



Lonardi and De Bacco arXiv:2306.16246  
(2023)

# Bilevel Optimization for Traffic Mitigation in Optimal Transport Networks

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Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems

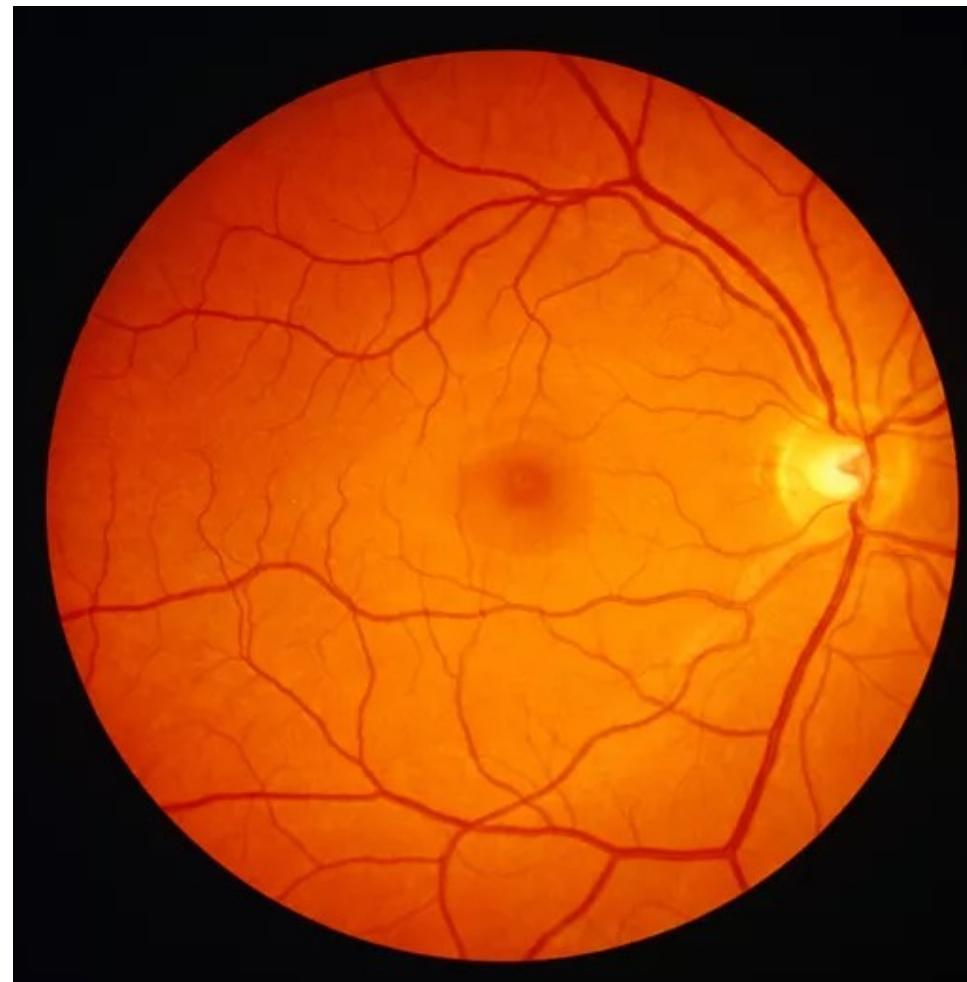


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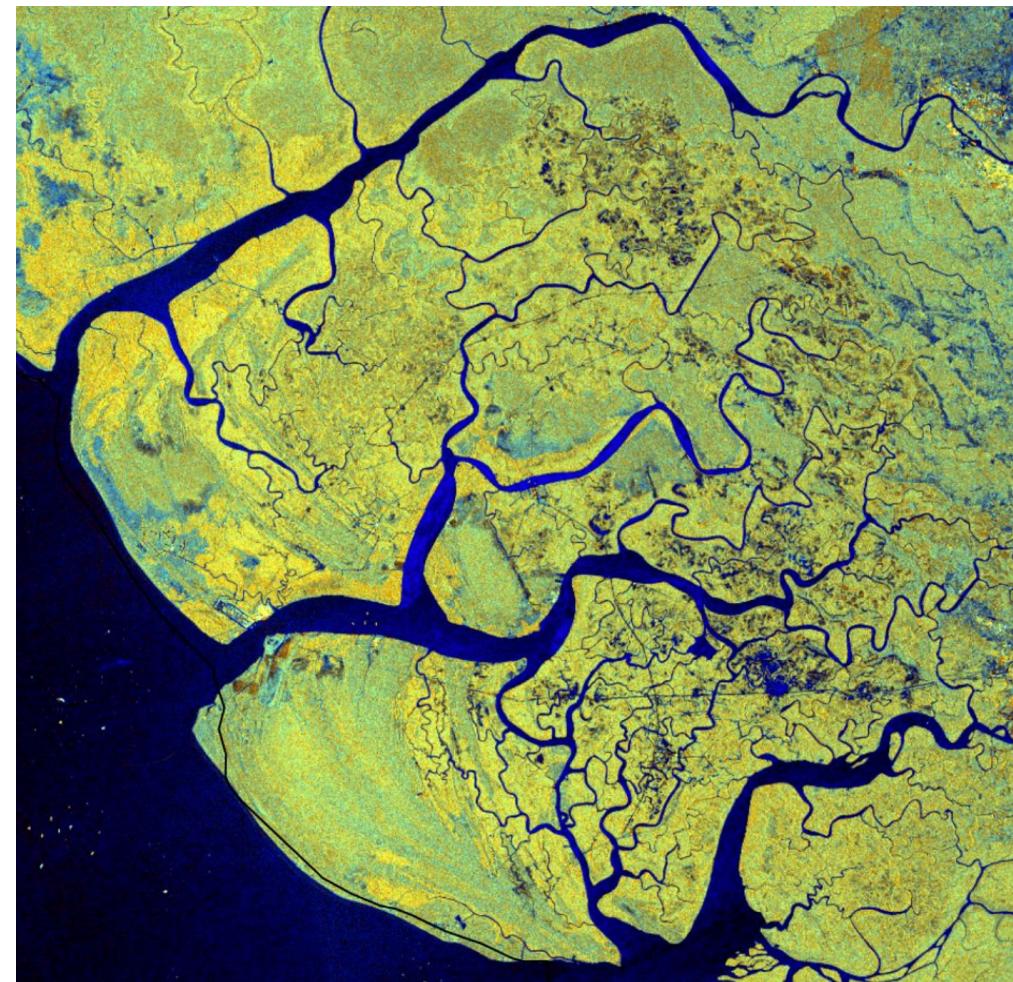


# Motivation

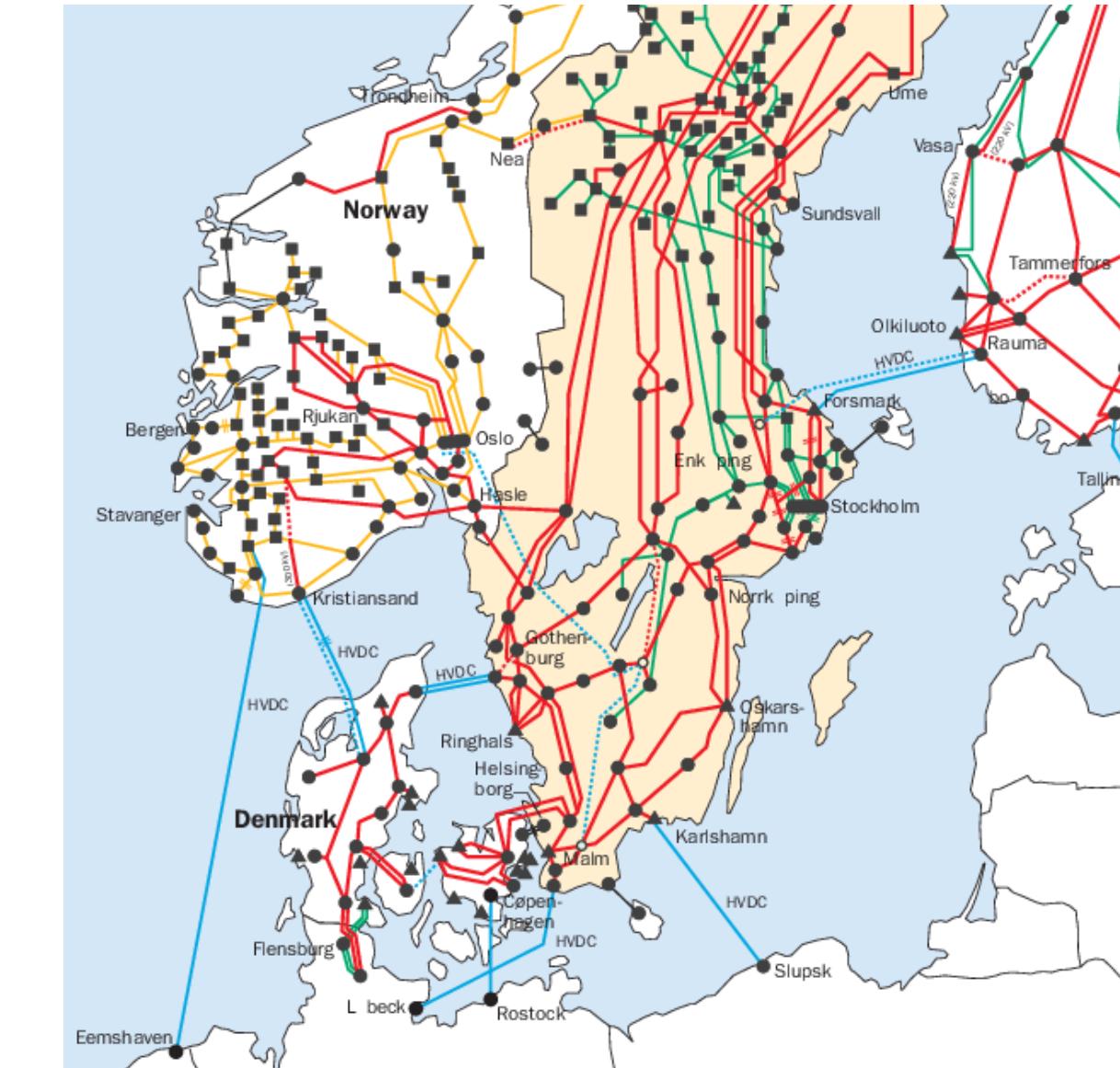
Transport networks are pervasive at different scales



UHB Trust



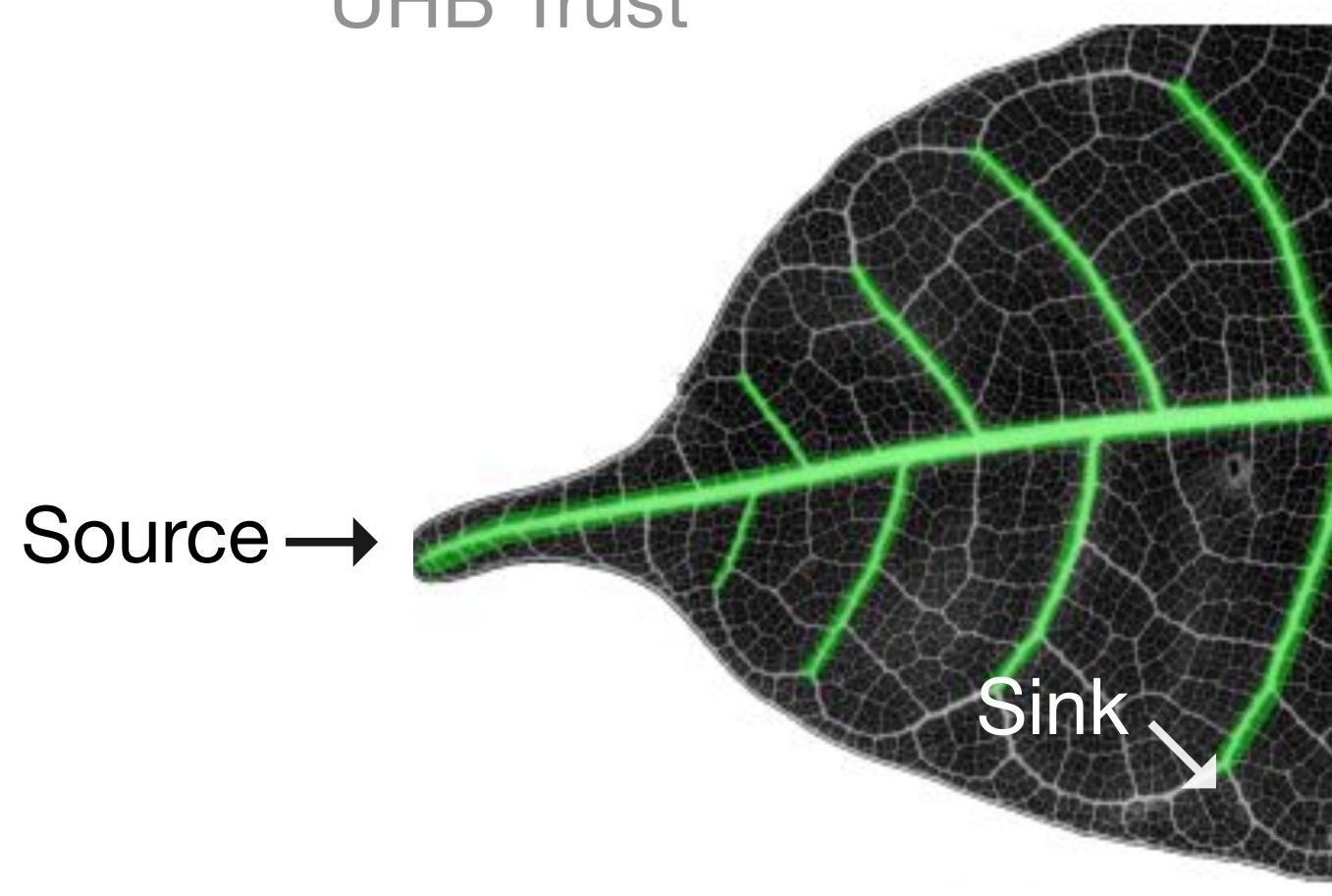
ESA



Perninge  
KTH (2011)



Transport for  
London

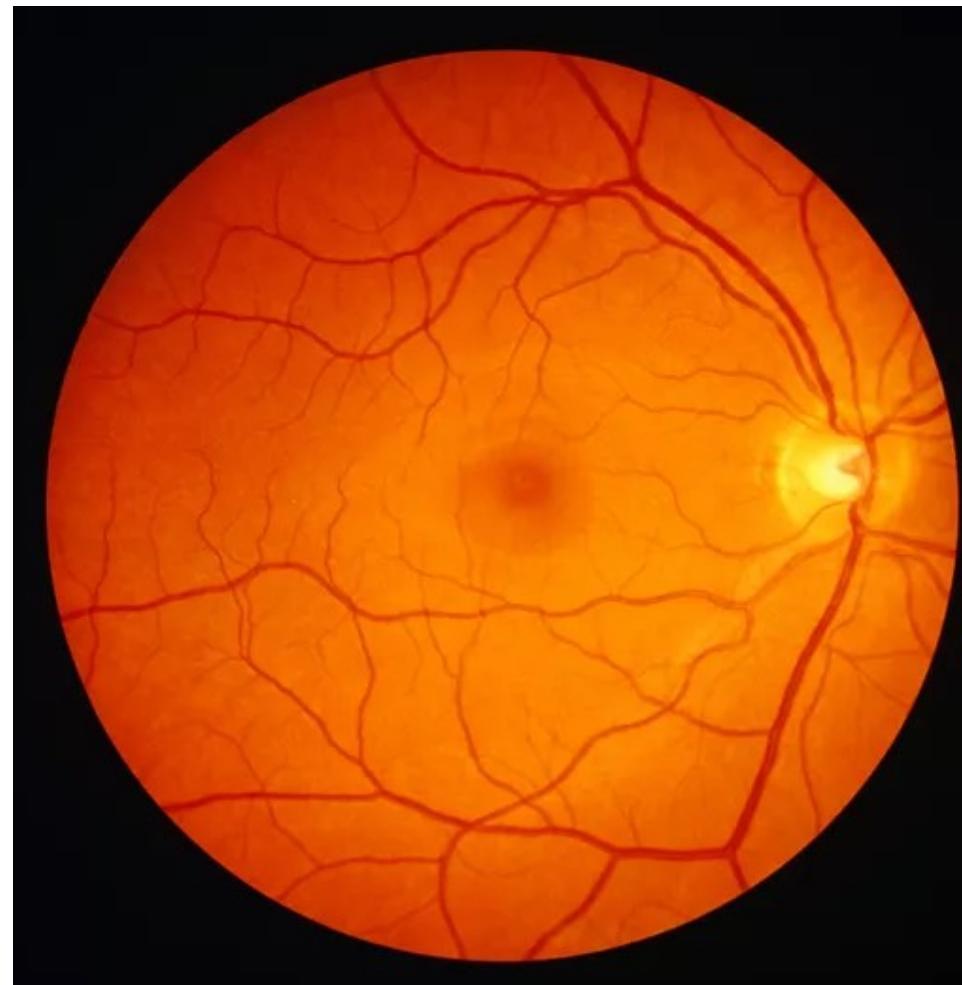


Ronellenfitsch and Katifori  
PRL (2016)

