

# Resilience of Traffic Networks with Partially Controlled Routing

**Gianluca Bianchin**

in collaboration with: Fabio Pasqualetti and Soumya Kundu



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University of California, Riverside

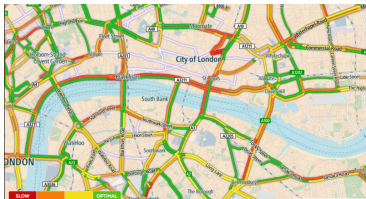


**Pacific Northwest**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Optimization and Control Group  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

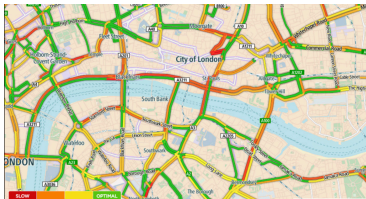
2019 American Control Conference  
July 11, 2019 | Philadelphia, USA

# Routing in Traffic Networks

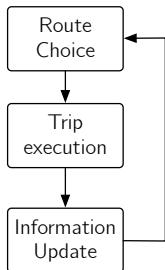


Network routing: captures how travelers respond to congestion

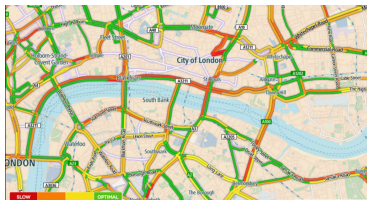
# Routing in Traffic Networks



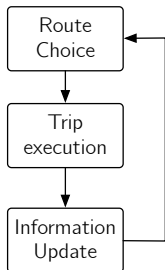
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# Routing in Traffic Networks



Network routing: captures how travelers respond to congestion

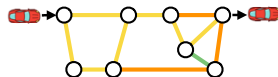


Efficiency: A horizontal bar graph with a blue segment on the left and a white segment on the right, indicating low efficiency.



- Minimize individual delay
- Braess Paradox

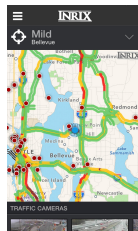
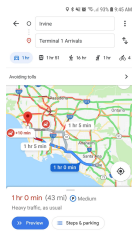
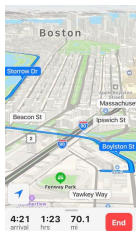
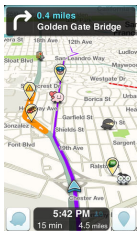
Efficiency: A horizontal bar graph with a blue segment on the left and a white segment on the right, indicating high efficiency.



- Do what's best for network
- Can do longer commute

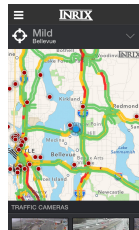
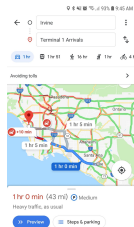
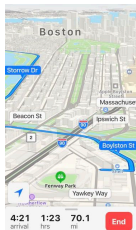
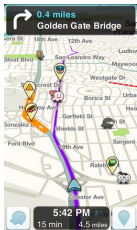
# The Introduction of Real-Time Traffic Information

- Commute as fast as we can

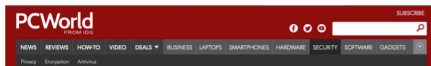


# The Introduction of Real-Time Traffic Information

- Commute as fast as we can



- Information does not necessarily make things better:



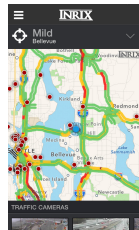
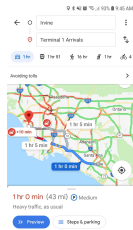
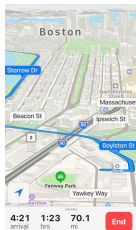
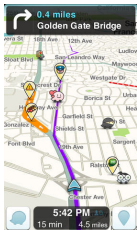
## Researcher: Hackers can cause traffic jams by manipulating real-time traffic data



Hackers can influence real-time traffic-flow-analysis **systems** to make people drive into traffic jams or to keep roads clear in areas where a lot of people use Google or Waze navigation systems, a German researcher demonstrated at BlackHat Europe.

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## Hackers Crack Into Texas Road Sign, Warn of Zombies Ahead

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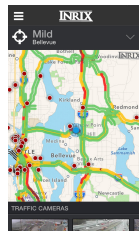
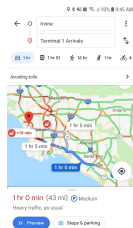
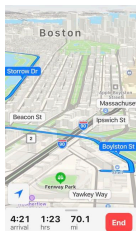
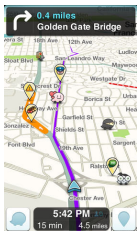
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Transportation officials in Texas are scrambling to prevent hackers from changing messages on digital road signs after one sign in Austin was altered to read, "Zombies Ahead."

