Adaptive Congestion Prediction in Vehicular Ad-hoc Networks (VANET) Using Type-2 Fuzzy Model to Establish Reliable Routes

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Abstract
Urban areas are more prone to accidents and traffic congestions due to ever-increasing vehicles and poor traffic management. The increase in the emission of harmful gases is another important issue associated with vehicular traffic. Attaining a level of QOS is often challenging as it has to meet the eco-friendly factors along with reliable and safe transportation. Smart and accurate congestion management systems in VANET can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and health issues. To fulfil the requirements of QOS the congestion control methods should consider the properties such as fairness, decentralization, network characteristics, and application demands in VANET. We proposed an Adaptive Congestion Aware Routing Protocol (ACARP) for VANET using the dynamic artificial intelligence (AI) technique. The ACARP presents the adaptive congestion detection algorithm using the type-2 fuzzy logic AI technique. The fuzzy model detects the congestion around each vehicle using three fuzzy inputs viz. bandwidth occupancy, link quality, and moving speed. This is followed by inference model to estimate congestion probability for each vehicle. Finally, defuzzification determines status of congestion detection using the pre-defined threshold value for each vehicle. The status of congestion and its probability values were utilized to establish safe and reliable routes for data transmission. It also saves significant communication overhead and hence congestions in the network. The simulation results provide the evidence that the proposed protocol improves the QOS and assist in reduction of traffic congestions significantly.

Keywords Artificial intelligence · Traffic congestion · Fuzzy logic · Reliable routes · VANET · Quality of service (QOS)
1 Introduction

Due to Internet of Things (IoT) [1, 2] and Industry 4.0 standards for various smart city applications worldwide, the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) gained significant attention from researchers. Vehicular Ad Hoc Networks (VANETs) are one of the key components of smart ITS and play a significant role in IoT [3–6]. In general, VANET assists vehicle drivers to communicate (through enabling Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) and Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) communications) to avoid many critical driving situations [7]. VANETs underpins an assortment of security applications, for example, co-employable traffic observing, control of traffic streams, daze crossing, avoidance of impacts, close by data services, and continuous re-route courses calculation. VANETs comprises two substances: passages, called Road Side Units (RSUs), and vehicles called On-Board Unit (OBUs). RSUs are fixed and can go about as an appropriation point for vehicle networks. The vital entities of the VANET are vehicles, RUSs, and OBUs, where they transmit information by using vehicle-to-vehicle communication (V2V), infrastructure-to-infrastructure (I2I), and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communications [8]. These communications have been supported by dedicated short-range communication (DSRC). This vehicular communication system is accessed by the standard IEEE 802.11p that supports wireless access in vehicular environments (WAVE). The IEEE 802.11p defines the link layer that supports internet protocol and the WAVE short message protocol (WSMP) [9, 10]. The WAVE standard limits basic circumstances, for example, counteraction or ID of the event of mis-haps. The intelligent transport systems (ITS) have utilizes the WAVE convention to communicate data, for example, climate conditions, streets support, and street traffic conditions.

VANETs deployment having several challenges those need to be conquering by appropriate routing methodology. The challenges are congestion in the network, severe mobility, high computational efforts, and data loss [11]. VANETs give Web networks to vehicles while moving, so travellers can download music, send messages, book eateries, or potentially mess around. Because of the vehicle’s fast movement, vehicular networks are described by quick geography changes that lead to serious congestions in the network [12]. Furthermore, it makes the planning of effective steering conventions for the vehicular climate troublesome. Planning versatile congestion mindful directing conventions to such quickly changing network geographies is exceptionally basic to numerous vehicular security applications such as neglecting to course impact evasion messages to their expected vehicles can deliver these messages to be pointless. The directing assumes a significant function in the wellbeing uses of VANET for moving the information between end-clients. It noticed that designing routing protocol for VANET is challenging due to (1) Dynamic topology changes due to high mobility; (2) Frequent link disconnections due to the mobility speed; (3) Flexibility to select alternate routes for data transmission; (4) Capability to tolerate faults such as link breakages and nodes’ positions; and (5) automatic mitigation of RSU failures without compromising the QoS of VANET communication [1]. The first reason for which VANETs have been organized comprises the arrangement of constant and security applications for drivers and travellers: they can communicate continuous alarms to drivers about dangers on their arranged excursion and their prompt environmental factors. Following these circumstances, it tends to be expressed that especially during the most recent decade, VANETs are promising in a few valuable drivers and traveller situated services that incorporate, for instance, on-request Web associations and interactive media services. Adaptability and interoperability are two significant issues that should be fulfilled, by and large, conveying satisfactory steering conventions and components ready to
interoperate with various vehicles and distinctive remote innovations. It has been realized
that V2V correspondence permits the advancement of new applications that incline toward
dependable lower-layer conventions like steering conventions.

