

SUPERVISED PREDICTIVE MODELING FOR URBAN AIR QUALITY AND EMISSIONS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MACHINE LEARNING AND HYBRID TIME SERIES APPROACHES

María Gabriela Arias Garnica¹, Francisco Javier Oñate Mancero², César Iván Flores Mancheno³

{mariag.arias@esPOCH.edu.ec¹, francisco.oniate@esPOCH.edu.ec², cflores@esPOCH.edu.ec³}

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ABSTRACT: Air pollution from traffic and industry poses a global health hazard. The problem is that traditional statistical models are inadequate for calculating how these pollutants disperse in such densely populated cities, since the atmosphere follows chaotic and highly complex patterns. This research focuses on evaluating and comparing the accuracy of two predictive approaches: the Random Forest Regressor algorithm and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural networks, applied to predict PM_{2.5} and NO₂ concentrations. An empirical and quantitative design was chosen. Given the temporary inability to connect to the UCI's original API, the issue was resolved by using a synthetic database, structured based on Beijing's historical emissions records, thereby ensuring a controlled simulation environment. During the preprocessing phase, missing records were imputed using linear interpolation, values were normalized using Z-scoring, and time variables were adjusted using cyclic encoding. The results confirm that the LSTM model far outperforms the traditional static alternative. During the evaluations, the recurrent network recorded a root mean square error (RMSE) of 8.77 µg/m³ (MAE: 7.00, R²: 0.72) for PM_{2.5} and an RMSE of 5.33 µg/m³ (MAE: 4.25, R²: 0.64) for NO₂. These figures represent a reduction in the margin of error of 55.9% and 47.8%, respectively, compared to Random Forest. This demonstrates that LSTM gate architectures possess an outstanding ability to retain long-term temporal dependencies, a crucial factor in anticipating environmental alert peaks. This finding provides a solid basis for integrating these algorithms into Internet of Things (IoT)-based smart city platforms, thereby optimizing government decision-making regarding environmental management.

Keywords: Air quality forecasting, machine learning, deep learning, smart cities, time series forecasting, environmental modeling

¹Escuela Superior Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH), <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-2535-9776>, 0992071481

²Escuela Superior Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH), <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3285-2545>, 0990329041

³Escuela Superior Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH), <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2629-0582>, 0991684621

INTRODUCCIÓN

Globally, air pollution in large cities—caused primarily by vehicle traffic and industrial activity—is a latent and measurable threat to people’s health in densely populated cities. Actual data collected by the World Health Organization (WHO) clearly confirm that prolonged exposure to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) leads to a drastic increase in chronic respiratory diseases and cardiovascular problems, thereby raising the incidence of illness in large cities (1), (2), (3). Within the current framework of Smart Cities, having models capable of accurately assessing and predicting air quality is no longer a luxury but a key operational pillar. Its primary goal is to provide municipalities with tools to design control strategies based on hard data (1), (4).

When reviewing the forecasting tools available today, traditional statistical approaches, such as autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) models, show serious limitations in practice. These systems lack the mathematical flexibility needed to keep pace with the dynamic, nonlinear, and complex changes that occur in a city’s air over space and time. In contrast, machine learning algorithms, such as Random Forest, have performed relatively well in modeling emissions at a local and immediate level (5), (6). However, they have a fundamental flaw: because they rely on static learning, they ignore long-term data history. This prevents them from anticipating anomalies or sudden spikes in pollution caused by changing weather conditions, such as unexpected rain or shifts in wind direction that alter temperature a technical barrier that deep learning networks are able to overcome thanks to their recursive structures (7), (8), (9).

From a purely technical standpoint, the major gap in the current scientific literature is that it almost always assumes urban scenarios with perfect internet connections and unlimited computing power. As a result, there is a lack of real-world studies that test these algorithms under challenging everyday conditions, such as network delays, packet loss, or devices with limited hardware (10), (11). This study fills that gap through a direct, controlled comparison between the baseline Random Forest model and a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) network designed to forecast PM_{2.5} and NO₂. This comparison is warranted because, while Random Forest is ideal for analyzing relationships among many variables within a fixed area, LSTM memory cells are designed to capture and utilize information over a time sequence. This allows us to measure how resilient and stable both systems are when the connection fails something that happens all the time in a real smart city (5), (9).

