



# Disruptions in railway/public transport networks

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Chair for Transport Systems

# Those slides

- Bad models
- Good reality
- Interactions
- Understanding more
- Understanding even more

# Bad Models

F Corman, Assessment of advanced dispatching measures for recovering disrupted railway situations.  
Transportation Research Record



# Routing /scheduling: Interesting instances

- When things are constant, and nobody influences anybody else: relatively easy
- In reality, there is some influence
- Routing in time and space models explicitly changes over time
- Interesting case: When capacity of links or intersections is limited
- Opportunity: When vehicles/people can be “controlled”
- Issues: when things “interact”






# A space network in Toronto



# An extended time space network

time



# Some disruption management models



Destination	Wagen	Abfahrtszeit	Wagen
/Bonn ✈	12		Wagen 27-21 Abschnitt
Hbf	12		e später - Wagen 31-37
Pol ✈	12		später - etwa 1 Stunde
Hurt (M) Hbf	4		etwa 45 Minuten später
ung-Altona	7		nung - etwa 1 Stunde
ech Mole	11		
Ostbahnhof	9		a 15 Minuten später -
dorf Hbf	11		itt D-G - etwa 55 Minuten
	11		später - Wagen 31-37

$$\min t_n - t_0$$

$$\text{s.t. } t_j - t_i \geq w_{ij}$$

$$(i, j) \in F$$

$$(t_j - t_i \geq w_{ij}) \vee (t_k - t_h \geq w_{hk})$$

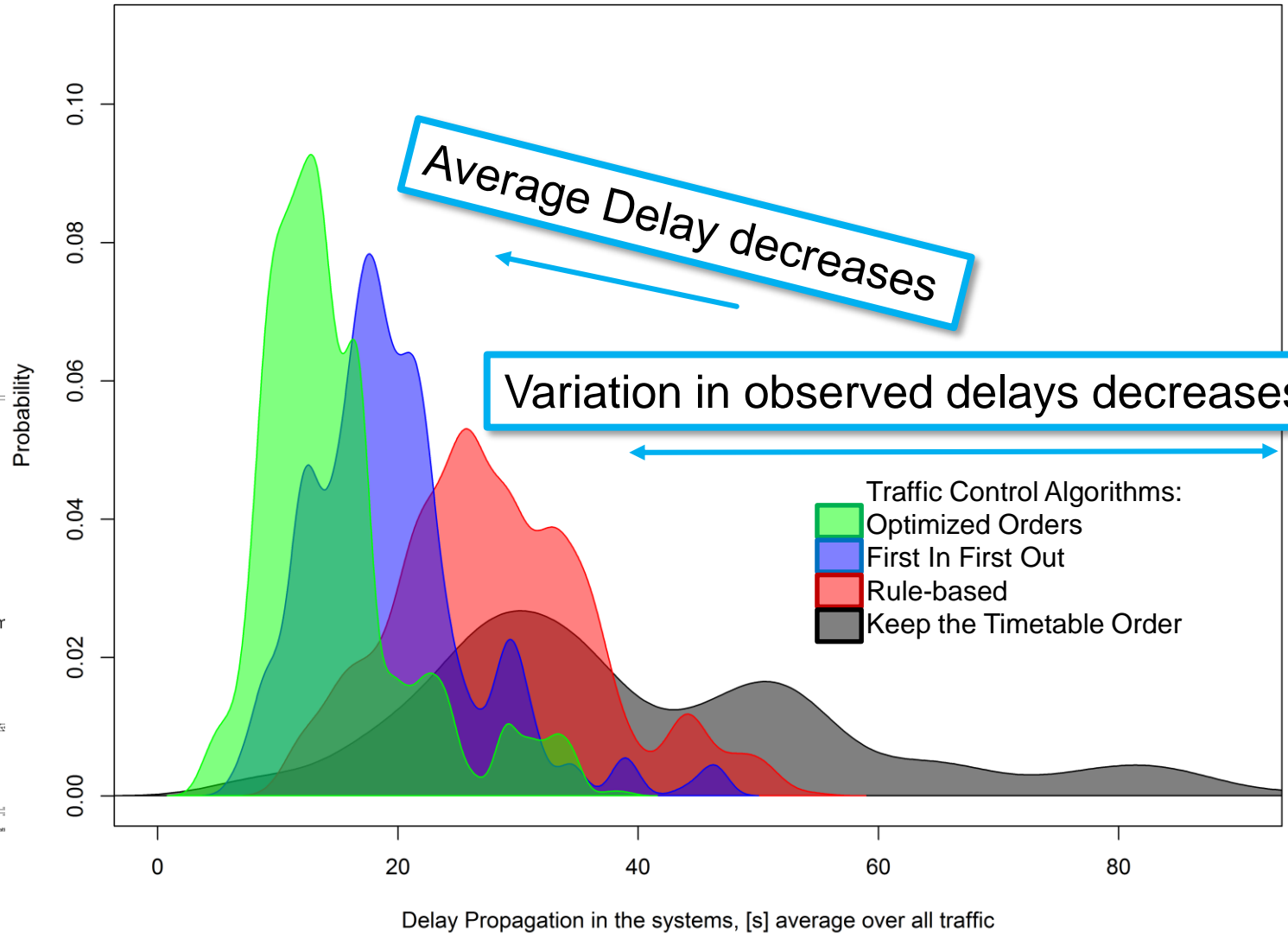
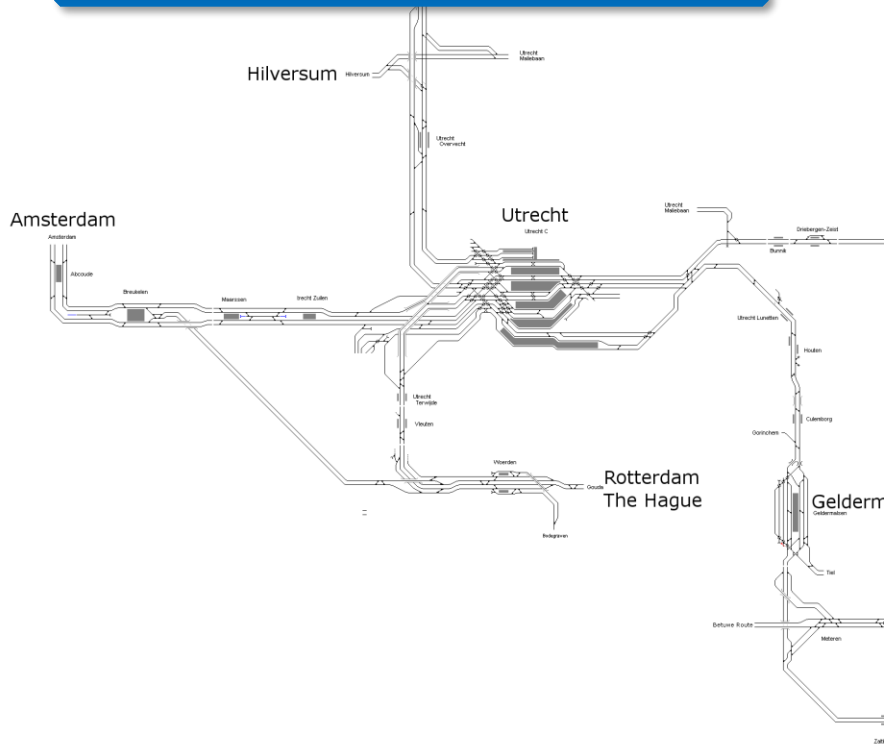
$$((i, j), (h, k)) \in A$$



# Delay minimization via optimized traffic management

Distribution of delay propagation depending on traffic control algorithm

2700 block sections,  
150 trains / h,  
~300 km

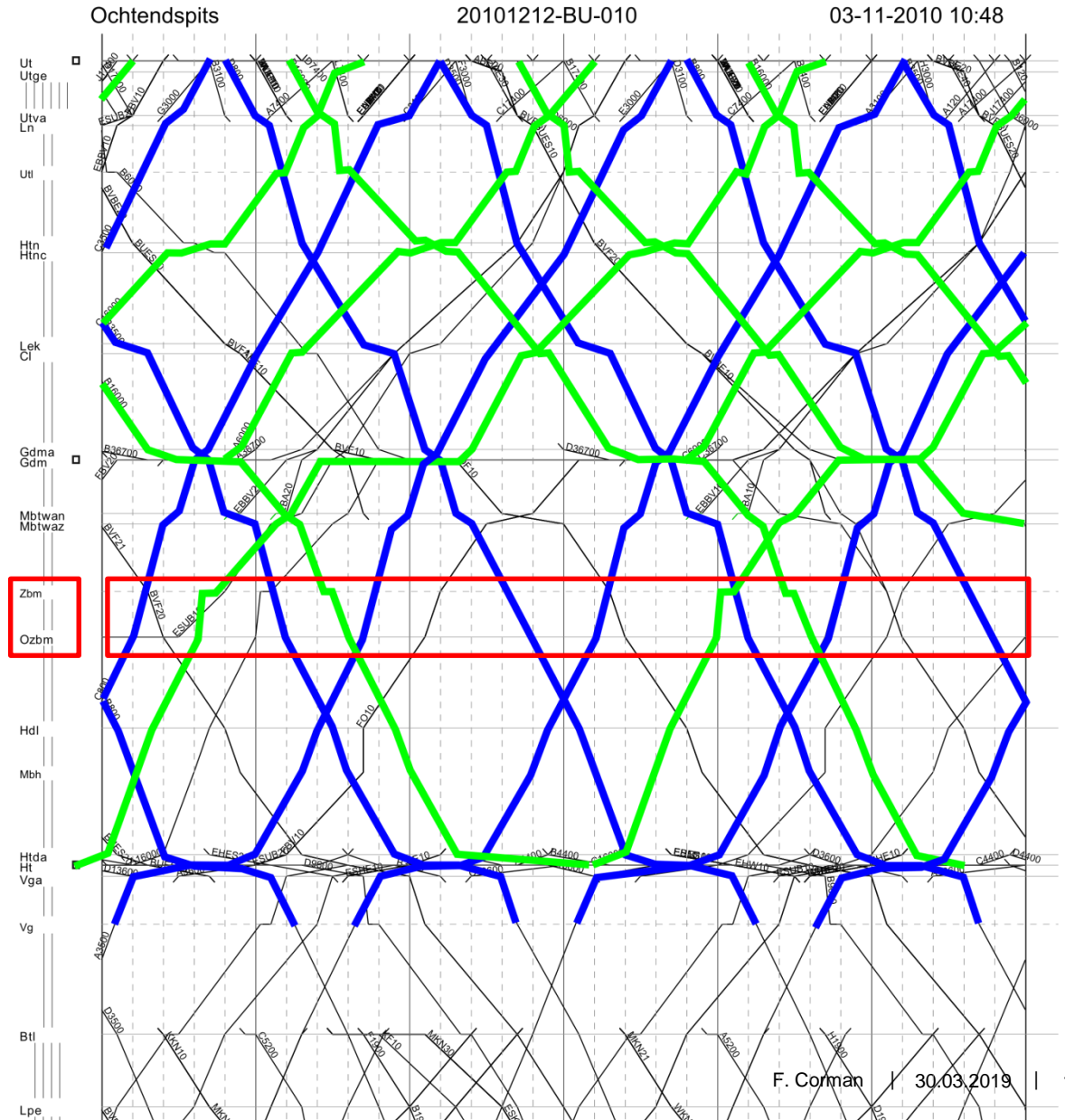
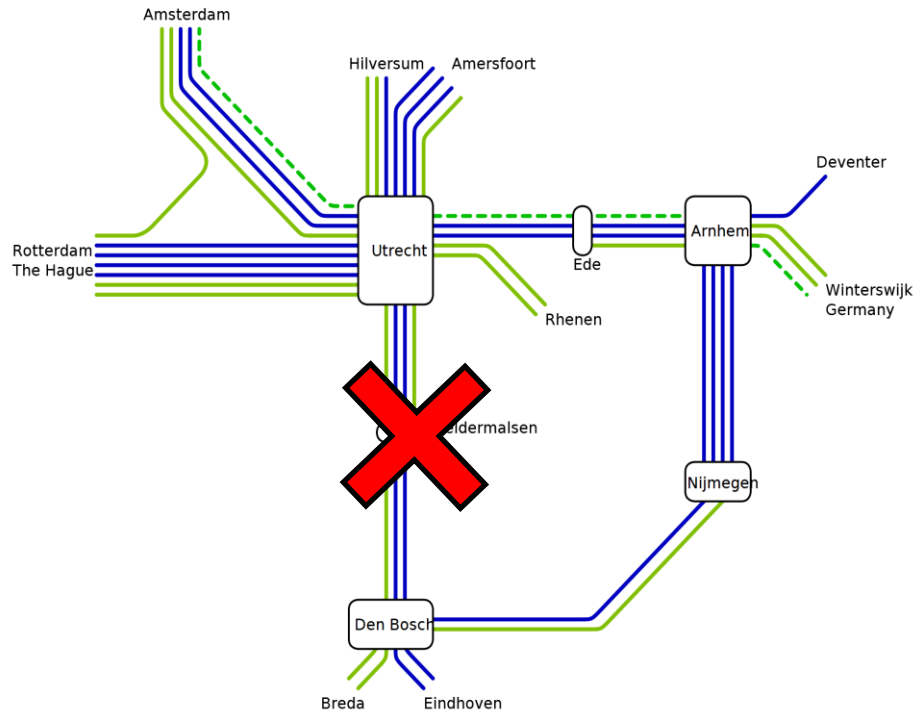


