

Andy Abel Celebration Conference

October 14, 2022



Andy teaching in 1983

Spatial Unit Roots

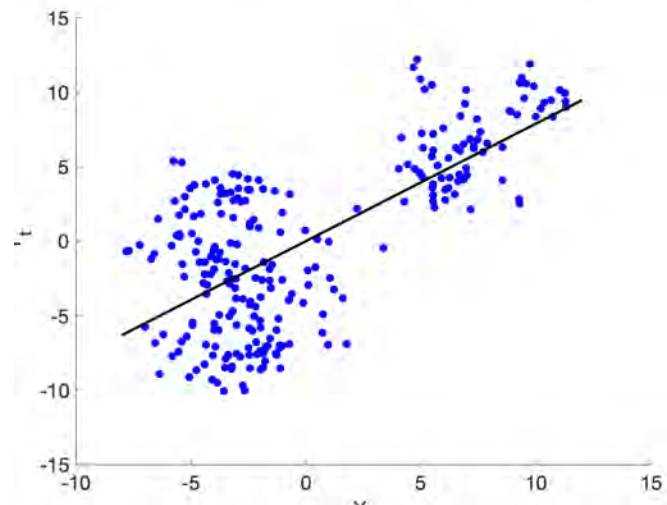
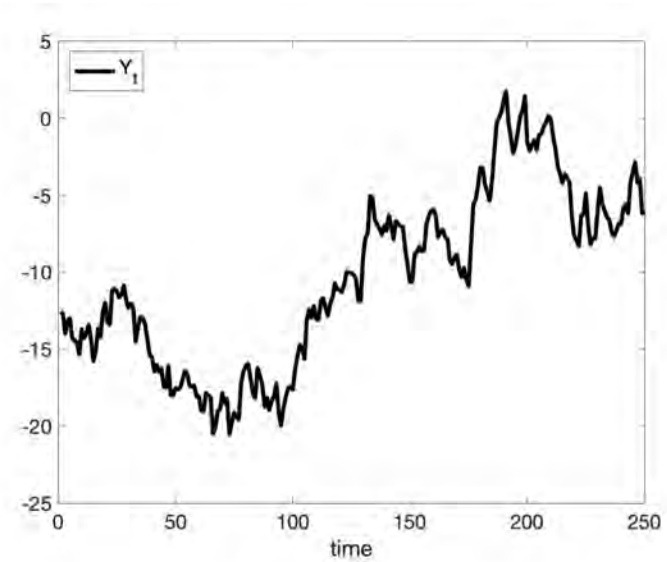
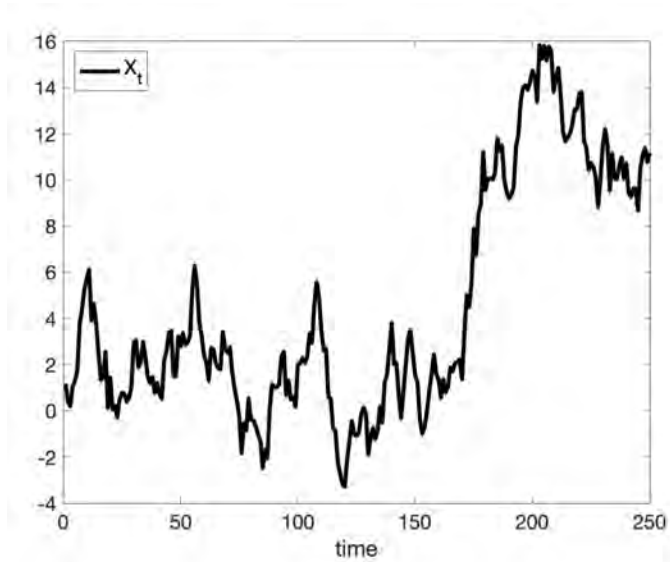
Ulrich K. Müller and Mark W. Watson

Princeton University

October 14, 2022

Andy Abel Celebration Conference

Time Series: Two independent random walks

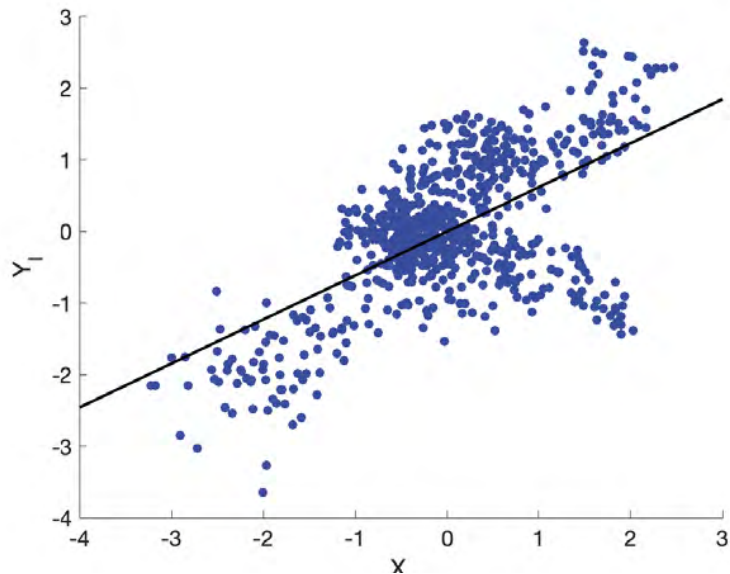
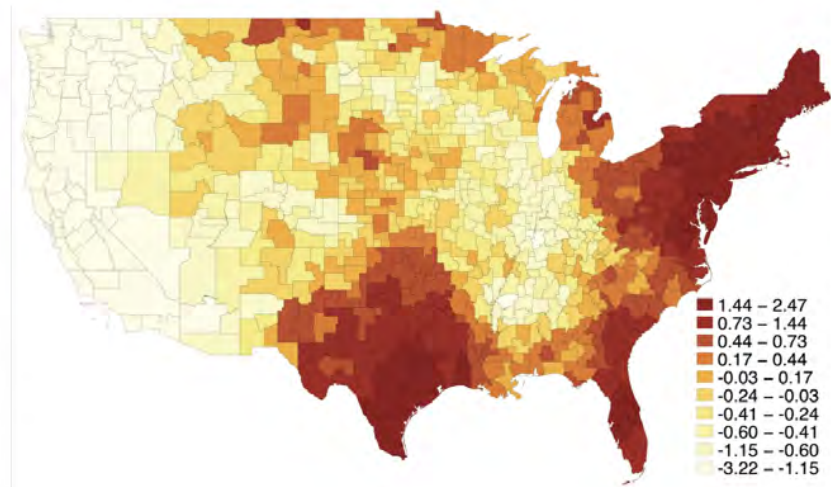
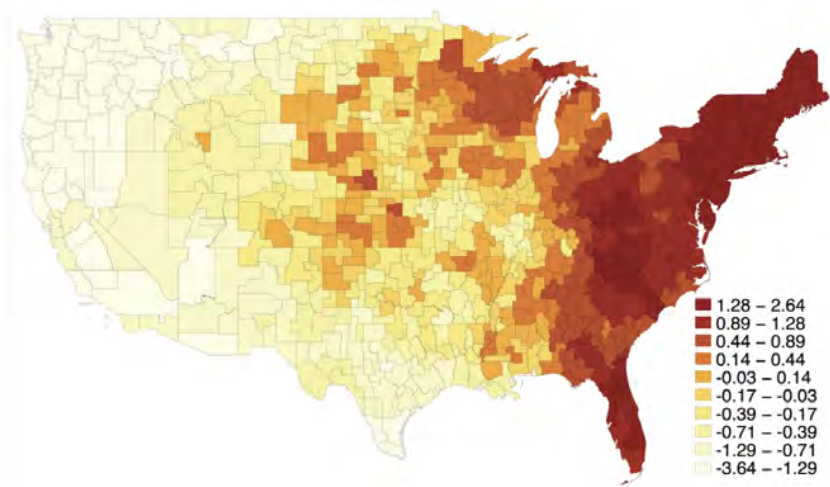


$$\hat{\beta} = 0.79$$

(0.04) (HR)
[0.09] (Newey-West)

$$R^2 = 0.48$$

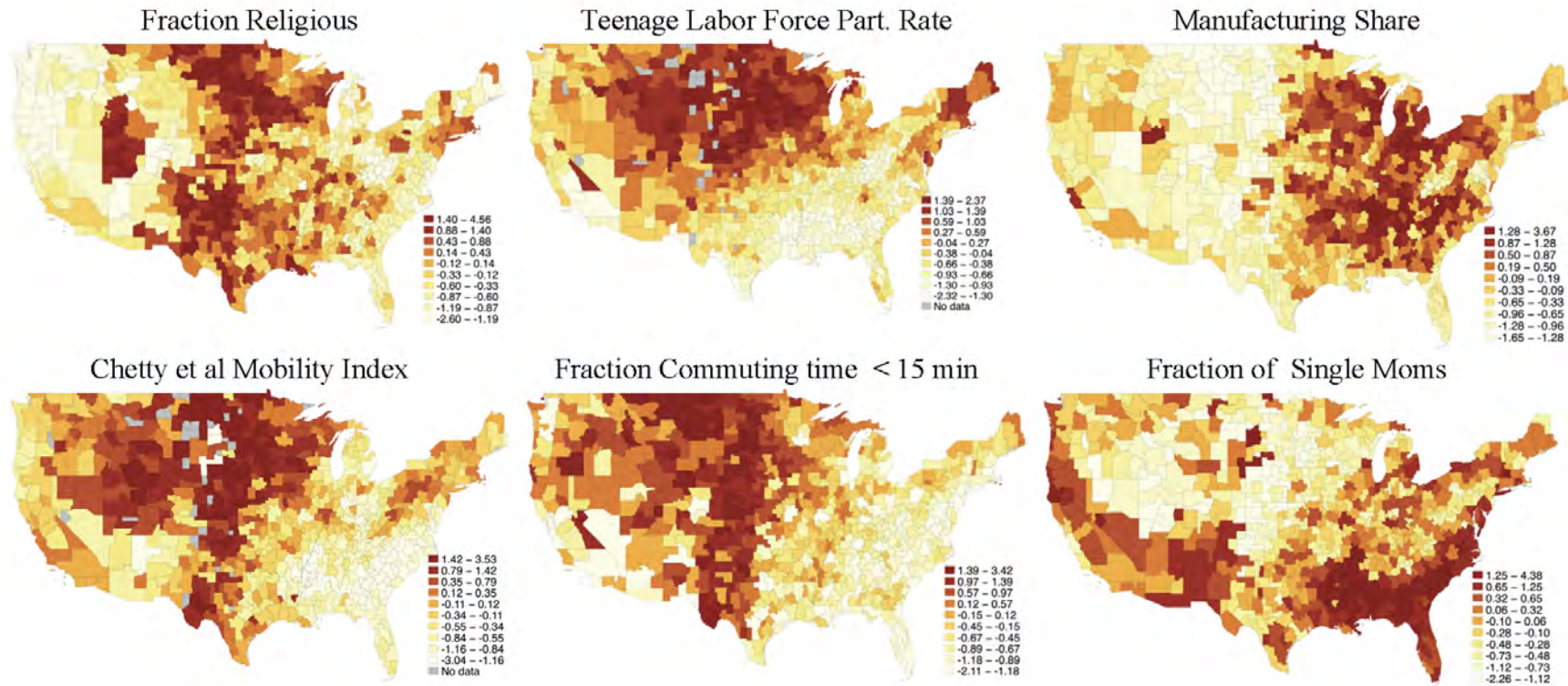
US Commuting Zones: Two independent spatial 'random walks'



