



# Water Well Depth Prediction

## Capstone Project

2022SP\_MSDS\_498-DL\_SEC61 Capstone Class: Data Engineering Capstone

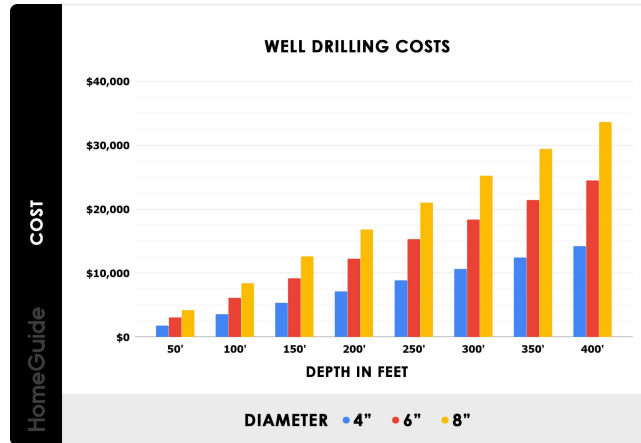
Mark Stockwell

June 5, 2022

[MarkStockwell2021@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:MarkStockwell2021@u.northwestern.edu)

# Water Scarcity is a Global Problem

**Four billion people** — almost two thirds of the world's population — experience severe water scarcity for at least one month each year. Over two billion people live in countries where water supply is inadequate. Half of the world's population could be living in areas facing water scarcity by as early as 2025. (<https://www.unicef.org/wash/water-scarcity> )



<https://homeguide.com/costs/well-drilling-cost>

Well drilling costs are high and rise linearly with well depth. Given limited resources, siting of wells in locations where water is near the surface and close to population centers is critical to solving the global water crisis.

This project aims to use Machine Learning tools and geographic datasets to determine the most cost effective locations to drill with highest probability of finding water.

# Project Methodology



**Goal:** Develop a regression model to predict water well depth for a given point on map.

**Base Data:** The US Geological Survey ([USGS](#)) is the nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency. It provides data on ~1M groundwater wells across the nation. This will be base labeled dataset.



Google Cloud Storage

**Feature Selection:** [Precipitation](#), [Lithology](#), Topography, and Elevation data are correlated with water well depth. Data are available via USGS and Google Earth Engine datasets.

**Data Collection:** Colab Pro used to collect and process data from USGS and Earth Engine datasets into tabular relational format and stored in Google Cloud Storage buckets.



BigQuery ML

**Data Preparation:** BigQuery used to consolidate and link various data assets, including US Census public data.



Google Earth Engine

**Machine Learning:** BigQuery ML used to build an XGBoost model based upon categorical and continuous variables linked to each ground water well.

**User Interface:** Google Earth Engine used as a display interface for exploratory data analysis and to link to predictions.

# Datasets - Groundwater Wells



## Click to hide News Bulletins

- Explore the [NEW USGS National Water Dashboard](#) interactive map to access real-time water data from over 13,500 stations nationwide.
- [Full News](#)

## Groundwater levels for the Nation

**Important:** [Next Generation Monitoring Location Page](#)

### Choose Site Selection Criteria

There are 912,202 sites with groundwater-level measurements. Choose at least one of the following criteria to constrain the number of sites selected.

Site -- Location --	Site -- Identifier --	Site -- Attribute --	Data -- Attribute --
<input type="checkbox"/> State/Territory <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrologic Region <input type="checkbox"/> Lat-Long box	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Name <input type="checkbox"/> Site Number <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Site Numbers <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Code <input type="checkbox"/> File of Site Numbers	<input type="checkbox"/> Well depth <input type="checkbox"/> Hole depth <input type="checkbox"/> National aquifer (by code) <input type="checkbox"/> National aquifer (by name)	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of observations

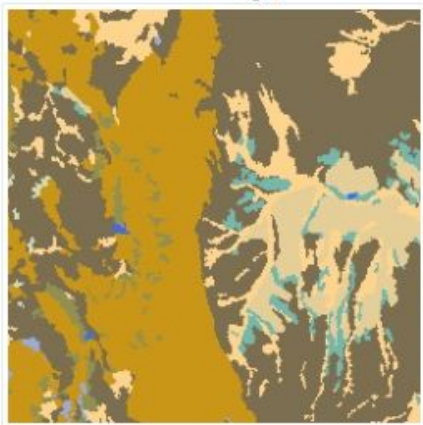
The USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) contains extensive water data for the nation. The Groundwater database consists of more than 900,000 records of wells, springs, test holes, tunnels, drains, and excavations in the United States. Available site descriptive information includes well location information such as latitude and longitude, well depth, and aquifer.

