Invited Talk

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Moving objects at sea: trends and challenges

Over the past few years moving objects have been a subject of considerable research attention in the fields of spatio-temporal databases and geographical information science. The range of potential applications is large and cover many areas, but has been so far limited to conventional domains of GIS. This talk will take a different perspective, by considering moving objets not in land but at sea, and will survey current techniques, research advances and issues of the specific domains around objects at sea. The talk will survey current maritime information systems and navigation-aided systems and some of the research projects developed so far at the Naval Academy Research Institute in France, while emphasizing some of the research challenges still open.



Moving objects at sea: trends and challenges

Prof. Christophe Claramunt Naval Academy Research Institute, France



MOVE (Knowledge Discovery from Moving Objects)

Moving objects at sea: trends and challenges

Part I Current trends



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Moving objects at sea: scope

- The way we consider moving objects at sea are the ones, **mainly ships**, closely related to the modelling, monitoring, simulation, visualization and analysis of maritime data, while applications cover transportation, environmental studies and security (amongst others)
- Research and application fields :
 - Maritime and geographical information systems
 - Spatio-temporal data analysis and spatio-temporal data mining
 - Visualisation, simulation and decision-aid systems
 - Human factors, ...



Maritime Navigation: context

- Ships and control centres have to face many safety problems due to :
 - Staff reduction
 - Traffic increase, dangerous materials
 - Piracy and terrorism risks
 - Multiple and heterogeneous positioning and navigation systems to integrate (AIS, ARPA, Argos, Iridium, ECDIS,)



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Maritime Navigation: Context

- Identifying new rules and promoting new standards and products for the improvement of safety at sea is a constant objective of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- Recent progress in automated navigation includes navigationaid systems that combine automated positioning systems
 - Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
 - Automatic Radar Plotting Aids (ARPA)
 - Automatic Identification System (AIS)



- Satellite-based systems (LRIT, LORAN, INMARSAT)
- With Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)

Maritime Data Integration Environment



Moving objects at sea: trends and challenges

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Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (ARPA)

ARPA: equipment associated to navigation radar in order to follow tracks and avoid collision



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Radar Track Identification

- ARPA systems identify
 - Route or heading of observed ships
 - Speed
 - Closing Point of Approach (CPA): the nearest point that an echo can reach according observer
 - Time to Closing Point of Approach (TCPA): time to reach the CPA



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Radar Limitations

- Small ships can be mistaken for sea echoes in the case of rough sea due to small echoes
- Non accessible areas
 - Hidden by the coast
 - Over the limit of the radar
- No direct distinction between stable and dynamic boats
- Track monitoring difficult when ships are crossing



Automatic Identification System (AIS)

- A ship fitted with AIS receives navigation data sent by surrounding ships, by its maritime VHF (one VHF transmitter, two VHF Time Division Multiple Access receivers and one VHF Digital Selective Calling receiver)
 - Mandatory (IMO) From july 2005 for ship of more of 500 T and 300 T with passengers
 - It is a solution comparable to aeronautic transponders
- Transmitted data include textual data such as name, length, speed and position of every AIS-connected ship in the neighbourhood. Incoming data come from different sources and sensors such as GPS and speed meters
- The AIS is able to operate in autonomous and continuous mode for operations in all areas, it is not constrained by the topography as is the ARPA system

Automatic Identification System

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- AIS system includes
 - GPS
 - Transponder itself
 - VHF antenna transmitting message using two bands,
 - 87B (161,975 MHz) (AIS1)
 - 88B (162,025 MHz) (AIS2)
- AIS uses 21 messages that integrate
 - MMSI and OMI codes
 - Ship name and type
 - Latitude, longitude
 - Heading, speed



Ship Type	Interval	
Static ship	3 min	
Ship from 0 to 14 knots	12 s	
Ship from 0 to 14 knots + change of route	4 s	
Ship from 14 to 23 knots	6 s	
Ship from 14 to 23 knots + change of route	2 s	
Ship more than 23 knots	3 s	
Ship more than 23 knots + change of route	2 s	

AIS Metropolitan coverage



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AIS contribution to the ARPA

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- It helps the radar to distinguish the tracks
 - Useful nearby rocky coasts
- It identifies radar tracks
 - Ship name obtained via VHF
- It improves CPA and TCPA calculation
 - Turn radius taken into account
- It anticipates tracks
 - Routes
 - Destination ports





