

OSMTrack

Towards the "best iPhone app for adding roads"

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Outline

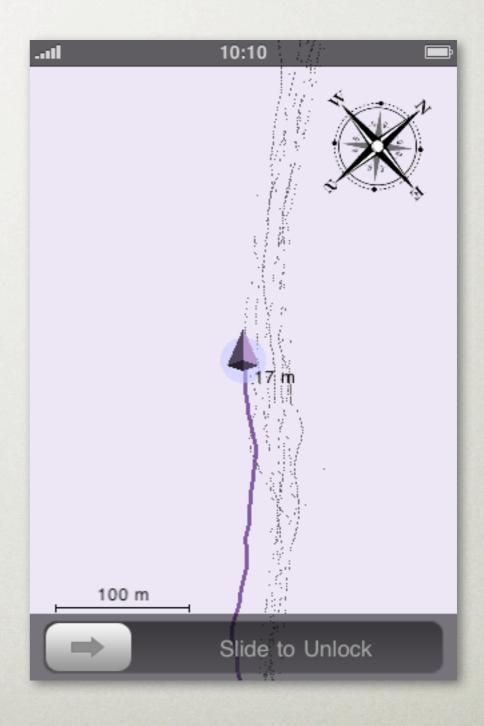
- OSMTrack today
- Near future
 - The Map
 - Smart logging
- Distant future: automatic way creation

Today & Near future

OSMTrack today

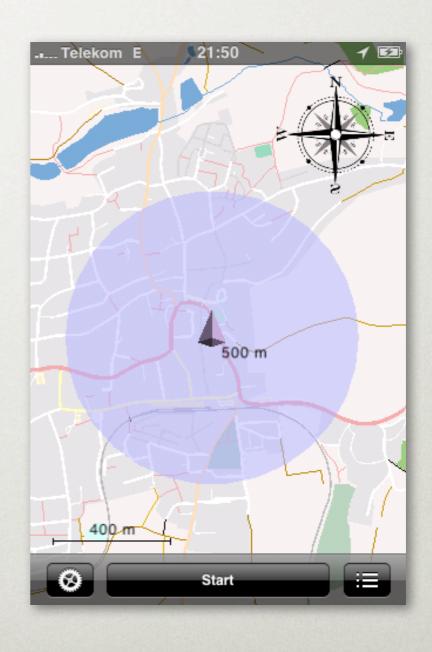
- Zoom- and pan-capable graphical track view
- Direct upload to the OpenStreetMap account as well as sending tracks per email
- Multiple tracks
- Screen lock for in-pocket use
- Preliminary support for waypoints
- Support for both landscape and portrait modes throughout the application





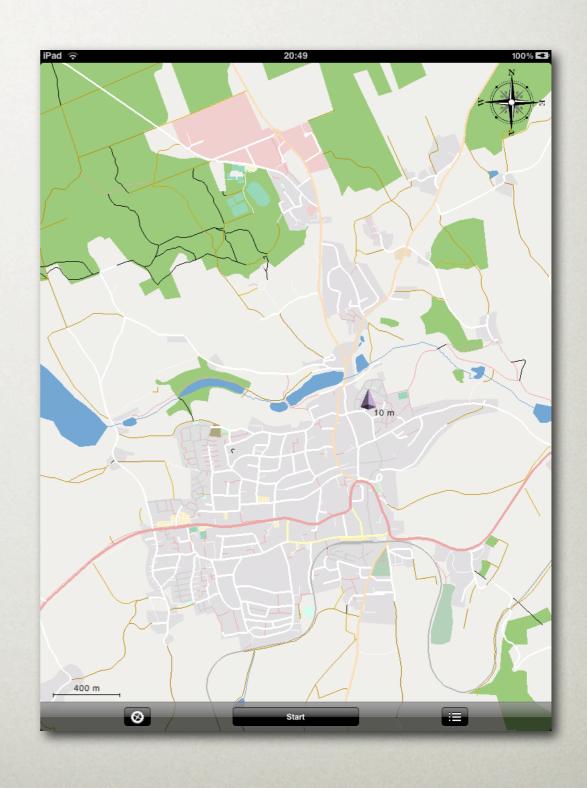
Coming soon: the Map

- Offline map
- Rendered on the device in real time from vector map data



Coming soon: the Map

- Offline map
- Rendered on the device in real time from vector map data
- + iOS4 (multitasking), iPad, ...



