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# Review of modelling air pollution from traffic at street-level - The state of the science

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# Review of modelling air pollution from traffic at street-level - The state of the science

## **Abstract**

Traffic emissions are a complex and variable cocktail of toxic chemicals. They are the major source of atmospheric pollution in the parts of cities where people live, commute and work. Reducing exposure requires information about the distribution and nature of emissions. Spatially and temporally detailed data are required, because both the rate of production and the composition of emissions vary significantly with time of day and with local changes in wind, traffic composition and flow. Increasing computer processing power means that models can accept highly detailed inputs of fleet, fuels and road networks. The state of the science models can simulate the behaviour and emissions of all the individual vehicles on a road network, with resolution of a second and tens of metres. The chemistry of the simulated emissions is also highly resolved, due to consideration of multiple engine processes, fuel evaporation and tyre wear. Good results can be achieved with both commercially available and open source models. The extent of a simulation is usually limited by processing capacity; the accuracy by the quality of traffic data. Recent studies have generated real time, detailed emissions data by using inputs from novel traffic sensing technologies and data from intelligent traffic systems (ITS). Increasingly, detailed pollution data is being combined with spatially resolved demographic or epidemiological data for targeted risk analyses.

## **Disciplines**

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# 1 **Review of modelling air pollution from traffic at street-level - the** 2 **state of the science**

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## 7 **Abstract**

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9 source of atmospheric pollution in the parts of cities where people live, commute and work.  
10 Reducing exposure requires information about the distribution and nature of emissions. Spatially  
11 and temporally detailed data are required, because both the rate of production and the  
12 composition of emissions vary significantly with time of day and with local changes in wind,  
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18 wear. Good results can be achieved with both commercially available and open source models.  
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20 traffic data. Recent studies have generated real time, detailed emissions data by using inputs from  
21 novel traffic sensing technologies and data from intelligent traffic systems (ITS). Increasingly,  
22 detailed pollution data is being combined with spatially resolved demographic or epidemiological  
23 data for targeted risk analyses.

24

25 Capsule for submission:

26 Technology and software now exist that permit the simulation of traffic emissions at sufficient  
27 resolution to estimate the exposure of pedestrians, commuters and vulnerable populations

28 Keywords:

29 microsimulation; health; exposure; ITS; agent-based model; open-source

30

## 31 **1 Introduction**

32 This review was prompted by the need to better understand people's exposure to traffic  
33 pollution on city streets. Broad-scale, background levels of pollution are usually well monitored  
34 in major cities, but it remains difficult to determine air quality data at street level in most places.  
35 Concentrations can be highly variable over short distances and intervals of time, due to fleet  
36 composition, congestion, weather (mainly wind) and the shape of street canyons. For examples  
37 of what can be achieved with sufficient resources, readers are referred to the programmes:  
38 "Dispersion of Air Pollution and its Penetration into the Local Environment" in Westminster,  
39 United Kingdom (DAPPLE 2009), the "New York City Community Air Survey" in New York,  
40 USA (NYCCAS 2018) and vehicle-based measurements in Oakland, USA (Apte, Messier et al.  
41 2017). Low cost wireless sensors show promise for the future, but currently there are only very  
42 few pollutants that can be measured well without expensive equipment. State of the science  
43 traffic emissions modelling provides estimates of a comprehensive suite of pollutants with fine  
44 spatial and temporal resolution, saving the considerable expense of monitoring equipment (Gois,  
45 Maciel et al. 2007). The data is localised to tens of metres at street level, enabling more accurate  
46 estimates of air quality for pedestrians, commuters, children and the aged. Once problems are  
47 identified, they can be mitigated with barriers, spatial buffers, improved ventilation in buildings,  
48 or alterations to the fleet (Batterman, Ganguly et al. 2015).

49 The review starts by describing the effects of traffic emissions on air quality and why they are  
50 difficult to quantify. Then we examine the risks to health and costs incurred by the suite of gases  
51 and aerosols that are produced on urban streets. The majority of the review focusses on the state  
52 of the science of modelling traffic emissions. We briefly describe some approaches that can give  
53 reasonable estimates of roadside air quality given limited data and resources. There are detailed  
54 reviews of each of the 4 main steps of microscopic traffic emissions modelling: trip generation,  
55 traffic simulation, emissions modelling and dispersion modelling. The first part contains a  
56 summary of the emerging new directions that combine simulation with sensors for real-time  
57 emissions mapping. The section ends with a summary table of case studies and  
58 recommendations for users.

59

## 60 **2 Understanding pedestrian exposure to traffic-related air** 61 **pollutants**

### 62 **2.1 Traffic pollution in cities**

63 Airborne pollution from traffic is a significant health hazard worldwide for the people who live  
64 in cities (UN-Habitat 2013). The amount of freight moved by light commercial vehicles has  
65 increased by 300% in recent decades, due to increases in the size of the service sector  
66 (Houghton, McRobert et al. 2003). Motor vehicles are responsible for a considerable fraction of  
67 many airborne pollutants (Table 1). As the numbers of vehicles using urban roads has increased,  
68 so has traffic congestion, exacerbating pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, delays and financial  
69 losses from wasted fuel and lost work time (Schrank, Eisele et al. 2015). The financial  
70 consequences can be considerable, even neglecting lost productivity. Each emitted tonne of  
71 particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) cost US\$208,000 in Sydney, Australia and  
72 US\$141,000 in Melbourne (Aust, Watkiss et al. 2013). Policy makers require good data to  
73 understand the problem and to plan for the future.

74

75 Table 1. Total annual Australian National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) emissions (kg/yr) for  
 76 industry and motor vehicles (National Motor Vehicle Emissions Inventory, NMVEI) in 2010  
 77 (Smit 2014)

Pollutant	NPI industry	NMVEI	MV Contribution
Acetaldehyde	411,765	886,969	68.29%
Acetone	691,837	301,465	30.35%
Acrolein	11	314,000	100.00%
Ammonia	120,860,415	6,313,888	4.96%
Benzene	1,197,423	4,099,173	77.39%
1,3-Butadiene	14,635	971,856	98.52%
Cadmium	32,053	237	0.73%
Carbon monoxide	1,388,700,000	936,869,323	40.29%
Chromium	590,406	502	0.08%
Copper	677,884	794	0.12%
Cyclohexane	473,055	664,516	58.42%
Dioxins/Furans (i-TEQ)	0.194	0.005	2.75%
Ethylbenzene	138,330	3,116,430	95.75%
Formaldehyde	2,922,758	2,005,013	40.69%
Lead	687,463	17,171	2.44%
Methylethylketone (MEK)	700,618	77,818	10.00%
n-Hexane	1,709,621	1,322,489	43.62%
Nickel	772,525	267	0.03%
Oxides of Nitrogen	1,396,900,000	305,601,721	17.95%
PAHs (BaP-equivalents)	23,709	627	2.58%
Particulate Matter $\leq 10.0 \mu\text{m}$	1,238,329,933	14,461,823	1.15%
Particulate Matter $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$	56,532,376	11,684,995	17.13%
Selenium	6,348	4	0.06%
Styrene	393,246	470,431	54.47%
Sulfur dioxide	2,509,400,000	1,310,884	0.05%
Toluene	2,525,696	8,243,841	76.55%
Total Volatile Organic Compounds	157,006,103	107,329,985	40.60%
Xylenes	1,882,125	8,085	0.43%
Zinc	1,597,971	47,352	2.88%

78

79 The toxic chemicals that comprise traffic emissions are released as gases and primary particles.  
 80 The two most commonly used fuels generate different mixtures of pollutants in addition to CO<sub>2</sub>:  
 81 petrol vehicles are mainly responsible for emissions of carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic  
 82 compounds (VOCs), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) and heavy metals. Diesel vehicles produce most of the

83 particles of 2.5 microns and smaller ( $PM_{2.5}$ ) and oxides of nitrogen ( $NO_x$ ) (Smit 2014). Diesel  
84 particulate matter (DPM) is composed of a core of elemental carbon surrounded by organic  
85 compounds including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), nitro-PAHs, small amounts of  
86 sulphate, nitrate, metals and other trace elements. These particles have a large surface area,  
87 making them susceptible to adsorption to lung tissue (Wichmann 2007).

