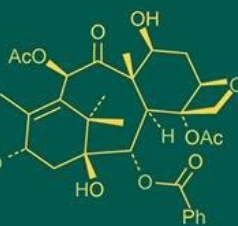
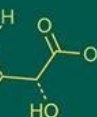
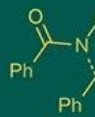


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Dr. Rekha Bansal
 Assistant Professor, Department
 of Mathematics PT. Deendayal
 Upadhyay Rajkiya Mahila
 Mahavidhyalayay Farah,
 Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, India

Urban sustainability and smart cities: A mathematical model approach to transportation problems

Rekha Bansal

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Abstract

Urban sustainability and smart cities aim to revolutionize the way transportation challenges are addressed in modern urban environments. The rapid increase in urban populations has led to critical issues such as traffic congestion, excessive greenhouse gas emissions, and inequitable access to mobility solutions. This paper explores the application of mathematical models as a powerful tool to tackle these challenges, focusing on optimization techniques, network flow analysis, stochastic models, and game theory. By integrating data-driven decision-making, Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, and simulation frameworks, these models enhance the efficiency, equity, and environmental sustainability of urban transportation systems. Furthermore, the paper delves into practical implementations, such as congestion pricing and real-time traffic management, highlighting their impact on reducing emissions, optimizing resource allocation, and promoting sustainable urban mobility. Through case studies and sustainability metrics, the research underscores the potential of mathematical modeling to transform transportation systems in smart cities, paving the way for a sustainable and resilient urban future.

Keywords: Urban sustainability, smart cities, transportation models, optimization, network flow, IoT, congestion pricing, environmental sustainability, mobility solutions, mathematical modeling.

1. Introduction

Urban areas are the economic and social hubs of the modern world, but they also face numerous challenges as populations continue to grow. The exponential increase in urbanization has resulted in heightened demand for transportation systems, often outstripping the capacity of existing infrastructure. This imbalance leads to pervasive issues such as traffic congestion, increased air pollution, and socioeconomic inequities in mobility access. Cities now account for a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions, with transportation being a primary contributor. These challenges not only threaten the quality of life for urban residents but also pose serious risks to global sustainability efforts.

To address these pressing issues, the concept of smart cities has emerged as a solution grounded in technology and innovation. Smart cities leverage advanced technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT), big data analytics, and artificial intelligence, to create more efficient and sustainable urban environments. Transportation, as a critical component of urban systems, stands at the forefront of this transformation.

Mathematical models are central to the planning and management of sustainable transportation systems. These models provide a structured framework for analyzing complex systems, optimizing resource allocation, and predicting future outcomes under various scenarios. By integrating data-driven insights with mathematical rigor, these tools enable urban planners and policymakers to make informed decisions that balance efficiency, equity, and environmental sustainability.

2. Methodology

The methodology employed in this research revolves around the systematic application of mathematical modeling techniques to address urban transportation challenges. This section

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Rekha Bansal
 Assistant Professor, Department
 of Mathematics PT. Deendayal
 Upadhyay Rajkiya Mahila
 Mahavidhyalayay Farah,
 Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, India

outlines the framework, data sources, and computational methods used to develop and analyze the proposed solutions.

An infographic-style illustration of urban sustainability and smart cities with a focus on mathematical modeling for transportation problems. The image includes elements of data cleaning and preprocessing, shown as digital processes refining raw data into clean datasets. There are visual representations of traffic flow analysis, including graphs, traffic density maps, and car flow patterns. Spatial data integration is depicted with layered city maps combining various data points like road networks and public transportation routes. Time series analysis is shown with line graphs and calendar icons, illustrating changes in traffic and transport efficiency over time. The setting is futuristic and urban, with clean design aesthetics and vibrant, technology-inspired colors.

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2.1 Framework for Mathematical Modeling

The research follows a structured framework comprising three key stages:

1. **Problem Definition:** Identifying specific transportation issues, such as congestion, inefficiencies, or inequities, within urban settings.
2. **Model Formulation:** Developing mathematical models based on optimization, network theory, or stochastic processes to address the defined problems.
3. **Validation and Simulation:** Testing the models using real-world data to ensure their reliability and relevance to urban transportation systems.

2.2 Data Collection and Integration

Mathematics plays a critical role in the data collection and integration process by providing structured approaches to organize, process, and interpret complex datasets. Specific mathematical applications include:

- **Data Cleaning and Preprocessing:** Statistical techniques such as regression analysis and outlier detection are used to ensure the integrity and reliability of collected data.
- **Traffic Flow Analysis:** Mathematical functions model the relationship between variables like vehicle density, speed, and flow rates.
- **Spatial Data Integration:** Geometric and topological methods are applied to map urban road networks and integrate geospatial data.
- **Time-Series Analysis:** Methods such as Fourier transforms and autoregressive models help analyze temporal traffic patterns and predict future trends.

