

Course description VT1 2026, January 20 – March 20

TNK118 Transport Demand Forecasting

Background

Transport demand modelling is, in practice, to use algorithms and computer software to replicate real world transportation systems. Transport demand models are used both for describing a current transportation system and for making forecasts of the effects from changes in the system.

In this course, we discuss and analyze the basic building blocks of state-of-the-art transport demand models, we derive the basic relationships used for demand modeling, and we test the models on small and large-scale examples.

Aim and purpose

The purpose of the course is to provide basic knowledge in planning and forecast modelling of traffic systems. The course provides an overview of problems, settings and applications in traffic planning, and gives insights into how traffic models may be used for analysis of traffic systems with the aim of making the system more efficient, safer and more environmentally friendly now and in the future. Furthermore, the course will help the student to gain insights into the underlying theories on which the models are based. The course covers both supply and demand modelling, and the focus is on demand modelling.

After finishing the course, the student shall be able to:

- Describe the basics for traffic planning and traffic modelling such as trip generation and trip distribution
- Describe and analyze route choice models and assignment methods for network assignment
- Motivate and derive basic discrete choice models
- Apply choice models for modelling demand, mode and route in a traffic network
- Formulate and use trip generation and distribution, route choice, and demand models for evaluating future traffic scenarios
- Estimate parameters in discrete choice models
- Update demand matrices from flow and speed observations
- Make use of tools for applying the models stated above

Organization

The course consists of 13 lectures, 7 seminars and 2 computer exercises.

All scheduled teaching is on-campus. There are pre-recorded lectures available that will be referred to if required.

The seminars will treat some “practical” exercises, either as computations made with pen and paper (and maybe a pocket calculator), or as an exercise that you perform using a computer. The seminars will have instructions/exercises posted on Lisam. The computer exercises are using Microsoft Excel (or similar) for the computations. No hand-ins are required for the seminars.

The two computer exercises (labs) are related to Logit models and to network traffic assignment. Both computer exercises will require hand-in of a written report where you describe the computations and results. The computer exercises will have instructions posted on Lisam. Your written report shall be uploaded using the “submissions” feature in Lisam. The computer exercises can be done individually, or in groups of two students.

Content and literature

The course covers the following topics:

- Introduction to traffic planning and traffic simulation
- Classification of traffic models
- Route choice model and assignment principles for network assignment
- Experiments with network assignment models
- Discrete choice models
- Parameter estimation for choice models
- OD-estimation
- Application of traffic forecasting models on capacity and pricing problems

The following literature will be used during the course:

- Traffic Demand Modelling, Immers and Stada, 1998.
(<https://www.mech.kuleuven.be/cib/verkeer/dwn/H111part1.pdf>)
- Modelling Transport by Ortuzar and Willumsen, 4th edition, 2011. (Library)
- Urban Transportation Networks: Equilibrium Analysis with Mathematical Programming Methods, Sheffi, 1985.
(<http://sheffi.mit.edu/book/urban-transportation-networks>)
- Travel Demand Models – A Survey, from Optimization Approaches to Travel Demand Modelling, Lundgren, 1989. (LISAM)
- A Self Instructing Course in Mode Choice Modeling: Multinomial and Nested Logit Models, Koppelman and Bhat, 2006.
(http://www.caee.utexas.edu/prof/bhat/COURSES/LM_Draft_060131Final-060630.pdf)

Excerpts from the above will be used. A detailed description of which pages that will be used is given in the course plan below. Additional texts are referred to during the lectures.

Course plan

- Tuesday, 2026-01-20, 10:15 - 12:00, KO24, LE1: Introduction
 - Analysis of the transportation system (Chapter 1 and 2, Immers and Stada, 1998)
 - Examples of demand modeling systems (Slides)
 - Course description walkthrough (Slides)

