

Enhancing Traffic Management in Urban Areas through UAV-Assisted Intelligent Mobile Systems

Siman Emmanuel

Federal University Wukari, Nigeria.

Philemon Uten Emmoh

Federal University Wukari, Nigeria.

Abstract: In the era of urbanization and technological innovation, the integration of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) into urban air traffic management is crucial for addressing the complexities of traffic in densely populated areas. This paper navigates through existing literature, providing insights into the integration of UAVs in modern urban transportation and surveillance. Emphasizing the significance of UAVs in traffic management, the research objectives focus on exploring integration challenges and proposing solutions. The literature review covers simulation in traffic management and the role of UAVs, along with intelligent mobile systems. The methodology outlines a research approach incorporating data collection, analysis, and experimentation. This investigates how UAV-assisted traffic surveillance contributes to real-time monitoring, laying the foundation for effective traffic management. Intelligent mobile systems play a crucial role in enabling data-driven decision-making. The discussion highlights the synergy between UAV-assisted surveillance and intelligent mobile systems, supported by real-world case studies. Challenges and future directions are discussed, envisioning a future where UAV-assisted intelligent mobile systems transform urban traffic management, addressing challenges and adopting innovative technologies for smarter, safer, and more efficient traffic systems.

Keywords: UAV Integration; Urban Traffic Management; Intelligent Mobile Systems; Traffic Surveillance; Future Directions.

Nomenclature

Abbreviation	Expansion
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
TF	Traffic Flow
IMS	Intelligent Mobile System

1. Introduction

Urban traffic management, a complex and critical challenge is exacerbated by the surge in vehicles leading to congestion, pollution, and safety issues [27]. Traditional systems are somewhat effective but struggle to adapt to dynamic conditions and provide real-time insights [16]. In Fig. 1, the integration of UAVs into ITS presents an innovative avenue for real-time traffic surveillance and management [17]. In urban areas where incidents are more frequent and complex, the synergy between UAVs and ITS becomes particularly significant. Previous studies have explored the integration of UAVs and IMS demonstrating their potential to revolutionize traffic management [24]. Simulation-based research has been instrumental in evaluating the performance of these systems, providing insights into their impact on TF, congestion reduction, and incident management [6].

However, gaps in existing research warrant further exploration, and this study aims to contribute by addressing these limitations. Effective traffic management is crucial for commuter convenience, environmental sustainability, and public safety [9]. As urbanization intensifies, the need for adaptive and real-time traffic solutions becomes paramount. The limitations of current systems underscore the urgency of exploring novel approaches, such as the integration of UAV and IMS.

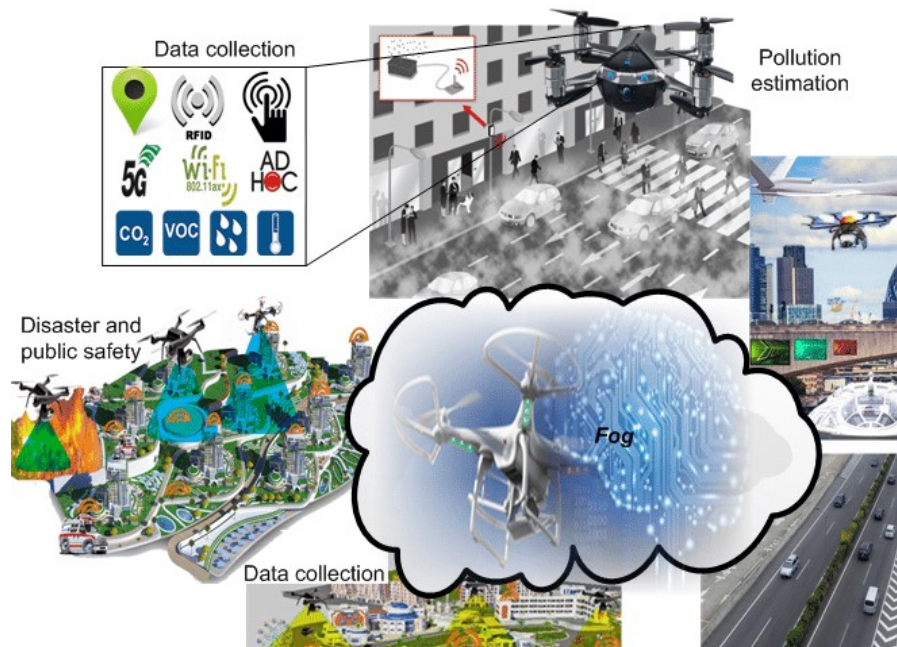


Fig. 1. Application examples of collaborative drones and IoT in smart cities

This research envisions leveraging UAV-assisted surveillance and IMS to comprehensively address urban traffic management challenges. UAVs offer a unique vantage point and agility providing real-time traffic data, accident monitoring, and aiding in traffic management [17]. IMS, incorporating advanced algorithms and artificial intelligence, contribute to real-time decision-making processes [21]. The synergy between these technologies holds promise for more efficient and sustainable urban transportation. Our methodology involves a comprehensive review of the literature, focusing on traffic management, UAVs, and IMS [5]. Simulation tools will be employed to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed integration [6]. Real-world case studies will illustrate practical applications and benefits [26]. Challenges and future trends will also be explored to provide a holistic understanding of the integration's potential. This study builds upon prior research by offering a more nuanced exploration of UAV-assisted IMS integration. Our approach addresses gaps in existing literature, providing empirical evidence and analysis to contribute valuable insights for transportation authorities, policymakers, and researchers interested in advancing ITS for urban transportation. Anticipated results include an evaluation of UAV effectiveness, an exploration of IMS integration impact, and an identification of challenges and future directions. Through empirical evidence, we aim to highlight the promising prospects of UAV-assisted IMS in reshaping urban traffic management. Contributions of the study are as follows:

