

# Models of urban morphogenesis to link urban form and function

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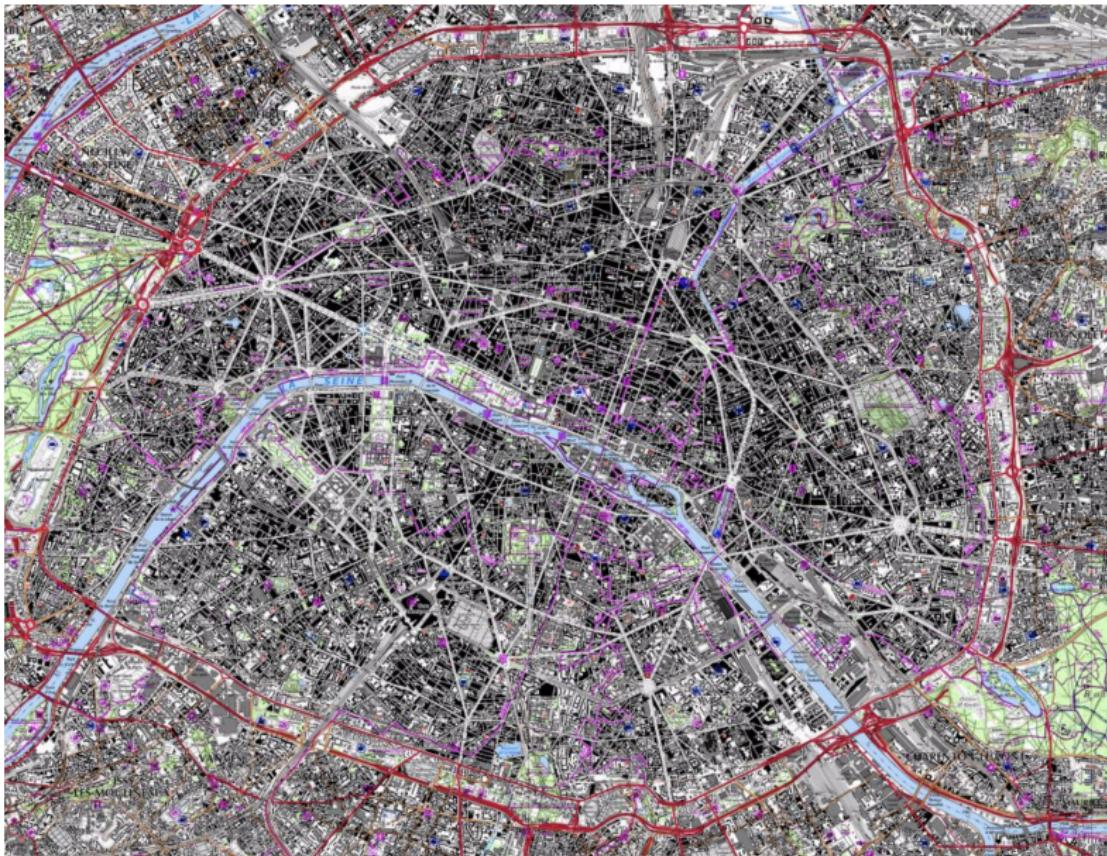
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# Complex processes of Urban Morphogenesis



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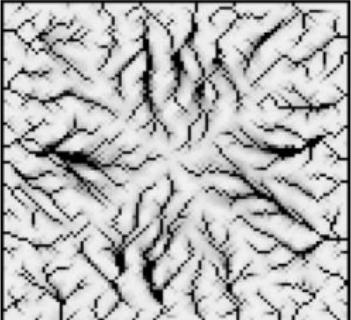
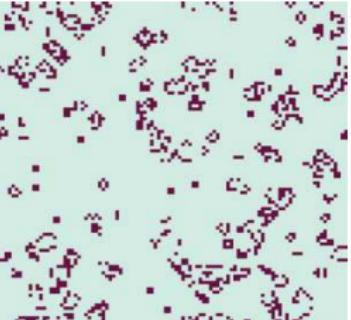
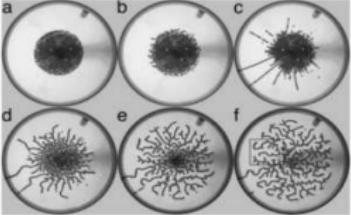
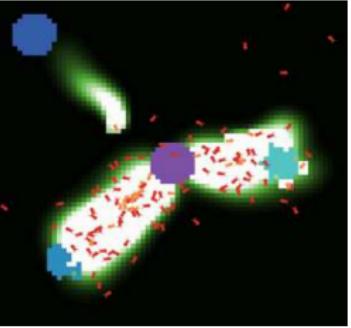
## Morphogenesis (*Oxford dictionary*)

- 1 *Biology* : The origin and development of morphological characteristics
- 2 *Geology* : The formation of landforms or other structures.

## History of the notion

- Started significantly with embryology around 1930 [Abercrombie, 1977]
- Turing's 1952 paper [Turing, 1952], linked to the development of Cybernetics
- first use in 1871, large peak in usage between 1907-1909, increase until 1990, decrease until today. *Scientific fashion* ?

# What is Morphogenesis ? Examples

	Physical	Biological	Engineered
Non Functional			
Functional			

Sources (in order by column). *Ants, Erosion, Game of Life: NetLogo Library; Arbotron [Jun and Hübler, 2005]; Industrial design [Aage et al., 2017]; Swarm chemistry [Sayama, 2001]*

*Proposition of an interdisciplinary definition*

## **Framework of imbricated concepts:**

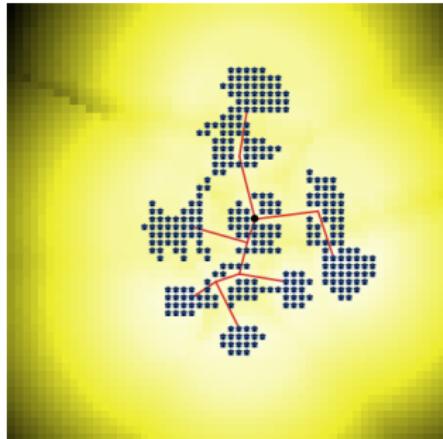
Self-organization  $\supseteq$  Morphogenesis  $\supseteq$  Autopoiesis  $\supseteq$  Life

## **Properties:**

- Architecture links form and function
- Emergence strength [Bedau, 2002] increases with notion depth, as bifurcations [Thom, 1974]

**Definition of Morphogenesis :** *Emergence of the form and the function in a strongly coupled manner, producing an emergent architecture [Doursat et al., 2012]*

# Which models for Urban Morphogenesis ?



*Example: a basic hybrid model based on elementary processes for density and network*  
*[Raimbault et al., 2014]*

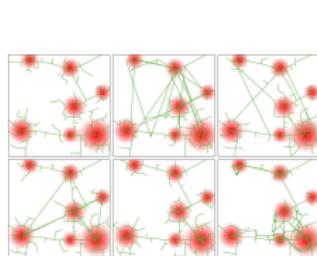
- At the crossroad between Urban Simulation and Artificial Life, few models try to integrate and explain the link between Urban Form and Function
- Importance of parsimonious, stylized models: modeling as a tool to understand processes

**Research Objective :** Explore simple models to capture morphogenesis based on abstract representation of urban processes; test their ability to reproduce existing urban systems.

*Different models with different ontologies and coupling ontologies*

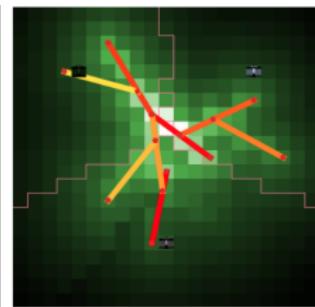
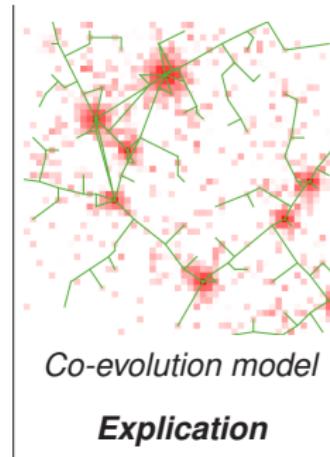
## Network


<i>Self-organizing biological network</i>
<i>Optimisation</i>



*Multi-modeling network growth  
Explication*

## Co-evolution



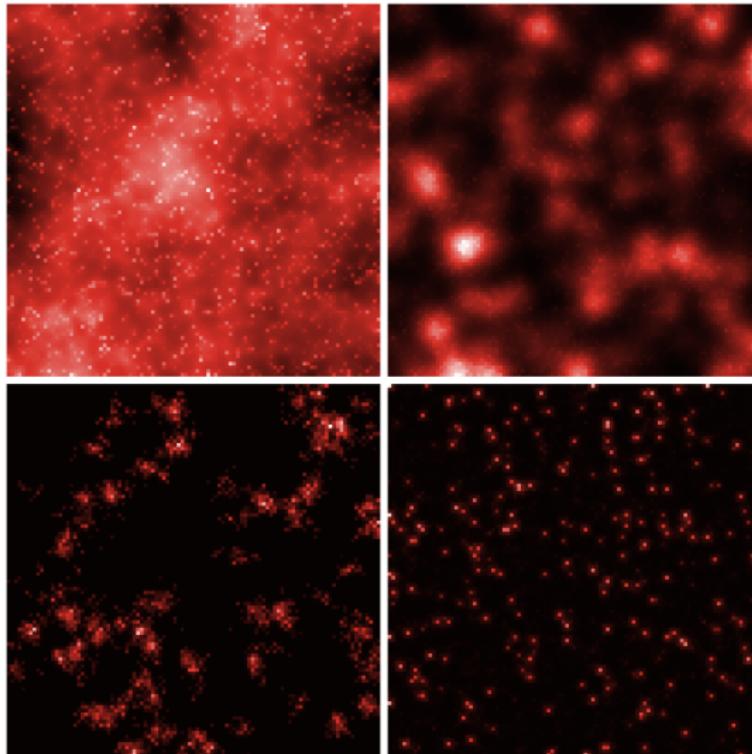
**Contents:** (i) population density model (reaction-diffusion); (ii) network growth multi-modeling and co-evolution; (iii) biological network; (iv) transportation governance.

- Crucial role of the interplay between concentration forces and dispersion forces [Fujita and Thisse, 1996] in keeping Urban Systems at the border of chaos
- Potentiality of aggregation mechanisms (such as Simon model) to produce power laws [Dodds et al., 2017]
- Link with Reaction-diffusion approaches in Morphogenesis [Turing, 1952]
- Extension of a DLA-type model introduced by [Batty, 1991], with simple abstract processes of population aggregation and diffusion

Raimbault, J. (2018). Calibration of a density-based model of urban morphogenesis. PloS one, 13(9), e0203516.

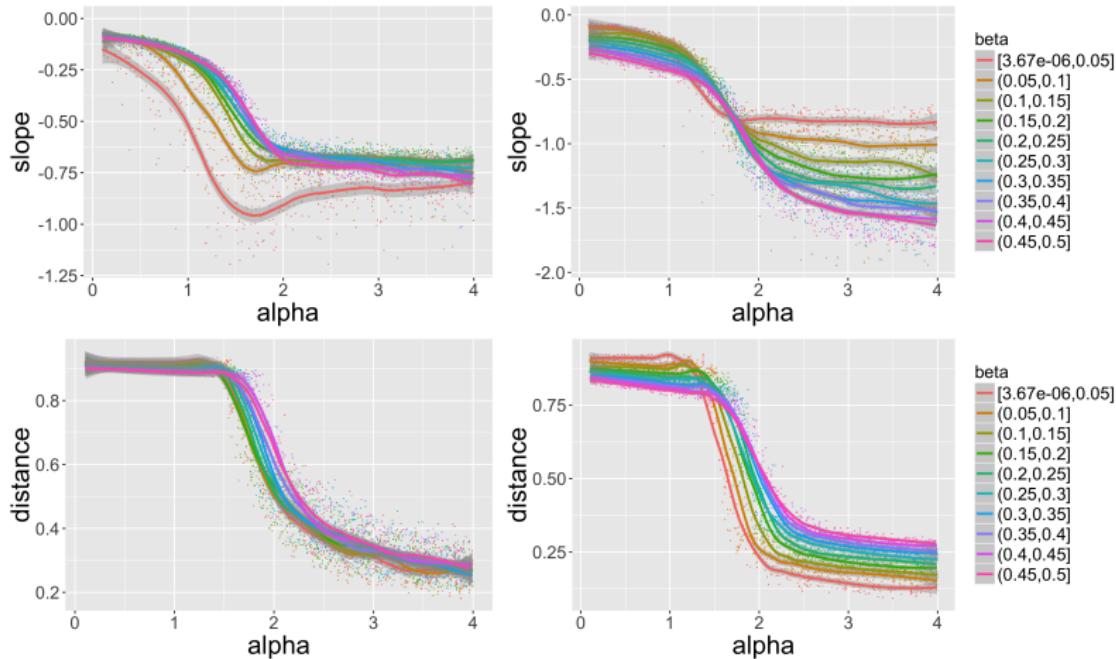
- Grid world with cell populations  $(P_i(t))_{1 \leq i \leq N^2}$ .
- At each time step:
  - 1 Population growth with exogenous rate  $N_G$ , attributed independently to a cell following a preferential attachment of strength  $\alpha$
  - 2 Population is diffused  $n_d$  times with strength  $\beta$
- Stopping criterion: fixed maximal population  $P_m$ .
- Output measured by morphological indicators: Moran index, average distance, rank-size hierarchy, entropy.