For road safety applications, several factors included congestion that leads to pollutions
(noise and air), high travelling time, road accidents, and degraded QoS performance of
VANET [13]. These problems become severe for urban areas due to the high volume of
vehicles travelling in the daytime. In such situations, drivers would like to avoid congested
roads during their journeys and save fuel and travelling time [14]. The congestion plays a
significant factor in VANET QoS performance and environmental impacts, especially in
VANET safety applications [15–19]. The congestion control can be achieved by the routing
functions, therefore the appropriate congestion control techniques may reduce the possibil-
ities of accidents and pollutions in urban areas. In this paper, we formulate the problem of
congestion control employing safer routes establishment in VANETs. The Adaptive Con-
gestion Aware Routing Protocol (ACARP) is planned in this paper to dynamically perform
the prediction of congestion in the network and establish the safer and reliable routes in
VANET so that it leads to improved network QoS and reduced pollutions. The QoS bound-
daries of VANETs are normal throughput, Bundle Conveyance Proportion (PDR), corre-
spondence delay, and directing overhead. For congestion prediction, we have designed
the artificial intelligence (AI) technique called Type-2 Fuzzy logic system using the three
parameters of each vehicle bandwidth occupation, link quality, and mobility. The conges-
tion status and probabilities are computed periodically for each vehicle and updated in the
routing table. The key contributions of ACARP are:

- Efficient and effective congestion prediction approach using the type-2 fuzzy logic
  algorithm in which the parameters like bandwidth occupation, link quality, and mobil-
  ity of each vehicle have been used as input. It is a periodic and adaptive process and
  works in the background of routing without any extra overhead.
- For route discovery, the next forwarding vehicle has been selected by analyzing the con-
gestion probability that is fetched directly from the routing table entries of each vehicle.
The vehicle with a higher probability value (i.e., more reliable and less congested) was
selected as the next hop. This approach is lightweight and does not require a specialized
process.
- The extensive performance analysis of the proposed protocol with recent underlying
  methods is presented by considering the different network conditions and mobility pat-
tens.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Sect. 2 presents a short survey of related
works and examination inspiration. Section 3 presents the proposed philosophy. Section 4
presents the experimental outcomes and discussions. Section 5 discusses the conclusion
and future bearings of this work.

2 Related Works

Due to the emergence of IoT-assisted smart city applications, several researchers pro-
posed solutions for VANET routing by considering the reliability and safety challenges.
For this work, various congestion-aware and reliable routing methods studied are over-
lapping with the proposed protocol. The congestion detection in VANET is a significant
research problem, for that purpose, various techniques are used like trust-computations, fuzzy logic, and other AI-based approaches. First, we present the related works on congestion detection and control in VANET and then research motivation. As we formulate the problem of adaptive congestion detection and control in VANET, we reviewed recent methods introduced in [20–34].

In [20], the DCAR (data congestion-aware routing protocol) had proposed as an intersection-based low-layer protocol for VANET. They used the road segments estimation-based vehicular traffic and data traffic parameters to contrast the paths, however, the lack of adaptive nature of this protocol leads to reliability-related challenges.

In [21], the congestion-aware routing protocol had proposed for urban regions to enhance the presentation of the existing protocol. The congestion is estimated using two parameters available queue size and geographical distance among current node and particular destination vehicle. These values are computed for each vehicle at the time of the route discovery phase to transmit data from source to destination, and hence it takes a longer time to discover the route and hence leads to higher communication delay and data loss.

In [22], another congestion-aware routing method had designed for urban areas called GTLQR (greedy traffic light & queue-aware routing). In GTLQR, they used the parameters such as channel quality, queuing delay, street connectivity, and relative distance to reduce the congestion and hence data loss in VANET. They focused on balancing only traffic load on vehicles in-network; however, it is not enough to establish safer and reliable paths in highly dynamic networks.

In [23], the author presented a good study of various congestion/traffic-aware routing methods along with challenges and future directions. They emphasized on challenges of awareness of network conditions and traffic in VANET routing protocols. Various traffic-aware protocols are investigated along with their benefits and limitations by disclosing the phases like routing, forwarding, recovery, etc.