$$\hat{\beta} = 0.62 (0.04)$$

$$R^2 = 0.38$$

US Commuting Zones: Are these variables spatial random walks?



Data from Chetty, Hendren, Kline and Saez (2014), 'Land of Opportunity'

Some Questions:

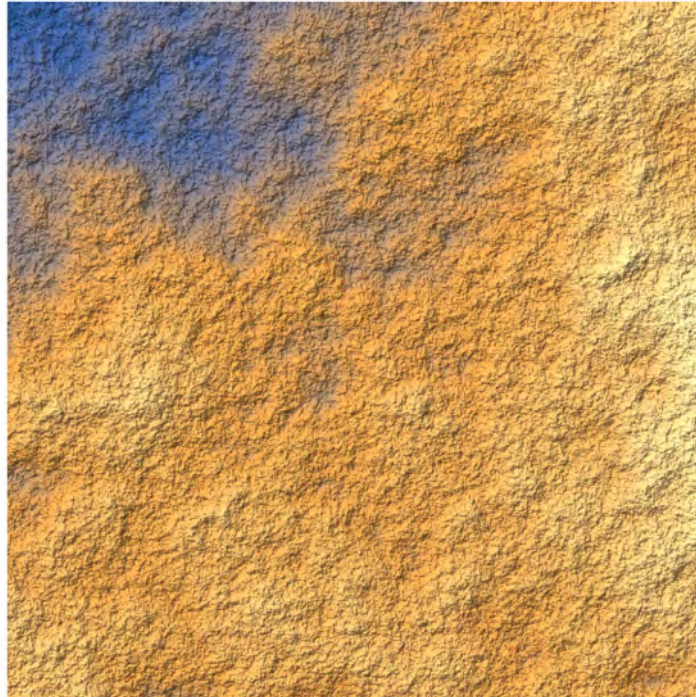
1. What is a spatial random walk?
 - (a) What is a spatial $I(1)$ process?
2. Do spatial $I(1)$ processes lead to spurious regressions?
3. Can you test for spatial 'unit roots' (i.e., $I(1)$ processes)? How?
4. Can you eliminate $I(1)$ spatial persistence by 'differencing' the data? How?
5. Is there a large-sample theory that helps answer these questions?

Question 1: What is a spatial random walk (Brownian motion)?

- Location $s \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ($d = 1$ time series, $d = 2$ geography)
- Levy Brownian motion, $L(s)$

$$- \mathbb{E}[L(s)L(r)] = \frac{1}{2}(|s| + |r| - |s - r|)$$

$$* \text{var}[L(s) - L(r)] = |s - r|, \text{ etc.}$$



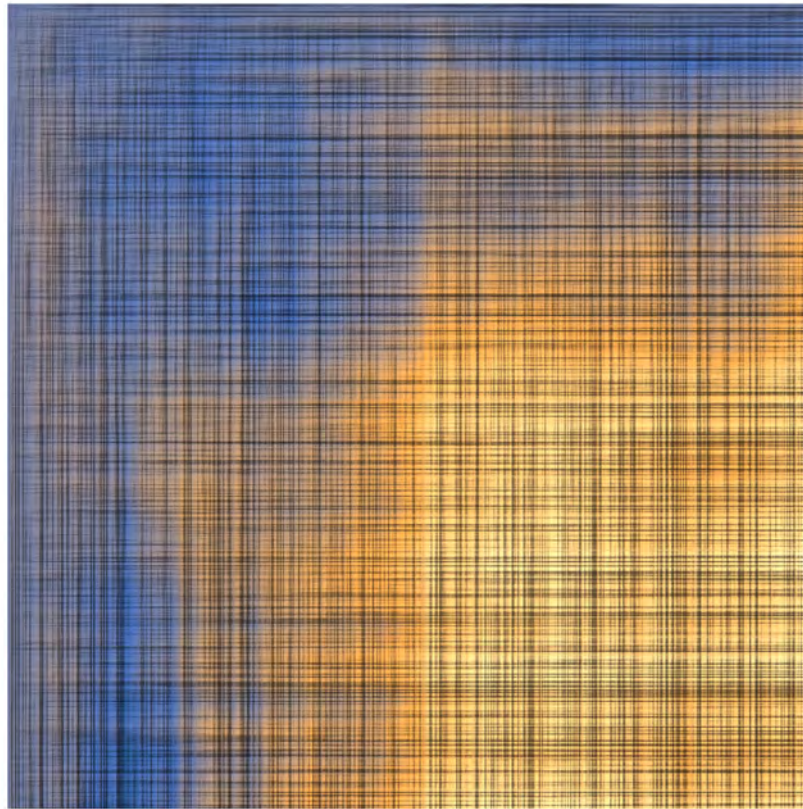
Realization of Levy Brownian Motion, $d = 2$

Notes: Rotation invariant; $d = 1$ Brownian motion along any lines

Question 1 (continued): What is a spatial random walk (Brownian motion)?

- Alternative: Brownian sheet

$$- Y(s), s \geq 0, \mathbb{E}[Y(s)Y(r)] = \prod_{i=1}^d \min(s_i, r_i),$$



Realization of Brownian Sheet

Note: This is a Brownian motion in vertical and horizontal directions. Not otherwise.

Question 1(a) : What is a spatial I(1) process?

- $d > 1$, Spatial $I(1)$ process:

- Levy Browning motion:

$$L(s) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \theta(s, u) dW(u)$$

... (with $\theta(s, u) \propto (|s - u|^{(1-d)/2} - |u|^{(1-d)/2})$)

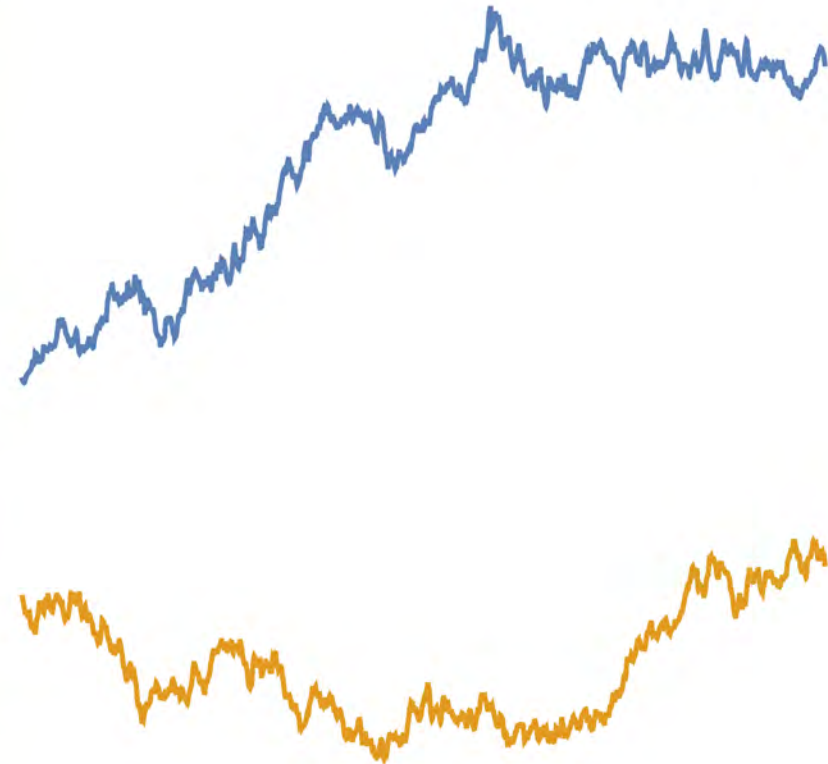
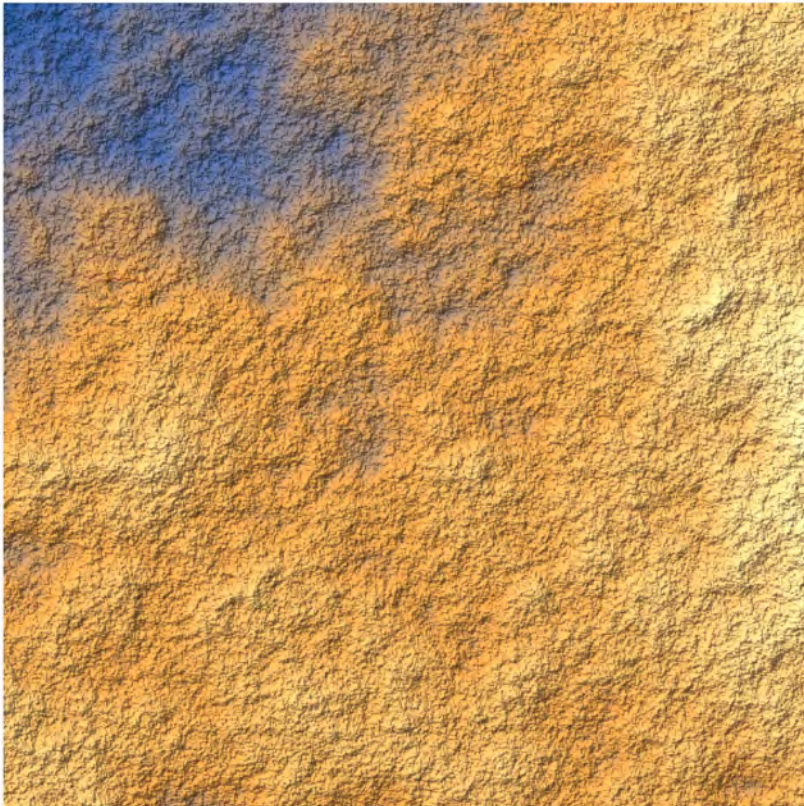
- $I(1)$ process :

