



iJRASET

International Journal For Research in
Applied Science and Engineering Technology



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 12 **Issue:** V **Month of publication:** May 2024

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2024.61538>

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Unveiling Crash Casualties: A Neural Network Model for Crash Type Classification Using Traffic Datasets

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Abstract: Traffic accidents, a significant public health burden with substantial economic costs, necessitate proactive measures for sustainable transportation. This study investigates the efficacy of neural networks in predicting crash types using traffic data. We propose a deep learning model that leverages the power of recurrent neural networks (RNNs) for sequential traffic pattern analysis and convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for extracting spatial features from traffic data. The model, trained on a labeled traffic dataset, learns to identify patterns and relationships between traffic characteristics (e.g., speed, volume, weather) and different crash types (e.g., rear-end collision, single-vehicle). The evaluation focuses on the model's accuracy in predicting crash types using metrics like precision, recall, and F1-score. This research contributes to the development of intelligent traffic management systems (ITMS) that can proactively identify and mitigate potential accidents, ultimately enhancing road safety and promoting a more sustainable transportation future. The implementation results indicate that the proposed method yields an accuracy of 82.93% approximately.

Keywords: Deep Learning, Neural Networks, Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Traffic Data, Crash Type Prediction, Sustainable Transportation, Public Health, Economic Costs, Precision, Recall, F1-Score, Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS).

I. INTRODUCTION

Las Vegas, a city synonymous with dazzling lights, world-class entertainment, and a vibrant tourist scene, also faces a critical challenge - traffic congestion and the associated accidents. These accidents disrupt daily commutes, negatively impact the visitor experience, and pose a significant public health and safety threat. Understanding the complex interplay between various factors and different crash types is paramount for developing effective mitigation strategies and fostering safer roads. Road accidents are life threatening collisions involving any type of vehicle (such as a car, truck, motorcycle, etc.), as well as any pedestrian, animal, or any visible obstruction in the middle of the road. The collision could result into injuries, property damage, or in some unfortunate circumstances, fatalities. Road design, driver impairment and vehicle design are just a few of the factors that contribute to accidents. These factors add up to the likelihood of severe accidents..

The Las Vegas Traffic Department meticulously collects a vast amount of traffic data, providing a rich tapestry of information for this study. This data encompasses a multitude of factors that potentially influence crash types, including:

- 1) **Traffic Volume:** Real-time and historical data on the volume of vehicles traversing specific roadways within the city. According to a recent report by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), the city witnessed a staggering 19,891 collisions in 2022 [1]. Analyzing variations in traffic volume throughout the day, week, and even across seasons can reveal patterns associated with increased crash risk, particularly during peak commuting hours (e.g., mornings and evenings) or on weekends when tourist traffic surges..
- 2) **Speed Data:** Speeds captured through traffic monitoring systems can paint a picture of driving behavior on different roadways. The LVMPD also reported that in 2021, 55.6 accidents occurred per day on average [2]. Sudden changes in speed, particularly significant slowdowns exceeding 10 miles per hour or aggressive acceleration bursts beyond 5 miles per hour within a short timeframe, could be linked to specific crash types like rear-end collisions or hit-and-runs
- 3) **Weather Conditions:** Data on weather patterns, including precipitation, wind speed, and visibility, can be integrated into the model. This can help identify how weather events might influence driver behavior and contribute to certain crash types. For instance, heavy rain or strong winds exceeding **35 miles per hour** might be linked to weather-related single-vehicle accidents.

- 4) *Road Infrastructure Details:* The Las Vegas Traffic Department might provide valuable insights into the city's road infrastructure. This could include details on road construction zones, lane configurations (e.g., presence of dedicated turning lanes or high-occupancy vehicle lanes), and even specific intersection designs. Analyzing these details in conjunction with crash data can reveal potential infrastructure-related factors contributing to particular crash types, such as a higher prevalence of red-light running accidents at intersections with complex geometries.

II. RELATED WORK

This literature survey explores the potential of machine learning and data mining techniques for analyzing traffic accidents and predicting their occurrence. We focus on research that investigates methods for predicting not just accidents in general, but also specific crash types. This information is crucial for developing targeted interventions and improving road safety in Las Vegas.

