



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPLEX NETWORK-BASED INTEGRATED
MULTI-LAYER URBAN GROWTH AND OPTIMISATION MODEL
FOR EFFICIENT URBAN TRAFFIC NETWORK***

DING RUI

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By

DING RUI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
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Philosophy**

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DEDICATION

TO

my dear parents Kelong Ding and Ping He,
my lovely wife Xiaohui Guo and my cute daughter Xiluo Ding,
my respectful uncle Xiaoyong Ding and auntie Lufang Zheng
my big family and my dear friends
for their unwavering love and strong supports



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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August 2018

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Norsidah Ujang, PhD
Faculty: Design and Architecture

Nowadays, most cities and urban areas increasingly pay attention to issues relating to urban growth, while studies on the urban traffic network structure is important to increase the efficiency of urban traffic networks. Analysis of the basic properties of the current urban transportation network can be used to optimise the urban design process. However, the analyses that integrate traffic network and land-use in light of their co-evolution process are still very limited, and there is a need to link the rail and the street network analysis and to examine the influence of multi-layer networks on the structures. This study can give a clear indication for the urban traffic network design and growth. The goal of this study is to apply the network analysis through simulation and optimisation methods to obtain a more efficient urban traffic network.

The study adopts single-layer and multi-layer network representation methods to capture traffic networks' basic characteristics, properties and the growth trends. The complexity and impacts of evolving multi-layer network and the co-evolution model are discussed, to address the multi-layer network and land-use based co-evolution process. Network growth methods, robustness methods and some multi-objective methods are used to optimise both the single-layer and multi-layer urban traffic networks. This study proposed the complex network based integrated multi-layer urban growth and optimisation model (CNIMUGOM) to explain the co-evolution process of the land-use, urban traffic network and population, and to obtain an efficient network structures.

The complexity of Kuala Lumpur street networks and worldwide rail networks (sampled from 45 cities) are presented to show their basic structural properties to guide the future traffic network design. The Public Urban Rail Transit Networks of Kuala Lumpur (PURTNoKL) is taken as a sample case to capture the network growth process and the change trends of a single-layer network more clearly.

The relationships between traffic multi-layer networks and land-uses were discussed, and their co-evolution model is established. The study found that the rail network growth triggers the variation of urban traffic network structure and community partition; the network diameter and the average shortest path length are decreasing dramatically, while the highest decreasing rate of accessibility is around 12%. The Relative Neighbourhood Graph (RNG) and Gabriel Graph (GG) are introduced to represent the multi-layer traffic network. Considering the cooperation strength and average operation speed ratio in different layers, the impacts of these variable parameters to the network structures are analysed.

The optimisation methods are proposed based on the maximisation of network performance from the growth and robustness. These nodes with the biggest shortest path lengths can be treated as the important and potential nodes for the future development of the single-layer network. Then these methods are expanded to multi-layer networks, and are tested using their coupling networks. For those nodes with biggest cluster centrality and closeness centrality can be treated as important and potential nodes. Then the multi-objective methods based analysis indicated that for a single-layer urban traffic network, the scale-free based networks could support more traffic flow than other coupling networks. When considering the multi-layer urban traffic networks, small-world based networks can support more traffic flow than other forms of network. After considering the traffic network structure and traffic flow constraints, the small-world based multi-layer network co-evolution model is proposed.

The findings of the study afford to improve the current land-use and traffic integrated models. Based on the traffic network and urban land-use co-evolution process, the proposed CNIMUGOM model can save the traffic network construction investment, reduce the travel cost and make the urban traffic network more efficient. Based on the simulation, the proposed network can increase the network efficiency around 30%, and the total traffic flow amount is decreased around 30%.

This study contributes to the current literature of complex network theory by gaining additional insights on multi-layer networks related studies and the modelling applications. With the use of the network growth measurement method, the multi-layer network co-evolution model, the network optimisation method and CNIMUGOM, urban planners and designers can provide a better design network structures and optimise the urban traffic networks for rail and road networks efficiency.

Keywords: Urban Traffic Networks, Complex Network Theory, Multi-layer Networks, Urban Growth, Traffic Network Design, Network Optimisation



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PEMBANGUNAN BERASASKAN RANGKAIAN KOMPLEKS
PERTUMBUHAN BANDAR MULTI-LAPISAN BERSEPADU DAN
MODEL PENGOPTIMUMAN UNTUK RANGKAIAN TRAFIK
BANDAR EFISEN**

Oleh

DING RUI

Ogos 2018

Pengerusi: Professor Madya Norsidah Ujang, PhD
Fakulti: Rekabentuk dan Senibina

Di masakini, kebanyakan bandar raya dan kawasan bandar semakin menumpukan perhatian kepada isu-isu berkaitan pertumbuhan bandar. Oleh itu, kajian struktur rangkaian lalu lintas bandar adalah penting untuk meningkatkan kecekapan jaringan trafik bandar. Analisis sifat asas rangkaian pengangkutan bandar sediaada boleh digunakan untuk mengoptimumkan proses reka bentuk bandar. Bagaimanapun, analisis yang menyepadukan rangkaian lalu lintas dan guna tanah berdasarkan proses *co-evolution* masih amat terhad. Terdapat keperluan untuk menghubungkan analisis rangkaian rel dan jalan raya dan meneliti pengaruh jaringan berbilang lapisan terhadap struktur-strukturnya. Kajian ini boleh memberikan petunjuk jelas mengenai reka bentuk dan pertumbuhan rangkaian trafik bandar. Matlamat kajian ini ialah untuk menggunakan analisis rangkaian menerusi simulasi dan kaedah optimum bagi menghasilkan rangkaian trafik bandar yang lebih cekap.

Kajian mengguna pakai kaedah representasi satu lapisan dan berbilang lapisan untuk mendapatkan ciri-ciri asas rangkaian lalu lintas, sifat dan corak pertumbuhannya. Kompleksiti dan impak perkembangan rangkaian berbilang lapis dan model *co-evolution* diperbincangkan, untuk menangani rangkaian berbilang lapis dan guna tanah berdasarkan proses *co-evolution*. Kaedah-kaedah pertumbuhan rangkaian, *robustness* dan beberapa kaedah multi-objektif digunakan untuk mengoptimumkan satu dan berbilang lapisan jaringan trafik bandar. Kajian ini mencadangkan rangkaian komplek

berdasarkan integrasi bersepadu pertumbuhan bandar dan model *optimisation* (CNIMUGOM) untuk menjelaskan proses *co-evolution* guna tanah, rangkaian trafik bandar dan populasi, dan menghasilkan struktur-struktur rangkaian yang cekap.

Kompleksiti jaringan jalan raya di Kuala Lumpur dan rangkaian rel seluruh dunia (sampel diambil dari 45 buah bandar) dibentangkan untuk menunjukkan sifat struktur asas mereka mensimulasi reka bentuk rangkaian lalu lintas di masa akan datang. *Public Urban Rail Transit Networks of Kuala Lumpur* (PURTNoKL) dipilih sebagai kes sampel untuk memahami proses pertumbuhan rangkaian dan corak perubahan rangkaian satu lapisan dengan lebih jelas.

Hubungan antara trafik jaringan berbilang lapisan dan guna tanah telah dibincangkan, dan model *co-evolution* telah dibentuk. Kajian mendapati pertumbuhan rangkaian rel menyebabkan variasi struktur rangkaian lalu lintas bandar dan sekatan komuniti; diameter jaringan dan purata panjang laluan terdekat menurun secara mendadak, manakala penyusutan kadar tertinggi kebolehcapaian ialah sekitar 12%. *Relative Neighbourhood Graph* (RNG) dan *Gabriel Graph* (GG) diperkenalkan untuk mewakili rangkaian lalu lintas berbilang lapisan. Dengan mempertimbangkan kekuatan kerjasama dan purata nisbah kelajuan pengendalian dalam lapisan berbeza, impak parameter boleh ubah terhadap struktur rangkaian telah di analisis.

