Revolutionizing Disaster Management:

Advancements in Cloudburst and Flash Flood Prediction and Forecasting using Machine Learning

Problem Statement

Natural disasters can have devastating effects on communities. **Cloudbursts and flash floods** are particularly challenging to predict and manage and forecast in realtime.

Cloudbursts and Flash Floods

Cloudbursts and flash floods are sudden and intense events that can cause significant damage to infrastructure and loss of life. They are caused by heavy rainfall that overwhelms the capacity of drainage systems.

Rainfall of 10 cm or more in an hour over a roughly 10 km x 10-km area is classified as a cloudburst event.

During Cloudburst a area receives 10% of it's annual rainfall.

It's crucial to understand that cloudbursts can occur suddenly, and their intensity can escalate rapidly. Therefore, the specific rainfall rate before the initial state of a cloudburst can vary significantly based on the local weather patterns and the unique combination of meteorological factors at the time.

Traditional prediction and forecasting methods have limited accuracy and lead time.

Challenges in cloudburst prediction

Most of the cloudburst occurred in Himalayan regions during monsoon periods. The places cloudburst attacks are mostly hill regions, agricultural places and Militarycamps.

Sudden snowfalls and avalanches also caused by these cloudburst events.

Cloudbursts are not easily predictable and forecastable in real time. Cloudbursts are not controllable when it started and it results flashfloods.

Still Now most of the countries not considering cloudburst as a natural disaster and more awareness is required.

Weather Factors to predict cloudburst

The WeatherFactors **[RainfallRate,Temperature,Humidity,windspeed,wind direction, atmospheric pressure, cloud type, sun shine]** of Cloudburst and common rain are same only, the difference and main effects of cloudburst are depends on density of water drop rainfall rate and drastic change in weather conditions.

	Normal Rain	Cloud Burst
1.)Rainfall Rate	2.5 to 7.6mm	100 to 300 mm
2.)Temperature	25 to 35 C	Reduced Drastically
3.)Humidity	80% to 90%	More than 100%
4.)Wind Speed	5 to 15 Km/hr	50 to 60 Km/hr
5.)Wind Direction	south-west, east	southwest to southeast
6.)Atmospheric Pressure	1013.25 mb	More higher or lower
7.)Cloud Type	Cumulonimbus, stratus, cirrus Clouds	Cumulonimbus cloud
8.)sun shine	Yes/No	No

Regions Affected by CloudBurst

Uttarakhand Cloudburst (June 2013): Uttarakhand witnessed a series of cloudbursts and heavy rainfall in June 2013, leading to catastrophic flash floods and landslides. Thousands of people lost their lives, and many were reported missing.

Jammu and Kashmir Cloudburst (July 2016): In July 2016, cloudbursts and heavy rainfall affected parts of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Poonch and Rajouri districts. The floods and landslides resulted in several casualties and extensive damage to infrastructure and homes.

Himachal Pradesh Cloudbursts (Multiple Incidents): Himachal Pradesh, a hilly state in northern India, is prone to cloudbursts. Various incidents have occurred over the years, leading to flash floods and landslides in different regions of the state.

In **August 2022, over 20 people were killed in destruction caused by cloudbursts** and flash floods in different parts of **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**. In **July 2022, a cloudburst near the holy Amarnath cave shrine** in India's Kashmir caused flash floods that **killed at least 16 people during an annual Hindu pilgrimage**. In addition, a series of cloudbursts struck **Uttarakhand in August 2021, killing 33 people and leaving 35 missing**.

Machine Learning

Machine learning is a type of artificial intelligence that enables computers to learn from data and make predictions or decisions without being explicitly programmed. It has been applied to disaster management to improve prediction and forecasting accuracy and lead time.

This technology will help to make a prediction system that will **predict cloudburst at its starting time.**

Advanced prediction frameworks such as ElNet,XgBoost and DeepAR are popular networks used for numeric data prediction systems.

In our system the **target variable will be Rainfall and cloudburst stage** and the **input variables will be the weather factors** of the climate.

Data Collection

Machine learning algorithms require large amounts of data to train and make accurate predictions.

 Data collection for cloudburst and flash flood prediction and forecasting involves various sources such as weather stations, satellite imagery, and social media.

In cloudburst the real-time datasets are hard to gather and process, most of the data are in raw state and requires large time to predict in real world scenario.

One of the Main resource to get weather data is **The Cartosat series of satellites is a group of Earth observation satellites operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). These satellites are designed to provide high-resolution imagery and cartographic data for various applications, including urban planning, infrastructure development, natural resource management, and disaster monitoring.**

System Workflow:

Real Time Weather Data (Input) ... Data Processing and Cleaning ... Data Features Selection ...

