Quantification of Water Footprint of Trade

Anav Vora, Hari Dave, Yi-Chia Chang Sep. 22, 2023

Introduction

Food trade involves the transfer of food from one country to another. According to the water footprint concept introduced by Hoekstra (2003), this transfer is equivalent to transferring the water required for producing that food, termed the virtual water content of a product. The virtual water content of a product depends on the location at which the product is produced. This is because growing a crop in an arid country might require more water than growing the same crop in a humid one.

The water footprint of food trade is the total virtual water transferred across all countries across all food trades. Here, we quantify the water footprint of food aid for the year 2005, which looks specifically at the total volume of virtual water transferred across countries for food transferred in the form of aid. We also examine the water saving achieved by the food aid transfers, i.e., the difference between the virtual water content of a product if it were to be grown in the recipient country vs. the donor country. Lastly, we identify the food products accounting for the largest portion of the water footprint of food aid, the food products resulting in the greatest water saving, and trade links across which large volumes of virtual water are traded.

Methodology

Data collection

The food aid trade data is obtained from the 'Food Aid Information System' (FAIS) portal of the World Food Programme (WFP). The water footprint for the commodities for each nation is retrieved from Mekonnen and Hoekstra (2010a) and Mekonnen and Hoekstra (2010b). From the trade data, only the direct transfer records for the year 2005 are analyzed for this study.

Footprint Calculation

A dictionary file is generated, mapping the description of the commodity traded from the '2005 Tonnage & IRMAt' file to the product descriptions provided by Mekonnen and Hoekstra (2010a, 2010b). In case no appropriate descriptions are found for the products (e.g. biscuits, canned fish, etc.), those particular trades are excluded from the analysis. For the goods with suitable descriptions, The country-average water footprints corresponding to the commodities are retrieved from Mekonnen and Hoekstra (2010a, 2010b) to estimate the water footprints of the trade. This analysis uses the net summation of green and blue water footprints for agricultural goods. In case multiple commodities are matched with the product description of the traded

commodity, the median water footprint is considered for further calculations. To find the net water footprint traded, the water footprint of the product for the donor country is multiplied by the tonnage values. The trades involving donor countries with missing footprint information, along with trades having NGOs, "OTHER', WFP, PRIVATE or UNITED NATIONS as donors, are ignored. For the trades having 'European Community' as donors, the average water footprint for 25 European Union countries is considered for the analysis.

We also calculate the aid related water savings as defined in Jackson et al. (2015).

$$GWS = \sum_{i,e,c} T_{c,e \to i} \times (VWC_{c,i} - VWC_{c,e})$$

Here,

VWC_{c.i}: Virtual Water Content for commodity c, in country i

 $T_{c,\,e o i}$: Trade amount of the commodity c, exporting from country e to country i

Results and Discussion

The net water footprint traded for the year 2005 is estimated to be **8.72 km**³, which aligns with the calculated water footprint from Jackson et al. (2015) of **10 km**³. Fig. 1 shows a pie chart that breaks down the total water footprint by product. We found that wheat transfers correspond to the greatest water footprint.

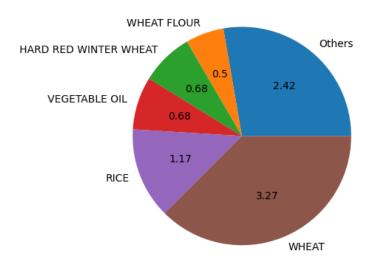


Fig. 1: Virtual Water Trade (in km³)

Next, we look at the trade links across countries participating in food aid. Fig. 2 shows the trade links that account for the top 5% of the global water footprint of food aid. We note that donations from the US account for large volumes of virtual water transfers. Table 1 summarizes the top 5 exporters and top 5 importers for the year 2005. Table 2 presents the top 5 links with the highest virtual water trade values.

