

Traffic Control using Automated Vehicles: Distributed Sensing, Actuation, and Learning

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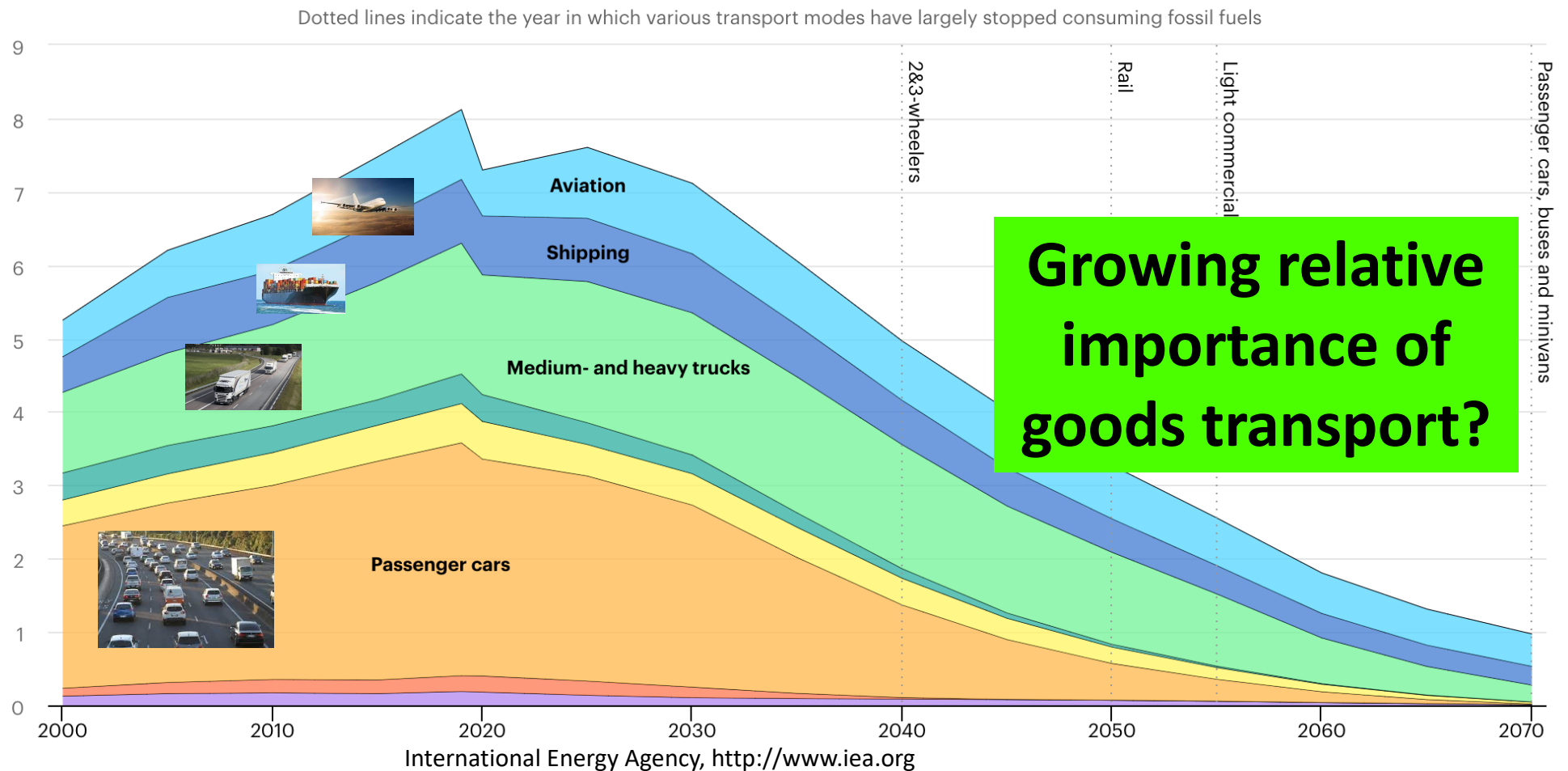
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Jonas Mårtensson



S. Amin (MIT), L. Jin (SJT), A. Ferrara (Pavia) and many others

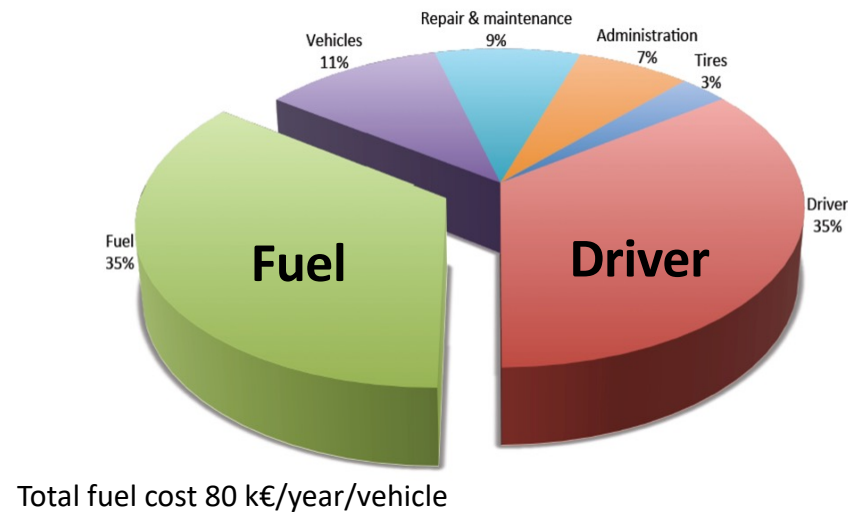


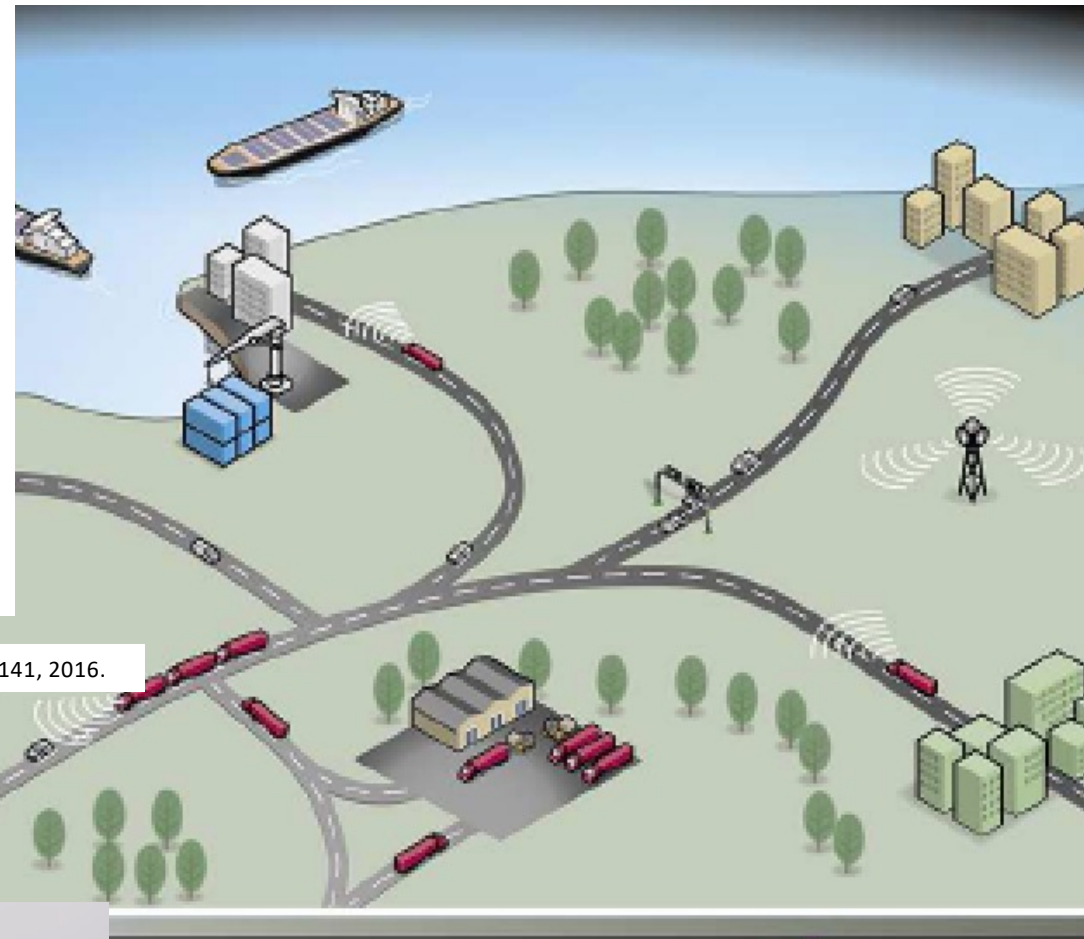
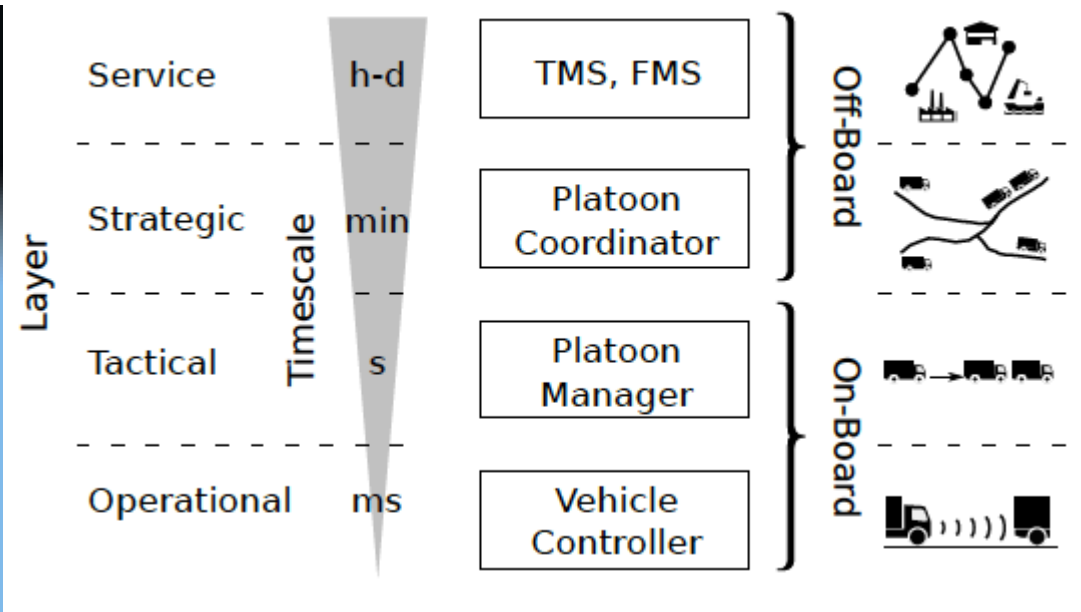
Transport CO2 Emissions in the Sustainable Development Scenario

GtCO₂ per year

Why focus on fuel and automation for trucks?

