Energy-efficient timetabling at NS



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February 20, 2018

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Introduction

- Current timetable is not always conflict-free and realizable for train driver
- There is a need to improve our current way of timetable design:
 - Improve on-time running
 - Increase capacity
 - Decrease energy consumption
- Different projects to improve our timetable design methodology:
 - Project DINT
 - Project running times
 - RailwayLAB research
 - PhD research on EETC & EETT



Project DINT (1/5)

- Current timetable is developed and delivered in full minutes
- For improving on-time running, timetable fractions for train drivers (arrival) and train conductors (departure) should be separated and on smaller intervals
- Develop timetable in 1/10 min (6 s) accuracy
- Better for executing the timetable by train drivers and train conductors & provides more realistic slack time distribution

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Uto	D	19.9	20	0.8	20 0 ut 12,8 ut 15,0
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Ut	А	23.4	25	1.3	

Project DINT (2/5)

- By-pass in timetable design process (only 2monthly amendments) since 2016 (Viriato/DONS)
- Pilot with Smart Watch for train conductor to departure exactly on time, counter starts at 35 s and disappears at 15 s
- Current research: project PINT (planning in Donna in 1/10 min)
- Energy savings only DINT: 2% in 2016
- More energy savings achieved combined with DAS RolTijd App at least 4% extra (up to 6%)



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di 30 🔻	WDemo02	 Alle 	-
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Project DINT (3/5) Example

Current timetable in full minutes

HC	UT	610	di 1	13-jan-2	01
17:4	5	01:45		8:00	
Soor	t	Trein	Va	n Tot	
*			U	t Ut	
		6069	U	t Tl	
		6070	Т	l Ut	
RBCR	es		U	t Ut	

Difference with current timetable

- 1. Planned times in s
- 2. Short stops divided into arrival and departure
- 3. Some arrivals are earlier
- 4. Extra information (dwell time, running time, supplements, speed advice, etc.)



Improved timetable with 1/10 minutes

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Project DINT (4/5)

Process with "by-pass" to generate 1/10 min timetable



Project DINT (5/5)

Results

Full minutes







1/10 minutes

Project running times

- Investigate how to compute running times and slack time
- Computation of running times:
 - Minimal
 - Total with slack time
- Computation of slack time:
 - Amount
 - Distribution
- Current results:
 - Use smaller time fractions for timetable (1/10 min)
 - Minimal running times: MA, CR (speed limit), MB (0.5 m/s²)
 - Apply 8% slack time without rounding to full minutes
 - Distribute slack time equally over trajectory



RailwayLAB (1/2)



- RailwayLAB: ProRail + NS innovation departments
- Focus: serious gaming, simulation and planning
- Planning in seconds instead of full minutes
- Timetable performance indicators (start with feasibility)
- Checking both scientific research + market consultation + European infrastructure managers & train operating companies
- Result: focus on microscopic timetable design & simulation
- Pilot with RailSys:
 - Aim: gain insight into microscopic timetable design and simulation and compare this with current timetable design process
 - Active participation of timetable planners NS on case Oude Lijn
 - Comparing conflict detection based on norms vs. block overlap
 - Analysing effect conflicts with deterministic simulation



Intermezzo: conflict detection (macro vs. micro)

Macroscopic: detection at timetable points based on norms (headway times) by Donna



korte stop (K)

vertrek (V)

RailwayLAB (2/2)



- Direct feedback with RailSys whether timetable is feasible by checking conflicts and speed profile
- Insight in effect distribution running time supplements for train driver
- Possibility for planners to apply deterministic simulation to see effect of possible conflict
- Potential: compute energy consumption of developed timetable
- Improvement DONS: including block occupation + conflict detection



PhD research on EETC and EETT



- PhD research about energy-efficient train control (EETC) and energyefficient train timetabling (EETT)
- PhD research commissioned by NS & conducted with TU Delft
- Aim thesis: develop design principles for energy-efficient timetables by considering total running time + robustness timetable
- Current research results mainly for EETC:
 - Literature review and optimal control theory
 - Comparing different (eco-)driving strategies
- Research on EETT still in progress

Invited Review

Review of energy-efficient train control and timetabling

Gerben M. Scheepmaker^{a,b,*}, Rob M. P. Goverde^a, Leo G. Kroon^{c,d}





Conclusions

- Project DINT:
 - Improving timetable by smaller time fractions
 - Currently by-pass, in future in timetable model
- Project running times:
 - Focus: computation of running times for timetable design
 - Smaller time fractions
 - 8% slack time and equal distribution
- RailwayLAB:
 - Collaboration between NS and ProRail Innovation
 - Research microscopic timetable design and simulation
- PhD research:
 - Developing design principles for energy-efficient timetabling

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!



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