

EpiMob: Interactive Visual Analytics of Citywide Human Mobility Restrictions for Epidemic Control

Chuang Yang

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I. Introduction

➤ Research Context

- Various countermeasures^[1], such as *Self-Quarantine, Travel Restrictions, Mask Wearing, and Contact Tracing*, have been implemented to contain the rapid spread of the pandemic.
- It's important for policy makers to *Evaluate the effect of countermeasures* quickly, so as to make rational and scientific measures.
- One of the main routes is *Simulation* --- Simulating the effectiveness of intervention policies.
 - E.g., *COVID-19 AI and Simulation Project* lauched by Cabinet Office of Japan ^[2]



However, the policy searching process is *Tedious and Inefficient*.

- Requiring *substantial programming effort*, for *Modelling and Results Analysis*.
- Facing a *large state space* when exploring “*Where and where for what policies*”.



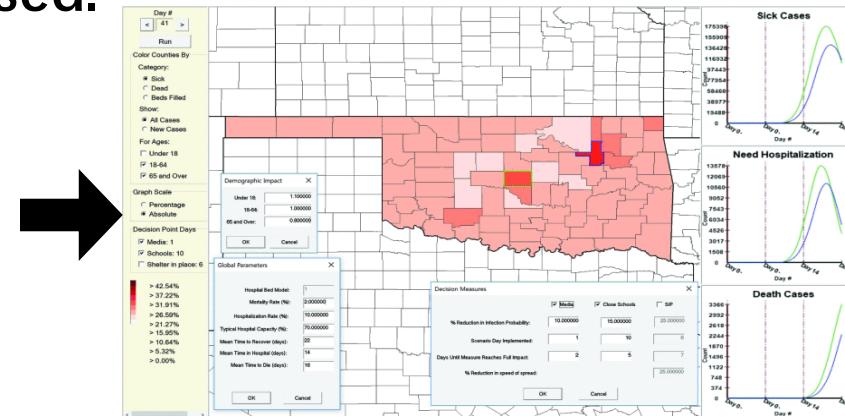
[1] Hale, Thomas, et al. "A global panel database of pandemic policies (Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker)." *Nature Human Behaviour* 5.4 (2021): 529-538.

[2] COVID-19 AI and Simulation Project, CAO, Japan, <https://www.covid19-ai.jp/en-us/>

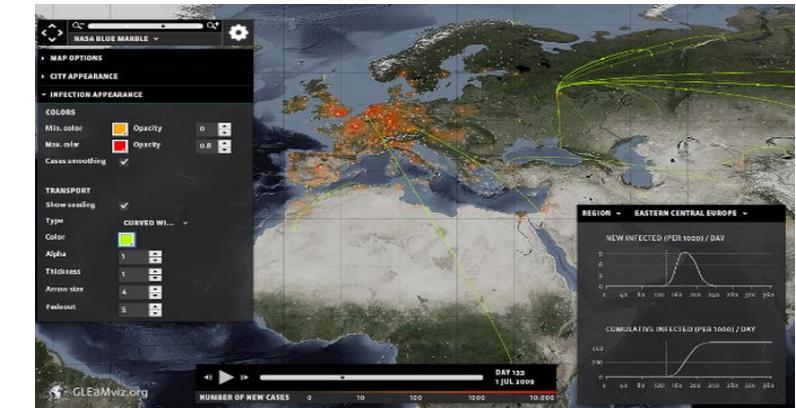
I. Introduction

➤ Research Context

- Some tools/simulators^[1,2] for *Interactive simulation and analysis of intervention policies* has been proposed.



- Good visualization and interaction design. [1]
- Enhancing the efficiency of policy exploration.
- Being accessible by a broader set of users.



[2]

Simulating at county and higher spatial scales, simplifying citywide scenarios, treating the city as a minimum implementation unit.

Simulators towards citywide fine-grained simulation are still blank.

[1] Afzal, Shehzad, et al. "A visual analytics based decision making environment for covid-19 modeling and visualization." 2020 IEEE Visualization Conference (VIS). IEEE, 2020.

[2] Van den Broeck, Wouter, et al. "The GLEAMviz computational tool, a publicly available software to explore realistic epidemic spreading scenarios at the global scale." BMC infectious diseases 11.1 (2011): 1-14.

I. Introduction

➤ Research Context

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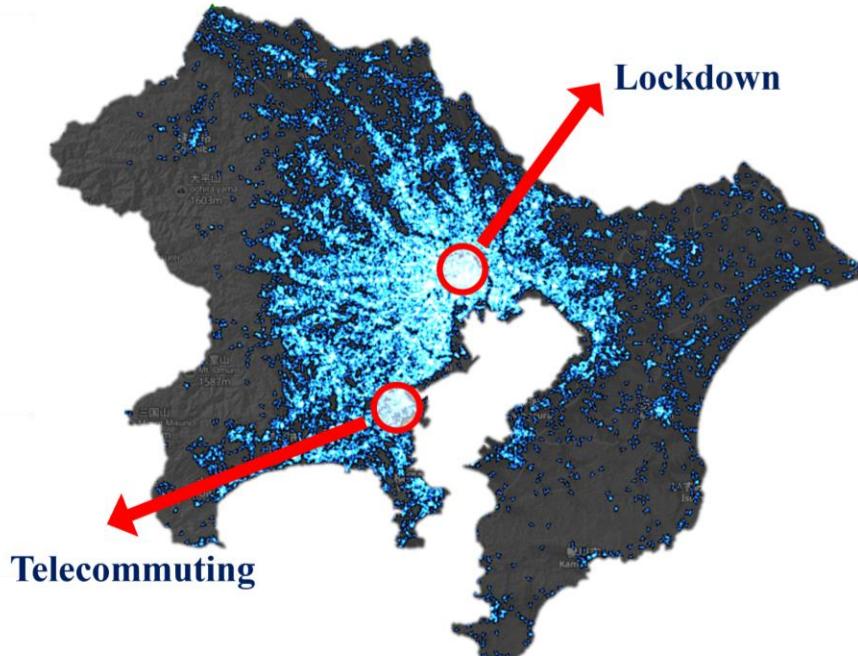
- **Citywide fine-grained epidemic control and prevention^[1]** could be a more appropriate route for restraining the spread while maintaining normal livelihood.

- Identify and lockdown the high-risk areas.

[Coarse-grained]
One Policy on the Whole Area



[Fine-grained]
Specific Policies on the Specific Regions



I. Introduction

➤ Research Target

Designing a simulator *for citywide fine-grained epidemic control scenarios*, aiming to *simplify the policy search process* in city scale.



➤ Requirements

[R1] Policy Configuration

- Explore, set and simulate various countermeasures interactively and intuitively.

[R2] Policy Evaluation

- Measure, compare and analysis the effectiveness of policies interactively and intuitively.

[R3] Extensible

- Control policies/Epidemic models/Visualization views could be customized by users themselves.

*Due to the time and data limit, EpiMob merely considered *mobility related policies* at this moment.

II. Challenges & Solutions

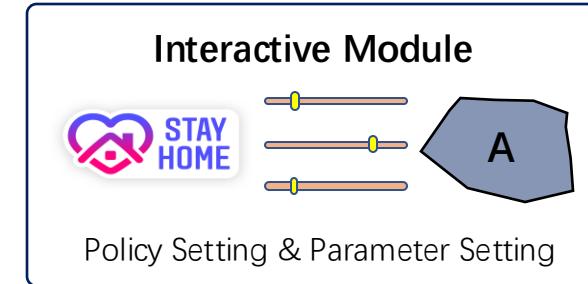
- When and where for what policies in citywide.

- Local control policies, no clear administrative boundaries.
- Complex intracity features, no existing solutions.



