



**ARAB ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND MARITIME TRANSPORT**

**College of Engineering and Technology
Construction and Building Engineering Department**

**CONDITION ASSESSMENT FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS USING BLOCKCHAIN
4.0**

By

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**A thesis submitted to AASTMT in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
in
CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING ENGINEERING**

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DECLARATION

I certify that all the material in this thesis that is not my own work has been identified, and that no material is included for which a degree has previously been conferred on me.

The contents of this thesis reflect my own personal views, and are not necessarily endorsed by the University.

Name

Signature

Date

Dedication

I dedicate this thesis to my *Parents*.

Acknowledgments

First and foremost, I would like to thank God, whose guidance has led me this far. My thanks also go to several people whose support helped me bring forth this work. I would first like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my professors and supervisors, Prof. ***Mohamed Ihab Elmasry*** and Prof. ***Ahmed Abdelmoty Elhakeem*** for their keen interest, extensive assistance, guidance, motivation, generous support, and close supervision throughout working on this thesis. It has been a great honor to work with them and to learn from their experience.

Also, I would like to thank my family for their emotional support and encouragement that helped me overcome any challenge. I would like to thank my father, ***Ahmed Handouka*** for his unconditional support, my mother for her love and continuous prayers that enlightened my path; and my siblings, Alaa, and Mohamed of whom I will always be proud.

Thank you,

Ahmed M. Handouka

Abstract

Infrastructure networks like roads, bridges, and buildings have considerable value in the nations' economies. Infrastructure networks have been modernized and gained complexity over time, putting owning organizations worldwide under pressure to ensure their proper functionality and sustainability. Infrastructure Asset Management is the key solution to this challenge. It is the process of maintaining, upgrading, and operating infrastructure assets cost-effectively through a set of functions. The main function is to determine the assets conditions in the network, whether the current ones or the projected future conditions. Such function as such is the key for making optimum decisions and developing priority plans over the planning horizon. Both current and future conditions are highly dependent on information and data management. This data management may be an obstacle confronts seeking rational repair strategies.

Blockchain technology gained fame with the introduction of the Bitcoin cryptocurrency in 2009. It is used as a data management mechanism to distribute and circulate Bitcoin transactions safely. Later, researchers extended the use of blockchain to other areas. Blockchain technology is rapidly evolving and as 2022 the latest generation of Blockchain, Blockchain 4.0 was introduced. It integrates Blockchain with AI, adding a robust computation and decision analysis dimension to its original data management capabilities.

This research introduces blockchain-based AI condition assessment framework, for monitoring and assessing the current condition and predicting the future condition of building infrastructure assets. The framework follows a four-step methodology, as such: (1) developing a permissioned blockchain network to manage and exchange asset information while boosting collaboration and coordination between relevant stakeholders; (2) incorporating chain-codes to regulate the Blockchain's behavior; (3) incorporating a trained, tested, and validated ANN model to the prediction chain code to perform analytics and predict asset conditions; and (4) validating the system's workability and performance using two case studies and a created frontend interface. The system's performance is technically evaluated in terms of transfer latency, privacy & security, storage size, and system scalability. The average latency for the writing and reading was less than 5000 and 2000 milliseconds, respectively. Also, the system has the capability to be upscaled at any time to accommodate the use case under consideration without the need to rebuild the whole system.

The two case studies for validation are a minor one of 134 doors and a major global one of 35 buildings' structural system. The machine learning models were developed using NeuroSolutions Software Version 6.0. The ANNs included in the chain codes of the two case studies showed a promising result with R^2 values of 0.99, 0.98, and 0.99 for training, cross-validation, and testing sets, respectively, for doors ANN. While R^2 values of 0.98, 0.99, and 0.93 for training, cross-validation, and testing sets, respectively, for the structural system ANN. Which proves the reliability of the system.

