

1 **Automated Statewide Highway Intersection**
2 **Safety Data Collection and Evaluation Strategy**
3

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46 **ABSTRACT**

47 Effective evaluation of intersection safety requires the ability to develop meaningful
48 benchmarks to help assess the relative safety risk for a given intersection. This paper introduces
49 an automated intersection safety data collection and evaluation method, including an algorithm
50 to update intersection crash rates and geometric features from existing sources. The automation
51 algorithm involves the integration of five separate Wisconsin Department of Transportation
52 (WisDOT) databases through association with a common Linear Referencing System (LRS). The
53 result of the QA/QC suggests the methodology is feasible and can improve the quality of
54 intersection safety data collection. This paper also presents results of a comparative intersection
55 safety analysis for different intersection types based on the automated algorithm. Although the
56 methodology introduced is specific to Wisconsin data, the results can also be applied to other
57 state DOTs that manage traffic data with respect to a LRS.

58 **KEYWORDS:** Linear Referencing System, Intersection Safety, Data Management

59 **1 INTRODUCTION**

60 Highway intersection safety is a major concern for transportation safety engineers
61 worldwide. A significantly large proportion of crashes occur at intersections because turning and
62 crossing activities have the potential for conflicts. According to the National Highway Traffic
63 Safety Administration (NHTSA), about 2,210,000 crashes occurred at intersections in the United
64 States in 2009, which accounts for 40 percent of the total 5,505,000 crashes that occurred across
65 the country(1). Highway intersections can expose drivers to higher risk since the speed of the
66 traffic is higher on highway segments than on local roads.

67 Federal and State DOTs have expended considerable effort to reduce crashes at
68 intersections. The limited budget should be allocated to improve intersections with higher risk.
69 Identifying sites deserving safety improvement requires effective intersection safety evaluation
70 strategy. Comprehensive analysis of intersection safety not only require crash data and traffic
71 volume data, the intersection geometric data such as area type, number of approaches and
72 number of lanes are also needed since most of the evaluation models are based on the relation
73 between road geometry and accident occurrence. Collecting high quality data requires huge
74 financial resource and human efforts, while updating the crash data annually makes these
75 procedures even more time consuming. Most state DOTs(2, 3) rely on sampling techniques to
76 determine the statewide standard safety measures, however the sampling process may induce
77 bias and errors in the safety evaluation. Therefore, it's critical to find an automatic way to update
78 the crash information for intersections and collect the intersection related features. This paper
79 proposed a method to fully leverage LRS roadway network information to collect intersection
80 geometric data such as number of approaches and area type based on existing datasets. The
81 objective of this research was to develop an intersection database, automatically calculate
82 intersection crash rates for various types of intersections and identify intersections with higher
83 crash rates for Wisconsin DOT. The proposed methodology can be transferred to other DOTs
84 that maintain crash, volume, and roadway attribute data with respect to a Linear Referencing
85 System (LRS). This automation method can also be extended to automatically calculate safety
86 evaluation measures other than crash rates.

87 The rest of the paper is organized as: Section 2 reviews the related work, Section 3
88 presents the automated highway intersection safety information collection methodology. Section
89 4 studies the crash pattern in different types of intersections. Section 5 concludes the paper.

90 **2 RELATED WORK**

91 The key components of this research include a GIS data integration process and
92 subsequent intersection safety ranking method. This section first introduces the Linear
93 Reference System concept which is applied in most state DOTs for recording transportation
94 related data and serves as the underlying framework for the GIS data integration step. In addition,
95 the Wisconsin transportation source data that are used for the integration are discussed. Finally,
96 the Intersection Safety Evaluation Tool (ISET) project, which drives the intersection safety
97 ranking approach, is presented.

98 **2.1 Linear Referencing System**

99 A Linear Reference System (LRS) is the method of storing geographic locations by using
100 relative positions along a linear element, for example a milepost along a roadway. LRS is widely
101 used in the field of transportation data management. The Highway Performance Monitoring
102 System (HPMS) now requires state DOTs to use an LRS network for spatial referencing
103 purposes (4). The LRS will be integrated into the National Highway Planning Network (NHPN),
104 which serves as a national framework for information exchange and will be provided to the U.S.
105 Geological Survey, the Bureau of Census, the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)
106 community, and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) to represent the higher order
107 highways (5).

