



决策可视化实验室  
Computational and Visual Education Lab

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**nisci** 宁波(中国)供应链创新学院  
NINGBO CHINA INSTITUTE FOR SUPPLY CHAIN INNOVATION

**MIT** |  MIT GLOBAL SCALE NETWORK

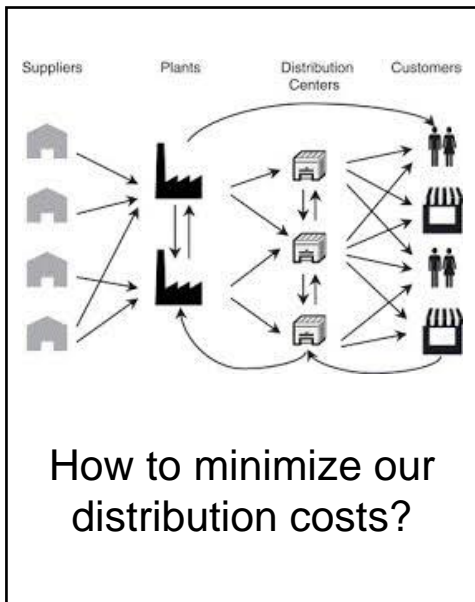
Leveraging the CAVE Lab for data-driven decision making in logistics and supply chain management

# “Traditional” academic problem solving (in SCM)

Identify a problem

Develop a model and a solution algorithm

Obtain a solution and analyze it



$$\text{minimize } Z = \sum_{v \in V} FC_v u_v + \sum_{v \in V} \sum_{t \in T} C_v^S y_{vt} + \sum_{l \in L} \sum_{k \in K} \sum_{t \in T} C_{lk}^R f_{lkt} + \sum_{l \in L} \sum_{k \in K} \sum_{t \in T} C^H f_{lkt}$$

Subject to

$$u_v D_t / T_v \geq y_{vt}, \quad \forall v \in V, t \in T$$

$$f_{kt}^R + \sum_{l \in L} f_{lkt} = Dem_{kt}, \quad \forall k \in K, t \in T$$

$$\sum_{k \in K} f_{lkt} \leq \sum_{v \in V} Q_v y_{vt}, \quad \forall v \in V, l \in L, t \in T$$

