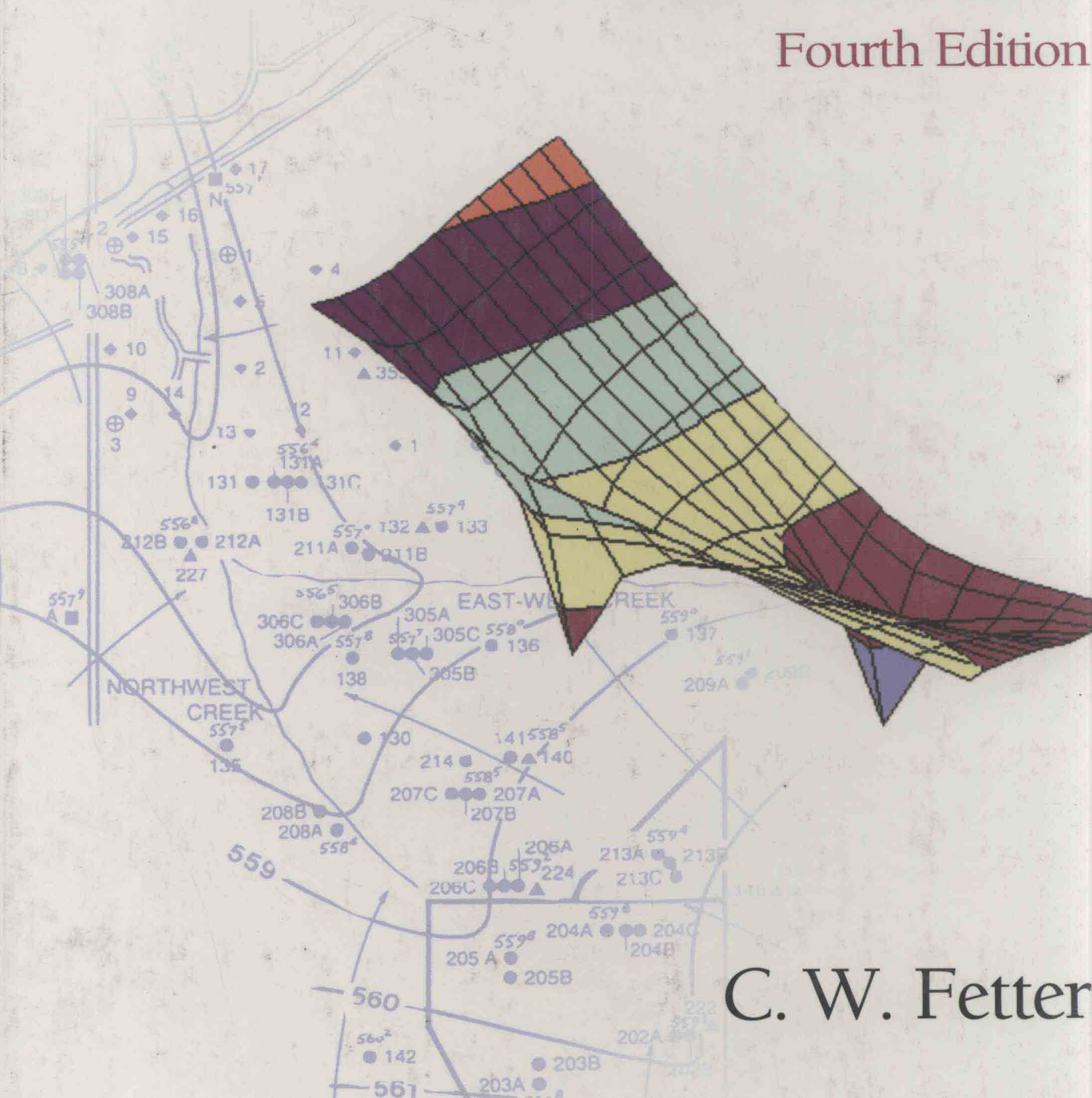


# Applied Hydrogeology

Fourth Edition



C. W. Fetter

C. W. FETTER

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-OSHKOSH

# Applied Hydrogeology

Fourth Edition

江苏工业学院图书馆  
藏书章

Prentice  
Hall

Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

## Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Fetter, C. W. (Charles Willard)  
Applied hydrogeology / C.W. Fetter.--4th ed.  
p. cm.  
Includes bibliographical references.  
ISBN 0-13-088239-9  
1. Hydrogeology. 2. Water supply. I. Title.

GB1003.2 .F47 2001

551.49--dc21

00-48329

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Composition: *Carlisle Communications*



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Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

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Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

**ISBN 0-13-088239-9**

Prentice-Hall International (UK) Limited, *London*  
Prentice-Hall of Australia Pty. Limited, *Sydney*  
Prentice-Hall Canada Inc., *Toronto*  
Prentice-Hall Hispanoamericana, S.A., *Mexico*  
Prentice-Hall of India Private Limited, *New Delhi*  
Prentice-Hall of Japan, Inc., *Tokyo*  
Pearson Education Asia Pte. Ltd.  
Editora Prentice-Hall do Brasil, Ltda., *Rio de Janeiro*

*This book is dedicated to my wife, Nancy Blessing Fetter,  
and to my children and their families:*

*Bill, Barb, Katie and Sarah Fetter*

*Rob and Abby Fetter*

*Elizabeth Fetter*

# P R E F A C E

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Hydrogeology is now considered to be a core course in the curriculum of undergraduate geology programs as well as many fields of engineering. There is ongoing demand for persons with training in hydrogeology by consulting organizations, state and federal regulatory agencies, and industrial firms. Most of the employment in hydrogeology is in the environmental area. This is a book that will help prepare students for either a career in hydrogeology or in other areas of environmental science and engineering where a strong background in hydrogeology is needed.

