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# Morning Peak Reservation Scheme Incorporating Noncompliance Behaviors: Modeling and Analysis

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## How to alleviate traffic congestion?

- Simply increasing road capacity may lead to an unexpectedly worse situation: **Braess Paradox**
- Travel demand management (TDM): internalizing the negative externalities
  - Pricing instrument: Congestion Pricing
  - Quantity instrument: Car use restriction, **Reservation**
  - Hybrid instrument: Tradable credit, Karma (Self-contained economy, non-tradable)





## Ideal travel demand management scheme

**Effectiveness**

Relief **traffic congestion** and the resulting deadweight loss

**Fairness**

Reduce speculation and ensure **fair use of road commodity**

**Flexibility**

**Avoid compulsive**, rigid administrative order

**Practicality**

Simple mechanism design and **reasonable investment**

**Trade-Off**

## ***MOTIVATION & CONTRIBUTION***

### **Survey on acceptability of reservation strategy (Xi'an Shaanxi, 2024)**

Critical concerns about the reservation scheme

- Inconvenience travel
- Equity issues
- **Limited flexibility**



**Some unexpected event** changes the driver's schedule and he has to depart earlier or later than the reserved time slot, and the reservation system **provides no alternatives,**  
**then noncompliance occurs**



## Noncompliance behavior

Known as *no show* or *last-minute cancellations* in the service industries

- Medical appointments
- Airline ticketing & Hotel booking

Lead to the **underutilization of resources**, impacting the efficiency of the reservation system

Mainly caused by:

- Forgetfulness
- Change in plans
- Communication Issues
- **Unforeseen circumstances**

