

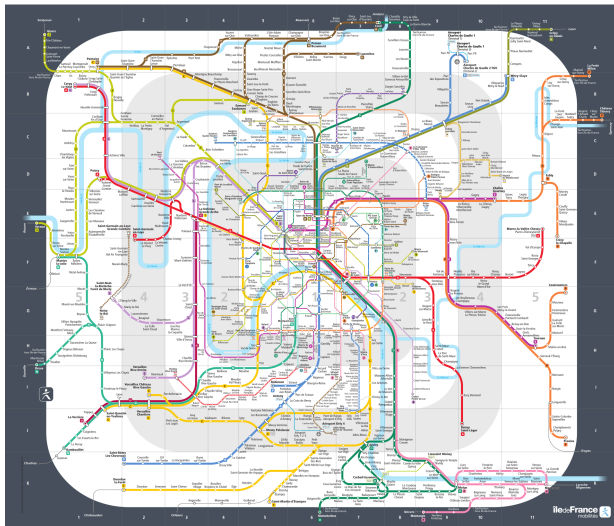
Modeling and forecasting of railway operation variables and passenger flows for dense traffic areas

PhD Defence

Rémi COULAUD

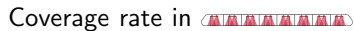
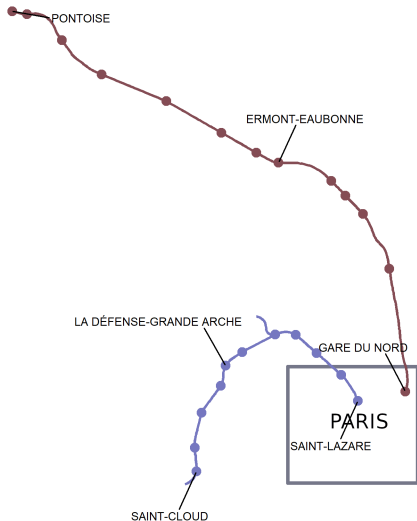
supervised by Gilles STOLTZ and Christine KERIBIN

30th November 2022



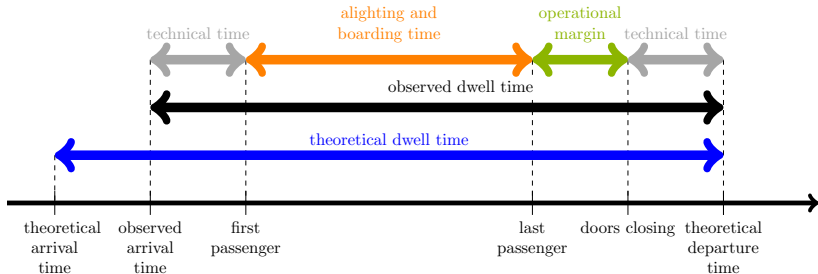
3.4M passengers/day, more than 6 200 trains/day

Perimeter and data

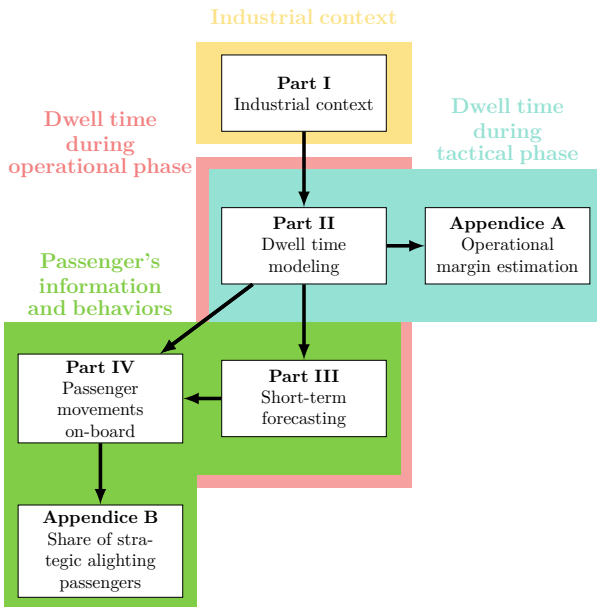


	2019	2022
H	100%	100%
L	80%	100%

Dwell time for commuter trains

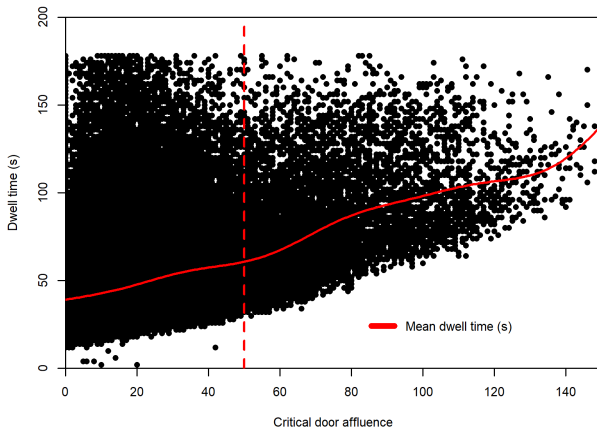


- theoretical times are fixed 2 years in advance
- 20-30% of the total travel time is spent at stops



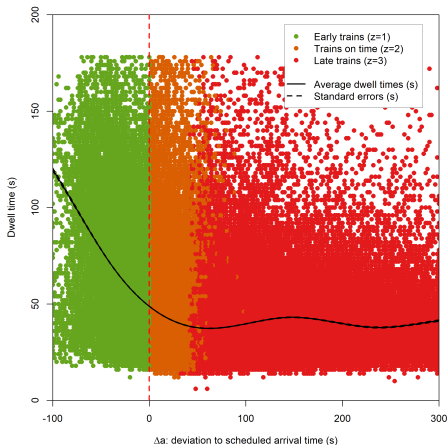
Passenger impact on dwell time in a railway context

Lam *et al.* [10] build a metro dwell time **regression** model using only passenger flow variables (**PF**)



