Modelling multi-modal transport planning

Challenges and ideas for the SynphOnie project

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Multi-modal transport



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The SynphOnie project



Synergien aus physikalischen und verkehrsplanerischen Modellen zur multikriteriellen Optimierung multimodaler nachfrageor**ie**ntierter Verkehre

The SynphOnie project



Synergies from physical and traffic planning models for multi-criteria optimization of multi-modal demand-oriented transport



The SynphOnie project



Synergies from **ph**ysical and traffic planning models for multi-criteria **o**ptimization of multi-modal demand-or**ie**nted transport



The SynphOnie project Profile

SynphOnie	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e
Participants	 Department for Transportation Planning and Traffic Engineering, University of Stuttgart Optimization Division, Fraunhofer ITWM Optimization Group, RPTLL Kaiserslautern-Landau
	 Optimization Group, University of Passau
Project Partners	 Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund Stuttgart PTV Planung Transport Verkehr GmbH
Duration	3 years
Funding	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

The SynphOnie project Goals

Develop methods for planning public transport that take account of

- the interplay of different transport modes (subway, bus, demand-responsive transport (DRT), private transport)
- > capacities and congestion effects
- > (selfish) decisions of travellers (~> global equilibrium constraints)
- > multiple objectives (cost, travel time, environmental impact)

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Desired result: Diverse Pareto solutions, each specifying lines, timetables, DRT areas and numbers of vehicles...



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Ideas

- Use abstract coarse model that allows for approximate multi-criteria optimization taking into account the global equilibrium constraints.
- Use fine models for the different modes or planning aspects (e.g. computation of passenger equilibrium) that can be solved exactly or heuristically.



- > The coarse model offers different trade-offs for the objective functions.
- > The fine models iteratively compute a solution and a corresponding traveller equilibrium.



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Danger: During the iterations the solution can diverge from the solution chosen initially by the user.



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Danger: Fitting the model parameters for one Pareto solution need not fit the other Pareto solutions.

- > Aggregate geographic regions.
- > Ignore line courses, timetables etc.

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Ambitious goal: Combine selfish behaviour and multiple planning objectives.

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A multi-objective multi-commodity flow network design model

Basic idea

> OD-pairs are multiple commodities in a network flow model on a non-simple digraph (V, A) with each arc connects two locations with a specific mode.



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- OD-pairs are multiple commodities in a network flow model on a non-simple digraph (V, A) with each arc connects two locations with a specific mode.
- > For a flow x, all objective functions are of the form $f(x) = \sum_{a \in A} f_a(x_a)$, where x_a is the total flow on arc a.



Operator's cost and environmental impact



 Cost-minimal solution always uses minimum number of vehicles to transport all passengers.

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Effective travel times

- > May be reduced if frequency of service is increased.
- > ---> Number of vehicles / service level is an actual decision variable.
- > Due to congestion also depends on number of vehicles of other transport modes.
- > The cost and environmental impact also depend on the driving times.

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- > Should individual transport be possible in the middle of a path? ---> Remove some transfer arcs.
- > In DRT from/to the final destination the travel times depend on the load level of the vehicles.
- > The congestion may change over time.



- > For a fixed network design, the travellers will form an **equilibrium**
 - > Wardrop equilibrium
 - Logit equilibrium
- > The network designer aims to minimize multiple objectives subject to anticipated traveller's response.



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Related work

> Gairing, Harks, & Klimm (2017): network designer minimizes weighted sum of total travel time and cost.

- > Harks & Schedel (2021): multiple operators want to maximize their profits.
- > Mordukhovich (2009), ...: general multi-objective problems with equilibrium constraints

Challenges Demand-responsive transport on a fine level

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Related Work

> Steiner & Irnich (2020), Calabrò et al. (2021) ...: General models for integrated planning of fixed and demand-responsive transportation



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Related Work

- > Steiner & Irnich (2020), Calabrò et al. (2021) ...: General models for integrated planning of fixed and demand-responsive transportation
- Tian, Lin, & Wang (2021): 2-stage line planning where additional vehicles can be assigned to lines in second stage
- > An & Lo (2016): 2-stage model for transit network design with flexible services
- > Pu & Zhan (2021): 2-stage model for railway line-planning with line plan rescheduling



> ...

Thank you!

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