

grid2demand

Gird2demand is an open-source trip generation and distribution tool for teaching transportation planning and applications. It generates zone-to-zone travel demand based on alphanumeric grid zones. Users can obtain zone-to-zone and node-to-node travel demand with a few lines of python code based on OpenStreetMap and OSM2GMNS.

Contents

- **Introduction and Background Knowledge**
- **What is grid2demand?**
- **Quick Start**

For the python source code and sample network files, readers can visit the project homepage at ASU Trans+AI Lab Github (<https://github.com/asu-trans-ai-lab/grid2demand>).

I. Introduction and Background Knowledge

Trip generation and trip distribution are the first 2 steps in the larger context of the 4-step process in transportation planning. The standard four steps are briefly described below.

- Trip Generation: Estimate how many trips enter or leave a zone/traffic-analysis-zone (TAZ)
- Trip Distribution: Estimate how many trips from each zone/TAZ end in all zones/TAZs
- Mode Choice: Estimate which travel-method is used (e.g., vehicle, transit, walk) to complete those trips
- Traffic Assignment: Distribute vehicles/traffic flow to different paths during travel

Trip generation is a procedure that uses socioeconomic data (e.g., household size, income, etc.) to estimate the number of person trips for a modeled time period (e.g., daily, peak hour) at a Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) level. A person trip involves a single person leaving from an origin and arriving at a single destination, and each trip has a classification/purpose based on typical classification such as home-based-work (HBW), home-based-other (HBO), and non-home-based (NHB).

In the four-step process, there are two typical methods used to predict trips based on attributes:

- Trip rate method based on regression equations
- Cross-classification using category-based trip rates

After estimating the total number of trips produced, the trips are often separated by different purposes (e.g., HBW, HBO, NHB).

An alternative approach to modeling trips is to model tours, which can be thought of as a series of linked trips. Tours are typically used in Activity-Based Models (ABM), where daily travel activities are generated based on activity patterns for households.

Productions and Attractions

In trip-based transportation planning, for a home-based trip, a production is related to the home end/location, while an attraction is related to the non-home end/location. For a non-home-based trip, a production is related to the origin location, and an attraction is related to the destination location. Trips entering and leaving a zone should balance - if a person leaves a zone, they should also return; if a person enters a zone, they should also leave.

For example, if a person travels from home to work and then from work to home on a certain day, then 2 home-based work trip productions are generated at the home TAZ, and two attractions related at his or her work location TAZ.

Estimate Trip Productions/Attractions Using Trip Rates

Productions are typically modeled as a function of population and/or number of households, as well as income levels or auto ownership. Other explanatory variables might be used, such as the number of workers, but we need to make sure explanatory variables are often not interrelated and correlated with each other.

Attractions are often modeled as a function of the number of households and/or number of employees, where employment may be broken down by different types (e.g., retail, office, service, and other). Again, other explanatory variables can also be used, such as commercial floor space or CBD (Central Business District) variables, but the same checks for correlation between variables should be utilized. Attractions tend to be more difficult to measure/estimate, and we tend to have less trust in these estimates. For more information, users can read [NCHRP Report 365: “Travel Estimation Techniques, CH 3 trip generation](#) and [NCHRP Report 716: Travel Demand Forecasting: Parameters and Techniques, CH 4.4 Trip Generation](#).

Accessibility

In transportation planning, accessibility is first defined as the potential of opportunities for traveler interaction. the potential opportunity for traveler interaction is positively associated with accessibility. Typically, accessibility captures the extent of the attractiveness of each potential destination and some researchers represent accessibility as the amount of activity locations potentially reachable within a given travel time or distance from an origin location.

One of the goals of transportation system construction and management is to improve individuals' accessibility or the ease of reaching desired activities, destinations, and services. In general, quantitative accessibility measures describe how many and how easily destinations can be reached from a particular zone. For more information, users can check <https://tfresource.org/topics/Accessibility.html>.

Trip distribution

There are a variety of trip distribution formulations. Among recent travel models, two formulations dominate: the gravity model and the destination choice model.

