

# The spatial signature of convergence and divergence in two cities

**Dr. Kinda Al\_Sayed**

[k.sayed@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.sayed@ucl.ac.uk)

**Prof. Alan Penn**

[a.penn@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.penn@ucl.ac.uk)

Space Syntax Laboratory

Bartlett School of Architecture

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

---

17/07/2015

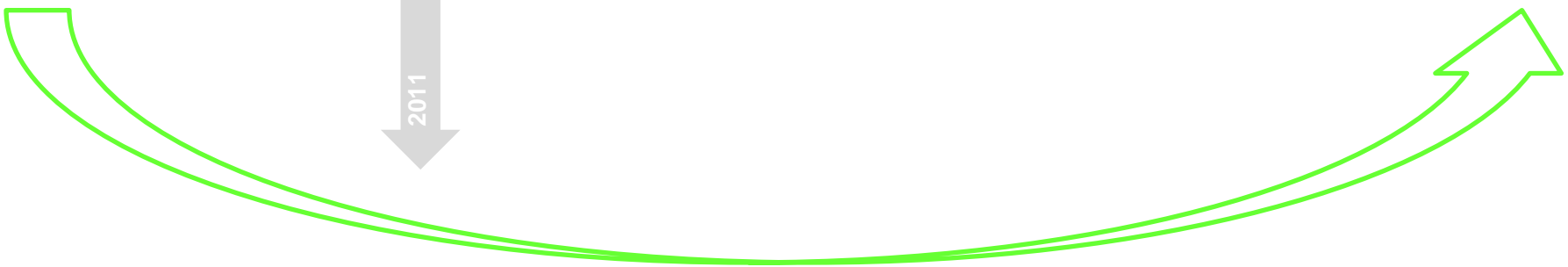
# TOWARDS MODELLING SPATIAL DYNAMICS IN URBAN SYSTEMS

UNDERSTANDING

MODELLING



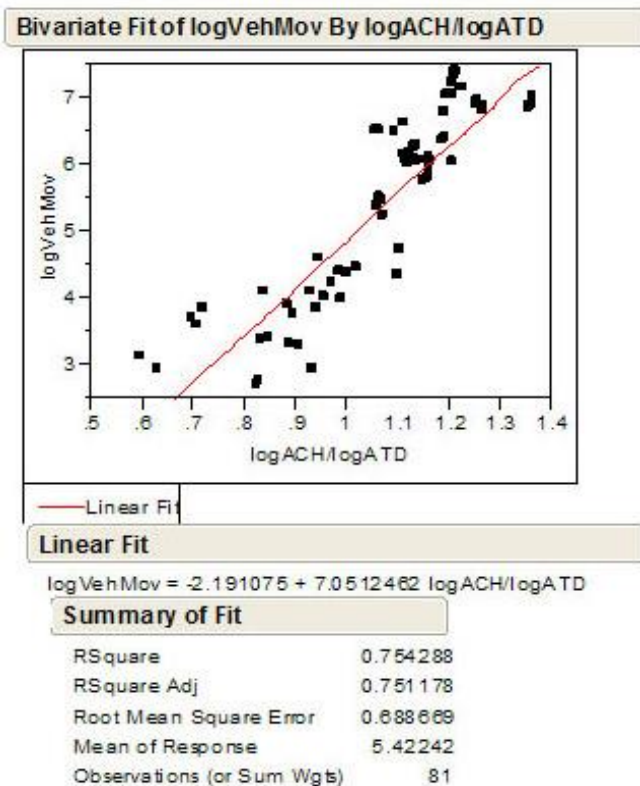
- Generative experiments (Hillier and Hanson, 1984)
- Integration is static and choice is dynamic (Hillier et. al., 1987)
- Cellular automaton with agent modelling (Batty, 1991)
- Changes in the shape of cities (Hillier & Hanson, 1993)
  - Demand and supply agent model (Krafta, 1994)
- Centrality as a process (Hillier, 1999)
  - Self-Organization and the City (Portugali, 2000)
- Centrality and extension (Hillier, 2002)
  - Multi-layer agent model (Krafta et. al., 2003)
- Self-organisation in organic grid (Hillier, 2004)
- Add hoc* models in architecture and urban design



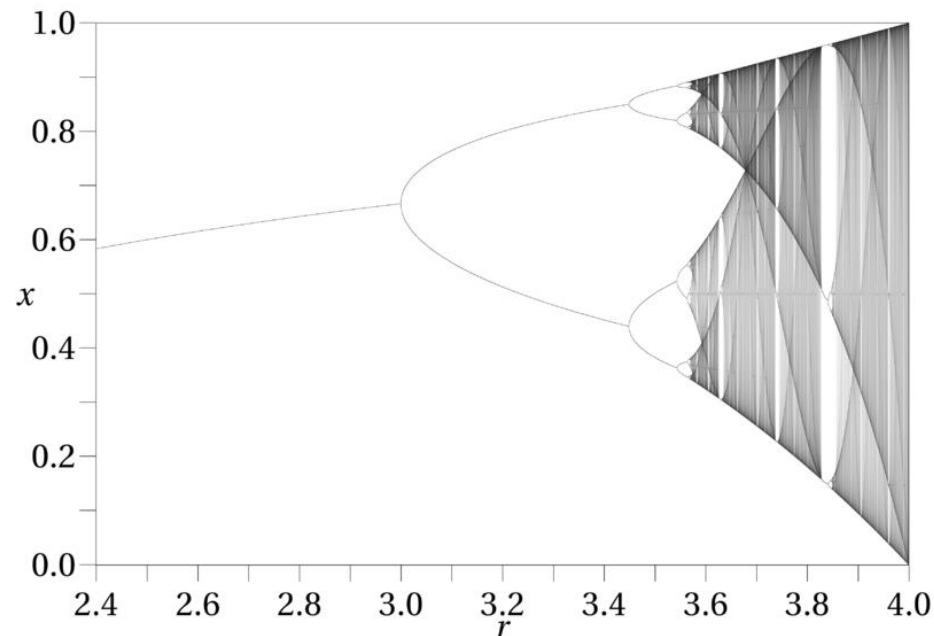
# MODELLING SPATIAL DYNAMICS IN URBAN SYSTEMS

# HYPOTHESIS

## Cities are Simple!



## Cities are Complex!



"The tension between chaos and order often keeps cities on the edge of chaos \_ a situation that enables cities to be adaptive complex systems and withstand environmental changes." (Portugali, 2012)

"Chaos is aperiodic long-term behaviour in a deterministic system that exhibits sensitive dependence on initial conditions" (Strogatz: 323).

Let  $V$  be a set. The mapping  $f: V \rightarrow V$  is said to be chaotic on  $V$  if:

1.  $f$  has sensitive dependence on initial conditions,
2.  $f$  is topologically transitive (all open sets in  $V$  within the range of  $f$  interact under  $f$ ),
3. periodic points are dense in  $V$ . (Devaney 50)

"A chaotic map possesses three ingredients: unpredictability, indecomposability, and an element of regularity" (Devaney: 50).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Logistic\\_Bifurcation\\_map\\_High\\_Resolution.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Logistic_Bifurcation_map_High_Resolution.png)

Strogatz, Steven H. *Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos*. Cambridge MA: Perseus, 1994.

Devaney, Robert L. *An Introduction to Chaotic Dynamical Systems*. Menlo Park, CA: Benjamin/Cummings, 1986.

