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# The coupling coordination relationship between regional economy and transportation industry in China

**Abstract:** With the rapid development of economy, the discrepancy between regional economy and transportation industry is increasingly prominent for most regions. Coordinated development between regional economy and transportation industry is very important for the sustainable development of cities. This paper utilizes the Coupling Coordination Degree (CCD) model and Entropy Method (EM) to quantitatively study the coupling coordination state between regional economy and transportation industry and its spatial distribution of 30 provinces in China from 2004 to 2017. The results show that: (1) The comprehensive level of regional economy and transportation industry in China's have shown a growing trend, and regional economic development is faster than transportation industry development. The economic development scale and transportation scale are the most influential indicators among all indicators. (2) The CCD between regional economy and transportation industry in China is changing from incoordination to high-level coordination, but the improvement speed is slow. The imbalance of CCD levels among regions vary significantly. The CCD in the eastern region is slightly higher than that in the central, western and northeast regions. (3) In the region with a higher CCD, the development discrepancy between the development of regional economy and transportation industry is higher than that in other regions. This study could provide scientific references to stimulate the coordinated development between regional economy and transportation industry, and also to promote sustainable global development.

**Keywords:** Regional economy; Transportation industry; Coupling coordination degree; Spatial distribution

## 1 Introduction

Regional economy and transportation industry are two important aspects of urban sustainable development. Simultaneously, an inseparable connection exists between regional economy and transportation industry (Vooren, 2004; Limani, 2016; Chunmei, 2018). Increasing investment in transportation infrastructure, expanding transportation scale and reducing transportation cost can stimulate the development of economic (Ge et al., 2019; Vooren, 2004). Correspondingly, the economic scale, economic structure and economic development also have noticeably impact on transportation

33 development (Maparu and Mazumder, 2017; Tong and Yu, 2018). Thence, realizing the  
34 common development between regional economy and transportation industry, and  
35 achieving a benign interaction between them will effectively promote the urban  
36 sustainable development.

37 Some countries have made efforts to accelerate the development of regional  
38 economy and transportation industry. The United States promulgated the “US Strategic  
39 Transportation Plan for FY 2018-2022” to balance the rapid increase in material flow,  
40 backward infrastructure and achieve economic sustainability. Since the promulgation  
41 of the “Future Industrial Plan” in 2015, France has continued to promote the  
42 transformation of economic growth mode and sustainable transportation development.  
43 China proposed the “The Belt and Road Initiative” in 2015, which includes building an  
44 integrated economic zone by strengthening the construction of transportation, network  
45 infrastructure, etc. These policies promote the development of economy and  
46 transportation industry from the national macro perspective. However, the policies lack  
47 of targeted guidance on regional development. Scholars have paid attention to the  
48 research on regional economy and transportation industry, and mostly focus on the  
49 qualitative analysis of the relationship between them (Ma et al., 2019; Pradhan and  
50 Bagchi, 2013; Yang et al., 2019). Only a small part of the research studies has  
51 considered the quantitative analysis of its coordination status (Karlaftis, 2004; Yu et al.,  
52 2019). There is still a gap in the literature regarding the division of the benign  
53 interaction level between regional economy and transportation industry (Lan and Zhong,  
54 2018), which weakens the contributions to generate strategies in formulating urban  
55 plans.

56 The Coupling Coordination Degree (CCD) is often used to evaluate the  
57 relationship between two systems, which can be adopted to measure the coordination  
58 relationship between the regional economy and the transportation industry (Liu et al.,  
59 2018; Liu et al., 2018). Coupling is the earliest concept in physics, commonly used to  
60 express the degree of interaction and mutual influence of two or more systems (Tao,  
61 2019). Coordination measures the coordinated development of various elements within  
62 a system and reflects the harmony of the system (Li et al., 2020). To promote the  
63 coupling coordination of regional economy and transportation industry means that the  
64 two systems accomplish common and harmonious development on the basis of  
65 interaction. In the context of global sustainable development, the coupling coordination  
66 of regional economy and transportation industry is conducive to the resource allocation

67 and the overall development of economy and transportation. At the same time, common  
68 development of multiple modes of transportation is an important feature of modern  
69 transportation industry. Fully will make The evaluation of the transportation system will  
70 more accurate considering development disparity of various modes of transportation.

71 This paper utilizes Coupling Coordination Degree (CCD) model to quantitative  
72 analysis the coordination level between regional economy and the transportation.  
73 Meanwhile, the paper subdivides the 6 development stages of coordination between the  
74 regional economy and transportation industry. Taking China as the research area, the  
75 researchers explored the differences of the coordinated development level of regional  
76 economy and transportation industry in 30 provinces from 2004 to 2017. Under global  
77 sustainable development background, the paper also provides suggestions for  
78 improving coordination and reducing development discrepancy between regional  
79 economy and transportation industry. This study is conducive to the realization of  
80 benign interaction between regional economy and transportation industry, which lays a  
81 foundation for promoting global sustainable development.

82 The rest of this article is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews the relevant  
83 literature. Section 3 introduces the research area and develops the Coupling  
84 Coordination Degree (CCD) Model. Section 4 calculates the comprehensive levels of  
85 economic and transportation development of 30 provinces, respectively. The coupling  
86 coordination degree and development discrepancy of different provinces are also  
87 obtained. Section 5 discusses the reasons of coupling coordination development level  
88 and regional differences. The last section presents the conclusions and suggestions.

## 89 **2 Literature review**

90 Existing literature studies the relationship between regional economy and  
91 transportation industry from perspectives. As an important relationship between the  
92 regional economy and the transportation industry, coordination is evaluated by different  
93 methods. The literature review is divided into two parts: (1)Research perspectives of  
94 the relationship between regional economy and transportation industry; (2)Research  
95 methods of coordination between regional economy and transportation industry.

### 96 2.1 Research perspectives of the relationship between regional economy and 97 transportation industry

98 Many scholars have explored the relationship between economy and transportation.  
99 Adam Smith, the representative of classical political economic theory, proposed that

100 transportation promotes the improvement of economic operation efficiency by  
101 promoting social division of labor, and the continuous increase in the level of economic  
102 development affects transportation. Afterwards, scholars have conducted multi-level  
103 research on the relationship between economy and transportation development from  
104 different perspectives. They generally believe that transportation plays a vital role in  
105 economic activity either directly. It also as a complement to other factors of production  
106 and affects economic activity positively (Pradhan and Bagchi, 2013; Marazzo et al.,  
107 2010; Chi and Baek, 2013). Most empirical studies show that transportation  
108 infrastructure is a necessary condition for social and economic development, and point  
109 out the impact of transportation infrastructure construction on economic development  
110 (Sun and Cui, 2018; Farhadi, 2015; Arvin et al., 2015). At the same time, there are  
111 mutually promoting forces between transportation and economic development. The  
112 type and extent of current regional economic development determine the magnitude of  
113 the forces. Subsequently, Han and Yang (2000) improved life cycle theory of the  
114 transportation economic belt to explain the basic characteristics and basic laws of the  
115 development of the transportation economic belt. They believed that the formation and  
116 development of the transportation economic belt played an important role in promoting  
117 regional and national economic construction.

118 As a kind of relationship between regional economy and transportation industry,  
119 coordination is a key factor to the development between them. There is little research  
120 directly addressing the coordination of regional economy and transportation industry.  
121 Some scholars study the relationship between urbanization and transportation  
122 development from the perspective of urbanization, from which economy is only one of  
123 the factors in evaluating the process of urbanization. They believe that the coordination  
124 of new urbanization and sustainable transportation is an effective basis for the  
125 comprehensive and sustainable development of urbanization theory (Ma et al., 2019; Li  
126 et al., 2015). Other studies have investigated the state of coordination with the economy  
127 from a certain aspect of transportation such as transportation infrastructure investment,  
128 logistics development, etc. They consider that promoting their coordinated  
129 development is helpful to raise the efficiency of urban public transportation  
130 infrastructure and guide urban planning and investment scientifically (Sun and Cui,  
131 2018; Yang et al., 2019).

132 In the study of transportation coordination, the comprehensive transportation  
133 system as the future development goal of the transportation industry has also attracted

134 attention. Some scholars have studied the low-carbon synergy of transportation modes  
135 based on the idea of synergy and evolution. They believe that the low-carbon synergy  
136 of China's transportation system basically tends to zero (Cui et al., 2014). Some  
137 researchers used the data envelopment analysis method to evaluate the comprehensive  
138 validity of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei transportation system, and concluded that the  
139 coordination development of the transportation modes of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei  
140 regional transportation system is low (Zhao, 2016). Although studies have shown that  
141 the level of comprehensive transportation is relatively low at this stage, the  
142 development of comprehensive transportation is an inherent demand and inevitable  
143 choice for transportation transformation and upgrading.

