# Pi and Ports (PI&P): A Conceptual Framework and Future Development Paths

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**Section of Transport & Logistics** 

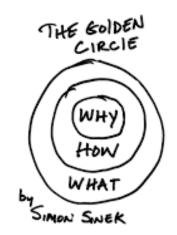
Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management



2017-07-05

### Outline

- Objective: Introducing PhD topic area
- Why? Relevance of PI for ports...
- How? Research questions...
- What? Activities...
- Summary





### **Project context**

Towards virtual ports in a Physical Internet (PI)

#### **Overall goal**

Conceptualize the roles of maritime ports in the PI





# Why investigating the future roles of ports in PI is of crucial importance?

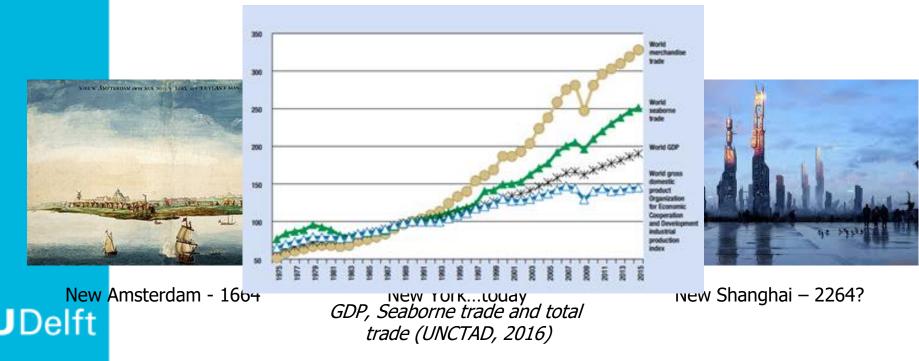


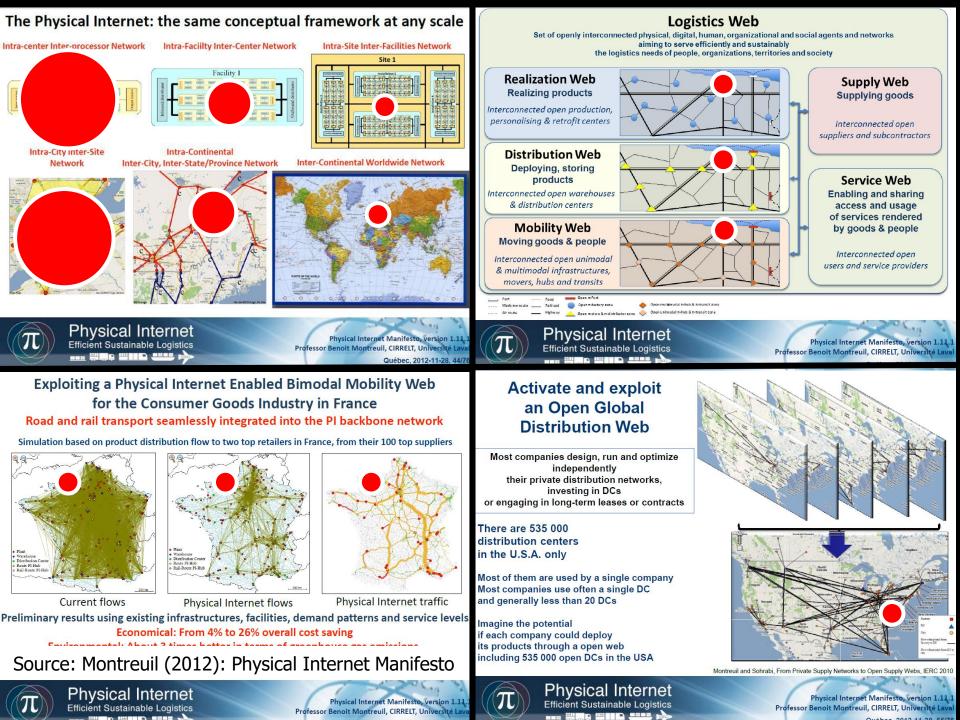




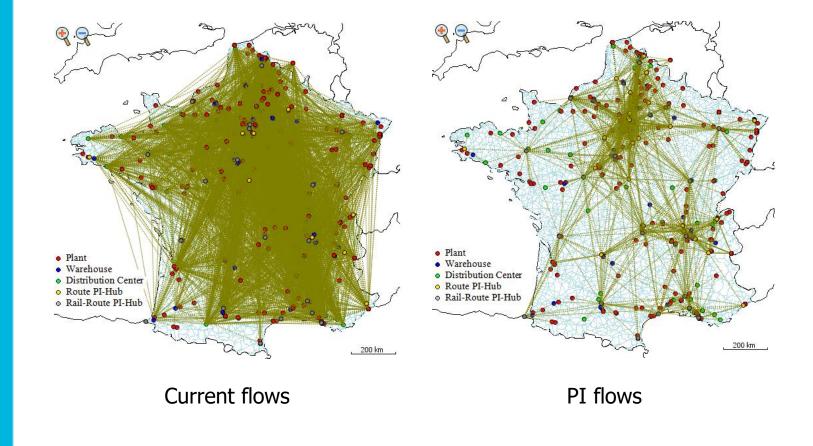
# Ports & PI Issues (opportunities & threats)

- Crucial importance in supply chain (management)