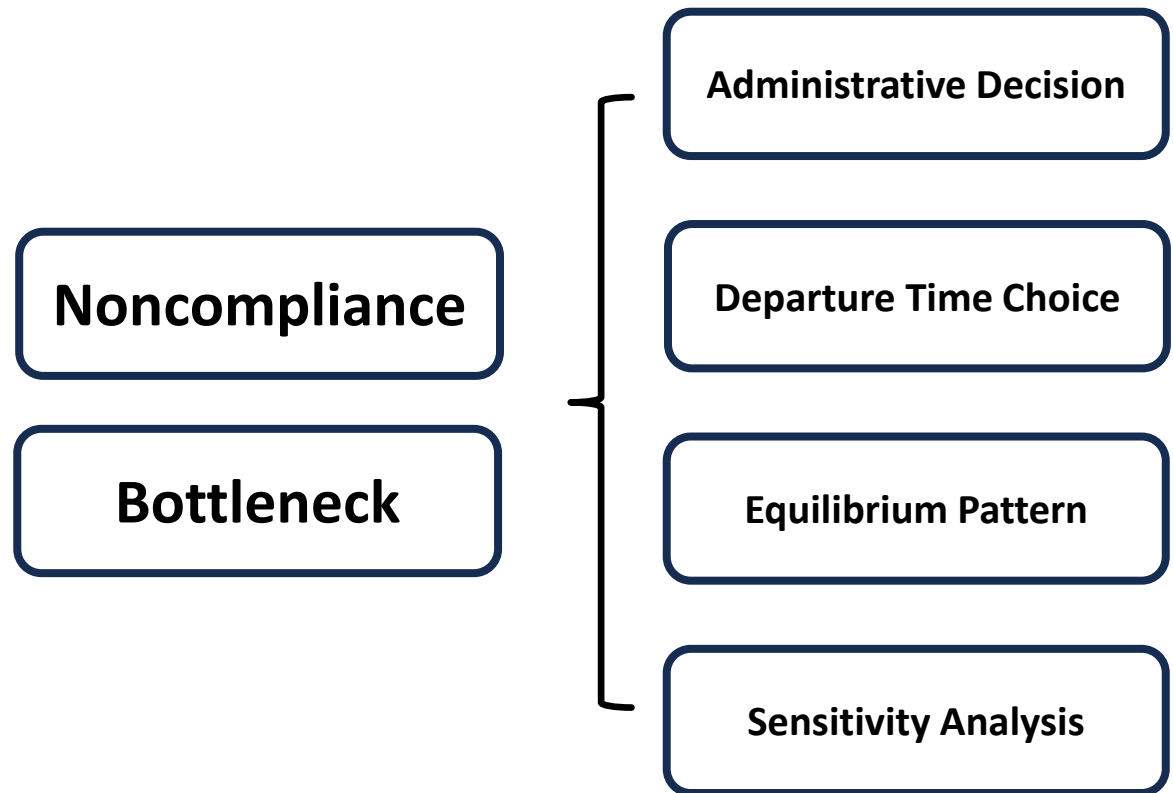




## MOTIVATION & CONTRIBUTION

### Reservation scheme incorporating noncompliance

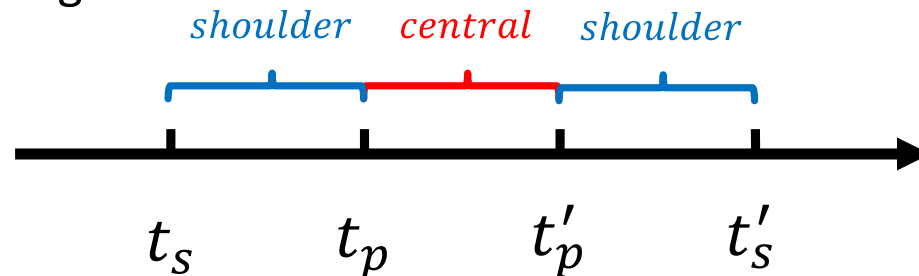
- A reservation scheme is designed to alleviate traffic congestion during morning commute
- Optimal time window division and initial reservation rights distribution are determined
- **Noncompliance is conceptualized and incorporated into the reservation scheme**
- Reservation and departure time choice are investigated under equilibrium condition
- Efficiency of the reservation scheme and the travel cost of individual travelers are analyzed.





## Reservation scheme

- Consider  $N$  **homogeneous commuters** who travel from home to workplace every day along a highway with a single bottleneck.
- Authority first divides the morning peak period into **three discrete time windows**:
  - The first shoulder peak period  $T_s^1 = [t_s, t_p)$
  - The central peak period  $T_p = [t_p, t'_p)$
  - The second shoulder peak period  $T_s^2 = [t'_p, t'_s)$
- Within  $M$  days of a policy implementation cycle, every traveler should book a time window one day in advance. Every commuter is allocated with  $M_2$  central peak reservation rights and  $M_1 = M - M_2$  shoulder peak reservation rights.





## Noncompliance in the reservation scheme

In practice, commuters may have noncompliance behaviors, i.e., **unpunctuality arrival at the bottleneck** before the start of the booking period or after the end of it, due to:

- **Work rescheduling**  $t^* \rightarrow t_{new}^*$
- Travel time uncertainty  $T_f \rightarrow T'_f$
- Emergency needs  $N \rightarrow N'$

### Assumptions of noncompliance

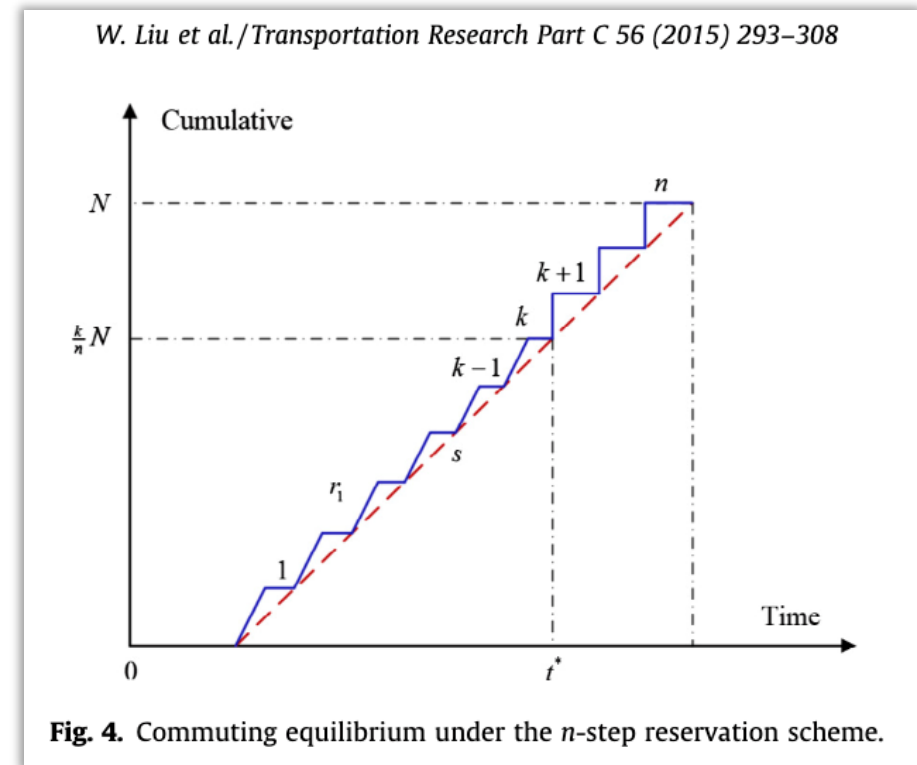
- A small proportion of the commuters will experience unpredictable disturbances and the **preferred arrival time to the destination will shift from  $t^*$  to  $t_{new}^*$** , and then change departure time **based on rational principle** and other commuters who have not will travel as they booked
- After the work rescheduling, the new preferred arrival time of an individual at the workplace **is a random variable, uniformly distributed between  $t_s$  and  $t'_s$** , that is to say,  $t_{new}^* \sim U(t_s, t'_s)$





