Traffic Flow Prediction System
- ➢ **Due:** *5:00 pm 1/11/2019 (End of Week 12)*
- ➢ **Contributes** 50% of your final result
- ➢ **Group Assignment – Group of 2-4 students**

Summary
You need to implement and demonstrate a system for traffic flow prediction, TFPS. Accurate and timely traffic flow information is important for the traffic authority (such as VicRoads) to identify congested areas and implement traffic management policies to reduce congestion. It is also critical for route guidance systems (such as Google maps) to calculate the best routes for their users taking into account the traffic conditions potentially experienced along each route. Thanks to recent advancement in sensor technologies, traffic authorities has been able to collect massive amount of traffic data to enable accurate prediction of traffic information (such as traffic flow, speed, travel time, etc.) You will develop a solution to utilise historical traffic data for traffic flow prediction. There are many versions of this problem but you should start with the basic one. Several possible extensions will allow you to do extra research and achieve a higher mark.

The basic system will consider a small dataset from VicRoads for the city of Boroondara that contains only the traffic flow data (i.e., the number of cars passing an intersection every 15 minutes). Your task is to develop a system TFPS that takes an input traffic flow dataset in a predefined format (to be specified by you) and train a machine learning model to allow relevant traffic conditions at specified time to be predicted.

Constraints:
- ➢ The TFPS can use any machine learning technique or combinations of them. You are allowed to take advantage of existing libraries such as tensorflow, Keras, Theano, etc. At the very least, your TFPS system will need to include the techniques implemented in this project: https://github.com/xiaochus/TrafficFlowPrediction and adapt their code to work with our dataset. Your TFPS system will also need to implement at least one other technique (to be approved by the tutor) and give a comprehensive comparison between different models.
- ➢ At the minimum, the TFPS will have to be able to train ML models using the Boroondara dataset and give meaningful predictions based on these models
- ➢ A GUI will be available for the user input, parameter settings and visualisation (and a configuration file for the defaults).

System requirements
- ➢ One core functionality of the TFPS system is to provide route guidance to drivers.
- ➢ **Basic version:** The basic version of the route guidance is for the Boroondara area. A user can specify the origin and destination of their trip using the SCATS site numbers (e.g. origin O = 2000 [intersection WARRIGAL_RD/TOORAK_RD] and destination D = 3002 [intersection DENMARK_ST/BARKERS_RD]). The system then returns up to five (5) routes from O to D with the estimated travel time along each route. To simplify the calculation, you can make a number of assumptions: (i) The speed limit on every link will be the same and set at 60km/h; (ii) the travel time between two SCATS sites A and B can be approximated by a simple expression based on the volume at the SCATS site A and the distance between A and B (you can also learn more about the Fundamental Diagram); and (iii) there is an average delay of 30 seconds to pass each controlled intersection. Note that, the objective is not to better Google Maps but to utilise the AI techniques you have learned (e.g., machine learning for forecasting traffic volume, graph-based search for optimal paths) to solve a real-world problem.

➢ **Extension.1:** The basic version of the system only deals with a small area of Melbourne (the city of Boroondara) and uses a very small dataset (traffic volume data for the month of October 2006). Under this extension, you can look at more comprehensive datasets from VicRoads for the whole Victoria in multiple years. Data processing for large amount of data will be a challenge.

➢ **Extension.2:** Dealing with VicRoads datasets may not be very straightforward. You may want to consider other sources of open data. Two popular data sources are: https://github.com/mas-dse-c6sander/DSE_Cohort2_Traffic_Capstone/wiki/PeMS-Data-Information and https://data.gov.uk/dataset/dc18f7d5-2669-490f-b2b5-77f27ec133ad/highways-agency-network-journey-time-and-traffic-flow-data. Under this extension, you can choose one of these datasets or a good data source you have access to (and get your tutor's approval) and extend this project to deal with the selected network and dataset.

➢ **Extension.3:** Visualising your system predictions and route recommendations. Inspired by Google Maps Traffic, can you build something similar using open source resources such as OpenStreetMap?

Project requirements

➢ Source code maintained on Git based VCS (Github/Bitbucket/GitLab/…). You must provide read-only access to the tutor/lecturer

➢ Running illustrative demo of a working prototype (please refer to **Marking Scheme** for details on functionality that needs to be implemented)

➢ Project report (8-10 pages) that includes the following sections
  - Cover Page (with team details) and a Table of Contents (TOC)
  - Introduction
  - Overall system architecture
  - Implemented interaction protocols,
  - Implemented search/optimization techniques,
  - Scenarios/examples to demonstrate how the system works,
  - Some critical analysis of the implementation, and
  - Summary/Conclusion.

➢ Presentation (video) and oral Q&A afterwards. Questions will be regarding the project as well as the unit content of the lectures (fundamentals). All group members are required to participate and contribute to the presentation, and should be able to answer questions related to the project and detail own contributions

Marking Scheme

Requirements	*Mark*
Task 1: Adapt the open-source Traffic Flow Prediction with Neural Networks project to work successfully with the Boroondara dataset.	10
Task 2: Implement new ML technique(s) for traffic flow prediction and carry out experiments to compare different techniques.	20
Task 3: Complete the **Basic version**	20
GUI: for a user to performs basic tasks with the TFPS system such as predicting the volume at a SCATS site or finding alternative routes from O to D	10
Project Report	10
Project Presentation (Video)	10
	80
Research Component (can be done by the whole team, a sub-team, or an individual) There are many potential extensions in this project. Extensions 1 and 2 are two examples but there are many more. Choose one and get your tutor's approval then complete it very well. You can get up to 40% for this component and your Assignment will get up to 120%	**Up to 40**
	120/100
You need to follow good programming practice (e.g., well-designed, well-structured codes with clear and helpful comments). Failure to do so will attract a penalty.	**Up to -20**
You need to demonstrate the progress you make every week to your tutor. That is, if your tutor approach you and ask for the progress, you have to be able to show the tutor the progress you have made in comparison to the previous week. Failure to do so may result in a penalty.	**Up to -50**

NOTE: Individual marks will be proportionally adjusted based on each team member's overall contribution to the project as indicated in the '*Who did what*' declaration.

Submission
➢ You must email your work to bvo@swin.edu.au and charold@swin.edu.au by 5pm on 01/11/2019. Create a single zip file with your code and a working version of your system. Standard late penalties apply – 10% for each day late, more than 5 days late is 0%.
➢ Individual research reports must be submitted separately.
➢ You must also provide to bvo@swin.edu.au and charold@swin.edu.au read only access to your git repository within 1 week of forming teams.
➢ The video **(10 minute duration)** should be emailed to bvo@swin.edu.au one day before the presentation.

Appendix.