Arrival delay effect on dwell time in a railway context

Kecman & Goverde [9] build a **random forests** using only railway operation variables (**RO**)





A unique data set with accurate PF + RO + M variables

	Variable	Domain	Notation
	Observed dwell time	$\{0, 2, \dots, 180\}$	$Y^{\text{obs}} = d^{\text{obs}} - a^{\text{obs}}$
	Boarding numbers	$\{0, 1, \dots\}$	B
PF	Alighting numbers	$\{0, 1, \dots\}$	A
	Train crowding	$[0, 2]$	$C = L/\text{cap}$
M	Critical door affluence	$\{0, 1, \dots\}$	M
	Theoretical dwell time	$\{0, 10, \dots, 180\}$	$Y^{\text{theo}} = d^{\text{theo}} - a^{\text{theo}}$
RO	Arrival delay	$[-600, 600]$	$\Delta a = a^{\text{obs}} - a^{\text{theo}}$
	Type	$\{\text{simple}, \text{double}\}$	T

Only Palmqvist *et al.* [13] and Cornet *et al.* [2] have access to **RO+PF**

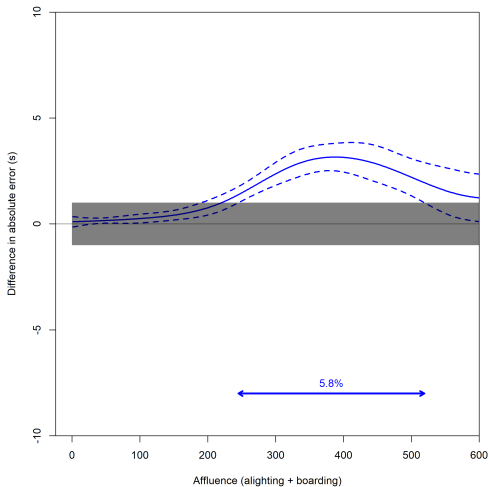
Global performance: mean absolute errors (MAE)

<i>Lines</i>						
	<i>Variables</i>	PF	RO	RO+PF+M	PF	RO
1. LM: with interactions	13.3	8.8	8.3	12.2	8.8	8.3
2. Random forests	13.7	8.4	8.0	12.5	8.5	8.0

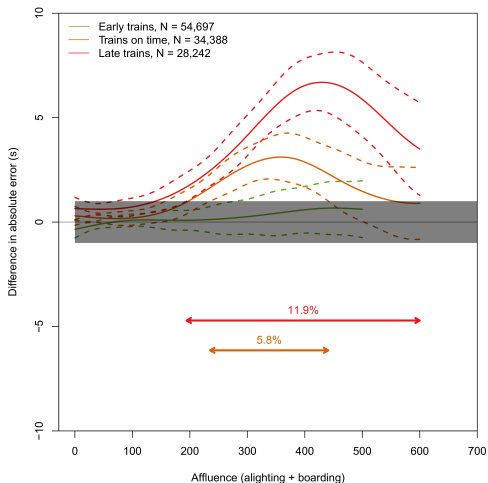
- Variables: $PF \ll RO \leq RO+PF+M$
- Perimeter: line L is more challenging than line H

Local performance

Difference in absolute error: $|Y - \hat{Y}_{RO}| - |Y - \hat{Y}_{RO+PF+M}|$

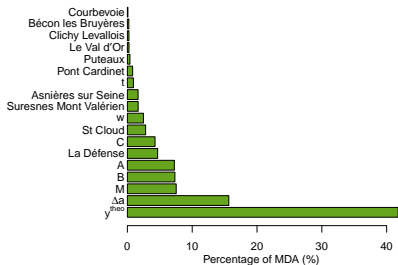


Local performance by punctuality regimes

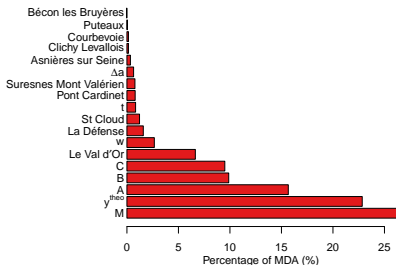


A passenger flow effect on late trains which confirms Pedersen *et al.* [14] and Medeossi & Nash [12] intuitions

Variables importance



Early trains =
 $\Delta a, y^{\text{theo}}$ railway
 operation (RO)



Late trains =
 M, A, B passengers
 flow variables (PF)

Modelling → forecasting

$$\hat{Y}_{t+1} = \hat{f}(\underbrace{A_{t+1}, B_{t+1}, C_{t+1}, \Delta A_{t+1}}_{\text{not known at } t+1}, \underbrace{Y_{t+1}^{\text{theo}}, T_{t+1}, \dots}_{\text{known at } t+1})$$

Strategy : Forecast A_{t+1} , B_{t+1} , C_{t+1} and ΔA_{t+1} with an auto-regressive strategy + plug in

also used to forecast Y_{t+1}

Real-time information

14:37

Prochain Train Voie G

Train long

N Dreux 5 min
DAP0

Page 1/1

- Vers. Chantiers
- Plaisir Grignon
- Villiers Neau. Pont.
- Montfort-l'Am. Méré
- Garancières la Q.
- Orgerus Béhoust
- Tacoignières Rich.