$$u_v, y_{vt} \in INT^+, \quad \forall v \in V, t \in T$$

$$f_{lkt}, f_{kt}^R \geq 0, \quad \forall k \in K, t \in T, l \in L$$

```

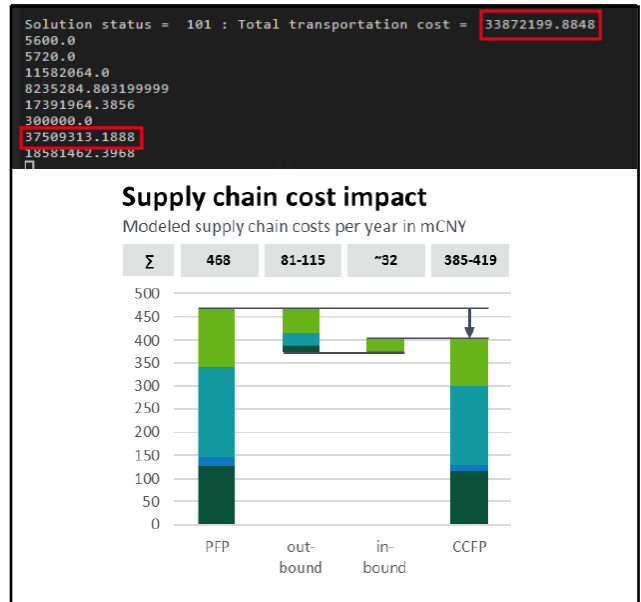
z = [None] * numProducts
for p in range(0, numProducts):
    z[p] = list(model.variables.add(types=["B"] * numPlants))
# Create objective function
model.objective.set_sense(model.objective.sense.minimize)

# Create constraint: Charter enough ships
for t in range(0, numPeriods):
    for v in range(0, numVessels):
        model.linear_constraints.add(
            lin_expr=[cplex.SparsePair(ind=[u[v]] + [y[v][t]], val=[int(30
            senses=["G"],
            rhs=[0.0])

# Create constraint: Meet customer demand in each period
for c in range(0, numCustomers):
    for p in range(0, numProducts):
        for t in range(0, numPeriods):
            model.linear_constraints.add(
                lin_expr=[cplex.SparsePair(ind=[x_d[c][p][a][t] for a in p
                senses=["E"],
                rhs=[D[c][p][t])

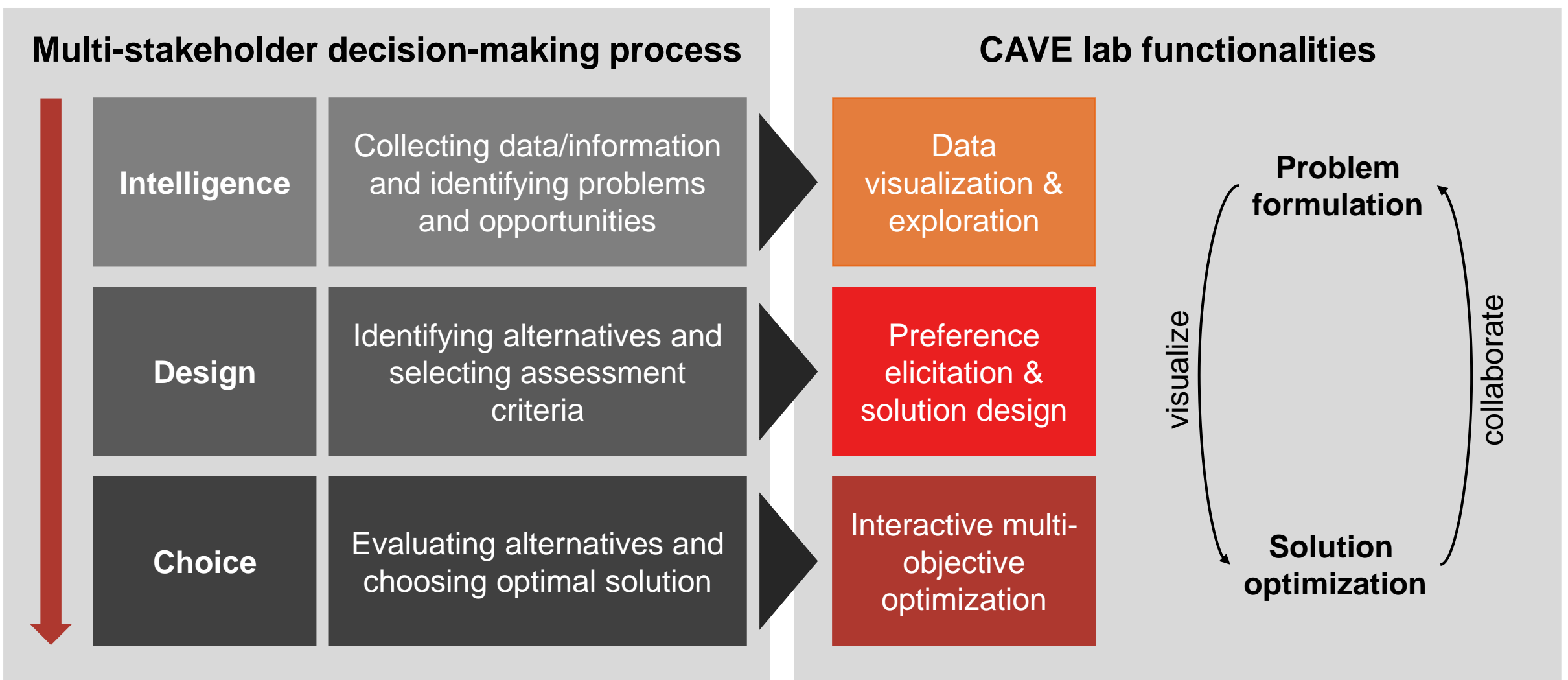
# Create constraint: Ensure that vessel capacity is not exceeded
for l in range(0, numLegs):
    for t in range(0, numPeriods):