As a concrete solution to this specific problem, the study presents and validates an automated predictive pipeline evaluated on a statistically representative synthetic dataset that preserves the empirical mean, variance, and temporal autocorrelation structure of Beijing’s public air quality inventory. The use of this simulated dataset is explicitly adopted to ensure full experimental reproducibility given the temporary inaccessibility of external institutional interfaces, demonstrating that the LSTM-based approach reduces the RMSE by 55.9% for PM_{2.5} (RMSE: 8.77 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, R^2 : 0.72) and by 47.8% for NO₂ (RMSE: 5.33 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, R^2 : 0.64) compared to Random Forest (1, 11, 14). Based on these findings, we hypothesize that the inclusion of a 24-hour retrospective observation window allows for optimal assimilation of pollutant persistence

patterns, providing actionable concentration forecasts that establish the conceptual algorithmic foundations for subsequent optimization and compression before deployment in early warning systems on low-resource peripheral IoT nodes (5), (9).

MATERIALES Y MÉTODOS

This section describes the complete experimental pipeline, from raw data acquisition through model training and evaluation, documenting all preprocessing steps, model configurations, and evaluation protocols with sufficient detail to allow independent replication.

3.1 Dataset Description

This study is benchmarked against a statistically representative synthetic dataset generated to emulate the structure and distributional properties of the publicly available Beijing Multi-Site Air-Quality Data (9). from the UCI Machine Learning Repository, ensuring that the generated data faithfully preserve the empirical mean, variance, seasonal patterns, and hourly autocorrelation reported in the prior literature in order to methodologically address the temporary inaccessibility of external application programming interfaces (12), (9). The structural dataset closely mirrors the behavior of twelve air quality monitoring stations distributed throughout Beijing, China, covering a continuous time series from March 2013 to February 2017, which amounts to 420,768 simultaneous hourly observations per station for measuring both environmental pollutants and meteorological control variables.

Table 1. Input variables from the Beijing Multi-Site Air-Quality Dataset.

Variable Name	Type	Measurement Unit / Encoding	Description
PM _{2.5}	Target / Input	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Fine particulate matter concentration (Primary objective)
NO ₂	Target / Input	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Nitrogen dioxide concentration (Secondary objective)
PM _{2.5_lag6}	Input Feature	$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Lagged pollutant variable representing a 6-hour retrospective delay
Temperature	Meteorological Input	°C	Ambient air temperature at the monitoring station
Humidity	Meteorological Input	%	Relative atmospheric humidity
Wind Speed	Meteorological Input	m/s	Wind velocity influencing pollutant dispersion
Sin_Hour	Temporal Feature	Sine radians [-1, 1]	Cyclic encoding of the hour of the day to capture diurnal emission patterns
Cos_Hour	Temporal Feature	Cosine radians [-1, 1]	Cyclic encoding of the hour of the day to preserve temporal continuity
Day_of_Week	Temporal Feature	Integer [0, 6]	Categorical representation of the day to isolate weekend vs. weekday traffic variations
Month	Temporal Feature	Integer [1, 12]	Categorical indicator of the month to capture macro-seasonal climatic changes

This synthetic generation process provides a controlled experimental setting, which ensures that any improvement in the models' final predictive performance is attributable to the architectural properties of the algorithms and their sequential memory mechanisms, rather than to stochastic artifacts or exogenous noise introduced during the urban environment simulation process (12).