## Optimal time window division $\{t_s^*, t_p^*, t_p'^*, t_s'^*\}$

- For administration, the first thing when designing a reservation scheme is to **specify time windows during the morning peak period**
- An optimal time window division scheme is introduced, **based on the principle of maximizing social welfare**
- On the theoretical basis of Liu et al. (2015), *mass departure* can be observed in the **time window that starts later than  $t^*$  when the equilibrium state is reached**



# MODEL PROPERTIES



## Optimal time window division $\{t_s^*, t_p^*, t_p'^*, t_s'^*\}$

$$\text{Min } TC_s^1 + TC_s^2 + TC_p$$

Minimize total cost

$$s.t. \begin{cases} (t^* - t_s)\beta = \frac{1}{2}(t'_s - t'_p)\alpha + \left(\frac{1}{2}(t'_s + t'_p) - t^*\right)\gamma \\ t'_s = t_s + \frac{N}{S} \\ \frac{t'_p - t^*}{t^* - t_p} = \frac{\beta}{\gamma} \end{cases}$$

Fairness constraint

Full utilization of capacity(1)

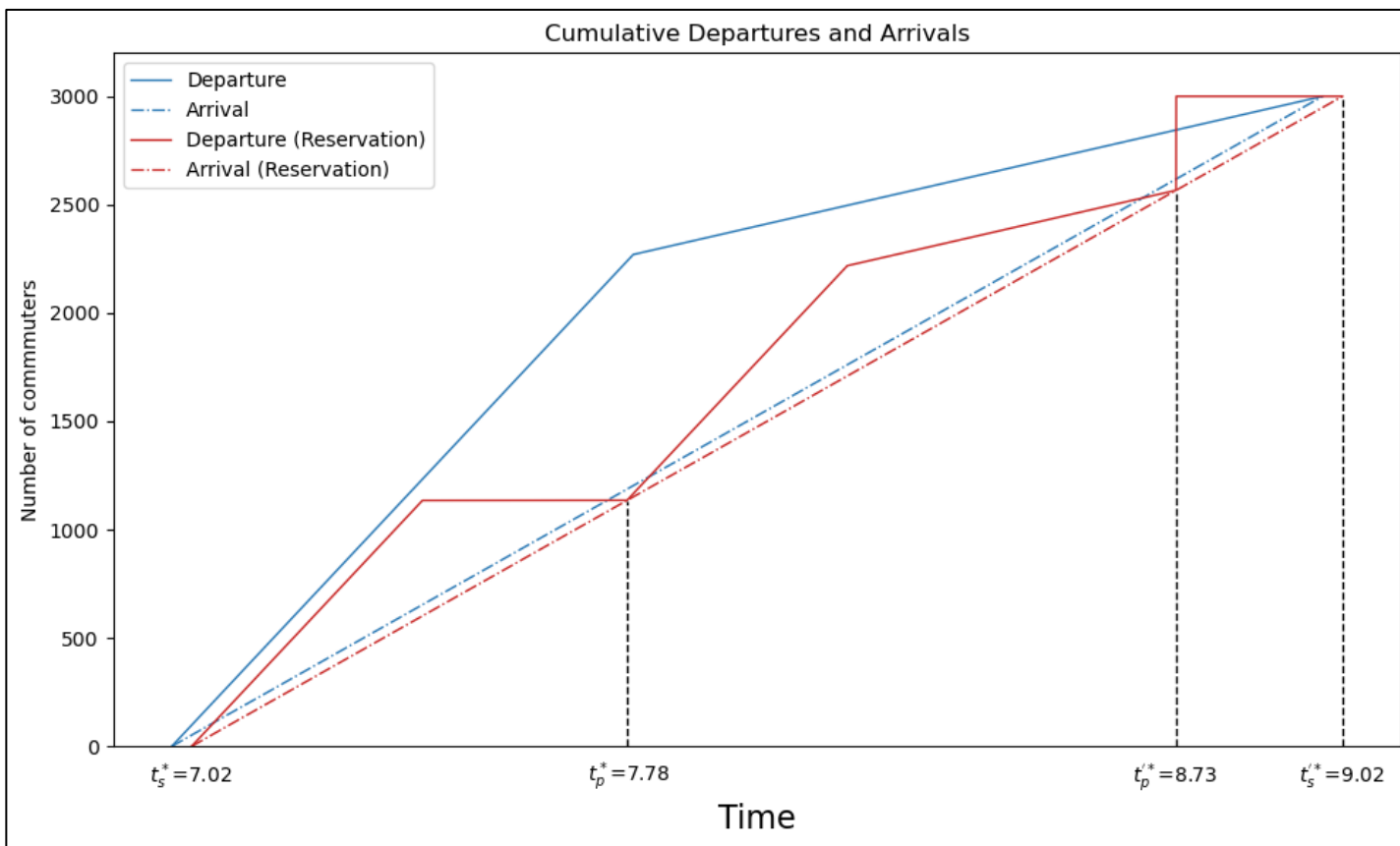
Queue length constraint

$$\begin{cases} t_s^* = t^* - \left(\frac{N}{S}\right) \left(\frac{\gamma(\gamma(\beta + 2\gamma) + \alpha(3\beta + 2\gamma))}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)^2}\right) \\ t_p^* = t^* - \left(\frac{N}{S}\right) \left(\frac{\gamma(\gamma^2 + \alpha(2\beta + \gamma))}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)^2}\right) \\ t_p'^* = t^* + \left(\frac{N}{S}\right) \left(\frac{\beta(\gamma^2 + \alpha(2\beta + \gamma))}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)^2}\right) \\ t_s'^* = t^* + \left(\frac{N}{S}\right) \left(\frac{\beta(\alpha(2\beta + \gamma) + \gamma(2\beta + 3\gamma))}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)^2}\right) \end{cases}$$

**F.O.C. & S.O.C.** are applied to solve the problem and verify the uniqueness of the optimal solution



# Optimal time window division $\{t_s^*, t_p^*, t_p'^*, t_s'^*\}$



Parameter	Value
$N$	3000
$S$	1500 ( $\frac{N}{S} = 2$ ) implies the duration of morning peak is 2 hours
$\alpha$	9.91
$\beta$	4.66
$\gamma$	14.48
$t^*$	8.5

**Ideal departure and arrival  
pattern under optimal time  
window division**



## MODEL PROPERTIES

### Initial central peak reservation rights distribution $M_2$

Considering that **all commuters are rational**, they will certainly try to utilize all central peak reservation rights by the end of the policy implementation cycle.

Under the user equilibrium state, **a fair initial central reservation rights distribution** to every commuter  $M_2$  is given by:

$$\frac{M_2}{M} = \frac{T_p}{T_s^1 + T_p + T_s^2}$$

It is trivial that the average travel cost during  $T_p$  is smaller than that during  $T_s^1$  and  $T_s^2$ . By applying the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions to solve a constrained optimization problem, the above conclusion can be easily derived.



## Departure time choice after work rescheduling

Since all commuters have grasped **the departure and arrival patterns of the user equilibrium state under the reservation scheme**, once a commuter has undergone work rescheduling, he will **rationally decide their departure time** based on the principle of minimizing individual travel cost

For **various extents of work rescheduling (different  $t_{new}^*$ )**, an individual commuter's new departure time decision scheme is as follows:

$$t' = \begin{cases} t_s, & t_s < t_{new}^* \leq t_1 \\ t_p, & t_1 < t_{new}^* \leq t^* \\ t'_p, & t^* < t_{new}^* \leq t_2 \\ t'_s, & t_2 < t_{new}^* \leq t'_s \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } t_1 = \frac{\gamma t_p + \beta t_s}{\beta + \gamma} \text{ and } t_2 = \frac{\frac{1}{2}\beta(t'_s + t'_p) + \gamma t'_s - \frac{1}{2}\alpha(t'_s - t'_p)}{\beta + \gamma}$$

