

# Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in Hong Kong: Recent Development & Future Applications

**Ir Prof. William H.K. Lam** 林兴强教授工程师

**Chair Professor of Civil & Transportation Engineering and  
Head**

**Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering**

**The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

**香港理工大学土木及环境工程学系**

**E-mail: [cehklam@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:cehklam@polyu.edu.hk)**

**Website: [www.cee.polyu.edu.hk/~cehklam](http://www.cee.polyu.edu.hk/~cehklam)**



**Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering**

**The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

1970

1980

1990 - 2000

Planned New  
Development  
Area (2014)

New Town  
Development

Hong Kong  
International  
Airport

Shenzhen

Border

New Territories

Kowloon

Downtown

Hong Kong Island

# Background

- Population: Over 7.23 million
- Total area : 1,104 km<sup>2</sup>, about 24% land developed
- Car ownership: 68 per 1,000 people, about 10% of the US figure, despite a similar level of GDP
- Urban density: 27,000 persons/km<sup>2</sup> (*Developed land average*)
- In comparison: LA – 3,144;  
Taipei – 9,650; Tokyo – 7,100; Bangkok – 1,301
- **13 million** daily trips, ~**10%** of car trips
- *Road length = 2,090km*
- *No. of licensed vehicle = 694,600 (as at September 2014)*
- *160,300 commercial vehicles out of 694,600 licensed vehicles in Hong Kong in September 2014.*

# Hong Kong - *A high density populated city*



# Within-day & Day-to-day Recurrent and **Non-Recurrent** Congestion Problems

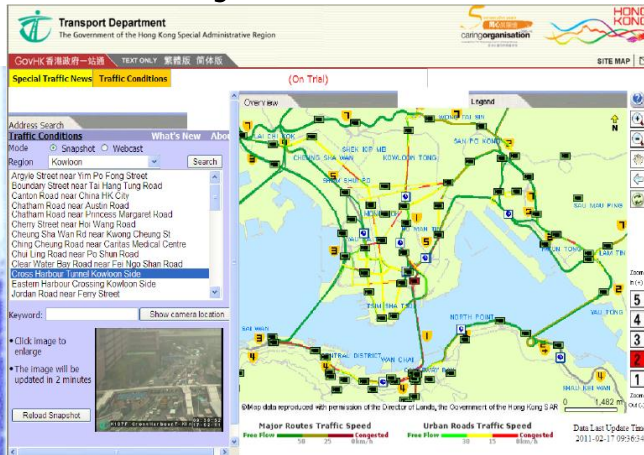
- There are **with-in day** and **day-to-day recurrent** and **non-recurrent** traffic congestion problems in densely populated cities such as Hong Kong. It has considerable impact on economic productivity, environment and safety.
- However, due to the topography of Hong Kong, there are hardly any feasible sites for further expansion of existing road network. To alleviate the **recurrent and non-recurrent traffic congestion problems** in Hong Kong, recent attention has been given to develop **intelligent transportation systems (ITS)**.



# Better Use of New Technologies

## Objective

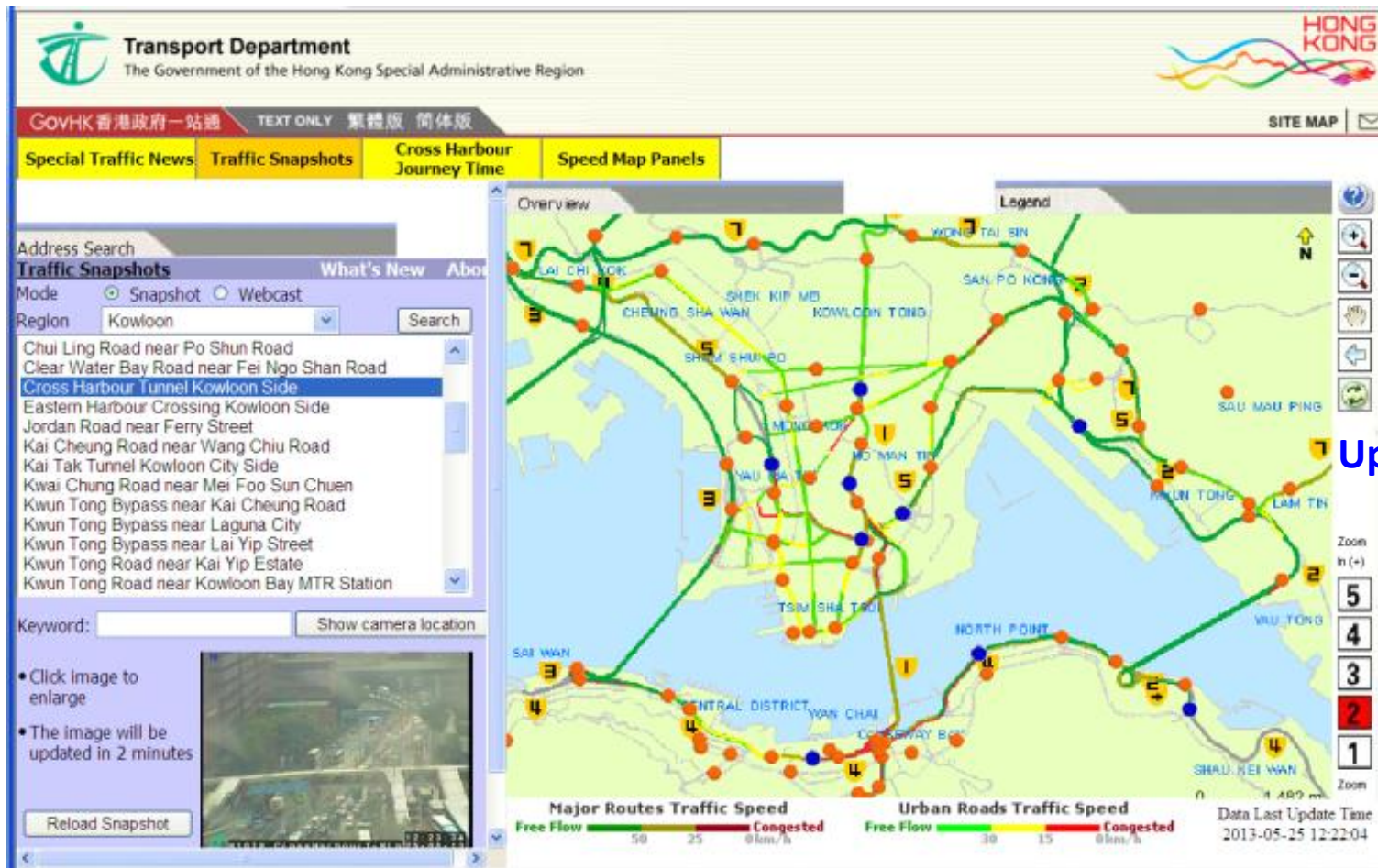
***“ The use of new technologies will be encouraged to increase the efficiency of traffic management, improve the overall capacity of the road system, and enhance road safety . ”***



The background of the slide is a solid orange color. Overlaid on this is a faint, white, stylized outline map of Hong Kong, showing its main island and surrounding areas. A light yellow grid is also visible across the entire orange background.

# **Recent ITS Development in Hong Kong**

# Real-time Traffic Information System (RTIS)



Update once every  
5 minutes !

- Launched in Hong Kong Transport Department's website in January 2007;
- Recently updated in May 2010 with use of the latest road network in Hong Kong

Accuracy of speed color is 90%

[http://tis.td.gov.hk/rtis/ttis/index/main\\_partial.jsp](http://tis.td.gov.hk/rtis/ttis/index/main_partial.jsp)

# Hong Kong eRouting

**運輸署**  
Transport Department

**香港行車易**  
Hong Kong eRouting

Mobile Website  
Mobile Application

繁 簡

**Route Search**

From:  Keywords:

To:  Keywords:

☒ Shortest Travel Time ☐ Lowest Toll (Private Car Only) ☐ Shortest Distance

Reset Search

**Please take note of the restrictions/prohibitions on the road segments at below.**

**Result:**

| Distance(km): | Time(min): | Toll(\$): |
|---------------|------------|-----------|
| 5.2           | 12.5       | 20        |
| 10.3          | 24.3       | 55        |
| 17.5          | 35.2       | 25        |

**Other Option:**

| Distance(km): | Time(min): | Toll(\$): |
|---------------|------------|-----------|
| 10.3          | 24.3       | 55        |
| 17.5          | 35.2       | 25        |

1. Start Point keep going to YUK CHOI ROAD 72m

2. YUK CHOI ROAD keep/turn left to HONG TAI PATH 150m

3. HONG TAI PATH keep/turn left to HONG CHONG ROAD 114m

4. HONG CHONG ROAD keep/turn left to HONG CHONG ROAD 92m

Back View Route

**Category Search**

**Hyperlinks** Special Traffic News Traffic Speed Map Traffic CAM Online Special Traffic and Transport Arrangements

- **Deterministic** travel time
- Single criterion
  - Shortest time
  - Lowest toll
  - Shortest distance

Launched in Hong Kong Transport Department's website in mid-2010  
<http://hkerouting.gov.hk/drss/index.php?lang=EN>

# Journey Time Indication System (JTIS)



Update once  
every 2 minutes !



**Accuracy of the computed journey time is within  
+/- 20% errors with a compliance of 95%**

Launched on the major routes of Hong Kong Island in mid-2009 and of Kowloon area in mid-2010 .