$$Y(s) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \theta(s, u) B(u) du$$

where $B(u)$ is a 'weakly dependent' covariance stationary mean zero process (Condition 1 in paper).

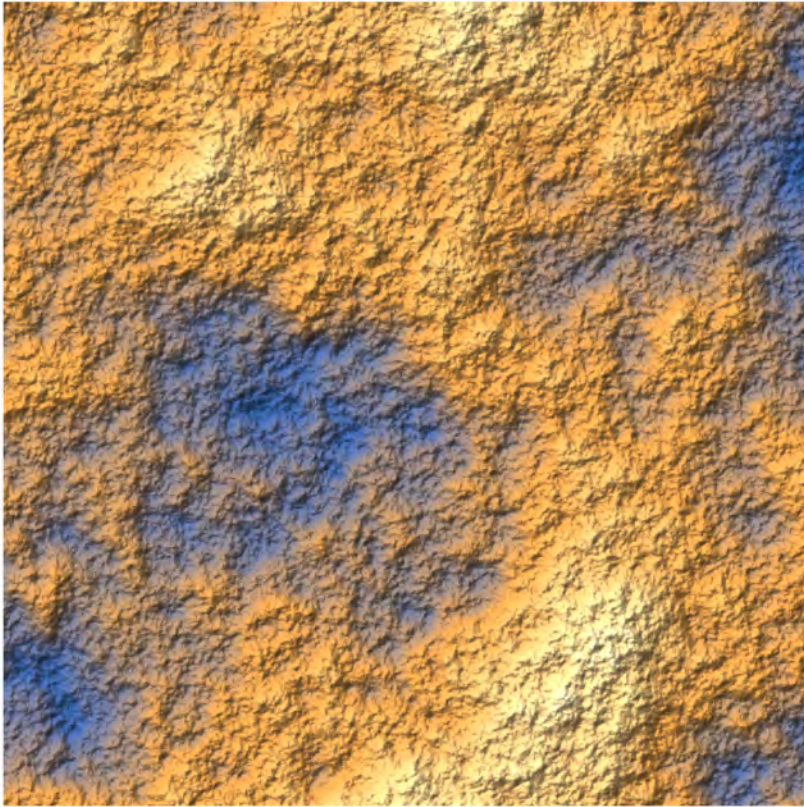
Question 1(a) continued : What is a spatial I(1) process?

- Examples:



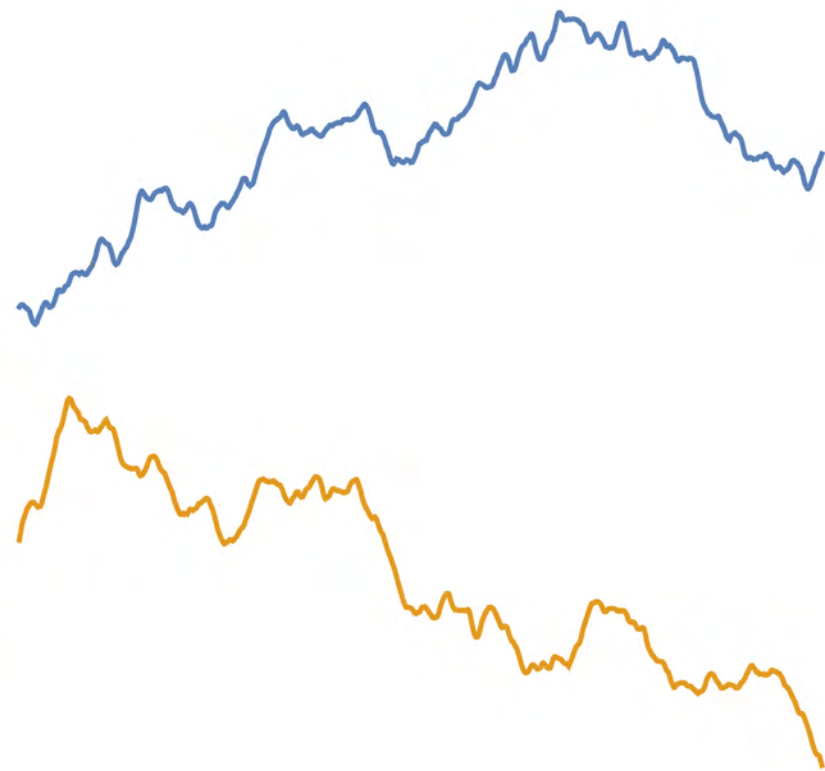
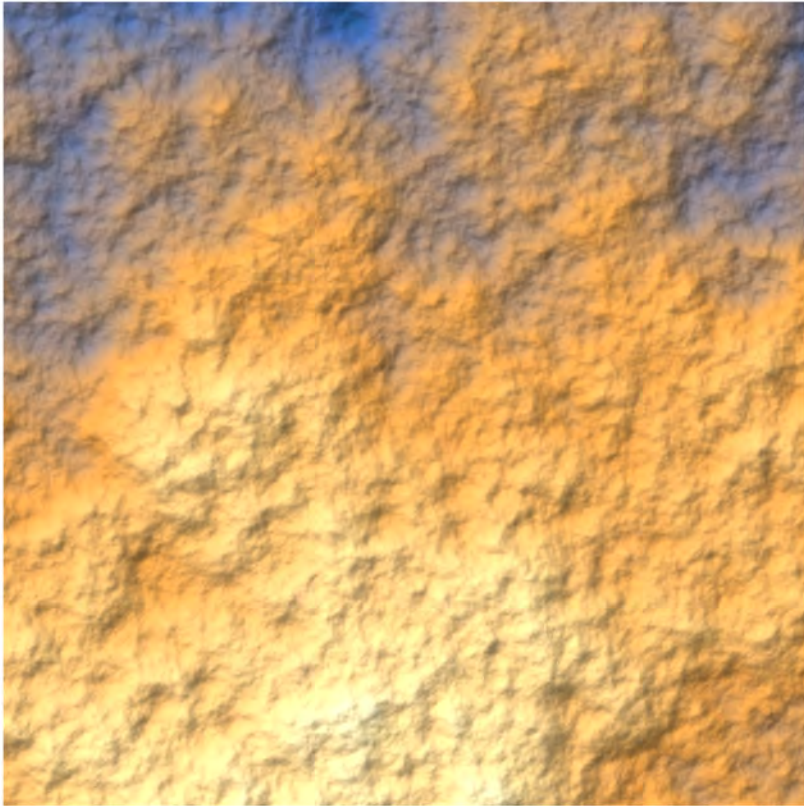
Realization of Levy Brownian Motion

Question 1(a) continued : What is a spatial I(1) process?



