Weather-Responsive Traffic Optimization: Enhancing Road Transport through Sensor Integration and Machine Learning

Dharshan J Y[1], Ashwanth G P N[2], Gajjala Venkat Rushith Reddy[3], Keerthi Ragav S K[4], Pooja Gowda[5]
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Amrita School of Computing, Bengaluru
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, India
bl.en.u4cse22219@bl.students.amrita.edu[1], bl.en.u4cse22107@bl.students.amrita.edu[2],
bl.en.u4cse22116@bl.students.amrita.edu[3], bl.en.u4cse22054@bl.students.amrita.edu[4],
g_pooja@blr.amrita.edu[5]

***Abstract*—The increasing challenge of traffic congestion particularly in the urban setting had necessitated the search for ways of operating that could change tact with regards to traffic and weather patterns. In such perspectives, a proposal for the Smart Traffic Management System had been initiated integrating advance sensors with the input of Machine Learning (ML) algorithms and real-time weather input parameters for real-time traffic enhancement. This approach had been motivated by recent studies that had identified the lack of mechanisms to cope with dynamic effects of weather on traffic. It had consisted of a design for gathering information on the density and the speed of the vehicle, and all the main parameters of the environment using sensors in a grid format, passing it to ML models to forecast traffic and change the parameters of traffic signal lights. In addition, it had incorporated weather conditions such as rain, fogging or snowing which generally had the highest implications on the driving behavior and on safety by integrating the weather factor. This was to be achieved; give a more adequate and flexible traffic control regime, aiming at less traffic with better safety and shorter travelling time. However it showed that this system might had worked better than other conventional approaches to traffic signal control techniques as exemplified by preliminary simulation and field test results especially during inclement weather condition. To implement this plan seamlessly within the existing structure and to fine tune the ML models, further research was needed.**

***Index Terms*—Smart Traffic Management System, sensors, adverse weather, responsive**

I. Introduction

A rise in the complexity of traffic management in cities had been putting pressure on the search for new approaches that would meet the demands of dynamic conditions. This study had been recommending a Smart Traffic Management System that favored the use of advanced sensors and ML algorithms alongside accurate real-time weather data for flow modeling. It was a system of intelligence and sensors collecting vehicle and environment density and speed data with the ML models to forecast traffic and then regulate the signal timings in real-time. It was working actively due to the integration of the various weather conditions like rain, fog, and snow, thus it was improving the safe driving behaviors and the road safety. The proposed solution had been planned to design a better and future-proof traffic management system that was to alleviate traffic congestion, to minimize travel time, and also to increase road safety. Tests carried out hitherto had shown feasibility of using it to relay information that could help it surpass traditional traffic control methodologies especially during adverse weather conditions. More advanced improvements to the built ML models and integration with existing infrastructure had been expected to optimise the employ of the system and expand its reach.

II. Review of Related works

Research on integrating AI, IoT, and Cloud Computing in smart transportation systems that have been widely researched, demonstrating their combined potential to enhance efficiency, safety, and sustainability was conducted by Mnyakin [1]. Studies on AI focused on autonomous vehicles and traffic management, with deep learning improving object detection and traffic flow optimization. IoT played a crucial role in connected cars and smart parking, enabling real-time communication and monitoring. Cloud computing supported scalable infrastructure and data analytics, essential for handling large transportation datasets. The synergistic integration of these technologies showed promise in creating smarter and more sustainable transportation systems, though challenges like data security and implementation costs remain.

Naik et al. [2] provided a review of literature on the Internet of Things (IoT) and its application in intelligent traffic management systems. It gave knowledge on how IoT devices may be implemented in collecting, transmitting, and acting on info on the environment by using sensors and communication hardware. In this review, the effectiveness of traffic management techniques using IoT was shown by real-time monitoring, traffic flow, and signal-adapted techniques. Besides, it affected the feasibility of IoT in reducing transit time, reducing pollution, and improving the standards of living within urban settings.

A complete understanding of the paper "Optimization of Smart Traffic Governance System Using Artificial Intelligence" by Sukhadia et al. [3] which aimed to explore how the interaction between people through the usage of AI can help in decreasing traffic jams in urban areas as well as enhancing traffic safety. The study also presented a newly developed AI method for the manual traffic system to monitor and manage traffic flow and signal timings in real-time and with minimal adverse effects on the environment.

