Forecasting water use in selected water supply system

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Abstract. The study analyzed data on water consumption in selected municipal water supply system. The forecast was made based on daily water consumption from the period of five years (2012 ÷ 2016). The results are a valuable information source for municipal water supply system operator. Water consumption forecast allows to schedule the amount of water that should be produced e.g., taking into account day of the week, month, and the least onerous terms for water consumers to make repair or modernization of water supply system elements.

1 Introduction

By definition, forecasting, other word: prediction, is the rational prediction of events in a scientific manner. Otherwise, it is a possibility to conclude about so far unknown events based on known events that occurred in the recent past [1]. The primary function of the forecast is to provide the most objective solutions, which relate to the anticipated event occurring in the future [2-4]. Basic functions of the forecasts are [6, 7]:

- dissecting, which creates prerequisites to take rational decisions,
- activating - stimulating to take action that favours the execution of forecast,
- information.

The forecast can be presented in view of the so-called forecast horizon, i.e. the period for which it was made. In this classification we distinguish:

- immediate, direct forecast which does not exceed 1 month,
- short-range forecast, covering 1 - 3 months,
- medium-range forecast which does not exceed 2 years,
- long-range forecast, made for more than 2 years.

Classification of forecasts can also be shown in view of the nature (e.g. simple or complex, single or repeatable, quantitative or qualitative), in view of the degree of details (general or detailed) or in view of the purpose of conducting (research, normative or active or passive) [7].

The issue raised in the work, associated with forecasting, requires an appropriate reference to Polish and foreign literature [7-25]. In recent years, the methods of forecasting rapidly develop and are used in practice more and more often. The essential problem of the subject - forecasting water use, turned out to be sporadically reported in the literature. In the

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study we analysed data on water consumption in the municipality in south-east of Poland. Details of daily water consumption, on the basis of which the simulation was made, are for 5 recent years (2012 – 2016). To forecast water consumption the method of exponential smoothing with seasonal additive was used.

2 Description of the water supply system

Water supply system in the municipality includes equipment for taking, treatment and distribution of water for the household, economic and industrial purposes. Municipal water supply system has the radial structure, branched, typical for water supply in rural areas – areas characterized by dispersed housing. Water supply system takes water from three underground sources and supplies water to about 16 thousand residents.

Water supply system in the municipality consists of:

- 9 tanks with total capacity 2050 m³.
- main - the length of 2 km, diameters 315 mm, 225 mm, 160 mm,
- distribution - 158.1 km length, diameter 110 mm, 90 mm.
Whole network is made of PVC.

3 The method of exponential smoothing with seasonal additive

The equation describing the exponential smoothing model with additive seasonality:

\[
\begin{align*}
F_t &= \alpha \cdot (y_t - C_{t-r}) + (1 - \alpha) \cdot F_{t-1} \\
C_t &= \gamma \cdot (y_t - F_t) + (1 - \gamma) \cdot C_{t-1}
\end{align*}
\]  

(1)

where:

- \(y_t\) - the forecast variable at a moment or period of time \(t\),
- \(F_t\) - smoothed evaluation of the level (mean value) at a moment or period of time \(t\),
- \(C_t\) - evaluation of seasonality index at a moment or period of time \(t\),
- \(\alpha\) - smoothing parameter of forecast variable level with values from the range (0, 1],
- \(\gamma\) - evaluation parameter of seasonal index with values from the range (0, 1],
- \(r\) - the length of a seasonal cycle (number of phases of each cycle).

The purpose of equation (1) is to determine a smoothed value of the entire time series and to determine the index of seasonality.

The parameters \(\alpha\) and \(\gamma\) can not be equal to 0 and the sum of the weights should be equal to one.

The use of this model on the basis of the time series consisting of \(n\)-elements relies on calculating the following equation:

\[
y^*_t = F_n + C_{T-r}, \text{ for } T = n-1,...,n+1
\]

(2)

wherein the coefficients \(F_n\) and \(C_{T-r}\) are calculated from the following formula:

\[
F_n = \alpha \cdot (y_n - C_{n-r}) + (1 - \alpha) \cdot F_{n-1}
\]

(3)

\[
C_{T-r} = \gamma \cdot (y_{T-r} - F_{T-r}) + (1 - \gamma) \cdot C_{T-2r}
\]

(4)

To perform the forecast, the necessary are values \(F_n\) and \(C_n\) which are dependent on the \(F_{n-1}\) and \(C_{n-r}\). When calculating the forecast \(y^*_t\) the expired forecasts must be determined:
\[ y_t^* = F_{t-1} + C_{t-r}, \text{for } t > r \]  

(5)

where:

\[ F_{t-1} = \alpha \cdot (y_{t-1} - C_{t-1-r}) + (1 - \alpha) \cdot F_{t-2} \]  

(6)

\[ C_t = \gamma \cdot (y_t - F_t) + (1 - \gamma) \cdot C_{t-r}, \text{for } 2r \geq t > r \]  

