



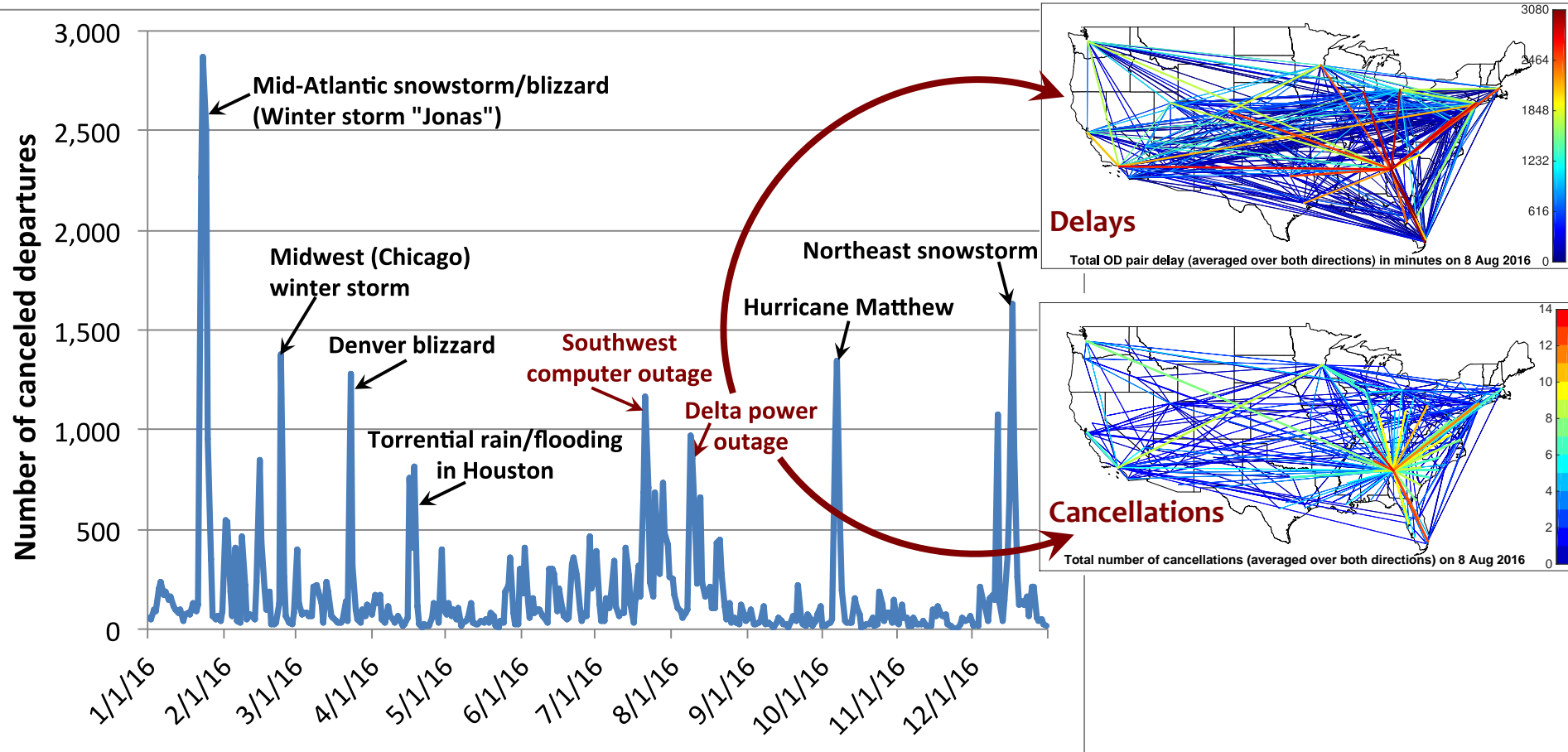
Toward a Resilient and Sustainable Air Transportation System

Hamsa Balakrishnan

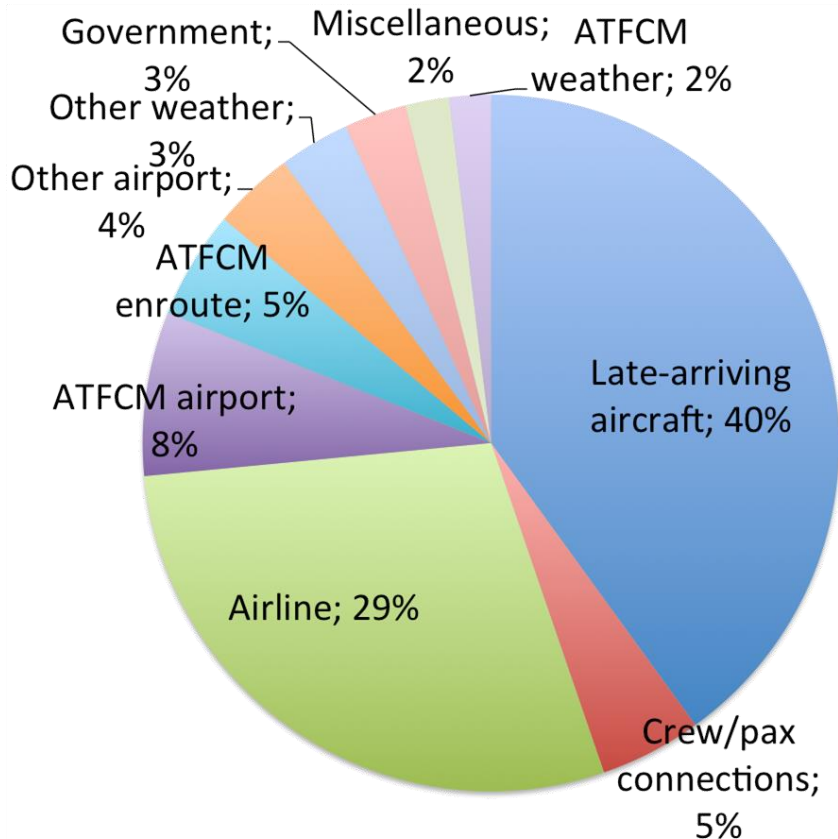
Joao Cavalcanti, Yashovardhan Chati & Karthik Gopalakrishnan