Kaedah-kaedah pengoptimuman telah dicadangkan berdasarkan pemaksimuman prestasi rangkaian dari pertumbuhan dan *robustness*. Nodus ini dengan panjang laluan terdekat terbesar boleh di kira sebagai nodus penting dan berpotensi untuk pembangunan masa depan rangkaian satu lapisan. Kemudian kaedah-kaedah ini diperluaskan kepada jaringan berbilang lapis, dan diuji menggunakan gandingan jaringan mereka. Untuk nodus dengan *cluster centrality* yang terbesar dan *closeness centrality* boleh di kira sebagai nodus penting dan berpotensi. Kemudian, pelbagai kaedah objektif berdasarkan analisis menunjukkan bahawa bagi rangkaian trafik bandar satu lapisan, jaringan bebas skala boleh menampung lebih banyak aliran trafik daripada jaringan gandingan lain. Dengan mempertimbangkan jaringan trafik bandar yang berbilang lapisan, jaringan berasaskan *small world* boleh menyokong lebih banyak aliran trafik daripada corak rangkaian lain. Setelah mengambil kira struktur rangkaian lalu lintas dan kekangan aliran trafik, rangkaian berbilang lapisan berasaskan *small-world co-evolution* model telah dicadangkan.

Penemuan kajian ini mampu memperbaiki guna tanah sediaada dan model trafik bersepadu. Berdasarkan rangkaian lalu lintas dan proses *co-evolution* guna tanah bandar, cadangan model CNIMUGOM boleh menjimatkan pelaburan pembinaan rangkaian lalu lintas, mengurangkan kos perjalanan dan menjadikan rangkaian trafik bandar lebih efisien. Berdasarkan simulasi, rangkaian yang dicadangkan boleh meningkatkan kecekapan jaringan sekitar 30%, dan keseluruhan aliran trafik menurun kepada sekitar 30%.

Kajian ini menyumbang kepada literatur semasa berkaitan teori rangkaian kompleks dengan memperoleh perspektif tambahan mengenai kajian berkaitan jaringan berbilang lapisan dan aplikasi model. Dengan penggunaan kaedah pengukuran pertumbuhan rangkaian, rangkaian berbilang lapisan model *co-evolution*, kaedah pengoptimuman rangkaian dan CNIMUGOM, perancang dan pereka bentuk bandar boleh menyediakan reka bentuk struktur jaringan yang lebih baik dan mengoptimumkan jaringan trafik bandar untuk kecekapan jaringan rel dan lalu lintas bandar.

Kata Kunci: Jaringan Trafik Bandar, Teori Rangkaian Kompleks, Jaringan Berbilang Lapisan, Pertumbuhan Bandar, Reka Bentuk Rangkaian Trafik, Pengoptimum Rangkaian

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 16 August 2018 to conduct the final examination of Ding Rui on his thesis entitled "Development of a Complex Network-Based Integrated Multi-Layer Urban Growth and Optimisation Model for Efficient Urban Traffic Network" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

Members of the Thesis Examination Committee were as follows:

Suhardi bin Maulan, PhD

Associate Professor LAr.
Faculty of Design and Architecture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Mohd Johari bin Mohd Yusof, PhD

Associate Professor Gs.
Faculty of Design and Architecture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Helmi Zulhaidi bin Mohd Shafri, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Engineering
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Konstadinos Goulias, PhD

Professor
University of California
United States
(External Examiner)



RUSLI HAJI ABDULLAH, PhD
Professor and Deputy Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 27 September 2018

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Norsidah Ujang, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Design and Architecture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Hussain bin Hamid, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Engineering
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Mohd Shahrudin Abd Manan, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Design and Architecture
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Jianjun Wu, PhD

Professor
State Key Laboratory of Rail Traffic Control and Safety
Beijing Jiaotong University
(Member)

ROBIAH BINTI YUNUS, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
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Signature: _____
Name of Chairman
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Committee: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Norsidah Ujang

Signature: _____
Name of Member of
Supervisory
Committee: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hussain bin Hamid

Signature: _____
Name of Member of
Supervisory
Committee: Dr. Mohd Shahrudin Abd Manan

Signature: _____
Name of Member of
Supervisory
Committee: Prof. Dr. Jianjun Wu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL	viii
DECLARATION	x
LIST OF TABLES	xviii
LIST OF FIGURES	xix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxvi
NOTATIONS OF TERMS	xxvii
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	7
1.2.1 From the urban growth point of view	7
1.2.2 From the traffic network design point of view	8
1.2.3 From the complex network theory point of view	10
1.3 The Research Gaps	11
1.4 Research Questions	12
1.5 Research Aim and Objectives	13
1.6 Research Scopes and Limitations	13
1.7 Significance of the Study	14
1.8 Study Organisation	15
1.9 Summary	17
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	18
2.1 Urban growth	19
2.1.1 Sketchy urban growth process	19
2.1.2 The existing urban growth models	23
2.1.3 The existing urban traffic network growth models	24
2.2 The land-use and transportation interaction (LUTI) models	25
2.2.1 Basic characteristics of urban land-use	26
2.2.2 The existing land-use models	26
2.2.3 The LUTI models with consider traffic networks and accessibility	27
2.3 Traffic network design	30

2.3.1	Traffic network patterns	30
2.3.2	The need of traffic network structures based study	31
2.3.3	The importance of efficient traffic network design	32
2.3.4	Traffic network design models	32
2.4	Basic network models and representation methods applied in Complex Network Theory	34
2.4.1	Definition of basic network models and related applications	34
2.4.1.1	Regular networks	34
2.4.1.2	Erdos-Renyi random graphs	35
2.4.1.3	Watts-Strogatz Small-world	35
2.4.1.4	Barabasi-Albert Scale-free network	36
2.4.2	Definition of four basic network representation methods and related applications	37
2.5	Application of complex network theory in urban traffic network studies	39
2.5.1	The topological indicators and applications	41
2.5.2	The geographical indicators and applications	42
2.5.3	The mining of the urban network communities	45
2.5.4	The network robustness and vulnerability and their applications	48
2.5.5	The big data based complex networks researches	49
2.5.6	The optimisation and related applications	50
2.5.6.1	Structural optimisation	51
2.5.6.2	Flow-related optimisation	55
2.5.7	The integrated co-evolution process	56
2.5.8	The multi-layer network method and its application	56
2.6	Theoretical framework of the study	58
2.7	Summary	60
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	61
3.1	Introduction	61
3.2	The research process	61
3.3	Methodological approach	65
3.3.1	Analysing complex urban network structure characteristics	65
3.3.1.1	Single-layer network representation method	66
3.3.1.2	Multi-layer network representation method	67
3.3.2	Analysing the co-evolution process of multi-layer network	69

3.3.2.1	The inner connections of multi-layer networks	69
3.3.2.2	The co-evolution relationships between traffic multi-layer network and urban land-use	71
3.3.3	Developing multi-layer network optimisation models	73
3.3.3.1	The urban traffic network optimisation methods	73
3.3.3.2	Commonly used network optimisation methods	74
3.3.3.3	The network growth and network robustness methods	80
3.3.4	Developing CNIMUGOM, urban system modelling analysis	80
3.4	The study area	81
3.5	Data collection procedure	82
3.5.1	Collection of urban traffic single-layer network data	82
3.5.2	Collection of urban traffic multi-layer network growth	90
3.5.3	Set up the simulation models of the simple urban system	92
3.6	The related indicators	92
3.6.1	Topological indicators and the geographical indicators	93
3.6.1.1	The topological indicators	93
3.6.1.2	The geographical indicators	94
3.6.2	Multi-layer network based indicators	96
3.6.2.1	Average operation speed ratio	96
3.6.2.2	Shortest weighted paths	97
3.6.2.3	Cooperation strength	98
3.6.2.4	The variation of travel costs	98
3.6.2.5	Coverage	99
3.6.2.6	Gini coefficient of betweenness centrality	99
3.6.3	Network efficiency	100
3.6.4	Network expansion ability	100
3.6.5	Accessibility	101
3.6.6	Network communities	102
3.7	Data reliability and data validation	104
3.7.1	Data reliability	104
3.7.2	Data validation	104
3.8	Data analysis process	105

