

Connected Vehicles

Subjects: [Engineering](#), [Civil](#)

Contributor: Giuseppe Guido

Connected and autonomous vehicles and cooperative intelligent transportation systems (C-ITSs) are new technologies that will impact traffic control and management.

connected vehicles

traffic signal control

floating car data

1. Introduction

Connected and autonomous vehicles and cooperative intelligent transportation systems (C-ITSs) are new technologies that will impact traffic control and management. Cooperative intelligent transportation systems (C-ITSs) are based on the sharing of information between drivers and road management. Connected vehicles (CAs) will be able to share speeds and positions among many other various useful data. Vehicle speeds and positions can be used to better manage traffic signals in real time. Connected vehicles can become an important part of new C-ITSs. Some of these ideas have been explored in some European-funded projects such as SAFESPOT ^[1], EuroFOT ^[2] and DRIVE C2X ^[3].

One of the main tasks that road managers must deal with in traffic control is the management of signalized intersections. Control operations, unfortunately, very often are not adjusted in real time and sometimes are implemented with out-of-date fixed-time traffic signal settings. Traffic congestion, which can also be caused by traffic signals, is a serious problem in cities and also a great cause of air pollution. For this reason, efforts to solve congestion problems have been centered on attempts to shift demand on transit systems ^[4] and on better road traffic control, by adopting tools such as traffic simulation ^{[5][6][7][8][9][10]} dynamic network loading equilibrium and dynamic models ^{[11][12][13][14]} and the study of and attempt to affect user route choice ^{[15][16][17][18][19]}.

Many large-scale deployments of systems based on floating car data (FCD) are already showing the use of mobile phones ^{[20][21][22][23]} and wireless communications ^{[24][25]} combined with global navigation satellite system (GNSS) technologies. Cooperative systems based on smartphones are spontaneously spreading in ordinary use (BlaBla Car, Uber, etc.). Cooperative systems based on smartphones have also been proposed for pedestrians and bicycles ^[26].

Smartphones (and connected vehicles) can obtain location and speed information from GNSS systems such as Galileo, GPS and Glonass. GPS embedded in smartphones produces an economic method to obtain vehicular travel time ^[27] and to evaluate traffic scenarios ^{[28][29]}. Smartphones also allow the estimation of traffic safety

parameters [30] and path choice [31]. Mobile devices have also been used to assess safety and risks by insurance companies [32] and for traffic safety [33][34] and fuel consumption estimation [35].

All these concepts have been applied also in the management of signalized intersections: GNSS data coming from private vehicles were useful in the evaluation of adaptive traffic signal systems in [36], and smartphones were useful to gather information on traffic signal timings [37][38][39]; the use of FCD in C-ITSs is discussed in [40], where traffic signal regulation from FCD is achieved. The term “floating car data adaptive traffic lights” (FCDATL) or “floating car data adaptive traffic signals” (FCDATS) was introduced in [41]. The specific use of FCD data coming from smartphones to regulate adaptive traffic signals in real time was also investigated in [42][43][44][45][46]. In some cases, the adaptive traffic signal system is used in combination with driver assistance, so that both driver behavior and traffic signals are adjusted in real time.

Projects such as Colombo [43] have been presented in which the general potential of vehicle communication to other vehicles or infrastructures (V2X) for traffic management is investigated. Some works have also been presented on traffic signal regulation presenting algorithms without a clear definition of the underlying communication and control systems. Among them, [47][48][49] propose the use of game theory in traffic signal regulation, implicitly assuming that information on all vehicle positions is available.

2. Topic Visualization Analysis

To create a profile of the most important issues arising in the field and to perform a visualization of main topics, we carried out a text-mining analysis using the VOSviewer suggested procedure to text-mine the keywords of the papers.

VOSviewer applies natural language calculation methods to analyze the keywords. We followed indications and considerations from [50].

With this procedure, we generated what is called a “concurrency network” (Figure 1).

