

ELEVATOR TRAFFIC FLOW PREDICTION USING ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

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ABSTRACT

Elevator traffic flow prediction is essential part of the modern elevator group control system to enable controller apply the best dispatching strategy based on predicted traffic flow data to achieve optimum operation with the aim to reduce average waiting time of passenger for arrival of elevator to serve them. Generally, elevator traffic flow has high complexity and passenger flow possesses nonlinear feature which is difficult to be expressed by a certain functional style. In this thesis, artificial intelligent technique radial basis function neural network (RBF NN) is used to develop elevator traffic flow prediction model. RBF NN is selected because it is suitable to model nonlinear system and can be trained using fast 2 stages training algorithm assures fast convergence. The past interval traffic flow data and traffic flow data at same time on previous days are used to train RBF NN so that it could predict traffic flow ahead. Neural network toolbox that incorporates `newrbe` and `newrb` functions in matlab software is employed to develop algorithm and program of RBF NN. Optimum spread constant that will yield minimum mean square error is obtained and become input to the RBF NN. Ten cases with different k and p are studied to evaluate performance of RBF NN. Given training data collected from field, RBF NN is able to predict elevator up peak traffic flow occur at 8:15 a.m. (in 5 minutes interval) which is short term traffic fairly accurate. Mean square errors from simulation results are small and some of them could be neglected. The maximum mean square error is 2.82 for case that use past 3 interval data on 4th day and past 3 days (1st, 2nd and 3rd day) data to predict traffic flow on 5th day executed by using `newrb` function. It is concluded that RBF NN is an effective artificial intelligent technique to build elevator traffic flow prediction model.

ABSTRAK

Ramalan aliran trafik lif adalah bahagian penting dalam sistem kawalan lif kumpulan moden supaya pengawal melaksanakan strategi pengangkutan terbaik berdasarkan data ramalan aliran trafik untuk mencapai operasi optimum dengan tujuan mengurangkan masa tunggu min penumpang. Amnya, aliran trafik lif mempunyai kekompleksan yang tinggi dan aliran penumpang memiliki ciri taklinear yang sukar dinyatakan oleh corak fungsi tertentu. Dalam tesis ini, teknik kepintaran buatan *radial basis function neural network* (RBF NN) digunakan untuk membangunkan model ramalan aliran trafik lif. RBF NN dipilih sebab ia sesuai untuk membentuk sistem taklinear dan boleh dilatih dengan algoritma perlatihan 2 peringkat cepat yang menjamin penumpuan cepat. Data aliran trafik selang masa lepas dan data aliran trafik pada masa yang sama pada hari-hari lepas digunakan untuk melatih RBF NN supaya ia dapat meramalkan aliran trafik akan datang. *Neural network toolbox* yang mengandungi fungsi *newrbe* dan *newrb* dalam perisian matlab digunakan untuk membangunkan algoritma dan aturcara RBF NN. Pemalar menyebar optimum yang menghasilkan ralat kuasa dua min (minimum diperolehi dan dijadikan input kepada RBF NN. Sepuluh kes telah dikaji untuk menilai pencapaian RBF NN. Dengan membekalkan data latihan yang dikumpul dari tempat kajian, RBF NN mampu meramalkan aliran trafik puncak atas yang berlaku pada 8:15 a.m. (dalam selang masa 5 minit) iaitu trafik jangka masa pendek dengan agak tepat. Ralat kuasa dua min dari keputusan-keputusan simulasi adalah kecil dan sebahagiannya boleh diabaikan. Ralat kuasa dua min maksimum ialah 2.82 untuk kes yang menggunakan 3 data lepas pada hari keempat and data 3 hari lepas (hari pertama, kedua dan ketiga) untuk meramalkan aliran trafik pada hari kelima dilaksanakan dengan fungsi *newrb*. Ianya dirumuskan bahawa RBF NN ialah teknik kepintaran buatan yang berkesan untuk membina model ramalan aliran trafik lif.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	ii
	ACKNOWLEDGEMANT	iii
	ABSTRACT	iv
	ABSTRAK	v
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
	LIST OF TABLES	viii
	LIST OF FIGURES	x
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Introduction	1
	1.2 Objective of Project	3
	1.3 Scopes of Work and Research Methodology	4
	1.4 Thesis Outline	5
2	ELEVATOR TRAFFIC FLOW AND CONTROL	7
	2.1 Elevator Traffic Flow	7
	2.2 Intelligent Elevator Group Control System	13
	2.3 Summary	22
3	LITERATURE REVIEW	23
	3.1 Radial Basis Function Neural Network (RBF NN)	23
	3.2 Elevator Traffic Flow Prediction	26
	3.3 Summary	38

