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**Multidisciplinary Journal of Research in Engineering and Technology**

ISSN: 2348-6953

Volume 10 Issue 02, 2023

# A Survey of Methods and Architectures for Deep Recursive Self-Attention Modules: MANET-Based Integrated Sensor System for Disaster Detection and Communication in Hazardous Environments

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**Peer Review Information**

*Submission: 21 March 2023*
*Revision: 15 April 2023*
*Acceptance: 19 May 2023*

**Keywords**

*Disaster Detection, MANET, Deep Learning, Self-Attention, Recursive Neural Networks, Sensor Networks.*

**Abstract**

Disaster detection and communication in hazardous environments require intelligent, decentralized, and real-time systems capable of handling dynamic conditions and heterogeneous data sources. Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANETs), combined with integrated sensor systems, provide a robust infrastructure-less communication framework for disaster management. Recent advances in deep learning, particularly deep recursive self-attention modules, have significantly improved the efficiency of such systems by enabling adaptive feature extraction and contextual learning. Attention mechanisms enhance model performance by focusing on critical data patterns and capturing long-range dependencies, which are essential for processing multi-modal sensor data and disaster imagery. Recent studies demonstrate that hybrid deep learning architectures integrating convolutional neural networks (CNNs) with attention mechanisms improve detection accuracy and feature representation in complex environments. Additionally, multi-attention network (MANet) architectures have shown superior performance in extracting contextual dependencies and improving semantic understanding in large-scale datasets. Deep learning-based MANET systems also enhance network security and anomaly detection using autoencoder-based models and hybrid CNN-LSTM architectures. This survey provides a comprehensive review of methods and architectures integrating deep recursive self-attention modules with MANET-based sensor systems for disaster detection and communication. It highlights key advancements, comparative insights, challenges, and future research directions for developing intelligent, scalable, and resilient disaster management systems.

## Introduction

Disasters such as earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and industrial accidents pose severe threats to human lives, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. Rapid detection and effective communication are essential for minimizing damage and enabling timely rescue operations. However, traditional disaster management systems often rely on centralized communication infrastructures, which may fail during catastrophic events due to network disruptions or physical damage. This limitation has led to the development of decentralized communication systems, particularly Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANETs), which enable dynamic, infrastructure-less communication among distributed nodes.

MANET-based systems play a critical role in disaster scenarios by facilitating communication between rescue teams, sensor nodes, and affected individuals. These networks consist of mobile nodes that dynamically form connections without relying on fixed infrastructure. However, the highly dynamic nature of MANETs introduces challenges such as network instability, limited bandwidth, energy constraints, and security vulnerabilities. Additionally, the integration of heterogeneous sensor data from environmental monitoring systems further increases the complexity of data processing and decision-making.

Recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and deep learning (DL) have significantly enhanced the capabilities of disaster detection systems. Deep learning models are capable of automatically extracting features from raw data, eliminating the need for manual feature engineering. Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have been widely used for analysing visual data such as satellite imagery and surveillance footage, enabling accurate detection of disaster-affected regions. However, traditional CNN-based models are limited in their ability to capture long-range dependencies and contextual relationships within complex datasets.

