

# A Complex System approach to Study Cities and Human Mobility

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Civil and  
Environmental  
Engineering



An aerial night photograph of a city, likely London, showing a dense grid of illuminated buildings and streets. A large, brightly lit stadium is visible in the upper center. The image has a semi-transparent dark overlay where the text is placed.

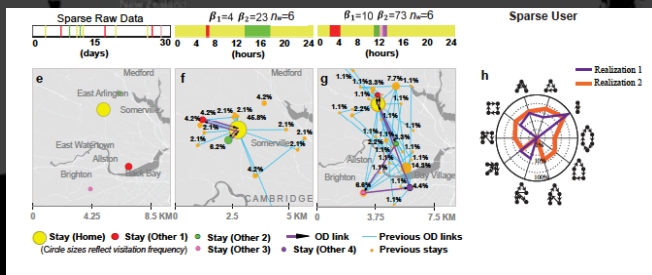
**those who see similarities, patterns  
and universals...**

**those who see differences, variation  
and specifics.**

***P. Ball, Complexity: Decoding deep similarities.  
Nature, 545, 154–155 (11 May 2017)***



**TimeGeo: a spatiotemporal framework for modeling urban mobility without surveys** (Shan Jiang, Yingxiang Yang, Daniele Veneziano, Shounak Athavale, Marta C. Gonzalez),  
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (2016): 201524261.

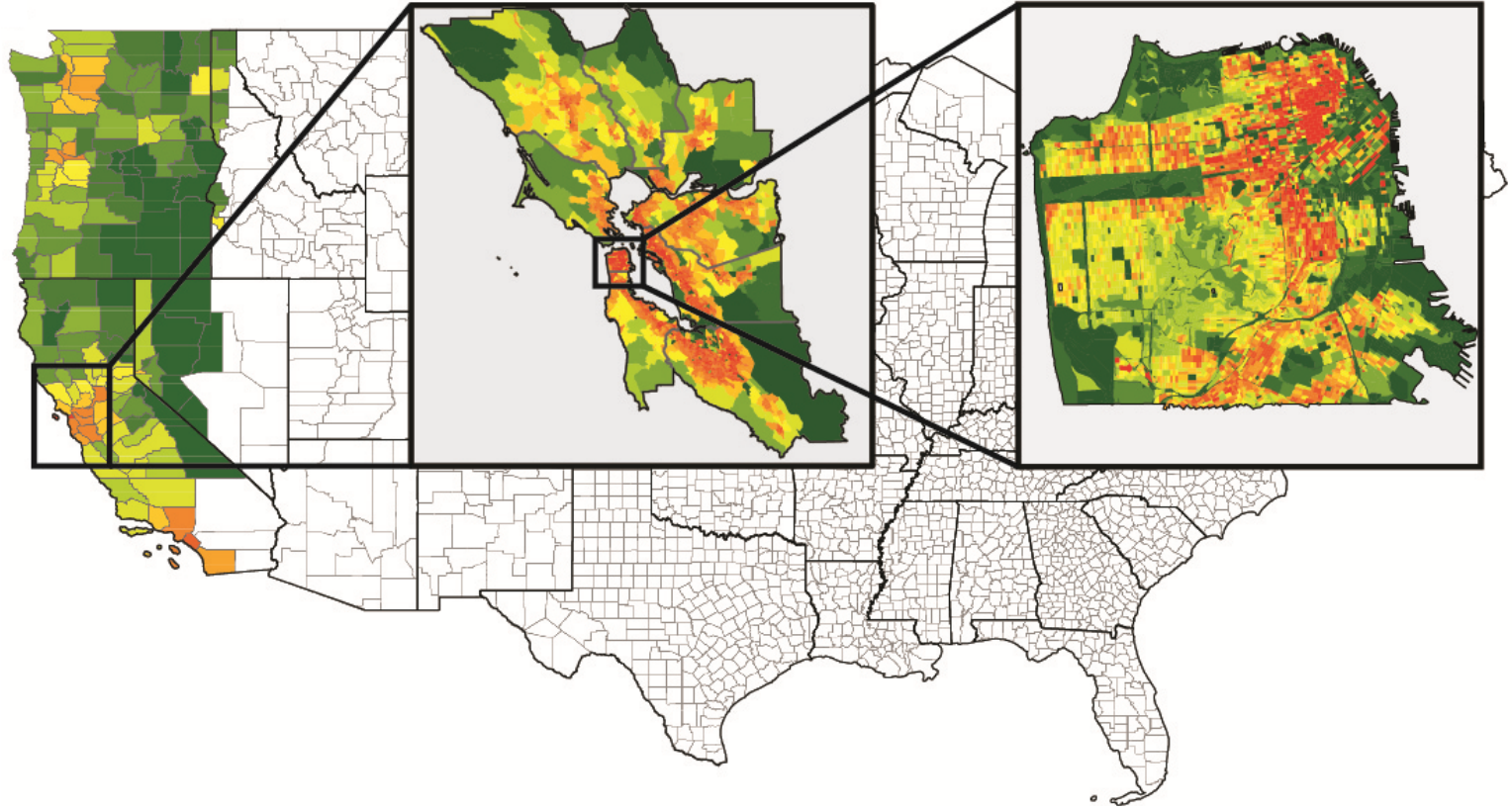


BOSTON

Slower Faster  
real minutes/animation second

Home  
Work  
Other

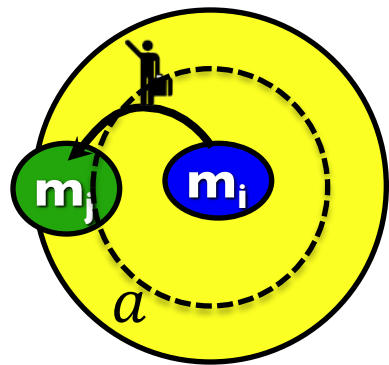
# Universality 1: Ranking of Opportunities





# Gravity Laws and Opportunity Laws

$$p_{ij} = \mathbb{P}(i) \mathbb{P}(1|i, j)$$



$$p_{ij} \propto m_i m_j e^{-\beta d_{ij}}$$

$$\frac{[(m_i + m_j + s_{ij})^\alpha - (m_i + s_{ij})^\alpha] (m_i^\alpha + 1)}{[(m_i + s_{ij})^\alpha + 1] [(m_i + m_j + s_{ij})^\alpha + 1]}$$

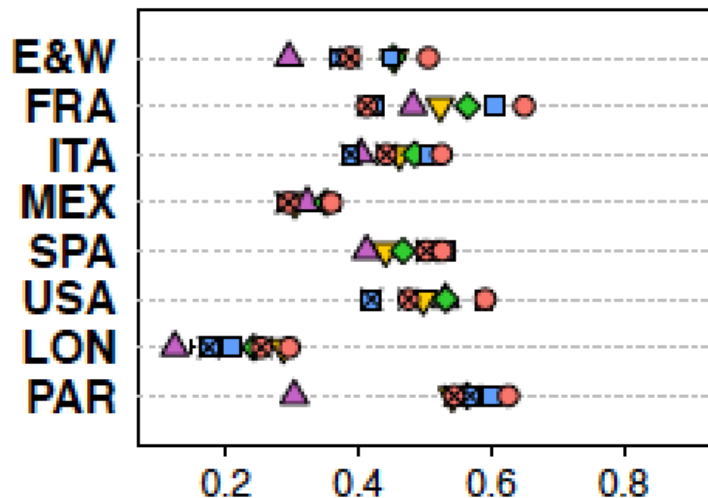
$$\mathbb{P}(1|i, j) = \frac{P_{>}(a) - P_{>}(a + m_j)}{P_{>}(m_i)}$$

$$a = s_{ij} + m_i$$

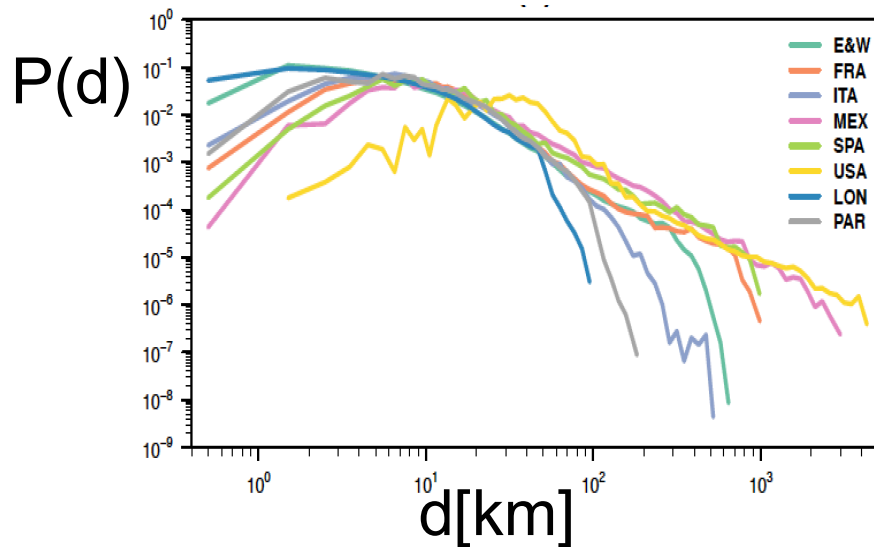
$s_{ij}$  opportunities between  $i$  and  $j$

Simini, F., M. C. González, A. Maritan, and A-L Barabási. "A universal model for mobility and migration patterns." *NATURE* 484 (2012): 5.

# Systematic comparison of trip distribution laws and models



Common parts per Commuter



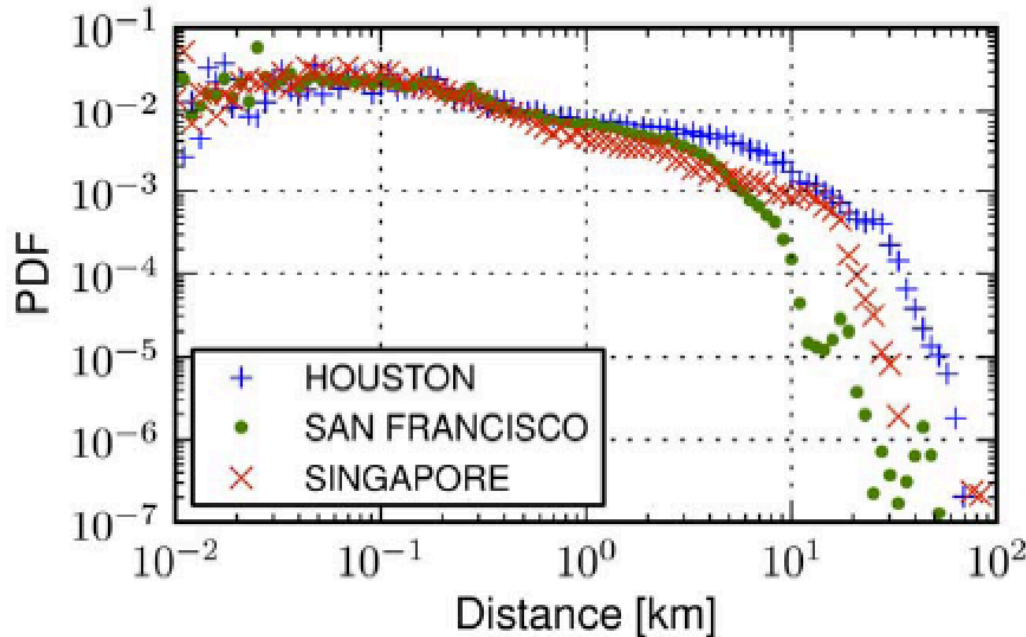
Distribution of distance traveled

Random CPC = 0.01

Lenormand, Maxime, Aleix Bassolas, and José J. Ramasco. *Journal of Transport Geography* 51 (2016): 158-169.



## Universality 2: Ranking of destinations

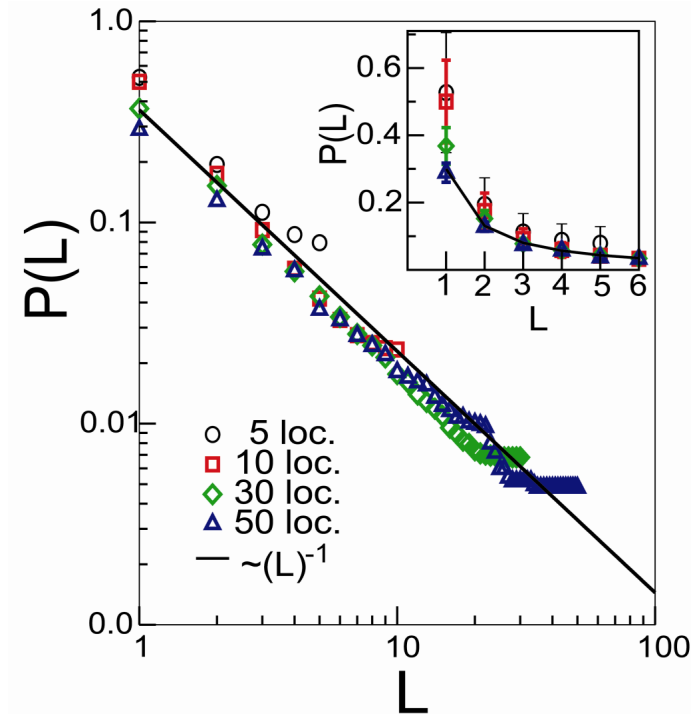
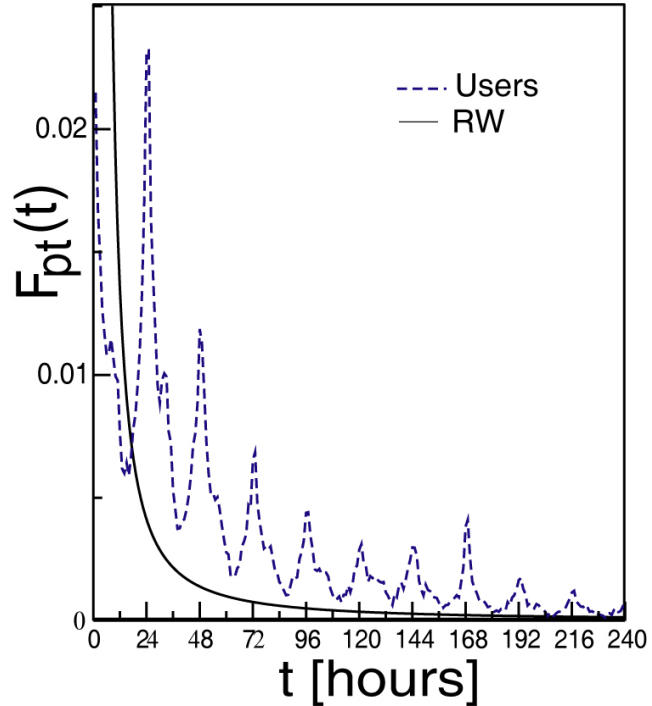


