Supernetworks: Opportunities and Challenges for Decision-Making in the 21st Century

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Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the organizers of PAKDD 2011 for the opportunity to deliver this keynote talk.

Special acknowledgments and thanks to my students and collaborators who have made research and teaching always stimulating and rewarding.

Outline

Background and Motivation

Supernetworks are *Networks of Networks*, and their prevalence in the world around us is illustrated by:

- *multimodal transportation networks*;

- *complex logistical networks consisting of manufacturers, shippers and carriers, distributors, and retailers*;

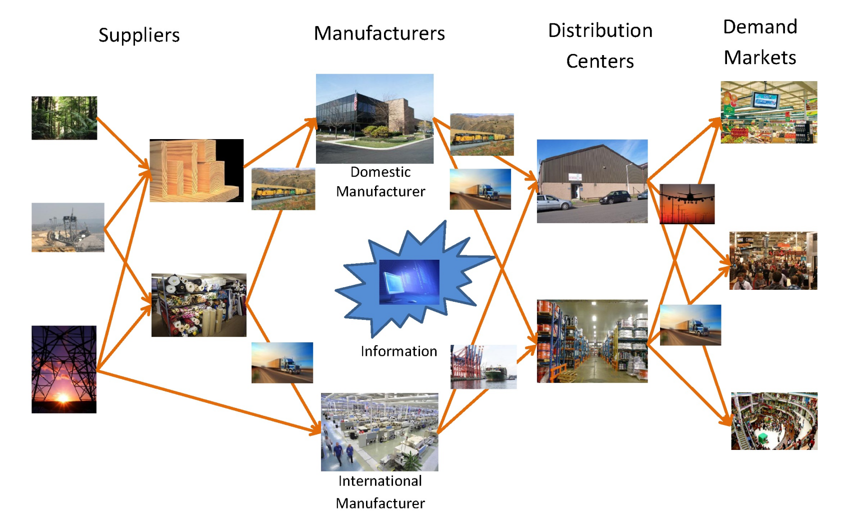
- *electric power generation and distribution networks*,

- *multitiered financial networks*, and

- *social network platforms such as Facebook and Twitter*, along with the Internet itself.

Multimodal Transportation

Complex Logistical Networks



Electric Power Generation and Distribution Networks

Financial Networks

Social Networks

Characteristics of Networks Today

- *large-scale nature* and complexity of network topology;
- *congestion*, which leads to nonlinearities;
- *alternative behavior of users of the networks*, which may lead to paradoxical phenomena;
- *possibly conflicting criteria associated with optimization*;
- *interactions among the underlying networks themselves*, such as the Internet with electric power, financial, and transportation and logistical networks;
- recognition of *their fragility and vulnerability*;
- policies surrounding networks today may have major impacts not only economically, but also *socially, politically, and security-wise*.

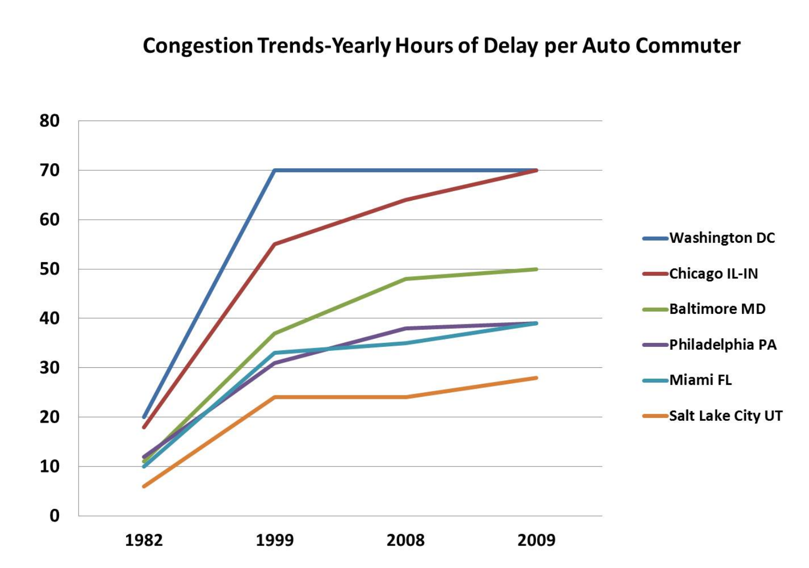
Many of today's networks are characterized by both a large-scale nature and complexity of the underlying network topology, so we are in an era of Supernetworks.

In Chicago's Regional Transportation Network, there are *12,982 nodes, 39,018 links, and 2,297,945 origin/destination (O/D) pairs*, whereas in the Southern California Association of Governments model there are *3,217 origins and/or destinations, 25,428 nodes, and 99,240 links, plus 6 distinct classes of users*.

In the case of the Internet, in 2010, there were *1.8 billion users*

Supernetworks, according to Nagurney (2011) is the *Science of Complexity.*

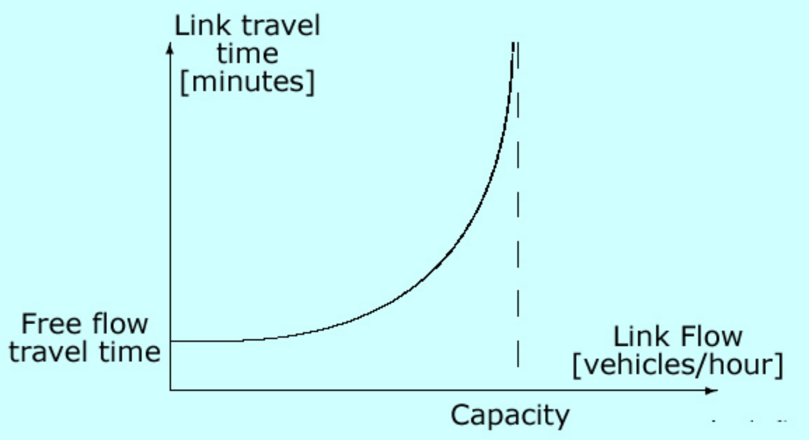
Change in Annual Average Congestion Delay Hours for Commuters in the US from 1982 - 2009



Congestion costs continue to rise: measured in constant 2009 dollars, *the cost of congestion has risen from $24 billion in 1982 to $115 billion in 2009 in the United States.* (Texas Transportation Institute's Urban Mobility Report (2010)).

There is a freight capacity crisis in parts of the US.

Capturing Link Congestion



In a typical user link travel time (or cost) function, the free flow travel time referes to the travel time to traverse the link when there is zero flow or traffic on the link (zero vehicles).

Why Behavior Matters and Paradoxes

Network Models from Analysis to Design Must Capture the Behavior of Users

Behavior on Congested Networks

Decision-makers select their cost-minimizing routes.

		User-Optimized or Equilibrium
Decentralized	Selfish	U–O
vs.	vs.	vs.
Centralized	Unselfish	S–O
		System-Optimized

Flows are routed so as to minimize the total cost to society.

Two fundamental principles of flow (travel) behavior, due to Wardrop (1952), with terms coined by Dafermos and Sparrow (1969).

User-optimized (U-O) (network equilibrium) Problem – each user determines his/her cost minimizing route of travel between an origin/destination, until an equilibrium is reached, in which no user can decrease his/her cost of travel by unilateral action (in the sense of Nash).

System-optimized (S-O) Problem – users are allocated among the routes so as to minimize the total cost in the system, where the total cost is equal to the sum over all the links of the link's user cost times its flow.

The U-O problems, under certain simplifying assumptions, possesses optimization reformulations. But now we can handle cost asymmetries, multiple modes of transport, and different classes of travelers, without such assumptions.

We Can State These Conditions Mathematically!

