

1 **High-tech Business Location, Transportation Accessibility, and Implications**  
2 **for Sustainability: Evaluating the Differences between High-tech**  
3 **Specializations using Empirical Evidence from U.S. Booming Regions**

4 **Abstract:**

5 Studies on the accessibility needs of high-tech firms often draw on  
6 agglomeration economies and creative class assumptions that emphasizes how  
7 transit and walkability encourage clustering, knowledge exchange and innovation. As  
8 a result, some argue that knowledge-led economic development aligns with  
9 sustainability planning, especially as high-tech industries become increasingly tied to  
10 smart city agendas. However, due to the new logistic revolution, global e-economy,  
11 rise of online workers and urban land values, it is likely that some tech industries  
12 prefer strong highway systems, potentially leading to higher GHG emissions. As  
13 such, the relationship between the knowledge economy and sustainability outcomes  
14 remains unclear. This study addresses these gaps by quantifying the geography of  
15 high-tech zones in North Texas and Northern California, measuring their  
16 specializations, and exploring their differences in terms of transportation  
17 infrastructures. Our results only partially support research suggesting high-tech  
18 industries prefer dense, walkable, transit-accessible places. For instance, we found  
19 large numbers of high-tech firms (e.g. IT and aerospace) are still attracted to  
20 peripheral, auto-centric spaces, which is at odds with sustainable transportation  
21 policies. Hence, policymakers may need to revisit their growth strategies to not only  
22 succeed in growing their knowledge economy, but also secure sustainability goals.

23 **Keywords:** High-Tech Zone, Transportation, Business Location, Sustainability

24        **1. Introduction:**

25            The shift from a commodity-based industrial economy to a knowledge-based  
26 economy has been accompanied by new urban forms and land use patterns. These  
27 changes raise important questions regarding the sustainability impacts of economic  
28 development policies. Although economic growth and sustainability outcomes are  
29 often theorized to be in tension (Campbell, 1996), ‘smart city’ policies integrate  
30 knowledge-based economic development, urban innovation, and sustainability  
31 agendas (Angelidou, 2015; Bibri, 2018; Dierwechter, 2014). Such policies leverage  
32 digital technologies to address urban environmental challenges, improve quality of  
33 life, while strengthening economic competitiveness (Adeoluwa et al., 2019;  
34 Ahvenniemi et al., 2017; Haarstad, 2016).

35            The presumed relationship between sustainable land uses and high-tech  
36 clusters is further strengthened by the literature on the geography of innovation.  
37 Despite early concerns regarding the ‘placelessness’ of economic activity made  
38 possible through information and communication technologies, a large body of  
39 empirical research has focused on how knowledge-based industries benefit from  
40 clustering in urban centers (Delgado et al., 2015; Koo, 2005; Porter, 2004). As some  
41 research suggests, knowledge-based industry clusters prefer dense, walkable,  
42 mixed-use, transit-accessible places to have access to markets and labor as well as  
43 support knowledge exchange. These place-based characteristics align well with  
44 sustainability strategies such as smart growth (Wlodarczak, 2012). However, these  
45 studies often do not address the specific needs of particular types of high-tech firms  
46 (Bakhshi et al., 2008; Granpayehvaghei et al., 2019; Hamidi et al., 2018; Hamidi and  
47 Zandiatashbar, 2018a, 2017b, 2017a; Zandiatashbar and Hamidi, 2018).

48 For example, industries impacted by the new logistic revolution are likely  
49 associated with different transportation preferences. Relying on a largely self-  
50 employed, part-time, and flexible workforce, IT industries are increasingly less place-  
51 based in the digital networking age (Audirac, 2005). The rise of the global economy,  
52 e-commerce and the need for fast processing and agile distribution of time-sensitive,  
53 high-tech production and goods extends the demand for road and air mobility  
54 (Aljohani and Thompson, 2016; Kasarda, 2000), potentially increasing GHG  
55 emissions (Lee and Erickson, 2017; Maggioni, 2002). For instance, the most high-  
56 tech booming U.S. region, the San Francisco Bay Area, also happens to have the  
57 fifth worst congestion in the world (Pishue, 2017). Moreover, in other regions, local  
58 experts have also expressed concerns about unmanageable congestion and long  
59 commute times as a result of high-tech economic growth (Dickson, 2018).

60 Further empirical analyses are needed on the transportation infrastructure  
61 preferences of high-tech firms while accounting for their specialized differences.  
62 Understanding these differences would lead to more evidence-based economic  
63 development and transportation policies that also meet sustainability goals. This  
64 study aims to address these gaps by quantifying the geography of high-tech zones in  
65 Texas and California, measuring their specializations, analyzing their differences in  
66 terms of transportation infrastructure. We selected North Texas' Dallas-Fort Worth  
67 (DFW) and Northern California's Bay Area regions since they are among the top five  
68 metro areas in terms of high-tech job growth between 2010 and 2015. In addition,  
69 the Bay Area and DFW hold more than 56% and 32% of their states' Information and  
70 Communication Technology (ICT) employees respectively (Muro and Liu, 2017).

71 To determine the location preferences of different high-tech industries with  
72 respect to transportation infrastructures, our methodology includes three analytical

73 phases. First, we develop a geography of high-tech zones by employing spatial  
74 statistical techniques to identify the local spatial peaks of high-tech economic activity.  
75 Second, we develop a typology of high-tech zones based on zone-level industrial  
76 location quotients. Lastly, we present the results from four firm-level Analysis of  
77 Variance (ANOVA) models testing whether different types of high-tech firms have  
78 significantly different transportation infrastructure preferences. We use firm-level  
79 Walkscore and Transit Score, high-tech job accessibility within a 20-minute drive  
80 time, and network distance to primary hub international airports as measures of  
81 local, regional and (inter)national accessibility.

82 Our findings confirm that high-tech firms have significantly different  
83 transportation infrastructural preferences. While professional services  
84 (architecture/engineering) seek walkable and transit accessible zones, the IT sector  
85 prefers proximity to airports and road systems which likely stem from the  
86 specifications of these two industries. For example, the success of high-tech  
87 professional services depends on their ability to attract skilled workers who are  
88 drawn to transit and walking amenities. Moreover, dense and walkable CBDs also  
89 enhance frequent face-to-face encounters, tacit knowledge exchange, and physical  
90 access to the local market area, which are all associated with firm-level cost or  
91 productivity advantages (Hamidi and Zandiatashbar, 2018b; Zandiatashbar et al.,  
92 2019).

93 On the other hand, IT industries' need for fast distribution of products, just-in-  
94 time delivery and use of online interactions for exchanging codified knowledge could  
95 justify their desire for proximity to air and road infrastructure (Kasarda, 2000). Our  
96 findings also confirm the formation of airport-adjacent industrial clusters in response  
97 to the global and e-commerce economy. Our findings in DFW and the Bay Area

98 show the formation of airport adjacent high-tech corridors that include a cluster of  
99 airport-induced high-tech firms in ICT, aerospace and professional services along  
100 low density, fast moving, wide highways. As such, some high-tech zones are likely  
101 associated with negative environmental impacts. The findings therefore highlight the  
102 need for planners and policymakers to consider the potential impacts of certain high-  
103 tech specializations to better integrate knowledge-based economic development and  
104 sustainability strategies.

105

## 106 **2. Literature Review**

### 107 **2.1. *The Geography of Innovation***

108 Innovation, underpinned by knowledge-based industry clusters, is thought to  
109 fuel economic development. As such, policymakers are keen to understand the  
110 location preferences and industrial dynamics related to high tech firms and workers.  
111 A dominant focus of knowledge economy research has been the importance of co-  
112 location. Starting with Marshall (1890), it has long been understood that clustering  
113 benefits firms through “external economies of scale”, as a result of shared labor  
114 pools, specialized suppliers, and common infrastructure. This concept of industry  
115 clustering has been developed further by Porter in (2000). In his view, clusters are  
116 the “geographic concentrations of industries related by knowledge, skills, inputs,  
117 demand and/or other linkages.” These inter-industry linkages result in three  
118 Marshallian sources of agglomeration externalities including input–output linkages,  
119 labor market pooling and knowledge spillovers which are all associated with cost or  
120 productivity advantages to firms (Marshall, 1890).