A city is "a network of linked centres at all scales set into a background network of residential space. We then show that this universal pattern comes about in two interlinked but conceptually separable phases: a spatial process through which simple spatial laws govern the emergence of characteristically urban patterns of space from the aggregations of buildings; and a functional process through which equally simple spatio-functional laws govern the way in which aggregates of buildings becomes living cities. It is this dual process that is suggested can lead us in the direction of a 'genetic' code for cities." (Hillier, 2009)

<http://otp.spacesyntax.net/methods/urban-methods-2/interpretive-models/>

Hillier, B. (2009). The genetic code for cities—is it simpler than we thought?. in proceedings of complexity theories of cities have come of age at tu delft september 2009

# “Cities [are] problems in organized complexity”

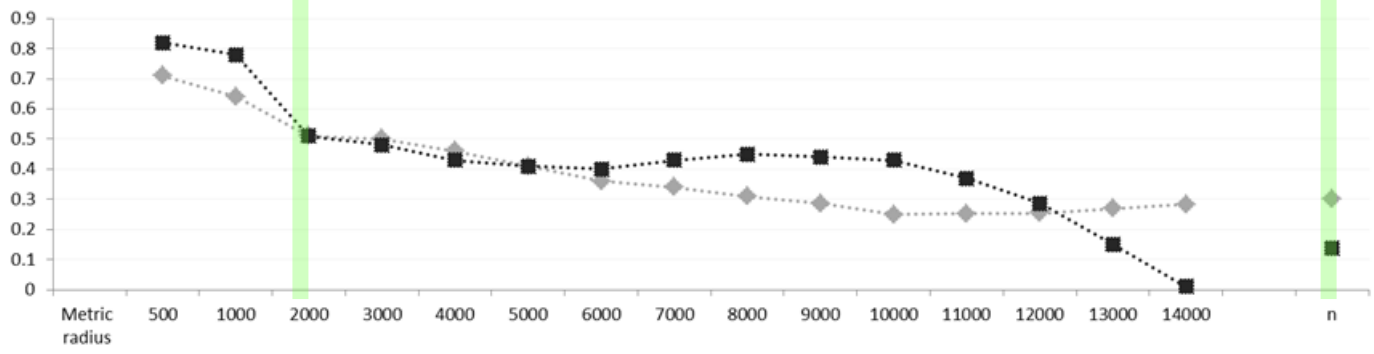
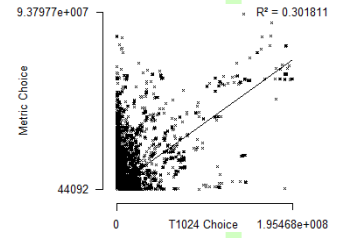
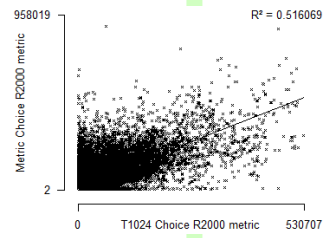
Jane Jacobs (b. 1916), U.S. urban analyst. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, ch. 19 (1961).

To understanding cities we need:

1. To think about processes;
2. To work inductively, reasoning from particulars to the general, rather than the reverse;
3. To seek for "unaverage" clues involving very small quantities, which reveal the way larger and more "average" quantities are operating.

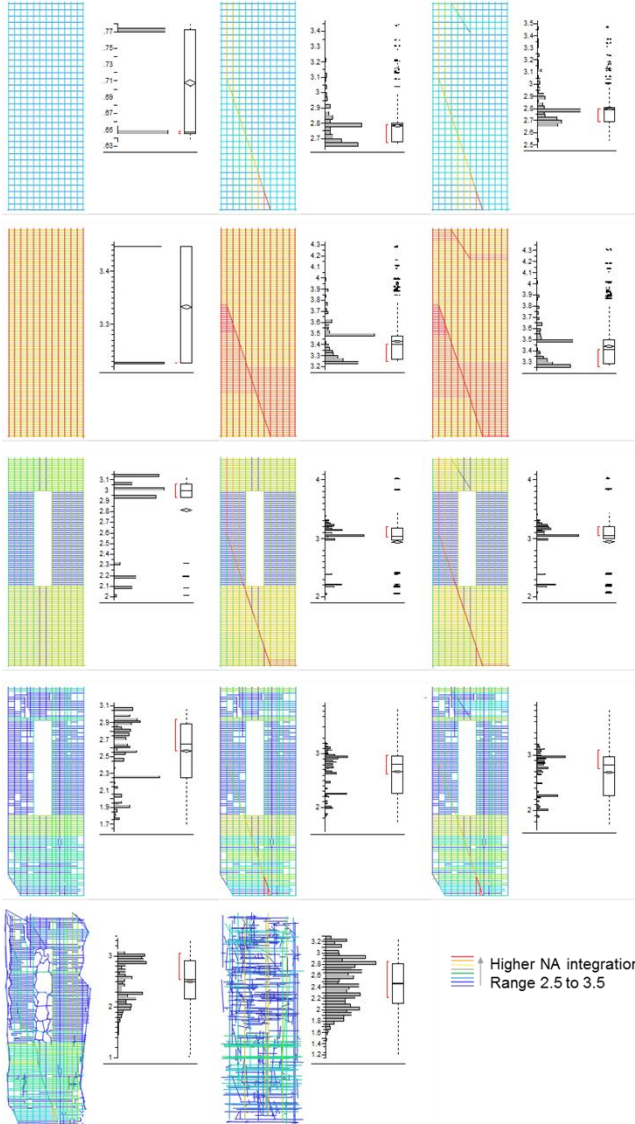
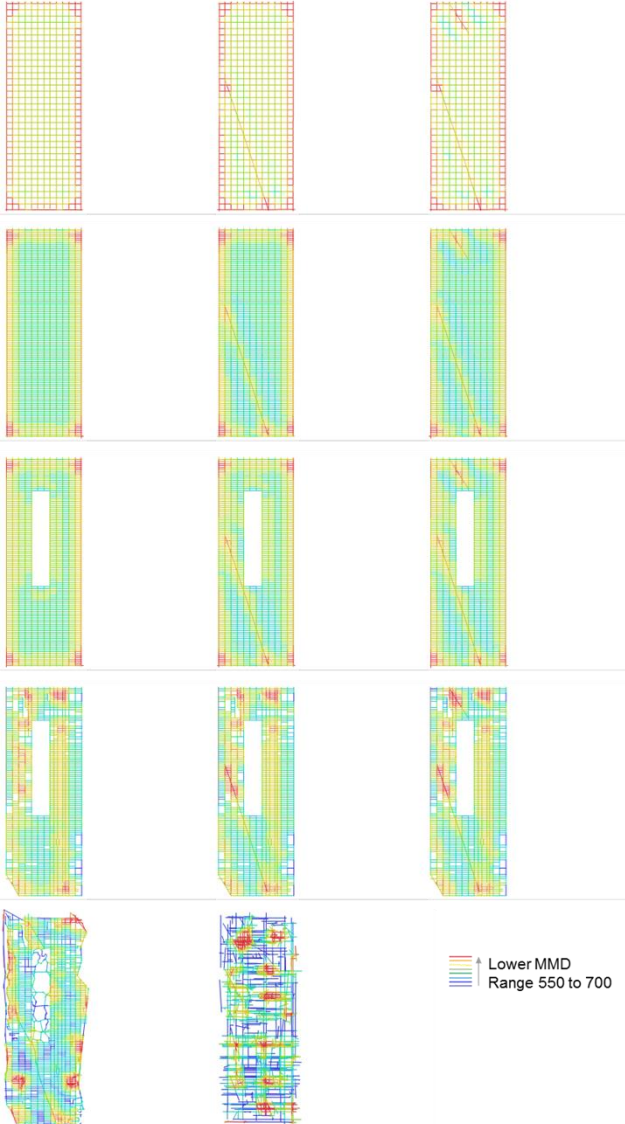
**Cities show an autonomous behaviour in their growth and differentiation mechanisms. These mechanisms reinforce a self-organised parts-whole structural unity by which planned grid structures are deformed and adapted to match natural growth patterns.**

# We start from Space *looking for regularities in the geometry of street networks*



# On order, structure and randomness: *where do urban systems fall?*

Divergent Cities Conference



Metric Mean Depth MMD Radius 1000metric

Normalised Angular integration Radius  $n$



# Searching for clues in the historical growth patterns of Barcelona and Manhattan

Goal/purpose/rule

**Assumption**

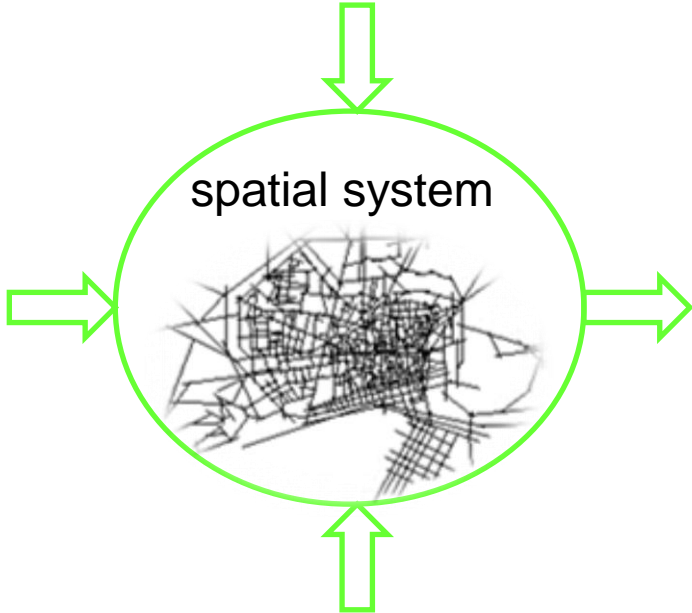
$$Y = 99.877e^{0.1622x}$$
$$R^2 = 0.9657$$

