



# Clusters and Communities in Air Traffic Delay Networks

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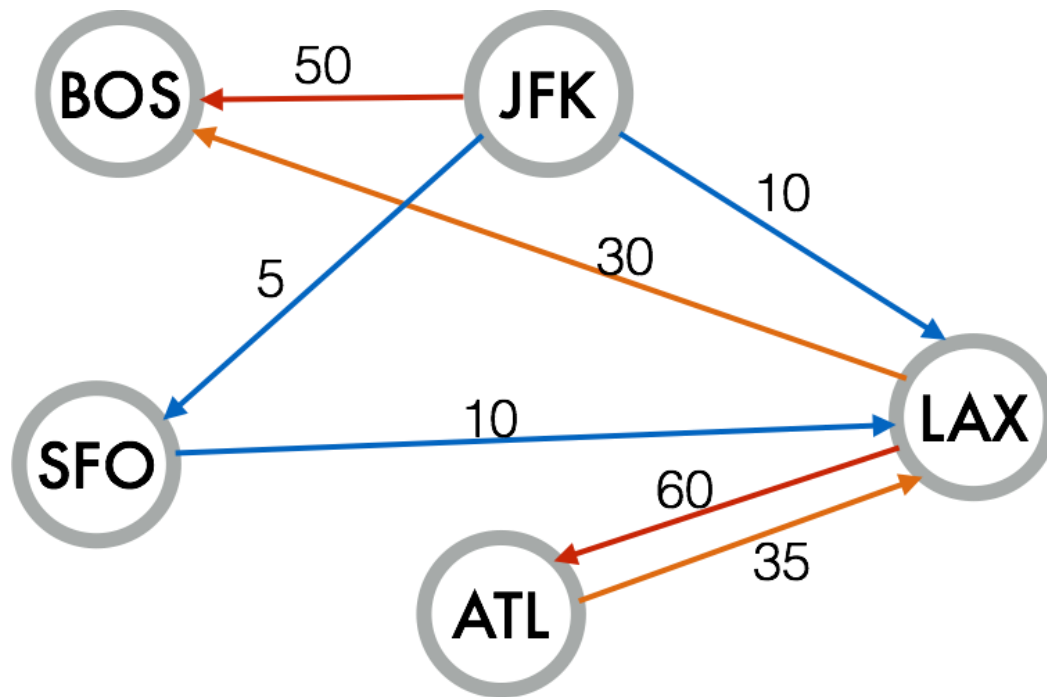


# Motivation

- \* 22% of flights were delayed by more than 15 minutes in 2015
- \* Cost of delays: 31-40 billion dollars annually
- \* Important questions:
  - \* When can we say that the delay levels in the system are similar ?
  - \* What are the common delay patterns ?
  - \* When do these delay patterns occur ?
- \* Broad objective: Delay prediction and mitigation

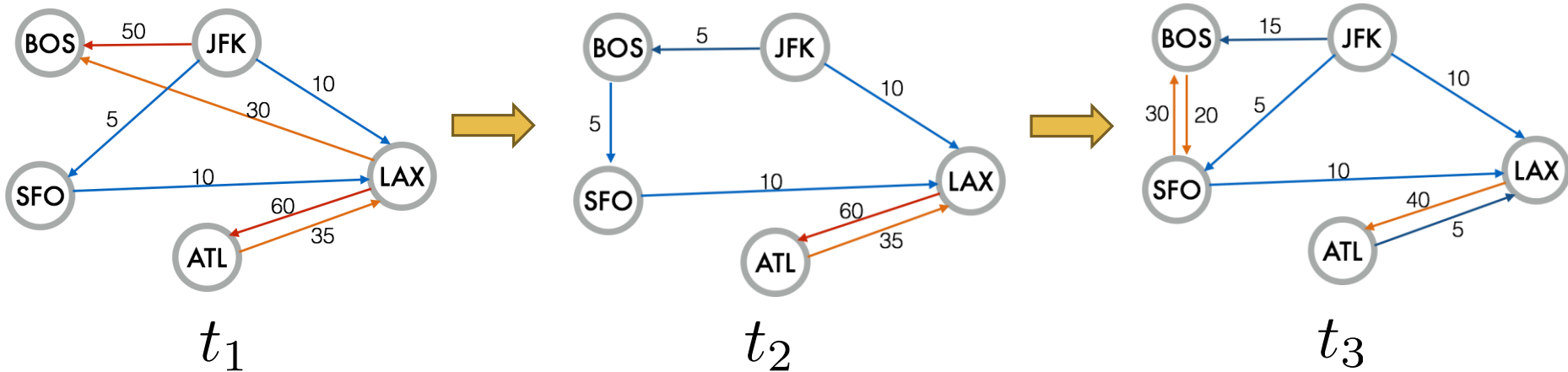
# Delay network

The delay state of the air transportation system at any time can be represented using a *weighted-directed graph*



