THE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR INTELLIGENT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

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The purpose of the study is to develop, with the help of artificial intelligence, an innovative digital microcontroller network traffic light object capable of adaptively responding to traffic congestion and changing the time phases of enabling the green signal in interaction with neighboring traffic light objects.

The study uses a method of system analysis using computer simulation of existing analog and hybrid traffic light controllers. As a result of the study, an assessment of their effectiveness in the adaptive regulation of modern traffic flows in densely populated cities of the country is given. The results of simulation modeling in the AnyLogic PLE environment were used for calculations. The experimental data of complex entrance/exit road junctions of Almaty and Astana cities were taken as a basis, taking into account the time cyclograms of traffic flow characteristics of highways. An assessment was also given of the existing methods of regulating complex road transport hubs to streamline negative congestion in the center of Almaty and its expressways.

Keywords: digital technologies, information systems, artificial intelligence, machine vision, microcontroller, system analysis, simulation modeling.
Цель исследования состоит в разработке с помощью искусственного интеллекта инновационного цифрового микроконтроллерного сетевого светофорного объекта, способного адаптивно реагировать на загруженность перекрестка и менять временные фазы включения разрешающего зеленого сигнала во взаимодействии с соседними светофорными объектами.

В исследовании использован метод системного анализа с использованием компьютерного имитационного моделирования существующих аналоговых и гибридных светофорных контроллеров. В результате исследования дана оценка их эффективности в адаптивном регулировании современных транспортных потоков густонаселенных городов страны. Для проведения расчетов были использованы результаты имитационного моделирования в среде AnyLogic PLE. За основу были взяты экспериментальные данные сложных въездных/выездных автотранспортных узлов городов Алматы и Астаны с учетом временных циклограмм транспортных потоковых характеристик магистралей. Также была дана оценка существующих методов регулирования сложных автотранспортных узлов для упорядочения негативных заторных явлений в центре города Алматы и его скоростных магистралях.

**Ключевые слова:** цифровые технологии, информационные системы, искусственный интеллект, машинное зрение, микроконтроллер, системный анализ, имитационное моделирование.

**Introduction.** The global experience in the development of modern digital technologies for information exchange and the use of intelligent control systems in the automotive industry has led to a significant change in scientific, technological and practical approaches to organizing optimal traffic in densely populated cities [1].

The relevance of the study is due to an increase in the volume of traffic flows both in large metropolitan areas and in small towns. The existing mathematical models of traffic flow management are based on a deterministic basis, in the differential equations of which the initial and boundary conditions are empirically set, in which the relationship between the definition of traffic flow and maximum load bandwidth is contradictory. This leads to insufficient vehicle capacity during the “peak hours” of one of the traffic lanes with a significant load of oncoming traffic lanes. In some developed countries, the idea of reverse traffic is used, which requires a clear use of the administrative resource of the traffic police and high discipline of motorists. Traffic flow management has been widely used in the past.

The feasibility of the development is related to the need to optimize traffic flows. Accidents, repairs, irrigation and utilities that are unpredictable in time and space create additional resistance to traffic flow, which is called a “shock wave” of congestion. As a result, the capacity of the highway begins to decrease sharply, and traffic jams occur.

From the point of view of hydrodynamics, the formation of additional resistance leads to incomplete organization of flow movement. Such a movement is called turbulent. His behavior is often difficult to describe mathematically. It is known from hydraulics that the flow in various coarse pipes is calculated on a semi-empirical basis for each type of pipe.

**Literary review.** In the microscopic theory of traffic flow control, the flow equations consist of the assumption that the coordinate system is tied to a particle (car) involved in the flow. This approach has allowed us to obtain a number of new mathematical models of traffic flows. However, this theory establishes the probability of a non-standard operating mode of the car. In accordance with this, the mathematically expected capacity of the highway is calculated. In practice, for example, drivers in Almaty are guided by the reference information of the geographic information service 2GIS. This allows you to find the best workaround in case of traffic jams online.

Studies on increasing the capacity of motorways were conducted at the dawn of mass motorization in the early twentieth century. In the works of Badaguev
B.T., Dudko N.I., Petrovets V.R., Bershadsky V.F., Blinkin M.Ya., Volkov V.S., Gorev A.E., Mayboroda O.V. [1-7], issues of traffic safety and organization of road transportation were raised, the influence of traffic lights and other technical controls were studied in the works of Klinkovstein G.I., Afanasyeva L.L., Komarova Yu.Ya. [1-7].

