



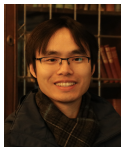
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Dynamic Autoregressive Tensor Factorization for Pattern Discovery of Spatiotemporal Systems

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June 20, 2025



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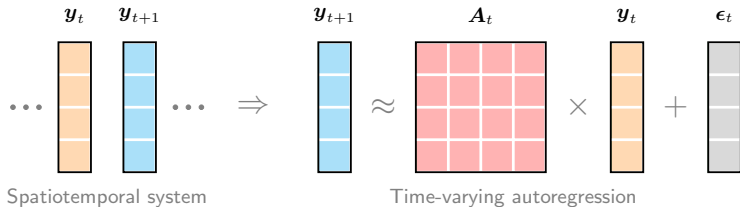
Mainly from:

- Xinyu Chen, Dingyi Zhuang, HanQin Cai, Shenhao Wang, Jinhua Zhao (2025). “Dynamic autoregressive tensor factorization for pattern discovery of spatiotemporal systems”. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*. 47 (10):8524–8537.

<https://doi.org/10.1109/TPAMI.2025.3576719>

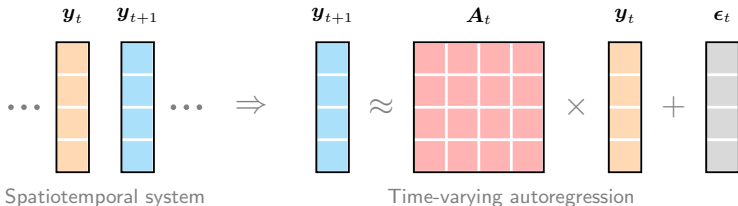
Autoregression

- How to characterize dynamical systems?



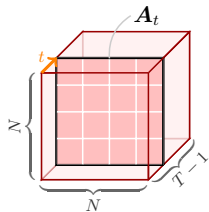
Autoregression

- How to characterize dynamical systems?



- On spatiotemporal systems $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times T}$:

$$\underbrace{y_{t+1} = \mathbf{A} y_t + \epsilon_t}_{\text{time-invariant (e.g., DMD)}} \quad \text{v.s.} \quad \underbrace{y_{t+1} = \mathbf{A}_t y_t + \epsilon_t}_{\text{time-varying}}$$



- How to discover spatial/temporal modes (patterns) from the tensor $\mathcal{A} \triangleq \{\mathbf{A}_t\}_{t \in [T-1]}$?

1927

Higher-Order SVD



Frank Lauren Hitchcock

1960s

Tucker Decomposition

Ledyard R. Tucker

1970

CP Decomposition

J. Douglas Carroll
Jih-Jie Chang
Richard A. Harshman

2009

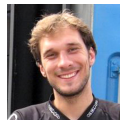
Tensor Decompositions
and Applications



Tamara G. Kolda

2011

Tensor-Train
Decomposition

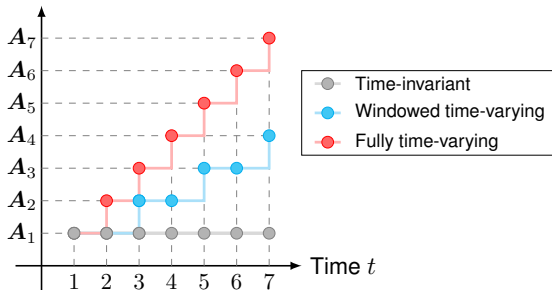


Ivan Oseledets

- On the data $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times T}$:

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{y}_{t+1} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{y}_t + \epsilon_t}_{\text{time-invariant (e.g., DMD)}} \quad \text{v.s.} \quad \underbrace{\mathbf{y}_{t+1} = \mathbf{A}_t \mathbf{y}_t + \epsilon_t}_{\text{fully time-varying (ours)}}$$

Coefficients



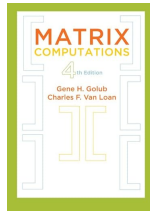
DATF

- Tensor factorization:

$$\mathcal{A} = \underbrace{\mathcal{G} \times_1 \mathbf{W} \times_2 \mathbf{V} \times_3 \mathbf{X}}_{\text{Tucker decomposition}}$$

$$\Updownarrow$$

$$\mathbf{A}_t = \mathcal{G} \times_1 \underbrace{\mathbf{W}}_{\text{spatial modes}} \times_2 \mathbf{V} \times_3 \underbrace{\mathbf{x}_t^\top}_{\text{temporal modes}}$$



