

# Long-Term Perception for Service Robots

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Oscar M. Mozos, Tom Duckett,  
Johan Ekekrantz, Marc Hanheide

LCAS, University of Lincoln, UK  
CAS, KTH, Sweden

# Lincoln Centre for Autonomous Systems Research (L-CAS)

- [Prof Tom Duckett](#)
- [Prof Shigang Yue](#)
- [Dr Grzegorz Cielniak](#)
- [Dr Nicola Bellotto](#)
- [Dr Marc Hanheide](#)
- [Dr Oscar Martinez Mozos](#)
- Currently 4 postdocs, 12 research students and 5 visiting academics
- (research centre in the School of Computer Science, now based at Witham Wharf next to Lincolnshire Echo)

# Lincoln Centre for Autonomous Systems Research (L-CAS)

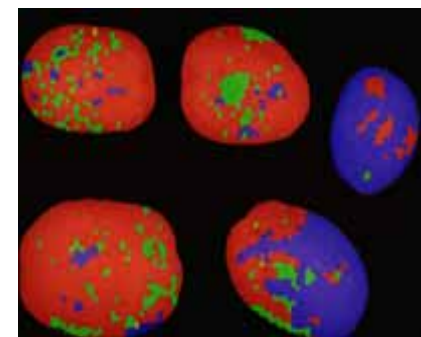
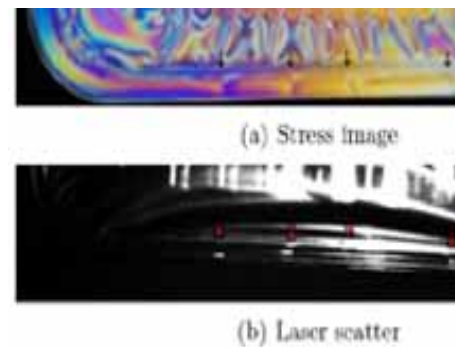
- Human-Centred Robotics
  - Long-term Adaptation & Learning
  - Human-Robot Interaction & Collaboration
  - Mapping & Navigation



[FP7 IP project](#)  
[STRANDS](#) develops intelligent mobile robots that are able to run for months in dynamic human environments, learning from their long-term experience

# Lincoln Centre for Autonomous Systems Research (L-CAS)

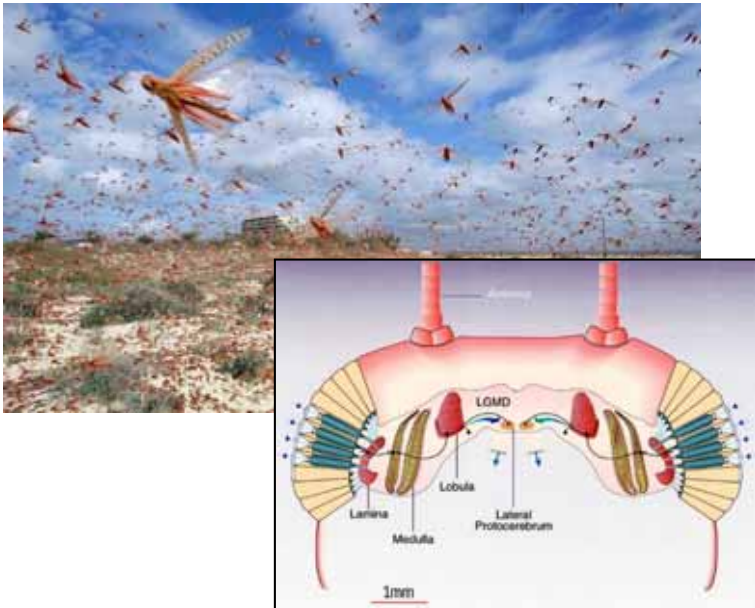
- Agri-Food Technology
  - Agricultural Robotics
    - Sensing and
    - control
  - Food Quality Inspection
    - Raw,
    - processed, and
    - packaged products



3 current TSB-funded projects

# Lincoln Centre for Autonomous Systems Research (L-CAS)

- Bio-inspired Embedded Systems
  - Bio-inspired Vision Systems
  - Image Processing
  - VLSI Realisation



HAZCEPT, toward zero road accident – bio-inspired hazed perception (FP7)



EYE2E, building visual brain for human machine interaction (FP7)



LIVCODE, life-like vision system for collision detection (FP7)

# Log-Term Perception for Service Robots

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[Krajnik et al: Spectral Analysis for Long-Term Robotic Mapping, ICRA 2014]

# Temporal domain model: example

Continuous observation of an office door (open/closed)

0 spatial and 1 temporal dimension (0+1D)

State  $s(t)$ :

- open/closed

Timescale:

- one week

Measurements:

- 30Hz x 7 days
- $\approx 18\,000\,000$



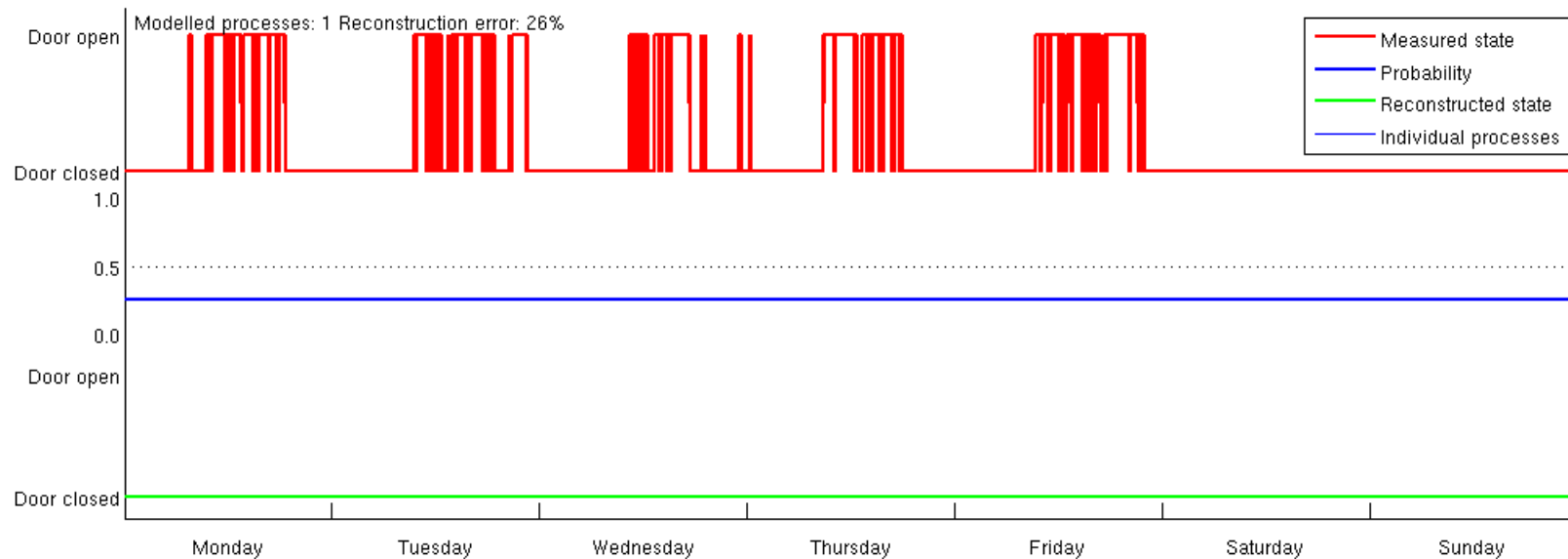
# Temporal domain model: example

Continuous observation of an office door (open/closed)

Static model:  $\mathbf{p(t)} = P(s(t)=\text{'open'}) = 0.26$  for all  $t$

$\mathbf{s(t)=\text{'open'}}$  iff  $\mathbf{p(t)} > 0.5 \rightarrow \mathbf{s(t) = \text{'closed'}}$  for all  $t$

$\mathbf{s(t)}$  does not match the observations in 26% cases



# Temporal domain modelling

- Classical models neglect the temporal domain: uncertainty of state  $\mathbf{s}$  is modelled by its probability  $\mathbf{p}$
- Including temporal aspect means that uncertainty of  $\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{t})$  is modelled by probability  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{t})$
- However, storing all observed  $\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{t})$ ,  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{t})$  is unfeasible
- **Main idea:** in days-to-months scales,  $\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{t})$ ,  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{t})$  are quasi-periodic represent  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{t})$  as superposition of harmonic functions