Life cycle cost for European heavy-duty vehicle





B. Besselink et al., Cyber-physical control of road freight transport. Proceedings of IEEE, 104:5, 1128-1141, 2016.



Control of Vehicle Platoons

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON AUTOMATIC CONTROL, VOL. AC-11, NO. 3, JULY, 1966
On the Optimal Error Regulation of a String of Moving Vehicles

W. S. LEVINE, STUDENT MEMBER, IEEE, AND M. ATHANS, MEMBER, IEEE

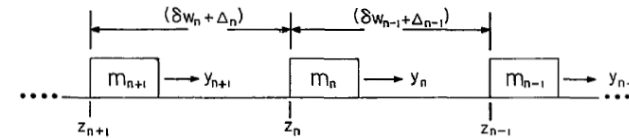
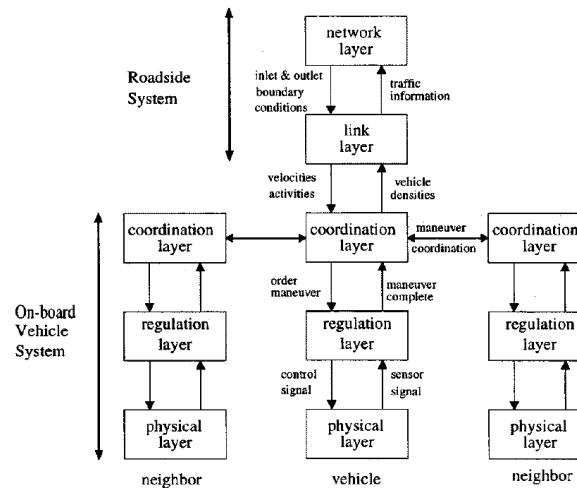


Fig. 1. Vehicles moving in a string.



PATH platoon demo San Diego 1997



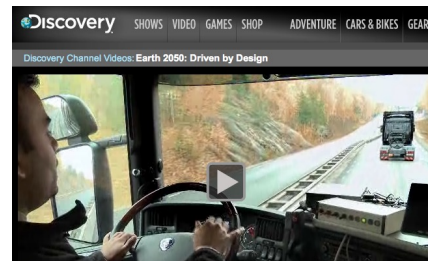
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON AUTOMATIC CONTROL, VOL. 38, NO. 2, FEBRUARY 1993

Smart Cars on Smart Roads: Problems of Control

Pravin Varaiya, *Fellow, IEEE*



Scania

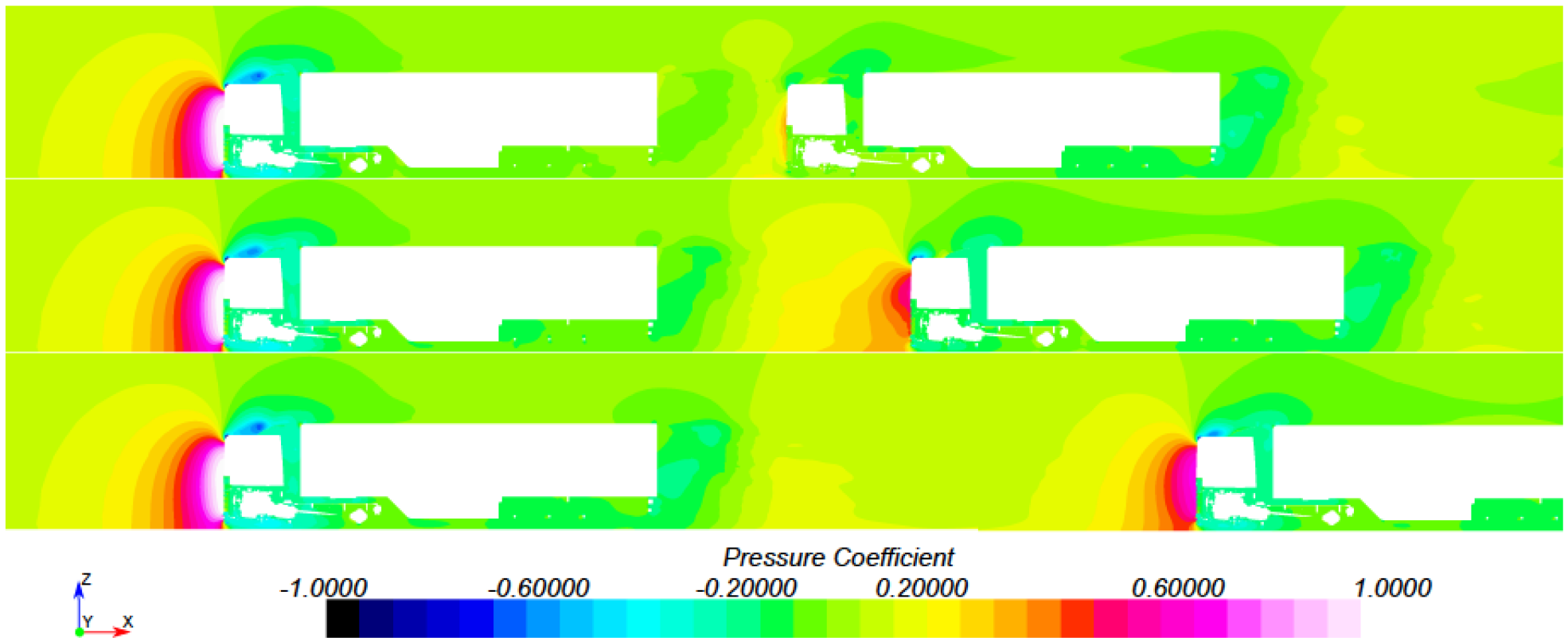


Swedish success stories



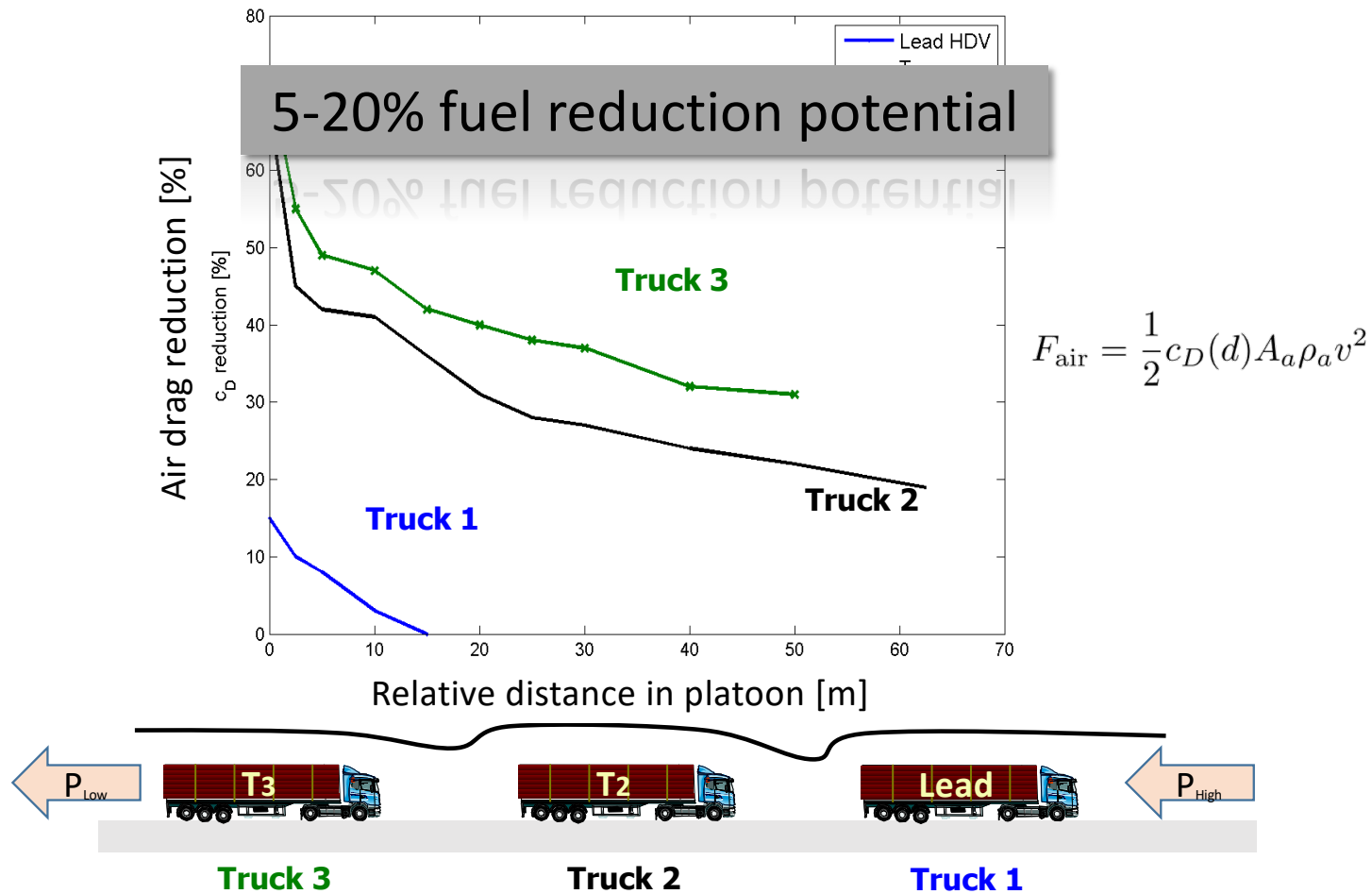
Volvo

The Physics



Norrby (2014), Liang (2016)

