



# Adaptive Location-based Routing Protocols for Dynamic Wireless Sensor Networks in Urban Cyber-physical Systems

Oluwaseun Ibrahim Akinola <sup>a++\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Olabisi Onabanjo University, P.M.B 2002, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria.

## *Author's contribution*

*The sole author designed, analyzed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.*

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigates the development and enhancement of adaptive location-based routing protocols within dynamic wireless sensor networks (WSNs) in urban cyber-physical systems, recommending the implementation of the study's innovative Urban Adaptive Location-based Routing Protocol (UALRP). This innovative protocol integrates real-time data analytics and adaptive machine learning models into its algorithmic framework to dynamically optimize routing decisions based on continuously changing urban conditions. Through the utilization of data-driven simulation models and machine learning techniques, the research sought to significantly improve the efficiency, reliability, and scalability of urban WSNs. Existing protocols such as Geographic Adaptive Fidelity (GAF), Greedy Perimeter Stateless Routing (GPSR), and Dynamic Source Routing (DSR) were critically assessed under urban settings using extensive datasets detailing New York City's traffic patterns and environmental variables. The analysis demonstrated that while

<sup>++</sup> Wireless Security Network Researcher;

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author: Email: [akinola.i.oluwaseun@gmail.com](mailto:akinola.i.oluwaseun@gmail.com);

GPSR showed superior performance in terms of latency, throughput, and energy efficiency among the traditional protocols, the introduction of UALRP, with its advanced predictive and adaptive capabilities, can further optimize these metrics. The study affirms the critical role of enhancing location accuracy and the ongoing advancement of machine learning models within urban routing protocols. These insights advocate for the broader implementation of adaptive strategies like UALRP to foster the development of more resilient and efficient urban cyber-physical systems.

*Keywords: Urban adaptive location-based routing protocol; adaptive routing protocols; wireless sensor networks; urban cyber-physical systems; machine learning optimization; data-driven simulation models.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

With the advancement of digitalization in infrastructures and urbanization, there has been a concurrent increase in the development of smart cities, integrating technology and infrastructure to improve efficiency, sustainability, and quality of life. Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) significantly enhance the integration of computational elements with physical processes, fostering advancements in infrastructure technologies [1]. Central to the efficacy of CPS are Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs), which are indispensable for collecting and disseminating data across diverse urban applications such as traffic management, public safety, and environmental monitoring [2]. The performance of WSNs critically depends on the robustness of their routing protocols, which ensure the efficient and reliable transmission of data between sensor nodes and central processors.

Urban environments present distinctive challenges for WSNs due to their dynamic nature—characterized by high node mobility, variable density, and intermittent disruptions. These conditions pose unique challenges for traditional static routing protocols, which struggle with the complexities introduced by dense building structures, high-rise limitations on GPS reception, and ever-changing network topologies due to moving vehicles [3]. Consequently, there is a pressing need for adaptive routing protocols capable of responding in real-time to fluctuations in network or environmental conditions, as existing routing solutions often fail to scale or adapt adequately, leading to reduced network performance and sustainability.

Traditional routing protocols for WSNs, which are designed for more static or predictable environments, do not sufficiently address the intricate demands of urban settings. These protocols can be broadly categorized into two

types: proactive and reactive. Proactive protocols like Optimized Link State Routing (OLSR) are designed to constantly maintain updated routing tables across the entire network. This method ensures that data paths are readily available when needed, facilitating immediate data transmission [4]. However, the continuous exchange of routing information between nodes, necessary to keep these tables current, imposes a substantial communication overhead. This becomes particularly problematic in large-scale networks, where the number of nodes can significantly amplify the amount of data exchanged, consuming valuable network bandwidth and energy resources, and thus limiting scalability [5].

In contrast, reactive protocols such as Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector Routing (AODV) adopt a more efficient approach by creating routes only when they are required. This strategy significantly reduces the overhead since routes are established through an on-demand discovery process, conserving network resources [6]. However, this advantage comes with a trade-off: the route discovery process introduces a delay in data transmission, especially for the first packet sent to a new destination, which can be detrimental in time-sensitive applications, leading to increased latency and potentially impacting the real-time performance of the network [7,8].

Moreover, many existing protocols underutilize crucial location information of sensor nodes. Although some location-based protocols exist, such as the Geographic Adaptive Fidelity (GAF) which focuses on reducing control message overhead in location-based routing by utilizing a probabilistic approach where only a subset of nodes participates in forwarding data packets, depending on their location relative to the destination; and the Coordinate-based Geographic Routing (CGHR) which leverages geographical coordinates of sensor nodes to determine forwarding paths, employing a greedy forwarding mechanism where each node selects

the neighbor closest to the destination to forward the packet; Location-Based Routing Protocol (LBRP) employs an algorithm to dynamically adapt to changes in node density and network topology, specifically addressing urban environmental complexities by utilizing real-time geographic data to make routing decisions; these approaches tend to overlook the specific challenges posed by urban environments [9]. Traditional approaches tend to prioritize path selection based on hop count or node energy levels, neglecting the importance of precise location accuracy, which is vital in urban areas. The LBRP specifically calculates the optimal path based not only on proximity to the destination but also on factors such as node stability and link reliability, which are critical in urban settings where physical obstacles and variable node dynamics can frequently alter routes. This approach helps mitigate issues such as routing loops and dead ends often encountered in dense urban areas, thereby enhancing the overall efficiency and reliability of the data transmission process [8,9]. However, the protocol struggles with static decision thresholds and does not adequately adapt to rapid urban changes or effectively manage node energy consumption, necessitating a more dynamic and energy-efficient adaptive routing protocol.