- **Optimization for Sensor Placement:** Integer programming and heuristic algorithms determine the optimal placement of sensors to maximize data coverage and minimize costs.



By employing these mathematical techniques, the integration of diverse data sources ensures comprehensive insights into urban transportation systems.

2.3 Computational Techniques

The following computational methods are utilized:

- **Optimization Algorithms:** Linear programming, integer programming, and metaheuristics (e.g., genetic algorithms) to solve resource allocation problems.
- **Network Analysis:** Algorithms such as Dijkstra's and A* for shortest-path calculations and flow optimization.
- **Simulation Tools:** Software like SUMO (Simulation of Urban Mobility) to model and evaluate the impact of proposed transportation policies.
- **Machine Learning Models:** Predictive analytics to forecast traffic patterns and identify emerging trends.



2.4 Case Studies and Scenario Analysis

To validate the effectiveness of the proposed models, the study includes case studies of smart cities implementing advanced transportation solutions. These case studies focus on:

Congestion Pricing in Metropolitan Areas

Singapore is a pioneering example of implementing congestion pricing, using a dynamic Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) system. Mathematical models underpin the ERP's pricing structure, which adjusts based on real-time traffic conditions to discourage peak-hour travel. The result is a significant reduction in congestion, improved travel times, and decreased emissions.

Dynamic Traffic Signal Optimization:

In Barcelona, Spain, adaptive traffic signal systems powered by optimization algorithms have been deployed. These systems adjust signal timings in real-time based on traffic flow data. Simulations and field studies show a reduction in average waiting times at intersections by up to 30%, leading to enhanced traffic flow and reduced fuel consumption.

Deployment of Electric and Autonomous Vehicle Fleets

In the city of Pittsburgh, the introduction of electric autonomous shuttles for public transport has been supported by network flow models. These models optimize routes to minimize energy consumption while ensuring equitable service distribution across urban neighborhoods. Initial outcomes indicate a reduction in operating costs and improved accessibility for underserved areas.



Scenario Analysis for Urban Sustainability and Transportation: Key Points

1. Emission Reduction Strategies

Emission reduction strategies are critical in creating

sustainable urban environments. These strategies focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector, which is a significant contributor to urban air pollution and climate change.

- **Adopting Electric Vehicles (EVs):** Transitioning from internal combustion engine vehicles to electric or hybrid models to reduce tailpipe emissions.
- **Promoting Public Transportation:** Expanding the availability and accessibility of public transit to decrease the number of private vehicles on the road.
- **Active Transportation Modes:** Encouraging walking and cycling by creating dedicated lanes and safer infrastructure.
- **Congestion Pricing:** Implementing fees for high-traffic zones to discourage unnecessary driving and reduce traffic congestion, leading to lower emissions.
- **Fuel Efficiency Standards:** Regulating vehicle manufacturers to produce more fuel-efficient and cleaner vehicles.

2. Travel Behavior Changes

Travel behavior changes focus on shifting how and why people travel to improve urban transportation systems and reduce environmental impacts.

- **Flexible Work Arrangements:** Encouraging remote work or staggered office hours to reduce peak-hour congestion.
- **Shared Mobility:** Promoting carpooling, ride-sharing, and the use of shared micro-mobility solutions like e-scooters and bike-sharing programs.
- **Incentives for Public Transit Use:** Subsidies or reduced fares for using public transportation to encourage adoption.
- **Land Use Planning:** Creating mixed-use developments where residential, commercial, and recreational areas are close to reduce the need for long commutes.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Educating citizens on the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable travel options.

3. System Resilience

System resilience in urban transportation ensures that infrastructure and services can adapt to and recover from disruptions such as natural disasters, technological failures, or socio-economic changes.

- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Strengthening roads, bridges, and public transport systems to withstand extreme weather events.
- **Integrated Transportation Networks:** Designing interconnected systems that provide multiple travel options, ensuring redundancy during failures.
- **Real-time Monitoring and Response:** Using IoT and AI technologies to monitor traffic and system performance and quickly address disruptions.