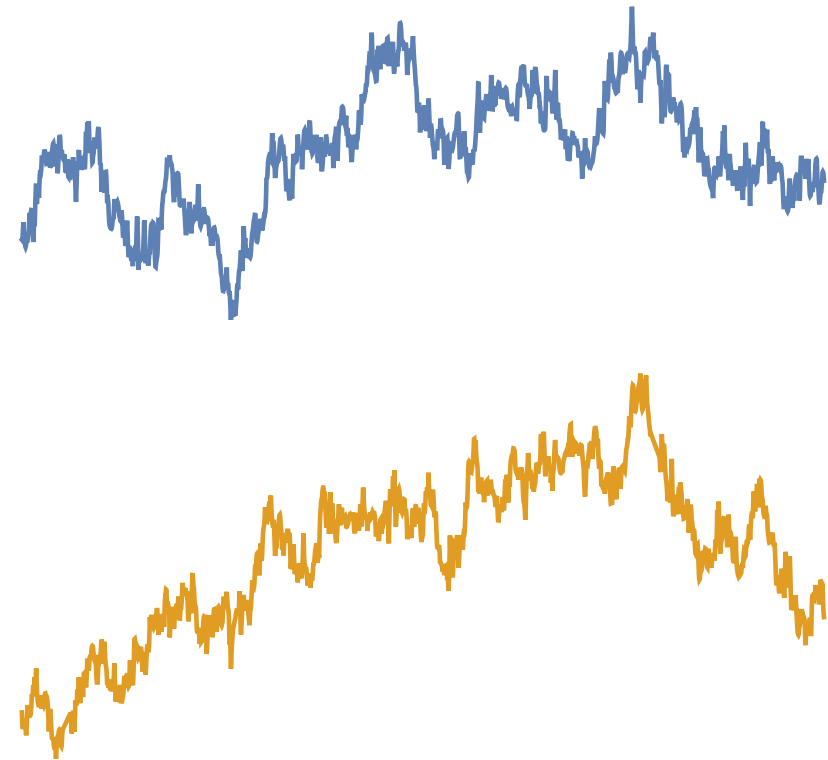
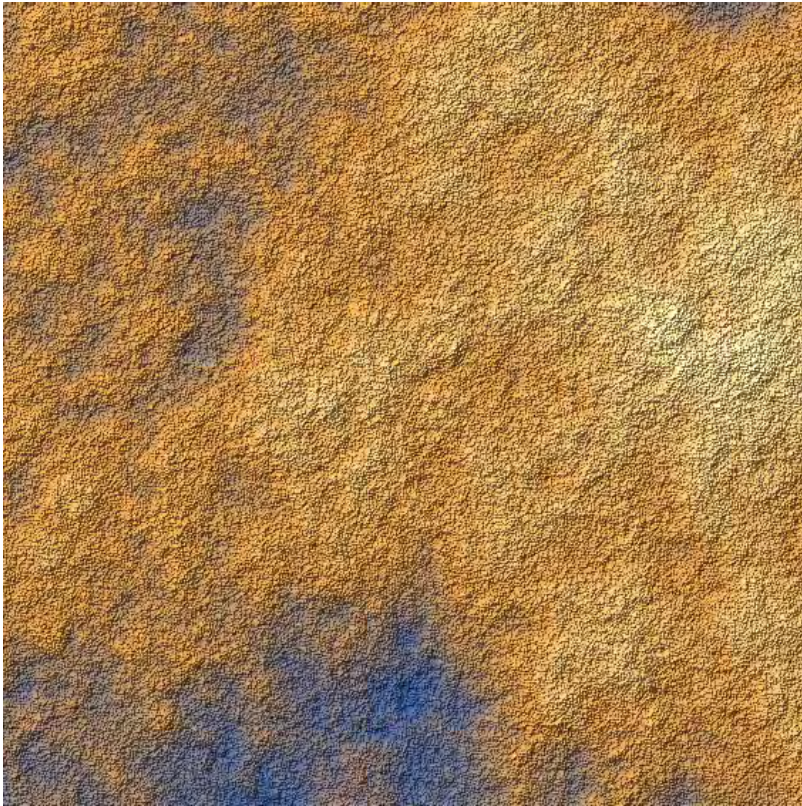
I(1) with $B \sim G_{exp}(c_1)$

Question 1(a) continued : What is a spatial I(1) process?



I(1) with $B \sim G_{exp}(c_{(smaller)})$

Question 1(a) continued : What is a spatial I(1) process?



I(1) with $B \sim \text{'ARMA(2, 1)'}$

Some Questions:

1. ~~What is a spatial random walk?~~
 - (a) ~~What is a spatial $I(1)$ process?~~
2. Do spatial $I(1)$ processes lead to spurious regressions?
3. Can you test for spatial 'unit roots' (i.e., $I(1)$ processes)? How?
4. Can you eliminate $I(1)$ spatial persistence by 'differencing' the data? How?
5. **Is there a large-sample theory that helps answer these questions?**

Question 5 : Is there a large-sample theory that helps answer these questions?

- Answer: Yes ... (FCLT) ... Thm 2 in paper

If $\lambda_n \rightarrow \infty$, then $\lambda_n^{-1/2}Y_n(\cdot) \Rightarrow \omega L(\cdot)$ where $\omega^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \sigma_B(r) dr$

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Question 2 : Do Spatial $I(1)$ processes lead to spurious regressions?

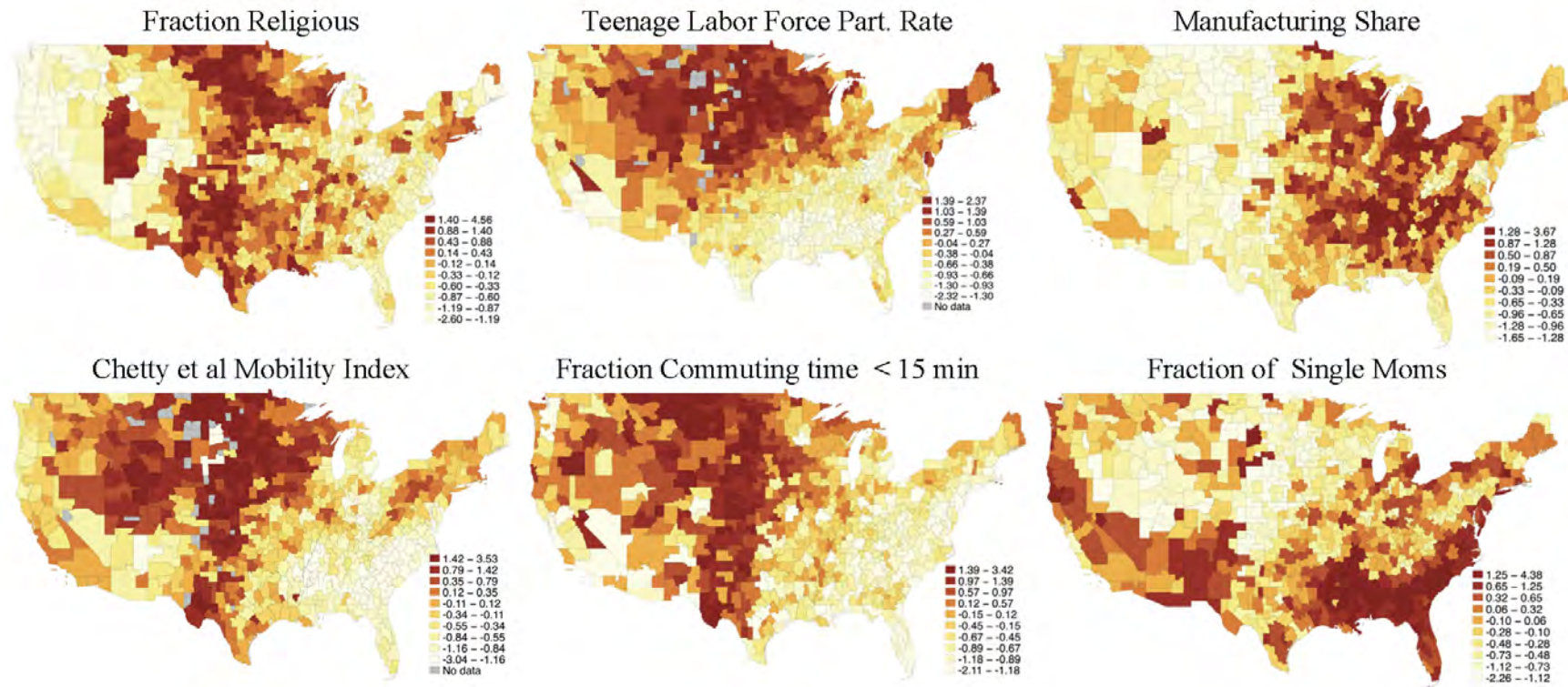
- Answer: Yes ... Thm 3 (like Phillips (1986) time series results) and Thm 4 (with HAC) in paper.
Consider

$$y_l = \alpha + \mathbf{x}_l' \beta + u_l$$

- $\hat{\beta} \Rightarrow RV$
- $R^2 \Rightarrow RV$
- $F \rightarrow \infty$
- $F(HAC) \rightarrow \infty$

Question 2 continued : Spurious Regressions

- Examples (???): Chetty et al 2014.
 - Construct a commuter-zone (CZ) level index of intergenerational mobility (AMI).
 - Regress AMI on various CZ socio-economic variables.



Question 2 continued :

Variable	Spatial Persistence Statistics			Regression of the AMI onto Variable $\hat{\beta}$ [95% CI]	
	p -Value for Test		95% CI for $\bar{\rho}$	Level [Cluster]	LBM-GLS [CSCPC]
	$I(1)$ Null	$I(0)$ Null			
Absolute Mobility Index	0.08	<0.01	[0.14; 1.00]		
Frac. Black Residents	0.02	0.01	[0.02; 0.71]	-0.58 [-0.71; -0.45]	-0.42 [-0.50; -0.34]
Racial Segregation	0.07	0.02	[0.05; 1.00]	-0.36 [-0.45; -0.27]	-0.24 [-0.28; -0.19]
Segregation of Poverty	0.13	0.04	[0.05; 1.00]	-0.41 [-0.54; -0.28]	-0.21 [-0.25; -0.16]
Frac. < 15 Mins to Work	0.69	<0.01	[0.46; 1.00]	0.61 [0.36; 0.85]	0.37 [0.26; 0.48]
Mean Household Income	0.02	0.18	[0.01; 0.61]	0.05 [-0.09; 0.19]	-0.02 [-0.08; 0.04]
Gini	0.56	<0.01	[0.40; 1.00]	-0.58 [-0.76; -0.40]	-0.21 [-0.29; -0.14]
Top 1 Perc. Inc. Share	0.60	0.03	[0.43; 1.00]	-0.19 [-0.33; -0.05]	-0.06 [-0.11; -0.01]
Student-Teacher Ratio	0.03	0.16	[0.04; 0.87]	-0.33 [-0.52; -0.13]	-0.18 [-0.26; -0.09]
Test Scores (Inc. adjusted)	0.40	0.07	[0.27; 1.00]	0.59 [0.42; 0.76]	0.42 [0.34; 0.51]
High School Dropout	0.63	0.02	[0.40; 1.00]	-0.57 [-0.75; -0.40]	-0.31 [-0.42; -0.20]
Social Capital Index	0.73	<0.01	[0.38; 1.00]	0.64 [0.46; 0.82]	0.28 [0.12; 0.44]
Frac. Religious	0.11	0.03	[0.15; 1.00]	0.52 [0.35; 0.69]	0.32 [0.19; 0.45]
Violent Crime Rate	0.52	0.04	[0.38; 1.00]	-0.38 [-0.67; -0.09]	-0.14 [-0.23; -0.06]
Frac. Single Mothers	0.03	<0.01	[0.05; 0.88]	-0.76 [-0.91; -0.62]	-0.60 [-0.69; -0.51]
Divorce Rate	<0.01	0.21	[0.02; 0.53]	-0.49 [-0.68; -0.29]	-0.38 [-0.49; -0.27]
Frac. Married	0.09	0.07	[0.12; 1.00]	0.57 [0.45; 0.69]	0.36 [0.29; 0.43]
Local Tax Rate	0.01	0.25	[0.01; 0.59]	0.32 [0.19; 0.46]	0.07 [0.01; 0.14]
Colleges per Capita	0.57	0.10	[0.00; 1.00]	0.20 [-0.02; 0.42]	0.02 [-0.08; 0.11]
College Tuition	0.21	<0.01	[0.15; 1.00]	-0.02 [-0.15; 0.11]	0.01 [-0.02; 0.04]
Coll. Grad. Rate (Inc. Adjusted)	0.46	0.01	[0.34; 1.00]	0.15 [0.03; 0.28]	0.08 [0.01; 0.15]
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Frac. Foreign Born	0.44	0.02	[0.35; 1.00]	-0.03 [-0.15; 0.10]	-0.12 [-0.24; -0.00]