... Applying statistics calculations ... Proceeding to Prediction System ... **Output(CloudBurst Predicted Yes or No)**

Prediction and Forecasting

Machine learning algorithms can predict and forecast cloudbursts and flash floods with higher accuracy and lead time than traditional methods. This enables emergency responders to take proactive measures to mitigate the impact of these events on communities. Machine learning can also help in post-disaster recovery efforts.

By Forecasting we can easily detect the impact of cloudburst in a particular region and necessary activities will be takes as advanced to reduce the infrastructure and life loses.
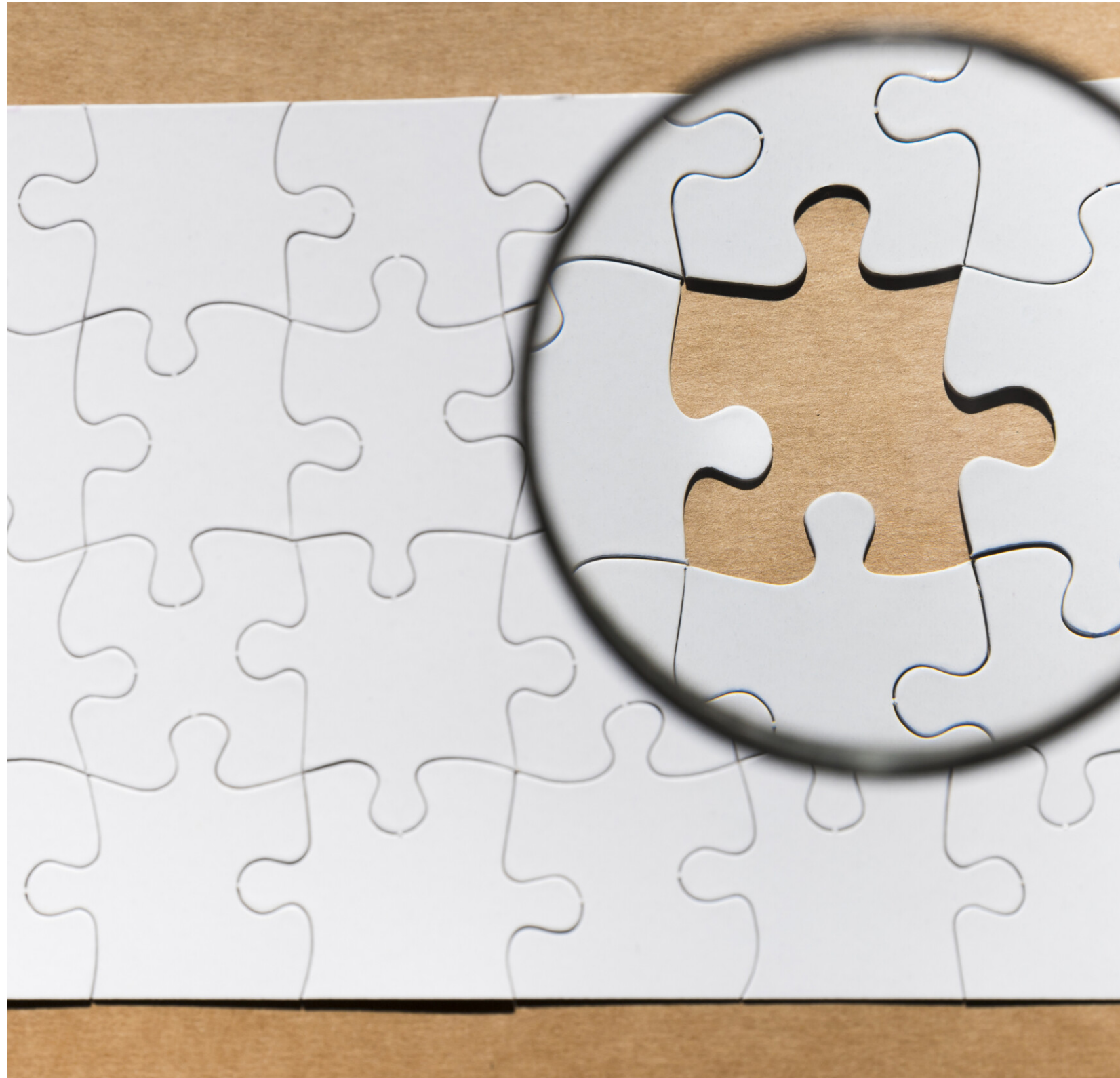
Conclusion

Machine learning has revolutionized disaster management by enabling more accurate and timely prediction and forecasting of cloudbursts and flash floods. This technology has the potential to save lives and minimize damage to infrastructure. Continued research and development in this area is crucial for improving disaster management globally.

Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

Contact

YAKESH KARTHIKEYAN B

Department of Computer Science and Engineering,
Sri Sairam Institute of technology - Chennai

E-mail: sit20cs012@sairamtap.edu.in

Phone: +91 8903046081