DengueWatch: A System for Real-Time Dengue Monitoring and Forecasting in Iloilo City

A Special Problem Proposal
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Abstract

In response to a marked rise in dengue cases, Iloilo City and Province are enhancing control measures. As of August 10, 2023, the Iloilo Provincial Health Office reported 4,585 cases and 10 fatalities, reflecting a 319% increase from last year's 1,095 cases and one death. This study explores the application of artificial intelligence (AI) for dengue prediction, using a deep learning approach with Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. The LSTM model is compared with traditional statistical methods, including non-seasonal and seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) models and the Kalman Filter for state estimation algorithm in noisy data conditions. Forecasting was based on climate variables such as temperature, rainfall, relative humidity, and previous monthly case counts, with performance evaluated using Root Mean Square Error (RMSE). The LSTM model achieved the highest accuracy, demonstrating its capacity to capture nonlinear patterns and effectively integrate long-term historical data for enhanced prediction. This research, aimed at supporting public health agencies like the Department of Health (DOH), advocates for AI-driven solutions that improve outbreak response beyond traditional reporting systems.

Keywords: ARIMA, artificial intelligence, dengue prediction, LSTM, Kalman Filter, deep learning, climate variables, public health, outbreak mitigation

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview

From 2020 to 2022, dengue cases declined due to reduced surveillance during the COVID-19 pandemic, but cases surged in 2023 as restrictions were lifted. This year saw an increase in dengue outbreaks worldwide, with over five million cases and more than 5,000 deaths reported in over 80 countries. (Bosano, 2023) Dengue is endemic in the Philippines, leading to longer and more widespread seasonal outbreaks. Globally, dengue infections have increased significantly, posing a major public health challenge. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported a ten-fold rise in cases between 2000 and 2019, with a peak in 2019 when the disease spread across 129 countries.

Public health responses are strained in some areas due to limited resources and multiple outbreaks. WHO is focusing on preparedness, vector control, and raising awareness, particularly about severe dengue symptoms, which can be life-threatening for individuals who contract the virus a second time. Despite the rising number of cases, the WHO does not recommend travel or trade restrictions.

Iloilo City and Province are intensifying efforts to curb the rising dengue cases. As of August 10, 2023, the Iloilo Provincial Health Office recorded 4,585 cases and 10 deaths, a 319% increase from last year's 1,095 cases and one death. Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. confirmed that the province has reached the dengue outbreak threshold based on Department of Health (DOH) criteria, and a formal declaration is pending. Local government units (LGUs) have been informed, and the province's disaster management office is on blue alert, indicating disaster mode. (Lena, 2024)

In Iloilo City, 649 dengue cases were recorded during the same period, with two deaths. Cases cluster in 40 out of 180 barangays, meaning multiple cases are being reported in these areas over several weeks. The city's health officer, Dr. Roland Jay Fortuna, reported high utilization of non-COVID-19 hospital beds, reaching over 76%, prompting concerns about hospital capacity. This study explores the monitoring and forecasting of dengue outbreaks by analyzing key factors such as temperature, relative humidity, and historical dengue cases, using different models. The findings aim to provide an advanced, AI-driven alternative for dengue prevention and control, targeting agencies like the Department of Health (DOH). By aligning with the national AI Roadmap, particularly in Iloilo City, this research aspires to improve outbreak responses through cutting-edge technology rather than traditional reporting methods.

1.2 Problem Statement

The problem being addressed here is that dengue cases remain a critical public health issue worldwide, with rising cases attributed to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and increased global mobility. From 2020 to 2022, dengue cases saw a temporary decline due to reduced surveillance efforts amidst the pandemic. However, 2023 witnessed a significant resurgence, with over five million cases and more than 5,000 deaths reported across 80 countries, indicating the continued vulnerability of dengue-endemic regions like the Philippines. In Iloilo City and Province, dengue cases surged dramatically by 319% as of August 2023, with local health systems struggling to manage the influx. High hospitalization rates due to dengue, with over 76% of non-COVID-19 hospital beds occupied, have raised concerns about healthcare capacity and the need for enhanced predictive measures.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

This study aims to develop an AI-based dengue forecasting and monitoring system for Iloilo City and Province. The system will use Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) to predict dengue case trends based on climate data and historical dengue cases to help public health officials in possible dengue case outbreaks.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

Specifically, this study aims to develop a system that can:

1. Predict weekly dengue cases using climate variables such as temperature, rainfall, and relative humidity, along with historical dengue case data.
2. Compare the performance of LSTM-based deep learning models with traditional forecasting methods, including ARIMA and the mathematical model Kalman Filtering.
3. Generate automated alerts for local government units (LGUs) and public health agencies to enhance preparedness and resource allocation.
4. Provide a user-friendly interface that displays forecasted dengue trends and outbreak hotspots for better decision-making by public health stakeholders.