Corman D'Ariano Pacciarelli Pranzo, TR-B, TR-E

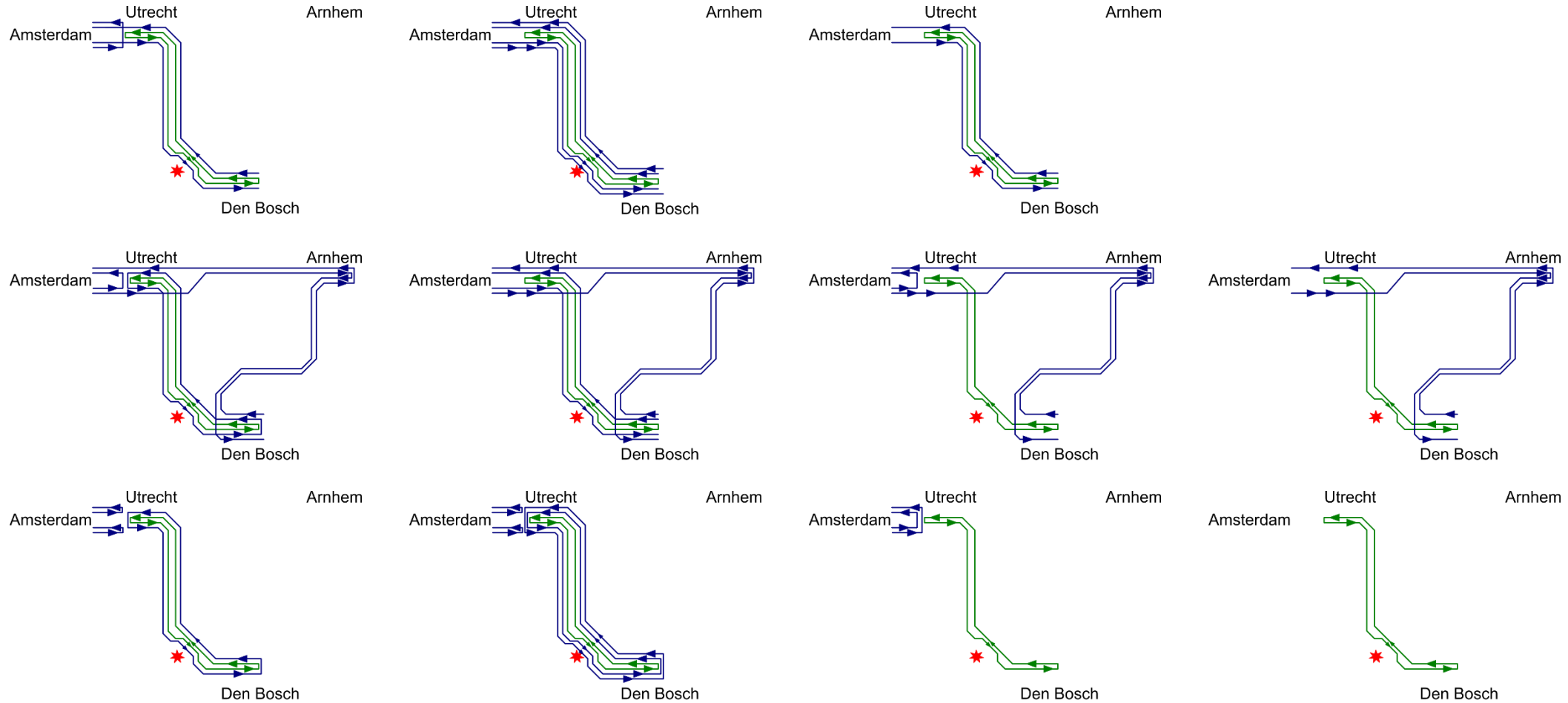
Delay reduction Optimization vs FIFO



# Disruption situation



# A lot of resolution scenarios



# A lot of performance indicators

Alternative	Gener Traveltime Ht→Aco	Freq Services Ht→Aco	Freq Services Ht→Ut	Gener TravelTime Ht→Ut	Gener Traveltime Ut→Aco	Freq Services Ut→Aco	Gener TravelTime Aco→Ut	Freq Services Aco→Ut	Gener Traveltime Aco→Ht	Freq Services Aco→Ht	Gener Traveltime Aco→Ht	Freq Services Aco→Ht
12_0_0	3765	6.5	4040	8	2144	15	2398	6.5	4455	4.5	3423	11.5
12+shuttle_0_0	3714	5	4057	8	3179	15	2518	6.5	7697	3.5	4010	12.5
8_4_0	3854	6.5	3844	6.5	3216	14.5	2104	6	5215	4	4704	11
8+shuttle_4_0	3839	3.5	3821	6.5	4333	15.5	2187	6	9358	2.5	5164	12.5
8_0_4	3735	3.5	4326	5.5	3010	8.5	3153	3	5502	2	3660	7
8_0_4+shuttle	3708	3.5	4326	5.5	2653	12	2440	6.5	6545	3.5	4028	9
8+shuttle_0_4+shuttle	3723	3.5	4592	5.5	2929	12	2518	6.5	7826	2.5	4248	8.5
4_4_4	3744	1.5	5055	3.5	5014	8.5	3390	2	7175	0.5	4370	4.5
4_4_4+shuttle	3719	1.5	5055	3.5	3828	12.5	2187	6	8194	1	4706	5.5
4_0_8	4000	0	4000	2	4000	0	4000	0	4000	0	5000	1.5
4_0_8+shuttle	3750	1	5471	2	2424	9	2518	6.5	8776	1.5	5592	4.5
TIMETABLE REF	3672	7	3589	8	2840	14	2540	6.5	4294	4.5	3228	11.5

# A lot of performance indicators

Alternative	Average Total Delay (s)	Max Total Delay (s)	Average Consecutive Delay (s)	Max Consecutive Delay (s)	Punctuality min (% of running trains)	5 Canceled trains (absolute number)	Capacity occupation, Ht $\leftrightarrow$ Ut	Extra compared to plan	Units to
12_0_0	43.8998	510	21.2463	510	94.73684	0	1.231	0	
12+shuttle_0_0	43.258	510	21.0339	510	95.83333	0	1.242	8	
8_4_0	98.8813	1739	67.4402	1206	88.88889	0	1.143	4	
8+shuttle_4_0	96.73	1739	65.6454	1206	89.16667	0	1.154	8	
8_0_4	37.2391	510	14.6082	510	97.22222	4	0.959	-4	
8_0_4+shuttle	37.1944	510	14.4421	510	97.2973	4	0.948	0	
8+shuttle_0_4+shuttle	36.7468	510	14.2366	510	96.49123	4	0.948	4	
4_4_4	56.6107	1739	24.9972	1206	92.79279	4	0.948	0	
4_4_4+shuttle	56.818	1739	25.2173	1206	92.98246	4	0.948	4	
4_0_8	28.668	510	6.70236	510	100	8	0.959	-4	
4_0_8+shuttle	29.3327	510	6.78802	510	100	8	0.959	0	
TIMETABLE REF	26.8934	510	5.81801	510	100	0		0	



# Comparing them



Alternative	Average Total Delay (s)	Max Total Delay (s)	Average Consecutive Delay (s)	Max Consecutive Delay (s)	Punctuality min (% of running trains)	5 Canceled trains (absolute number)	Capacity occupation, Ht←→Ut	Extra compared to plan	Units to	Gener Traveltime Ht→Aco	Freq Services Ht→Aco	Freq Services Ht→Ut	Gener TravelTime Ht→Ut	Gener Traveltime Ut→Aco	Freq Services Ut→Aco	Gener TravelTime Aco→Ut	Freq Services Aco→Ut	Gener Traveltime Aco→Ht	Freq Services Aco→Ht	Gener Traveltime Aco→Ht	Freq Services Aco→Ht
12_0_0	43.8998	510	21.2463	510	94.73684	0	1.231	0	3765	6.5	4040	8	2144	15	2398	6.5	4455	4.5	3423	11.5	
12+shuttle_0_0	43.258	510	21.0339	510	95.83333	0	1.242	8	3714	5	4057	8	3179	15	2518	6.5	7697	3.5	4010	12.5	
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8+shuttle_4_0	96.73	1739	65.6454	1206	89.16667	0	1.154	8	3839	3.5	3821	6.5	4333	15.5	2187	6	9358	2.5	5164	12.5	
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8+shuttle_0_4+shuttle	36.7468	510	14.2366	510	96.49123	4	0.948	4	3723	3.5	4592	5.5	2929	12	2518	6.5	7826	2.5	4248	8.5	
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4_0_8	28.668	510	6.70236	510	100	8	0.959	-4	4000	0	4000	2	4000	0	4000	0	4000	0	5000	1.5	
4_0_8+shuttle	29.3327	510	6.78802	510	100	8	0.959	0	3750	1	5471	2	2424	9	2518	6.5	8776	1.5	5592	4.5	
TIMETABLE REF	26.8934	510	5.81801	510	100	0		0	3672	7	3589	8	2840	14	2540	6.5	4294	4.5	3228	11.5	