Table of Contents

Declaration	ii
Dedication	iv
Acknowledgments	v
Abstract	vi
Table of Contents	vii
List of Tables	x
List of Figures	xi
Nomenclatures.....	xiii
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Infrastructural assets and the economy growth.....	2
1.2 Blockchains as an information management solution	3
1.3 Artificial neural networks as a reliable prediction technique	4
1.4 Research motivation	4
1.5 Research Objectives, Methodology and Scope.....	5
1.6 Thesis Organization.....	8
2 Literature Review	10
2.1 The Need for Asset Management.....	10
2.2 Asset Management Systems	10
2.3 Blockchain as a distributed ledger technology	14
2.3.1 Chain-codes	15
2.3.2 Evolution of Blockchain	16
2.3.3 Main blockchain platforms	17
2.3.4 Blockchain: An emerging trend	18
2.3.5 Blockchain potential applications in AECO industry	19
2.4 Artificial Neural Network (ANN)	22
2.4.1 Neuron as a processing element.....	22
2.4.2 Neural Networks Structure	23
2.4.3 Activation Function.....	24
2.4.4 Backpropagation	24
2.4.5 Popular software.....	25
2.4.6 ANNs application in civil domains	25
2.5 Ordinary least square regression method (OLS).....	26

2.6	Blockchain and AI collaboration	26
2.6.1	Research gap	27
3	Research Methodology	30
3.1	Information management module	31
3.2	Condition assessment module.....	35
3.2.1	Decomposition of Educational Facility	35
3.2.2	Simplified Rolling-Up Approach.....	35
3.3	Condition prediction module	36
4	System development.....	38
4.1	Blockchain development	38
4.1.1	The Intelligent Chain-code Layer	40
4.1.2	Blockchain network layer.....	42
4.1.3	The frontend access layer	46
4.2	Case study 1	48
4.3	Defect/impact matrix	51
4.4	Neural Network Model.....	52
4.4.1	Identification of input and output parameters.....	52
4.4.2	Neural Network Topology	52
4.5	Case study 2	53
4.5.1	Subsystem/impact matrix	53
4.5.2	Neural Network Topology	57
5	System Assessment	59
5.1	BC Performance Evaluation	59
5.1.1	Transfer Latency	59
5.1.2	Privacy & Security	60
5.1.3	Storage Size	60
5.1.4	Scalability	61
5.2	ANNs performance evaluation.....	61
5.3	Doors model results.....	61
5.3.1	ANN and OLS performance comparison	66
5.4	Structure system model results	66
6	Conclusions, Limitations and Recommendations	72
6.1	Conclusions.....	72
6.2	Research Limitations	74
6.3	Recommendations for future work.....	75

Bibliography.....	77
Publications.....	83

List of Tables

Table 2.1 References of different condition scales	12
Table 2.2: Comparison between Ethereum and Hyperledger Fabric	17
Table 2.3: Hyperledger fabric elements with the corresponding description	18
Table 2.4 Recent BC Studies in the CEM Field.....	22
Table 3.1 Data Exchange's Relationships.	31
Table 4.1 Inspection guide summary.....	49
Table 4.2 snapshot of doors data tables on MS Excel	51
Table 4.3 Defects/Impact Matrix	51
Table 4.4 Neural network input/output parameters of doors	52
Table 4.5. Subsystem/Impact matrix for the civil system	53
Table 4.6 overall Systems' CI of building A.	54
Table 4.7 Snapshot of the structure system collected data for various sub systems.	55
Table 4.8 Different condition states with corresponding ratings.	56
Table 4.9 condition index (CI) according to the inspection committee's decision.	56
Table 4.10 Neural network input/output parameters of the structural system.	57
Table 5.1. Summary of interior doors model results	62
Table 5.2 Summary of all results.	66
Table 5.3 Comparison of measurements between ANN & OLS.	66
Table 5.4. Summary of the structure system ANN model results.....	67

