

Optimal Supply Networks III: Redistribution

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vol. 1 | @pocsvox
CSYS/MATH 300, Fall, 2020

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Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center
Vermont Advanced Computing Core | University of Vermont



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Optimal Supply
Networks III
1 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

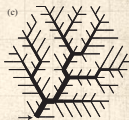
Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



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Networks III
2 of 48

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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

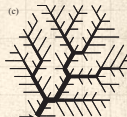
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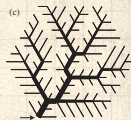




PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
3 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



 On Instagram at [pratchett_the_cat](https://www.instagram.com/pratchett_the_cat) 

Outline

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
4 of 48

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

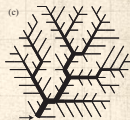
A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

References



Many sources, many sinks

How do we distribute sources?

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
5 of 48

Distributed Sources


- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References



Many sources, many sinks

How do we distribute sources?

 Focus on 2-d (results generalize to higher dimensions).

Distributed Sources



Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



Many sources, many sinks

How do we distribute sources?

-  Focus on 2-d (results generalize to higher dimensions).
-  Sources = hospitals, post offices, pubs, ...

Distributed Sources

- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References



Many sources, many sinks

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- Key problem:** How do we cope with uneven population densities?

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



Many sources, many sinks

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- Obvious: if density is uniform then sources are best distributed **uniformly**.

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



Many sources, many sinks

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- Focus on 2-d (results generalize to higher dimensions).
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- Which lattice is optimal?

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



Many sources, many sinks

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- Focus on 2-d (results generalize to higher dimensions).
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- Which lattice is optimal? The **hexagonal lattice**
- Q2:** Given population density is uneven, what do we do?

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



Many sources, many sinks

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- Focus on 2-d (results generalize to higher dimensions).
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- Key problem:** How do we cope with uneven population densities?
- Obvious: if density is uniform then sources are best distributed **uniformly**.
- Which lattice is optimal? The **hexagonal lattice**
- Q2:** Given population density is uneven, what do we do?
- We'll follow work by Stephan (1977, 1984) [4, 5], Gastner and Newman (2006) [2], Um *et al.* (2009) [6], and work cited by them.

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



Optimal source allocation

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
7 of 48

Distributed Sources

- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

Solidifying the basic problem

References




Optimal source allocation

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References

Solidifying the basic problem

 Given a region with some population distribution ρ , most likely uneven.



Optimal source allocation

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
7 of 48

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References

Solidifying the basic problem

- Given a region with some population distribution ρ , most likely uneven.
- Given resources to build and maintain N facilities.



Optimal source allocation

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
7 of 48

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References

Solidifying the basic problem

- Given a region with some population distribution ρ , most likely uneven.
- Given resources to build and maintain N facilities.
- Q:** How do we locate these N facilities so as to **minimize the average distance** between an individual's residence and the **nearest facility**?





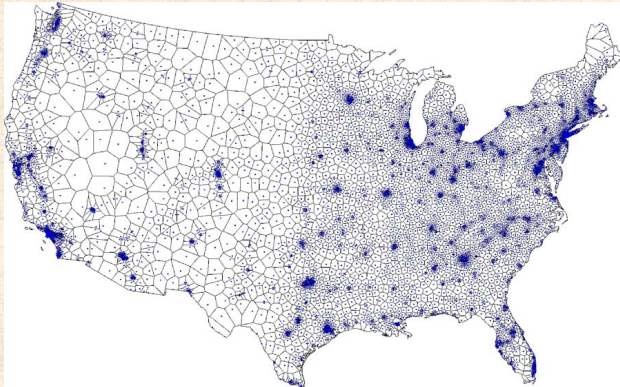
"Optimal design of spatial distribution networks"


Gastner and Newman,
Phys. Rev. E, **74**, 016117, 2006. [2]

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- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References



 Approximately optimal location of 5000 facilities.

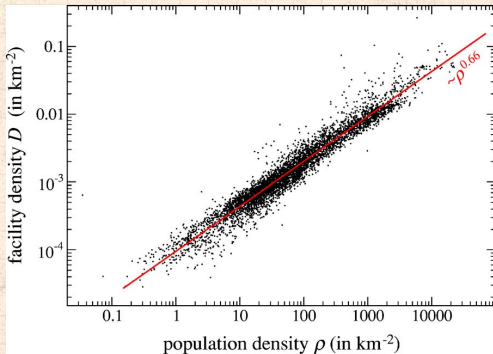
 Based on 2000 Census data.