- Houdan
- Marchezais Br.
- Dreux

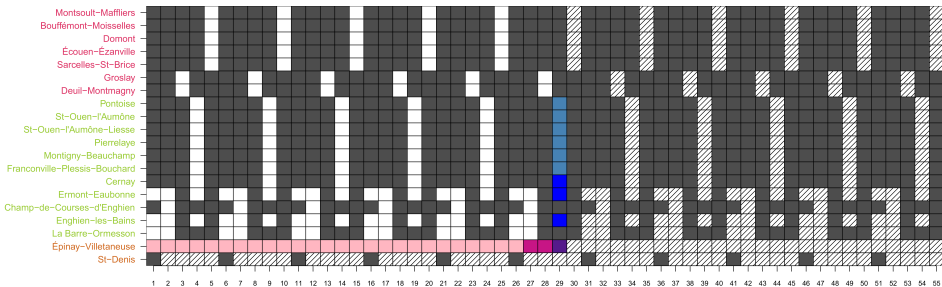
Affluence

Arrière Avant

The screenshot shows a train information interface. At the top left, the time is 14:37. The main heading is 'Prochain Train' with 'Voie G' and 'Train long' indicators. A red box on the left contains a message: 'Situation perturbée' (Situation disrupted) with an information icon. Below this, it states: 'Ligne N : le trafic est perturbé sur l'ensemble de la ligne. Motif : acte de malveillance à Houdan. Plus d'info sur l'appli IDF Mobilités et transilien.com'. The main section displays 'N Dreux' in 5 minutes, with 'DAP0' below it. A 'Page 1/1' indicator is present. A vertical list of stations is shown, with 'Vers. Chantiers' at the top and 'Tacoignières Rich.' at the bottom. To the right of this list, 'Houdan', 'Marchezais Br.', and 'Dreux' are listed. Below the station list is an 'Affluence' (Crowding) indicator, which consists of a series of colored icons (red, orange, green) representing passenger density. The 'Arrière' (Rear) and 'Avant' (Front) directions are indicated at the bottom of the crowding indicator.

Real-time crowding and delay information require forecasting

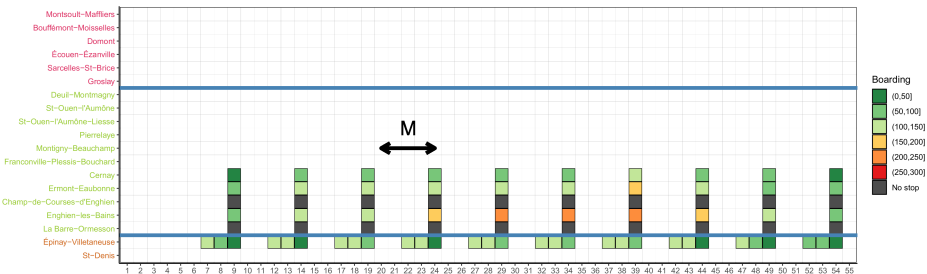
Bi-autoregressive and non-stationary model



Inspired from Corman & Kecman [1], Bayesian forecasting model using the **recent past along the train ride** and **the recent past at the station**

$$x_{k,s} = \beta_{k,s}^{0,0} + \sum_{p=1}^P \beta_{k,s}^{p,0} x_{k-p,s} + \sum_{q=1}^Q \beta_{k,s}^{0,q} x_{k,s-q} + \varepsilon_{k,s}$$

Pattern and stationary model



$$x_{k,s} = \beta_{k[M],s}^{0,0} + \sum_{p=1}^P \beta_{k[M],s}^{p,0} x_{k-p,s} + \sum_{q=1}^Q \beta_{k[M],s}^{0,q} x_{k,s-q} + \varepsilon_{k,s}$$

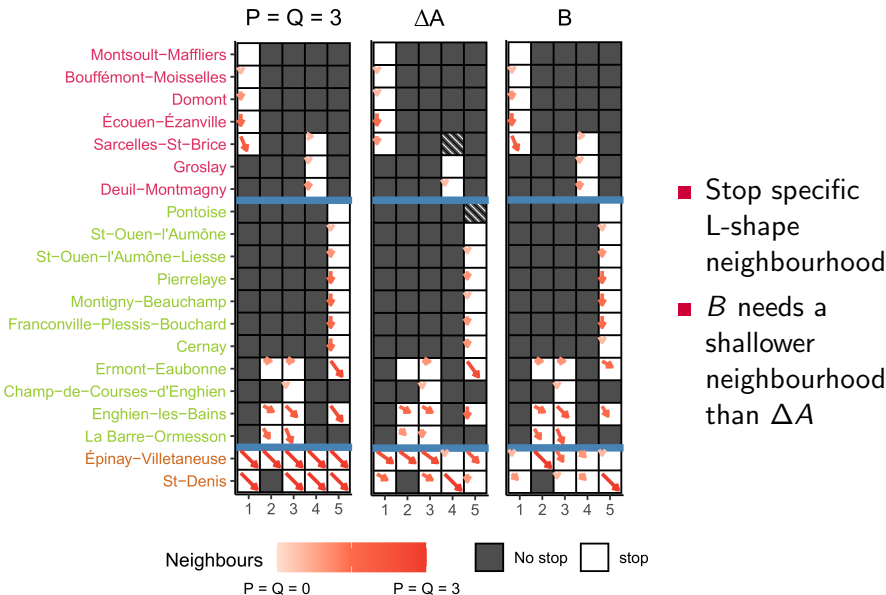
Pattern models are in between Li *et al.* [11] too frugal dwell time models and Corman & Kecman [1] too complex delays models

Global performance: mean absolute errors (MAE)

Models			Railway Operation (RO)		Passenger Flow (PF)		
Name	L-shape	Number of parameters	Y^{obs} [s]	ΔA [s]	A [pas]	B [pas]	L [pas]
Non-stationary	P = Q = 0	337	9.7	35.8	10	21	69
	P = Q = 1	956	9.5	16.1	9	18	20
Semi-stationary	P = Q = 1	417	9.3	18.6	10	19	23
	P = Q = 2	455	9.2	18.1	9	19	23
	P = Q = 3	482	9.2	18.1	9	18	23
Stationary	P = Q = 1	80	9.3	16.2	10	21	27
	P = Q = 2	118	9.2	15.8	8	20	27
	P = Q = 3	145	9.2	15.9	8	20	27

- For ΔA and L : $(P = Q \geq 1) \gg (P = Q = 0)$
- Stationary \geq non-stationary for **(RO)**
- Semi-stationary \approx non-stationary for **(PF)**

