



## Determining suitable model for zoning drinking water distribution network based on corrosion potential in Sanandaj City, Iran

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### Original Article

#### Abstract

Corrosion in general is a complex interaction between water and metal surfaces and materials in which the water is stored or transported. Water quality monitoring in terms of corrosion and scaling is crucial, and a key element of preventive maintenance, given the economic and health hurts caused by corrosion and scaling in water utilities. The aim of this study is to determine the best model for zoning and interpolation corrosive potential of water distribution networks. For this purpose, 61 points of Sanandaj, Iran, distribution network were sampled and using Langelier indices, we investigated corrosivity potential of drinking water. Then, we used geostatistical methods such as ordinary kriging (OK), global polynomial interpolation, local polynomial interpolation, radius-based function, and inverse distance weighted for interpolation, zoning and quality mapping. Variogram analysis of variables was performed to select appropriate models. The results of the calculation of the Langelier index represented scaling potential of drinking water. Suitable model for fitness on exponential variogram was selected based on less (residual sums of squares) and high ( $R^2$ ) value. Moreover, the best method for interpolation was selected using the mean error and root mean square error. Comparison of the results indicated that OK was the most suitable method for drinking water quality zoning.

**KEYWORDS:** Water Quality, Inverse Distance weighted, Kriging, Radius-Based Function, Zoning, Interpolation, Corrosivity, Sanandaj

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#### Introduction

Drinking water must be void of any mixtures that may be harmful to human health. Most of the developing countries suffer from hygienic problems resulting from lack of drinking water and absence good quality and microbiological contamination.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that approximately 5 million children die annually due to inappropriate drinking water quality.<sup>2</sup>

One of the qualitative parameters in water distribution network is corrosion. Corrosion is one of the most complicated and costly problems facing drinking water utilities.<sup>3</sup> Corrosion can affect public health, public acceptance of water supply and the cost of providing safe drinking water. Corrosion in drinking water distribution system causes lots of hygienic and economic problems, for instance, internal corrosion causes pipe fractures, overflowing, pipe obstruction, quality change and odor, color and taste production. Rapid urban development brings

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about more demand and vaster development of water network system. More complexity of the water network, the more data processing. For data processing and management, systems with easier access and faster functioning are needed.<sup>4</sup> Determining optimized zoning method and quality model of drinking water can be a fundamental step in quality data management of water in the district. Geographical information systems (GIS) have effective usage in managing geo-spatial information and qualitative and quantitative information.<sup>5</sup> In such a situation, the interpolation of data points is the most suitable option that can handle the spatial characteristics.<sup>6</sup> Spatial interpolation models include geographical location of sample data points.<sup>7</sup> Some spatial interpolation models for creating qualitative model of drinking water include distance-reverse weighting inverse distance weighted (IDW), spline, Kriging and polynomial interpolation, among which ordinary Kriging (OK) and IDW are widely used.<sup>8</sup> Earls and Dixon compared interpolation models for IDW spline and data rainfall spatial Kriging using ArcGIS software (version 9.3, Esri, Redlands, CA, USA). She found that Kriging models (Kriging-exponential) produce better results than IDW and spline models.<sup>9</sup> Naoum and Tsanis rated spatial interpolation according to the decision-making systems based on GIS. They found that OK (Kriging-exponential) produce reliable estimates.<sup>10</sup> Evaluating geostatistical methods like Kriging, radius-based function (RBF), local estimating, and global estimating, Shaabani found that Kriging models are better tools to analyze salinity and nitrate of underground water due to their lower root mean square error (RMSE) and higher R<sup>2</sup>.<sup>11</sup> Taghizadeh Mehrjardi et al. studied spatial evaluation of qualitative parameters of underground water like TDS, TH, EC, SAR, SQ<sub>4</sub>, Cl<sup>-</sup> according to IDW, Kriging and co-Kriging models; their results show that Kriging model is better based on RMES criterion.<sup>12</sup> Kriging modeling nitrate pollution of underground