A model can be outlined from the process of growth and structural differentiation in cities

**Input**



Mapping and externalising growth dynamics in historical growth patterns



**Output**



simulations and short term predictions

**Condition**



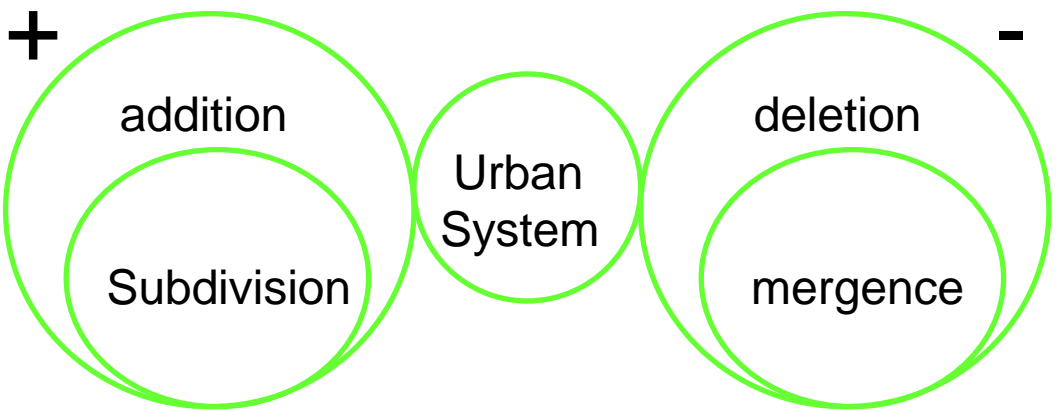
Expansion affordances Space to expand people to occupy  
Will determine whether positive or negative dynamic changes



# PRINCIPLES OF THE SYSTEM

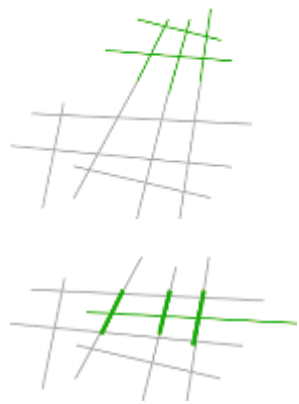
Positive feedback

Reinforcing feedback

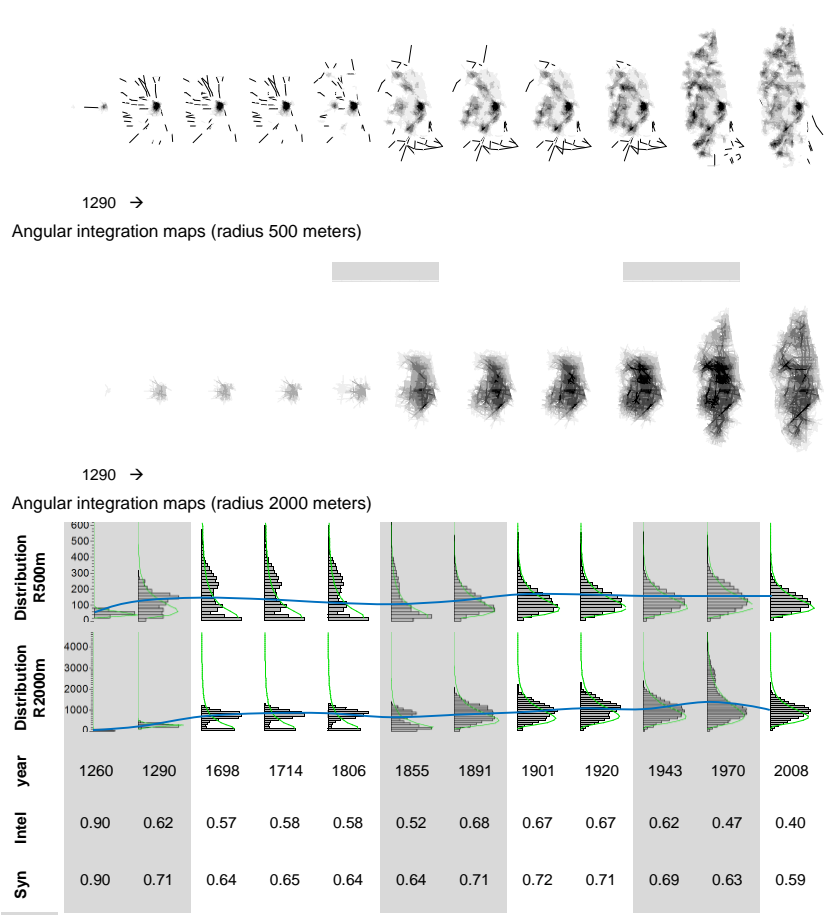
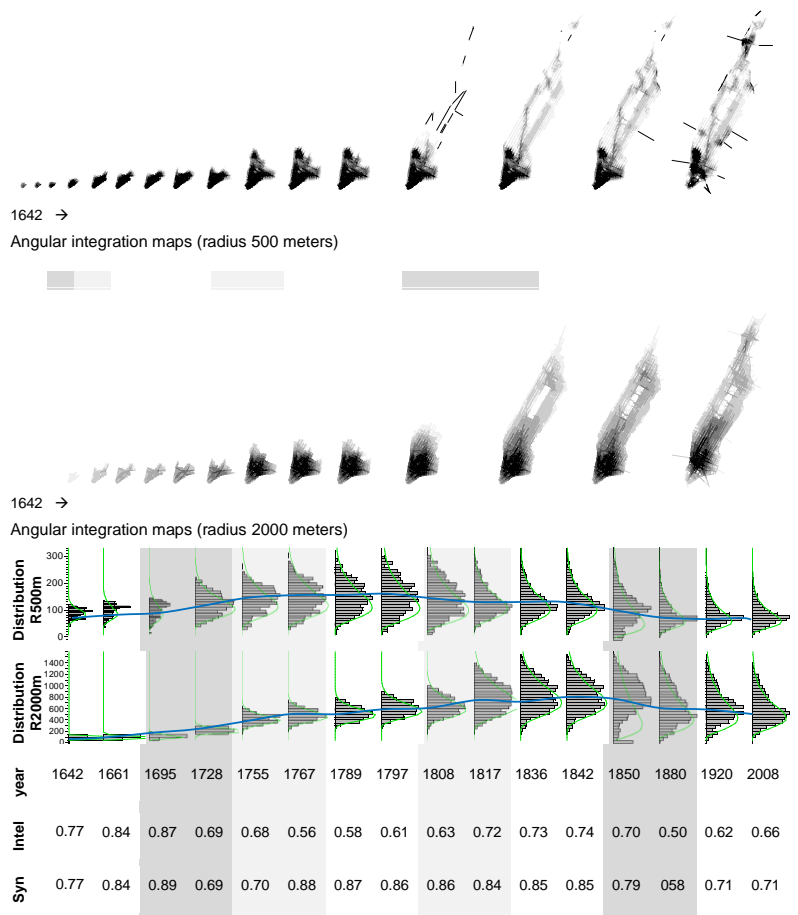


edges

middle



# Looking for generic trends in the historical growth of urban street networks



Severity of transition from one synchronic state to another given structural and distribution indicators

Higher angular integration values

Log normal distribution curve

Mean/median values

Severity of transition from one synchronic state to another given structural and distribution indicators

