## Multi-perspective Analysis of Movement Data with Visual Analytics

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### **Visual Analytics**

Enabling synergetic work of humans and computers







## **Types of spatio-temporal data**



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# Transformations of spatio-temporal data structures



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# Transformations enable multi-perspective analysis of movement data







### **Running example dataset:** DCTO The reliable way trajectories of cars in Milan

GPS-tracks of 17,241 cars in Milan, Italy

Time period: from Sunday, the 1st of April, to Saturday, the 7th of April, 2007

Received from Octo Telematics www.octotelematics.com special thanks to T.Martino

### Data structure:

- Anonymized car identifier
- Date and time
- Geographic coordinates
- Speed

The trajectories from one day are drawn on a map with 5% opacity









## Perspective 1: Movement data in the form of trajectories



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## Density-based clustering of trajectories: What distance measure to use?

- Trajectories are time series of spatial positions and other movement attributes
- Trajectories are complex objects with heterogeneous properties: positions in space and in time, shape, dynamics of speed, ...
- A single distance measure accounting for all properties would be hard to implement and results would be hard to interpret
- It is more feasible to create a library of simple distance measures (a.k.a. distance functions) addressing different properties. For example,
  - spatial distance between origins and/or between destinations,
  - average spatial distance between corresponding points along the routes,
  - average spatial distance between points reached at the same times, ...
- Different aspects of trajectories are studied using different distance functions.



## DB clusters of trajectories (example 1)

Distance function: the average spatial distance between the origins and between the destinations; R=750m, N=5 Only 18 largest clusters are shown.



## Summarised representation of clusters of trajectories

Minor flows are omitted for a clearer view.



## **DB clusters of trajectories (example 2)**

Distance function: "route similarity", i.e., the average spatial distance between the corresponding points along the route; R=750m, N=5 Only 18 largest clusters are shown.



# The same clusters represented in a summarised form



## Interactive progressive clustering

Applying different distance measures at different steps

Data: trajectories of cars in Milan

Step 1: clustering according to the spatial proximity of the end points Distance function: "common ends"

Question: what are the most frequent destinations of car trips?





## Interactive progressive clustering

Applying different distance measures (2)

Data: one (or more) selected cluster(s) from the previous step Step 2: clustering according to the similarity of the routes (shapes) Distance function: "route similarity"

Question: what routes are usually taken to get to the selected destination?





# Clustering of very large sets of trajectories

- Problem: clustering of complex objects (such as trajectories) involving nontrivial distance functions (such as "route similarity") can only be done in RAM, i.e. for a relatively small dataset
- Our approach:
  - 1. Take a subset (sample) of the objects suitable for processing in RAM.
  - 2. Discover clusters in the subset.
  - Load the remaining objects into RAM by portions. <u>Classify</u> each object = identify to which of the discovered clusters the object belongs. Store the result of the classification in the database.
  - 4. Take the objects that remained unclassified and apply steps 1 to 3 to them. Repeat the procedure until no meaningful new clusters can be discovered.
- Question: how to identify the cluster where an object belongs?



## **Classifier, the main idea**

- From each cluster C<sub>i</sub> select one or more representative objects (prototypes) and respective distance thresholds:
  - { (pt<sub>1</sub>, d<sub>1</sub>), ..., (pt<sub>n</sub>, d<sub>n</sub>) } such that  $\forall o \in C_i \exists k, 1 \le k \le n$ : distance (o, pt<sub>k</sub>) < d<sub>k</sub>
  - The set of all cluster prototypes with the respective distance thresholds defines the <u>classifier</u>
- A new object o' may be ascribed to the cluster if the same condition holds for it.  $\Rightarrow$  For each object from a large database:
  - measure the distances to all prototypes;
  - take the closest prototype among those with the distances below the thresholds and ascribe the object to the respective cluster;
  - if no such prototypes found, label the object as unclassified.
- To select prototypes:
  - Divide the cluster into "round" subclusters
  - Take the medoid of each subcluster as one of the prototypes
  - Take the maximum of the distances from the subcluster medoid to the subcluster members as the distance threshold for this prototype



## Dividing a cluster into round sub-clusters: an illustration using points



This can be done by a variant of the K-medoids clustering algorithm where the desired maximum radius of a subcluster is a parameter.