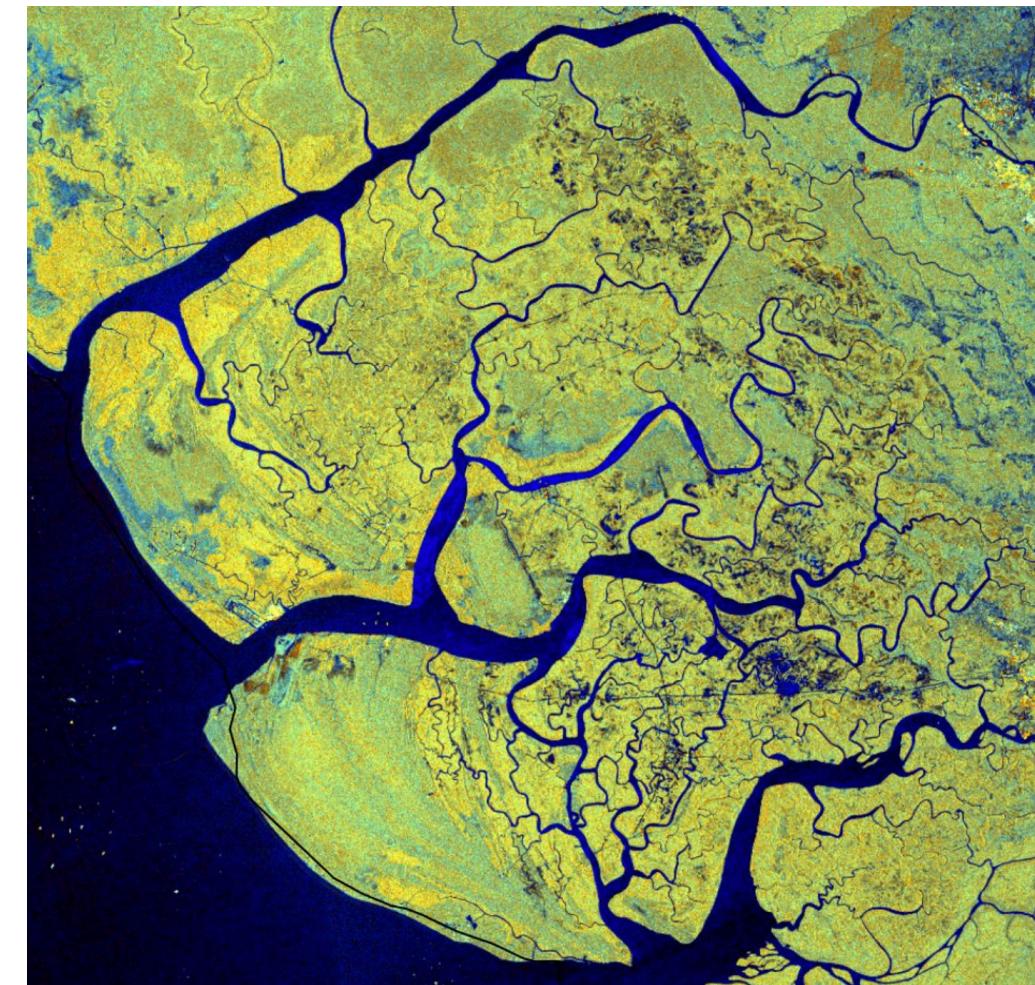
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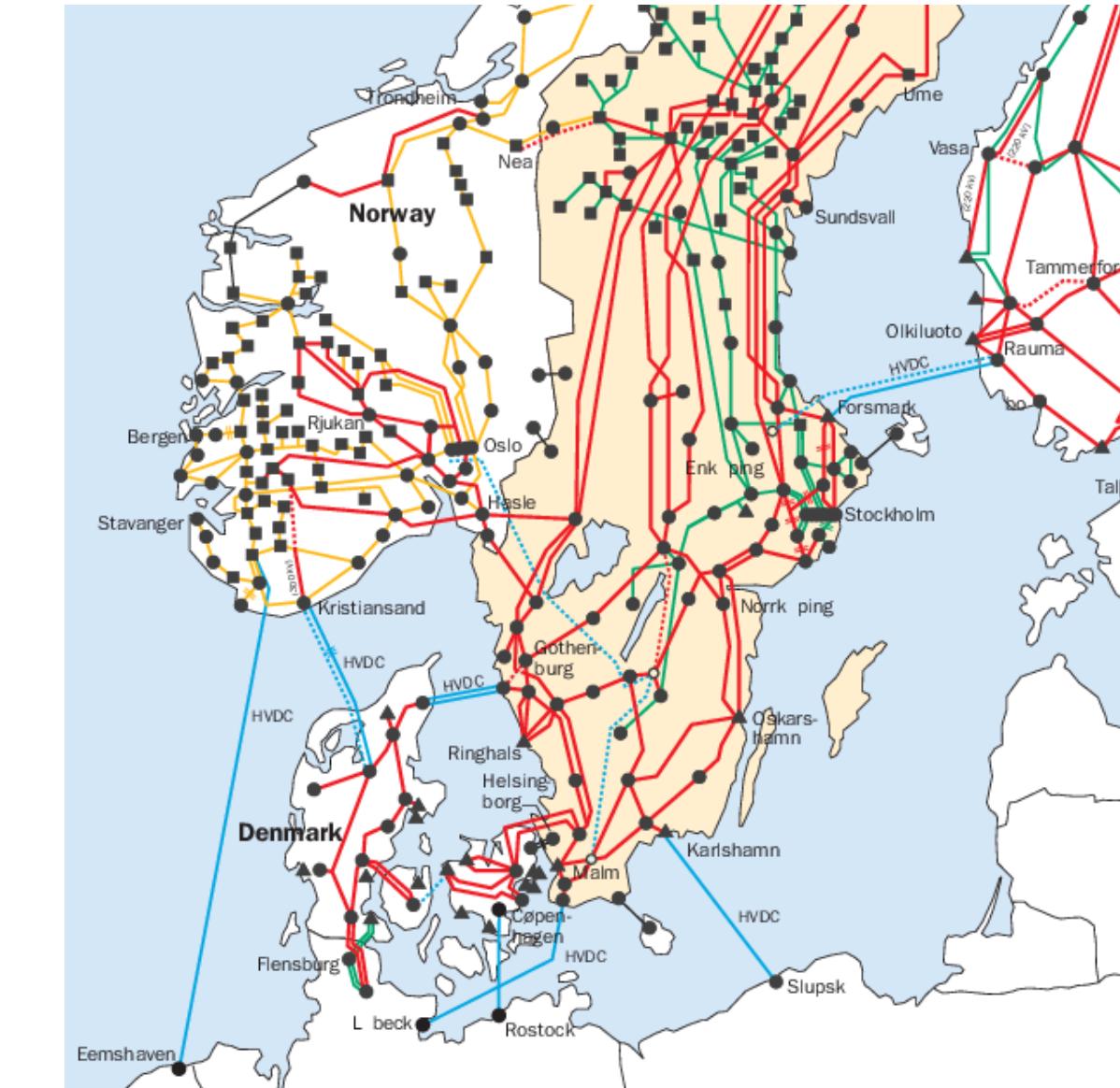
## Natural systems



UHB Trust



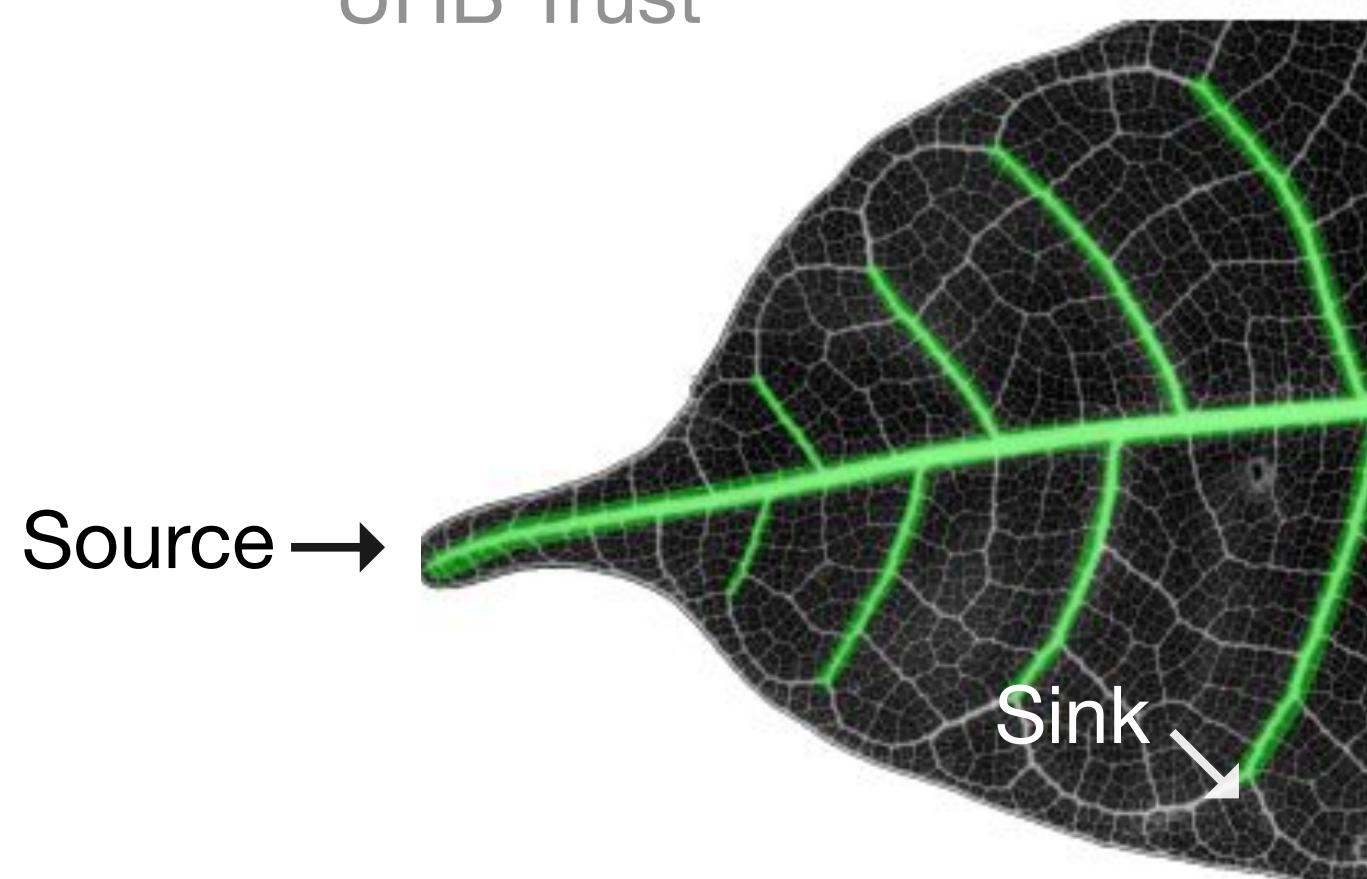
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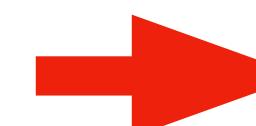


Transport for  
London



Source →

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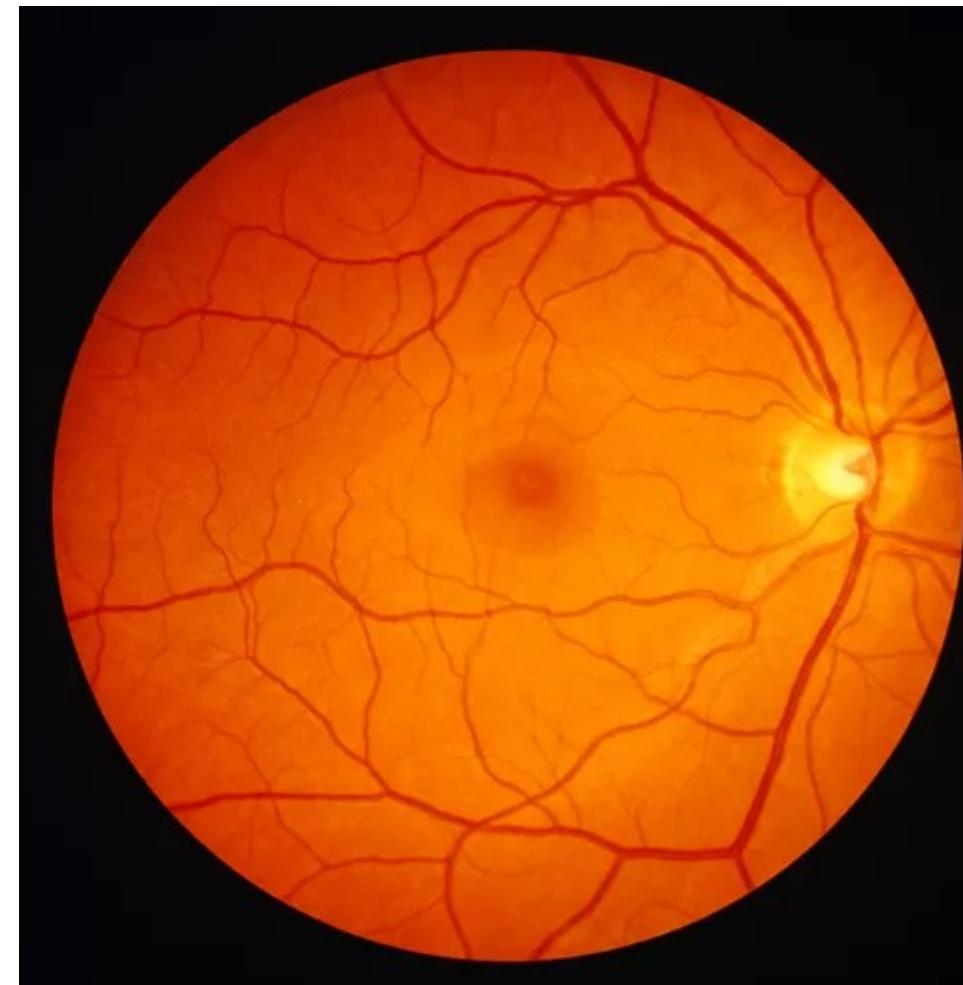


