

MACHINE LEARNING TO SUGGEST BEST

COMMUTE COMBINATIONS

Abstract: Millions of people travel around the world every year. Whenever a person goes to new city or place they might not know how to reach a particular place cheaply and also efficiently. So I thought how about using ML to predict a user on how they should go about their journey what where to get these commute options etc

Motivation: being a traveller I know the difficulty one faces when they are in a new place. Here we take example of Colorado.

METHODS

Scope. The study area of Fort Collins, Colorado (shown in Figure 1) is a mid-sized suburban city with approximately 160,000 residents. Air quality is generally good, but short-term excursions in pollutant concentrations and personal exposures may adversely affect health. Automobiles emit a large portion of ambient pollution in the city, but there is also a substantial network of both on- and off-road bike trails. We focus on estimating exposures during automobile and bicycle commuting to carbon monoxide (CO) and black carbon (BC) in the fine particle (PM_{2.5}) size range. Both of these pollutants have known cardiovascular and respiratory health effects and are considered markers of traffic pollution (HEI, 2010).

Model description. To estimate exposure to traffic-pollution during commuting, we combine temporally and spatially varying pollutant concentrations estimated via dispersion modeling with sequential records of individual human activity containing detailed temporal and spatial location coordinates. Using this data, our exposure estimation module calculates exposure by numerically integrating pollutant concentrations experienced by a commuter over the commuting time interval.

where E is the cumulative exposure (concentration \times time), dt is the time step of the integration, and C_{\square} is the ambient pollutant concentration at the same location (\square) as the commuter, which varies in time due to temporal changes in ambient concentration and due to the commuter's movement in space. The model also calculates time-weighted-average exposure concentration (C_E) by dividing E by T . Calculation of personal intake is currently being implemented by incorporating exposure factors that vary between commutes (including cabin infiltration fraction and breathing rate).

