

CS 528 Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing

Lecture 5b: Location-Aware Computing

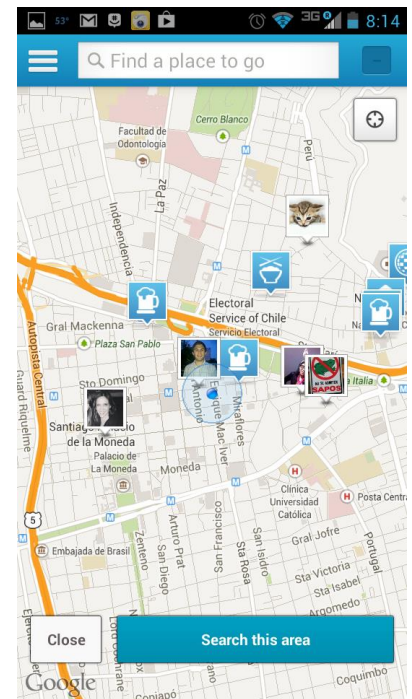
Emmanuel Agu



Location-Aware Computing



- **Definition:** Location-aware applications generate outputs/behaviors that depend on a user's location
- **Examples:**
 - Map of user's "current location"
 - Print to "closest" printer
 - Apps that find user's friends "closeby"
 - Reviews of "closeby" restaurants
- Apps above require first determining user's location





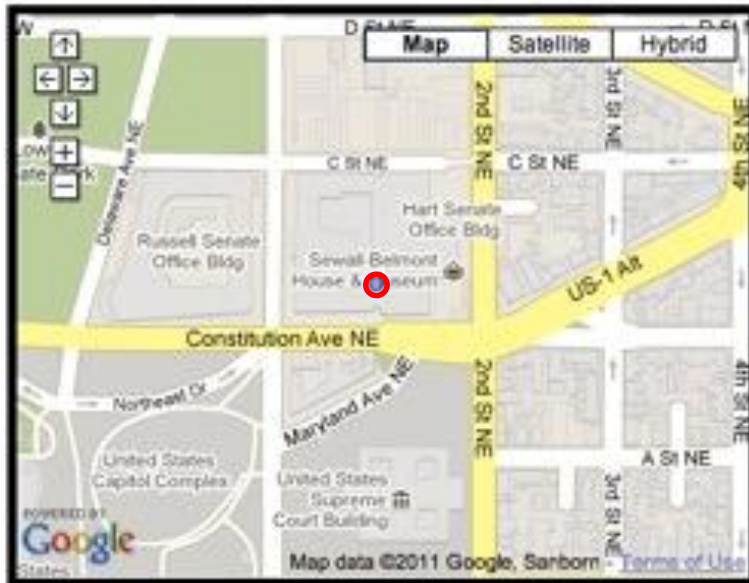
Determining User Location on Smartphones



Location Tracking on Smartphones

- **Outdoors:** Uses GPS (More accurate)
- **Indoors:** WiFi or cell tower signals (Location fingerprinting, less accurate)

GPS

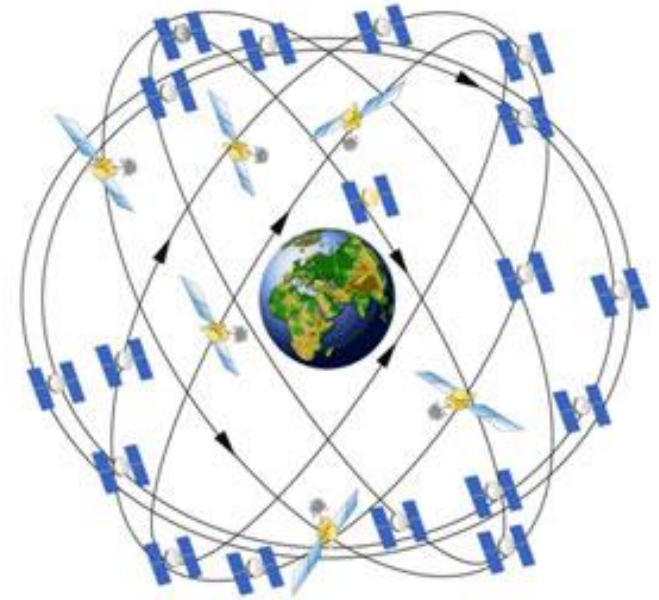


Wi-Fi



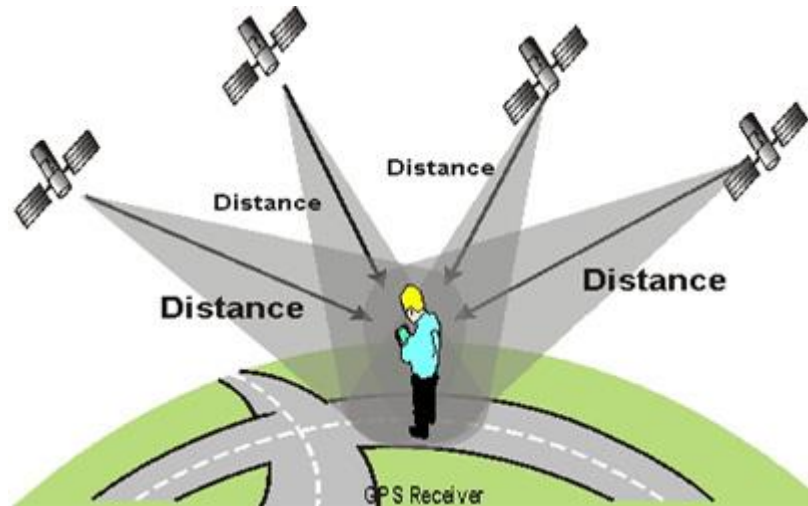
Global Positioning System (GPS)

- 27 satellites orbiting earth
- **20,000 km above earth** (Medium earth orbit)
- 6 orbital planes with 4 satellites each
- 4 satellites visible from any spot on earth
- Location of any location on earth specified as <longitude,latitude>
- E.g. Worcester MA has **Latitude:** 42.2625,
Longitude: -71.8027778

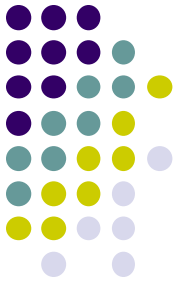
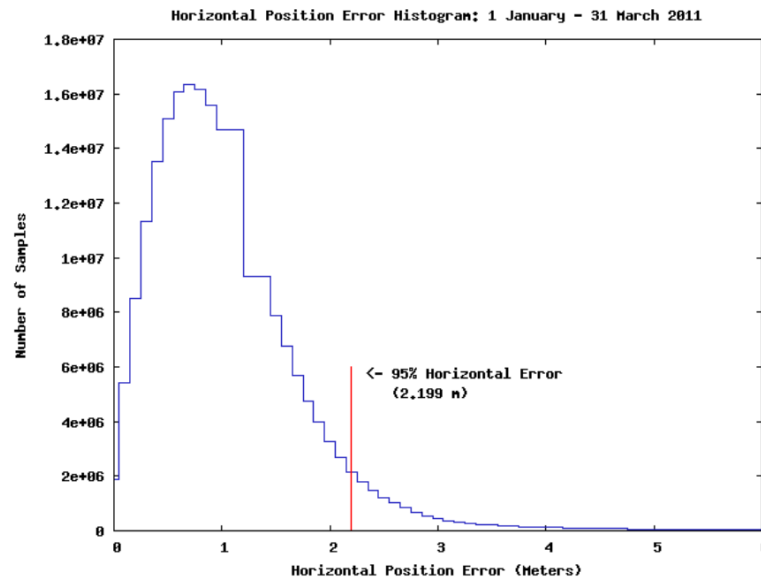


GPS User Segment

- **Triangulation:** GPS receiver calculates user's position by comparing roundtrip delay of signals to multiple satellites at known positions
- Accuracy within 5 - 10 meters (16-32 feet)