Map: the lessons...

- It is hard to keep the database in sync with the OSM server:
 - The available API's are oriented to a web-server containing the whole world map, not to a mobile device containing a small region

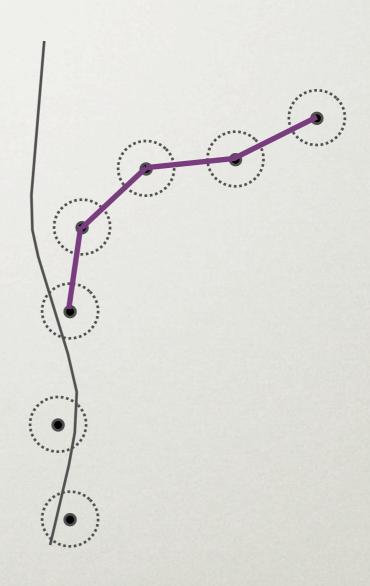
Proposal: SyncML Open Mobile Alliance



- XML-based
- A lot of implementations, also open source
 - See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SyncML
- -SyncML 1.2 supports partial database synchronization
- Extensible with vendor-specific data types

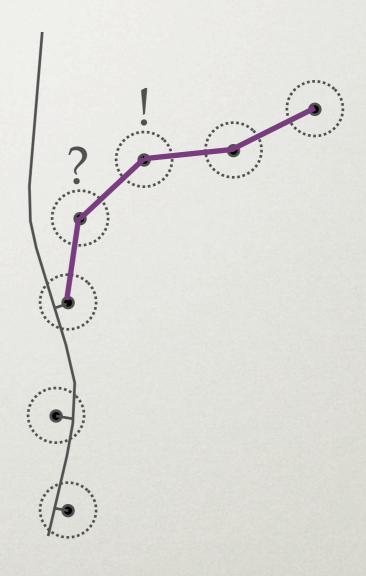
Coming next: smart logging

- Creates tracks ONLY for the ways that are not in the map
- Especially useful if running in the background mode



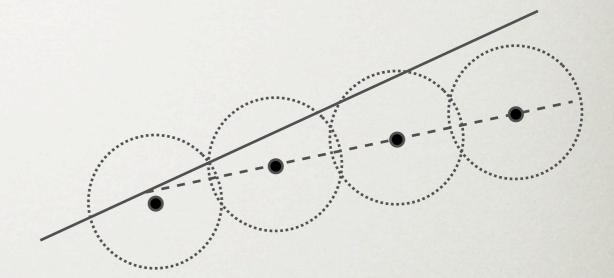
Smart logging: how?

- Map-match the current position
- If there is no match found
 (configurable, scale in
 n*σ) for certain number of
 positions start logging
- If in logging state a match found for certain number of positions - stop



Map matching challenges

 In some situations with low GPS accuracy a longer history of positions may be needed



 To be reliable map matching should consider:

• Location — Closest distance matching

Direction of movement
 Mahalanobis distance + direction

Position history and map topology
 Hidden Markov Models

Position history and reasonable speed changes
 1-D Kalman filter for each match candidate

Very complex algorithm!

Automatic way creation

Idea

- Cut tracks into pieces lying between two consecutive junctions.

