Supernetworks

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 Networks are pervasive in our daily lives and essential to the functioning of our societies and economics.



What is a Supernetwork?

A **Supernetwork** is a network, consisting of nodes, links, and flows, that is *over and above* existing networks.



Source:http://supernet.som.umass.edu



Challenges

- Decision Making
 - Centralized vs. Decentralized
 - More alternatives
- Complexity
 - Large scale

Competition

• Equilibrium vs. Optimization

Nash Equilibrium









Commuting



Telecommuting



Why Telecommuting?

- Reduce traffic congestion
- Reduce emissions
- Land use
- Human resource policy

Telecommuting

- Number of telecommuters increased from 4 million to 23.6 million in the past decade.
- Recent legislation permits federal employees to select the telecommuting option
- 72.4% reported that working at home slightly or greatly increased productivity



Questions

- Telecommute or Commute?
- How often?
- What's the impact on traffic?
- What's the impact on land-use?
- What's the impact on environment?

A Conceptualized Supernetwork of Commuting vs. Telecommuting



Be Aware of Paradoxes

A decrease in demand on a supernetwork with a zero emission link may result in an increase in emissions.

Adding a new path which consists solely of a zero emission link and which shares no links with any other path may result in an increase in emissions.

What do we see?

 The importance of the incorporation of Network Topology, Cost and Demand Structure, Users Behavior.

 The interconnectivity among distinct network systems

A Supernetwork may have both virtual and physical links

A **Supernetwork** may be **multitiered** and **multilevel**.

Decision-makers may have **distinct criteria** such as time, monetary cost, opportunity cost, risk, and/or safety.

Applications of Supernetworks

- Telecommuting / Commuting decision making
- Teleshopping / Shopping decision making
- Supply Chain Networks with E-commerce
- Financial Networks with Electronic Transactions

Teleshopping vs. Shopping



Supply Chain - Transportation Supernetwork Representation



---> Two-way information exchanges between specific decision-makers

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