Link: <https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/gwlevels>

Northwestern

# Datasets - Lithology

## US Lithology



### Dataset Availability

2006-01-24T00:00:00Z - 2011-05-13T00:00:00

### Dataset Provider

[Conservation Science Partners](#)

### Earth Engine Snippet

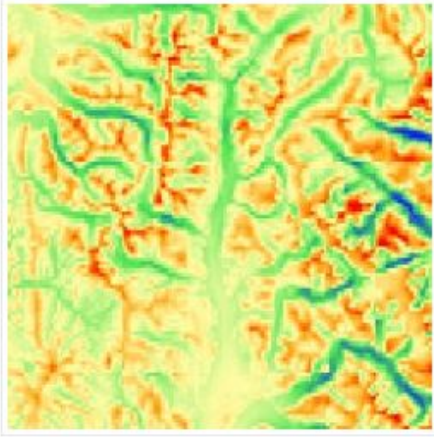
```
ee.Image("CSP/ERGo/1_0/US/lithology") 
```

The Lithology dataset provides classes of the general types of parent material of soil on the surface. The Conservation Science Partners (CSP) Ecologically Relevant Geomorphology (ERGo) Datasets, Landforms and Physiography contain detailed, multi-scale data on landforms and physiographic (aka land facet) patterns. The original purpose for these data was to develop an ecologically relevant classification and map of landforms and physiographic classes that are suitable for climate adaptation planning.

Link: [https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/catalog/CSP\\_ERGo\\_1\\_0\\_US\\_lithology](https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/catalog/CSP_ERGo_1_0_US_lithology)

# Datasets - Topography

## Global ALOS mTPI (Multi-Scale Topographic Position Index)



### Dataset Availability

2006-01-24T00:00:00Z - 2011-05-13T00:00:00

### Dataset Provider

[Conservation Science Partners](#)

### Earth Engine Snippet

```
ee.Image("CSP/ERGo/1_0/Global/ALOS_mTPI")
```

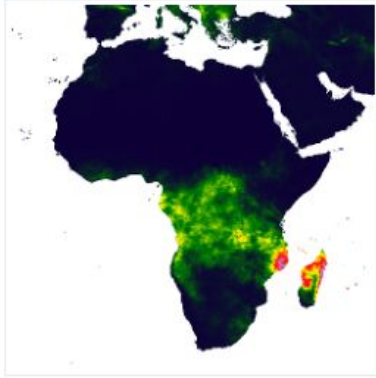


The mTPI distinguishes ridge from valley forms. It is calculated using elevation data for each location subtracted by the mean elevation within a neighborhood. mTPI uses moving windows of radius (km): 115.8, 89.9, 35.5, 13.1, 5.6, 2.8, and 1.2. It is based on the 30m "AVE" band of JAXA's ALOS DEM (available in EE as JAXA/ALOS/AW3D30\_V1\_1).

Link: [https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/catalog/CSP\\_ERGo\\_1\\_0\\_Global\\_ALOS\\_mTPI](https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/catalog/CSP_ERGo_1_0_Global_ALOS_mTPI)

# Datasets- Precipitation

## CHIRPS Pentad: Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation With Station Data (Version 2.0 Final)



### Dataset Availability

1981-01-01T00:00:00Z - 2022-04-26T00:00:00

### Dataset Provider

[UCSB/CHG](#)

### Earth Engine Snippet

```
ee.ImageCollection("UCSB-CHG/CHIRPS/PENTAD") 
```

Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station data (CHIRPS) is a 30+ year quasi-global rainfall dataset. CHIRPS incorporates 0.05° resolution satellite imagery with in-situ station data to create gridded rainfall time series for trend analysis and seasonal drought monitoring.