# Speed Map Panels (SMP) in the New Territories of Hong Kong

Launched in January 2013



Accuracy of the computed journey time and speed range (in form of color) is within +/- 20% errors with a compliance of 95%

# Real-time Traffic Data Collection Technologies adopted in Hong Kong



Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Detector



Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Reader

**There is a need to make use of all different types of detector data!!!**



Loop Detector

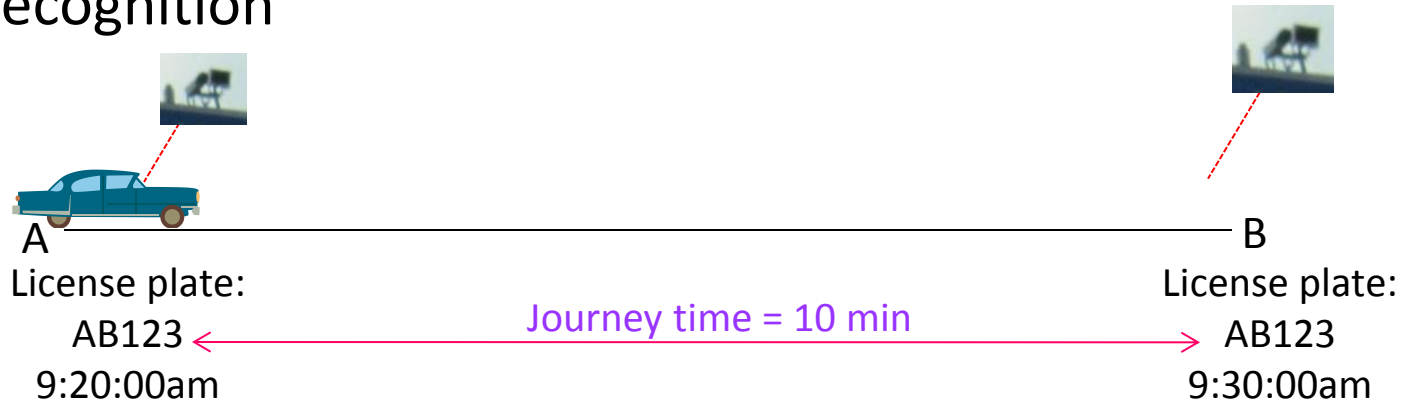


Video Detector

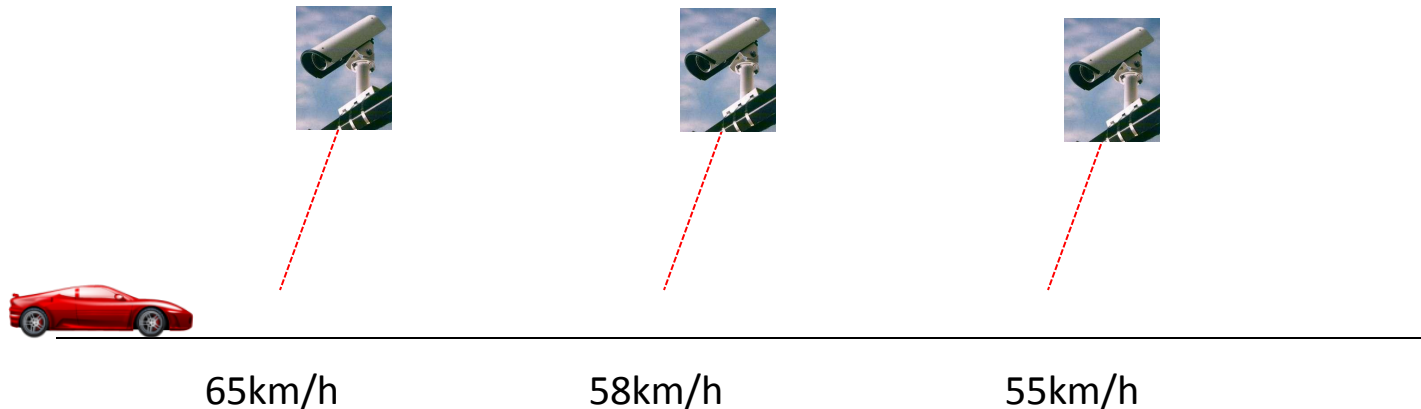
# Two Types of Traffic Detectors Adopted in **SMP**



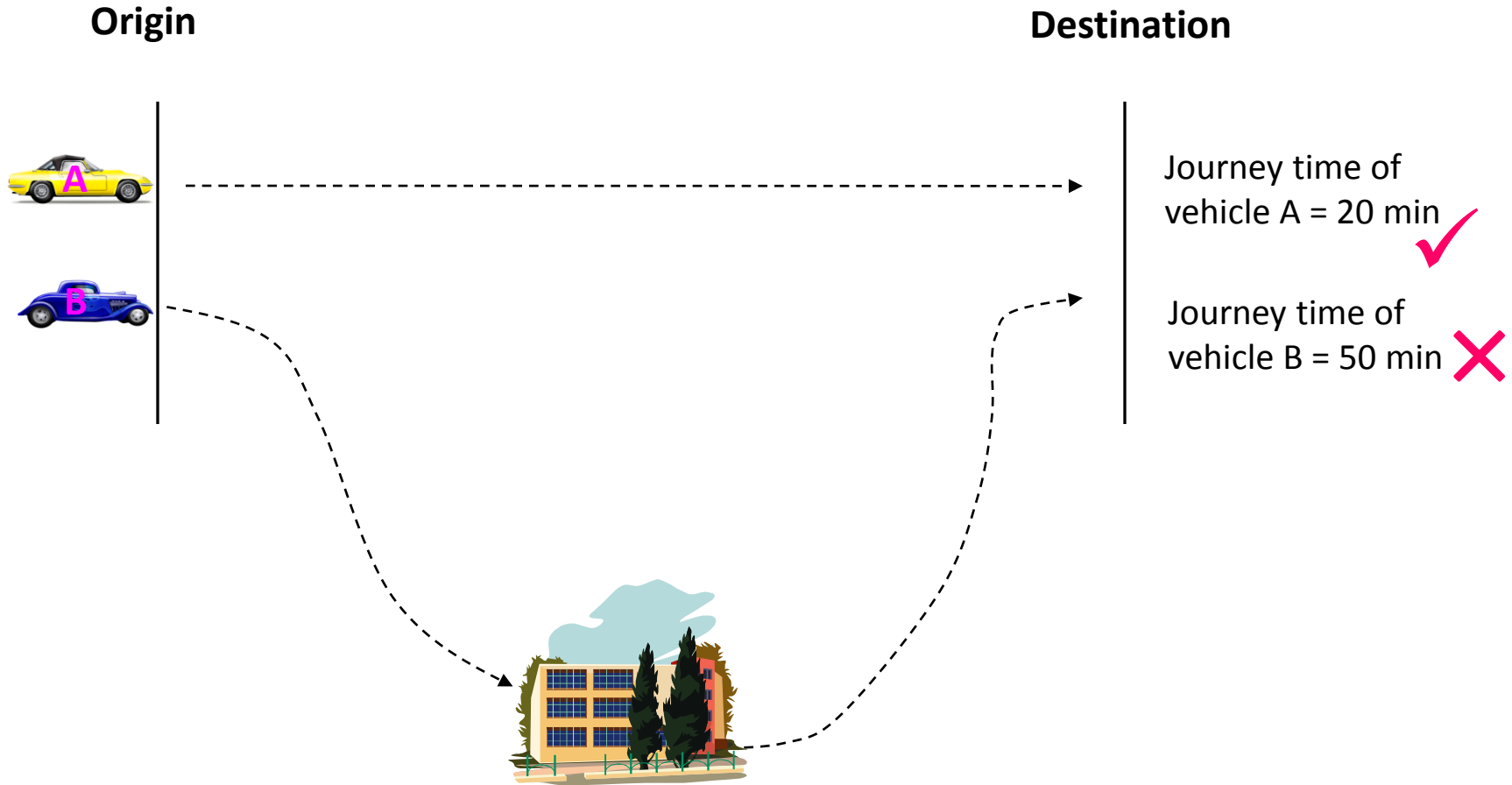
- **Link speed detector (LSD)** by automatic license plate recognition



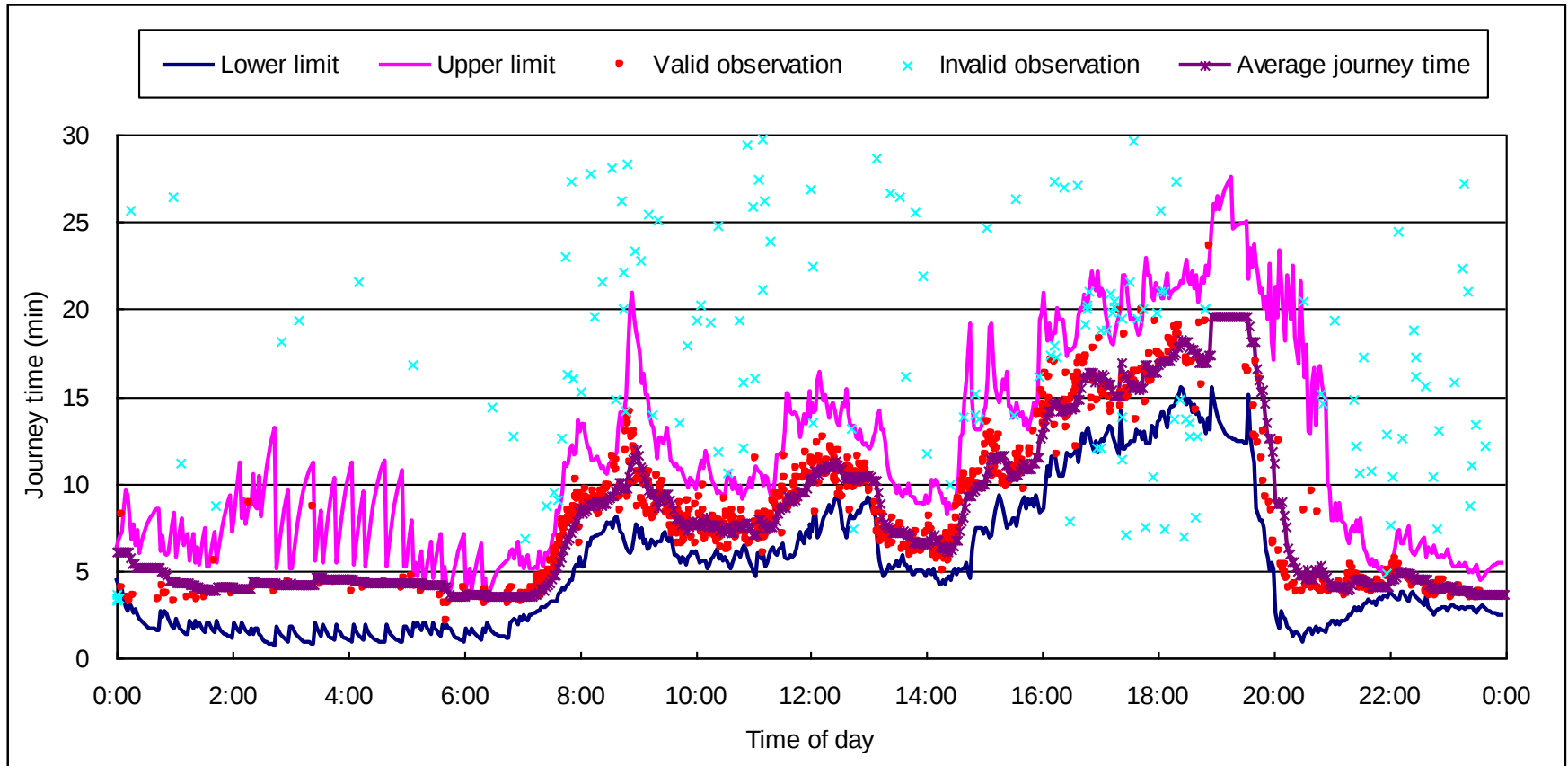
- **Spot speed detector (SSD)** by video image processing



