

Optimal Supply Networks III: Redistribution

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Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D
CSYS/MATH 300, 303, & 394, 2022–2023 | @pocsvox

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Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center
Santa Fe Institute | University of Vermont



The PoCSverse
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Distributed
Sources

Size-density law

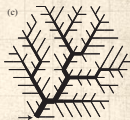
Cartograms

A reasonable derivation

Global redistribution

Public versus Private

References



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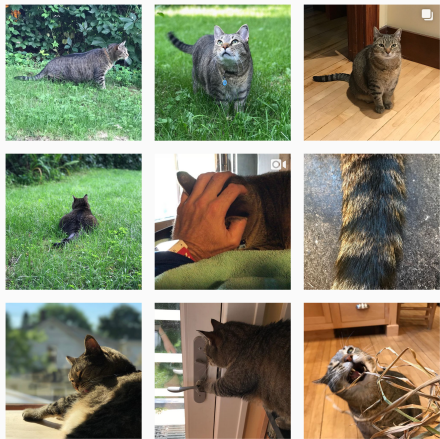
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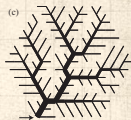
 On Instagram at [pratchett_the_cat](https://www.instagram.com/pratchett_the_cat) 

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Distributed Sources

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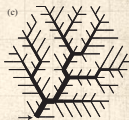
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Many sources, many sinks

How do we distribute sources?

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Many sources, many sinks

How do we distribute sources?

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

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Many sources, many sinks

How do we distribute sources?

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

 Sources = hospitals, post offices, pubs, ...

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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?

Distributed Sources

Size-density law
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Many sources, many sinks

How do we distribute sources?

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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**.

Distributed Sources

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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?

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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?

Distributed Sources

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Many sources, many sinks

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- Sources = hospitals, post offices, pubs, ...
- 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.



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Optimal source allocation

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Solidifying the basic problem

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Solidifying the basic problem

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



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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




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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**?





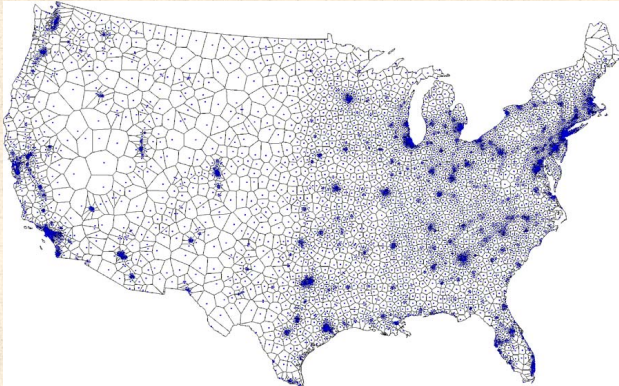
“Optimal design of spatial distribution networks”


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

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 Approximately optimal location of 5000 facilities.

 Based on 2000 Census data.

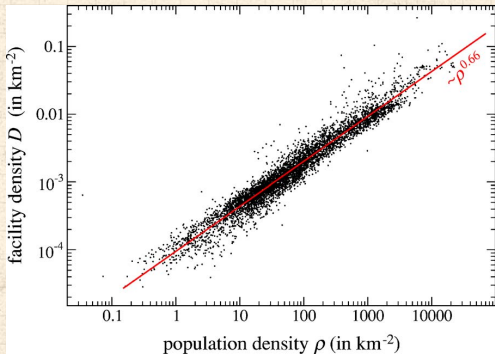
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Optimal facility density ρ_{fac} vs. population density

ρ_{pop} .



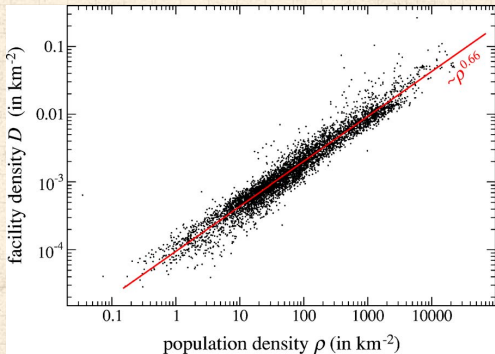
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 Optimal facility density ρ_{fac} vs. population density ρ_{pop} .

