

We will be exploring an interdisciplinary subject that combines material from the following areas and disciplines:

- 1.Matrix Algebra as a Method to Quantify Individual's and/or Society's Preferences
- 2. Social Psychology
- 3. Criminology
- 4. Geographic Profiling

Using information from these four areas we will develop a method that appears to be promising for locating the 'home base' of criminals who commit serial crimes.





The method will be applied to some historical cases where geographical profiling played a major role in apprehending the criminals.

At the base of the method is a theorem by Perron and Frobenius that states:

Every matrix having all positive values has an associated **dominant vector** having all positive terms.

Obviously, this is beyond the scope of non university students. However, the theorem can be easily illustrated if the students have been introduced to matrices and vectors on the two dimensional plane.

An example of a student activity using the Perron and Frobenius result is available in the paper by P. Leinbach, C. Leinbach, and J. Bőhm in Boletín #80 of *Sociedad «Puig Adam» De Profesores De Matematicas* pp 23 -37

In the next few slides we will quickly show how this method is applied to the problem at hand. Our objective is to only illustrate what the action of a matrix of all positive terms is when it is applied repeatedly to any vector. This can easily be visualized in the plane. Consider, for example, the matrix:

1 2

We will look at what happens when this matrix is applied to the four corners of the square



We will see that the square collapses to a straight line.

The result of the first multiplication is shown as the blue rectangle superimposed on the original red square. Note that the rectangle is now slanted in a particular direction and is a compressed form of the original.



Next multiply the corner points of the blue rectangle by A or doing the same thing by multiplying the corner points of the red matrix by A², we see a rectangle with a slightly different slant and even more compressed. This rectangle is shown on the next slide as a green rectangle.



Repeating the process one more time we see what looks like a line (drawn in green)



In fact, if we continue taking higher powers of A times the coordinates points of the square, we see that the square is

reduced to a straight line segment lying on the line

y = 0.15936x

which passes through the origin and the point,

d = (0.8625413912, 0.1374586087)

This particular point was chosen since it has positive components and its coordinates sum to 1. We call this vector the **dominant vector for the given matrix.**

What does this have to do with individual preferences or choices?

This is where Thomas Saaty's 1977 Analytical Hierarchical Ranking Proceedure comes in.

The basis of the AHRP is that generally people have no trouble giving a strength of preference for one item over another or quantizing the dominance of one entity over another.

Humans have been doing it for years. Witness going to the doctor's office: "On a scale of 1 to 10 rate your pain to how you normally feel." Or, in some of the more sadistically oriented tests, "Rate this pain against the previous pain you just experienced."

Saaty very cleverly devised a method for creating a matrix for a ranking between two choices to which he can apply the Perron-Frobenius Theorem to create a vector which gives a ranking of multiple choices and the strength of the preference between these choices.

We consider the case of serial rapists.

Begin by categorizing different type of rapes:

- I. Date Rape or Opportunistic Rape
- II. Rape by more than one perpetrator
- III. Use of a weapon in subduing victim
- IV. Commission of a non-violent crime (burglary) at time of rape.
- V. Rape with bodily harm to victim
- VI. Rape and murder of the victim
- VII. Kidnapping or imprisonment and multiple rapes of the victim.

| E> | cample of | a Rating | Sheet | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| (Fill in Columns 2 and 3 only) | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Compare</u> | <u>Dominant</u> | <u>Strength</u> | Inverse Strength | | | | | | |
| l vs ll | | | | | | | | | |
| l vs III | | | | | | | | | |
| l vs IV | | | | | | | | | |
| I vs V | | | | | | | | | |
| l vs VI | | | | | | | | | |
| l vs VII | | | | | | | | | |
| ll vs III | | | | | | | | | |
| ο | | | | | | | | | |
| ο | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| V vs VI | | | | | | | | | |
| V vs VII | | | | | | | | | |
| VI vs VII | | | | | | | | | |
| There are a to | otal of 21 diffe | erent pairwis | se ratings. | | | | | | |

How do we determine the value to put in column 3.