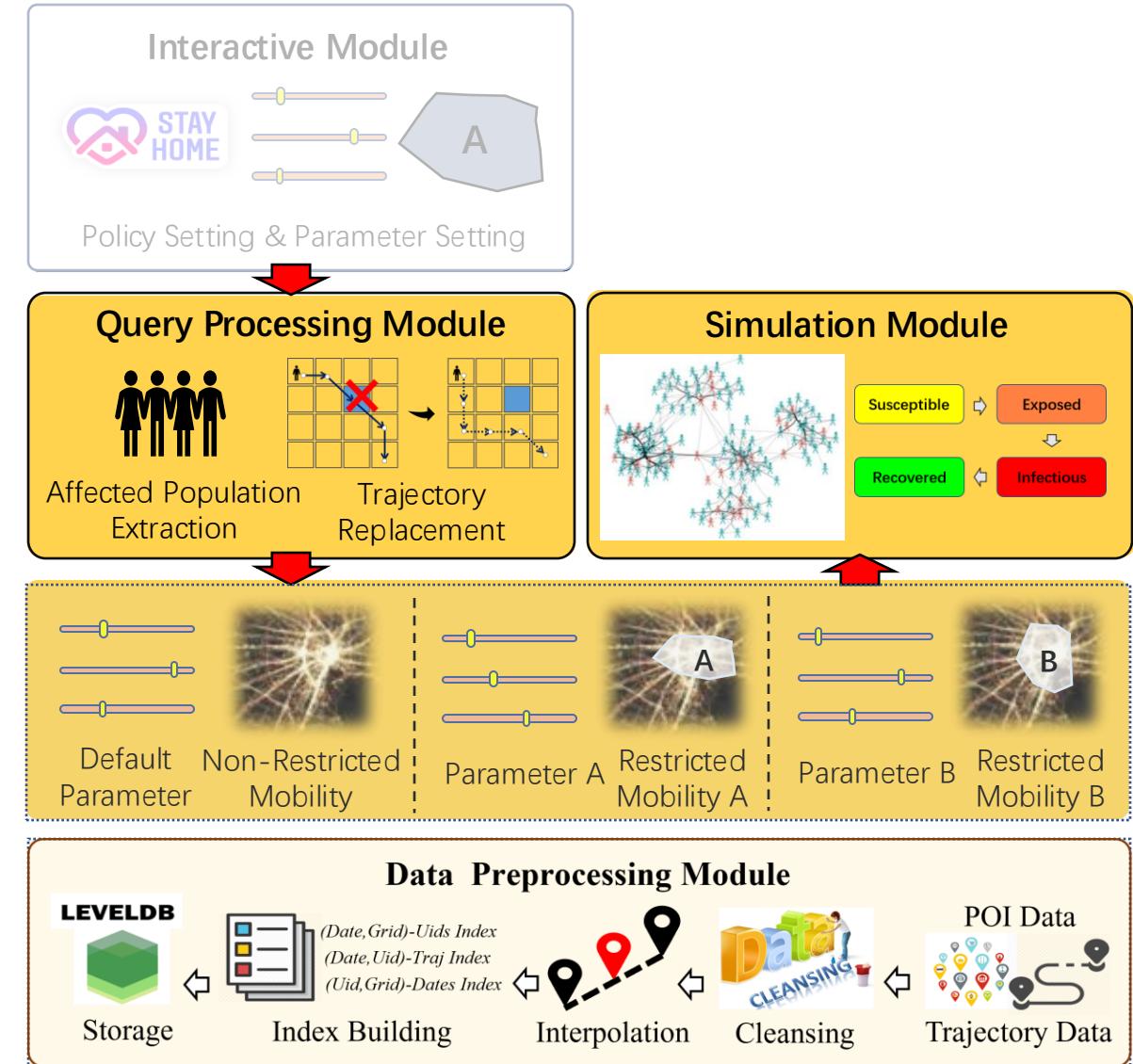
Recent visualization methods/views.
Easy-to-use interaction logic.

Interactive policy
exploration and setting



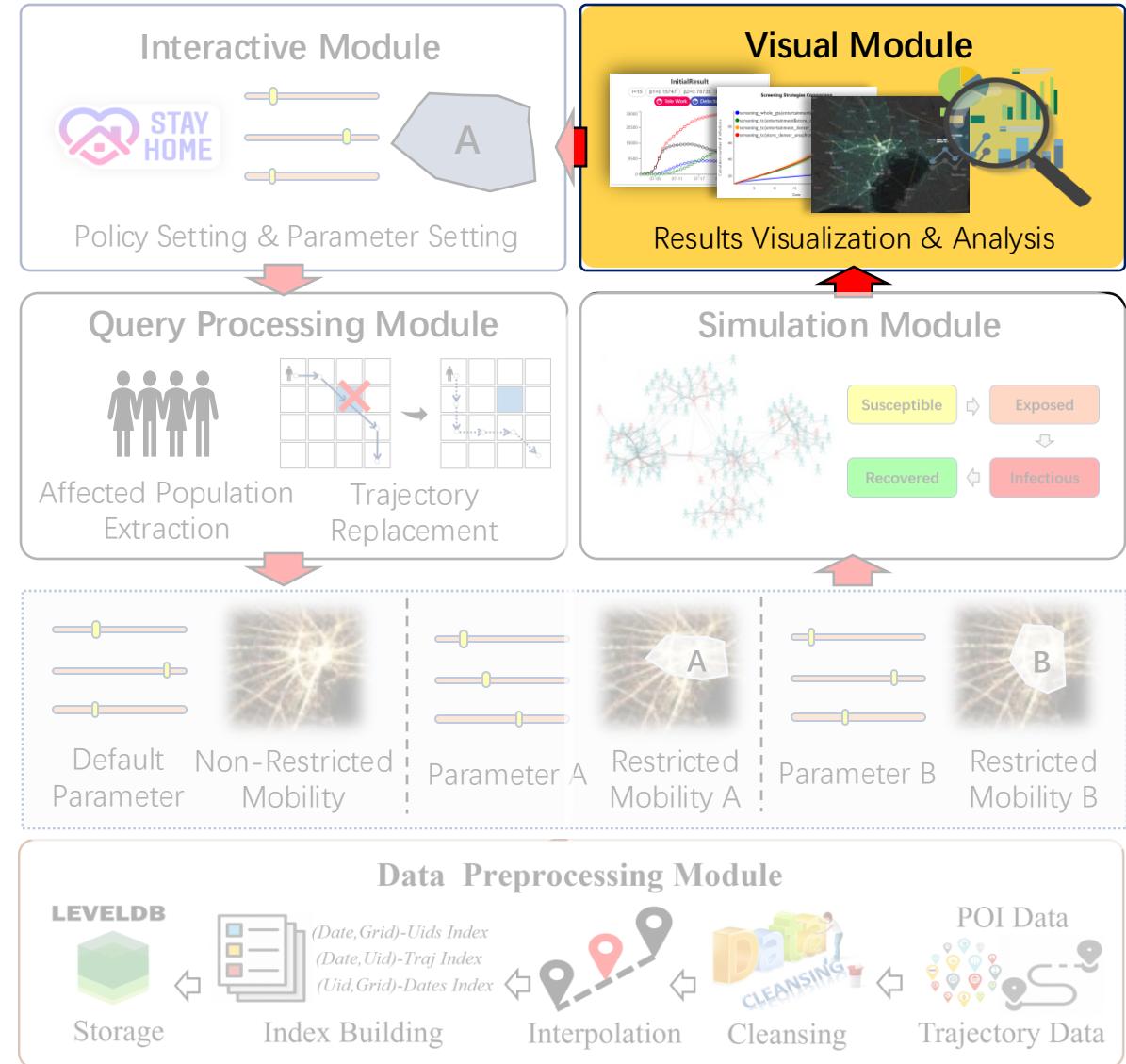
II. Challenges & Solutions

- When and where for what policies in citywide.
 - Local control policies, no clear administrative boundaries.
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- Designing a simulation paradigm to accommodate different mobility policy settings.
 - Different types, intensities, and spatiotemporal scope of restrictions.
 - Performing multiple types of policies simultaneously.