The quality of data collected by sensor nodes is inherently linked to their location accuracy; inaccurately positioned sensors can generate flawed data that undermines the decision-making efficacy of CPS. Urban settings amplify this issue with variables like signal interference from buildings and restricted GPS reception, which can degrade location accuracy. Existing routing protocols typically do not account for these location uncertainties, which can lead to inefficient or incorrect data routing paths, thereby affecting overall network performance. Therefore, this study reviews existing routing protocols and their applications in urban environments, to develop an adaptive location-based routing protocol for dynamic wireless sensor networks within urban cyber-physical systems to enhance the efficiency, reliability, and scalability of these networks by integrating data-driven simulation models to optimize routing decisions, hence providing scalable routing solutions that improve the performance and sustainability of urban infrastructure technologies.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) are pivotal in the evolution of smart cities, serving as the

backbone of urban Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) that collect and disseminate real-time data from vital infrastructure elements like traffic systems, air quality monitors, and energy grids [10]. This data is crucial for informed decision-making, enhancing urban operations and improving citizen well-being. However, deploying WSNs in densely populated urban areas is challenged by numerous hurdles that compromise their effectiveness and reliability [11,12].

The quality of data transmitted across a WSN directly influences the efficacy of urban CPS in executing real-time, data-driven urban management decisions. Inaccurate location information can lead to erroneous data, affecting everything from traffic light synchronization to emergency responses and environmental monitoring [10]. Recent research efforts are exploring incorporating location confidence into routing decisions, developing methods to quantify location uncertainty, and prioritizing nodes with higher confidence estimates for data forwarding [13-15]. Hence, the necessity of integrating advanced computational models that predict and adapt to environmental variability and provides scalable, efficient routing solutions that improve the performance and sustainability of urban infrastructure technologies, ultimately contributing to the development of smarter, more resilient city ecosystems [16,17].

### 2.1 Existing Routing Protocols for WSNs

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) deployed in urban environments play a crucial role in supporting Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) that manage complex urban operations. These networks collect real-time data critical for optimizing various city functions, from traffic management to public safety [10,18]. However, the unique urban challenges such as dense building structures, dynamic traffic patterns, and high-rise architecture pose significant obstacles to the efficiency and reliability of WSNs. These factors often disrupt signal reception and lead to dynamic network topologies, complicating the routing process essential for timely and accurate data delivery [11,19, 20].

In addressing the challenges of deployment in urban environments, WSNs employ a range of routing protocols, categorized primarily into proactive and reactive approaches [19]. Optimized Link State Routing (OLSR) being a proactive routing protocol that maintains a

complete map of network connections through frequent exchanges of Link State Advertisements (LSAs), which are built using "Hello" messages from neighboring nodes [21-23]. This comprehensive network visibility allows nodes to quickly calculate the shortest path to any destination using algorithms like Dijkstra's. However, in dynamic urban environments, OLSR faces significant challenges. The constant flooding of LSAs can lead to high network congestion, especially problematic in densely populated areas with limited bandwidth [24]. Additionally, the size of LSAs and the frequency of messages increase with network size, which can overwhelm sensor nodes and drain their resources. Urban settings, characterized by frequent changes due to construction or traffic, can render the routing information outdated, leading to inefficiencies and errors in data routing. OLSR's lack of adaptability to real-time changes and reliance on a single path for routing further complicates its effectiveness in urban Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) [25,26].

On the other hand, Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector Routing (AODV) offers a reactive approach to network routing, establishing routes only as needed, which enhances scalability and reduces control message overhead, making it particularly suited for dynamic urban environments [6]. In AODV, nodes broadcast a Route Request (RREQ) when they need to establish a path for data transmission. Neighboring nodes respond with Route Reply (RREP) messages if they can facilitate a route to the destination, allowing the source node to select the shortest path based on the received replies [27,28]. This on-demand nature minimizes network congestion by reducing unnecessary control traffic, a significant advantage in bandwidth-limited urban settings. However, AODV introduces latency during route discovery and is susceptible to route breakages, which can be problematic in environments with frequent topological changes [29]. While it reduces the memory and processing load on nodes by maintaining routes only for active destinations, the burst of control messages during route establishment and the maintenance required to monitor route availability can still pose challenges [30,31]. This makes AODV a mixed solution, offering benefits over proactive protocols like OLSR in terms of scalability and overhead but facing limitations in ensuring timely data delivery and route stability in highly dynamic urban scenarios [32,33].

Location-based Routing Protocols (LBRPs) leverage geographic data to optimize data forwarding in Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs), presenting a promising solution for urban areas with complex topologies and dynamic changes [34,35]. Among these, Geographic Adaptive Fidelity (GAF) uses virtual forwarding zones around the destination, adjusting zone sizes based on network density and energy considerations. Nodes within these zones employ a greedy forwarding mechanism, passing data to the closest neighbor to the destination [36]. Conversely, Coordinate-based Geographic Routing (CGHR) simplifies this process by directly forwarding data to the geographically closest node, enhancing efficiency in environments with clear sightlines [37,38]. However, both protocols face challenges in urban settings where buildings and other obstructions can disrupt signal paths, potentially leading to routing dead ends and data loss. The effectiveness of LBRPs in such environments critically depends on the accuracy of location data and the network's ability to adapt to rapidly changing conditions. Addressing these challenges requires protocols that not only manage location uncertainty effectively but also accommodate the dynamic urban landscape to ensure reliable data delivery.

The Location-Based Routing Protocol (LBRP) is designed to respond dynamically to changes in node density and network topology, making it particularly suited for the fluctuating environments of urban settings [2]. However, the protocol struggles with the accurate determination of node positions, a common issue exacerbated by GPS limitations and signal interference often encountered in urban landscapes. Such inaccuracies can skew routing decisions, jeopardizing both the integrity and timeliness of the transmitted data. Despite the advantages of LBRPs, like enhanced energy efficiency and reduced hop counts, these protocols operate under the assumption of clear lines of sight and uniform network density—conditions that urban areas rarely meet [39,40]. Furthermore, LBRPs typically fall short in adequately addressing location uncertainty. This shortfall can lead to the selection of inefficient routing paths, resulting in unreliable data delivery [41]. This not only affects the operational efficacy of the protocols but also significantly undermines the effectiveness of Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) that depend on accurate and timely data for decision-making. Thus, while LBRPs offer theoretical benefits, their practical

implementation in urban contexts requires sophisticated adaptations to overcome these significant challenges [42,43].