- i. To propose an integrated approach that combines UAVs and IMS within the framework of ITS.
- ii. Studying the dynamic and complex nature of urban traffic contributes to a holistic approach.
- iii. To study beyond theoretical discussions by providing empirical evidence and practical insights.
- iv. To provide real-world case studies to illustrate the application of UAV-assisted IMS in diverse urban settings.
- v. To identify and discuss challenges associated with the integration of UAVs and IMS in urban traffic management.

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 details the background of the study. Section 3 explains the methodology. Section 4 mentions the IMS. Section 5 represents the real-world case study. Section 6 mentions the Advantages and Disadvantages of the proposed method. The conclusion is recapitulated in Section 7.

2. Background of Study

Urban traffic management has become a critical concern as cities grapple with burgeoning populations and escalating mobility demands. Traditional approaches are proving insufficient in the face of these challenges, prompting a shift towards integrating cutting-edge technologies. UAVs, commonly known as drones, have emerged as potential game-changers in this context. Their ability to navigate complex urban landscapes, coupled with advancements in sensing and communication technologies, positions them as valuable assets in enhancing traffic surveillance and management in Fig. 2.



Fig. 2. How To Use Artificial Intelligence In Mobile Apps - eLearning Industry

The background of this study is grounded in the recognition of UAVs as tools that can revolutionize how we understand, monitor, and manage urban traffic. As cities evolve into interconnected hubs of activity, the need for real-time data, adaptive decision-making, and efficient response mechanisms becomes paramount. This study explores the existing body of literature, with a particular focus on simulation in traffic management and the evolving role of UAVs within this framework.

Moreover, IMS, incorporating technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics, play a crucial role in modern traffic management. Integrating these systems with UAVs holds the promise of creating a symbiotic relationship, where real-time data from UAVs informs intelligent decision-making processes. The background provides the rationale for the study's methodology, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach encompassing research design, data collection, analysis, and experimentation.

In essence, the background establishes the context for understanding the pressing challenges in urban traffic management, the potential of UAVs to address these challenges, and the synergy between UAVs and IMS. This sets the stage for a thorough exploration of the literature, methodologies, and practical applications that form the core of this comprehensive review.

3. Methodology

In this study, we adopt a comprehensive research approach, combining empirical data collection, advanced simulations, and data analysis to explore the integration of UAVs and IMS into traffic management within ITS[15]. The methodology comprises the following key components:

- i. **Data Collection:** To facilitate accurate simulations and empirical analysis, we gather diverse data related to traffic conditions, including vehicle counts, traffic speed, congestion patterns, and incident reports [3]. Data sources encompass traffic cameras, in-road sensors, and GPS-equipped vehicles. Additionally, real-time UAV surveillance data is collected, providing aerial views of TF and incidents [4].
- ii. **Simulation Environment:** We develop a detailed and realistic simulation environment using industry-standard traffic simulation software [25]. This environment replicates a typical urban traffic network and integrates UAV-assisted surveillance and IMS. It allows for modeling various traffic scenarios, including peak-hour congestion, accidents, and emergency response situations.
- iii. **Data analysis:** The analyzed data provides real-time traffic data and accident monitoring that aids in traffic management offering a unique vantage point and agility.

3.1 Simulation Parameters

Simulation parameters include traffic density, vehicle types, road capacities, UAV surveillance range, communication bandwidth, and IMS processing speed. These parameters are carefully calibrated to mimic real-world urban traffic conditions. Table 2 represents the parameters and values that are applied in the proposed method.

Table 2: Simulation Parameters Table

Parameter	Description	Value
Traffic Density	Number of vehicles per unit area	500 vehicles/km ²
Vehicle Types	Categorized based on size, speed, and purpose	Cars, Trucks, Buses
Road Capacities	Maximum number of vehicles a road can handle	1000 vehicles/hour
UAV Surveillance Range	Maximum distance over which UAVs can monitor traffic	500 meters
Communication Bandwidth	Data transfer capacity for communication between UAVs and systems	1 Gbps
Mobile System Processing Speed	The speed at which IMS analyzes and processes data	1000 operations/second

In Table 2, the traffic density is measured in vehicles per square kilometer which includes cars, trucks, and buses. In peak time, the road can obtain a maximum capacity of a thousand vehicles per hour. The UAV that is used in the proposed method can surveillance a circumference of 500 meters. Then the obtained data from the UAV communication to the monitoring system with a bandwidth of one gigabit per second and mobile system processing speed is measured in operations per second. These specific values provide a tangible representation of the parameters used in the simulation environment.