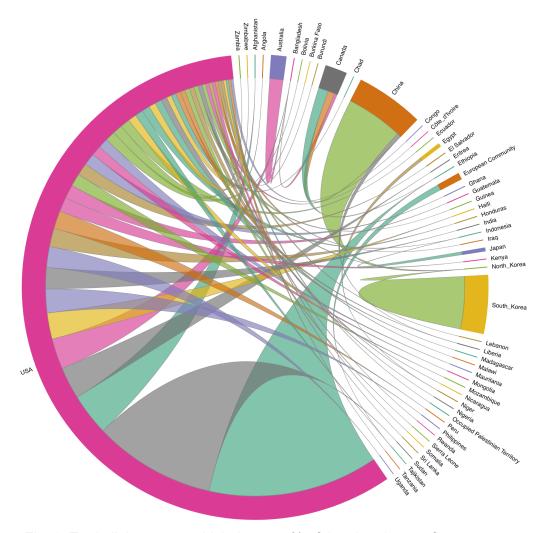


Fig. 2: Trade links across which the top 5% of the virtual water flux occurs

Table 1: Summary of top donors and recipients in terms of virtual water volume

Top 5 Donors			
Country	Virtual Water Exported (km³)	Percent (%)	
US	6.78	77.76	
China	0.54	6.25	
South Korea	0.46	5.28	
Canada	0.33	3.77	
Japan	0.23	2.69	

Top 5 Recipients			
Country	Virtual Water Imported (km³)	Percent (%)	
Ethiopia	1.58	18.17	
Sudan	1.09	12.47	
North Korea	1.02	11.68	
Bangladesh	0.42	4.86	
Afghanistan	0.38	4.3	

Table 2: Links with the most virtual water trade

Link	Commodity	Virtual Water Traded (km³)
US → Ethiopia	Wheat	0.97
US → Sudan	Wheat	0.75
South Korea → North Korea	Rice	0.34
US → Ethiopia	Hard Red Winter Wheat	0.30
China → North Korea	Wheat Flour	0.28

The aid-related water savings is estimated to be 11.69 km³. Fig. 3 shows the commodity-wise water savings occurring as a result of food aid transfers. Table 3 summarizes the trade links resulting in maximum water saving as well as trade links across which maximum virtual water loss occurs. The export of Soya Oil from the European Union to Tajikistan saves the most water. While, the export of wheat from Australia and the United States and Australia to Sudan and Bangladesh shows the most negative water saving.

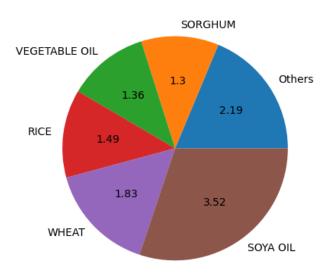


Fig. 3: Virtual Water Savings (in km³)

Table 3: Summary of top positive and negative water saving trades

Table of Califficacy of top position			
Top 5 Positive Water Saving Trades			
Link	Commodity	Virtual Water Savings (km³)	
EU → Tajikistan	Soya Oil	3.49	
US → Ethiopia	Wheat	1.12	
US → Tajikistan	Vegetable Oil	0.98	
US → Sudan	Sorghum	0.82	
US → Ethiopia	Hard Red Winter Wheat	0.35	

Top 5 Negative Water Saving Trades		
Link	Commodity	Virtual Water Savings (km³)
US → Sudan	Wheat	-0.058
Australia → Bangladesh	Wheat	-0.038
US → Bangladesh	Common Wheat	-0.036
US → Bangladesh	Hard Red Winter Wheat	-0.023
US → Mozambique	Wheat	-0.015

References

- Food Aid Information System Online Database. Available online: http://www.wfp.org/fais/
- Hoekstra, A. Y. (2003). Virtual water trade: proceedings of the international expert meeting on virtual water trade, Delft, The Netherlands, 12-13 December 2002, Value of Water Research Report Series No. 12.
- Jackson, N.; Konar, M.; Hoekstra, A.Y. The Water Footprint of Food Aid. Sustainability 2015, 7, 6435-6456. https://doi.org/10.3390/su7066435
- Mekonnen, M.M. & Hoekstra, A.Y. (2010a) The green, blue and grey water footprint of farm crops and derived crop products. Value of Water, 47:
- Mekonnen, M.M. & Hoekstra, A.Y. (2010b) The green, blue and grey water footprint of farm animals and animal products. Value of Water, 48:

Appendix

All codes and figures can be found in the GitHub repository: https://github.com/yichiac/CEE598 Globalization of Water