In [24], another reliable route establishment protocol proposed recently had called RPSPF (reliable path selection & packet forwarding) protocol. They computed the shortest distance (according to intersections) and connectivity parameters to build the optimal route to transmit data from the source vehicle to the destination vehicle. After that, a reliable data forwarding technique was designed among the intersections to prevent data loss. However, as mentioned above, this approach also adds a higher computation burden and delay in case of severe dynamics.

In [25], the FL-CFT (fuzzy logic-based cooperative file transfer) protocol had proposed for VANET. They designed a protocol mainly for the bi-directional highway mobility scenario to address the challenges of the file transfer. This work is not related to our problems; however, it demonstrates how fuzzy logic is applied to establish routing in complicated network conditions.

In [26], the clustering algorithm had introduced for congestion control in VANETs. They used the fuzzy C-means algorithm to cluster the messages received at the RSU unit to prevent the problems of collisions and hence congestions in the network. The messages were clustered into various strategies and minimized the number of packets transmission. However, it is not a scalable solution by considering the higher density and mobility of vehicles in urban areas.

In [27], another good study over the various congestion-aware methods presented had similar to [23], however, with more recent works. They discovered the performance metrics and parameters that can be utilized for the evaluation of congestion-aware
protocols. They disclosed the challenges of designing V2V communication protocols and future directions at the end.

In [28], the modified AODV protocol had proposed to mitigate the challenges of reliable and safer route discovery for data transmission. They used the TOPSIS and fuzzy techniques to improve AODV performance by discovering the most reliable route to prevent data loss. However, the lack of adaptive congestion detection may lead to performance challenges under critical network conditions.

In [29], recently, the QoS evaluation technique had proposed for VANET using the fuzzy logic algorithm. The holistic model was proposed to overcome the challenges of estimating VANET QoS performances by considering the various applications and services. However, as this approach only focused on QoS performance evaluation using fuzzy logic, challenges of congestion control and safer route establishment cannot be addressed.

In [30], another route discovery protocol had introduced to achieve the congestion-aware routing in VANET. They formulated the congestion probability by considering the non-equipped and equipped vehicles besides driver distraction parameters. However, the approach is not lightweight as it involves the computation of driver distraction factors as well to estimate the congestion indexing and hence may lead to longer latency and packet loss.

In [31], the relevant study had reported where the routing mechanism had proposed to reduce accidents, congestion, and pollution. They designed protocol with adaptive traffic signals as well as emergency vehicle management in VANETs using the fuzzy logic approach. They designed a completely adaptive and dynamic congestion control strategy for VANETs; however, the set of fuzzy rules is limited that may lead to unreliable network solutions for scalable and highly dynamic networks.

In [32], the first standard work had introduced focused on the reduction in CO2 emissions by employing congestion levels reduction. They worked on optimizing the traffic flow in VANET and analyzed the information collected at RSUs to make the routing decisions. Based on data analysis, re-routing had performed. This approach is not scalable and feasible by considering the real-time scenarios as they heavily depend on RSUs. The re-routing process is not adaptive and had time-consuming with such an approach.

In [33], the TIHOO routing solution had proposed for VANET using the cuckoo and improved fuzzy algorithms to address the problems of discovering stable and congestion-free paths. They used the vehicle speed, its moving direction, and geographical distance from the destination node as an input to the fuzzy logic system. The problem with this approach, the parameters selected are not effective enough to estimate the congestion around the vehicle and hence not a reliable solution. High computational overhead resulted due to combined fuzzy logic and cuckoo search to discover the path.

In [34], finally, another most relevant study had presented in which mobility and bandwidth utilization parameters were used as input to the fuzzy logic system to estimate their congestion levels and accordingly the route established. But missing the link quality parameter in this approach may lead to not an effective congestion prediction solution for VANETs. Link quality is an important parameter that helps to estimate the congestion level of vehicles efficiently and correctly in the network.