# Disruption management is complex

- Models can help, ...
  - if you know which solutions would be acceptable (automatic scenario generation?)
  - if you know which constraints exist (better model, more integration )  
If you know how dispatcher would take decisions (?)
  - If you know how passengers would react
- Statistics cannot help
- More integration/optimization make smaller problems disappear, bigger problems arise



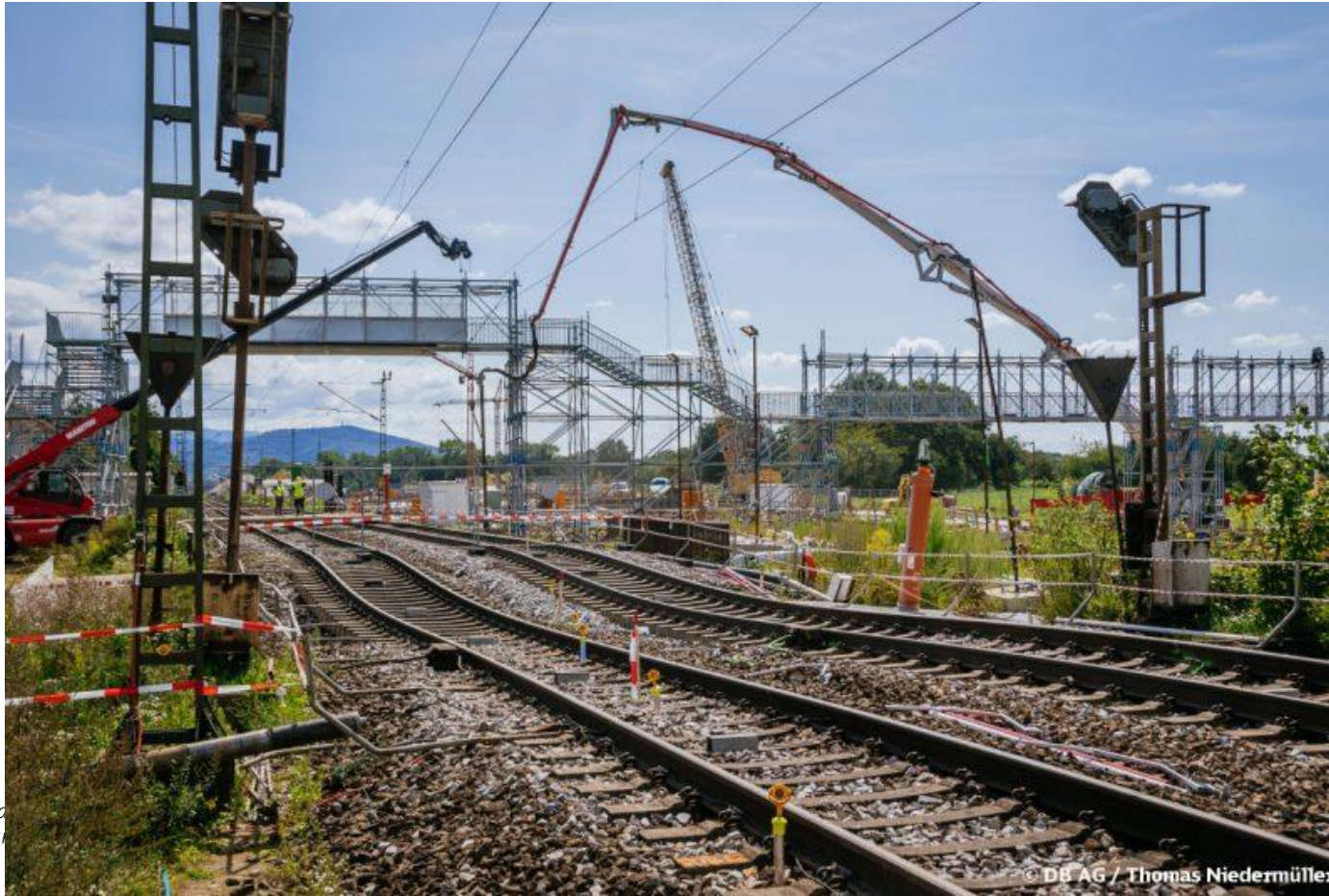
# Some positive thoughts

T Partl, Master Thesis ETH



# Rastatt

- Disruption for about two months, 15.08 to 02.10 2018. No traffic.





# Rastatt

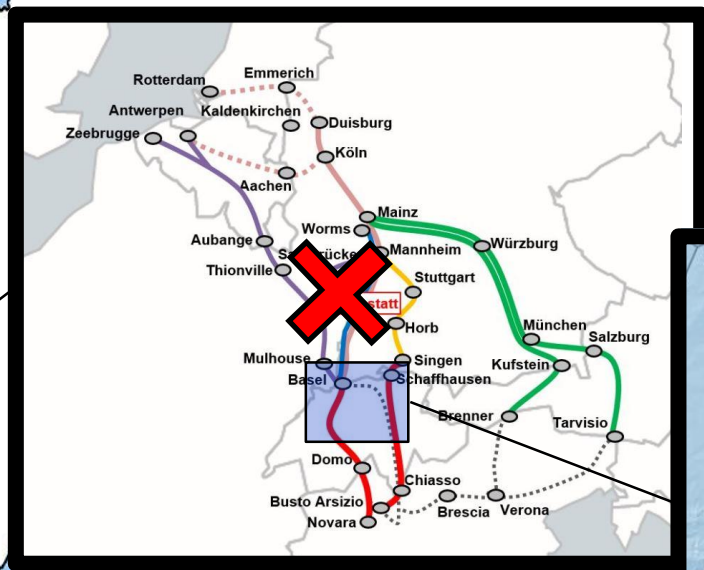
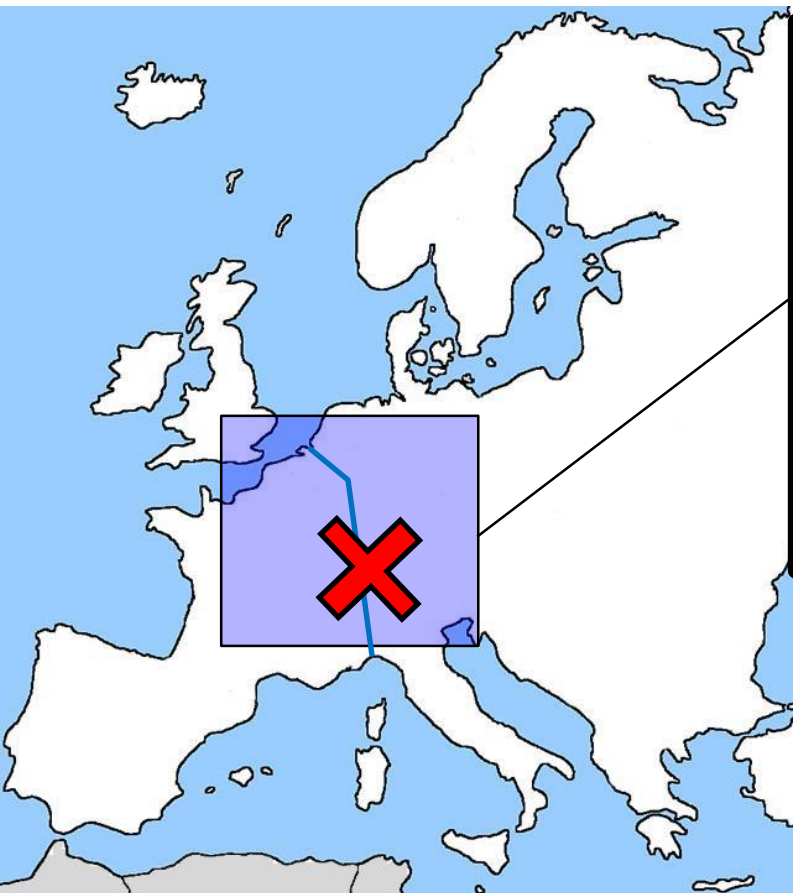
- European corridor Rotterdam Genoa

Antwerp Rotterdam

Rastatt



SBB



Milan Genoa

# Cancellations; delays

- Cancel train
- Buses, passengers
- Freight? (not counted)