$$P_r[u \rightarrow v] \propto \frac{1}{\text{rank}_u(v)^a}$$

$$\text{rank}_u(v) = |\{w : d(u, w) < d(u, v)\}|.$$

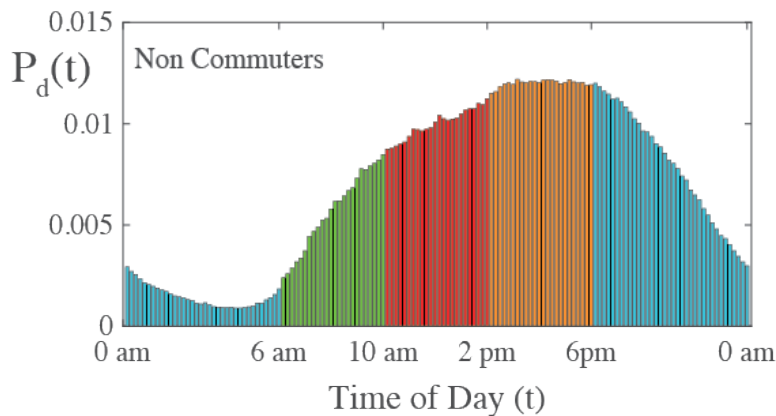
Noulas, A., Scellato, S., Lambiotte, R., Pontil, M., & Mascolo, C. (2012). **A tale of many cities: universal patterns in human urban mobility**. *PloS one*, 7(5), e37027.

# Universality 3: Preferential returns

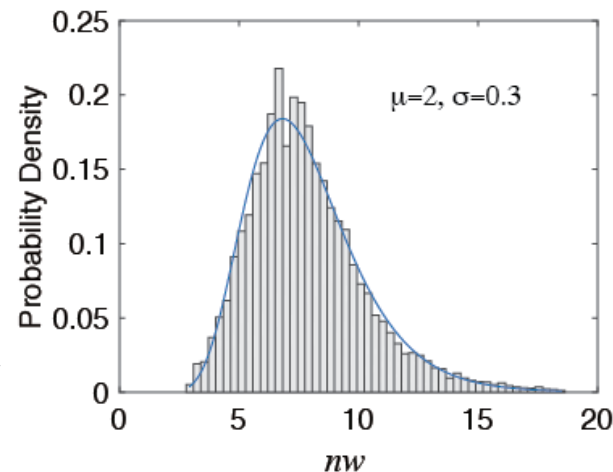




# Circadian Rhythm + heterogeneity 1:



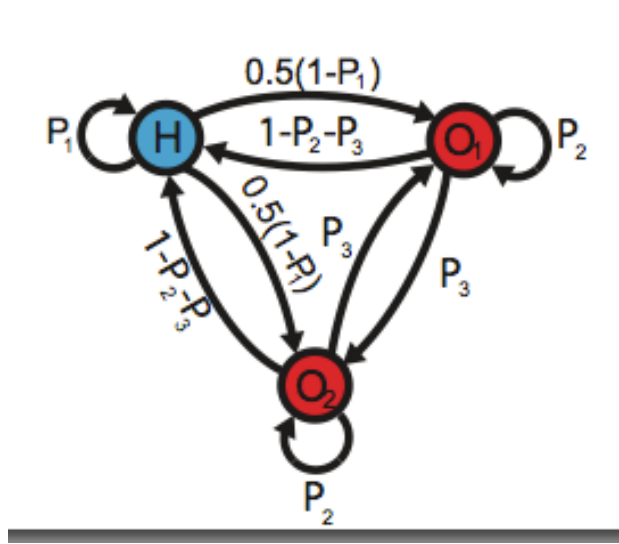
Fraction of Total Trips per time step



Weekly trips from home

$$P_i(t) = n_w^i P_d(t)$$

# Markov Mobility Model



$$P_1 = 1 - P(t)$$

Staying at “home”

$$P_2 = 1 - \beta_1 P(t)$$

Staying in current errand

$$P_3 = \beta_1 P(t) \beta_2 P(t)$$

Moving from current errand to a new current errand

“bursts” rate

exploration rate

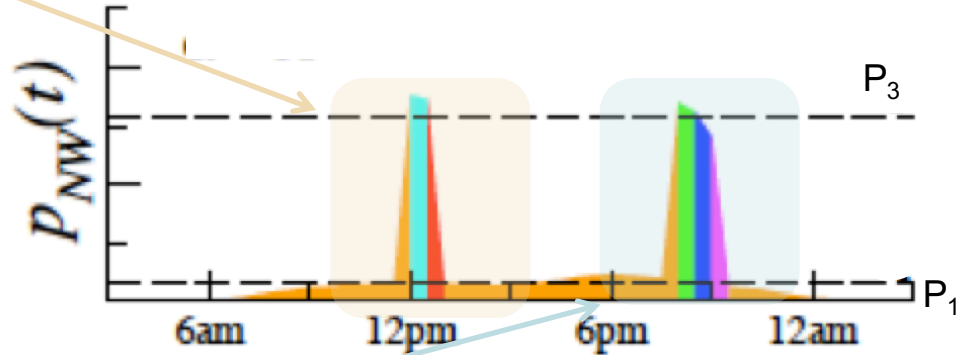
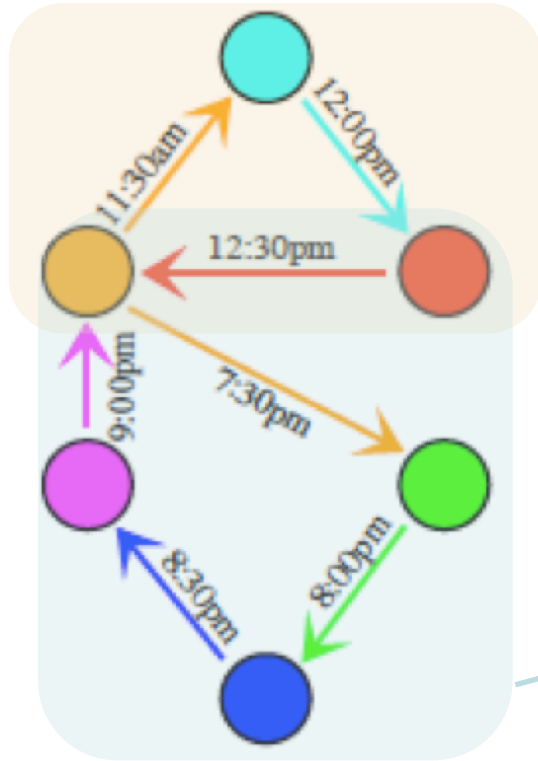
Generates shorter stays in the errand states.

Generates different number of activities in a row per **active** cycle

$$\frac{P(O_1 \rightarrow O_2)}{P(O_1 \rightarrow H)} = \frac{\beta_2 n_w P(t)}{1 - \beta_2 n_w P(t)}$$



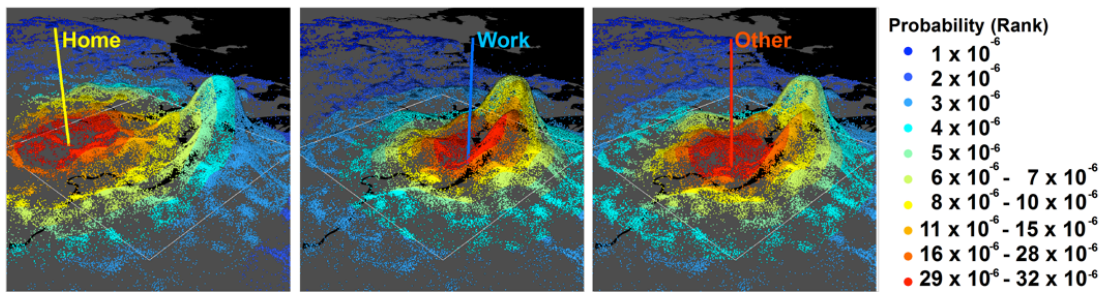
# We fit the model to the observed heterogeneity



The individual values of  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  values are obtained by calibrating the Markov model to minimize the following statistic:

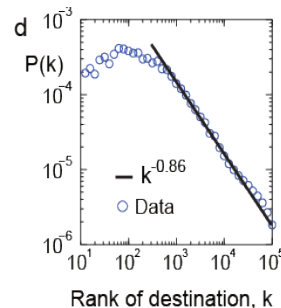
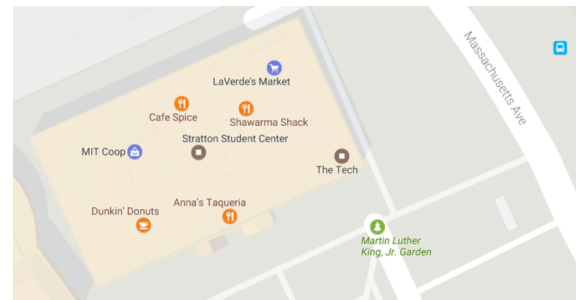
$$A(\beta_1, \beta_2) = \int |P_D(\Delta t) - P_M(\Delta t | \beta_1, \beta_2)| d\Delta t + \eta |\bar{N}_D - \bar{N}_M(\beta_1, \beta_2)|,$$

# Explorations are selected via the opportunities law



Colors represent the  $P(\text{rank})$ , height is POIs (point of interests) numbers.

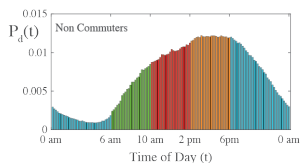
POIs = Point of Interests



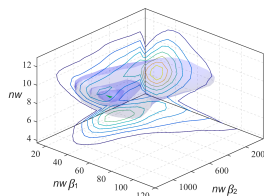
# The TimeGeo Modeling framework

## Features Extracted from data of Active Users

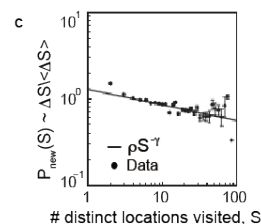
Global Trip prob.