# Filtering of Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI) Data Captured by **LSD**



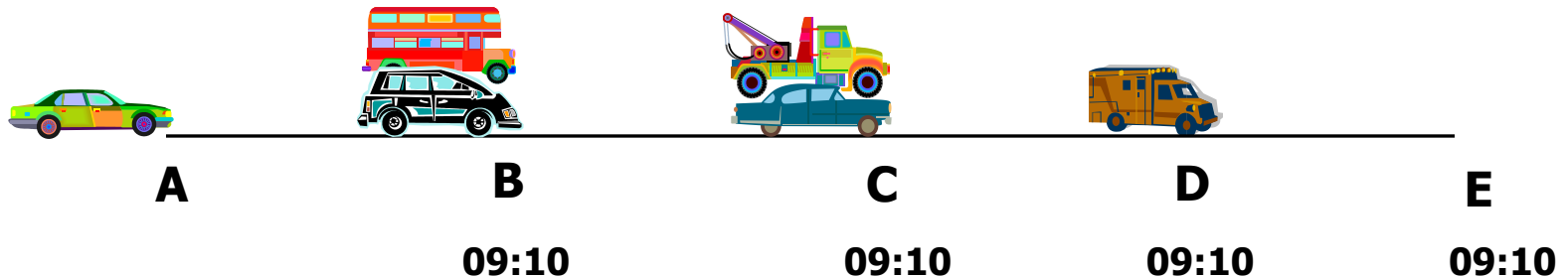
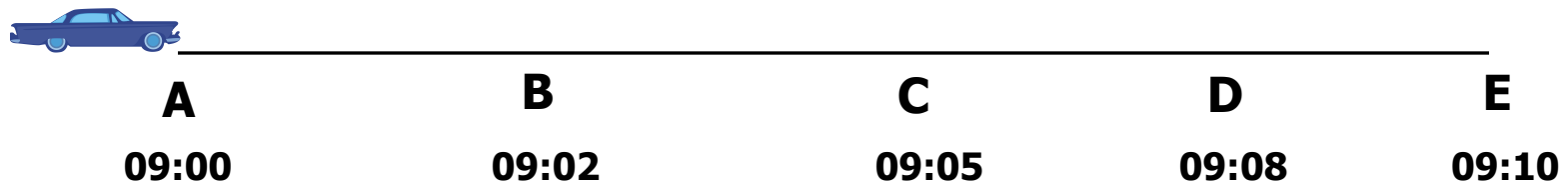
# Data Filtering Method for Generating Dynamic Journey Time Windows (at 2-min intervals)



Selected path: JHK1-CH (11 May 2009)

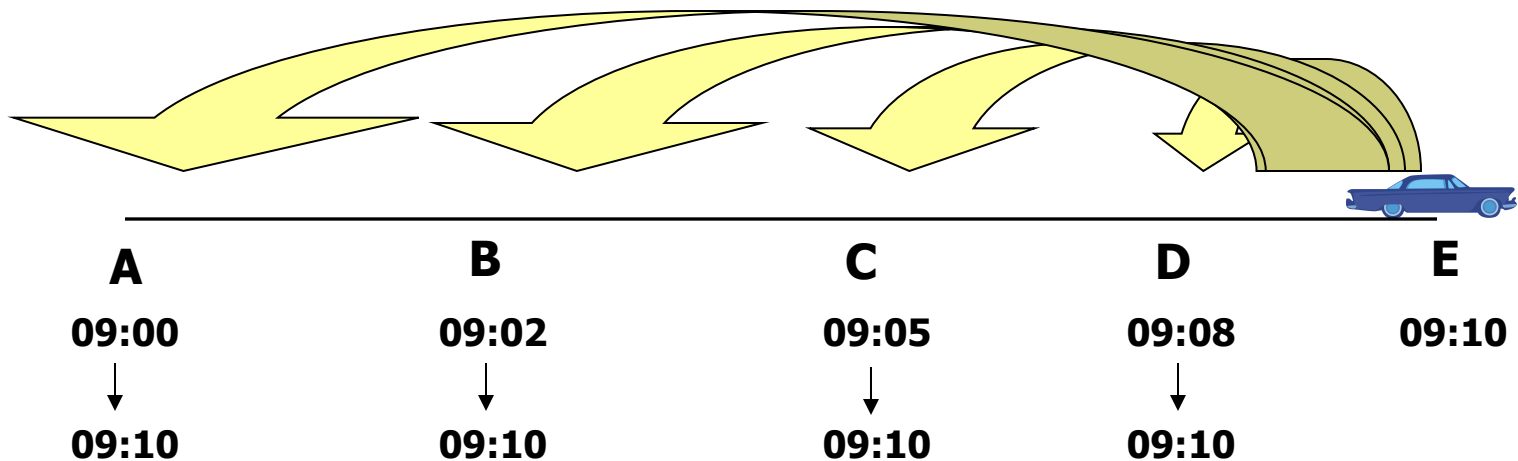
# Completed vs. Instantaneous Journey Times

Autotoll tag data  
= 10 min



# Instantaneous Journey Time Estimation

- Use covariances of travel times to update the journey time (from tag data) to instantaneous state



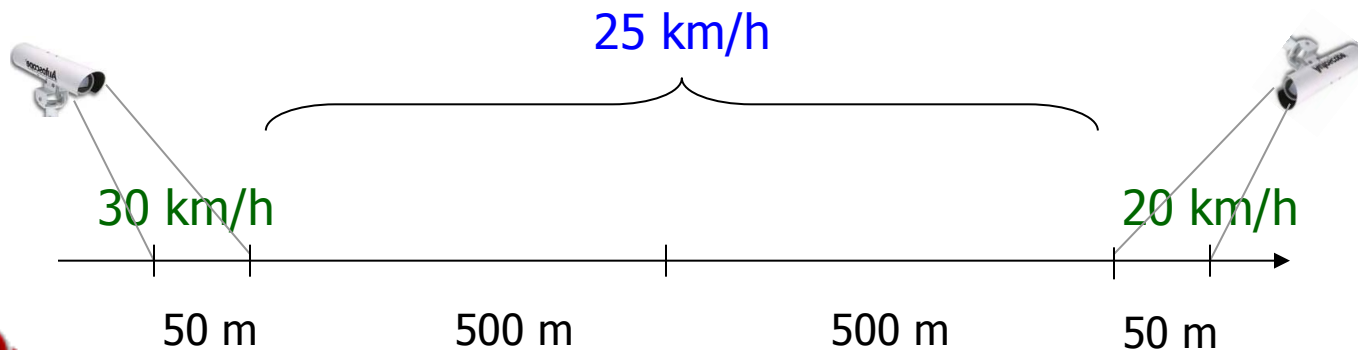
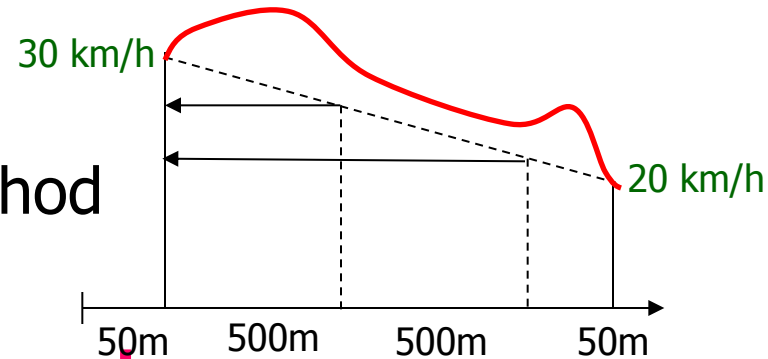
# Autoscope Speed Data

- Space mean speed
- Time mean speed



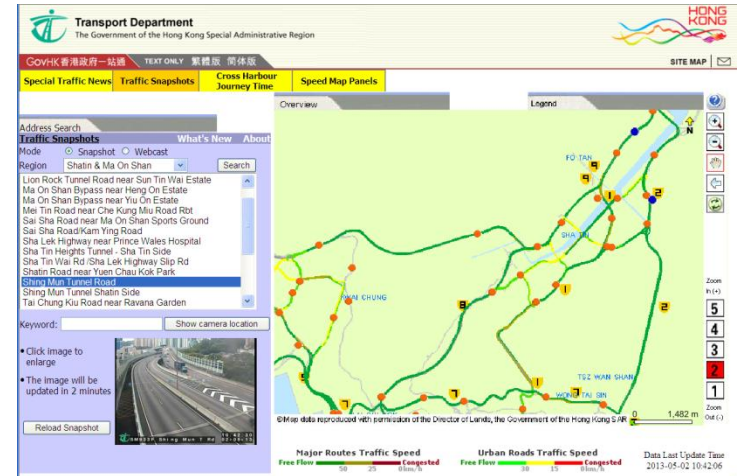
# Journey Time Estimation Method for VIP Data

- Average speed method
- Piecewise linear speed based method
- **Piecewise non-linear speed based method**

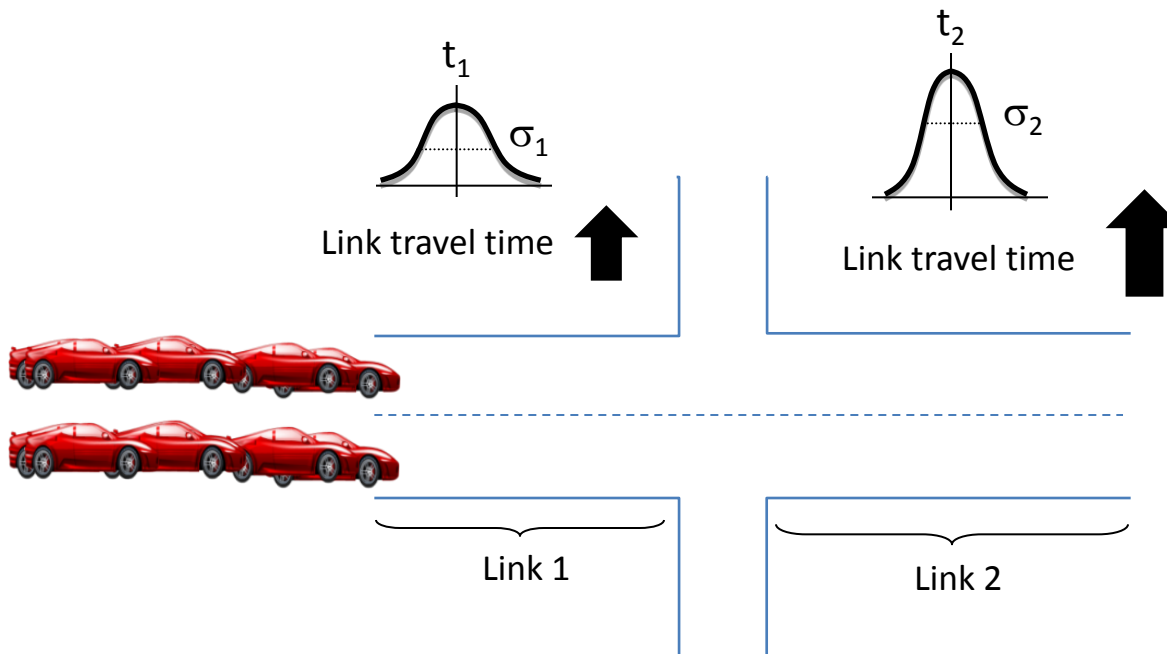


# Offline Travel Time Estimates

- ❖ Average link travel time estimates ( $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ )
- ❖ Spatial variance ( $\sigma_1^2$ ,  $\sigma_2^2$ ) and covariance ( $\sigma_1\sigma_2$ ) relationships of link travel times