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



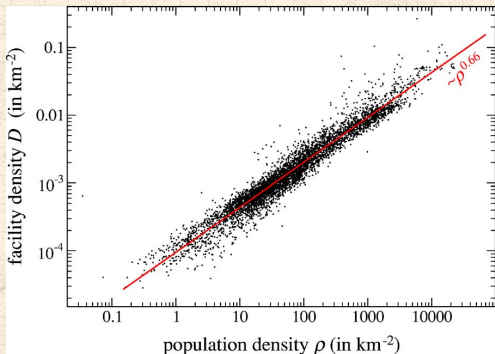
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 Optimal facility density ρ_{fac} vs. population density ρ_{pop} .

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

 Looking good for a 2/3 power ...



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Size-density law:



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



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Size-density law:



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Why?



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.



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

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"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]



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



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- 🧱 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.

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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**.



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} .




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 $\sim A^{1/2}$



Optimal source allocation

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

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Optimal source allocation

- Next assume facility requires regular maintenance (person-hours per day).
- Call this quantity τ .



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- Now Minimize with respect to A ...

Distributed Sources

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Optimal source allocation

 Differentiating ...

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

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Optimal source allocation

 Differentiating ...

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

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



Optimal source allocation

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Optimal source allocation

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 # facilities per unit area ρ_{fac} :

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

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Optimal source allocation

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🧱 Groovy ...

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An issue:

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



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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).



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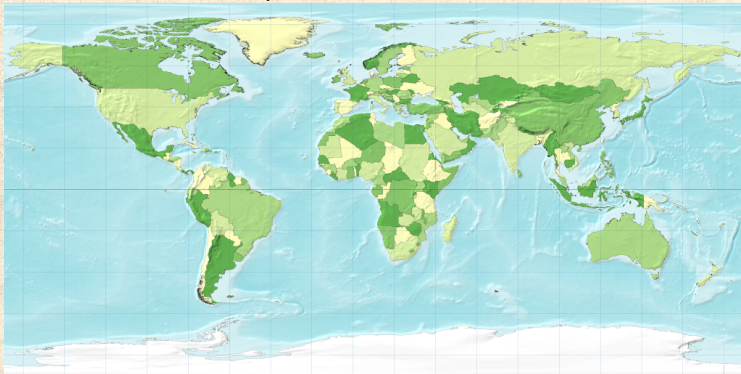
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Standard world map:



Cartograms

Cartogram of countries 'rescaled' by population:



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Diffusion-based cartograms:

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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

Diffusion-based cartograms:

- ❏ Idea of cartograms is to **distort areas** to more accurately represent some local density ρ_{pop} (e.g. population).
- ❏ Many methods put forward—typically involve some kind of physical analogy to **spreading or repulsion**.



Cartograms

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Cartograms

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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 $\bar{\rho}_{\text{pop}}$.



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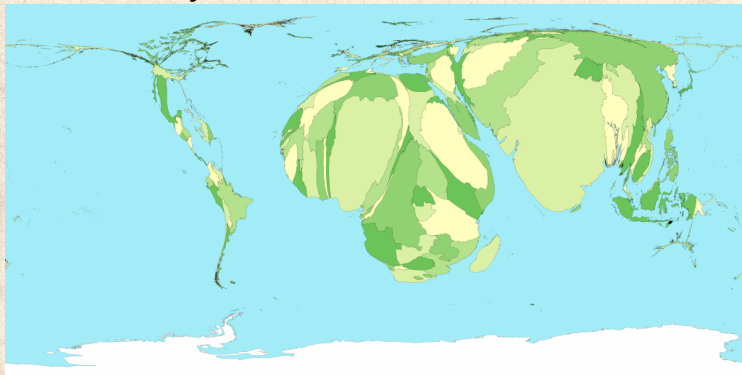
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Child mortality:



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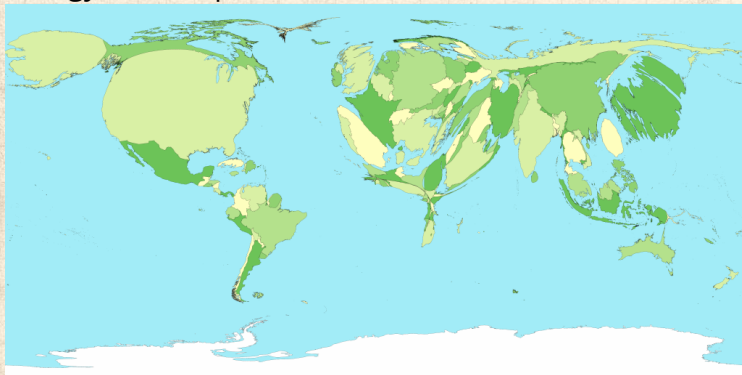
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Energy consumption:



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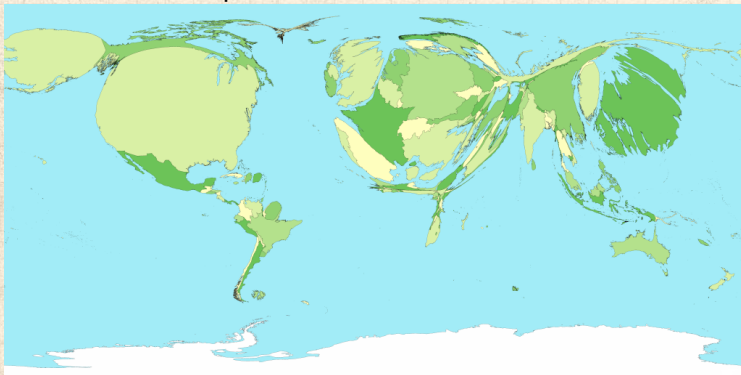
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Gross domestic product:



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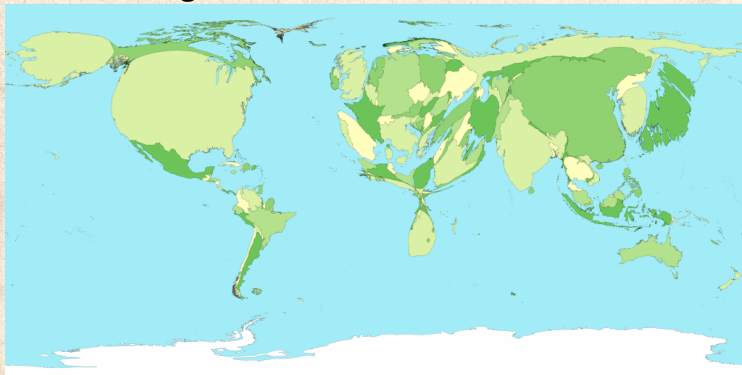
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Greenhouse gas emissions:



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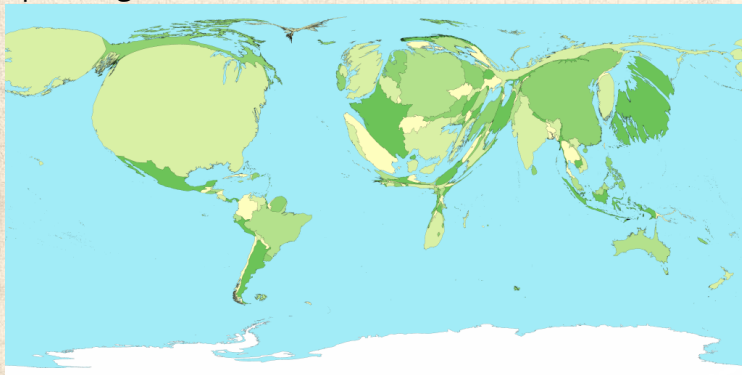
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Spending on healthcare:



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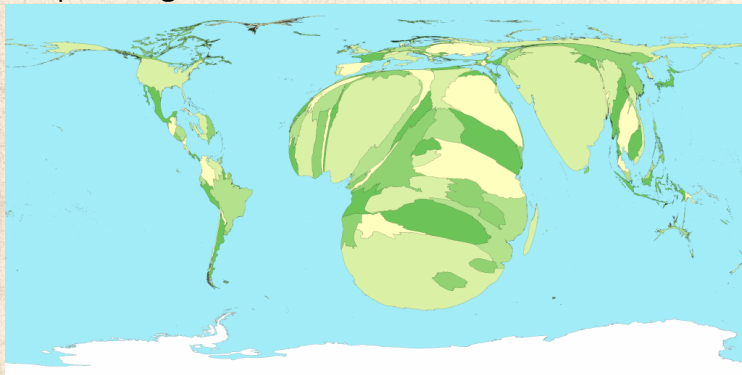
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People living with HIV:



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

 A larger collection can be found at worldmapper.org .