## 2.2 Importance of Location Accuracy and Uncertainty Management

WSNs are crucial for CPS managing urban infrastructure, with the integrity and reliability of collected data heavily dependent on the accuracy of sensor node locations. In urban settings, dense infrastructure, dynamic traffic patterns, and high-rise buildings introduce significant challenges to maintaining precise location data, which is critical for routing protocols that depend on geographical information to ensure efficient and reliable data packet delivery [2,44]. The effectiveness of WSNs hinges on the quality of data, which is directly influenced by location accuracy. Inaccurate location information can result in data being incorrectly attributed to wrong locations, leading to suboptimal decision-making within CPS [45,46]. For example, a sensor node with an erroneous location estimate might report traffic congestion in an area where it does not exist, triggering unnecessary traffic management interventions. This demonstrates the vital link between location accuracy and the quality of data, highlighting the need for reliable location information to reflect the actual environmental conditions monitored [47].

Urban environments exacerbate the difficulties in achieving accurate location information due to signal interference from multiple sources—such as buildings and electronic devices—that create congested communication mediums. This interference can disrupt the operation of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), which are commonly used for location determination in WSNs [48,49]. High-rise structures can block or weaken satellite signals, causing location estimates to be imprecise or entirely unavailable. Additionally, the effectiveness of alternative location techniques like the Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI), which estimates node location based on signal strength, can also be compromised in urban settings due to complex radio wave propagation patterns leading to inaccurate distance calculations [50,51].

The consequences of neglecting location uncertainty in routing decisions can be significant, affecting the entire network's performance. Traditional routing protocols often prioritize metrics such as hop count or remaining

energy levels over location accuracy, potentially leading to inefficient routing and higher packet drop rates. Nodes with inaccurate location estimates might be chosen for data forwarding, causing data to follow inefficient or nonexistent paths, which can increase latency, overload parts of the network, and ultimately result in unreliable data delivery [52]. Recent research has recognized the importance of incorporating location confidence metrics into routing decisions [13,53,54]. Emerging trends focus on developing methods to quantify the uncertainty associated with a node's location estimate, utilizing factors such as signal strength variability or time since the last successful GPS fix [55]. By integrating these metrics, routing protocols can prioritize nodes with higher location confidence for data forwarding, enhancing the likelihood of successful and reliable data transmission. Hence, the need for routing protocols specifically designed for urban WSNs that can handle the complex challenges of location accuracy and uncertainty management. The development of such protocols is essential as urban areas continue to expand and become more complex. This is particularly vital for supporting smart city applications where the accurate and timely flow of information is crucial for effective city management and public safety.

## 2.3 Existing Work on Location Accuracy and Uncertainty Management

A foundational method in current research involves the quantification of location uncertainty through probabilistic models. These models estimate a node's location certainty based on various data sources, such as signal strength, triangulation, and even machine learning algorithms that predict location from historical data patterns [62,67]. Such approaches allow networks to assess and communicate the degree of certainty associated with each node's location, facilitating informed routing decisions that prioritize nodes with higher location confidence [65].

In practice, nodes with more reliable location data—those with less signal strength variability or more recent successful GPS fixes—are preferred in routing decisions. This prioritization is crucial because inaccurate location information can lead to suboptimal routing, increased delays, and higher packet loss, significantly compromising network performance [56,57]. For instance, a node's location confidence can be dynamically incorporated into routing protocols

by adjusting the data path in real-time or by modifying the cost function used in path selection, ensuring nodes with higher confidence scores are favored for data transmission [58,59].

However, urban settings challenge these methodologies. The "urban canyons" created by high-rise buildings can prevent GPS signals from reaching sensors, resulting in incomplete or inaccurate location data [60,61]. Moreover, the variability introduced by mobile entities like vehicles and pedestrians necessitates adaptive routing protocols capable of handling rapid changes in network topology [62]. To address scenarios with imprecise location estimates, existing research explores fallback strategies where the routing protocol switches to traditional methods when location data falls below a certain confidence threshold, or employs redundancy by sending data packets via multiple routes to ensure delivery despite potential inaccuracies [63-66].

Despite the theoretical feasibility of these methods, their practical application in urban environments faces significant hurdles. The literature indicates a growing focus on developing specialized algorithms that can navigate the unique obstacles presented by urban settings, such as leveraging urban geographic information systems (GIS) data to enhance location accuracy or integrating advanced computational models that adapt to environmental variability [68,69]. Critically, while the integration of location confidence into routing decisions is recognized as essential, controversies remain regarding the balance between achieving high accuracy and managing computational overhead and energy consumption. Some researchers advocate for highly complex models to improve accuracy, while others caution against the increased demands such models impose on the network [70,71].

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The data utilized in this study were sourced from publicly accessible urban and environmental datasets. Traffic data were obtained from the NYC Open Data portal, providing detailed information on road networks and traffic patterns within New York City. Environmental data, including weather conditions and air quality indices, were sourced from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These datasets were chosen due to their relevance and

availability, ensuring a robust and contextually appropriate analysis.

The acquired datasets were integrated onto QGIS, an open-source Geographic Information System (GIS) platform, where they were standardized and cleaned. Exploratory data analysis was conducted using R, an open-source statistical software, to gain insights into data characteristics and patterns, providing a foundational understanding necessary for the subsequent simulation process.