- Huge asset investments
- Global trade enabler
- Crucial for local and regional development
- Times are changing...!





# Example: France retail, image for ports?



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Flows of 2 retailers with 100 suppliers (Ballot et al., 2012)

### **Example: US distribution**

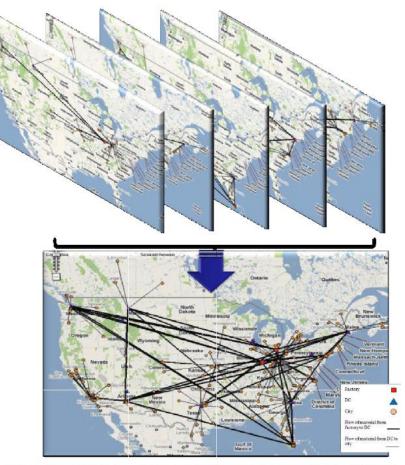
#### Activate and exploit an Open Global Distribution Web

Most companies design, run and optimize independently their private distribution networks, investing in DCs or engaging in long-term leases or contracts

There are 535 000 distribution centers in the U.S.A. only

Most of them are used by a single company Most companies use often a single DC and generally less than 20 DCs

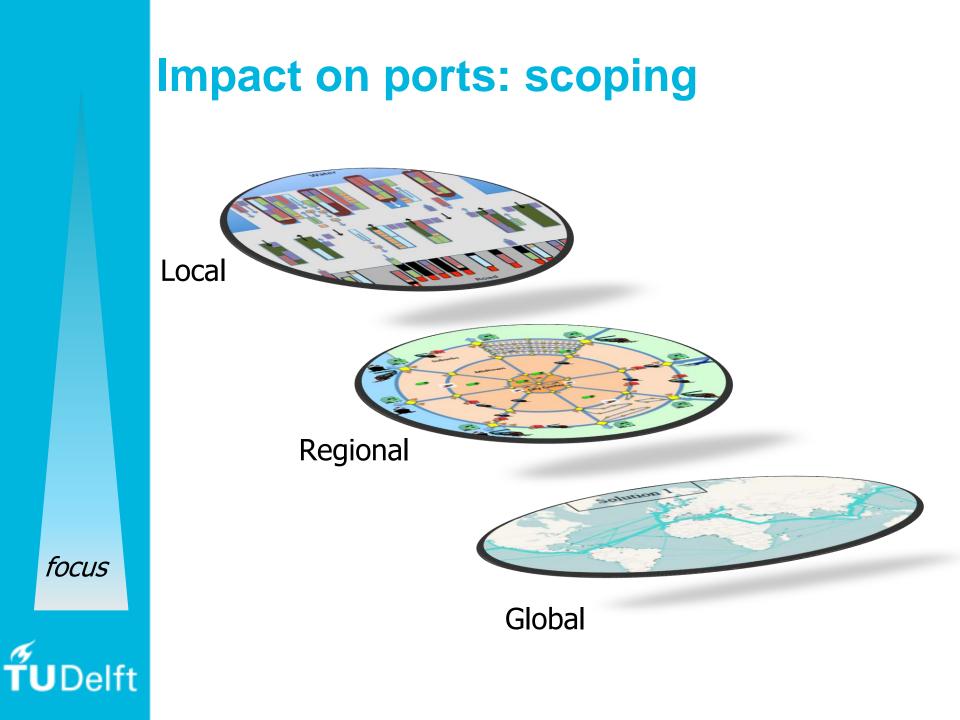
Imagine the potential if each company could deploy its products through a open web including 535 000 open DCs in the USA