For each OD pair, a typical gravity model is applied to calculate zone-to-zone demand volume. In the gravity model, the trips produced at an origin and attracted to a destination are directly proportional to the total trip productions at the origin and the total attractions at the destination with "friction factor", which represents the reluctance or impedance of persons to make trips of various

duration or distances. A gravity model may be “singly-constrained” or “doubly-constrained”. For more information, please visit

https://tfresource.org/topics/Trip_distribution.html. and

<http://www.princeton.edu/~alaink/Orf467F12/The%20Gravity%20Model.pdf>

For each OD pair, a typical gravity model to calculate zone-to-zone demand volume is formulated as follows.

$$T_{ij} = P_i \cdot \frac{A_j \cdot F_{ij} \cdot K_{ij}}{\sum_j (A_j \cdot F_{ij} \cdot K_{ij})}$$

$$F_{ij} = a(d_{ij})^b e^{c(d_{ij})}$$

where T_{ij} is total trips from zone i to zone j ; P_i, A_j are total productions from zone i and total attractions end in zone j , respectively; F_{ij} is the friction factor for travel from zone i to zone j ; K_{ij} is the correction factor for travel from zone i to zone j , equal to 1 by default; d_{ij} is the accessibility from zone i to zone j ; parameter a, b, c are the friction factor coefficients.

II. What is grid2demand?

Grid2demand is a quick demand generation tool based on the trip generation and trip distribution methods of the standard 4-step travel model for teaching transportation planning and applications. By taking advantage of the OSM2GMNS tool to obtain a routable transportation network from OpenStreetMap, Grid2demand aims to further utilize Point of Interest (POI) data to construct a trip demand matrix aligned with standard travel models.

The area of interest is partitioned into an alphanumeric grid (also known as atlas grid), in which each cell is identified by a combination of a letter and a number. The trip generation step is performed at the POI node level using ITE trip generation tables (<https://www.ite.org/technical-resources/topics/trip-and-parking-generation/trip-generation-10th-edition-formats/>) or other trip rate references.

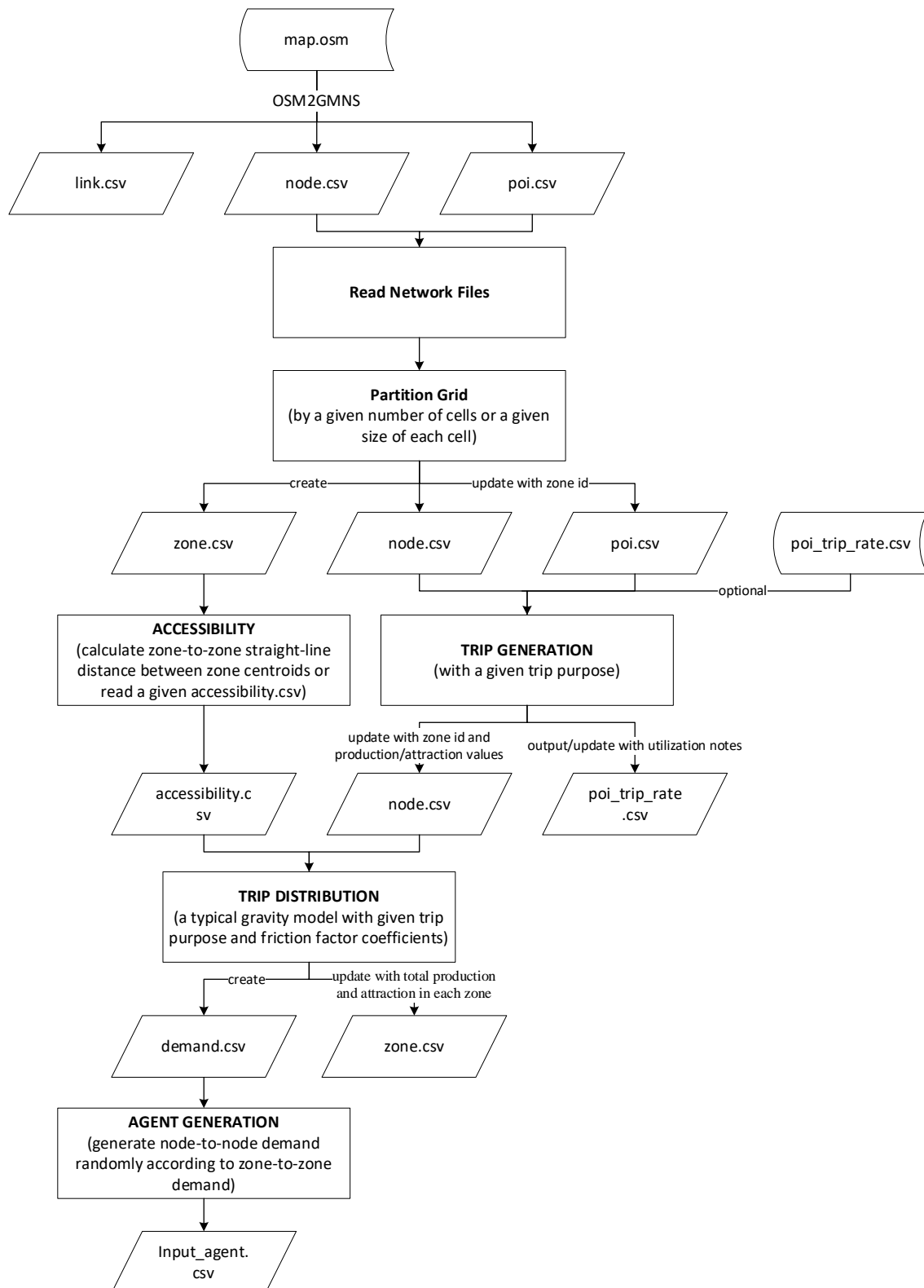
When partitioning grid cells and calculating accessibility, World Geodetic System-1984 Coordinate System is applied to convert coordinates to length. The trip distribution is