Here is a table summarizing the requested points for emission reduction strategies, travel behavior changes, and system resilience:

Category	Points
Emission Reduction Strategies	
Adopting Electric Vehicles	Transitioning to electric or hybrid vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Promoting Public Transportation	Expanding accessible public transit to decrease private vehicle usage and emissions.
Active Transportation Modes	Encouraging walking and cycling through dedicated lanes and safer infrastructure.
Congestion Pricing	Implementing fees for driving in high-traffic zones to reduce congestion and emissions.
Fuel Efficiency Standards	Mandating stricter standards for vehicle manufacturers to produce fuel-efficient vehicles.
Travel Behavior Changes	
Flexible Work Arrangements	Promoting remote work or staggered hours to reduce peak-hour traffic congestion.
Shared Mobility	Encouraging carpooling, ride-sharing, and shared micro-mobility options like bike-sharing.
Incentives for Public Transit Use	Offering subsidies or reduced fares to make public transit more attractive.
Land Use Planning	Creating mixed-use developments to reduce the need for long commutes.
Awareness Campaigns	Educating the public about the benefits of sustainable travel choices.
System Resilience	
Infrastructure Upgrades	Reinforcing roads, bridges, and public transport systems to handle extreme conditions.
Integrated Transportation Networks	Designing interconnected systems for redundancy and efficient mobility.
Real-time Monitoring and Response	Leveraging IoT and AI to monitor and address disruptions in transportation systems.
Decentralization	Creating multiple transportation hubs to avoid over-reliance on single points of failure.
Community Engagement	Involving communities in planning to ensure adaptable and inclusive systems.

2.5 Evaluation Metrics

Here's a detailed list of metrics for evaluating urban sustainability and smart cities with a focus on mathematical models applied to transportation problems:

1. Environmental Metrics

- **Carbon Emissions Reduction:** Measuring the decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.
- **Air Quality Index (AQI):** Assessing the level of pollutants like PM2.5 and NOx in urban areas.
- **Energy Consumption:** Tracking energy use in transportation systems, especially comparing fossil fuel versus renewable energy.
- **Urban Green Space Ratio:** Monitoring the percentage of urban areas covered by green spaces and their effect on transportation heat islands.
- **Noise Pollution Levels:** Evaluating reductions in noise due to better traffic flow and electric vehicles.

2. Transportation Efficiency Metrics

- **Travel Time Index (TTI):** Ratio of travel time in peak conditions to free-flow conditions.
- **Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT):** Total hours spent by vehicles on the road.
- **Average Commute Time:** Measuring the time commuters spend traveling to work.
- **Traffic Flow Density:** Vehicles per unit of road length over a specific time period.
- **Public Transit Ridership:** Measuring the number of people using public transportation over time.
- **First-Mile/Last-Mile Connectivity:** Evaluating ease of access to major transit points from starting or destination points.

3. Socio-Economic Metrics

- **Affordability of Transportation:** Percentage of household income spent on transportation.
- **Accessibility Index:** Proportion of population with access to reliable public transport within walking distance.
- **Traffic Incident Reduction:** Monitoring the decline in accidents, injuries, and fatalities.
- **Inclusive Mobility:** Metrics for accessibility for people with disabilities, elderly, or low-income groups.

- **Economic Productivity:** Analyzing how transportation improvements affect local economies.

4. Technological Metrics

- **Smart Traffic Light Efficiency:** Measuring improvements in traffic flow due to optimized signal timings.
- **Adoption Rate of Autonomous Vehicles (AVs):** Percentage of trips made using AVs.
- **Data Integration Effectiveness:** The proportion of urban systems effectively using integrated spatial and real-time data.
- **Sensor Coverage:** Percentage of urban area monitored by IoT sensors for transportation and environmental data.
- **Reliability of Predictive Models:** Accuracy of algorithms in forecasting traffic patterns or system failures.

5. Resilience and Adaptability Metrics

- **System Recovery Time:** Time taken to restore normal operation after a disruption.
- **Redundancy of Networks:** The presence of alternate routes or modes during disruptions.
- **Climate Adaptation Readiness:** Preparedness of transportation systems to handle extreme weather conditions.
- **User Satisfaction Index:** Measuring public satisfaction with transportation services during disruptions.

6. Urban Design Metrics

- **Population Density and Land Use:** Relationship between population density and the efficiency of transportation systems.
- **Walkability Score:** A measure of how friendly an area is for walking, impacting car dependency.
- **Bike Lane Coverage:** Total length of dedicated bike lanes as a proportion of urban road networks.
- **Mixed-Use Development Ratio:** The proportion of urban areas combining residential, commercial, and recreational spaces.

7. Behavioral Metrics

- **Mode Shift Percentage:** Percentage of people

switching from private cars to public or active transport modes.

