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Prediction of Air Quality Index using SVR Machine Learning Model and Analyzing Hazards Arising from Thermal Power Plants

[1]Paneri Fulbandhe, [2]Monali Gulhane, [3]Sudhanshu Maurya, [4]Amit Pimpalkar, [5]Nitin Rakesh

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Abstract: Thermal power plants, while necessary for energy generation, pose significant risks to the environment and public health. This study examines the effects of many factors, such as greenhouse gas emissions and dangerous pollutants, on air pollution. It also investigates the influence of water withdrawal, temperature discharge, and contamination on water pollution. Additionally, it explores the consequences of land degradation and waste creation. Furthermore, it investigates the correlated health ramifications, including respiratory ailments, cardiovascular disorders, and cancer. The research reveals the capacity for machine learning to alleviate these risks and foster a more sustainable power future. Machine learning may be utilized to forecast and optimize emissions, boost environmental surveillance, enable the integration of renewable energy, and optimize waste management. The study finishes by emphasizing the ethical obligation to responsibly develop new technologies, giving priority to openness, eliminating any biases, and ensuring that social and environmental advantages are of utmost importance.

Keywords: *Air Quality Index, Automated System, Thermal Power Plant, Machine Learning, Support Vector Regression, Coal Garbage.*

1. Introduction

The issue of air quality has emerged as a significant worldwide problem, exerting an influence on our physical health, natural surroundings, and overall state of being. The effects of air pollution, ranging from respiratory ailments to environmental deterioration, are indisputable. Robust air quality forecasting models are essential in addressing this problem, since they enable the implementation of efficient control strategies and the protection of public health. This study investigates the capacity of support vector regression (SVR) as an effective technique for forecasting the air quality index (AQI). The AQI functions as a standardised metric for air pollution, offering a thorough overview of the total air quality at a specific place. Precisely forecasting AQI levels enables pre-emptive measures, such as providing pollution alerts, optimising transportation networks, and adopting focused pollution management techniques. This paper examines the intricacies of employing Support Vector Regression (SVR) for predicting Air Quality Index (AQI). It provides a comprehensive analysis of the necessary data, the process of training and evaluating the model, and the factors to consider while adjusting the hyperparameters. We will evaluate the benefits of Support Vector Regression (SVR) for this job, encompassing its capacity to handle non-linear associations and its resilience to outliers. The next analysis will also discuss the various obstacles and constraints, offering a thorough overview of SVR's appropriateness for AQI prediction. The ultimate objective of this research is to establish the efficacy of SVR as a beneficial instrument in combating air pollution. By facilitating precise forecasting of the Air Quality Index (AQI), we may make a substantial stride towards a more salubrious future for everyone. This introduction provides a concise overview of your research, emphasising the significance of air quality estimation, presenting Support Vector Regression (SVR) as a possible solution, and defining the extent of your investigation.

Studying the Air Quality Index, also known as the AQI, is a complex task that aims to thoroughly comprehend and improve our ability to evaluate and tackle air pollution. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an essential measure for assessing the influence of different pollutants on overall air quality. It offers a standardised system for effectively communicating the seriousness of pollutants to the public. This study aims to investigate the historical development of Air Quality Index (AQI) systems on a worldwide scale, examining significant milestones and advancements. Through the analysis of many elements of AQI, including particulate matter, ozone, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, with carbon monoxide, our objective is to understand the complex connections among air quality and human health. The study will investigate several methodologies and equations utilised for the

[1]*Department of CSE, Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Nagpur Campus, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, India*
paneri.fulbandhe.btech2022@sitnagpur.siu.edu.in
[2]*Department of CSE, Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Nagpur Campus, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, India*
monali.gulhane4@gmail.com
[3]*Department of CSE, Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Nagpur Campus, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, India.*
dr.smaurya3feb@gmail.com
[4]*Department of Computer Science and Engineering (AIML), Shri Ramdeobaba College of Engineering and Management, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India*
amit.pimpalkar@gmail.com
5Symbiosis Institute of Technology, Nagpur Campus, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, India
nitin.rakesh@gmail.com

computation of the Air Quality Index (AQI), taking into account their respective advantages and constraints. Furthermore, a comprehensive examination of the many elements that impact air quality, including both human-caused variables and weather conditions, will be undertaken. An in-depth analysis will be conducted on the health consequences of inadequate air quality, with a specific focus on populations that are more susceptible to harm. This analysis will underscore the urgent requirement for precise evaluations of the Air Quality Index (AQI). The project will investigate sophisticated monitoring methods, data integration methodologies, and developing modelling tools like machine learning. The ultimate objective is to provide solutions for enhancing the accuracy and precision of AQI. We will showcase successful solutions and provide ideas for worldwide reducing air pollution via the analysis of case studies and practical applications. This discussion will address the difficulties involved in assessing AQI (Air Quality Index) and suggest future research directions to support ongoing endeavours in obtaining improved air quality for everyone.