water resulting from agricultural activities, Piccini et al. showed that it is a suitable method for identifying vulnerable areas from nitrate perspective.<sup>13</sup> The same findings were reported by other researchers.<sup>14-17</sup> Ghaneian et al. investigated corrosion and precipitation potential in Dual water distribution system in Kharanagh District of Yazd Province and determined that water had precipitative quality.<sup>18</sup> Dehghani et al. used Langelier saturation index (LSI) for corrosion zoning of water distribution system in Shiraz, Iran. Regular monitoring and analyzing water samples, they found that scaling potential in water samples was high.<sup>19</sup> The aim of the present study is to zone the corrosion potential of drinking water distribution network of Sanandaj, Iran, using LSI and the most appropriate interpolation and variogram models in GIS.

## Materials and Methods

Sanandaj, the capital of Kurdistan province, covering an area of 3688.8 ha is located in the western part of Iran and the southern part of the province. Its geographical coordination is latitude N 14 35' and longitude E 46 (Figure 1). Its height differs from 1450 to 1538 m above sea level. It is also located in the mountainous region of Zagros and has cold and semi-arid weather. Its average temperature is 15.20, 25.20, 10.40, and 1.60 °C in spring, summer, autumn, and winter respectively. The maximum temperature in July is 44 and the minimum temperature in February is -13.5 °C.

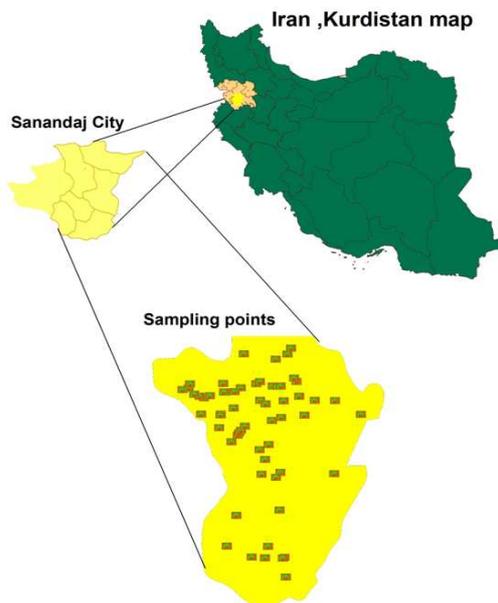
In this study, we collected water samples randomly from 61 points of the drinking water distribution network of Sanandaj. Latitude and longitude of the samples location was recorded via GPS. Each water sample was tested for corrosion perspective according to the standard methods for water and wastewater examination.<sup>20</sup> LSI was used to determine the corrosion potential of drinking water. It is based on pH of the water sample.<sup>21</sup>

LSI was determined using Equation. 1.  

$$LSI = pH - pH_s \quad (1)$$

Where, pH is the pH of water sample and pH<sub>s</sub> is pH at CaCO<sub>3</sub> saturation determined using

Equation. 2.



**Figure 1. Location and sampling points of study area**

$$pH_s = (9.3+A+B)-(C+D) \quad (2)$$

Where,  $A = (\text{Log}_{10} [\text{TDS}]-1)/10 = 0.15$ ;

$B = -13.12 \times \text{Log}_{10} (^\circ\text{C} + 273) + 34.55 = 2.09$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  and  $1.09$  at  $82^\circ\text{C}$ ;

$C = \text{Log}_{10} (\text{Ca}^{2+} \text{ as } \text{CaCO}_3) - 0.4 = 1.78$ , ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  as  $\text{CaCO}_3$  is also called calcium hardness and is calculated as  $= 2.5(\text{Ca}^{2+})$ ;

$D = \text{Log}_{10} (\text{alkalinity as } \text{CaCO}_3) = 1.53$

For  $\text{LSI} > 0$ , water is supersaturated and tends to precipitate a scale layer of  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , whereas, for  $\text{LSI} = 0$ , water is saturated (in equilibrium) with  $\text{CaCO}_3$ . A scale layer of  $\text{CaCO}_3$  is neither precipitated nor dissolved. For  $\text{LSI} < 0$ , water is under saturated and tends to dissolve solid  $\text{CaCO}_3$ .