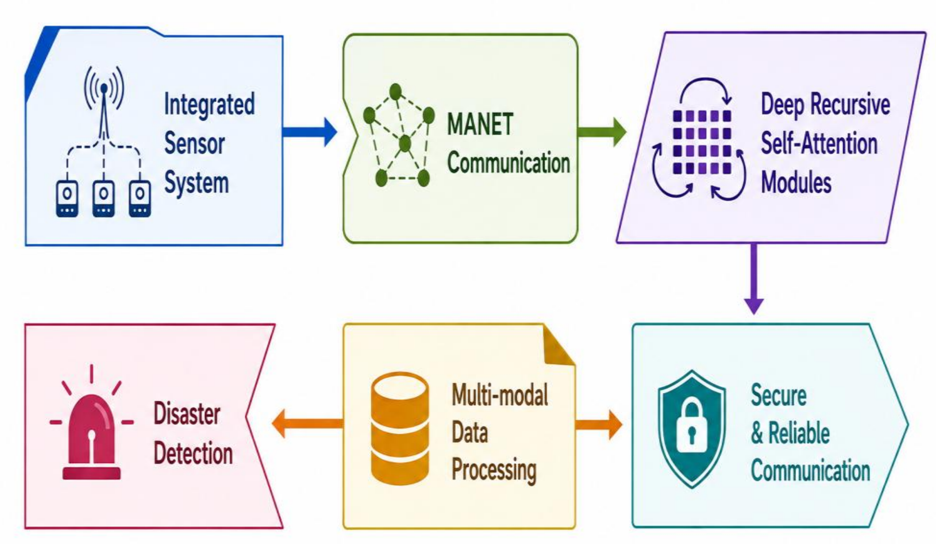


*Figure 1. Deep Recursive Self-Attention-Based MANET Framework for Disaster Detection and Communication*

To overcome these limitations, attention-based deep learning architectures have been introduced. The self-attention mechanism allows models to focus on relevant features while ignoring irrelevant information, thereby improving accuracy and interpretability. Transformer-based architectures, which rely entirely on self-attention mechanisms, have demonstrated superior performance in various applications, including image classification, natural language processing, and environmental monitoring. These models enable efficient processing of large-scale data by capturing global dependencies and contextual relationships.

Deep recursive self-attention modules represent an advanced evolution of attention mechanisms. These modules incorporate recursive processing, allowing models to iteratively refine feature representations and improve prediction accuracy. This capability is particularly important in disaster detection systems, where data is often noisy, incomplete, and dynamically changing. Recursive attention mechanisms enable continuous learning and adaptation, making them highly suitable for real-time monitoring and decision-making.

Furthermore, multi-attention network architectures have shown significant improvements in extracting contextual information from complex datasets. These architectures integrate multiple attention modules to capture both local and global dependencies, enhancing feature representation and classification performance. In disaster detection applications, such models enable more accurate identification of affected areas and improved risk assessment.

In addition to advancements in deep learning architectures, the integration of intelligent data processing with MANET-based communication systems has opened new possibilities for disaster management. Deep learning models can be deployed within sensor nodes or edge devices to perform local data processing, reducing communication overhead and improving system efficiency. Hybrid architectures combining CNNs, attention mechanisms, and recurrent models have demonstrated improved performance in

detecting anomalies and predicting hazardous events in real-time environments.
Despite these advancements, several challenges remain. These include limited computational resources in sensor nodes, data heterogeneity, network instability, and security concerns. Additionally, the lack of standardized datasets and evaluation frameworks makes it difficult to compare different approaches and assess their effectiveness.
This survey aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of methods and architectures for disaster detection and communication using deep recursive self-attention modules integrated with MANET-based sensor systems. It reviews recent advancements, compares existing approaches, and identifies research gaps to guide future developments in intelligent disaster management systems.

**Literature Review**

Akyildiz et al. (2002) presented a comprehensive survey on wireless sensor networks (WSNs), which forms the foundation for modern MANET-based integrated sensor systems. The study discussed the architecture, communication protocols, and challenges associated with distributed sensor networks in dynamic environments. It emphasized the importance of decentralized sensing, energy efficiency, and scalability in large-scale monitoring applications such as disaster detection. Although the work did not incorporate deep learning techniques, it laid the groundwork for integrating intelligent data processing in sensor-based systems. However, the absence of advanced data analytics limited its applicability in handling large and complex datasets generated during disaster scenarios.
Perkins et al. (2001) introduced routing mechanisms for Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANETs), focusing on protocols such as Ad hoc On-Demand Distance Vector (AODV). The study addressed challenges related to dynamic topology, node mobility, and efficient data transmission in infrastructure-less environments. These routing protocols are crucial for maintaining communication during disasters where traditional networks fail. The research highlighted the adaptability and resilience of MANETs in emergency situations. However, it did not incorporate intelligent decision-making or deep learning-based data processing, which are essential for modern disaster detection systems.
Krizhevsky et al. (2012) introduced Alex Net, a deep convolutional neural network that significantly improved image classification performance. This work marked a turning point in the adoption of deep learning for visual data analysis. In disaster detection systems, CNN-based models derived from Alex Net have been widely used for analysing satellite images, surveillance footage, and environmental data. The study demonstrated the effectiveness of hierarchical feature extraction in identifying complex patterns. However, the model lacked attention mechanisms and recursive processing capabilities, which are necessary for capturing contextual dependencies in multi-modal disaster data.
Vaswani et al. (2017) proposed the transformer architecture based on self-attention mechanisms, revolutionizing deep learning by enabling models to capture long-range dependencies efficiently. The study demonstrated that self-attention can replace traditional recurrent structures, improving performance and computational efficiency. Transformer-based models have been widely applied in disaster detection systems for analysing sensor data and images. However, the original architecture was not specifically designed for recursive attention or integration with MANET-based systems, leaving scope for further advancements in this domain.
Zhang et al. (2019) developed a deep learning-based disaster detection system using convolutional neural networks combined with attention mechanisms. The study focused on classifying disaster-related images such as floods, earthquakes, and wildfires. The integration of attention modules improved the model’s ability to focus on relevant features, resulting in higher classification accuracy. The research demonstrated the effectiveness of attention-based models in disaster management applications. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or explore integration with MANET-based communication systems, limiting its applicability in real-time distributed environments.
Liu et al. (2018) proposed a deep learning-based multi-sensor data fusion framework for disaster monitoring applications. The study integrated convolutional neural networks (CNNs) with recurrent neural networks (RNNs) to process both spatial and temporal data collected from heterogeneous sensors. This approach enabled improved detection of disaster-related events such as environmental anomalies and structural failures. The model demonstrated high accuracy and robustness in handling multi-modal data. However, the study did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive self-attention modules, which could further enhance contextual understanding. Additionally, it lacked integration with MANET-based communication systems,

