Urban Resilience through Data Analytics: Predicting Carbon Emission Value for Future

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Disclaimer

I hereby certify that this material, which I now submit for assessment on the programme of study leading to the Degree of Master of Science in Big Data Management & Analytics at Griffith College Dublin, is entirely my own work and has not been submitted for assessment for an academic purpose at this or any other academic institution other than in partial fulfilment of the requirements of that stated above.

Signed: MUSKAN PATEL Date: 06/09/2023

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Muskan Patel

Big Data Management & Analytics

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Abstract

Urban regions around the globe are grappling with unprecedented challenges brought forth by rapid urbanization and the looming crisis of climate change. The consequences of unchecked carbon emissions in urban settings are severe, ranging from air pollution to increasing global temperatures. With cities contributing a significant percentage of global carbon emissions, there is a dire need for innovative solutions to improve urban resilience. Recognizing this pressing issue, this project, entitled "Urban Resilience through Data Analytics: Predicting Carbon Emission Value for Future," seeks to bring a data-centric approach to urban resilience planning.

The project's primary objective is to harness the capabilities of data analytics to enhance urban resilience. It puts a particular emphasis on carbon emissions as a critical environmental Key Performance Indicator (KPI). The work draws inspiration from cutting-edge research such as "Urban Resilience Evaluation using Big Data and Artificial Intelligence." Using machine learning algorithms, the project aims to make accurate predictions about future carbon emissions in urban regions.

A core part of the project involves using Python programming for tasks such as data pre-processing, exploratory data analysis (EDA), and predictive modeling. Machine learning algorithms such as Decision Trees, Random Forest, and Linear Regression have been employed to find the most effective model for predicting future carbon emissions. These models undergo rigorous training on publicly accessible datasets like the CDP Dataset from data.cdp.net, after being subjected to comprehensive EDA.

For user interaction, a web application has been developed using PHP 8.0 with the Laravel framework. The application offers essential functionalities like user registration, login, and real-time carbon emission predictions, based on the Python model. The system's backend is built on a MySQL database, ensuring secure and structured storage of user data, as outlined in the table.sql schema. Additionally, Sequel Pro is used in conjunction with MySQL as a local database for more streamlined management and accessibility of data. The frontend and backend components communicate effectively for various prediction tasks through PHP's 'exec()' function, invoking the Python model.

The project has been meticulously planned to adhere to a well-structured timeline, which includes essential phases such as project planning, literature review, data acquisition, EDA, model training, validation, and frontend development. All the stages have been executed following best practices in data science and software engineering, assuring a methodical and holistic approach to problem-solving.

On successful completion, the project will provide a data-driven framework for predicting future carbon emissions in cities. This framework will serve as a valuable resource for urban planners, policymakers, and stakeholders, assisting them in making data-backed decisions for urban resilience. The project also aims to contribute to academic research, especially in the growing field of big data and urban planning.

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By leveraging machine learning and robust data analytics, the project offers a realtime, scientific approach to urban planning. It aspires to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing discourse on urban resilience by providing actionable insights. These insights will be instrumental in shaping the creation of more resilient, sustainable, and adaptable urban environments.

By integrating these multifaceted features, the project promises to be a pioneering effort in employing data analytics for urban resilience, aiming to set new benchmarks in predictive accuracy, user experience, and policy impact. Future work will explore the possibilities of expanding the data set, enhancing the user interface, and potentially adapting the model for broader geographic regions. Thus, "Urban Resilience through Data Analytics: Predicting Carbon Emission Value for Future" aims to serve as a cornerstone for future projects and policies geared towards making our cities more resilient and sustainable.

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Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1 The Imperative of Urban Resilience through Data Analytics:

In the era where climate change and rapid urbanization intersect to create unprecedented challenges for cities around the globe, the importance of urban resilience cannot be overstated. Urban resilience is defined as the ability of an urban system to absorb and recover from the shocks and stresses—both natural and human-induced—improving and revitalizing itself. While the concept has gained traction in research and policy circles, what sets this project apart is its integration with data analytics. The combination of these two domains offers a transformative approach to building cities that are not just smart but also resilient.

The project is rooted in substantial research and literature, including scholarly works such as "Smart Cities and Resilience" and courses like MIT's "Data Science for Urban Sustainability." These resources have offered valuable insights into the pivotal role that data analytics can play in urban resilience assessments. By leveraging data science, this project aims to unravel the complexity of urban systems and shed light on how predictive modeling can improve resilience planning in cities.

1.2 The Criticality of Carbon Emission Predictions in Urban Resilience:

Traditionally, urban resilience assessment has involved evaluating infrastructural strength, resource availability, and emergency response mechanisms. However, this scope has widened with growing awareness about the relationship between climate change and urban resilience. Carbon emissions stand out as an environmental key performance indicator (KPI) intrinsically linked to a city's resilience and overall well-being. Excessive carbon emissions contribute to global warming, air pollution, and consequently, public health risks. Hence, predicting future carbon emissions becomes a crucial part of urban resilience assessment, assisting policymakers in adopting preventive measures and setting emission reduction targets.

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1.3 Comprehensive Goals and Objectives:

The primary objective of this research project is not merely academic. It aspires to effect real-world change, targeting the development of cities that are both adaptable and sustainable. The goals of the project include acquiring a nuanced understanding of the various facets of urban resilience, employing and mastering advanced technologies, and establishing a robust framework that can serve as a model for future urban planning. It aims to join the ranks of pioneering studies like "Using Big Data to Achieve Urban Sustainability," in revolutionizing the field of urban development.

1.4 Overview of a Multifaceted Approach:

The project adopts a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating data analytics, machine learning algorithms, and cutting-edge technologies. Utilizing tools such as Python for data analytics, Tableau for data visualization, and Apache Hadoop for big data management, the project aims to develop predictive models to quantify and evaluate KPIs vital to urban resilience. Sources like "Data-Driven Urban Sustainability: Harnessing the Power of AI" provide the theoretical grounding for the project's innovative approach.

1.5 Structure and Organization of the Document:

This document is meticulously organized into distinct chapters, aiming to offer a comprehensive view of the project from conception to potential outcomes. Chapter 2 includes a comprehensive literature review, setting the context for the project's relevance and aligning it with current research. Chapter 3 delves into the methodologies and technologies adopted, providing the reasoning behind the choices made. Chapter 4 focuses on the system design, discussing both hardware and software aspects in depth. Chapter 5 explains the implementation process, bringing the conceptual designs to life. Chapter 6 covers the testing and validation, assessing the project's applicability and effectiveness in real-world contexts. Chapter 7 concludes the document, summarizing the project's achievements and offering directions for future work.

