

# METAFERW: ModEling and conTrolling trAFFic congESTion in laRge-scale urban multimodal netWorks

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*μεταφέρω* = (Ancient Greek) transport or transfer  
From *μετά* ("change in position") + *φέρω* ("bear, carry")

# A holistic approach of mobility



$$\frac{dn_{12}(t)}{dt} = q_{12}(t) + q_{231}(t) + \hat{q}_{321}(t) - u_{21}(t) \cdot M_{21}(t)$$

$$\frac{dn_{13}(t)}{dt} = \frac{q_{213}(t)}{\hat{q}_{321}(t) + q_{213}(t) + q_{21}(t)} u_{21}(t) \cdot M_{21}(t) + q_{13}(t) + q_{131}(t) + q_{132}(t) - \min(M_{13}(t), C_{or,1}(t))$$

$$\frac{dn_{21}(t)}{dt} = a_{21}(t) + a_{213}(t) + \hat{q}_{321}(t) - u_{21}(t) \cdot M_{21}(t)$$

$$\frac{q_{12}(t)}{q_{12}(t) + q_{123}(t)} u_{12}(t) \cdot M_{12}(t) + q_{23}(t) + q_{231}(t) - \min(M_{23}(t), C_{or,2}(t))$$

$$\frac{q_{123}(t)}{q_{12}(t) + q_{123}(t)} u_{12}(t) \cdot M_{12}(t) + q_{23}(t) + q_{231}(t) - \min(M_{23}(t), C_{or,2}(t))$$

$$u_{min} \leq u_{12}(t), u_{21}(t) \leq u_{max} : u_{min} \leq u_{or,1}(k), u_{or,2}(k)$$

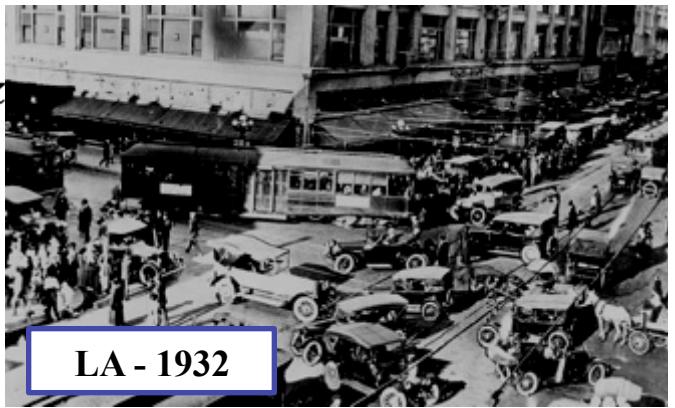
$$0 \leq n_1(t) \leq n_{11}(t) + n_{12}(t) + n_{13}(t)$$

$$0 \leq n_2(t) \leq n_{21}(t) + n_{22}(t) + n_{23}(t)$$



**PATTERNS BIG DATA**

**CONTROL**



LA - 1932

# LUTS team



**Nikolas Geroliminis**

## PostDocs



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As of 9. 2013 Lecturer, U of

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**Nan Zheng (CE)**



**Reza Saeedmanesh (EE)**

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**Raphael Lamotte (CE)**

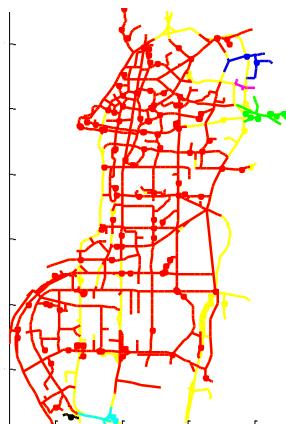


**Mehmet Yildirimoglu (CE)**

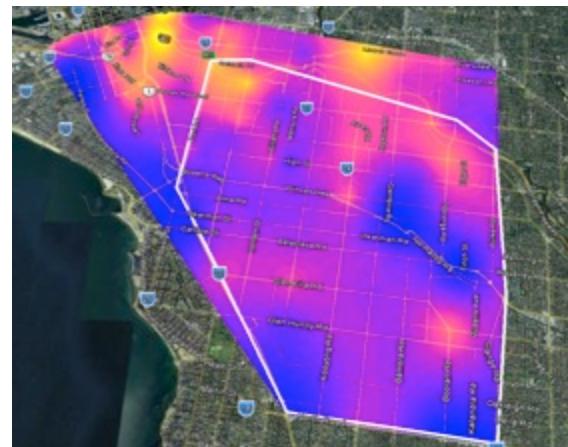
# Challenges of City Traffic -Complex Systems

## Non-linear interactions

- Components influence the system and vice versa
- Components adapt
- Spreading phenomena



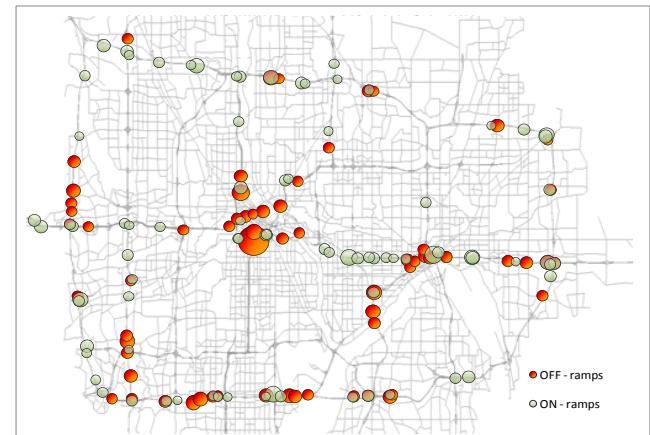
Shenzhen, China



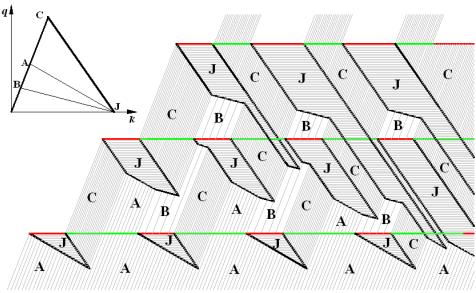
Melbourne, AUS

Limits to predictability

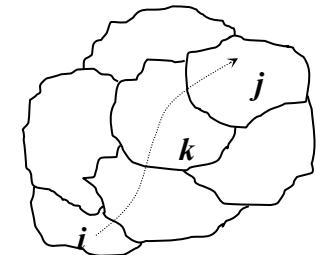
Limits to control



Minneapolis, USA



$$\frac{dn_{ij}}{dt} = q_{ij} - \sum_{k=1}^N q_{i \rightarrow k}^j + \sum_{k=1}^N q_{k \rightarrow i}^j$$



MODELING



LOGISTICS



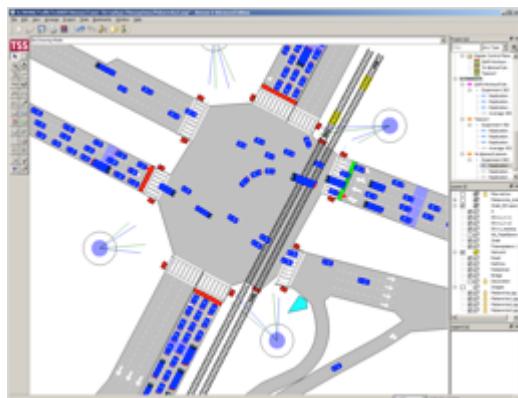
# State-of-the-art: Granularity of traffic models

## Fine-grained

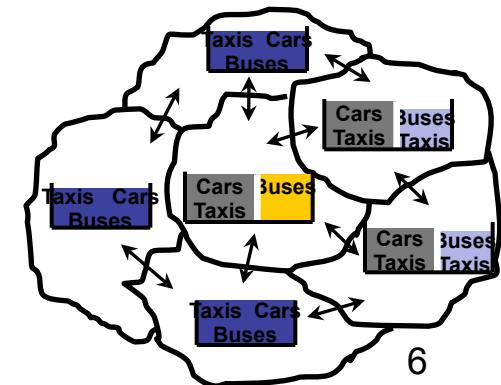
- Data intensive
- Questionable calibration
- Expensive computation
- Unreliable prediction
- Fragmented optimization

## Coarse-grained

- Less accurate
- Lack dynamics
- Non-physical
- Planning oriented



traffic modeling



# State-of-the-art: Traffic optimization & control

Most optimization methods for transport networks

- Fragmented and uncoordinated
- Suited for toy networks with simplified dynamics
- Apply decentralized control
- Micro-simulation and scenario analysis



Cairo



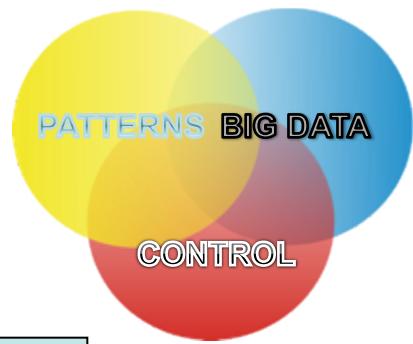
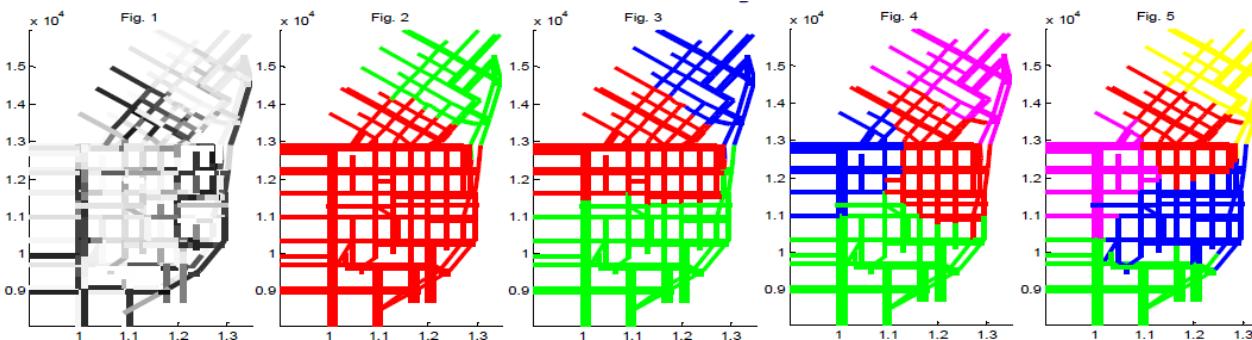
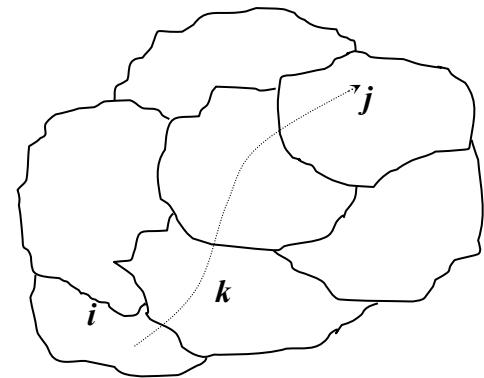
Bangkok



Paris

# A holistic approach for smart traffic in cities

- Physical Patterns in aggregated models
- Partitioning (static, dynamic)
- Hierarchical control
- Multimodality



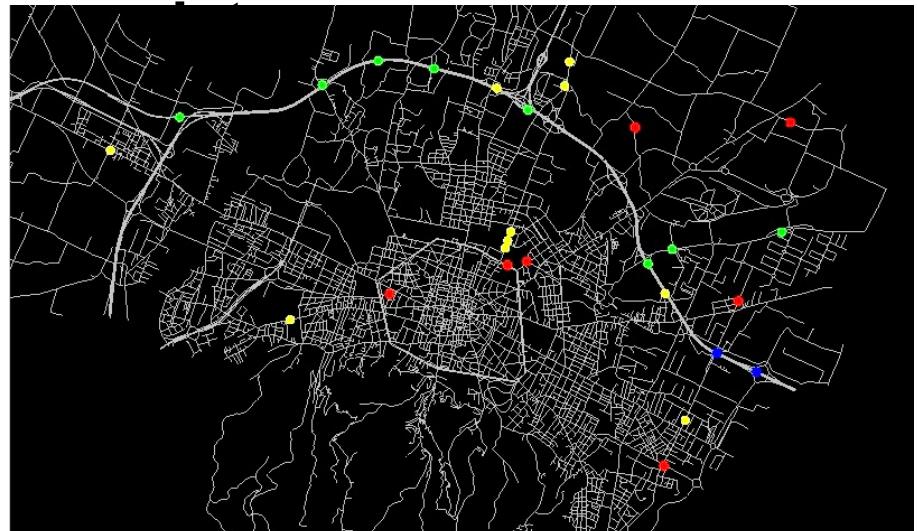
**AGGREGATE BEHAVIOR**  
=?  
**SCALED UP VERSION OF LINK BEHAVIOR**

# MONITORING

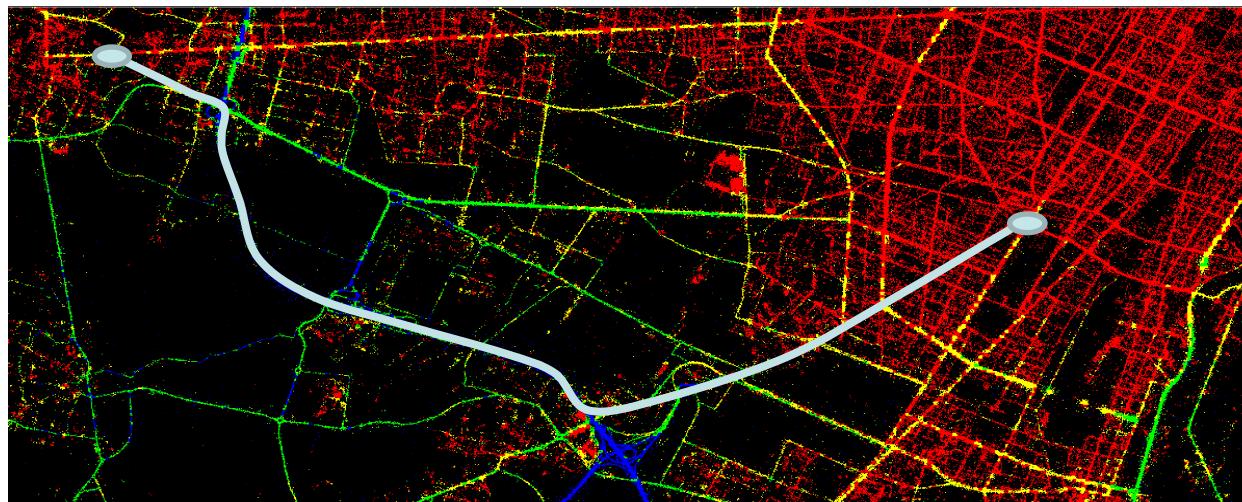
## Heterogeneity

- Spatial and Temporal
- Congestion Level
- Topology
- Modes of transport
- Sensing equipment

## Sparse multi-sensor



## Develop travel time field and route choice information

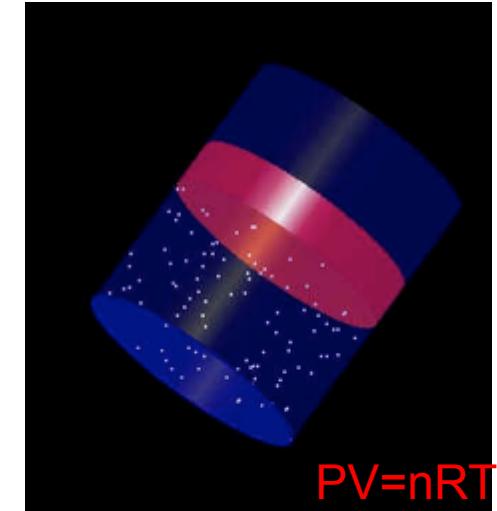


Pictures provided by  
Armando Bazzani (Un. of  
Bologna)

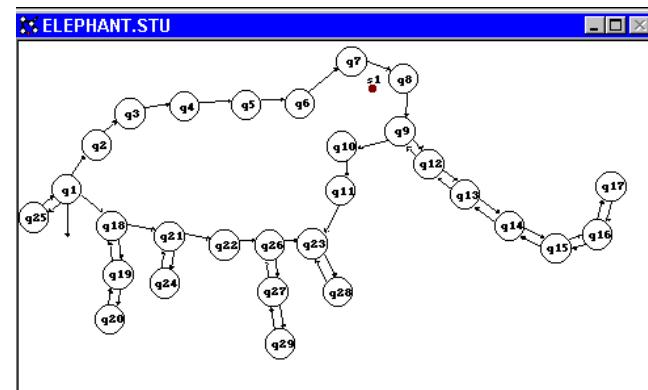
# The promise of aggregate models

- Move from PREDICTION to OBSERVATION
- Develop physically realistic models of urban congestion
- ROBUST APPROACH

**PROPOSE→ MONITOR→MODIFY**



- Information Technology



“With four parameters I can fit an elephant, and with five I can make him wiggle his trunk”.  
JOHN VON NEUMANN

# WHY MACRO?

- Humans make choices in terms of routes, destinations and driving behavior (unpredictability)
- Not a clear distinction between free-flow and congested traffic states.  
Empirical analysis of spatio-temporal congestion patterns has revealed additional complexity of traffic states (e.g. Helbing's group work)
- Need for real-time hierarchical traffic management schemes (decentralized control might not work for heavily congested systems)
- Urban regions approximately exhibit a “Macroscopic Fundamental Diagram”(MFD) relating the number of vehicles to space-mean speed (or flow)
- Robust linear relation between the region's average flow and its total outflow (rate vehicles reach their destinations)
- MFD is a property of the network infrastructure and control and not of the demand (time-dependent origin-destination tables are difficult).