Chris Lippincott, director of media relations for the Texas Department of Transportation, confirmed that a portable traffic sign at Lamar Boulevard and West 15th Street, near the University of Texas at Austin, was hacked into during the early hours of Jan. 19.

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## Hackers Crack Into Texas Warn of Zombies

### APPLICATIONS

### Navigation App Waze Vulnerable to Hackers

Researchers have found that hackers can break into users accounts, track the users in real time, issue instructions and provide an inaccurate picture of traffic at any given time.

(TNS) -- A serious security breach has been discovered in the Google-owned navigation and traffic monitoring app Waze used by millions of drivers worldwide. It seems that Waze, whose slogan is "Outsmarting Traffic, Together" can be outsmarted by hackers, researchers at the University of California Santa Barbara have found, with serious privacy implications for users and scope for criminal abuse.

**Researcher: Hackers can manipulate real-time traffic**



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# Two Emerging Questions

① Do real-time routing suggestions improve performance?

✓ Yes, under appropriate design

② What is the impact on the network robustness?

✗ Controlled routing can increase network fragility

# Model of Network and Routing

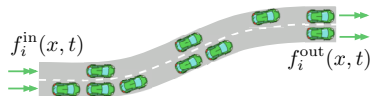
# Model of Traffic Network

- Roads dynamics

$$\dot{x}_i = f_i^{\text{in}}(x, t) - f_i^{\text{out}}(x, t)$$

$x_i$  = density [veh/mile]

$f_i$  = flow [veh/h]



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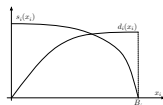
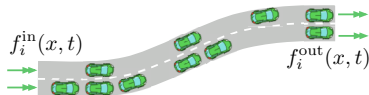
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- Cell Transmission Model

$$f_i^{\text{in}}(x, t) \leq s_i(x_i) \quad f_i^{\text{out}}(x, t) \leq d_i(x_i)$$



$B_i$  = max occupancy

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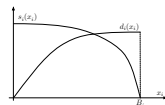
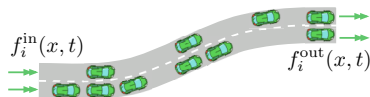
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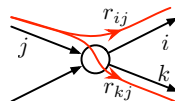
$$f_i^{\text{in}}(x, t) \leq s_i(x_i) \quad f_i^{\text{out}}(x, t) \leq d_i(x_i)$$

- Flow conservation at intersections

$$f_i^{\text{in}}(x, t) = \sum_j r_{ij} f_j^{\text{out}}(x, t)$$



$B_i = \text{max occupancy}$



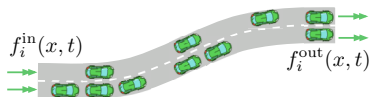
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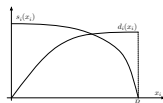
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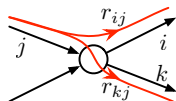
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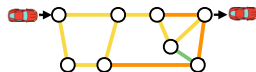
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- Network dynamics:

$$\dot{x} = (R - I)f(x, t) + \lambda$$



# Partially Controlled Routing

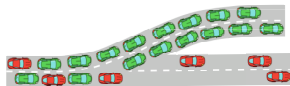
$$R = \Sigma R^C + (I - \Sigma)R^S, \quad R^S \in \mathcal{R}_g, \quad R^C \in \mathcal{R}_g$$

- $R^C$  = design parameter
- $R^S$  = fixed routing
- $\Sigma = \text{Diag}\{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n\}$

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- $\sigma_i \in [0, 1]$  describes penetration level at road  $i$
  - $\sigma_i$  will follow suggestions  $r_{ij}^C$
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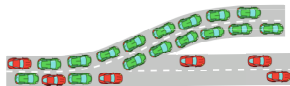
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- 1 Do real-time routing suggestions improve performance?

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{R^C} \quad & \int_0^{\mathcal{H}} x_1 + \cdots + x_n \, dt \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \dot{x} = (R - I)f(x, t) + \lambda \\ & R = \Sigma R^C + (I - \Sigma)R^S \quad (\sigma = \sigma_0) \\ & R^C \in \mathcal{R}_G, \quad x \leq B \end{aligned}$$

- Optimizing network total travel time
- Design parameter:  $R^C$  (routing suggestions)

- ② What is the impact real-time information on the network robustness?