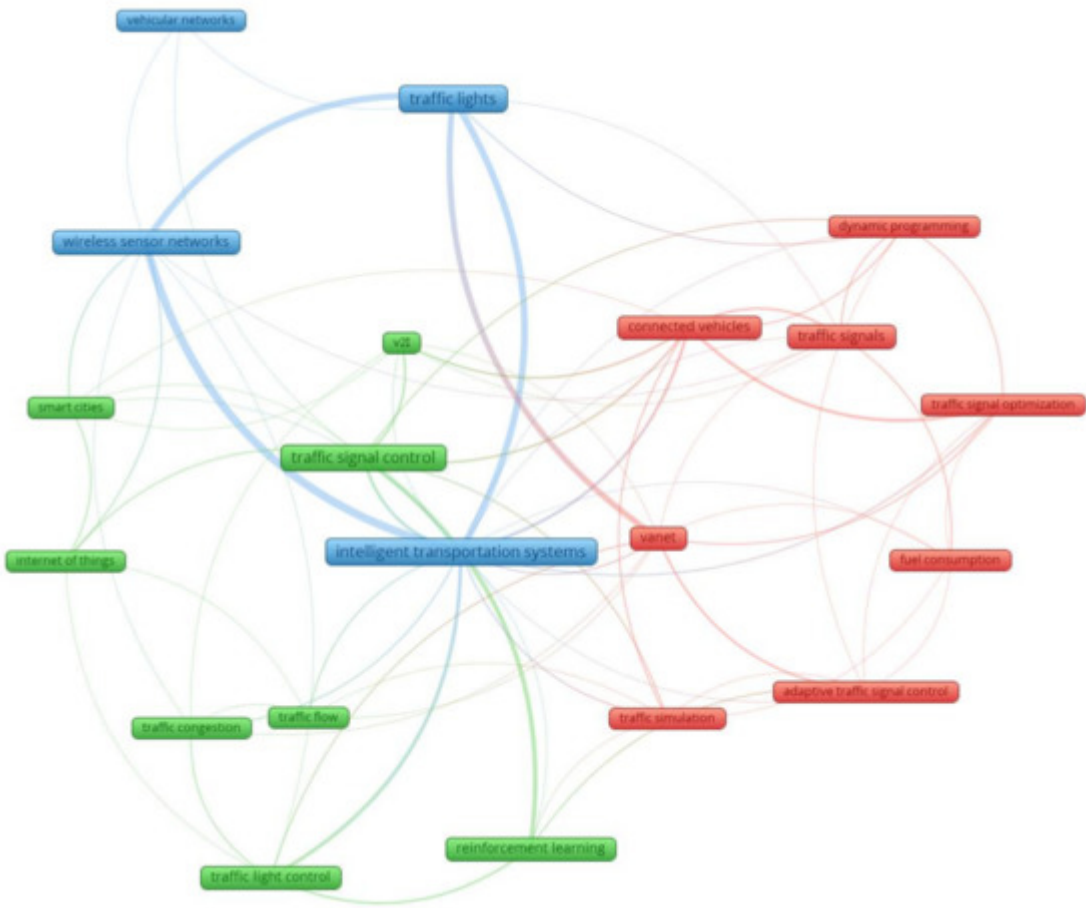


Figure 1. Keywords topic visualization analysis—concurrence network.

In this network, the most relevant terms were highlighted, and a cluster analysis was performed identifying four clusters that theoretically gather themes that share some higher connection. Once the procedure was completed, we gave a title to each cluster in agreement with what seems to be the leading topic. We applied the VOSviewer option of eight for the minimum number of occurrences of a term. From a total of 1524 keyword terms, 20 met the threshold. The selected terms were grouped in four clusters, as shown in Figure 3 and Table 1. It must be noted that the procedure we applied to extract the terms and to create the clusters is completely automatic, the clusters are created according to an algorithm that puts together terms that are not necessarily logically connected. We manually gave a label to each cluster, and some of the terms, thus, might not be connected with the specific topic label we have chosen.

Table 1. Keyword topic visualization clusters.

