

# Evan J. Coopersmith, Ph.D.

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## Education

**University of Illinois**, Urbana-Champaign, IL  
Ph.D., July 2013 in Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Cumulative GPA: 3.96/4.0

**University of Illinois**, Urbana-Champaign, IL  
M.S., May 2008 in Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Cumulative GPA: 3.70/4.0

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ  
B.S.E., June 2006 in Operations Research and Financial Engineering, *Cum Laude*  
**Honor Societies:** Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi  
Cumulative GPA: 3.64/4.0

## Predictive Modeling Experience

**Prognostic Data Solutions LLC - Founder**, Washington D.C.  
*Freelance data scientist and consultant, developing proprietary algorithms for predictive modeling.*

**TrafficHackers** – *Developed predictive models for three major Boston highways using public traffic data. Collaborated with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and helped to ensure optimal usage of existing datasets. Received mention in the Boston Globe.*

Jan. 2014 – Present

**NASA/USDA, Hydrology & Remote Sensing Laboratory – Research Data Scientist**, Washington D.C.  
*Achieved out-of-sample accuracy of soil moisture estimation below NASA's target of  $0.04\text{m}^3/\text{m}^3$ . Developed predictive algorithms for soil moisture at over 100 locations nationwide. Applied geospatial approaches to produce multi-scale soil moisture estimates at USDA and Climate Reference Network test sites. Employed those estimates to assess the performance of satellite-based remotely-sensed estimates from NASA and European satellites.*

Aug. 2013 – Present

**John Deere Technological Innovation Center – Research Data Scientist**, Champaign, IL  
*Produced predictions of field readiness with over 90% accuracy. Worked in concert with agronomic researchers through their local offices during doctoral work. Delivered presentations to managers in advanced marketing and agricultural systems analysis, which helped to sustain research funding for myself and subsequent doctoral students. Wrote a white-paper to corporate management detailing strategic intersections between academic and corporate objectives with respect to usage of 'big data.'*

May 2012 – July 2013

**BCW Group LLC – Principal and Co-Founder**, New York, NY  
*One of three founding members of a quantitative hedge fund start-up at NYMEX. Achieved 7% returns during a period in which the equity markets fell 35%. Developed proprietary, non-discretionary trading algorithms, which were implemented from 9/2/08 to 4/28/09. Employed machine learning models and original mathematical work to build superior risk/ reward ratios.*

Jan. 2008 – Apr. 2009

**Freelance Sabermetric Modeler**, Princeton, NJ and Champaign, IL

Asymmetric Objectives & Inefficient Markets: A Non-Parametric Predictor for Major League Baseball Games And the Evaluation of Betting Lines – Mudd Library, Princeton University, Senior Thesis 2006.

*Produced 130% annual returns. Developed a proprietary non-parametric predictor for assessing the probabilities of various outcomes using a database of over 50,000 historical baseball games. Placed over 4,000 wagers on baseball games over the course of two seasons.*

Spr. 2006 – Fall 2007

## Awards

**Englebrecht Fellowship – Department of Environmental Engineering**

*Most outstanding graduate student in environmental engineering.*

Spring 2013

**CEE Alumni Graduate Fellowship for Teaching Excellence**

*Awarded for promise in teaching. Awarded funding to design and teach a 500-level graduate course in advanced data science topics for civil and environmental engineers.*

Spring 2013

**University Fellowship – University of Illinois**

*Awarded for promise in research.*

Fall 2006 and Spring 2007

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Soil Moisture Model Calibration and Validation: An ARS Watershed on the South Fork of the Iowa River – Coopersmith, Cosh, Petersen, Prueger, and Niemeier.** Journal of Hydrometeorology, March, 2015. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JHM-D-14-0145.1>

**Extending the Soil Moisture Data Record of the U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) and Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) – Coopersmith, Cosh, and Bell.** Advances in Water Resources. February, 2015. doi: [10.1016/j.advwatres.2015.02.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advwatres.2015.02.006)

**Field-Scale Moisture Estimates Using COSMOS Sensors: A Validation Study With Temporary Networks and Leaf-Area-Indices – Coopersmith, Cosh, and Daughtry.** Journal of Hydrology. August, 2014. doi: [10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.07.060](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.07.060)

**Using Similarity of Soil Texture and Hydroclimate to Enhance Soil Moisture Prediction – Coopersmith, Minsker, and Sivapalan.** Hydrology & Earth System Sciences. August, 2014. doi: [10.5194/hess-18-3095-2014](https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-18-3095-2014)

**Machine Learning Assessments of Soil Drying – Coopersmith, Minsker, Wenzel, and Gilmore.** Computers and Electronics in Agriculture. June, 2014. doi: [10.1016/j.compag.2014.04.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compag.2014.04.004)