121 Further it is theorized that clustering is particularly beneficial for knowledge-  
122 based firms who rely on face-to-face contact, social networking, and tacit-knowledge  
123 exchange (Asheim et al., 2011). This research on the stickiness of places has been

124 bolstered by creative class research, which suggests particular built environments  
125 such as density, walkability, mixed-uses and urban aesthetics both attract knowledge  
126 workers and increase innovation (Florida, 2002).

127

## 128 **2.2. High-Tech Clusters and Sustainability**

129 The research on clustering and the importance of the built environment suggests  
130 that there are synergies between knowledge-based economic development and  
131 sustainability planning (Wlodarczak, 2012). Further, the presumed relationship  
132 between high-tech industries and sustainability has strengthened in policy circles as  
133 a result of 'smart city' frameworks (Angelidou, 2015; Bibri, 2018). Smart city  
134 technologies are thought to spur collaborative, data-driven responses to urban  
135 environmental challenges, nudge people and organizations towards efficient and  
136 sustainable behavior, improve quality of life and increase economic competitiveness  
137 (Portney, 2003; Herrschel 2013). 'Smartness' also refers to the role collaboration,  
138 networking and learning play in developing innovation solutions to urban challenges  
139 (Herrschedl 2013).

140 Subsequently, urban policies integrating the development of tech-based  
141 knowledge clusters, land use policies, and sustainability agendas have gained  
142 prominence. Examples include innovation districts, urban laboratories, and  
143 knowledge hubs, which incorporate mixed-use zoning, transit accessibility and  
144 placemaking amenities (Asheim et al., 2011; Hamidi et al., 2018; Hamidi and  
145 Zandiatashbar, 2018a; Katz and Krueger, 2016; Yigitcanlar et al., 2008;  
146 Zandiatashbar and Hamidi, 2018). These developments may also include explicit  
147 commitments to developing low carbon technologies and reducing GHG emissions  
148 (Evans and Karvonen, 2014; Morisson, 2015).

149           However, the relationship between high-tech economic development and  
150 sustainability may be more rhetorical than substantive (March and Ribera-Fumaz,  
151 2016). Although high-tech innovation districts may locate in dense, urban areas  
152 (Grodach et al., 2014), Currid and Connolly (2008) identify three different spatial  
153 patterns including clustering in central business districts, dispersed regional  
154 clustering and specialist places. Madanipour (2013) has similarly identified a range  
155 of innovation clusters such live-work-play centers, technology parks and  
156 geographically distributed ‘science cities’. This research suggests that high-tech  
157 clusters are more spatially diverse, and subsequently, may produce negative  
158 environmental impacts. However, this research is limited in that it does not explore  
159 how the particular types of high-tech clusters shape location preferences.

160

### 161           **2.3.   Theorizing High Tech Firms’ Accessibility Needs**

162           Industry specializations, logistical needs, customer and labor markets, as well as  
163 land utilization will influence firms’ location preferences in regards to local, regional  
164 and (inter)national mobility infrastructures (Maggioni, 2002). For instance, high-tech  
165 firms could be categorized into two types in order to assess their regional and  
166 (inter)national accessibility needs. The first type includes service providers (i.e.  
167 engineering/architectural/drafting services, web-developer/software publishers,  
168 private Research and Development (R&D) labs) that produce immaterial  
169 commodities like professional and consultation services. These industries do not  
170 require production and distribution of goods or logistic mobility. The second type  
171 includes high-tech manufacturing industries (i.e. IT/semiconductors manufacturing,  
172 communication equipment, biopharmaceutical/biological products). Relying on e-  
173 commerce, just-in-time delivery, and time-sensitive distribution, these firms likely

174 seek strong road and air mobility to satisfy their regional and (inter)national  
175 accessibility demands.

176         Specific labor needs could also lead to different local and regional accessibility  
177 preferences. For example, pharmaceutical research organizations or medical device  
178 firms, require a more homogenous, very specialized workforce (Mellander, 2009).  
179 Other high-tech firms, such as large manufacturing businesses, employ a range of  
180 occupations (i.e. accountants, software engineers, traditional manufacturing jobs,  
181 health-care assistants, and service jobs) as opposed to a highly specialized  
182 workforce (Kimmelberg and Nicoll, 2012). While regional accessibility helps large high-  
183 tech manufacturing firms to have access to a wider labor market supporting their  
184 diverse occupational demands, the success of other firms often depends on their  
185 ability to attract and retain quality skilled workers.

186         In this regard, recent literature has emphasized the role of quality-of-life factors  
187 in location decisions by the creative class including walking and transit amenities  
188 (Zandiatashbar and Hamidi, 2018). In addition to walkability, commuting by transit is  
189 also the lifestyle of millennials and university graduates who are relatively more car-  
190 free (Hamidi and Zandiatashbar, 2018). Millennials own 12% fewer cars than  
191 previous generations, are less likely to be licensed drivers, and live in denser places,  
192 which have on average twice the level of transit access to jobs as compared to older  
193 generations (Klein and Smart, 2017). While the demand for a highly specialized  
194 workforce justify the need for walking and transit amenities, there exist several types  
195 of high-tech firms which do not necessarily benefit from place-based amenities for  
196 their workforce recruitment. As these firms (i.e. IT, communication technologies)  
197 have footloose economic activities and flexible production systems, they prefer a  
198 more part-time and flexible workforce. This workforce often joins organizational



199 teams remotely using online spaces, which makes these new economic activities  
200 increasingly personalized rather than place-based (Audirac, 2005).

201 High-tech firms' different customer markets could also lead to different  
202 transportation preferences for local, regional and (inter)national accessibilities.  
203 Financial consultants, legal services or headquarters of IT or aerospace companies  
204 resonate with Sassen's (1991) concept of global cities in which nations are firmly  
205 connected and draw on a global market of customers. As a result, air mobility and  
206 online interactions are becoming increasingly important modes of transaction and  
207 transportation. Airports on the other hand are also expanding their functionality  
208 beyond air mobility by adding a variety of business and commercial functions into  
209 passenger terminals (i.e. magazine shops, restaurants, boutiques, VIP rooms, co-  
210 working spaces) or on the landside (i.e. hotels, offices, conference and exhibition  
211 centers) to serve these needs (Kasarda, 2000). However, local accessibility might  
212 matter more for some high-tech industries (i.e. facilities support services, computer  
213 services, engineering and architectural services, and placement services) as service  
214 to the local customer base is important. Accordingly, per Christaller's central place  
215 theory, these industries are considered a high-order service category, which unlike  
216 low or medium order services, need to concentrate in walkable and transit accessible  
217 Central Business Districts (CBDs) in order to have access to a wider customer  
218 market area (Zandiatashbar and Hamidi, 2018).

219 Lastly, high-tech firms' land uses may be different due to land costs as these  
220 have been a critical factor in business location decision and transportation  
221 preferences per classical location theory (Maggioni, 2002). High-tech industries that  
222 involve manufacturing (i.e. IT manufacturing, semiconductor manufacturing, control  
223 instrument manufacturing, aerospace products/manufacturing, and navigational

224 equipment production) require larger land areas for their production processes, and  
225 technical or R&D activities. Thus, these businesses are drawn to the peripheries, or  
226 the newly developed employment sub-centers in edge cities in order to minimize  
227 land cost. Accessibility to these locations therefore require roadway systems  
228 (Maggioni, 2002), which have implications about sustainable urban development  
229 strategies and outcomes.