If the actual pH of the water is below the calculated saturation pH, the LSI is negative, and the water has a very limited scaling potential. If the actual pH exceeds  $\text{PH}_s$ , the LSI is positive and being supersaturated with  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , the water has a tendency to form scale. At increasing positive index values, the scaling potential increases. In practice, water with an LSI between  $-0.5$  and  $+0.5$  will not display enhanced mineral dissolving or scale forming properties. Water

with an LSI below  $-0.5$  tends to exhibit noticeably increased dissolving abilities while water with an LSI above  $+0.5$  tends to exhibit noticeably increased scale forming properties.

Data were analyzed according to descriptive statistics. Average, variance, standard deviation, maximum and minimum, skewness and kurtosis were calculated using SPSS for Windows (version 16.0, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Among various deterministic interpolation techniques OK, global polynomial interpolation (GPI), LPI, RBF and IDW were used for determining the best interpolation method. For this reason, Arc GIS 9.3 and GS+ (version 5.1, Gamma Design Software, Plainwell, MI, USA) were used. Full explanation of geostatistical methods could be found in the literature.<sup>11,12,17,22-24</sup> In general, geostatistical analyzing is based on this theory that measuring with smaller distances is more likely to be similar that with more distances (this means that the local coefficient exists). This theory can be verified using semivariogram examination that is an appropriate tool for measuring the coefficient among samples. Semivariogram is calculated using Eq. 3.<sup>25,26</sup>

$$\gamma(h) = \frac{1}{2N(h)} \sum_{i=1}^{N(h)} [Z(x_i) - Z(x_i+h)]^2 \quad (3)$$

Where,  $N(h)$  is the number of observation pairs separated by distance  $h$ ,  $Z(x_i)$  is the value of the variable  $Z$  at the  $x_i$  location and  $(x_i + h)$  is the value of the variable  $Z$  at  $x_i + h$  location. Therefore, a graph is created for each variable that variance between points showed that during the modeling process of a semivariogram, the suggestions for cross-validation model are considered as a function of distance. In cross-validation method, an observational point is eliminated in each stage, and it is estimated based on other observational points. There would be a point estimated for each observational point. This method was used for verification. Variogram is composed of Nugget effect ( $C_0$ ), sill ( $C + C_0$ ) and range effect ( $A_0$ ). The semivariogram value for  $h = 0$  is called Nugget effect that is generally a result of the error in

sample-taking or data analyzing. By the increase of h, the semivariogram modifies increases till it reaches a specific value. Then, it becomes constant. This distance is called the Range effect, and the value of the constant semivariogram modify is called the sill that is the spatial variance of the being studied variable. The experimental semivariogram  $\gamma(h)$  is fitted to a theoretical model such as linear to sill, gaussian, spherical, linear and exponential. Cross-validation was conducted in order to verify the accuracy and precision of the process. The model with the highest  $R^2$  and the lowest residual sums of squares (RSS) was selected. Nugget/sill in geostatistics can be considered as a criterion for spatial dependence. OK, GPI, local polynomial interpolation (LPI), RBF, and IDW were used for interpolation and predicting variance error of the non-sampling place.

Finally, we evaluated the model function in cross-validation using below criterion. For determining the best interpolation method, three criteria of RMSE, mean error (ME) and %RMSE were used that are computed using Eq. 4-6.<sup>17</sup>

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (Z(x_i) - Z^*(x_i))^2}{n}} \tag{4}$$

$$ME = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{Zx_i - Z^* x_i}{n} \tag{5}$$

$$\%RMSE = (RMSE/\bar{X})100 \tag{6}$$

Where, n = number of observations or samples;  $Z^*(x_i)$  = observed values;  $Z(x_i)$  = predicted or estimated values,  $\bar{X}$  = mean of measured parameter; and ME is the ME indication bias. Positive values of ME show

values more than real and negative values show estimates less than real. The more ME is smaller, the less the interpolation is skewed. RMSE values in the optimized state (the state in which the estimated and measured values are equal) is zero. The more RMSE is smaller, the more the estimating of interpolation method is accurate.<sup>27</sup> RMSE is sensitive to wide values. Therefore, RMSE% can be used. This criterion being small is a reason for more accurate estimates, i.e., less difference between the real and estimated values. The accepted %RMSE value is 40 and values more than 70 show imprecision in the estimated points and high difference between the real and estimated values.<sup>28</sup>