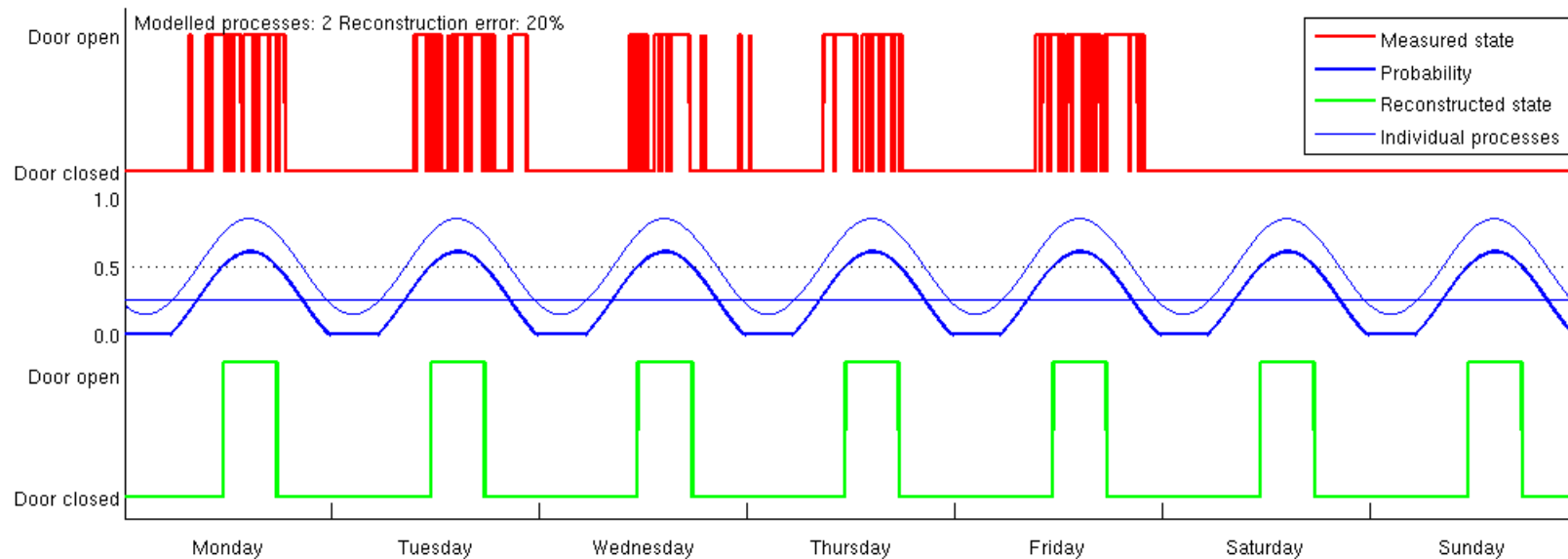
# Temporal domain model: example

Continuous observation of an office door (open/closed)

Dynamic model with one periodic process:

$p(t) = P(s(t)=\text{'open'})$  is a harmonic function

$s(t)$  does not match the observations in 20% cases



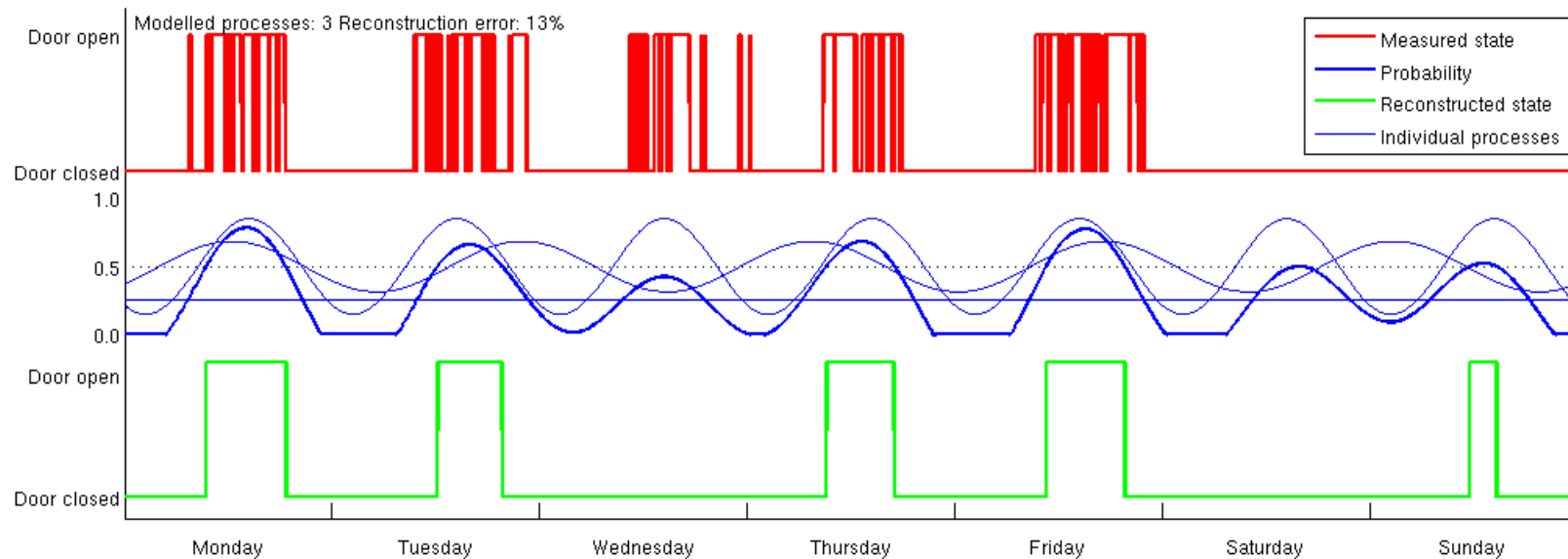
# Temporal domain model: example

Continuous observation of an office door (open/closed)

Dynamic model with two periodic processes:

$p(t)$  is a superposition of harmonic functions

$s(t)$  does not match the observations in 13% cases



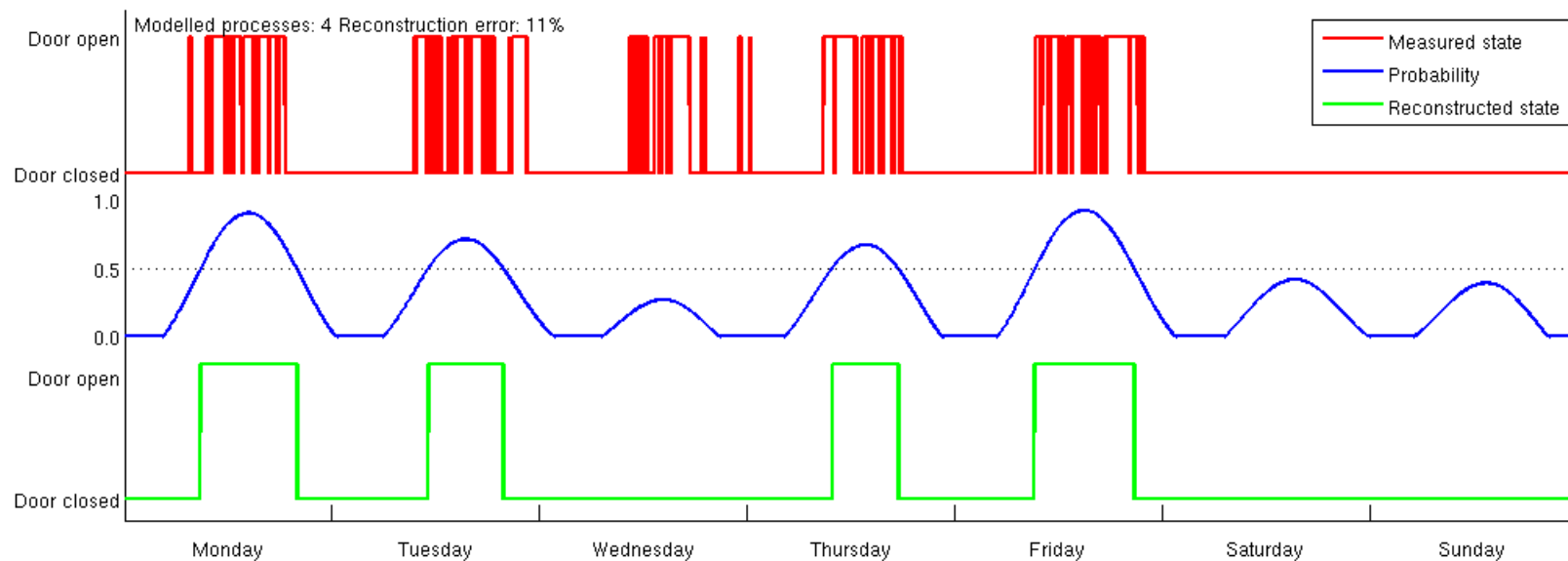
# Temporal domain model: example

Continuous observation of an office door (open/closed)