The U-O and S-O Conditions

Definition: U-O or Network Equilibrium – Fixed Demands

A path flow pattern x^*, with nonnegative path flows and O/D pair demand satisfaction, is said to be U-O or in equilibrium, if the following condition holds for each O/D pair $w \in W$ and each path $p \in P_w$:

$$C_p(x^*) \begin{cases} = \lambda_w, & \textit{if} \quad x_p^* > 0, \\ \geq \lambda_w, & \textit{if} \quad x_p^* = 0. \end{cases}$$

Definition: S-O Conditions

A path flow pattern x with nonnegative path flows and O/D pair demand satisfaction, is said to be S-O, if for each O/D pair $w \in W$ and each path $p \in P_w$:

$$\hat{C}'_p(x) \begin{cases} = \mu_w, & \text{if} \quad x_p > 0, \\ \geq \mu_w, & \text{if} \quad x_p = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $\hat{C}'_p(x) = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{L}} \frac{\partial \hat{c}_a(f_a)}{\partial f_a} \delta_{ap}$, and μ_w is a Lagrange multiplier.

The Braess Paradox Illustrates

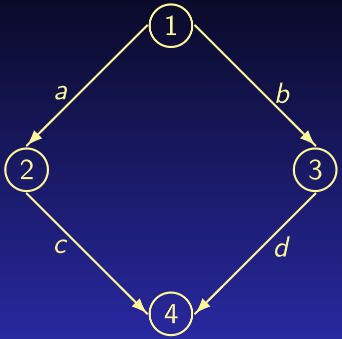
Why Behavior on Networks is Important

The Braess (1968) Paradox

Assume a network with a single O/D pair (1,4). There are 2 paths available to travelers: $p_1 = (a, c)$ and $p_2 = (b, d)$.

For a travel demand of **6**, the equilibrium path flows are $x^*_{p_1} = x^*_{p_2} = 3$ and

The equilibrium path travel cost is $C_{p_1} = C_{p_2} = 83.$



$$c_a(f_a) = 10f_a, \quad c_b(f_b) = f_b + 50,$$

$$c_c(f_c) = f_c + 50, \quad c_d(f_d) = 10f_d.$$

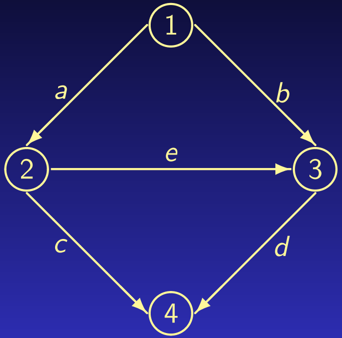
Adding a Link Increases Travel Cost for All!

Adding a new link creates a new path $p_3 = (a, e, d)$.

The original flow distribution pattern is no longer an equilibrium pattern, since at this level of flow the cost on path p_3, $C_{p_3} = 70$.

The new equilibrium flow pattern network is
$x^*_{p_1} = x^*_{p_2} = x^*_{p_3} = 2$.

The equilibrium path travel cost:
$C_{p_1} = C_{p_2} = C_{p_3} = 92$.



$c_e(f_e) = f_e + 10$

Under S-O behavior, the total cost in the network is minimized, and the new route p_3, under the same demand of 6, would not be used.

The Braess paradox never occurs in S-O networks.

The 1968 Braess article has been translated from German to English and appears as:

"On a Paradox of Traffic Planning,"

D. Braess, A. Nagurney, and T. Wakolbinger (2005) *Transportation Science* **39**, 446-450.

Über ein Paradoxon aus der Verkehrsplanung

Von D. Braess, Münster [1])

Eingegangen am 28. März 1968

Zusammenfassung: Für die Straßenverkehrsplanung möchte man den Verkehrsfluß auf den einzelnen Straßen des Netzes abschätzen, wenn die Zahl der Fahrzeuge bekannt ist, die zwischen den einzelnen Punkten des Straßennetzes verkehren. Welche Wege am günstigsten sind, hängt nun nicht nur von der Beschaffenheit der Straße ab, sondern auch von der Verkehrsdichte. Es ergeben sich nicht immer optimale Fahrzeiten, wenn jeder Fahrer nur für sich den günstigsten Weg heraussucht. In einigen Fällen kann sich durch Erweiterung des Netzes der Verkehrsfluß sogar so umlagern, daß größere Fahrzeiten erforderlich werden.

Summary: For each point of a road network let be given the number of cars starting from it, and the destination of the cars. Under these conditions one wishes to estimate the distribution of the traffic flow. Whether a street is preferable to another one depends not only upon the quality of the road but also upon the density of the flow. If every driver takes that path which looks most favorable to him, the resultant running times need not be minimal. Furthermore it is indicated by an example that an extension of the road network may cause a redistribution of the traffic which results in longer individual running times.

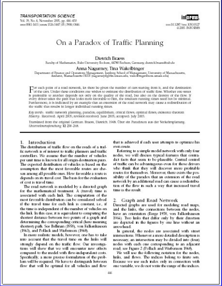
1. Einleitung

Für die Verkehrsplanung und Verkehrssteuerung interessiert, wie sich der Fahrzeugstrom auf die einzelnen Straßen des Verkehrsnetzes verteilt. Bekannt sei dabei die Anzahl der Fahrzeuge für alle Ausgangs- und Zielpunkte. Bei der Berechnung wird davon ausgegangen, daß von den möglichen Wegen jeweils der günstigste gewählt wird. Wie günstig ein Weg ist, richtet sich nach dem Aufwand, der zum Durchfahren nötig ist. Die Grundlage für die Bewertung des Aufwandes bildet die Fahrzeit.

Für die mathematische Behandlung wird das Straßennetz durch einen gerichteten Graphen beschrieben. Zur Charakterisierung der Bögen gehört die Angabe des Zeitaufwandes. Die Bestimmung der günstigen Stromverteilungen kann als gelöst betrachtet werden, wenn die Bewertung konstant ist, d. h., wenn die Fahrzeiten unabhängig von der Größe des Verkehrsflusses sind. Sie ist dann äquivalent mit der bekannten Aufgabe, den kürzesten Abstand zweier Punkte eines Graphen und den zugehörigen kritischen Pfad zu bestimmen [1], [5], [7].

Will man das Modell aber realistischer gestalten, ist zu berücksichtigen, daß die benötigte Zeit stark von der Stärke des Verkehrs abhängt. Wie die folgenden Untersuchungen zeigen, ergeben sich dann gegenüber dem Modell mit konstanter (belastungsunabhängiger) Bewertung z. T. völlig neue Aspekte. Dabei erweist sich schon eine Präzisierung der Problemstellung als notwendig; denn es ist zwischen dem Strom zu unterscheiden, der für alle am günstigsten ist,, und dem, der sich einstellt, wenn jeder Fahrer nur seinen eigenen Weg optimalisiert.

[1]) Priv.-Doz. Dr. Dietrich Braess, Institut für numerische und instrumentelle Mathematik, 44 Münster, Hüfferstr. 3 a.



TRANSPORTATION SCIENCE
Vol. 39, No. 4, November 2005, pp. 446–450
issn 0041-1655 | eissn 1526-5447 | 05 | 3904 | 0446
doi 10.1287/trsc.1050.0127
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On a Paradox of Traffic Planning

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For each point of a road network, let there be given the number of cars starting from it, and the destination of the cars. Under these conditions one wishes to estimate the distribution of traffic flow. Whether one street is preferable to another depends not only on the quality of the road, but also on the density of the flow. If every driver takes the path that looks most favorable to him, the resultant running times need not be minimal. Furthermore, it is indicated by an example that an extension of the road network may cause a redistribution of the traffic that results in longer individual running times.

Key words: traffic network planning; paradox; equilibrium; critical flows; optimal flows; existence theorem
History: Received: April 2005; revision received: June 2005; accepted: July 2005.

Translated from the original German: Braess, Dietrich. 1968. Über ein Paradoxon aus der Verkehrsplanung. *Unternehmensforschung* **12** 258–268.

1. Introduction

The distribution of traffic flow on the roads of a traffic network is of interest to traffic planners and traffic controllers. We assume that the number of vehicles per unit time is known for all origin-destination pairs. The expected distribution of vehicles is based on the assumption that the most favorable routes are chosen among all possible ones. How favorable a route is ...

... that is achieved if each user attempts to optimize his own route.

