

Advanced Driving Behavior Analytics for an Improved Safety Assessment and Driver Fingerprinting

Afaf Bouhouste^{ID}, Rachid Oucheikh, Karim Boubouh, and Ismail Berrada

Abstract—The recent computerizations of cars, together with the development of sensor technologies and car communication devices have transformed the cars into wealthy sources of information. The analysis of data generated continuously by cars can contribute greatly in improving driving safety and drivers comfort. Even though different analytical solutions have emerged recently, there still exist some important issues in driving safety that we assume were poorly addressed, as well as diverse mathematical methodologies whose application in driving behavior analysis is to be investigated. In this paper, we developed a methodology to process and analyze car-generated data, with focus on two analysis goals: 1) automatic verification of drivers' behavior conformity to traffic rules; and 2) visualization and comparison of drivers' behaviors. The proposed methodology is divided into three steps. At first, the abstraction using numerical domains is used to reduce the size of the generated data. Then, the probabilistic graphical models (Probabilistic Automata, and Labeled Directed Graphs) combined with a machine-learning algorithm are used for building a formal model of the driver behavior. Finally, two indepth analyses are carried out by applying automatic model checking and graph matching techniques. Early experimental results point out that the design of numerical domains considered influences hugely the analysis results.

Index Terms—Driving behavior, driving data analysis, driving safety verification, drivers similarity, model checking, graph-based analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

EVER since the dawn of the car, driver behavior has been the topic of different studies. Researchers from different backgrounds (psychology, transport engineering, car industry, etc.) have been trying to understand and analyze human driving behavior and even investigating its predictability, in order to reinforce traffic safety and enhance drivers comfort.

The computerization of cars, the development of sensors technologies and in-vehicle networking solutions as well as the introduction of vehicular communication offer today new

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wealthy sources of information on the driver, the vehicle and the environment. Such information allows to study the driver behavior in realistic situations, and to better understand the relations between the driver actions, the vehicle performance and the driving environment. On the other hand, new generations of cars are generating more and more voluminous data. According to IBM [1], car sensors can produce about 1.3 gigabytes of data every hour, and an estimated 312 million gigabytes yearly for 4 hours of daily driving. Therefore, it is important to emphasize that automotive solutions are facing a big data challenge [2] and more powerful analysis tools are needed.

Driving behavior analytics solutions process vehicle data and transform it into valuable information, with data visualization functionalities to facilitate the presentation of results. We cite as examples of existing commercial solutions, *i4drive Driving Analytics* [3], *CLOUDMADE's Car and Driver Analytics* [4] and *Zendrive* [5]. In addition to in-vehicle data, advanced solutions (such as AMODO driving analytics [6]) use data from external sources to improve their analysis. Considered as value-added functions for ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) solutions for smart city projects, more attention is paid to the aforementioned analytics; and governments as well as many companies are investing in this field.

Generally, the process of data analysis involves three common tasks: *acquisition*, *pre-processing*, and *modeling and analysis*.

Driving behavior related data can be acquired usually by on-board devices and/or by road-side sensors. In Vehicle Data Recorders (IVDRs) are one of the tools widely used for on-board data collection. They are devices installed on vehicles that monitor and record continuously the vehicle parameters. Even though the first commercialized applications of IVDRs were merely tracking systems designed for fleet management [7], the concept was later extended and other applications have appeared (e.g. car insurance). Other studies such as in *100-Car naturalistic study* [8] and *international large-scale vehicle corpora* [9] focus on the collection of large amounts of naturalistic driving data, for use in driver behavior research.

Using models to represent the driver behavior is of relevance for driving data analysis. Statistical methods combined with methods from artificial intelligence and machine learning have been widely used in driver behavior studies [10], [11]. Actually, the approach used for driver behavior modeling depends primarily on the goals of the driving analysis

