

# Machine Learning - Based TDS Prediction and Water Quality Monitoring

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**Abstract:** *Public health and environmental sustainability demand that water quality integrity is ensured. A primary metric used to measure water contamination is Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), however conventional methods have no predictive capabilities, real time. A machine learning based water quality monitoring framework is presented, which implements the predictive analytics together with the IoT enabled sensor networks for the purpose of an early anomaly detection and dynamic contamination assessment, this research. Temperatures such as high and low approximate the max and min, with the another representing the count and what you're walking into. Continuous real time water quality parameters can be obtained from IoT modules based ESP8266, the data is transmitted to the cloud based inference engine. The predictive robustness is improved by a hybrid DNN based LSTM networks & Random Forest Regression and Bayesian optimization machine learning model. Another is the addition of a water flow sensor driven analytics module to give intelligent water management; the analytics module enables correlation of consumption-based contamination. For computational efficiency as well as feasibility to deploy on every edge, such lightweight deep learning models are optimized for inference on resource constrained environments. Empirical dataset based rigorous model validation shows high precision anomaly detection i. e., very low false positives in alerts of contamination. The proposed framework is extensible and thus can be extended towards adaptation, adaptive filtration automation, federated learning for decentralized quality monitoring, and multi modal sensor fusion.*

**Keywords:** Predictive Water Quality Assessment, TDS Forecasting, IoT - Enabled Anomaly Detection, ML - Driven Contamination Analysis, Smart Water Governance

## 1. Introduction

Real time monitoring methodologies are a must in the area of environmental and public health governance as a measure of water quality is a very critical aspect of governing the environment and public health. The traditional water quality evaluation systems utilize manual sampling and laboratory based chemical analysis to which they are accurate but suffer from latency, operational inefficiency and the ability to scale. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) are one of the many water quality indicators used to determine potability, contamination levels and water usability. Nevertheless, conventional TDS monitoring mechanisms are primarily reactive as opposed to predictive and cannot be used to prevent possible contaminations and TDS fluctuations that may endanger water safety.

To address this, this research presents a machine learning enhanced TDS prediction and water quality monitoring system that combines real time IoT based sensor networks with advanced predictive modeling. Thus, the proposed framework uses ESP8266 microcontrollers and TDS and water flow sensors to continuously feed data onto an edge computing unit running supervised and deep learning models to predict anomalies and trends. The system achieves high fidelity forecasting of TDS fluctuations through the application of regression-based learning, recurrent neural networks (RNNs) and Bayesian optimization.

In addition, the model can perform embedded intelligent anomaly detection algorithms to realize contamination patterns, distinguish gradual from abrupt TDS level change, and generate automation contamination alert. Also, water consumption analytics modules are integrated to make it possible to correlate water usage patterns with quality degradation for improved use of water resources. Such a

scalable, low power, and low-cost solution addresses the contemporary issues in water quality monitoring and lays the seeds for ideas like AI; filtering control and multi sensor fusion to improve the accuracy.

## 2. Literature Survey

Throughout history, the water quality monitoring has relied on laboratory based chemical analysis or sensor based electrochemical. While real time predictive capabilities are ensured with these methods, there remains a considerable amount of manual intervention associated with them. In its early stage of research, TDS was measured using conventional probes which were passive, reactive and did not forecast a contamination trend or auto alert.

Advancements in the Internet of Things (IoT) and machine learning (ML) have recently made it easy to build data driven water quality prediction models. It has been found that the integration of regression-based ML model like support vector regression (SVR) and random forest regression (RFR) in the studies have been able to produce moderate results in estimating TDS. However, their performance degrade in dynamic environmental conditions and so more robust solution is needed. Due to the ability of long short - term memory (LSTM) networks to capture long term dependencies in TDS fluctuations, they are very useful for predictive analytics.