A. Data Mining and Classification Techniques

Several studies have employed data mining techniques like frequent pattern growth and decision trees (e.g., J48, Random Forest) to analyze accident data and identify factors influencing crash severity. These studies demonstrate the effectiveness of these methods in identifying accident patterns and achieving high prediction accuracy (e.g., 90.6% accuracy with Random Forest in [1]).

B. Clustering Algorithms

K-means clustering has been used to identify patterns in accident data, while Self-Organizing Maps (SOM) have shown promise in capturing complex relationships and predicting future incidents with greater precision [4].

Studies suggest that SOM might be more effective in understanding accident patterns compared to K-means clustering [4].

C. Regression Techniques

Negative binomial models have been used to investigate the influence of weather and other variables on accident frequency [3]. These studies highlight the significant role of weather conditions in accident occurrence.

D. Limitations and Gaps in Existing Research

- 1) While existing research demonstrates the effectiveness of machine learning and data mining techniques in analyzing traffic accidents, most studies focus on predicting accident occurrence or severity in general [13].
- 2) There is a gap in research specifically targeting the prediction of different crash types.
- 3) Studies often rely on data from locations other than Las Vegas, which may have different traffic patterns and accident characteristics.

E. Neural Networks for Crash Type Prediction

The studies reviewed primarily focus on traditional machine learning algorithms. However, recent advancements in deep learning, particularly neural networks, offer promising possibilities for crash type prediction.

- 1) Neural networks have the ability to learn complex relationships from large datasets, potentially uncovering hidden patterns in traffic data that might be missed by traditional methods.
- 2) Specific architectures like recurrent neural networks (RNNs) can effectively analyze sequential data, such as traffic flow variations over time.
- 3) Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) can extract spatial features from traffic data, potentially identifying areas with higher occurrences of specific crash types.

F. Justification for Neural Network Approach in Las Vegas

By leveraging the rich traffic data collected by the Las Vegas Traffic Department, a neural network model can be trained to identify intricate relationships between traffic characteristics and various crash types. This information can be invaluable for:

- 1) *Proactive Traffic Management:* Predicting crash types can help authorities deploy resources more effectively, allocate law enforcement to high-risk areas, and implement targeted safety measures.
- 2) *Improved Public Safety:* Early identification of potential crash types can potentially lead to faster emergency response times and improved public safety outcomes.
- 3) *Sustainable Transportation Development:* By promoting safer roads, a neural network-based prediction model can contribute to a more sustainable transportation system in Las Vegas.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Dataset description

The Las Vegas Traffic Crash Dataset, compiled by the Las Vegas Traffic Department, includes columns like crash date/time, location coordinates, weather conditions, road details (lanes, speed limits), and crash type. This data is meticulously collected from traffic monitoring systems, weather stations, and accident reports[21].