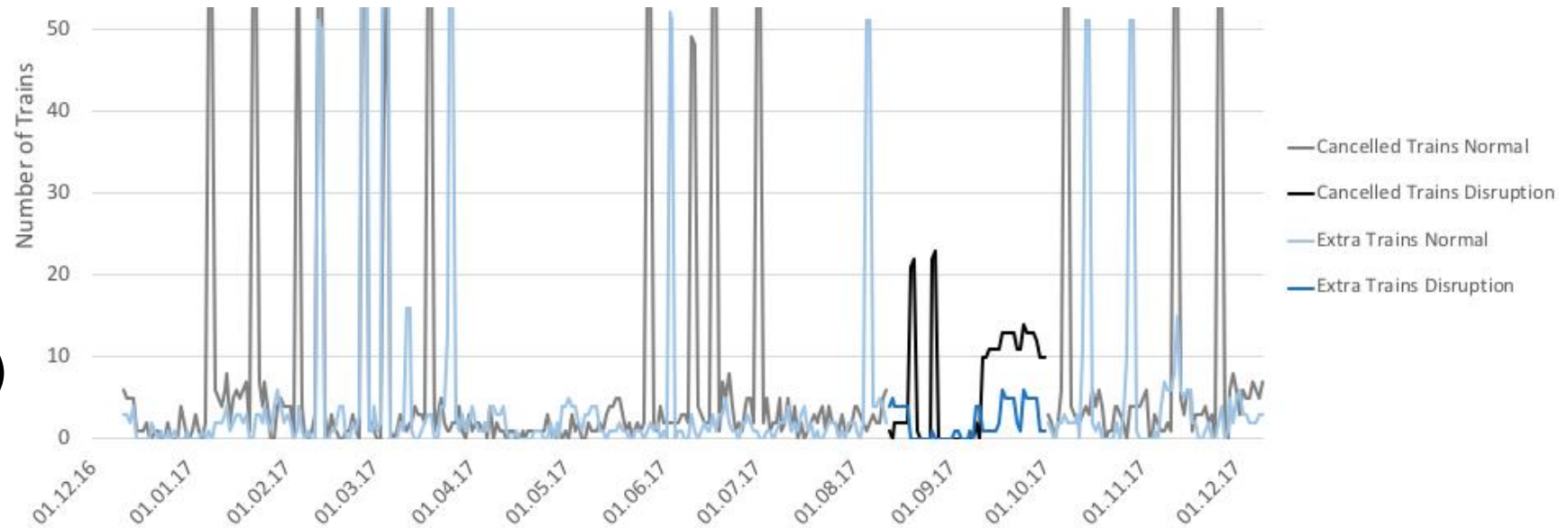


Figure 7: Numbers of extra and cancelled trains arriving at Zurich HB and Olten

# Primary delays

- Trains coming from Germany

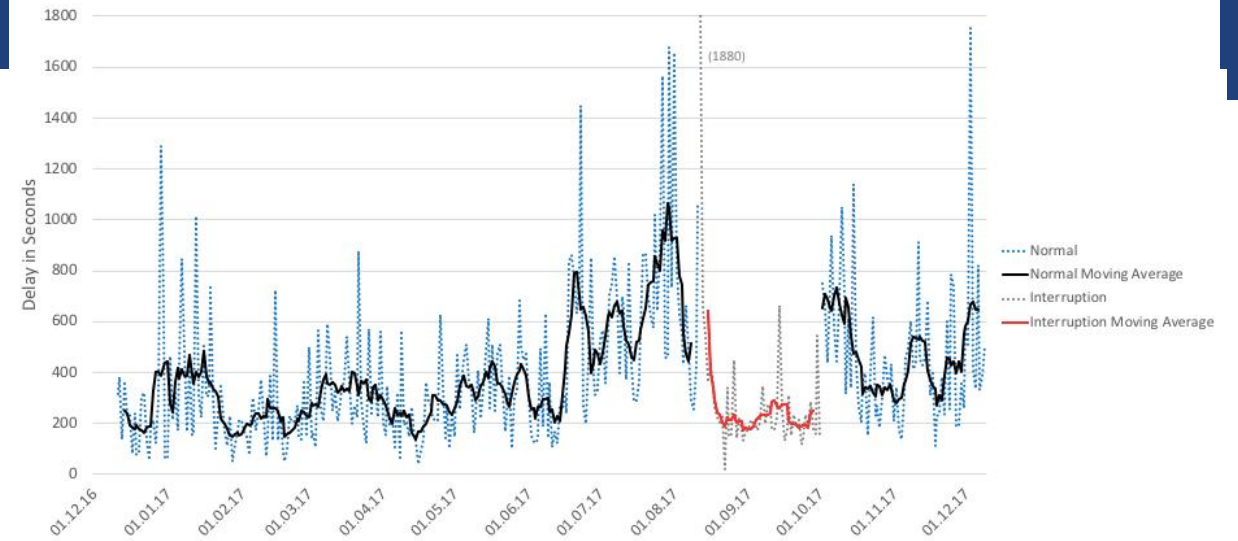


Figure 19: Yearly pattern of average delays of all trains from Germany arriving at Basel SBB

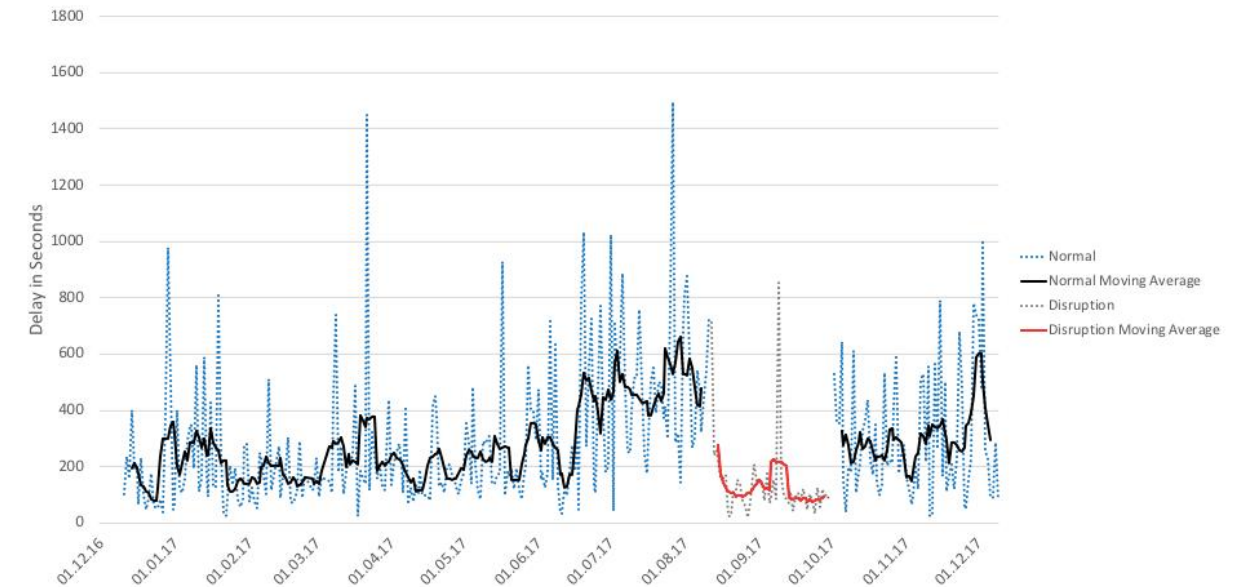


Figure 21: Delays of all trains from Germany arriving at Liestal and Zurich HB, which non-stop came from Basel SBB

# Secondary delays

- (delays at other stations have been checked and are not relevantly changed)

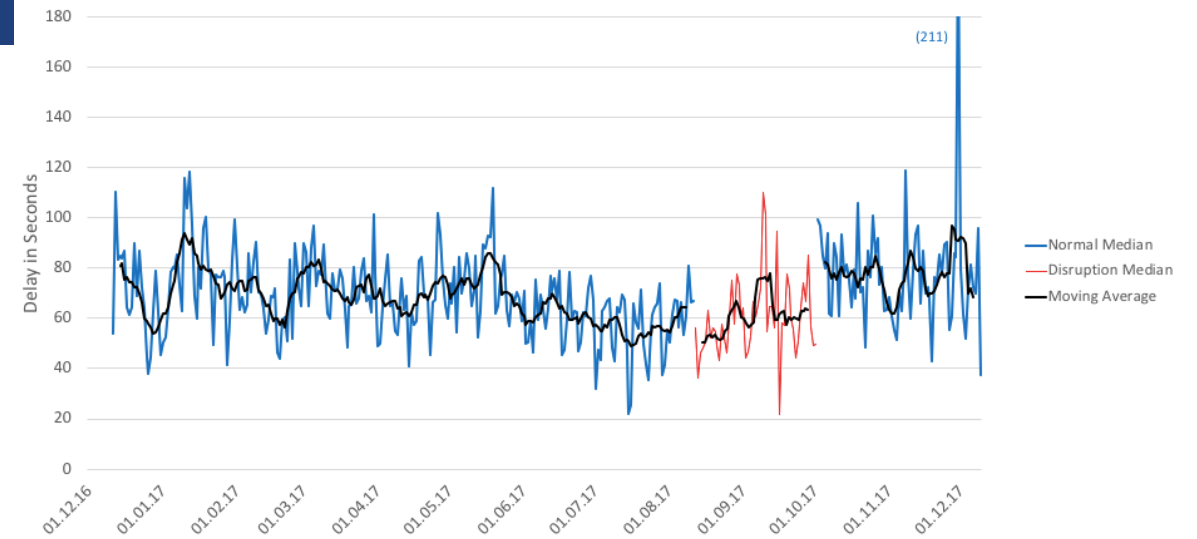


Figure 15: Yearly pattern of median delays in Liestal, Laufen and Rheinfelden including its moving average

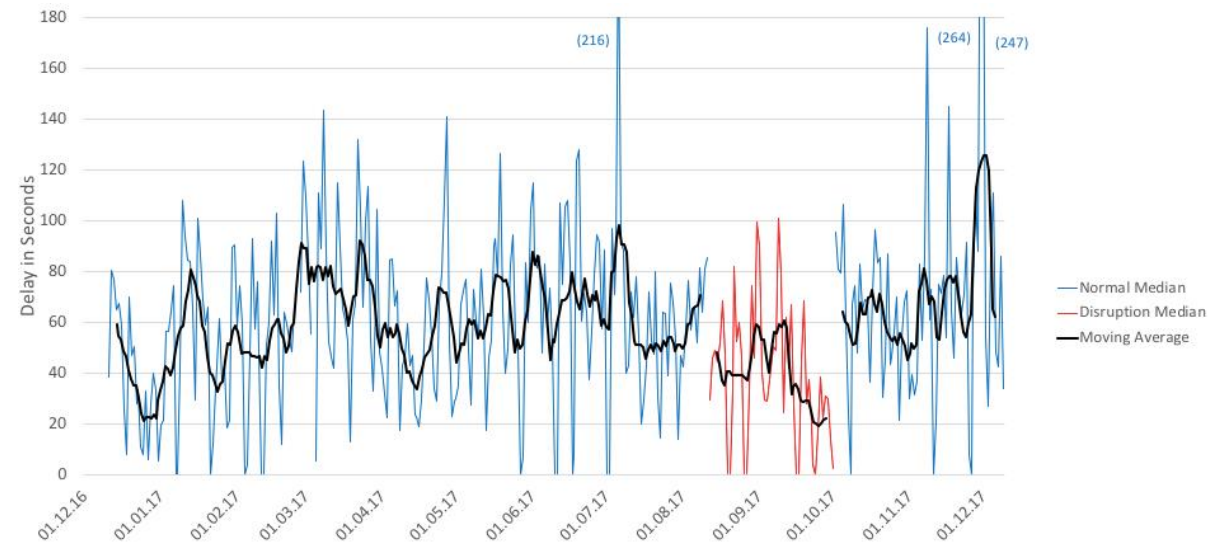
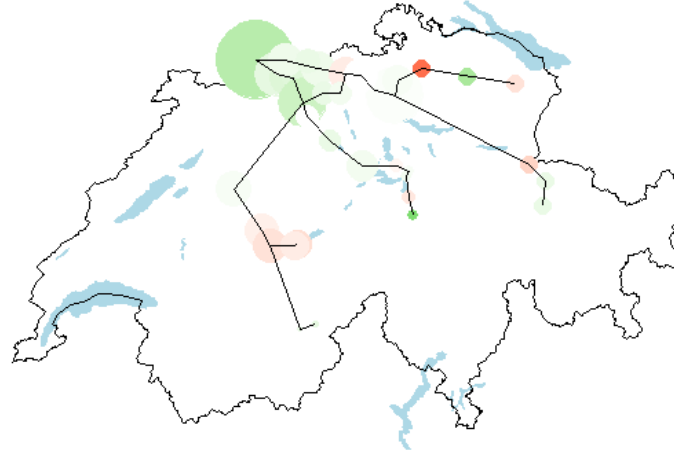
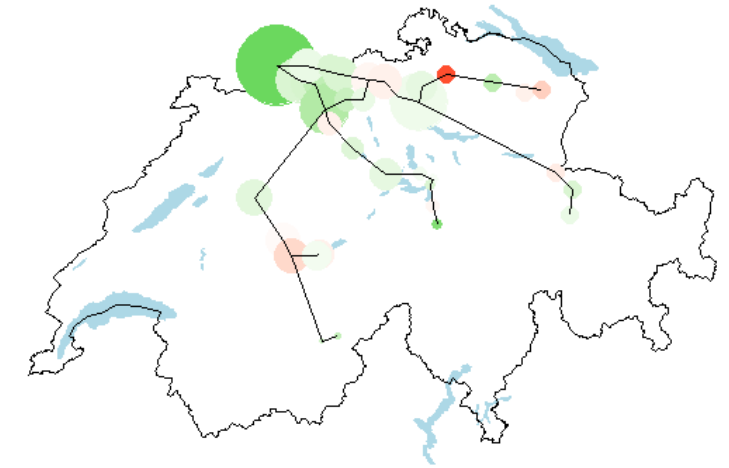
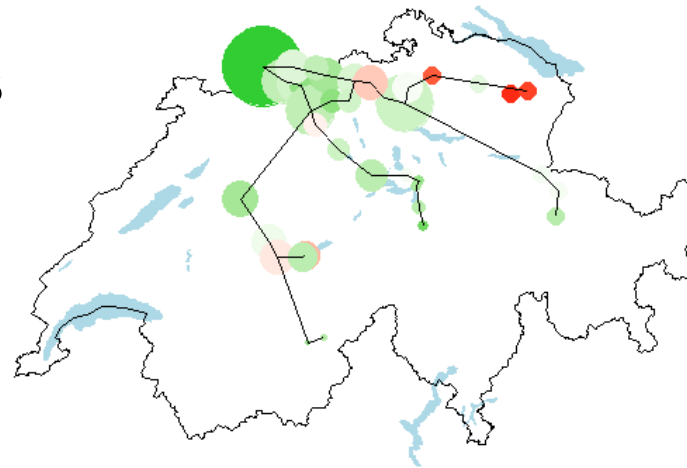


