

# Temporal Air Quality Forecasting using Hybrid RNN Model.

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**Abstract**—In many nations, poor air quality has turned into a significant environmental issue. The majority of air pollutants seriously harm people's health and quality of life. Rapid urbanisation, industrial expansion, and traffic are all contributing to a significant decline in air quality. In this work, we suggest a hybrid recurrent neural network (RNN) model that combines the benefits of wave transform decomposition and LSTM model for temporal air quality forecasting. The time series is divided into trend, seasonal, and residual components using the decomposition technique, which is then fed into the LSTM model for forecasting. We examined the effectiveness of the suggested model using daily air quality data collected from a monitoring station in Delhi. Our outcome indicates that the Hybrid LSTM model outperforms traditional time-series models and the LSTM model in terms of predicting accuracy, having reduced the mean absolute error and mean square error of 50% for PM2.5 concentrations, performs better in terms of forecasting accuracy than traditional time-series models and the Long short-term memory model. Furthermore, the decomposition technique allows us to identify the underlying trends and seasonal patterns in the data, which can provide insights for air quality management. Our results highlight the potential for further advancements in this field and show the value of using a decomposition technique and LSTM model for air quality forecasting.

**Index Terms**—

Air quality, wave decomposition, PM2.5 concentration, LSTM

## I. INTRODUCTION

On a global level, air pollution poses a serious hazard to human health that is growing in importance. The World Health Organization (WHO) 2018 report states that 92% of people worldwide breathe toxic air, which is thought to be the cause of 7 million annual fatalities. Two respiratory and cardiovascular disorders, emphysema and asthma, are among the harmful impacts of pollution in the air on human health. In addition, ambient air pollution has 1.8 years off the average lifetime.

[9] The World Bank estimates that the economic costs of air pollution, including lost productivity, medical costs, and early deaths, total \$5 trillion annually. By 2050, it is anticipated that the number of premature deaths brought on by particulate matter (PM) will have more than tripled. Thus, it is essential to identify a precise and practical method to lower

ambient air pollution if we are to guarantee the security and well-being of the global populace.

We cannot see pollutants, and we are not aware of the reasons why pollution levels are rising. To comprehend the origins, it is necessary to first go over the principles of air pollution [3]. PM2.5 endangers the environment globally. Long-term exposure to these particles, which can quickly reach deep within the respiratory organs, can result in a variety of diseases. The diameter of PM2.5, which is much smaller than the diameter of a human hair, is 2.5 microns. As a result, there is a significant source of exposure and sickness on the human body. They endanger human health, raising the likelihood of cancer and other endemic and pandemic diseases. The ultimate goal is to raise public awareness of the variables that affect energy consumption and methods for controlling it. [8]

In this paper, we present a hybrid RNN model that combines the decomposition technique with long short-term memory for temporal air quality forecasting (LSTM). While the decomposition techniques are used to break down the time series into wave transforms, which aid in identifying trends, cyclic patterns, etc., the LSTM cells are renowned for their capacity to capture long-term dependencies in the data. The proposed model also incorporates input features, which have been demonstrated to be significant predictors of air quality, such as meteorological variables and time of day.

Using actual air quality data gathered from a monitoring station in Delhi, we assessed the performance of the suggested model. With a mean absolute error of  $3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for PM2.5 concentrations, our results show that the hybrid RNN model outperforms conventional time-series models and other RNN models in terms of forecasting accuracy. In addition, the hybrid RNN model offers useful insights into temporal trends in air pollution that may be utilised to guide policy and decision-making for the management of air quality. The rest of this paper is structured as follows. A summary of related research employing RNN models for air quality forecasting is included in Section 2. Experimental area of study explained in Section 3. The experimental setup and proposed methodology is explained in section 4. The findings of four model evaluations are shown in Section 5 and 6. Section 7 concludes the paper and considers possible future lines of enquiry for this field of study.

## II. RELATED WORKS

In order to forecast particulate matter (fraction PM<sub>2.5</sub>) air pollution, a study comparing artificial neural networks (ANNs) and adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference systems (ANFIS) was conducted. The results are provided in this publication. PM<sub>2.5</sub> hourly measurement records from the Airbase databases were used for the trials. The two key statistical measures calculated were mean absolute error and root mean square error (MAE). [6]

This study proposes improved models for estimating hourly air pollution concentrations using meteorological data from previous days. A multi-task learning (MTL) problem with various regularisation techniques is used to formulate the prediction over the next 24 hours. The results show that the parameter-reducing formulations and regularisations associated with successive hours outperform commonly used standard regression models and regularisations for MTL when compared to the proposed regularisation. [10]