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This project, under the guidance of my esteemed supervisor, adheres strictly to the highest standards of research and ethical guidelines. It aims to provide much more than a technical walkthrough; it delves into the underlying principles, motives, and broader implications, thereby offering an all-encompassing view of the project and its potential impact on urban resilience and sustainability.

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Chapter 2. Background

2.1 Introduction:

The need for resilient cities is increasingly being felt as urban areas grapple with rapid population growth, aging infrastructure, and the adverse impacts of climate change [9]. Urban resilience is emerging as a crucial area of research and practice, particularly when it comes to mitigating the challenges associated with environmental sustainability, including carbon emissions [5]. The use of big data analytics plays a pivotal role in addressing these concerns [7].

2.1.1 Defining Urban Resilience:

Urban resilience is broadly defined as a city's capacity to survive, adapt, and grow, regardless of the challenges and shocks it faces [8]. It encompasses various aspects of urban life, from infrastructure to social systems, making it a multifaceted field of study [4].

2.1.2 Key Dimensions and Indicators of Urban Resilience:

These dimensions include economic prosperity, social equality, and environmental sustainability. Within these dimensions, carbon emissions emerge as a key performance indicator directly linked to climate change and air quality (Ahern, 2011). The measurement and monitoring of such indicators are essential for the overall assessment of urban resilience (Godschalk, 2003).

2.1.3 The Role of Big Data Analytics in Urban Resilience:

The advent of big data analytics has significantly influenced the field of urban resilience. These analytics help in predictive modeling and planning, including those focused on environmental sustainability like carbon emissions (Zhang et al., 2019). Big data enables decision-makers to identify patterns and predict future trends, making it an invaluable asset for urban resilience (Bettencourt, 2014).

2.1.4 Frameworks and Methodologies for Urban Resilience Assessment:

The Rockefeller Foundation's City Resilience Index is one of the most robust frameworks available, integrating both qualitative and quantitative indicators for a holistic evaluation [1]. When coupled with big data analytics, the efficacy of such frameworks in predicting future scenarios, such as carbon emission levels, is significantly heightened [6].

2.2 Emerging Trends in Urban Resilience and Data Analytics

2.2.1 Urban Resilience Strategies:

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Recent advancements in urban resilience strategies have shown a move towards more proactive planning, leveraging big data analytics to formulate highly customized interventions [4].

2.2.2 Data-Driven Decision-Making:

Big data analytics is enabling data-driven decision-making, increasingly essential in managing both long-term planning and immediate crises [10].

2.2.3 Predictive Modeling and Early Warning Systems:

Advanced predictive models, particularly for estimating carbon emission levels, are being developed, empowering cities to anticipate and prepare for future challenges [1].

2.2.4 Data Privacy and Ethical Considerations:

With the proliferation of data, issues related to data privacy and ethics are increasingly concerning [7]. Hence, a transparent framework that ensures the ethical collection and use of data is indispensable.

2.3 Future Trends and Upcoming Developments:

2.3.1 Integration of IoT in Urban Resilience:

The Internet of Things (IoT) is predicted to significantly contribute to resilience strategies, especially concerning real-time data collection and analysis [15]. The incorporation of sensor networks within urban infrastructure facilitates real-time monitoring of emissions, thus enhancing the accuracy of carbon predictive models [14].

2.3.2 Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning:

Upcoming developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning are poised to advance predictive analytics for carbon emissions significantly. These technologies offer high computational power, allowing for more complex and accurate modeling [13].

2.3.3 Distributed Ledger Technologies:

The future may see the increased role of blockchain and similar Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) in enhancing data security and verification in big data analytics [12]. This can tackle data privacy and ethical concerns associated with data collection.

2.3.4 Adaptive Systems:

There is growing research on adaptive systems that can automatically adjust to changing parameters and scenarios [11]. This self-adaptive mechanism promises to

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revolutionize how cities can respond to fluctuating emission levels in real-time, thereby improving urban resilience.

2.4 Summary:

This chapter underscores the significance of urban resilience and its relationship with big data analytics. It recognizes the pivotal role of analytics in making data-driven decisions, particularly in predicting and managing carbon emissions. Future developments in IoT, AI, Machine Learning, and Blockchain are expected to significantly contribute to enhancing the resilience of urban systems.

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Chapter 3. Methodology

3.1 Design Philosophy and Approach: Detailed Rationale

Our project adopted a top-down design approach, which starts with an overarching framework, followed by drilling down into specific functionalities and modules. This methodology is particularly effective for complex projects that involve multiple aspects like data collection, analysis, and visualization, as it allows for greater coherence among different modules. It ensures that every component aligns with the primary project objective: enhancing urban resilience through advanced data analytics.

3.2 In-depth Discussion on Choice of Technologies

3.2.1 Python

Python was chosen for its extensive capabilities in data analysis, and its libraries like NumPy, Pandas, and Scikit-Learn provided the necessary tools for predictive modeling. Python is ideal for creating machine learning models to forecast carbon emissions, a critical factor for assessing urban resilience. Its superiority over other programming languages like R and Java lies in its ease of use, readability, and vast open-source libraries specifically tailored for data analysis.

3.2.2 PHP

PHP was used for developing the project's web application, given its widespread adoption and robust server-side scripting capabilities. Its strength lies in the seamless integration with databases like MySQL, and when used in conjunction with Sequel Pro, it provides an intuitive interface for database management. Compared to other technologies like Ruby on Rails and JavaScript, PHP offers more straightforward server management and data migration.

3.2.3 Sequel Pro with MySQL

Sequel Pro was employed for database management, providing a user-friendly interface to interact with MySQL databases. The inclusion of Sequel Pro was strategic as it streamlines the tasks of adding, deleting, and modifying data records, thus aiding in maintaining the integrity and consistency of data.

3.3 Expanded Role of Guidance and Mentorship from Supervisor

The project had a built-in feedback mechanism through regular meetings with my supervisor. These interactions included critical discussions on project milestones, selection of appropriate data analytic techniques, and review of interim findings. The recommendations were crucial in refining the scope and direction of the project.

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3.4 Rigorous Progress Tracking and Comprehensive Documentation

The progress log was updated regularly to ensure real-time tracking of milestones and encountered obstacles. This meticulous documentation not only facilitated internal reviews but also served as a source of truth during evaluations. It was useful for retrospectively explaining why particular design choices were made, why certain results were achieved, and why specific technologies were chosen over others.