# Macroscopic modeling of traffic in congested cities

## A Macroscopic Fundamental Diagram (MFD) for city traffic

Existence (Simulation evidence)

Existence (Empirical observations)

Description of dynamics

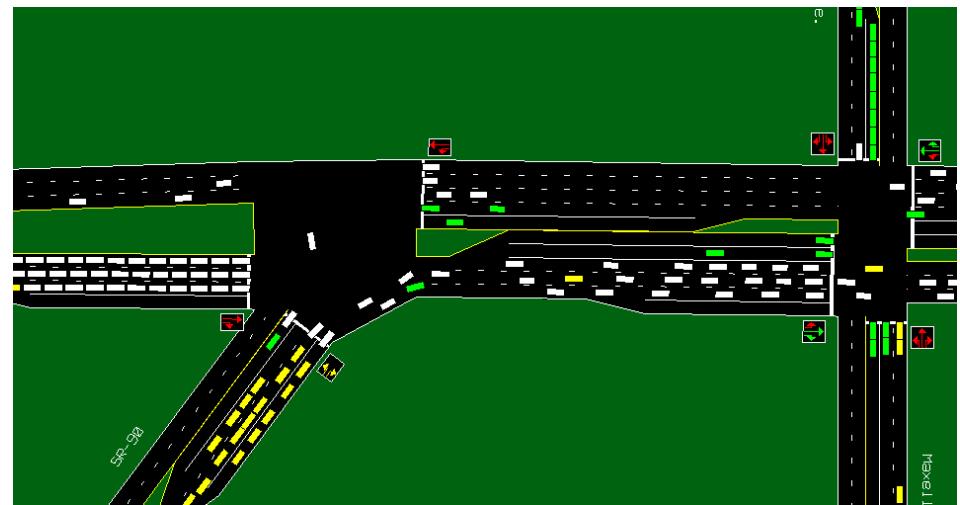
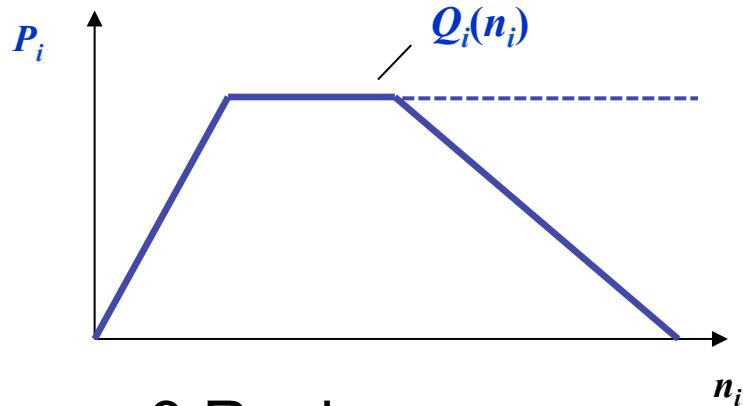
Multimodal networks

Perimeter control



# Fundamental Diagram (FD) for a link $i$

- Accumulation :  $n_i$  (vehs)
- Travel Production :  $P_i$  (veh-km/hr) - VKT
- Output-Trip completion rate (vehs/hr)



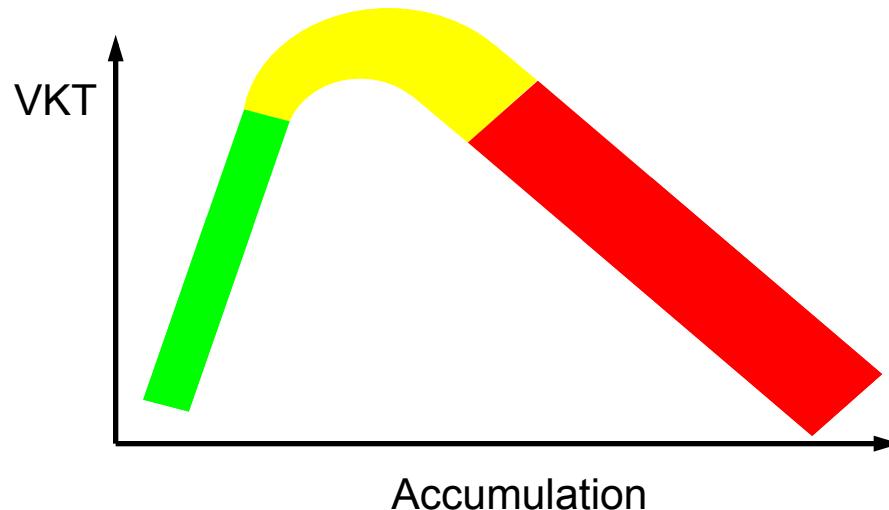
- 3 Regimes
  - I : Undersaturated
  - II : Efficient
  - III : Oversaturated

Growing queues from the downstream link block the arrivals

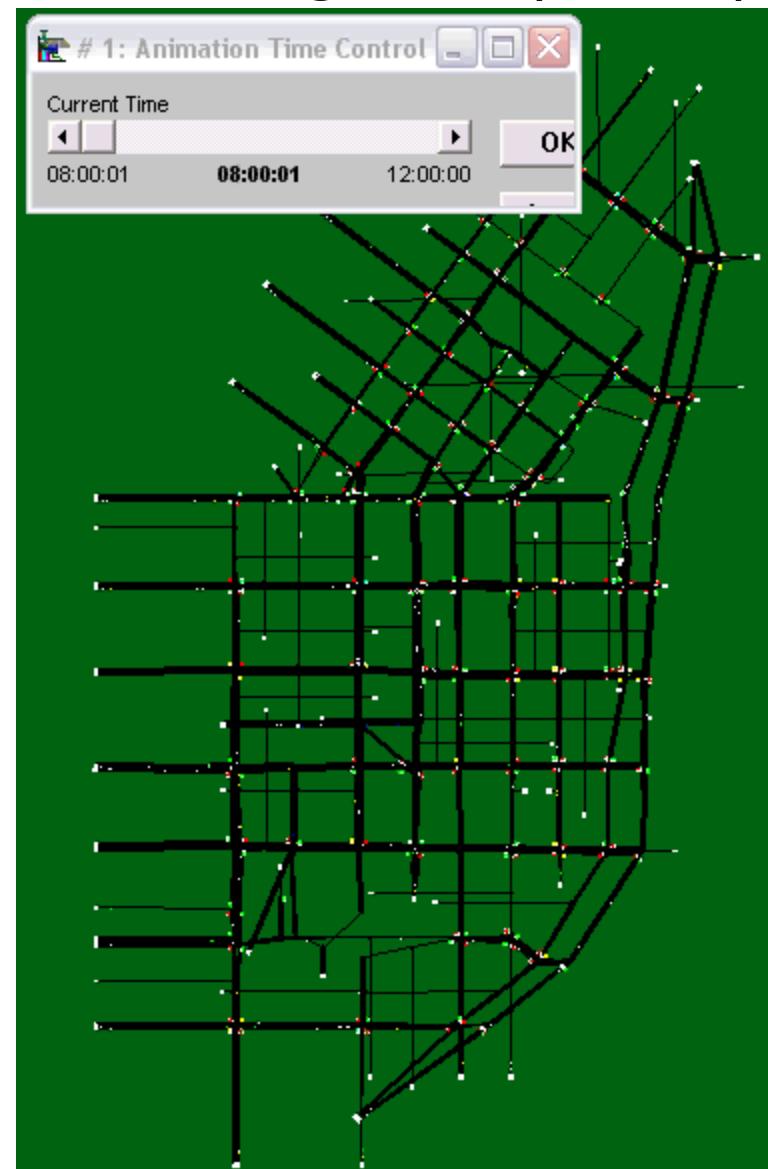
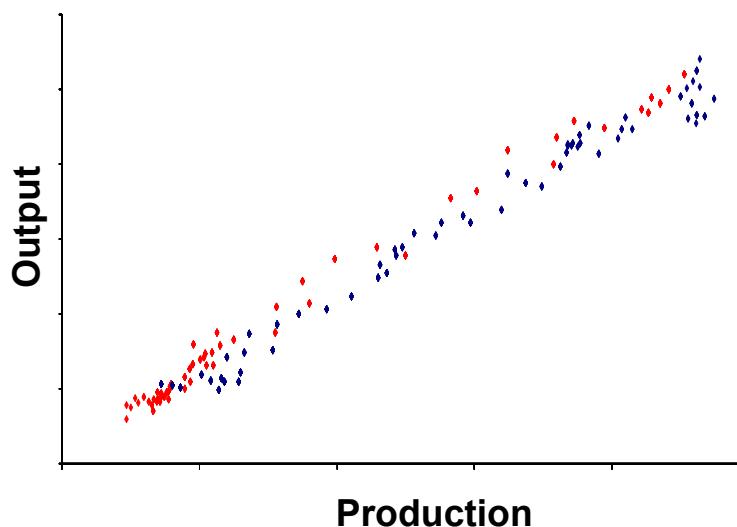
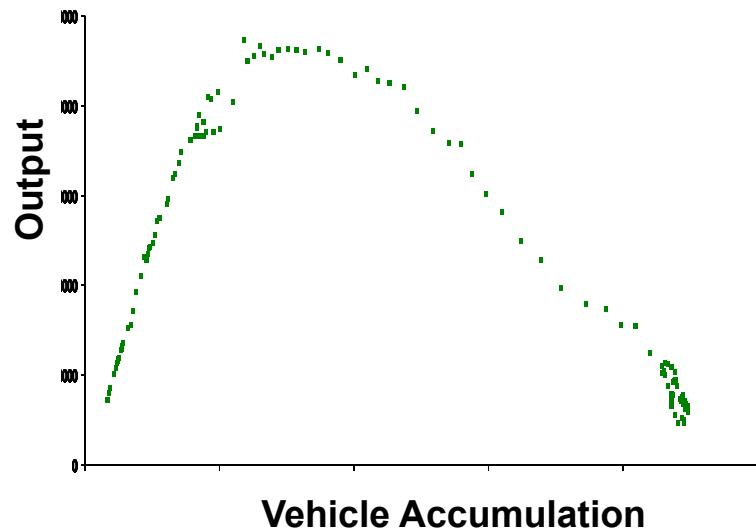
# Theory: Generalization to networks

$$P = \sum P_i = \sum Q_i(n_i) \approx Q\left(\sum n_i\right)$$

**AGGREGATE BEHAVIOR**  
=   
**SCALED UP VERSION OF LINK BEHAVIOR**

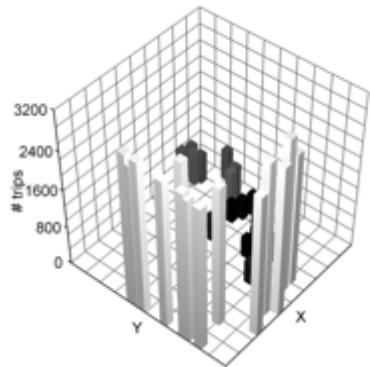


# Macroscopic Fundamental Diagram (MFD)

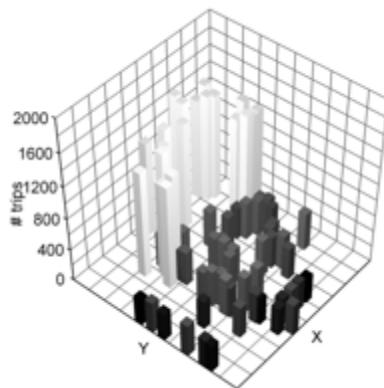


# MFD – Sensitivity to Demand

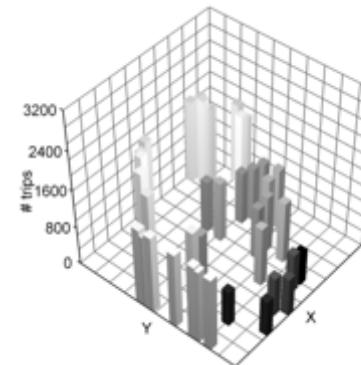
DESTINATIONS  
PER NODE



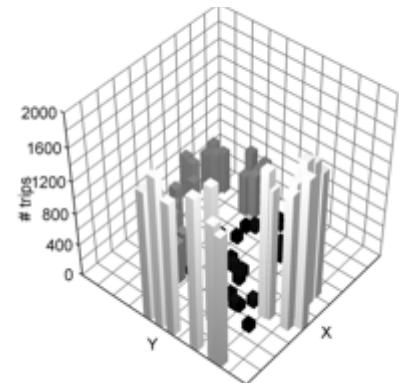
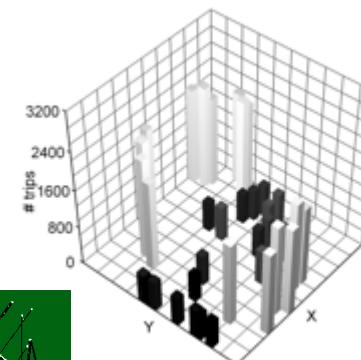
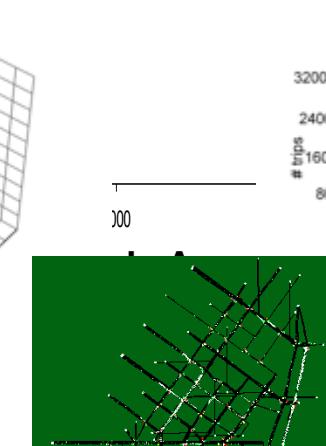
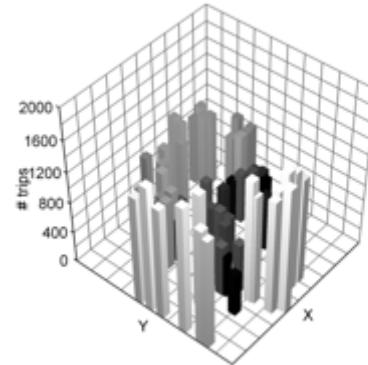
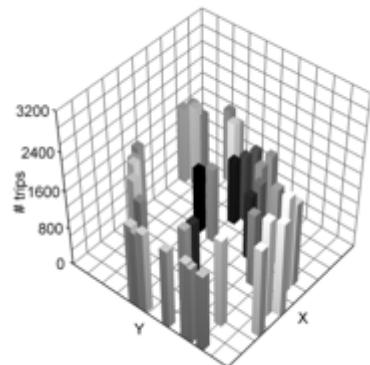
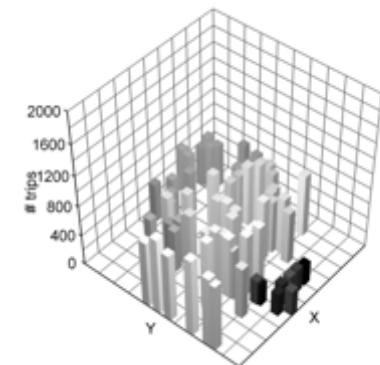
ORIGINS  
PER NODE