1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research

This study aimed to develop an AI-based dengue forecasting and monitoring system specifically designed for Iloilo City. The system focuses on two major features: dengue case prediction and risk area identification. The dengue case prediction feature utilizes climate variables—such as temperature, rainfall, and relative humidity—along with historical dengue case data to forecast monthly dengue cases. The results will be displayed in a user-friendly interface, providing public health officials with actionable insights to enhance outbreak management and resource allocation. However, this study has several limitations. The accuracy of the dengue case predictions heavily relies on the quality and completeness of the input data. Inconsistent or incomplete historical data may lead to reduced prediction accuracy. Additionally, the model's performance may fluctuate based on variations in climate patterns, which are not always predictable. The model utilizes advanced machine learning techniques, but it cannot account for all factors influencing dengue transmissions, such as socio-economic conditions or public health interventions, which may further impact case dynamics. Finally, the dataset used for training the predictive models has not undergone peer review but has been validated by local public health experts to ensure its relevance and accuracy for the study's context. As a result, the findings should be interpreted with caution, and ongoing validation and adjustments may be necessary to enhance the model's robustness and applicability in real-world settings.

1.5 Significance of the Research

This study's development of an AI-based dengue forecasting and monitoring system has wide-reaching significance for various stakeholders in Iloilo City:

- Public Health Agencies: Organizations like the Department of Health (DOH) and local health units in Iloilo City and Province stand to benefit greatly from the system. With dengue predictions, we can help these agencies optimize their response strategies and implement targeted prevention measures in high-risk areas before cases escalate.

- Local Government Units (LGUs): LGUs can use the system to support their disaster management and health initiatives by proactively addressing dengue outbreaks. The predictive insights allow for more efficient planning and resource deployment in barangays and communities most vulnerable to outbreaks, improving overall public health outcomes.

- Healthcare Facilities: Hospitals and clinics, which currently face high bed occupancy rates during dengue season will benefit from early outbreak forecasts that can help in managing patient inflow and ensuring adequate hospital capacity.

- Researchers and Policymakers: This AI-driven approach contributes valuable insights for researchers studying infectious disease patterns and policymakers focused on strengthening the national AI Roadmap. The system's data can support broader initiatives for sustainable health infrastructure and inform policy decisions on resource allocation for dengue control.

- Community Members: By reducing the frequency and severity of outbreaks, this study ultimately benefits the community at large. This allows for timely awareness campaigns and community engagement initiatives, empowering residents with knowledge and preventative measures to protect themselves and reduce the spread of dengue.

Chapter 2

Review of Related Literature

This chapter discusses the features, capabilities, and limitations of existing research, algorithms, or software that are related/similar to the Special Problem.

The reviewed works and software must be arranged either in chronological order, or by area (from general to specific). Observe a consistent format when presenting each of the reviewed works. This must be selected in consultation with the adviser.

DO NOT FORGET to cite your references.

A literature review must do these things:

- be organized around and related directly to the thesis or research question you are developing
- synthesize results into a summary of what is and is not known
- identify areas of controversy in the literature
- formulate questions that need further research

A literature review is a piece of discursive prose, not a list describing or summarizing one piece of literature after another. It's usually a bad sign to see every paragraph beginning with the name of a researcher. Instead, organize the literature review into sections that present themes or identify trends, including relevant theory. You are not trying to list all the materials published, but to synthesize and evaluate them according to the guiding concept of your thesis or research question. You should also state the limits or gaps of their researches wherein you will try to fill these gaps in accordance to your research problem and objectives.

2.1 Theme 1 Title

This chapter contains a review of research papers that:

- Describes work on a research area that is similar or relevant to yours
- Describes work on a domain that is similar or relevant to yours
- Uses an algorithm that may be useful to your work
- Uses a software / tool that may be useful to your work

It also contains a review of software systems that:

- Belongs to a research area similar to yours
- Addresses a need or domain similar to yours
- Is your predecessor

2.2 Theme 2 Title

2.3 Chapter Summary

Should include a table of related studies comparing them based on several criteria.

Highlight research gaps and the research problem.

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

This chapter lists and discusses the specific steps and activities that will be performed to accomplish the project. The discussion covers the activities from pre-proposal to Final SP Writing.

3.1 Research Activities

Research activities include inquiry, survey, research, brainstorming, canvassing, consultation, review, interview, observe, experiment, design, test, document, etc. Be sure that for each method, process, or algorithm used, there is a justification why that method was chosen. The methodology also includes the following information:

- who is responsible for the task
- the resource person to be contacted
- what will be done
- when and how long will the activity be done
- where will it be done
- why should be activity be done

DO NOT FORGET to cite your references.

3.2 Calendar of Activities

A Gantt chart showing the schedule of the activities should be included as a table. For example:

Table 3.1 shows a Gantt chart of the activities. Each bullet represents approximately one week worth of activity.

Table 3.1: Timetable of Activities

Activities (2009)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Study on Prerequisite Knowledge			●●	●●●●			
Review of Existing Racing Strategies	●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●			
Identification of Best Features				●●●●	●●		
Development of Racing Strategies				●●	●●●●	●●	
Simulation of Racing Strategies				●●	●●●●	●●●	
Analysis and Interpretation of the Results					●●●●	●●●●	●
Documentation	●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●	●●

Chapter 4

Preliminary Results/System Prototype

This chapter presents the preliminary results or the system prototype of your SP. Include screenhots, tables, or graphs and provide the discussion of results.

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Appendix A

Appendix Title

Appendix B

Resource Persons

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Role1
Affiliation1
emailaddr1@domain.com

Ms. Firstname2 Lastname2
Role2
Affiliation2
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