



# Social shifts in the Late Pre–hispanic US Southwest

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# Agenda

## Introduction

Overview

Mills et al. (2013): Transformation of social networks in the late pre-Hispanic US Southwest

Follow-up questions

## Beyond Brainerd-Robinson

Alternative measures of similarity

Index of Significance of Wares

Across-Time Comparison

ViSim - A tool to explore similarities among sites

Conclusions and future work





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## Summary

- ▶ US Southwest (A.D. 1200–1450): large-scale demographic changes
  - ▶ long-distance migration
  - ▶ population aggregation





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Mills et al. (2013): Transformation of social networks in the late pre-Hispanic US Southwest

- ▶ Reconstruct population dynamics using network approach
- ▶ Database: 42 distinct artifacts, 700+ sites/settlements, over 250 years
  - ▶ 515 settlements with  $\geq 30$  artifacts
  - ▶ discretized 250 years into 50-years periods
- ▶ Similarity: Brainerd-Robinson index

$$BR(x, y) = 2 - \sum_{z=1}^p |P_{xz} - P_{yz}|$$

- ▶ Assumption: Social exchanges, movement, migrations = Similarity in proportions of wares





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## Follow-up questions

1. How do larger and more diverse settlements relate to the smaller and more homogeneous ones?
2. How does population shifts happened within shorter or longer time periods?
3. How much is the evolving “identity” of settlements indicative of movement trends?





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# Beyond Brainerd–Robinson

## Proposed Extensions

1. Alternative measures of similarity
2. Index of significance of wares
3. Across–time comparison of settlements





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## Alternative measures of similarity

### Asymmetric similarity based on dominance relationship

- ▶ Integral:

$$W_x \subseteq W_y \Rightarrow x <_D y$$

- ▶ Fractional:

$$\forall W_x^z \in W_x : P_{xz} < P_{yz} \Rightarrow x <_D y$$





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## Alternative measures of similarity

### Similarity based on relative ranking of wares

- ▶ Parametrized:

$$S_R(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } |V_R^x[1 : k] \cap V_R^y[1 : k]| \geq l \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Non-parametrized:

$$S_R^1(x, y) = \max_{1 \leq k \leq p} \frac{|V_R^x \cap V_R^y|}{k}.$$





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## Index of Significance of Wares

- ▶  $I(w_i, x) = f(w_i, x) \times \frac{N}{1 + |\{x \in S : w_i \in s_j\}|}$ 
  - ▶ Similarity among sites based on  $I(w_i, s_x)$
  - ▶ Co-occurrence of wares
- ▶ Evolving “identity” of settlements over periods of time.





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## Across–Time Comparison

- ▶ Long distance movement/migration/resettlement
- ▶ Shorter/longer distance movements





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# Introduction

## The Value of Data Visualization

*The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to notice  
what we never expected to see.*

John Tukey, American Mathematician





# Introduction

## Types of Data Visualization

- ▶ **Exploratory Analysis**
  - ▶ no prior idea on possible outcomes
  - ▶ look for interesting patterns in the data
  - ⇒ hypothesis
- ▶ **Confirmatory Analysis**
  - ▶ validate a hypothesis
  - ▶ goal-oriented examination of the data
  - ⇒ facts that are confirmed by the visualization
- ▶ **Presentation**
  - ▶ show the facts to an audience
  - ▶ emphasis on the relevant parts
  - ⇒ high-quality visualization that is easy to understand





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