

PTV Talks: Air Taxi & Hyperloop

BOLESLAV SIVKOV Principal Solutions Architect PTV Group, Dubai October 28, 2021

Air Taxi Demand & Hub Locations

How high could VTOLs go?



"Flying cars could initially gain market share from cars on the road, planes and public transportation. However, it could also open up a whole new world of business across multiple sectors. In its base case, these opportunities point to a total addressable market of \$1.5 trillion by 2040"

Source: Morgan Stanley Research



Air Taxi Demand & Hub Locations

What demand can we expect for the Air Taxi Service?

What is the optimal distribution of Air Taxi hubs?

What are the optimal service parameters?

Who does demand / revenue / cost / profit depend on service parameters and hubs' location?



Air Taxi Study Focus

Estimation of the potential demand for air taxi services in urban areas, with particular focus on trips from/to CBD

OBJECTIVES

Estimation of demand for air-taxi services

Evaluation of modal shift from existing modes to the new air-taxi mode

Optimization of air-taxi hub locations aimed at maximization of air-taxi demand

Estimation of required fleet size, modal split on access modes and daily distribution of demand





Data Collection

Minimum requirements for

SUPPLY MODEL



PTV GROUP

Data Collection

Minimum requirements for

DEMAND MODEL



PTV GROUP the mind of movement

Mode Choice in Detail

Multimodal Logit for Main Mode Choice

UTILITY FUNCTION FOR EACH MODE (CAR, TAXI, PUT, VTOL):

$$U_{PrT} = C - \left(TTC + \frac{TCC}{VOT}\right) - 2 * TTV$$
$$U_{VTOL} = C - \left(TTC + \frac{TCC}{VOT}\right)$$
$$U_{PuT} = C - \left(JRT + \frac{TCC}{VOT}\right)$$

Travel time and cost for the VTOL mode is obtained as the average over the travel times of all access modes weighted by their modal share

$$TTC_{VTOL} = \sum_{m \in M_{access}} P^A * TTC$$

The probability P of choosing a certain mode for the trip from Origin to Destination is calculated using Logit model

$$P = \frac{e^{-U}}{\sum e^{-U}}$$

Where sum of disutilities represents the set of all modes



Hub Location Optimization

Objective: Maximize number of trips

Calculate VTOL travel times & costs for all possible combinations of VTOL hub locations

Calculate Mode Choice for all possible combinations of VTOL hub locations

Optimization of the target function (maximize number of passengers)



Model Procedure Sequence

Initial optimization of hub locations	Calculate PrT and PuT skims in the loaded network Estimate optimal hub locations (script-based) Incorporate air-taxi mode into supply and demand models
Demand Loop	Calculate PrT and PuT skims Calculate air-taxi skims with the multimodal assignment Mode choice Calculate demand on path legs of air-taxi trips with the PTV Visum Multimodal Assignment Assignment of PrT and PuT modes Loop this block until convergence
Final Assignment	Final assignment of PrT and PuT modes Calculate skim matrices of auxiliary air-taxi PrT mode Provide demand matrix time series for air-taxi mode Assign air-taxi demand using the PTV Visum Shared Mobility Module to get service parameters



Example KPIs

SUPPLY:

- Number of vehicles in service per hour
- Number of served trips by fleet size & LOS
- Daily operating costs per vehicle and for the whole fleet
- Energy consumption

DEMAND:

- Number of boardings per Hub
- Mode split
- Mode shift from other modes

TRAVEL TIME:

- In-air travel time
- Average access time

REVENUE:

- Revenue per PAX
- Daily revenue



Hyperloop Alpha

"When the California "high speed" rail was approved, I was quite disappointed, as I know many others were too. How could it be that the home of Silicon Valley and JPL - doing incredible things like indexing all the world's knowledge and putting rovers on Mars - would build a bullet train that is both one of the most expensive per mile and one of the slowest in the world?"

Elon Mask

Link: https://www.tesla.com/sites/default/fil es/blog_images/hyperloop-alpha.pdf



Hyperloop Applicability

New mode of urban mobility? Regional long-distance commuter? Country-wide metro? Urgent cargo transporter? Same-day cargo distributor? Long-distance on-demand system?



Hyperloop Applicability

Regional long-distance commuter?

Country-wide metro?