Electronic Chart Display & Information Systems (ECDIS)

" *e-navigation is the harmonised collection, integration, exchange, presentation and analysis of maritime information onboard and ashore by electronic means to enhance berth to berth navigation and related services, for safety and security at sea and protection of the marine environment* "

Electronic Chart Display & Information Systems (ECDIS)

- Combines a location-based navigation database, electronic vector charts, navigation tools, route planning and warning functionality to provide a navigation tool that can reduce the risk of human error in navigation
- It is intended to replace conventional paper charts as the legal base for safe navigation
- ECDIS is already being installed in large vessels that have fully operational installations

Electronic Chart Display & Information Systems (ECDIS)



Electronic Chart Display & Information Systems (ECDIS)



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ECDIS: Route Planning

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ECDIS: Alarms

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ECDIS: Additional Data - Tides



ECDIS: Additional Data - Weather



ECDIS: Advantages

- Flexible displays (contextual)
- Navigation-aid
 - Speed, heading, route planning & monitoring
- Security functions
 - Anti-grounding, anticollision, rescue
- Automated mapping updates

- Sensor connections
 - Radar, GPS, sonar, ...
- Personalisation
 - Ship's draught, length, turn radius
 - Tide height, time (day vs. night)
- Error control

ECDIS: Limitations

- Data integration still not straightforward
- Legal issues: maritime data are controlled by national agencies
- Visualisation and functional issues are still basic
- Heterogeneity of data integration systems
- Lack of decision-aid and simulation functions
- Personalisation still not considered
- ECDIS is only a tool that helps a mariner safely and effectively navigate a ship. One of the biggest risks with the transition to ECDIS is an over reliance in the information provided



Moving objects at sea: trends and challenges

Part II Research challenges







Moving objects at sea: research challenges

Maritime data integration

Modelling and tracking of maritime navigations

Diffusion of services to clients and monitoring authorities



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Moving objects at sea: research challenges

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• We should make a difference between



 Vessels Traffic Services stations (VTS, i.e. maritime authorities) that monitor and analyse a given navigation area





- Ships concerned by their location and the routes of neighbouring ships
- Other End-users

Moving objects at sea: research challenges

Maritime data integration

Modelling and tracking of maritime navigations

Diffusion of services to clients and monitoring authorities

- Heterogeneous databases
- Traffic control
- Safety
- Event tracking



- Patterns discovery & analysis
- Search And Rescue (SAR)
- Simulation & Decision-aid systems
- Visualisation and user interfaces





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Integration of heterogeneous databases: semantic issues



- Integration of different models, ontologies and visualisation paradigms
- Different levels of abstraction
- Normalisation (IMO)





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Integration of heterogeneous databases: semantic issues



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Real-time tracking of large volumes of maritime data (NOAA volunteered weather data)





Real-time tracking of large volumes of maritime data (-> physical data structures and indexing)





Data filtering









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Error control:

 Differences in geodetic systems
 Practical installations of GPS receivers ...



Error control: Deficiency of heading





COG is from GPS and Heading is from GYRO

AIS can connecting LOG and GPS, therefore the transmit speed is equal to LOG speed. When ship is under strong current, speed error will be larger. So the computed CPA and TCPA are incorrect.

Moving objects at sea: research challenges

Maritime data integration

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Modelling and tracking of maritime navigations

Diffusion of services to clients and monitoring authorities

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Patterns analysis and discovery









Modelling and analysis maritime trajectories trends and patterns at a global level (NOAA data)

Analyzing maritime trajectories and behaviours at a local level (e.g. port management and safety)

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Event tracking



Real-time monitoring of maritime trajectories and behaviours (e.g. trajectory vs. navigation path)



Detecting regular and irregular behaviours, incidents etc.



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Event tracking





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Event tracking



Detecting irregular behaviours

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Event tracking: CPA



«The AIS graphic display shown here has one ship, WHITE MIZU, with a CPA (closest point of approach) that was too close for comfort. Another ship (25680000) was following WHITE MIZU and closing, giving further concern. »

Event tracking: CPA



« Here you can see the maneuver behind the two ships of concern »

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Navigation control



All vessels should monitor VHF Channel 68 when underway in the harbour





A River wide 6 knot speed limit with a wash limit commences at Beacon Number 2



Caution is required at low water, depending on the state of the tide, as some marks stand in shallow water

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Patterns analysis and discovery

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Patterns analysis and discovery



Patterns analysis and discovery





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Trajectory analysis and discovery

Arctic Sea's strange journey

Russian cargo ship was first attacked by pirates, then lost, then found again; now eight possible hijackers have been arrested.