- (Ours)** Dynamic autoregressive tensor factorization (DATF):

$$\min_{\mathcal{G}, \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{X}} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t \in [T-1]} \|\mathbf{y}_{t+1} - (\mathcal{G} \times_1 \mathbf{W} \times_2 \mathbf{V} \times_3 \mathbf{x}_t^\top) \mathbf{y}_t\|_2^2$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \underbrace{\mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{W}}_{\text{orthogonal spatial modes}} = \mathbf{I}_R$$

- Solution: \mathcal{G} (LS) $\rightarrow \mathbf{W}$ (OPP) $\rightarrow \mathbf{V}$ (CG) $\rightarrow \mathbf{x}_t$ (LS)

- **Orthogonal Procrustes problem**
(OPP): For any $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$, $m \geq r$,
 the solution to

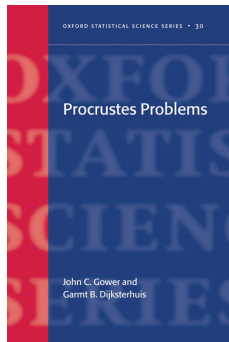
$$\begin{aligned} \min_F \quad & \|F - Q\|_F^2 \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & \underbrace{F^\top F = I_r}_{\text{orthogonal}} \end{aligned}$$

is

$$F := UV^\top$$

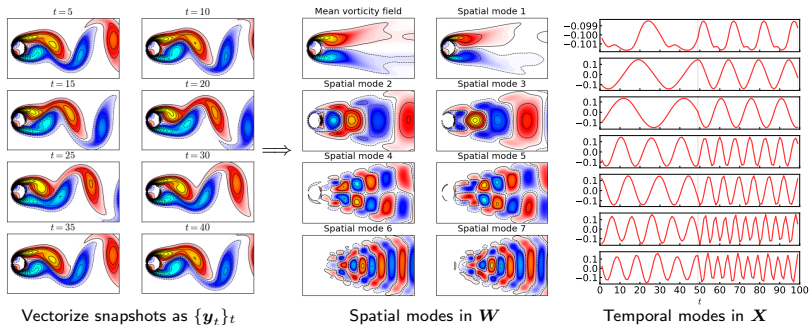
where

$$Q = \underbrace{U \Sigma V^\top}_{\text{singular value decomposition}}$$



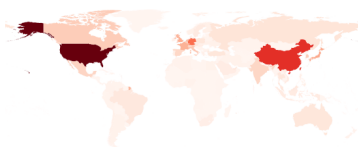
Benchmark Evaluation

- **Multi-resolution fluid flow dataset** (the first 50 snapshots + 50 snapshots randomly selected from the last 100 snapshots)
 - Produce interpretable patterns: Low-frequency modes (dominant patterns) & high-frequency modes (e.g., secondary patterns, outliers)
 - Identify the system of different frequencies (i.e., at $t = 50$)

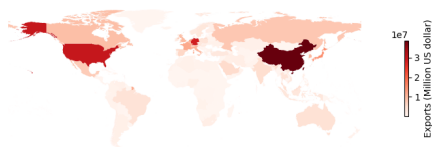


International Trade

- **Import/Export merchandise trade values (annual)**¹ (215 countries/regions & period of 2000-2022)
 - Total merchandise trade values
 - Represent import/export trade data as a 215-by-23 matrix



Imports from 2000 to 2022

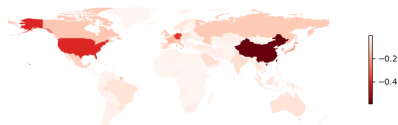


Exports from 2000 to 2022

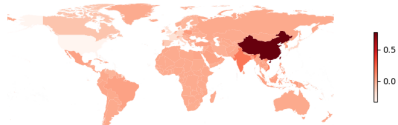
¹The dataset is available at <https://stats.wto.org>.