In the above works and Table 1, we disclosed the problems with each approach introduced for congestion-aware routing and reliable route discovery. These problems prompted the introduction of the novel routing solution called ACARP in this paper. For VANET safety applications, the key requirement is that vehicles should be capable of communicating with neighbouring vehicles with minimum computational overhead, communication delay, and data loss. The properties like high message rates, unreliable channel quality, and
severe mobility lead to a significant problem for VANETs routing. The congestion control protocols [20–34] and some recent fuzzy-based methods [36–43] were designed to make sure the reliable transmission of security messages in V2V communications. Researchers are also exploring nature-inspired soft computing techniques to address these problems and optimize routing of information in VANET [44]. However, adaptive congestion prediction and its utilization during route discovery are missing in all works. In this paper, we formulate the problem of reducing the communication overhead, communication delay, packet loss, and emission control as the problem of congestion prediction of each vehicle adaptively. The outcome of congestion prediction can directly be utilized in the route discovery process to establish congestion-free and reliable paths with minimum effort.

3 ACARP Methodology

As per the contributions described in the above section, this section presents the complete methodology of the planned ACARP protocol step-by-step. The functionality of the ACARP protocol consists of two main phases such as (1) periodic congestion prediction, and (2) safer and reliable data transmission. Figure 1 demonstrates the overall architecture of the ACARP protocol.

As shown in Fig. 1, the first block is for periodic congestion prediction in which each vehicle has evaluated periodically using the AI approach type-2 fuzzy logic. The outcome of this phase is the prediction of the congestion status of each vehicle into routing table entries with its congestion probability value. The second block belongs to reliable data transmission in which the periodically updated congestion status and congestion probability values are directly utilized from the routing tables to establish safer and reliable routes for data transmission. After the route discovery, the first route was selected for data transmission among the particular source and destination vehicles in the network. The design and functionality of both blocks are described in subsequent sections.

3.1 Adaptive Congestion Prediction

Figure 2 shows the working of proposed methodology for adaptive and periodic congestion prediction approach. Let’s suppose that VANET deployed with $N$ number of vehicles in
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Fig. 1 Architecture of ACARP protocol

Fig. 2 Adaptive congestion prediction using type-2 fuzzy logic approach
network that includes the set \( V = \{ v^1, v^2, \ldots, v^N \} \). These \( N \) number of vehicles are deployed in network of size \( X \times Y \). As showing in Fig. 2, after VANET deployment, each vehicle \( v, v \in V \) processed for the congestion prediction at current time \( t \). The type-2Mamdani fuzzy logic is applied for prediction of congestion and to estimate current congestion probability \( CP^v \) of vehicle \( v \) in network at time \( t \). Figure 3 showing the structure of proposed fuzzy logic system which is consisting of four phases such as fuzzification, a base of rules, inferences, and defuzzification. As shown in Fig. 3, outcome of fuzzy logic approach is digital value that represents congestion probability value \( CP^v \) of vehicle \( v \) at time \( t \). This \( CP^v \) value then compared with pre-defined threshold as showing in Fig. 2. If \( CP^v \) is greater than pre-defined threshold value, it means that node \( v \) is non-congested and hence its status set to true \( (stat = 1) \), otherwise \( v \) is congested and its status set to false \( (stat = 0) \) at time \( t \). We modified the routing table entries of each vehicle in ACARP protocol by adding the outcome Fig. 2 periodically. In short, the \( CP^v \) and \( stat \) values are periodically updated for each vehicle in their routing table entries.

3.1.1 Fuzzification

As showing in Fig. 3, the first step of type-2 fuzzy model for congestion prediction is the fuzzification in which the singleton fuzzifier used. It takes three inputs of each vehicle \( v \) such as mobility speed \( (M^v) \), bandwidth occupancy \( (B^v) \), and link quality \( (Q^v) \) at current time \( t \). We extracted these values for each vehicle periodically in range of \([0, 1]\) for sake of convenience. Before discussing the fuzzification process, how these three parameters of each vehicle computed presented.

**Mobility Speed**

For VANETs, mobility is an important parameter as it leads to routing challenges due to its severe mobility speed. Thus, the first parameter to estimate the congestion probability is the mobility speed of the vehicle. The current mobility speed of vehicle \( v \) at time \( t \) is estimated as:

\[
M^v = 1 - \left( \frac{\text{mobility}(v, t)}{200} \right)
\]  

where, \( \text{mobility}(v, t) \) function returns the current moving speed of vehicle \( v \) at time \( t \). The value 200 km/hr is maximum mobility speed assumed for each vehicle in network. The outcome of \( M^v \) is in range of 0–1. It represented as higher the \( M^v \), then lower the mobility speed and lower chances of congestion of \( v \).

