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B. S. Kerner

The Physics of Traffic

Empirical Freeway Pattern Features, Engineering Applications, and Theory



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Preface

This monograph is devoted to a new approach to an old field of scientific investigation, freeway traffic research. Freeway traffic is an extremely complex *spatiotemporal* nonlinear dynamic process. For this reason, it is not surprising that *empirical* traffic pattern features have only recently been sufficiently understood. Such empirical features are in serious conflict with almost all earlier theoretical and model results. Consequently, the author introduced a new traffic flow theory called "three-phase traffic theory," which can explain these empirical spatiotemporal traffic patterns. The main focus of this book is a consideration of *empirical spatiotemporal* traffic pattern features, their engineering applications, and explanations based on the three-phase traffic theory.

The book consists of four parts. In Part I, empirical studies of traffic flow patterns, earlier traffic flow theories, and mathematical models are briefly reviewed. Three-phase traffic theory is considered as well. This theory is a qualitative theory. Main ideas and results of the three-phase traffic flow theory will be introduced and explained without complex mathematical models. This should be suitable for a very broad audience of practical engineers, physicists, and other readers who may not necessarily be specialists in traffic flow problems, and who may not necessarily have worked in the field of spatiotemporal pattern formation.

In Part II, empirical spatiotemporal traffic pattern features are considered. A microscopic three-phase traffic theory of these patterns and results of an application of the pattern features to engineering applications are presented in Part III and Part IV, respectively.

I am very grateful to Herman Haken for the opportunity to write this book. I am also very grateful to my colleagues at DaimlerChrysler AG, Peter Häußermann, Harald Brunini, Ralf Guido Herrtwich, and Matthias Schulze for their support. I thank my colleagues and friends Hani Mahmassani, Dietrich Wolf, and Michael Schreckenberg for their support in the first publications of my three-phase traffic theory. I would also like to thank the coauthors of our joint publications, Peter Konhäuser, Martin Schilke, Hubert Rehborn, Sergey Klenov, Dietrich Wolf, Matthias Herrmann, Malte Rödiger, Heribert Kirschfink, Mario Aleksić, and Andreas Haug for their very fruitful cooperation. In particular, I thank Sergey Klenov, Hubert Rehborn, Mario Aleksić,

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Stuttgart, August 2004 $Boris\ Kerner$

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Acronyms and Conventions

SP	synchronized flow pattern
MSP	moving SP
WSP	widening SP
LSP	localized SP
ASP	alternating SP
GP	general pattern
DGP	dissolving GP
AGP	alternating GP
EP	expanded congested pattern
FCD	floating car data
TCC	traffic control center
UTA	model for traffic prediction in city networks
ASDA	model for automatic tracking of moving jams
FOTO	model for automatic identification of traffic phases
	and tracking of synchronized flow
CA model	cellular automata traffic flow model
ALINEA	model for automatic feedback on-ramp metering
ANCONA	model for automatic on-ramp control of congested
	patterns at freeway bottleneck
ACC	automatic cruise control
x	spatial coordinate in direction of traffic flow
t	time
q	flow rate
ρ	vehicle density
v	vehicle speed
d	vehicle length
$v_{\rm g}$	velocity of downstream front of wide moving jam
$v_{ m g} \ q_{ m out}^{ m (J)}$	flow rate in traffic flow formed by wide moving jam
-040	outflow
$q_{ m out}$	flow rate in free flow formed by wide moving jam
	outflow
$ ho_{ m min}$	density in free flow formed by wide moving jam outflow

XXII Acronyms and Conventions

$v_{\rm max}$	average speed in free flow formed by wide moving
	jam outflow
$ ho_{ m max}$	density within wide moving jam (jam density)
v_{\min}	average speed within wide moving jam
$L_{ m J}$	width (in longitudinal direction) of wide moving jam
$F \rightarrow S$ transition	phase transition from free flow to synchronized flow
$F \rightarrow J$ transition	phase transition from free flow to wide moving jam
$S \rightarrow J$ transition	phase transition from synchronized flow to wide moving jam
$S \rightarrow F$ transition	phase transition from synchronized flow to free flow
$J \rightarrow S$ transition	phase transition from wide moving jam to synchronized flow
$J \rightarrow F$ transition	phase transition from wide moving jam to free flow
	$s \to S$ transition followed by $S \to J$ transition
$P_{\rm FS}$	probability for $F \rightarrow S$ transition on hypothetical
- 15	homogeneous road for given observation time $T_{\rm ob}$
	and given road length
$P_{ m FS}^{ m (B)}$	probability for $F \rightarrow S$ transition at freeway
- FS	bottleneck for given observation time $T_{\rm ob}$
$a^{(B)}$	freeway capacity in free flow at freeway bottleneck
$q_{ m C}^{ m (B)} \ q_{ m max}^{ m (free B)}$	maximum freeway capacity in free flow at freeway
$q_{ m max}$	
(B)	bottleneck relative to $P_{\rm FS}^{\rm (B)} = 1$
$q_{ m th}^{ m (B)}$	minimum freeway capacity in free flow at freeway bottleneck
$q^{ m (B)}_{ m FS} \ q^{ m (bottle)}_{ m out}$	pre-discharge flow rate
$a^{(\text{bottle})}$	discharge flow rate from congested pattern at
Yout	freeway bottleneck
$q^{(\mathrm{pinch})}$	average flow rate in pinch region of GP or EP
$q_{ m lim}^{ m (pinch)}$	limiting (minimum) flow rate in pinch region of
Alim	GP or EP
$L_{ m syn}$	width of synchronized flow region (in longitudinal
5.J **	direction) in congested pattern
$q_{ m on}$	flow rate to on-ramp
$q_{ m in}$	flow rate in free flow on main road upstream of
	on-ramp bottleneck
$q_{ m sum}$	flow rate downstream under free flow condition
	at on-ramp bottleneck
η	pecentage of vehicles which want to leave main
	road via off-ramp
$ ho_{ m max}^{ m (free, \ emp)}$	maximum density relative to empirical limit point
	for free flow
$q_{ m max}^{ m (free, \ emp)}$	maximum flow rate relative to empirical limit
<u>.</u>	point for free flow
	-

$ ho_{ m max}^{ m (free)}$	maximum density relative to hypothetical limit point for free flow on homogeneous road
$q_{ m max}^{ m (free)}$	maximum flow rate relative to hypothetical limit
	point for free flow on homogeneous road
T_{av}	averaging time interval for traffic variables
$T_{ m ob} \ T_{ m I}^{ m (wide)}$	time interval for observing traffic flow
$T_{ m J}^{ m (wide)}$	mean time between downstream fronts of wide
	moving jams
$ au_{ m J}$	mean duration of wide moving jams
$T_{\mathbf{J}}$	mean time between narrow moving jams