144 In conclusion, the current research on coordination relationship rarely directly  
145 connects the regional economy with the transportation industry. At the same time, the  
146 discrepancy development of multiple modes of transportation is rarely considered in  
147 the transportation industry system. With regards to this, this paper directly studies the  
148 CCD of regional economy and transportation industry, and fully considers the multiple  
149 modes of transportation in the transportation industry system. It can provide more  
150 targeted and accurate guidance for the sustainable development of the region.

## 151 2.2 Research methods of coordination between regional economy and transportation 152 industry

153 **methods** have been used to quantitatively study the relevance and coordination of  
154 economy and transportation. However, these methods have some shortcomings in  
155 studying the coordination level of regional economy and transportation industry.  
156 Researchers using the Grey Relation Analysis model analyzed the coordination  
157 relationship between the economy and transportation in China (Xu et al., 2010). The  
158 results showed the coordination of them is poor, but the development of the  
159 transportation system significantly promoted the increase of the index value of the  
160 economic system. This method has a strong subjectivity in judging the importance of  
161 indicators. Besides, the optimal value of the result is difficult to **determine**. The  
162 Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Vector Autoregressive model (VAR) are used  
163 to evaluate the regional economy and transportation industry development and study  
164 the coordination degree between them (Tan and Lu, 2015). However, the principal  
165 components need to reduce the dimensionality. This will result in distortion of the  
166 original meaning of the data, which ultimately results in an unclear comprehensive

167 evaluation. Some scholars use Tapio Decoupling model to describe the slowing or  
168 blocking of the coupling relationship between economic growth and transportation  
169 carbon emissions, while the judgment of the coordination level is not clear covered (Xie  
170 et al., 2016).

171 The CCD model is used to measure the coordination relationship between multiple  
172 systems. It is a mature model and has been widely used in many fields such as exploring  
173 the coordination degree of urban economy and logistics development, the coordination  
174 degree of urbanization and air environment, ecological environment, etc. (Lan and  
175 Zhong, 2018; Lan and Tseng, 2018; Ding et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2018). The method can  
176 also quantify the development status of system itself. This avoids the occurrence of high  
177 synergy but in a low development level, which makes the research results more accurate.  
178 This paper chooses the CCD model as the research method to study the coupling  
179 coordination relationship between regional economy and transportation industry. At the  
180 same time, this study adopts the entropy method combined with the CCD model in the  
181 process of raw data standardization, which can greatly reduce the subjectivity and  
182 uncertainty of data processing.

### 183 **3 Methodology**

#### 184 3.1 Study area

185 China is the second largest economy in the world with a population of 1.4 billion  
186 at the end of 2019. While China has a vast territory, there are significant differences in  
187 the development of transportation in various regions. In recent years, with the rapid  
188 development of economy and transportation, problems such as traffic congestion, waste  
189 of resources and unbalanced development have appeared. To this end, a new  
190 development principle of innovation, coordination, greentech, open-minded and  
191 mutual-share has been proposed in China. However, the policies are large coverage  
192 and insufficient targeted guidance of different regions development. The lack of  
193 reference in formulating coordination policies by regional decision makers leads to  
194 problems such as low transportation efficiency and waste of natural resources in the  
195 development of regional economy and transportation industry, which restricts the  
196 development of them. Therefore, studying the coordination relationship between  
197 China's regional economy and transportation industry and clarifying the coupling  
198 coordination degree are necessary.

### 3.2 Index system design(增加指标选取依据)

Measuring the development level of different systems is the premise of coupling coordination analysis. A reasonable index system is the basis of measuring the CCD accurately. This paper constructs an index system combined with the characteristics of regional economy and transportation industry development. This system contains 8 indicators to evaluate the economy comprehensively development and 9 indicators to assess the transportation comprehensively development of 30 provinces, respectively.

Existing literature indicates that there exist many index systems to evaluate the development level of economy. Most of them have constructed index systems from industrial structure, economic scale, and economic development efficiency, etc. (Liu et al., 2018; Shi et al., 2020). Based on the existing research, this study evaluates the comprehensive development level of regional economy from following three aspects: economic structure, economic development scale and economic growth rate, and their eight secondary indicators (Table 1).

There have some papers constructed an index system for evaluating the performance level of transportation development (Kong et al., 2019; Maparu and Mazumder, 2017). However, the existing studies lack of consideration on the development level of different modes of transportation. Therefore, this study takes the development of different modes of transportation into consideration, which can make the evaluation of transportation development more accurate. Consequently, the index system of transportation system consists of three primary indicators: transportation structure, transportation scale and transportation development efficiency, and nine secondary indicators (Table 2).

The performance data of the indexes in Table 1 and Table 2 are collected from *China Statistical Yearbook* (2004 - 2017), *China Regional Statistical Yearbook* (2004 - 2017) and *China Transport Statistical Yearbook* (2004-2017). The missing data of individual years were determined by regression model.

**Table 1**

Index system used for evaluation the performance level of economic development.

System	Index	Index type	Weight	
Economy Development	Economic structure	The secondary industry added value/ GDP (%)	+	0.0254
		The tertiary industry added value/ GDP (%)	+	0.0779
	Economic	GDP per capita (Yuan)	+	0.1405



<b>development scale</b>	Total investment in fixed assets (Yuan)	+	0.2618
	Per capita disposable income (Yuan)	+	0.1969
	Household consumption level (Yuan)	+	0.2107
<b>Economic growth rate</b>	Per capita GDP growth rate (%)	+	0.0258
	Fiscal revenue growth rate (%)	+	0.0610

228 **Table 2**  
229 Index system used for evaluation the performance level of transportation.

System	Index	Index type	Weight	
<b>Transportation Development</b>	<b>Transportation structure</b>	Railway conversion turnover (%)	+	0.0626
		Road conversion turnover (%)	+	0.0956
		Port conversion turnover (%)	+	0.0954
		Air conversion turnover (%)	+	0.1174
<b>Transportation scale</b>	Transportation infrastructure investment (Yuan)	+	0.2214	
		Transportation industry output value (ten thousand Yuan)	+	0.0600
		Operating mileage (km)	+	0.2724
<b>Transportation development efficiency</b>	Transportation Energy intensity (standard coal/ Yuan)	-	0.0143	
		Transportation investment profit rate (%)	+	0.0918

### 230 3.3 Data standardization and weight calculation

#### 231 3.3.1 Data standardization

232 Considering that the raw data are different in dimension and magnitude, this  
233 research uses the following equation to standardize the data:

$$234 \text{ Positive indicator } x_{ij}' = \frac{x_{ij} - \min\{x_j\}}{\max\{x_j\} - \min\{x_j\}} \quad (1)$$

$$235 \text{ Negative indicator } x_{ij}' = \frac{\max\{x_j\} - x_{ij}}{\max\{x_j\} - \min\{x_j\}} \quad (2)$$

234 where  $x_{ij}'$  represents the standardized value of the  $j$ -th indicator in year  $i$ ,  $x_{ij}$   
235 represents the value of the  $j$ -th indicator in year  $i$ ;  $\max\{x_j\}$  and  $\min\{x_j\}$  indicate the  
236 maximum and minimum values of the  $j$ -th indicator in all years, respectively.

237 This paper assumes  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_p$  and  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_q$  represent the indices of regional  
238 economy and transportation industry;  $u_e'$  and  $v_i'$  represent the standardized values  
239 of  $u_e$  and  $v_i$ , which can be calculated by Eq. (1) and (2). The performance degree of  
240 the comprehensive is calculated by the Eqs. (3) and (4):

$$E(u) = \sum_{e=1}^p w_e u_e \quad (3)$$

$$T(v) = \sum_{t=1}^p w_t v_t \quad (4)$$

241 where  $E(u)$  and  $T(v)$  indicate the composite value of regional economy and  
 242 transportation industry,  $w_e$  and  $w_t$  are the weight of  $u_e$  and  $v_t$ , respectively.

### 243 3.3.2 Weight calculation

244 The weight of the indicator emphasizes the relative importance of each indicator  
 245 in the whole system, which is an indispensable part of the coupling coordination model  
 246 of regional economy and transportation industry. This work determines the weights by  
 247 the entropy method and the steps to determine these weights are as follows:

The proportion of the  $j$ -th indicator in year  $i$  ( $p_{ij}$ ): 
$$p_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^m x_{ij}} \quad (5)$$

The information entropy of the  $j$ -th indicator ( $e_j$ ): 
$$e_j = -\frac{1}{\ln m} \sum_{i=1}^m (p_{ij} \times \ln p_{ij}) \quad (6)$$

The redundancy of information entropy ( $d_j$ ): 
$$d_j = 1 - e_j \quad (7)$$

The weight of the  $j$ -th indicator ( $w_j$ ): 
$$w_j = \frac{d_j}{\sum_{j=1}^n d_j} \quad (8)$$

248 where  $m$  represents the number of years and  $n$  represents the number of indicators in a  
 249 system.