3.8.1	To capture traffic network's characteristics, properties and the growth trends	105
3.8.2	To analyse the multi-layer network and land-use based co-evolution process	107
3.8.3	To optimize the traffic network structures	108
3.8.4	To propose the CNIMUGOM	109
3.9	Summary	109
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	111
4.1	The basic characteristics of street and rail networks	111
4.1.1	The basic characteristics of street networks	111
4.1.1.1	The basic characteristics of general street networks	112
4.1.1.2	The basic characteristics of Kuala Lumpur street network	112
4.1.2	The basic characteristics of worldwide urban rail networks	115
4.1.3	The growth of PURTNoKL	125
4.1.3.1	The properties of the evolving PURTNoKL	125
4.1.3.2	The growth styles of PURTNoKL	135
4.1.4	Summary	136
4.2	Multi-layer network properties and the co-evolution model	138
4.2.1	The evolving of multi-layer network	138
4.2.1.1	The multi-layer network centralities evolving trends	138
4.2.1.2	The impact of multi-layer network growth to the change of network accessibility	141
4.2.1.3	The impact of multi-layer network growth to the network expansion ability	145
4.2.1.4	The impact of multi-layer network growth on the evolution of detected network communities	148
4.2.2	Multi-layer networks based co-evolution and optimisation model	151
4.2.2.1	The choose of basic structures of different layers	152
4.2.2.2	The co-evolution approach, with considering different land-use scenarios	153
4.2.2.3	Related hypothesis for the model	154

4.2.2.4	When both layers are growing simultaneously	155
4.2.2.5	The important role of Λ and Θ	159
4.2.2.6	The impact of Θ in two different scenarios	161
4.2.2.7	The coverage change trend	162
4.2.2.8	The optimised point based on the Gini, Θ and Λ	162
4.2.3	Summary	163
4.3	Traffic multi-layer network structural optimisation	166
4.3.1	Use the growth and robustness methods to optimise the multi-layer networks	166
4.3.1.1	Use different growth strategies to minimise the APL and D of single-layer network	166
4.3.1.2	Use different growth strategies to minimise the APL and D of multi-layer networks	171
4.3.1.3	Proposed potential efficient rail stations by complex network theory	175
4.3.1.4	Use the robustness methods to optimise single-layer networks	177
4.3.1.5	Use the robustness methods to optimise the multi-layer network	180
4.3.1.6	The coupling mechanisms of multi-layer networks	181
4.3.2	Multi-objectives network structure optimisation methods	185
4.3.2.1	The network structure optimisation with considering the construction and transportation costs	185
4.3.2.2	The network structure optimisation with considering the traffic flow and congestion	189
4.3.2.3	The multi-layer network structure optimisation with considering the traffic flow and congestion	191
4.3.2.4	The small-world based multi-layer network co-evolution and optimisation model	199
4.3.3	Summary	201
4.4	The CNIMUGOM	203
4.4.1	The framework of CNIMUGOM	203
4.4.2	Traffic demand model	204
4.4.2.1	Trip generation model	205

4.4.2.2	Trip distribution model	205
4.4.2.3	Measurement of the network structure related generalized travel cost	206
4.4.2.4	Mode choice in multi-layer network	207
4.4.2.5	Traffic assignment model	208
4.4.3	Link investment model for multi-layer network	209
4.4.4	The population growth model	210
4.4.5	Urban land-use change model	211
4.4.6	Network structure, land-use and population co-evolution model	212
4.4.7	The multi-layer network growth process	213
4.4.8	Solution process and related simulation scenarios	213
4.4.8.1	Solution process	213
4.4.8.2	Related simulation scenarios	214
4.4.9	Simulation results	216
4.4.9.1	When the network is not growing	216
4.4.9.2	When the network is growing	218
4.4.10	Summary	223
5	SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	224
5.1	Summary of this study	224
5.2	Recommendations for future research	226
	REFERENCES	229
	APPENDICES	268
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	272
	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	273

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	The LUTI models with consider traffic networks	28
2	The network representation methods.	38
3	The list of PURTNoKL stations.	87
4	The topological indicators and applications	93
5	The geographical indicators	94
6	The basic complex network characteristics of Kuala Lumpur urban street network.	113
7	The basic topological and geographical characteristics of 45 big cities public urban rail transit networks.	117
8	The basic characteristics of the PURTNoKL.	126
9	A comparison of multi-layer network performances changes when the rail network is growing.	139
10	The simulation scenarios	215

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	The urban and rural population distribution since 1950 to 2050	3
2	The changing trends of road length and vehicle numbers	4
3	Traffic jams in different places with the same performance - one-sided traffic congestion	5
4	The research gaps	12
5	The rough influence of transportation technology in urban growth	21
6	Foresman used eight images of urbanization over time for the Baltimore-Washington region to show the urban growth process	22
7	The development of traffic networks	22
8	Street patterns	31
9	The difference of urban network patterns, from regular to random	34
10	The nature representation of small-world networks in urban traffic networks	36
11	The analysis of these related references	40
12	The six stages in the analysis of nodal regional systems	43
13	Mining the network communities	47
14	Network structures changing with the variance of the parameter	52

15	The population driven optimised network of USA	53
16	When a node M added in, the local network generation process (left), and the general network growing process (right)	53
17	The optimal network structure	54
18	The relationship between projected segment and existing nodes and segments	54
19	The theoretical framework of this dissertation	59
20	Research framework	64
21	The single-layer network representation method	66
22	The multi-layer network representation method	68
23	The simple co-evolution relationships between traffic multi-layer network and urban land-use	72
24	The MST network structure and new node added in	75
25	Research area - Greater Kuala Lumpur	82
26	The Open Street Map dataset of Greater Kuala Lumpur	83
27	The PURTNoKL development process	86
28	The public urban rail transit maps of some selected cities	89
29	The growth of the multi-layer network	91
30	The multi-layer network with considering different structures	97
31	Part of PURTNoKL in ArcGIS	106
32	The topological structure of the PURTNoKL in different years	106

33	The multi-layer network data analysis process	108
34	The Kuala Lumpur street network and the point and line density maps	113
35	The node degree distribution of KL streets and the geographical distribute	114
36	The closeness centrality distribution of KL streets before rail network added	115
37	The betweenness centrality distribution of KL streets before rail network added	115
38	The relationship between N and M of worldwide cities	119
39	The complexity β , connectivity τ and average degree $\langle k \rangle$	120
40	The betweenness centrality of worldwide rail networks	121
41	The degree distributions of worldwide rail networks	121
42	The degree distribution of rail networks of worldwide cities	122
43	The Pearson coefficient r of these selected big cities	123
44	The network expansion ability of some selected cities	124
45	The relationship between N and M	127
46	The changing trends of complexity, connectivity, and availability of loops	128
47	Fit lines of network connectivity and complexity	128
48	Degree distributions follow a heavy-tailed distribution	130
49	The CPD of APL	131

