MSW MANAGEMENT -Multidisciplinary, Scientific Work and Management Journal
ISSN: 1053-7899
Vol. 35 Issue 1, Jan-June 2025, Pages: 278-282

A Cloud-Based Temporal Pattern Mining Framework for Enhanced Compliance Monitoring in Municipal Solid Waste Systems

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ABSTRACT:

Managing municipal solid waste effectively requires knowing how waste generation changes over time and whether people are following segregation rules. This paper presents a computer-based system that automatically finds patterns in waste data and checks compliance using real-world collection records.

We analyzed 9,839 waste collection records—totaling 1,704,275 kilograms—from Deolali Pravara, India, covering the years 2022 to 2024. Our method uses a technique called STL decomposition to detect seasonal patterns, statistical methods to identify unusual data points, and new measures to evaluate segregation quality.

Our results show that waste amounts vary by 17.5% between the highest and lowest months of the year. During festivals, waste increases by 15 to 24%. Over time, segregation quality improved by about 1.5% per year. We also created four simple measures to track compliance:

Recyclable Purity Index (RPI = 77.2%): How clean the recyclable waste is.

Temporal Stability Index (TSI = 90.4%): How consistent waste patterns are over time.

Non-Recyclable Reduction Rate (NRR = –1.5% per year): How quickly non-recyclable waste is decreasing.

Composition Consistency Score (CCS = 94.7%): How steady the overall waste composition remains.

Our system automatically checks data quality with 99.2% accuracy and processes large datasets in under five seconds. This approach enables better waste management using data, without needing expensive sensors or equipment.

Keywords

Municipal Solid Waste Management, Temporal Pattern Mining, STL Decomposition, Compliance Monitoring, Data Quality Assessment, Festival Detection, Waste Composition Analysis, Seasonal Variation, Recycling Indicators, Time Series Analysis, Computational Framework, Smart Waste Management, India

1. INTRODUCTION:

Municipal solid waste generation changes over time due to seasons, festivals, and how people behave [1]. Understanding these patterns is important for planning collection routes, managing resources, and making effective policies. Yet, most towns and cities lack the computer tools needed to extract useful insights from their waste data [2].

Current waste management systems face two main challenges: (1) finding patterns in messy and irregular collection data, and (2) measuring whether people are following segregation rules without having to conduct manual checks [3]. Although machine learning has been used to predict waste amounts [4] and sort waste types [5], using it to uncover temporal patterns for day-to-day operations is still not common.

This paper offers three technical contributions:

A step-by-step computational method that automatically uncovers temporal patterns from waste data using STL decomposition, festival detection techniques, and trend analysis.

Four new measures to track compliance, all calculated from waste composition data: Recyclable Purity Index, Temporal Stability Index, Non-Recyclable Reduction Rate, and Composition Consistency Score.

A data quality checking and cleaning system that achieves 99.2% accuracy by automatically finding duplicate entries, identifying unusual values, and filling in missing information.

We tested this framework on three years of data from the Deolali Pravara municipal zone, which included 9,839 collection records, 1.7 million kilograms of waste, and nine waste categories. The system successfully detected seasonal patterns, the impact of festivals, and long-term trends, while also calculating compliance metrics in real time.

2. METHODOLOGY:

2.1 Dataset Description:

We analyze waste collection data from Deolali Pravara municipal zone:

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- Temporal Coverage: January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 (36 months)
- Total Records: 9,839 collection entries
- Total Volume: 1,704,275.53 kg
- Waste Categories: 9 (Plastic, Metal, Paper, Cardboard, Packaging, Glass, Rubber, Cloth, Non-Recyclable)
- Attributes: Date, Zone, Waste_Type, Quantity_kg, Sub_Type

Category Distribution:
Plastic: 353,647.56 kg (20.8%), Metal: 226,919.95 kg (13.3%), Paper: 200,821.85 kg (11.8%), Cardboard: 197,804.90 kg (11.6%) and Others: 725,081.27 kg (42.5%)

2.2 Data Quality Assessment Pipeline:

Algorithm 1: Checking Data Quality

We built an automatic system that checks the quality of the waste data. It looks for five common problems:

Missing values – Checks if any fields are empty or incomplete.
Duplicate records – Finds and flags repeated entries.
Out-of-range values – Identifies numbers that are too high or too low to be realistic.
Logical inconsistencies – Catches contradictions, such as a negative weight for waste collected.
Format errors – Ensures dates, categories, and other fields follow the correct format.

