## Sustainable Public Transport

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R TUJ Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern Landau



## Content of the talk

1 Towards sustainable mobility

 Making public transport more attractive Line Planning Delay Management Integrated planning

**3** Improve the modes themselves

4 Multi-modal planning

**5** The end







no. of inhabitants	. trips per . inhabitant	km per trip	energy per . km	emissions per energy
family issue	life style	location	mode choice	engineering
not our business	home-office, leisure time	problem minimize travel	make sustainable	improve modes
		distances	modes attractive	

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not our business	home-office, leisure time	minimize travel distances	make sustainable modes attractive	improve modes

Make sustainable modes more attractive to passengers

#### What is attractive ?

Fast, affordable, reliable

Public transport

- Few transfers
- high frequencies
- good connections

Ride-pooling

- short waiting times
- fair tariff structure
- easy to handle

#### Biking

- many cycle paths
- safe places to leave the bike
- enough space on the streets

			_	
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			-	
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#### Improve modes themselves

#### What to improve ?

pollution, source of energy

Vehicles

- electric vehicles
- better engines

Logistics

- regenerative energy
- skip stops

#### Behavior

- avoid acceleration when driving
- chose routes which avoid slopes

## The planning process in public transportation



... is numerous and still increasing

... see many books and many more research papers!

An upcoming overview paper:

Hickman and Schöbel: 50 years of Operations Research in Public Transport, 2025

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European Association of Operations Research

- ▶ 31 member societies
- ▶ 4 (good!) journals: European Journal of ...: EJOR, EJDP, EJTL, EJCO
- 33 working groups
  - Transportation
  - Quantum OR
  - ...many more



As president I invite you to our 50th Anniversary Conference!

- 22.-25. June 2025 in Leeds
- Many actions on

50 years of Operations Research



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## Optimize public transport

In this talk:

Under a restricted budget make public transport as **good** as possible.

What is good ?

Passengers:

 Convenient (traveling times, transfers)

Reliable

Under a given budget

- $\rightarrow$  Line planning
- $\rightarrow\,$  Delay management
- $\rightarrow\,$  Integrated planning

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#### How to plan the lines?



#### How to plan the lines?















## Line planning in the literature

Many different models exist!

- Choice of goals
- How to measure costs and traveling time
- Different algorithms

first paper Patz (1925)

surveys: Guihare and Hao (2008), Kepaptsoglou and Karlaftis (2009), Schöbel (2012), Farahani et al (2013), Schöbel and Schmidt (2025)

#### Cost model

If a line pool  $\mathcal{L}^{Pool}$  is given:

 $f_\ell = frequency of line \ \ell$ 

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min \; \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{L}^{Pool}} \mathrm{cost}_{\ell} \cdot f_{\ell} \\ \text{s.t.} \; \; f_e^{\min} \leq \sum_{\ell : e \in \ell} f_{\ell} \leq f_e^{\max} \; \text{for all} \; e \in \end{array}$$

Ε

 $f_\ell$  positive integer

#### Model for minimizing the perceived traveling time

PerTravelTime= $k_1$ · Riding Time +  $k_2$ · number of transfers

Can be computed in the Change & Go graph:



#### Model for minimizing the perceived traveling time

To take track of the passengers' paths we need a lot of variables:

 $x_{st}^{a} = \left\{ egin{array}{cc} 1 & ext{if activity } a \in \mathcal{A} ext{ is used on a shortest path from } s ext{ to } t ext{ in } \mathcal{N} \\ 0 & ext{otherwise} \end{array} 
ight.$ 

$$y_\ell = \left\{ egin{array}{cc} 1 & ext{if line } \ell ext{ is established} \\ 0 & ext{otherwise} \end{array} 
ight.$$

$$\min \sum_{s,t \in V} \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} W_{st} \mathsf{time}_a x_{st}^a$$

s.t. 
$$x_{st}^a \leq y_l$$
 for all  $s, t \in V, l \in \mathcal{L}, a \in l$   
 $\Theta x_{st} = b_{st}$  for all  $s, t \in V$  with  $C_{st} > 0$   
 $\sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} y_l cost_l \leq B$   
 $x_{st}^a, y_l \in \{0, 1\}$ 

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#### Delay management



Train i arrives at a station with a delay.