carried out using a typical gravity model. The data flow chart is illustrated in the following table and figure.

Description of Data Files

Step	Process	Input File or Parameter	Output File	Method
0	Network files preparation	map file from OpenStreetMap	<i>node.csv</i> , <i>link.csv</i> , <i>poi.csv</i>	Osm2gmns tool
1	Input files reading	<i>node.csv</i> , <i>poi.csv</i>		
2	Zone generation and grid partition	Number of blocks or grid scales in meters with latitude of the area of interest (optional)	<i>zone.csv</i> , <i>poi.csv</i> (update with zone id)	Alphanumeric grid
3	Trip generation	<i>poi_trip_rate.csv</i> (optional), trip purpose	<i>poi_trip_rate.csv</i> (output/update with utilization notes), <i>node.csv</i> (update with zone id and demand values)	Trip rate method
4	Accessibility calculation	<i>accessibility.csv</i> (optional), latitude of the area of interest	<i>accessibility.csv</i>	Simple straight-line distance between zone centroids
5	Trip distribution	Trip purpose, friction factor coefficients	<i>demand.csv</i> , <i>zone.csv</i> (update with total production and attraction in each zone)	Gravity model
6	Agent generation	<i>demand.csv</i>	<i>input_agent.csv</i>	Random sampling of node-to-node agents according to zone-to-zone demand
7	Visualization		QGIS or NEXTA	

Framework flowchart of grid2demand



For the entire package, the input files include the network files in GMNS format (*node.csv*, *link.csv*) as well as *poi.csv*, generated by the OSM2GMNS tool.

Users can download a default *poi_trip_rate.csv* from https://github.com/asu-trans-ai-lab/grid2demand/blob/main/examples/data_folder/poi_trip_rate.csv and apply further adjustments based on local traffic conditions.

The final output files include *zone.csv*, *accessibility.csv*, *demand.csv* for zone-to-zone OD demand matrix, and *input_agent.csv* for node-to-node agent files which can be used by agent-based simulators such as AB Street and DTALite. Accordingly, *node.csv* and *poi.csv* are updated with assigned zone information.