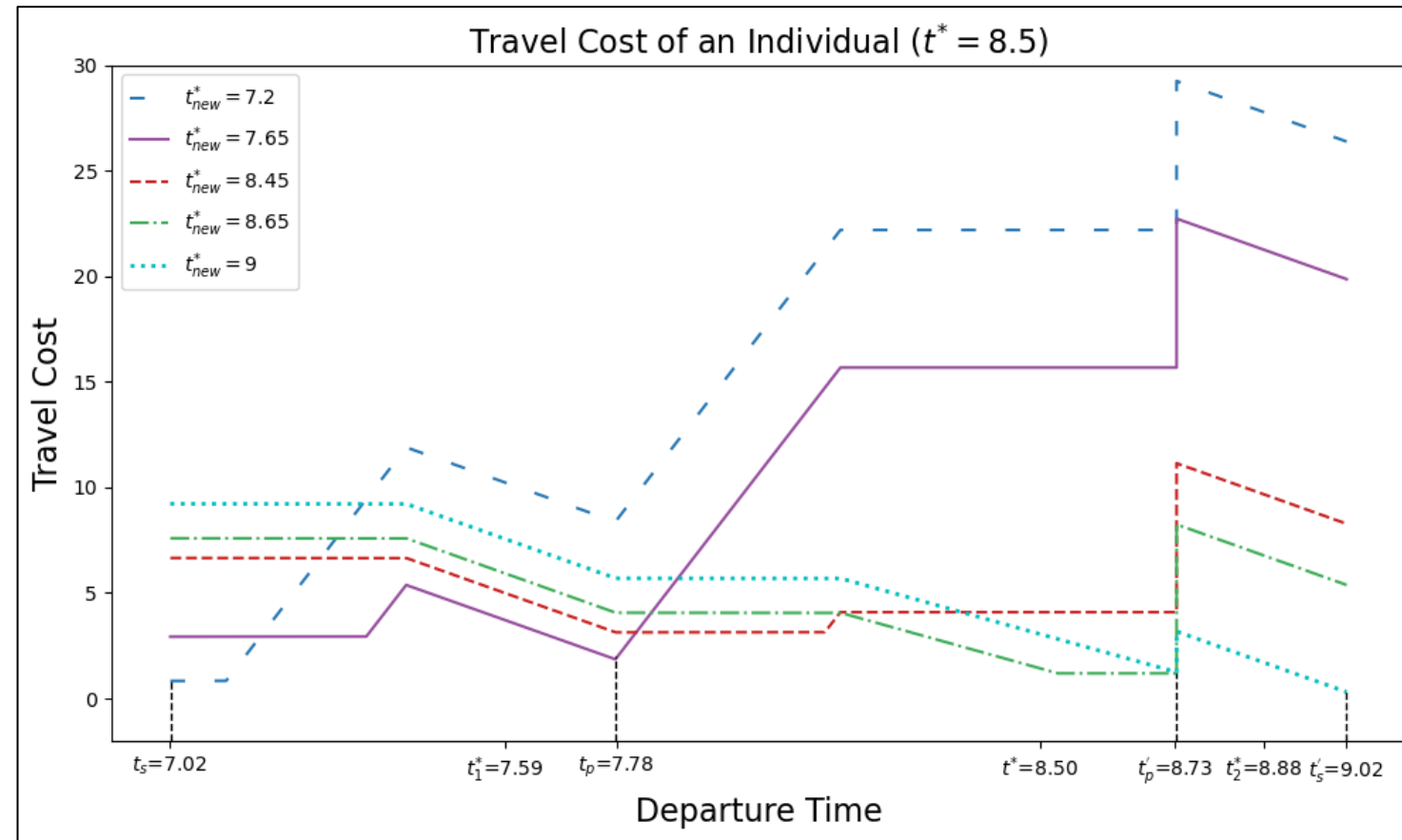
# MODEL PROPERTIES



## Departure time choice after work rescheduling

For an individual traveler who has undergone work rescheduling, he can certainly find a departure time from  $\{t_s^*, t_p^*, t_p'^*, t_s'^*\}$  to minimize travel cost

$$t' = \begin{cases} t_s, & t_s < t_{new}^* \leq t_1 \\ t_p, & t_1 < t_{new}^* \leq t^* \\ t_p', & t^* < t_{new}^* \leq t_2 \\ t_s', & t_2 < t_{new}^* \leq t_s' \end{cases}$$





## MODEL PROPERTIES

### Collective departure and arrival pattern with noncompliance

- $p_v$  denotes the probability of the work rescheduling for an individual commuter. Whether a commuter will experience the work rescheduling can be represented by a random variable  $V$  following Bernoulli distribution, i.e.,  $V \sim \text{Ber}(p_v)$ .
- Considering that there is a fixed number of  $N$  commuters would travel during every morning peak and the assumption that potential work rescheduling of each commuter is independent, the total number of the travelers who experience work rescheduling, denoted as  $R$ , can also be represented by a random variable following a binomial distribution, i.e.,  $R \sim B(N, p_v)$ .
- Therefore, for a given morning peak scenario on any day, the expected number of travelers experiencing work rescheduling is  $E[R] = Np_v$ .