DESTINATIONS  
PER NODE

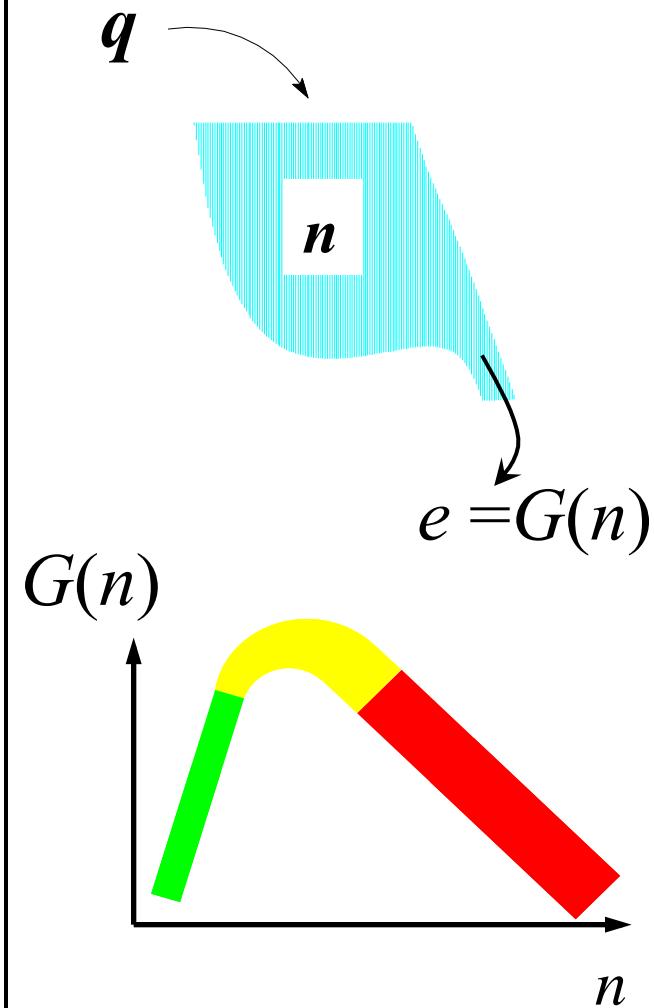
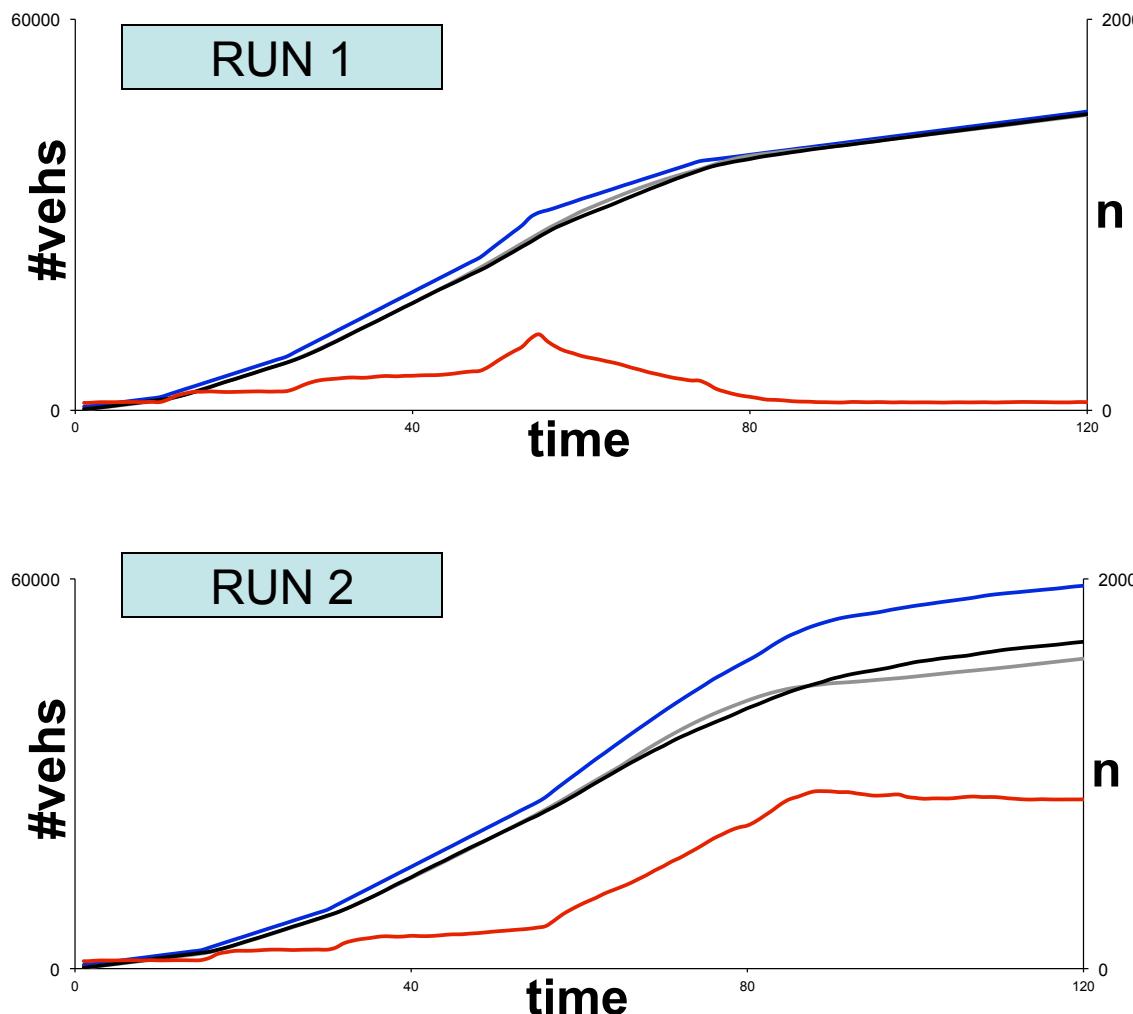


ORIGINS  
PER NODE



MFD is a property of the infrastructure  
INDEPENDENT OF O-D TABLES

# MFD - Dynamics



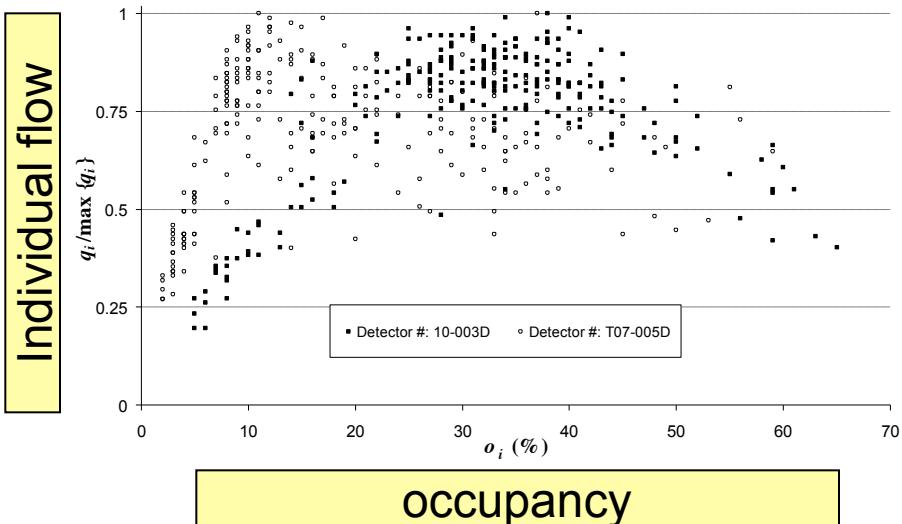
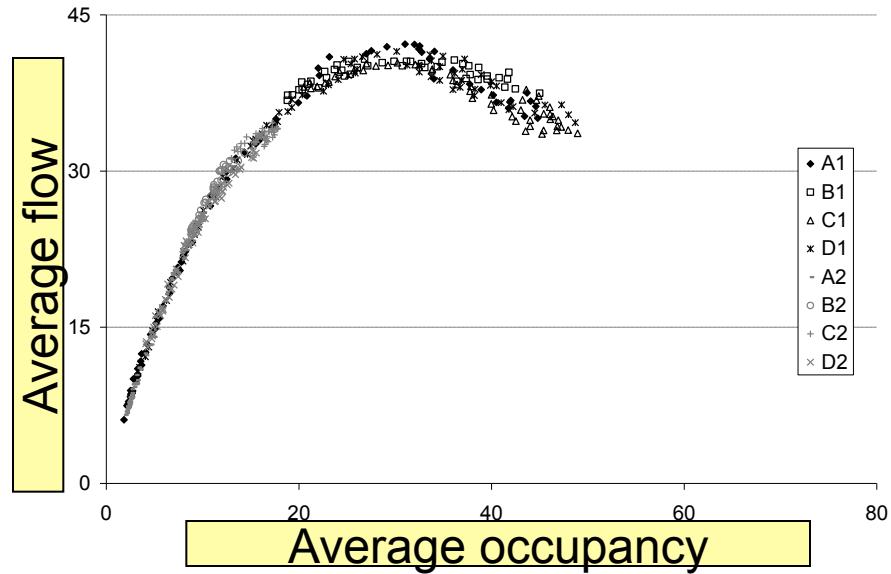
$$\frac{dn(t)}{dt} = q(t) - G(n(t))$$

Geroliminis and Daganzo, 2007

Daganzo, 2007

**INPUT    OUTPUT    ESTIMATED OUTPUT    ACCUMULATION**

# MFD Empirical results



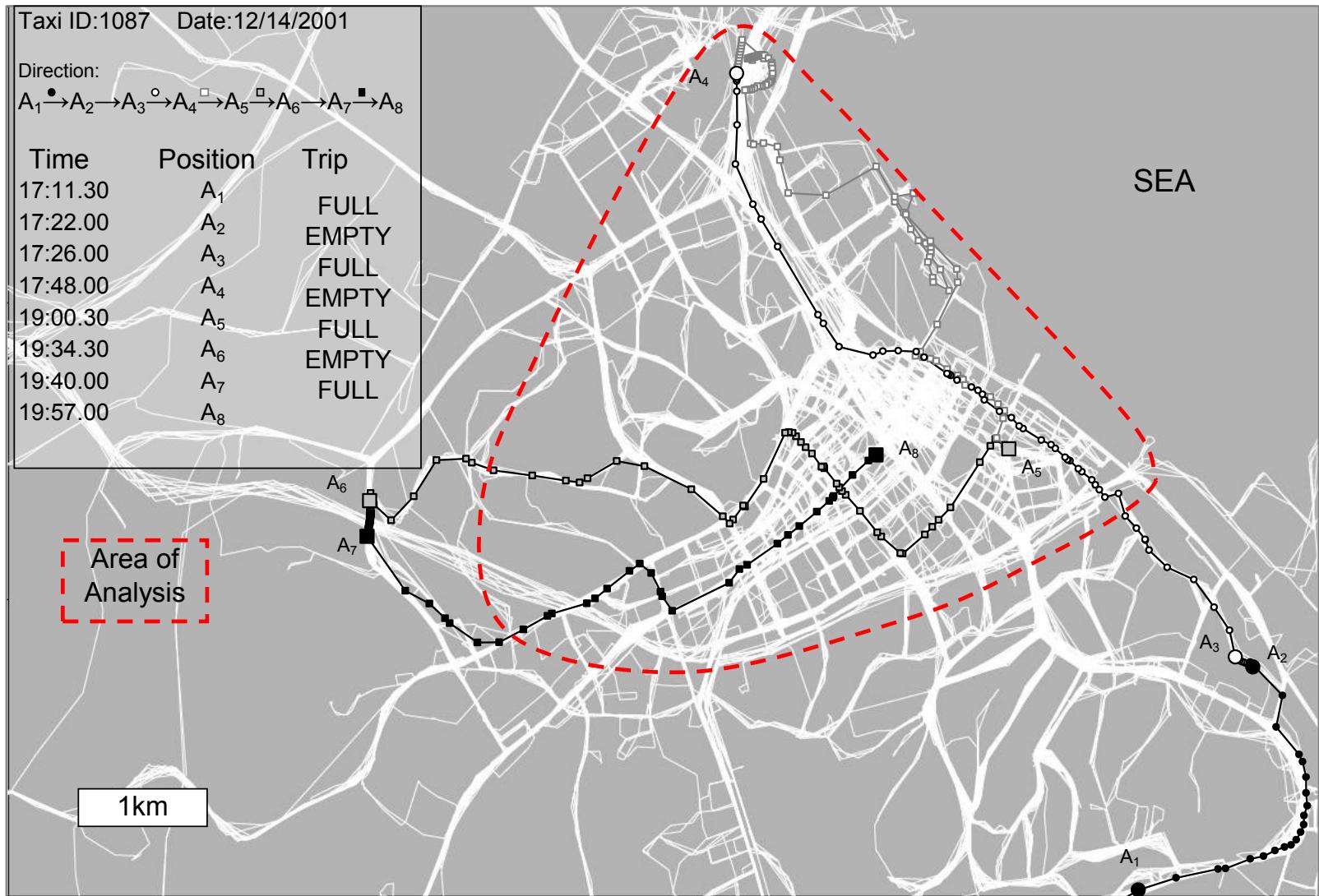
- Fixed sensors  
500 detectors (Occupancy and Counts per 5min)
- Mobile sensors  
140 taxis with GPS
  - Time and position (stops, hazard lights etc)
- Geometric data  
(detector locations, link lengths, control, etc.)

# Fusing taxi and detector data

An MFD exists on the part of the network covered by detectors. What about the whole network?

1. Filter for passenger-carrying taxis (i.e. full)
2. Estimation of accumulation and speed
3. Results

# Illustration of Filter Results



# Estimation of accumulation and speed

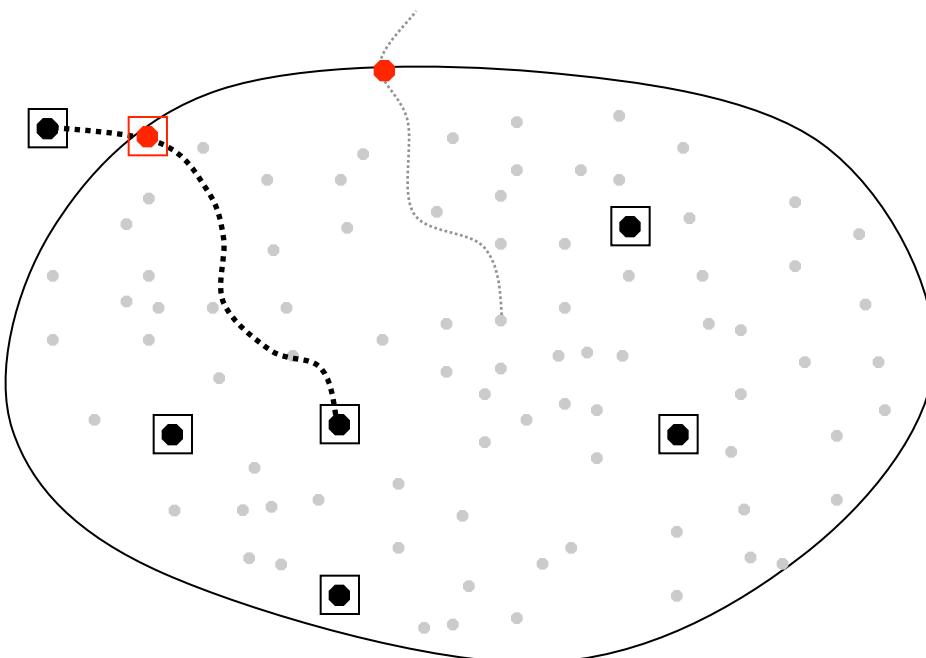
Conjecture: Passenger carrying taxis use the same parts of the network as cars

Then:

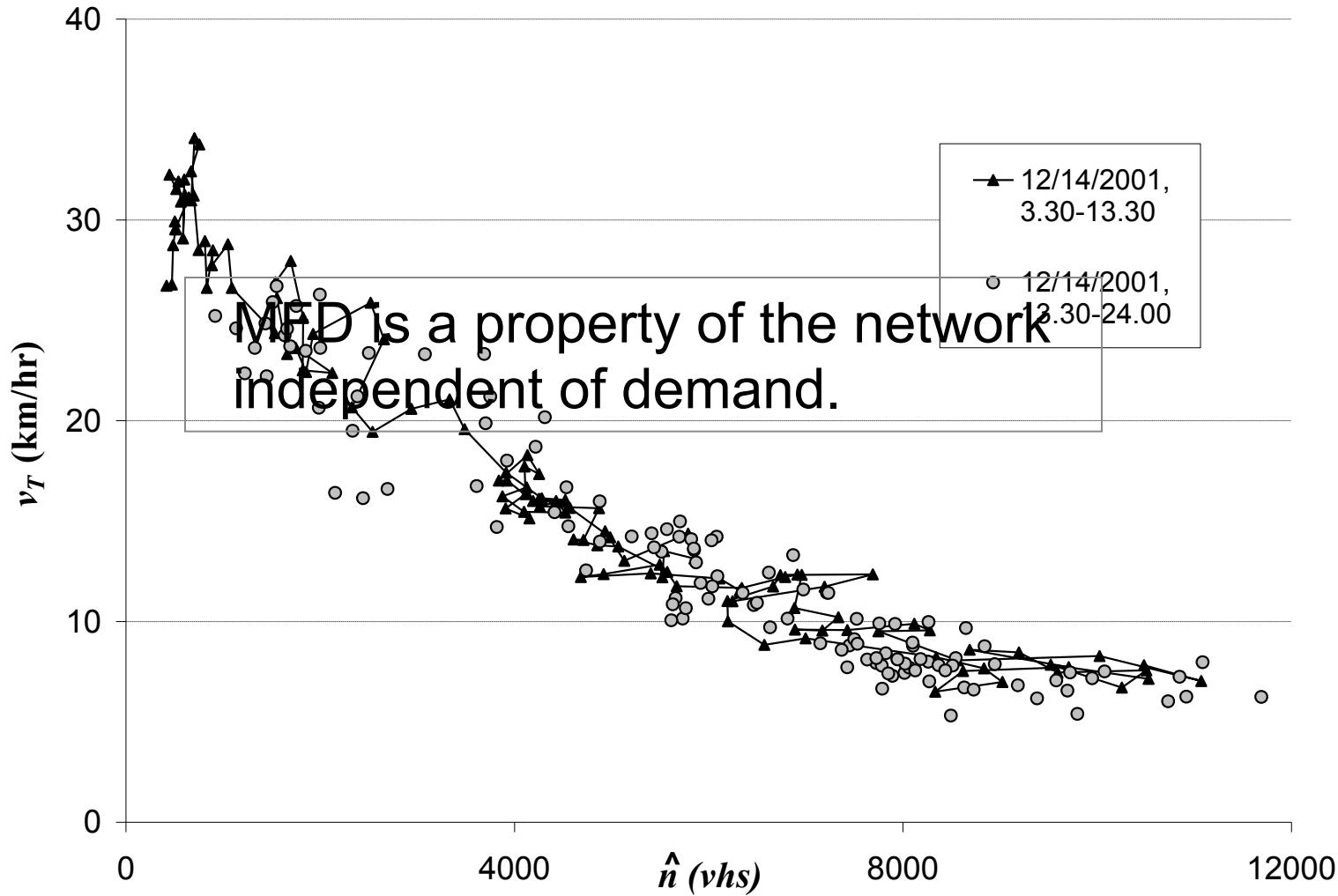
$$u(t) \approx \bar{u}_{taxi}(t)$$

$$n(t) \approx n_{taxi}(t) \cdot \Phi(t)$$

$$\Phi(t) = \frac{\bullet}{\square} \approx \frac{\bullet}{\square}$$



# Real World Experiment: Results

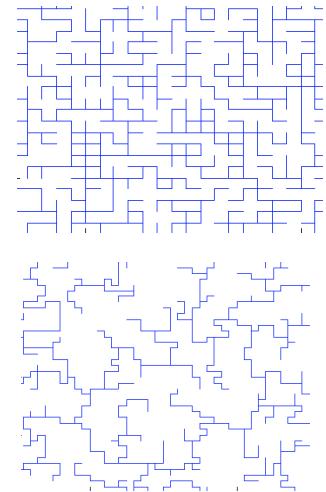


# Network type and MFD

MFD IS NOT A UNIVERSAL LAW

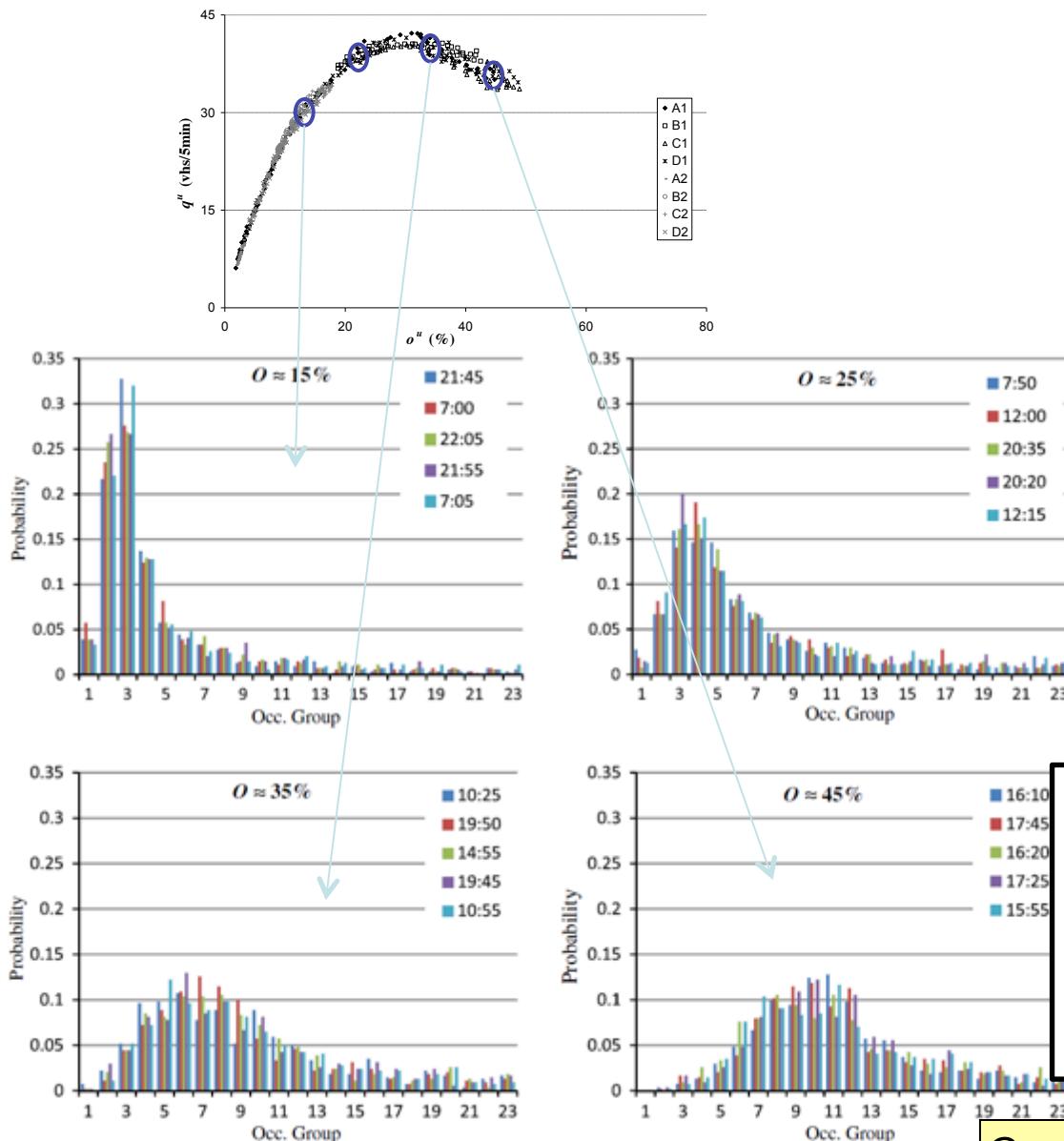
Regularity conditions that possibly ensure an MFD

- A slow-varying and distributed demand
  - Homogeneous spatial distribution of congestion
  - A redundant network with many route choices
  - Homogeneity in network topology
- 



- An MFD with low scatter
  - locally heterogeneous but macroscopically regular networks (e.g. cities with multiple modes)
- An MFD with high scatter
  - Networks with uneven and inconsistent distribution of congestion (e.g. freeways)

# Properties of a well-defined MFD



$d_r(t)$ : pdf of individual detectors' density in region r  
 $Q(t)$  and  $O(t)$ : Average network flow and density

$$\{Q(t_1) = Q(t_2) \text{ and } O(t_1) = O(t_2)\}$$

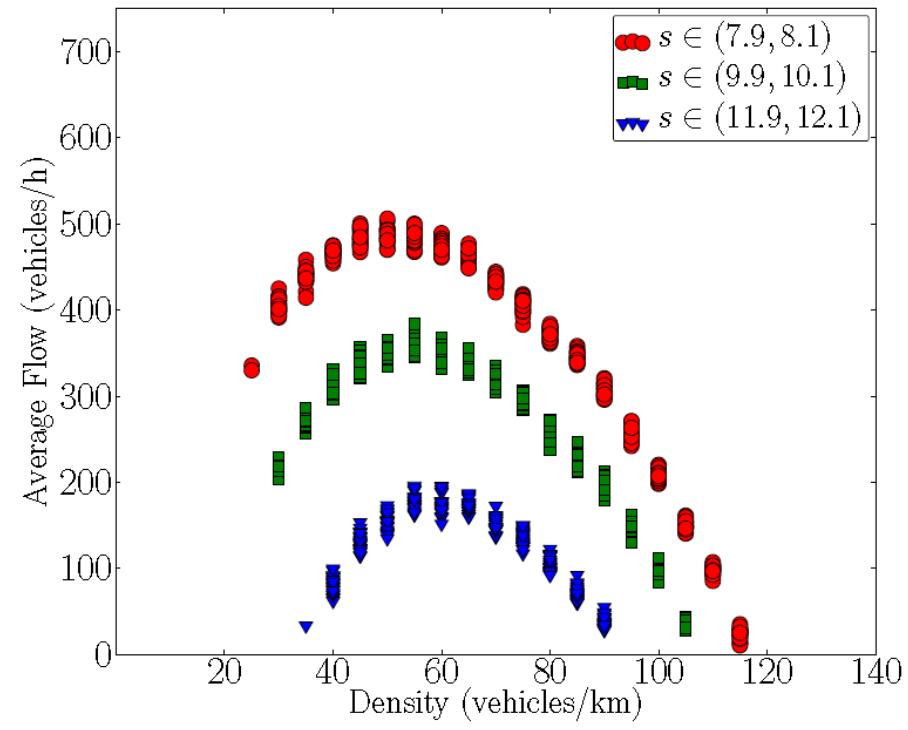
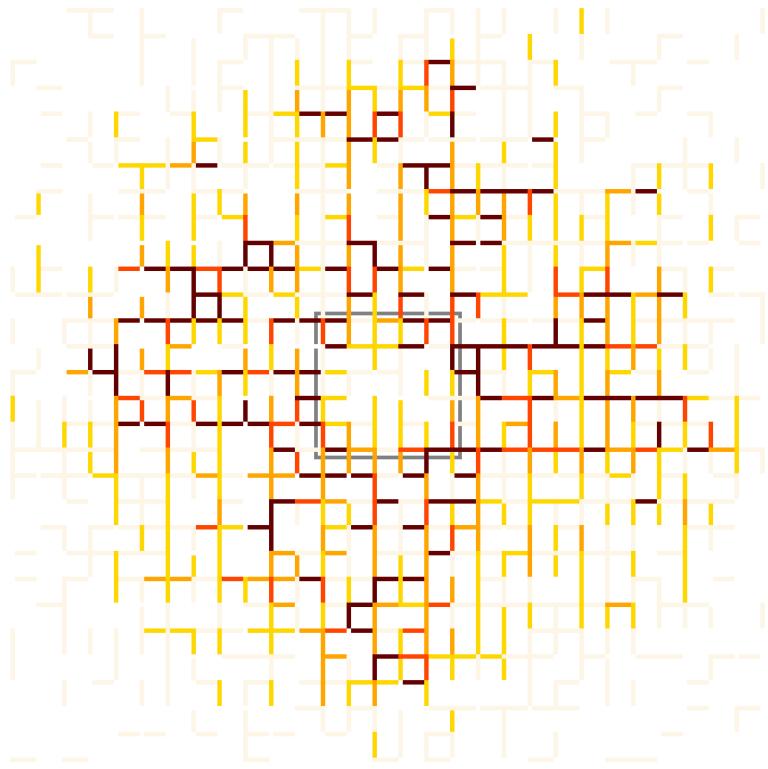
$$\iff d_r(t_1) \sim d_r(t_2).$$

Variance much higher than binomial's

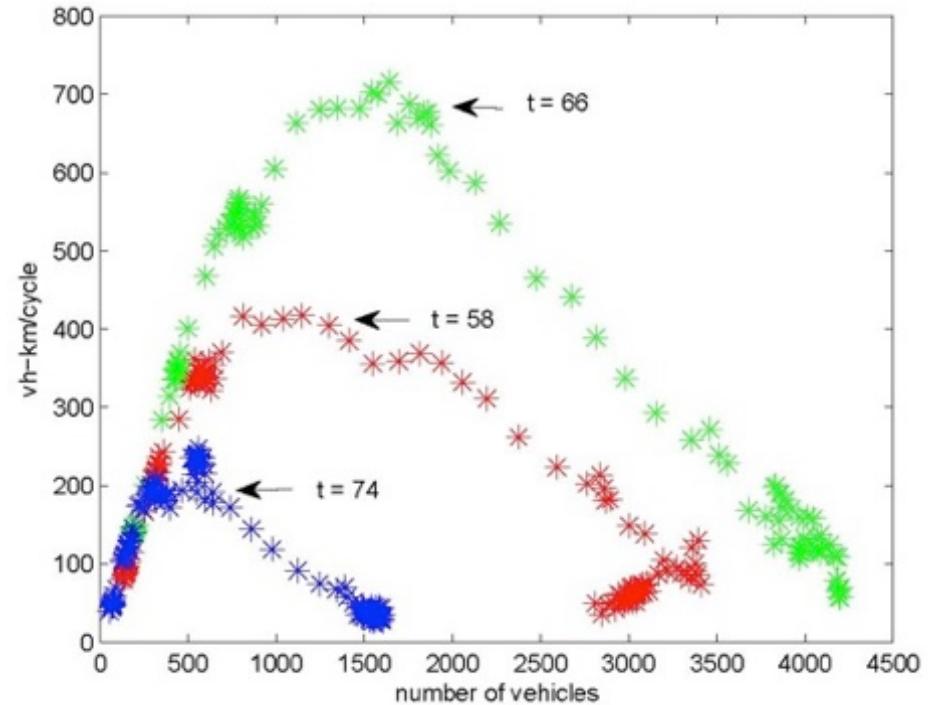
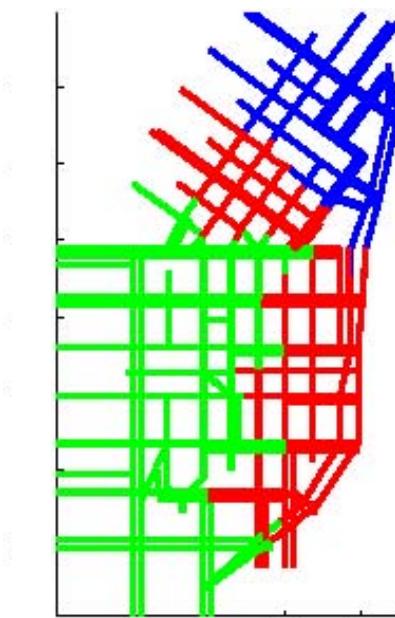
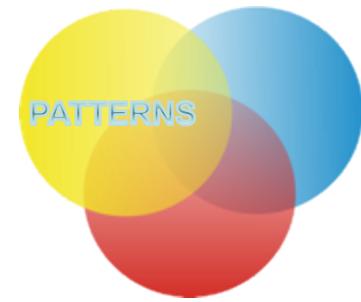
WHY?