Neighbourhood automatic selection



Real-time crowding information (RTCI)

14:37 Prochain Train Vale G
Train long

Situation perturbée

Ligne N : le trafic est perturbé sur l'ensemble de la ligne. Motif : acte de malveillance à Houdan. Plus d'info sur l'appli IDF Mobilités et transilien.com

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N Dreux
DAPO

- Vers. Chantiers
- Plaisir Grignon
- Villiers Neu. Pont.
- Montfort-l'Am. Méré
- Garancières la Q.
- Orgerus Béhoust
- Tacoignières Rich.
- Houdan
- Marchezais Br.
- Dreux

5 min

Affluence

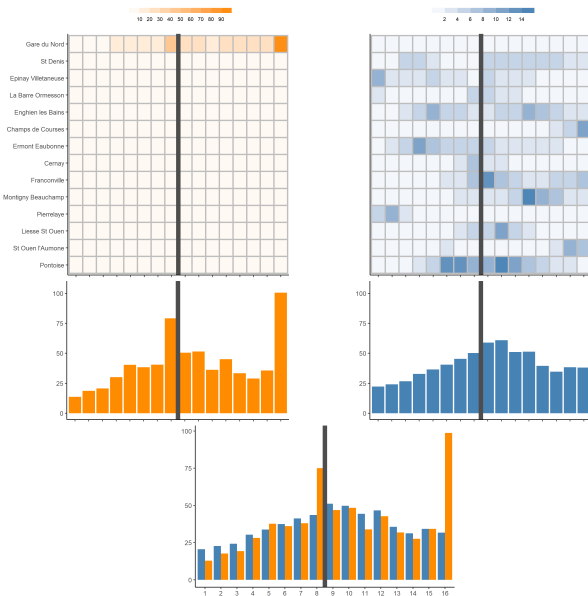
Arrière Avant



RTCI on station screen
based on **APC**
(alighting and
boarding passengers)

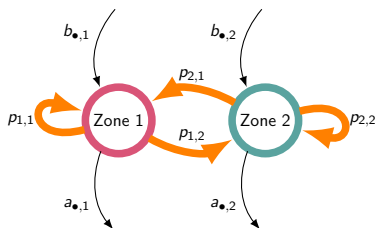
100m open gangway units

From station scale to trip scale



- Alighting and boarding distribution imbalance at the **trip scale**

Zone definition and notations



Notation	Description
$p_{i,j}$	probability to board zone i to move to zone j
$b_{\bullet,i}$	number of passengers boarding zone i
$a_{\bullet,i}$	number of passengers alighting from zone i

Models

Minimum least square (MLS)

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{P}} \sum_{(k,d) \in \mathcal{N}} \left\| \mathbf{a}_{\bullet}^{k,d} - \mathbf{b}_{\bullet}^{k,d} \mathbf{P} \right\|_2^2$$

Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\mathbf{P}} \sum_{(k,d) \in \mathcal{N}} \sum_{j=1}^I a_{\bullet,j}^{k,d} \log \left(\sum_{i=1}^I r_{\bullet,i}^{k,d} p_{i,j} \right)$$

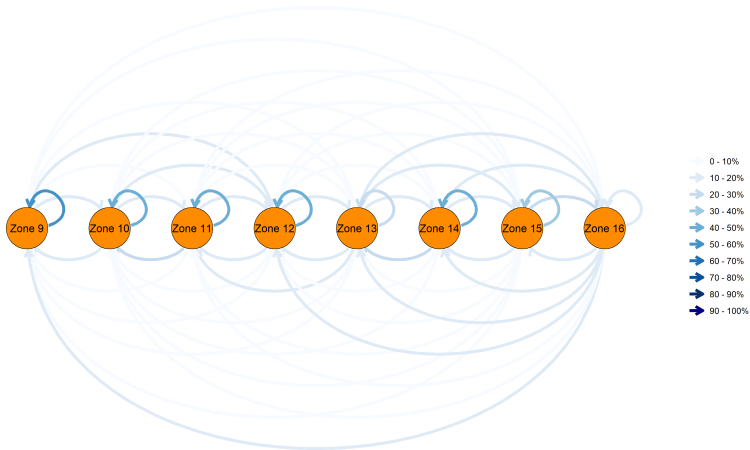
under the constraint of \mathbf{P} being stochastic

Global performance

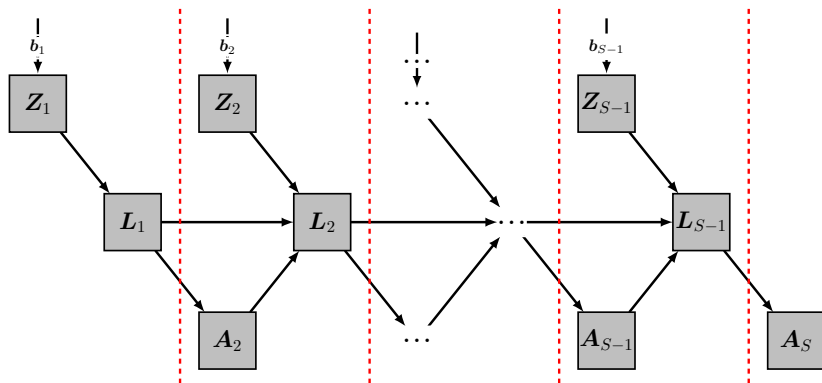
Models	Front	Back
	MAE [pas]	MAE [pas]
Without movement	10.9	17.5
\hat{P}_{MLS}	6	8.5
\hat{P}_{MLE}	6	8.5

Without movement $\ll \hat{P}_{\text{MLS}} = \hat{P}_{\text{MLE}}$

Transition matrix



Models: station scale



- Z_s hidden passenger movements at station s
- L_s hidden load after departure at station s

Main contributions

Dwell time modelling:

Rémi Coulaud, Christine Keribin, and Gilles Stoltz. **Modeling dwell time in a data-rich railway environment: with operations and passenger flows data.**

Re-submitted *Transportation Research Part C (TRC)* after corrections. Preprint accessible here hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-03651835/, 2022

Rémi Coulaud and Martine Grangé. **Modélisation de l'impact des flux voyageurs sur les temps d'échange pour la simulation des marges d'exploitation : une application à la ligne N de transilien.**

In *4èmes Rencontres Francophones Transport Mobilité (RFTM)*, 2022

Short-term forecasting:

Rémi Coulaud, Christine Keribin, and Gilles Stoltz. **One-station-ahead forecasting of dwell time, arrival delay and passenger flows on trains equipped with automatic passenger counting (apc) device.**

In *13th World Congress on Rail Research (WCRR)*, 2022

Passenger's movement on board:

Rémi Coulaud and Mathilde Vimont. **How to use APC data to model passenger movement on-board? An application to Paris suburban train network.**

In *8th International Symposium On Transport Network Reliability (INSTR)*, 2021

Rémi Coulaud, Valentine Mazon, Laura Sanchis, and Oded Cats. **Share of strategic alighting passengers combining automatic passenger counting and OpenStreetMap.**

In *Conference on Advanced Systems in Public Transport (CASPT)*, 2022

Perspectives

Dwell time during tactical phase:

- Propose an extended definition of critical door
- Develop a method to compute theoretical dwell time margins

Dwell time during operational phase:

- Forecast dwell time with a plug-in strategy
- Test wider forecasting ranges ($s + 2$, $s + 3$, $s + 4$, ...)
- Write a literature review on short-term crowding forecasting

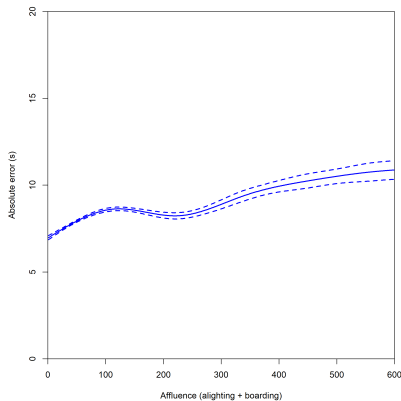
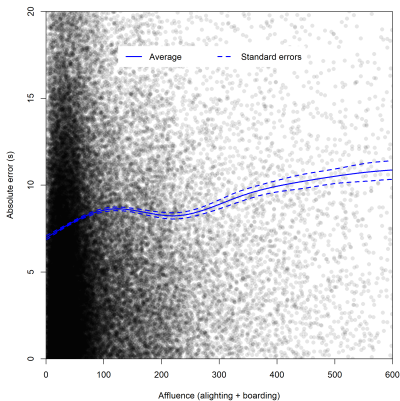
Passenger's information and behaviour:

- Test the station scale model

Thank you



Conditional mean

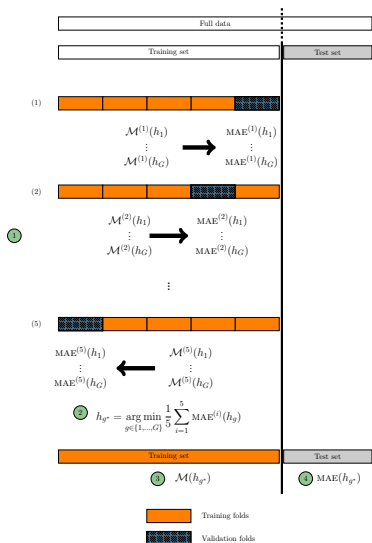


Variable importance: mean decrease accuracy

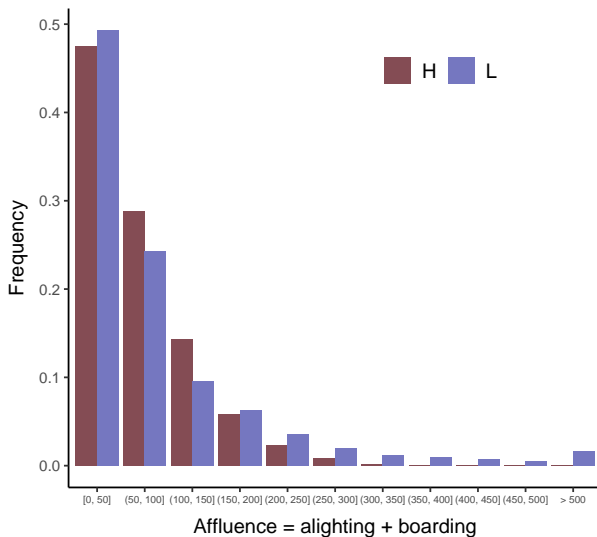
- Bootstrap data with replacement into T data sets
- Compute a random forest based on each of these T bootstrapped data sets
- Randomly permuting the values of the variable of interest
- Compute on out-of-bag observations the difference of average squared error between permuted and original data

