THE DATA

Twenty years of data (120 million observations) on commercial domestic flights in the United States.

- Dates: day of week, date, month, year
- Arrival and departure times: actual and scheduled
- Flight times: actual and scheduled
- Origin and destination: airport code, latitude, longitude
- Carrier: American, Aloha Air, ..., United, US Air

Data are from the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) which coordinates the U.S. Department of Transportation research programs

- Summarize data by time periods, airport, and carrier
- Temporal effects
- Are some time periods more prone to delays than others?
- Relationships between delays and Seasonal factors: winter, summer, holidays Weather factors: blizzards and severe weather Daily factors: time of day, day of week
- Spatial effects
- Are some airports more prone to delays than others?
- Are there differences between flying into an airport and flying out?
- Carrier effects
- Are some carriers more prone to delays than others?

TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

- Avoid flying during holidays and summer
- Fly in April, May, and September
- Watch the weather!
- Avoid airports (Newark, JFK, Chicago,...) with consistent delays
- Use carriers (Aloha, Hawaiian, Southwest,...) with superior on-time performance
- Fly early in the day
- Avoid flights that depart between 5 and 7 p.m.





