



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS  
BY OPEN SOURCE EXPERTS

**PGConf.EU 2023**

**PostGIS and pgRouting:  
Extensions for spatial data in PostgreSQL**

Marion Baumgartner



# About your Presenters



Marion Baumgartner

- Full stack GIS development
- ETL with geo-data
- <https://github.com/marionb>

# About Camptocamp

## Your partner for success.

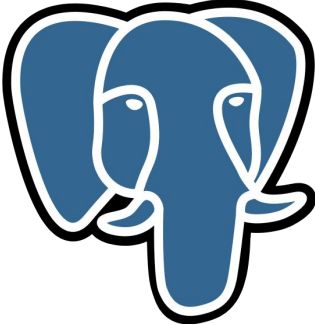


- Founded in **2001**
- Solid and controlled growth
- **160+** employees
- Offices in **3 countries**:
  - France, Switzerland, Germany
- A major European player in **Open Source**



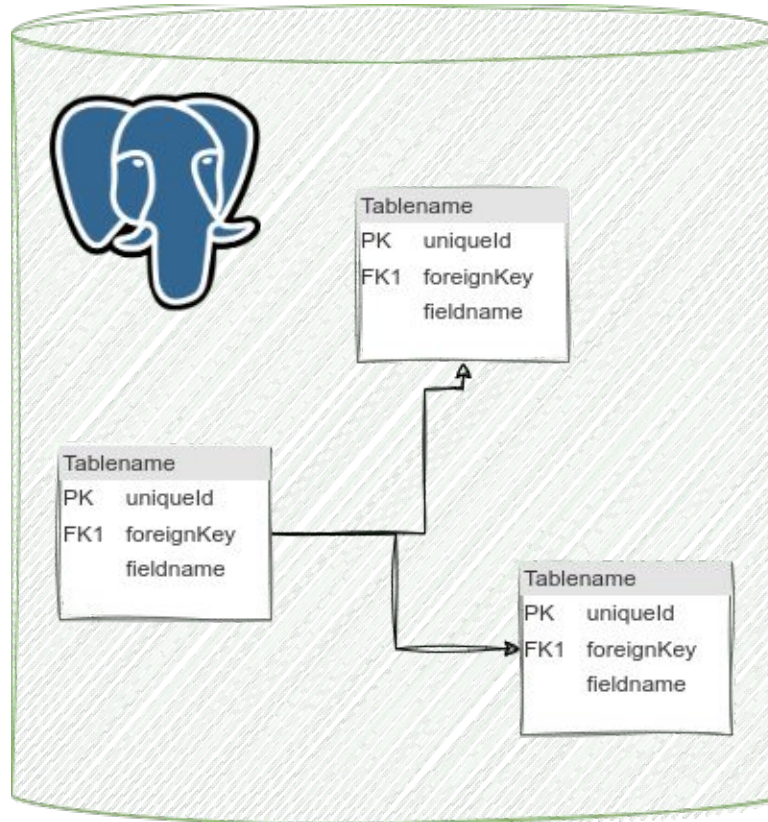
# Agenda

- PostGIS: how to handle geospatial data in PostgreSQL
  - Saving
  - Indexing
  - Querying
- pgRouting
  - Principles
  - Examples



