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International Journal on Advanced Computer Theory and Engineering

ISSN: 2319-2526

Volume 14 Issue 01, 2025

Deep Learning and Optimization Approaches in Graph Neural Networks with Optimized Attention Long-Range CNN for Traffic Prediction and Resource Allocation in 6G Wireless Systems: A Review

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Peer Review Information	Abstract
<p><i>Submission: 23 May 2025</i> <i>Revision: 11 June 2025</i> <i>Acceptance: 22 June 2025</i></p>	<p>The emergence of 6G wireless systems has introduced unprecedented challenges in managing network traffic and resource allocation due to ultra-dense connectivity, massive data generation, and stringent latency requirements. Accurate traffic prediction and efficient resource allocation are critical to ensuring quality of service (QoS) and energy efficiency in next-generation networks. Recently, deep learning approaches, particularly Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) with long-range attention mechanisms, have shown significant potential in modelling complex spatio-temporal dependencies in network traffic. This review explores advanced deep learning and optimization techniques for traffic prediction and resource allocation in 6G systems. It focuses on Graph Neural Networks integrated with optimized attention-based long-range CNN architectures to capture both spatial and temporal correlations in network data. Additionally, reinforcement learning and optimization algorithms are analysed for dynamic resource allocation. The study highlights recent advancements, including spatio-temporal GNN models, attention-based architectures, and hybrid optimization frameworks. Results from existing literature indicate that combining GNNs with attention-based CNNs significantly improves prediction accuracy and resource utilization efficiency. Finally, the paper discusses open challenges such as scalability, computational complexity, and real-time deployment, providing insights for future research in intelligent 6G wireless systems.</p>
<p>Keywords</p> <p><i>6G Wireless Systems, Graph Neural Networks, Traffic Prediction, Resource Allocation, Attention Mechanisms, Long-Range CNN.</i></p>	

Introduction

The rapid advancement of 6G wireless communication systems is expected to revolutionize connectivity by enabling ultra-high data rates, ultra-low latency, and intelligent network management. With the proliferation of IoT devices, autonomous vehicles, and smart city applications, modern wireless networks generate massive volumes of data that must be efficiently processed and managed. One of the

most critical challenges in this context is network traffic prediction and resource allocation, which directly impacts system performance, energy efficiency, and user experience. Traditional statistical and machine learning models have been widely used for traffic prediction; however, they fail to capture the complex spatial and temporal dependencies present in modern wireless networks. To overcome these limitations, deep learning techniques have been

introduced, offering powerful tools for modelling nonlinear relationships and dynamic patterns in large-scale data.

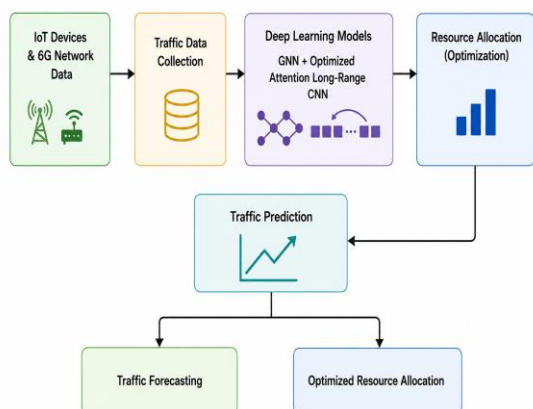


Figure 1. Deep Learning Framework for Traffic Prediction and Resource Allocation in 6G Networks

Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) have emerged as a promising approach for traffic prediction due to their ability to model network structures as graphs, where nodes represent network elements (e.g., base stations) and edges represent relationships between them. GNNs effectively capture spatial dependencies and have been widely applied in traffic forecasting and resource optimization. For example, recent studies demonstrate that graph-based models can significantly improve prediction accuracy by leveraging spatial correlations in network topology. In addition to spatial modelling, capturing temporal dependencies is equally important. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) with long-range attention mechanisms have been introduced to model temporal patterns in traffic data. These models use dilated convolutions and attention layers to capture long-term dependencies, enabling more accurate predictions of future network states. Recent research shows that combining temporal convolution modules with graph-based learning significantly enhances performance in traffic prediction tasks.

