

Data fusion for traffic flow estimation at intersections

Axel WOLFERMANN

German Aerospace Center (DLR e. V.)
Germany

Masao KUWAHARA

Tohoku University
Japan

Babak MEHRAN

Canada



Outline



Part I Motivation and idea



Part II Data Fusion Concept



Part III Application and Discussion



Part I

Motivation and idea

Why data fusion?

Good coverage of **space**

- **mobile detectors**
 - floating car data
 - mobile phone data
 - ...

Good coverage of **time**

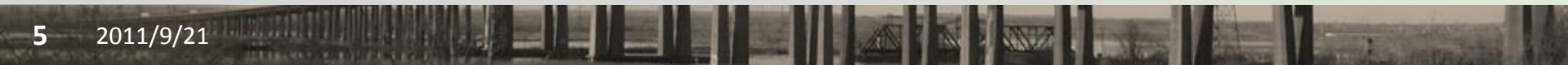
- **stationary detectors**
 - inductive loops
 - video
 - infra red
 - ...

evolving technologies

- automatic video detection
- blue tooth
- ...

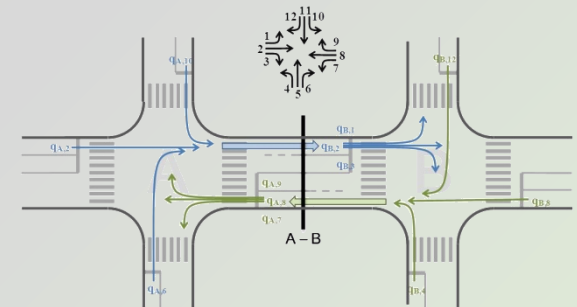
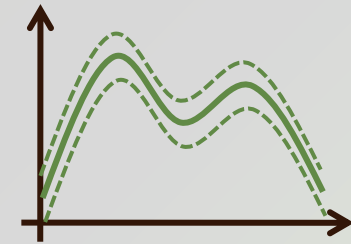
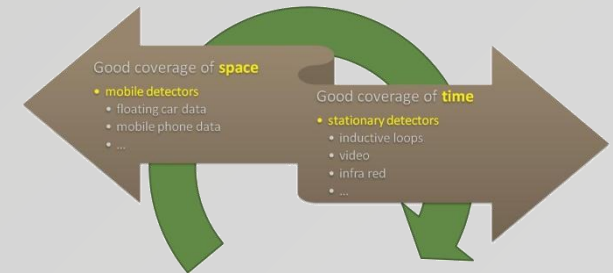
The application

- Mobile and stationary detectors have been fused before.
- But not at **intersection level**.
- The story about the **importance of signalised intersections** in urban networks.
- Signal control is based on **turning ratios** ever since.
- But who knows the turning ratios?
- Soon we will



Data sources for the fusion

- Mobile detectors
 - Floating Car Data (FCD)
- Stationary detectors
 - e.g. inductive loops
- Historic data
 - used to fill the gaps in time and space
- Network context
 - vehicles do not disappear magically...
 - every simulator uses this information



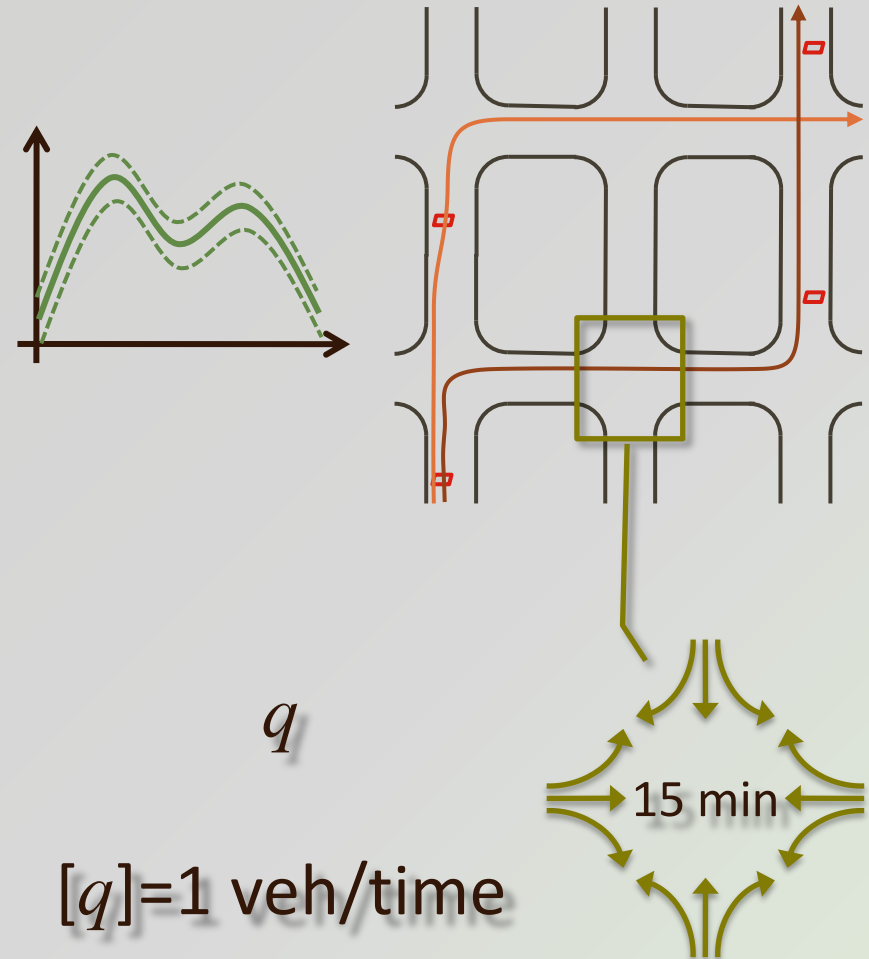
Data output of the fusion

- Available data
 - Floating Car Data (FCD)
 - detector data
 - historic data
 - network layout