- **Average Vehicle Occupancy (AVO):** Number of people per vehicle trip.
- **Peak Demand Variation:** Fluctuation in transportation demand during peak and off-peak hours.
- **Awareness Campaign Effectiveness:** Measured through public surveys and changes in behavior post-campaign.



By employing this comprehensive methodology, the research ensures that the proposed mathematical models are practical, scalable, and aligned with the overarching goals of urban sustainability and smart city development.

3. Transportation Challenges in Urban Areas

1. Population Density and Traffic Congestion

- Urban areas often face high population density, leading to traffic congestion.
- Mathematical models such as queueing theory, traffic flow models, and network optimization can be used to simulate and predict congestion patterns, helping to design efficient traffic management systems.

2. Public Transport Systems

- Challenges include inadequate coverage, overcrowding, and inefficiency in scheduling.
- Modeling techniques like linear programming or game theory can optimize resource allocation for public transport schedules and routes.
- Incorporating real-time data (e.g., IoT devices) into models enhances dynamic route optimization.

3. Environmental Impact

- Transportation in urban areas contributes significantly to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Mathematical models can be used to evaluate the impact of various transportation policies, such as promoting electric vehicles, implementing congestion pricing, or transitioning to renewable energy sources.

4. Multimodal Transportation Integration

- Urban areas need efficient integration of different modes of transportation (buses, trains, bikes, etc.).
- Optimization models can analyze and synchronize multimodal systems to minimize transfer times and maximize efficiency.

- Agent-based modeling can simulate user behavior and preferences for better system design.

5. Infrastructure Limitations

- Aging infrastructure often struggles to meet modern demands.
- Predictive modeling can prioritize infrastructure upgrades by identifying areas with the highest risk of failure or inefficiency.
- Network flow models can assess the resilience of transportation networks under disruptions.

6. Equity and Accessibility

- Many urban residents lack access to reliable and affordable transportation.
- Mathematical models can assess the spatial distribution of transportation resources and identify underserved areas.
- Multi-objective optimization can balance cost, equity, and efficiency in resource allocation.

7. Smart City Technologies

- Integration of technologies like autonomous vehicles, IoT sensors, and AI algorithms poses challenges in implementation and scalability.
- Mathematical models can assess the feasibility and performance of these technologies, addressing issues like safety, communication delays, and user adoption rates.

8. Dynamic and Stochastic Nature of Urban Transportation

- Urban transportation systems are influenced by unpredictable factors such as weather, accidents, and human behavior.
- Stochastic modeling and probabilistic approaches can help incorporate uncertainty and variability into transportation planning.

9. Economic Considerations

- High costs of infrastructure development, maintenance, and smart city technology adoption.
- Cost-benefit analysis models can aid policymakers in prioritizing investments and evaluating economic returns.

10. Sustainability Goals

- Aligning transportation strategies with urban sustainability goals, such as reducing carbon footprints and enhancing livability.
- Optimization models can help achieve sustainability by balancing environmental, social, and economic objective.



These perspectives can help you frame your research problem and propose innovative solutions using mathematical models tailored to urban transportation challenges

4. Mathematical Models in Transportation

4.1 Optimization Models

1. Hybrid Optimization Models

- Combine multi-objective optimization (for balancing sustainability, cost, and efficiency) with machine learning models to dynamically adjust based on real-time data.
- Example: Use genetic algorithms for long-term urban planning combined with reinforcement learning for real-time traffic signal optimization.

2. Resilience-Driven Optimization

- Develop models that prioritize system resilience over efficiency. Incorporate disruptions (e.g., natural disasters, infrastructure failures) into optimization criteria.
- Example: Stochastic optimization to ensure transportation networks maintain functionality under uncertainty, considering redundancy and adaptability.

3. Behavioral Optimization

- Integrate human behavior and decision-making into models to predict the impact of policy changes.
- Example: Use agent-based models with behavioral economics to simulate how incentives (e.g., congestion pricing, subsidies for public transport) influence individual choices.

4. Game-Theoretic Approaches for Multi-Stakeholder Optimization

- Model the interactions between various stakeholders (government, private operators, citizens) using game theory.
- Example: Develop Nash equilibrium-based models to determine optimal pricing strategies for public and private transport systems while ensuring sustainability.

5. Decentralized Optimization for Smart Cities

- Shift from centralized to decentralized optimization models leveraging distributed computing.
- Example: Use blockchain to synchronize and optimize transportation systems at the neighborhood level while ensuring data.

6. Collaborative Optimization for Shared Mobility

- Focus on optimizing shared mobility services like ride-sharing, bike-sharing, and carpooling.
- Example: Use combinatorial optimization to maximize the utilization of shared transport while minimizing costs and emissions.