Link: [https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/catalog/UCSB-CHG\\_CHIRPS\\_PENTAD](https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/catalog/UCSB-CHG_CHIRPS_PENTAD)

# Data Prep - Base Groundwater Sites

- Colab used to loop through all states using USGS public data download URL
- Data for each state written in raw and tsv format, loaded to BQ
- BQ view used to consolidate data to single table
- State, County attributes appended from public BQ datasets

```
import requests
import json
import pandas as pd
from google.cloud import bigquery
import urllib.request
import os

base_url = "https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/gwlevels?state_cd={state_cd}"
base_url = base_url +
"&group key=NONE&format=sitefile output&sitefile output format=rdb"
base_url = base_url + "rdb compression=file&list_of_search_criteria=state_cd"
column_list = [ 'agency_cd', ... 'sv_count_nu' ]

for c in column_list:
    base_url = base_url + "&column_name=" + c

for state_cd in fips_codes.states:
    f = open("groundwater sites " + state_cd + ".tmp", 'w')
    f2 = open("groundwater sites " + state_cd + ".tsv", 'w')
    url = base_url.replace( "{state_cd}", state_cd.lower())
    payload={}
    headers = {}
    response = requests.request( "GET", url, headers=headers, data=payload)
    print(state_cd, "Response code:", response.status_code)
    if (response.status_code > 229):
        print("ERROR")
        break;
    else:
        f.writelines(response.text)
        f.close()
...
f2.close()
```



# Data Prep - Image Attribute Data

- Image data comes from publicly available datasets on [Earth Engine Catalog](#)
- Image data is composed of polygons with attributes storing information about the polygon, i.e. soil type, elevation, precipitation
- For each groundwater site, the location (lat, long) is passed to the image and the information retrieved.
- The site/attribute information is written to a file and uploaded to bucket.

```
from time import sleep
import pandas as pd

dem = ee.Image( 'CSP/ERGo/1_0/US/lithology' )

def get_lith(long: float, lat: float):
    xy = ee.Geometry.Point([ long,lat])
    data = dem.sample(xy, 10).first().get( 'b1' ).getInfo()
    return data

for j, row in df.state.cds.iterrows():
    state_postal_abbreviation = row[ "state_postal_abbreviation" ]
    print("state cd:", state_postal_abbreviation)
    df_filtered = df[df.state_cd==row[ "state_fips_code" ]]
    filename = f'lithology{state_postal_abbreviation}.csv'
    file = open(filename, 'w')
    for i, row in df_filtered.iterrows():
        try:
            val = get_lith(row[ "dec_long_va" ], row[ "dec_lat_va" ])
            file.writelines(str(i) + "," + row[ "site_no" ] + "," + str(val) + '\n')
        except BaseException as err:
            print(f" Unexpected {err}, {type(err)}")
            print('ERROR processed:', i, row.to_json(), val, " "*10, datetime.datetime.now())
            continue

    file.close()
    upload_blob( 'msd8654-498-dev-usgs', filename, filename)

print(datetime.datetime.now(), 'END')
```

# Data Prep - Cloud Storage Files

- After running data extraction process, the cloud storage bucket will contain all the files needed to load BigQuery.
- Naming conventions:
  - groundwater\_sites\_<state>.tsv - wide file with groundwater site no., lat/long, elevation, well depth, county/state.
  - <attribute>Bands.csv - lookup information for image attributes
  - lithology<state>.csv - data from images with site no., lithology category
  - mtpi<state>.csv - data from images with topographical index for each site.
  - precipitation<state>.csv - precip data for each site

OBJECTS

CONFIGURATION

PERMISSIONS

PROTECTION

LIFECYCLE

Buckets

>

msd8654-498-dev-usgs

UPLOAD FILES

UPLOAD FOLDER

CREATE FOLDER

MANAGE HOLDS

DOWNLOAD

DELETE

Sort and filter

Name contains : NJ

OR

Name contains : PA

OR

Name contains : LithologyBands.csv

Filter

X

?

Filter objects and folders

Object sorting and filtering can make the Storage browser slower. For faster performance, select Filter by name prefix only

DISMISS

<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Name</div> <div>↑</div>	Size	Type	Created
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>groundwater_sites_NJ.tmp</div>	2.4 MB	application/octet-stream	May 1, 2022, 2:...
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>groundwater_sites_NJ.tsv</div>	2.4 MB	text/tab-separated-values	May 1, 2022, 2:...
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>groundwater_sites_PA.tmp</div>	11.2 MB	application/octet-stream	May 1, 2022, 2:...
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>groundwater_sites_PA.tsv</div>	11.1 MB	text/tab-separated-values	May 1, 2022, 2:...
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>LithologyBands.csv</div>	554 B	text/csv	May 21, 2022, ...
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>lithologyNJ.csv</div>	174.5 KB	text/csv	May 16, 2022, ...
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>lithologyPA.csv</div>	785 KB	text/csv	May 16, 2022, ...
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>mtpi_NJ.csv</div>	173.4 KB	text/csv	May 28, 2022, ...
<div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><div></div>mtpi_PA.csv</div>	804.7 KB	text/csv	May 28, 2022, ...

