



A MACHINE LEARNING MODEL FOR AVERAGE FUEL CONSUMPTION IN HEAVY VEHICLES

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a machine learning-based approach for predicting average fuel consumption in heavy vehicles, utilizing a data summarization method based on distance rather than traditional time-based intervals. The model incorporates seven key predictors derived from vehicle speed and road grade, processed through a neural network to enhance predictive accuracy. By aggregating predictors over fixed distance intervals, the proposed model can be customized and deployed for individual vehicles within a fleet, optimizing fuel efficiency at scale. Analyzing various window sizes, the study finds that a 1 km distance window achieves a coefficient of determination of 0.91 and a mean absolute peak-to-peak percentage error below 4% across routes comprising both urban and highway driving conditions.

Index Terms—Vehicle modeling, neural networks, fuel consumption prediction, data summarization, fleet optimization.

1.INTRODUCTION

Fuel consumption is a critical factor in the operation and management of heavy vehicles, directly impacting operational costs, fuel efficiency, and environmental sustainability. With the rising cost of fuel and increasing environmental concerns, optimizing fuel usage has become a key priority for fleet operators and transportation companies. Traditional fuel consumption models rely on time-based data aggregation, which may not effectively capture variations in driving conditions such as road grade, vehicle speed, and traffic patterns. As a result, there is a growing need for more accurate and adaptive predictive models that can enhance fuel efficiency and reduce operational costs. To address these challenges, this study introduces a novel machine learning-based approach for

predicting the average fuel consumption of heavy vehicles, leveraging a data summarization method based on distance rather than time. By aggregating vehicle speed and road grade over fixed distance intervals, the proposed model improves fuel efficiency predictions and can be personalized for each vehicle within a fleet. Unlike conventional models, which may struggle to account for dynamic driving conditions, the proposed approach ensures better adaptability and robustness in real-world scenarios. The developed neural network model utilizes seven key predictors derived from driving patterns, enabling real-time decision-making for optimizing fuel consumption. Through extensive evaluations, this study demonstrates that a 1 km window size achieves high predictive accuracy, with a coefficient of determination of 0.91 and a mean absolute

peak-to-peak percentage error of less than 4%. The proposed framework can be seamlessly integrated into fleet management systems, aiding logistics companies in minimizing fuel usage and reducing carbon emissions. By implementing this data-driven approach, fleet operators can not only improve cost efficiency but also contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, this model has the potential to be extended to various types of vehicles, providing a scalable and flexible solution for fuel consumption optimization. This paper is organized as follows: Section II reviews related work in fuel consumption modeling, Section III describes the proposed methodology, Section IV presents experimental results and evaluations, and Section V concludes with key findings and future research directions.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Fuel consumption modeling in heavy vehicles has been an area of extensive research due to its significance in cost reduction, fuel efficiency, and environmental sustainability. Traditional approaches primarily focus on physics-based models and statistical methods, while recent advancements have leveraged machine learning techniques to improve predictive accuracy. This section reviews existing research on fuel consumption modeling, data summarization techniques, and machine learning-based predictive models.

1. Traditional Fuel Consumption Models

Early studies on fuel consumption prediction relied on physics-based models that considered engine parameters,

aerodynamic resistance, and road conditions. The Vehicle Specific Power (VSP) model (Barth et al., 2004) is one of the widely used approaches, estimating fuel consumption based on power demand under different driving conditions. Similarly, the Comprehensive Modal Emissions Model (CMEM) (Frey et al., 2002) integrates real-time driving patterns with fuel consumption calculations. However, these models often require extensive calibration for different vehicle types and may not generalize well across varying road conditions.

Statistical regression models have also been explored for fuel consumption prediction. Linear regression and polynomial regression models (Rakha et al., 2011) use historical data to estimate fuel consumption based on speed, acceleration, and road gradient. While these models provide insights into fuel consumption trends, they often struggle with complex nonlinear relationships present in real-world driving conditions.

2. Machine Learning Approaches in Fuel Consumption Prediction

Machine learning techniques have gained prominence in fuel consumption modeling due to their ability to capture nonlinear dependencies and learn from large datasets. Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) have been widely applied, demonstrating high accuracy in fuel consumption prediction. Liu et al. (2018) developed an ANN-based model that uses GPS data and vehicle speed to estimate fuel usage, showing improved prediction accuracy compared to traditional regression models. Similarly, deep learning models such as Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks have been explored for time-series fuel consumption prediction (Zhao et al., 2020).



Recent studies have emphasized the importance of feature selection in machine learning-based fuel consumption models. Researchers have identified road grade, vehicle speed, engine load, and acceleration as key predictors (Wang et al., 2019). Feature engineering techniques such as Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and clustering methods have been applied to optimize model performance.

3. Distance-Based Data Summarization for Fuel Modeling

Most existing fuel consumption models use time-based data aggregation, which may not accurately capture variations in fuel usage across different road conditions. Distance-based data summarization has emerged as an alternative approach, allowing for more uniform data segmentation and improving model reliability. Studies by Zhao et al. (2021) demonstrated that distance-based feature aggregation enhances model accuracy, particularly in highway and mixed-duty cycles. This method ensures consistent data representation across different driving environments, making it well-suited for real-time applications in fleet management.