Montreuil and Sohrabi. From Private Supply Networks to Open Supply Webs. IERC 2010

#### Montreuil and Sohrabi, 2010

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### **How? – Research questions**

- 1. PI essential elements: linkages to ports?
- 2. Impact of PI on ports: physical, economic?
- **3**. Development paths, co-evolution?
- 4. What are sustainable port policies?



### What? – Activities

- Conceptual modelling
- Freight modelling
- Scenario modelling
- Policy design







#### Port choice

Synchromodality

PI-EE\*: Pi-hubs Pi-certified networks Encapsulation Port Pi-Modularity connectivity Pi-routing V

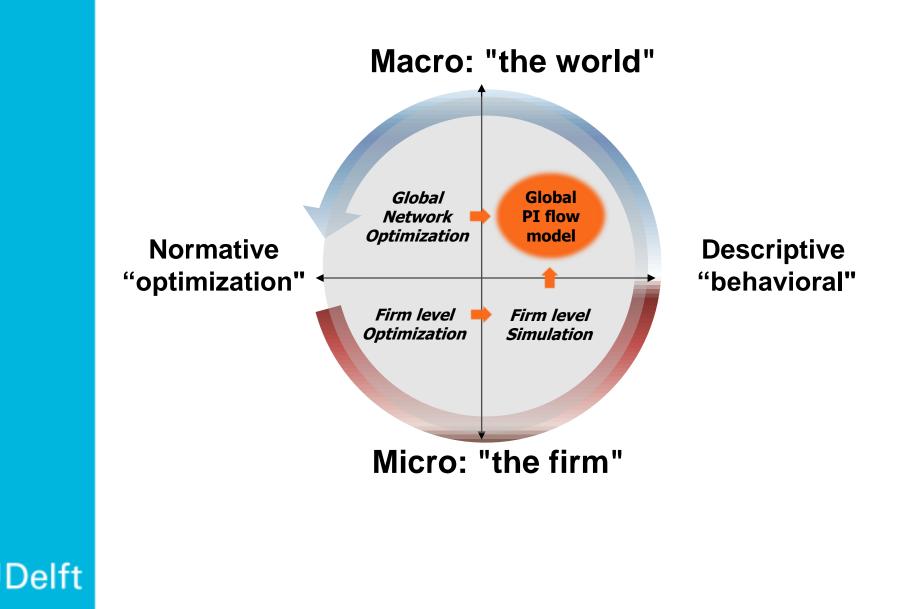
Virtual warehousing

Horizontal collaboration

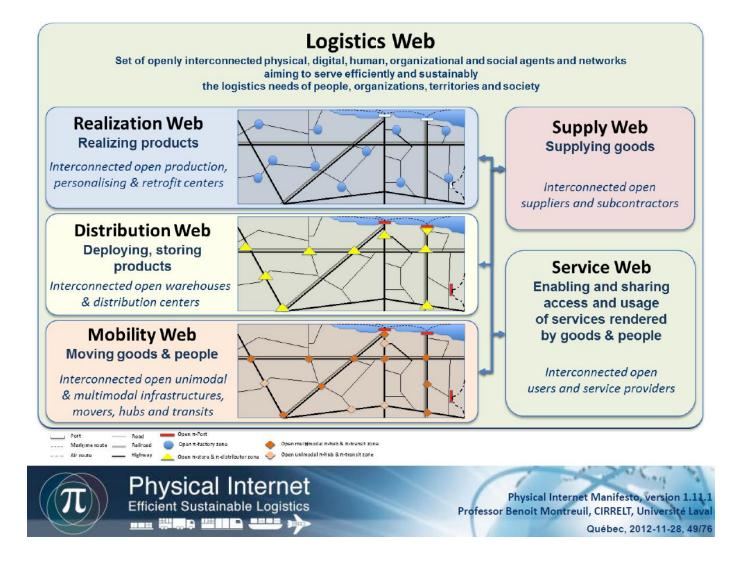
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\*PI Essential Elements