230

### 231 **3. Methods:**

#### 232 **3.1. Sample & Study Area:**

233 In this study, we analyzed high-tech firms in four Metropolitan Statistical Areas  
234 (MSAs) in Texas and California. We selected San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward  
235 (SFO), San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara (SJSC), and Santa Cruz-Watsonville  
236 (SCW) metropolitan areas which compose the economic territory of the Bay Area in  
237 Northern California. We also included Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington (DFW)  
238 metropolitan area in North Texas. Generally, a metropolitan area is a region that  
239 consists of a densely populated urban core and less-populated territories that are  
240 economically and socially linked. With respect to the high-tech economy, Texas and  
241 California hold almost 25% of U.S. high-tech employment and are the top two states  
242 in the national share of IT and pharmaceutical employment (Feser et al., 2005). In  
243 addition, our selected regions are home to high concentrations of high-tech activity.  
244 According to Brookings, excluding SCW MSA, our sample regions are among the  
245 U.S. top-five metro areas in terms of 2010-2015 high-tech job growth (Muro and Liu,  
246 2017). Furthermore, the Bay area holds more than 56% and DFW holds more than  
247 32% of their states' ITC employees, respectively. This evidence confirms that our  
248 sample regions stand out in high-tech economic growth both statewide and

249 nationally. Despite these regions being largely auto-oriented (Ewing, 2008; Ewing  
250 and Hamidi, 2017), their built environments were developed during the rise of the  
251 knowledge economy. Analysis of these regions would, therefore, shed lights on  
252 which high-tech zones are more prominent in these areas and how they are  
253 associated with proximity to different transportation infrastructures.

254 In this study, we included 32,279 high-tech firms and 8,363 census block  
255 groups in the study area. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) classifies high-tech  
256 firms in three levels based on R&D intensity:

257 Level I: 5 times greater than average employment share in STEM fields

258 Level II: 3-4.9 times greater than average employment share in STEM fields

259 Level III: 2-2.9 times greater than average employment share in STEM fields

260 The BLS also adjusts this classification based on R&D output. About 10 out of  
261 14 sectors in level I produce R&D outputs while only 4 out of 11 sectors in level II.  
262 No sector in level III produces R&D outputs (Heckler, 2005). For this analysis, we  
263 applied the BLS level I definition of high-tech firms.

264

### 265 **3.2. Data and Variables:**

266 Table 1 shows the list of variables and data sources used in our analysis. Firm  
267 level data is drawn from the ESRI Business Dataset (2016), which is based on  
268 Infogroup data covering 100% of firm counts in the U.S. From this data source, we  
269 extracted the BLS high-tech level I firms in our study area. We obtained metropolitan  
270 area and census block group shape files for 2016 using Topologically Integrated  
271 Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) in ESRI shape file format. Using  
272 these shape files and Arc GIS, we aggregated our business data to the block group  
273 level as our unit of measurement. We also used 2016 census block group population

274 and land area in order to control for the size of a block group. In addition, we used  
 275 the CBDs in ESRI shape file format obtained from Hamidi (2015), which identifies the  
 276 location of CBDs (MSA's hotspot block groups in terms of employment density) using  
 277 spatial statistic techniques (Local Moran's I). Finally, we used the Walkscore API  
 278 package in R and collected Walkscores and Transit Scores for the firms within the  
 279 specialized high-tech zones.

280

<b>TABLE 1: Data and Variables Used in the Study</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Mean (s.d.)</b>
<i>HT_Emp</i>	BLS level I high-tech employment	EBD (2016)	55.85(523.601)
<i>HT_Den</i>	BLS level I high-tech employment density in block group (/sqmile)	EBD & ACS (2016)	137.37(1000.105)
<i>HT_Pop</i>	BLS level I high-tech employment per capita in block group	EBD & ACS (2016)	44.75(437.64)
<i>HT</i>	<i>HT_EMP</i> , <i>HT_Den</i> , <i>HT_POP</i> combined using factor analysis	EBD & ACS (2016)	0.00(1)
<i>Walkscore</i>	Firm's Walkscore obtained from Walkscore Inc.	Walkscore Inc. (2018)	58.55 (29.1)
<i>Transit Scores</i>	Firm's Transit Score obtained from Walkscore Inc.	Walkscore Inc. (2018)	56.11 (30.34)
<i>Airport Scores</i>	Reversed and normalized measure of firm's network distance to the nearest primary hub international airport	EBA Street Route & FAA (2018)	64.86 (19.69)
<i>Auto Score</i>	Normalized number of amenities accessible via 20-minute driving from a high-tech firm.	EBA Street Route & US Inforgroup (2016)	61.57 (22.13)
EBD = ESRI Business Dataset ACS = American Community Survey EBA = ESRI Business Analyst LEHD = Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics FAA= Federal Aviation Administration s.d.=Standard Deviation			

281

### 282 **3.3. Analytical Methods:**

283 Our methodology for identifying the location of specialized high-tech zones and  
 284 analyzing high-tech firms has three main phases: (1) identifying high-tech zone  
 285 candidates; (2) developing a specialization typology; and (3) analyzing the difference  
 286 between high-tech specializations in terms of transportation infrastructure measures.

287 In phase 1, we use local spatial statistics to identify the location of significant  
288 clustering of high-tech employment. In phase 2, we use the classification from the  
289 U.S. Cluster Mapping Project (Delgado et al., 2015) and location quotients to identify  
290 specialized high-tech zones and develop a typology for them. In phase 3, we use  
291 descriptive statistics and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to evaluate the difference  
292 between high-tech firms residing in the specialized zones.

### 293 **3.3.1. Phase 1: Identifying High-Tech Zone Candidates:**

294 According to BLS, a high-tech firm demonstrates a high level of R&D intensity  
295 in both inputs (employee, supplies, process) and outputs (products) (Heckler, 2005).  
296 As discussed before, in this analysis, we included 14 industries that are considered  
297 BLS high-tech level I. The high level of R&D in these industries is due to their high  
298 share of STEM educated employment and R&D products (i.e. pharmaceutical  
299 products, scientific R&D services, navigational, measuring, electromedical, or control  
300 instruments, etc.). Although BLS level I includes a small fraction of high-tech  
301 industries compared to other lists, it accurately accounts for R&D in both input and  
302 output. Table 2 presents further details for these industries.

303 To identify high-tech zone candidates, we applied a spatial modeling technique.  
304 Recent studies have applied spatial modeling techniques such as spatial statistics to  
305 identify the level of clustering of economic activities in various geographies across  
306 the country. These techniques have been used more to detect the monocentric or  
307 polycentric spatial structures of the regions, changes in the location of CBDs or to  
308 locate employment sub-centers (Hajrasouliha and Hamidi, 2017; Hamidi, 2015).  
309 While the use of spatial statistics in location analysis of high-tech clusters is limited,  
310 Feser and his colleagues (2005) used Getis-ord  $G_i^*$  statistics to identify the clusters  
311 of U.S. counties that encompass strong economic activities. In addition to Getis-ord

312  $G_i^*$ , Koo (2005) used the local Moran's I statistics to examine the geographical  
313 patterns of knowledge-based clusters in U.S. counties using employment and  
314 patents. Local Moran's I identifies cases of positive (HH, LL) and negative (HL, LH)  
315 spatial autocorrelation, while the Getis-Ord  $G_i^*$  identifies cases with positive  
316 autocorrelation with a more straightforward definition and readily interpretable output  
317 (Getis and Ord, 1992). As we were interested in all clusters of positive values, we  
318 chose local Getis- Ord  $G_i^*$  statistics.

319 Our methodology addresses three major shortcomings that exist in previous  
320 studies analyzing the geography of high-tech clusters. First, the criteria used for  
321 identifying high-tech industries failed to control for the R&D intensity of the output, or  
322 they are inconsistent across the studies. For instance, some studies only included  
323 ten sectors (Wu et al., 2016), while others included more than 100 industries (Feser  
324 et al., 2005). Second, previous high-tech cluster analyses that used spatial statistics,  
325 could not remove the sources of heterogeneity, which stem from their  
326 methodological approaches. For instance, in our analysis, since San Francisco and  
327 San Jose have a substantive share of high-tech employees in the nation, the local  
328 spatial peaks in Dallas could be dismissed. To address this shortcoming, we ran our  
329 analysis on a one-by-one basis for all MSAs in the study area. Lastly, the unit of  
330 analysis in such studies is not finer than county level boundaries, which limits  
331 detecting local specialized high-tech clusters. Studying the impacts of firms on their  
332 surrounding urban developments and locational attributes require identifying  
333 specialized clusters at a finer geography. We address this shortcoming by using a  
334 firm-level dataset.