# Generating Population Distributions



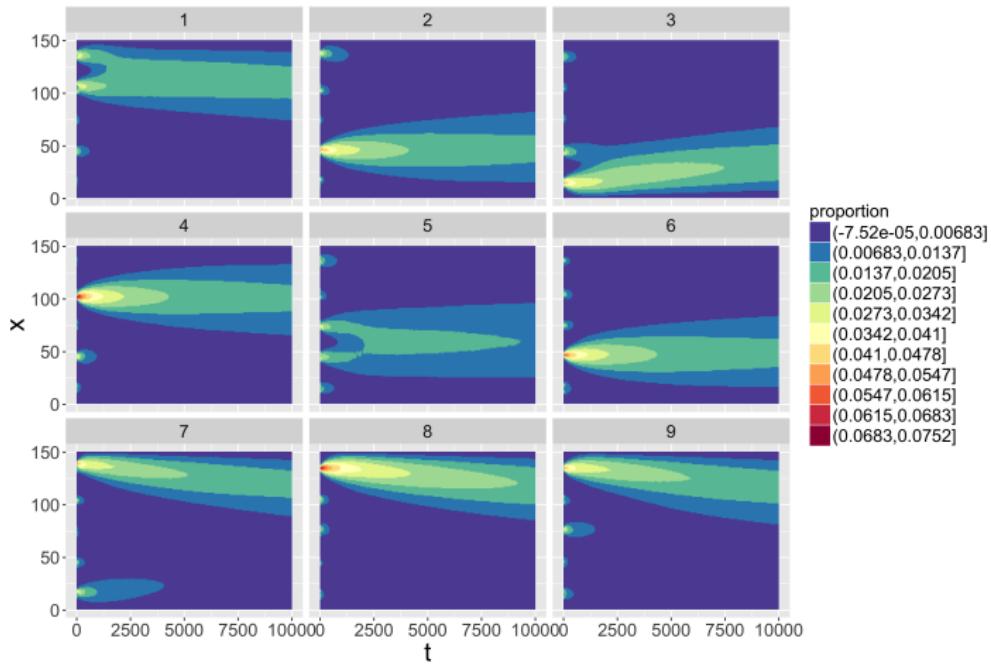
*Examples of generated territorial shapes*

# Model behavior



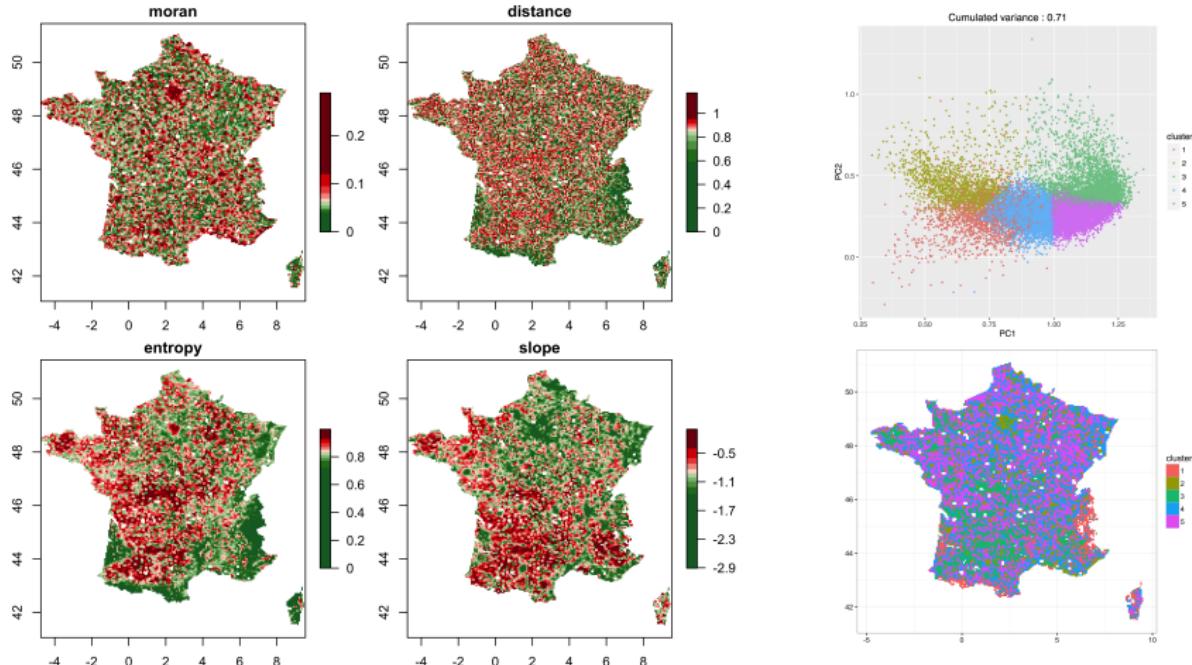
*Phase transitions of indicators unveiled by exploration of the parameter space (80000 parameter points, 10 repetitions each)*

# Path-dependence and frozen accidents



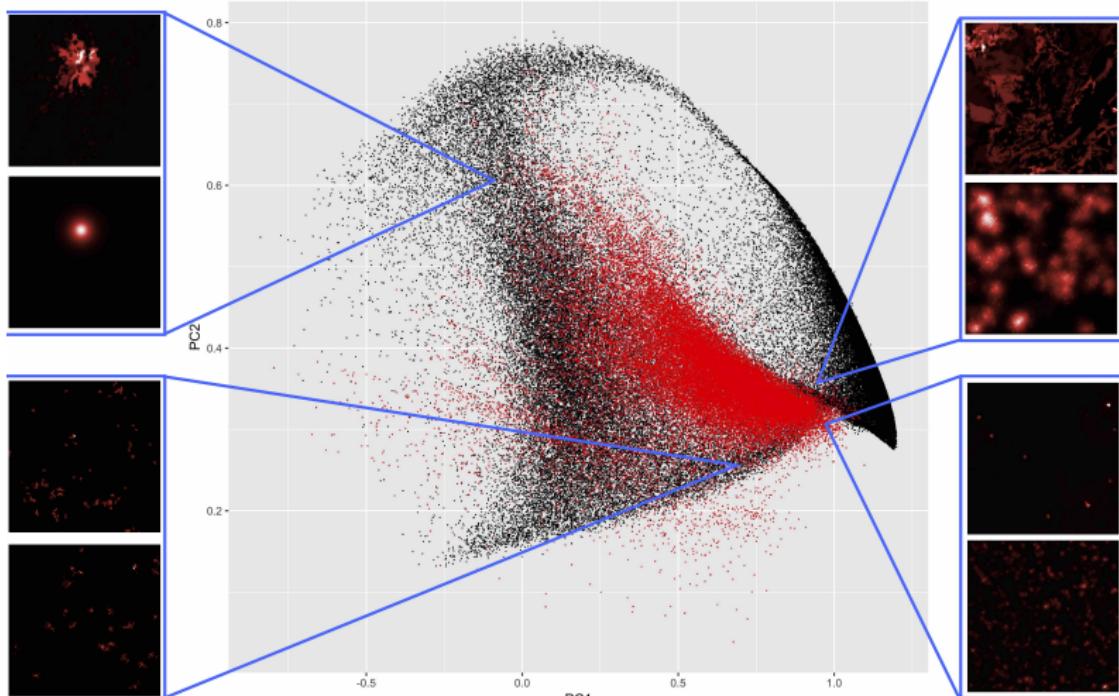
*Illustration of path-dependence in a simplified one-dimensional version of the model: cell trajectories in time for 9 independent repetitions from the same initial configuration.*

# Empirical Data for Calibration



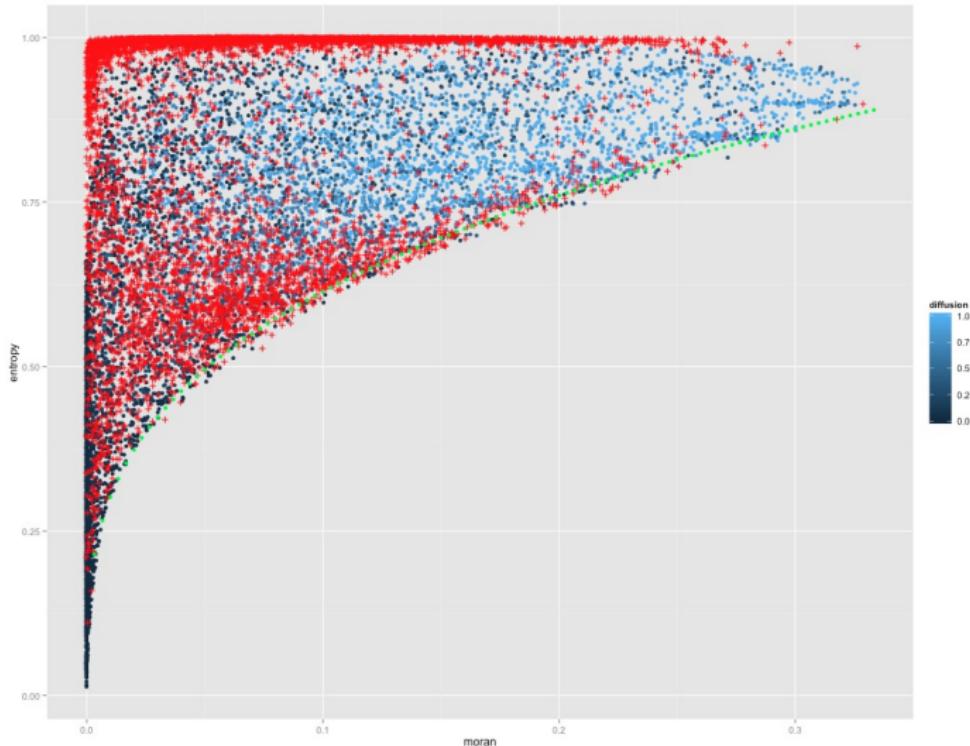
*Computation of morphological indicators on population density data for Europe (shown here on France), morphological classification.*

# Model Calibration



*Brute force calibration by exploring the parameter space. Reproduction of most existing configuration in the morphological sense (here in principal plan).*

# Model Targeted Exploration

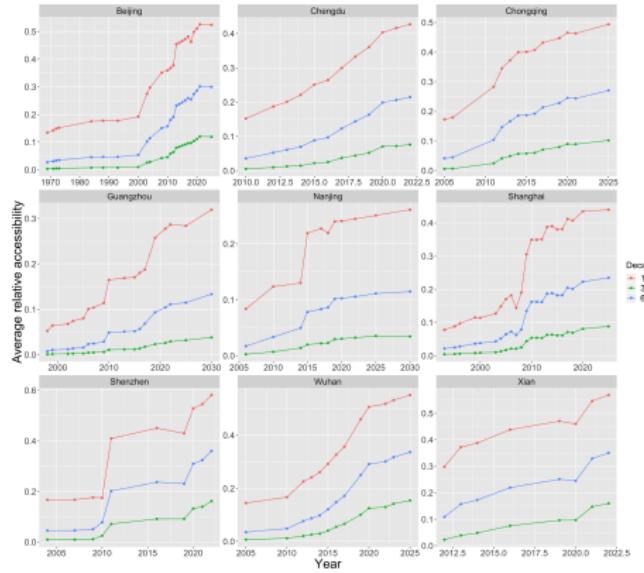
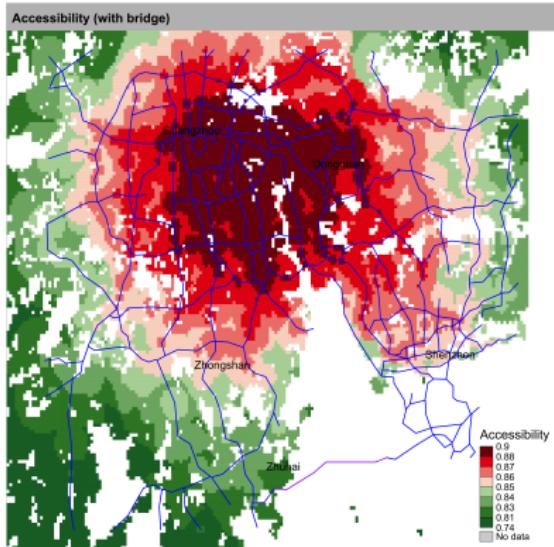


*Potentialities of targeted model explorations: here feasible space using Pattern Space Exploration algorithm [Chérel et al., 2015].*

*Which ontology to include more complex functional properties ?*

- Territorial systems as the strong coupling between territories and (potential and realized) networks [Dupuy, 1987].
- Networks convey functional notions of centralities and accessibility, among others; have furthermore proper topological properties.