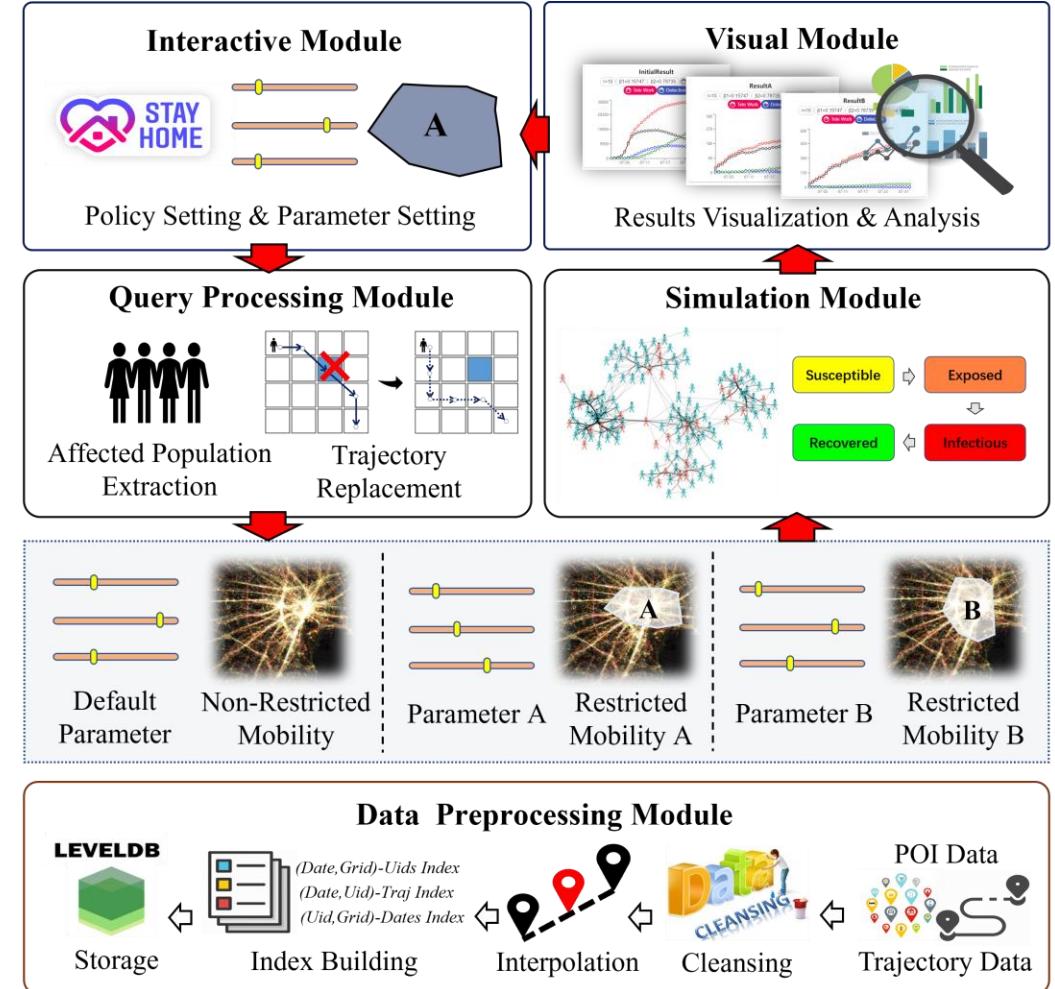
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 - Performing multiple types of policies simultaneously.
- Deeper understanding of simulation results.
 - Not just an infection curve.
 - Understanding the fine-grained secondary effects.
 - e.g., the new infection hotspots, the hub nodes.



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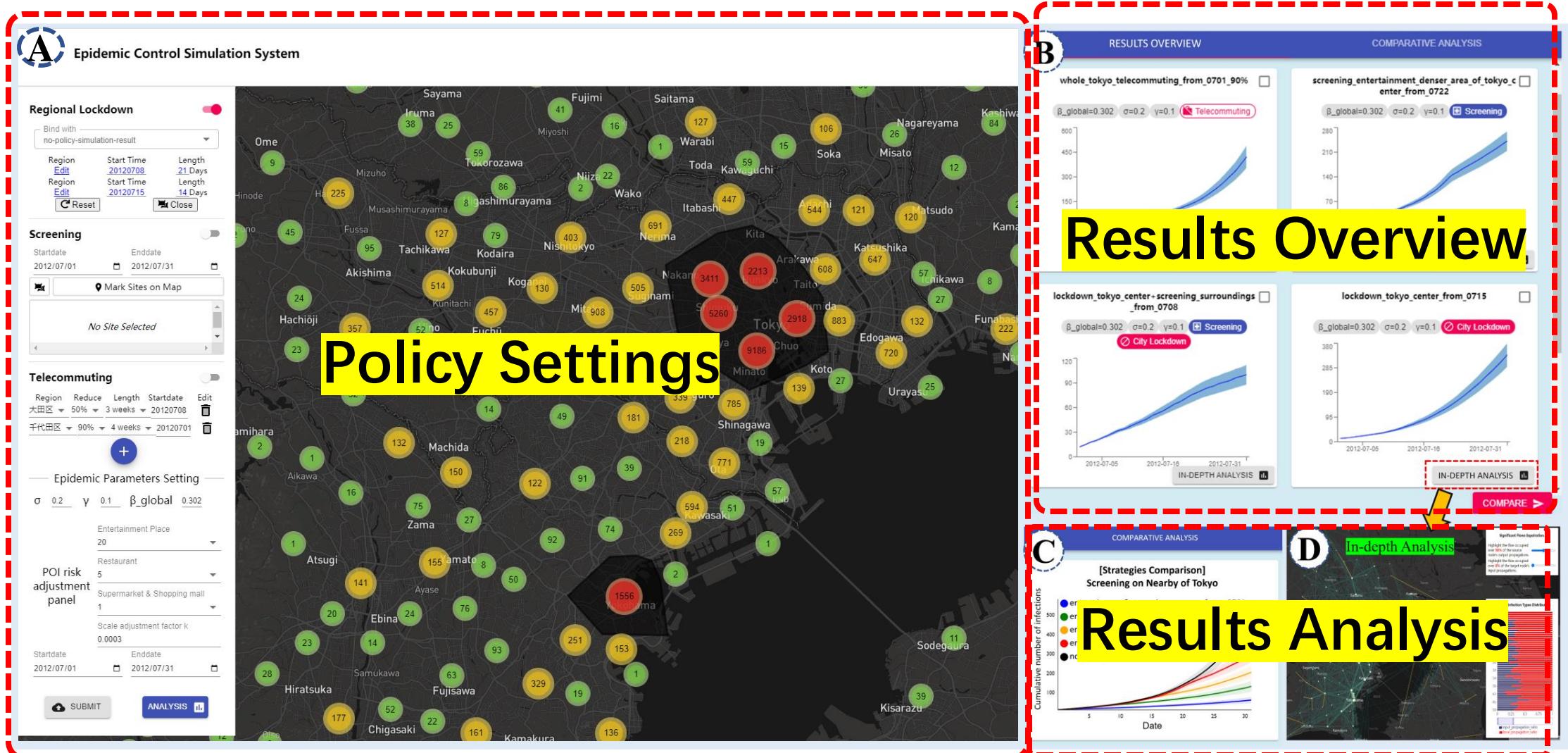
[R1] Policy Configuration >> explore, set and simulate various countermeasures.

[R2] Policy Evaluation >> measure, compare and analysis the effectiveness of policies.

[R3] Extensible >> control policies/epidemic models/visualization view.

III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

➤ UI Overview



III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

➤ Restriction Policy Settings --- Regional Lockdown View

Motivation => Lockdown could be performed on the regions of high infection risks.

Epidemic Control Simulation System

按 F11 即可退出全屏模式

Regional Lockdown

Bind with:

- no-policy-simulation-result
- no-policy-simulation-result
- whole_tokyo_telecommuting_from_0701_90%
- lockdown_tokyo_center_and_screening_surroundings_from_0708
- screening_entertainment_denser_area_of_tokyo_center_from_0722
- lockdown_tokyo_center_from_0715