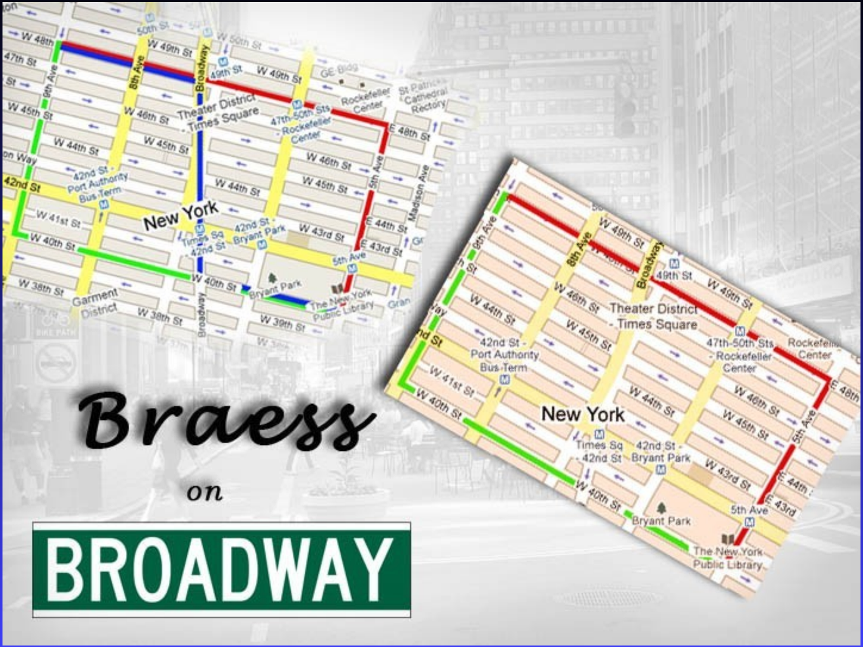
Referring to a simple model network with only four nodes, we will discuss typical features that contradict facts that seem to be plausible. Central control of traffic can be advantageous even for those drivers who think that they will discover more profitable routes for themselves. Moreover, there exists the pos...

The Braess Paradox Around the World

1969 - Stuttgart, Germany - The traffic worsened until a newly built road was closed.

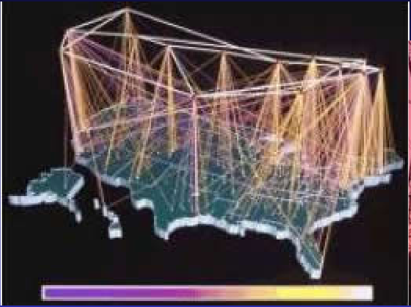
1990 - Earth Day - New York City - 42^{nd} Street was closed and traffic flow improved.

2002 - Seoul, Korea - A 6 lane road built over the Cheonggyecheon River that carried 160,000 cars per day and was perpetually jammed was torn down to improve traffic flow.


Braess
on
BROADWAY

Interview on Broadway for *America Revealed* on March 15, 2011

Other Networks that Behave like Traffic Networks




The Internet, electric power networks, and even multitiered financial networks!

Methodologies for Formulation, Analysis, and Computations

The Variational Inequality Problem

We utilize the theory of variational inequalities for the formulation, analysis, and solution of both centralized and decentralized network problems.

Definition: The Variational Inequality Problem
The finite-dimensional variational inequality problem, $\mathrm{VI}(F, \mathcal{K})$*, is to determine a vector* $X^* \in \mathcal{K}$*, such that:*

$$\langle F(X^*)^T, X - X^* \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall X \in \mathcal{K},$$

where F *is a given continuous function from* $\mathcal{K}$ *to* R^N*,* $\mathcal{K}$ *is a given closed convex set, and* $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ *denotes the inner product in* R^N*.*

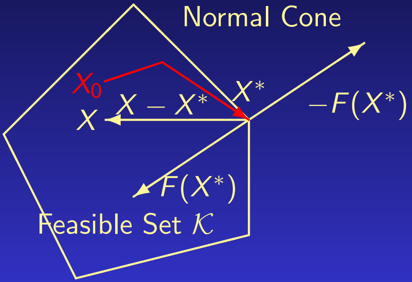
The variational inequality problem contains, as special cases, such mathematical programming problems as:

- systems of equations,
- optimization problems,
- complementarity problems,
- and is related to the fixed point problem.

Hence, it is a natural methodology for a spectrum of congested network problems from centralized to decentralized ones as well as to design problems.

Geometric Interpretation of VI($F, \mathcal{K}$) and a Projected Dynamical System (Dupuis and Nagurney, Nagurney and Zhang)

In particular, $F(X^*)$ is "orthogonal" to the feasible set $\mathcal{K}$ at the point X^*.



Associated with a VI is a Projected Dynamical System, which provides a natural underlying dynamics associated with travel (and other) behavior to the equilibrium.

To model the *dynamic behavior of supernetworks*, including transportation networks and supply chains, we utilize *projected dynamical systems* (PDSs) advanced by Dupuis and Nagurney (1993) in *Annals of Operations Research* and by Nagurney and Zhang (1996) in our book *Projected Dynamical Systems and Variational Inequalities with Applications*.

Such nonclassical dynamical systems are now being used in

evolutionary games (Sandholm (2005, 2011)),

ecological predator-prey networks (Nagurney and Nagurney (2011a, b)), and

even *neuroscience* (Girard et al. (2008)).

Ecological Predator-Prey Networks

Some of My Books

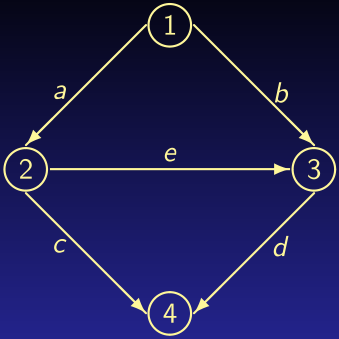
Question: When does the U-O solution coincide with the S-O solution?

Answer: In a general network, when the user link cost functions are given by:

$$c_a(f_a) = c_a^0 f_a^{\beta},$$

for all links, with $c_a^0 \geq 0$, and $\beta \geq 0$.

In particular, if $c_a(f_a) = c_a^0$, that is, in the case of *uncongested networks*, this result always holds.



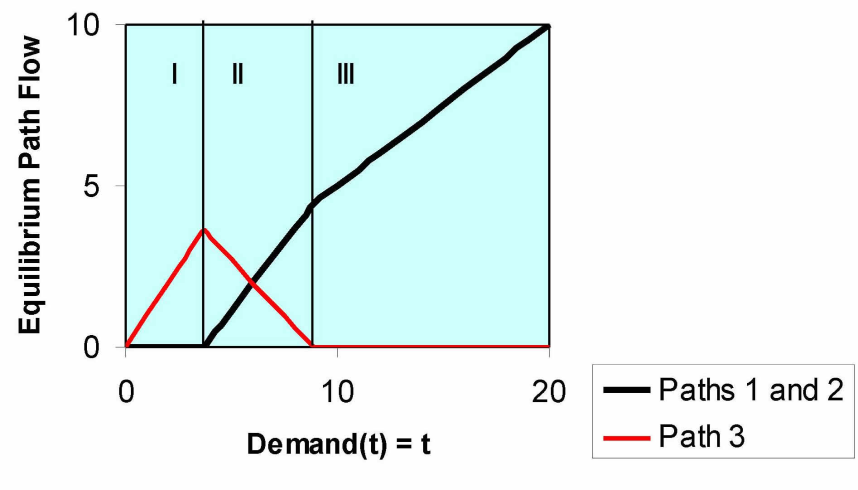
Recall the Braess network with the added link e.

What happens as the demand increases?

