



Response functions as a new concept to study local dynamics in traffic networks

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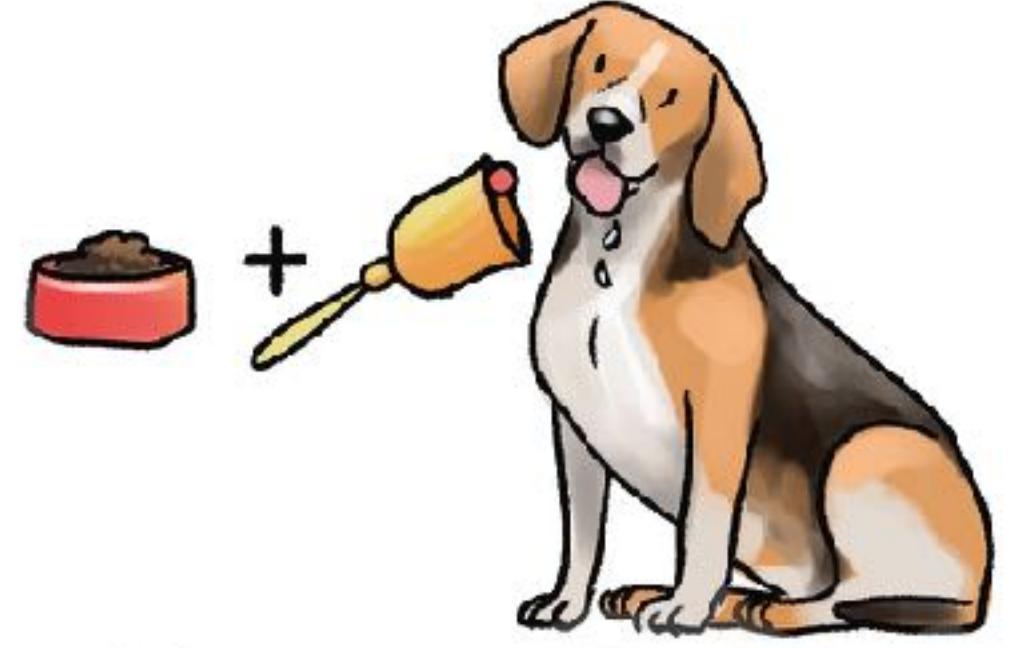
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Background—what is the response?

Pavlov's dogs

DURING CONDITIONING



AFTER CONDITIONING



Ref. <https://practicalpie.com/stimulus-response-theory/>

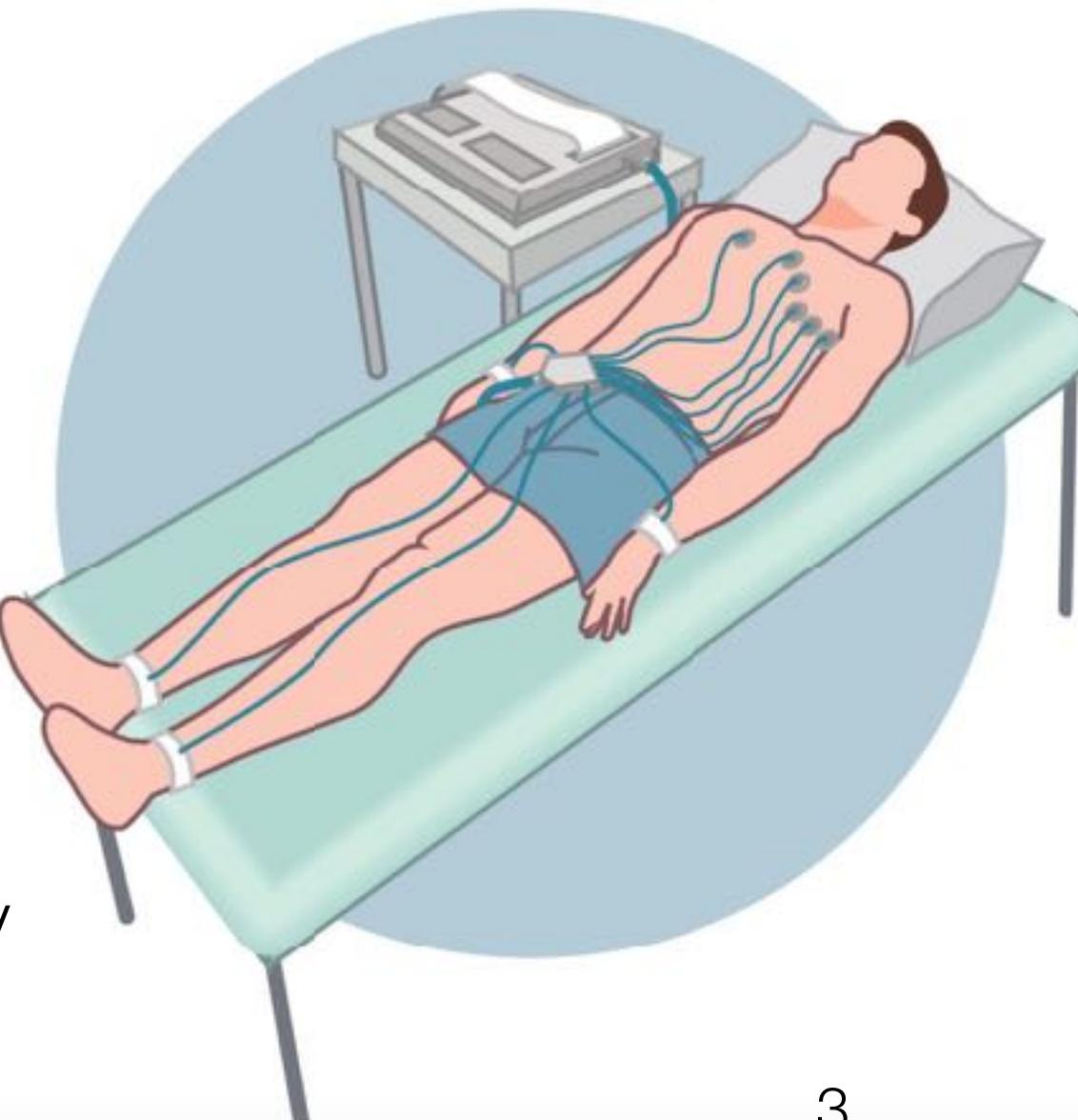
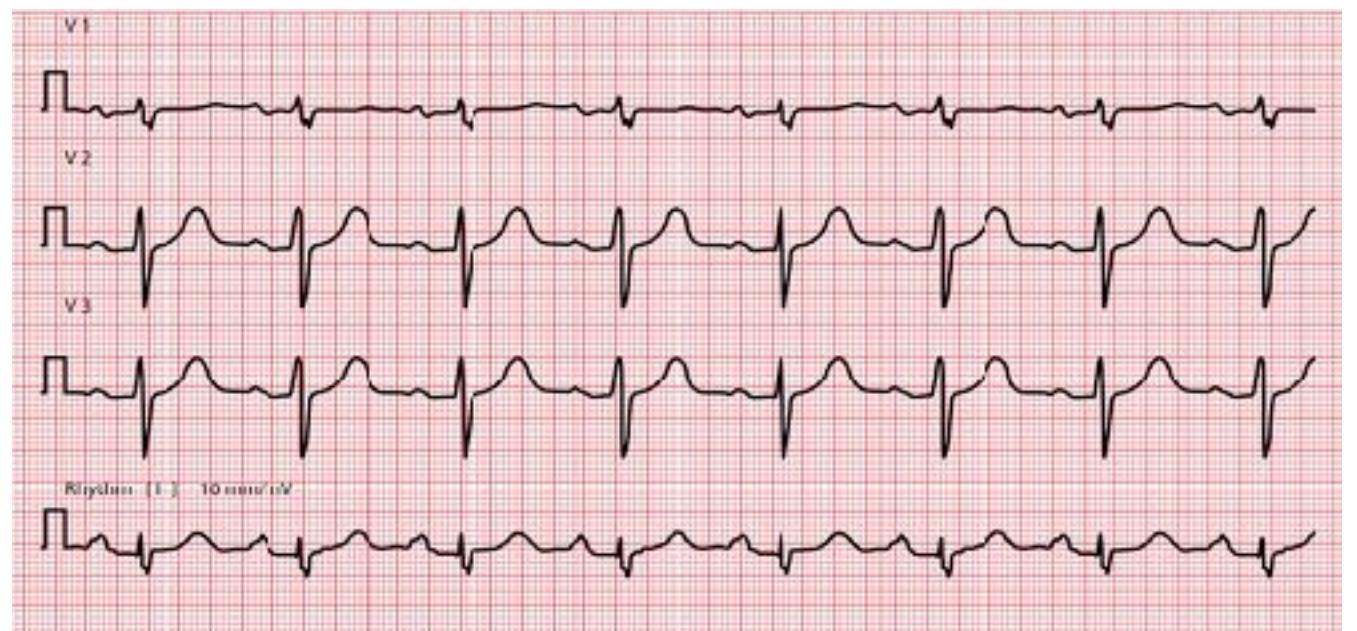
Stimulus