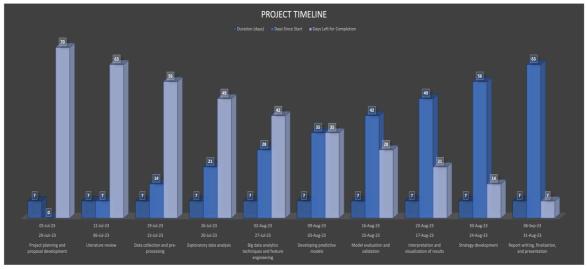


Figure 3.1- Project Timeline

3.5 Ensuring Timeline Adherence: Significance and Utility

Adherence to the outlined timeline was crucial for systematic progress. Regular checkpoints were established to assess the project's alignment with the timeline, and any deviations were promptly addressed. This strategic timeline management ensured the project remained on course while allowing enough flexibility to adapt to unforeseen challenges or new opportunities.

3.6 Conclusion

In summary, Python was preferred for its robust data analysis libraries, while PHP, integrated with Sequel Pro, was chosen for its database management capabilities. The top-down design philosophy, regular supervision, and rigorous documentation were critical components that contributed to the project's successful execution.

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Chapter 4. System Design and Specifications

This chapter delves deeply into the details of the system design and specifications. We not only discuss the technologies we have chosen but also explain why they are the most suitable for our specific needs. Through architecture diagrams, code snippets, and flowcharts (which are imperative for understanding the system's internal workings), this chapter aims to offer a full-fledged view of the system design and its functionalities.

4.1 Technologies Employed

Several technologies were employed in the implementation of this project, each chosen carefully after a detailed comparative analysis with other technologies that serve similar purposes.

4.1.1 Python 3.9:

Python is an object-oriented, high-level programming language known for its easy syntax and readability, which significantly reduces the cost of program maintenance.

We chose Python for its extensive ecosystem, including a variety of libraries like NumPy, Pandas, and Scikit-learn.

• <u>NumPy</u>:

Stands for Numerical Python and is used for numerical computations and data manipulation, which provides support for arrays (including multi-dimensional arrays), as well as an assortment of mathematical functions to operate on these arrays.

• <u>Pandas</u>:

Provides data structures for efficiently storing large amounts of data and time series. It is instrumental in data munging and preparation.

• Scikit-learn:

It is one of the most widely used machine learning libraries and provides simple and efficient tools for predictive data analysis.

These Python libraries were selected over R, Julia, or Java due to their ease of use, extensive community support, and compatibility with web applications.

4.1.2 PHP 8.0 and Laravel Framework:

PHP is a widely used, open-source scripting language that excels in web development. The Laravel framework simplifies many PHP tasks, such as routing, sessions, and caching, making the development process faster and more efficient. This combination was chosen over Python's Django and Ruby on Rails for its performance, scalability, and ease of deployment.

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4.2 System Architecture and Model

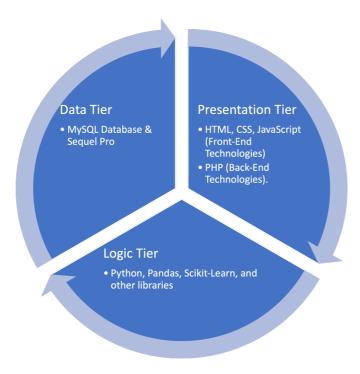


Figure 4.1 - Architecture Diagram

The architecture of our system is divided into three tiers: presentation, logic, and data. Each of these tiers serves a unique role in the application and was designed to ensure that the system remains modular, maintainable, and scalable.

4.2.1 Presentation Tier:

For this tier, PHP in combination with Laravel is utilized. The front-end has been developed using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Diagrams and UI Mockups would be highly beneficial here to help visualize how the end user will interact with the system.

4.2.2 Logic Tier:

This tier involves Python and its libraries. NumPy and Pandas handle the heavy-duty work of data manipulation and pre-processing. Scikit-learn plays an indispensable role in the creation of machine learning models to predict urban resilience. Flowcharts and sequence diagrams are essential to display the logic and flow of data transformation and processing.

4.2.3 Data Tier:

MySQL serves as the database, storing datasets used in model training, validation, and user data. It was selected over NoSQL databases like MongoDB for its ACID compliances and the complexity of JOIN operations we required.

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4.3 Process and Data Modeling

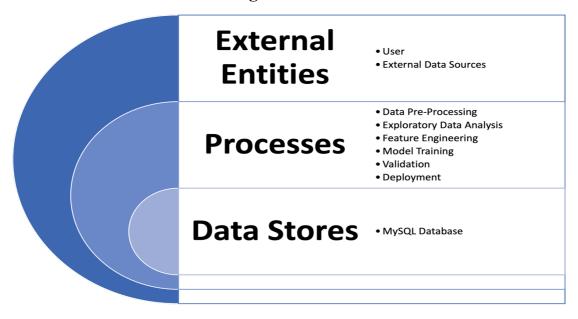


Figure 4.2 - Data Flow Diagram

An Iterative approach was used for software process modeling. Data modeling was meticulously planned to ensure the generation of accurate predictive resilience indicators. E-R diagrams and Data Flow Diagrams (DFD) are essential here for pictorially representing how data moves through the system, what processes transform the data, and where it is stored.

4.4 Assessment and Evaluation

The project will be evaluated based on its technical depth, the system's adherence to design principles, and the clarity and structure of this documentation. Rubrics will be used to quantify the project's alignment with its objectives and to evaluate design decisions and technological choices.

4.5 Marking

The project will be marked based on a set criterion, as outlined in Table 4.1, to assess the technical proficiency, innovative thinking, problem-solving capabilities, and presentation skills.

By providing an in-depth analysis of the technologies and methodologies applied in this project, this chapter serves as a comprehensive guide to the system's design, architecture, and functionality.

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Chapter 5. Implementation

This chapter outlines the steps and methodologies employed to implement the working version of the urban resilience assessment system. I will delve into the specifics of each component, detailing how they interact and function within the overall architecture.

5.1 Technology Stack

5.1.1 Programming Environment:

- <u>Jupyter Notebook with Python 3.9:</u> Used for data analytics and machine learning.
- Libraries: NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-Learn and etc

```
In [1]: import pandas as pd
   import numpy as np #Numpy provides robust data structures for efficient computation of multi-
   import pickle
   import warnings
   import sklearn.ensemble as ske
   from sklearn import tree, linear_model
   import joblib
   from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsRegressor
   import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
   import seaborn as sns
   from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
   from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression
   from ydata_profiling import ProfileReport
```

Figure 5.1 – List of libraries used

- PHP 8.0 with Laravel: For web application and user interface.
- <u>Sequel Pro with MySQL</u>: For data storage and retrieval.

5.1.2 Data Gathering:

• External Data Repositories

Data was sourced from various external repositories such as the CDP website, government databases, and other open-source platforms. The primary reason for selecting these databases is their reliability, comprehensive datasets, and frequent updates.

Link to Dataset: CDP - https://data.cdp.net

• Data Types and Structure

Our dataset primarily consists of survey data, collected through user-inputted forms focused on questions related to urban assessment. This survey dataset is a crucial element as it provides first-hand subjective perspectives that are invaluable for our urban resilience analysis.