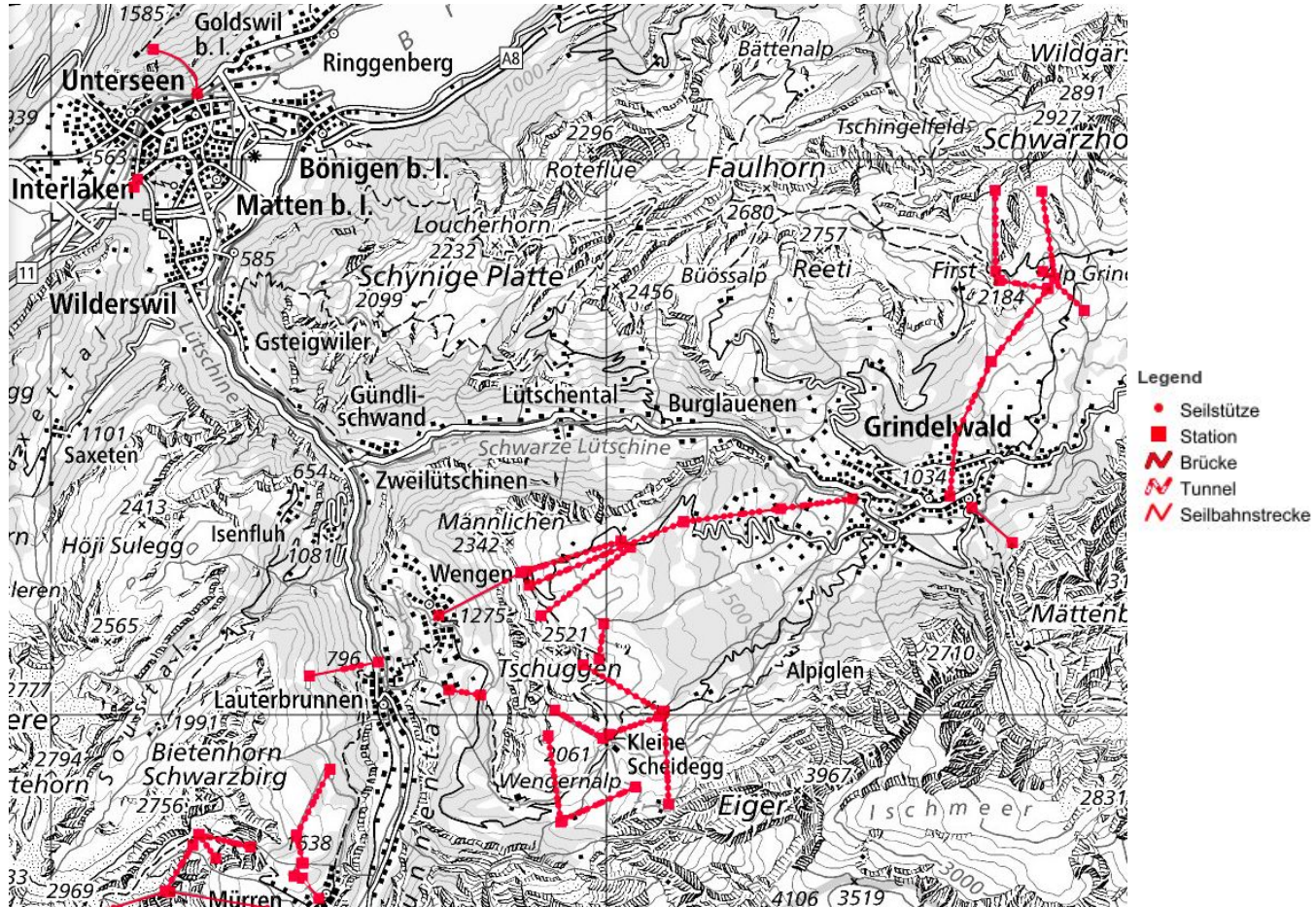
PostGIS



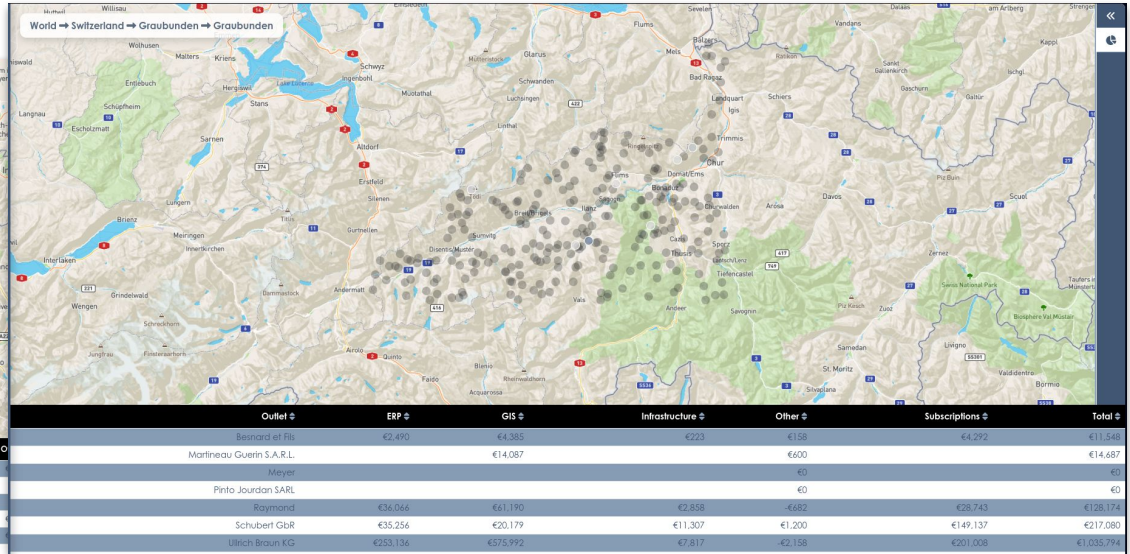
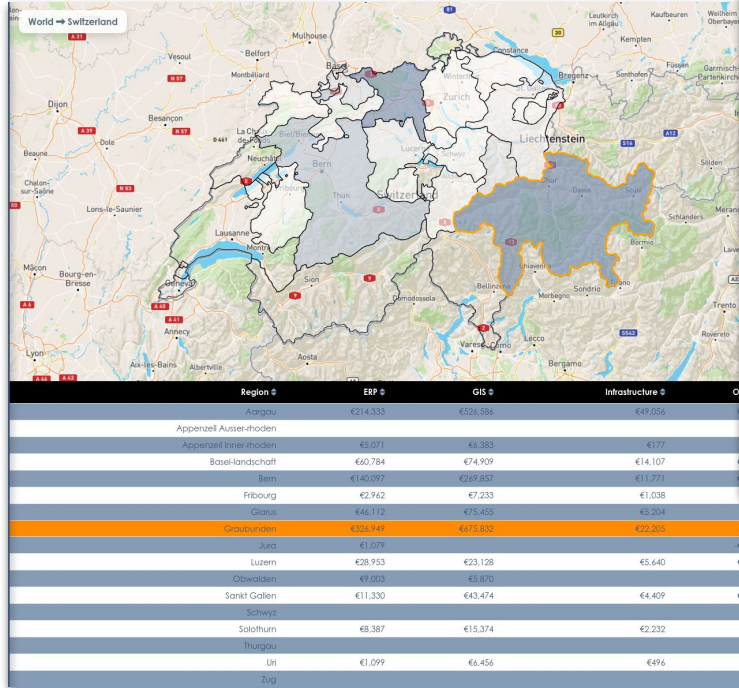