Responder



Electrocardiogram (ECG) test



Ref. <https://www.ihealthcentre.ca/heart-tests/ecg/>

Response process:

- Stimulus send signals
- Responder receives and reacts to signals
- Time delay between signal generating and reactions

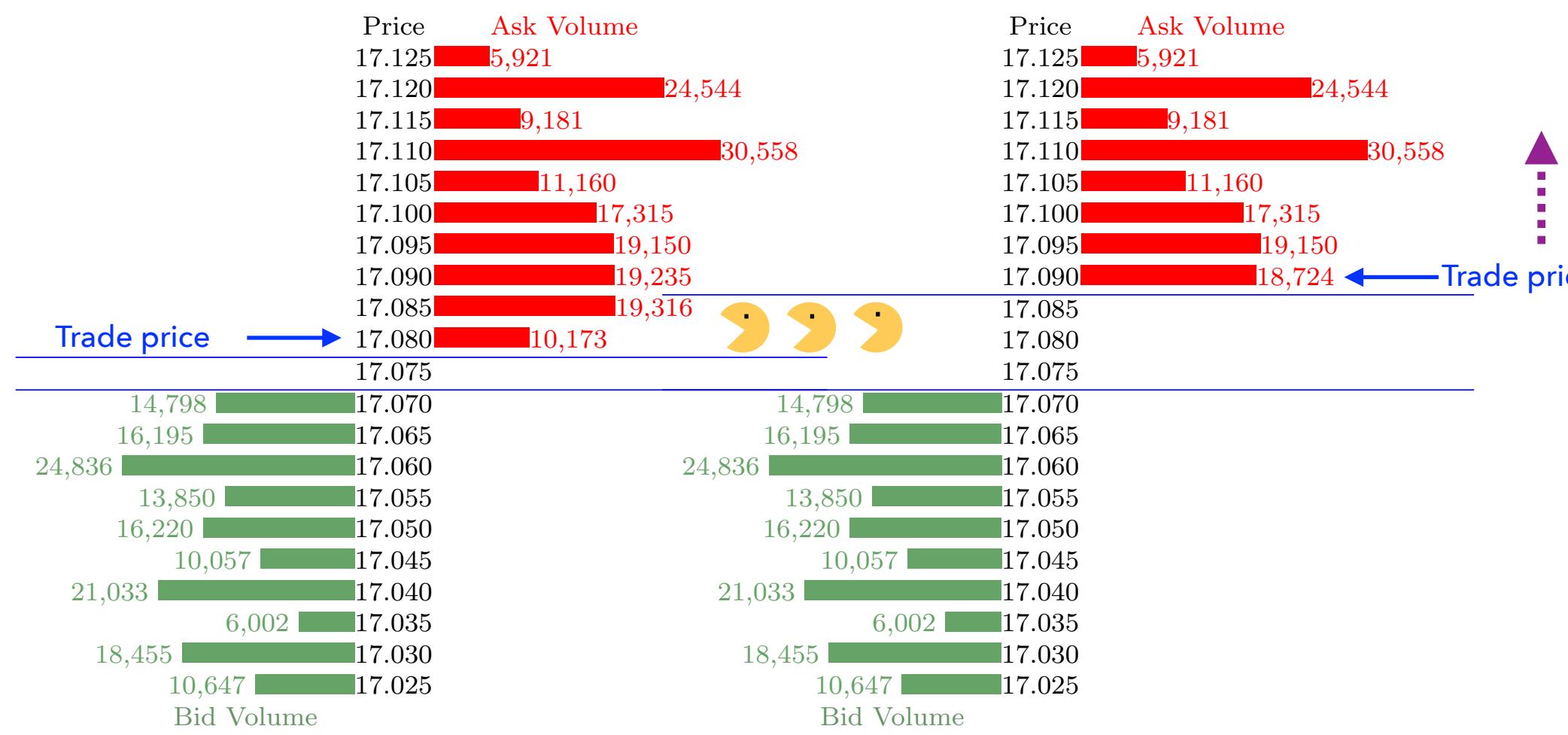
Background—response functions for financial markets

Financial markets

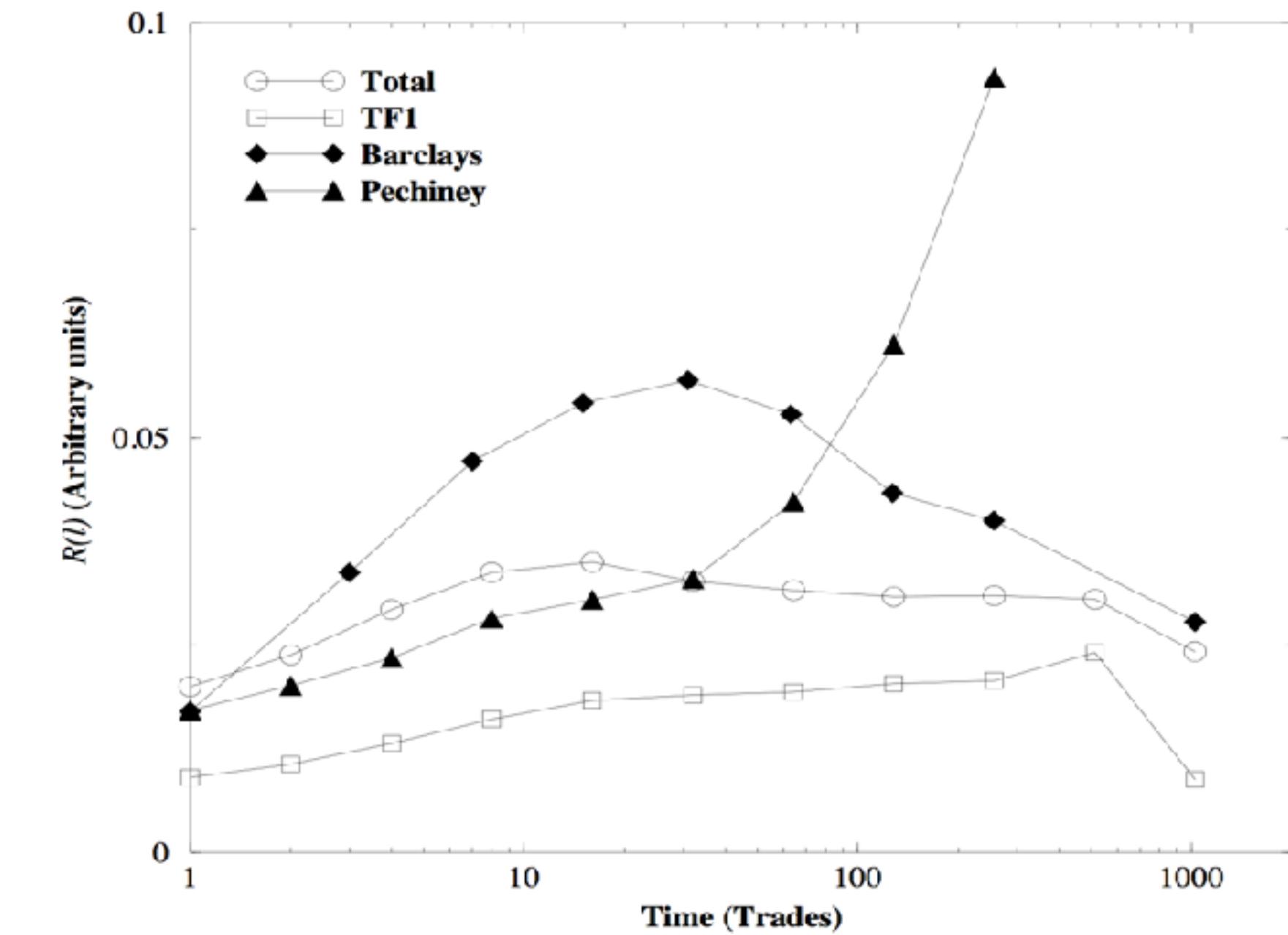
Stimulus: trades $\varepsilon_j(t)$



Responder: stock prices $S_i(t)$



Response function $R_{ij}(\tau) = \left\langle (S_i(t + \tau) - S_i(t)) \varepsilon_j(t) \right\rangle_t$



Ref. J.-P. Bouchaud, Y. Gefen, M. Potters, M. Wyart. Quantitative Finance, 4(2), 176 (2004).

If $i = j$, self-response
If $i \neq j$, cross-response

Refs.

- Wang, Schäfer and Guhr, Eur. Phys. J. B 89, 105 (2016);
- Wang, Schäfer and Guhr, Eur. Phys. J. B 89, 207 (2016);
- Henao-Londono, Krause and Guhr, Eur. Phys. J. B 94, 78 (2021);
- Henao-Londono and Guhr, Physica A 589, 126587 (2022)
- Grimm and Guhr, Eur. Phys. J. B 92, 133 (2019)

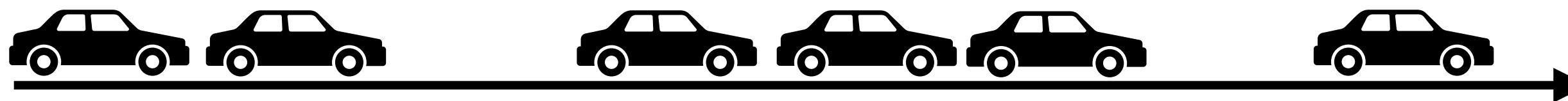
Background—several questions to be addressed

Traffic networks

Velocity?
at $t + \tau$ on
section i_2

Heavy congestion
at t on section j

Velocity?
at $t + \tau$ on
section i_1



Several questions to be addressed

- How does the velocity respond to congestion?
- What causes the velocity response to congestion?
- What features are present in the velocity response?