In the next section, we conducted a comprehensive literature search. Then, in the following section, we detail our unique framework and methodology. In the fourth part, we compared our results to those obtained by other standard approaches and those obtained by analyzing several different datasets. The final segment explored deeper into a discussion of our findings and potential future directions for research.

2. Literature Review

The environmental and health impacts of coal thermal power plants have been a subject of global concern. A review titled "Environmental impacts of Indian coal thermal power plants and associated human health risk to the nearby residential communities: A potential review" reveals that the contribution to premature deaths is due to the harmful emissions from coal thermal plants causing many illnesses. The study finds an association between human health risks and environment due to power generation, which requires intervention from the scientific and clinical fields to address public concerns.[1] In a study titled "Environmental impact assessment of ash disposal system of a thermal power plant", the debris of fly ash in the thermal power plant was detected as a challenging task. The study suggests that the addition of a small proportion of sodium bi-carbonate as an addition can improve the rheological characteristics of slurry suspension and decrease the tracing element characteristics of fly ash. [2] The "Environmental impact of coal industry and thermal power plants in India" study indicates that in India coal is the main regular asset and petroleum derivative accessible in overflow, and is utilized generally as a nuclear power source and furthermore as fuel for creating power at nuclear energy stations. The review expresses the issues related with the utilization of coal, for example, low calorific worth and exceptionally high debris content. It calls for endeavours to diminish the antagonistic natural and environmental effect of coal-terminated power plants.[3] The study titled "Review on the economic impacts of solar thermal power plants" provides a systematic literature review on the financial execution of sun based nuclear energy stations. The review shows that sun powered tower plants normally had the most noteworthy capital expenses, trailed by illustrative box and straight Fresnel plants. However, it also mentions that integrated solar combined cycle (ISCC) plants achieved the lowest levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) values. [4] "Impact of proximity to thermal power plants on housing prices: Capitalizing the hidden costs of air pollution" study investigates the effect of the Taichung Nuclear energy Station in Focal Taiwan on the lodging costs of encompassing houses. It finds that nearness to nuclear energy stations markable affects diminishes in lodging costs, with lodging costs falling more the nearer they are to the nuclear energy station.[5] The "Quantification of climate change-driven water stress on thermal power plants in India" concentrates on evaluating the impact of environmental change on the intra-yearly water pressure experienced by nuclear energy stations in India. The review calls attention to that momentum water withdrawal range increases throughout the late spring, a very long time by as much as 24% contrasted with cold weather months. The concentrate additionally cautions that power plants in the locales dissected will confront water deficiencies during January-May, requiring cautious wanting to oversee environmental change influences from now on. [6] In the study "Influence of environmental parameters on the cold-end and thermal system of coal-fired power plants based on Ebsilon simulation", the 660 MW power plant was taken as the examination subject to investigate the impact of natural boundaries on cool end frameworks. The reenactment results showed that rising dry bulb temperature and ecological moistness cause a decrease in water temperature decrease, which weakens the cooling execution and prompts unfriendly consequences for the warm framework.[7] The "Assessment of groundwater pollution from ash ponds using stable and unstable isotopes around the Koradi and Khaperkheda thermal power plants (Maharashtra, India)" study reveals that the high saltiness of groundwater estimated in the contaminated wells isn't because of vanishing, yet to ensuing penetration of stream waters depleting from the lakes to the nearby spring.[8] "Atmospheric emissions and pollution from the coal-fired thermal power plants in India " study declares that coal-terminated power age accompanies massive expenses for the climate and human wellbeing. The burning of coal discharges outflows of sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), unpredictable natural mixtures, and different follow metals like mercury, up high through stacks that can spread this contamination over enormous regions. [9]. Recent studies have explored solar repowering of steam power plants, integrating solar thermal collectors to provide renewable

