Dynamical efficiency in congested road network

Leonardo Bellocchi and Nikolas Geroliminis
1 Urban Transport Systems Laboratory, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
(Contact: leonardo.bellocchi@epfl.ch/nikolas.geroliminis@epfl.ch)

MOTIVATION

This paper proposes a definition for describing and monitoring traffic condition in an urban road network. It was inspired by the classical efficiency in spatial network but with a dependence on time. Collecting data from various sources, like GPS signals, loop detectors, camera on the street, etc. has become more common for traffic engineering and management. New and peculiar results and properties have been pointed out in this paper, in particular, by looking at the dynamical version of the efficiency and the change in betweenness centrality considering evolving speed profile.

BACKGROUND

CLASSICAL MEASURES IN URBAN ROAD NETWORKS

Different measures of centrality in spatial networks appear in the literature (see for example Crucitti et al, 2006):

\[ C^f_i = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{d_{ij}}{d_{ij}^{max}} \quad \text{Stranghtness Centrality} \]

\[ E = \frac{1}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{d_{ij}}{d_{ij}^{max}} \quad \text{Efficiency} \]

\[ C^t_i = \frac{\Delta E_i}{E} = \frac{E(G) - E(G')}{E} \quad \text{Information centrality} \]

\[ C^b_i = \frac{1}{(N-1)(N-2)} \sum_{j \neq i \neq k} \frac{d_{ij}d_{ik}d_{jk}}{d_{ij}^{max}d_{ik}^{max}d_{jk}^{max}} \quad \text{Betweenness Centrality} \]

- All these measures come from the computation of the all shortest path algorithm among all pairs of nodes in a spatial network;
- They do not depend on time;
- Information centrality \( C^t_i \) compute the loss in efficiency in a network without link \( i \), that is percolation but not degradation.

APPLICATIONS

APPLICATIONS IN TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

- Monitoring the traffic condition with a measure of potential efficiency and connection easiness;
- Classification of roads according to how convenient it is in relation of its neighborhood traffic condition;
- Thanks to its spatial smoothed values individualize clusters and connected congested components;
- Possibility to apply dynamical perimeter control strategies;
- Design better usage of roads, analyzing changes in betweenness centrality;
- D-Efficiency does not need perfect and complete data (often the case with traffic data and sensors).

METHODS

D-EFFICIENCY: CONGESTION PROPAGATION EFFECT

Thanks to speed data uploaded every 5 minutes we can compute the efficiency based on the ratio between shortest time path and shortest path at maximum speed (in free flow condition). In this way we compute the local dynamical efficiency (corresponding to the straightness centrality) and the global dynamical efficiency of the urban network \( G \). In formula:

Local dynamical efficiency:
- How easy is to reach and/or to depart from node \( i \) from all the other nodes in the network.

\[ DE_i(t) = \frac{1}{(N-1)} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{d_{ij}}{d_{ij}^{max}} \]

Global dynamical efficiency:
- How the connectivity condition of the network \( G \) is due to congestion severity and distribution.

\[ DE(G) = \frac{1}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{d_{ij}}{d_{ij}^{max}} \]

The D-Efficiency measures the reachability of each link, not as before in literature the average property of straightness;

- It needs to run an all shortest path algorithm for each time step (in the application here \( \Delta t = 5 \) min);

- The average among all shortest paths allows to have also incomplete link speed data without losing the significance of the D-Efficiency.

HEURISTICS

MAX-RADIUS AND OD-BASED APPROACH

In order to both reduce computational cost and measure the efficiency based on the users’ usage, the following heuristics have been taken into account:

- Shortest paths only between close nodes
- D-Efficiency weighted with OD information

RESULTS IN LARGE SCALE NETWORK

Dataset: GPS signals with a frequency of 1 per minute of more than 20k taxis spread in all the urban network.

Note: Map Matching Algorithm to estimate average link speeds every 5 minutes.

Where: Downtown Shenzhen, China

When: Tuesday 07.09.2011 (5-24h)

6:20 AM
6:40 AM
7 AM
7:20 AM
7:40 AM
8 AM

Dynamical efficiency

Data: GPS signals with a frequency of 1 per minute of more than 20k taxis spread in all the urban network.

Note: Map Matching Algorithm to estimate average link speeds every 5 minutes.

Where: Downtown Shenzhen, China.

When: Tuesday 07.09.2011 (5-24h)