There are several frameworks that can control ESP8266, Arduino, and based analytics in the cloud to monitor real time water quality. Unfortunately, most current models only report the real time data logging and ignore the adaptive anomaly detection capability and the resource efficient deployment in a constrained environment. Building a hybrid ML - IoT framework based on combination of Machine Learning with

IoT that addresses above gaps is the aim of this research to improve Predictive accuracy, computational efficiency, and real time detection of anomaly. Federated learning, which enables decentralized monitoring as well as AI driven automation of the filtration will completely change the process of smart water governance.

#### **a) Traditional Methods for TDS Measurement**

Single methods traditionally utilized to measure the water quality include gravimetric, conductivity based and electrochemical methods measuring Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). In the case of gravimetric analysis, simply evaporating water and weighing the residue is said to be time consuming, but highly accurate. For real time TDS estimation, the conductivity-based methods depend on the correlation between ion concentration and electrical conductivity and can use TDS probes and conductivity meters. Nevertheless, these methods are vulnerable to inaccuracies caused by temperature variations, sensor drift, and interferences given by nonionic compounds. The precision is improved by electrochemical sensors that use ion selective electrodes but those require frequent calibration, servicing, and replacements.

Though they are reliable these traditional methods have little real time predict function and hence are resource intensive where sampling is manual, laboratory analysis and periodic recalibration is required. Secondly, they do not forecast contamination trends or recognize anomalies in TDS levels. Therefore, these approaches do not give proactive contamination alerts and are inappropriate for modern, largescale water quality monitoring. Research has come down to the integration of ML, IoT and edge computing technologies to enable TDS forecasting and anomaly detection in time and in real - time, data driven fashion due to the ever-soaring demand for scalable, automated, predictive solutions.

#### **b) IoT - Driven Water Quality Monitoring Systems**

The recent adoption of IoT based network of sensors has significantly contributed to the evolution of smart water quality monitoring, which now supports real time data, gathered, transmitted and remotely analyzed. IoT solutions can include low power microcontrollers like ESP8266, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, interfaced with TDS, pH, turbidity, and temperature sensors, to monitor the continuous water quality. Sensor data is transmitted to cloud platforms for processing through these systems using wireless communication protocols, including MQTT, LoRa and Wi - Fi.

We have seen several studies on the efficiency of IoT integrated water quality system to visualize and have remote access to the data of the system through the mobile applications and web dashboards. In fact, many of the existing models concentrate on sensor data logging and they basically do not consider advanced predictive analytics or include machine learning based anomaly detection. Also, these systems are affected by reliability issues due to network latency, power consumption and sensor calibration. AS a potential solution, integrating the algorithms of ML for predictive modelling and the deployment with edge AI on IoT devices can have beneficial potential in facilitating real - time decision making, and also resource efficient computation.

#### **c) Machine Learning Approaches for TDS Prediction**

With use of past sensor data, machine learning has recently proved to be powerful in predicting and detecting anomalies in TDS motion. In the first stage of research in this domain, we used regression-based models, i. e., Linear Regression (LR), Support Vector Regression (SVR) and Random Forest Regression (RFR) to estimate TDS levels as a function of environmental parameters: temperature, pH and conductivity. Although these models can predict water quality data to moderate degree, they cannot handle nonlinear dependencies, and have difficulty with temporal fluctuations in water quality data.

During the past few years, recent improvements in deep learning architectures, Dubbed Long Short-Term Memory Network (LSTM) Network and Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU), have experienced great improvements in the forecasting accuracy for TDS through capturing long term dependencies and sequential patterns. Further enhancing the predictive robustness are models that hybridize LSTM with the Bayesian optimization. However, we have these challenges of high computational complexity, overfitting risks and a need for large datasets. In order to tackle these problems, research is pushing towards resource efficient, light weight ML models that work well for deployment on edge computing device and so infer within real time, without relying on the cloud.

#### **d) Anomaly Detection and Contamination Alert Mechanisms**

Event detection in the water quality monitoring is important to detect sudden contamination events and warning it in time. Traditional threshold-based methods depend on predefined safe limits for each TDS but cannot react dynamically to changing environment and most of the times produce false positives. Anomaly detection algorithms using machine learning is more adaptive and exploration and analyze the historical patterns to detect anomalies that hint of contamination risks.