### Results and Discussion

A result relating to data's being normal after normalizing the data, we examined it using statistical Kolmogorov-Smirnov test in SPSS 16 software. Table 1 presents a statistical summary of the corrosion situation of the drinking water distribution network of Sanandaj. The data were distributed normally according to the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, skewness, and histogram (Figure 2). Data normalization is a criterion only for Kriging methods.

#### Analysis of LSI variogram

GS+ software was used to create a semi-variogram for each variant and choosing the best theoretical corrosion model. Variogram is a useful plot by which many information could be extracted including data spatial structures, radius correlations of variants, static examination of data, and variant isotropic. Less RSS and more  $R^2$  were used for fitting the best model on the variogram and stronger spatial structure. Nugget/sill ( $C_0/C_0+C$ ) ratio in the geostatistics can be regarded as a criterion to classify the spatial dependence of quality parameters of water. If this ratio is < 25%, the

**Table 1. Results of statistical analysis on Langelier saturation index**

N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std.	Skewness	Kurtosis
62	-0.51	1.21	0.1876	0.26415	0.541	2.820

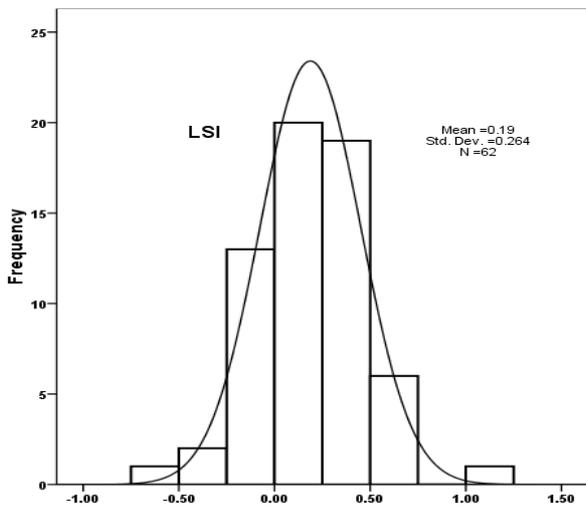


Figure 2. Data histogram of Langelier saturation index

variant owns strong spatial correlations. If the ratio is between 25% and 75% the spatial correlations is medium. And if the ratio is more than 75% the spatial correlations are weak.<sup>25</sup> Figure 3 shows the variogram of the measured Langelier indices. Moreover, table 2 tabulates the results of the best models of exponential, linear, spherical and Gaussian linear to sill variants for the measured indices. Nugget /Sill ratio is between 0.4 and 0.7 indicating medium spatial coefficient. Based on the criteria of higher  $R^2$  and less RSS, exponential variogram is the best-fitted model. It has the strongest spatial correlations and Gaussian has the weakest.<sup>10,11,15</sup> This model was also used to describe the spatial changes.

