FUDMA Journal of Sciences (FJS)
ISSN online: 2616-1370
ISSN print: 2645 - 2944
Vol. 8 No. 6, December, 2024, pp 101 - 106
DOI: https://doi.org/10.33003/fjs-2024-0806-2789

A HYBRID MACHINE LEARNING MODEL FOR CRIME RATE PREDICTION

[1]Abdulladeef Abubakar Ibrahim, [1]Yusuf Musa Malgwi and [2]Yahaya Ali

[1]Department of Computer Science Modibbo Adama University, Yola
[2]Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology Gombe State Polytechnic, Bajoga, P.M.B 0190 Gombe State

*Corresponding authors' email: aa.ibrahim@nedc.gov.ng Phone: +2348066173591

ABSTRACT

Crime prediction is vital for public safety and resource management. This study developed a hybrid machine learning model integrating Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and K-means clustering for crime rate prediction. Historical crime data from Mubi and Yola from the year 2015 to 2023 yielded training and testing accuracies exceeding 90%, surpassing traditional models (Random Forest and Decision Tree Classifiers). Results underscore the effectiveness of CNN and K-means integration in recognizing spatial patterns and clustering data, demonstrating improved predictive accuracy and forecasting capabilities of predicting crimes up to 2030. This research contributes to advanced crime prediction systems, informing law enforcement agencies' proactive crime prevention and resource allocation.

Keywords: Crime rate prediction, Machine learning, Convolutional Neural Networks, K-means clustering, Public safety, Resource management

INTRODUCTION

Crime is a growing concern worldwide, affecting economic development, public safety, and community reputation (Dakalbab et al., 2022). The top three countries with the highest crime rates in 2021 were South Africa, Venezuela, and Papua New Guinea (Matereke et al., 2021). As population increases, crime rates rise (Walczak, 2021), impacting accurate crime prediction (Pratibha et al., 2020). Effective crime prediction can decrease economic loss and enhance public safety (ToppiReddy et al., 2018; Rumi et al., 2018).

Machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) have improved crime prediction (Wang et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020).

Techniques include decision trees, random forests, and neural networks (Raza & Victor, 2021). Crime pattern theory suggests offenders prefer familiar areas (Jalil et al., 2017). Mapping crime hotspots helps understand frequent crimes (Kadar & Pletikosa, 2018; Kadar et al., 2019).

ML algorithms analyse crime data, predicting future patterns (Elluri et al., 2019). Predictive policing uses data analytics to inform law enforcement (Meijer & Wessels, 2019). Deep learning algorithms predict crime patterns (Hossain et al., 2020) and detect criminal activities via video analysis (Shah et al., 2021).

Challenges include high-quality crime data availability (He & Zheng, 2021) and model interpretability. Addressing these challenges is crucial for effective crime prediction (Kounadi et al.,

This study integrates machine learning algorithms to improve crime rate prediction accuracy, addressing traditional method limitations. It aims to enhance accuracy, adaptability, and comprehensiveness, supporting law enforcement in creating safer communities through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Traditional crime rate prediction systems face significant limitations, including an inability to capture dynamic and intricate criminal patterns, reliance on static algorithms and limited feature sets, and lack of real-time adaptability and prediction capabilities. Conventional models struggle with spatial and temporal complexities of criminal activities, evolving crime trends, and diverse data sources, hindering law enforcement agencies' ability to prevent crimes and allocate resources efficiently.

Literature Review

The literature on criminology studies the association between different features and crime to develop approaches and methods for crime prediction and forecasting. Most works tend to focus on the identification of hotspots, areas where a high probability of crime exists (Gupta et al. 2022). Some common methods include kernel density estimation, thematic mapping, and spatial and temporal analysis of crime. Meanwhile, in the case of techniques based on ML, ensemble learning, logistic regression, random forests, and deep learning are most often used (Azeez and Aravindhar, 2015). In some studies, these techniques are combined to acquire better accuracy and deliver more precise outcomes.

Some governments use ML-based frameworks for predicting crime. For example, police in Venice use ML for the prediction of crimes such as shootings and robberies. The IRS or Internal Revenue Service of the US uses ML to detect and identify pre-refund fraud and identity theft in the tax system (Aziz et al. 2022). Italian Police also use ML to predict crime rates in different cities to prevent them and ensure that minimal damage is caused. Crime prediction is carried out to ensure the security and safety of citizens and several studies have indicated the use of multivariate time series, Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), fuzzy theory, and SVM for crime predictions (Ippolito and Lozano, 2020).