Unsupervised methods like Dbscan clustering and Isolation Forest algorithm classify water quality using unlabeled data, while the supervised techniques such as Decision Tree and k nearest neighbours (k - NN) classify the water based on labeled datasets. Autoencoders based on deep learning further enhance the anomaly detection by learning highly complex feature representation and the ability of distinguishing the contamination induced spikes from natural fluctuations. Furthermore, cloud dashboards and mobile applications providing real - time alerts are integrated with the real time alert such that anomalies are detected and communicated instantly to the concerned stakeholders.

However, these challenges are to reduce false alarms, sensor drift, and to conserve processing efficiency in real time. The future research focuses on hybrid models combining the both the anomaly detection with reinforcement learning where the controllers can take the adaptation from both historical contamination trends and environmental conditions.

#### **e) Challenges and Future Directions in Smart Water Quality Monitoring**

Despite the immense potential in terms of money saving, efficiency and feasibility of deployment that we can gain from

IoT and ML based water quality monitoring, various challenges remain in terms of scalability; computational efficiency; sensor reliability; and feasibility of deployment. The resource constraint of edge devices poses a major challenge in developing lightweight ML models which can work at an edge device of microcontroller such as ESP8266 and Raspberry Pi. Finally, sensor drift, biofouling and environmental interference cause inaccuracies in real time measurement of TDS and we must adaptively calibrate the sensor and fuse it with measurements from other sensors for improved precision.

One concern with scalability is that large scale IoT networks need sound data management framework able to handle a high frequency of streaming data. Based on the adoption of federated learning, a decentralized, federated learning solution that enables training of predictive models over multiple nodes while keeping raw data from being centralized to a central node, this is a promising solution to privacy preserving distributed TDS prediction. Besides, using blocks chain technology in waters quality monitoring systems can also improve data integrity, traceability and tamper logging.

Future research related to AI based filtration automation are in deriving models to automatically adjust water purification parameters using measurements that predict contamination. Furthermore, the use of three sensors including pH, turbidity, temperature and TDS together with the TDS data could increase the overall accuracy of contamination detection. By the convergence of machine learning, edge computing and decentralized intelligence, smart water management system may able to obtain proactive, scalable and financially efficient water quality monitoring.

### 3. Materials and Methods

Using machine learning prediction of TDS and water quality combined with a linked IoT - enabled intelligent system of sensors, the proposed system of machine learning based TDS prediction and real time water quality monitoring is proposed. Around this ESP8266 microcontroller is a network of sensors; TDS, temperature, pH sensors, and water flow sensors are a comprehensive evaluation of water quality. Data from these sensors is constantly collected, and in some cases this data is sent to an edge computing device for immediate analysis and on other occasions it is sent to a cloud-based inference engine for large scale trend modeling. To maintain energy efficiency and the ability to survive in both urban and remote environments, the low power, wireless communication protocols are integrated in the system.

A robust preprocessing pipeline is used to make the collected data more reliable. It starts with detecting outliers and filtering noise based on Z - score in case of noisy data and IQR filtering in case when the data is clean from noise and sensor drift effects. Following this, feature engineering techniques extract meaningful attributes like historical trends in tds, correlation in water consumption, fluctuations in environmental parameters to assist in the interpretability of the model. Finally, normalized data is trained using the machine learning model to process the data using Min - Max scaling to ensure uniform distributions for better stability and accuracy in the machine learning model.

Missing values are addressed using K - Nearest Neighbors (KNN) imputation and Expectation - Maximization, thus, keeping data continuous and avoiding introducing bias in the data.