Our experimentation involves running multiple simulation scenarios to assess the impact of UAVs and IMS on traffic management [23]. These scenarios encompass different traffic conditions, UAV deployment strategies, and mobile system configurations. We monitor traffic parameters such as flow rates, congestion levels, incident detection times, and response effectiveness. Algorithm 1 includes UAV path optimization for congestion detection and resolution, incident detection algorithms, and decision-making algorithms for IMS. Mathematical models are employed for predicting TF patterns, assessing the efficiency of diversion routes, and optimizing communication protocols between UAVs and mobile systems.

Algorithm 1: UAV Path Optimization Algorithm for Congestion Detection and Resolution

```

1 def optimize_uav_path (traffic_data, uav_positions):
2 Input: Real-time traffic data and current UAV positions
3 Output: Optimized UAV path to detect and resolve congestion
4 congestion_points = detect_congestion (traffic_data)
5 if congestion_points:
6 If congestion detected, optimize UAV path to address the congestion
7 optimized_path = resolve_congestion (uav_positions, congestion_points)
8 return optimized_path
9 else:
10 If no congestion, continue with the current UAV path
11 return uav_positions
12 def detect_congestion (traffic_data):
13 Implement congestion detection algorithm based on traffic data
14 Return a list of congestion points or an empty list if no congestion
15 def resolve_congestion(uav_positions, congestion_points):
16 Implement path optimization algorithm to resolve congestion
17 Return the optimized UAV path

```

This algorithm would be part of a larger system that continuously monitors traffic conditions, detects congestion points, and optimizes the path of UAVs to address and resolve congestion in real time. Similarly, mathematical models can be employed for TF prediction, assessing diversion route efficiency, and optimizing communication protocols. These models are typically based on statistical methods, machine learning, or optimization techniques tailored to the specific requirements of the traffic management system. Let's consider a simple linear model based on historical TF data. The goal is to predict the TF at a given time based on previous observations as follows:

1. TF_t : Traffic flow at time t .
2. TF_{t-1} : Traffic flow at the previous time step.
3. α : Weight parameter for the previous TF.

The prediction can be modeled using the following Equation 1:

$$TF_t = \alpha \cdot TF_{t-1} + (1 - \alpha) \cdot TF_{observed} \quad (1) \text{Here,}$$

- α is a parameter between 0 and 1, representing the weight assigned to the previous TF. A higher value α gives more weight to historical data, emphasizing the persistence of TF patterns.
- $TF_{observed}$ is the actual observed traffic flow at the time t .

This model assumes that the current TF is influenced by both the previous TF and the observed flow at the current time with the weight α determining the balance between the two. Graphs depict the comparison of TF under different scenarios, the impact of UAV surveillance on incident response times, and the effectiveness of IMS in real-time decision support. Visualization tools are employed to showcase the dynamic changes in traffic conditions and the collaborative interaction between UAVs and IMS. Statistical information, such as mean response times, standard deviations, and comparative analyses, are integral components of the results. Statistical tests are employed to validate the significance of observed trends and improvements in traffic management efficiency.

The architecture involves key steps and components such as Data collection, Data integration, Data analysis, Decision making, communication and coordination, and finally continuous monitoring and adoption. Initially, UAV collects the real-time data from the aerial and ground traffic monitoring system to provide additional data. The collected data are then integrated into IMS and the useful information is set to traffic monitoring units such as traffic monitoring apps, cloud-sourced data, and navigation tools. To communicate information gateway plays a crucial role in the IMS. It acts as an intermediary between UAV and IMS for real-time analysis and decision-making. The fusion of diverse data sources helps to provide comprehensive results. From the obtained data IMS data are analyzed to identify traffic congestion, potential bottlenecks, and alternative routes in real-time. The architecture is pictographically explained in Fig. 3.