- \* Nodes: airports
- \* Edge weights: median delay (min)

# Time series of delay networks



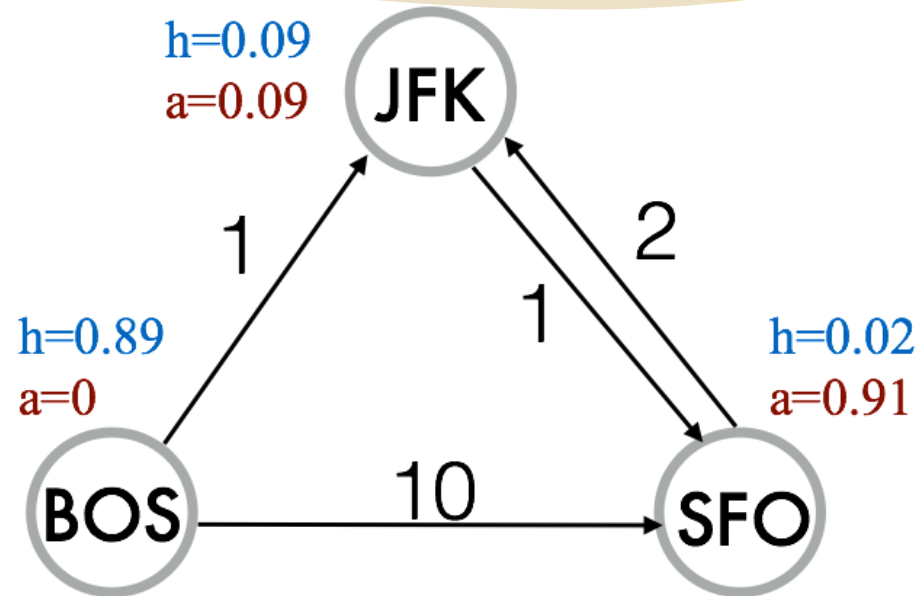
- \* Given: Time series of networks  $G_1, G_2, \dots, G_N$
- \* Objective: To find characteristic delay networks

# Clustering delay networks

- \* To find characteristic delay networks, we identify clusters
  - \* Cluster the delay networks based on feature vectors
- \* For every network  $G_i$ , we construct a feature vector  $f_i$
- \* The feature vector  $f_i$  should capture
  - \* Delay connectivity
  - \* Magnitude of delays

# Features for comparing networks

- \* The hub and authority score of a network is a measure of node centrality
- \* Good hub points to good authorities
- \* Good authority points to good hubs