50	Clustering Coefficient partition of PURTNoKL	132
51	The degree of centrality partition of the PURTNoKL	133
52	The CPD of closeness centrality of the PURTNoKL	134
53	The CPD of betweenness centrality of the PURTNoKL	134
54	The changing trend in APL when a single node is added to the network	135
55	The betweenness centrality performance of G_{2011}^m and G_{2017}^m	140
56	The Rcc of G_{2017}^m versus urban street network	141
57	The accessibility of Kuala Lumpur urban street networks	143
58	The change of multi-layer network accessibility performances	144
59	The changing trend of accessibility	145
60	The variation of network expansion ability	147
61	The detected communities, one part of the Greater Kuala Lumpur urban street network	149
62	The changing trend of network communities partition	150
63	The change of network community structures	151
64	The EG of the Kuala Lumpur since 1995 to 2017 by different network structures, say the MST, RNG, GG and real	153
65	The change trends of APL EG and Ψ when rail stations are added	156
66	When 100 nodes are added, the values of Ψ (a), APL (b) and E(G) (c) change dramatically as the value of Θ varies	158

67	The relation between different parameters	160
68	The relation between Θ and A_{node}	161
69	The relation between the coverage and r' (a), and the change trend of coverage by a number of rail stations added (b)	162
70	The relation between the Gini, Θ and Λ	163
71	The network change process when new node added in	167
72	The changing trend of APL with different network growth strategies	169
73	The changing trend of D with different network growth strategies	170
74	The shortest path lengths of PURTNoKL G_{2017}	171
75	The changing trend of APL with different network growth strategies of the multi-layer network	173
76	The changing trend of D with different network growth strategies of the multi-layer network	174
77	The proposed broad corridors and potential rail lines of URDP	175
78	The proposed potential rail stations to minimise the APL (a) and D (b)	176
79	Network edges fraction change with the largest degree-based attack	177
80	The edge fraction changes with different attack strategies of G_{2017}	179
81	The edge fraction changes with different attack strategies of the single-layer network	179
82	The edge fraction changes with different attack strategies of some big cities	180

83	The edge fraction changes with different attack strategies of the multi-layer network	181
84	The coupling matrix of multi-layer networks	182
85	The edge fraction changes with different attack strategies of coupled multi-layer networks (different layers have the same number of nodes)	183
86	The edge fraction changes with different attack strategies of coupled multi-layer networks (different layers have different number of nodes)	184
87	The network structure change of a network with the variation of λ from 0.01 to 0.99	187
88	The node degree vs the degree distribution with different λ	188
89	The changing trends of network APL with different λ	189
90	The network performances when the total volume of traffic flows is increasing	190
91	Randomly coupled multi-layer networks performances when the total volume of traffic flows is increasing	193
92	Completely coupled multi-layer networks performances when the total volume of traffic flows is increasing	194
93	Randomly coupled multi-layer networks (with different nodes number) performances when the total volume of traffic flows is increasing	196
94	Completely coupled multi-layer networks (with different nodes number) performances when the total volume of traffic flows is increasing	198
95	The multi-layer network growth process without (a) and with (b) optimisation	201

96	The framework of CNIMUGOM	204
97	The initial distribution of population, employment, and the travel speeds	215
98	The optimisation of population distribution and travel times on the streets	217
99	The total time cost of different simulation scenarios decrease sharply	218
100	The growth of multi-layer network and redistribution of population and traffic flow	220
101	The change trends of APL of different simulation scenarios	221
102	The change trends of D of different simulation scenarios	221
103	The change trends of network efficiency of different simulation scenarios	222
104	The change trends of traffic flow of different simulation scenarios	222

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MMST	Minimal Spanning Tree
RNG	Relative Neighbour Graph
GG	Gabriel Graph
OSM	Open Street Map
VGI	Volunteered Geographic Information
LRT	The light rail transport
PURTN _o KL	Public Urban Rail Transit Networks of Kuala Lumpur
CNIMUGOM	The complex network based integrated multi-layer urban growth and optimisation Model
URDP	The urban rail development plan
UE	User Equilibrium
SUE	Stochastic User Equilibrium
FW	Frank-Wolfe algorithm

NOTATIONS OF TERMS

G	The network
V	The set of nodes
N	The total number of nodes (network size)
N^L	The network size of lower-layer network
N^U	The network size of upper -layer network
E	The set of edges
M	The total number of edges
W	The weight of each edge
C	The network community
k_i	The degree of node i
A_{ij}	The adjacency matrix
adj^{multi}	The adjacency matrix of multi-layer network
M_{loops}	The number of loops
a_{loops}	The potential number of loops
τ	The potential number of edges (connectivity)
β	The ratio of edges versus vertices (complexity)
TD	The total degree
$\langle k \rangle$	The average degree
r	The Pearson coefficient (assortativity coefficient)
APL	The average path length
SPL	The shortest path length
$Cc(v_i)$	The clustering coefficient
$Cc(G)$	The global clustering coefficient
$DC(v_i)$	The degree centrality
$C_{closeness}$	The closeness centrality
$C_{betweenness}$	The betweenness centrality
γ	The degree exponent of scale-free network
$E(G)$	The network efficiency
IC	The information centrality

θ	The average passenger flow
η	The average edge length
π	The network extension
l	The average weight of nodes
n_{add}	The number of nodes added in
Θ	The average operation speed ratio
Λ	The cooperation strength
Ψ	The ratio of the total travel cost
Ψ'	The ratio between the sum of the SPL of the new and old network
<i>Coverage</i>	The urban street coverage
<i>Gini</i>	The Gini coefficient of betweenness centrality
S^L	The average speeds of the lower-layer
S^U	The average speeds of the upper-layer
$w_s \tau_s$	The travel cost of the lower-layer network's shortest weighted path
$w_r \tau_r$	The travel expenses of the shortest weighted path of the rail network
$w_c \tau_c$	The travel costs on the shortest weighted path of crossing links
w_s	The weights of the related links on street network
w_r	The weights of the related links on rail network
w_c	The weights of the related links of crossing links
U_{ij}, C_{ij}, L_{ij}	The total shortest weighted path distance of trips passing upper-layer links, crossing links and lower-layer links connecting zone i and j
Δ	The network expansion ability
Q	The network modularity
rp	The population growth rate
A	The accessibility
A_i or A_{node}	The accessibility of node i
r'	The radius of the rail station service area
R_{change}	The accessibility change rate
L	The total length of a network

C_{system}	The total travel cost of whole system
t_{coop}	The time cost determined by the cooperation strength
f_a	The ratio of the total number of links are added
E'	The total construction cost of the network
D_t	The total Euclidean distance between every vertex (d_{ij}^E)
L_{sg}	The length of the shortest geometrical path of every vertices (l_{ij}^S)
p	The connect probability of random graph
J	The congestion factor
E_i	The amount of the employment of traffic zone i
P_i	The amount of the population of traffic zone i
A_i^E	The change of accessibility of employment of node i
A_i^P	The change of accessibility of population of node i
O_i	The number of trip generation
D_i	The number of trip attraction
T_{ij}	The number of trips from node i to j
t_{ij}	The generalized travel cost from node i to j
l_a	The length of link a
v_a	The speed limit on link a
v_a^c	The congested speed
C_a	Link capacity
t_a	The travel time on the link a
f_a	The traffic flow on the link a
f_r	The traffic flow on the rail network
c_A	The travel cost when using street transit mode
c_R	The travel cost when using rail transit mode
t_A	The travel time when using street transit mode
t_R	The travel time when using rail transit mode
I_c	Income
N_t	The number of travelers

q_{ij}	The trips between i and j
x_a	The equilibrium traffic flows on link a
R_a	The collected revenue
p^k	The profit of iteration k
NS_i	The measurement of multi-layer network structure status
S_a	The overall spending
I^{k+1}	The general investment of iteration $k + 1$
ΔE	The increase in employment
ΔP	The increase in population