### 250 3.4 Coupling Coordination Degree (CCD) model

251 In this paper, the interaction between regional economy and transportation industry  
 252 is measure by CCD model. The formulas are as follows:

$$C = \sqrt{\frac{E(u) \times T(v)}{\left[ \frac{E(u) + T(v)}{2} \right]^2}} \quad (9)$$

$$T = \alpha E(u) + \beta T(v) \quad (10)$$

$$D = \sqrt{C \times T} \quad (11)$$

253 where  $C$  is the coupling degree of the regional economy and transportation industry.  $T$   
 254 indicates the comprehensive evaluation index of the regional economy and  
 255 transportation industry,  $D$  is the coupling coordination degree, which represents the

256 coordination level, and  $D \in [0,1]$ .

257 Coefficient  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  represents the contributions of  $E(u)$  system and  $T(v)$   
258 system to the coordination level, and  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ . Most previous studies subjectively  
259 defined the values of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , and considered that  $\alpha$  is equal to  $\beta$ , i.e.,  
260  $\alpha = \beta = 0.5$  (Cui et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2018). Subjective judgments may cause errors  
261 in the calculations and affect the results. Therefore, this paper uses an improved way to  
262 calculate  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , which can help to eliminate errors and makes the results more  
263 convincing (Shen et al., 2018). The formulas are as follows:

$$\alpha = \frac{T(v)}{E(u) + T(v)} \quad (12)$$

$$\beta = \frac{E(u)}{E(u) + T(v)} \quad (13)$$

264 As Table 3 shows, the CCD of regional economy and transportation industry is  
265 divided into three different development stages (Incoordination period, Transition  
266 period and Highly coordination period) (Zhang and Li, 2020; Liu et al., 2018; Tang,  
267 2015).

**Table 3**

The development stages of CCD between regional economy and transportation industry.

Primary development stages		Secondary development stages	Tertiary division of development stages	
<b>Incoordination period</b>	[0, 0.2]	Incoordination	$0 \leq  E(u)-T(v)  \leq 0.15$	Incoordination
			$T(v)-E(u) > 0.15$	Incoordination; economic development is blocked
			$E(u)-T(v) > 0.15$	Incoordination; transportation development is blocked
<b>Transition period</b>	[0.2, 0.3]	On the verge of imbalance	$0 \leq  E(u)-T(v)  \leq 0.15$	On the verge of imbalance
			$T(v)-E(u) > 0.15$	On the verge of imbalance; economic development is blocked
			$E(u)-T(v) > 0.15$	On the verge of imbalance; transportation development is blocked
	[0.3, 0.4]	Low-level coordination	$0 \leq  E(u)-T(v)  \leq 0.15$	Low-level coordination
			$T(v)-E(u) > 0.15$	Low-level coordination; economic development is blocked
			$E(u)-T(v) > 0.15$	Low-level coordination; transportation development is blocked
	[0.4, 0.5]	Reluctant coordination	$0 \leq  E(u)-T(v)  \leq 0.15$	Reluctant coordination
			$T(v)-E(u) > 0.15$	Reluctant coordination; economic development is blocked
			$E(u)-T(v) > 0.15$	Reluctant coordination; transportation development is blocked
[0.5, 0.6]	Basic coordination	$0 \leq  E(u)-T(v)  \leq 0.15$	Basic coordination	
		$T(v)-E(u) > 0.15$	Basic coordination; economic development is blocked	
		$E(u)-T(v) > 0.15$	Basic coordination; transportation development is blocked	
<b>Highly coordination period</b>	[0.6, 1]	High-level coordination	$0 \leq  E(u)-T(v)  \leq 0.15$	High-level coordination
			$T(v)-E(u) > 0.15$	High-level coordination; economic development is blocked
			$E(u)-T(v) > 0.15$	High-level coordination; transportation development is blocked

279 **4 Results**

280 This paper utilizes the CCD model to evaluate the coordinated status of regional  
281 economy and transportation industry in 30 provinces of China. In addition, according  
282 to the classification standard of *China Statistical Yearbook*, 30 provinces of China are  
283 divided into four major economic regions (i.e. East, Central, West and Northeast) to  
284 conveniently compare the results(Li et al., 2019). The detailed categorization is  
285 presented in Table 4.

286 **Table 4**  
287 Categorization of researched regions (data from NBSC).

Region	Province
East	Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong, Guangdong, Hainan
Central	Shanxi, Anhui, Jiangxi, Henan, Hubei, Hunan
West	Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Ningxia, Xinjiang
Northeast	Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang

288 4.1 The comprehensive levels of regional economy and transportation industry

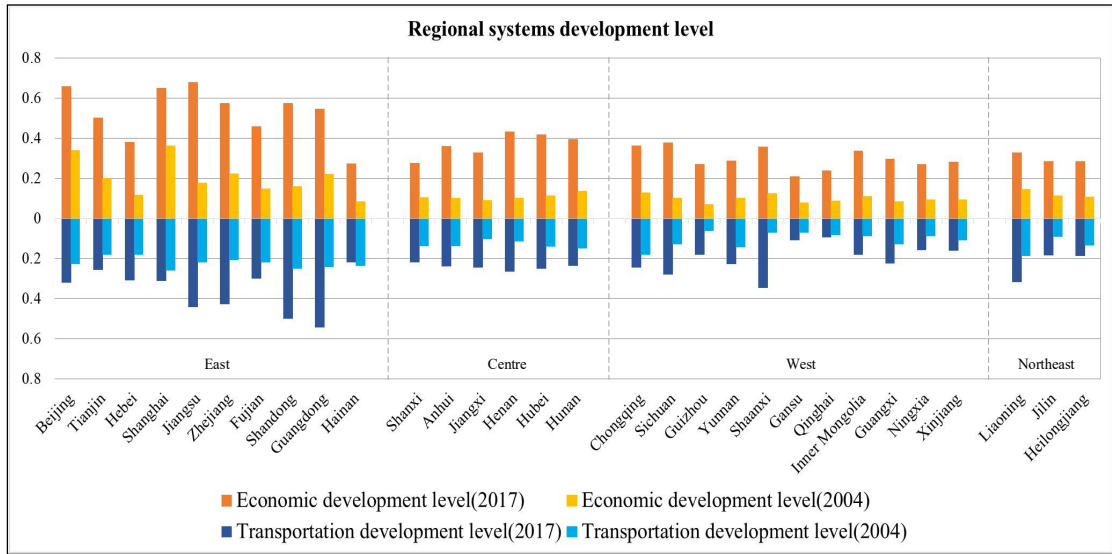
289 4.1.1 The weight of each factor

290 This study calculates the weight of each influencing factor by Entropy Method  
291 (EM), which can effectively judge the weight of the index and improve the accuracy of  
292 the comprehensive development level judgment (Eqs. (4)-(7)). In the regional economy  
293 system, the economic development scale accounts for the largest proportion and reaches  
294 80.94%, including total investment in fixed assets (26.18%), household consumption  
295 level (21.07%), per capita disposable income (19.69%) and GDP per capita (14.00%).  
296 Economic structure and economic growth rate account for 10.00% and 9.06%,  
297 respectively. In terms of transportation industry, transportation scale, transportation  
298 structure and transportation development efficiency account for 55.00%, 36.00% and  
299 9.00%, respectively. Among them, the secondary indicators with the greatest impact are  
300 operating mileage (27.24%) and transportation infrastructure investment (22.14%).