Higher angular integration values

Log normal distribution curve

Mean/median values

# Looking for generic trends in the historical growth of urban street networks

## Manhattan

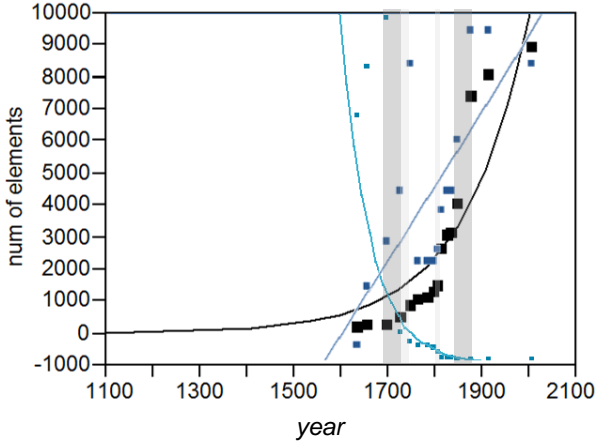
### Linear and nonlinear fit solutions

**Deformity**  $R^2 = 0.80$  Natural logarithm fit  
**Fractal D**  $R^2 = 0.53$  Linear fit

### Nonlinear fit solution

SSE	DFE	MSE	RMSE
27692661.637	14	1978047.3	1406.4307

Parameter	Estimate	ApproxStdErr
<b>b1</b>	0.007164405	0.00106851
<b>b0</b>	733.0202662	237.867098
<b>b1</b>	0.013	0
<b>b0</b>	159	0



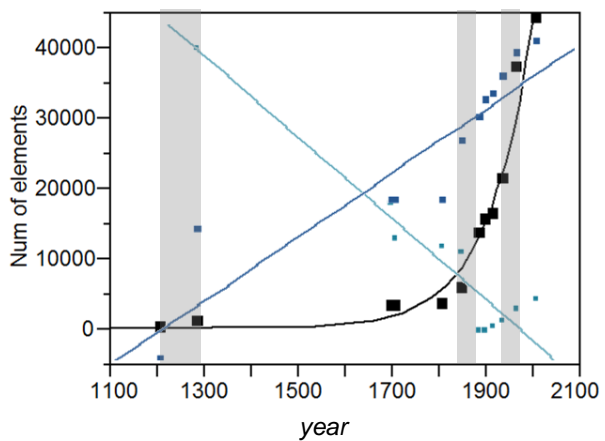
- number of elements
- Expon. (number of elements)
- Deformity trend
- Fractal Dimension trend
- Transitional states in the growth trend

## Barcelona

**Deformity**  $R^2 = 0.95$  Linear fit  
**Fractal D**  $R^2 = 0.83$  Linear fit

SSE	DFE	MSE	RMSE
72703917.749	10	7270391.8	2696.3664

Parameter	Estimate	ApproxStdErr
<b>b1</b>	0.0105310111	0.00088276
<b>b0</b>	10.25766467	6.91634685
<b>b1</b>	0.006	0
<b>b0</b>	90	0



$$f(x) = X_0 * \text{Exp}(X_1 * (year - year_0))$$

where the parameters initial values are;

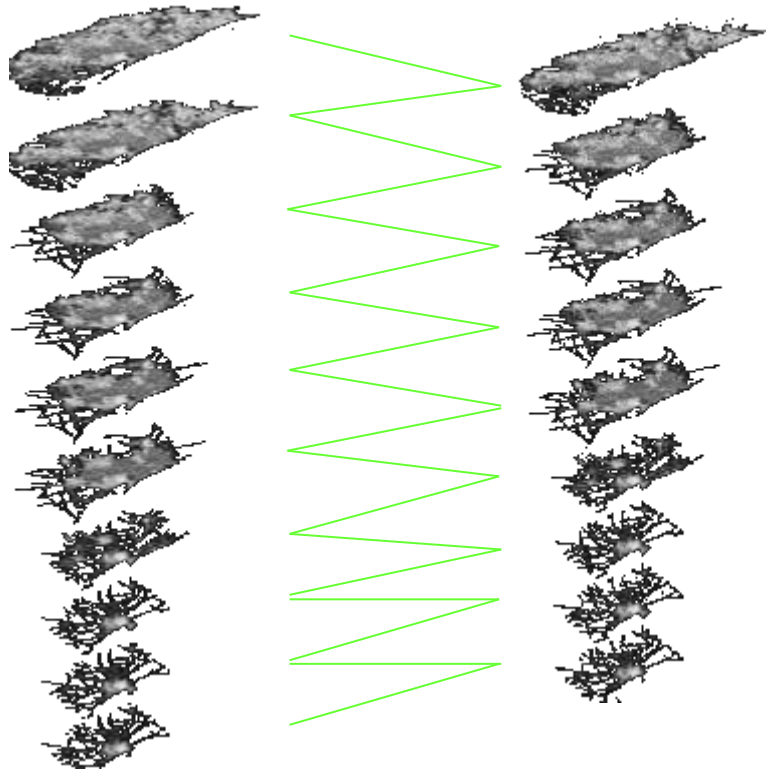
- $X_1 = 0.013, X_0 = 159$  for Manhattan
- $X_1 = 0.006, X_0 = 90$  for Barcelona

# Looking for invariances in the transformations of street networks

Method/Product

## Asynchronising structures

Mapping transformations in-between synchronic states of the growing system



## A dynamic model

That implements generative rules

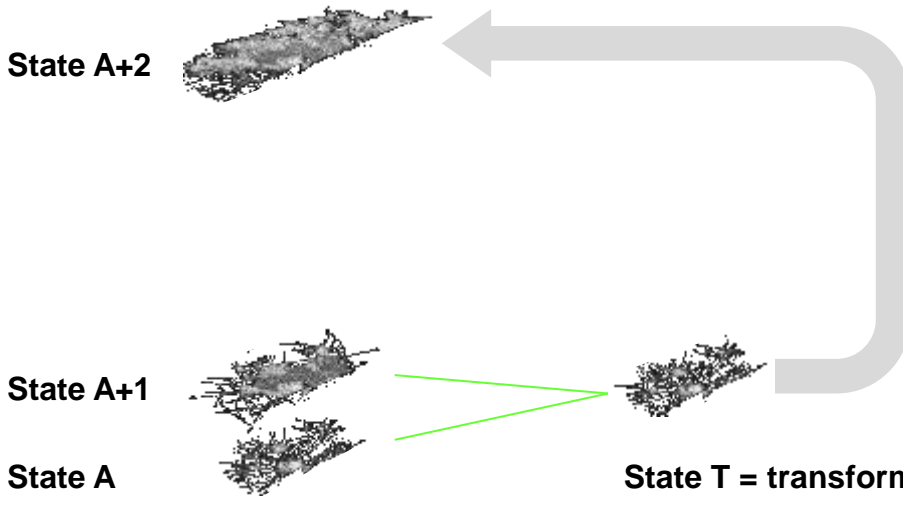
# DECODING AND ENCODING GROWTH DYNAMICS

Method/Product

## Asynchronising structures

Mapping transformations in-between synchronic states of the growing system

## Extract an invariant that marks growth patterns



Infer invariants from urban growth patterns

```

While aggregate integration values of elements in the system do not approximate a log normal distribution locally and a normal distribution globally

While system has not reached its maximum boundary and complexity is penalised by regulator (if connectivity value of a certain element raises above 10, then no more segments are attached to this particular segment)

// preferential attachment
If peripheral patches exhibit high changes in local integration then increase attachmentProbability
If routes of high angular choice Rn are on the edges and these routes have previously witnessed high changes in angular choice, then increase attachmentProbability at the intersection of these routes to add new elements and form patches.
If patches are above a certain number of elements and size of patches goes beyond certain proportions then increase attachmentProbability to distribute
// Min a Gaussian that covers patches

If a gain of centrality is at its utmost in sparsely spread structures then increase attachmentProbability to add new elements following a Gaussian distribution within a certain metric radius.
Add new elements of length segmentLength (long) and angle segmentAngle (near right angle) to the neighbouring edges with greatest attachmentProbability
If centres have high local integration compared to the whole system, then increase attachmentProbability to connect centres
Add new elements of length segmentLength (long) and angle segmentAngle (small) to the neighbouring edges with greatest attachmentProbability

// pruning
If the area within the constrained boundaries is filled, remove elements with lowest local integration values.

End loop
End loop