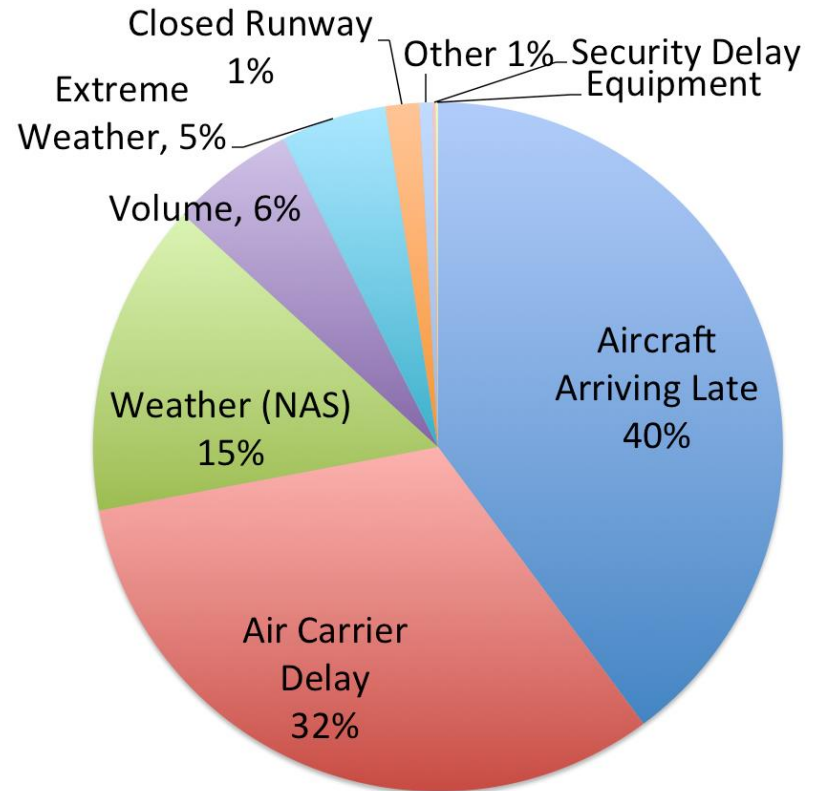
Local events have global impacts



Flight connectivity is a big driver of delay propagation

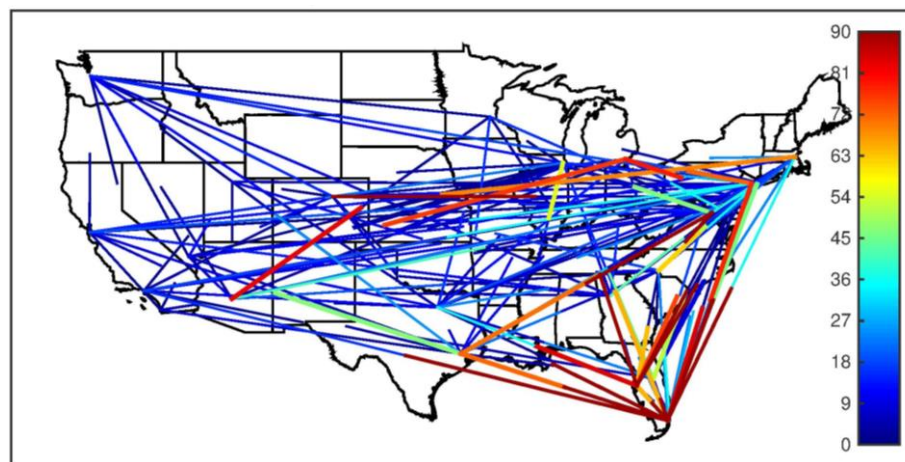


Causes of Europe delays, 2015



Causes of US delays, 2015

Challenges in modeling infrastructure networks

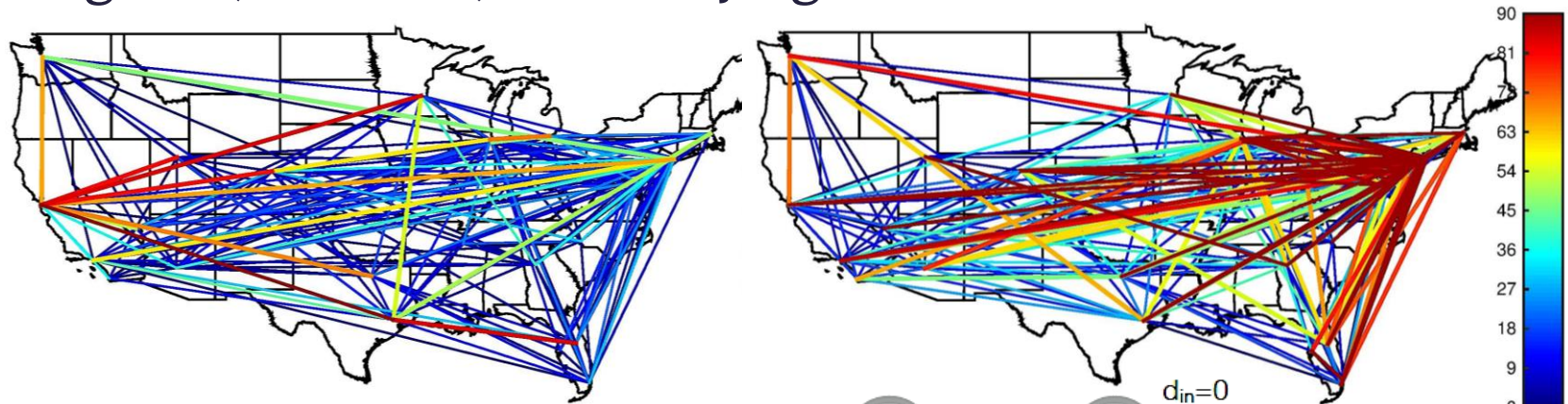


[Delay Data: Bureau of Transportation Statistics]

- * Nodal and link states are best modeled as continuous variables
- * Interactions are weighted and directed (asymmetric)
- * Interactions (network topologies) vary with time

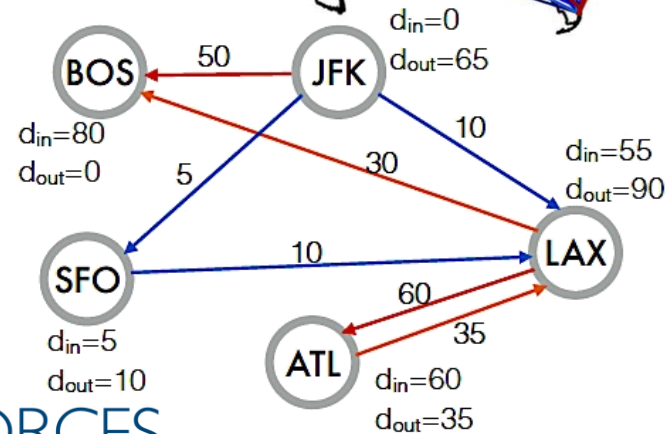
A network-centric view of air traffic delays

- * For example, delay levels on edges between airports
- * Weighted, directed, time-varying networks



Adjacency matrix, A :

$$a_{ij} = \begin{cases} w_{ij}, & \text{if } (i, j) \in \mathcal{E}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

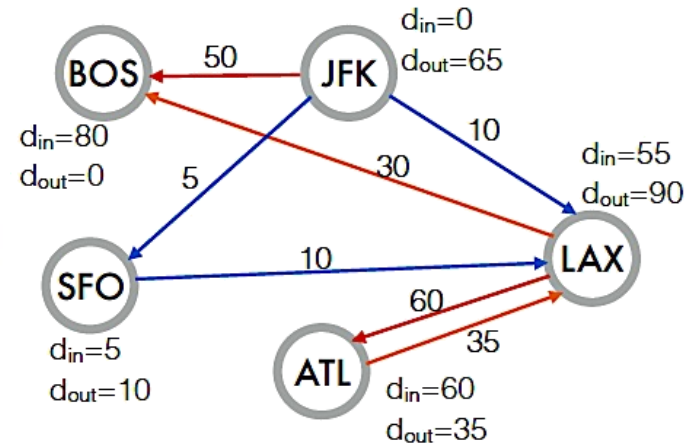


Simplistic model of delay dynamics

- * Given an adjacency matrix, $A = [a_{ij}]$

$$d_{in}^i(t+1) = \alpha_{in}^i d_{in}^i(t) + \sum_j \beta_{ji}^{in} \bar{a}_{ji}(t) d_{out}^j(t)$$

$$d_{out}^i(t+1) = \alpha_{out}^i d_{out}^i(t) + \sum_j \beta_{ij}^{out} \bar{a}_{ij}(t) d_{in}^j(t)$$



- * “State” of system: $\vec{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{d}^{out}(t) \\ \vec{d}^{in}(t) \end{bmatrix}$

- * Therefore, for given network topology: $\vec{x}(t+1) = \Gamma(t)\vec{x}(t)$

where $\Gamma(t) = [\alpha] + [\beta] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \bar{A}(t)^T \\ \bar{A}(t) & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Network topology is time-varying

- * For tractability, assume that network topology belongs to a finite (known) set of possibilities
 - * Results in a hybrid system
- * Assume that network topology switches between different values in a Markovian manner
 - * Results in a Markov Jump Linear System
- * Each discrete mode has its own linear dynamics, depending on the network topology (adjacency matrix)

Dynamics with switching network topologies

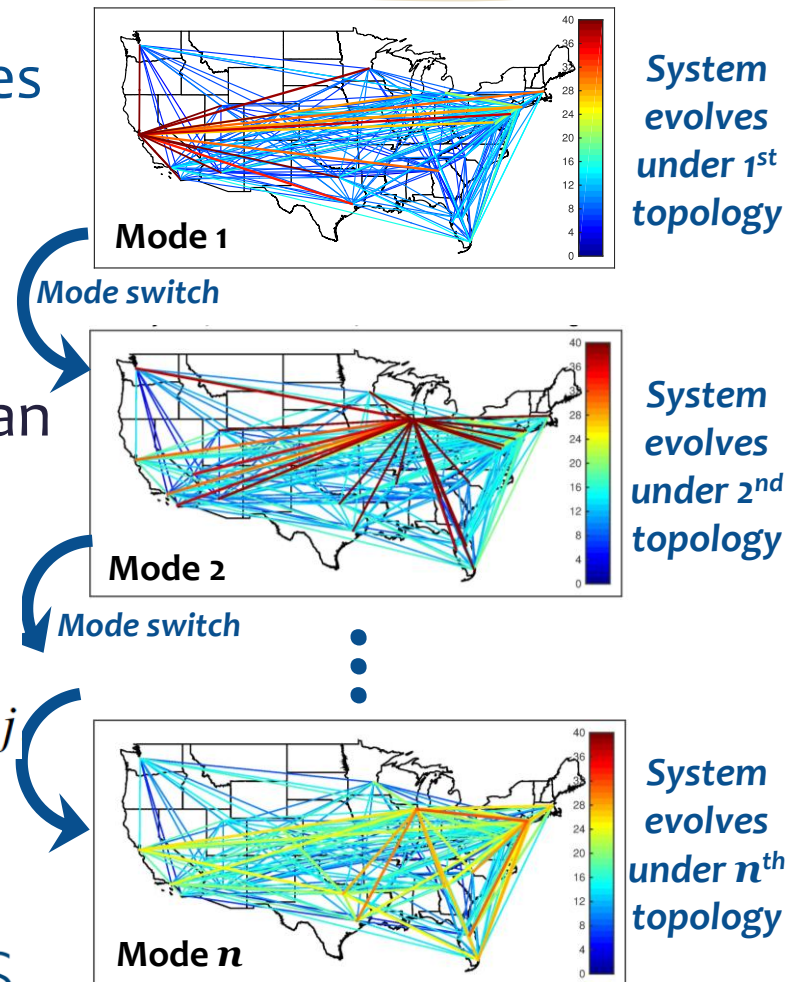
- * Identify set of characteristic topologies (“discrete modes of operation”)
- * Determine linear continuous state dynamics under a fixed topology
- * Switched linear system with Markovian transitions:

$$\vec{x}(t+1) = \Gamma_{m(t)} \vec{x}(t)$$

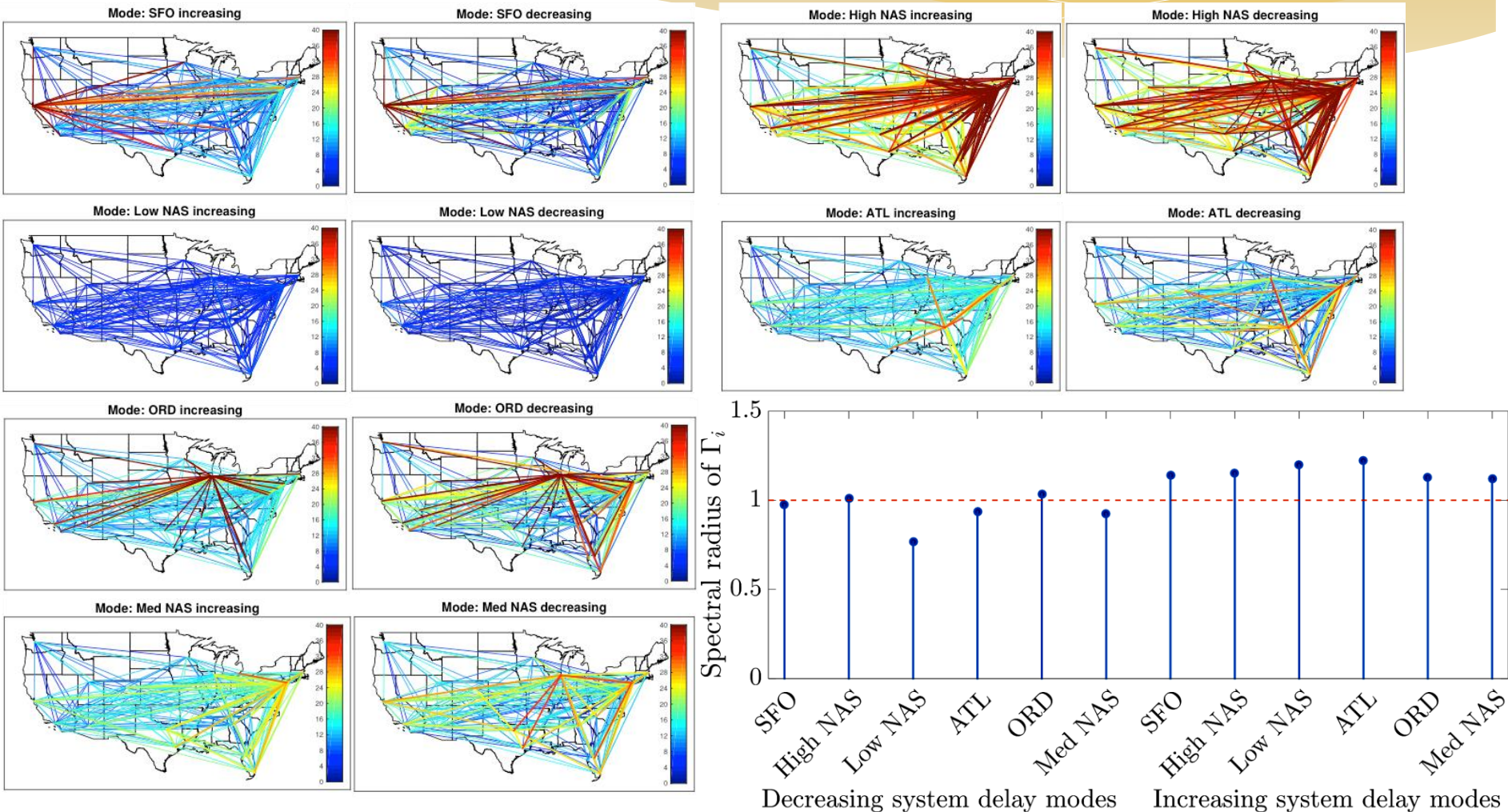
$$\pi_{ij}(t) = \Pr[m(t+1) = j | m(t) = i]$$

$$\vec{x}(t+1) = J_{ij} \Gamma_i \vec{x}(t), \text{ if } m(t) = i \text{ and } m(t+1) = j$$

- * Markov Jump Linear System (MJLS)



Individual discrete modes

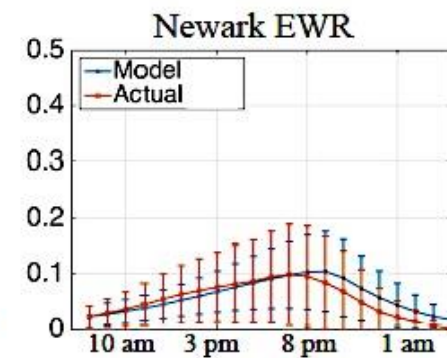
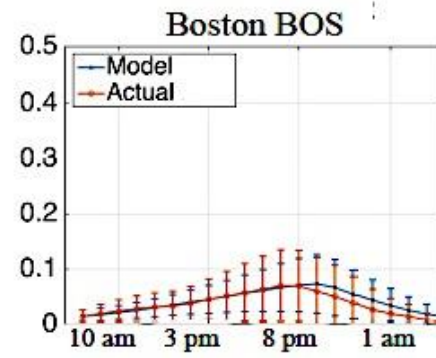
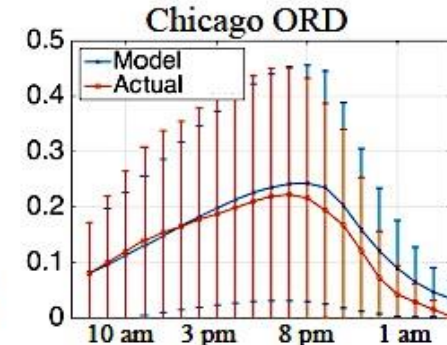
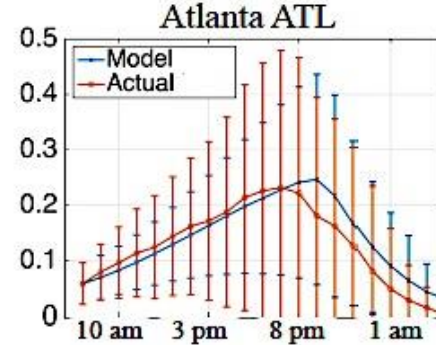
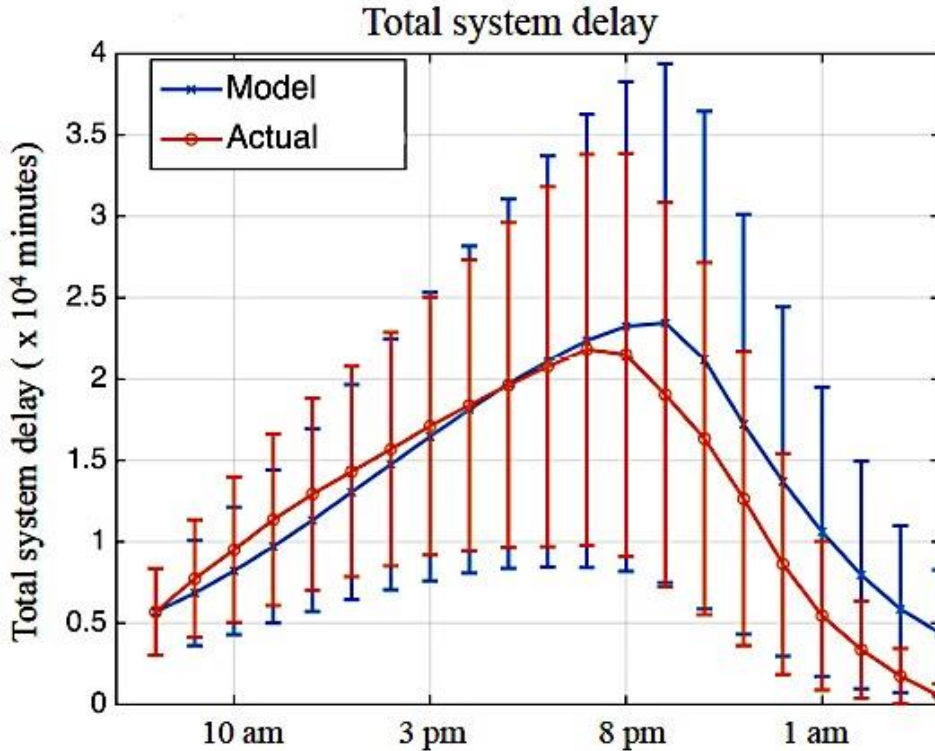


Stability of MJLS model

- * Consider stability of MJLS model with periodic time-varying mode transition matrices (determined by hour of day)
- * Resulting MJLS model shown to be mean and almost surely stable
- * System appears to be stabilized by the temporal variations in the mode transition matrices