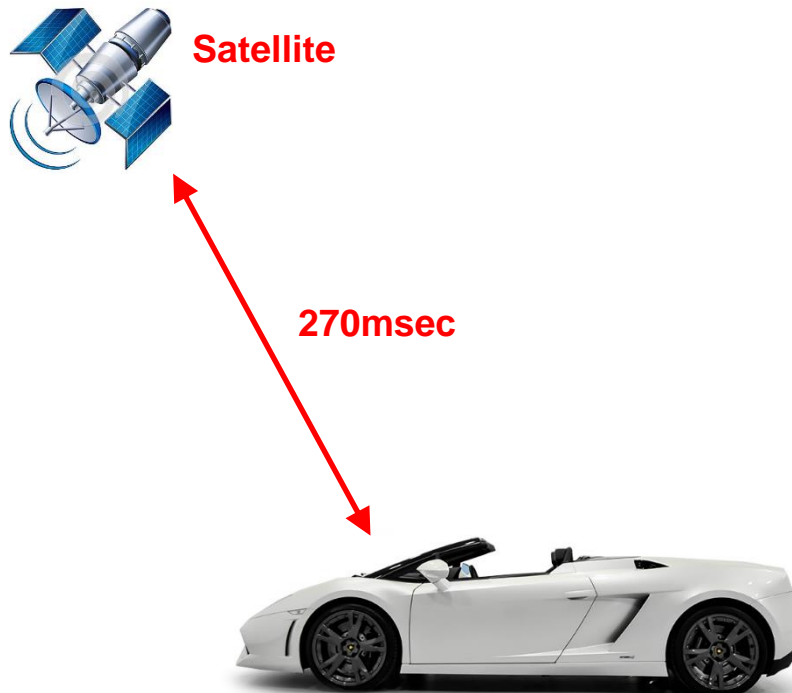
<http://adamswalk.com/gpx-2/>



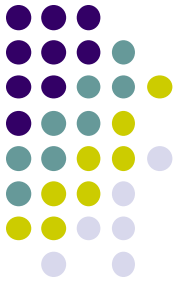
Determining User Location



- GPS reasonably accurate but
 - Requires line-of-sight between satellite and car receiver
 - Only works OUTDOORS (signals don't penetrate buildings)
 - **Lag/delay** in acquiring satellites (~270 msec) or re-acquiring if lost
 - Drains battery power
- **Alternative:** Use Wi-Fi location sensing indoors

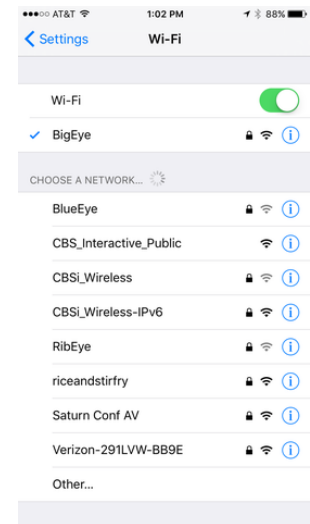
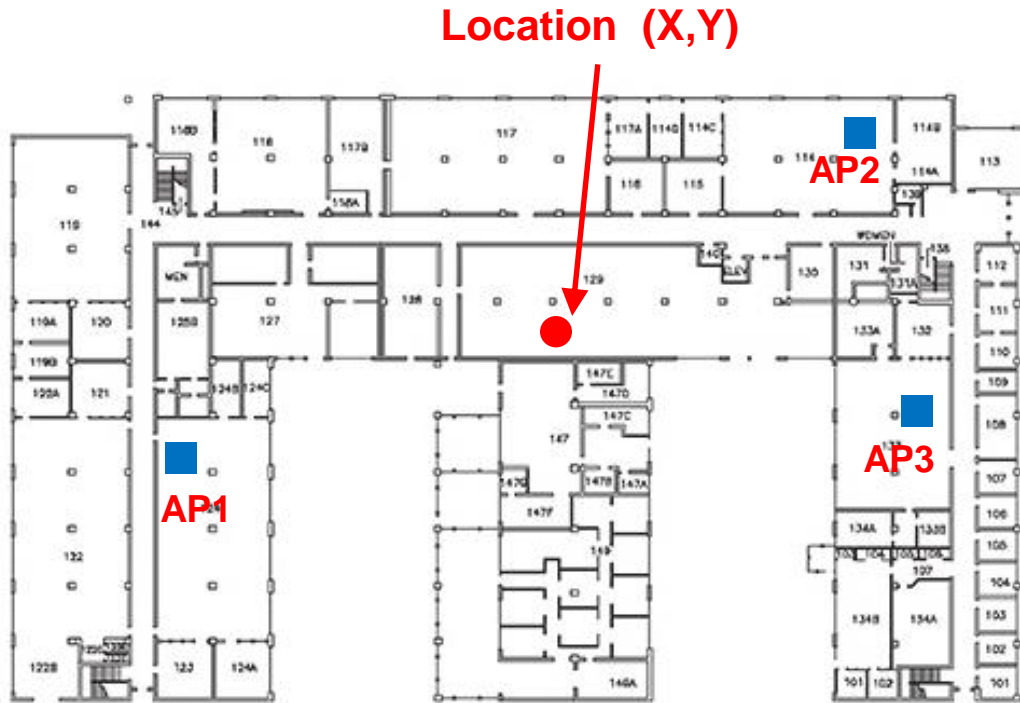


WiFi Location Fingerprinting



- **Key insight:** At each (X,Y) location, WiFi APs observed + their signal strengths, is unique

OBSERVED AP SIGNAL STRENGTH			
	AP1	AP2	AP3
(X,Y)	24	36	45



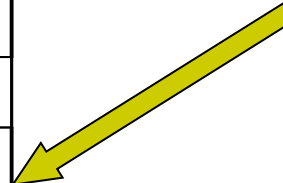
- **WiFi Location fingerprinting:** Infer device's location based on combination of Wi-Fi access points seen + Signal Strengths

Location Estimation using Wi-Fi Fingerprinting



PRE-RECORDED TUPLES					
LOCATION		SIGNAL STRENGTH			
X	Y	AP1	AP2	AP3	AP4
...
80	145	32	28	12	8
40	145	36	20	10	6
...
220	355	-	25	36	44
260	355	4	21	39	42
...
350	210	16	-	28	36
...
380	145	22	12	-	44
...

OBSERVED SIGNAL STRENGTH			
AP1	AP2	AP3	AP4
-	24	36	45



Location (X,Y)??

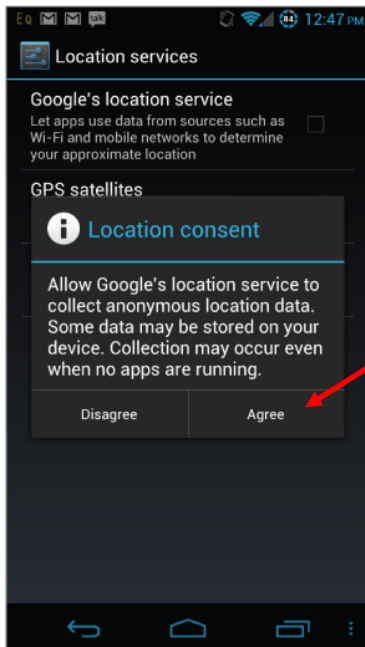
- ◆ Inference Algorithms
 - Min. Threshold
 - Euclidean Dist.
 - Joint Probability
 - Bayesian Filters

Google builds and stores this database (APs + Signal Strength) at each X,Y location)

How to Build table of APs observed at (X,Y) Locations?