Adaptation leads to the emergence of  
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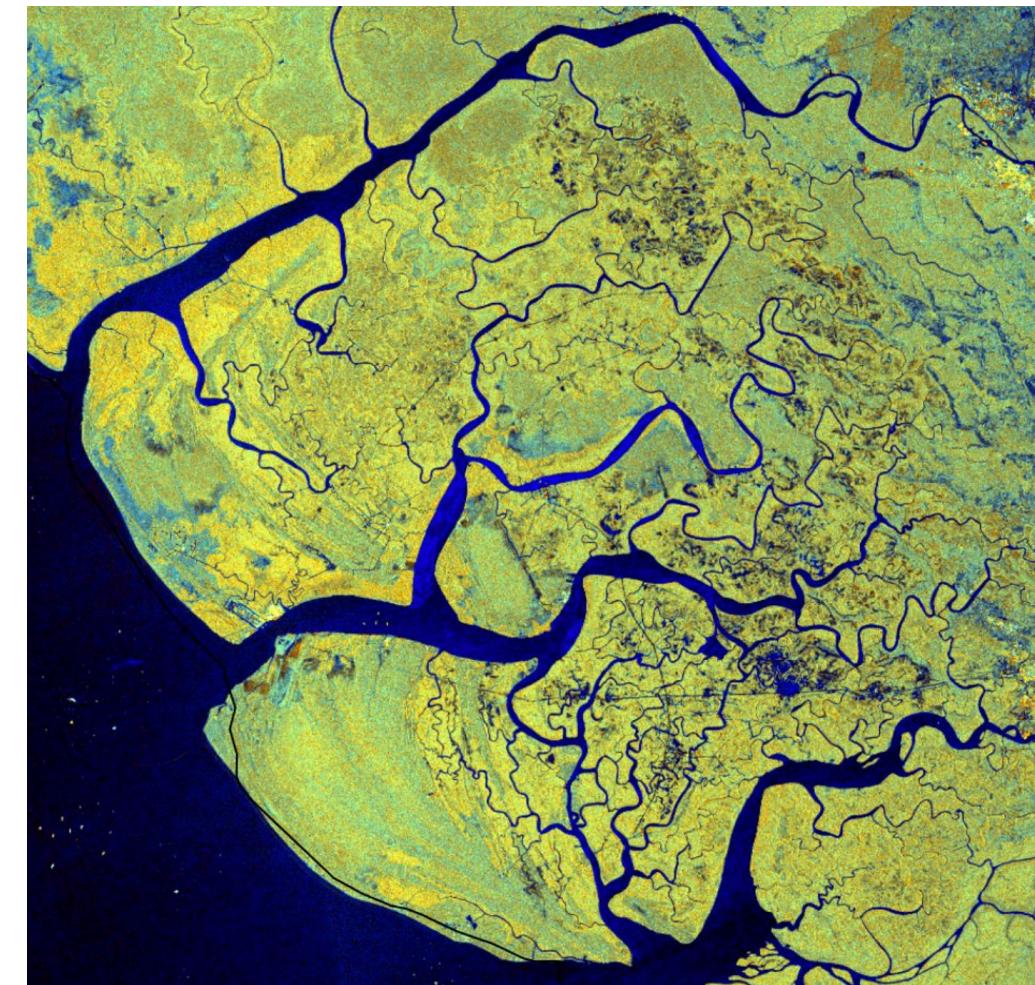
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## Natural systems

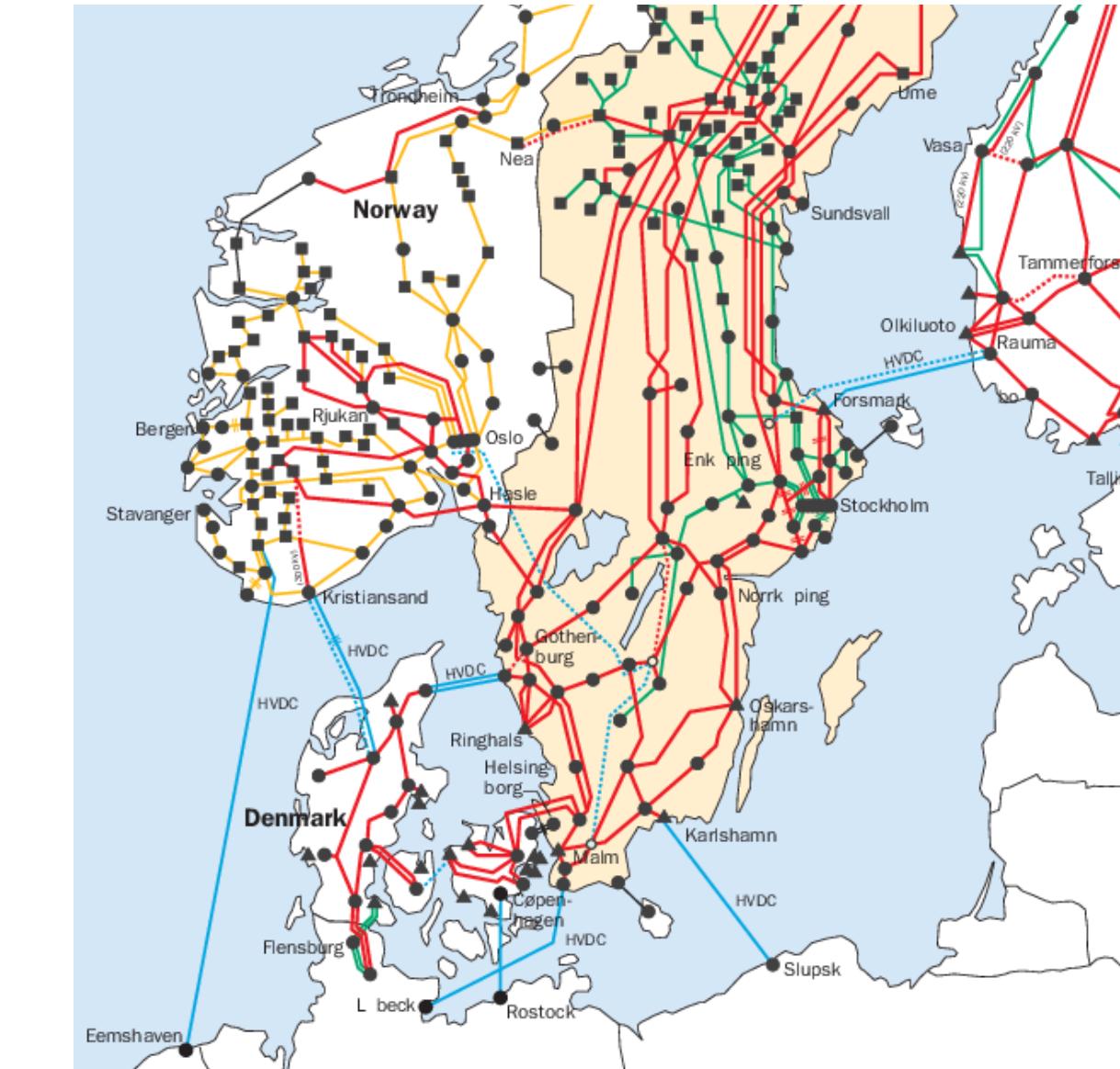


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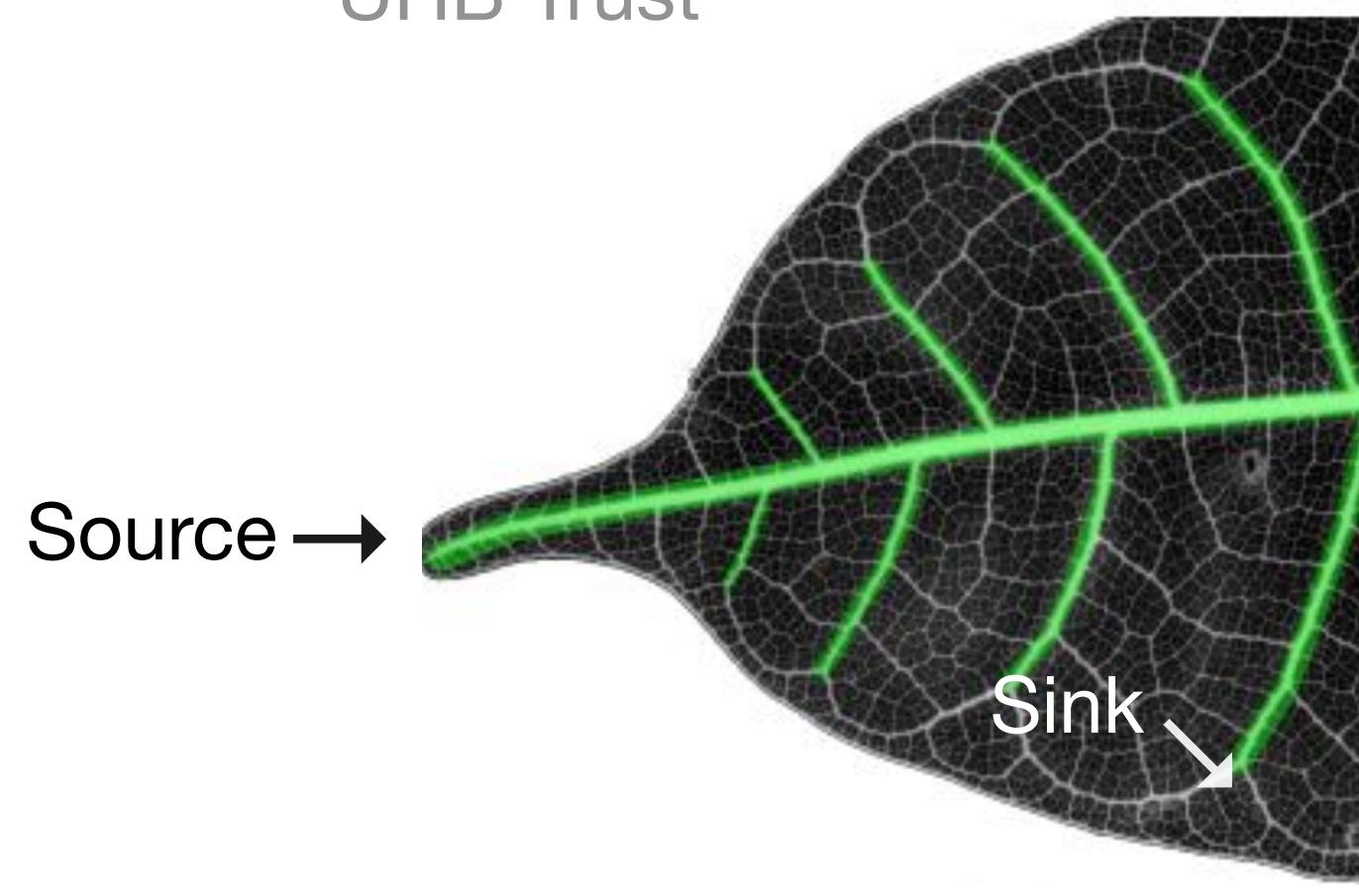
## Artificial systems



Perninge  
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Transport for  
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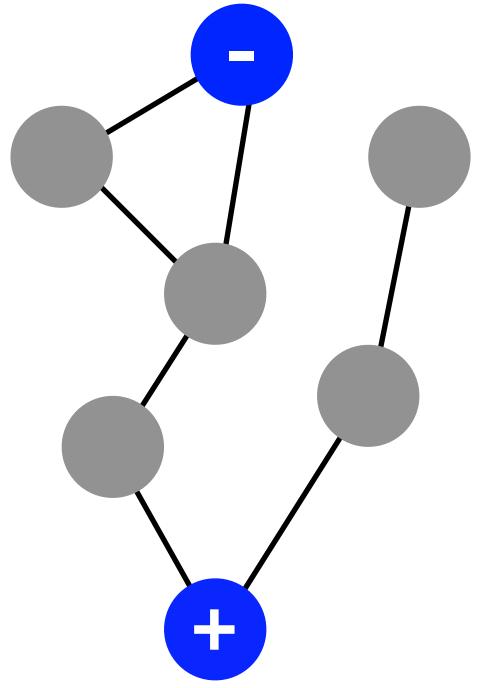
Source →

Ronellenfitsch and Katifori  
PRL (2016)

→ Adaptation leads to the emergence of macroscopic properties

→ Idea: leverage adaptation to design urban transportation

# Background

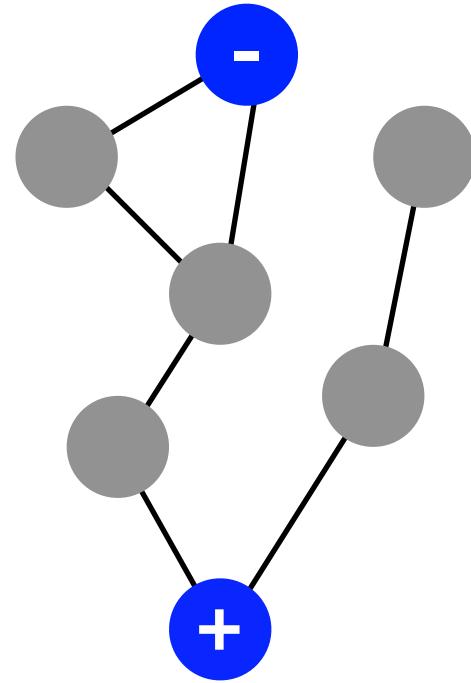


$\mu_e$  : road capacity

$F_e$  : load displacement

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\mu_e}{dt} = \frac{f(|F_e|)}{w_e} - \mu_e \\ \text{Kirchhoff's law} \end{array} \right.$$

