



**SNC • LAVALIN**

## Interpolating ship paths in the Port of Metro Vancouver

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**PIMS BC Data Science  
Workshop 2018**

OUTLINE

SOLUTION

FUTURE STEPS

PROJECT  
GOALS AND  
DATASET

June 8, 2018

# Presentation Outline



Project Goals and Data Set



Solution



Future Steps



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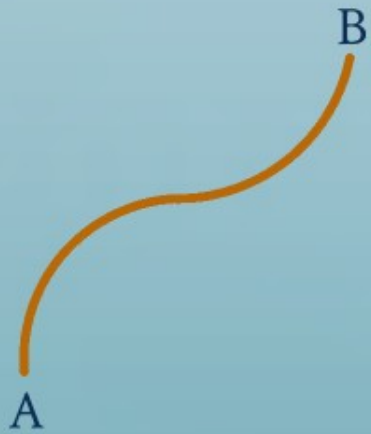
June 8, 2018

# Project Details

Dataset

Goals

# Context



**Path** + **Velocity** = **Emissions**

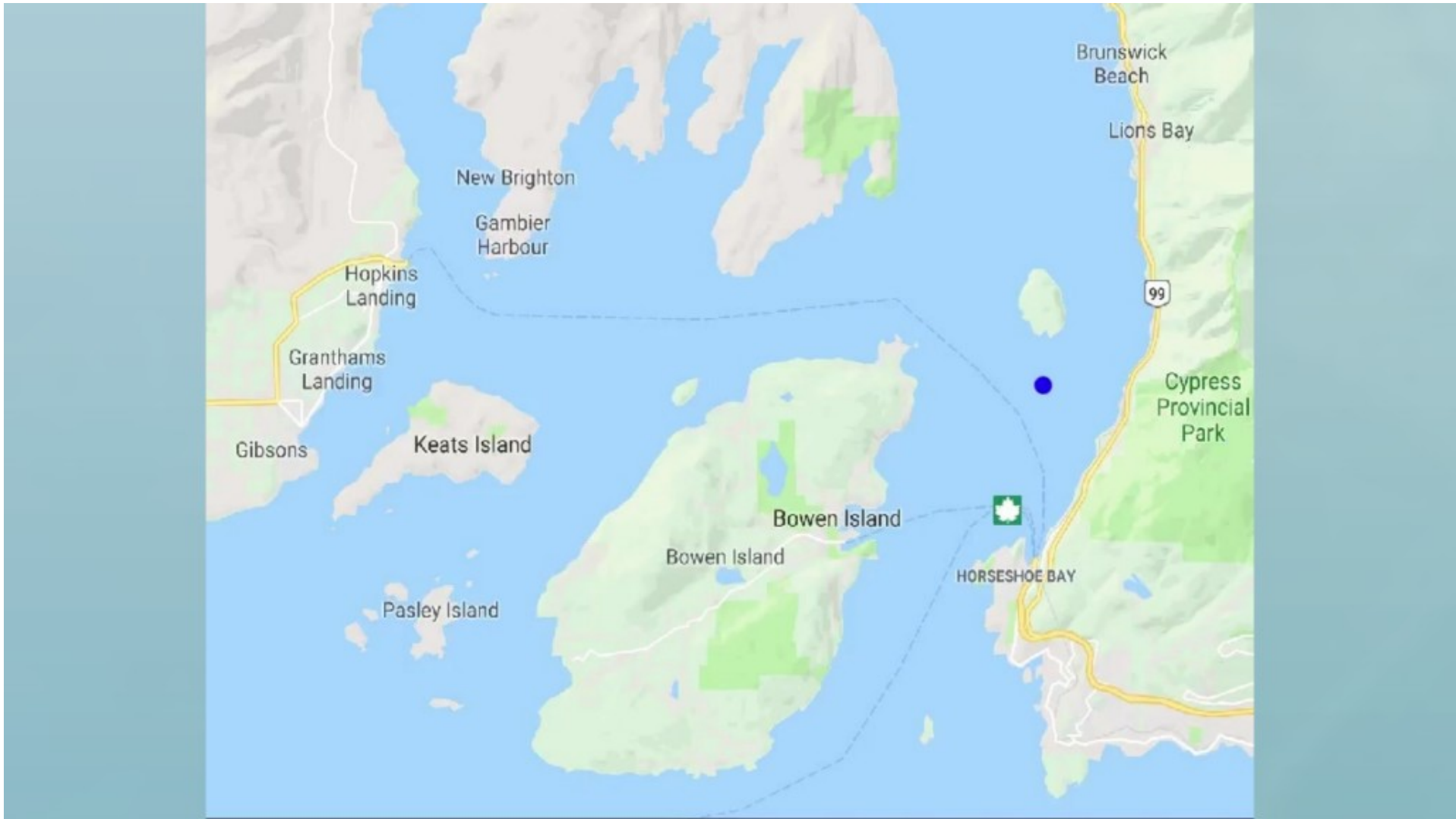
# Main Goal

Predict the path of any given boat



Recognize and **fix data with large amounts of noise**

Fix ship paths so they **do not go over land**



# Data

## Current Data

Past 10 days

Every 10s -1 day

~460 Boats

## Historial Data

Past 87 days

Every 5min -1 day

~2100 Boats



## Database

The **data is obtained using AIS** (Automatic Identification System)-- a global satellite supported system which is mandatory for all large ships