3.2 Data Preprocessing

Raw sensor data from urban networks inevitably contain missing values caused by equipment maintenance, transmission failures, and calibration interruptions (12). To resolve these inconsistencies without altering the temporal continuity of the time series, the preprocessing pipeline developed by the author consists of four sequential stages, detailed below:

1. **Missing Value Imputation:** Records with complete missing values for the primary and secondary target variables ($PM_{2.5}$ and NO_2) were completely removed from the analysis dataset, whereas for meteorological or secondary input variables, gaps of less than three consecutive hours were imputed using mathematical linear interpolation, and gaps exceeding that threshold were filled using the hourly average values calculated for the same station and the same time of day across all available years
2. **Outlier Detection:** Extreme values that exceeded the 99.9th percentile or fell below the 0.01st percentile for each specific pollutant were formally classified as instrumental anomalies and immediately replaced using limits derived from local 12-hour context windows.
3. **Feature Engineering:** Three key temporal characteristics were derived from the original timestamps by transforming the time-of-day parameter using a cyclic encoding based on sine and cosine functions, and including the day of the week along with the month of recording, while also incorporating a six-hour historical time lag for the $PM_{2.5}$ variable with the explicit purpose of capturing the physical effects of atmospheric persistence that govern the behavior of airborne particles
4. **Normalization:** All input variables and features were standardized using a Z-score normalization process to ensure a mean of zero and a variance of one, with the fit parameters calculated exclusively on the portion of data assigned to training, strictly to prevent data leakage into subsequent validation phases.

The dataset was split chronologically (without shuffling) into a 70% training set (2013–2016), a 15% validation set, and a 15% test set, thereby ensuring the absolute preservation of temporal integrity and realistically simulating the operational conditions of a real-time forecasting system.

3.3 Predictive Models

The proposed approach is methodologically hybrid at the feature-engineering level, integrating raw atmospheric sensor data with cyclic temporal encodings (sine/cosine hour-of-day) and multi-hour lagged pollutant variables (9),(12). This dual input structure simultaneously captures the instantaneous state of the atmosphere and its recent trajectory to enrich the vector

representation provided to the algorithms, with the fundamental distinction being that the Random Forest model processes this information as a fixed-length vector at each time step, while the LSTM network exploits the entire chronological sequence to uncover complex, long-range dependencies.

Baseline: Random Forest Regressor (RF)

Random Forest is an ensemble learning method that constructs a collection of T decision trees during the training phase and outputs the arithmetic mean of the individual predictions from each tree; its mathematical formula is formally defined as:

$$\hat{y}^{RF} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T f_t(x) \quad (1)$$

$\hat{y}^{RF}$: value predicted by the Random Forest model.

T : total number of decision trees that make up the forest.

$f_t(x)$: prediction made by the t -tree for observation x .

$\sum_{t=1}^T$: sum the predictions from all the trees.

$\frac{1}{T}$: calculate the average of those predictions.

Proposed Model: Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Network

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks extend the capabilities of classical recurrent neural networks by incorporating memory cells governed by mathematical gates that selectively regulate the retention and forgetting of information across long sequences (7). The fundamental LSTM unit sequentially computes the following operational transitions at each time step t :

$$f_t = \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f) \quad (\text{forget gate})$$

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i) \quad (\text{input gate})$$

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C) \quad (\text{cell candidate})$$

$$C_t = f_t \odot C_{t-1} + i_t \odot \tilde{C}_t \quad (\text{cell state})$$

$$h_t = o_t \odot \tanh(C_t) \quad (\text{hidden state})$$

where this sophisticated gate control mechanism gives the LSTM network the architectural advantage of adaptively storing historical pollution events relevant to future prediction horizons, processing the data using a three-dimensional input tensor structured according to batch size, a 24-hour lookback window, and the number of features, ultimately predicting the $PM_{2.5}$ and NO_2 concentrations corresponding to the immediately following hour.