Train i arrives at a station with a delay.



What should a connecting train *j* do?

Train *i* arrives at a station with a delay.



What should a connecting train j do?

#### Wait

but cause further delays?

- ▶ for the passengers in train *j*
- ► for passengers who wait for train *j*
- for subsequent other vehicles

Train i arrives at a station with a delay.



What should a connecting train j do?

#### Wait

but cause further delays?

- ▶ for the passengers in train *j*
- for passengers who wait for train j
- for subsequent other vehicles

#### depart on time

although passengers who wanted to transfer from train i to train j miss their connection?
### Can optimization help?

In case of delayed trains (or buses), at least two decisions have to be made:

- wait for transferring passengers or depart on time?
- which train can go first if two trains are assigned to the same track?



Modeling delay management by integer programming

$$z_a = \left\{ egin{array}{ccc} 1 & ext{if transfer } a ext{ is maintained} \ 0 & ext{otherwise} \end{array} 
ight. egin{array}{ccc} \eta_{ij} = \left\{ egin{array}{ccc} 1 & ext{if train } i ext{ goes before train } j \ 0 & ext{otherwise} \end{array} 
ight.$$

We also need to keep track of the delays:

 $x_i$  = disposition timetable for event *i* 

 $\rightarrow$  To be able to compute  $z_a$  and  $\eta_{ij}$  $\rightarrow$  Objective function: minimize sum of delays over all passengers

### Propagating delays

Use event-activity network  $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{A})$ :



#### Delay management as integer program

$$\begin{split} \min \sum_{i \in \mathcal{E}} w_i x_i &+ \sum_{a = (i,j) \in \mathcal{A}_{transfer}} w_a z_a T \\ \text{s.t.} & x_i \geq \pi_i + d_i \quad \text{for all } i \\ & x_j - x_i \geq L_a \quad \text{for all } a = (i,j) \in \mathcal{A}_{wait} \cup \mathcal{A}_{drive} \\ Mz_a + x_j - x_i \geq L_a \quad \text{for all } a = (i,j) \in \mathcal{A}_{transfer} \\ M\eta_{ij} + x_j - x_i \geq L_a \quad \text{for all } a = (i,j) \in \mathcal{A}_{head} \\ & \eta_{ij} + \eta_{ji} = 1 \quad \text{for all } i,j : a = (i,j) \in \mathcal{A}_{head} \\ & x_i \in \mathbb{N}^0 \quad , \quad z_a \in \{0,1\} \end{split}$$

Surveys: Dollevoet, Huisman, Schöbel, Schmidt (2018), König (2020)

Anita Schöbel

### Many extensions

- ► The trickle-in effect Müller, Pätzold, Schöbel (2019) in a project funded by SWZ!
- ► ML-based rules for deciding about wait or not wait Bauer and Schöbel (2014)

Recently: Find robust timetables

- Classic methods: combine timetabling with delay management Grafe and Schöbel (2023), Grafe (2024)
- Using a ML-based oracle to evaluate public transport supplies Müller-Hannemann, Rückert, Schiewe, Schöbel (2022,2023)

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### Data-based and model-based methods

Good models exist for delay management

- ▶ If a train starts with some delay, it arrives with some (easily to estimate) array
- However: Source delays are not known beforehand

Combine model-based knowledge with data-based knowledge! Bauer and Schöbel (2014)

Robust timetabling

- > Evaluate a line plan and timetable under various delay scenarios to estimate the robustness
- However, such an evaluation takes way too long to be used in optimization procedures Replace this evaluation by a ML-based oracle and use this as black box for optimization. Müller-Hannemann, Rückert, Schiewe, Schöbel (2022,2023)

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The result of one stage may be a "bad" input for the next stage. <u>Experiments with LinTim</u>: Many line planning models generate instances for which not even a feasible timetable exists!

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- The objective used in a former stage is maybe not a good approximation for what we really want.

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An integrated solution is always as least as good as optimizing stage by stage.







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Academic Open Source Library for optimization in public transportation

for planning stops, lines, timetables, vehicle schedules, and for delay management. since 2007, open source since 2017

### LinTim

https://www.lintim.net/

### LinTim: Open Source Library for public transport



Data sets:

- Toy example
- Lower Saxony (railway)
- Grid Network
- Metro in Athens
- Long-distance trains of Germany
- Göttingen Bus System
- more to come!

