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3 **Developing surveys for the study of departure time choice:**  
4 **a two-stage efficient design approach**  
5

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**ABSTRACT**

Departure time choice modelling has received renewed attention recently due to the increasing levels of congestion in many cities and the growing popularity of travel demand management (TDM) strategies such as road pricing. Current practice in evaluating the effectiveness of TDM policies usually incorporates the temporal dimension in transport planning models only through fixed factors derived from origin-destination data, making them unsuitable to predict demand at different times of the day properly. To mitigate these deficiencies, we argue in favour of estimating and applying specially formulated time-of-day choice models. Here we concentrate on the survey design generation process for obtaining suitable data to estimate such models, ensuring both realism and simplicity in the presentation; in particular, our SP exercise includes dependency between attribute levels. The proposed procedure should be widely applicable and offers a number of improvements over current practice in the field.

**Keywords:** *departure time choice; stated preference; time of day; travel demand management*

## 110 INTRODUCTION

111

112 The efficient implementation of transport demand management (TDM) strategies requires an in-  
 113 depth understanding of travel behaviour. Mode, departure time, and route decisions are key  
 114 choice processes that we need to understand to analyse the temporal and spatial dimensions of  
 115 demand. Reductions in congestion can be achieved by spreading departure times into the  
 116 ‘shoulder’ or off-peak periods, or by achieving a significant shift from private to public  
 117 transport. Empirical evidence suggests that modifications in departure time are a more frequent  
 118 strategy for avoiding congestion (or charging) as a result of TDM policies than changing mode  
 119 [1-4], albeit that shifts in departure time still rank below route changes [5].

120

121 A better understanding of departure time choice is a crucial component for studying behaviour  
 122 in congested networks, evaluating the effectiveness of transport policies [6] and planning the  
 123 development or construction of infrastructure to accommodate projected demand.

124

125 In recent years, most studies concerned with departure time choice have made use of stated  
 126 preference (SP) data and have been based on estimating scheduling models (SM). SP data are  
 127 more popular in departure time modelling work than revealed preference (RP) data because the  
 128 latter are difficult to obtain [7, 8] and require a rigorous and expensive data collection  
 129 procedure, while also being affected by significant problems with inter-attribute correlations.  
 130 However, there is no consensus regarding the design generation process for SP experiments in  
 131 this context, ensuring both realism and simplicity in presentations to respondents. Two key  
 132 issues in developing departure time choice experiments are (a) the dependence of some attribute  
 133 levels on others within the same alternative [9]; and (b) that the design should be customised  
 134 based on each specific respondent’s trips and, therefore, common attribute levels may be  
 135 inadequate in terms of experimental realism. The *aim* of this paper is to create a heuristic  
 136 technique for designing an efficient SP exercise while addressing both issues above. To our  
 137 knowledge, there are no reported applications of efficient designs with these features for  
 138 departure time models in the literature.

139

140 The results reported in this paper are part of ongoing research, where this paper focuses mainly  
 141 on survey design while reporting preliminary model results that are based on standard methods  
 142 and thus do not yet take into account the full complexity of behavioural processes.

143

144 The remainder of the paper is arranged as follows. We first present a brief review of relevant  
 145 literature regarding departure time choice models, looking separately at design features and  
 146 modelling results. This is followed by a description of our survey work and the presentation of  
 147 preliminary model results from the case study of Santiago. Finally, some conclusions and  
 148 directions for further research are given.

149

## 150 LITERATURE REVIEW

151

### 152 Departure time choice models

153

154 The best known and most widely used departure time model is the Scheduling Model (SM)  
 155 developed by Small [10]. It includes schedule delay (SD) terms, motivated by the earlier work  
 156 of Vickrey [11], which represent the amount of time people arrive late or early at their  
 157 destinations in comparison with their desired arrival times. The resulting model can successfully  
 158 represent trade-offs between travel time and schedule delay terms, and can be written as  
 159 follows:

160

$$161 \quad V_i = \beta_{TT} TT_i + \beta_{SDE} SDE_i + \beta_{SDL} SDL_i + \delta_L d_L \quad (1)$$

162

$$163 \quad \text{where: } SDE_i = \text{Max}\{-SD_i, 0\} \quad (2)$$

164

$$164 \quad \quad \quad SDL_i = \text{Max}\{0, SD_i\} \quad (3)$$

$$d_L = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } SDL_i > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } SDL_i = 0 \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

$$SD_i = \text{Observed arrival time} - \text{Preferred arrival time} \quad (5)$$

167

168 With this notation, the subscript  $i$  refers to alternatives (given by time periods),  $TT_i$  indicates the  
 169 travel time when departing at period  $i$ ,  $SD_i$  denotes schedule delay, and  $SDE_i$  and  $SDL_i$  represent  
 170 SD for arriving early or late, respectively. These three travel time components have associated  
 171 marginal utility coefficients that need to be estimated (defined as  $\beta_{TT}$ ,  $\beta_{SDE}$ , and  $\beta_{SDL}$ ), and we  
 172 have an additional parameter to estimate in  $d_L$ , which is a penalty for arriving late at the  
 173 destination (independent of the actual amount of lateness).

