

Norwegian University  
of Life Sciences

**Masters Thesis 2024 30 ECTS**

Faculty of Science and Technology

# **A comparative study of soil temperature models, including machine learning models**

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Master of Science in Data Science



## Forword

Jeg vil takke alle som var rundt meg under skrivingen, for uten dere så ville jeg ikke ha klart å fullføre.

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## Acronyms

**Symbols | K | L | M | N | R**

### Symbols

$R^2$

Explained Variance. 11

$\log(\kappa)$

Log Condition number. 11

### K

#### Kilden

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research Kilden. 5

### L

#### LMT

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research LandbruksMeteorologisk service. 5, 7, 8

#### LSTM

Long Short Term-Memory. 4

### M

#### MAE

Mean Absolut Error. 11

**MET**

The Norwegian Meteorological Institute. 5, 7, 8

**N**

**NMBU**

The Norwegian University of Life Science. 17

**R**

**RMSE**

Root Mean Square Error. 11



### Abstract

This study focuses on 3 models that have been used in the literature to predict soil temperatures. The depths chosen as targets are 10cm, and 20cm in 4 regions; Innlandet, Østfold, Vestfold, and Trøndelag. In each region there are 4 stations with self-draining or saturated soils.

### Oppsummering

Denne studien ser på modeller som predikerer jordtemperaturer

*Keywords:* Soil temperature, Machine learning, regression, hour, weather forecasting data

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## 1 Introduction

In agriculture soil temperature is one of the important parameters to put into consideration when thinking about pest prevention, conservation, and yield prediction. The reasoning for this is that knowing the soil temperature is knowing climate change [1], water management [2], yield [3], nitrogen processes [4] in the soil, calculation of plant-growth [5], when seeds start to sprout [5], potential flooding and erosions[6], and predicting when insect eggs hatch that were laid last winter. Being able to predict the soil temperature into the future will be a huge advantage for farmers, civilians, and scientists.

If it's important, why don't institutions measure it everywhere? There are several reasons for this, but a common reason is that it's expensive to install new equipment on old weather stations. Sometimes the weather station do have the sensors in the fields reading soil temperature at given levels, but due to technical misadventures and unforeseen phenomenons there might be gaps or misreadings that need to be replaced with approximations or NULL values<sup>1</sup>. There are algorithms, models, and statistical tools to interpolate these missing values but they have their drawbacks. For instance approximation by global mean, which is a common method used in timeseries[7]. This method is preserved global statistics, however does not represent local changes. Further more for a good estimation of soil temperature it is useful to include exogenous<sup>2</sup> features.

There has been done research into heat conductivity in soil that has lead to differential equations[8], however these equations[8, 9] are computationally expensive and difficult to simulate, or calculate[4]. To add to the complexity the heat dynamics change depending on soil temperature as they change the physical structure of the soil

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There are also massive developments in the types of models, one of which are ASPER that combines logical statments<sup>3</sup> with deep learning models to achieve better or similar results to "non-logical" deep learning models, but on fewer samples[10]. A study has been preformed with the model which shows that the model can reduce the number of samples/observations needed by a factor of 1/1000[11]. After an intervju with the study resercher (Machot), although the model needs a strict ruleset it is possible to incorporate baysioan statistics to make the model more general for more applications by weakening the ruleset and imply that the rules given might not be 100% accurate and can be relaxed. Another cutting-edge method used is attention-awareness, same method used in ChatGPT, and other modern AI technologies for generative media. This method has been utilised to predict soil temperatures and soil moisture[1].

<sup>1</sup>These values are different from 0 as they represent "no data" and can't be used to do calculations.

<sup>2</sup>Variable that can affect the model, but is not not directly described by the model.

<sup>3</sup>Statements can be thought of as formulas, nature laws, knowledge about the solution



A beneficial model would be one using the fewest number of parameters as possible while returning results within acceptable tolerances. This study will consider models that can use only time and air temperature as those two features are the most common measurements measured at weather stations, since soil temperature is not necessarily calculated as stated earlier. A good metric in this study will be considered to be a combination of Root Mean Square Error and Explained Variance (see section 3.5).

The goal of this study is to find which type of model is worth to do further research on. The models selected is a small poll of models in the literature that are being used to predict soil temperature using metrological observations. The scope of metrological is limited to time (as either day of the year, or the hour of the year) as these are common observations in the literature and in Norwegian weather stations.



## 2 Theory

This section discusses the theory behind the models used in the study, there are a few base models (section 2.1, and 2.3) based on the interpretation of the papers hand picked for this study

### 2.1 Linear regression

The regression model will be for the sake of convenience be expressed as the following expression

$$\vec{F}(\mathbf{A})\vec{\beta} = \vec{y} + \vec{\varepsilon}$$

Where  $\vec{F}$  is a vector function with following domain  $\vec{F} : \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$  where  $m, n, p \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mathbf{A}$  is the data in matrix form with dimensions  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\vec{\beta}$  is the regression terms,  $\vec{y}$  is the target (TJM10 or TJM20), and  $\vec{\varepsilon}$  is the residual error.

This basic model to express the linearity of the components to soil temperature. This will function as the base model for regression models.

The  $\vec{F}$  is not important, just that your data is shaped by a function.

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### 2.2 Plauborg linear regression model with Fourier terms

An improvement over an time independent linear regression model would be a time dependent linear regression model that takes not only current time into account of the calculations but also previous measurements. It is current knowledge that soil temperatures depends on previous temperatures and metrological phenomena. In the paper “Simple model for 10 cm soil temperature in different soils with short grass” the author chose to extend the features from only air temperature at current time to include also previous days of year and the air temperature from those days. This means the following F function that Plauborg used would be

$$\vec{F} := [air_t, air_{t-1}, air_{t-2}, air_{t-3}, \sin(\omega t), \cos(\omega t), \sin(2 * \omega t), \cos(2 * \omega t)]^T$$

Where  $air_t$  is the air temperature at time  $t$  expressed in day of the year (0-365),  $\omega$  is the angular frequency in radians per hour or radians per day, depending on the time unit. The sine/cosine elements in the F function represent the variations through the day by fitting  $\vec{\beta}$  to the yearly variation. To adapt the authors model to an hourly time unit would be to either

1. Extend the F function to include a larger  $\omega$  coefficient to reflect hourly oscillations in conjunction with daily fluctuations
2. Refit the Fourier terms with a larger  $\omega$  coefficient to make the oscillations more representative of daily temperature changes.

The larger coefficient could be expressed as  $\pi/12$  while the smaller  $\omega$  for daily values would be rescaled to  $2\pi/365$ .

The problem with this approach would be Fourier's Sine-Cosine series approximation which would suggest that Plauborg's method could be subject to overfitting with addition of more terms. On the other hand it gives us a way to compute the coefficients  $\alpha_i$  and  $\gamma_i$  for sine and cosine terms respectively, though it would be more numerically stable with a pseudo-inverse computation or a max log likelihood approach.

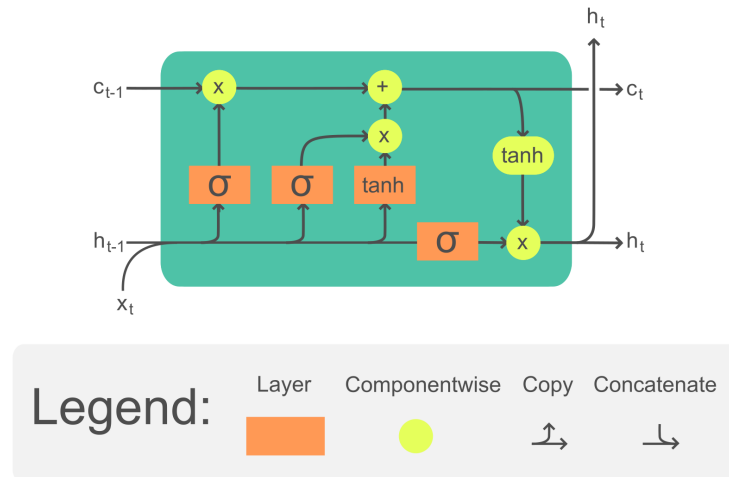


Figure 1: LSTM cell, Artist: Chevalier [13]

### 2.3 Long Short Term Memory model

When modeling soil temperature it is important to know the previous hours or days to predict the next timestep, for this a natural selection for a data driven model is a recurrent network. This type of network makes prediction based on previous timesteps in the data, however the longer timespan the model takes into account the less important are the earlier timesteps in the data.

To combat this there was developed an improved model called Long-Short Term Memory model[14] that deploys a memory cell that feeds information from earlier timesteps to the late ones. To make sure that redundant information or unimportant information don't get feed forward there are also forgetting gates that removes some of the newly learned patterns and integrates it into the memory cell.

The most common problem in Neural networks is the vanishing gradient problem where updating the first few layers of a large network becomes exponentially more difficult since the adjustments gets smaller and smaller for each layer towards the start rather than the reverse. Long Short Term-Memory changes this by caring information from the previous cells forward thereby allowing updating earlier cells with bigger impact than the standard approach[14]. LSTM is part of a family of Recurent Neural Network's that passes information to other cells in the same layer.