- Devices (e.g. smartphone) with GPS and WiFi turned on simultaneously build table
- Send data to third party repositories (e.g. Wigle.net) or Google
- Also called **war driving**
- Can record cell tower signal strength instead of AP



Google gathers Location, AP seen Data if you consent

PRE-RECORDED TUPLES					
LOCATION		SIGNAL STRENGTH			
X	Y	AP1	AP2	AP3	AP4
...
80	145	32	28	12	8
40	145	36	20	10	6
...
220	355	-	25	36	44
260	355	4	21	39	42

GPS gathers Location (X,Y) **WiFi card gathers APs seen + Signal Strength**

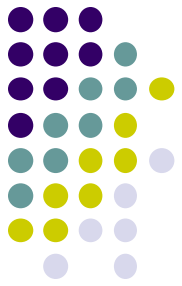
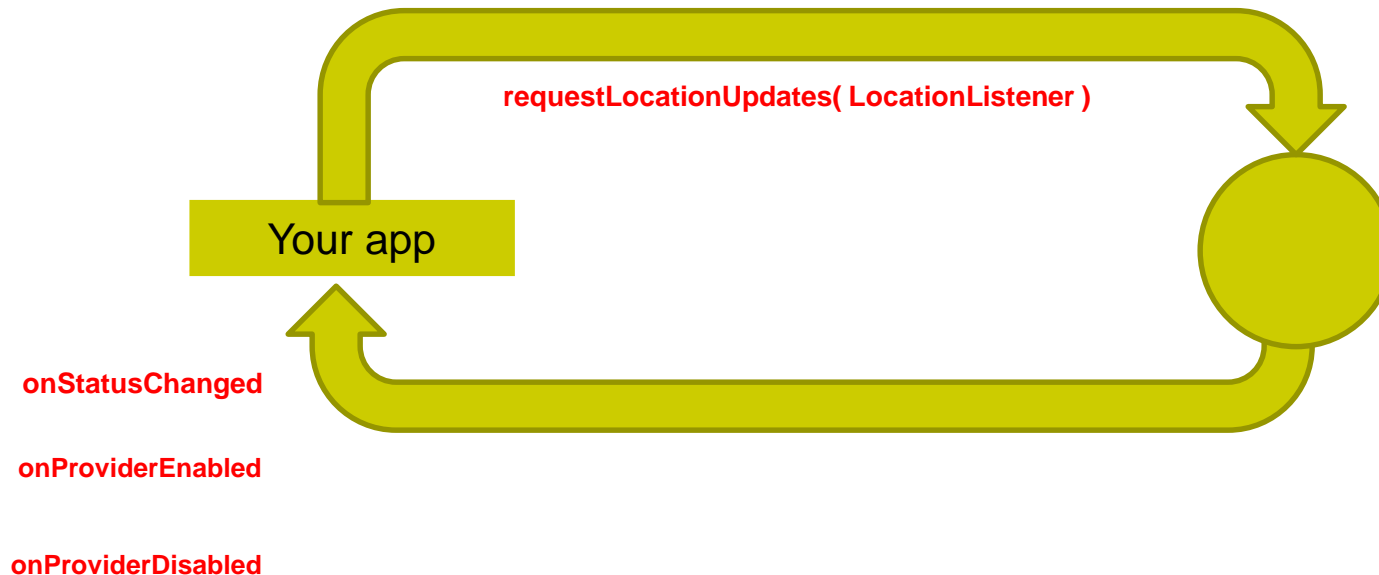


Location Sensing in Android Apps

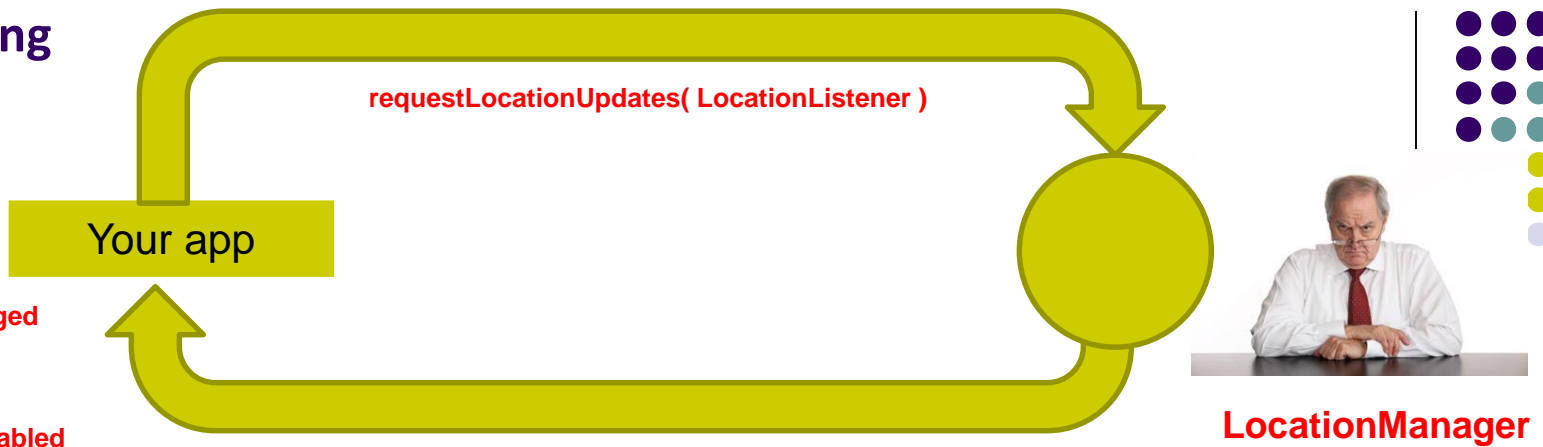
Google Location APIs

<https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/location/strategies.html>

- Android now has 2 location APIs (older vs newer)
- Newer location API is now part of Google Play Services
- Older Android framework location APIs (**android.location**)
 - Used by most books, online sources. We will use that
 - <http://developer.android.com/guide/topics/location/strategies.html>
- **LocationManager:**
 - Android module receives location updates from GPS, WiFi, etc
 - App registers/requests location updates from LocationManager



Requesting Location Updates



```
// Acquire a reference to the system Location Manager
```

```
LocationManager locationManager = (LocationManager) this.getSystemService(Context.LOCATION_SERVICE);
```

```
// Define a listener that responds to location updates
```

```
LocationListener locationListener = new LocationListener() {  
    public void onLocationChanged(Location location) {  
        // Called when a new location is found by the network location provider.  
        makeUseOfNewLocation(location);  
    }  
};
```

Create listener for Location info

```
    public void onStatusChanged(String provider, int status, Bundle extras) {}  
    public void onProviderEnabled(String provider) {}  
    public void onProviderDisabled(String provider) {}  
};
```

Callback methods called by Location manager (e.g. when location changes)

```
// Register the listener with the Location Manager to receive location updates
```

```
locationManager.requestLocationUpdates(LocationManager.NETWORK_PROVIDER, 0, 0, locationListener);
```

Type of location Provider (e.g. cell tower and Wi-Fi based)

Listener that receives callbacks



Requesting User Permissions

<https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/location/strategies.html>

- Need smartphone owner's permission to use their GPS

```
<manifest ... >
  <uses-permission android:name="android.permission.ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION" />
  ...
  <!-- Needed only if your app targets Android 5.0 (API level 21) or higher. -->
  <uses-feature android:name="android.hardware.location.gps" />
  ...
</manifest>
```

- **ACCESS_FINE_LOCATION:** GPS
- **ACCESS_COARSE_LOCATION:** WiFi or cell towers



Getting Cached Copy of Location (Fast)

<https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/location/strategies.html>

- Getting current location may take a while
- Can choose to use location cached (possibly stale) from Location Manager

```
String locationProvider = LocationManager.NETWORK_PROVIDER;  
// Or use LocationManager.GPS_PROVIDER  
  
Location lastKnownLocation = locationManager.getLastKnownLocation(locationProvider);
```

Stopping Listening for Location Updates

<https://developer.android.com/guide/topics/location/strategies.html>



- Location updates consume battery power
- Stop listening for location updates whenever you no longer need

```
// Remove the listener you previously added  
locationManager.removeUpdates(locationListener);
```