ITS	Smart Cities and Traffic	Connected Vehicles and Traffic
intelligent transportation systems	internet of things	adaptive traffic signal control
traffic lights	reinforcement learning	connected vehicles
vehicular networks	smart cities	dynamic programming

ITS	Smart Cities and Traffic	Connected Vehicles and Traffic
wireless sensor networks	traffic congestion	fuel consumption
	traffic flow	traffic signal optimization
	traffic light control	traffic signals
	traffic signal control	traffic simulation
	v2I	VANET

3. Cocitation Analysis: Influential Journals, References and Authors

Following standard VOSviewer suggested procedures, we performed a cocitation analysis to establish the more influential journals and references. Reference cocitation can allow observers to automatically recognize the shape, qualities and scientific progress of a research field. In the same way, journal cocitation analysis can be a useful instrument for assessing the general layout of a scientific field relative to the current theoretical framework of specific journals. The algorithm considers that two references or two journals are more strongly connected when they are more frequently cocited. Again, a clustering algorithm is applied to discover clusters of connected references and journals. In this procedure, we decided to include only references and journal sources with a minimum of three cocitations.

The results show that, with 13,574 cited references, only 67 meet the threshold. For each of the sorted references, the total strength of the cocitation links with other cited references was calculated, and all 67 references are mapped in Figure 2. In an attempt to resolve the poor connection among these 67 references, the largest set of connected references was considered, which consists of 23 items. For each of the 23 sorted references, the total strength of the cocitation links with other cited references was calculated, and all 23 cocited references are listed and mapped in Figure 3. Five dispersed clusters surfaced, and in the visualization, it is still possible to see a poor connection among references. Clusters are differentiated by colors. Larger nodes indicate a higher number of citations, and the different clusters evidence the connection among references. The network of references is not well developed, and this seems to suggest that the specific field of research is in an embryonic stage with a great potential for growth: new findings are possible and new scientific works have the potential to create a more developed research network in the future.



Figure 2. Reference visualization of database list “A”: the resulting network is poorly connected, showing a possible underdeveloped stage for this field of research.

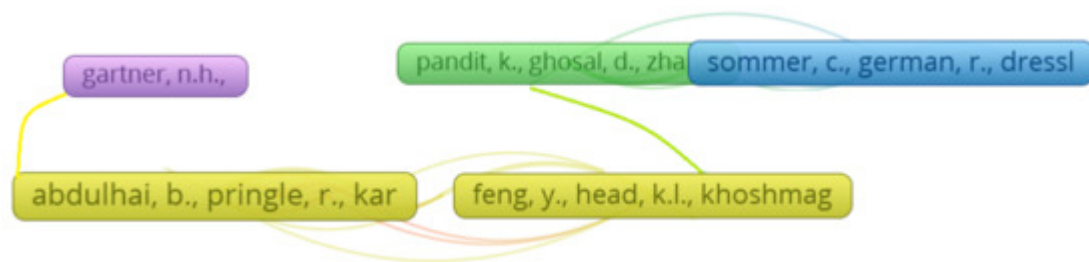


Figure 3. Reference visualization for the 23 connected references resulting from the database of list “A”: the resulting network is still poorly connected.

The largest node is represented by a work from Abdulhai, Pringle and Karakoulas ^[51], which was not in the original database of 684 works.

This procedure, in fact, is able to find influential documents that might not be present in the database list “A” and that might have received a high number of cocitations in the database.

Among these 67 cocited documents, it is also possible to see general documents that constitute a scientific base for the research field under investigation but do not necessarily specifically pertain to this field of traffic signal control methods and experiments based on CAs and FCD.

In order to consider documents that are influential for the investigated field of research, the 67 documents were manually checked to exclude completely impertinent documents; the following 15 documents listed in Table 2 have been considered as influential and will be added to the final list of influential documents (in case they are not already listed).

Table 2. Most influential documents chosen among the 67 influential references by manually excluding impertinent documents.