Air Drag Reduction in Truck Platooning

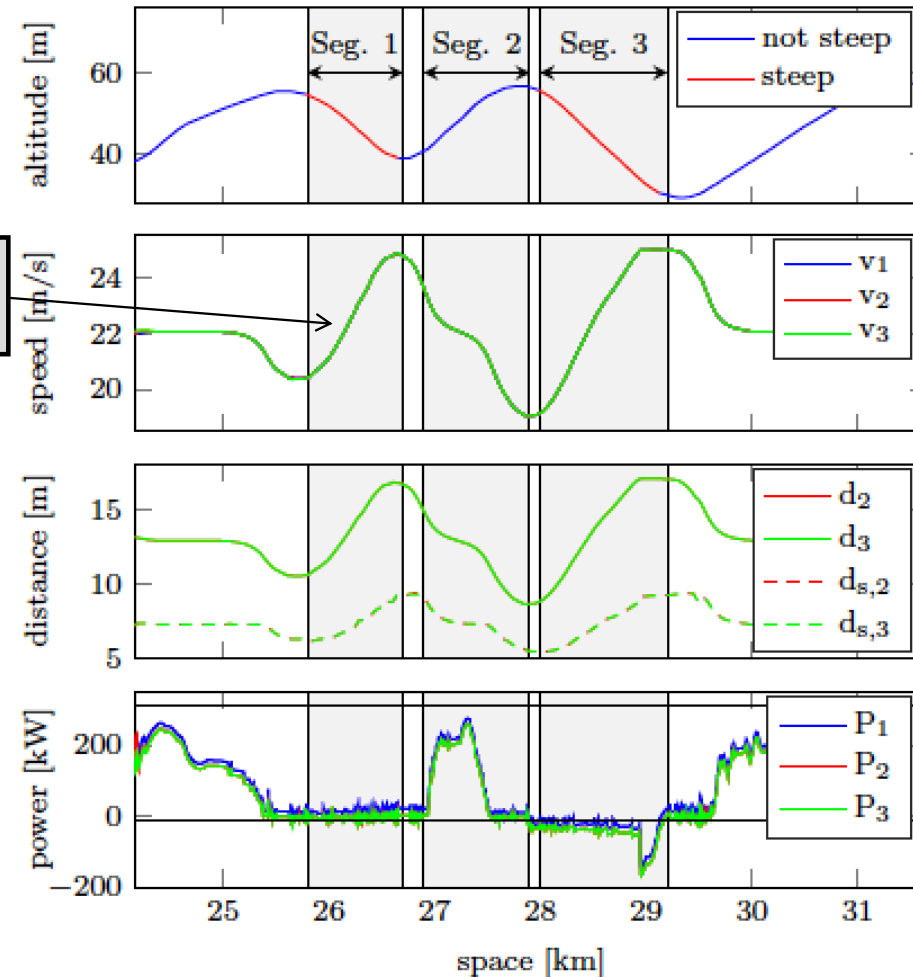
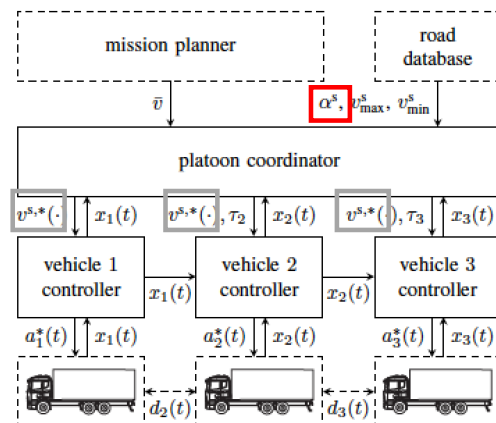


Wolf-Heinrich & Ahmed (1998), Bonnet & Fritz (2000), Scania CV AB (2011)

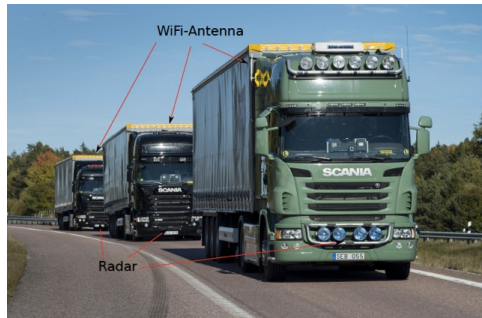
Simulations **with** Platoon Coordinator and Look-ahead **Road Grade Information**



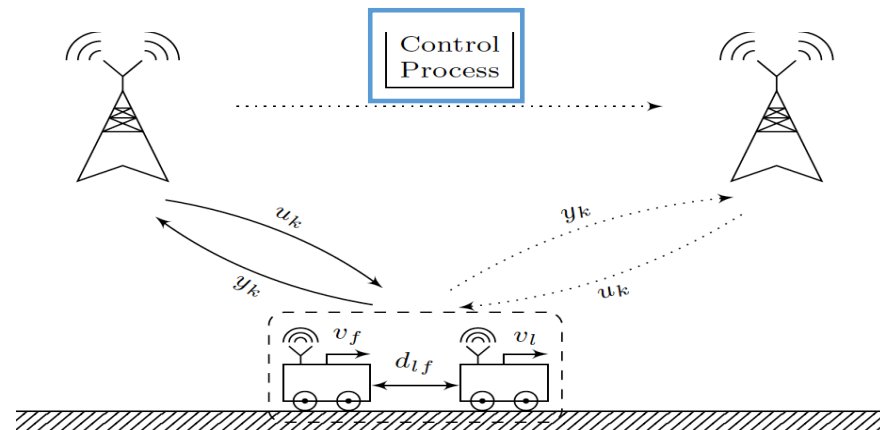
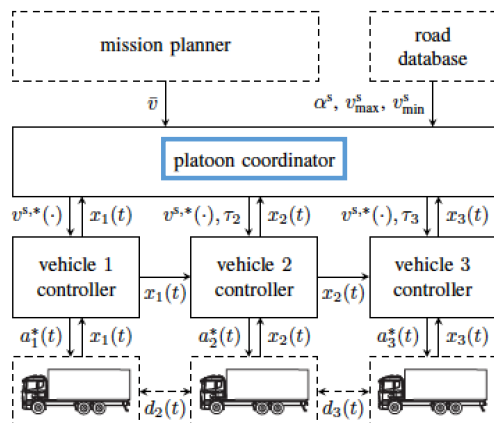
Successful tracking of common platoon velocity reference



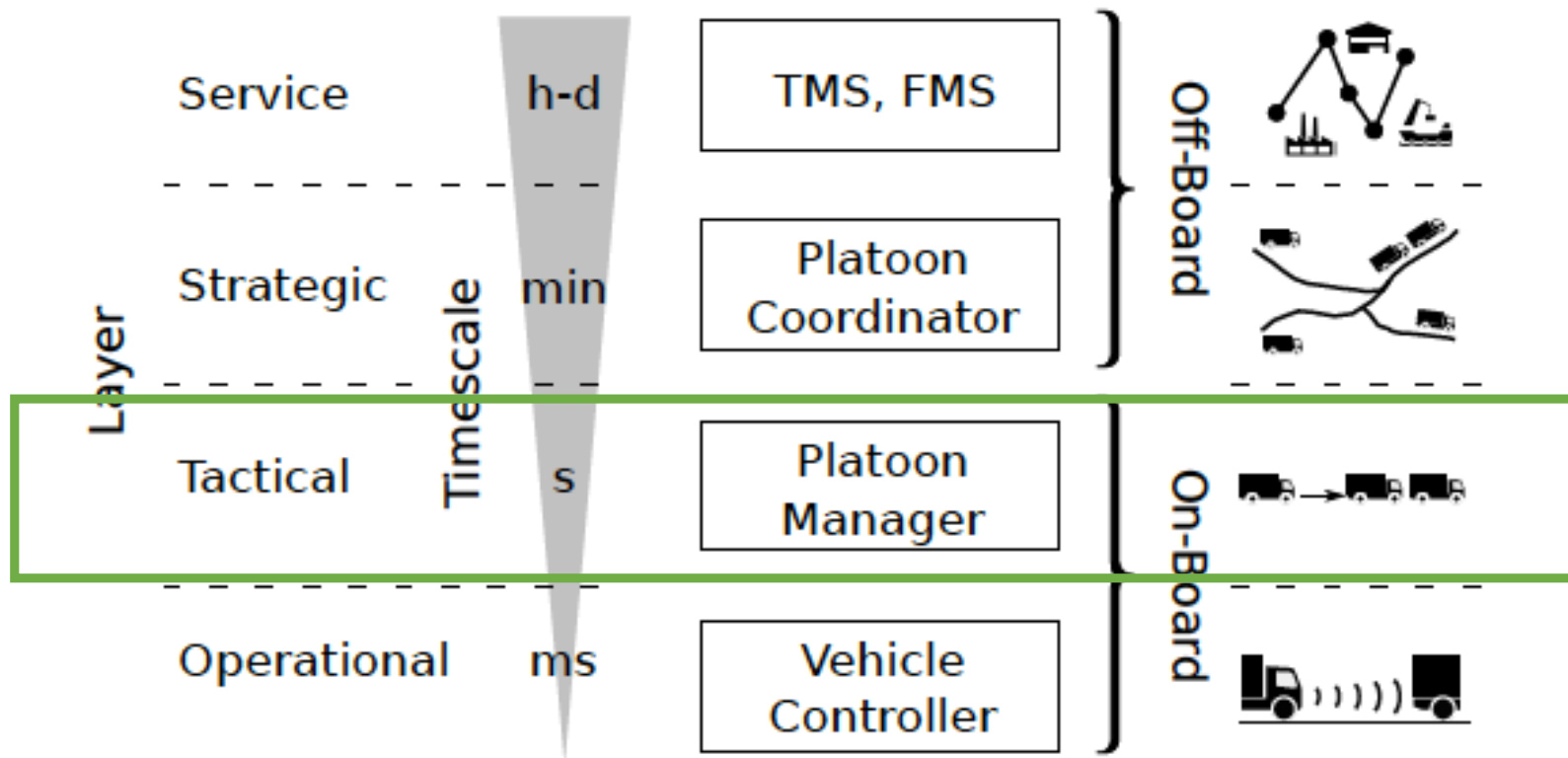
5G Cellular Implementation of Platoon Coordinator