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### 2.4 Attention aware LSTM model

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## 3 Method

### 3.1 Source of data

For this comparative study the following data sources will be used

1. Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research LandbruksMeteorologisk service (LMT) 2. Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research Kilden (Kilden) 3. The Norwegian Meteorological Institute (MET)

### 3.2 Dataset

The dataset is chosen from four regions in Norway; Innlandet, Vestfold, Trøndelag, and Østfold. From each region are four stations picked:

| Region    | Name      | ID  | Drain type  | Soile category | Texture | MET name | Latitude | Longdetude |
|-----------|-----------|-----|-------------|----------------|---------|----------|----------|------------|
| Innlandet | Apelsvoll | 11  | Selvdrenert | CM             | 17      | SN11500  | 60,70024 | 10,86952   |
| Innlandet | Fåvang    | 17  | Selvdrenert | CM             | 15      | SN13150  | 61,45822 | 10,1872    |
| Innlandet | Ilseeng   | 26  | Selvdrenert | PH             | 17      | SN12180  | 60,80264 | 11,20298   |
| Innlandet | Kise      | 27  | Vannmettet  | GL             | 99      | SN12550  | 60,77324 | 10,80569   |
| Trøndelag | Kvithamar | 57  | Vannmettet  | ST             | 16      | SN69150  | 63,48795 | 10,87994   |
| Trøndelag | Frosta    | 15  | Selvdrenert | LP             | 13      | SN69655  | 63,56502 | 10,69298   |
| Trøndelag | Mære      | 34  | Selvdrenert | RG             | 14      | SN71320  | 63,94244 | 11,42527   |
| Trøndelag | Rissa     | 39  | Vannmettet  | PL             | 13      | SN71320  | 63,58569 | 9,97007    |
| Vestfold  | Lier      | 30  | Vannmettet  | ST             | 16      | SN19940  | 59,79084 | 10,25962   |
| Vestfold  | Sande     | 42  | Vannmettet  | ST             | 16      | SN26990  | 59,6162  | 10,22339   |
| Vestfold  | Tjølling  | 50  | Selvdrenert | AR             | 13      | SN27780  | 59,04641 | 10,12513   |
| Vestfold  | Ramnes    | 38  | Vannmettet  | ST             | 16      | SN27315  | 59,38081 | 10,2397    |
| Østfold   | Rakkestad | 37  | Vannmettet  | ST             | 18      | SN3290   | 59,38824 | 11,39042   |
| Østfold   | Rygge     | 41  | Selvdrenert | AR             | 13      | SN17380  | 59,39805 | 10,75427   |
| Østfold   | Tomb      | 52  | Vannmettet  | ST             | 16      | SN17050  | 59,31893 | 10,81449   |
| Østfold   | Øsaker    | 118 | Vannmettet  | ST             | 18      | SN3370   | 59,31936 | 11,04221   |

Table 1: Station information from stations used in this study. The texture class is defined in this article: <https://nibio.no/tema/jord/jordkartlegging/jordsmonnkart/dominerende-tekstur-i-overflatesjikt>

All stations are sampled from the date<sup>4</sup> 03-01 to 10-31 from 2016 to 2020. The features rain (RR), mean soil temperature at 10cm (TJM10), mean soil temperature at 20cm (TJM20), and air temperature at 2m (TM) are sampled from the LMT database. The soil type, and soil texture is sampled from Kilden from Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research.

#### 3.2.1 Selection process

The selection process for finding these station can be compiled into these steps

1. Recommendation from Norwegian Institute of Bio-economy Research
2. Compute the missing values in the data
3. Missing values analyse

<sup>4</sup>Format month-day

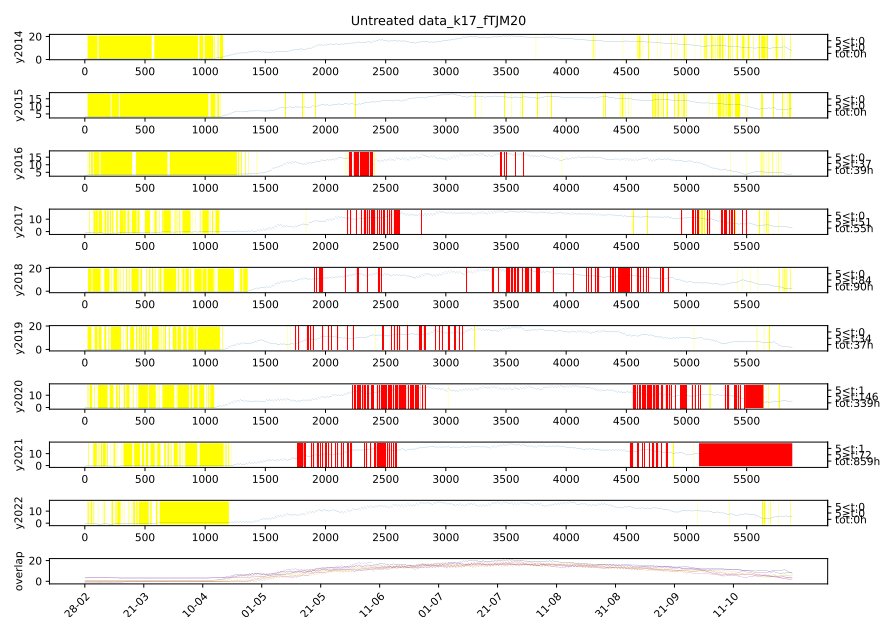


Figure 2: Visual representation of missing values at station 17 from 2014 to 2022 at the parameter "TJM20". The left numbers indicated how many hours that are missing and how many of them are shorter than or longer than 5 hours. The yellow markings indicate possible outliers based on the given year, all markings was checked if they were actual outliers. The red colouring indicate missing values in the data (represented in the data with code "NULL").

4. Searching LMT database for alternative station candidates if current data is insufficient
5. If some station was replaced the repeat step 2

The plots of stations follow a simple representation where the y-axis represent the year and the x-axis represent the index of the data as all tables are taken from the same period. A circle represent a singular na values, while a band represent a series of 2 or more missing values. The colours represents the features used in this comparative study. This representation of the missing values will indicate sesonal, and systematic removal of data and give an overall indication of how much data is missing. To get further insight into the data a report is generated in parallel to the plots describing precise date and time of all values and which other parameter values is also missing values in the same period. See appendix ?? for the full detail of the report generation and appendix A for na-plots of the station chosen for this study.

### 3.2.2 Collection of data

The method used was a powershell<sup>5</sup> script that called the respective institutions servers using the "curl" program<sup>6</sup> to send an http request for the timeseries starting from 2014 to 2020 in the interval 1 of May to 31 of October. Code for data collection can be viewed in appendix ?. The data is stores as an either a csv file or a json file for easy retrieval and manual control of values.

<sup>5</sup>Version 7.3.11

<sup>6</sup>curl 8.4.0 (Windows) libcurl/8.4.0 Schannel WinIDN

| FROST               | Description   |
|---------------------|---|
| Stations with rain  | Requested rain data in millimeters.   |
| Station ID          | Sendt a request to LMT for station information using their remote API.  |
| LMT                 | Description   |
| Meteorological data | Requested soil temperature from 10cm depth, and 20cm depth and air temperature (2m), from 2014-03-01 to 2022-10-31. |

Table 2: Description of what was requested from each server (FROST part of MET, LMT).

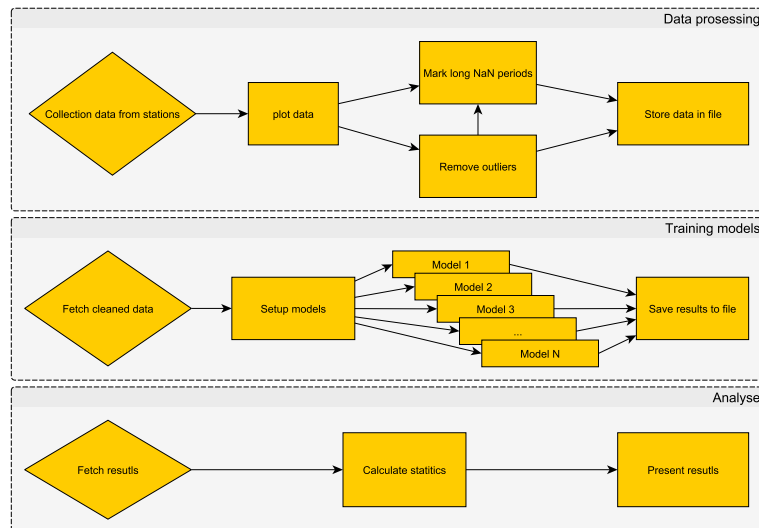


Figure 3: A surface level diagram of the methodology.

### 3.2.3 Labeling of stations between Nibio and MET

Since Nibio and MET have different names for the same stations one must compile a list that converts Nibio ID to MET ID. This was performed with these requests shown in table 2 where ID is the Nibio Id for the given station, Frost.ID is the MET id, ID. latitude is the latitude gathered from Nibio, ID.longitude is the longitude gathered from Nibio. These variables can be swaped out for the relevant station.

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### 3.2.4 Storage of data

The storage of the data is done through two data structures; Hashmap and DataFrame from the package pandas. The transformation of data is done with a costume datatype called "DataFile-Handler" which is converted to a module for convenience. The keys for the hashmap is chosen by the naming of the data files and the pattern given to the class. To escalete modeling the data will also be exported to a binary file for faster retrieval.