Create a way "on the fly", all

"returns" will automatically
stop logging + add cutting
existing ways

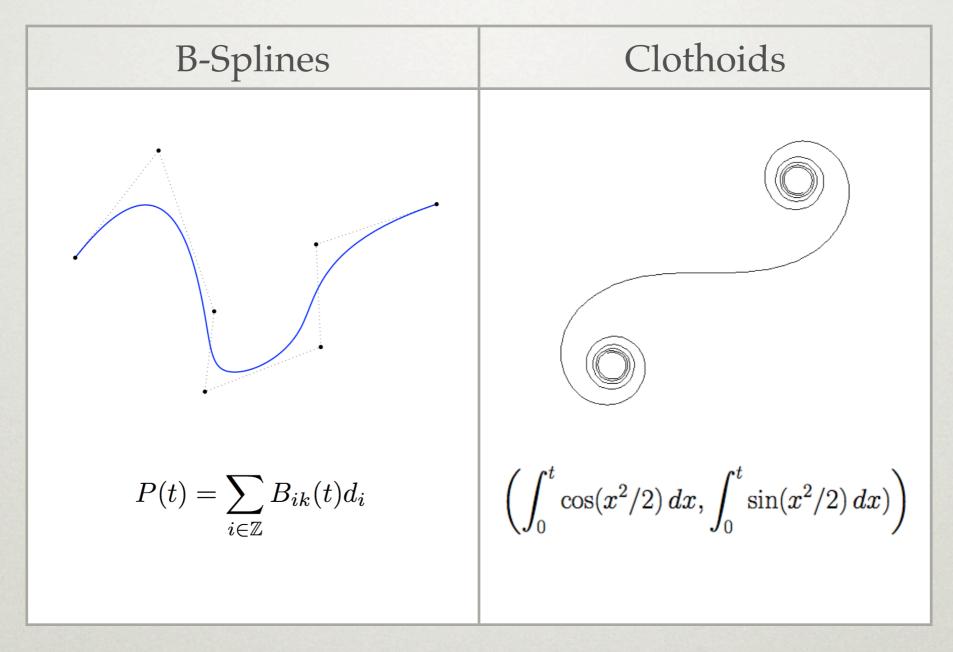
 Reduce the complexity: ways should be smooth with "well behaving" curvature.

Need more sophisticated road geometry model than polyline

Tag

Cannot be automated

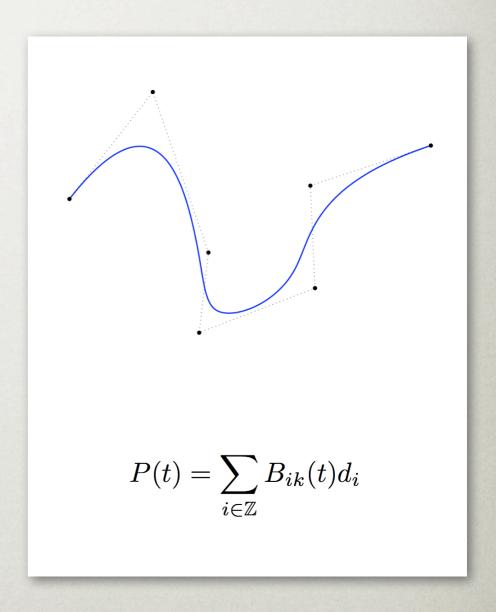
Road geometry model



Road geometry model for OSMTrack is yet to be decided

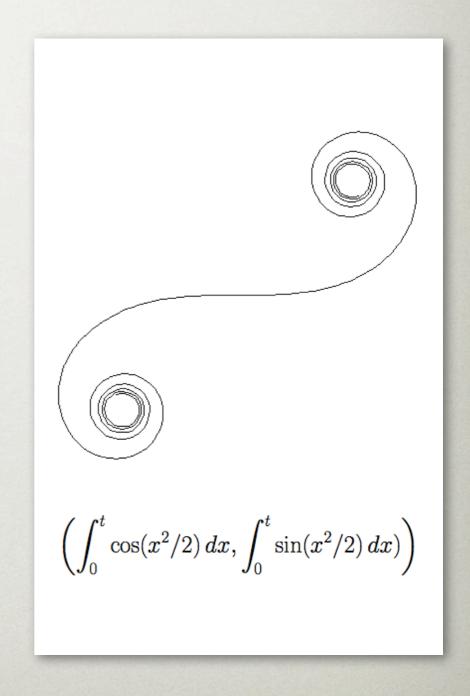
B-Splines

- Polynomials, easy to compute
- Used by many map companies as internal format
- Curve fitting is difficult*
- Needs additional "regularization" to achieve smooth curvature
- Spline's control points at the moment cannot be directly handled by the OSM server



Clothoids

- Curvature changes linearly with arc length
- 'Natural' way to build roads
- Part of future NDS standard (www.psf-initiative.com)
- A simpler curve-fitting approach exists*
- Way curvature may be attached to existing way points (way+node)
- Fresnel integrals hard to compute (map match)



^{*)} For curve fitting using clothoids e.g. see: James McCrae "Sketch-based path design." MSc thesis. University of Toronto.

Questions?