

MOBILE CITY

These amazing images are the world's first ever maps of mobile phone usage

BOASTING A population of around 240,000, Graz is Austria's second largest city. So as good a candidate as any for this study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on mobile phone use.

Linking up with A1/Mobilkom - Austria's biggest mobile phone service provider - the boffins tracked the data

density, origins and destinations of mobile phone calls and pinpointed the positions of the users at regular intervals to ink up this 3D map, which represents an entire city's cell phone usage.

The findings will be displayed in Graz's art gallery, the Kunsthaus, where visitors will be able to text a server and become part of the project. Their

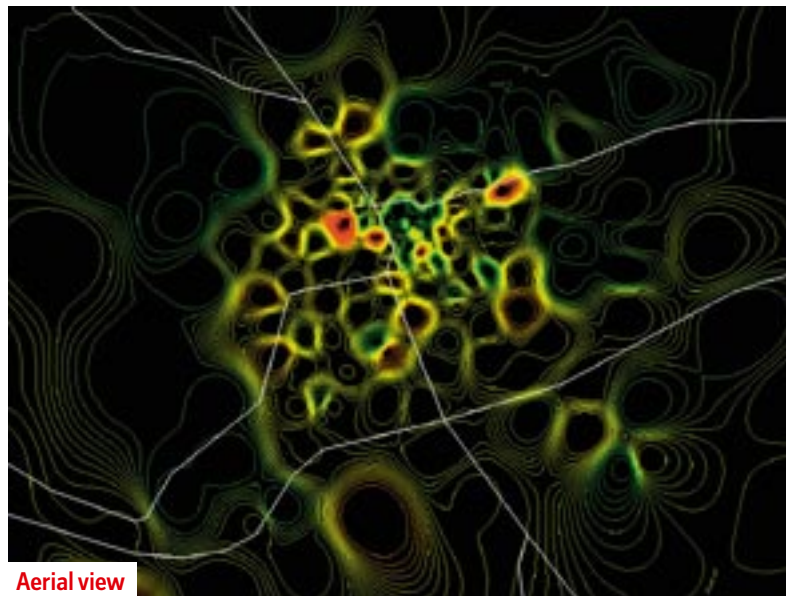
traces will then be highlighted on the map, together with their profiles and names.

Intrigued, we asked MIT what the significance of the different colours was. "All of them represent the same thing, ie the intensity of cellphone traffic in the city. We just changed the colour in order to make them graphically more readable." Oh, okay, so what's the

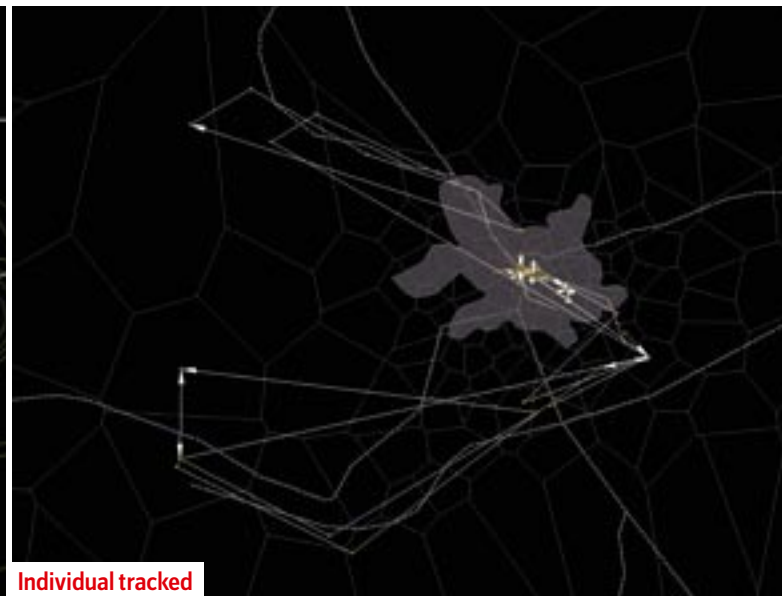
meaning of those bulges in the diagrams? "They certainly have a meaning. Unfortunately, we have been too busy with finishing the exhibition (opening next week) and we did not have time to interpret them. We are planning to do it later this year." They may as well have just told us to fuck off. Find out more: senseable.mit.edu/projects/graz



3D plan



Aerial view



Individual tracked