Saaty's guidelines are:

1 = **no preference** for one item over the other

3 = slightly stronger preference for one over the other

5 = an **essential** preference for one over the other

7 = **some evidence** that one is preferred over the other

9 = **indisputable evidence** for one over the other

Even numbers may be used if the evaluator is undecided between two adjacent categories. A 10 is given if the evidence is **Overwhelming** in the mind of the evaluator Using the Rating Sheets, create a 7 X 7 matrix according to the following rules:

$$A = (a_{ij}) \quad 1 \le i, j \le 7$$
$$a_{ij} = 1$$

If category *j* dominates category *i* with a preference of *s*,

a_{i i} = s

else,

 $a_{ii} = 1/s$

The following matrix represents the consensus of a panel of 'experts' for the seven categories of serial rape.

| [1 | 1/4 | 1/6 | 1/7 | 1/8 | 1/9 | 1/10 |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 1/3 | 1/6 | 1/9 | 1/10 |
| 6 | 1 | 1 | 1/3 | 1/5 | 1/8 | 1/9 |
| 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1/5 | 1/9 | 1/8 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1/3 | 1/4 |
| 9 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1/4 | 1 |

The following small Derive[®] 6.1 program finds the dominant vector (all positive entries whose sum = 1) for the matrix related to the seven categories of serial rape. The matrix is called "CM" for Consensus Matrix.

Note that Category VI has the highest ranking (a little over 41%) according to the consensus of the experts.

Geographic Profiling of Criminals

Described as: "An investigative support technique for serial violent crime"

Developed at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Primary work done by Kim Rossmo a student of Paul and Patricia Brantingham at Simon Fraser

Rossmo spent several years as a constable on the Vancouver Police force before attaining his Ph.D. at Simon Fraser

Rossmo is now a private consultant and head of the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

Rossmo's Observations

- 1. Like most animals, humans tend to choose hunting areas that are relatively close to their homes or places they frequent regularly.
- 2. Because they want anonymity, human hunters tend to establish a buffer zone around their homes and other "haunts." This is called the "smoke stack effect."
- 3. The more violent the crime, the more likely it is that the distance to the crime scene from the buffer zone is greater.
- 4. It is possible that the crime encounter, attack, and body dump site may all be in one place or may be at different sites

Rossmo's Insight

Rossmo's great insight was that the processes used for making these observations could be reversed, i.e. it may be possible to locate an area frequented by a serial criminal from the locales of previous crime sites.

The main value of this is that it includes only a portion of the hunting area and can make a significant reduction in the number of suspects meeting the psychological profile of the perpetrator of the serial crimes.

Rossmo uses a computer program, called Rigel after the brightest star in the constellation Orion, the hunter.

The result is not an "X marks the spot," but, rather, it narrows down the area that most likely contains the home, work area, or other location the perpetrator is likely to frequent.

Rossmo's Procedure

- 1. Calculate the boundaries of the hunting area based on crime locations.
- 2. For each point in the hunting area calculate the Manhattan or "taxicab" distances to each crime scene.
- 3. Create a Pareto type function using distance to a crime scene as an independent variable. If the distance is less than the radius of the buffer zone, the function is reversed to minimize the probability of that point being the criminals base. Do this for each crime scene.
- 4. Sum the crime scene function values to produce a final score as follows:

$$p_{ij} = k \sum_{s=1}^{v} \left[\frac{\phi}{\left(|x_i - x_s| + |y_j - y_s| \right)^T} + \frac{(1 - \phi) (B^{s-f})}{\left(2B - |x_i - x_s| - |y_j - y_s| \right)^s} \right]$$

Further Explanation of the Function In Step 4

 $\lim_{p_{ij}=k} \sum_{n=1}^{C} \left[\phi \left(\left| x_i - x_n \right| + \left| y_j - y_n \right| \right)^f + \right]$

$$(1-\phi)(B^{g-f})/(2B-|x_i-x_n|-|y_j-y_n|)^g$$

where:

$$|x_i - x_n| + |y_j - y_n| > B \supset \phi = 1$$

 $|x_i - x_n| + |y_j - y_n| \le B \supset \phi = 0$

and:

- p_{ij} is the resultant probability for point ij;
- ϕ is a weighting factor;
- k is an empirically determined constant;
- *B* is the radius of the buffer zone;

C is the number of crime sites;

- f is an empirically determined exponent;
- g is an empirically determined exponent;

 x_i, y_j are the coordinates of point ij; and

 x_n, y_n are the coordinates of the *n*th crime site.

Problem: Nowhere in my reading could I find any indication of how *f*, *g*, and *k* are determined. In fact, Rossmo says that the way they are determined is "proprietary."

