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Prediction of attachment efficiency using machine learning on a comprehensive database and its validation

By: Gomez-Flores, A (Gomez-Flores, Allan) ^[1]; Bradford, SA (Bradford, Scott A.) ^[2]; Cai, L (Cai, Li) ^[3]; Urik, M (Urik, Martin) ^[4]; Kim, H (Kim, Hyunjung) ^[1]

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Abstract

Colloidal particles can attach to surfaces during transport, but the attachment depends on particle size, hydro-dynamics, solid and water chemistry, and particulate matter. The attachment is quantified in filtration theory by measuring attachment or sticking efficiency (α). A comprehensive α database (2538 records) was built from experiments in the literature and used to develop a machine learning (ML) model to predict α . The training (r -squared: 0.86) was performed using two random forests capable of handling missing data. A holdout dataset was used to validate the training (r -squared: 0.98), and the variable importance was explored for training and validation. Finally, an additional validation dataset was built from quartz crystal microbalance experiments using surface-modified polystyrene, poly (methyl methacrylate), and polyethylene. The experiments were performed in the absence or presence of humic acid. Full database regression (r -squared: 0.90) predicted α for the additional validation with an r -squared of 0.23. Nevertheless, when the original database and the additional validation dataset were combined into a new database, both the training (r -squared: 0.95) and validation (r -squared: 0.70) increased. The developed ML model provides a data-driven prediction of α over a big database and evaluates the significance of 22 input variables.

Keywords

Author Keywords: Attachment efficiency; Machine learning; Missing data; Colloid deposition

Keywords Plus: DISSOLVED ORGANIC-MATTER; SATURATED POROUS-MEDIA; ENGINEERED NANOPARTICLES; SOLUTION CHEMISTRY; TRANSPORT; FATE; DEPOSITION; MODEL; NANOMATERIALS; BEHAVIOR

Author Information

Corresponding Address: Kim, Hyunjung (corresponding author)

▾ Hanyang Univ, Dept Earth Resources & Environm Engr, 222 Wangsimni Ro, Seoul 04763, South Korea

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