### LinTim: Open Source Library for public transport



Team: Philine Schiewe, Anita Schöbel, Sven Jäger, and researchers from RPTU Kaiserslautern, University Stuttgart, University Passau, ZHAW Zürich, Fraunhofer Kaiserslautern, Fraunhofer Erlangen, and Deutsche Bahn.

LinTim: Open Source Library for public transport

Don't forget:

### LinTim

https://www.lintim.net/

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### Evaluating an LTS-Plan

What we look for:

- Line Plan
- Timetable

 $\Longrightarrow$  LTS-Plan

Vehicle Schedule

### Evaluating an LTS-Plan

What we look for:

- Line Plan
- Timetable
- Vehicle Schedule

#### $\mbox{Evaluation:}$ We have two main goals $\rightarrow$ biobjective

Costs: Kilometers driven + Time driven + Number of vehicles Perceived traveling time: Traveling time of all passengers + penalty for each transfer



### Approaches for Integrated traffic planning

Exact approaches

- One very large IP model?
- Solvable by decomposition?
- Solvable in special cases?

#### Heuristic approaches



### The Eigenmodel as heuristic approach






















#### Why not an iterative improvement?



#### Exploiting the Eigenmodel

Properties of the Eigenmodel

- Every path through the Eigenmodel represents a heuristic algorithm.
- The nodes of the Eigenmodel represent (new) challenging problems with interesting combinatorial structures.

'Eigenmodel' since it describes the **own** (=eigen) subproblems of the model.

#### New problems



#### New problems



#### The math behind

Iterating through the Eigenmodel is blockwise coordinate descent.

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Iterating through the Eigenmodel is blockwise coordinate descent.

Algorithm Blockwise Coordinate Descent (BCD)
Input: Variable sets l<sub>1</sub>,..., l<sub>p</sub> ⊆ {1,..., n}, initial solution x.
Repeat
For j := 1 to p do
1 Fix all variables not in l<sub>j</sub> and optimize the variables in l<sub>j</sub>, let x\* be an optimal solution for them.
2 Set x := (x\*, x<sub>-j</sub>)
Until stopping criterion

Well known from continuous optimization, but never analyzed for discrete problems!

BCD for integer linear optimization Jäger and Schöbel, 2020

When can BCD be applied? If any of the two conditions holds:

- ► All *p* subproblems are bounded.
- ▶ The *p* subproblems of the first round of Algorithm BCD have optimal solutions.

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Does BCD converge? If Algorithm BCD is executable and (P) is bounded, then the sequence of objective function values converges and becomes constant (linear objective!).

 $\implies$  Algorithm BCD terminates.

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To what does it converge? If BCD terminates with a solution *x*, then:

- (i) x is blockwise optimal.
- (ii) If G contains only one coupling constraint, x is Pareto optimal.

















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#### Sustainable mobility

Emissions of a city Juan Carlos Muñoz (2023) =

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family issue	life style	location problem	mode choice	engineering
not our business	home-office, leisure time	minimize travel distances	make sustainable modes attractive	improve modes

A lot of research has been done for using electric cars, also in public transport

Not so much known:

- Skip-Stop
- 2 Regenerative energy
- **3** Reduce pollution from tires

#### Skip-stops problem

**Idea:** Juan Carlos Munoz, e.g., IFORS'23 On a line with high frequency:

- ► Split the line into two: a red and a blue line.
- Let each of the lines leave out some stops.



#### Skip-stops problem

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- ► Split the line into two: a red and a blue line.
- Let each of the lines leave out some stops.



- Main reason: The line gets faster (since stopping takes time)
   We can have more trains to bring people into or out of the city center
- ► Also, transportation becomes faster and hence more attractive for some passengers
- Acceleration is the main factor for fuel consumption and emissions
   Makes "transport/kilometer" more sustainable.

However: Some passengers will have to transfer or even have detours!

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However: Some passengers will have to transfer or even have detours!