**Bandwidth Occupancy**

This is the vital parameter to estimate the current congestion on vehicle \( v \). The computation of \( M^v \) is very much similar to mobility speed. It is computed as:

![Fig. 3 Proposed model of type-2 fuzzy Mamdani fuzzy logic method](image-url)
\[ B^v = 1 - \left( \frac{\text{bandwidth}(v, t)}{2048} \right) \] (2)

where, \( \text{bandwidth}(v, t) \) function returns the bandwidth allocated of vehicle \( v \) at time \( t \). The value 2048 kbps is maximum allowed bandwidth for each vehicle in network. The outcome of \( B^v \) is in range of 0–1 that represents higher the \( B^v \), then higher bandwidth available and lower congestion chances of \( v \).

**Link Quality**

Above both parameters deals with just routing layer, however, congestion can be created at MAC layer as well. To achieve the reliable solutions, we computed the link quality \( Q^v \) of each vehicle \( v \) at MAC layer. It is computed as:

\[ Q^v = \frac{\text{recv}(v, t - 1, t)}{\text{expt}(v, t - 1, t)} \] (3)

where \( \text{recv}(v, t - 1, t) \) and \( \text{expt}(v, t - 1, t) \) total number of packets received and expected respectively at vehicle \( v \) during the time interval \((t - 1, t)\). Higher \( Q^v \) value leads to lower congestion at \( v \).

In this way we get the input values \( M^v, B^v, \) and \( Q^v \) of vehicle \( v \) at time \( t \) input for fuzzification. At fuzzification phase, these three variables divided into three categories as per their values such as: high, medium, and low. Table 2 demonstrates how input parameters divided as per their current value. This categorization leads to significant reduction in network overhead. Thus, for each parameter, the fuzzy input set includes either “high”, “medium”, or “low”. For example, if the outcome of variables \( M^v, B^v, \) and \( Q^v \) of vehicle \( v \) at time \( t \) is 0.4, 0.21, and 0.8 respectively, then the fuzzy input set consists of {“medium”, “low”, “high”}.

**3.1.2 Base of Rules**

As per the fuzzy input sets, we designed total 27 rules in IF–THEN format. Table 3 shows the complete set of rules that demonstrates the three input fuzzy variables and one out numerical variable. That numerical variable represents the congestion probability \( CP^v \) of vehicle \( v \) at time \( t \). As demonstrated in Table 3, the scalable and rich set of rules designed to address the accurate congestion detection and decision on congestion probability of each vehicle by balancing all three input parameters. From these rules, it is noticed that more weight is given to the bandwidth occupancy and link quality, as these two widely correlates the congestion in the network.

| Variable              | “High”    | “Medium”       | “Low”    |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| Mobility              | \( M^v \leq 0.25 \) | \( M^v > 0.25 \&\& M^v \leq 0.75 \) | \( M^v \geq 0.75 \) |
| Bandwidth Occupancy   | \( B^v \leq 0.25 \) | \( B^v > 0.25 \&\& B^v \leq 0.75 \) | \( B^v \geq 0.75 \) |
| Link quality          | \( Q^v \geq 0.75 \) | \( Q^v > 0.25 \&\& Q^v \leq 0.75 \) | \( Q^v \leq 0.25 \) |
3.1.3 Inference System

It is the type-2 fuzzy decision-making block where the fuzzy input sets are mapped with the set of rules defined in Table 3. As the second phase presented a rich set of rules in Table 3, those are applied in the decision-making process to estimate the congestion probability of the vehicle and intended to guide the final fuzzy value. In short, the fuzzy decisions are generated in this phase through the rules available in the rule base. The output of this phase is the numerical fuzzy decision value for each vehicle’s fuzzy input set.

3.1.4 Defuzzification

This is final phase of type-2 fuzzy logic system which takes input as output fuzzy sets and then performs the defuzzification to estimate the final prediction of congestion status of vehicle $v$. In this phase, as per the outcome value.