This study uses along short-term memory (LSTM) approach to foresee O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO concentrations in Delhi, the heavily polluted Indian National Capital Territory. The research adopts a separate set of parameters and criteria, such as traffic data, level of pollution, climatic status, and vehicle emission. The LSTM models accurately estimate hourly concentrations while handling the complexities of long-term interactions coming from both human and natural sources. The results of this study may be used by the government and policymakers to plan actions to reduce the negative effects of declining air quality. [4]

Because pollutants can be harmful to human health, predicting air pollution is a hot topic. Traditional machine learning models typically focus on increasing prediction accuracy overall while ignoring accuracy for peak values. Furthermore, it is impossible to comprehend these models. They do not adequately explain how various deciding factors interact to affect air pollution. In this study, a new combination of interpretable predictive machine learning model is enhanced with two novelties for the prediction of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. First, a fusion model framework is developed using deep neural networks and a nonlinear autoregressive moving average with exogenous input model. Second, this hybrid model includes methods for automatically creating and choosing features. The experimental findings show that

our model outperforms other models in terms of highest value prediction precision and model interpretability. The proposed model illustrates how to calculate PM<sub>2.5</sub> estimates using existing PM<sub>2.5</sub>, climate, and season data. The recommended approach also provides an easy-to-understand machine learning framework for temporal series data, enabling the creation of precise predictive models and the defence of intricate relationships between multimodal inputs. [2]

Globally, air pollution is a key factor in premature mortality. It's crucial to understand and anticipate air pollution patterns to lessen its caused damage. Complex prediction algorithms are needed for this. In order to understand PM<sub>2.5</sub> patterns throughout space and time, deep learning models like GCNN and ConvLSTM are used. Remote sensing satellite photos are utilised to monitor atmospheric pollutant issues while time-series multidimensional directed graphs are employed to characterise climate aspects. ConvLSTM is

used to foresee PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Los Angeles region using data from the preceding 10 days and ground-based PM<sub>2.5</sub> sensor data. The spatiotemporal deep predictive algorithms outperform earlier studies significantly. [5]

In the proposed study, a hybrid approach is introduced for effectively breaking down single, one-dimensional PM<sub>2.5</sub> time data into various dimensional time data and extracting hidden information from it. Each sequence is predicted by the algorithm using traditional prediction techniques, and the final predictions are obtained by reconstructing the results. Three hybrid models W-ANN, W-ARIMA, and W-SVM were developed in the study to foresee 2016 PM<sub>2.5</sub> trends in five Chinese cities. According to the outputs, combined models perform better than traditional ARIMA, ANN, and SVM models at forecasting short-term PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. When it comes to forecasting PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations, the W-ARIMA model performs better, especially when it comes to capturing the mutational points that could help create pollution warnings. [1]

A new model for predicting PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations for each hour during heavy haze episodes is presented in the proposed work. For increased forecasting accuracy, this model combines the mode decomposition-recombination method with an ensemble learning strategy. The data is divided into several frequency modes using the FEEMD to lessen the effects of noise in the data. Then, to ensure precise extraction of information and computational efficiency, related modes are combined and excessive breakdown is avoided using the sample entropy (SE). As a forecasting model, SDEM is built which is stack driven to improve feature representation and information consumption capabilities. Each base model's generalisation performance is enhanced via K-fold cross-validation, and the meta-model generates higher prediction results by using each base model's outputs as new inputs. Regarding predicting precision, stability, and class prediction rate, the FEEMD-SE-SDEM model performs better than earlier contrast models, making it a suitable choice for an early air quality warnings system. [7]

### III. STUDY AREA

#### A. Data Collection

Delhi, the capital of India, is located in the northern part of the nation. It is a big, multiethnic city that has a thriving modern culture and history. The city, which has a population of around 20 million, is a hub for business, politics, and education. Due to the large population, transportation, urbanisation, industrialization, etc. are all growing quickly. These are some of the factors that contribute to Delhi's high pollution levels, which can impair people's health. There are 46 live monitoring stations for air quality in Delhi, one of which I have chosen to be in Ashok Vihar. It is a residential neighbourhood in Delhi's northwest. It is roughly at latitude 28.6958°. Delhi has a hot semi-arid climate, with extremely hot summers and cool winters. The temperature can reach as high as 45°C (113°F) in the summer months of May and June, while the winter temperatures can fall as low as 2°C (35.6°F) in December.

nd January. The city experiences monsoon rains from July to September, which provide relief from the hot summer months. Overall, the climate of Delhi is characterized by its extreme temperature variations and seasonal winds.