MJLS model validation

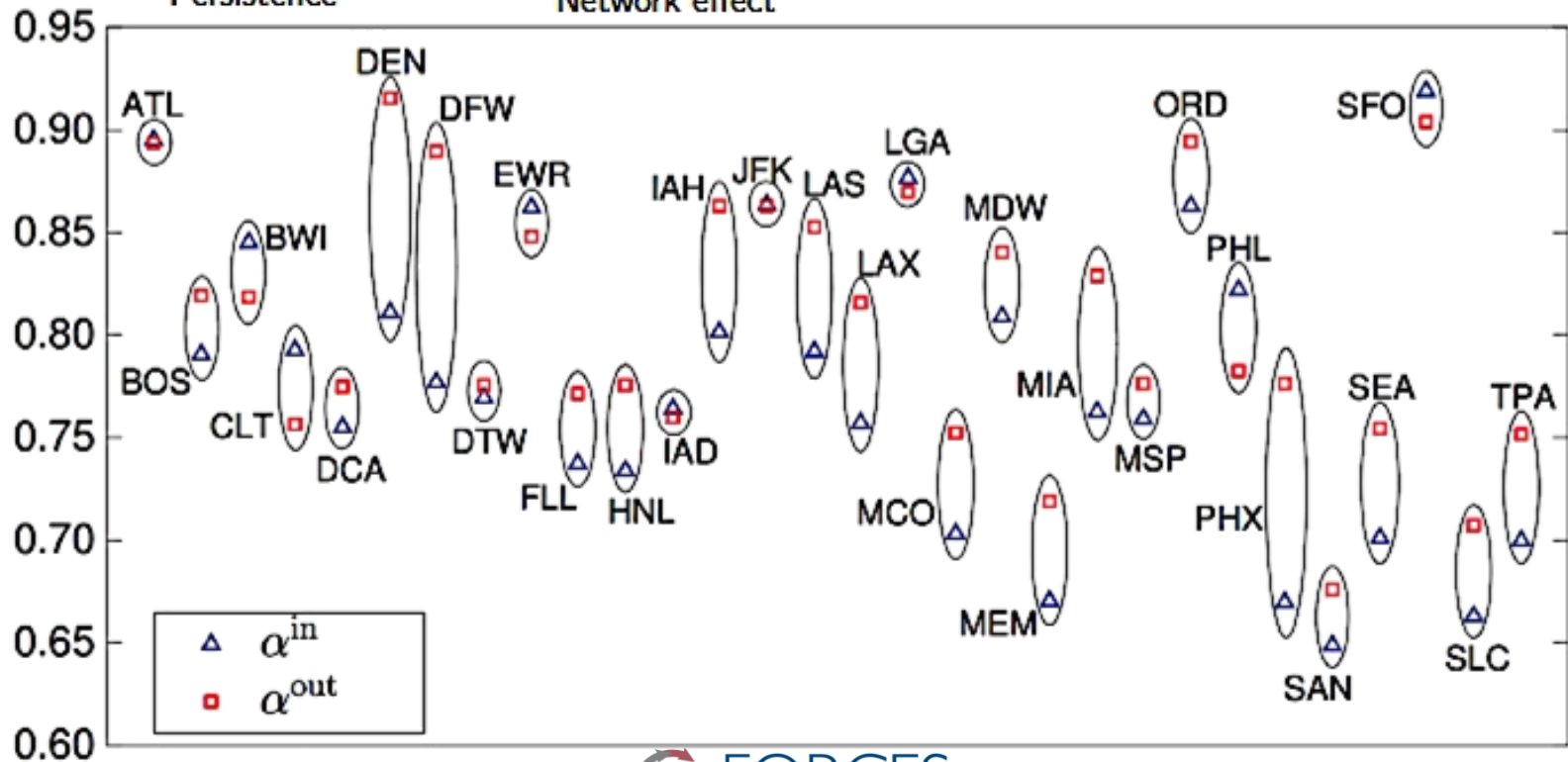
- * Model learned using 2011 data; validation using 2012 data



Measure of airport resilience: Delay persistence

$$d_{in}^i(t+1) = \underbrace{\alpha_{in}^i d_{in}^i(t)}_{\text{Persistence}} + \sum_j \underbrace{\beta_{ji}^{in} \bar{a}_{ji}(t) d_{out}^j(t)}_{\text{Network effect}}$$

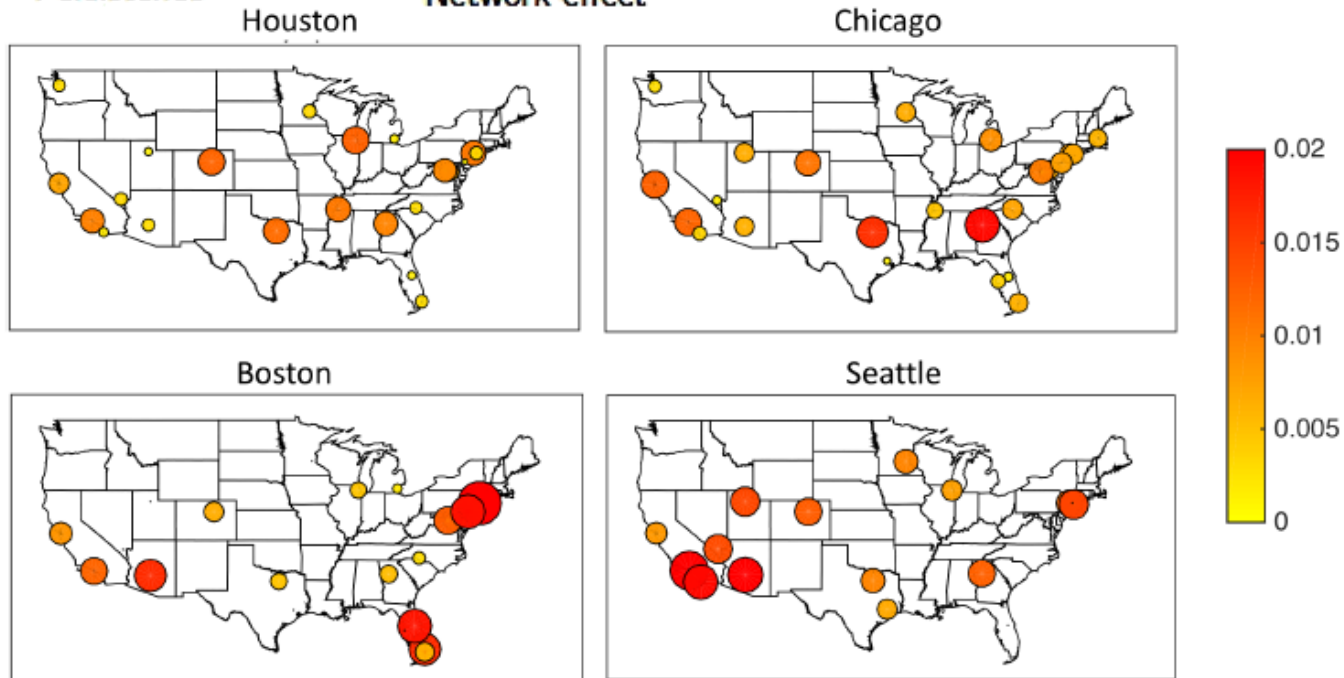
$$d_{out}^i(t+1) = \underbrace{\alpha_{out}^i d_{out}^i(t)}_{\text{Persistence}} + \sum_j \underbrace{\beta_{ij}^{out} \bar{a}_{ij}(t) d_{in}^j(t)}_{\text{Network effect}}$$



Measure of airport resilience: Network effects

$$d_{in}^i(t+1) = \underbrace{\alpha_{in}^i d_{in}^i(t)}_{\text{Persistence}} + \sum_j \underbrace{\beta_{ji}^{in} \bar{a}_{ji}(t) d_{out}^j(t)}_{\text{Network effect}}$$

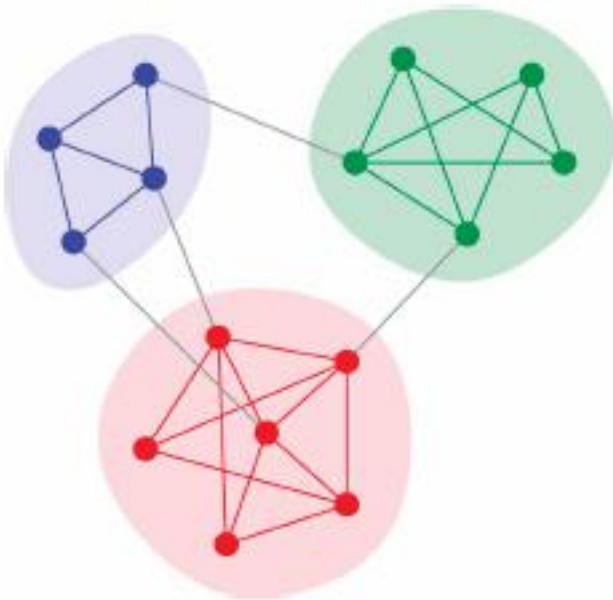
$$d_{out}^i(t+1) = \underbrace{\alpha_{out}^i d_{out}^i(t)}_{\text{Persistence}} + \sum_j \underbrace{\beta_{ij}^{out} \bar{a}_{ij}(t) d_{in}^j(t)}_{\text{Network effect}}$$



(Color and size of circle both denote induced inbound delay per unit delay at other airport)