Correlation of link density  
(propagation)

# Spatial Variability and Network Capacity



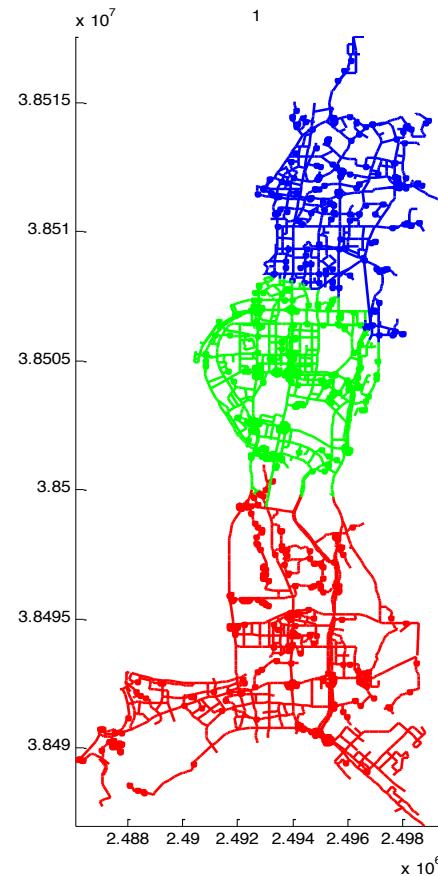
# Clustering – Congestion Dynamics



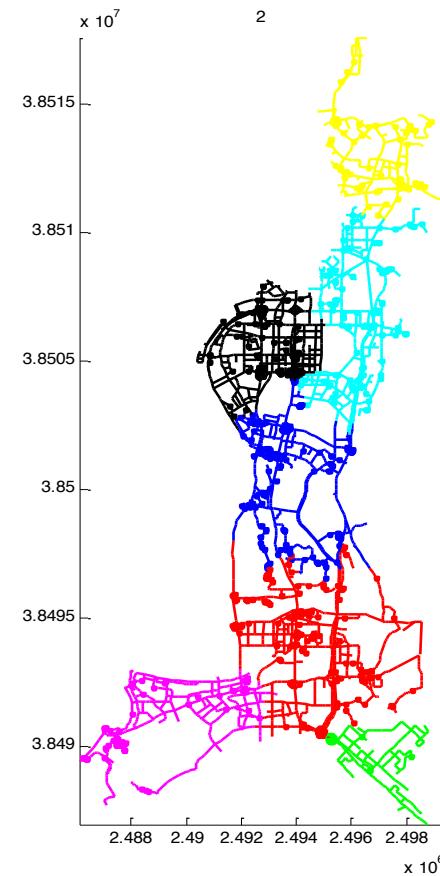
Clusters of a city reach congestion at different times

# Dynamic Congestion Patterns

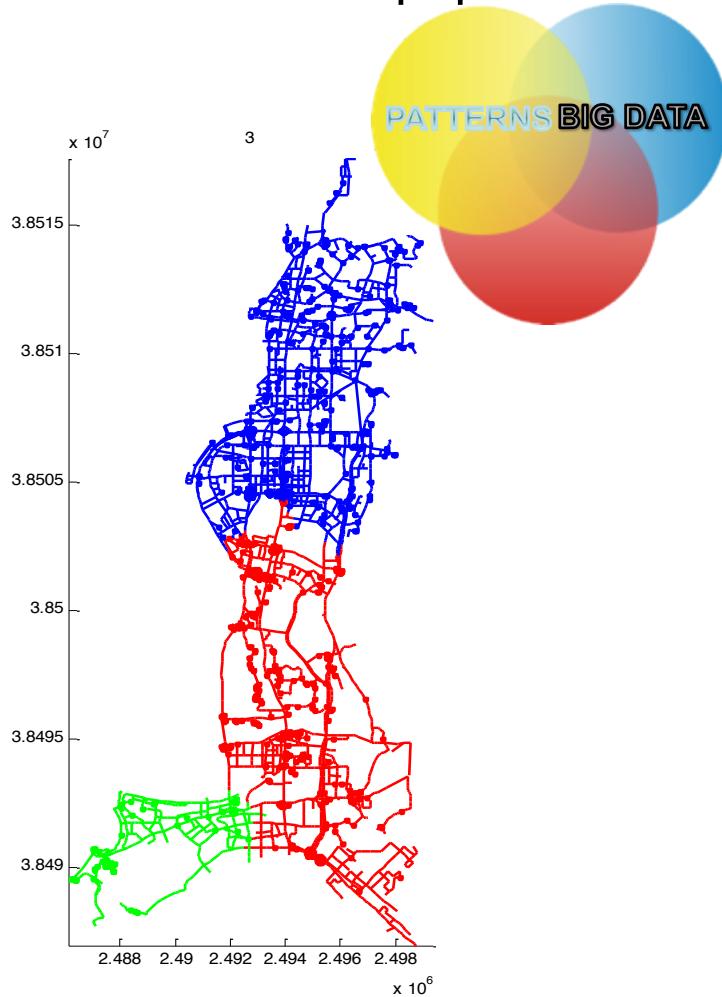
20000 taxis (50M points/day)



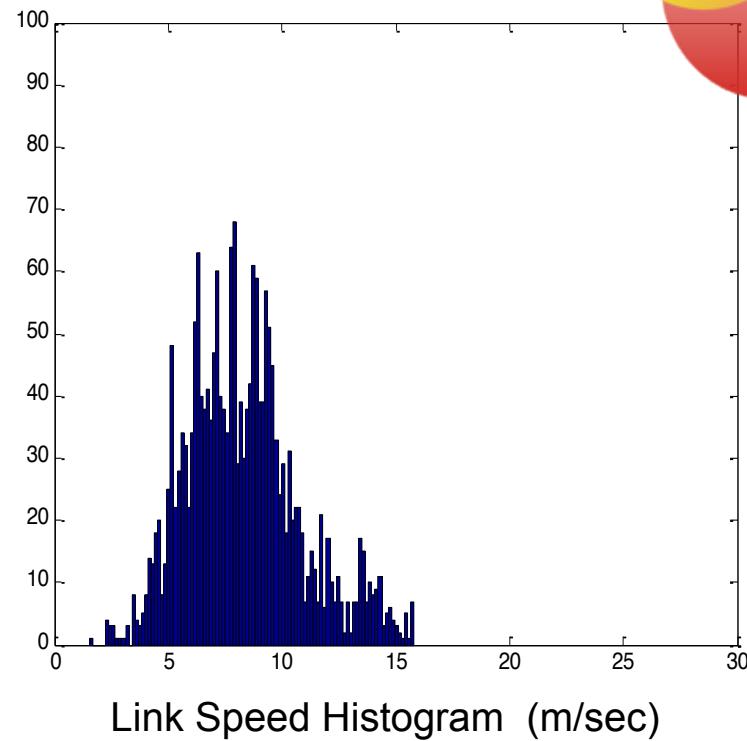
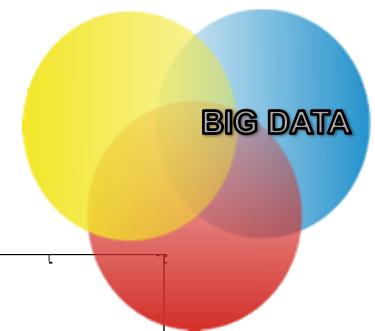
9000 links



Shenzhen 12M population



# Speed profile evolution

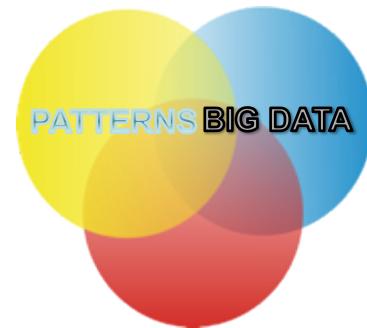
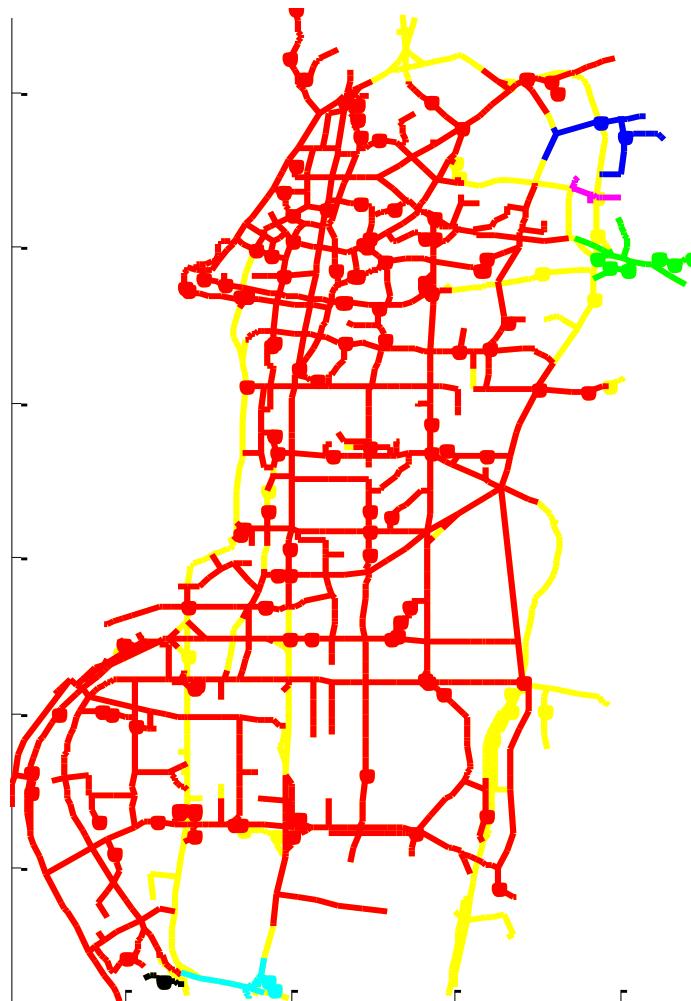


- Estimate link speeds from taxi data
- Identify congested links over time
- Spatial smoothing
- Estimate the largest connected components

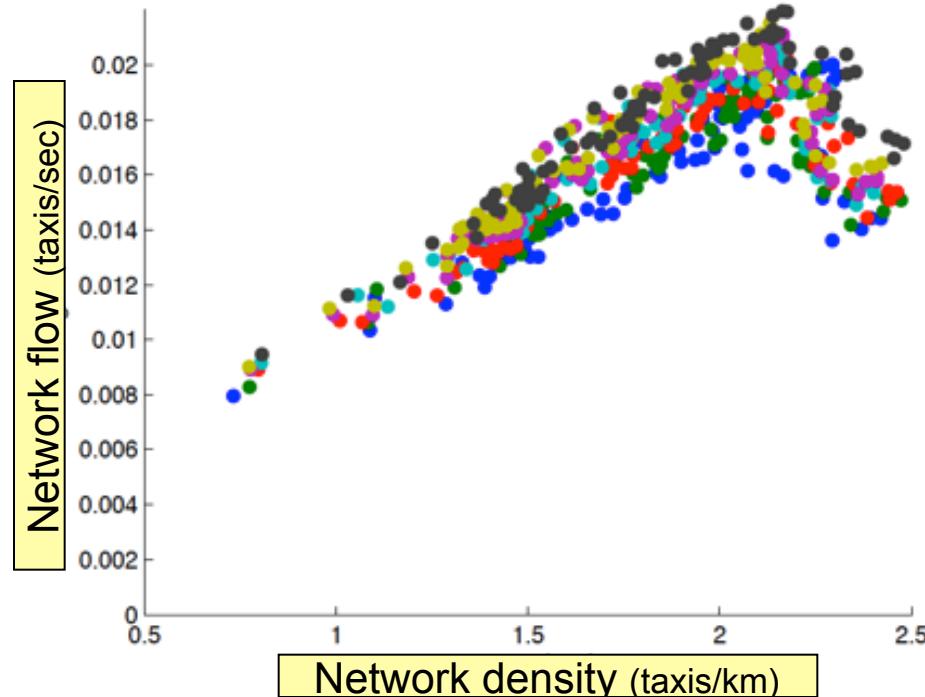
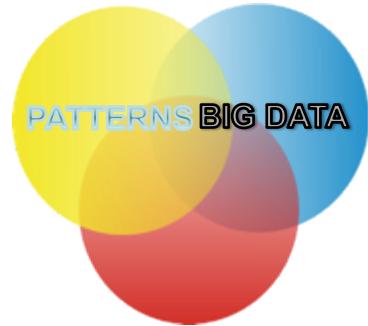
# Congestion Propagation

Small number of critical pockets of congestion

Significant Spatial correlations



# Aggregated patterns



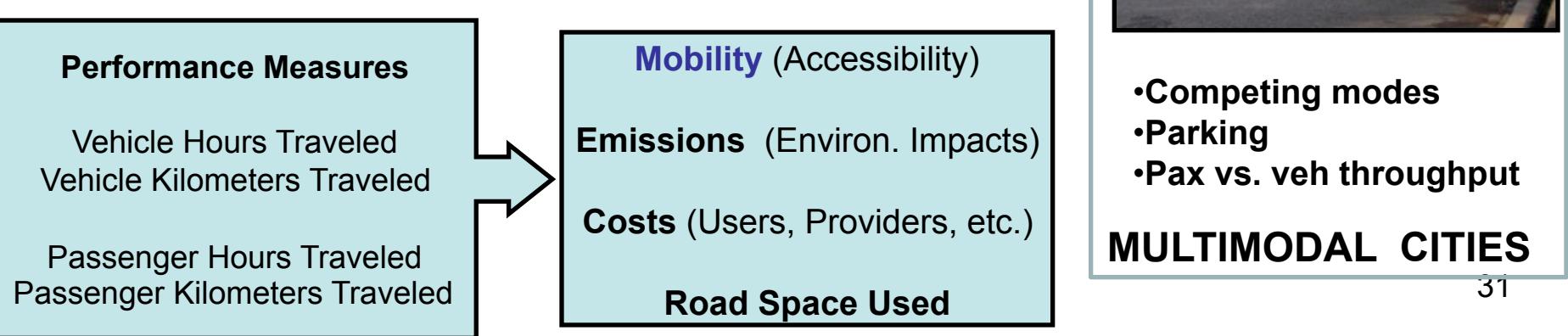
$$n_j = n_u \times (l_j/l_u) \times \left( \left( n_j^f / n_j^e \right) / \left( n_u^f / n_u^e \right) \right)$$

number of taxis is proportional

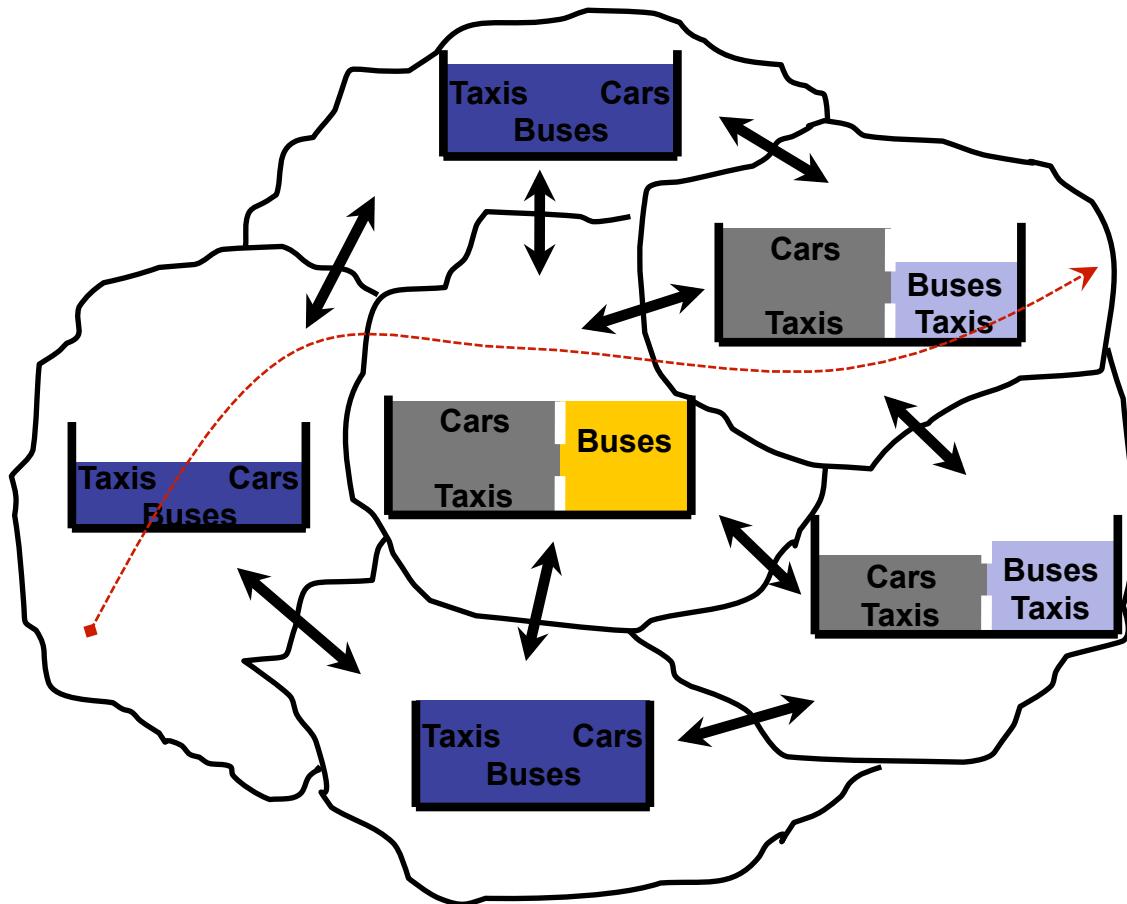
- to the size of the region
- to the ratio of full over empty taxis

# Multimodal networks

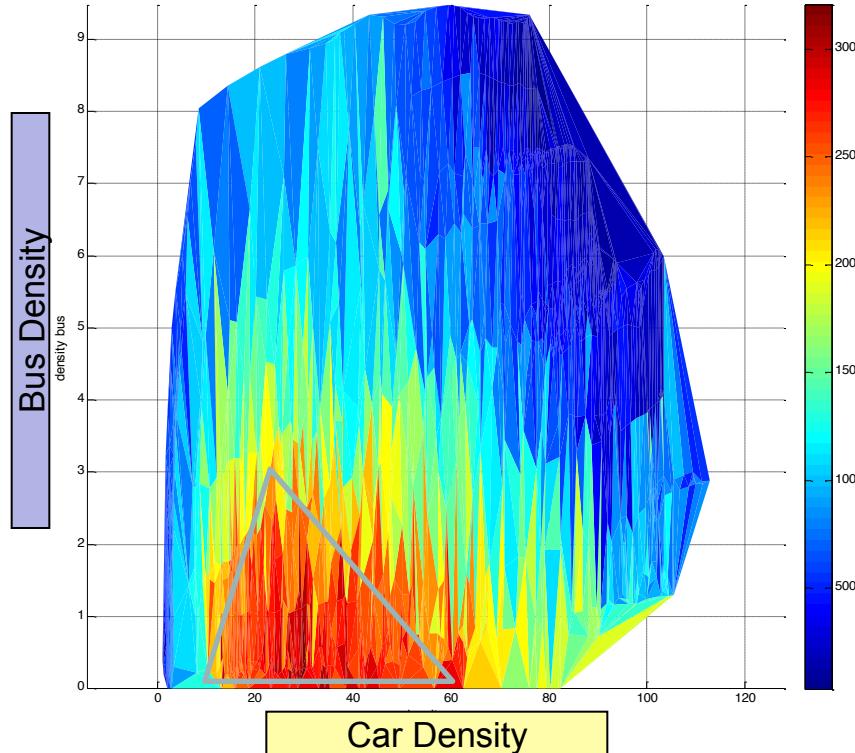
- In urban networks, buses usually share the same network with the other vehicles.
- Movement Conflicts in multi-modal urban traffic systems: Modeling Congestion and developing more sustainable cities
- Increasing bus frequency decreases the flow of vehicles but can increase the flow of passengers.