For Networks with Time-Dependent Demands

We Use Evolutionary Variational Inequalities

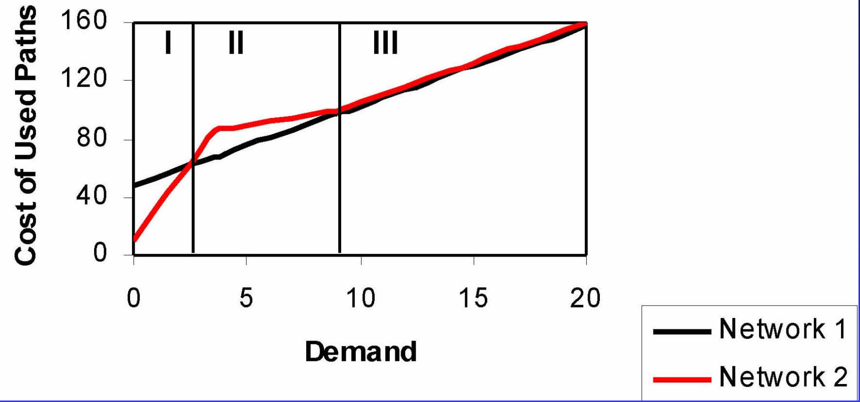
The U-O Solution of the Braess Network with Added Link (Path) and Time-Varying Demands Solved as an *Evolutionary Variational Inequality* (Nagurney, Daniele, and Parkes (2007)).



In Demand Regime I, Only the New Path is Used.

In Demand Regime II, the travel demand lies in the range [2.58, 8.89], and *the Addition of a New Link (Path) Makes Everyone Worse Off*!

In Demand Regime III, when the travel demand exceeds 8.89, *Only the Original Paths are Used!*



The new path is never used, under U-O behavior, when the demand exceeds 8.89, even out to infinity!

We showed that, *for the specific Braess network*, the paradox no longer occurred as the demand for travel increased, once the demand reached a certain level.

This leads us to the *hypothesis:*

Under a higher demand, the Braess Paradox is negated in that the new route, which resulted in increased travel time at a particular demand, will no longer be used.

Theorem (Nagurney, *Europhysics Letters* **(2010), 91, 48002)**

Under fairly reasonable assumptions, there exists a Δd_{w_1} positive for which the Braess Paradox is negated in that the flow on the path r that resulted in the Braess Paradox occurring at a fixed level of demand, will no longer occur at the new level of demand since that path will not be used and, hence, it cannot result in an increase in travel cost.

Interpretation with Fascinating Implications

The Theorem demonstrates that, as demand increases, the Braess Paradox *works itself out.*

One would expect that at a higher level of demand the network gets even more congested and that more of the paths/routes would then be used!

However, the Theorem establishes that the route that resulted in the Braess Paradox at a particular level of demand will no longer be used at a higher level of demand.

This suggests that there may be an underlying *Wisdom of Crowds Phenomenon* taking place.

It is worth noting that the qualitative results in the above Theorem also hold for nonlinear, strongly monotone cost functions.

An Empirical Application to Electric Power Supply Chains

Electric Power Supply Chains

We have developed *an empirical, large-scale electric supply chain network equilibrium model*, formulated it as a VI problem, and were able to solve it by *exploiting the connection between electric power supply chain networks and transportation networks* using our proof of a hypothesis posed in the classic book, *Studies in the Economics of Transportation*, by Beckmann, McGuire, and Winsten (1956).

The paper, "An Integrated Electric Power Supply Chain and Fuel Market Network Framework: Theoretical Modeling with Empirical Analysis for New England," by Z. Liu and A. Nagurney was published in *Naval Research Logistics* (2009), **56**, 600-624.

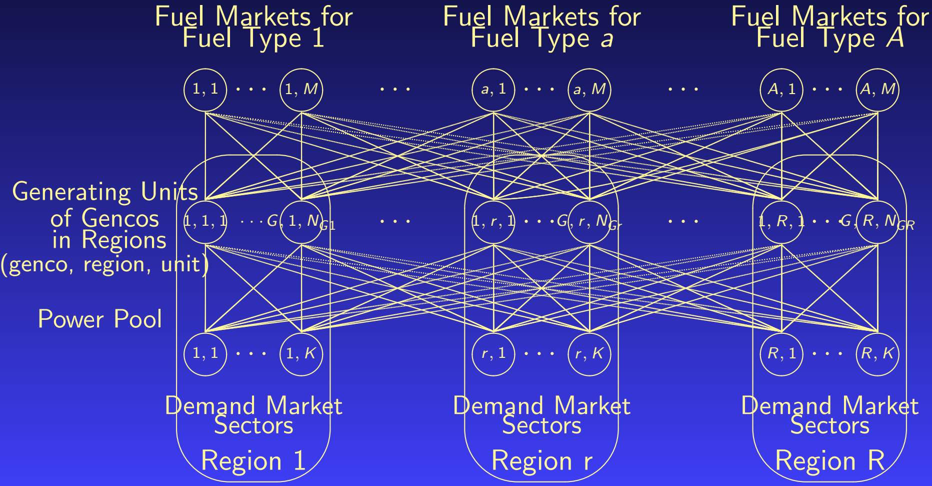
An Empirical Example of an Electric Power Supply Chain for New England

There are 82 generating companies who own and operate 573 generating units. We considered 5 types of fuels: natural gas, residual fuel oil, distillate fuel oil, jet fuel, and coal. The whole area was divided into 10 regions:

1. Maine,
2. New Hampshire,
3. Vermont,
4. Connecticut (excluding Southwest Connecticut),
5. Southwestern Connecticut (excluding the Norwalk-Stamford area),
6. Norwalk-Stamford area,
7. Rhode Island,
8. Southeastern Massachusetts,
9. Western and Central Massachusetts,
10. Boston/Northeast Massachusetts.

Graphic of New England

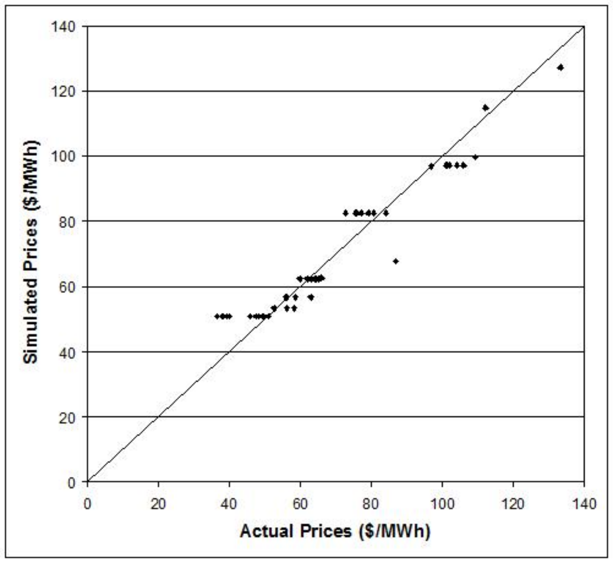
The Electric Power Supply Chain Network with Fuel Supply Markets



We tested the model on the data of July 2006 which included $24 \times 31 = 744$ hourly demand/price scenarios. We sorted the scenarios based on the total hourly demand, and constructed the load duration curve. We divided the duration curve into 6 blocks ($L_1 = 94$ hours, and $L_w = 130$ hours; $w = 2, ..., 6$) and calculated the average regional demands and the average weighted regional prices for each block.

The empirical model had on the order of $20,000$ *variables.*

Actual Prices Vs. Simulated Prices ($/Mwh)



Network Design

Through

Mergers and Acquisitions

Network design (and redesign) can be accomplished through link and node additions (as well as their removals).

It can be accomplished by modifying the link capacities (expanding certain ones and, if applicable, reducing or selling off others).

It can also be accomplished through the integration of networks as in mergers and acquisitions

and, as we will show later, through the design of the network from scratch.

Current Merger & Acquisition Activity

M&As totaled over $2 trillion in 2009, down 32% from full-year 2008 and down 53% from the record high in 2007, according to data from Thomson Reuters.

Mergers announced in October 2010 include Bain Capital / Gymboree, at $1.789 billion and Dynamex / Greenbriar Equity Group ($207 million).

Some of the most visible recent mergers have occurred in the airline industry with Delta and Northwest completing their merger in October 2008 and United and Continental closing on the formation of United Continental Holdings Oct. 1, 2010.