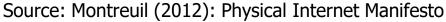
### Impact-modelling framework



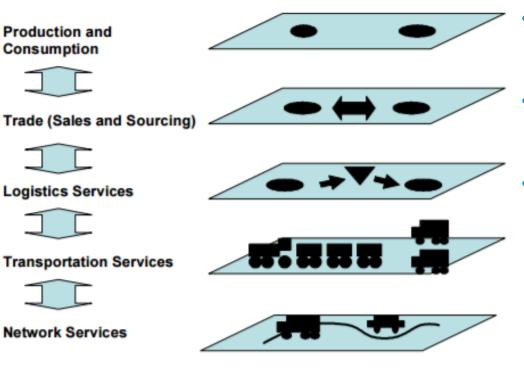
### Ports will function at all levels of PI



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### Freight modelling framework

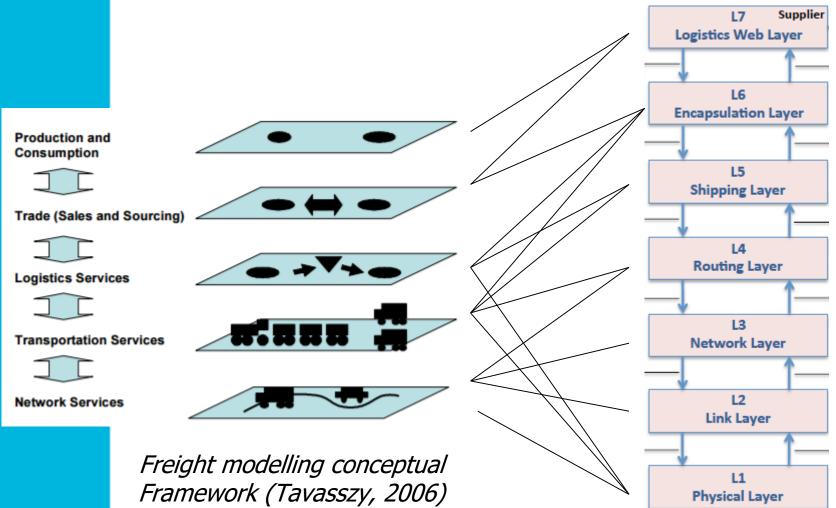


Typical decisions and models used

- Production and consumption: I/O, multi-sectoral equilibrium
  - Trade: gravity, spatial equilibrium models
- Logistics and transport decisions (shipment size, inventory, mode choice, port choice, routing): random utility discrete choice models based on normative models (facility location, EOQ, VRP etc.)