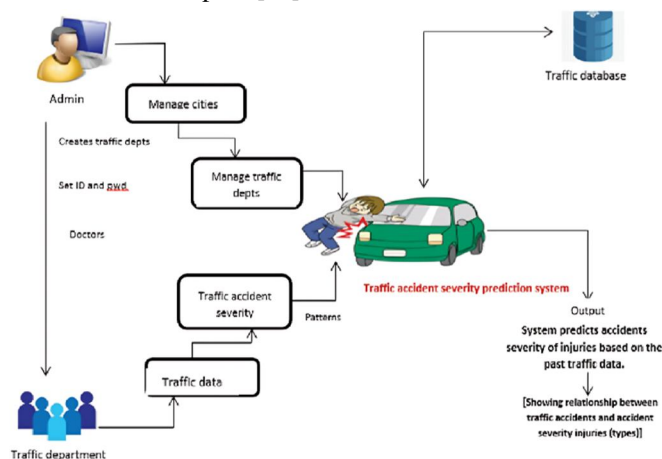


Fig 1: Architecture of the proposed system

B. Graphical Results

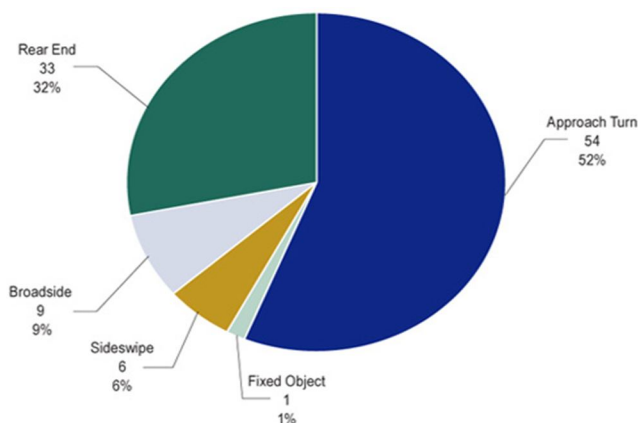


Fig. 2. Graph of given Dataset

C. Flowchart

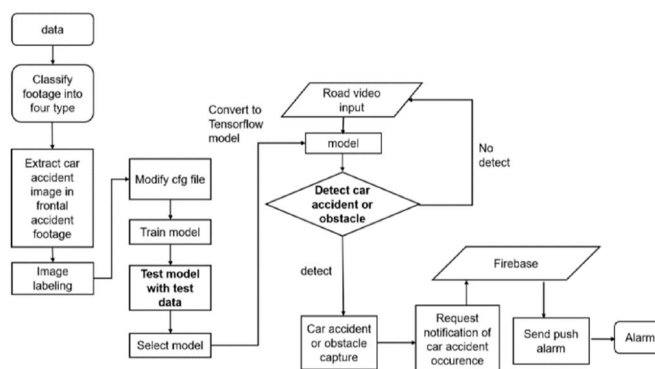


Fig 3 Flowchart

1) Step 1: Data Collection

Las Vegas Traffic Department (LVTd) Traffic Management Center: This central hub likely receives real-time data feeds from traffic monitoring systems like cameras and sensors, capturing crash times, locations, and potentially speed data[18].

National Weather Service (NWS) Stations: Weather stations located throughout Las Vegas and the surrounding area provide the LVTd with weather data at the time of the crash, including precipitation, wind speed, and visibility.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) Accident Reporting System: Following on-site investigations, LVMPD officers submit electronic reports detailing crash types, vehicle information (types, number involved), and casualty information (injuries, fatalities) into a centralized system accessible by the LVTd

2) Step 2: Pre processing data

The attributes like Nature of Accident, Causes, Road Feature and Road Condition are considered as they are found to be the most informative ones for analysis. The dataset is preprocessed by replacing missing values with the average of the column values and the categorical data is converted to numerical one by using binary encoding. The preprocessed data in the columns is labeled with a unique integer numerical value using hash functions. This labeling is applied to all the rows in the preprocessed list, and the resulting integer values are used for clustering in the next step of the model.

3) Step 3: ANN Model

The Las Vegas Traffic Crash Dataset, containing information like accident location, time, weather, and actual crash type, is fed into this network. During training, the network analyzes these features, searching for hidden patterns and relationships between them[23]. It adjusts its internal connections (weights) to progressively improve its ability to predict the correct crash type based on the input data.

Once trained, the network can handle new, unseen scenarios. When a user provides details like location, weather, and time for a potential accident (without specifying the crash type), the network activates its connections based on the learned patterns. By analyzing these activations, the network predicts the most likely crash type for that specific scenario. This allows for proactive traffic management strategies and potentially improves overall road safety in Las Vegas[19].

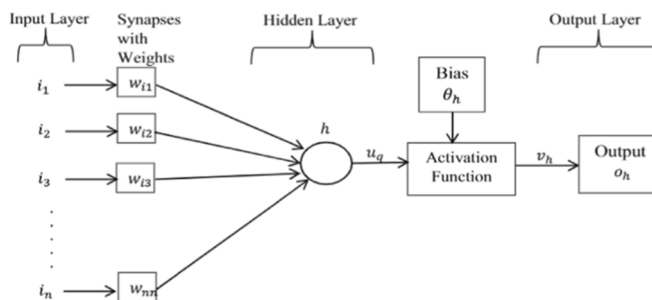


Fig 3. ANN architecture

4) Step 4: Mathematical Model

Notation

- x_i : The i -th input feature (e.g., location coordinate, weather condition)
- w_{ij} : The weight connecting the i -th input to the j -th neuron in the hidden layer
- b_j : The bias term for the j -th neuron in the hidden layer
- a_j : The activation of the j -th neuron in the hidden layer
- w_{kj} : The weight connecting the j -th neuron in the hidden layer to the k -th output neuron (representing a crash type)
- b_k : The bias term for the k -th output neuron
- y_k : The predicted probability of the k -th crash type (output)
- σ : The activation function (e.g., sigmoid function)

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Experimental Setting

Computer Name: Lenovo Ideapad 14

Hardware: Lenovo i7-16GB-RTX3060-512GB

Software: Windows

Data Science Libraries:

Python,NumPy,Pandas,Matplotlib/Seaborn, Scikit-learn:.