```



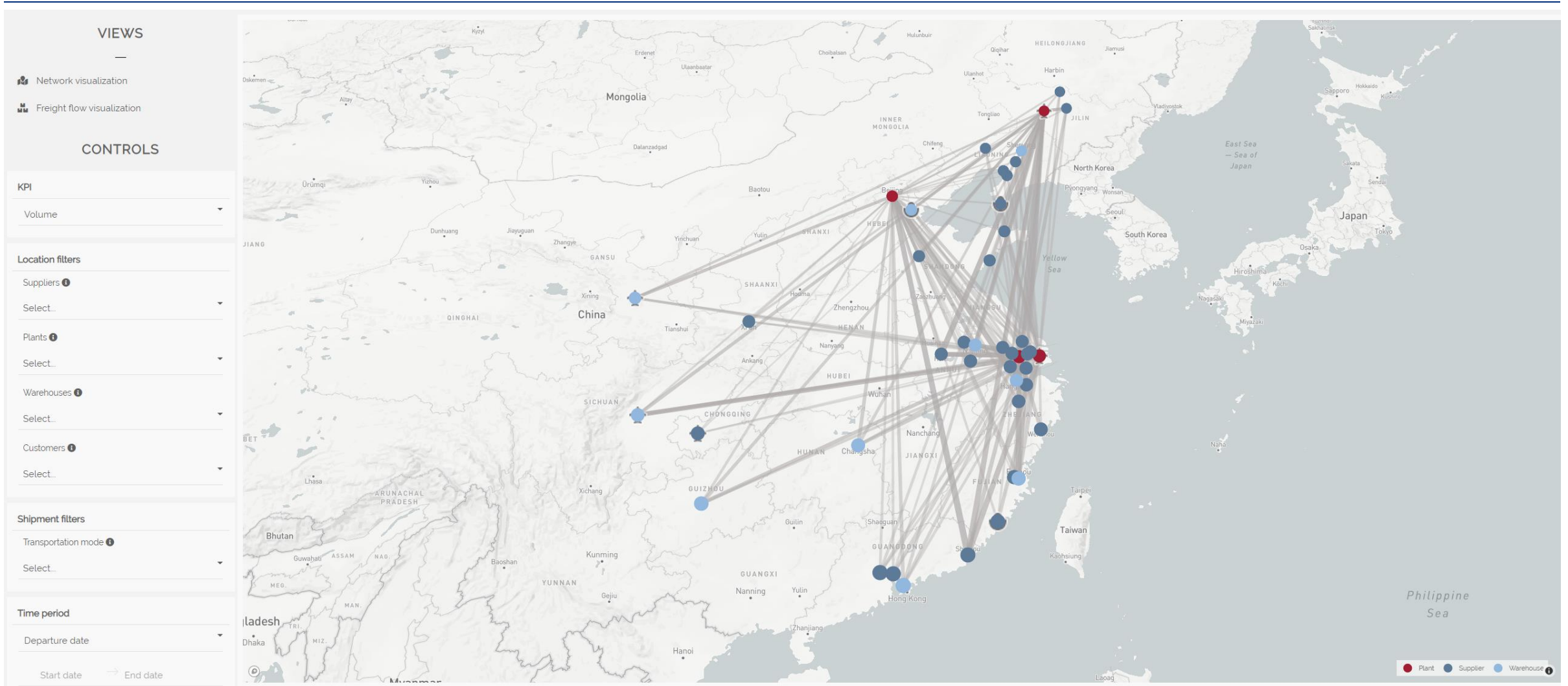
Academic research (and problem solving) – which often focuses on model development and algorithm design – can be hard to interpret.