- Platoon coordinator generates common velocity reference: $v_i(t) \rightarrow v_{\text{ref}}(s_i(t))$,
- Can be computed in the cellular system (4G, 5G, 6G)
- New handover scheme for moving control computations between base stations

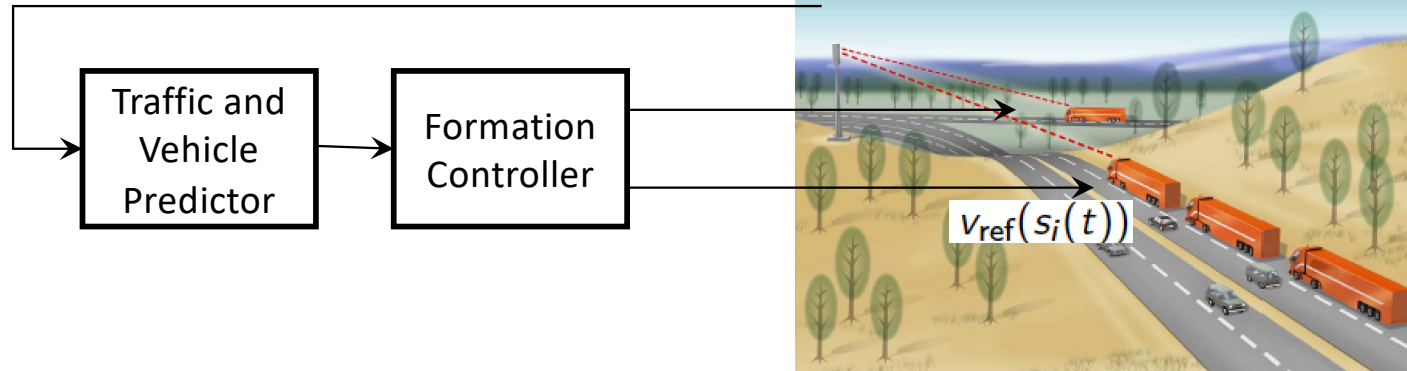


How to form platoons?

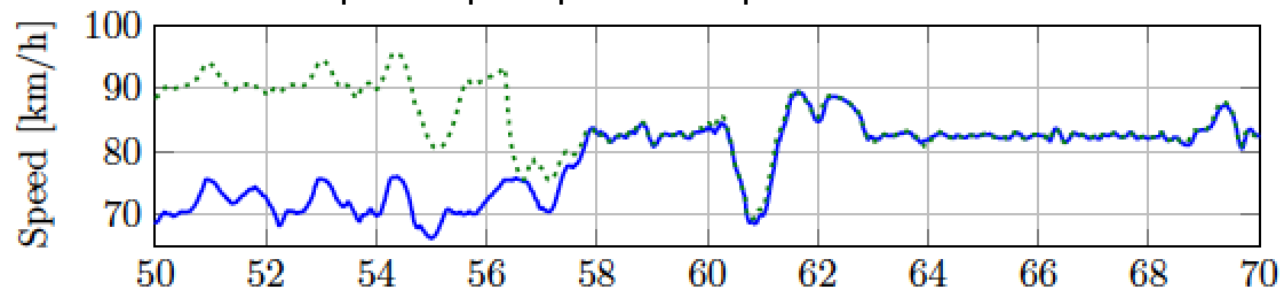


Platoon Formation

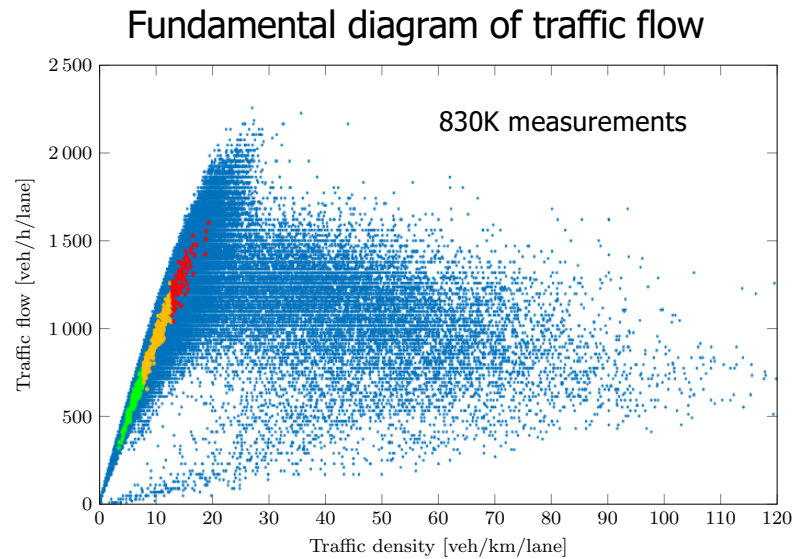
Feedback control of merging point based on real-time vehicle state and traffic information



Optimal speed profiles for platoon formation



Platoon Formation Experiments



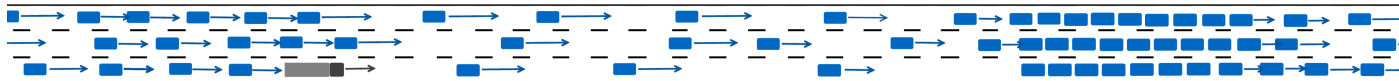
- 600 test runs on E4 in Nov 2015
- Traffic measurements from road units together with onboard sensors



Can controlled truck platoons be used to improve traffic conditions?



- Trucks act as bottlenecks moving in car traffic
- Regulate cars flowing into congested area



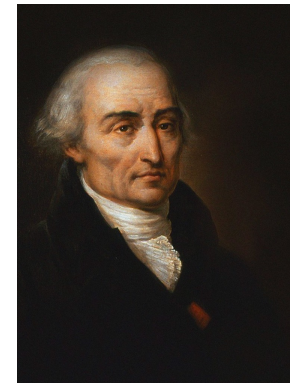
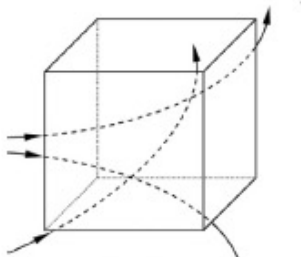
Lin et al., 2018; Cicic and J, 2018

Flows according to Euler and Lagrange



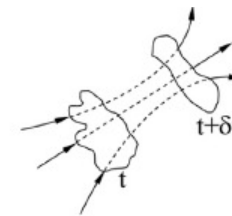
Leonhard Euler (1707-1783)

Euler was looking at fluid motion focused on specific locations in the space through which the fluid flows as time passes.



Joseph-Louis Lagrange (1736-1813)

Lagrange was looking at fluid motion where the observer follows an individual fluid parcel as it moves through space and time

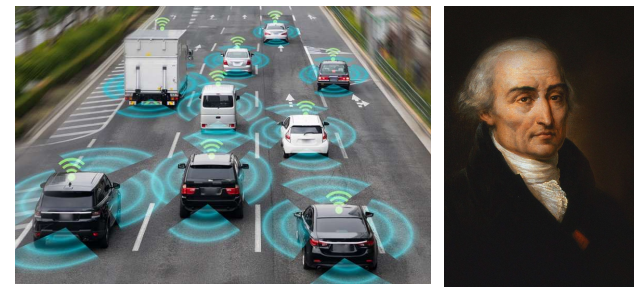


From Eulerian to Lagrangian traffic control



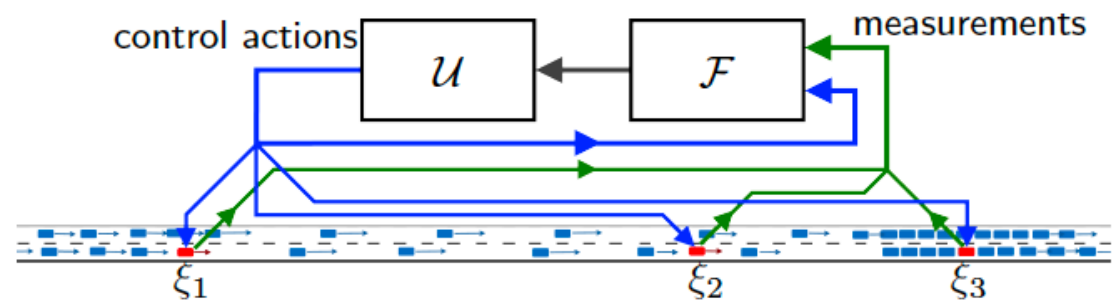
Leonhard Euler (1707-1783)

Stationary observer of the flow
Traffic control based on fixed infrastructure
High deployment costs and limited flexibility