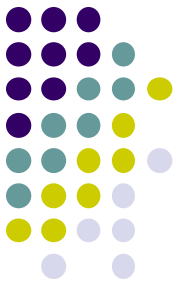



Distance Travelled Updates using Services

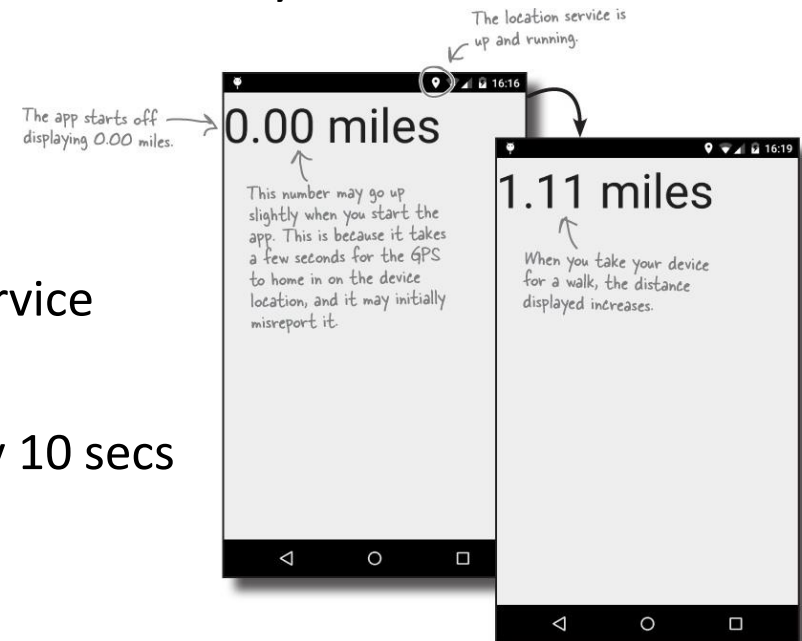
Example from Head First Android

Example: Odometer (Distance Travelled) updates as a Services

(Ref: Head First Android pg 541)

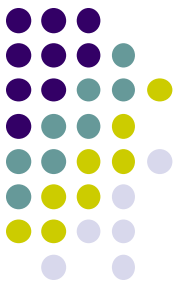


- **Services:** long running background processes, no UI
- May want background service (a module in our app) to continuously retrieve location updates from LocationManager, forward updates to our Activity
- Ref: Head First Android pg 541
 - Example of using a Service
 - Nice Example app using Odometer Service
 - Tracks distance travelled
 - Gets, displays distance travelled every 10 secs

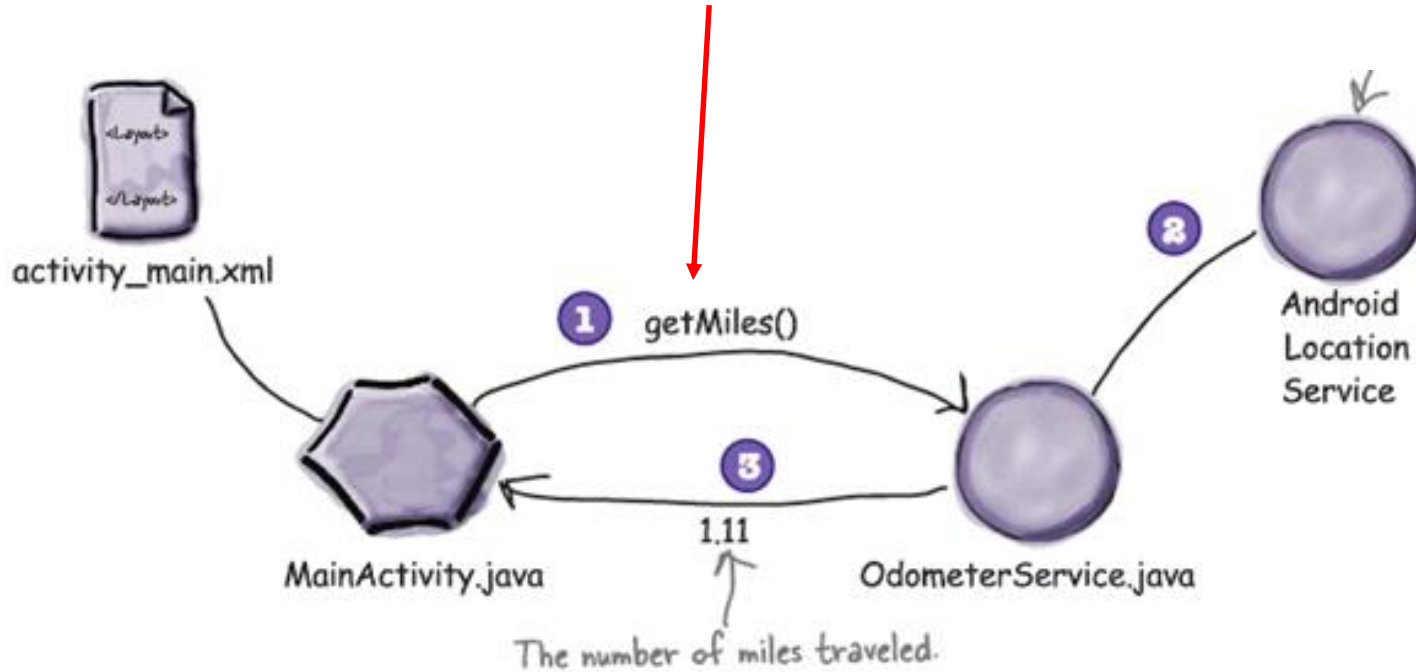


Example: Odometer (Distance Travelled) updates as a Services

(Ref: Head First Android pg 541)



- Example odometer app that tracks distance travelled
- `getMiles()`, displays distance travelled every 10 seconds



Study this example!!!



Location Representation



Semantic Location

- GPS represents location as <longitude,latitude>
- **Semantic location** is better for reasoning about locations
- **E.g.** Street address (140 Park Avenue, Worcester, MA) or (building, floor, room)
- **Android supports:**
 - **Geocoding:** Convert addresses into longitude/latitude coordinates
 - **Reverse geocoding:** convert longitude/latitude coordinates into human readable address

Latitude: 37.422005 Longitude: -122.084095

Address:
1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy
Mountain View, CA 94043
Mountain View
94043
United States

- **Android Geocoding API:** access to **geocoding** and **reverse geocoding** services using HTTP requests



Google Places API Overview

- Access **high-quality photos** of a place
- Users can also add place information to the database
 - E.g. business owners can add their business as a place in Places database
 - Other apps can then retrieve info after moderation

Local business results for **cupcakes** near **New York, NY**

A	Crumbs Bake Shop ☆	www.crumbs.com - (212) 480-7500 - 52 reviews
B	Sugar Sweet Sunshine ☆	www.sugarsweetsunshine.com - (212) 995-1960 - 255 reviews
C	Babycakes Nyc ☆	www.babycakesnyc.com - (212) 677-5047 - 172 reviews
D	Billy's Bakery ☆	www.billysbakerynyc.com - (212) 647-9956 - 219 reviews
E	Magnolia ☆	www.magnoliabakery.com - (212) 462-2572 - 1055 reviews
F	Tribeca Treats ☆	www.tribecatreats.com - (212) 571-0500 - 63 reviews
G	Butter Lane Cupcakes ☆	www.butterlane.com - (212) 677-2880 - 78 reviews

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More results near **New York, NY** »

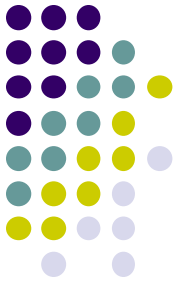
- **On-device caching:** Can cache places data locally on device to avoid roundtrip delays on future requests



Google Places

- **Place:** physical space that has a name (e.g. local businesses, points of interest, geographic locations)
 - E.g Logan airport, place type is **airport**
- **API:** Provides Contextual information about places near device.
- **E.g:** name of place, address, geographical location, place ID, phone number, place type, website URL, etc.
- Compliments geographic-based services offered by Android location services