335 In terms of the variables used for spatial statistics analysis of high-tech (and  
336 other types of) employment clusters or sub-centers, studies have employed different

337 approaches. Total employment, residual of regressed high-tech employment on total  
338 employment, patent numbers, high-tech plant counts, employment density, and  
339 employment-to-population ratio measures are among the widely used variables  
340 (Fallah et al., 2013; Feser et al., 2005; Hajrasouliha and Hamidi, 2017). Employment  
341 density or employment-to-population ratio control for the size of a unit (compared to  
342 the number of total jobs); however, they come with shortcomings. There exist cases  
343 that the block group's land area, while included in the census' land area, is not  
344 developable. These cases are often around specific ecological reserves. We  
345 encountered such examples in our analysis particularly on the southeast side of the  
346 Bay area in Northern California. An employment-to-population ratio could be used as  
347 a substitute; however, outliers would still exist as low-populated block groups with  
348 small numbers of high-tech employment would result in high ratios. To overcome  
349 these challenges, we used factor analysis and defined a new value, *HT*, which is an  
350 index, composed of the number of high-tech employees, high-tech employment  
351 density and high-tech employment-to-population ratio. We used factor analysis to  
352 estimate *HT*, which includes factor loadings of 0.916 for employment, 0.700 for  
353 employment density, and 0.903 employment-to-population ratio. The factor analysis  
354 also provided three index options. The first option has an eigenvalue of 2.146, which  
355 includes 71.53% of variance. The second option has an eigenvalue of 0.662, which  
356 explains 22.1% of variance, and the third option has an eigenvalue of 0.192, which  
357 explains only 6.4% of variance. Hence, we selected the first option for our *HT*.

358 Using the *HT* factor for every census block group, we estimated the local Getis-  
359 Ord  $G_i^*$  for each MSA in the study area separately. This analysis compares the sum  
360 *HT* value of a block group's neighbors (local sum) to the overall sum *HT* value of an  
361 MSA. When the local sum is higher than the total sum, and that difference is too

362 large to be the result of random chance, there would be a statistically high chance  
363 that this group of block groups is a hotspot. Ultimately, we identified a cluster of  
364 neighboring block groups with high *HT* values (hotspot) as a high-tech zone  
365 candidate.

The Getis-Ord  $G_i^*$  is defined as:

$$G_i^* = \frac{\sum_j^n w_{ij} x_j}{\sum_j x_j} \quad (1)$$

366 Where:

367 The numerator is the sum of all values in the neighborhood of  $i$ .

368 The denominator is the sum of all values in the study area.

369  $G_i^*$  is the percentage of the total sum found in the neighborhood of  $i$

370

371 We also used the False Discover Rate (FDR) adjustment to control for the  
372 presence of “overlapping subsets” in the analysis. This overlapping is caused  
373 because the data used to produce a local statistic at block group  $i$  is also used to  
374 produce the statistics for nearby block groups. The FDR procedure controls for the  
375 expected proportion of incorrectly rejected null hypotheses or “false discoveries.” We  
376 used the ‘spden’ and ‘psych’ packages in R for estimating the Getis-Ord  $G_i^*$  and  
377 factor analysis estimating the *HT*.

378 As the result of hotspot analysis, we found 30 high-tech zones. Figure 1  
379 illustrates the location of high-tech zones in DFW and the Bay Area. All the zones  
380 are labeled with ID numbers, which we will refer to in presenting the results.

381 In DFW, as shown in figure 2, we found the highest G-values (strongest high-  
382 tech cluster) in zone 4, which is the city of Plano’s newly developed *The Grand at*  
383 *Legacy West High-Tech Urban Village*. This multiuse district was initially planned to  
384 be North Texas’ IT, data, software, and telecommunication core (Audirac, 2002;



385 Taylor and Singleton, 1996). Ongoing developments in this district including Plano's  
386 financial incentives (i.e. tax abatements, economic development grants, tax  
387 increment finance) have attracted several high-tech corporations and their  
388 workforces (Brass, 2016). In the Bay area, the strongest high-tech cluster is found in  
389 zone 3 in the city of Fremont. This cluster includes a corridor of high-tech firms that  
390 extend along Interstate 880 including the Tesla factory, Western Digital Corp, and  
391 Life Scan Inc. The major difference between these two high-tech clusters is that in  
392 Plano, IT and telecommunication are the major industries, while in Fremont the high-  
393 tech corridor includes these two industries as well as pharmaceutical industries.  
394