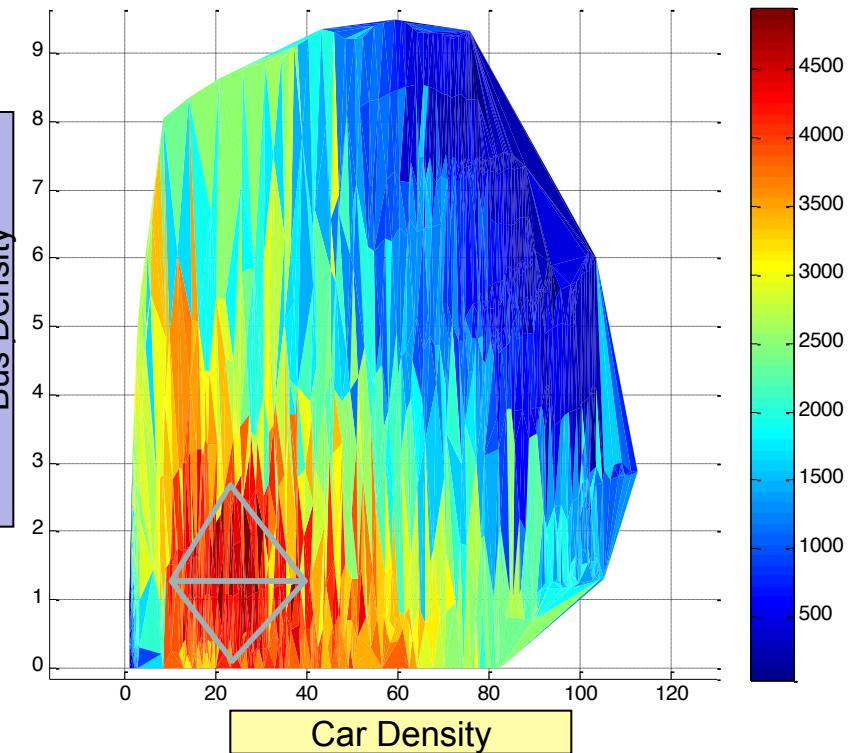
# Multimodal Passenger oriented SoS Vision



# Network performance measures



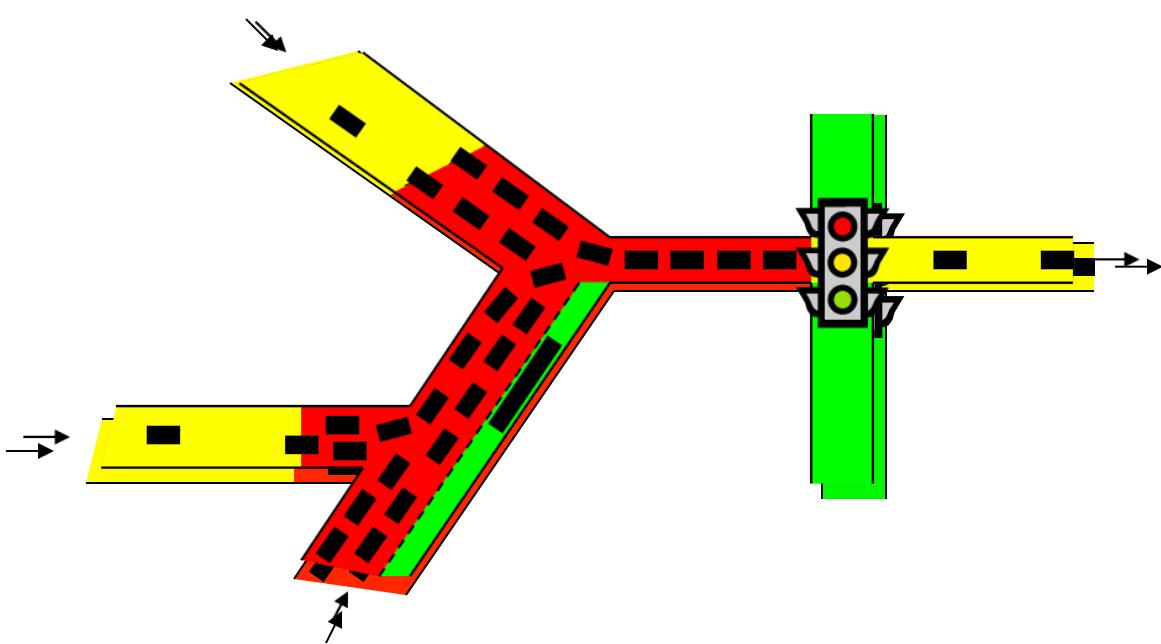
VEHICULAR FLOW



PASSENGER FLOW

Simulated data – Downtown SF

# Infrastructure not equally available throughout a city

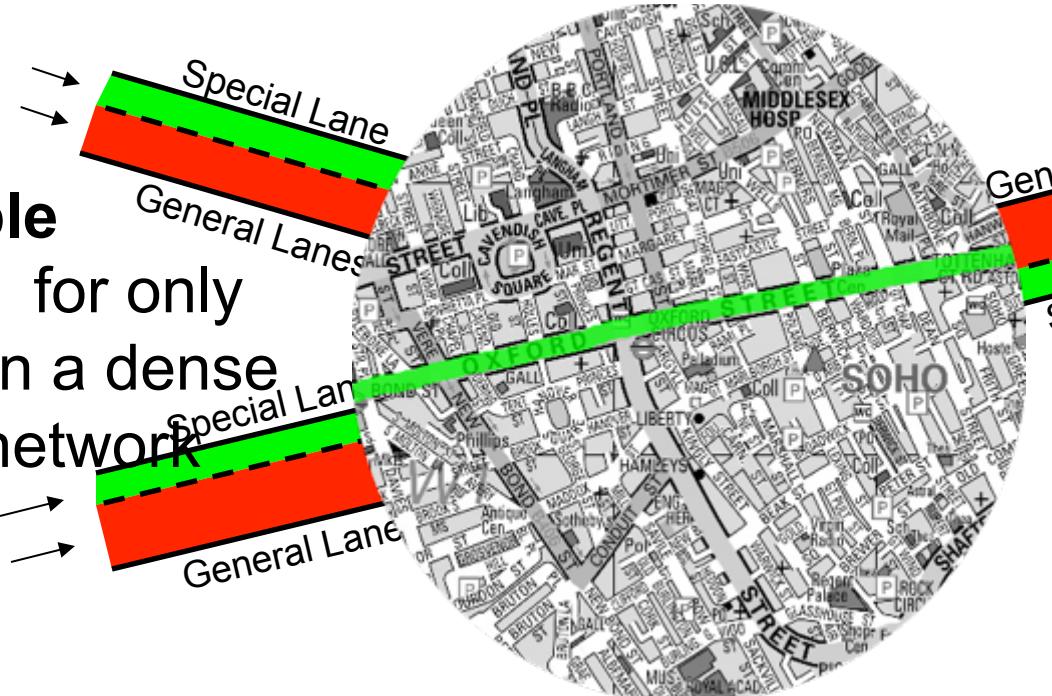


Queues form at locations with limited capacity, but spill-over to other locations

# Need not provide special lanes everywhere

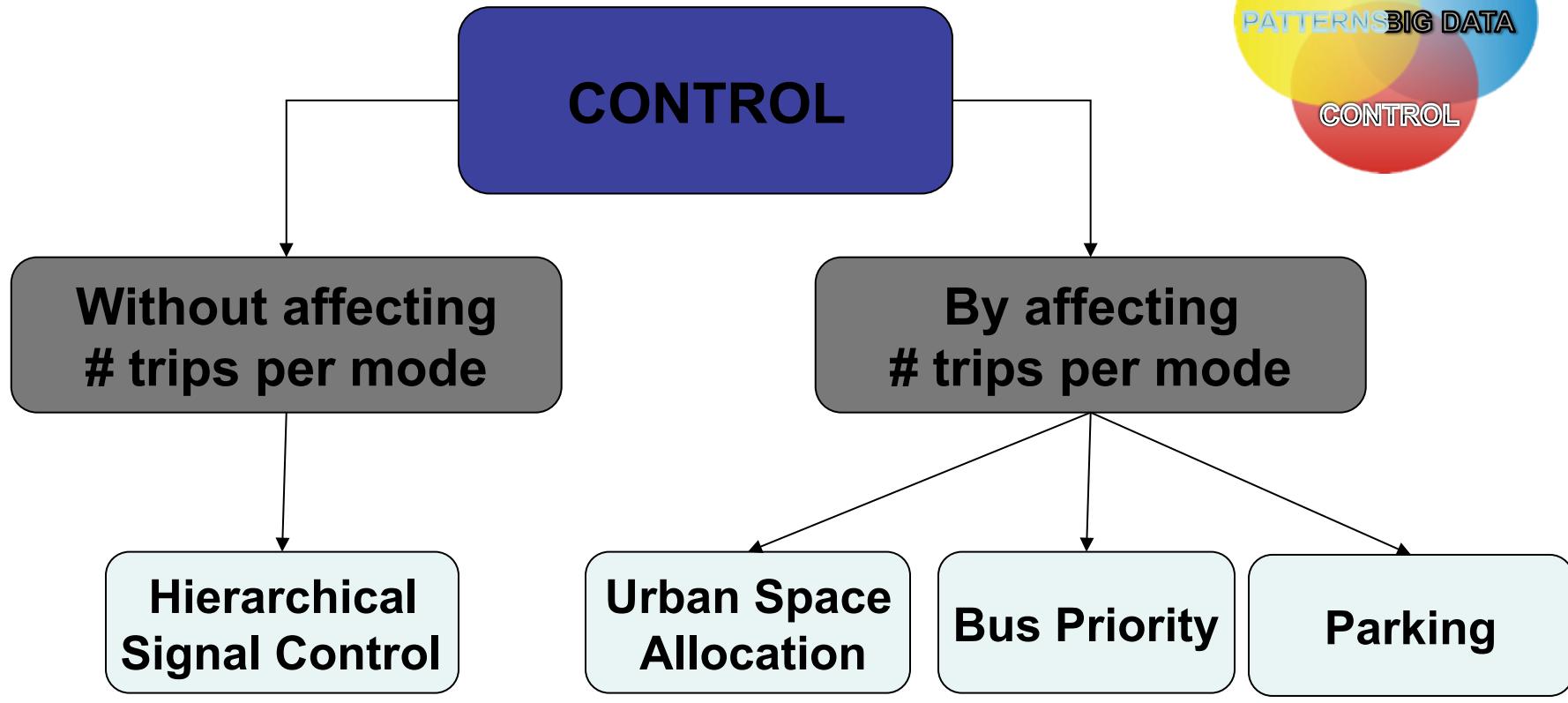
## Example

Streets for only  
buses in a dense  
urban network

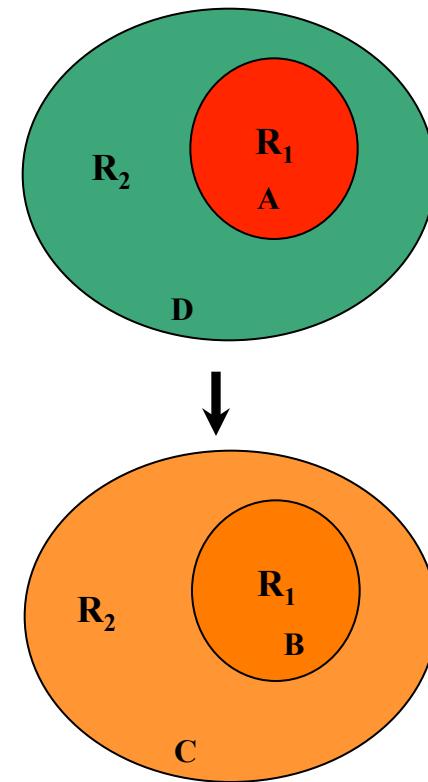
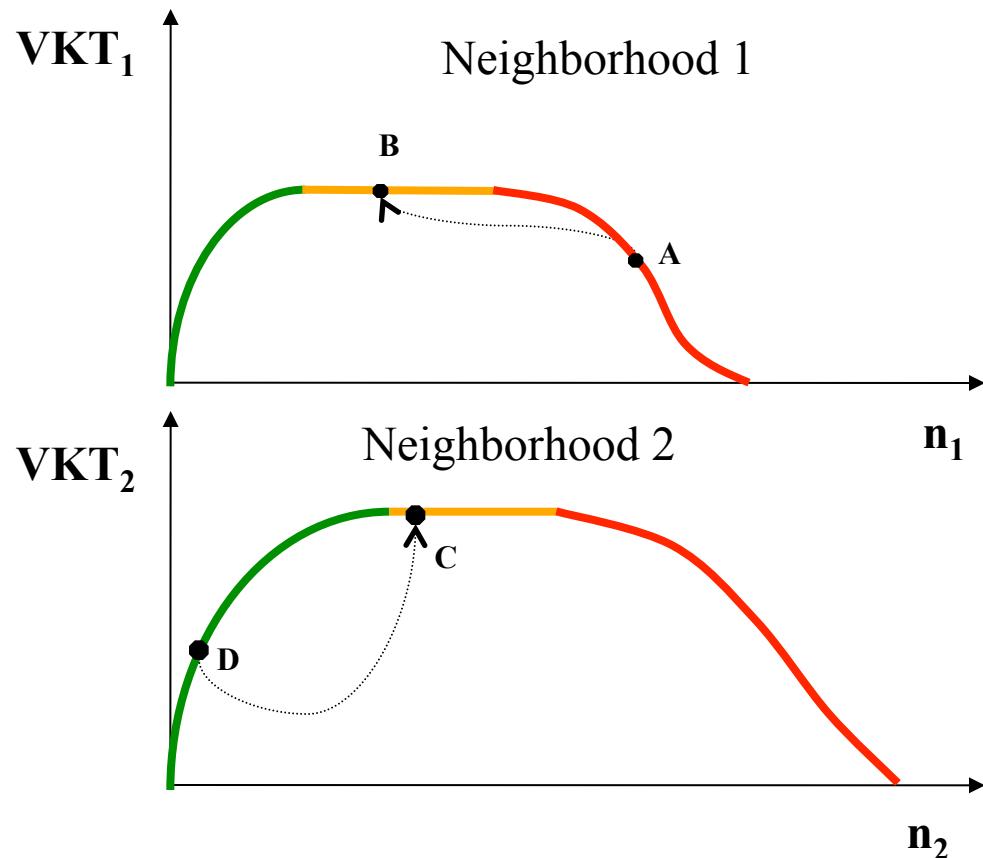