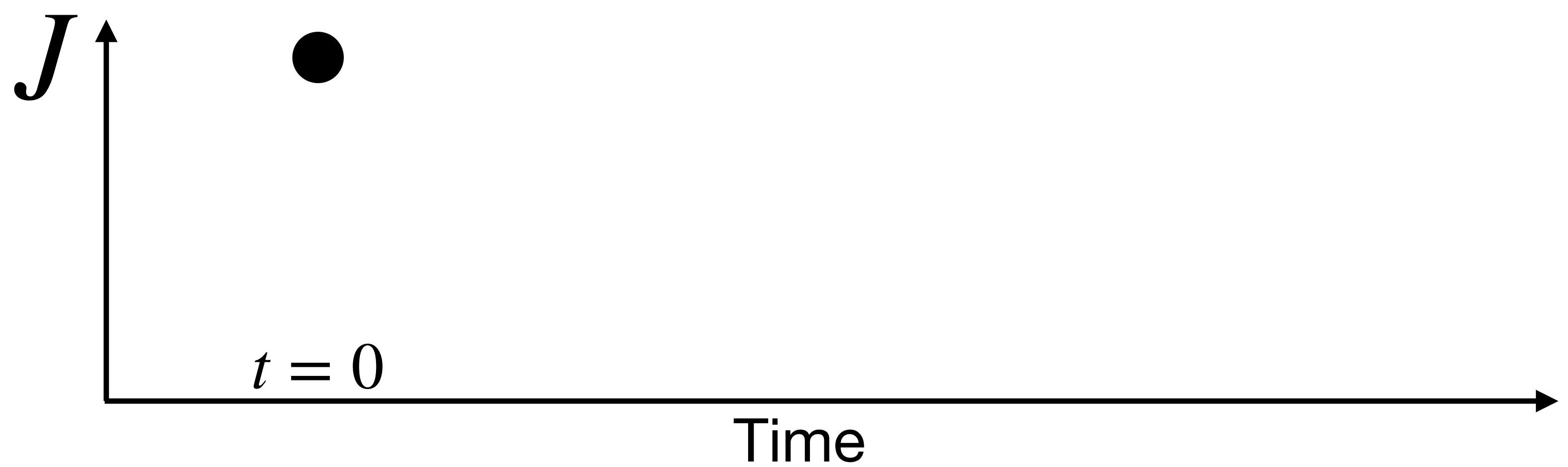
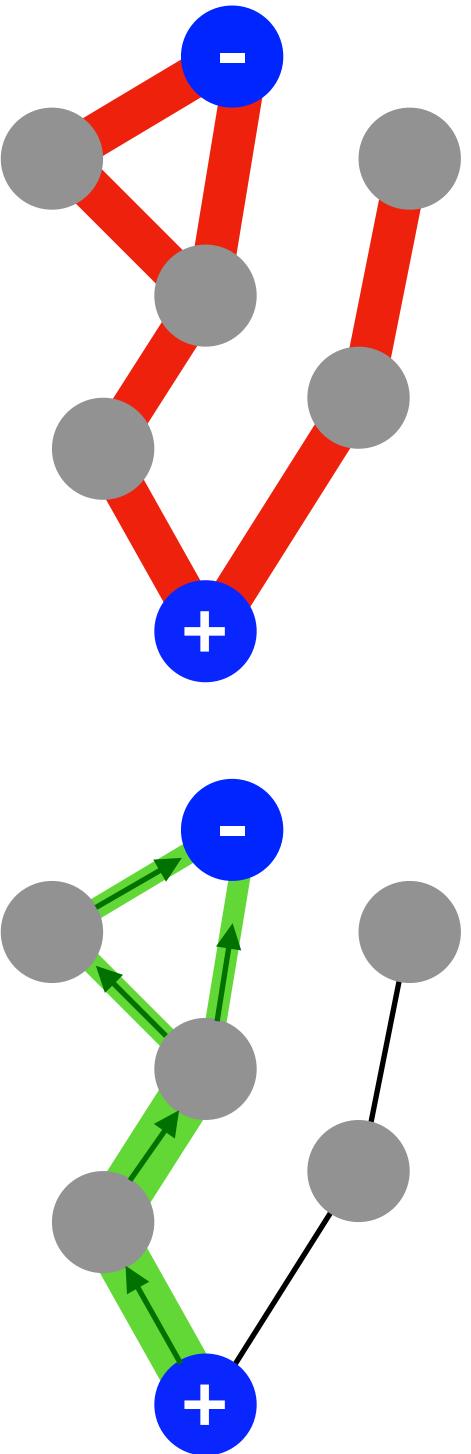
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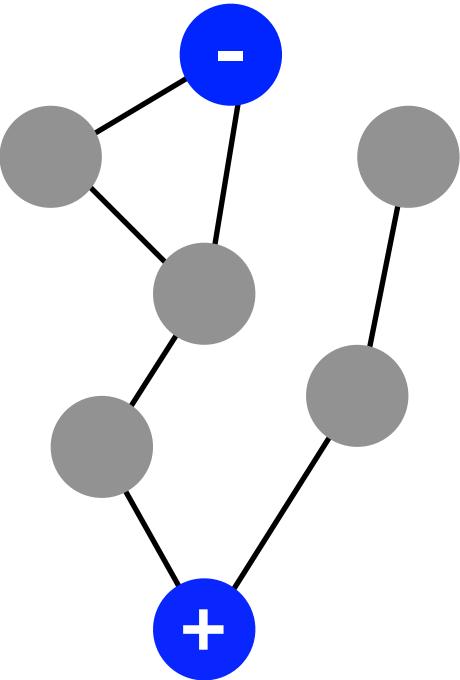
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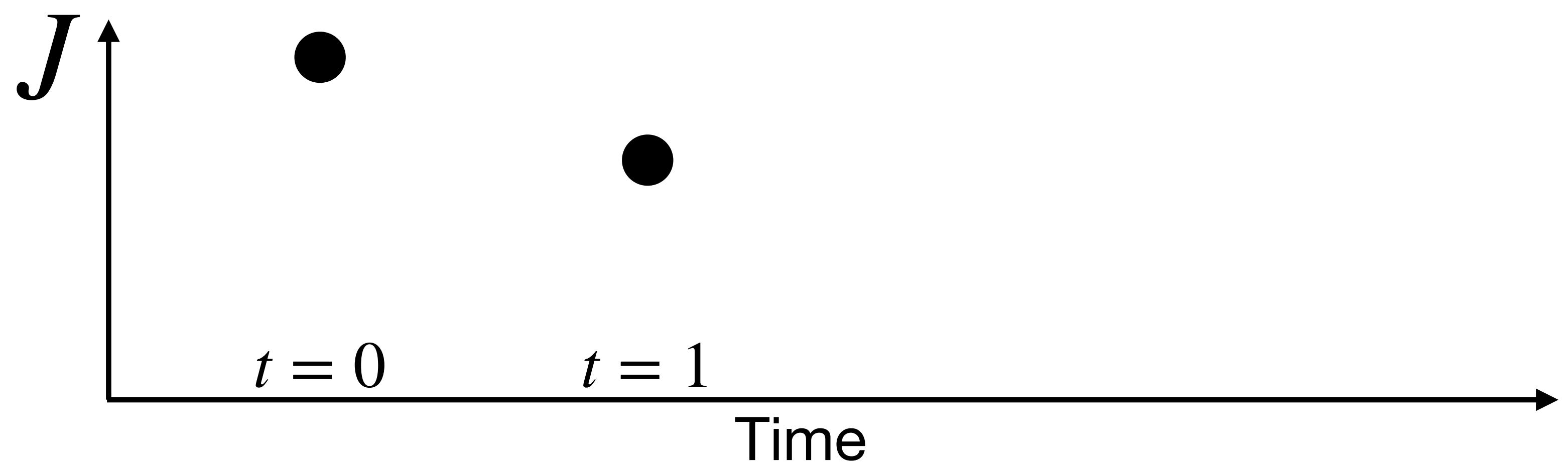
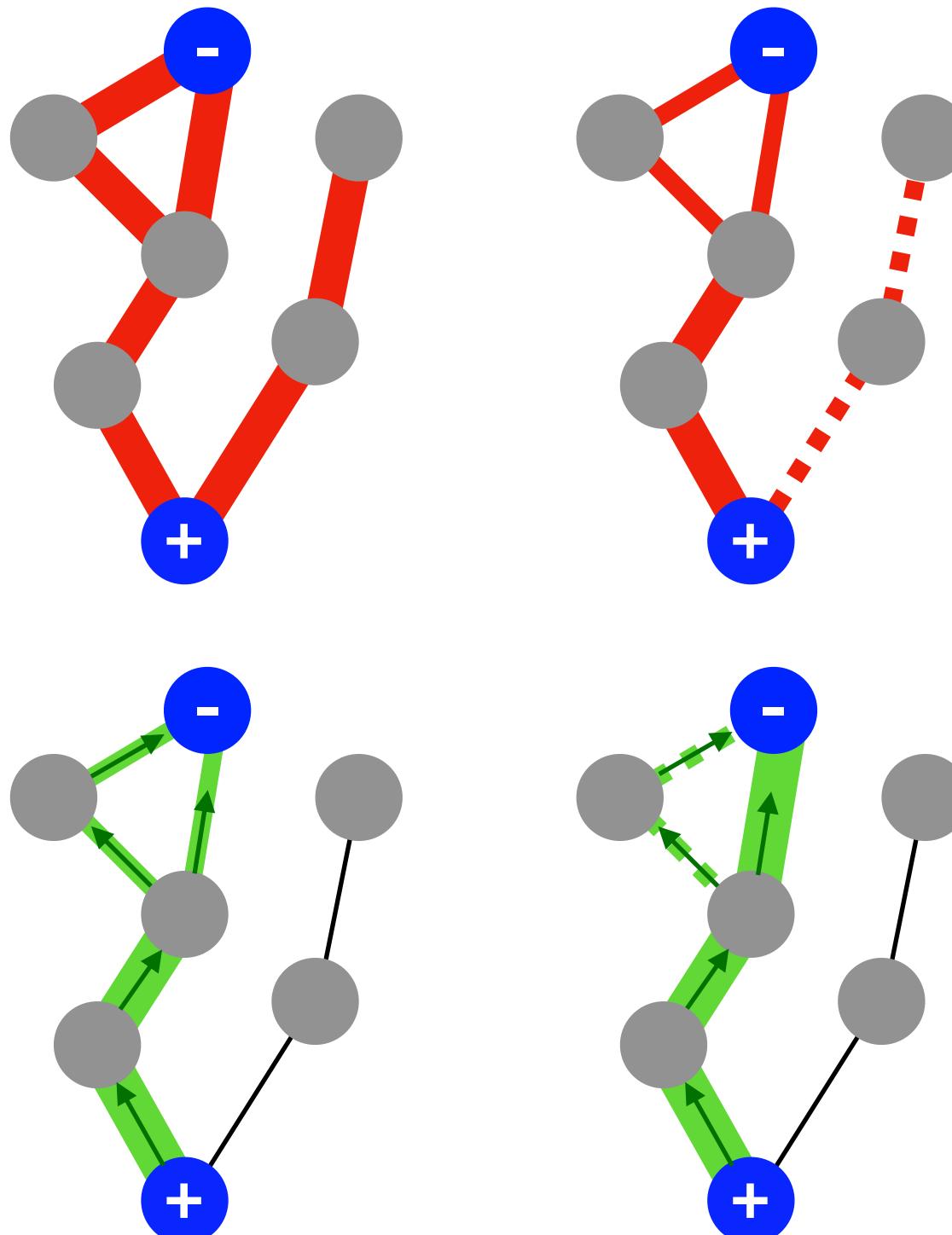
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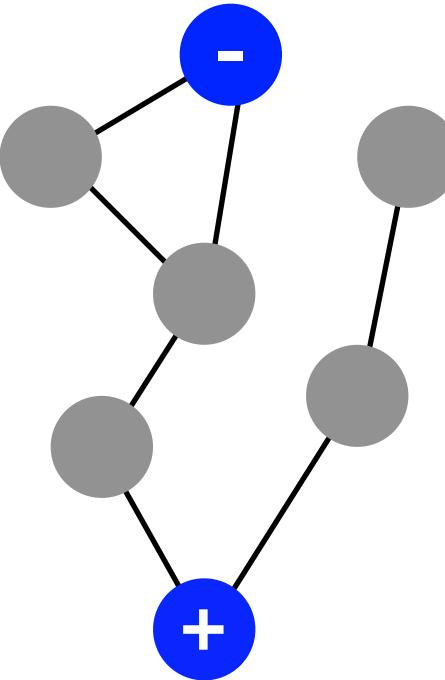
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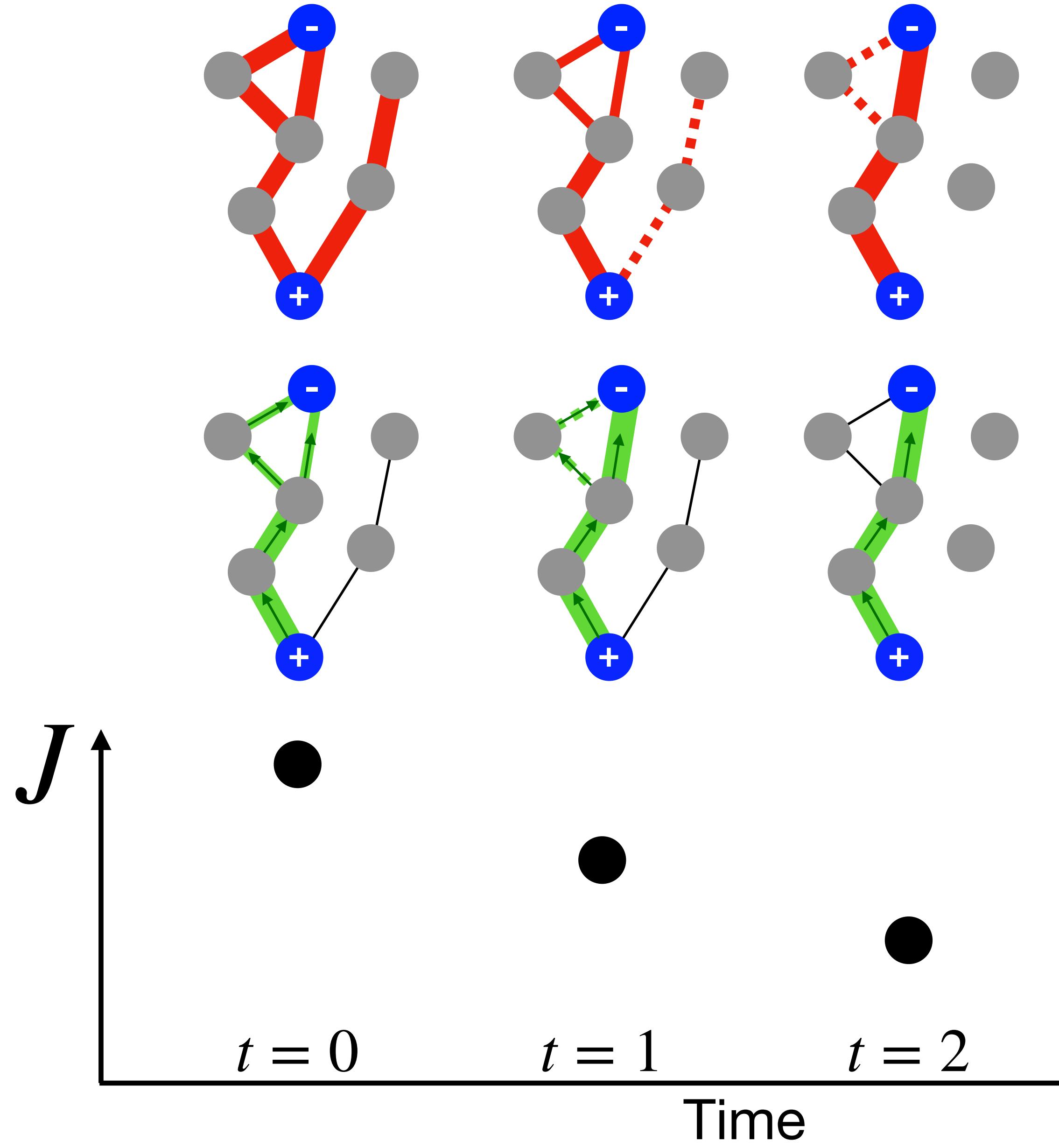
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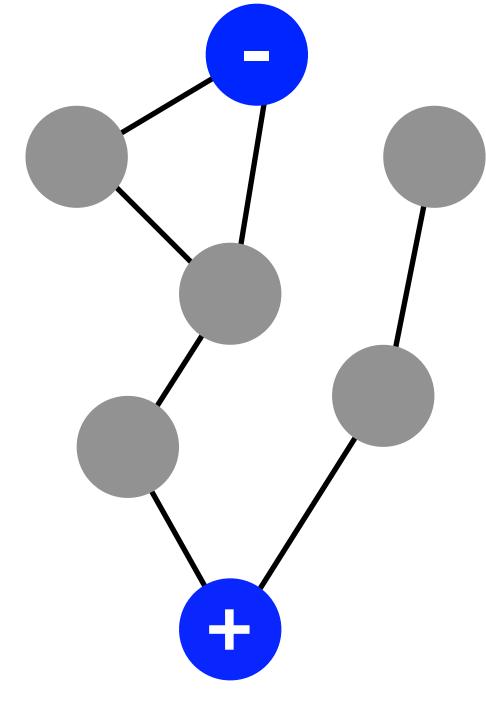
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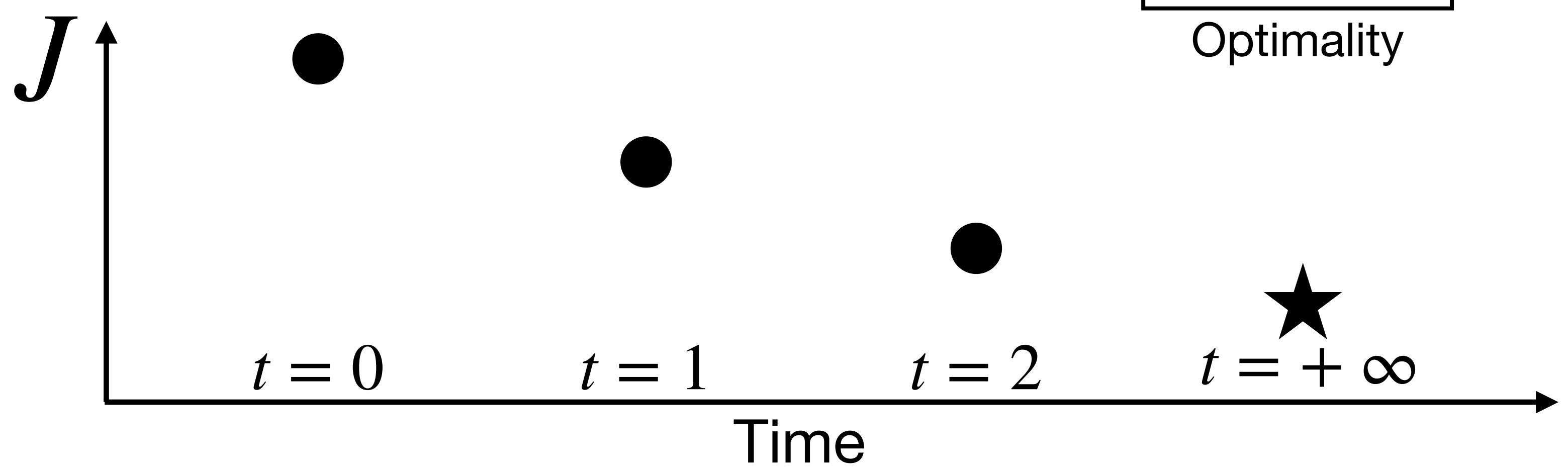
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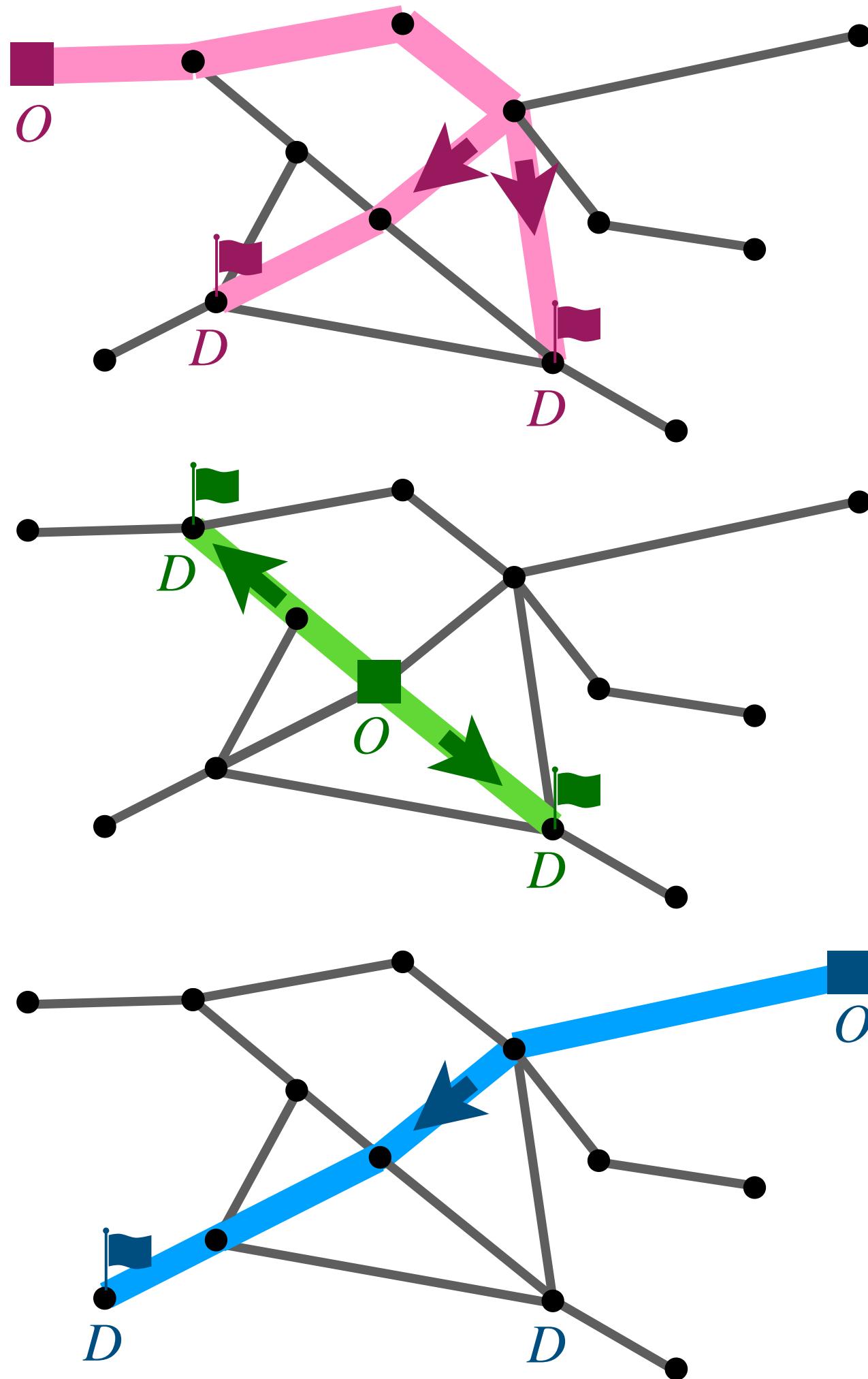
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# Modeling assumption