4	METHODOLOGY	39
4.1	Introduction	39
4.2	Problem Statement	39
4.3	Elevator Traffic Flow Data Collection at Field	41
4.4	RBF NN Elevator Traffic Prediction Model Design	47
4.5	Software Implementation and Simulation	50
4.5.1	Simulation to Obtain Optimum Spread Constant	52
4.5.2	Simulation of Network Performance and Goal for Newrb Function	84
5	SIMULATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	91
5.1	Introduction	91
5.2	Discussion of Results for All Cases	102
5.2.1	Discussion of Simulation Result for Case 1	102
5.2.2	Discussion of Simulation Result for Case 2	103
5.2.3	Discussion of Simulation Result for Case 3	105
5.2.4	Discussion of Simulation Results for Case 4, 5 and 6	106
5.2.5	Discussion of Simulation Results for Case 7	110
5.2.6	Discussion of Simulation Results for Case 8	111
5.2.7	Discussion of Simulation Results for Case 9	113
5.2.8	Discussion of Simulation Results for Case 10	114
5.3	Summary	116
6	CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS	117
6.1	Conclusion	117
6.2	Future Development	118
	REFERENCES	119
	APPENDIX	124

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
2.1	Recommended average waiting time in seconds	12
2.2	Recommended 5 Minutes Capacity Handling Ratio (%)	13
2.3	Rules to determine the traffic type	17
2.4	Fuzzy rules to determine traffic pattern	18
2.5	Comparison of performance during four traffic patterns	22
3.1	Comparison of prediction results of five different prediction models	37
4.1	Elevator traffic flow data	43
4.2	Input data and traffic flow to be predicted	49
4.3	Mean square for case 1	64
4.4	Mean square for case 2	66
4.5	Mean square for case 3	68
4.6	Mean square for case 4	70
4.7	Mean square for case 5	72
4.8	Mean square for case 6	74
4.9	Mean square for case 7	76
4.10	Mean square for case 8	78
4.11	Mean square for case 9	80
4.12	Mean square for case 10	82
4.13	Summary of mean square error and optimum spread	84
5.1	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 1)	102
5.2	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 2)	104

5.3	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 3)	105
5.4	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 4)	107
5.5	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 5)	108
5.6	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 6)	109
5.7	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 7)	110
5.8	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 8)	112
5.9	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 9)	113
5.10	Comparison of RBF NN output for newrb and newrbe and real data (Case 10)	115

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Block diagram of AI-2200C elevator group control system	2
1.2	Block diagram of multi-agent coordination based elevator group control scheduling	3
2.1	Typical elevator traffic pattern for a weekday	8
2.2	Example of typical elevator traffic pattern for a weekday	8
2.3	Incoming, outgoing and inter-floor traffic flow in building	9
2.4	Up peak traffic profile	10
2.5	Up peak traffic profile occurs twice	10
2.6	Down peak traffic profile	11
2.7	Block diagram of performance tuning EJ-1000FN control system	14
2.8	TMS9000 group control system block diagram	15
2.9	Membership function for incoming, outgoing and inter-floor components	16
2.10	Membership function for incoming traffic intensity	16
2.11	Structure of the fuzzy elevator group control system	19
2.12	Overview of proposed elevator group control system	20
2.13	Block diagram of traffic predictor	21
3.1	Architecture of RBF NN	24
3.2	Number of passengers arriving main terminal on a working	27
3.3	Number of passengers leaving main terminal on a working day	28
3.4	Total number of passengers on a working day	28