174

175 Good departure time models must consider travel time variability [12] and the duration of  
 176 activities along with scheduling and associated levels of service information [12]. Daily activity  
 177 participation time is relevant too due to its influence on trip making, the order of activity  
 178 participation and trip departure time choice. Performing other activities during the day could  
 179 impose restrictions on departure time choices, so it is ideal to consider tours to take into account  
 180 possible relationship between different activities during the day.

181

182 De Jong *et al.* [13] and Hess *et al.* [7] reported SM including explicit penalties for decreased  
 183 and increased activity participation time ( $PTD_i$  and  $PTI_i$ ), and their generic utility function could  
 184 be written as follows:

185

$$V_i = \beta_{TT} TT_i + \beta_C cost_i + \beta_{SDE} SDE_i + \beta_{SDL} SDL_i + \beta_{PTD} PTD_i + \beta_{PTI} PTI_i + \delta_L d_L \quad (6)$$

186

$$\text{where: } PTD_i = \text{Max}\{-PT_i, 0\} \quad (7)$$

$$PTI_i = \text{Max}\{0, PT_i\} \quad (8)$$

$$PT_i = \text{Observed activity duration} - \text{Preferred activity duration} \quad (9)$$

191

192 Departure time choices are not only determined by the factors discussed above but should  
 193 consider employment characteristics, individuals' socio-economic characteristics, and  
 194 information from other choices which may interact with time-of-day choice (e.g., route and  
 195 mode choices), among others. This can be achieved through appropriate interactions with socio-  
 196 demographic terms in the above specifications.

197

### 198 **Design features of departure time choice experiments**

199

200 Small *et al.* [14, 15] formulated a SM as part of a project to assess the value of travel time under  
 201 congested conditions in America, and this model has since become the basis of many studies in  
 202 the area,. They developed two designs to evaluate the trade-offs among: (i) travel time,  
 203 variability, departure time, and cost, and (ii) cost, and congested/free flow travel time. Their  
 204 sample was segmented based on travel times experienced by respondents to give more realism  
 205 to the experiment. To evaluate model performance in forecasting, a wide range of coefficient  
 206 values were used in simulation experiments.

207

208 Although the SM is the basis of most studies in the area, its reported design procedure does not  
 209 enjoy the same acceptance and few studies have used it [16]. A wide range of different  
 210 procedures have been used to obtain SP data for departure time modelling. Orthogonal in  
 211 differences [17] and fractional factorial designs [18-20] are examples of standard design  
 212 techniques used previously. Studies including a tour base approach have based their SP surveys  
 213 on more complex designs, combining orthogonal and manual designs to account for a large  
 214 number of attributes and levels [7, 13, 21].

215

216 Except for the simulation step within the design procedure by Small *et al.* [15], these design  
 217 techniques do not use prior information about parameters. This absence of efficiency criteria in  
 218 selecting attribute combinations potentially leads to larger sample size requirements. Recently,

219 Koster and Tseng [9] developed a procedure including efficiency criteria in the design  
220 generation to address one of the most important difficulties associated with generating SM  
221 based choice experiments, namely that the variables used in the model are functions of the  
222 attributes shown to respondents in the survey rather than their actual values.

223

224 To achieve realistic choice experiments, the design procedure must also deal with (i) the  
225 potential dependency among different attribute levels of the same alternative, and (ii) the fact  
226 that choice situations should be personalised to each respondent's circumstances. Both of these  
227 issues can lead to difficulties in producing a design that has good statistical qualities for the  
228 entire sample.

229

230 Dependency, where attribute levels of alternative  $j$  are generated from those of a reference  
231 alternative  $i$ , can be accommodated in pivot designs [22]. However, additional complications  
232 arise when an attribute level within alternative  $j$  depends on another attribute level of the same  
233 alternative  $j$ , which in turn is also part of the design. This latter type of dependency is the one  
234 reported in this paper and is usually present in SM work. Not accounting for it (e.g. that travel  
235 time depends on departure time) can give rise to unrealistic choice situations, as can a failure to  
236 align scenarios with actual perceived possibilities in terms of realistic combinations from the  
237 respondent's perspective. While pivoting around current values can help in this context,  
238 customised levels must be carefully checked before applying the survey to avoid presenting  
239 unfeasible or irrelevant trade-offs to respondents. Occasionally, certain variation levels may not  
240 work well for the entire sample, as the differences postulated are too big or too small. For these  
241 reasons, we propose the inclusion of additional constraints to give even more realism to choice  
242 situations and avoid presenting 'meaningless' (from a respondent perspective) trade-offs.