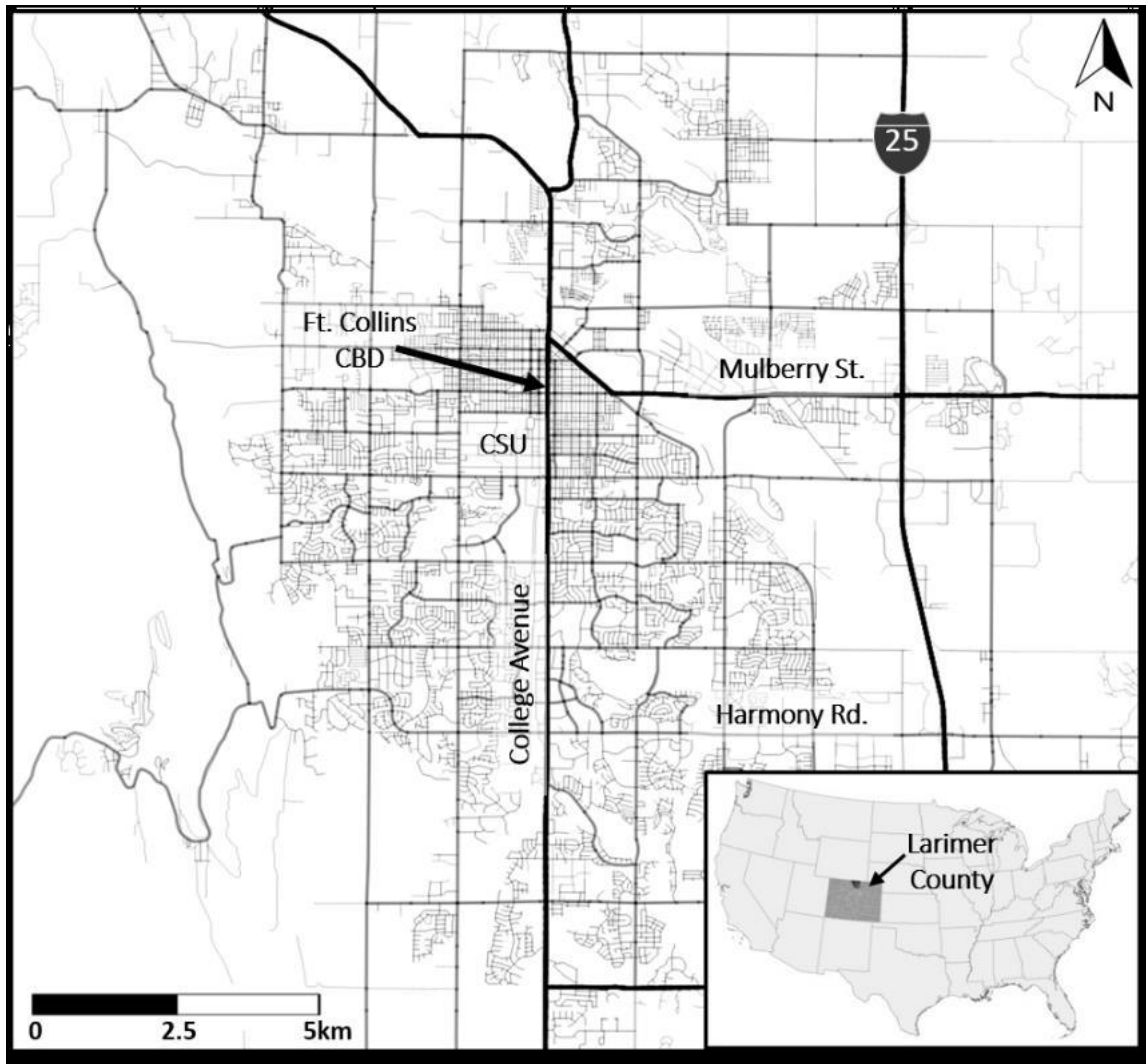


Figure 1. Map of study area(Fort Collins, Colorado), showing locations of major roadways, university area (CSU) and central business district(CBD).

Concentration estimation. To generate concentration data for this study, we used the AERMOD Gaussian plume model to simulate dispersion from all emissions sources in a 400 km² domain centered on Fort Collins. AERMOD is an established US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) model that estimates realistic hourly-varying concentrations from multiple source types at high spatial resolution. (We chose this particular model for its simplicity –we are designing our system within a Bayesian data assimilation framework in which probabilistic estimates of concentrations and exposures are generated; this requires many repeated runs of the dispersion model to produce an adequate sample.) Emissions input to the model were calculated from the 2008 National Emissions Inventory, with spatial allocation to individual major roadway links and a regular grid of 0.25 km² area sources using methods similar to those described by Yu and Stuart (2016). Hourly varying meteorological data were obtained from National Weather Station (NWS) hourly surface observations (Loveland Airport, WBAN 94062), twice-daily upper air soundings (Denver/Stapleton Airport, WBAN 23062), and 10-minute on-site measurements (Colorado State

University, WBAN 53005). AERMOD was run to produce gridded concentrations with spatial resolution of 500m for a 100km² area centered on Fort Collins for each hour of the year.

Runs specifications. Using this data, we ran the exposure estimator to calculate cumulative and time-weighted average exposure for each commute. The estimator was set to match concentrations to activity records by sampling from all the dispersion model-generated fields (for the appropriate hour of the day).