Response functions

- Indicator function of heavy congestion

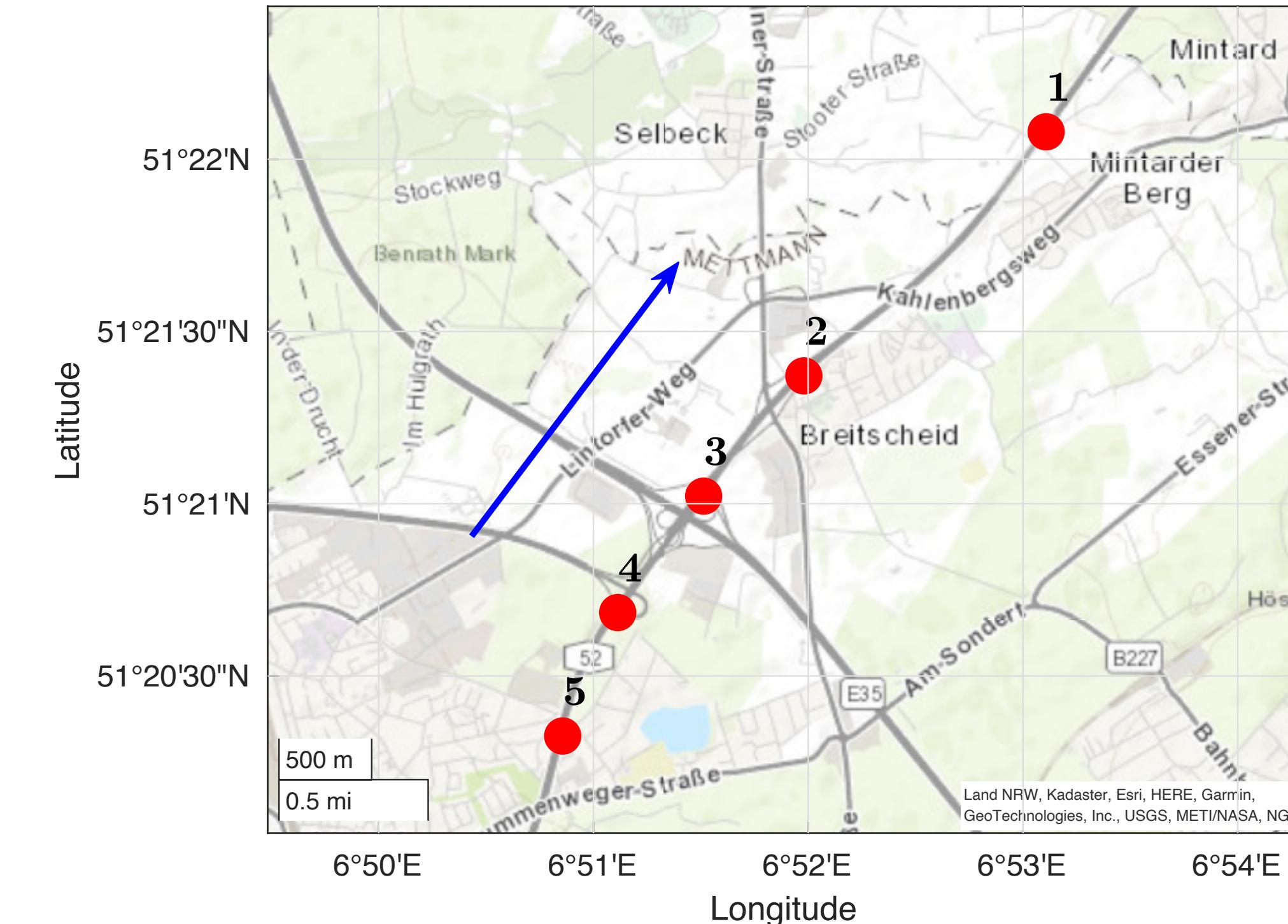
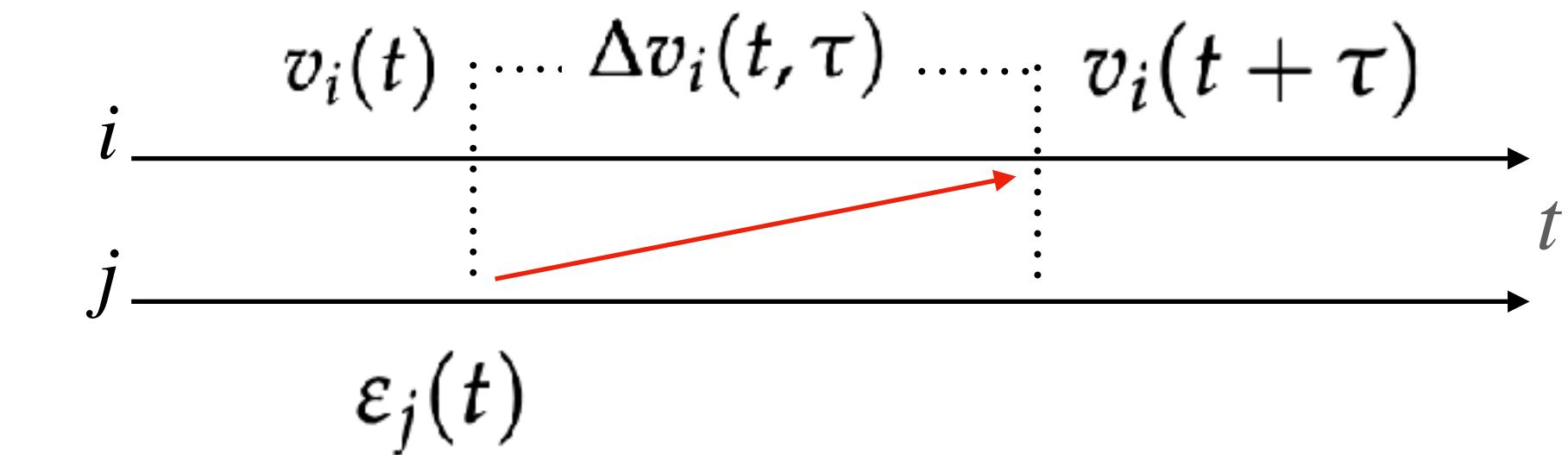
$$\varepsilon_j(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } v_j(t) < 10 \text{ km/h} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Correlator of congestion indicators

$$\Theta_{ij}(\tau) = \frac{1}{T - \tau} \sum_{t=1}^{T-\tau} \tilde{\varepsilon}_i(t + \tau) \tilde{\varepsilon}_j(t)$$