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Container tracking



International reports indicate that between 2,000 and 10,000 containers are dropped into the sea each year.



The problem is to retrieve container trajectories according to current and winds, or to retrieve the ships they came from



Container tracking

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Searc and rescue (SAR)

📕 Boîte d'émiss	ion des télégrammes AIS	×			
Envoyer un télégra	mme AIS	- 2			
Texte à envoyer					
EXEMPLE DE T	ELEGRAMME AIS.				
MMSI destinataire	210709000				
Sécurité	Diffusion				
Emettre périoc	liquement				
Période	3 mn				
Durée	10 mn				
ОК	Annuler				

Broadcasting of safety messages





Localization, tracking and guidance of SAR means

Searc and rescue (SAR)



Search And Rescue:

- . Location of incident
- . Type of rescue
- . Availability of resources
- . Wind and currents

Compute of probability of detection:

- . Compute optimum rescue route
- . Record operations into logbook
- . Provide debriefing tools



Searc and rescue (SAR)



Search and rescue (SAR)



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Searc and rescue (SAR)

Plane lost in vast stretch of Atlantic

Brazil's military searched a vast area off its coast for the missing Air France jet carrying 228 people from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. The French military scoured the ocean near the Cape Verde Islands.



Weather Underground; ESRI; Air France; Brazilian military

Searc and rescue (SAR)



Search area

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Searc and rescue (SAR)



Search area + rescue ships trajectories...

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Ship pollution

Observing

Retrieving



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Moving objects at sea: research challenges

Maritime data integration

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Modelling and tracking of maritime navigations

Diffusion of services to clients and monitoring authorities

- Heterogeneous databases
- Traffic control
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- Patterns discovery & analysis
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Web-based visualisation



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VTS Services within GIS



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VTS Services Within GIS



_ 8 × VTS application for Share-Loc 2.0 - Brest Communication Environment Tools View Options Help Ship information Zone : Rade de Brest ✓ Tiny view -Zoom: 100 % Phi: 48° 21.397' N G: 004° 28.163' W . 25 roise 30 Le Four - Goulet Le Four - Iroise Le Four - Ouessant Le Toulinguet Ouessant Hidship Ca - 🗆 × Port de Brest BREST MIDS Login Rade de Brest -Name Midship Ca Phone number 0631478924 Ship length 10 m Brest Ship width 2 m Ship displacement 3t **Connected Boats** Ondine Connection WAP Tigre AIS Sumame **Marine Nationale** Tourville Ecole Navale Family name Ondine Address LANVEOC **Canot Maior** Partzic 0298123474 Home phone Canopus Tourville Lestreol Midship Ca Chimere Canopusointe des Espagnois Farfadet Jaguar - 0 × Send SMS • Jaguar 0635987452 Your position is not valid Midship Ca RADE DE WAR BREST anymore. You must update it Canol Major 🔎 Farfadet Push Message Send SMS WAP Tigre AIS Informations Camalet Lestreol Name Midship Ca amaret r tole nord WAP Ecole Navale Le Fret Heading 20.0° e Toulinguet Camafemaret mole nord 6.0 kt Speed Chimere Latitude 48° 19.642' N Camaret-sul-Mer-Longitude 004° 30.626' W Trust 10 1 🗹 F1 Ships 🗹 F2 Speed vector 🗌 F3 Track 🗹 F4 Trust circle 🖉 F5 Name 🖉 F6 Connection type 🗹 F7 Harbours 🖉 F8 Lighthouses 🗹 F9 Coastguards 🗹 F11 Scales 🗹 F12 Chart

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VTS Services Within GIS



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Navigation modelling and simulation





Navigation rules

Collaborative navigation modelling

Navigation modelling and decision processes

- Integration of an expert decision process into simulation platforms
 - Whose objective is to build realistic maritime traffic simulations and by taking into account actors and decision processes





3D Marine GIS



Replay (« Grand Prix 2009 »)



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What should we retain ?



As citizen: we don't care too much to what is really happening at sea,

and we don't know too much about it

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Conclusion



Thank you very much for your attention !

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