includes decay constants calculated with and without outliers omitted. Outliers were defined as decay constant values not

of the same order of magnitude as the majority of values for that particular bacteria and study. For all values, please see Appendix **A.**

	Data Included in	Total Coliforms		E. coli	
	Average	k(1/hr)	# Points Included	k(1/hr)	# Points Included
Light	All	0.2 $^{+}$			
	No Outliers	$+$			
Dark	All			۰	
	No Outliers			٠	

Table **3.1:** Average first-order decay constants **(k)** in units of hr **'.** Values rounded to one significant figure. Decay constants reported as averages **±** one standard deviation.

These values are significantly different than those found in literature. See Table **3.2** for sample literature values. The average values of the decay constants from the light attenuation study are generally much higher than those found in literature; however, the literature values do vary a lot, covering four orders of magnitude. The average values calculated for decay constants for the dark attenuation study are all negative, which indicates growth. While all of the literature values indicate decay, growth has been observed in tropical climates, as noted above in discussion of Rivera et al. **(1988).**

Table **3.2:** First-order decay constants from literature. These data are from Table **8-2** in Bowie et al. *(1985).*

3.2.2 Uncertainty and Error

Table **3.1** shows that there is **high** uncertainty associated with these results. Even when outliers are excluded, one standard deviation is around *50%* of the average. There are many possible explanations for the variability seen in Table **3.1.** Potential sources of error include laboratory and field errors, such as cross-contamination (before and after sample transport). There were also two very small inflows into the study reach originating from seepage from the sides of the channel; **I** assumed that their effect was negligible. Besides error, there are many other sources of variability. There is inherent variability associated with field and lab work. For example, there is imprecision associated with the measurement of travel time and measurements in the laboratory. Additionally, there is higher variability associated with higher dilutions due to the decreased sample size. There is also natural variability; the literature values shown in Table **3.2** show almost one order of magnitude of variability for decay rates calculated in the same river.

3.2.3 Implications

Even though uncertainty in my results is **high, I** can still draw some conclusions. **All** of the average decay rates **I** obtained for the light attenuation study are positive, indicating decay. **All** of the average decay rates **I** obtained for the dark attenuation study are negative, indicating growth. Growth of *E coli* and other coliforms has been shown to occur in tropical climates in a study **by** Rivera et al. **(1988)** in the rainforest of Puerto Rico. Another study, **by** Muiiiz et al. **(1989),** also demonstrated growth of *E coli* in the Mameyes River of Puerto Rico. Like Puerto Rico, Singapore has a tropical climate, so it is plausible that *E coli* and coliform growth **is** occurring under dark conditions. Because there is a **high** degree of variation in my results, more work needs to be done to better characterize the behavior of these bacteria. While some natural variation is to be expected, measuring die-off over a short reach would tend to increase the sensitivity of the results to the measured time of travel. Future studies should be conducted in a variety of channels with higher travel times, at different times of day, and on different dates. This would provide a broader, more comprehensive set of results over which to average.

4 Model Application

To simplify the application of SWAT, **I** used the ArcSWAT Version 2.3.4 (Winchell et al., **2009)** extension for ArcGIS Version **9.3** (ESRI, **2008).** ArcSWAT provides a graphical user interface for adding SWAT model inputs and for running SWAT.

4.1 Watershed Delineation

Watershed delineation is the determination of the area drained through a point of interest. This **is** the first step in applying ArcSWAT. The watershed boundary determines what precipitation, point sources, and land area contribute to discharge through the point of interest (Kranji Reservoir, in this study). The watershed is then divided into smaller contributing watersheds, or subbasins. Flow is modeled from subbasin to subbasin until it reaches an outlet point. The flow out of a subbasin is determined **by** a mass (water) balance: Flow out **=** Flow from contributing subbasins **+** precipitation **-** evapotranspiration **-** infiltration **+** groundwater discharge to drainage network. The composition of the flow leaving a particular subbasin is also determined **by** a mass balance: Load out **=** Loading from contributing subbasins **+** runoff loading from within subbasin **-** decay **+** growth. In this case, "load" is the number of bacteria.