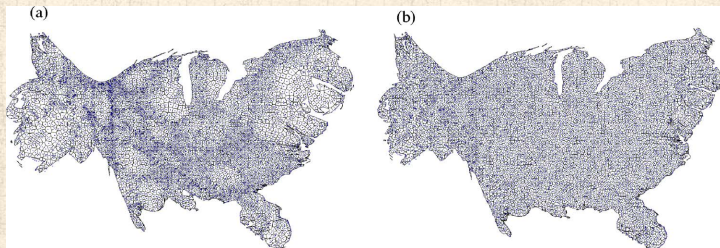



Size-density law



“Optimal design of spatial distribution networks” 

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




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

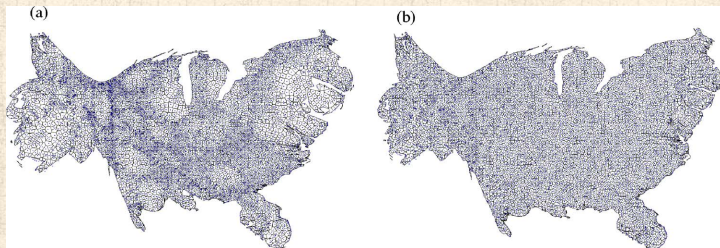



Size-density law




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

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

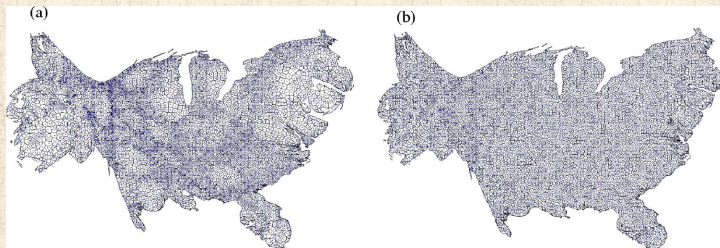



Size-density law




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

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

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



Size-density law

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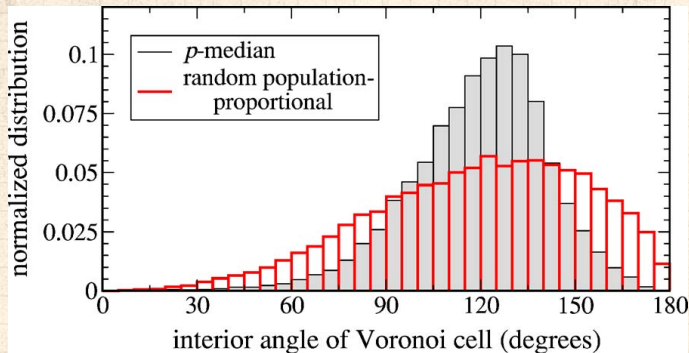
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From Gastner and Newman (2006) [2]



Cartogram's Voronoi cells are somewhat hexagonal.



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Deriving the optimal source distribution:

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Deriving the optimal source distribution:

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

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Size-density law




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-  Assume given a fixed population density ρ_{pop} defined on a spatial region Ω .



Size-density law

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Size-density law

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



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

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Approximate c_i as a constant c .



Size-density law

Carrying on:

 The cost function is now

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

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 We also have that the **constraint** that Voronoi cells divide up the overall area of Ω : $\sum_{i=1}^n A(\vec{x}_i) = A_{\Omega}$.

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 Sneakily turn this into an integral constraint:

$$\int_{\Omega} \frac{d\vec{x}}{A(\vec{x})} = n.$$

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 Within each cell, $A(\vec{x})$ is constant.

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

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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

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




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

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 Normalizing (or solving for λ):

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



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Global redistribution networks

One more thing:

 How do we supply these facilities?

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Global redistribution networks

One more thing:



How do we supply these facilities?



How do we best redistribute mail? People?

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Global redistribution networks

One more thing:

- How do we supply these facilities?
- How do we best redistribute mail? People?
- How do we get beer to the pubs?

