

# Transportation Data Mining Challenges

Shashi Shekhar

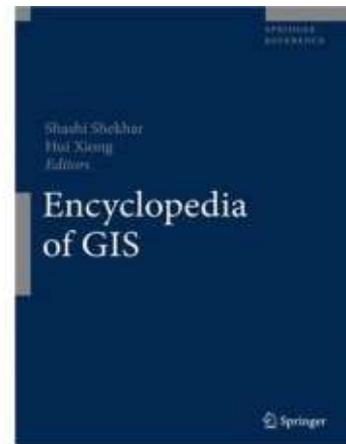
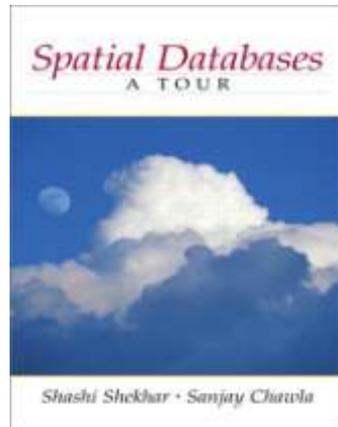
McKnight Distinguished University Professor

University of Minnesota

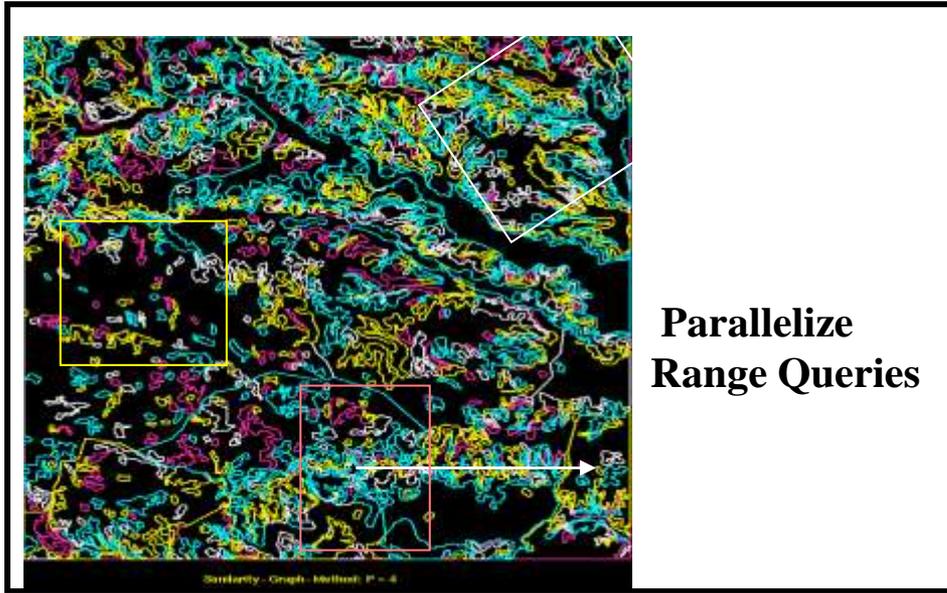
[www.cs.umn.edu/~shekhar](http://www.cs.umn.edu/~shekhar)

Next Generation Data Mining  
Session of Transportation

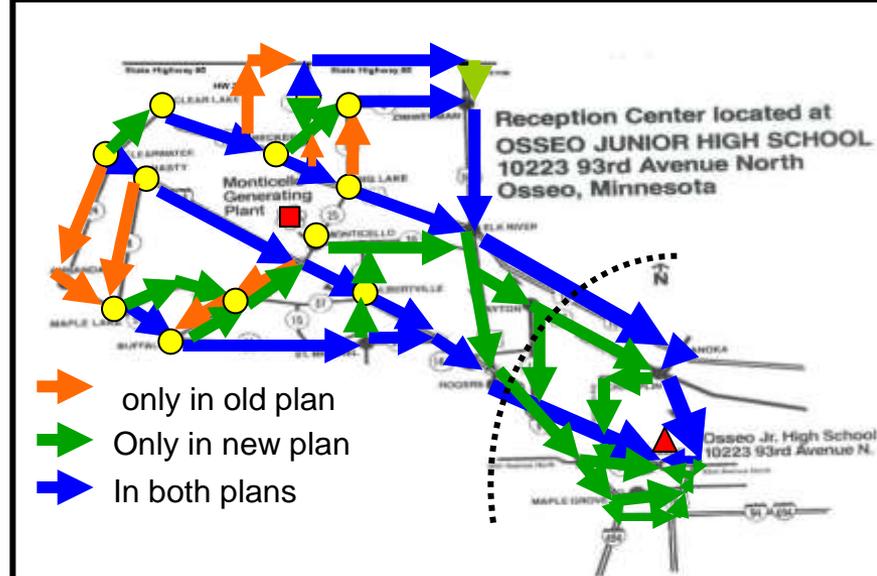
October 2nd, 2009



# Spatial Databases: Representative Projects



## Evacuation Route Planning



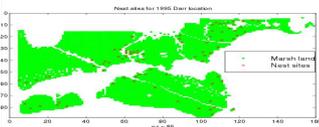
## Shortest Paths Storing graphs in disk blocks



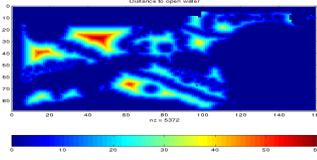
# Spatial Data Mining : Representative Projects

## Location prediction: nesting sites

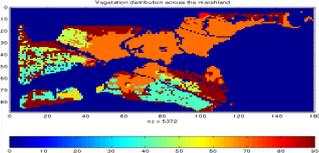
Nest locations



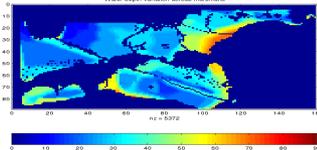
Distance to open water



Vegetation durability



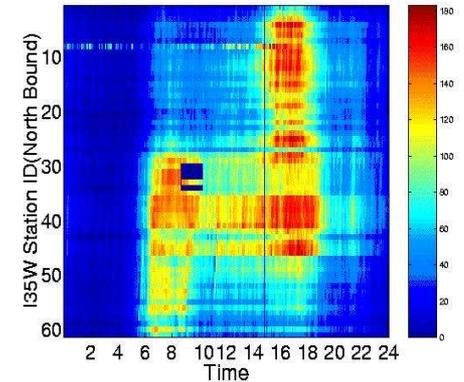
Water depth



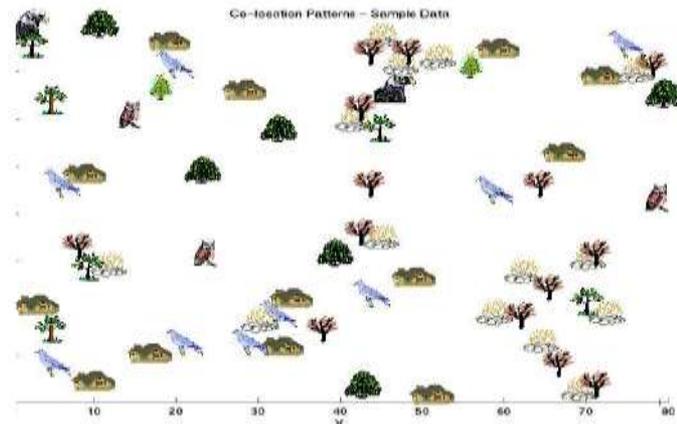
## Spatial outliers: sensor (#9) on I-35



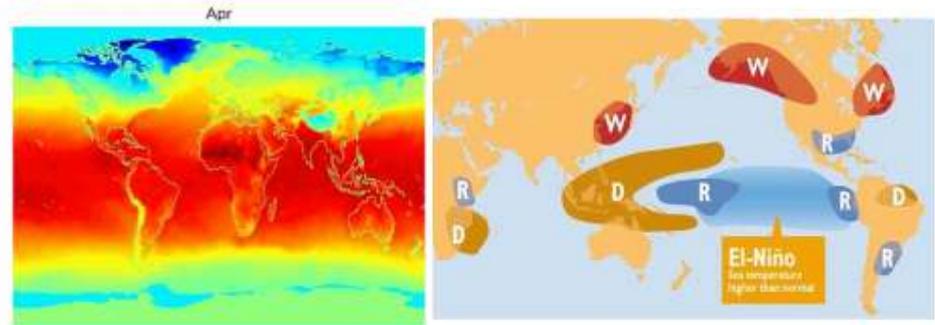
Average Traffic Volume (Time v.s. Station)



## Co-location Patterns



## Tele connections



# Outline

- Transportation domain
  - Questions
  - Stakeholders
  - Datasets
- A transportation dataset
- Data Mining Challenges
- Summary

# Transportation Questions

- Traveler, Commuter
  - What will be the travel time on a route?
  - Will I make to destination in time for a meeting?
  - Where are the incident and events?
- Transportation Manager
  - How the freeway system performed yesterday?
  - Which locations are worst performers?
- Traffic Engineering
  - Which loop detection are not working properly?
  - Where are the congestion (in time and space)?
  - How congestion start and spread?
- Planner and Researchers
  - What will be travel demand in future?
  - What will be the effect of hybrid cars?
  - What are future bottlenecks? Where should capacity be added?
- Policy
  - What is an appropriate congestion-pricing function ?
  - Road user charges: How much more should trucks pay relative to cars?

# Transportation Knowledge

- Classical data:
  - travel diaries, NHTS survey (e.g. OD matrix), Lab. (mpg rating)
- Physics
  - Fluid flow models for traffic
  - Reduce turbulence (i.e. lane weaving) to improve flow
- Chemistry, Biology
  - Environmental impact analysis (e.g. salt)
- Psychology: Individual Behavior
  - Lack of trust => aggressive driving,
  - Activity leads to travel, agent based model
- Socio-Economics: Group Dynamics
  - Social interaction: Household
  - Game theory: Wardrop equilibrium in commuter traffic
    - All comparable paths have same travel time!
  - Incentive mechanism
- Why data mining?
  - New datasets – engine computers, traffic sensors, gps-tracks,
  - Finer resolution – non-equilibrium phenomena, ...
  - Extreme events – evacuation, conventions, ...
  - Causal insights ?

# New Datasets Datasets

- Transportation
  - Road networks
  - Nodes = road intersections
  - Edge = road segments
  - Edge-attribute: travel time
  - Navteq reports it a function of time!
- Operations:
  - Hot moments (i.e. rush hours)
  - Hotspots (i.e. congestion)
  - Fastest Path
  - Evacuation capacities of routes



I94 @ Hamline Ave at 8AM & 10AM



Traffic sensors on Twin-Cities, MN Road Network monitor traffic levels/travel time on the road network.  
(Courtesy: MN-DoT ([www.dot.state.mn.us](http://www.dot.state.mn.us)))

bing 55455 pizza 

Businesses | People | Collections | Locations

business results 1-10 of 250 for pizza near 55455, MN [Modify search](#)

Sort by: Relevance | Distance | Map all

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# Transportation Domain

- Datasets
  - Travel diaries and surveys
  - Traffic simulator outputs
  - Accident reports, traffic law violation reports
  - Loop-detector measurement of traffic volume, density, occupancy, etc.
  - Traffic camera - videos
  - Automatic vehicle location and identification
    - from automatic tolling transponder, gps, etc.
  - Other sensors: bridge strain, visibility (in fog), ice, ...
  - Yellow Pages, street addresses
- Characteristics
  - Spatio-temporal networks

# Outline

- Transportation domain
- A transportation dataset
  - Map of sensor network
  - Spatio-temporal dimensions
  - Summary visualizations
- Data Mining Challenges
- Summary