Optimal source allocation

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- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References



Optimal facility density ρ_{fac} vs. population density

ρ_{pop} .

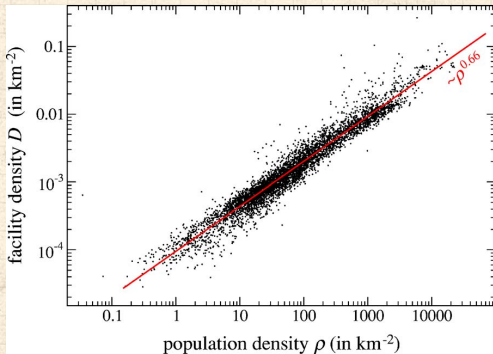



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Distributed Sources

- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References

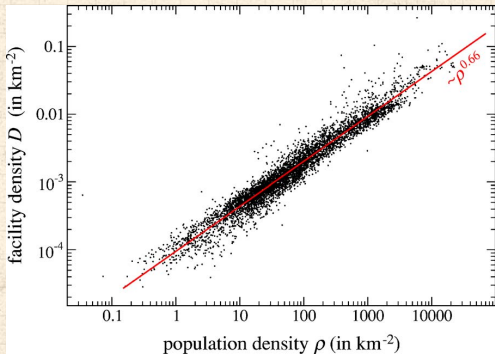


 Optimal facility density ρ_{fac} vs. population density ρ_{pop} .

 Fit is $\rho_{\text{fac}} \propto \rho_{\text{pop}}^{0.66}$ with $r^2 = 0.94$.




Optimal source allocation




Distributed Sources


- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References

 Optimal facility density ρ_{fac} vs. population density

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 Fit is $\rho_{\text{fac}} \propto \rho_{\text{pop}}^{0.66}$ with $r^2 = 0.94$.

 Looking good for a 2/3 power ...



Outline

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
10 of 48

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

References



Optimal source allocation

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

Size-density law:



$$\rho_{\text{fac}} \propto \rho_{\text{pop}}^{2/3}$$



Optimal source allocation

Size-density law:



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Why?



Optimal source allocation

Size-density law:



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Why?



Again: Different story to branching networks where there was either one source or one sink.



Optimal source allocation

Size-density law:



$$\rho_{\text{fac}} \propto \rho_{\text{pop}}^{2/3}$$



Why?



Again: Different story to branching networks where there was either one source or one sink.



Now sources & sinks are distributed throughout region.



Optimal source allocation

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
12 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms


A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References



“Territorial Division: The Least-Time
Constraint Behind the Formation of
Subnational Boundaries” 

G. Edward Stephan,
Science, **196**, 523–524, 1977. [4]

 We first examine Stephan’s treatment (1977) [4, 5]





"Territorial Division: The Least-Time Constraint Behind the Formation of Subnational Boundaries" ↗

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🧱 We first examine Stephan's treatment (1977) [4, 5]

🧱 Zipf-like approach: invokes **principle of minimal effort**.






Optimal source allocation



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G. Edward Stephan,
Science, **196**, 523–524, 1977. [4]

-  We first examine Stephan's treatment (1977) [4, 5]
-  Zipf-like approach: invokes **principle of minimal effort**.
-  Also known as the Homer Simpson principle.



Optimal source allocation

- Consider a region of area A and population P with a single functional center that everyone needs to access every day.



Optimal source allocation

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- Build up a general cost function based on time expended to **access and maintain center**.



Optimal source allocation

- Consider a region of area A and population P with a single functional center that everyone needs to access every day.
- Build up a general cost function based on time expended to **access and maintain center**.
- Write **average travel distance** to center as \bar{d} and assume **average speed of travel** is \bar{v} .

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Optimal source allocation

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- Build up a general cost function based on time expended to **access and maintain center**.
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- Assume **isometry**: average travel distance \bar{d} will be on the length scale of the region which is $\sim A^{1/2}$

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Optimal source allocation

- Consider a region of area A and population P with a single functional center that everyone needs to access every day.
- Build up a general cost function based on time expended to **access and maintain center**.
- Write **average travel distance** to center as \bar{d} and assume **average speed of travel** is \bar{v} .
- Assume **isometry**: average travel distance \bar{d} will be on the length scale of the region which is $\sim A^{1/2}$
- Average time expended per person in accessing facility is therefore

$$\bar{d}/\bar{v} = cA^{1/2}/\bar{v}$$

where c is an unimportant shape factor.