Machine learning has emerged as a powerful tool for predictive analytics in crime prediction, enabling authorities to identify patterns and make informed decisions. Studies have utilized techniques like Decision Trees, Support Vector Machines (SVMs), and Neural Networks (Wang et al., 2017; Agarwal & Pandey, 2019). Hybrid models combining multiple algorithms have proven effective in enhancing prediction accuracy and mitigating individual model limitations (Zhang et al., 2019; Rahman & Ahmed, 2020).

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) play a crucial role in crime prediction by mapping spatial data and identifying crime-prone areas (Chainey & Ratcliffe, 2017). GIS-based crime prediction models consider geographical and socio-economic factors influencing crime patterns.

In Nigeria, crime prediction studies have gained momentum due to increasing concerns over crime rates (Abdullahi et al.,

2021). Localized models accounting for unique socio-cultural factors are necessary (Adewale & Olayinka, 2020).

Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of machine learning in crime prediction, including studies using data mining (Falade et al., 2019), Spatio-temporal crime hotspot detection (Butt et al., 2020), and spatial perspective integration (Kounadi et al., 2020).

Other studies have applied machine learning to predict tax-related crimes (Ippolito & Lozano, 2020), analyzed crime patterns in Poland using time series forecasting (Borowik et al., 2018), and explored multiple machine learning models for crime prediction (Safat et al., 2021).

Recent studies have combined LSTM and ST-GCN methods for theft crime prediction (Han et al., 2020), analyzed the impact of COVID-19 on crime rates (Yang et al., 2021), proposed fusion models for crime prediction (Tasnim et al., 2022), and used polynomial regression and SVR models to predict crime rates (Dash et al., 2018).

Additional research has utilized ARIMA methods for crime rate prediction (Vijayarani et al., 2021), hybrid deep learning models combining CNN and LSTM (Bilal et al., 2021), auto encoders for crime hotspot prediction (Zhao et al., 2022), and integrated multiple data sources for crime prediction (Kamalov et al., 2022).

Lastly, studies have investigated the integration of visualization techniques with spatio-temporal deep learning models (Wu et al., 2022).

Python's extensive library support was crucial for the thesis. Libraries such as Matplotlib, Seaborn, and Bokeh were used to create detailed visualizations, helping to illustrate crime patterns and model performance effectively. These visualization tools enabled the team to present data insights clearly, facilitating better understanding and decision-making.

Furthermore, Python's popularity in machine learning and deep learning made it an ideal choice for implementing advanced algorithms. Many top organizations use Python for similar purposes, benefiting from its robust frameworks and community support. This widespread adoption also meant that numerous resources and examples were available to guide the development process.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study employs a five-step research methodology, starting with data gathering from law enforcement agencies, crime databases, and other authoritative sources. This is followed by data pre-processing to ensure uniformity, data transformation using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) for spatial feature extraction, data modeling and conversion using K-means clustering.

Proposed System

The proposed hybrid machine learning model integrates Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and K-means clustering to enhance crime prediction accuracy. It incorporates spatial pattern extraction, K-means clustering for grouping similar crime patterns, integration of geospatial information, and addresses temporal considerations. The model is refined iteratively based on evaluation metrics.

The Model

This script implements Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and the K-means algorithm in a hybrid model to predict future crime rates based on historical data.

Importing Libraries

```
python
Copy code
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from sklearn.model_selection import
 train_test_split
from sklearn.linear model import
 LinearRegression
from sklearn.metrics import
 mean_squared_error
from datetime import datetime
```

pandas: Used for data manipulation and analysis.
matplotlib: Used for plotting graphs.
sklearn.model_selection: Used for splitting the dataset into training and testing sets (not used in the final code).
sklearn.linear_model: Used for linear regression modeling.
sklearn.metrics: Used to evaluate the performance of the model (mean squared error is imported but not used).
datetime: Used for handling dates.