system and its applications [12]. While some analyses focus on studying and understanding different facets of drivers behavior in particular situations [13], [14], other applications use driving behavior analysis for **recognition**, **detection** (of drivers, maneuvers, accidents etc.) and/or **classification** (driving styles, etc.) purposes. Graphical models such as Hidden Markov Models (HMMs) have been applied in several analyses for routes and driving maneuvers recognition [15]–[17]. Whereas classification methods such as Artificial Neural Networks, Support Vector Machines clustering and fuzzy logic based algorithms have been used in applications dealing with pattern recognition and classification of driving behavior styles and drivers states [18]–[20]. Beyond recognition and classification, recent studies in driving behavior analysis are investigating drivers heterogeneity and the possibility of driver fingerprinting. In fact, drivers are distinguishable, even when little data and few sensors are available [21]. Existing approaches that address driver identification, have applied and combined statistical methods (Gaussian Mixture Model) with machine learning algorithms (Neural Networks, SVM, K-means, etc.) [21]–[23]. However, the heterogeneity in driving behavior has been addressed differently in [24], where authors propose Driving Habit Graph (DHG) to represent driver behavior. The DHG models the driving style of one driver in different driving maneuvers, extracted from numerical sensor data. The DHG of a driver, consists of macro nodes, representing the driving maneuvers, linked by arcs indicating the order of their occurrence. The macro nodes are modeled as a Driving Relation Map (DRM), a subgraph built from raw data with nodes reflecting the significant changes in the driving signals.

In this paper, we propose an approach for analyzing driving behavior using automotive sensors data (speed, acceleration, steering angle, etc.). As a very first step, to prepare the raw data for analysis, abstraction using the interval domain is used. This abstraction transforms the raw measurements into a form of intervals, ignoring thus irrelevant details from instantaneous measurements. We propose then two graphical models to represent driving behavior, which are probabilistic hybrid automata and labeled directed graphs. We choose the use of graphical models because of their merging of graph theory and probability theory, which makes them one of the most applied solutions in data representation and interpretation. Finally based on these models, two analyses are performed: in the first analysis, model checking of the automaton model of the driver behavior is used to verify the compliance of his actions with the road rules; while the second uses graph matching theory to allow a comparison of the behavior of different drivers.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II addresses the numerical abstraction of sensor data. Section III details the two models used for representing driver's behavior. Section IV presents our approach for conducting a safety analysis of the recorded driving behavior. Section V introduces our method for analyzing the similarity between drivers, its use for drivers identification is then investigated. Finally, section VI concludes the paper.

TABLE I
EXAMPLES OF DRIVING DATA

Variable	Description
Speed	The car speed
Engine speed	The engines RPM (Revolutions Per Minute)
Acceleration	Acceleration of the car
Steering wheel angle	The position angle of the steering wheel
Heading	The vehicle heading
Fuel level	Level of fuel contained in the fuel tank
Brake/accelerator pedal pressure	The status of the brake/accelerator pedal
Clutch pedal position	Position of the clutch pedal
Transmission gear position	State of the transmission gear
Parking brake	Status of the parking brake

II. DRIVING DATA PREPROCESSING

Data acquisition systems, continuously operating, collect a tremendous amount of heterogeneous data through a multiplicity of in-vehicle sensors. Such sensors allow the measurement of information on variables related to the vehicle, the driver and the surrounding environment. Accelerometers and speedometers, for instance, are used to measure acceleration and speed of the car; radar and lidar sensors for distance to obstacles measurement and GPS for location coordinates, etc. We give in Table I examples of variables related to vehicle operation. The multiplicity of variables which can realistically be collected results in a very large quantity of collected data. This large size of initial data may, in fact, yield much richer information but also makes the analysis impractical or infeasible. For a practical and more effective analysis, driving behavior analysis approaches must use some abstraction techniques that will reduce the size of data and facilitate its manipulation and evaluation. This section presents the approach we have used for driving data abstraction.

A. Numerical Abstraction

The concept of abstraction has been used in many different domains from social theory, philosophy to mathematics, and computer science. In theoretical computer science, Patrick and Radhia Cousot have introduced the abstract interpretation theory for abstracting mathematical structures, involved in the formal models of computer systems [25]. The purpose of this theory is to build a sound approximation of the behaviors of complex computer systems, which is used to facilitate the reasoning on and the verification of their behavioral properties (non-termination, correct termination or with errors, etc.). Though it was primarily defined for static program analysis, abstract interpretation has been applied in other problems in computer science (model checking, database queries, malware detection) [26]. One key concept in abstract interpretation is that of abstract domains used for approximation. The choice of an abstract domain is based on the analyzed system structure and the properties to be inferred. Among the most commonly used domains are intervals, pentagons and octagons domains.