Some Questions:

1. What is a spatial random walk?
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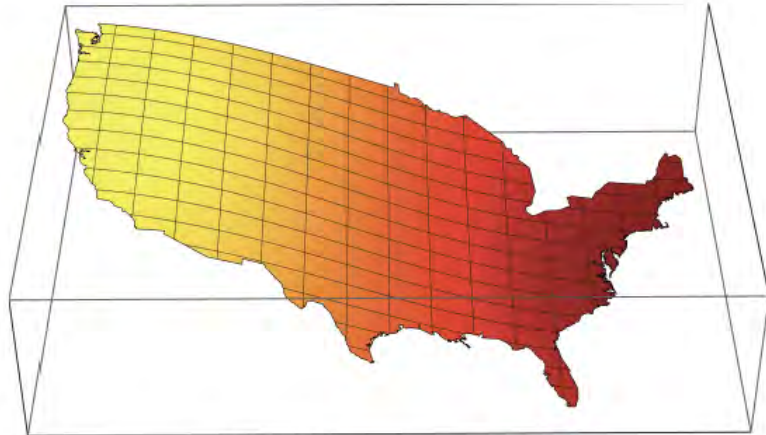
Question 3 : Can you test for spatial 'unit roots'?

- $d = 1$: $I(1)$ yields unit root in AR representation for process. Dickey-Fuller or related tests.
- $d > 1$: No analogue of AR representation ... whoops ... 'spatial unit root' doesn't make sense (in our context).
 - Alternative approach:
 - * Use (population) principal components using eigenvectors from Levy process covariance matrix.
 - * Under $I(1)$ model the variance of the PCs decreases sharply. Look for this pattern in data.
 - $d = 1$: variance of j^{th} -PC from detrended random walk has $\text{var}(PC_j) \propto 1/j^2$.

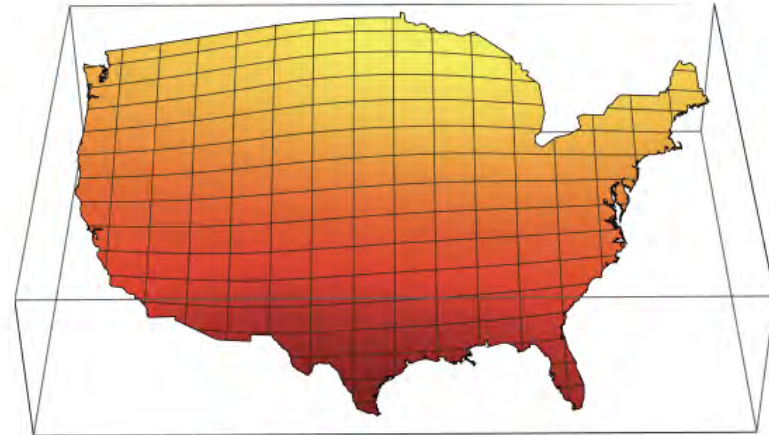
Question 3 continued : Details:

- Let $\tilde{\Sigma}_L$ denote $n \times n$ covariance matrix for demeaned Levy-BM evaluated at spatial locations $\{s_l\}_{l=1}^n$.
- Let \mathbf{R} denote eigenvectors corresponding to large q eigenvalues.
- \mathbf{Y}_n is $n \times 1$ vector of raw data. $\mathbf{Z}_n = \mathbf{R}'_n \mathbf{Y}_n$ are the q PCs (under Levy-BM).

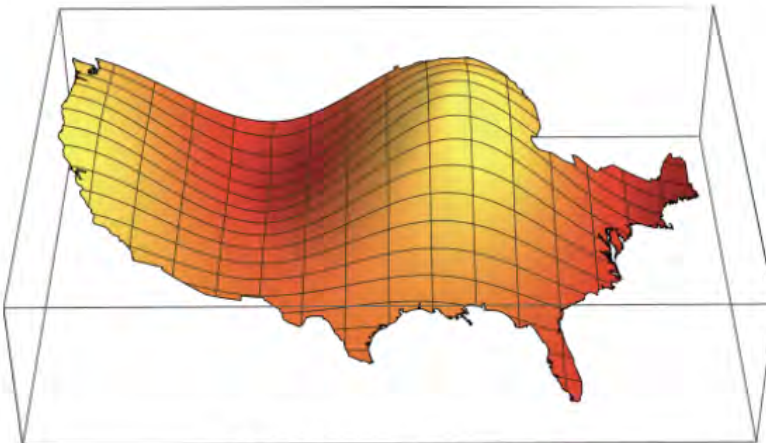
Question 3 continued : Eigenvector weights for PCs, $s \sim \text{Uniform}$ over Continental US



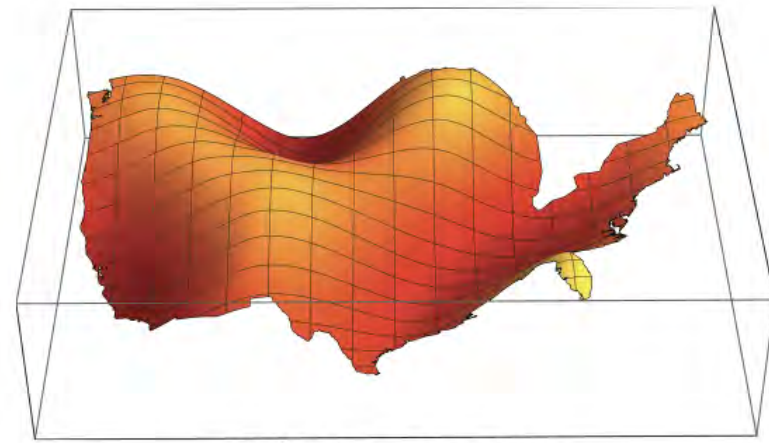
1st Eigenfunction



2nd Eigenfunction



5th Eigenfunction



10th Eigenfunction

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- Null and Alternative:

$$(Y \sim I(1)) \quad H_0: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_L) \quad (\text{Large-sample approximation from FCLT})$$

$$(Y \sim \mathcal{G}_{exp}(c)) \quad H_a: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c)) \quad (\text{Large-sample approximation from FCLT})$$

- Details
 - Choice of q , c (see paper)
 - Testing problem is straightforward

Question 3 continued :

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Question 3 continued : Testing for $I(0)$ null and forming confidence interval for c when $Y \sim G_{exp}(c)$

- $I(1)$ Null and Alternative:

$$(Y \sim I(1)) \quad H_0: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_L)$$

$$(Y \sim \mathcal{G}_{exp}(c)) \quad H_a: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c))$$

- **$I(0)$ Null and Alternative:**

$$(Y \sim I(0)) \quad H_0: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c_{large}))$$

$$(Y \sim I(0) + I(1)) \quad H_a: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c_{large}) + g_a^2 \Omega_L) \quad (\text{Large-sample approximation from FCLT})$$

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Frac. Married	0.09	0.07	[0.12; 1.00]	0.57 [0.45; 0.69]	0.36 [0.29; 0.43]
Local Tax Rate	0.01	0.25	[0.01; 0.59]	0.32 [0.19; 0.46]	0.07 [0.01; 0.14]
Colleges per Capita	0.57	0.10	[0.00; 1.00]	0.20 [-0.02; 0.42]	0.02 [-0.08; 0.11]
College Tuition	0.21	<0.01	[0.15; 1.00]	-0.02 [-0.15; 0.11]	0.01 [-0.02; 0.04]
Coll. Grad. Rate (Inc. Adjusted)	0.46	0.01	[0.34; 1.00]	0.15 [0.03; 0.28]	0.08 [0.01; 0.15]
Manufacturing Share	0.04	<0.01	[0.10; 1.00]	-0.26 [-0.44; -0.08]	0.06 [-0.03; 0.16]
Chinese Import Growth	0.02	0.07	[0.01; 0.58]	-0.17 [-0.33; -0.02]	0.03 [0.01; 0.04]
Teenage LFP Rate	0.28	<0.01	[0.20; 1.00]	0.63 [0.46; 0.80]	0.25 [0.14; 0.36]
Migration Inflow	0.06	0.11	[0.00; 1.00]	-0.26 [-0.40; -0.11]	-0.13 [-0.18; -0.08]
Migration Outflow	0.05	0.02	[0.07; 1.00]	-0.16 [-0.30; -0.03]	-0.09 [-0.15; -0.03]
Frac. Foreign Born	0.44	0.02	[0.35; 1.00]	-0.03 [-0.15; 0.10]	-0.12 [-0.24; -0.00]

- $I(1)$ Null and Alternative:

$$(Y \sim I(1)) \quad H_0: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_L)$$

$$(Y \sim \mathcal{G}_{exp}(c)) \quad H_a: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c))$$

- $I(0)$ Null and Alternative:

$$(Y \sim I(0)) \quad H_0: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c_{large}))$$

$$(Y \sim I(0) + I(1)) \quad H_a: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c_{large}) + g_a^2 \Omega_L) \quad (\text{Large-sample approximation from FCLT})$$

- Note

- Can use $I(0)$ test to form confidence set for spatial 'cointegrating coefficients': $Y_l - \beta X_l \sim I(0)$.