## **Division of a cluster of trajectories into** "round" subclusters

25.09.2009 11:05:24 - Cluster 7

naredo

#### Maximum subcluster radius х To select appropriate cluster prototypes, the density-based clusters will be divided into "round" subclusters Maximum radius of a subcluster? 1000.0 ΟK



prototype ID	Distance threshold	Original subcluster size	N neighbours found in the test	Mean distance to the original neigbours	Mean distance to the found neigbours
89133	438.2	4	0	240.5	0
96013	200.0	8	0	96.9	0
6548	526.5	29	0	161.1	0
43285	200.0	1	0	0.0	0
34239	414.3	19	0	186.7	0
32809	368.2	15	0	121.2	0
141138	485.0	10	0	271.3	0
109120	200.0	1	0	0.0	0



Mianese

Milanese

















Dugnano

32809





Opera

## To obtain meaningful results, the analyst may needs to review and, possibly, edit the classifier



## **Example of interactive editing**





### What are the most frequent routes on Wednesday?

### Result of clustering of single-day trajectories by route similarity



### How frequent are these routes during the whole week?

Result of building a classifier and applying it to the whole set of trajectories



## Further analysis of the trajectories

- The analysis is continued by loading a subset of the unclassified trajectories ("noise") to RAM, applying clustering to it, building a new classifier, and applying the classifier to the whole set of unclassified trajectories.
- Empirical experience:
  - With each new iteration step, the number and the sizes of discovered clusters substantially decrease in comparison to the previous step.
    - After 4-5 steps of the procedure, only very small clusters can be discovered.
  - The analyst's effort needed for editing of the classifier also decreases.
    - The editing effort is high for big clusters with high internal variation, which mostly appear in the first step; the following clusters are smaller and "cleaner".
- Unfortunately, no formal criterion for terminating the procedure.



## Where to read more

G.Andrienko, N.Andrienko, S.Rinzivillo, M.Nanni, D.Pedreschi, F.Giannotti
Interactive Visual Clustering of Large Collections of Trajectories *IEEE Visual Analytics Science and Technology (VAST 2009)*Proceedings, IEEE Computer Society Press, 2009, pp.3-10



## **Analysis of movement attributes**

Investigate speed variation along a selected route: single day





## **Analysis of movement attributes**

Investigate speed variation along a selected route: whole week



## Perspective 2:

## Movement data in the form of spatial events





# Example of analysis focusing on movement events

Data: trajectories of cars in Milan



- Task: find places of traffic congestions and determine their characteristics (times of the congestions, durations, numbers of cars involved, ...)
- Traffic congestion ~ dense spatio-temporal cluster of low speed movement events
  - Movement direction must be taken into account
- Places of interest: areas where at least one traffic congestion occurred ~ areas containing the clusters
- Characteristics of places: time series of event counts, vehicle counts, ...
- Data transformations:

Trajectories  $\rightarrow$  Events  $\rightarrow$  Places  $\rightarrow$  Spatial time series



# Step 1: extract low speed events from the trajectories



Low speed := speed  $\leq$  10 km/h





Vertical dimension  $\leftarrow$  time

## Step 2: density-based clustering of events

by spatio-temporal positions and directions

Distance function:

$$d = \begin{cases} \infty, & \text{if } (d_s > D_s) \text{ or } \exists i \mid (d_i > D_i), \quad i = 0..n \\ \\ D_s * max \left(\frac{d_s}{D_s}, \frac{d_0}{D_0}, \dots, \frac{d_n}{D_n}\right), & \text{if } (a) - \text{neighbourhood defined as a cube} \\ \\ D_s * \sqrt{\left(\frac{d_s}{D_s}\right)^2 + \sum_{i=0}^n \left(\frac{d_i}{D_i}\right)^2}, & \text{if } (b) - \text{neighbourhood defined as a sphere} \end{cases}$$

 $D_s$  – spatial distance threshold;  $D_0, D_1, \dots, D_N$  - distance thresholds for other attributes  $d_s, d_0, d_1, \dots, d_N$  – distances;  $d_s$  – distance in space