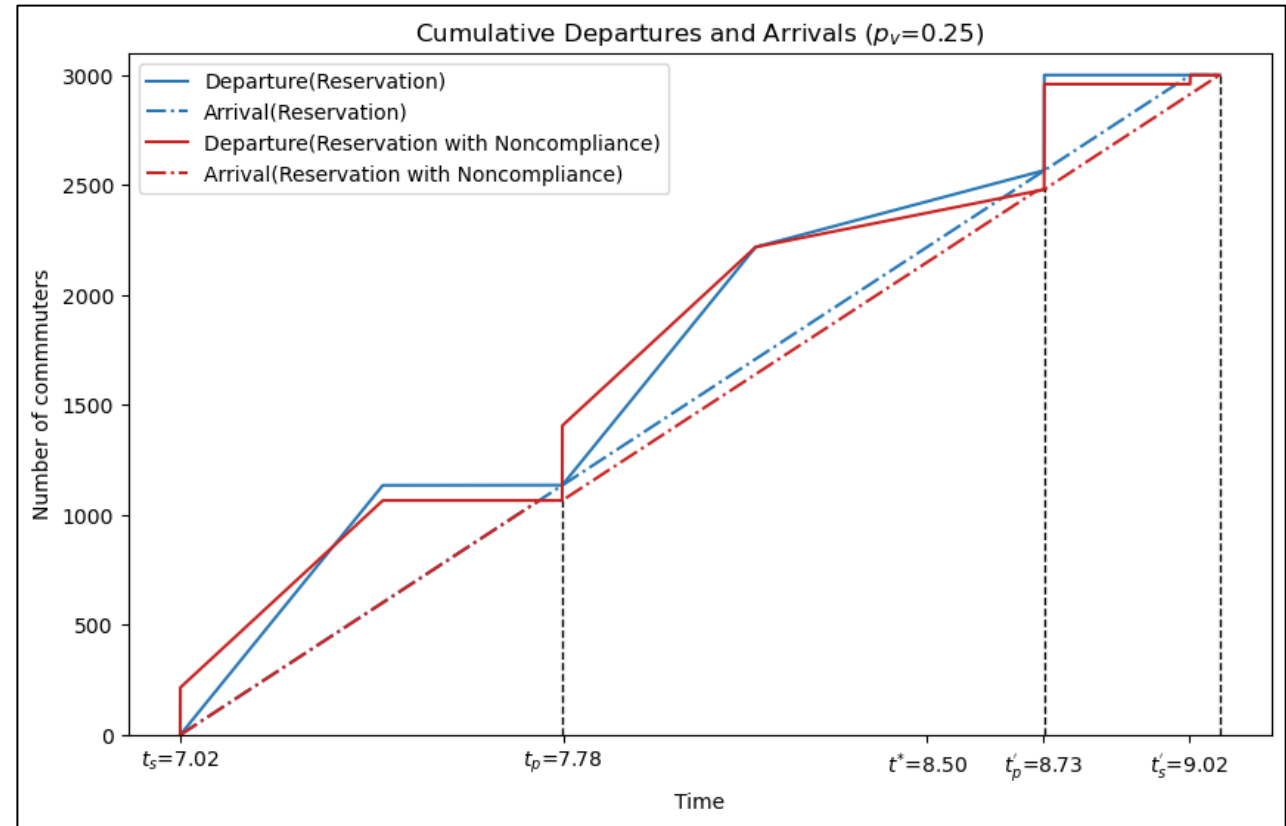
## Collective departure and arrival pattern with noncompliance

- Based on the departure time decision rule, the new departure and arrival pattern can be obtained

The number of commuters in each time period under user equilibrium state caused by work rescheduling are denoted by  $N_1, N_2$  and  $N_3$ . And  $N_0, N_4$  denote the number of commuters who depart earlier than  $t_s$  or later than  $t'_s$

$$\begin{cases}
 N_0 = 0 \\
 N_1 = \frac{N\gamma}{2(\beta + \gamma)} \\
 N_2 = \frac{N(\gamma^2 + \alpha(2\beta + \gamma))}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)} \\
 N_3 = \frac{N\beta\gamma}{(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)} \\
 N_4 = 0 \\
 N'_0 = N_0 = 0 \\
 N'_1 = N_1(1 - p_v) + Np_vp_1 = \frac{N\gamma(\beta(1 - p_v) + \gamma)}{2(\beta + \gamma)^2} < N_1 = \frac{N\gamma}{2(\beta + \gamma)} \\
 N'_2 = N_2(1 - p_v) + Np_vp_2 = \frac{N(2(1 - p_v)\alpha\beta^2 + 3\alpha\beta\gamma + (\alpha + \beta)\gamma^2 + \gamma^3)}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)^2} < N_2 = \frac{N(\gamma^2 + \alpha(2\beta + \gamma))}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)} \\
 N'_3 = N_3(1 - p_v) + Np_vp_3 = \frac{N\beta(2p_v\alpha\beta + p_v\gamma(\gamma - \beta) + 2\gamma(\beta + \gamma))}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)^2} > N_3 = \frac{N\beta\gamma}{(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)} \\
 N'_4 = Np_vp_4 = \frac{Np_v\beta\gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{2(\alpha + \gamma)(\beta + \gamma)^2} > N_4 = 0
 \end{cases}$$