- $I(1)$ Null and Alternative:

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- Note

– Can use $I(0)$ test to form confidence set for spatial 'cointegrating coefficients': $Y_l - \beta X_l \sim I(0)$.

- $I(c)$ Null and Alternative for forming confidence interval for c

$$(Y \sim \mathcal{G}_{exp}(c_0)) \quad H_0: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c_0))$$

$$(Y \sim \text{mixture of } \mathcal{G}_{exp}(c) \text{ processes}) \quad H_a: \mathbf{Z}_n \sim N(0, \Omega_{\mathcal{G}}(c)) \text{ with } c \sim f$$

Question 3 continued :

Variable	Spatial Persistence Statistics			Regression of the AMI onto Variable	
	<i>p</i> -Value for Test		95% CI for $\hat{\rho}$	$\hat{\beta}$ [95% CI]	
	<i>I</i> (1) Null	<i>I</i> (0) Null		Level [Cluster]	LBM-GLS [CSCPC]
Absolute Mobility Index	0.08	<0.01	[0.14; 1.00]		
Frac. Black Residents	0.02	0.01	[0.02; 0.71]	-0.58 [-0.71; -0.45]	-0.42 [-0.50; -0.34]
Racial Segregation	0.07	0.02	[0.05; 1.00]	-0.36 [-0.45; -0.27]	-0.24 [-0.28; -0.19]
Segregation of Poverty	0.13	0.04	[0.05; 1.00]	-0.41 [-0.54; -0.28]	-0.21 [-0.25; -0.16]
Frac. < 15 Mins to Work	0.69	<0.01	[0.46; 1.00]	0.61 [0.36; 0.85]	0.37 [0.26; 0.48]
Mean Household Income	0.02	0.18	[0.01; 0.61]	0.05 [-0.09; 0.19]	-0.02 [-0.08; 0.04]
Gini	0.56	<0.01	[0.40; 1.00]	-0.58 [-0.76; -0.40]	-0.21 [-0.29; -0.14]
Top 1 Perc. Inc. Share	0.60	0.03	[0.43; 1.00]	-0.19 [-0.33; -0.05]	-0.06 [-0.11; -0.01]
Student-Teacher Ratio	0.03	0.16	[0.04; 0.87]	-0.33 [-0.52; -0.13]	-0.18 [-0.26; -0.09]
Test Scores (Inc. adjusted)	0.40	0.07	[0.27; 1.00]	0.59 [0.42; 0.76]	0.42 [0.34; 0.51]
High School Dropout	0.63	0.02	[0.40; 1.00]	-0.57 [-0.75; -0.40]	-0.31 [-0.42; -0.20]
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Violent Crime Rate	0.52	0.04	[0.38; 1.00]	-0.38 [-0.67; -0.09]	-0.14 [-0.23; -0.06]
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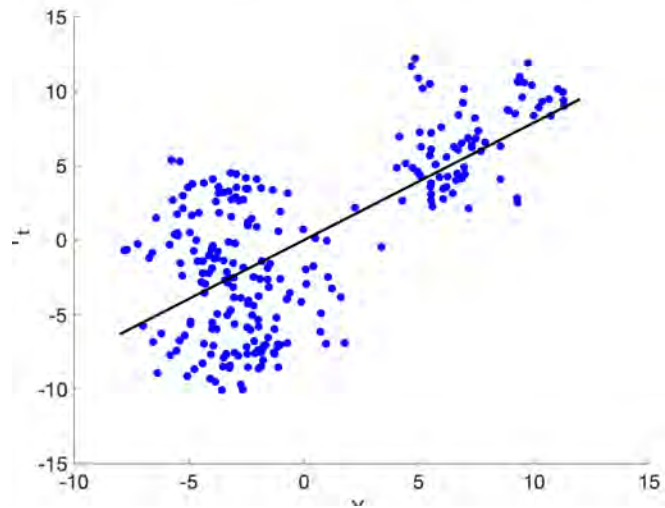
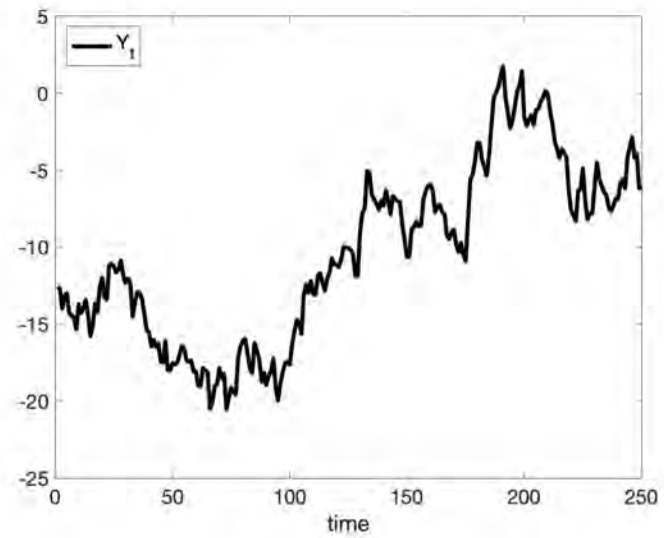
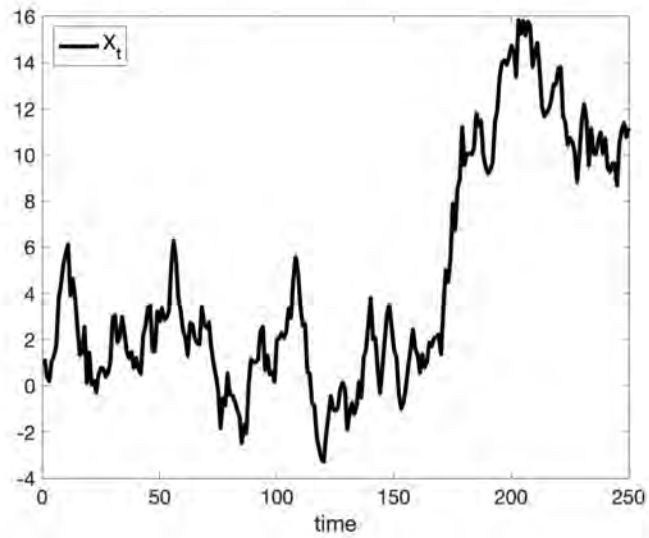
Some Questions:

1. What is a spatial random walk?
 - (a) What is a spatial $I(1)$ process?
2. Do spatial $I(1)$ processes lead to spurious regressions?
3. Can you test for spatial 'unit roots' (i.e., $I(1)$ processes)? How?
4. **Can you eliminate $I(1)$ spatial persistence by 'differencing' the data? How?**
5. Is there a large-sample theory that helps answer these questions?

Question 4 : Can you eliminate $I(1)$ spatial persistence in regressions by ‘differencing’ the data? How?

$$y_l = \alpha + \mathbf{x}_l' \boldsymbol{\beta} + u_l$$

- $d = 1$, discrete time series, (y_t, x_t) in levels and $(\Delta y_t, \Delta x_t)$ as first differences

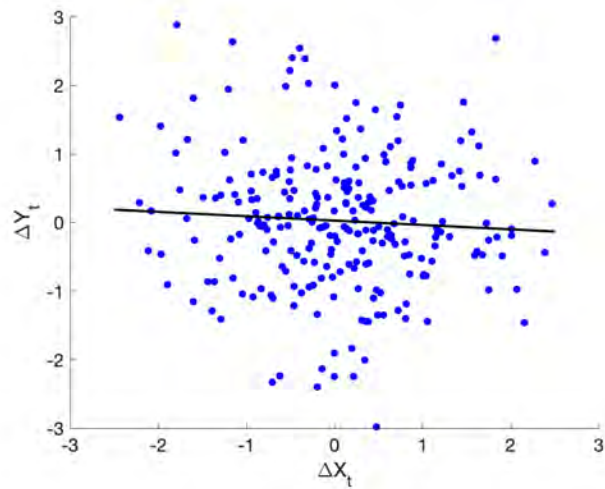
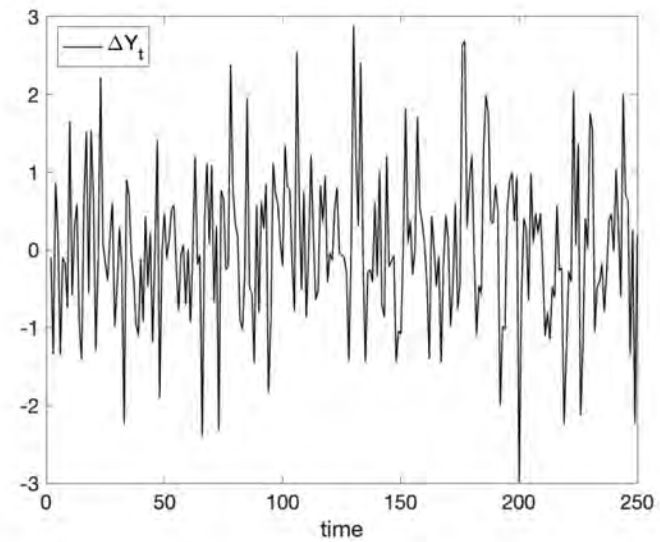
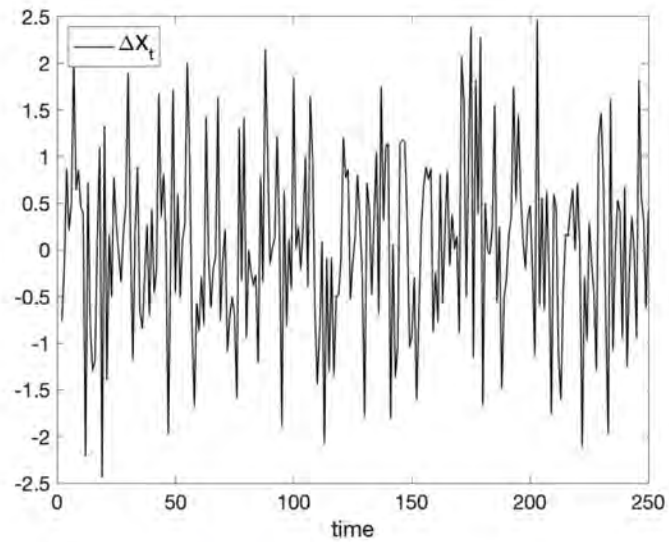


$$\hat{\beta} = 0.79$$

(0.04) (HR)
[0.09] (Newey-West)

$$R^2 = 0.48$$

Question 4 continued :



$$\hat{\beta} = -0.06$$

(0.06) (HR)
[0.06] (Newey-West)

$$R^2 = 0.00$$

Question 4 continued : $d > 1 \dots$ Inference methods

- Transformations:

1. Isotropic differences

$$\Delta_{Iso}y_l = y_l - \left[\sum_{\ell \neq l} w_{\ell,l} y_{\ell} \right]$$

with $w_{\ell,l} = \kappa(|s_{\ell} - s_l|) / [\sum_{\ell \neq l} \kappa(|s_{\ell} - s_l|)]$.