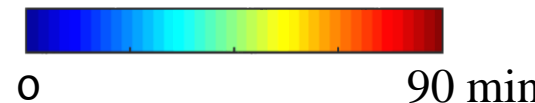
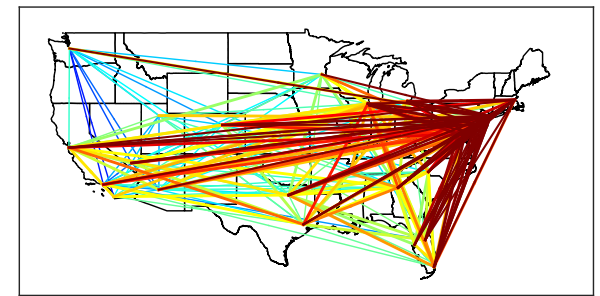
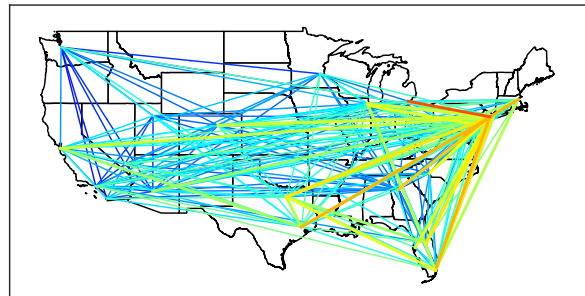
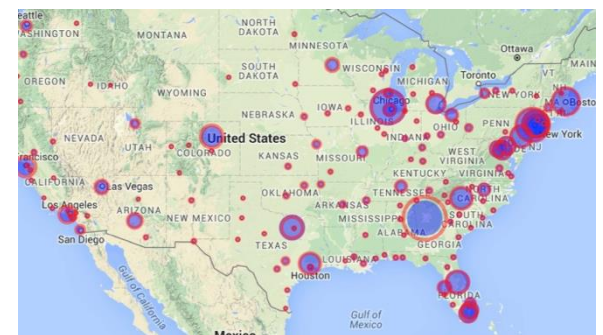
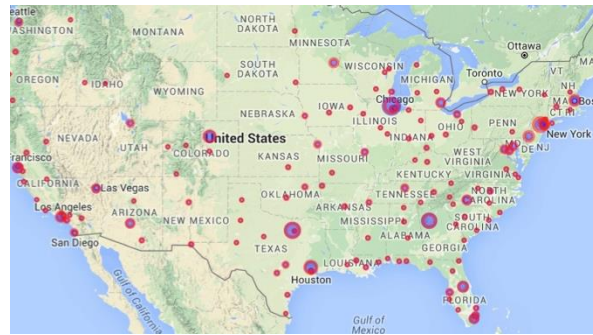
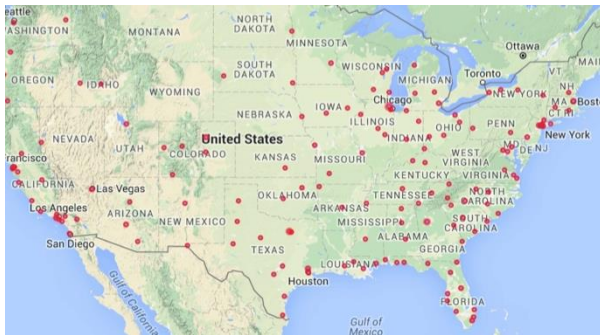
$$f_i = (\text{Total delay})_i \times \begin{bmatrix} \vec{h} \\ \vec{a} \end{bmatrix}$$

