

# Personalized Protection of Identifiers on Public Trajectories

Jeppe R. Thomsen

Aalborg University  
Department of Computer Science

November 8, 2010

# Overview

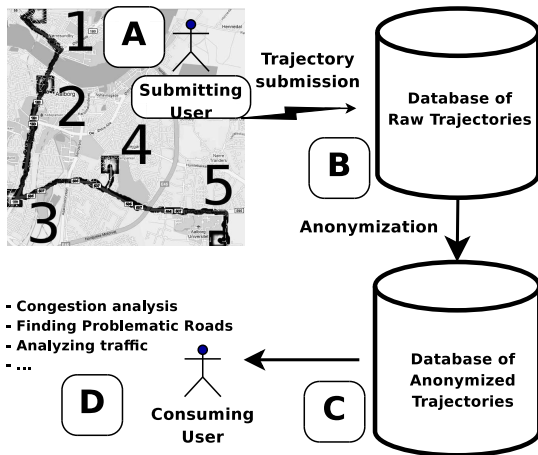
Problem Setting

Privacy Profile

t-anonymity

Conclusion

# Problem Setting



**A** Privacy Aware User

**B** Trusted Server

**C** Public Untrusted Server

**D** Service Providers

# Goals

At the service provider:

- Remove all user identifying information from trajectories.
- Preserve usability to users of public dataset

At the users side:

- Provide **Usability**. specifying privacy should be simple.
- Be **Practical**. No user interaction during normal operation.
- Be **Flexible**. Support several ways of defining privacy.

## Related work

### Protection of Trajectories

- Collapse trajectories and remove updates
- Only publish edges with  $k$  support.
- At each update compute MBR including  $k-1$  updates
- Precompute regions before sending.
- Degrade public dataset so no sub-trajectory can be matched to it.

**No work on spatial anonymity with time**

# Privacy Profile

- Settings
- PSR - Potentially Sensitive Region
- Protection types and schemes
- t-anonymity

# Settings

## Users Can

- Set both globally and locally
  - Temporal sensitivity
  - Spatial sensitivity
- Define a PSR
- Have multiple profiles.

## Definition (Privacy Profile)

$(stime, etime, d_s, d_t, \{PSR\})$

# PSR

- A group of edges in a road network considered sensitive
- A value indicating spatial sensitivity
- A value indicating temporal sensitivity
- A general usage class

## Definition (PSR)

A PSR  $p$  is a tuple  $(p_{edges}, d_s, d_t, class)$  where  $p_{edges}$  is the set of tuples  $\{(e, e_{from}, e_{to} | 0 \leq e_{from} < e_{to} \leq e_{length})\}$  which is sensitive.  $e \in \mathbf{E}$  and  $e_{from}, e_{to}, e_{length} \in \mathbb{R}$ .  $e_{from}/e_{to}$  specifies on  $e$  the start-/end-location covered by  $p_{cover}$ . If  $e$  is fully included in  $p_{cover}$ ,  $e_{from}/e_{to}$  is equal to  $0/p_{length}$ .  $d_s, d_t, class \in \mathbb{N}$  is respectively the spatial sensitivity, the temporal sensitivity, and the PSR classification



# PSR Classes

Classification	Scheme
Public Service Point	AS
House	ASTI, RS
Route w. endpoints	AS, ASTI, RS
Route w/o endpoints	AS, ASTI, RS

## Protection Schemes

- AS - Always Sensitive.
- ASTI - Always Sensitive within a time interval.
- RS - Rarely Sensitive.

# t-anonymity

## Spatial k-anonymity

- Adapted for trajectories
- Argumented with time.

In a PSR:

- Spatial sensitivity decides t-1 trajectories to hide between
- Temporal sensitivity defines a time period shared with t-1 other trajectories.

# Definition: t-anonymity

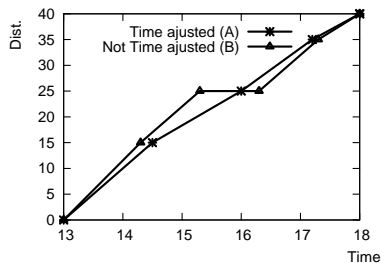
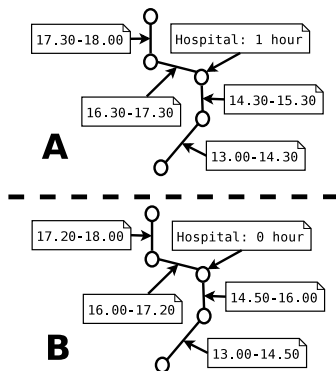
## Definition (t-anonymity)

Given  $\mathbf{T}$ , the set of trajectories and  $p_{edges}$ , the set of edges covering a sensitive part of trajectory  $\gamma$ .

Let  $\Gamma \subseteq \mathbf{T}$  be all trajectories which subtrajectories intersect with  $p_{edges}$ .  $\Gamma' \subseteq \Gamma$  be all trajectories where, for edges intersecting with  $p_{edges}$ , at each timestamp of  $\gamma$  their timestamps lie within a time period  $TP$  symmetric around the timestamp of  $\gamma$ .

$\Gamma'$  is said to satisfy t-anonymity with respect to  $TP$  and  $\gamma$  iff  $\Gamma'$  contains at least  $t - 1$  other trajectories.

# Time Period



# Conclusion

- Novel Privacy Profile to specify spatial-temporal sensitivity
- Introduced t-anonymity
- Introduced a way of temporally hiding users movements.

## Future Work

- Performance study to determine a threshold **D** for data integrity, to determine when data is no longer usable by data consumers.

## End of Presentation

Thank You For Listening