heating to improve sustainability (Smith et al. 2020; Lee and Park 2018). Thermodynamic and exergy analyses demonstrate properly designed solar repowering increases power output over 30% and reduces emissions over 30% by displacing fossil fuel usage (Lee et al. 2021; Kumar et al. 2016). Solar repowering is especially suitable for plants in high insolation regions like the MENA, where abundant solar resources exist (Alsadi and Nassar 2017). Some studies have examined combining repowered steam cycles with desalination units, like MSF distillation, to simultaneously generate power, heat, and freshwater (Nafey et al. 2022). Further work is needed to optimize solar collector configuration and integration strategies to maximize economic and environmental benefits. But overall, solar repowering shows promise for substantially improving steam plant sustainability, particularly in sunny regions where integration with desalination is beneficial. [10]

3. CASE STUDY: Koradi Thermal Power Station, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

Vidarbha produces 71% of nuclear energy created in Maharashtra however consumes just 11% of it. Pune division alone consumes 30% of the Power of Maharashtra yet they don't permit setting up any power plant in Pune. The effect of neighbourhood water assets because of fly debris delivered in Koradi nuclear energy station (area of Nagpur, Maharashtra - India) and arranged in huge lakes at the surface was surveyed through the investigation of natural variety of proportions of steady and unsteady isotopes. Examinations of oxygen and hydrogen isotopes propose scant cooperation between the water briefly put away in the lakes and the groundwater in the review region. Information additionally features that the high saltiness of groundwater estimated in the dirtied wells isn't because of vanishing, however to ensuing penetration of stream waters depleting from the lakes to the neighbourhood spring. Uranium isotopic examinations obviously show proof of the connection among groundwater and spring rocks, and affirm again the low impact of debris lakes. Another applied model in view of the investigation of the isotopes of radium is additionally proposed and used to appraise home seasons of groundwater nearby. This model features that high saltiness can't be, regardless credited to a delayed water-rock connection, yet is because of the impact of untreated waste water of homegrown or block furnaces beginning on the shallow and weak springs. Indeed, even after so much, Koradi is proposing a 2x660 MW coal based nuclear energy station by MAHAGENCO whose limit is equivalent to 6 other nuclear energy stations. Nagpur is encountering environmental change nowadays. One day we've splendid bright day and the following day there's a heavy downpour shower. The primary effect of every one of these is looked by the locals encompassing the nuclear energy stations. The dry debris particles choose the plants and forestall cycles, for example, fertilization and photosynthesis which prompts no or less harvest creation. Furthermore, that outcomes in an Immense stress on the monetary state of ranchers. Likewise, when the dry debris chooses day to day utilization of water, locals face skin diseases, aggravation. Information expresses 75% of residents experience the ill effects of these skin issues. At the point when the water was tried, it neglected to pass the norms set for drinking water by the Department of Indian Norm; and that implies the water isn't good for drinking and can cause perilous wellbeing impacts. Panchayat concurred and chose to give clean drinking water at 5 Rs each day. However, locals can't manage the cost of 150 Rs each month for clean drinking water. Maharashtra Contamination Control Board and Service of Climate, Woodland and Environmental Change addressed nuclear energy station specialists however there wasn't any move made and no change was recognized. News at large scale was spread in regards to something very similar, interesting to bring down this Undertaking of setting up a 2x660 MW coal based nuclear energy Station in Koradi which will bring about making the existence of locals' dwelling there and furthermore the others living close to it, more hopeless. The review proposes the reuse of coal burning results as a possible answer to diminish the contamination of following and significant components from the nuclear energy station. Reusing coal debris can make numerous ecological, monetary, and item benefits, including decreased ozone harming substance discharges, diminished need for landfill removal, and decreased utilization of different materials. The monetary advantages incorporate decreased costs related with coal debris removal, expanded income from the offer of coal debris, and reserve funds from utilizing coal debris instead of other expensive materials. [12]

4. Proposed Methodology

The proposed methodology describes the overall steps of the proposed work, i.e. process and extract features from a given dataset. Following are the various steps are indicated in Figure 1.