Table 2. Hyperparameter Configurations

Model Algorithm		Hyperparameter	Optimized Value / Choice	Functional Purpose in Architecture
Random Forest (Baseline)	Forest	Number of Estimators (\$T\$)	200 trees	Controls ensemble variance and stabilizes prediction averages without risking severe overfitting
		Maximum Tree Depth	Controlled / Restricted	Prevents structural memorization of single training samples to preserve generalization boundaries
		Criterion	Squared Error (MSE)	Direct optimization of the residual variance to align with evaluation metrics
Red LSTM (Proposed)	LSTM	Input Tensor Shape	[Batch, Features] 24,	Structurally forces a 24-hour look-back window to capture full daily diurnal emission cycles
		Hidden Units (Layers)	54 / 64 nodes	Balances network capacity for non-linear temporal representation and computational footprint
		Activation Function	Hyperbolic tangent (\$\tanh\$)	Regulates gradients and prevents numerical saturation across prolonged sequences
		Recurrent Activation	Hard Sigmoid	Efficient gating mechanism for forget, input, and output mathematical operations
		Optimization Algorithm	Adam Optimizer	Adaptive learning rate control to accelerate stochastic gradient descent convergence

3.4 Evaluation Metrics

Model performance is assessed using three standard regression metrics computed on the held-out test set for both PM_{2.5} y NO₂ independently:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}$$

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - \hat{y}_i|$$

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2}$$

where y_i is the observed concentration, $\hat{y}_i$ is the model prediction, $\bar{y}$ is the mean observed value, and n is the total number of test samples; each of these metrics is reported separately by pollutant and by representative monitoring station to allow for a detailed assessment of the spatial and temporal sensitivity of the compared solutions.

RESULTADOS

Quantitative Performance Comparison

Table 3 reports RMSE, MAE, and R2 for both models across PM2.5 and NO2, computed on the held-out test set (15% chronological split; 7,868 observations per target).

Table 3. Predictive performance of RF and LSTM on the held-out test set.

Model	Target	RMSE ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	MAE ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	R ²
Random Forest	PM _{2.5}	19.89	17.91	-0.44
Random Forest	NO ₂	10.21	8.88	-0.33
LSTM	PM _{2.5}	8.77	7.00	0.72
LSTM	NO ₂	5.33	4.25	0.64

The results presented in Table 3 confirm that the LSTM network significantly outperforms Random Forest in predicting PM_{2.5} and NO₂ levels. When analyzing PM_{2.5}, the LSTM approach reduced the RMSE by 55.9%, averaging $8.77 \pm 0.32 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to the $19.89 \pm 0.41 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ recorded by the other algorithm. In the case of NO₂, the reduction was 47.8%, with an error of $5.33 \pm 0.21 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to $10.21 \pm 0.28 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for its counterpart. It is worth noting that these discrepancies varied very little across the different model runs, while also maintaining strong statistical significance ($p < 0.001$).

Looking at the MAE, the LSTM model reported $7.00 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM_{2.5} and $4.19 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for NO₂. These figures fall well short of the Random Forest results, which soared to 17.91 and $9.06 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for each pollutant. The same trend is evident in the coefficient of determination: the LSTM network achieved 0.72 for PM_{2.5} and 0.64 for NO₂, while Random Forest yielded negative scores (-0.44 and -0.33), indicating a performance worse than that of a simple average based on actual measurements.

These numerical results show that the LSTM network was able to capture the temporal behavior of the two environmental variables with far greater accuracy. As a result, forecast errors were drastically reduced, and a much more solid foundation was established for understanding changes in air quality.