ArcSWAT has a built-in "Automatic Watershed Delineation" tool that allows the user to graphically delineate the watershed and corresponding subbasins. The user first inputs a Digital Elevation Map (DEM) file in ESRI GRID format. **I** generated this elevation file using an elevation contour file, a shapefile containing the man-made drains in the catchment, a shapefile of Kranji reservoir, and the "Topo to Raster" tool in ArcMap. **GIS** coverages were provided **by PUB.** With the Topo to Raster tool, **I** was able to interpolate the contour file to obtain a DEM GRID file. **I** was also able to input the drain file and the reservoir file to artificially lower the elevation for these known features. Doing this helps to ensure that the watershed delineator places streams as accurately as possible.

The "Automatic Watershed Delineation" generates predictions of stream locations within the model **by** using multiple pre-defined **GIS** files: the DEM (elevation data), a mask (another GRID file indicating the extent of the watershed), and a stream shapefile containing locations of known streams (drains, in this case). ArcSWAT also takes into account a threshold drainage area **(I** chose the minimum for this value: **7** hectares), which essentially defines the resolution of the watershed delineation and stream generation. After generating streams, **I** input the locations of point sources within the catchment. The next step is to identify "Whole Watershed Outlets." Whole watershed outlets are points through which all water leaving the basin drains. **I** selected these points as the endpoints of streams discharging directly into the reservoir. ArcSWAT then generated the watershed and subbasin boundaries. Each stream segment has its own subbasin and all subbasins are contained within the watershed boundary. See Figure 4.1 for the completed watershed delineation.

4.2 Definition of Hydrologic Response Units

Each subbasin is composed of one or more hydrologic response units (HRUs), each consisting of land having uniform land use, soil, and slope characteristics. SWAT does not model flow

between HRUs; they are hydraulically connected to each other within the model. Runoff is predicted separately for each HRU and summed to obtain the total runoff for each subbasin (Neitsch, 2005).

Figure 4.1: Subbasin boundaries determined by ArcSWAT watershed delineation.

4.2.1 Land Use

SWAT takes a multitude of parameters from land use type. I do not have SWAT-required values for each specific land use within Kranji Catchment, so I used a Singapore land use map provided by PUB (in the form of a GIS shapefile) and the predefined land uses in the SWAT2005 database to condense the 23 land uses presented in the Singapore land use shapefile down to nine predefined land uses from the SWAT2005 database. See Table 4.1 for land use redefinition. See Figure 4.3 for land use distribution.

Table **4.1:** Land use reclassification.

4.2.2 Soils

I was able to generate shapefiles delineating mapped soil series for Kranji Catchment **by** using maps provided **by** Ives **(1977).** I was able to define properties and parameters for the soil types present in the catchment from information given **by** Ives, as well as information given **by** Chia et al. **(1991).** See Figure 4.4 for soil series information.

Unfortunately, **I** was not able to obtain all the required values for all soil types. To **fill** in the gaps, **I** grouped the soils based on soil groups given in Chia et al. **(1991). If** a group was not defined for a particular soil, **I** used texture, hydrologic group, and drainage properties to assign the soil to an appropriate group. **I** used average values from each group to assign values where data was missing. See Table 4.2 for a summary of soil groups and characteristics. See Appendix B for complete soil groupings and characteristics.

Figure 4.3: SWAT land use classes within Kranji Catchment.

Figure 4.4: Soil classes within Kranji Catchment.

Soil Name	Abbreviation	Drainage	Soil Texture	Hydrologic Group	Soil Group
Lokyang	Lg	Somewhat impeded drainage	sandy, sandy clay, and clay loams	$\mathbf C$	Lg
Harimau	Hu	Well drained	sandy and sandy clay loam	\bf{B}	Hu-Tp
Lam San	Ln	Moderately well drained	sand and sandy loam	B	Hu-Tp
Tengah	Tg	Somewhat impeded to poorly drained	heavy clay and silty clay loam	$\mathbf C$	Hu-Tp
Tampoi	Tp	Well drained	sandy and sandy clay loams	\bf{B}	Hu-Tp
Jurong	Jr	Poorly drained	granular clay and sandy loams, peaty loams, and organic clays	D	Kj
Kranji	Kj	Very poorly drained	silty and sandy clay loam, dark grey silty clay, and muck	D	Kj
Ayer Terjun	At	Moderately well drained	sandy clay and clay loam, and clay	$\mathbf C$	At
Malacca	Mc	Moderately well drained	sandy and sandy clay loam	$\mathbf C$	At
Munchong	Mn	Moderately well drained	clay loam and clay	B	At
Bukit Panjang	Bj	Moderately well drained	sandy clay loam	$\mathbf C$	Rm
Rengam	Rm	Well drained	sandy and sandy clay loams	\bf{B}	Rm
Sungei Kadut	St	Moderately well drained	sandy clay and clay loams and clay	$\mathbf C$	Rm
Aik Hong	Ag	Well drained	sandy, clay, and sandy clay loam	B	Pg
Peng Siang	Pg	Well drained	sandy and sandy clay loams	B	Pg
Serdang	Sg	Well drained	sandy and sandy clay loams	\bf{B}	Pg