3.5	The maximum proportion of inter-floor traffic flow on a working day	29
3.6	Second proportion of inter-floor traffic flow on a working real data (Case 1)	29
3.7	Architecture of WNN	30
3.8	Elevator incoming traffic prediction on a working day by ES	31
3.9	Elevator outgoing traffic prediction on a working day by ES	31
3.10	Total number of passengers prediction on a working day by and ES	32
3.11	Prediction of total number of passengers on a working day	33
3.12	Prediction of incoming traffic flow on a working day	34
3.13	Prediction of outgoing traffic flow on a working day	34
3.14	WSVM prediction model	36
3.15	Comparison of prediction result and real traffic flow data	37
4.1	Right shifting of up peak traffic flow	40
4.2	Up peak traffic flow pattern during holiday and when function is conducted in the building	40
4.3	Main entrance at BHL Tower, Penang	41
4.4	Side view of Menara BHL	42
4.5	Lift lobby at Menara BHL	42
4.6	Elevator traffic flow on Monday	44
4.7	Elevator traffic flow on Tuesday	44
4.8	Elevator traffic flow on Wednesday	45
4.9	Elevator traffic flow on Thursday	45
4.10	Elevator traffic flow on Friday	46
4.11	Elevator traffic flow from Monday to Friday	46
4.12	Flow chart to develop and fine tune the RBF NN based	47
4.13	RBF NN elevator traffic flow prediction model	48
4.14	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 1)	53
4.15	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 1)	54
4.16	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 2)	54
4.17	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 2)	55
4.18	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 3)	55

4.19	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 3)	56
4.20	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 4)	56
4.21	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 4)	57
4.22	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 5)	57
4.23	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 5)	58
4.24	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 6)	58
4.25	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 6)	59
4.26	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 7)	59
4.27	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 7)	60
4.28	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 8)	60
4.29	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 8)	61
4.30	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 9)	61
4.31	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 9)	62
4.32	Optimum spread constant for newrbe function (for case 10)	62
4.33	Optimum spread constant for newrb function (for case 10)	63
4.34	Training of network for newrb function (for case 1)	85
4.35	Training of network for newrb function (for case 2)	85
4.36	Training of network for newrb function (for case 3)	86
4.37	Training of network for newrb function (for case 4)	86
4.38	Training of network for newrb function (for case 5)	87
4.39	Training of network for newrb function (for case 6)	87
4.40	Training of network for newrb function (for case 7)	88
4.41	Training of network for newrb function (for case 8)	88
4.42	Training of network for newrb function (for case 9)	89
4.43	Training of network for newrb function (for case 10)	89
5.1	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 1)	92
5.2	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 1)	92
5.3	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 2)	93
5.4	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 2)	93
5.5	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 3)	94
5.6	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 3)	94
5.7	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 4)	95
5.8	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 4)	95
5.9	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 5)	96
5.10	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 5)	96

5.11	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 6)	97
5.12	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 6)	97
5.13	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 7)	98
5.14	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 7)	98
5.15	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 8)	99
5.16	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 8)	99
5.17	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 9)	100
5.18	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 9)	100
5.19	Simulation result for newrb function (for case 10)	101
5.20	Simulation result for newrbe function (for case 10)	101

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Elevators are installed in the buildings to satisfy the vertical transportation needs. It is stipulated in Building Bylaws that elevator(s) shall be installed in the building that contains four or more floors to facilitate traffic flow. Architect and building service engineer play the role in designing elevator system for new building. Elevator traffic flow is fundamental element in elevator group control system. Accurate elevator traffic flow prediction is crucial to the planning and dispatching strategy of elevator group control system. During the peak traffic period, performance of elevator group control system depends on prediction of traffic flow. For instance, Mitsubishi Electric Co. has successfully developed an intelligent elevator group control system AI-2200C which is recently available in market. It incorporates neural network based traffic flow prediction module as shown in Figure 1.1. The role of traffic prediction module is to precisely recognize current traffic flow in real time and predict traffic flow in the next several minutes based on both past and current operating data. The predicted traffic flow data is then feedback to rule-set selection module to simulate rule sets in group controller in order to achieve optimum dispatching of elevators to serve passengers.