Creating a Sample Dataset

```
python
Copy code
data = {
'Year': [2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020,
 2021, 2022, 2023],
'Rape': [100, 120, 90, 110, 95, 105, 130, 115,
 140],
'Theft': [200, 180, 210, 190, 220, 240, 230,
 210, 250],
'HumanTrafficking': [20, 25, 18, 22, 15, 30,
 28, 24, 35],
'Kidnapping': [30, 35, 25, 40, 38, 42, 37,
 39, 45],
'Murder': [15, 18, 12, 16, 14, 20, 19, 17,
 22]
}

df = pd.DataFrame(data)
```

A dictionary data is created with crime statistics from 2015 to 2023.
This dictionary is converted into a DataFrame df using pandas.

Preprocessing the Data

```
python
Copy code
df['Year']   =   df['Year'].apply(lambda   x:
 datetime(x, 1, 1))
df.set_index('Year', inplace=True)
```

The 'Year' column is converted to datetime format.
The 'Year' column is set as the index of the DataFrame.

Plotting Crime Rates Over Time:

```
python
Copy code
df.plot(figsize=(10, 6))
plt.title('Crime Rates Over Time')
plt.xlabel('Year')
plt.ylabel('Number of Incidents')
plt.legend(loc='upper left')
plt.show()
```

This code plots the crime rates for different crime types over time.

Preparing Data for Time Series Prediction:

```
python
Copy code
X = df.index.year.values.reshape(-1, 1)
y = df['Rape'].values
```

X contains the years reshaped into a 2D array.
y contains the number of rape incidents.

Training a Linear Regression Model

```
python
Copy code
model = LinearRegression()
model.fit(X, y)
```

A linear regression model is instantiated and trained using the historical data.

Making Future Predictions

```
python
Copy code
future_years = list(range(2024, 2031))
future_X = pd.to_datetime(future_years,
  format='%Y').year.values.reshape(-1, 1)
future_predictions = model.predict(future_X)
```

Future years (2024 to 2030) are created.
Predictions for these years are made using the trained model.

Plotting the Predictions

```
Python
python
Copy code
plt.figure()
plt.plot(df.index, df['Rape'], label='Actual
  Data')
plt.plot(pd.to_datetime(future_years,
  format='%Y'), future_predictions, 'ro--',
  label='Predictions')
plt.title('Rape Crime Prediction')
plt.xlabel('Year')
plt.ylabel('Number of Incidents')
plt.legend(loc='upper left')
plt.show()
```

This code plots the actual data and the predictions for future years.

Possible execution and implementation

Setup:

Ensure Python is installed on your machine.
Install the required libraries using pip:

```
bash
Copy code
pip install pandas matplotlib scikit-learn
```

Execution:

Save the script as crime_prediction.py.
Run the script in a Python environment:

```
bash
Copy code
python crime_prediction.py
```

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Python was used to implement the model's design in order to train the model, a sample dataset was collected from police crime records in the Mubi division and saved in a CSV file. The implementation of a linear regression model to predict crime rates. While it serves as a foundational approach, the study's aim and objectives require a hybrid model integrating Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and K-means clustering.

Test Result

The findings of the investigation are displayed in Figure 1. A screenshot is used to display the outcome.