Table 4.2: Soil classes within Kranji Catchment. Soil group denotes soil type used to assign values for missing data.

4.2.3 **Slope**

ArcSWAT uses the DEM provided for watershed delineation to calculate slopes throughout the watershed. **I** chose to use two slope classes: **0%-3.1%** and **3.1%** and above, where **3.1%** is the median slope within the catchment. See Figure *4.5* for slope definition.

4.2.4 **HRU Definition Thresholds**

ArcSWAT overlays the land use, soil type, and slope information to define HRUs. **I** chose to allow multiple HRUs in subbasins. As recommended **by** Winchell et al. **(2009),** I defined the threshold values for land use, soil type, and slope as 20%, **10%,** and 20%, respectively. This means that **if** a land use covers more than 20% of the subbasin, a separate HRU is defined for that land use (e.g. for one land use: **LU-A). If** more than **10%** of the subbasin is over a certain soil type, then a separate HRU is defined for that soil type and any previously defined land uses (e.g. for two soil types: **LU-A\ST-A** and **LU-A\ST-B** are created). **If** a slope class covers more than 20% of the subbasin, an HRU is defined for that slope class and any previously defined land uses and soil types (e.g. for two slope classes: **LU-A\ST-A\SC-A, LU-A\ST-B\SC-A, LU-A\ST-A\SC-B,** and **LU-A\ST-B\SC-B** are created).

Figure 4.5: Slope classes within Kranji Catchment.

4.3 Weather Generator

During the SWAT simulation, weather is either simulated using SWAT's weather generator, or daily or sub-daily weather values are input **by** the user. For this study, SWAT's weather generator was used because there is no specific time period of interest. **I** am interested in the general behavior of water and bacteria within the catchment, which can be modeled using the weather generator, which generates weather based on the general behavior of the weather during a given month. Using weather data collected from the NTU-maintained meteorological station in Kranji Reservoir, **I** calculated average monthly values for SWAT-required weather inputs. See Appendix **C** for the weather values input into SWAT.

4.4 Bacteria Parameters

Most of the parameters described above primarily concern the physical behavior of water within the catchment and have only indirect effect on how bacteria behave within the flow. This section provides information on the parameters with direct effect on the fate and transport of bacteria. This section also describes the bacterial loads associated with point and non-point sources within the catchment.

SWAT allows for two different types of bacteria to be modeled, persistent and less persistent. In reality, the "less" is only used to distinguish between the two bacteria and has no actual bearing on their behavior in the model. For the sake of clarity, **I** modeled **E.** *co/i* as the "persistent" bacteria and total coliforms as the "less persistent" bacteria. **I** used the results of my fieldwork (discussed above in Chapter **3)** to assign values to these variables. SWAT does not allow for separate light and dark decay constants, so **I** had to combine the results of my light and dark attenuation studies into an effective decay constant, K_{eff.} Because bacterial decay is modeled as first-order and Singapore experiences approximately equal hours of light and dark, **I** combined the constants as:

$$
C_t = (C_0 * exp[-K_L * 0.5 * t]) * exp[-K_D * .5 * t] = C_0 * exp[-t * 0.5 * (K_L + K_D)]
$$
\n(4.1)

which implies that:

$$
K_{\rm eff} = 0.5*(K_{\rm L} + K_{\rm D})\tag{4.2}
$$

where, **t** is the time in days, C_t is the concentration at time **t**, C_0 is the initial concentration, K_L is the decay constant for light conditions, and K_D is the decay constant for dark conditions. See Table 4.3 for effective decay constants.