# Loop-detector on Twincities Highways

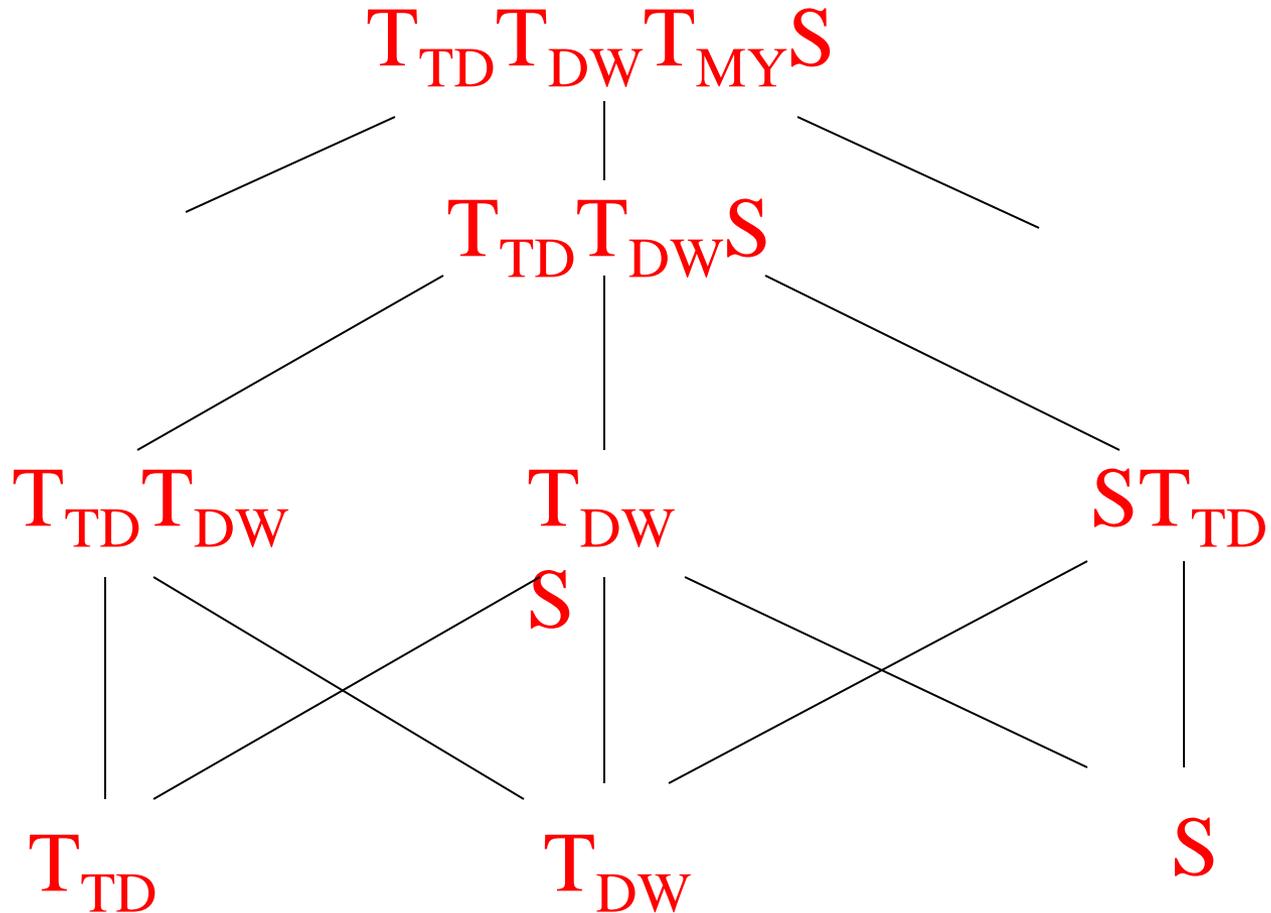


# Dimensions

- Available
  - $T_{TD}$  : Time of Day
  - $T_{DW}$  : Day of Week
  - $T_{MY}$  : Month of Year
  - S : Station, Highway, All Stations
- Others
  - Scale, Weather, Seasons, Event types, ...

# Mapcube :

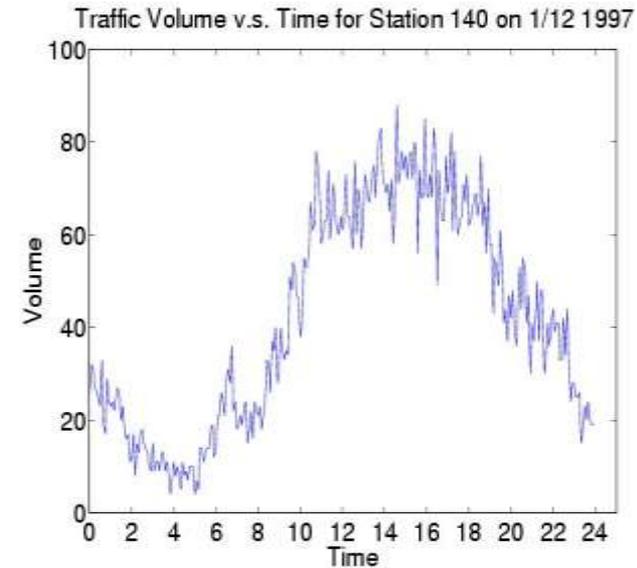
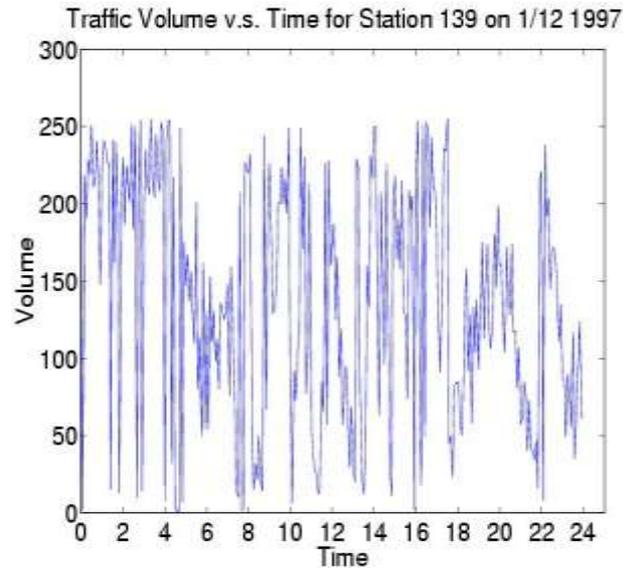
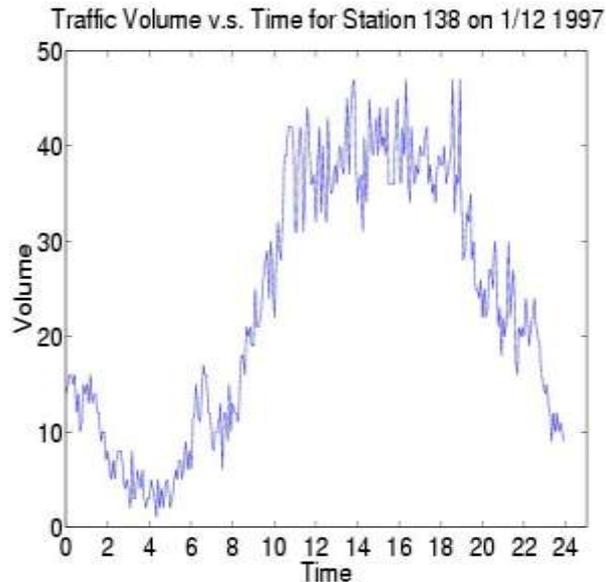
## Which Subset of Dimensions ?



# Singleton Subset :

$T_{TD}$

- Configuration:
- X-axis: time of day; Y-axis: Volume
  - For station sid 138, sid 139, sid 140, on 1/12/1997

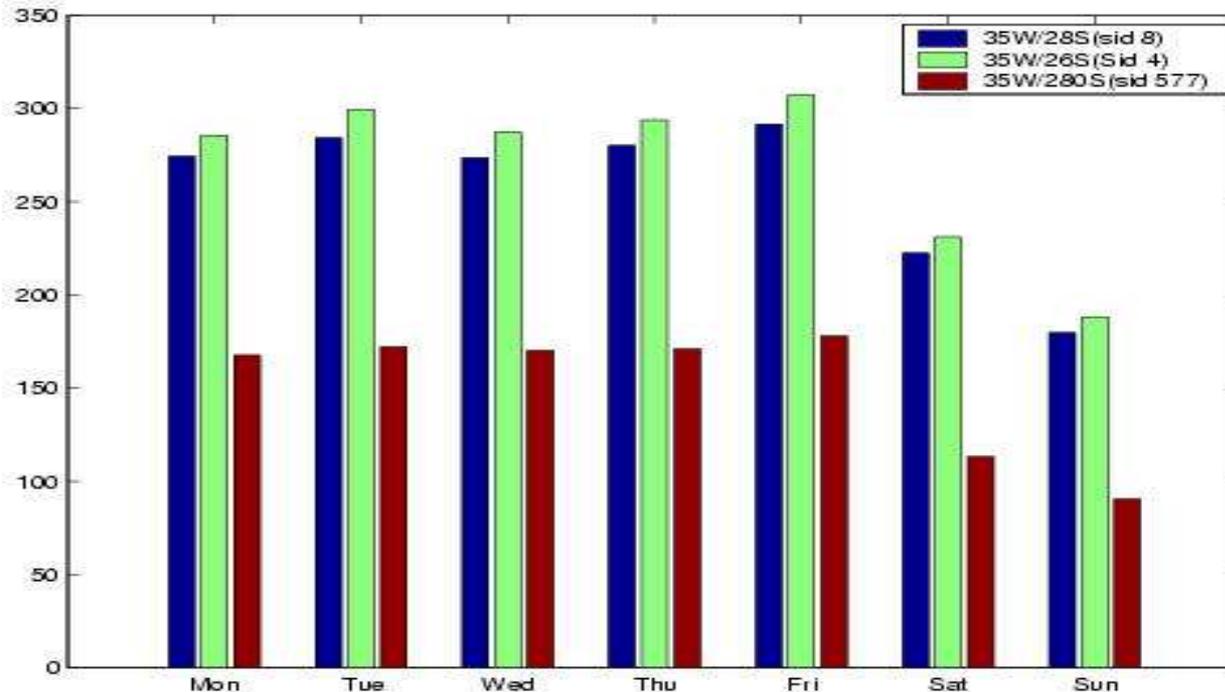


- Trends:
- Station sid 139: rush hour all day long
  - Station sid 139 is an S-outlier



# Singleton Subset: $T_{DW}$

- X axis: Day of week; Y axis: Avg. volume.
- Configuration:
  - For stations 4, 8, 577
  - Avg. volume for Jan 1997

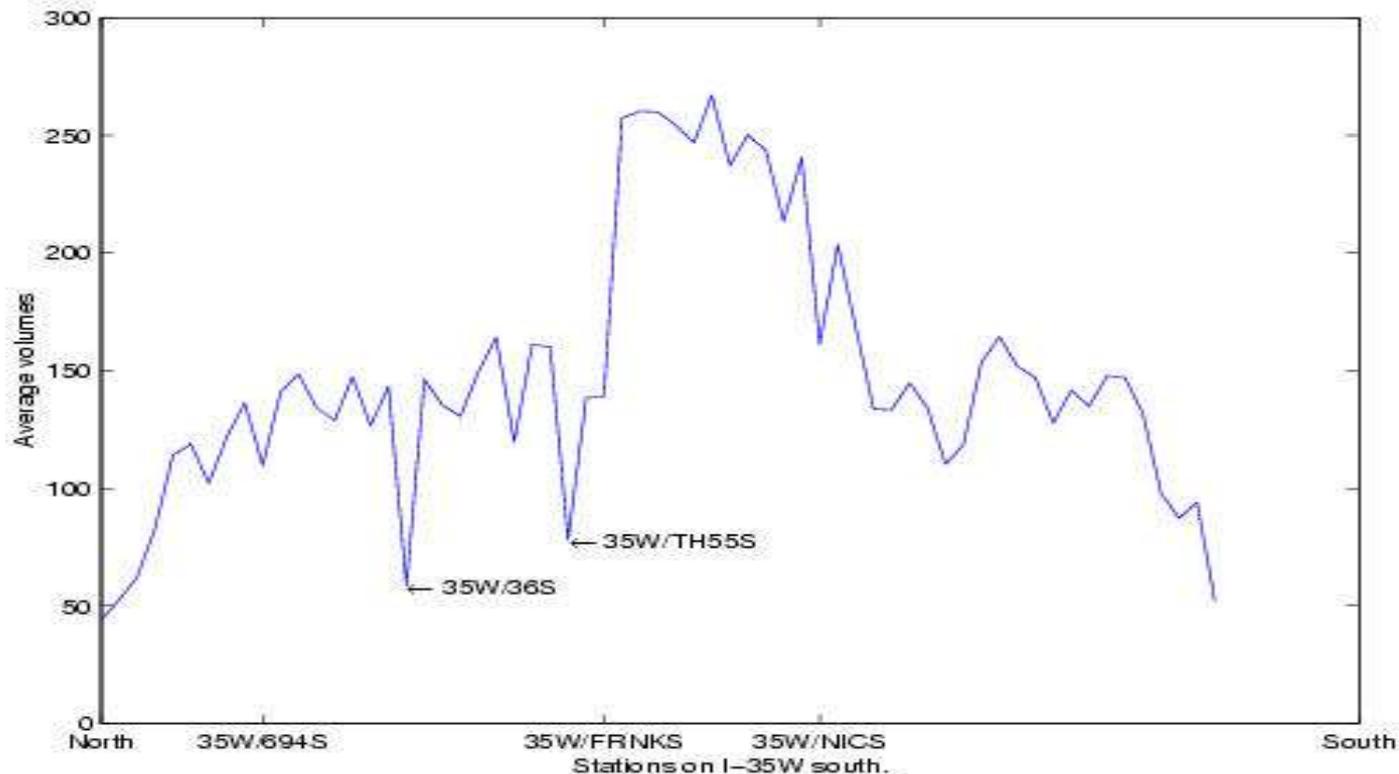


- Trends:
- Friday is the busiest day of week
  - Tuesday is the second busiest day of week