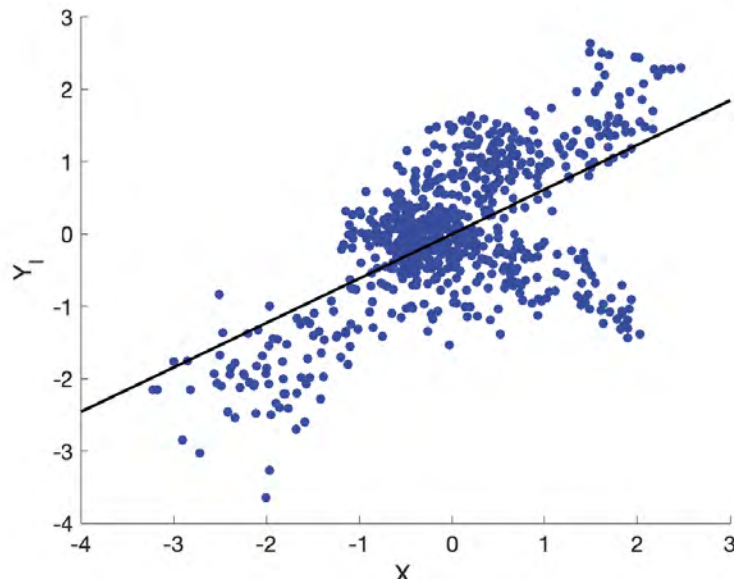
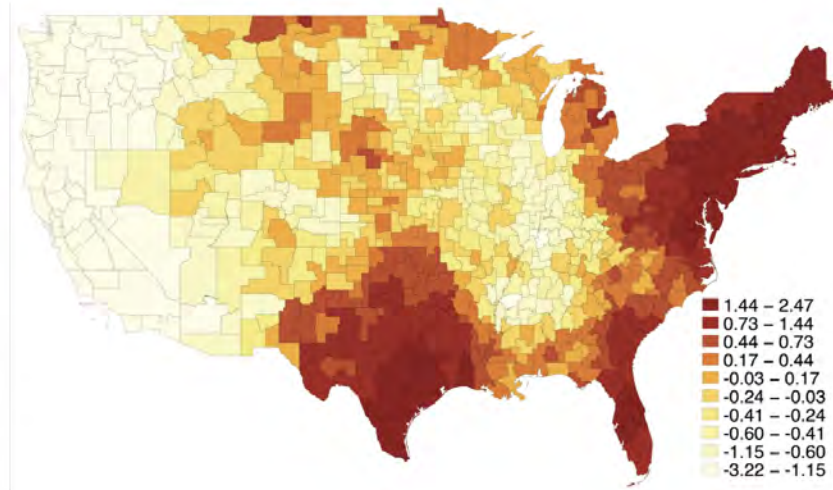
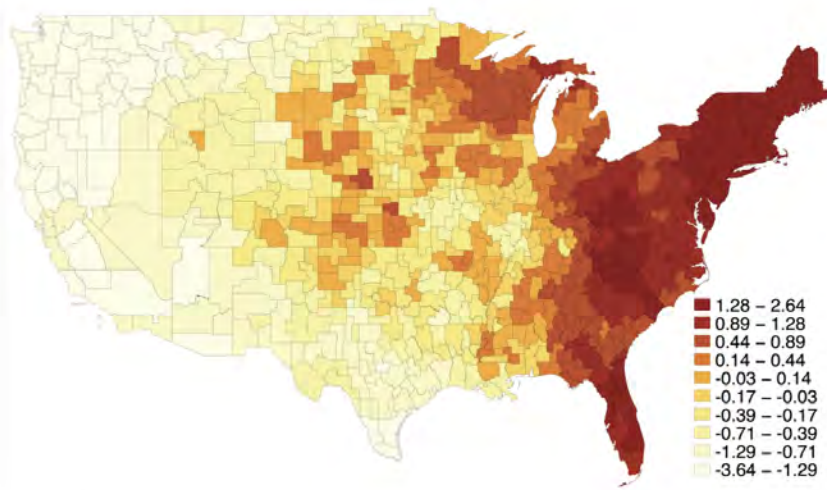
Question 4 continued :

2. Levy-BM GLS:

$$\hat{\beta} = (\tilde{X}'\tilde{\Sigma}_L^{-1}\tilde{X})^{-1}(\tilde{X}'\tilde{\Sigma}_L^{-1}\tilde{Y})$$

where $\tilde{\cdot}$ denotes demeaned version.

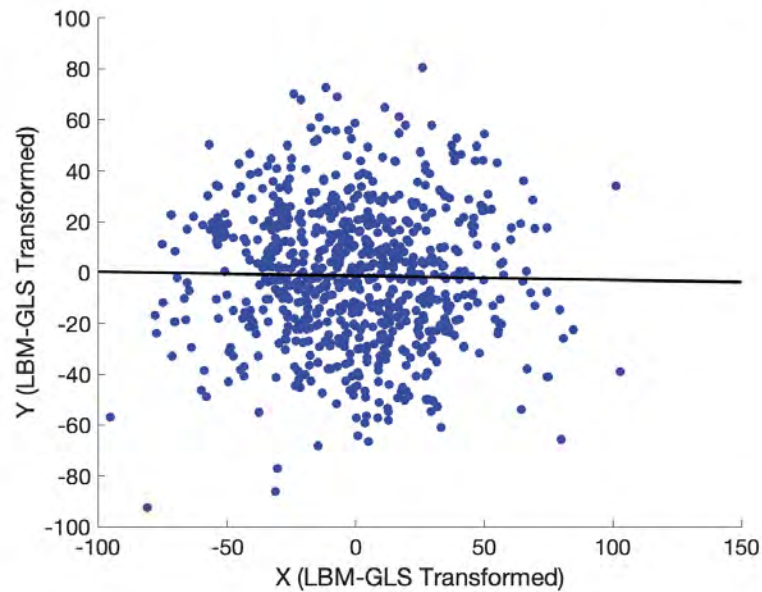
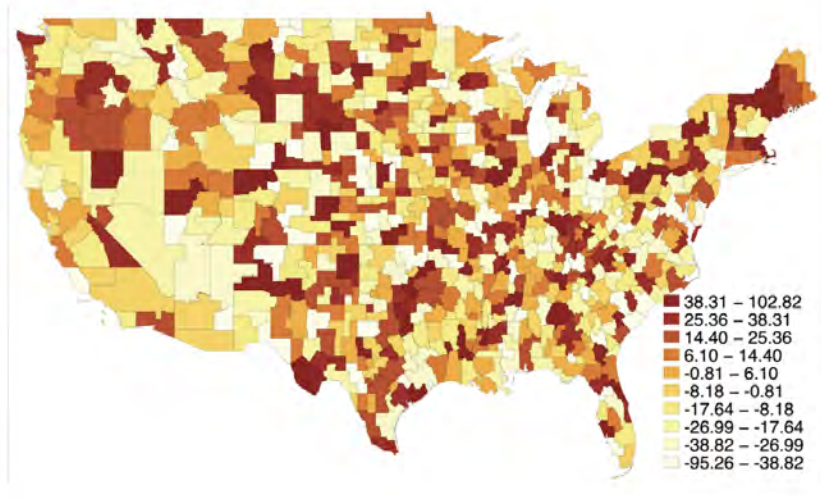
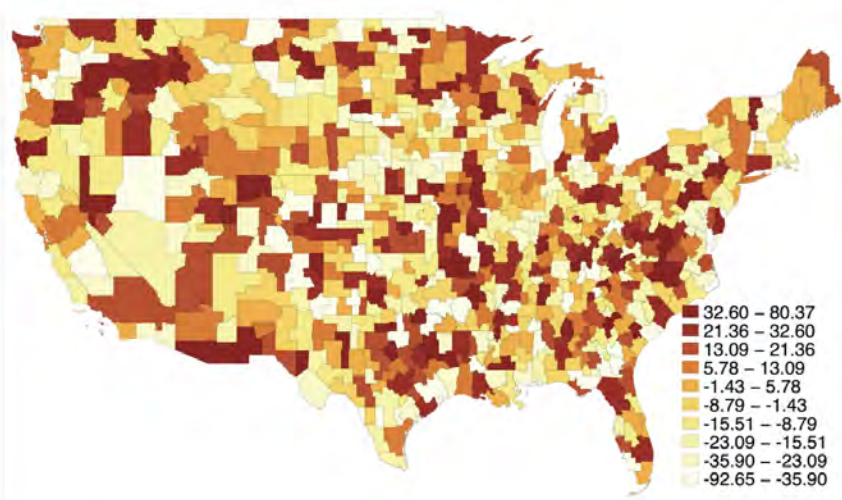
Question 4 continued : 2 spatial random walks (again)... Levels