# Data Prep - BigQuery Views

\*.csv files are defined as external tables:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE EXTERNAL TABLE
`msd8654-498-dev.usgs.mtpi_bands`
( id INT64,
  site_no STRING,
  mtpi_band STRING )
OPTIONS ( format = 'CSV',
         uris =
[ 'gs://msd8654-498-dev-usgs/mtpi*.csv' ] )
```

```
SELECT
  gs.site_no,
  gs.station_nm,
  gs.dec_lat_va,
  gs.dec_long_va,
  gs.district_cd,
  gs.state_cd,
  gs.county_cd,
  gs.country_cd,
  gs.alt_va,
  lithology_bands.Value AS lithology_band,
  lithology_bands.Description AS lithology_type,
  SAFE_CAST(mtpi_band AS INT64) mtpi_band,
  gs.well_depth_va
FROM
  `usgs.groundwater_sites` gs
  INNER JOIN
    `usgs.lithology` lithology
  ON
    gs.site_no=lithology.site_no
  INNER JOIN
    `usgs.lithology_bands` lithology_bands
  ON
    lithology.lithology_band = lithology_bands.Value
  INNER JOIN
    `usgs.mtpi_bands` mtpi_bands
  ON
    gs.site_no=mtpi_bands.site_no ...
```

Groundwater site base table is loaded with csv data and joined to multiple dimensions.

# ML Model - Creation

BigQuery ML syntax used to create and train the model.

The dependent variable we are trying to predict is well depth.

The select statement contains all the features used in the model.

The BOOSTED\_TREE\_REGRESSOR model type leverages the [XGBOOST](#) library.

XGBoost is an optimized distributed gradient boosting library designed to be highly efficient, flexible and portable.

It was selected for efficiency and good performance with large amounts of tabular/categorical data.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE MODEL `usgs.groundwater_well_depth_predictor`  
OPTIONS(MODEL_TYPE='BOOSTED_TREE_REGRESSOR',  
        BOOSTER_TYPE = 'GBTREE',  
        NUM_PARALLEL_TREE = 1,  
        TREE_METHOD = 'HIST',  
        SUBSAMPLE = 0.85,  
        L1_REG = 0.0,  
        L2_REG = 1.0,  
        EARLY_STOP = TRUE,  
        LEARN_RATE = 0.3,  
        MAX_ITERATIONS = 20,  
        MIN_REL_PROGRESS = 0.01,  
        DATA_SPLIT_METHOD = 'AUTO_SPLIT',  
        ENABLE_GLOBAL_EXPLAIN = TRUE,  
        INPUT_LABEL_COLS = ['well_depth_va'])  
AS SELECT  
    dec_lat_va,  
    dec_long_va,  
    alt_va,  
    lithology_band,  
    mtpi_band,  
    well_depth_va  
FROM usgs.groundwater_sites_input;
```

Link: [The CREATE MODEL statement for boosted tree models using XGBoost | BigQuery ML | Google Cloud](#)