Delay communities

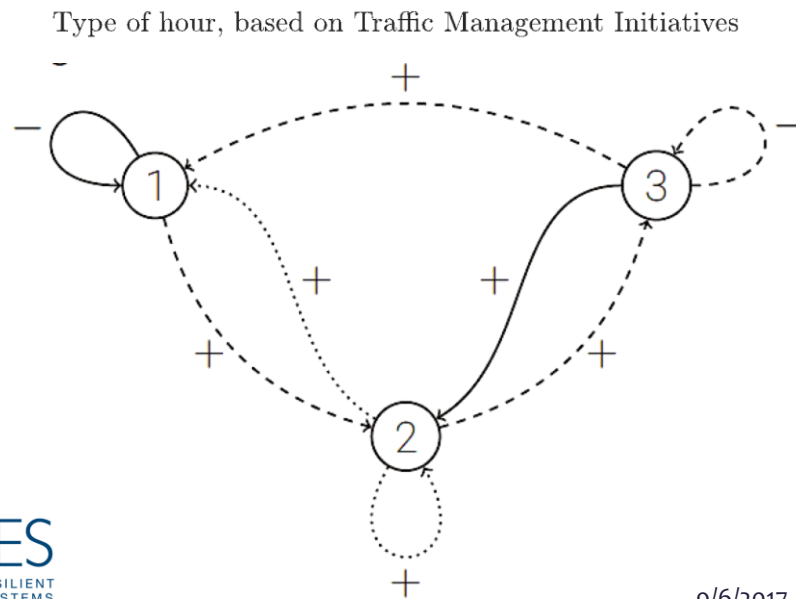
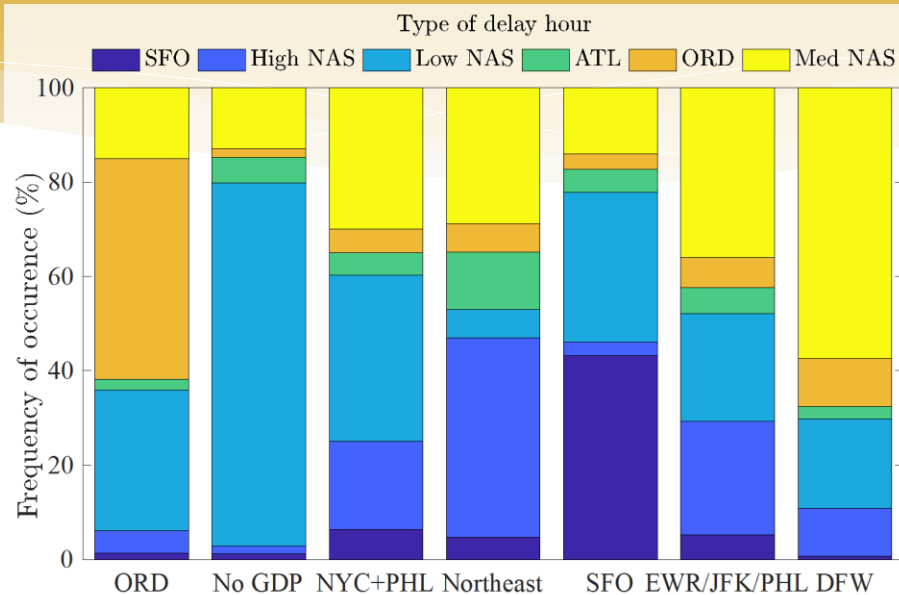
- * Airports within a community have high delays between them



Community structure for delay network (23 March 2011)

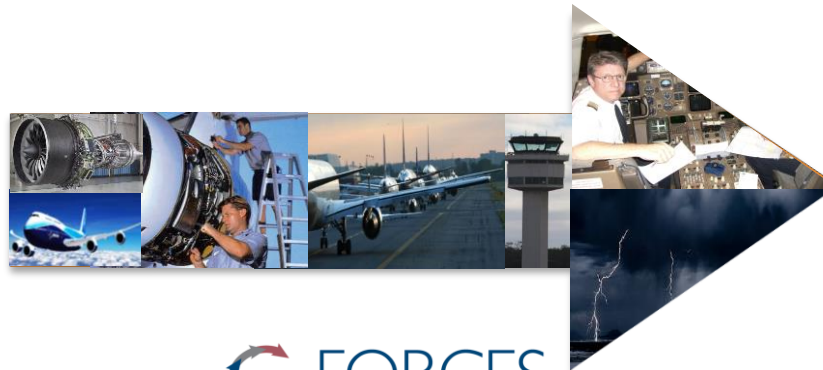
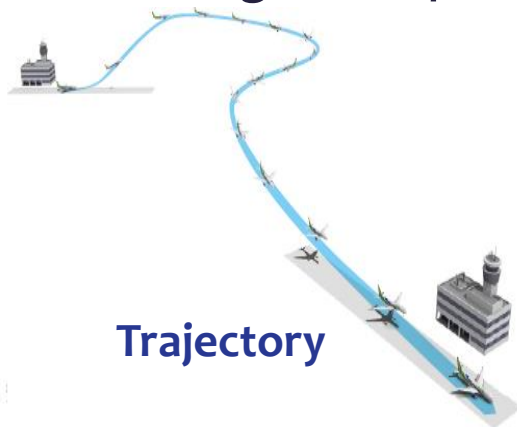
Ongoing research

- * **Analysis of finite-time behavior** [Cavalcanti/Balakrishnan, IEEE CDC 2017]
- * **Triggering mode transitions**
 - * Weather, Traffic Management
- * **Post-disruption recovery**
 - * Optimal control of networks with switching
- * **Prediction of future delays and delay states** [Gopalakrishnan/Balakrishnan ATM R&D Seminar 2016]
- * **Multi-layer, multi-timescale networks**
 - * Cancellations, operations, capacity [ICRAT 2016]
- * **Sign-stability of networks with switching topologies**

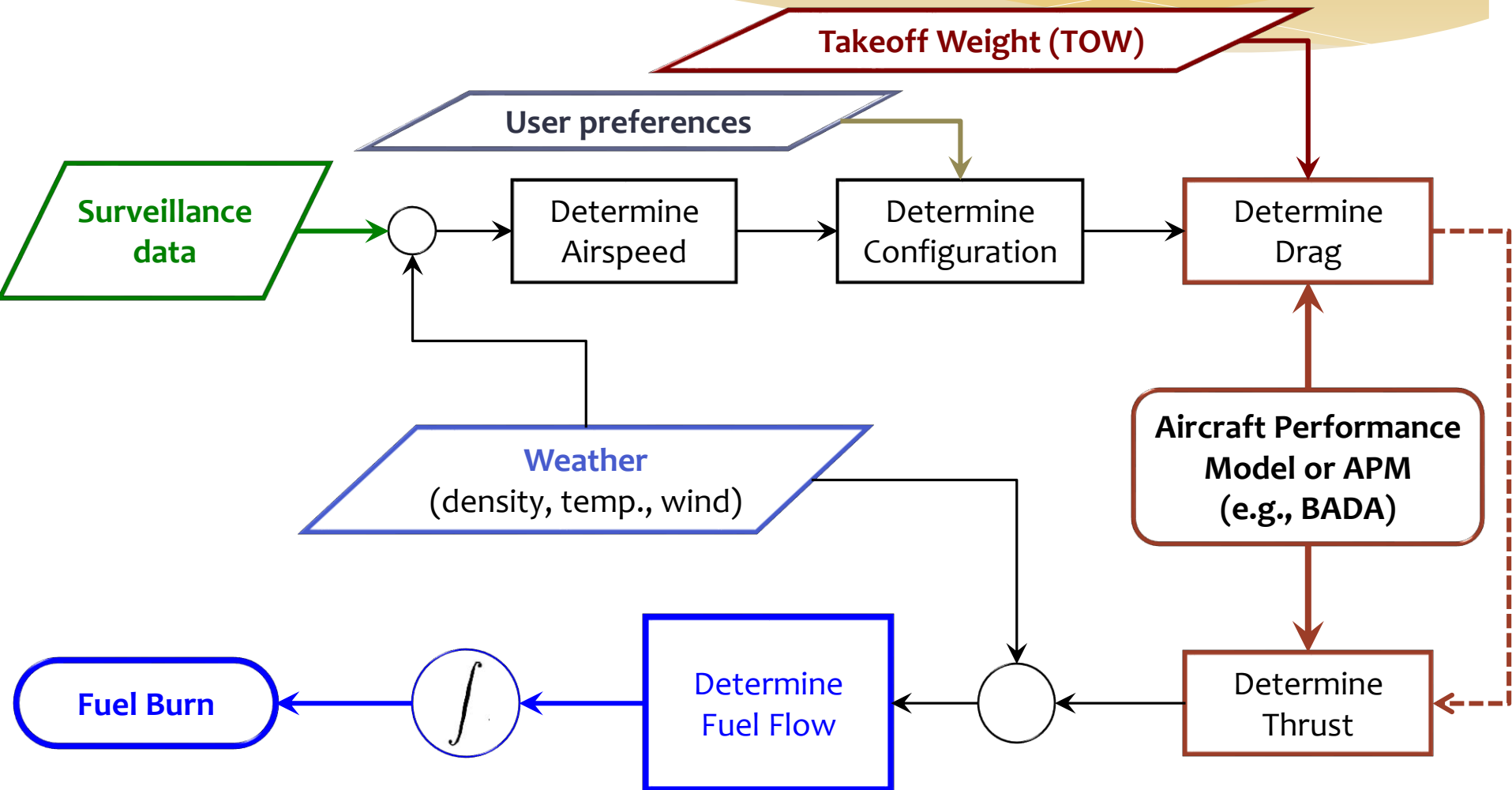


Machine learning models of engine performance

- * US airline operations consume 81 billion gallons of fuel/year (26.5% of airline expenses)
- * Estimation of the fuel consumed during a flight is a long-standing challenge in air traffic management
 - * Important for fuel burn and emissions inventories
 - * Necessary for evaluating impact of modernization efforts and changes in operational procedures