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diagram

**Technical overview of custom data structure** The data structure used to store the data from the different stations is called "DataFileHandler" and stores the data in a tree-structure where indexes are dictated by the filename. It has several built-in functions to assist with data partitioning, and merging of data. This makes it easier to move and store all 846 720 observations from 16 station from all 4 regions<sup>7</sup>. Further more, the data structure has iteration functions so it is compatible with python's built in loops, and print functions.

### 3.3 Data cleaning and treatment

To use the data in this study it must be cleaned and treated for training. Though the data has been examined by the supplier, however it still had outliers that needed to be treated before modelling. For this reason several steps and methods is utilized in the preprocessing steps.

#### 3.3.1 Outlier detection and removal

Though the data fetched from LMT is treated and controlled the external data from MET might not be, and this research project incorporated raw, untreated data from LMT to fill inn missing values.

The method to quickly find obvious outliers was to look at the following condition

$$\left| \frac{|\Delta T| - E(|\Delta T|)}{Var(|\Delta T|)} \right| > 4C^\circ$$

This condition looks at the absolute difference between consecutive measurements and calculates the z-score for each observation. It is expected that the change in temperature can't be too rapid. Further methods used to highlight potential outliers is

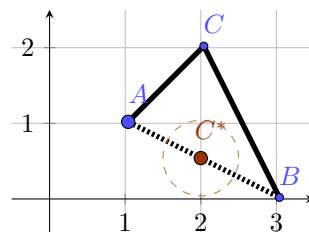


Figure 4: An simple outlier detection method utilizing a simple line to estimate where the expected point ( $C^*$ ) is supposed to be. If observed point C falls outside the tolerance level (red dotted circle) then it is marked as an outlier.

#### 3.3.2 Missing value imputation

The data has missing values, in particular during early Fall when there were sub-zero temperatures meaning any rain measurements done during this period would have unpredictable fluctuations since at negative temperatures water can freeze, get clogged up with residual bio-material from the surrounding area . When interpolation the values the method chosen is a linear interpolation with a maximum period to interpoate is 5 hours for Soil temperatures, and 3 hours for air temperatures. The resoning for this is that the soil temperatures are more reliable

<sup>7</sup>there are 4 stations per region.

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making it safer to interpolate without losing too much information, while air temperatures have a higher variance making it more difficult to interpolate without cutting values.

### 3.4 Setup of models

The models are set up according to the relevant paper the model is fetched from, alternatively reuse the code made by the author. When importing the data to the model there will be modifying to the original code to facilitate for the model as far as it goes. Any modifications will be in the appendix under section ???. For the convenience of the reader all code is using the sklearn estimator class to make all the models discussed in this study more user friendly and compatible with sklearn's other functions. The details of the models will be discussed in section 2, this section discusses the setup and implementation of the models.<sup>8</sup>

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sections

#### 3.4.1 Basic Linear model

The linear model (section 2.1) utilised in the study is created from the python model sklearn (or scikit-learn according to python's package manager). The model is setup with standard parameters, and the data is fed into the model without scaling with fitted intercept coefficient.

#### 3.4.2 Plauborg

The Plauborg regression will be formulated as a linear regression problem so that the Linear-Regression function in the Sci-kit module can be used. For the parameters used in the paper [12] the F function defined in section 2.2 will be formulated with loops to give rise 3 more parameters for fine-tuning the model. Nan-values generated from the procedure get replaced with 0, since the data fed to the model is significantly larger than 10h (the minimum for the training is 24h).

#### 3.4.3 LSTM

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks are a specialized type of Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) designed to handle long-term dependencies in sequential data. Unlike regular RNNs, which often suffer from vanishing gradient problems, LSTMs utilize a more complex cell structure that allows them to capture long-term dependencies more effectively.

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possibly  
move

- **Input Gate ( $i_t$ ):**  $a_i = \sigma(W_{xi} \cdot X_t + W_{hi} \cdot H_{t-1} + b_i)$

- **Forget Gate ( $f_t$ ):**

$$a_f = \sigma(W_{xf} \cdot X_t + W_{hf} \cdot H_{t-1} + b_f)$$

- **Cell State Update ( $\tilde{C}_t$ ):**

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_{xc} \cdot X_t + W_{hc} \cdot H_{t-1} + b_c)$$

- **New Cell State ( $C_t$ ):**

$$C_t = f_t \cdot C_{t-1} + i_t \cdot \tilde{C}_t$$

- **Output Gate ( $o_t$ ):**

$$a_o = \sigma(W_{xo} \cdot X_t + W_{ho} \cdot H_{t-1} + b_o)$$

<sup>8</sup>Caution to the reader; The code used was run on the Linux subsystem (Debian) on windows due to the fact that the current version of tensorflow can't run on Windows.

- **Hidden State ( $H_t$ ):**

$$H_t = o_t \cdot \tanh(C_t)$$

Where:

$X_t$  represents the input at time step (t).

$H_{t-1}$  is the hidden state from the previous time step.

$W$  and  $b$  are weight matrices and bias terms.

$\sigma$  denotes the sigmoid activation function

$\tanh$  represents the hyperbolic tangent activation function.

LSTMs have proven effective in various tasks such as natural language processing, speech recognition, and time series prediction. They provide a powerful mechanism for modeling sequential data while mitigating the vanishing gradient problem commonly encountered in vanilla RNNs.

#### 3.4.4 BiLSTM

rewrite

Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) networks enhance traditional LSTMs by considering context from both forward and backward directions. Here's how they work:

BiLSTMs consist of two LSTM layers operating simultaneously:

- The forward LSTM processes the input sequence from the beginning to the end.
- The backward LSTM processes the input sequence from the end to the beginning.

By combining the outputs of these two LSTMs, BiLSTMs effectively capture information from both past and future context. - This context expansion is particularly useful in tasks where context matters in both directions:

Natural Language Processing (NLP): BiLSTMs excel in tasks like part-of-speech tagging, named entity recognition, and sentiment analysis. - Speech Recognition: Capturing context from both sides of an audio sequence improves accuracy. - Time Series Prediction: BiLSTMs enhance predictions by leveraging past and future data points. - Mathematically, the final hidden state of the BiLSTM at time step (t) is the concatenation of the forward and backward LSTM hidden states:

$$H_t = [H_t^{(f)}, H_t^{(b)}]$$

The resulting output can be used for downstream tasks such as classification, regression, or sequence labeling.

Information from earlier timesteps is important to say something about current timesteps, same can be said about the other time direction. To get the best of both direction one can use a bidirectional LSTM (BiLSTM) to combine the information from both approaches. To make one of the models read the data backwards the model pipeline reverses the data and trains on that. A visualisation of this can be shown in the first layer in figure 5.

#### 3.4.5 Modified BiLSTM

To investigate the possibility of RNN a more complex model was developed to see if the introduction of more layers would improve the accuracy of the base model.



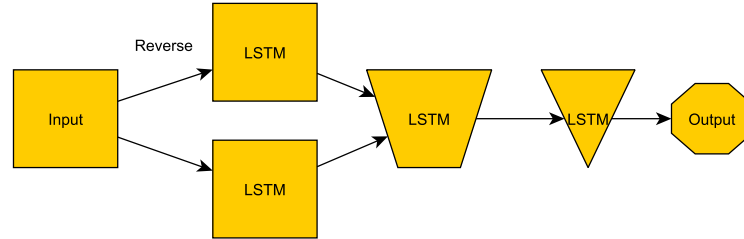


Figure 5: Simple diagram of the structure of the BiLSTM. The data from the input layer gets duplicated and passed to two LSTM's where one of them get the data in reverse. When both models have trained on the data they gets concatenated and passed to another LSTM that has half of the units as output. The final LSTM has a single cell as output leaving a single value as the prediction.

Soil temperatures depend on earlier timestamps, so to make accurate predictions, it's essential to include temperature data from  $t, t - 1, \dots, t - k$ . Evaluating the data both forwards and backwards helps identify features that are noticeable in specific directions. The BiLSTM model, implemented using TensorFlow's Keras module, consists of three layers:

- A Bidirectional LSTM layer for feature extraction.
- A regular LSTM layer to condense information with a tanh activation function
- An LSTM layer for prediction with a tanh activation function

The activation functions used are hyperbolic tangent and sigmoid. The output layer employs the identity function ( $f(x) = x$ ). The hidden layer has half as many recurrent cells as the input layer, and the output layer condenses the hidden layer's output to a single value. For more details, refer to Figure 5 and Table 3a.