Startdate: 2012/07/01 Enddate: 2012/07/01

Mark Sites on Map

No Site Selected

Telecommuting

Region Reduce Length Startdate Edit

Epidemic Parameters Setting

α : 0.2 γ : 0.1 β_{global} : 0.302

Entertainment Place: 8
Restaurant: 2
Supermarket & Shopping mall: 1

POI risk adjustment panel

Scale adjustment factor k: 0.0003

Startdate: 2012/07/01 Enddate: 2012/07/31

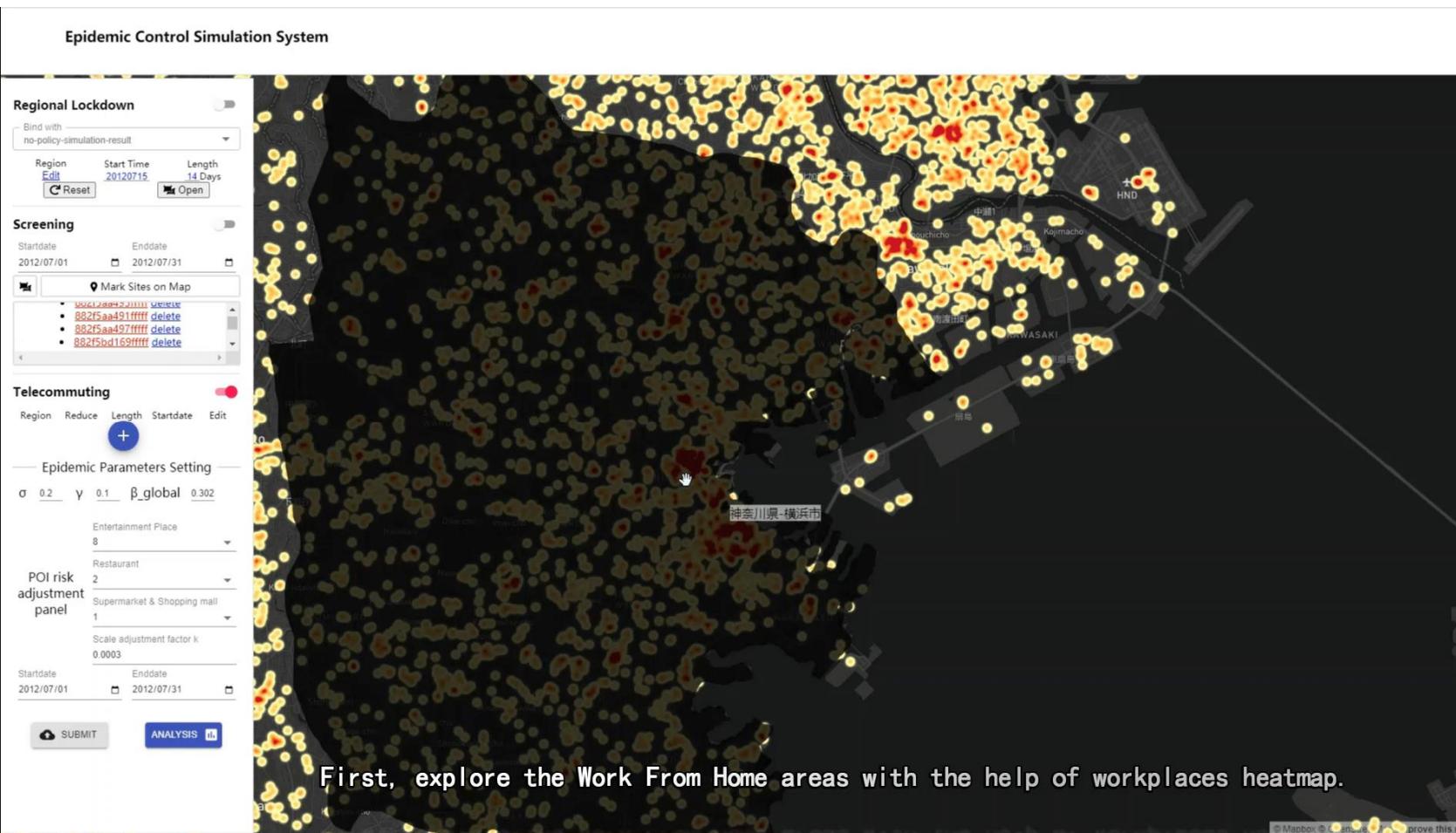
ANALYSIS

First, explore the potential infection hotspots of the city under no policy intervention.

III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

➤ Restriction Policy Settings--- Telecommuting View

Motivation => *Identifying workplaces with high-frequency visitation* to assisting users in deciding where to enforce remote working.



- ◆ An heatmap view to visual the workplaces of individuals.

- ✓ When hovering the mouse over a region, the name of its administrative district is displayed.
- ✓ User can **specify the telecommuting districts; set the corresponding reduction rate; start time and duration.**
- ✓ During simulation, the **people satisfies the rules will work from home.**

A close-up view of the 'Telecommuting' settings section. It shows three rows of data with edit icons:

Region	Reduce	Length	Startdate	Edit
目黒区	90%	2 weeks	20120708	
世田谷区	40%	1 week	20120708	
千代田区	10%	3 weeks	20120708	

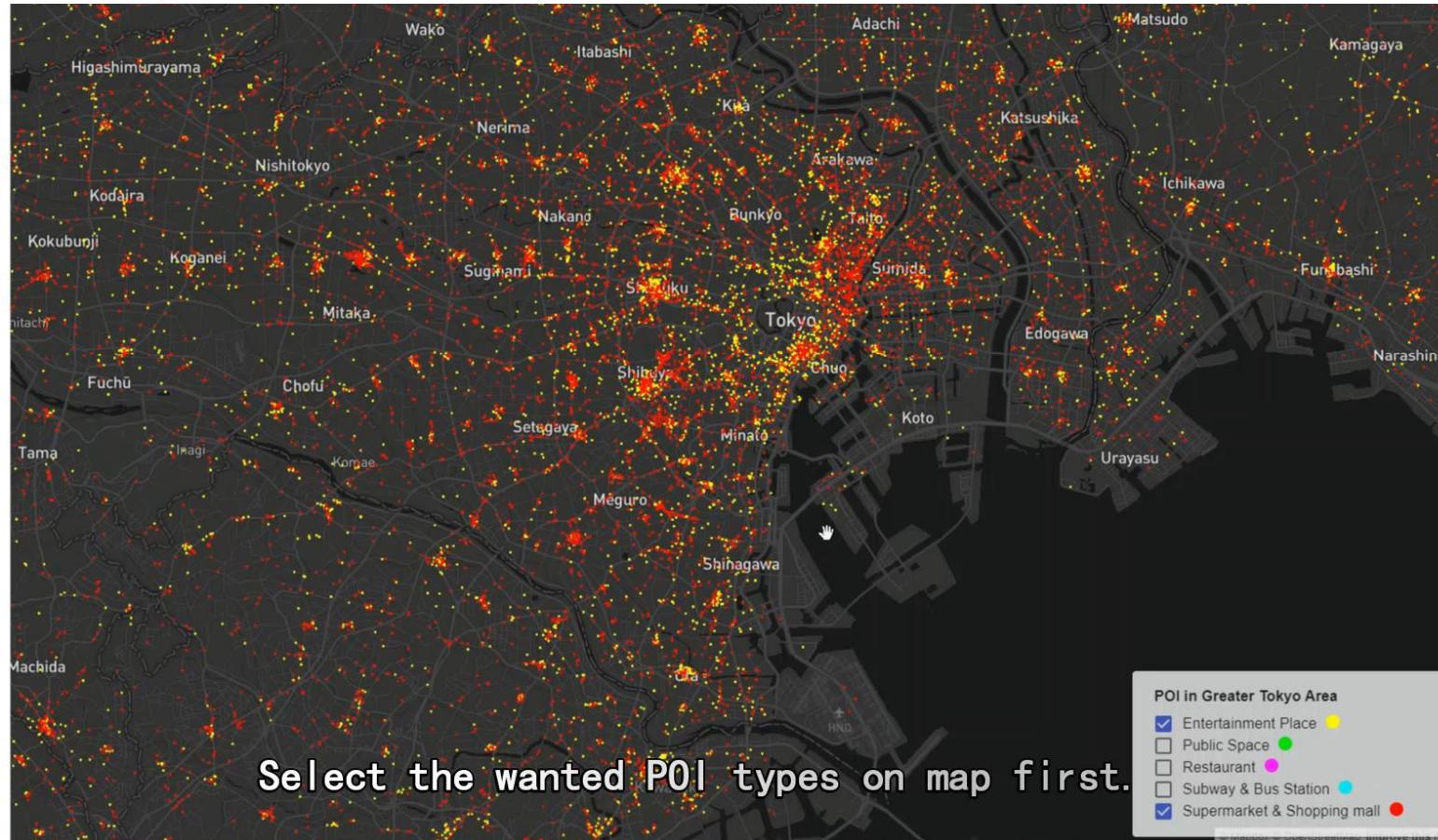
At the bottom is a large blue '+' button.

III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

➤ Restriction Policy Settings--- Screening View

Motivation

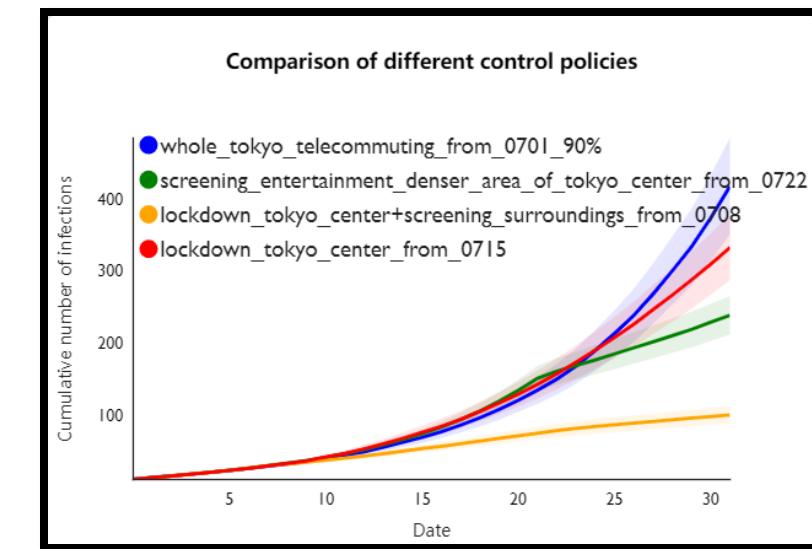
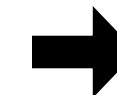
- ◆ The government often needs to set up screening points in certain areas.
- ◆ Select the locations where some kinds of POIs are denser than others to set detection points.