Time

Locations

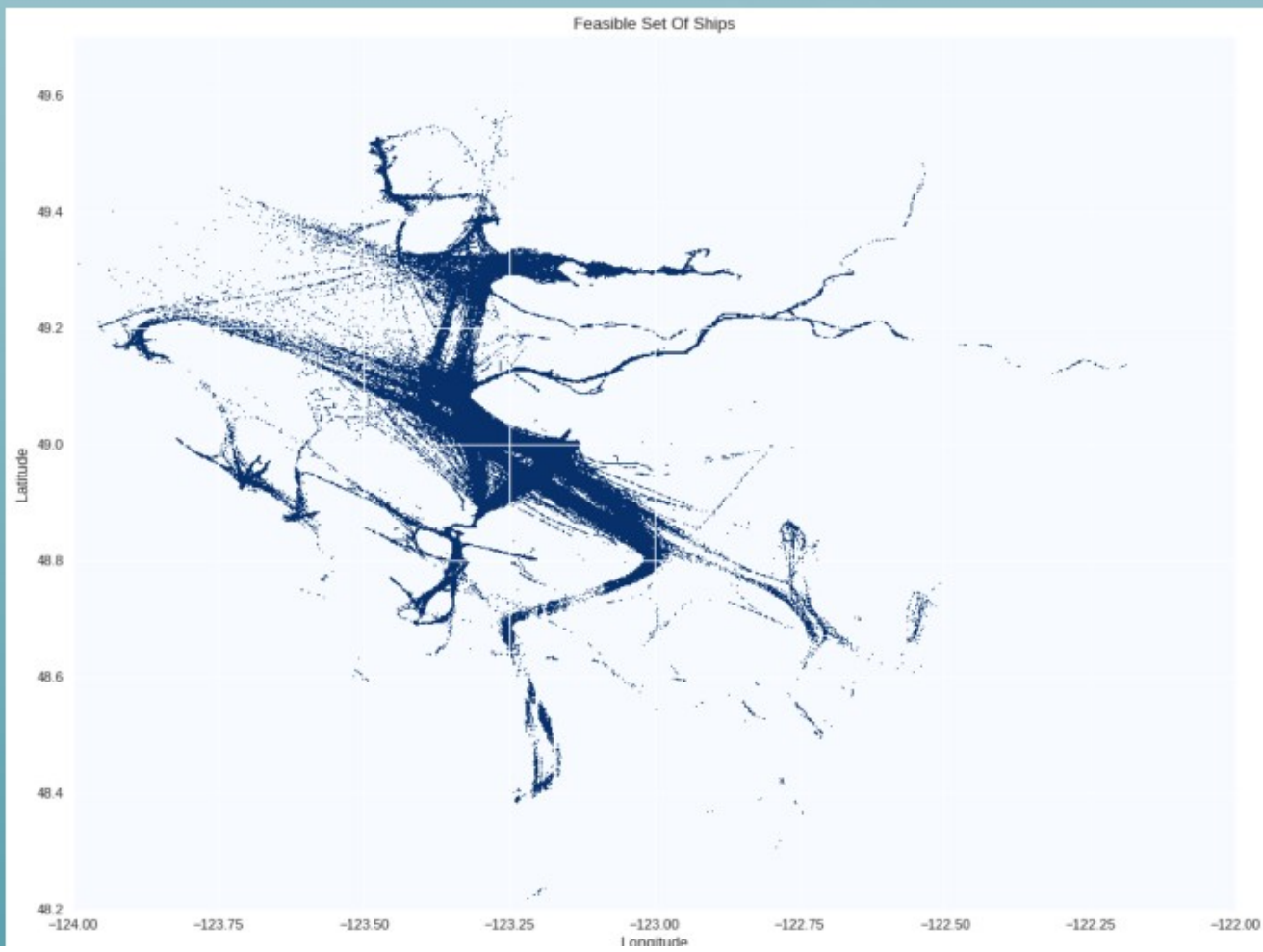
Data  
snapshot

# Data snapshot

	UserID	NavigationalStatus	ROT	SOG	PositionAccuracy	Longitude	Latitude	COG	TrueHeading	TimeStamp	ReceivedTime	rowid
0	316005621	0	-127.0	0.1	0	-122.77156	49.23065	32.6	511.0	24	2013-10-22 01:05:24.510	311057489
1	316018851	0	0.0	1.7	0	-123.05445	49.29853	67.0	110.0	24	2013-10-22 01:05:25.400	311057490
2	316003679	2	-127.0	0.1	0	-123.10751	49.31308	150.8	511.0	24	2013-10-22 01:05:25.853	311057491
3	316014621	0	127.0	12.3	0	-123.09534	49.29940	210.7	210.0	26	2013-10-22 01:05:26.027	311057492
4	316005721	0	-127.0	0.1	0	-123.10684	49.31094	166.9	511.0	25	2013-10-22 01:05:26.620	311057493

	Observation	Days	Ships
Delta_Current	2560654	10	460
Delta_History	2296035	83	2192
NewWest_Current	3810941	10	525
NewWest_History	2750853	83	2217

# Locations



# Time - Sparsity of Data



Data is not linearly spaced with time



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# Solution

Path  
definition

Regularize  
time

Locate  
missing  
samples

Interpolate  
path

Historical  
data  
reconst

# Path Definition

One ship = One path

Visualization

Defining  
path

Example

## Example



Ship ID = 218042000



## Definition of path

- (1) If there is **no data for the ship for at least 1 hour** and the last known location of the ship is **close to boundary of Port of Metro Vancouver**, then we **assume that the ship leaves Metro Vancouver area**. New path starts from that point.