88 The chemistry of emissions is highly variable in time and space (BTRE 2005) and the  
89 composition affects toxicity (Rückerl, Schneider et al. 2011). The composition of the mixture of  
90 gases and particles changes with time after release from the exhaust pipe. There are a number of  
91 possible chemical reactions, coagulation and condensation of gases, aerosols and particles. The  
92 transformations can be affected by local conditions such as the concentration of pollutants,  
93 temperature, turbulence (particularly wind), sunlight and humidity. For example, the  
94 concentrations of particular species, such as  $NO_x$ , can determine the production of secondary  
95 pollutants such as ozone (Ryu, Baik et al. 2013).

96 Although numbers of vehicles on roads continue to increase, emissions regulations have  
97 mandated increased efficiency of engine technologies to reduce outputs of harmful emissions.  
98 Older, carburetted cars released 10 times the HC, 4 times the CO and 3 times the  $NO_x$  of newer  
99 multi-point ignition engines (Qu, Li et al. 2015). However, while newer cars release less  
100 pollution, the expected reduction in emissions from modern vehicles will only be realised if their  
101 emissions control equipment is properly maintained (Marquez and Salim 2007).

102

## 103 2.2 Health effects of traffic pollution

104 Although traffic emissions (Table 1) are not the major fraction of airborne pollution in cities,  
105 they are a major source of airborne pollution for people, because traffic occupies space close to  
106 walkways, residences, workplaces and schools. The traffic intensity on the nearest road to a

107 person's home address was linked to mortality in a long-term study (Beelen, Hoek et al. 2008).  
108 Diesel exhaust poses the greatest risk of cancer of any air pollutant (Wichmann 2007). An  
109 extensive sampling program for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in New York City found  
110 that proximity of roads and traffic signals explained 65% of variation in atmospheric  
111 concentrations of benzene (Kheirbek, Johnson et al. 2012). Commuters travelling by bicycle, bus,  
112 automobile, rail, walking and ferry are exposed to concentrations of ultrafine particles that can  
113 elicit acute effects in both healthy and health-compromised individuals (Knibbs, Cole-Hunter et  
114 al. 2011). For a typical urban commuting journey in Alameda County, USA, personal exposure to  
115 NO<sub>x</sub> was found to increase from 29 ppb (parts per billion, 10<sup>-9</sup>) indoors to 96 ppb outdoors (Su,  
116 Jerrett et al. 2015). In a study of different modes of travel to work, the greatest rates of exposure  
117 to ultrafine particles were found for those walking or cycling along highly trafficked routes and  
118 using buses (Spinazzè, Cattaneo et al. 2015). Some occupations are at significantly elevated risk  
119 from traffic emissions. Exposure of traffic policemen in Beijing to polycyclic aromatic  
120 hydrocarbons (PAH) was nearly an order of magnitude greater than regulatory limits (Liu, Tao et  
121 al. 2007) (Hu, Bai et al. 2007, Liu, Tao et al. 2007). Bus drivers and mail carriers in Copenhagen,  
122 Denmark were found to have elevated concentrations of biomarkers for DNA damage (Hansen,  
123 Wallin et al. 2004).

124 Evidence of harm from traffic pollution is abundant and mounting, it affects multiple systems of  
125 the body. For example, there are links to a range of serious damages to the heart, some fatal.  
126 Emissions of NO<sub>2</sub> can cause a 5% enlargement of the right ventricle and 3% increase in its  
127 volume after emptying (end diastolic volume). These changes are quantitatively similar to those  
128 caused by diabetes or smoking (Holguin and McCormack 2014). Traffic emissions have also  
129 been associated with increased levels of inflammatory nasal markers, increased urinary  
130 concentrations of urea and metabolites of nitric oxide (Steenberg, Nierkens et al. 2001). Long  
131 term exposure to traffic and PM<sub>2.5</sub> reduced respiratory function in adults (WHO 2013, Badyda,  
132 Dabrowiecki et al. 2015, Rice, Ljungman et al. 2015) and the irritant and carcinogenic chemicals



133 cause a range of morbidities including asthma. Children's rapidly growing lungs and immature  
134 immune systems make them susceptible to diseases associated with airborne pollution from  
135 traffic, such as asthma, allergy, bronchitis and deficits of lung function and growth (Chen, Salam  
136 et al. 2015, Gehring, Beelen et al. 2015).

137 The capacity of particulate pollution to cause harm is related to its size, surface area and  
138 composition. Particulate matter (PM) is usually classified into size ranges: PM<sub>10</sub> is less than or  
139 equal to 10 µm (micrometres, 10<sup>-6</sup> m) in diameter, PM<sub>2.5</sub> is less than or equal to 2.5 µm and PM<sub>0.1</sub>,  
140 or ultrafine particles, are less than or equal to 100 nm (nanometres, 10<sup>-9</sup> m). The smaller the size  
141 of the particle, the deeper it can travel into the lungs. Ultrafine particles can reach the alveoli  
142 where 50% are retained in the lung parenchyma (Valavanidis, Fiotakis et al. 2008). Linear dose-  
143 response associations have been found between particulate matter (PM) pollution and mortality  
144 in the United States (Daniels, Dominici et al. 2000), Canada (Requia, Higgins et al. 2018) and in  
145 Europe (Samoli, Analitis et al. 2005). Most of the urban PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions are due to traffic,  
146 particularly diesel-fuelled trucks and buses (Chan, Simpson et al. 1999, Salameh, Detournay et al.  
147 2015). A review of adverse health effects of short-term exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> in China showed a  
148 0.40% increase in non-accident mortality with every 10 ng m<sup>-3</sup> increase in concentration (Lu, Xu  
149 et al. 2015). Recent work has connected urban exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> with an increased risk of low  
150 birth weight (Coker, Ghosh et al. 2015). Commonly, reports of particulate pollution have PM<sub>2.5</sub>  
151 as the smallest class, but this may not be adequate. Not only do ultrafine particles have the  
152 capacity to penetrate deep into the airways, but their greater surface area and porosity give an  
153 increased capacity to adsorb and retain toxic substances (Valavanidis, Fiotakis et al. 2008). Some  
154 authors suggest that it is important to extend consideration to particles of 1 nm size, due to the  
155 potential for coagulation and condensation processes at the street level. New particles can form  
156 through chemical transformation processes (secondary production) over time in locations like  
157 road tunnels, with prolonged residence times and increased concentrations. For example, the  
158 mass of secondary nitrate was four times that of primary nitrate in fine aerosols at a site in

159 Brisbane, Australia (Chan, Simpson et al. 1999). Transformation processes include aggregation,  
160 homogeneous nucleation and changes from gas to particle. Because of the complexity of the  
161 chemistry and of the modelling, it is particularly important to validate model results with in-situ  
162 sensor measurements (Kumar, Ketzel et al. 2011).