Traditional fuel flow model architecture

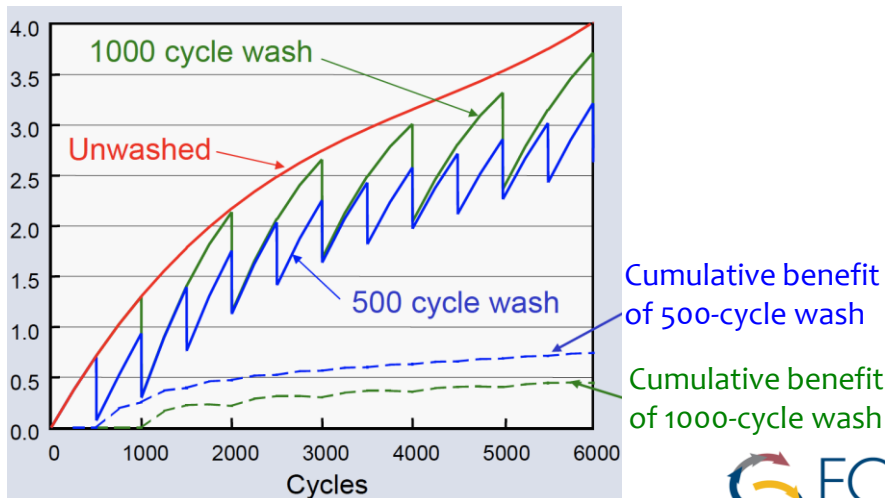


Most fuel burn models follow this architecture

- * FAA's NextGen Office Model, Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT), Aircraft Fuel Evaluation Simulation Tool (AFEST)
- * GfL and Technische Universität Dresden's EJPM-based Trajectory Analysis Software (ETAS), operationally used by the German Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) Deutsche Flugsicherung (DFS)
- * Airservices Australia's Dalí
- * Eurocontrol's Base of Aircraft Data (BADA) is used as the Aircraft Performance Model (APM) in all of the above
- * Deterministic models

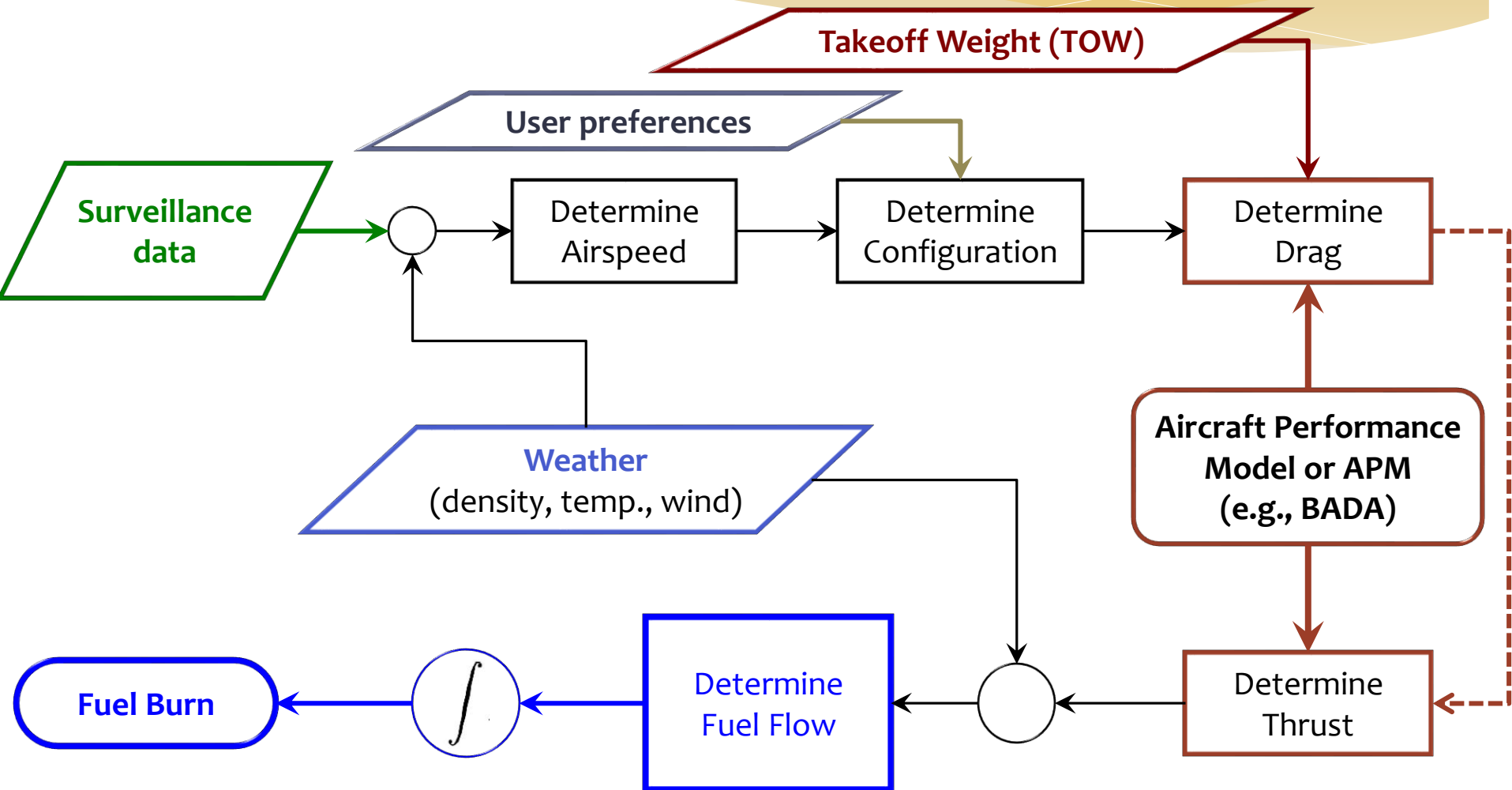
Operational variability

- * Two flights of the same aircraft type, flying similar trajectories, can still have different fuel consumption
- * Weather conditions (e.g., winds) can greatly influence fuel burn
- * Weight
 - * A 1,000 lb reduction in empty weight + payload can result in 0.6-0.7% fuel savings for a Boeing 737
 - * Empty weight increases 0.1-0.2% per year due to moisture/dirt accumulation
- * Maintenance activities (e.g., repetitive engine washes) can improve fuel burn