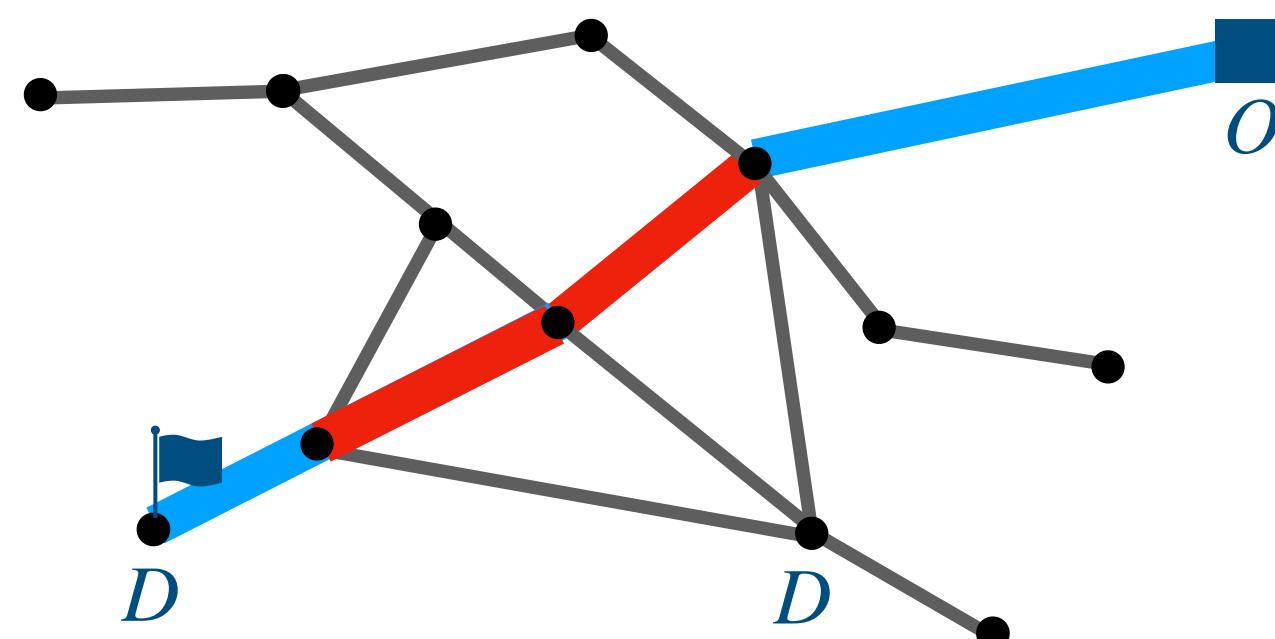
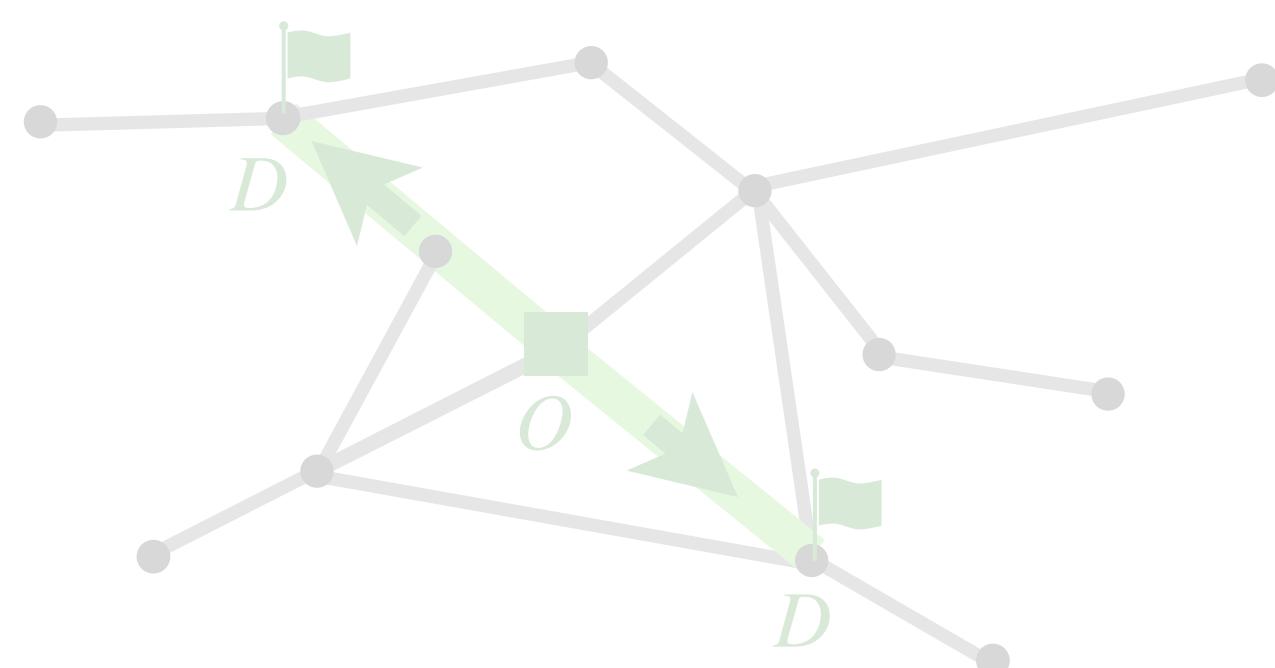
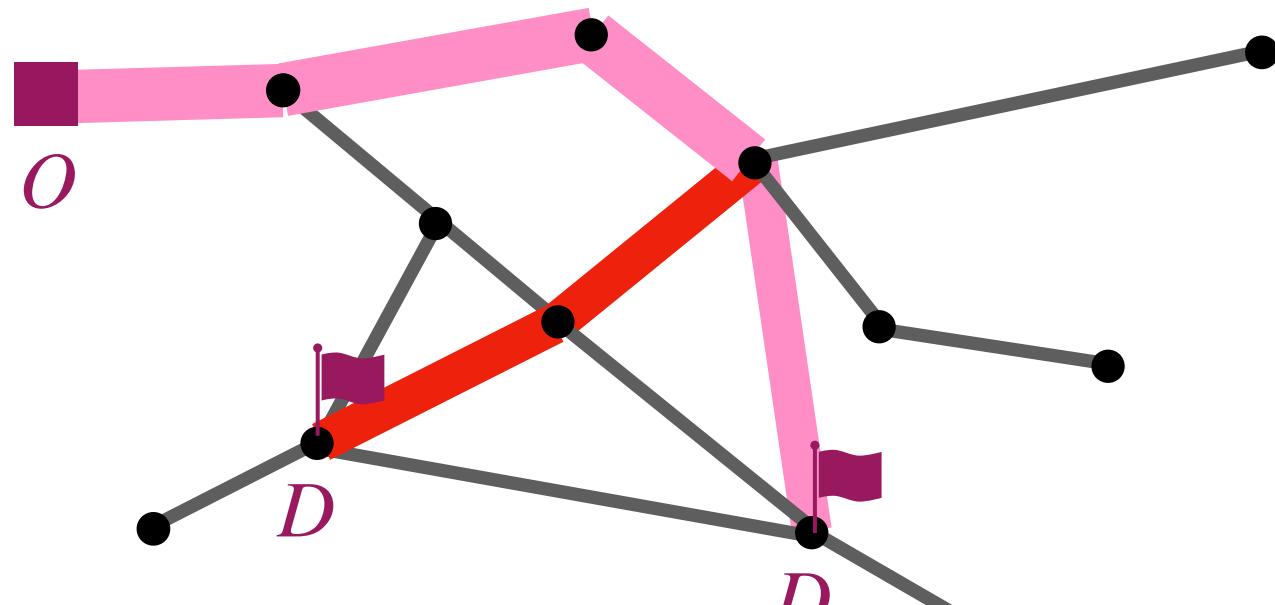
Passengers travel from **multiple Origins** to **multiple Destinations**



- 1) Each group of passengers moves **greedily** from its **O** to its **D**  
(Wardrop's first principle)

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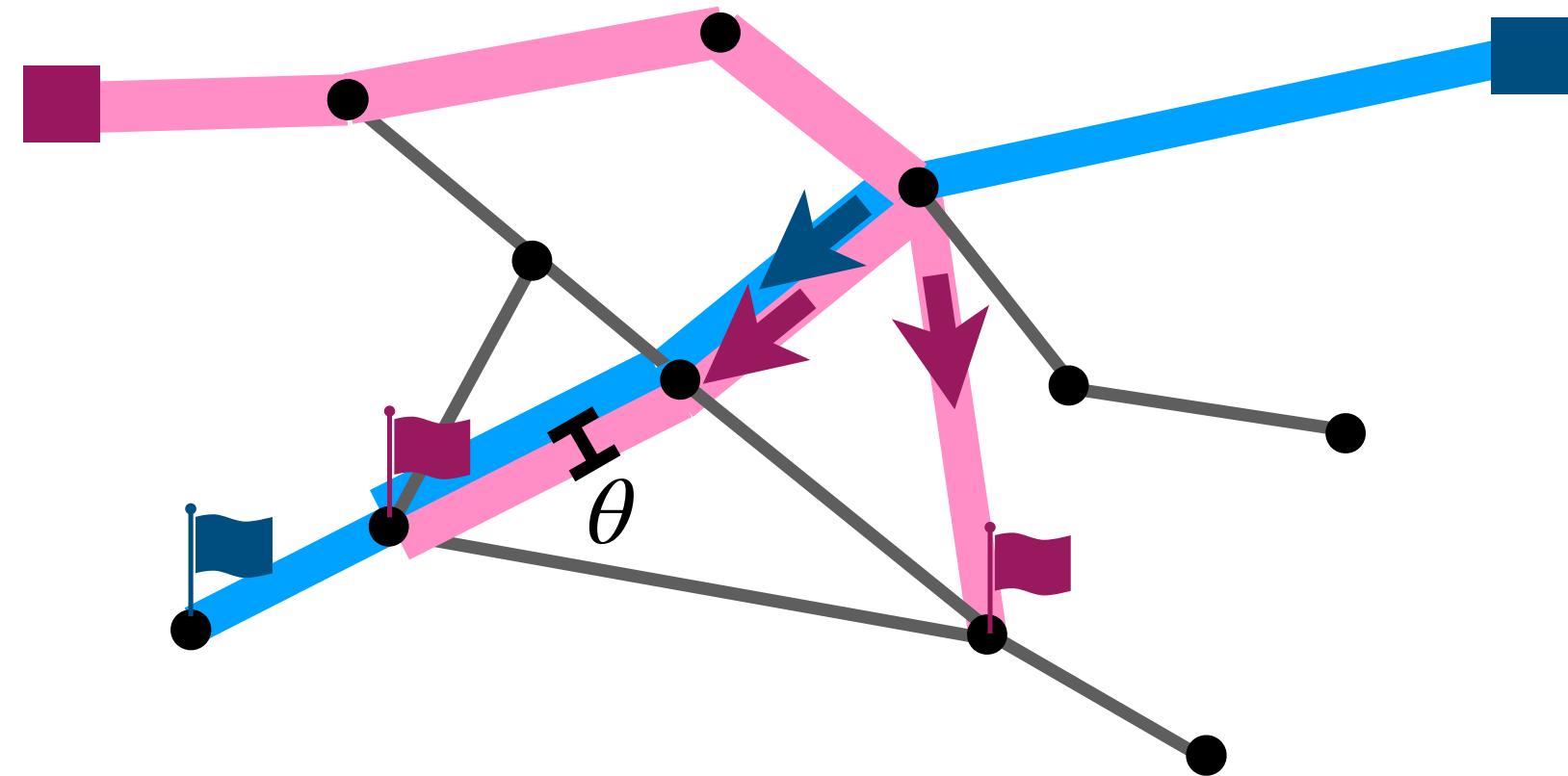
- 2) Passengers' interaction triggers **traffic congestion**

Often neglected by adaptation models!