 $\begin{array}{l} \underline{\text{Distance in time }}(\mathsf{t}_1, \mathsf{t}_2 \text{ are intervals}):\\ d_t(t_1, t_2) = \begin{cases} t_2^{start} - t_1^{end} & if t_1^{end} < t_2^{start} \\ t_1^{start} - t_2^{end} & if t_1^{start} > t_2^{end} \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases} \begin{array}{l} \underline{\text{Distance for a cyclic attribute }}(\mathsf{V} \text{ is the cycle length}):\\ d(v_1, v_2, \mathsf{V}) = \begin{cases} |v_1 - v_2|, & |v_1 - v_2| < \mathsf{V}/2 \\ |\mathsf{V} - |v_1 - v_2|, & otherwise \end{cases} \\ extreme \text{ otherwise } \end{cases} \\ \hline \text{E.g., direction: } \mathsf{V} = 360^\circ; d(5^\circ, 355^\circ, 360^\circ) = 10^\circ \end{aligned}$ 





## The STD-clusters, noise hidden







## **Step 3: unite STD-clusters in SD-clusters**

Cluster the events from the STD-clusters by the spatial positions and directions



The result of the density-based clustering with the spatial distance threshold of 100 m and direction distance threshold of 20°





Events that occurred in same or close places but in different times were formerly in different clusters, but now they are in the same clusters.

One SD-cluster includes one or several STD-clusters.



## **Step 4: outline the places of interest**

Build spatial buffers around the SD-clusters of events



Rozzano

The places are painted according to the prevailing movement directions of the respective events.


Long area of congested movements directed to the west

### Step 5: aggregate data by the places

and by suitable time intervals, e.g., hourly



Place-referenced time series of the counts of slow movement events

The temporal diagrams show the variation of the attribute value (vertical dimension) over time (horizontal dimension).



# 🗹 W (15) 🗹 E (9) 🗹 NW (7) 🗹 N (6) 🔽 SW (6) 🗹 S (5) SE (4) 🔽 NE (2)

#### Map fragment (northwest) enlarged

Congested traffic in the afternoon in the direction out of the city (northwest)

Congested traffic in the morning in the direction to the south





### Where to read more

#### IEEE VAST 2011 paper (best paper award)

G.Andrienko, N.Andrienko, C.Hurter, S.Rinzivillo, S.Wrobel From Movement Tracks through Events to Places: Extracting and Characterizing Significant Places from Mobility Data *IEEE Visual Analytics Science and Technology (VAST 2011)*, Proceedings, IEEE Computer Society Press, 183-192

Extended version, covering also scalable clustering of events

G.Andrienko, N.Andrienko, C.Hurter, S.Rinzivillo, S.Wrobel Scalable Analysis of Movement Data for Extracting and Exploring Significant Places *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 2013, 19(7), 1078-1094



### Perspective 3: Movement data in the form of spatial situations







# Spatio-temporal aggregation of trajectories







## **Division of the territory**

Characteristic points from the trajectories Spatial clusters of characteristic points

Cluster centres  $\rightarrow$  seeds for Voronoi tessellation



Details:

Natalia Andrienko, Gennady Andrienko

#### Spatial Generalization and Aggregation of Massive Movement Data

IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG), 2011, v.17 (2), pp.205-219 http://doi.ieeecomputersociety.org/10.1109/TVCG.2010.44

### **Spatial situations: presence**



Circle area is proportional to value:





### **Spatial situations: flows**



N moves by time intervals







# Clustering of spatial (flow) situations by similarity



### **Comparison of clusters of spatial** situations



Values for cluster 9 have been subtracted from values for all other clusters

### Where to read more

N.Andrienko, G.Andrienko, H.Stange, T.Liebig, D.Hecker Visual Analytics for Understanding Spatial Situations from Episodic Movement Data *Künstliche Intelligenz*, 2012, v.**26** (3), pp.241-251 http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s13218-012-0177-4



### Perspective 4: Movement data in the form of local time series





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# An alternative view of spatial time series: a set of local time series







# An alternative view of spatial time series : a set of local time series



We wish to represent the essential characteristics of the ST-variation explicitly by a formal model or a set of models.



