



EE-490(h) - Lab In Data Science

Robust Journey Planning

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Contents

1. Motivation
2. Assumptions & Simplifications
3. Data Cleaning
4. Graph Construction & Shortest Path
5. Probabilistic Model
6. Validation & Visualization

1. Motivation

- Multi-modal journey planning is becoming increasingly popular
- However nowadays, most used models use a deterministic approach.
- In real life, transport networks feature uncertainty.
- Journey plans should be able to handle such unexpected situations without compromising the journey duration beyond some acceptable level.



2. Assumptions & Simplifications

- We only consider stations within a range of 10kms from Zürich HB.
- A given journey will take time at most 1h, which is reasonable considering the 10km constraint.
- We assume statistical independence between the observed transportation delays.
- Walking time at different connections takes 2mins.
- Walking speed for a random user of the system is 4km/h.

3. Data Cleaning

- We only consider rows where the actual times of arrival and departure were measured (AN_PROGNOSE_STATUS is set to GESCHAETZT)
- We chose to use data from 04/2018 because actual measures times were most frequent than other more recent months.
- We only keep useful columns (namely date, trip_id, train_id, station_id, stop_name, arrival_time, actual_arrival_time, departure_time, actual_departure_time)

| | date | trip_id | train_id | BPUIC | stop_name | arrival_time | actual_arrival_time | departure_time | actual_departure_time |
|---|------------|----------------|----------|---------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 0 | 20.04.2018 | 85:11:1255:001 | 1255 | 8503000 | Zürich HB | 20.04.2018 08:26 | 20.04.2018 08:27:41 | 20.04.2018 08:37 | 20.04.2018 08:39:43 |
| 1 | 20.04.2018 | 85:11:1258:001 | 1258 | 8503000 | Zürich HB | 20.04.2018 21:23 | 20.04.2018 21:25:19 | 20.04.2018 21:34 | 20.04.2018 21:34:51 |
| 2 | 20.04.2018 | 85:11:1507:002 | 1507 | 8503000 | Zürich HB | 20.04.2018 06:30 | 20.04.2018 06:30:14 | 20.04.2018 06:39 | 20.04.2018 06:39:52 |
| 3 | 20.04.2018 | 85:11:1507:002 | 1507 | 8503016 | Zürich Flughafen | 20.04.2018 06:49 | 20.04.2018 06:49:43 | 20.04.2018 06:51 | 20.04.2018 06:52:01 |
| 4 | 20.04.2018 | 85:11:1509:003 | 1509 | 8503000 | Zürich HB | 20.04.2018 07:30 | 20.04.2018 07:31:24 | 20.04.2018 07:39 | 20.04.2018 07:39:36 |

4. Graph Construction & Shortest Path

- We reconstruct the transportation system by grouping by trip_id, removing redundant itineraries and taking the longest one.
- We then create a graph where each node represents a station, and edges represent a segment of an itinerary with departure/arrival times and durations.
- We run Dijkstra's algorithm to compute the shortest path from station A to station B.

| | trip_id | departure | departure_time | arrival | arrival_time | time |
|---|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------|
| 0 | 85:11:20453:001 | Bassersdorf | 1900-01-01 13:56:00 | Zürich Flughafen | 1900-01-01 14:01:00 | 5 |
| 1 | 85:11:20453:001 | Zürich Flughafen | 1900-01-01 14:03:00 | Zürich Oerlikon | 1900-01-01 14:07:00 | 4 |
| 2 | 85:11:20453:001 | Zürich Oerlikon | 1900-01-01 14:08:00 | Zürich Wipkingen | 1900-01-01 14:10:00 | 2 |
| 3 | 85:11:20453:001 | Zürich Wipkingen | 1900-01-01 14:10:00 | Zürich HB | 1900-01-01 14:16:00 | 6 |
| 4 | 85:11:20453:001 | Zürich HB | 1900-01-01 14:21:00 | Zürich Wiedikon | 1900-01-01 14:24:00 | 3 |

5. Probabilistic Model

- We use an exponential distribution to model the probability of a missed connection between two itinerary segments.
- We use the mean of previous delays of the given trip_id.

$$F(x; \lambda) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

- The resulting **Robustness** parameter will be equal to “the bottleneck” probability of successful connection in our itinerary.

6. Validation & Visualization

We use the itinerary from Zürich HB to Zürich Affoltern as a validation example.

Comparing our itinerary to the one we get from Google Maps, both take 17mins but our algorithm displays a Robustness score equal to 0.83 which will help the user determine how likely he will arrive on time.

Our output:

start at Zürich HB at time 12:00

train from Zürich HB at 12:01:00 arrives in Zürich Oerlikon at 12:07:00 85:11:2640:001 with probability 1

train from Zürich Oerlikon at 12:09:00 arrives in Zürich Seebach at 12:11:00 85:11:18644:001 with probability 0.8309866845939339

train from Zürich Seebach at 12:11:00 arrives in Zürich Affoltern at 12:14:00 85:11:18644:001 with probability 1

train from Zürich Affoltern at 12:14:00 arrives in Regensdorf-Watt at 12:18:00 85:11:18644:001 with probability 1

Robustness of this journey is 0.8309866845939339

Google Maps output:



12:01 PM–12:18 PM

17 min



S6

12:01 PM from Zurich Main Station

[DETAILS](#)

