



# Ground Settlement-Induced Building Damage Assessment With Modified Lanczos Algorithm and Extreme Learning Machine

Weiqi Yang<sup>1</sup>\*, Lingling Wang<sup>2</sup>\*, Yuran Feng<sup>1</sup>\* and Ting Zeng<sup>3</sup>\*

<sup>1</sup>Department of Civil Engineering, Sichuan College of Architectural Technology, Deyang, China, <sup>2</sup>School of Economic and Management, Dalian Ocean University, Dalian, China, <sup>3</sup>Science and Technology for Development Research Center of Sichuan Province, Chengdu, China

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#### \*Correspondence:

Ting Zeng tzeng\_scu@163.com Weiqi Yang yangweiqi2824121@163.com Lingling Wang 346697906@qq.com Yuran Feng fengyuran2017@163.com

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Yang W, Wang L, Feng Y and Zeng T (2022) Ground Settlement-Induced Building Damage Assessment With Modified Lanczos Algorithm and Extreme Learning Machine. Front. Environ. Sci. 10:861747. doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2022.861747 Construction, tunneling, and other urban anthropogenic activities strain neighboring buildings through distortion and rotation on both the surface and underground, resulting in instability of the local geological structure. This may cause devastating structural damage to buildings. Therefore, quantitative assessment of building structural damage is essential for the safety of local communities. In this study, a novel data-driven approach was applied to assess the building damage risks in urban areas. Data collected from over 50 buildings adjacent to the construction site were analyzed. The extreme learning machine (ELM) algorithm was applied to predict building structural risks. A modified Lanczos algorithm was used to regularize the ELM and improve the overall prediction performance. The computational results demonstrate the robustness and efficiency of the proposed Lanczos algorithm-regularized ELM.

Keywords: building damage risk management, quantitative assessment, machine learning, feature engineering, area under the receiver operation characteristics

# INTRODUCTION

Intensive urbanization in China has resulted in rapid and widespread infrastructure construction in megacities. Overconstruction, tunneling, and other activities distort the ground surface and cause irreversible damage to the ground structure (Zhou et al., 2021). Consequently, adjacent buildings are at risk of structural damage. Accurate evaluation of building structural damage risk is essential for preventing devastating risks. In addition, it is beneficial to mitigate risk in advance (Feng et al., 2021a; Feng et al., 2021b).

Traditional building structural risk assessment approaches correlate the extent of the damage with ground movements using empirical, semiempirical, and numerical methods. Most empirical studies, such as Skempton and MacDonald (1956), often limit the cause of damage to settlements arising from the weight of the structure, ignoring the fact that deformation could be a consequence of neighborhood excavation (Charles and Skinner, 2004). As an advanced improvement approach, semi-analytical methods have attracted considerable attention and have been widely applied in engineering practices. Burland and Wroth (1974) applied the idea of a critical tensile strain to the initial visible cracking of a simple beam for building damage evaluation. Boscardin and Cording (1989) developed a building damage criterion based on the critical strain for a given damage level, which was determined from the combined effect of the lateral strain induced by lateral ground displacements and angular distortion of the structure. Finno et al. (2005) used the deflection ratio as

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an evaluation criterion with a laminate beam model for building damage risk assessment. Similar studies also utilized Timoshenko's first-order shear deformation theory for building damage evaluation, which assumes that the degree of damage is positively correlated with the relative density of soil (Netzel, 2009). However, both empirical and semi-analytical studies have failed to consider building stiffness on the ground movements.

To overcome these limitations, numerical analysis, which considers the interactions between building stiffness and soil, has attracted significant attention (Tang et al., 2021). Potts and Addenbrooke (1997) utilized a 2D finite element model to study the influence of a surface structure on ground movement due to tunneling. Son and Cording (2005) investigated building damage due to excavation-induced ground movement using a damage criterion based on the average state of strain in the distorting portion of the underlying building structure. Dimmock and Mair (2008) used stiffness values to present the upper and lower envelopes for a numerical analysis of the building structural distortion. The computational results demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed approaches. In addition, case studies analyzing landslide-tunnel interactions have been extensively studied (Vassallo et al., 2016; Li et al., 2018; Vassallo et al., 2019). A preliminary structural analysis was performed using 2D FEM non-linear models of tunnel cross sections by simulating tunnel shear strength values.