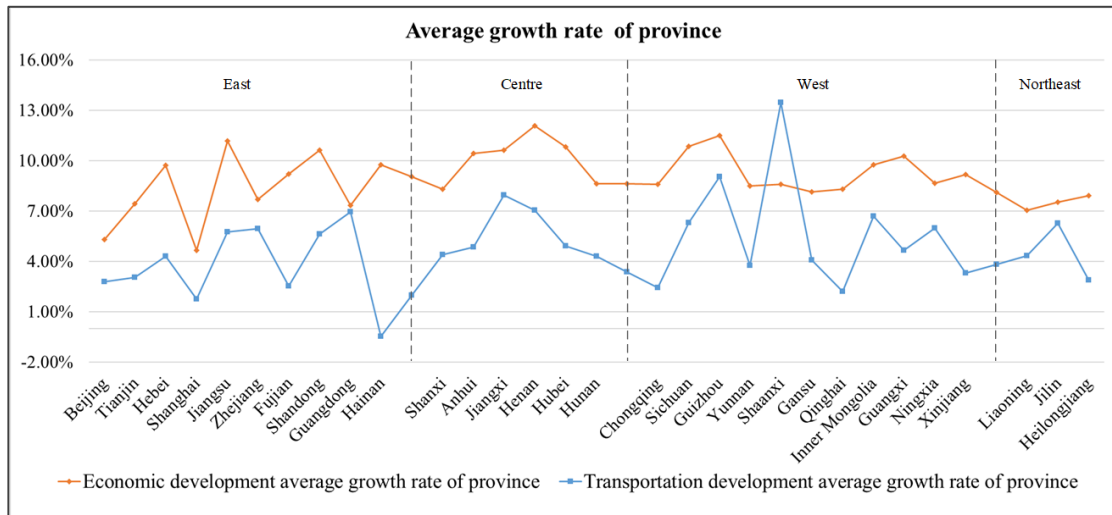
301 4.1.2 The comprehensive level of the regional economy and transportation industry

302 The comprehensive level of regional economy and transportation industry have  
303 calculated by Eqs. (1)-(3). The calculation results are shown in the Appendix A and  
304 Appendix B. Some results can be drawn by comparing the development between 2004

305 and 2017 in 30 provinces (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).



306  
307 **Fig. 1.** The comprehensive level of the regional economy and transportation industry studied in  
308 2004 and 2017.



309  
310 **Fig. 2.** The average growth rates in regional economy and transportation industry.

311 The Fig. 1 shows the comprehensive level of the regional economy and  
312 transportation industry in the studied provinces in 2004 and 2017. In the regional  
313 economy system, the comprehensive level of economic development in 2017 has  
314 significantly improved compared to 2004 in all provinces, and the four economic  
315 regions are in the different development situation. The east is the most advanced  
316 development region, followed by the central and northeast regions, while the economic  
317 development in the western region is relatively slow. The current economic  
318 development status of different provinces in China can also receive from the data of  
319 2017. Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shandong have better

320 comprehensive economic level than other regions(>0.5), and these regions belong to  
321 the eastern region. The comprehensive economic level of Hainan, Shanxi, Guizhou,  
322 Yunnan, Gansu, Qinghai Guangxi Ningxia, Xinjiang, Jilin and Heilongjiang are less  
323 than 0.3, and most provinces belong to the western region. The comprehensive  
324 economic level in other regions are between 0.3-0.5. The above phenomenon shows the  
325 current situation of unbalanced economic development in different regions of China.

326 The comprehensive level of transportation in the eastern region is significantly  
327 higher than that in others, and the development of provinces in same regions is quite  
328 different (Fig. 1). Except Hainan, the comprehensive level of transportation  
329 development in 2017 is higher than in 2004 in most provinces. In 2017, Jiangsu,  
330 Zhejiang, Guangdong and Shandong have better comprehensive transportation level  
331 (>0.4), the comprehensive transportation level in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanghai,  
332 Fujian and Hainan are between 0.3-0.4. The comprehensive transportation level of the  
333 central region is lower than that of the eastern region, between 0.2-0.3. The results show  
334 that there is a large disparity in the level of transportation development among provinces  
335 in the western region, with the highest in Shaanxi at 0.347, and only 0.094 in Qinghai.  
336 In Northeast China, the transportation level in Jilin and Heilongjiang are both 0.18,  
337 while that of Liaoning is 0.31. In short, there are obviously differences in regional  
338 transportation development.(相关政策缺乏对区域发展有针对性的指导，同时区域  
339 协调水平划分不明确)

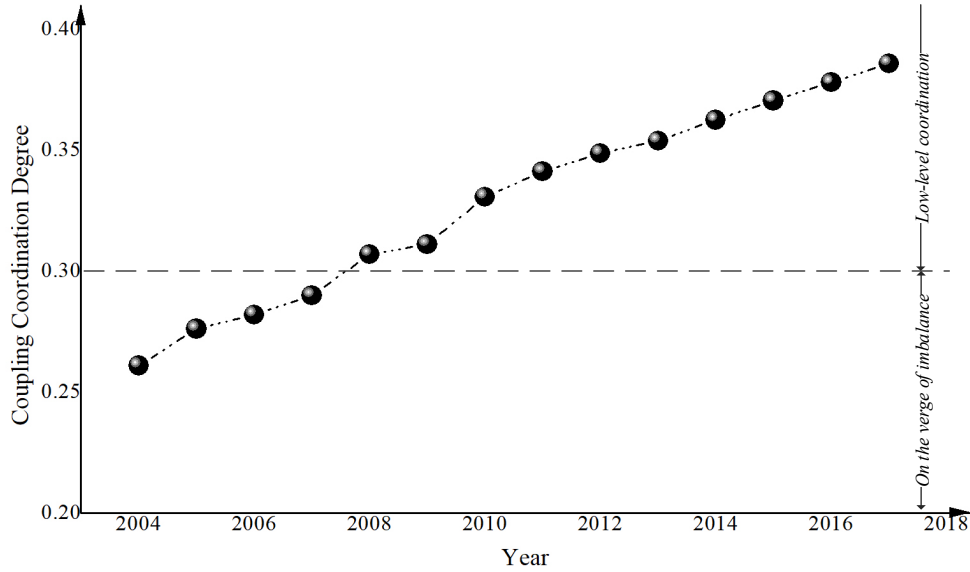
340 The average growth rate of the comprehensive development level of regional  
341 economy and transportation industry during 2004-2017 are presented in Fig. 2. The  
342 average growth rates of regional economy development in most provinces are between  
343 8%-12%, which means that the economy is at an increasing development level.  
344 However, there are significant differences in the average growth rate of transportation  
345 development in different provinces. Shaanxi has the highest growth rate of 13.44%,  
346 while Hainan's growth rate is -0.48%. The average growth rates of transportation  
347 development in most provinces are between 1%-10% and greater than zero.

348 Through comparing the comprehensive level of regional economy and  
349 transportation industry, it could be known that: although both the development level of  
350 regional economy and transportation industry have been continuously improved, there  
351 is a large disparity in the development speed and current state of both. In 2004, the  
352 comprehensive level of the regional economy and transportation industry were at a

353 similar state, and the transportation level in some areas was higher than the economy.  
354 But in 2017, the level of regional economy is obviously higher than that of  
355 transportation, which shows that China's comprehensive transportation development is  
356 relatively lagging behind the economy.

357 4.2 Coupling coordination degree of regional economy and transportation industry

358 4.2.1 The average level of the coupling coordination degree

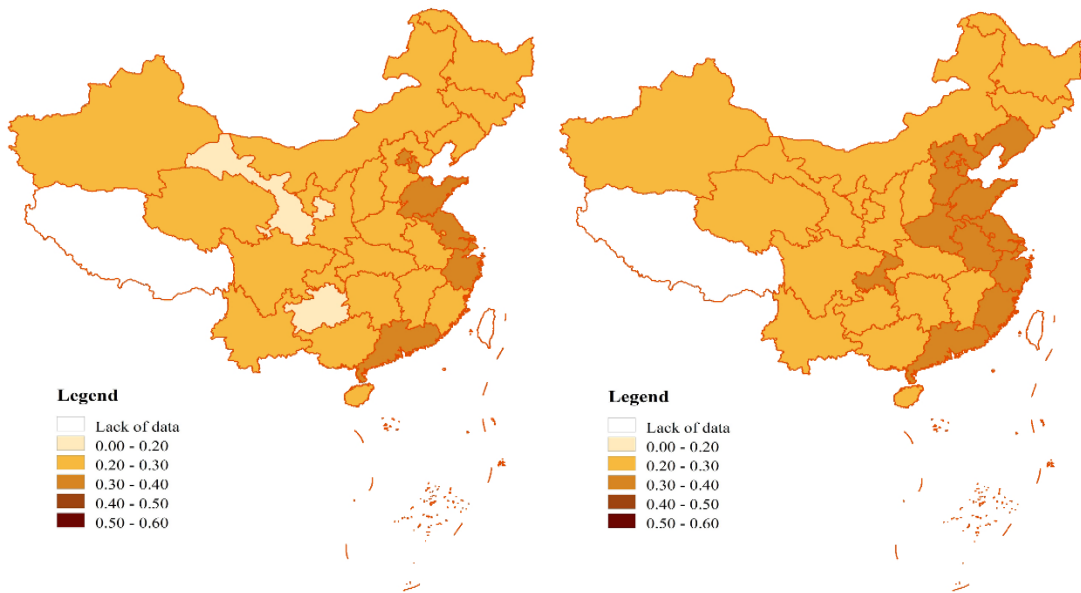


359  
360 **Fig. 3.** The CCD between China's regional economy and transportation industry from 2004 to  
361 2017.