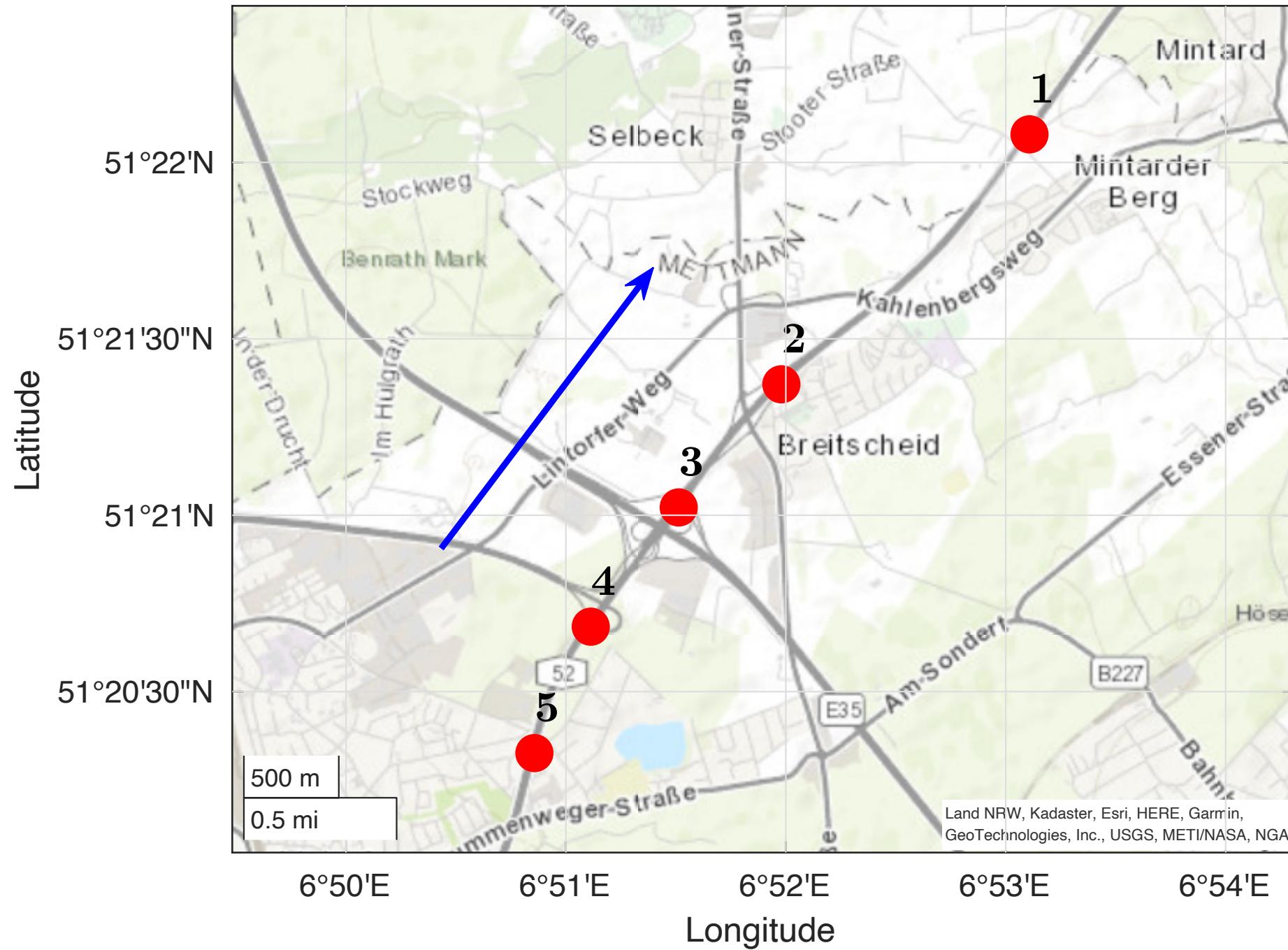
- Response of velocities to congestion

$$R_{ij}(\tau) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{T-\tau} (v_i(t + \tau) - v_i(t)) \varepsilon_j(t)}{\sum_{t=1}^{T-\tau} \varepsilon_j(t)}$$



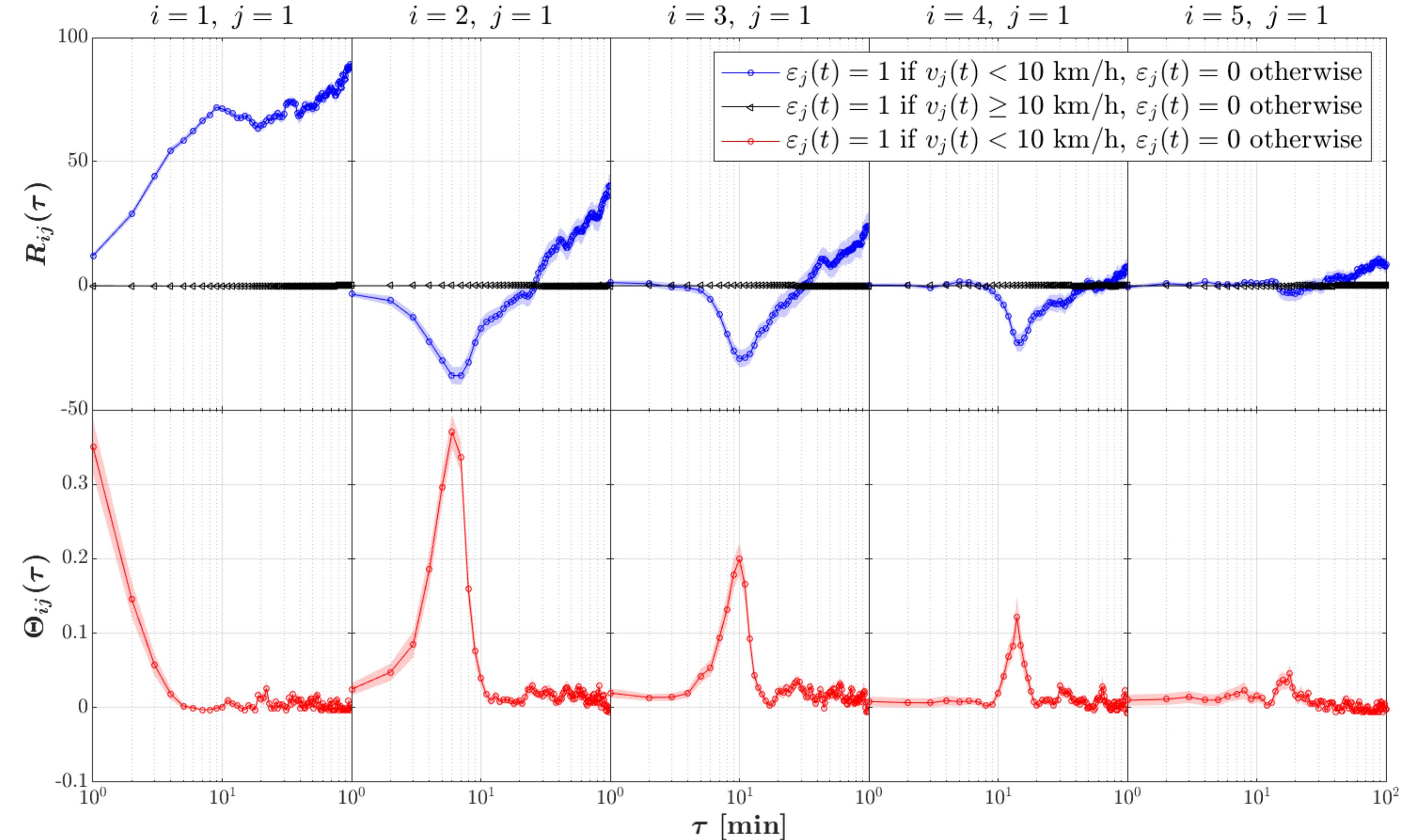
Empirical results—velocity response and indicator correlators

i : heavily congested section, j : impacted section

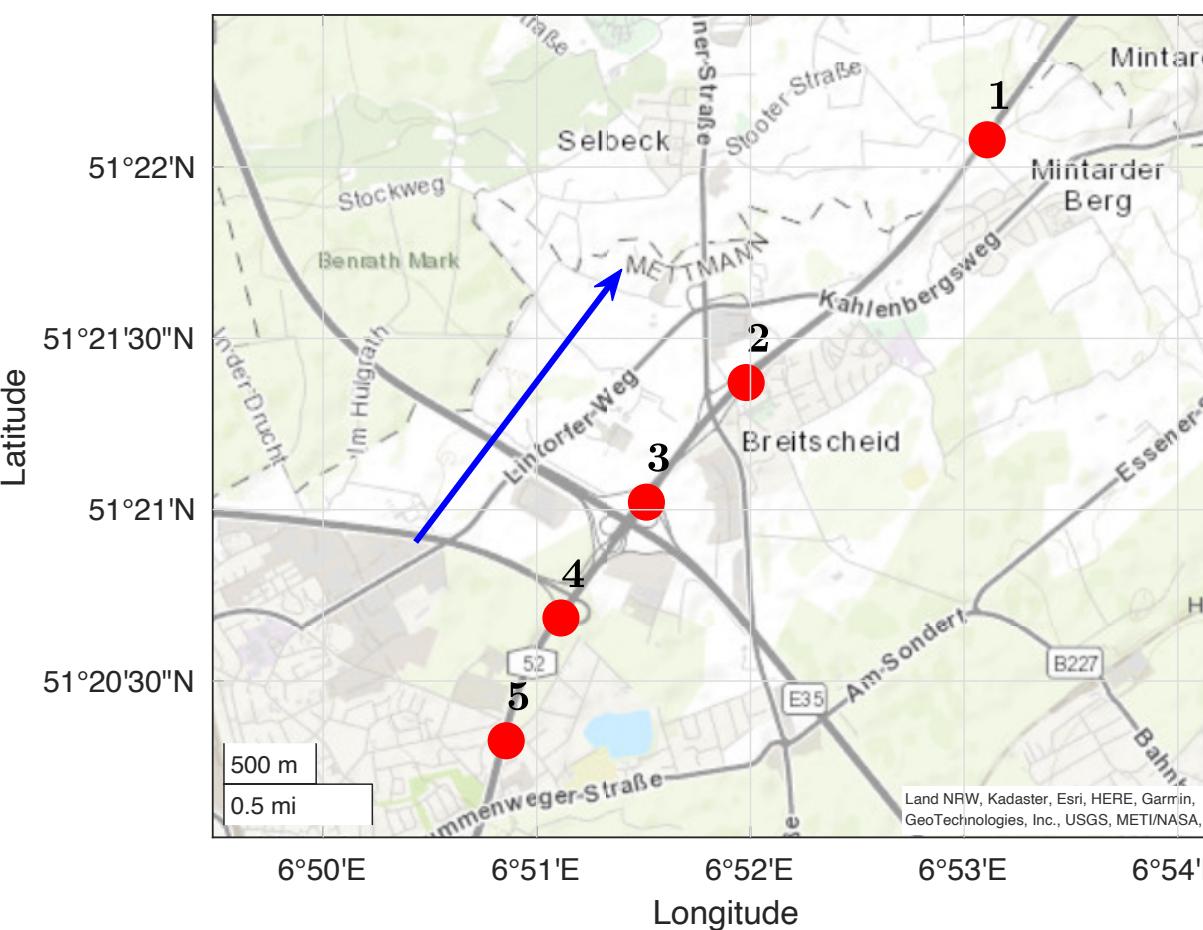


used traffic data:

- collected by inductive loop detectors
- velocities of 5 motorway sections near Breitscheid of NRW
- between 00:00 and 23:59 from 64 workdays in 2017

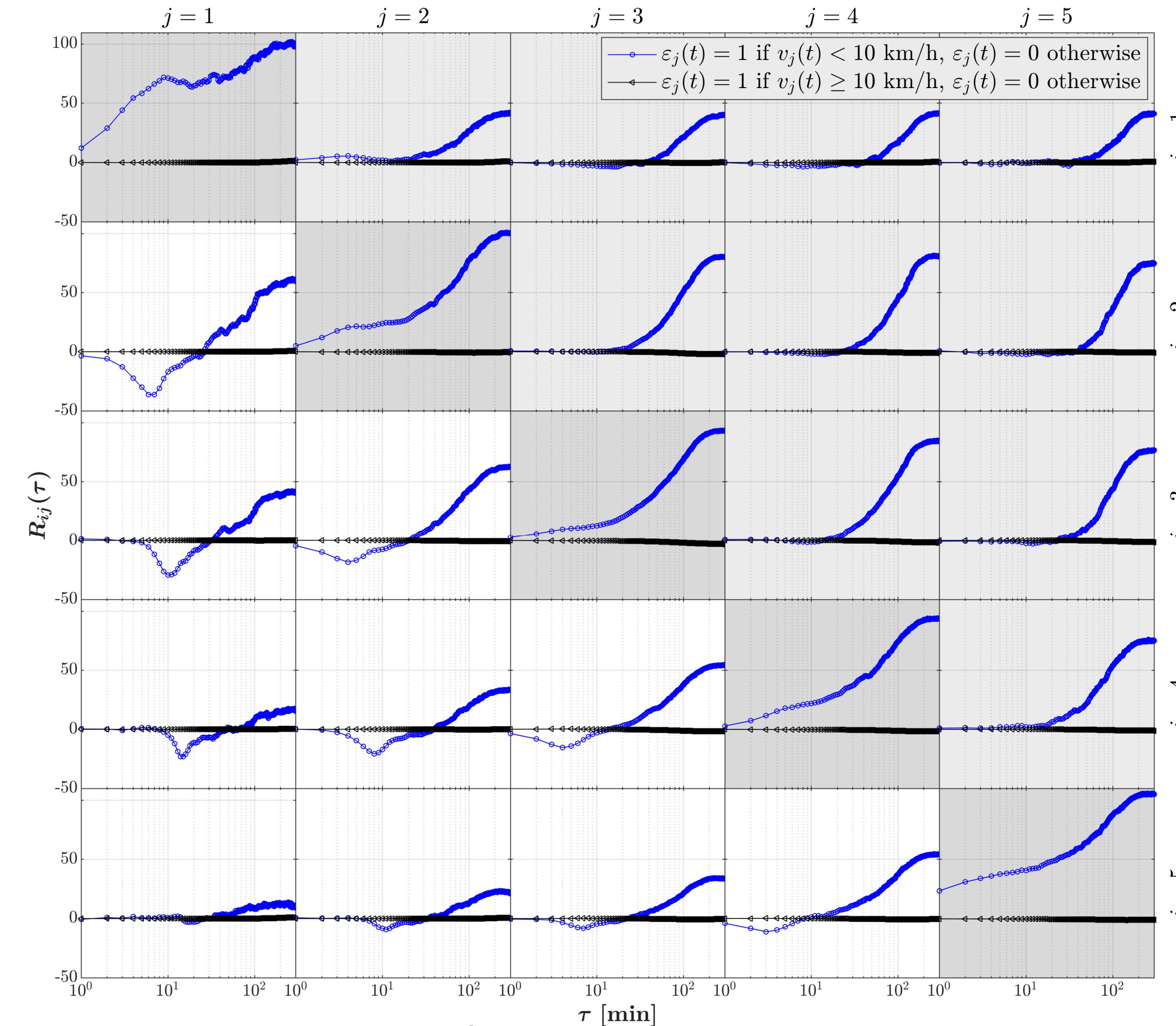


Empirical results—Two kinds of response behavior



Bottom triangle:
response due to
backward propagation of
heavy congestion

Heavily congested sections



Up triangle:
response due to
forward
propagation of
heavy congestion

Bottom triangle:
response due to
backward propagation of
heavy congestion

Impacted sections

Empirical results—phase separation

$$\frac{dR_{ij}(\tau)}{d\tau} = \frac{R_{ij}(\tau + \Delta\tau) - R_{ij}(\tau)}{\Delta\tau}$$

$$\frac{d\Theta_{ij}(\tau)}{d\tau} = \frac{\Theta_{ij}(\tau + \Delta\tau) - \Theta_{ij}(\tau)}{\Delta\tau}$$

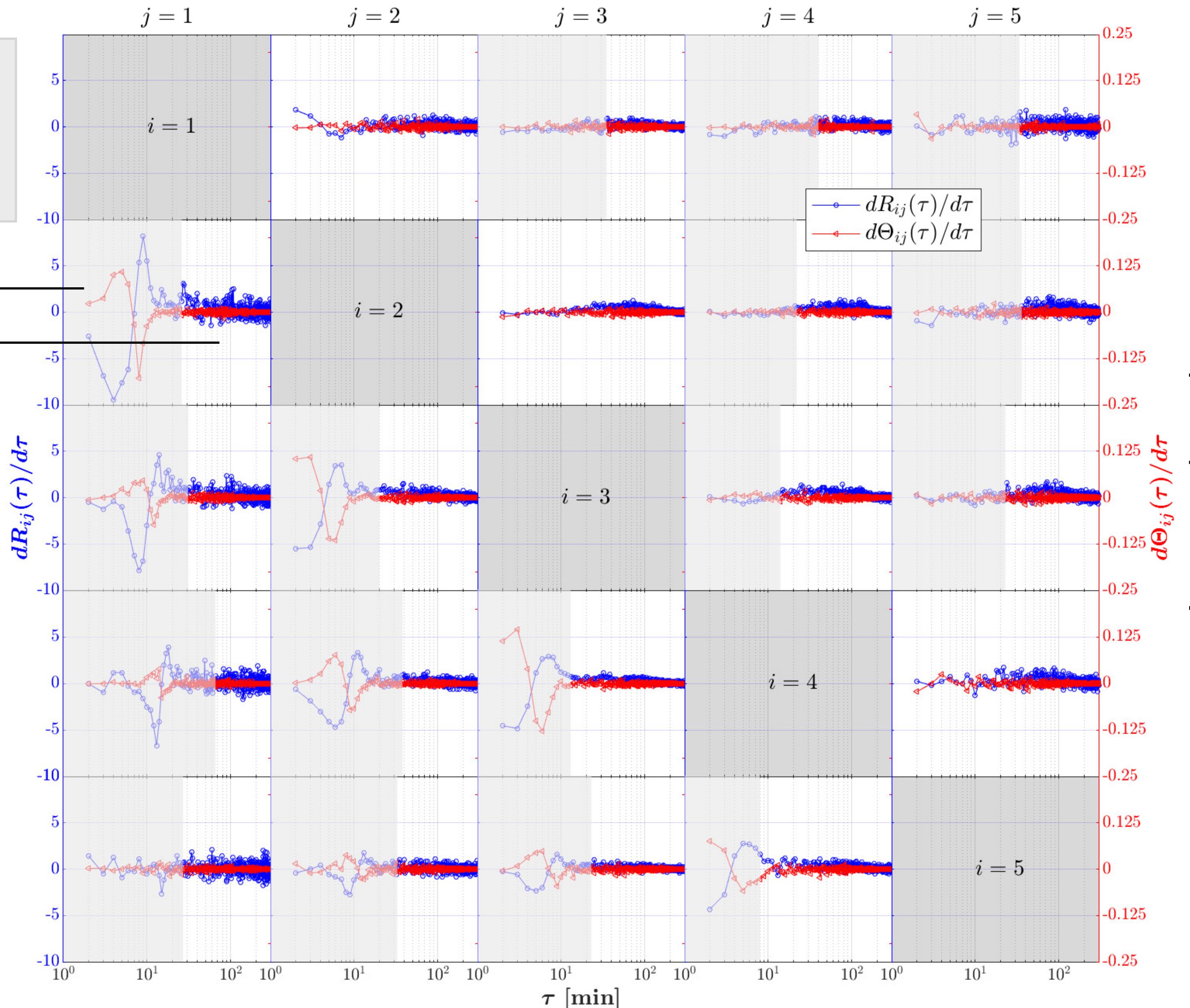
$$\frac{d\Theta_{ij}}{d\tau} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{steady state}$$