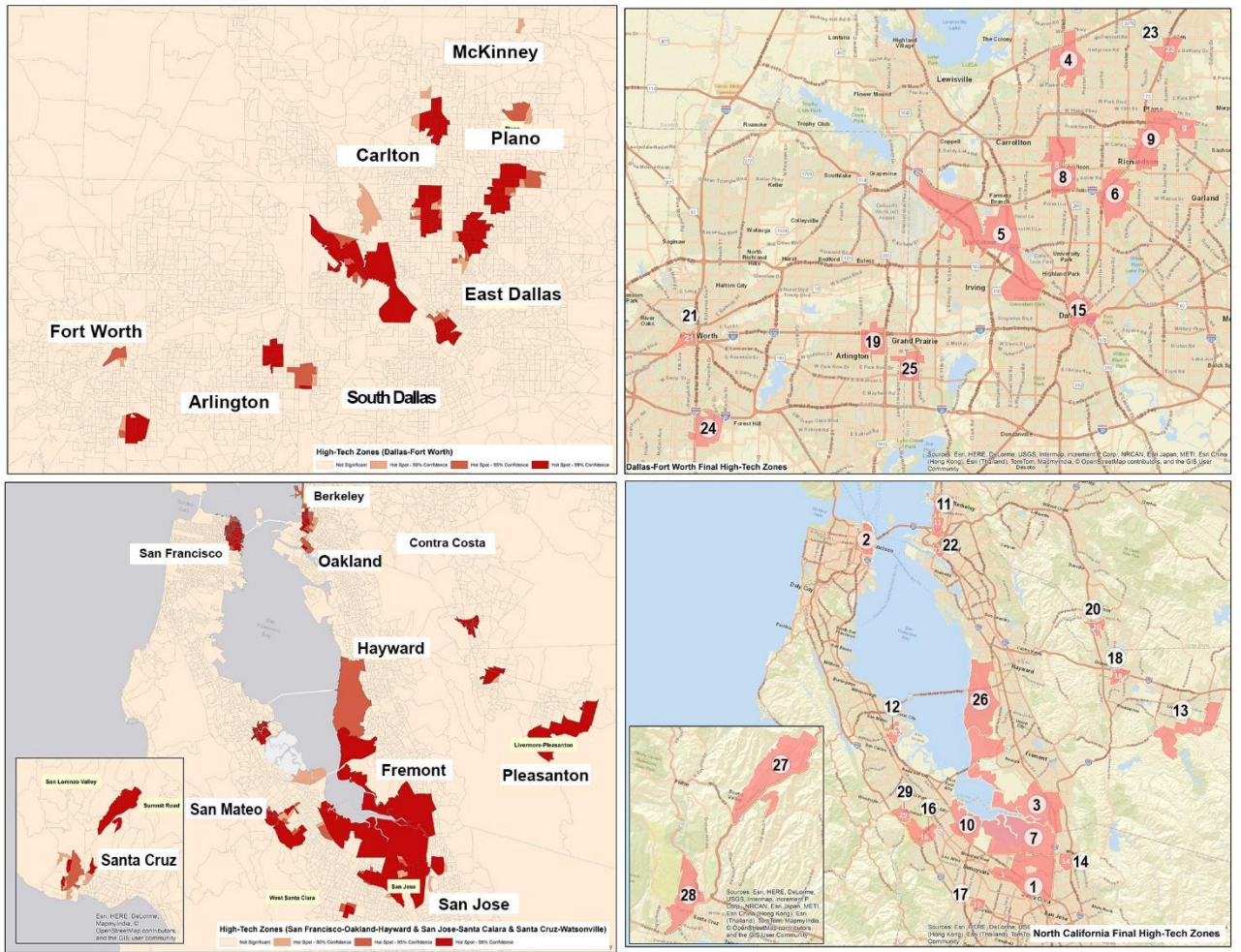


FIGURE 1: Results of hotspot analysis

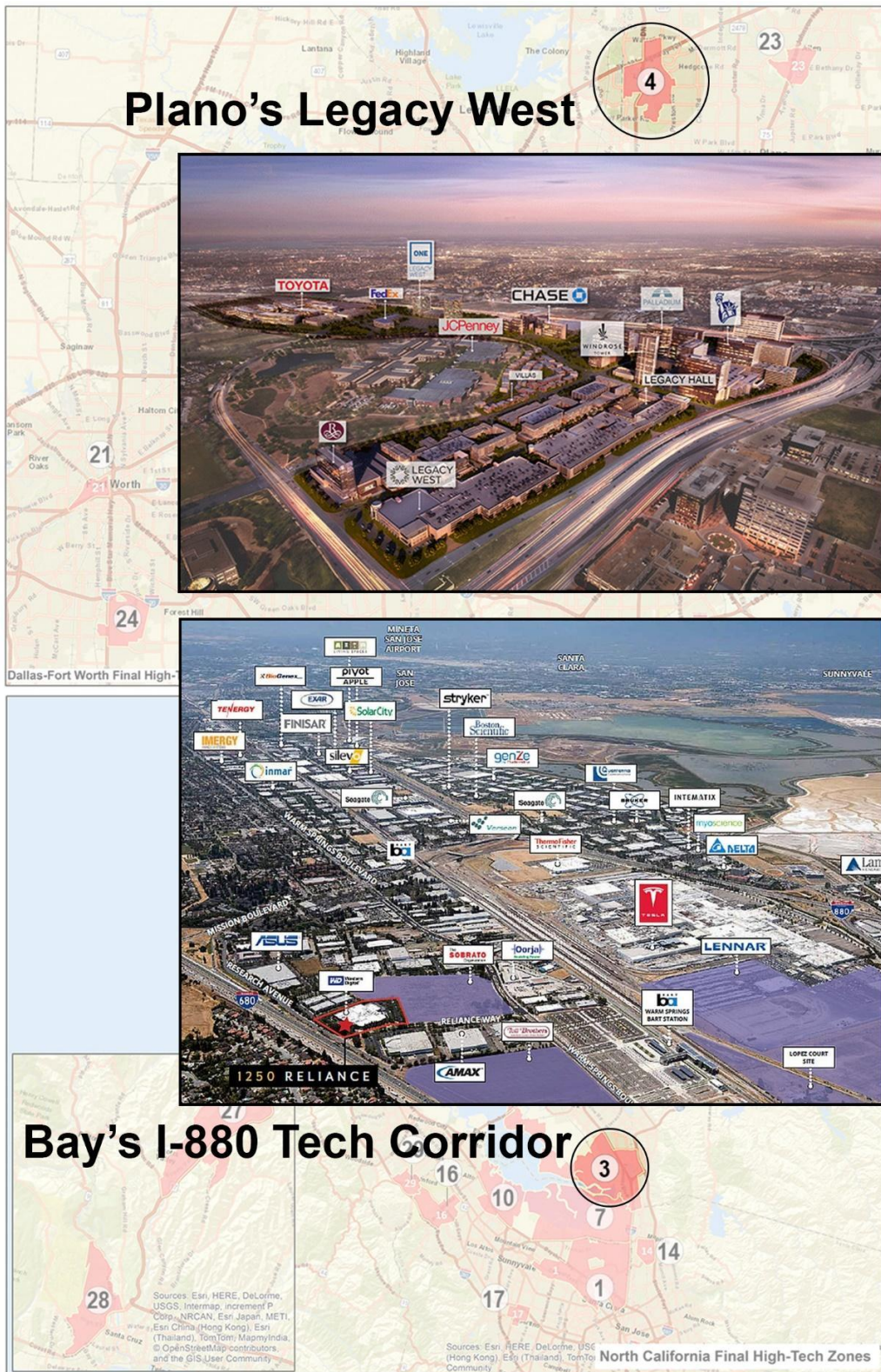


FIGURE 2: Areas with highest G-values (Brass, 2016; "Miramar Capital," n.d.)

398

399

400 **3.3.2. Phase 2: Specialization Typology and Profile of the Zones:**

401 After identifying the high-tech zone candidates, we classify the 14 BLS high-  
 402 tech level I sectors into six categories. Each category includes the sectors that have  
 403 the strongest inter-industry linkages based on co-location patterns, input-output links,  
 404 and similarities in labor occupations. We use the same methodology as the U.S.  
 405 Cluster Mapping project which used six-digit NAICS codes to classify 778 industries  
 406 in manufacturing and services into 51 sector categories (TABLE 2).  
 407

<b>TABLE 2: high-tech specializations and number of zones we found for each category</b> (Delgado et al., 2010; Heckler, 2005).	
<b>Specialization</b>	
<b>1) Information Technology and Analytical Instruments</b>	This cluster consists of information technology and analytical products such as computers, software, audio visual equipment, laboratory instruments, and medical apparatus as well as standard and precision electronics used by these products (e.g. circuit boards and semiconductor devices). <i>Industries included:</i> NAICS 5112: Software Publishers, NAICS 3341: Computer & Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing, NAICS 3344: Semiconductor Manufacturing, NAICS 3345: measuring, electromedical, and control instrument manufacturing
<b>2) Aerospace Devices</b>	Establishments in this cluster manufacture aircraft, space vehicles, guided missiles, and related parts. This cluster also contains firms that manufacture the necessary search and navigation equipment used by these products. <i>Industries:</i> NAICS 3364: Aerospace products/manufacturing, NAICS 334511: Navigational equipment
<b>3) Bio-pharmaceutical</b>	Establishments in this cluster produce complex chemical and biological substances used in medications, vaccines, diagnostic tests, and similar medical applications. <i>Industries:</i> NAICS 3254: Biopharmaceutical Products, Biological Products, Diagnostic Substances
<b>4) Services</b>	Firms in this cluster provide services primarily designed to support other businesses such as consulting, legal services, facilities support services, computer services, engineering and architectural services, and placement services. This includes corporate headquarters. <i>Industries:</i> NAICS 5182 & 5415: Data Processing, system design and computer services, NAICS 5413: Engineering Services, Architectural and Drafting Services
<b>5) Communications Equipment and Services</b>	This cluster involves goods and services used for communications such as cable, wireless, and satellite services, as well as telephone, broadcasting, and wireless communications equipment. <i>Industries:</i> NAICS 3342: Communications equipment manufacturing, NAICS 5179: Other telecommunications
<b>6) Education and Knowledge Creation</b>	This cluster includes research and development institutions in biotechnology, physical sciences, engineering, life sciences, and social sciences. <i>Industries:</i> NAICS 5417: Research Organization