- ◆ A visual display to help specify the potential screening point.
- ✓ User could select and display multiple kinds of POIs at the same time on the map.
- ✓ Then *mark the locations with denser POIs as screening points (indicated by the red markers)*.
- ✓ During the policy implements, all people passing the marker covering regions will accept a screening (e.g., PCR, temperature). If detected, they will be isolated on the subsequent simulation.

III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

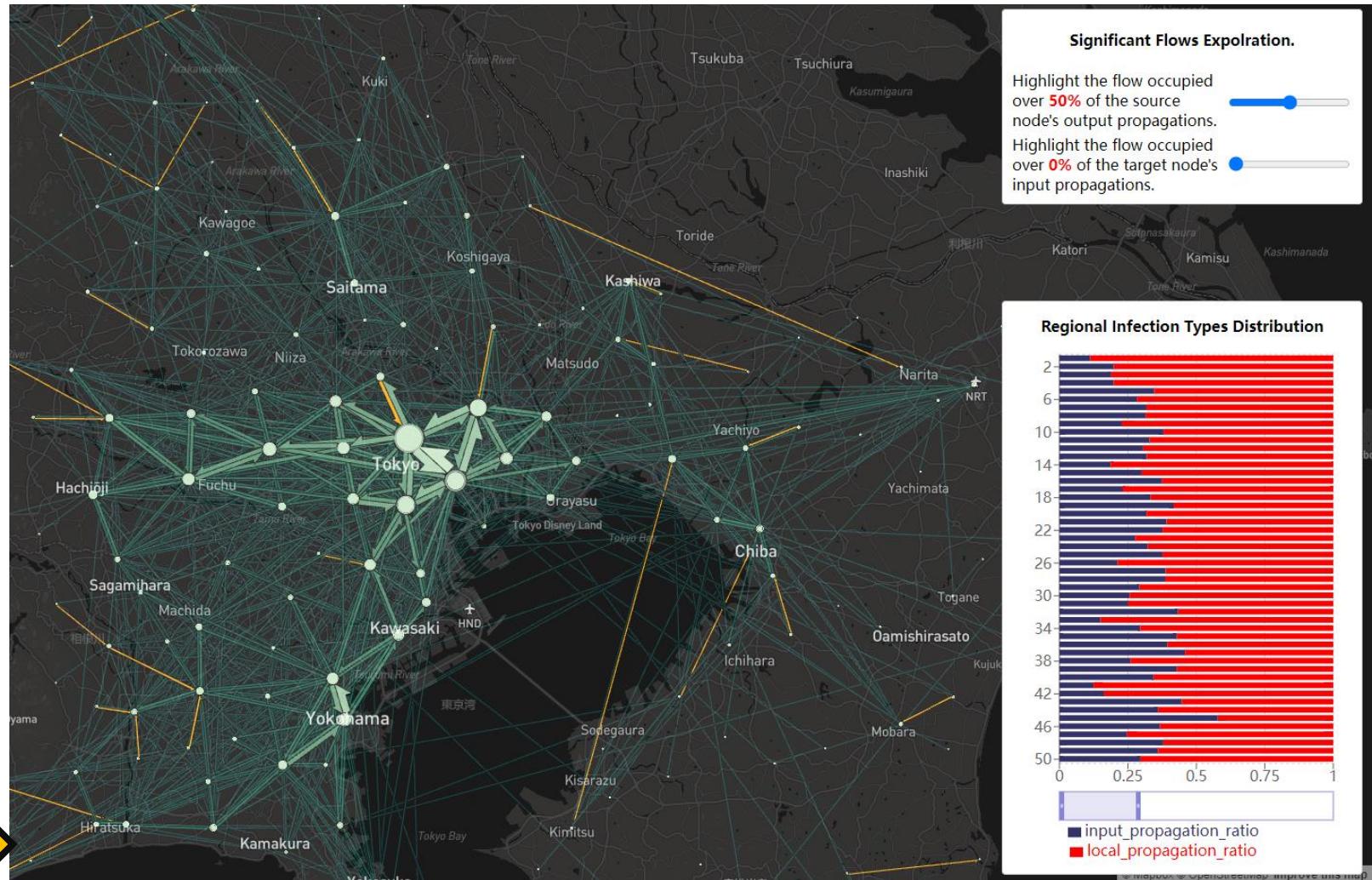
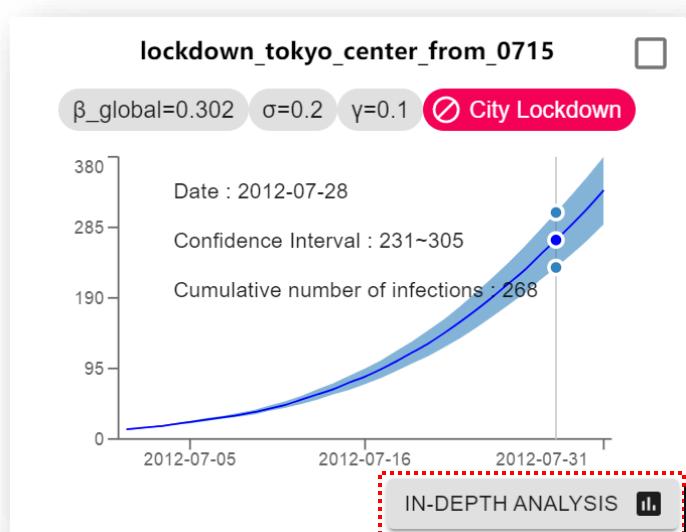
➤ Result Evaluation --- Curve View



III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

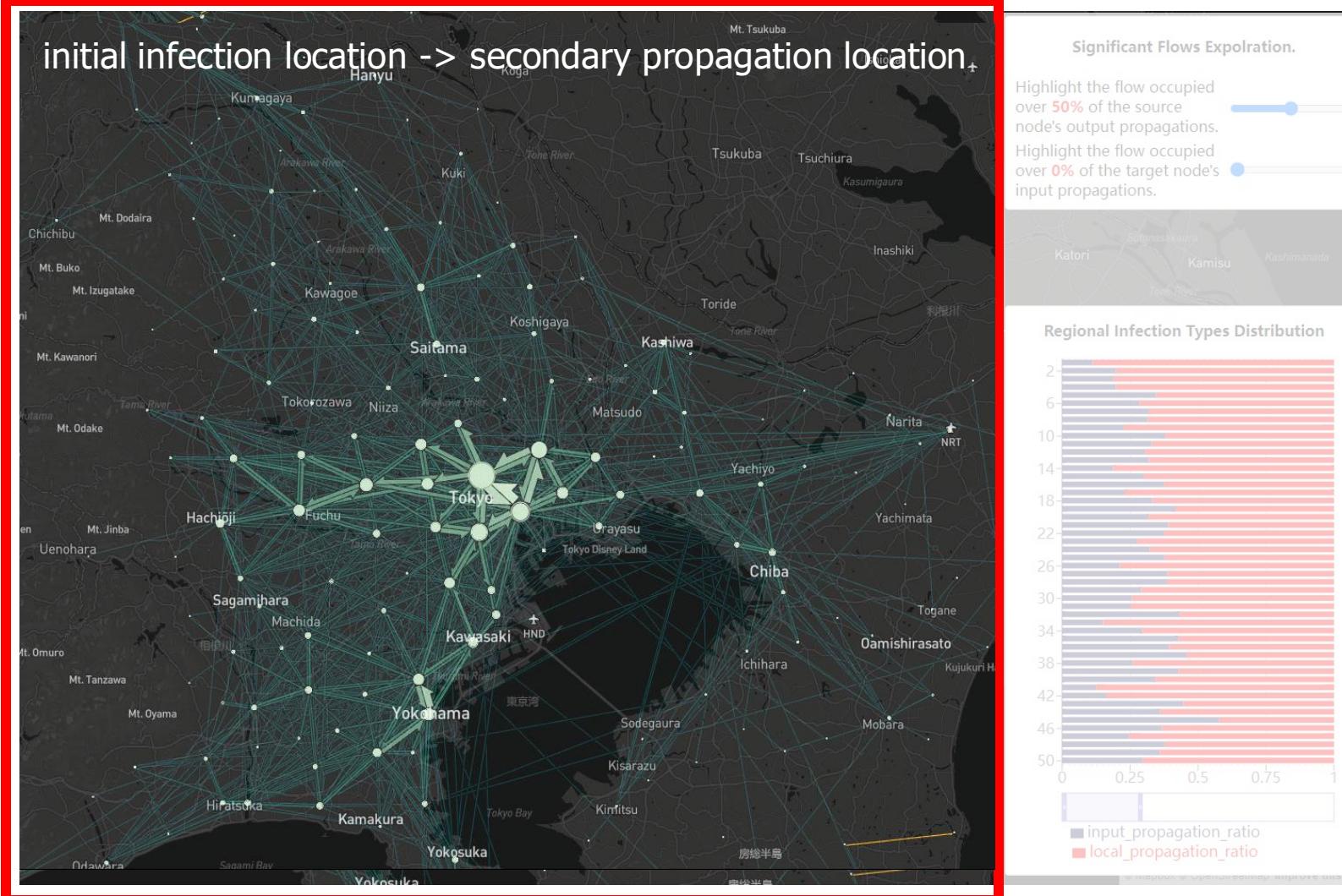
➤ Result Evaluation --- In depth Analysis View