Mathematical models of traffic flow regulation were studied by Dubelir G.D. [1], Zelenina L.I., Urykov V.A. [2], in the process of development of transport science Morozov I.I. [3], T. Bellemans, B. De Schutter, B. De Moor [4] macroscopic models of traffic flows in various versions and modifications (for example, for single-lane traffic, scheduled traffic, numerical gas kinetic models and methods.

These models were built on the assumption of the absence of traffic jams and difficult intersections of highways, in the initial and boundary conditions of the Cauchy differential equations it was difficult to take into account the uneven distribution of vehicle flows over daily time cycles. In modern interpretation, these approaches are highlighted in the works of Kosolapov A.V., Buslaev A.P., Novikov A.V., Prikhodko V.M., Tatashv A.G., Yashina M.V., Gasnikov A.V., Klenov S.L., Nurminsky E.A., Kholodov Ya.A., Shamray N.B., Zhvogladyova V.G., Semenova V.V., Heita F., Shvetsova V.I., Alieva A.S., Strelnikova A.I. [5].

We note the importance of developing microscopic models for calculating the distribution of vehicles along the length of the highway. Cluster, gas kinetic models were built taking into account the uneven distribution of vehicles along the length of the highway, not only by time, but by type of vehicles (trucks, buses, passenger cars). Such calculations are carried out in the complicated Parevi-Fontana gas kinetic model.

Special attention of transport scientists is paid to modeling and calculating the impact of vehicles with internal combustion engines on the environment. To predict the distribution fields of air pollution levels in cities with complex environmental conditions, such as the city of Almaty, Gaussian models are proposed, which use special initial conditions for calculating mobile pollution sources. The quality of the air basin is taken into account in calculations based on the traffic flow model in the road canyon.

The main drawback in constructing deterministic mathematical models of the distribution of traffic flows in urban infrastructure is attempts to find self-similar solutions, stochastic models also do not give practically valuable results. Therefore, in ecologically disadvantaged cities, an administrative resource is widely used, based on the prohibition or restriction of the movement of vehicles with internal combustion engines in the central part of the city, the introduction of strict standards for gasoline and the transition to electric transport.

The emergence of compact and cheap chips with Internet access and GPS devices create software and hardware prospects for the use of digital information technologies in the optimization and chipping of vehicles. The presence of an individual chip with an IP address in the car makes it possible to take into account the technical, environmental, disciplinary and spatial characteristics of the car and its driver.

In this case, the role of traffic lights, the main automatic traffic controller, increases. A smart traffic light with a set of sensors and artificial intelligence can read the number of the car, identify the driver, evaluate the environmental parameters of the car and the probability of the safety of the car on expressways. Such limitless possibilities are opened up by modern digital technologies in motor transport. The development of digital technologies in motor transport and traffic management is the most important problem of modern Kazakhstan.

From the above, it follows that it is necessary to create a smart digital traffic light as an intelligent reprogrammable collective IoT device. At the first stage, the problem of adaptive activation of the resolving green light of the traffic light is posed, depending on the congestion of neighboring intersections or the highway as a whole. These conceptual approaches and real-world digital technologies justify the relevance of the chosen research topic.

**Materials and methods of research.** System analysis using simulation and simulation modeling in AnyLogic, Vmware Workstation Pro, TIA Portal V13, Logo! Soft Comfort has shown that the dynamic change in the time phases of traffic light objects, as collective intelligent IoT devices, allows you to change and actively control the dynamics of traffic flows on the most congested sections of highways.

The local application of simulation modeling in the AnyLogic environment allows the landscape to link motorways to the expected flow of cars on the main highways at the entrance/exit to densely populated cities, the AnyLogic environment interactively conducts modern advanced experimental studies of the dynamics of traffic flows depending on
the time of day and semi-empirically selects traffic light cyclograms. The disadvantage of this system is the complexity of its integration into an automated traffic management system (Fig.1).

In the development environments of VMware Workstation Pro, TIA Portal V13, Logo!Soft Comfort has experience in creating adaptive self-adjusting digital traffic light controllers based on Siemens microcontrollers in network design. There are few examples in the technical literature and practice of creating traffic light controllers as IoT devices. In Russian science and practice, these works are in their infancy.

Figure 1 - Forecast for 2024 of the processes of development of congestion on the central roads in the city of Almaty (overview of the current situation of congestion in Almaty according to the data yandex.kz)

The creation of collective intelligent traffic light controllers integrated with the Scada system in an automated traffic management system using advanced simulation of processes in the AnyLogic environment will be a new direction in the digitalization of the country’s traffic.

The symbiosis of the two approaches creates conditions for the fruitful modernization of existing analog traffic control systems. The phased introduction of smart traffic lights as an IoT device will make it possible to design and implement a modern intelligent computer network of smart traffic light facilities that will be able to monitor the traffic situation dynamically and allow automating optimal decisions by dispatchers of the central traffic control panel of the megapolis (Fig.2).