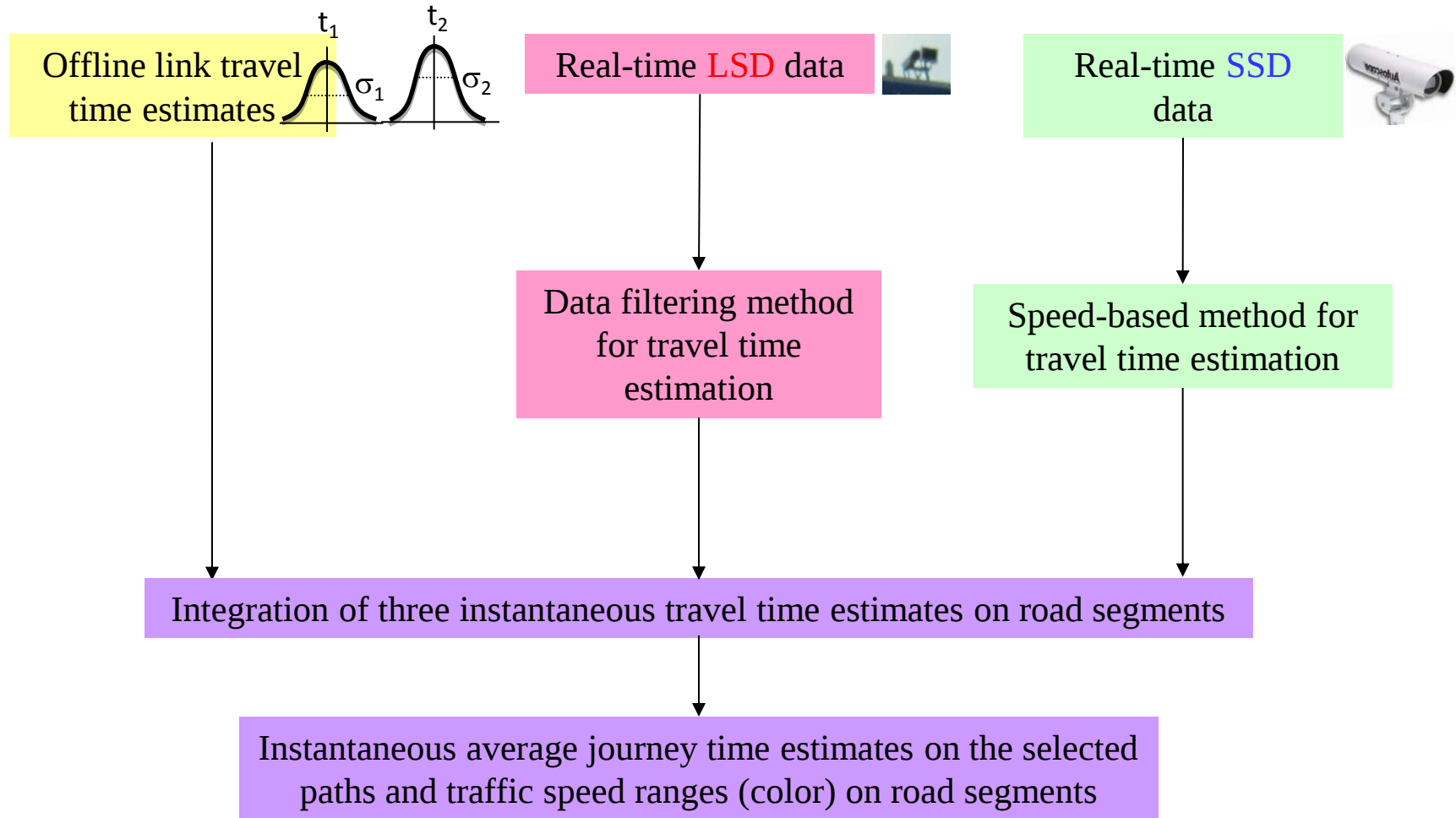


Real-time Travel Information System (RTIS)  
[http://tis.td.gov.hk/rtis/ttis/index/main\\_partial.jsp](http://tis.td.gov.hk/rtis/ttis/index/main_partial.jsp)



Lam W.H.K., Chan K.S. and Shi J.W.Z  
 (2002) A Traffic Flow Simulator for Short-term Travel Time Forecasting. *Journal of Advanced Transportation*, Vol. 36, No. 3, 265-291.

# Integrated Algorithm for Estimation of Instantaneous Average Journey Times and Traffic Speed Ranges



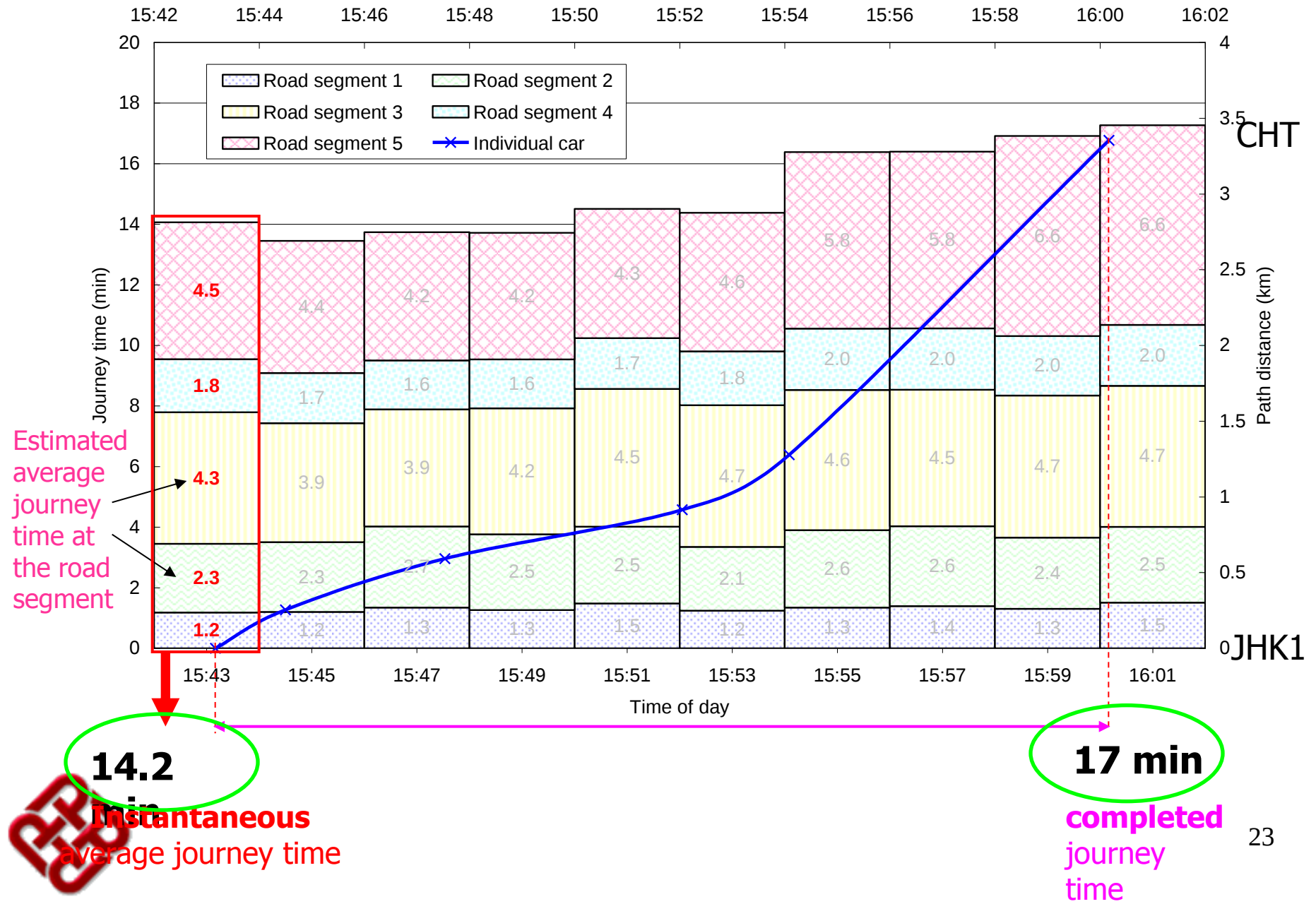
*Tam M.L. and Lam W.H.K. (2008) Using Automatic Vehicle Identification Data for Travel Time Estimation in Hong Kong. Transportmetrica, Vol. 4, No. 3, 179-194.*

# Validation Method

- Floating car method
- Observed average **instantaneous** journey times by test cars vs. **instantaneous** journey time estimates on each selected path for each two-minute interval during survey period.
- The targeted accuracy level of the computed journey time is within +/- 20% errors with a compliance of 95%.