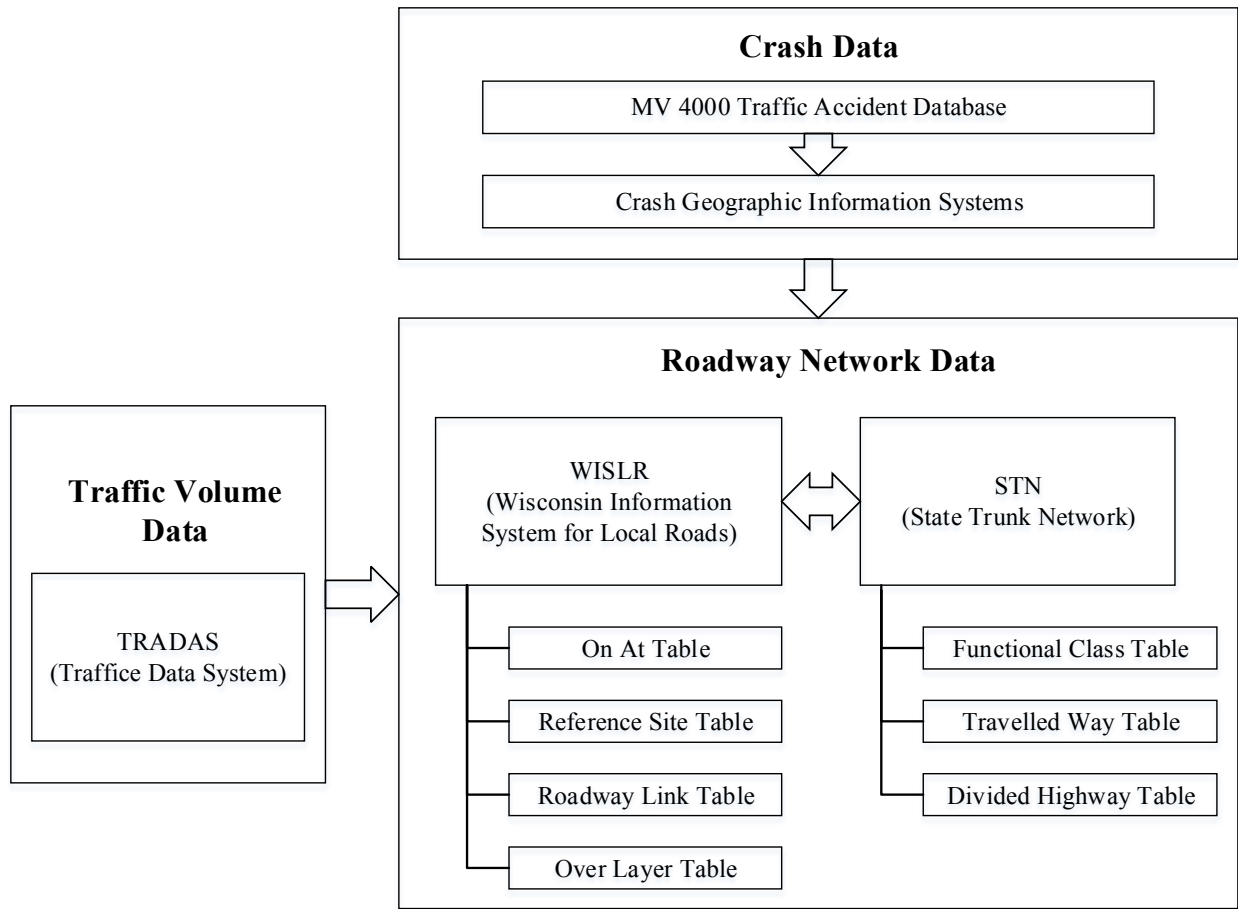
108 The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) developed and currently
109 maintains two geographic information systems based on two separate linear referencing systems
110 (LRSs). The State Trunk Network (STN) covers all state, U.S., and interstate highways, while
111 the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) covers county highway and local
112 roads. For purposes of intersection safety evaluation, the LRS facilitates the process of
113 generating intersection crash rates by combing LRS assigned crash locations and traffic counts,
114 and integrating those crash rates with other LRS network attributes and business data, such as
115 highway functional class. All STN and WISLR business data are located to the underlying LRS
116 network in terms of link and link-offset attributes. For the case of crash data, whether a crash is
117 intersection related can be determined by the distance along a link from a given intersection. If
118 traditional geo-referencing system is used, additional process to calculate the distance between
119 crashes and intersections by the geo-coordinates will be needed, which requires more computing
120 time and manual review for quality control.

121

122 **2.2 The Wisconsin Roadway Databases**

123 The highway intersection safety database developed for this research was constructed by
124 integrating the following information sources: the GIS roadway network and inventory, the crash
125 history, and traffic volumes. In Wisconsin, these data are maintained in five primary databases:
126 the MV4000 Traffic Accident Database, the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads

127 (WISLR), the State Trunk Network (STN), the WISLR Crash Geographic Information System
 128 (GIS) database, and the WisDOT Traffic Data System (TRADAS) database. The integration
 129 framework of the databases is shown in Figure 1. This section introduces the basic information of
 130 these databases. Detailed information about specific tables and fields relevant to the automation
 131 methodology will be described in subsequent sections.
 132



133
 134 **Figure 1 Framework of Wisconsin Transportation Databases**

135 **2.2.1 Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR)**

136 The Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) is a GIS-based system of
 137 local road inventory data developed and maintained by WisDOT. Within the WISLR LRS
 138 roadway network, intersections and terminals are represented as nodes and roadways segments
 139 are identified by links. The roadway attribute data used in this paper are maintained in three
 140 tables: the On-At table, the Roadway Link table and the Overlay table. Every intersection node is
 141 stored as a "reference site" in the On-At table, and the roadway segments are identified by the
 142 start reference site and the end reference site in the Roadway Link table. The Overlay table
 143 collects detailed business data including median characteristics, roadway category, access control,
 144 urban/rural location, federal urban area, and functional classification. WISLR includes a
 145 complete cartographic network representation of the highway system, however, since it is
 146 primarily oriented towards local roads, highway inventory information is generally missing and
 147 is maintained instead in the State Trunk Network LRS.

148 **2.2.2 State Trunk Network (STN)**

149 The State Trunk Network (STN) is a GIS-based inventory system for the state highway
150 (STH) system, containing attribute data about State, Interstate, and National Highways that
151 support the national roadway infrastructure within the State of Wisconsin. WisDOT is
152 responsible for maintaining, analyzing, inventorying, and reporting on the STN.

153 The STN uses a separate, independent LRS network from WISLR. The STN links and
154 WISLR links are transferable through a table which contains the start and end point of the STN
155 link segment and the WISLR link segment that represent the same roadway part. The STN
156 database manages the geometric information of the state highways, including the functional class,
157 the number of lanes, the median feature, etc.

158 **2.2.3 MV4000 Traffic Accident Database**

159 The TOPS Lab WisTransPortal system(6) contains a complete database of Wisconsin
160 MV4000 Traffic Accident Extract data from 1994 through the current year. This database
161 contains information on all police reported crashes in Wisconsin, including the location of each
162 crash, vehicles involved, and general crash attributes. This database is updated on a monthly
163 basis through coordination with WisDOT Division of Motor Vehicles.