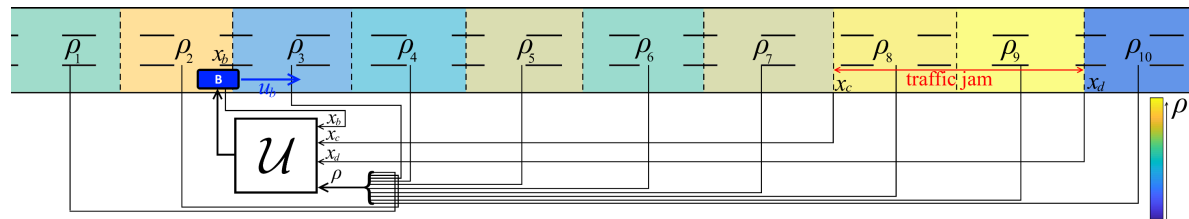


Joseph-Louis Lagrange (1736-1813)

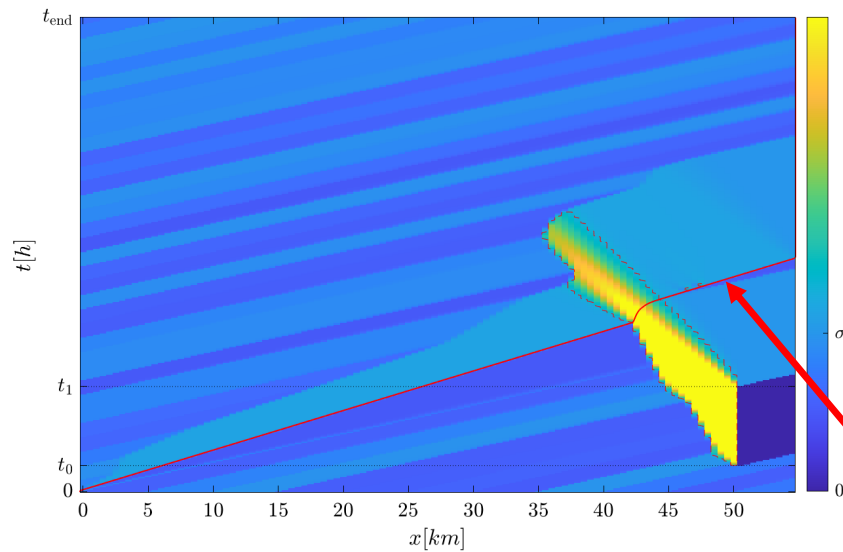
Observers moves with the flow
Traffic control based on mobile sensors and actuators
Need for a new system theoretic foundation



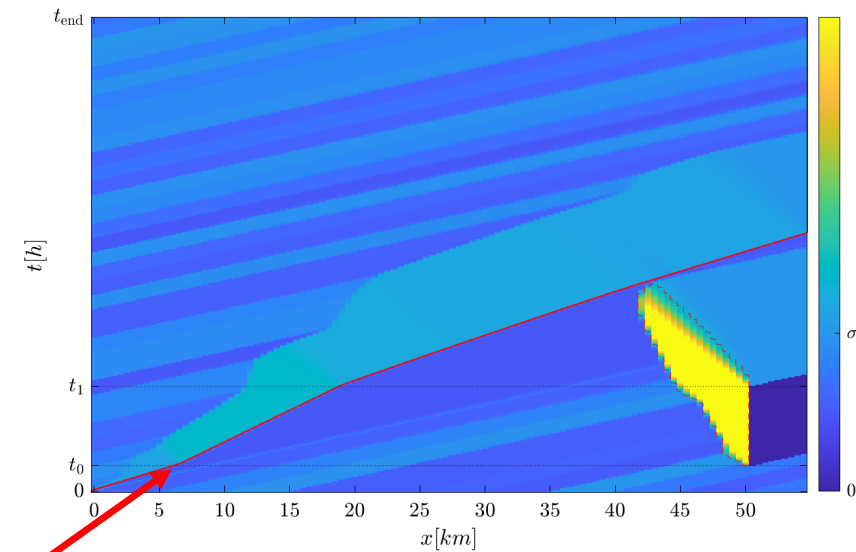
Control truck platoon velocity to dissipate traffic congestion