$$\frac{\text{MDA}_j}{\sum_{i=1}^p \text{MDA}_i}$$

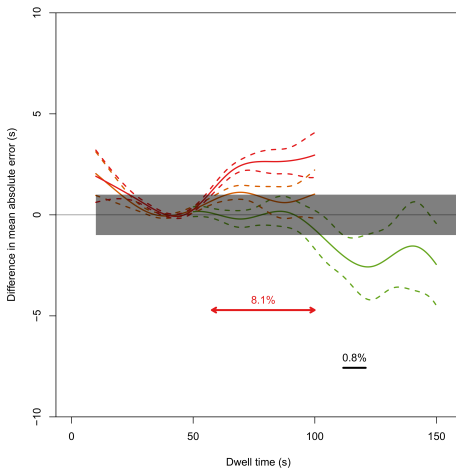
Cross-validation strategy



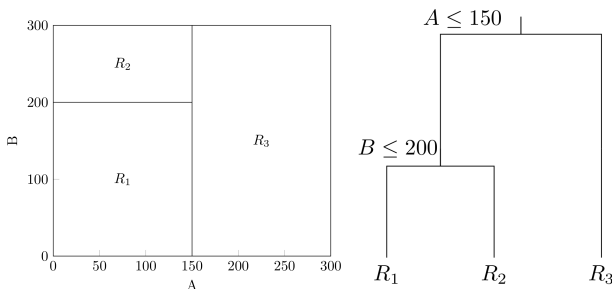
Line L v.s. line H



Line H - local performance by regimes

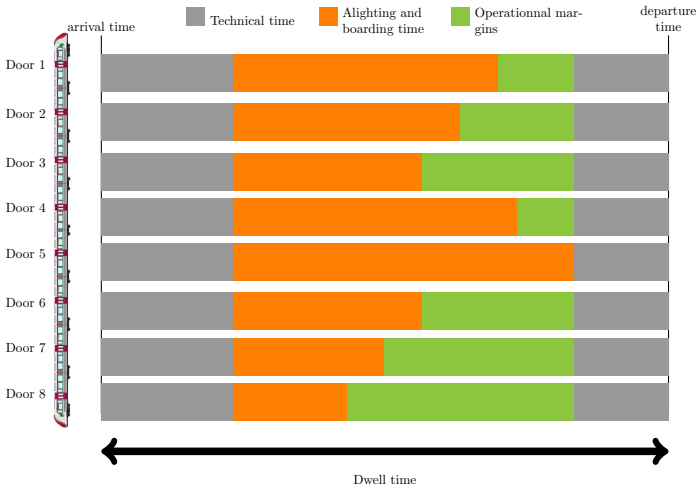


Regression tree

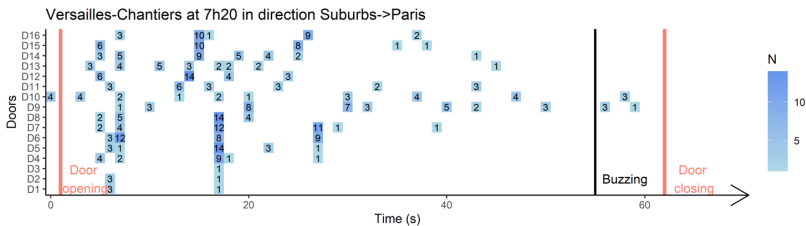


- Only alighting and boarding passengers number to explain dwell time
- Three different dwell times for three different regions and two splits

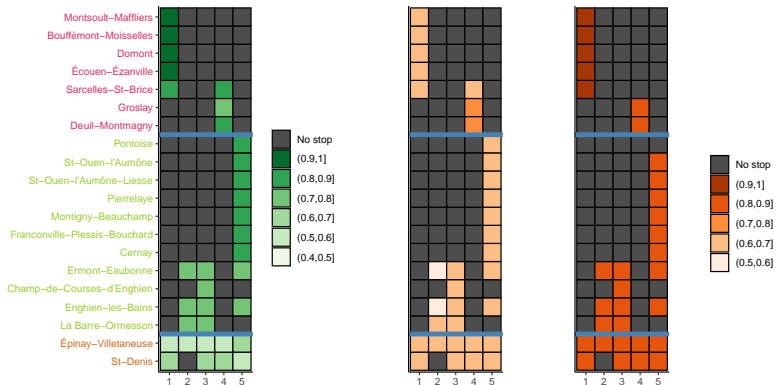
An illustration of critical door effect



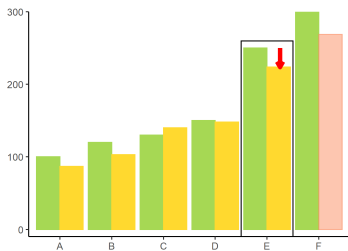
Very accurate automatic passenger counting data



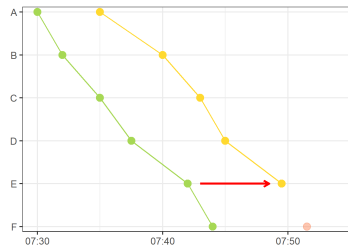
Consistency of the neighbourhood order



SNCF forecasting model

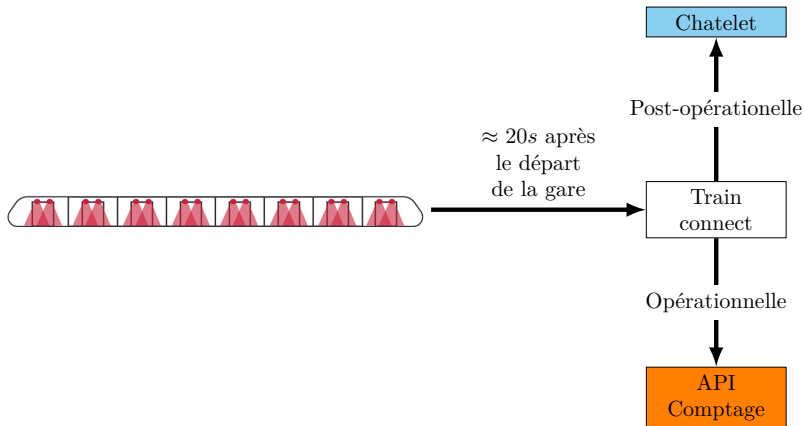


Charge ■ de référence (\bar{X}) ■ observée (X) ■ prédites (\hat{X})

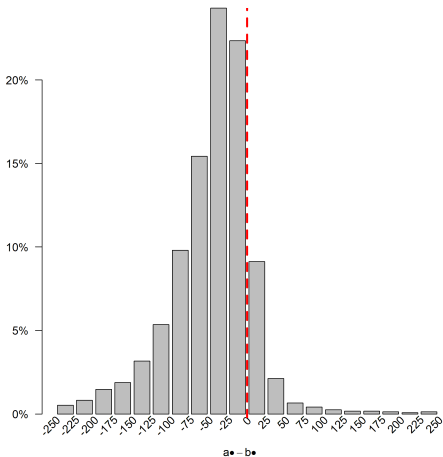


Horaires ● de référence (\bar{X}) ● observés (X) ● prédits (\hat{X})