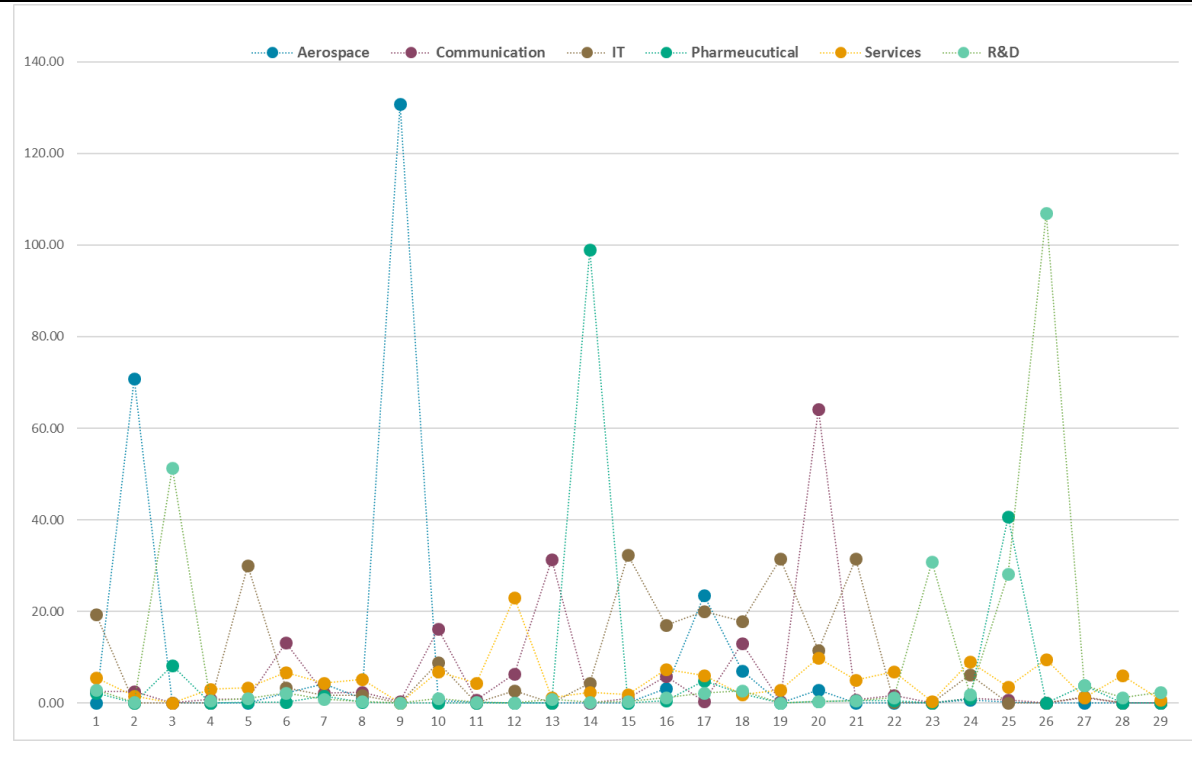
408

409 We measure the specialization of high-tech zones by computing the location  
410 quotients (LQ) for each of the six categories. LQs have been widely used to study  
411 the specializations of high-tech MSAs or counties (Cortright and Mayer, 2001; Fallah  
412 et al., 2013). We define specialized zones as areas with an LQ greater than 1.5 for  
413 at least one category in Table 2. The cut off value of 1.5 indicates that the high-tech  
414 share of a zone's employment is 1.5 times greater than the state's share of high-tech  
415 employment. This cut off value is borrowed from similar studies (Cortright and  
416 Mayer, 2001). Accordingly, we dropped one high-tech zone candidate with an LQ of  
417 1.19 for R&D, 0.99 for services and 0 for the other sectors, which led to our final set  
418 of 29 specialized high-tech zones in both regions.

419 The zones could specialize in multiple categories if they have LQs of greater  
420 than 1.5. Figure 3 is a linear chart of location quotients for these 29 zones. The chart  
421 reflects strong within group differences of six LQs for these 29 zones. In other words,  
422 in each zone, one or a few specializations have significantly higher LQs, which were  
423 then selected as specialization types. Table 3 presents the number of zones we  
424 found specialized in each category. As illustrated in Figure 4, among our 29  
425 specialized zones, eight zones have mixed specializations and 21 are single type.  
426 Four single type zones are CBDs and specialize in the services category. IT was  
427 found to be the most frequent and dominant specialization across our specialized  
428 high-tech zones.

429

**FIGURE 3: Linear Chart; Location Quotients in High-Tech Zones**



430

**TABLE 3: Frequency of Zone Types**

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Aerospace</b>	2	6.9	6.9
<b>Aerospace, IT</b>	1	3.4	10.3
<b>Communication</b>	2	6.9	17.2
<b>Communication, IT</b>	1	3.4	20.7
<b>Communication, IT, Services</b>	1	3.4	24.1
<b>IT</b>	6	20.7	44.8
<b>IT, Aerospace, Services</b>	1	3.4	48.3
<b>IT, Communication</b>	1	3.4	51.7
<b>Pharmaceutical</b>	1	3.4	55.2
<b>Pharmaceutical, R&amp;D</b>	1	3.4	58.6
<b>R&amp;D</b>	4	13.8	72.4
<b>R&amp;D, Pharmaceutical</b>	1	3.4	75.9
<b>Services</b>	6	20.7	96.6
<b>Services, IT</b>	1	3.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	29	100.0	

431

432

433

Moreover, we found in general, IT, aerospace, services, and communication

434

zone types locate either in proximity to major highway systems, in urban cores, or

435

nearby other transportation infrastructures such as railroads or airports. As shown in

436 Figure 4, most IT zones are located along interstates or major highway networks. For  
437 instance, zone 6 is the Telecom Corridor, a technology business center that has  
438 been a booming area of Dallas's economy since the late 1990s. As shown in Figure  
439 4, this zone is extending along highway U.S. 75 (North Central Expressway)  
440 following zones 9 and 23. Other high-tech zones in DFW (zones 4, 5 and 8) follow  
441 the same pattern along President George Bush Turnpike.

442 In line with the logistics demands in the global and e-commerce economy, we  
443 found two airport adjacent high-tech zones (zones 1 & 5). Both zones have the same  
444 type which is a mixed specialization of IT, aerospace, communication and services.  
445 In DFW, this zone is a corridor that includes a cluster of airport-induced high-tech  
446 firms extending from DFW international airport to Dallas Love Field airport. In  
447 Northern California, this zone is adjacent to the Mineta San Jose International  
448 Airport. While the Bay area has three major airports, Mineta San Jose and San  
449 Francisco International Airports have been the major destinations for business trips.  
450 The majority of business trips to Silicon Valley fly to Mineta airport since it is located  
451 within the San Jose CBD with less crowded terminals (Witlox et al., 2007). On the  
452 other hand, we found five specialized zones in education, knowledge creation and  
453 bio-pharmaceutical including zone 11 with proximity to U.C. Berkeley, zone 29 in  
454 Palo Alto adjacent to Stanford University, and zone 13, which is home to The Sandia  
455 National Laboratories, one of three national nuclear security administration R&D labs  
456 in the Bay area. We also found Alcon Eye R&D and manufacturing headquarters and  
457 Tarrant County College - South Campus, as possible anchors for a similar zone  
458 (zone 24) in DFW. We found these zones in proximity to educational, medical or  
459 research anchors that were not necessarily a private business or corporation.