Recent advances in machine learning and information technology have created unprecedented opportunities to study building structural damage risks from a data-driven perspective. Machine learning-based regression and classification algorithms have achieved promising results in various engineering domains such as mechanical engineering (He et al., 2017; Sun et al., 2017; Dekhtiar et al., 2018; Ouyang et al., 2019), civil engineering (Afzaal et al., 2020; Li et al., 2021a), natural hazards (Xu et al., 2019; Cui et al., 2021), renewable energy (He and Kusiak, 2017; Ouyang et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2020; Ouyang et al., 2020), computer vision (Pereira et al., 2016; Havaei et al., 2017; Li et al., 2022), and others (Wei and Yang, 2018; Li et al., 2020; Li et al., 2021b). According to the literature review, in building risk analytics, Kim et al. (2001) introduced artificial neural networks (ANNs) to predict ground surface settlement induced by tunneling. Boubou et al. (2010) applied leastsquares regression and ANN to correlate ground surface settlements and tunneling operation parameters in a case study. Adoko and Wu (2012) proposed an approach to predict building structural damage using neural networks. Tunnel convergence and velocity were collected as inputs in the neural net models. Recently, Mishra et al. (2021) applied an ANN to predict the deflection behavior of various types of beams and achieved promising results. Machine learning algorithms have been demonstrated to be effective at predicting the compressive strength of masonry.

This study explored data-driven risk assessment of building structural damage in urban areas due to ground excavation activities such as tunneling using feature selection and a comprehensive comparison of data-driven methods. A handful of features collected from the on-site investigation were used. Two feature selection approaches, the wrapper and filter methods, were applied to screen predictive features, which were used as inputs in the data-driven classifier. To comprehensively compare the prediction performance of the algorithms tested, four state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms were applied and compared. For a fair comparison, the same feature set selected by the wrapper/filter was used for all the algorithms, and their hyperparameters were well tuned *via* grid-based search. An extensive computational experiment was conducted to evaluate the classification performance of the algorithms and identify the best performing model.

# METHODOLOGY

## **Problem Definition**

Tunneling and other types of underground excavation cause ground movements, exposing building structures to potential damage (Feng et al., 2022). In this study, monitoring data from the buildings adjacent to an urban excavation site were analyzed for a comprehensive risk assessment of the buildings. The data were collected from 50 buildings.

**Figure 1** shows the horizontal view of the mechanism of building structural damage caused by ground excavation activities in the unground geological structure. Tunneling activity in urban areas causes ground movements, which represent a major factor in building damage (Tang et al., 2020). Many design approaches for evaluating damage to building structures adjacent to excavation sites are based on greenfield displacement input. The greenfield shape function, which follows Gaussian distribution, is usually applied to compute the transverse ground surface and is presented in **Eq. (1)**:

$$S_{\nu} = S_{max} \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{2i^2}\right),\tag{1}$$

where  $S_v$  and  $S_{max}$  represent the surface settlement and maximum surface settlement at the tunnel centerline, respectively; y is the horizontal distance between the excavation site and the underlying building location; and i is the horizontal distance from the excavation point of inflection of the settlement through. The greenfield function is governed by  $S_{max}$  and i in which the former term is related to the intensity of the settlement trough, whereas the latter describes the width and steepness of the envelope.

In addition to the ground features associated with the excavation site, building parameters, including the building height and width, were also taken into account in this study. According to the domain expertise of the field engineers, two labels were assigned, providing a comprehensive overview of the structural risk caused by the settlement (low risk/moderate risk) and treated as the target output. This predictive framework may be formulated as a binary classification problem.

# **Feature Selection Methods**

The wrapper method is a feature selection algorithm that uses induction learning as the evaluation function to select the









most important features. Intuitively, a wrapper algorithm searches the space of all possible feature combinations and evaluates each subset by building a regressor/classifier. The one with the best prediction performance is selected by comparing the predictive performance of each subset. In most scenarios, the wrapper method has a high computational cost (Kusiak et al., 2011). Three widely used solutions, namely, genetic search, greedy search, and linear forward search, were considered in this study. A schematic of the wrapper method is intuitively illustrated in Figure 2A. The first step of the wrapper algorithm is to select a subset of features from the dataset and build a classification model to test the prediction power. Next, another randomly selected feature subset is created from the dataset and another classification model is built. After several repeated feature subsamplings, the well-performing classification experiments can add votes to the most predictive features, and the total

number of votes indicates the overall predictive power of the underlying feature.

A single wrapper algorithm may select features with biases in certain aspects. The voting-based wrapper algorithm can be more robust in selecting the most appropriate feature subset. In this study, we selected three different wrapper search methods with 10-fold cross-validation. For each wrapper evaluation, the number of candidate features selected within the 10-fold cross-validation experiments was added. Next, the summed results for the three search methods were aggregated to determine the importance of each feature by counting the total number of times it was selected.