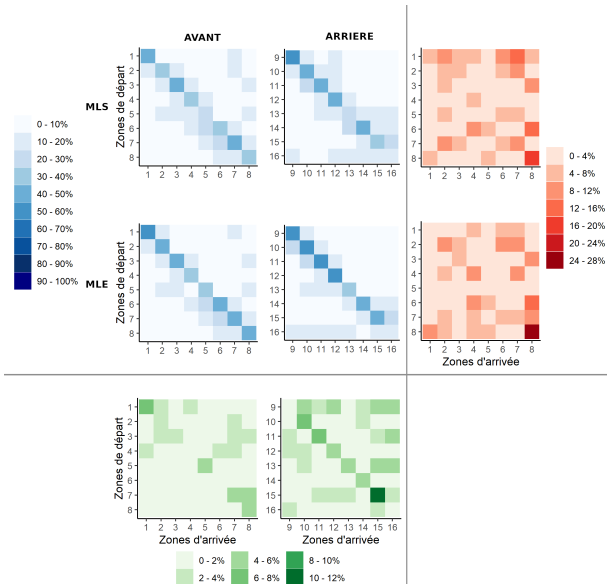
Data quality - I



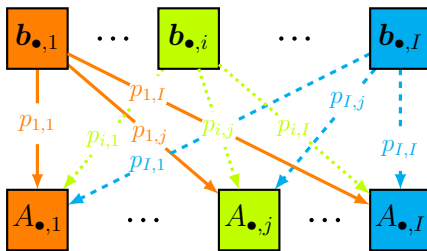
Data quality - II



Transition matrices comparisons



Probabilistic model at the trip scale - I



We define :

$$U_{\bullet,j} \sim \mathcal{M}(b_{\bullet,j}, p_{i,1}, \dots, p_{i,I}).$$

Then, we define:

$$A_{\bullet} = \sum_{j=1}^I U_{\bullet,j}.$$

Probabilistic model at the trip scale - II

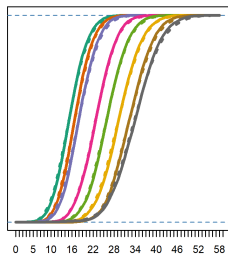
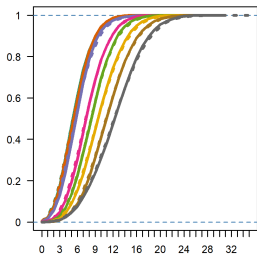
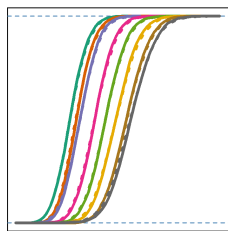
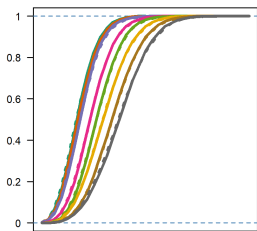
Approximation

The random law of \mathbf{A}_\bullet is approached by: $\mathcal{M}(b_{\bullet,\bullet}, \pi_{\bullet,1}, \dots, \pi_{\bullet,l})$
with $\pi_{\bullet,j} = \sum_{i=1}^l r_{\bullet,i} p_{i,j}$ where $r_{\bullet,i} = b_{\bullet,i} / b_{\bullet,\bullet}$.

The probability distribution of the alighting numbers is :

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{A}_\bullet = \mathbf{a}_\bullet; \mathbf{b}_\bullet) = \prod_{j=1}^l \frac{b_{\bullet,\bullet}!}{a_{\bullet,j}!} \left(\sum_{i=1}^l r_{\bullet,i} p_{i,j} \right)^{a_{\bullet,j}} .$$

Approximation quality



Probabilistic model at the station scale - hypothesis

(A₀) Trips are repeated according to day d and train k .

For a trip (k, d) :

(A_{1a}) Passenger movements conditionally to boarding follow :

$$\mathbf{W}_s^{k,d} \sim \mathcal{M}(b_{s,\bullet}^{k,d}, \pi_{s,1}^{k,d}, \dots, \pi_{s,l}^{k,d}), \quad s = 1, \dots, S-1,$$

where $\pi_{s,j}^{k,d} = \sum_{i=1}^l r_{s,i}^{k,d} p_{s,i,j}$ with $r_{s,i}^{k,d} = b_{s,i}^{k,d} / b_{s,\bullet}^{k,d}$.

(A_{1b}) Passenger movements at the different stations $\mathbf{W}_s^{k,d}$, $s = 1, \dots, S-1$, are independent to boarding and other passenger movement's at other stations $s' \neq s$.

(A_{2a}) The probability distribution of alighting numbers of zone i at station s conditionally to the past is only dependant of the load entering station s :

$$\mathbb{P}\left(A_{s,i}^{k,d} \mid a_{2:(s-1),i}^{k,d}, z_{1:(s-1),i}^{k,d}\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(A_{s,i}^{k,d} \mid \ell_{s-1,i}^{k,d}\right), \quad s = 2, \dots, S.$$

(A_{2b}) The alighting numbers of zone i at station s conditionally to load $\ell_{s-1,i}^{k,d}$ leaving station $s-1$ follow a binomial distribution :

$$A_{s,i}^{k,d} \sim \mathcal{B}(\ell_{s-1,i}^{k,d}, \alpha_{s,i}), \quad s = 2, \dots, S-1.$$

(A_{2c}) For all stations s , the vector of alighting numbers $\mathbf{A}_s^{k,d}$ for this station is independent conditionally to the load $\ell_s^{k,d}$.