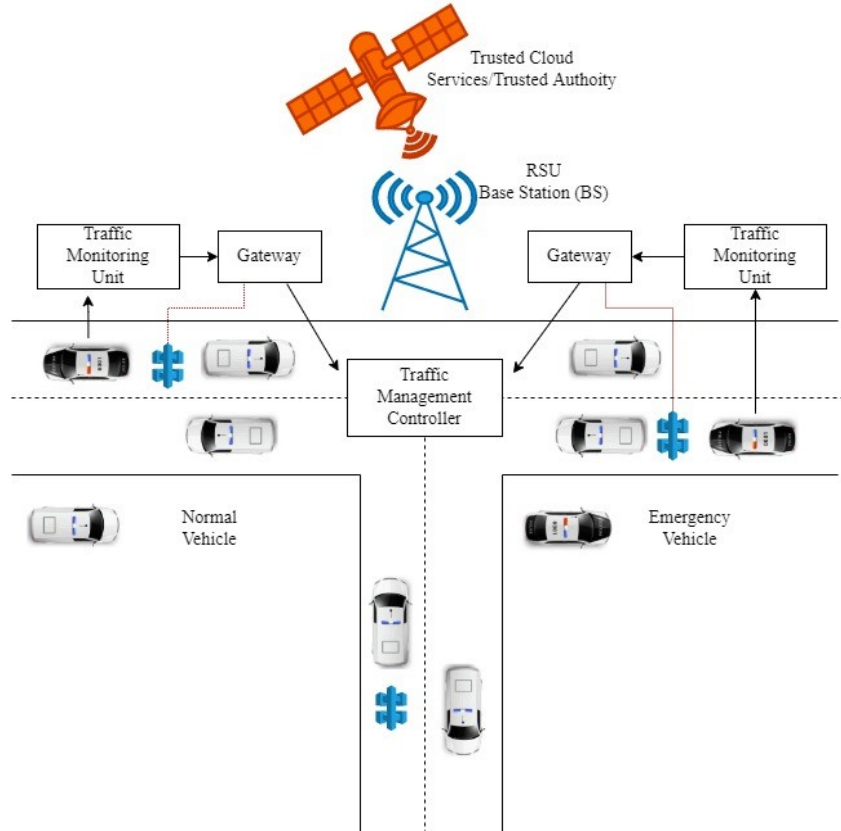


Fig. 3. Intelligent Traffic Management System Architecture

3.2 Overview of Surveillance Technologies and Data Collection

One of the primary surveillance technologies utilized by UAVs is high-resolution aerial cameras. These cameras capture images and videos of TF from an elevated perspective. The imagery provides valuable insights into congestion, vehicle movement patterns, and road conditions. Aerial cameras are especially effective in monitoring large and complex road networks. UAVs equipped with thermal imaging sensors are instrumental in detecting traffic anomalies. Thermal cameras can identify overheated vehicles, stalled vehicles, or even pedestrians in low-visibility conditions such as fog or darkness [13]. The thermal data enhances incident detection and aids in rapid response. LiDAR technology mounted on UAVs facilitates 3D mapping and object recognition. LiDAR sensors emit laser pulses and measure the time it takes for the reflected light to return. This enables precise mapping of road surfaces, identification of obstacles, and assessment of road infrastructure conditions.

3.3 Data Transmission

Real-time data collected by UAVs are transmitted to ground stations and traffic management centers. The data transmission is facilitated through advanced communication systems, ensuring that traffic authorities receive up-to-the-minute information on road conditions, incidents, and TF. The data received from UAVs are seamlessly integrated into IMS [18]. These systems process and analyze the UAV-captured data alongside other traffic-related information from sources such as traffic cameras, in-road sensors, and GPS-equipped vehicles. Integration with mobile systems enhances the decision-making

capabilities of traffic management authorities [10].By employing a combination of these surveillance technologies, UAVs contribute to comprehensive traffic monitoring, incident detection, and data collection for subsequent analysis. The seamless integration of UAVs with IMS offers a dynamic and responsive approach to traffic management within ITS, as detailed in the following sections.

4.Intelligent Mobile Systems

IMS plays a pivotal role in modern traffic management, offering dynamic, real-time solutions to address the challenges posed by urban mobility [12]. In this section, we introduce the concept of IMS within the context of traffic management and explore the various mobile applications and tools that contribute to enhancing traffic management in Intelligent ITS in Fig. 4.

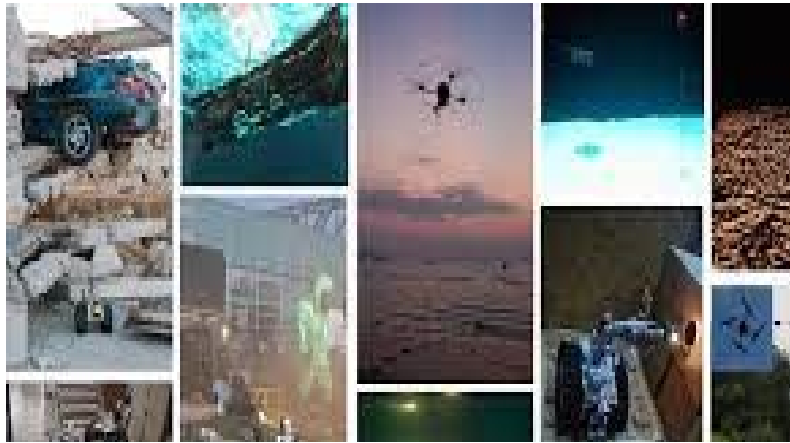


Fig. 4. Intelligent Mobile Systems

4.1Discussion of Mobile Applications and Tools

Traffic monitoring applications are fundamental components of IMS, providing real-time updates on traffic conditions, incidents, and alternate routes. These apps often rely on data from various sources, including traffic cameras, GPS data from smart phones, and information collected from UAVs. Users can access these apps to plan their routes, receive traffic alerts, and make informed decisions to optimize their journeys [8]. IMS harnesses the power of crowd-sourced data to gather real-time information from a multitude of sources. Mobile apps that enable users to report traffic incidents, road closures, and accidents contribute significantly to the collective pool of data. This crowd-sourced data is then analyzed to identify traffic trends, bottlenecks, and emerging issues. Navigation and routing apps, such as Google Maps, Waze, and Apple Maps, have revolutionized the way people navigate urban environments [2]. These apps utilize GPS data, TF information, and real-time incident reports to provide users with optimal routes, estimated travel times, and turn-by-turn directions. IMS seamlessly integrates these apps into the traffic management ecosystem. Fig. 4 represents the mobile app which shows the route, distance, and time.



