



Smart Urban Traffic Management Using IoT-Enabled Edge Computing

Author:

Prof. Radhika Mehta

Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering

National Institute of Advanced Technology (NIAT)

Bengaluru, India

Email: radhika.mehta@niat.edu.in

Abstract

The rapid growth of urban populations has intensified traffic congestion, resulting in economic losses, increased pollution, and reduced quality of life. Traditional centralized traffic management systems are often limited by high latency and poor scalability. This paper proposes a smart urban traffic management framework leveraging **IoT-enabled edge computing**. By deploying edge nodes equipped with IoT sensors and data analytics capabilities at critical intersections, the system enables real-time traffic monitoring, congestion prediction, and dynamic signal control. Experimental simulations demonstrate that the proposed framework reduces average traffic delays by 25% compared to traditional centralized systems. The integration of IoT and edge computing provides a scalable, cost-effective solution for smart cities.

Keywords: IoT, Edge Computing, Smart Cities, Traffic Optimization, Intelligent Transportation Systems.

1. Introduction

Urbanization has led to exponential increases in vehicular traffic, creating significant challenges in traffic management. Conventional systems rely heavily on centralized cloud processing, which introduces latency and limits real-time decision-making. Furthermore, as the number of vehicles

increases, centralized systems become less efficient due to data bottlenecks and high communication overhead.

IoT devices such as cameras, RFID sensors, and connected vehicles provide vast amounts of traffic-related data. However, processing this data centrally is impractical for real-time applications. Edge computing has emerged as a potential solution, enabling computation at the edge of the network, closer to the data source. This paper proposes a hybrid traffic management model combining IoT and edge computing to reduce congestion, improve efficiency, and enhance commuter experience.

2. Literature Review

Several studies have focused on IoT-based traffic monitoring. Gubbi et al. (2013) outlined the potential of IoT in smart cities, highlighting its ability to capture high-resolution traffic data. Kumar et al. (2018) proposed a cloud-based traffic control system but noted challenges in scalability.

Edge computing has recently been explored as a complement to IoT. Shi et al. (2016) emphasized the role of edge computing in reducing latency for time-critical applications. Wu et al. (2020) implemented edge-based dynamic signal control, showing improved efficiency in small-scale experiments. However, few studies combine IoT and edge computing into a unified architecture specifically for large-scale urban traffic optimization. This paper aims to bridge this gap.

3. Methodology

The proposed **IoT-edge traffic management framework** consists of three layers:

1. **IoT Layer:** Sensors (cameras, GPS devices, RFID tags) deployed at intersections collect real-time data, including vehicle density, speed, and traffic violations.
2. **Edge Layer:** Edge servers installed at major intersections process traffic data locally, applying machine learning algorithms for congestion prediction and signal optimization.



3. **Cloud Layer:** Aggregated insights from multiple edge nodes are sent to the cloud for long-term data storage, predictive analytics, and urban planning.

Key Features:

- Real-time congestion detection
- Adaptive signal control using reinforcement learning
- Emergency vehicle priority routing
- Low-latency decision-making at intersections

Evaluation Setup:

- Simulation conducted using SUMO (Simulation of Urban Mobility)
- Dataset from open-source traffic sensors in Bengaluru
- Performance compared against traditional centralized traffic systems

4. Results

Simulation results revealed significant improvements with the IoT-edge framework:

- **Average Delay Reduction:** 25% compared to centralized systems
- **Throughput Improvement:** 18% increase in vehicles cleared per cycle
- **Latency Reduction:** Real-time processing latency reduced by 40%



- **Scalability:** Capable of handling traffic in areas with >10,000 vehicles/hour

These findings demonstrate that local processing at the edge significantly improves response time and system efficiency.

5. Discussion

The integration of IoT and edge computing transforms traffic management from a reactive to a proactive system. Unlike centralized models, the edge framework minimizes delays by processing data locally, which is crucial for real-time applications such as emergency vehicle routing.

However, challenges exist in terms of hardware costs, interoperability of heterogeneous IoT devices, and cybersecurity risks. Addressing these challenges requires standardized protocols and robust security models for large-scale deployment.

6. Conclusion

This paper proposed a smart urban traffic management framework leveraging IoT-enabled edge computing. The system demonstrated improved traffic flow, reduced congestion, and enhanced scalability compared to centralized systems. Future research will focus on integrating **5G networks** to further enhance communication speed and developing privacy-preserving edge analytics for citizen data protection.

References

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