JOURNAL OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
eISSN 2229-3113 pISSN 2229-3205
Volume 15 Issue 09, September 2025
Impact factor: 2019: 4.679 2020: 5.015 2021: 5.436, 2022: 5.242, 2023: 6.995, 2024 7.75

DEVELOPMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE–BASED MODELS, ALGORITHMS, AND SOFTWARE FOR ONLINE MONITORING OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY

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Abstract: Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental human right and a critical requirement for public health. Traditional methods of water quality assessment rely heavily on laboratory-based analysis, which, while accurate, is time-consuming and resource-intensive. With the growing availability of sensor technologies, Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructures, and machine learning techniques, the development of real-time, automated, and intelligent monitoring systems has become a pressing need. This article discusses the theoretical foundations, models, algorithms, and software solutions for online monitoring of drinking water quality using artificial intelligence (AI). Emphasis is placed on the role of AI in predicting water quality parameters, anomaly detection, and decision support for water management authorities.

1. Introduction

The safety and quality of drinking water are among the most important determinants of public health. Contaminated water is a primary source of many infectious diseases, leading to serious social and economic consequences. According to the World Health Organization, more than two billion people worldwide consume water contaminated with harmful substances. In rapidly urbanizing regions, conventional monitoring techniques are no longer sufficient to guarantee safe water distribution, as they are costly and provide delayed results.

Recent technological advancements, particularly in artificial intelligence, have enabled the development of innovative approaches to water quality monitoring. By integrating AI with IoT devices and sensor networks, it is possible to create real-time monitoring systems capable of detecting anomalies, predicting contamination events, and providing actionable recommendations. This paper explores theoretical and practical aspects of such systems, highlighting the interplay between AI models, algorithms, and software development.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Drinking Water Quality Parameters

The quality of drinking water is determined by a wide range of physical, chemical, and biological parameters. Commonly monitored indicators include:

- **Physical parameters**: turbidity, temperature, electrical conductivity, color.
- **Chemical parameters**: pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorine, nitrates, heavy metals (lead,

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arsenic, cadmium).

- **Biological parameters**: total coliforms, E. coli, viruses, protozoa.

Monitoring these parameters in real time requires sophisticated sensing devices. However, raw sensor data often contains noise, missing values, or measurement errors, making advanced data processing algorithms essential.

2.2 Artificial Intelligence in Environmental Monitoring

AI provides a set of tools for extracting knowledge from complex datasets. In environmental sciences, AI has been widely applied to tasks such as weather forecasting, air pollution monitoring, and hydrological modeling. The advantages of AI in water monitoring include:

- **Pattern recognition**: detecting hidden relationships between water parameters.
- **Predictive modeling**: forecasting future changes in water quality.
- **Anomaly detection**: identifying unexpected contamination events.
- **Decision support**: assisting authorities in risk assessment and mitigation.

2.3 Machine Learning Models

Several machine learning algorithms are particularly relevant to water quality analysis:

- **Regression models** (linear regression, support vector regression) for predicting continuous parameters such as pH or dissolved oxygen.
- **Classification models** (decision trees, random forests, neural networks) for categorizing water quality into "safe" or "unsafe."
- **Clustering methods** (k-means, DBSCAN) for grouping water samples based on similarity.
- **Deep learning** (convolutional and recurrent neural networks) for handling time-series sensor data and detecting subtle anomalies.

2.4 Data Sources and Challenges

Water quality monitoring systems rely on heterogeneous data sources: sensor networks, laboratory data, satellite imagery, and crowdsourced reports. Challenges include:

- **Data quality**: missing values, sensor drift, calibration issues.
- **Data volume**: continuous monitoring generates large datasets.
- **Data heterogeneity**: integrating chemical, physical, and biological measurements.

AI-based solutions must therefore incorporate data preprocessing, cleaning, and fusion techniques.

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3. Methodology

3.1 Conceptual Framework

The proposed system for online monitoring consists of the following components:

1. **Sensing Layer**: distributed IoT sensors measuring water quality indicators.
2. **Data Transmission Layer**: wireless communication protocols (LoRaWAN, 5G, Wi-Fi).
3. **Data Processing Layer**: AI algorithms for real-time prediction, anomaly detection, and classification.
4. **Application Layer**: software providing visual dashboards, alerts, and decision-support tools.

3.2 AI Models and Algorithms

- **Predictive Models**: Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks for time-series forecasting of parameters such as turbidity.
- **Anomaly Detection**: Autoencoders and Isolation Forest algorithms to identify unusual patterns.
- **Hybrid Models**: Combining physical models of water systems with data-driven AI approaches for improved reliability.

3.3 Evaluation Metrics

The performance of AI models must be evaluated using statistical metrics such as:

- Mean Squared Error (MSE) for regression tasks.
- Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-score for classification.
- Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curves for anomaly detection.

4. Software Development Aspects

The effectiveness of an online monitoring system depends not only on theoretical models but also on practical implementation. Key aspects include:

- **Architecture**: cloud-based or edge-computing infrastructure for scalability.
- **User Interface**: visualization dashboards for authorities and consumers.
- **Interoperability**: compliance with international standards (e.g., ISO water quality standards, SDG 6 indicators).
- **Security**: ensuring the integrity and confidentiality of sensor data.

Modern development platforms (Python, TensorFlow, PyTorch, and web frameworks) provide a

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foundation for building modular, adaptable systems.

5. Related Works and Case Studies

Several research groups have implemented AI-based water quality monitoring systems worldwide. For example:

- A study in India applied random forest models to predict contamination risk in rural water supplies.
- In China, deep learning models were integrated with IoT sensors to monitor urban drinking water networks.
- European research projects have focused on cloud-based platforms that aggregate data from multiple regions.

These cases demonstrate the growing feasibility of intelligent monitoring, though challenges remain in terms of cost, sensor maintenance, and generalizability across regions.

6. Discussion

The integration of AI into drinking water quality monitoring represents a paradigm shift. Unlike traditional methods, which rely on periodic sampling, AI systems provide continuous, real-time analysis. This enables faster detection of contamination events, reducing risks to public health. However, several limitations must be acknowledged:

- AI models depend heavily on the availability of high-quality data.
- Sensor networks are vulnerable to hardware failures and cyberattacks.
- Ethical and legal considerations arise when water quality data involves sensitive communities.

Future research should focus on explainable AI (XAI), which provides transparent decision-making, as well as hybrid approaches that combine physical models of water dynamics with machine learning predictions.

Conclusion. Ensuring safe drinking water is one of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century. The development of AI-based models, algorithms, and software provides a promising path toward achieving this goal. By integrating sensor networks, machine learning techniques, and intelligent software solutions, it is possible to build online monitoring systems that are accurate, scalable, and responsive. The theoretical framework discussed in this article highlights the importance of AI in addressing the complexity of water quality monitoring. As technology advances, such systems will play a critical role in supporting public health, sustainable development, and efficient resource management.

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