# Interactions between networks and territories



*Accessibility as part of complex processes of co-evolution between transportation networks and territories.*

Raimbault, J. (2019). Evolving accessibility landscapes: mutations of transportation networks in China. In Aveline-Dubach, N., ed. *Pathways of sustainable urban development across China - the cases of Hangzhou, Datong and Zhuhai*, pp 89-108. Imago. ISBN:978-88-94384-71-0

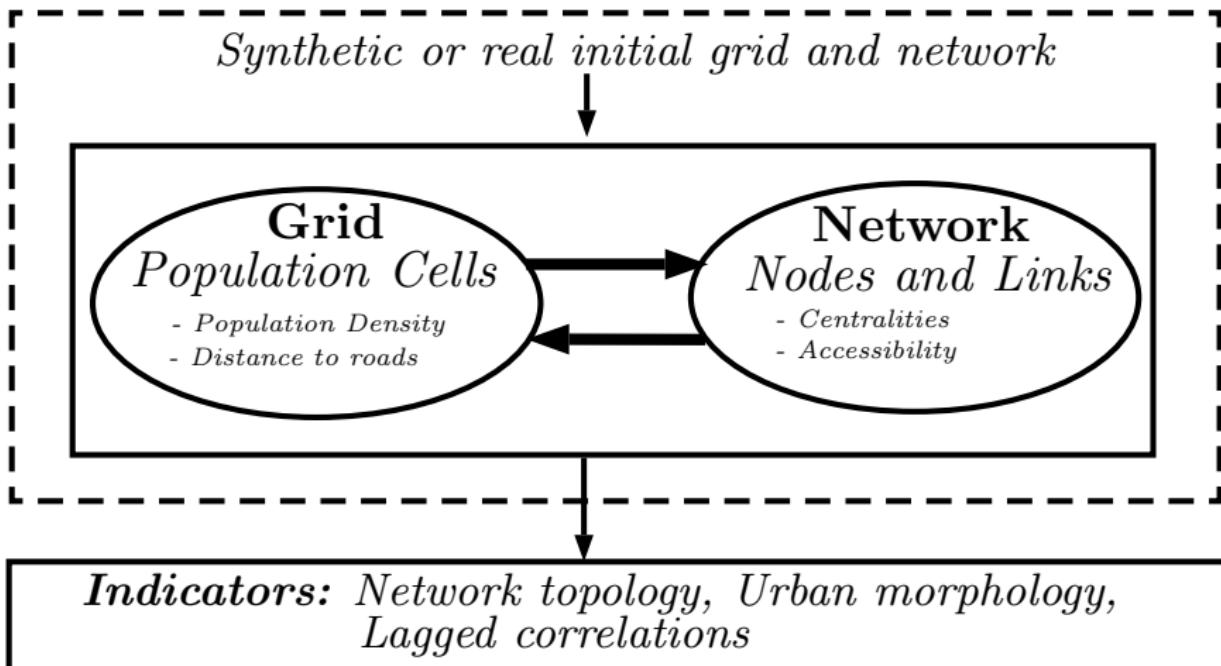
# A Morphogenesis Model of co-evolution

- Coupled grid population distribution and vector transportation network, following the core of [Raimbault et al., 2014]
- Local morphological and functional variables determine a patch-value, driving new population attribution through preferential attachment ; combined to population diffusion (reaction-diffusion processes studied before)
- Network growth is also driven by morphological, functional and local network measures, following diverse heuristics corresponding to different processes (multi-modeling)

*Local variables and network properties induce feedback on both, thus a strong coupling capturing the **co-evolution***

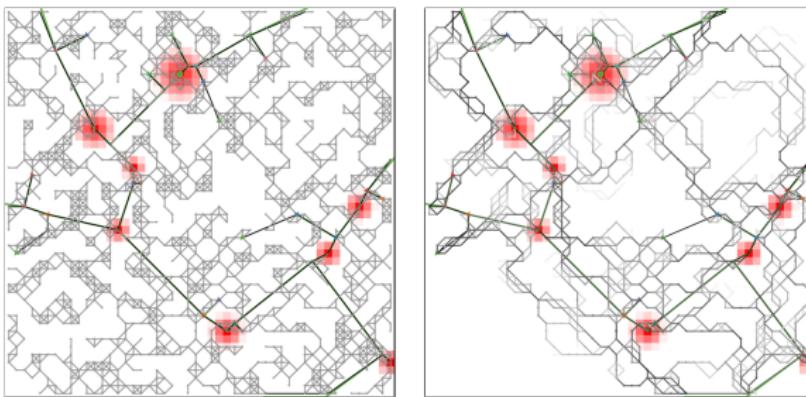
Raimbault, J. (2019). An urban morphogenesis model capturing interactions between networks and territories. In *The Mathematics of Urban Morphology* (pp. 383-409). Birkhäuser, Cham.

Raimbault, J. (2018). Multi-modeling the morphogenesis of transportation networks. In *Artificial Life Conference Proceedings* (pp. 382-383).



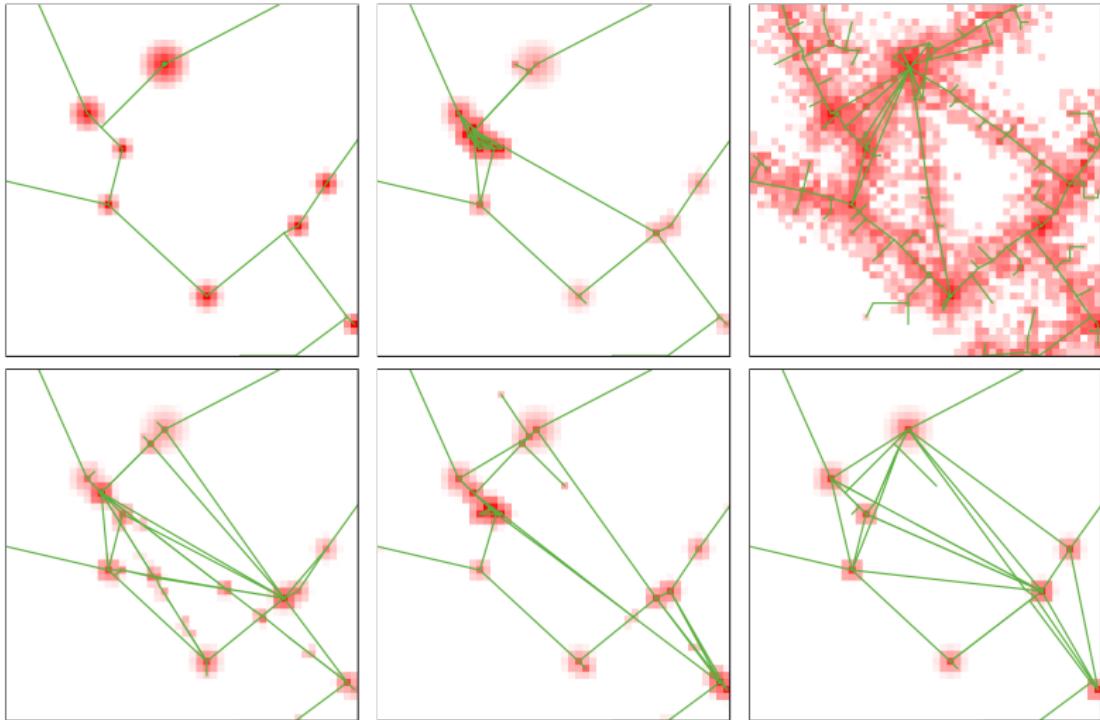
At fixed time steps :

- 1 Add new nodes preferentially to new population and connect them
- 2 Variable heuristic for new links, among: nothing, random, gravity-based deterministic breakdown, gravity-based random breakdown (from [Schmitt, 2014]), cost-benefits (from [Louf et al., 2013]), biological network generation (based on [Tero et al., 2010])



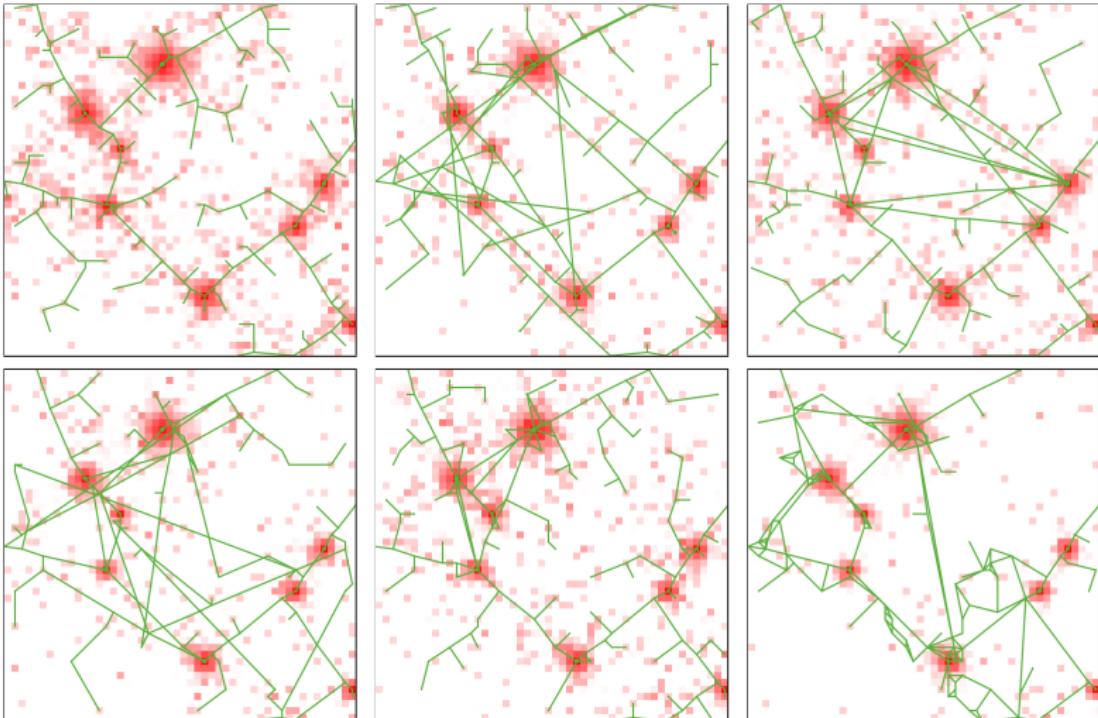
*Intermediate stage for biological network generation*

# Generated Urban Shapes: Urban Form



*In order: setup; accessibility driven; road distance driven; betweenness driven; closeness driven; population driven.*