Designed to analyze the policies' secondary effects from the perspective of spatial propagation based on Flowmap.blue^[1]



III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

➤ Result Evaluation --- In depth Analysis View

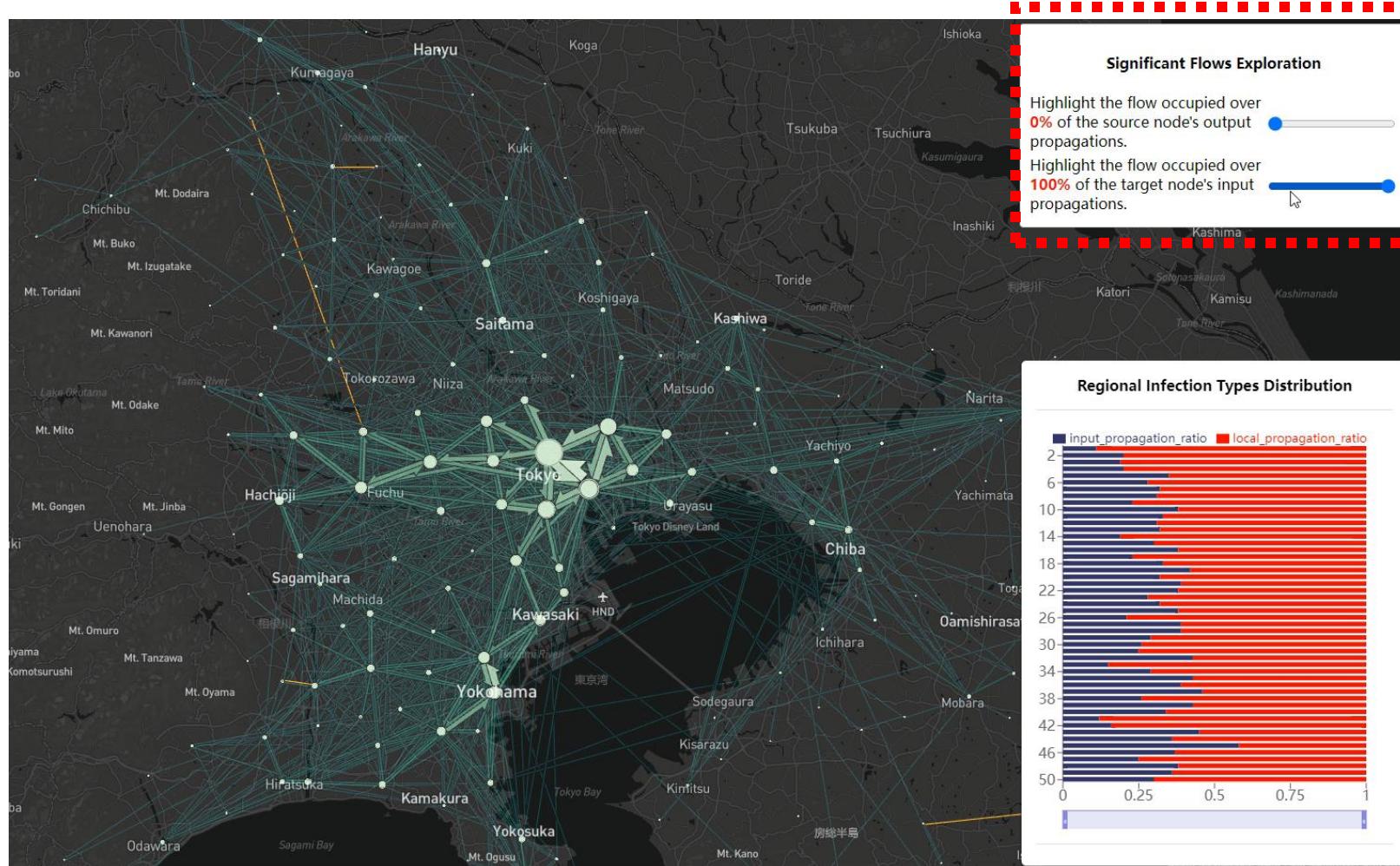


A **map component** to display the spatial transmission network.

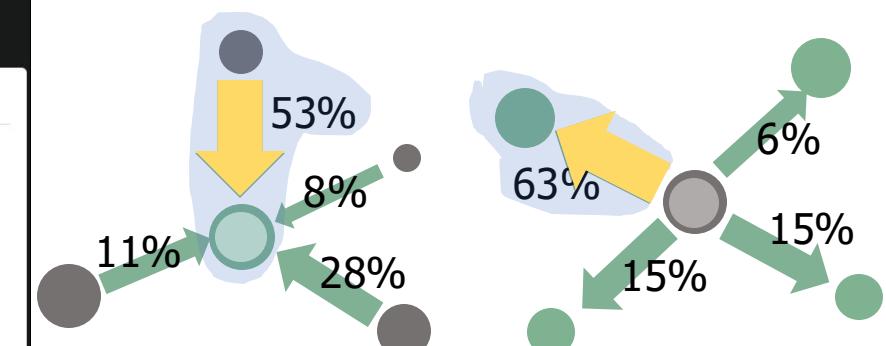
- ✓ The bi-direction of the edges encodes the direction of spatial diffusion of the disease.
- ✓ Both the width and transparency of the edges map the intensity of the transition.

III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

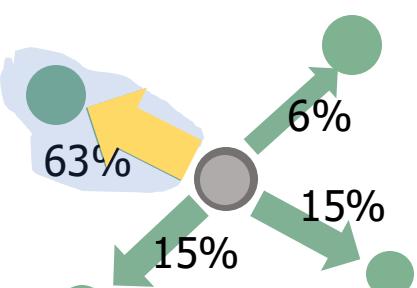
➤ Result Evaluation --- In depth Analysis View



A filter component to explore the **significant cross-region propagation patterns**.