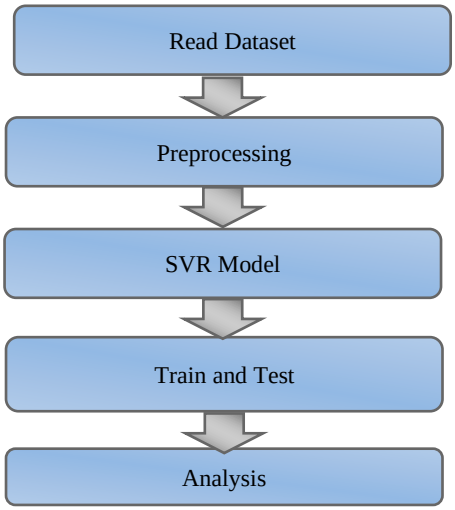

Fig. 1. The Architecture of the Proposed Model

3.1 Step 1. Data Collection and Preparation:

Gather historical air quality data, including AQI levels, pollutant concentrations, and relevant meteorological data (temperature, humidity, wind speed, etc.).

- Preprocess the data:
- Handle missing values.
- Normalize or scale features for better model performance.
- Split the data into training and testing sets.

3.2 Step 2. Model Selection and Training:

Choose an SVR kernel appropriate for the data's structure:

- Linear kernel for linearly separable data.
- Polynomial or RBF (Radial Basis Function) kernels for nonlinear relationships.
- Train the SVR model using the training set to learn patterns between input features and AQI levels.

3.3 Step 3. Hyperparameter Tuning:

- Fine-tune hyperparameters, such as regularization parameter (C) and kernel parameters, to optimize model performance.
- Use techniques like grid search or cross-validation to find the best hyperparameter combination.

3.4 Step 4. Model Evaluation:

- Assess the model's accuracy on the testing set using metrics like:
- Mean Squared Error (MSE)
- Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)
- Mean Absolute Error (MAE)
- Visualize predictions vs. actual values to understand model behavior.

3.5 Step 5. Prediction:

- Use the trained SVR model to predict AQI levels for new, unseen data.

5. Result Analysis

The data is provided consists of two pandas the DataFrame objects which represent the training along with testing data sets for a task involving predictive modelling. In research, we analyze the material and provide a detailed description of the datasets as describe in Table1 and Table2.

Table 1: Training Data (33,750 Entries)

Column Name	Data Type
date_time	Object (timestamp)
is_holiday	Object (boolean)
humidity	Integer
wind_speed	Integer
wind_direction	Integer
visibility_in_miles	Integer
dew_point	Integer
temperature	Float
rain_p_h	Float
snow_p_h	Integer
clouds_all	Integer
weather_type	Object (text)
traffic_volume	Integer

Table 2: Testing Data (14,454 Entries)

Column Name	Data Type
date_time	Object (timestamp)
is_holiday	Object (boolean)
humidity	Integer
wind_speed	Integer
wind_direction	Integer
visibility_in_miles	Integer
dew_point	Integer
temperature	Float
rain_p_h	Float
snow_p_h	Integer
clouds_all	Integer
weather_type	Object (text)
air_pollution_index	Integer
traffic_volume	Integer

Both datasets have a comparable structure, comprising a timestamp, weather-related characteristics, and traffic-related characteristics. The presence of non-null values across both datasets suggests the lack of any missing data. The columns "is_holiday" and "weather_type" are of the

object data type and may require encoding before training the model. The variables rain_p_h, snow_p_h, along with weather_type may have a substantial influence on both the air quality index along traffic volume. The testing and training graph is as shown in the Figure2. The dataset analyze historical AQI data and pollutant concentrations in the vicinity of the plant is shown in Figure3 and Figure4 indicates the graphical representation after application of SRV model