Provide bypasses for more efficient modes  
around much (if not all) congestion

# A “System of Systems” Approach



# Macroscopic Perimeter control

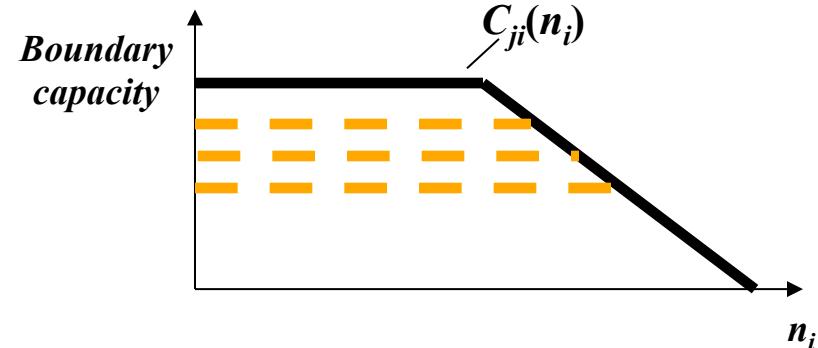
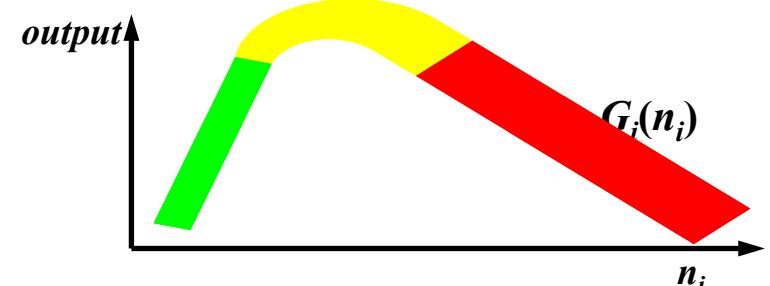
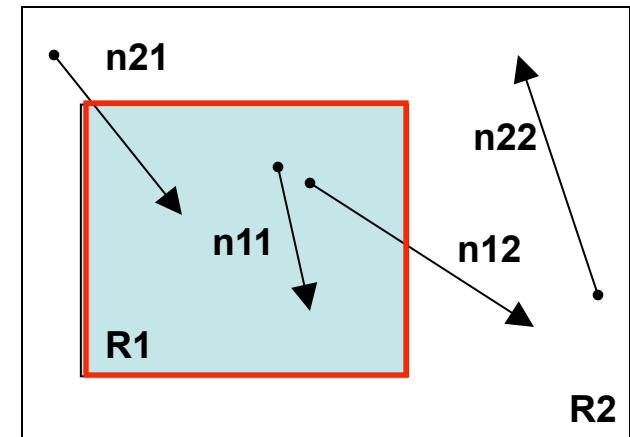


# Dynamics of a 2-reservoir system

- State Variables
- Boundary Capacity
- Dynamic Equations
- Control

$$\frac{dn_{12}}{dt} = q_{12} - \min\left(\boxed{\text{IN}} \cdot C_{12}(n_2), \frac{n_{12}}{n_1} \cdot G_1(n_1)\right)$$

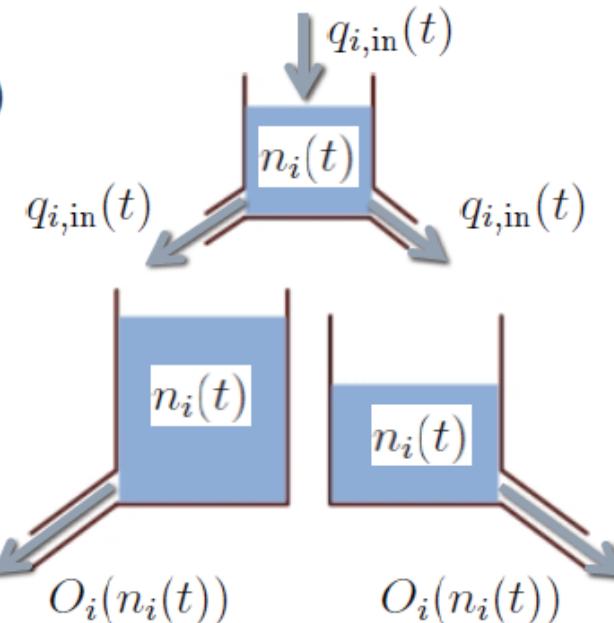
= IN - OUT



# Multivariable Feedback Regulators

- **Given:** MFDs for each reservoir  $O_i(n_i(t))$
- **Observe:** Accumulation  $n_i(t)$
- **Control:** Input  $q_{i,\text{in}}(t)$
- **Maximize:** Throughput
- **Minimize:** Risk overflow
- **Nonlinear Dynamics**

$$\frac{dn_i(t)}{dt} = q_{i,\text{in}}(t) - q_{i,\text{out}}(t) + d_i(t)$$

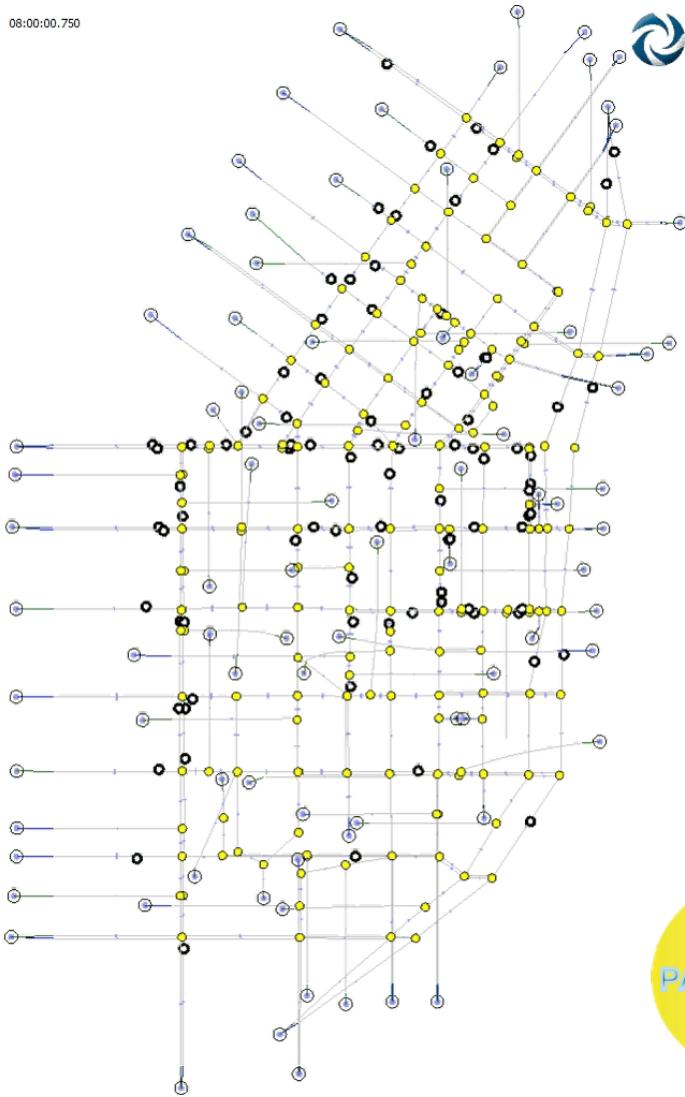


- **Linear-quadratic-integral control** (multivariable PI-regulators)

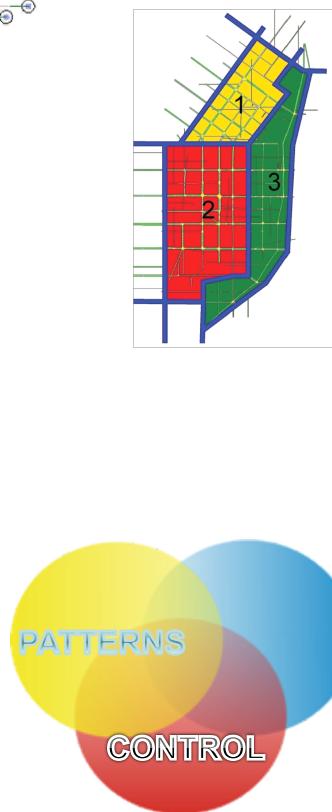
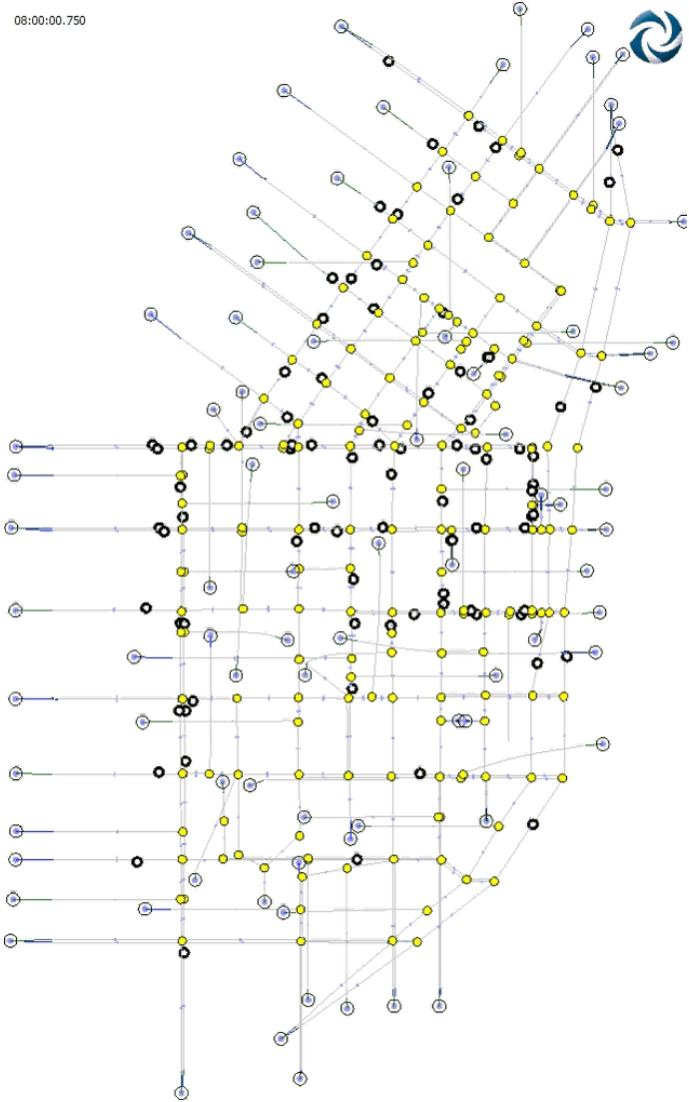
$$\beta(k) = \beta(k-1) - \mathbf{K}_p [\mathbf{n}(k) - \mathbf{n}(k-1)] - \mathbf{K}_I [\mathbf{n}(k) - \hat{\mathbf{n}}]$$

# Simulation of multivariable PI

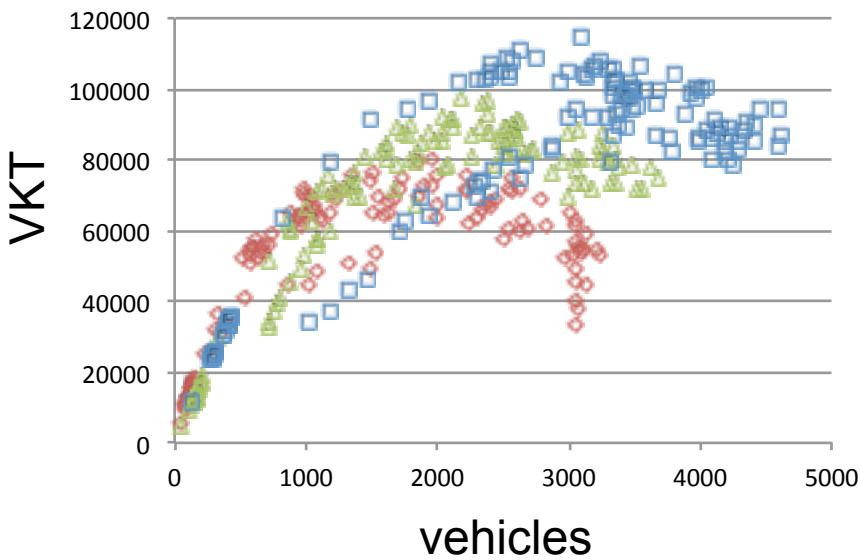
## Pre-timed Traffic Control



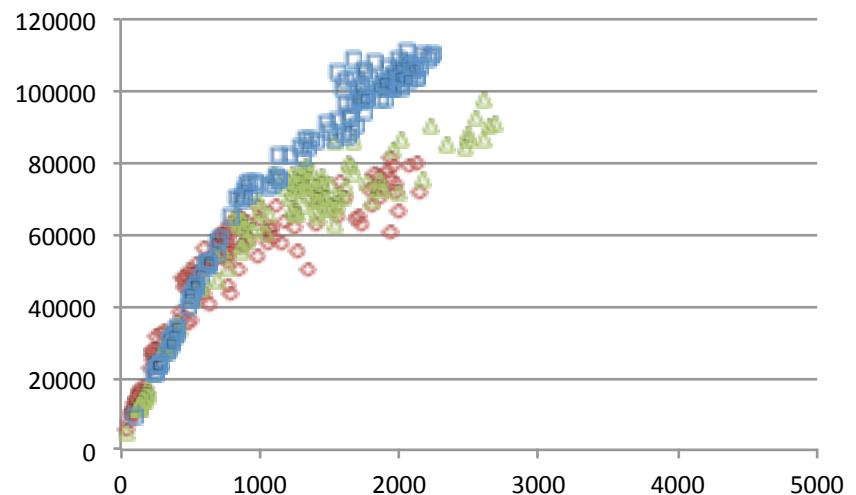
## Smart Traffic Control



# Comparison with Other Controllers



Pre-timed fixed control (PT)

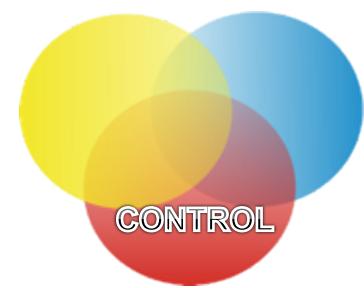


Multiple MFDs perimeter +  
boundary controllers (NEW)

Improvements (total vehicle delays)  
• PT vs. NEW 30-35%

- Equitable distribution of queues
- Earlier activation of Control

# Hierarchical SoS Control



## High level MPC controller

$$J = \min_{U_{IJ}, U_{JI}} \sum_{I \in \mathcal{R}, J \in \mathcal{H}_I} \int_0^{t_f} (N_{II}(t) + N_{IJ}(t)) dt$$

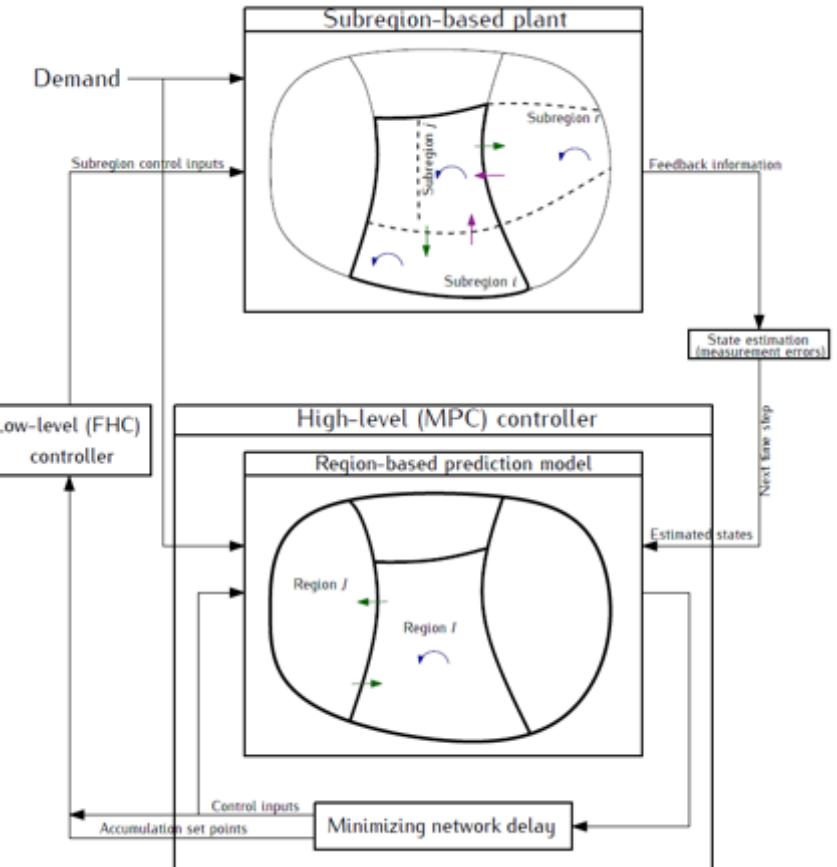
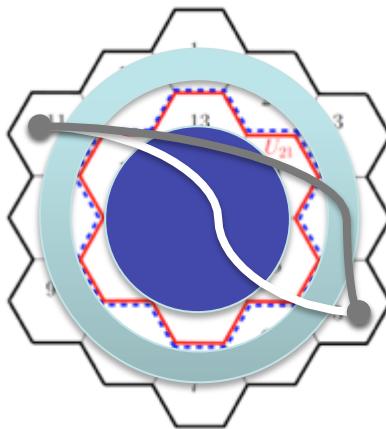
## Low level I controller

$$\begin{aligned} u_{ij}(k_c) &= u_{ij}(k_c - 1) + K_1 \cdot \left( \frac{N_J(k_c + K_p - 1)}{|\mathcal{SR}_J|} - n_j(k_c) \right) \\ &\quad - K_2 \cdot \left( \frac{N_I(k_c + K_p - 1)}{|\mathcal{SR}_I|} - n_i(k_c) \right) \end{aligned}$$