1	B. Asadi and A. Vahidi, "Predictive Cruise Control: Utilizing Upcoming Traffic Signal Information for Improving Fuel Economy and Reducing Trip Time", in <i>IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology</i> , May 2011, vol. 19, no. 3, pp. 707–714 [52] .
2	Y. Chen, D. Zhang and K. Li, "Enhanced eco-driving system based on V2X communication", 2012, 15th International IEEE Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems, Anchorage, AK, 2012, pp. 200–205 [53] .
3	H. Rakha and R. K. Kamalanathsharma, "Eco-driving at signalized intersections using V2I communication", 2011, 14th International IEEE Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITSC), Washington, DC, 2011, pp. 341–346 [54] .
4	U. Kiencke and L. Nielsen, <i>Automotive Control Systems</i> , Springer, 2005 [55] .
5	S.M. Lavalle, <i>Planning Algorithms</i> , Cambridge University Press, 2006 [56] .
6	H. Wahl, M. Holzäpfel and F. Gauterin, "Approximate dynamic programming methods applied to far trajectory planning in optimal control", 2014 IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium Proceedings, Dearborn, MI, 2014, pp. 1085–1090 [57] .
7	H. Xia, K. Boriboonsomsin, F. Schweizer, A. Winckler, K. Zhou, W-B. Zhang and M. Barth, "Field operational testing of ECO-approach technology at a fixed-time signalized intersection", 2012 15th International IEEE Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems, Anchorage, AK, 2012, pp. 188–193 [58] .
8	Y. Feng, K.L. Head, S. Khoshmagham and M. Zamanipour, "A real-time adaptive signal control in a connected vehicle environment", <i>Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies</i> , Volume 55, June 2015, pp. 460–473 [59] .
9	J. Arnold, Traffic guidance system, Mitsubishi International GmbH, US Patent No. US006418371B1; July 2002 [60] .
10	M.R. Rahman, Method for controlling traffic, USA, Intel corporation, 2002 [61] .
11	B. Abdulhai, R. Pringle and G. Karakoulas, "Reinforcement learning for true adaptive traffic signal control", <i>Journal of Transportation Engineering</i> , 129 (3), 2003, pp. 278–285 [51] .
12	J. Lee and B. Park, "Development and Evaluation of a Cooperative Vehicle Intersection Control Algorithm Under the Connected Vehicles Environment", in <i>IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems</i> , vol. 13, no. 1, March 2012, pp. 81–90 [62] .
13	J. Zhao, W. Li, J. Wang and X. Ban, "Dynamic Traffic Signal Timing Optimization Strategy Incorporating Various Vehicle Fuel Consumption Characteristics", in <i>IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology</i> , vol. 65, no. 6, June 2016, pp. 3874–3887 [63] .
14	C. Diakaki, M. Papageorgiou and K. Aboudolas, "A multivariable regulator approach to traffic-responsive network-wide signal control", <i>Control Engineering Practice</i> , Volume 10, Issue 2, February 2002, pp. 183–

195 [64].

15 P. Mirchandani and L. Head, "A real-time traffic signal control system: architecture, algorithms, and analysis", *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies*, Volume 9, Issue 6, December 2001, pp. 415–432 [65].

network.

By establishing a cocitation threshold of 20 citations for a source (default value in VOSviewer), 48 sources were selected from 7641 sources and were grouped in four clusters. Results are shown in Figure 4, where the distance between the nodes shows the cocitation frequency. In other words, a small distance between two nodes shows a high cocitation frequency between the two sources.