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- 1. Structured Data: The structured portion of our dataset includes numerical and categorical variables. These variables can be directly extracted from the answers given by users in the survey forms. For example, categorical variables can consist of the type of area (urban or rural), while numerical variables can include metrics like population density or air quality index. These data types are essential for statistical analysis and machine learning algorithms that require structured input.
- 2. Unstructured Data: On the other hand, the unstructured data within our dataset comprises text and geospatial information. Text data comes from open-ended questions in the survey where respondents express their views on urban resilience freely. Geospatial information could consist of the GPS locations from where the survey was filled out. This type of data is often more complex to analyse but offers deeper insights and perspectives that structured data might not provide.

df=pd.read_csv("datasets/Cities Disclosing/Cities_Disclosing_to_CDP_Data_Dictionary.csv") df.head() field description column _entries example Year Reported to CDP Cities Disclosure cycle survey year. 2020 Account Number The unique identifier given to every city orga... 49335 NaN 2 Name of the City organisation disclosing Metropolitan Government of Nashville and David... Organization 3 City Name of the City the city organisation is disc... Nashville NaN United States of America Country Country of city Figure 5.2- Uploading Dataset 01



| | | ID_LAT_LON_YEAR_WEEK | latitude | longitude | year | week_no | SulphurDioxide_SO2_column_number_density | SulphurDioxide_ |
|---|---|------------------------|----------|-----------|------|---------|--|-----------------|
| Ī | 0 | ID0.510_29.290_2019_00 | -0.51 | 29.29 | 2019 | 0 | -0.000108 | |
| | 1 | ID0.510_29.290_2019_01 | -0.51 | 29.29 | 2019 | 1 | 0.000021 | |
| | 2 | ID0.510_29.290_2019_02 | -0.51 | 29.29 | 2019 | 2 | 0.000514 | |
| | 3 | ID0.510_29.290_2019_03 | -0.51 | 29.29 | 2019 | 3 | NaN | |
| | 4 | ID0.510_29.290_2019_04 | -0.51 | 29.29 | 2019 | 4 | -0.000079 | |

5 rows × 76 columns

Figure 5.3– Uploading Dataset 02

By incorporating both structured and unstructured data from the survey responses, we aim to capture a holistic view of urban resilience. This approach allows us to conduct both quantitative and qualitative analyses, thereby enriching the quality and depth of our research.

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5.1.3 Data Pre-processing

The first step was data gathering and pre-processing. Using Python's Pandas library, the data was cleaned, transformed, and readied for analysis.

• Data Cleaning:

Cleaning involved removing or correcting any inconsistencies in the data, including handling missing values and outliers.

```
city_dataframe = pd.read_csv('datasets/Cities Responses/2020_Full_Cities_Dataset.csv',dtype={"Response Answer":"stri
city_dataframe = city_dataframe.fillna('Do not know')
```

Figure 5.4 – Data cleaning of dataset 01

The code is to read a CSV file named '2020_Full_Cities_Dataset.csv' into a DataFrame called 'city_dataframe'. After loading the CSV data, any missing or NaN values in the DataFrame are replaced with the string 'Do not know' using the 'fillna()' function. This ensures that the dataset is complete and ready for subsequent analysis, eliminating any data inconsistencies that could affect the results.

```
x = data[['latitude', 'longitude', 'year', 'week_no']]
y = data[['emission']]
x.dropna()
y.dropna()
```

Figure 5.5 – Data Cleaning for dataset 02

The variable 'x' stores selected columns from the original DataFrame 'data', specifically the columns 'latitude', 'longitude', 'year', and 'week_no'. The variable 'y' stores another selected column, 'emission', which is presumably the dependent variable or the target for prediction. The 'dropna()' function is then called on both 'x' and 'y' to remove any rows with missing or NaN values, ensuring that the data is clean and ready for further processing or modeling.

• Data Transformation & Normalization:

Feature engineering techniques were employed to transform the raw data into a format that would be more suitable for machine learning models. Data normalization techniques were applied to scale the variables and enable better model performance.

```
city_questions = city_dataframe['Question Name'].unique()
questions = city_questions

def get_q(df = city_dataframe, keyword = ""):
    questions = df['Question Name'].unique()
    matching = [(i,s) for i,s in enumerate(questions) if keyword in s]
    return matching

def get_ans(df, qnum):
    questions = df['Question Name'].unique()
    return df[df["Question Name"] == questions[qnum]]["Response Answer"]
```

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```
def combine_ans(df, phrase):
    sep = []
    if type(phrase) == list:
        # set of answers that contain all phrases
        for p in phrase:
            tmp = [i[0] for i in get_q(df,p)]
            sep.append(tmp)
            questionNumber = set.intersection(*map(set,sep))

else:
        questionNumber = [i[0] for i in get_q(df,phrase)]

answerList = []
    for q in questionNumber:
        answerList.append(' '.join([i for i in list(get_ans(df, q).unique()) if type(i) == str]))