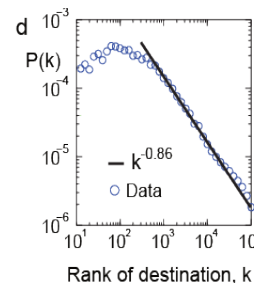
Individual Mobility Rates



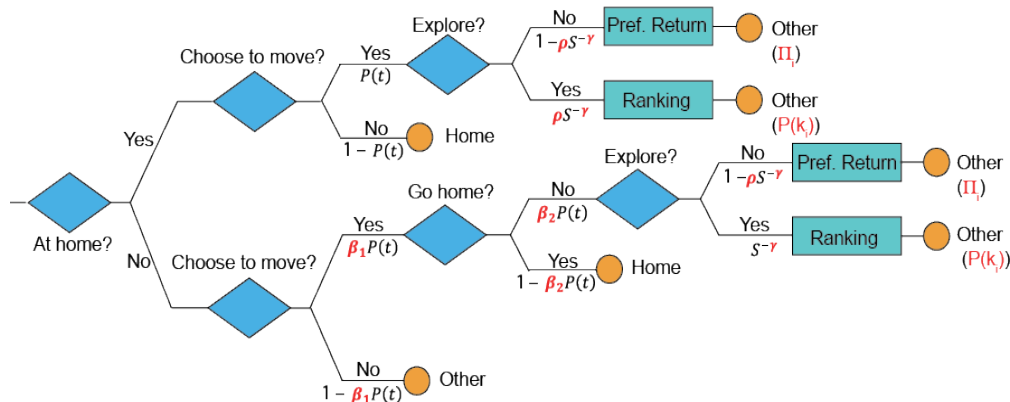
Preferential Return



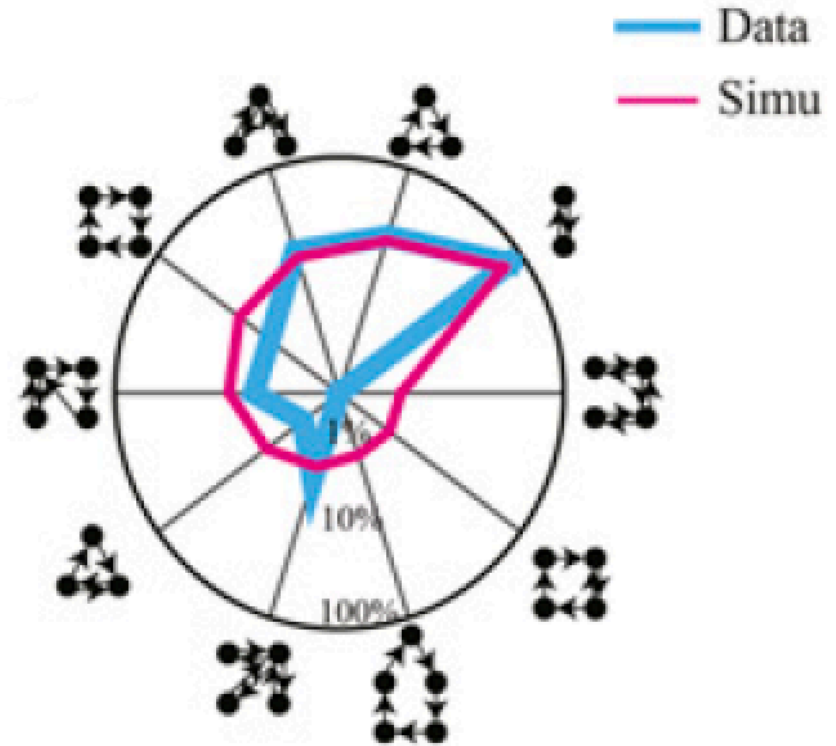
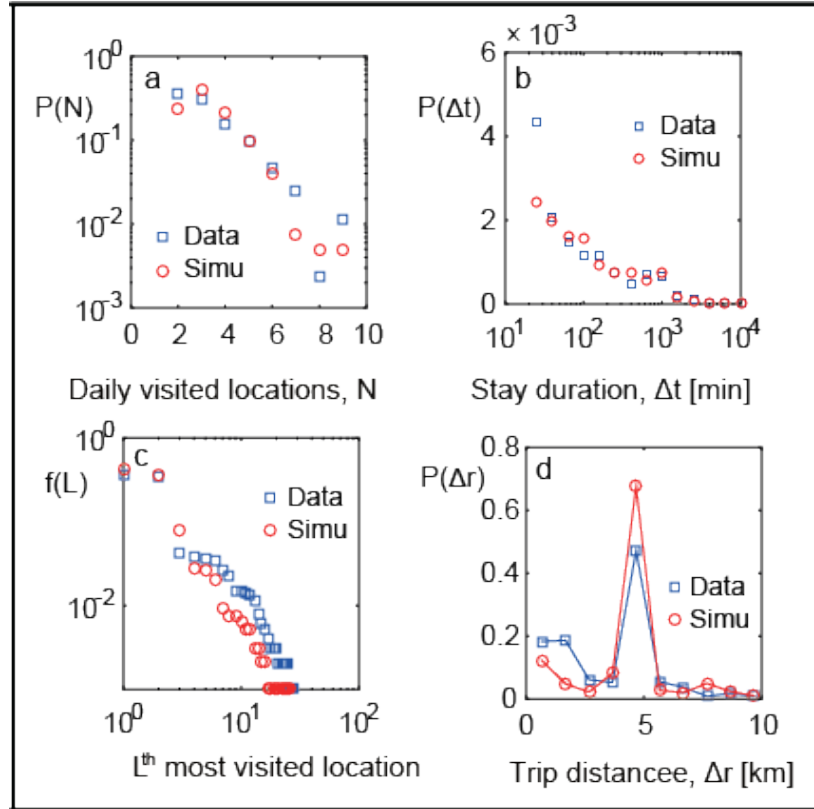
Ranking of Explorations



## Flowchart of the Model

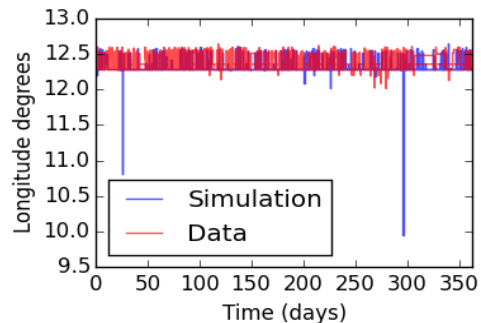


# It generates good synthetic versions of each individual

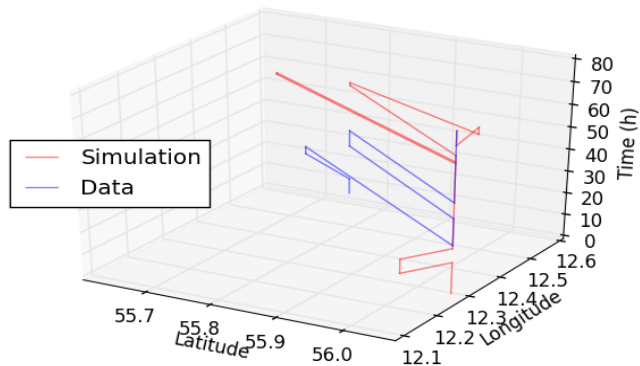


# Model does not predict next location

364-day simulation



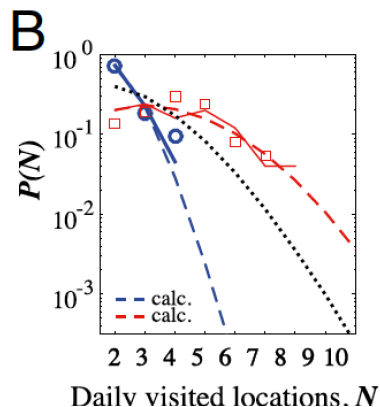
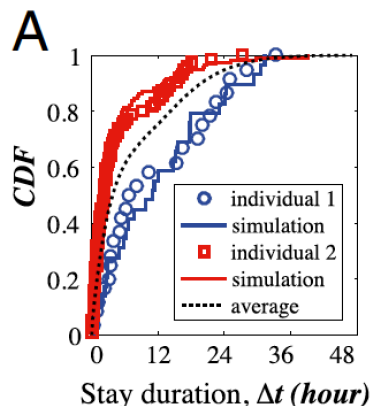
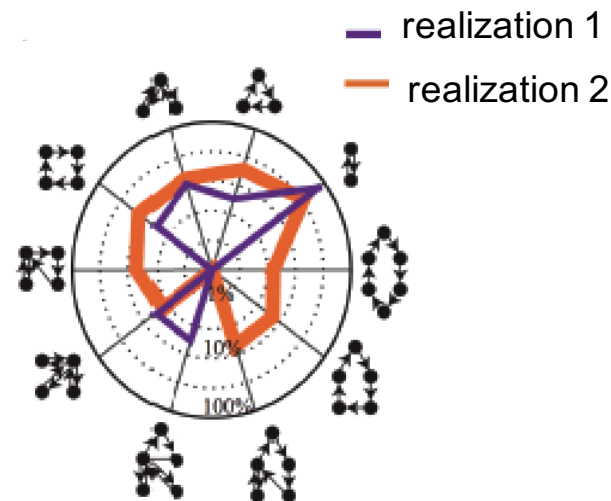
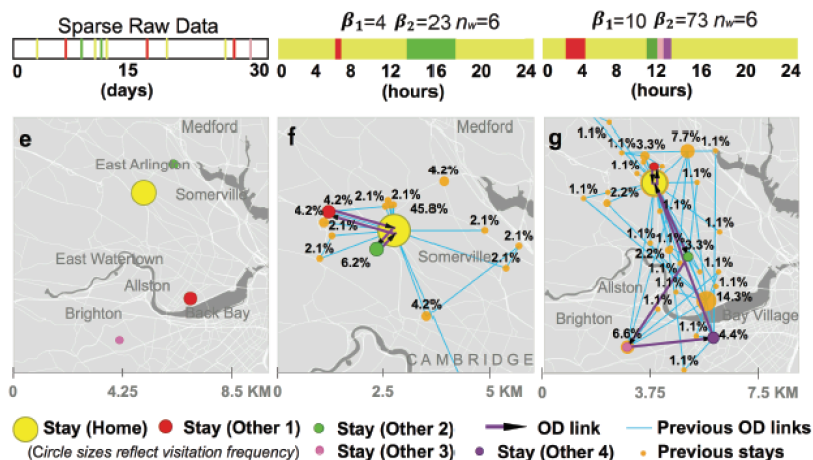
3-day simulation



Period	Predicted locations
Day 1	58%
Day 2	70.8%
Day 3	79.8%
Overall (363 days)	46.9%



# TimeGeo: From sparse user to synthetic trajectories



Adjusting parameters we generate various types of daily Profiles, keeping their home, work and frequent returns.

# Using Sparse Digital Traces to Fill in Individual Level Mobility Timelines

Nabeel Abdur Rehman, Kunal Relia, Rumi Chunara

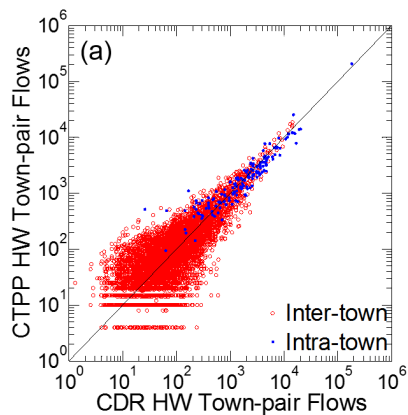
*(Submitted on 6 Oct 2017)*

UBICOMP 2017

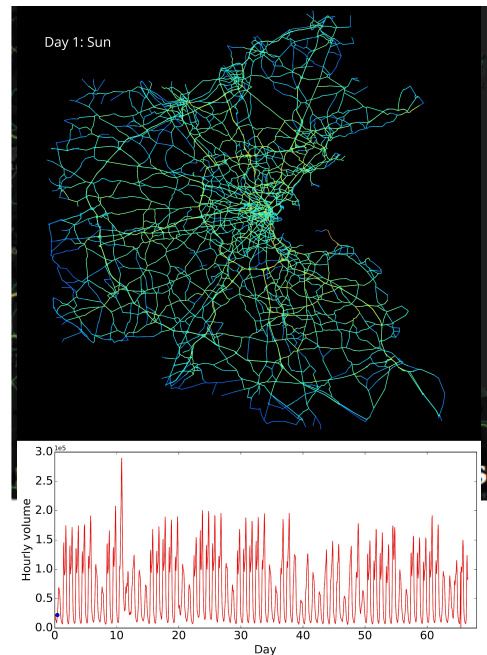
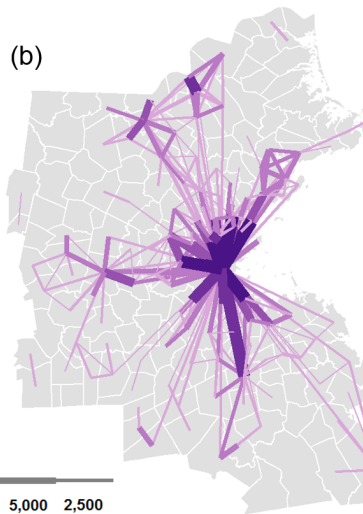


UrbComp 2017 : UrbComp 2017 : The 6th International Workshop on Urban Computing (in conjunction with KDD'17)

# Validated Travel Demand



(b)



Origin-destination trips by purpose and time of day inferred from mobile phone data



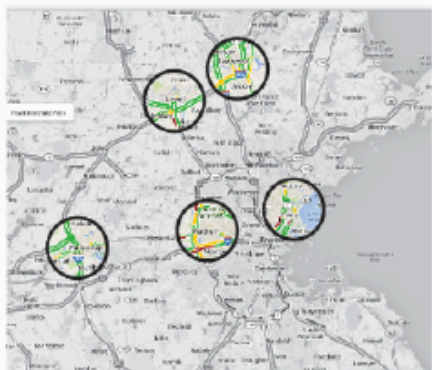
Lauren Alexander<sup>a,\*</sup>, Shan Jiang<sup>b</sup>, Mikel Murga<sup>a</sup>, Marta C. González<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States

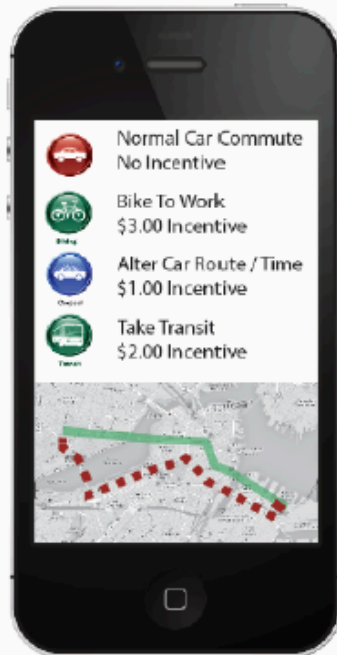
<sup>b</sup>Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States

## Smart Commute

A program that incentivizes drivers to avoid bottlenecks by choosing a different route or mode of transportation for their commute.



Trips originating from these 5 targeted areas



Improvement in commuting time throughout the metro area

# Demand Management for Large Events



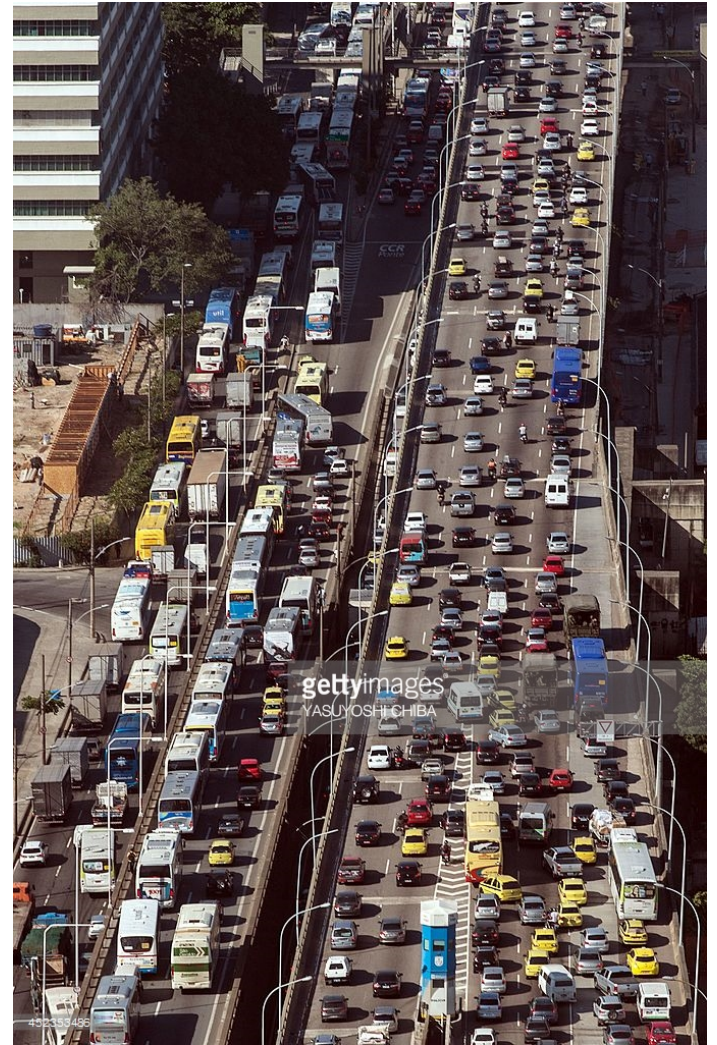
Yanyan Xu PhD.  
Postdoctoral Associate  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, MIT  
Email: [yanyanxu@mit.edu](mailto:yanyanxu@mit.edu)





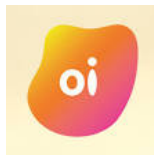
# Rio Olympic Games

- Rio population: 6.4 millions
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) predicts 480,000 tourists in Rio for 2016 Olympics, that's about 7.5% of Rio population.
- How to evaluate the impact of Olympics to the travel of local population?
- How to manage the demand?