Network simulations were set up using NS3 and OMNeT++, configured to model the urban environment accurately by incorporating integrated data on traffic patterns and environmental conditions. Sensor nodes were strategically placed within the simulated urban layout based on real-world data, reflecting typical urban dynamics and node distributions. Various adaptive location-based routing protocols, including Geographic Adaptive Fidelity (GAF), Greedy Perimeter Stateless Routing (GPSR), and Dynamic Source Routing (DSR), were simulated under these modeled conditions to evaluate their performance. The study utilizes the Random Forest algorithm for its predictive model due to its robustness and ability to handle large datasets, which is critical for optimizing routing decisions in dynamic urban environments. The model was trained using features such as traffic density, temperature, AQI, and node mobility to predict latency, throughput, and energy efficiency.

The key performance metrics analyzed to assess the effectiveness of the routing protocols are calculated thus:

1. **Latency:** Latency was measured as the time delay in data transmission. The formula used to calculate average latency is:

$$Latency_{avg} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N Latency_i$$

Where N is the total number of packets and  $Latency_i$  is the Latency of the (i)-th packet.

2. **Throughput:** Throughput was measured as the rate at which data packets are successfully delivered over the network. It is calculated thus:

$$Throughput = \frac{Total\ Data\ Transmission\ (bits)}{Total\ Transmission\ Time\ (Seconds)}$$

3. **Energy Efficiency:** Energy efficiency was measured as the energy consumed by sensor nodes during data transmission. It is calculated thus:

$$Energy\ Consumption = \sum_{i=1}^N (P_{transmit} * t_{transmit,i} + P_{receive} * t_{receive,i})$$

Where  $P_{transmit}$  and  $P_{receive}$  are the power consumed during transmission and reception respectively, and  $t_{transmit,i}$  and  $t_{receive,i}$  are the times spent in transmission and reception for the (i)-th packet.

To enhance the robustness of the routing protocols, machine learning techniques were applied. Predictive models were developed using TensorFlow to optimize routing decisions based on simulation outcomes. The model architecture included input features such as traffic density, temperature, AQI, and the current routing protocol, with target variables being latency, throughput, and energy efficiency.

The training process involved splitting the data into training and validation sets. The loss function used was Mean Squared Error (MSE), calculated as:

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_1 - y_2)^2$$

Where n is the number of observations,  $y_1$  is the actual value, and  $y_2$  is the predicted value. The Adam optimizer was utilized for efficient training, adjusting the learning rate during training to optimize the model.

Validation metrics (MAE, RMSE and  $R^2$ ) were used to evaluate model accuracy and they are calculated thus:

$$Mean\ Absolute\ Error\ (MAE) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - y_2|$$

$$Root\ Mean\ Squared\ Error\ (RMSE) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_1 - y_2)^2}$$

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_1 - y_2)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_1 - \bar{y}_1)^2}$$

Where  $\bar{y}_1$  is the mean of the actual values.

The results from the simulations and machine learning models were further validated through sensitivity analysis, which involved testing the models against varying data inputs to ensure their reliability and robustness under different urban scenarios. Scenarios included high and low traffic densities, extreme temperatures, and

varying AQI levels. The robustness and reliability of the models were quantified using Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) and a robustness index, with the MAPE formula as follows:

$$MAPE = \frac{100\%}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left| \frac{y_i - y_2}{y_i} \right|$$

The robustness index (RI) was calculated to assess the model's stability under stress conditions, defined as:

$$RI = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left| \frac{PM_{baseline} - PM_{stress,i}}{PM_{baseline}} \right|}$$

Where  $PM_{baseline}$  is the performance metric under baseline conditions, and  $PM_{stress,i}$  is the performance metric under the i-th stress condition. This provided a comprehensive measure of the model's robustness and reliability under varying urban scenarios.

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The descriptive statistics table (Table 1) provides a summary of traffic volume, temperature, and AQI data, highlighting their mean, standard deviation, and range. This foundational understanding is crucial for setting up realistic network simulations, ensuring the routing protocols are tested under real-world conditions.

The correlation matrix in Table 2 reveals relationships between traffic volume, temperature, and AQI, essential for optimizing routing decisions. The positive correlation between traffic volume and AQI indicates higher traffic leads to poorer air quality, affecting wireless sensor network performance.

**Table 1. Descriptive statistics for traffic data and environmental data**

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Traffic Volume (vehicles/hour)	553.87	255.08	100	999
Temperature (°C)	10.50	11.60	-9	29
AQI	101.54	29.28	51	149

The key findings from the exploratory data analysis in Table 3 identify peak traffic hours and high-density areas, ensuring the protocols are robustly tested. Observing correlations and recognizing anomalies in traffic and AQI

underscore the need for adaptable routing protocols.

**Table 2. Correlation matrix for traffic volume, temperature, and AQI**

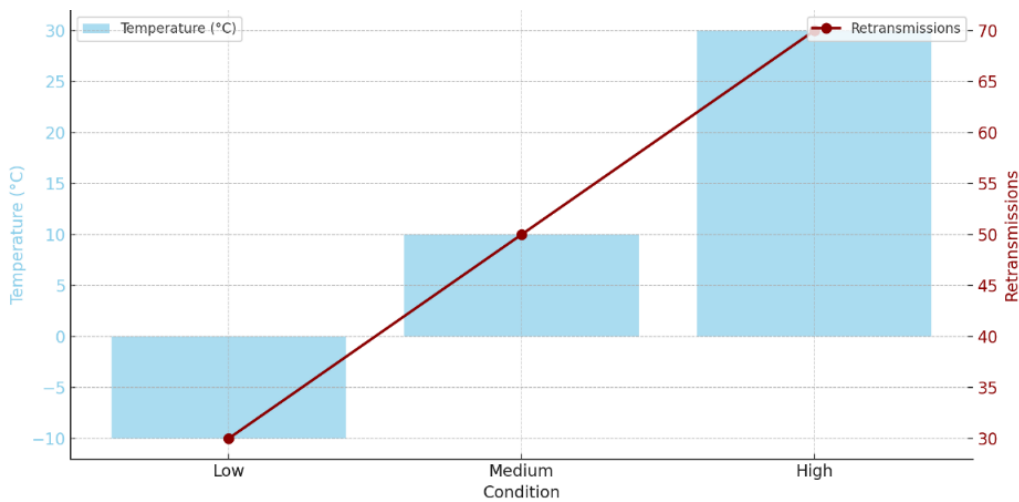
Variable	Traffic Volume	Temperature	AQI
Traffic Volume	1.00	-0.05	0.03
Temperature	-0.05	1.00	0.01
AQI	0.03	0.01	1.00

Collectively, these insights support the study's aim to enhance the efficiency, reliability, and scalability of wireless sensor networks in urban cyber-physical systems through data-driven simulation models.