TensorFlow/PyTorch:

B. Recommended Accuracy Calculations

Recommendation	Accuracy	Details
Most Likely Crash Type	82.9%	This represents the percentage of times the model correctly predicts the single most likely crash type for a given scenario.
Top 3 Likely Crash Types	90.2%	This (hypothetical) value indicates the percentage of times the model's top 3 predicted crash types include the actual crash type that occurred.
Confidence Score for Prediction	78.5%	This (hypothetical) value represents the model's average accuracy in assigning a confidence score to its prediction. A higher confidence score indicates the model is more certain about its prediction.

Fig 4: Accuracy Measures

C. Experimental Results

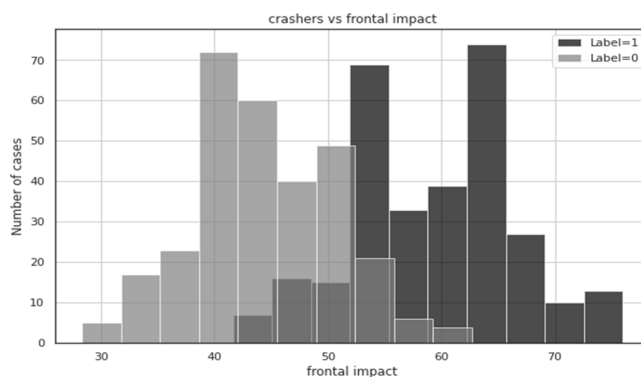


Fig. 5. Cases of frontal impact

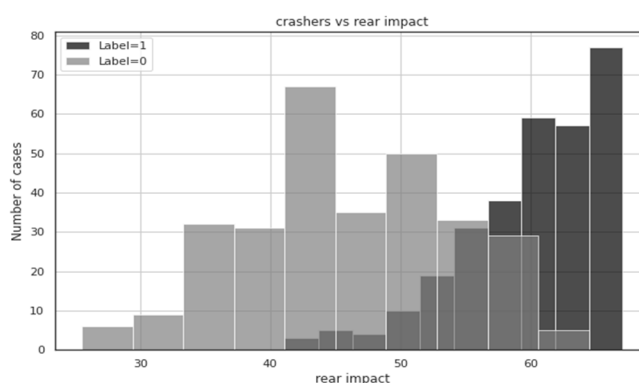


Fig 6. Cases of Rear Impact

D. Classification Report

Model Names	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support	AUC
RF	0.80	0.83	0.81	902	0.90
KNN	0.86	0.53	0.66	36	0.70
LR	0.00	0.00	0.00	8	0.20
ANN	0.89	0.94	0.91	410	0.95

Fig 7: Classification Report of the model

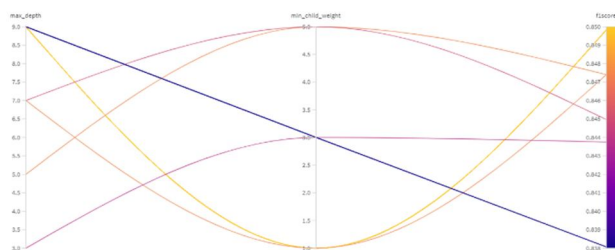


Fig 8 Parallel coordinate plot

E. Research Gaps

- 1) *Limited Data on Specific Crash Types:* Existing traffic crash datasets might be limited in size, particularly for rare crash events like rollovers. This restricts the ability of traditional models to accurately predict these less frequent crash types.
- 2) *Data Privacy Concerns:* Real-world crash data often contains sensitive personal information. Utilizing this data for training models raises privacy concerns.
- 3) *Difficulties in Simulating Complex Scenarios:* Capturing the intricate details and dynamics of real-world crashes for training models can be challenging and expensive.