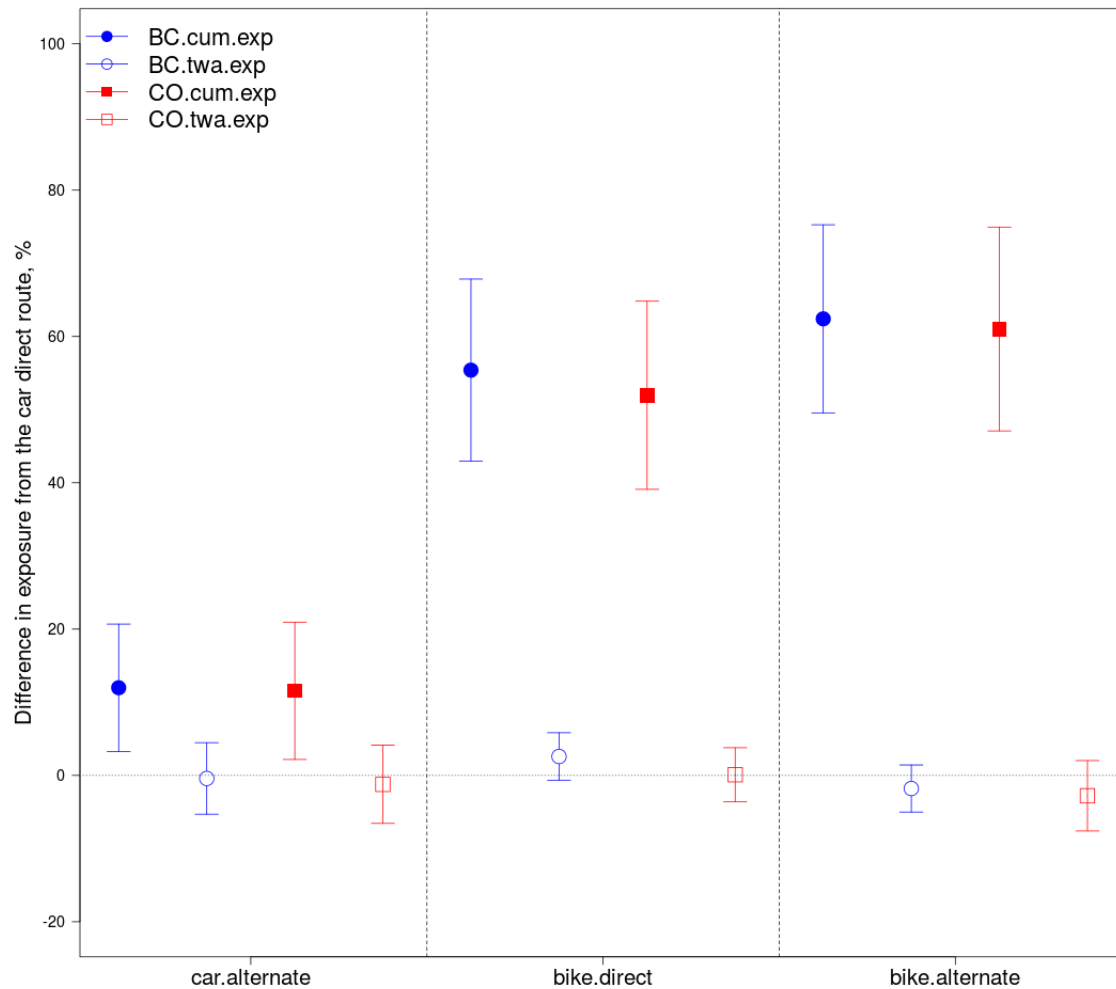


Figure 3. Mean (with 95% confidence intervals) of raw individual differences in cumulative and time-weighted average exposure to CO and BC for each mode/route combination compared with the direct (high traffic) car commute, including both morning and evening commutes. BC = black carbon, CO = carbon monoxide, cum.exp = cumulative exposure, twa.exp = time-weighted average exposure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figure 3 shows the mean differences in raw individual cumulative and time-weighted average exposure for each mode/route combination compared with the direct (high traffic) car commute, as calculated by the exposure estimator. Mean cumulative exposures to BC and CO were estimated to be substantially higher when cycling either route type compared with the direct route, and slightly higher for driving the alternative route. This increased exposure is largely attributable to longer commute durations. Mean change in time-weighted average exposures does not appear substantially different from zero across all

alternative mode/route combinations when compared to driving on a direct route. Ongoing work includes incorporation of exposure and intake factors that differ by mode, microenvironment, and season (e.g. vehicle infiltration and ventilation), analysis using linear mixed modeling to isolate the differences attributable to mode and route in the context of repeated measures, and implementation of exposure estimation within a Bayesian data assimilation framework.

Conclusion

We are developing an exposure modeling system that estimates probabilistic commute exposures in Fort Collins, Colorado. The exposure estimator module, which matches predicted concentrations with personal activity records, was described here. It was also applied to explore differences in cumulative and time-weighted average exposure to CO and BC between driving and bicycling along direct and alternative routes for a sample of 45 commuters with measured activity data. Preliminary results suggest that exposures to both pollutants may be higher when biking.