# Data with a geospatial relation



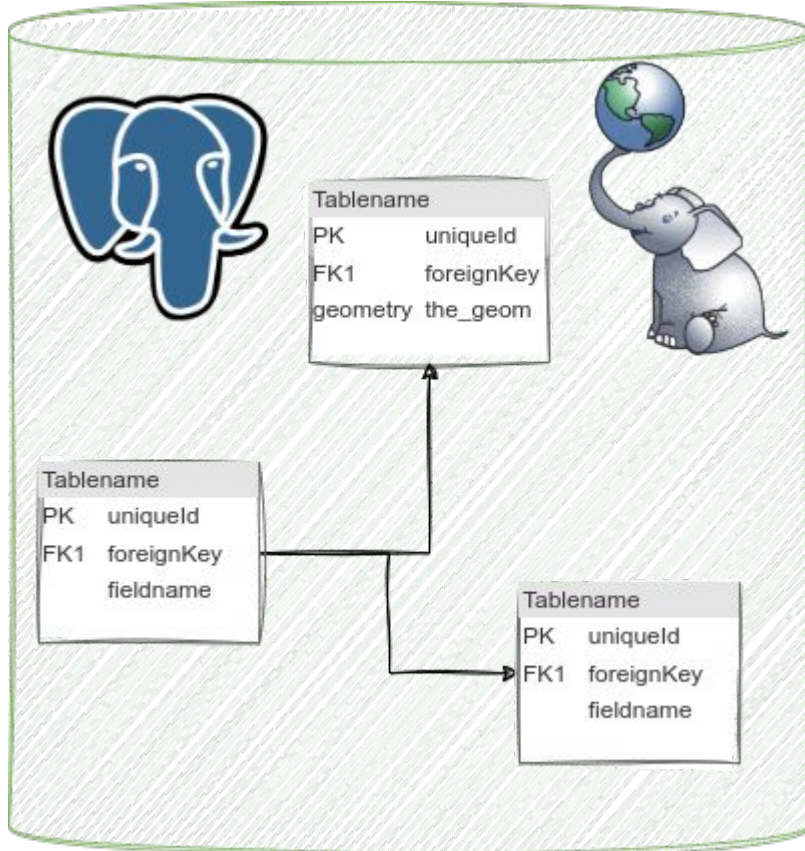
# Complex Data with a Geospatial Relation that we Want to Aggregate



Map POIS into administrative regions

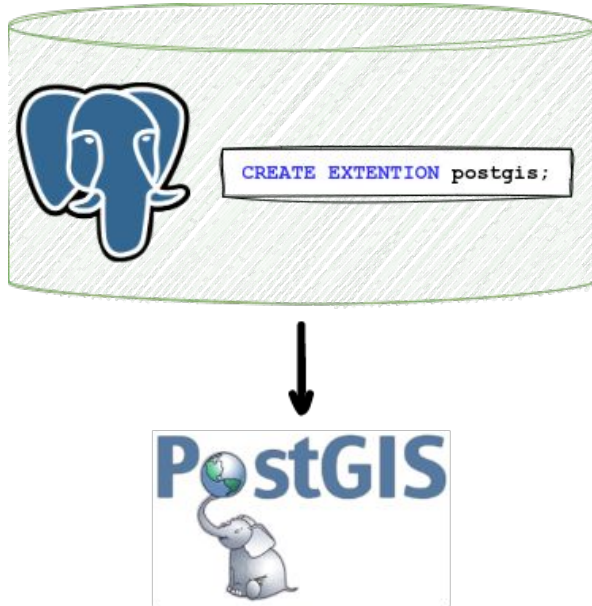


# Data with a geospatial relation



**CREATE EXTENSION** `postgis;`

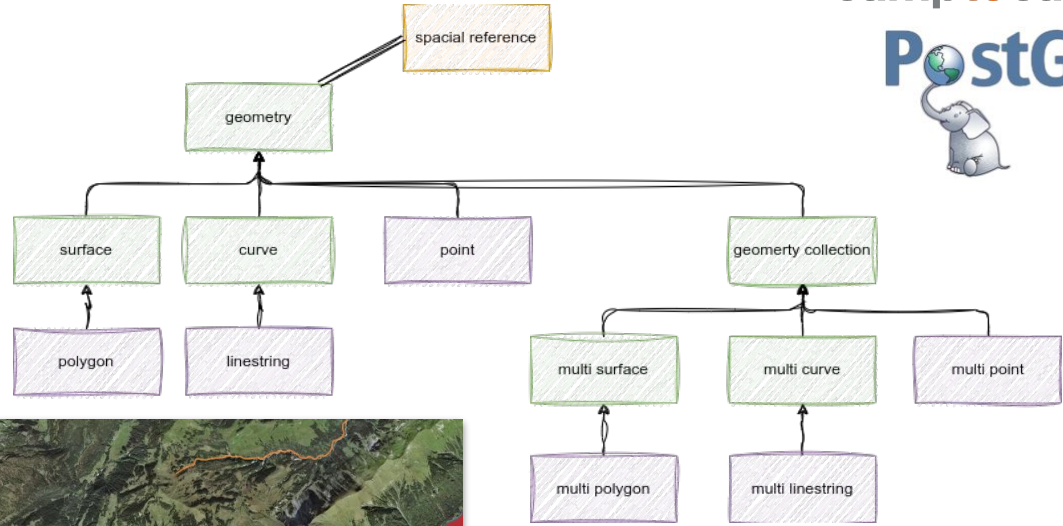
# What is PostGIS?



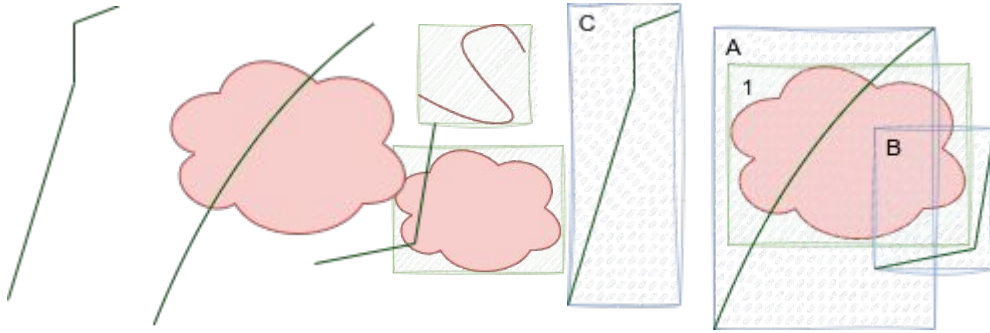
PostGIS is a spatial database:

- Spatial data types
  - geometry (point, lines, polygons)
  - raster
- Spatial indexing
  - Optimised for spatially related data
- Spatial functions
  - ST\_...