This model is an extension of "Modeling Hourly Soil Temperature Using Deep BiLSTM Neural Network"[5] written by Li *et al.*

### 3.5 Metrics

The metrics used in this study are

- Root Mean Square Error (RMSE)
- Mean Absolut Error (MAE)
- Explained Variance ( $R^2$ )
- bias
- Log Condition number ( $\log(\kappa)$ )
- digit sensitivity

Soil temperatur as a differnet behavior than air temperature since energy (temperature) though the soil gets dampen and delayed. Since the data used in this study has outliers that was not cought during datatreatment, which has been addressed, the author of this study desided to include two more metrics that are not usually included in the evaluation; The log condition number, and digit sensitivity. Both metrics are based on the calculation of the condition number defined as

$$\kappa = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \sup_{|\partial x| \leq \varepsilon} \frac{|f(x + \partial x) - f(x)|}{|f(x)|} * \frac{|x|}{|\partial x|} \quad (1)$$

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EXPAND

| Parameter name | Range                     |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Epochs         | [4,8]                     |
| Units          | $\{2^6, 2^7, 2^8\}$       |
| Lag time       | $12i$ for $i \in [1, 14]$ |

(a) The search space for the modified BiLSTM model. The units define the number of LSTM cells used in the LSTM output. The lag time specifies how many hours the model will take into account when predicting soil temperature. The square brackets indicate an interval including endpoints, while the curly brackets indicate a list of elements.

| Parameter name | Range  |
|----------------|--------|
| Sine terms     | [1,10] |
| Cosine terms   | [1,10] |
| Lag time       | [1,14] |

(b) The search space for the Plauborg model. The square brackets indicate an interval including endpoints. The "Lag time" indicated the number of time-steps before current time-steps do the model include  $(t_{-1}, t_{-2}, \dots)$

| Parameter name | Range                       |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Epochs         | [4,10]                      |
| Lead time      | $\{24 * n   n \in [1, 7]\}$ |

(c) Parameter space for both LSTM and BiLSTM. The square brackets indicate an interval including endpoints. The "Lag time" indicated the number of time-steps before current time-steps do the model include  $(t_{-1}, t_{-2}, \dots)$

Table 3: Parameter search space for the different deep learning models

This is not feasible to calculate since infinite calculations with infinitesimal numbers is not possible as per *May5, 2024* for simulation approach<sup>9</sup>. Therefore this paper uses algorithm 1 to approximate  $\kappa$  for all the models.

**Algorithm 1:** Method for calculating  $\kappa$ .  $\mathcal{U}$  is a uniform random distribution in a range.

---

**Data:** Data  
**Result:**  $\log(\kappa)$

```

1 Let  $\kappa_f$  be the function 1;
2  $\kappa \leftarrow 0$ ;
3 for  $i \in 1 \dots |Data|$  do
4    $\partial x \leftarrow \mathcal{U}_{[-\sqrt{\varepsilon/|Data|}, \sqrt{\varepsilon/|Data|}]}$ ;
5    $k \leftarrow$  calculate with  $\kappa_f$  from  $x$  and  $x + \partial x$ ;
6   if  $k > \kappa$  then
7      $\kappa \leftarrow k$ ;
8   end if
9 end for
10 return  $\kappa$ 
```

---

The digit sensitivity is included to give an intuitive understanding of  $\kappa$  and is computed simply as  $\log_e(\kappa) + 1$ . This number tells us the significant digit generated from the model. If the number is less than 0 then it's the  $i$ th digit after the decimal point.

For the rest of the metrics, they are defined as follows

- $RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (y_{pred} - y_{truth})^2}{n}}$

---

<sup>9</sup>This calculation is possible for some models, for instance linear regression models when converted to the form  $A\vec{\beta} = \vec{y}$ .

- $MAE = \frac{\sum |y_{pred} - y_{truth}|}{n}$
- $bias = \frac{\sum (y_{pred} - y_{truth})}{n}$
- $R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum (y_{pred} - y_{truth})^2}{\sum (y_{pred} - \bar{y})^2}$

Where  $\bar{y}$  is the mean of the target,  $y_{pred}$  is the predicted data, and  $y_{truth}$  is the observed soil temperature.

### 3.5.1 Model training

The models get trained on air temperature, however the precise input for each model is not the same for all. The features used for each model are described in table 3 and their transformation in table 4.

The models get a sample of the training data at the time due to the size and the amount for missing data (for example figure 2) The algorithm used to fetch reliable indexes are demonstrated at algorithm 2.

---

**Algorithm 2:** Find Non-NaN Ranges (Abstract)

---

**Input :** Input data data  
**Output:** List of tuples: ranges

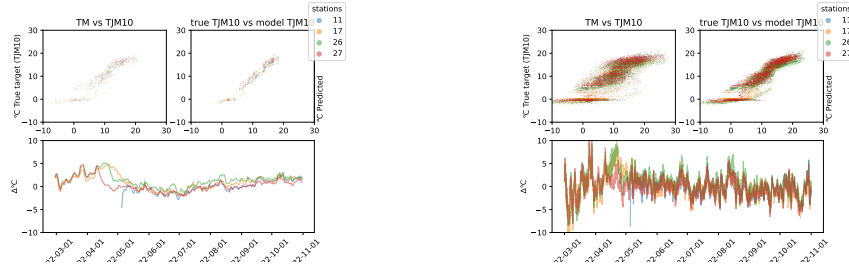
```

1 FindNonNaNRanges(data) ranges ← empty list;
2 start ← None;
3 for item in data do
4   if item is not None then
5     if start is None then
6       start ← item;
7     end if
8   end if
9   else
10    if start is not None then
11      Add (start, item index - 1) to ranges;
12      start ← None;
13    end if
14  end if
15 end for
16 if start is not None then
17   Add (start, Last index) to ranges;
18 end if
19 return ranges;
```

---

| model name        | features | transformations  |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| Linear regression | TM       | Time get translated to hours by taking the day since new year and multiplying by 24 for then add the hour part.  |
| Plauborg          | Time, TM | Time get translated in two way; the current day since new year if looking at daily values, and hours since new year if looking at hourly predictions. When converting TM to daily values the hourly data get averaged. |
| BiLSTM            | Time, TM | Time get translated to hours since new year.   |

Table 4: Parameters used for predicting soil temperatures at depth 10cm and 20cm.



(a) The daily model of Plauborg model (b) The hourly model of Plauborg model

Figure 6: Comparison of daily versus hourly predictions

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Linear regression vs Plauborg

The global measure for the linear regression has an average error of  $2.3C^{\circ} \pm 4.23C^{\circ}$  while the global measure of the Plauborg daily model has an average error of  $0.6C^{\circ} \pm 1.96C^{\circ}$ . Furthermore Plauborg has a high  $R^2$  value indicating that it follows the temperature changes in the soil better than just scaling the air temperature by a scaling factor.

### 4.2 Modification of Plauborg

The Plauborg model trained in Norway was found to only need 3 days ( $t_0, t_{-1}, t_{-2}$ ) compared to [12] that needed 4 days ( $t_0, t_{-1}, t_{-2}, t_{-3}$ ). However for the Fourier terms both models (Danish model and the Norwegian model) required 2 sine and cosine terms. For the 20cm target the models diverge in the sense of quantity of terms. It was found that the 20cm model needs 14 sine terms and 2 cosine terms, however only needs 2 days.

The modification to Plauborg's model is minor, by replacing the  $\omega$  with a larger coefficient it can be used with hourly data. As seen in figure 6b the variation is stronger than 6a however the overall performance is comparable as seen in table 10 and table 8.

With modification to the model to accept hourly data it still performs approximately as well as the daily data version. With a average error of  $0.597C^{\circ} \pm 2.529C^{\circ}$  for TJM10 and  $0.528C^{\circ} \pm 2.676C^{\circ}$  for TJM20. It was found that the modified Plauborg model only needs 2 sine terms to make a good prediction and 12h of air temperature which would translate to half a day instead of 3 days.

### 4.3 Deep learning models

### 4.4 Model comparison

The Plauborg has a clear advantage over linear regression.