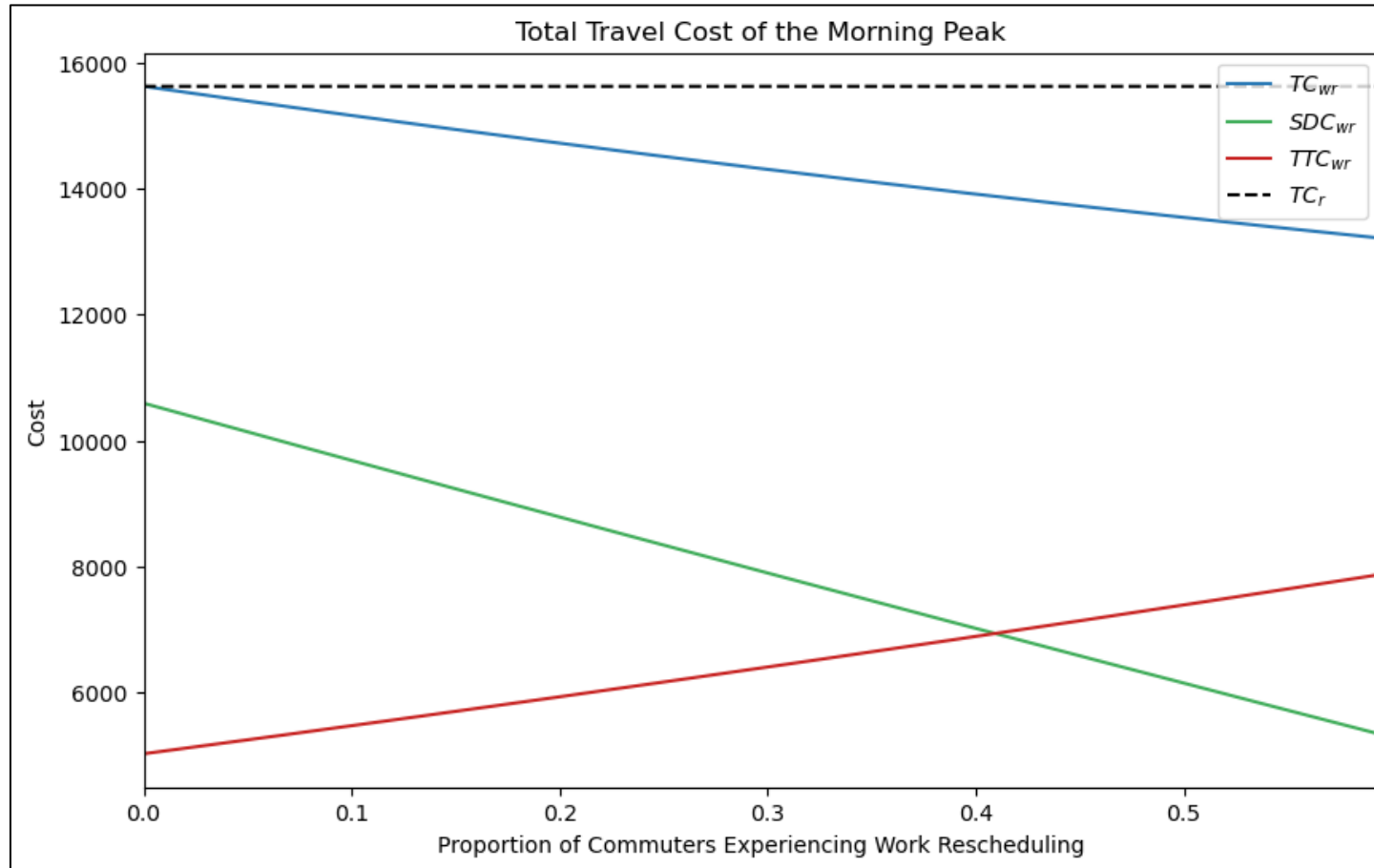
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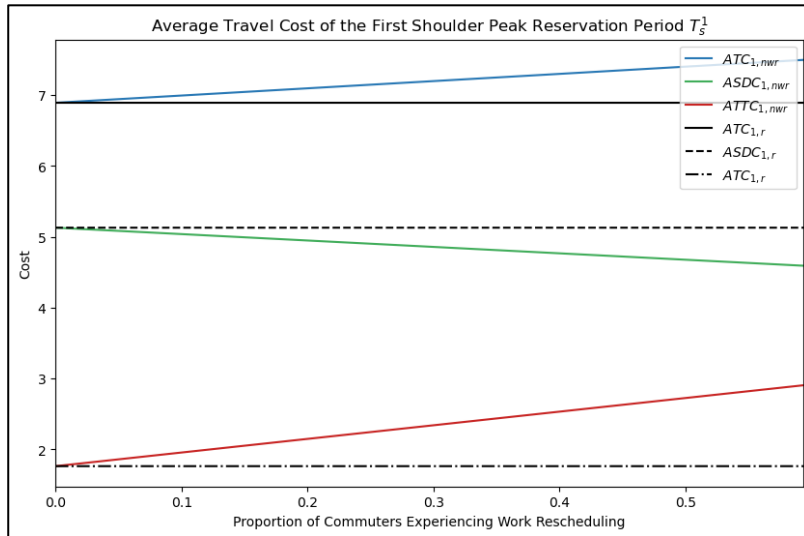