362 The coupling coordination degree is obtained by Eqs. (8)-(10). The calculation  
363 results are shown in the Appendix C. The average level of CCD of 30 provinces during  
364 the surveyed period can be presented graphically in Fig. 3. The state of coordination  
365 changes from the verge of imbalance (0.2-0.3) to low-level coordination (0.3-0.4),  
366 which is a transitional period shows. It shows that average CCD of regional economy  
367 and transportation industry has been increasing across the country during the surveyed  
368 period, but the growth rate is slower and the coordination degree is low.



4.2.2 The CCD between regional economy and transportation industry

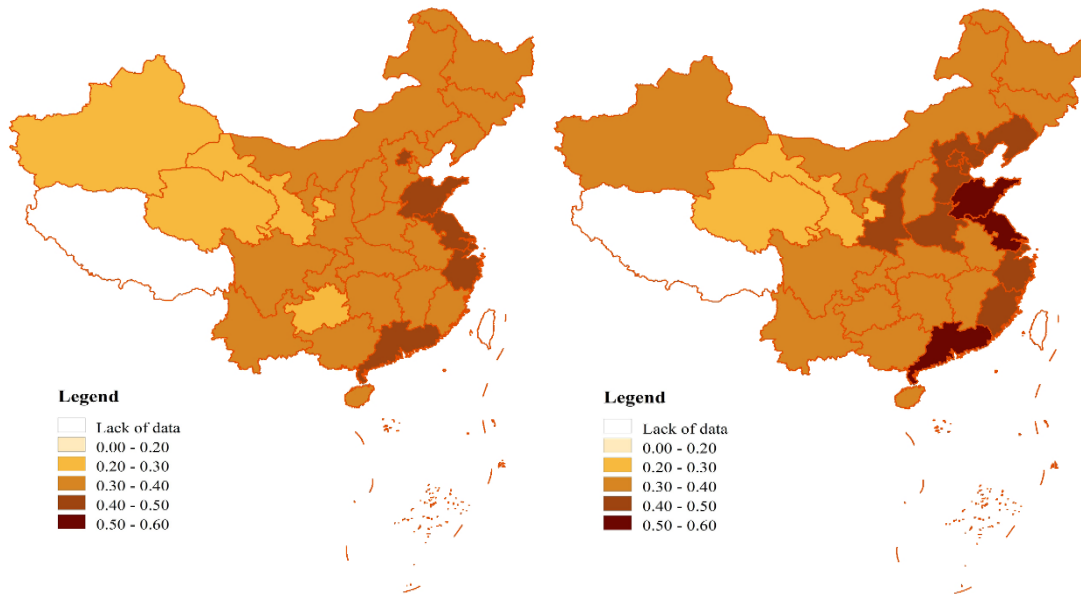


370

371

(a) 2004

(b) 2008



372

373

374

(c) 2013

(d) 2017 (图例增加划分解

释)

375

**Fig. 4.** The spatial distribution of CCD in the 2004, 2008, 2013, and 2017.

376

377

378

379

380

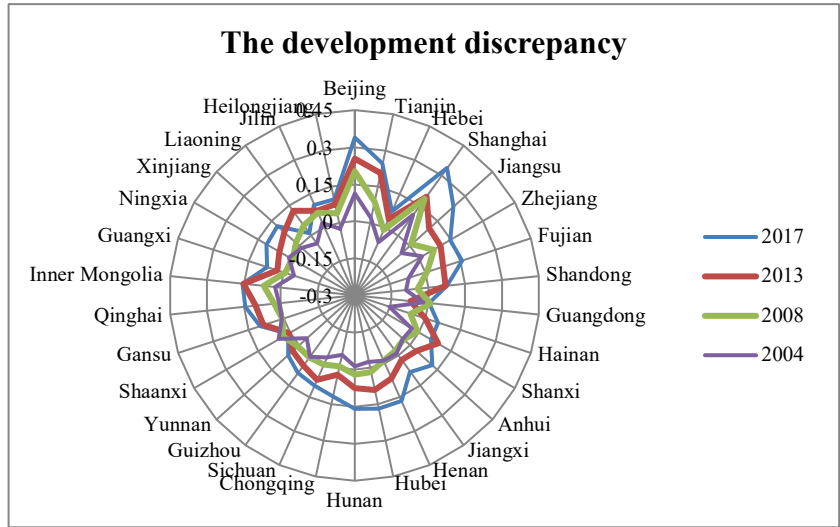
381

382

To research the spatial distribution of regional economy and transportation industry coupling coordination state in China, this study applies ArcGIS to analysis the spatial layout and selects four cross-sectional years to show the developments and changes, namely 2004, 2008, 2013 and 2017(Fig. 4). The results can be obtained from the figure: (a) In 2004, Guizhou and Gansu are in incoordination state (0.00-0.20) and no province is at incoordination state in other years. (b) In 2004 and 2008, most provinces were on the verge of imbalance. By 2013 and 2017, the state of Low-level

383 coordination and above accounted for the majority, and the overall development was on  
 384 the rise. (c) From a spatial point of view, as the geographic location changes from the  
 385 inland to coastal, the coordination status of regional economy and transportation  
 386 industry gradually increase. In general, the coupling coordination statuses between  
 387 regional economy and transportation industry of all provinces evolved from  
 388 incoordination to high-level coordination during the surveyed period.

389 4.2.3 Regional economy and transportation industry development discrepancy



390  
 391 **Fig. 5.** The development discrepancy between the regional economy and transportation industry.

392 The development discrepancy between regional economy and transportation  
 393 industry can evaluate whether the two are developing simultaneously (Fig. 5) (Zhang  
 394 and Li, 2020; Liu et al., 2018; Tang, 2015). The results show that from 2004 to 2017,  
 395 the development discrepancy between the two systems was growing, but the disparity  
 396 in most provinces was still within 0.15. Especially in 2004 there was no difference  
 397 greater than 0.15. In addition, the  $E(u) - T(v) > 0$  and  $T(v) - E(u) > 0$  coexists  
 398 simultaneously. By 2017, there are no cases where  $T(v) > E(u)$  in 2017. The difference  
 399 in individual provinces is relatively large, Jiangsu and Tianjin are 0.23 and 0.24  
 400 respectively, and Beijing and Shanghai have reached 0.33, indicating that the economy  
 401 of these regions is at an advanced level. The development discrepancy only in  
 402 Guangdong, Shaanxi and Liaoning is close to zero, which indicates that the regional  
 403 economy and transportation industry level in these areas are approach.

404 **5 Discussions**

405 5.1 Analysis the comprehensive level of regional economy and transportation industry

406 5.1.1 The analysis of main influencing factors

407 The main influencing factors can be obtained by analyzing the weight of the index  
408 system. In terms of regional economy, the economic development scale is the key factor  
409 to promote the economic development in China, which is consistent with the current  
410 actual development situation (see Table 1 and Table 2). The expansion of economic  
411 scale is a prerequisite for high-quality economic development, which can increase  
412 returns to scale and thereby achieve higher per capita economic output (Zhao et al.,  
413 2016). In terms of transportation industry, a significant observation in this paper is that  
414 transportation structure accounted for the highest factor ( 44%).It shows that the  
415 coordinated development of multiple transportation modes has a non-negligible impact  
416 on the development of transportation system. This conclusion is in line with the ultimate  
417 goal of China’s transportation policy: development the comprehensive transportation.

418 5.1.2 The analysis of the comprehensive level of regional economy and transportation  
419 industry

420 From Fig. 1 and Fig.2, we can know that although the development level of  
421 China’s regional economy and transportation industry continue to rise, the development  
422 quality is low. Therefore, it is necessary to effective improve the development quality  
423 of regional economy and transportation industry. The average annual growth rate of  
424 China’s economy over the past 30 years is close to 10%, and the world share of GDP  
425 has rapidly increased from 2.7% to nearly 15% at present. Nevertheless, the problems  
426 such as imbalanced urban and rural development and excessive consumption of natural  
427 resources have appeared, which may be related to the allocation of urban and rural  
428 resources and the lack of green development concepts. Therefore, it is necessary to  
429 promote moderate transfer of resourcesto township areas to realize the linkage  
430 development of urban and rural areas. At the same time, we must establish the  
431 development concept of coexistence of economy and ecological environment protection  
432 to achieve sustainable development.