Figure 2 - Graph of traffic flow during rush hour from east to west in Almaty along Abai, Satpayev and Shevchenko streets
Pilot research works on the introduction of smart traffic lights are being carried out in the cities of Almaty and Astana. Creating a local smart traffic light that works autonomously without taking into account the general traffic situation can theoretically improve the throughput on this section of road. The complexity of taking into account all traffic parameters along urban highways during peak hours creates prerequisites and stimulates research on the simulation of traffic lights as the main automatic regulators of the capacity of city highways, taking into account the multiparametric conditions of the significantly uncertain task of optimizing car traffic on the urban road network. The lack of a single solution devalues deterministic theories of traffic flow management and increases the role of heuristic (intelligent) methods for solving problems of increasing traffic in the cities of Almaty and Astana.

One such approach is the method practiced by the Almaty City Traffic Patrol Service to create congestion at the entrances to the city, which reduces the load on the urban road network and creates the illusion of orderly traffic within the city.

These contradictions create prerequisites for the introduction of adaptive automation of traffic light cyclograms. It is really possible to find a solution to the multiparametric problem of nonlinear automated control of traffic light objects in a complex, taking into account traffic jams, only on the basis of modern digital control.

To conduct the research, we used methods of systematic analysis of the current state of traffic flow management using computer simulation models, taking into account online geoinformation data of the temporal and spatial position of the traffic flow as a continuum and as a micro-participant in the traffic process. Computer technology methods for creating network stationary and mobile digital traffic light objects capable of identifying the traffic situation, calculating the number and speed of traffic flow, and transmitting up-to-date data via computer networks to a neighboring traffic light. The method of controlling a digital smart traffic light that has an Internet connection with a server is adaptive with feedback and with a temporary correctable compensator.

**The results and their discussion.** As a result of our research, we have developed algorithms and simulation programs in the AnyLogic PL software, taking into account the traffic situation at the entrance/exit and in the center of Almaty city using maps of the geoinformation system, which allow on-line dispatching services of the highway patrol to make recommendations to the duty officers of the highway patrol service on manual regulation of the traffic flow regime. We recommend that the educational and research work of the country’s transport universities include methodological guidelines on simulation modeling in the AnyLogic PLA environment in the Kazakh language. A prototype of a collective smart traffic light based on AVR, ESP 32 and Lo@Ra chips has been developed. Simulation models have been developed and recommended for implementation in the AnyLogic environment for heavily trafficked entrances/exits and the city center of Almaty, taking into account the data of geoinformation systems.

However, despite the results achieved, there are still a number of unresolved issues that need to be further investigated and studied. However, the most appropriate moment to warn the driver is best checked using a real driver and (prototype) system in real tests, since the most appropriate moment also depends on the human factor, such as reaction time. Therefore, in order to find the boundary values that the system will warn about at the right moment, in practice, precise adjustment will be required (Fig.3).

In addition, the road condition is taken into account by calculating the braking time for a given coefficient of friction (obtained from images on the roads). This braking time is subtracted from the braking distance of the vehicle and used as an additional safety indicator:

**“min”**

\[ f(q) = \max \left\{ \min \left\{ \frac{5 - q}{5}, 1 \right\}, 0 \right\}; \]  \hspace{1cm} (1)

**“zero”**

\[ f(q) = \max \left\{ \min \left\{ q, \frac{10 - q}{5} \right\}, 0 \right\}; \]  \hspace{1cm} (2)

**“average”**

\[ f(q) = \max \left\{ \min \left\{ q - \frac{5}{5}, \frac{15 - q}{5} \right\}, 0 \right\}; \]  \hspace{1cm} (3)
Two consecutive images of the video sequence for the intersection in Almaty were processed in the work. This allows you to use video recordings of the dynamics of pedestrian movement and the position of vehicles to determine their speeds and make a forecast for the current situation. Both video sequences were made at the rate of 25 frames per second and were obtained from a hill from the balcony of the building. The processing parameters (object sizes and thresholds for background subtraction) have been configured to include pedestrians and vehicles, but exclude lighting effects. Due to various lighting changes, for example, due to the reflection of the sun on building windows and car windshields, setting the parameters was a difficult task. In order to obtain better data for the security algorithm, some stages of preprocessing of the video
sequence data sets were performed. The preprocessing steps included:

- Track separation: If the distance between two consecutive data points of the same object is too large, the data may be considered as belonging to two different objects. The tracks are separated, a new identification number is assigned to the second part of the track;

- Track connection: If the end point of one track and the start point of another track are very close to each other in time and space, they probably belong to the same object and have the same identification number;

Finally, tracks of very short length (shorter than 2 meters) are not used.