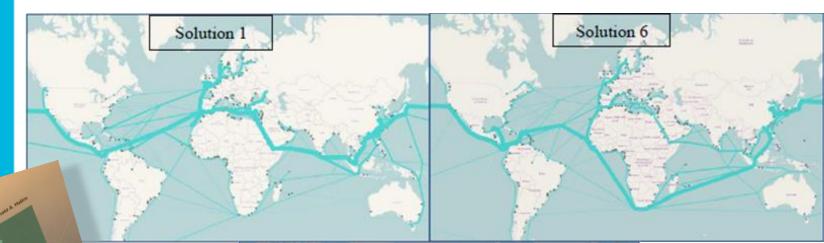
### **Parallels with OLI**



*Conceptual OLI model (Montreuil, 2012)* 



### **Global Freight Flow Modelling**

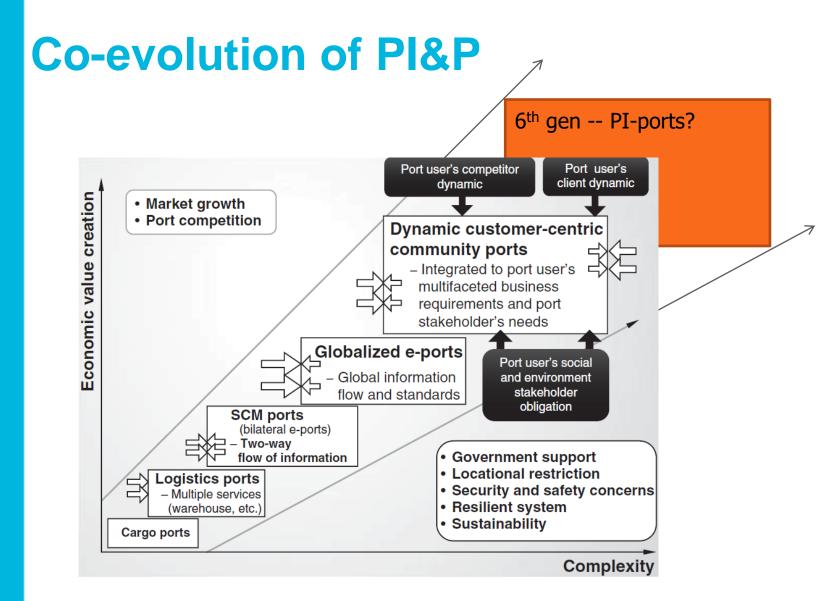






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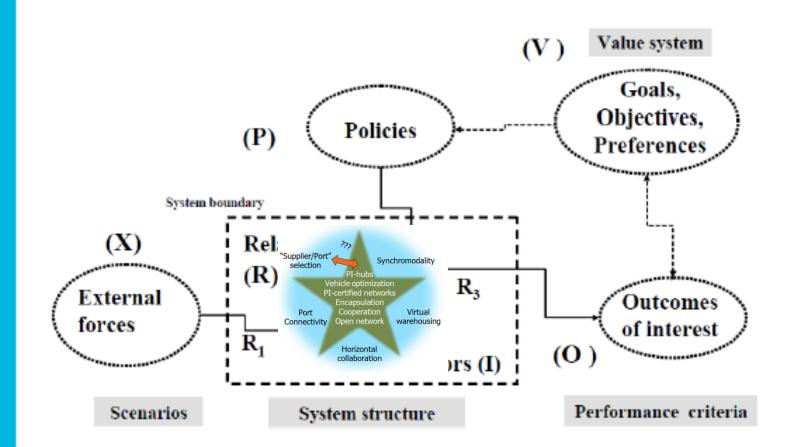
*Global freight flows (Halim, 2015)* 



*Figure 8.1* Evolution path to the fifth generation as "Dynamic Customer-Cen Community Ports" *Source*: Flynn and Lee (2010); modified by Lee (2014).

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### **Policy design**



XPIROV-framework (Agusdinata, 2008)



# Summary

- Ports
- Physical Internet Conceptualization
- Impact of PI on Ports
  - PI essential elements: linkages to ports?
  - Impact of PI on ports: physical, economic?
  - Development paths, co-evolution?
  - What are sustainable port policies?
- Activities
  - Conceptual modelling
  - Freight modelling
  - Scenario modelling
  - Policy design

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Physical Internet

#### 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL PHYSICAL INTERNET CONFERENCE

4th-6th July, 2017 in Graz: Graz University of Technology, Austria

#### A Multi Simulation approach to develop Physical Internet.

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### ITAINNOVA



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National knowledge center in the application of ICT technologies to solve logistics problems recognized by Spanish Ministry of Industry

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-Collaborative supply chain -Smart warehouse -Smart transport -Point of sale

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#### Introduction



- The Physical Internet (PI) concept has many different connotations at various levels of business
- **Complexity** reduces the sense of control in the logistics operation.
- This paper describes how the use of different types of analytical models and simulation tools could help to create trust and confidence around the PI concept.
- The simulations help to :
  - analyse business models
  - evaluate the relationship between the main variables
  - visualize the flows
  - understand the dynamics of the processes and to
  - evaluate numerically the impact



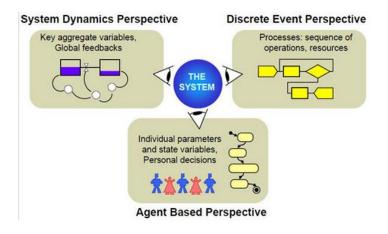


#### Introduction



#### **Simulation techniques**

- System dynamics (SD) is an approach to understand the nonlinear behaviour of complex systems over time using stocks, flows, internal feedback loops, time functions and time delay.
- Discrete event simulation (DES) works by modelling system state changes occurring at specific points in time, which are probabilistically determined by historical data.
- **Multi-agent simulation (MAS)** or Multi-agentbased modeling (MABS) is a branch of computer simulation where multiple intelligent agents, capable of independent action and interact within environments that are typically dynamic and unpredictable.