163 It is common practice to reduce PM pollution by diesel fuelled vehicles with the use of particle  
164 traps. These devices can be very effective if used and maintained properly, but an undesirable by-  
165 product is a substantial increase in the production of primary NO<sub>2</sub> (Feng, Ge et al. 2014, Tang,  
166 Zhang et al. 2014, He, Li et al. 2015). The resulting effect of NO<sub>2</sub> on premature mortality is  
167 greater than ten times that of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in pre particle-trap concentrations (Harrison and Beddows  
168 2017).

169 Modelling of transport in Adelaide, Australia showed the benefits in reduction of pollution and  
170 other health benefits of switching commuter travel from private vehicles to public transport. If  
171 40% of vehicle kilometres travelled were changed to alternative transport by 2030 (projected  
172 population 1.4 M), PM<sub>2.5</sub> would decline by about 0.4 µg m<sup>-3</sup>. This was estimated to reduce  
173 adverse health effects by 13 deaths/year, and 118 disability-adjusted life years. There were many  
174 more benefits predicted due to improved physical fitness through walking or cycling (Xia,  
175 Nitschke et al. 2015).

176

177

### 178 **3 Traffic emissions modelling: summary of the process & most** 179 **commonly used models**

180 3.1 Introduction: the need for detail

181 Detailed information is required to identify the locations of greatest risk to pedestrians, the “hot-  
182 spots” of concentrated pollution. The data is necessary for determining the effects of long-term  
183 exposure for those living or working near busy roads. Details of concentration and composition  
184 cannot be well represented by interpolating measurements from sparsely distributed sensors.  
185 Internet of Things (IoT) sensors that measure air quality are cheap and readily available, but  
186 these are yet to be proven in the roadside setting (Forehead, Murphy et al. 2017). The spatial and  
187 temporal resolution of traffic emissions models has been increasing over time with  
188 improvements in data collection, computational power, modelling and technology. Simulations  
189 with coarse resolution, that are simpler and quicker to use, are still commonly used for regional  
190 inventories of pollutants. However, microscopic simulations with detailed inputs are required to  
191 represent details of complex, congested traffic, (Austroads 2006). A survey of traffic emissions  
192 modelling by the US Department of Transportation identified microscopic simulations as the  
193 state of practice and that “aggregate network performance data created by traditional static  
194 assignment models is not suitable for estimating emissions accurately” (Balaji Yelchuru, Adams  
195 et al. 2011). Readers are also referred to 2 excellent earlier reviews of microscopic emissions  
196 modelling methods: (Fallah Shorshani, André et al. 2015, Fontes, Pereira et al. 2015). These  
197 models can show pollutant hot-spots and help estimate exposure for vulnerable populations,  
198 such as those in hospitals, child care, parks, aged care facilities (Batterman, Ganguly et al. 2015).  
199 Fine-scale resolution is needed to reduce uncertainty in applications such as health impact  
200 assessments (HIA), that are increasingly a part of project planning (BTRE 2005, National  
201 Research Council Committee on Health Impact 2011). Traffic emissions models can be used for  
202 other risk assessments, such as predicting increases or decreases in emissions due to  
203 infrastructure changes, roadworks or events. They can model the exposure of pedestrians to  
204 traffic pollution with different designs of intersections (Qiu and Li 2015) and the effectiveness of  
205 mitigation strategies that separate pedestrians and traffic (El-Fadel 2002).

206

## 207 3.2 Simpler approaches

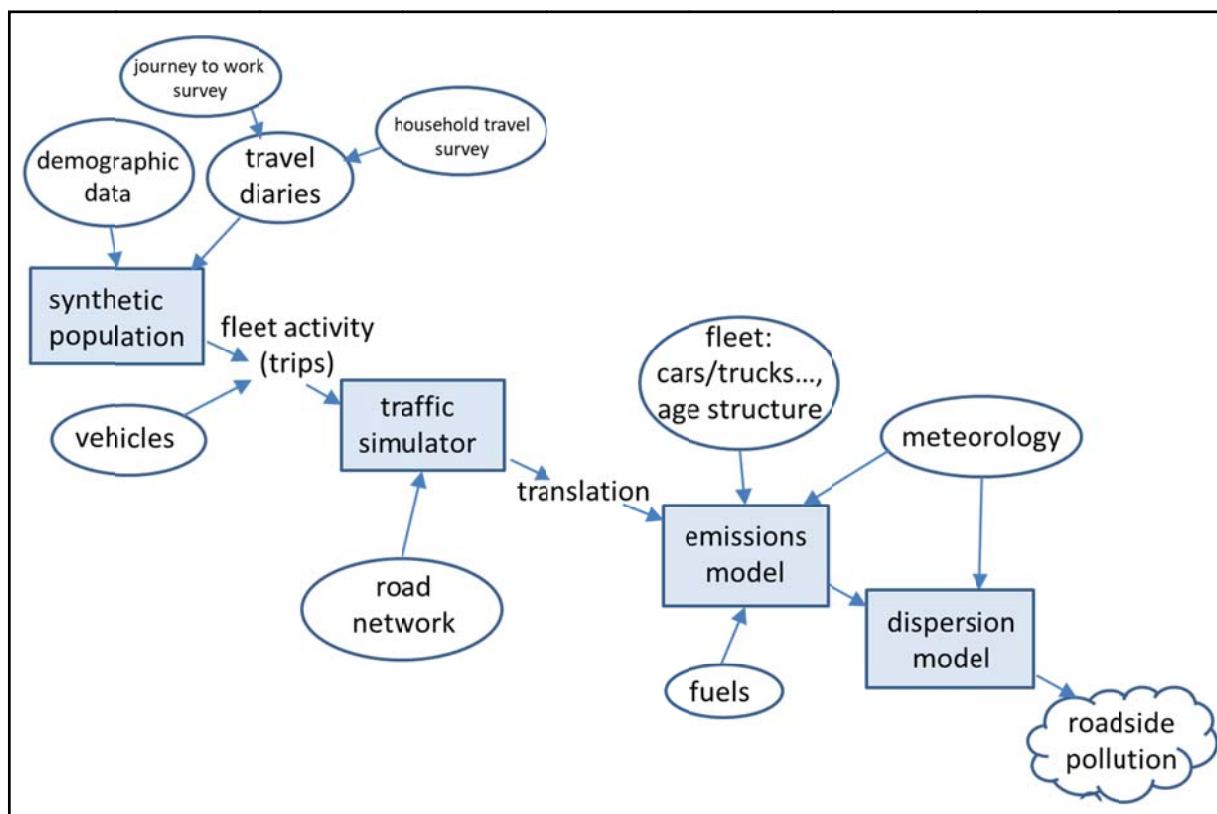
208 Where detailed data are not available, a simpler macroscopic approach may be appropriate.  
209 Alternatives include the use of satellite aerosol optical depth data, in conjunction with a land use  
210 regression model, to add a temporal estimate to spatial data regarding the origins of  $PM_{2.5}$ .  
211 Validation of this approach in Florida, USA gave coefficient of determination of 0.63,  
212 comparable with studies that use aerodynamic-meteorological models (Mao, Qiu et al. 2012). A  
213 land use regression model was used with a simple atmospheric dispersion model to estimate the  
214 daily average particle number on a freeway. Inputs were annual averaged wind speed and annual  
215 average daily traffic counts, errors averaged 6% across 98 sites (Olvera, Jimenez et al. 2014).  
216 Traffic sources of airborne pollutants can be separated from background sources using air quality  
217 measurements from a single station and meteorological data. A freely available semi-empirical  
218 (box model) pollution model and a spreadsheet-based traffic model (Vehicle emissions  
219 prediction model) were designed for Auckland, New Zealand. Results were verified in a study,  
220 using ambient records of 2 air pollution monitors. The best estimations were achieved for  
221 nitrogen oxides;  $PM_{10}$  was difficult to distinguish due to interference from marine aerosols  
222 (Elangasinghe, Dirks et al. 2014). In developing countries, measuring traffic flow via new  
223 technologies may be too expensive or difficult to implement. A macroscopic traffic flow model  
224 can be a good choice when little traffic data is available. The Lighthill and Whitham (1955)  
225 model represents traffic in differential equations, using theories of compressible fluids. Only  
226 6 days of data were used for estimates of density and travel times on a busy arterial road in  
227 Chennai, India. Results had mean average percentage errors ranging from 12.7% to 45.7% when  
228 checked with observations (Kumar, Vanajakshi et al. 2011). Another approach that requires little  
229 data is a seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (SARIMA) model. A 24 hour  
230 simulation of traffic flow on an arterial roadway used only 3 days of data and errors ranged from  
231 just 4% to 10% (Kumar and Vanajakshi 2015). The publicly available Industrial Source Complex