```

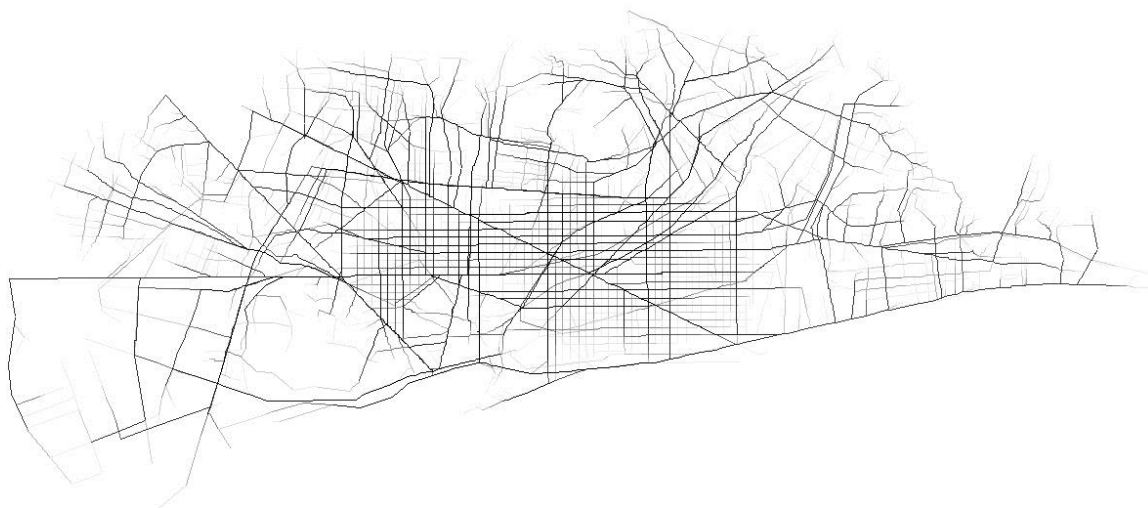
Make assumptions on how they contribute to urban growth

# Emergence

Generative growth is a bottom up activity. Given the condition of spatio-temporal configurations in the street network, a generative mechanism operates to allow for the emergence of new elements and patches.

# CHOICE IS THE GENERATOR

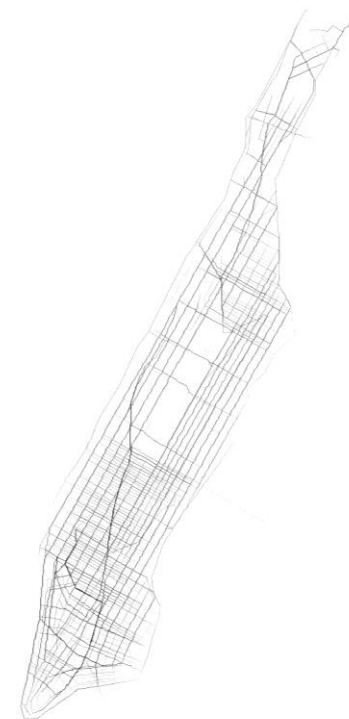
The superstructure marked by cumulative changes in choice is the generative structure of growth (The origin of cities)



## Cumulative changes in choice

recorded between 1260 and 2000

## Barcelona



recorded between 1642 and 2000

## Manhattan

↑ high changes in choice SLW recorded between states (a and a+1) of the growing system

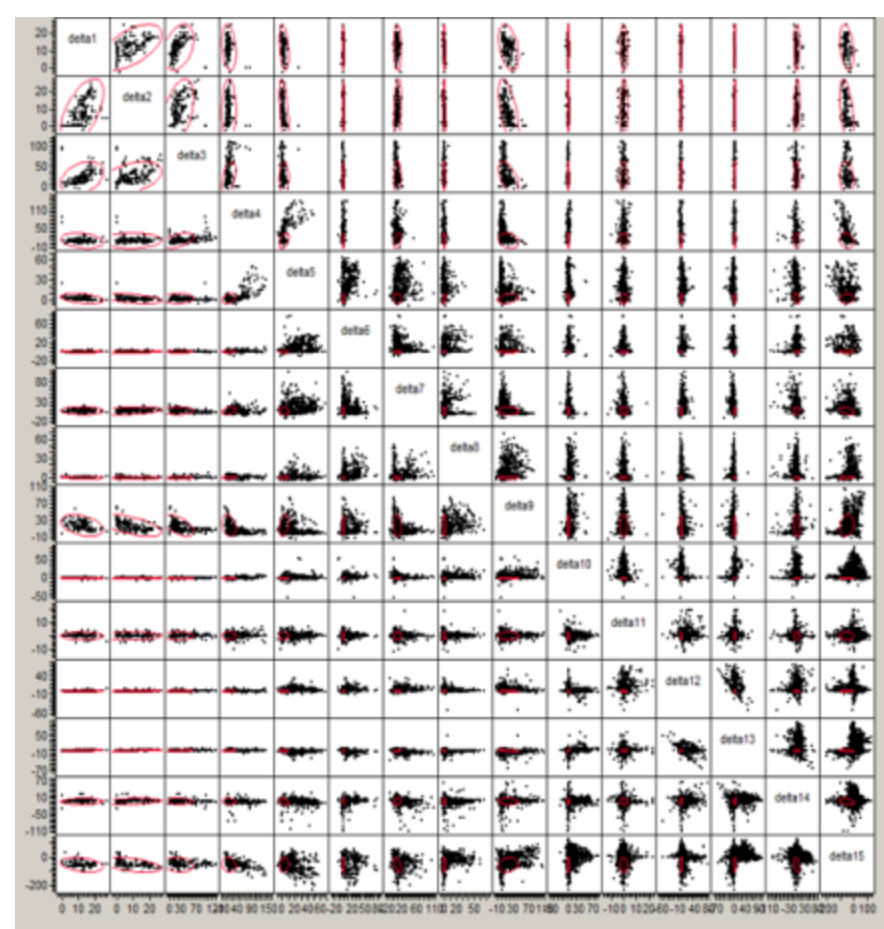
Al\_Sayed, K., Turner, A. (2012) [Emergence and self-organization in urban structures](#), In Proceedings of the AGILE'2012 International Conference on Geographic Information Science, in J. Gensel, D. Josselin and D. Vandenbroucke (eds), Avignon, France.



# PREFERENTIAL ATTACHMENT

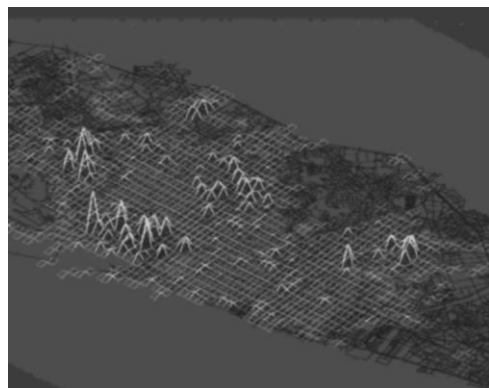
*where configurational changes are more likely to occur, elements tend to attach to new spatial structures*