433 In terms of transportation industry, the rapid development of the transportation  
434 industry is mainly reflected in the substantial increase in transportation mileage and  
435 volume. From 2008 to 2018, the total mileage of various transportation routes (except

436 aviation) increased from 4.0196 million kilometers to 5.3198 million kilometers, a  
437 growth rate of 32.36%. Passenger turnover increased from 2319.67 billion person-  
438 kilometers to 3241.82 billion person-kilometers, a growth rate of 39.75%; and freight  
439 turnover increased by 85.57%. However, it brings problems such as low transportation  
440 efficiency, high transportation cost and waste of transportation resources, which are  
441 inconsistent with the green and low-carbon development goals of the transportation  
442 industry. At present, the total amount of transportation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is showing a rapid  
443 growth trend (Du et al., 2020). Only by adopting strong policies and measures can it be  
444 possible to peak carbon emissions around 2030 (Mahmoudi et al., 2019). To this end,  
445 the Chinese government has promulgated *the Outline of Building a Powerful Country  
446 for Transportation* to promote sustainable and high-quality development of the  
447 transportation industry.

448 Fig. 1 and Fig.2 reveal that the development of the eastern region is superior to  
449 other regions in both economic system and transportation system. This is closely related  
450 to the special geographical location of the eastern region. Eastern cities near the ocean  
451 and have a gentle terrain, which can provide good conditions for industrial and  
452 agricultural development. Other regions especially the western regions are remote areas  
453 and ethnic minorities, with vast areas and sparse populations. Its relatively backward  
454 economic and transportation conditions eventually led to unbalanced regional  
455 development. At the same time, it is may related to the coexistence of aging and  
456 urbanization in Chinese cities. China's urbanization rate has risen from 26.41% in the  
457 1990s to 59.58% in 2018, and the proportion of people over 65 years of age has risen  
458 from 5.57% in 1990 to 11.9% in 2018 (Kai, 2020). The aging population has reduced  
459 the labor productivity of society, the large-scale movement of youth labor to cities and  
460 developed regions will exacerbate the imbalance of regional development.

## 461 5.2 Analysis of coupling coordination degree

### 462 5.2.1 The analysis of average level of the coupling coordination degree in China

463 Fig. 3 analyzes the average level of the coupling coordination degree between  
464 regional economy and transportation industry in China. The result shows that the CCD  
465 between regional economy and transportation industry is rising. It reflects the  
466 deepening of the interaction between economic and transportation systems and  
467 increasing coordination. The increase in the construction of regional transportation  
468 infrastructure has promoted the development of the local transportation industry and

469 boosted the local GDP (Farhadi, 2015). At the same time, the regional economic growth  
470 will increase the demand for transportation capacity, which could improve the  
471 transportation structure optimization within regions (Ng et al., 2017). Thus, the  
472 government planning needs to continue to strengthen the benign interaction between  
473 them in the future.

#### 474 5.2.2 The analysis of the coupling coordination degree between regional economy and 475 transportation industry

476 From spatial distribution of coupling coordination status between regional  
477 economy and transportation industry in China, the coupling coordination status of all  
478 provinces is evolving from Incoordination to High-level coordination. However, the  
479 CCD of the regional economy and transportation industry in different regions is uneven.  
480 The state of coordination across the country gradually decreases from east to west. The  
481 eastern region is in the best state of coordination. The central and northeastern regions  
482 have the same CCD, and the western region has the lowest CCD. In other words,  
483 although the regional economy and transportation industry is also developing, the  
484 degree of coordination is not high.

485 There are many reasons for this result. First, eastern region has a wealth of  
486 resources and high population density. Its economic development is at the leading level  
487 in the country, so this region has higher requirements for the transportation industry.  
488 Moreover, most of the eastern provinces are coastal, which have well-developed  
489 aviation and water transport. Lots of passenger and freight transportation are used to  
490 meet people's living needs and commodity circulation, which provides impetus for  
491 economic development. There is still a large disparity between the development of the  
492 central and northeastern regions compared with the eastern region. In terms of  
493 transportation, the central and northeastern regions have not yet formed a  
494 comprehensive transportation network. The connection between various transportation  
495 modes is not strong enough. Therefore, the transportation in terms of operation or  
496 planning needs to be improved. Moreover, compared with the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei  
497 and Yangtze River Delta Economic Zones in eastern, the central and northeast are  
498 currently just a regional concept and have not formed a complete economic zone. This  
499 has resulted in relatively independent development between regions, with a low degree  
500 of integration. The Western region has the lowest level of coordination. Due to the  
501 complex terrain and changing climate in the west, the transportation infrastructure

502 construction has a longer period than other regions, which ultimately leads to the slow  
503 development of the transportation industry. In addition, the relative scarcity of resources  
504 and the insufficient construction of transportation infrastructure have also limited  
505 economic development, which is one of the important reasons for the low CCD between  
506 regional economy and transportation industry in Western region.

### 507 5.2.3 The analysis of the regional economy and transportation industry development 508 discrepancy

509 Based on the analysis of Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, we found that the CCD in the eastern  
510 region is higher. The development disparity between regional economy and  
511 transportation industry is higher than in other regions. This phenomenon is most  
512 prominent in Beijing and Shanghai, which means the development of the transportation  
513 industry in Beijing and Shanghai has a significant hysteresis relative to the economic  
514 development. Beijing and Shanghai have good primitive economic foundations  
515 supported by resources and political factors. This advantage has been continuously  
516 exerted to make economic development more rapid. Nevertheless, economic  
517 development requires strong support from the transportation industry. Therefore, the  
518 transportation in Beijing and Shanghai has developed rapidly. However, some complex  
519 contradictions such as traffic congestion and low transportation efficiency have  
520 emerged. The probably reason is the urban planning and transportation planning are  
521 disconnect, which ultimately leads to the unsatisfactory CCD. For example, Beijing has  
522 made some huge progress in the construction of a mass transit-based public  
523 transportation system. However, Beijing is experiencing problems with the poor  
524 management of population, urban and rural land use and vehicle ownership beyond the  
525 overall planning control indicators. As a result, the supply-demand relationship of  
526 transportation is seriously unbalanced, and diseases in large cities, which are  
527 represented by urban traffic congestion, are becoming increasingly serious (Zhang,  
528 2016).

529 In comparison, the development disparity between regional economy and  
530 transportation industry in Guangdong, Shaanxi, and Liaoning are close to zero,  
531 indicating that the two systems are in a similar state of development. Guangdong has  
532 the smallest development disparity and the highest CCD. As the largest province in  
533 China's GDP, Guangdong's huge export scale and port throughput have provided an  
534 indispensable support for its economic development. The study found that for every 10%

535 increase in the throughput of Guangdong ports, the GDP of the region increased 5%  
536 (Xie, 2014). At the same time, Guangzhou is also a hub port for the *21st Century*  
537 *Maritime Silk Road*, which also facilitates local economic development. Xi'an is the  
538 political, economic, cultural and transportation hub center of Northwest China. The rich  
539 tourism resources and the wide coverage transportation network not only made  
540 tremendous contributions to the development of economy and transportation in Shaanxi,  
541 but also promote the development of other cities in Shaanxi. Liaoning is a major part  
542 of *Northeast Revitalization*. At present, Liaoning has formed a high road grid bureau  
543 with highways as its main skeleton and a number of provincial, county, and village  
544 roads that are closely connected. The construction of ports including Dalian Port,  
545 Yingkou Port and Dandong Port make breakthrough progress. Passenger and freight  
546 transport capacity have been greatly improved. Based on this, although the regional  
547 economy and transportation industry development of Shaanxi and Liaoning are not at  
548 the leading level, but similar development conditions makes them have a higher  
549 coordination state.

550 In general, China's the regional economy development is usually faster than  
551 transportation development. However, this seems to be different from some current  
552 research results. Shen (2019) studied the coupling state of county-level highway traffic  
553 and economic development in Anhui Province, and obtained the concluded that the  
554 development of highway transportation in most counties (cities) is ahead of economic  
555 development. Meng (2012) studied the spatial coupling between transportation  
556 superiority and economy in Central plain economic zone. They believed that  
557 transportation infrastructure has developed ahead of schedule, but it did not fully play  
558 its role in supporting economic development. However, our research takes multiple  
559 modes of transportation as the research object, which is different with previous research.  
560 Therefore, the existing research differences also fully illustrate that although a separate  
561 transportation may be at a relatively good level of development, the coordinated  
562 development of China's multiple modes of transportation system is not perfect. Thus,  
563 the government needs to pay more attention on researching and planning.