Characterize feasible patterns:

- ▶ No passenger has to transfer if and only if one line visits all stations
- No passenger has a detour if and only if the pattern is homogeneous
- > Train travel times are minimal if and only if the pattern is interval-wise



#### Regenerative Energy

## Regenerative Energy

Idea:

- While a train brakes it produces energy
- This energy is best used if it is transferred to a departing train directly

Question: How to design a timetable such that there is enough overlap between arriving and departing trains?

Challenge: From a passenger's perspective this is the worst that can happen! exactly contradicting the *Basel solution* 

#### Regenerative Energy Roth, Jäger, Schöbel (2024)

For one station

- Poly-time algorithm for maximizing regenerative energy
- NP-hardness for minimizing traveling time
- Case-study for bi-objective problem



## Minimizing pollution from tires

## Minimizing pollution from tires

Tires are important:

- For stability and duration of cars CDTire, ©by ITWM
- but are the largest source of pollution for electric cars
- 1/3 of all micro-plastic in the sea stems from tires



### Minimizing pollution from tires

#### Goals:

- Develop models for simulating abrasion and noise (dependent on the road surface, the driving style, the load, ...
- 2 Use them for pollution-minimal routing, line planning Burger, Schiewe, Schöbel (2022)
- **3** Use them for simulating and optimizing the design of tires.



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#### Welcome at the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics



#### Welcome at the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics

We work at Modeling, Simulation, and Optimization

- with mostly continuous and some discrete methods
- using ML where appropriate (in particular in hybrid models)
- and are also interested in new technologies: quantum computing, next generation computing



to transfer results from university to real life in material sciences, mobility, health, energy, production, insurances, ...

#### Welcome at the Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics

#### Join us at KLAIM 2025!



Kaiserslautern Applied and Industrial Mathematics Days

organized jointly between RPTU und ITWM

Join us as colleague!

- ▶ we are 450 engaged researchers
- with a great working atmosphere
- and always look for new colleagues supporting our research.



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### Sustainable mobility



## Sustainable mobility



#### Sustainable mobility



## Multi-objective and multi-modal planning

**Given** is a city and a demand matrix: from where to where wish people to travel?

**Task:** Determine the best transport modes to be installed in the city.

where we consider three goals:

- traveling times for the passengers
- the budget
- and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy

## Multi-objective and multi-modal planning

**Given** is a city and a demand matrix: from where to where wish people to travel?

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where we consider three goals:

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#### **Questions:**

- Do we need a metro?
- Where in the city should we offer regular bus transportation? With which lines?
- Where is shared mobility (ride pooling) more appropriate? With how many vehicles?
- To whom do we recommend to use the private car?

#### Illustration

Given: City und demand. Goal: transport modes



#### Illustration

Given: City und demand. Goal: transport modes



#### Illustration

Given: City und demand. Goal: transport modes





#### Particularities

Multimodal planning

- Metro
- Bus
- DRT (ride pooling)
- Car

Multicriteria evaluation

- Travel times
- budget needed
- ► CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, energy

Equilibrium-constraints

- to model the behavior of the passengers
- compute their traveling times including traffic jams

Not easy.

# Modeling idea



Idea: Determine capacities per mode per edge such that everybody can travel

neglecting:

- structure of lines or other transport modes
- equilibrium constraints
- costs that vary with the usage

## The rough model

Input:

- Graph G = (V, E)
- Set of OD-pairs  $\mathcal{OD} := \{d = (i, j) : W_{i,j} > 0\}$
- Set of modes  $\mathcal{M} = \{$ bus, metro, DRT, car $\}$

We determine the units  $y_{e,m}$  of infrastructure per mode and per edge such that everybody can travel.

A unit of infrastructure is

- for car transportation: a lane of a street
- ▶ for bus/metro transportation: a bus or a metro
- for DRT: a car

## Take-Home Messages

1 Simulation, Optimization, AI can help to make mobility more sustainable

- Many cute problems wait for us! Skip stop problem, multi-period planning, locating places for shared bikes and scooters, edge orientation problem, ...
- Considering different modes is a new and challenging topic.
- If AI or classical optimization should be used depends on the problem, the goal, the availability of the data, the security needed.
- **3** Integration of problems
  - vertically along the planning stages
  - horizontally to handle different modes of transport

should be considered instead of detailed optimization of single stages.