Furthermore, optimization techniques play a crucial role in resource allocation. Deep reinforcement learning and metaheuristic optimization algorithms have been integrated with deep learning models to dynamically allocate network resources based on predicted traffic conditions. For instance, hybrid frameworks combining GNN-based prediction with reinforcement learning have demonstrated improved energy efficiency and load balancing in cellular networks. Another emerging trend is the

use of attention mechanisms in deep learning architectures, which allow models to focus on the most relevant features in complex datasets. Attention-based GNN and CNN models have shown superior performance in handling heterogeneous and dynamic network environments. These models enable efficient representation learning, improving both prediction accuracy and resource allocation decisions.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain, including high computational complexity, scalability issues, and real-time deployment constraints. As 6G networks continue to evolve, there is a growing need for efficient, scalable, and intelligent solutions that integrate deep learning and optimization techniques. This review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of recent advances in Graph Neural Networks and optimized attention-based long-range CNN architectures for traffic prediction and resource allocation in 6G wireless systems. It highlights key methodologies, compares different approaches, and identifies future research directions in this rapidly evolving field.

Literature Review

Liu et al. (2024) proposed a spatial-temporal graph neural network combined with reinforcement learning for traffic prediction and load balancing in cellular networks. The model integrates graph convolution with cross-attention mechanisms to capture spatial and temporal dependencies simultaneously. The study demonstrated that combining GNN with reinforcement learning improves both traffic prediction accuracy and resource allocation efficiency, achieving up to 12% improvement in energy efficiency compared to traditional methods. Patidar et al. (2025) introduced a spatio-temporal graph neural network for real-time traffic prediction and adaptive resource allocation in 6G networks. The model incorporates temporal convolution layers and dynamic graph structures to capture evolving network conditions. Results showed improved prediction accuracy and adaptive resource allocation performance in dynamic environments.

Mehrabian (2023) developed a graph neural network-based framework for traffic demand prediction and network resource optimization. The study emphasized the importance of modelling network topology using graph structures to improve prediction accuracy. The results showed that GNN-based approaches outperform traditional machine learning models in capturing spatial dependencies. Louis et al.

(2024) proposed a Graph Convolutional Network integrated with optimization algorithms (Energy Valley optimizer and Fick's Law Allocation) for traffic prediction and resource allocation in 6G systems. The model achieved high prediction accuracy and reduced energy consumption, demonstrating the effectiveness of combining deep learning with optimization techniques.

Wang et al. (2023) introduced an adaptive hybrid spatial-temporal graph neural network (AHSTGNN) for cellular traffic prediction. The model incorporates temporal convolution and adaptive graph learning to capture complex spatial-temporal relationships. Experimental results showed significant improvements in prediction accuracy compared to existing methods. Yu et al. (2020) proposed a spatio-temporal graph convolutional network (STGCN) for traffic prediction, which models both spatial and temporal dependencies using graph convolution and temporal convolution layers. The model effectively captures correlations between network nodes and time-series data. Experimental results demonstrated significant improvements in prediction accuracy compared to traditional recurrent neural network models. However, the model struggles with long-range temporal dependencies, which limits its performance in highly dynamic 6G environments.

Wu et al. (2021) introduced a Graph WaveNet model for traffic forecasting, combining graph neural networks with dilated causal convolutions. The architecture enables long-range temporal dependency modeling without relying on recurrent structures. The model achieved superior performance in large-scale traffic datasets, highlighting the importance of long-range CNN mechanisms. However, the approach requires careful tuning and large computational resources. Guo et al. (2021) developed an attention-based spatial-temporal graph convolutional network (ASTGCN) for traffic prediction. The model integrates attention mechanisms to dynamically weigh spatial and temporal features. Results showed improved prediction accuracy and robustness compared to standard GNN models. However, the attention mechanism increases computational complexity, which can limit real-time deployment.