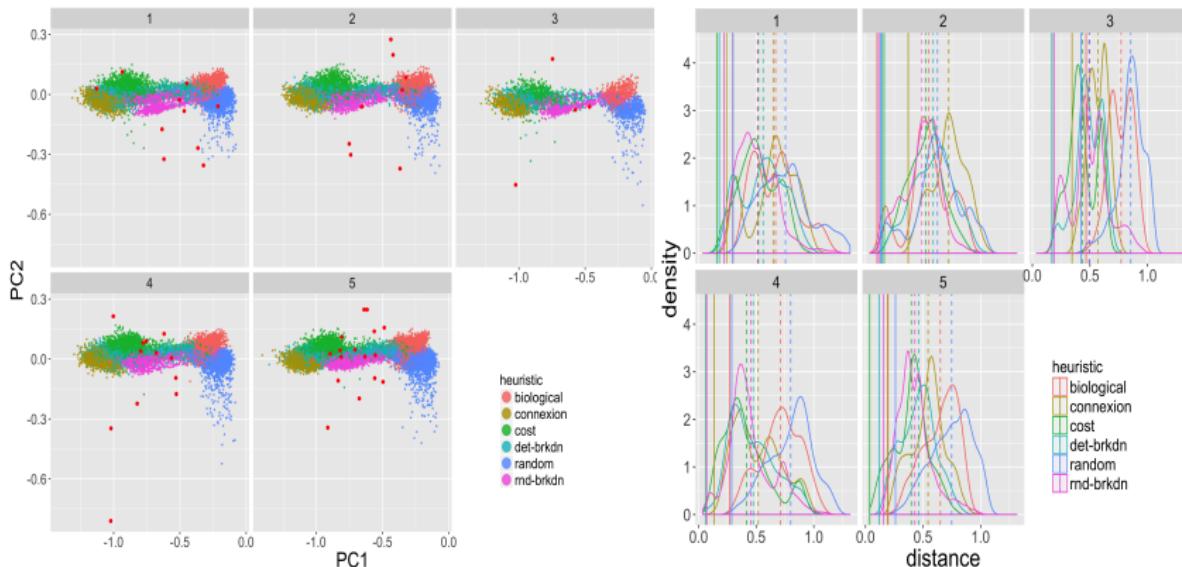
# Generated Urban Shapes: Network



*In order: connection; random; deterministic breakdown; random breakdown; cost-driven; biological.*

# Results : Network Heuristics

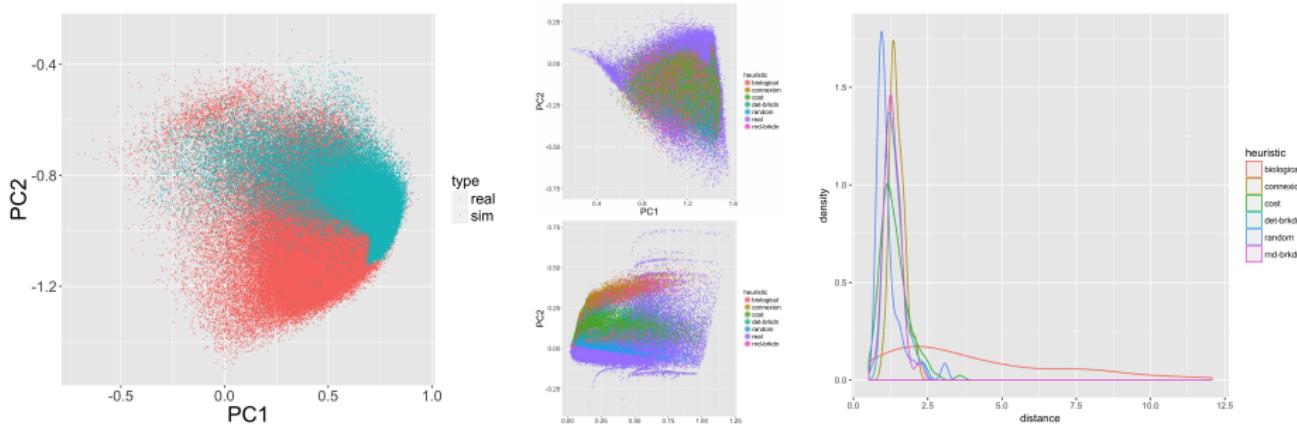
*Comparison of feasible space for network indicators with fixed density*



(Left) Feasible spaces by morphological class and network heuristic; (Right) Distribution of distances to topologies of real networks

# Results : Calibration

Calibration (model explored with OpenMole [Reuillon et al., 2013],  $\sim 10^6$  model runs) at the first order on morphological and topological objectives, and on correlations matrices.

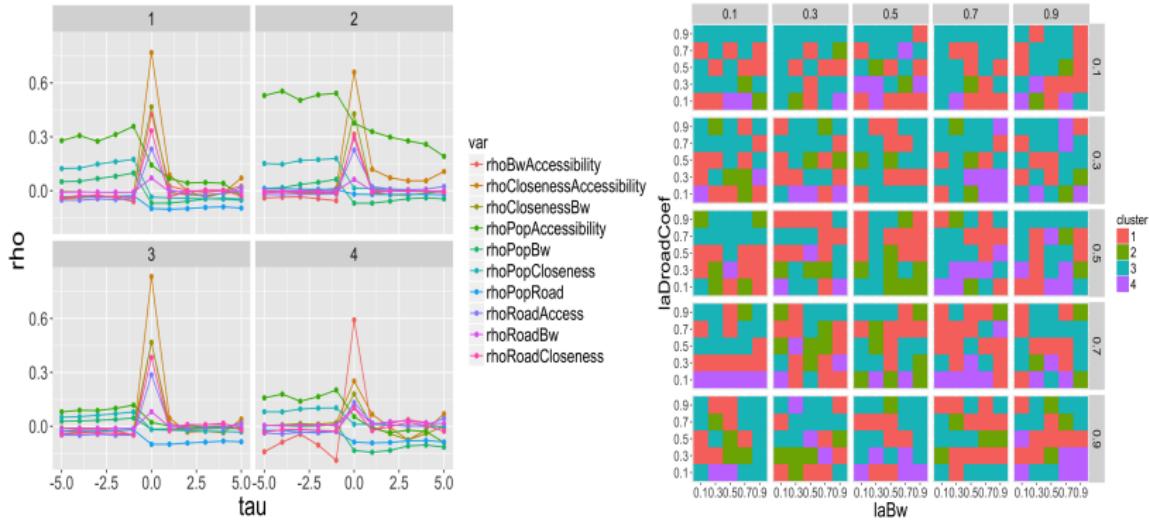


(Left) Full indicator space; (Middle) Morphological and Topology, by network heuristic;  
(Right) Distance distribution for cumulated distance for indicators and correlations.

# Results : Causality Regimes

*Unsupervised learning on lagged correlations between local variables unveils a diversity of causality regimes*

→ Link between *co-evolution regime* and morphogenetic properties of the urban system



(Left) Lagged correlation profiles of cluster centers; (Right) Distribution of regimes across parameter space

Model studied by [Tero et al., 2010]: exploration and reinforcement by a slime mould searching for resources

Raimbault, J. (2018). Reconciling complexities: for a stronger integration of approaches to complex socio-technical systems. arXiv preprint arXiv:1805.10195.

Settings :

- Initial homogeneous network of tubes  $ij$  of length  $L_{ij}$ , variable diameter  $D_{ij}$ , carrying a flow  $Q_{ij}$ .
- Nodes  $i$  with a pressure  $p_i$ .
- $N$  nodes are origin/destination points : randomly at each step one becomes source  $p_i = l_0$  and one other sink  $p_{i-} = -l_0$

At each iteration :

- 1 Determination of flows with Kirchoff's law (electrostatic analogy) :

Ohm's law  $Q_{ij} = \frac{D_{ij}}{L_{ij}} \cdot p_i - p_j$  and conservation of flows

$$\sum_{j \rightarrow i} Q_{ij} = 0, \sum_{j \rightarrow i_{\pm}} Q_{i_{\pm}j} \pm I_0$$

- 2 Evolution of diameters ( $\gamma$  reinforcement parameter) by

$$\frac{dD_{ij}}{dt} = \frac{|Q_{ij}|^\gamma}{1 + |Q_{ij}|^\gamma} - D_{ij}$$

→ Extraction of the final network after convergence given a threshold parameter for diameters

→ Multi-scale model : diameters are constant during an iteration to obtain equilibrium flows

Behavior of the model evaluated with performance indicators for generated network  $V_f, E_f$ , that are contradictory objectives :

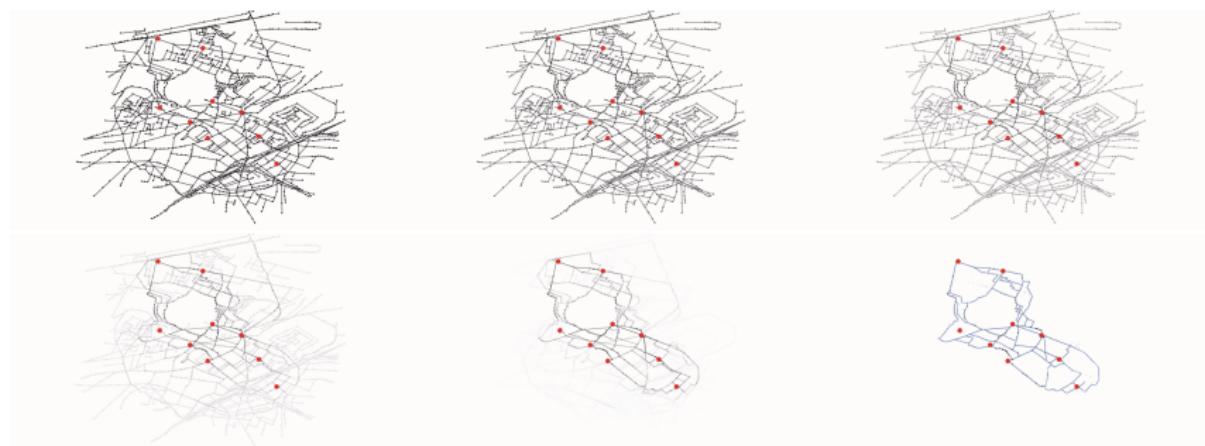
- Construction costs  $c = \sum_{ij \in E_f} D_{ij} t_f$
- Average performance [Banos and Genre-Grandpierre, 2012]

$$v = \frac{1}{|V_f|^2} \sum_{i,j \in V_f} \frac{d_{i \rightarrow j}}{||\vec{i} - \vec{j}||}$$

- Robustness (*Network Trip Robustness* index [Sullivan et al., 2010])

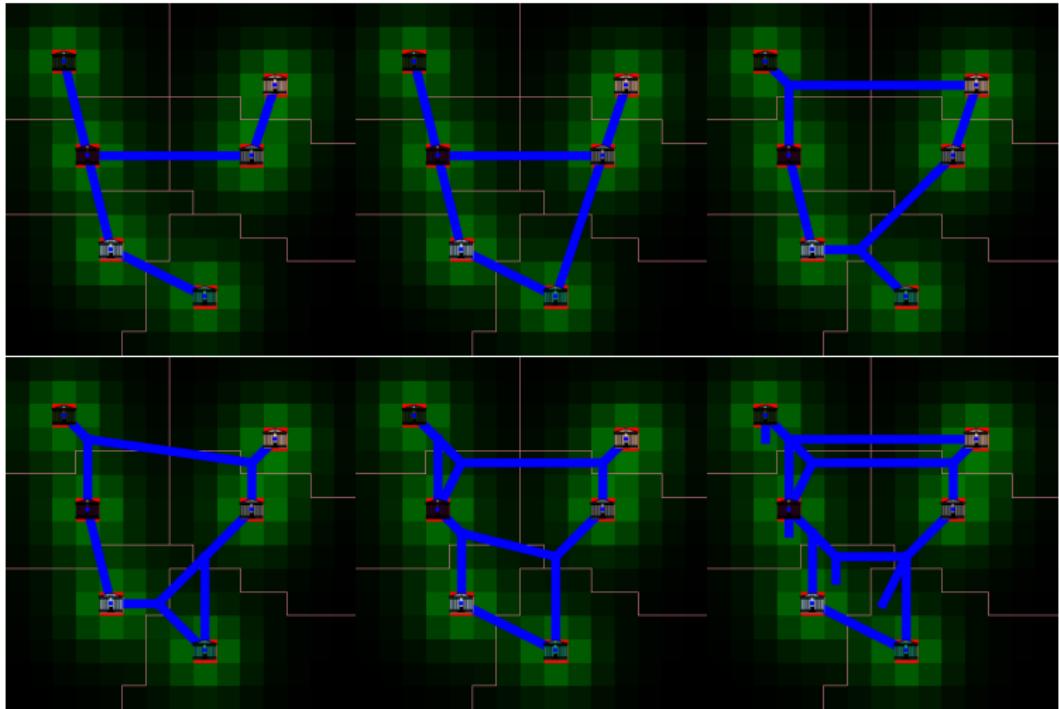
# Application: optimal network design

- Prospective mission for Romainville city : itinerary of an intra-urban shuttle with imposed stops.
- NP-hard problem similar to a Travelling Salesman Problem, but multi-objective (cost, speed, robustness). The bottom-up network generation applied on the initial street network gives a compromise solution.