# Singleton Subset: S

- Configuration:
- X-axis: I-35W South; Y-axis: Avg. traffic volume
  - Avg. traffic volume for January 1997

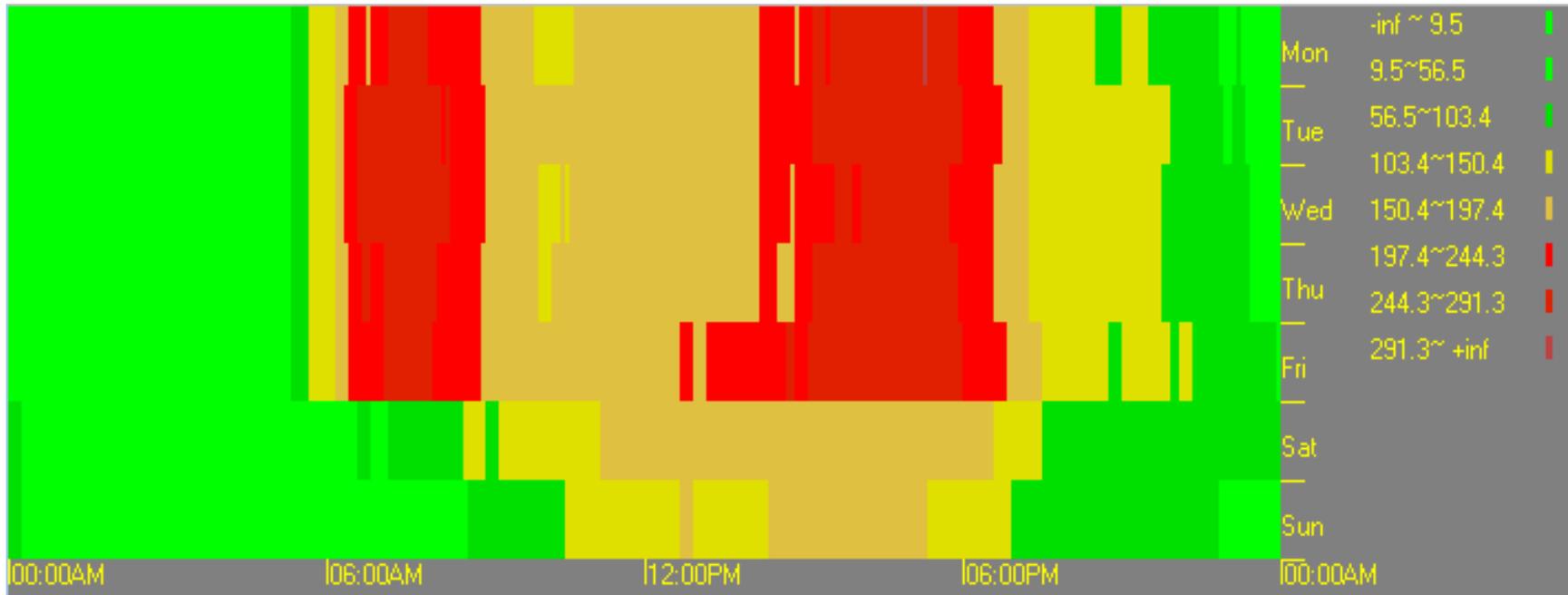


- Trends?:
- High avg. traffic volume from Franklin Ave to Nicollet Ave
  - Two outliers: 35W/26S(sid 576) and 35W/TH55S(sid 585)



# Dimension Pair: $T_{TD}-T_{DW}$

- Configuration:
- X-axis: time of date; Y-axis: day of Week
  - $f(x,y)$ : Avg. volume over all stations for Jan 1997, except Jan 1, 1997



- Trends:
- Evening rush hour broader than morning rush hour
  - Rush hour starts early on Friday.
  - Wednesday - narrower evening rush hour



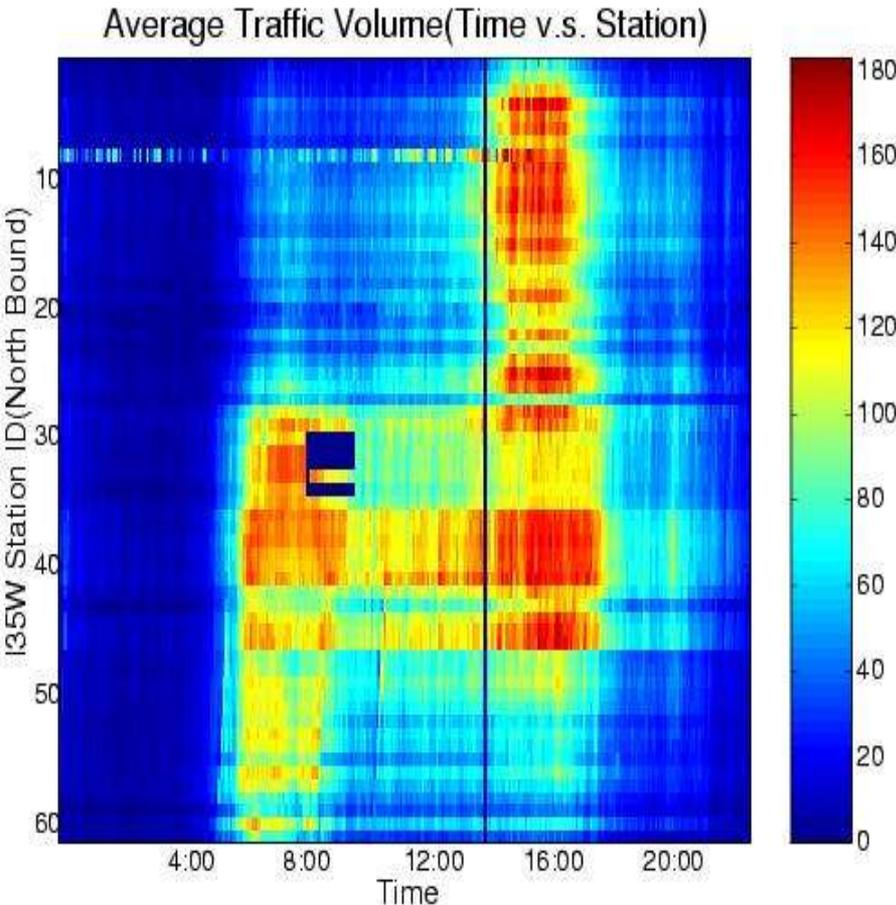
# Dimension Pair: S-T<sub>TD</sub>

## Configuration:

- X-axis: Time of Day
- Y-axis: Highway
- $f(x,y)$ : Avg. volume over all stations for 1/15, 1997

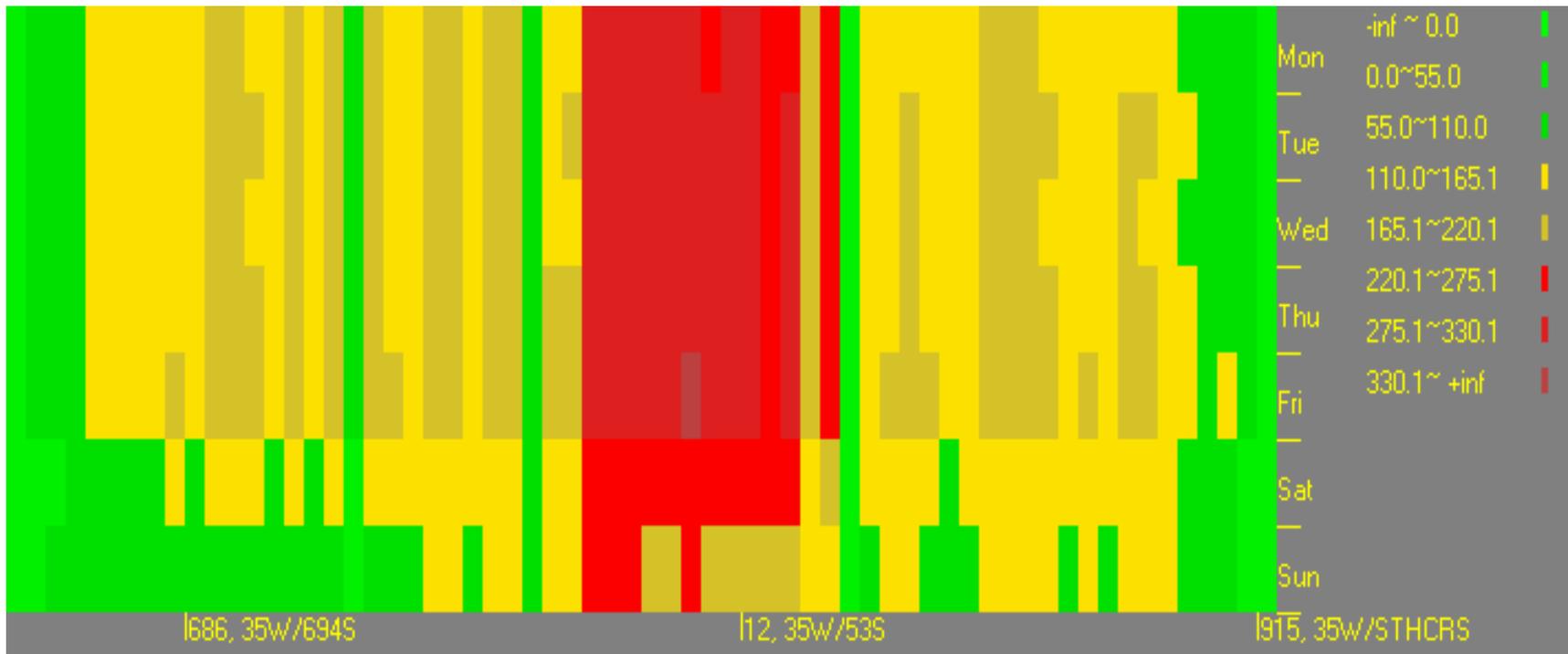
## Trends:

- 3-Cluster
  - North section: Evening rush hour
  - Downtown area: All day rush hour
  - South section: Morning rush hour
- S-Outliers
  - station ranked 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Time: 2:35pm
- Missing Data



# Dimension Pair: $T_{DW}$ -S

- Configuration:
- X-axis: stations; Y-axis: day of week
  - $f(x,y)$ : Avg. volume over all stations for Jan-Mar 1997