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\mathcal{G}, x_0) &:= \min_{\tilde{\sigma}} \quad \|\tilde{\sigma} - \sigma_0\|_1 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad &x_i = B_i, \text{ for some } i \text{ and some } t \end{aligned}$$

- Smallest change in penetration levels that results in spillbacks
- The variable parameter is:  $\sigma$  (penetration rate)

# Routing Suggestions Design

# Numerically Solving the Optimization

- ① Discretization:  $x_{k+1} = x_k + T_s((R_k - I)f(x_k) + \lambda_k) := \mathcal{F}(x_k, r_k, \lambda_k)$
- ② Vectorization:  $r_k = (\Sigma_k^\top \otimes I)r^c + ((I - \Sigma_k)^\top \otimes I)r^s := \Psi(\sigma_k, r^s, r^c)$
- ③ Sparsity:  $\sum_i r_{ij}^c = b_j, 0 \leq r_{ij}^c \leq 1, (i, j) \in \mathcal{E}$

Optimization on discretized dynamics:

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Because of nonlinearity of  $\mathcal{F}$ : **nonlinear programming opt. problem**

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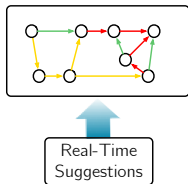
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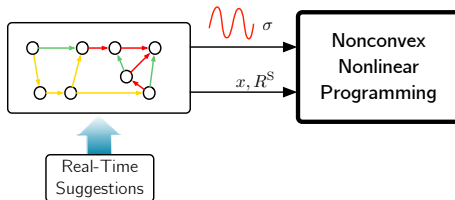


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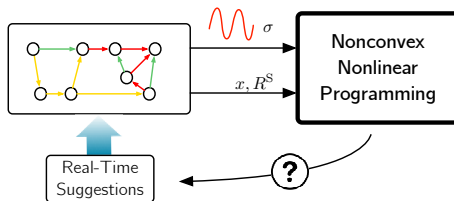


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# Solving Nonlinear Programming in Real Time

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min_{r^c} & f_0(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) \\ \text{s.t.} & g_i(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) \leq 0 \\ & h_j(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) = 0\end{array}$$

- 1 Solve NLP problem offline with  $\sigma = \sigma_0$
- 2 Compose the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma, w, u) = f_0(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) + u^\top g(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) + w^\top h(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma)$$

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$$\mathcal{L}(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma, w, u) = f_0(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) + u^\top g(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) + w^\top h(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma)$$

# Solving Nonlinear Programming in Real Time

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{r^c} \quad & f_0(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g_i(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) \leq 0 \\ & h_j(r^c, \hat{x}, \sigma) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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- 3 Set of KKT conditions

Implicit Equation

$$F(r^{c*}, \hat{x}^*, \sigma_0, u^*, w^*) = 0,$$

Describes Relation  
Between Variables  
At Optimality

$$\nabla \mathcal{L}(r^{c*}, \hat{x}^*, \sigma_0, w^*, u^*) = 0$$

$$u_i g_i(r^{c*}, \hat{x}^*, \sigma_0) = 0$$

$$h_j(r^{c*}, \hat{x}^*, \sigma_0) = 0$$

## Solving Nonlinear Programming in Real Time (2)

- ④ Let  $y = [r^c(\sigma) \ u(\sigma) \ w(\sigma)]$  and derive w.r.t.  $\sigma$

$$F(r^{c*}, \hat{x}^*, \sigma_0, u^*, w^*) = 0$$

$$M(\sigma) \frac{dy}{d\sigma} + N(\sigma) = 0,$$

$$M(\sigma) = [\partial F_i / \partial y_j], \quad dy/d\sigma = [dy_i/d\sigma_j], \quad N(\sigma) = [\partial F_i / \partial \sigma_j]$$

- ④ If  $r^{c*}(\sigma_0)$  is a local isolated minimizing point

Describes variation  
of optimal solution  
to changes in  $\sigma$

$$\frac{dy}{d\sigma} = -M^{-1}(\sigma_0)N(\sigma_0)$$

- ⑤ Let  $dy/d\sigma = [\eta_1, \eta_2, \eta_3]^T$

$$r^c(\sigma) = r^{c*}(\sigma_0) + \eta_1(\sigma - \sigma_0)$$

Linear update: significantly faster than solving nonlinear programming

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## Theorem

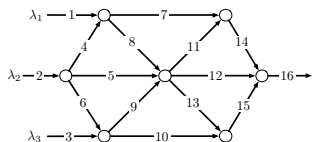
Assume

- ① All constraints are linearly independent
- ② Second order KKT conditions hold at optimizer
- ③ Strict complementary slackness