Summarize  
results

Make sec-  
tions

Include  
tables

| model                  |       | 52     | 37     | 50     | 38     | 57     | 34     | 27     | 17     | average |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| lin-stat-10            | $R^2$ | 0.221  | 0.473  | 0.584  | 0.388  | 0.295  | -1.386 | 0.551  | 0.501  | 0.423   |
|                        | MAE   | 2.889  | 3.503  | 2.702  | 3.741  | 3.356  | 3.415  | 3.236  | 3.432  | 3.267   |
|                        | MSE   | 13.536 | 20.257 | 13.04  | 23.181 | 18.433 | 18.164 | 18.249 | 20.416 | 17.897  |
|                        | bias  | 1.226  | 2.07   | 1.766  | 2.502  | 2.775  | 3.176  | 2.078  | 2.506  | 2.303   |
| lin-stat-20            | $R^2$ | 0.604  | 0.391  | 0.434  | 0.308  | 0.125  | -2.248 | 0.415  | 0.336  | 0.308   |
|                        | MAE   | 2.841  | 3.675  | 3.025  | 3.682  | 3.636  | 3.675  | 3.547  | 3.84   | 3.474   |
|                        | MSE   | 12.648 | 22.605 | 16.383 | 23.345 | 21.664 | 21.007 | 21.832 | 25.492 | 20.286  |
|                        | bias  | 0.559  | 2.174  | 2.207  | 2.601  | 3.153  | 3.471  | 2.535  | 2.939  | 2.487   |
| Plauborg-day-stat-10   | $R^2$ | 0.664  | 0.873  | 0.938  | 0.845  | 0.85   | 0.397  | 0.895  | 0.875  | 0.861   |
|                        | MAE   | 1.837  | 1.755  | 1.105  | 1.908  | 1.547  | 1.687  | 1.627  | 1.78   | 1.621   |
|                        | MSE   | 5.847  | 4.866  | 1.947  | 5.857  | 3.911  | 4.591  | 4.256  | 5.109  | 4.302   |
|                        | bias  | -0.636 | 0.373  | -0.046 | 0.667  | 1.108  | 1.535  | 0.396  | 0.921  | 0.608   |
| Plauborg-day-stat-20   | $R^2$ | 0.83   | 0.905  | 0.946  | 0.912  | 0.863  | 0.316  | 0.901  | 0.844  | 0.876   |
|                        | MAE   | 1.873  | 1.496  | 0.985  | 1.367  | 1.538  | 1.836  | 1.534  | 1.911  | 1.536   |
|                        | MSE   | 5.427  | 3.523  | 1.566  | 2.96   | 3.391  | 4.425  | 3.703  | 5.995  | 3.647   |
|                        | bias  | -1.402 | 0.353  | 0.096  | 0.515  | 1.427  | 1.816  | 0.753  | 1.401  | 0.644   |
| Plauborg-stat-10       | $R^2$ | 0.636  | 0.857  | 0.884  | 0.754  | 0.677  | -0.193 | 0.872  | 0.828  | 0.794   |
|                        | MAE   | 1.964  | 1.804  | 1.472  | 2.368  | 2.263  | 2.306  | 1.724  | 1.979  | 1.926   |
|                        | MSE   | 6.32   | 5.495  | 3.64   | 9.332  | 8.444  | 9.081  | 5.185  | 7.017  | 6.398   |
|                        | bias  | -0.349 | 0.237  | 0.558  | 1.363  | 0.677  | 0.845  | 0.163  | 0.065  | 0.597   |
| Plauborg-stat-20       | $R^2$ | 0.803  | 0.83   | 0.836  | 0.736  | 0.617  | -0.547 | 0.839  | 0.762  | 0.756   |
|                        | MAE   | 1.976  | 1.938  | 1.7    | 2.323  | 2.419  | 2.427  | 1.885  | 2.265  | 2.06    |
|                        | MSE   | 6.272  | 6.317  | 4.736  | 8.9    | 9.482  | 10.006 | 6.027  | 9.136  | 7.16    |
|                        | bias  | -1.2   | 0.067  | 0.815  | 1.149  | 0.744  | 0.797  | 0.335  | 0.137  | 0.528   |
| l1KerasBiLSTM-stats-10 | $R^2$ | -0.604 | 0.047  | 0.082  | 0.122  | -0.038 | -2.358 | 0.023  | -0.088 | -0.054  |
|                        | MAE   | 4.444  | 5.04   | 4.619  | 4.984  | 4.268  | 4.112  | 5.278  | 5.651  | 4.768   |
|                        | MSE   | 27.393 | 35.985 | 28.232 | 32.746 | 26.831 | 25.94  | 39.151 | 44.078 | 32.253  |
|                        | bias  | -0.853 | 0.429  | -0.654 | -0.05  | 1.435  | 2.278  | 0.582  | 1.674  | 0.528   |
| l1KerasBiLSTM-stats-20 | $R^2$ | 0.223  | 0.32   | 0.364  | 0.334  | 0.313  | -1.231 | 0.346  | 0.305  | 0.284   |
|                        | MAE   | 4.29   | 4.273  | 3.701  | 4.072  | 3.387  | 3.065  | 4.125  | 4.359  | 3.836   |
|                        | MSE   | 24.585 | 25.046 | 18.206 | 22.271 | 16.933 | 14.596 | 24.221 | 26.55  | 20.854  |
|                        | bias  | -2.069 | -0.305 | -0.601 | -0.189 | 0.784  | 1.274  | 0.118  | 0.83   | -0.061  |
| l2KerasBiLSTM-stats-10 | $R^2$ | -0.959 | -0.115 | -0.172 | -0.095 | -0.148 | -2.523 | -0.135 | -0.181 | -0.234  |
|                        | MAE   | 4.869  | 5.431  | 5.149  | 5.613  | 4.534  | 4.273  | 5.648  | 5.861  | 5.143   |
|                        | MSE   | 32.587 | 40.967 | 34.709 | 39.802 | 29.09  | 27.349 | 44.345 | 46.793 | 36.83   |
|                        | bias  | -1.547 | -0.248 | -1.436 | -0.828 | 0.846  | 1.793  | -0.126 | 1.04   | -0.172  |
| l2KerasBiLSTM-stats-20 | $R^2$ | -0.417 | -0.112 | -0.165 | -0.096 | -0.149 | -3.111 | -0.198 | -0.248 | -0.291  |
|                        | MAE   | 5.52   | 5.466  | 4.967  | 5.195  | 4.537  | 4.447  | 5.698  | 6.036  | 5.219   |
|                        | MSE   | 44.815 | 40.967 | 33.363 | 36.67  | 28.324 | 26.891 | 44.374 | 47.668 | 37.595  |
|                        | bias  | -2.054 | 0.067  | -0.949 | -0.465 | 1.49   | 2.397  | 0.528  | 1.692  | 0.195   |

| model                  |       | 41     | 118    | 42     | 30     | 39     | 15     | 26     | 11     | average |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| lin-stat-10            | $R^2$ | 0.593  | 0.306  | 0.506  | 0.588  | 0.213  | -0.003 | 0.456  | 0.51   | 0.423   |
|                        | MAE   | 3.07   | 3.486  | 3.525  | 3.106  | 3.193  | 3.141  | 3.651  | 2.713  | 3.267   |
|                        | MSE   | 15.81  | 20.252 | 20.896 | 16.425 | 16.456 | 15.352 | 22.218 | 12.722 | 17.897  |
|                        | bias  | 1.494  | 2.93   | 2.109  | 1.733  | 2.835  | 2.799  | 2.902  | 1.529  | 2.303   |
| lin-stat-20            | $R^2$ | 0.491  | 0.162  | 0.393  | 0.456  | 0.081  | -0.241 | 0.302  | 0.35   | 0.308   |
|                        | MAE   | 3.286  | 3.654  | 3.741  | 3.433  | 3.39   | 3.342  | 4.009  | 2.924  | 3.474   |
|                        | MSE   | 18.048 | 22.338 | 23.645 | 19.934 | 18.574 | 17.627 | 26.732 | 14.598 | 20.286  |
|                        | bias  | 1.677  | 3.208  | 2.364  | 2.015  | 3.083  | 3.006  | 3.282  | 1.692  | 2.487   |
| Plauborg-day-stat-10   | $R^2$ | 0.9    | 0.839  | 0.881  | 0.908  | 0.828  | 0.787  | 0.855  | 0.864  | 0.861   |
|                        | MAE   | 1.587  | 1.697  | 1.75   | 1.519  | 1.455  | 1.428  | 1.937  | 1.504  | 1.621   |
|                        | MSE   | 3.901  | 4.689  | 5.012  | 3.665  | 3.596  | 3.262  | 5.905  | 3.532  | 4.302   |
|                        | bias  | -0.293 | 1.137  | 0.333  | -0.046 | 1.193  | 1.114  | 1.251  | 0.339  | 0.608   |
| Plauborg-day-stat-20   | $R^2$ | 0.914  | 0.886  | 0.901  | 0.91   | 0.852  | 0.801  | 0.833  | 0.866  | 0.876   |
|                        | MAE   | 1.409  | 1.384  | 1.54   | 1.471  | 1.468  | 1.411  | 2.101  | 1.443  | 1.536   |
|                        | MSE   | 3.056  | 3.034  | 3.866  | 3.3    | 2.99   | 2.827  | 6.393  | 3.011  | 3.647   |
|                        | bias  | -0.371 | 1.139  | 0.346  | -0.014 | 1.402  | 1.215  | 1.578  | 0.463  | 0.644   |
| Plauborg-stat-10       | $R^2$ | 0.903  | 0.706  | 0.852  | 0.892  | 0.633  | 0.562  | 0.843  | 0.823  | 0.794   |
|                        | MAE   | 1.519  | 2.322  | 1.885  | 1.555  | 2.151  | 1.991  | 1.918  | 1.666  | 1.926   |
|                        | MSE   | 3.756  | 8.574  | 6.254  | 4.295  | 7.673  | 6.705  | 6.41   | 4.605  | 6.398   |
|                        | bias  | 0.151  | 1.639  | 0.703  | 0.354  | 0.701  | 0.903  | 0.821  | 0.038  | 0.597   |
| Plauborg-stat-20       | $R^2$ | 0.872  | 0.656  | 0.807  | 0.859  | 0.615  | 0.484  | 0.801  | 0.755  | 0.756   |
|                        | MAE   | 1.665  | 2.422  | 2.099  | 1.708  | 2.186  | 2.094  | 2.105  | 1.847  | 2.06    |
|                        | MSE   | 4.559  | 9.173  | 7.5    | 5.181  | 7.784  | 7.321  | 7.603  | 5.504  | 7.16    |
|                        | bias  | 0.13   | 1.722  | 0.746  | 0.428  | 0.633  | 0.827  | 0.892  | -0.023 | 0.528   |
| l1KerasBiLSTM-stats-10 | $R^2$ | 0.042  | 0.055  | 0.069  | 0.039  | -0.03  | -0.516 | -0.058 | -0.243 | -0.054  |
|                        | MAE   | 5.201  | 4.322  | 5.356  | 5.259  | 3.734  | 3.973  | 5.452  | 4.846  | 4.768   |
|                        | MSE   | 36.423 | 27.232 | 38.789 | 37.637 | 21.189 | 22.711 | 42.729 | 32.039 | 32.253  |
|                        | bias  | -0.744 | 0.66   | -0.018 | -0.414 | 1.523  | 1.198  | 1.636  | -0.297 | 0.528   |
| l1KerasBiLSTM-stats-20 | $R^2$ | 0.317  | 0.333  | 0.33   | 0.331  | 0.339  | 0.058  | 0.317  | 0.155  | 0.284   |
|                        | MAE   | 4.253  | 3.465  | 4.397  | 4.232  | 3.012  | 3.039  | 4.204  | 3.686  | 3.836   |
|                        | MSE   | 23.978 | 17.674 | 25.895 | 24.313 | 13.251 | 13.248 | 26.035 | 18.914 | 20.854  |
|                        | bias  | -1.059 | 0.45   | -0.342 | -0.704 | 0.724  | 0.515  | 0.969  | -0.949 | -0.061  |
| l2KerasBiLSTM-stats-10 | $R^2$ | -0.185 | -0.14  | -0.12  | -0.17  | -0.132 | -0.696 | -0.177 | -0.431 | -0.234  |
|                        | MAE   | 5.702  | 4.805  | 5.834  | 5.721  | 3.929  | 4.159  | 5.742  | 5.172  | 5.143   |
|                        | MSE   | 43.544 | 32.106 | 45.506 | 44.437 | 22.646 | 24.383 | 46.482 | 36.272 | 36.83   |
|                        | bias  | -1.529 | -0.037 | -0.808 | -1.223 | 0.96   | 0.519  | 0.949  | -1.03  | -0.172  |
| l2KerasBiLSTM-stats-20 | $R^2$ | -0.241 | -0.215 | -0.14  | -0.26  | -0.102 | -0.867 | -0.302 | -0.753 | -0.291  |
|                        | MAE   | 5.645  | 4.903  | 5.719  | 5.812  | 3.984  | 4.442  | 6.108  | 5.394  | 5.219   |
|                        | MSE   | 43.588 | 32.196 | 44.059 | 45.766 | 22.094 | 26.254 | 49.591 | 39.234 | 37.595  |
|                        | bias  | -1.264 | 0.157  | -0.489 | -0.893 | 1.599  | 1.087  | 1.52   | -0.485 | 0.195   |