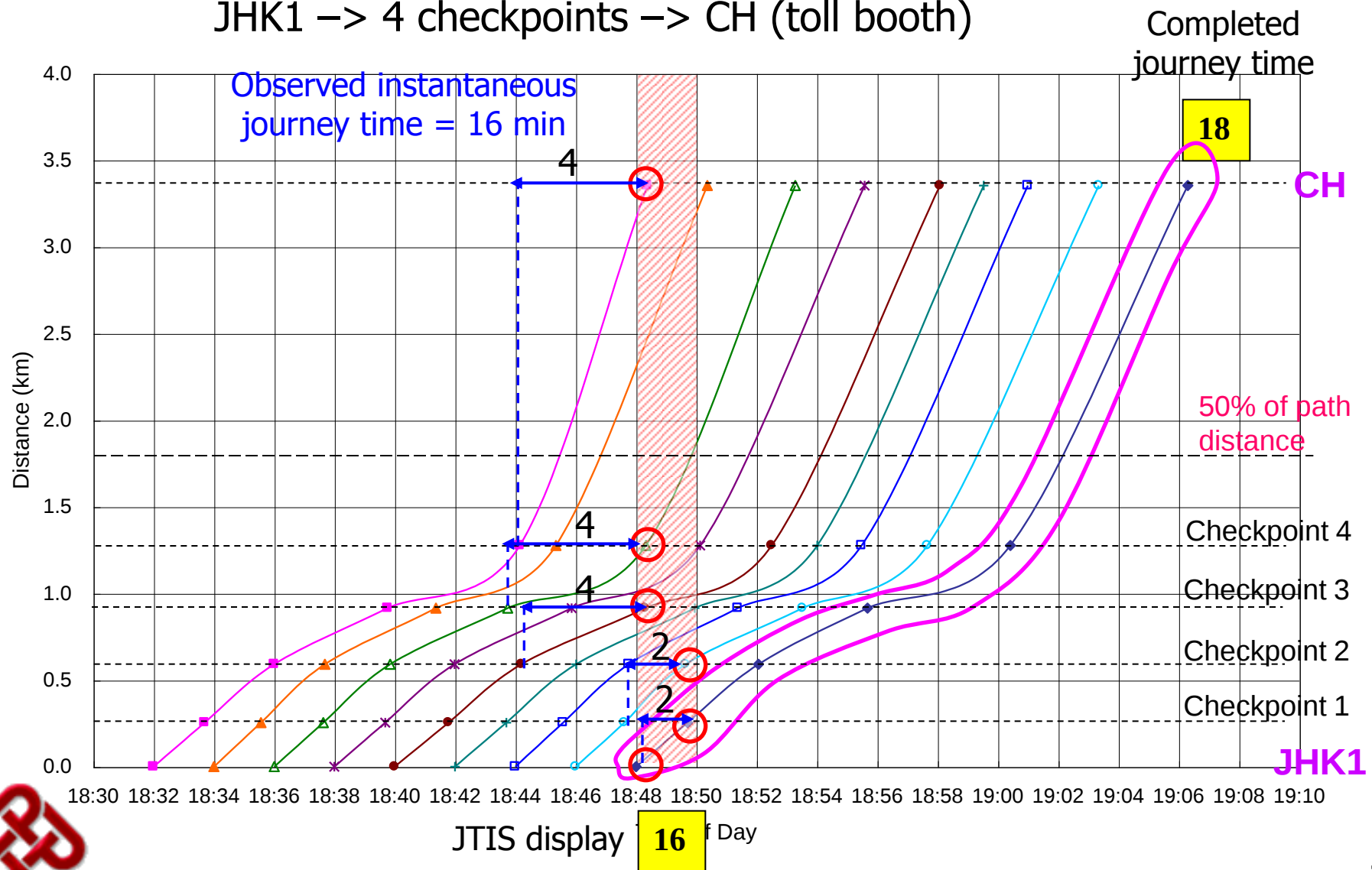


# Instantaneous Average Journey Time vs. Completed Journey Time of Test Vehicle



# Example: JHK1-CH with full set of observed data

JHK1 → 4 checkpoints → CH (toll booth)



# Sample Sizes for Validation of the Instantaneous Average Journey Times Provided by **SMP**

$$N \geq \left( \frac{z_{\alpha/2} s}{e} \right)^2$$

$\alpha = 0.05$   
 Standard deviation  
 Permitted error (20%)

| No. | Selected path | Path distance (km) | No. of samples used for validation |         |                         | Minimum samples required within two survey days (N) |
|-----|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|     |               |                    | Weekday                            | Weekend | Overall two survey days |                                                     |
| 1   | SJ1-LRT       | 7.53               | 92                                 | 88      | 180                     | 60                                                  |
| 2   | SJ1-TSCA      | 8.43               | 95                                 | 83      | 178                     | 130                                                 |
| 3   | SJ1-SMT       | 7.68               | 76                                 | 64      | 140                     | 56                                                  |
| 4   | SJ2-TCT       | 5.43               | 58                                 | 58      | 116                     | 54                                                  |
| 5   | SJ2-LRT       | 7.06               | 94                                 | 87      | <b>181</b>              | <b>45</b>                                           |
| 6   | SJ2-TSCA      | 9.68               | 89                                 | 79      | 168                     | 88                                                  |
| 7   | SJ3-TCT       | 10.17              | 63                                 | 72      | 135                     | 70                                                  |
| 8   | SJ3-LRT       | 11.04              | 92                                 | 84      | 176                     | 61                                                  |
| 9   | SJ3-TSCA      | 11.94              | 56                                 | 71      | 127                     | 118                                                 |
| 10  | S4-TKTL       | 12.02              | 56                                 | 59      | 115                     | 66                                                  |
| 11  | S4-TKTM       | 26.86              | 88                                 | 67      | 155                     | 53                                                  |
| 12  | S5-TWTM       | 16.87              | 100                                | 74      | 174                     | 56                                                  |
| 13  | S5-TWCP       | 17.26              | 52                                 | 41      | <b>93</b>               | <b>56</b>                                           |
| -   | Total         | -                  | 1011                               | 927     | <b>1938</b>             | <b>913</b>                                          |

# Validation Results of the Instantaneous Average Journey Times Provided by **SMP**

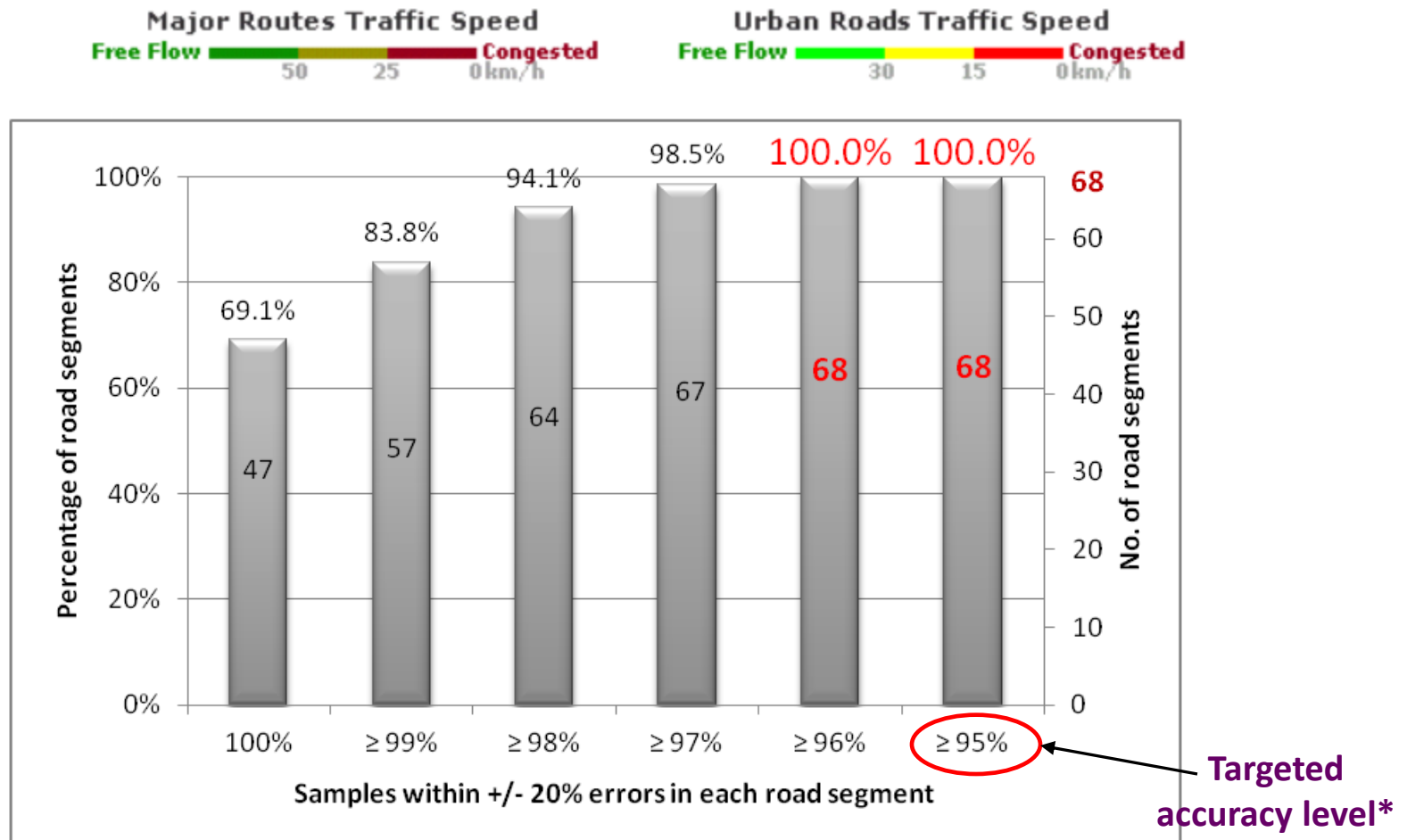
| No. | Selected path         | Percentages of samples within $\pm 20\%$ errors |              |                         |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
|     |                       | Weekday                                         | Weekend      | Overall two survey days |
| 1   | SJ1-LRT               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 2   | SJ1-TSCA              | 96.8%                                           | 100%         | <b>98.3%</b>            |
| 3   | SJ1-SMT               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 4   | SJ2-TCT               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 5   | SJ2-LRT               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 6   | SJ2-TSCA <sup>#</sup> | 100%                                            | <b>98.7%</b> | 99.4%                   |
| 7   | SJ3-TCT               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 8   | SJ3-LRT               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 9   | SJ3-TSCA              | <b>96.4%</b>                                    | 100%         | 98.4%                   |
| 10  | S4-TKTL               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 11  | S4-TKTM               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 12  | S5-TWTM               | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |
| 13  | S5-TWCP <sup>#</sup>  | 100%                                            | 100%         | 100%                    |

The requirement of the targeted accuracy level is **achieved**.

**\*The targeted accuracy level of the computed journey time is within **+/- 20% errors** with a compliance of **95%**.**

**#The selected path with traffic signals and roundabouts.**

# Validation Results of Traffic Speed Range (Color) Provided by SMP



\*The **targeted accuracy level** of the computed speed range (color) is to be fallen within **+/- 20%** with a compliance of **95%**.



## **Recent ITS Research Works Conducted by PolyU**



運輸署

Transport Department



# Feasibility Study on Deploying Advanced Technologies in Incident Management

- Executive Summary

*February 2010*

[http://www.td.gov.hk/filemanager/en/publication/executive%20summary\\_english.pdf](http://www.td.gov.hk/filemanager/en/publication/executive%20summary_english.pdf)