Researching smart traffic control systems aimed at solving urban congestion issues, this study by Jain et al. [4] suggested an ultra-lightweight simulator and algorithm based on integration with IoT and real-time data for optimizing flow and priority to emergency vehicles. Comparative results indicate that the system is better than traditional approaches in enhancing efficiency and safety of traffic with its inputs toward sustainable development of cities as a byproduct of reduced pollution and fuel consumption.

Gandhi et al. [5] illustrated traditional methods of traffic signal control, which are usually done with static timers or by manual control, and cannot keep pace with actual traffic conditions. Recent approaches using AI, in particular with video processing and machine learning, would dynamically change the signals by vehicle density. Object detection methodologies have been very promising in estimating traffic density and, accordingly, reducing congestion using systems like YOLO. These can reduce environmental impacts by improving the efficiency of traffic flow considerably.

IoT-based solutions to the issues of energy inefficiency and traffic congestion was provided by S et al. [6] These smart traffic lights change the signal timings according to live vehicle density and streetlights powered by solar energy which activate only when motion sensors detect movement. This integrated system optimizes energy usage and streamlines traffic flow, showing the possibility of sustainability cost efficiency, and urban mobility enhancement.

The Intelligent Traffic Monitoring and Management System, which was proposed by B et al. [7]was an adaptive control solution that it aimed to improve road safety and congestion management. The system used the centralized control interface, IoT sensors, and data visualization, thus providing real-time traffic analysis, emergency green corridors, and synchronized signals. Scalable, remotely configurable, and proving an improvement in traffic flow in urban environments, the system aligns with the objectives of a smart city.

Weather data and traffic data with deep learning models like LSTM and CNN to advance forecasting of traffic flow was integrates by Braz et al. [8]. Its primary advantage was the ability to capture complex time dependencies that arise under the influence of climate change leading to a short-term traffic forecast. However, such a model failed in long-term predictions and was devoid of generalizability when tested in other regions, hence not applicable to other environments.

Vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication by using 5G sharing real-time data was prposed by Tahir et al. [9], as it more quickly adapts to the changing weather conditions. Mobile technology introduced short-distance communication and made the roads safer while the system was depended on costly infrastructure, did not work well in areas with less network coverage, and it was not suitable for large-scale implementation.

The seasonary changes improved traffic flow and reduce congestion using machine learning-based optimized techniques such as adaptive signal control using YOLO models. Khan and Thakur's systems [10], though being efficient in comparison with the traditional programming approaches, have many challenges encountered namely implementation cost, technical complexity and even the data protection issues. Then, during the adverse weather conditions, its power got reduced, and also a lot of computing resources was required for real-time processing.

Kar and Feng [11] suggested integration of weather conditions with approaches towards enhancing the accuracy for traffic forecasting work through deep learning. Its main advantage lied in the fact that it can grasp complex interactions of patterns of weather and traffic, which was suitable for a wide range of environments. However, reliance upon deep learning increases computational requirements and runs the risk of limiting the interpretability of results.

A spatio-temporal sensing network that models the influence of weather on traffic flow was proposed by Zhong et al. [12]. The upside was that this was sensitive methods by most important operation hence improved the accuracy of the forecast in bad weather. Its main challenge is being sensitive to quality of data and noisy weather data results in inaccurate predictions limiting its use in dynamic areas.

Hybrid traffic management systems utilizing AI, IoT and GIS suggested by Jain and Mitra [13] improved timing and flow adjustments through traffic while reducing decelerations and greenhouse gas emissions. The best conversion of sensor data to adapt into suitable conditions of vehicles and weather was provided by the given systems. However, they presented challenges such as high costs, complexity in installation, and severe limitations on effective real-time data processing, especially when extreme weather events appear, such as natural thunderstorms, probably impairing the accuracy of the music and system feedback.

The advantages of using AI-based traffic management systems was demonstrated by Gupta et al. [14] which can estimate traffic density and traffic detection using real-time video. This helped to improve traffic flow significantly in terms of the number of vehicles and congestion mitigation. The dynamic situation can be tackled by these systems, and thus, these can ensure effective signal management in cases of presence as well by emergency vehicles. However, in real-time processing, it requires strong computational power, and sometimes it becomes impossible to detect vehicle locations in bad weather, otherwise the system won't be performing well with regard to these aspects.

Khan et al. [15] presented an intelligent solution of traffic management using YOLOv3 with the aim of achieving real-time vehicle detection while optimizing the traffic light signals.

This was indeed a highly accurate system at 81.1% with high processing rates. It was most appropriate for real-time control of traffic and did not need any alteration in large-scale infrastructure and thus turns out to be cost-effective. However, for images overlapping at vehicles, the system had detection errors. Moreover, whereas it uses much fewer resources than full video processing did, yet it appeared to have difficulties adapting to more complicated traffic conditions where real-time video data might be needed in order to make near-optimum decisions.