## Data from Companies

- Mobile Phone Data



- Waze (extend the seed OD to weekdays)

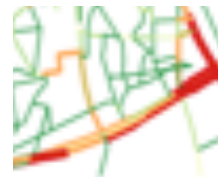


## On-line

- Airbnb Supply



- GIS (OSM road network of Rio)

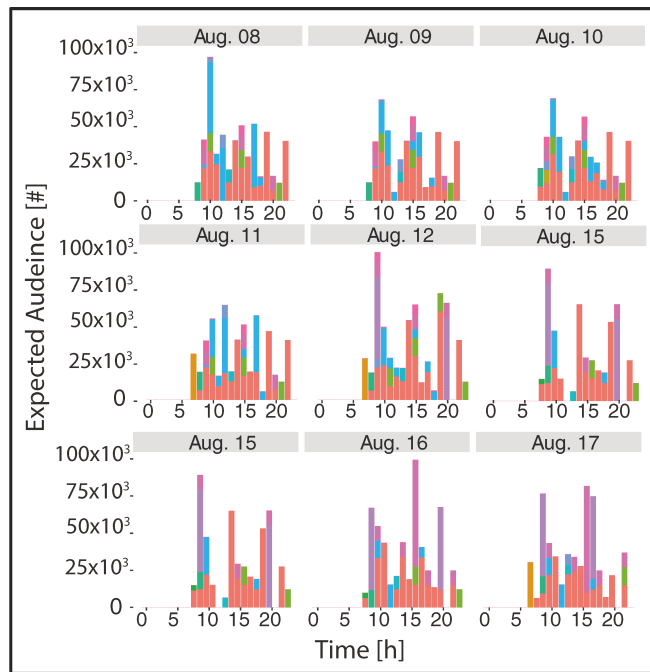
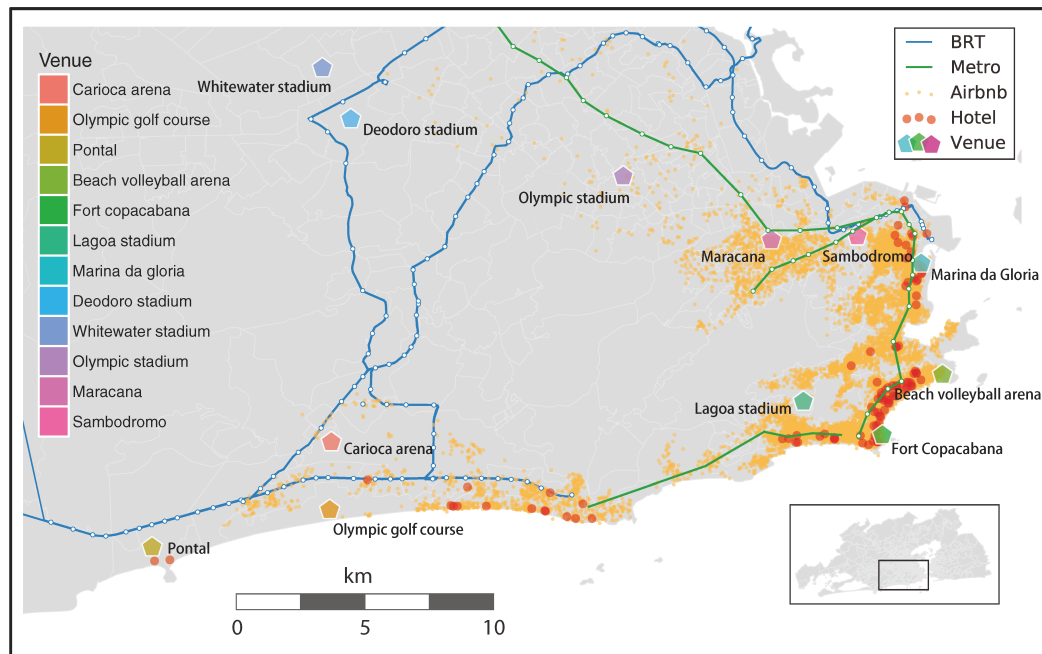


## Data from Government

- Hotel, Venues and Schedules
- Camera Data



# Venues, Airbnb, hotels, BRT & Metro



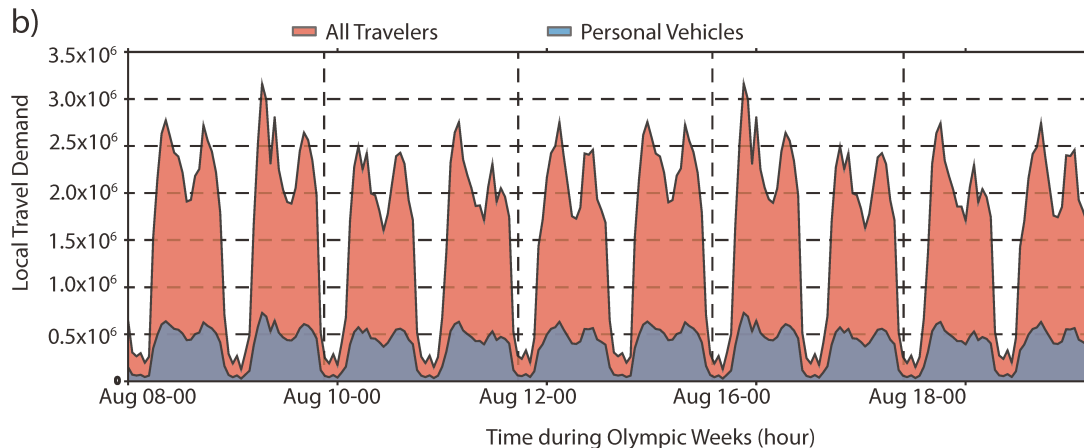
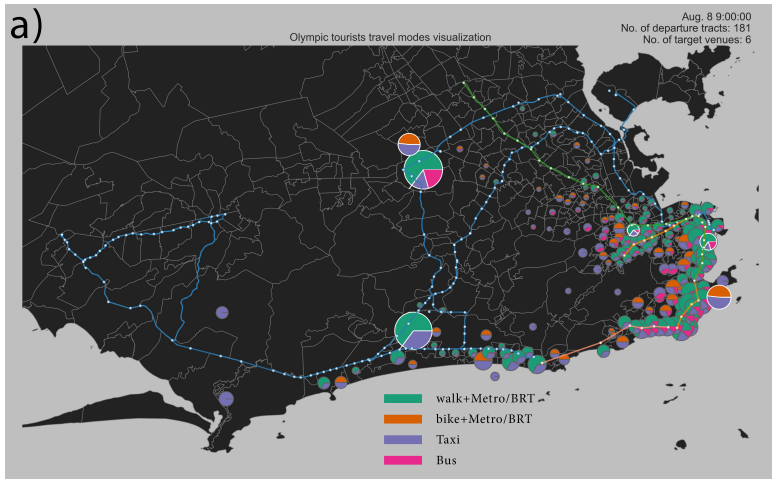
(a) Data Integrated

(b) Number of audiences arrive venues and when? (used data: Olympics schedule, capacity of venues )<sub>23</sub>

# Traffic Model



# Travel demand prediction during Olympics



(a) Tourist travel mode split

(b) Total travel demand during Olympics: 2.8 million person  
/ 0.7 million vehicles in peak hour.



# Smart-app (routing)

Modifications on the level of altruism:

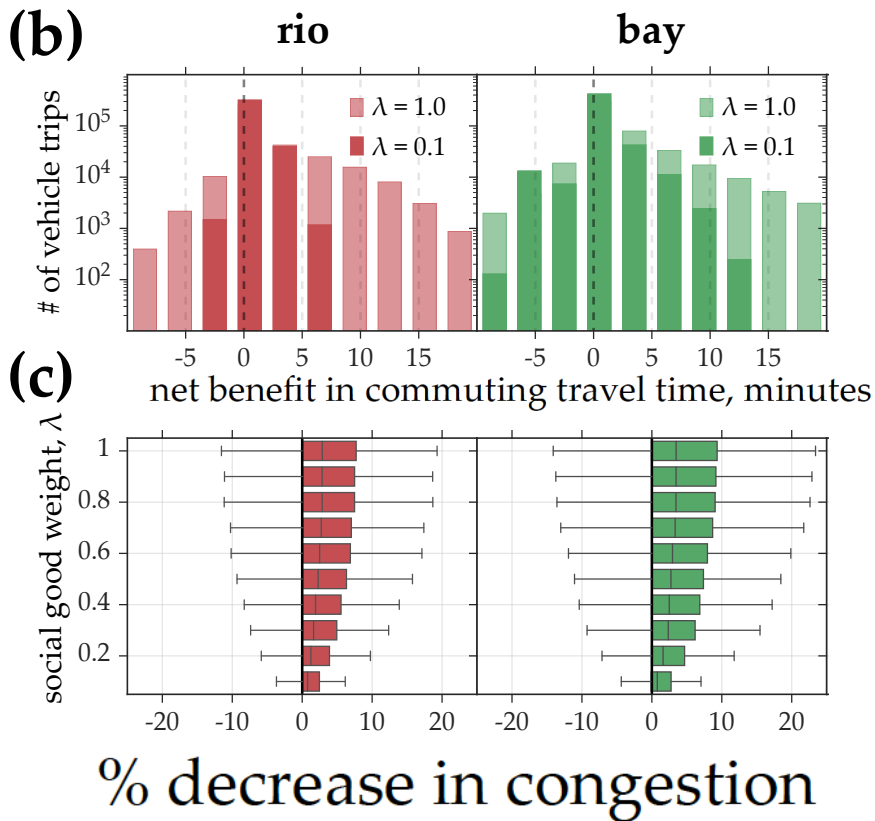
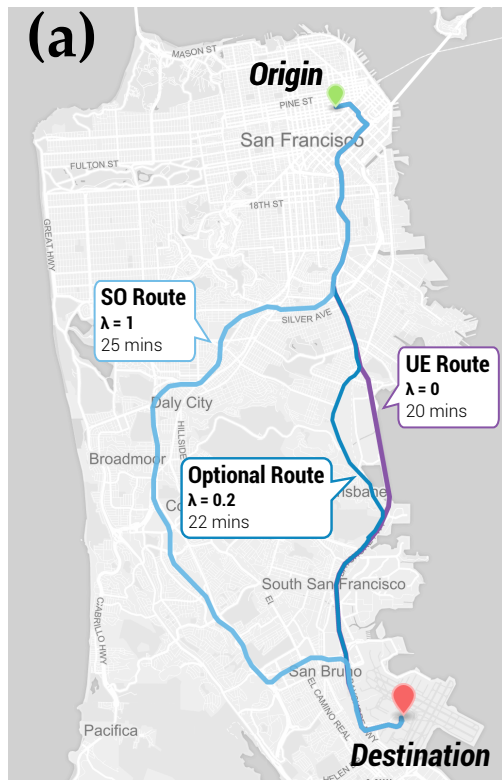
$$c_e^\lambda(x_e) = (1 - \lambda)t_e(x_e) + \lambda \frac{d[x_e t_e(x_e)]}{dx_e}$$

$$\lambda = [0..1]$$

↑  
User Equilibrium  
component

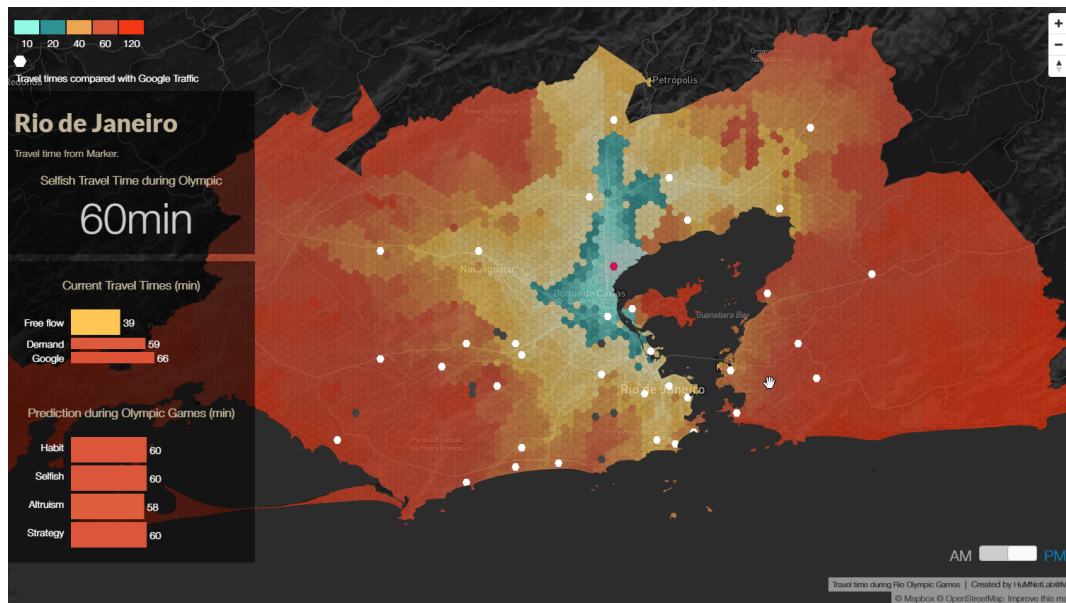
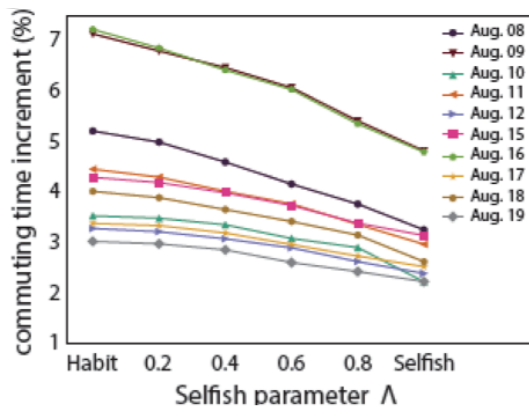
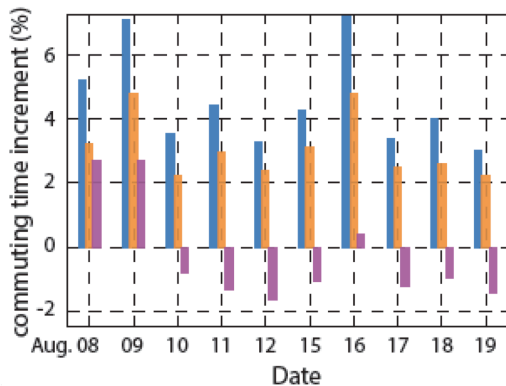
↑  
Social Optimum  
component