Input

- Desired information
 - OD on intersection level (traffic flow for all movements)
 - resolution 1 h (better 15 min)

Output





Part II

Data Fusion Concept

The concept in a nutshell



- **combine** as many **data sources** as are available and seem useful
- bridge the gap of unknown turning volumes at intersections by using **Floating Car Data**
- use **historic data** in case no current data is available
- weight the different data sources according to their **reliability**

Kalman Filter

- estimates true values
- estimates uncertainty of the predicted value
- computes a weighted average of predicted values and measured values
- minimises the error covariance (for white noise)

Kalman Filter

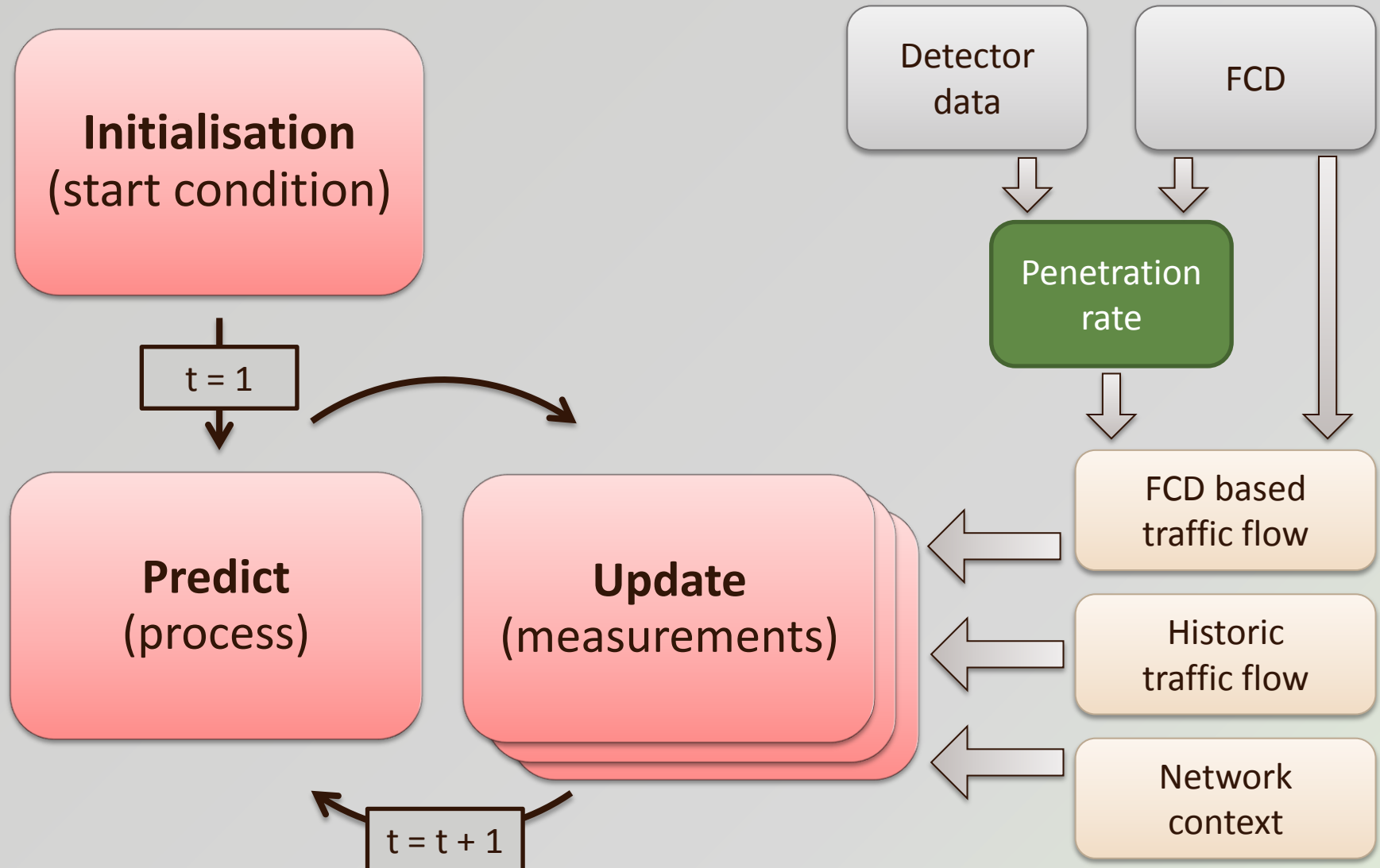
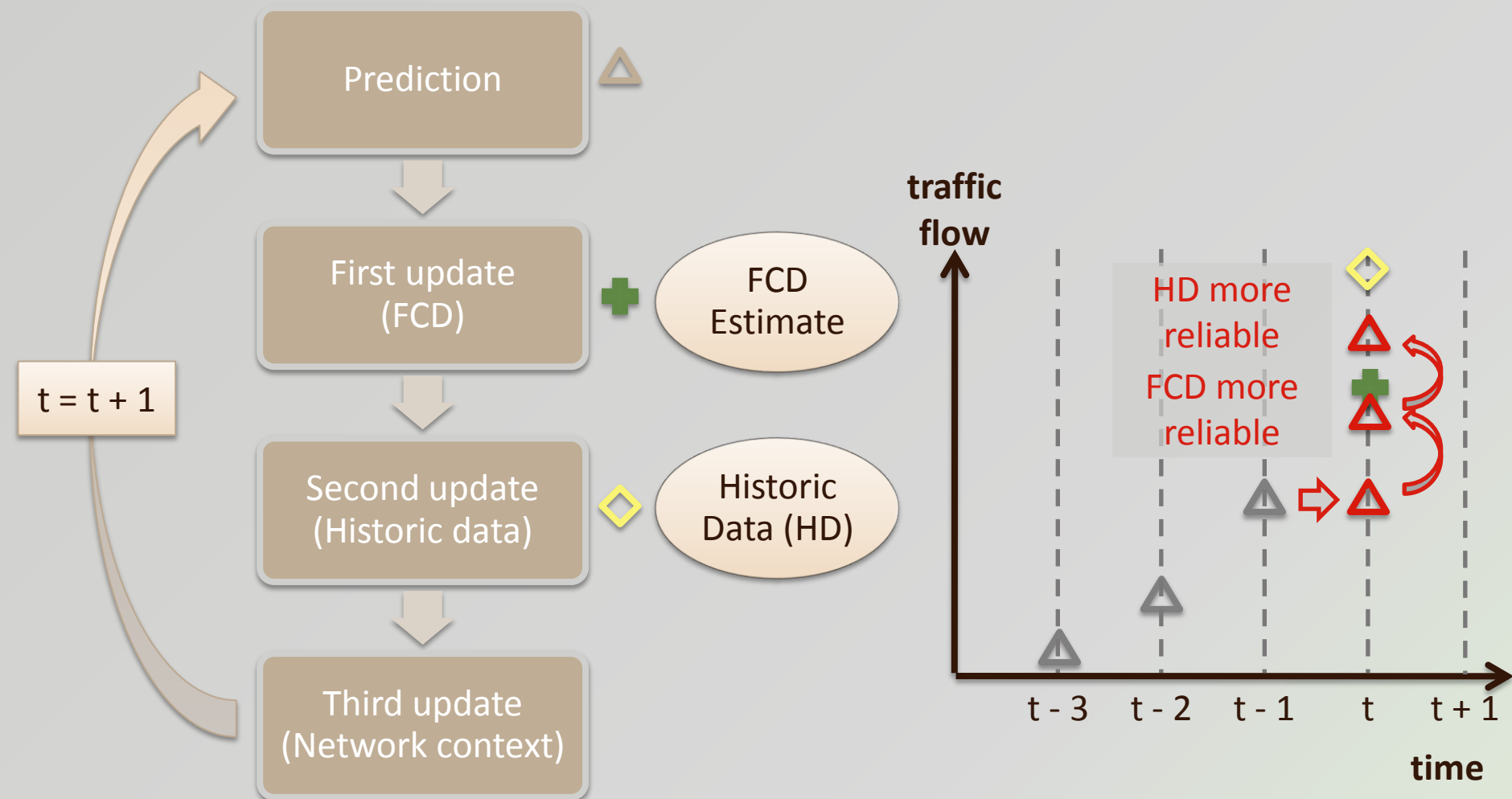
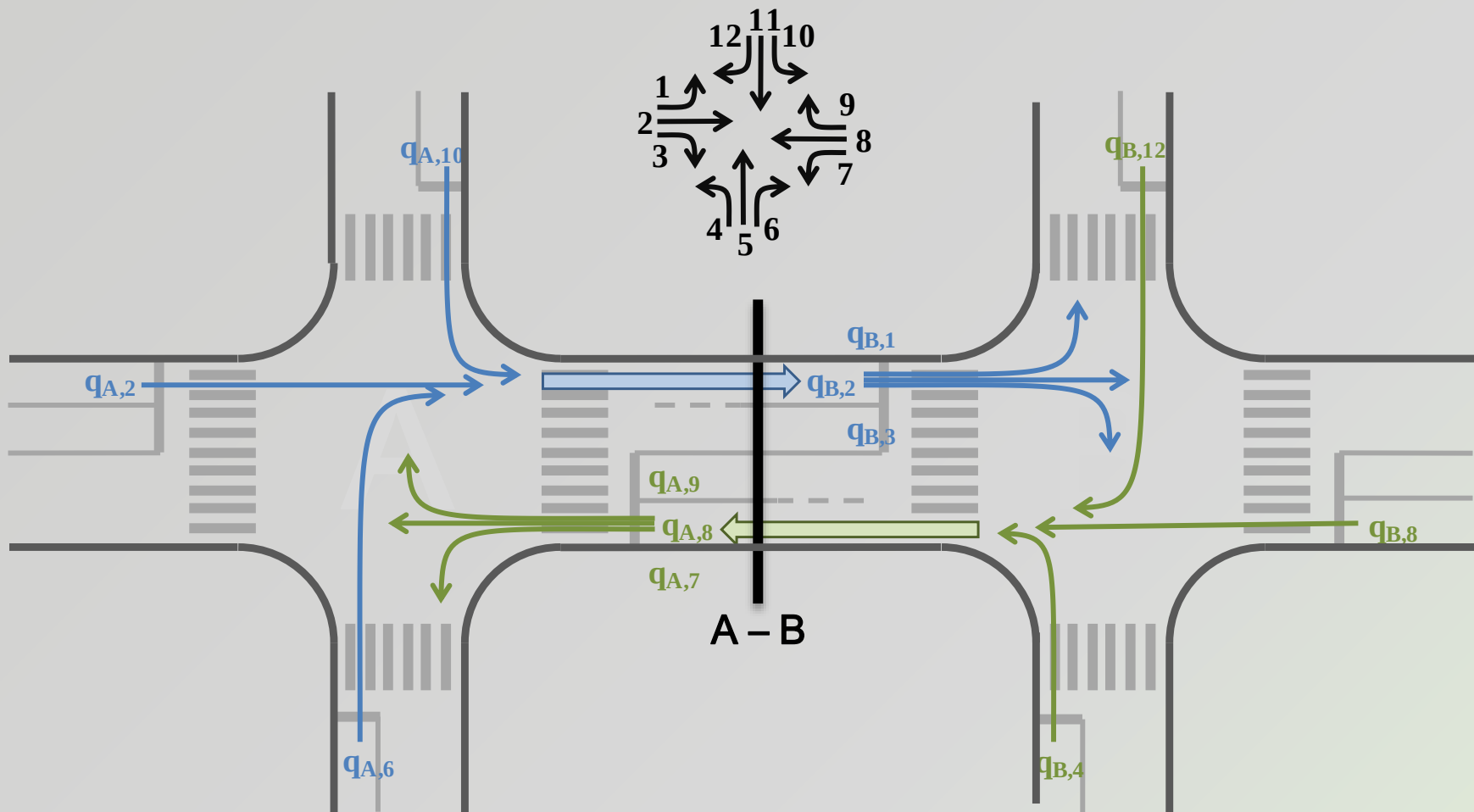