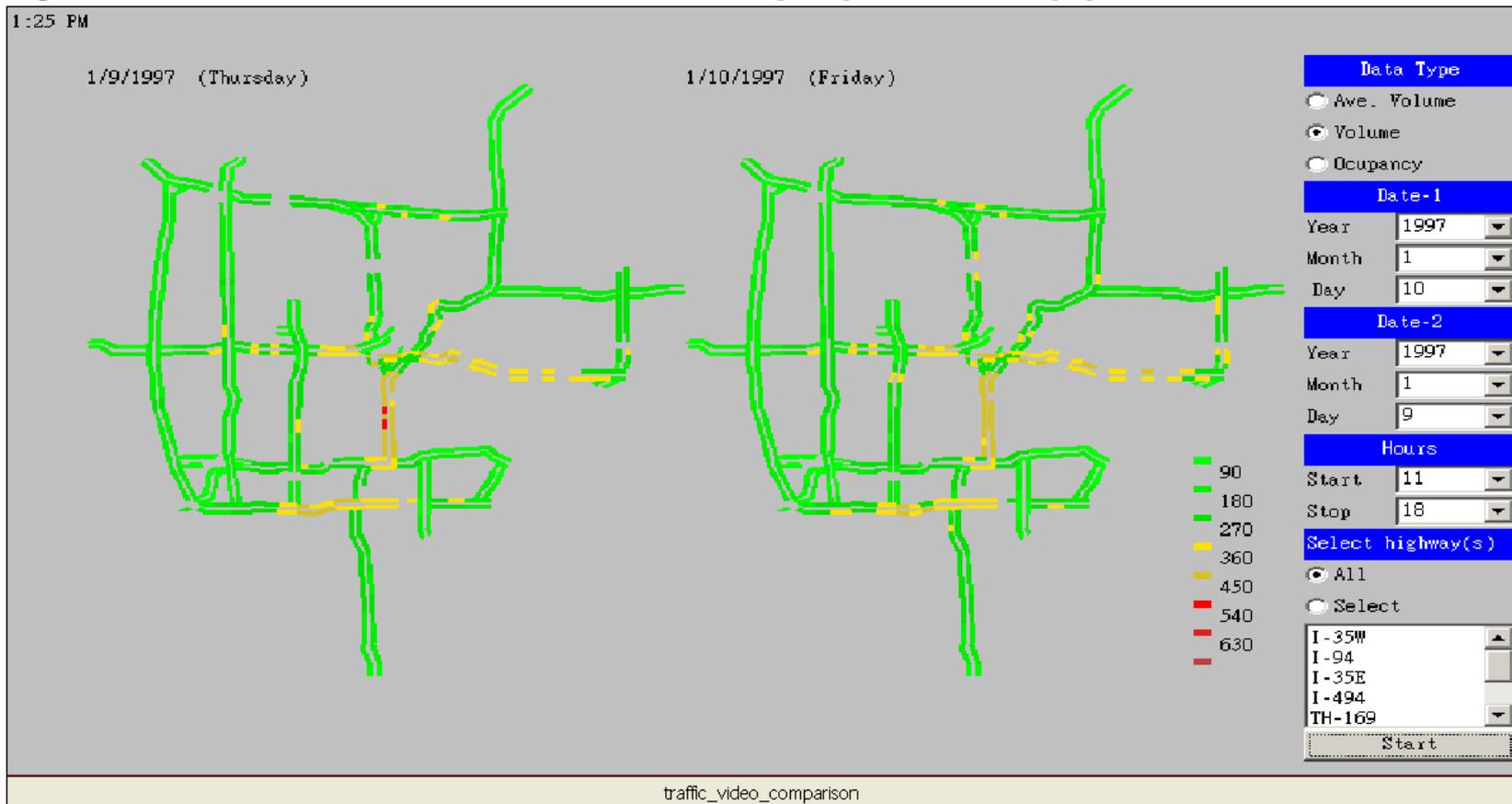


- Trends:
- Busiest segment of I-35 SW is b/w Downtown MPLS & I-62
  - Saturday has more traffic than Sunday
  - Outliers – highway branch



# Triplet: $T_{TD}T_{DW}S$ : Compare Traffic Videos

Configuration: Traffic volume on Jan 9 (Th) and 10 (F), 1997



Trends:

- Evening rush hour starts earlier on Friday
- Congested segments: I-35W (downtown Mpls – I-62); I-94 (Mpls – St. Paul); I-494 ( intersection I-35W)



# Size 4 Subset: $T_{TD} T_{DW} T_{MY} S(\text{Album})$

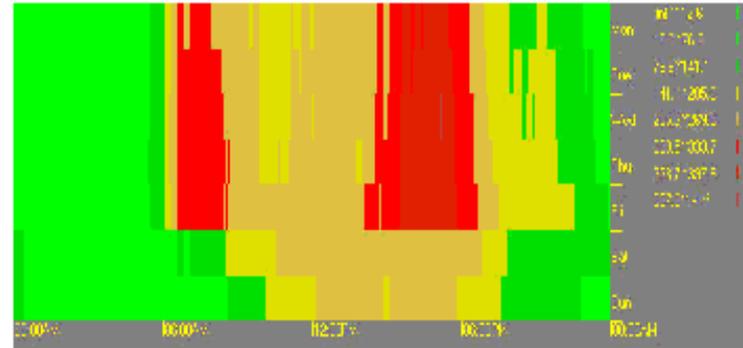
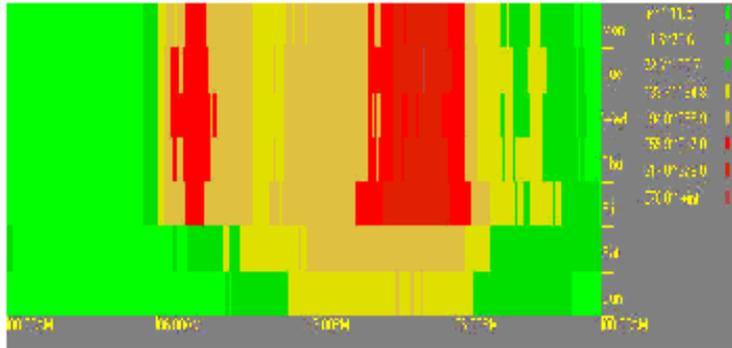
## Configuration:

- Outer: X-axis (month of year); Y-axis (highway)
- Inner: X-axis (time of day); Y-axis (day of week)

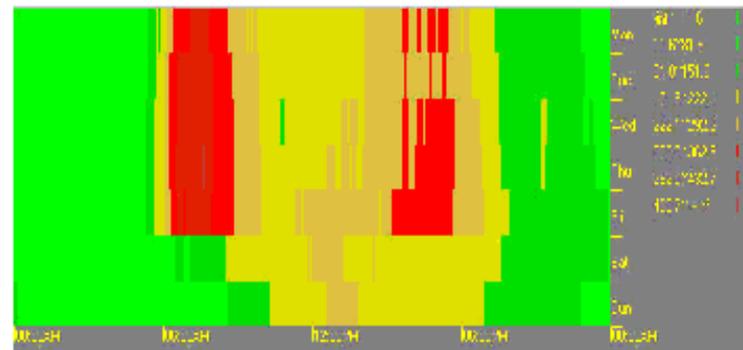
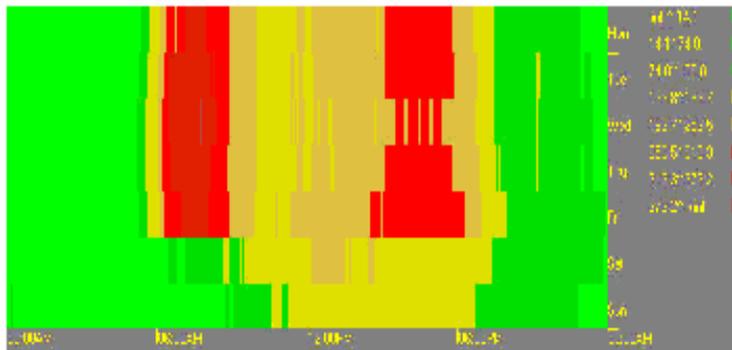
Jan

Feb

I-35W North



I-94 East



## Trends:

- Morning rush hour: I-94 East longer than I-35 W North
- Evening rush hour: I-35W North longer than I-94 East
- Evening rush hour on I-94 East: Jan longer than Feb



# Outline

- Transportation domain
- A transportation dataset
- Data mining issues
  - Spatio-temporal networks
  - Spatial outliers
  - Hotspots
  - Co-occurrences
  - Location prediction
- Summary

# Data Mining

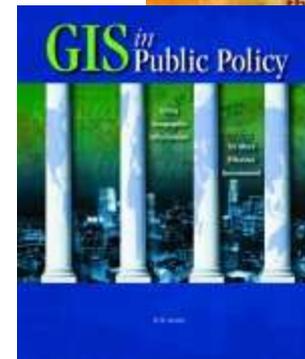
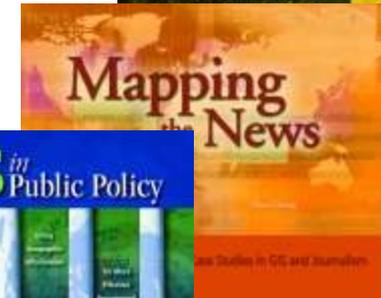
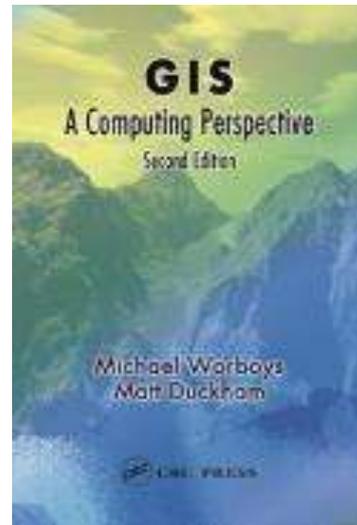
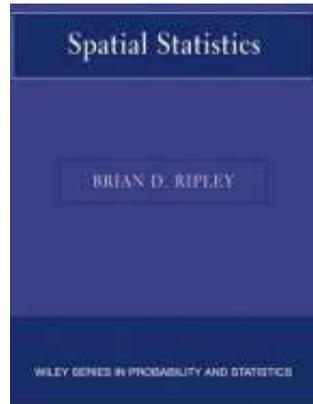
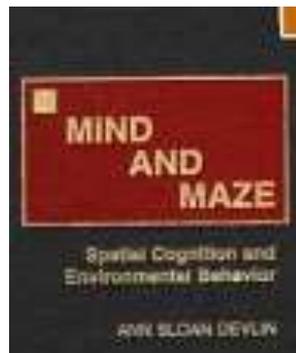
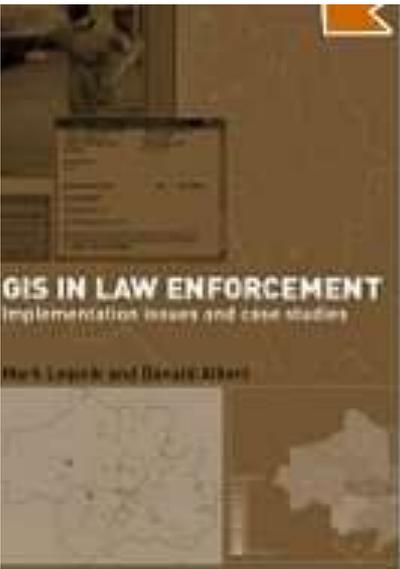
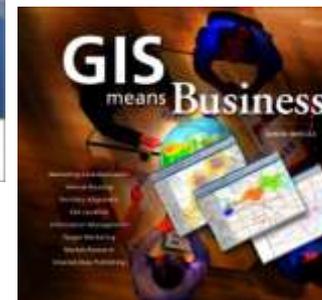
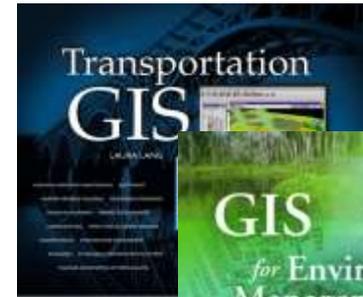
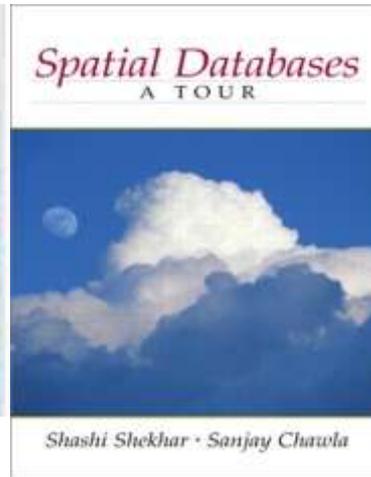
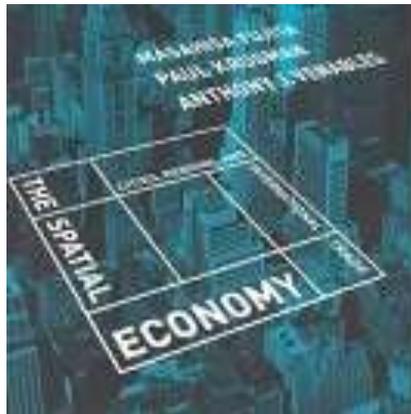
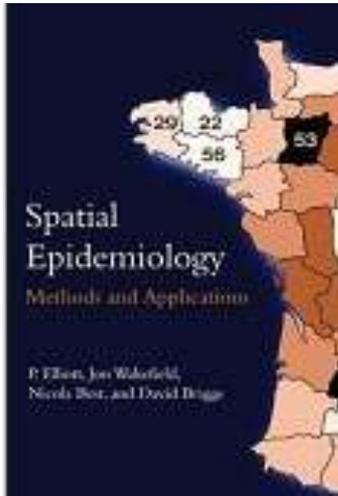
- What is it?
  - Identifying interesting, useful, non-trivial **patterns**
    - Hot-spots,
  - in large **spatial** or **spatio-temporal** datasets
    - Satellite imagery, geo-referenced data, e.g. census
    - gps-tracks, geo-sensor network, ...
- Why is it important ?
  - Potential of discoveries and insights to improve human lives
    - Environment: How is Earth system changing? Consequences for humans?
    - Public safety: Where are hotspots of crime? Why?
    - Public health: Where are cancer clusters? Environmental reasons?
    - Transportation, National Security, ...
  - However,  $(d/dt) (\text{Spatial Data Volume}) \gg (d/dt) (\text{Number of Human Analysts})$ 
    - Need automated methods to mine patterns from spatial data
    - Need tools to amplify human capabilities to analyze spatial data