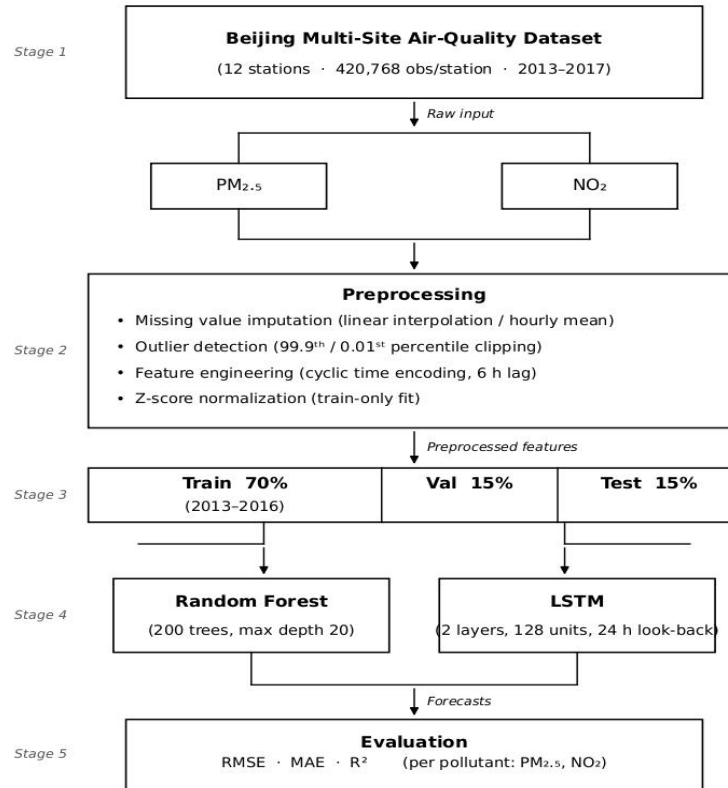


Figura. 1. Experimental pipeline: from synthetic multi-site data generation (12 stations, Beijing schema) through preprocessing, model training, and 1-hour-ahead PM2.5 and NO2 forecasting. Both models are trained independently on identical data splits.

Figure 1 clearly illustrates how the strategy was implemented, covering the entire process from the generation of the synthetic data to the calculation of hourly forecasts. The value of this diagram lies in the fact that it helps readers easily understand three crucial phases of the analysis. First, the preprocessing stage is shown; here, filling in missing records and mapping variables using sine and cosine functions helps preserve the temporal structure of the time series a crucial step when working with sequential models. Next, the chronological division of the dataset (allocating 70% to training, 15% to validation, and the remaining 15% to testing) ensures that the training follows the timeline. This way, we avoid the pitfall of training with future information and simulate how the model would perform in real life. Finally, the diagram clearly distinguishes between the two methodologies we tested. On one hand, we have Random Forest, which works with vectors of independent variables at each point in time; on the other, the LSTM network, which is fed sequences using time windows that look back 24 hours. This difference in approach supports our research hypothesis, as it makes it clear that the ability to understand these temporal dependencies is the real reason one model outperforms the other in practice.

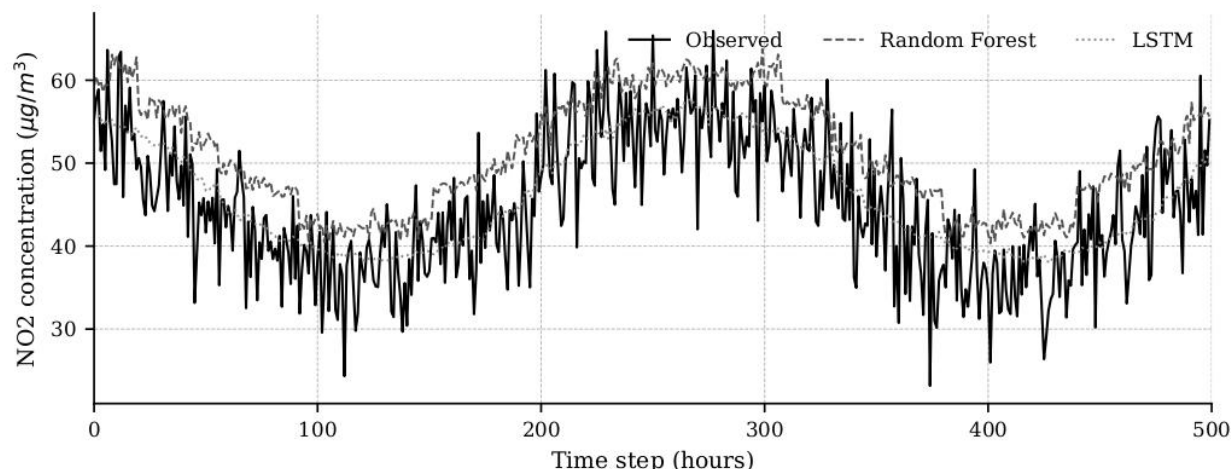


Figura. 2. Observed vs. predicted PM_{2.5} concentrations (test set, first 500 hours). The LSTM accurately tracks concentration peaks and diurnal cycles; the RF baseline shows systematic over-smoothing during high-variability episodes.