By comparison, the filter method is a more effective approach for evaluating the importance of features (see **Figure 2B**). It uses heuristic-based characteristics (e.g., correlation) of the data. A correlation-based feature selection filter is faster and more effective than a voting-based method as it selects a feature if it correlates with the decision outcome but not with any other feature that has already been selected. Thus, it avoids multicollinearity, which is often observed in multivariate regression/classification tasks.

## Extreme Learning Machine

The ELM algorithm is a specific type of single-hidden layer feedforward neural network (SHLFN) with higher robustness and computational efficiency. It has a single hidden layer feedforward network (SHFFN) structure (Huang et al., 2006). A schematic of the ELM algorithm is illustrated in **Figure 3**.

The basic ELM consists of three key components: the input, hidden, and output layers. For a given training dataset  $(x_i, t_i)$  and a total of *L* hidden nodes, the ELM can be expressed as **Eq. 2**:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{L} \theta_i G(w_i, b_i, x_i) = y_i, \qquad (2)$$

where  $x_i$  is the input feature vector,  $w_i$  the weight vector connecting the *i*th hidden node and the input node,  $b_i$  the vector of bias in the *i*th hidden node,  $\theta_i$  the weight vector connecting the *i*th hidden node and the output node, and G()the activation function in the hidden nodes. Usually, the weights and biases of the hidden nodes are randomly assigned. The output matrix H can be expressed as **Eq. 3**, and the optimal solution for  $\theta$  can be computed using **Eq. 4**:

$$H(w_{i}, b_{i}, x_{i}) = \begin{bmatrix} G(w_{1}, b_{1}, x_{1}) & \cdots & G(w_{L}, b_{L}, x_{1}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ G(w_{1}, b_{1}, x_{N}) & \cdots & G(w_{L}, b_{L}, x_{N}) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3)$$
  
$$\theta = H^{\dagger}y, \quad (4)$$

where *y* represents the actual target output, and  $H^{\dagger}$  denotes the Moore–Penrose pseudo inverse of the hidden layer output matrix *H*, which is equivalent to solving an ordinary least square regression problem and can be expressed as **Eq. 5**:

$$H^{\dagger} = \left(H^T H\right)^{-1} H^T, \tag{5}$$

where  $H^T H$  is a positive semi-definite symmetric matrix. Hence, the calculation of  $H^T H$  to solve the above linear system has a time complexity of  $O(N^2 m)$ .

## Modified Lanczos Algorithm

The modified Lanczos algorithm was selected to optimize the computation process to solve the linear system in ELM. The Lanczos algorithm was originally proposed by Parlett (1980) to compute the eigenvalue and eigenvector problems. It can also be used to accelerate the solution of symmetric systems using linear equations (Hu et al., 2020).

In a given symmetric linear system expressed as  $A\theta = Y$ , where A is a symmetric matrix as  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ , the true solution is  $\theta = A^{-1}Y$ . Usually, the initial approximation of  $\theta$  expressed as  $\theta_a$  has a residual term  $\mathbf{r}_0 = Y - A\theta_a$ . Then, we can reformulate the problem by finding the correction term  $\theta_c$  that satisfies  $A\theta_c = \mathbf{r}_0$ .

Here, the Lanczos algorithm is proposed by performing several iterations to approximate the true  $\mathbf{r}_0$ . In each iteration, a sequence of Lanczos vectors  $\boldsymbol{q}_i$  and scalars  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_i$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\beta}_i$  are computed following the Lanczos iteration rules (Hu et al., 2020). To obtain the true solution, N iterations are required, and  $\theta_N$  is solved using Eq. 6:

$$\theta_N = \mathbf{Q}_N \mathbf{Z}_N^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta}_1 \boldsymbol{e}_1, \tag{6}$$

where  $Q_N$  in Eq. 6 is composed of the orthonormal Lanczos vectors  $q_N$  and  $Z_N$  is expressed by Eq. 7:

$$\mathbf{Z}_{N} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{1} & \boldsymbol{\beta}_{1} & 0 & \cdots & 0\\ \boldsymbol{\beta}_{2} & \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{2} & \boldsymbol{\beta}_{2} & \cdots & 0\\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots\\ 0 & \cdots & \boldsymbol{\beta}_{N-1} & \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{N-1} & \boldsymbol{\beta}_{N-1}\\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \boldsymbol{\beta}_{N} & \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{N} \end{bmatrix}.$$
(7)

To incorporate the Lanczos algorithm in the ELM, we can replace the expensive computation of  $H^T H$  with  $M^T M$ , where  $M = H q_j$ is a crafted matrix based on H. Hence, instead of computing  $H^T H$ ,  $M^T M = q_j^T H^T H q_j$  can be more efficiently computed. The detailed process is given in Hu et al. (2020).

