Correlates of homicide: new space/time interaction tests for spatiotemporal point processes

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The second

Carnegie Mellon University

Spatial Statistics Conference

June 7, 2013

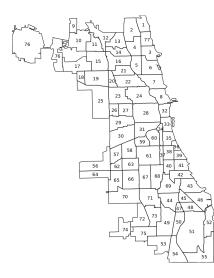
Joint work with....

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This work was partially supported by the National Science Foundation, grants IIS-0916345, IIS-0911032, and IIS-0953330.

- Research question: what predicts homicides?
- **Background:** space-time interaction tests
- Methods: kernel-based measures of independence
- Applications: 911 call data, crime offense reports from Chicago

Chicago



- ▶ Population: 2.7 million
- ► Area: 234 square miles
- Research question: Which types of calls to 911 are predictive of homicides and shootings nearby?

Space-time interaction

Residual space-time dependence, after controlling for purely spatial and purely temporal dependence.

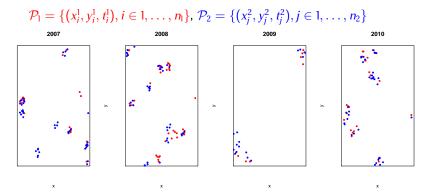
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Data: point processes



Statistical tests for space-time interaction

Knox test [1964]

Put the $N = n_1 \cdot n_2$ pairs of points into a contingency table:

	close in space	far in space	
close in time	X	a	$= N_t$
far in time	b	С	
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(or just X)

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$$K = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \|s_1 - s_2\| & \dots & \|s_1 - s_n\| \\ \|s_2 - s_1\| & 0 & \dots & \|s_2 - s_n\| \\ & & \ddots & \\ \|s_n - s_1\| & \|s_n - s_2\| & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Test statistic: $\sum_{i,j} K_{i,j} L_{i,j}$

Shortcomings

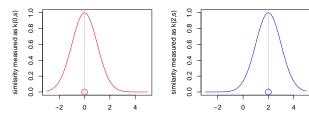
- ► Knox: discretizes using pre-specified cutoffs
- Mantel: linear measure of independence (correlation)
- Focus is exclusively on interpoint (Euclidean) distances
- No way to include covariates, more spatial or temporal structure

Machine learning to the rescue

- A kernel is a real-valued paired similarity function: $k(x, y) \in \mathcal{R}$. Larger values \Rightarrow more similar.
- ► You've heard of kernels: they're a generalization of covariance functions C(x, y)!
- Example: Gaussian $k(x, y) = e^{-||x-y||^2}$
- Mathematical theory: kernels turn points into infinite dimensional vectors, i.e. functions:

The Hilbert space representation of 0

The Hilbert space representation of 2



The "kernel trick"

- ► Take a standard statistical tool (e.g. clustering, PCA, SVMs), replace dot products or similarity metrics (x, y) with kernels k(x, y) throughout.
- Enables the application of simple, linear methods in non-linear settings

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Statistical machine learning says there's a better way...

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- ► Looks for a function *f*:

$$HSIC = \sup_{f} \left(\underbrace{\mathsf{E}}_{(s,t)\sim S\times T} f(s,t) - \underbrace{\mathsf{E}}_{s\sim S,t\sim T} f(s,t) \right)^{2}$$

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▶ Intuition: f is a "witness" function, meant to find discrepancies between P(S, T) and P(S)P(T).

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Theorem. HSIC = 0 if and only if P(S, T) = P(S)P(T)

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We show that these results hold for testing whether k(p, ·) and ℓ(p, ·) are independent ⇒ new test for space-time interaction Space-time interaction statistics

HSIC:

$$\frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i,j} k(s_i, s_j) \ell(t_i, t_j) - \frac{2}{n^3} \sum_{i,j,r} k(s_i, s_j) \ell(t_i, t_r) + \frac{1}{n^4} \sum_{i,j,q,r} k(s_i, s_j) \ell(t_q, t_r)$$

Kernelized Mantel:

$$\sum_{i,j} k(s_i, s_j) \ell(t_i, t_j)$$

▶ Notice: missing terms! Mantel is like HSIC, but with some non-optimal choice of f (⇒ less power).

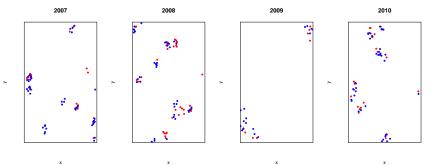
Our Contributions

- ► New way of thinking about space-time interaction in terms of kernels ⇒ new interpretation of HSIC ⇒ new test for space-time interaction
- Extensions to bivariate, forward in time cases
- Interesting connections with Mantel test, showing its shortcomings and a possible fix
- More flexible test: kernels can encode more than just distance between points. HSIC can test for non-linear dependencies.

Experimental Setup

Synthetic data: draw n = 40 or n = 100 random cluster centers, draw k = 5 or 1 children with locations displaced $N(0, \sigma)$ from parent in every direction.

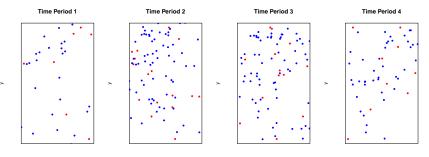
Easy example: $\sigma = .025$



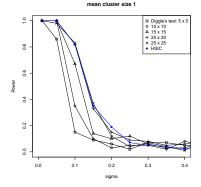
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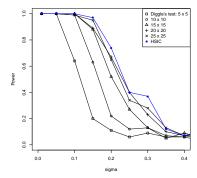
Hard example: $\sigma = .2$



Synthetic Data: Results



mean cluster size 5



Experimental Setup: Crime Data

Question: which types of calls to 911 predict homicides and aggravated battery with a handgun ("shootings")?