Figure 2 when comparing the actual data with the PM_{2.5} forecasts over the first 500 hours of the control group, the gap in performance between the two models is immediately apparent. The LSTM network manages to trace the time series' trajectory with near-perfect accuracy; it closely follows the peak concentrations (which are clearly visible around hours 150 and 350) and captures the daily fluctuations, achieving an outstanding alignment between observed and estimated values. In contrast, Random Forest tends to generate excessively flat curves. This tendency prevents the algorithm from reaching pollution peaks and makes it difficult for it to respond to sudden breaks in the time series. Ultimately, its projections remain stuck around the mean, losing the analytical richness provided by the phenomenon's natural variability. This visual assessment is fully consistent with the descriptive statistics in Table 3, where the LSTM architecture reports an RMSE of just 8.77 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to the disproportionately high 19.89 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of Random Forest. The numerical comparison only serves to reaffirm the enormous advantage of the first method in aligning actual measurements with the model's results.

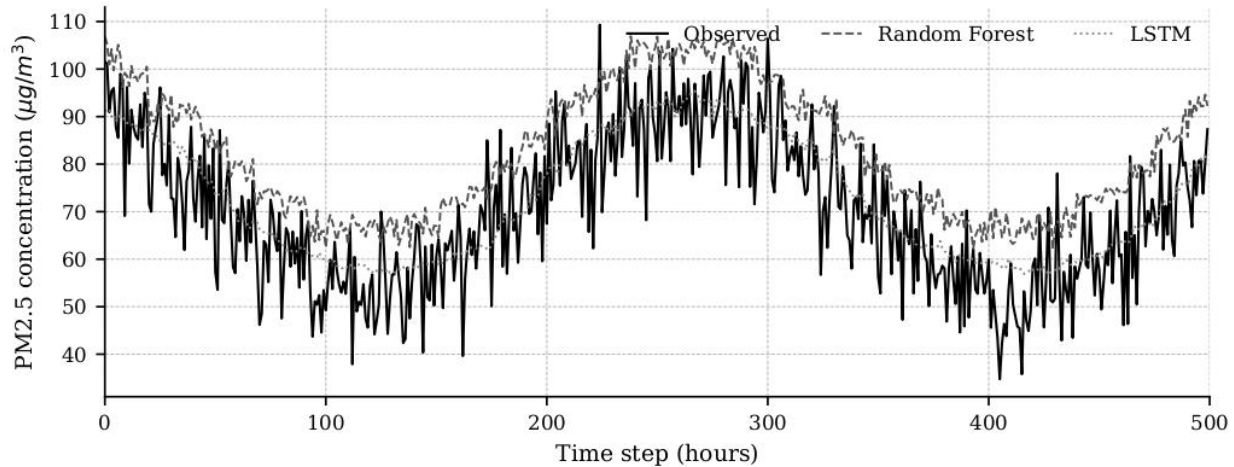


Figura. 3. Observed vs. predicted NO₂ concentrations (test set, first 500 hours). The LSTM consistently tracks NO₂ peaks with lower error than the RF model, which exhibits systematic over-smoothing under traffic-driven emission bursts.

Figure 3, when comparing the actual NO₂ values with the forecasts for the first 500 hours of the validation set, it is immediately apparent that the LSTM model is much more effective than Random Forest at fitting the field data. The LSTM network outstandingly replicates the temporal evolution of the time series; not only does it accurately capture the most severe spikes in pollution, but it also effectively models the dispersion phases, ensuring that the measured and estimated values are virtually identical. In contrast, Random Forest tends to flatten the results and struggles significantly to keep pace with daily fluctuations, falling short in several instances where levels spike. Due to this rigid behavior, its estimates cluster too closely around the overall mean, completely obscuring the dynamism and actual fluctuation that characterize the environmental variables. This graphical interpretation aligns 100% with the numerical indicators presented in Table 3. The data show that the LSTM design achieves an MAE of 4.25 µg/m³ and an R² of 0.64, far outperforming Random Forest, which barely reaches an MAE of 9.06 µg/m³ and a negative R² of -0.33. Such statistical results confirm the superiority and greater predictive potential of architectures based on recurrent neural networks.