Code calculating the virtual water footprints

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import os
import pickle as pkl
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
def read WF dataset(file name, is agri data = 0): ##### Reading and
   df read = pd.read excel(file name, header=None, sheet name=1)
   if(is agri data == 1):
       data arr = df read.iloc[6:, :].to numpy()
       country row = df read.iloc[3, :].to numpy()
       label row = df read.iloc[4, :].to numpy()
       data arr = df read.iloc[4:, :].to numpy()
       country row = df read.iloc[2, :].to numpy()
       label row = df read.iloc[3, :].to numpy()
   return data arr, country row, label row
def find WF(product, country export, country import, data arr,
country row, product type):
    if(product in list(data arr[:, 3]) or product in list(data arr[:,
2])): ##### Check if the product esists in the description
       product found = 1 ######### product type=1: Agri products,
product type=0: Animal products
       if(product type == 1):
           product idx = np.argwhere(data arr[:,
3]==product).reshape(-1)[0] ### Matching the description with the
dictionary term
```

```
product idx = np.argwhere(data arr[:,
2]==product).reshape(-1)[0]
       country export idx =
np.argwhere(country row==country export).reshape(-1)[-1] ### Last Column
        if(product type==1): #### Crops and Agri
            WF export = np.nansum([data arr[product idx,
country export idx],data arr[product idx+1, country export idx]]) ###
Adding green and blue
            WF export = data arr[product idx, country export idx+3] ###
Taking Weighted avg
        if(product type==0 and country import == "Occupied Palestinian
Territory"):
           country import temp = "Israel"
           country import idx =
np.argwhere(country row==country import temp).reshape(-1)[-1] ### Last
            country import idx =
np.argwhere(country row==country import).reshape(-1)[-1] ### Last Column
is country average
        if (product type==1): #### Crops and Agri
            WF import = data arr[product idx,
country import idx]+data arr[product idx+1, country import idx] ### Adding
green and blue
           WF import = data arr[product idx, country import idx+3] ###
       product found = 0
        WF export, WF import = 0, 0
   return product found, WF export, WF_import
```

```
def append EU data(data arr, product type, country row, EU countries):
######### Appending EU average data to the datasets
    column arr = np.full((len(data arr[:, 0]), len(EU countries)), np.nan)
    for i in range(len(EU countries)):
        nation idx = np.argwhere(country row ==
EU countries[i]).reshape(-1)[-1]
        if(product type == 1):
            column arr[:, i] = np.copy(data arr[:, nation idx])
            column arr[:, i] = np.copy(data arr[:, nation idx+3])
   if(product type==1): ########## product type=1: Agri products,
        data arr = np.hstack((data arr, np.nanmean(column arr, axis =
1).reshape(-1, 1)))
        data arr = np.hstack((data arr, np.nanmean(column arr, axis =
1).reshape(-1, 1)*np.ones((len(data arr[:, 0]), 4))))
    country row = np.hstack((country row, np.array(['European Community'],
dtype=object)))
def pie chart(sizes, legends, save file name, save loc = '.\\'): ### To
   temp arr = np.hstack((sizes.reshape(-1, 1), legends.reshape(-1, 1)))
   temp arr = temp arr[temp arr[:, 0].argsort()]
   temp arr[-6, 0] = np.nansum(temp arr[:-5, 0])
   def absolute value(val):
        a = np.round((val/100)*np.nansum(temp arr[-6:, 0]), 2)
```

```
plt.figure()
   plt.pie(temp arr[-6:, 0], labels=temp arr[-6:, 1],
plt.savefig(save loc+save file name+'.png')
   plt.close()
##########
agri data =
animal data = '.\\Report48-Appendix-V\\Report48-Appendix-V.xlsx'
trade yr = [2005] #### Considering 2005 data
trade file loc = '.\\WFP-0000018924\\Historical Data Files\\Tonnage &
IRMAs IRMA Energy IRMAt Energy FINAL\\'
product dict = '.\\Dictionary Products.csv' ### Product Dictionary file
product dict data = pd.read csv(product dict, header=None).to numpy()[1:,
1:]
ignore donors = ['NGOs', 'OTHER', 'WFP', 'PRIVATE', 'UNITED NATIONS'] ##
Ignoring these donors
######### Saving the datasets into binary files to speed up the code
save binary = 0
if(save binary==1):
   agri data arr, agri country row, agri label row =
read WF dataset(agri data, is agri data=1)
   animal data arr, animal country row, animal label row =
read WF dataset(animal data, is agri data=0)
   with open('.\\binary files\\agri data arr.pkl', 'wb') as pkl file:
```