Fig. 1 shows that as temperature increases from low (-10°C) to high (30°C), retransmissions also rise, indicating higher temperatures negatively impact network performance by increasing retransmissions.

**Table 3. Key findings from exploratory data analysis**

Finding	Description
Peak Traffic Hours	7 AM - 9 AM and 5 PM - 7 PM
High Traffic Density Areas	Manhattan and Brooklyn
Correlation between Traffic Volume and AQI	Positive correlation (higher traffic leads to poorer air quality)
Correlation between Traffic Volume and Temperature	Weak negative correlation
Anomalies in Traffic Data	Detected during holidays and major city events
Unusual Spikes in AQI	Identified on specific days, possibly due to localized pollution sources



**Fig. 1. Impact of environmental condition on network performance**

**Table 4. Network performance metrics**

Metric	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Latency (ms)	191.02	55.14	67.26	338.74
Throughput (Kbps)	1000.2	278.92	386.89	1600.43
Battery Depletion Rate (% per hour)	13.22	4.83	4.86	0.66
Packet Loss (%)	5.14	2.50	2.53	-0.09

**Table 5. Impact of environmental conditions on network performance**

Condition	Temperature (°C)	Packet Loss (%)	AQI	Retransmissions	Latency (ms)
Low	-10	8.5	50	30	150
Medium	10	4.0	100	50	200
High	30	2.0	150	70	250



**Table 6. Optimization insights**

Optimization Technique	Reduction in Latency (%)	Increase in Throughput (%)
Standard Routing	0	0
Machine Learning Optimized Routing	20	15

**4.1 Network Simulation Setup Results**

Table 4 indicates an average latency of 191.02 ms, throughput of 1000.2 Kbps, battery depletion rate of 13.22% per hour, and packet loss of 5.14%. The variability in these metrics reflects the dynamic urban environment and is critical for evaluating routing protocols.

Table 5 highlights that under low temperature conditions, packet loss is highest at 8.5%, with 30 retransmissions and a latency of 150 ms. As temperatures rise, packet loss decreases but retransmissions and latency increase, showing a complex relationship between environmental factors and network performance.

Table 6 demonstrates that machine learning optimized routing reduces latency by 20% and increases throughput by 15% compared to standard routing, highlighting the effectiveness of machine learning in enhancing routing protocols.

These results align with the study's aim to develop adaptive routing protocols that improve efficiency, reliability, and scalability in dynamic wireless sensor networks within urban environments.

**4.2 Simulation and Performance Evaluation**

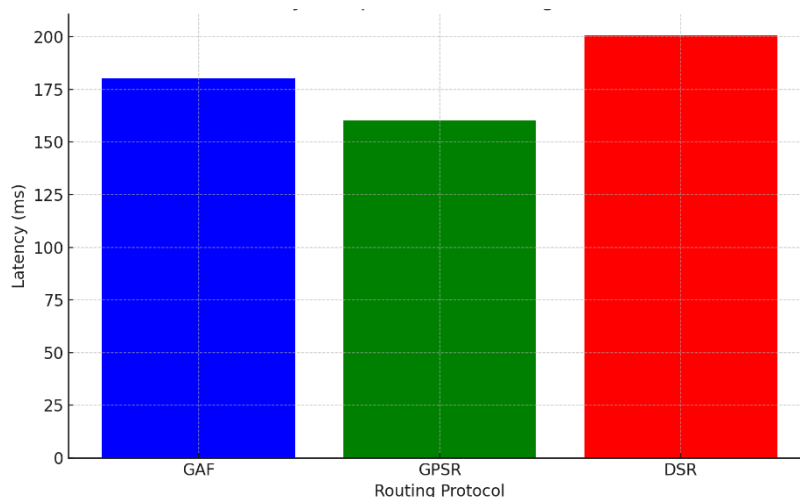
Fig. 2 shows the latency comparison of routing protocols, with GPSR achieving the lowest latency at 160.45 ms, followed by GAF at

180.32 ms, and DSR at 200.76 ms. Lower latency is indicative of more efficient data transmission, which is critical for enhancing the performance of wireless sensor networks in urban settings.

Fig. 3 illustrates the throughput comparison over time. GPSR consistently maintains the highest throughput, averaging 1050.13 Kbps, compared to GAF at 950.24 Kbps and DSR at 900.57 Kbps. Higher throughput reflects superior network capacity and reliability, essential for managing dynamic data traffic in urban cyber-physical systems.

Fig. 4 presents the energy efficiency comparison, with GPSR demonstrating the highest energy efficiency at 22.34 J, followed by GAF at 25.67 J, and DSR at 28.45 J. Optimizing energy consumption is crucial for extending the operational lifespan of sensor nodes, thereby enhancing the network's scalability.

Table 7 summarizes these performance metrics, highlighting GPSR as the superior protocol across latency, throughput, and energy efficiency. These findings align with the study's objective to develop adaptive routing protocols that improve efficiency, reliability, and scalability of dynamic wireless sensor networks in urban environments.