B. Abstraction of Driving Data Using Interval Domain

For driving data abstraction, we propose an adaptation of the interval domain. We choose to use the interval domain

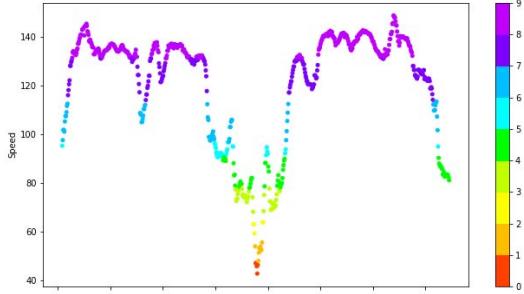


Fig. 2. Dynamic abstraction of speed by means of the k-means algorithm. The number of clusters generated is $k = 9$.

select the most relevant and uncorrelated variables. Fig.2 shows an example of segmentation of the variable speed measured for a driver D1 over a trip T, taken from the public dataset UAH-DriveSet¹ [29]. The application of k-means results in the generation of 9 clusters of the speed values. In different colors are illustrated the different intervals to be used for speed abstraction. Thus, the variable speed can be abstracted by intervals from the set $A_{speed} = \{[0, 47.1], [47.1, 56.2], [56.2, 65.7], [65.7, 78.0], [78.0, 90.6], [90.6, 97.0], [97.0, 113.7], [113.7, 131.3], [131.3, 148.8], [148.8, 255], [255, \infty]\}$.

An other interesting idea may be to apply the k-means clustering on all driving variables instead of a separate clustering. This is expected to reduce significantly the size of the data.

To summarize, we can say that the dynamic approach for abstraction is data-adapted, which allow to create abstract domains that fit better to each dataset. In the other hand, the static approach is more adapted in specific applications, *i.e. such as analyzing the compliance of the driver with traffic code (as mentioned in the example in the previous paragraph), by fixing the intervals manually it will be easier to verify whether the driver is in authorized/unauthorized state*, and when dealing with different datasets to create a uniform space of the abstract states.

III. DATA-BASED MODELING OF DRIVING BEHAVIOR

Driving data contains a lot of information about the behavior of the driver, and its interactions with the vehicle and the environment. However, to extract a maximum of useful information from the data, a modeling approach is needed. A formal model created from data will help to understand the behavior of the driver and facilitate its analysis. In the previous section, we have introduced a numerical abstraction of the driving data using the interval domain. In the following, we present two data-based models to represent the driver behavior. The first model is based on automata modeling formalism, in which the driving behavior is represented as an automaton operating in the driving environment. The use of automata-based modeling for driver behavior representation makes it possible to use model checking tools for formal verification of human driving behavior. The second modeling approach proposes a graph

based representation of the driver behavior, which will allow us to use graph matching algorithms to mathematically compare drivers behaviors.

A. Driving Behavior as a Probabilistic Rectangular Hybrid Input/Output Automaton (PRHIOA)

Probabilistic Rectangular Hybrid I/O Automaton was presented in [30] as a framework for the modeling of human driving behavior that captures all the interactions of the driver with its vehicle and the environment. It is based on the formalism of rectangular automata for which the reachability problem is proved to be decidable [31]. Readers can refer to [30] for the formal definition of PRHIOA.

An automaton representation of driving behavior consists of the following:

- **Internal variables.** The set of driving data related to the state of the vehicle such as *speed*, *acceleration*, *steering angle*, etc. To keep contextual information about the driving environment in each state (traffic laws and driving rules mainly), a variable which we refer to as the driving context *cxt* is considered. This latter is a representation of the driving requirements as a set of conditions on the driving variables, and which is updated continuously due to the dynamic nature of the driving environment [30].
- **States.** The set of states correspond to the possible valuations of driving data.
- **Invariants.** A state invariant is defined as a conjunction of conditions over the internal variables. A condition over a variable x takes the form of an interval $[a, b]$ from the abstract domain of x .
- **Input actions.** The representation of contextual information about the driving environment. They consist of real time information about traffic situations received either through in-vehicle sensors or through vehicular communication device. Examples of inputs include prescription road signs (like speed limitation), and warnings of coming vehicles. The inputs are used to construct and update the driving context *cxt*. The update follows predetermined rules that were designed depending on the nature of the different inputs.
- **Output actions.** A modeling of driver response to driving environment requirements. They represent the driver's actions related to driving tasks. For instance, accelerating, turning and stopping are modeled as outputs in the automaton model.
- **Transitions.** Two kinds of transitions are distinguished: input-enabled transitions that occur whenever an input is received from the environment and output transitions enabled by the driver operation without an explicit input.