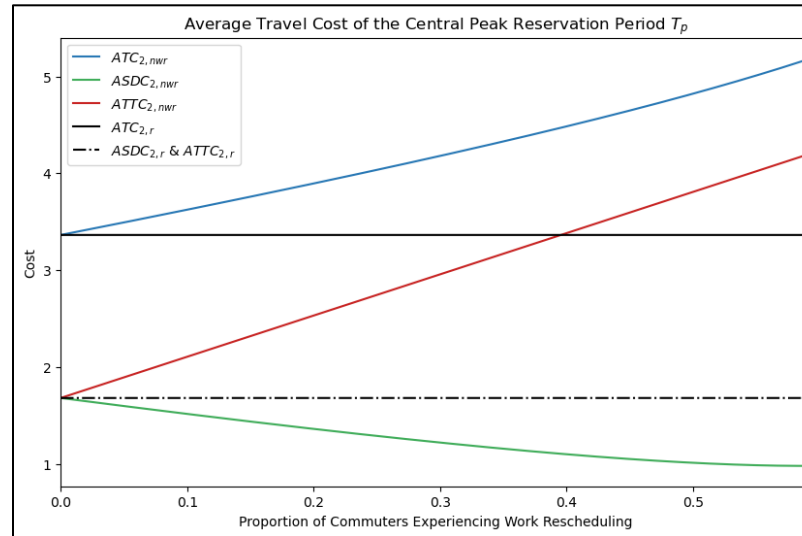
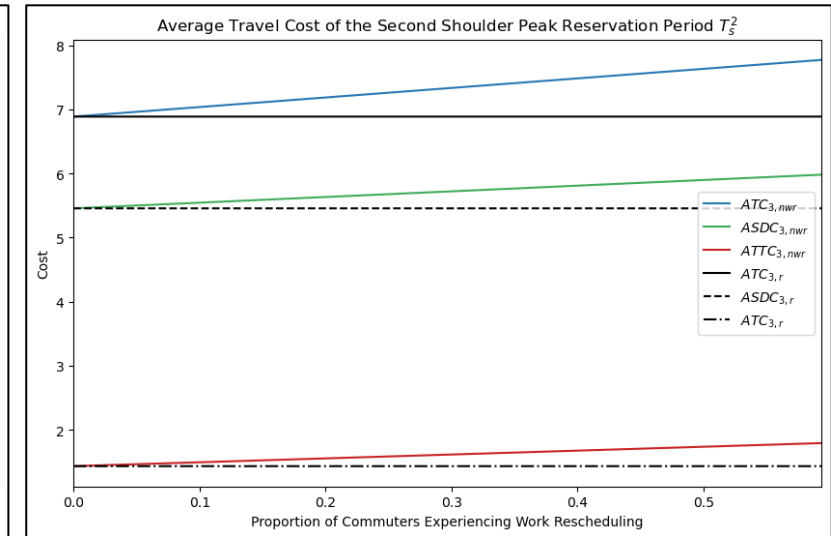
## Total travel cost during the morning peak



