Starlivia Kaska

HWRS 482

Dr. Laura Condon

February 11, 2022

HW4 Discussion

**1.The well is located at [0,10,15] in the starter code and it is withdrawing water at a rate of -8 m3/day (note, the rate is negative to indicate water being removed from the domain). You need to move the well to the center of the domain [0,12,12] and change the rate to -10 m3/day.**

Followed the directions and moved the well, sed the moved well as my base for the entire assignment.

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Description automatically generated**2.For the initial well location, plot the total flow into the left (constant head = 20) and out of the right (constant head = 10) boundaries. (The code, as provided, makes this plot for you.)**

**Explain why the values are not constant along the boundary (relate to the definition of a Type I boundary).**

The flows are not constant along the boundary because some of the water is being lost. The well is taking up water in the center of our domain and there is less water leaving the right boundary.

Answer: What is coming in, is not what is going out.

**Explain the shapes of the flow distributions and why they are not the same for the left (inflow) and right (outflow) boundaries.**

The shapes of the flow correspond with the well which is taking up more water in the center. There is less water flowing through the center of each boundary.

Answer: Increased gradients. Decrease in the middle for outflow because water is lost.

**You are still modeling stead state conditions? So, what is supplying water to the well?**

Steady state means what goes in is coming out. I am assuming what supplies water to a well is some water source. It could be a river. Or it could be a spring.

Answer: flow in is equal to the outflow and the pumping rate. Yes we are still in steady state conditions.

**Diagram

Description automatically generated3.Plot series of the flow left-to-right along a vertical line that passes through the center of the well [:,12]**

**How do you interpret the flow along this transect? (Hint, also look at the flow along a transect just upgradient from the well [:,11]).**

The flow is very small at the center of the transect and the flow is symmetrical on either side of the center. This is telling me that there is nearly zero flow in this area.

**4. Then, look at the plot of equipotential (i.e. the constant head lines, this is the last plot in the example) and flow vectors.**

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**Describe how water flows through the domain. To aid in your description, draw a line through all of the flow vectors that terminate in the well. This approximates the capture zone of the well. Use this to refine your description of the flow system, being as specific as possible about where water that ends up being extracted by the well originates on the inflow boundary.**

The water in the above diagram is moving through the domain similarly along all cells until it gets near the well. The flows along the center of the domain (going left to right) are moving toward the well. The flows on the outer edges tend to be linear and aren’t affected as much by the well. The water that is taken up by the well seems to originate from the center of the left boundary.

Answer: It looks like a torpedo ending at the well.

**5. Then, look at the plan view drawdown plot.**

**Why aren't the drawdown contours circles? Either explain why this is correct or fix the plot.**

I am having a little trouble understanding the question. The graph for this question is the one below. This graph does have circle contours, but it does have the two at the ends that aren’t circles as well as the center contours which are diamond like. The reason the contours at the end aren’t circles are probably due to the flow paths going past the well and the center contours are more rigid due to the drawdown changes around that area.

Answer: Everything is pulling in equally from all directions towards the center. As we get further from the well, we get closer to our boundary conditions. The top boundary is no flow, the bottom boundary is no flow. Bathtub analogy, a ripple stops and straitens out into a line when it hits the edge of the tub. We aren’t as influenced by the boundary towards the center. You can’t move in water at the top and the bottom because you aren’t allowed to.

**Why are the drawdown contours not equally spaced?**

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Description automatically generatedMy guess to why the contours aren’t evenly spaced is because the spacing between the contours because the drawdown gradient is not constant. There is more drawdown where the contours are closer.

Answer:

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When the well was moved the flow entering the left boundary was the highest and we can see that the flow was higher near the well. the flow leaving the right boundary was uniform. A transect going through the well shows a lower flow at the 500 y location where the well is located. We can see our drawdown contours in the figure on the right, and the contours are centered near the well, drawdown is happening at the top left corner of our domain. In the center figure we can see the flow is being diverted towards the well and the head equipotential lines are morphed towards the well’s pumping.

Answer: Water is flowing left to right. Flow is still going to the right due to the angle of the well relative to the head gradient. If we pumped at higher rates then we would eventually have the flow going to the left towards the well. You need to over come the steep gradient to get flow in the other direction.

**BONUS :**

Answer: the model broke at -25, we were supposed to look at the equipotential graphs. We can’t get enough flux into the cell to balance the pumping rate. The cell goes dry.

**Before running the model, predict what you would happen to the inflow/outflow boundary fluxes if you reduced the pumping rate to -5 with the well located at [0,12,12]. Were you correct? If not, how were you wrong?**

**Diagram

Description automatically generated**I think the flow would look like the one with a pumping rate of -10. The “humps” on each boundary flow plot would just be less pronounced. A little flatter looking but there would still be a significant difference in flow just like the one for -10.

Yes, I was correct, however the plots were adjusted according to the data, and you don’t see a difference in the “humps” from this one and the one for -10.

**Now predict what would happen if you increased the pumping rate to -20. Still correct? Now try -25. Uh oh, what happened??**

If we increased the pumping rate to -20 then it would be like the plots for -10. The humps (boundary flow plot) in graph this time would be pronounced. There will be more flow near the center for inflow boundary and less flow for the outflow boundary.

Diagram

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Yes, I was correct, however the plots were adjusted according to the data and you don’t see a difference in the “humps” from this one and the one for -10. The values for flow have changed as well, and there is a negative value for flow in the center now.

Glossary Questions

**What are equipotentials? How do we create them from MODFLOW Models?**

Equipotentials are lines that tell you the value of something on a map and this value is the same along this line. We create them in MODFLOW using the head values. We would need to create our own grid using the data in MODFLOW.

**What are flowlines? (BONUS thought experiment: How can you impose a no flow boundary based on symmetry? Give it a shot to explain WHY this works in a couple of sentences.)**

Flow lines are the flow patterns of the water in the system. It shows you in what direction the flow is going. I am guessing that if the system is symmetrical the flow eventually reaches an equilibrium and calms down (in a confined system), where there is no flow.

Answer: flow lines show the direction of groundwater flow. A no flow boundary can be imposed by having two wells near each other. The flow will be going towards the wells but will not pass a line in between the two wells.



**What are flow nets? And how does a flow net vary from a map of Equipotentials with flow lines drawn on it?**

Flow nets are diagrams or maps that show you the elevation of ground water. Or the depth of the water table below the earth’s surface. A flow net with flow lines in it differs only from the arrows signifying the direction of flow.

Answer: You need to read the questions slowly Starlivia.

**Define the concept of 'capture' in a way that a non-expert might understand? (e.g. think about our homework problem, if the right boundary represented a stream, what would the impact of the well be on the stream?)**

Capture is when a pump or something else takes water away from a source. It takes water away that contributes to the flow of that water source. If the right boundary represented a stream, then the well would capture water if the river eventually started feeding the well rather than the aquifer itself.

Answer: Capture is when something takes water that **would have** been diverted somewhere else.