List of Figures

Figure 1.1 ASCE 2021 report card (Adapted from (ASCE, 2021)).....	2
Figure 1.2 Schools rating in USA	3
Figure 1.3 Illustration of research methodology	7
Figure 2.1 Rating Scales and Linguistic Representations (adapted from (Mohamed and Marzouk, 2021)).....	11
Figure 2.2. An aging model with different maintenance strategies (Adapted from (Elhakeem, 2005)).	13
Figure 2.3 After repair deterioration (Adapted from (Elhakeem, 2005)).	13
Figure 2.4 Illustration of blockchain concept.	15
Figure 2.5 Blockchain generations key-features	16
Figure 2.6 Bibliometric map of the co-occurrence of the top-30 keywords of documents including blockchain in the civil engineering and the construction industry in Scopus..	19
Figure 2.7 Summary of artificial neural network structure.....	23
Figure 2.8. Summary of activation functions.....	24
Figure 2.9. The connection between a neuron and its predecessor high weights neurons.	25
Figure 3.1 Methodology illustration.....	30
Figure 3.2 Blockchain architecture adopted from (Adel et al., 2022).....	33
Figure 3.3 Data flow in the system.....	34
Figure 3.4 AASTMT Portsaid branch breakdown.	35
Figure 3.5. CI Rolling up approach (Adapted from (Ali and Hegazy, 2013)).....	36
Figure 4.1 IBM platform components (Adapted from www.ibm.com).	39
Figure 4.2: IBM cloud console Interface.....	39
Figure 4.3 Snapshot of BC smart contract using Visual Studio Code.....	42
Figure 4.4 Kubernetes Cluster for Operating BBN	43
Figure 4.5 IBM cloud console launch interface	43
Figure 4.6: BBN Certificate Authorities.....	44
Figure 4.7 BCN Peer Nodes.....	44
Figure 4.8 Snapshot of IBM cloud Blockchain.....	45
Figure 4.9 Snapshot of Serverless Action - (Frontend Access)	47
Figure 4.10: Samples of functions that are used by the front-end interface.	48
Figure 4.11 Elements Coding System	49
Figure 4.12 The architecture of the neural network model.....	53
Figure 5.1 Latency test for different functions	60
Figure 5.2 Channel activation log	60
Figure 5.3 Training & cross-validation loss vs Epochs.....	63
Figure 5.4 Target & output data for various sets. (a) Target/output data for training set; (b) Target/output data for cross-validation set; (c) Target/output data for testing set.	64
Figure 5.5 Target and output data for all samples.....	64
Figure 5.6 Percentage error distribution of all door samples.....	65
Figure 5.7 coefficient of determination plots of ANN for various datasets. (a) R ² value for training dataset; (b) R ² value for cross-validation dataset; (c) R ² value for testing dataset; (d) R ² value for all datasets.....	65

Figure 5.8 Training & cross-validation loss vs Epochs.....	67
Figure 5.9 Target & output data for various sets. (a) Target/output data for training set; (b) Target/output data for cross-validation set; (c) Target/output data for testing set.	69
Figure 5.10 Target and output data for all samples.....	69
Figure 5.11 Percentage error distribution of all building samples	70
Figure 5.12 coefficient of determination plots of ANN for various datasets. (a) R2 value for training dataset; (b) R2 value for cross-validation dataset; (c) R2 value for testing dataset; (d) R2 value for all datasets.....	70

Nomenclatures

AEC: Architecture, Engineering, and Construction.....	10
AI: Artificial Intelligence.....	73
AMIS: Asset Management Information System.....	3
AMS: Asset Management Systems	2
ANNs: Artificial Neural Networks.....	2
API: Application Programming Interface.....	43
BaaS: Blockchain-as-a-Service	39
BCN: Blockchain Network	14
BCT: Blockchain Technology	2
CAPMAS:Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics	10
CAs: Certificate Authorities.....	39
CI: Condition Index.....	5
CLI: Command Line Interface	33
GAs: Genetic Algorithms	11
HTTP: Hypertext Transfer Protocol.....	33
MAE: Mean Absolute Error.....	62
MAEP: Mean Absolute Error Percentage.....	62
ML: Machine Learning.....	31
MSE: Mean Squared Error.....	62
MSPs: Membership Service Providers	39
PTP: Peer-to-Peer	15
R ² : Coefficient of Determination	62
RMSE: Root Mean Squared Error.....	62
VSCode: Visual Studio Code.....	8

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المستخلص

شبكات البنية التحتية مثل الطرق والجسور والمباني لها قيمة كبيرة في اقتصادات الدول. تم تحديث شبكات البنية التحتية واكتسبت تعقيداً بمرور الوقت ، مما وضع المنظمات المالكة في جميع أنحاء العالم تحت ضغط لضمان وظائفها المناسبة واستدامتها. إدارة أصول البنية التحتية هي الحل الرئيسي لهذا التحدي. إنها عملية صيانة أصول البنية التحتية وتحديثها وتشغيلها بطريقة فعالة من حيث الكلفة من خلال مجموعة من الوظائف. وتتمثل الوظيفة الرئيسية في تحديد حالة هذه الأصول في الشبكة ، سواء كانت الحالة الحالية أو المستقبلية المتوقعة. هذه الوظيفة على هذا النحو هي المفتاح لاتخاذ القرارات المثلثة وتطوير خطط الأولوية على مدى أفق التخطيط. تعتمد كل من الحالات الحالية والمستقبلية بشكل كبير على إدارة المعلومات والبيانات. قد تكون إدارة البيانات هذه عقبة تواجه البحث عن استراتيجيات إصلاح عقلانية.