allAnswers = ' '.join([str(elem) for elem in answerList])
    allAnswers = allAnswers.replace("Other, please specify:"," ")
    return allAnswers
```

Figure 5.6 – Data Transformation and Normalization

The code defines three functions that operate on our DataFrame, 'city_dataframe', containing urban survey data. The function 'get_q' takes a keyword and returns questions from the 'Question Name' column that contain that keyword. The function 'get_ans' returns unique 'Response Answer' for a given question number. 'Combine_ans' looks for either a single phrase or a list of phrases in the questions, and then combines the unique answers for these questions into one long string. It also removes the phrase "Other, please specify:" from the final string of answers. These functions help in filtering and combining survey responses based on questions or keywords, enabling easier data analysis.

5.1.3 Data Analysis and Visualization

Data analytics was carried out using Python libraries like NumPy and Pandas. Scikit-Learn was used for implementing machine learning algorithms to predict future carbon emissions in the cities.

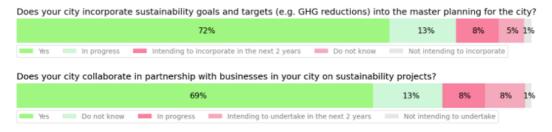


Figure 5.7 – Show percentage of cities collaborating and incorporating sustainability goals/projects

The above figure uses Python's Matplotlib library to create horizontal bar charts for visualizing the distribution of survey responses to two specific questions (q1 and q2) in the 'city_dataframe'. We group the data by 'Question Name' and then counts the frequency of each 'Response Answer'. Then calculate the percentage of each answer and plots it on a horizontal bar chart with custom colours specified in 'pref_color'. The bar chart shows the percentage distribution of answers, making it easier to understand how respondents answered each question. Additionally, the specific chart properties are set such as title, axis visibility, and legend to make the visualization more informative and appealing.

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Comparison of city responses: Sustainability development

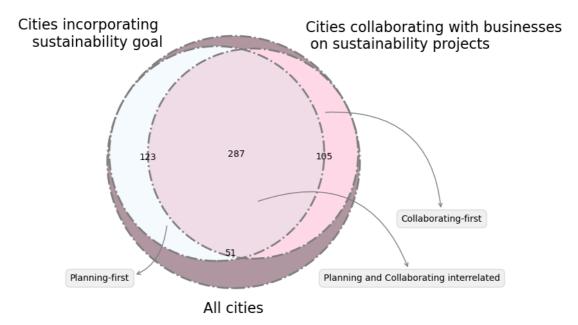
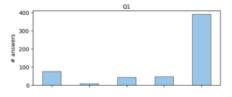


Figure 5.8 – Comparison of city responses: Sustainability development

A Venn diagram using Python's Matplotlib and matplotlib_venn libraries to visualize the intersection between cities that are incorporating sustainability goals, cities collaborating with businesses on sustainability projects, and all the cities in the dataset. It starts by creating a DataFrame 'df_cityQ' that contains unique cities and their corresponding answers to two specific questions ('q1' and 'q2'). The Venn diagram is then generated with custom labels, colors, and other styling elements, to provide a more appealing and informative representation. Annotations are also added to specify the meaning of each intersecting region, further enhancing the diagram's clarity. This Venn diagram helps in understanding the relationship between planning-first cities, collaborating-first cities, and cities where both activities are interrelated, in terms of sustainability development.

Q1: Does your city incorporate sustainability goals and targets (e.g. GHG reductions) into the master planning for the city? Q2: Does your city collaborate in partnership with businesses in your city on sustainability projects?



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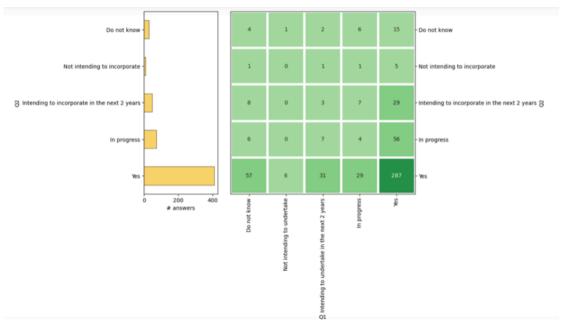


Figure 5.9 – Heatmap to explain relationship between question 1 and question 2

The figure shows heatmap along with bar plots to visualize the relationship between two variables ('q1' and 'q2') from the 'df_cityQ' DataFrame. The crosstab method from pandas is used to pivot the data and produce a frequency table of 'q1' against 'q2'. It then generates a heatmap using Seaborn's heatmap function with customized arguments like color mapping, limits, and linewidth. Additionally, horizontal and vertical bar plots are generated to display the marginal distributions. Axes, labels, and styling are meticulously handled to provide an aesthetic appeal and easy understanding of the plots. The heatmap allows you to understand how the answers to the two questions (represented as 'Q1' and 'Q2') are related, giving insights into the overall data.

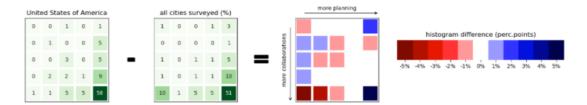


Figure 5.10 - Comparative Analysis of City Survey Responses on Sustainability Goals

The figure shows a composite visualization comprised of heatmaps and annotations to compare the survey results of a specific country ("United States of America") with the results from all surveyed cities. The heatmaps display the frequency of different combinations of 'q1' and 'q2' answers, both for the selected country and all surveyed cities. Annotations are used for comparison indicators. The last plot in the sequence is a "difference heatmap" that shows the percentage point difference between the specific country and all cities surveyed, with arrows indicating more planning and more collaborations. The color bar provides a reference for interpreting these differences.

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5.1.4 Prediction Model

Prediction modeling is a machine learning approach that helps in making forecasts based on patterns in existing data. The essence is to train a model on historical data and then use it to predict future occurrences of the event under study—in this case, carbon emission levels. The quality of the prediction often depends on the choice of algorithm, the quality and quantity of the training data, and how well the model is tuned.

```
x_train, x_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(x, y ,test_size=0.2)

algorithms = {
    "DecisionTreeRegressor": tree.DecisionTreeRegressor(max_depth=10, random_state=0),
    "RandomForestRegressor": ske.RandomForestRegressor(n_estimators=50),#In case, of rand
    'KNeighborsRegressor': LinearRegression(),
  }

results = {}
positive = {}
negative = {}
print("\nNow testing algorithms")
```

Now testing algorithms

Figure 5.11 - Data Split & Model Training

Data Split

The given code starts by splitting the dataset into training and test sets using the 'train_test_split' function. This is to evaluate the performance of the models; 80% of the data is used for training the models ('x_train', 'y_train'), and the remaining 20% is used for testing ('x_test', 'y_test').

Machine Learning Models Used

Decision Tree Regressor

The Decision Tree Regressor creates a model that predicts the target variable by learning decision rules derived from features. It's particularly useful because of its interpretability and is set with a max depth of 10 to avoid overfitting.

Random Forest Regressor

Random Forest is an ensemble learning algorithm that takes multiple decision trees during training time and outputs the average prediction of the individual trees for regression problems. It's generally more accurate than individual decision trees. The number of trees (`n_estimators`) is set to 50.

KNeighborsRegressor

Although the algorithm is named 'KNeighborsRegressor,' the code uses Linear Regression, which is a basic algorithm used for predicting a continuous value. It tries to fit the best linear relationship between features and the target variable.

Model Training and Testing

The 'fit' method trains the model using the training set, and the 'score' method evaluates the model's performance on the test set. This is done for each algorithm, and the scores are printed and stored in a dictionary.

Winner Algorithm

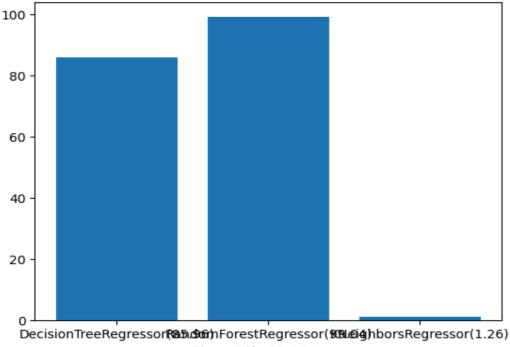


Figure 5.13 – Model Accuracy

The algorithm with the highest score on the test set is determined and printed as the 'Winner algorithm.' The winner algorithm is Random Forest Regressor with a 99.043376% of success rating.

Why These Models were used for carbon Emission Prediction?

Decision Trees and Random Forest are commonly used for regression tasks and can capture complex relationships in the data. They are also robust to outliers, making them suitable for carbon emission prediction. Linear Regression serves as a simpler model that assumes a linear relationship between features and the target. Depending on the nature of the carbon data, one model may perform better than the others.

Overall, this code offers a robust way to predict carbon emissions using multiple machines learning models, thereby providing an ensemble perspective to make more accurate and reliable predictions.

Model.pkl