232 Short Term model (ISCST3, US EPA), was used to attribute airborne PM<sub>10</sub> pollution to different  
233 sources, including transport in Kanpur City, India. GIS was used to break up the study area into  
234 2 km x 2 km grids. Resolution could be adjusted to any time and space (Behera, Sharma et al.  
235 2011).

236

### 237 3.3 Microscopic traffic emissions models

238 Microscopic traffic emissions modelling typically comprises a series of sub-models, each  
239 generating the input data for the next (Fig. 1). First is trip and fleet generation, then the traffic  
240 model, traffic emissions and finally, the dispersion of emissions may be modelled. The number  
241 of steps used can vary according to the application. The fleet of vehicles can be built from  
242 databases, commonly from vehicle registration. Trip information can be derived from traffic  
243 sensors and demographic data, such as the census and journey to work surveys. A traffic model  
244 takes the trip data and generates the fleet activity on the road network. That information is fed  
245 into an emissions model together with vehicle emissions factors to generate the emissions data  
246 for the network. In some cases a dispersion model is added to predict the dispersion of  
247 emissions away from the vehicles and the roadway.



248

249 Figure 1. Modelling framework for estimating population exposure to traffic emissions. The 4  
 250 model steps are represented by the rectangles on the diagonal, the text in ovals shows the input  
 251 data.

252

### 253 3.4 Input to traffic simulator model: trips, fleet & sensor data

254 A synthetic population is often used as a foundation for a traffic simulation. It populates a study  
 255 area, dwelling by dwelling, with people distributed into realistic households. The population is  
 256 constructed from publicly available averaged demographic information, such as a census. For  
 257 details of the process, see Huynh, Namazi-Rad et al. (2013). The people in households can then  
 258 be assigned vehicles in a realistic manner.

259 Traffic simulations need realistic ‘trips,’ or journeys as inputs for vehicles; these are usually  
 260 compiled into origin-destination (OD) matrices. Trips are defined by their origin, destination and  
 261 purpose, such as journeys to work, to school or to shops. They can be built or calculated with  
 262 data from a range of sources, including: surveys of journeys to work and of household travel,

263 census data on population, employment and residences, freight movements, parking and  
264 transport networks including road rail, bus and ferries. There are a range of models that build  
265 trips from this data, including (in order of increasing complexity) sketch-planning models,  
266 strategic-planning models, trip-based models and activity-based models (Castiglione, Bradley et  
267 al. 2015). Generally, activity-based models are used to build trips for a day, with the expectation  
268 that no variation will occur. This is, of course, unrealistic, since unexpected changes occur, due  
269 to any number of unplanned events. Rescheduling in an activity-based model allows for  
270 unexpected changes, such as car accidents or time-table changes in public transport. The  
271 FEATHERS activity-based schedule generator simulates the behaviours of mutually independent  
272 individuals or actors. The state of a transport network can be influenced by actor behaviour and  
273 external phenomena. The actors interpret changes via perception filtering and adapt their  
274 schedules accordingly. This in turn affects the network as demand changes, giving a more  
275 realistic set of behaviours for microscopic traffic models. A limitation of the framework is that it  
276 can only change routes before they are started, once a journey has begun, it is fixed (Knapen,  
277 Bellemans et al. 2014). TRANSIMS (US EPA, Federal Highway Administration) is an open-  
278 source system of models that comprises a population synthesiser, an activity generator, routing,  
279 and a microscopic traffic simulation. The system offers much, but the data requirements are  
280 large and the calibration process can be challenging (Zhang and Cai 2016).

281 GPS sensors can substantially improve traffic monitoring. A one second sampling rate was  
282 found to be required to identify events such as vehicle stops, but aggregation to a 5 second  
283 resolution was sufficient for trip identification. Identification of stops in trips could be improved  
284 by combining map information with movement data to reduce false positives, such as pauses due  
285 to traffic congestion, or false negatives such as the missing of short stops (Shen and Stopher  
286 2013). To give correct placement of a vehicle on a road segment in real time, GPS location was  
287 matched to speed and travel time data from cars, using an algorithm that incorporated a  
288 sequence of hidden-Markov models (Szwed and Pekala 2014). Commercial software is available

289 to translate GPS data into trips. However, a study that compared two products using the same  
290 input data showed a discrepancy of 12% of trips between results. Errors included incorrectly  
291 splitting single trips or failing to identify some trips (Stopher, Greaves et al. 2013). A Bayesian  
292 approach was used to integrate data from Bluetooth, loop detectors and GPS for real-time traffic  
293 prediction. The method dramatically improved the accuracy of information from loop detectors  
294 on an arterial corridor in Brisbane, Australia (Nantes, Ngoduy et al. 2015).

295 Origin-destination (OD) data was generated from archived public transport data from smart  
296 cards, in conjunction with street maps and timetables in Žilina, the Slovak republic. It was  
297 possible to infer details such as in-vehicle travel and walking times for segments of a journey  
298 (Jánošíkova, Slavík et al. 2014). Calibration software (W-SPSA) used a weighting matrix to allow  
299 for correlations between inputs to OD matrixes (Antoniou, Lima Azevedo et al. 2015).

300 Algorithms based upon evolutionary simulations were used to make choices regarding route  
301 choices depending on time and toll cost. The result can incorporate some amount of  
302 randomness.(Nagel, Kichhöfer et al. 2014).

303 Technology has increased the range of options available for monitoring traffic movements.

304 Modern traffic data collection includes technologies that range from simple inductive loop  
305 sensors to piezo-electric, magneto-resistive studs, tirtle (laser) and piezo-WIM (weight in motion)  
306 sensors. The latter instruments can give details of vehicle class, by determining the mass and  
307 number of axles of a passing vehicle. Sensors are often integrated with a traffic control system,  
308 such as the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System (SCATS), used in 26 countries. It has a  
309 software interface, SCATSIM, to link the traffic management system to microscopic traffic  
310 models. Some authorities monitor vehicle traffic by tracking signals from Bluetooth or WiFi  
311 devices and technologies such as GPS or automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.  
312 These activities are restricted to varying degrees by privacy legislation.



313 ITS systems can provide cost savings, better coverage and increased accuracy over more labour-  
314 intensive methods of data collection. The integration of large collections of detailed and timely  
315 trip and locational data offer the opportunity for accurate modelling of emissions that is highly  
316 temporally and spatially resolved. (Vasantha Kumar and Vanajakshi 2014).