164 Crash information in this database is reported by a police officer via the Wisconsin
165 MV4000 police form and is eventually archived in the WisDOT DMV crash database. Crash
166 locations are reported in terms of relative offset from an intersection, based on on- and at-street
167 name information, which identifies the intersection, and direction and distance information,
168 which identifies the offset. The police officer also reports many other important pieces of
169 information such as the area type, the severity, the roadway condition, the weather, the reason for
170 the crash, and the driver's information, which can be utilized for a variety of comprehensive
171 safety studies.

172 **2.2.4 WISLR Crash Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database**

173 The WISLR Crash GIS database is the integration of the two separate databases
174 mentioned above - the WISLR LRS and the Wisconsin Crash Database. This database is
175 generated through an automated process that locates crash records to the WISLR network in
176 terms of roadway link and link-offset values. The WISLR Crash GIS database also provides a
177 pinpoint map of all the intersection and segment crashes that occurred on local roads in
178 Wisconsin, along with the complete crash information associated with each mapped crash.
179 Preliminary quality evaluation on six years of statewide crash data indicates that 93% of all
180 crashes are located to the WISLR network with 98% accuracy on the state trunk highway and 96%
181 accuracy on local roads(7). The integration of WISLR and crash reports provides invaluable
182 access to more comprehensive safety analysis.
183

184 **2.2.5 WisDOT TRAFFIC DATA System (TRADAS)**

185 TRADAS processes and validates all continuous and short duration volume, speed,
186 classification, and Weight in Motion (WIM) traffic data. The data files are processed through a
187 series of quality checks based on AASHTO, ASTM, FHWA and user defined standards.
188 Principal Arterials, Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Sections, National
189 Highway System (NHS), and minor arterials with an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)
190 greater than 5,000 have counts taken on a three year cycle. Minor arterials with an AADT less

191 than 5,000 and collectors with an AADT greater than 5,000 are on a six-year cycle and low
 192 volume collectors have counts taken on a ten-year cycle(8). All TRADAS count sites are located
 193 to WISLR links and are available as an ESRI point shapefile.

194 2.3 Intersection Safety Evaluation Tool (ISET)

195 The Intersection Safety Evaluation Tool (ISET) (6) is a web application and intersection
 196 crash rate database supported by the Traffic Operations and Safety (TOPS) Laboratory to assist
 197 WisDOT regional offices and local government in identifying high risk intersections with respect
 198 to a variety of safety thresholds and analysis levels. The user interface of ISET is shown in
 199 Figure 1. Users can query and compare specific intersections to a representative "library" of the
 200 state average crash rates for any combinations of intersection features through the ISET tool.

201 ISET classifies intersections by seven different features, which are listed as:

- 202 • Area Type: Rural, Urban
- 203 • Number of Legs: 3 Legs, 4 Legs
- 204 • Number of Lanes: 1 Lane, 2 Lanes, 3 Lanes
- 205 • Left Turn Lane: Left Turn Lane Exists, No Left Turn Lane
- 206 • Traffic Control: Signalized, Two Way Stop Control, All Way Stop Control,
 207 Interchange
- 208 • Median Type: Divided, Undivided
- 209 • Volume Group: <5000, 5000~10000, 10000~20000, >20000

210 The original ISET database included 2,000 intersection crash rates from 2001-2003. It
 211 was updated in 2010 to incorporate 2003-2007 crash data and traffic counts(6). In both cases, the
 212 database was populated through a manual procedure of locating crashes to intersections and
 213 compiling volume and attribute information for those intersections. The automated highway
 214 intersection safety information collection method proposed in the paper can be used to
 215 automatically collect intersection feature information and update the crash rate for ISET to
 216 incorporate the most up-to-date crash data.

ISET Intersection Safety Evaluation Tool

Select from the parameters below and click **Submit Query** to execute the query. Multiple selections per list are supported. Click **Clear Form** to remove all selections. Click **Print** to open a print friendly page or **Download CSV** to save the results in comma separated value text file which can be opened in Excel. Crash rates based on 30 samples or less are displayed in **red font**. Additional documentation is available on the [Help page](#).

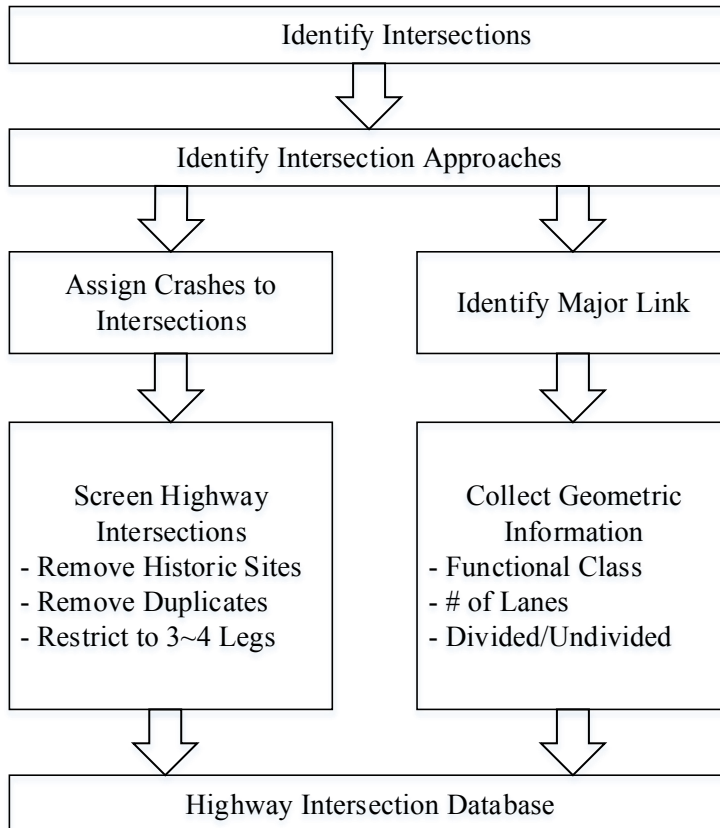
The screenshot shows the ISET user interface. The top section, '1. Select Intersection Attributes', contains seven dropdown menus: Area Type (Rural selected), Number of Legs (4 Legs selected), Number of Lanes (2 Lanes selected), Left Turn Lane (Left Turn Lane selected), Traffic Control (Signalized and Two Way Stop Control selected), Median Type (Divided selected), and Volume Group (5000~10000 selected). Below these are 'Clear Form' and 'Submit Query' buttons. The bottom section, '2. View Results', contains a table with columns for Area Type, Number of Legs, Number of Lanes, Left Turn Lane, Traffic Control, Median Type, and Volume Group. The table displays crash rates, standard deviations, and total samples for various combinations of these attributes.