# Traffic Accident



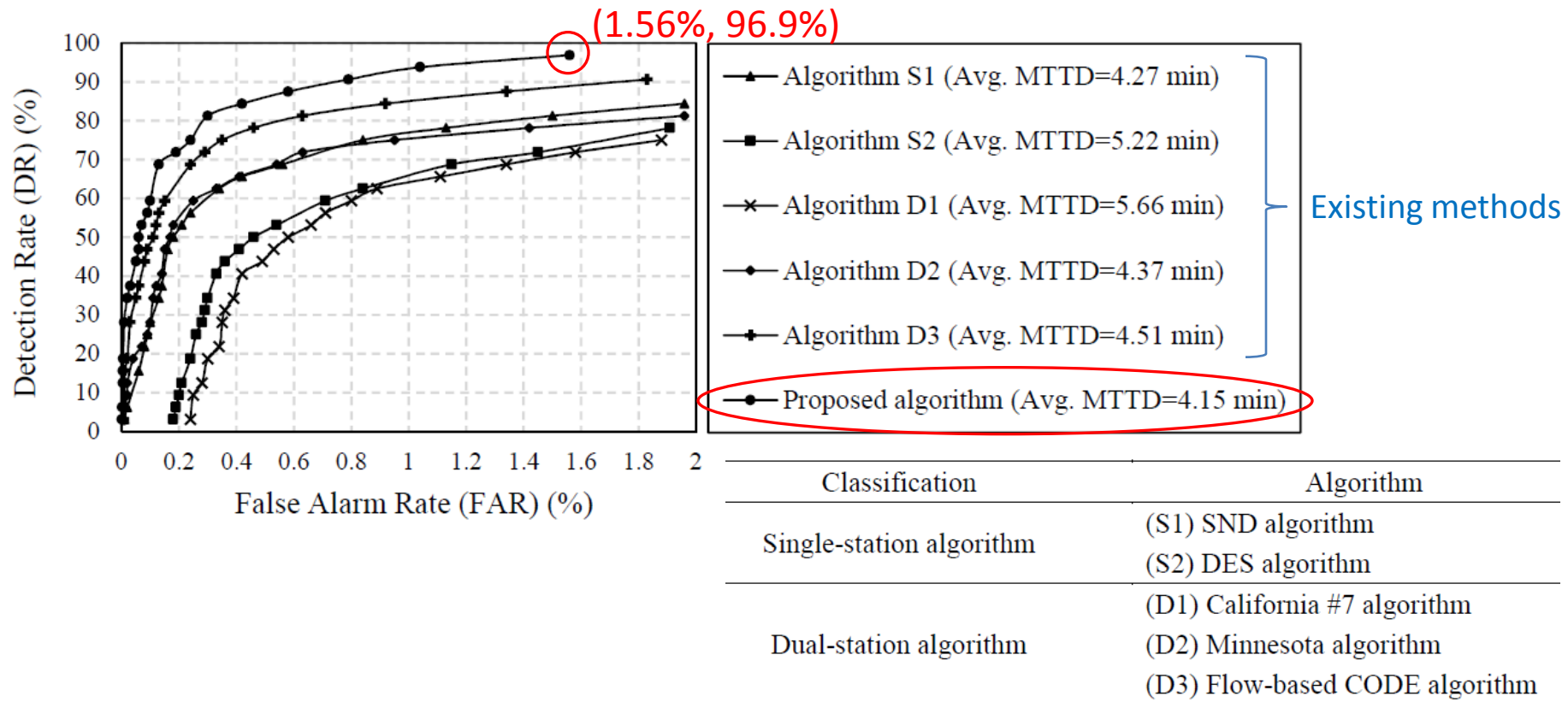
11:20 am on 19 November 2008

# Automatic Incident Detection

- To provide automatic, continuous and timely incident detection based on the existing available traffic data without installation of additional detectors.
- Make use of the **available** detector data **originally collected for journey time estimation** in Hong Kong.
  - JTIS detector data updated at 2-min time intervals
  - Detector spacing ranges from 0.53 to 3.9 km
- In the proposed algorithm, not only traffic flow, speed/travel time or occupancy, but also **variation of traffic speeds** at the detector and **correlation of traffic speeds between two adjacent detectors** are considered.

# Case Study for Incident Detection

- Calibration period: September 2009 to June 2010
- Validation period: July 2010 to December 2010



Li X.M., Lam W.H.K. and Tam M.L. (2013) New Automatic Incident Detection Algorithm based on Traffic Data Collected for Journey Time Estimation. *Journal of Transportation Engineering*, Vol. 139, No. 8, 840-847.

# Sources of Network Uncertainty

## Supply and Demand Uncertainties

Multiple sources, which can be broadly divided into two categories, contribute to network uncertainty.

| Classification | Supply uncertainty                                                     |                                                                           | Demand uncertainty                                                       |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Specified form | Adverse weather conditions, road works, etc.<br>( <i>Predictable</i> ) | Traffic accidents, vehicle breakdown, etc.<br>( <i>Less predictable</i> ) | Travel demand fluctuations between a specified origin - destination pair |

### Non-recurrent conditions



11:20 am 19 Nov 2008 (Wed)

### Recurrent conditions



8:04 am 24 Feb 2006 (Fri)



8:04 am 25 Feb 2006 (Sat)

# Network Uncertainty under Adverse Weather

## (Non-recurrent conditions)



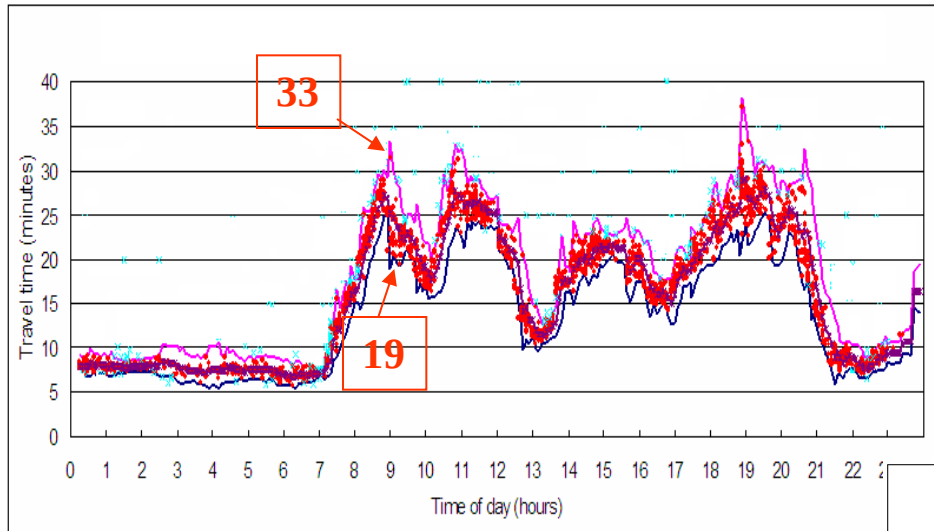
1:04pm 26 May 2006 (Fri, no rain)



1:04pm 29 May 2006 (Mon, raining)

Adverse weather in Hong Kong: Three levels of warning signals by the levels of rainfall expected:- **AMBER** rainstorm signal (>30 mm/hour), **RED** rainstorm signal (>50 mm/hour) and **BLACK** rainstorm signal (>70 mm/hour).

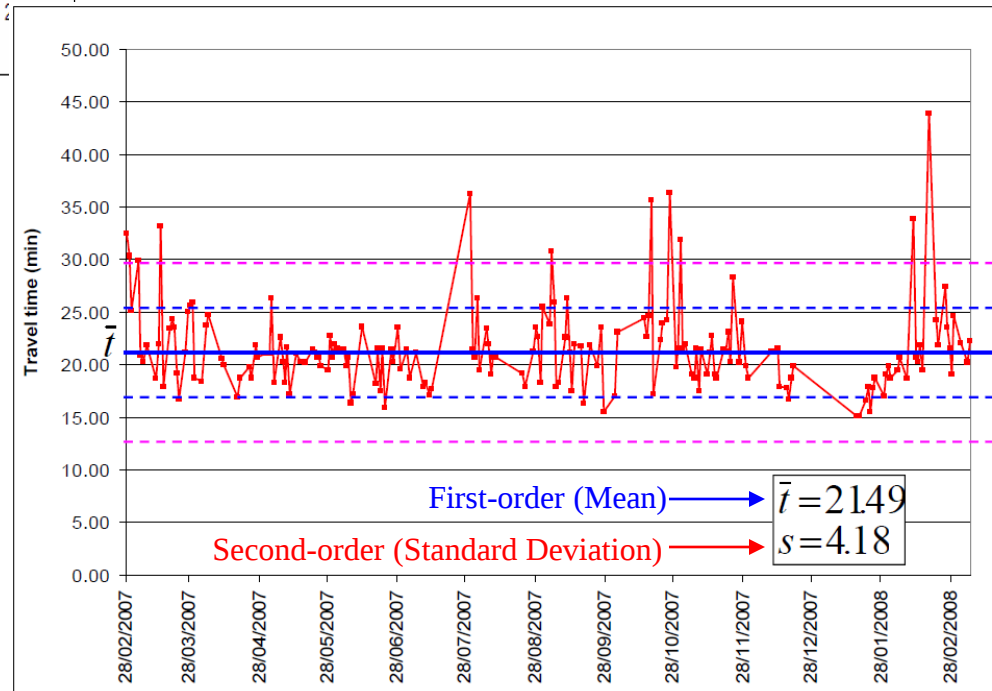
# Traffic Dynamics – stochastic effects



Within-day travel time variations

The **first-order (Mean)** and **second-order (Standard Deviation)** statistical properties of the traffic data should be considered for capturing the **stochastic effects** over time.

Within-day  
vs.  
Day-to-day Dynamics



Day-to-day travel time variations

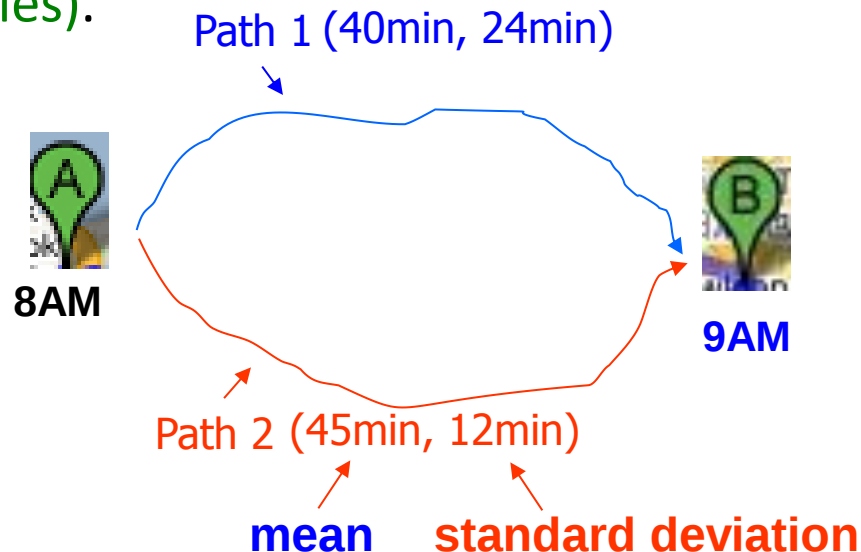
# Travel Time Reliability in Network with Uncertainties

- ❖ A new concept of travel time reliability is introduced for capturing the stochastic effects over time, in which the **first-order** and **second-order** statistical properties of the traffic data are considered.
- ❖ **Travel time reliability** is defined as the probability that a traveler can arrive at a destination within a given travel time threshold (i.e. on-time arrival probabilities).