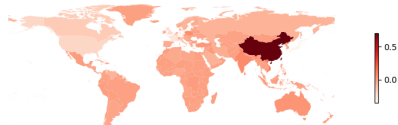
Import pattern 1



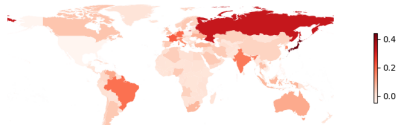
Export pattern 1



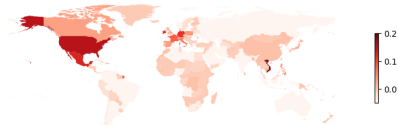
Import pattern 2



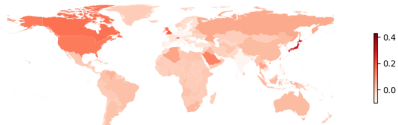
Export pattern 2



Import pattern 3



Export pattern 3



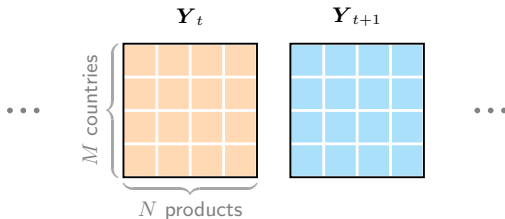
Import pattern 4



Export pattern 4

International Trade

- Three-dimensional trade (Economy, Product, Year)



- On spatiotemporal systems $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N \times T}$:

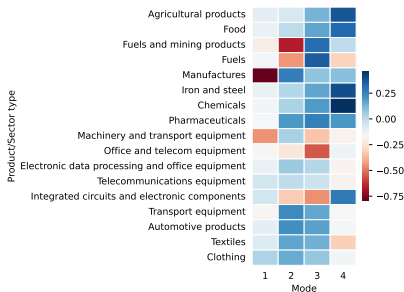
$$\underbrace{\mathbf{y}_{n,t+1} = \mathbf{A}_{n,t} \mathbf{y}_{n,t} + \epsilon_{n,t}}_{\text{time-varying \& product-varying}}$$

- Optimization problem of DATF:

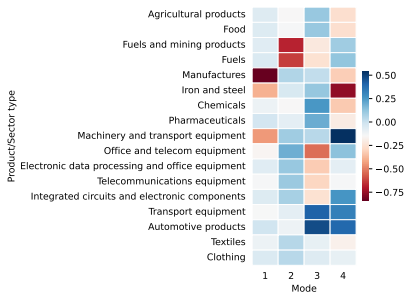
$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathcal{G}, \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{X}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \in [N]} \sum_{t \in [T-1]} \|\mathbf{y}_{n,t+1} - (\mathcal{G} \times_1 \mathbf{W} \times_2 \mathbf{U} \times_3 \mathbf{V} \times_4 \mathbf{x}_t^\top) \mathbf{y}_{n,t}\|_2^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \underbrace{\mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{I}_R}_{\text{orthogonal country patterns}} \end{aligned}$$

Product Patterns

- On 17 merchandise types



Imports



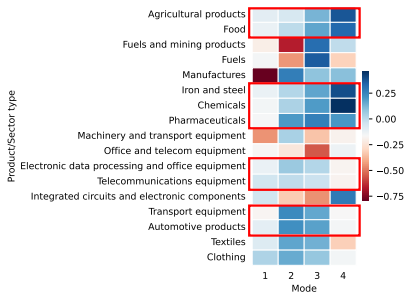
Exports

- Classify import/export merchandise according to product patterns
- Basic principle:

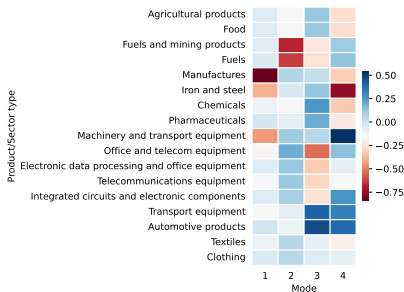
Import: What we buy? (demand) vs. **Export:** What we sell? (supply)

Product Patterns

- On 17 merchandise types



Imports



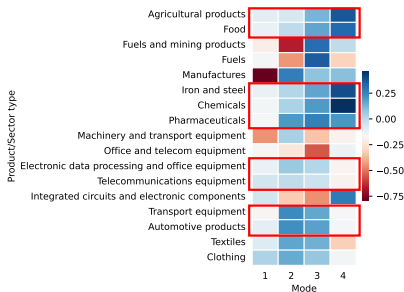
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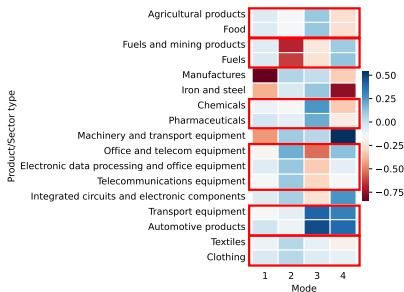
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Imports