### Table 3  Base of rules

| Rule No | $M'$   | $B'$   | $Q'$   | $CP'$ |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1       | “High” | “High” | “Low”  | 0.25  |
| 2       | “High” | “High” | “Medium” | 0.25 |
| 3       | “High” | “High” | “High”  | 0.4   |
| 4       | “High” | “Medium” | “Low”  | 0.25  |
| 5       | “High” | “Medium” | “Medium” | 0.6  |
| 6       | “High” | “Medium” | “High”  | 0.75  |
| 7       | “High” | “Low”  | “Low”   | 0.4   |
| 8       | “High” | “Low”  | “Medium” | 0.7   |
| 9       | “High” | “Low”  | “High”  | 0.8   |
| 10      | “High” | “High” | “Low”   | 0.25  |
| 11      | “High” | “Medium” | “Low”  | 0.25  |
| 12      | “High” | “Low”  | “Low”   | 0.4   |
| 13      | “High” | “High” | “Medium” | 0.25 |
| 14      | “High” | “Medium” | “Medium” | 0.6  |
| 15      | “High” | “Low”  | “Medium” | 0.75 |
| 16      | “High” | “High” | “High”  | 0.25  |
| 17      | “High” | “Medium” | “High”  | 0.6   |
| 18      | “High” | “Low”  | “High”  | 0.4   |
| 19      | “High” | “High” | “Low”   | 0.25  |
| 20      | “Medium” | “High” | “Low”  | 0.25  |
| 21      | “Low”  | “High” | “Low”   | 0.25  |
| 22      | “High” | “Medium” | “Medium” | 0.5  |
| 23      | “Medium” | “Medium” | “Medium” | 0.7  |
| 24      | “Low”  | “Medium” | “Medium” | 0.8  |
| 25      | “High” | “Low”  | “High”  | 0.5   |
| 26      | “Medium” | “Low”  | “High”  | 0.8   |
| 27      | “Low”  | “Low”  | “High”  | 0.9   |
$CP^v$ of third phase, the post-processing operations performed such as checking against the threshold and routing table updations. The status $stat$ of congestion for vehicle $v$ at time $t$ is estimated:

$$stat = \begin{cases} 
1, & CP^v > \text{threshold} \\
0, & \text{Otherwise}
\end{cases}$$

(4)

It means that higher the value of $CP^v$, higher the reliable vehicle and less congestion at time $t$. After significant number of experiments and observations, we set the threshold value in this work as 0.38 for QoS improvement and congestion control. The entire process of adaptive and periodic congestion prediction is presented in algorithm 1.

| Algorithm 1: Proposed congestion prediction |
|---------------------------------------------|
| **Inputs:**                                  |
| $V$: set of $N$ number of vehicles           |
| $\text{threshold} = 0.38$: predefined threshold |
| $Rt$: routing table entry                    |
| $t$: current periodic time interval          |
| $T$: total simulation time                   |
| **Outputs:**                                 |
| $stat$: congestion status of vehicle $v$     |
| $CP^v$: congestion probability of vehicle $v$|
| 1. While ($T$)                               |
| 2. For each $v \in V$                       |
| 3. $M^v$: using Eq. (1)                     |
| 4. $B^v$: using Eq. (2)                     |
| 5. $Q^v$: using Eq. (3)                     |
| 6. Apply type 2 fuzzy logic method:          |
| 7. $[stat, CP^v] = \text{Type2Fuzzy}(M^v, B^v, Q^v)$ |
| 8. Update routing table entries:             |
| 9. $update\ (RT \rightarrow v, stat, CP^v)$ |
| 10. End while                                |

### 3.2 Safe and Reliable Data Transmission

The second phase of ACARP protocol belongs to the lightweight and reliable data transmission algorithm. It is lightweight approach as there is no specialized functionality applied to discover the reliable and safe next hop data forwarder vehicle among the particular source ($S$) and destination ($D$) pair in network. The route discovery initiated by source $S$ towards destination $D$. The proposed route discovery approach analyze the neighbouring vehicles according to its current congestion $stat$ and congestion probability value $CP^v$. As these values are periodically updated for each vehicle in their routing table entries, during the route discovery we directly extract and analyze to choose the best and reliable data forwarder node among $S$ and $D$ pair. As showing functionality of proposed route discovery and data transmission in algorithm 2, the next hop node first checked against its current stat, if the stat is 1, then it is consider as candidate for data forwarding otherwise it is discarded. Once all the eligible candidates discovered, the one with higher $CP^v$ selected as next hop forwarder.
4 Simulation Results and Discussions

This section presents the experimental results and analysis of the proposed ACARP protocol for VANET using different kinds of network scenarios. ACARP protocol is implemented and evaluated using the NS2 tool for two network scenarios like mobility and density variations. The performance of the ACARP protocol is measured in five performance metrics such as average throughput, communication delay (latency), PDR, communication overhead, and congestions. These parameters are evaluated compared to two recent fuzzy logic-based route discovery and congestion-aware routing methods for VANETS such as TIHOO [33] and FBVANET [34]. The main reasons for selecting these two protocols for comparative study are (1) recently proposed protocols for VANET, (2) congest-aware routing, (3) fuzzy-logic approach to discover the reliable routes by detecting the congestions.