Dynamic model with  $n$  periodic processes:

$p(t)$  is a superposition of  $n$  harmonic functions

$s(t)$  does not match the observations in 5-13% cases



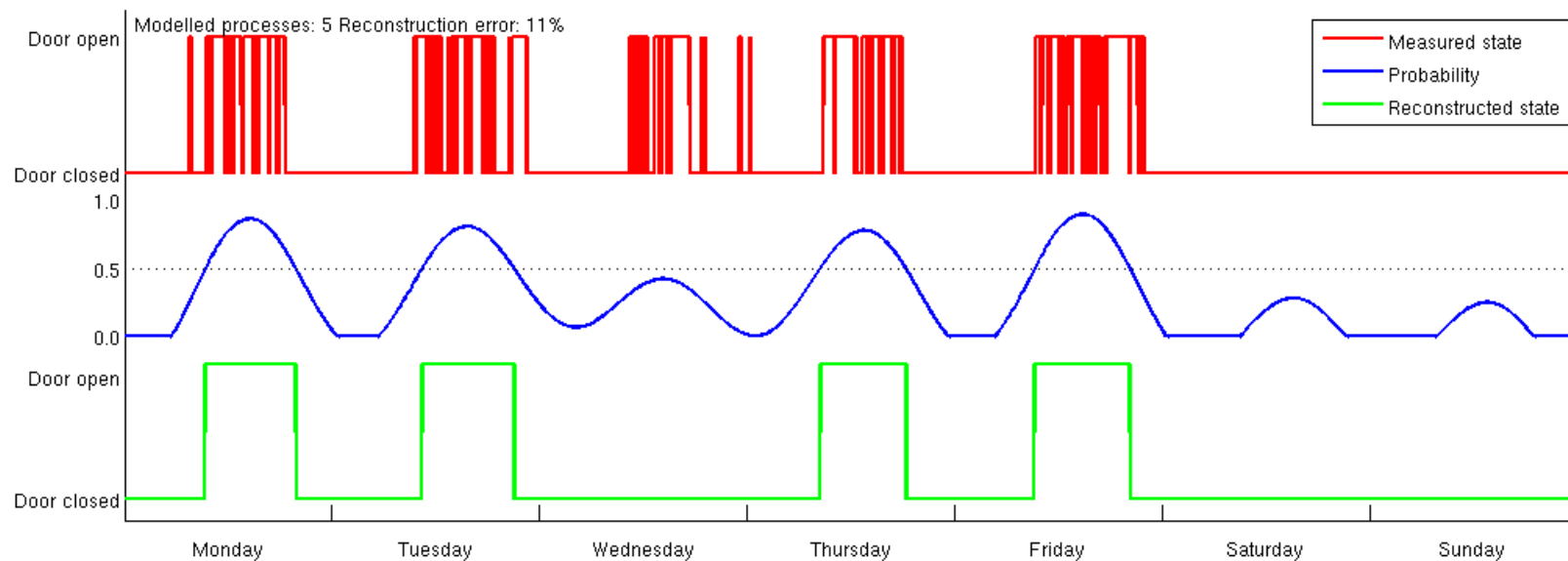
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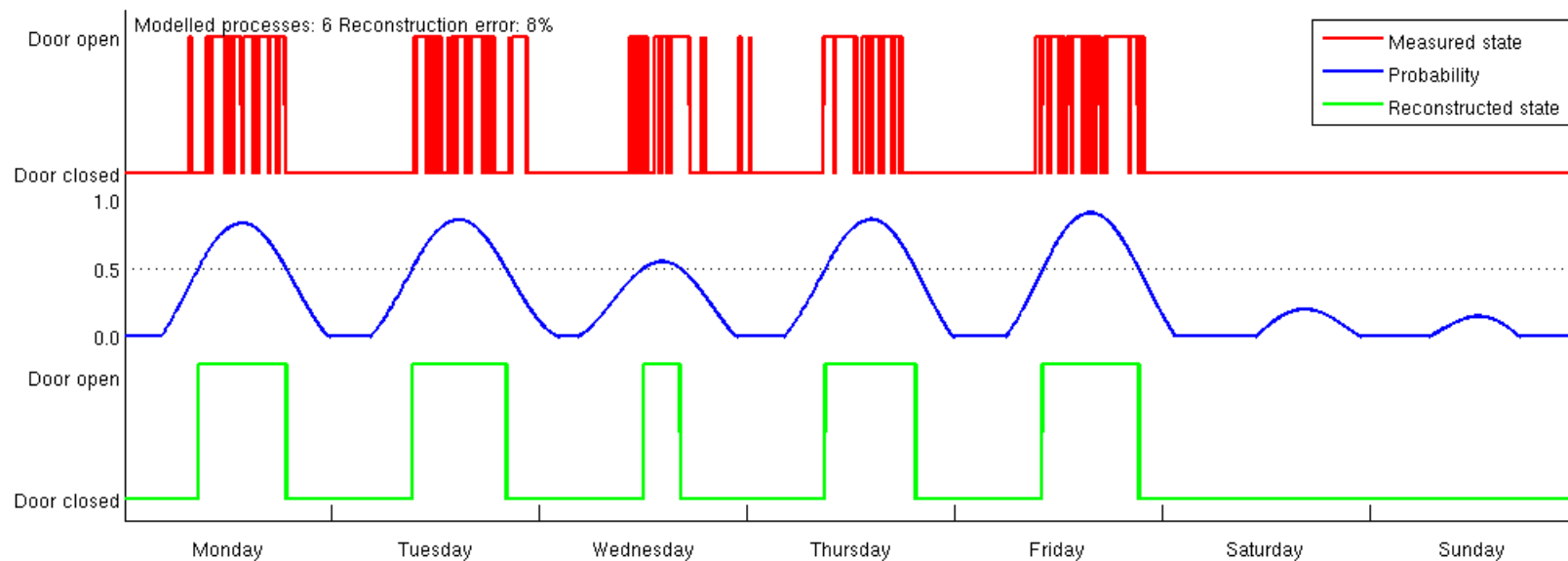