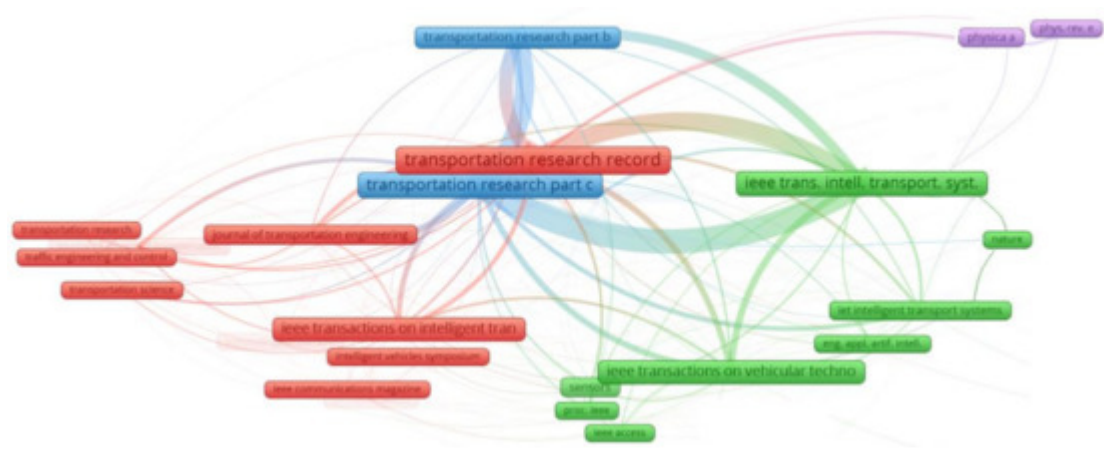


Figure 4. Source visualization of database list “A” obtained by analyzing cocitations.

By manually elaborating the resulting data and considering source duplications due to slight differences in the source name, it was possible to elaborate Table 3, where the most influential sources are ordered with regards to the connection strengths evidenced by the network analysis.

Table 3. Most influential sources after manually resolving name duplications.

Source	Total Link Strength
Transportation Research Part C	4290
Transportation Research Record	3678
IEEE Trans. Intell. Transport. Syst.	2962
Transportation Research Part B	2151
IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology	1294
IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems	947
Journal of Transportation Engineering	750
IET Intelligent Transport Systems	685

Source	Total Link Strength
Org. Lett.	644
Intelligent Transportation Systems (itsc)	618
J. Am. Chem. Soc.	579
Chem. Commun.	530
Physica A	460
Sensors	408

The cocitation analysis of authors was carried out by establishing a minimum threshold of 20 citations for an author; in this way, 195 authors were selected. The resulting network is visualized in Figure 5, where the dimension of a node shows the total link strength of that node as an index of relevance in the network and the vicinity of two nodes shows the connection in terms of cocitations.