Distributed
Sources


Size-density law
Cartograms

A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



Optimal source allocation

 Next assume facility requires regular maintenance (person-hours per day).

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation


Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References



Optimal source allocation

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 Call this quantity τ .



Optimal source allocation

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- Replace P by $\rho_{\text{pop}}A$ where ρ_{pop} is density.



Optimal source allocation

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- Important assumption: uniform density.

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



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- Total average time cost per person:

$$T = \bar{d}/\bar{v} + \tau/(\rho_{\text{pop}}A)$$

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



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$$T = \bar{d}/\bar{v} + \tau/(\rho_{\text{pop}}A) = cA^{1/2}/\bar{v} + \tau/(\rho_{\text{pop}}A).$$

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



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- Now Minimize with respect to A ...



Optimal source allocation

 Differentiating ...

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial A} = \frac{\partial}{\partial A} \left(cA^{1/2} / \bar{v} + \tau / (\rho_{\text{pop}} A) \right)$$

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
15 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation


Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References




Optimal source allocation

 Differentiating ...

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial T}{\partial A} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial A} \left(cA^{1/2}/\bar{v} + \tau/(\rho_{\text{pop}}A) \right) \\ &= \frac{c}{2\bar{v}A^{1/2}} - \frac{\tau}{\rho_{\text{pop}}A^2}\end{aligned}$$




Optimal source allocation

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 Rearrange:

$$A = \left(\frac{2\bar{v}\tau}{c\rho_{\text{pop}}} \right)^{2/3}$$

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation


Global redistribution

Public versus Private


References



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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation


Global redistribution

Public versus Private


References




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 # facilities per unit area ρ_{fac} :

$$\rho_{\text{fac}} \propto A^{-1} \propto \rho_{\text{pop}}^{2/3}$$

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Optimal source allocation

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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Optimal source allocation

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
16 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms


A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

An issue:

 Maintenance (τ) is assumed to be **independent** of population and area (P and A)



Optimal source allocation

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
16 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms


A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution



Public versus Private



References

An issue:

 Maintenance (τ) is assumed to be **independent** of population and area (P and A)

 Stephan's online book "**The Division of Territory in Society**" is here .

 (It used to be here .)

 The Readme  is well worth reading (1995).



Outline

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

References



Cartograms

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

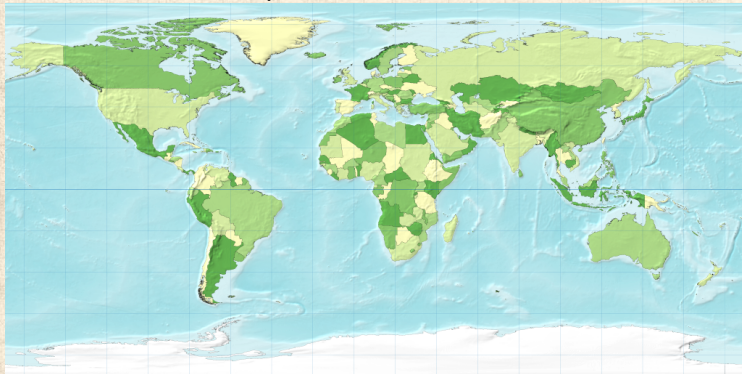
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Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

Standard world map:



Cartograms

Cartogram of countries 'rescaled' by population:



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Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Cartograms

Diffusion-based cartograms:

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
20 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Cartograms

Diffusion-based cartograms:

- 🧱 Idea of cartograms is to **distort areas** to more accurately represent some local density ρ_{pop} (e.g. population).

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Cartograms

Diffusion-based cartograms:

- ❏ Idea of cartograms is to **distort areas** to more accurately represent some local density ρ_{pop} (e.g. population).
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Cartograms

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- ❏ Algorithm due to Gastner and Newman (2004)^[1] is based on **standard diffusion**:

$$\nabla^2 \rho_{\text{pop}} - \frac{\partial \rho_{\text{pop}}}{\partial t} = 0.$$



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- ❏ Allow density to diffuse and trace the movement of individual elements and boundaries.



Cartograms

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$$\nabla^2 \rho_{\text{pop}} - \frac{\partial \rho_{\text{pop}}}{\partial t} = 0.$$

- ❏ Allow density to diffuse and trace the movement of individual elements and boundaries.
- ❏ Diffusion is constrained by boundary condition of surrounding area having density $\bar{\rho}_{\text{pop}}$.