# Data Types



# Spatial Indexing



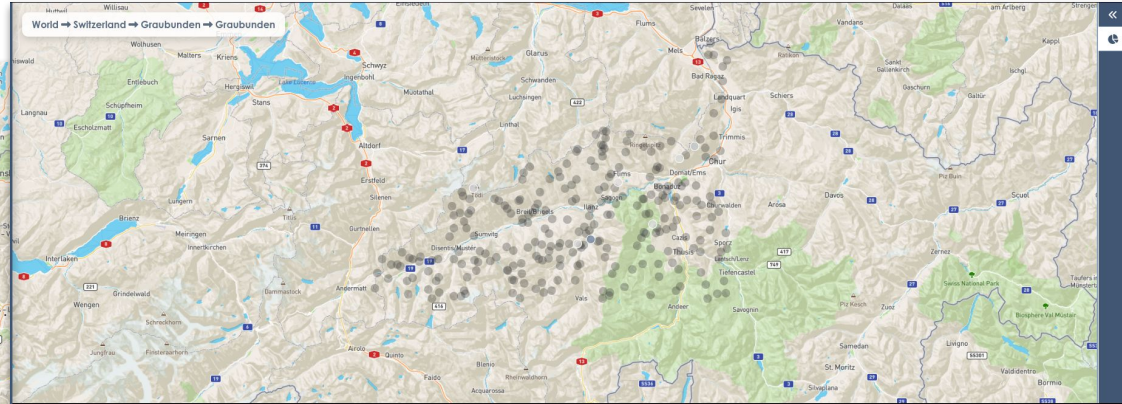
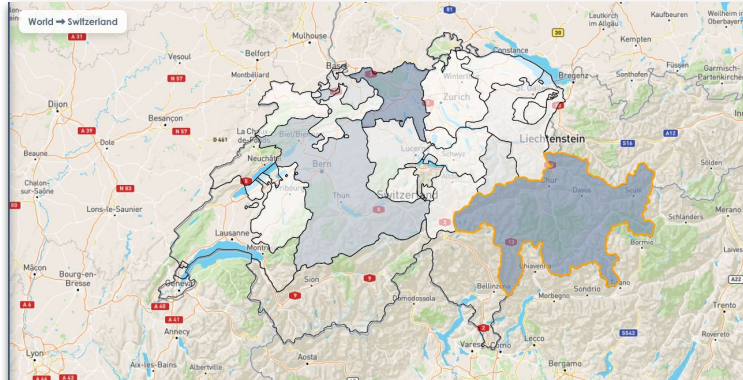
- Speeding up the query
- Using the help of bounding boxes to create indexes
  - BBoxes are simpler objects that can be compared quite fast
  - Often it is enough to answer a query using BBoxes
- Spatial objects are organized so that a search can be done in a quick walk through of a tree

# Spatial Indexing

- Only some postGIS functions automatically make use of spatial index.
- Including the most commonly used function:
  - [ST\\_Intersects](#)
  - [ST\\_Contains](#)
  - [ST\\_Within](#)
  - [ST\\_DWithin](#)
  - ...
- To explicitly perform a search using a BBox:
  - && → intersects →gist, spgis, BRIN
  - @ → contains →gist, BRIN
  - << → is strictly to the left →gist, spgist
  - ~= → is the same →gist, spgist
  - ...



# Spatial Functions



Region	ERP	GIS	Infrastructure	Other
Aargau	€214.333	€526.586	€49.056	€1.380
Appenzel Auser-rhoden				
Appenzel Inner-rhoden	€5.071	€4.383	€177	€431
Basel-Landschaft	€60.784	€74.909	€14.107	€43
Bern	€140.097	€269.857	€11.771	€9.800
Fribourg	€2.942	€7.233	€1.038	€0
Glarus	€46.112	€75.455	€5.204	€431
Graubünden	€326.949	€673.832	€22.305	€983
Jura	€1.077	€1.079		€0
Luzern	€28.953	€23.128	€5.640	€1.413
Obwalden	€9.000	€5.870		€0
Sankt Gallen	€11.330	€43.474	€4.409	€1.380
Schwyz				€0
Solothurn	€8.387	€15.374	€2.232	€0
Thurgau				€0
Uri	€1.099	€6.456	€496	€0
Zug				€0

Outlet	ERP	GIS	Infrastructure	Other	Subscriptions	Total
Besnard et Fil	€2.490	€4.385	€223	€1.58	€4.292	€11.548
Marineau Guerin S.A.R.L		€14.087		€600		€14.687
Meyer				€0		€0
Pinto Jourdan SARL				€0		€0
Raymond	€36.066	€61.190	€2.858	-€682	€28.743	€128.176
Schubert GbR	€35.256	€20.179	€11.307	€1.200	€149.137	€217.080
Ulrich Braun KG	€253.136	€575.992	€7.817	€2.158	€201.008	€1.035.776

Map POIS into administrative regions

ST\_Contains(geometry A, geometry B)

→ boolean

⇒ A is in B

ST\_Within(geometry A, geometry B)