Global 2010 M&A activity is estimated to rise as much as 35% from 2009 figures (Sanford C. Bernstein research firm).

Successful mergers can add tremendous value; however, the failure rate is estimated to be between 74% and 83% (Devero (2004)).

It is worthwhile to develop tools to better predict the associated strategic gains, which include, among others, cost savings (Eccles, Lanes, and Wilson (1999)).

Mergers and Acquisitions and Network Synergies

A successful merger depends on the ability to measure the anticipated synergy of the proposed merger (cf. Chang (1988)) .

◇ A. Nagurney (2009) "A System-Optimization Perspective for Supply Chain Network Integration: The Horizontal Merger Case," *Transportation Research E* **45**, 1-15.

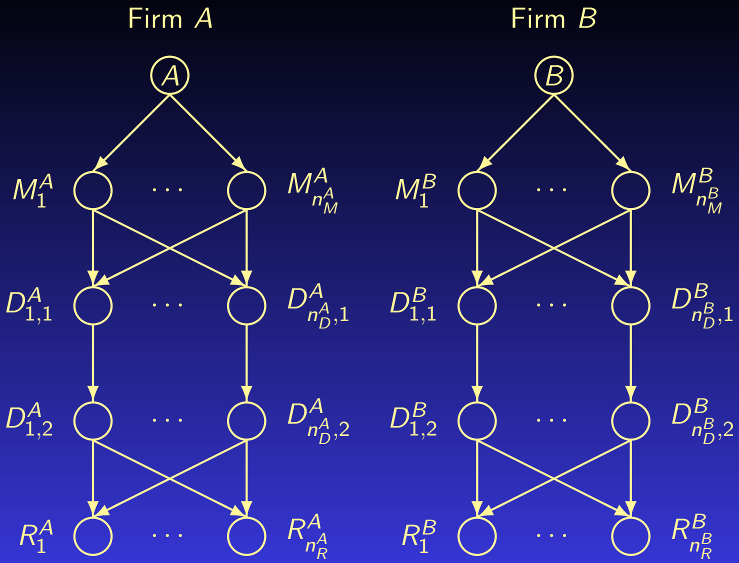


Figure 1: Case 0: Firms A and B Prior to Horizontal Merger

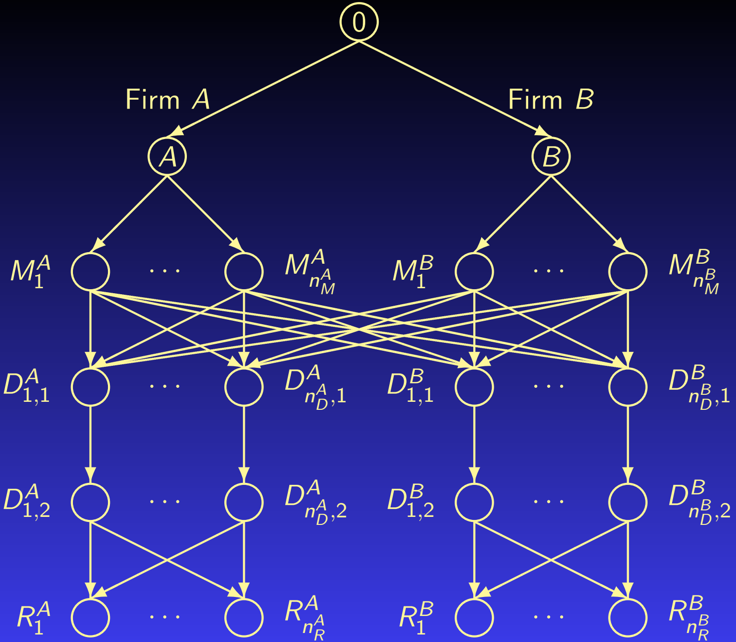


Figure 2: Case 1: Firms A and B Merge

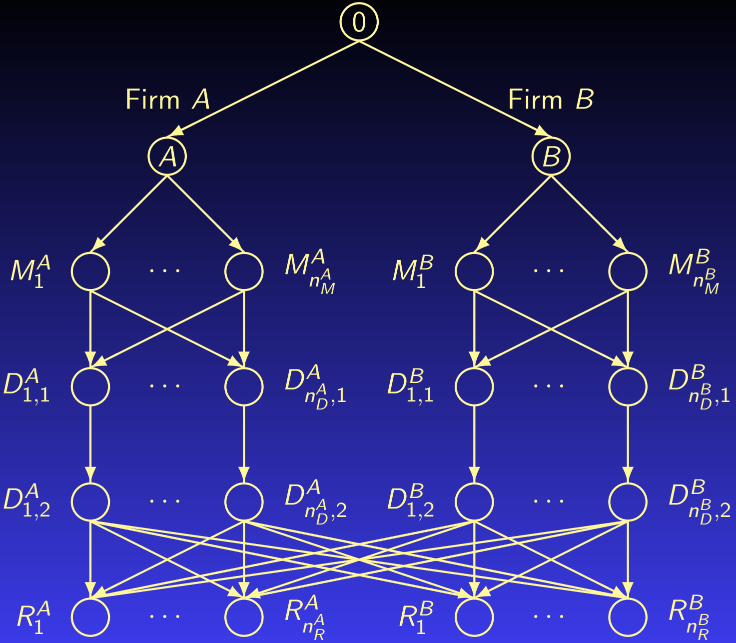


Figure 3: Case 2: Firms A and B Merge

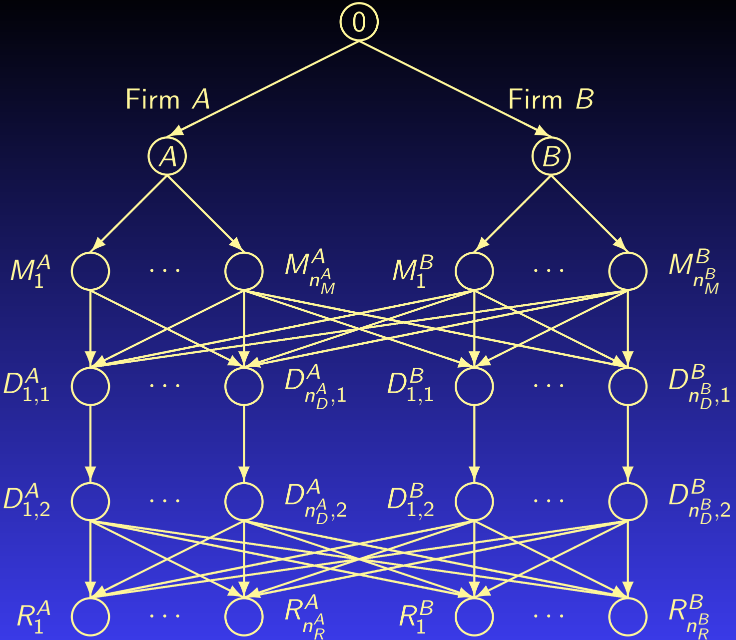


Figure 4: Case 3: Firms A and B Merge

Synergy Measure

The measure that we utilized in Nagurney (2009) to capture the gains, if any, associated with a horizontal merger Case i; $i = 1, 2, 3$ is as follows:

$$\mathcal{S}^i = \left[\frac{TC^0 - TC^i}{TC^0} \right] \times 100\%,$$

where TC^i is the total cost associated with the value of the objective function $\sum_{a \in L^i} \hat{c}_a(f_a)$ for $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$ evaluated at the optimal solution for Case i. Note that $\mathcal{S}^i$; $i = 1, 2, 3$ may also be interpreted as *synergy*.

This model can also be applied to the teaming of organizations in the case of humanitarian operations.