$$\hat{\beta} = 0.62 (0.04)$$

$$R^2 = 0.38$$

Question 4 continued : 2 spatial random walks (again)... Levy-BM GLS transformed

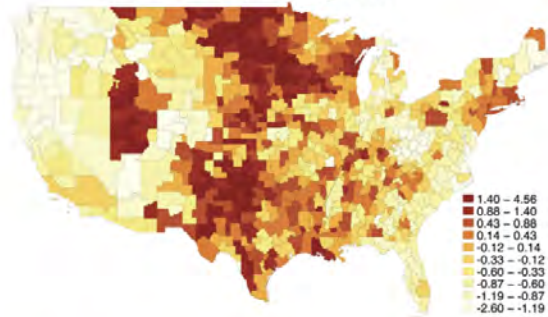


$$\hat{\beta} = -0.02 (0.03)$$

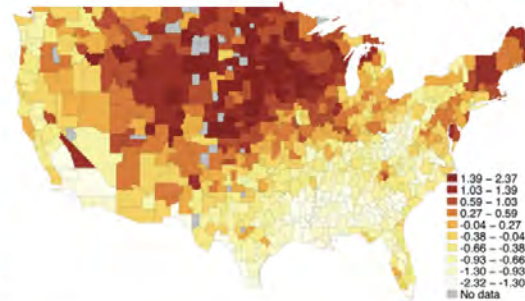
$$R^2 = 0.00$$

Question 4 continued : 6 variables (again)... Levels

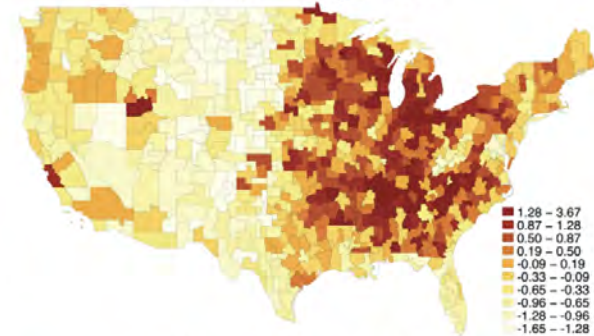
Fraction Religious



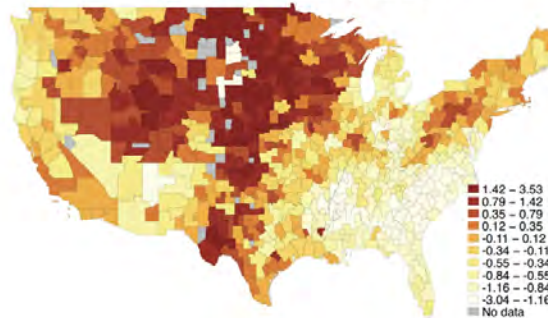
Teenage Labor Force Part. Rate



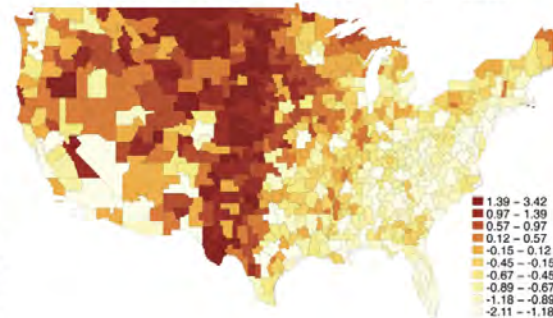
Manufacturing Share



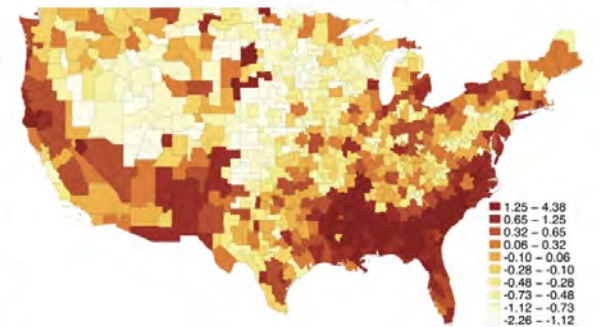
Chetty et al Mobility Index



Fraction Commuting time < 15 min



Fraction of Single Moms

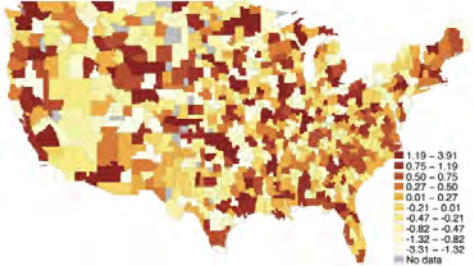


Question 4 continued : 6 variables ... Levy-BM GLS transformed

Fraction Religious



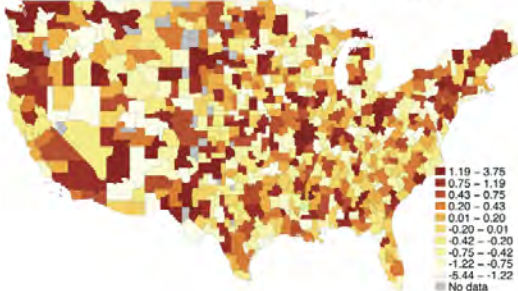
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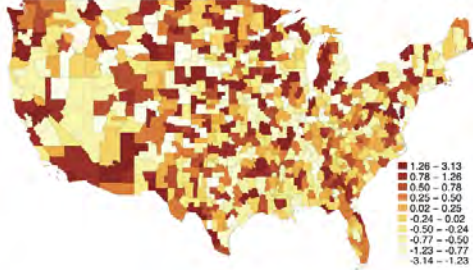
Manufacturing Share



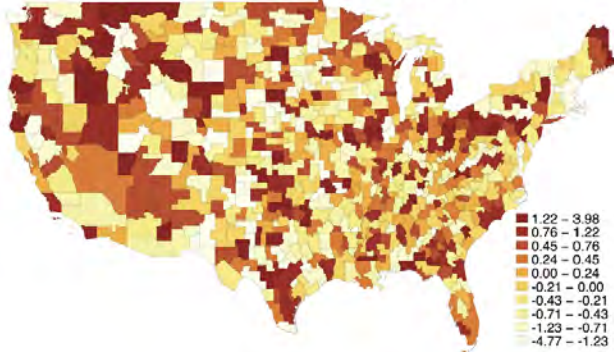
Chetty et al Mobility Index



Fraction Commuting time < 15 min



Fraction of Single Moms



Question 4 continued :

3. Weighted least squares using the largest principal components computed using the Levy-BM eigenvectors.
4. Spatial low-frequency regression.
5. Least squares after deleting the largest principal components computed using the Levy-BM eigenvectors.
6. Spatial high-pass regression.
7. Add 'local-fixed effects' to regression. (This is local demeaning)
8. Run regressions over many non-overlapping regions and average. (IM)

In all cases use HAC/HAR methods to account for $I(0)$ spatial correlation.

Question 4 continued : $d > 1$... Experiments

- Spatial Design
 - Choose locations at random in one of 48 US States
- DGPs
 - Variety of $I(1)$ and $I(0)$ DGPs.

Question 4 continued : Selected Results

Rejection Frequency (Median over spatial designs)

Method	DGP	
	$I(1)_{c_{0.03}}$	$J_{c_{0.50}}$
OLS (C-SCPC)	0.35	0.20
Isotropic difference (C-SCPC)	0.07	0.04
Cluster fixed-effects (cluster)	0.35	0.07
Cluster fixed-effects (C-SCPC)	0.12	0.05
LBM-GLS	0.39	0.05
LBM-GLS (C-SCPC)	0.07	0.03
Low-pass Eigenvector	0.05	0.05
High-pass Eigenvector (C-SCPC)	0.13	0.05
Ibragimov-Müller	0.15	0.07

Average Length (median over spatial designs) of (nominal) 95% confidence intervals

Method	DGP	
	$I(1)_{c_{0.03}}$	$J_{c_{0.50}}$
Isotropic difference (C-SCPC)	0.73	0.52
LBM-GLS (C-SCPC)	0.54	0.26
Low-pass Eigenvector	1.51	0.57

Question 4 continued :

Variable	Spatial Persistence Statistics			Regression of the AMI onto Variable $\hat{\beta}$ [95% CI]	
	<i>p</i> -Value for Test		95% CI for $\bar{\rho}$	Level [Cluster]	LBM-GLS [CSCPC]
	<i>I</i> (1) Null	<i>I</i> (0) Null			
Absolute Mobility Index	0.08	<0.01	[0.14; 1.00]		
Frac. Black Residents	0.02	0.01	[0.02; 0.71]	-0.58 [-0.71; -0.45]	-0.42 [-0.50; -0.34]
Racial Segregation	0.07	0.02	[0.05; 1.00]	-0.36 [-0.45; -0.27]	-0.24 [-0.28; -0.19]
Segregation of Poverty	0.13	0.04	[0.05; 1.00]	-0.41 [-0.54; -0.28]	-0.21 [-0.25; -0.16]
Frac. < 15 Mins to Work	0.69	<0.01	[0.46; 1.00]	0.61 [0.36; 0.85]	0.37 [0.26; 0.48]
Mean Household Income	0.02	0.18	[0.01; 0.61]	0.05 [-0.09; 0.19]	-0.02 [-0.08; 0.04]
Gini	0.56	<0.01	[0.40; 1.00]	-0.58 [-0.76; -0.40]	-0.21 [-0.29; -0.14]
Top 1 Perc. Inc. Share	0.60	0.03	[0.43; 1.00]	-0.19 [-0.33; -0.05]	-0.06 [-0.11; -0.01]
Student-Teacher Ratio	0.03	0.16	[0.04; 0.87]	-0.33 [-0.52; -0.13]	-0.18 [-0.26; -0.09]
Test Scores (Inc. adjusted)	0.40	0.07	[0.27; 1.00]	0.59 [0.42; 0.76]	0.42 [0.34; 0.51]
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