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, most of cities and urban areas pay progressively more attentions to the urban growth related issues. They widely and continually increase the investments in transport infrastructures, use those strategies such as building new streets, new lines, rebuild and broaden the old paths, build some overpasses or flyovers to improve traffic conditions and make the urban transport network more efficient. On the other hand, the urban population, car ownership, the streets lengths and land-use have increased dramatically. However, after decades of enhancement, the traffic situations have improved distinctly but still limited in terms of traffic network efficiency. To some extent the traffic network structure is still unreasonable, and the urban planning is lacking advanced traffic planning theory as their guidance. As stated by the relevant information (Lu, Liu *et al.*, 2012), in Beijing, commuters spend an average of two hours in commuting for every day. Traffic problems have brought a great inconvenience and damage to our work and life, also has restricted the sustainable development of urban form and national economy. At the beginning of the research of Texas Transportation Institute, Schrank and Lomax (2007) state that "Congestion caused urban Americans to travel 4.2 billion hours more and to purchase an extra 2.9 billion gallons of fuel for a congestion cost of \$78 billion... This was an increase of 220 million man-hours, 140 million gallons and \$5 billion from 2004" (p.1). Based on the World Bank's 2015 Malaysia's Economic Monitor report, it shows that "Jams in Greater Kuala Lumpur may be getting bigger; Commuters wasted between 270 and 500 million man-hours in the Greater KL jams last year. Cars used a possible 1.2 billion litres of fuel idling in traffic; Lost hours and fuel for each person in Greater KL came to at least RM3,100 each year, more than the monthly local average salary (RM2,795); and Total cost of traffic in Greater KL is estimated at 1.1% to 2.2% of GDP in 2014."

From another angle, more people are clustering closer together in the restricted large metropolitan areas. The United Nations predicts that the world's 3.2 billion urban population will increase to 5 billion in 2030. By 2030, there will be 60% even more of the world's population lives in urban areas (Lewis, 2007), as **Figure 1** shows the urban growth and rural population distribution. With the improvement of the social economy and the deeper process of urbanization, where the growth of population always company with the dramatic increase in traffic demand. The **Figure 2a** shows the

dramatic increasing trend of streets length, railways and highways length, and **Figure 2b** shows the changing trend of vehicle numbers in China since 1995 to 2015. For Malaysia, the average growth rate of the number of car was over 9% during the period of 1986-2003 (Hossain, 2006).



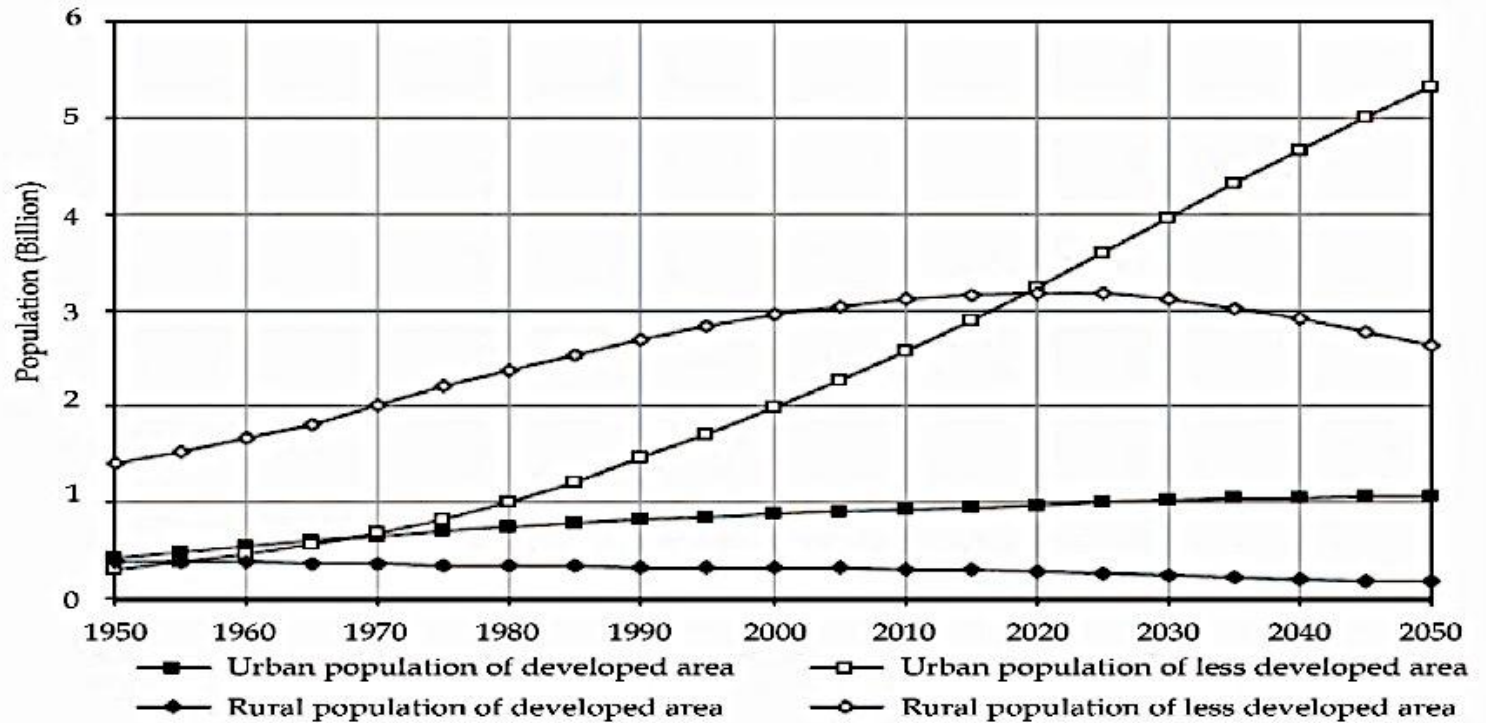


Figure 1: The urban and rural population distribution since 1950 to 2050.
 [Source: DESA, Economic *et al.* (2012)]

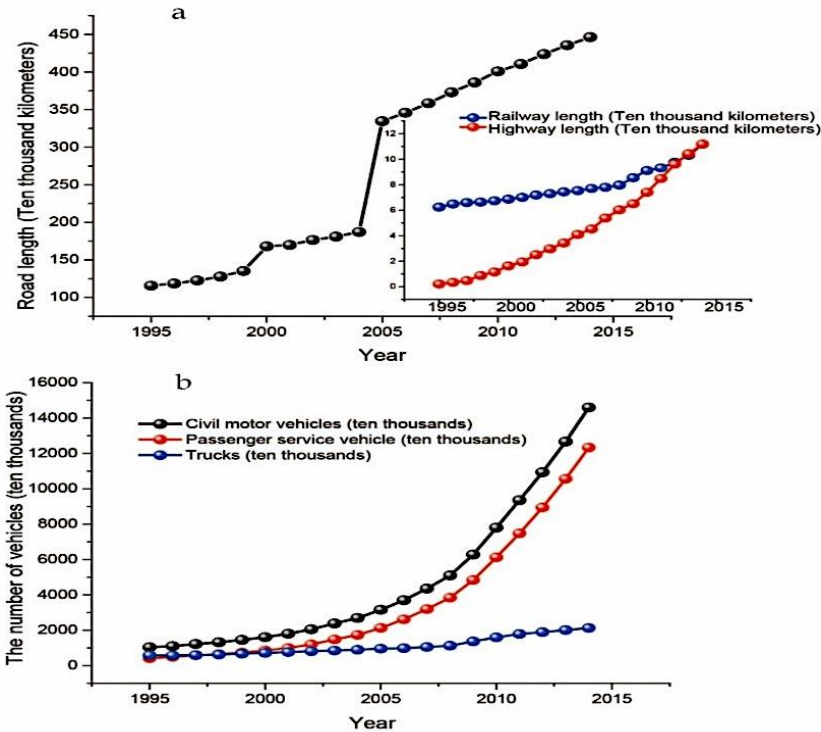


Figure 2: The changing trends of road length and vehicle numbers.

a. The changing trend of streets length, railways and highways of China since 1995 to 2015. b. The changing trend of vehicle numbers in China since 1995 to 2015. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics of China.