| scope  | specific scope | RMSE °C | MAE°C | bias °C | $\log(\kappa(\text{model}))$ | digit sensitivity | R <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| global | —              | 2.529   | 1.926 | 0.597   | -0.449                       | -1                | 0.794          |
| region | Østfold        | 2.448   | 1.894 | 0.512   | -0.448                       | -1                | 0.816          |
| region | Vestfold       | 2.412   | 1.81  | 0.733   | -0.445                       | -1                | 0.846          |
| region | Trøndelag      | 2.822   | 2.176 | 0.781   | -0.447                       | -1                | 0.547          |
| region | Innlandet      | 2.382   | 1.805 | 0.312   | -0.442                       | -1                | 0.847          |
| local  | 52             | 2.514   | 1.964 | -0.349  | -0.439                       | -1                | 0.636          |
| local  | 41             | 1.938   | 1.519 | 0.151   | -0.446                       | -1                | 0.903          |
| local  | 37             | 2.344   | 1.804 | 0.237   | -0.45                        | -1                | 0.857          |
| local  | 118            | 2.928   | 2.322 | 1.639   | -0.446                       | -1                | 0.706          |
| local  | 50             | 1.908   | 1.472 | 0.558   | -0.441                       | -1                | 0.884          |
| local  | 42             | 2.501   | 1.885 | 0.703   | -0.441                       | -1                | 0.852          |
| local  | 38             | 3.055   | 2.368 | 1.363   | -0.441                       | -1                | 0.754          |
| local  | 30             | 2.072   | 1.555 | 0.354   | -0.439                       | -1                | 0.892          |
| local  | 57             | 2.906   | 2.263 | 0.677   | -0.444                       | -1                | 0.677          |
| local  | 39             | 2.77    | 2.151 | 0.701   | -0.439                       | -1                | 0.633          |
| local  | 34             | 3.013   | 2.306 | 0.845   | -0.447                       | -1                | -0.193         |
| local  | 15             | 2.589   | 1.991 | 0.903   | -0.444                       | -1                | 0.562          |
| local  | 27             | 2.277   | 1.724 | 0.163   | -0.439                       | -1                | 0.872          |
| local  | 26             | 2.532   | 1.918 | 0.821   | -0.444                       | -1                | 0.843          |
| local  | 17             | 2.649   | 1.979 | 0.065   | -0.439                       | -1                | 0.828          |
| local  | 11             | 2.146   | 1.666 | 0.038   | -0.442                       | -1                | 0.823          |

Table 5: Hourly Plauborg model results.

| scope  | specific scope | RMSE °C | MAE°C | bias °C | $\log(\kappa(\text{model}))$ | digit sensitivity | R <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| global | —              | 2.074   | 1.621 | 0.608   | -1.261                       | -2                | 0.861          |
| region | Østfold        | 2.168   | 1.704 | 0.24    | -1.263                       | -2                | 0.856          |
| region | Vestfold       | 2.022   | 1.564 | 0.219   | -1.25                        | -2                | 0.892          |
| region | Trøndelag      | 1.957   | 1.528 | 1.235   | -1.27                        | -2                | 0.782          |
| region | Innlandet      | 2.165   | 1.71  | 0.714   | -1.264                       | -2                | 0.873          |
| local  | 52             | 2.418   | 1.837 | -0.636  | -1.264                       | -2                | 0.664          |
| local  | 41             | 1.975   | 1.587 | -0.293  | -1.259                       | -2                | 0.9            |
| local  | 37             | 2.206   | 1.755 | 0.373   | -1.261                       | -2                | 0.873          |
| local  | 118            | 2.165   | 1.697 | 1.137   | -1.259                       | -2                | 0.839          |
| local  | 50             | 1.395   | 1.105 | -0.046  | -1.264                       | -2                | 0.938          |
| local  | 42             | 2.239   | 1.75  | 0.333   | -1.264                       | -2                | 0.881          |
| local  | 38             | 2.42    | 1.908 | 0.667   | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.845          |
| local  | 30             | 1.914   | 1.519 | -0.046  | -1.255                       | -2                | 0.908          |
| local  | 57             | 1.978   | 1.547 | 1.108   | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.85           |
| local  | 39             | 1.896   | 1.455 | 1.193   | -1.267                       | -2                | 0.828          |
| local  | 34             | 2.143   | 1.687 | 1.535   | -1.252                       | -2                | 0.397          |
| local  | 15             | 1.806   | 1.428 | 1.114   | -1.262                       | -2                | 0.787          |
| local  | 27             | 2.063   | 1.627 | 0.396   | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.895          |
| local  | 26             | 2.43    | 1.937 | 1.251   | -1.264                       | -2                | 0.855          |
| local  | 17             | 2.26    | 1.78  | 0.921   | -1.268                       | -2                | 0.875          |
| local  | 11             | 1.879   | 1.504 | 0.339   | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.864          |

Table 6: Daily Plauborg model results.



## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 The Autumn discrepancy

A phenomenon that arose during performance evaluations was that the linear models struggles with the Autumn season. The difference graphs showed a clear over or under estimation that are larger than  $10\sigma$ . When investigating the coefficients to the model this discrepancy can be contributed to the intercept that during low temperature ( $< 5^\circ\text{C}$ ) giving either an over estimation or an under estimation. Further more when removing the calculation of the intercept the same phenomenon is still present possibility due to the adaptation to summer season.

Write a  
discussion

mention  
anomalies  
and reasons

Show table  
of parameters

#### 5.1.1 Temperature seasons

In the diff plots there is a subtle distinction between Spring, Summer, and Autumn. This effect comes from the Winter where the snow lays on top of the ground isolation the soil from air temperature changes creating a minimum temperature bound of around  $0^\circ\text{C}$ .

### 5.2 Plauborg

The result of the modelling (table 9 to 12) show that modelig soil temperature without the inclusion of time is an inefficient, and inaccurate method of predicting soil temperatures.

In this study the original model, that was trained for daily values was converted to predict hourly data to see if the same formulation could be used to make predictions. When comparing the results shown in table 8 and table 7 to their daily counterpart it shows similar values showing that the model proposed in Plauborg can be extended to hourly timeseries.

### 5.3 Explanation for good results of Plauborg

The inclusion of previous temperatures gives an improved estimation, even on hourly basis. The coefficients for both daily and hourly are observed to be  $<1$  making it a mean temperature and the fourier terms would estimate the soil function(2)[19].

$$E_{\text{year}}(T) + e^{z/D} \sin(\omega t - z/D + \phi) \quad (2)$$

Since the term  $\exp(z/D)$  is constant we would be estimating  $\sin(\omega t - Q) = \sin(\omega t) \cos(Q) - \sin(Q) \cos(\omega t)$ , where  $Q$  is  $z/D - \phi$  and is considered constant. This will be extrapolated to a simple sum of sines and cosines as the model does. Together the Plauborg model would estimate the approximation (4). The extra terms are necessary to include external factors that affects the temperature (rain, soil type, atmosphere, etc).

$$E_{\text{year}}(T) + e^{z/D} \sin(\omega t - z/D + \phi) \quad (3)$$

$$\approx E_{\text{period}}(T) + \sum \alpha_i e^{z_i/D} \sin(-Q_i) \cos(i\omega t_i) + \sum \beta_j e^{z_j/D} \cos(-Q_j) \sin(i\omega t_j) \quad (4)$$

A possible reason for the residuals could be the soiltypes at the stations making so a universal, high accuracy model would not be feasible unless including other metrological metrics (air pressure, humidity, soil type, soil texture, etc...) or including other non-linear features ( $\sqrt{\text{temperature}}$ , ratio between temperature change in depth and time, etc...).