اكتسبت تقنية قواعد البيانات المتسلسلة (Blockchain) شهرة مع ظهور عملة البيتكوين الافتراضية (Bitcoin) عام 2009. حيث تم استخدامها كآلية لإدارة البيانات لتوزيع وتبادل تحويلات Bitcoin بأمان. في وقت لاحق ، وسع الباحثون استخدام قواعد البيانات المتسلسلة إلى مجالات أخرى. حيث تطورت تقنية قواعد البيانات المتسلسلة بسرعة، وفي عام 2022 تم تقديم أحدث جيل من قواعد البيانات المتسلسلة 4.0 Blockchain بحيث يتم دمج قواعد البيانات المتسلسلة مع الذكاء الاصطناعي ، مضيفاً بعدها ثورياً قوياً لتحليل البيانات إضافة إلى قدراتها في إدارة البيانات.

يقدم هذا البحث إطار عمل لنقيم حالة أصول البنية التحتية باستخدام الذكاء الاصطناعي المستند إلى قواعد البيانات المتسلسلة، من أجل مراقبة وتقدير الحالة الحالية والتنبؤ بالحالة المستقبلية لأصول البنية التحتية للمبني. يتبع إطار العمل منهجية من أربع خطوات ، على النحو التالي: (1) تطوير شبكة blockchain من خصبة لإدارة وتبادل معلومات الأصول مع تعزيز التعاون والتنسيق بين أصحاب المصلحة المعنيين ؛ (2) إنشاء مجموعة من الأكواد لتنظيم عمل blockchain ؛ (3) دمج تقنية الشبكات العصبية الصناعية (ANN) مدربة ومحترفة في الأكواد شبكة blockchain لإجراء التحليلات والتنبؤ بحالة الأصول؛ و (4) التحقق من قابلية تشغيل النظام وأدائه باستخدام دراستي حالة وواجهة أمامية تم إنشاؤها. يتم تقدير أداء النظام تقريباً من حيث وقت الاستجابة، الخصوصية والأمان، حجم التخزين وآخرها قابلية تطوير النظام. كان متوسط وقت الاستجابة لعمليات الكتابة والقراءة أقل من 5000 و 2000 ملي ثانية ، على التوالي. أيضاً ، يتمتع النظام بإمكانية الارتفاع في أي وقت لاستيعاب حالة الاستخدام قيد النظر دون الحاجة إلى إعادة بناء النظام بأكمله.

درستنا الحالة للتحقق من الصحة عبرة عن دراسة حالة ثانوية لعدد من 134 باباً ودراسة حالة رئيسية لعدد 35 نظاماً هيكلياً لمبني قائمة. تم تطوير نماذج التعلم الآلي باستخدام الإصدار 6.0 من برنامج Neuro-Solutions. أظهرت نماذج ANN المدرجة في كود السلسلة الخاصة بدراستي الحالة نتائج واعدة بقيم R2 تبلغ 0.99 و 0.98 و 0.99 و 0.98 لمجموعات التدريب والتحقق المتبادل والاختبار ، على التوالي ، للأبواب. بينما قيم R2 تبلغ 0.98 و 0.99 و 0.93 لمجموعات التدريب والتحقق المتبادل والاختبار ، على التوالي ، للنظام الهيكلي. مما يثبت موثوقية النظام.

إقرار الباحث

أقر بأن المادة العلمية الواردة في هذه الرسالة قد تم تحديد مصدرها العلمي وأن محتوى الرسالة غير مقدم للحصول على أي درجة علمية أخرى، وأن مضمون هذه الرسالة يعكس أراء الباحث الخاصة وهي ليست بالضرورة الآراء التي تتبعها الجهة المانحة.

..... الاسم

..... التوقيع

..... التاريخ



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