# Transportation Data Mining: Some Challenges

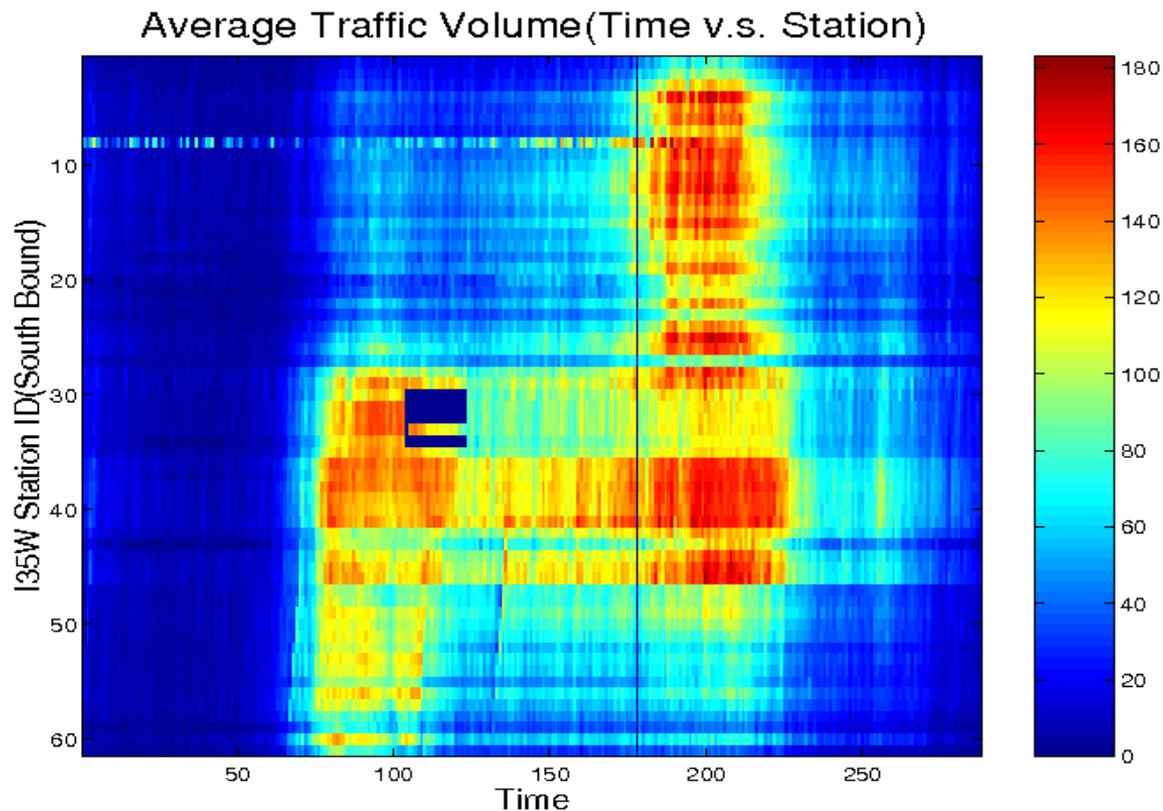
- Violates assumptions of classical data mining
  - Lack of independence among samples - ? Decision trees, ...
  - No natural transactions -? Association rule, ...
- Two kinds of spaces
  - Embedding space, e.g. Geography, Network, Time
  - Feature space, e.g. Traffic volume, accidents, ...
- Lessons from Spatial thinking
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Law: Auto-correlation: Nearby things are related
  - Heterogeneity
  - Edge effect
  - ...

# (Geo) Informatics across Disciplines!



# Example 1: Spatial Anomalies

- Example – Sensor 9
  - Will sensor 9 be detected by traditional outlier detection ?
  - Is it a global outlier ?



# Global vs. Spatial outliers (SIGKDD 2001)

## Spatial outlier

A data point that is extreme relative to its neighbors

## Given

A spatial graph  $G=\{V,E\}$

A neighbor relationship (K neighbors)

An attribute function  $f: V \rightarrow R$

Test T for spatial outliers

## Find

$O = \{v_i \mid v_i \in V, v_i \text{ is a spatial outlier}\}$

## Objective

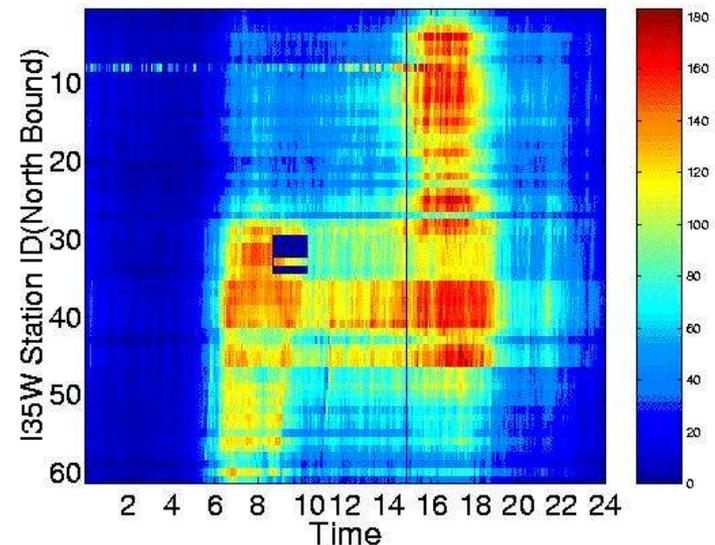
Correctness, Computational efficiency

## Constraints

Test T is an algebraic aggregate function



Average Traffic Volume(Time v.s. Station)



# Spatial outlier detection

## Spatial outlier and its neighbors

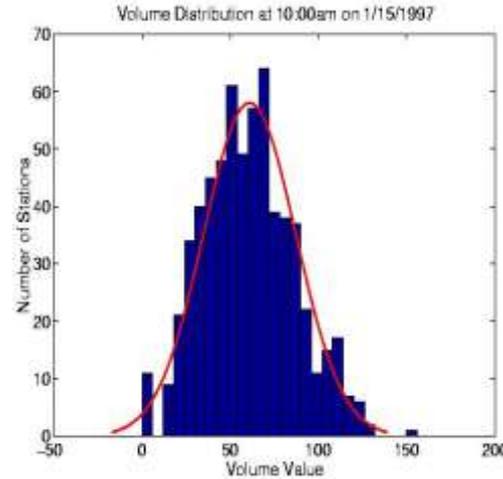
### 1. Choice of Spatial Statistic

$$S(x) = [f(x) - E_{y \in N(x)}(f(y))]$$

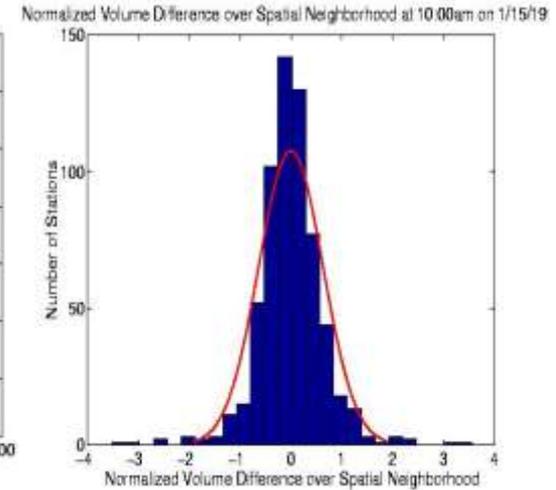
Theorem:  $S(x)$  is normally distributed  
if  $f(x)$  is normally  
distributed

### 2. Test for Outlier Detection

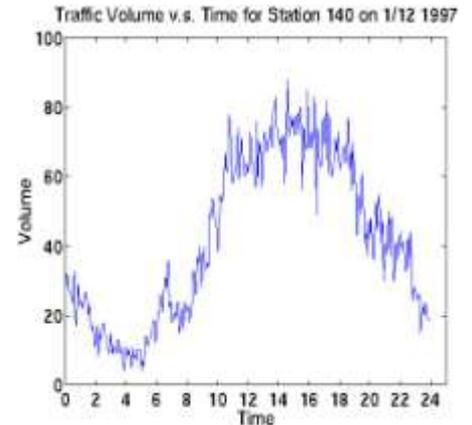
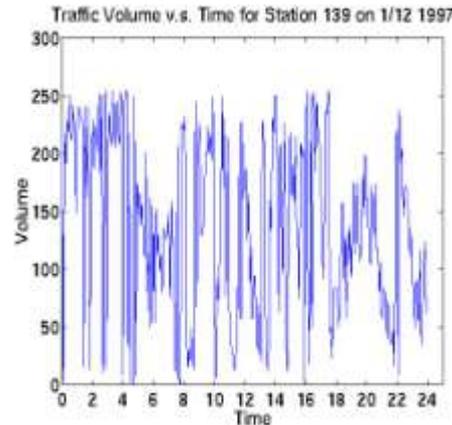
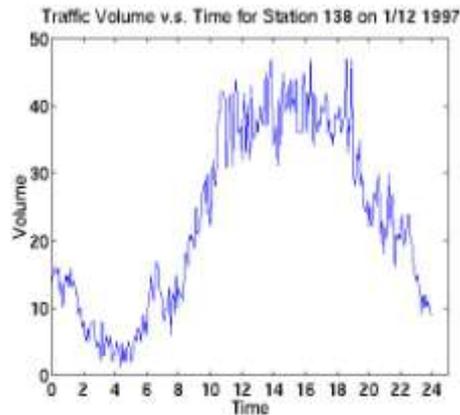
$$| (S(x) - \mu_s) / \sigma_s | > \theta$$