460

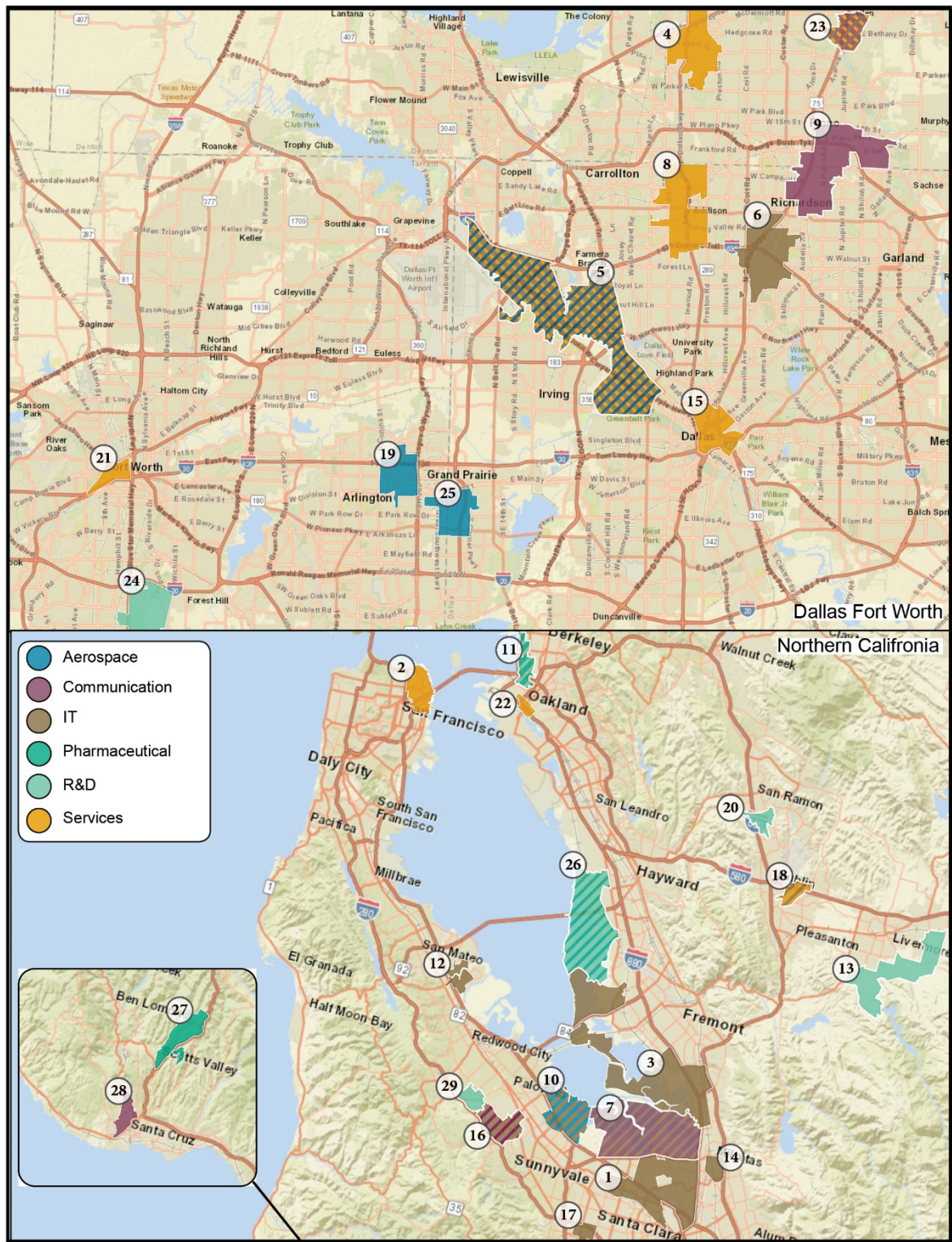


FIGURE 4: High-tech Zone Typology



462 **3.3.3. Phase 3: Mobility Preferences of High-Tech Firms in the Specialized**  
463 **Zones:**

464 In phase 3, we focused on the specialization of high-tech firms in the zones to  
465 assess differences in locational preferences with respect to transportation  
466 infrastructure. We employed ANOVA, which is an analytical method used to test  
467 statistical differences between two or more groups, suitable for our hypothesis. Using  
468 SPSS 23, we ran four firm-level ANOVA models with the results presented in Table  
469 4. Our data for the ANOVA models showed an unequal variance between the groups  
470 so we adjusted the P-values using Bonferroni test. In these models, we used six  
471 high-tech specializations as our factor variables. Our dependent variables are the  
472 following four indicators of transportation infrastructure.

473 First, we used Walkscore and Transit Score indicating local accessibility.  
474 Developed by Walkscore Inc<sup>1</sup>., these scores measure walkability and transit  
475 accessibility for any address point in several countries. For each address, Walkscore  
476 uses walking routes to measure proximity to amenities which are weighted differently  
477 and discounted as the distance to them increases up to one and a half miles, where  
478 they are assumed to be no longer accessible on foot. Transit Score also measures  
479 public transit quality. This measure uses data released by public transit agencies  
480 through General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) including stops and routes for  
481 available modes of public transportation (i.e. local, express, and rapid bus routes,  
482 commuter rail, light rail, streetcar, and subway systems). Using this data, Transit  
483 Score calculates the value of all nearby routes for an address. This value equals to  
484 the frequency per week multiplied by the transit type weight (heavy/light rail is

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.walkscore.com/methodology.shtml>

485 weighted 2X, ferry/cable and street car/other are 1.5X, and bus is 1X) multiplied by a  
486 distance penalty which uses the distance to the nearest stop on a route (Walkscore  
487 Inc., 2014). Second, we developed a regional auto-accessibility score. This score  
488 measures proximity to a range of businesses and amenities within a 20-minute  
489 driving distance of a given high-tech firm. Literature points to these businesses and  
490 amenities as the most frequent trip destinations of individuals (i.e. food stores,  
491 social/religious services, educational services, public health services, etc.) (Hamidi et  
492 al., 2017). For this variable, we used the Network Analysis and street routes in  
493 ArcGIS. Lastly, we developed a score indicating (inter)national accessibility based  
494 on the street route distance to the nearest international primary hub airport using Arc  
495 GIS-based network analysis. According to Federal Aviation Administration's Airports  
496 Category, primary hub airports have more than 10,000 passenger boardings each  
497 year and therefore are used by one or more airlines to concentrate passenger traffic  
498 and flight operations ("Airport Categories – Airports," 2018). Our network analysis,  
499 based on street routes, considers high-tech firms as the origin of a trip and the  
500 nearest airport as the destination. The distance measure was reversed to match the  
501 measurement of the other three variables. Furthermore, all of our scores were  
502 normalized to a range between 0 (lowest accessibility) to 100 (highest accessibility).

503       **3.4. Results:**

504           The results of our ANOVA show that our four accessibility scores are  
505 significantly different between the six high-tech specializations<sup>2</sup>.

506           Figure 5 presents the means of our four scores indicating firms' preferences for  
507 transportation, grouped by their high-tech specializations. Professional services high-  
508 tech specialization has an average Walkscore higher than all other high-tech firms.  
509 The average Walkscore for these firms is 62.25. Walkscore Inc. interprets places  
510 with a Walkscore below 50 as a "car dependent area" (Brewster et al., 2009).  
511 Therefore and according to this interpretation, only services and communication  
512 industries are located in somewhat walkable areas. All other sectors are located, on  
513 average, in car dependent areas. Transit score follows similar patterns between the  
514 high-tech specializations. Additionally, IT and aerospace firms have on average very  
515 low Walk and Transit Scores.

516           On the other hand, IT and aerospace specializations have a higher average  
517 airport-access score when compared to all other specializations. The average  
518 airport-access scores for these two industries are also higher than the average score  
519 for all high-tech firms. In the other words, when compared to all other high-tech firms,  
520 these firms are on average closer to major airports in the region. Lastly, the two  
521 sectors that collectively have low averages in all these scores are pharmaceutical  
522 and R&D firms.

523  
524  
525

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<sup>2</sup> Although these results confirm significant differences between specializations for each score, these scores could be collectively exclusive. Therefore, these four types of accessibility scores are not directly comparable to one another.

**FIGURE 5: Average Scores of Specializations per Mode**



**TABLE 4: ANOVA Results**

		Walkscore	Transit Score	Auto-access Score	Airport Prox. Score
(I)	(J)	Mean Diff. (I-J)	Mean Diff. (I-J)	Mean Diff. (I-J)	Mean Diff. (I-J)
IT	Aerospace	4.509	3.115	-0.2482	4.324
	Bio-pharmaceutical	-7.227	1.891	<b>24.681*</b>	<b>20.165*</b>
	Services	-28.171*	-22.843*	<b>-6.314*</b>	<b>12.625*</b>
	Communication	-17.063*	-14.196*	-7.797*	<b>15.388*</b>
	R&D	-10.945*	2.988	<b>17.473*</b>	<b>21.620*</b>
Aerospace	IT	-4.509	-3.115	0.248	-4.324
	Bio-pharmaceutical	-11.736	-1.225	<b>24.929*</b>	<b>15.841*</b>
	Services	-32.680*	-25.958*	-6.066	8.301
	Communication	-21.572*	-17.311*	-7.548*	<b>11.064*</b>
	R&D	-15.454*	-0.128	<b>17.721*</b>	<b>17.296*</b>
Pharmaceutical	IT	7.227	-1.891	-24.681*	<b>-20.165*</b>
	Aerospace	11.736	1.225	-24.929*	<b>-15.841*</b>
	Services	-20.944*	-24.733*	-30.994*	-7.541
	Communication	-9.836	-16.087	-32.478*	-4.778
	R&D	-3.718	1.097	-7.208	1.454
Services	IT	<b>28.171*</b>	<b>22.843*</b>	<b>6.314*</b>	-12.625*
	Aerospace	<b>32.680*</b>	<b>25.958*</b>	6.065	-8.301
	Bio-pharmaceutical	<b>20.944*</b>	<b>24.733*</b>	<b>30.994*</b>	7.541
	Communication	<b>11.109*</b>	<b>8.647*</b>	-1.483	2.7631
	R&D	<b>17.226*</b>	<b>25.830*</b>	<b>23.787*</b>	<b>8.995*</b>
Communication	IT	<b>17.063*</b>	<b>14.196*</b>	<b>7.797*</b>	-15.388*
	Aerospace	<b>21.572*</b>	<b>17.311*</b>	<b>7.548*</b>	-11.064*
	Bio-pharmaceutical	9.836	16.087	<b>32.478*</b>	4.778
	Services	-11.109*	-8.647*	1.483	-2.763
	R&D	6.117	<b>17.184*</b>	<b>25.270*</b>	<b>6.232*</b>
R&D	IT	<b>10.945*</b>	-2.988	-17.473*	-21.620*
	Aerospace	<b>15.454*</b>	0.128	-17.721*	-17.296*
	Bio-pharmaceutical	3.718	-1.097	7.208	-1.454
	Services	-17.226*	-25.830*	-23.787*	-8.995*
	Communication	-6.117	-17.184*	-25.270*	-6.232*