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

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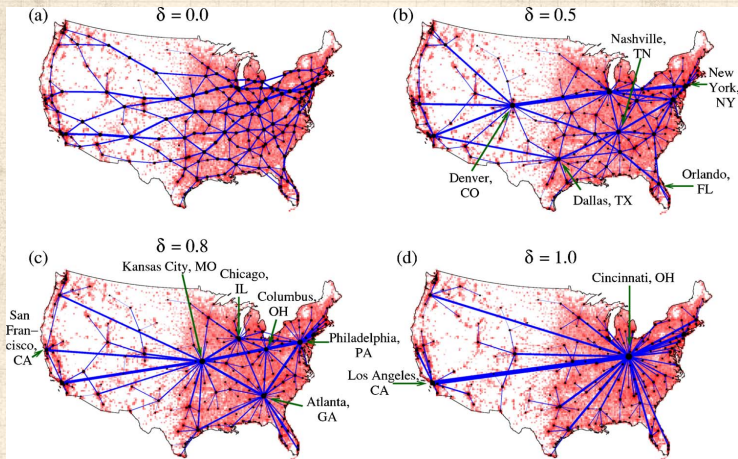
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From Gastner and Newman (2006) [2]

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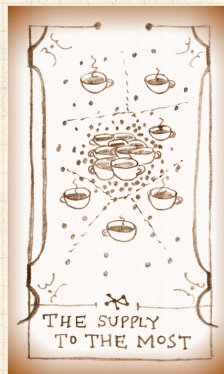
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Beyond minimizing distances:

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Beyond minimizing distances:

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

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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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🧱 **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

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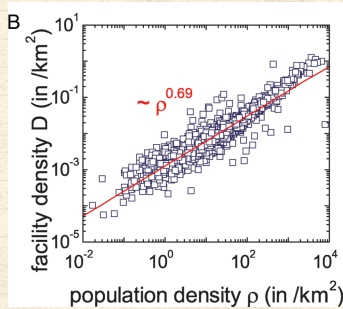
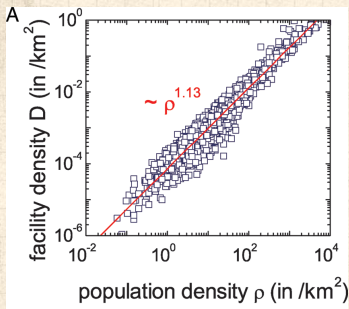
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 **Left plot:** ambulatory hospitals in the U.S.

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

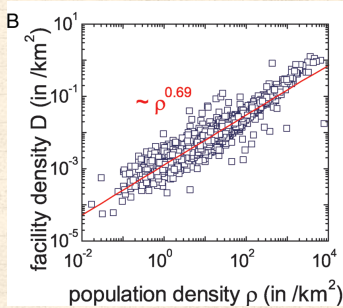
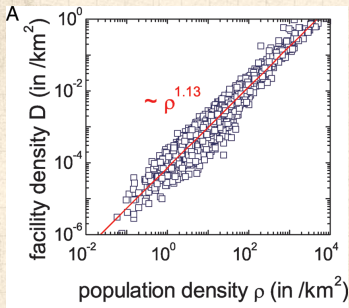



Public versus private facilities: evidence


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 **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.



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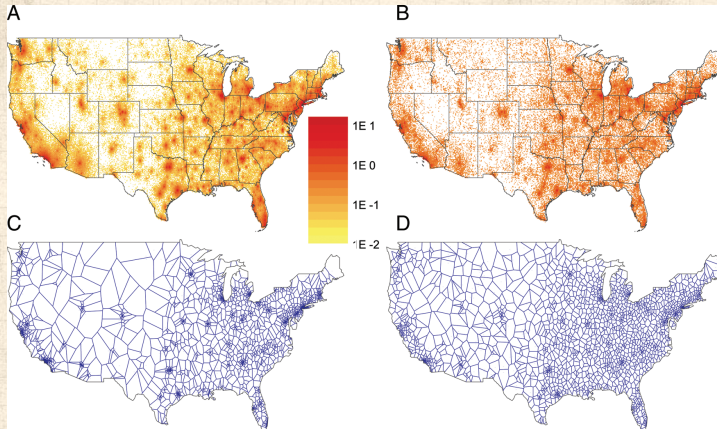
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A, C: ambulatory hospitals in the U.S.; **B, D:** public schools in the U.S.; **A, B:** data; **C, D:** Voronoi diagram from model simulation.



Public versus private facilities: the story

So what's going on?

 Social institutions seek to minimize distance of travel.

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Public versus private facilities: the story

So what's going on?

- 🧱 Social institutions seek to minimize distance of travel.
- 🧱 Commercial institutions seek to maximize the number of visitors.

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Public versus private facilities: the story

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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;
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 - 🧱 A_i = area of i th cell (s_i in Um *et al.* [6])

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$$v_i = n_i \langle r_i \rangle^\beta \text{ with } 0 \leq \beta \leq 1.$$



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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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