$f(x)$

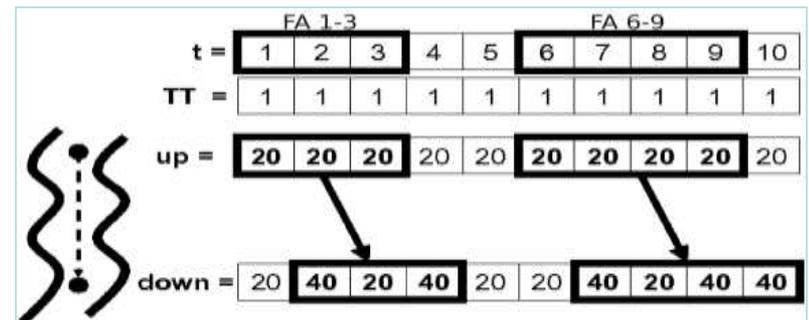
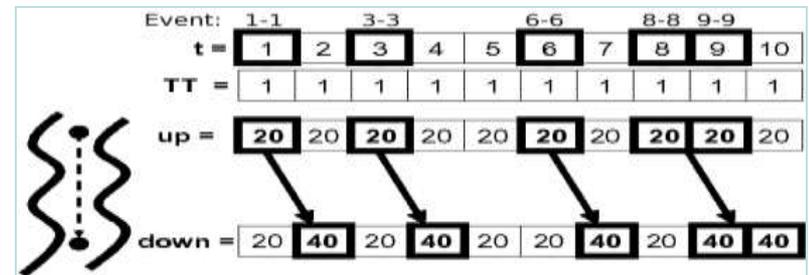
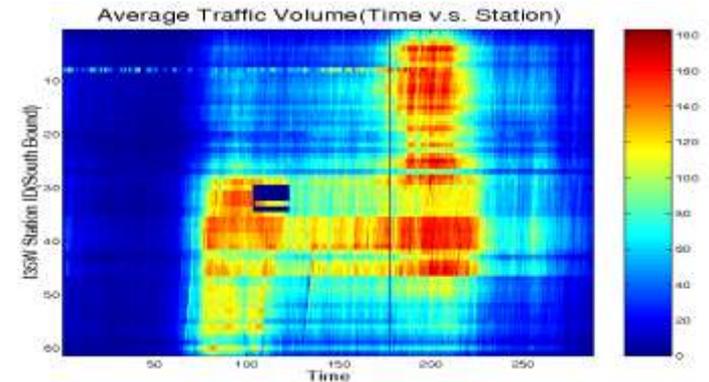


$S(x)$



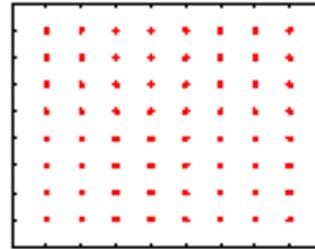
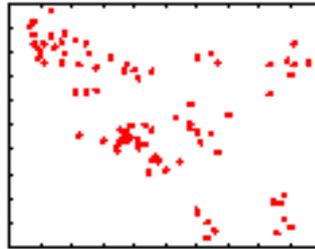
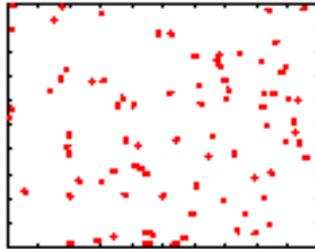
# Spatial/Spatio-temporal Outliers Challenges

- What is it?
  - Location different from their neighbors
    - Discontinuities, flow anomalies
- Solved
  - Transient spatial outliers
- Almost solved
  - Anomalous trajectories
- Failed
- Missing
  - Persistent anomalies
  - Multiple object types, Scale
- Next
  - Dominant Persistent Anomalies

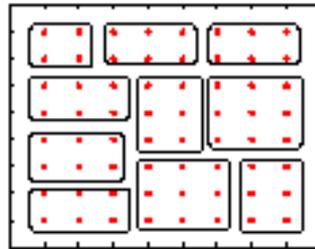
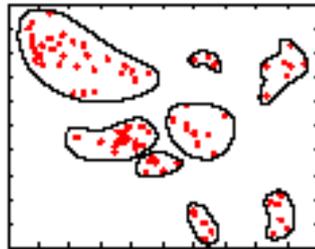
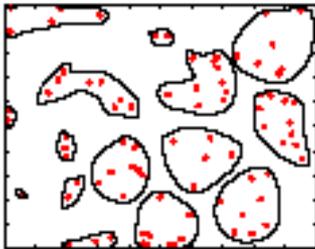


# Example 2: Hotspots

- Is classical clustering (e.g. K-mean) effective?

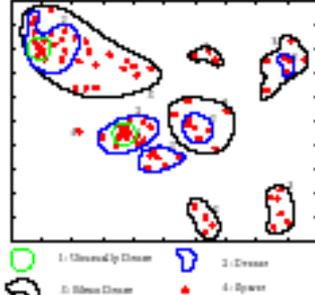


Inputs: locations of  
potholes,  
accidents,  
sensors



Outputs of K-mean Clustering

Data is of Complete  
Spatial Randomness



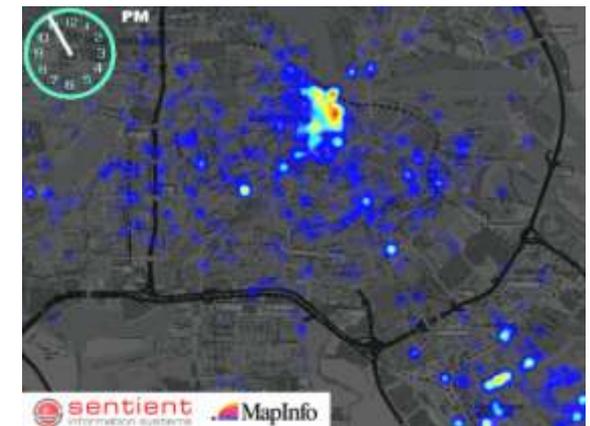
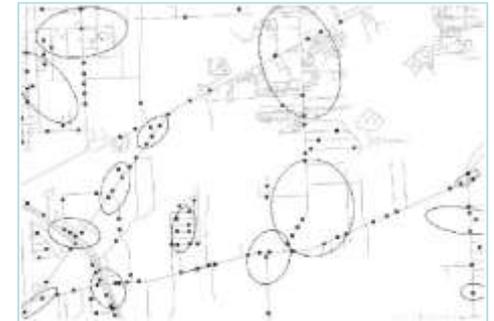
Data is of  
Decuster Pattern

Spatial Statistical view

1: Cluster by Cluster  
2: Cluster  
3: Cluster  
4: Cluster

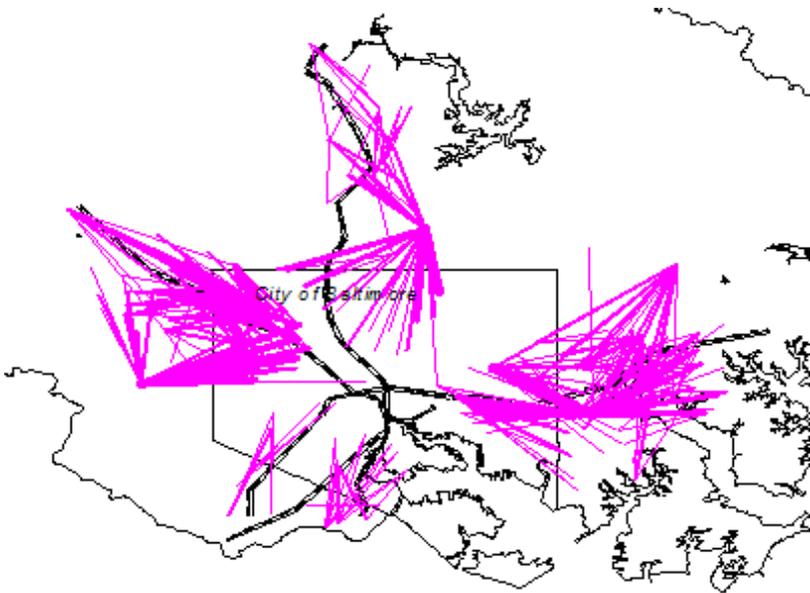
# HotSpots

- What is it?
  - Unusually high spatial concentration of a phenomena
    - Accident hotspots
    - Used in epidemiology, crime analysis
- Solved
  - Spatial statistics based ellipsoids
- Almost solved
  - Transportation network based hotspots
- Failed
  - Classical clustering methods, e.g. K-means
- Missing
  - Spatio-temporal
- Next
  - Emerging hot-spots



# Network Semantics: Implicit Routes

- Complicated Feature
  - Urban environment
  - Transportation Networks
- Patterns
  - Journey to crime
  - Network based explanation



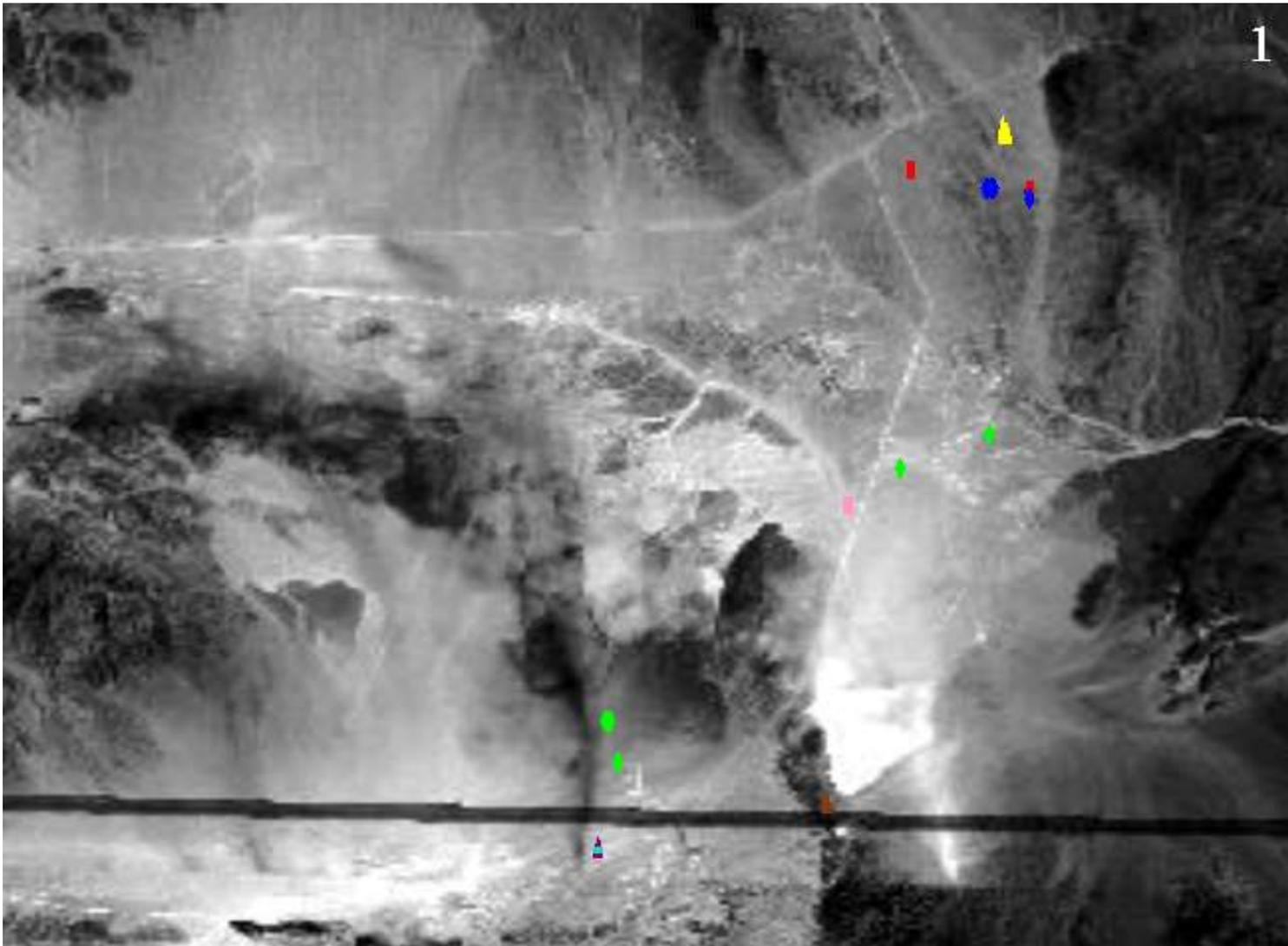
*(a) Input: Pink lines connect crime location & criminal's residence*



*(b) Output: Journey-to-Crime (thickness = route popularity)  
Source: Crimestat*

# Example 3b: Associations

- Given a set of tracks of different types, can association mining find subset of types that often move together?