	Total Coliforms	E. coli	
	k (day ⁻¹)	k (day ⁻¹)	
Light	43 ± 27	63 26	
Dark	-23 ± 13	-29 18 $+$	
Effective			

Table 4.3: Effective decay constants for total coliforms and *E. coli.*

As discussed above, point source locations are input during the watershed delineation process. The point sources that **I** input are sewage treatment plants (STPs) within the catchment. These STPs are controlled **by PUB,** so **I** was able to calculate flow rate estimations from the information they provided. **I** used bacterial concentrations obtained from sampling done in January **2009,** July **2009,** and January 2010 to calculate bacterial loadings for a subset of STPs. Where data were not available for a particular **STP, I** used the average bacterial concentration from STPs on similar land uses to calculate a loading. See Appendix **D** for point-source values used in the model.

Another source of bacteria within the catchment is non-point source **(NPS)** contamination carried **by** runoff. From inspection of sampling data from January **2009,** July **2009,** and January 2010, it is apparent that most of the samples with the highest bacterial concentrations were from agricultural areas. That said, my most inaccurate set of parameters is that associated with land use-agricultural land in particular. From observations while in Singapore, **I** know that land categorized as "agriculture" encompasses everything from orchid farms to fish farms to small organic farms to chicken farms. Each of these land uses contributes differently to runoff loadings; however, I do not have data describing which areas within the "agriculture" area are used for which actual land use. **I** also do not have data characterizing loadings from each particular agricultural activity.

In an attempt to associate some form of **NPS** loading with agricultural land, **I** made two small adjustments to SWAT's default management practices for "Generic Agricultural Land." **I** changed the default fertilizer type to "Fresh Broiler Manure" because chickens are the only livestock **I** observed on the island and manure has bacterial loadings associated with it. **I** also changed the *E. coli* concentration in the fertilizer to **500,000** cfu/g fertilizer. This is the average of the values **I** found in the literature, which suggest that the **E** *coli* concentration varies between **0** and **1,000,000** cfu/g fertilizer (Suslow, **1999).** I know that total coliform concentration **is** higher than *E. coli* concentration, so I used 1,000,000 cfu/g fertilizer for total coliform concentration. This is **by** no means an accurate characterization of **NPS** pollution from agricultural areas; however, the necessary data are not yet available, and this is a parameter that is easily adjusted to refine results.

5 Model Results

My final model run produced five years of continuous daily output. The results from the first year were discarded as spin-up time; the ArcSWAT documentation suggests that this is sufficient to ensure that the hydrologic cycle is geared up (Winchell et al., **2009).** SWAT outputs daily predictions of flow, total coliform and *E. coil* concentrations, runoff, precipitation, evapotranspiration, percolation, and temperature for each HRU, subbasin, and reach. These outputs are most dependent on the following model parameters: die-off rates for *E. coil* and total coliforms, concentrations of **E.** *coil* and total coliforms in fertilizer, and point source loadings of *E. coli* and total coliforms. Due to an input error, K_{eff} was doubled from the values calculated in Chapter 4. Since the magnitude of the error was within the range of uncertainty in the values, the model was not re-run after discovery of the error.

5.1 Presence/Absence Results

As discussed in Section 4.4 above, data were not available to parameterize exactly non-point sources of bacteriological contamination within Kranji Catchment. However, because of the sampling program that was previously conducted **by** students from **NTU** and MIT (Dixon et al., **2009),** I know that there is a **high** concentration of bacteria coming from agricultural land either as runoff or as effluent from sanitary sewers. **I** attempted to capture runoff contamination **by** using the management options in SWAT to simulate routine application of fertilizer on all agricultural land. In Kranji Catchment, there are a variety of agricultural activities (orchid farming, fish farming, chicken farming, etc.) all taking place on land **I** classified simply as "Agricultural" in the model. Because the specific bacterial loading rates associated with these various activities are unknown, the model does not distinguish between different agricultural land uses. The rough estimation used to model non-point source pollution cannot be expected to provide accurate results in terms of loading magnitudes; however, it should provide a fairly accurate prediction of where contamination is present and where it is not.