Probabilistic model at the station scale - Log-likelihood

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:S}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-1)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\
 &= \prod_{s=2}^S \underbrace{\left(\prod_{i=1}^I \binom{\ell_{s-1,i}}{a_{s,i}} (\alpha_{s,i})^{a_{s,i}} (1 - \alpha_{s,i})^{(\ell_{s-1,i} - a_{s,i})} \right)}_{\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{a}_s | \ell_{s-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta})} \\
 & \quad \underbrace{\left(\prod_{i=1}^I \frac{(b_{s-1,i}!)}{(w_{s-1,i}!)} (\pi_{s-1,i})^{w_{s-1,i}} \right)}_{\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{w}_{s-1}; \mathbf{b}_{s-1}, \boldsymbol{\theta})}. \tag{1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof Log-likelihood - I

At the terminal station S , we have :

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:S}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-1)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(\underbrace{\mathbf{a}_S}_{\text{Station } S} \mid \underbrace{\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-1)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-1)}}_{\text{values until station } S-1}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\ & \quad \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-1)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-1)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Then, we have :

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-1)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-1)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-1)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-2)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \times \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{w}_{S-1}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right), \end{aligned}$$

simplified with hypothesis (A_{1b}) :

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{w}_{S-1}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{w}_{S-1}; \mathbf{b}_{S-1}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right).$$

Proof Log-likelihood - II

We apply Bayes rules to the left :

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-1)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-2)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\
 &= \mathbb{P}\left(\underbrace{\mathbf{a}_{S-1}}_{\text{Station S-1}} \mid \underbrace{\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-2)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-2)}}_{\text{Until station S-2}}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-2)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\
 & \quad \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-2)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-2)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Plug in the right term :

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-1)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-1)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\
 &= \mathbb{P}\left(\underbrace{\mathbf{a}_{S-1}}_{\text{Station S-1}} \mid \underbrace{\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-2)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-2)}}_{\text{Until station S-2}}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-2)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\
 & \quad \times \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{w}_{S-1}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \times \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:(S-2)}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-2)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof Log-likelihood - III

Using load ℓ_{s-1} at station s and hypothesis (A_{2a}) :

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_s \mid \mathbf{w}_{1:(s-1)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(s-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_s \mid \ell_{s-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}\right).$$

With (A_{2c}), we obtain :

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_s \mid \ell_{s-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) = \prod_{i=1}^I \mathbb{P}\left(a_{s,i} \mid \ell_{s-1,i}; \boldsymbol{\theta}\right).$$

To sum up :

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{a}_{2:S}, \mathbf{w}_{1:(S-1)}; \mathbf{b}_{1:(S-1)}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \\ &= \prod_{s=2}^S \left(\prod_{i=1}^I \mathbb{P}\left(a_{s,i} \mid \ell_{s-1,i}; \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \right) \mathbb{P}\left(\mathbf{w}_{S-1}; \mathbf{b}_{S-1}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Platform position strategies

Strategic boarding passengers (SBP)

Minimize walking distance at departure

Departure station



Strategic alighting passengers (SAP)

Minimize walking distance at destination

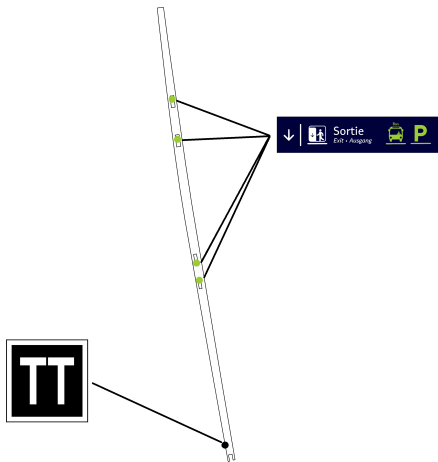
Destination station



Strategic confort passengers (SCP)

Travel in the least crowded car

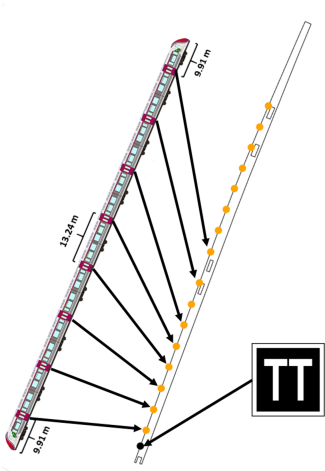
Platform main geographical elements



Geographical point :
(2.345856, 48.9334)

1. Platform borders
2. J platform exits position, note $(E_{j,s})$
3. Train stop point

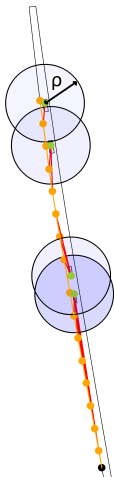
Train doors position



Space between doors :
13.24m or 9.91m

1. Deduce train doors position, note $V_{i,s}$ from train stop point
2. Make the hypothesis that train stop point is reliable

Exit attractiveness



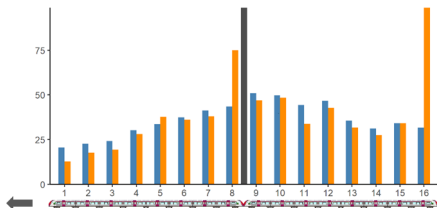
Exit attractiveness : ρ

1. Door i minimal distance to an exit :

$$d_{i,s}^* = \min_{j=1,\dots,J} d(V_{i,s}, E_{j,s})$$

2. Door i belong to an exit attractiveness area of radius ρ if $d_{i,s}^* \leq \rho$
3. One same exit attractiveness for all exits

Share of strategic alighting passengers (*SAP*)



Alighting distribution (a_1, \dots, a_l) and boarding distribution (b_1, \dots, b_l)

The share of strategic alighting passengers is :

$$SAP_{\rho} = \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_{\rho}} a_i}{a_{\bullet}}, \quad (2)$$

with \mathcal{I}_{ρ} all the door's index which belong to an exit attractiveness area.

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