# The characteristic delay states

(1) Low delay state

(2) Medium delay state

(3) High delay state

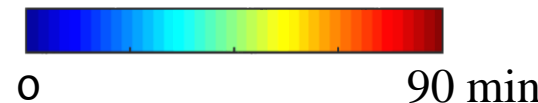
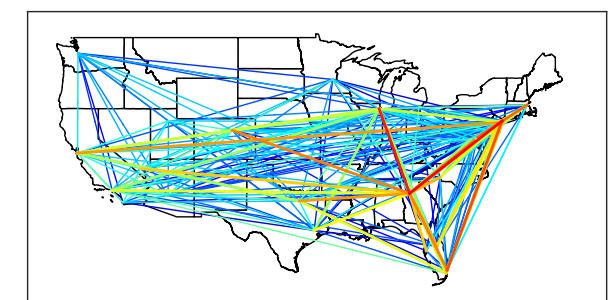
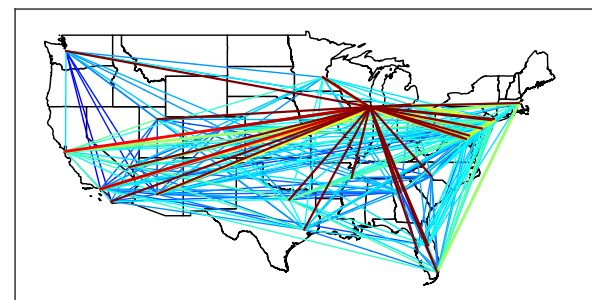
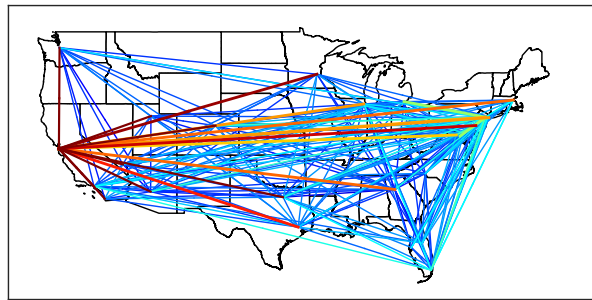
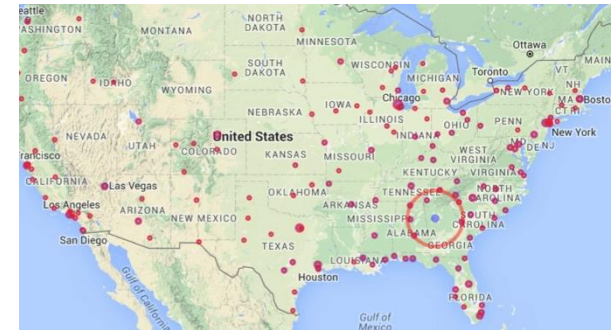
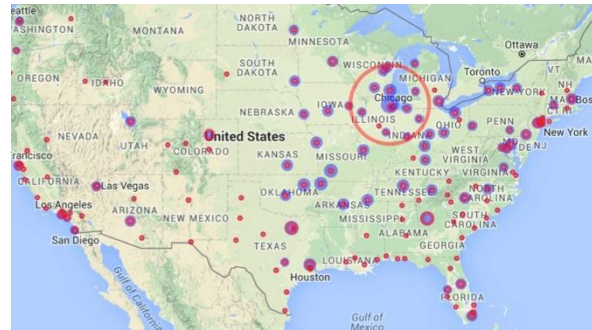
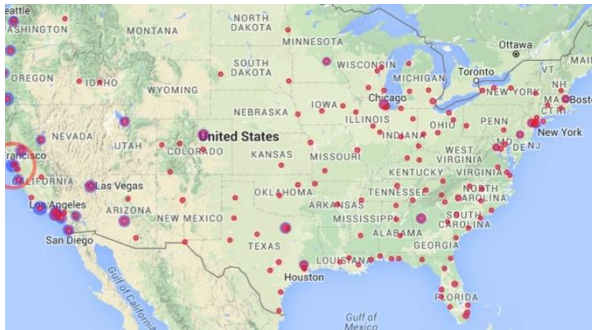