# CHANGE WILL NOT LEAD TO CHANGE

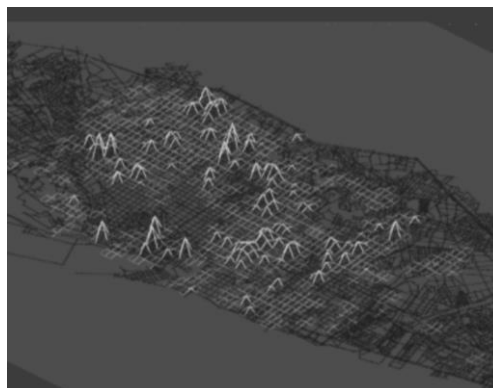


A matrix of maps plotting changes in integration (radius 500m) over time

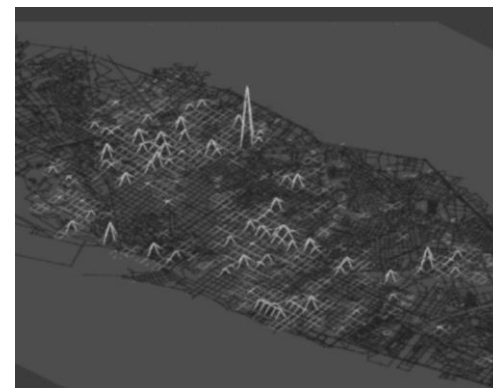
# CHANGE TRANSFERS



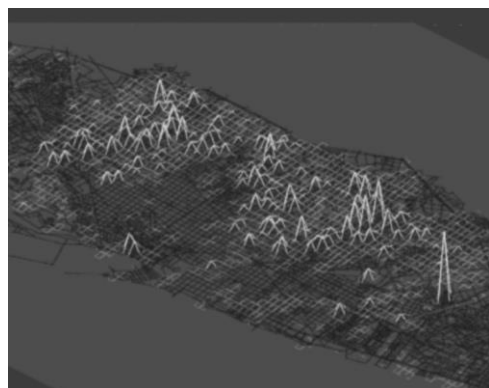
1806-1855



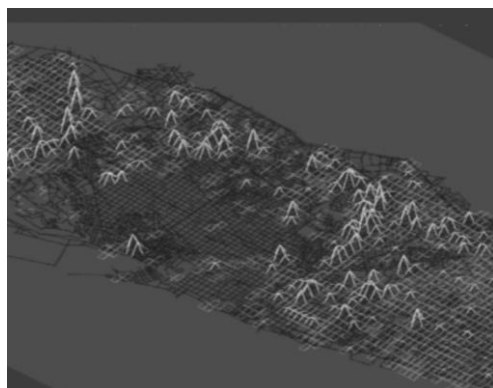
1855-1891



1891-1920



1920-1970

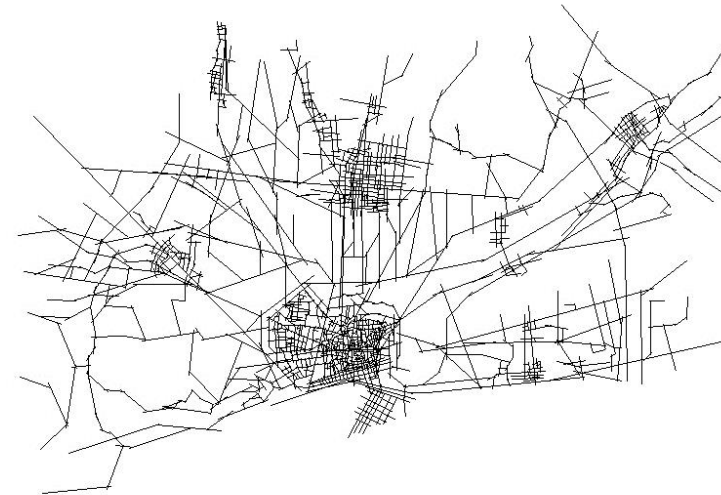
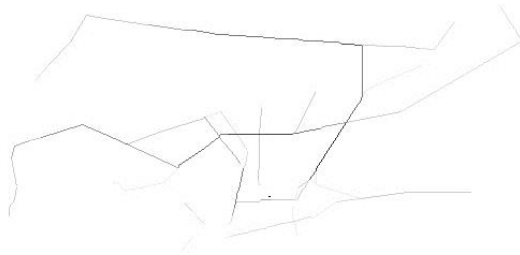
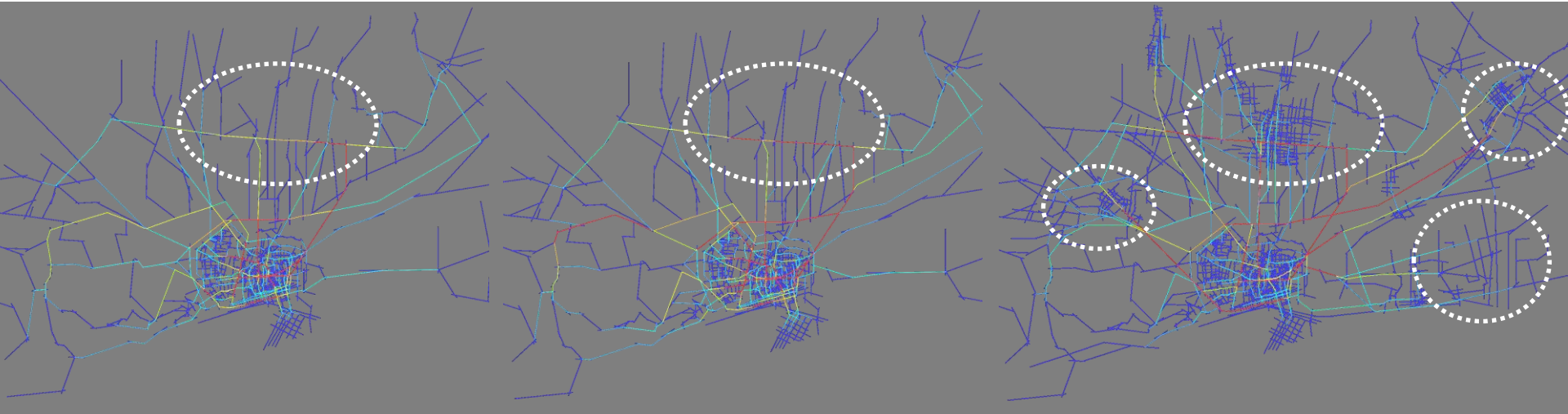


1970-2010

**Waves of change in integration values transferring from the core of Barcelona towards the edges**

# Preferential attachment

*Angular choice is generative globally*



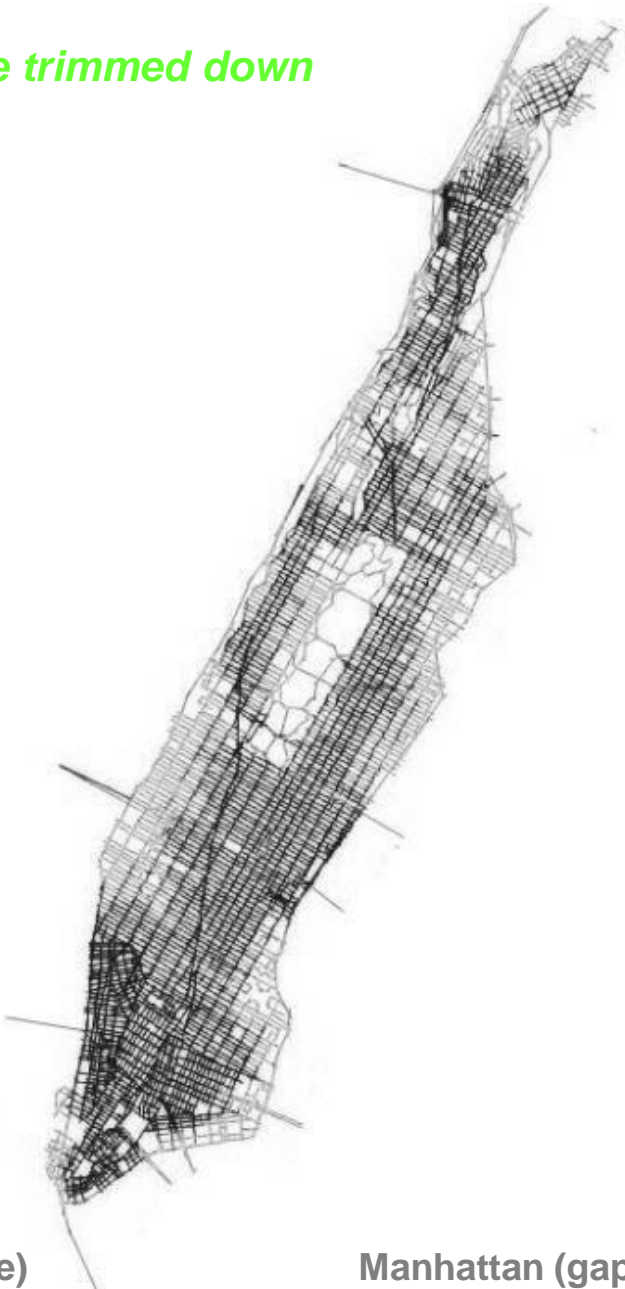
# PRUNING

*Once the growing structure reaches its maximum boundaries, patches with low local integration will tend to disappear*