A traffic sign management system based on the monitoring of traffic congestion and priority by sensor types offered by Paul et al. [16], including LiDAR and ultrasonic sensors. The benefits include dynamic time adjustment of signals on real data, reduction of distortion, and improving response times in emergency situations. In addition to this, more flexibility was offered through cloud-based forecasting. However, relying on several sensors and cloud servers means that the cost and complexity of implementation is way beyond what might be reasonably afforded for areas with limited infrastructure.

This study provided the development of a predictive traffic application using neural networks to predict accidents and congestion by Ruzicka et al. [17]. Historical and environmental data are integrated into a multilayer neural network with a sigmoid activation function. While the application was successful in Uherské Hradiště, its performance was limited by data availability, but it suggests great potential for improvements in urban safety and efficiency using future smart city integrations.

This research introduced by Sultana et al. [18], a dynamic traffic management system based on IoT and AI to address urban congestion and enhance emergency responses. Real-time data and adaptive algorithms improved the optimization of traffic flows. The performance was exhibited, including less congestion and timely improved responses for emergencies, signifying the possibility of sustainable urban mobility, although further improvements were directed at enhancing scalability and real-world applicability.

Robust approach for freeway traffic state estimation that can better improve the quality of highway traffic state estimation with ETC and detector data was emphasized by Zhang et al. [19]. This strength was the ability to utilize wide coverage from ETC and detailed granularity through detectors in producing more complete and accurate traffic state estimation. This was directly related to your project because it is pertinent to demonstrate the effective use of sensor fusion for real-time traffic management. However, its reliance on complex optimization models such as those to be found in the maximum likelihood and maximin likelihood principles introduces computational challenges especially in large-scale implementations, which might impede the responsiveness in more dynamic or rapidly changing environments in real time.

The research by Chawla [20] demonstrated integration of real data and machine learning to optimize the traffic systems in accordance with weather conditions. The benefits of these systems include maximizing the natural flow of traffic, ensuring less congestion as well as improving road safety through analysis of a vehicle's live data collected by sensors and the changing patterns. While it was challenging to ensure that data is correctly collected and reliably followed under the changing conditions of the weather, it was even more demanding to install advanced sensors considering the costs incurred for large-scale infrastructure and its maintenance. Furthermore, another challange was with the required complexity of machine learning models dealing with dynamic weather events.

III. Formulation of Problem

Urban traffic congestion had become increasingly problematic, having led to longer travel times, higher fuel costs, and more pollution. Traditional traffic management systems had struggled to adapt to changing traffic conditions and weather, making them less effective. These systems had often been unable to use real-time data from sensors or weather reports, resulting in inefficient traffic control. There had been a need for a smart traffic management system that could have used real-time data, including weather information, to predict traffic and improve the flow of vehicles, thereby enhancing safety and reducing congestion.

IV. Objectives

- To develop a smart traffic management system that utilizes real-time data from sensors, machine learning algorithms, and weather information to optimize traffic signal timings dynamically.
- The goal is to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance road safety under varying weather and traffic conditions.

V. Methodology

In the development of the proposed system called Weather-Responsive Traffic Optimization, data pre-processing was highly effective in providing significant and accurate information to the model. Real-time traffic data was obtained from vehicle ITS sensors which observed parameters such as traffic density, vehicle speed, and vehicle category. The collected data was preprocessed on initial analysis prior to input into machine learning models. At the same time, weather data in real-time is received from the OpenWeatherMap API and includes the temperature, humidity, precipitation and others. This data was normalized and underwent feature extraction whereby data was converted to forms that could be used by the system for decision making.Due to the integration of these datasets, it was possible to get an efficient traffic management system solution in response to the development of environmental stimuli.and reliability of the model's predictions. Traffic data was continuously collected from vehicle sensors that monitored parameters like vehicle density, speed, and type. The raw data was cleaned and formatted for use in machine learning algorithms. At the same time, real-time weather data was fetched from the OpenWeatherMap API, including information such as temperature, humidity, and precipitation. This data was standardized and transformed into useful features that could be input into the system for decision-making. The combination of these datasets allowed the traffic management system to respond effectively to changing environmental conditions.