Illustration of Kalman Filter



Network context



Error terms

- Historic data
 - variance of historic data
 - clustering!
- FCD
 - variance of penetration rate
 - detector reliability?
- Network context
 - reliability of estimates from adjacent intersections



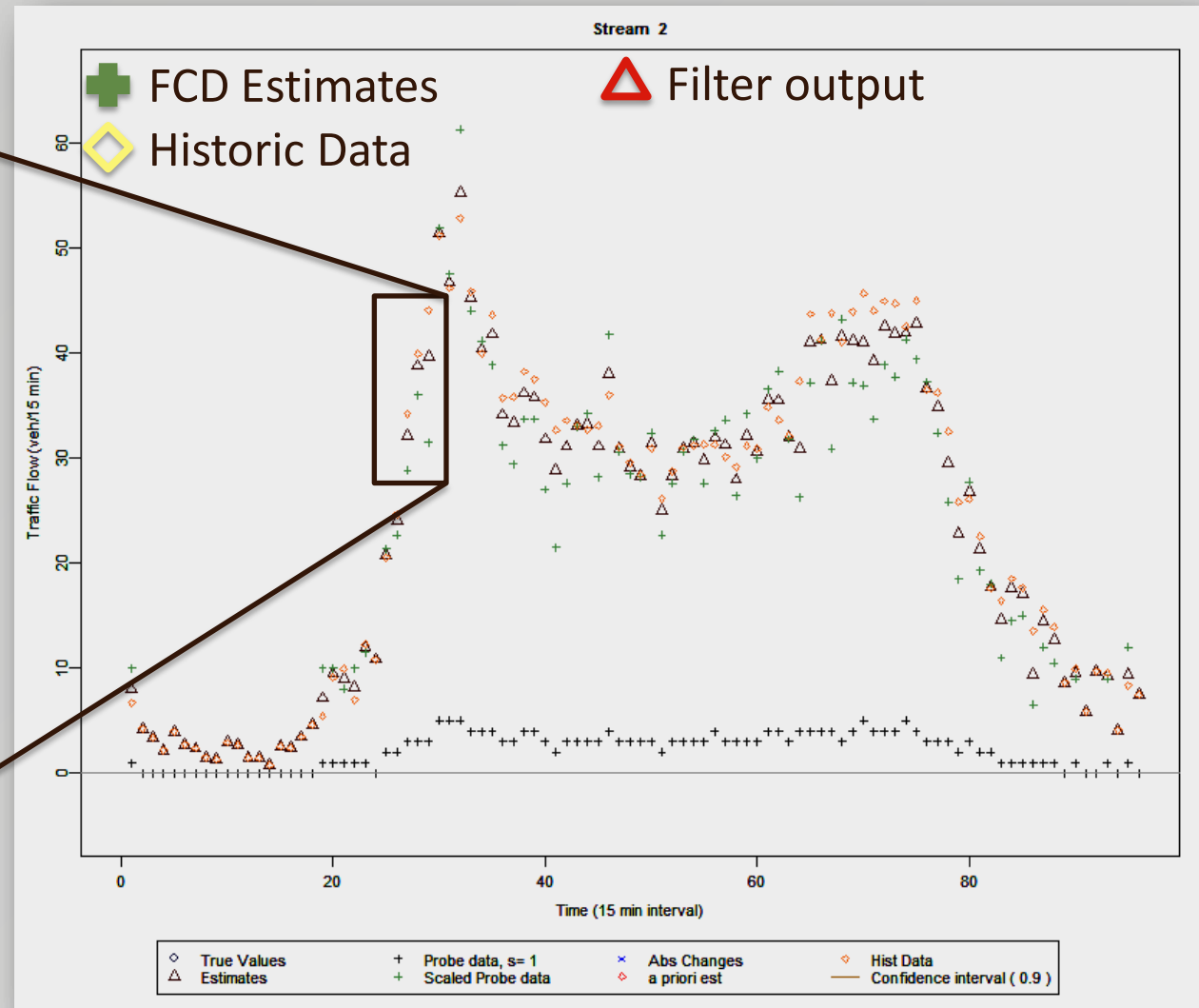
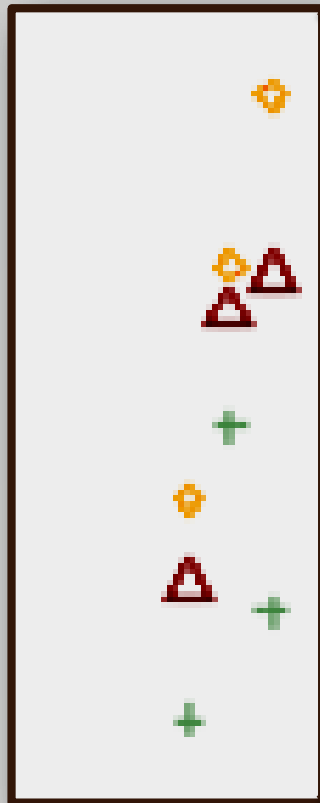
Part III