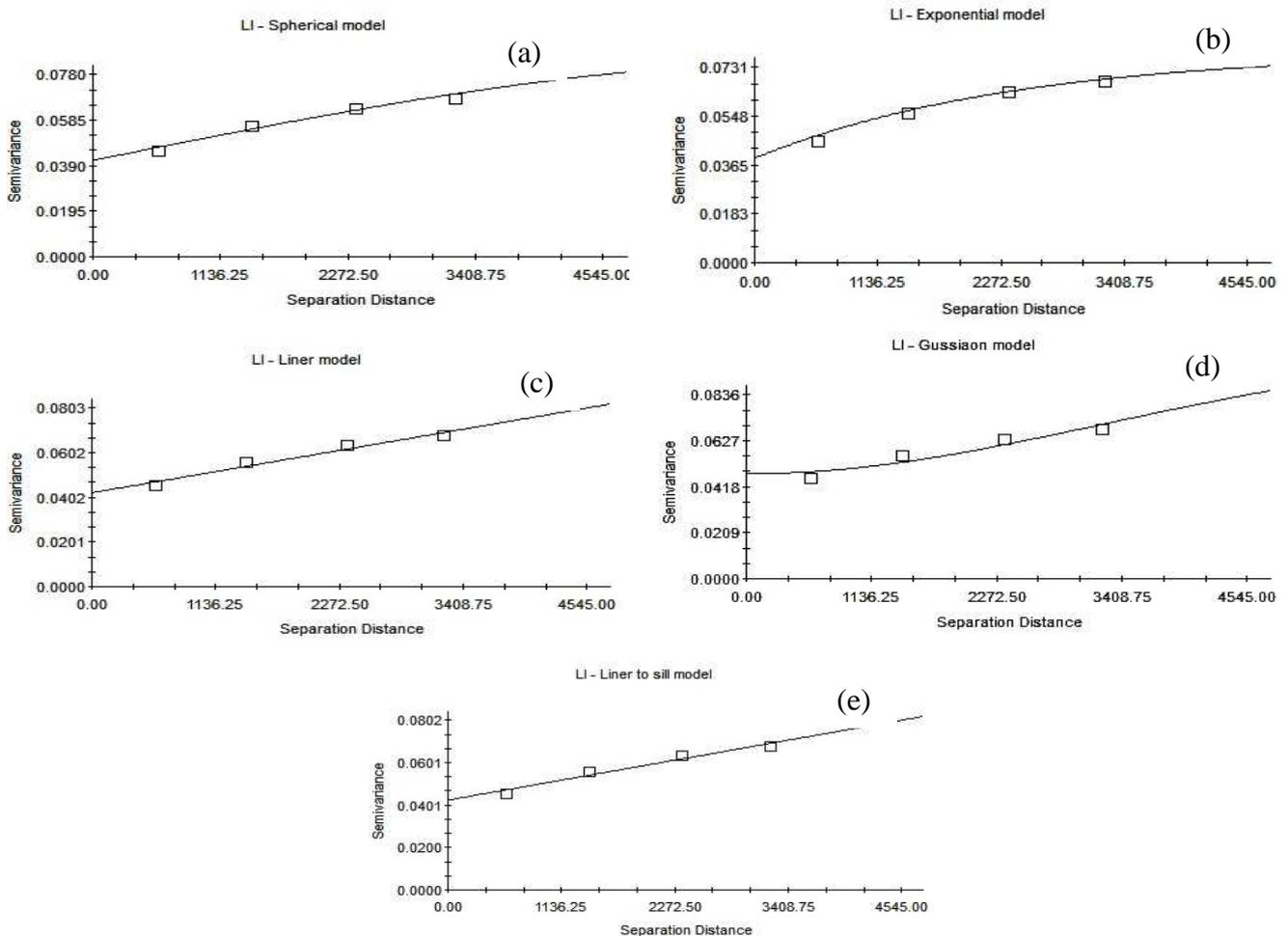


Figure 3. Fitted variogram models of Langelier saturation index (a) spherical, (b) exponential, (c) linear, (d) Gaussian, (e) linear to sill

**Table 2. Best-fitted variogram models of Langlier saturation index**

Model	Nugget C <sub>0</sub>	Sill C <sub>0</sub> + C	Range Parameter A <sub>0</sub>	Effective Range A <sub>1</sub>	Proportion C <sub>0</sub> /(C <sub>0</sub> + C)	R <sup>2</sup>	RSS
Spherical	0.04130	0.08370	6642	6642	0.507	0.974	8.47E-06
Spherical	0.03900	0.07910	2397	7191	0.507	0.998	7.72E-06
Linear	0.04221	0.06934	3234.4388	3234.4388	0.3910	0.961	1.301E-03
Linear to sill	0.04240	0.11800	9099	13130	0.641	0.961	1.13E-04
Gaussian	0.04770	0.10540	4608	7981.2901	0.547	0.890	3.18E-04