Deterministic

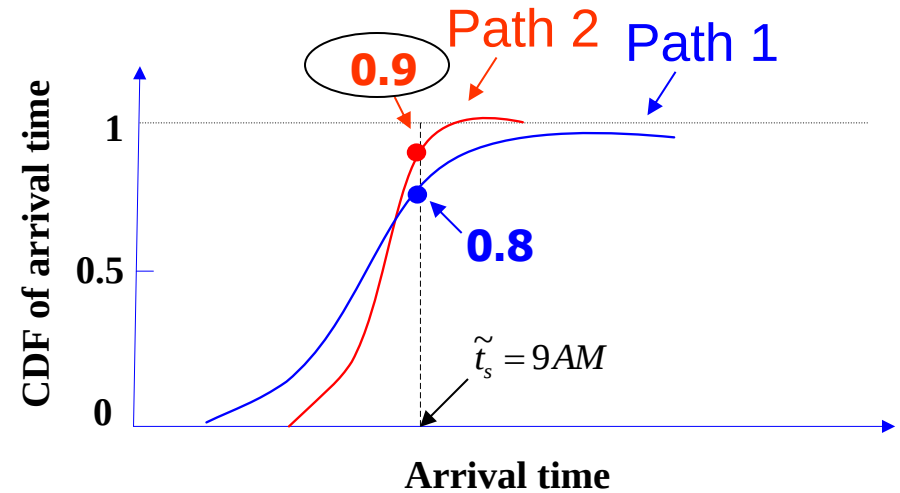
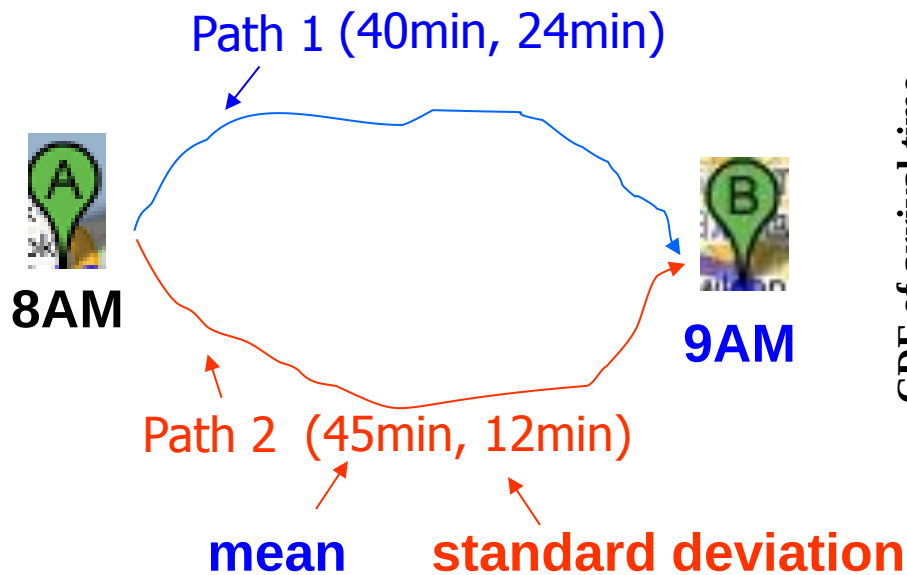
VS.

Stochastic



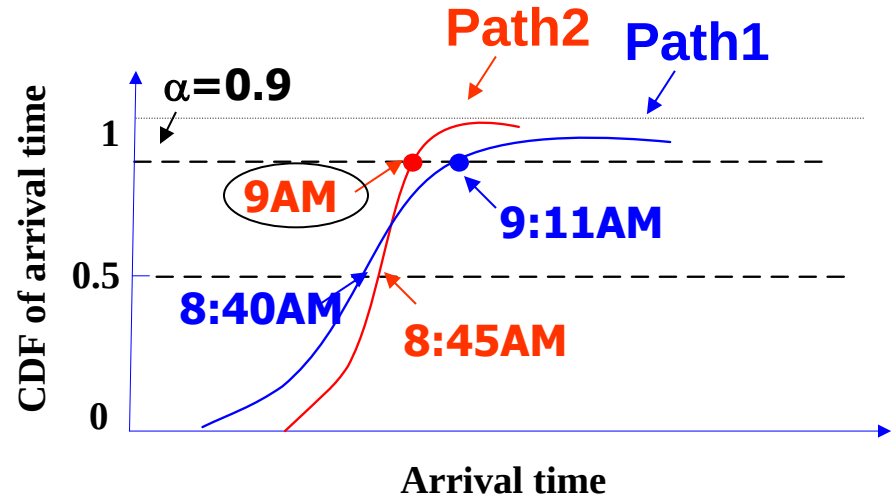
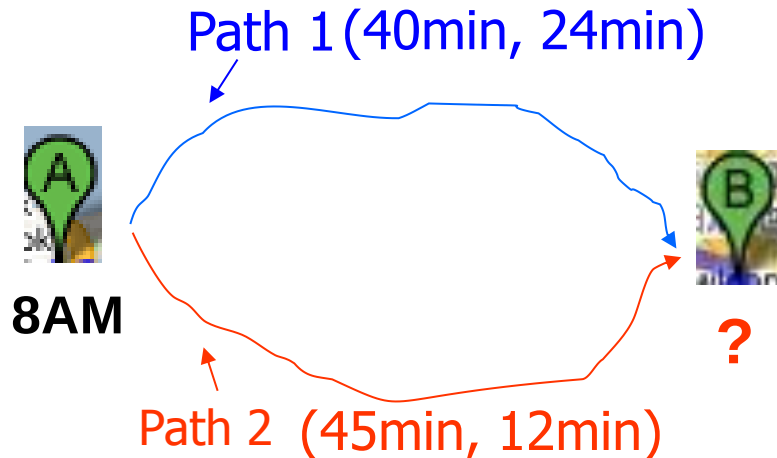
# Travel Time Reliability:

## Probability of on-time arrival



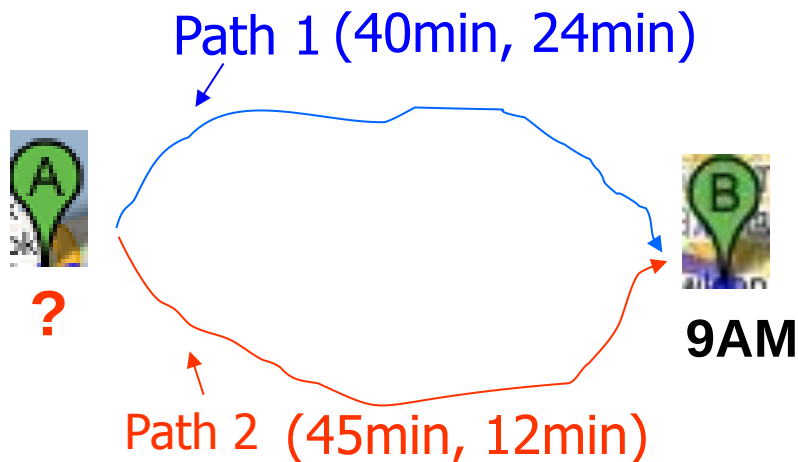
# Reliable Shortest Path Problem (RSPP) (1)

Given **departure time**  $t_r$ , to find **earliest arrival time** and the optimal path required to satisfy pre-specified probability of on-time arrival  $\alpha$



# Reliable Shortest Path Problem (RSPP) (2)

Given preferred arrival time  $\tilde{t}_s$ , to find latest departure time and the reliable shortest path required to satisfy pre-specified probability of on-time arrival  $\alpha$



## A New Concept of Travel Time Reliability

is introduced, in which the first-order and second-order statistical properties of the traffic data are considered.

# Reliable Route Searching System

Reliable Shortest Path

Origin

PolyU

Destination

HKU

☐ Preferred Arrival Time

☒ Preferred Departure Time

3/9/2012 4:47 PM

On-time Arrival Probability:

0.9

Value of Time (HK\$/hour):

60

Petrol Cost (HK\$/km):

1.5

OK

Reliable Path Searching System

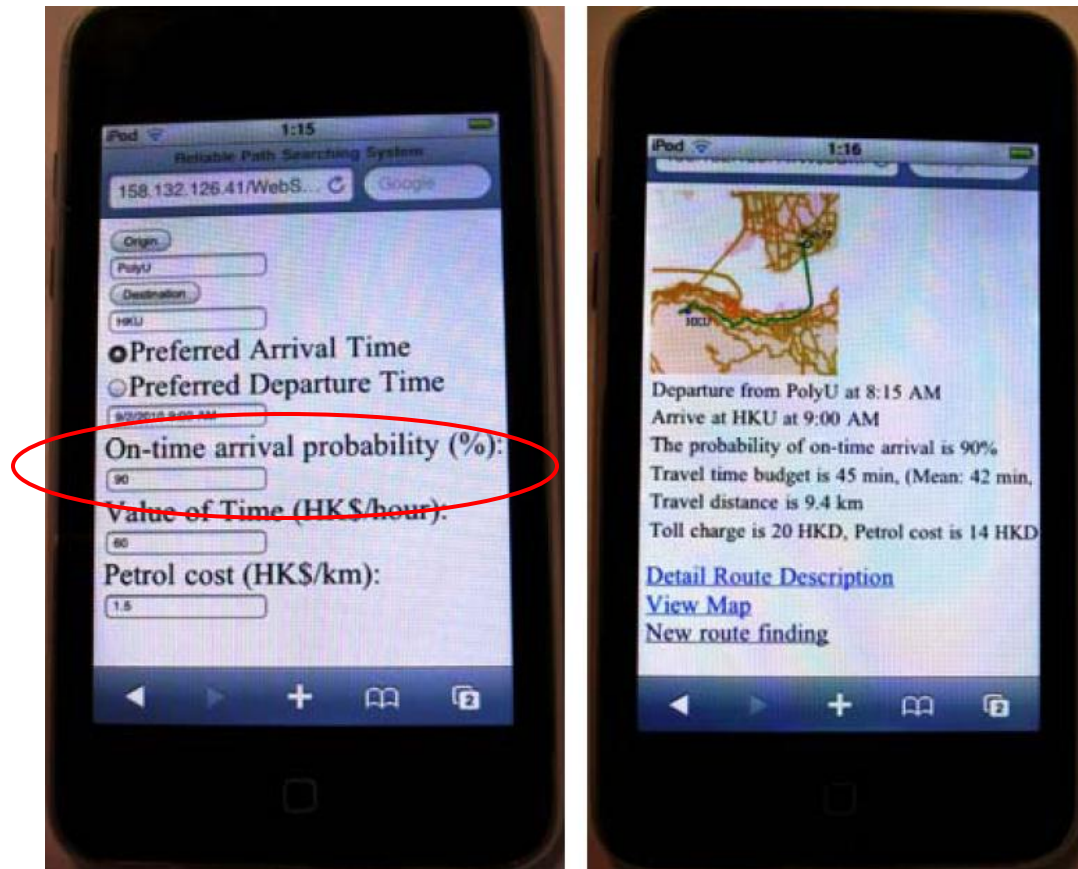


Departure from PolyU at 4:47 PM  
Arrival at HKU at 5:36 PM  
The probability of on-time arrival is 90%  
Travel time budget is 50 min, (Mean: 37 min, Standard Deviation: 10 min)  
Travel distance is 9.6 km  
Toll charge is HK\$ 20, Petrol cost is HK\$ 14.3

[Detail Route Description](#)  
[View Map](#)  
[New route finding](#)

# Route Guidance

- Reliable routing service with on-time arrival probability:



Chen B.Y., Lam W.H.K., Sumalee A. and Li Z.L. (2012) Reliable Shortest Path Findings in Stochastic Networks with Spatial Correlated Link Travel Times. *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, Vol. 26, No. 2, 365-386.