Fig.1.GeographicallocationofAshokVihar

### B.DatasetDescription

The dataset collected from Ashok Vihar contain 1450 data with 11 features which include concentrations like PM2.5, PM10, NO2, NOx etc and meteorological factors like wind speed, humidity, temperature, wind direction etc. The data is collected from year 2019 January - 2022 December.

## IV. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology is a technique which illustrates the model used in this work step by step. The dataset is collected from <https://cpcb.nic.in/>. In that website from Ashok Vihar live air quality monitoring station the data is collected for past 4 years. The work flow is provided below as shown in [?]. The data is extracted in CSV format. Data preprocessing is a technique which is used to prepare a better data for training the model. Then all values in the dataset are identified and replaced with distribution of each feature. For outlier detection a robust outlier detection algorithm Hampel Identifier is used.

### A.HampelIdentifier

To exclude outliers from a dataset, one technique is to implement the Hampel Identifier. It starts by figuring out the data's median and median absolute deviation (MAD). By computing the median of the absolute deviation from the median, the MAD as a measure of the data's variability is established. Each data point is then compared to the median; if the absolute difference exceeds a certain number (often a multiple of the MAD), it is deemed an outlier and eliminated from the dataset. In statistical analysis, data mining, and machine learning applications, the Hampel Identifier is useful, especially when working with datasets that have errors or extreme values.

### B. Decomposition

Decomposition is the process of breaking down time series into waveforms using mathematical techniques. It is used to identify the hidden trends, patterns and cycles in time series data. There are different types of decomposition techniques, Ensemble Empirical Mode Decomposition (EEMD) is used in this model for decomposing the PM2.5 feature. The decomposed PM2.5 is shown in figure 2. Since mode mixing makes it challenging to distinguish between several oscillatory modes in the data, the EEMD approach is an improvement over the EMD method. The breakdown becomes

more diverse when noise is added to the data, making it easier to identify the many oscillatory modes. This method offers a strong tool for understanding the underlying processes that generate the data, making it valuable. The PM2.5 data is broken down into IMFs and residual. The IMFs are helpful in capturing the higher trends or high frequency and residual used to capture the lower trends or lower frequency in the model.

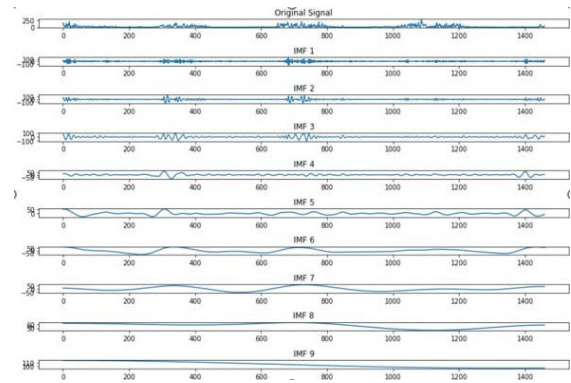


Fig.2.DecompositionofPM2.5

### C.LSTM

The issue of typical RNNs' vanishing or exploding gradients is resolved by the RNN architecture approach known as LSTM. Because it can identify long-term dependencies in the data. LSTM is useful for time series data. LSTMs use memory cells to store information over time and gates made of sigmoid and tanh functions to regulate information flow. These gates increase the model's ability to represent complex sequences by allowing it to choose to retain or reject information based on the input data. Overall, LSTM has been extensively applied in many different applications and is a strong tool for modeling sequential data. Before passing the data to the LSTM model, the data is scaled with a feature range of (0,1). Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks use three different types of gates: input, output, and forget gates as shown in figure 3. In order for LSTM to manage long-term dependencies in sequential data, these gates are crucial because they regulate the flow of information into and out of the memory cell.

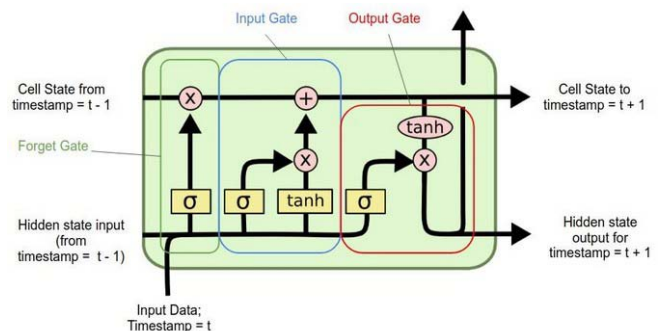


Fig.3.ArchitectureofLSTM

### D.ModellingProcessofHybridLstmApproach

Overall, this work offers a hybrid LSTM (HI-EEMD-LSTM) model for the daily PM2.5 forecasting, following the tech

nical path of decomposition and LSTM. The modelling process is depicted in figure 4, and it may be summed up as follows:

Step-

1: Get historical information, such as PM2.5 concentrations and weather information.