Cartograms

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

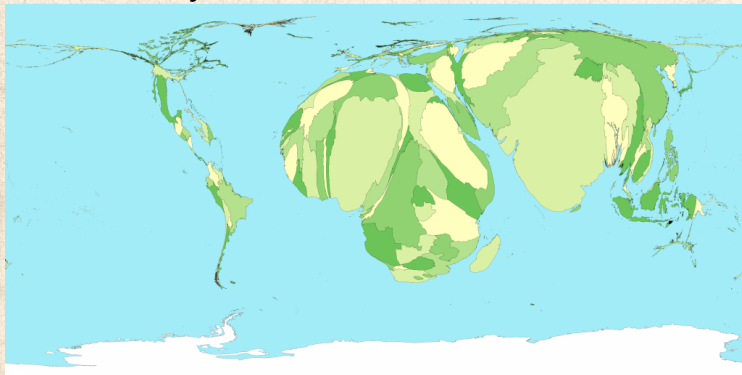
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Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

Child mortality:



Cartograms

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

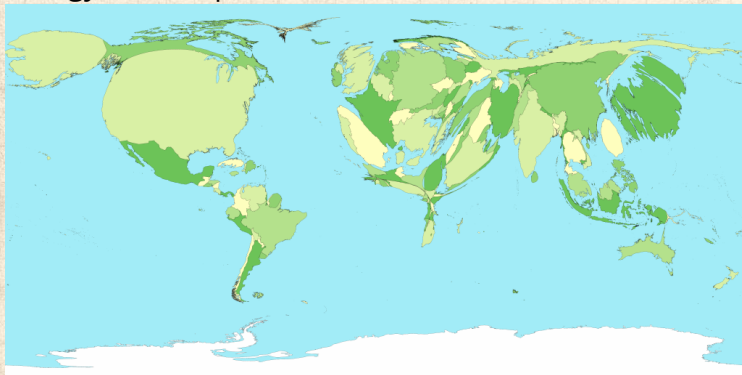
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References

Energy consumption:



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Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

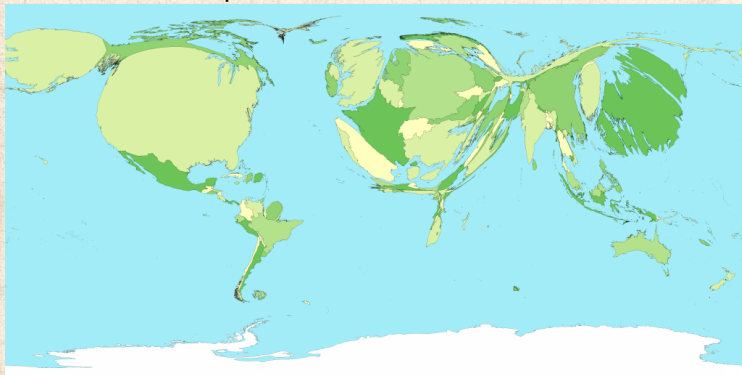
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References

Gross domestic product:



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Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

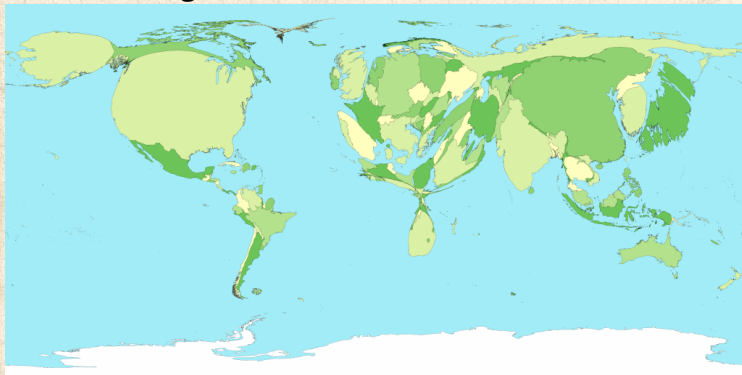
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Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

Greenhouse gas emissions:



Cartograms

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

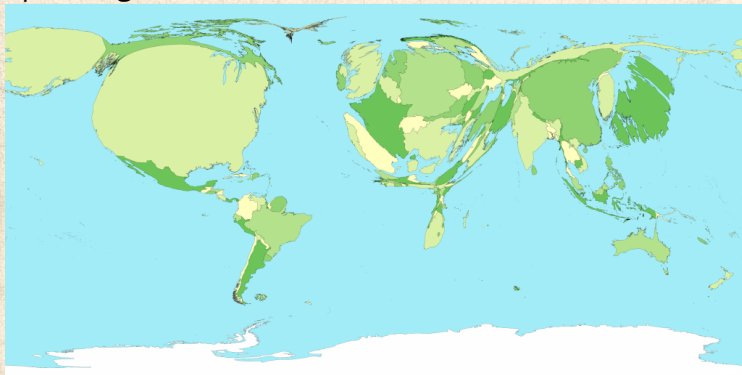
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Public versus Private

References

Spending on healthcare:



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Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

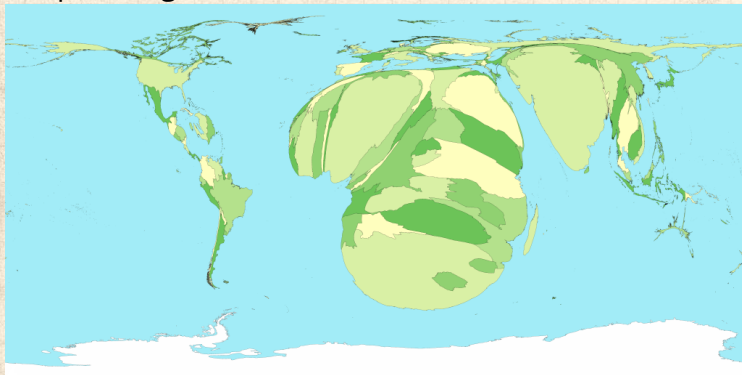
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Public versus Private

References

People living with HIV:



Cartograms

Distributed Sources

Size-density law



Cartograms



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Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References


 The preceding sampling of Gastner & Newman's cartograms lives [here](#) .

 A larger collection can be found at worldmapper.org .

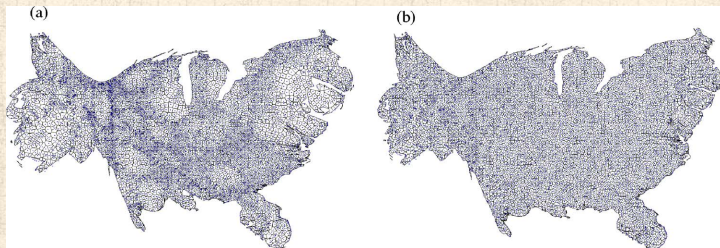



Size-density law



“Optimal design of spatial distribution networks” 

Gastner and Newman,
Phys. Rev. E, **74**, 016117, 2006. [2]




 **Left:** population density-equalized cartogram.



Size-density law



“Optimal design of spatial distribution networks” 

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Phys. Rev. E, **74**, 016117, 2006. [2]

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

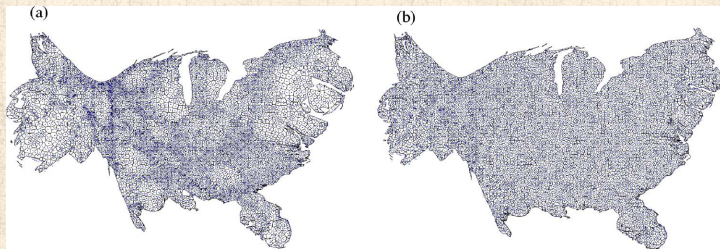
Cartograms


A reasonable derivation


Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References




 **Left:** population density-equalized cartogram.

 **Right:** $(\text{population density})^{2/3}$ -equalized cartogram.



Size-density law



“Optimal design of spatial distribution networks” 

Gastner and Newman,
Phys. Rev. E, **74**, 016117, 2006. [2]

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

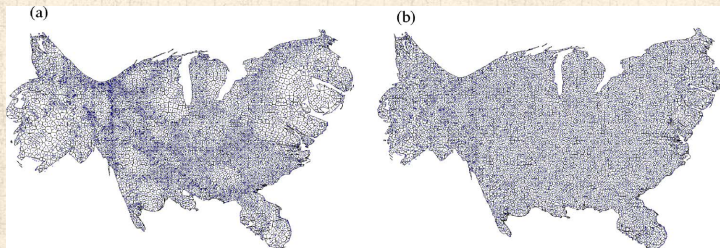
Cartograms


A reasonable derivation


Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



 **Left:** population density-equalized cartogram.

 **Right:** (population density)^{2/3}-equalized cartogram.

 Facility density is uniform for $\rho_{\text{pop}}^{2/3}$ cartogram.