→ boolean

⇒ B is in A

# Spatial Functions

`ST_Distance(geometry A, geometry B)`

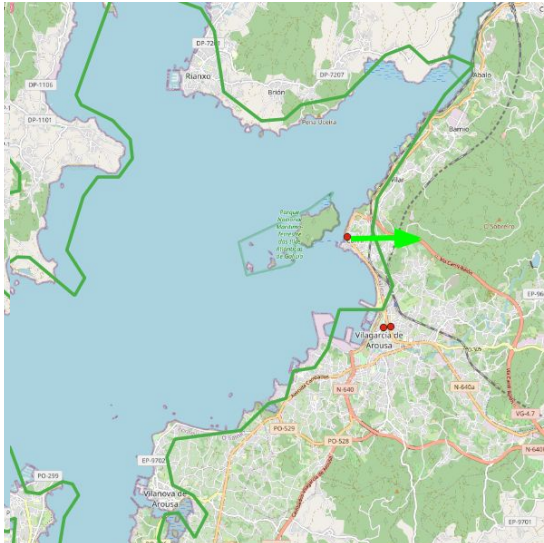
→ distance

⇒ distance from A to B

`ST_DWithin(geometry A, geometry B, distance d)`

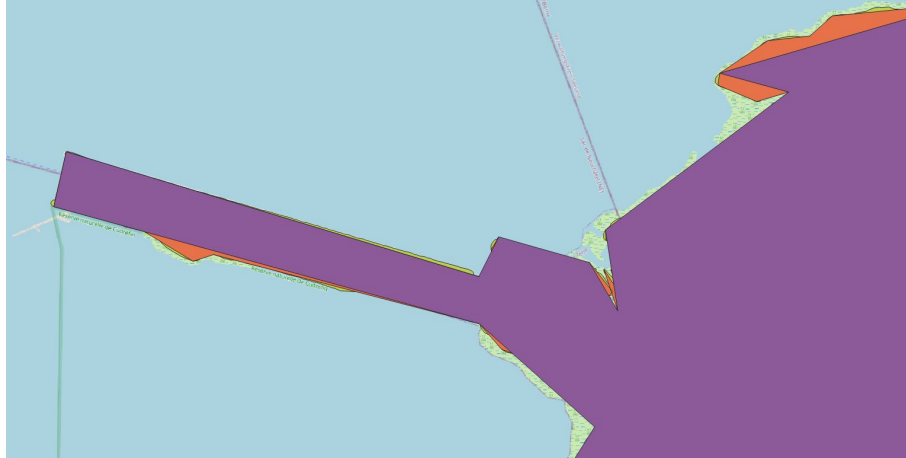
→ boolean

⇒ B is within *d* of A



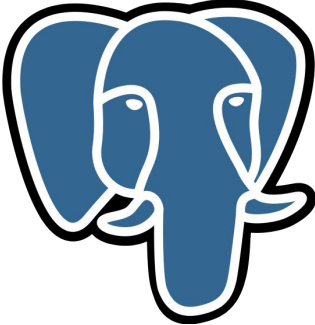
- Correction of the allocated region for a POI with the next closest polygon
- Corrections of POIs that are badly allocated and that are within a maximum distance from the next polygon
- What is the shortest distance between point A and point B? → there is also a different approach to solve this

# Spatial Functions



`ST_Simplify(geometry A, float tolerance, [boolean preserveCollapsed])` → simplified geometry

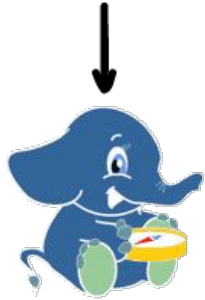
- Simplify (multi)lines and (multi)polygons
- Use case: When geometries consist of many vertices and render too slow



# pgRouting

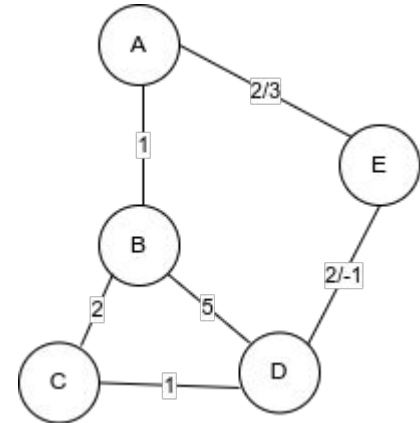


# What is (pg)Routing?



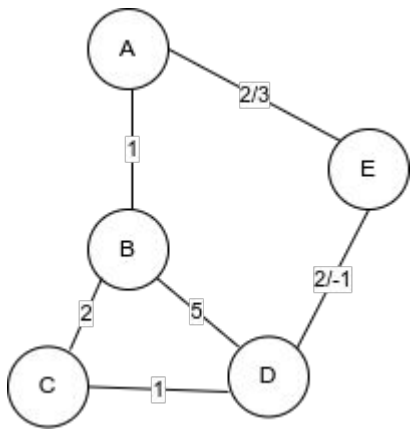
→ Finding the path with the minimal cost between two points on a graph.