Application and Discussion

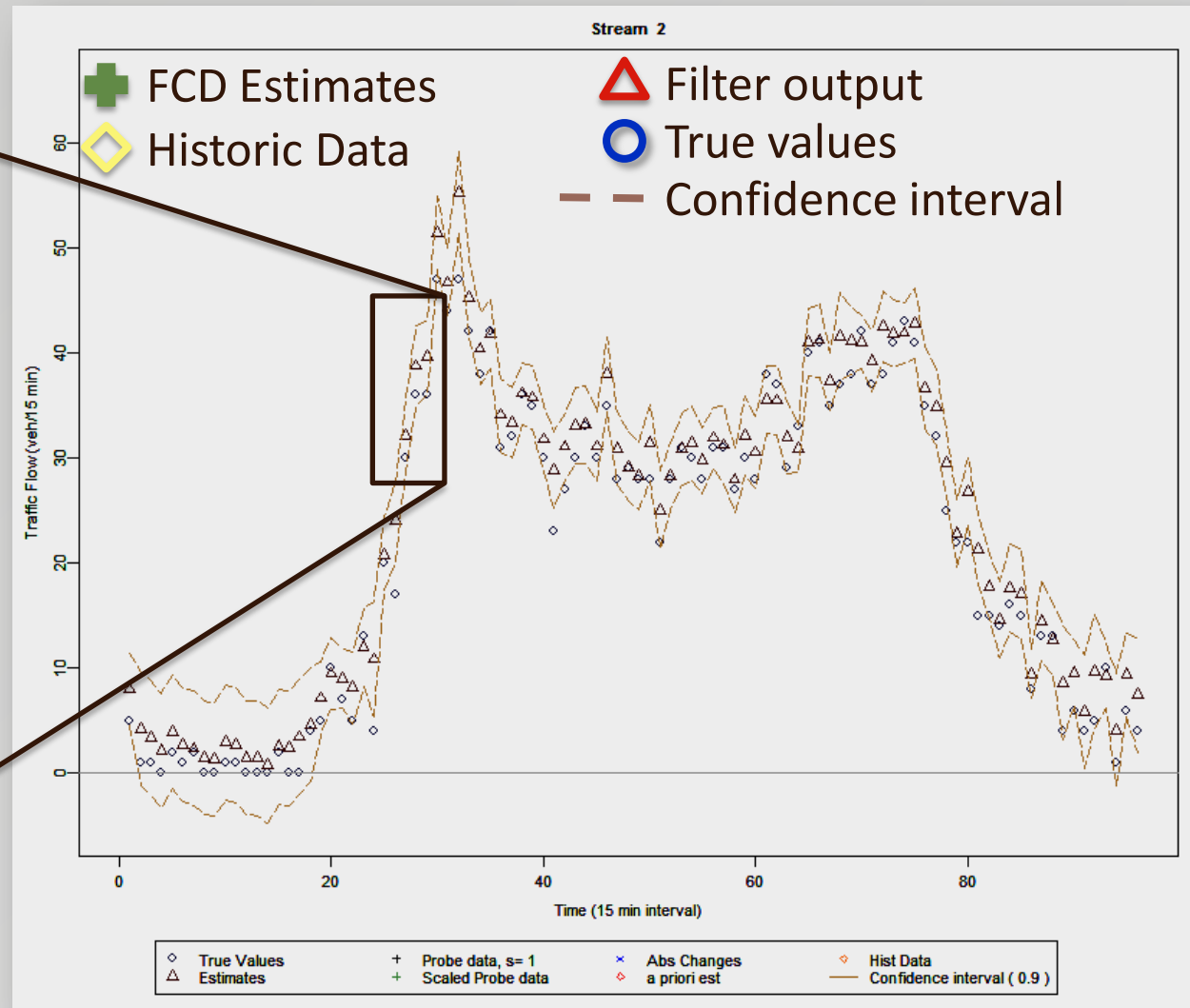
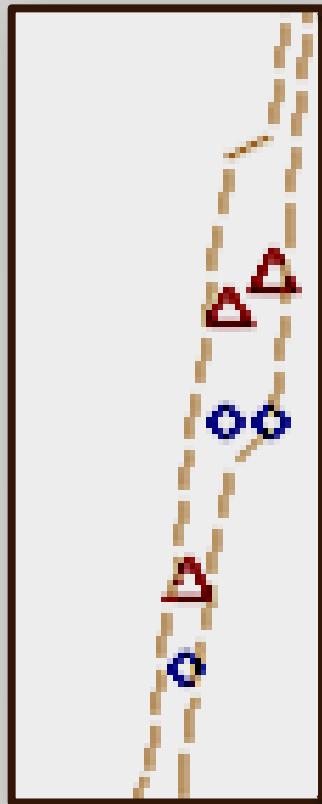
Application overview