Bellagio Conference on Humanitarian Logistics

See: http://hlogistics.som.umass.edu/

The Supply Chain Network Oligopoly Model

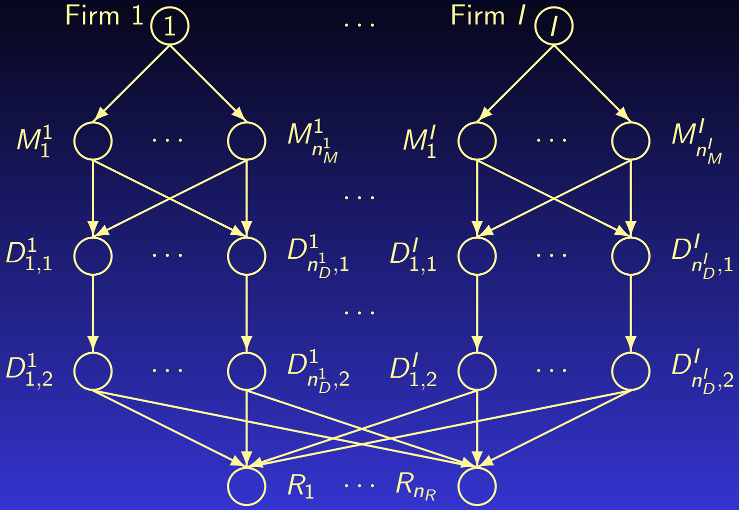


Figure 5: Supply Chain Network Structure of the Oligopoly

Nagurney *Computational Management Science* (2010) **7**, 377-401.

Mergers Through Coalition Formation

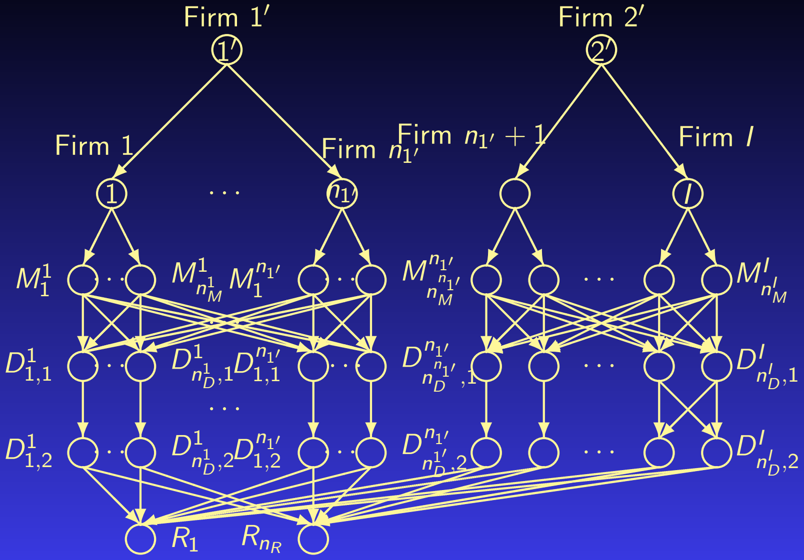


Figure 6: Mergers of the First $n_{1'}$ Firms and the Next $n_{2'}$ Firms

In addition, network design can be accomplished through the evolution and integration of disparate network systems, including social networks.

Two References:

A. Nagurney, T. Wakolbinger, and L. Zhao (2006) "The Evolution and Emergence of Integrated Social and Financial Networks with Electronic Transactions: A Dynamic Supernetwork Theory for the Modeling, Analysis, and Computation of Financial Flows and Relationship Levels," *Computational Economics* **27**, 353-393.

J. M. Cruz, A. Nagurney, and T. Wakolbinger (2006) "Financial Engineering of the Integration of Global Supply Chain Networks and Social Networks with Risk Management," *Naval Research Logistics* **53**, 674-696.

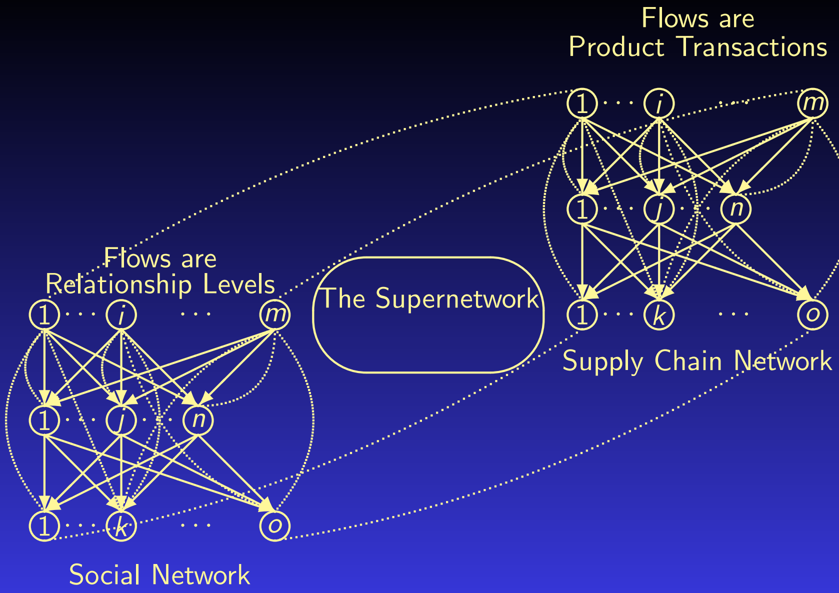


Figure 7: The Multilevel Supernetwork Structure of the Integrated Supply Chain / Social Network System

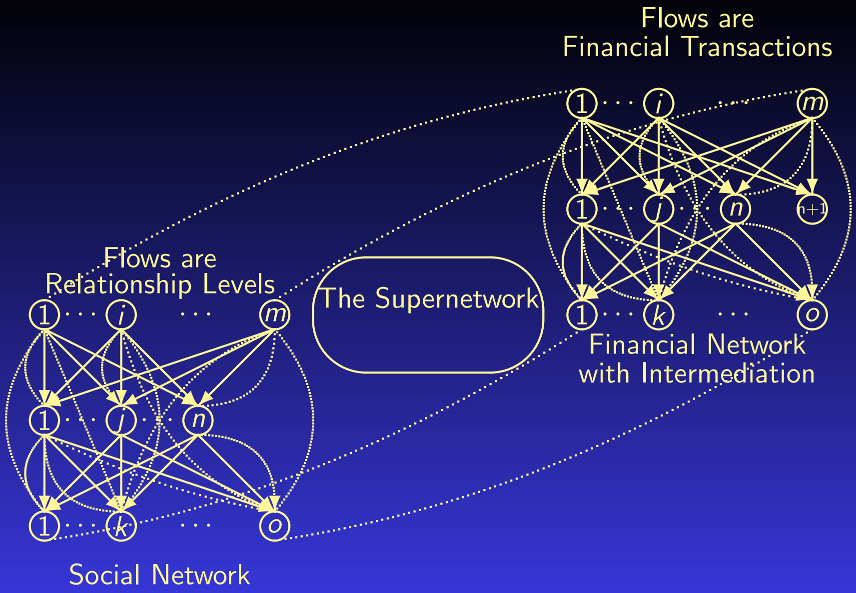


Figure 8: The Multilevel Supernetwork Structure of the Integrated Financial Network / Social Network System

Networks are the *fundamental critical infrastructure* for the movement of people and goods in our globalized *Network Economy*.

Transportation networks also serve as the primary conduit for *rescue, recovery, and reconstruction in disasters.*

Recent disasters have vividly demonstrated the importance and vulnerability of our transportation and critical infrastructure systems

- The biggest blackout in North America, August 14, 2003;
- Two significant power outages in September 2003 – one in the UK and the other in Italy and Switzerland;
- The Indonesian tsunami (and earthquake), December 26, 2004;
- Hurricane Katrina, August 23, 2005;
- The Minneapolis I35 Bridge collapse, August 1, 2007;
- The Mediterranean cable destruction, January 30, 2008;
- The Sichuan earthquake on May 12, 2008;
- The Haiti earthquake that struck on January 12, 2010 and the Chilean one on February 27, 2010;
- The triple disaster in Japan on March 11, 2011.

