

US Cities in the World City Network



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What This Talk Covers



- The GaWC/MI new research on US cities in the “World City Network” by Peter Taylor and Robert Lang for the Brookings Institution (Out in February 2005).
- Virtual World City Network geography.
- The implications of the research for metropolitan development.



The US Urban Network

- New York is not a typical “Primate City” as is London, Paris, Rome and Tokyo.
- The US urban network always favored diffusion of assets—this reflects a federated republic.
- Developed places always supported the development of undeveloped places.
- This is even true within a metro area.

GaWC/MI World Cities Research

- Remains the only method for measuring and ranking “World Cities.”
- Ranks a city’s connectedness to a global network of business service firms.
- Tracks the branch offices of large firms in Accounting, Advertising, Banking, Insurance, Law, Management Consulting Media.
- Shows white-collar “rocket science” business, or the types of firms that fill large downtown office buildings

What We Find



- US cities vary widely in their connectedness to the world.
- New York tops the list followed by Chicago and Los Angeles—as would be expected.
- But there are surprises in the cities below the top.
- For example, Atlanta is a more connected world city than Washington.

Comparably Sized US Cities Vary



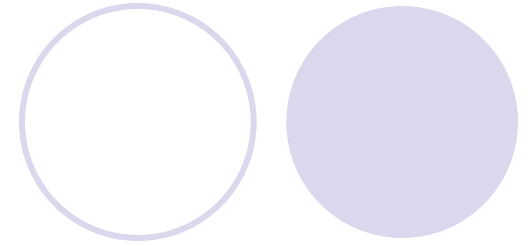
- Consider Atlanta versus Phoenix.
- Similar sized places.
- Both Sunbelt Boomtowns.
- Yet:
 - Atlanta is the New York of the South
 - Phoenix is 4 million people and a bunch of golf courses.

The Rankings



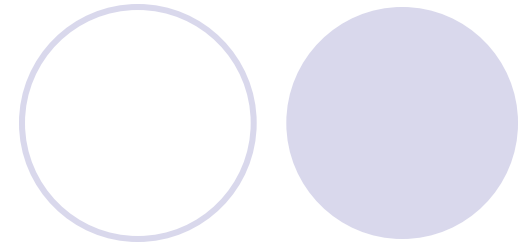
- Table 1 shows the rankings for the top 16 world cities.
- The top 16 break into five strata.
- New York on top.
- Chicago and LA group together
- Washington lands at the bottom of the third strata.

Table 1. Global Network Connectivities of US cities



CITY	GNC score	Relative GNC	STRATA
New York	61895	0.976	I
Chicago	39025	0.616	II
LA	38009	0.600	II
San Fran.	32178	0.508	III
Miami	29341	0.463	III
Atlanta	27052	0.427	III
Wash. DC	26522	0.418	III

Table 1. Global Network Connectivities of US cities



CITY	GNC score	Relative GNC	STRATA
Boston	22249	0.351	IV
Dallas	21796	0.344	IV
Houston	21424	0.338	IV
Seattle	19252	0.304	IV
Denver	17368	0.274	V
Phil.	17006	0.268	V
Minn./SP	16914	0.267	V
St Louis	16124	0.254	V
Detroit	15818	0.250	V



Are US Cities Under-Connected?

- Compared to their same-sized European counterparts, US cities appear under-connected to the world city network.
- Note in Table 2:
 - Washington is outranked by Dublin and Barcelona.
 - Brussels, the capital of Europe, far outranks Washington.

Table 2. US and EU Connectivity Rankings Compared

US CITIES	US	World	EU	EU CITIES
New York	1	1	1	London
		2		
Chicago	2	4	2	Paris
		7		
Los Angeles	3	8	3	Milan
		9		
		11	4	Madrid
		12	5	Amsterdam
		14	6	Frankfurt
San Francisco	4	15	7	Brussels
Miami	5	17		
		25		
		27	8	Stockholm
		30	9	Dublin
Atlanta	6	32	10	Barcelona
Washington	7	33		
		37		

We Also Looked at the “Europeanness” versus “Americanness” of the Network

- We Found:

- Most US World Cities are densely connected to other US World Cities.
- Most European World Cities are densely connected to other European World Cities—but Less than the American Cities are to one another.
- We also speculate that some US World Cities have big hinterlands and rely less on connectivity to other World Cities (e.g., Phoenix).