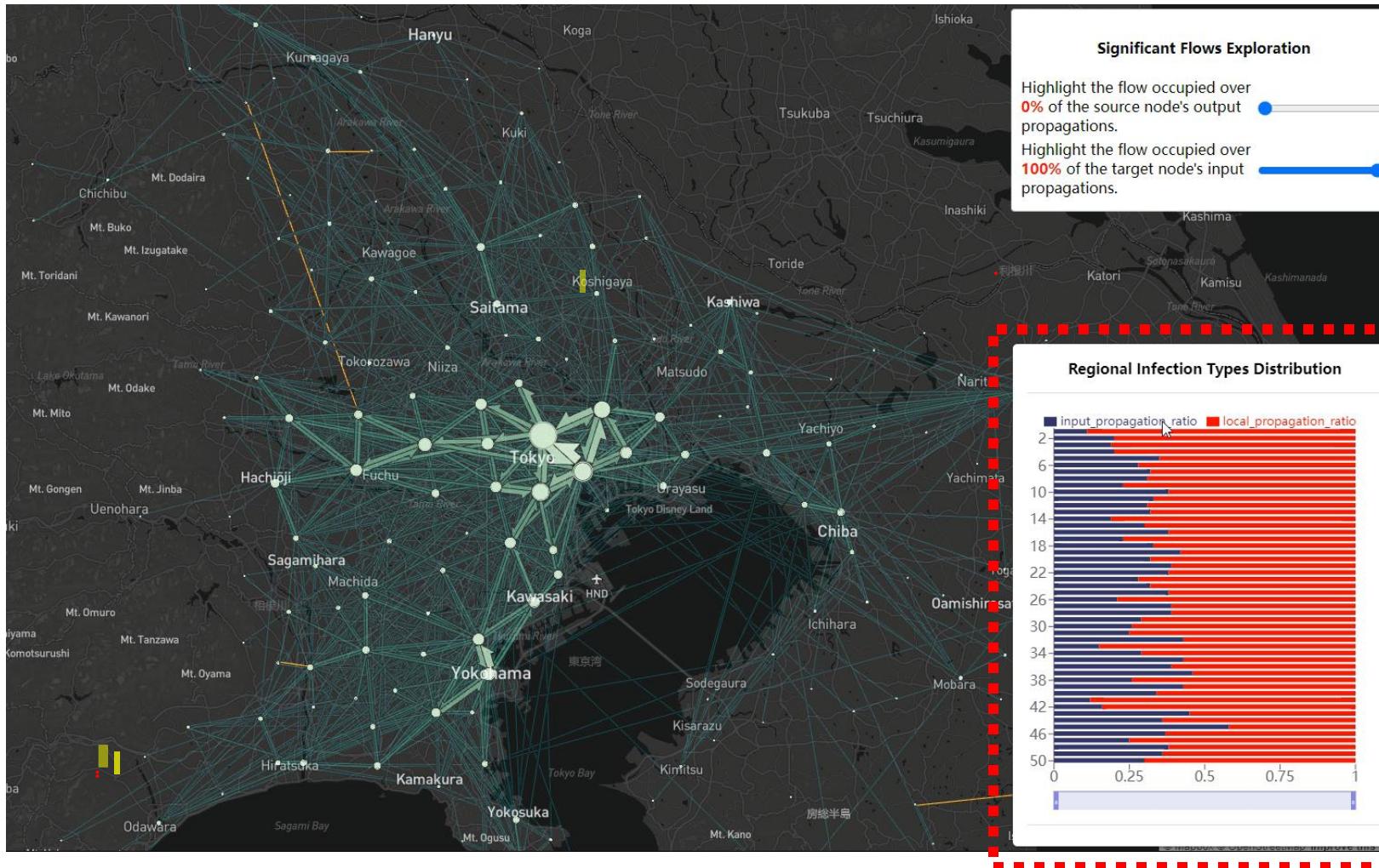
Find significant input node/region



Find significant output node/region

III. Visualization Design of the Prototype System

➤ Result Evaluation --- In depth Analysis View



A tracing panel to explore the local infection patterns.

- Each bar represents a region.
- The blue and red bar encode the proportion of the two infection types.
- When the clicks on the bar of interest, its in-out flow, and spatial coverage are highlighted on the map.

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IV. Case Study & Findings

➤ Settings

- Simulation Time Range: 2012-07-01 to 2012-07-31 -> 1 months
- Simulation Spatial Range: Greater Tokyo Area
- Simulation Individuals Number: 30000
- Initial Infection Number: 10
- Epidemic model: Trajectory-based SEIR model
- Simulated Infectious Disease.
 - COVID-19
 - Epidemiological parameters are set with reference to medical papers and the real infection data of first wave in the Greater Tokyo Area [1,2,3]

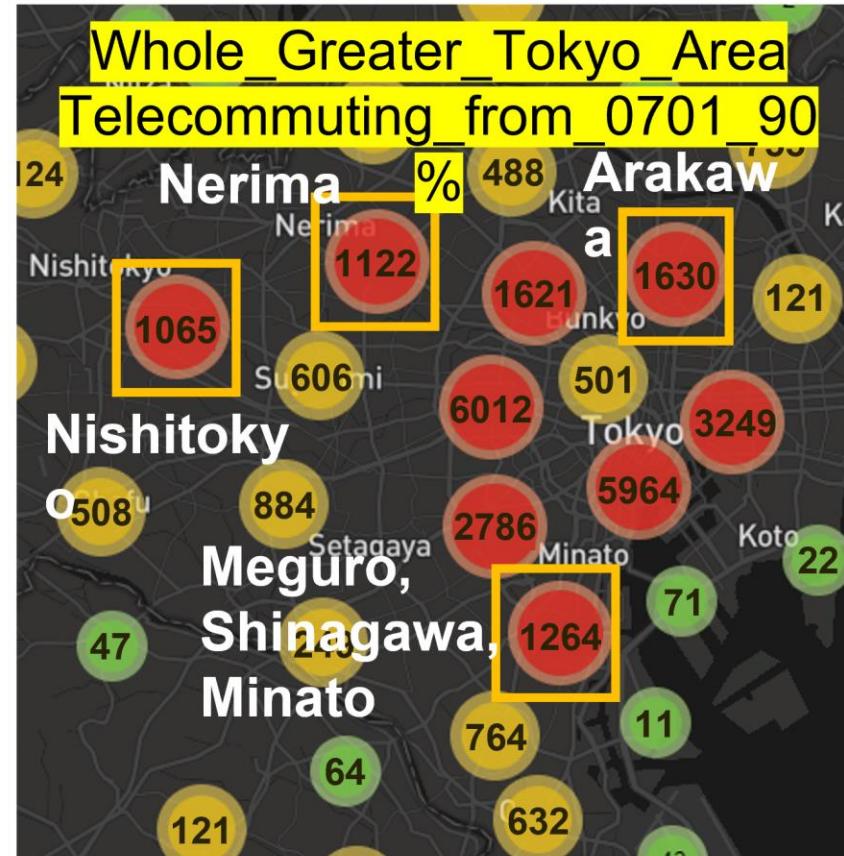
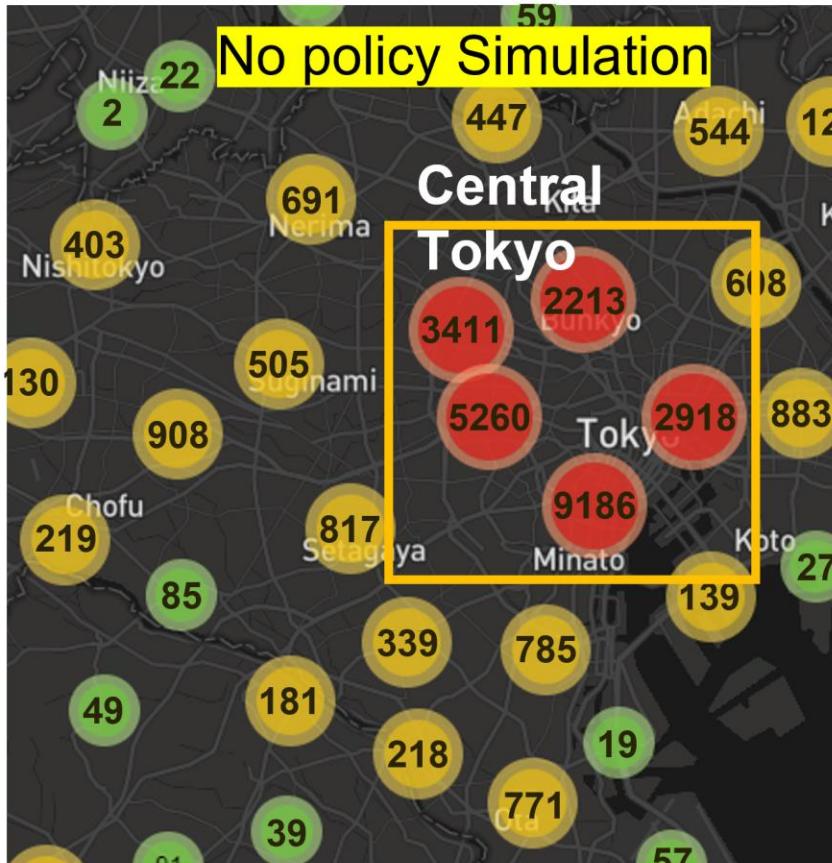
[1] Linton, Natalie M., et al. "Incubation period and other epidemiological characteristics of 2019 novel coronavirus infections with right truncation: a statistical analysis of publicly available case data." *Journal of clinical medicine* 9.2 (2020): 538.

[2] S. Chang, E. Pierson, P.W. Koh, J. Gerardin, B. Redbird, D. Grusky, and J. Leskovec, "Mobility network models of covid-19 explain inequities and inform reopening," *Nature*, pp. 1–6, 2020.

[3] T. Kuniya, "Prediction of the epidemic peak of coronavirus disease in japan, 2020," *Journal of clinical medicine*, vol. 9, no. 3, p. 789, 2020.