Hence the urban growth studies mainly focused on the next three parts: the urban traffic network growth, the urban land-use growth, and the urban population growth (Rui, 2013). Further focusing on their feed backs on each other, the co-evolution were studied (D. Levinson, F. Xie *et al.*, 2007; Raimbault, 2016; Schweitzer & Nanumyan, 2016; Wegener, 2004; Zhang, Xu *et al.*, 2009). The contradiction between the supply and demand is manifested in snowballing increase, and the traffic congestion problems become much serious, eventually result in urban traffic development bottlenecks.

The urban form, urban population, and the street networks have increased intensely, but these conditions and complications have not solved these problems fundamentally. For example the distribution of transportation resources and land-use of most cities are not reasonably enough, can hardly

be fully and more efficiently utilised (Magnanti & Wong, 1984; McFadden, 1978); normally the traffic flows are concentrated by a few arterial streets in an areas (Lammer, Gehlsen *et al.*, 2006); this cause the impacts of traffic congestion, traffic delay and roundabout transport can be serious (Noland & Quddus, 2005; Retting, Luttrell *et al.*, 2002; Yang, Li *et al.*, 2004); the function, connections, and hierarchies of urban street networks also not that clear (Marshall, 2004). From **Figure 3**, it shows that both cities have some unreasonable parts in urban traffic network and land-use distribution, which triggered this kind of one-sided traffic congestion in a normal day, and make the urban life less efficient. Also, this situation can be seen easily in many other cities. For example in Beijing, central urban functions of excessive accumulation and intensive land development lead to a large concentration of population and employment. With highly concentrated transportation, the 3rd ring road centralizes approximately 50% of the total amount of traffic flow (Yang, Shao *et al.*, 2006). In the meantime, owing to the fact that downtown traffic infrastructure construction of surrounding areas and satellite cities lag behind the urban development, it was problematic to meet the needs of urban spatial structure and function layout of optimisation and adjustment. Moreover, it objectively worsens the circle of excessive development trends and accelerates the spread of chaotic extension. If the problems are not mitigated, it could be damage to the city livability and function efficiency, as the decrease of the future urban traffic network efficiency can increase the total travel costs and travel time.



Figure 3: Traffic jams in different places with the same performance - one-sided traffic congestion.

For the left image: England, Parramatta road, source from Www.abc.net (2016); For the right image: Malaysia, source from Ramanujam (April 2017).

The importance of urban traffic network studies to the urban economic and social development is self-evident, the development of traffic network perfectly provide a guarantee for the steady increase of the urban economy, and rational distribution of traffic network can effectively promote the movement of urban economic activities (Rodrigue, Comtois *et al.*, 2013). In urban planning specifically traffic planning process, normally following this basic process: traffic survey, background prediction, traffic forecasting, layout scheme design, and project evaluation. Moreover, the urban traffic network design is the most crucial point of layout scheme design (Liu, 2001), which fundamentally decide the basis of the future urban planning, economic development direction, and the operational efficiency. Finally, this function layout affects the urban form conspicuously.

According to the irreversibility of urban development and hard to change the land-use pattern, the research and prove of how the traffic network topology structure to affect urban traffic distribution earned much attention, can say very detailed (De Montis, Barthelemy *et al.*, 2007; Lammer, Gehlsen *et al.*, 2006; Wu, Gao *et al.*, 2006). Hence the designation and choose of networks layout need concern particularly, especially during the assessment of land-use distribution, traffic situation improvement, functional zoning, population distribution, and the construction process of new areas. Later, many studies have been conducted to examine the structure and function with respect to different forms of the traffic network, such as public transit network (Chen, Huang *et al.*, 2014), marine networks (Kaluza, Kolzsch *et al.*, 2010), railway networks (Latora & Marchiori, 2002), airport networks (Barrat, Barthelemy *et al.*, 2004), and street networks (Lammer, Gehlsen *et al.*, 2006). With the analysis of urban traffic networks, the urban growth process can be better discussed and then the potential parts of the future development can be figured out. With known of its structural characteristics, can provide relevant references to the urban planning, design, optimisation, the sustainable development and maintenance.

The complex network theory is a multidisciplinary research direction of complexity science, which has been widely exposed with a rapid surge of interest since Watts and Strogatz (1998b) and Barabasi and Albert (1999) described the collective dynamics of small-world networks, and the emergence of scaling in random scale-free networks. The small-world network is a kind of network structured with high clustering coefficient and small average shortest distance, while a scale-free network is a type of network in which the degree distribution of nodes obeys the power-law distribution. The complex networks theory has been widely used and made astonishing achievement in Empirical Science and Basic Science, being regarded as a paradigm representative of complexity system science. It

mainly concentrates on the following aspects: the empirical research of the networks characteristics; network hub nodes detection; dynamical changing and spreading processes; the seeking and detection of communities and groups; robustness and vulnerability; and multi-layer network method and applications.

The research of complex network provides a new method and novel insight into analyzing the complex urban traffic networks. The paradigms of the small-world and scale-free networks changed the stereotyped thinking of traffic networks. Before these two model were proposed, traffic networks were normally tackled as either regular networks or ER random networks (Erdos & Renyi, 1960), as inherited from the definitions of graph theory. Moreover, more and more scholars have recognized the importance of complex network science, including Masud, Ravindran *et al.* (2008), who treated this theory as an independent and key chapter in their book "Operations Research and Management Science Handbook". In urban studies, Neal (2012) described in "The Connected City: How Networks are Shaping the Modern Metropolis" the application of network science related indices in this specific direction. Additionally, Batty (2013) published his book "The New Science of Cities" concerning his vast experience in urban models and complexity research. These works made significant contributions to the art of the complex network research related to modern urban studies. Hence, the complex network theory has huge potential in the urban study.

1.2 Problem Statement

The propose of problem statement is based on three parts, from the urban growth, the traffic network design and the complex network theory point of view, in which the lack points of existing studies are shown. Here we discuss them respectively.

1.2.1 From the urban growth point of view

Ioannides and Rossi-Hansberg (2010) defined the urban growth is "the growth and decline of urban areas, as an economic phenomenon is inextricably linked with the process of urbanization" (p.264). An urban system is a complex system comprised of many subsystems (Bretagnolle, Daude *et al.*, 2006). Land-use, transportation and population are the most

important subsystems when considering the urban growth process, as they develop, prosper, and influence each other (Levinson, 2007).

To understand and measure the urban growth phenomena, linear, nonlinear and mathematical models which include more complex, dynamic, and intelligent elements were proposed in modelling approaches since the mid-1950s. Although scholars gradually realise the important relationships between land-use planning and transport planning in the urban growth process, unfortunately in practice, the connections between urban land-use and urban traffic network are separated and not clear enough (Li, Wu *et al.*, 2015; Waddell, 2011). This makes the transport planning important to strengthen the development trend of the past, such as satisfying the need of private automobile travel habits; or induce the urban land-use development to those regions without regional development plans; by contrast, in land-use planning process scholars normally ignore the influence of traffic infrastructure investment to the regional land-use (Parker, 2013; Wu & Li, 2010). For example in China, urban traffic and land-use stay in disconnect status, their co-evolution process is poorly considered and their inharmonious interactions are mainly embodied in the following aspects (Chen, Xia *et al.*, 2010; Hao & Zhang, 2014; Wu & Yeh, 1999; Yang, Shao *et al.*, 2006): discordance between the high density of urban land development and urban traffic system structure; unreasonable situation between the city traffic distribution and the process of urban expansion; disequilibrium between the large-scale construction of new districts and inefficient transportation facilities; disharmonious gap between the highly traffic demands of urban centre and the simple street facilities and stereotyped planning supply; dissonance between the advanced traffic facility supplies and the inefficient land utilization. While Kuala Lumpur has same problems as Hossain (2006) and DBKL (2004) have illustrated that “uneven distribution of utilities and facilities; and development has favoured new areas at the expense of upgrading older established residential areas”.