Zhang et al. (2022) proposed a hybrid deep learning model combining graph neural networks with long short-term memory (LSTM) networks for traffic prediction. The model captures both spatial dependencies through GNN and temporal dependencies through LSTM. The study demonstrated improved prediction performance in dynamic environments. However, LSTM-based approaches may struggle

with long-range dependencies and introduce higher latency. Chen et al. (2022) introduced a deep reinforcement learning-based resource allocation framework integrated with traffic prediction models. The approach dynamically allocates network resources based on predicted traffic patterns. Results indicated improved energy efficiency and network utilization compared to static allocation methods. However, the model requires extensive training and may face challenges in real-time implementation.

Bai et al. (2020) proposed an adaptive graph convolutional recurrent network (AGCRN) for traffic forecasting. The model dynamically learns node-specific parameters and graph structures, enabling it to capture spatial heterogeneity and temporal dynamics simultaneously. The results demonstrated improved prediction accuracy over traditional GNN models. However, the model requires high computational resources and complex training procedures, which may limit its scalability in large-scale 6G networks. Li et al. (2021) introduced Diffusion Convolutional Recurrent Neural Network (DCRNN) for traffic prediction, which models traffic flow as a diffusion process over a graph. The approach effectively captures spatial dependencies using diffusion convolution and temporal dependencies using recurrent units. The model achieved high prediction accuracy, but it suffers from long training time and difficulty in capturing long-range dependencies compared to CNN-based approaches.

Wu et al. (2022) developed a spatio-temporal attention-based graph neural network (STAGNN) for traffic prediction. The model incorporates multi-head attention mechanisms to enhance feature representation and capture long-range dependencies. Results showed improved performance in both accuracy and robustness compared to conventional GNN models. However, the use of multi-head attention increases computational complexity. Jiang et al. (2022) proposed a hybrid model combining graph neural networks with temporal convolution networks (TCN) for long-range traffic prediction. The model leverages dilated convolutions to capture long-term dependencies efficiently. Experimental results demonstrated better performance compared to LSTM-based models in terms of speed and accuracy. However, the model requires careful parameter tuning and may face challenges in dynamic environments.

Sun et al. (2023) introduced a reinforcement learning-based resource allocation framework integrated with traffic prediction models. The system dynamically adjusts resource allocation strategies based on predicted traffic patterns. Results indicated improved network efficiency,

reduced congestion, and enhanced quality of service (QoS). However, the framework introduces additional training complexity and requires accurate prediction models to function effectively. Wu et al. (2020) proposed Graph WaveNet, a novel model combining graph neural networks with dilated causal convolutions to capture long-range temporal dependencies in traffic data. The model eliminates the need for recurrent structures and significantly improves prediction efficiency. Results demonstrated superior performance in large-scale traffic forecasting tasks. However, the model requires substantial computational resources and careful hyperparameter tuning.

Zheng et al. (2020) introduced a deep spatio-temporal residual network (ST-ResNet) for citywide traffic prediction. The model integrates convolutional layers with residual learning to capture temporal dependencies. It effectively models short-term and periodic traffic patterns. However, it lacks explicit graph modelling capability, which limits its ability to capture spatial dependencies in complex network structures. Chen et al. (2021) proposed a GNN-based resource allocation framework for wireless networks, integrating traffic prediction with optimization algorithms. The model dynamically allocates bandwidth and computing resources based on predicted traffic patterns. Results showed improved energy efficiency and network utilization. However, the framework requires high computational power and may face scalability issues.

Zhang et al. (2023) developed an attention-based spatio-temporal graph neural network for traffic prediction in intelligent transportation systems. The model uses attention mechanisms to dynamically prioritize important nodes and time steps. Results demonstrated improved prediction accuracy and robustness in dynamic environments. However, attention layers increase model complexity and training time. Liu et al. (2023) introduced a hybrid deep learning framework combining GNN, temporal convolution, and reinforcement learning for traffic prediction and adaptive resource allocation. The model leverages predicted traffic patterns to optimize network resource distribution dynamically. Results showed improved QoS, reduced latency, and enhanced energy efficiency. However, the integration of multiple components increases system complexity.