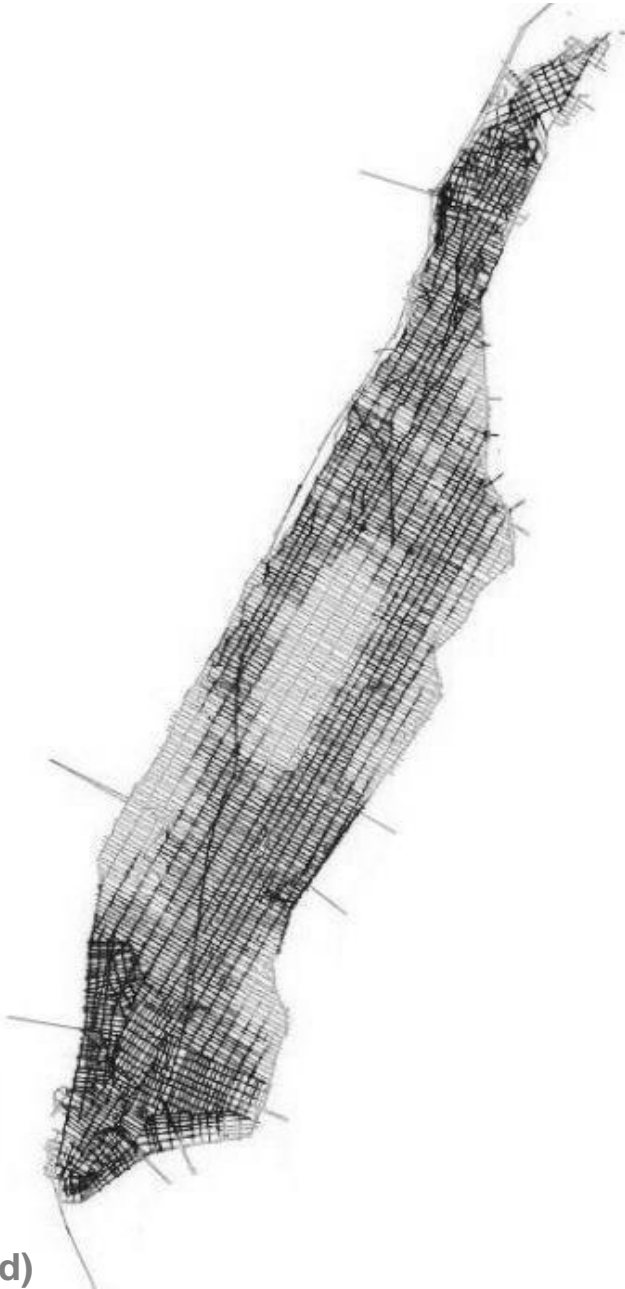
# PRUNING

*Weak local structures are trimmed down*

↑ Higher values mean high integration  
radius 800  
Colour range 3colours at 130



**Manhattan (current state)**



**Manhattan (gaps filled)**

Divergent Cities Conference

Al\_Sayed K., Turner A., Hanna S. (2009). [Cities as emergent models: The morphological logic of Manhattan and Barcelona](#). Proceedings of the 7th International Space Syntax Symposium, Edited by Daniel Koch, Lars Marcus and Jesper Steen, Stockholm: KTH, 2009.

# Self-organisation

There is a top-down process which ensures through a mechanism of self-organisation the maintenance of a part-whole structural unity. This process repeats a fractal structure that has certain metric proximity within itself and between its parts. the overall distance between patches approximates one and half the radius that defines them.



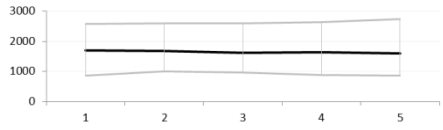
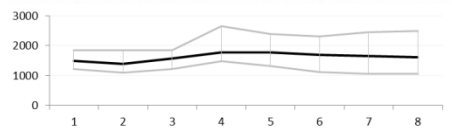
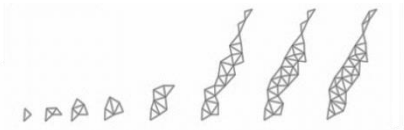
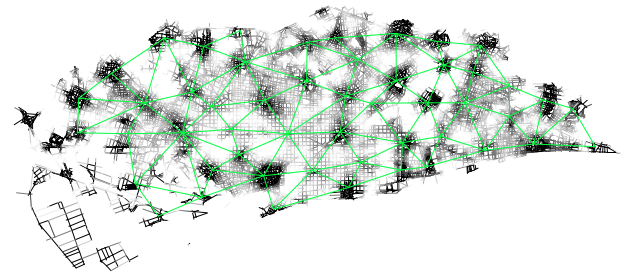
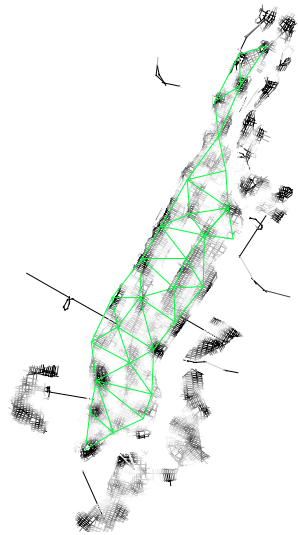
# DISTANCE CONSERVATION BETWEEN PATCHES

*Clusters were derived directly from MMD radius 1000 metric*

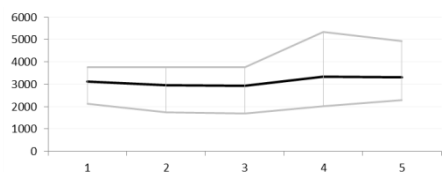
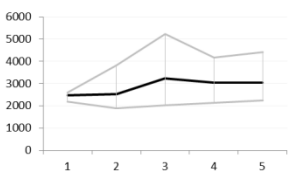
— Distances between each two neighbouring patches linking their peaks  
 ■ higher MMD R 1000 values marking patchwork patterns in the physical street network

**Manhattan**

**Barcelona**



**MMD Radius 1000**



**MMD Radius 2000**

1780 → 2000

1780 → 2000

— Max distance  
 — Average distance  
 — Min distance

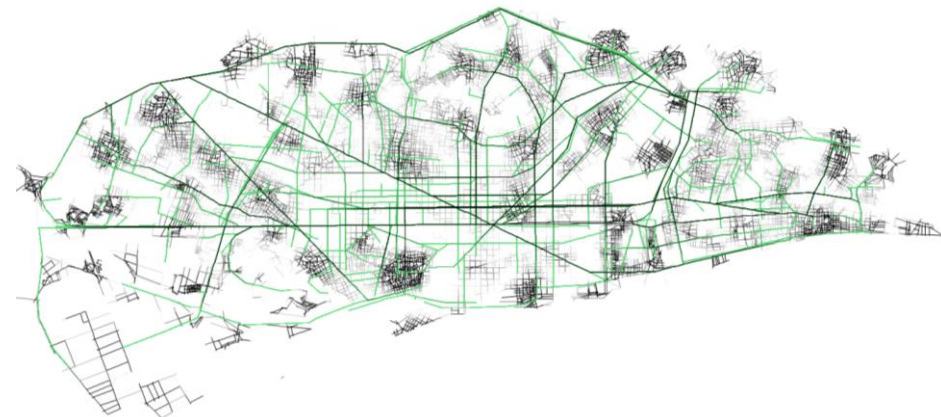
Divergent Cities Conference

# SPATIAL BEHAVIOUR IN CITIES

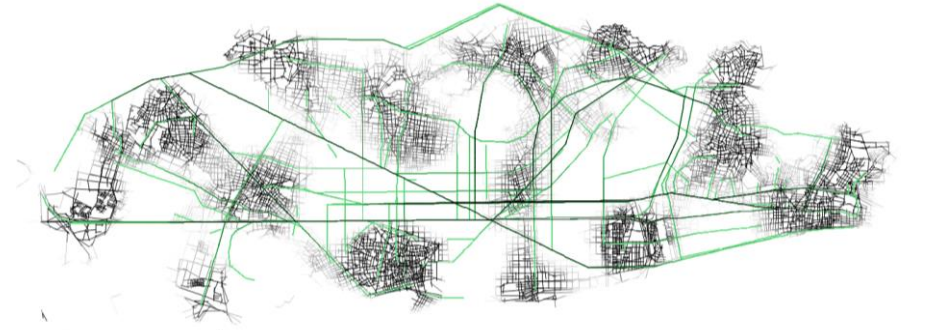
- Cities **grow** naturally wherever an emergent bottom-up activity is possible
- Cities **deform** to differentiate the uniform grid either by intensifying the grid where more through-movement is expected or by pruning weak local structures.
- In a process of **preferential attachment**, city structure **records a certain memory** wherever integration change takes place and **recalls this memory** to attach to new elements.
- This process is continuously updated once the system **reconfigures** its local settings.
- The system **is apt to fit** within a certain distribution and tends to **conserve** metric distance between patches.
- Structural differentiation aims to **adapt** the grid to match organic city structures.
- Spatial structures in cities can be considered as independent systems that are **self-generative** and **self-organised**.