The network scenarios for performance evaluations are demonstrated in Tables 4 and 5 for mobility and density variations respectively. For performance evaluation, two different mobility models are used like random walk and the Manhattan grid for...
mobility and density scenarios respectively. These mobility patterns were generated using the open-source VANET mobility generator called BonnMotion [35] tool. We have used IEEE 802.11p protocol for VANET scenarios of size $8000 \times 8000$. The total simulation time is 500 s along with 6 CBR communication patterns. In the mobility scenario, mobility is varying from 40 to 90 km/hr. In the density scenario, the numbers of vehicles are varying from 50 to 300. The performance metrics were computed as per the standard formulations except for the CO2 emission. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time the CO2 emission of VANET simulations was computed. The average CO2 emission of the network was computed by utilizing the data loss parameter as:

$$CO2_{\text{emission}} = \frac{L \times 144.15}{ST}$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)$$

where, $L$ is total number of packets dropped in network and $ST$ is total simulation time. Section A presents the simulation results for mobility scenarios and section B presents simulation results for density scenarios.

| Table 4 | Parameters of mobility evaluations |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Number of vehicles | 150 |
| Routing methods | TIHOO, FBVANET, ACARP |
| Simulation time | 500 s |
| Mobility (Km/hr) | 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 km/hr |
| MAC | 802.11p |
| Propagation model | Two-Ray Ground |
| Area | $8000 \times 8000$ m |
| Mobility | Random Walk Model |
| Antenna | Omni Antenna |
| CO2 model | 144.15 g/km |
| Traffic pattern | CBR |

| Table 5 | Parameters for density evaluations |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Number of vehicles | 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300 |
| Routing methods | TIHOO, FBVANET, ACARP |
| Simulation time | 500 s |
| Mobility (Km/hr) | 35 km/hr |
| MAC | 802.11p |
| Propagation Model | Two-Ray Ground |
| Area | $8000 \times 8000$ m |
| Mobility | Manhattan grid mobility |
| Antenna | Omni Antenna |
| CO2 model | 144.15 g/km |
| Traffic pattern | CBR |
4.1 Mobility Evaluations

The purpose of evaluating the mobility variations is to assess the reliability of the proposed ACARP protocol compared to existing protocols under low to high dynamics of the vehicle and hence VANET topology. Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 exhibit the results of normal throughput, PDR, CO2 emanation, correspondence deferral, and overhead individually. The results

![Fig. 4 Throughput performance evaluations in mobility scenario](image)

![Fig. 5 PDR performance evaluations in mobility scenario](image)

![Fig. 6 CO2 emission performance evaluations in mobility scenario](image)
show that ACARP can enhance all the parameters compared to both recent protocols. The results of average throughput (Fig. 4) and PDR (Fig. 5) demonstrates a similar trend for mobility variations of each protocol. It is noticed that as mobility increased, the performance of throughput and PDR decreased. It is due to an increased number of routes establishment tasks with increased mobility speed of vehicles. These results define the impact of mobility on VANET performance as well.

Among all protocols, the proposed protocol significantly improved the throughput by 10 kbps and PDR by 3%. The improvement is estimated by average performances (Table 6). The ACARP can able to improve throughput and PDR due to the adaptive and periodic functionality of congestion prediction and its direct utilization during the reliable route discovery phase. Also the appropriate selection of congestion parameters such as mobility speed, bandwidth occupancy, and link quality boosts the accurate congestion prediction in the network that helps to minimize the data loss.

Furthermore, the CO2 emissions results demonstrate a significant reduction in pollutions using ACARP in urban areas due to reduced congestions/traffics and hence traveling time.
As mobility increased, the CO2 emission (g/km) increased as well. It is due to increased routing functionalities that lead to congestions and data loss in the network. In this paper, we formulated the problem of congestion with pollutions; it means that higher congestions lead to excessive CO2 emissions. Due to problems mentioned earlier about existing protocols TIHOO and FBVANET, the CO2 emissions results are not much promising to them compared to the proposed ACARP. The ACARP reduced the CO2 emissions approximately by 35 g/km compared to TIHOO and FBVANET protocols.