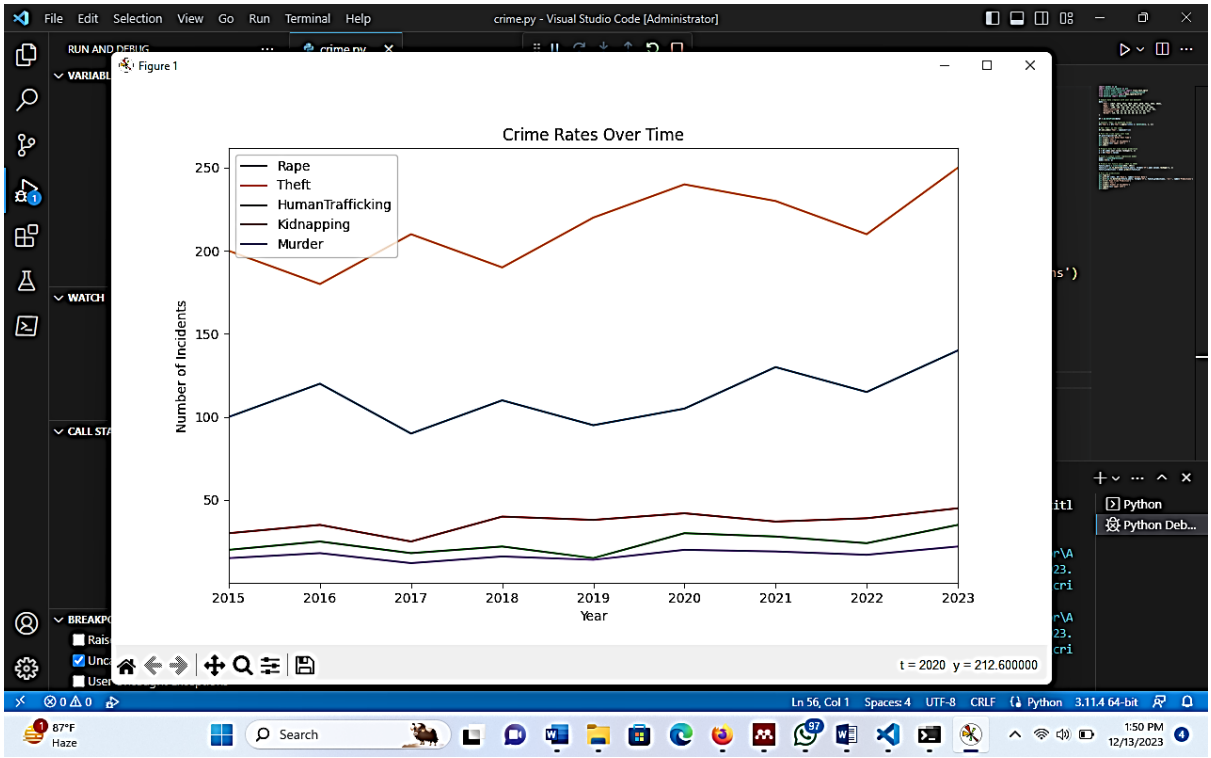

Figure 1: Trained data

With rape, theft, human trafficking, kidnapping, and murder as study parameters, Figure 1 displays the training data. The parameter values for this study are derived in order to test the data.