# Smart-app (routing)

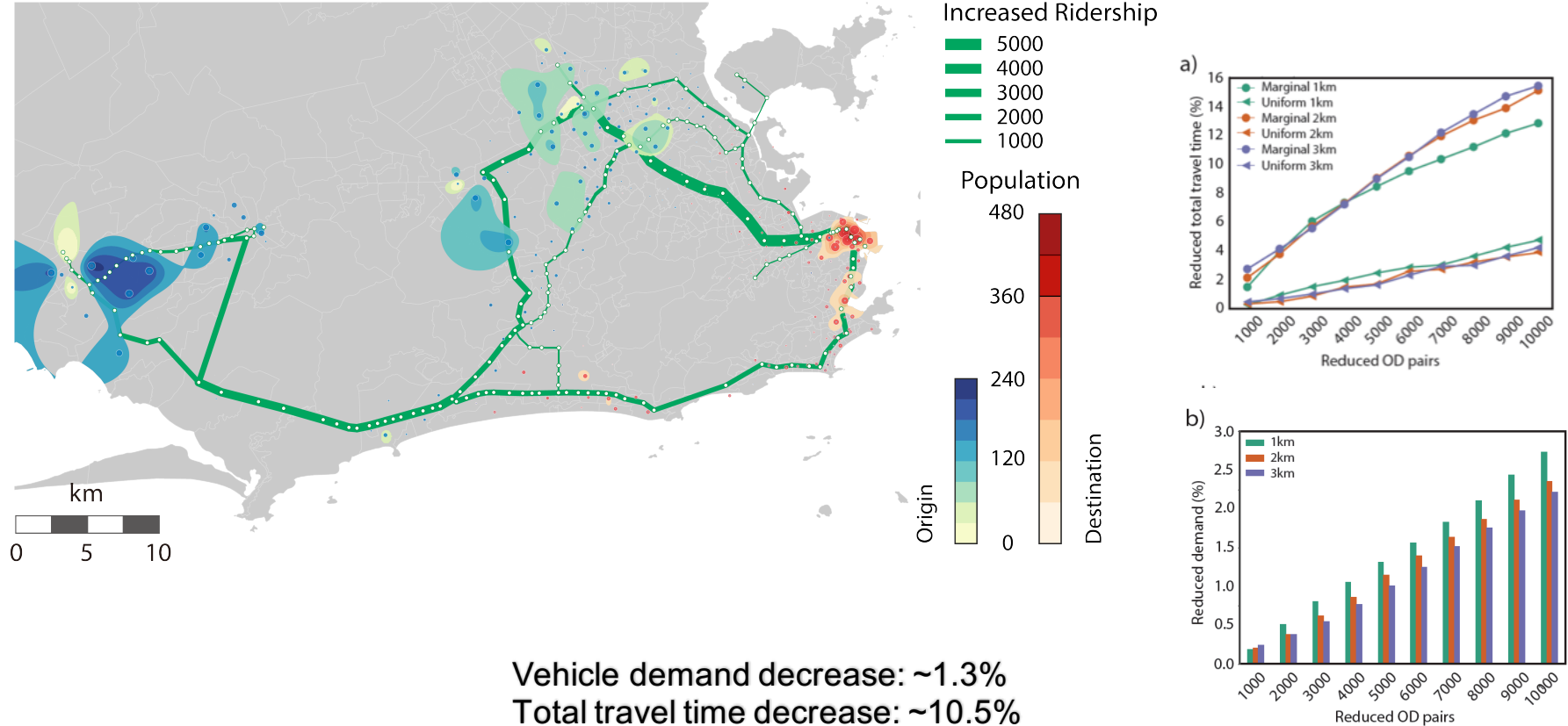


# Travel time estimates before and during the Olympic Games

■ habit ■ selfish ■ altruism



# Recommendations of Car reduction per Origin and Destination



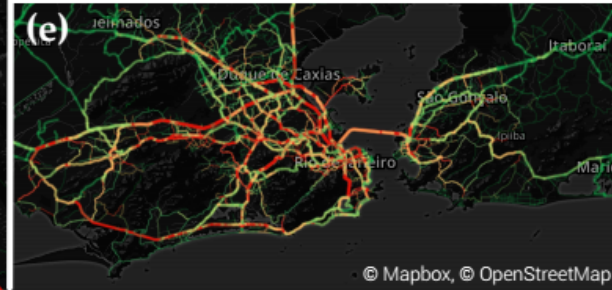
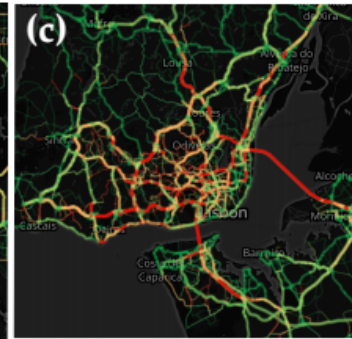
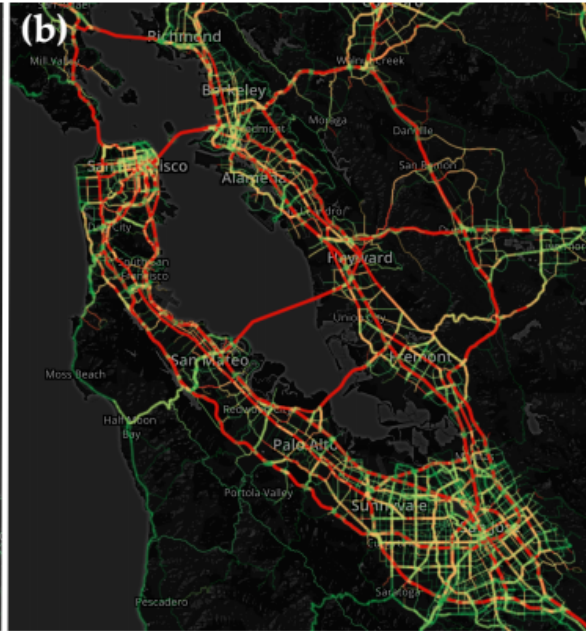
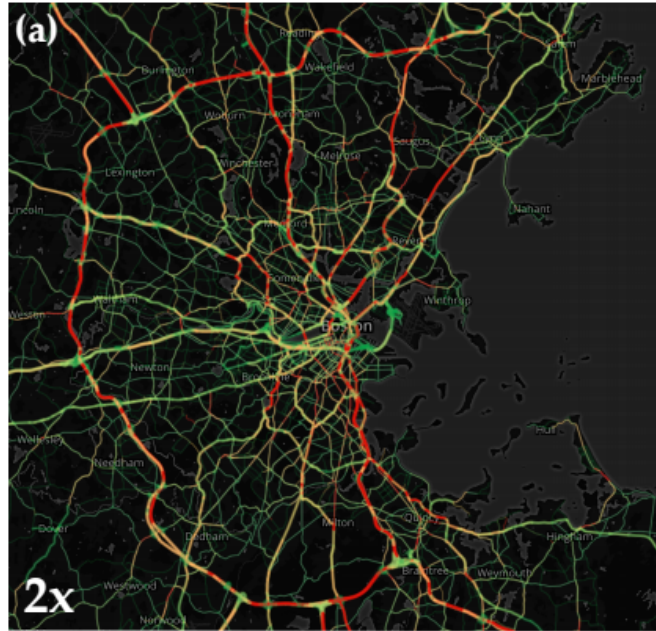
volume over capacity (VOC)

0.00 - 0.25

0.25 - 0.75

0.75 - 1.25

> 1.25



10 10 kms

(a) Boston  
(b) San Francisco Bay Area

(c) Lisbon  
(d) Porto  
(e) Rio de Janeiro

Using 3 months of phone data  
And Census Information on Population  
and numbers of cars and their usage

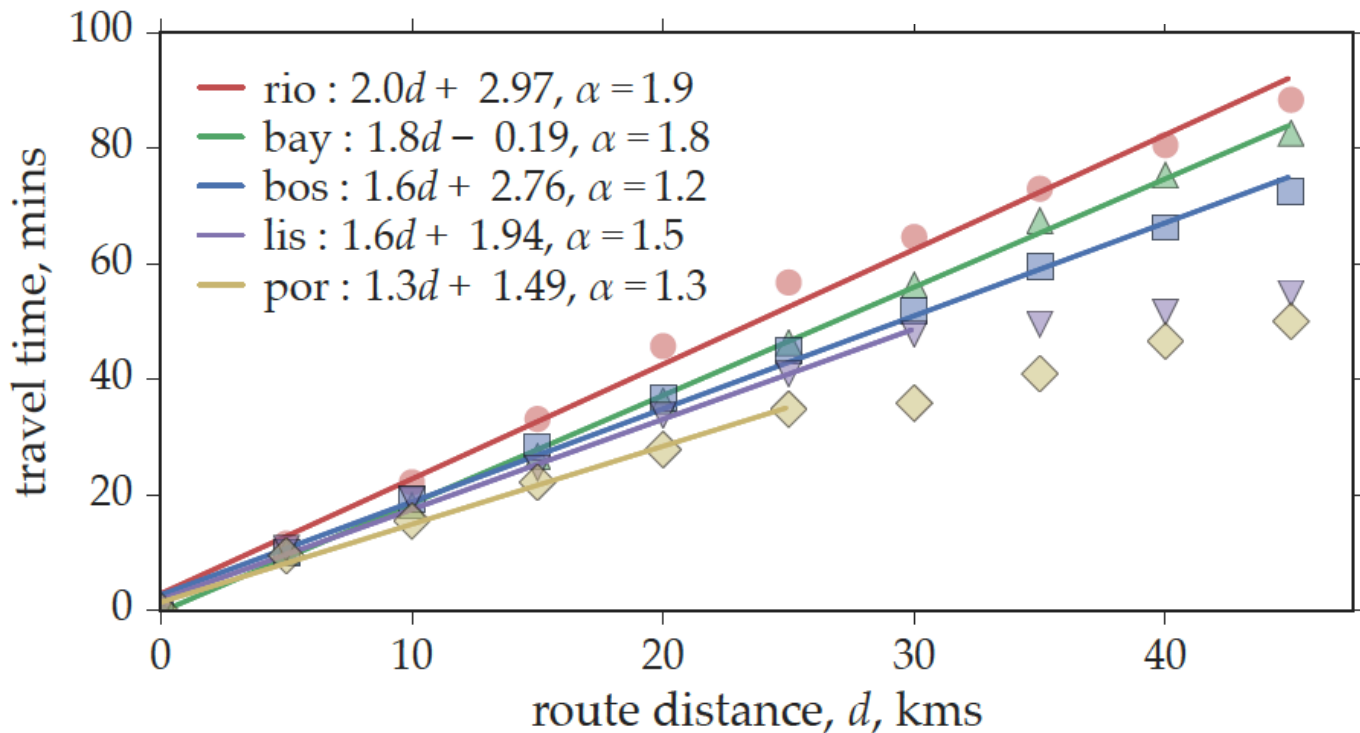
Open Street Map data for the Streets when  
not better data is available



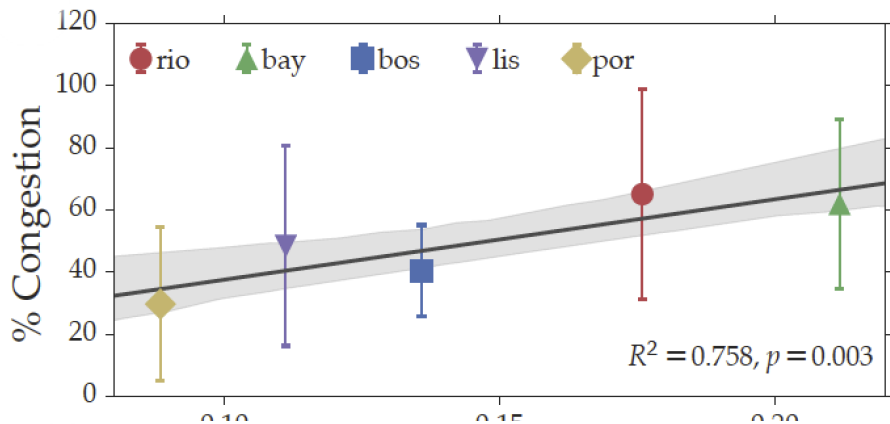
# Commuting Time

$$t(d) = d \frac{(1 + \Gamma)^\alpha}{v_f} + \beta$$

(c)



# Understanding Observations



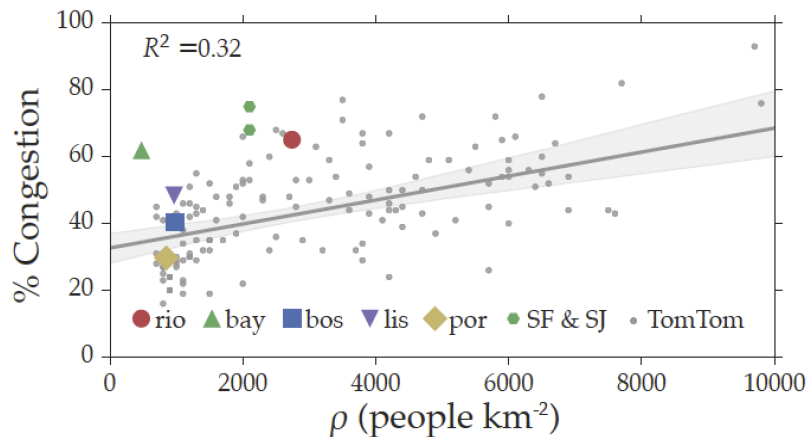
## Demand to Supply Ratio

$$\Gamma = \frac{\sum_{e \in E} \ell_e x_e}{\sum_{x_e > 0, e \in E} \ell_e C_e}$$