Sample Place Types



accounting

airport

amusement_park

aquarium

art_gallery

atm

bakery

bank

bar

beauty_salon

bicycle_store

book_store

bowling_alley

bus_station

cafe

campground

car_dealer

car_rental

car_repair

car_wash

hospital

insurance_agency

jewelry_store

laundry

lawyer

library

liquor_store

local_government_office

locksmith

lodging

meal_delivery

meal_takeaway

mosque

movie_rental

movie_theater

moving_company

museum

night_club

painter

park

city_hall

clothing_store

convenience_store

courthouse

dentist

department_store

doctor

electrician

electronics_store

embassy

establishment (deprecated)

finance (deprecated)

fire_station

florist

food (deprecated)

funeral_home

furniture_store

gas_station

general_contractor (deprecated)

grocery_or_supermarket

gym

hair_care

hardware_store

health (deprecated)

hindu_temple

home_goods_store

physiotherapist

place_of_worship (deprecated)

plumber

police

post_office

real_estate_agency

restaurant

roofing_contractor

rv_park

school

shoe_store

shopping_mall

spa

stadium

storage

store

subway_station

synagogue

taxi_stand

train_station

transit_station

travel_agency

university

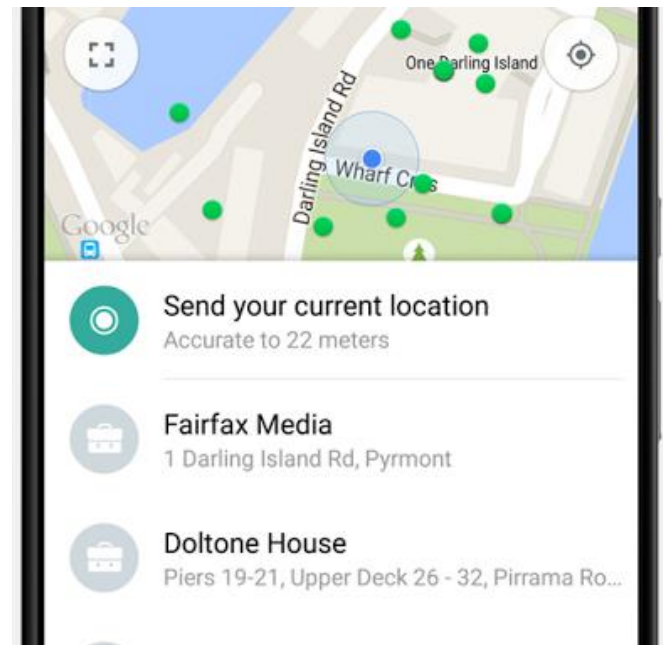
veterinary_care

zoo



Google Places API Overview

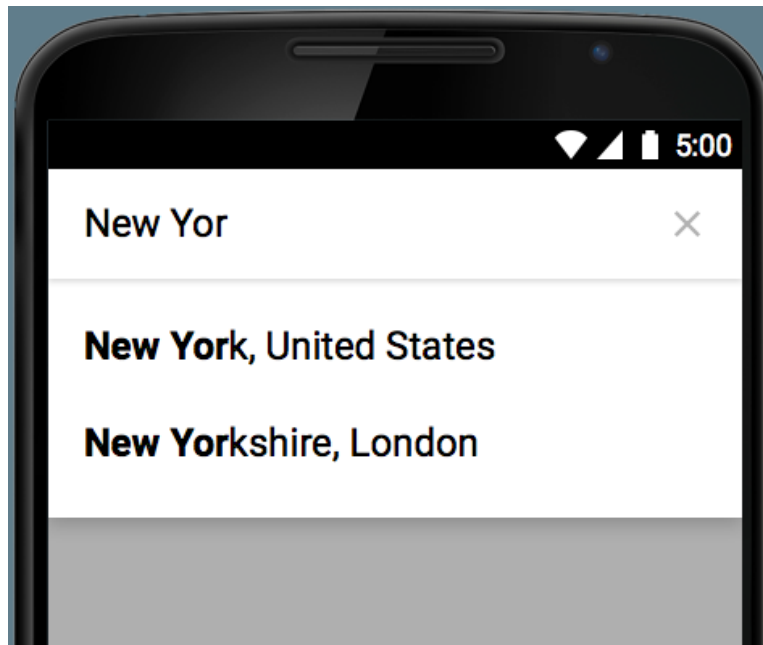
- **Use Place picker UI:** allows users select place from “possible place” on a map
- **Get current place:** place where device is last known to be located
 - Returns **list** of likely places + likelihood device is in that place





Google Places API Overview

- **Autocomplete:** queries the location database as users type, suggests nearby places matching letters typed in





Learning Google Places API

- Official Google Places website is “decent”, up to date:
 - <https://developers.google.com/places/>
- Two great references:
 - a) Getting started with Google Places API
<https://developers.google.com/places/android-api/start>
 - b) Tutorial by Paul Trebilcox-Ruiz may be more readable:
 - <http://code.tutsplus.com/articles/google-play-services-using-the-places-api--cms-23715>



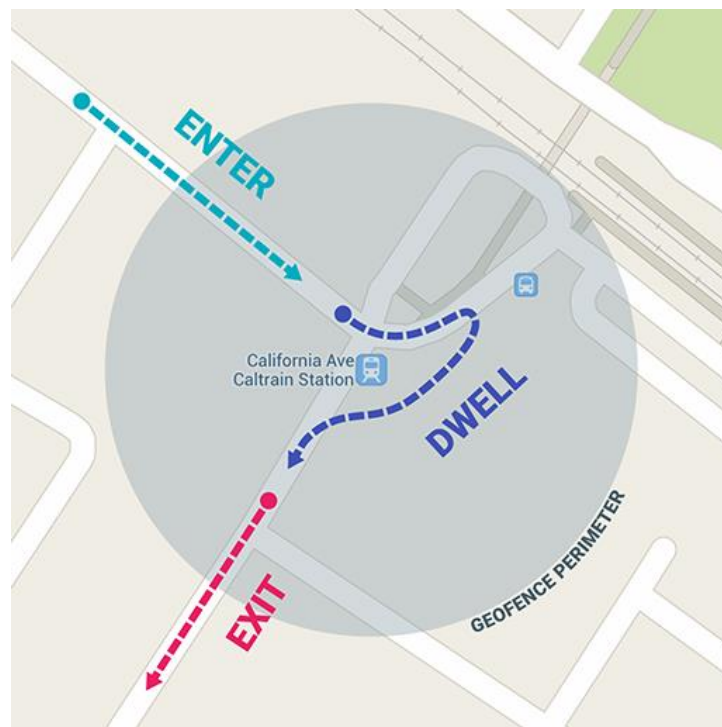
Other Useful Google Maps/Location APIs

GeoFencing

<https://developer.android.com/training/location/geofencing.html>



- **Geofence:** Sends alerts when user is within a certain radius to a location of interest
- Can be configured to send:
 - **ENTER** event when user enters circle
 - **EXIT** event when user exits circle
- Can also specify a duration or **DWELL** user must be in circle before triggering event



GeoFencing

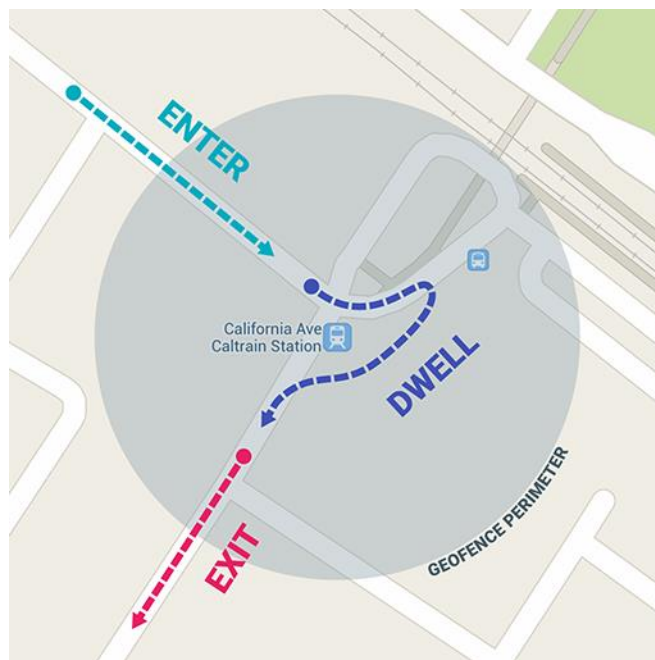
<https://developer.android.com/training/location/geofencing.html>



