

A MACHINE LEARNING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE CLASSIFICATION
IN SMART CITIES

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my father, who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that which is learned for its own sake. It is also dedicated to my mother, who taught me that even the largest task can be accomplished if it is done one step at a time.

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ABSTRACT

Many people may not be aware of the adverse effects of noise pollution on their health which include hearing impairment, negative social behaviour, anxiety, sleep disturbances and intelligibility to understand speech. Machine learning (ML) is the concept of making the machine determines, classifies, and does operations without being explicitly programmed. It is used in many fields such as intelligent transportation system and autonomous driving. Research in audio recognition has traditionally focused on the domains of speech and music. Comparatively, little research was done towards recognizing non-speech environmental sounds. For this reason, this project aims to develop an ML based classifier of sounds originated from the environment and compares the sound levels with the recommended levels by international standards via a created Graphical User Interface (GUI). Noise Capture mobile application will be used to record four sources of environmental noise, that are from highway, railway, lawn mowers and birds. Then, Python programming will be used to simulate the classification model using Scikit-learn. The trained data entered Scikit-learn gathered from Support Vector Machine (SVM), K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN), Bootstrap Aggregation (Bagging) and Random Forest (RF) classifiers, as well as Artificial Neural Network (ANN) algorithm from Keras and TensorFlow libraries for comparative performances in the accuracy test. In addition to ML, a noise pollution survey is conducted to provide qualitative analysis of community perceptions. The findings of ML are presented in terms of confusion matrix, accuracy, precision, recall and F1 score. The results show that the noise classification accuracy for all models exceeded 95%. The best ML models are RF and ANN due to its high accuracy and the least computational time. The findings of survey are also presented, which indicates that there is no correlation between gender, age, location with knowledge of noise pollution and the effect of noise on people. People are bothered by noise regardless of their age and gender.

ABSTRAK

Ramai orang mungkin tidak menyedari kesan buruk pencemaran bunyi terhadap kesihatan mereka yang merangkumi masalah pendengaran, tingkah laku sosial yang negatif, kegelisahan, gangguan tidur dan kesukaran memahami ucapan. Pembelajaran mesin (ML) adalah konsep membuat mesin menentukan, mengklasifikasikan, dan melakukan operasi tanpa diprogram secara eksplisit. Ia digunakan dalam banyak bidang seperti sistem pengangkutan pintar dan pemanduan autonomi. Penyelidikan dalam pengecaman audio secara tradisional memfokuskan pada bidang pertuturan dan muzik. Secara perbandingan, sedikit kajian dilakukan untuk mengenali bunyi persekitaran bukan pertuturan. Atas sebab ini, projek ini bertujuan untuk membangunkan pengkelas berasaskan ML untuk bunyi yang berasal dari persekitaran serta membandingkan tahap bunyi dengan tahap yang disyorkan oleh piawaian antarabangsa melalui perantara muka pengguna grafik (GUI) yang dicipta. Aplikasi mudah alih Noise Capture akan digunakan untuk merakam empat punca bunyi persekitaran, iaitu dari jalan raya, kereta api, mesin pemotong rumput dan burung. Kemudian, pengaturcaraan Python akan digunakan untuk mensimulasikan model klasifikasi menggunakan Scikit-learn. Data terlatih yang dimasukkan ke dalam Scikit-learn dikumpulkan dari pengkelas Mesin Vektor Sokongan (SVM), K-Jiran Terdekat (KNN), Pengumpulan Bootstrap (Bagging) dan Hutan Rawak (RF) dan juga algoritma Rangkaian Saraf Buatan (ANN) dari Keras dan perpustakaan TensorFlow untuk perbandingan prestasi dalam pengujian ketepatan. Selain ML, soal selidik pencemaran bunyi dilakukan untuk mendapatkan analisis kualitatif persepsi masyarakat. Penemuan dari ML dipersembahkan dari segi matrik kekeliruan, ketepatan, kejituan, ingat semula dan skor F1. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa ketepatan klasifikasi bunyi melebihi 95%. Model ML terbaik ialah RF dan ANN yang mempunyai ketepatan tinggi dan masa pengiraan terendah. Penemuan tinjauan juga dibentangkan, di mana menunjukkan tiada hubungan antara jantina, usia, lokasi dengan pengetahuan mengenai pencemaran bunyi dan kesan bunyi kepada orang ramai. Orang ramai terganggu dengan bunyi bising tanpa mengira usia dan jantina mereka.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	iii
	DEDICATION	iv
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
	ABSTRACT	vi
	ABSTRAK	vii
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
	LIST OF TABLES	xii
	LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvi
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xvii
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xviii
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Overview	1
1.2	Problem Statement	2
1.3	Research Objectives	2
1.4	Scopes of project	3
1.5	Contribution	3
1.6	Organization of report	4
CHAPTER 2	LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1	Introduction	5
2.2	Smart city	5
2.3	Machine learning	6
2.3.1	Supervised learning	10
2.3.1.1	Classification	11
2.3.1.2	Regression	11
2.3.2	Unsupervised learning	11