The automaton representing the driver behavior is either constructed offline using recorded driving data, or online when sensors measurement are still streaming. The number of the automaton states depends on the cardinalities of the abstract domains defined for the different variables, elements of which are used for the definition of invariants. In fact, the construction is a machine learning algorithm, based on the learning automata algorithm [32], that learns and updates

¹available at <http://www.robesafe.uah.es/personal/eduardo.romera/uah-driveset/>

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Require:  $Q$ : states,  $I$ : input action set,  $O$ : output action set,
 $q_{initial}$ : initial state,  $Data$ : driving data set
Ensure:  $D$ : transition set,  $P$ : transition probabilities

 $q_{current} = q_{previous} = q_{initial}$ 
while Data do
    convert  $H \in Data$  to its corresponding abstract value
     $\alpha(H)$ 
    pick a state  $q$  from  $Q$  such that  $inv(q) = \alpha(H)$ 
     $q_{current} = q$ 
    if (input action  $I_j \in I$  exists in  $Data$ ) then
         $q_{previous} = q_{current}$ 
        Update current driving context  $cxt$  in  $q_{current}$ .
         $q_{current}.cxt = cxt$ 
        if  $(q_{previous}, q_{current}, I_j) \notin D$  then
            Add input-enabled transition  $T$  to  $D$ 
        end if
        Update transitions probabilities using (1) and (2)
    end if
    if (output action  $O_j \in O$  exists in  $Data$ ) then
        if  $(q_{previous}, q_{current}, O_j) \notin D$  then
            Add output transition  $T$  to  $D$ 
        end if
         $q_{previous} = q_{current}$ 
        Update transitions probabilities using (1) and (2)
    end if
end while

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Fig. 3. The algorithm of the automaton-based model construction.

the probabilities of the transitions between states according to the interactions of the driver with the environment. The pseudo code of the algorithm is depicted in Fig.3. The algorithm runs over the available driving data: transitions are added and their probabilities are updated whenever input or output actions occur, using the following reinforcement scheme:

$$P(T) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r = 0 \\ P(T) + \frac{1 - P(T)}{r} & \text{if } r \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$P(T') = P(T') - \frac{P(T')}{r}, \quad \text{for all } T' \neq T \quad (2)$$

Where $P(T)$ is the probability of the reinforced transition $T \in D$ outgoing from state q , and r is the number of all transitions T' outgoing from q .

Fig.4 illustrates an example of driving behavior automaton. The variables velocity, denoted vel , and steering wheel angle, denoted θ , are considered as internal variable and we add the variable cxt representing the driving context. As stated before, the expression of cxt is extracted from driving rules imposed by the traffic code in each state. In fact, regulations defined by traffic laws are either implicit (general requirement such as minimum and maximum speed limits on highways, prohibition of u-turn and parking in tunnels) or explicit (road signs, indications, etc.). Initially, with no explicit regulation cxt is initialized to C_0 , the implicit requirement of the driving environment. Actually, the implicit requirement depends primarily on road types: urban areas in France, for instance, require a

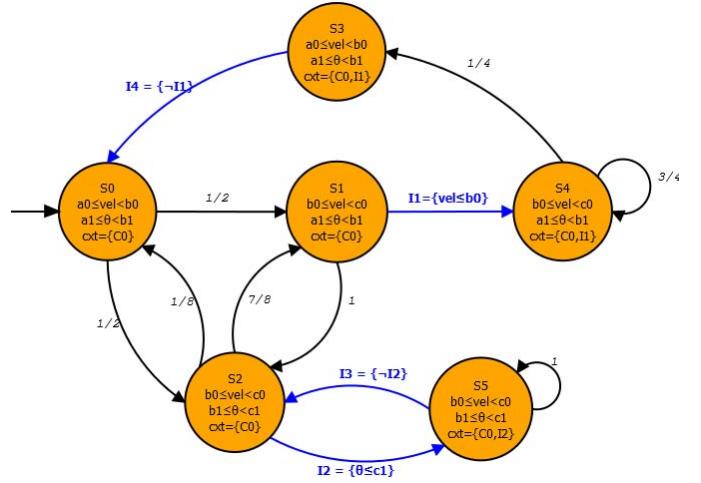


Fig. 4. Example of automata-based representation of driving behavior.

speed limit of 50km/h, another general rule is the obligation of driving on the right side of two-lane roads. The arrows of the automaton labeled with numbers represents transitions initiated by driver actions where the numbers represent the probabilities of their occurrence computed during the learning process. Whereas the other arrows represent input-enabled transitions initiated by the environment inputs and which affect the context cxt .