Hence, the real need of the connection of land-use and transport together based on the network structural analysis and the lack of quantitative analysis methods lead us to develop a more effective method to address this gap.

1.2.2 From the traffic network design point of view

Most of the cities still using old transit network design models and methods were basically generated during the quantitative revolution. In fact, the traffic data investigation, creation of relevant models, travel forecasts and

much more traffic planning process are based on the quantitative scientific methods, which make the results reliable. However, the using of the traditional transportation planning theories in many countries, are lacking the sense of quantitative studies of network structures at the key process of planning, and just put forward some qualitative principles to guide the design (Wu & Li, 2010). Traditional urban traffic network planning partly focused on the integration of urban transport and land-use system, such as location theory proposed by Isard (1956), which originally shown the fundamental understanding of geographical systems of human is that networks consist of interrelating nodes and interactions between geographical locations (Andersson, Frenken *et al.*, 2006), but the importance of network still not exposed enough. With the improvement of urban form and transportation network due to the influence of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) (Boarnet & Compin, 1999; Cervero, 2004; Cervero & Day, 2008; Cervero, Ferrell *et al.*, 2002; Dittmar & Ohland, 2012; Messenger & Ewing, 1996) and Smart City concepts (Bowerman, Braverman *et al.*, 2000; Hollands, 2008; Nam & Pardo, 2011; Neirotti, De Marco *et al.*, 2014), more researchers realised the importance of network structures (Crucitti, Latora *et al.*, 2006a, 2006b; Latora & Marchiori, 2002; Porta, Strano *et al.*, 2009), but still lack structural analysis methods to analyse the dynamics and structure changing trends of urban traffic networks.

The study of the urban traffic network structure is good for us to understand the important role of the traffic network played in urban complex systems; analyse the basic properties of the current urban transportation network can guide, promote and optimise the urban design process. While the design of urban traffic network in Kuala Lumpur is related poor which have caused traffic congestion and bottleneck in some area like Sungai Besi, Jalan Tun Razak, MRR2 and Jalan Kuching (Thestar.com, 2018). The network optimization is widely studied by many researchers (Bertsekas, 1998; Li, Liu *et al.*, 2011), as Li, Wang *et al.* (2017) said "...It can reasonably adjust the relationship between traffic demand and traffic supply so as to make better use of road resources...Further the traffic flow can be smooth and safety. The traffic congestion can be reduced to a certain degree."(p.1).

Regarding traffic network design and its optimisation, the study need quantitative methods to illustrate their network characteristics, and much further, to figure out their inner relationships and mechanisms for the base of future growth trends, optimisation and co-evolution process (Achibet, Balev *et al.*, 2014; Wu, Li *et al.*, 2017).

1.2.3 From the complex network theory point of view

The complex network theory is within the context of network theory with the widely study of real-world networks since the paper "Collective dynamics of 'small-world' networks" of Watts and Strogatz (1998b) and the paper "Emergence of scaling in random networks" of Barabasi and Albert (1999) were published. It defined as Papo, Buldu *et al.* (2014) stated "a subfield of statistical physics for structurally disordered, dynamically heterogeneous systems with non-trivial topology" (p.2). From the Cambridge Dictionary, the definition of "network" is "A large system consisting of many similar parts that are connected together to allow movement or communication between or along the parts, or between the parts and a control centre." Further Newman (2010) defined "a network is, in its simplest form, a collection of points joined together in pairs by lines" while "Many objects of interest in the physical, biological, and social sciences can be thought of as networks..." (p.1). Further Aparicio, Ribeiro *et al.* (2015) defined the complex networks as "If a network has topological features that are not expected to occur in neither purely random nor purely regular graphs it is considered to be a complex network" (p.1). The basic elements of a complex network system are multiple nodes and edges. The research about traffic intersections, lines is the basis of studying the urban traffic networks, its function is not only the simple superposition of these subsystems, but the relationships between them.

With many traffic network related researches (Crucitti, Latora *et al.*, 2006a; Latora & Marchiori, 2003; Porta, Crucitti *et al.*, 2006a, 2006b, 2008; Porta & Latora, 2007; Porta, Latora *et al.*, 2012; Porta, Strano *et al.*, 2009), the advantages and disadvantages of the complex network theory are shown very clearly. As a favorable practice to help urban and transportation planners, the utilizations of the complex network theory are mainly focused on the following: By using the definitions of complex network theory, the complex connections of street networks can be easily represented as directed or undirected graph, their weights of nodes and edges can also be effortlessly represented, and some new statistical characteristics could be uncovered. Secondly, the change trends of the street network can be shown by the research of complex networks, the characteristics of network evolution process can be demonstrated clearly and comprehensively. Thirdly, by the definitions of the urban street network and public rail network characteristics, the real complex systems macro and microscopes properties which have not been fully discovered can be explored. The next is that the dynamics characteristics can be measured, such as the spreading of traffic jams and the robustness of networks. Fifth, it can be used to predict and optimise the street network. The disadvantages of the complex network theory are with different representation methods, the performances and

discussions of the same network are different, and some indicators are not suitable with the aspect of urban traffic network. Moreover, the analysis of network structure are hard to connect with real situations, it need extra abilities to explain the results.

Although these traffic network related researches are important and necessary, the rail network and street network integrated researches are less considered with the lack of quantitative research methods as the layered analysis approach is proposed to urban studies very recently (Strano, Shai *et al.*, 2015b). As Kuala Lumpur have similar problems as DBKL (2004) have shown in the master plan that “the primary objective of achieving a significant modal shift from private to public transportation has not been achieved mainly because of the lack of integration between the various modes of public transportation and between land use planning and the rail-based public transport network” (p. 157) and “low public transport modal share resulting in high demand on road infrastructure and traffic congestion” (p.385), which shown the close relationships between the rail network and road network were less considered. Especially researchers short of studies on the influence of multi-layer networks (Aleta, Meloni *et al.*, 2016; Boccaletti, Bianconi *et al.*, 2014; Ducruet, 2017), which illustrate and represent different appropriate urban traffic modes and their relationships in different layers, with the development of rail and road networks is inseparable in urban growth process.

1.3 The Research Gaps

Therefore, this study was triggered by these recent thinkings of urban traffic network design and the advantages and disadvantages of the complex network theory. This is because with the study of the traffic network structures, understand the performances of these networks and optimise them based on different purposes can increase the efficiency of urban transportation network.

The research gaps of this study can be obtained. From the urban growth models point of view, these researches lack the consideration of traffic network and land-use integrated models. From the traffic network design point of view, the study need to understand the network structure characteristics, to illustrate the inner relationships between urban land-use and urban traffic network, to figure out their changing trends and co-evolution process. From the complex network theory point of view, these researches short of considering the integrated research of the rail network

and street network, the influence of multi-layer networks. Hence, the research gaps clearly as shown in **Figure 4**:

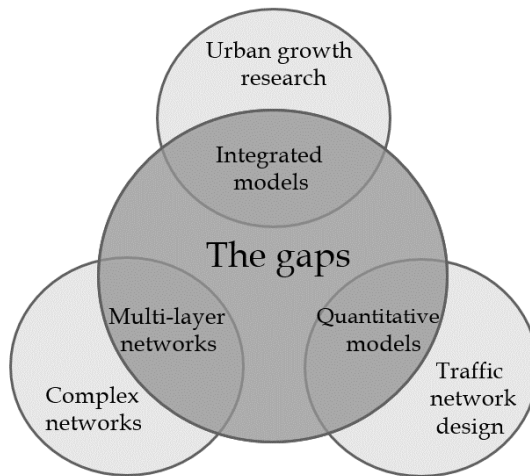


Figure 4: The research gaps.

