Exploring Space-Time Dynamics of Human Activities in Non-geographic Spaces

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Human Dynamics

- Activities and processes in human dimensions
- Changes of hot spots over time: crime, flu, traffic, opinions, etc.



The conceptual workflow



Space-time Dynamics

McIntosh, J. and Yuan, M., 2005. Assessing similarity of geographic processes and events. *Transactions in GIS*, *9*(2), pp.223-245.

Spatial Forms

Miller, H.J. and Wentz, E.A., 2003. Representation and spatial analysis in geographic information systems. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *93*(3), pp.574-594.

Spatial Measurements





Mapping based on a cartographical framework Mapping based on a semantical framework

- Experiences over space and time
- Degrees of similarity among these experiences



Barbieri, Katherine, Omar M. G. Keshk, and Brian Pollins. 2009. "TRADING DATA: Evaluating our Assumptions and Coding Rules." Conflict Management and Peace Science. 26(5): 471-491.

International bilateral trade data: 1870 to 2009

In 2009 US dollars for pairs of 205 sovereign states. Based on IMF data and other state reports when necessary. In case of country name changes, record the data based on state list with the COW state membership list.

Barbieri, Katherine and Omar Keshk. 2012. Correlates of War Project Trade Data Set Codebook, Version 3.0. Online: <u>http://correlatesofwar.org</u>.

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Instead of modeling spatial interactions of state pairs, can we seek how a state develops international trade patterns over the years and how each state compares to the others?

With Wei Luo at UC Santa Barbara

205 countries







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Kohonen SOM Rbind: 1900-2009 Alpha 0.00005 to 0.000001

Use Self Organizing Map to classify imports patterns across all countries at a given year



For each country, plot its trajectory of imports patterns from 1900 to 2009



The trajectory of a country







Mode of trade patterns from 1900 to 2009





Variety of International Trade Patterns

The most common trajectory of trend patterns 65 out of 205 countries



65 countries with minimal imports from all other countries from 1900 to 2009



Clusters of remaining 140 countries hclust(dist(x), method="ward.D2") in R





Countries with extreme low imports

geographic regions

















Concluding Remarks

- This presentation highlights the alternative two approaches to mapping of human dynamics
 - Mapping in a cartographic framework a geographic space
 - Mapping in a semantical framework a non-geographic space
- Use the example of international trades (imports) in 1900 to 2009.
- 65 out of 205 countries remained extremely low imports from all other countries during this period. These countries are small in terms of size or population, or are located in marginal lands (boundaries between major geographic regions).
- The rest 140 countries suggest four tendency in on their trajectories of import patterns over time.
 - 1. More than 50% countries stay in low imports throughout the period.
 - 2. Countries moved to active imports in ways that show geographic and historical effects on their trajectories.
 - 3. Geographical: more similar trajectories among countries in geographical regions
 - 4. Historical: USA/UK/France, Japan/West Germany
- A non-geographic space may provide a richer framework to elicit latent space-time patterns and semantics.

Thank You We welcome your questions and comments.

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