Large changes of congestion correlation corresponds to the large changes of velocity response to congestion

Non-steady phase
Transient response

Steady phase
Long-term response

Heavily congested sections

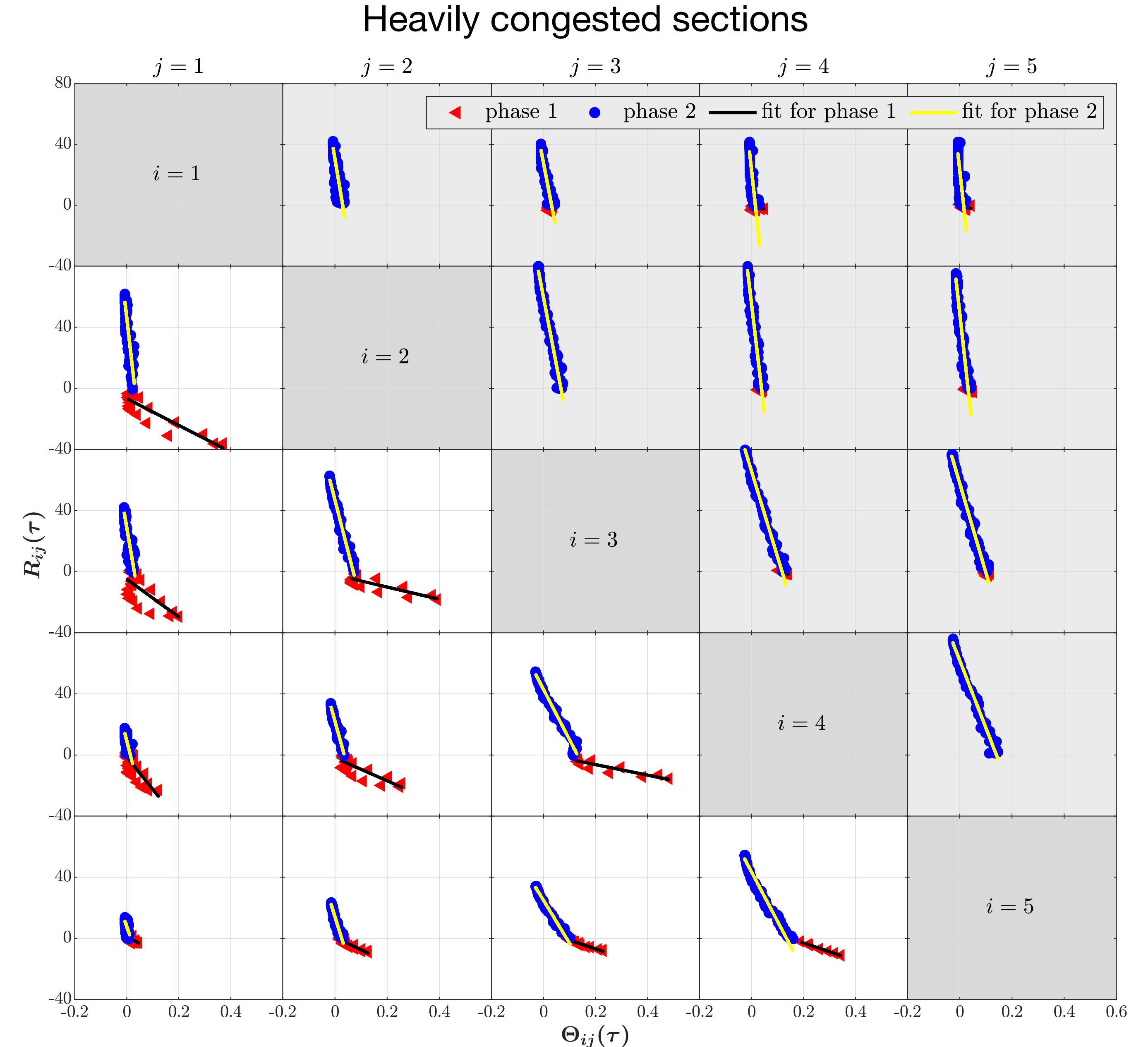


Empirical results—relations between velocity responses and indicator correlators

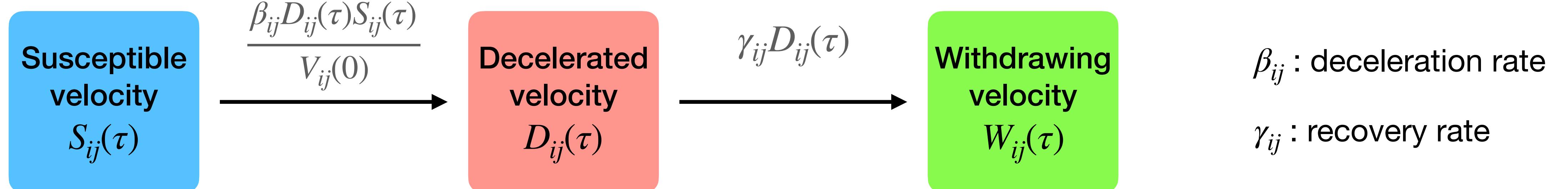
For each response phase (PR), a linear relation between velocity responses and correlations of congestion indicators can be found.

$$R_{ij}(\tau)|_{\text{RP } k} \sim -\Theta_{ij}(\tau)|_{\text{RP } k}$$

Congestion correlation might be viewed as a cause of the velocity response, regardless of other possible reasons



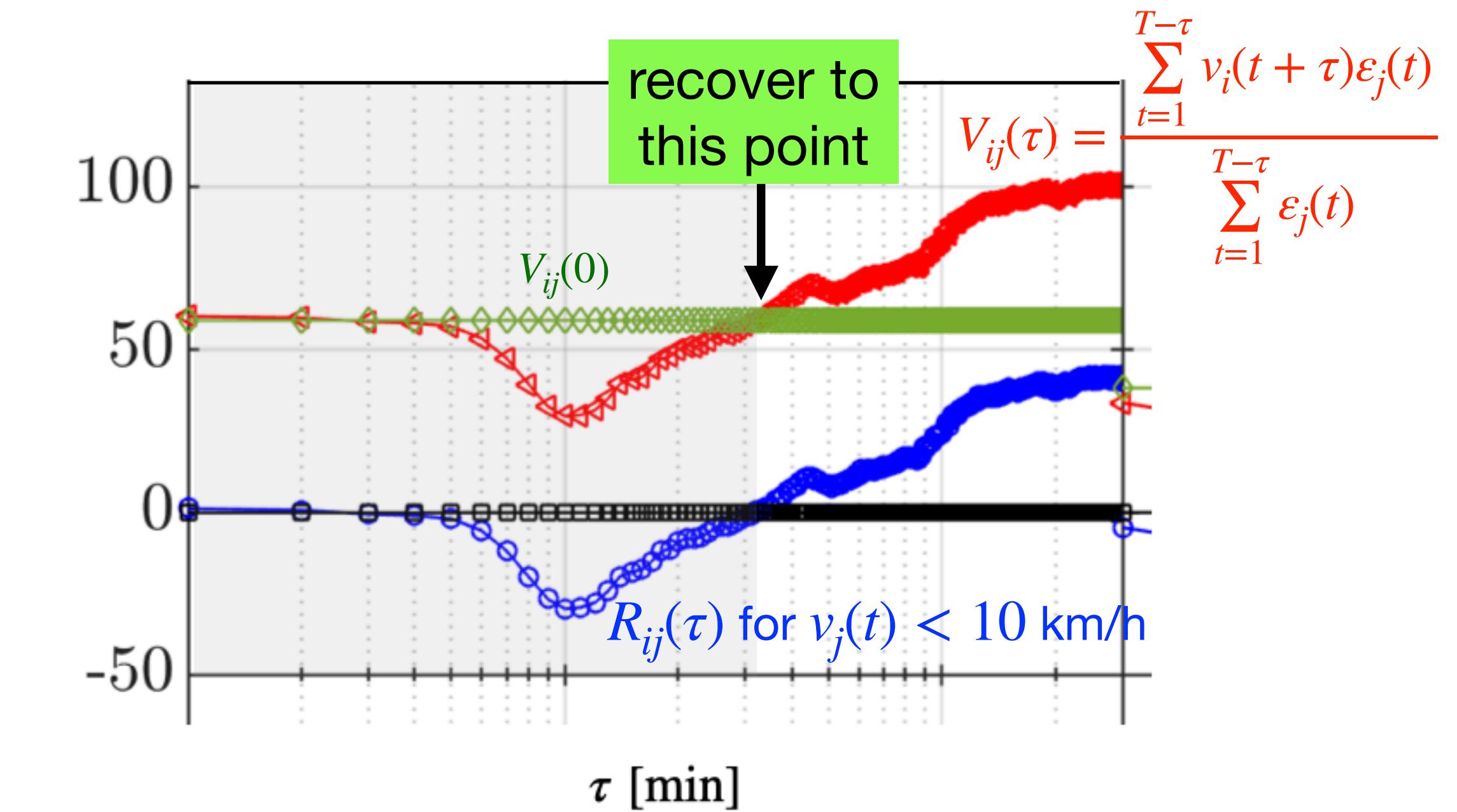
SDW model for transient responses



Susceptible-decelerated-withdrawing (SDW) model, inspired by SIR epidemic model

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dS_{ij}(\tau)}{d\tau} = \frac{S_{ij}(\tau + \Delta\tau) - S_{ij}(\tau)}{\Delta\tau} = -\frac{\beta_{ij}D_{ij}(\tau)S_{ij}(\tau)}{V_{ij}(0)}, \\ \frac{dD_{ij}(\tau)}{d\tau} = \frac{D_{ij}(\tau + \Delta\tau) - D_{ij}(\tau)}{\Delta\tau} = \frac{\beta_{ij}D_{ij}(\tau)S_{ij}(\tau)}{V_{ij}(0)} - \gamma_{ij}D_{ij}(\tau), \\ \frac{dW_{ij}(\tau)}{d\tau} = \frac{W_{ij}(\tau + \Delta\tau) - W_{ij}(\tau)}{\Delta\tau} = \gamma_{ij}D_{ij}(\tau). \end{array} \right.$$

$$V_{ij}(0) = D_{ij}(\tau) + S_{ij}(\tau) + W_{ij}(\tau)$$



SDW model for transient responses

Procedure of simulations:

1. Give the initial values

$$W_{ij}(0), D_{ij}(0),$$

$$S_{ij}(0) = V_i(0)|_j - D_{ij}(0) - W_{ij}(0)$$

2. Simulate model in parameter space

deceleration rate $\beta_{ij} \in [0,2]$

and recovery rate $\gamma_{ij} \in [0,2]$

with the increment 0.01,

to get $S_{ij}(\tau)$, $D_{ij}(\tau)$ and $W_{ij}(\tau)$

3. Find best β_{ij} and γ_{ij} by minimizing

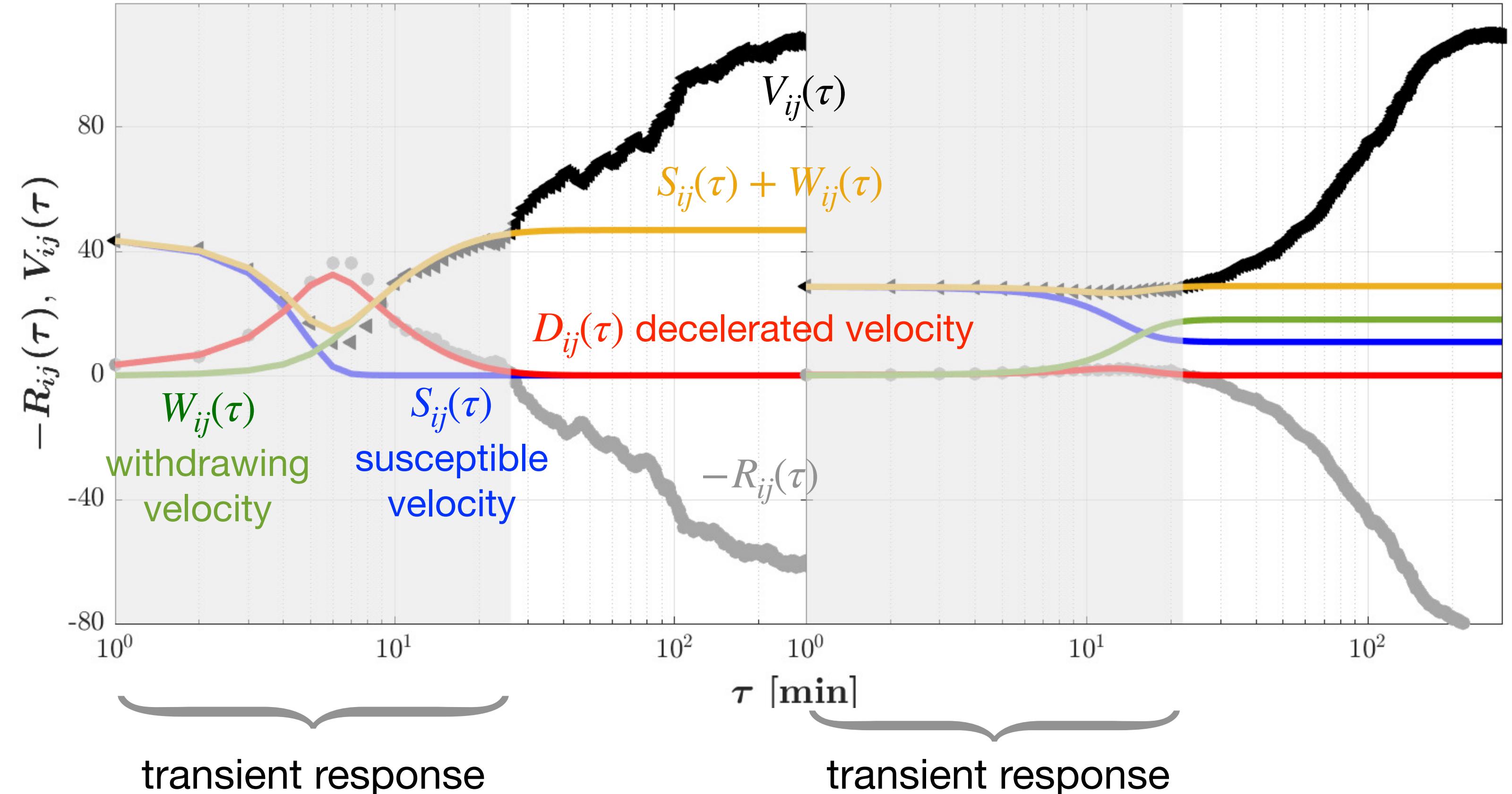
$$\Xi(\beta_{ij}, \gamma_{ij}) = \sum_{\tau=1}^{\tau_{\max}} (-R_{ij}(\tau) - D_{ij}(\tau|\beta_{ij}, \gamma_{ij}))^2$$

Backward propagation
of heavy congestion

Forward propagation of
heavy congestion

$$i = 2, j = 1$$

$$i = 2, j = 4$$



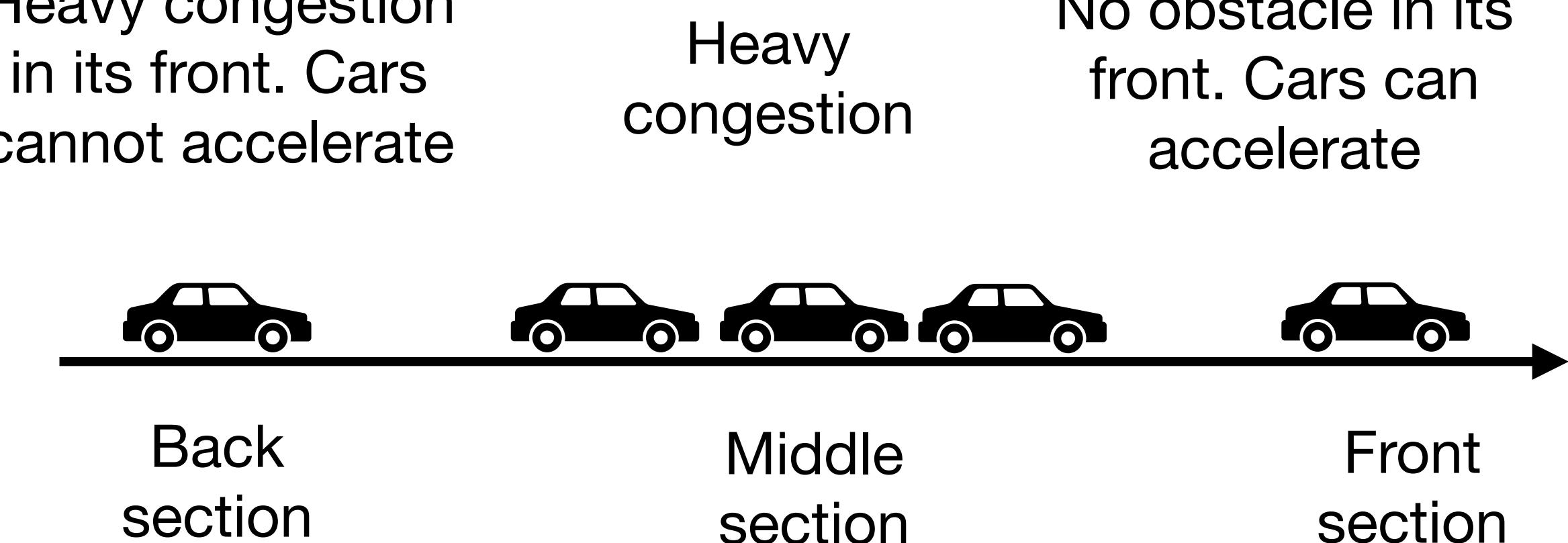
SDW model for transient responses

The fitted deceleration rates $\beta_{ij,\text{fit}}$

$i \backslash j$	1	2	3	4	5
1	-	0	1.25	1.38	1.97
2	1.19	-	0	1.09	0.84
3	0.97	1.15	-	1.29	0.79
4	0.60	1.24	1.39	-	0
5	0.13	0.88	1.76	1.80	-