Figure 17: Yearly pattern of median delays in Zurich HB and Olten including its moving average



# Disruptions are good (?)

- Clear effect of isolation of network, → less delays
- Possibility to understand the degree of interconnection of networks
- Lessons learnt for internal dynamics/ external dynamics
- Never again!

25<sup>th</sup> percentile50<sup>th</sup> percentile75<sup>th</sup> percentile

Number of  
daily trains

40



80



120



160



Delay difference  
[sec]

40

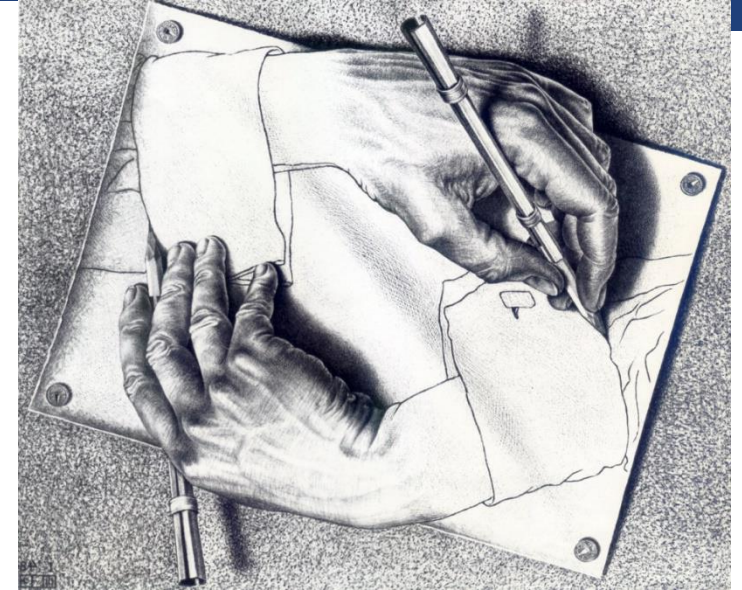
20

0

-20

-40

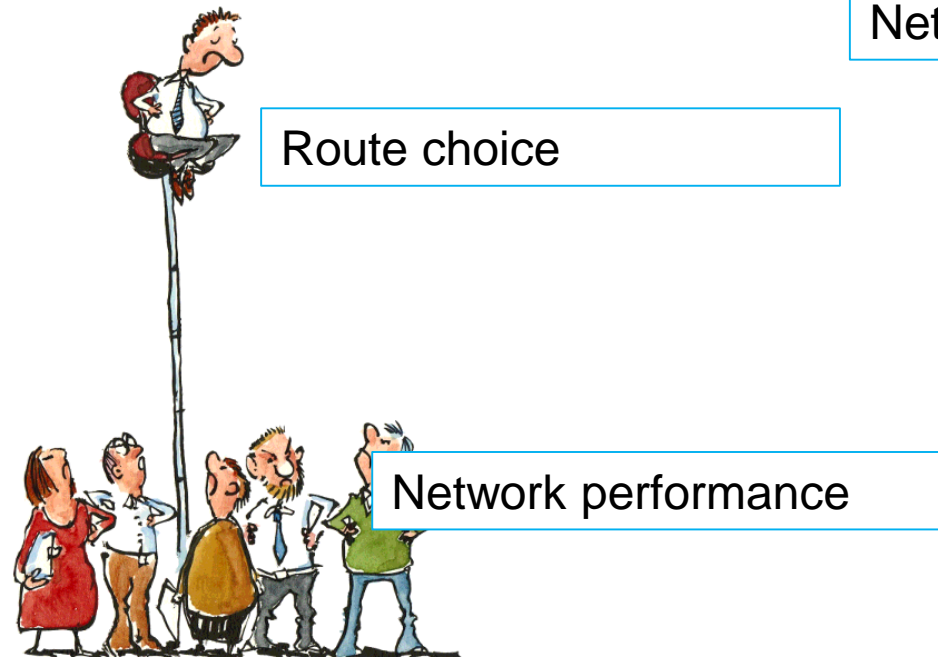




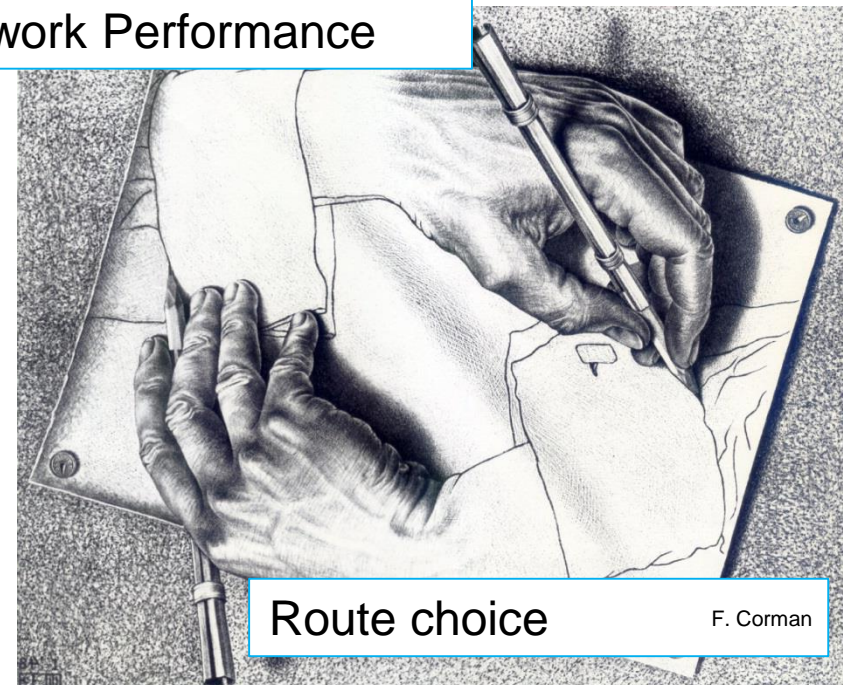
# Interaction modelling

# Passengers Routing in public transport networks

- Divide hierarchically into layers  
post process, simulate, adjust
- Equal importance given to problem: iterate coordinate, converge



Network Performance



# Schedule-based Transit assignment

Knowing passengers demand per time

Routing of passengers is based on shortest travel time

Vehicles (trains) have infinite passengers capacity

(relatively strong assumptions!)

Schedule-based assignment → min cost flow problem



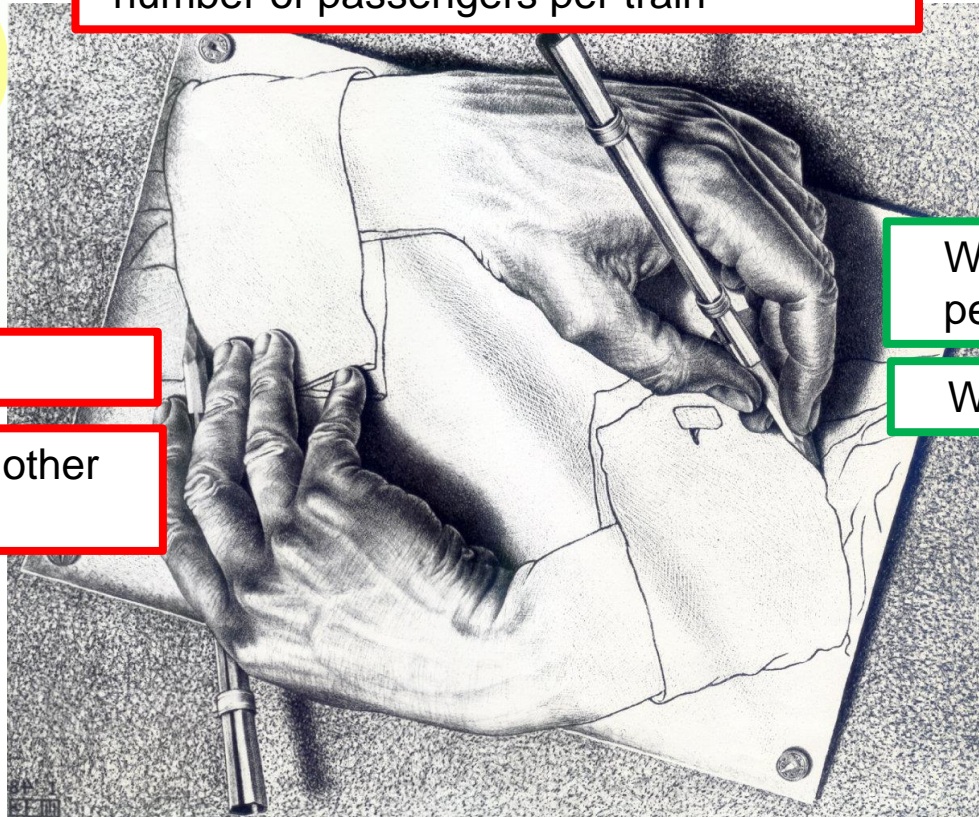
# Interaction



scheduling trains in an infrastructure with limited capacity, taking into account the number of passengers per train

What will I do?