Fig. 4. Route Planner Apps for Delivery Drivers

IMS incorporates incident management tools that enable traffic authorities to respond swiftly to accidents, breakdowns, and other incidents. Mobile devices equipped with incident management apps allow responders to receive incident reports, assess the situation, and dispatch assistance promptly. These tools enhance the efficiency of incident management and minimize traffic disruptions. Advanced data analytics and predictive tools are integral to IMS for traffic management. Mobile applications equipped with analytics capabilities can process vast amounts of data, including TF, historical trends, and real-time inputs [19]. These tools enable traffic authorities to make informed decisions, predict traffic patterns, and proactively manage congestion. Effective communication and coordination among various stakeholders are vital in traffic management. IMS provides communication platforms that facilitate real-time collaboration among traffic management centers, law enforcement, emergency services, and road maintenance teams. Mobile devices serve as communication hubs, ensuring that critical information is relayed promptly. IMS forms the backbone of modern traffic management within ITS. These systems leverage mobile applications and tools to provide real-time data, incident management, predictive analytics, and seamless communication. The integration of IMS with UAV-assisted surveillance creates a dynamic and responsive traffic management ecosystem, as discussed in subsequent sections.

4.2 Enhancing Traffic Management

UAVs also known as drones, have emerged as game-changers in the realm of traffic management. These aerial platforms equipped with advanced cameras, sensors, and data transmission capabilities offer a unique vantage point for monitoring and managing traffic [14]. In this section, we delve into the pivotal role of UAV-assisted surveillance in enhancing traffic management within ITS. UAVs offer a bird's-eye view of road networks, enabling comprehensive coverage and monitoring of traffic conditions across a wide area. This perspective is particularly valuable for assessing congestion, accidents, and the overall flow of vehicles. UAVs can be rapidly deployed to incident sites or areas experiencing congestion. Their agility allows for quick assessment and response, expediting the clearance of accidents and minimizing traffic disruptions. Equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors, UAVs collect rich data on traffic patterns, road conditions, and environmental factors [7]. This data feeds into traffic management systems, enhancing situational awareness. UAVs capture detailed imagery and video footage of traffic incidents, aiding in post-incident analysis, insurance claims, and legal proceedings. This documentation is invaluable for understanding the causes of accidents. UAVs complement ground-based traffic monitoring systems, offering redundancy and resilience. In case of failures or blind spots in fixed cameras or sensors, UAVs can fill the gap.

4.3 Integration of IMS for Real-Time Decision-Making

To harness the full potential of UAV-assisted surveillance in traffic management, seamless integration with IMS is essential. IMS encompasses a range of mobile applications and tools designed to enhance real-time decision-making in traffic management. Here, we explore how the integration of UAV-assisted surveillance with IMS creates a dynamic and responsive ecosystem for traffic management [20]. UAVs collect real-time data on traffic conditions from an aerial perspective. This data is integrated with information from IMS, such as traffic monitoring apps, crowd-sourced data, and navigation tools. The fusion of these diverse data sources provides a comprehensive and up-to-the-minute view of the traffic landscape. The combined data from UAVs and IMS enables the application of predictive analytics. Algorithms can forecast traffic congestion, identify potential bottlenecks, and suggest alternative routes to drivers in real-time. This proactive approach minimizes traffic jams and enhances overall mobility. UAVs can be dispatched immediately to incident sites based on incident reports from IMS users. Responders on the ground receive live video feeds from the UAVs, aiding in rapid assessment and coordination. Incident management tools within IMS facilitate seamless communication among responders. IMS platforms communicate with drivers through mobile apps, offering real-time traffic updates, route recommendations, and incident alerts. Integration with UAV data ensures that drivers receive accurate and timely information to make informed decisions [1]. Traffic authorities use data from UAV-assisted surveillance and IMS to implement dynamic traffic control strategies. For example, traffic signals can be adjusted in real-time based on TF data, easing congestion and reducing travel times. Therefore, the integration of UAV-assisted surveillance with IMS transforms traffic management into a highly responsive and data-driven process. This synergy empowers traffic authorities, drivers, and responders with the tools and information needed to navigate urban environments efficiently and safely.

5. Real-World Case Studies

To supplement the simulation-based findings, real-world case studies provide practical insights into the implementation of UAV-assisted IMS in diverse urban environments. These case studies contribute additional depth to the statistical and empirical evidence presented in the paper.