As a first test of the model's performance, **I** evaluated the model's ability to predict the presence or absence of bacteria (not considering concentration magnitude). **I** am particularly interested in the bacterial loading to the reservoir. Because individual subbasins have very small areas and there are **266** of them, **I** decided to analyze more general catchment areas (from this point referred to as "subcatchments"). There are 49 whole-watershed outlets (outlets discharging directly to the reservoir) in the model. Using the watershed delineation provided **by** SWAT, **I** divided Kranji Catchment into 49 subcatchments corresponding to these outlets. Each of these subcatchments corresponds to a whole-watershed outlet in the model. Each subcatchment **is** composed of the SWAT-delineated subbasin(s) that are drained through the corresponding whole-watershed outlet. Figure *5.2* shows the delineation of the subcatchments and corresponding land uses. Table **5.1** shows predicted concentrations versus those observed in the field for some of these subcatchments. The subset of these results for which field data are available is summarized in Figure **5.1** in terms of the model's ability to predict the presence or absence of *E. coli* and total coliforms. A subcatchment was considered to be positive, for model predictions or sampling data, if average concentration exceeded $100/100$ mL.

Figure 5.1: Presence/absence analyses for *E. coli* and total coliforms.

Figure **5.1** shows that, for subcatchments with sampling data, the model accurately predicts presence or absence of **E.** *coli* **67%** of the time and total coliforms **90%** of the time. The model accurately predicted positive *E. coli* and total coliform presence in **10** subcatchments each. Even though the model simulates them as two separate bacteria, total coliform concentration is actually a sum of the concentrations of all coliform bacteria, including *E. coli.* This means that total coliforms should be predicted at least as often as *E. coli,* if the model is making accurate presence/absence predictions. This condition is fulfilled in that equal numbers of subcatchments were predicted to have *E. coli* and total coliforms. **A** false negative occurs when the model predicts the bsence of bacteria, but the field data show bacteria to be present above the **100/100** mL threshold. **A** false positive occurs when the model predicts bacteria to be present, but the field data show bacteria to be absent. False negatives are predicted more often than false positives. This could indicate that die-off rates are too low, that there are there are sources in the real catchment that are not simulated **by** the model, or that the source concentrations simulated in the model are too low. Where there is a basis for comparison, the model agrees with the field observations more often than not. The model **will** require more refinement to make more accurate predictions, but this is a good foundation to work from.

5.2 **Drain Discharges to the Reservoir**

It is also important to evaluate the model's prediction of the magnitude of loading to the reservoir. The model does show a good ability to make qualitative predictions of the presence or absence of bacteria; however, as seen in Table **5.1,** quantitative agreement between model predictions and field observations is poor. This is likely the result of several factors, the most important of which is that the specific loading rates for individual agricultural land uses are not available in general, let alone for Singapore specifically. More information is needed to characterize management practices for the particular agricultural activities carried out in the catchment and to develop appropriate loading rates. Additionally, more information is needed to understand the relative contributions of point and non-point sources to bacterial loads. These

factors are discussed further in the following sections, which evaluate two specific subcatchments with different compositions.

	Average E. coli Concentration $(\#/100 \text{ mL})$		Average Total Coliform Concentration $(\#/100mL)$		
Subcatchment	Model	Samples	Model	Samples	
8	1,000,000		20,000,000	---	
10	5,000	---	2,000,000		
31		---	500		
32	30	390	300	68,000	
33	0.2	---	200		
34	4,000,000	52,233	800,000,000	3,379,200	
41	0.003	---	9		
42	30,000	62	80,000	3,690	
47	400	---	1,000,000		
50	$\mathbf{0}$	23	Ω	---	
60	100,000	---	100,000,000	---	
65	20	3,271	200	44,100	
100	500		600,000	---	
103	5,000,000,000	---	10,000,000,000	---	
113	1,0000	---	60,000		
114	10,000,000	6,440	300,000,000	129,970	
124	40,000,000	7,373	200,000,000	184,950	
125	60,000	---	100,000		
127	70	---	20,000	---	
130	100	---	80,000		
132	400,000	---	200,000,000	---	
135	600,000,000	---	2,000,000,000	---	
138	600,000	---	100,000,000	---	
145	0	70,445	θ	7,054,700	
150	30,000	---	20,000,000		
155	100,000,000	7,395,400	700,000,000	41,519,000	
163	70,000		7,000,000		
172	10,000,000	254	20,000,000,000	16,070	
191	400,000	176,970	5,000,000		
192	2,000,000	4,478	3,000,000,000	69,040	

Table 5.1: Comparison of predicted and observed concentrations.