```
pkl.dump(agri data arr, pkl file)
   with open('.\\binary files\\agri country row.pkl', 'wb') as pkl file:
        pkl.dump(agri country row, pkl file)
   with open('.\\binary files\\agri label row.pkl', 'wb') as pkl file:
        pkl.dump(agri label row, pkl file)
   with open('.\\binary files\\animal data arr.pkl', 'wb') as pkl file:
        pkl.dump(animal data arr, pkl file)
   with open('.\\binary files\\animal country row.pkl', 'wb') as
pkl file:
       pkl.dump(animal country row, pkl file)
   with open('.\\binary files\\animal label row.pkl', 'wb') as pkl file:
        pkl.dump(animal label row, pkl file)
with open('.\\binary files\\agri data arr.pkl', 'rb') as pkl file:
   agri data arr = pkl.load(pkl file)
with open('.\\binary files\\agri country row.pkl', 'rb') as pkl file:
   agri country row = pkl.load(pkl file)
with open('.\\binary files\\agri label row.pkl', 'rb') as pkl file:
    agri label row = pkl.load(pkl file)
with open('.\\binary files\\animal data arr.pkl', 'rb') as pkl file:
    animal data arr = pkl.load(pkl file)
with open('.\\binary files\\animal country row.pkl', 'rb') as pkl file:
    animal country row = pkl.load(pkl file)
with open('.\\binary files\\animal label row.pkl', 'rb') as pkl file:
   animal label row = pkl.load(pkl file)
######## Taking average for the European Union countries
EU countries = ['Germany', 'France', 'Italy', 'Netherlands', 'Belgium',
```

```
agri data arr, agri country row = append EU data(agri data arr, 1,
agri country row, EU countries)
animal data arr, animal country row = append EU data(animal data arr, 0,
animal country row, EU countries)
##############
for i in range(len(trade yr)):
   trade data = pd.read csv(trade file loc+str(trade yr[i])+' Tonnage &
IRMAt.csv', header=0).to numpy()
   write str = np.array(['year', 'country export', 'country import',
'Product', 'Commodity Cereals Non Cereals', 'Tonnage',
Footprint (per unit)', 'Water Footprint Traded (m3)',
                          'Water Saved (m3)'], dtype=object).reshape(1,
-1)
   for ii in range(len(trade data[:, 0])):
        if(trade data[ii, 5] == 'Direct Transfer' and trade data[ii, 1]
not in ignore donors):
            country export = trade data[ii, 1]
            country import = trade data[ii, 2]
            print(country export, country import)
            country export temp = country export.split(',') ####
            country import temp = country import.split(',') ####
                if(country export temp[1] == ' the'):
                    country export = country export temp[0]
                if(country import temp[1] == ' the'):
                    country import = country import temp[0]
```

```
if(country_import == "Democratic People's Republic of Korea
(DPRK)"):
               country import = "Korea, Democratic People's Republic of"
           elif(country import == "Democratic Republic of the Congo
               country import = "Congo, Democratic Republic of the"
           elif(country import == "São Tomé and Principe"):
               country import = "Sao Tome and Principe"
           elif(country import == "Central African Republic "):
               country import = "Central African Republic"
           elif(country import == "Timor-Leste"):
               country import = "East Timor"
           elif(country import == "Republic of Moldova"): #, the
               country import = "Moldova"
           if(country export == "Lybian Arab Jamahiriya"):
               country export = "Libyan Arab Jamahiriya"
           elif(country export=="Taiwan, Province of China"):
               country export = "China"
           elif(country export == "Democratic Republic of the Congo
               country export = "Congo, Democratic Republic of the"
           elif(country export == "Republic of Korea"): ## , the
               country export = "Korea, Republic of"
           tonnage = trade data[ii, 9]
           cereal non cereal = trade data[ii, 7]
```