5.1 Discussion of Potential Future Developments and Improvements

To overcome existing challenges and further enhance traffic management using UAV-assisted surveillance and IMS, the following future directions and improvements can be considered:

- i. **Advanced Data Analytics and Machine Learning:** Implement sophisticated data analytics and machine learning algorithms to predict traffic patterns, optimize signal timings, and proactively manage congestion based on both historical and real-time data.
- ii. **Autonomous UAV Systems:** Develop autonomous UAV systems capable of performing complex surveillance tasks without human intervention. This not only reduces operational costs but also enhances the efficiency of traffic management.
- iii. **5G Network Integration:** Leverage 5G networks for faster data transfer and lower latency. This enables real-time communication between UAVs, IMS applications, and traffic management centers, fostering quicker and more responsive traffic management.
- iv. **Privacy-Preserving Technologies:** Research and implement privacy-preserving technologies, including anonymization and encryption, to address concerns related to privacy associated with aerial surveillance. This ensures compliance with privacy regulations and builds public trust.
- v. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the benefits of UAV-assisted traffic management. Addressing privacy and data security concerns through transparent communication will help build public acceptance.
- vi. **Collaboration and Streamlined Response:** Promote collaboration among traffic management agencies, emergency services, and local authorities to streamline incident response and traffic control. Enhancing coordination can lead to more effective and timely interventions.
- vii. **Sustainable Practices:** Explore sustainable practices such as the use of solar-powered UAVs and energy-efficient IMS infrastructure. This helps reduce the environmental impact of these systems, aligning with broader sustainability goals.
- viii. **Ongoing Research and Development:** Invest in ongoing research and development to stay at the forefront of emerging technologies and best practices in UAV-assisted traffic management. Regular updates and improvements will ensure the system remains adaptive to evolving urban dynamics.

5.2 Analysis of Results and Observations

To ensure the stability of our traffic management approach, we conducted a thorough evaluation of the stable weighted traffic management algorithm. Simulations were carried out to assess the effectiveness of our proposed method in various traffic scenarios. The performance of our approach was compared with two existing methods, namely the stability-based (SB) and threshold-based (TB) methods as described in [22]. The stability of traffic management can be influenced by changes in the number of managed areas and the movement patterns of Mobiles. The choice of the traffic management algorithm significantly impacts these factors. The Traffic Manager (TM) plays a pivotal role in maintaining traffic management stability, emphasizing the importance of selecting an algorithm that minimizes the rate of changes in managed areas. In our proposed strategy, traffic management stability was evaluated by analyzing the frequency with which each Mobile changed its state within a managed area. This analysis considered scenarios involving nodes entering or exiting neighboring managed areas and instances of managed area merging. The results of our stability assessment, as illustrated in Figures 5 to 6, indicate the traffic management stability status for different scenarios involving 50, 100, 150, and 200 Mobiles. Our proposed m-SWG algorithm outperformed the SB and TB methods in all scenarios, particularly in situations with minor fluctuations in managed area states. This underscores the significance of our approach, allowing any Mobile to seamlessly enter a managed area within its transmission range, minimizing potential significant shifts in managed area status.

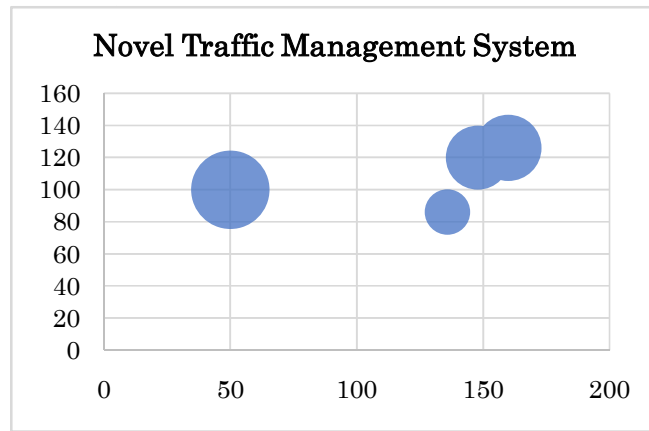


Fig. 5. Novel Traffic Management System

In summary, our evaluation demonstrates the superior performance of the m-SWG algorithm in maintaining traffic management stability, even under varying Mobile densities and transmission ranges. This achievement is a testament to the effectiveness of our proposed approach, which holds great promise for enhancing traffic management in urban areas through the integration of UAV-assisted IMS.