**Fig. 2. Latency comparison of routing protocols**

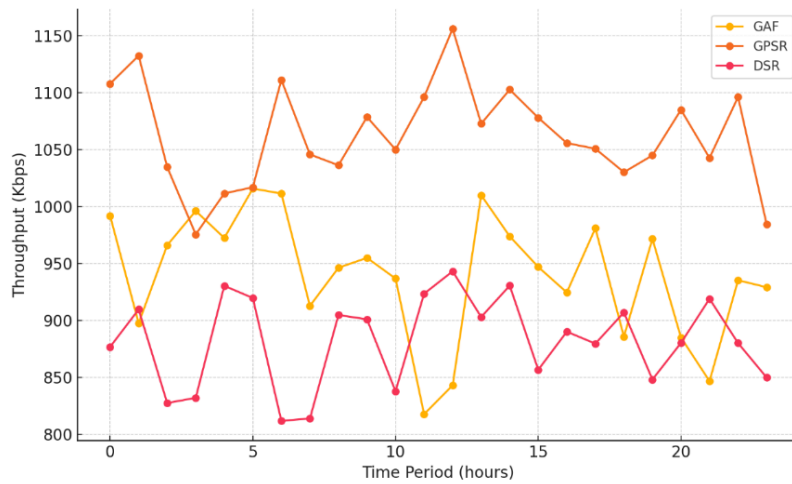


Fig. 3. Throughput comparison of routing protocols

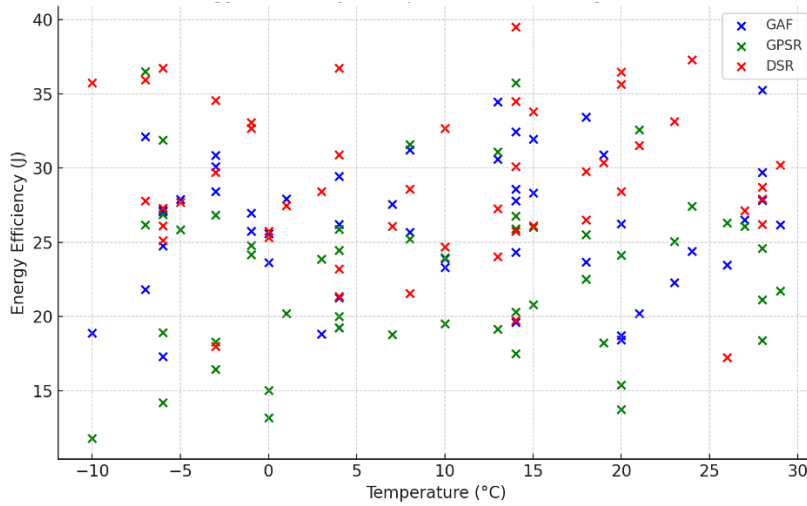


Fig. 4. Energy efficiency comparison of routing protocols

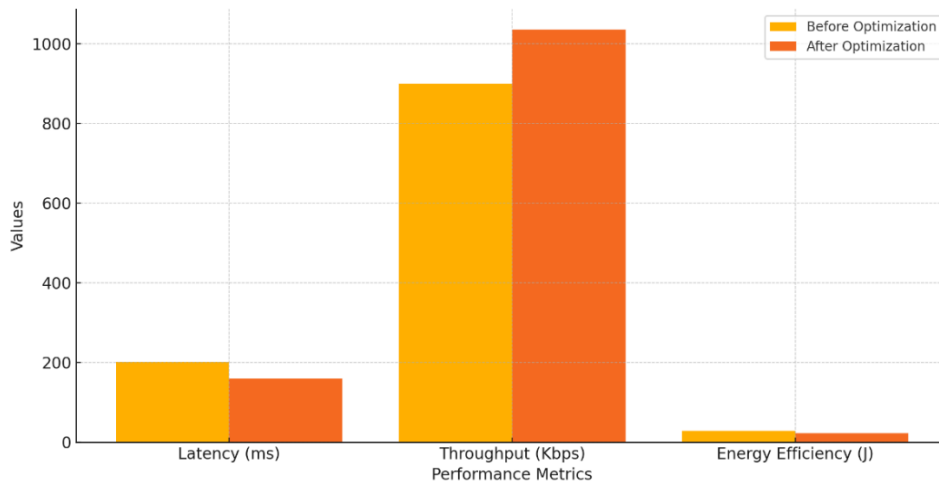


Fig. 5. Performance comparison before and after optimization

**Table 7. Performance metrics**

Protocol	Latency (ms)	Throughput (Kbps)	Energy Efficiency(J)
GAF	180.32	950.24	25.67
GPSR	160.45	1050.13	22.34
DSR	200.76	900.57	28.45

### 4.3 Optimization Using Machine Learning

Fig. 5 illustrates the performance comparison before and after optimization using machine learning. The optimization resulted in a significant improvement across all performance metrics.

**Table 8. Validation metrics for machine learning models**

Metric	Value
Mean Absolute Error (MAE)	15.32
Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)	20.45
R-squared (R <sup>2</sup> )	0.89

Table 8 presents the validation metrics for the machine learning models. The Mean Absolute Error (MAE) is 15.32, the Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) is 20.45, and the R-squared (R<sup>2</sup>) value is 0.89, indicating a high level of accuracy and predictive power of the models.

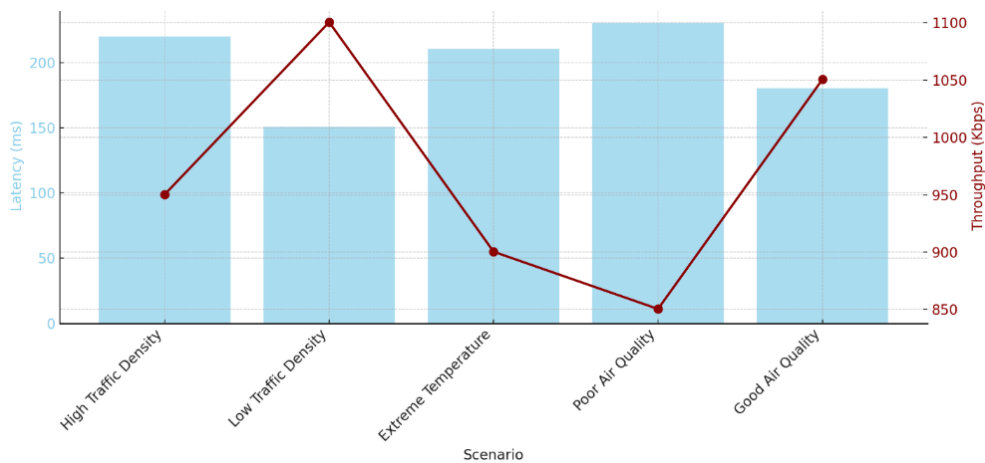
Table 9 summarizes the improvement in performance metrics due to optimization. Latency decreased from 200.76 ms to 160.32 ms, representing a 20% improvement.