Model Extension with Hyperloop

Example of Mode Choice Model extension methodology





Hyperloop Mode Definition

Given typical assumptions on Hyperloop time savings advantage over other modes it is crucial to thoroughly consider competition on all segments of a trip

At the level of feasibility study, it is recommended to go all the way up to detailed urban modelling around Hyperloop connection points to allow for such consideration

It is recommended to utilize Multimodal Assignment with detailed skims definition and relevant sequences of subordinate demand segments

Parameters for skim matrices from path sequences

Considered OD pairs

Skims

✓ Calculate only OD pairs with demand > 0 all

Index Calculate Skim 1 X ACC × 2 ACT 3 X EGC 4 × EGT X FAR 5 × 6 IVT X OWT 7

×

Edit sequence of subordinate demand segments

The paths must use the obligatory demand segments. Optional demand segments can be used in the specified order.

Index	Demand segment	Obligatory	
1	CAR Private Car		
2	HYPERLOOP Hyperloop	×	
3	CAR Private Car		

Active	Procedure	Comment
X	Group :: MULTIMODAL SKIMS	 :: MULTIMODAL SKIMS
×	Initialize path sequences	 Init
×	Combination of matrices and vectors	 Set Multimodal Supply Mask
×	Multimodal assignment	 Calculate Shortest Multimodal Paths per OD Pair
×	Calculate skim matrix from path sequences	 Multimodal Skims
×	Combination of matrices and vectors	 Multimodal Total Time
×	Combination of matrices and vectors	 Multimodal Total Cost
×	Group :: UTILITY FUNCTIONS	 :: UTILITY FUNCTIONS
×	Combination of matrices and vectors	 Multimodal Hyperloop Utility Function
\mathbf{X}	Group :: MODE CHOICE	 :: MODE CHOICE
×	Mode choice	 Mode Choice with Hyperloop Linked to Multimodal Utility
X	Group :: MULTIMODAL ASSIGNMENT	 :: MULTIMODAL ASSIGNMENT
×	Initialize path sequences	 Init
X	Multimodal assignment	 Generate Path Sequences based on Estimated Demand
×	Calculate demand from path sequences	 Calculate Demand Matrices for Hyperloop and Relevant Feeder Modes



Х

Hyperloop Fare Modelling

It is important to inform mode attractiveness rather than observe modal split based on exaggerated fares of immature technology

This is where such techniques as evaluation of user benefits may be utilized

Example is showing fare model setup using Air passenger fare as a basis plus additional charge for 50% of time saved versus Air resulting in 100% user benefit.

```
MATRIX([CODE]="Fare" & [DSEGCODE]="HYPERLOOP") :=
```

```
MATRIX([CODE]="Fare" & [DSEGCODE]="AIR") +
0.5 * (
   (
   MATRIX([CODE]="Access Time" & [DSEGCODE]="AIR") +
   MATRIX([CODE]="Boarding Delay" & [DSEGCODE]="AIR") +
   MATRIX([CODE]="Flight Time" & [DSEGCODE]="AIR") +
   MATRIX([CODE]="Alighting Delay" & [DSEGCODE]="AIR") +
```

MATRIX([CODE]="Egress Time" & [DSEGCODE]="AIR")

```
MATRIX([CODE]="Access Time" & [DSEGCODE]="HYPERLOOP") +
MATRIX([CODE]="Origin Wait Time" & [DSEGCODE]="HYPERLOOP") +
MATRIX([CODE]="Acceleration Time" & [DSEGCODE]="HYPERLOOP") +
MATRIX([CODE]="Cruising Time" & [DSEGCODE]="HYPERLOOP") +
MATRIX([CODE]="Deceleration Time" & [DSEGCODE]="HYPERLOOP") +
MATRIX([CODE]="Egress Time" & [DSEGCODE]="HYPERLOOP") +
```

) * CONTEXT[DEMANDSEGMENT\VOT] / 60



Hyperloop Fare Modelling

After some modelling exercises it becomes clear that actually Hyperloop can be shaped into various use-cases given appropriate structure of fares

And even unlock certain new markets not possible without Hyperloop

System capacity looks promising however microsimulation of stations operations will further clarify mode applicability in different contexts

Microsimulation of tube operations at pod weaving areas will inform the capacity ceiling for operations around major hubs





#JOINTHECONVERSATION