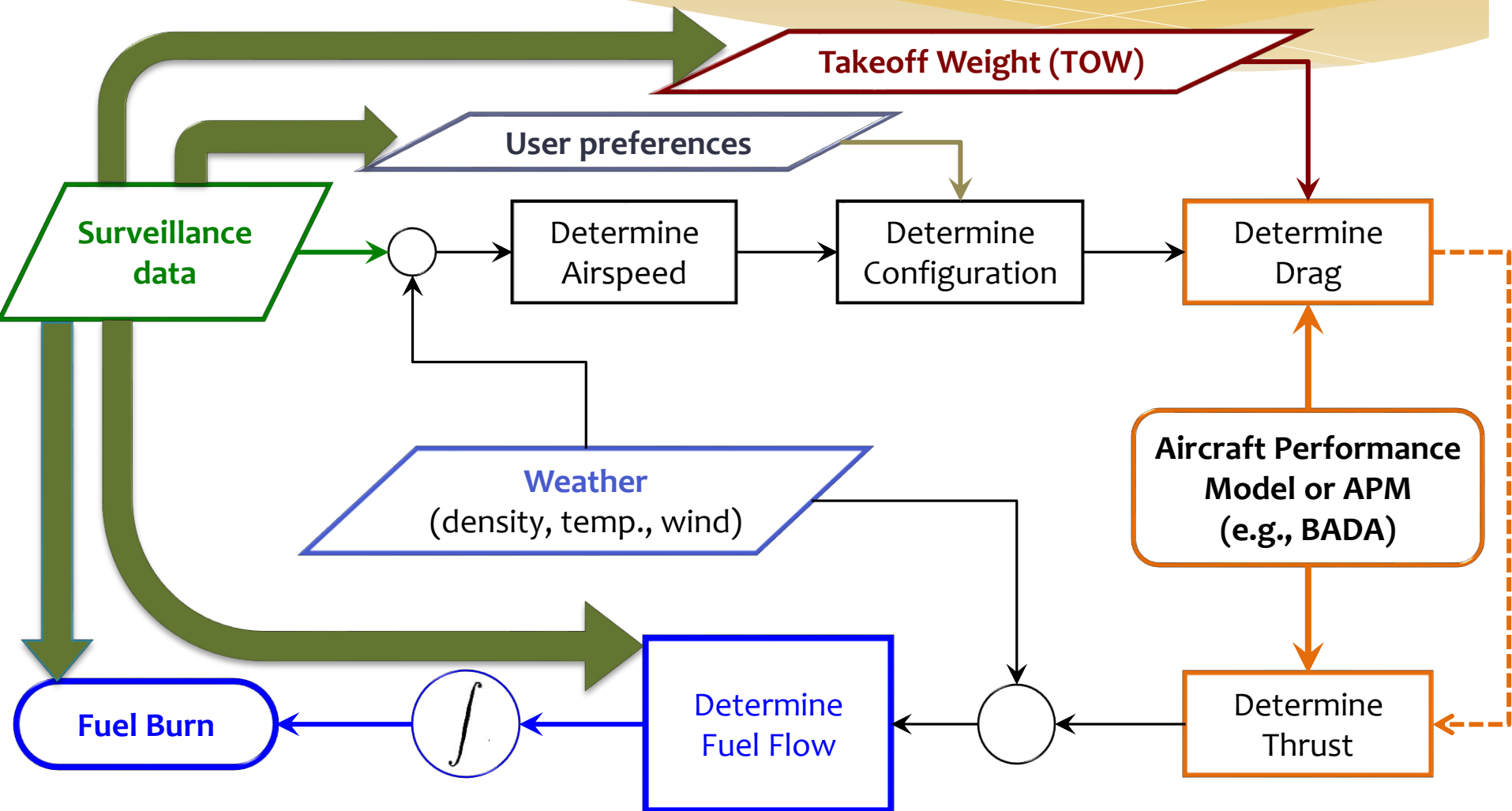


747 rough paint - lower fuselage

Traditional fuel flow model architecture



A new paradigm for fuel burn modeling

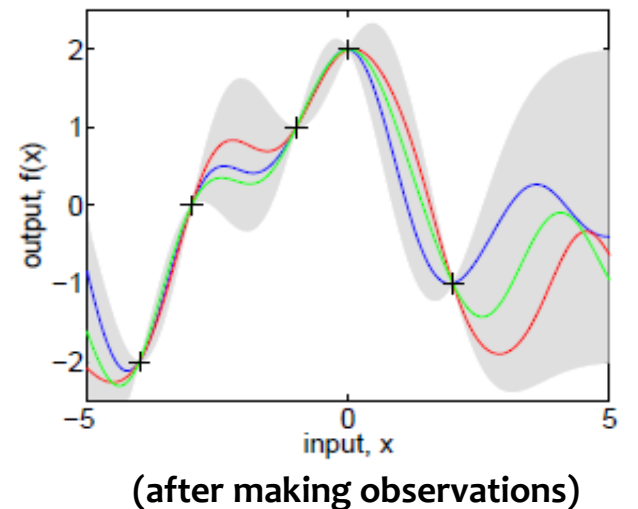
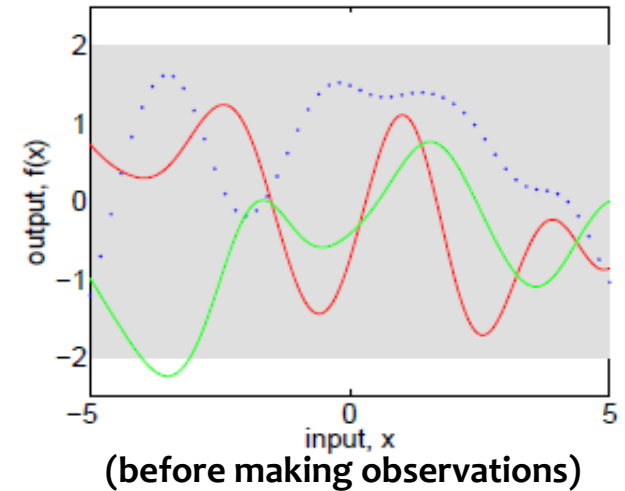


Statistical modeling of aircraft fuel flow

- * Use Flight Data Recorder (FDR) records from operational flights to develop statistical models
- * Explicitly model uncertainty of estimates using confidence intervals
- * Leverage insights from physics (e.g., for feature extraction by considering dependence on various variables)
- * Predictive variables restricted to **trajectory variables**

Gaussian Process Regression models

- * Gaussian Process Regression
 - * Nonparametric, probabilistic method
$$y = f(\mathbf{x}) + \epsilon, \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_n^2)$$
$$f \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, k(\mathbf{x}_p, \mathbf{x}_q))$$
 - * A function is said to be drawn from a Gaussian Process when any finite set of function values follows a joint Gaussian distribution
- * Advantages
 - * No need to choose basis functions
 - * Fast estimation of predictive distributions
- * Disadvantages
 - * Computationally expensive due to matrix inversion



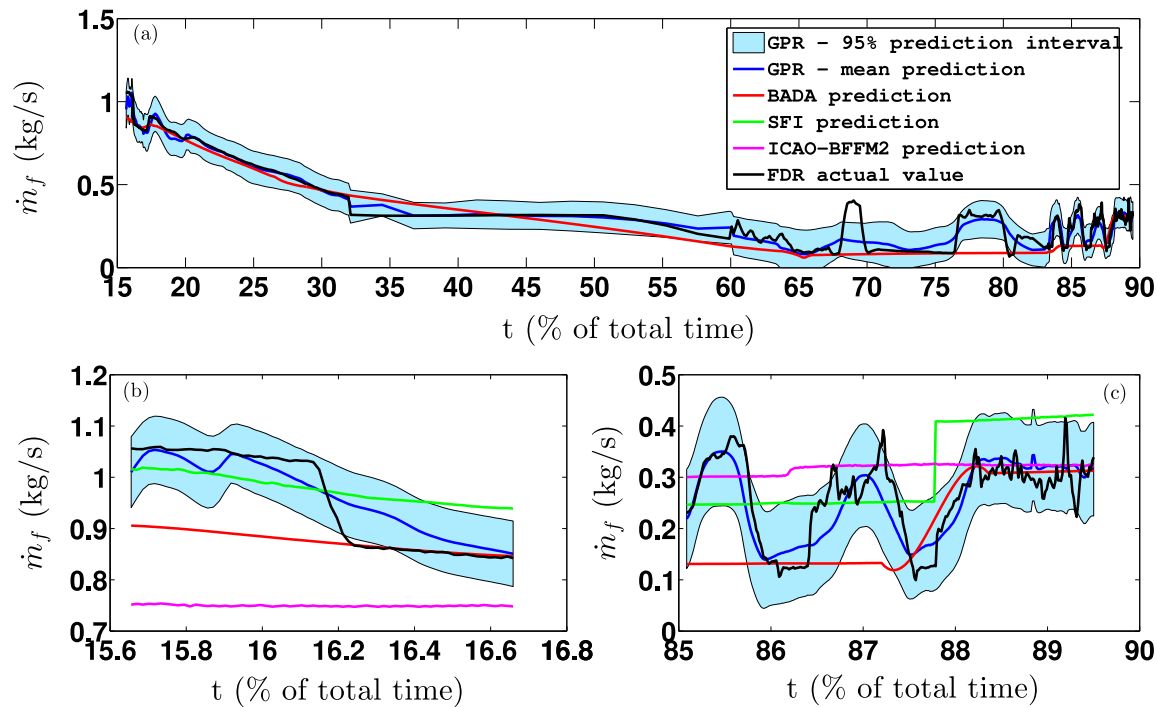
Rasmussen et al., 2006.

[1] Airborne fuel burn prediction

Mean prediction error (%):

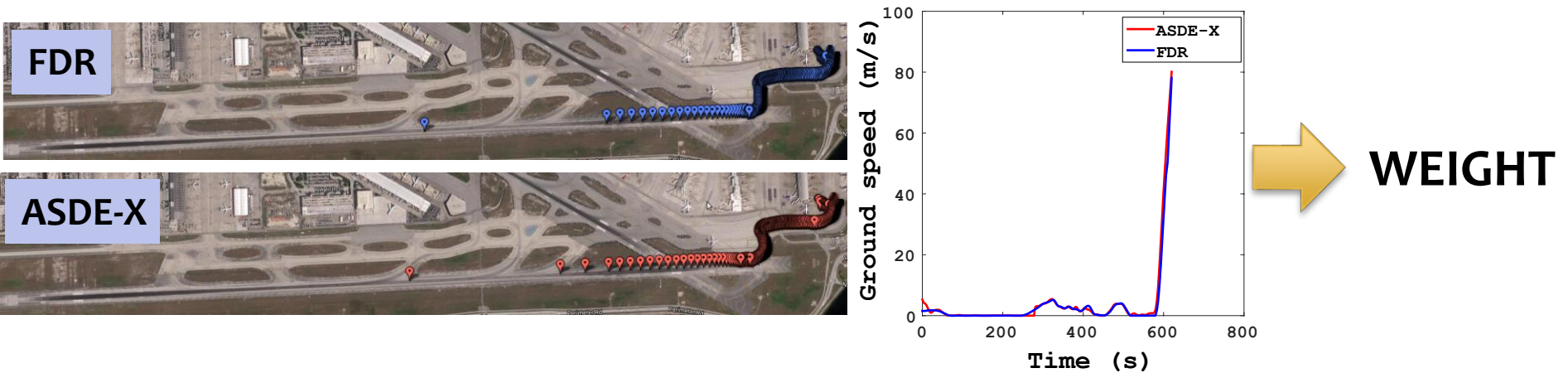
A321-111	GPR	BADA	SFI	ICAO
Ascent	0.4	7.5	N/A	N/A
Climb Out	-0.2	-0.6	6.7	1.5
Cruise	0.5	17.9	N/A	N/A
Descent	1.5	-40.6	N/A	N/A
Approach	2.4	-12.3	30.6	45.8

[Chati & Balakrishnan
Transp. Research Record 2018]