Note: Model results were rounded to one significant digit. Subcatchments highlighted in gray are discussed in the text. **"---"** signifies that samples were either not taken within the subcatchment or that no valid sampling results were obtained from within the subcatchment.

5.3 Model Results for Subcatchment 42

The geographic location of subcatchment 42 (sub 42) is shown in Figure **5.2;** it is located in the northwest quadrant of Kranji Catchment. Sub 42 contains no point sources. Its land use composition can be seen in Figure **5.3.**

Figure **5.3:** Land use distribution in subcatchment 42.

Because sub 42 contains no point sources, any bacteriological contamination must be originating from a non-point source (at least in the case of the model). For the model, this means the contamination is coming from agricultural land, which, as shown in Figure *5.3,* comprises 47% of sub 42. Because of this, one would expect to see a non-point source signal in the model results; that is, one would expect to see higher bacterial loadings with higher flow (corresponding to higher precipitation, higher runoff, and higher subsurface contributions). Also, one would expect to see higher loadings with lower temperatures because SWAT models bacterial decay rate as a function of temperature (Neitsch et al., **2005):**

$$
\mathbf{K}_{\mathrm{T}} = \mathbf{K}_{20} \theta^{\mathrm{T} \text{-} 20} \tag{5.1}
$$

where, K_T is the first-order bacterial decay constant at temperature T, in degrees Celsius; K_{20} is the first-order bacterial decay constant at **20*C,** which the user inputs into the model; and **0** is the temperature adjustment factor for bacterial die-off/growth, with a default value of **1.070,** which was used in my simulations. The temperature dependence can also be observed in Figure 5.4, which shows bacterial loading as a function of temperature within sub 42. Figure *5.4* shows a clear decreasing trend in maximum observed bacterial loading with increasing temperature. Both the non-point source loading signal and the temperature dependence of the decay constant contribute to the explanation of the model results for sub 42, which are shown in Figure *5.5*

Figure 5.4: Predicted bacterial loadings as a function of temperature in subbasin 42.

The daily **E.** *coli* (blue) and total coliform (red) loadings are shown in the bottom panel of Figure **5.5.** The loading plot does not look continuous because on most of the days there is very little to no loading; it is a log plot, so these points do not appear on the graph. There are intermittently some individual days with bacterial loading (the dots) and a few time periods for which loadings appear more continuous and are present over the course of a few days (lines). One of the reasons for the periods of no-load is that there is often very low flow out of the subcatchment; for example, in Figure **5.5** between lines **A** and B there is very little flow. During that time, the temperature is also elevated. Low flow implies low runoff, which implies that there would not be much mobilization of bacteria from non-point sources, while elevated temperature implies higher die-off rates, as discussed above. The discontinuous nature of the loadings plot is primarily due to these two factors. Conversely, where loadings are present continuously for time periods of a few days, there is higher flow and lower temperatures. This occurs, for example, in the model output along line **E,** where the temperature is a local minimum and the flow is a local maximum. The model output between lines **C** and **D** shows a trend similar to that along line **E.** The temperature during this period is very low, but so is the flow. The loading is highest at the beginning and end of this time period, which is also when temperature and flow are highest. When the flow decreases, so does the temperature, which is why the loading appears as continuous as it does (had temperature remained high as flow decreased, loading would have dropped off of the plot sooner). Because the highest loading in this period occurs when the temperature and flow rate are highest, I believe that, in periods of low flow in the model, flow rate is a more important factor than temperature in determining predicted loading to the reservoir. Higher temperature should indicate lower concentration; however, flow was also slightly elevated at the same time as temperature. The outgoing concentration was definitely highest during the time period when flow was highest, regardless of temperature.

Figure **5.5:** These plots show daily bacterial loading, daily average temperature, and daily average flow rate predictions for sub 42 in model year **3.** The red lines and dots represent total coliform loading, the blue lines and dots represent **E** *coli* loading.