243

## 244 SURVEY DESIGN

245

246 The procedure described in this section is a Bayesian efficient SP-off-RP step design that  
247 accommodates interdependence among attribute levels, and copes with the other above  
248 mentioned difficulties in these designs. It is important to note that a necessary condition for  
249 developing these designs is to have prior information and reference point schedule data on each  
250 respondent. This is commonly the case when collecting a specific sample for the sake of  
251 conducting an SP survey.

252

253 The procedure work as follows:

254

255 1. Definition of preliminary design features: This stage includes all activities prior to the  
256 development of an efficient design such as steps to:

257

- 258 - Define the context of the experiment and the attributes to be presented;
- 259 - Identify constraints and dependency among attribute levels;
- 260 - Define first attributes to be optimised. In the case of SM, we propose to optimise shifts  
261 in departure/arrival time first;
- 262 - Identify *a priori* coefficients;
- 263 - Define the number of choice situations and, if necessary, blocks.

264

265 2. Optimisation stage to obtain SP generic designs: Since individuals face different choice  
266 situations, our approach generates a generic design containing attribute levels expressed  
267 as relative changes (percentages) from a reference point. If desired, this design can be  
268 common for all respondents although it is also possible to create different designs for  
269 several predefined segments within the population. This stage will optimise attribute  
270 levels without dependency relations and attribute levels that condition other attribute  
271 levels within the design. Within this phase, we need to:

272

- 273 - Define efficiency and stopping selection criteria;

- 274 - Select a candidate SP design randomly or using heuristics, including constraints to  
 275 avoid dominance among alternatives;  
 276 - Calculate probabilities and the asymptotic covariance matrix based on design  
 277 attributes and *a priori* coefficients;  
 278 - Calculate design efficiency;  
 279 - Choose another SP candidate design until the stopping criterion has been reached.  
 280
- 281 3. Customisation of choice situations: here we move from a generic to a customised design  
 282 for each respondent. The following activities should be performed:  
 283
- 284 - Adapt choice situations using prior information (actual choice) and reference point  
 285 schedule data; percentage variation levels in the generic design must be used to get  
 286 customised attribute levels based on prior information and reference point schedule  
 287 data;  
 288 - Define non-optimised attribute base levels based on reported values or actual  
 289 observations (e.g. travel time measurements, observed cost, etc.);  
 290 - Include dependency constraints among attributes;  
 291 - Include other constraints if necessary (e.g. thresholds for the difference between  
 292 attribute levels)  
 293
- 294 4. Optimisation stage to obtain the final SP design: This step is similar to the second one  
 295 but with two fundamental differences; (i) the attribute levels optimised at this stage are  
 296 different from those optimised at step 2; (ii) at this stage, a full covariance matrix is  
 297 computed from the total sample data, considering the customised attributes presented to  
 298 respondents. Note that there is not a common design for all respondents, but a tailored  
 299 design that contains as many rows as the number of participants times the number of  
 300 choice situations per respondent.  
 301
- 302 5. Simulation experiment: The purpose of this stage is to test if the best design obtained  
 303 above can recover a wide range of “*true*” coefficient values. The simulation must be  
 304 done for the full sample.  
 305
- 306 6. Return to step 2 if the design does not allow recovery of a wide range of “*true*”  
 307 coefficient values.  
 308

## 309 CASE STUDY

### 311 Departure time choice model for Santiago

312  
 313 Santiago is the capital and most important city of Chile. Its population is approximately 6  
 314 million inhabitants, living in an area of approximately 15,400 km<sup>2</sup>. According to the 2001  
 315 Origin-Destination Survey [23], about 16.3 million journeys take place in Santiago every  
 316 working day, most of them being radial (i.e. into the CBD in the morning and out again in the  
 317 evening).  
 318

319 As a result of Chile’s fast economic growth in the last 20 years, car ownership and motorised  
 320 trip rates have increased substantially, causing congestion in the city at certain hours and  
 321 locations. This has led to repeated consideration of TDM strategies by local authorities. The  
 322 instrument traditionally used to both plan and evaluate changes regarding the city’s transport  
 323 system has been the strategic transport model for Santiago, ESTRAUS [24]. While this is a  
 324 highly sophisticated model, its departure time module is based only on entropy maximisation  
 325 principles [25]. Although ESTRAUS is recalibrated periodically using new mobility data, the  
 326 departure time module has not been calibrated and its original formulation does not include  
 327 important factors usually found in scheduling models such as activity participation and schedule  
 328 delay measures.  
 329

330 The increased congestion and the forthcoming consideration of TDM strategies in Santiago  
331 motivated the development of our project to study departure time decisions in the context of  
332 transport project appraisal. A secondary aim of our research is to try to reduce the gap between  
333 the state of practice and the state of the art in this area, particularly in less developed countries.  
334