Both front and back motorway sections are influenced to a similar extent

Heavy congestion
in its front. Cars
cannot accelerat



The grey (white) cells: the forward (backward) propagation of heavy congestion of section

The fitted recovery rates $\gamma_{ij,\text{fit}}$

$i \backslash j$	1	2	3	4	5
1	-	0	0.87	1.00	1.95
2	0.16	-	2.00	0.72	0.60
3	0.19	0.30	-	0.91	0.54
4	0.26	0.42	0.53	-	0
5	1.92	0.56	1.06	0.99	-

Velocity on front section is more quick to recover from impact of congestion

The ratio $\beta_{ij,\text{fit}}/\gamma_{ij,\text{f}}$

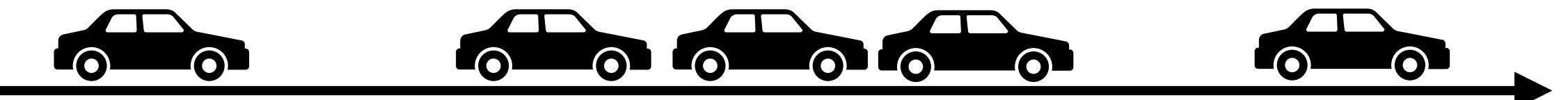
$i \backslash j$	1	2	3	4	5
1	-	-	1.44	1.38	1.01
2	7.44	-	0	1.51	1.40
3	5.11	3.83	-	1.42	1.46
4	2.31	2.95	2.62	-	-
5	0.07	1.57	1.66	1.82	-

β/γ determines the dynamics of velocity deceleration.

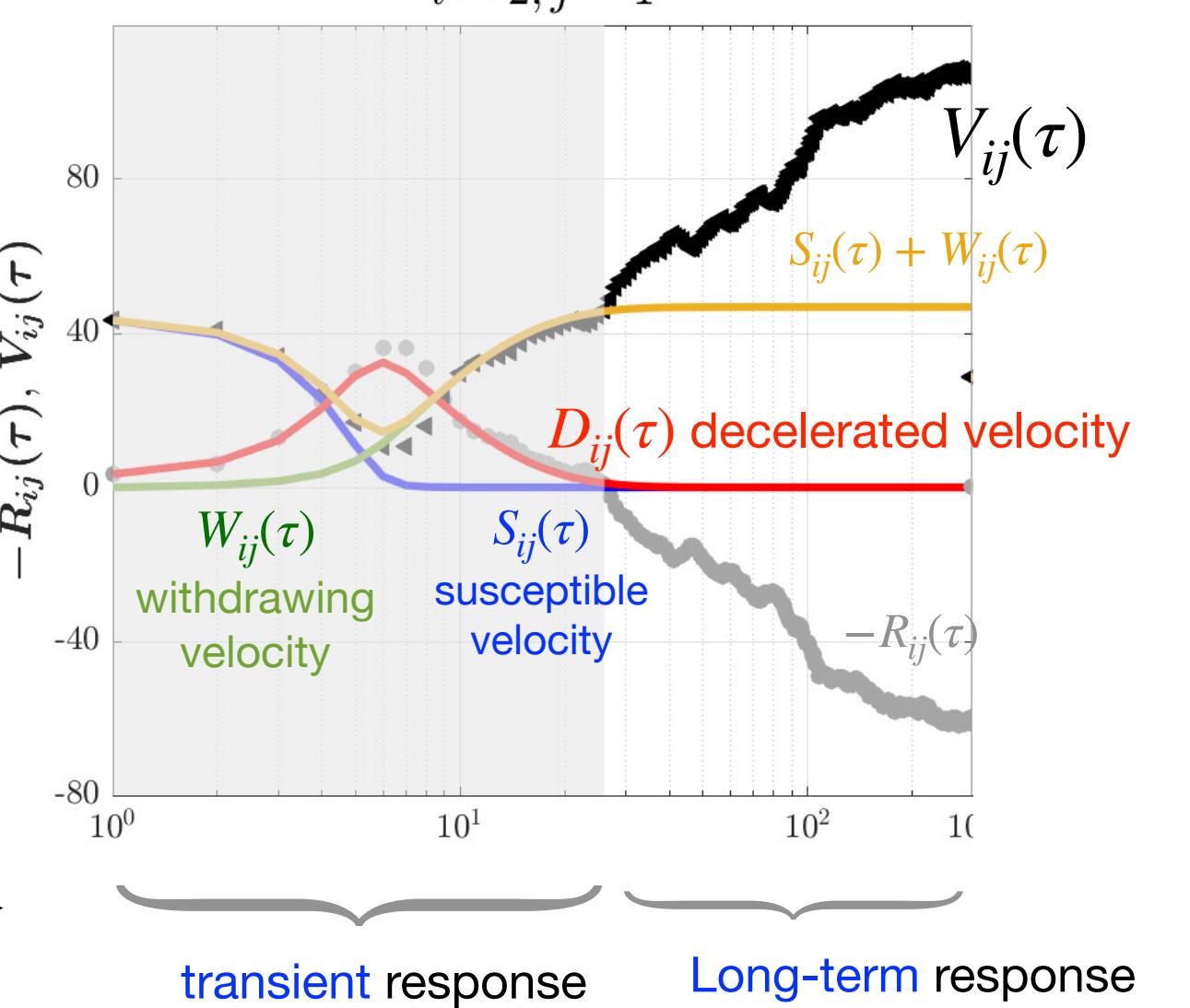
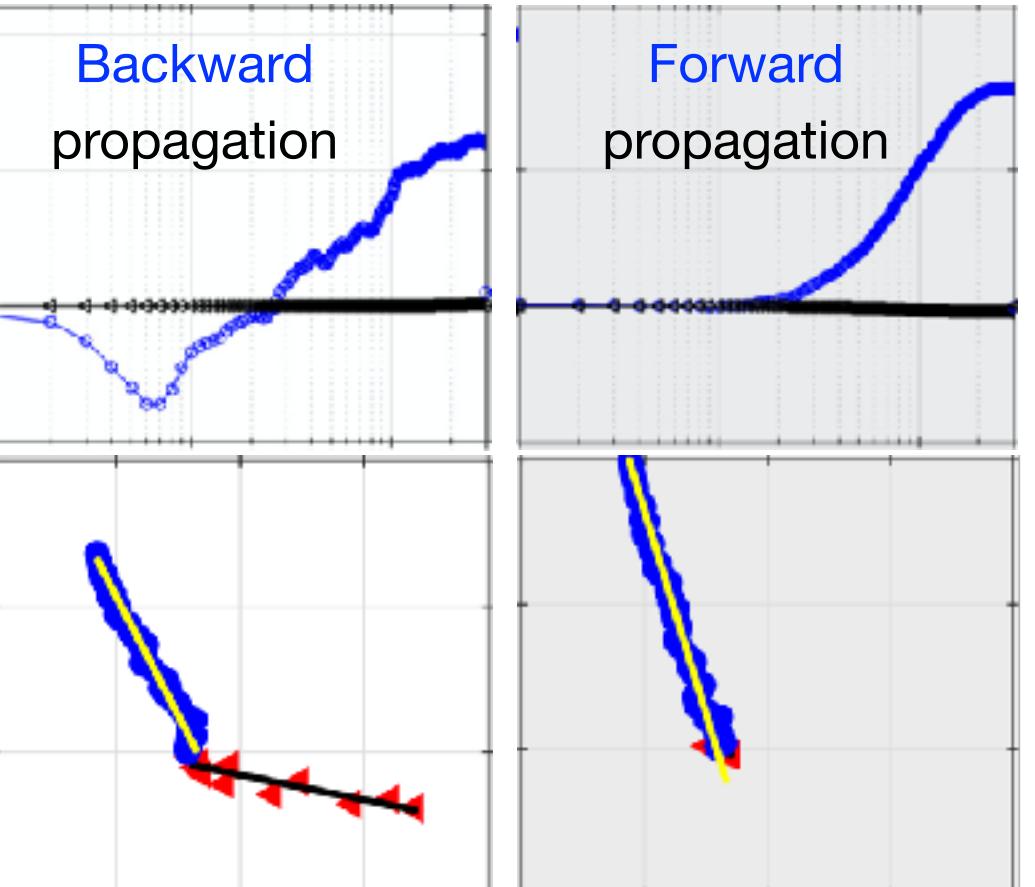
Velocity of back sections is more likely to decrease, leading to significant responses

Summary

- Introduced the response function of velocities to heavy congestion
- The **backward and forward propagation** of heavy congestion leads to **different behaviors** in velocity response
- Velocity response has a linear relation with the **correlation of heavy congestion**
- Two response phases: a phase for the **transient response** and a phase for the **long-term response**
- The transient response can be explained by our SDW model
- Helpful for traffic management or navigation systems with congestion pre-warning.



$$R_{ij}(\tau) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{T-\tau} (v_i(t+\tau) - v_i(t)) \varepsilon_j(t)}{\sum_{t=1}^{T-\tau} \varepsilon_j(t)}$$



Thank you
for your attention!



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"Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." — Viktor E. Frankl