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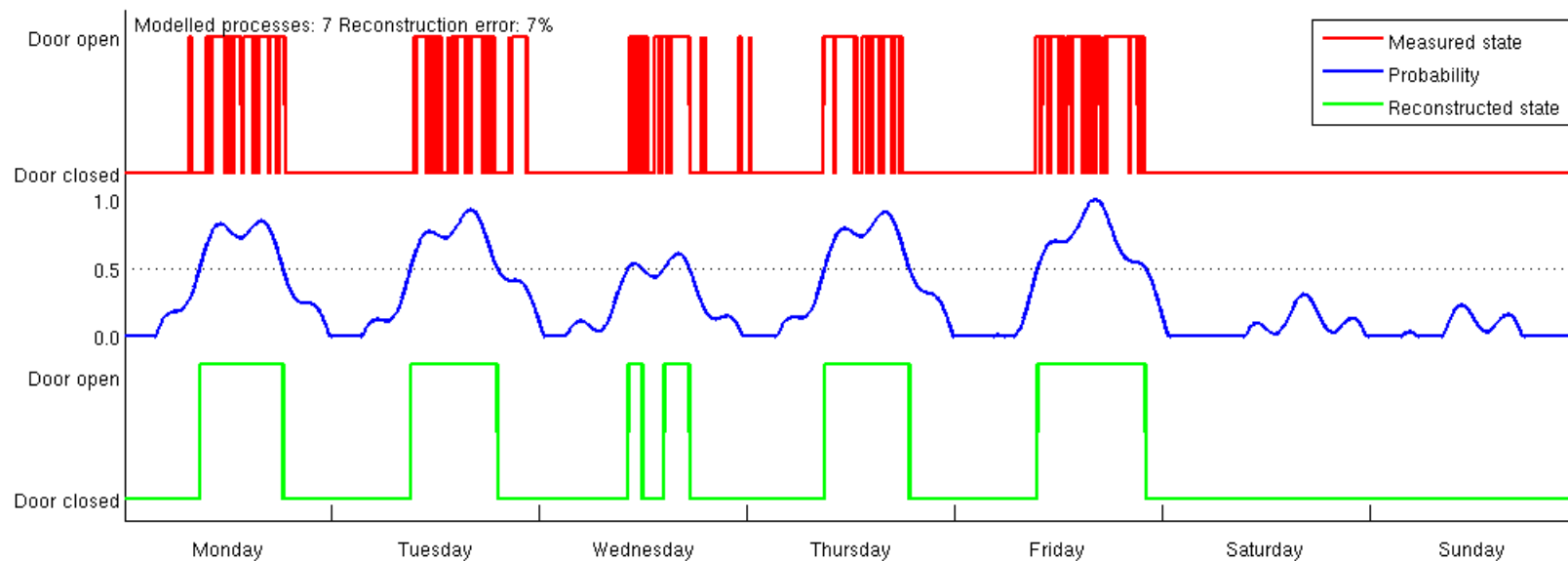
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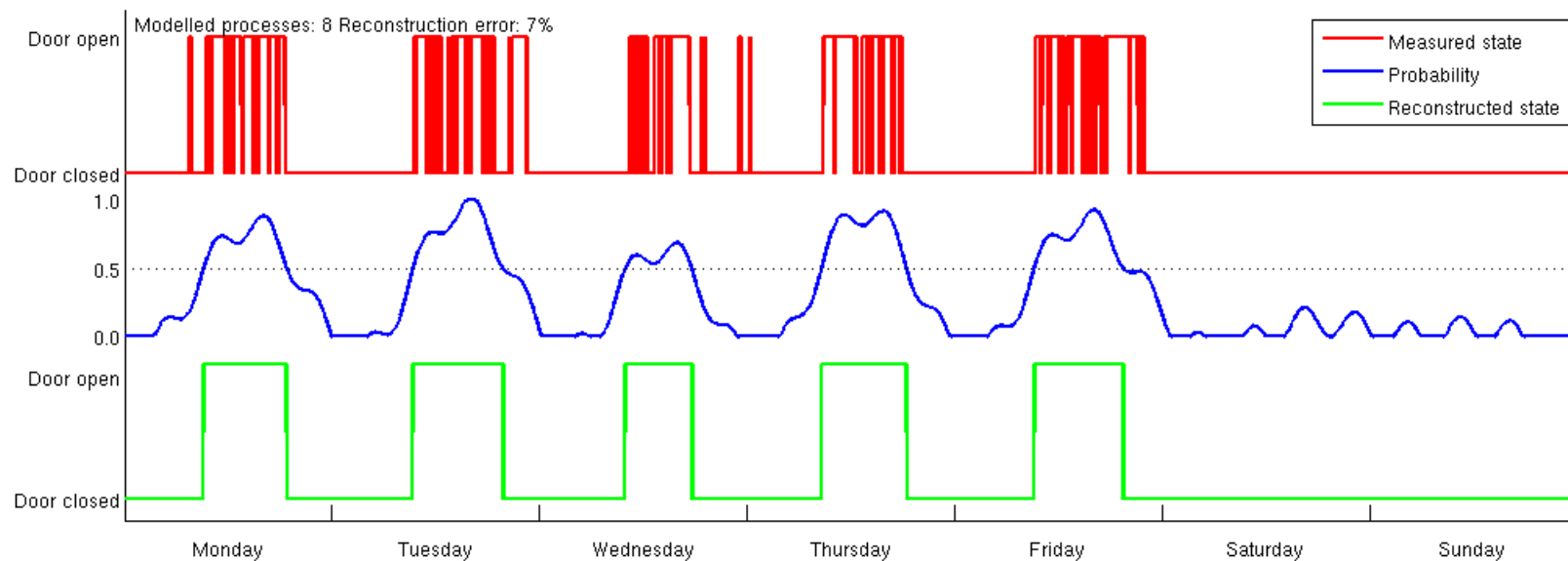
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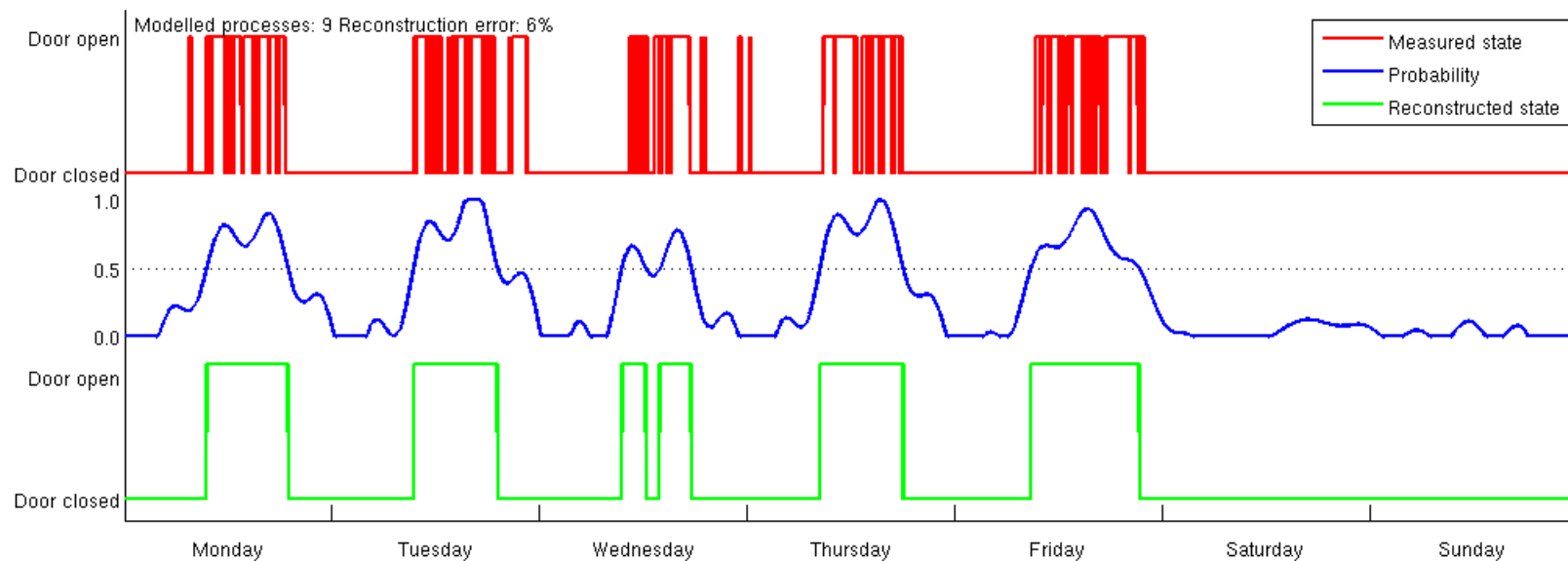