Area Type	Number of Legs	Number of Lanes	Left Turn Lane	Traffic Control	Median Type	Volume Group
Rural	4 Leg	2 Lane	Left turn lane exist	Signalized	Divided	5,000 ~ 10,000
Crash Rate: 0.28 Std Deviation: 0.56 Total Samples: 1144	Crash Rate: 0.46 Std Deviation: 0.74 Total Samples: 400	Crash Rate: 0.5 Std Deviation: 0.94 Total Samples: 67	Crash Rate: 0.57 Std Deviation: 1.12 Total Samples: 44	Crash Rate: 1.08 Std Deviation: 1.67 Total Samples: 16	Crash Rate: 1.21 Std Deviation: 1.75 Total Samples: 14	Crash Rate: 0.51 Std Deviation: 0.7 Total Samples: 3
				Two Way Stop Control	Divided	5,000 ~ 10,000
				Crash Rate: 0.27 Std Deviation: 0.43 Total Samples: 28	Crash Rate: 0.28 Std Deviation: 0.44 Total Samples: 22	Crash Rate: 0.44 Std Deviation: 0.66 Total Samples: 9

217
 218 **Figure 2 ISET User Interface**
 219

220 **3 AUTOMATED HIGHWAY INTERSECTION SAFETY DATA COLLECTION**
221 **METHODOLOGY**

222 This section introduces the methodology to automatically collect intersection safety data.
223 The framework of the method is illustrated as Figure 3. The objective of this methodology is to
224 automatically collect the intersection features such as number of legs, area type, number of lanes
225 and median type, as well as calculate and update crash rates for each intersection when new
226 crash information and traffic volume data is available. The important tables and fields of the
227 tables will be described in detail.
228



229
230 **Figure 3 Framework of the Highway Intersection Safety Data Collection Methodology**

231 **3.1 Identify Intersections**

232 The first step in this process is to develop a database of all roadway intersections in
233 Wisconsin. In the WISLR database, intersections are identified as nodes in the On-At table. The
234 fields used in the algorithm are listed in Table 1.
235

236 **TABLE 1 Fields in On-At Table**
 237

Field	Description
ON_AT_ID	The primary key of the table
LCM_STUS_TYCD	The status of the record. Values include: C="Current" H="Historic"
REF_SITE_ID	Each node is associated with one REF_SITE_ID
ON_AT_TYCD	The function of the node. A node may have multiple functions. Values include: I="Intersection", N="Name Change", M="Muni change", T="Termini", X="Invalid", L="Loop Termini"
LCM_CURR_DT	The time when the node is effective

238
 239
 240 Each node is identified with a unique Reference-Site-ID (REF_SITE_ID). The
 241 intersections can be identified in the On-At table as REF_SITE_IDs associated with On-At type
 242 (ON_AT_TYCD) "Intersection".
 243

244 **3.2 Identify Intersection Approaches**

245 The number of intersection approaches can be obtained by using the LRS-based GIS
 246 roadway network. The roadway segments connected to the intersection can be identified from the
 247 Roadway Link table in the WISLR database, which is described in Table 2. The two directions of
 248 a roadway segment are stored as two separate links, identified by the start reference point
 249 (REF_SITE_FROM_ID) and the end reference point (REF_SITE_TO_ID).
 250

251 **TABLE 2 Fields in Roadway Link Table**

Field	Description
RDWY_LINK_ID	The primary key of the table
LCM_STUS_TYCD	The status of the record. Values include: C="Current" H="Historic"
REF_SITE_FROM_ID	The start reference point of a link
REF_SITE_TO_ID	The end reference point of a link
LCM_FROM_TO_DIS	The length of a roadway link

252
 253
 254 The ISET intersection types include three-leg (T- intersections) and four-leg (cross-
 255 intersections) with some five-way intersections. The number of legs for each intersection can be
 256 derived by counting the number of WISLR links connected to an intersection reference site.
 257 Considering an intersection approach may be a one-way roadway segment, the number of
 258 approaches was determined by taking the maximum of the from-links and the to-links.
 259