- fictitious data
 - true values are known for evaluation
- elasticity tests for different parameters
 - traffic flow variation
 - penetration rate
 - detector reliability
 - representativeness of probe vehicles
- simple two intersection “network”
- Monte Carlo simulation to avoid random results

Application

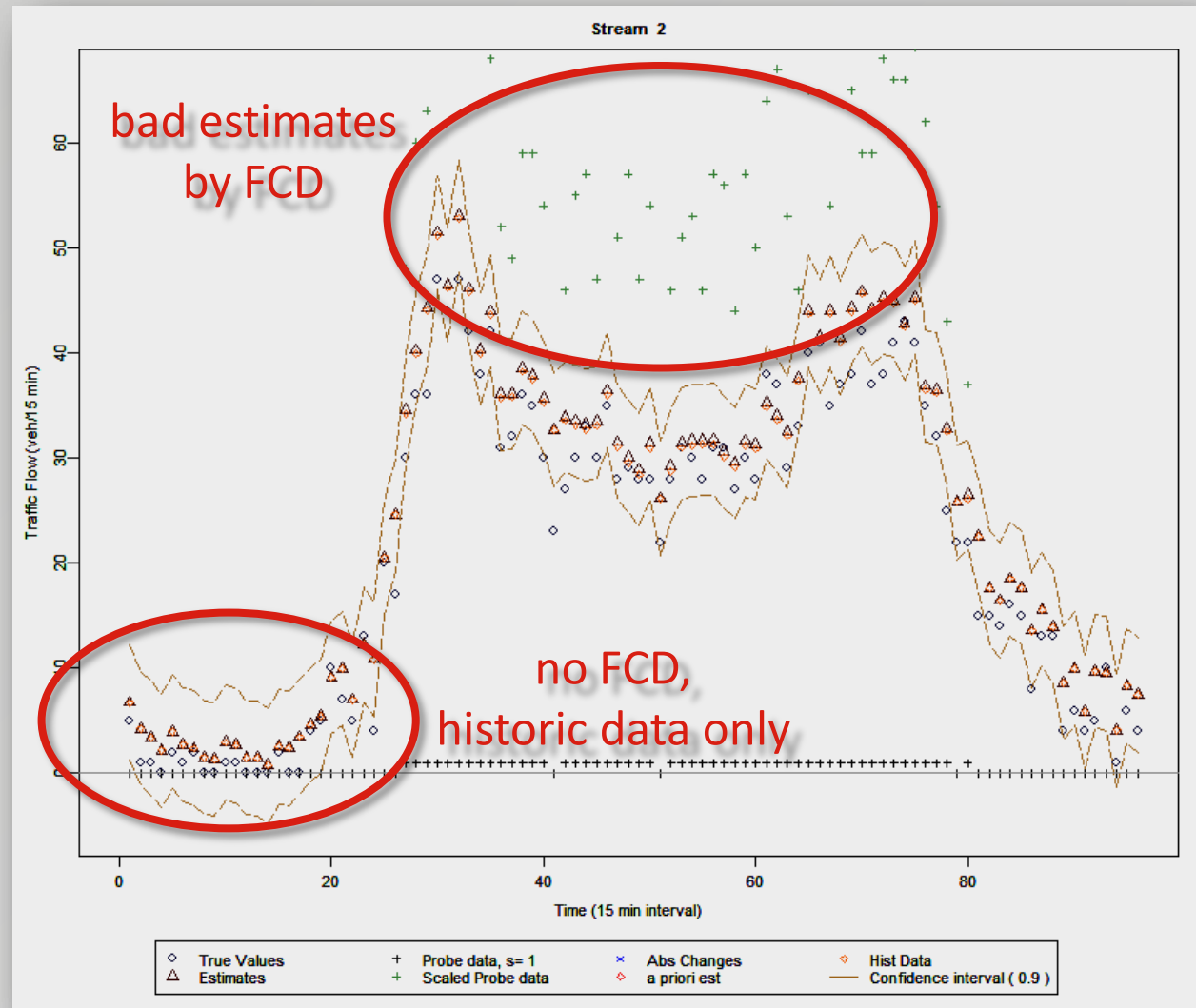