# Niche Areas Project for ITS



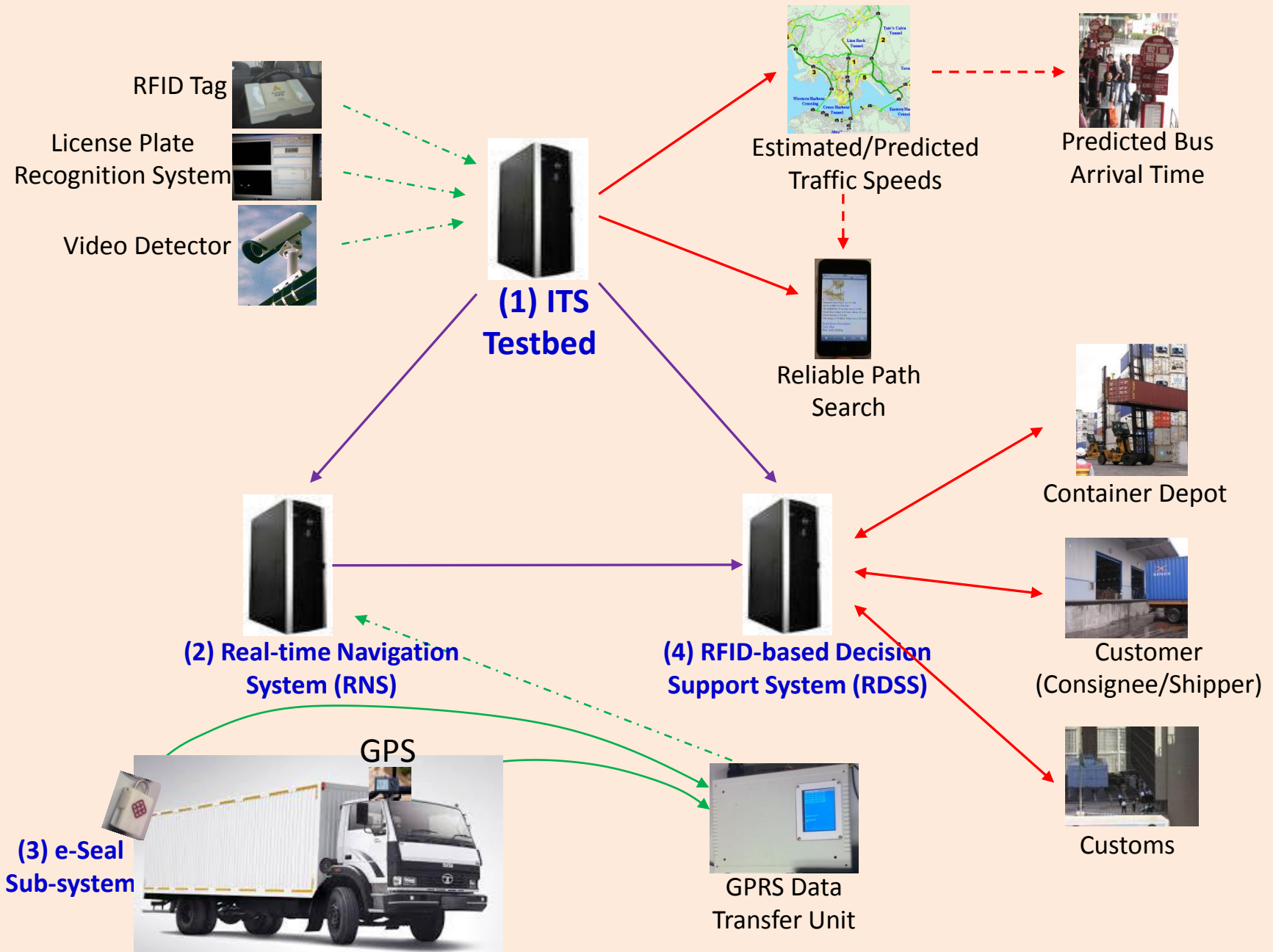
THE HONG KONG  
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
香港理工大學

**Development of an  
Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Testbed  
for  
Real-time Navigation and  
Cross-boundary Container Logistics Management**

# Niche Areas Project for ITS

- This Niche Areas project aims to develop an **ITS testbed** for provision of real-time and predicted traffic information in Hong Kong.
- The ITS testbed is integrated with two ITS prototypes. One is **Real-time Navigation System (RNS)** which connects with **e-Seal subsystem** for real-time navigating, tracking and locating the trucks and containers. Another is **RFID-based Decision Support System (RDSS)** for cross-boundary container logistics management.
- The project team comprises of 7 Professors and their research teams from **5 Departments (CSE, LSGI, MM, LMS and ISE)** of PolyU.
- Industrial supporter: **Autotoll Ltd.**

# Niche Areas Project for ITS



# Intelligent Transportation System Testbed



Department of Civil & Structural Engineering  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

**ITS** Intelligent Transportation System Testbed

(On Trial)

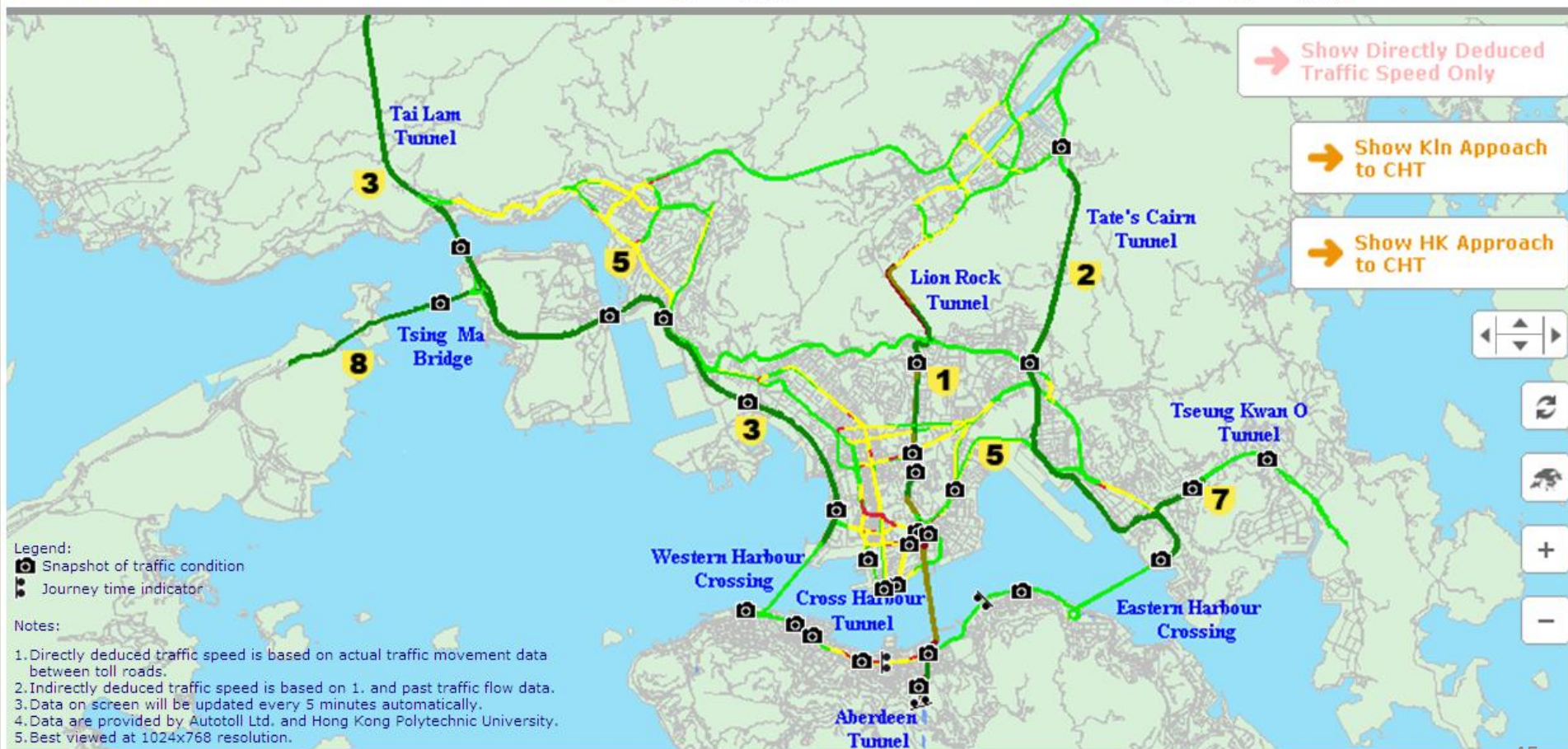
## Traffic Speeds on Main Roads in Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories South

Data Last Update Time

**2012-03-09 16:41:28**

**Directly Deduced Traffic Speed**  
Free Flow Traffic 30 15 0km/h Congested Traffic

**Indirectly Deduced Traffic Speed**  
Free Flow Traffic 30 15 0km/h Congested Traffic



# Need for Further Study

Based on the rainfall data (annual averages for 30-year period) from the World Weather Information Services (<http://www.worldweather.org/>), that Hong Kong has the **highest average annual rainfall** of all the major Pacific Rim cities.

Further study is required to explore **new avenues of research** for development of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in Asian cities with **relatively high annual rainfall intensities and/or high traffic accident rates**.



Note: Rainfall intensity is based on annual averages for the 30-year period (as at September 2011). (<http://www.worldweather.org>)

| Hong Kong in Year 2013 |                        |                                                      |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Month                  | Total Rainfall<br>(mm) | Number of Rain Days<br>(Daily rainfall $\geq$ 0.1mm) |
| Jan                    | 3.4                    | 2                                                    |
| Feb                    | 1.5                    | 5                                                    |
| Mar                    | 130.5                  | 13                                                   |
| Apr                    | 253.8                  | 21                                                   |
| May                    | 509.3                  | 20                                                   |
| Jun                    | 438.6                  | 21                                                   |
| Jul                    | 436.3                  | 22                                                   |
| Aug                    | 445.4                  | 19                                                   |
| Sep                    | 454.2                  | 17                                                   |
| Oct                    | 2.9                    | 2                                                    |
| Nov                    | 83.1                   | 11                                                   |
| Dec                    | 88.3                   | 4                                                    |
| Total                  | 2847.3 mm              | 157 days                                             |

# Future Works

- To examine the Travel Time Reliability (in term of on-time arrival probabilities) posed by recurrent and non-recurrent uncertainties (due to rainfall and traffic accidents) to understand their impacts on travel choice behaviors and network performance context.
- To explore **new avenues of research** for development of **reliability-based ITS** applications in road-based multi-modal transportation networks with taking account **network uncertainties** due to recurrent and non-recurrent congestion.
- To develop **reliability-based Dynamic Traffic Assignment (DTA)** model for assessing network degradability due to adverse weather and incidents.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**-THE END-**

**Thank You**

**多謝**

**Q and A**

**討論時間**

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