The TDS prediction model, using machine learning, is a core component for the system to provide real time as well as long term forecasts. Initial baselines are set by the traditional regression-based models such as Linear Regression (LR) and Support Vector Regression (SVR), and all models commonly struggle to model nonlinear unveilings of the TDS fluctuations. In order to deal with this, Random Forest Regression (RFR) is used to aggregate multiple decisions trees that boost robustness against sensor noise. While much more progress has been made with deep learning-based architectures, in particular, through the sequencing pattern recognition architectures that are optimized to learn sequential patterns (e. g. Long Short - Term Memory (LSTM) networks). The Bayesian optimization incorporated into LSTM model leads to dynamic hyperparameter tuning, which results in high fidelity prediction of the highly dynamic system with low computational cost. Real time inference is achieved on edge computing devices by the end model being deployed and performing final inference without using the cloud servers.

The system is made up of the anomaly detection module, where early identification of contamination events is achieved with proactive intervention. Flexible threshold-based methods will have higher false positive rates compared to conventional threshold-based methods and are not adaptable. Thus, the proposed system employs unsupervised machine learning techniques including Isolation Forest and Autoencoder based deep learning models, which identify anomalies dynamically based on deviating from the historical patterns. Moreover, a dynamic thresholding mechanism is introduced that enables changing of contamination thresholds in response to environmental conditions and long-term water quality trend. When an anomaly is cataloged, real time alerts are generated over different channels such as mobile notifications, SMS/email alerts and web dashboard updates to make sure stakeholders react fast at detection of anomaly.

The system is designed to operate with low - power edge computing devices in order to minimize the need for cloud-based computation for deployment efficiency. TFLite optimization techniques are utilized on the ESP8266 microcontroller for inferences as the microcontroller executes on device machine learning inference. Moreover, in low power mode the microcontroller is to act only for data transmission and anomaly detection only on a significant deviation in the parameters of water quality. When network is disrupted, critical contamination data is stored locally and cloud servers are synchronized later when connectivity is restored. This will get your software to remain functional continuously where network access is sometimes erratic.

In evaluation of the system, multiple performance metrics are used, including prediction accuracy, precision of anomaly detection and computational efficiency. The accuracy of ML models in forecasting component must be high with Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) and Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE). The F1 - score, Precision and Recall are



assessed to assess anomaly detection precision, which stands to see that the system distinguishes subtle differences between normal water conditions and contamination events.

Additionally, latency and power consumption metrics are provided to ensure the deployment is feasible for real time, edge-based deployment.

While the system is effective, enhancements can further be incorporated such as successful introduction of federated learning architectures for decentralized model training among many IoT nodes while maintaining data privacy. In addition, telecoms reliability frames within blockchain can be incorporated to enable tamper - proof logging of water quality, boosting the transparency of compliance regulations. Another promising direction is adding a filtration automation based on AI, where the system adjusts parameters of water purification according to forecasts of contamination to provide optimal quality of water in real time. The synergistic potential of machine learning, IoT and edge computing gives rise to this research to build a scalable, cost effective and intelligence water quality monitoring solution for both urban and rural water management challenges with state of art efficiency.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

A real time contamination detection, prediction and water quality monitoring system based on machine learning has been implemented provided the experimental implementation has seen improvements of an order of magnitude in each of real time contamination detection, predictive accuracy and anomaly identification. To evaluate the system, performance metrics on multiple criteria including prediction accuracy; anomaly detection effectiveness; computational spending and feasibility for real time deployment are taken into account. Supervised and Deep learning algorithms were used to analyze the collected dataset such as TDS reading, water flow measurement, temperature variations and pH levels which suggested the capability of the model at predicting, and also the efficiency of real time monitoring.

To test the prediction model of the TDS, various kinds of machine learning have been tried on it and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks have delivered the best accuracy. However, traditional regression-based models like Linear Regression (LR) and Support Vector Regression (SVR) incapacitated to represent nonlinear dependency in TDS fluctuations thus resulting in more errors. The accuracy of RFR was moderate and analyzing the data was complex. In contrast, the combination of LSTM model tuned using Bayesian hyperparameter optimization outperforms all the standard models in terms of RMSE (2.85 mg/L) and MAPE (3.1 %) in forecasting TDS trend. This model was effective in capturing long term dependences, and thus proactively alerted when contamination was trending instead of reactively at a time period where one was violated.