1.4 Research Questions

To fulfill those research gaps proposed above, with the advantages of complex network theory, the aim of this research is to develop an integrated and optimisation model of complex network for a more efficient urban traffic network. Hence, this study aims to answer the following questions:

- RQ1: How to capture the urban traffic network's characteristics, properties and their growth trends based on the complex network theory?
- RQ2: How to determine the co-evolution relationships between urban traffic network and urban land-use?
- RQ3: How to optimise the urban traffic network structure based on the urban growth process?

- RQ4: How to improve the efficiency of urban traffic network with the aspect of complex network theory?

1.5 Research Aim and Objectives

The main objective of this study is to analyse the single-layer and multi-layer network urban traffic network structure characteristics and growth process from different aspects, to optimise the urban traffic network structures. To answer these research questions, the research objectives are proposed respectively:

- RO1: To capture traffic network's characteristics, properties and the growth trends.
- RO2: To analyse the multi-layer network and land-use (accessibility) based co-evolution process.
- RO3: To determine the local or global best traffic network structures based on the network growth process by comparing different optimisation and simulation scenarios.
- RO4: To explain the co-evolution process of the land-use, urban traffic network and population, and obtain a much efficient network, the complex network based integrated multi-layer urban growth and optimisation model (CNIMUGOM) is proposed.

1.6 Research Scopes and Limitations

This study is based on the urban traffic networks, which is only focusing on the intra-city rail and street networks from the view of network structure, other types of networks are not considered here. Here this study only consider the network structure topological and geographical characteristics, other indicators of traffic system like parking area, road space, car ownership and buffer space are not considered. Based on our case study, the rail network includes the light rail transport (LRT) system, monorail system, commuter rail system and Airport rail link system. In this study the node and vertex, and link and edge are respectively synonymous in this context.

This research tested the rail network and street network data of Kuala Lumpur, but the data of network growth and network optimisation process are based on models and simulations. For the simulation of the co-evolution of networks, limited by the computation time, this study suppose that a square urban area has an initial number of nodes, with an initial population and an increasing rate per iteration (include migration), this kind of simulation were used in many recent researches. The analysis of urban land-use is mainly based on the analysis of accessibility, the patterns and the price are not considered. This study consider the traffic network structure and the accessibility together in the land-use model, however, the related policies are not included, which may have a huge influence on the population distribution. This study also does not consider the effect of population movements on multi-layer networks with GPS data and another big datasets, which can make the communities partition different. However, with certain simplifications, the main change trends can be figured out very efficiently with affordable calculations.

This research also has some obvious limitations, as it does not consider the hierarchy of streets, which might make the results of accessibility change trends different. Although it used a co-evolution relationship to discuss the relationship between multi-layer networks, but this relationship is highly simplified, which might hardly describe the real relationships between rail networks and street networks. Although the simulation of the multi-layer network may include every situation of worldwide cities, this study still need more data to apply the heuristic method to real projects, and further the network optimisation.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study provides a unique sight to discover and analyse the urban rail and street traffic multi-layer networks growth process based on the complex network theory. With the analysis of traffic network growth process, it is more clear of the urban growth process and can make related optimisation and prediction. As the existing research limited analysed the great function of multi-layer traffic networks, and this research fill the gaps. This study is novel in the field of urban planning and transport planning, as the connections between Physics and Urban Studies can be partly discovered, and it is helpful for the improvement of traffic network accessibility. This study do support the application of TOD and Smart city concepts from the aspect of traffic network structures, which was partly ignored in previous studies.

This study contribute to the current literature of complex network theory by gaining additional insights into these modelling applications. The relationships between traffic multi-layer networks and land-uses, and their co-evolution process are also discussed. This study also affords valuable information and contribution on the improvement and development of current integrated modelling approaches, it combined the accessibility and traffic network growth together.

1.8 Study Organisation

Based on the objectives and research questions, this study is organised as:

In Chapter 1, this study introduced the backgrounds of this research and its importance of further this research direction. Focused on those research problems, these research questions, research objectives, research significance of this study are offered, and illustrated the organisation of this study.

In Chapter 2, a review of the existing literature that their basic concepts, the applications of complex network theory to urban traffic network design are given, further, it reviewed the urban growth theory, the land-use and transportation integrated models and traffic network design models.

In Chapter 3, this study offered the preparation of relevant data and related research methods, such as the network representation methods, their indicators used both in single-layer network and multi-layer network, and some typical analysis process.

In Chapter 4, this study first examined the street networks and rail networks, some basic network properties are given. From the discussion of the worldwide public urban rail transit networks, with the understanding of their performances and properties, strong guidance can be given to our study. The example of the Public Urban Rail Transit Networks of Kuala Lumpur (PURTNokL) can clearly show the network growth process and the change trends of the complexity of a single-layer network.

Then multi-layer network co-evolution approach for urban traffic network design is proposed. The network structure complexity of evolving multi-layer network is obtained, the impacts of multi-layer network growth to the

change of street network accessibility, to the network expansion ability, and to the evolution of detected network communities are discussed. A multi-layer network based co-evolution and optimisation model is given, which shown the co-evolution approach, with considering different land-use scenarios. The importance of the operation speeds and the cooperation strength are discussed.

After that, the optimisation methods are proposed based on the maximisation of network performance. Some network growth and network robustness based optimisation methods are given. Further, with consider these multi-objectives such as construction costs, transportation costs, traffic flow and congestion, the better multi-layer network structures are suggested for different aims.

The propose of CNMUGOM make us clearly understand the structural relations and co-evolution properties of traffic network and urban land-use. From the traffic network and urban land-use co-evolution process, this research provided a new vision to design and optimise the urban traffic networks.

Chapter 5 is the conclusion and future outlooks of the application of complex network theory in urban studies.

These chapters mainly based on these already published, accepted and submitted papers:

1. **Ding, R.**, Ujang, N., Bin Hamid, H., & Wu, J. (2015). Complex Network Theory Applied to the Growth of Kuala Lumpur's Public Urban Rail Transit Network. *PLoS One*, 10(10), e0139961. (**SCI, IF= 3.057**)

2. **Ding, R.**, Ujang, N., Bin Hamid, H., Mohd Shahrudin Abd, M., Li, R., Safwan Subhi Mousa, A., . . . Wu, J. (2018). Application of Complex Networks Theory in Urban Traffic Network Researches. (Under review).

3. **Ding, R.**, Ujang, N., bin Hamid, H., Manan, M. S. A., Li, R., & Wu, J. (2017). Heuristic urban transportation network design method, a multilayer coevolution approach. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications*, 479, 71-83. (**SCI, IF= 2.243**)

4. **Ding, R.**, Ujang, N., bin Hamid, H., Manan, M. S. A., Li, R., & Wu, J. (2017). The complex network theory based urban land-use and transport interaction (LUTI) studies, review and research perspectives. (Under review).

5. **Ding, R.**, Ujang, N., bin Hamid, H., Manan, M. S. A., He, Y., Li, R., & Wu, J. (2018). Detecting the urban traffic network structure dynamics through the growth and analysis of multi-layer networks. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications*, 503, 800-817. (SCI, IF= 2.243)

6. **Ding, R.**, Ujang, N., bin Hamid, H., Manan, M. S. A., He, Y., Li, R., & Wu, J. (2018). A simple and effective computational technique for detecting the urban traffic network structure dynamics through the growth and analysis of multi-layer networks. (Under review).

1.9 Summary

This chapter highlights the background of this study, underlines its problem statement and provides its research gaps, research questions, as well as its research aims and objectives. This chapter also includes the research scopes, significance and the structure of this study.

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