### 5.3.1 RNN results compared to other studies

The BiLSTM is an improvement over LSTM and the modified BiLSTM with layers is a clear indication that added complexity to a deep learning model is the way to go. This progression of improvements has been shown in other studies[1, 15–18]. None of the deep learning models has been optimised, however in according to earlier studies that focused on these types of model the authors did find that adding layers to the models does improve the model performance.

### 5.3.2 Further developments

It is a known fact, since 1849<sup>10</sup>, that to know previous weather patterns will greatly improve prediction accuracy. To improve the accuracy even more a model can focus on specific patterns that has a big impact on the prediction. The ILSTM attempts to do this by including a new technique in data science called attention[20] that takes a collection of data and gives each element a weight associated with importance. When that paper was published it was focused on translation between English and German, however the paper published by Li *et al.* uses this novel technique to do both time and feature importance and from that make a prediction.

Make a  
compara-  
son to  
BiLSTM

## 5.4 Future work

The models chosen in this study is not a representative sample of current knowledge of soil temperature modelling, and this study did not aim for optimizing the models beyond what the original authors have already done with the exception for base models used for comparison purposes. A more comprehensive is needed of more complex models that utilises cutting edge technologies, techniques, and theory. One of which is logic based models, for instance ASPER[10] that tries to incorporate logical descriptions of the problem and limits the model for better or equal results based on fewer samples[11]. Another approach is to use the newest deep learning method of the attention mechanism[20] combined with recurrent neural networks to elevate the accuracy and speed of the model. As the author of the paper [1] has show great promise with that approach

<sup>10</sup>First weather prediction made by Joseph Henry in 1849

## 6 Conclusion

Soil temperature significantly impacts agriculture, influencing pest prevention, conservation, yield prediction, and more. Despite its importance, widespread measurement remains challenging due to cost limitations and technical issues. Interpolating missing data using methods like global mean approximation is common but has drawbacks including requiring a previous measurement of the soil temperature. Incorporating exogenous features can improve soil temperature estimation. Advancements in prediction and measurement are crucial for sustainable agriculture and accurate climate models.

Methods used in this study are

The prediction of soil temperatures is an important subject of study for the civil population, and the scientific community. For that reason a good model that can be generalised and applied globally is an desired thing.

The results show that good results can be achieved with few parameters, however further studies need to be done to see the effect of adding more parameters. As for modeling; Adding time to a regression model does improve the model predictive power over a time independent model.

There is a clear advantage to further investigation into deep learning models as the models shows good results, as is shown in other studies[1, 5, 15].

### 6.1 Limitations

This study faced a multitude of technical difficulties including,

- Getting the models to run
- Finding proper parameters
- Insufficient computing power
- Getting TensorFlow to work

## 7 Acknowledgements

### 7.1 Use of Artificial Intelligence in this paper

In this paper there has been used Artificial Intelligence (AI), specifically Bing Chat / Copilot hosted by Microsoft Cooperation with special agreement with The Norwegian University of Life Science (NMBU), for the following purposes:

1. Formalising sentences and rephrasing sentences.
2. Spellchecking
3. Code generation of basic concepts and structures (tree traversal, template for generic classes)

It is important to emphasize that our engagement with AI have been actively curated and verified with known information. All code underwent rigorous manual inspection within a dedicated testing environment. Furthermore, no confidential or sensitive information was shared with the AI; our interactions focused solely on broad topics and general inquiries. To validate the accuracy of AI-generated responses, we cross-referenced them with established research papers and textbooks.

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## Glossary

D | H | L | R

D

### DataFrame

A table of values. The name is from the python library Pandas used in this study.. 7

H

### Hashmap

A list of items where their unique placmnt in the list is detemend by their unique refrence key using a function that maps the key to a placement in the list.. 7

L

### Long Short Term-Memory

A Recurent Neural Network with a memory cell to distribute information along the other RNN cells.. 4

R

### Recurent Neural Network

A Neural network that passes information between cells in the same layers.. 4, D

## Acronyms

Symbols | K | L | M | N | R

### Symbols

$R^2$

Explained Variance. 11

$\log(\kappa)$

Log Condition number. 11

K

### Kilden

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research Kilden. 5

L

### LMT

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research LandbruksMeteorologisk service. 5, 7, 8

**LSTM**

Long Short Term-Memory. 4

**M**

**MAE**

Mean Absolut Error. 11

**MET**

The Norwegian Meteorological Institute. 5, 7, 8

**N**

**NMBU**

The Norwegian University of Life Science. 17

**R**

**RMSE**

Root Mean Square Error. 11

## A Plots



## B Tables

| scope  | spesific scope | RMSE °C | MAE°C | bias °C | $\log(\kappa(\text{model}))$ | digit sensitivity | R <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| global | —              | 2.676   | 2.06  | 0.528   | -0.328                       | -1                | 0.756          |
| region | Østfold        | 2.564   | 2     | 0.176   | -0.324                       | -1                | 0.8            |
| region | Vestfold       | 2.565   | 1.958 | 0.785   | -0.317                       | -1                | 0.81           |
| region | Trøndelag      | 2.938   | 2.279 | 0.75    | -0.321                       | -1                | 0.477          |
| region | Innlandet      | 2.612   | 1.997 | 0.379   | -0.32                        | -1                | 0.799          |
| local  | 52             | 2.504   | 1.976 | -1.2    | -0.327                       | -1                | 0.803          |
| local  | 41             | 2.135   | 1.665 | 0.13    | -0.322                       | -1                | 0.872          |
| local  | 37             | 2.513   | 1.938 | 0.067   | -0.322                       | -1                | 0.83           |
| local  | 118            | 3.029   | 2.422 | 1.722   | -0.323                       | -1                | 0.656          |
| local  | 50             | 2.176   | 1.7   | 0.815   | -0.327                       | -1                | 0.836          |
| local  | 42             | 2.739   | 2.099 | 0.746   | -0.323                       | -1                | 0.807          |
| local  | 38             | 2.983   | 2.323 | 1.149   | -0.333                       | -1                | 0.736          |
| local  | 30             | 2.276   | 1.708 | 0.428   | -0.328                       | -1                | 0.859          |
| local  | 57             | 3.079   | 2.419 | 0.744   | -0.33                        | -1                | 0.617          |
| local  | 39             | 2.79    | 2.186 | 0.633   | -0.322                       | -1                | 0.615          |
| local  | 34             | 3.163   | 2.427 | 0.797   | -0.329                       | -1                | -0.547         |
| local  | 15             | 2.706   | 2.094 | 0.827   | -0.329                       | -1                | 0.484          |
| local  | 27             | 2.455   | 1.885 | 0.335   | -0.328                       | -1                | 0.839          |
| local  | 26             | 2.757   | 2.105 | 0.892   | -0.324                       | -1                | 0.801          |
| local  | 17             | 3.023   | 2.265 | 0.137   | -0.33                        | -1                | 0.762          |
| local  | 11             | 2.346   | 1.847 | -0.023  | -0.33                        | -1                | 0.755          |

Table 7: Results from hourly version of the Plauborg model for 20cm depth.

| scope  | spesific scope | RMSE °C | MAE°C | bias °C | $\log(\kappa(\text{model}))$ | digit sensitivity | R <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| global | —              | 2.529   | 1.926 | 0.597   | -0.449                       | -1                | 0.794          |
| region | Østfold        | 2.448   | 1.894 | 0.512   | -0.45                        | -1                | 0.816          |
| region | Vestfold       | 2.412   | 1.81  | 0.733   | -0.43                        | -1                | 0.846          |
| region | Trøndelag      | 2.822   | 2.176 | 0.781   | -0.439                       | -1                | 0.547          |
| region | Innlandet      | 2.382   | 1.805 | 0.312   | -0.448                       | -1                | 0.847          |
| local  | 52             | 2.514   | 1.964 | -0.349  | -0.446                       | -1                | 0.636          |
| local  | 41             | 1.938   | 1.519 | 0.151   | -0.445                       | -1                | 0.903          |
| local  | 37             | 2.344   | 1.804 | 0.237   | -0.446                       | -1                | 0.857          |
| local  | 118            | 2.928   | 2.322 | 1.639   | -0.442                       | -1                | 0.706          |
| local  | 50             | 1.908   | 1.472 | 0.558   | -0.442                       | -1                | 0.884          |
| local  | 42             | 2.501   | 1.885 | 0.703   | -0.447                       | -1                | 0.852          |
| local  | 38             | 3.055   | 2.368 | 1.363   | -0.447                       | -1                | 0.754          |
| local  | 30             | 2.072   | 1.555 | 0.354   | -0.441                       | -1                | 0.892          |
| local  | 57             | 2.906   | 2.263 | 0.677   | -0.443                       | -1                | 0.677          |
| local  | 39             | 2.77    | 2.151 | 0.701   | -0.44                        | -1                | 0.633          |
| local  | 34             | 3.013   | 2.306 | 0.845   | -0.446                       | -1                | -0.193         |
| local  | 15             | 2.589   | 1.991 | 0.903   | -0.444                       | -1                | 0.562          |
| local  | 27             | 2.277   | 1.724 | 0.163   | -0.444                       | -1                | 0.872          |
| local  | 26             | 2.532   | 1.918 | 0.821   | -0.442                       | -1                | 0.843          |
| local  | 17             | 2.649   | 1.979 | 0.065   | -0.44                        | -1                | 0.828          |
| local  | 11             | 2.146   | 1.666 | 0.038   | -0.443                       | -1                | 0.823          |