Grid partition and zone creation

To facilitate hierarchical and multi-resolution spatial computing, grid cells are used to aggregate trips to traffic analysis zones, while standard TAZs are typically defined based on census tracts. Users can specify the number of cells per row and per column or the width and height of each grid cell (in meters) for the area of interest. To maintain a consistent mapping, we use a fractional value in terms of the degree at different latitudes to represent different lengths on a flat surface. That is, a value of 0.01 longitudinal degrees at 60 degrees latitude is equivalent to 0.558 km on a flat surface. Thus, users can provide a latitude value of the area of interest, and the software will identify the closest latitude in the following table and use the equivalent distance to measure for that area.

Latitude	City	Degree-equivalent distance (km)	(miles)
60°	Saint Petersburg	55.80	34.67
51°	Greenwich	69.47	43.17
45°	Bordeaux	78.85	49.00
30°	New Orleans	96.49	59.96
0°	Quito	111.3	69.16

Moreover, some nodes in the network are marked as boundary nodes in *node.csv* to describe the entrance or exit points with respect to the area of interest. Thus, we add virtual zones around the grid area's boundary to aggregate demand from outside the area of interest, which are regarded as "gates" or external stations.

Trip generation

To enable detailed modeling of trip generation from parking lots and buildings, different types of POI nodes are specifically covered in file *poi.csv*, extracted from the original *OSM file*. The user can supply more information in *poi.csv* in case of missing values. The trip generation process used in grid2demand has the following 3 sub-steps.

- 1) For each node, the amount of produced or attracted traffic is computed based on the underlying trip purpose and POI type, defined in *poi_trip_rate.csv*.
- 2) Update the field of production and attraction for each POI or boundary node in *node.csv*.
- 3) For each zone, its total production and attraction values can be calculated as the sum of node-based values across all nodes with the corresponding zone id.

A sample *poi_trip_rate* table is listed below.

poi_type_id	building	unit_of_measure	production_rate1	attraction_rate1	production_rate2	attraction_rate2	production_rate3	attraction_rate3
1	roof	1,000 Sq. Ft. GFA	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
2	public	1,000 Sq. Ft. GFA	4.79	0.1	4.79	0.1	4.79	0.1
3	dormitory	1,000 Sq. Ft. GFA	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
4	yes	1,000 Sq. Ft. GFA	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
5	university	1,000 Sq. Ft. GFA	1.17	0.1	1.17	0.1	1.17	0.1
6	convenience	1,000 Sq. Ft. GFA	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
7	office	1,000 Sq. Ft. GFA	2.04	0.1	2.04	0.1	2.04	0.1

For each boundary node (such as freeway or arterial's endpoint at the boundary of the area) which stands for a gate to enter or leave the area, the default values of production and attraction are set to be 1000.

Accessibility and distance computing

In the current version, accessibility is measured by zone-to-zone straight-line distance according to zone centroid coordinates. A more advanced version will be provided in the future to use the shortest path algorithm for computing end-to-end driving or multimodal travelling distance and costs.