	2.3.2.1	Clustering	12
	2.3.2.2	Dimensionality Reduction	13
2.4		Existing noise monitoring cloud platforms for smart cities	13
	2.4.1	Noise Planet Project	13
		2.4.1.1 OnoMap	13
		2.4.1.2 NoiseCapture App	14
		2.4.1.3 NoiseModelling	14
		2.4.1.4 Community Maps	15
2.5		Basic Aspects of Acoustical Measurements	15
	2.5.1	Fundamentals of sound	15
	2.5.2	Sound pressure level	18
	2.5.3	Equal-loudness contours	20
	2.5.4	Frequency weighting	22
		2.5.4.1 A-Weighting	22
		2.5.4.2 C-Weighting	23
		2.5.4.3 Z-Weighting	23
	2.5.5	Time weighting	24
		2.5.5.1 Slow	24
		2.5.5.2 Fast	25
		2.5.5.3 Impulse	25
	2.5.6	Equivalent continuous sound pressure level	26
2.6		Available noise measurement tools	27
	2.6.1	Sound level meter	27
	2.6.2	Sound detection sensor	28
	2.6.3	Smartphone	29
2.7		Environmental noise guidelines for the European region	30
	2.7.1	Recommendations	32
		2.7.1.1 Road traffic noise	32
		2.7.1.2 Railway noise	33
		2.7.1.3 Aircraft noise	33

2.7.1.4	Wind turbine noise	33
2.7.1.5	Leisure noise	34
2.8	WHO guidelines for community noise	34
2.9	Related work	36
2.10	Summary	45
CHAPTER 3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	47
3.1	Introduction	47
3.2	Project flow	47
3.2.1	Quantitative data	48
3.2.1.1	Identifying App software	49
3.2.1.2	Machine learning life cycle	52
3.2.1.3	Comparison with WHO standards	56
3.2.2	Qualitative data	56
3.3	Summary	57
CHAPTER 4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	59
4.1	Introduction	59
4.2	Machine learning	59
4.2.1	Details of python code for data formatting	60
4.2.2	Findings of classification	63
4.2.2.1	K-Nearest Neighbour (KNN) model	63
4.2.2.2	Support vector machine (SVM)	67
4.2.2.3	Bootstrap Aggregation (Bagging)	69
4.2.2.4	Random forest (RF)	72
4.2.2.5	Artificial Neural networks (ANN)	74
4.3	GUI design and implementation	77
4.3.1	Details of python code	77
4.4	Statistical findings	83
4.5	Conclusion of statistics	93
4.5.1	Guidelines	94
4.6	Chapter Summary	95

CHAPTER 5	CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK	97
5.1	Introduction	97
5.2	Project Contributions	98
5.3	Future Works	99
REFERENCES		101
Appendices A - D		107 - 118

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Table 2.1	The physical quantities of a sound wave.	16
Table 2.2	Summary of the environmental noise guidelines	34
Table 2.3	Guideline values for community noise in specific environments	35
Table 1.4	Summary of the related work in literature	41
Table 3.1	Smartphones Apps used to measure environmental noise	50
Table 3.2	Classes of sound samples in the dataset	54
Table 4.1	Classification metrics for KNN	64
Table 4.2	Classification metrics for SVM	67
Table 4.3	Classification metrics for Bagging	70
Table 4.4	Classification metrics for RF	72
Table 4.5	Classification metrics for ANN	74
Table 4.6	Qualitative analysis summary	84
Table 4.7	Reliability Statistics	84
Table 4.8	Gender	85
Table 4.9	Age group	86
Table 4.10	Location of participants	87
Table 4.11	Knowledge of Noise	88
Table 4.12	Sources of noise	89
Table 4.13	Noise impact	90
Table 4.14	Correlation between gender, age, location and awareness	92
Table 4.15	Pearson correlation of gender, age, and noise impact	93