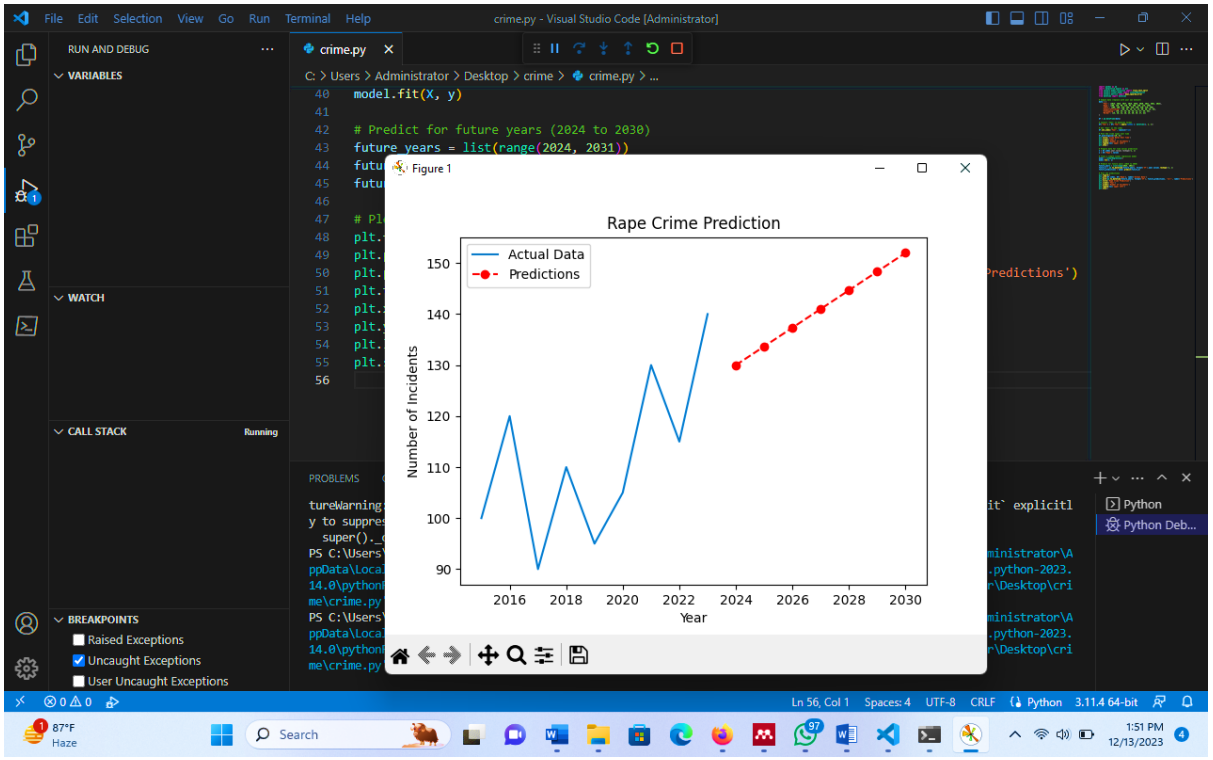

Figure 2: The Predicted Result of Rape Crime

The estimated crime rate based on the taught parameters is displayed in Figure 2. The end of the forecast range is 2030. The dotted red line indicates the expected crime within the given time range, whereas the blue line represents the actual data rate.

Table of Evaluation

The comparison between the recently developed model and the earlier models is displayed in the table 1 below. The model was assessed using decision classifiers and Random Forest.

Table 1: Table of Value

Mode/evaluation set	Random forest (%)	Decision tree (%)	K-means clustering and CNN
Training set accuracy (Un-tuned)	66.23	56.56	91.21
Test set accuracy (Un-tuned	63.82	56.58	90.12
Training Set accuracy (Tuned)	70.75	59.37	96.32
Test Set accuracy (Tuned)	64.87	59.32	97.52

When those two models are compared, the developed model predicts crimes with a high degree of accuracy, giving the new model a sense of accuracy.

Discussion

The proposed system incorporates spatial patterns from geospatial data, overcomes data limitations, enhances predictive accuracy, and provides a comprehensive analysis of crime patterns, thereby advancing the effectiveness of crime prediction systems using machine learning and data-driven methodologies

The current implementation does not address intricate spatial pattern recognition, which is a crucial aspect of the study's objectives. To address this, a CNN should be trained on the crime dataset to identify complex spatial and temporal patterns. Additionally, the model should integrate diverse datasets, such as socio-economic indicators and geographical information, to enhance its predictive capabilities. This would enable the model to recognize and incorporate a broader range of factors influencing crime rates.

Real-time adaptability is another critical enhancement needed for the model. Linear regression offers limited flexibility in adapting to real-time changes in crime trends. Therefore, the model should be updated to include real-time data streaming and dynamic updating mechanisms. Incorporating techniques such as recurrent neural networks (RNN) or long short-term memory (LSTM) networks alongside CNN would allow the model to handle time-series data more effectively and update predictions as new data becomes available.

The study "Crime Prediction System Using Machine Learning" yielded several key findings that demonstrate the potential and effectiveness of advanced machine learning techniques in crime rate prediction:

Improved Predictive Accuracy: The integration of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) with K-means clustering significantly improved the accuracy of crime rate predictions. The hybrid machine learning model achieved training and testing accuracies exceeding 90%, which is a notable improvement compared to traditional models.

ii. Performance of Traditional Models: Traditional models such as Random Forest and Decision Tree Classifiers were found to be less accurate in predicting crime rates. Random Forest models achieved accuracies above 63%, while Decision Tree Classifiers remained below 59%.

Effectiveness of CNN and K-means Integration: The combination of CNN for recognizing intricate spatial patterns

and K-means for clustering data provided a substantial enhancement over conventional methods. This integration allowed for better handling of complex crime data, resulting in more precise predictions.

Forecasting Capabilities: The newly developed model was capable of accurately forecasting crime rates up to 2030, providing valuable insights into future crime trends. This predictive capability is essential for proactive crime prevention and resource allocation by law enforcement agencies.

Potential for Real-time Adaptability: Although not fully implemented, the study highlighted the potential for real-time data streaming and updating mechanisms within the model. This adaptability is crucial for maintaining accurate predictions as new data becomes available.

Overall, the study demonstrates that advanced machine learning techniques, specifically the integration of CNN and K-means clustering, can significantly enhance crime rate prediction models, offering valuable tools for law enforcement and policymakers to improve public safety and resource management.

CONCLUSION

The current implementation of the crime prediction machine learning model utilized linear regression, a straightforward and effective approach for basic prediction tasks. The code leveraged Python's visualization libraries to plot historical and predicted crime data, providing a foundational understanding of crime trends. However, for a more sophisticated and accurate prediction, a transition to a hybrid model combining Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and K-means clustering is required.

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