• Manpack stinger  
(2 Objects)



• M1A1\_tank  
(3 Objects)



• M2\_IFV  
(3 Objects)



• Field\_Marker  
(6 Objects)



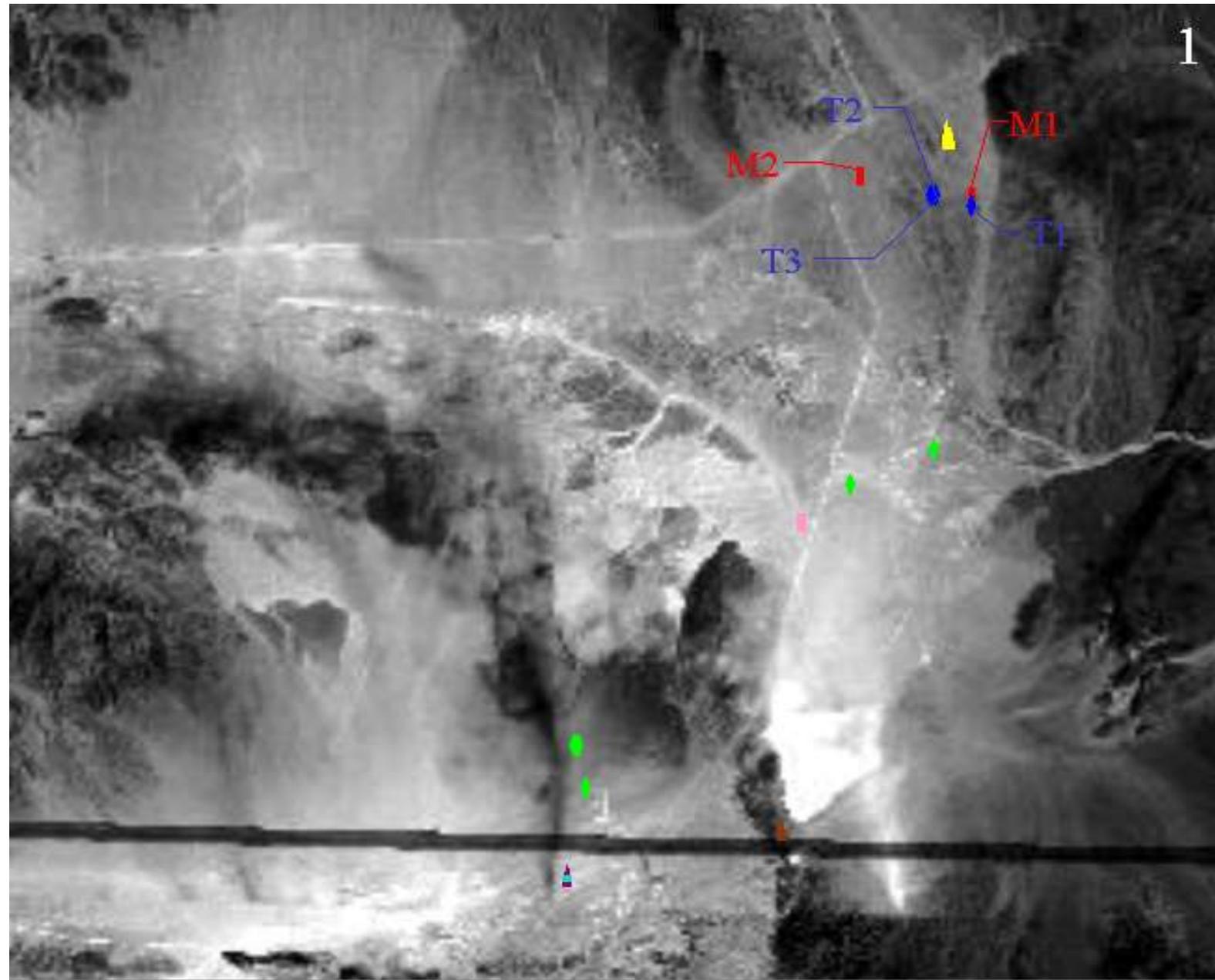
• T80\_tank  
(2 Objects)



• BRDM\_AT5  
(enemy) (1 Object)



# Co-occurring object-types



● Manpack stinger  
(2 Objects)



● M1A1\_tank  
(3 Objects)



● M2\_IFV  
(3 Objects)



● Field\_Marker  
(6 Objects)

● T80\_tank  
(2 Objects)



● BRDM\_AT5  
(enemy) (1 Object)



● BMP1  
(1 Object)



# Challenge: Continuity

- Association rule e.g. (Diaper in T => Beer in T)

Transaction	Items Bought
1	{socks,  , milk,  , beef, egg, ...}
2	{pillow,  , toothbrush, ice-cream, muffin, ...}
3	{  ,  , pacifier, formula, blanket, ...}
...	...
n	{battery, juice, beef, egg, chicken, ...}

- Support: probability (Diaper and Beer in T) = 2/5
- Confidence: probability (Beer in T | Diaper in T) = 2/2
- Algorithm Apriori [Agarwal, Srikant, VLDB94]
  - Support based pruning using monotonicity
- Note: **Transaction is a core concept!**

# Co-location Patterns (SSTD 2001, TKDE 2004)

	Association rules	Colocation rules
underlying space	discrete sets	<b>continuous</b> space
item-types	item-types	events /Boolean spatial features
collections	Transactions	<b>neighborhoods</b>
prevalence measure	support	participation index
conditional probability measure	$\text{Pr.}[ A \text{ in } T \mid B \text{ in } T ]$	$\text{Pr.}[ A \text{ in } N(L) \mid B \text{ at } L ]$

## Challenges:

### 1. Computational Scalability

Needs a large number of spatial join, 1 per candidate colocation

### 2. Spatial Statistical Interpretation

Related to Ripley's K-function in Spatial Statistics

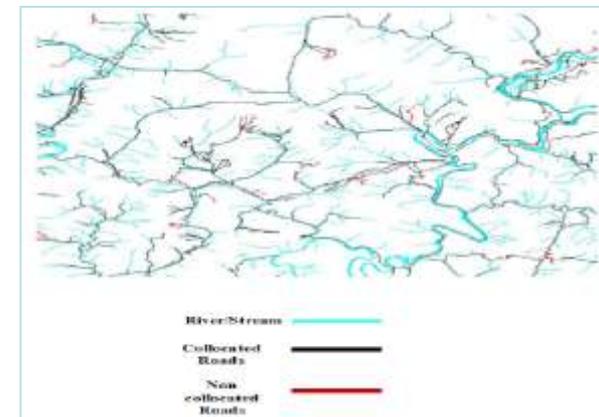
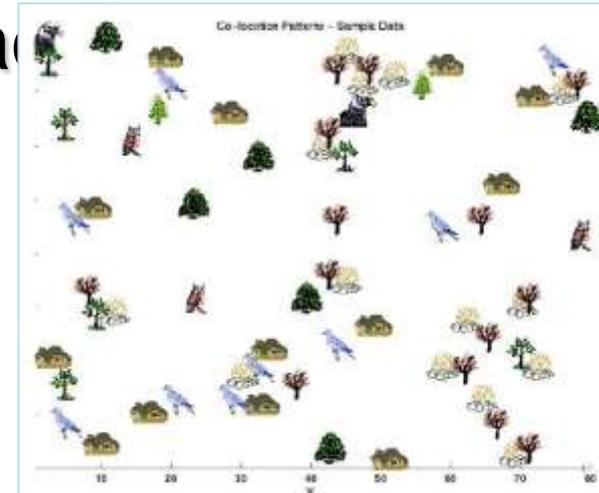
...

# Spatio-temporal Association: Cascade Patterns

- Time Geography theory
  - Processes = a collection of events
  - Events
    - Have specific endpoint
    - (Partially) ordered by time-footprints
- Instance level model
  - Nodes = instances of events
  - Edges = spatio-temporal neighbors
    - Direction defined by time-footprints
- Cascade Patterns = Schema-level summary
  - Nodes = Event-types (ET)
  - Edge(ET1, ET2, N) =>N compatible edges at instance level
  - **Cycles are possible**, e.g. ST overlapping processes
- Similar to Graphical Models, Bayesian Networks, Graph mining...
  - Simpler interest measure, e.g.  $\Pr(\text{Pattern } P \mid \text{an event instance})$
  - Cheaper than joint probability distribution, max. independent set
  - Computationally more scalable

# Colocation, Co-occurrence, Interaction

- What is it?
  - Subset of event types, whose instances occur together
  - Ex. Symbiosis, (bar, misdemeanors), ...
- Solved
  - Colocation of point event-types
- Almost solved
  - Co-location of extended (e.g.linear) objects
  - Object-types that move together
- Failed
  - Neighbor-unaware Transaction based approaches
- Missing
  - Consideration of flow, richer interactions
- Next
  - Spatio-temporal interactions, e.g. item-types that sell well before or after a hurricane
  - Tele-connections

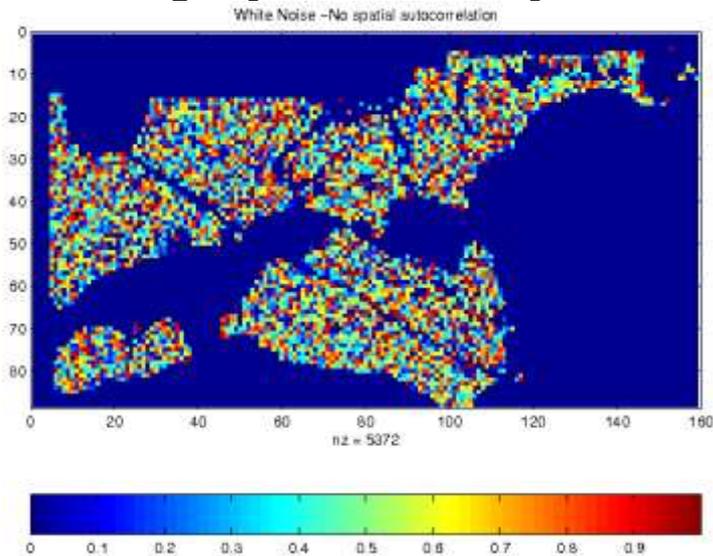


# Example 4: Spatio-temporal Prediction

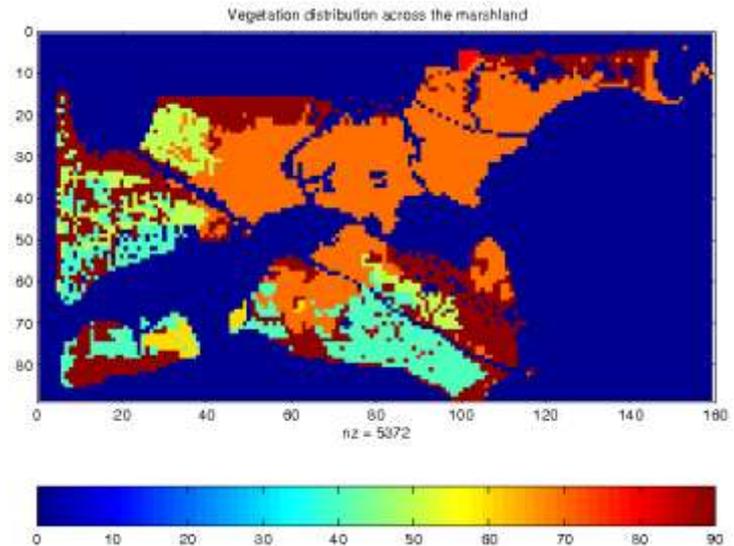
- Transportation Planning
  - What will be the impact of a new office building?
  - What will be travel demand? future bottlenecks?
  - What will be the effect of hybrid cars on traffic?
  - How will better bicycle facility impact vehicle traffic?
- Q? Are classical techniques (e.g. Decision trees, SVM, ...) adequate?
- Challenges
  - Spatio-temporal auto-correlation – violates independence assumption
  - Network : routes, edge capacities, ...
  - Individual behavior: urban sprawl?
  - Group dynamics: game theory, Wardrop equilibrium, ...