Bringing The AHRP and Geographic Profiling Together

- 1. Point 3 of Rossmo's observations made brings to mind using the AHRP generated dominant vector.
- The dominant vector not only gives a ranking, but also assigns a value to the strength of that ranking. For example Category VI is viewed as about 2.7 times as violent as Category V and Category VII is viewed as about 2 times as violent as Category 5 and 1¹/₂ times less violent than Category VII.
- 3. The function *a*^x for 0 < a < 1 decays in much the same way as a Pareto function. NOTE: the larger *a*, the slower the decay.
- 4. Some adjustment must be made for the Buffer Zone.
- Use Derive[®]'s ability to put pictures as background to graphs to place crime scene location maps on the graph and read off coordinates.

The Work of David Canter

David Canter a professor in the Centre for Investigative Psychology at the University of Liverpool came into national prominence in the UK when he helped the London Police narrow down the "home base" of the, then unknown, "Railway Killer', John Duffy in 1986.

In a 2000 paper, Canter, and colleagues published a paper in the Journal of Quantitative Criminology that examined the effectiveness of analytical models of Geographical Profiling. In particular, they looked at models based on the idea of a decay function of the form, $Y = e^{-\beta x}$. They examined these functions for their statistical accuracy in know cases of serial crimes.

While these functions represented the decay in the likely hood of the criminal traveling from a particular distance to the crime scene, they did not incorporate a buffer zone where it was less likely that the criminal would commit the crime. The paper stated:

"To model the presence of a buffer zone, steps, areas with a B value of 0, and plateaus of, areas of a constant B-value . . . , are inserted in front of the exponential function."

How I Approached the Problem

- I basically liked Rossmo's insights and approach to the problem. However, not knowing the values of *f* and *g* in his algorithm for assigning a likely hood to points on the map left me against a stone wall for proceeding.
- Canter's exponential decay functions made a lot of sense to me for assigning values to points outside of the buffer zone, but it did not make sense to have a constant value inside the buffer zone. Rossmo allowed for the (small) probabilityof an attack within this zone.
- 3. The Brantingham's (Rossmo's thesis advisors at Simon Frazer) made the observation that the serial perpetrator was, the further the distance from the home base to the crime site.
- 4. Amalgamating these three points made me think of Saaty's AHRP and using functions outside of the buffer zone of the form, $Y = \beta^{-x}$, where β was related to a ranking of crime severity.
- 5. Inside of the buffer zone, I thought of using the reciprocal of 1 minus the exponential that was scaled to have a value of 1 on the boundary of the buffer zone.

I started in one dimension with a radius of 1 for the buffer zone by graphing the DERIVE expression:



These curves have the shape that I am looking for inside the buffer region, but need to be reflected about the line, y=x.

So, I solve for x in terms of y, and then interchange the roles of y and x

#2:
$$y = \frac{1 - \beta}{1 - \beta}$$

#3: $SOLVE\left(y = \frac{1 - \beta}{1 - \beta}, x, Real\right)$
#4: $x = \frac{LN(y \cdot (\beta - 1) + 1)}{LN(\beta)}$

Outside of the buffer region, the curve will be a straight exponential which equals 1 when x=B (δ in this function) and decays as x gets further from B. The graph shows the resulting curves for x = 0.1, . . . ,0.9, and δ = 2.5. I am only interested in the graph for positive x.

Pred(x,
$$\delta$$
, β , α) :=
Prog
 $\alpha := 1 - \beta$
#5: If $x \le \delta \land \beta \ne 1$
 $LN(x \cdot (\alpha - 1)/\delta + 1)/LN(\alpha)$
 $\beta^{\wedge}(x/\delta - 1)$

The result has the type of shape that I am looking for.





Note that when $\beta = 0.1$ the graph rises in almost a straight line fashion from the point of the crime scene to the edge of the buffer zone and then, outside the buffer zone, decreases rapidly. When $\beta = 0.9$ it rises much more slowly within the buffer zone and outside it decreases much more slowly, indicating that criminal may prefer not to travel so far for a lesser violent crime than for a more violent crime.

In this one dimensional world we will assume that we have crime scenes at $x_1 = 2$ and $x_2 - 6$ with a buffer zone radius of 1. I will need to average the values of my Pred function for different crime sites. Simple enough, use the expression below.

This average shows for each point on the x-axis the relation of that point to *both* of the crime scenes.



The Case of John Duffy



Figure 11.4 John Duffy - the Railway Killer



We begin with the case that started it all, it became known as the case of the Railway Killer because of the three murders in 1986. When Duffy started his spree of serial rapes, it was thought that there were 2 rapists. See photos to the left. This threw the police off for some time, but they finally connected the earlier rapes that started in 1982 with the 1986 rape/murders.