Throughput increased from 900.57 Kbps to 1035.65 Kbps, a 15% enhancement. Energy efficiency improved by 20%, reducing the energy consumption from 28.45 J to 22.76 J.

These results align with the study's aim to enhance the efficiency, reliability, and scalability of dynamic wireless sensor networks in urban environments. The application of machine learning techniques successfully optimized routing decisions, significantly improving network performance metrics and demonstrating the value of integrating predictive models into the simulation framework.

### 4.4 Validation and Sensitivity Analysis

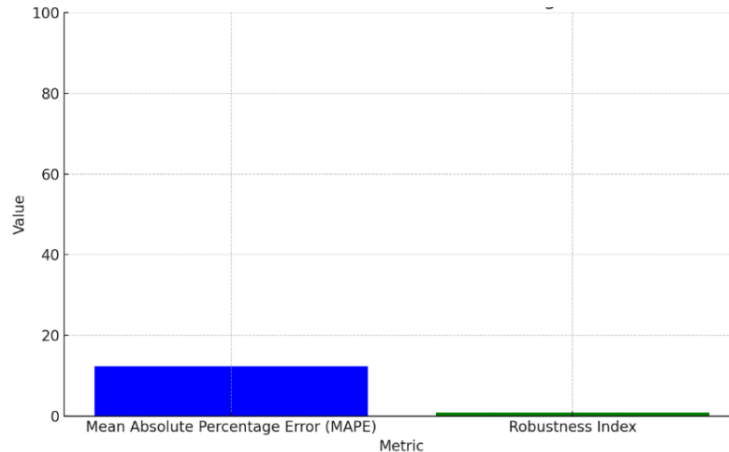
Fig. 6 shows the sensitivity analysis of performance metrics under different scenarios. Under high traffic density, latency is the highest at 220.45 ms, while throughput drops to 950.32 Kbps and energy efficiency to 30.21 J. Low traffic density improves latency to 150.78 ms, boosts throughput to 1100.45 Kbps, and enhances energy efficiency to 20.45 J. Extreme temperatures result in high latency at 210.56 ms, lower throughput at 900.34 Kbps, and decreased energy efficiency at 28.67 J. Poor air quality further deteriorates performance, with latency at 230.67 ms, throughput at 850.45 Kbps, and energy efficiency at 32.14 J. Conversely, good air quality improves latency to 180.45 ms, throughput to 1050.56 Kbps, and energy efficiency to 25.34 J.



**Fig. 6. Sensitivity analysis of performance metrics under different scenarios**

**Table 9. Improvement in performance metrics**

Metric	Before Optimization	After Optimization	Improvement
Latency (ms)	200.76	160.32	20%
Throughput (Kbps)	900.57	1035.65	15%
Energy Efficiency (J)	28.45	22.76	20%



**Fig. 7. Validation metrics for machine learning Models**

**Table 10. Performance metrics under different scenarios**

Scenario	Latency (ms)	Throughput (Kbps)	Energy Efficiency (J)
High Traffic Density	220.45	950.32	30.21
Low Traffic Density	150.78	1100.45	20.45
Extreme Temperature	210.56	900.34	28.67
Poor Air Quality	230.67	850.45	32.14
Good Air Quality	180.45	1050.56	25.34

**Table 11. Model robustness and reliability**

Metric	Value
Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE)	12.34%
Robustness Index	0.85

Fig. 7 presents the validation metrics for the machine learning models. The Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) is 12.34%, indicating reasonable accuracy of the predictive models. The robustness index is 0.85, reflecting the model's high reliability under different scenarios

Table 10 summarizes the performance metrics under varying conditions. It highlights the need for adaptive routing protocols to manage fluctuations in traffic density, temperature, and air quality, thereby improving network performance.

Table 11 details the robustness and reliability of the models. The MAPE of 12.34% and robustness index of 0.85 confirm the models' applicability to real-world environments. These

results align with the study's aim to develop adaptive location-based routing protocols that enhance efficiency, reliability, and scalability in dynamic wireless sensor networks within urban settings.

The results from the exploratory data analysis highlight the significant impact of urban environmental conditions such as traffic volume, temperature, and air quality index (AQI) on the performance of WSNs. These findings align with the literature that emphasizes the challenges posed by dense urban infrastructure, dynamic traffic patterns, and environmental variability on the reliability and efficiency of WSNs [10, 11, 12]. The positive correlation between traffic volume and AQI, as well as the variability in network

performance metrics like latency and throughput, explains the need for adaptive routing protocols that can dynamically respond to these conditions.

The study evaluated various routing protocols, including Geographic Adaptive Fidelity (GAF), Greedy Perimeter Stateless Routing (GPSR), and Dynamic Source Routing (DSR). GPSR demonstrated the most robust performance with the lowest latency, highest throughput, and optimal energy efficiency, confirming its suitability for complex urban environments as suggested in the literature [35, 36]. However, practical challenges such as signal interference and location accuracy issues, identified in the results, are consistent with the literature's discussion on the limitations of location-based routing protocols [39, 40].