4. Applications in Fleet Management and Optimization

Fuel consumption prediction models have significant applications in fleet management, enabling real-time monitoring and optimization of fuel usage. Intelligent transportation systems (ITS) integrate machine learning-based fuel prediction models to enhance route planning and vehicle scheduling (Zheng et al., 2022). Fleet operators can leverage these models to minimize fuel costs, reduce carbon

emissions, and improve overall operational efficiency.

5. Research Gaps and Contribution of This Study

Despite advancements in fuel consumption modeling, several challenges remain. Existing machine learning models often rely on time-based data aggregation, which may not effectively capture variations in fuel usage. Additionally, while ANNs and deep learning models have demonstrated high accuracy, their deployment in real-time fleet management systems remains limited due to computational constraints.

This study addresses these gaps by proposing a neural network-based model that utilizes distance-based data summarization for fuel consumption prediction in heavy vehicles. By aggregating predictors over fixed distance intervals, the proposed approach enhances model accuracy and applicability for fleet management. The study evaluates different window sizes and demonstrates that a 1 km window size achieves optimal performance, ensuring reliable fuel consumption predictions across urban and highway driving conditions.

III. WORKING METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology for predicting average fuel consumption in heavy vehicles utilizes machine learning, specifically a neural network model, to analyze vehicle speed and road grade over fixed distance intervals. The model is designed to optimize fuel efficiency for individual vehicles within a fleet by leveraging data summarization techniques. The first step in this approach is data collection, which involves gathering



real-world driving data from onboard vehicle sensors, GPS tracking systems, and external databases. Key parameters such as vehicle speed, road grade, acceleration, engine load, fuel consumption, distance traveled, and duty cycle type are recorded to create a comprehensive dataset. These factors play a crucial role in understanding fuel consumption patterns and optimizing model accuracy. Following data collection, preprocessing techniques are applied to ensure high-quality input data. Missing values are handled using interpolation, while noise and outliers are reduced through moving average filters. The data is then normalized to ensure consistent scaling across features, improving the neural network's performance. A key innovation in this study is the use of distance-based summarization instead of the traditional time-based aggregation. By segmenting the data into fixed distance intervals, such as 1 km, the model captures variations in road conditions and driving behavior more effectively.

Feature selection and engineering play a crucial role in refining the predictive capability of the model. Through statistical correlation analysis and domain knowledge, the most relevant features—such as mean and standard deviation of speed over distance intervals, mean road grade, acceleration patterns, engine load variability, and historical fuel consumption trends—are identified. Additional transformations, such as polynomial features and interaction terms, are also explored to enhance the model's predictive power. The neural network model is developed to predict average fuel consumption based on the selected features. The architecture consists of an input layer that receives predictor values, multiple hidden layers with ReLU activation

functions for capturing complex relationships, and an output layer that produces continuous fuel consumption estimates. The model is trained using a supervised learning approach, with Mean Squared Error (MSE) as the loss function and the Adam optimizer for weight updates. To prevent overfitting, regularization techniques such as dropout layers and L2 regularization are applied. Hyperparameter tuning is conducted using grid search to optimize learning rate, batch size, and layer configurations.

Once the model is trained, it is evaluated using standard performance metrics. The dataset is split into training (70%), validation (15%), and testing (15%) sets, and the model's accuracy is assessed using the coefficient of determination (R^2), mean absolute error (MAE), and mean absolute percentage error (MAPE). Experimental results indicate that using a 1 km distance window achieves an R^2 of 0.91 and a MAPE of less than 4%, demonstrating high predictive accuracy. For real-world deployment, the trained model is integrated into a fleet management system. Onboard telematics systems allow the model to process real-time vehicle data and provide instant fuel consumption estimates. Edge computing is employed for local processing in vehicles, ensuring minimal latency in fuel efficiency recommendations. Additionally, cloud-based analytics aggregate data across multiple vehicles, allowing fleet operators to monitor fuel consumption trends and implement optimization strategies. The system can also provide real-time feedback to drivers, suggesting optimal driving speeds and acceleration patterns to reduce fuel consumption.

IV. CONCLUSION

In this study, a machine learning-based approach was proposed for predicting average fuel consumption in heavy vehicles using distance-based data summarization. Unlike traditional time-based aggregation methods, the proposed model segments driving data into fixed distance intervals, allowing for more accurate and adaptive predictions. A neural network model was developed using key predictors such as vehicle speed, road grade, acceleration patterns, and engine load variability. By training the model on real-world driving data, the approach achieved a high predictive accuracy, with a coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.91 and a mean absolute percentage error (MAPE) of less than 4%. The model's ability to analyze fuel consumption over specific distance windows makes it a valuable tool for fleet management applications. When integrated with onboard telematics systems, it enables real-time fuel efficiency monitoring and optimization. By providing actionable insights to drivers and fleet operators, the system helps reduce fuel costs and minimize carbon emissions. Furthermore, its scalability allows for deployment across various vehicle types, making it a practical solution for large-scale fleet management. Future research can explore additional factors such as traffic congestion, weather conditions, and vehicle load to further enhance model performance. Additionally, integrating deep learning techniques such as recurrent neural networks (RNNs) or transformer models could improve the model's ability to capture long-term dependencies in fuel consumption patterns. With continued advancements, data-driven fuel efficiency optimization has the potential to significantly benefit the transportation

industry by reducing operational costs and environmental impact.

V. REFERENCES

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