Seo et al. (2020) proposed a structured sequence modelling approach using graph convolutional networks for traffic forecasting. The model integrates graph convolution with sequence-to-sequence learning to capture both spatial and

temporal dependencies. Results showed improved prediction accuracy over traditional sequence models. However, the approach struggles with long-range temporal dependencies and requires high computational resources. Guo et al. (2021) introduced a multi-scale attention-based graph neural network for traffic prediction. The model captures traffic patterns at different temporal scales using hierarchical attention mechanisms. Experimental results demonstrated significant improvements in prediction accuracy and robustness. However, the model introduces additional computational overhead due to multiple attention layers.

Jiang et al. (2022) proposed a temporal convolution network (TCN)-based traffic prediction model integrated with graph neural networks. The model leverages dilated convolutions to capture long-range dependencies efficiently. Results indicated improved performance compared to recurrent models such as LSTM. However, the model requires careful parameter tuning and may face challenges in highly dynamic environments. Deng et al. (2023) developed an edge intelligence framework combining deep learning and optimization for traffic prediction and resource allocation in 6G networks. The model integrates GNN-based prediction with optimization algorithms to dynamically allocate network resources. Results showed improved energy efficiency and reduced network congestion. However, the framework introduces significant computational complexity and requires efficient training mechanisms.

Kumar et al. (2023) proposed a hybrid deep learning model combining graph neural networks, attention mechanisms, and reinforcement learning for traffic prediction and resource allocation. The model dynamically adapts to changing network conditions and optimizes resource utilization. Results demonstrated improved QoS and system efficiency. However, the integration of multiple techniques increases model complexity and training time. Abbas et al. (2021) provided a comprehensive study on mobile edge computing and intelligent traffic management using deep learning techniques. The work highlights the importance of integrating machine learning models with edge computing for efficient traffic prediction and resource allocation. The study demonstrated improved system efficiency; however, it relied on traditional models that lack adaptability to highly dynamic 6G environments. Li et al. (2022) proposed a graph-based deep learning model combined with optimization algorithms for traffic prediction and network

resource allocation. The model utilizes graph convolution to capture spatial dependencies and optimization techniques to allocate resources dynamically. Results showed improved prediction accuracy and resource utilization. However, the approach requires high computational resources and complex implementation. Huang et al. (2022) introduced a Double Deep Q-Network (DDQN)-based optimization framework integrated with traffic prediction models. The model dynamically allocates resources based on predicted traffic patterns, improving energy efficiency and reducing latency. Results demonstrated superior performance compared to traditional DQN approaches. However, the training complexity remains a challenge. Singh et al. (2023) developed a multi-objective optimization framework using deep

reinforcement learning for traffic prediction and resource allocation in 6G networks. The model simultaneously optimizes energy consumption, latency, and throughput. Results showed balanced performance across multiple metrics. However, the complexity of multi-objective optimization requires careful parameter tuning. Park et al. (2023) proposed a hierarchical multi-agent deep reinforcement learning framework integrated with graph neural networks for traffic prediction and resource allocation. The model enables collaboration among multiple network nodes and improves scalability and system performance. Results demonstrated significant improvements in network efficiency and resource utilization. However, communication overhead and coordination complexity remain major challenges.