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Figure 2.1	The key fields and some related domains of urban development needed for smart cities.	6
Figure 2.2	Block diagram of machine learning [18]	7
Figure 2.3	Most trending real-world applications of ML [19]	8
Figure 2.4	Machine learning life cycle [20]	9
Figure 2.5	Machine Learning technique [21]	9
Figure 2.6	The process of supervised learning [23]	10
Figure 2.7	The process of unsupervised learning [25]	12
Figure 2.8	Illustration of rarefactions and compression of a sound wave.	16
Figure 2.9	A representation of the frequency distribution along the human cochlea, from base to apex [27]	17
Figure 2.10	Illustration of the sound processing by the ear [26]	18
Figure 2.11	The sound pressure level of common noise sources [24]	20
Figure 2.12	Equal-loudness contours for pure tones according to ISO 226:2003	21
Figure 2.13	A, C and Z frequency weighting response	24
Figure 2.14	Demonstrating the behaviour of Fast and Slow weighting [34]	26
Figure 2.15	Demonstrating the behaviour of Impulse weighting [34]	26
Figure 2.16	Sound level meter[36]	27
Figure 2.17	Sparkfun's SEN-12642 sound detection sensor	28
Figure 2.18	Smartphone	30
Figure 3.1	General project flowchart	48
Figure 3.2	Project flowchart of quantitative measurements	49
Figure 3.3	Screenshots of the NoiseCapture application: (top) Measurement views in (a) 'Spectrum', (b) 'Spectrogram' and (c) 'Map' modes; (bottom) (d) 'Description', (e) 'Results' and (f) 'Map' views.	52

Figure 3.4	ML life cycle	53
Figure 3.5	Flow chart of statistics measurements	57
Figure 4.1	Flow chart of ML model development	60
Figure 4.2	Code to import libraries	60
Figure 4.3	Build a data frame	61
Figure 4.4	Extract features	61
Figure 4.5	Append features to data frame	62
Figure 4.7	Read for each class and concatenated into one excel file	62
Figure 4.8	Confusion matrix of KNN	65
Figure 4.9	<i>k</i> -value vs mean error	66
Figure 4.10	KNN model	66
Figure 4.11	Confusion matrix of SVM	68
Figure 4.12	Code of SVM	69
Figure 4.13	Confusion matrix of Bagging	71
Figure 4.14	Code of Bagging	71
Figure 4.15	Confusion matrix of RF	73
Figure 4.16	Code of RF	74
Figure 4.17	Confusion matrix of ANN	75
Figure 4.18	Create and compile the model of ANN	76
Figure 4.19	Present the results	76
Figure 4.20	Codes to import libraries for GUI	77
Figure 4.21	Code of window	78
Figure 4.22	Main widow of GUI	78
Figure 4.23	Codes to obtain the average values for each class	79
Figure 4.24	Codes for Highway Noise button	80
Figure 4.25	Window of Highway Noise button	80
Figure 4.26	Codes for Train noise button	81
Figure 4.27	Window of Train noise button	81
Figure 4.28	Codes for Birds noise button	82

Figure 4.29	Window of Birds noise button	82
Figure 4.30	Codes for Mechanical machine noise button	83
Figure 4.31	Window of Mechanical machine noise button	83
Figure 4.32	Pie chart of gender	85
Figure 4.33	Pie chart of age group	86
Figure 4.34	Chart of participants location	87
Figure 4.35	Pie chart of Knowledge of noise	88
Figure 4.36	Location of respondents	91

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

IOT	-	Internet of Thing
API	-	Application Programming Interface
JSON	-	Java Script Object Notations
ML	-	Machine Learning
KNN	-	K-Nearest Neighbours
SVM	-	Support Vector Machine
RF	-	Random Forest
Bagging	-	Bootstrap aggregation
SPL		Sound Pressure Level
WHO		World Health Organization
LAeq		A-weighted equivalent sound pressure level
Lden		Day-evening-night equivalent sound level
Lnight		Night equivalent sound level
NOISE		Noise Observation and Information Service for Europe
dB		Decibel
dB(A)		A-weighted decibel
END		European Union Directive 2002/49/EC
EU		European Union
GDG		Guideline Development Group

LIST OF SYMBOLS

K	-	The number of nearest neighbors in KNN
dBA	-	A-weighted frequency spectrum in dB