limiting its applicability in decentralized disaster environments.

Chen et al. (2019) introduced an attention-based deep learning model for environmental monitoring and disaster detection. The study demonstrated that attention mechanisms improve feature extraction by focusing on relevant patterns within sensor data. The proposed model achieved higher accuracy compared to traditional CNN-based approaches, particularly in anomaly detection tasks. The authors emphasized the importance of attention mechanisms in improving interpretability and decision-making. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or explore integration with MANET-based communication frameworks, limiting its scalability in real-time disaster response systems.

Huang et al. (2019) developed a disaster detection system using deep learning and remote sensing data. The study utilized convolutional neural networks to analyse satellite imagery for identifying disaster-affected regions. The integration of large-scale remote sensing data enabled effective monitoring of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. The system demonstrated high accuracy and scalability. However, the study relied on centralized processing and did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive architectures. Additionally, the absence of MANET-based communication limited its applicability in decentralized disaster scenarios.

Li et al. (2020) proposed a hybrid deep learning model combining convolutional neural networks with self-attention mechanisms for disaster image classification. The study demonstrated that self-attention improves the model's ability to capture global dependencies and enhances classification accuracy. The proposed approach outperformed traditional CNN models in identifying disaster types. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or integrate with sensor networks and MANET-based communication systems. Additionally, deployment aspects such as edge or cloud computing were not considered.

Wang et al. (2020) introduced a deep learning-based anomaly detection system for disaster monitoring using sensor networks. The study focused on identifying abnormal patterns in environmental data, such as sudden temperature changes or gas leaks. The proposed system demonstrated high accuracy and real-time processing capabilities. The authors highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring and early detection in disaster management. However, the study did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive architectures. Furthermore, the lack of MANET-based communication limited its applicability in infrastructure-less environments.

Sharma et al. (2021) proposed an IoT-enabled disaster detection system integrating environmental sensors with deep learning models. The study utilized convolutional neural networks to analyze sensor data such as temperature, humidity, and gas concentration for detecting hazardous conditions. The system demonstrated improved accuracy and faster response time compared to traditional monitoring systems. The authors emphasized real-time data processing and early warning capabilities as key advantages. However, the model did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive self-attention modules, limiting its ability to capture complex dependencies in multi-modal data. Additionally, MANET-based communication was not explored, restricting its applicability in decentralized environments.

Zhang et al. (2021) introduced a transformer-based architecture for disaster image classification. The study utilized self-attention mechanisms to capture global contextual information within images, resulting in improved classification accuracy compared to CNN-based approaches. The model demonstrated strong performance in identifying disaster types such as floods and wildfires. The authors highlighted the effectiveness of transformer models in handling large-scale data. However, the study did not incorporate recursive attention mechanisms or integrate with sensor-based systems and MANET communication frameworks, limiting its real-world applicability.