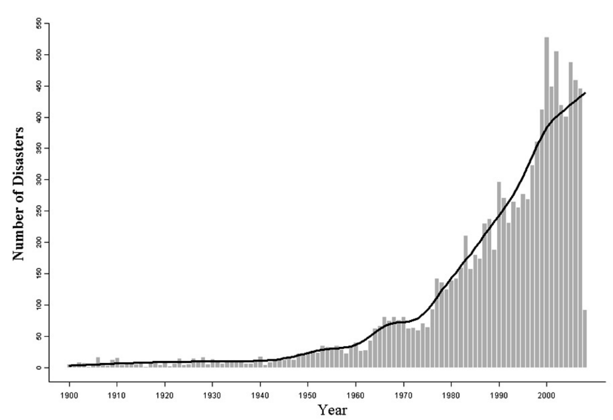
Hurricane Katrina in 2005

Hurricane Katrina has been called an *"American tragedy,"* in which essential services failed completely.

The Haitian and Chilean Earthquakes

The Triple Disaster in Japan on March 11, 2011

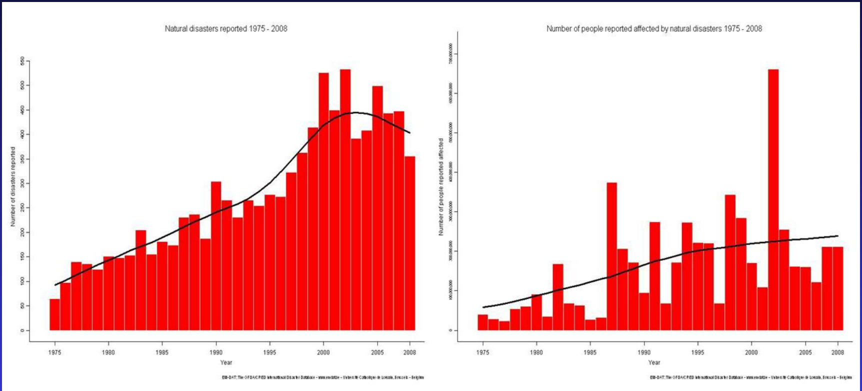
Disasters have brought an unprecedented impact on human lives in the 21st century and the number of disasters is growing. From January to October 2005, *an estimated 97,490 people were killed in disasters globally; 88,117 of them because of natural disasters*.



Frequency of disasters [Source: Emergency Events Database (2008)]

Disasters have a catastrophic effect on human lives and a region's or even a nation's resources.

Natural Disasters (1975–2008)



Which Nodes and Links Really Matter?

The Nagurney and Qiang (N-Q) Network Efficiency / Performance Measure

Definition: A Unified Network Performance Measure

The network performance/efficiency measure, $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{G}, d)$, for a given network topology $\mathcal{G}$ and the equilibrium (or fixed) demand vector d, is:

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{G}, d) = \frac{\sum_{w \in W} \frac{d_w}{\lambda_w}}{n_W},$$

where recall that n_W is the number of O/D pairs in the network, and d_w and λ_w denote, for simplicity, the equilibrium (or fixed) demand and the equilibrium disutility for O/D pair w, respectively.

The Importance of Nodes and Links

Definition: Importance of a Network Component

The importance of a network component $g \in \mathcal{G}$, $I(g)$, is measured by the relative network efficiency drop after g is removed from the network:

$$I(g) = \frac{\triangle \mathcal{E}}{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{G}, d) - \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{G} - g, d)}{\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{G}, d)}$$

where $\mathcal{G} - g$ is the resulting network after component g is removed from network $\mathcal{G}$.

The Approach to Identifying the Importance of Network Components

The elimination of a link is treated in the N-Q network efficiency measure by removing that link while the removal of a node is managed by removing the links entering and exiting that node.

In the case that the removal results in no path connecting an O/D pair, we simply assign the demand for that O/D pair to an abstract path with a cost of infinity.

The N-Q measure is well-defined even in the case of disconnected networks.

The Advantages of the N-Q Network Efficiency Measure

- The measure captures *demands, flows, costs, and behavior of users*, in addition to network topology.

- The resulting importance definition of network components is applicable and *well-defined even in the case of disconnected networks*.

- It can be used to identify the *importance (and ranking) of either nodes, or links, or both*.

- It can be applied to *assess the efficiency/performance of a wide range of network systems, including financial systems and supply chains under risk and uncertainty*.

- It is applicable also to *elastic demand networks*.

- It is *applicable to dynamic networks*, *including the Internet*.

Some Applications of the N-Q Measure

The Sioux Falls Network

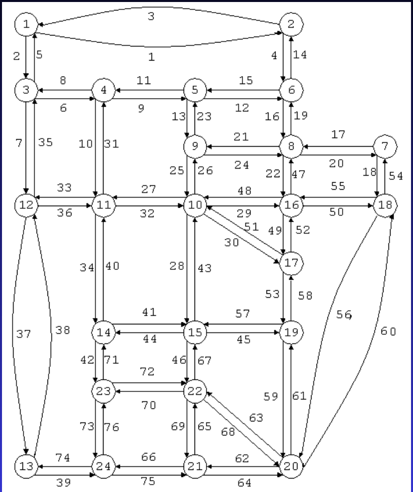


Figure 9: The Sioux Falls network with 24 nodes, 76 links, and 528 O/D pairs of nodes.

Importance of Links in the Sioux Falls Network

The computed network efficiency measure $\mathcal{E}$ for the Sioux Falls network is $\mathcal{E} = 47.6092$. Links 27, 26, 1, and 2 are the most important links, and hence special attention should be paid to protect these links accordingly, while the removal of links 13, 14, 15, and 17 would cause the least efficiency loss.

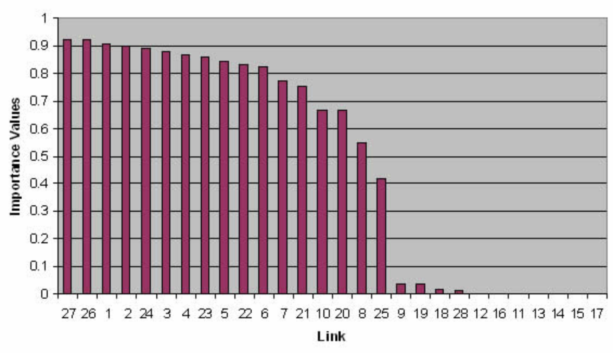


Figure 10: The Sioux Falls network link importance rankings

According to the European Environment Agency (2004), *since 1990, the annual number of extreme weather and climate related events has doubled, in comparison to the previous decade*. These events account for approximately 80% of all economic losses caused by catastrophic events. In the course of climate change, catastrophic events are projected to occur more frequently (see Schulz (2007)).

Schulz (2007) applied *N-Q network efficiency measure to a German highway system in order to identify the critical road elements* and found that this measure provided more reasonable results than the measure of Taylor and DEste (2007).

The N-Q measure can also be used to assess which links should be added to improve efficiency. *This measure was used for the evaluation of the proposed North Dublin (Ireland) Metro system* (October 2009 Issue of *ERCIM News*).