- **Great reference:**

- How to work with GeoFences on Android by Tin Megali

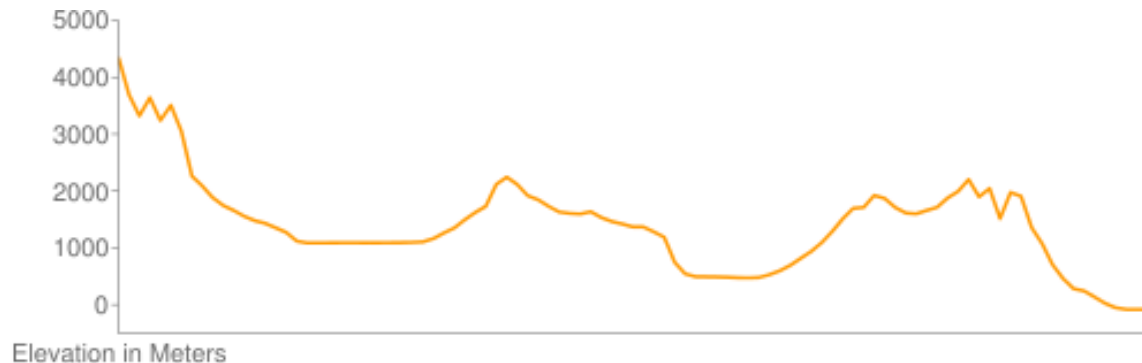
<https://code.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-work-with-geofences-on-android--cms-26639>





Other Maps/Useful Location APIs

- **Maps Directions API:** calculates directions between locations (walking, driving) as well as public transport directions
- **Distance Matrix API:** Calculate travel time and distance for multiple destinations
- **Elevation API:** Query locations on earth for elevation information, calculate elevation changes along routes



Other Useful Maps/Location APIs

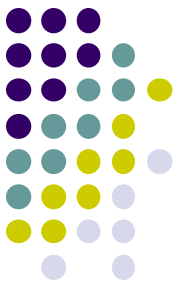


- **Roads API:**
 - snaps set of GPS coordinates to road user was likely travelling on (best fit)
 - Returns posted speed limits for any road segment (premium plan)
- **Time Zone API:** request time zone for location on earth



GPS Clustering & Analytics

Determining Points of Interest from GPS Location Sequences



- **Points of Interest:** Places where a person spends lots of time (e.g. home, work, café, etc)
- **Given a sequence GPS <longitude, latitude> points, how to infer points of interest**
- **General steps:**
 - Pre-process sequence of GPS points (remove outliers, etc)
 - Cluster points
 - Convert to semantic location

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
35.33032098	80.42152478
35.29244028	80.42382271
35.33021993	80.45339956
35.35529007	80.45222096



Step 1: Pre-Processing GPS Points (Remove Noise and Outliers)

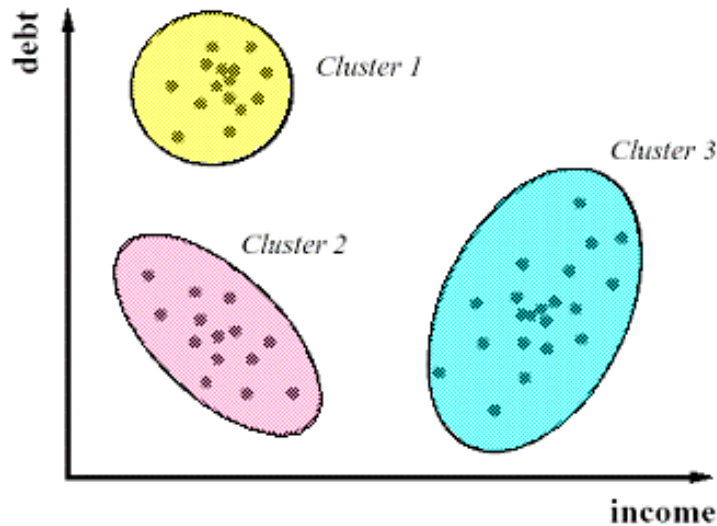


- **Remove low density points (few neighbors):**
 - i.e. places where little time was spent
 - E.g. radius of 20 meters, keep only clusters with at least 50 points
 - If GPS coordinates retrieved every minute, only considering places where you spent at least 50 minutes
- **Remove points with movement:**
 - GPS returns speed as well as <longitude, latitude> coordinates
 - If speed user is moving, discard that GPS point
- **Reduce data for stationary locations:**
 - When user is stationary at same location for long time, too many points generated (e.g. sitting at a chair)
 - Remove some points to speed up processing



Step 2: Cluster GPS Points

- **Cluster Analysis:** Group points

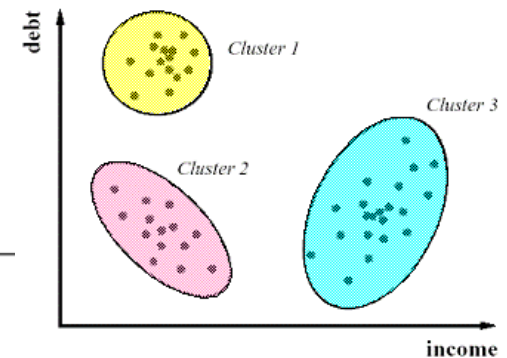


- Two main clustering approaches
 - K-means clustering
 - DBSCAN

K-Means Clustering



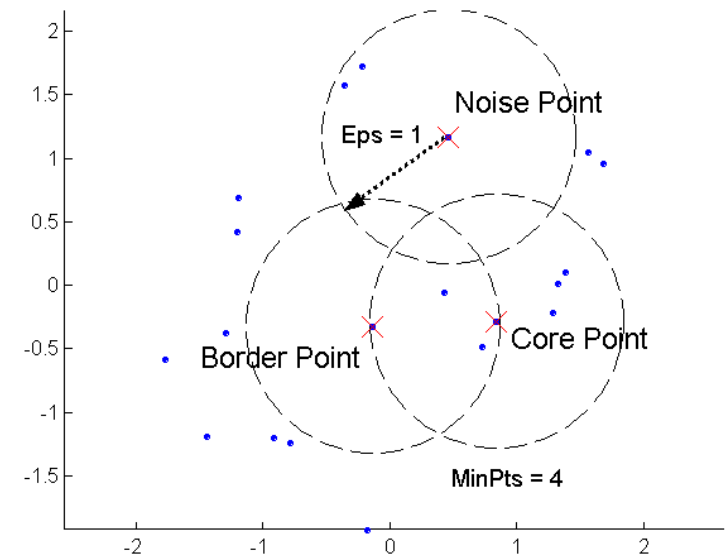
- Each cluster has a center point (centroid)
- Each point associated to cluster with closest centroid
- Number of clusters, K , must be specified
- Algorithm:



-
- 1: Select K points as the initial centroids.
 - 2: **repeat**
 - 3: Form K clusters by assigning all points to the closest centroid.
 - 4: Recompute the centroid of each cluster.
 - 5: **until** The centroids don't change
-

DBSCAN Clustering

- Density-based clustering
- **Density:** Number of points within specified radius (Eps)
- **Core points:** has $>$ minPoints density
- **Border point:** has $<$ minPoints density but within neighborhood of core point
- **Noise point:** not core point or border point





DBSCAN Algorithm

- Eliminate noise points
- **Cluster remaining points**

```
current_cluster_label ← 1
for all core points do
  if the core point has no cluster label then
    current_cluster_label ← current_cluster_label + 1
    Label the current core point with cluster label current_cluster_label
  end if
  for all points in the Eps-neighborhood, except  $i^{th}$  the point itself do
    if the point does not have a cluster label then
      Label the point with cluster label current_cluster_label
    end if
  end for
end for
```

Converting Clusters to Semantic Locations



- Can simply call reverse geocoding or Google Places on the centroid of the clusters