An important role was played by the anomaly detection framework in making sure contamination alerts are reliable. It was shown that the Isolation Forest and Autoencoder based anomaly detection techniques both tremendously eliminate false positives and false negatives that are typical of

traditional threshold-based contamination detection methods. On the water quality patterns, learning of the autoencoder neural network achieved an F1 - score of 92.3%, meaning it had very good precision on identifying the abnormal TDS spikes caused by contamination events. Moreover, such thresholding adaptation considering season and environment greatly enhanced the real-world applicability by being able to detect real signals without being affected by natural fluctuations in TDS level. It managed to differentiate between the process of gradual water quality degradation and sudden contamination events in a way that in turn targeted and precise intervention strategies were conducted.

The feasibility of the system to run real time on ESP8266 microcontrollers provides further validation that the system is suitable for low power, low cost, edge-based water quality monitoring. On device inference was enabled through optimizing the TensorFlow Lite (TFLite) model on reducing the dependency on cloud processing. Given that it runs in low power regime, the microcontroller consumed only 35 mW in standby mode and 200 mW in active inference, while labeled suitable for remote and resource constrained environments. By measuring the latency of real time contamination alerts, the rate was found to be 0.85 seconds i. e., instant notifications upon anomaly detection. The system also had offline functionality of storage of data during network outages that were later synchronized with cloud servers when network connectivity was resumed. However, this particular feature is very helpful to rural and remote water monitoring applications as network stability is frequently an issue.

Insightful changes in correlation between TDS levels and water consumption patterns were found. The data from the water flow sensor showed that there was a clear tendency of increase in TDS fluctuations during the higher water consumption periods, implying a direct relationship with the water source contamination and the supply - demand dynamics. This finding confirms the feasibility of incorporating adaptive filtration mechanisms in which the intensity of filtration is adapted according to current forecasts of the TDS. The system can dynamically set filtration thresholds for optimal water purification processes at the lowest energy and maintenance costs by using consistent water quality.

An important challenge observed when implementing the design was sensor drift and calibration inconsistencies. TDS and pH sensors had minor deviations from their baseline measurements over time and thus had to be recalibrated periodically. Thus, the second approach to address this is to incorporate automated sensor recalibration algorithms into the next iteration of the system to perform self-correcting adjustment based on historical sensor behavior. Furthermore, multi - sensor fusion can be undertaken to increase measurement accuracy by combining data from a number of water quality indicators in order to increase reliability of detection of contamination.

Comparative analysis with existing IoT based water monitoring systems showed that the existing majority of the approaches are centred around the real time data logging while leaving the predictive contamination assessment at the back seat. Compared to traditional (threshold) based

monitoring systems, the proposed machine learning based framework is an intelligent and proactive approach for the water quality management. Such enhancement of practicality makes the system viable for both industrial and residential water monitoring applications by helping to predict contamination trends, changing filtration parameters on the fly and giving real - time alerts.

Future improvement of the system may include federated learning-based model training where decentralized ML model updates can take place among multiple water quality monitoring nodes without the constraint of the data storage in central hubs. This would make data privacy, scalability and adaptable to localizing environmental conditions. Furthermore, blockchain adds an extra level of tamper - proof, immutable records of water quality data that helps keep regulatory compliance and transparency for the environmental monitoring. However, AI driven filtration automation presents a promising direction for deployment wherein the machines learn about itself to regulate purification processes in a way that only predicts the risk of the contamination and only minimizes human intervention in water quality management.

In general, the research demonstrates that it is possible to integrate the activities of machine learning, IoT and edge computing to create an intelligent, scalable and cost-effective TDS prediction and water quality monitoring system. This results in validating that the predictive analytics, coupled with the real time anomaly detection, has a high impact on improving both the efficiency, accuracy and responsiveness of water quality monitoring solutions. Through developing over the weaknesses of conventional barrier-based techniques and utilizing cutting edge AI lead strategy, this research assists in the sustainable water source management as well as the enhancement of the general wellbeing results.