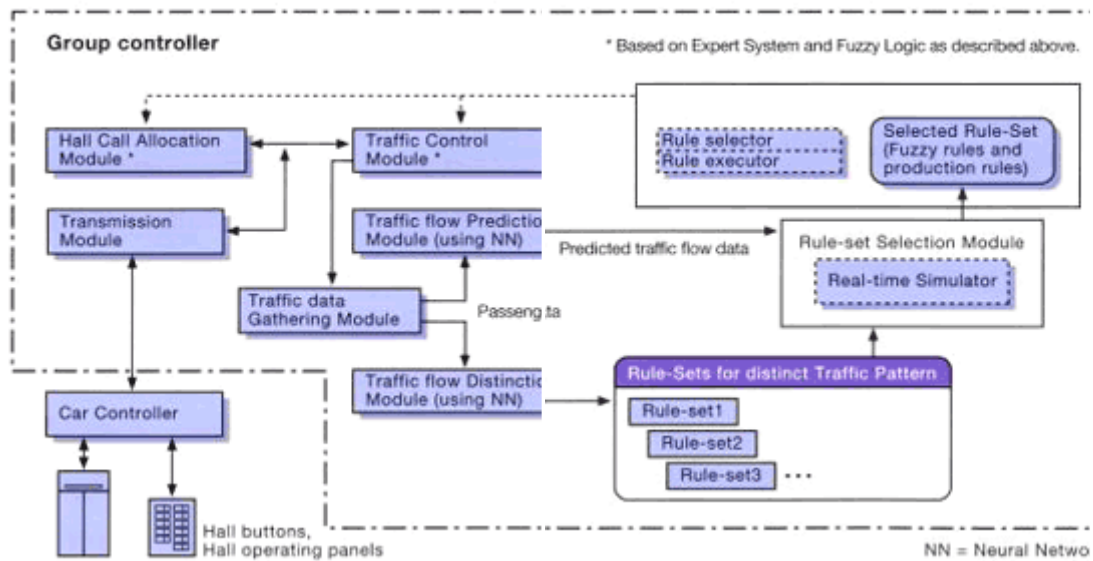


Figure 1.1 Block diagram of AI-2200C elevator group control system.

Hitachi Elevator Engineering Co. developed FI series artificial intelligence elevator group supervisory control systems to improve transportation efficiency in building. FI series control system incorporates traffic flow recognition module. The module could learn traffic flow pattern of individual building and stored in database. Control system will employ this data to forecast traffic flow and assign more lifts to serve floor with heavy traffic flow.

In recent research to design a elevator group control system based on multi-agent coordination approach (Zong *et al*, 2006a), traffic flow prediction function is also incorporated into coordination mechanism (core structure) so that the system could reduce the average waiting time of passengers at most of the traffic flow pattern. The block diagram of multi-agent coordination based elevator group control scheduling is illustrated in Figure 1.2. From the above examples, it could be concluded that traffic flow prediction module is the very important element in elevator group control system.