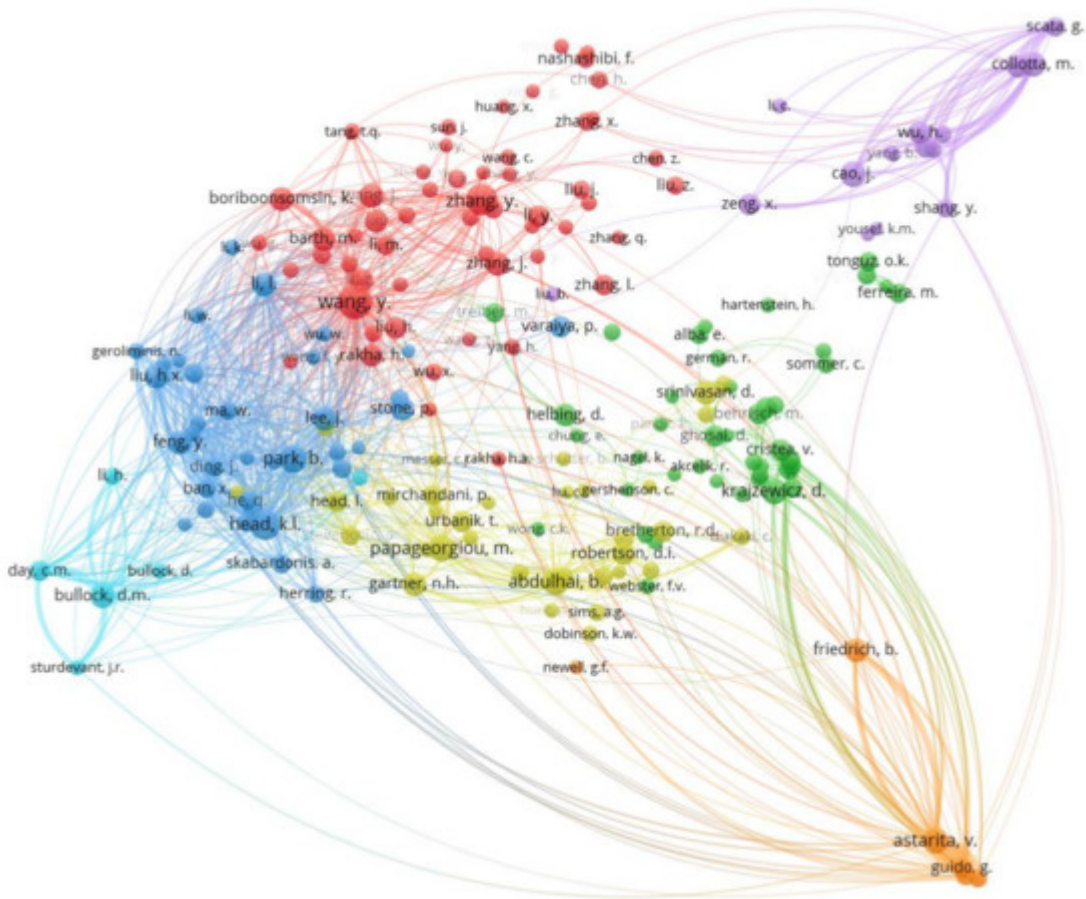


Figure 5. Author visualization of database list “A” obtained by analyzing cocitations.

It must be noted that the cocitation analysis visualization of Figure 7 shows a well-connected network, while the reference analysis reported in Figure 4 and Figure 5 shows a poorly connected network; this means that the main

authors in the field are connected in terms of citations among each other, while the specific research papers with high relevance are not connected. This incongruence shows that the more important works have been published without cross-referencing, and this is possibly an indication of a new field of research that might be in an embryonic state.

Table 4 shows the list of most influential authors based on the connection strengths evidenced by the network analysis.

Table 4. Most influential authors after manually resolving name duplications.

Rank	Author	Weight (Total Link Strength)
1	Brian Park	5284
2	Yibing Wang	4701
3	K. Larry Head	4089
4	Vittorio Astarita	3255
5	Li Li	3219
6	Yiheng Feng	3123
7	Henry Liu	3018
8	Xuegang (Jeff) Ban	2648
9	Joyoung Lee	2461
10	Darcy M. Bullock	2457
11	Markos Papageorgiou	2411
12	Baher Abdulhai	2221
13	Giuseppe Guido	2187
14	Jun Zhang	2001

4. Country Analysis Based on Coauthorship

The dispersed nature of the field of traffic signal control methods and experiments based on CAs and FCD does not make it easy for a single paper or author to establish a definitive result. For this reason, in this section, we investigate potential collaborations among researchers of different countries by using country coauthorship analysis. An assessment of research exchanges and development between countries and the single-country contributions was conducted by setting a minimum number of considered documents from a given country to 10.

Among 79 countries, 18 countries meet the threshold; among these 18 countries, 17 countries are connected and shown in Figure 6, where the dimension of the circles represents the number of documents for each given country. In Table 5, the 17 more active countries are listed in order of citations.

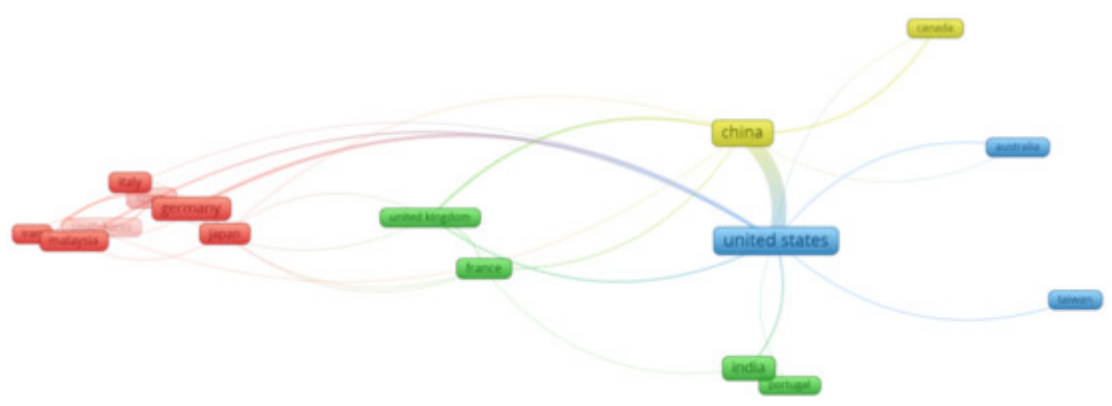


Figure 6. Country visualization of database list “A” obtained by analyzing coauthorship.