The automaton depicts some usual behaviors of the driver: for instance, we can say that usually in state S_0 , the driver either increases the car velocity or both the velocity and the steering angle, each with a probability of 1/2. Also in state S_4 , the probability of the driver's compliance to the restriction on velocity ($vel \leq b_0$) is 1/4, because in most of the times the driver does not decrease the velocity below b_0 , its values stay in the interval $[b_0, c_0[$ with a probability of 3/4. Another behavior is when restriction on θ (e.g when turning or overtaking is prohibited) ended, the driver often (probability of 7/8) change both the velocity and the steering wheel.

B. Driving Behavior as an Attributed Directed Graph

The second contribution in this section consists of using graphs as formal models for driving behavior modeling. In fact, graphs have been used in many areas of computer science [33] such as software engineering, data mining and networking. Depending on the context of use, we find different types of graphs with various definitions. In this paper, we propose the use of *attributed directed graphs* to represent the behavior of drivers. An *attributed directed graph* G [34], [35] is formally defined as a tuple (V, E, μ, δ) where:

- V is a finite set of vertices.
- $E \subseteq V \times V$ a set of directed edges. An edge $e = (s, d)$ is an arrow defined by the pair from the source vertex $s \in V$ to $d \in V$ the destination vertex.
- $\mu : V \rightarrow L_V$ is a vertex labeling function that associates to each vertex from V labels from the set L_V .
- $\delta : E \rightarrow L_E$ is an edge labeling function that associates to each edge from E labels from L_E .