# Smarter supply chain design and planning

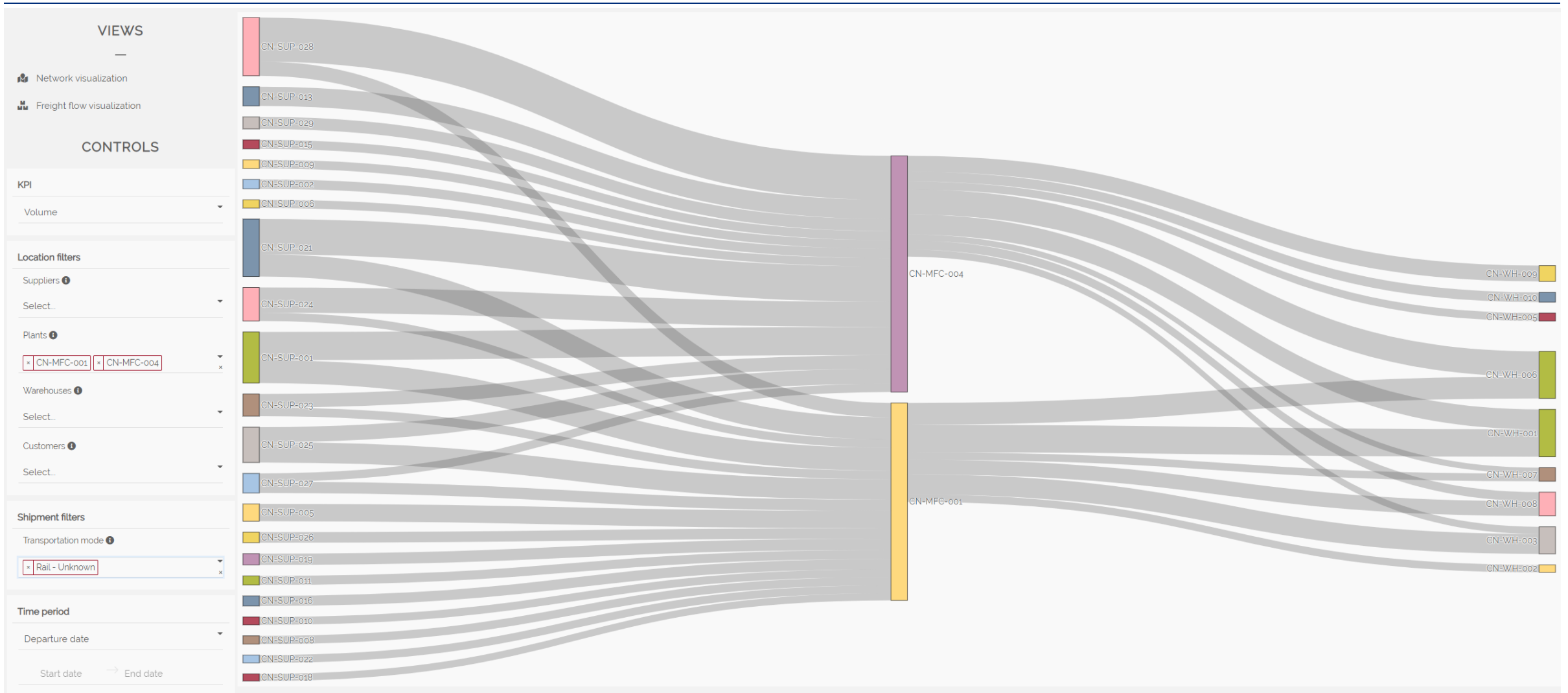




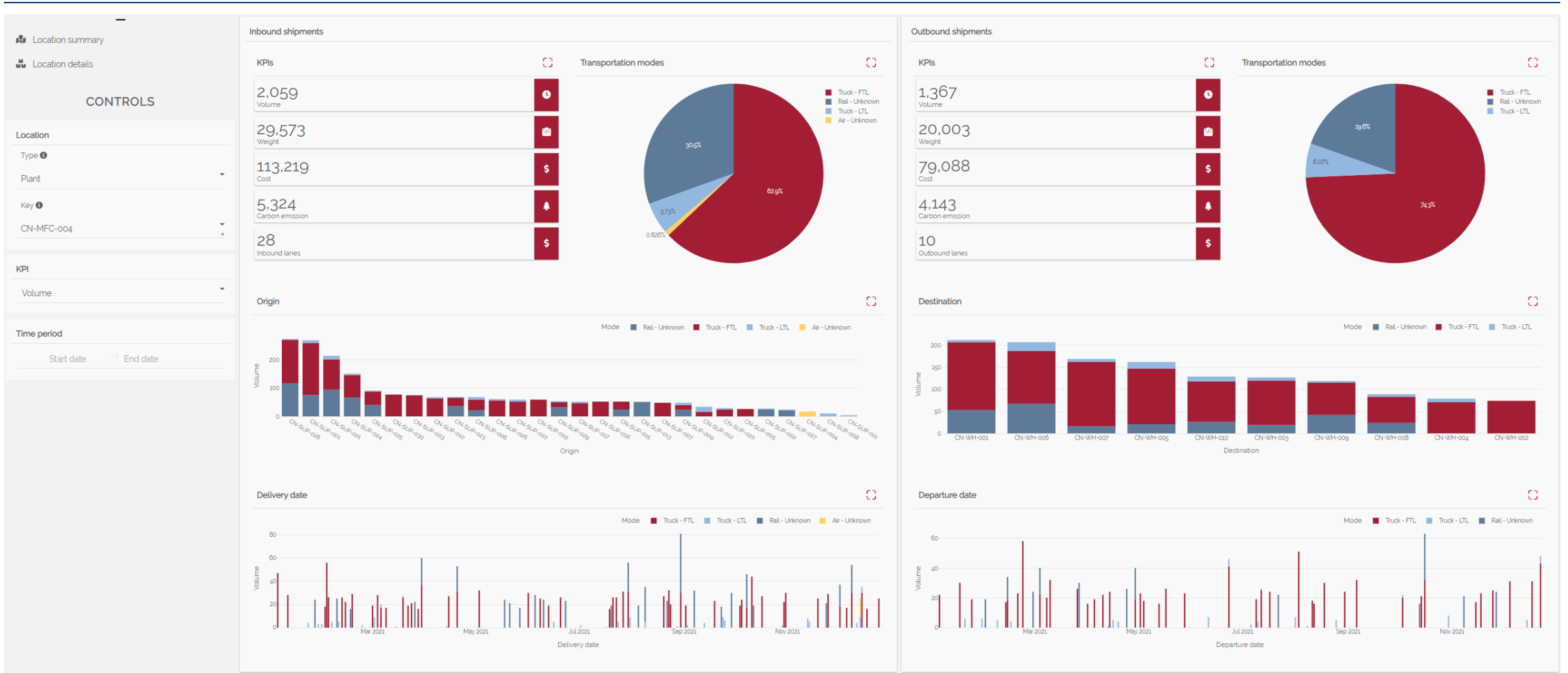
# Interactive network design application mockup



# Interactive network design application mockup



# Interactive network design application mockup



# Exemplary project approach

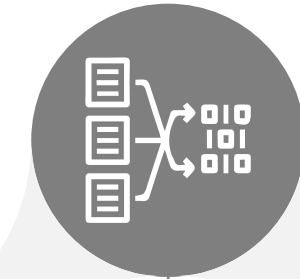
● CAVE + project partner  
● CAVE

Define concept  
and data  
requirements



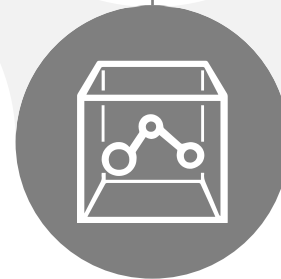
Collect  
data

Validate  
data



Transform and  
connect data

Develop network  
redesign  
application



Analyze  
scenarios

Develop  
recommendations



# CAVE Lab advantages

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## Customization

Tailor-made to the research partner's specific business requirements instead of a "one size fits all" approach.



## Collaboration

CAVE Lab applications foster collaborative decision-making for a wide range of logistics and supply chain planning problems.



## Accessibility

Our tailor-made applications can be deployed on a secure cloud server that ensures accessibility from everywhere at any time.



## Platform & device independence

No local installation required. Supply chain design and planning on any device (Desktop PC, Laptop, Tablet, Smartphone, etc.).



## Rapid development

Short development and implementation times. Possibility to increase software functionality over time.



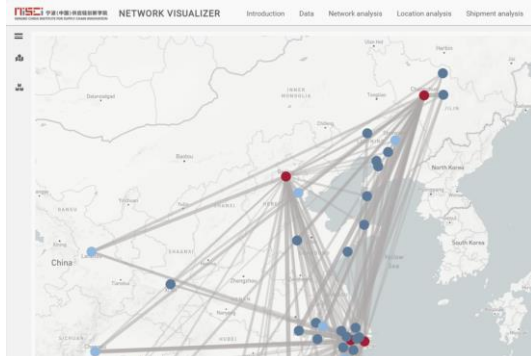
# CAVE Lab concept is being adopted across the MIT Global SCALE Network