- nodes , vertices
- orientation
- cost





# Translating the Graph in to a PostgreSQL Table

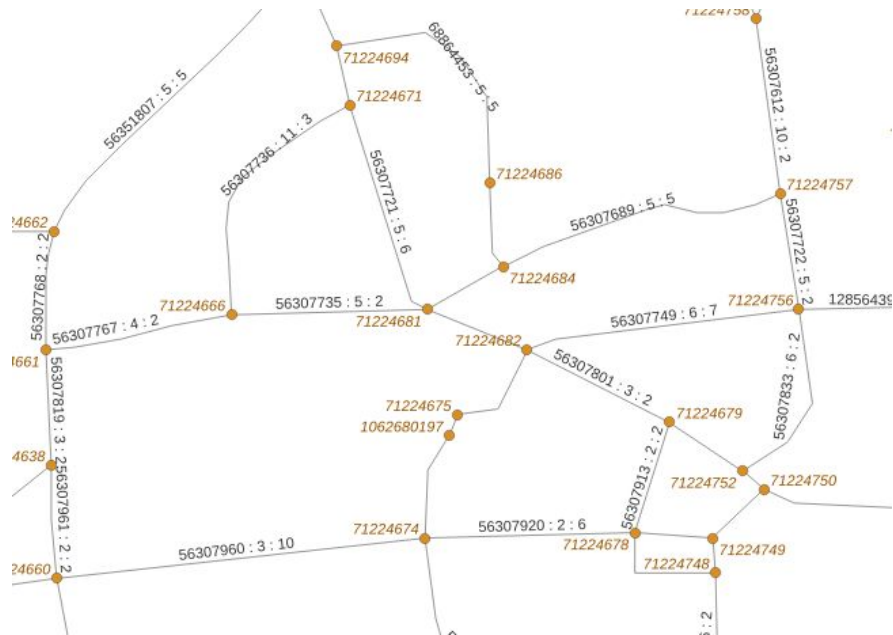


ID	source	target	cost	reverse cost
A_B	A	B	1	1
B_C	B	C	2	2
C_D	C	D	1	1
A_E	A	E	2	3
E_D	E	D	2	-1
B_D	B	D	5	5

# The Data



Example using HERE map data



	gid integer	source integer	target integer	cost smallint	reverse_cost smallint	the_geom geometry
1	928131604	80148107	955160491	8	8	0102000020E610...
2	71398108	80148106	80148134	8	8	0102000020E610...
3	928131605	955160491	80148135	-1	1	0102000020E610...
4	723428763	80148134	721745842	2	-1	0102000020E610...
5	123078040	80148135	1164666563	1	1	0102000020E610...
6	123078040	1164666563	1084808819	1	1	0102000020E610...
7	110572139	721745842	1084808818	4	4	0102000020E610...
8	110572139	1084808819	1084808820	18	18	0102000020E610...
9	110572139	1084808818	750787710	18	17	0102000020E610...
10	110572139	1084808820	750787703	2	2	0102000020E610...
11	590940936	750787710	580367923	6	6	0102000020E610...
12	590940931	750787703	750787702	6	6	0102000020E610...
13	110572139	750787702	1084808821	-1	1	0102000020E610...
14	821484345	580367923	80148902	16	15	0102000020E610...

Negative cost (e.g. -1) = direction not allowed

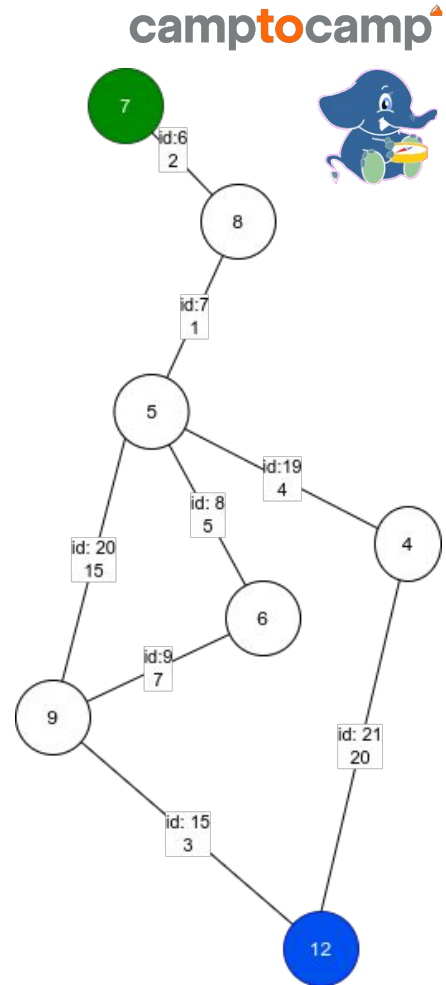
# Why the pgRouting Extension?



- Extends the set of available functions in PostgreSQL with routing functions:
  - Dijkstra
  - A\*
  - ...
- Basic function structure:
  - `pgr_<name>(inner queries, parameters, [ Optional parameters ]);`
- Turn restricted shortest path:
  - `pgr_trsp(sql text, source integer, target integer, directed boolean, has_rcost boolean [,restrict_sql text]);`

# pgRouting: an Example

```
SELECT *  
FROM pgr_trsp(  
    'SELECT gid, source, target, cost FROM edge_table',  
    7,12, false, false)
```

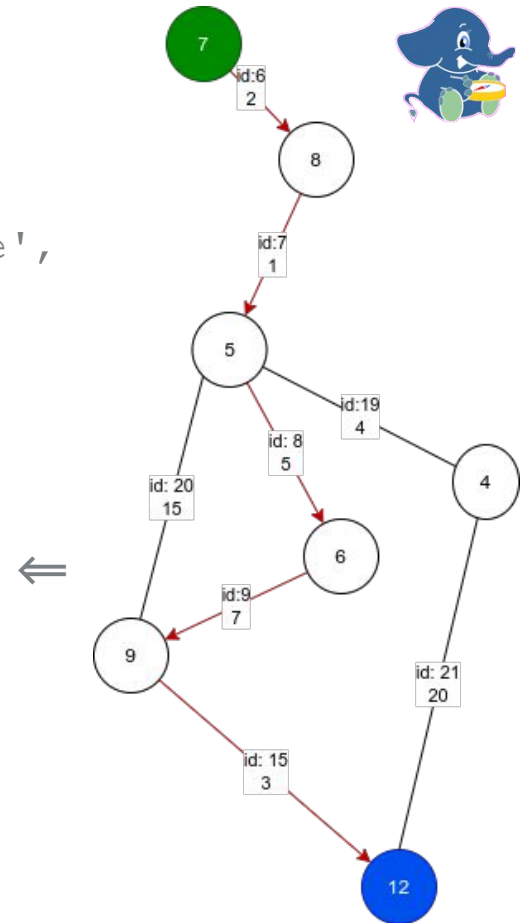


# pgRouting: an Example



```
SELECT *  
FROM pgr_trsp(  
  'SELECT gid, source, target, cost FROM edge_table',  
  7,12, false, false)
```