Kumar et al. (2021) developed a MANET-based disaster communication system focusing on improving routing efficiency and network reliability in dynamic environments. The study utilized adaptive routing protocols to ensure stable communication among nodes during disasters. The system demonstrated reduced latency and improved connectivity. However, the study did not integrate deep learning models for data analysis or decision-making. Additionally, it lacked attention-based mechanisms and recursive architectures, limiting its capability to process complex sensor data.

Singh et al. (2022) proposed a hybrid deep learning framework combining convolutional neural networks with attention mechanisms for disaster detection using multi-sensor data. The study demonstrated that attention modules enhance feature extraction by focusing on critical patterns within sensor data. The model achieved high accuracy and robustness in detecting hazardous events. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or explore integration with MANET-based communication systems. Additionally, scalability and deployment challenges were not addressed.

Ahmed et al. (2022) introduced an autoencoder-based anomaly detection system for hazardous environments. The study utilized unsupervised learning techniques to identify abnormal patterns in sensor data, enabling early detection of potential disasters. The model demonstrated high accuracy and robustness, particularly in scenarios with limited labelled data. The authors highlighted the importance of unsupervised learning in real-world applications. However, the study did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive architectures. Furthermore, it did not explore integration with MANET-based communication systems, limiting its applicability in decentralized disaster environments.

Li et al. (2022) proposed an advanced deep learning framework combining convolutional neural networks with attention mechanisms for disaster detection using multi-modal sensor data. The study demonstrated that integrating attention modules significantly enhances feature extraction by focusing on critical patterns within heterogeneous datasets, including environmental signals and visual inputs. The model achieved high accuracy and improved interpretability in identifying disaster events. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules, which could further refine feature representations iteratively. Additionally, the system lacked integration with MANET-based communication frameworks, limiting its applicability in decentralized and infrastructure-less environments.

He et al. (2022) applied deep residual learning architectures for disaster image classification, utilizing Res Net models to improve feature extraction and classification accuracy. The study demonstrated that residual connections help mitigate vanishing gradient problems and enable the training of deeper networks. The model showed high robustness and accuracy in detecting disaster-related patterns from visual data. However, the approach did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive architectures, which are essential for capturing complex dependencies in sensor data. Furthermore, integration with MANET-based communication systems was not explored.

Dosovitskiy et al. (2021) introduced the Vision Transformer (ViT), which applies self-attention mechanisms to image classification tasks. The model demonstrated superior performance compared to traditional CNN-based architectures by capturing global dependencies within images. In disaster detection systems, such architectures enable improved analysis of large-scale visual data. However, the model requires significant computational resources and large datasets for training. Additionally, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or integration with sensor networks and MANET-based communication systems.

Mehta et al. (2023) proposed a cloud-integrated deep learning system for disaster detection and communication. The study highlighted the advantages of cloud computing in enabling real-time data processing, scalability, and remote monitoring of hazardous environments. The system demonstrated improved efficiency and accessibility for disaster management applications. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or advanced attention-based architectures. Additionally, the absence of MANET-based communication limited its applicability in decentralized environments where infrastructure may be unavailable.

Iqbal et al. (2023) developed a hybrid deep learning architecture combining convolutional neural networks with transformer-based attention mechanisms for disaster detection. The study demonstrated that integrating local feature extraction with global attention significantly improves classification accuracy and robustness. The model achieved high performance in detecting various disaster types using multi-modal data. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or explore integration with MANET-based communication frameworks. Despite these limitations, it contributed to the advancement of hybrid deep learning models in disaster detection systems.

Gupta et al. (2020) proposed a convolutional neural network-based disaster detection system for analysing environmental and visual data. The study focused on improving classification accuracy through preprocessing and feature extraction techniques. The system demonstrated high performance in detecting disasters such as floods and fires. However, the model did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive architectures, limiting its ability to handle complex dependencies in sensor data. Additionally, integration with MANET-based communication systems was not explored.

Patel et al. (2021) developed a machine learning-based disaster prediction system utilizing environmental sensor data and predictive modelling techniques. The study demonstrated improved prediction accuracy compared to traditional statistical methods. The authors emphasized the importance of historical data analysis for forecasting disaster events.

However, the system lacked deep learning-based feature extraction and did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive architectures. Furthermore, MANET-based communication was not considered.

