Crowdsensing refers to the process of collecting sensor data using smart devices from a crowd of contributing users.
Technical Enabler 1: Powerful Embedded Sensors in Smartphones

- Ambient light
- Proximity
- Dual cameras
- GPS
- Accelerometer
- Dual microphones
- Compass
- Gyroscope

Technical Enabler 2: Open and Programmable
Technical Enabler 3: App Store

Apple Store

Technical Enabler 4: Mobile Computing Cloud

Cloud computing

Dropbox
Mobile Crowdsensing (MCS) Paradigm

• Participatory Sensing:
  – Users actively engage in the “sensing process”
  – Users determine when/how/what data are collected
  – Human intelligence can be leveraged for complex tasks
  – More costs or incentives are needed to keep humans involved
  – Phone context issues can be resolved

Mobile Crowdsensing (MCS) Paradigm

• Opportunistic Sensing:
  – Fully automated and no user involvement
  – Difficult to determine when/how/what data are collected (phone/user context)
  – Less burden and “costs” on the user
  – Energy issues
  – Activation issues
### Mobile Crowdsensing (MCS) Paradigm

- Concerns and issues with both
  - Compliance/incentives
    - Collect data or keep data collection software running
  - Privacy/security
    - What is being collected and shared
  - Data quality (incl. false data)
    - Sufficient amount of data, “good” data, timing of data, times or geographic areas with lower quantity/quality
  - Data labeling/annotations
    - Providing ground truth for collected data
  - Device diversity; resource limitations
  - Turning data into information

### Examples: Participatory/Oppportunistic/Both?

- City of South Bend:
  - Collect pollution data in all parts of town
  - Study the routes cyclists take through the city
  - Find graffiti across town
  - Find invasive species in rivers and lakes
  - Find potholes
  - Study activity/mobility patterns of citizens
  - Improve public transportation system

- What type of data? What types of sensors?
- Always-on sensing, context-triggered, human-triggered?
- Challenges: data quality, privacy, compliance, resources?
Examples: Urban Sensing Apps

- Noise mapping
- Emotion mapping
- Congestion charging

Example: NetHealth Study

- Smartphone Sensor Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Data Type</th>
<th>Sampling Period (Min.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iPhone</td>
<td>Location (Latitude, Longitude, Accuracy)</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitbit</td>
<td>Step Counts, activity levels (sedentary, light, fair, high), Calorie burn, Heart rate</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Subjects
  - 467 iPhone users (on-campus freshmen)
  - Avg. age ~17y 11m (SD = 11m)
  - 2015-2019
Years of Location Data

September 2016

Iranda

Computer Science and Engineering - University of Notre Dame

Personal Places of Interest

Computer Science and Engineering - University of Notre Dame
Personal Places of Interest

- 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)
  - Geocoding: addresses into longitude/latitude
  - Reverse geocoding: longitude/latitude into addresses
  - Example: Google Geocoding API

![Google Geocoding API Example](image)

Personal Places of Interest

- Place: physical space that has a name (e.g., local businesses, points of interest, geographic locations)
  - Fitzpatrick Hall, South Bend Airport, Studebaker Museum, Martin’s Supermarket on Ironwood Rd., etc.
- Location APIs (e.g., Google Places API) often provide contextual information about places near device
  - Name of place, address, geographical location, place ID, phone number, place type, website URL, etc.
GeoFencing

• 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

Points of Interest

• Points of Interest (PoI): 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.)
    • Form cluster of points
    • Convert cluster to a semantic location
Pre-Processing GPS Points
(Remove Noise and Outliers)

- Remove low density points (few neighbors):
  - 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 20, 30, 50, ... minutes
    - What might this time depend on?
  - Remove points with movement:
    - GPS returns speed as well as <longitude, latitude> coordinates
    - If speed value indicates that user is moving, discard that GPS point
  - Reduce data for stationary locations:
    - When user is stationary at same location for very long time, too many points generated (e.g., sitting at at chair)
    - Remove some points to speed up processing

Clustering

- 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:

\[
\text{Select K points as the initial centroids}
\]
\[
\text{repeat}
\]
\[
\text{Form K clusters by assigning all points to the closest centroid}
\]
\[
\text{Recompute the centroid of each cluster}
\]
\[
\text{until The centroids don’t change}
\]

DBSCAN Clustering

- Density-based clustering
  - Density: number of points within specified radius (Eps)
  - Core points: have > minPoints density
  - Border points: have < minPoints density, but are within neighborhood of core point
  - Noise point: not core point or border point
DBSCAN Clustering

- 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\textsuperscript{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 API on the centroid of the clusters
  - Determining work? Cluster where user spends most time during 9am and 5pm
  - Determining home? Cluster where user spends most time during 6pm and 6am
Sensing Example: Location Hotspots

Subjects' locations during daytime hours

Subjects' locations during nighttime hours

Crowdsensing for Health/Wellness

- Assess a user's **quality of life** through analysis of
  - Place visits and mobility patterns, social interactions, and levels of physical activity
- Researchers and healthcare providers can monitor **patient behavior** remotely
  - E.g., assess the effectiveness of stroke therapy
- Deliver place-specific mobile **health interventions**
  - E.g., encourage individuals to work out when near gyms or parks
- Deliver **customized surveys** to an individual's phone
  - E.g., social interaction surveys, or mood surveys
NetHealth: Continuous Health Monitoring

- Opportunities of continuous monitoring:
  - Identify mobility patterns
    - Time spent indoors/outdoors; type of transportation; locations visited
  - Recognize social interactions
    - Electronic communications (email, phone, SMS, chat)
    - In-person meetings (individual/group, type of meeting, venue)
  - Identify activities
    - Healthy/unhealthy habits, routine household activities, physical activities
  - Other health-related information and events
    - Sleep times/quality, stress, moods, falls and other injuries
NetHealth: Continuous Health Monitoring

- **Configurable Integrated MONitoring Toolkit**
- Powerful smartphone monitoring system for Android-based devices:
  - Monitor sensor activities (e.g., GPS, accelerometer, gyroscope, microphone, barometer, magnetometer, etc.)
  - Monitor user activities (e.g., communications, apps, music, browsing, etc.)
  - Monitor system activities (e.g., resource usage, network connections and traffic, etc.)
- Configurable to meet sensing needs of specific (health) situation

Screenshots of Configuration Screens
Examples of Sensing Capabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensor Type</th>
<th>Sensing Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPS &amp; Triangulation</td>
<td>Locations, routes, indoor/outdoor time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerometer</td>
<td>Mode of transportation, activities, step counters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyroscope</td>
<td>Type of activities, unusual events (falls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wi-Fi Proximity</td>
<td>Locations, routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluetooth Proximity</td>
<td>Proximity to friends, family, coworkers, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnetometer</td>
<td>Type of activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFC/RFID</td>
<td>Locations (supermarket, library, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barometer</td>
<td>Locations (floor of building)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>Preferences, moods, interests/hobbies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone, EMail, SMS</td>
<td>Communication patterns, moods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media (Music, Pictures, ...)</td>
<td>Preferences, interests, moods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Technical Challenge: Battery Life

Current research focus: collect maximum amount of data at highest quality possible, while making sure that device will last 14-16 hours (typical time between recharging)

CIMON Sensing App: Labeling Interface

- Allows subjects to track common types of activities
- Used for development of activity detection algorithms
- In addition to pre-defined activities, subjects can add custom activities