seq	Node	Edge	cost
0	7	6	2
1	8	7	1
2	5	8	5
3	6	9	7
4	9	15	3
5	12	-1	0





# pgRouting: case study

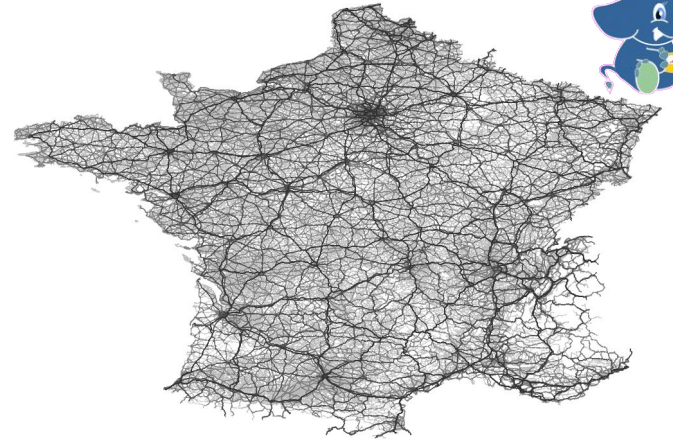


- French governmental agency providing **routing services** for various clients
- Objective: offering an **API** based on pgRouting and other open source components to compute:
  - **Shortest / fastest routes**
  - **Traveling Salesman Problem**
  - **Isochrones / isodistances**

# Lieve Example



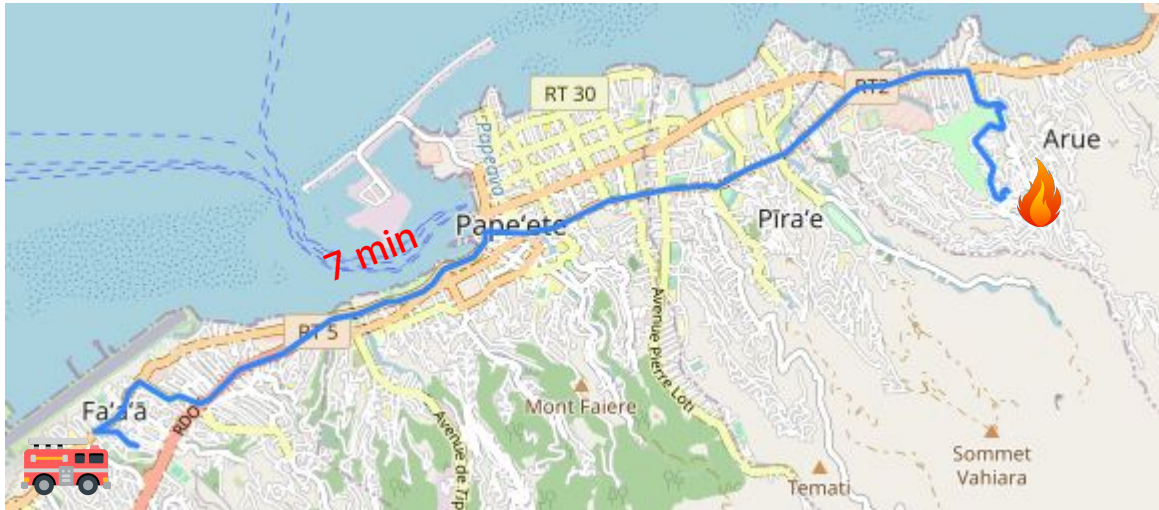
- Using the HERE data (<https://www.here.com>) to PostgreSQL (~11 mio. rows / road segments)
- For each segment: different costs with various parameters:
  - distance/time
  - car/truck/pedestrian,
  - traffic rules emergency/normal
- Performance requirements:
  - all queries under 1s (for long routes: < 5s)



# Shortest / fastest route



→ Fastest route to an emergency location (`pgr_trsp` / `pgr_dijkstra`)

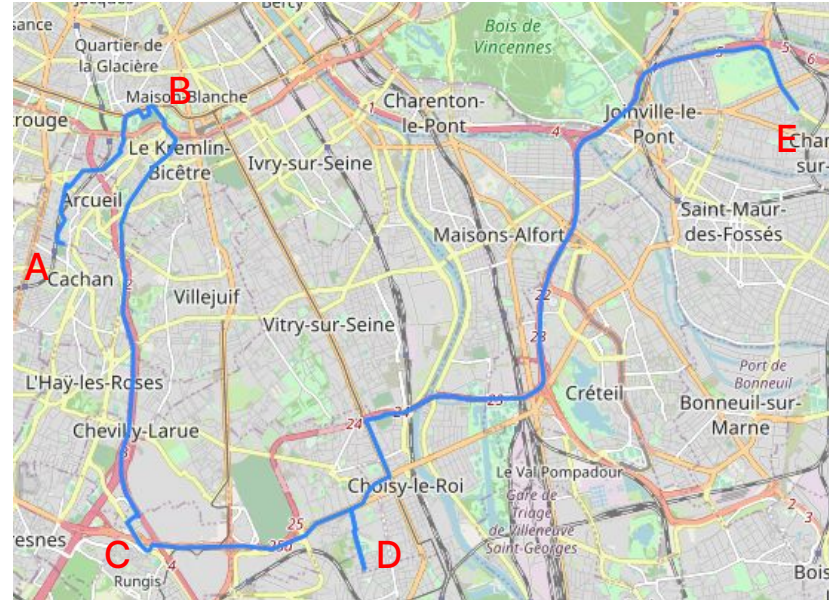


# Shortest / fastest route



## → Shortest / fastest route

- Fastest route between many POIs for monitoring (pgr\_tsp - travelling salesman)