Table 8: Results from hourly version of the Plauborg model for 10cm depth.

| scope  | spesific scope | RMSE °C | MAE°C | bias °C | $\log(\kappa(\text{model}))$ | digit sensitivity | R <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| global | —              | 1.91    | 1.536 | 0.644   | -1.918                       | -2                | 0.876          |
| region | Østfold        | 1.94    | 1.541 | -0.073  | -1.917                       | -2                | 0.885          |
| region | Vestfold       | 1.71    | 1.341 | 0.236   | -1.899                       | -2                | 0.915          |
| region | Trøndelag      | 1.843   | 1.56  | 1.461   | -1.913                       | -2                | 0.794          |
| region | Innlandet      | 2.16    | 1.735 | 1.02    | -1.909                       | -2                | 0.863          |
| local  | 52             | 2.33    | 1.873 | -1.402  | -1.908                       | -2                | 0.83           |
| local  | 41             | 1.748   | 1.409 | -0.371  | -1.902                       | -2                | 0.914          |
| local  | 37             | 1.877   | 1.496 | 0.353   | -1.913                       | -2                | 0.905          |
| local  | 118            | 1.742   | 1.384 | 1.139   | -1.917                       | -2                | 0.886          |
| local  | 50             | 1.251   | 0.985 | 0.096   | -1.912                       | -2                | 0.946          |
| local  | 42             | 1.966   | 1.54  | 0.346   | -1.917                       | -2                | 0.901          |
| local  | 38             | 1.721   | 1.367 | 0.515   | -1.906                       | -2                | 0.912          |
| local  | 30             | 1.817   | 1.471 | -0.014  | -1.918                       | -2                | 0.91           |
| local  | 57             | 1.841   | 1.538 | 1.427   | -1.919                       | -2                | 0.863          |
| local  | 39             | 1.729   | 1.468 | 1.402   | -1.912                       | -2                | 0.852          |
| local  | 34             | 2.104   | 1.836 | 1.816   | -1.91                        | -2                | 0.316          |
| local  | 15             | 1.681   | 1.411 | 1.215   | -1.903                       | -2                | 0.801          |
| local  | 27             | 1.924   | 1.534 | 0.753   | -1.905                       | -2                | 0.901          |
| local  | 26             | 2.528   | 2.101 | 1.578   | -1.912                       | -2                | 0.833          |
| local  | 17             | 2.448   | 1.911 | 1.401   | -1.912                       | -2                | 0.844          |
| local  | 11             | 1.735   | 1.443 | 0.463   | -1.91                        | -2                | 0.866          |

Table 9: Results from daily version of the Plauborg model for 20cm depth.

| scope  | specific scope | RMSE °C | MAE °C | bias °C | $\log(\kappa(\text{model}))$ | digit sensitivity | R <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| global | —              | 2.074   | 1.621  | 0.608   | -1.261                       | -2                | 0.861          |
| region | Østfold        | 2.168   | 1.704  | 0.24    | -1.27                        | -2                | 0.856          |
| region | Vestfold       | 2.022   | 1.564  | 0.219   | -1.263                       | -2                | 0.892          |
| region | Trøndelag      | 1.957   | 1.528  | 1.235   | -1.257                       | -2                | 0.782          |
| region | Innlandet      | 2.165   | 1.71   | 0.714   | -1.269                       | -2                | 0.873          |
| local  | 52             | 2.418   | 1.837  | -0.636  | -1.265                       | -2                | 0.664          |
| local  | 41             | 1.975   | 1.587  | -0.293  | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.9            |
| local  | 37             | 2.206   | 1.755  | 0.373   | -1.26                        | -2                | 0.873          |
| local  | 118            | 2.165   | 1.697  | 1.137   | -1.263                       | -2                | 0.839          |
| local  | 50             | 1.395   | 1.105  | -0.046  | -1.265                       | -2                | 0.938          |
| local  | 42             | 2.239   | 1.75   | 0.333   | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.881          |
| local  | 38             | 2.42    | 1.908  | 0.667   | -1.261                       | -2                | 0.845          |
| local  | 30             | 1.914   | 1.519  | -0.046  | -1.271                       | -2                | 0.908          |
| local  | 57             | 1.978   | 1.547  | 1.108   | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.85           |
| local  | 39             | 1.896   | 1.455  | 1.193   | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.828          |
| local  | 34             | 2.143   | 1.687  | 1.535   | -1.261                       | -2                | 0.397          |
| local  | 15             | 1.806   | 1.428  | 1.114   | -1.262                       | -2                | 0.787          |
| local  | 27             | 2.063   | 1.627  | 0.396   | -1.266                       | -2                | 0.895          |
| local  | 26             | 2.43    | 1.937  | 1.251   | -1.267                       | -2                | 0.855          |
| local  | 17             | 2.26    | 1.78   | 0.921   | -1.263                       | -2                | 0.875          |
| local  | 11             | 1.879   | 1.504  | 0.339   | -1.262                       | -2                | 0.864          |

Table 10: Results from daily version of the Plauborg model for 10cm depth.

| scope  | spesific scope | RMSE °C | MAE°C | bias °C | $\log(\kappa(\text{model}))$ | digit sensitivity | R <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| global | —              | 4.504   | 3.474 | 2.487   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.308          |
| region | Østfold        | 4.348   | 3.363 | 1.901   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.424          |
| region | Vestfold       | 4.564   | 3.47  | 2.297   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.397          |
| region | Trøndelag      | 4.438   | 3.508 | 3.175   | -0.796                       | -1                | -0.194         |
| region | Innlandet      | 4.688   | 3.568 | 2.601   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.353          |
| local  | 52             | 3.556   | 2.841 | 0.559   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.604          |
| local  | 41             | 4.248   | 3.286 | 1.677   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.491          |
| local  | 37             | 4.754   | 3.675 | 2.174   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.391          |
| local  | 118            | 4.726   | 3.654 | 3.208   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.162          |
| local  | 50             | 4.048   | 3.025 | 2.207   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.434          |
| local  | 42             | 4.863   | 3.741 | 2.364   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.393          |
| local  | 38             | 4.832   | 3.682 | 2.601   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.308          |
| local  | 30             | 4.465   | 3.433 | 2.015   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.456          |
| local  | 57             | 4.655   | 3.636 | 3.153   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.125          |
| local  | 39             | 4.31    | 3.39  | 3.083   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.081          |
| local  | 34             | 4.583   | 3.675 | 3.471   | -0.796                       | -1                | -2.248         |
| local  | 15             | 4.198   | 3.342 | 3.006   | -0.796                       | -1                | -0.241         |
| local  | 27             | 4.672   | 3.547 | 2.535   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.415          |
| local  | 26             | 5.17    | 4.009 | 3.282   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.302          |
| local  | 17             | 5.049   | 3.84  | 2.939   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.336          |
| local  | 11             | 3.821   | 2.924 | 1.692   | -0.796                       | -1                | 0.35           |

Table 11: Results from the linear regression model for 20cm depth.

| scope  | spesific scope | RMSE °C | MAE°C | bias °C | $\log(\kappa(\text{model}))$ | digit sensitivity | R <sup>2</sup> |
|--------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| global | —              | 4.231   | 3.267 | 2.303   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.423          |
| region | Østfold        | 4.236   | 3.28  | 2.015   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.45           |
| region | Vestfold       | 4.277   | 3.26  | 2.019   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.517          |
| region | Trøndelag      | 4.133   | 3.274 | 2.893   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.028          |
| region | Innlandet      | 4.282   | 3.254 | 2.246   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.504          |
| local  | 52             | 3.679   | 2.889 | 1.226   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.221          |
| local  | 41             | 3.976   | 3.07  | 1.494   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.593          |
| local  | 37             | 4.501   | 3.503 | 2.07    | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.473          |
| local  | 118            | 4.5     | 3.486 | 2.93    | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.306          |
| local  | 50             | 3.611   | 2.702 | 1.766   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.584          |
| local  | 42             | 4.571   | 3.525 | 2.109   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.506          |
| local  | 38             | 4.815   | 3.741 | 2.502   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.388          |
| local  | 30             | 4.053   | 3.106 | 1.733   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.588          |
| local  | 57             | 4.293   | 3.356 | 2.775   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.295          |
| local  | 39             | 4.057   | 3.193 | 2.835   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.213          |
| local  | 34             | 4.262   | 3.415 | 3.176   | -0.638                       | -1                | -1.386         |
| local  | 15             | 3.918   | 3.141 | 2.799   | -0.638                       | -1                | -0.003         |
| local  | 27             | 4.272   | 3.236 | 2.078   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.551          |
| local  | 26             | 4.714   | 3.651 | 2.902   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.456          |
| local  | 17             | 4.518   | 3.432 | 2.506   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.501          |
| local  | 11             | 3.567   | 2.713 | 1.529   | -0.638                       | -1                | 0.51           |

Table 12: Results from the linear regression model for 10cm depth.



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