### 335 **Data**

336  
337 To develop a departure time choice model for Santiago, a three-step RP-SP-attitudinal survey  
338 was designed and applied to some 500 workers in the city. The first stage of the survey was a  
339 Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) at the workplace, which focused on collecting  
340 demographic and employment data, factors influencing scheduling decisions, and information  
341 about the schedule of planned activities for the following working day. At this stage,  
342 respondents did not have to report any trip they had done on the day of the first CAPI. The  
343 survey's second stage involved filling in a web page travel diary following an activity recall  
344 framework [26]. This travel diary was completed two working days after the first stage CAPI,  
345 and registered all trips completed before and after work, during the previous working day.  
346 Finally, the third stage involved another CAPI to collect responses to a SP-off-RP experiment  
347 along with an attitudinal questionnaire (both focused on work based trips). Information about  
348 respondents' income was also collected in this third stage.  
349

350 This paper makes use of data from the SP-off-RP experiment designed using the procedure  
351 described above. Only people travelling by motorised transport modes and not transferring  
352 among public and private transport modes were included (359 of the 498 respondents). Two sets  
353 of SP experiments were presented sequentially to each respondent for evaluating re-timing  
354 and/or mode switching behaviour, considering work hour flexibility and the implementation of  
355 congestion charging. The first set of experiments focused on trips to work in the AM peak  
356 (Figure 1a), while the second looked at complete work tours comprising outbound and return  
357 legs (Figure 1b).  
358

359 The motivation for our two-stage approach was twofold. Firstly, it allowed respondents to  
360 become used to answering hypothetical choice scenarios before facing the more complex tour  
361 based situations. Secondly, it allows us to study potential differences between behaviour in trip  
362 scenarios and tour scenarios.  
363

364 In each scenario, respondents faced a choice between four alternatives, of which the first three  
365 were for journeys on the current mode departing at different times (namely travelling at early/  
366 current/late time), while the fourth alternative offered the possibility of travelling by a different  
367 mode, but around the same time as for the originally reported trip. Public transport was the  
368 alternative mode for private transport users; if available, car was the primary alternative to  
369 transit users; if not, they were offered a new shared-taxi service. To minimise the impacts of  
370 inertia or reading left-to-right effects, the position of the re-timing alternatives was randomised  
371 across tasks for each respondent.  
372

373 While the first experiment simply involves the choice between the four options, in the second  
374 SP, respondents had to make choices for both the outbound and return legs of the tour. This  
375 means that unless respondents decided to change mode, they had the possibility of choosing  
376 different alternatives for the outbound and return trips, generating a 10-alternative choice set as  
377 illustrated in Figure 2.  
378

379 The main features within each step of the Survey Design procedure can be summarised as  
380 follows:  
381



382 *1. Definition of preliminary design features*  
383

384 Departure time, expected travel time, travel time uncertainty, cost and comfort were 5-level  
385 attributes, as shown in Table 1. It was decided to include travel time variability through the  
386 presentation of a *worst travel time experienced once a week* attribute instead of the more  
387 complicated five alternatives travel time presentation [27] because the main aim of the study  
388 was on departure time behaviour not on valuing travel time variability, and the more detailed  
389 approach would have unnecessarily increased complexity.  
390

391 Cost and travel time were considered conditional on departure time, and levels of this attribute  
392 were optimised first during the second design stage. *A priori* travel time, comfort and cost  
393 parameter values were obtained from previous studies in Chile and SD parameters from  
394 international studies, which were then rescaled appropriately. As the second stage generic  
395 design contains attributes' relative changes from a reference point, *priors* were adapted by  
396 multiplying their original values by an attribute reference mean value.  
397

398 *2. Optimisation stage to obtain SP generic designs*  
399

400 A 50 row design with 10 blocks and a 40 row design with 5 blocks were adopted for the trip and  
401 tour questionnaire respectively, meaning that each respondent faced 13 choice situations.  
402 Separate designs were generated for private and public transport users and dominance  
403 restrictions were applied at this stage. Designs were selected following a mean Bayesian  
404 efficiency criterion (i.e.  $D_b$ -error) using NGENE ([www.choice-metrics.com](http://www.choice-metrics.com)).  
405

406 *3. Customised choice situations*  
407

408 Attribute levels were customised using schedule and travel information collected in stages 1 and  
409 2 of the survey respectively (RP component). The travel time levels used in the current timing  
410 alternative – the closest to the reported arrival and departure time at work – were obtained from  
411 the respondent's reported values in stage 2 of the survey. The travel times for the two re-timing  
412 alternatives and the mode-change alternative were obtained from GPS instrumented vehicles  
413 travelling at different times of the day during survey periods.  
414

415 Base travel times were multiplied by generic design levels in each choice situation and were  
416 adjusted depending on changes in the departure time period, i.e. leading to bigger changes in  
417 more congested periods. In the case of re-timing alternatives, 5 travel time variation levels (Table  
418 2) were defined conditional on time-of-day periods and trip duration (with different levels if the  
419 usual trip took more than 50 minutes).  
420

421 Travel costs were obtained by multiplying generic design levels by a time-period-specific cost  
422 base value defined in Table 2, to ensure that two alternatives travelling within the same period  
423 could not have different costs.  
424