For this subcatchment, the model predicts average bacterial concentrations that are much higher than those observed in the field (Table **5.2).** There could be a variety of reasons for this. One explanation is that the non-point source loadings that **I** introduced are too **high.** Another explanation is that the bacterial decay rates **I** measured and used in the model could be too low. This over-prediction of concentration could also be due to the bacteria being mobilized from the fertilizer too easily; the sorption coefficient could be too low. There are many possible explanations for the model predicting excess concentration; however, more information **is** needed to determine the cause.

5.4 Model Results for Subcatchment 192

The geographic location of subcatchment **192** (sub **192)** is shown in Figure **5.2;** it is located in the southeast quadrant of Kranji Catchment, as shown in Figure **5.2.** Sub **192** contains three sewage treatment plants (STPs), shown below in Table **5.3.**

STP Number	Flow Rate (L/day)	Total Coliform Load $(\frac{\text{#/day}}{\text{#}})$	E. coli Load $(\text{\#}/day)$
BJ 813	1,375	975,000,000	3,437,500
BP 492	300,000	208,800,000,000	750,000,000
BJ 726	60,000	41,760,000,000	150,000,000

Table **5.3:** Estimated flow rates and loadings from point sources in subcatchment **192.**

The land use distribution for sub **192** is shown in Figure **5.6.** As shown in Figure **5.6,** sub **192** contains no agricultural land. This means that the only sources of bacterial contamination that are modeled within the subcatchment are point sources, thus **I** would expect to see a point-source signal. Such a signal is characterized **by** an almost constant loading with concentrations fluctuating as a function of flow, with higher flow yielding higher dilutions and lower concentrations. This dilution can be seen in Figure **5.7;** it is particularly obvious along lines **A,** B, and **C.** Bacterial loading, as shown in Figure **5.8,** is not constant, as one would expect, but varies over several orders of magnitude. This is due primarily to the same temperature dependency discussed above, for subcatchment 142. Between lines **D** and **E** in Figure **5.8,** temperature is relatively **high** and bacterial loadings are relatively low. This is again because the die-off rate increases with increasing temperature. Conversely, between lines F and **G,** temperature is relatively low and bacterial loadings are relatively high. This dependency explains the lack of a strong point-source signal.

Figure *5.6:* Land use distribution in subcatchment **192.**

For sub **192,** the model predicts concentrations that are much higher than those observed in the field (Table *5.4).* There are several possible explanations for this over-prediction. The point source loading estimates in Table *5.3* could be too high; samples were only collected for a small subset of the STPs. The resulting concentration data from these samples was applied to nonsampled STPs with similar surrounding land uses. **All** of the STP's listed in Table *5.3* use the concentrations measured at **BJ 813** to estimate daily bacterial loadings-this leaves much room for error. Additionally, the model requires that STPs be located on one of the streams defined during watershed delineation. In reality, these STPs are not located in the same location the model uses and travel time for bacteria in the drain could be longer, leading to reduced concentrations in the field observations. Another explanation is that the bacterial decay rates **I** measured and used in the model could be too low. More information on the actual concentrations in **STP** effluent, more accurate stream definition, and more refined die-off rates would yield a more refined model prediction.

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Figure *5.7:* Comparison of predicted daily average flow to predicted daily average bacterial concentrations *(E. coli* concentration is shown in blue and total coliform concentration is shown in red) for subcatchment **192** in model year **3.**

Figure *5.8:* Comparison of predicted average daily temperature and average daily bacterial load *(E. coli* load is shown in blue and total coliform load is shown in red) for subcatchment **192** in model year **3.**

6 Conclusions

6.1 Attenuation Study

The results from my attenuation study definitely suggest that further investigation is warranted concerning behavior of tracer bacteria in the Singaporean environment. **My** results indicate that at the particular times of my study and in that particular reach, *E. coli* and other coliform bacteria were dying in sunlit conditions and growing in dark conditions. Additional attenuation studies should be conducted in different reaches, over longer travel times, and at different times of day in order to further develop our understanding of how these bacteria behave. **A** study **by** Bellair et al. **(1977)** found that the rate of die-off of fecal coliform bacteria varied directly **with** light intensity in a study conducted at an ocean outfall for a sewage treatment plant in Australia. This result may have been amplified **by** the salinity of the water; **high** salinity can act to amplify the effects of solar radiation (Bowie et al., *1985).* However, even **if** the results are amplified, the base indication is still that light intensity is an important factor in bacterial die-off, which agrees with the results of my attenuation study. **My** results show that, in the environment of the study, sunlight is one of the dominant factors, if not the dominating factor, affecting bacterial die-off. Further investigation should be conducted to better understand the behavior *E coli* and other coliform bacteria in the Singaporean environment.