## 564 **6 Conclusions and policy implication**

565 In the context of sustainable development, studies the CCD between the regional  
566 economy and transportation industry are critical for guiding transportation policy-  
567 making and high-quality economic development strategies. This study has evaluated

568 the CCD between regional economy and transportation industry and analyzed the  
569 development disparity between the two systems. In addition, the CCD model and  
570 Entropy Method was used to quantitatively study the coordination relationship and  
571 spatial distribution between regional economy and transportation industry. Some results  
572 are obtained as follows:

573 First, China's regional economy and transportation industry are growing fast but  
574 lack of quality. In the economic development system, the economic development scale  
575 is the most influential indicator, and large-scale economic development can promote  
576 economic growth. In the transportation development system, the scale of transportation  
577 is the greatest impact indicators. Increasing transportation volume and infrastructure  
578 investment will help enhance regional competitiveness.

579 Second, the coordination status between regional economy and transportation  
580 industry in China is complex. Its CCD growth trend is changing from incoordination to  
581 High-level coordination, but the growth rate is slower. The imbalance of CCD levels  
582 between regions is significant. The CCD in the eastern region is slightly higher than  
583 that in the central, western and northeast regions.

584 Finally, we found that regional economic development is faster than transportation  
585 industry development, and each province have development disparity. Simultaneously,  
586 the development disparity of the four economic zones also have their own  
587 characteristics. In the eastern region with a higher CCD, the development discrepancy  
588 between economic development and transportation development is higher than that in  
589 other regions.

590 Based on the above findings, this study makes the following recommendations to  
591 promote the coordination relationship between regional economy and transportation  
592 industry:

- 593 • First of all, it is necessary to improve the development quality of the regional  
594 economy and transportation industry. While expanding the scale of production and  
595 operations, we must incorporate emerging technologies into development plans.  
596 Integrate smart operation and maintenance, smart construction, new infrastructure  
597 and other technologies into construction and development. In addition, strengthen  
598 the connection between various modes of transportation to ensure the construction  
599 of a comprehensive transportation system. This will promote the high quality and  
600 sustainable development of the economy and transportation.



- 601 • Secondly, it is essential to balance the CCD level of each region. It is necessary to  
602 give full play to the advantages of urban agglomerations and realize the leading  
603 role of priority development areas. Since the advantages of different regions are  
604 different, strengthening the construction of urban agglomerations and clarifying  
605 the positioning and characteristics of regional development. In this way, various  
606 regions can complement each other's advantages and reduce the waste of resources  
607 caused by blind investment and construction. In addition, the transportation  
608 planning and the city planning departments communicate in a timely manner when  
609 formulating development plans and policies, useless lines should not be built to  
610 increase operational mileage, lest economic and transportation development be  
611 separated.
- 612 • The third point is to narrow the development gap between the regional economy  
613 and the transportation industry through the rational allocation of resources. The  
614 first is the rational allocation of transportation resources (including human,  
615 material and financial resources). Reasonable transportation resource allocation  
616 can increase investment in transportation infrastructure and strengthen the overall  
617 function of the regional transportation system. The new demand for production  
618 factors will drive the development of related industries, thus stimulate the growth  
619 of the regional economic aggregate. Moreover, based on ensuring the development  
620 conditions of priority regions, we will appropriately tilt resources to backward  
621 regions. This can ensure that the development of infrastructure in backward areas  
622 is promoted as soon as possible.

623 This article focuses on the coordination development levels of regional economy  
624 and transportation industry. Although this article considers the differences of various  
625 transportation modes in the indicators, the accuracy of its measurement is limited. The  
626 application of emerging technologies in the future will continue to increase the  
627 complexity of the transportation industry. In this context, how to define the internal  
628 relationship between economy and transportation and rebuild the evaluation system will  
629 be the focus of research.

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## Appendix

### Appendix A

The comprehensive level of regional economy in 30 provinces from 2004 to 2017.

Province	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beijing	0.339	0.375	0.399	0.438	0.428	0.453	0.475	0.493	0.509	0.531	0.558	0.604	0.637	0.659
Tianjin	0.201	0.244	0.254	0.270	0.296	0.316	0.352	0.376	0.392	0.421	0.447	0.482	0.513	0.501
Shanghai	0.362	0.390	0.403	0.431	0.426	0.445	0.484	0.489	0.491	0.513	0.551	0.594	0.637	0.649
Chongqing	0.127	0.137	0.146	0.176	0.179	0.186	0.223	0.249	0.244	0.264	0.300	0.328	0.351	0.362
Shanxi	0.106	0.149	0.169	0.147	0.170	0.165	0.198	0.210	0.227	0.240	0.249	0.265	0.276	0.275
Hebei	0.116	0.155	0.167	0.183	0.193	0.219	0.246	0.262	0.279	0.293	0.314	0.338	0.364	0.378
Liaoning	0.145	0.191	0.199	0.223	0.246	0.271	0.311	0.335	0.366	0.391	0.398	0.360	0.309	0.328
Jilin	0.114	0.147	0.157	0.181	0.195	0.208	0.222	0.241	0.253	0.253	0.261	0.276	0.288	0.283
Heilongjiang	0.108	0.129	0.142	0.146	0.171	0.175	0.202	0.222	0.228	0.245	0.249	0.255	0.273	0.285
Jiangsu	0.176	0.234	0.251	0.277	0.293	0.329	0.370	0.400	0.429	0.498	0.557	0.608	0.650	0.679
Zhejiang	0.222	0.269	0.288	0.305	0.307	0.334	0.368	0.388	0.408	0.439	0.476	0.521	0.554	0.573
Anhui	0.100	0.124	0.142	0.157	0.173	0.190	0.224	0.232	0.250	0.267	0.289	0.317	0.345	0.359
Fujian	0.147	0.182	0.198	0.218	0.226	0.244	0.274	0.294	0.309	0.335	0.364	0.397	0.428	0.457
Jiangxi	0.091	0.120	0.124	0.139	0.154	0.167	0.206	0.217	0.229	0.243	0.261	0.291	0.309	0.326
Shandong	0.159	0.217	0.238	0.247	0.268	0.299	0.331	0.352	0.381	0.424	0.469	0.514	0.565	0.574
Henan	0.101	0.141	0.155	0.171	0.180	0.204	0.234	0.243	0.267	0.304	0.337	0.373	0.406	0.431
Hubei	0.112	0.141	0.156	0.171	0.178	0.198	0.224	0.263	0.268	0.305	0.339	0.374	0.399	0.417
Hunan	0.135	0.147	0.154	0.171	0.179	0.199	0.225	0.249	0.257	0.285	0.315	0.351	0.371	0.394
Guangdong	0.220	0.261	0.271	0.294	0.299	0.323	0.353	0.363	0.381	0.411	0.444	0.486	0.519	0.545
Hainan	0.084	0.105	0.116	0.132	0.138	0.143	0.176	0.171	0.184	0.205	0.220	0.244	0.254	0.273
Sichuan	0.101	0.132	0.144	0.165	0.165	0.196	0.226	0.237	0.254	0.276	0.301	0.325	0.351	0.376

Guizhou	0.069	0.098	0.107	0.124	0.124	0.133	0.146	0.173	0.181	0.194	0.209	0.230	0.250	0.269
Yunnan	0.100	0.112	0.121	0.134	0.141	0.142	0.163	0.181	0.194	0.217	0.221	0.244	0.265	0.287
Shaanxi	0.124	0.132	0.146	0.165	0.172	0.186	0.214	0.246	0.240	0.266	0.291	0.306	0.319	0.357
Gansu	0.079	0.102	0.105	0.123	0.131	0.121	0.141	0.157	0.164	0.184	0.196	0.209	0.224	0.209
Qinghai	0.086	0.112	0.118	0.131	0.135	0.138	0.152	0.170	0.175	0.194	0.205	0.219	0.223	0.237
Inner Mongolia	0.110	0.167	0.170	0.206	0.220	0.245	0.258	0.283	0.298	0.322	0.357	0.348	0.365	0.337
Guangxi	0.085	0.114	0.122	0.133	0.145	0.164	0.186	0.195	0.213	0.228	0.246	0.267	0.286	0.295
Ningxia	0.094	0.122	0.130	0.142	0.149	0.159	0.185	0.203	0.199	0.214	0.225	0.243	0.255	0.268
Xinjiang	0.093	0.114	0.123	0.133	0.138	0.132	0.167	0.193	0.206	0.223	0.235	0.245	0.249	0.280

## Appendix B

The comprehensive level of transportation industry in 30 provinces from 2004 to 2017.