# Modeling assumption

Network managers tunes edge weights to mitigate traffic

$$J_e = w_e F_e \quad \Omega_e = F_e^2 H(F_e - \theta)$$



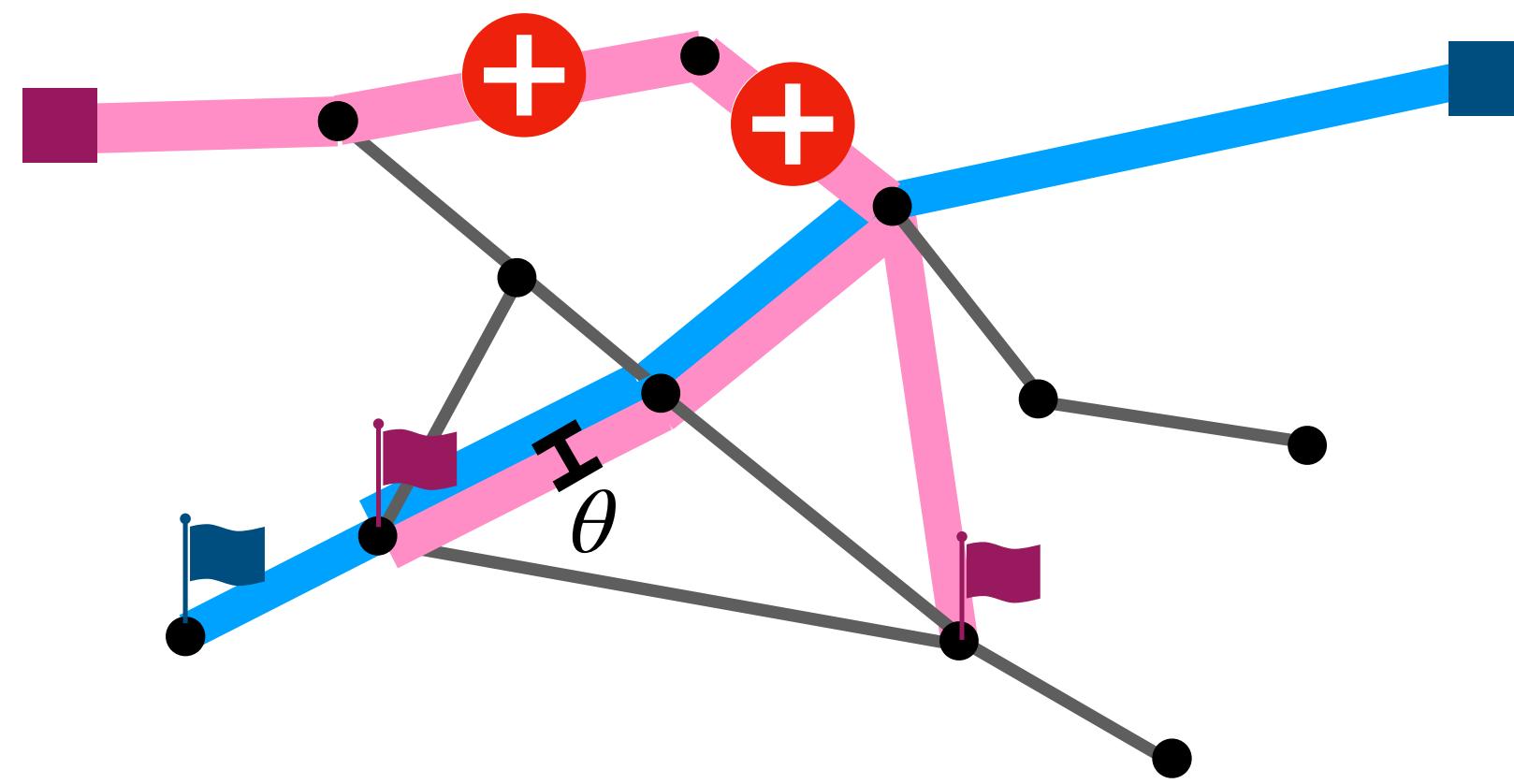
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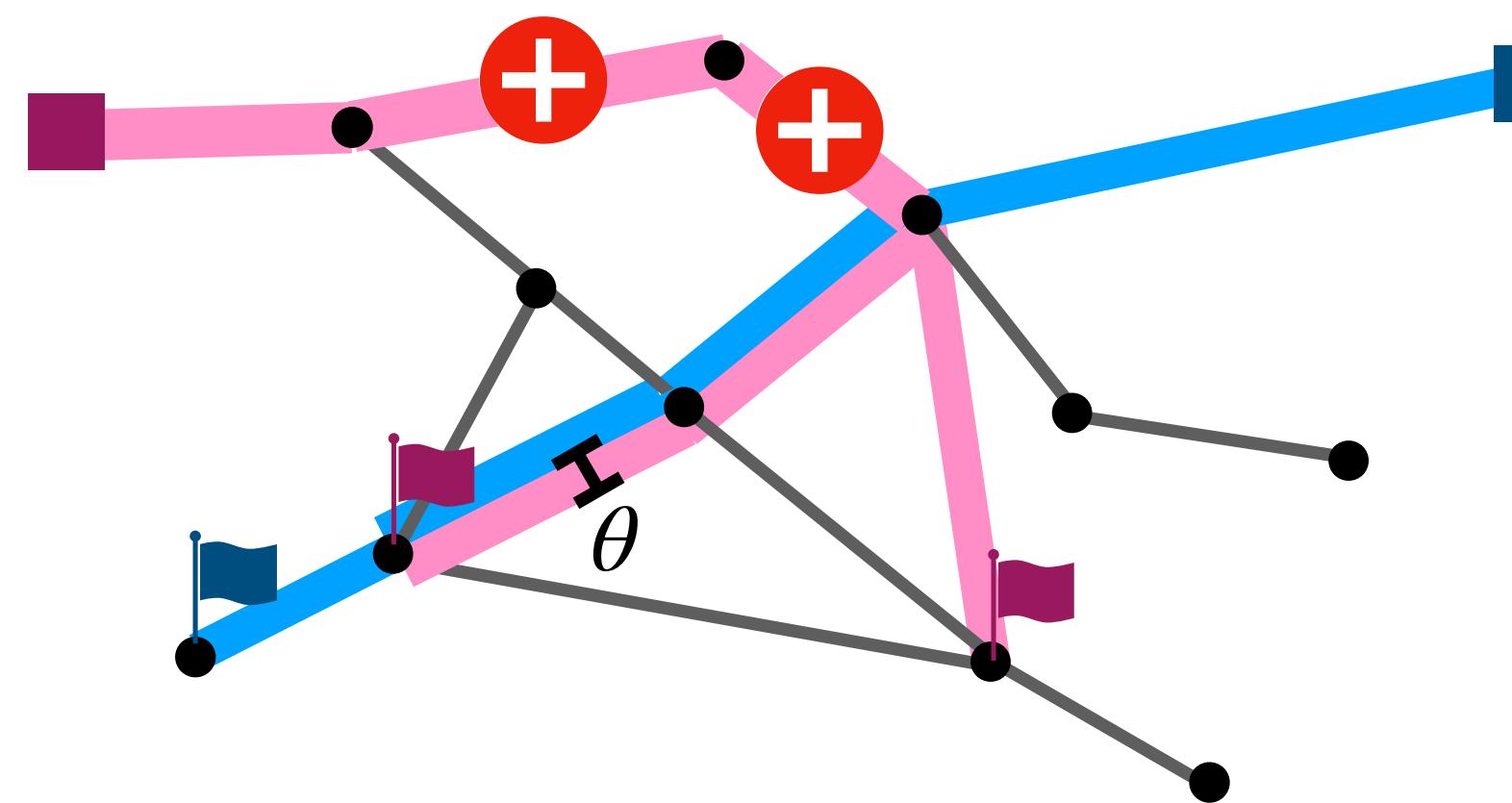
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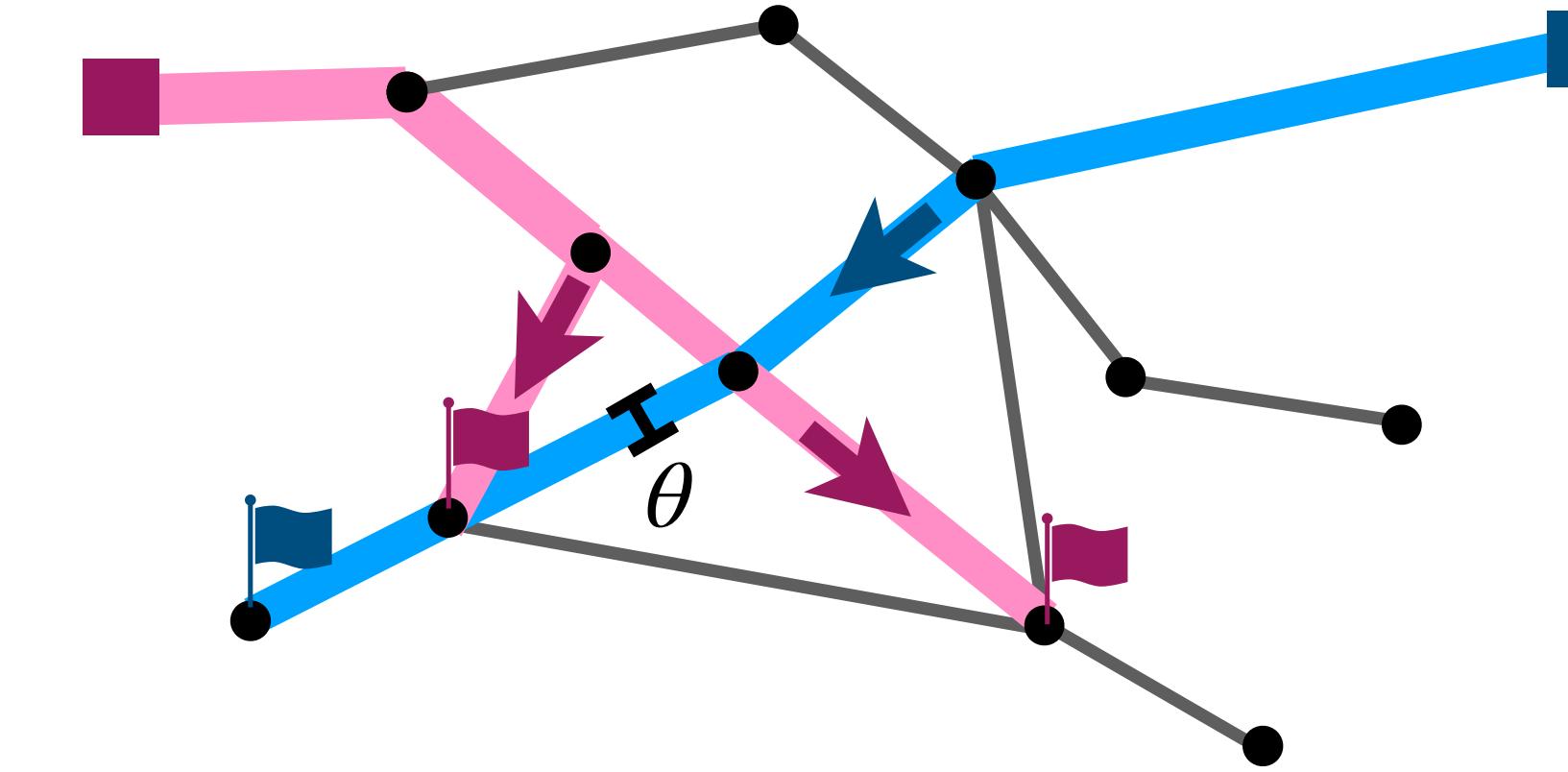
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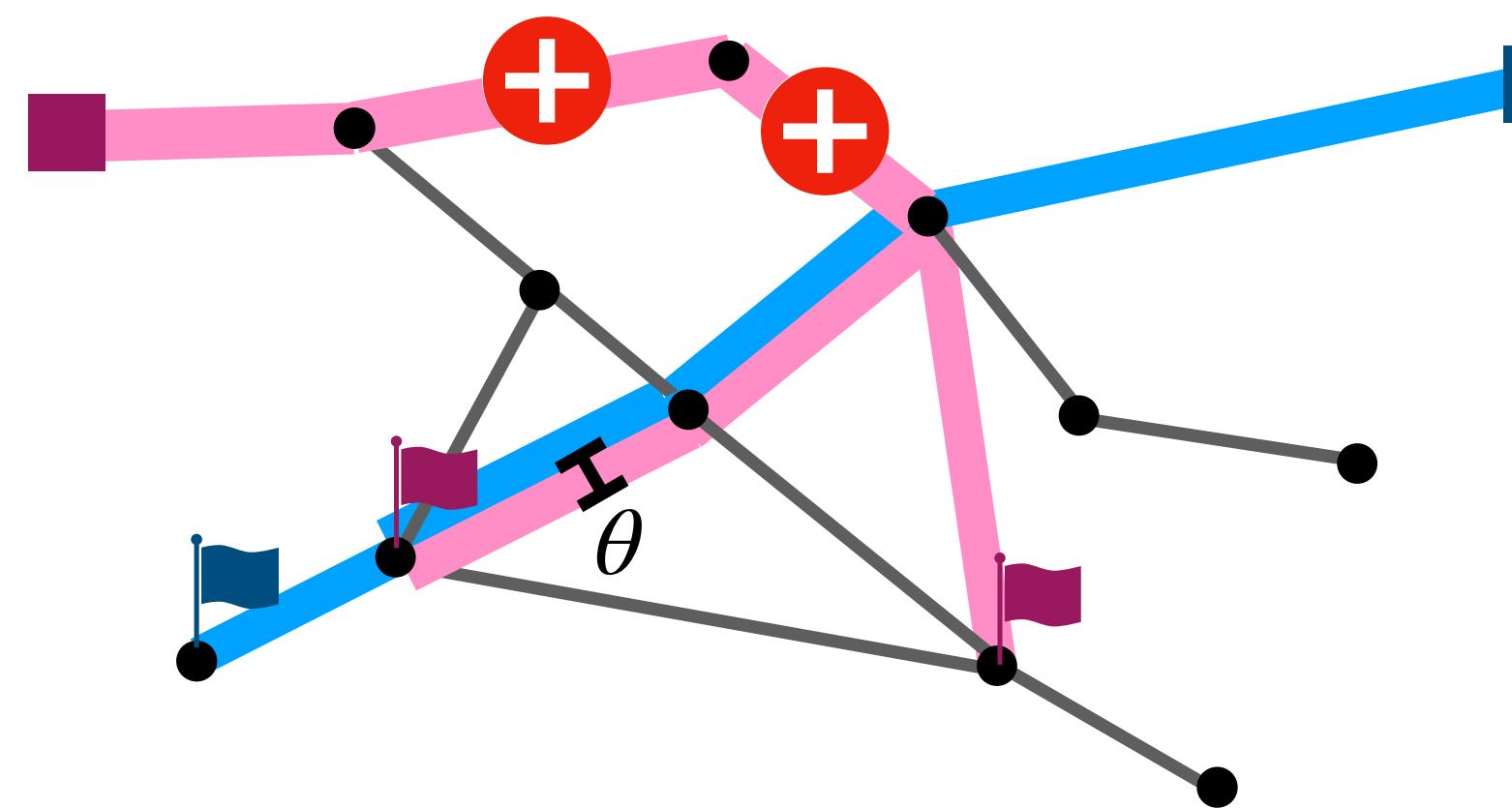
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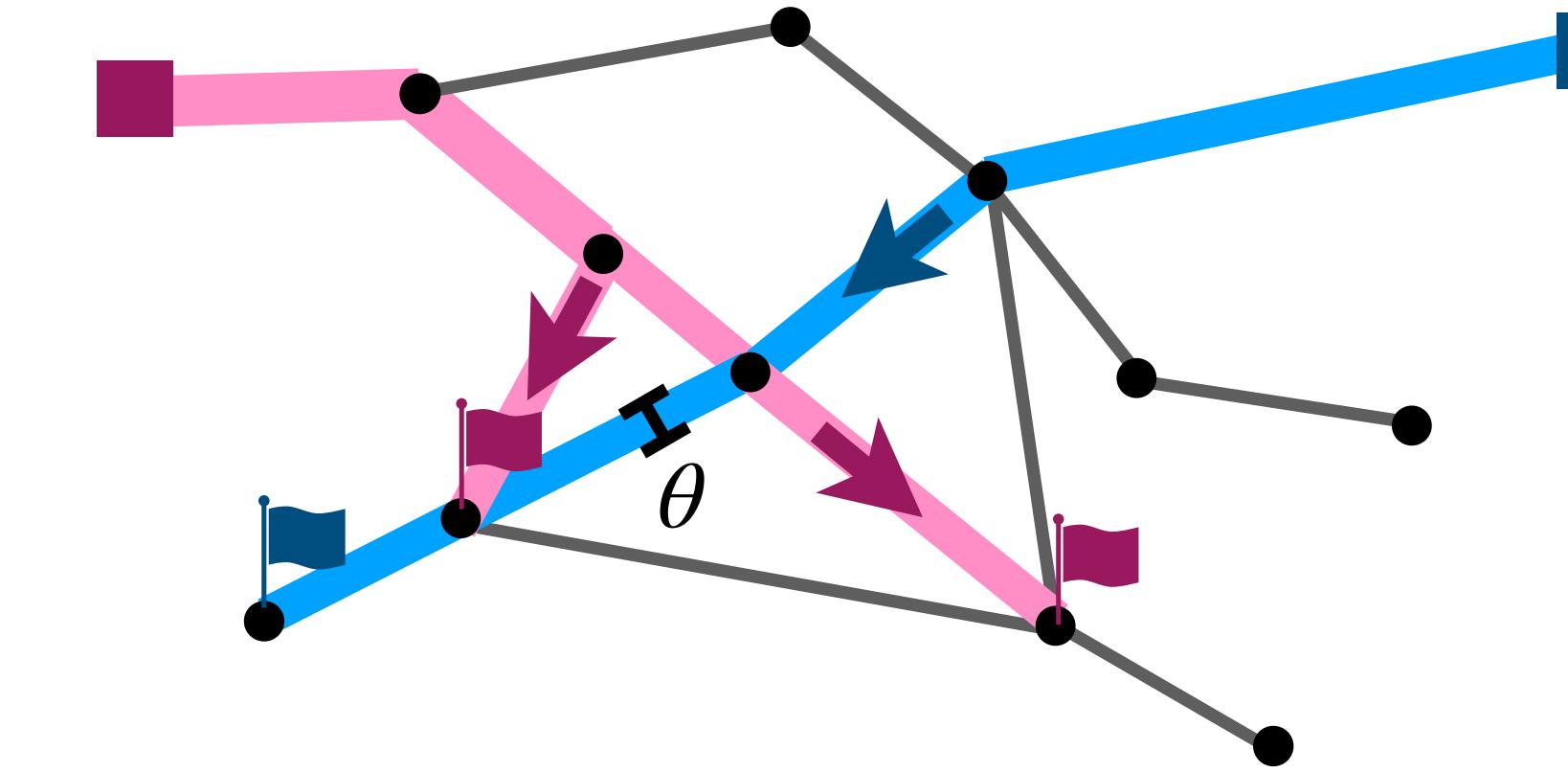
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Trade off traffic  
congestion against  
transport cost