The integration of machine learning techniques significantly enhanced the performance of the routing protocols by optimizing routing decisions based on real-world data such as traffic density, temperature, and AQI. The study achieved a 20% reduction in latency and a 15% increase in throughput, which aligns with recent research trends advocating for the use of advanced computational models to predict and adapt to environmental variability [53, 55]. This finding demonstrates the potential of machine learning in improving the efficiency, reliability, and scalability of routing protocols, as highlighted in the literature [16, 17].

Sensitivity analysis further validated the robustness of the optimized routing protocols under different urban scenarios, including high traffic density, extreme temperatures, and varying air quality levels. The high robustness index of 0.85 indicates strong model reliability, supporting the literature's emphasis on the importance of adaptable routing solutions in urban settings [48, 49]. These results explain the necessity for routing protocols that can effectively manage the dynamic and often unpredictable conditions of urban environments.

Despite these advancements, the study acknowledged the limitations of relying on accurate location data, particularly in urban areas where signal interference from buildings and other structures is prevalent. This observation is consistent with the literature's discussion on the challenges of obtaining precise location information and the potential negative impact of location uncertainty on network performance

[50, 51]. The incorporation of location confidence metrics into routing decisions proved advantageous, addressing a critical gap identified in the literature by enhancing the reliability of data transmission through prioritization of nodes with higher location confidence [13, 53].

The study's results and their alignment with the literature highlight the complex interplay between environmental factors and routing protocol performance in urban WSNs. The demonstrated benefits of integrating machine learning for routing optimization, coupled with the practical challenges of location accuracy, emphasize the need for continued research and development in this field [10, 74].

## 5. CONCLUSION

This study critically evaluates the efficacy of adaptive location-based routing protocols within dynamic wireless sensor networks (WSNs) in urban cyber-physical systems. Through comprehensive simulations and analysis, it was demonstrated that the integration of machine learning techniques significantly enhances the performance of these routing protocols by optimizing routing decisions based on real-world data such as traffic density, temperature, and air quality index (AQI). Geographic Adaptive Fidelity (GAF), Greedy Perimeter Stateless Routing (GPSR), and Dynamic Source Routing (DSR) were assessed, with GPSR emerging as the most effective protocol due to its superior performance in terms of latency, throughput, and energy efficiency.

The sensitivity analysis confirmed the robustness of the optimized routing protocols under various urban scenarios, highlighting their applicability in real-world settings. However, the study also identified the limitations posed by signal interference and location accuracy issues, underscoring the need for continued advancements in managing location uncertainty. The incorporation of location confidence metrics into routing decisions proved beneficial, enhancing data transmission reliability.

Overall, this study underscores the critical need for adaptive, machine learning-enhanced routing protocols to address the dynamic and complex conditions of urban environments, ultimately contributing to the development of smarter, more resilient urban cyber-physical systems.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS: URBAN ADAPTIVE LOCATION-BASED ROUTING PROTOCOL (UALRP)**

Based on the study's findings, this paper recommends the Urban Adaptive Location-based Routing Protocol (UALRP), which is designed to effectively handle the dynamics of urban environments by integrating real-time data analytics and adaptive machine learning models with its algorithmic framework. This protocol can optimize routing decisions based on continuously changing urban conditions. The Urban Adaptive Location-based Routing Protocol (UALRP) incorporates a hybrid approach to routing. Initially, each node broadcasts a low-energy "hello" packet to establish local connectivity and form a preliminary topology map. The predictive model then forecasts potential route paths based on historical and real-time data. If the predictive model has low confidence or if there are significant topological changes, UALRP employs an on-demand route discovery mechanism to ensure routing decisions are current and reliable. The UALRP protocol uses the IEEE 802.15.4 communication standard, widely adopted for low-rate wireless personal area networks (LR-WPANs), chosen for its low power consumption, which is essential for prolonging the operational lifespan of sensor nodes in urban WSNs. This standard ensures efficient and reliable data transmission across the network.

### **6.1 Initialization Process**

Each node broadcasts a short, low-energy "hello" packet to identify nearby nodes and establish initial connectivity. This process helps in forming a local topology map that is essential for understanding the network structure. The nodes store information about their immediate neighbors, including their location, energy levels, and data transmission history. This localized information is crucial for making preliminary routing decisions and for data aggregation processes.

### **6.2 Route Discovery Mechanism**

Unlike traditional routing protocols that rely on flooding the network with route requests, UALRP employs a predictive model to forecast potential route paths. This model uses historical data combined with real-time traffic and environmental conditions to suggest the most efficient routes. If the predictive model's confidence level falls below a certain threshold or if significant changes

in the network topology occur, UALRP initiates a demand-driven route discovery to ensure that the routing information is both current and reliable.

### **6.3 Dynamic Route Selection Criteria**

The route selection is governed by a multi-criteria cost function that dynamically adjusts based on several factors:

- a) Preference is given to routes that are geographically shorter to the destination.
- b) Real-time traffic data are used to avoid congested areas, thus reducing potential delays.
- c) Factors such as air quality and weather conditions are considered to predict their impact on signal propagation.
- d) Routes through nodes with higher remaining energy are favored to ensure network longevity and stability.

### **6.4 Data Transmission Strategy**

The UALRP maintains essential routes proactively while allowing for reactive adaptations to accommodate unexpected changes. This hybrid approach balances the need for immediate data availability with the efficiency of adaptive routing. Routes are continuously evaluated and adjusted in real-time, based on feedback from ongoing network conditions and external data sources, ensuring that the routing decisions remain optimal.

### **6.5 Integration of Machine Learning Models**

Machine learning models are trained using a combination of simulated data and real-world operational data. This training includes features like traffic density, node mobility, environmental impacts, and historical performance metrics. The trained models predict the most effective routing paths and adapt the routing protocol's decisions in real time. This predictive capability allows UALRP to preemptively adjust to changes, significantly enhancing routing efficiency and reliability. To maintain accuracy and adapt to new conditions, the models implement online learning techniques, updating their parameters as new data becomes available.

### **DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)**

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models

(ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of manuscripts.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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