Application



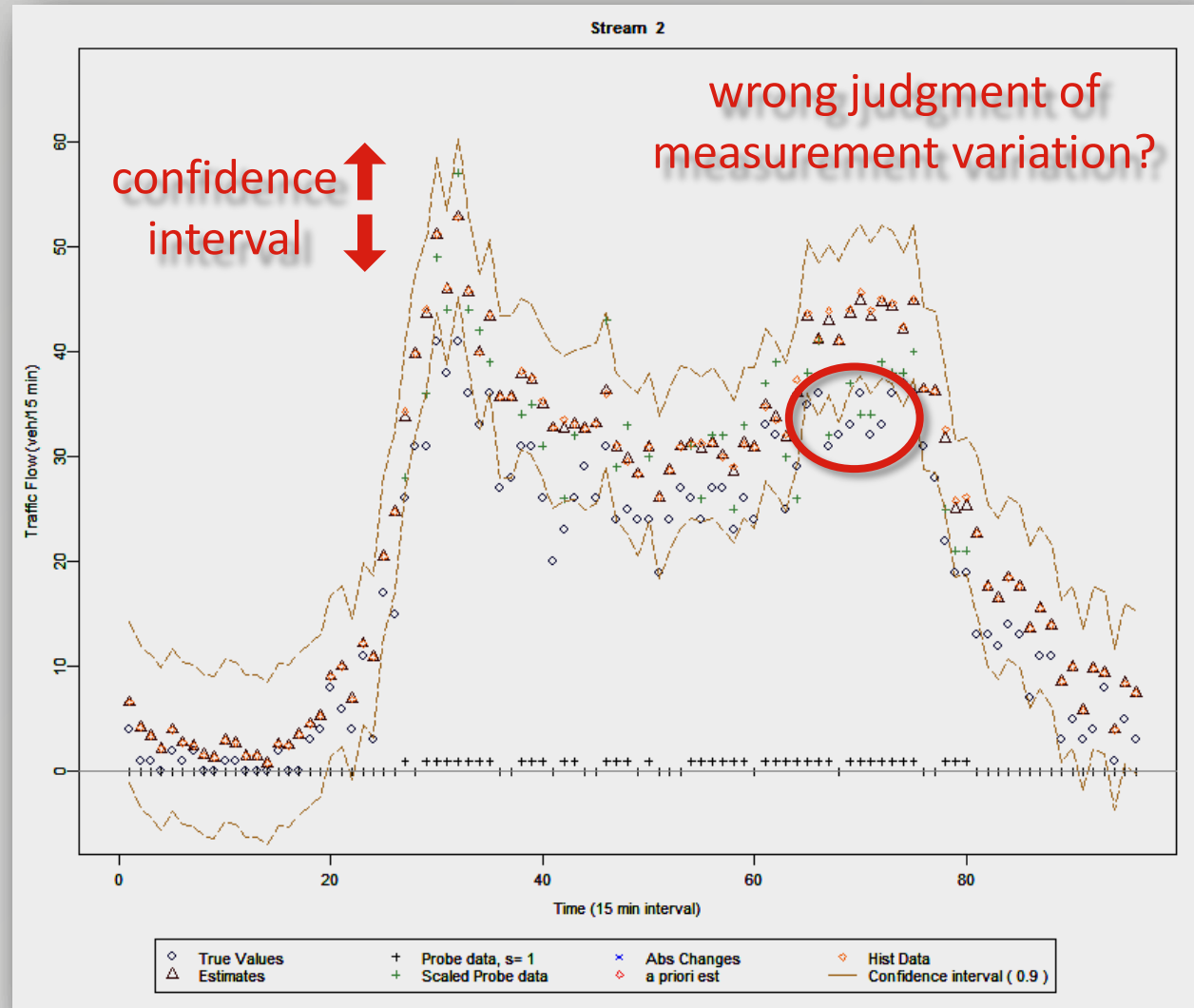
Application

- penetration rate ↓

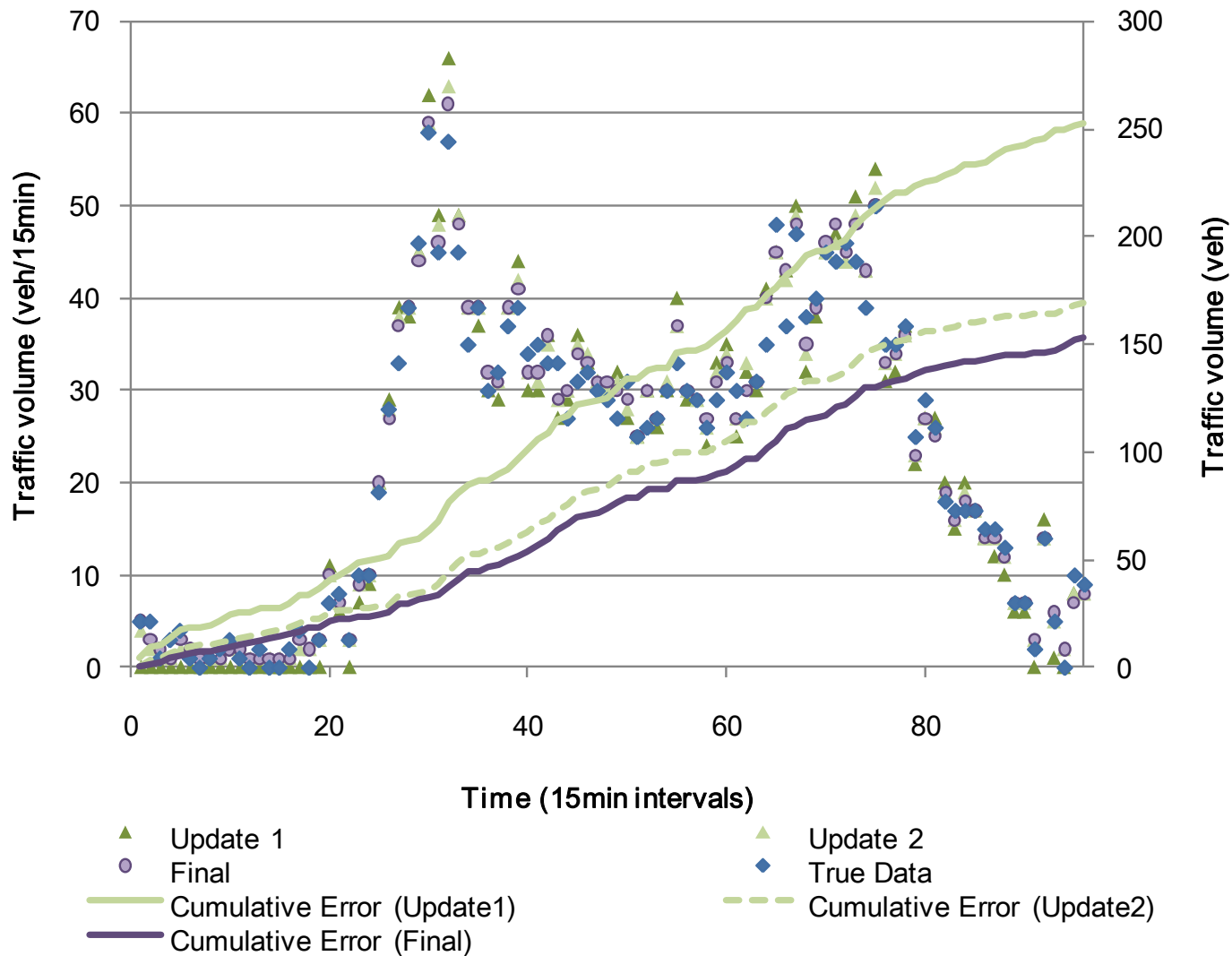


Application

- penetration rate
- flow variation

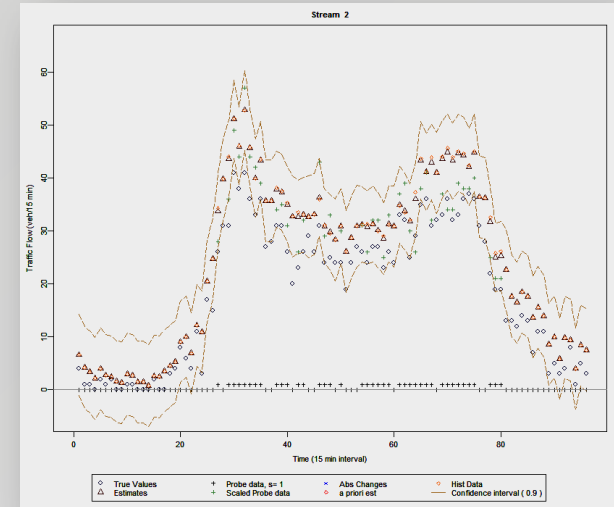
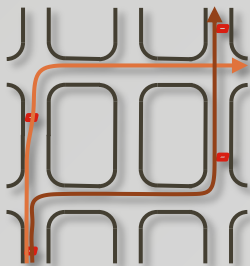


Application

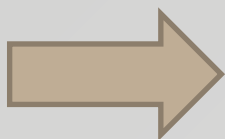


Discussion

- more **data sources** useful
- how to judge the **measurement reliability**?
- high **penetration rate** crucial ($> 10\%$)
- good **clustering technique** for historic data required



- combination with **flow simulation** desirable
- evaluation of **real data** dito



a promising concept if sufficient FCD is available