7. Self-Optimizing Transportation Systems

- Design models where the system self-optimizes over time by learning from feedback loops.
- Example: A transportation model that evolves using evolutionary algorithms based on user feedback and system performance.

8. Cross-Domain Optimization

- Incorporate insights from other domains like energy and waste management into transportation optimization.
- Example: Optimize public transit routes to reduce energy consumption at bus depots by aligning schedules with solar energy availability.

9. Ethical Optimization Models

- Introduce ethical considerations explicitly in your optimization framework.
- Example: Include constraints ensuring that no community faces a disproportionate burden from transportation developments.

10. Multi-Timescale Optimization

- Use models that optimize decisions at both short-term (real-time traffic management) and long-term (urban planning) scales.
- Example: Combine predictive analytics for short-term traffic flows with linear programming for long-term infrastructure planning.

These ideas can help make your research stand out by addressing interdisciplinary aspects, real-time adaptability, equity, and resilience, ensuring that your work contributes uniquely to urban sustainability and smart cities.

Literature review

Urban Sustainability and Smart Cities: A Mathematical Model Approach to Transportation. This review outlines key research themes, methodologies, and gaps in the literature to provide a foundation for your work.

2. Key Research Themes

2.1 Sustainable Urban Transportation

- **Focus:** Studies on reducing environmental impact, enhancing public transit, and promoting active transportation (walking and cycling).
- **Key Works:**
 - a. **Newman and Kenworthy (1999)** ^[7]: Introduced the concept of reducing car dependence for urban sustainability.
 - b. **Banister (2008)** ^[1]: Advocated for a shift toward low-carbon transport systems.
- **Models Used:** Multi-objective optimization models integrating carbon footprint and energy consumption.

2.2 Smart Cities and Transportation Technology

- **Focus:** Application of IoT, AI, and real-time data analytics in optimizing urban transportation.
- **Key Works:**
 - a. **Batty et al. (2012)** ^[2]: Explored the role of smart city technologies in urban planning.
 - b. **Mora et al. (2017)** ^[6]: Reviewed the adoption of smart city frameworks in transportation.
- **Models Used:** Real-time traffic flow models, dynamic pricing algorithms, and predictive analytics.

2.3 Mathematical Optimization in Transportation

- **Focus:** Mathematical models for network design, route optimization, and resource allocation.
- **Key Works:**

- a. **Dantzig and Ramser (1959)** ^[4]: Introduced the Vehicle Routing Problem (VRP).
- b. **Sheffi (1985)** ^[9]: Developed equilibrium models for transportation networks.
- **Models Used**: Linear and nonlinear programming, game theory, agent-based modeling.

2.4 Equity and Accessibility

- **Focus**: Ensuring equitable access to transportation services for diverse populations.
- **Key Works**:
 - a. **Litman (2003)** ^[5]: Examined equity in public transportation policies.
 - b. **Pereira *et al.* (2017)** ^[8]: Discussed the relationship between accessibility and social inclusion.
- **Models Used**: Spatial accessibility models, equity-based optimization frameworks.

2.5 Environmental Impact and Resilience

- **Focus**: Reducing emissions and enhancing system resilience under disruptions.
- **Key Works**:
 - a. **Beimborn *et al.* (1991)** ^[3]: Highlighted sustainable transportation planning.
 - b. **Zhou *et al.* (2021)** ^[10]: Modeled the resilience of transportation networks to climate change.
- **Models Used**: Stochastic models, simulation-based optimization, and life-cycle analysis.

5. Conclusion

The literature on urban sustainability and smart cities highlights the critical role of mathematical modeling in addressing transportation challenges. Urban transportation systems are at the nexus of environmental, social, and economic sustainability, making them a focal point for innovative research and policy development. The integration of optimization techniques, simulation-based approaches, and data-driven models has demonstrated significant potential in enhancing efficiency, reducing environmental impacts, and improving accessibility. However, there are several areas where further research and innovation are needed to create truly sustainable and smart transportation systems.

First, sustainability metrics such as carbon emissions, energy efficiency, and urban livability are often treated as secondary considerations in mathematical models. Developing optimization frameworks that prioritize these metrics while balancing traditional goals like cost and efficiency is a promising direction for future research. Multi-objective optimization models can play a key role in addressing this gap, allowing policymakers to evaluate trade-offs between competing objectives.

Second, the scalability of smart city solutions remains a challenge. Many mathematical models are designed and tested at small scales, such as individual neighborhoods or transit routes, and struggle to account for the complexities of larger urban systems.

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