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Data:

- ▶ Dispatcher calls from January 2007-May 2010, coded by one of 271 types (≈ 9 million): "01-01-2010", "12:25:00", "ARSON", 1172456, 1834562
 "01-02-2010", "19:55:00", "THEFT", 1173123, 1831123
- All shootings / homicides from January 2007-May 2010 (9,087 total):

"01-01-2010", "19:00:37", "HOMICIDE", 1172001, 1834023 "01-07-2010", "19:55:00", "HOMICIDE", 1173934, 1831384

Experimental Setup: Algorithms

- Calculate p-values for directional, bivariate space-time interaction between each 911 call type and shootings
- ► Compare Knox and HSIC
- ▶ Knox: cutoff for close: 500 feet, 14 days
- HSIC: Gaussian RBF kernels, with equivalent bandwidth
- Permutation testing 1000 times to calculate p-values

HSIC < .01	HSIC and Knox < .01	Knox < .01
auto accident pd	10-1	arson report
battery jo	death removal	auto theft ip
battery victim inj.	evidence technician (pri. 1)	criminal tres. (ov)
beat team meeting [ov]	evidence technician (pri. 2)	evidence technician (pri. 3)
crim dam. to prop rpt	gambling	found property
mental unauth absence	gang disturbance	k9 request
mission	outdoor roll call	kidnapping report
person with a gun	person shot	notify
robbery victim injured	plan 1-5	person stabbed
theft ip	shots fired	pick up car
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Expert rating: 5 (most reasonable), 4, 3, 2, 1 (least reasonable)

Conclusions

- New data-driven formulation of "leading indicators" question as space-time interaction between pairs of point processes
- Defined a new kernel-based space-time interaction test
- HSIC performance was comparable to classical tests, parameter choices less critical
- Applied to large, real, and important dataset: shootings in Chicago

Thank you! Questions?¹

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¹Thank you to the Chicago Police Department for sharing data. Points of view or opinions contained within this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Chicago Police Department. Title page photo by Palsson on Flickr.

Extensions

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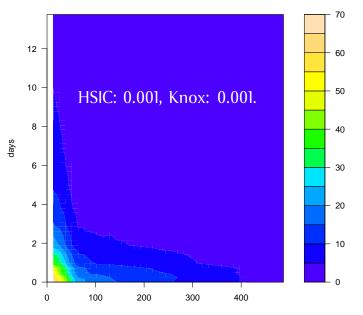
- Interesting interpretation in Hilbert space
- Only predict forward in time: restrict sums to pairs of points where t_i < t_j.

Excess risk attributable to space-time interaction

$$D(s,t) = \frac{F_{S,T}(s,t) - F_S(s)F_T(t)}{F_S(s)F_T(t)}$$

Given that we see an event of type 1, proportional increase (excess risk) of seeing an event of type 2.

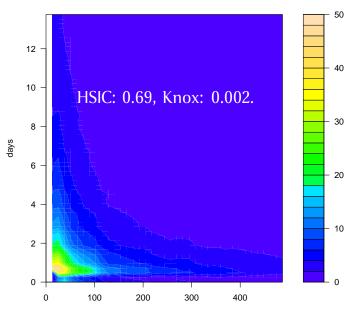
Shots fired and shootings



feet

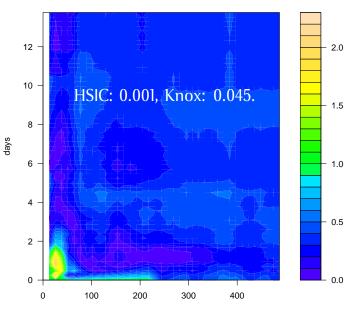
28

K9 REQUEST and shootings





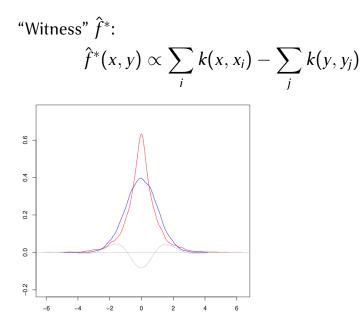
PERSON WITH A GUN and shootings



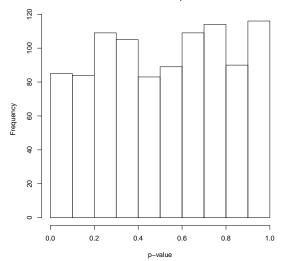
feet

30

Maximum Mean Discrepancy (Gretton et al. 2012)



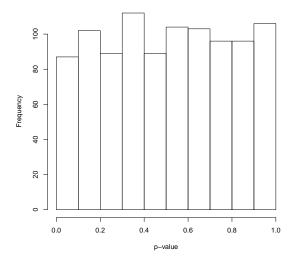
False positive rate



HSIC: 4.07% false positive

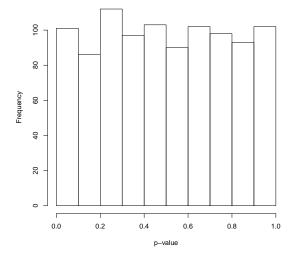
False positive rate

Mantel (kernelized): 4.37% false positive

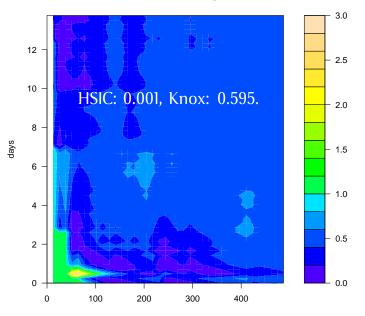


False positive rate

Knox: 5.69% false positive



THEFT IP and shootings



feet