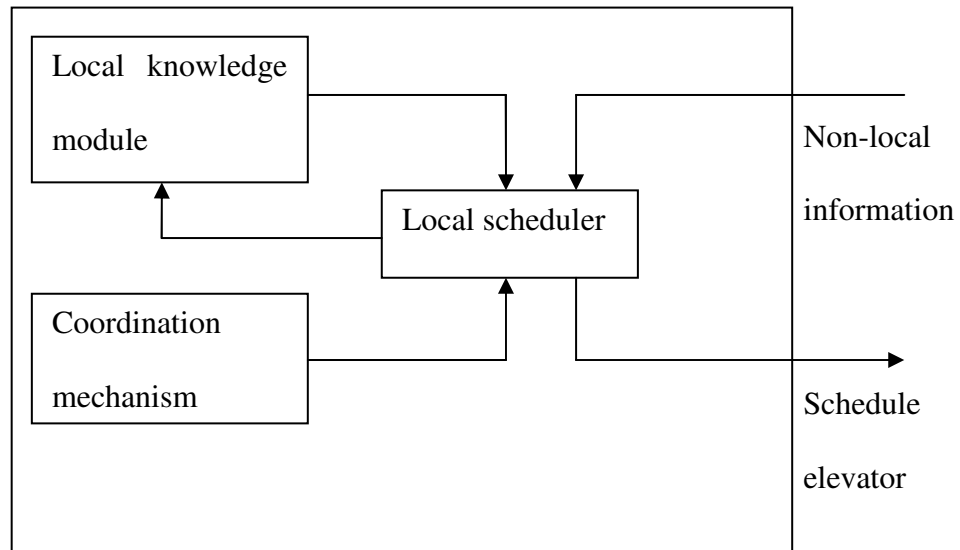


Figure 1.2 Block diagram of multi-agent coordination based elevator group control scheduling.

The elevator traffic flow fluctuates significantly in morning, lunch hour and evening. Generally, elevator traffic flow possesses non linear feature which is very difficult to be expressed by a certain functional style. Various methods have been employed as a fundamental to design elevator traffic flow prediction model. These methods include Morlet wavelet function, support vector machine, least squares support vector machine and wavelet support vector machine. Most of the articles related to elevator technology are published by researchers from China due to strong growth of elevator market as stated in 2006 annual report of Kone Corporation.

1.2 Objective of Project

Objective of this project is to develop an algorithm to predict short term up peak elevator traffic flow in building by using radial basis function neural network (RBF NN).

The radial basis function is one of the common architecture of artificial neural network. The RBF NN is chosen because it has been widely used for non-linear function approximation. A minimal RBF NN has been developed by Lu Y. *et al.* (1997) to identify time-varying non-linear system. Besides that, capability of RBF NN has also been further enhanced. The two stages training procedure adapted in numerous RBF NN applications usually yields satisfactory result (Husain, 2002).

Nowadays, there are only limited research and development works related to elevator technology being carried out in Malaysia. Tan Kok Khiang (Tan, 1997) and Kumeresan (Kumeresan and Khalid, 2005) from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia have developed elevator group control system based on ordinal structure fuzzy reasoning method which performs better than conventional elevator group control system with hall call assignment approach and it is believed that the system could be further enhanced if traffic flow prediction module is incorporated to form a complete intelligent elevator group control system.

1.3 Scopes of Work and Research Methodology

Scopes of work for this project are to study elevator traffic flow and develop RBF NN based algorithm by using matlab software to predict up peak traffic flow of elevator. A case study is carried out to evaluate performance of RBF NN elevator traffic flow prediction model. Traffic flow data is collected in one commercial building as training data and testing data. Up peak traffic flow pattern at morning will be studied and analyzed. Data is collected from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m (150 minutes) because it covers working hour starts at 8:00 a.m. to 9: 30 a.m. As sufficient data is needed to train the RBF NN, data is collected for five working days continuously. The overall scopes of work in sequence are listed as followings:

- To study fundamental of elevator traffic analysis.

- To acquire knowledge in radial basis function neural network (RBF NN) and further understand its application especially in traffic flow prediction.
- To review past researches related to elevator traffic flow prediction.
- To acquire skill of using matlab software.
- To develop RBF NN based algorithm by using matlab software to predict up peak traffic flow of elevator in office building.
- To collect data at field. The number of passengers that will use elevator in five minutes interval shall be recorded as it represents traffic flow.
- To train the developed algorithm by using collected data.
- To simulate the developed algorithm by using collected data and verify the simulated results by comparing with experimental result.

1.4 Thesis Outline

This thesis consists of 5 chapters. Chapter 1 gives a brief introduction of the project. The importance elevator traffic flow prediction module in modern elevator control system is discussed. Besides that, chapter 1 also covers objective and scope of project.

Chapter 2 discusses types of elevator traffic flow and intelligent elevator control system. Characteristics of incoming, inter-floor and outgoing traffic are reviewed. Various intelligent elevator group control systems (EGCS) are also being discussed to provide better understanding of application of artificial intelligent techniques in elevator engineering. From the researches and development quoted, fuzzy logic and neural network play important role in intelligent elevator group control system to provide quality service to elevator users.

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