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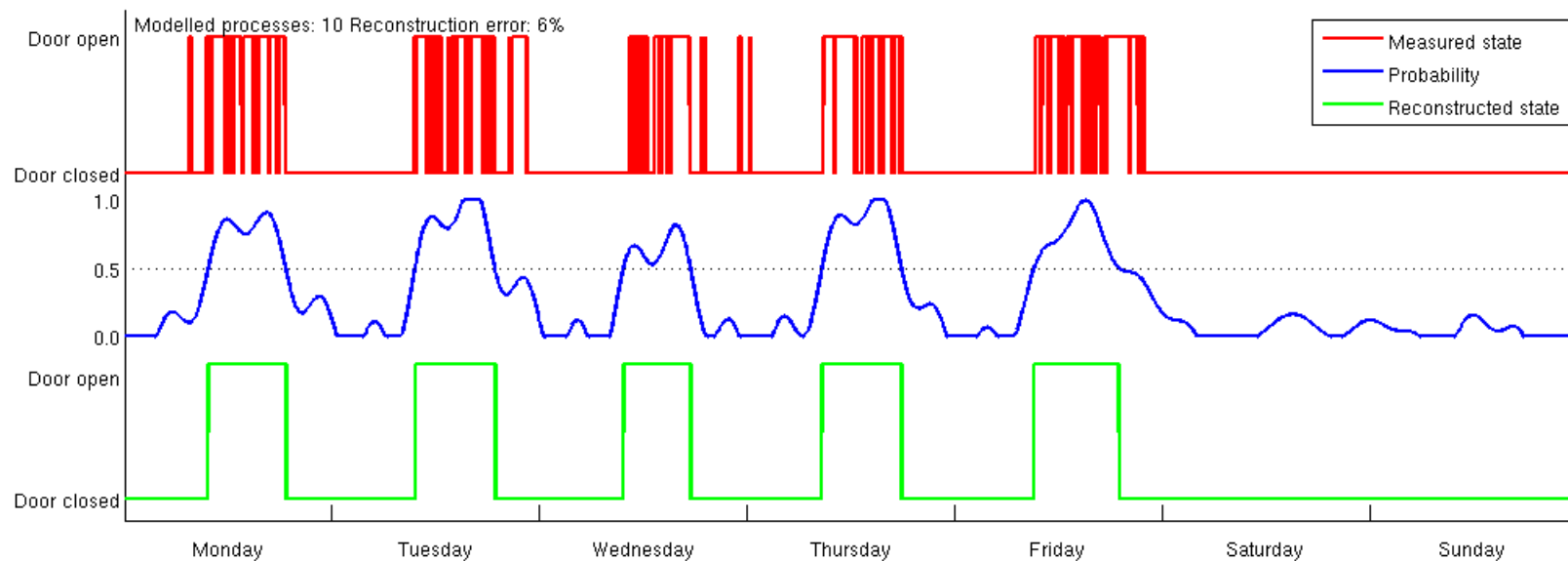
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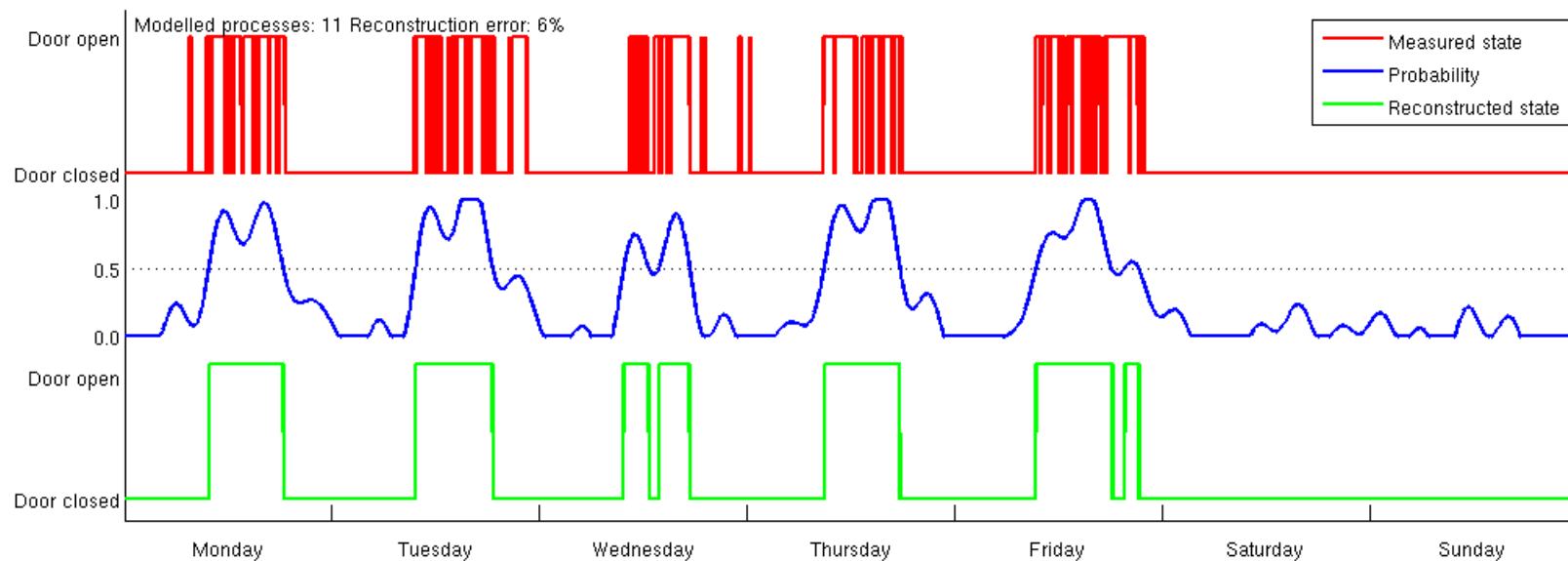
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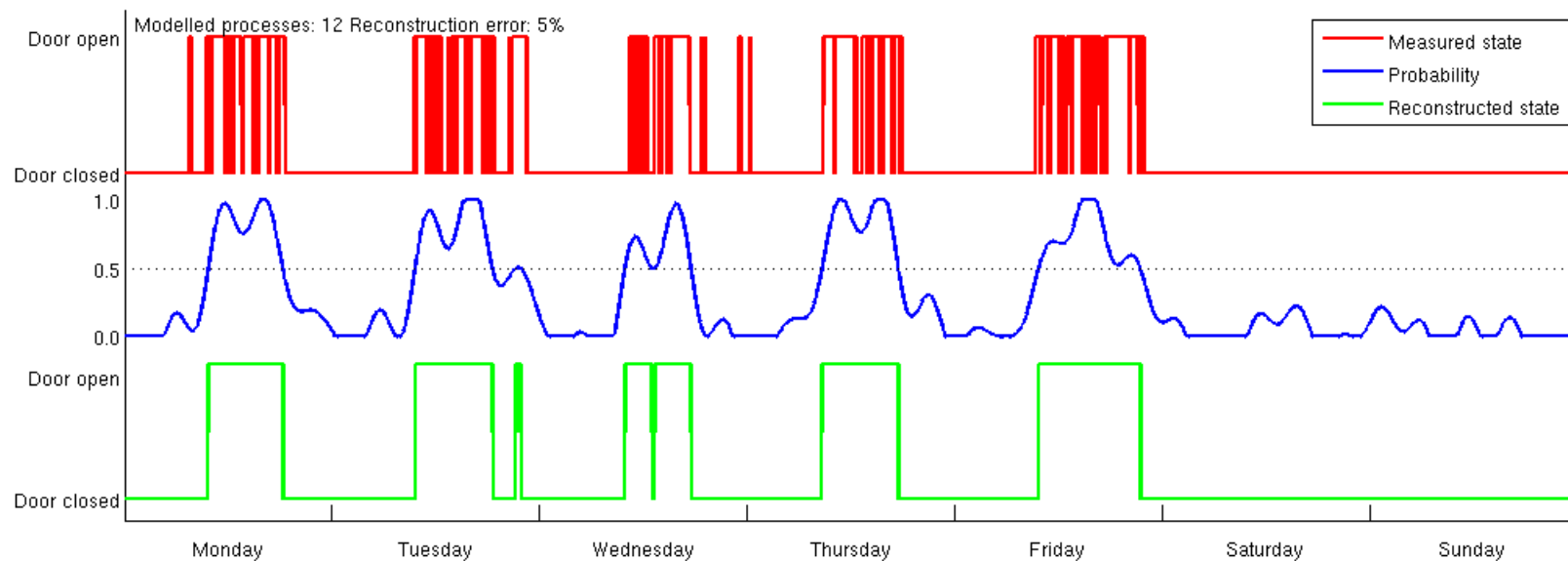