Two levels to deal with the high complexity:

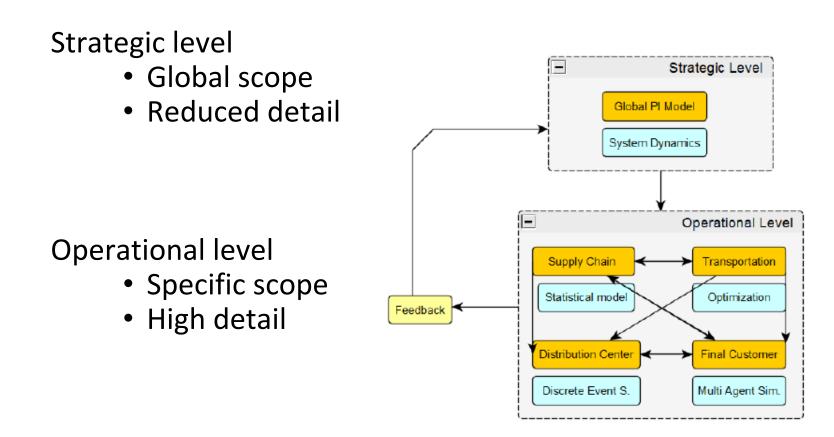


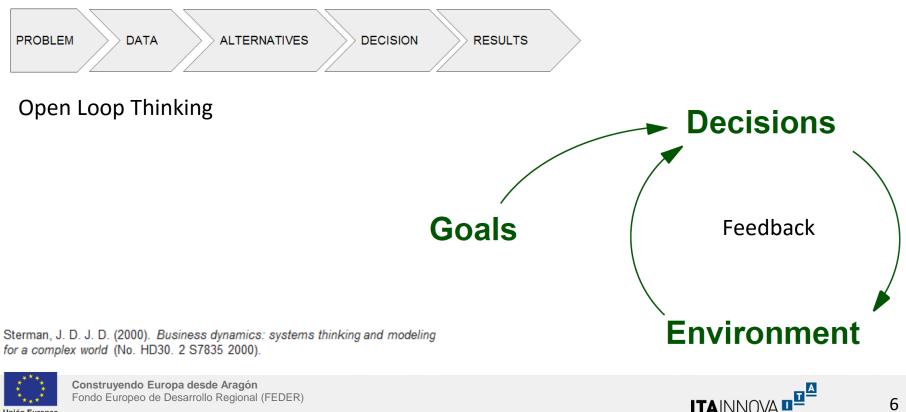
Figure 1: Multi-Model Physical Internet Framework





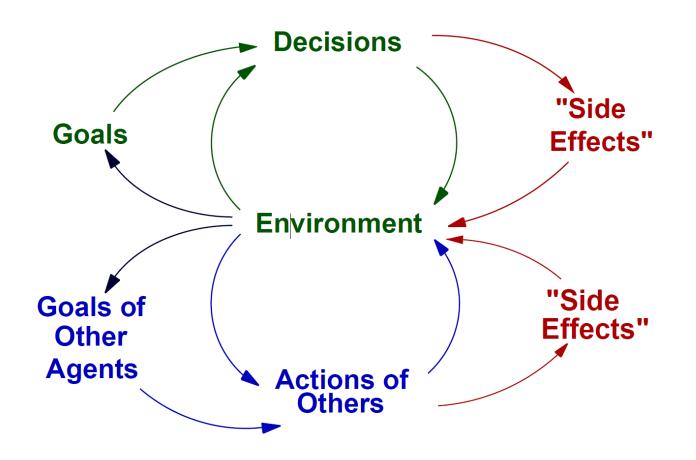


- The **System Dynamics (SD)** method has proved to be particularly good at supporting a strategic point of view, in the sense of matching very closely the concerns of top-level decision-makers.
- Feedback mechanism •