What I believe the other person would do



What I believe the other person would do

What will I do?

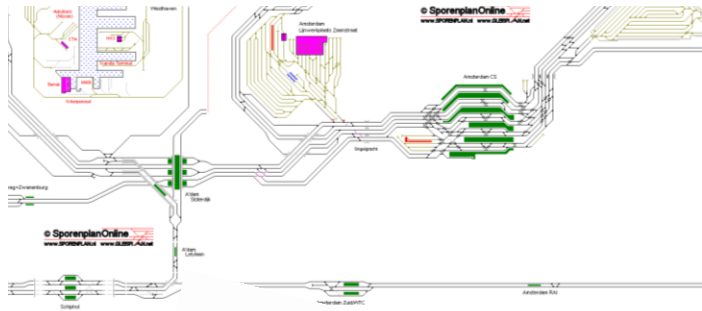
routing of passengers by taking into account the train schedule, their origin and destination, the minimization of their discomfort



# Possible solutions –who does what, why?

- Optimize everything (integrated model) ~System optimum
- Minimize delay weighted by passengers;  
Passengers react to schedule,  
trains react to passengers choice ~Nash
- Keep the timetable order; or optimize schedule  
Passengers adjust route choices ~Inv. Stackelberg
- Passengers publish their choices / cost functions;  
optimize schedule to minimize travel time ~Stackelberg

# Upper bound to optimum



Delaying trains instead of passengers:  
 12% shorter travel time vs timetable  
 11% optimality gap