Some Interesting Findings

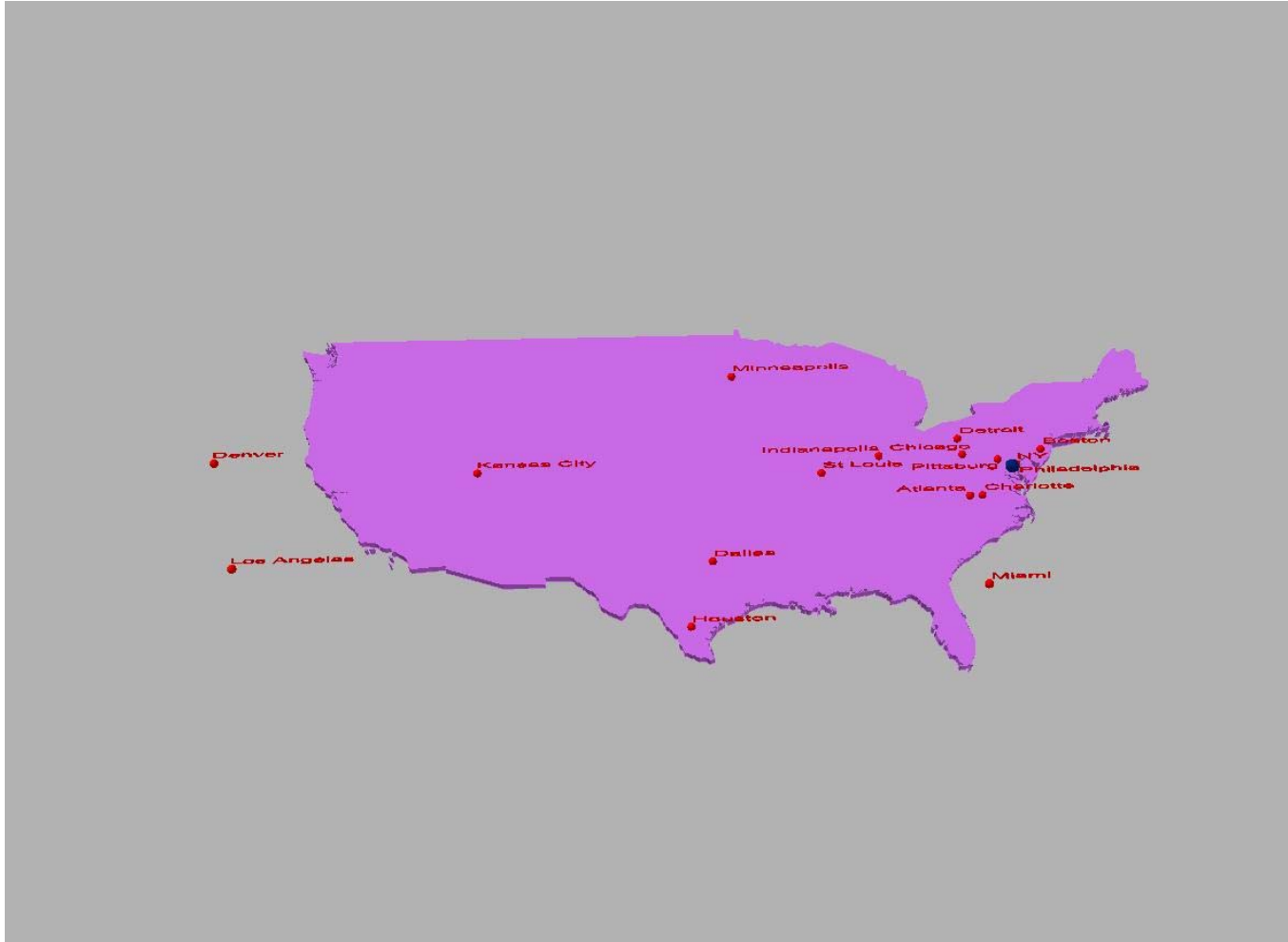
- European cities are generally more connected to Latin America.
- Miami is the US's most connected city to Latin America and is far more connected than New York or Los Angeles.
- New York is more connected to London than the rest of the US.