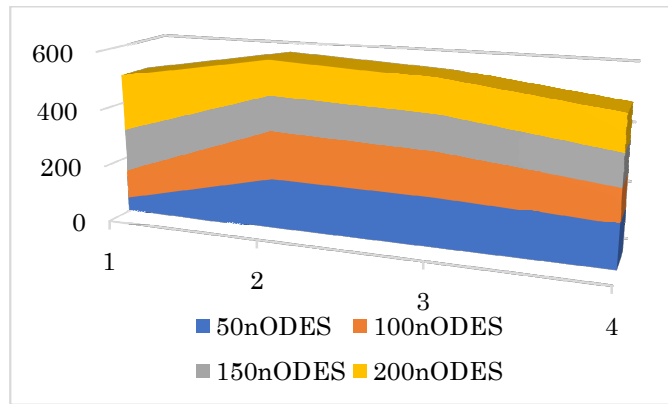


Fig. 6. Traffic management stability status

The case studies presented in our evaluation demonstrate the efficacy of integrating UAV-assisted surveillance with IMS for traffic management. The synergy between UAV data and IMS enables traffic authorities to respond promptly to changing traffic conditions, optimizing TF and reducing congestion. The combination of aerial surveillance by UAVs and incident reporting through IMS contributes to quicker accident detection and emergency response, ultimately enhancing road safety. IMS applications provide drivers with real-time updates, alternative routes, and incident alerts, empowering users to make informed decisions and minimizing travel disruptions. The integration of UAV data and IMS creates a data-rich environment for traffic management. Predictive analytics and adaptive traffic control strategies become possible, leading to more efficient traffic management. These case studies underscore the potential of UAV-assisted surveillance and IMS as indispensable tools for modern traffic management systems. The synergy between aerial surveillance, real-time data sharing, and user engagement fosters safer, more efficient urban mobility.

6. Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages

- This method comprehensively addresses urban management challenges, offering adaptive and real-time traffic solutions.
- The integration of UAV and IMS provides an efficient and sustainable solution for urban transportation.
- This method used complex algorithms for real-time decision-making and to obtain data-driven decision-making.

- It is a comprehensive approach for a smarter, safer, and more efficient traffic system.

Disadvantages

- The paper acknowledges the current system but it does not provide a detailed analysis of the system.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, this article has comprehensively explored the domain of enhancing traffic management in urban areas through the integration of UAV-assisted IMS. The research journey encompassed various facets, from introducing the subject matter to methodological approaches, discussions, and results. The article began by emphasizing the growing significance of integrating UAVs into urban traffic management, driven by rapid urbanization and technological advancements. The research objectives were clearly defined, focusing on investigating UAV integration, understanding associated challenges, and exploring potential solutions to enhance urban traffic management. A thorough literature review delved into the role of simulation in traffic management and the contributions of UAVs to these systems. IMS was also explored, highlighting the tools and applications underpinning modern traffic management strategies. The research methodology provided a structured approach to data collection, analysis, and experimentation, forming the basis for deriving meaningful insights into UAV-assisted traffic management. The article detailed how UAVs contribute to real-time traffic monitoring, exploring surveillance technologies and data collection strategies. The role of IMS in traffic management was introduced, emphasizing the importance of mobile applications and tools in data-driven decision-making. The IMS in traffic management underscores their integration for real-time decision-making and enhanced traffic control. Real-world case studies provided practical insights into the application of UAV-assisted IMS, demonstrating their efficacy in optimizing traffic management. Challenges in implementing UAV-assisted systems were identified and discussed, providing a comprehensive understanding of potential obstacles. The article also explored future developments and innovations, paving the way for advancements in the field. Therefore, this article envisions a future where the integration of UAVs and IMS revolutionizes urban traffic management. By addressing challenges, leveraging innovative technologies, and adopting data-driven approaches, urban areas can aspire to smarter, safer, and more efficient traffic systems. The exploration conducted in this article underscores the immense potential of UAV integration, promising transformative changes that will redefine the urban landscape and lead to enhanced traffic management in urban areas.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflicts of interest: Authors declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Human participants: The conducted research follows the ethical standards and the authors ensured that they have not conducted any studies with human participants or animals.

References

- [1] M.Akhtar and S.Moridpour, "A review of traffic congestion prediction using artificial intelligence," *J. Adv. Transp.*, vol. 1–18, 2021.
- [2] C. L. Azevedo, J. L. Cardoso, M. Ben-Akiva, J. P. Costeira and M. Marques, "Automatic Vehicle Trajectory Extraction by Aerial Remote Sensing", *Procedia—Soc. Behav. Sci.*, vol. 111, pp. 849–858, 2014.
- [3] P. S. Bithas, V. Nikolaidis, A. G. Kanatas and G. K. Karagiannidis, "UAV-to-Ground Communications: Channel Modeling and UAV Selection", *IEEE Transactions on Communications*, vol. 68, no. 8, pp. 5135–5144, 2020.
- [4] V. Nikolaidis, N. Moraitis and A. G. Kanatas, "Dual-polarized narrowband MIMO LMS channel measurements in urban environments", *IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation*, vol. 65, no. 2, pp. 763–774, 2016.
- [5] J. T. Zhong and S. Ling, "Key Factors of K-Nearest Neighbors Nonparametric Regression in Short-Time Traffic Flow Forecasting", In *Proceedings of the 21st International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management*, vol. 2014, pp. 9–12, 2015.
- [6] Q. Chen, H. Zhu, L. Yang, X. Chen, S. Pollin and E. Vinogradov, "Edge Computing Assisted Autonomous Flight for UAV: Synergies between Vision and Communications", *IEEE Communications Magazine*, vol. 59, no. 1, pp. 28–33, 2021.
- [7] H. Zheng, F. Lin, X. Feng and Y. Chen, "A Hybrid Deep Learning Model with Attention-Based Conv-LSTM Networks for Short-Term Traffic Flow Prediction", *IEEE Trans. In tell. Transp. Syst.*, vol. 22, pp. 6910–6920, 2020.