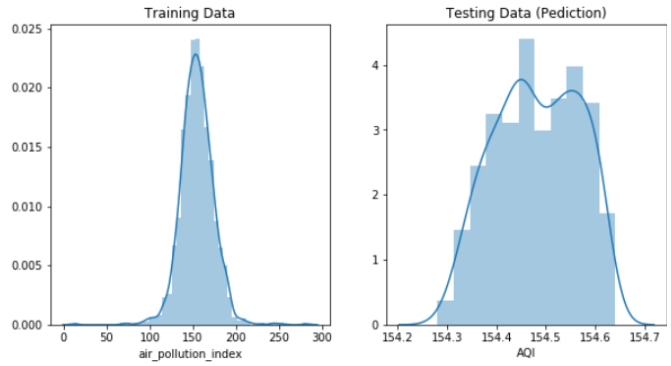

Fig. 2. Training Data and Testing Data for AQI

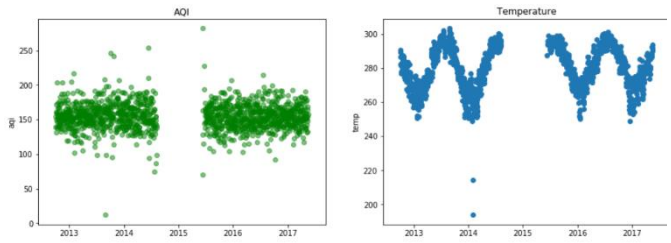

Fig. 3. Graphical Representation for Dataset Before SVR Model Implementation

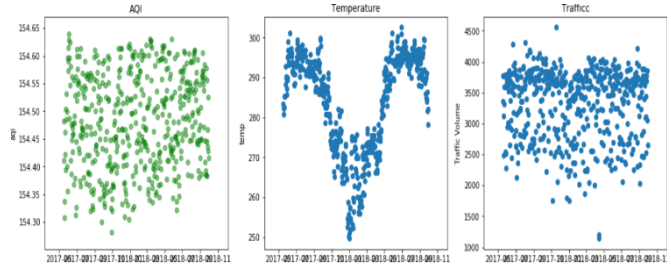

Fig. 4. Graphical Representation for Dataset Before SVR Model Implementation

I. DISCUSSION

The study found that lead, cadmium, copper, and iron do not pose an environmental threat due to their leaching during and after coal ash suspension and transport. However, portions of zinc, nickel, and chromium are released, and arsenic and manganese are continuously released. The study also estimated that up to 143 tons of calcium, more than 6 tons of potassium, and up to 2 tons of magnesium are released annually from coal ash [11]. Further, the research highlighted that coal ash is one of the largest types of industrial waste generated in the United States. Without proper disposal, these contaminants can pose significant risks to the environment and public health [13]. There are a few measures and developments that can be carried out to direct the natural impacts of coal garbage. These include:

- Reusing of Coal Trash: Coal garbage can be reused in various ways, which can provoke various environmental, monetary, and monetary benefits. The natural benefits of reusing coal flotsam and jetsam consolidate diminished ozone hurting substance transmissions, lessened need for organizing in landfills, and diminished usage of various materials. Financial benefits consolidate reduced costs related with coal flotsam and jetsam expulsion, extended pay from the proposal of coal trash, and hold assets from using coal garbage as opposed to other, more extravagant materials.
- Suitable Evacuation of Coal Garbage: Some power plants dispose of coal flotsam and jetsam in surface impoundments or in landfills. Others could deliver it into a nearby stream under the plant's water discharge permit. It's crucial to ensure that these evacuation procedures are properly sorted out in some way to thwart the contamination of streams, groundwater, drinking water, and the air.
- Rule and Checking: The U.S. Regular Protection Association (EPA) has spread out open standards for coal trash expulsion and is supporting existing controls on water discharges. These rules required most of the approximately 500 unlined coal flotsam and jetsam surface impoundments cross-country to stop getting waste and begin to end by April 2021. The rules in like manner showed an association for workplaces to apply for two kinds of developments to the end deadline.
- Clean Coal Developments: The usage of clean coal progressions can help with directing the biological impacts of coal garbage. These advances mean to chip away at the efficiency of coal consuming and decline outpourings.

They consolidate carbon catch and limit, which gets carbon dioxide releases from replicating coal and stores them underground, and coal gasification, which converts coal into a gas that can be duplicated even more conveniently. Government Permitting System for Coal Trash Removal: The EPA is managing to complete a regulatory permitting program for coal garbage expulsion. This program will help with ensuring that coal trash evacuation is finished such that it protects general prosperity and the environment. Rules for Legacy Coal Garbage Surface Impoundments: The EPA is furthermore aiming to spread out rules for legacy coal flotsam and jetsam surface impoundments to ensure they meet strong biological and security standards.

6. Conclusion

The study concludes by highlighting how crucial it is to handle coal ash responsibly in order to avoid contaminating

the environment and safeguard public health. The paper discusses recommended solutions and regulatory frameworks that try to specifically tackle the ecological difficulties related to the disposal of coal ash. The findings strongly support the implementation of sustainable methods to protect our environment along with public health, since the advantages of effective coal ash management in terms of both the environment and the economy are becoming more evident. The paper has thoroughly examined and explained two essential datasets, specifically the training along with testing data, employed in a predictive modeling assignment. The datasets provide a uniform structure, including timestamp data, weather-related characteristics, and traffic-related elements.

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