$x_e$  = flow on the road link  $e$  (veh/h)

$\ell_e$  = road link length  $e$  (km)

$C_e$  = capacity of the road link  $e$  (veh/h)



$\Gamma$   
 $t_{ff}[h]$

City				
Boston	Porto	Lisbon	Rio	SF Bay
0.129	0.101	0.121	0.180	0.213
0.184	0.188	0.267	0.218	0.234

S.Colak et al. Nat. Comm. 10793, 2016

## Analysis

lisbon

sfbay

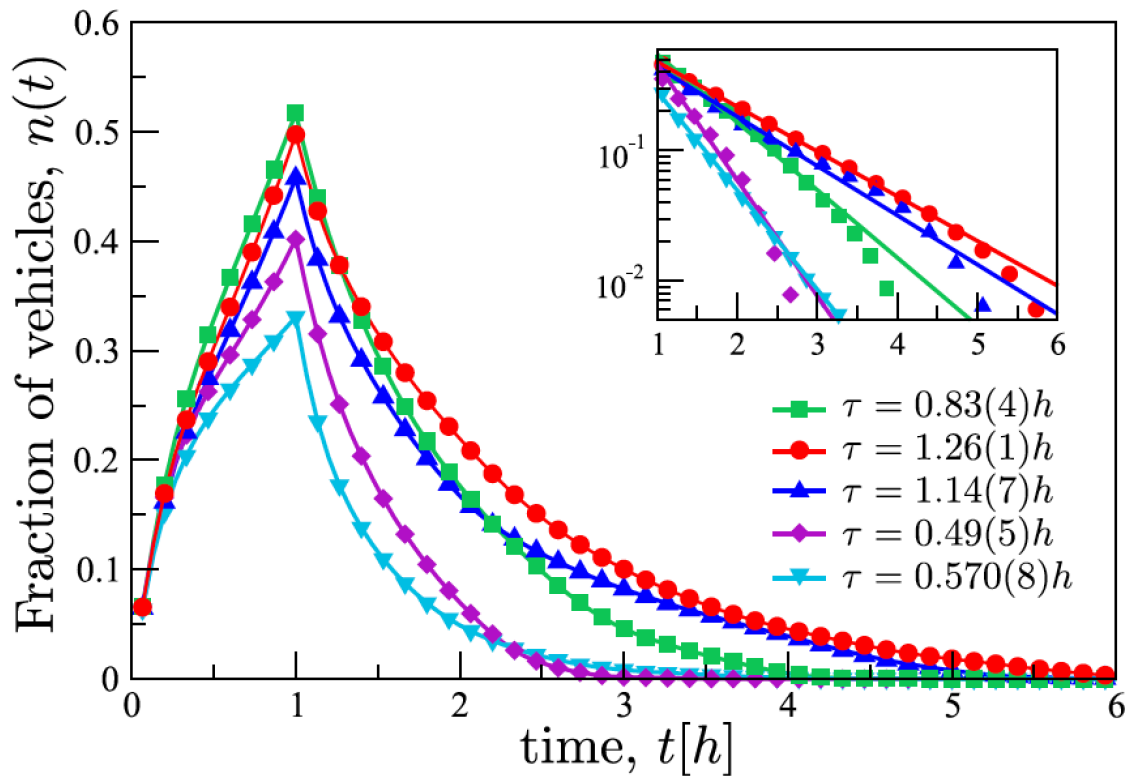
rio

porto

boston

$$n(t) = n(1h)e^{-t/\tau}$$

$\tau$  time to go from the maximum number of cars in the morning peak to only 10% of it



# Informing Planning Decisions

## Median free-flow travel time

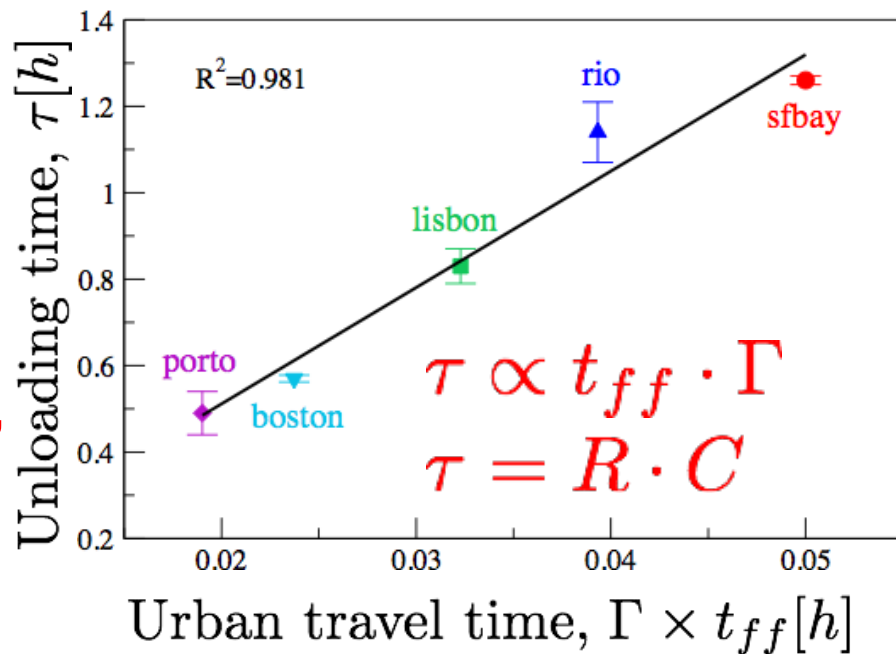
$$t_{ff}[h]$$

“Resistance”

## Demand to Supply Ratio

$$\Gamma = \frac{\sum_{e \in E} \ell_e x_e}{\sum_{x_e > 0, e \in E} \ell_e C_e}$$

“Capacitance”



# Identifying Lifestyles with card transactions

Credit Card Users 251,000  
Debit Card Users 855,000  
#Transactions 23 millions

Population 8.9 millions  
Area 1,485 km<sup>2</sup>



**Dr. Riccardo Di Clemente**  
Postdoctoral Associate  
MIT HuMNet Lab  
rdicle@mit.edu



# Coupling Credit Card Data with Mobile phone Data



Mexico City

150,000 users

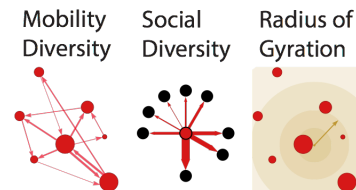
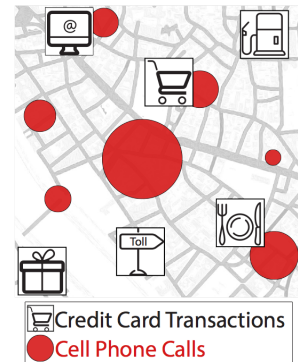
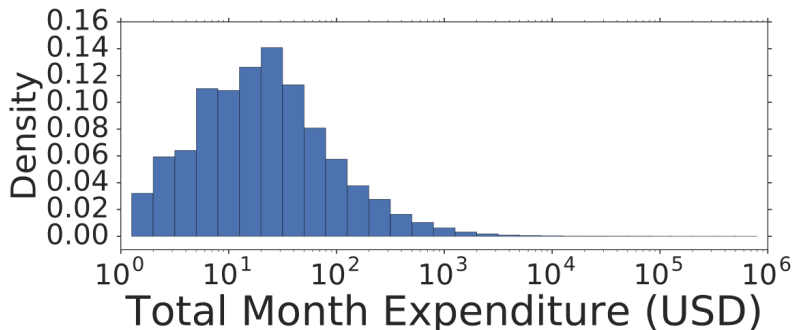
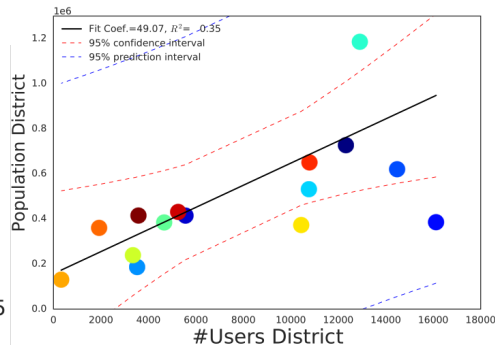
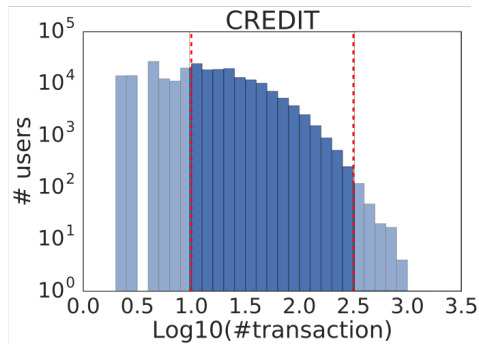
Age

Gender

Zipcode

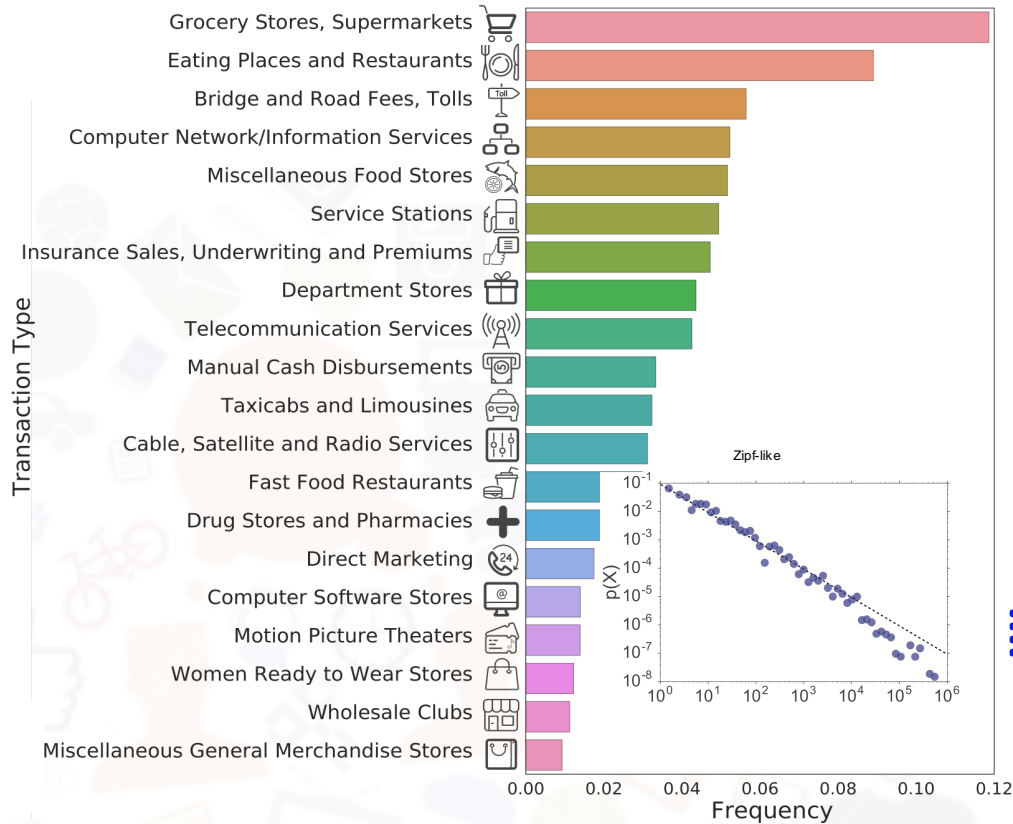
Mobile Phone data

10 weeks period

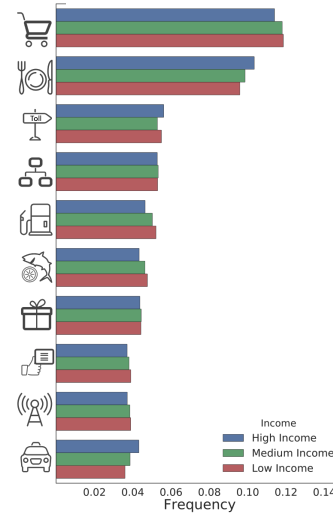




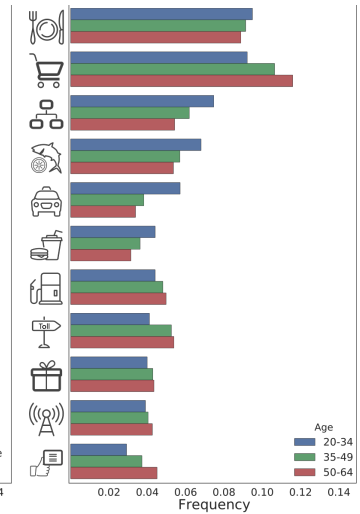
# Distribution of Transactions



## Income



## Age



Affinity Algorithm

Latent Dirichlet allocation



TD-IDF

(term frequency-inverse document frequency)

# Text analysis via the Sequitur algorithm

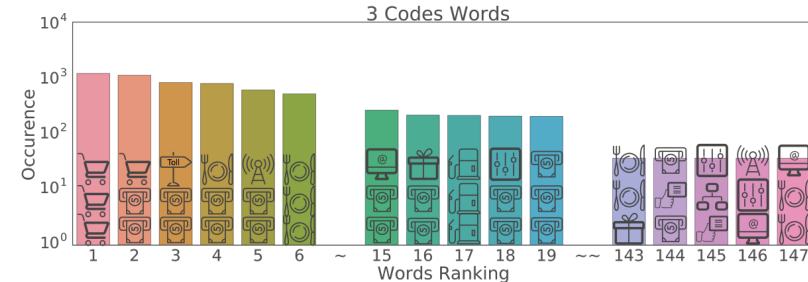
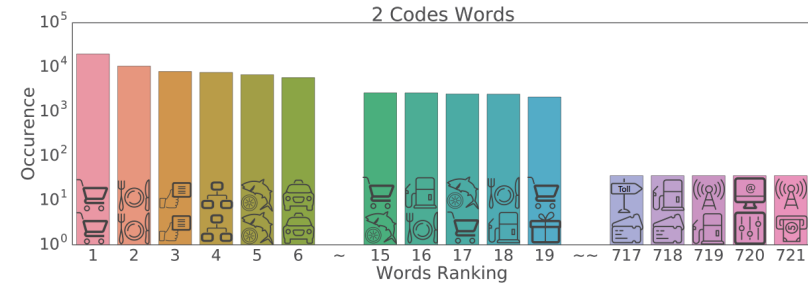
Sequitur is a recursive algorithm developed by Craig Nevill-Manning and Ian H. Witten in 1997 that infers a hierarchical structure from a sequence of discrete symbols.