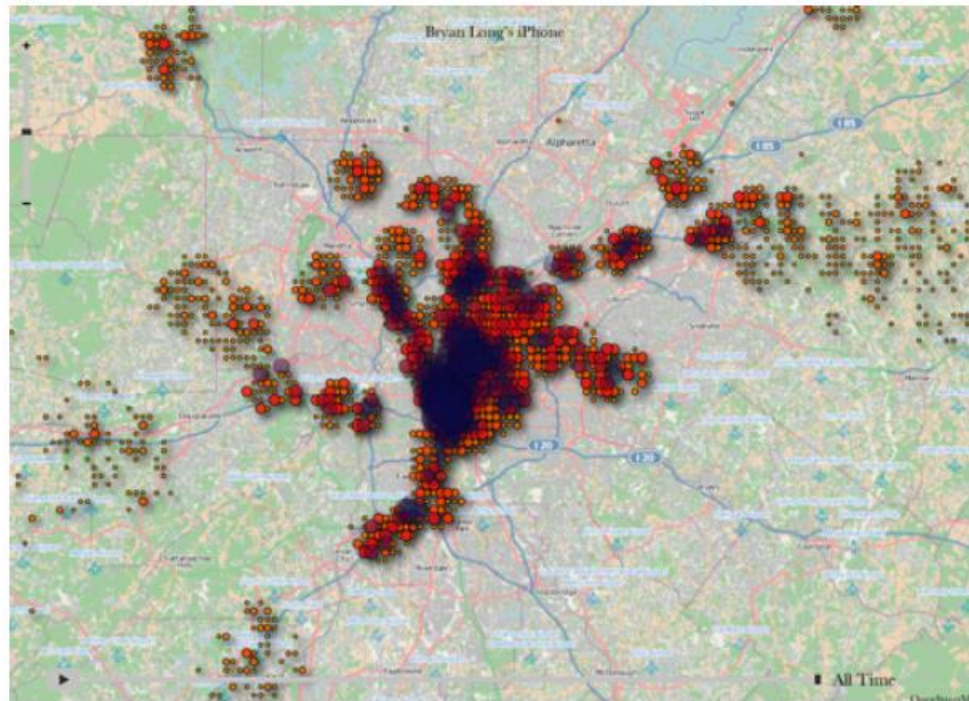


Visualizing Points of Interests visited



Visualizing Points of Interest

- Option 1:
 - Show a point for each location you visited?

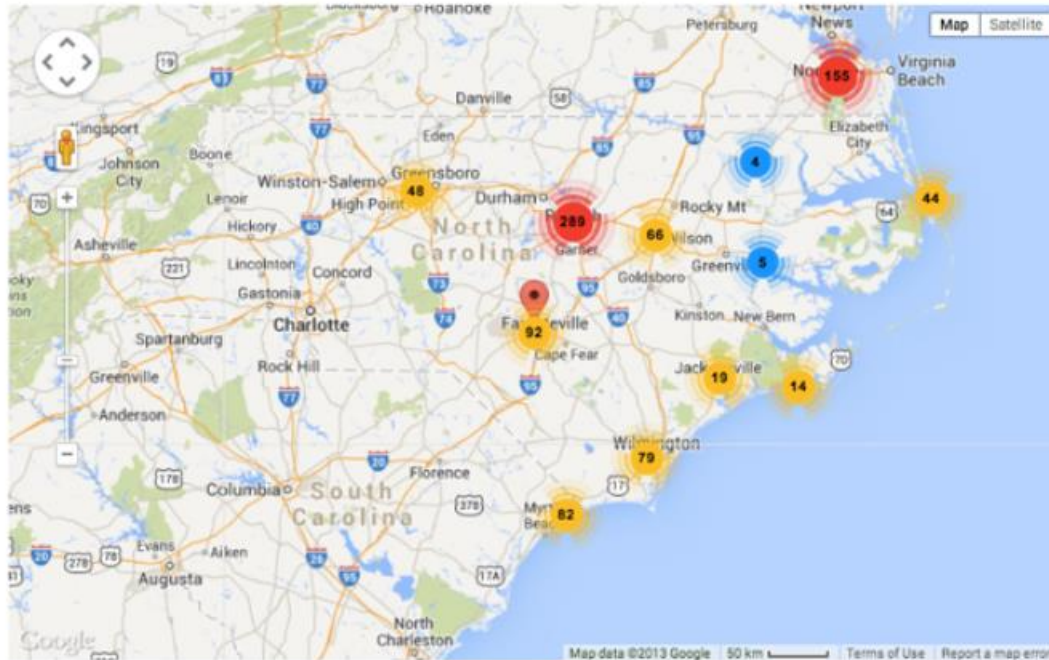


Credit: Deepak Ganesan



Visualizing Points of Interest

- Option 2:
 - Show a cluster for significant locations.

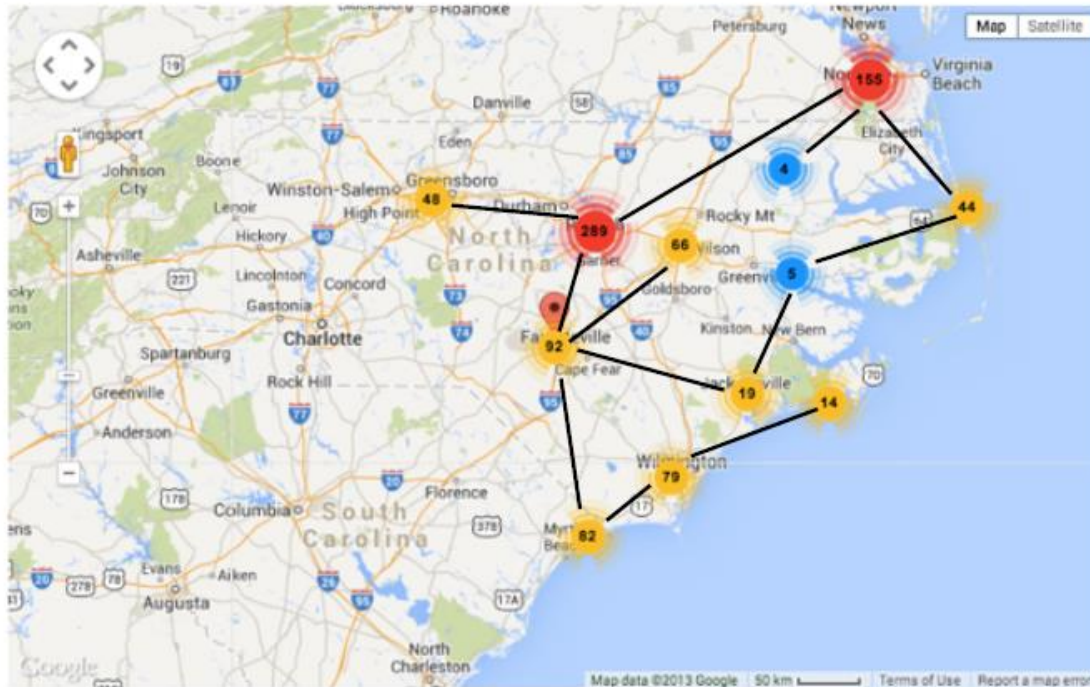


Credit: Deepak Ganesan



Visualizing Points of Interest

- Option 3:
 - Connect the clusters with lines

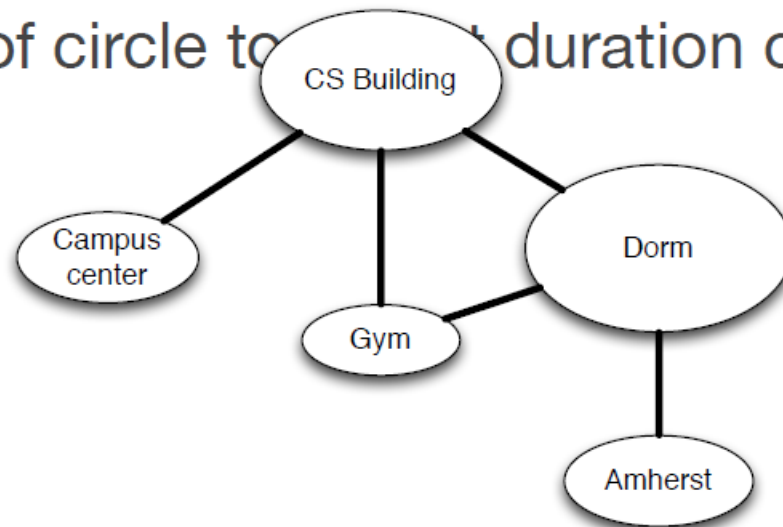




Visualizing Points of Interest

- Option 4

- Show “semantic locations” instead of co-ordinates
- Use size of circle to represent duration of stay

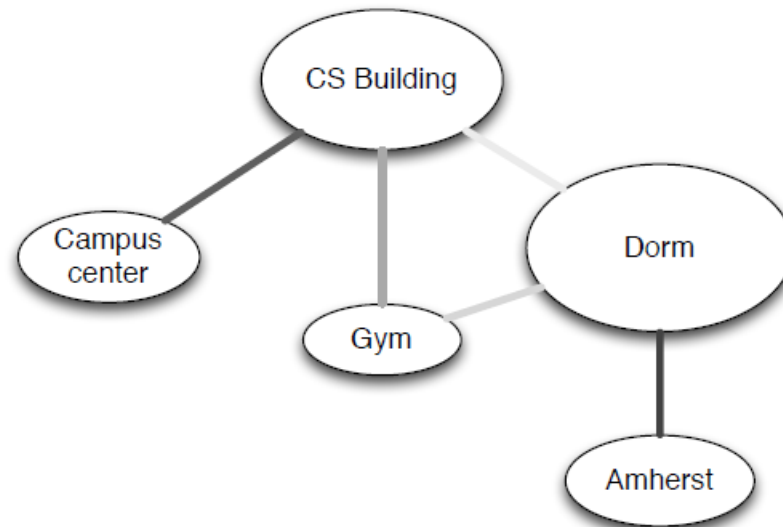




Visualizing Points of Interest

- Option 5

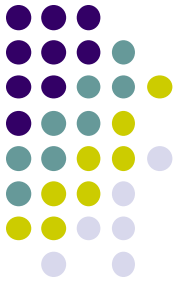
- Show semantic locations with time-of-day encoded in line opacity/saturation.