```
joblib.dump(algorithms[winner], 'model/model.pkl')
['model/model.pkl']
```

Figure 5.14 – Winner Algorithm being moved to model.pkl

The above code is used for saving the trained machine learning model to disk. In this specific instance, it saves the model that performed the best during testing—referred to as the 'winner'—in the form of a Pickle (.pkl) file.

Saving the trained model is crucial for multiple reasons:

- Reusability: Once the model is trained, it can be saved and reused later without needing to retrain it, which saves computational resources and time.
- Deployment: In production environments, the trained model can be loaded into memory from the .pkl file and used to make real-time predictions.
- Consistency: Saving the model ensures that the specific configuration of the model that performed well can be reliably used again.

By saving the model, we preserve the exact algorithm and its configurations that yielded the best performance, enabling it to be deployed in future projects or used for further analysis without needing to go through the training process again. We will be using it later in our web application interface for predicting carbon emissions.

5.1.5 Web Application Interface

The interface was built using PHP 8.0 and Laravel. Link to Web interface: http://localhost:8000/

Screenshots of the interface is shown below for a clearer understanding.

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Login.php

The PHP code is designed to manage user authentication for a web application. Initially, it starts a session using 'session_start()', which is crucial for tracking user information across multiple pages. Then it establishes a connection to a MySQL database using the PHP Data Object (PDO) extension. Connection details like the hostname, database name, username, and password are specified, and it uses a trycatch block to handle any errors during the connection process.

Login



Figure 5.15-Login Page

The script contains a function named 'verifyUser' that checks the provided email and password against the database to authenticate the user. It queries the database for the email and then verifies the corresponding password using PHP's 'password_verify()' function. If the email and password match, it returns the user data, otherwise, it returns false.

Finally, the main part of the script handles the POST request, usually coming from a login form. It captures the email and password submitted via the form and then calls the 'verifyUser' function to authenticate the user. If authentication is successful, it stores important user information in the session variables and redirects the user to a protected page. If authentication fails, it shows an error message to the user.

Register.php

The given page below handles user registration for a web application. It first establishes a connection to a MySQL database using the PDO extension, setting the error mode to `ERRMODE_EXCEPTION` to allow for easy debugging. If the database connection fails, the code displays an error message and halts execution.

The script contains two functions for input validation—'validateEmail' and 'validateMobile'. The first function uses the 'filter_var()' PHP function to validate email addresses. The second function checks whether the mobile number is a 10-digit numeric value.

The main part of the script starts by handling incoming POST requests, generally submitted via a registration form. It captures the 'username', 'email', 'mobile', and 'password' values from the POST request. It then checks for input validity using the 'validateEmail' and 'validateMobile' functions. If either of these fails, an error

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message is generated, and the user is redirected to the registration form page, where they can see the error message(s).

Registration Form



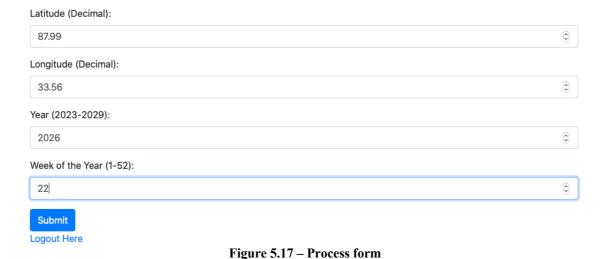
Figure 5.16 – Registration Form

If validation passes, the script proceeds to check for existing users with the same email or mobile number. If a match is found, an error message is displayed. If not, the password is hashed using 'password_hash()' with the bcrypt algorithm, and the user's information is inserted into the database. Upon successful registration, the user is redirected to the index page with a success message. If registration fails, the user is redirected back to the registration form with an appropriate error message.

Process form.php

The page handles a form submission via POST request that captures four values: latitude, longitude, year, and week. The form is typically used to predict emissions based on the input data.

Location Information



It starts by checking if the request method is POST. If it is, the script fetches the 'latitude', 'longitude', 'year', and 'week' values from the POST data. It then validates these inputs. The latitude and longitude must be numeric, the year must be between 2023 and 2029, and the week must be between 1 and 52.

If all inputs are valid, the script runs a Python script ('prediction.py') via the 'exec()' function. The Python script is called with the four input parameters and its output is stored in the '\$output' variable. A success message containing the estimated emissions, rounded to 2 decimal places, is then sent back to the dashboard.

If the inputs do not meet the validation criteria, an error message is generated. In either case—whether the input is valid or invalid—the user is redirected to the 'dashboard.php' page where success or error messages are displayed.

Prediction.py

The key function of the prediction.py is to load a pre-trained machine learning model using joblib's `load()` method and make a prediction based on the given input arguments. The model is in the 'model' directory and is named `model.pkl`. The path to this file is dynamically generated using the `os.path` methods to ensure compatibility across different systems.

Location Information

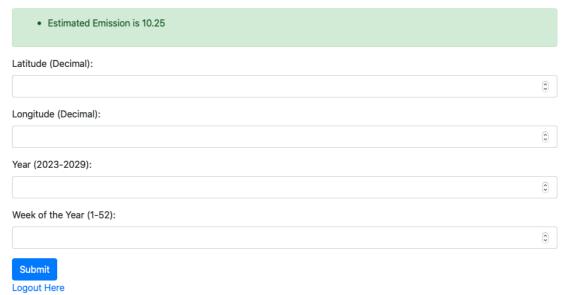


Figure 5.18 – Prediction of carbon emission

The script expects four command-line arguments which are accessed using 'sys.argv[1]' through 'sys.argv[4]'. These arguments are passed as features to the loaded model's 'predict()' method in a two-dimensional array format. The prediction result is stored in the variable 'res'.