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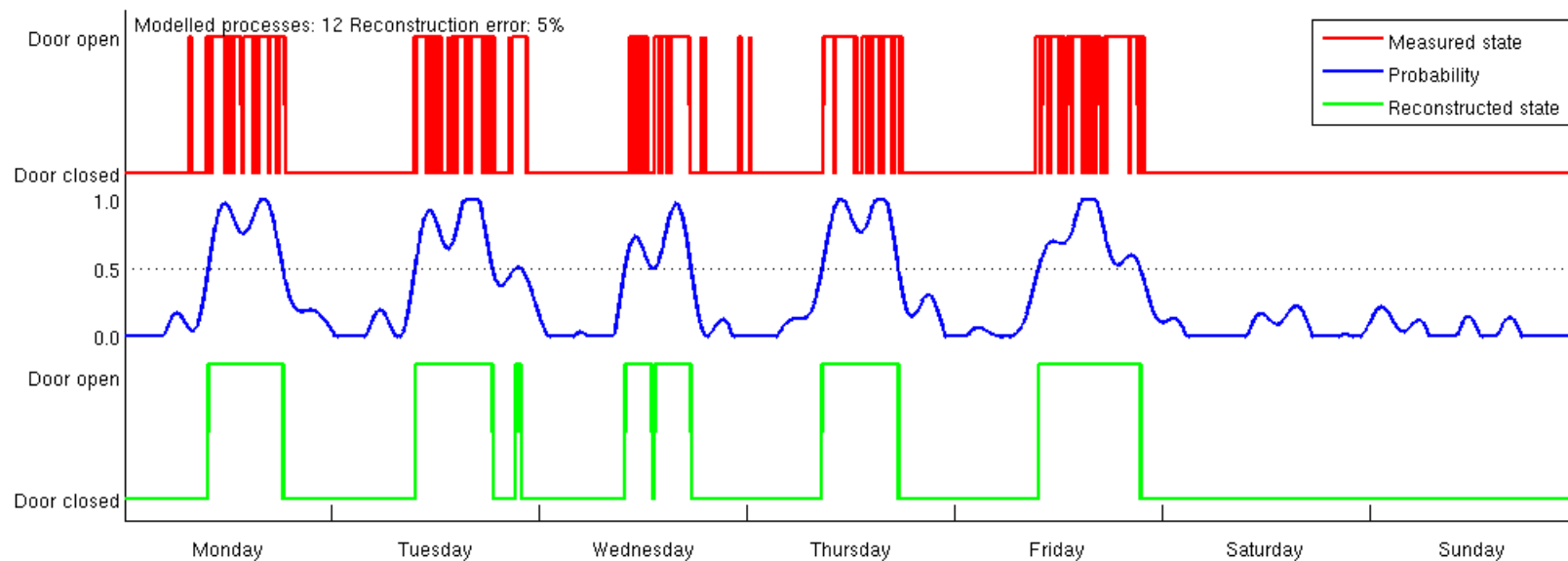
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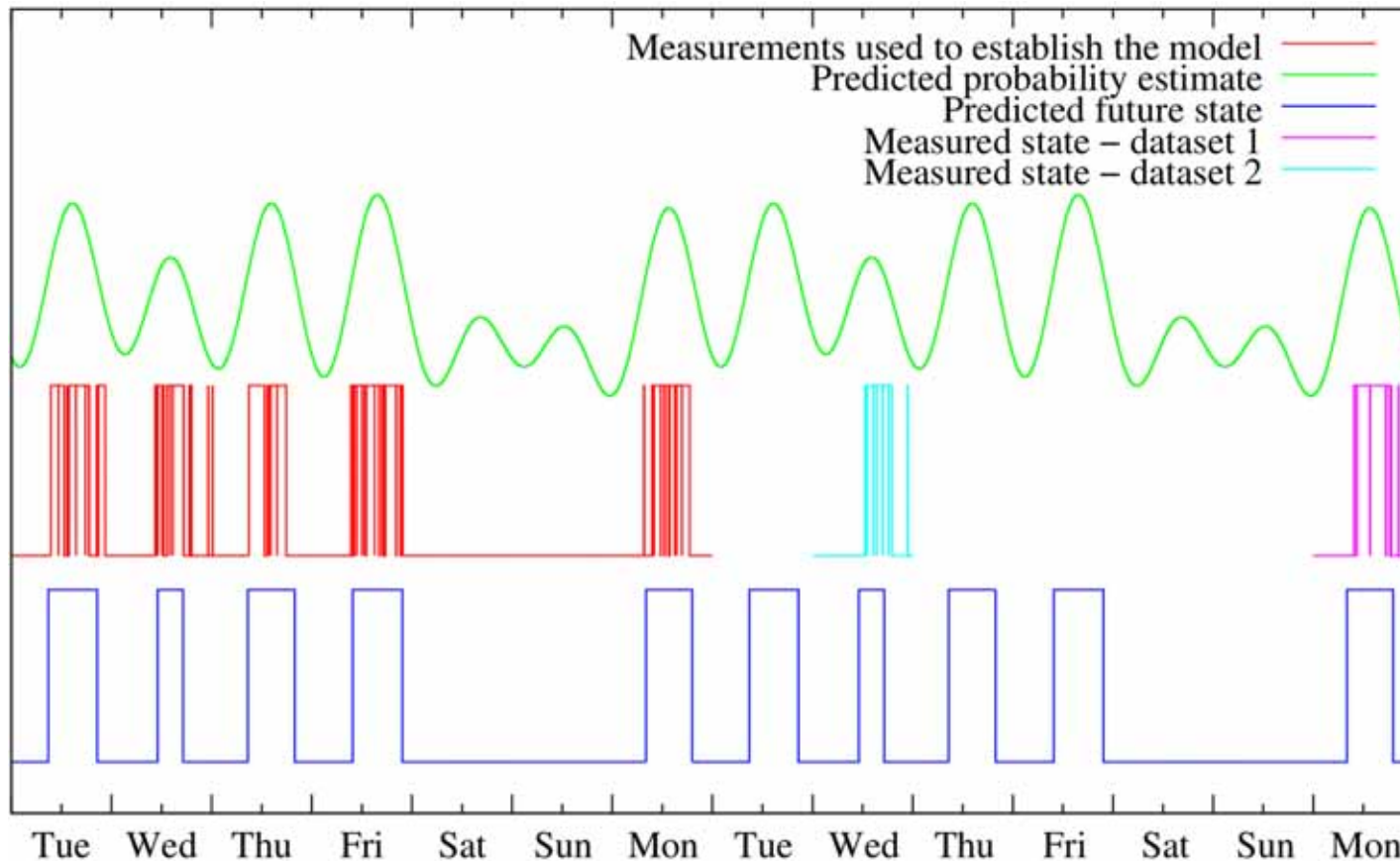
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# Temporal domain model: example