# Autocorrelation

- First Law of Geography
  - “All things are related, but nearby things are more related than distant things. [Tobler, 1970]”



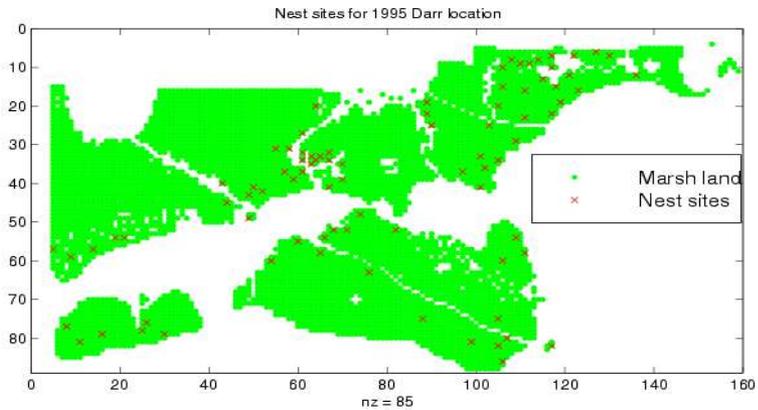
Pixel property with **independent identical distribution**



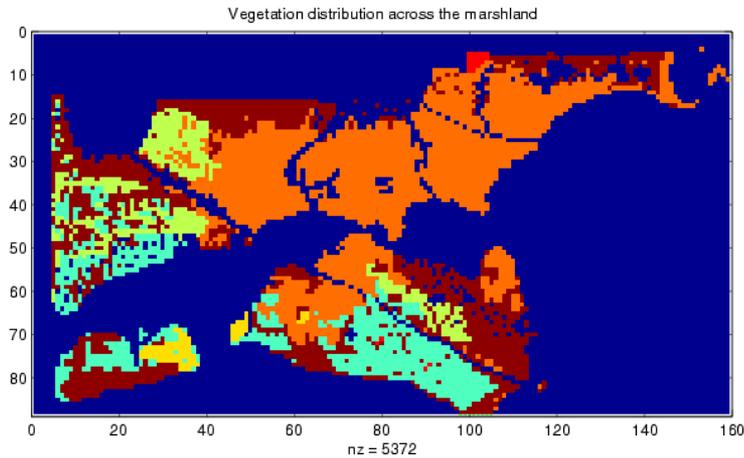
Vegetation Durability with SA

- Autocorrelation
  - Traditional i.i.d. assumption is not valid
  - Measures: K-function, Moran's I, Variogram, ...

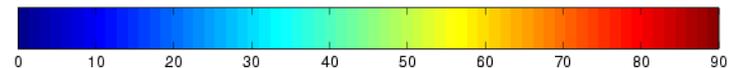
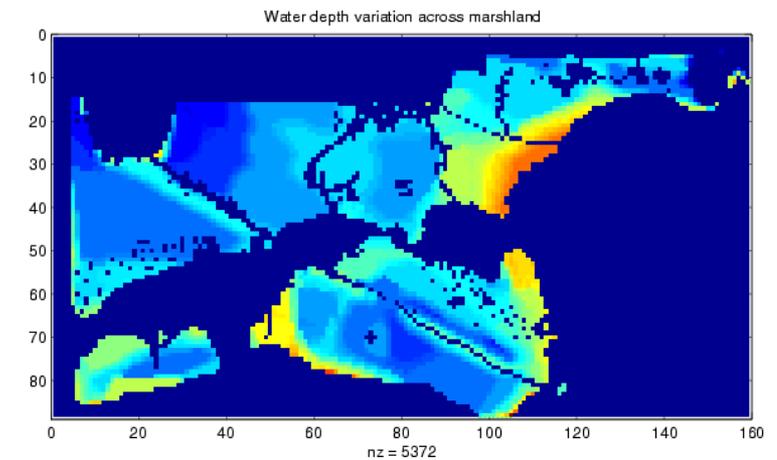
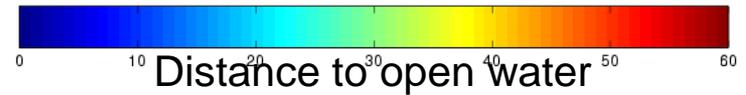
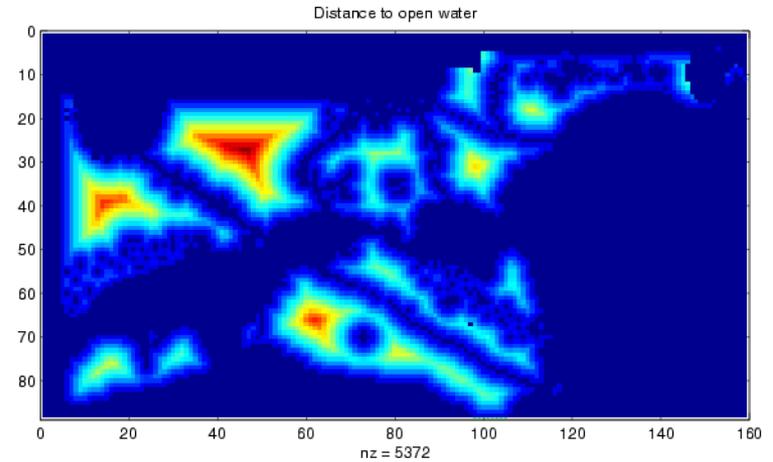
# Challenge 1: Is I.I.D. assumption valid?



Nest locations



Vegetation durability



Water depth

# Implication of **Auto-correlation**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Model</i>	<i>Classification Accuracy</i>
Classical Linear Regression	$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$	Low
Spatial Auto-Regression	$\mathbf{y} = \rho \mathbf{W}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$	High

$\rho$ : the spatial auto - regression (auto - correlation) parameter

$\mathbf{W}$ :  $n$  - by -  $n$  neighborhood matrix over spatial framework

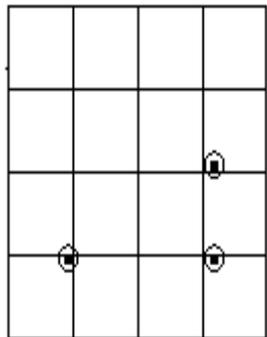
## Computational Challenge:

Computing **determinant** of a very large matrix  
in the Maximum Likelihood Function:

$$\ln(L) = \ln|\mathbf{I} - \rho\mathbf{W}| - \frac{n \ln(2\pi)}{2} - \frac{n \ln(\sigma^2)}{2} - SSE$$

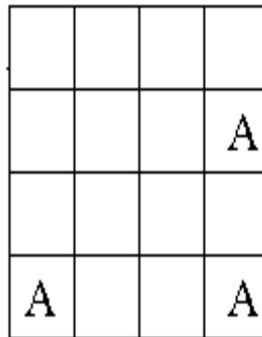
# Research Needs in Location Prediction

- Additional Problems
  - Estimate  $W$  for SAR and MRF-BC
  - Scaling issue in SAR
    - Scale difference:  $\rho W y$  vs.  $X\beta$
  - Spatial error measure: e.g., avg, dist(actual, predicted)



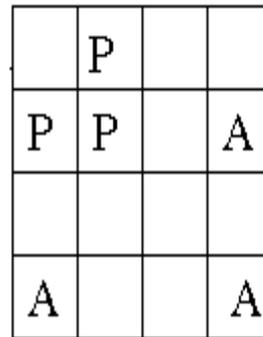
(a)

Actual Sites



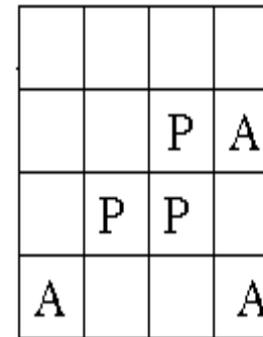
(b)

Pixels with  
actual sites



(c)

Prediction 1



(d)

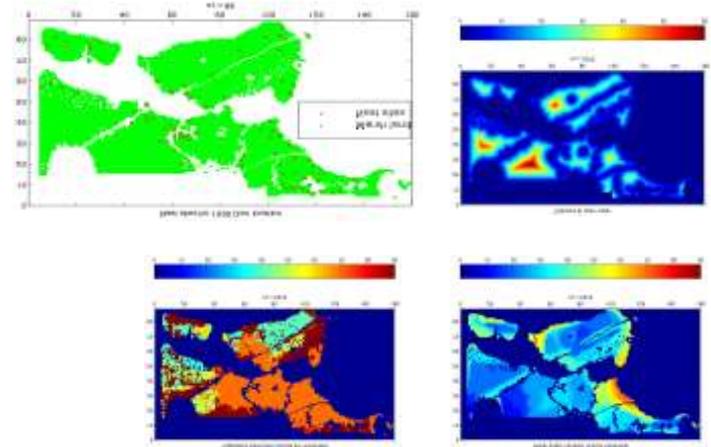
Prediction 2.  
Spatially more accurate  
than Prediction 1

## Legend

- = nest location
- A = actual nest in pixel
- P = predicted nest in pixel

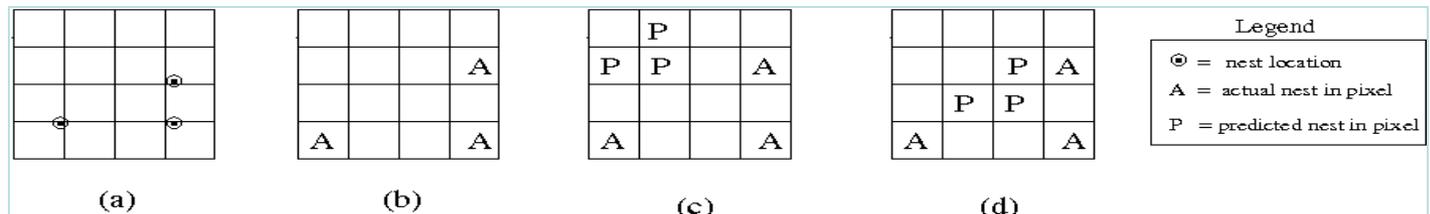
# Space/Time Prediction

- What is it?
  - Models to predict location, time, path, ...
    - Nest sites, minerals, earthquakes, tornadoes, ...
- Solved
  - Interpolation, e.g. Krigging
  - Heterogeneity, e.g. geo. weighted regression
- Almost solved
  - Auto-correlation, e.g. spatial auto-regression
- Failed: Independence assumption
  - Models, e.g. Decision trees, linear regression, ...
  - Measures, e.g. total square error, precision, recall
- Missing
  - Spatio-temporal vector fields (e.g. flows, motion), physics
- Next
  - Scalable algorithms for parameter estimation
  - Distance based errors



$$\mathbf{y} = \rho \mathbf{W} \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x} \boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

$$\ln(L) = \ln|\mathbf{I} - \rho \mathbf{W}| - \frac{n \ln(2\pi)}{2} - \frac{n \ln(\sigma^2)}{2} - SSE$$



# Outline

- Transportation domain
- A transportation dataset
- Data mining issues
  - Spatio-temporal networks
  - Spatial outliers
  - Hotspots
  - Co-occurrences
  - Location prediction
- Summary

# Data Mining Challenges in Transportation

- Identify Limitations of Transportation Knowledge
  - Calibration of simulation parameters, e.g.
    - Day-time population distribution, traffic distribution
  - Non-equilibrium dynamics over space and time
  - Extreme events, e.g. evacuation, conventions, ...
- Articulate value of data mining (DM)
  - Value of novel data sets
    - Lab.-based vs. on-road emissions or mpg
    - Context – weather, ambient temperature, vehicle to vehicle
    - Simulator estimated routes vs. gps-tracks
    - Volunteer information – pot-holes, speed, ...
  - Value of novel data analysis or visualization techniques
    - anomalies
- Evaluate and evolve current DM
  - May current DM deliver value?
  - Are assumption of classical DM reasonable?
  - How can be improve current DM technique?

# Data Mining and Transportation

- Potential value of data mining in transportation
  - Data driven discoveries to complement model driven ones
  - Hypothesis generation to complement hypothesis testing
  - Computational scalability
  - Conceptual scalability – models of gps-tracks
  - Which problems ?
    - Extreme events, ...
- Potential value of transportation to data mining
  - Expose limitations, e.g. independence assumption
  - New challenges: e.g. spatio-temporal networks, ...
    - New pattern families