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# Accessibility and spatial development: The case of Switzerland between 1950 and 2000

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Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich Any number of definitions, but the basic types are:

- Existence of link of a given quality
- Number of opportunities reachable within a certain cost isoline
- Cost-weighted number of opportunities

#### Form:

$$A_i = \ln \sum_{k_{ij}=0}^{c_{ij} < c_{max}} X_j f(c_{ij})$$

#### with:

A(i)	Accessibility of location i
c(ij)	Generalised cost of movement from i to j
X(j)	Opportunities of interest at location j
f[c(ij)]	Weighting function of the generalised costs

Theoretical justification

- A(i) is the log sum term of a simple destination choice model with In X and sum measure of generalised costs
- c(ij) could be inclusive term of a mode choice model

Normal application

- c(ij) ~ travel time
- f[c(ij)] is a negative exponential with a chosen b, so that f[c(ij)] = exp[-b \* c(ij)]
- c(max) is equal to infinity

Mechanisms:

- Accessibility ~ 1/Generalised costs ~ Speed
- Accessibility ~ Market size

What should follow from this:

- Benefits from trade (specialisation, economies of scale)
- Better fit between supply and demand (goods and labour markets)
- More reliability and range in services and supplies
- but, the winning region is unclear !

Previous work:

- Aschauer (1989) and others: large spatial units, short durations (10-15 years), public capital instead of accessibility
- Most authors argue: Massive early impacts, little further impacts expected

Aims of our work:

- Small spatial units (2900 municipalities)
- Long duration (50 years)
- Accessibility (detailed road and rail networks)
- Calibrated cost parameters (mode choice model)
- Population, employment, value added as Y's

#### Confunding factors: Population growth



## Confounding factors: Life style adjustment

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#### Railway isochrones (Zürich, 1960, 8 to 9 am)



#### Railway isochrones (Zürich, 1980, 8 to 9 am)



#### Railway isochrones (Zürich, 2000, 8 to 9 am)















#### Development of the trunk road networks (1950-2000)



#### Networks

- Do not include all trunk roads built
- Initial mean speed estimates (no assignment)

Opportunities

- Population only
- Arbitrary, but reasonable consideration of own-potentials
- b is a reasonable guess

#### Road based accessibility (1950) (Switzerland only)



## Road based accessibility(1960) (Switzerland only)



## Road based accessibility (1970) (Switzerland only)



## Road based accessibility (1980) (Switzerland only)



#### Road based accessibility (1990) (Switzerland only)



## Road based accessibility (2000) (Switzerland only)



## Confounding factors: Air traffic (technology, services)



#### Accessibility by air services (1950) (only abroad)



# Accessibility by air services (1950) (only abroad)



- Causality between network growth and population/economic growth
- Spatial and temporal correlations
- Panel with few cross sections, but many units
- Simultaneous changes:
  - Networks and services
  - Restructuring of employment
  - Deindustrialisation/service growth (international competition)
  - Population growth
  - Real income growth (suburbanisation, motorisation)
  - Subsidies as confounding factors

# Responses: Commute shed (Zürich, 1970)



## Responses: Commute shed (Zürich, 2000)



#### Respones: Density kernel estimates (Zürich, 1970)



## Respones: Density kernel estimates (Zürich, 2000)



#### Response: "Zwischenstadt", European suburbia



#### Response: Accessibility and population change



#### Link between investment and accessibility change



In (Decennial captial expenditure) (Mio sFr

By canton !

#### Some too simple regressions (by canton and decade)

	Accessibility		In(Accessibility)		
1950's	-	-	-	-	
1960's	-	-	-	-	
1970's	**	-	**	**	
1980's	**	-	**	**	
d(population)	**	**	**	**	
d(investment)	**	-	**	**	
1950's*d(investment)		-		-	
1960's*d(investment)		-		-	
1970's*d(investment)		**		-	
1980's*d(investment)		-		-	
R2	.33	.35	.54	.54	

Networks:

- Improved mean speed estimates
- Fully contemporeneous networks
- All railway services
- Assigned speed ( ~ demand estimates by municipality)

Parameters

- Specific beta's
- Generalised cost parameters (road, rail)

Modelling:

- Appropriate panel models for
  - population growth
  - economic growth
- Accounting for spatial correlations
- Accounting for international competition

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