Step-

2: To obtain number of IMFs and oner residue mode, perform the EEMD

Step-

3: Standardize the resulting decomposed waves in the feature range from the meteorological data from 0 to 1

Step-

4: Create a (n+1) LSTM model with each IMF acquired from decomposition as the training data for the weather.

Step-5: To acquire the original PM2.5 concentrations, do the inverse EEMD to produce the anticipated PM2.5 concentrations

Step-6: Produce the forecasting exercise's final output.

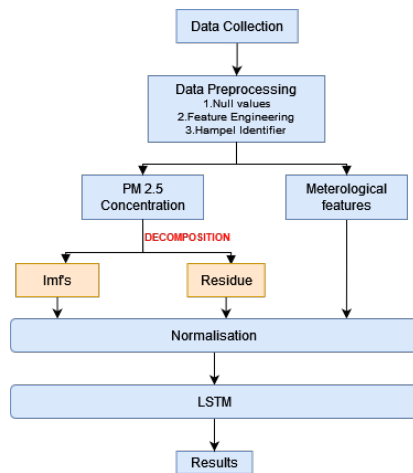


Fig.4. Architecture of Hybrid LSTM model

### V. EVALUATION METRICS

Many evaluation metrics root mean squared error (RMSE), mean absolute error (MAE), and mean squared error (MSE) are used to identify the capability of the model. The evaluation metrics of the model is compared with basic LSTM model to identify how much better the proposed model is executing better than the LSTM model

### VI. RESULTS

The study's findings demonstrated that the hybrid LSTM model greatly performed better than the LSTM models in predicting PM2.5 values based on meteorological data. The MAE of the best LSTM model was 42.20, which was a significant improvement over the baseline MAE of 91.83. Similarly, the root mean squared error (RMSE) was also significantly lower for the LSTM models compared to the baseline models. The LSTM models were particularly effective in capturing long-term dependencies in the data, which helped to improve prediction

ns. The figure 5 and figure 6 gives a graphical representation of both the models with actual and predicted values. These findings suggest that LSTM models may be a useful tool for predicting stock prices, and could have important applications in finance and investment. However, it is important to note that there were some hindrances to the study, including a relatively small sample size and a limited time period for the analysis. Further research is needed to validate these findings and explore the potential of LSTM models for other applications in finance and beyond.

TABLE I: MODEL PERFORMANCE

Model	Evaluation Metrics		
	MAE	MSE	RMSE
LSTM	91.83	12161.98	110
HI-EEMD-LSTM	42.2	3997.97	63.22

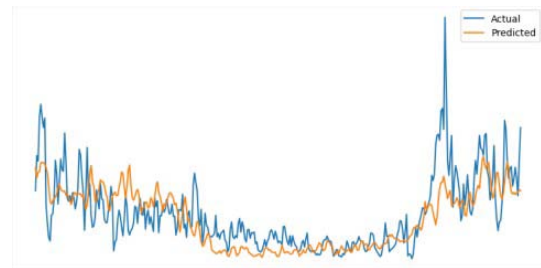


Fig.5. LSTM model

### VII. CONCLUSION

In this study, an innovative Hybrid LSTM model is introduced for predicting daily PM2.5 concentrations by utilizing multiple LSTM models in different modes. The model first applies EEMD to transform the time series fused features into simpler features in a one-mode. The matching between

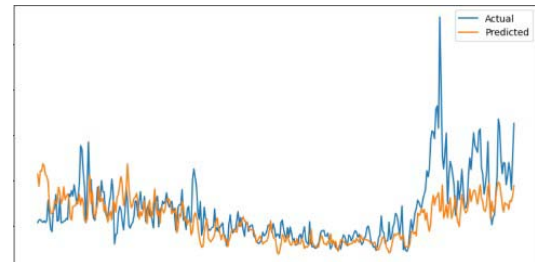


Fig.6. Hybrid LSTM model

meteorological conditions and each mode's coefficients is then constructed using LSTM, resulting in the development of a group of LSTM models for ensemble learning. The predicted mode coefficients are then incorporated into the results using the reverse EEMD. Using wave decomposition, the H-LSTM model has increased the accuracy of PM2.5 observation. When the suggested H-LSTM model is compared to the LSTM model on the Ashok Vihar dataset, it is evident that the H-LSTM model outperforms both of those methods.

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