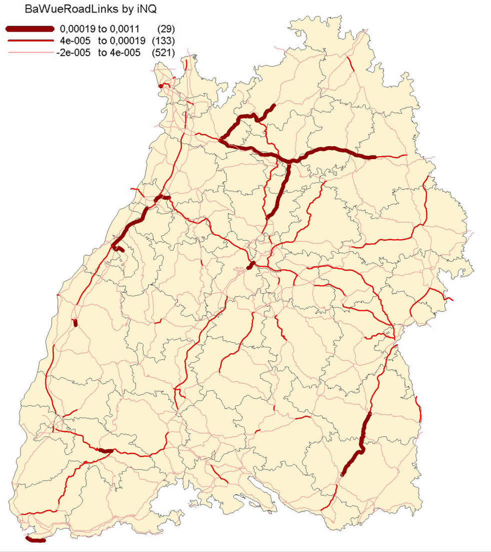
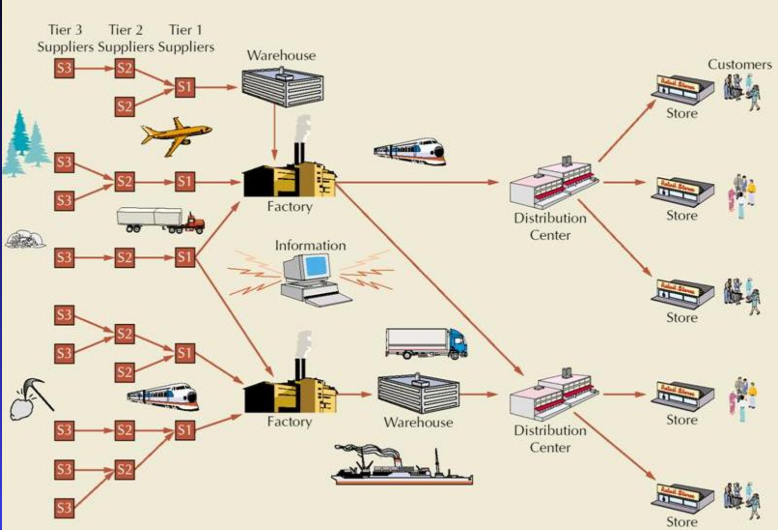


Figure 11: Comparative Importance of the links for the Baden - Wurttemberg Network – Modelling and analysis of transportation networks in earthquake prone areas via the N-Q measure, Tyagunov et al.

What About Disaster Relief?

A General Supply Chain



Humanitarian Relief

The period between 2000-2004 experienced an average annual number of disasters that was 55% higher than the period of 1995-1999 with 33% more people affected in the more recent period.

Humanitarian Relief

Humanitarian Supply Chains

The supply chain is a critical component not only of corporations but also of humanitarian organizations and their logistical operations.

At least 50 cents of each dollar's worth of food aid is spent on transport, storage and administrative costs.

Vulnerability of Humanitarian Supply Chains

Extremely poor logistical infrastructures: Modes of transportation include trucks, barges, donkeys in Afghanistan, and elephants in Cambodia.

To ship the humanitarian goods to the affected area in the first 72 hours after disasters is crucial. The successful execution is not just a question of money but a difference between life and death.

Corporations expertise with logistics could help public response efforts for nonprofit organizations.

In the humanitarian sector, organizations are 15 to 20 years behind, as compared to the commercial arena, regarding supply chain network development.

Illustrations of Supply Chain Risk

It is clear that better-designed supply chain networks in which transportation plays a pivotal role would have facilitated and enhanced various emergency preparedness and relief efforts and would have resulted in less suffering and lives lost.

Critical Needs Products

Critical needs products are those that are *essential to the survival of the population*, and can include, for example, vaccines, medicine, food, water, etc., depending upon the particular application.

The demand for the product should be met as nearly as possible since otherwise there may be additional loss of life.

In times of crises, a *system-optimization* approach is mandated since the demands for critical supplies should be met (as nearly as possible) at minimal total cost.

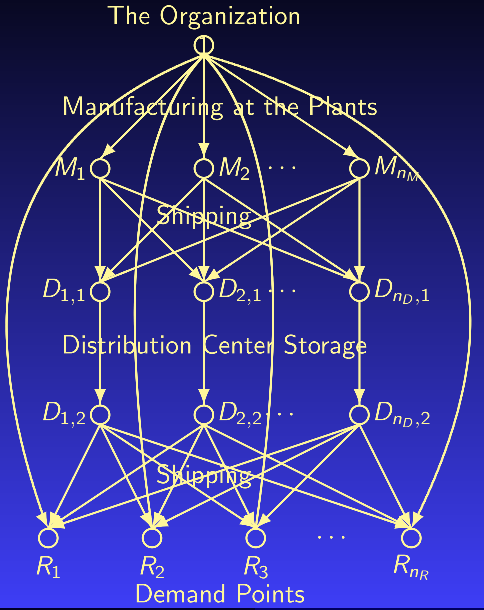
We have now developed a framework for the optimal design of critical needs product supply chains:

"Supply Chain Network Design for Critical Needs with Outsourcing,"

A. Nagurney, M. Yu, and Q. Qiang, *Papers in Regional Science* (2011), **90**, 123-142,

where additional background as well as references can be found.

Supply Chain Network Topology with Outsourcing



Applications to Vaccine Production

By applying the general theoretical model to the company's data, the firm can determine whether it needs to expand its facilities (or not), how much of the vaccine to produce where, how much to store where, and how much to have shipped to the various demand points. Also, it can determine whether it should outsource any of its vaccine production and at what level.

The firm by solving the model with its company-relevant data can then ensure *that the price that it receives for its vaccine production and delivery is appropriate* and that it recovers its incurred costs and obtains, if negotiated correctly, an equitable profit.

Applications to Emergencies

A company can, using the model, prepare and plan for an emergency such as a natural disaster in the form of a hurricane and identify where to store a necessary product (such as food packets, for example) so that the items can be delivered to the demand points in a timely manner and at minimal total cost.

Summary, Conclusions, and Suggestions for Future Research

- We discussed the *new era of supernetworks*.
- We emphasized the *importance of capturing behavior* in network modeling, analysis, and design and various paradoxes.
- We noted a *variety of network design approaches*: the addition of links; the integration of networks as in mergers and acquisitions; and the design from scratch (and redesign).
- We presented the *Nagurney-Qiang network performance / efficiency measure* and how it has been applied to identify the importance and rankings of nodes and links along with various applications.

- We developed an *integrated framework for the design of supply chain networks for critical products* with outsourcing and discussed humanitarian operations applications.

- Our recent research in network design has also considered oligopolistic markets.

- In addition, we have been heaving involved in *constructing mathematical models that capture the impacts of foreign exchange risk and competition intensity* on supply chain companies who are involved in offshore outsourcing activities.

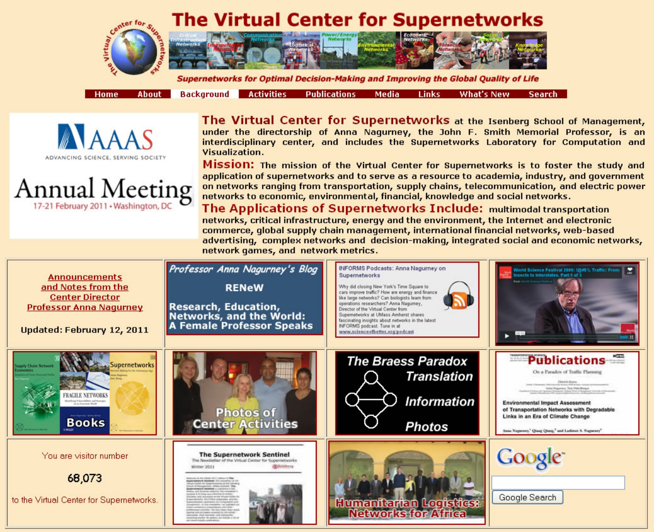
- Our research in supply chain networks has also led us to other time-sensitive products, such as *fast fashion*, and

- Finally, we are now working on modeling *disequilibrium dynamics and equilibrium states in ecological predator-prey networks*, that is, supply chains in nature.

- We expect that future research will include supernetwork design for robustness and resiliency.

- Some recent research that we have begun in this direction: "Modeling of Supply Chain Risk Under Disruptions with Performance Measurement and Robustness Analysis," Q. Qiang, A. Nagurney, and J. Dong (2009), in *Managing Supply Chain Risk and Vulnerability: Tools and Methods for Supply Chain Decision Makers*, T. Wu and J. Blackhurst, Editors, Springer, London, England, 91-111.

THANK YOU!



For more information, see: http://supernet.som.umass.edu

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- D. Braess (1968) "Uber ein Paradoxon von Verkehrsplanung," *Unternehmenforschung* **12**, 258-286.
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- Q. Qiang, A. Nagurney, and J. Dong (2009) "Modeling of Supply Chain Risk Under Disruptions with Performance Measurement and Robustness Analysis," in *Managing Supply Chain Risk and Vulnerability: Tools and Methods for Supply Chain Decision Makers*, T. Wu and J. Blackhurst, Editors, Springer, London, England, 91-111.

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