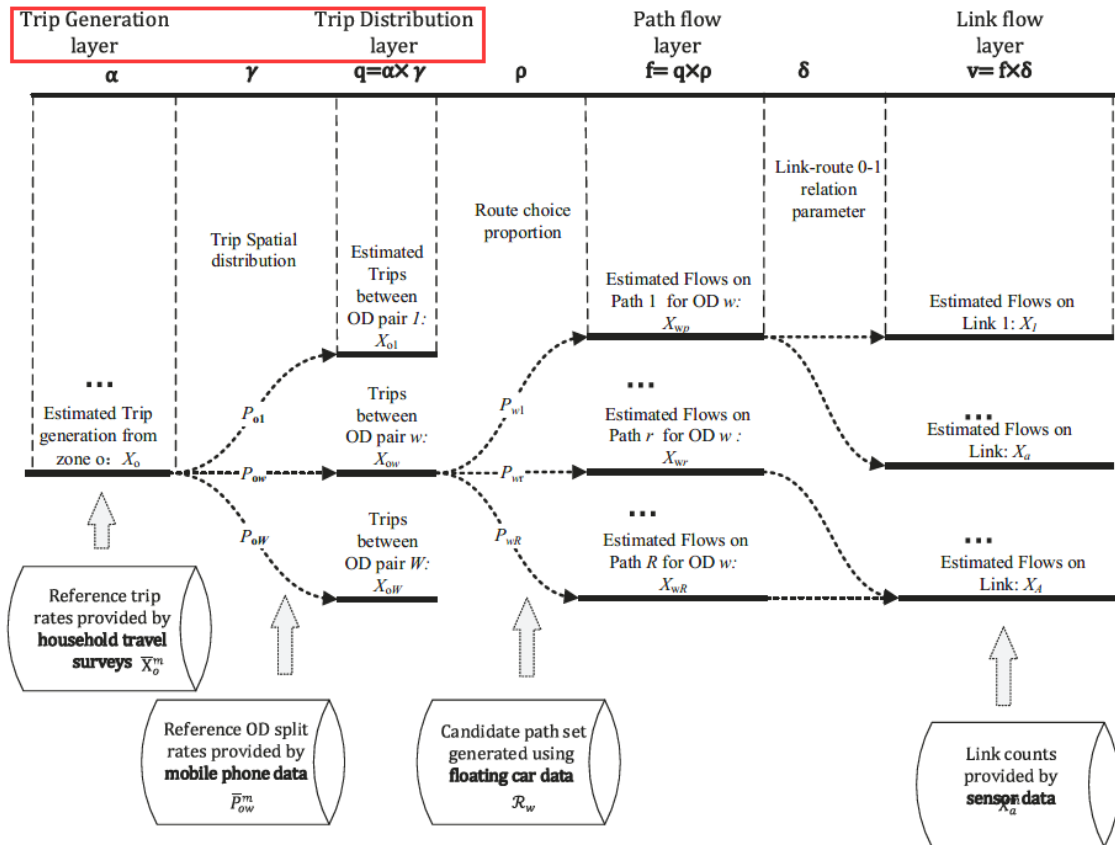
Trip distribution

As mentioned above, a typical gravity model is applied to calculate zone-to-zone demand volume. The trip purpose and friction factor coefficients can be defined by users or by default. The default values under three typical trip purposes are listed in the following table.

Trip purpose	a	b	c
HBW	28507	-0.02	-0.123
HBO	139173	-1.285	-0.094
NHB	219113	-1.332	-0.1

OD demand estimation using link counts and different data sources

In the future, output *demand.csv* can act as one of multiple data sources for a hierarchical travel demand estimation and *input_agent.csv* can be directly used for assignment by DTALite and for other travel models. For more information, please visit https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325131295_Hierarchical_travel_demand_estimation_using_multiple_data_sources_A_forward_and_backward_propagation_algorithmic_framework_on_a_layered_computational_graph.



III. Quick start

We will use the University of Maryland, College Park as an example to illustrate how to use grid2demand.

Step 1: Installation

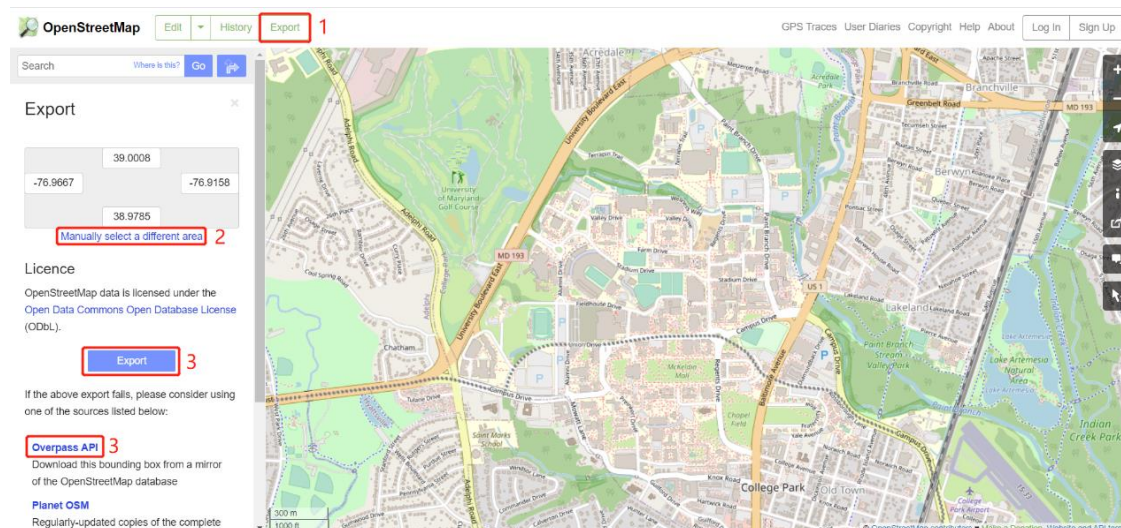
You can install the latest release of grid2demand at PyPI (<https://pypi.org/project/grid2demand/>) via pip:

```
~~~~~  
pip install grid2demand  
~~~~~
```