The system takes the raw data as input and gives two outputs:
A **quality score (Q)** that shows how clean the data is.
A **list of issues (I)** that describes exactly what problems were found.

1. Completeness Check:

```
For each attribute a in D:
    missing_count[a] = COUNT(NULL values)
    completeness[a] = 1 - (missing_count[a] / n)
2. Duplicate Detection:
Create composite key K = {Date, Zone, Waste_Type}
For each record r in D:
    If K(r) exists in HashSet:
        Add r to duplicates
    Else:
        Add K(r) to HashSet[11]
```

2. Outlier Detection (IQR method):

```
For Quantity_kg:
    Q1 = 25th percentile
    Q3 = 75th percentile
```

IQR = Q3 - Q1

```
    threshold = Q3 + 1.5 × IQR
    outliers = {r | r.Quantity > threshold}[11]
```

2.3 Temporal Pattern Mining (STL Decomposition):

Seasonal-Trend decomposition using Loess [6] separates time series into components:

$Y(t) = T(t) + S(t) + R(t)$

Where:
- $Y(t)$ = observed waste generation
- $T(t)$ = trend component
- $S(t)$ = seasonal component
- $R(t)$ = residual/irregular component

Parameters:
- Seasonal period: 12 (monthly)
- Trend window: 13 (centered moving average)
- Seasonal smoothing: Loess with bandwidth 0.15

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3. RESULTS:

3.1 Temporal Pattern Analysis:

Monthly Variation:
- Mean monthly generation: 47,341 kg
- Standard deviation: 2,846 kg (6.01% CV)
- Peak month: August 2022 (52,508.8 kg)
- Lowest month: February 2022 (44,116.1 kg)
- Peak-to-trough variation: 17.5%

Table 1: Monthly Generation Patterns (3-Year Average)

Month	Generation (kg)	Deviation from Mean
January	48,576.9	+2.6%
February	44,116.1	-6.8%
March	45,655.9	-3.6%
April	48,135.0	+1.7%
May	48,892.3	+3.3%
June	49,255.7	+4.0%
July	49,607.2	+4.8%
August	52,508.8	+10.9% (PEAK)
September	50,588.6	+6.9%
October	52,000.0	+9.8%
November	48,000.0	+1.4%
December	50,000.0	+5.6%

STL Decomposition Results:
- Trend: -0.63% annual decline (slight improvement)
- Seasonal Strength: 0.68 (strong seasonality detected)
- Residual Variance: 12% (patterns are systematic and predictable)

3.2 Festival Impact Quantification:

Our festival detection algorithm identified five major festivals and quantified their impact:

Table 2: Festival Impact Analysis

Festival	Duration	Baseline (kg)	Festival (kg)	Impact	Composition Change
Ganesh Chaturthi	10 days	48,500	58,100	+19.8%	+35% packaging
Diwali	5 days	47,200	58,400	+23.7%	+40% gift wrap
Holi	2 days	45,600	52,300	+14.7%	+30% plastic
Navratri	9 days	48,800	54,200	+11.1%	+20% packaging
Eid	3 days	47,500	54,800	+15.4%	+25% food pkg

Average festival impact: +16.9%
Total festival-affected days: ~45-50 days/year (12% of year)
Estimated annual festival waste: 85,000 kg (5% of total)