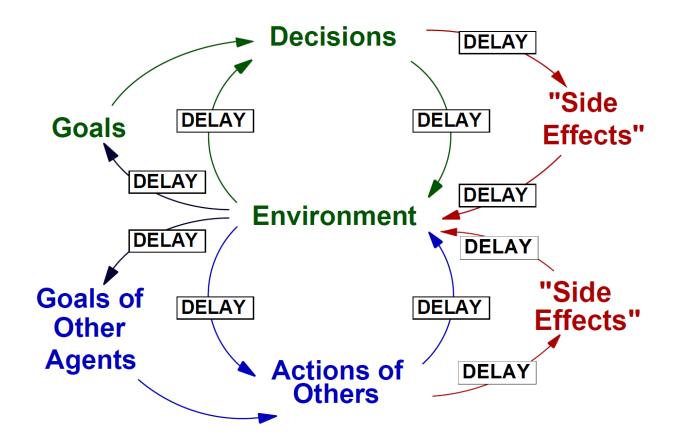
• Larger System, complex effects







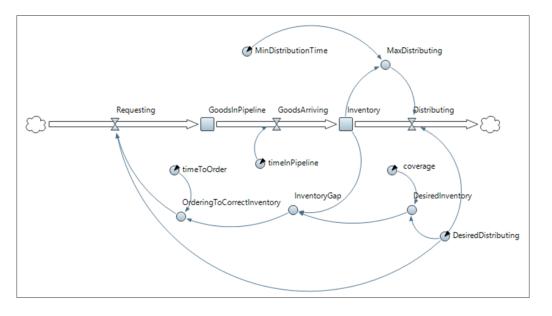
• Critical point, Delays : Separate causes and consequences







- Dynamic systems can represent complex models
- Accurate parameters to represent the relationship between flows properties.
- Examples of parameters: Impact of price variations in the number of customers, influence of advertising, forecast accuracy...
- Impact in Flow Dynamics:
  - Increment, Decrement, Oscillation...



System Dynamics : Stock and flow diagram

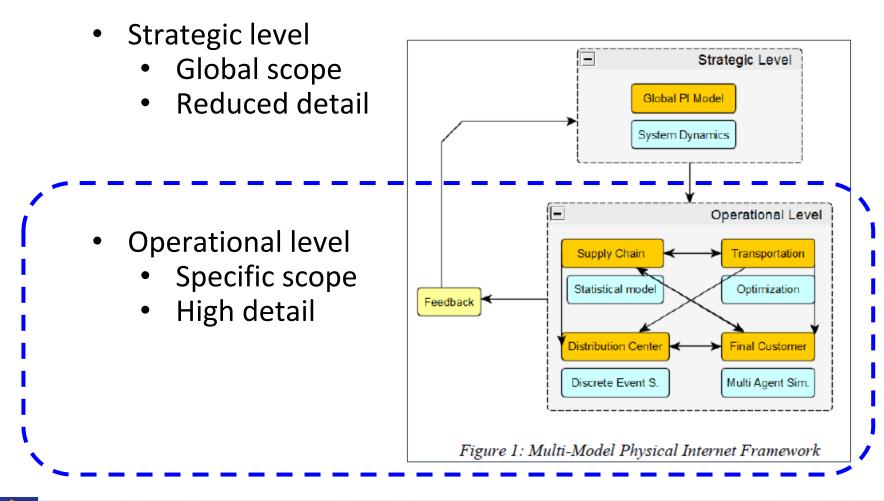


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Two levels to deal with the high complexity:







**Simulation and statistical models** are often used to get a better distribution network design with parameters like lead time, lot sizing, forecast accuracy...

With a simulation model we compare the performance of MTO, MTS and VMI strategies in the two-echelon serial supply chain with finite production capacity.