After running the command above, the grid2demand package along with two required dependency packages (numpy, pandas) will be installed on your computer (if they have not been installed yet).

Step 2: Determine the boundary of interest and download .osm file from OpenStreetMap (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/>)

- (1) Adjust the map to the location of interest and click on the “Export” button on the top.



- (2) Obtain the latitude and longitude coordinates (users can “manually select a different area”).
- (3) Click on the “Export” button found in the middle of the navigator to download an OSM data file.

- (4) For a very large area of interest, users need to click the link of “Overpass API” to obtain a map file.




 map.osm	12/22/2020 3:52 PM	OSM File	380,703 KB
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Step 2: Execute OSM2GMNS to get network files in GMNS format

Open the Python IDE, such as Pycharm, for a typical configuration. Then, use OSM2GMNS to convert the *map.osm* file in OSM format into a network file in GMNS format.

Notes: User guide for osm2gmns can be found at <https://osm2gmns.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>.

```
import osm2gmns as og
net = og.getNetFromOSMFile(r'map.osm',network_type=('railway','aeroway','auto','walk','bike'),\
                           POIs=True,default_lanes=True,default_speed=True)
og.connectPOIWithNet(net)
og.outputNetToCSV(net, output_folder)
```

 link	12/27/2020 8:55 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	370 KB
 node	12/27/2020 8:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	75 KB
 poi	12/27/2020 8:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	108 KB

Please note that *poi.csv* might have different degrees of missing information. Please supply additional accurate POI-type information if needed.

Step 3: Execute grid2demand Python code

(1) Import the package and read input network data

```
~~~~~
import grid2demand as gd
gd.ReadNetworkFile("./data_folder")
~~~~~
```

(2) Partition network into grid cells

Users can customize the number of grid cells by setting “number_of_x_blocks” and “number_of_y_blocks”. On the other hand, users can customize the cell’s width and height in meters under the latitude of the area by setting “cell_width”, “cell_height” and “latitude”).

By default, “cell_width” and “cell_height” are set as the length on a flat surface under a specific latitude corresponding to the degree of 0.006 (equivalent to 400 meters or 0.25 miles at latitude = 45 degree).

```
~~~~~  
gd.NetworkPartition(number_of_x_blocks=None, number_of_y_blocks=None,  
cell_width=500, cell_height=500, latitude=30)  
~~~~~
```

(3) Obtain production/attraction rates of each land use type with a specific trip purpose

Users can customize *poi_trip_rate.csv* by adding an external file folder location according to different trip purposes. By default, the trip purpose is set as purpose 1.

```
~~~~~  
gd.GetPoiTripRate(trip_rate_folder = "./data_folder", trip_purpose=1)  
~~~~~
```

(4) Compute production/attraction value of each node according to POI type

```
~~~~~  
gd.GetNodeDemand()  
~~~~~
```

(5) Calculate zone-to-zone accessibility matrix by centroid-to-centroid straight-line distance

Users need to input the latitude value of the area of interest. A latitude of 30 degrees is selected as the default. On the other hand, users can customize the accessibility matrix by setting the external folder of file *accessibility.csv*.

```
~~~~~  
gd.ProduceAccessMatrix(latitude=30,accessibility_folder=None)  
~~~~~
```

(6) Apply gravity model to perform trip distribution

Users need to input the trip purpose and the friction factor coefficients. The default values of HBW, HBO and NHB are described above.











```
~~~~~  
gd.RunGravityModel(trip_purpose=1,a=None,b=None,c=None)  
~~~~~
```

(7) Generate agent-based demand

Agent-based node-to-node demand will be generated randomly according to zone-to-zone demand obtained by the gravity model.