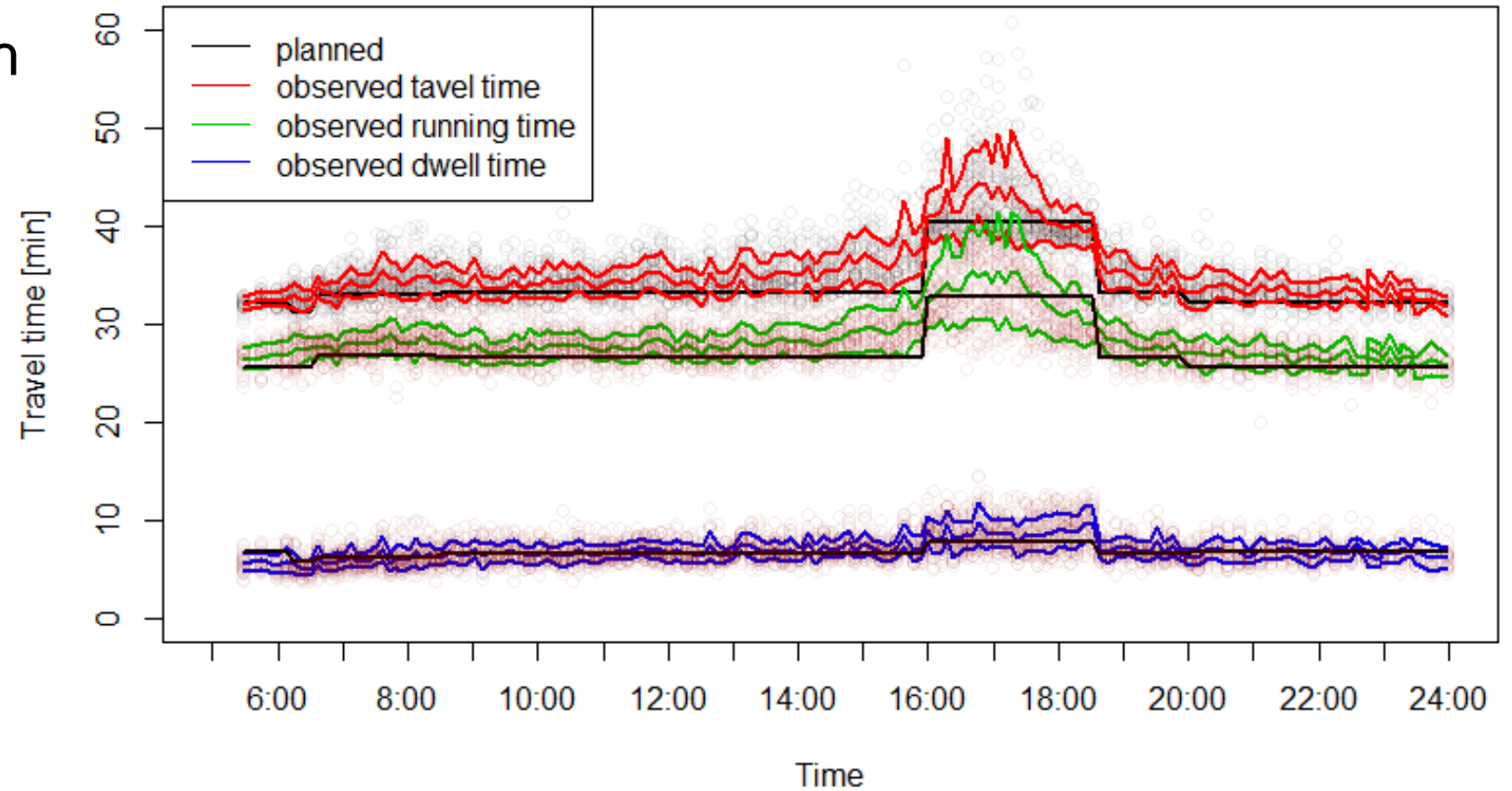
# Larger/better models

N. Leng, Agent-based simulation approach for disruption management in rail schedule , CASPT

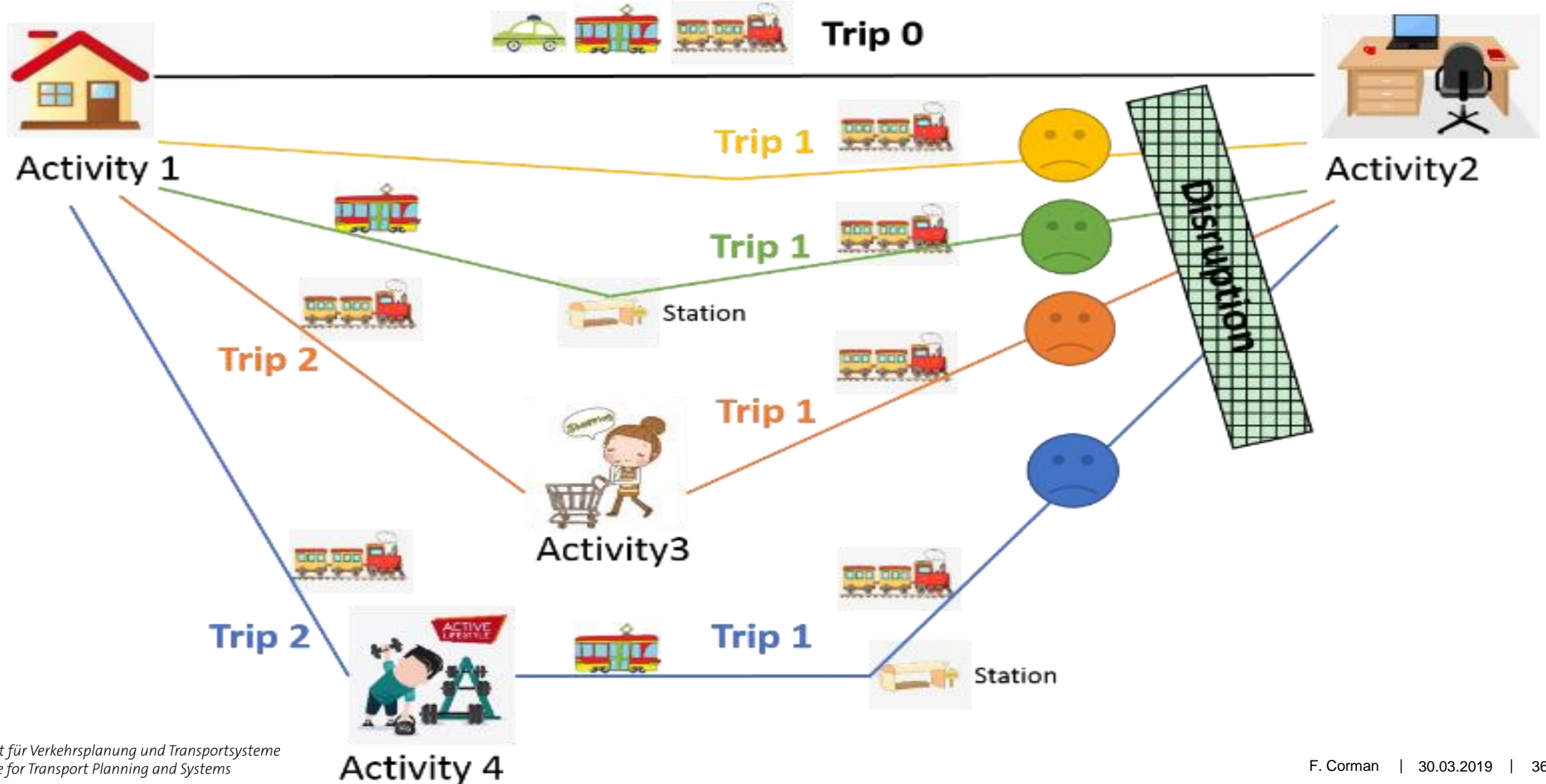


# Operations are not terribly good

- Example delay in Zurich
- Very dense network

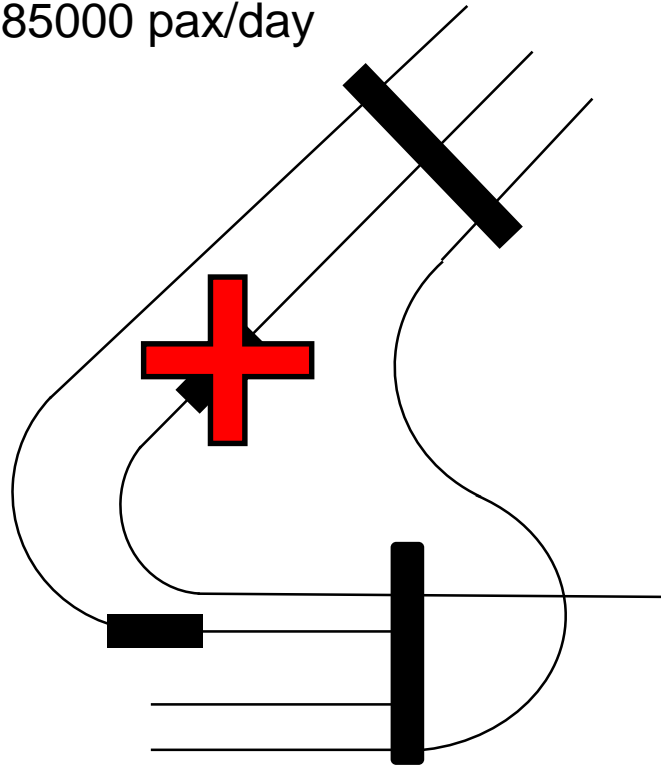


# A larger perspective onto activities - MATSim

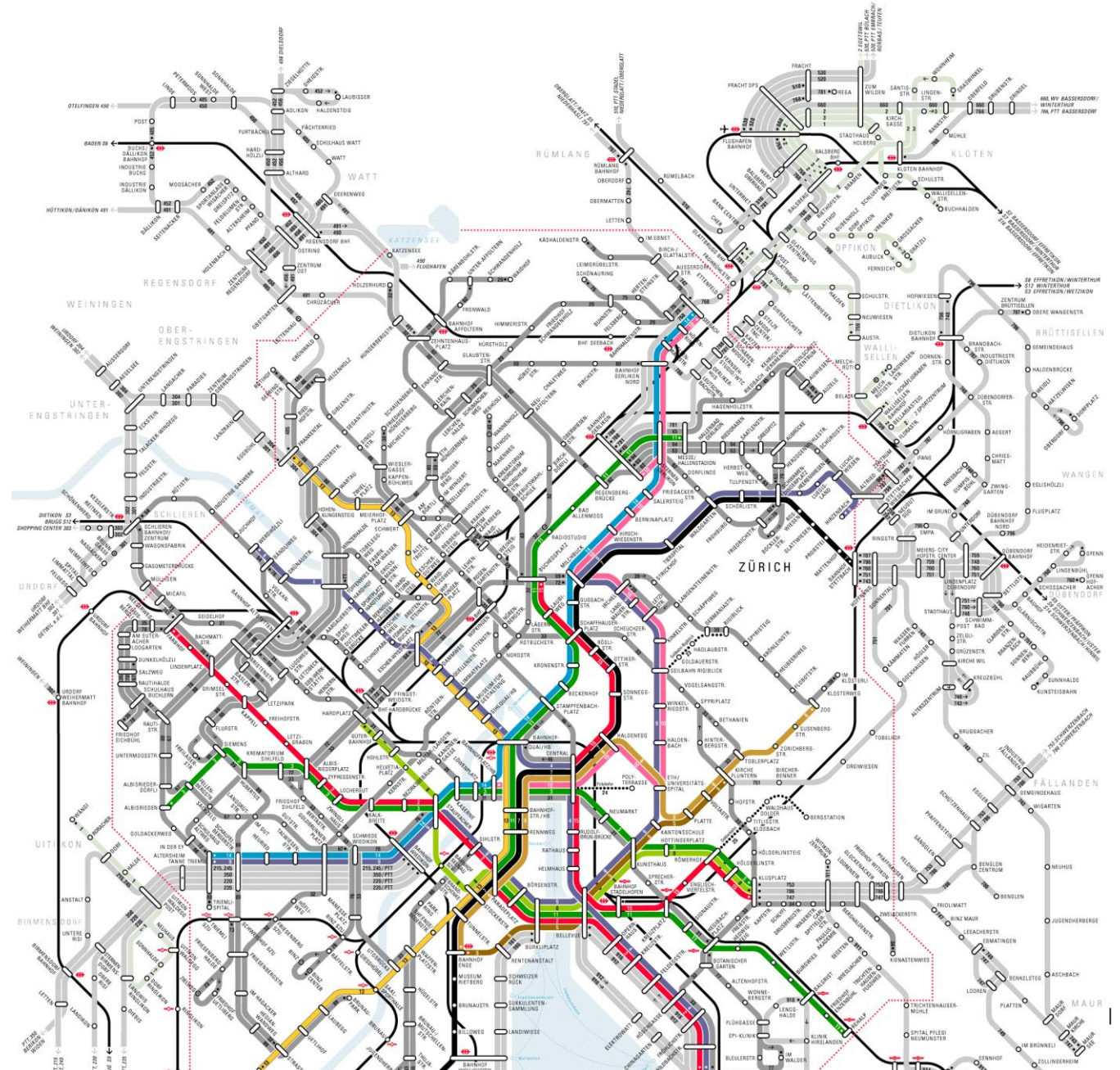


# Example disruption, Zurich

Oerlikon  
 ~300 trains/ day  
 ~85000 pax/day



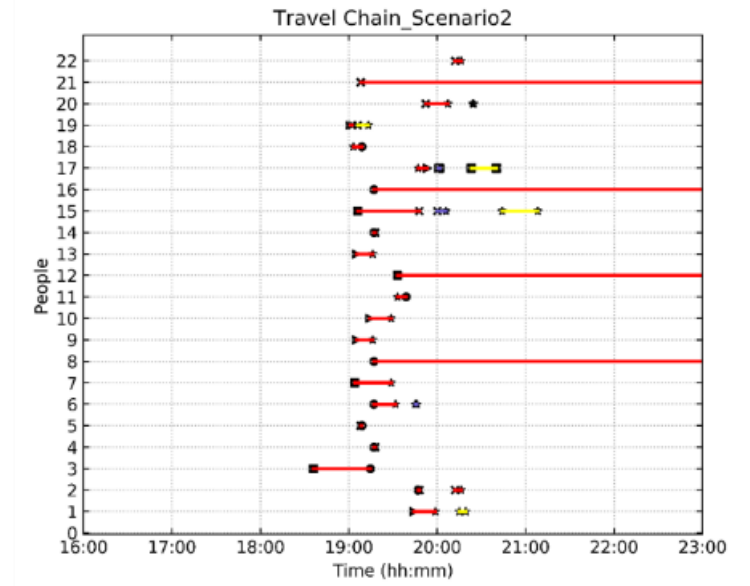
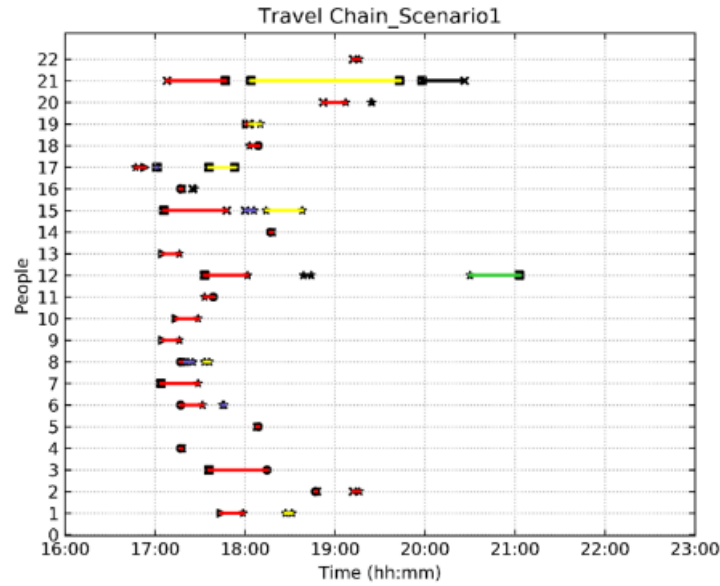
Main station  
 ~2900 trains/ day,  
 450000 pax/ day





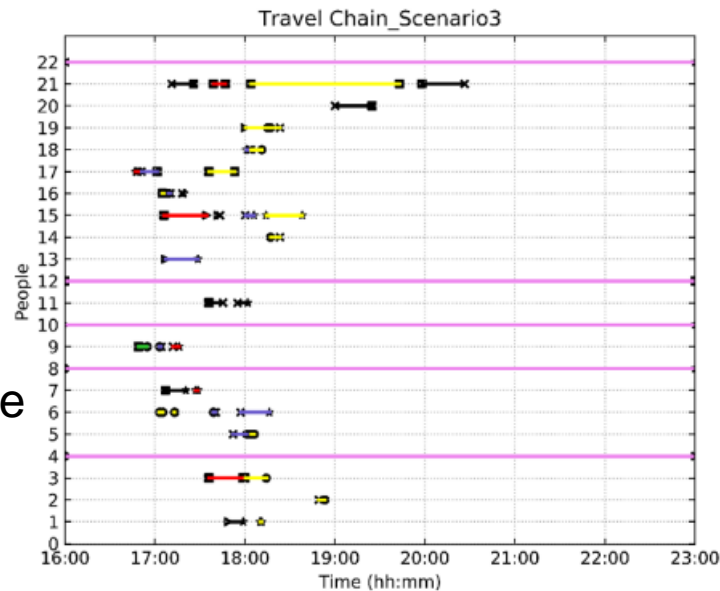
# Adjusted activity chain

Original



I never update my plan;  
Pessimistic

I know things in advance  
“Vision of God”





# Lessons learnt

- Large simulation models are complex
- The realistic behavior of people is complex to attain
- Interplay between operations, passengers decisions and (limited) information is crucial, but hard to model
  
- New developments possible soon



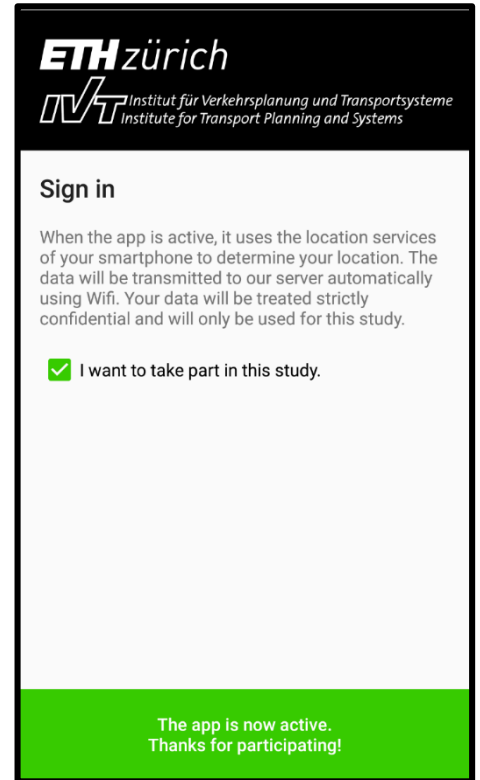
## More understanding

A, Marra, Multimodal passive tracking of passengers to analyse public transport use, STRC

