

How to use a city's information and complexity to assess the quality of life of citizens living in it?

Eduardo Hidalgo Garcia



SEMINAR: From complexity theories to value creation in cities

Professor Juval Portugali

NOVA University, Lisbon
July 22-26, 2019 | 9h - 13h |

Venue: NOVA School of Law |
Room 003 - Campus de Campolide

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July 28, 2019

1 Basic Ideas

2 Procedure & Mechanism

3 Draft

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Two approaches are proposed

Each approach is related with finding the answer to one of the following questions:

- How to use a city's **entropy** measurement to assess the quality of life of citizens living in it?
- Does socio-economic variables correlate with **complexity** level of a city?

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Information level (Entropy)

Procedure

Compare periods of time where differences in the elements of a city are bigger against periods of time where those elements became more similar to each other.

Mechanism

Assuming an initial *quality of life level* I would expect that periods of time where elements of the city became more different have *relatively* reduce the quality of life for the citizens (Balconies and Flats examples).

Procedure

At a certain time and city see if population density - as measured with fractal dimension - is correlated with socio-economic variables such as: income, access to health, education, water, electricity, security, employment, etc..

Mechanism

I would expect to see population density to respond to socio-economic variables. Citizens would want to live in places of the city that are affordable to their level of income and have a great amount of public goods.

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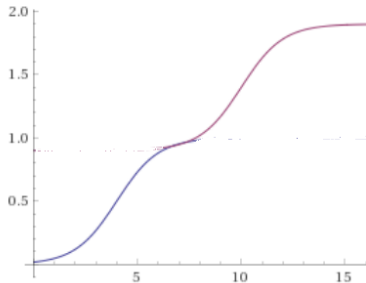
3 Draft

Information level (Entropy)

Steps

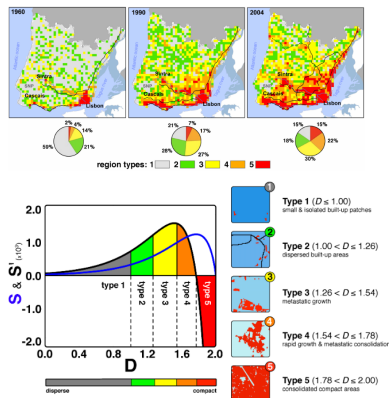
- 1 Initial Level of Welfare selection
- 2 Characterization of the elements of the city (buildings by number of stores, windows, balconies, etc..)
- 3 Estimate information entropy in each period for the city: $S = -\sum_i P_i \log_2 P_i$
- 4 Calculate correlation between Welfare and S

Plot:



Steps

- 1 Replicate Study of LMA
- 2 Estimate correlation among socio-economic variables and fractal dimension of each cell



Study available in: <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep00527.pdf>



Santos Tenedorio Encarnaça, Gaudiano and Pacheco.

Fractal cartography of urban areas.

www.nature.com.

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