# Isochrones / Isodistances



Estimate area of escape routes:

- based on `pgr_drivingDistance`
- Using postGIS functions:
  - build polygons from returned nodes/points:
  - `ST_ConcaveHull`

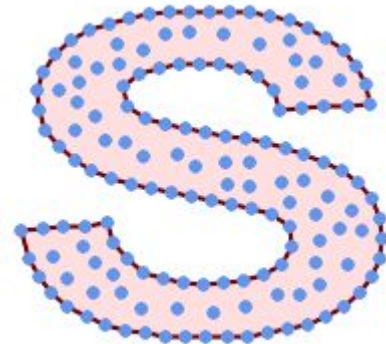
# Isochrones / Isodistances

- `pgr_drivingDistance(Edges SQL, root vid, distance, [directed])`
- Edges SQL ⇒ the graph
  - Root vid 0 ⇒ indicates the start point
  - Distance ⇒ the distance of the the end point

⇒ RETURNS SET OF (seq, node, edge, cost)

- Using postGIS functions: build polygons from returned nodes/points:

```
ST_ConcaveHull(ST_Collect(nodes.the_geom), 0.98) AS polygon
```

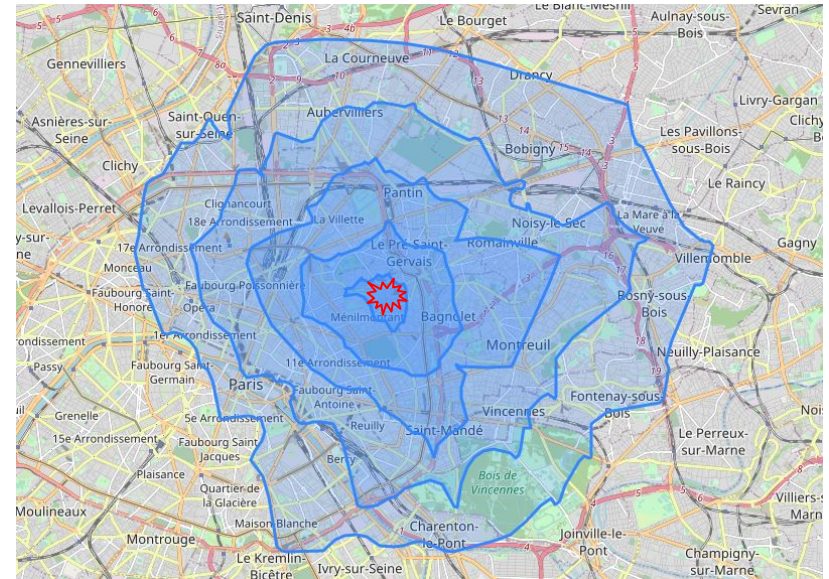
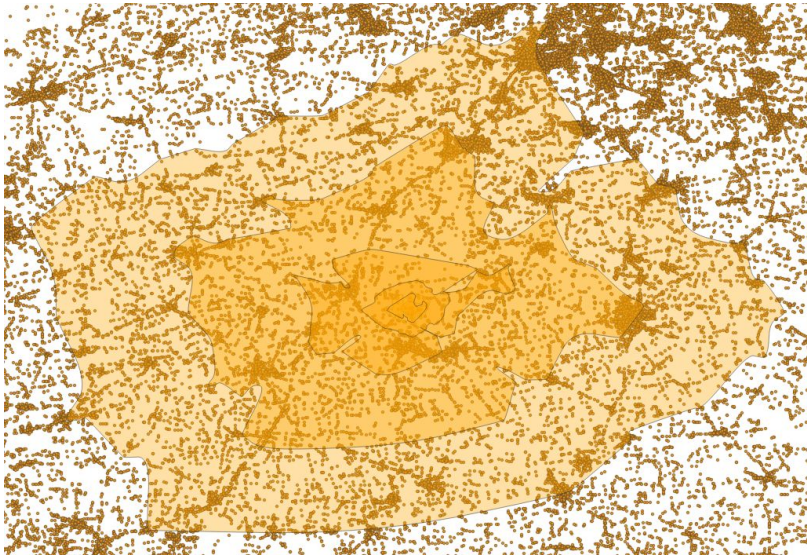




# Isochrones / Isodistances



→ Estimate area of escape routes from a crime location (e.g. max. 10 min with 2 min steps)



# pgRouting



Answer questions like:

- Shortest / fastest path between
  - A and B
  - Start at A and end at different points
  - Start at different points and end at A
  - Multiple start points and multiple endpoints
- Travel Salesman Problem (TSP)



- Advantages:
  - Access to the functionalities of PostgreSQL/PostGIS
  - Flexible as SQL for queries
  - Many routing algorithms available
  - Many tools for graph/network analysis
  - “Cost” parameters can be changed dynamically

# pgRouting and PostGIS



- Powerful PostgreSQL extensions that combine well
- Open source (GNU General Public License)
- A long history and active community
- Well documented
  - <https://postgis.net/documentation/>
  - <https://docs.pgrouting.org/latest/en/index.html>

# Thanks for your attention!



<https://github.com/camptocamp/>



<https://www.camptocamp.com>

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# Literature References

- PostGIS in Action by Regina O. Obe, Leo S. Hus
- PostGIS Workshop: <https://www.postgis.net/workshops/postgis-intro>
- pgRouting doc: <https://pgrouting.org>



# camptocamp<sup>▲</sup>

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