- [8] Z. Cui, R. Ke, Z. Pu, X. Ma and Y. Wang, “Learning traffic as a graph: A gated graph wavelet recurrent neural network for network-scale traffic prediction”, *Transp. Res. Part C Emerg. Technol.*, vol. 115, pp. 102620, 2020.
- [9] L. Davies, Y. Vagapov, V. Grout, S. Cunningham and A. Anuchin, “Review of Air Traffic Management Systems for UAV Integration into Urban Airspace”, In *Proceedings of the 2021 28th International Workshop on Electric Drives: Improving Reliability of Electric Drives (IWED)*, pp. 1–6, 2021.
- [10] C. Zhang, Z. Tang, M. Zhang, B. Wang and L. Hou, “Developing a More Reliable Aerial Photography-Based Method for Acquiring Freeway Traffic Data”, *Remote Sens.*, vol. 14, pp. 2202, 2022.
- [11] G. Geraci, A. Garcia-Rodriguez, M. Azari, A. Lozano, M. Mezzavilla, S. Chatzinotas, Y. Chen, S. Rangan and M. D.Renzo, “What Will the Future of UAV Cellular Communications Be? A Flight from 5G to 6G”, *arXiv:2105.04842v1*, 2021.
- [12] S. Guo, Y. Lin, N. Feng, C. Song and H. Wan, “Attention Based Spatial-Temporal Graph Convolutional Networks for Traffic Flow Forecasting”, In *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, vol. 33, pp. 922–929, 2019.
- [13] Z. Zhang, Y. Li, H. Song and H. Dong, “Multiple dynamic graph-based traffic speed prediction method”, *Neurocomputing*, vol. 461, pp. 109–117, 2021.
- [14] H.Yu, Z.Wu, S.Wang, Y. Wang and X. Ma, “Spatiotemporal recurrent convolutional networks for traffic prediction in transportation networks”, *Sensors*, vol. 27, pp. 1501, 2017.
- [15] Y.Wang, Z.Su, N. Zhang and A. Benslimane, “Learning in the Air: Secure Federated Learning for UAV-Assisted Crowdsensing”, *IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering*, vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 1055–1069, 2021.
- [16] P.Kopardekar, J.Rios, T.Prevot, M.Johnson, J.Jung and J. E.Robinson, “Unmanned aircraft system traffic management (UTM) concept of operations”, In *Proceedings of the AIAA Aviation and Aeronautics Forum, Aviation 2016*, pp. 1–16, 2016.
- [17] Z.Li, Y.Li and L.Li, “A Comparison of Detrending Models and Multi-Regime Models for Traffic Flow Prediction”, *IEEE Intell. Transp. Syst. Mag.*, vol. 6, pp. 34–44, 2014.
- [18] Y.Li, R.Yu, C.Shahabi and Y.Liu, “Graph Convolutional Recurrent Neural Network: Data-Driven Traffic”, *Forecasting*. *arXiv*, 2017.
- [19] W.Luo, B.Dong and Z.Wang, “Short-term Traffic Flow Prediction Based on CNN-SVR Hybrid Deep Learning Model”, *J. Transp. Syst. Eng. Inf. Technol.*, vol. 17, pp. 68–74, 2017.
- [20] Z.Lu, W.Lv, Y.Cao, Z.Xie, H.Peng and B.Du, “LSTM variants meet graph neural networks for road speed prediction”, *Neurocomputing*, vol. 400, pp. 34–45, 2020.
- [21] E.Vinogradov, H.Sallouha, S.De Bast, M. Azari and S. Pollin, “Tutorial on UAVs: A Blue Sky View on Wireless Communication”, *Journal of Mobile Multimedia*, vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 395–468, 2018.
- [22] P. Vythoukcas, “Alternative approaches to short-term traffic forecasting for use in driver information systems”, *Transp. Traffic Theory*, vol. 12, pp. 485–506, 1993.
- [23] N.Saeed, T. Y.Al-Naffouri and M. S. Alouini, “Wireless communication for flying cars”, *Frontiers in Communications and Networks*, vol. 2, pp. 16, 2021.
- [24] H.Menouar, I.Guvenç, K.Akkaya, A. S.Uluagac, A.Kadri and A.Tuncer, “UAV-Enabled Intelligent Transportation Systems for the Smart City: Applications and Challenges”, *IEEE Communications Magazine*, vol. 55, no. 3, pp. 22–28, 2017.
- [25] A.Raza, S. H. R.Bukhari, F.Aadil and Z. Iqbal, “An UAV-assisted VANET architecture for the intelligent transportation system in smart cities”, *International Journal of Distributed Sensor Networks*, vol. 17, no. 7, pp. 15501477211031750, 2021.
- [26] P.Sun, N.Aljeri and A. Boukerche, “A Fast Vehicular Traffic Flow Prediction Scheme Based on Fourier and Wavelet Analysis”, In *Proceedings of the 2018 IEEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM)*, pp. 1–6, 2018.
- [27] R.Shrestha, I. Oh and S. Kim, “A Survey on Operation Concept, Advancements, and Challenging Issues of Urban Air Traffic Management”, *Front. Future Transp.*, vol. 2, pp. 1–19, 2021.