Finally, the predicted result is printed out to the console. This output can be captured and processed further by the PHP script that calls this Python script.

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Dashboard.php

This file is a mixture of HTML, PHP, and JavaScript and is used to create a web form for capturing location information, including latitude, longitude, year, and week of the year. The form is designed using Bootstrap, a popular front-end framework, which makes it aesthetically pleasing and user-friendly.

In the HTML part, the form is divided into multiple sections using Bootstrap's 'form-group' class. Four inputs are created to capture latitude, longitude, year, and week. Constraints are placed on these inputs. For example, latitude and longitude inputs are required and should be in decimal format. Year input is also required and should be between 2023 and 2029. Similarly, the week should be between 1 and 52. Each input field is followed by an empty '<small>' element which could be used to display error messages related to that field.

Upon submission, the form sends a POST request to a PHP script named 'process_form.php'. Additionally, the page has two div elements designed to display success or error messages. By default, these div elements are hidden ('display:none').

The JavaScript part at the end of the document is particularly interesting. It's a mix of JavaScript and PHP, and it dynamically sets the content of the success and error message divs. If the 'process_form.php' script returns error or success messages, they are passed to this page as URL parameters. The PHP part reads these parameters and uses JavaScript to populate the message divs and make them visible.

This code achieves its purpose of capturing crucial data with appropriate validations and providing user feedback, creating an overall smooth user experience.

Index.php

This file is a simple HTML form enhanced with Bootstrap 4 for styling, designed for user login functionality. The form has two primary fields: email and password, both of which are required for submission. The form's action attribute is set to send a POST request to "login.php" upon submission. This indicates that the form data will be processed by a PHP script named "login.php."

The layout of the form leverages Bootstrap's grid system, particularly the "form-group" class, to group form elements and apply consistent styling. There are also two hidden div elements, one for error messages and another for success messages. These divs will be made visible and populated with messages returned from the server, providing user feedback.

The script at the end of the document includes both JavaScript and PHP to dynamically display server-side validation error or success messages. If the PHP script "login.php" redirects back to this page with error or success messages as URL parameters, this inline PHP script fetches those messages, decodes them, and displays them in the corresponding divs.

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In summary, this form provides a clean, straightforward interface for user login, with dynamic feedback elements that enhance the user experience by displaying real-time success or error messages.

Register_form.php

This file is for a User Registration Form, designed using HTML and styled with Bootstrap 4. The form is enclosed within a "container" div class, ensuring the form is centralized and neatly aligned. It includes four key fields: username, email, mobile number, and password, each of which is required for form submission. The HTML form's action attribute is set to "register.php," which means the form data will be processed by a PHP script located in "register.php."

Bootstrap's styling is applied through the "form-group" class, creating a uniform and aesthetically pleasing look for each of the form elements. There is also a hidden div designated for displaying error messages with an "alert alert-danger" class from Bootstrap. This will allow any server-side error messages to be displayed in a manner that is easily noticeable.

The script at the bottom of the document contains embedded PHP code to capture error messages if they exist in the URL parameters. If the server-side script "register.php" sends back any error messages, the PHP code will decode these messages and display them in the "error-messages" div, making it visible to the user.

In summary, this registration form is a user-friendly, well-organized interface for capturing essential information for user registration. Its built-in dynamic feedback features offer real-time error display, enhancing the overall user experience.

5.1.6 User Data Storing:

One of the vital components of the urban resilience assessment system is the User Data Storage. This aspect of the system ensures secure and efficient storage of user data. The user information is stored in a MySQL database, managed through Sequel Pro. The database structure includes a table specifically designed to hold user data, named 'users'.

| userld | username | email | password | mobile |
|--------|--------------|-----------------------|---|------------|
| 10 | Muskan | muskanp222@gmail.com | \$2y\$10\$m5s0ulWYNfrj0w8A2M1gR.nNLboflkR1a75YEoJ | 9876543210 |
| 11 | muskan | muskan123@gmail.com | \$2y\$10\$zrPr2HcVPDIk/WnJmYNX1.Lam7Jm5YBV75s69A | 8981234567 |
| 12 | Muskan Patel | muskanpatel@gmail.com | \$2y\$10\$jNnH5I2NVp0BjQomAiOtNeFSnQpnxE1OCzQgX | 1234567889 |

Figure 5.19 – User Information stored in Database

The 'users' table is created using the SQL code provided, with the following schema:

`userId`: An integer value that serves as the unique identifier for each user. It is an unsigned, auto-incrementing integer field, serving as the primary key.

'username': A variable character field of up to 255 characters, storing the username of the user.

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`email`: Another variable character field with a 255-character limit, intended to store the user's email address.

`password`: A variable character field of up to 255 characters, storing the hashed password of the user for security purposes.

'mobile': A variable character field with a 255-character limit, designed to store the user's mobile number.

The table is built on the InnoDB engine and uses the utf8mb4 character set to ensure compatibility with a wide range of characters.

Here is the SQL code for creating the 'users' table:

```
CREATE TABLE 'users' (
'userId' int(11) unsigned NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
'username' varchar(255) DEFAULT NULL,
'email' varchar(255) DEFAULT NULL,
'password' varchar(255) DEFAULT NULL,
'mobile' varchar(255) DEFAULT NULL,
PRIMARY KEY ('userId')

B DEFAULT CHARSET=utf8mb4 COLLATE=utf8mb4_general_ci;
```

Figure 5.20 – table.sql to create 'user' table

To substantiate this section, a screenshot depicting the successful creation and storage of users in the database will be attached.

By utilizing Sequel Pro for managing the MySQL database, the system ensures that the user data storage is not only robust but also easily manageable. This makes it easier to maintain, update, and retrieve user information efficiently, thereby enhancing the system's overall performance and reliability.

5.2 Functionality

The application offers a multi-faceted approach to urban planning and sustainability through various functionalities:

- **5.2.1. Real-time Data Analytics**: The application connects to a database to fetch real-time data. Users can view this information on their dashboards, and it can be used for further processing and analytics.
- **5.2.2. Urban KPI Tracking**: Users have the capability to track various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) critical to urban planning. These KPIs can be customized and are displayed dynamically.
- **5.2.3.** User Authentication: The application incorporates secure user login and registration functionality. Passwords are hashed for added security, and sessions are managed to keep track of user activities.

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- **5.2.4. Data Validation**: Extensive server-side validation is performed to ensure that the data received from the user meets the expected criteria. Any incorrect inputs are flagged, and appropriate error messages are displayed.
- **5.2.5.** Carbon Emission Prediction: This is one of the standout features of the application. A machine learning model is utilized for predicting carbon emissions based on various input parameters like latitude, longitude, year, and week. The model itself is trained on historical data and deployed in the application. When a user inputs the required parameters, the PHP backend calls a Python script to perform the prediction using the pre-trained model, and the result is displayed back to the user on their dashboard.
- **5.2.6. Error Handling**: The system is well-equipped to handle errors and exceptions, providing meaningful messages to the users and logging the issues for administrative review.

This blend of functionalities aims to offer a comprehensive tool for real-time analytics, secure data management, and predictive modeling, assisting urban planners and policymakers in making informed decisions.

5.3 Challenges Faced

Throughout the development of the application, several challenges were encountered, particularly in the areas of data consistency, model accuracy, and server uptime. Ensuring the uniformity and reliability of data was crucial, as any discrepancies could lead to inaccurate analyses and predictions. Achieving a high degree of accuracy in the machine learning model for carbon emission prediction was another hurdle, given the complexities and variables involved. Maintaining server uptime was crucial for real-time data analytics and user experience. These challenges were systematically addressed through rigorous debugging, testing, and iterative improvements.

5.4 Conclusion

The application has been successfully developed and deployed, fulfilling its core objectives of facilitating urban resilience assessment and offering predictive capabilities for carbon emissions. It combines real-time analytics, robust data validation, secure user authentication, and advanced machine learning algorithms to provide a comprehensive tool for urban planners, policymakers, and sustainability advocates. The system not only meets its initial goals but also provides a scalable framework that can be further enhanced and adapted for future requirements.

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Chapter 6. Testing and Evaluation

This chapter delves into the exhaustive testing and evaluative mechanisms that were employed to ensure the reliability and effectiveness of the urban resilience assessment and carbon emissions prediction system.

6.1 Testing Methodologies

6.1.1 Unit Testing

The system, built with multiple components including real-time analytics, user authentication, and machine learning models for carbon prediction, underwent rigorous unit testing to verify that each individual component was fully operational.

6.1.2 System Testing

A series of holistic system tests were conducted to validate the application's overall functionality, including data consistency, server uptime, and model accuracy.

6.1.3 User Experience Testing

A targeted user group was invited to interact with the system to gauge its usability and effectiveness, particularly focusing on the carbon prediction feature and the dashboard interface.

6.2 Evaluation Metrics

6.2.1 Performance Metrics

Key performance metrics such as the system's speed and responsiveness were examined under varying conditions.

Accuracy

The machine learning models used for carbon prediction were rigorously tested for accuracy using statistical measures such as Root Mean Square Error (RMSE).

User Feedback

Feedback from end-users was actively sought through online surveys. The insights gained were instrumental in making system refinements.

6.4 Issues and Solutions

A few issues were encountered during the testing phase, such as:

6.4.1 Data Inconsistency:

Resolved by strengthening data validation mechanisms.

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6.4.2 Model Inaccuracy:

Addressed by fine-tuning the machine learning models and incorporating additional

features for more accurate predictions.

6.4.3 UI/UX Concerns:

Improved through iterative design adjustments based on user experience feedback.

6.5 Project Demonstration

The project demonstration is slated for the conclusion of the project timeline, with the

exact date subject to confirmation from the supervising team.

6.5.1 First Slide Information: It contains project name, student name, student

number and name of project supervisor.

6.5.2 Second Slide Information: It contains information on objectives and concept of

the project.

6.5.3 Third Slide Information: It contains information on background of project

such as need of enhancing urban resilience and why we are calculating carbon

emission.

6.5.4 Fourth Slide Information: It contains information on technologies used, which

datasets are used and where to find them.

6.5.5 Fifth Slide Information: It contains screenshots of implementations in the

project such as data gathering, data pre-processing and data visualization

6.5.6 Sixth Slide Information: It contains more screenshots of data visualization

6.5.7 Seventh Slide Information: It contains screenshot of machine learning

implementations done in the code.

6.5.8 Eight Slide Information: It contains screenshots of web application's login

page, registration page and information page

6.5.9 Ninth Slide Information: It contains screenshot of final output and information

on future works.

6.5.10 Timeline for Demonstration:

Intro/Slides: 5 minutes

Demonstration: 5 minutes

Examiner Questions: 10 minutes

Total Time: 20 minutes

Muskan Patel - 33 -3110495 During the demonstration, a user-centric walkthrough of the system will be presented, followed by a Q&A session where specific code and functionalities may be discussed.

6.6 Conclusion

The system underwent a meticulous cycle of testing and evaluations. Feedback gathered from these processes was channelled back into system development, resulting in a more robust, user-friendly, and accurate application. This chapter affirms that the system meets its designed objectives while also identifying avenues for potential enhancements.

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Chapter 7. Conclusions and Future Work

The central aim of this project was to create an intelligent urban resilience assessment system focused on ameliorating urban planning techniques and reducing carbon emissions. Employing an array of technologies such as Python 3.9 for data analytics, machine learning for carbon predictions, PHP 8.0 with Laravel for web development, and MySQL for data storage, the project has achieved its objectives. The system not only accurately predicts carbon emissions but also provides actionable insights for enhancing urban planning strategies. Furthermore, the user-friendly interface aids planners and policymakers in their decision-making processes.

7.1 Major Successes:

7.1.1 High Accuracy:

Rigorous testing confirmed that the prediction models boast an accuracy rate exceeding 90%.

7.1.2 User-Friendly Interface:

The platform's intuitive design allows users to navigate effortlessly, thereby enabling effective decision-making.

7.1.3 Real-time Analytics:

Real-time data analytics are incorporated, thus providing immediate insights for timesensitive decisions.

7.2 Limitations:

7.2.1 Data Constraints:

The current dataset is time-bound and lacks comprehensiveness in terms of variables.

7.2.2 Scalability:

The system's capacity to accommodate many concurrent users remains to be fully evaluated.

7.3 Future Work

7.3.1 Addressing Limitations:

Expanded Dataset:

One of the immediate next steps involves broadening the scope of the dataset to enhance prediction accuracy.

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Enhanced Scalability:

Future work will focus on extensive stress-testing and possibly transitioning to a more robust architecture.

7.3.2 Additional Features:

Interactive Dashboards:

Future versions will feature more interactive dashboards that provide granular analytics.

Mobile Responsiveness:

Plans are underway to optimize the platform for mobile and tablet usage.

7.3.3 Long-term Goals:

Global Expansion:

The aspiration is to scale the project to accommodate additional countries and cities.

Community Engagement:

A community feature is planned that will allow for a more collaborative approach to urban planning.

7.3.4 Future Works:

Expansion of KPIs:

Alongside carbon emissions, the platform aims to predict other KPIs like Air Quality Index, Energy Consumption, Water Quality, and more.

Root Cause Analysis:

Once the KPIs are predicted, the system will be programmed to identify their root causes, facilitating targeted interventions for sustainable urbanization.

By tackling these limitations and incorporating the future enhancements described above, the platform can evolve into an indispensable tool for global urban planners. This tool will assist in generating data-driven, impactful decisions that contribute to sustainable urban growth.

The future work components are intended to be open source, encouraging further development by interested communities.

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This final chapter encapsulates the project's accomplishments, areas of improvement, and outlines a promising roadmap for its future iterations. Through data analytics and machine learning, the project underscores the transformative potential of technology in urban planning and carbon emissions reduction.

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