Size-density law

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

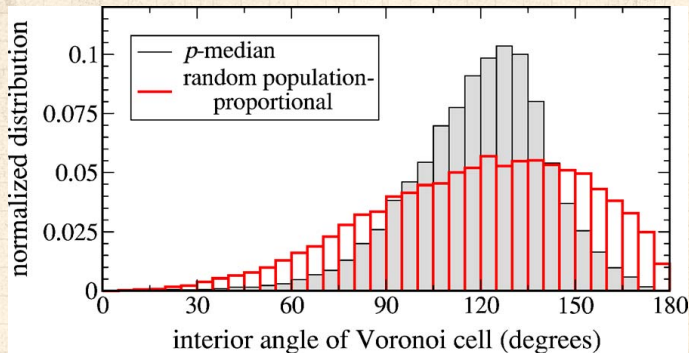
Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



From Gastner and Newman (2006) [2]



Cartogram's Voronoi cells are somewhat hexagonal.



Outline

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
30 of 48

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

References



Size-density law

Deriving the optimal source distribution:

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
31 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References



Size-density law



Deriving the optimal source distribution:

 **Basic idea:** Minimize the average distance from a random individual to the nearest facility. [2]



Size-density law




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$$F(\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n\}) = \int_{\Omega} \rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x}) \min_i \|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i\| d\vec{x}.$$





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-  Also known as the p-median problem.
-  Not easy ...in fact this one is an NP-hard problem. [2]






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-  Approximate solution originally due to Gusein-Zade [3].



Size-density law



Approximations:


 For a given set of source placements $\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n\}$, the region Ω is divided up into Voronoi cells , one per source.



Size-density law

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 Define $A(\vec{x})$ as the **area** of the Voronoi cell containing \vec{x} .

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution



Public versus Private


References




Size-density law

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 As per Stephan's calculation, estimate typical distance from \vec{x} to the nearest source (say i) as

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where c_i is a shape factor for the i th Voronoi cell.

Approximate c_i as a constant c .



Size-density law

Carrying on:

 The cost function is now

$$F = c \int_{\Omega} \rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x}) A(\vec{x})^{1/2} d\vec{x}.$$

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References




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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References





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 Sneakily turn this into an integral constraint:

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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References





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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References





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 So ...integral over each of the n cells equals 1.

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation


Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Now a Lagrange multiplier story:

 By varying $\{\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_n\}$, minimize

$$G(A) = c \int_{\Omega} \rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x}) A(\vec{x})^{1/2} d\vec{x} - \lambda \left(n - \int_{\Omega} [A(\vec{x})]^{-1} d\vec{x} \right)$$



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Setting the integrand to be zilch, we have:

$$\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x}) = 2\lambda c^{-1} A(\vec{x})^{-3/2}.$$



Size-density law

Now a Lagrange multiplier story:

 Rearranging, we have

$$A(\vec{x}) = (2\lambda c^{-1})^{2/3} \rho_{\text{pop}}^{-2/3}.$$

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References




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Size-density law

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🧱 Substituting $\rho_{\text{fac}} = 1/A$, we have

$$\rho_{\text{fac}}(\vec{x}) = \left(\frac{c}{2\lambda} \rho_{\text{pop}} \right)^{2/3}.$$



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🧱 Normalizing (or solving for λ):

$$\rho_{\text{fac}}(\vec{x}) = n \frac{[\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/3}}{\int_{\Omega} [\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/3} d\vec{x}} \propto [\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/3}.$$



Outline

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
36 of 48

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private


References

References



Global redistribution networks

One more thing:

 How do we supply these facilities?

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
37 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Global redistribution networks

One more thing:



How do we supply these facilities?



How do we best redistribute mail? People?

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Global redistribution networks

One more thing:

- How do we supply these facilities?
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- How do we get beer to the pubs?

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Global redistribution networks

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- Gastner and Newman model: cost is a function of basic maintenance and travel time:

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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



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- When $\delta = 1$, only number of hops matters.

