# Inner structure of functional regions: relationships between proto-centres

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# **Concept of a Functional Region**

- Based on the heterogeneity of geographic space (horizontal flows of people, goods, energy, information...)
- A functional region should aim to maximize:
  1) internal cohesiveness
  2) external separation
- Correctly delineated functional regions can serve as a powerful planning tool:
  - assessment of regional disparities
  - labour market policies
  - distribution of subsidies
  - public transport planning, etc...



# Inner Structure of a Functional Region: basic theory

- J. Von Thünen, W. Christaller, A. Lösch, W. Isard:
   conceptualised simple inner structure of a functional region (centre-hinterland-periphery)
- P. Haggett:

- identifies a crucial role of direction, orientation, pattern of interaction flows as well as an existence of several centres at different hierarchical levels

- Based on these inner characterics, various types of functional regions can be identified:
- functional urban regions
- daily urban systems
- travel-to-work areas
- local labour market areas



### **Centres of a Functional Region**

- The centre is the key trait in the inner structure of a functional region
- Existence of at least 1 centre (instances of a region with no core are possible but very scarce)
- Existence of several cores implies four types of relationships based on incident interaction:
- 1) indifference
- 2) cooperation
- 3) complementarity
- 4) competition



# Centres of a Functional Region: method

- Data basis: daily travel-to-work flows (2001 census)
- Output: 160 functional regions delineated using the CURDS measure
- Same source provided also so called "proto-centres" as a result of the first step of the multi-stage regionalisation algorithm



#### **Definition of Proto-centres**

In order to qualify as a proto-centre, a BSU has to fulfil two limiting conditions:

1) the labour function of a proto-centre

$$\frac{\sum_{j} T_{ji}}{\sum_{j} T_{ij}} > 0.8$$

2) residence-based self-containment of a municipality

$$\frac{T_{ii}}{\sum_{j} T_{ij}} > 0.5$$



#### **Definition of Proto-centres**

- Both conditions are very modest the municipalities that fulfil them cannot be denoted as centres but rather proto-centres
- 667 proto-centres have met both restricting conditions
- The analysis comprises all municipalities fulfilling these conditions for two reasons:

1) this set has been tested in the first step of the regionalisation algorithm

2) larger number of proto-centres enables us to capture better the inner structure of a region according to distribution and intensity of commuting flows



#### **Hierarchy of Proto-centres**

 Hierarchy of proto-centres has been determined by the number of jobs which is the sum of all in-commuting flows into municipality i plus employed residents in i.

 $\sum_{k} T_{ki}$ 

Four hierarchical levels have been identified

Tab. 1: Hierarchy of centres and proto-centres of functional regions in the Czech Republic according to the number of jobs

Hierarchical level	No. of jobs	No. of (proto-)centres
1	100,000 and more	3
2	30,000 - 99,999	12
3	10,000 - 29,999	52
4	Less than 10,000	600

Source: own processing



Source: own calculation



#### **Relationships between Proto-centres**

- To assess relationships between proto-centres of functional regions several steps have been taken:
- 1) the CURDS measure has been calculated for all pairs within each functional region
- 2) maximum and minimum values for the CURDS measure have identified the strongest and the weakest flow
- 3) a filter has been used to rule out flows not meeting the relevance criterion
  - statistical evaluation of the set of the CURDS measure
  - the critical threshold has been set to 0.1
  - the number of flows was reduced from 1,942 to 1,132 flows
- In order to compare individual intensities, the flows have been relativized according to the strongest flows recorded in the Czech Republic (which was considered as 100 %)







# Relationships between Proto-centres: evaluation

 Final identification of the relationship type between proto-centres has been based on:

1) the values of the CURDS measure between a pair of proto-centres 2) their hierarchical level

The CURDS measure has been decomposed into two parts, one for direction ij, and one for the opposite direction ji:

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_{ij} \\ \sum_k T_{ik} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} T_{ji} \\ \sum_k T_{kj} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} T_{ji} \\ \sum_k T_{jk} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} T_{ji} \\ \sum_k T_{ki} \end{bmatrix} ; \text{ let } X = \frac{T_{ij}}{\sum_k T_{ik}} + \frac{T_{ij}}{\sum_k T_{kj}} \sum_{k} Y = \frac{T_{ji}}{\sum_k T_{jk}} + \frac{T_{ji}}{\sum_k T_{ki}}.$$

 Variables X and Y provide relativized data for both directions of interactions between two proto-centres and are used to sort the relationships into types



# Relationships between Proto-centres: evaluation

- If both values of variables X, Y are lower than 0.1 it means that the relationship between two proto-centres is indifferent
- The cooperation is determined on symmetric relationship between protocentres
- In order to identify this relationship values X and Y have to be numerically close:
  - as an absolute comparison is not possible, the numerical distance between proto-centres has been expressed by an average proportional deviation from mean values of X and Y:

$$P = \frac{\left| X - \frac{(X+Y)}{2} \right|}{\frac{(X+Y)}{2}}$$

where P is the average deviation of X value from mean values for X and Y



# Relationships between Proto-centres: evaluation

- The cooperative relationship is determined by the level of 0.25
- In the next step the hierarchical relationship between two proto-centres has been assessed and cooperative relationships between proto-centres of the same and different levels identified
- The same has been done for **complementary** relationships



# Fig. 3: Typology of relationships between Relationships proto-centres in functional regions **Cooperation at the same hierarchical level Cooperation at different hierarchical level** Complementarity at the same hierarchical level - Complementarity at different hierachical level < 100 km 25



# Relationships between Proto-centres: results

- The strongest relativized interaction between proto-centres was recorded for the pair Ústí nad Labern and Trmice
- The weakest interaction was recorded for the pair Dobříš and Říčany
- Limiting values, as have been discussed above, have produced out of 1,942 pairs:
  - 1,018 cases of indifference
  - 220 cases of cooperation
  - 704 cases of complementarity
- Out of 220 cooperative relationships 172 (78 %) occurred at the same hierarchical level and 48 (22 %) at different hierarchical levels.
- The cooperation is more frequent if the hierarchical level of proto-centres is equal



#### Relationships between Proto-centres: results

- Out of 704 complementary relationship 356 (51 %) occurred at the same hierarchical level and 348 (49 %) at different hierarchical levels
- The former case regarded particularly the relationships between protocentres at lower hierarchical levels

# **Thanks for your attention**



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