

Project Title : An Intelligent System for Predicting Flight Demand and Peak Travel Periods Using Machine Learning and Deep Learning

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1. Project Overview

The aviation industry experiences significant fluctuations in passenger traffic, leading to peak travel periods that place pressure on airport infrastructure and airline operations. Predicting these patterns is essential for airlines to optimize ticket pricing, improve fleet allocation, and enhance operational efficiency. For airports, accurate demand forecasting supports workforce planning, resource allocation, and congestion reduction.

This project aims to develop an intelligent system capable of predicting flight demand levels and identifying peak travel periods using historical flight and temporal data. By leveraging both machine learning and deep learning techniques, the generated insights can support proactive decision-making and improve overall operational performance within the aviation sector.

2. Project Goals

- Develop a model to forecast flight demand levels (Low, Medium, High) based on historical flight and seasonal data.
- Identify peak travel periods using temporal factors such as holidays, seasons, and day-of-week patterns.
- Compare the performance of traditional machine learning classifiers (XGBoost) against deep learning approaches (ANN) for aviation demand forecasting.
- Improve resource management and operational planning for airlines and airports through data-driven predictions.

3. Approach

Data Collection: The project will utilize publicly available aviation datasets

.from sources such as Kaggle or the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
The datasets may include features such as departure dates and times, origin and destination airports, flight frequency, seasonal indicators, and holiday information.

Data Processing: Preprocessing will include handling missing values, removing duplicates, encoding categorical variables, feature engineering, and normalizing data when necessary to improve model performance.

Model/Method Selection: This study implements a rigorous benchmarking approach focusing on two primary advanced sub-fields of artificial intelligence: Ensemble Machine Learning via XGBoost (Extreme Gradient Boosting), recognized as a state-of-the-art classifier for tabular data, and Deep Learning via Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), to effectively capture complex, non-linear seasonal variations in aviation data.

Testing and Evaluation: "Model success and predictive performance will be rigorously measured using standard multi-class classification metrics, specifically: Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-Score. Special emphasis will be placed on the Recall and F1-Score of the 'High Demand' class due to its operational criticality in aviation congestion management."

4. Project Steps and Timeline

Phase 1: Research Proposal & Methodology (First Semester - Current)

Week 1 – 3: Problem Identification, Formulation of Research Objectives, and Initial Brainstorming.

Week 4 – 6: Literature Review (Reviewing existing machine learning and deep learning methodologies in aviation demand).

Week 7 – 9: Data Acquisition & Source Verification (Securing the historical dataset from Kaggle and U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics - BTS).

Week 10 – 12: Defining System Architecture and Selection of Proposed Models (XGBoost and ANN frameworks).

Week 13 – 15: Draft Proposal Writing, Revisions with the Supervisor, and Proposal Defense Presentation.

Phase 2: Implementation, Evaluation & Final Thesis (Second Semester - Next)

Week 1 – 3: Data Cleaning & Preprocessing (Handling missing values, outlier detection, and data normalization using Min-Max Scaler).

Week 4 – 5: Feature Engineering (Extracting temporal and seasonal features, applying One-Hot Encoding for categorical flight data).

Week 6 – 8: Model Development & Training (Coding and hyperparameter tuning for both XGBoost and the Artificial Neural Network - ANN).

Week 9 – 10: Performance Evaluation & Comparative Analysis (Testing models using Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-Score, with a focus on High-Demand prediction).

Week 11 – 12: System Optimization and Future Recommendations (Drafting dashboard integration concepts).

Week 13 – 15: Final Thesis Documentation, Reviewing Results, and Final Project Viva / Defense.

5. Expected Results

A trained framework capable of accurately predicting flight demand levels and peak travel periods using optimized ML and ANN models
Identification of the most influential factors affecting aviation demand including holidays, seasons, and weekly travel patterns
Practical insights that can support decision-making for airlines and airports
A conceptual framework that can be extended into a full operational dashboard or intelligent decision-support system in Graduation Project2.

6. Resources Needed

Hardware: MacBook Air (M2 Chip) for local data processing and model training

Software and Libraries: Python, Anaconda / VS Code, Pandas, NumPy Scikit-learn, XGBoost, Keras / TensorFlow (for ANN development), and Matplotlib/Seaborn for visualization

Datasets: Open-source historical flight traffic datasets from Kaggle or BTS.

7. References

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