(7)

\[ C_{t-r} = \gamma \cdot (y_{t-r} - F_{t-r}) + (1 - \gamma) \cdot C_{t-2r}, \text{for } t > 2r \]  

(8)

Before the calculation, the initial values \( C_1, \ldots, C_r \) and \( F_r \) should be taken. The values should be adopted for the first cycle in accordance with the equation:

\[ C_i = y_i - \frac{y_1 + \ldots + y_r}{r}, \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, r \]  

(9)

The total sum of values of \( C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_r \) should be equal to 0:

\[ \sum_{i=1}^{r} C_i = 0 \]  

(10)

Value \( F_r \) is calculated according to the expression:

\[ F_r = \frac{y_1 + \ldots + y_r}{r} \]  

(11)

Table 1. shows the mechanism of calculations using EXCEL.

| no. | day | month | water consumption, \( y \) | \( F_t \) | \( C_t \) | \( y_t^* \) |
|-----|-----|-------|-----------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 1   | 1   | 1     | 936                         | -161 | -    | 776      |
| 2   | 2   | 2     | 381                         | -191 | -    | 190      |
| 3   | 3   | 3     | 1228                        | -53  | -    | 535      |
| 4   | 4   | 4     | 980                         | -167 | -    | 167      |
| 5   | 5   | 5     | 1552                        | -405 | -    | 405      |
| 6   | 6   | 6     | 961                         | -106 | -    | 106      |
| 7   | 7   | 7     | 1042                        | 1097 | 13   | 1097     |
| 8   | 8   | 8     | 1458                        | 1202 | 48   | 48       |
| 9   | 9   | 9     | 1005                        | 1200 | -193 | 1008     |
| 10  | 10  | 10    | 1032                        | 1156 | -36  | 1192     |
| 11  | 11  |       | 981                         | 1155 | -170 | 1148     |
| 12  | 12  |       | 987                         | 1040 | 176  | 1216     |
| 13  | 13  |       | 883                         | 1030 | -126 | 904      |
| 14  | 14  |       | 810                         | 989  | -96  | 893      |
| 15  | 15  |       | 1396                        | 1060 | 192  | 1252     |

Table 1. The mechanism of calculation
4 Forecasting water consumption in selected municipality

Data on water consumption for the period 2012 ÷ 2016 and the forecast for 2017 are characterized by fluctuations in water consumption with clearly shaping seasonality in the summer months.

Table 2 shows the average value of the data (on the basis of which the forecast for 2012 ÷ 2016 was carried out) for each day of the week.

Table 2. Average value of the water consumption, variations, mean deviation for 2011 – 2015.

| day of the week | water consumption, m³ | σ² | σ |
|-----------------|------------------------|----|----|
| Mon             | 1044                   | 94288 | 307 |
| Tue             | 1196                   | 106206 | 326 |
| Wed             | 1200                   | 100183 | 317 |
| Thu             | 1210                   | 105111 | 324 |
| Fri             | 1200                   | 112284 | 335 |
| Sat             | 1187                   | 138509 | 372 |
| Sun             | 1557                   | 118600 | 344 |

On the basis of Table 2, it can be observed that the increase in water consumption took place at the weekend and the highest value for the week was reached on Sunday. This is due to lifestyle of the recipients – the longer time spent at home, compared to weekdays, and house chores. Then, on Monday, water consumption was reduced from 1557 m³ to 1044 m³, and successively during a week it was about 1,200 m³.

Four years data was used for building the model and forecast for 2016 was made to compare it the forecasted data with historical data from 2016 (Fig. 1).
Fig. 1. Average water consumption during forecast period (2017).

Prepared model correctly predicts future water consumption. Figure 2 presents water consumption forecast for 2017.

For comparison, the same data as Table 2. was created for the forecast of water consumption for 2017 on Fig. 3.

Fig 3. Average water consumption during forecast period (2017).
5 Conclusions

Data on water consumption for the period 2012–2016 and the forecast for 2017 are characterized. After analysing the results and comparing them to the previous water consumption, it was stated that the forecasting model was correct. The results of the method of exponential smoothing with seasonal additive as well as water consumption in the past, oscillate around the trend line and the apparent increase in water consumption also takes place during the summer (May–August).

The method meets the principle of the easy availability of output data that is convenient from a practical point of view. These data do not include external factors (for example environmental) – variables, but they are based on chronological data of the past.

In summary, this paper presents a model of the time series, which is a simple and flexible tool for forecasting. The basic argument, which supports the use of the above models is mainly good quality of water consumption forecast and hence a better quality of water distribution services. With the appropriate series of past data forecasting demand for water is possible. Choice of the correct methods and properly conducted forecast allow to draw the appropriate conclusions, thanks to which it is possible to improve the operation of water supply systems.

The paper presents the simple forecasting model that is a universal and fast tool to predict the demand for water in water supply system on the basis of the collected data. Additionally described model can be used during the operation of the water companies to plan, among others:
- the purchase of reagents for treatment
- repairs related to the shutdown of water supply
- costs of pumping water.

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