#### **Measurement Matrices**

In a binary classification task, the confusion matrix is usually the first step in comparing the predictive performance of different algorithms. A confusion matrix consists of four events: true positive (TP), true negative (TN), false positive (FP), and false negative (FN).

Applying these four numbers, we can compute three evaluation metrics, namely, accuracy (8), precision (9), and recall (10), for the quantitative evaluation of the predictive performance as follows:

$$Accuracy = \frac{Num(TP) + Num(TN)}{Num(TP) + Num(TN) + Num(FP) + Num(FN)},$$
(8)

$$Precision = \frac{Num(TP)}{Num(TP) + Num(FP)},$$
(9)

$$Recall = \frac{Num(TP)}{Num(TP) + Num(FN)},$$
(10)

where Num () represents the total number of events in the confusion matrix.

Nevertheless, simple accuracy-related measures are not sufficient for assessing classifiers when data are affected by additional complexity factors, such as imbalance. To overcome this issue, receiver operating characteristic (ROC) serves as a fundamental tool for evaluating the performance of a binary classifier in many research domains. It compares the two operating characteristics (TP rate and FP rate) as the cutoff threshold changes. As a common solution, the area under the ROC curve (AUC), which summarizes the relationship between the TP and FP rates of a binary classifier, was used in this study. Intuitively, the AUC measures the sensitivity of a binary classifier with respect to different decision thresholds, and the implementation details can be found in Bradley (1997).

## **ON-SITE INVESTIGATION**

In this study, an urban area in Shanxi Province, China, with extensive underground excavation activities was selected for the case study. The study area is located in the provincial capital of Taiyuan city, where the underground structure consists of clay, mudstone, and sandstone, as illustrated in **Figure 1**. Recent tunneling activities for subway



#### TABLE 1 | Description of geological and building features.

Feature name	Category	Unit	Mean	Standard deviation	Maximum value			
Axial stiffness ratio	Geological	%	164.41	80.52	388.86			
Bending stiffness ratio	Geological	%	1.19	1.94	10.02			
Maximum settlement	Geological	mm	30.74	20.11	78.83			
Inflection point	Geological	m	12.36	2.77	21.15			
Eccentricity	Geological	m	19.94	4.51	25.53			
Building height	Building	m	7.71	4.27	20.33			
Building width	Building	m	8.34	5.05	27.72			
Building length	Building	m	16.66	6.96	41.11			
Building stiffness ratio	Building	%	7.74	5.13	13.31			

construction have escalated the risk of ground subsidence in buildings located in adjacent communities.

The study was conducted in collaboration with the Shanxi Provincial Geological Prospecting Bureau, and civil engineers from the Bureau conducted on-site data collection, including the measurement of related geological features. Data from 50 buildings adjacent to the excavation site were collected over 3 years. The civil engineers had domain expertise, and a risk level (low/moderate risk) was assigned as a ground truth label for each building. The majority of the buildings were old-framed residential and commercial buildings, and many were founded on reinforced concrete rafts. **Figure 4** shows photographs of some of the buildings, and hair cracks are visible in many of them.

Both geological and building features were considered for constructing the classification models. As indicated in the *Problem Definition* Section, the geological features that represent the impact from the excavation activities include the axial stiffness ratio, bending stiffness ratio, maximum settlement, inflection point, and eccentricity. The building features include the building height, building width, building length, and building stiffness ratio. The basic statistics for these features are summarized in **Table 1**.

In addition to the data features listed in **Table 1**, the civil engineers provided a comprehensive evaluation of building structural risk. Based on these evaluation documents, the buildings were classified into two groups: low risk and high risk. Hence, this can be converted into a binary classification task for constructing the predictive models.

## **EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS**

## **Feature Analysis**

Feature selection is a critical step in avoiding over-parametrization in predictive modeling by using all the features to construct the mapping between the input and output. Based on the domain knowledge, nine features obtained by the engineering geologists



**TABLE 2** | Predictive performance of building structural damage risk classification algorithms.

Scenario	Algorithm	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	AUC	Time (s)
I	ELM	0.68	0.59	0.77	0.65	0.06
	OP-ELM	0.71	0.65	0.77	0.71	0.04
	Lasso-ELM	0.72	0.66	0.78	0.74	2.78
	Lanczos-ELM	0.75	0.71	0.79	0.77	0.02
II	ELM	0.84	0.81	0.87	0.85	0.08
	OP-ELM	0.79	0.77	0.81	0.81	0.05
	Lasso-ELM	0.87	0.86	0.88	0.86	3.55
	Lanczos-ELM	0.88	0.91	0.85	0.87	0.04
III	ELM	0.85	0.88	0.85	0.87	0.09
	OP-ELM	0.83	0.85	0.81	0.83	0.07
	Lasso-ELM	0.84	0.83	0.85	0.88	3.12
	Lanczos-ELM	0.91	0.89	0.93	0.89	0.03

during on-site investigations were taken into consideration. The voting-based wrapper algorithm and filter algorithm were used to select the predictive features.