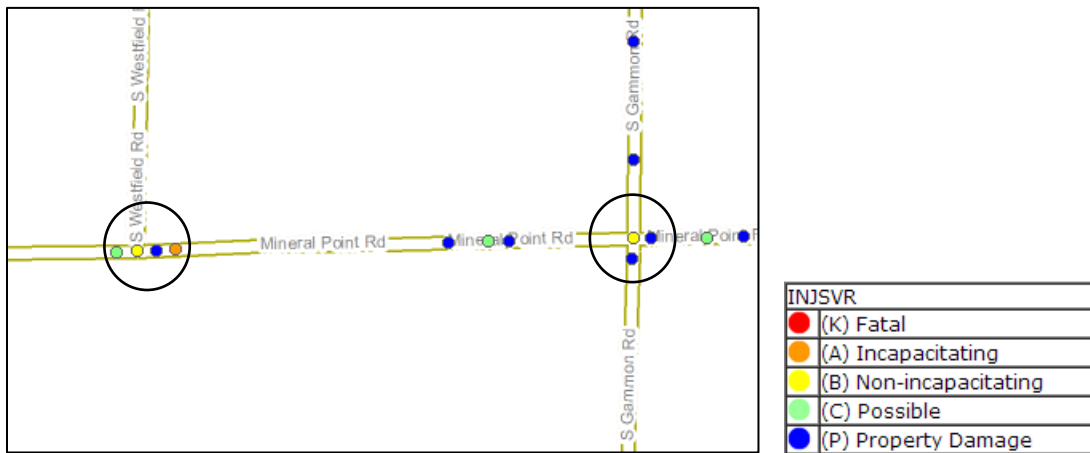
260 **3.3 Assign Crashes to Intersections**

261 The crashes located to the roadway segments of an intersection are screened based on the
262 distance to the intersection, as described below.

263 In the WISLR Crash GIS Database, each crash record is associated with a WISLR_LINK,
264 by which the Crash GIS table can be connected with the roadway link table. The locations of
265 crashes are represented as a distance along the roadway link.

266 Based on previous study(9), crashes within 0.02 mile (106 feet) of an intersection are
267 considered to be intersection related for this investigation. It should be noted that the threshold
268 might be different in other DOTs, for example, the Kentucky DOT uses 0.02 miles radius for
269 urban intersections and 0.05 miles radius for rural intersections(10). The number of intersection
270 crashes is aggregated from the total number of crashes on each of the approaches.

271 Figure 4 illustrates the two sample intersections in the WISLR Crash Map(6). Each crash
272 is marked as a dot in the Crash Map and the color indicates the severity of the crash. As shown in
273 Figure 4, four crashes are assigned to the intersections on the left and three crashes are assigned
274 to the intersection on the right by the algorithm. The two intersections are 0.26 miles apart and
275 the circles around each intersection represent the 0.02 threshold radius.
276



277 **FIGURE 4 Sample Intersections in WISLR Crash Map**

280 **3.4 Highway Intersection Screening**

281 An intersection database containing 216403 intersections was created following the
282 aforementioned steps. The intersections need to be screened to keep only current active highway
283 intersections during study period (2007-2011) following the process below. In order to avoid bias
284 in removing intersections, the number of intersections per crash count distribution should be
285 reserved in each screening step, which are illustrated in Figure 5.

286 **Step 1: Find highway intersections**

287 This paper defines the highway intersection as any intersection in WISLR with at least
288 one highway link, determined through association with the STN link network. Intersections
289 without any links in the STN database will be removed. 29873 highway intersections are
290 identified in this step, which constitutes 13.8% of the 216403 total WISLR intersections
291 statewide.

292 **Step 2: Remove historic intersections and duplicated intersections**

293 When an intersection is relocated or removed, the WISLR database will identify the
 294 changed intersection as historic. Historic intersections should be removed since their status
 295 changed prior to or during the 2007-2011 crash rate study period. Additionally, the WISLR crash
 296 mapping algorithm occasionally locates crashes to multiple intersections. These cases arise
 297 when two intersections within the same municipality share the same ON/AT roadway location
 298 descriptions. Some examples will be presented and discussed in Section 3.6. Such intersections
 299 should be removed to ensure the accuracy of the safety information collection method. 7722
 300 intersections (25.8% of 29873) are removed in this step.

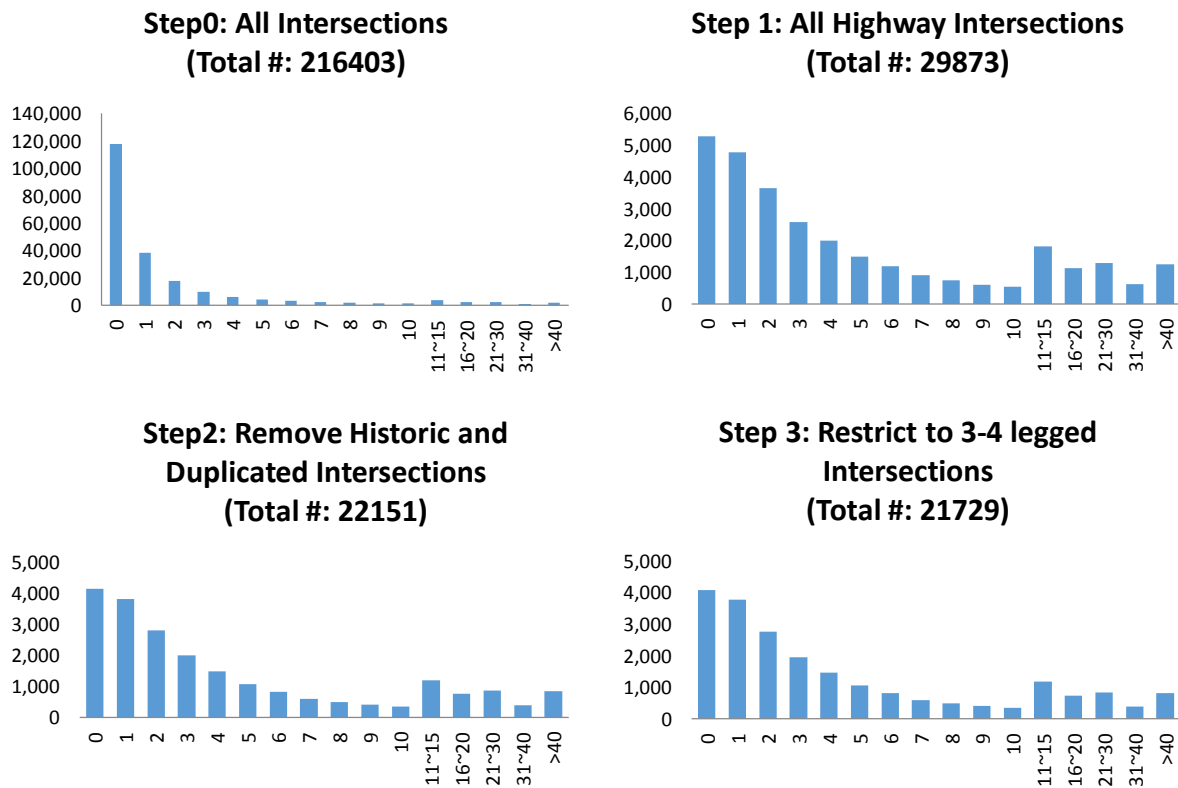
301 **Step 3: Restrict to 3~4 legged intersections**