6.2 SWAT

6.2.1 Model Utility

For the most part, **I** found the ArcSWAT interface easy to use. **I** only encountered a few issues using ArcSWAT. It is not always easy to locate specific variables within the interface. Also, ArcSWAT does not always allow the user to set variables to the desired value; bounds set on field inputs are not always sufficiently broad.

SWAT requires huge amounts of data and input variables; these are not always easy to come **by.** However, there is a link between ArcSWAT and the **SWAT2005** database, which makes it fairly simple to use SWAT's pre-defined inputs for various land uses, soil types, and management practices. In terms of time commitment, **I** may have been able to reach the same conclusions using just the watershed delineation, point source estimates, and sampling data, without the need for SWAT. In terms of output, SWAT gives well-organized results in an easy to use format. That said, output volume could be reduced **by** eliminating field redundancy between tables and within the same table (e.g. subbasin area only needs to be output once per subbasin).

One concern with using SWAT is its ability to model bacterial fate and transport in Singapore. The results of my attenuation study show that "decay" is very different in sunlit versus dark conditions. **If** the SWAT time step were shorter than a day, then it would be very important to model day and night differently. This would require changing some of SWAT's components not an easy task. However, because the time step is at least a day, the decay rate can be modeled as an effective decay rate, as opposed to two separate rates. Decay rates vary over the course of a day; **if** the time step is a day or longer, the effects of the different decay rates can be averaged

over that time period. **If** the time step is shorter than one day, the modeled decay rate would have to be dependent on the time of day, a functionality that SWAT does not currently possess.

6.2.2 Recommendations

This run of the model is like a first draft—more refinement and more information are needed before it **will** make accurate predictions; however, the framework is in place. The model **did** a good job of qualitatively predicting presence or absence of bacteria within the subcatchments, but quantitatively its performance was poor. This is mainly the result of a general lack of information about the bacterial loading rates associated with specific agricultural activities within Kranji Catchment. Another contributing factor is uncertainty about loadings from and locations of point sources. Travel time is also an important factor in downstream bacterial concentrations; the higher the resolution of the watershed delineation, the more accurate the travel times. **If** the stream network can be further refined and fitted to the real drainage network, bacterial travel times **will** be more accurate, leading to better predictions of concentration downstream. **A** more in-depth sampling program might be undertaken for STPs for which there are no bacterial sampling results. It would also be prudent for this sampling program to look at temporal variability of **STP** effluent to ensure that the samples taken correctly characterize the loading. In order to better evaluate the accuracy of the model, it would also be prudent to conduct a sampling program in those subcatchments with no field observations. Refinement of the attenuation study results **will** also enhance the accuracy of the model. There are many opportunities to refine the model, and there is a good framework in place. With more information, SWAT could provide valuable insights into the behavior of bacteria within the catchment and the bacterial loading to Kranji Reservoir. **I** think that SWAT definitely warrants more work in the future because it has the potential to be a very useful tool for predicting behavior of bacteria within Kranji Catchment.

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Appendices

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Appendix A: Attenuation Study Results

TC stands for Total Coliforms and **EC** stands for *E. coli.* Sample names ending in **"U"** denote upstream samples, and sample names ending in **"D"** denote downstream samples. Sampling results labeled as **"N/A"** had invalid readings.

Appendix B: Soils of Kranji Catchment

Soil properties obtained from Chia et al. **(1991).** Colors denote soil groupings used to provide input values for missing data.

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Appendix C: Weather Data

Monthly average values for variables taken **by** SWAT that are used **by** the weather generator to simulate weather. Values calculated from three years of weather data from a **PUB** weather station in Kranji Reservoir.

Appendix D: Point Source Inputs

in SWAT. Flow rates estimated using values from Metcalf and Eddy (1977).

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