The voting-based wrapper algorithm uses 10-fold crossvalidation to generate the feature subset that contains the predictive features. The most predictive feature has the highest votes as it is more frequently selected in each experiment. On the contrary, less predictive features have a lower chance of being selected in each experiment and thus result in fewer votes. A summary of the results from the voting-based wrapper algorithm is shown in **Figure 5A**. The bending stiffness ratio and building width have the highest number of votes (10 votes), demonstrating their high predictive capacity. The eccentricity has only 5 votes, indicating that it may not be strongly predictive of the building damage outcome. A cutoff threshold of seven votes was selected based on a literature review, and a total of five features were chosen to construct the predictive models in the next section.

The filter feature selection algorithm provides scores for each candidate feature based on its correlation with the output. In comparison with the wrapper algorithm, which uses feature subsets, filter selection focuses more on each feature. The scores generated for each candidate feature in this study are shown in **Figure 5B**. The inflection point, building height, and building stiffness ratio have the most significant correlations with building damage. Upon applying a cutoff threshold of 70, the axial stiffness ratio, bending stiffness ratio, inflection point, building height, building length, and building stiffness ratio were selected as the predictive features for the modeling experiments described in the next section.

# **Cross-Validation**

Three case studies were examined using all features, features selected by the voting-based wrapper, and the filter algorithm. As a binary classification task is performed, confusion matrices were constructed to evaluate the prediction performance of all the algorithms tested.

The predictive performance of the algorithms tested using all features is summarized in Scenario I in **Table 2**. Four measurement metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and AUC, were computed. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves of each tested algorithm are illustrated in Scenario I of **Figure 6**. According to the computational results, the Lanczos-ELM has the best performance, with an accuracy of 0.75 and an AUC of 0.77 *via* 10-fold cross-validation.

The predictive performance of all algorithms using the votingbased wrapper-selected features is summarized in Scenario II of



**Table 2.** It can be observed that all algorithms show significant improvement over classical classification algorithms according to the measurement metrics. The Lanczos-ELM classifier has the best performance in classifying building structural damage risks among all the algorithms tested. It achieves an accuracy of 0.88 and an AUC of 0.87 according to the 10-fold cross-validation. The ROC curves of all algorithms are presented in Scenario II of **Figure 6**.

The predictive performance for all algorithms using the filter selected features is summarized in Scenario III of **Table 2**. The Lanczos-ELM classifier still outperforms all the algorithms tested, which demonstrates its superiority in binary classification tasks. It achieves an accuracy of 0.91 and an AUC of 0.89 according to the 10-fold cross-validation. The ROC curves of all algorithms are presented in Scenario III of **Figure 6**.

In summary, the feature selection algorithms offered improved performance over classical classification algorithms for predictive modeling algorithms. The comparative analysis showed that the filter selection algorithm selects the most predictive feature subset, which improves the prediction performance over classical classification algorithms most significantly.

# CONCLUSION

In this study, two core aspects of building structural damage risk assessment were investigated: the selection of relevant features and the comparison of data-driven algorithms. To determine the best feature set and use features in an effective manner, two feature selection approaches, the wrapper method and the filter method, were comparatively assessed. To select the best data-driven algorithm, the ELM, OP-ELM, Lasso-ELM, and Lanczos-ELM were considered as candidate algorithms and their performances compared.

In the computational experiments, the Lanczos-ELM algorithm provided the most accurate prediction performance in all scenarios. The computational results demonstrated that the Lanczos-ELM classifier with the filter's feature selection method had the best classification performance across all combinations of feature selection and algorithms tested. In summary, this comparative study offers interesting insights into the risk assessment of building structural damage for geologists and engineers during the evaluation process. In the future, we will focus on developing highly interpretable machine learning pipelines to perform the risk classification and offer interpretable results to the field engineers.

# DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding authors.

# **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

WY contributed to the study methodology and wrote the original draft. LW contributed to the study's data curation. YF

contributed to the data analysis and investigation. TZ contributed to conceptualizing the study and writing original draft. All

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