- Thursday, 2026-01-22, 10:15 - 12:00, TP31, LE2: Trip generation
 - Demand and supply on the transport market (Chapter 1, Immers and Stada, 1998)
 - Structure of the traditional traffic demand model (Chapter 2, Immers and Stada, 1998)
 - Production and attraction and trip generation (Chapter 5.1-5.5, Immers and Stada, 1998)
- Friday, 2026-01-23, 08:15 - 10:00, KO24, LE3: Trip distribution
 - Intro to trip distribution (Chapter 1-2.1, Lundgren, 1989)
 - Mathematical modeling of the gravity model (Chapter 1-2, Lundgren, 1989)
- Tuesday, 2026-01-27, 10:15 - 12:00, TP4003, SEM1: Trip generation and distribution (Computer lab)
 - Exercises (Handout on Lisam)
- Thursday, 2026-01-29, 10:15 - 12:00, TP43, LE4: Discrete choice 1
 - Koppelman and Bath (2006), Chapters 3 and chapters 4 to 4.3
- Friday, 2026-01-30, 08:15 - 10:00, TP31, LE5: Discrete choice 2
 - Koppelman and Bath (2006), Chapter 4.4.
- Tuesday, 2026-02-03, 10:15 - 10:00, KO24, SEM2: Logit 1
 - Exercises (Handout on Lisam). [Guang Wei]
- Wednesday, 2026-02-04, 13:15 - 15:00, TP32, LE6: Discrete choice 3
 - Koppelman and Bath (2006), Chapter 4.4.
- Friday, 2026-02-06, 08:15 - 10:00, TP31, LE7: Discrete choice 4
 - Nested Logit models (Koppelman and Bath, 2006, Chapters 8 and 9)
- Monday, 2026-02-09, 8:15 - 10:00, TP32, SEM3: Logit 2
 - Exercises (Handout on Lisam) [Guang Wei]
- Wednesday, 2026-02-11, 13:15 - 15:00, TP32, LE8: Discrete choice 5
 - Nested Logit parameter estimation (Koppelman and Bath, 2006, Chapters 8 and 9)
- Friday, 2026-02-13, 08:15 - 10:00, TP4003, SEM4: Logit 3 (Computer)
 - Exercises (Handout on Lisam)
- Tuesday, 2026-02-17, 10:15 - 12:00, TP4003, CE1 part one: Discrete choice
 - See Submission on LISAM [Guang Wei]
- Wednesday, 2026-02-18, 13:15 - 17:00, TP4004, CE1 part two: Discrete choice
 - See Submission on LISAM [Guang Wei]
- Friday, 2026-02-20, 08:15 - 10:00, TP32, LE9: Network assignment 1
 - Supply modelling (Immers and Stada, 1998, Chapter 8.1-8.1.7)
- Tuesday, 2026-02-24, 10:15 - 12:00, TP44, LE10: Network assignment 2
 - Network equilibrium (Sheffi, 1985, Chapters 1, 3)
- Wednesday, 2026-02-25, 15:15 - 17:00, TP31, LE11: Network assignment 3
 - Computing equilibria (Sheffi, 1985, Chapters 5.1-5.2)
- Monday, 2026-03-02, 8:15 - 10:00, TP32, SEM5: Network assignment 1
 - Exercises (Handout on Lisam) [Guang Wei]
- Tuesday, 2026-03-03, 10:15 - 12:00, TP4003, SEM6: Network assignment 2 (Computer)
 - Exercises (Handout on Lisam)
- Wednesday, 2026-03-04, 13:15 - 17:00, TP4004, CE2: Network assignment
 - See Submission on LISAM [Guang Wei]

- Monday, 2026-03-09, 08:15 - 10:00, TP32, LE12: OD-calibration
 - Lundgren (1989), Chapter 2.3, 3.3
 - Ortuzar and Willumsen (1990), Chapter 12.4-12.4.6
- Tuesday, 2026-03-10, 10:15 - 12:00, TP4003, SEM7: OD-calibration (Computer)
 - Exercises (Handout on Lisam)
- Wednesday, 2026-03-11, 13:15 - 15:00, TP32, LE13: Course summary
- Written exam 2026-03-20, 14:00 – 18:00

Examination

The examination consists of a written exam and computer exercises, individual and in groups of two students, respectively. The written exam covers theory, mathematical derivations, and computations. The computer exercises cover 2hp, and the written exam 4hp.

Course material, including lecture slides plus videos and instructions for the computer exercises are published on Lisam. The written report for the two computer exercises shall be uploaded under the appropriate assignment at Lisam. The computer exercises shall be answered in English.

The written exam is given March 20, 2026, 14:00-18:00. First re-examination is given June 10, 2026, 8:00-12:00, and second August 19, 2026 8:00-12:00. The exam can be answered in English or Swedish.

Examiner

The course examiner and lecturer is Clas Rydergren, clas.rydergren@liu.se, Spetsen floor 8, phone 011-363314.

The computer exercises and three of the seminars, the ones that are not computer based, are supervised by Guang Wei, guang.wei@liu.se, Spetsen floor 8, 011-363146.