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Require:  $V$ : A set of labeled vertices,  $V_0$ : initial state,
Data: driving data set.
Ensure:  $G$ : A graph
 $V_i = V_0$ ,  $action = 'none'$ 
while Data do
    map  $H \in Data$  to the corresponding label  $lbl = \mu(H)$ 
    while  $lbl = \mu(V_i)$  do
        wait
    end while
    Pick a vertex  $V_j$  with  $\mu(V_j) = lbl$ 
    create an edge  $e = (V_i, V_j)$ 
    if driver action  $a_i$  known then
        add  $a_i$  to the label of  $e$ :  $\delta(e).action = a_i$ 
    end if
    if  $e \in E$  then
         $\delta(e).weight = \delta(e).weight + 1$ 
    else
        add edge  $e$  to  $E$ 
         $\delta(e).weight = 1$ 
    end if
     $V_i = V_j$ 
end while

```

Fig. 5. Algorithm of graph construction.

L_V and L_E represent respectively the sets of vertex-labels and edge-labels, where labels are tuples of fixed-size.

Similarly to the automata-based modeling approach, a graph of driving behavior is defined such that:

- The vertices represent the dynamic states of the vehicle.
- The edges represent the transitions between the states of the vehicle.
- The vertex-labeling function assigns to each vertex v a label l_v . A vertex label is a combination of labels assigned to the abstract values of driving data. Let $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ be the set of driving data, and L_{x_i} be the set of labels of x_i . We define the labeling function ϵ_{x_i} for variable x_i as:

$$\epsilon_{x_i} : I_{\bar{R}} \rightarrow L_{x_i}$$

$$[a_i, b_i] \mapsto l_{i,x_i}$$

The vertex-labeling function μ is defined as:

$$\mu : V \rightarrow L_V = L_{x_1} \times \dots \times L_{x_i} \times \dots \times L_{x_n}$$

$$v \mapsto l_v$$

- The edge-labeling function assigns to each e a couple $(action, weight)$, where $action$ refers to a driver action and $weight \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$ represents the occurrence of $action$.
- The edge-labeling function is defined as:

$$\gamma : E \rightarrow L_E$$

$$e = (s, d) \mapsto l_e = (action, weight)$$

The algorithm of the graph construction runs over driving data, its pseudo code is presented in Fig.5. At each timestamp, the data read is mapped to a label from L_v , edges are added and weights are updated. The resulting graph will thus be a personalized representation of the driver behavior.

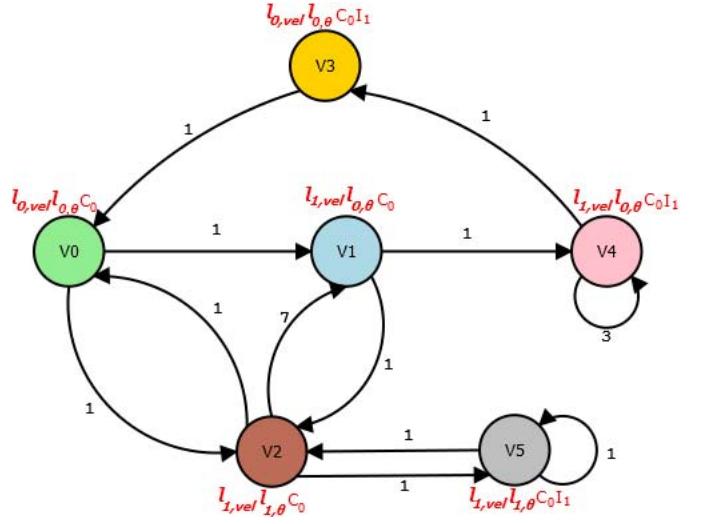


Fig. 6. Example of graph-based representation of driving behavior.

Fig.6 depicts an example of driving behavior graph, representing the same driver of Fig.4. Velocity (*vel*) and steering wheel angle (θ) were considered for the representation of the vehicle states, and their values were used to label the vertices. Considering A_{vel} and A_θ , the abstract domains of *vel* and θ defined as described in the previous section. Defining labels of *vel* consists of assigning to each interval $[a_i, b_i]$ in A_{vel} an integer or string label $l_{i,vel}$. The labels $l_{0,vel}$ and $l_{0,\theta}$ for instance refer to the labels assigned to the first interval in A_{vel} and