An electrical circuit for connecting this interface to the LOGO! 230RCE microcontroller was also developed (Fig. 4).

![Electrical diagram of the smart interface for controlling a "smart" traffic light using a QR code](image)

1 – ZONeSUN 18650 battery with a capacity of 3000 mAh and a voltage of 3.7 volts; 2 – a poster with a QR code on the windshield of a special car; 3 – OV 2640 webcam; 4 – ESP32 Cam microcontroller as a “local server”; 5 – mobile smartphone as a “client”; 6 – reprogrammable traffic light microcontroller LOGO 230RCE; 7 – traffic light; 8 – electromechanical relay SRL-05VDC-SL-C; 9 – DC voltage converter (step-up, adjustable) XL6009 from 3.7 VDC to 5 VDC

**Figure 4 - Electrical diagram of the smart interface for controlling a “smart” traffic light using a QR code**
constantly works in local server mode, and the webcam programmatically detects the presence of a QR code in its viewing sector.

In the case of recognition of the QR code programmed and embedded in the memory of special machines, a voltage of up to 5 volts DC is applied to the discrete I/O pin 12. Since the ESP32 Cam chip is a powerful current consumer, the voltage at this pin often drops to 4.5 volts, which is not enough to power the relay coil SRL-05VDC-SL-C. Therefore, a pull-up chip XL6009 is connected to a common 3.7 volt DC circuit, which creates a stabilized voltage of 5 volts at the output, powering the relay coil.

The main feature of the QR code recognition unit is the presence of a common «GND» line. The output relay interacts with a 220 volt AC circuit powering the LOGO! 230RCE microcontroller and traffic lights via relay outputs Q1,Q2,Q3. The input terminal I1 receives logical information (True) in the form of a voltage of 220 volts AC in case of recognition of the fact of the approach of special vehicles. Thus, the standard QRCoderReader.h program has been modified to create an intelligent interface for a «smart» traffic light, and the created software and hardware IoT interface has a cost of less than 10,000 tenge.

Let’s describe the program code for the Arduino IDE environment, which has been adapted to these requirements. In the QR code, for example, ambulances, a number in text form is entered, showing the number of seconds required to cross the intersection, the $ separator sign and the type of special car. In the case of fire trucks, which often move in a small column, the turn-on time of the «green wave» will be longer and this information is embedded in the QR code.

Below is a program in the Arduino IDE environment codes that implements the adaptive green wave activation algorithm:

```c
void setup()
{
  Serial.begin(115200);
  Serial.println();
  pinMode(12, OUTPUT);
  reader.setup();
  Serial.println("Setup QRC ode Reader");
  reader.beginOnCore(1);
  Serial.println("Begin on Core 1");
}
void loop()
{
  if(millis() / 1000 – pastSeconds > 5){
    String code = onQrCodeText();
    int litres = parseInt(code.substring(0, code.indexOf('$')));
    String name = code.substring(code.indexOf('$') + 1);
    Serial.print("Seconds:");
    Serial.println(litres);
    Serial.print("Name:");
    Serial.println(name);
    digitalWrite(12, HIGH);
    pastSeconds = millis() / 1000;
    for(nti = 0; i < second * 2; i++){
      Serial.print(".");
      delay(500);
    }
    Serial.println();
    digitalWrite(12, LOW);
    code = "";
  } delay(100);
```
As can be seen from the text of the program, the webcam reads the QR code, analyzes the text and selects a number from it, presented in text format, and converts it into a numeric format. The smart traffic light relay coil is then turned on to turn on the yellow light and then the green light.

**Conclusion.** Based on the conducted research, conclusions and recommendations are made. The analysis of well-known patent solutions and literature sources, new technology has shown that modern urban traffic light facilities are the most important link in a multi-level automated traffic management system of large cities such as Almaty and Astana.

The studied mathematical models based on micro-macroscopic modeling of the flow of cars are quite adequate approximations under complex and contradictory initial and boundary conditions. Our research has also confirmed numerous claims about the presence of oncoming logistics traffic flows from west to east, from north to west and east, from east to west and north to the areas of wholesale markets. The main buyers of goods and products are residents of the city of Almaty, which leads to massive oncoming traffic that is uneven in time of day and weeks.

It is shown that the use of modern microprocessor technology and advances in information technology makes it possible to formalize and automate many functions of existing analog traffic light facilities, police officers, environmentalists and traffic controllers. Automation and intellectualization of the performance of a number of regulatory functions of traffic management corresponds to modern trends in the development of a digital society in the context of the Modernization 4.0 concept.

**References**


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