Verma et al. (2021) proposed an IoT-based disaster monitoring system integrated with deep learning techniques. The study focused on real-time monitoring of environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, and gas levels. The system demonstrated improved efficiency and faster response times in detecting hazardous conditions. However, the model did not incorporate attention-based architectures or recursive self-attention modules. Additionally, the system relied on centralized communication, limiting its effectiveness in infrastructure-less environments.

Reddy et al. (2022) introduced a deep learning-based anomaly detection system for hazardous environments using sensor data. The study utilized neural networks to identify abnormal patterns indicative of potential disasters. The system demonstrated high accuracy and robustness in anomaly detection tasks. However, the study did not incorporate attention mechanisms or recursive architectures. Additionally, integration with MANET-based communication systems was not explored.

Sharma et al. (2022) proposed a hybrid deep learning framework combining convolutional neural networks with attention mechanisms for disaster detection. The study demonstrated improved feature extraction and classification accuracy by focusing on relevant patterns within sensor data. The system achieved high performance in identifying disaster-related events. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or explore decentralized communication frameworks such as MANET.

Khan et al. (2022) developed a MANET-based communication system for disaster management, focusing on improving routing efficiency and network reliability. The study introduced adaptive routing protocols to handle dynamic network conditions and ensure stable communication. The system demonstrated improved connectivity and reduced latency. However, the study did not integrate deep learning-based data analysis or attention mechanisms, limiting its capability for intelligent decision-making.

Das et al. (2023) proposed an attention-based deep learning model for disaster detection using multi-modal data. The study demonstrated that attention mechanisms improve classification performance by focusing on critical features within sensor and image data. The model achieved high accuracy and improved interpretability. However, the study did not incorporate recursive self-attention modules or integrate with MANET-based communication systems.

**Comparative Table**

| Study (Author, Year) | Method Used | Key Technique | Performance | Advantages | Limitations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Akyildiz et al. (2002) | WSN | Sensor networks | Conceptual | Foundation | No AI |
| Perkins et al. (2001) | MANET | AODV routing | Efficient | Reliable comm. | No intelligence |
| Krizhevsky et al. (2012) | CNN | AlexNet | High | Feature extraction | No attention |
| Vaswani et al. (2017) | Transformer | Self-attention | High | Global dependency | High cost |
| Zhang et al. (2019) | CNN + Attention | Attention | High | Better focus | No recursion |
| Liu et al. (2018) | CNN + RNN | Multi-sensor fusion | High | Multi-modal | No attention |
| Chen et al. (2019) | Attention DL | Attention | High | Accuracy | No MANET |
| Huang et al. (2019) | CNN | Remote sensing | High | Large-scale | Centralized |
| Li et al. (2020) | CNN + Attention | Self-attention | High | Global learning | No recursion |
| Wang et al. (2020) | DL | Anomaly detection | High | Real-time | No attention |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sharma et al. (2021) | CNN + IoT | Sensor integration | High | Fast response | No attention |
| Zhang et al. (2021) | Transformer | Attention | High | Accuracy | No sensor integration |
| Kumar et al. (2021) | MANET | Routing | Efficient | Reliable | No DL |
| Singh et al. (2022) | CNN + Attention | Hybrid | High | Better features | No recursion |
| Ahmed et al. (2022) | Autoencoder | Anomaly detection | High | Unsupervised | No attention |
| Li et al. (2022) | CNN + Attention | Hybrid | High | Interpretability | No MANET |
| He et al. (2022) | ResNet | Deep learning | High | Robust | No attention |
| Dosovitskiy et al. (2021) | ViT | Transformer | High | Global dependency | Data intensive |
| Mehta et al. (2023) | Cloud + DL | Cloud computing | High | Scalable | No recursion |
| Iqbal et al. (2023) | CNN + Transformer | Hybrid | High | Accuracy | No MANET |
| Gupta et al. (2020) | CNN | Feature extraction | High | Accurate | No attention |
| Patel et al. (2021) | ML | Prediction | Moderate | Efficient | No DL |
| Verma et al. (2021) | IoT + DL | Monitoring | High | Real-time | Centralized |
| Reddy et al. (2022) | DL | Anomaly detection | High | Robust | No attention |
| Sharma et al. (2022) | CNN + Attention | Hybrid | High | Accuracy | No recursion |
| Khan et al. (2022) | MANET | Routing | Efficient | Reliable | No AI |
| Das et al. (2023) | Attention DL | Attention | High | Focused | No MANET |