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

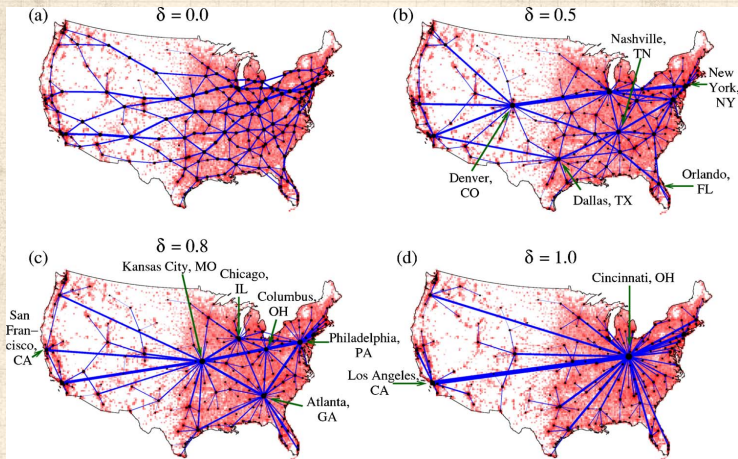


Global redistribution networks

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



From Gastner and Newman (2006) [2]

Distributed Sources

Size-density law

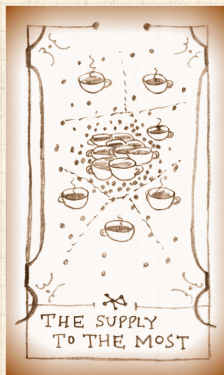
Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Outline

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
40 of 48

Distributed Sources

- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private**

Distributed Sources

- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References

References



Public versus private facilities

Beyond minimizing distances:

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
41 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution


Public versus Private

References



Public versus private facilities

Beyond minimizing distances:

 "Scaling laws between population and facility densities" by Um *et al.*, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 2009. [6]

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Public versus private facilities

Beyond minimizing distances:

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☐ Um *et al.* find empirically and argue theoretically that the connection between facility and population density

$$\rho_{\text{fac}} \propto \rho_{\text{pop}}^{\alpha}$$

does not universally hold with $\alpha = 2/3$.



Public versus private facilities

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☰ **Two idealized limiting classes:**

1. For-profit, commercial facilities: $\alpha = 1$;



Public versus private facilities

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does not universally hold with $\alpha = 2/3$.

🧱 **Two idealized limiting classes:**

1. For-profit, commercial facilities: $\alpha = 1$;
2. Pro-social, public facilities: $\alpha = 2/3$.

🧱 Um *et al.* investigate facility locations in the United States and South Korea.

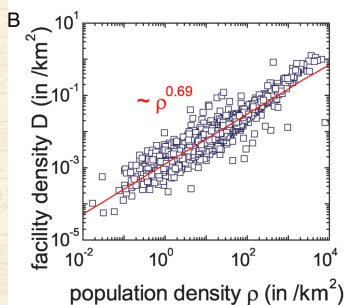
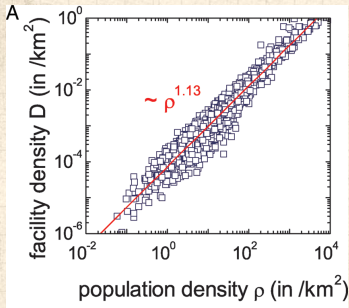



Public versus private facilities: evidence

Distributed Sources

- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References



 **Left plot:** ambulatory hospitals in the U.S.

 **Right plot:** public schools in the U.S.

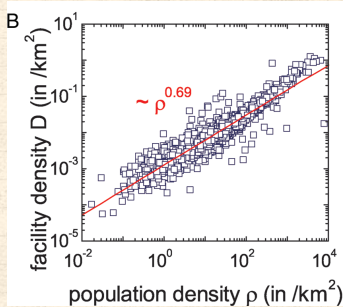
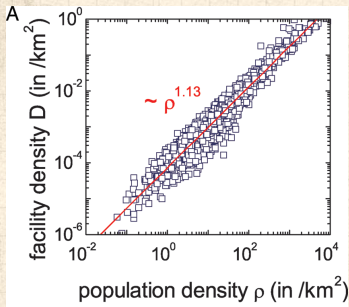


Public versus private facilities: evidence


Distributed Sources


Size-density law
Cartograms
A reasonable derivation
Global redistribution
Public versus Private

References



 **Left plot:** ambulatory hospitals in the U.S.

 **Right plot:** public schools in the U.S.

 **Note:** break in scaling for public schools.
Transition from $\alpha \simeq 2/3$ to $\alpha = 1$ around
 $\rho_{\text{pop}} \simeq 100$.