**CAVE Lab at MIT Center for Transportation & Logistics**  
Founded in 2017

**CAVE Lab at Luxembourg Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LCL)**  
Autumn 2022

**CAVE Lab at Ningbo China Institute for Supply Chain Innovation (NISCI)**  
Founded in 2021

# NISCI CAVE Lab applications



NISCI Network Visualizer



Hinterland Network Design



Intermodal Distribution Network for Automobiles



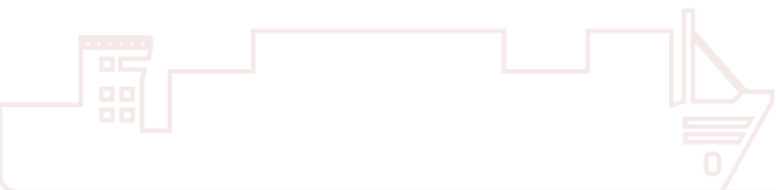
Inbound Truck Scheduling at Warehouses



Container Loading Optimization

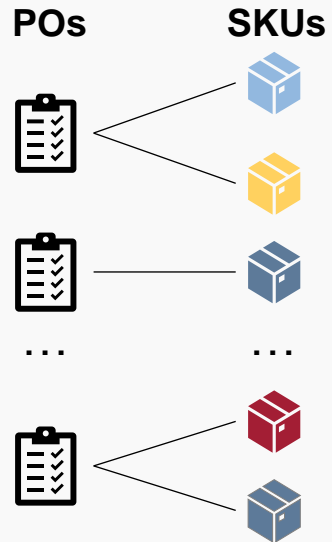
Case sharing

# Container Loading Optimization



# Overview of the Container Loading Optimization

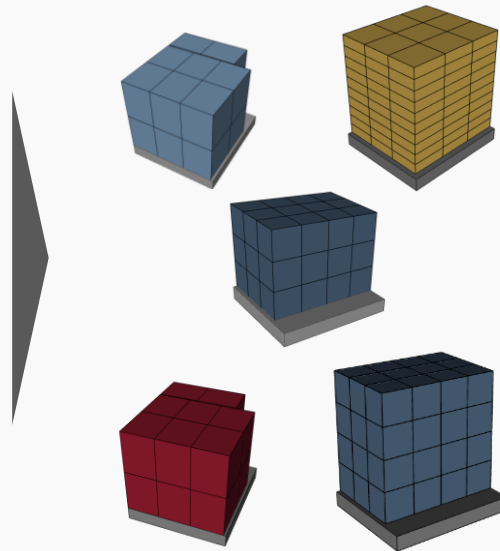
## Input



### Requirements

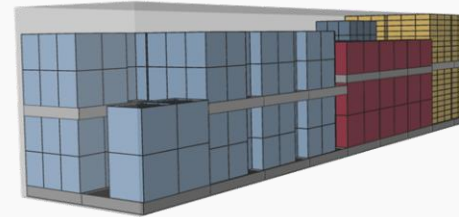
- Handle heterogenous cargo (weights and dimensions)
- Allow for using various pallet types
- ...

## Palletization



- At most one mixed pallet per PO
- **Check for different box orientations**
- Ensure stability
- ...

## Containerization



- PO cannot be split among containers
- Relative positioning of cargo
- Ensure weight distribution
- Ensure stackability
- ...