- (2) We **split the data in two chunks** if there is no data for more than **2 hours**.

## Path visualization



Ship ID = 218042000

# Regularize time

**Recall:** samples are taken irregularly.

**Solution:** granularity of time. We set time accuracy to 6 minutes.

**Details:** For multiple samples at the same time, we store the average



## Missing samples: where

Since **data is not taken regularly**, what samples do we consider to be missing?

Now, with granular and regularized time, **the sample is missing if no data was taken for 6 minutes.**

# Interpolating Path



Accuracy

pykalman

Kalman  
filter

# Kalman filter

Math  
model

General  
Idea

# General Idea of the Kalman Filter

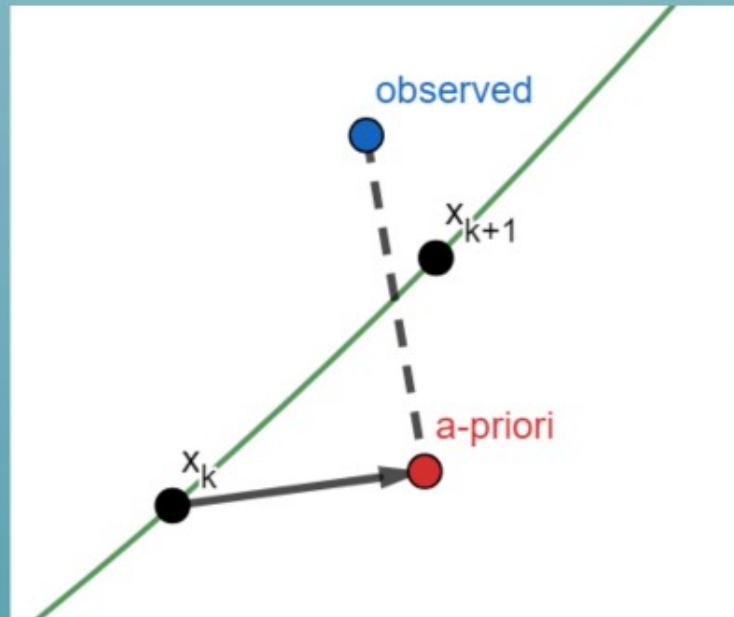
Suppose that we know ship location, velocity and acceleration. Can we predict new location?

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{k+1}^{\text{a-priori}} \\ v_{k+1}^{\text{a-priori}} \\ a_{k+1}^{\text{a-priori}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_k + v_k \Delta t + a_k \frac{\Delta t^2}{2} \\ v_k + a_k \Delta t \\ a_k \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \text{process} \\ \text{noise} \end{matrix}$$

Now suppose that we also observe the ship location. Can we refine the reconstruction?