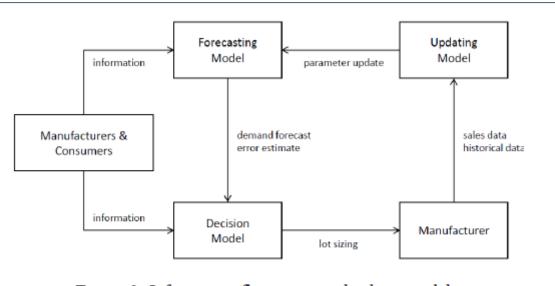


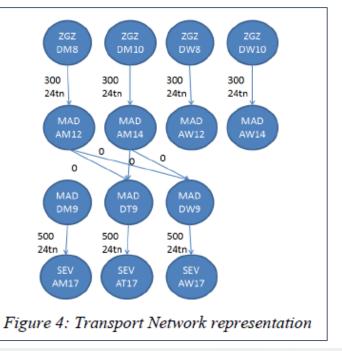
Figure 3: Information flow in a supply chain model



#### Transport



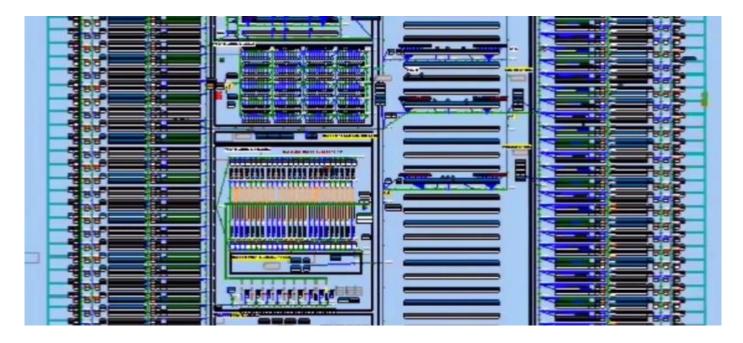
- Optimal transport plan is a key point in the Physical Internet framework
- Example: Freight transport network similar to the carriage of passengers (one order is like one passenger).
- Between two nodes, there is a set of connections, each one with a mode of transport (bus, train, car), and certain capacity (volume, number of seats, etc) and a set of frequencies.
- PI network should not only be fed by the network layout but also for other transport status.
- Optimization problem integrated with a simulation model to evaluate alternatives.
- Result: Best route for each order







- Distribution centers (hubs) are the "heart" of Physical Internet flows. They pump the goods.
- New operations appear with PI flows: Cross Docking, PI-Containers, multi-client picking strategies...
- Discrete Event Simulation for new processes
- Design of Experiments to measure the influence of main variables

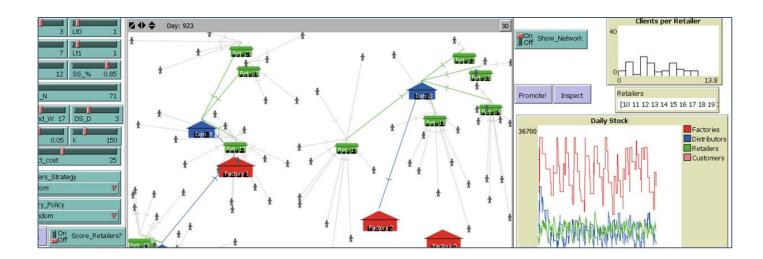




#### **Customer behavior**



- The behaviour of humans differs notably among people and therefore the heterogeneous and diverse nature of the actors needs to be taken into account during the service design and the processes to provide de services.
- Multiagent simulation systems play a key role to evaluate new behaviors
- Example: Ecommerce represent a revolution in terms of
  - Range of products
  - Time order fulfillment
  - Delivery points
  - Time windows restrictions
  - Returns processing







#### Conclusions



- This paper describes a **framework** to evaluate different aspects of the Physical Internet framework to build trust among stakeholders
- The **strategic** level, deals with socio-economics aspects from the PI initiative.
- The **operational** level evaluates the process with a higher level detail.
- The combination of all this powerful **simulation** tools gives a complete vision from the **complexity** of PI flows.
- As final remark is important to mention the **importance** of involving different **people**, which are related to the decisions about Physical Internet flow: validate models, create confidence, integration risk evaluation.





# Thank you!

Physical Internet

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