## 5. Conclusion and Future Enhancement

This is a great advance of real time environmental monitoring, predictive contamination assessment and adaptive water quality management through the implementation of a machine learning driven TDS prediction and water quality monitoring system. The proposed system integrates IoT enabled sensors, the deep learning-based predicting analytics and the anomaly detection framework in order to overcome the limitation of the conventional of threshold-based monitoring reminders. By combining the isolation of anomaly detection via the Isolation Forest and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) for the prediction of sequential sequential trends, and adaptive thresholding algorithm, high fidelity contamination forecasting is driven and allows the removal of human intervention and increase autonomous decision making. Its scalability and feasibility in real - world, low powered environment is demonstrated through system deployment on little hooked up ESP8266 micro controllers and edge based inference optimizations.

One of the main additions of this research is its capability to differentiate between gradual and abrupt contamination patterns, which allow for more proactive than reactive water quality management. Static contamination thresholds often cannot be adapted to seasonal, geographical and

environmental variations in TDS concentration using conventional methods that rely upon TDS concentrations only. On the other hand, the proposed system implements a dynamic and data driven anomaly detection mechanism that detects contaminants with high precision, as they are the fewest false positive or negative alerts. At the same time, integration of the water consumption analytics with evolutions of the TDS trend allows to uncover important clues about the relationship between pattern of use and degradation in water quality, paving the way for purified data subject to optimization.

The system is plagued with challenges, yet it is successful. The main limitation observed during experimentation was sensor drift and calibration inconsistency, that can be leading to minor variations in measurement accuracy with increasing operation time. To address this issue, self-calibrating sensor networks are required that have machine learning models that continuously learn from sensor history in order to autonomously adjust measurement baselines. Multi sensor fusion techniques such as the use of pH sensors, turbidity sensors, conductivity sensors in addition to TDS readings can also improve measurement reliability by providing an overall picture of the water quality dynamics.

However, the system's capabilities can be significantly increased by the adoption of federated learning architectures. Unlike the traditional machine learning models, which require centralized data aggregation, federated learning allows the decentralized model training across multiple water quality monitoring nodes to have the contaminations assessment preserving the location privacy. By doing this here, dependency of cloud computation would be reduced and this would further help in scale predictive analytics in the diverse geographical regions. Additionally, the combination of blockchain based water quality records would strengthen the data integrity, traceability and regulatory compliance with concerns of data tampering and data changing.

Another promising avenue concerns the inherent automation of the water filtration process using AI based on real time predictions of contamination. Intelligent filtration control systems enable the optimization of the water treatment unit in terms of saving energy, minimizing filter maintenance cost and chemical over usage by adjusting purification intensity according to the predicted contamination trend. The system also takes advantage of the edge AI advancements and it enables real time inference toward the ultra-low power IoT devices which enables real time contamination mitigation even in unconstrained infrastructure environment.

Besides, the use of GNNs for spatial contamination prediction could transform large scale water quality assessment. Although traditional ML models still mainly consider the analysis of temporal trend, GNNs have the ability to learn geospatial dependencies and identify contamination diffusion patterns across various connected water bodies in the watershed. This approach would enable forecasting contamination spread to multi locations, thereby supporting regional water governance authority to plan for target remediation at the right scale.

Overall, this work provides a solid basis for intelligence,

predictive water quality monitoring through AI, IoT and edge computing convergence, to make a positive impact in the sustainability of the environment. The contribution of a paradigm shift in water resource through dynamic decision making, is made by this proposed system by moving away from static, reactive water monitoring approaches to adaptive, data driven decision making. Future additional upgrades to decentralized learning, blockchain enhanced capability, filtration automation and geospatial predictive modeling will later strengthen the system's functionality and lead to the implementation of the next generation of AI powered smart water governance regime.

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