317 Bluetooth and WiFi digital radio transmitters can be used to monitor vehicle movements.  
318 Transmitters are found in many mobile electronic devices, including hands-free speaker systems  
319 for mobile phones, headsets and music players. Each device broadcasts its unique Media Access  
320 Control (MAC) address. Bluetooth transmitters have ranges from 3 m (class 3 devices) to 100 m  
321 (class 1 devices). The signal can be detected at the roadside and successive readings processed to  
322 give information relating to speed and route (Bachmann, Abdulhai et al. 2013). WiFi, signals can  
323 also be used and that system has a faster discovery time (about 1 sec) than Bluetooth (almost 10  
324 sec) (Abedi, Bhaskar et al. 2013). There are a number of potential difficulties to be considered  
325 when using Bluetooth monitoring. There may be an uneven demographic distribution of  
326 Bluetooth devices in cars, a single device may be detected by multiple scans at busy locations and  
327 there are devices used outside motor vehicles by pedestrians, cyclists and on trains. The signals  
328 must be filtered to resolve these ambiguities (Abbott-Jard, Shah et al. 2013, Michau, Nantes et al.  
329 2013). Early implementations of speed detection with Bluetooth were cited as problematic, with  
330 automated number-plate recognition being more reliable at higher speeds (Abbott-Jard, Shah et  
331 al. 2013). However, Bluetooth has become widely adopted for traffic monitoring and  
332 management (Aliari and Haghani 2012, Bachmann, Roorda et al. 2013, Juster, Young et al. 2014,  
333 Smith, Hainen et al. 2014). It has been used to verify the accuracy of a large dataset of probe  
334 vehicle data (Kaushik, Sharifi et al. 2014) and to give cheap & cost-effective queue measurement  
335 (Alghamdi, Nadeem et al. 2014). The technology was used in Brisbane, Australia for modelling  
336 travel times, giving much better predictions than the historical average (Khoei, Bhaskar et al.  
337 2013) and in Lincoln, USA, increasing the accuracy of predictions over aggregated link and  
338 corridor travel times (Wu and Rilett 2014). Only limited numbers of signals from wireless devices

339 are needed to significantly increase the understanding of traffic flows. The South Australian  
340 Bluetooth system achieves a sample rate of about 15% of vehicles, better on arterial roads,  
341 mostly due to the presence of freight vehicles. The system is good enough that the Department  
342 of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure does not buy any external traffic data. It has been used  
343 for a number of purposes, including automated incident detection (AID) and to monitoring  
344 compliance with permits for traffic controls for roadworks. The department can see if traffic is  
345 being slowed down outside the times stipulated by a permit (Southern 2015). As far back as late  
346 2015, a number of private companies were already advertising Bluetooth systems for monitoring  
347 traffic and other purposes.

348 Public concerns about privacy can potentially be an obstacle to the use of location technologies  
349 that scan private wireless devices. An EU project to develop collaborative transport emphasised  
350 the need to make efforts to gain the acceptance by travellers for the sharing of information  
351 required for many of the technologies (Penttinen, Diederichs et al. 2014). In an effort to avoid  
352 privacy concerns around the collection of data from privately owned wireless devices, real-time  
353 data from buses was used to estimate travel time for other vehicles on urban arterial routes  
354 (Vasantha Kumar and Vanajakshi 2014). Public concerns can also be addressed through  
355 education and the careful design of a system. The Bluetooth scanning system in South Australia  
356 automatically truncates scanned MAC addresses to make them anonymous and deletes them at  
357 the end of each day (Southern 2015). However, local legislation may actually preclude use of the  
358 technology in some locations. For example, Bluetooth signals cannot be used to sense private  
359 vehicles in Western Australia (Maddock 2015). A recent study (Chong-White, Millar et al. 2014)  
360 examined the environmental benefits of the Sydney Coordinated Adaptive Traffic System  
361 (SCATS) system using traffic data from eTags (in-vehicle electronic wireless devices for toll  
362 system) on a stretch of Military and Spit Roads in Sydney. It was found that the system was  
363 effective in reducing travel times, but that emissions reductions were not consistent across the

364 network (Chong-White, Millar et al. 2013). The trial was abandoned due to privacy concerns with  
365 the eTag data.

366 ITS can improve the reliability of data from loop detectors. The addition of information from  
367 only a few probe vehicles equipped with GPS and Bluetooth scanning can significantly improve  
368 traffic speed estimates (Bachmann, Roorda et al. 2013). The fusion of multiple mobile data  
369 sources, including sensors, probe vehicles, Bluetooth and GPS, increases the accuracy of  
370 estimates of traffic speed. With only 5% probe vehicles, the root mean square error can be  
371 reduced by up to 80%. There are a number of methods for combining data. A comparison tested  
372 five of these: distributed fusion, artificial neural networks, Kalman filters, fuzzy integrals and  
373 ordered weighting average. The methods were validated using a simulation model of a major  
374 freeway; the first three methods produced the best results (Bachmann, Abdulhai et al. 2013).

375 Private businesses are becoming the source of ever-increasing amounts of data. INRIX Inc. is  
376 based in the USA that provides real-time traffic information in over 40 countries. The company  
377 claimed that as of January 2015, they were collecting information about roadway speeds from  
378 “over 185 million real-time anonymous mobile phones, connected cars, trucks, delivery vans and  
379 other fleet vehicles equipped with GPS locator devices.” By May 2018, this number had  
380 increased to over 300 million (INRIX 2018).

381

### 382 3.5 Traffic simulation models

383 Traffic models represent vehicle movements on a road network with varying levels of detail.  
384 There are many traffic models available, with updates and replacements constantly improving  
385 accuracy and versatility. A significant limitation to modelling efforts in many jurisdictions  
386 though, is the difficulty and expense in obtaining real traffic data for validation for more than a  
387 few major roads.

388 The level of detail used in traffic models depends upon the purpose of the modelling effort and  
 389 the resources available. For example, in regional or national emissions inventories, results need  
 390 to be comparable between jurisdictions, times and to be reproduced easily. These uses do not  
 391 require resolution of seconds or tens of metres, so a strategy with a low to intermediate level of  
 392 detail is generally used. Such macroscopic models may use analytical techniques such as fluid  
 393 dynamics or simulations to model flows or platoons of traffic. Fine scale microscopic models  
 394 (Table 2) deal with individual vehicles with second to second resolution or better. These are  
 395 generally either cellular automaton models, where vehicles navigate according to rules with  
 396 varying degrees of stochasticity, or car-following models, where vehicle to vehicle interactions  
 397 are based upon differential equations. Mesoscopic simulations operate at an intermediate level of  
 398 detail, lengths of road or groups of vehicles (Kokkinogenis, Sanchez Passos et al. 2011). Since  
 399 the object of this review is the state of the science in modelling for cities, it focusses on  
 400 microscopic modelling.

401 Table 2. Popular microscopic traffic simulation software

model name	supplier	model type
Aimsun	TTS Group, Singapore	car following
MAS-T <sup>2</sup> er Lab	University of Porto, Portugal	agent-based
MITSIMLab	MIT, USA	agent-based, open source
PARAMICS	Pitney Bowes Software, UK	car following, lane changing
SUMO	ITS, Germany	car following, open source
TransModeler	Caliper Corp, USA	car following
TSIS-CORSIM	McTrans Center, USA	agent-based
VISSIM	PTV Group, Germany	car-following
TRANSIMS	US EPA, USA	agent-based, open source

402

403 In a traffic simulation, the smallest component of a road network is called a link. The number of  
404 links must be at least equal to the number of intersections. In addition, any changes in a road,  
405 such as a curve or gradient should be represented by a separate link. There is an upper limit to  
406 the resolution of a traffic simulation on a network, beyond which vehicle information can be  
407 missed. This is particularly the case for low traffic density. The length of a link must be sufficient  
408 that all vehicles can be detected over the duration of a model's time step. The risk of a vehicle  
409 being missed is proportional to the traffic's sparsity and speed; so the length of a link needs to be  
410 calibrated to traffic conditions and the simulation's temporal resolution (Fontes, Pereira et al.  
411 2015). Long-run estimates of large areas can be challenging to calculate with such detailed  
412 models, because of the computational effort required (Fallah Shorshani, André et al. 2015).