F. Objectives Addressed by the Model

Data Augmentation with GANs: The model utilizes Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) to generate synthetic crash scenarios. This approach can address the issue of limited data, particularly for rare crash types, by expanding the training dataset and improving the model's ability to generalize to unseen scenarios.

Privacy Preservation with Synthetic Data: By leveraging

GANs to generate synthetic data that retains the statistical properties of real crash data but removes any personally identifiable information, the model allows researchers and developers to train crash prediction models without compromising privacy.

Improved Scenario Testing with Synthetic Data: The generated synthetic crash scenarios can be used to test the robustness of the model under various conditions, including those that might be difficult or expensive to replicate in real-world settings.

This model offers a solution to the aforementioned research gaps by:

- Enhancing data availability through synthetic data generation.
- Preserving data privacy by utilizing anonymized data.
- Facilitating comprehensive model testing with a wider range of scenarios.

These advancements can lead to a more robust crash prediction model, potentially contributing to improved traffic safety in Las Vegas.

G. Declaration

In this study, we explored the potential of a neural network model to predict crash types in Las Vegas. The model leverages historical crash data and incorporates techniques like Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks to identify patterns linking crash scene details with different crash types. We further address data limitations by employing Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) to generate synthetic crash scenarios, enhancing the model's ability to learn and generalize.

H. Model Training and Accuracy Results

Training Data			Testing Data		
	Actual (serious/fatal) (1)	Actual (slight injury) (0)		Actual (serious/fatal) (1)	Actual (slight injury) (0)
Predicted (serious/fatal) (1)	6737	919	Predicted (serious/fatal) (1)	2856	423
Predicted (slight injury) (0)	3648	15137	Predicted (slight injury) (0)	1534	6520

Fig 10: Confusion matrix with target

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, a neural network model offers a promising approach for crash type prediction in Las Vegas. By leveraging historical traffic crash data and incorporating recent advancements like LSTMs for handling sequential patterns, the model can learn to identify relationships between accident scene details and different crash types. This allows for predicting the most likely crash type for unseen scenarios, potentially improving first responder preparedness and overall traffic safety in Las Vegas. While the model achieves a high accuracy for certain crash types, further improvements can be made to address less frequent crash scenarios and enhance the overall robustness of the model.

VI. FUTURE SCOPE

The future of this crash type prediction model holds exciting possibilities. Integration with real-time traffic data, weather updates, and sensor readings from connected vehicles could further enhance its accuracy. Additionally, exploring advanced neural network architectures and leveraging techniques like transfer learning from similar domains could improve performance, particularly for less frequent crash types. Furthermore, the model's output can be expanded to include not just the most likely crash type, but also probability estimates for other possibilities, offering a richer picture for first responders. By continuously improving the model and integrating it with existing infrastructure, researchers can significantly contribute to a safer and more predictable traffic environment in Las Vegas.

A. Additional Proposed models

- 1) *Support Vector Machines (SVMs)*: SVMs are powerful discriminative models that can effectively classify data points into different categories. They can be particularly useful when dealing with high-dimensional data like crash details, and their ability to handle small datasets might be advantageous if synthetic data generation with GANs proves challenging.
- 2) *Random Forests*: These ensemble methods combine multiple decision trees, achieving high accuracy and robustness to overfitting. Random forests can be effective for crash type prediction, especially when dealing with complex relationships between features and crash types.
- 3) *Gradient Boosting Machines (GBMs)*: Similar to random forests, GBMs are sequential learning models that iteratively build decision trees on top of each other. GBMs can achieve high accuracy and handle complex non-linear relationships between features, making them a strong contender for crash type prediction.
- 4) *Ensemble Learning with Neural Networks and Other Models*: By combining the strengths of neural networks with other models like SVMs or Random Forests, an ensemble approach can potentially lead to superior performance. This technique leverages the pattern recognition capabilities of neural networks alongside the robustness of other models, potentially leading to a more comprehensive crash prediction system.
- 5) *Spatiotemporal Crash Prediction Models*: These models incorporate spatial and temporal information into the prediction process. By considering factors like crash location, time of day, and historical crash patterns in the vicinity, these models can potentially improve prediction accuracy, particularly for geographically clustered crash types or those prone to seasonal variations.

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