**Patterns of Regional Climate Change: An Analysis of Changing Hydrologic Regimes Coopersmith, Minsker, and Sivapalan.** Water Resources Research. March, 2014. doi: [10.1002/2012WR013320](https://doi.org/10.1002/2012WR013320) (\*\*Featured Paper\*\*)

**Exploring the Physical Controls of Regional Patterns of Flow Duration Curves: Part 1– Insights from Statistical Analyses – Cheng, Yaeger, Viglione, Coopersmith, Ye, and Sivapalan.** Hydrology & Earth System Sciences. November, 2012, doi: [10.5194/hess-16-4435-2012](https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-16-4435-2012)

**Exploring the Physical Controls of Regional Patterns of Flow Duration Curves: Part 2 – Role of Seasonality and Associated Process Controls – Ye, Yaeger, Coopersmith, Cheng, and Sivapalan.** Hydrology & Earth System Sciences. November, 2012, doi: [10.5194/hess-16-4447-2012](https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-16-4447-2012)

**Exploring the Physical Controls of Regional Patterns of Flow Duration Curves: Part 3 – A Catchment Classification System Based on Seasonality and Runoff Regime – Coopersmith, Yaeger, Ye, Cheng, and Sivapalan.** Hydrology & Earth System Sciences. November, 2012, doi: [10.5194/hess-16-4467-2012](https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-16-4467-2012)

**Exploring the Physical Controls of Regional Patterns of Flow Duration Curves: Part 4 - A Synthesis of Empirical Analysis, Process Modeling, and Catchment Classification – Yaeger,**

*Coopersmith, Ye, Cheng, and Sivapalan.* Hydrology & Earth System Sciences. November, 2012, doi:10.5194/hess-16-4483-2012.

**Understanding and Forecasting Hypoxia Using Machine Learning Algorithms – Coopersmith, Minsker, and Montagna,** Journal of Hydroinformatics. 2011. doi:10.2166/hydro.2010.015

#### **Invited Talks**

**Multi-Scale Soil Moisture Model Calibration and Validation,** The 2014 workshop at MOISST: Advancing Soil Moisture Science and Applications, Stillwater, OK. June 2014

**Extending the Soil Moisture Record of the Climate Reference Network with Machine Learning.** American Meteorological Society, Symposium on Meteorological Observation and Instrumentation. Westminster, CO. June 2014.

**Data-Driven Soil Moisture Modeling: Multi-Scale Analysis for Decision Support,** NASA's SMAP Early-Adopters Teleconference, May 2013.

#### **Other Presentations**

**Multi-Scale Soil Moisture Monitoring and Modeling at ARS Watersheds for NASA's Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) Calibration/Validation Mission.** Oral presentation, American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, Ca. December 2014.

**Soil Moisture and Precipitation Monitoring in the South Fork Experimental Watershed during the Iowa Flood Studies (IFloods).** ASCE-EWRI Weather Radar and Hydrology (WRaH). Reston, VA. April 2014.

**Remotely-Sensed Soil Moisture for Agricultural Decision Support: An Integration of National-Scale Hydroclimatic Classification and Ground-Based Sensors.** Oral Presentation, American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA. December 2013.

**South Fork Watershed of the Iowa River: *In Situ* Soil Moisture Validation,** Oral Presentation, SMAP mission fall meeting, Pasadena, CA. November 2013.

**Regional Climate Change: An Analysis of a Hydrologic Classification System's Shifted Regime Curves,** Oral Presentation, 2013 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress, Cincinnati, OH. May 2013.

**National-Scale Hydrologic Classification & Agricultural Decision Support: A Multi-Scale Approach,** Oral Presentation, American Geophysical Union, Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA. December 2012.

**Machine-Learning Assessments of Soil Drying,** Oral Presentation, American Geophysical Union, Fall Meeting, San Francisco, December 2011, and Computational Methods in Water Resources conference, Champaign, IL. June 2012.

**Field-Readiness Forecasts Using Remote Sensing, Statistical Modeling and Adaptive Observation** Oral Presentation, Environmental Engineering Spring Symposium, Urbana, IL. April 2011, and National Center for Supercomputing Applications, Private Sector Program, Urbana, IL. May 2011

**Machine Learning Algorithms & Benthic Hypoxia in Corpus Christi Bay** Oral Presentation, Environmental Engineering Symposium, Urbana, IL. April 2008

**Integrating Sensor Data and Informatics to Improve Understanding of Hypoxia in the WATERS Network Testbed at Corpus Christi Bay, Texas –** American Geophysical Union, Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA. December 2007

**Modeling of Hypoxic Conditions in Corpus Christi Bay Using Sequential Normalization, Discrete Fourier Transforms, and K-Nearest Neighbor Algorithms.** Environmental Engineering Symposium, Urbana, IL. April 2007