# Research questions

Framing as a bilevel optimization problem

$$\min_w \Omega(w; \hat{\mu})$$

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Framing as a **bilevel optimization** problem

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- 1) Can we **find adaptation rules** to solve the bilevel optimization problem?
- 2) Does adaptation shed light on **transport network properties**?

# Results

**Contribution 1:** Closed-form adaptation rules

$$\min_w \Omega(w; \hat{\mu})$$

$$\hat{\mu} = \operatorname{argmin}_\mu J(\mu; w)$$

$$\frac{d\mu_e}{dt} = \frac{f(|F_e|)}{w_e} - \mu_e$$

$$w_e \leftarrow \operatorname{proj}_{w>0}\{w_e - \eta \nabla_e \Omega\}$$

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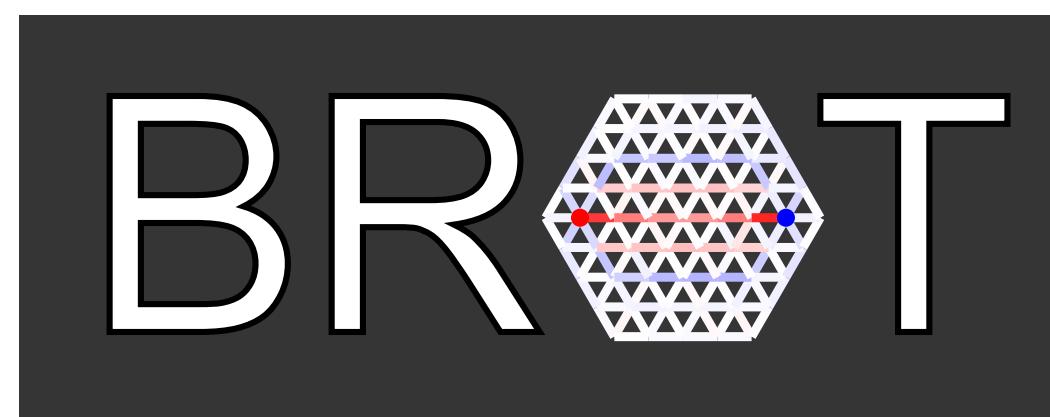
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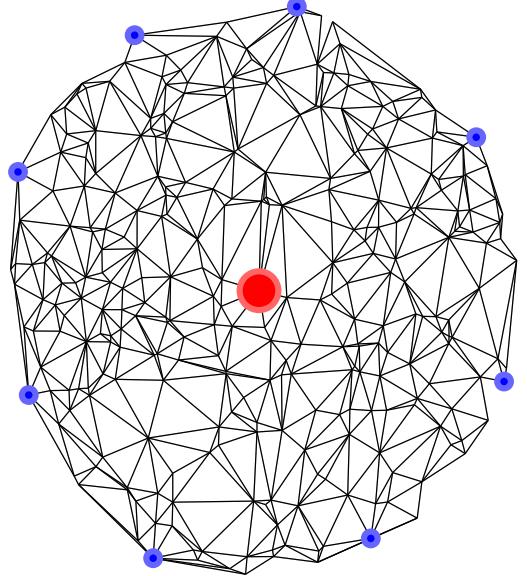
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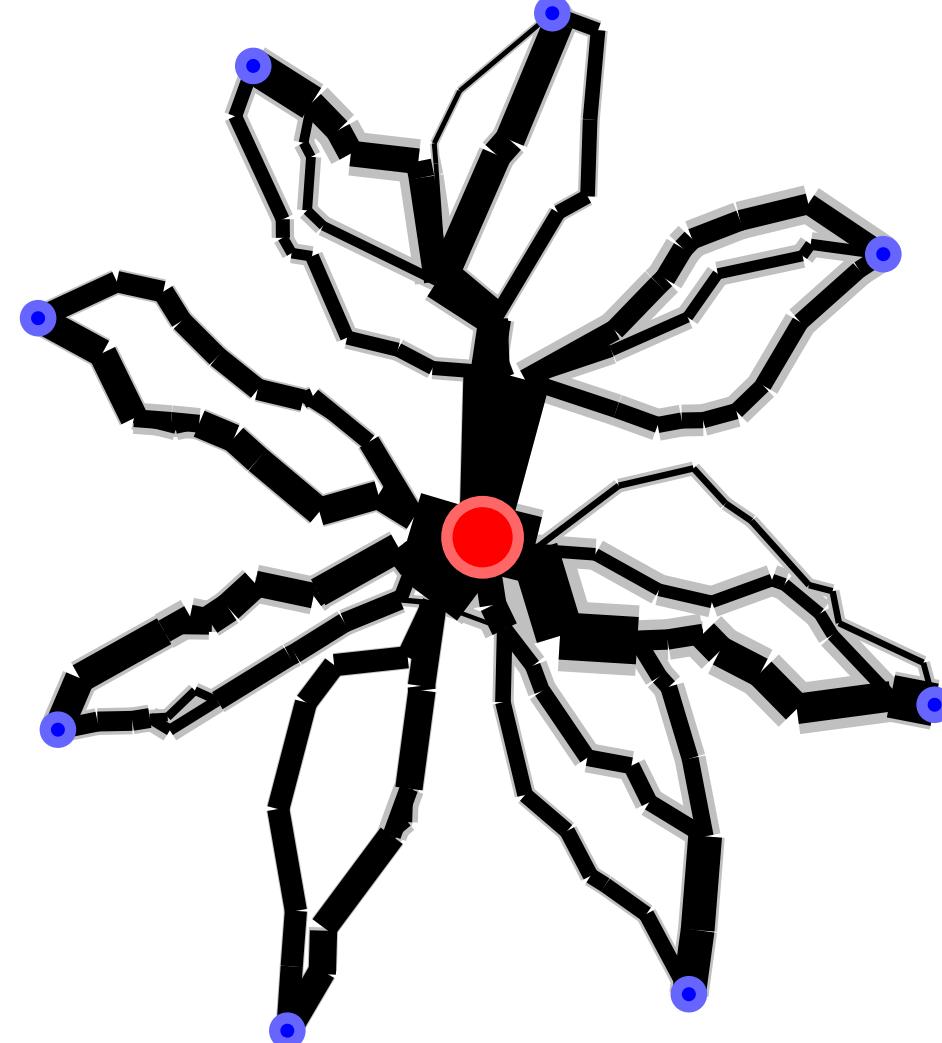
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**Contribution 2:** BROT successfully trade offs transport cost and traffic mitigation

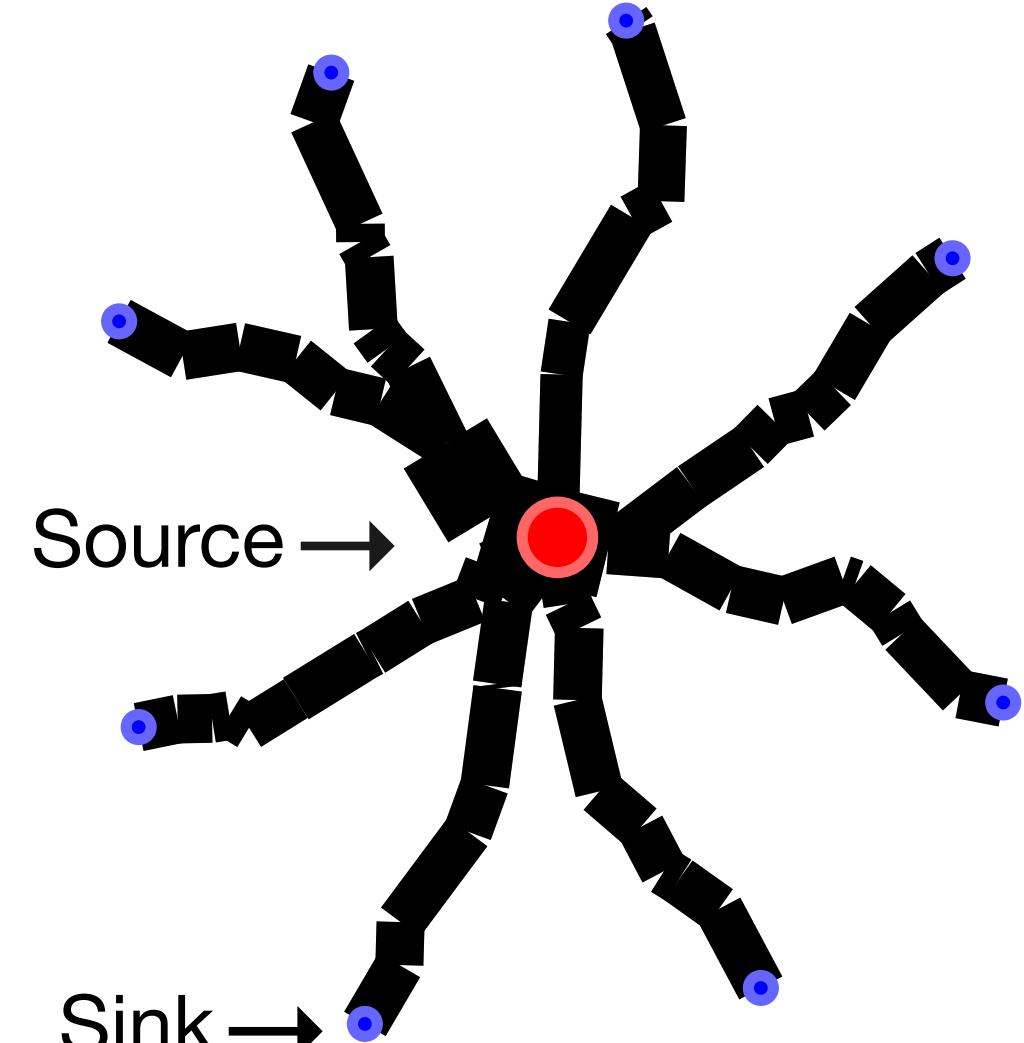
Topology



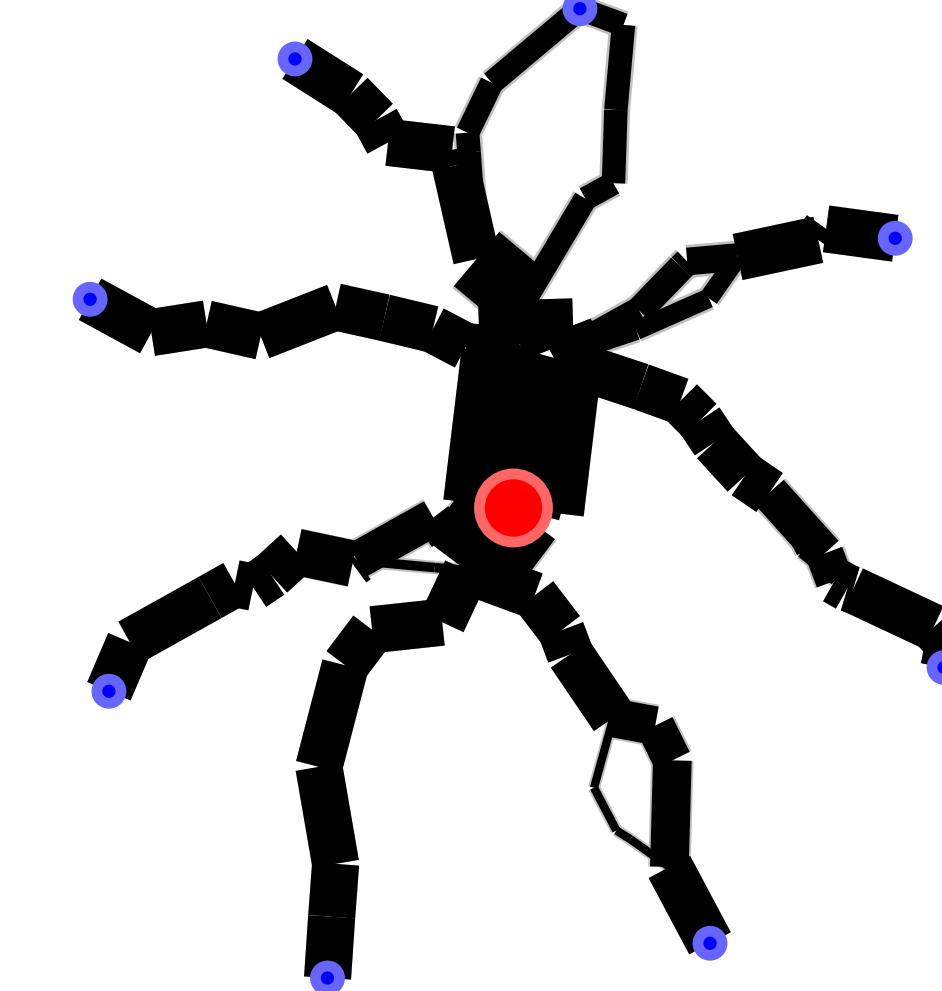
BROT



Shortest path



Uninformed  
network manager



Adapted from  
Lonardi and De Bacco  
(2023)