C<sub>0</sub>: Nugget effect; C + C<sub>0</sub>: Sill; A<sub>0</sub>: Range effect; R<sup>2</sup>: Regression coefficient; RSS: Residual sums of squares

### Comparison of geostatistical methods

For determining the best interpolation method between the methods of geostatistical OK, GPI, LPI, RBF, IDW criteria of RMSE, ME, and %RMSE were used. As table 3 indicates, the value of ME and %RMSE in OK is less than others. The value of < 15 for %RMSE shows very good accuracy of semi-variogram in estimations.<sup>26</sup> The OK model is the best for zoning. Zoning results of this paper is consistent to those of Naoum and Tsanis,<sup>10</sup> Earls and Dixon,<sup>9</sup> and Goovaerts.<sup>29</sup> Langlier saturation index zoning is shown by OK, GPI, LPI, RBF, and IDW maps (Figure 4). Langlier index has more sediment potential in North West, South East and central parts. Sediment is not balanced. It is strong in some parts and weak in other parts. Compared with North West and South East parts, central parts have weak sediment

potential. Few parts of North East, South West and West have weak corrosion potential.

### Conclusion

Deterioration of materials resulting from corrosion can necessitate a colossal annual expenditure of scarce resources for repairs replacement and maintenance of distribution system. Given results obtained of drinking water in the Sanandaj distribution network has the scale formation potential. OK estimates with an exponential variogram based on RMSE and ME criteria is the most suitable technique for mapping quality spatial changes of LSI and assess the probability of exceeding the critical threshold. The advantage of kriging compared with other methods is that kriging produces better estimates than the other methods because the method takes explicit account of the effects

**Table 3. Selection of the most suitable model for evaluation on variogram**

ME	RMSE%	RMSE	Interpolation method
-0.001379	14.4	0.2791	Kriging_Ordinary_Exponential
-0.003198	14.40	0.2737	Kriging_Ordinary_Spherical
-0.003374	14.30	0.2731	Kriging_Ordinary_Circular
-0.005531	14.20	0.2709	Kriging_Ordinary_Gaussian
-0.002824	14.40	0.2749	Kriging_Ordinary_pentaspherical
-0.003012	14.40	0.2743	Kriging_Ordinary_Tetraspherical
-0.002181	14.51	0.2757	Kriging_Ordinary_Rational Quadratic
-0.005879	14.20	0.2705	Kriging_Ordinary_Hole Effect
-0.00555	14.24	0.2707	Kriging_Ordinary_K-Bessel
-0.005499	14.25	0.2709	Kriging_Ordinary_J-Bessel
-0.005572	14.25	0.2708	Kriging_Ordinary_Stable
-0.0004534	14.74	0.2802	GPI
-0.0008811	15.20	0.2888	LPI
0.01493	15.54	0.2953	IDW
0.005173	14.60	0.2775	RBF

ME: Mean error; GPI: Global polynomial interpolation; LPI: Local polynomial interpolation; RBF: Radius-based function; IDW: Inverse distance weighted; RMSE: Root mean square error