- Total travel cost  $TC_{wr}$  (corresponding to the blue curve) **have declined slightly**
- Upward trend of red line indicates that total queuing cost  $TTC_{wr}$  at the bottleneck has increased, resulting **growth in deadweight loss for the society as a whole.**
- The decline in  $TC_{wr}$  is only due to the fact that total schedule delay cost  $SDC_{wr}$
- **Congestion has become even aggravated eventually due to noncompliance**



# Individual travel cost during the morning peak


 $T_s^1$ 

 $T_p$ 

 $T_s^2$ 

- Travel time cost of  $T_p$  increase rapidly with the growth of  $p_v$ , indicating that noncompliance would seriously aggravate the traffic congestion during the central peak period



## CONCLUSION

- Proposed reservation scheme with optimal time window division and initial central peak reservation rights distribution would improve the efficiency of the bottleneck **by 52.3% in the ideal circumstance**
- As the proportion of commuters that undergo unexpected work rescheduling increases, the total travel cost has dropped but the total travel time cost, i.e., queuing time cost has increased, **which signifies an even more severe congestion than it used to.**

## FUTURE WORK

- The **uncertainty of free-flow travel time** may lead to noncompliance
- Elaborate punishment and compensation mechanisms, which means that reservation rights for different time windows and noncompliance **have potential value** indeed
- **Day-to-day evolution process of the reservation time window and departure time adjustment**



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# Thank you for listening!

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