# The characteristic delay states

(4) SFO delay state

(5) Chicago delay state

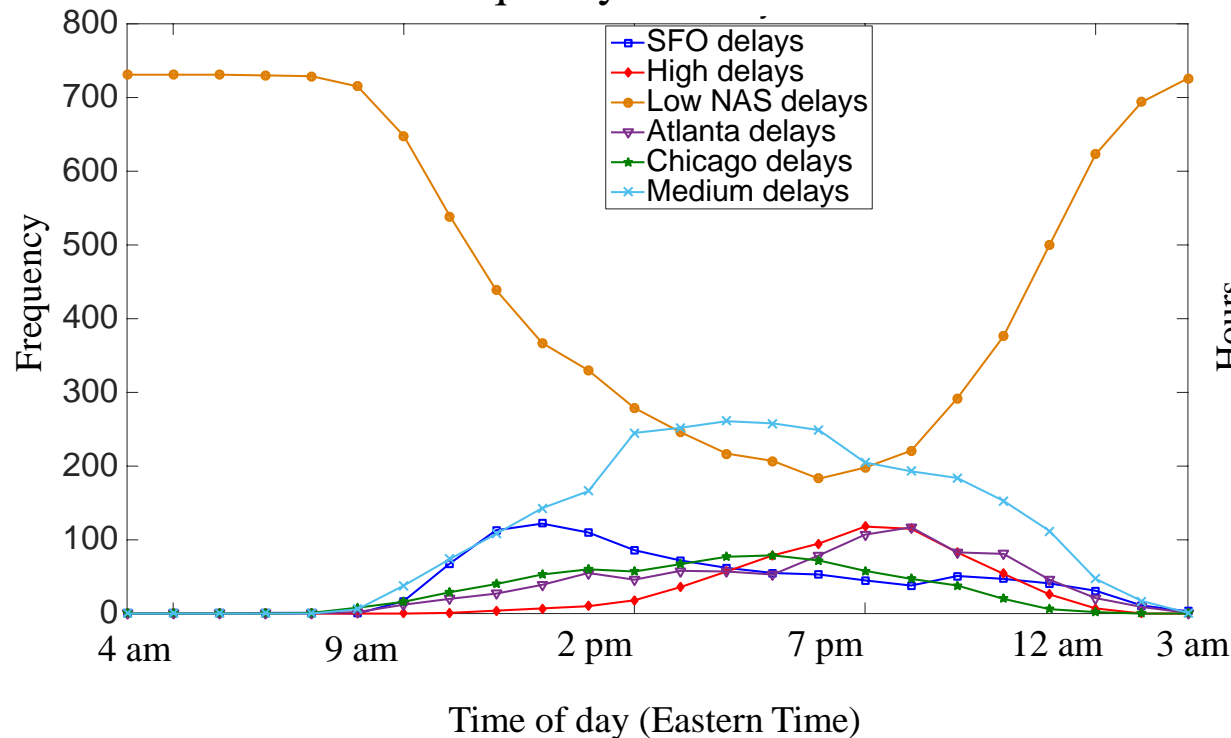
(6) Atlanta delay state



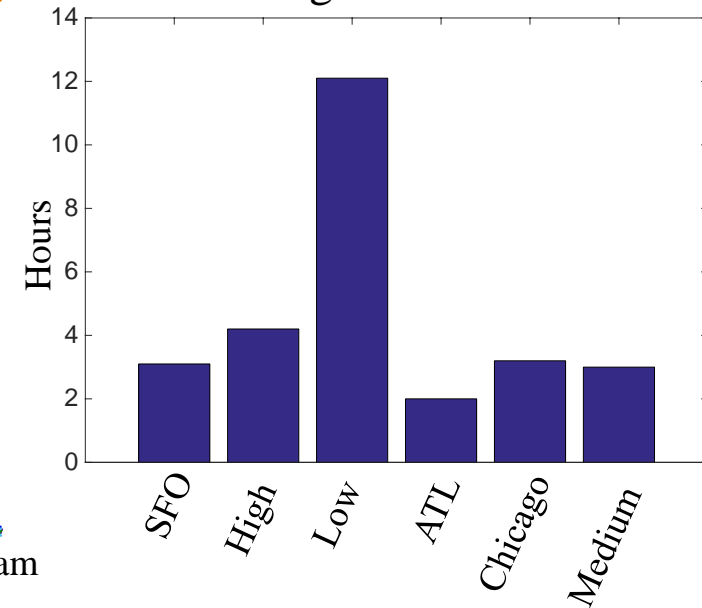


# Temporal characteristics of delay states

Frequency of occurrence



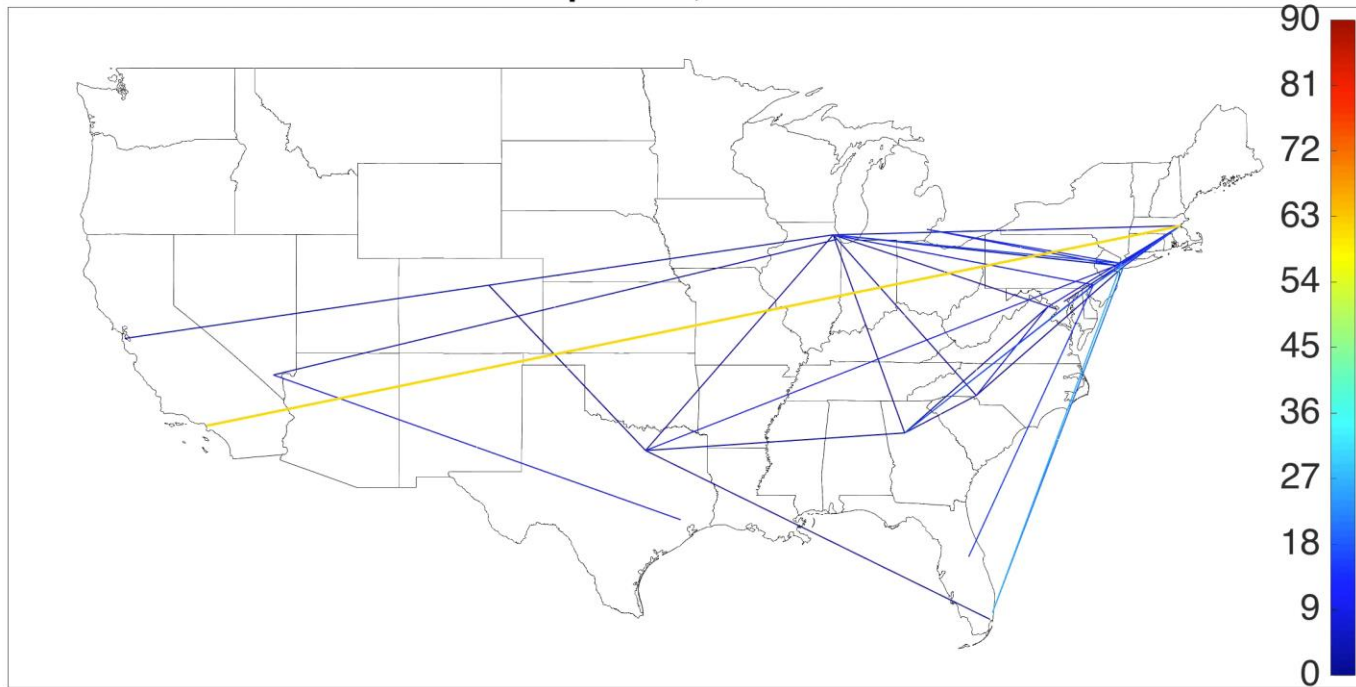
Average dwell time



# Extension to types-of-days

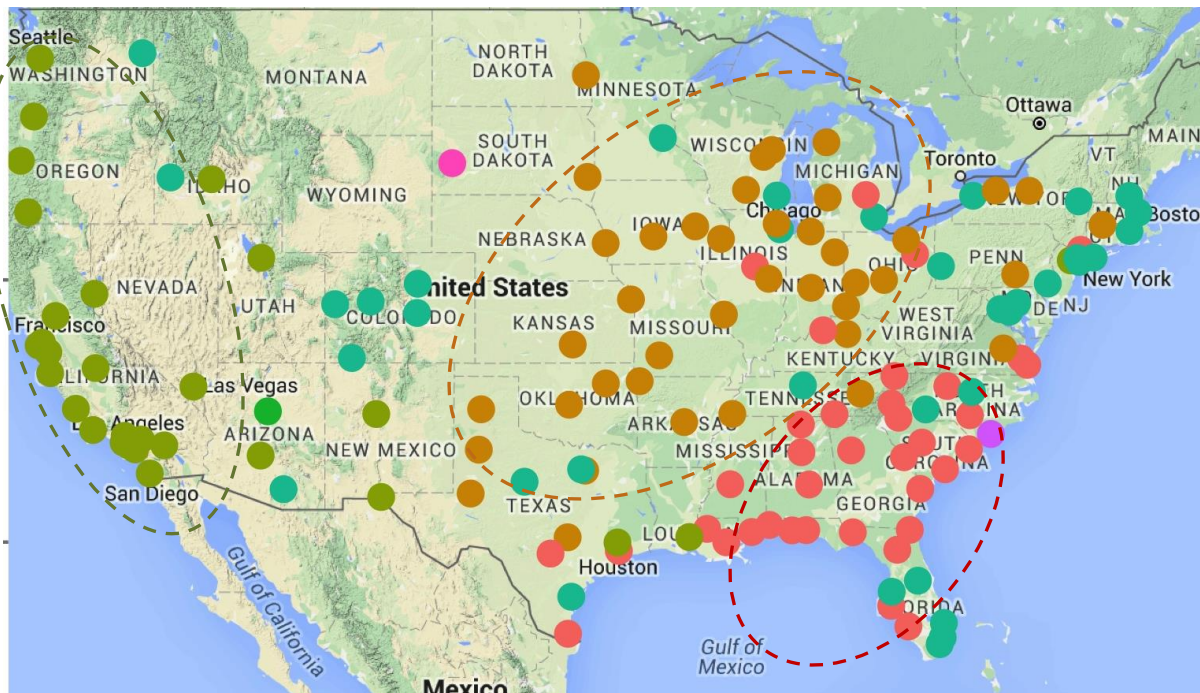
Example: High delay type-of-day

7 Sept 2011, 4 AM EST



# Community detection in delay networks

Airports with similar delay levels between them form a community



The structure of communities varies with delay state!

# Summary

- \* Identifying characteristic delay patterns is important for
  - \* Developing predictive models
  - \* Planning mitigation strategies
- \* Identified characteristic delay states and types of days
  - \* Describes the spatial and temporal delay patterns
- \* Extensions:
  - \* Correlations of delay states with control actions, weather disruptions
  - \* Models for delay dynamics