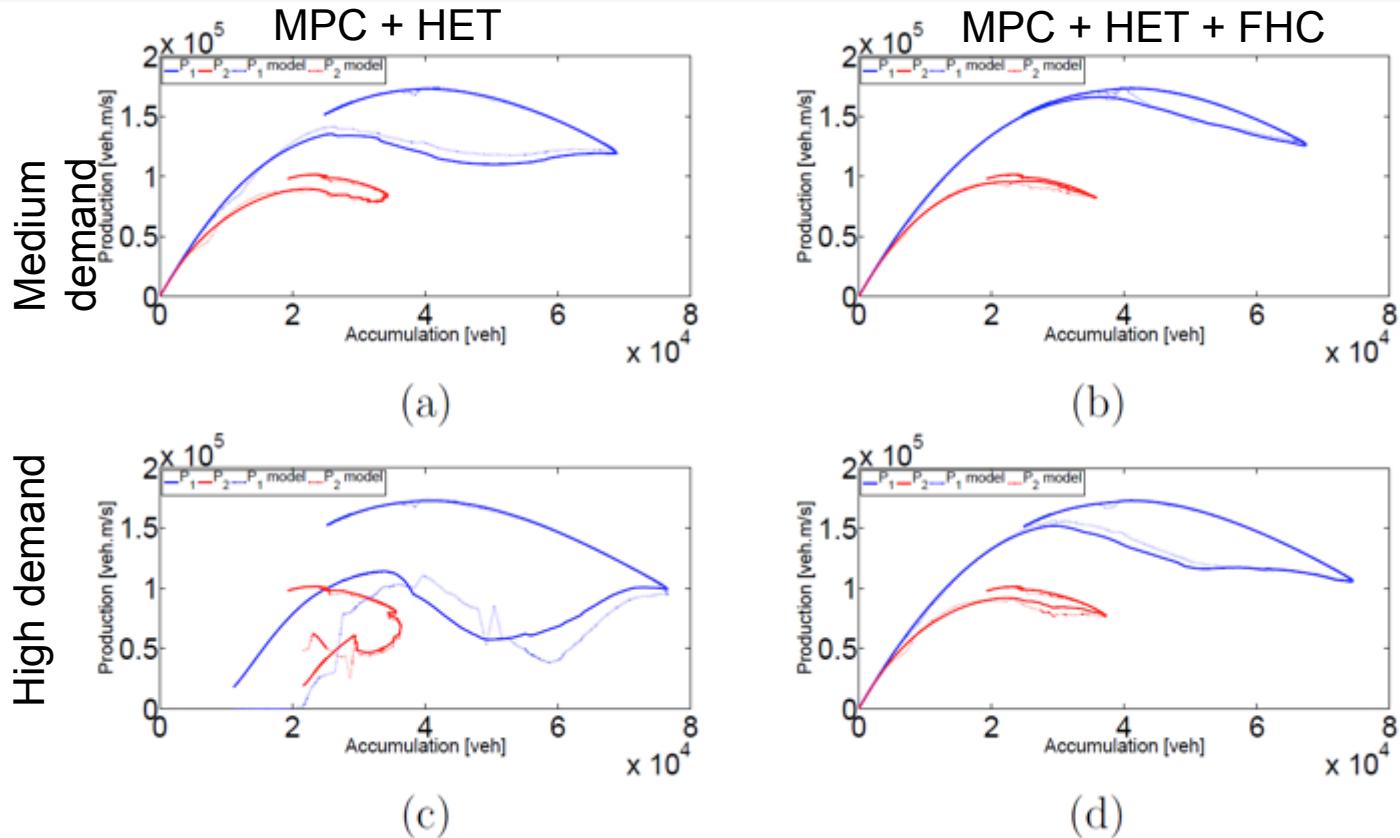
subject to:

$$\left| \sum u_{ij} - U_{IJ} \right| < \delta$$

$$0 \leq U_{\min} \leq u_{ij}(k) \leq U_{\max} \leq 1$$



# Results

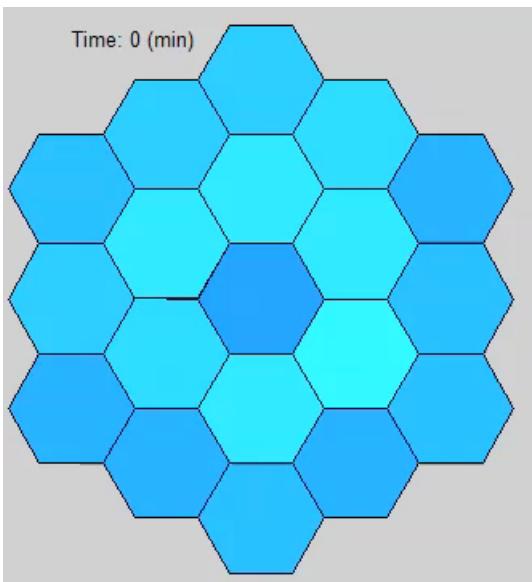


Total network delay (veh.sec  $\times 10^6$ )

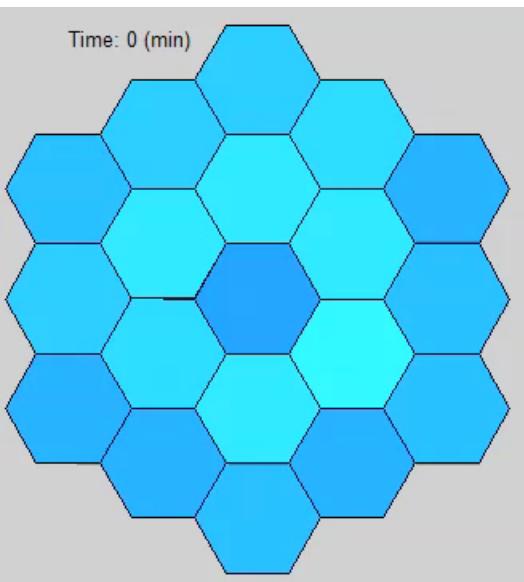
Demand	No Control	MPC	MPC+ HET	MPC+FHC	MPC + HET + FHC
Medium	1069.4	573.8	546.2	541.9	518.0
High	1204.4	930.5	881.5	851.0	636.8

# Results

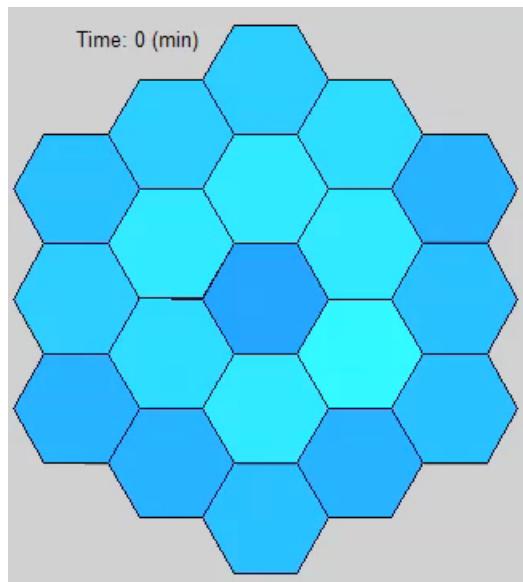
No Control



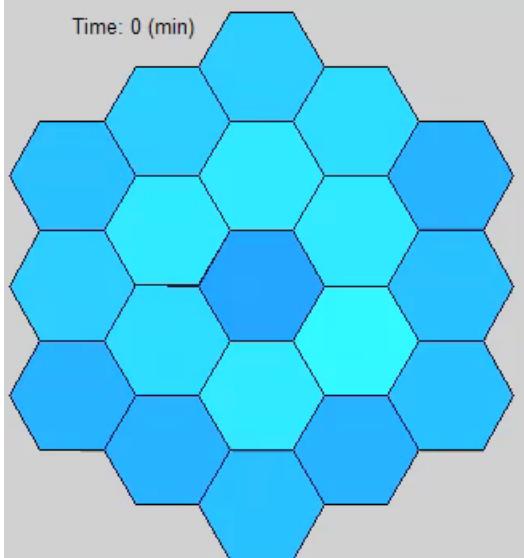
MPC



MPC+HET

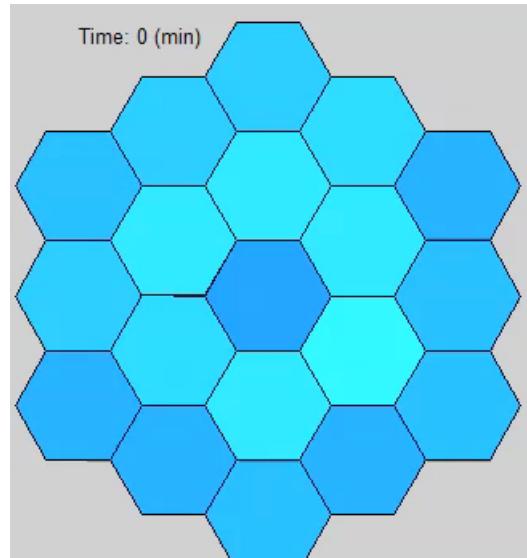


Time: 0 (min)

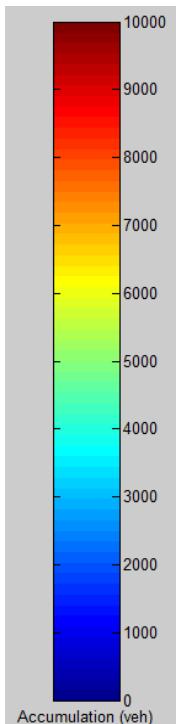


MPC+FHC

Time: 0 (min)

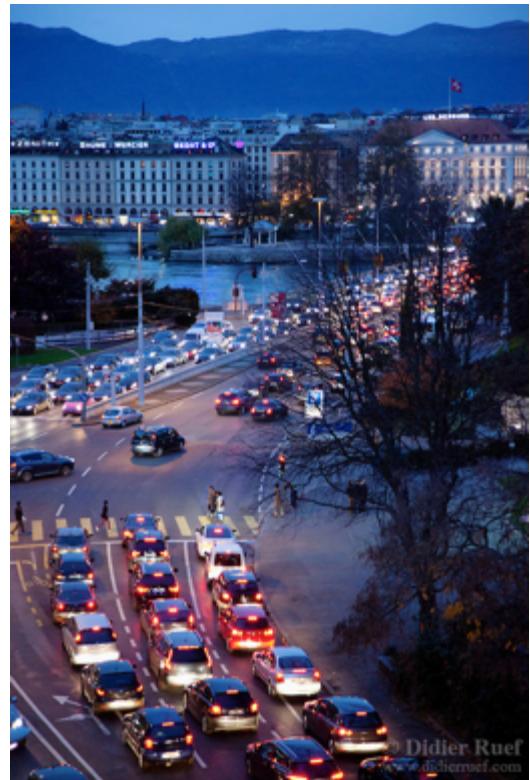


MPC+HET+FHC



# Under design field tests

Geneva, CH



## Passenger flow optimization

Sydney AUS





## Smart traffic control

Nice, France



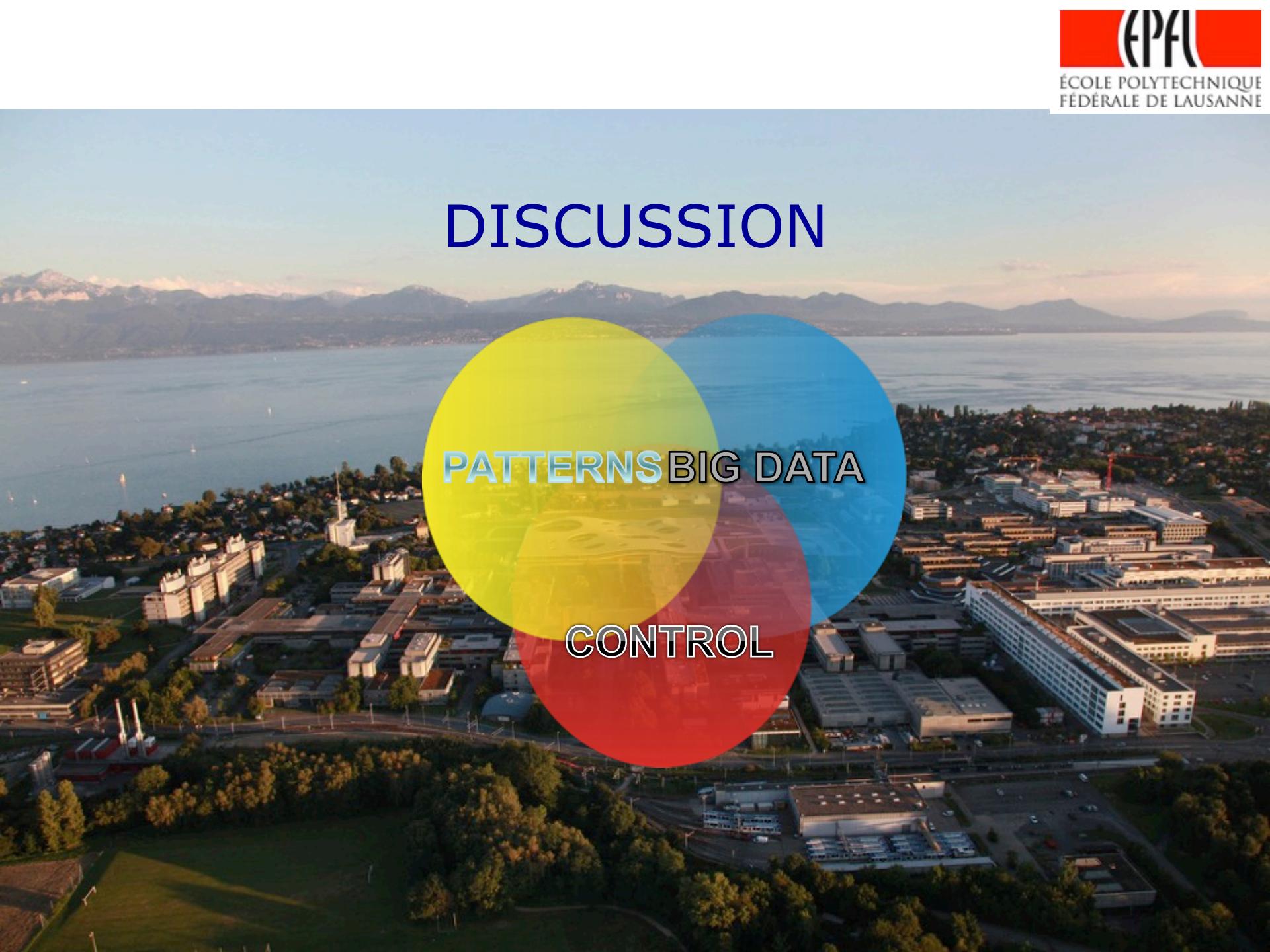
## One-way Car Sharing

# Further research questions

- Control of more complex city structures
- Congestion Spreading in networks
- Travel time reliability and Control
- Multimodal city networks (People + Goods)
- Urban Logistics
- Car-sharing



# DISCUSSION



PATTERNS BIG DATA

CONTROL