Without truck platoon control

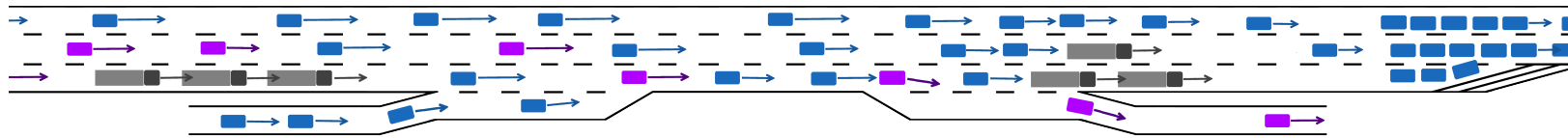


With truck platoon control

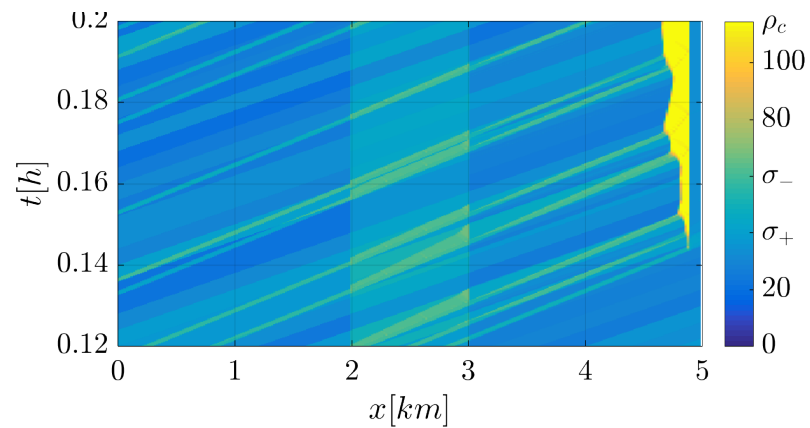


Truck platoon trajectory

Truck platoon control reduces traffic congestion

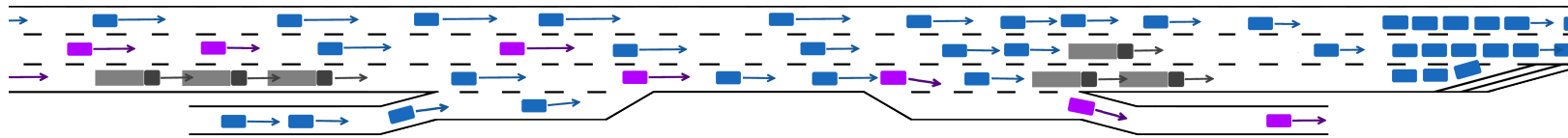


Without truck platoon control

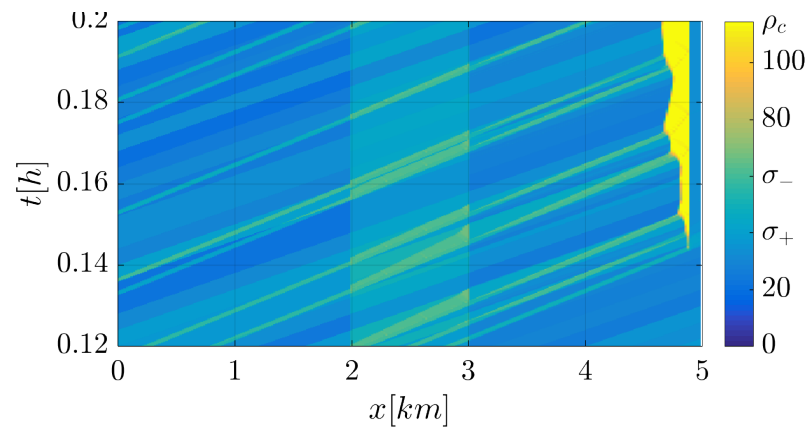


38% total travel time increase
due to traffic congestion

Truck platoon control reduces traffic congestion

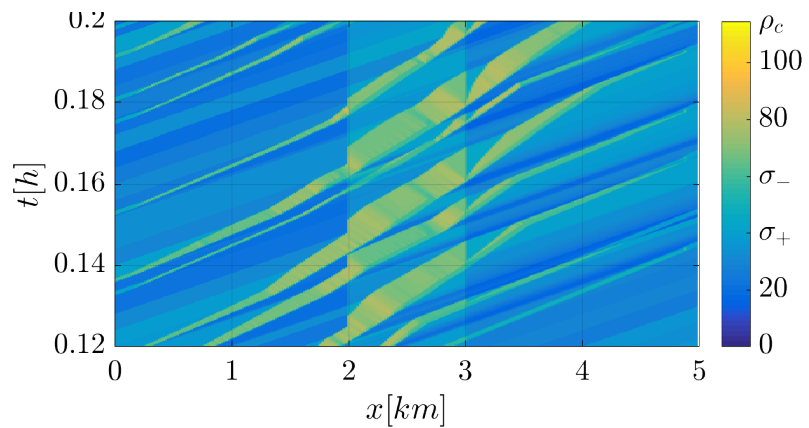


Without truck platoon control



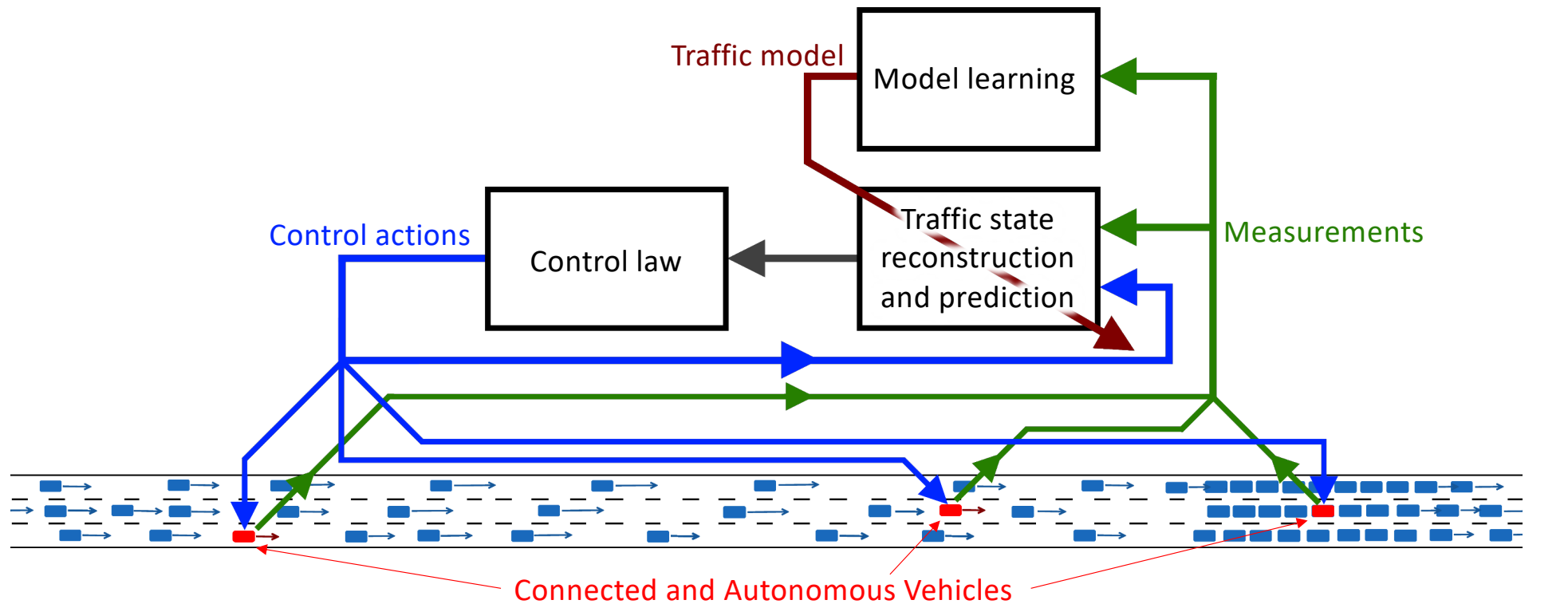
38% total travel time increase
due to traffic congestion

With truck platoon control

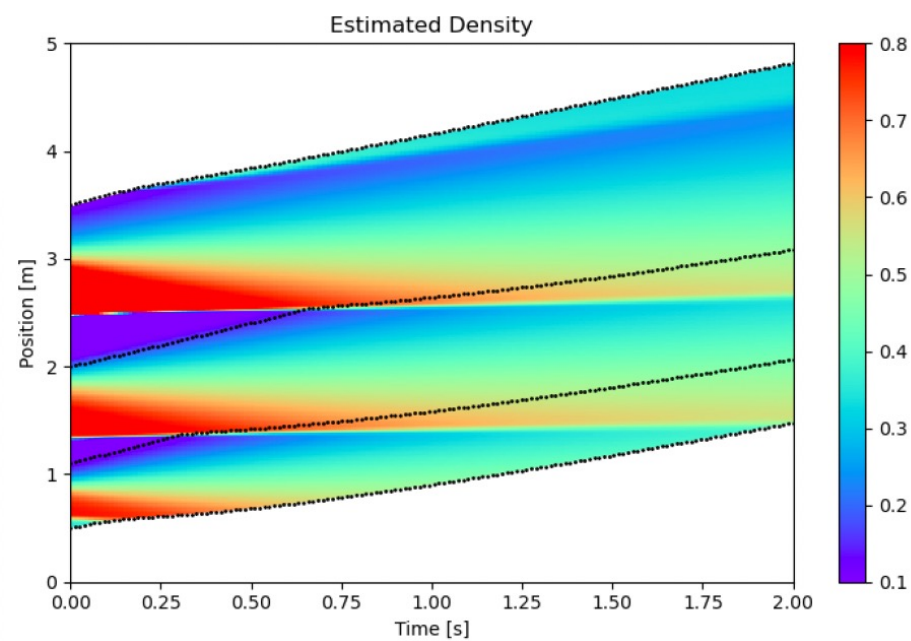
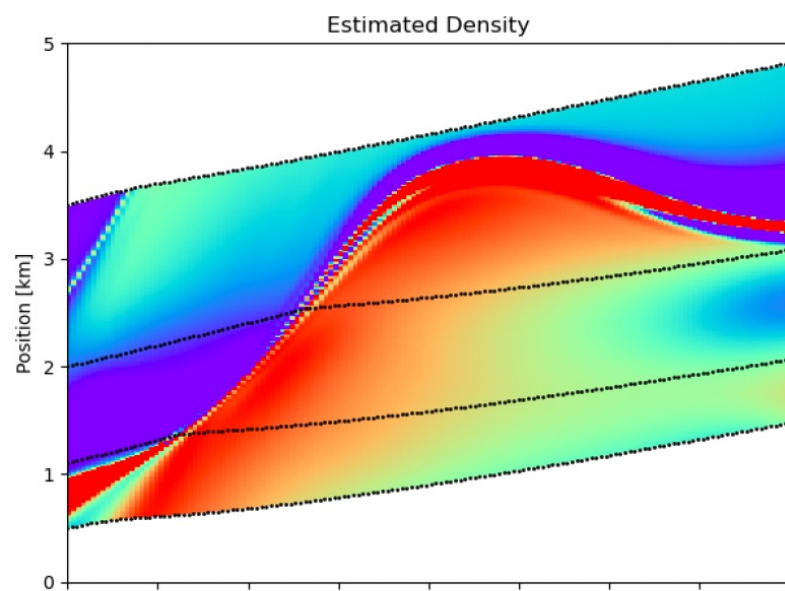
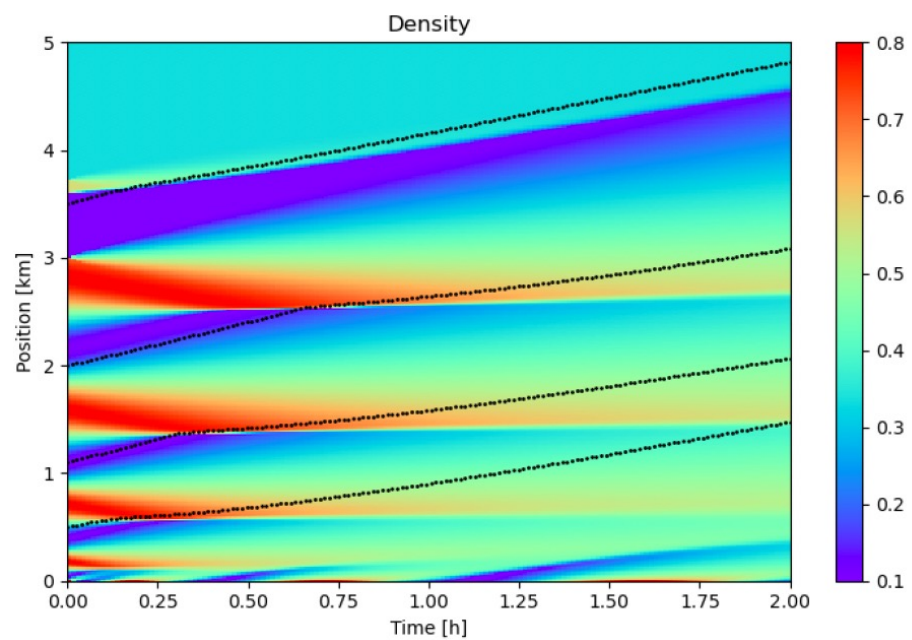


8% total travel time increase
due to traffic congestion

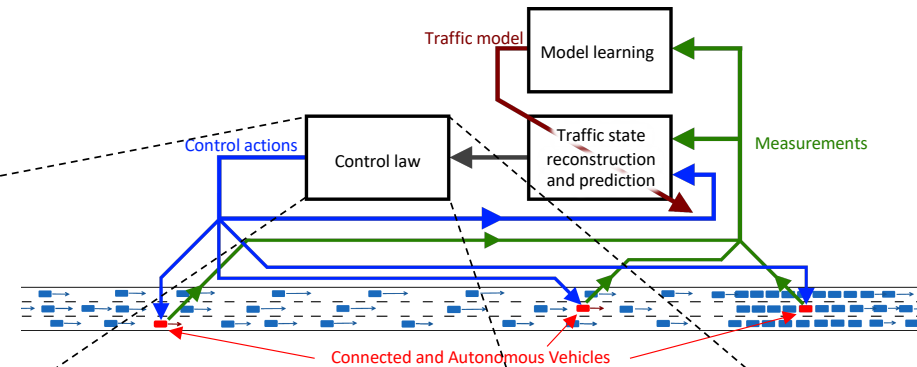
Lagrangian traffic control system



$$\frac{\partial \rho(x, t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q(\rho(x, t), x, t)}{\partial x} = 0$$



Control law



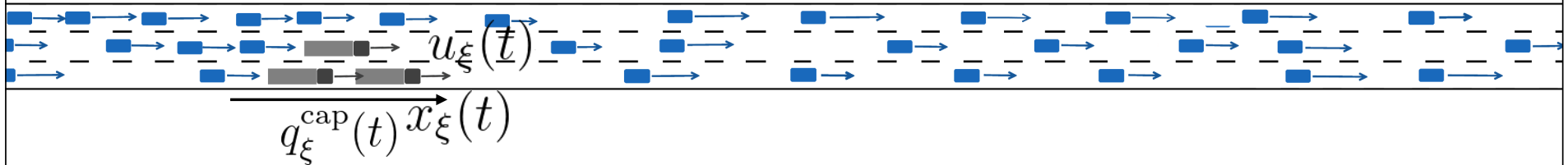
Control the traffic flow at the positions of available controlled vehicles

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} \\ &u_{\xi}(\cdot) \in [u^{\min}, u^{\max}] \\ &q_{\xi}^{\text{cap}}(\cdot) \in [q^{\text{lo}}, q^{\text{hi}}] \end{aligned}$$

