# The future of roads: projection for California

# Sébastien Blandin Systems Engineering, UC Berkeley

Center for Environmental Public Policy May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

## Road traffic congestion



•Congestion in the US in 2009 (Urban Mobility Report, 2010)

- •\$115 billion in wasted time and fuel
- •4.8 billion hours of delay
- •Average traveler needs 25% more time than speed limit travel-time

•Federal Highway Admistration trend



## Congestion mitigation strategies



Congestion

•Supply is lower than demand

### Capacity increase

Roadway expansion

- Variable speed limits
- Incident management

### Demand adjustment

- •Mode shift
  - High-occupancy vehicle lanes
  - •Public transportation saved 783 million
  - hours in the US in 2009)

•Temporal shift

- Telecommuting
- •Ramp metering: Minnesota(2000), 22% reduction in travel-time
- •Dynamic toll system: Stockholm reduced traffic by 20%, wasted time by 25%)

Spatial shift (routing directions)



## Modeling, estimation and control



### Modeling

- Computational representation of traffic phenomena
   Microscopic (vehicular) or macroscopic (elements of flow) perspective
  - •Physical principles and statistical assumptions

### Estimation

Combining observations with prior knowledge

- •Depends on types of measurements (fixed sensors, probe data)
- •Produces estimates stochastic by nature

### Control

•Design of strategies for congestion mitigation

- •Microscopic: traveler information (congestion maps, routing directions)
- •Macroscopic: Traffic assignment (ramp metering, road pricing, variable speed limits)

## Mobile Millennium



















## From smart roads to smart drivers



Spread of mobile and smart phones
Worldwide mobile phones market increased by 20% in Q1 of 2011
Close to 50% penetration rate in the US

- Mobile sensing platform
  - •Location-aware (GPS, WiFi)
  - •Point-speed measurements (GPS)
  - •Context-aware (microphone, camera)
  - •Augmented reality using magnetometer
- Recommendation systems
  - •Environmentally friendly driving style (DriveGain)
  - Social hotspots (Sense networks)

#### U.S. Smartphone Penetration & Projections





# Ubiquitous sensing



### PeMS loop detector stations



- Loop detectorsCount and occupancy
- •Localized in space

- Mobile Millennium, GPS point speeds, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010
  - Personal GPS
  - •Point speeds
  - •Distributed across the road network

## Dynamic, adaptive and agile drivers





### Fast route or reliable route ?



•Dynamic traffic control

Accurate real-time information (<5 minutes delay)</li>
High-frequency update (>1 per minute)
Dynamic routing (Google: March 2011)

Adaptive control (appropriate for stochastic systems)
 Accounts for more complex criteria (reliability)
 Personalized route recommendations

•Agile commute choice

Car-sharing (Zipcar, City CarShare)
Intermodal commuting (BayTripper)
Smart parking (StreetLine)

Location-based check-ins (Foursquare)





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## v-PDE on a network: Mobile Century experiment

### Mobile Century experiment

- •February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- 10 miles, 100 cars, 100 GPS-enabled smartphones
  Proof of concept of added value of GPS data for

traffic estimation







AM Routes

## SOTA iPhone app



• iPhone application DriveTracker for San Francisco commuters

•Real-time traffic conditions from Bayesian network model of individual link travel-times

- •2626 links, mean and variance of link travel-time available for 40 time periods during the day (up to 15 minutes resolution)
- Communication scheme
  - Optimal policy is sent to the phone at origin
  - Policy update triggered on serverside if traffic conditions change significantly