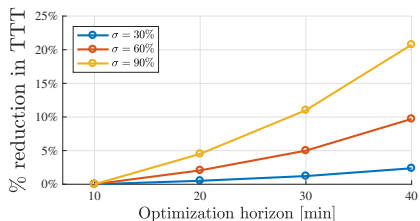
Then,

$$r^{c*}(\sigma) = r^{c*}(\sigma_0) + \eta_1(\sigma - \sigma_0) + o(\|\sigma - \sigma_0\|^2)$$

# Numerical Results

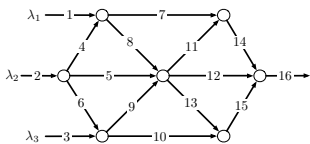


- Network:  $n = 15$  roads,  $m = 7$  junctions
- Roads:  $L_i = 5\text{mi}$ , capacity  $B_i = 200\text{veh}$
- Routing:  $r_{ij}^s$  split uniformly

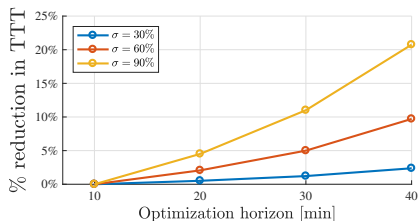


Consistent reduction in travel time not only requires significant penetration levels, but also appropriately large control horizons

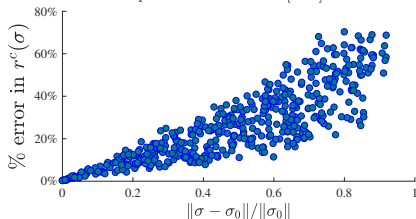
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Error with real-time update =  $o(\|\sigma - \sigma_0\|^2)$

# Network Resilience

## The Margin of Resilience of link $i$ is

Smallest change in  $\sigma$  that generates its failure due to a jam

$$\rho_i(x_0) := \min_{\sigma} \|\sigma - \sigma_0\|_1$$

$$\text{s.t. } \dot{x} = (R - I)f(x, t) + \lambda$$

$$R = \Sigma R^C + (I - \Sigma)R^S$$

$$x_i \geq B_i, \text{ for some } t \in [0, \mathcal{H}]$$

# Estimating the Margin of Resilience

① Constraint violation is  $\mathcal{F}_i(x_k, r_k(\sigma), \lambda_k) \geq B_i$

② For small changes of  $\sigma$ , take Taylor expansion

$$\mathcal{F}_i(x_k, r_k(\sigma), \lambda_k) = \mathcal{F}_i(x_k, r_k(\sigma_0), \lambda_k) + \underbrace{\left. \frac{d\mathcal{F}_i}{d\sigma}(x_k, r_k(\sigma), \lambda_k) \right|_{\sigma=\sigma_0}}_{\Psi_i(r_k, x_k, \lambda_k, \sigma)} (\sigma - \sigma_0) + o(\|\delta_\sigma\|^2) \geq B_i$$

③ By rearranging the terms and by taking the norms

$$\rho_i(\mathcal{G}, x_0) \geq \min_k \frac{B_i - \mathcal{F}_i(x_k, r_k, \lambda_k)}{\|\Psi_i(k, \lambda, \sigma_0)\|_\infty}$$

Lower Bound on Margin of Resilience

(Can be quickly computed from real-time update)

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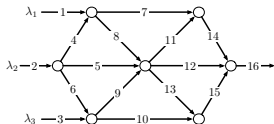
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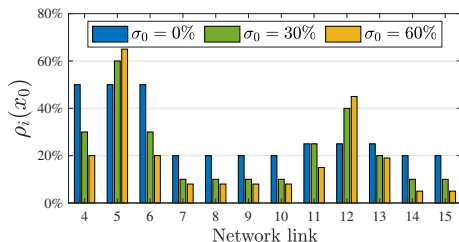
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Lower bound on resilience:



Networks where the routing is partially controlled by a system planner are more prone to traffic jam phenomena originated by changes in fluctuations in routing choices

# Conclusions

## Contribution:

- Real-time mechanism based on first-order sensitivity analysis for NLP
- Technique to estimate margin of resilience

## Outcomes:

- (Expected) Routing control leads to improved network performance
- (Counterintuitive) Performance comes at the cost of higher fragility

## Directions:

- ✓ Need of a framework that allows us to formalize these observations
- 📝 Increasing need to capture human responses to control policies

Thanks: Control of Complex Systems Initiative (CCSI) at PNNL & NSF

# Resilience of Traffic Networks with Partially Controlled Routing

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