$\Omega$

Low

$J$

Moderate

High

Low

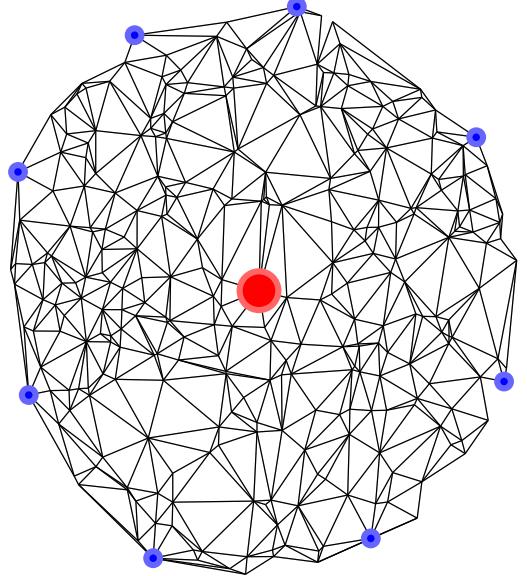
Higher

Low

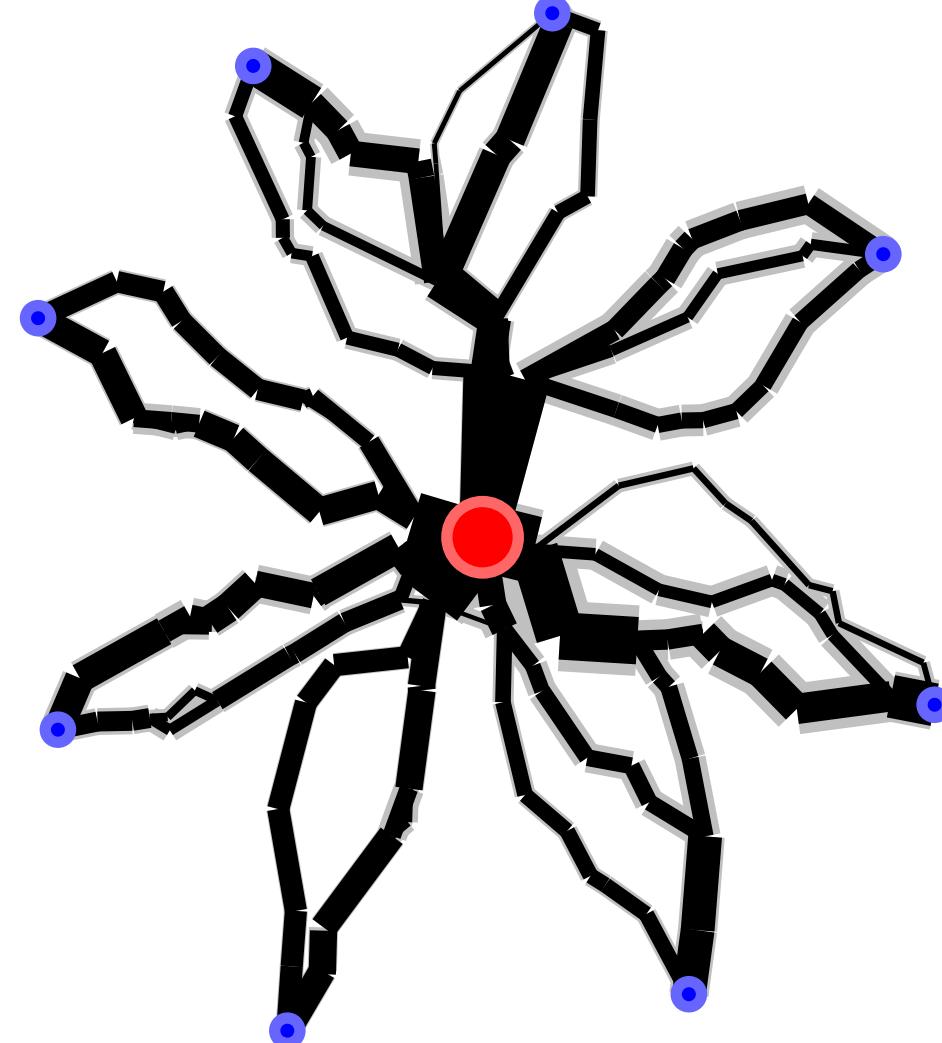
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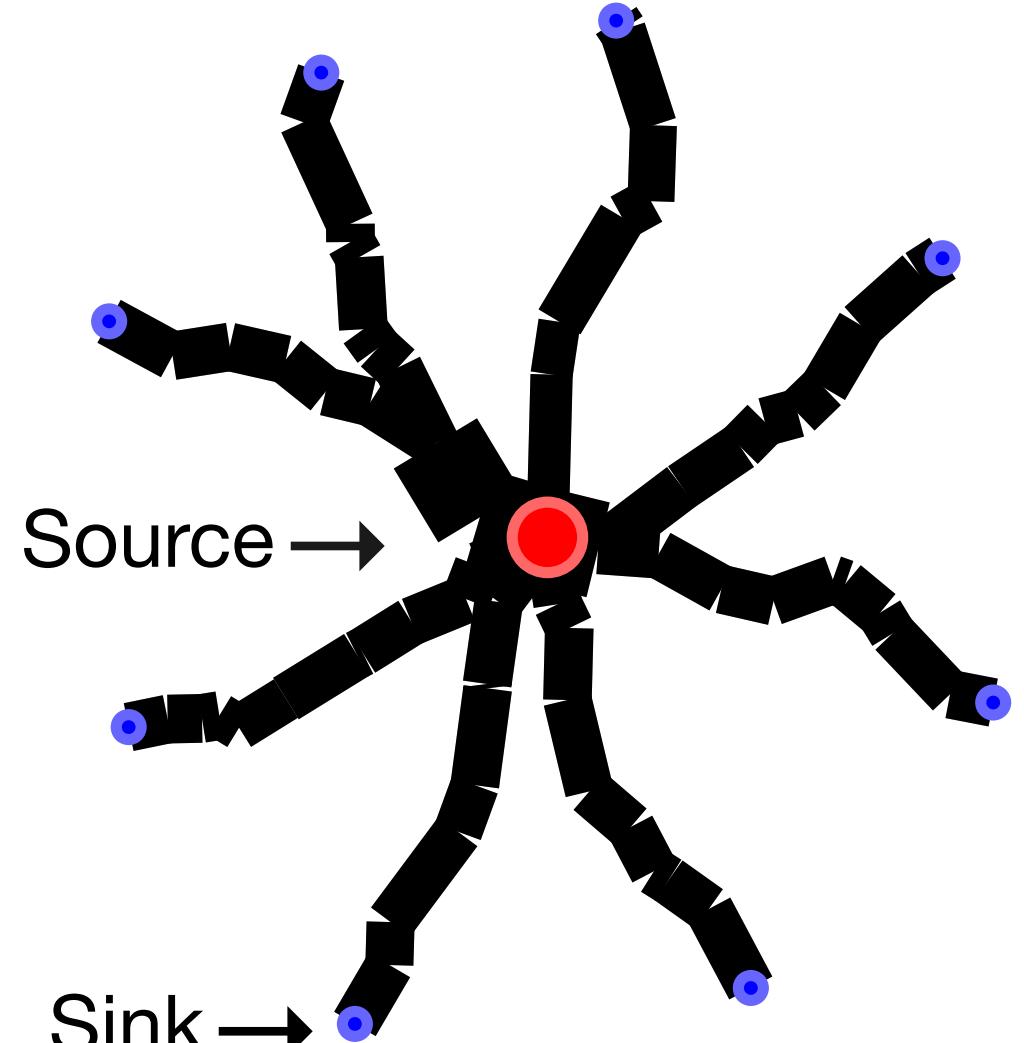
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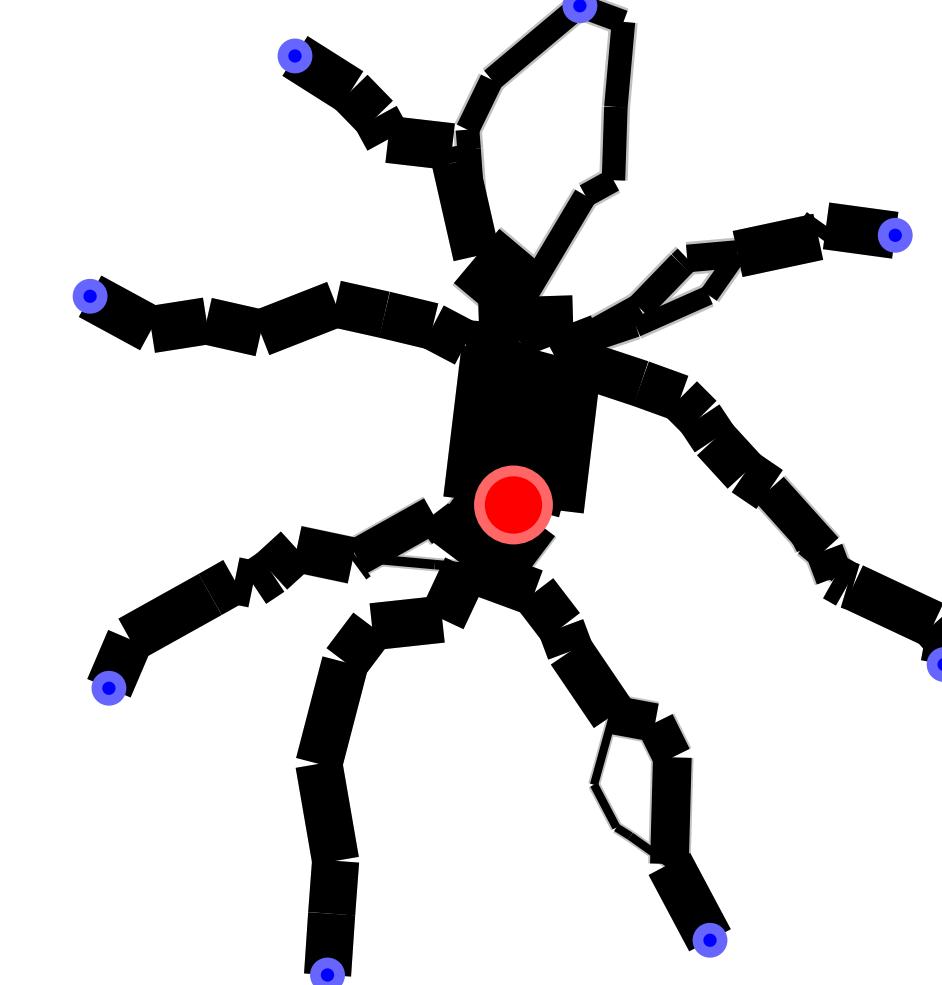
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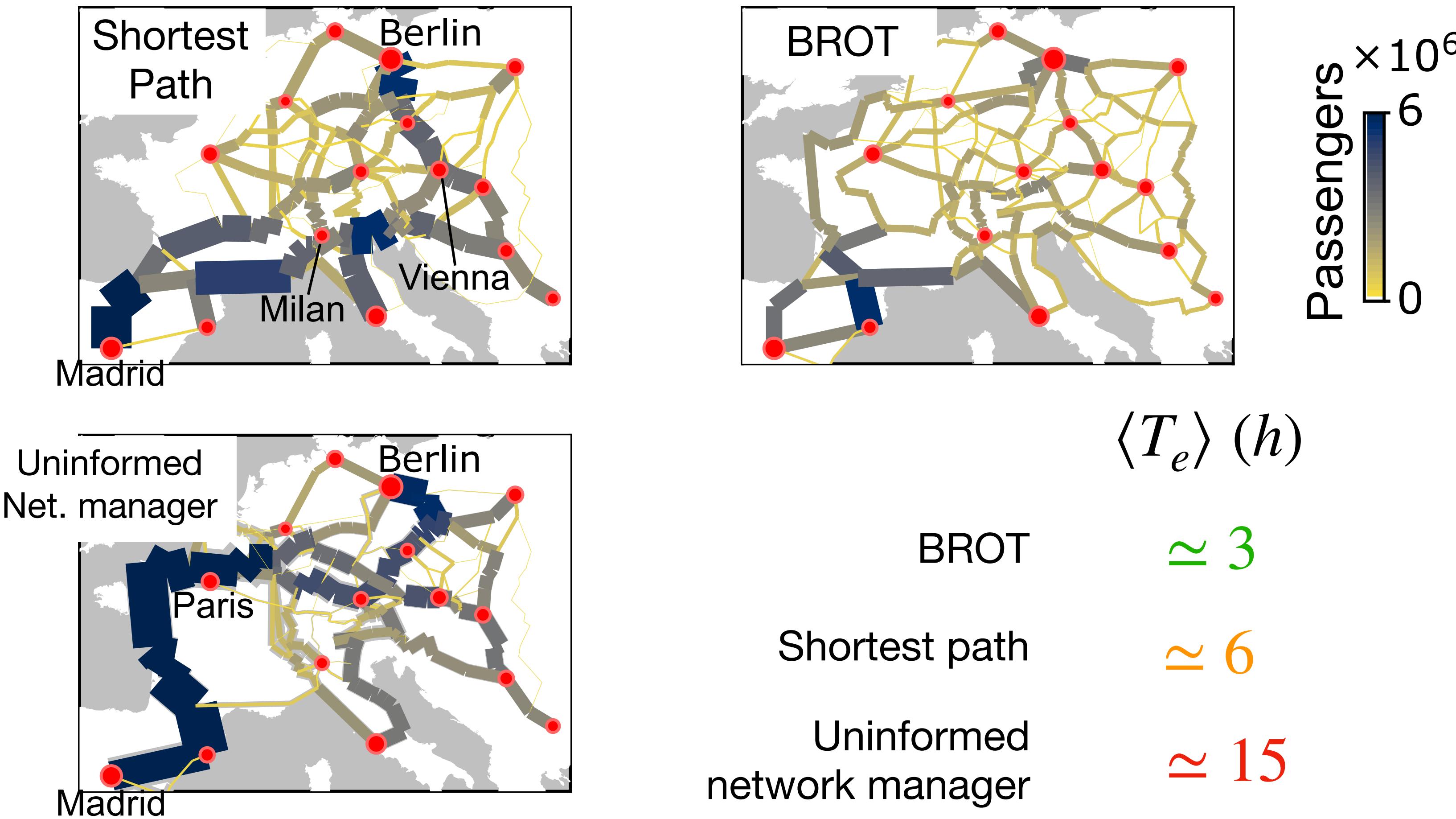
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# Results

**Contribution 3:** BROT reduces travel times on International European Highways



# Take aways

## Questions

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## Answers

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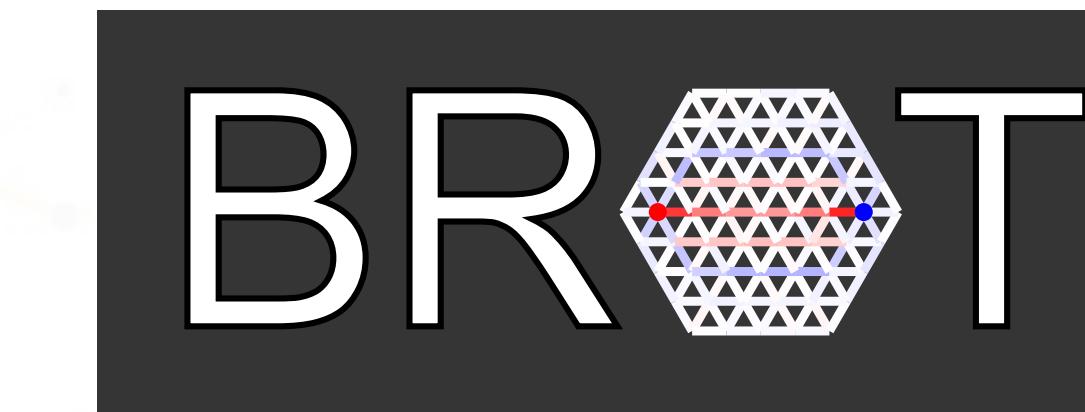
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Caterina De Bacco  
(MPI IS)



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# Thank you!



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[aleable.github.io](https://github.com/aleable)



imprs-is

Cyber  
Valley