[2] Takeoff weight prediction

- * Inferring takeoff weight of a flight from its takeoff roll trajectory

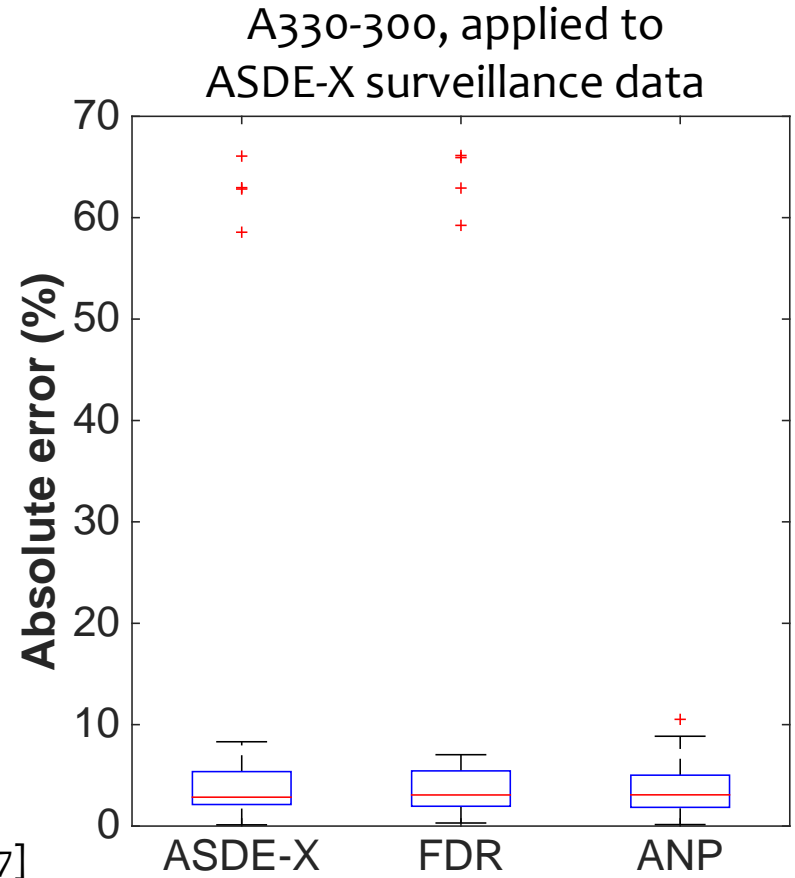


- * Initial mass (a.k.a. Takeoff Weight, or TOW) is an essential input for trajectory prediction, as well as fuel burn and emissions estimation
- * TOW of a flight is considered proprietary, and generally not shared or known

Predictive performance: [2] TOW

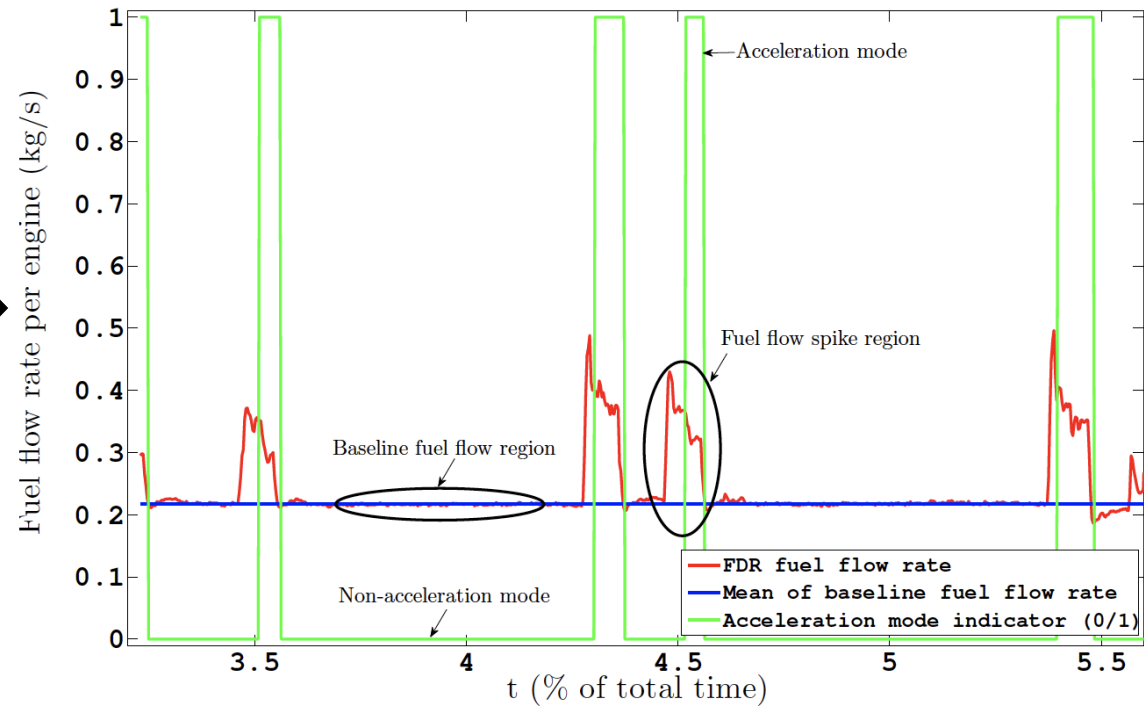
Aircraft Type	GPR			BADA/ANP		
	ME	RMSE	PC	ME	RMSE	PC
Error (%)						
A319-112	4.6	2.0	96	5.5	7.9	--
A320-214	3.6	1.4	100	4.7	2.8	--
A321-111	6.3	1.8	96	6.7	1.9e14	--
A330-202	2.2	0.4	100	6.0	2.3	--
A330-243	1.9	0.3	95	3.6	0.9	--
A340-541	1.7	0.3	100	4.6	0.8	--
B767-300	1.9	0.3	100	8.3	2.7	--
B777-300(ER)	2.0	0.4	96	5.5	1.0	--

[Chati & Balakrishnan ATM R&D Seminar 2017]



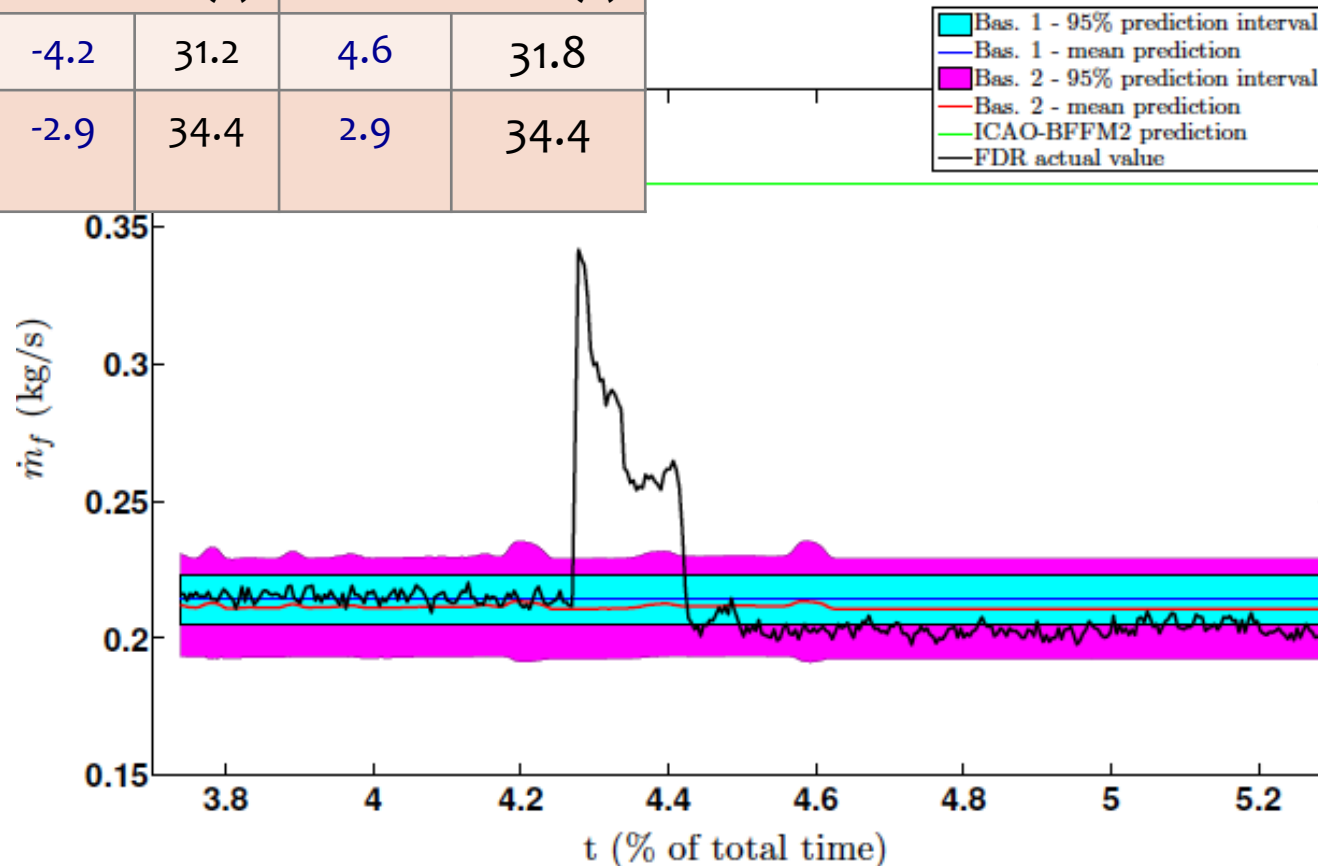
[3] Developing a surface model for FAA's AEDT

- * Improve the surface aircraft performance model to predict taxi fuel burn



Predictive performance: [3] Taxi fuel burn

	GPR	ICAO	GPR	ICAO
	Mean err. (%)		Mean abs. err. (%)	
A330-343	-4.2	31.2	4.6	31.8
B777-300ER	-2.9	34.4	2.9	34.4



Ongoing work

- * Fuel burn models for fleet-wide assessment for inventories
- * Estimation of components (surface, air) given aggregate fuel burn