Table 5. Most influential countries.

Rank	Country	Documents	Citations
1	United States	151	2639
2	China	123	845
3	Germany	56	513
4	Japan	34	468
5	Spain	22	316
6	Taiwan	16	278
7	Italy	29	268
8	United Kingdom	19	260
9	India	85	255
10	France	20	251
11	South Korea	19	131
12	Canada	17	119
13	Malaysia	20	77
14	Iran	13	62
15	Australia	11	54

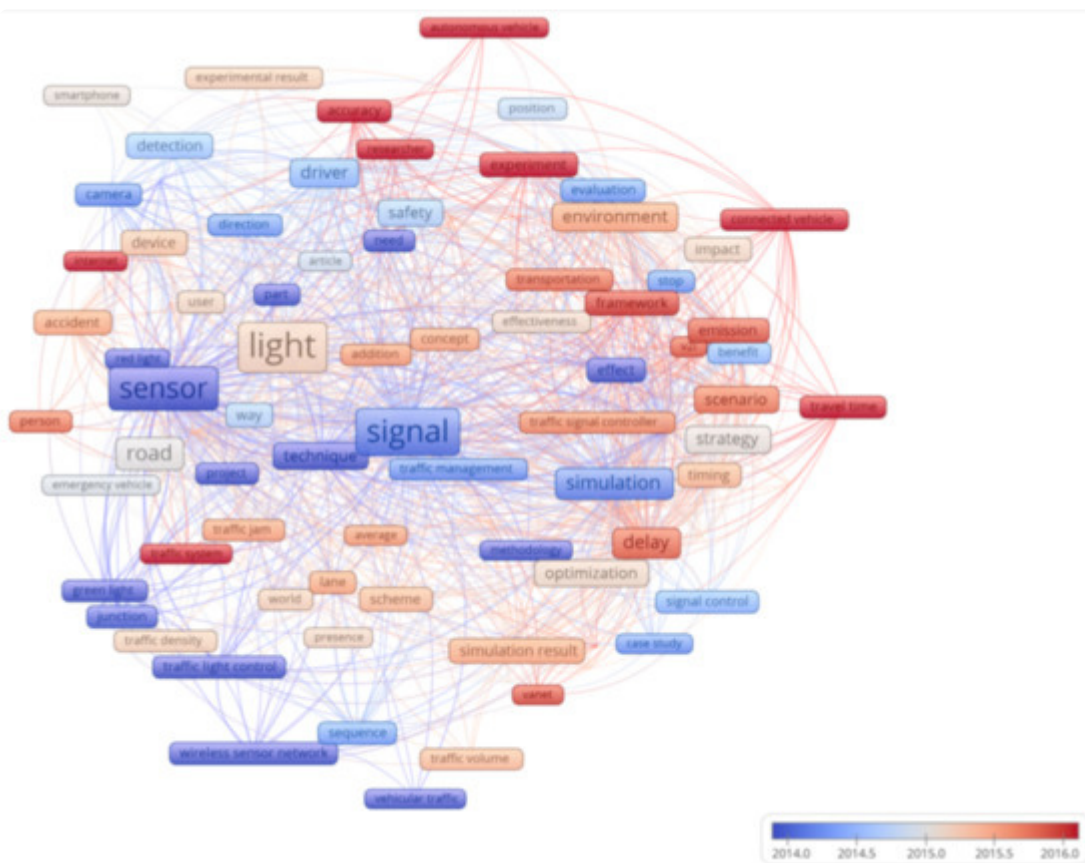


Figure 7. Trending topics (in red) versus old topics (in blue).

These words are just the outcome of a standard VOSviewer overlay visualization analysis and show a tendency of words to appear or disappear among titles and abstracts over time. The trending topics are trending among the selected papers, and the emerging terms such as internet and connected vehicles can be explained with the emerging connectivity that is a recent characteristic of new connected traffic signal systems.

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