Compressed Sequence



## Words as Ordered Sequence of transactions



1. Algorithm from text analysis to infer the most common sequence of transaction

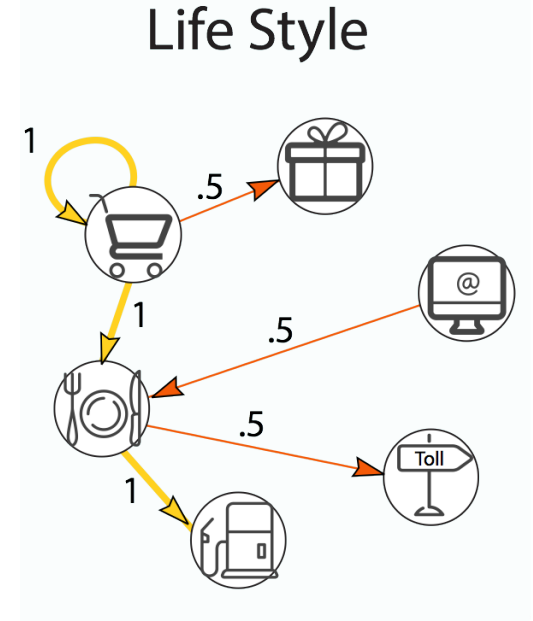
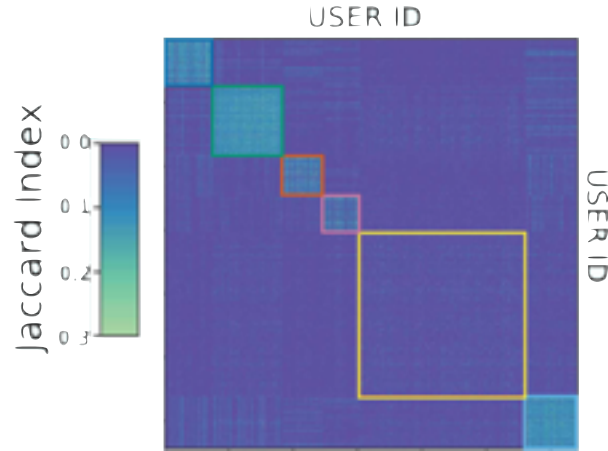
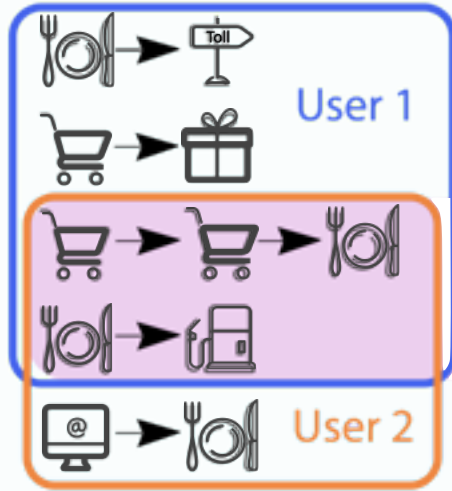


2. Null model to select the most significant transaction



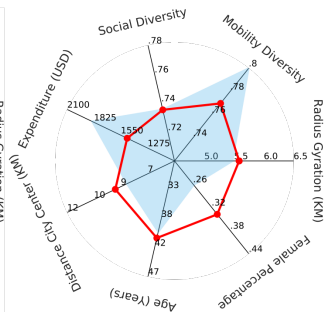
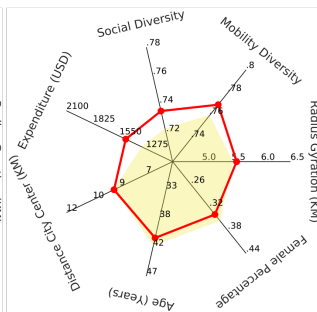
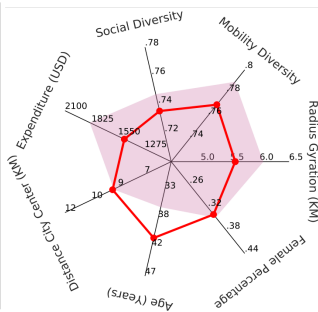
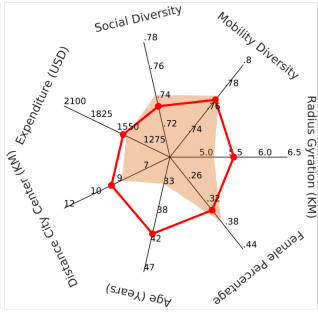
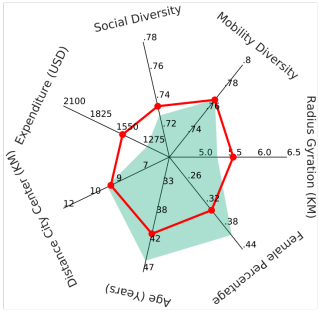
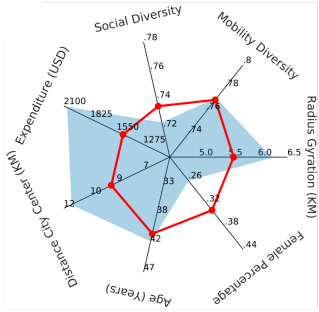
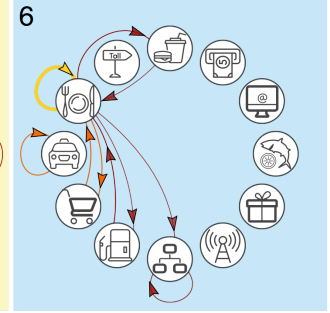
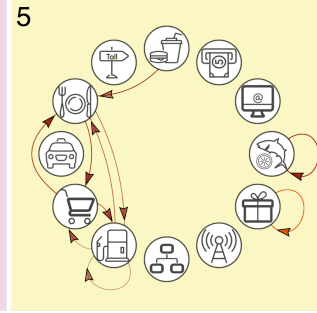
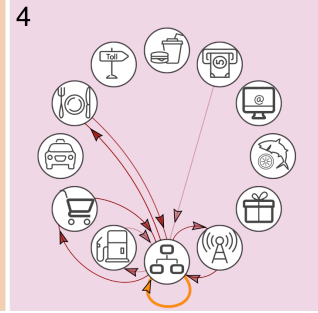
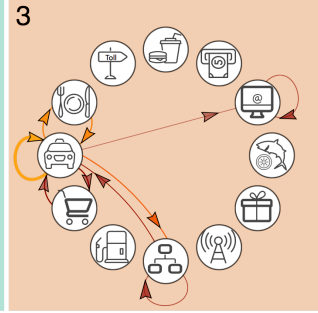
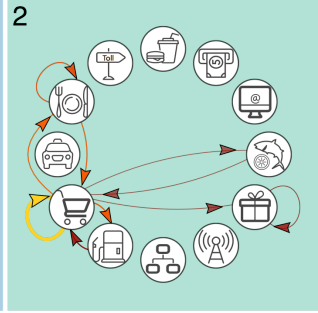
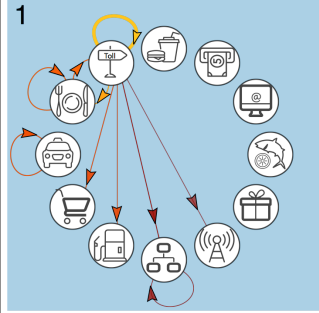
3. Network Theory to cluster the users

We cluster users



# Lifestyles

100% 50% 20% 10% Users Percentage



Commuters

Households

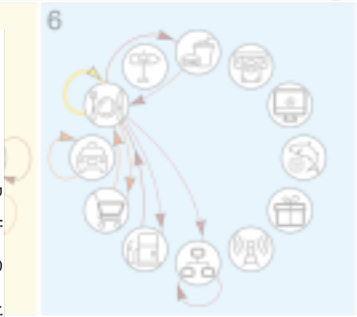
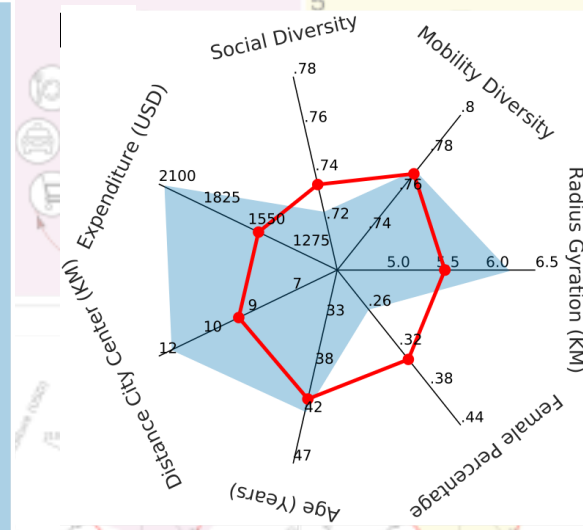
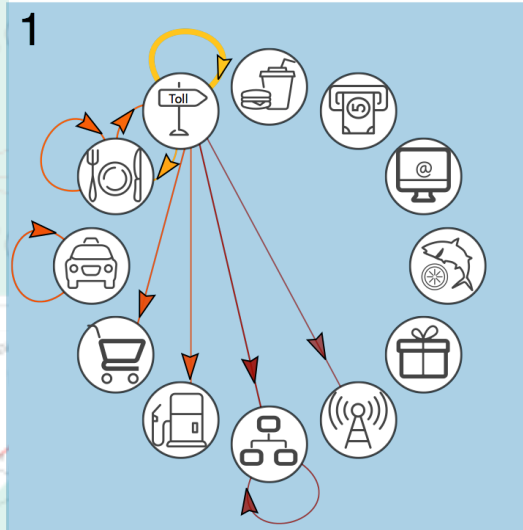
Youth 1

Tech users

Average

Dinners

# Lifestyle



## Commuters:

High expenditure, Living far from the city center,  
High radius of gyration, Low social diversity.

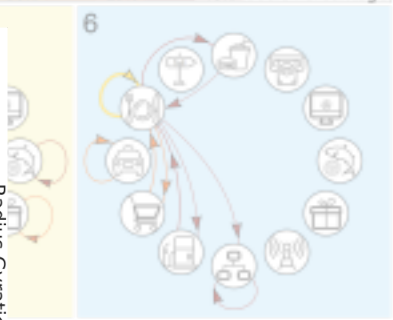
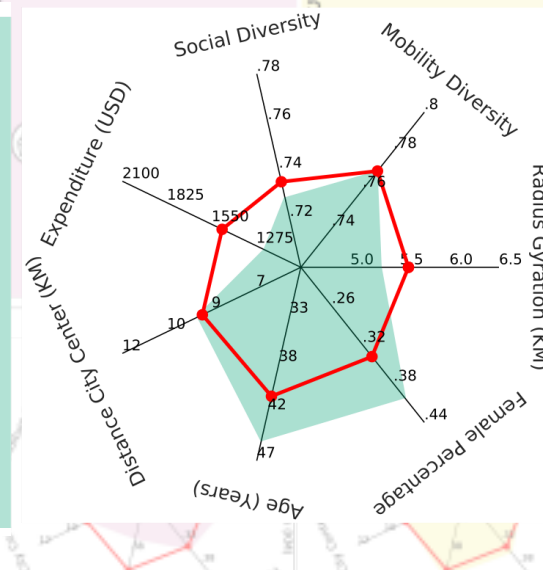
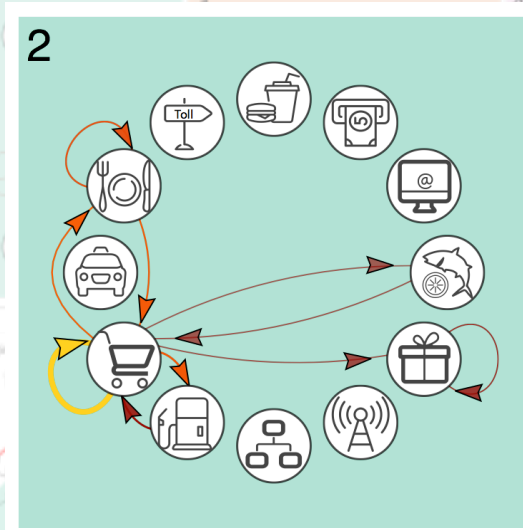
Commuting