Province	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beijing	0.226	0.221	0.215	0.213	0.226	0.236	0.260	0.273	0.266	0.278	0.286	0.308	0.314	0.320
Tianjin	0.181	0.193	0.191	0.173	0.208	0.181	0.189	0.195	0.190	0.214	0.211	0.222	0.230	0.254
Shanghai	0.257	0.252	0.245	0.240	0.241	0.235	0.296	0.307	0.317	0.318	0.333	0.308	0.307	0.311
Chongqing	0.181	0.190	0.190	0.181	0.185	0.184	0.211	0.210	0.212	0.236	0.226	0.231	0.238	0.244
Shanxi	0.138	0.123	0.138	0.147	0.176	0.132	0.139	0.143	0.151	0.150	0.153	0.161	0.165	0.217
Hebei	0.179	0.187	0.185	0.187	0.203	0.198	0.219	0.244	0.256	0.255	0.263	0.271	0.279	0.306
Liaoning	0.186	0.188	0.178	0.197	0.198	0.212	0.242	0.261	0.271	0.269	0.276	0.300	0.307	0.317
Jilin	0.091	0.081	0.083	0.083	0.128	0.129	0.141	0.152	0.163	0.178	0.180	0.178	0.180	0.182
Heilongjiang	0.133	0.125	0.113	0.115	0.130	0.122	0.139	0.154	0.166	0.169	0.182	0.188	0.189	0.186
Jiangsu	0.218	0.240	0.252	0.272	0.283	0.280	0.354	0.382	0.392	0.391	0.399	0.408	0.419	0.441
Zhejiang	0.205	0.211	0.220	0.232	0.236	0.262	0.321	0.326	0.327	0.338	0.355	0.381	0.409	0.426
Anhui	0.137	0.135	0.134	0.141	0.204	0.202	0.218	0.230	0.233	0.232	0.233	0.231	0.234	0.237
Fujian	0.217	0.222	0.219	0.217	0.218	0.224	0.242	0.248	0.253	0.259	0.270	0.283	0.292	0.299

Jiangxi	0.100	0.095	0.101	0.112	0.175	0.167	0.182	0.193	0.215	0.220	0.214	0.216	0.218	0.244
Shandong	0.250	0.269	0.274	0.279	0.311	0.298	0.347	0.361	0.368	0.353	0.383	0.418	0.452	0.498
Henan	0.113	0.113	0.121	0.146	0.192	0.207	0.221	0.231	0.244	0.236	0.253	0.251	0.259	0.263
Hubei	0.138	0.134	0.126	0.127	0.160	0.178	0.196	0.202	0.212	0.214	0.228	0.239	0.238	0.250
Hunan	0.148	0.149	0.193	0.149	0.159	0.153	0.186	0.197	0.211	0.211	0.220	0.225	0.230	0.235
Guangdong	0.239	0.251	0.252	0.289	0.291	0.298	0.420	0.454	0.487	0.484	0.508	0.516	0.541	0.542
Hainan	0.235	0.241	0.206	0.203	0.200	0.193	0.204	0.223	0.217	0.205	0.205	0.208	0.209	0.216
Sichuan	0.127	0.134	0.138	0.142	0.158	0.159	0.179	0.187	0.200	0.203	0.226	0.240	0.256	0.278
Guizhou	0.061	0.071	0.081	0.098	0.115	0.103	0.111	0.123	0.133	0.143	0.155	0.162	0.173	0.181
Yunnan	0.142	0.132	0.140	0.133	0.131	0.139	0.158	0.169	0.175	0.180	0.189	0.203	0.213	0.225
Shaanxi	0.071	0.076	0.086	0.094	0.139	0.163	0.196	0.211	0.240	0.259	0.285	0.301	0.323	0.347
Gansu	0.070	0.070	0.078	0.096	0.125	0.110	0.104	0.110	0.119	0.096	0.098	0.099	0.103	0.106
Qinghai	0.080	0.078	0.080	0.071	0.108	0.107	0.110	0.112	0.107	0.091	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.094
Inner Mongolia	0.087	0.086	0.091	0.100	0.150	0.140	0.159	0.173	0.187	0.171	0.177	0.177	0.197	0.181
Guangxi	0.128	0.121	0.121	0.119	0.149	0.157	0.173	0.188	0.198	0.199	0.204	0.209	0.215	0.224
Ningxia	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.095	0.161	0.169	0.170	0.186	0.191	0.163	0.161	0.164	0.159	0.156
Xinjiang	0.106	0.101	0.106	0.113	0.120	0.120	0.133	0.131	0.143	0.140	0.147	0.154	0.160	0.160

## Appendix C

The CCD of regional economy and transportation industry in 30 provinces from 2004 to 2017.

Province	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beijing	0.374	0.377	0.378	0.383	0.391	0.399	0.413	0.422	0.421	0.428	0.434	0.450	0.457	0.462
Tianjin	0.309	0.328	0.330	0.325	0.351	0.342	0.354	0.362	0.362	0.378	0.380	0.390	0.399	0.409
Shanghai	0.392	0.393	0.392	0.395	0.397	0.397	0.430	0.435	0.439	0.441	0.453	0.448	0.454	0.457
Chongqing	0.274	0.285	0.290	0.299	0.302	0.304	0.329	0.337	0.336	0.352	0.356	0.365	0.373	0.378
Shanxi	0.245	0.260	0.275	0.271	0.294	0.271	0.286	0.291	0.301	0.303	0.306	0.314	0.319	0.346

Hebei	0.267	0.292	0.297	0.304	0.315	0.322	0.340	0.355	0.365	0.368	0.376	0.385	0.394	0.408
Liaoning	0.285	0.307	0.306	0.323	0.331	0.344	0.368	0.382	0.394	0.397	0.401	0.402	0.392	0.401
Jilin	0.226	0.232	0.236	0.243	0.279	0.283	0.294	0.306	0.315	0.322	0.324	0.326	0.329	0.329
Heilongjiang	0.244	0.252	0.251	0.253	0.272	0.268	0.287	0.301	0.309	0.314	0.322	0.326	0.331	0.332
Jiangsu	0.312	0.344	0.355	0.371	0.379	0.388	0.425	0.442	0.452	0.465	0.479	0.490	0.500	0.512
Zhejiang	0.327	0.344	0.353	0.362	0.366	0.383	0.413	0.420	0.425	0.435	0.448	0.465	0.481	0.490
Anhui	0.241	0.255	0.262	0.272	0.307	0.314	0.332	0.340	0.347	0.351	0.357	0.362	0.370	0.374
Fujian	0.297	0.318	0.324	0.330	0.333	0.341	0.358	0.366	0.372	0.380	0.391	0.403	0.412	0.421
Jiangxi	0.218	0.230	0.236	0.249	0.287	0.289	0.310	0.319	0.332	0.339	0.341	0.349	0.354	0.370
Shandong	0.314	0.349	0.358	0.363	0.381	0.386	0.412	0.422	0.432	0.437	0.456	0.477	0.497	0.513
Henan	0.231	0.250	0.260	0.280	0.305	0.321	0.337	0.344	0.357	0.363	0.377	0.384	0.394	0.400
Hubei	0.249	0.262	0.264	0.269	0.290	0.305	0.322	0.337	0.343	0.352	0.367	0.379	0.382	0.392
Hunan	0.265	0.272	0.295	0.281	0.290	0.294	0.318	0.331	0.339	0.346	0.357	0.367	0.373	0.380
Guangdong	0.338	0.358	0.361	0.382	0.384	0.393	0.441	0.453	0.467	0.475	0.490	0.502	0.516	0.521
Hainan	0.261	0.285	0.281	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.309	0.315	0.318	0.320	0.325	0.333	0.336	0.344
Sichuan	0.237	0.258	0.265	0.275	0.284	0.295	0.315	0.322	0.334	0.340	0.357	0.368	0.381	0.396
Guizhou	0.180	0.203	0.215	0.233	0.244	0.240	0.251	0.267	0.276	0.285	0.296	0.306	0.316	0.326
Yunnan	0.243	0.247	0.256	0.258	0.260	0.265	0.283	0.295	0.303	0.312	0.318	0.330	0.341	0.352
Shaanxi	0.218	0.222	0.234	0.246	0.278	0.294	0.319	0.336	0.346	0.362	0.379	0.389	0.401	0.419
Gansu	0.193	0.205	0.212	0.232	0.252	0.240	0.244	0.254	0.262	0.252	0.256	0.259	0.265	0.264
Qinghai	0.204	0.215	0.218	0.216	0.245	0.245	0.252	0.260	0.258	0.251	0.254	0.256	0.258	0.261
Inner Mongolia	0.222	0.243	0.246	0.263	0.300	0.301	0.314	0.328	0.339	0.334	0.345	0.341	0.355	0.340
Guangxi	0.227	0.243	0.246	0.250	0.271	0.283	0.299	0.309	0.320	0.324	0.332	0.340	0.347	0.354
Ningxia	0.213	0.226	0.228	0.238	0.279	0.286	0.297	0.311	0.312	0.303	0.304	0.310	0.310	0.311
Xinjiang	0.222	0.231	0.238	0.247	0.253	0.251	0.271	0.279	0.290	0.292	0.299	0.305	0.309	0.317