# Methods for spatio-temporal modelling (e.g. STARIMA)

- Account for spatial and temporal dependencies
- Require prior specification of multiple weight matrices expressing impacts among locations for different temporal lags
  - may be difficult (the impacts are not easy to quantify)
- Build a single global model of the entire spatio-temporal variation
  - It does not necessarily perform better than a set of local temporal models
- Assume spatial smoothness of the modelled phenomenon, i.e., closer places are more similar than more distant ones
  - May be not very suitable for spatially abrupt phenomena





# Existing techniques for time series modelling

- Widely available in numerous statistical packages and libraries → can be applied to spatially referenced time series
- The modelling methods are designed to deal with singular time series  $\rightarrow$  hard to use for a large number of time series
- Separate consideration of each time series ignores the phenomenon of spatial dependence (relatedness and similarities among spatial locations or objects)
- Separate consideration of each time series does not allow data abstraction and generalisation over space



# Combination of spatial and temporal modelling

#### Approach 1:

- 1. Model the temporal variation independently for each location
- 2. Model the spatial variation of the parameters of the temporal models, e.g., as a random field
- Assumes that the character of the temporal variation is the same everywhere and only the parameters differ
- Approach 2:
  - Model the spatial variation independently for each time step, e.g., as a random field
  - Model the temporal variation of the parameters of the spatial models at each location
- Both approaches assume spatial smoothness of the phenomenon



# **Our approach**

Details: Natalia Andrienko, Gennady Andrienko

#### A Visual Analytics Framework for Spatio-temporal Analysis and Modelling



# Step 1: Clustering of local TS

- Here: k-means (Weka) but may be another partition-based method
- Tried different k from 5 to 15
- Immediate visual response facilitates choosing the most suitable k









# Step 1: Re-grouping by progressive clustering





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N moves by hours
Check the presence of cyclic variation of the data:
V Cycle: daily Step: 1 hour N of steps in cycle: 24 Cycle start in data: step 0 A
v Cycle: weekly Step: 1 hour N of steps in cycle: 168 Cycle start in data: step 24
Current class: 4 - previous next Update classes Take other classes B
Perform modelling based on the 🔿 percentile 50 👻 🖲 mean 🗹 excluding 5 🛛 % of the 🔽 highest 🗹 lowest values 🕻 🕻
Modelling method: triple exponential smoothing (Holt-Winters) - D Run modelling Show residuals Store model Restore model
Temporal cycles: © single cycle; length = 24 steps Cycle start: step 24   C two cycles; inner cycle length = 24 steps; outer cycle consists of 7 inner cycles Use 0 additional time series E   alpha (overall smoothing) = 0.816406 beta (trend smoothing) = 0.0 gamma (seasonal smoothing) = 0.0
Modelling Time extent (model) Time extent (view) Display Selection

- A) Check automatically detected time cycles in the data.
- B) Select the current class (cluster) for the analysis and modelling.
- C) Build the representative TS.
- D) Select the modelling method.
- E) View and modify model parameters (this section changes depending on the selected modelling method).











# Step 3: Model evaluation (analysis of residuals)

- The goal is not to minimise the residuals
  - The model should not reproduce all fluctuations and outliers present in the data
  - This should be an abstraction capturing the characteristic features of the temporal variation
  - High values of the residuals do not mean low model quality
- The goal is to have the residuals randomly distributed in space and time (no detectable patterns)
  - This means that the model correctly captures the characteristic, nonrandom features of the temporal variation



## Analysis of residuals (example)



- No systematic bias: approximately equal numbers of positive and negative errors in each time step
- No periodic increases and decreases at the level of the whole group
- However, we are not sure about individual objects

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### More detailed analysis by subgroups





It may be reasonable to consider this subgroup separately -> back to re-grouping

Time extent Display (Transformation (Events (Trend (Segmentation (Classification (R statistics (Selection/Query