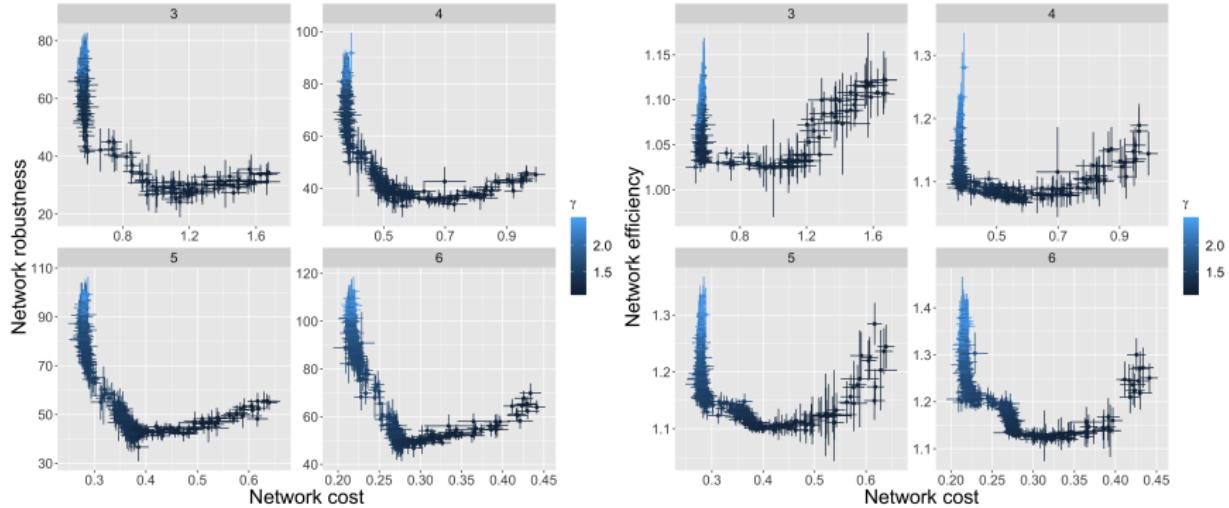
*Progressive convergence of the network towards an optimal network connecting the fixed points (in red), starting from the initial street network.*

# Application: network generation



*Stylized networks obtained for decreasing values of  $\gamma$ , for the same configuration of population centers to link (exponential mixture population density).*

# Optimality of generated networks



*Pareto optimisation: bi-objective Pareto fronts between indicator couples, obtained for a sampling of 1000  $\gamma$  values, for varying number of centers from 3 to 6 (panels) and 100 replications (error bars: 95% confidence intervals).*

Towards a more complex approach to network growth rules ? → a co-evolution approach including transportation governance

*Mega-city Regions [Hall and Pain, 2006] exhibit new qualitative regimes of urban systems ?*

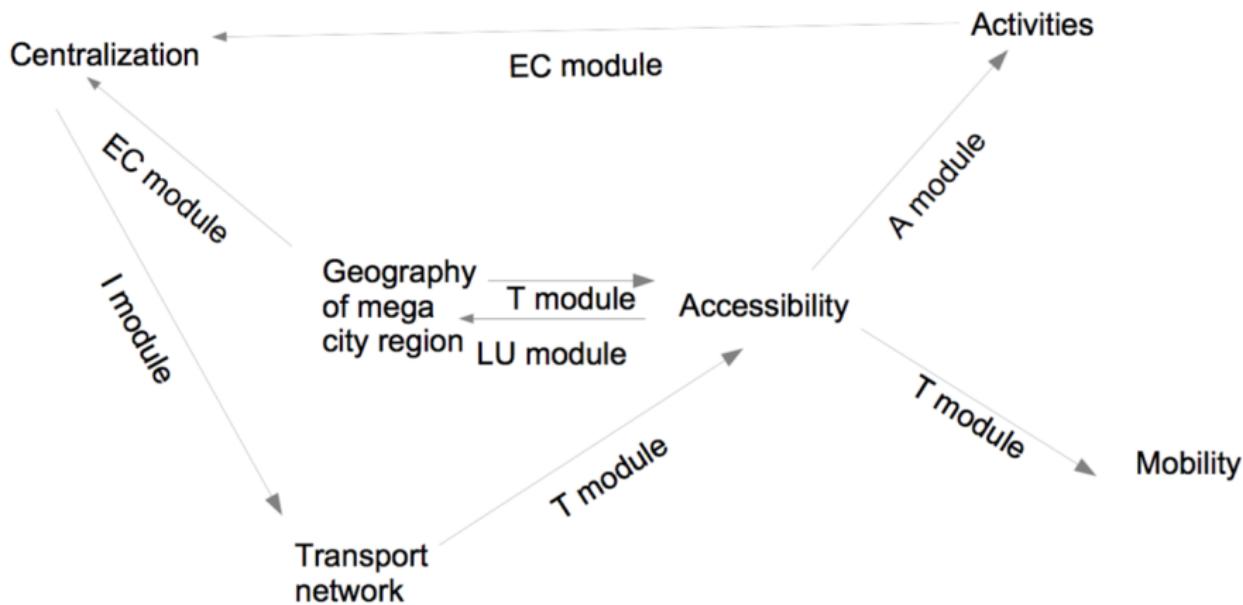
## Rationale of the LUTECIA Model

- A LUTI + infrastructure provision model (LUTECIA)
- Coevolution transport / urbanism (LUTI model with endogeneous transport infrastructure provision)
- Game theory framework to predict emergence of centralized decision within a polycentric region
- Importance of accessibility at MCR scale

Raimbault, J. and Le Nechet, F. (2018). Closing the loop: Introducing Endogeneous Transport Provision in a LUTI Model. *Under review for Journal of Transport Geography.*

# The LUTECIA Model : Structure

LU : Land Use module ; T : Transport module ; EC : Evaluation of Centralized decision module ; I : Infrastructure provision module ; A : Agglomeration economies module



Matrix of actors utilities, depending on respective choices

0   1	C	NC
C	$U_i \cdot \kappa \cdot \Delta X_i Z_C^* - I - \frac{J}{2}$	$\begin{cases} U_0 \cdot \kappa \cdot \Delta X_0 Z_0^* - I \\ U_1 \cdot \kappa \cdot \Delta X_1 Z_1^* - I - \frac{J}{2} \end{cases}$
NC	$\begin{cases} U_0 \cdot \kappa \cdot \Delta X_0 Z_0^* - I - \frac{J}{2} \\ U_1 \cdot \kappa \cdot \Delta X_1 Z_1^* - I \end{cases}$	$U_i \cdot \kappa \cdot \Delta X_i Z_i^* - I$

Two types of games implemented :

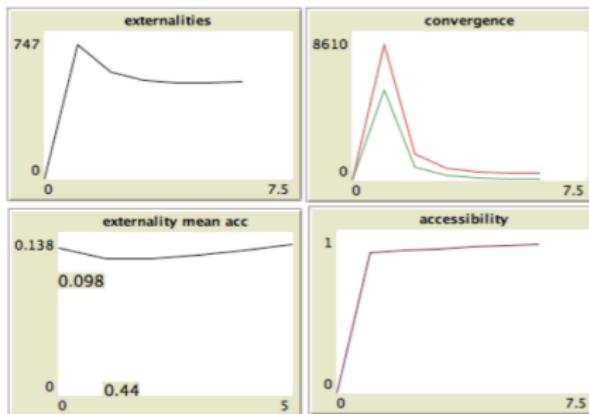
- Mixed Nash equilibrium, where actors compete
- One Rational Discrete Choice equilibrium

# Lutecia model parameters

Sub-model	Parameter	Name
Land-use	$\lambda$	Accessibility range
	$\gamma_A$	Cobb-Douglas exponents actives
	$\gamma_E$	Cobb-Douglas exponents employments
	$\beta$	Discrete choices exponent
	$\alpha$	Relocation rate
Transport	$v_G$	Network speed
Governance	$J$	Collaboration cost
	$l_r$	Infrastructure length

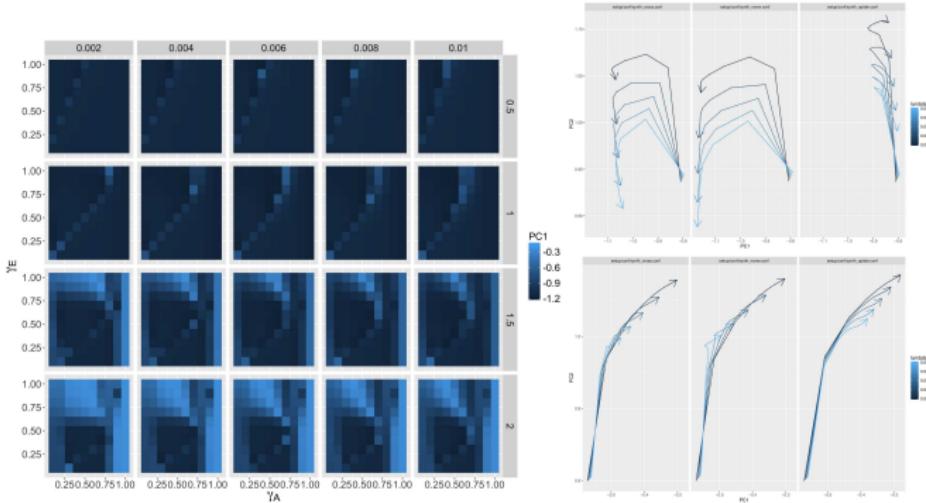
# Model Output : Examples

**Implementation :** Netlogo ; particular treatment for dynamical programming computation of network shortest distances. Exploration with High Performance Computing on grid with OpenMole [Reuillon et al., 2013]



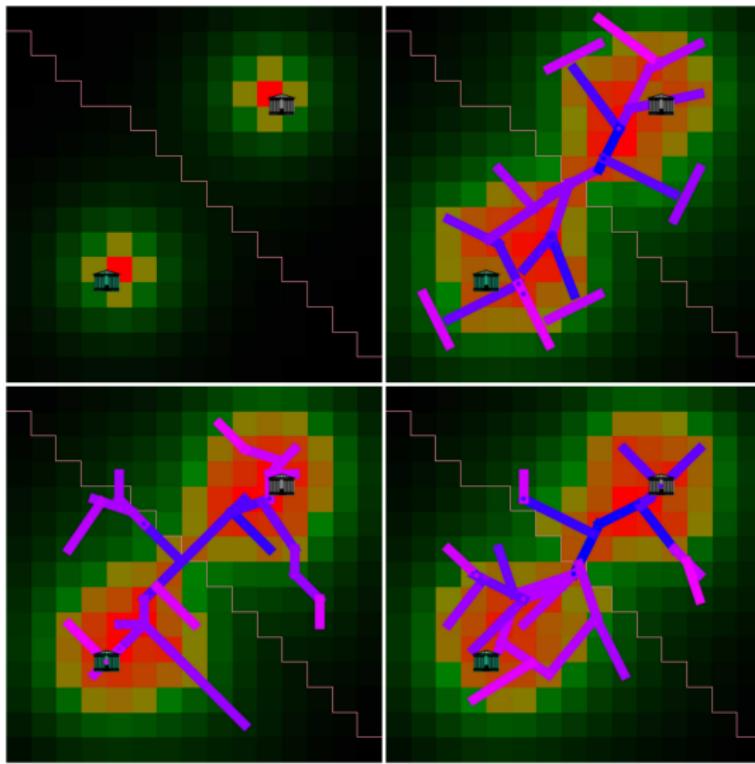
*Lessons from systematic exploration of the land-use module:*

- Large diversity of morphological trajectories in time for varying  $\gamma_A, \gamma_E, \lambda, \beta$
- Diversity of final forms obtained
- It is possible to minimize, at fixed  $\alpha = 1$ , the total quantity of relocalization