Predict two days of the following week and compare with the reality ( 12% and 6% error)



# **FREquency Map ENhancement**

- Let the world model be a set of (binary) states, e.g. occupancy grid
- Assume, that the states are influenced by a set of periodic (yet unknown) processes
- Use frequency transforms such as FFT to identify these processes

# **FREquency Map ENhancement**

Example of open door detection:

- One week continuous measurement -> 18 million values
- The spectral model with 12 processes achieves 5% error
- 18 million values represented by 36 real numbers -> compression rate aprox. 1:500 000
- Error of prediction 12% and 5%

# 3D occupancy grids

Occupancy grid dynamics at the lab entrance

States  $s(t)$ :

- 3D occ. grid  
 $\approx 25^3$  cells

Timescale:

- one week

Measurements:

- 7 days  $\times$  5 min  
 $\approx 2000 \times 25^3$



# 3D occupancy grids

Occupancy grid dynamics at the lab entrance

Red:

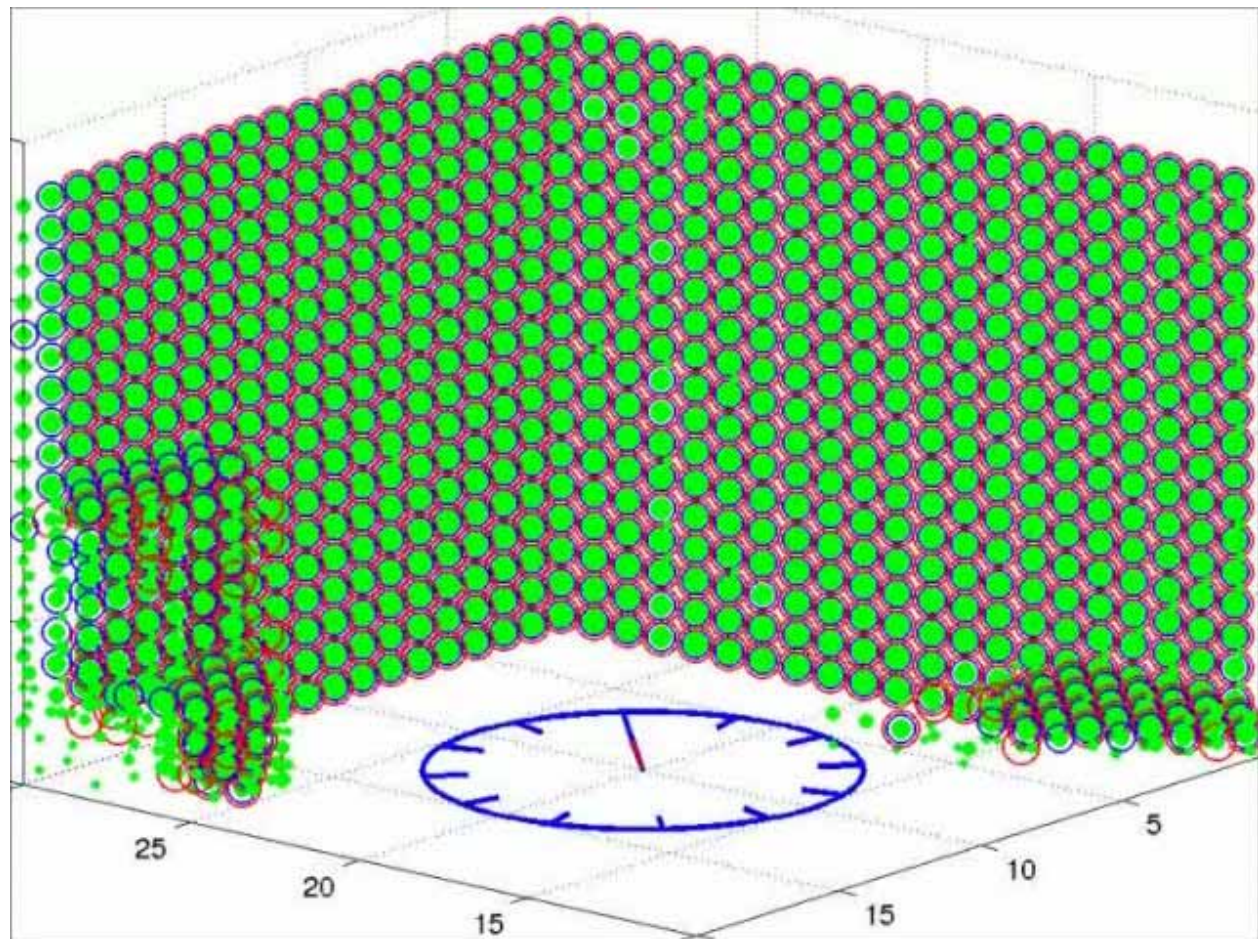
cell occupied  
(real)

Green:

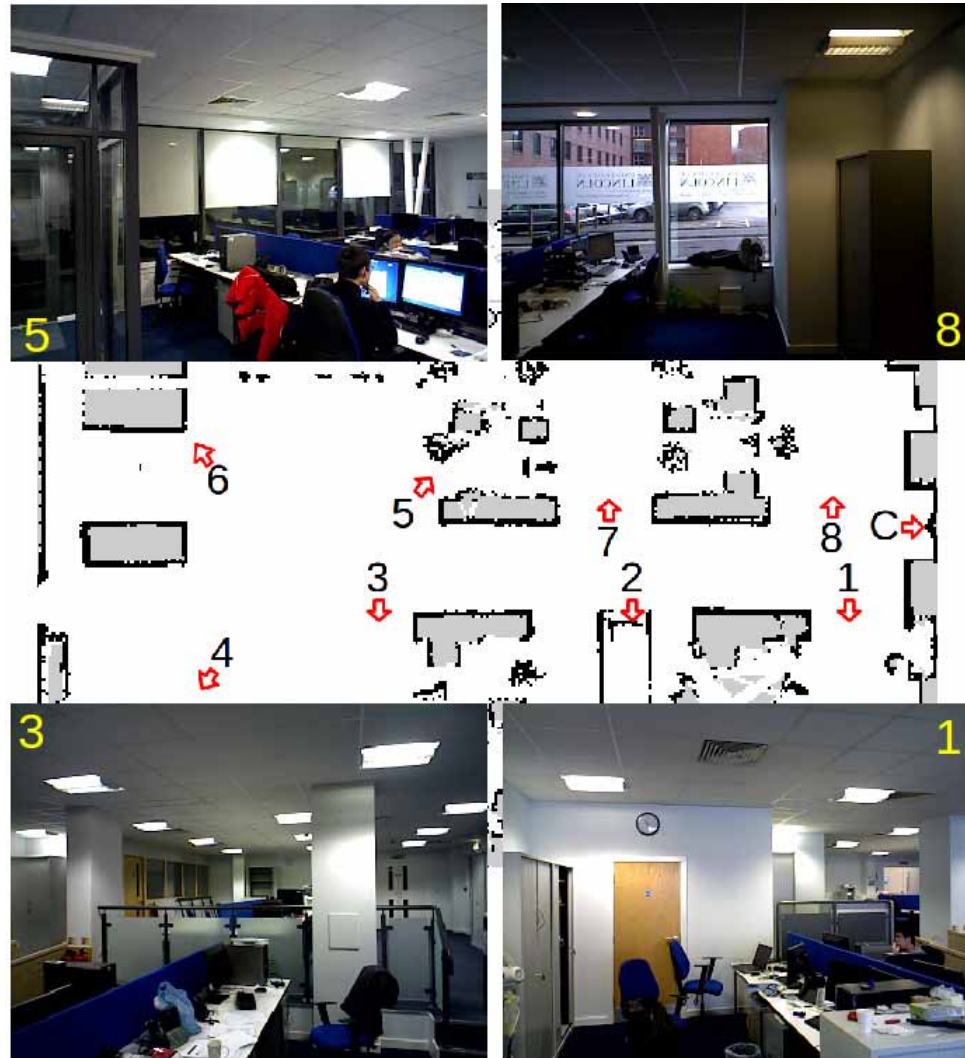
probability  $p(t)$

Blue:

cell occupied  
(estimate)



# Visual Topological localization



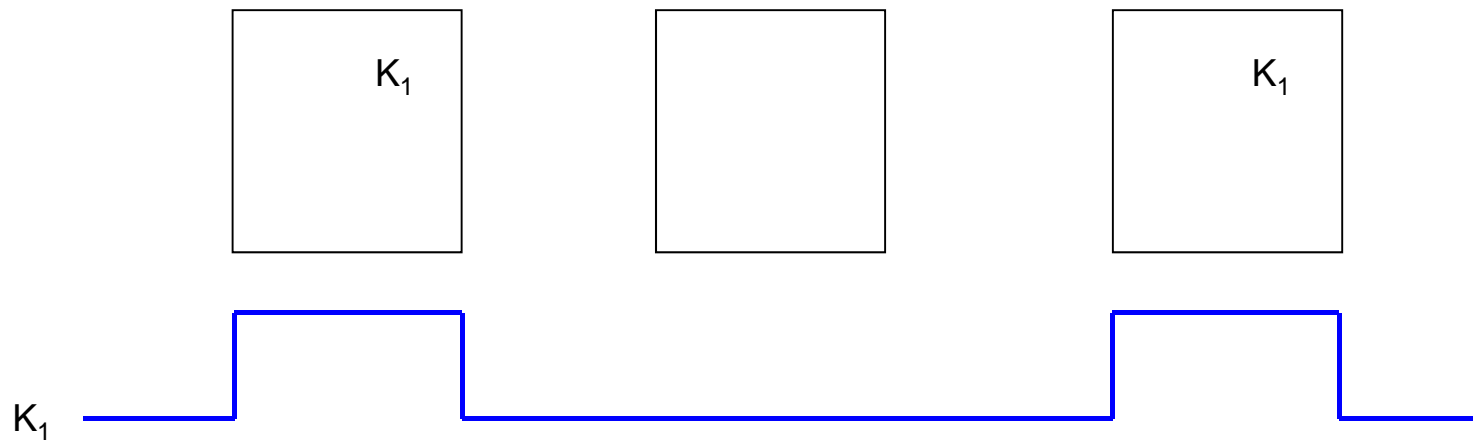
# Visual Topological localization



# Visual Topological localization

How to binarize visual observations:

- Images represented by key points + key descriptors
- Presence and absence of the same key descriptor in the (approx.) same positions is treated as a binary process.



# Visual Topological localization

Predict visual appearance of the environment and use the predicted model for topological localization

- A robot scans eight locations every ten minutes for one week, extract visual features
- Visibility of each feature modelled by FREMEN
- Then, a robot has to identify a location it is placed in
- Training set gathered on November 2013
- Testing sets December 2013 and February 2014
- Localization error halved compared to static models

# Localization Results

Localization error for 8 different locations:

Model type	Model order	Image features	
		Dec	Feb
statical	-	35%	45%
spectral	1	25%	26%
spectral	2	22%	27%
spectral	3	18%	24%
spectral	4	17%	29%

# Conclusion

- Long-term perception takes into account the dynamics of the environment.
- We represent state changes using periodic functions, i.e. Fourier transform.
- Our FREMEN representation keeps dynamics while achieving high compression rates.
- FREMEN is suitable for different mobile robotic tasks, e.g. topological localization.