## Use of a model for prediction

- We obtain a common model for a group (cluster) of time series
  - Predicts the same values for all objects/places of the group
  - The statistical properties of the distribution of the predicted values in each place differ from the distribution of the original values
- Adjustment of the prediction for individual objects/places:
  - Compute and store the basic statistics (quartiles) of the original values for each object/place i:  $Q1_{i}, M_{i}, Q3_{i}$
  - Compute the statistics of the model-predicted values for the same time steps as the original values: Q1, M, Q3 (common for the cluster)
  - Shift (level adjustment):  $S = M_i M$
  - Scale factors (amplitude adjustment):  $F_{low} = \frac{M_i QI_i}{M QI}$   $F_{high} = \frac{Q3_i M_i}{Q3 M_i}$

V<sup>t</sup>: =

Let v<sup>t</sup> be the model-predicted value for an arbitrary time step t and v<sup>t</sup>, the individually adjusted value for the place/object i  $\left[ M + F_{low} \cdot (v^t - M) + S, \text{ if } v^t < M \right]$ 

$$M + F_{high} \cdot (v^t - M) + S$$
, otherwise

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## Use of a model for prediction: example

#### Common prediction for a cluster:



#### Set of individually adjusted predictions for this cluster:



### Prediction based on the models







# Comparison of actual values with predicted (e.g., in monitoring)

Absolute differences



-33.00

-10.00

10.00

28.00

Normalized differences



-9.091

-3.000

3.000

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# Analysis and modelling of relationships between two time-variant attributes


# Data transformation and clustering

- Dependency of attribute A(t) on attribute B(t):
  - Divide the value range of B into intervals
  - For each interval, collect all values of A that cooccur with the values of B from this interval
  - Compute statistics of the values of A: minimum, maximum, median, mean, percentiles ...
  - For each of these, there is a series  $B \rightarrow A$ , or A(B)





Dependencies of maximal flow magnitude on mean speed

# Dependency modelling: flow $\rightarrow$ maximal mean speed







## Dependency modelling: mean speed $\rightarrow$ maximal flow



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## Graphical representation of the models built





<b>Use of the models:</b> simulation of extraordinary traffic from given places		Gallaratese Trenno 224
Set prediction models    Image: Set prediction models   1. (Place_1, Place_2, Time) -> N of cars   A set of time series models predicting the regular number of moves   (flow) from one place to another by time intervals.   Variation of N moves by hours *50: daily and weekly   Select from available models   2. (Place_1, Place_2, N of cars) -> Possible speed   2) A set of dependency models predicting the maximal average speed of moving from one place to another depending on the place link load, i.e., number of cars that try to move.   Variation of Max of Average speed (km/h) depending on N moves   Select from available models   3. (Place_1, Place_2, Possible speed) -> N of cars   A set of dependency models predicting the maximal number of cars   (flow) that will be able to move from one place to another within a given time interval depending on the maximal average speed with which the cars can move.   Variation of Max of N moves*50 depending on Average speed (km/h)   Select from available models   Scale factor for the model-predicted values: 1.0   Done Cancel	Image: Select the attribute defining the transition times.   Start ID   End ID   N of moves   Length   Average move duration (minutes); total   Average path length; km   Average path length; km   Average path length; total   Average path length; km   Average move duration (minutes); total   Average move duration (minutes); total   Average speed (km/h); total   Average path length; km   Average path lengt	Distribute moving objects   Step 2 of the simulation:   Distribute moving objects among the destinations and routes   A given number of moving objects will be distributed among the possible destinations, i.e., places from the layer Places.   The places need to have weights defined by some numeric attribute.   Select the attribute defining the weights:   N visits   N visits   N visits total   N visits total   N ends after 18:00   The number of moving objects in the selected place(s) of origin:   In place 171: 3000   In place 134: 4000   In place 134: 4000

Localize the places on map

The given number of objects will be distributed among the 3 selected places of origin.

Continue

Stop the process



Vaver2

Expected link load

Max: 3574

Min: 0 invert focus Dynamic map update

Manipulate /

Data transformation

ris, Descartes, CommonGIS, V-Analytics 1995-2010: Milan cars data aggregated by 1km areas

### Simulated trajectories



#### Some traffic re-routed to the south:



### The speeds on the northern motorway



### **Animation of simulation results**



#### Presence and flows for selected time intervals



## **Multi-perspective analysis of movement**







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### Visual Analytics of Movement

Springer

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- Ch.5. Visual analytics focusing on movers
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