Why Don’t Commuters Choose the Nearest Train Station?

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Abstract. We usually assume that each commuter is an efficient traveller, which means they maximize trip utility. From a spatial optimization perspective, a commuter should choose the nearest station to reach their destination. However, based on a survey at seven train stations in Perth, Western Australia, between 30 and 80 percent of commuters choose the nearest station. Many factors could affect this travel behavior. From a logistic regression model, five factors were found to be significant ($p$-value < 0.05), indicating that commuters are more likely to choose the non-nearest station for longer commutes, shorter wait times, higher train frequency, lower costs, and for inbound journeys.

Jianhong (Cecilia) Xia is a senior lecturer at Curtin University, Western Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Geography degree and a Master of Physical Geography from Liaoning Normal University in China, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from RMIT University in Australia. Her main areas of research are geographic information systems, spatial analysis and modeling, transport modeling, and wayfinding and cognitive modeling. In the last five years, Dr. Xia has published three book chapters, 13 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 17 peer-reviewed conference papers in the fields of Tourism, Transportation, Health GIS, Coastal Management, and Spatial Database Management. Her research is funded by the Australian Research Council and by private industry.