413 Microscopic traffic simulations provide detailed representations of network behaviour by  
414 modelling time-varying demand patterns and the choices and behaviours of individual drivers.  
415 Simulations represent all vehicles individually, typically with a one second resolution. Algorithms  
416 based upon evolutionary simulations can make decisions regarding route choices depending on  
417 time and toll cost. Results can be improved by including some degree of randomness in the  
418 calculations. This approach allows the fleet to respond to congestion in a realistic manner (Nagel,  
419 Kickhöfer et al. 2014, Barthélemy and Carletti 2017). Models are calibrated for local driving  
420 behaviours such as car-following and lane changing. Capturing details of instantaneous speeds  
421 and acceleration rates increases the accuracy of emissions estimates, because the quality and  
422 quantity of vehicle emissions change with deviations from a steady speed (Austroads 2006, Chen  
423 and Yu 2007). As congestion increases, so does the incidence of speed changes and the emission  
424 of CO and HC (Smit 2006). Lane changing behaviour can significantly change traffic flow, many  
425 models simplify the manoeuvre as an instantaneous transition, but it generally takes from 1 to  
426 16 s. In addition, the lane-changing behaviours of trucks and cars on arterial roads have been  
427 found to be so distinct that they needed to be modelled differently (Cao, Young et al. 2013).

428 Software is often used to improve the calibration process; for example W-SPSA, which includes  
429 a weighting matrix to allow for correlations between inputs, such as road sensor data (Antoniou,  
430 Lima Azevedo et al. 2015). Evolutionary algorithms can also be used for calibration. A study that  
431 used evolutionary algorithms for calibration of a county-wide simulation found that there was  
432 greater benefit to the accuracy of results by allocating effort to coding of the network and traffic  
433 demand, than to the calibration process (Smith, Sadek et al. 2008). However, other researchers  
434 found that dealing with easily identifiable errors in data markedly improved the results of a city-  
435 scaled microscopic traffic model. Errors from sensors were a significant problem when using  
436 automated methods for calibrating model parameters and making estimations for OD matrixes.  
437 (Jha, Gopalan et al. 2004).

438 There are a number of promising new approaches to traffic modelling in the literature. A  
439 Chinese study used a deep-learning-based predictive traffic model with large traffic datasets. A  
440 stacked autoencoder model learned generic traffic flow features; the method dealt with spatial  
441 and temporal correlations (Lv, Duan et al. 2015). Real-world mobile sensing data was used on an  
442 arterial road to estimate trajectories for the entire traffic population, as input to the CMEM  
443 emissions model. Adding random noise to the model's cruise mode improved estimation results  
444 (Sun, Hao et al. 2015).

445 To assist in selecting from the large range of models on offer, a meta-modelling technique has  
446 been used to compare and select models and to optimise parameters. Intelligent surrogate  
447 modelling tested models in univariate and multivariate frameworks (Vlahogianni 2015).

448 Examination of emissions modelling of Brisbane traffic showed that the majority of errors  
449 occurred not in the model specification, but the input data, particularly related to congested  
450 conditions. The models performed well under free-flowing conditions, but errors increased in  
451 the transitions to congested and very congested conditions (Zhu and Ferreira 2013).

452

### 453 3.6 Emissions models

454 Emissions models operate at the same range of scales as traffic models and similarly, over-  
455 simplification leads to inaccurate results. The emissions from a vehicle are worst when the engine  
456 is started following an extended period of inactivity, so called “cold-starts.” The severity of  
457 pollution increases with the duration of standing or “soak” time (Gao and Johnson 2009).  
458 Formation of secondary organic aerosols (SOA) decreased by a factor of 3 to 7 times between  
459 cold-start and hot-start tests in light-duty petrol passenger vehicles. To make things worse, after  
460 three hours of oxidation in the atmosphere, the concentrations of SOA from cold-start running  
461 could measure up to six times the concentrations found in the primary emissions (Gordon,  
462 Presto et al. 2014). A study of the effects of the aggregation of inputs to models found that cold  
463 start emissions contributed 67% to total road HC emissions. The next most important factors  
464 were the season and vehicle registry data, such as vehicle types and model years (Sider, Goulet-  
465 Langlois et al. 2015). Most emissions models include calculations that account for the age and  
466 structure of the fleet and meteorology.

467 Other sources of emissions from vehicles include brakes, particles released by the shear forces  
468 between vehicle tyres and the road and the evaporation of fuel from fuel tanks and lines at raised  
469 temperatures. These sources were often neglected in early emissions models, but are increasingly  
470 included in updated versions (European Environment Agency 2007). Evaporative emissions in  
471 Europe range from less than 3% to around 16.5% of total non-methane volatile organic  
472 compounds (NMVOCs). These losses are mainly from petrol driven vehicles and have been  
473 decreasing in recent years with the use of control systems in newer models (Mellios and  
474 Ntziachristos 2012). Wet conditions should decrease tyre wear and new road surfaces increase  
475 wear (Mellios and Ntziachristos 2012). Not all of this material is airborne, so emission factors are  
476 required in models to calculate the contribution (European Environment Agency 2007).

477 Emissions factors are parameters used to calculate emissions for particular chemicals and  
478 particles in vehicle exhausts. Databases for vehicle emission factors are usually specific to their  
479 country or region, for example HBEFA, is a European database of emissions factors for all  
480 current vehicle categories. It incorporates factors for different driving conditions, hot/cold  
481 running and evaporative emissions. The emission factors are generated by emissions models  
482 validated with measurements in laboratories and on roads. Originally developed by agencies in  
483 Germany, Switzerland and Austria, now funded by the EU (ERMES 2015, HBEFA 2015).  
484 HBEFA has also been found to be suitable for the Chinese fleet and roads. The Chinese fleet  
485 has a similar composition to that of Europe, and the database was well suited to describe the  
486 emissions of traffic on urban infrastructure (Sun, Schmeid et al. 2014). Many measurements of  
487 vehicles are required to generate robust emissions factors, since even minor variations in testing  
488 procedures can result in different outputs from the same vehicle (Franco, Kousoulidou et al.  
489 2013).

490 There are a small number of publicly available microscopic emissions models. MOtor Vehicle  
491 Emissions Simulator (MOVES) is the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions  
492 model for mobile sources, designed for use at scales from national to project. The latest version  
493 (MOVES2014a) was released in November 2015 and there have been minor revisions since. It  
494 deals with on and off-road emissions and includes calculations for emissions of over 100  
495 compounds including those from fuel evaporation, brake and tyre wear. For details see  
496 (<https://www.epa.gov/moves>). Three simpler microscopic emission models (VT-Micro, EMIT  
497 and POLY) were ranked against CMEM, using the same input data from light-duty vehicles from  
498 four vehicle classes in two Chinese cities. Different models were found to have strengths in  
499 particular aspects, such as speed or better accuracy for certain pollutants (Ma, Lei et al. 2012).  
500 Some microscopic emissions models, such as CMEM deal with detail such as hot and cold  
501 running, but currently model only a few pollutants: NO<sub>x</sub>, total hydrocarbons, CO<sub>2</sub>, CO and do  
502 not consider emissions due to evaporation or brake and tyre wear. COPERT Street Level is a



503 more detailed version of the European emissions inventory software, COPERT (Computer  
504 Programme to calculate Emissions from Road Transport, <http://emis.com/products/copert>).  
505 It has similar resolution to MOVES and calculates the pollutants CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM and VOC.  
506 PARAMICS (PARAllel MICROscopic traffic Simulator, <http://www.paramics-online.com>)  
507 Monitor is an add-on for the PARAMICS traffic simulator, it models CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, total HC, NO<sub>x</sub>,  
508 PM and fuel consumption. There is also an add-on that couples the model to CMEM. The  
509 AIMSUN (Advanced Interactive Microscopic Simulator for Urban and Non-Urban networks,  
510 <https://www.aimsun.com>) emissions model is easy to calibrate and implement, but the  
511 calibration may not apply well to conditions that differ from those of the calibration (Bover, Zhu  
512 et al. 2013). The TRANSIMS (TRansportation ANalysis and SIMulation System,  
513 <https://transims-studio.soft112.com>) system of models contains an emissions simulator.