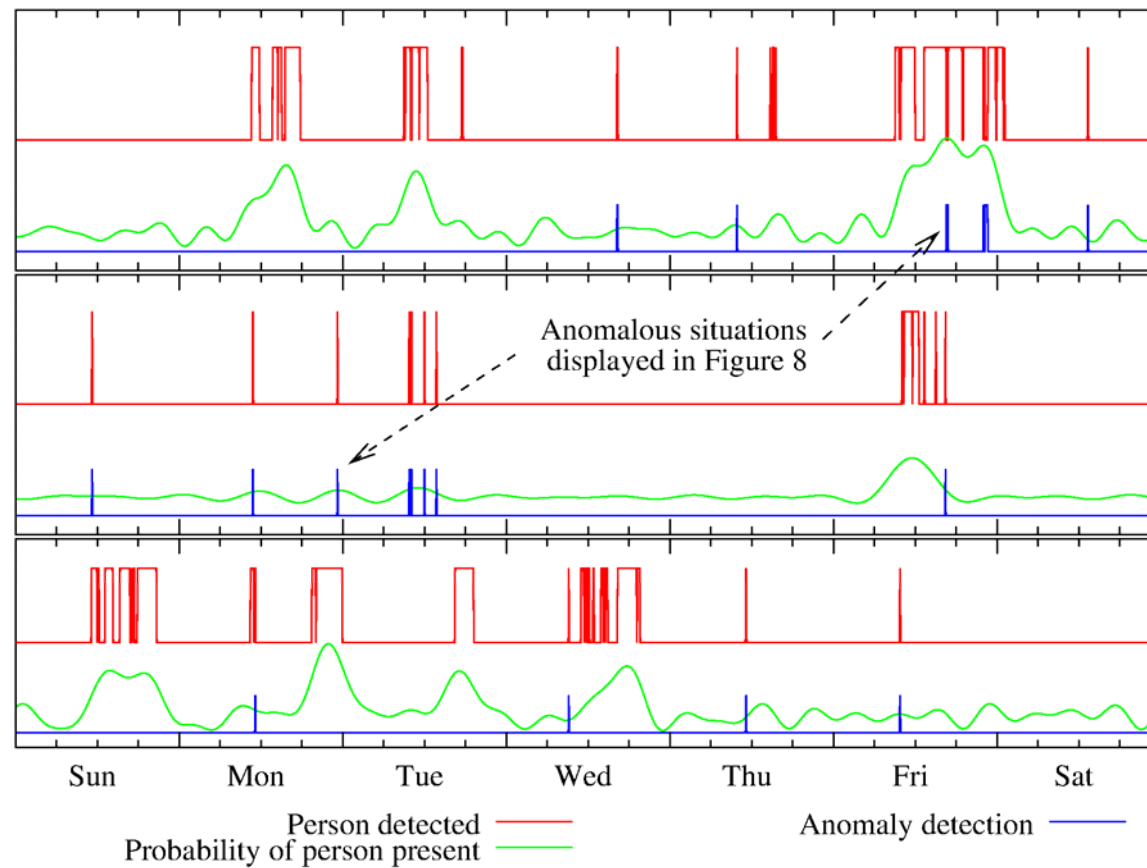
Thank you very much for your  
attention.

Questions?

# Example 4: Anomaly detection

- the robot uses it's 3D camera to detect people at the designated locations
- the FREMEN is run over the detection results and dynamic models of people presence at individual places are obtained
- anomaly detected if model-based prediction at 95% confidence level does not match the observation

# Example 4: Anomaly detection



# Example 1: 3D occupancy grids

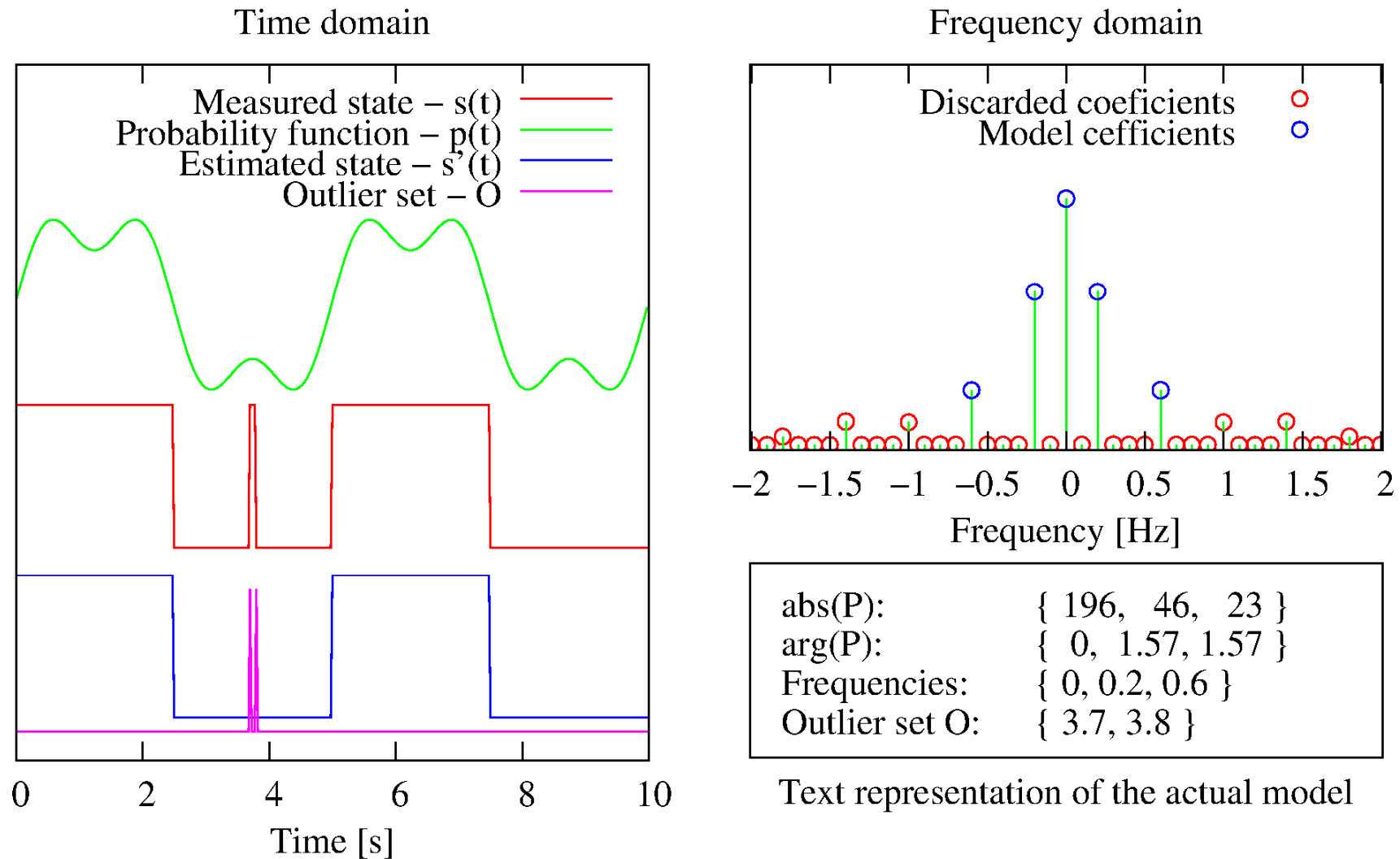
A robot builds 3D occupancy grids, calculates spectral model of occupancy of each cell

**University of Lincoln  
School of Computer Science**

**Linda  
Patrolling**

**STRANDS project  
(FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement No 600623**

# FREquency Map ENhancement



# Example 2: 3D occupancy grids

A mobile robot builds 3D occupancy grids

3 spatial and 1 temporal dimension (3+1D)

- let a mobile robot patrol in a lab for one week
- scanning 3 locations every 5 minutes
- build 3D occupancy grids of these locations
- run the FREMEN over individual map cells of the occupancy grids
- perform reconstruction, compare with measurements
- model error decreased from 3% (static) to 1%