A Virtual Geography

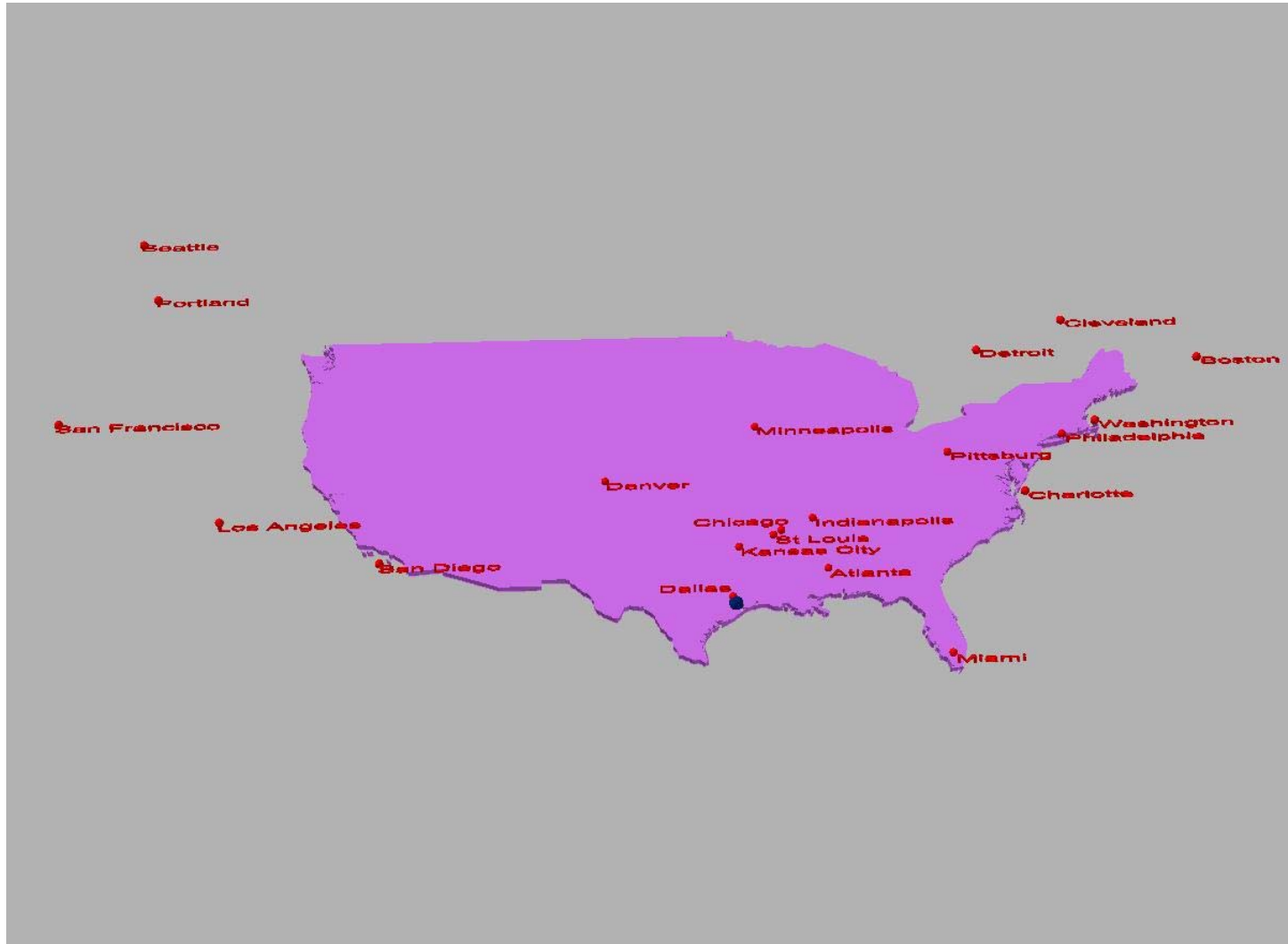


- Fix a US City in Space.
- Then ask: What are the relative distances of other US cities based on their network connectedness?
- Quick look at the virtual geography of Washington, DC and Houston, TX.
- Interesting results...

Washington DC's Virtual Geography



Houston's Virtual Geography



General Implications



- What does it mean to be a more networked city?
 - More complex service sector, which may present more opportunity.
 - We speculate that a large and well-connected service economy translates into generally higher salaries.
 - More outside contacts may lead to a more cosmopolitan world view.

Implications for Trans-City Geography

- Network analysis shows a functional connectedness between places.
- Castells “spaces of places” versus “spaces of flows.”
- Consider Dallas and Houston:
 - 250 miles apart
 - But networked so closely in terms of producer services that they form a “twin city.”