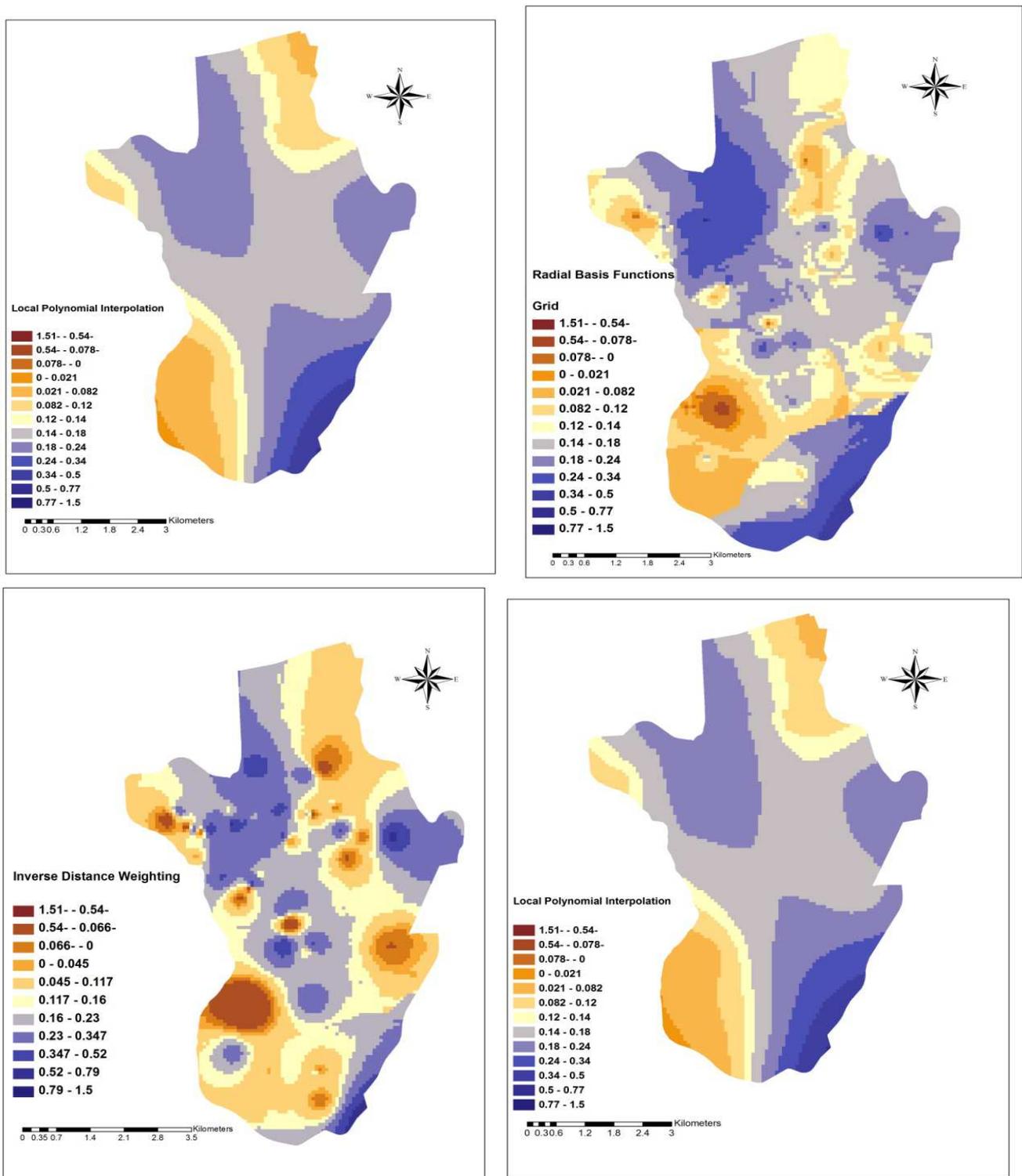


Figure 4. Spatial variations maps of Langelier saturation index by interpolation methods of OK, GPI, LPI, RBF, and IDW  
 Ok: Ordinary kriging; GPI: Global polynomial interpolation; LPI: Local polynomial interpolation; RBF: Radius-based function; IDW: Inverse distance weighted

of random noise and identifies the optimal interpolation weights and searches radius and provides an indication of the reliability of the estimates. Kriging analysis leads to an increased understanding of the data sets obtained for the fouling potential. The accuracy of the kriging map not only depends on the variogram and the maximum number of samples or neighboring points in kriging, but also depends on the number of classes and class boundaries. LSI calculations and plotted zoning maps revealed that the chemical quality of drinking water distribution network in Sanandaj City is imbalanced; hence, causing scale formation in water distribution network systems, and other facilities are unavoidable. Moreover, health and economic outcomes, consumers dissatisfaction due to quality changes, loss of water pressure in the distribution network are another potential drawbacks of this issue. Finally, it is suggested that the concerned authorities take crucial and required measures to make the water more stabilized from the corrosion point of view before delivering it to the customers. Moreover, analyzing other physicochemical parameters is essential in giving better figure of the water quality in the studied area.

### Conflict of Interests

Authors have no conflict of interests.

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