The results of delay (Fig. 7) and communication overhead (Fig. 8) demonstrate correlation to each other as they mainly depend on the process of data transmissions in highly dynamic networks. The proposed method has the minimum overhead compared to TIHOO and FBVANET. The ACARP focused on safer routes with reduced route discovery time by utilizing periodically computed congestion status and congestion probability value. This functionality is missing in TIHOO and FBVANET that leads to high delay and communication overhead. ACARP shows the reduction in both delay and communication overhead parameters (Demonstrated in Table 6).

### 4.2 Density Evaluations

The reliability and robustness of the protocol of VANET can also be validated by density parameters, i.e., small to a large number of vehicles. This section presents the simulation results for a varying number of vehicles using each protocol for each parameter.

The performance of throughput (Fig. 9) and PDR (Fig. 10) demonstrates that with an increased vehicle density the performance decreased. The main reason is that an increased number of vehicles lead to a longer data transmission path that increases the congestion level and data loss in the network. The impact of increased density has been observed in all other parameters in Figs. 11, 12, and 13. Among the three protocols, ACARP again shows the improvement in throughput and PDR performances. In ACARP, three parameters (mobility speed, bandwidth occupancy, and link quality) that are directly responsible for congestion and reliability of vehicles in the network are utilized effectively compared to TIHOO and FBVANET. Secondly, the periodic and adaptive process of congestion prediction and which is dynamically updating in routing tables leads to direct utilization during the route discovery process. These characteristics of ACARP are put ahead of both existing TIHOO and FBVANT protocols.

The CO2 emission performance further demonstrated a significant reduction for density scenarios and using the proposed ACARP protocol. Reduction in packets dropped (PDR performance) is directly related to a reduction in CO2 emissions. The fuzzy-based adaptive congestion prediction approach in ACARP can minimize the congestion levels in the network effectively compared to TIHOO and FBVANET. Both

| **Table 6** Average mobility scenario performance |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|
| **TIHOO** | **FBVANET** | **ACARP** |
| Throughput | 192.45 | 198.27 | 208.21 |
| PDR | 79.3 | 81.19 | 84.14 |
| CO2 emission | 173.82 | 157.07 | 122.21 |
| Delay | 0.7972 | 0.7461 | 0.6722 |
| Overhead | 7.84 | 6.94 | 6.24 |
TIHOO and FBVANT mainly focused on discovering reliable paths among source and destination pairs rather than predicting the congestion levels. It takes a long time to discover routes and data transmission for TIHOO and FBVANET compared to the

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**Fig. 9** Throughput performance evaluations in density scenario

**Fig. 10** PDR performance evaluations in density scenario

**Fig. 11** CO2 emission performance evaluations in density scenario
ACARP protocol. Among TIHOO and FBVANET, the TIHOO protocol shows the worst performance compared to FBVANET. TIHOO used the non-congestion aware parameters (speed, geographical distance, vehicle moving directions) to discover the reliable route. They used a combined approach of fuzzy logic and cuckoo search to discover the route which takes more computation efforts. In FBVANET, the bandwidth and mobility speed of each vehicle passed as input to the fuzzy logic model to build reliable paths.

Finally, Figs. 12 and 13 demonstrated the outcomes of communication delay and overhead for each protocol. The results show the promising for the proposed ACARP protocol compared to TIHOO and ACARP. Table 7 shows the average performances for each parameter using each protocol. For density scenarios, throughput performance improved approximately by 8 kbps, PDR increased by 2%, CO2 reduced by 16 g/km, delay reduced approximately by 0.01 s, and communication overhead reduced by 0.17 rate.
Conclusion and Future Directions

This paper proposed the novel steering convention for VANET called ACARP. ACARP protocol is aimed to predict the congestions in VANET using AI methods and to utilize the outcome of prediction for safer and reliable route formation. High congestion in VANET leads to higher delays, more travelling time, and a higher CO2 emission. The proposed protocol also attempts to reduce CO2 emission in VANET. The design of the ACARP protocol is two-fold in which periodically congestion prediction had performed using the type-2 fuzzy model and lightweight reliable route discovery performed by utilizing the congestion prediction outcomes directly. Three parameters of each vehicle were used as inputs for congestion prediction i.e. mobility speed, bandwidth occupancy, and link quality. Simulation results claim that ACARP helps to improve throughput and PDR, reduce communication delay, and communication overhead, and also CO2 emissions as compared to the existing recent protocols. The presented work can be extended by investigating the ACARP protocol for different kinds of traffic patterns, and by implementing the nature-inspired algorithms for route discovery to optimize the performance further.

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Declarations

Conflict of interest The author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest.

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