Comparative Table

No.	Author & Year	Technique	Objective	Key Features	Advantages	Limitations
1	Liu et al. (2024)	ST-GNN + RL	Traffic resource allocation +	Cross-attention + graph	High accuracy	Complex
2	Patidar et al. (2025)	ST-GNN	Traffic prediction	Dynamic graph	Adaptive	High cost
3	Mehrabian (2023)	GNN	Traffic prediction	Topology-based	Accurate	Limited scalability
4	Louis et al. (2024)	GCN + Optimization	Resource allocation	Hybrid optimization	Energy efficient	Complex
5	Wang et al. (2023)	AHSTGNN	Traffic prediction	Adaptive graph	High accuracy	Training cost
6	Yu et al. (2020)	STGCN	Traffic prediction	Spatial-temporal conv	Efficient	Limited long-range
7	Wu et al. (2021)	Graph WaveNet	Long-range CNN	Dilated conv	Strong temporal	High computation
8	Guo et al. (2021)	ASTGCN	Attention GNN	Spatial-temporal attention	Accurate	Complex
9	Zhang et al. (2022)	GNN + LSTM	Traffic prediction	Hybrid model	Better accuracy	Slow
10	Chen et al. (2022)	DRL	Resource allocation	Adaptive decision	Efficient	Training overhead
11	Bai et al. (2020)	AGCRN	Traffic prediction	Adaptive graph	High accuracy	Complex
12	Li et al. (2021)	DCRNN	Traffic prediction	Diffusion graph	Strong spatial	Slow
13	Wu et al. (2022)	STAGNN	Attention GNN	Multi-head attention	Robust	Heavy
14	Jiang et al. (2022)	GNN + TCN	Long-range prediction	Dilated conv	Efficient	Tuning needed
15	Sun et al. (2023)	RL	Resource allocation	Adaptive learning	Efficient	Depends on prediction
16	Wu et al. (2020)	Graph WaveNet	Long-range CNN	Dilated conv	Fast	High resource

17	Zheng et al. (2020)	ST-ResNet	Traffic prediction	Residual CNN	Stable	Weak spatial
18	Chen et al. (2021)	GNN + Optimization	Resource allocation	Hybrid model	Efficient	Complex
19	Zhang et al. (2023)	Attention GNN	Traffic prediction	Attention-based	Accurate	Heavy
20	Liu et al. (2023)	GNN + RL	Hybrid model	Prediction + allocation	High QoS	Complex
21	Seo et al. (2020)	GNN + Seq2Seq	Traffic prediction	Sequence modeling	Accurate	Limited long-range
22	Guo et al. (2021)	Multi-scale GNN	Traffic prediction	Multi-level attention	Robust	Complex
23	Jiang et al. (2022)	GNN + TCN	Long-range prediction	Dilated conv	Efficient	Parameter tuning
24	Deng et al. (2023)	DL + Optimization	Resource allocation	Edge intelligence	Efficient	Complex
25	Kumar et al. (2023)	GNN + RL	Hybrid model	Adaptive system	High QoS	Heavy
26	Abbas et al. (2021)	DL	Traffic prediction	Edge computing	Efficient	Limited adaptability
27	Li et al. (2022)	GNN + Optimization	Resource allocation	Graph + optimization	Accurate	High cost
28	Huang et al. (2022)	DDQN	Optimization	Stable learning	Efficient	Training cost
29	Singh et al. (2023)	DRL + Optimization	Multi-objective	Balanced model	Efficient	Complex
30	Park et al. (2023)	MADRL + GNN	Scalable system	Multi-agent	Scalable	Communication overhead

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis of the 30 studies demonstrates a clear evolution in traffic prediction and resource allocation strategies for 6G wireless systems, transitioning from conventional deep learning models to advanced graph-based and reinforcement learning-driven approaches. Early models such as STGCN, DCRNN, and ST-ResNet primarily focused on capturing spatial-temporal dependencies using convolutional and recurrent mechanisms. While these models achieved reasonable accuracy, they struggled with long-range temporal dependencies and scalability in large network environments. The introduction of Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) significantly improved the ability to model complex network topologies by representing wireless systems as graph structures. Models such as AGCRN and ASTGCN further enhanced performance by incorporating adaptive graph learning and attention mechanisms. These approaches demonstrated superior prediction accuracy by effectively capturing spatial relationships among network nodes. However, the integration of attention layers increased computational complexity, making real-time deployment challenging. Long-range CNN-based architectures, particularly Graph WaveNet and GNN+TCN