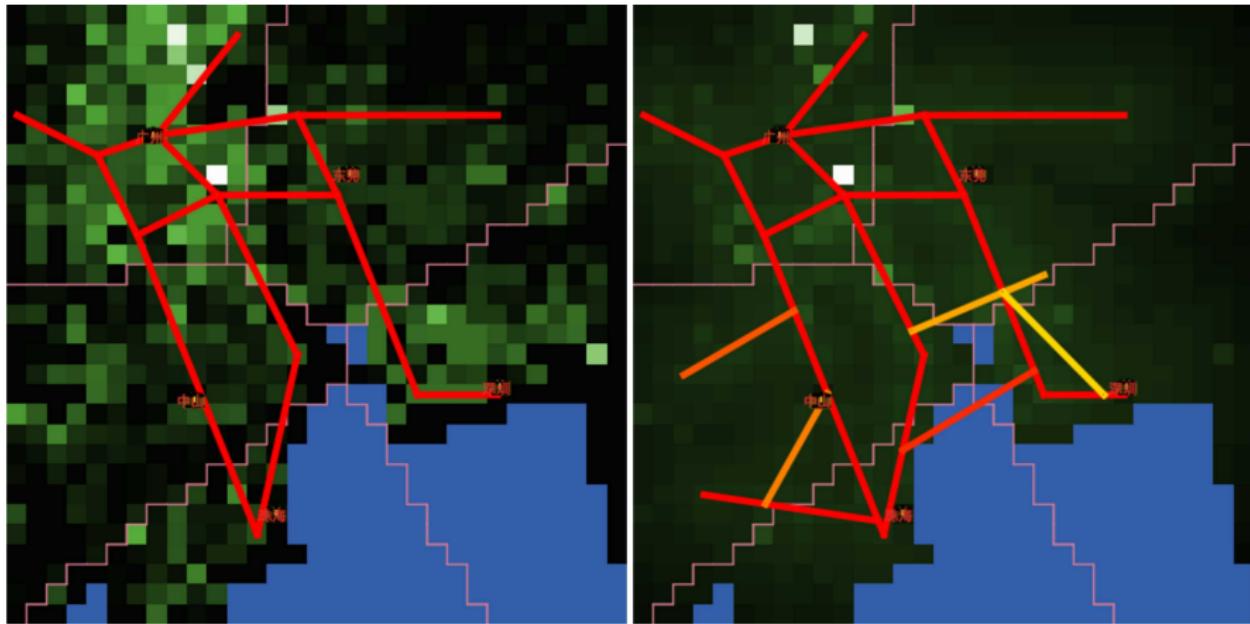
# Model Exploration

*Influence of governance parameters on network topology*



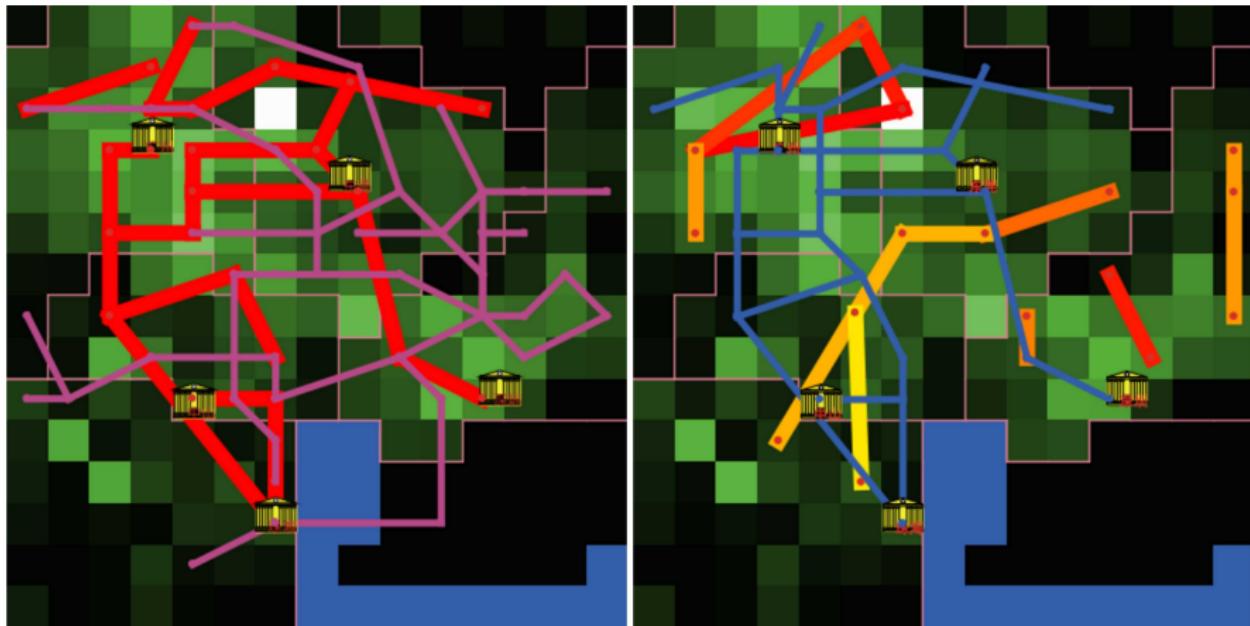
# Model Application

*Stylized application to the Pear River Delta Mega-city Region*



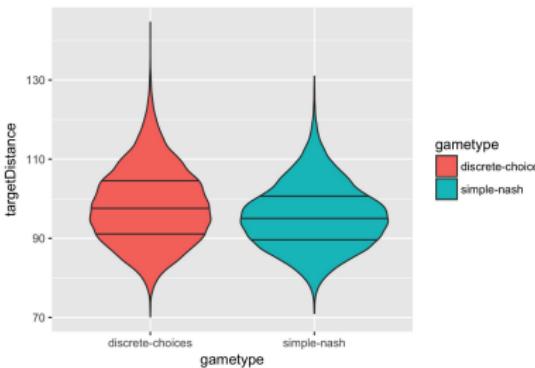
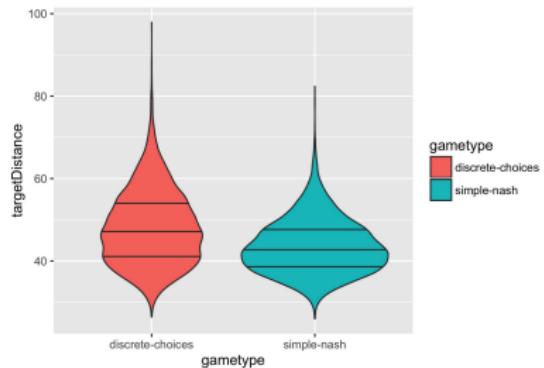
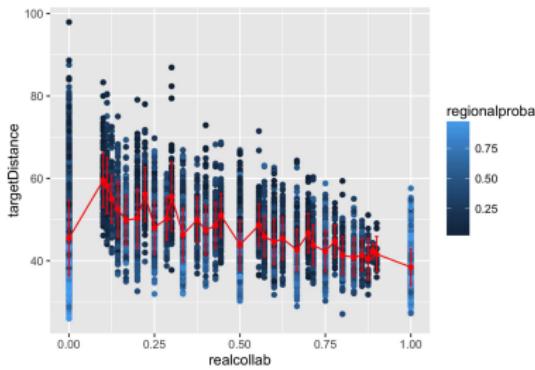
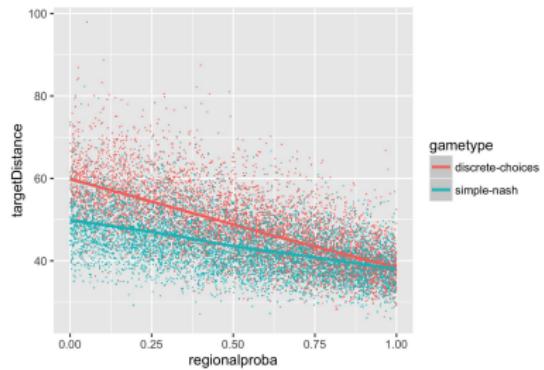
# Model Application: target networks

*Different calibration setup: current and planned network*



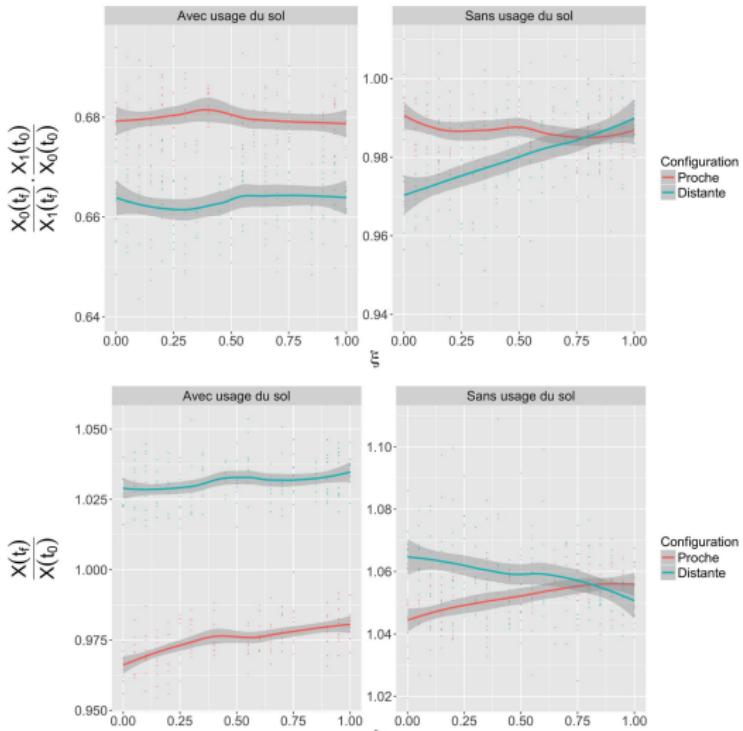
# Model Calibration

*Calibration on the generated network (fixed land-use)*



# Effects of co-evolution

*Unveiling the coupling between urban development and transportation networks*



## Implications

- A rather simple model reproduces most of existing urban forms in Europe for both population distribution and road network: which intrinsic dimension to the urban system and its morphological aspect ?
- Ability to reproduce static correlations and a variety of dynamical lagged correlation regimes suggests that the model captures some of the processes of co-evolution

## Developments

- Towards a dynamical calibration ? Need of dynamical data
- Investigate the link between spatial non-stationarity and non-ergodicity through simulation by the model
- Compare network generation in a “fair” way (correcting for additional parameters, open question for models of simulation)

Morphogenesis and fractals already linked in the biological literature: for example [Nelson and Manchester, 1988] with network morphogenesis, [Matsuyama and Matsushita, 1993] with a DLA model for bacteria self-organization

Also links in Urban Science: DLA model [Batty, 1991], fractal models of urban growth [Frankhauser, 2008]

## Open questions:

- Formal link between fractal properties and the dynamics of form and function [Batty, 1999]
- Relating fractal indicators of urban form with other dimensions
- Link between multi-fractal properties [Salat et al., 2017] and multi-scalar models of urban systems [Raimbault, 2019a]

## More realistic models?

- Introducing more concrete ontologies, economic processes [Bonin and Hubert, 2014], qualitative differentiation [Bonin and Hubert, 2012] governance processes [Le Néchet and Raimbault, 2015]
- Possible bridges with Land-use change models/Land-use Transport models [Wegener and Fürst, 2004], with systems of cities models [Pumain and Reuillon, 2017]

## More data-driven models?

- Work in progress: calibration of the reaction-diffusion model on world urban areas with the Global Human Settlements Layer database
- Link with sustainability indicators: GHG emissions, economics, etc. [Raimbault, 2019b]
- Study models on hybrid synthetic data [Raimbault et al., 2019]: systematic conclusions for policies

- Different models of network morphogenesis at the mesoscopic scale systematically explored: **need for more coupling and comparison of models.**
- At the macro scale of the system of cities? **Need for multi-scale models.**
- With more refined urban characteristics and other dimensions ? **Need for more interdisciplinarity.**

- Code, data and results available at

<https://github.com/JusteRaimbault/CityNetwork>

- Acknowledgments: Thanks to the *European Grid Infrastructure* and its *National Grid Initiatives* (*France-Grilles* in particular) to give the technical support and the infrastructure.

## Reserve Slides

[Bourgine and Lesne, 2010] : interdisciplinary workshop on morphogenesis

→ *To what extent the notion is indeed transdisciplinary, i.e. are there common definitions across disciplines ? What are the concepts shared or the divergence ?*

## ■ **Biology**

- External phenotype morphogenesis (ant colony) [Minter et al., 2012]
- Symbiosis of species [Chapman and Margulis, 1998]
- Botany [Lord, 1981]

## ■ **Social Sciences** : Archeology [Renfrew, 1978]

## ■ **Epistemology** : [Gilbert, 2003]

## ■ **Artificial Intelligence** : From self-assembly to Morphogenetic Engineering [Doursat et al., 2013]. Synthetic Biology ?