302 The ISET methodology is currently limited to 3 and 4 legged intersections. Ramps and
 303 more complex configurations are excluded. A typical highway ramp will be identified as a 2
 304 legged intersection in the proposed methodology, since on-ramps have two in-links and one out-
 305 link and off-ramps have two out-links and one in-link. Hence they are excluded by the filtering
 306 process. Although a small number of 5 legged intersections exist in Wisconsin, they are
 307 accurately identified and excluded by the process. The number of remaining intersections is
 308 21729 after this step.

309 As shown in Figure 5, the crash count distribution in each step generally matches the
 310 crash count distribution of all intersections, except that the 0-crash intersections are
 311 underrepresented. The reason may be that the highway intersection expose to more traffic,
 312 therefore highway intersections are less likely to have no crash history than the general (local
 313 road) intersections.
 314

314

315



316

317 **Figure 5 Change of Crash Distributions in the Highway Intersection Screening Process**

318 3.5 Intersection Geometric Information Collection

319
320 The intersection geometric features are determined by the geometric feature of the major
321 entering road. In general, minor roadway volumes are not available, hence ISET intersection
322 crash rates are based on the major entering roadway volume at a given intersection. The entering
323 link with the maximum Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) is regarded as the major road.
324 The most up-to-date AADT data for most links are available from the TRADAS database and
325 associated WISLR GIS files. However TRADAS volume data is not available for every major
326 roadway link in WISLR. Only 10602 (48.8%) of the highway intersections have TRADAS
327 record.

328 STN contains geometric features of highway roads such as the number of lanes,
329 functional class, and the median type. The area type of an intersection can be deduced from the
330 functional class. The median types include two categories: divided and undivided.

331 3.6 Quality Assurance/Quality Control

332 A Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedure was implemented in this study
333 to evaluate the effectiveness of the automated highway intersection safety information collection
334 method. 10 random highway routes were selected and approximately 20 intersections on each
335 route were inspected manually to identify mismatched highway intersections. About 97% of the
336 intersections are correctly matched by the automated algorithm. However, there are some cases
337 where the algorithm would fail to work, which are shown in Figure 6.

338 **Artifact in the GIS Network:** Figure 6(A) illustrates an artifact in the database - a
339 divided highway segment where excessive REF_SITES are used, which will cause error in
340 calculating number of approaches for these intersections.

341 **Ambiguous Intersection:** Figure 6(B) shows how ambiguous intersection names which
342 will cause the duplicate intersection problem in the crash mapping process.

343 **Irregular Shape:** Figure 6(c) presents a condition where two opposite approaches are not
344 in the same line. The algorithm will identify Figure 6(c) as two 3-legged intersections, however
345 some people will regard it as a 4-legged intersection.

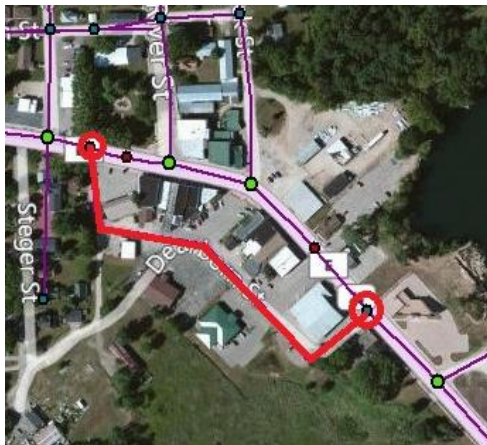
346 **Private Roadway:** In addition, the WISLR database only contains public roadway
347 information, since private roadways (such as the trailer park communities) are not maintained by
348 the state DOT. The automated algorithm may miss the private approaches in calculating number
349 of approaches.

350
351



(A) Artifact in the Database

352
353
354



(B) Ambiguous Intersection



(C) Irregular Shape

355
356
357

Figure 6 Special Conditions in Highway Intersection Screening

358 4 STATEWIDE HIGHWAY INTERSECTION CRASH STATISTICS

359 The ISET library provides an opportunity to perform systematic intersection safety
360 analysis against a representative sample set of crash rates and intersection types. This section
361 analyzes the systematic crash patterns by different intersection geometric features. The
362 intersection safety measures used in this section include: percentage of intersections per crash
363 count distribution, crash frequency, crash rate and KA Ratio.