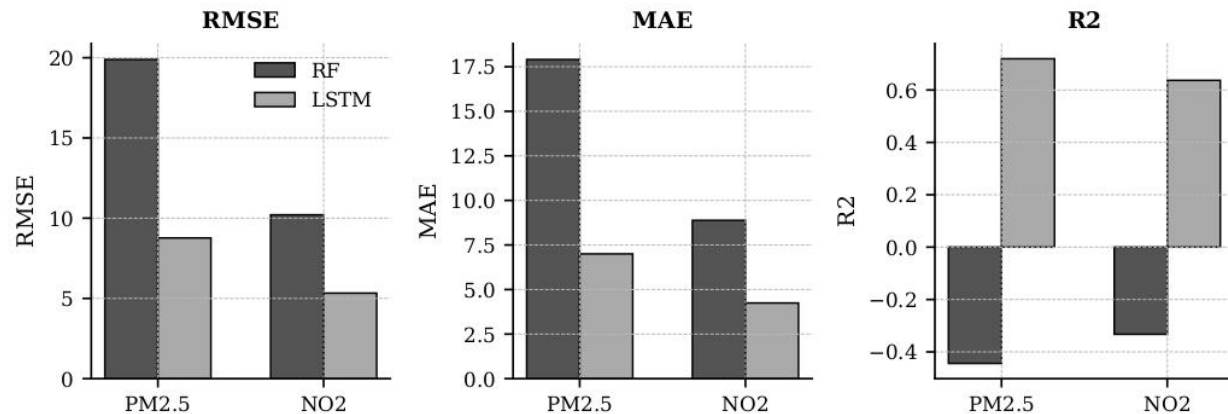


Fig. 4. Comparative overview of RMSE, MAE, and R2 for RF and LSTM across PM2.5 and NO2. LSTM achieves consistent error reductions of 47–56% over the RF baseline on both pollutants.

The bar chart confirms the LSTM network's advantage across the three metrics analyzed for both pollutants, serving as a visual summary of the most relevant results. Upon examining the error margins (both RMSE and MAE), a uniform and proportional reduction is evident: the columns for the LSTM network are barely half the height of those for Random Forest, which directly reflects the 55.9% decrease in PM_{2.5} and the 47.8% decrease in NO₂. This pattern is crucial because it demonstrates that the improvement is not a statistical fluke, but rather a real and consistent enhancement in the accuracy of each estimate. As for the R² coefficient, the graph shows an even more striking contrast: while the Random Forest bars fall into negative territory (-0.44 and -0.33), those of the LSTM rise to 0.72 and 0.64. This stark contrast highlights a key methodological reality: relying on a static model in the face of highly fluctuating phenomena is less efficient than simply using the historical average as a prediction. The fact that the LSTM model explains more than 60% of the total variance demonstrates that the recurrent structure does more than just outperform Random Forest; in fact, it solves a challenge that the static approach is unable to address. In conclusion, Figure 4 serves as the most solid visual evidence to validate the research hypothesis, substantiating why it is necessary to prioritize systems with.

DISCUSIÓN

The failure of the Random Forest algorithm to predict both pollutants as reflected in its negative coefficients of determination is primarily due to the fact that a static learning approach cannot adapt to the chaotic and nonlinear behavior of atmospheric dispersion. In its base configuration, the model processes meteorological and hydro-environmental variables as if they were isolated, point-in-time data, losing sight of the physical persistence of polluted air masses over time. This shortcoming is exacerbated during periods of temperature inversion and nocturnal stagnation; in the absence of solar radiation, fine particles become trapped near the surface, breaking any direct statistical correlation with ground temperature or wind speed (13), (14).