## ■ **Geomorphology** : dunes formation [Douady and Hersen, 2011]

## ■ **Physics** : Arbotrons playing Tetris ?

## ■ etc...

- **Morphogenesis and Self-Organisation** : when does a system exhibit an architecture ? Insights from Morphogenetic Engineering [Doursat et al., 2013]. Architecture : the relation between the form and the function ?
- **Scales, Units and Boundaries** From local interactions to global information flow (Holland's *signal and boundaries* [Holland, 2012]: morphogenesis as the development of Complex Adaptive Systems ?)
- **Symmetry and Bifurcations** : on quantitative becoming qualitative. René Thom's *theory of catastrophes* [Thom, 1974]
- **Life and Death** : link with autopoiesis and cognition [Bourgine and Stewart, 2004] ; co-evolution of subsystems as an alternative definition ? In psychology, attractors of the mind.

A system is viewed as its internal state  $X_w$ , where  $w \in W$  is a control parameter.

Catastrophe set  $K \subset W$  is where the system endures phase transition.

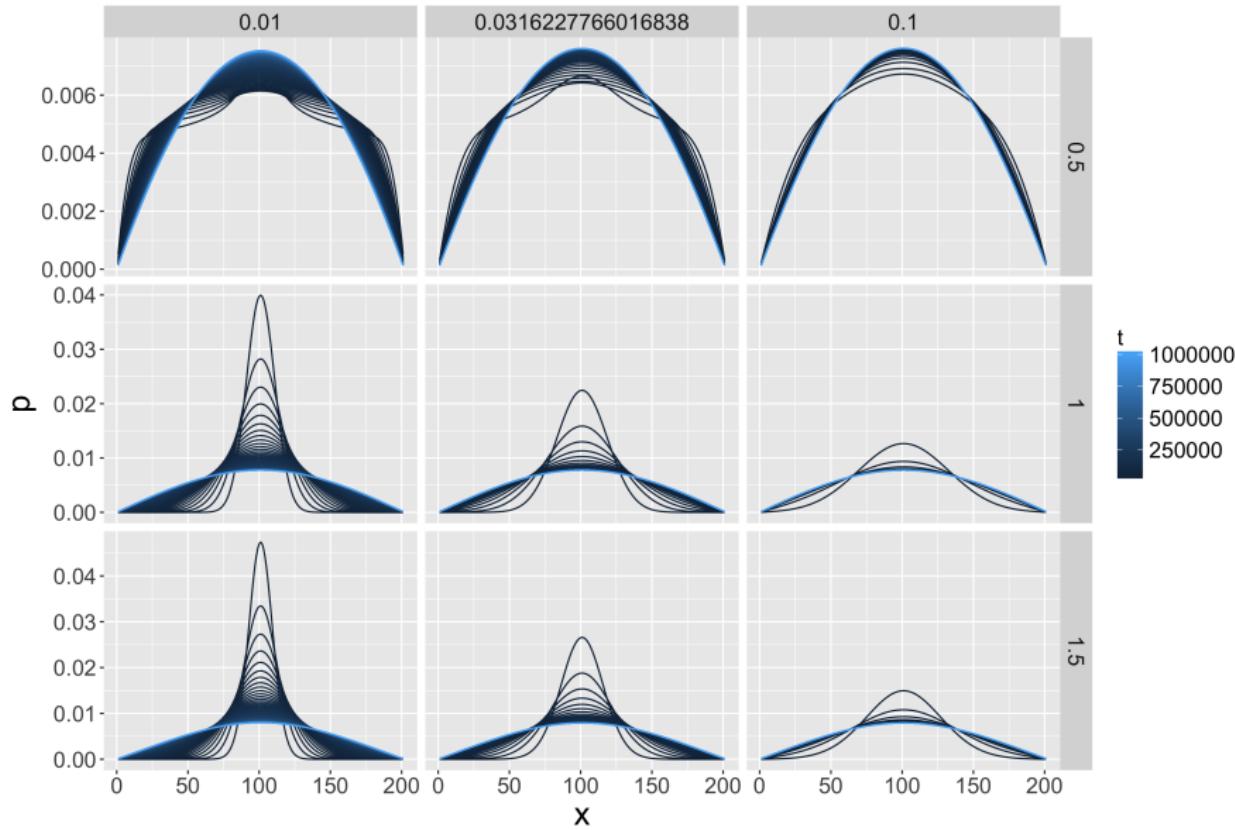
Thom classified possible topologies for  $K$  depending on the dimension of  $W$ .

- [Makse et al., 1998] correlated growth;
- [Murcio et al., 2015] multi-scale migration and percolation;
- [Bonin and Hubert, 2012] qualitative differentiation of urban function;
- [Achibet et al., 2014] procedural model at the micro-scale

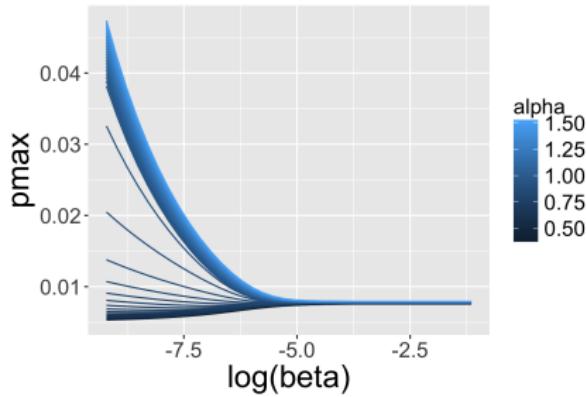
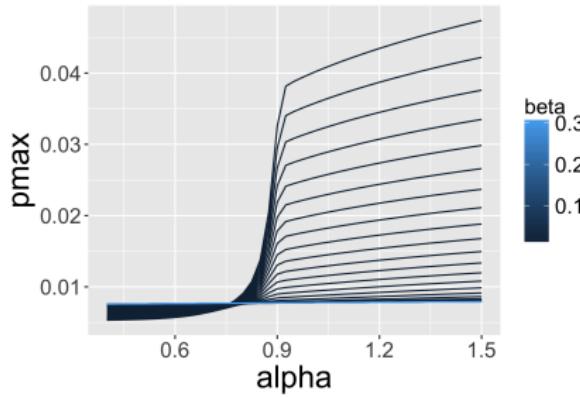
The one-dimensional model verifies the PDE :

$$\delta t \cdot \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = \frac{N_G \cdot p^\alpha}{P_{\alpha t}} + \frac{\alpha \beta (\alpha - 1) \delta x^2}{2} \cdot \frac{N_G \cdot p^{\alpha-2}}{P_\alpha(t)} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \right)^2 \\ + \frac{\beta \delta x^2}{2} \cdot \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial x^2} \cdot \left[ 1 + \alpha \frac{N_G p^{\alpha-1}}{P_{\alpha t}} \right] \quad (1)$$

# Stationary behavior of 1D model



# Stationary behavior of 1D model



- 1 Rank-size slope  $\gamma$ , given by  $\ln(P_{\tilde{i}}/P_0) \sim k + \gamma \cdot \ln(\tilde{i}/i_0)$  where  $\tilde{i}$  are the indexes of the distribution sorted in decreasing order.
- 2 Entropy of the distribution:

$$\mathcal{E} = \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{P_i}{P} \cdot \ln \frac{P_i}{P} \quad (2)$$

$\mathcal{E} = 0$  means that all the population is in one cell whereas  $\mathcal{E} = 0$  means that the population is uniformly distributed.

- 3 Spatial-autocorrelation given by Moran index, with simple spatial weights given by  $w_{ij} = 1/d_{ij}$

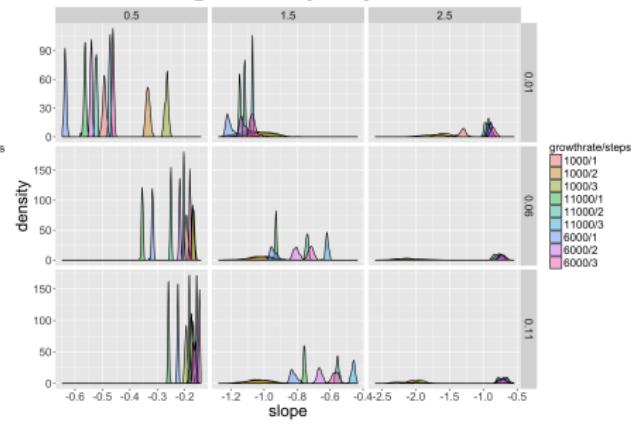
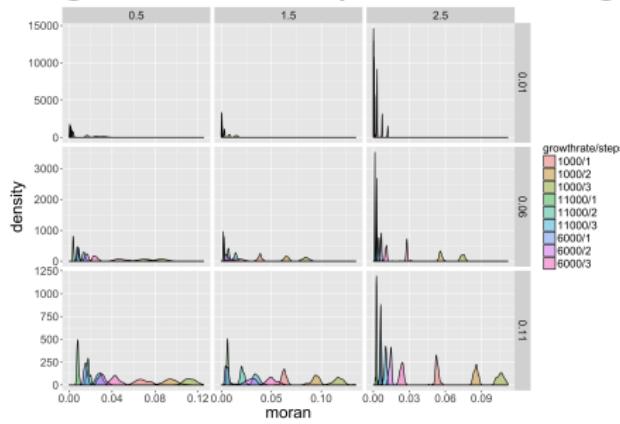
$$I = M \cdot \frac{\sum_{i,j} w_{ij} (P_i - \bar{P}) \cdot (P_j - \bar{P})}{\sum_{i,j} w_{ij} \sum_i (P_i - \bar{P})^2}$$

- 4 Mean distance between individuals

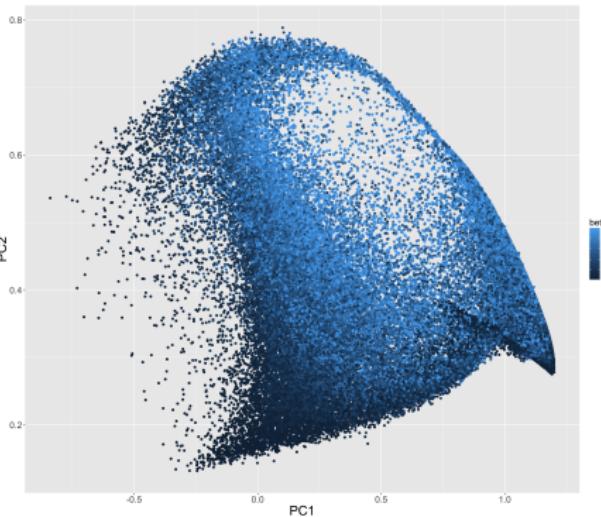
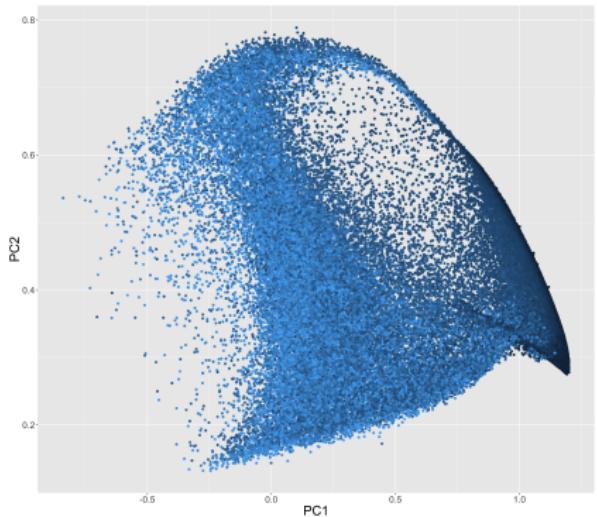
$$\bar{d} = \frac{1}{d_M} \cdot \sum_{i < j} \frac{P_i P_j}{P^2} \cdot d_{ij}$$

# Model behavior : Convergence

Large number of repetitions show good convergence properties

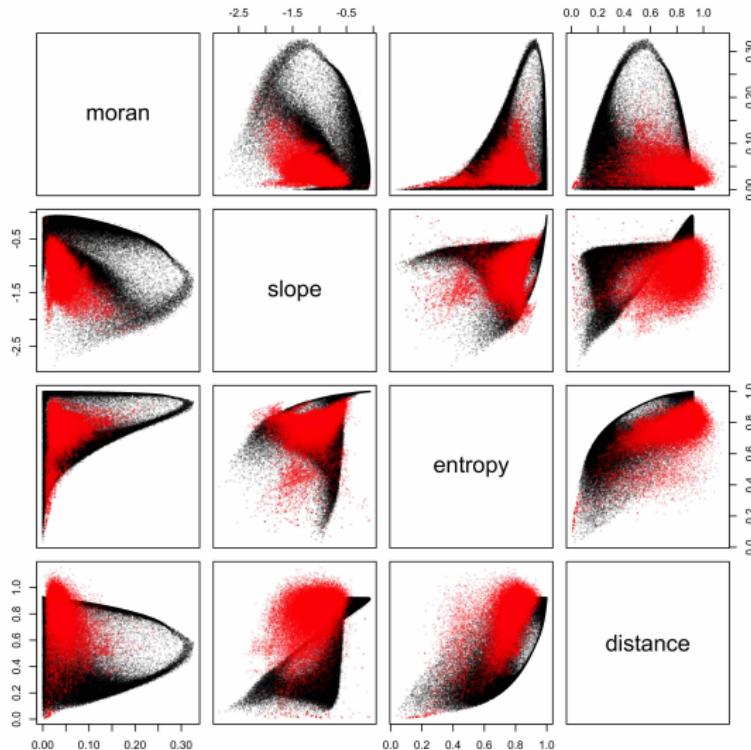


# Model behavior



- Eurostat population density raster (100m, simplified at 500m resolution)
- Overlapping (10km offset) squares of 50km side : equivalent to smoothing, removes window shape effect. Not very sensitive to window size (tested with 30km and 100km)
- Indicators computed using Fast Fourier Transform Convolution
- Classification using repeated k-means ; number of clusters taken at transition in clustering coefficient.