425 Larger departure time shifts implying departing before a reference time (6:00 am) were  
426 considered undesirable, and thus the multipliers were adjusted accordingly for people reporting  
427 travelling before 7:30 am using equation (10).  
428

$$429 \quad DT_{early} = DT_{reported} + DT_{shift_{early}} \cdot \frac{(DT_{current} - Reference\ time)}{90} \quad (10)$$

430  
431 Finally, a 5 minute threshold restriction on travel and departure time levels for different  
432 alternatives within a choice situation was included to ensure sufficiently large differences in  
433 attribute levels [28].  
434

#### 4. Optimisation stage to obtain the final SP design

Designs in this stage were selected randomly and evaluated according to a mean Bayesian efficiency criteria considering the full covariance matrix derived from the entire sample with data customised to each respondent. Uniform distributions and 150 random draws were adopted to allow for uncertainty in the *priors* (Table 3). This stage was coded in Visual Basic and the stopping criterion was fixed at 30 minutes running time without finding a better design. Designs were considered satisfactory only if recovering *a priori* parameters in the simulation. We also evaluated the performance of this design compared to orthogonal and efficient designs without dependency constraints using simulation. This design had more success recovering initial assumed parameters than the other two designs.

#### Estimation results

After data cleaning, a total sample of 274 respondents was used in the estimation process. Design efficiency loss can be expected as a certain level of non-response led to differences between the estimation sample and the sample used in the last stage of the design generation process, which used a full covariance matrix derived from a sample of 359 respondents.

Most respondents (98%) work at least 40 hours/week in workplaces located within or near the city centre. A large share (62%) of the sample consists of transit users, most of them being Metro or Bus users.

For trip data the following generic model was used:

$$V_i = ASC_i + \beta_{TT} TT_i + \beta_{Time\_diff} Time\_diff_i + \beta_C cost_i + \beta_{SDE} SDE_i + \beta_{SDL} SDL_i \quad (11)$$

*Time\_diff* stands for the difference between “worst” and “best” possible travel times normalised by the “best” travel time presented in each alternative. All other remaining variables are those defined for equations (1)-(5) with subscript *i* indexing the 4 alternatives in the trip data. The  $d_L$  constant was not significant and was removed from the model.

For tour data modelling, to link trips before and after work, an activity participation penalty was introduced as proposed by de Jong et al. [13] and Hess et al. [7]. Here the generic model can be written as equation (12).

$$V_i = ASC_i^{outbound} + ASC_i^{return} + \beta_{TT} TT_i + \beta_{Time\_diff} Time\_diff_i + \beta_C cost_i + \beta_{SDE}^{outbound} SDE_i^{outbound} + \beta_{SDL}^{outbound} SDL_i^{outbound} + \beta_{PTD} PTD_i + \beta_{PTI} PTI_i \quad (12)$$

where  $PTD_i$  and  $PTI_i$  are defined in equations (7)-(9). Separate constants for outbound and return legs can be used across alternatives to capture general preferences for departing at specific times or on specific modes for either leg. The attributes *TT*, *Time\_diff* and *Cost* refer to both legs while *SDE* and *SDL* are outbound specific (return-specific values cannot be included in a model which also has activity duration values). Subscripts *i* in this model represent the ten available alternatives.

From the above generic formulations, MNL models were estimated in BIOGEME[29], where the repeated choice nature of the data was accommodated in the calculation of standard errors by using the panel specification of the *sandwich matrix*. In addition to the trip and tour models, a joint model was also estimated, allowing for scale differences between both games. A likelihood ratio test allowed us to confirm that the null hypothesis required by the joint model (i.e. it is equivalent to the two separate trip and tour models) cannot be rejected ( $\chi^2$  of 7.09 against a critical value  $\chi^2=11.07$  for 5 degrees of freedom at the 95% level). Travel time values (VOT), willingness to pay (WTP) for different attributes and *trade-off ratios* (TOR) against the travel time coefficient were calculated. The estimation results are shown in Table 4.

490  
491 All estimated coefficients have the expected sign and are significant at the 95% confidence  
492 level, except for the travel time coefficients in the tour and joint model. It should be noted that  
493 these coefficients maintain their correct signs and in the case of the joint model, the parameter is  
494 significant at the 90%. level To some extent, less significant travel time parameters are expected  
495 in models estimated from this kind of exercise as workers could be more worried about travel  
496 time uncertainty than differences in their usual travel times. Indeed, pre-tests and three focus  
497 groups showed that workers preferred to avoid highly uncertain work journey durations due to  
498 the necessity of meeting work schedules.

499  
500 The trip game seems to have been more successful in retrieving meaningful and significant  
501 estimates, possibly due to its lower complexity, than the tour experiment. However, the tour  
502 model has the added value of including activity participation time penalties, different constants  
503 for each trip and provides a richer framework where respondents can take into account the  
504 influence of their choice on other activities during the day, as they will have a more complete  
505 picture of trips related to the activity that is being modelled.