Public versus private facilities: evidence

US facility	α (SE)	R^2
Ambulatory hospital	1.13(1)	0.93
Beauty care	1.08(1)	0.86
Laundry	1.05(1)	0.90
Automotive repair	0.99(1)	0.92
Private school	0.95(1)	0.82
Restaurant	0.93(1)	0.89
Accommodation	0.89(1)	0.70
Bank	0.88(1)	0.89
Gas station	0.86(1)	0.94
Death care	0.79(1)	0.80
* Fire station	0.78(3)	0.93
* Police station	0.71(6)	0.75
Public school	0.69(1)	0.87

SK facility	α (SE)	R^2
Bank	1.18(2)	0.96
Parking place	1.13(2)	0.91
* Primary clinic	1.09(2)	1.00
* Hospital	0.96(5)	0.97
* University/college	0.93(9)	0.89
Market place	0.87(2)	0.90
* Secondary school	0.77(3)	0.98
* Primary school	0.77(3)	0.97
Social welfare org.	0.75(2)	0.84
* Police station	0.71(5)	0.94
Government office	0.70(1)	0.93
* Fire station	0.60(4)	0.93
* Public health center	0.09(5)	0.19

Rough transition
between public
and private at
 $\alpha \simeq 0.8$.

Note: * indicates
analysis is at
state/province
level; otherwise
county level.

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References

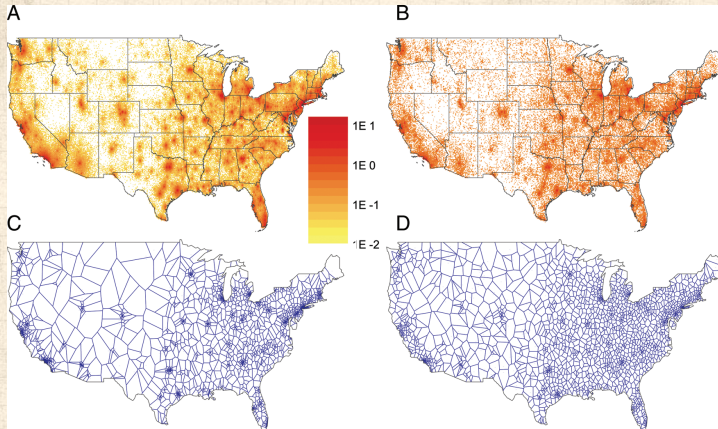


Public versus private facilities: evidence

Distributed Sources

- Size-density law
- Cartograms
- A reasonable derivation
- Global redistribution
- Public versus Private

References




A, C: ambulatory hospitals in the U.S.; **B, D:** public schools in the U.S.; **A, B:** data; **C, D:** Voronoi diagram from model simulation.



Public versus private facilities: the story

So what's going on?

 Social institutions seek to minimize distance of travel.

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
45 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



Public versus private facilities: the story

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- 🧱 Commercial institutions seek to maximize the number of visitors.

PoCS, Vol. 1
Optimal Supply
Networks III
45 of 48

Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



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- 🧱 Social institutions seek to minimize distance of travel.
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- 🧱 Defns: For the i th facility and its Voronoi cell V_i , define
 - 🧱 n_i = population of the i th cell;
 - 🧱 $\langle r_i \rangle$ = the average travel distance to the i th facility.
 - 🧱 A_i = area of i th cell (s_i in Um *et al.* [6])



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- 🧱 Limits:
 - 🧱 $\beta = 0$: purely commercial.
 - 🧱 $\beta = 1$: purely social.



Public versus private facilities: the story

 Either proceeding as per the Gastner-Newman-Gusein-Zade calculation or, as Um *et al.* do, observing that the cost for each cell should be the same, we have:

$$\rho_{\text{fac}}(\vec{x}) = n \frac{[\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/(\beta+2)}}{\int_{\Omega} [\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/(\beta+2)} d\vec{x}} \propto [\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/(\beta+2)}.$$



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- For $\beta = 0$, $\alpha = 1$: commercial scaling is linear.



Public versus private facilities: the story

-  Either proceeding as per the Gastner-Newman-Gusein-Zade calculation or, as Um *et al.* do, observing that the cost for each cell should be the same, we have:

$$\rho_{\text{fac}}(\vec{x}) = n \frac{[\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/(\beta+2)}}{\int_{\Omega} [\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/(\beta+2)} d\vec{x}} \propto [\rho_{\text{pop}}(\vec{x})]^{2/(\beta+2)}.$$

-  For $\beta = 0$, $\alpha = 1$: commercial scaling is linear.
-  For $\beta = 1$, $\alpha = 2/3$: social scaling is sublinear.




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