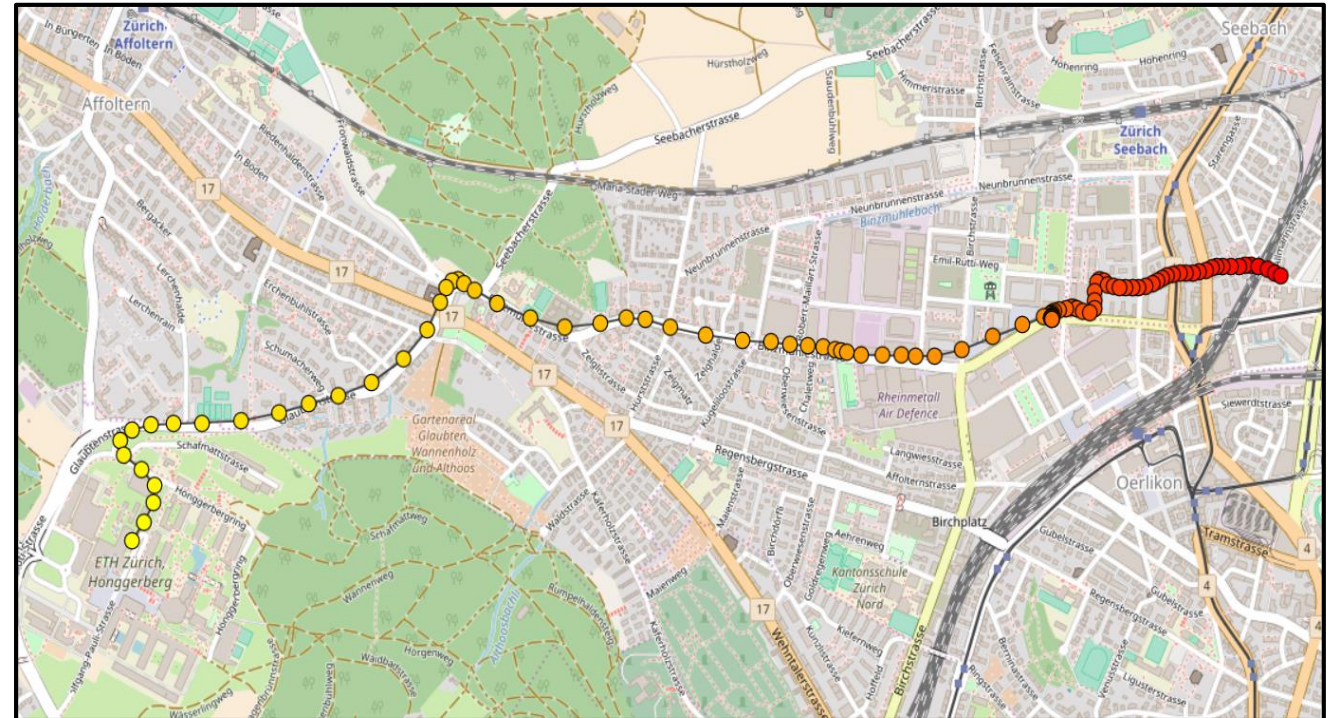
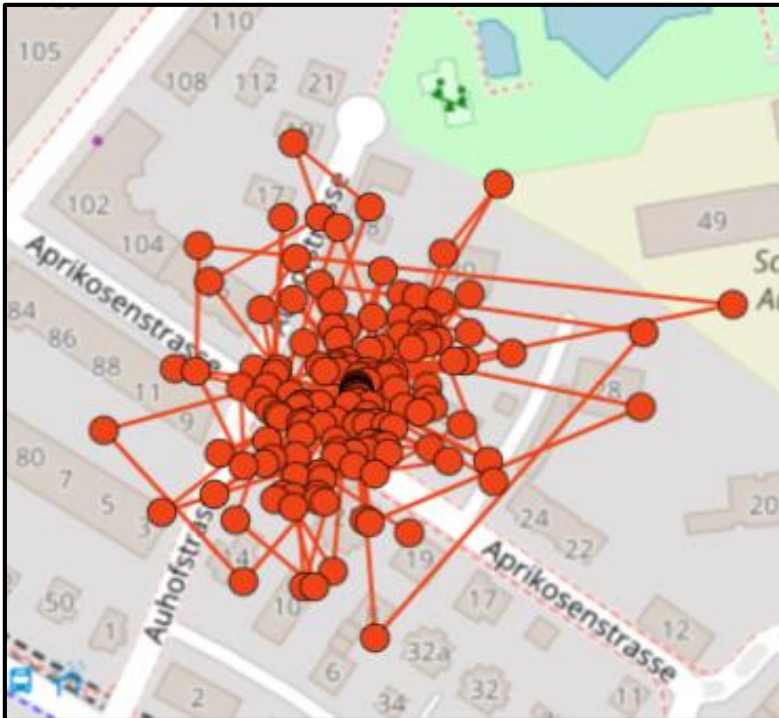
Walt disney

# Study mobility in-vivo

- Typically user interaction-intensive
- Typically battery intensive
- Own developed
- Tested on ~50 students



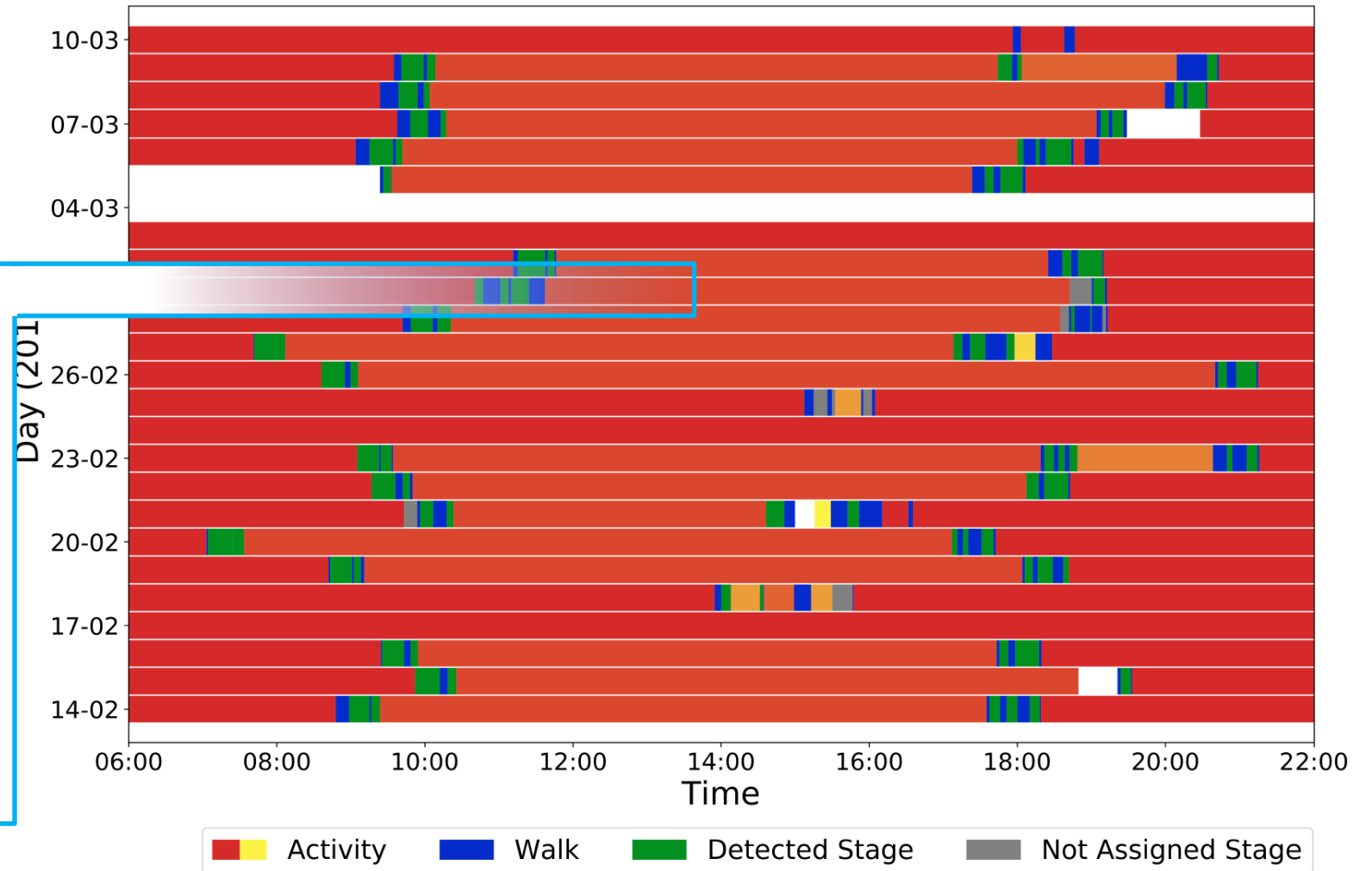
# Cleaning of data



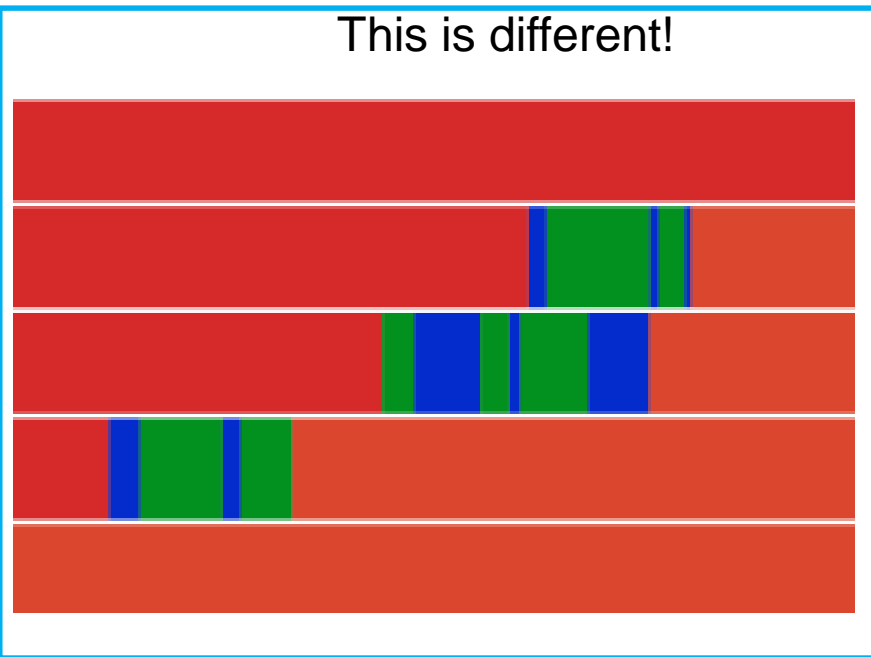


# Diary

**Fig. 7** Continuous tracking of a single user for one month. Activities in the same place have the same color, that goes from red to yellow according to the time spent in the activity. A white space indicates absence of signal.



This is different!



# Lessons learnt

- Disruptions are gray
- Large samples might help; data must be complemented with annotations
- Choice models can be estimated
- Mobility providers might know about us than we know



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