

# ***Interactive comment on* “Technical note: Pitfalls in using log-transformed flows within the KGE criterion” by Léonard Santos et al.**

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Received and published: 27 July 2018

## **Re-ranking the transformations**

The NISR (negative inverse square-root) transformation can be generalized to a NIR (negative inverse root) one defined below:

$$J_N(Q) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt[N]{Q}} = -\frac{1}{Q^{1/N}}, \quad (1)$$

$$J_0(Q) = \log Q, \quad (2)$$

Some may dismiss the  $J_2$  transformation as simply a sign change of the classical ISR

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(inverse square-root) one. Indeed they are correct. But as Leonardo Da Vince (1452 - 1519) once said, "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication."

For example,  $J_2$  happens to be a subset of the 1-parameter Box-Cox (1964) transformation (Eq. 6 in Santos et al. paper) when parameter  $\lambda = -1/2$ ,

$$f_{BC}^{\lambda=-1/2}(Q) = \frac{Q^\lambda - 1}{\lambda} = 2(1 + J_2), \quad (3)$$

The difference between these two ISR-type transformed values is:

$$f_{BC}^{\lambda=-1/2} - J_2 = 2 + J_2 = 2 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{Q}}, \quad (4)$$

This has a maximum value of 2.

Figure 1 shows the modifications of the four transformation methods being considered in the authors' Table 1. These are the original logarithmic, a fixed-parameter Box-Cox, the inverse negated, and the square root both inverted and negated, and labelled  $J_0$ ,  $f_{BC}^{\lambda=-1/2}$ ,  $J_1$ , and  $J_2$ , respectively. All four transformation curves share the same inverted U-shape, being an advantage for comparison purposes. These show their relative impact on the transformed flow values, most obviously on the lower ends.

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2018-298>, 2018.

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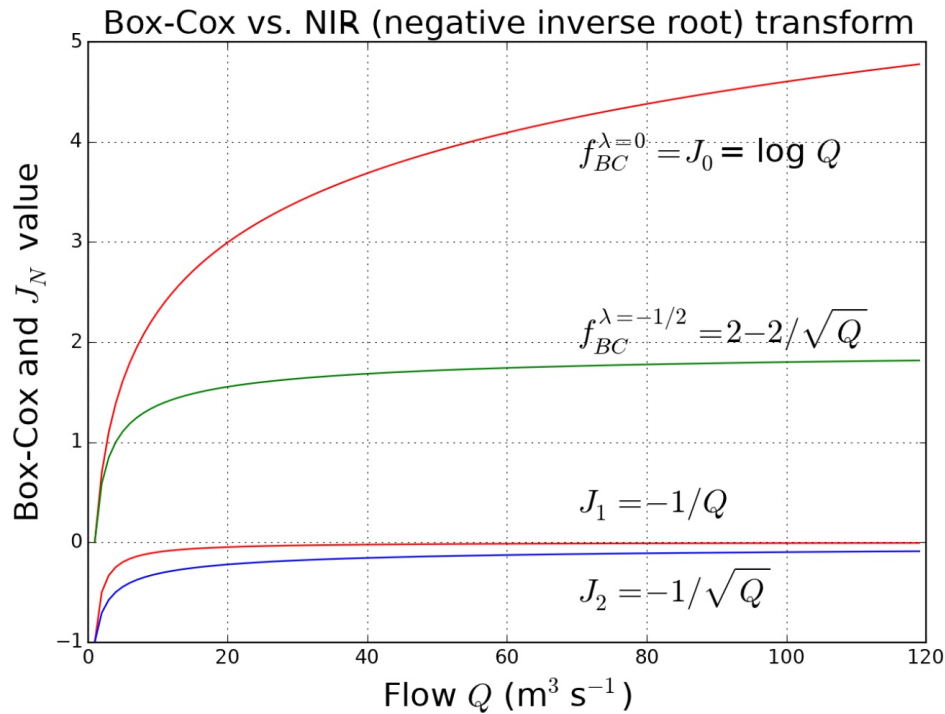


Fig. 1. Comparison of Box-Cox and NIR (negative inverse root) transformation methods.

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