A_θ respectively. For driving context, the label is defined using the notations assigned to the received inputs. C_0I_1 in the label of V_3 means that the driving environment consists of the implicit requirement of the road and the input I_1 . In comparison with the automaton in Fig.4, the labels of the graph vertices replace the invariants of states, while the edge weights replace the probabilities of transitions. Driver actions, if known, are added to the labels of the edges.

C. Relationship Between Driving Data Abstraction and the Application Performance

An important issue relevant to performance that should be considered is the relationship between the model size (number of states) and the defined abstraction. This was carried out by conducting an experimentation using sample data from the signal corpus collected by the *behavior signal processing laboratory of Nagoya University* [36]. The corpus uses different kind of sensors to capture real data relevant to the driver, the vehicle and the environment:

- Driver: Driver speech is recorded using microphones, biological signals such as *heart rate*, *skin potential* and *perspiration* are also recorded.
- Vehicle: Recorded driving signals consist of *brake* and *gas pedal pressure*, *steering wheel angle*, *vehicle speed*, *following distance* and *3D accelerations*. The sampling frequency is 16kHz.
- Environment: Cameras are used to capture the road ahead, GPS positions.

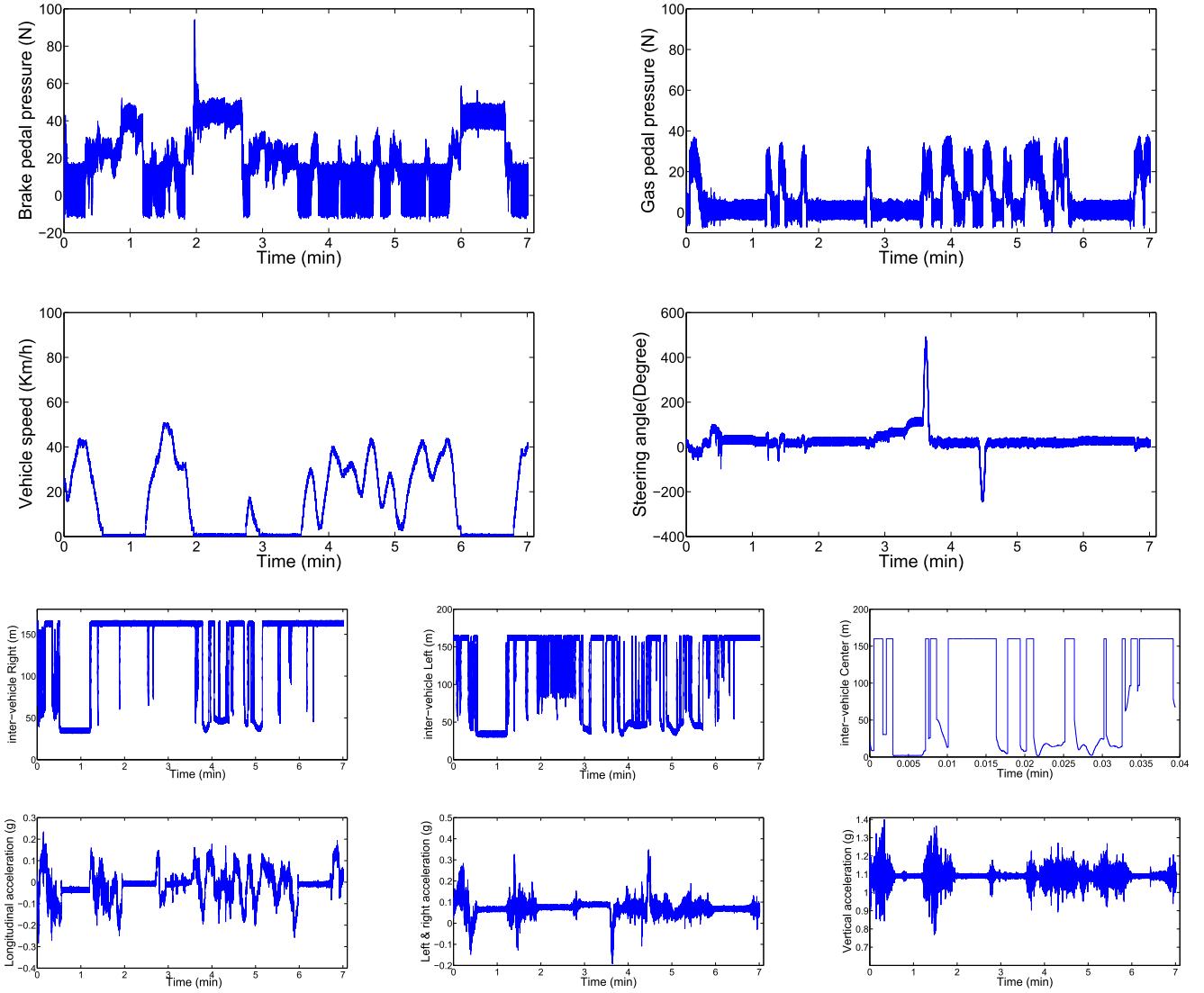


Fig. 7. Distributions of driving signals of one female driver for a 7 minutes drive. The sampling frequency is 16 kHz. The data is provided by CIAIR, Nagoya, Japan (refer to [9] for details).

Fig.7 depicts the measured values of driving signals of one driver (female) during one trip (7 minutes). Numerical abstraction of driving signals can be intuitively seen as a discretization of the signals. We define 5 different abstractions, varying each time the precision with which we abstract the data. The precision is represented by the length of the intervals used in the abstraction. Table II presents the intervals considered for the five abstractions defined for the driving signals used in the experiment. The intervals bounds were defined manually by analyzing the different distributions of data. The lengths of intervals vary according to which signal variations the abstraction should capture.

The model state space is generated for each abstraction separately. Fig.8 compares the size of the model generated for 1-minute drive (model size), using the different abstractions. It shows also the relation between the model size and the time for its generation (processing time). As expected, an abstraction that is very precise (defined using narrow

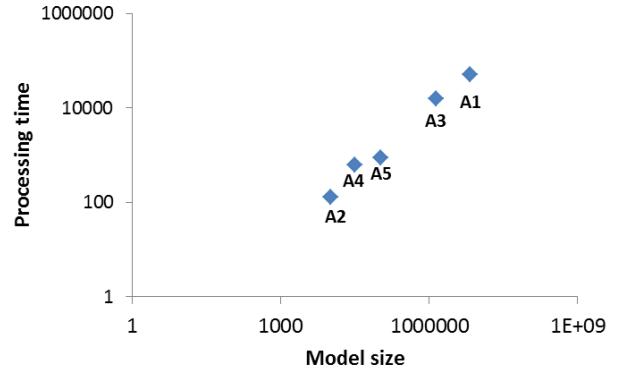


Fig. 8. Relationships between abstraction and performance.

intervals) increases the size of the model and the processing time. Indeed, abstraction 'A1', the closest abstraction to real measurements has the largest model size (6635520 states) and

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