514 A preliminary study of an artificial neural network (ANN) approach to fuel and emissions  
515 modelling used 26 vehicles. (Dia and Boongrapue 2015). Results for fuel consumption had 96%  
516 to 98% accuracy; emissions data 70% to 97% accuracy; depending upon the pollutant modelled  
517 and the vehicle. To realise the potential of ANN in emissions modelling, it needs to be integrated  
518 with microscopic traffic models.

519 The accuracy of all models is limited by the quality of the emissions factors used in their  
520 calculations. The accuracy of predictions of some regulated pollutant measurements is better  
521 than others. CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, total VOC, PM mass and CO<sub>2</sub> are well understood as a function of  
522 driving conditions, due to the large number of measurements. Others have been less well  
523 evaluated: NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, individual VOC, PAH, PM as a function of size and number, and heavy  
524 metals (Fallah Shorshani, André et al. 2015). The quality and quantity of the emissions of  
525 pollutants is related to the power output of a vehicle's engine. A common method takes that data  
526 from a microscopic traffic simulation and uses it to calculate emissions using 'vehicle specific  
527 power' (VSP) (Fontes, Fernandes et al. 2014). For example, PΔP (engine power, and change in

528 engine power) software, based on drive cycles from a large database of Australian emissions  
529 tests. Validation gave average  $R^2$  values of 0.65 for  $\text{NO}_x$  and 0.93 for  $\text{CO}_2$ /fuel consumption  
530 (Smit 2013). However, some power-based models may not be sufficiently sensitive to the small  
531 changes in engine power that can have significant effects on emissions (Zhu 2015).

532 Caution is required when selecting emission factors for use in models, particularly data from  
533 vehicle manufacturers. That data was suspect, even before the Volkswagen scandal (Boretti  
534 2017). Engineers at an independent European tester found that manufacturers' tests  
535 underestimated exhaust emissions (Schmidt and Johannsen 2010). Car makers were shown to  
536 have manipulated load tests, estimates of vehicles' rolling and wind resistance, to skew emissions  
537 tests by independent testers. Testers carried out alterations such as not charging the battery,  
538 over-inflating tyres, disabling power steering pumps and taping the edges of windows and other  
539 gaps to decrease wind and rolling resistance. When regular production vehicles were used  
540 instead, fuel economy was decreased by about 12%. The gap between advertised and actual fuel  
541 economy figures were as large as 50% (Dings 2013, Mock and German 2015). In the so called  
542 "Dieselgate" scandal, centred around Volkswagen, it was found that cars powered by diesel  
543 engines had been releasing  $\text{NO}_x$  at a rate more than 4 times that allowed by European  
544 regulations. Modelling gave a median estimate of an additional 1,200 premature deaths, or 13,000  
545 life-years lost and 1.9 billion EUR in associated costs, across Europe caused by the extra  
546 emissions over the time these vehicles were being sold (2008-2015) (Guillaume, Robert et al.  
547 2017).

548

### 549 3.6.1 Real time emissions data

550 Real-time data is one of the major benefits promised by Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)  
551 including connected, interacting sensors, controllers and vehicles. A service on the Google Maps  
552 platform, called "Emission Map," used a combination of data from traffic loop sensors and

553 emission calculations from MOVES to give a visualisation of near real-time traffic emissions in  
554 Seattle, USA. It (Ma, Yu et al. 2012).

555 An ever increasing range of technologies are being used in creative ways to calculate emissions.  
556 Radar speed detectors were used to reconstruct vehicle trajectories, which became the input to  
557 CMEM, to calculate the resulting emissions and fuel consumption (Chen, Yang et al. 2014). The  
558 GPS trajectories of 32,000 taxis over 2 months on a road network in Beijing were used to  
559 generate instantaneous information on fuel consumption and emission of vehicles. Where data  
560 was sparse, a Bayesian Network model, Traffic Volume Inference (TVI) was used to interpolate  
561 (Shang, Zheng et al. 2014). NO<sub>x</sub> was estimated from GPS tracks of vehicle movements via non-  
562 linear optimisation (Chen, Bekhor et al. 2016). A Spanish study collected signals from on-board  
563 diagnostic systems in cars via mobile phones. The phones also collected GPS coordinates and  
564 the information was combined to give second by second trip and emissions data (Garcia-Castro  
565 and Monzon 2014).

566 In a Belgian study, exposure of cyclists to black carbon was found to correlate with noise  
567 measurements (Dekoninck, Botteldooren et al. 2015). Another study measured personal  
568 exposure to microfine particles with personal monitoring. The measurements were made on  
569 repeated traverses (on different times of day, different days and different seasons) of a route that  
570 included well frequented urban microenvironments. It found the highest exposures from walking  
571 or biking along highly-trafficked routes and using public buses. Exposure to ultrafine particles  
572 was significantly lower in modern cars, with efficient filters and recirculated air (Spinazzè,  
573 Cattaneo et al. 2015). Personal exposure monitors are expensive, may be inaccurate or may not  
574 record locational information. To overcome these limitations, a study used smart phone tracking  
575 combined with estimates of ambient pollution concentrations to estimate personal exposure (Su,  
576 Jerrett et al. 2015).

577

### 578 3.7 Dispersion models

579 Dispersion modelling is a complex science and the models can be very computationally intensive.  
580 For accurate prediction of the fate of the products of combustion, models must calculate not just  
581 dispersion, but also the complex chemical and physical transformations that occur over time.  
582 Dispersion of emissions near a source can be modelled by Gaussian models; these are of two  
583 main types, plume or puff. Plume models assume steady-state conditions; puff models simulate  
584 instantaneous releases in a changing environment and are computationally more demanding. A  
585 combination of the two approaches can give good results (Fallah Shorshani, André et al. 2015).

586 The US EPA have a number of freely available atmospheric dispersion models, developed for a  
587 range of purposes. These include AEROMOD (continuously updated), a steady-state plume  
588 model that can deal with surface and elevated sources on all types of terrain. CALPUFF is a non-  
589 steady-state puff dispersion model that includes the effects of terrain and meteorology and  
590 various transformations of emissions over time. CALINE3, a steady-state Gaussian dispersion  
591 model for highway pollution in relatively uncomplicated terrain and has calculations for traffic  
592 hot-spots and queuing; it allows for meteorological data input. CAL3QHCR is a carbon  
593 monoxide model with queuing at signalised intersections and hot spot calculations; it includes  
594 meteorological data as an input. The EPA also produces 15 alternative emission dispersion  
595 models of varying complexity. AEROMOD uses CAL3QHCR as a meteorological data pre-  
596 processor and AERMAP as a terrain pre-processor. The Operational Street Pollution Model  
597 (OSPM, Aarhus University, Denmark) is a street canyon circulation model that accounts for  
598 building geometry and wind (Kakosimos, Hertel et al. 2010). Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling  
599 System - Roads (ADMS-Roads, Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants, Cambridge,  
600 UK) is an advanced dispersion model. R-LINE is a freely available research-grade dispersion  
601 model produced by the University of North Carolina and US EPA. MyAir is an EU model  
602 evaluation toolkit, it was used to compare the performance of four models in predicting the

603 dispersion of a tracer gas to a large array of sensors. ADMS-Roads, AEROMOD (volume  
604 source) and RLINE performed better than CALINE (Stocker, Heist et al. 2013).