506  
507 In general terms, people prefer arriving earlier rather than later at their work places, and are  
508 more worried about meeting schedules in the morning – the constants for retiming are more  
509 negative for outbound trips. Trip model estimates indicate that if attributes among alternatives  
510 are kept equal, people are more likely to change their departure time than to travel by a different  
511 mode, in line with previous findings by de Jong et al. [13], and Hess et al. [2, 7]. On the other  
512 hand, the tour and joint models show that while the sensitivity to early departure is lower than  
513 that to changing mode, this is not the case for late departure.

514  
515 Values of time estimates are similar among different models and in line with values commonly  
516 used in Chile. Schedule delay values are in line with earlier international departure time studies  
517 where people assign greater penalties for arriving later than earlier. Respondents are willing to  
518 pay approximately Ch\$ 8/min more (about US\$ 1/hr) for arriving a minute closer to their  
519 desired work arrival time. A surprising result from the tour and joint models is that people  
520 prefer staying longer rather than shorter at their workplaces to avoid congested or more  
521 expensive travel periods.

522  
523 *Trade-off ratios* relative to travel time for SDE and SDL are in line with those reported by Li et  
524 al. [27] and de Jong et al. [13]. However, the ratios for decreased and increased time at work  
525 (PTD and PTI ratios) are much higher than values previously reported by Hess et al. [7] and de  
526 Jong et al. [13]. Furthermore, dividing the marginal utility of extra time experienced once a  
527 week (i.e. the parameter for the difference in travel times divided by the mean usual travel time)  
528 by the marginal utility of cost (i.e. the cost parameter) gives us the WTP for reducing extra time  
529 experienced once a week. This gave the result that every extra minute over the usual travel time  
530 is valued between 32% and 75% over the usual travel time depending on the model. These  
531 values can also be viewed as a measure of reliability/variability of travel time and are in line  
532 with Small et al. [30].

533

## 534 **CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK**

535

536 We have presented a procedure for designing realistic SP exercises for departure time choice  
537 modelling including dependency between attribute levels. The methodology highlights some of  
538 the complexities associated with departure time choice experiments and should be useful in  
539 guiding practitioners in developing experiments to collect appropriate data for transport  
540 planning. Our procedure should be widely applicable and offers a number of improvements over  
541 current practice in the field.

542

543 An application of our SP design to a sample in Santiago was also presented. The aim of the  
544 experiment was to evaluate trip timing decisions when congestion charging and flexible work

545 hours are implemented. Trip, tour and joint trip-tour models were estimated indicating that  
546 people in Santiago do indeed modify their trip timing decisions when congestion rises and TDM  
547 strategies are implemented. Results are in line with findings in developed countries where  
548 modelling departure time choice is an extended practice, suggesting that advanced methods  
549 applied in developed countries can also be effective in emerging economies.

550

551 We acknowledge that the full complexity of the behavioural processes will undoubtedly require  
552 the use of more advanced models that allow mixing different kinds of data (RP and attitudinal  
553 data) and incorporate different factors and dimensions influencing the trip timing choice. *Trade-*  
554 *off ratios* reported in this paper should be treated with caution as the models reported do not  
555 incorporate the full complexity of the behavioural process and the possible heterogeneity in  
556 respondents' preferences. This could also help to better explain the differences in sensitivities  
557 across attributes. Indeed, we computed tests to evaluate the significance of the differences  
558 between the parameters of *SDE*, *SDL* and *TT* and could not find significant differences between  
559 the parameters of *SDE* and *SDL* for all models. In the joint model, the difference between the  
560 parameters of *SDE* and *TT* was not significant but that between the parameters of *SDL* and *TT*  
561 was clearly significant ( $p=0.027$ ). Our next step will be to incorporate more socioeconomic and  
562 employment data information to these models using a joint RP-SP-attitudinal model.

563

564 Finally, it seems appropriate to mention a couple of weaknesses that should be addressed in  
565 future work. Although collected in our survey, our models do not include other possible  
566 responses to variations in travel conditions that could have impacts on travel behaviour, such as  
567 trip chaining, working at home, and not working. The focus here was on presenting an SP  
568 procedure to design surveys with a view to collecting data for the development of advanced  
569 departure time choice models for transport planning and to give preliminary results based on  
570 this procedure; inclusion of these models in a broader regional travel demand model is beyond  
571 the scope of this paper. In practice, a model of the type developed here would be used in a  
572 forecasting system that uses a synthetic population as input, and assumptions about preferred  
573 arrival times and preferred durations would have to be made, e.g. through an appropriate  
574 random distribution.