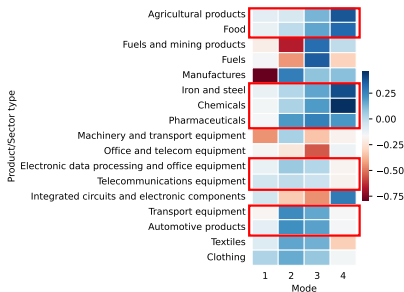
Exports

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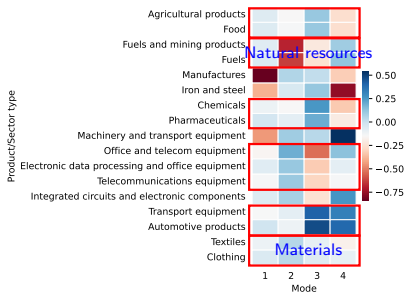
Import: What we buy? (demand) vs. Export: What we sell? (supply)

Product Patterns

- On 17 merchandise types



Imports



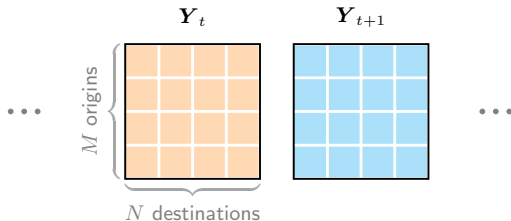
Exports

- Classify import/export merchandise according to product patterns
- Basic principle:

Import: What we buy? (demand) vs. **Export:** What we sell? (supply)

Human Mobility

- Origin-Destination (OD) matrices



- On spatiotemporal systems $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N \times T}$:

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{y}_{n,t+1} = \mathbf{A}_{n,t} \mathbf{y}_{n,t} + \epsilon_{n,t}}_{\text{time-varying \& destination-varying}}$$

- Optimization problem of DATF:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathcal{G}, \mathbf{W}, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{X}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \in [N]} \sum_{t \in [T-1]} \left\| \mathbf{y}_{n,t+1} - (\mathcal{G} \times_1 \mathbf{W} \times_2 \mathbf{U} \times_3 \mathbf{V} \times_4 \mathbf{x}_t^\top) \mathbf{y}_{n,t} \right\|_2^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \underbrace{\mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{W} = \mathbf{I}_R}_{\text{orthogonal origin patterns}} \end{aligned}$$

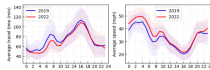
Matching Taxi Trips with Community Areas

- ```
import pandas as pd

data = pd.read_csv('taxi_trips_2022.csv')
data.head()
```

- **Trip Start Timestamp:** When the trip started, rounded to the nearest 15 minutes.
- **Trip Seconds:** Time of the trip in seconds.
- **Trip Miles:** Distance of the trip in miles.
- **Pickup Community Area:** The Community Area where the trip began. This column will be blank for locations outside Chicago.
- **Dropoff Community Area:** The Community Area where the trip ended. This column will be blank for locations outside Chicago.

```
df = pd.DataFrame()
df['Trip Start Timestamp'] = data['Trip Start Timestamp']
df['Trip Seconds'] = data['Trip Seconds']
df['Trip Miles'] = data['Trip Miles']
df['Pickup Community Area'] = data['Pickup Community Area']
df['Dropoff Community Area'] = data['Dropoff Community Area']
del data
```



```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

fig = plt.figure(figsize=(4, 3))
ax = fig.add_subplot(1, 1, 1)

Average kernel sizes on 1022
n1 = df.groupby('hour')[['Trip Distance']].mean().values / 30
n2 = df.groupby('hour')[['Trip Distance']].std().values / 30
plt.plot(n1, color = 'blue', linestyle = '-', label = 'Mean / 30')
plt.plot(n2, color = 'red', linestyle = '-', label = 'Std / 30')
ax.set_xlabel('hour')
ax.set_ylabel('n')

Append up
h_bound = np.append(h_bound, append_up_array(T, T1, ax.get_xlim(), 10),
 dtype=int)
h_bound = np.append(h_bound, append_down_array(T, T1, ax.get_xlim(), 10),
 dtype=int)
ax.set_xlabel('hour')
ax.set_ylabel('n')
plt.fill(h_bound, h_bound, color = 'blue', alpha = 0.30)

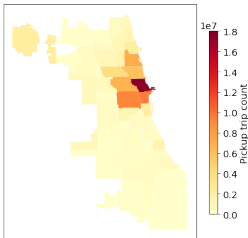
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n1 = df.groupby('hour')[['Trip Distance']].mean().values / 30
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plt.plot(n1, color = 'red', linestyle = '-', label = 'Mean / 30')
ax.set_xlabel('hour')
ax.set_ylabel('n')

h_bound = n1
```