House

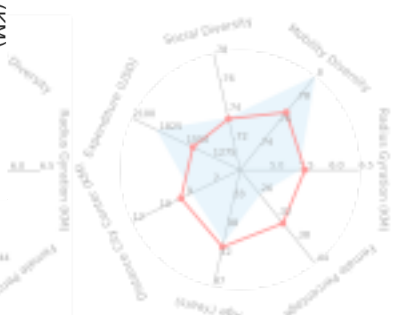
Dinner-Out

# Lifestyle

A



**Households:**  
 Low Expenditure, Older Age, Low Social Mobility,  
 High Female Component



Communities

Households

Younger 1

Younger 2

Average

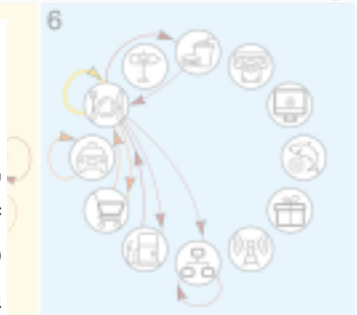
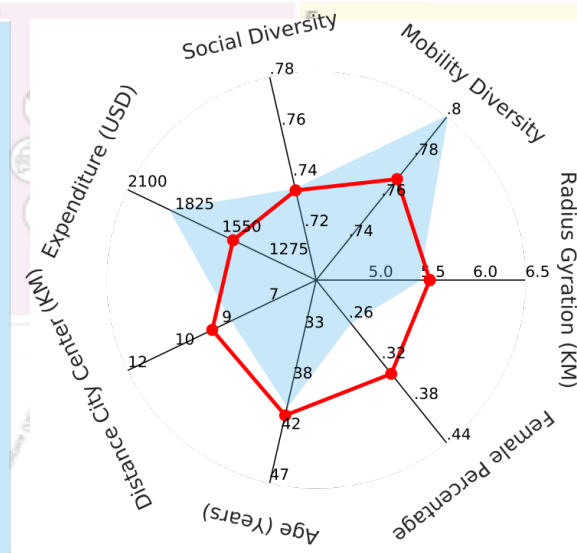
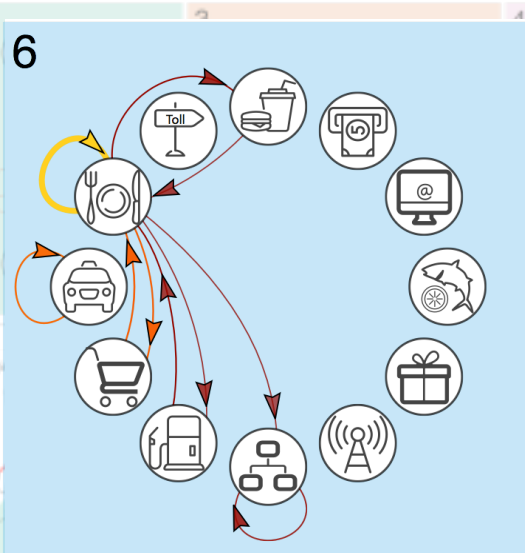
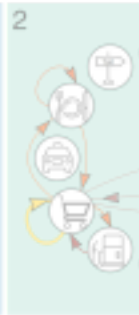
Dinner-Out

Dinner-Out



# Lifestyle

A 100% 50% 25% 10% Users Percentage



## Dinners:

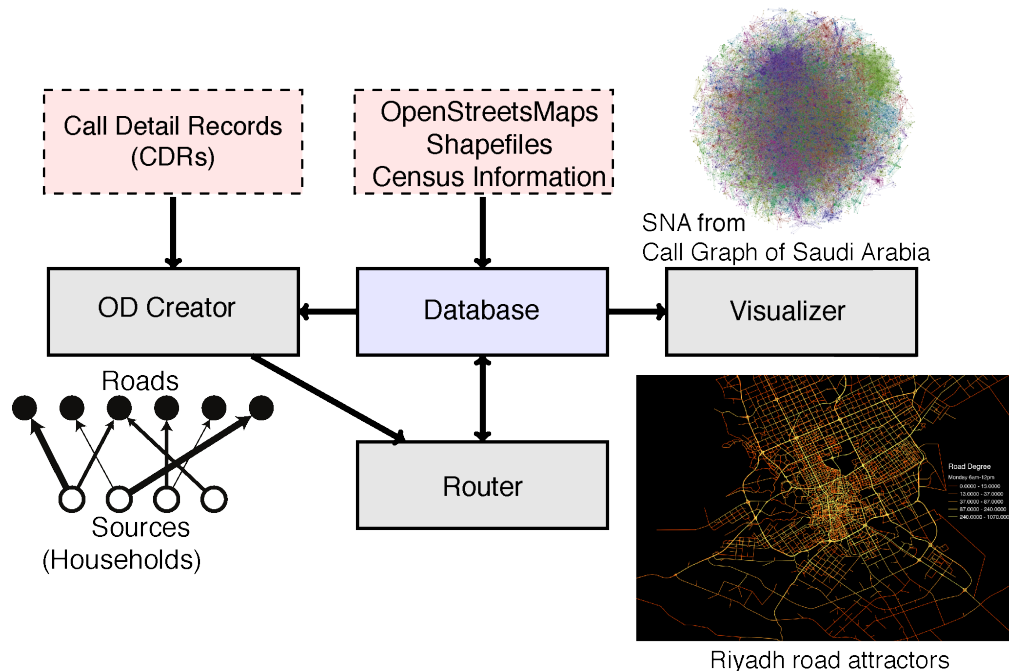
High Expenditure, Avr. Social Diversity  
and High Mobility,

Commuting

House

Dinner-Out

# Towards Computational Urban Science



- Today we can measure behavior from digital traces and could use ICT to better plan cities with them.
- Finding universal patterns is the first step, looking for mechanisms and heterogeneities come next.
- Complex system approaches give us an unique opportunity to find the way for that.

# Thank you!



**Berkeley**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

**MIT** Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology

<http://humnetlab.mit.edu>



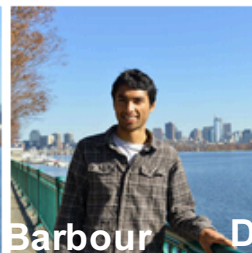
## Questions?



Jiang



Barbour



D



Clemente



Xu



Çolak



Yang



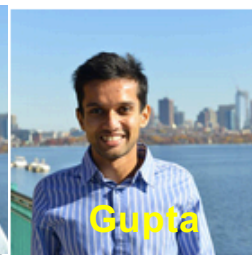
Chodrow



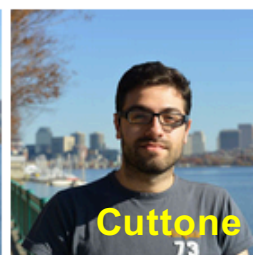
Alhasoun



Olmos



Gupta



Cuttone

Alumni: Toole, Herrera-Yague, Alexander, Lima, Sturt, Desu, Grestle

Postdoc: Schneider, Wang, Belik, Halu

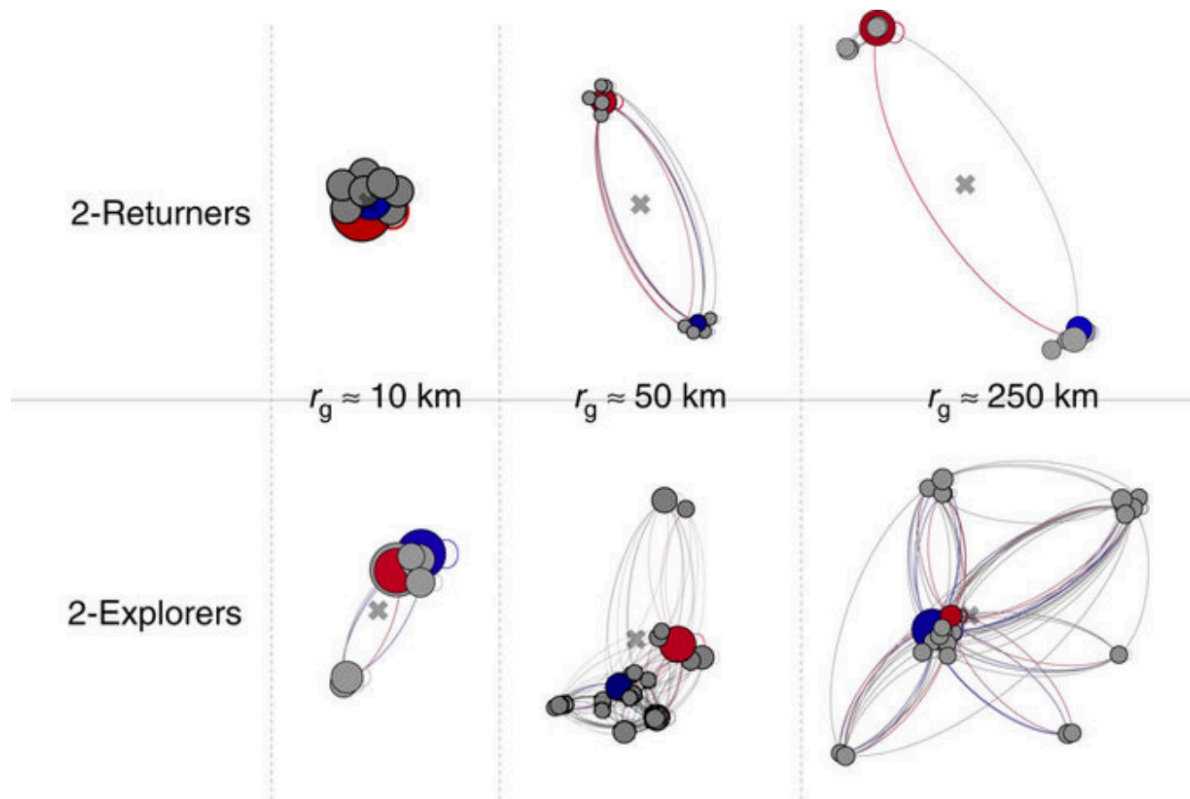
# Summary

A city's congestion fingerprint is related to measurable characteristics, namely a ratio of total demand to total supply ( $\Gamma$ ).

Lower  $\lambda$  will moderate the magnitude of benefits and losses while realizing most of possible benefits, making resulting policies fairer and easier to implement

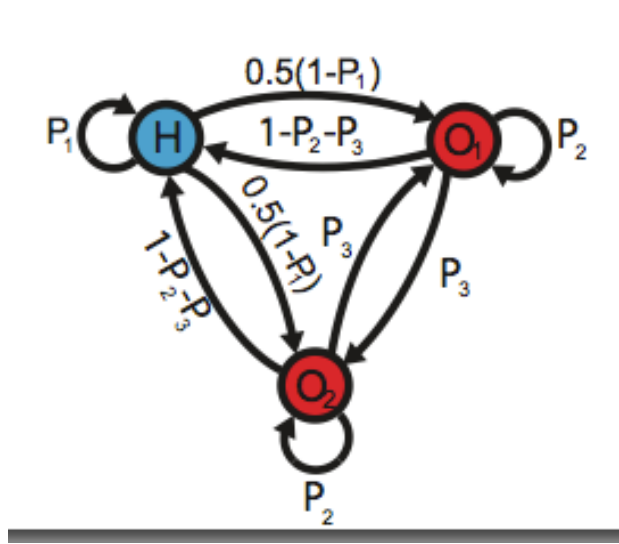
**Çolak, S.**, Lima, A. & Gonzalez, M. C., ***Understanding congested travel in urban areas***, accepted and to appear in ***Nature Communications*** (2016)

# Heterogeneity 1: Returners vs. Explorers





# Markov Mobility Model



$$P_1 = 1 - P(t)$$

Staying at “home”

$$P_2 = 1 - \beta_1 P(t)$$

Staying in current errand

$$P_3 = \beta_1 P(t) \beta_2 P(t)$$

Moving from current errand to a new current errand

“bursts” rate

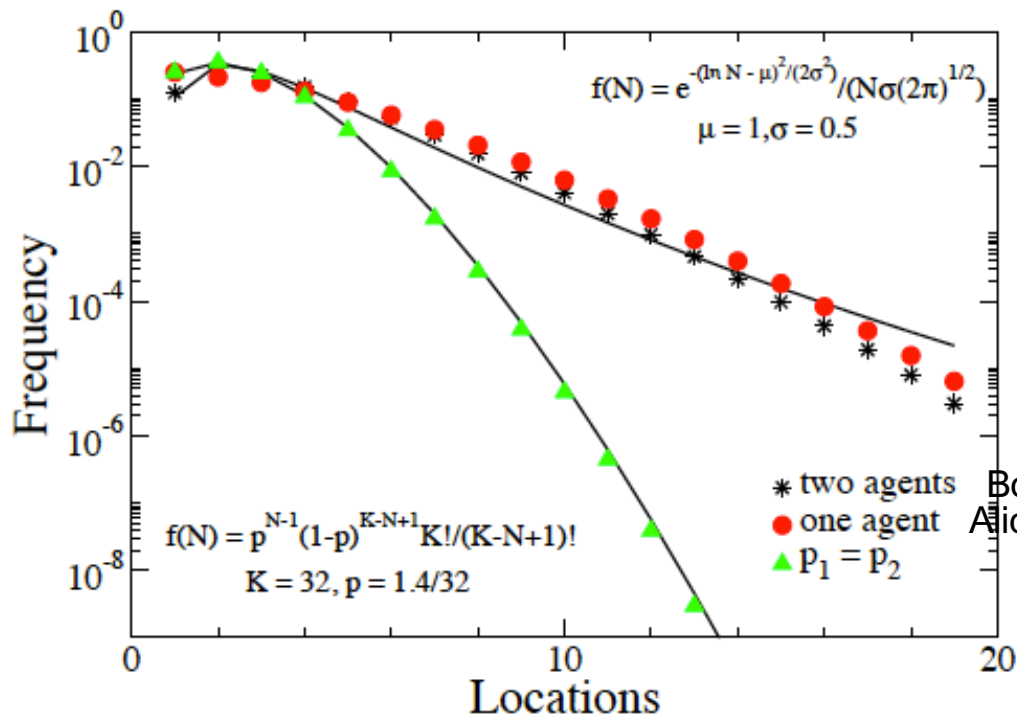
exploration rate

Generates shorter stays in the errand states.

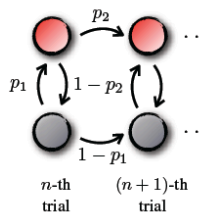
Generates different number of activities in a row per **active** cycle

$$\frac{P(O_1 \rightarrow O_2)}{P(O_1 \rightarrow H)} = \frac{\beta_2 n_w P(t)}{1 - \beta_2 n_w P(t)}$$

# The rates explain the number of visited locations



## Calculating number of visits



$H$  – home  $T$  – other



$\underbrace{HTTTTTHH \dots HTHTTTHHT}_K$

$$P(N = x) = \xi_0 \left( \prod_{t=1}^K \Lambda_t \right) U^T(C_x), \quad C_x \in \Omega \quad (1)$$

$$\Omega = \{(x, i); x = 0, \dots, K-1; i = 0, 1\} \quad (2)$$

Bob  
Alice

C. Fu and M. V. Koutras, Distribution Theory of Runs: A Markov Chain Approach *J. Amer. Stat. Assoc.* **89** 1050 (1994)