575

576

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578

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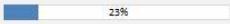
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(a) Questionnaire considering only the AM trip to work


Choice Situation: 2	Option A	Option B	Option C	Alternative mode
Departure time to work	7:06	8:21	9:20	8:25
Usual travel time to work (Usual arrival time to work)	50 (7:56)	59 (9:20)	45 (10:05)	40 (9:05)
Travel time to work once a week (Usual arrival time to work)	60 (8:06)	74 (9:35)	54 (10:14)	48 (9:13)
Comfort	Crowded vehicle, standing	Crowded vehicle, standing, usually have to wait next for boarding	Half crowded vehicle, standing	
Additional cost (\$)	\$ 493	\$ 527	\$ 476	\$ 1,500
¿Which option would you choose?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


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(b) Questionnaire considering the complete tour to and from work

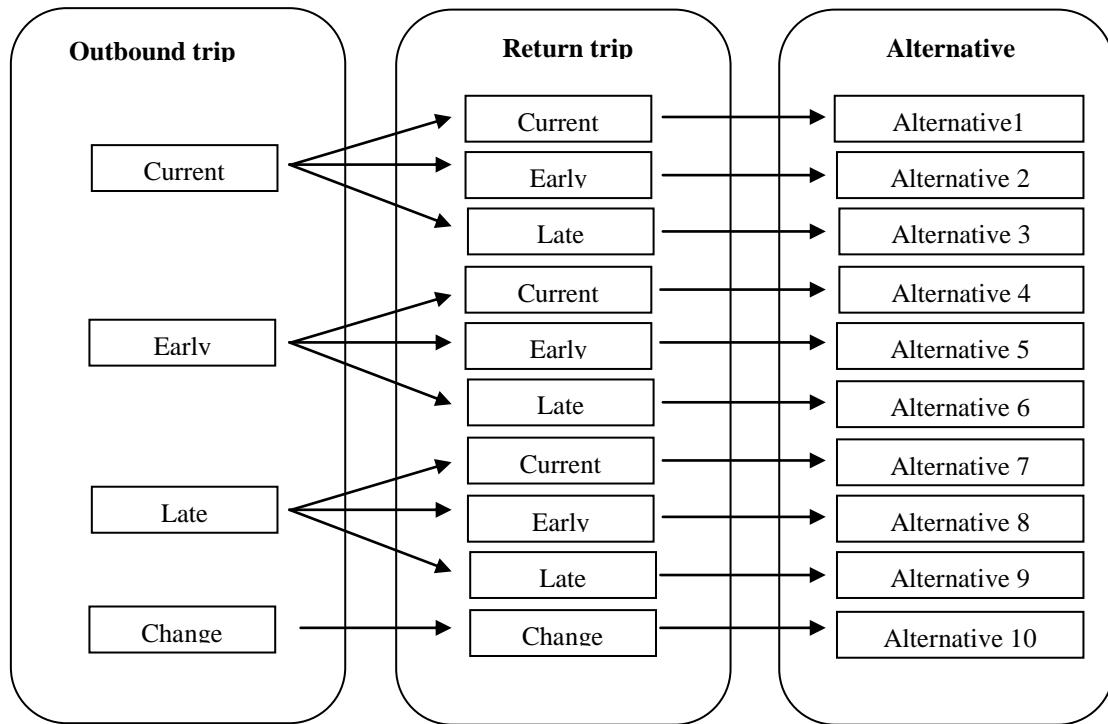
Choice Situation: 2	Option A	Option B	Option C	Alternative mode
Departure time to work	7:21	8:11	9:06	8:15
Usual travel time to work (Usual arrival time to work)	44 (8:05)	54 (9:05)	49 (9:55)	40 (8:55)
Travel time to work once a week (Usual arrival time to work)	49 (8:10)	62 (9:13)	56 (10:02)	48 (9:03)
Comfort	Crowded vehicle, sitting	Crowded vehicle, standing, usually have to wait next for boarding	Crowded vehicle, sitting	
Additional cost (\$)	\$ 527	\$ 561	\$ 493	\$ 1,500
¿Which option would you choose?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Departure time from work	17:00	18:00	18:45	18:10
Usual travel time at destination after work (Usual arrival time at destination after work)	40 (17:40)	56 (18:56)	49 (19:34)	40 (18:50)
Travel time at destination after work once a week (Usual arrival time at destination after work)	55 (17:55)	65 (19:05)	54 (19:39)	51 (19:01)
Comfort	Crowded vehicle, sitting	Crowded vehicle, standing	Half crowded vehicle, standing	
Additional cost (\$)	\$ 434	\$ 527	\$ 561	\$ 1,200
¿Which option would you choose?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


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**FIGURE 1. Illustrative SP choice screens for both questionnaires**  
(original was in Spanish and cost were in Chilean pesos. Ch\$ 500 = 1 US\$)





**FIGURE 2. Available alternatives in tour models**

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815**TABLE 1. Attribute levels and priors for stage 2 generic design**

Attribute	Levels					Prior	
	1	2	3	4	5	Min	Max
Travel time change (fixed across alternatives)	1	1.05	1.1	1.15	1.2	-7	-0.7
Current - Departure time change	-10	-5	0	5	10	-	-
Earlier - Departure time change	-30	-45	-60	-75	-90	0.01	0.24
Later - Departure time change	30	45	60	75	90	-0.36	-0.015
Car travel time variability	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	-9	-0.3
Public transport travel time variability	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.35	-9	-0.3
Cost (fixed across alternatives)	0.7	0.85	1	1.15	1.3	-0.3	-0.017
Comfort	0.7	0.85	1	1.1	1.2	-1.5	-0.85