```
idx product = np.argwhere(product dict data[:,
0] == Product name).reshape(-1)[0] ##### Matching the Product names with the
Annexes
np.argwhere(pd.isna(product dict data[idx product])==True).reshape(-1)
            product idx temp = np.copy(product dict data[idx product])
            product idx temp = np.delete(product idx temp, idx nan)
            ##################
            WF export temp = []
            WF import temp = []
            for kk in range(1, len(product idx temp)):
                product found, WF export, WF import =
find WF(product idx temp[kk], country export, country import,
                                                            agri data arr,
agri country row, 1)
                if(product found==0):
                    product found, WF export, WF import =
find WF(product idx temp[kk], country export, country import,
animal data arr, animal country row, 0)
                WF export temp.append(WF export)
                WF import temp.append(WF import)
                WF export = np.nanmedian(WF export temp) ### Taking the
                WF import = np.nanmedian(WF import temp) ### Taking the
```

```
product found, WF export, WF import = 0, 0, 0
            write str = np.vstack((write str, np.array([trade yr[i],
country export, country import, Product name,
                                                        cereal non cereal,
tonnage, WF export, WF import, WF export*tonnage,
(WF import-WF export) *tonnage], dtype=object).reshape(1, -1)))
   os.makedirs('.\\calculated trade footprint\\', exist ok = True)
pd.DataFrame(write str).to csv('.\\calculated trade footprint\\Trade footp
rint '+str(trade yr[i])+'.csv', header=None, index=None)
    footprint data =
pd.read csv('.\\calculated trade footprint\\Trade footprint '+str(trade yr
[i])+'.csv', header=0).to numpy()
   unique products = np.unique(footprint data[:, 3])
   product water footprint = np.full((len(unique products)), np.nan)
   product water savings = np.full((len(unique products)), np.nan)
    zero footprints = np.argwhere(np.logical or(footprint data[:, -3]==0,
footprint data[:, -4]==0)).reshape(-1)
    nan footprints = np.argwhere(np.logical or(pd.isna(footprint data[:,
-3]) == True, pd.isna(footprint data[:, -4]) == True)).reshape(-1)
   water saved data = np.copy(footprint data[:, -1]).reshape(-1, 1)
   water saved data[zero footprints, :] = np.nan
```

```
water_saved_data[nan_footprints, :] = np.nan

for iii in range(len(unique_products)):
    idx_unique_product = np.argwhere(footprint_data[:, 3] ==
unique_products[iii]).reshape(-1)

    product_water_footprint[iii] =
np.nansum(footprint_data[idx_unique_product, -2])
    product_water_savings[iii] =
np.nansum(water_saved_data[idx_unique_product, 0])

# print(unique_products, product_water_footprint/le9,
product_water_savings/le9)

pie_chart(product_water_footprint/le9, unique_products,
'water_footprint_products', '.\\calculated_trade_footprint\\')
    pie_chart(product_water_savings/le9, unique_products,
'water_savings_products', '.\\calculated_trade_footprint\\')