V. Case Study & Findings

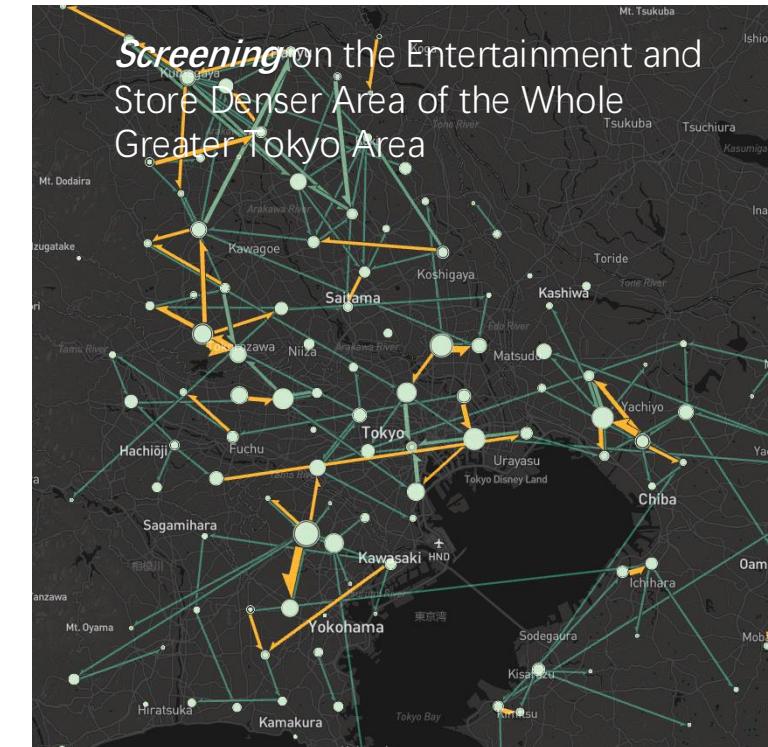
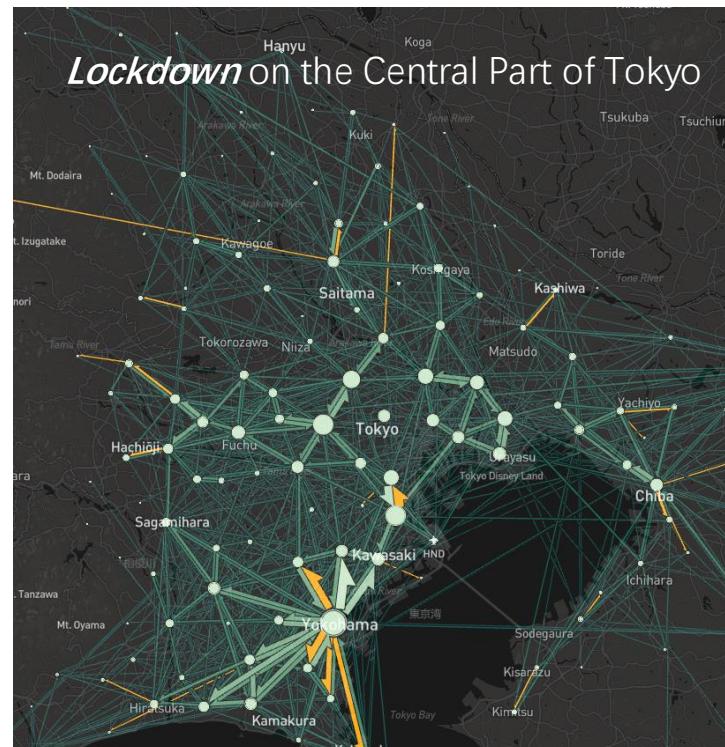
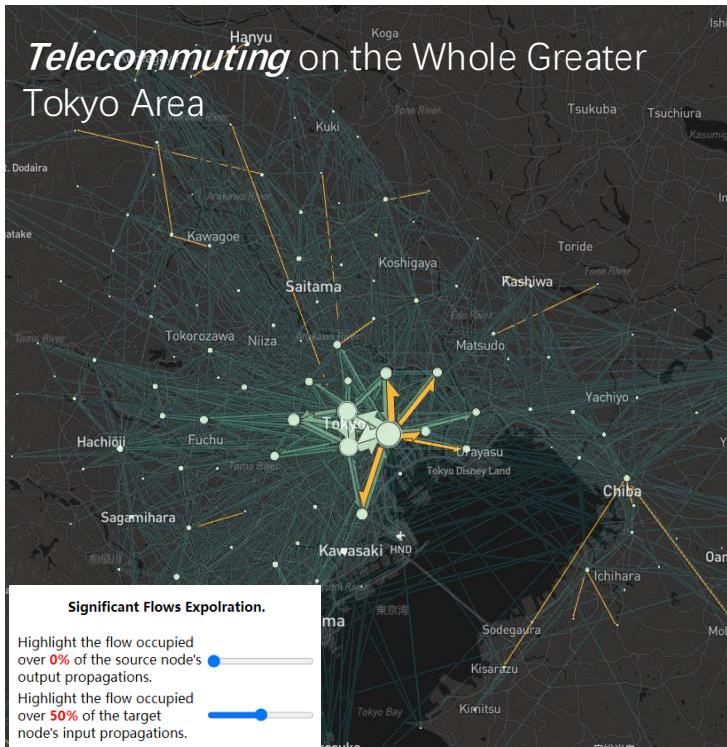
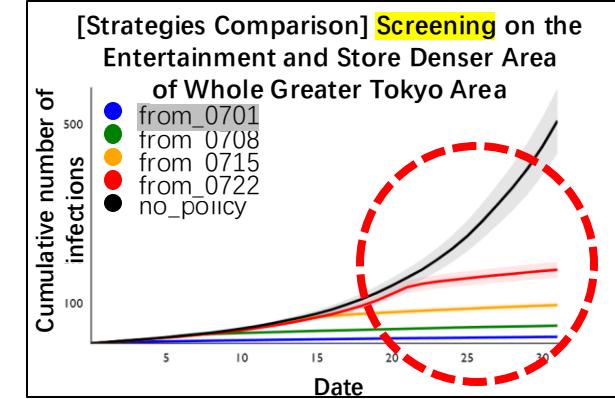
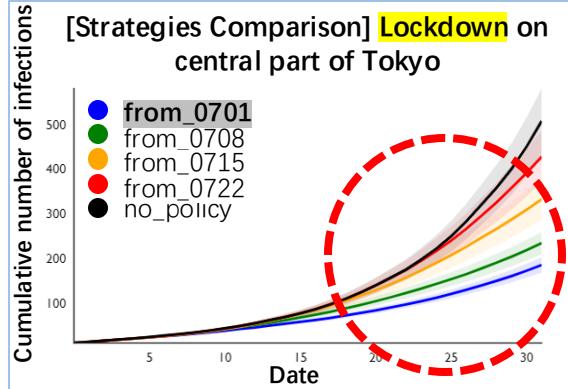
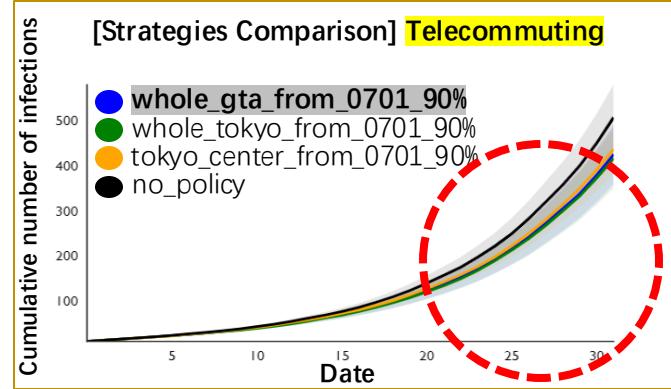
➤ Case-1 Exploring the Effect of telecommuting policies.



“Household Infections Rise in Urban Areas—Most Common Route of Infection in Tokyo” --- Asahi Shimbun^[1]

V. Case Study & Findings

➤ Case-2 Exploring the Effect of screening policies.



VI. Summary

■ A simulator towards citywide epidemic control scenarios

- Users can interactively and intuitively **explore, set, and simulate** various mobility restriction policies at the city scale.
- **Measure, compare and analysis** the effectiveness of policies.
- Currently, three policies are supported:
 - **regional lockdown**
 - **Telecommuting**
 - **Screening**
- User can utilize the **control policies/epidemic models/visualization view** customized by themselves.
- More details and case studies are available in our paper.
 - Yang, Chuang, Zhiwen Zhang, Zipei Fan, Renhe Jiang, Quanjun Chen, Xuan Song, and Ryosuke Shibasaki. "EpiMob: Interactive Visual Analytics of Citywide Human Mobility Restrictions for Epidemic Control." *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics* (2023).

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!
Q&A