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**TABLE 2. Travel time variation levels for retiming alternatives and cost base values (in Chilean pesos)**

**Travel time variation levels**

Alt.	Levels	Trip duration < 50 min					Trip duration > 50 min				
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Earlier	Period1	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95	1	0.9	0.92	0.94	0.96	0.98
	Period2	0.7	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95	1
	Period3	0.55	0.6	0.65	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95
	Period4	1.02	1.04	1.06	1.08	1.1	1.02	1.04	1.06	1.08	1.1
	Period5	1	1.05	1.1	1.15	1.2	1	1.05	1.1	1.15	1.2
Later	Period1	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95	1	0.9	0.92	0.94	0.96	0.98
	Period2	0.7	0.75	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95	1
	Period3	0.55	0.6	0.65	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.8	0.85	0.9	0.95
	Period4	1.05	1.1	1.15	1.2	1.25	1.02	1.04	1.06	1.08	1.1
	Period5	1.25	1.3	1.35	1.4	1.45	1	1.05	1.1	1.15	1.2

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**Cost base values (in Chilean pesos)**

Time period	-6:30	6:30-7:00	7:00-7:30	7:30-8:00	8:00-8:30	8:30-9:00	9:00-9:30	9:30-10:00	10:00-10:30	10:30-
Private	\$500	\$800	\$1000	\$1200	\$1500	\$1500	\$1200	\$1000	\$800	\$500
Public	\$510	\$560	\$620	\$660	\$660	\$620	\$580	\$560	\$540	\$510

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**TABLE 3. Priors used in final optimization process**

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Travel time</b>	<b>SDE</b>	<b>SDL</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Comfort</b>
Max	-0.012	-0.0072	-0.0144	-0.00017	-0.00038
Min	-0.12	-0.24	-0.36	-0.003	-0.00666

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**TABLE 4. Estimation results for trip, tour and joint trip-tour models**

	Trip model		Tour model		Joint model	
	Estimate	t-stat	Estimate	t-stat	Estimate	t-stat
<b>Alternative specific constant</b>						
Change mode	-1.11	-8.91	-0.625	-4.3	-0.628	-5.21
Current departure time – trip	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current departure time - outbound	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current departure time – return	-	-	-	-	-	-
Early departure time - trip	-0.719	-3.39	-	-	-0.345	-2.78
Early departure time – outbound	-	-	-0.574	-2.77	-0.684	-3.76
Early departure time – return	-	-	-0.421	-2.64	-0.486	-3.49
Late departure time – trip	-0.917	-4.41	-	-	-0.512	-3.69
Late departure time – outbound	-	-	-1.73	-7.29	-1.76	-8.28
Late departure time – return	-	-	-1.21	-6.94	-1.16	-7.23
Cost ( $\beta_C$ )	-0.0006	-3.5	-0.0002	-2.17	-0.0003	-2.87
Schedule delay early in minutes ( $\beta_{SDE}$ )	-0.0175	-4.78	-0.014	-3.48	-0.011	-4.04
Schedule delay late in minutes ( $\beta_{SDL}$ )	-0.0233	-6.25	-0.0134	-2.82	-0.0133	-4.48
Travel time ( $\beta_{TT}$ )	-0.0157	-1.95	-0.0063	-1.21	-0.0076	-1.75
Difference in travel times ( $\beta_{\text{time\_diff}}$ )	-1.33	-2.95	-0.819	-3.25	-0.798	-4.03
Decreased work time penalty ( $\beta_{PTD}$ )	-	-	-0.0126	-4.28	-0.0121	-4.49
Increased work time penalty ( $\beta_{PTI}$ )	-	-	-0.0054	-2.53	-0.0064	-3.59
Scale factor - over trip data	-	-	-	-	1.76	8.28
<b>Willingness to pay (Ch\$/min)</b>						
VOT	25.78		28.81		27.83	
SDE	28.74		63.93		40.44	
SDL	38.26		61.19		48.90	
Time-diff (Extra time experienced once a week)	45.08		37.90		39.89	
PTD	-		57.53		44.49	
PTI	-		24.84		23.57	
<b>Trade-off ratios versus travel time coefficient</b>						
SDE	1.11		2.22		1.45	
SDL	1.48		2.12		1.76	
Time-diff (Extra time experienced once a week)	1.75		1.32		1.43	
PTD	-		2.00		1.60	
PTI	-		0.86		0.85	
Number of estimated parameters	8		12		15	
Number of observations	1370		2246		3616	
Number of individuals	274		274		274	
Final log-likelihood	-1450.46		-4089.17		-5543.58	
Log-likelihood ratio test ( $\alpha=0.05$ , $df=5$ )					7.9 ( $\chi^2_{0.05;5}=11.07$ )	

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