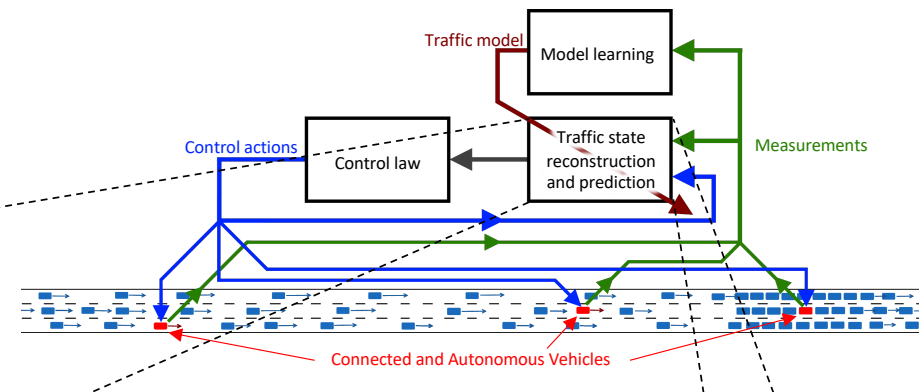
subject to

Total Time Spent

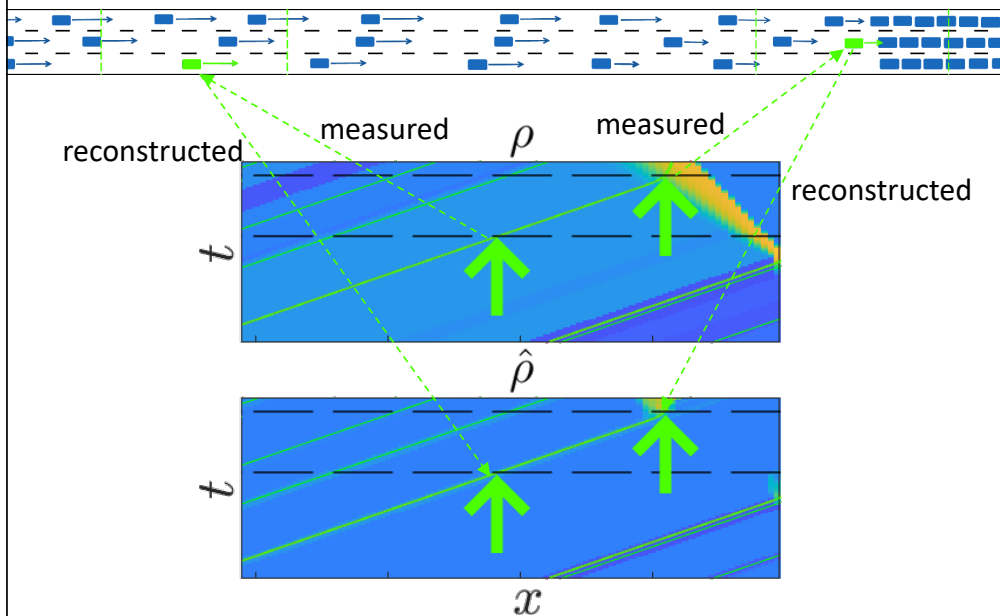
traffic dynamics with moving bottlenecks
controlled vehicles dynamics and constraints



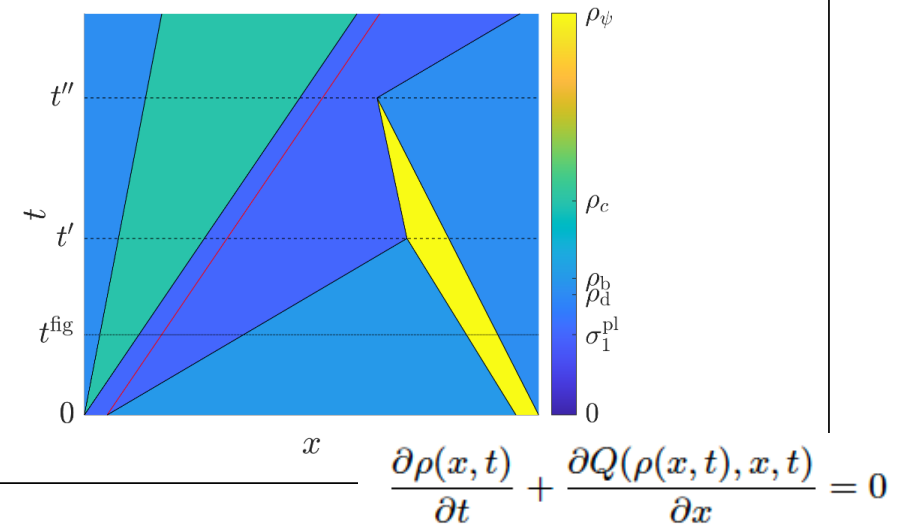
Traffic state reconstruction and prediction



- Use local traffic measurements to reconstruct the traffic state



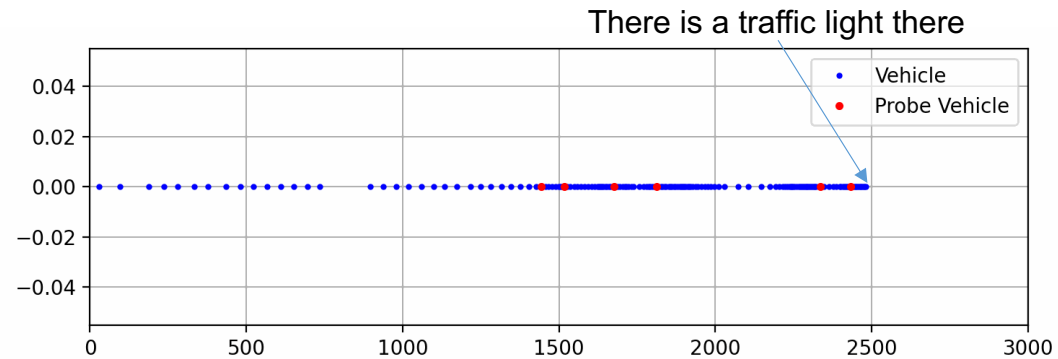
- Traffic evolution prediction given applied control actions
 - Front-tracking Transmission System Model



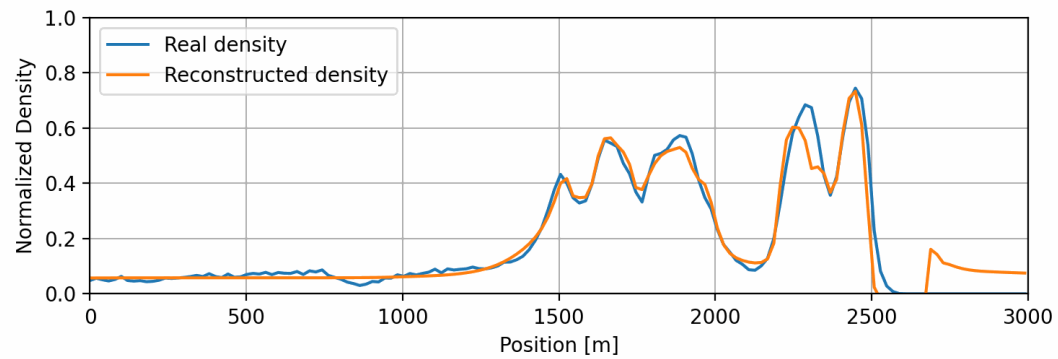
$$\frac{\partial \rho(x, t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q(\rho(x, t), x, t)}{\partial x} = 0$$

State Reconstruction using Probe Data

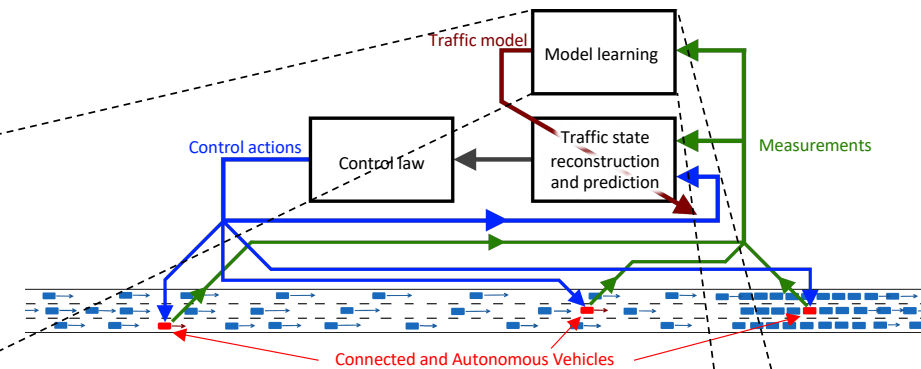
Microscopic simulation



Reconstruction algorithm

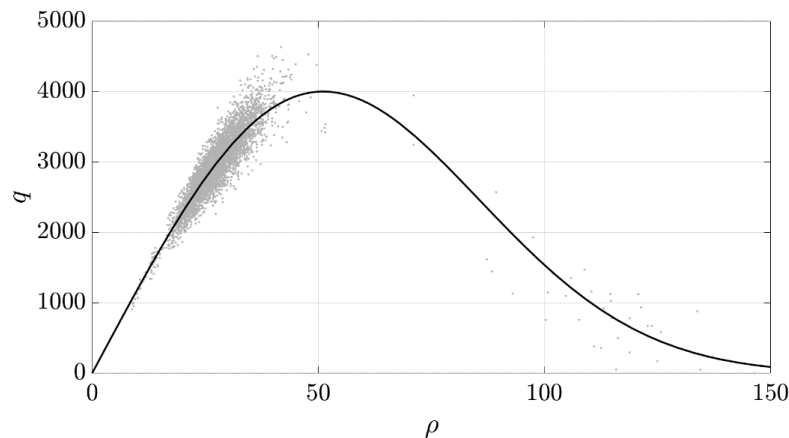


Model learning

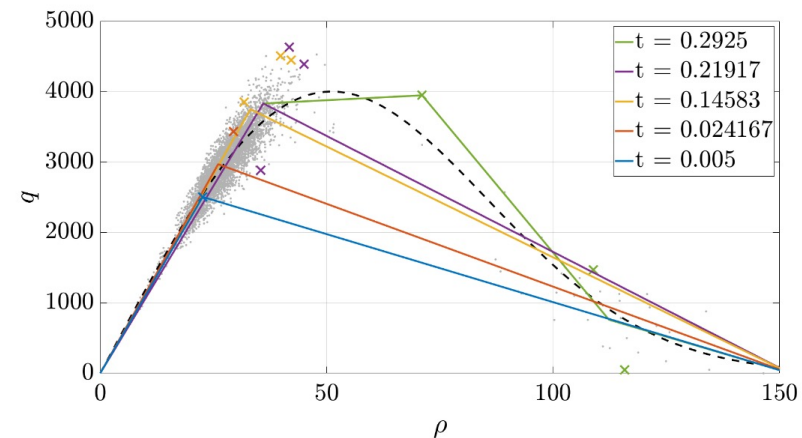


- Learn all flux functions using collected traffic measurements

- Parametric, *batch* – assume a flux function form and minimize deviations from all measurements