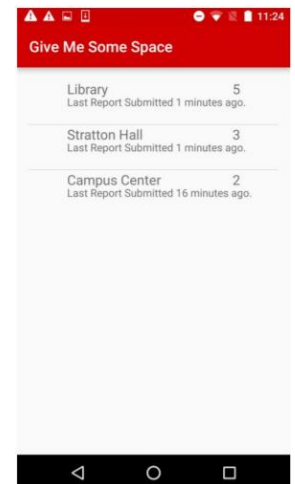


Location-Aware Apps from CS 4518

Location-Aware Final Projects from CS 4518 (Undergraduate offering)



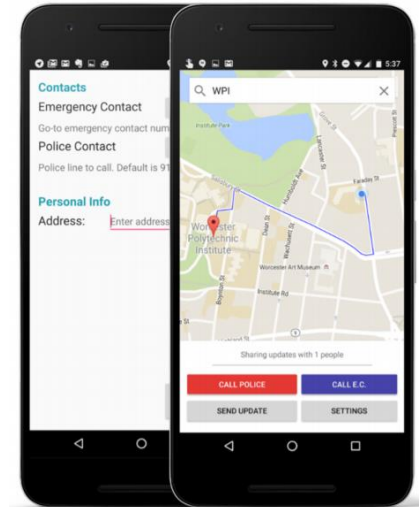
- **Ground rules:**
 - Apps must use mobile, location or sensors
 - Try to solve problems of benefit to WPI community
- More than half of apps used location.
- **Give me some space:** Bianchi, Chow, Martinez '16
 - Find available study spaces on campus during exam week
 - Set up geoFences at study locations, count users in/out



Location-Aware Ideas from Previous Offerings



- **HomeSafe:** Nickerson, Feeley, Faust '16
 - Safety app
 - Automatically sends message to users' subscribers when they get home safely



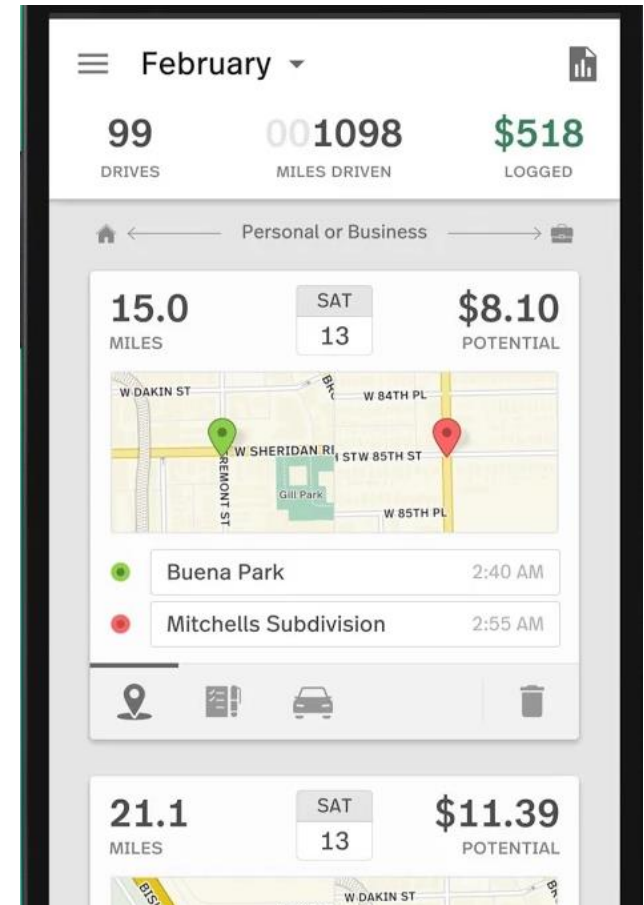


Some Interesting Location-Aware Apps



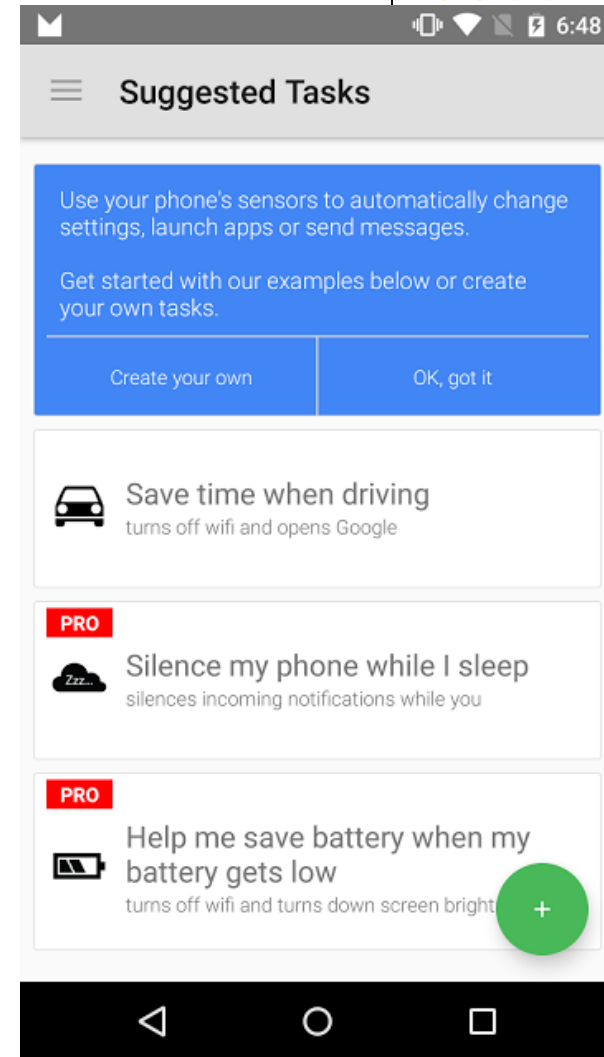
MileIQ

- **The Problem:** Mileage tracking is useful but a burden.
 - IRS deductions on taxes
 - Some companies reimburse employees for mileage,
- Passively, automatically tracks business mileage, IRS compliant
- Swipe right after drive to indicate it was a business trip
- Project idea? Implement some of this functionality
- **How Android modules? For what?**
- **What stats to decide if this is tackling important problem?**



Trigger

- Use geofences, NFC, bluetooth, WiFi connections, etc to set auto-behaviors
 - Battery low -> turn off bluetooth + auto sync
 - Silence phone every morning when you get to work
 - Turn off mobile data when you connect to your home WiFi
 - Silence phone and set alarm once I get into bed
 - Use geofence for automatic foursquare checkin
 - Launch maps when you connect to your car's bluetooth network
- Project idea? Implement subset of these features
- **What triggers would be useful for a WPI student?**





References

- John Corpuz, 10 Best Location Aware Apps
- Liane Cassavoy, 21 Awesome GPS and Location-Aware Apps for Android,
- Head First Android
- Android Nerd Ranch, 2nd edition
- Busy Coder's guide to Android version 6.3
- CS 65/165 slides, Dartmouth College, Spring 2014
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