For the purpose of reproducing the traffic and assessing the resulting changes when using weather-adaptive settings, the Simulation of Urban Mobility (SUMO) toolkit was employed. This is because using SUMO, it was possible to obtain a real and realistic simulation of the urban traffic system in terms of vehicle behaviors, traffic distribution, and road surfaces. The custom Convergence integration applied in SUMO let for dynamic interaction with the simulation instance, allowing adjustments of the traffic light timings together with the speed limit according to the incoming stimuli, like live weather data. It further extended the simulation in terms of discrete time step, where the traffic signals were optimized in fixed time intervals by using the estimated traffic and the weather conditions.This simulation was a useful concept for the evaluation of the proposed traffic control system to determine its applicability in actual environments.SUMO) platform was used. SUMO provided a realistic urban traffic simulation environment where vehicle behaviors, traffic patterns, and road conditions could be modeled. The TraCI interface within SUMO allowed dynamic interaction with the simulation, enabling real-time changes in traffic signal timings and speed limits based on external inputs such as live weather data. The system advanced the simulation in discrete time steps, with traffic signals being adjusted at regular intervals based on the predicted congestion and weather conditions. This simulation served as a testing ground for validating the proposed traffic control system before real-world deployment.

In this particular system, the selection of the mode of regression was informed by the need to forecast on a continuum as is the case with traffic density and speed. Supervised methods including Random Forest Regression were used since they are capable of analysing non-linear relationships between input feature (traffic density, weather conditions etc) and output parameters (congestion, travel time etc). Regression made it possible to predict the traffic flow pattern and knowledge that facilitated the custom change of signal timings.Through the training of the model from the historical traffic patterns and weather information the required predictions were made that helped control waiting time delay and also reduce traffic density and enhance overall efficiency of traffic flow.like Random Forest Regression were employed because they could handle complex, non-linear relationships between input features (such as traffic density, weather conditions) and output variables (such as congestion or travel time). Regression allowed the system to forecast traffic flow, enabling dynamic adjustments to signal timings. By learning from historical traffic and weather data, the model provided accurate predictions that minimized waiting times, reduced congestion, and improved overall traffic efficiency.

A Genetic Algorithm (GA) is selected for its ability to optimize complex, multi-dimensional problems like traffic signal timing. In the context of this traffic management system, GA is particularly effective at searching through the vast space of possible signal timings to find the optimal configuration that minimizes congestion. GAs simulate natural selection by generating multiple solutions (signal timing configurations), evaluating them based on predefined criteria (like traffic flow and waiting times), and iteratively improving the solutions through crossover and mutation processes. This approach ensures that the system dynamically adapts to traffic conditions in real time, continually finding better solutions as conditions change.

VI. Implementation

Weather data was collected from government websites that provide meteorological information as shown in Fig.1. This included essential parameters such as temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind speed, and weather conditions. The raw data from these sources was standardized and transformed into meaningful features suitable for traffic management decisions. By integrating this weather data, the system was dynamically adjusted traffic control measures based on current and forecasted environmental conditions.

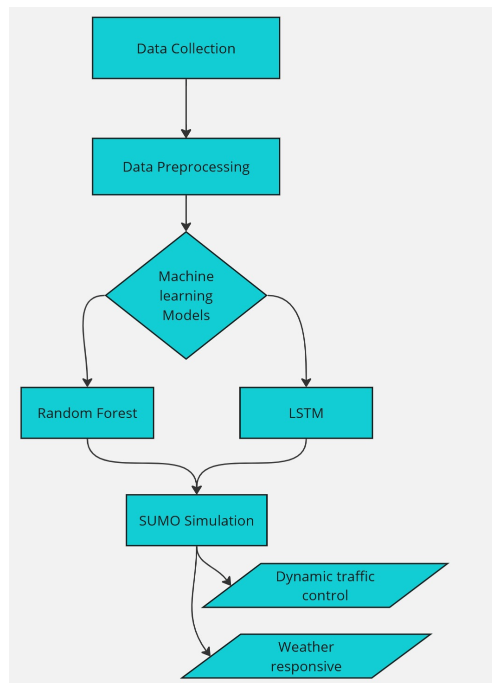

Fig. 1. Solution Architecture Diagram

VII. Results

VIII. Conclusion

By integrating historical and live weather data into traffic management systems, we created smarter, more adaptive traffic control strategies that responded to real-world environmental conditions. The combination of advanced data analysis, real-time sensors, and well-designed algorithms ensured that traffic systems are not only more efficient but also safer, especially during adverse weather. Implemented this project offered significant societal benefits such as reduced congestion, improved road safety, and optimized traffic flow, making cities more livable and sustainable. This approach was a critical step toward building smart cities capable of handling dynamic urban challenges in real-time.

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