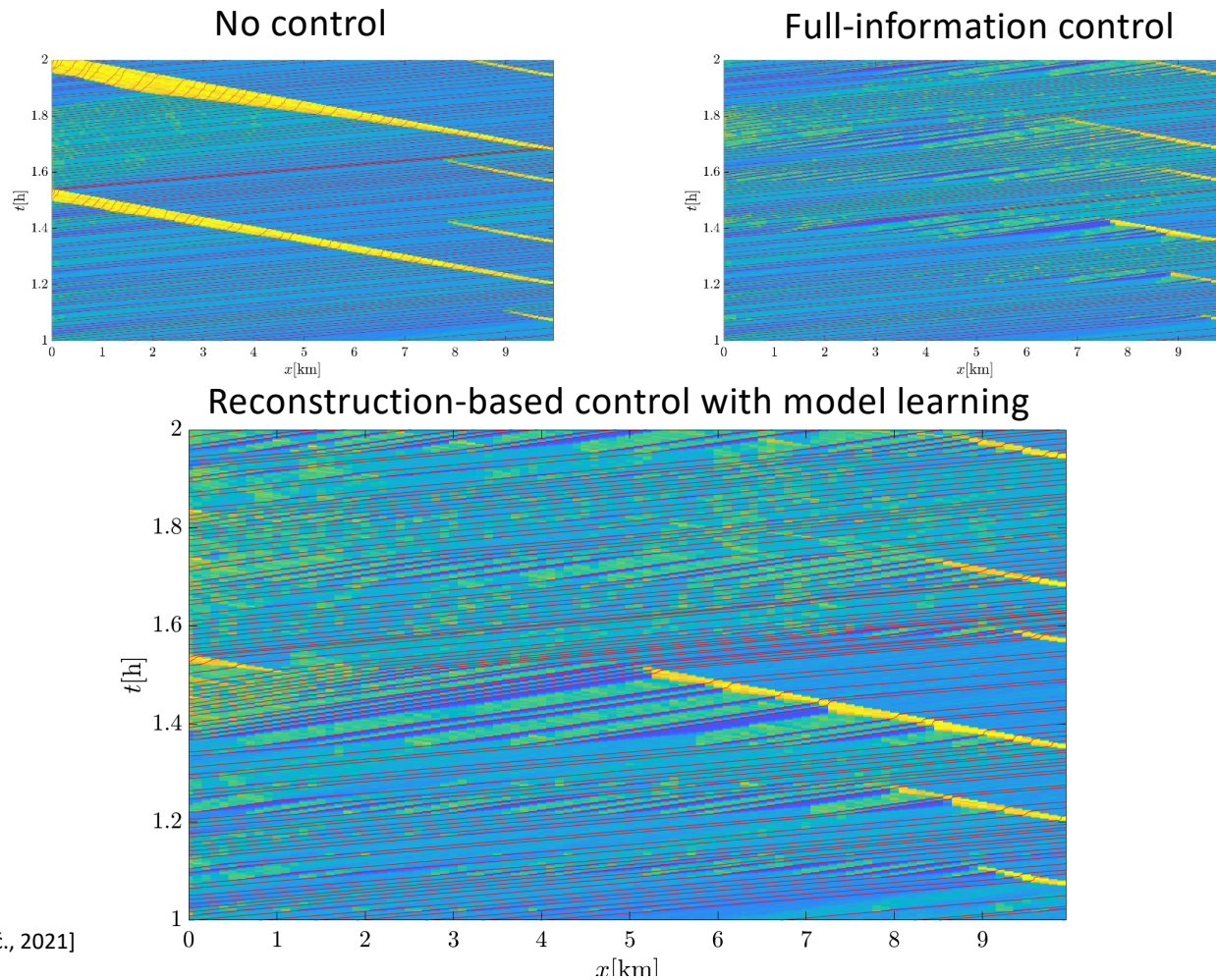
- Nonparametric, *stream* – piecewise linear flux function with nodes based on measurements as they become available



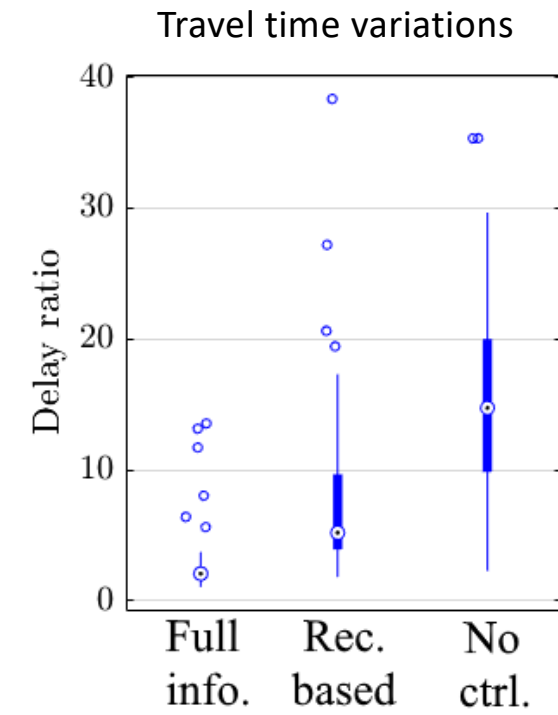
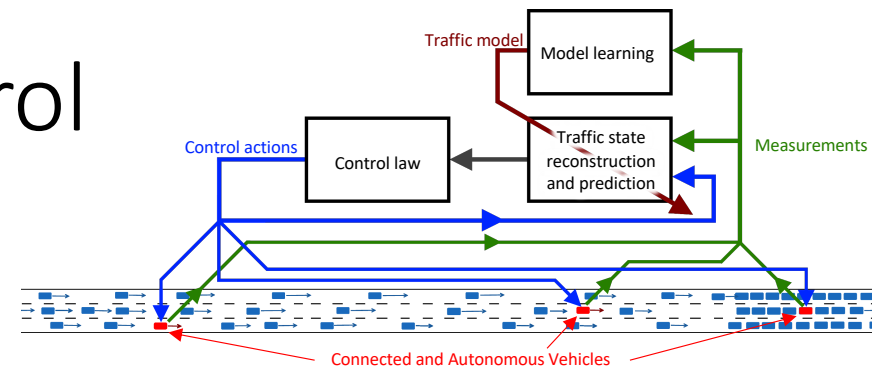
$$\frac{\partial \rho(x, t)}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q(\rho(x, t), x, t)}{\partial x} = 0$$

Cf., physics-informed machine learning [M Raissi et al., 2019]

Evaluation of Lagrangian control

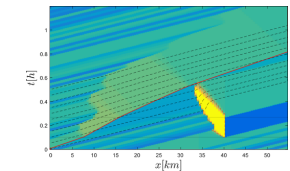
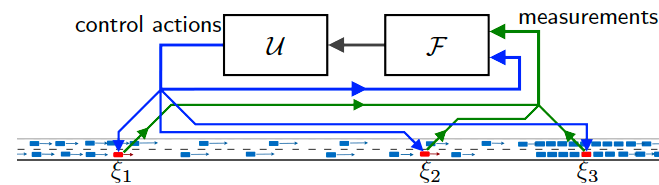
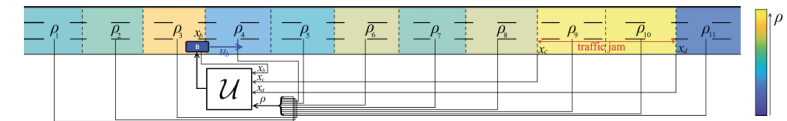
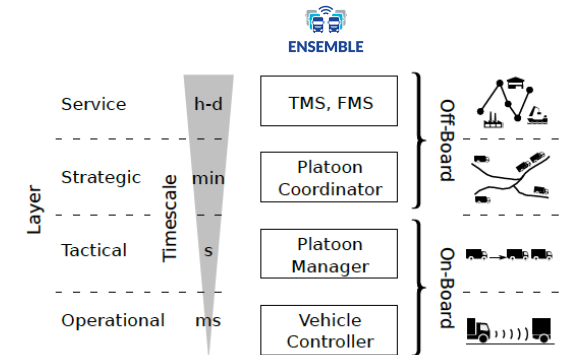


[Čičić, 2021]



Conclusions

- Layered **architecture** for automated road freight transport enables significantly **lower energy and operation costs**
- Automated truck platoons to **reduce traffic congestion**
- **Platoons** acting as probe vehicles (**sensors**) and moving bottlenecks (**actuators**)
- **Traffic state reconstruction** based on physics-informed machine learning
- **Related work** on safe autonomy, data privacy, market mechanisms



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Vehicle platooning impact on traffic

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