\*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Bold: Significantly higher value than other sectors

ht: High-Tech Specializations

527

528

The results of our ANOVA models have low P-values (<0.000) and high F-

529

values (69.28 to 171.70). These measures indicate that there are significantly

530

different locational attributes between high-tech specializations with respect to our

531

four accessibility scores. Table 4 presents the results of the four ANOVA analyses of

532

specialized firms. Each column presents results for each ANOVA and the numbers in

533 Table 4 are bold whenever they have a significantly higher mean value than their  
534 paired specializations. For instance, business services have significantly higher  
535 means for Walkscore and transit score compared to all other sectors. On the other  
536 hand, the mean values of airport proximity score are significantly higher for IT than  
537 the other five specializations. The mean value of airport proximity score for  
538 aerospace firms is also significantly higher than others, except for IT firms.

539 Communication and R&D also have significantly higher Walkscore and Transit  
540 Score means when paired with IT and aerospace. Furthermore, the specialized firms  
541 in the communication category have significantly higher means of auto-access score  
542 when paired with with all other high-tech specializations.

#### 543 **4. Discussion and Conclusions:**

544 To ensure cities remain resilient in the face of climate change and economic  
545 uncertainty, planners and policymakers are increasingly interested in policy initiatives  
546 that strengthen regional economies as well as improve urban sustainability.  
547 Emerging smart-sustainable city initiatives suggest that the knowledge economy,  
548 especially high-tech industries, are key to developing innovative solutions to urban  
549 environmental challenges. Further, agglomeration economies and creative class  
550 literatures suggest that these industries thrive in places that are dense, walkable and  
551 transit-accessible. These features support more sustainable land use patterns and  
552 behaviors. As a result, policymakers and planners often employ location incentives  
553 and placemaking to promote innovation districts, knowledge hubs, and other  
554 examples of place-based high-tech clustering to meet both economic and  
555 sustainability goals (Katz and Krueger, 2016; Pancholi et al., 2015; Yigitcanlar et al.,  
556 2008).

557           Although these examples suggest there may be synergies between the high  
558 tech industries and sustainability interests, empirical evidence is limited. Indeed,  
559 preferences for walkability and transit access likely only apply to a subset of high-  
560 tech industries. A large number of high-tech firms may prefer and therefore continue  
561 to produce more auto-centric developments on the urban fringe (Maggioni, 2002). As  
562 policymakers continue to pursue knowledge-based economic development  
563 strategies, it is important to identify transportation preferences in order to understand  
564 the role these industries play in promoting certain spatial forms and their implications  
565 for sustainability outcomes.

566           Our empirical results support theoretical work indicating that different types of  
567 high-tech firms have varied preferences for specific transportation infrastructures.  
568 For instance, we found that business services have significantly higher means for  
569 Walkscore and Transit Score compared to all other sectors. Business services  
570 industries include computer/system services and engineering and architecture firms,  
571 which primarily provide services to other businesses, facilities or unrelated  
572 companies (Maggioni, 2002). Consequently, they are highly reliant on a specialized  
573 workforce to deliver high-order services, and therefore concentrate in walkable,  
574 transit accessible CBDs to cover a wider market area (Zandiatashbar and Hamidi,  
575 2018). Furthermore, they provide services or immaterial commodities, which unlike  
576 traditional manufacturers, do not need cheaper, larger or more peripheral land areas  
577 for their manufacturing facilities (Maggioni, 2002). These firms also draw upon the  
578 externalities of frequent face-to-face encounters and tacit knowledge exchange that  
579 stem from their proximity in dense and walkable CBDs.

580           On the other hand, our results confirm that IT sectors have significantly higher  
581 mean values for airport proximity when compared to all other high-tech

582 specializations. Meanwhile these industries have a relatively low average Walkscore  
583 of 34, which suggests they prefer car-dependent areas according to Walkscore Inc's  
584 interpretation. Unlike business services, IT employees mostly exchange codified  
585 knowledge. Studies indicate that online digital interactions could be a substitute for  
586 face-to-face encounters for exchanging codified knowledge (Audirac, 2002; Relph,  
587 1976). Moreover, these firms manufacture, process and distribute goods which need  
588 production facilities usually in auto-accessible peripheries (Audirac, 2005). In  
589 addition, their involvement in e-commerce deepens their demand for fast road and  
590 air mobility (Kasarda, 2000).

591 In addition to IT sectors, we found that the mean value of airport proximity  
592 score for aerospace firms is also significantly higher than all other sectors. The  
593 proximity to airport addresses their need for air mobility, airport facilities and services  
594 (i.e. runways, control tower, hangers) (Haug, 1991).

595 These findings suggest that more critical attention is required for understanding  
596 the relationship between knowledge-based firms and their preferences for  
597 transportation infrastructure. The dominant narrative regarding the spatiality of  
598 knowledge-based clusters suggests that these industries prefer dense, walkable,  
599 mixed use, transit accessible urban environments. Our research supports this theory,  
600 however only partially. Our findings suggest that large numbers of high-tech firms  
601 are still attracted to peripheral, auto-centric spaces, which are at odds with  
602 sustainable transportation policies.

603 This study has a few limitations. First, both DFW and Northern California  
604 regions are largely auto-oriented. It is possible that the high auto and airport  
605 accessibility scores are the result of land use decision-making, transportation  
606 cultures, and zoning laws favoring car dependency in these regions. More studies



607 are needed to investigate these relationships in regions with more diverse land use  
608 and development patterns. Secondly, while this study offers an innovative approach  
609 in identifying the location of high-tech zones, it is not within the scope of this paper to  
610 investigate which factors actually determine high-tech firm location decisions. More  
611 evidence is needed to link the locational preference of high tech firms, inside and  
612 outside the high-tech zones, to other factors widely supported by the literature such  
613 as access to talent, diversity and inclusion (Granpayehvaghei et al., 2019; Hamidi et  
614 al., 2018; Hamidi and Zandiatashbar, 2018b, 2017a, 2017b; Zandiatashbar et al.,  
615 2019; Zandiatashbar and Hamidi, 2018). Furthermore, while our sectorial  
616 classifications come from one of the most widely cited studies done by Harvard's  
617 economist Michael Porter, it is possible that the changes in the classification leads to  
618 the changes in the ANOVA findings.

619 Finally, while our findings confirm that not all high tech industries follow the  
620 same pattern with regard to proximity to transportation infrastructures, we did not  
621 study the reasons behind these sectorial differences. More empirical research is  
622 needed to tackle the transportation preferences of different high tech industries. This  
623 research calls for deeper analyses of high tech firm location preferences and how  
624 economic development, land use and transportation policies could incentivize more  
625 sustainable outcomes.

626 Despite the long-standing debates regarding urban form and sustainability as  
627 well as emerging policies suggesting knowledge-led economic development is  
628 compatible with sustainability agendas, these findings demonstrate that many high-  
629 tech zones may be problematic in terms of their environmental impacts. As the result  
630 of these findings, policymakers may need to attend to the specializations present in

631 their regional economy and balance growth strategies to not only succeed in growing

632 their knowledge economy, but also ensure they are meeting sustainability goals.

633

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