364 An intersection crash frequency is defined as the average number of crashes per year. An
365 intersection crash rate is defined as the average number of crashes per year divided by the
366 average yearly traffic volume at that intersection. The intersection crash rate is calculated in per
367 million vehicles, the equation is defined as:

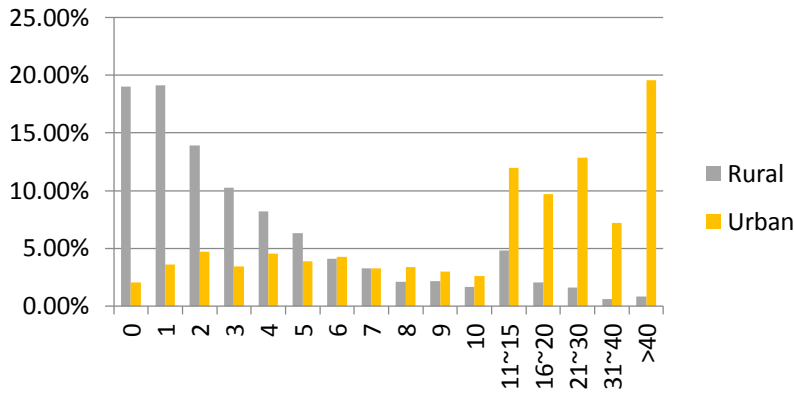
$$\text{crash rate} = \frac{\# \text{ of crashes per year}}{\text{Annual Average Daily Traffic} \times 365 \div 1000000}$$

368 The KA Ratio indicates the risk level of an intersection, which is defined as the
369 percentage of crashes with severity level 'K'(fatal crash) or 'A'(incapacitating crash) in all
370 crashes.

371 The geometric information is not available for every intersection, since the databases
372 could not cover every aspect of all roadways. This analysis only uses data when it's available.

373 **4.1 Crash Analysis by Area Type**

374 Figure 7 suggests that the percentage of urban intersections with larger number of crashes
 375 is higher than the rural intersections. The rural crash rate is 1.44 times larger than the urban crash
 376 rate, the rural KA ratio is 2.46 times greater than urban, but the urban crash frequency is 4.83
 377 times higher than rural. The reason may be that the volume are higher in the rural area, therefore
 378 the number of crashes are higher, however the speed in rural area is higher therefore the crashes
 379 tend to be more dangerous than the urban area.



380
381

Area Type	Number	Crash Rate	Crash Frequency	KA Ratio
Rural	3214	1.50	0.89	0.32
Urban	2514	1.04	4.30	0.13

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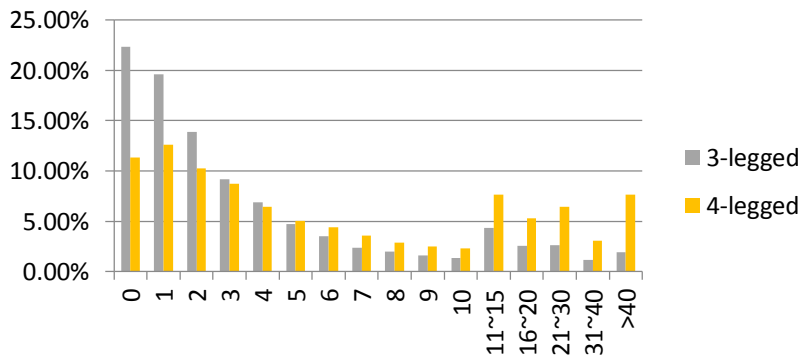
Figure 7 Crash Analyses by Area Type

385 **4.2 Crash Analysis by Number of Approaches**

386 Figure 8 shows that 4-legged intersections have a larger concentration at the higher crash
 387 frequency ranges compared to 3-legged intersections. Moreover, both of the crash
 388 measurements- crash frequency and crash rate - confirm that 4-legged intersections expose to a
 389 higher risk. The result is consistent with the empirical knowledge that 4-legged intersections
 390 have more conflicting points than the 3-legged intersections.
 391

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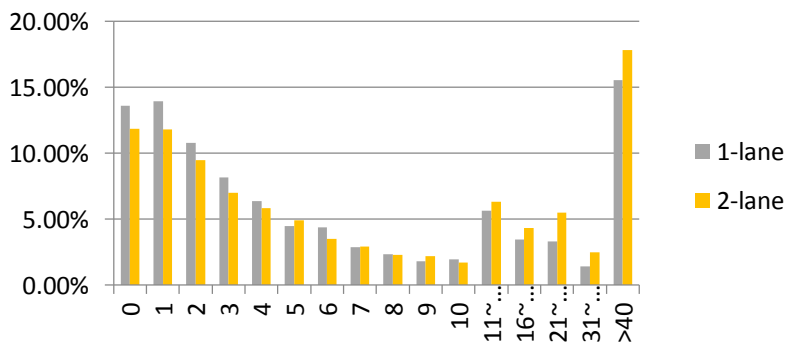
# of Legs	# of Intersections	Crash Rate	Crash Frequency	KA Ratio
3	6303	0.99	1.83	0.21
4	4189	1.44	3.49	0.13

394

395 **Figure 8 Crash Analyses by Number of Approaches**

396 **4.3 Crash Analysis by Number of Lanes**

397 As shown in Figure 9, the percentages of intersections per crash count distribution are
 398 very close between the 1-lane intersection and the 2-lane intersection. The crash rate is lower in
 399 2-lane intersections however the crash frequency is higher, which may associate with the higher
 400 traffic volume in 2-lane intersections.