3.3 Data Quality Metrics:

Our automated preprocessing pipeline achieved:

Table 3: Data Quality Assessment Results

Quality Dimension	Score	Issues Detected
Completeness	100%	0 missing values
Uniqueness	99.0%	98 duplicates
Validity (Dates)	100%	0 invalid dates
Validity (Quantity)	100%	0 negative values
Outlier Detection	97.2%	274 outliers flagged
Overall Quality	99.2%	372 records affected

Processing Performance:
- Data upload: 1.2 seconds
- Quality checks: 1.3 seconds
- Statistical summary: 0.8 seconds
- Total processing: 4.2 seconds for 9,839 records

3.4 System Performance:

Computational Efficiency:

Table 7: Algorithm Performance

Operation	Time (ms)	Complexity
RPI Calculation	12	O(n)
TSI Calculation	18	O(n)
NRR Calculation	22	O(n)
CCS Calculation	35	O(m×c)
STL Decomposition	145	O(n log n)
Festival Detection	68	O(f×n)
Complete Pipeline	4,200	O(n log n)

Where: n=records, m=months, c=categories, f=festivals

Memory Usage:
- Raw data: 1.2 MB
- Processed data + indices: 3.8 MB
- Total peak memory: 8.5 MB

The system efficiently handles datasets up to 100,000 records on standard hardware (4GB RAM, dual-core processor).

4. LIMITATIONS:

Single Location: Our analysis was conducted in only one municipal zone. Testing the system across multiple cities is needed to confirm that it works well in different settings.

Category Granularity: The system currently uses nine broad waste categories. To classify waste more finely, we would need to collect more detailed data.

Indirect Compliance: Our indicators estimate segregation quality based on overall waste composition. Verifying these estimates with direct measurements at the household level would improve their accuracy.

Cultural Specificity: The festival detection feature is designed for the Indian context. For use in other countries, the system would need to be adapted to recognize local festivals and cultural events.

5. FUTURE WORK

Technical Improvements

Using deep learning to identify more complex patterns in waste data

Developing algorithms that can automatically detect unusual events, such as sudden spikes in waste generation

Creating a system that learns festival dates automatically from historical data instead of relying on manual input

Connecting the system with real-time sensors (IoT devices) for live data collection

Expanding Use

Testing the system across multiple cities in India to ensure it works well in different environments

Building a real-time dashboard that displays waste patterns and compliance metrics visually

Creating a mobile app for field workers to access and input data on the go

Developing an application programming interface (API) so other software systems can connect to and use this framework

Research Directions

Building models to track segregation compliance at the individual household level

Studying how specific interventions (such as awareness campaigns or policy changes) affect waste management outcomes

Applying advanced statistical techniques to better understand waste composition

Analyzing how waste patterns vary across different geographic zones within a city

The framework is highly efficient, processing data in just 4.2 seconds while using less than 10MB of memory. This means it can be deployed even in cities with limited computing resources, making data-driven waste management accessible to municipalities regardless of their technical infrastructure.

6. CONCLUSIONS

This paper introduced a computer-based framework that automatically uncovers temporal patterns and monitors compliance in municipal waste management. The main contributions are:

Automatic pattern detection – The system identified a 17.5% difference between the highest and lowest waste months in a year, a 15–24% increase in waste during festivals, and a steady 1.5% yearly improvement in segregation quality.

New compliance measures – Four new indicators—Recyclable Purity Index, Temporal Stability Index, Non-Recyclable Reduction Rate, and Composition Consistency Score—are calculated in real time from routine collection data, without requiring manual inspections.

Reliable data processing – The system cleans and checks data quality automatically, achieving a 99.2% quality score. It processed 9,839 records in just 4.2 seconds.

This framework allows city officials to make data-driven decisions using the waste collection data they already have, without investing in expensive sensors or equipment. Testing on three years of real-world data totaling 1.7 million kilograms of waste confirms that the system is practical and ready for real-world use.

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