'water_savings_products', '.\\calculated_trade_footprint\\')
```

Code to analyze the footprints

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd

read_file_data =
pd.read_csv('.\\calculated_trade_footprint\\Trade_footprint_2005.csv',
header=0).to_numpy()

def find_net_links(read_file_data):
    out_df = np.array(('Donor', 'Recipient', 'Commodity', 'VWT', 'Water
Saved'), dtype=object).reshape(1, -1)

for i in range(len(read_file_data)):
    # print(out_df)
    idx_trade = np.argwhere(np.logical_and(np.logical_and(out_df[:, 0]))

== read_file_data[i, 1],
    out_df[:, 1]

== read_file_data[i, 2]),
```

```
out df[:, 2]
== read file data[i, 3])).reshape(-1)
        if(len(idx trade) == 0):
            temp array = read file data[i, 1:4].reshape(1, -1)
            temp array = np.hstack((temp array, read file data[i,
-2:].reshape(1, -1))
            out df = np.vstack((out df, temp array.reshape(1, -1)))
            out df[idx trade, -2] = np.nansum([out df[idx trade, -2],
read file data[i, -2]])
            out df[idx trade, -1] = np.nansum([out df[idx trade, -1],
read file data[i, -1]])
pd.DataFrame(out df).to csv('.\\calculated trade footprint\\Link commodity
analysis.csv', header=None, index=None)
def find countrywise export(read file data):
    out df = np.array(('Donor','VWT'), dtype=object).reshape(1, -1)
    for i in range(len(read file data)):
        idx trade = np.argwhere(out df[:, 0] == read file data[i,
1]).reshape(-1)
        if(len(idx trade) == 0):
            temp array = np.array(['country', 0.0], dtype=object)
            temp array[0] = read file data[i, 1]
            temp array[1] = read file data[i, -2]
            out df = np.vstack((out df, temp array.reshape(1, -1)))
        else:
                out df[idx trade, -1] = np.nansum([out df[idx trade, -1],
read file data[i, -2]])
                if(out df[idx trade, -1] == 'nan'):
                    out df[idx trade, -1] = read file data[i, -2]
    percent_column = np.copy(out df[:, -1])
    percent column[1:] = out df[1:, -1]*100/np.nansum(out <math>df[1:, -1])
```

```
out df = np.hstack((out df, percent column.reshape(-1, 1)))
pd.DataFrame(out df).to csv('.\\calculated trade footprint\\Donors VWT.csv
', header=None, index=None)
def find countrywise import(read file data):
    out df = np.array(('Recipient','VWT'), dtype=object).reshape(1, -1)
        idx trade = np.argwhere(out df[:, 0] == read file data[i,
2]).reshape(-1)
        if(len(idx trade) == 0):
            temp array = np.array(['country', 0.0], dtype=object)
            temp array[0] = read file data[i, 2]
            temp array[1] = read file data[i, -2]
            out df = np.vstack((out df, temp array.reshape(1, -1)))
                out df[idx trade, -1] = np.nansum([out df[idx trade, -1],
read file data[i, -2]])
                if(out df[idx trade, -1] == 'nan'):
   percent column = np.copy(out df[:, -1])
    percent column[1:] = out df[1:, -1]*100/np.nansum(out <math>df[1:, -1])
    out df = np.hstack((out df, percent column.reshape(-1, 1)))
pd.DataFrame(out df).to csv('.\\calculated trade footprint\\Recipient VWT.
csv', header=None, index=None)
find net links(read file data)
find countrywise export(read file data)
find countrywise import(read file data)
```

Code for Circos plots Python

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
# read data
df = pd.read csv('AWF 2005.csv')
df.dropna(inplace=True)
# aggregate actual water footprint with same paris of countries
df group = df.groupby(['country export',
'country import']).agg('sum').reset index()
# drop trade flux under the threshold to get clear a chord plot
awf = df['Actual WF (m3)']
awf = awf.to numpy()
threshold = np.quantile(awf, 0.95)
df group = df group[df group['Actual WF (m3)'] > threshold]
# get the list of countries meeting trade flux threshold
exporters = df group['country export'].unique()
importers = df group['country import'].unique()
all countries = np.unique(np.concatenate((exporters, importers),
axis=0))
# create trade flux matrix
matrix = pd.DataFrame(0, index=all countries,
columns=all countries)
for index, row in df group.iterrows():
export country = row['country export']
import country = row['country import']
```

```
value = row['Actual WF (m3)']
matrix.at[export_country, import_country] = value
matrix.to_csv('output_matrix.csv')
```

```
R
library(chorddiag)
data = read.csv("output_matrix.csv")
m = as.matrix(data)
countries <- c('Afghanistan', 'Angola', 'Australia', 'Bangladesh', 'Bolivia',</pre>
                'Burkina Faso', 'Burundi', 'Canada', 'Chad', 'China',
                'Congo', "Côte_d'Ivoire", 'Ecuador'
                'Egypt', 'El Salvador', 'Eritrea', 'Ethiopia',
                'European Community', 'Ghana', 'Guatemala', 'Guinea', 'Haiti',
                'Honduras', 'India', 'Indonesia', 'Iraq', 'Japan', 'Kenya',
                "North_Korea", 'South_Korea',
                'Lebanon', 'Liberia', 'Madagascar', 'Malawi', 'Mauritania',
                'Mongolia', 'Mozambique', 'Nicaragua', 'Niger', 'Nigeria',
                'Occupied Palestinian Territory', 'Peru', 'Philippines',
                'Rwanda', 'Sierra Leone', 'Somalia', 'Sri Lanka', 'Sudan',
                'Tajikistan', 'Tanzania', 'Uganda', 'USA', 'Zambia', 'Zimbabwe')
dimnames(m) <- list(have = countries,</pre>
                     prefer = countries)
# Build the chord diagram:
png(file="chord_plot.png")
p <- chorddiag(m, groupnamePadding = 6, showTicks = F, groupnameFontsize = 8)</pre>
р
dev.off()
```