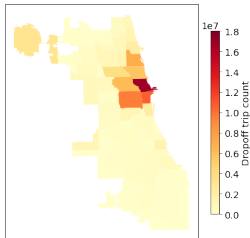
# Human Mobility

- **Ridesharing:** 96,642,881 trips in 2019 vs. 57,290,954 trips in 2022

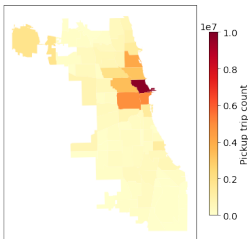
Pickup trips (2019)



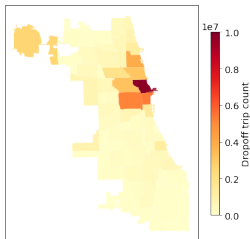
Dropoff trips (2019)



Pickup trips (2022)



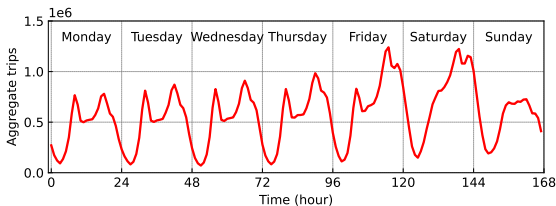
Dropoff trips (2022)



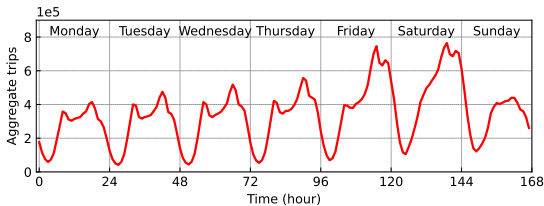
# Human Mobility

- **Ridesharing:** 96,642,881 trips in 2019 vs. 57,290,954 trips in 2022

Pickup trips aggregated over 52 weeks in 2019



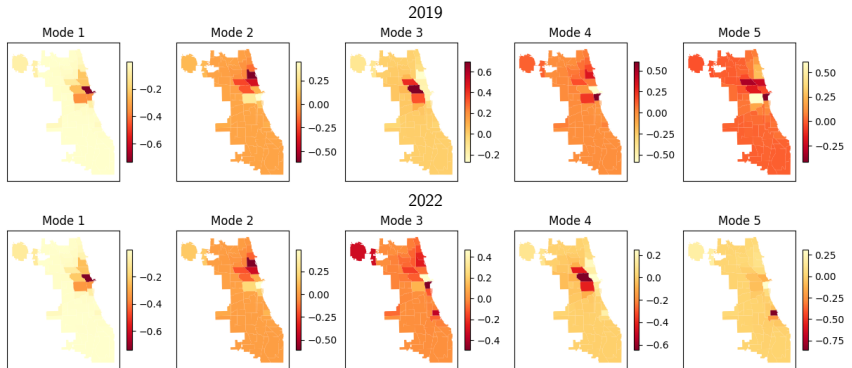
Pickup trips aggregated over 52 weeks in 2022





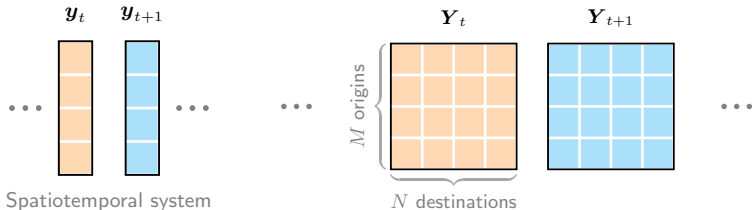
# Human Mobility

- Ridesharing trip data: 77 origins  $\times$  77 destinations  $\times$  168 hours
- Our model Identifies the changes in pickup zones before and after COVID-19



## Concluding Remark

- Discovering **spatial/temporal patterns** from 2D and 3D spatiotemporal systems with unsupervised learning:
  - Time-varying autoregression **on the data**
  - Tensor factorization **on the coefficients**





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# Thanks for your attention!

## Any Questions?

Slides: [https://xinychen.github.io/slides/dynamic\\_tensor.pdf](https://xinychen.github.io/slides/dynamic_tensor.pdf)

### About me:

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