401

# of Lanes	# of Intersections	Crash Rate	Crash Frequency	KA Ratio
1	3953	1.09	1.83	0.19
2	4832	0.75	2.58	0.16

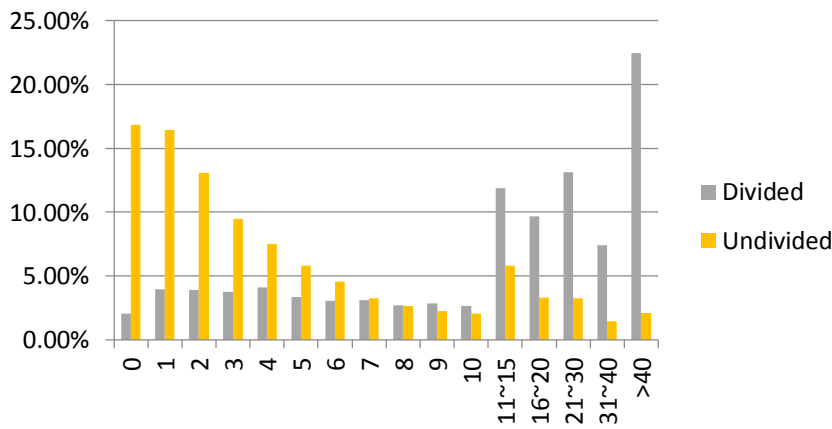
402

403 **Figure 9 Crash Analyses by Number of Lanes**

404 **4.4 Crash Analysis by Median Type**

405 Figure 10 shows that divided highways have a larger concentration at the higher crash
 406 frequency ranges compared to undivided highways. Most of the highways are undivided in
 407 Wisconsin. The crash frequency is significantly higher in divided highways but the crash rate is

408 comparably not so high. The crash severity in the divided intersections is significantly lower than
 409 in the undivided intersections, which indicates separating conflicting traffic flows can help to
 410 improve the safety level.



411

Median Type	# of Intersections	Crash Rate	Crash Frequency	KA Ratio
Divided	1893	0.84	5.64	0.08
Undivided	7239	0.73	1.52	0.23

412

413 **Figure 10 Crash Analyses by Median Type**

414 **4.5 Comprehensive Analysis**

415 Table 3 calculates the intersection crash rates, crash frequencies and KA Ratio by area
 416 type, number of approaches, number of lanes, and median type, which provide a statewide
 417 average crash information statistics by geometric features. For a certain intersection with a crash
 418 rate significantly higher than the statewide average, counter measures are suggested to be taken
 419 to improve the safety condition.

420 Table 3 only contains intersection categories with more than 30 intersections, since the
 421 statistical reliability is questionable for categories with less than 30 samples.

422

423

424 **TABLE 3 Comprehensive Analysis**
 425

Area Type	# of Legs	# of Lanes	Median Type	# of Intersections	Crash Rate	Crash Rate Rank	Crash Freq.	Crash Freq. Rank	KA Ratio	KA Rank
Rural	3	2	Undivided	1761	0.62	11	0.73	14	0.32	1
Rural	3	1	Undivided	81	0.61	12	1.67	9	0.27	2
Rural	4	2	Undivided	895	0.73	5	1.04	13	0.24	3
Rural	3	2	Divided	156	0.43	13	1.55	11	0.23	4
Rural	4	1	Undivided	61	0.80	4	2.66	5	0.19	5
Rural	3	1	Divided	35	0.70	7	1.51	12	0.17	6
Urban	3	2	Undivided	363	0.63	10	2.00	7	0.16	7
Rural	4	2	Divided	166	0.66	9	2.40	6	0.16	8
Rural	4	1	Divided	36	0.71	6	1.99	8	0.12	9
Urban	4	2	Undivided	257	1.07	2	3.41	4	0.10	10
Urban	3	1	Divided	44	0.41	14	1.66	10	0.10	11
Urban	4	1	Divided	49	1.06	3	3.56	3	0.09	12
Urban	3	2	Divided	629	0.67	8	4.44	2	0.07	13
Urban	4	2	Divided	528	1.15	1	7.47	1	0.05	14

426
 427

428 As indicated in Table 3, although urban 4-legged intersection with divided 2-lane major
 429 road has the highest statewide average crash rate, the average crash severity is lowest among all
 430 types of intersections. Rural 3- legged intersections with undivided 2-lane major road exposed to
 431 the most dangerous crash possibility, about 1/3 of the crashes are fatal or incapacitating. The
 432 urban intersections with divided major road have the highest crash rates but relatively low KA
 433 ratios. In conclusion, intersections with different geometric features vary in the statewide crash
 434 statistics. The specific rankings are highly sensitive to the ranking methodology (e.g., injury
 435 severity vs. overall crash rate).

436 **5 CONCLUSION**

437 In this study, a new intersection safety information evaluation method is proposed to
 438 automate the process of generating highway intersection crash rates and integrating those crash
 439 rates with roadway features such as the area type, the number of lanes, the median type and the
 440 number of approaches. In the proposed methodology, five databases - the Wisconsin crash
 441 database of police traffic accident reports, the Wisconsin Information System of Local Roads
 442 (WISLR), State Trunk Network (STN), Crash Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database,
 443 and the TRAffic DAta System (TRADAS) - are combined to produce a database of intersection
 444 crashes, which can provide a significant approach for more comprehensive intersection safety
 445 analysis. The QA/QC result suggests that this methodology is reliable in collecting the
 446 intersection data. This paper also presented the statewide average crash statistics by different
 447 combinations of intersection features, which provides a bench mark for Wisconsin safety
 448 engineers to identify intersections that need safety improvement. This study has implied the
 449 advantages of using LRS to manage transportation data, since crashes can be directly related to
 450 roadways and intersections. In addition, the study can be applied to other state DOTs that uses

451 LRS to manage traffic data. Future studies would explore adding more intersection features such
452 as the left turn lane and the traffic control type.

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