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_{k+1} \\ \tilde{v}_{k+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_k \\ v_k \end{bmatrix} + \begin{matrix} \text{sampling} \\ \text{noise} \end{matrix}$$

# Can we refine the interpolation?



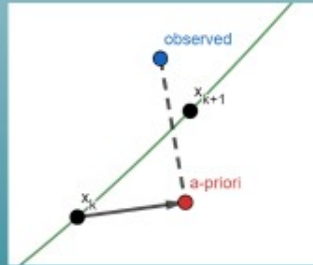
Consider a linear combination of a-priori prediction and observed point



## Kalman Filter: Math formulation

$$x_{k+1}^{\text{a-priori}} = T x_k^{\text{true}} + \text{process noise}$$

$$x_{k+1}^{\text{observed}} = M x_{k+1}^{\text{true}} + \text{sampling noise}$$



$$x_{k+1}^{\text{a-post}} = x_{k+1}^{\text{a-priori}} + K(Hx_{k+1}^{\text{observed}} - x_{k+1}^{\text{a-priori}})$$

# Using the Kalman Filter with pykalman

**pykalman** is a Python library that implements Kalman filter.

## Pros:

1. pyklaman handles missed entries
2. pykalman approximates covariance matrices of process noise and measurement
3. pykalman also smooths the path

## Cons:

1. pykalman does not allow to inject different distribution of the measurement noise over path
2. Noise is assumed to be Gaussian

**How good is the  
interpolated path?**

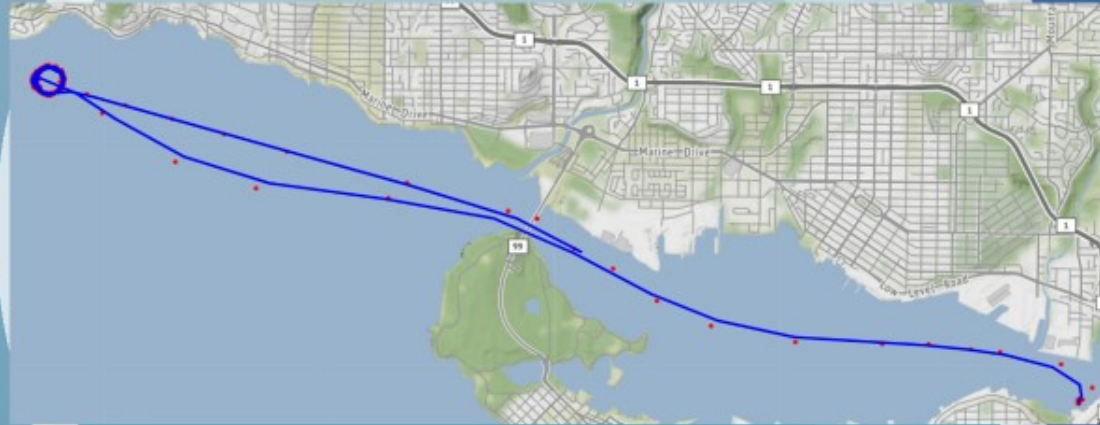
**Historical  
Data**

**Current  
Data**

## Interpolation of Current Data



## Interpolation on Historical Data



## Filling historical data

Trying to utilize "dense" current data to predict "sparse" part of history data using machine learning method.