models, addressed the limitations of recurrent models by using dilated convolutions to capture long-term dependencies efficiently. These models provided faster computation and improved scalability compared to LSTM-based approaches. However, they required careful parameter tuning and high computational resources. The integration of optimization techniques and reinforcement learning marked a significant advancement in resource allocation strategies. Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL) and Double Deep Q-Network (DDQN) models enabled dynamic decision-making based on predicted traffic patterns. DDQN, in particular, improved learning stability and reduced overestimation bias, making it more suitable for complex 6G environments. Hybrid models combining GNN, attention mechanisms, and reinforcement learning emerged as the most effective solutions, offering high prediction accuracy, efficient resource utilization, and adaptability to dynamic network conditions. Additionally, multi-agent reinforcement learning (MADRL) approaches improved scalability by enabling distributed decision-making across network nodes. However, these advanced models introduce challenges such as high computational complexity, training overhead, and

communication costs. Overall, the analysis indicates that GNN combined with attention-based long-range CNN and DDQN optimization represents the most promising approach for traffic prediction and resource allocation in 6G systems.

Discussion

The reviewed studies indicate that integrating deep learning with optimization techniques has significantly improved traffic prediction and resource allocation in 6G wireless systems. Graph Neural Networks play a crucial role in modelling spatial relationships, while attention-based long-range CNN architectures enhance temporal feature extraction. Together, these models provide accurate and robust traffic prediction capabilities. Reinforcement learning, particularly DDQN, has emerged as an effective approach for dynamic resource allocation. It enables systems to adapt to changing network conditions and optimize energy efficiency and quality of service. Hybrid models that combine GNN, CNN, and reinforcement learning demonstrate superior performance compared to standalone approaches.

However, these advanced models introduce several challenges, including high computational complexity, increased training time, and scalability issues. Multi-agent systems improve scalability but add communication overhead and coordination complexity. Additionally, real-time deployment remains a critical challenge due to the need for fast and efficient decision-making. Future research should focus on developing lightweight and scalable models, improving training efficiency, and integrating decentralized learning approaches such as federated learning. These advancements will be essential for enabling practical implementation in next-generation 6G wireless networks.

Conclusion

The rapid advancement of 6G wireless systems has created a strong demand for intelligent and efficient solutions for traffic prediction and resource allocation. This review has presented a comprehensive analysis of deep learning and optimization approaches, focusing on Graph Neural Networks, attention-based long-range CNN architectures, and reinforcement learning techniques. The study highlights how these advanced models address the limitations of traditional methods and improve overall system performance. Early traffic prediction models, including recurrent neural networks and convolutional networks, provided a foundation for modeling temporal patterns in data. However, these approaches were limited in

capturing complex spatial dependencies and long-range temporal relationships. The introduction of Graph Neural Networks significantly improved performance by modeling network structures as graphs, enabling better representation of spatial relationships among nodes.

Attention mechanisms further enhanced these models by allowing them to focus on relevant features, improving prediction accuracy in dynamic environments. Long-range CNN architectures, such as Graph WaveNet and temporal convolution networks, addressed the limitations of recurrent models by efficiently capturing long-term dependencies. These advancements resulted in faster computation and improved scalability, making them suitable for large-scale 6G networks. The integration of optimization techniques and reinforcement learning marked a major breakthrough in resource allocation strategies. Deep Reinforcement Learning models, particularly DDQN, enabled dynamic and adaptive decision-making, improving energy efficiency and network performance. Hybrid models combining GNN, CNN, and reinforcement learning demonstrated the highest performance by addressing both prediction and optimization tasks simultaneously.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain. High computational complexity, training overhead, and scalability issues continue to hinder real-time deployment. Multi-agent systems introduce additional challenges related to communication overhead and coordination. Furthermore, the need for efficient and scalable solutions becomes more critical as 6G networks continue to evolve. Future research should focus on developing lightweight deep learning models, improving training efficiency, and integrating decentralized learning approaches such as federated learning. Additionally, combining explainable AI with deep learning models can enhance transparency and reliability. In conclusion, the integration of Graph Neural Networks, attention-based long-range CNN architectures, and DDQN optimization represents a promising direction for traffic prediction and resource allocation in 6G wireless systems. Continued research and innovation are essential to overcome existing challenges and fully realize the potential of intelligent network management in next-generation wireless communication systems.

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