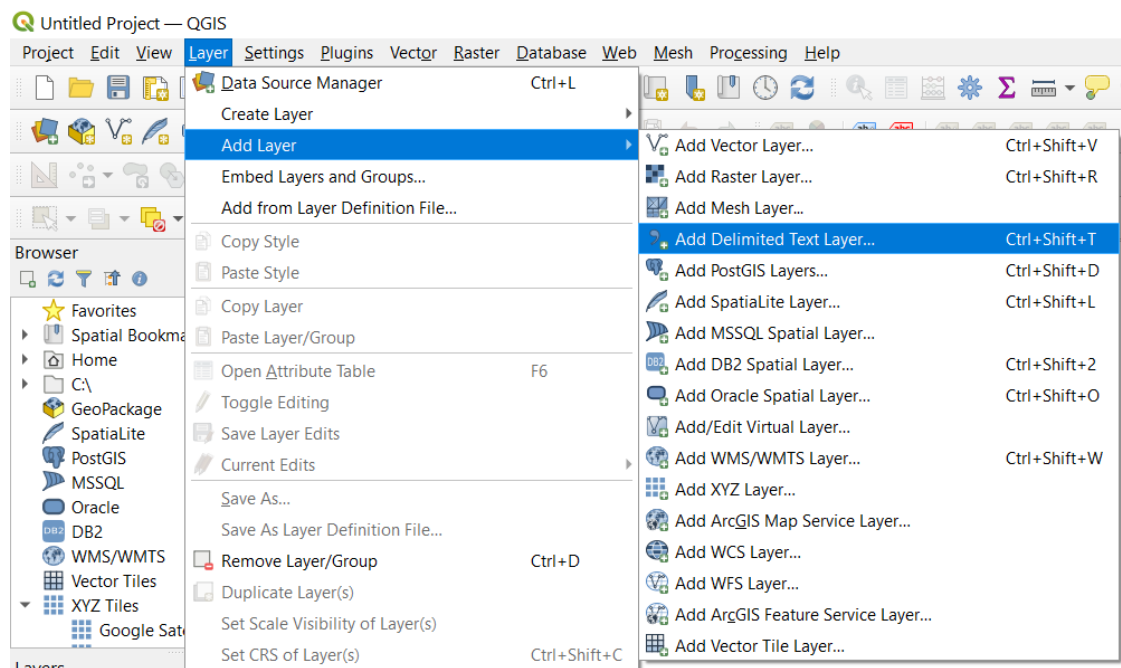
```
~~~~~  
gd.GenerateAgentBasedDemand()  
~~~~~
```

One can configure the working dictionary in the Python IDE (e.g., Pycharm) before executing grid2demand. The files in the working folder will be used to obtain zone-to-zone demand with generated five output files highlighted in blue below. The output files will be saved in the current folder as the working dictionary.