# Model calibration: all indicators



No clear definition of co-evolution in the literature : [Bretagnolle, 2009] distinguishes “reciprocal adaptation” where a sense of causality can clearly be identified, from co-evolutive regimes

Identification of multiple causality regimes in a simple strongly coupled growth model → to be put in perspective with a theoretical definition of co-evolution based on the conjunction of Morphogenesis and the Evolutive Urban Theory, given in [Raimbault, 2018]

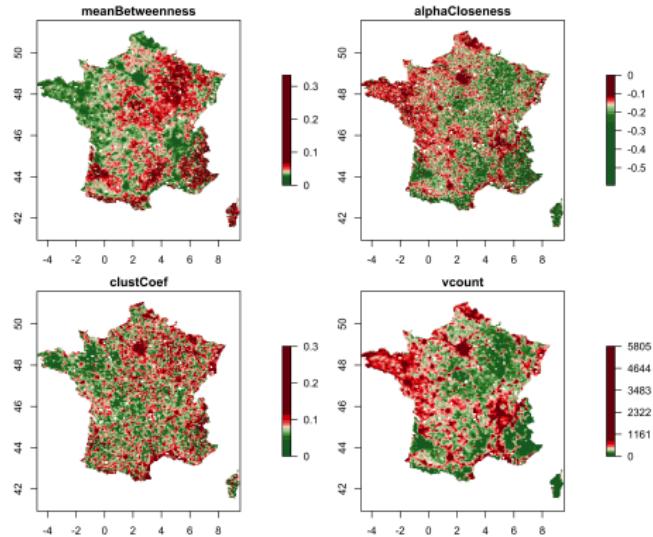
[Baptiste, 2010] system dynamics with evolving capacities

[Wu et al., 2017] population diffusion and network growth

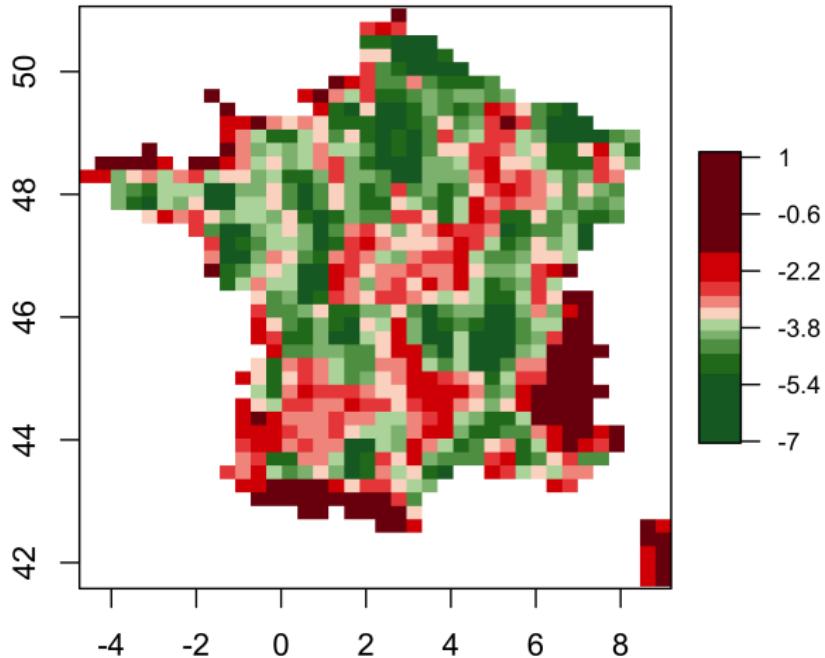
[Blumenfeld-Lieberthal and Portugali, 2010] and [Schmitt, 2014]: random potential breakdown for network growth.

[Barthelemy and Flammini, 2009] geometrical network growth model making network topology co-evolve with vertex density

# Empirical Data : network indicators



# Empirical Data : correlations



Network Topology measured by:

- Betweenness and Closeness centralities: average and hierarchy
- Accessibility (weighted closeness)
- Efficiency (network pace relative to euclidian distance)
- Mean path length, diameter

Patch utility given by  $U_i = \sum_k w_k \cdot \tilde{x}_k$  with  $\tilde{x}_k$  normalized local variables among population, betweenness and closeness centrality, distance to roads, accessibility ; aggregation done with probability  $(U_i / \sum_k U_k)^\alpha$  ; diffusion among neighbors  $n_d$  times with strength  $\beta$

## Network Generation:

Adding a fixed number  $n_N$  of new nodes: for patches such that  $d_r < d_0$ , probability to receive a node is

$$p = P/P_{max} \cdot (d_M - d) / d_M \cdot \exp\left(-((d_r - d_0) / \sigma_r)^2\right)$$

Nodes connected the shortest way to existing network.

## General model parameters :

- Patch utility weights  $w_k$
- General network generation parameters: growth time steps  $t_N$ , maximal additional links

- 1 Gravity potential given by

$$V_{ij}(d) = \left[ (1 - k_h) + k_h \cdot \left( \frac{P_i P_j}{P^2} \right)^\gamma \right] \cdot \exp \left( -\frac{d}{r_g (1 - d/d_0)} \right)$$

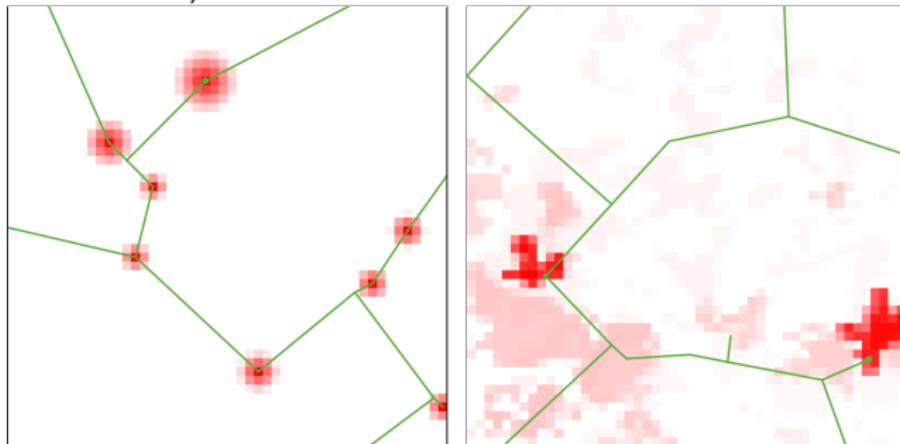
- 2  $k \cdot N_L$  links are selected with lowest  $V_{ij}d_N/V_{ij}d_{ij}$ , among which  $N_L$  links with highest (lest costly) are realized
- 3 Network is planarized

Adding new links with biological heuristic:

- 1 Create network of potential new links, with existing network and randomly sampled diagonal lattice
- 2 Iterate for  $k$  increasing ( $k \in \{1, 2, 4\}$  in practice) :
  - Using population distribution, iterate  $k \cdot n_b$  times the slime mould model to compute new link capacities
  - Delete links with capacity under  $\theta_d$
  - Keep the largest connected component
- 3 Planarize and simplify final network

**Synthetic setup:** rank-sized monocentric cities, simple connection with border nodes to avoid border effects

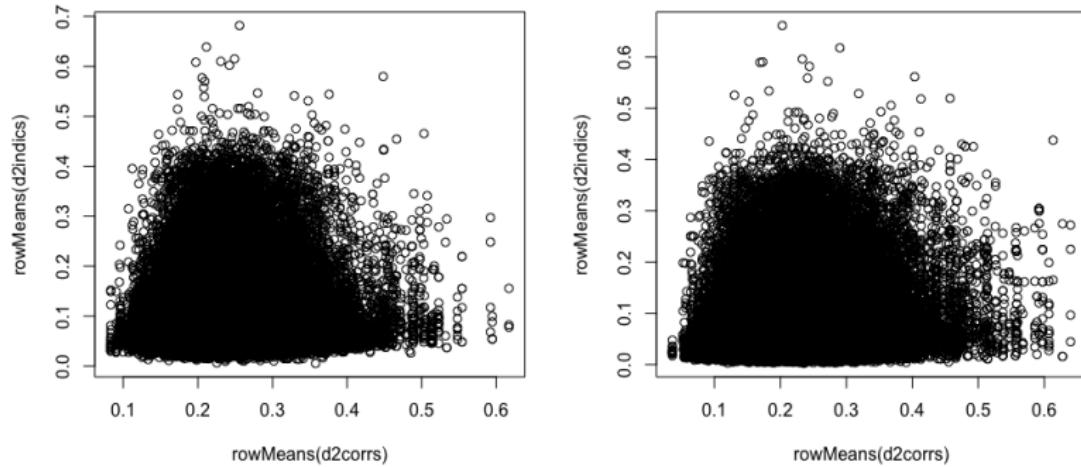
**Real setup:** Population density raster at 500m resolution (European Union, from Eurostat)



**Stopping conditions:** fixed final time; fixed total population; fixed network size.

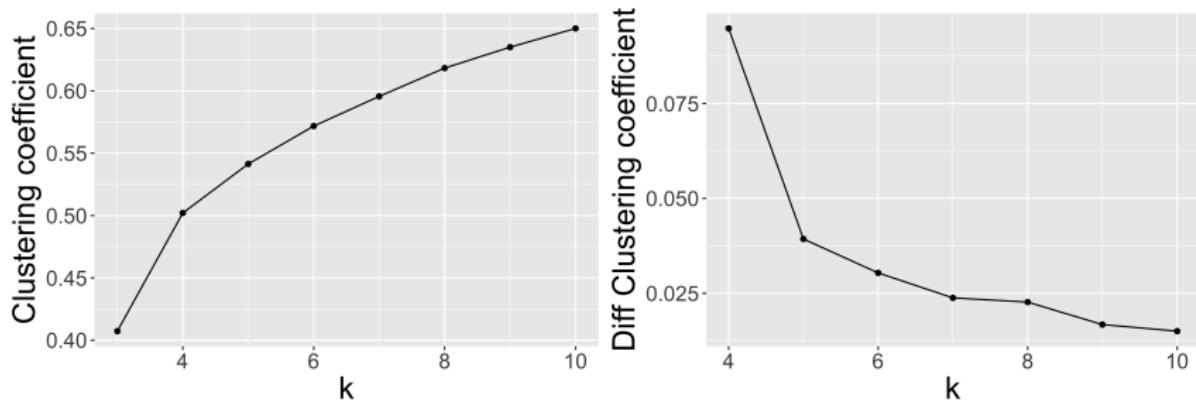
- Brute force exploration of a LHS sampling, 10 repetitions of the model for each parameter point.
- For each simulated point, closest in indicator space (euclidian distance for normalized indicators) among real points are selected.
- Among these, point with lowest distance to correlation matrix are taken.

# Calibration: optimal points



*Pareto plots of distance to indicators and distance to correlation matrices, for a given simulated configuration and all real points.*

# Causality regimes: clustering



*Clustering coefficient (left) and its derivative (right) as a function of number of clusters*

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