## Loading instructions

Loading plan

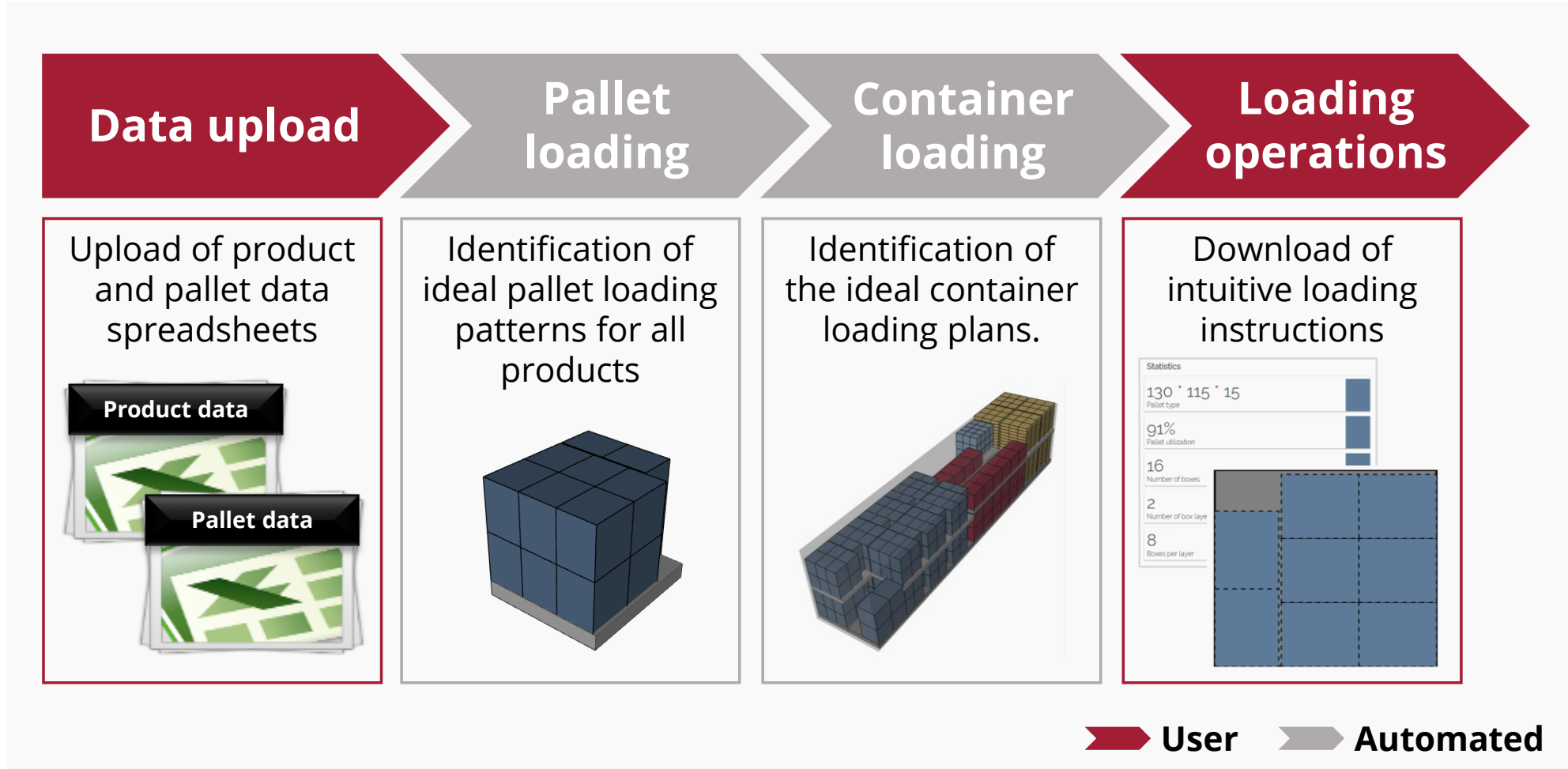
Pallet	PO	SKU	Quantity
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	4449201856	27800099	90
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	4449201856	27800099	81
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	4449201856	27800099	90
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	4449201856	27800099	81
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	4449201856	27800099	90
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	4449201856	27800099	81
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	4449201856	27800099	90
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	4449201856	27800099	81
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	5234454859	28040083	48
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	5234454859	28040083	36

Statistics

130 * 115 * 15	
Pallet type	
91%	
Pallet utilization	
16	
Number of boxes	
2	
Number of box layers	
8	
Boxes per layer	

- **Interactive**
- **Fast**
- **Running on smartphones and other mobile devices**

# Process





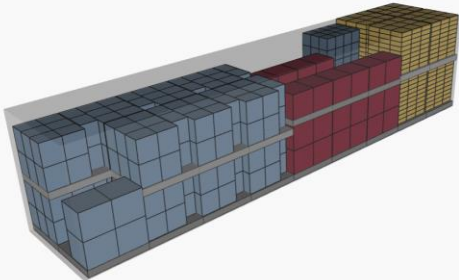
# Application

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**LCL CONTAINER LOADING OPTIMIZER** Introduction Data Analysis