Angular choice R 6000 metres against MMD R 500



Angular choice Rn metres against MMD R 1000



Angular choice Rn metres against MMD R 2000

***Distinguishing two layers in the spatial structure: a background & a foreground***

*Overlaying two maps; Angular choice map R 6000 metres and Patchwork map, metric mean depth within radius 1000*

Barcelona

## Other Variables of Complexity

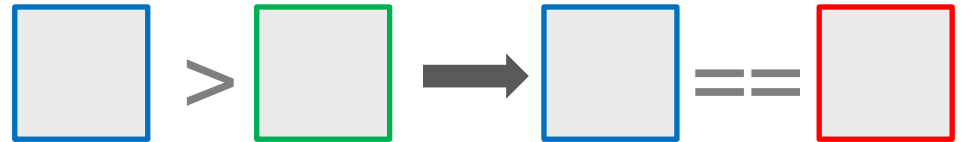
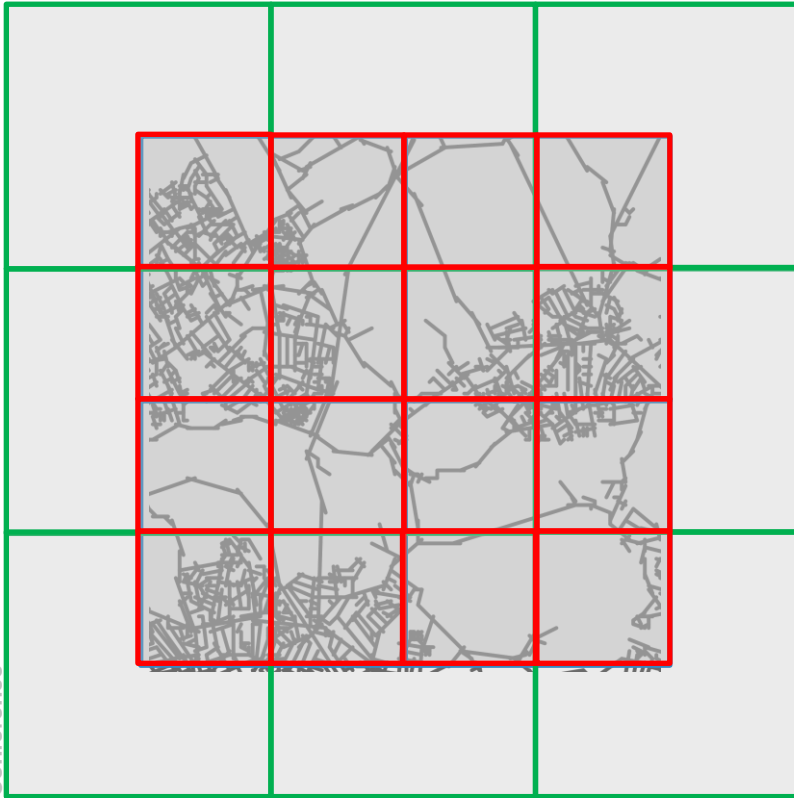
*Is space predictive of urban form and function?*

*Or*

*Is space the materialised product of urban form and function?*

# Mapping space-form-function

## Pixelmapper\* binning spatial and urban data

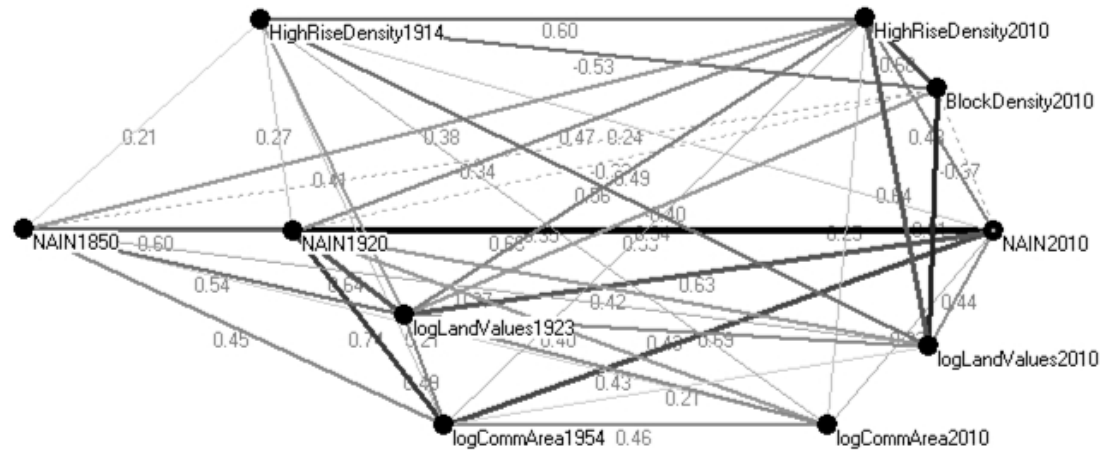


**For the second filter we define latent variables that capture the relationship between spatial structure and form-function parameters**

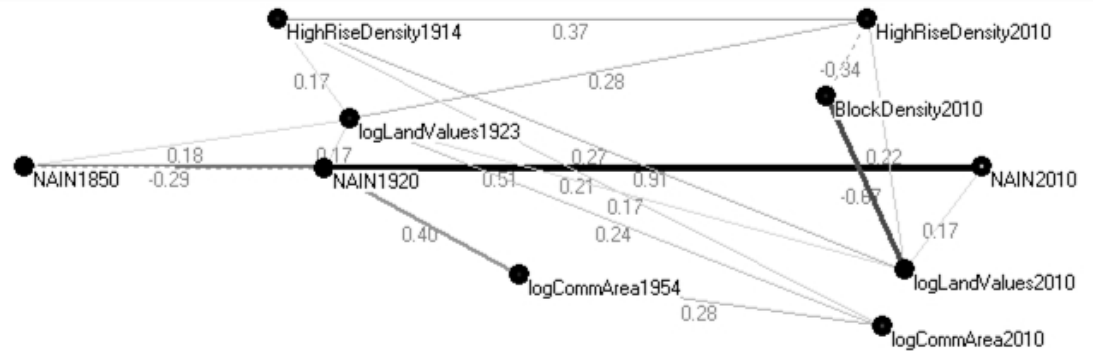
\* Al\_Sayed K. (2012) [Space Syntax as a parametric model](#). Proceedings of the Fall 2011 PUARL International Conference, Oregon, Portland.

# Does street accessibility come first in the process of urban development?

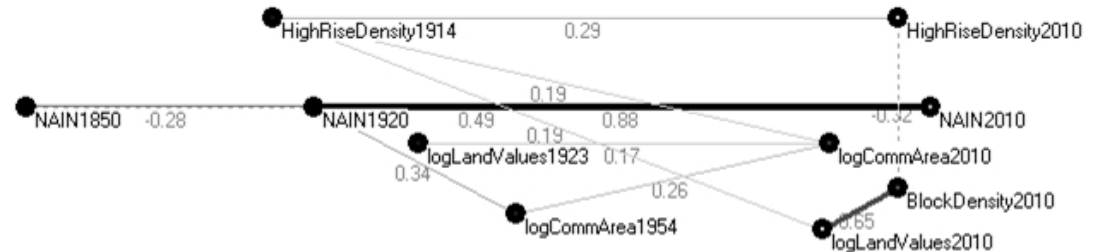
## Modelling dependency networks



Zeroth order Pearson correlation coefficient



1<sup>st</sup> order Pearson correlation coefficient



2<sup>nd</sup> order Pearson correlation coefficient

# Does street accessibility come first in the process of urban development?

## *Modelling dependency networks*

In Manhattan, there was a clear pattern of dependencies, where street accessibility in 1920 was found to relate well to commercial land uses and land values. Land values were found to mediate the relationship between accessibility 1920 on the one hand and high-rise development, block density, and area of commercial activity in 2010. High-rise development in 1914 was also found to correspond to land values 2010, which in turn rendered high correlations with block density.

**This research is part of Kinda Al\_sayed PhD thesis (2007 -2014) supervised by Alasdair Turner, Sean Hanna, and Alan Penn**

Al-Sayed, K; (2014) Urban morphogenesis; how form-function complexity coupled temporal changes on street configurations in Manhattan and Barcelona over the past centuries. Doctoral thesis, UCL (University College London).