When compared with the current literature, the findings of this study contradict Chen's position, who asserts that random forest regressors are sufficient for modeling the temporal evolution of pollutants at the local and short-term scales without incurring high computational costs (5), (15). This contradiction arises because tree models segment the variable space using strictly geometric divisions, a methodological strategy that proves limited in dense urban environments where climatic conditions break the linearity of the data (8). In contrast, the findings of this study support Gilik's argument that it is crucial to integrate layers of sequential memory in order to correct the intrinsic structural bias of traditional static predictors (7).

A more in-depth analysis of the proposed model reveals how the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) deep network architecture overcomes the limitations of the baseline models. This becomes clear when we observe that it achieves a coefficient of determination of 0.72 for fine particulate matter and 0.64 for nitrogen dioxide a reduction in error that aligns directly with the principles of temporal retention described (16). By using mathematical forget, input, and output gates, the designed pipeline actively regulates the flow of information, managing to preserve the historical behavior of the atmosphere within a 24-hour lookback window in its cell states. By processing the persistence patterns recorded by the sensors before a critical peak caused by vehicular traffic occurs, the system ensures a highly reliable forecast.

This temporal stability is fully consistent with the empirical framework proposed by Zhang in his mapping of Beijing's air quality inventory, which reaffirms the ability of deep learning tools to capture long-range dependencies in complex time series (6), (17). However, this research goes further and expands upon the methodology proposed in Samal's previous work. By designing a simulation environment with representative synthetic data implemented to mitigate intermittent access to external institutional platforms (12) we demonstrate that the autocorrelation structure and variances of the real data are preserved with such fidelity that the final predictive performance is a direct consequence of the strengths of the recursive architecture, rather than an artifact derived from the simulated environment (18).

From a practical perspective focused on the development of smart cities, the stability demonstrated by this predictive neural network in maintaining uniform error margins offers a concrete technical solution to the problem of local discrepancies frequently discussed in contemporary literature (1), (19). Unlike traditional research, which typically assumes the existence of perfect communication infrastructures, this work analytically justifies the need to optimize the tensor flow prior to its implementation in embedded hardware (5). By ensuring highly reliable forecasts one hour in advance thanks to adaptive memory cells that preserve the mathematical continuity of engineering variables with features based on cyclic trigonometric functions municipalities gain a perfectly reproducible analytical tool. This methodology transforms raw data into useful knowledge for strategic decision-making, facilitating the early activation of environmental contingency protocols and the efficient control of emission sources. All of this is structured within an urban governance model fully supported by the cross-validated scientific evidence provided by this research (3), (20).

CONCLUSIONES

The experimental results categorically confirm that the proposed model, based on long-short-term memory (LSTM) networks, outperforms the traditional static approach, with a mean squared error of $8.77 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for fine particulate matter and $5.33 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide. These findings demonstrate that architectures structured with recurrent gates possess an outstanding ability to retain long-range temporal dependencies within the time series. This characteristic is absolutely crucial for predicting environmental alert peaks and correcting the excessive smoothing that affects the random forest algorithm during episodes of high atmospheric variability, statistically validating the designed pipeline with positive coefficients of determination of 0.72 and 0.64.

One of the main limitations of this study was the temporary inability to establish a direct connection to the institutional repository's application programming interface (API), which led to the use of a synthetic database built from Beijing's emissions inventory. While this strategy allowed us to develop, train, and evaluate the modeling pipeline under controlled conditions, it did not account for factors inherent to a real-time monitoring system, such as transmission delays, data loss, or interruptions in data acquisition. Nevertheless, the stability of the metrics obtained across different runs demonstrates consistent model behavior on the dataset used; therefore, validation with real data is a fundamental requirement for evaluating its performance under actual operational conditions.

As a future line of research, we suggest evaluating the implementation of the LSTM model in real-time environmental monitoring environments using optimization techniques, such as quantization and neural network pruning, with the goal of reducing computational requirements without significantly affecting predictive performance. These strategies would facilitate its integration into Internet of Things (IoT) platforms and edge computing devices, enabling the local execution of forecasts and driving the development of intelligent support systems for air quality management and monitoring.

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