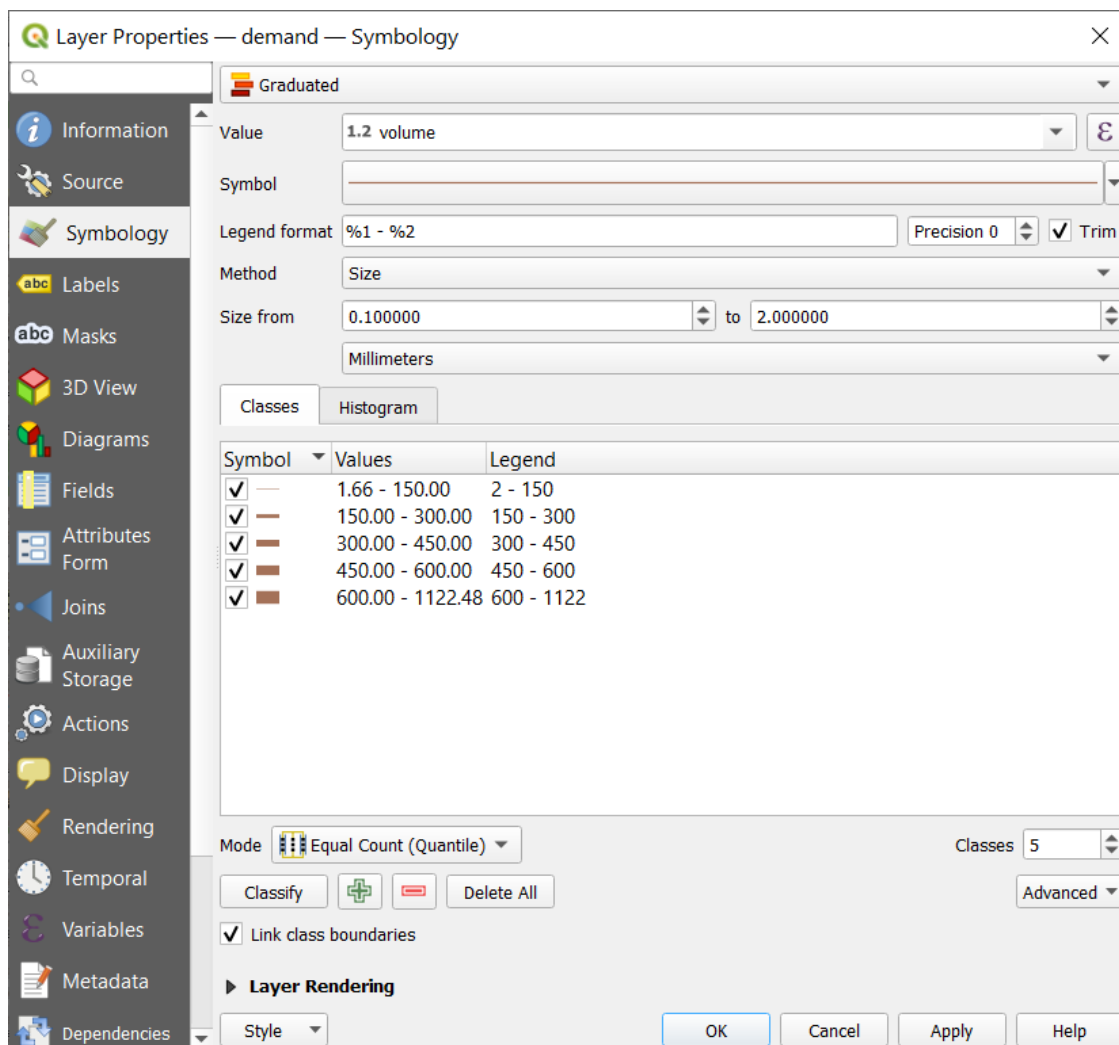
Name	Date modified	Type	Size
 accessibility	1/28/2021 12:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	183 KB
 CollegePark	12/10/2020 4:58 PM	OSM File	13,846 KB
 demand	1/28/2021 12:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	207 KB
 input_agent	1/28/2021 12:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	540 KB
 link	1/19/2021 9:56 AM	Microsoft Excel Co...	1,042 KB
 log	1/28/2021 12:56 PM	Text Document	38 KB
 node	1/28/2021 12:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	312 KB
 poi	1/28/2021 12:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	955 KB
 poi_trip_rate	1/28/2021 12:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	3 KB
 zone	1/28/2021 12:56 PM	Microsoft Excel Co...	10 KB

Step 4: Visualization in QGIS

Open QGIS and add Delimited Text Layer to load the *demand.csv* and other files (with geometry info).



Then open the “Properties” window of the demand layer. Set the symbology as graduated symbols by size.



The zone-to-zone demand volume can be visualized with a base map.

