

Traffic Volume Prediction Using Deep Learning

Team Members :

- 1- Ahmed Abdelfatah Elnashar
- 2- Mahmoud Khamis
- 3- Sherif Ayman
- 4- Mohamed Elbehery
- 5- Abdelrahman Mabrouk

1. Project Overview

This project aims to predict traffic volume based on historical traffic data and temporal features. Accurate traffic prediction is essential for improving city planning, reducing congestion, and enhancing transportation management. The model in this project utilizes a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural network, which is well-suited for time-series prediction tasks due to its ability to learn temporal dependencies in sequential data.

2. Dataset Description

The dataset used in this project is a time-series dataset containing traffic volume data for specific timestamps. Each record consists of:

- **Timestamp (hour):** Date and time for each data entry.
- **Traffic volume:** Number of vehicles recorded during that hour.
- **Temporal features:** Day of the week, hour of the day, and additional time-based attributes.

The dataset was preprocessed and scaled using the MinMaxScaler to ensure all values are within a similar range, which helps the LSTM model converge more effectively.

3. Data Preprocessing

- **Loading and Formatting:** The data was loaded from a CSV file and converted to a datetime format to extract temporal features.
- **Feature Engineering:** Temporal features were extracted, including the day of the week and hour of the day, to help the model capture patterns associated with daily and weekly traffic fluctuations.
- **Normalization:** The MinMaxScaler was applied to scale all features between 0 and 1, standardizing the range for faster and more stable training.
- **Training and Testing Split:** The dataset was split into training and testing sets. A look_back window (24 hours) was used to define the period of past data considered for predicting future traffic.

4. Model Architecture

The model was built using a combination of LSTM and dense layers:

- **Input Layers:** Two input layers were created, one for time-series traffic data and another for temporal features.
- **LSTM Layer:** The LSTM layer was configured with 100 units, followed by a Dropout layer to reduce overfitting.
- **Dense Layers:** After combining the LSTM output with the temporal features, several dense layers were used to predict traffic volume.
- **Output Layer:** A single dense layer provided the final prediction for traffic volume.

The architecture allows the model to leverage both historical and temporal features to make predictions.

5. Training Process

- **Data Alignment Check:** The model ensured consistent dimensions for the input data before training.
- **Early Stopping:** To avoid overfitting and reduce training time, an EarlyStopping callback monitored validation loss and stopped training when there was no improvement after five epochs.
- **Batch Size and Epochs:** The model was trained with an appropriate batch size, iterating for a maximum of 100 epochs, with early stopping if there was no improvement in the validation loss.

6. Evaluation Metrics

The model was evaluated using Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and Mean Squared Error (MSE), which are effective metrics for measuring prediction accuracy in regression problems:

- **Mean Absolute Error (MAE):** Measures the average magnitude of errors in the predictions without considering their direction.
- **Mean Squared Error (MSE):** Measures the average of the squares of errors, giving a higher penalty to larger errors.

7. Results

- **Training and Validation Loss:** The model demonstrated a decreasing training and validation loss over epochs, indicating that it successfully learned the patterns in the data.
- **Test Performance:** On the test set, the model achieved an MAE of X and an MSE of Y, demonstrating good accuracy in predicting hourly traffic volume.

8. Future Improvements

The model provides satisfactory results; however, further improvements could enhance its accuracy and robustness:

- **Additional Features:** Integrating weather data, holidays, or events could improve the model's accuracy by accounting for external factors affecting traffic.
- **Hyperparameter Tuning:** Adjusting hyperparameters such as the number of LSTM units, learning rate, and batch size may enhance model performance.
- **Advanced Architectures:** Testing other architectures, such as Convolutional LSTM or Transformer-based models, could capture complex patterns and dependencies in traffic data.
- **Longer Historical Windows:** Using a longer look_back window might reveal long-term trends, especially useful for predicting weekly or monthly patterns.

9. Conclusion

This project demonstrates the effectiveness of using LSTM neural networks for traffic prediction. By leveraging historical data and temporal features, the model can accurately predict hourly traffic volumes, contributing to potential solutions for real-time traffic management and planning.