*Applied Hydrogeology* is intended as a textbook for an introductory course in hydrogeology taught either at the advanced undergraduate level, or as a dual-level undergraduate/graduate course. It is also useful in helping individuals who are preparing to take state examinations for professional registration as a hydrologist or hydrogeologist. It can be found as a reference book in the personal library of many working professionals.

The reader is expected to have a working knowledge of college algebra, and calculus is helpful, but not necessary, for practical understanding of the material. A background in college chemistry is necessary to understand the chapter on water chemistry. The book stresses the application of mathematics to problem-solving rather than the derivation of theory. To this end you will find many example problems with step-by-step solutions. Case studies in many chapters enhance understanding of the occurrence and movement of ground water in a variety of geological settings. A glossary of hydrogeological terms makes this book a valuable reference.

The fourth edition contains new case studies and end-of-chapter problems. In most cases the problems are paired. An odd-numbered problem will have the answer given in a section in the back of the book, followed by an even-numbered problem without the answer. Step-by-step solutions to the odd-numbered problems can also be found at the *Applied Hydrogeology* web page: <http://www.appliedhydrogeology.com>. Many chapters in the fourth edition also contain a section called Analysis, with non-numerical questions. The use of spreadsheet programs, such as Microsoft® Excel, in hydrogeology is introduced here.

Included with the text are working student versions of three computer programs that are used by ground-water professionals. They have been furnished free of charge by the software publishers. No technical support is furnished for these programs, either by the author or the software publisher. However, they are easy to use and come with tutorials and documentation on the CD-ROM.

The following reviewers of the Third Edition provided helpful suggestions for the Fourth Edition: Gary S. Johnson, University of Idaho; Larry Murdoch, Clemson University; Claude Epstein, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey; David L. Brown, California State University at Chico; F. Edwin Harvey, University of Nebraska at Lincoln; Edward L. Shuster, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Willis D. Weight, Montana Tech. of the University of Montana; Larry D. McKay, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; Laura L. Sanders, Northwestern Illinois University; Jean Hoff, St. Cloud State University; and Jim Butler,

Kansas Geological Survey. Dr. Carl Mendoza of the University of Alberta peer reviewed the Fourth Edition and made many helpful suggestions and corrections.

I am grateful to Larry Murdoch and Rex Hodges of Clemson University for introducing me to the use of spreadsheet ground-water flow models. I would especially like to thank Glenn Duffield of Hydrosolve, Inc. for furnishing the student version of AQTESOLV, Pat Delaney of Waterloo Hydrogeologic Inc. for furnishing the student version of Visual MODFLOW, and Kirk Hemker for the use of FLOWNETLT. Todd Rayne of Hamilton College has prepared the solution manual for the problems, which course instructors can request from their Prentice Hall sales representative. Patrick Lynch, Senior Editor for Geology at Prentice Hall, has been very supportive through the course of my preparation of this revision.

C. W. Fetter  
*C. W. Fetter, Jr. Associates and  
Emeritus Professor of Hydrogeology  
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## A B O U T   T H E   A U T H O R

---

C. W. Fetter received a B.A. degree in chemistry from DePauw University, an M.A. in geology and a Ph.D. in hydrogeology from Indiana University. He has practiced as a professional hydrogeologist since 1966, and is registered as both a professional geologist and professional engineer.

He was on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh for 25 years, where he was department chair for 15 years. Since his retirement from UW–Oshkosh in 1996 he has been a full time consultant in environmental hydrogeology. His clients have included the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the United States Department of Justice, Fortune 500 corporations, insurance companies, municipal government, and attorneys at law. Dr. Fetter has been an expert witness in legal proceedings on numerous occasions.

In 1996 he received the Excellence in Science and Engineering Award from the Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers in recognition of his two books about hydrogeology. In 1998 he received the Hydrogeologist of the Year award from the Wisconsin Ground Water Association.

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# 1 CHAPTER

## Water

*In the winter of wet years the streams ran full-freshet, and they swelled the river until it sometimes raged and boiled bank full, and then it was a destroyer. The river tore the edges of the farm lands and washed whole acres down; it toppled barns and houses into itself, to go floating and bobbing away. It trapped cows and pigs and sheep and drowned them in its muddy brown water and carried them to the sea. Then when the late spring came the river drew in from its edges and the sand banks appeared. And in the summer the river didn't at all run above ground.*

*There were dry years too . . . The water came in a thirty-year cycle. There would be five or six wet and wonderful years when there might be nineteen to twenty-five inches of rain, and the land would shout with grass. Then would come six or seven pretty good years of twelve to sixteen inches of rain. And then the dry years would come, and sometimes there would be only seven or eight inches of rain. The land dried up . . . And it never failed that during the dry years the people forgot the rich years, and during the wet years they lost all memory of the dry years. It was always that way.*

*East of Eden, John Steinbeck, 1952*

### 1.1 Water

John Steinbeck wrote the above words 50 years ago to describe the hydrology of the Salinas Valley in northern California. In doing so he revealed an attitude toward water that was held by many in the early part of the twentieth century. Water was always assumed to be available and no one worried about its longevity until it seemed threatened. We perhaps have a more realistic attitude today and know that we must preserve and protect our precious and limited natural resources, including water.

Although our intentions toward preserving the environment may be good, we sometimes act without full consideration of all possible