One possible way

## k-nearest neighbors algorithm

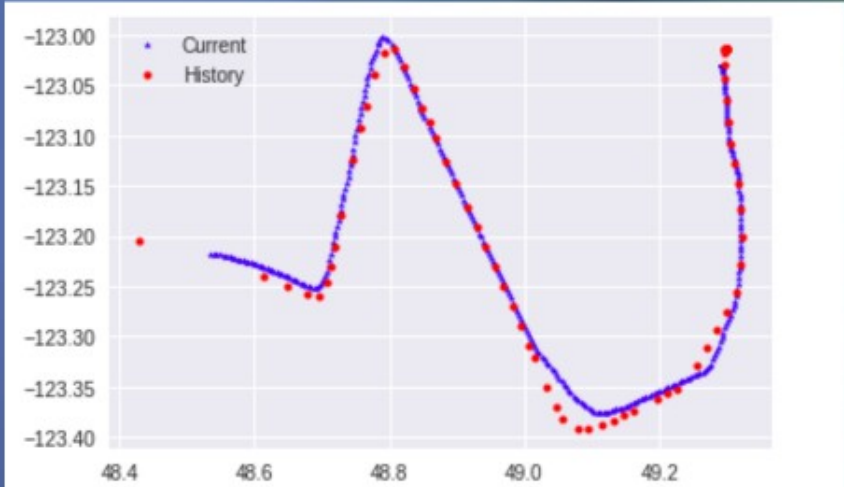
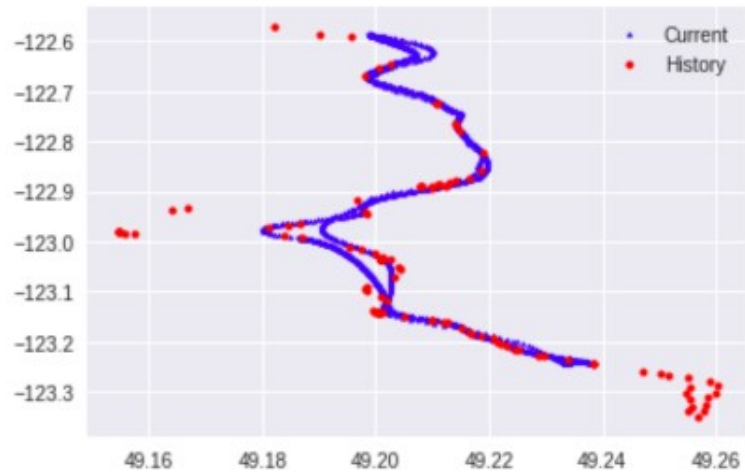
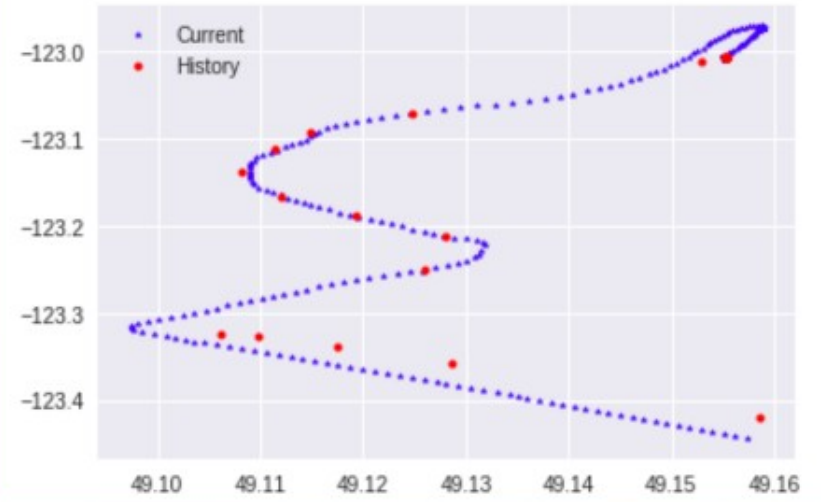
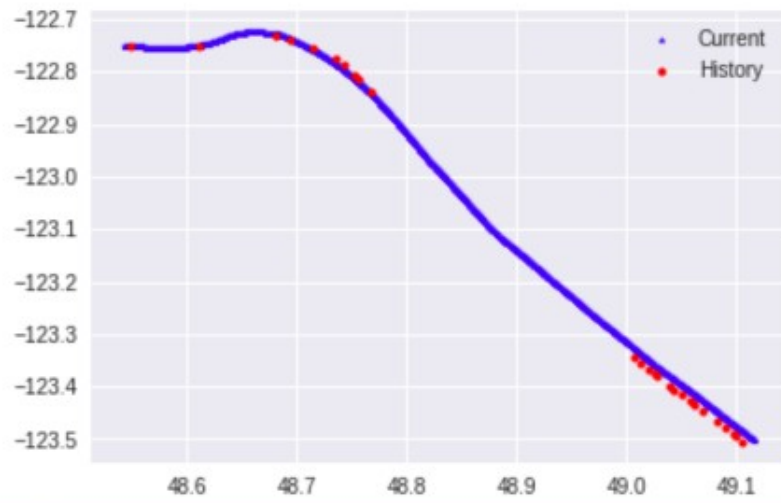
- Find the nearest neighbour of history data from current data
- Useful when history data is sparse or very noisy

Intuition: Ships share similar path when they travel to the same place

Examples

e nearest neighbour of histo  
urrent data  
when history data is sparse o







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## FUTURE STEPS

Model  
improvement

More data  
exploration

## Model improvement

Model improvement:

1. Measurement noise should be uniformly distributed rather than Gaussian.
2. We need to relax the assumption that noise is identically distributed.

There are packages of modified noise however they are not able to handle missing data.

## More data exploration

1. What are the most common ship paths? Does ship repeats its path?
2. Any correlation of location, ship type, etc. with frequency of measurements?
3. Can we come up with a method of suggesting ship path even if no data was taken over really long period?  
(Previous trips, similar paths, etc.)



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