**Controls**  
Container: 1  
Purchase order (PO): Select...

**Loading information**  
57% Container utilization  
4 Number of POs  
4 Number of SKUs  
1026 Number of boxes  
35 Number of pallets

**Loading visualization**  


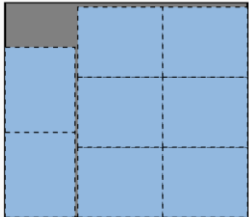
**Loading plan**

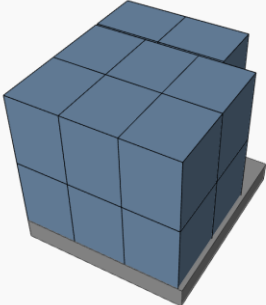
Pallet	PO	SKU	Quantity
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	444202896	2959002	16
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 32	444202896	2959002	16
<input type="checkbox"/> 33	444202896	2959002	16
<input type="checkbox"/> 34	444202896	2959002	16
<input type="checkbox"/> 35	444202896	7000013	4

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**Pallet 32: Loading details**

**Statistics**  
130 \* 115 \* 15 Pallet type  
91% Pallet utilization  
16 Number of boxes  
2 Number of box layers  
8 Boxes per layer

**Loading pattern**  


**3D visualization**  


# Application

### Controls

Purchase order (PO) ⓘ

4449201896 ▾

Product (SKU) ⓘ

27100099 ▾  
x

Pallet ⓘ

100' 115' 15' ▾  
x

### Product information

750  
Required boxes

4.8  
Box weight

41.5  
Box length

36  
Box width

12.5  
Box height

### Pallet loading patterns

#### Orientation L x W (41.5 x 36.0)

78%  
Pallet utilization

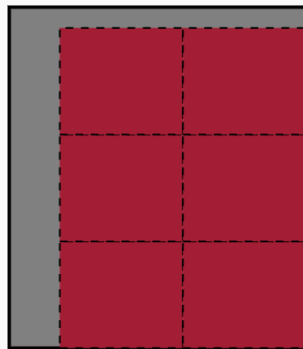
6  
Boxes per layer

28.8  
Box layer weight

12.5  
Box layer height

125  
Required box layers

0  
Single boxes



#### Orientation L x H (41.5 x 12.5)

90%  
Pallet utilization

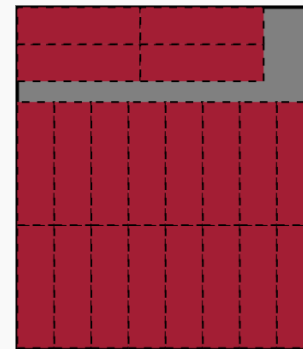
20  
Boxes per layer

96.0  
Box layer weight

36  
Box layer height

37  
Required box layers

10  
Single boxes



#### Orientation W x H (36.0 x 12.5)

94%  
Pallet utilization

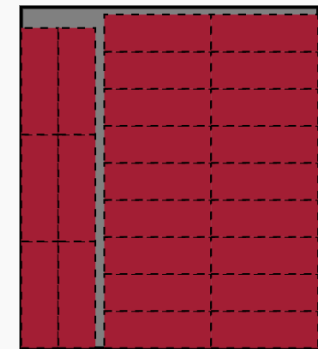
24  
Boxes per layer

115.2  
Box layer weight

41.5  
Box layer height

31  
Required box layers

6  
Single boxes



# Thank you! Questions?

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**Pascal Wolff | 吴子墨** Assistant Professor, Faculty | 助理教授

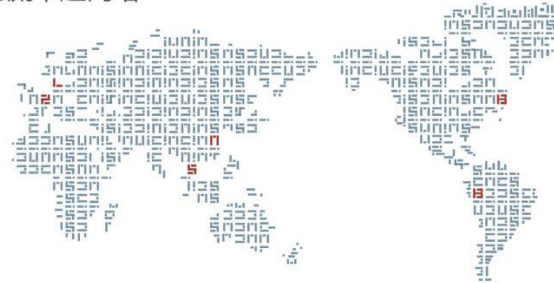
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MIT Global SCALE Network | 麻省理工学院全球供应链与物流卓越网络

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