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
Appendix A	Survey questions	107
Appendix B	Full code of data preparation	109
Appendix C	Full code of ML models	111
Appendix D	Full code of GUI	117

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

With increasing population of 60% by the end of 2030 [1], noise pollution will become a serious issue for many cities around the world. This is due to an increase of noise exposure (unpleasant, unwanted and often loud) for the people who are living in cities. Continuous exposure to high levels of noise may cause psychological and physiological issues e.g. hearing impairment, high blood pressure, heart disease, inconvenience and sleep annoyance [2]. Children who are living in noisy places showed low academic results [3]. Low birth weight of new-born babies is associated with noise exposure in pregnant women [3]. Therefore, there is an essential need not only to raise awareness of the harmful effects of noise pollution, but also to provide them with equipment to monitor their exposure to noise. A professional sound levels meter (SLM) is a standard tool for measuring sound pressure levels (SPL) in dB or dBA (A weighted to account for low human ear's sensitivity at low frequencies). However, these tools are expensive, sensitive, large, and above all, hard to use for non-professionals. With the development of smartphones, all of us carry a powerful mini-computer provided with different sensors, including microphones. These sensors can be used with a set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) provided by the smartphone to create applications to measure sound pressure level [4], coronary heart disease detector [5], earth-quake detector [6], and pathological tremor detector [7]. For these apps to accurately process audio data, it is necessary to calibrate the smartphone microphone to report not only correct sound pressure levels but also correct frequency spectrum. However, it is not just necessary for noise measurement to be carried out, it is also essential to control the level of exposure to noise in critical areas such as schools, hospitals and kindergartens. Hence, there is a need to have a noise pollution measurement data in order to assess the level of noise exposure in certain areas.

1.2 Problem Statement

According to recent review by the World Health Organization (WHO), at least 100 million of people get disturbed by road traffic noise in the European Union and in Western Europe alone, at least 1.6 million years of healthy life have been lost due to traffic noise [8]. Noise pollution can affect people psychologically and physiologically such as hypertension, ischemic heart disease, annoyance, and most importantly, interferes with essential activities such as study, rest, sleep, communication and social activities [9], [10]. The sound at the same decibel (dB) level may be perceived either as annoying noise or as pleasant music by different listeners. Therefore, it is necessary to go beyond the state-of-the-art approaches that measure only the dB level [11][12] and also identifies the type of the sound especially when the sound is recorded using Microphone. The issues need to be addressed here: What was on the captured sound: human sound, animal sounds, or music playing? Is this sound exceeded the recommended levels by international standards? What is the community's perception about noise pollution?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are:

- (a) To develop a sound classifier of surrounding environment with WHO recommended level benchmarking.
- (b) To provide qualitative analysis of community perceptions based on noise pollution survey.

1.4 Scopes of project

The following are the considered scopes of this project:

- (a) The developed model considers only noise pollution.
- (b) The focus will be on four kinds of environmental noise originated from highway, railway, Lawn mowers and birds
- (c) The measurements will be conducted using smartphone only.
- (d) The developed model using python programming only.
- (e) The algorithms used are only Support Vector Machine (SVM), K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN), Bootstrap Aggregation (Bagging), Random Forest (RF) and Artificial neural networks (ANN) classifier

1.5 Contribution

The research in audio recognition has traditionally focused on the domains of speech and music. Comparatively, little research was done towards recognizing non-speech environmental sounds. Therefore, this project aims to develop a Machine Learning (ML) sound classification model of sounds originated from the surrounding environment such as sound of birds, vehicles, trains and lawn mowers, as well as comparing the collected noise levels by smartphone with the recommended levels by international standards. A statistical analysis on survey findings is also performed in order to gain a better understanding about the community's perspective on noise pollution and recommend noise mitigation methods.

1.6 Organization of report

This project report consists of five chapters that are organized as below: Chapter 1 consists of a background overview of the project, problem statements, objectives, scopes and contribution of the project. Chapter 2 describes the literature review on topics related to the project. The topics include Smart Cities, Machine learning (ML), Internet of thing (IoT), Cloud platform, fundamental concept of sound, available noise measurement tools, Environmental noise guidelines for the European region, WHO guidelines values for community noise, existing related work and summary with limitation of the previous work. Chapter 3 describes the methodology used in the project by explaining the workflow of the project, tools and software used. Chapter 4 provides the results and discussions of the project. Chapter 5 concludes the report with outcomes and future works of the project.

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