605 Recently, there has been an increasing popularity of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) models  
606 such as PHOENICS (Chen, Lu et al. 2017) and FLUIDITY (Aristodemou, Boganegra et al.  
607 2018) over the conventional Gaussian-type dispersion models. A CFD emission model was able  
608 to show detail such as eddies generated by cross-streets and increased concentrations of  
609 pollutants in the lower leeward sides of street canyons (Mumovic, Crowther et al. 2006). A study  
610 examined the dispersion and chemical interactions and of ultrafine particles (UFP) from vehicle  
611 exhaust-pipes to the near-road environment. The study used an aerosol dynamics-CFD coupled  
612 model. It was found that omitting atmospheric boundary layer conditions (wind profile and  
613 turbulence quantities) from activity-based emission models resulted in an overestimate of the  
614 dilution of emissions in the wake of vehicles. This led to a five-fold underestimate of the  
615 nucleation rate. (Huang, Gong et al. 2014). FLUIDITY is an open source simulator that  
616 incorporates an anisotropic adaptive unstructured mesh and large eddy simulations (LES). This  
617 approach improves predictions by increasing resolution where required and improving the  
618 representation of turbulence. The simulation was used to model the effects of increased building  
619 height on the distribution of traffic pollution. It was able to reproduce wind tunnel  
620 measurements well, with differences ranging from 3% to 37% (Aristodemou, Boganegra et al.  
621 2018)

622 A microscopic dispersion model used the “Random Forest” ensemble learning method for  
623 predicting roadside concentrations of CO and NO<sub>x</sub> on four urban roads with 5 minutely  
624 resolution. This approach gave better results than an artificial neural network, which could not  
625 determine the relationship between the traffic and roadside air quality (Song, Wu et al. 2014).

626 In an Indian study, the US EPA’s Industrial Source Complex Short Term model (ISCST3) was  
627 used to attribute airborne PM<sub>10</sub> pollution in Kanpur City to different sources, including

628 transport. GIS was used to break up the study area into 2 km x 2 km grids. Resolution could be  
629 adjusted to any time and space (Behera, Sharma et al. 2011).

630

### 631 3.8 Summary & recommendations

632 There are a number of microscopic models that will perform well, as long as the required input  
633 data is available. Table 3 lists shows combinations of models used in studies to estimate  
634 emissions and to evaluate methods to reduce exposure. For simulating traffic, SUMO is an open-  
635 source model with excellent capabilities; it can represent car-following, lane-changing and  
636 signalised intersections. Commercial models, such as AIMSUN, VISSIM and PARAMICS also  
637 perform well and tend to have more polished user interfaces. There are fewer choices for  
638 emissions simulators; MOVES is very capable, well supported, comprehensive and widely used.  
639 Its popularity is in part due to its being required for compliance purposes in the US. There are  
640 also commercial emissions models; COPERT Street Level, PAP and others built for the above  
641 commercial traffic simulators. Dispersion models are available for a range of applications from  
642 the US EPA website; for example: AEROMOD can be used for scales of up to 50 km.  
643 Commercial offerings include OSPM, to model dispersion in street canyons and there are  
644 versions of ADMS models for different scales. Promising developments include data-driven  
645 approaches to modelling emissions and CFD methods for dispersion.

646

647 Table 3. List of recent studies using combinations of microscopic simulations to examine  
648 strategies to mitigate pollution

topic related to emissions	models used	citation	reduction in pollution
effects of different driving behaviours	VISSIM and CMEM	(Chen and Yu 2007)	2.6 to 16.5%

strategies for high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes	PARAMICS and CMEM	(Boriboonsomsin and Barth 2008)	3 to 17%
strategies for high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes	VISSIM and VSP	(Fontes, Fernandes et al. 2014)	37 to 43%
Transit Signal Priority (TSP) system that prioritised buses	PARAMICS and PARAMICS Monitor (emissions application)	(Wijayarathna, Dixit et al. 2013)	-11%
optimise signal timing on a large intersection	VISSIM / SUMO and CMEM	(Ma, Jin et al. 2014)	2.5 to 6.3%
optimisation of signal timing	VISSIM and CMEM	(Stevanovic, Stevanovic et al. 2015).	4.5% (fuel consumed)
active speed management	DRACULA* and non-linear multiple regression	(Int Panis, Broekx et al. 2006).	-1.1 to 1.2%
active speed management	SUMO and CMEM	(Grumert, Ma et al. 2015)	3.8 to 8.0%
use of ITS: variable message signs, highway advisory radio	VISSIM, POLARIS	(Auld, Karbowski et al. 2016)	2.5% (fuel consumed)
different designs of intersections	MOVES and AEROMOD	(Qiu and Li 2015)	81.7%
traffic pollution and dispersion	PARAMICS, CMEM and AERMET	(Amirjamshidi, Mostafa et al. 2013)	1 to 12%
license plate restrictions	VISSUM and MOVES	(Pu, Yang et al. 2015)	6.9%
different lane configurations, traffic management strategies	TransModeler and MOVES	(Xiong, Zhu et al. 2015)	0.22 to 0.72%
mitigation of harm to vulnerable populations	MOVES and RLINE (10 m spatial resolution)	(Batterman, Ganguly et al. 2015)	measures not quantified

649

650 \* Dynamic Route Assignment Combining User Learning and microsimulAtion, Institute for Transport  
651 Studies, University of Leeds, UK

652

## 653 4 Conclusions

654 The airborne emissions from traffic present significant, well established hazards to many of the  
655 people in cities. The current state of the science is able to model traffic emissions with very fine  
656 resolution. With the use of microsimulations, temporal resolution is typically one second and  
657 spatial resolution tens of metres. This detail is necessary because the chemistry of emissions  
658 changes rapidly over time and space. The most polluting phases of driving happen over short  
659 intervals, such as after starts and with the acceleration and deceleration of congested traffic.

660 There are a number of software packages available for the various aspects of emissions  
661 modelling, both commercial and open source. New research is applying novel approaches, such  
662 as agent-based models, neural networks and ensemble learning to increase speed, detail and

663 scope. Models are used for evaluating mitigation measures, either managing the traffic to  
664 improve flow and minimise emissions, or separating people from the traffic with under or  
665 overpasses. The rate of data being produced from multiple types of road sensors is ever  
666 increasing. Vehicles are also tracked using wireless radio signals from mobile phones and other  
667 transmitting devices. Many cities integrate these multiple data streams in intelligent transport  
668 systems, reducing emissions by improving the effectiveness of road and transport networks.  
669 Information from ITS has also enabled the deployment of detailed real time traffic emissions  
670 models, offering the possibility for people to plan travel or close windows to avoid potentially  
671 harmful exposure. Spatially detailed simulations can be combined with demographic data to  
672 provide targeted information and risk analyses. Traffic emissions models have grown beyond  
673 only being tools for the planning of infrastructure, to versatile instruments that can inform many  
674 disciplines and help to improve the health of city-dwellers.

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