

Abstract

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Designing Optimal Police Patrol Districts

Track: Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

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A police car, manned round the clock by two officers, costs at least \$300,000 annually. With efficient management of this resource, police services can be improved without raising taxes. This ArcView extension allows police planners to design patrol districts and to evaluate them by displaying various performance measures. The extension uses a spatially distributed queuing system (the Larson Hypercube) to calculate travel times, workloads, preventive patrol frequencies, and other variables; it allows planners to reduce response times, balance workloads, and see unavoidable trade-offs. Colored graphics make the statistical results clear and intuitively meaningful.

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