# ML Model - Usage and Evaluation

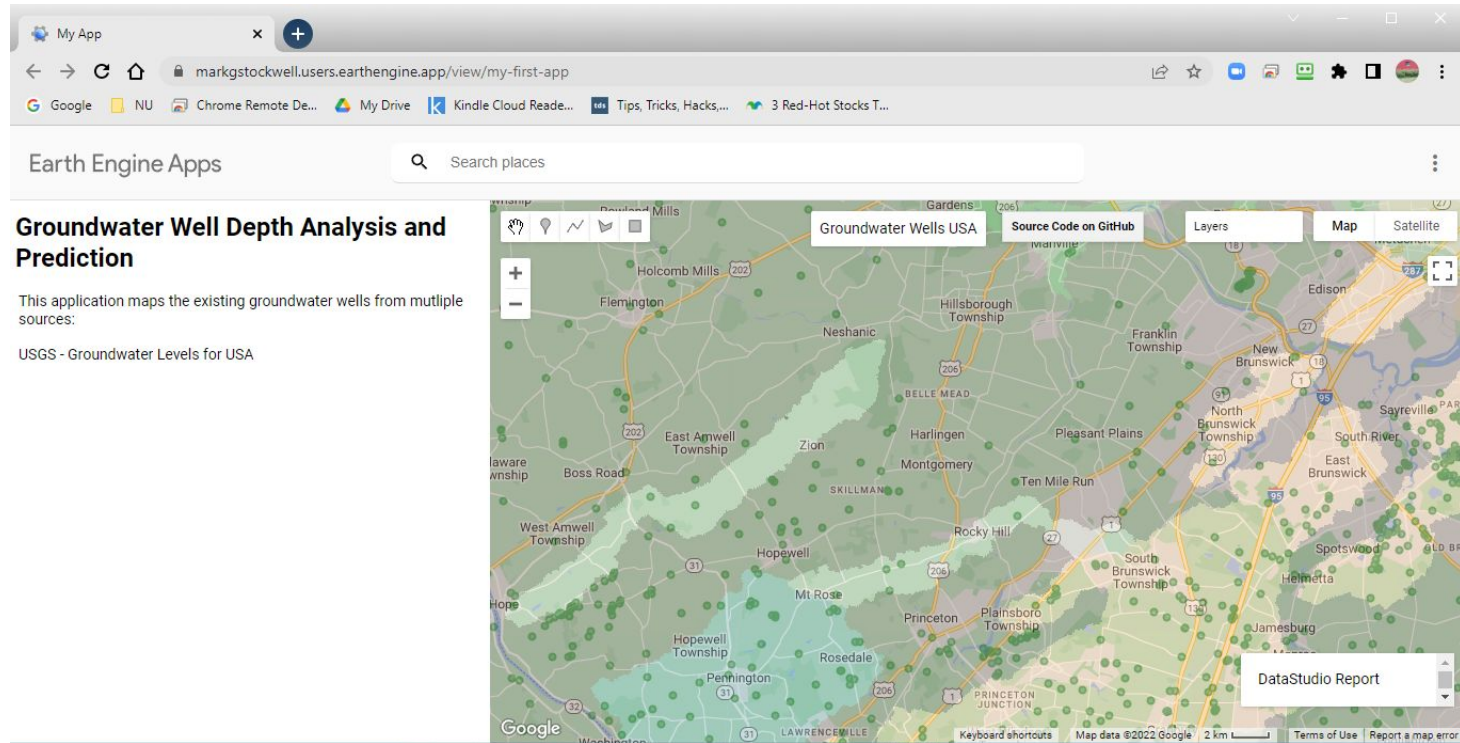
Initial evaluation indicates model performs poorly. Either additional features need to be added or alternatively different model type.

Mean absolute error:	128.4431
Mean squared error:	56,725.1301
Mean squared log error:	0.9179
Median absolute error:	70.1264
R squared:	0.3562

```
SELECT
*
FROM
  ML.PREDICT(MODEL
`msd8654-498-dev.usgs.groundwater_well_depth_predictor`,
(
  SELECT
    site_no,
    dec_lat_va,
    dec_long_va,
    state_cd,
    alt_va,
    lithology_band,
    lithology_type,
    mtpi_band,
    well_depth_va
  FROM
    `msd8654-498-dev.usgs.groundwater_sites_input`
  WHERE site_no like '%31415%' ) )
```

site_no	dec_lat_va	dec_long_va	state_cd	alt_va	lithology_band	lithology_type	mtpi_band	well_depth_va	predicted_well_depth_va	Difference
440920103141501	44.1555429	-103.2379598	46	3320	19	Alluvium and coastal sediment fine	-3	644	109.11	83.06%
431415108403501	43.23745818	-108.6770606	56	5400	19	Alluvium and coastal sediment fine	1	55	228.56	315.56%
431415108403501	43.23745818	-108.6770606	56	5400	19	Alluvium and coastal sediment fine	1	55	228.56	315.56%
431415097001401	43.2374844	-97.0042171	46	1250	19	Alluvium and coastal sediment fine	0	80	186.91	133.64%

# User Interface - Earth Engine App



<https://markgstockwell.users.earthengine.app/view/my-first-app>

THANK YOU!