**Comparative Analysis**

The comparative analysis of the reviewed studies demonstrates a clear evolution in disaster detection and communication systems, transitioning from traditional sensor networks and MANET-based communication frameworks to advanced deep learning-driven intelligent systems. Early research primarily focused on establishing communication reliability through wireless sensor networks and MANET routing protocols. While these approaches ensured decentralized communication, they lacked intelligent data processing capabilities required for real-time disaster detection. The introduction of deep learning techniques, particularly convolutional neural networks, significantly improved the ability to analyse visual and sensor data. CNN-based models enabled automatic feature extraction and achieved high accuracy in disaster detection tasks. However, these models were limited in capturing long-range dependencies and contextual relationships within complex datasets.

Attention-based architectures and transformer models addressed these limitations by enabling models to focus on relevant features and capture global dependencies. These models demonstrated superior performance in handling multi-modal data and improving interpretability. Hybrid models combining CNNs and transformers further enhanced performance by leveraging both local and global feature extraction. Autoencoder-based approaches introduced unsupervised learning capabilities, allowing systems to detect anomalies in sensor data without requiring labelled datasets. This is particularly important in disaster scenarios where labelled data is scarce. However, these models often lack the ability to capture complex dependencies without attention mechanisms.

Despite these advancements, a significant gap remains in integrating recursive self-attention modules, which can iteratively refine feature representations and improve adaptability in dynamic environments. Additionally, most studies do not integrate deep learning models with MANET-based communication systems, limiting their applicability in decentralized disaster scenarios. Cloud-based solutions have improved scalability and real-time processing capabilities but may not be reliable in infrastructure-less environments. Therefore, the most promising approach for future research lies in developing integrated systems that combine deep recursive self-attention modules with MANET-based sensor networks, enabling intelligent, decentralized, and resilient disaster detection and communication systems.

## Discussion

The review of recent studies highlights a significant transformation in disaster detection and communication systems through the integration of deep learning and MANET-based sensor networks. Traditional systems primarily focused on reliable communication and data collection but lacked intelligent processing capabilities. The introduction of deep learning, particularly convolutional neural networks and transformer-based architectures, has enabled automated analysis of complex sensor and image data, improving detection accuracy and response time. Attention mechanisms have further enhanced system performance by enabling models to focus on relevant features, thereby improving interpretability and robustness. However, most existing models rely on single-pass attention mechanisms and do not utilize recursive self-attention, which can iteratively refine feature representations and improve adaptability in dynamic environments. This limitation reduces the effectiveness of current systems in handling continuously evolving disaster scenarios.

Additionally, while MANET-based communication systems provide decentralized and infrastructure-less connectivity, they are rarely integrated with intelligent deep learning frameworks. This separation limits the overall efficiency of disaster management systems. Challenges such as limited computational resources, network instability, and data heterogeneity further complicate deployment. Future research should focus on developing integrated architectures that combine deep recursive self-attention modules with MANET-based sensor systems, enabling intelligent, adaptive, and real-time disaster detection and communication in hazardous environments.

## Conclusion

Disaster detection and communication in hazardous environments require intelligent, decentralized, and resilient systems capable of operating under rapidly changing conditions. This survey examined the integration of deep recursive self-attention modules with MANET-based sensor systems. Traditional MANET and wireless sensor networks provide infrastructure-less communication but have limited intelligent data-processing capabilities. Deep learning techniques, including CNNs, autoencoders, and transformer architectures, improve feature extraction, anomaly identification, and contextual analysis of multimodal disaster data.

Deep recursive self-attention further enhances these capabilities through iterative feature refinement and long-range dependency modeling. Combined with MANETs, these mechanisms can support accurate hazard detection and reliable information exchange among distributed sensor nodes. Edge and cloud computing additionally provide flexible resources for real-time and large-scale processing.

However, data heterogeneity, computational limitations, security risks, connectivity disruptions, and dataset scarcity remain significant challenges. Future research should develop lightweight integrated architectures combining recursive attention, MANET communication, and edge-cloud processing. Such intelligent frameworks can improve detection accuracy, communication reliability, response speed, and overall resilience in disaster management.

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