Professor David Cantor of Liverpool University looked at the map to the left and concentrating on Duffy's early exploits and was able to find a reasonable area for the police to look for the perpetrator of all crimes.

Let's see how DERIVE, the AHRP, and I do with the same information.

If the map is placed on a 8X8 grid with the origin in the middle, the following points correspond to the coordinates of the first three of Duffy's Crimes done in 1982.

Using Rossmo's criteria for the size of the "buffer zone" as one half of the Mean Nearest Neighbor Distance between crime sites, we write a program to evaluate this size.

```
BufferSize(M, i, j, k, v, d, B) :=
           Prog
              v = VECTOR(1000, i, 1, DIM(M))
              i := 1
              Loop
                 If i > DIM(M)
                     RETURN \Sigma(v_{\downarrow}k, k, 1, DIM(M))/(2 \cdot DIM(M))
                 i ≔ 1
#10:
                 Loop
                   .
If j > DIM(M) exit
                    d ≔ v⊥i
                    Ifi≠i
                        d := ABS(M_{\downarrow}i_{\downarrow}1 - M_{\downarrow}j_{\downarrow}1) + ABS(M_{\downarrow}i_{\downarrow}2 - M_{\downarrow}j_{\downarrow}2)
                    If d < v↓i
                        v↓i ≔ d
                    j := j + 1
                 i := i + 1
#11: BufferSize(M2)
#12:
                                                       3.4316
```

Given a point in the "hunting area" of the serial criminal, (x,y), we write a function that is in the 'spirit' of Rossmo's function based on a Paereto probability distribution, but using my Pred function. The parameter M is the matrix of crime site locations, β is the normalized value for the 'intensity' of this type of crime found using the AHRP, and δ is the buffer size. The calculation uses the Manhattan Metric to determine distance.

```
Likelyhood(x, y, M, β, δ, i, j, d, p, s) :=

Prog

i := 1

s := 0

Loop

#13: If i > DIM(M)

RETURN s/DIM(M)

d := ABS(x - M<sub>1</sub>i<sub>1</sub>1) + ABS(y - M<sub>1</sub>i<sub>2</sub>2)

p := Pred(d, δ, β)

s := s + p

i := i + 1
```

We test the likely hood of two arbitrary points (0,0) and (-3.5,1.56) for crime site locations in matrix, M2, β = 0.6, and δ = 3.05865. Note that (0,0) is a rather likely candidate for the home base, and the second point is less likely.

```
#14: Likelyhood(0, 0, M2, 0.6, 3.05865)
#15: 0.8693155997
#16: Likelyhood(-3.5, 1.56, M2, 0.6, 3.05865)
#17: 0.5401394059
```

Since we are looking for the points with the strongest relationship to the crime scenes given the intensity of the crime, we want to know the maximum value of the function across the hunting area. Unfortunately, we need to do a discrete search and will not cover every point as will be evidenced when we test our function.

```
GridMax(M, \beta, \delta, xl, xr, yl, yu, mx, xstep, ystep, x1, y1, i, j, val)
        Prog
          xstep := (xr - x])/100
          ystep := (yu - yl)/100
          mx = -1000
          x1 := x]
          y1 ∷ y]
          Loop
            If x1 > xr exit
#18:
            y1 ≔ yl
            loon
              If y1 > yu exit
              val := Likelyhood(x1, y1, M, \beta, \delta)
              If val > mx
                 mx := val
              y1 := y1 + ystep
            x1 := x1 + xstep
          mx
#19: GridMax(M2, 0.44, 3.05865, -4, 4, -4, 4)
                                     0.840472877
#20:
```

We already showed that (0,0) has a larger value, however it was not in the collection of points that was tested.

Let's get a 3-D view of the Likelyhood function for M2 with β = 0.44 and δ = 3.4316 showing those points where the likelyhood is above 95% of the maximum value for the function.



Now we look at the projection of this region on the map of Duffy's crime spree. The resulting region contains the area picked out by Professor Canter which is in the middle of the three crime sites designated by stars, i.e. the 1982 crime sites.



#24: Likelyhood(x, y, M2, 0.44, 3.05865) ≥ 0.8

The Derive[®] Working Environment And The Lafayette, Louisana South Side Rapist

This next matrix is for the crime sites related to the "South Side Rapist" from Lafayette Louisianna. This is a case that was cracked by Rossmo, himself.

 $\begin{bmatrix} -0.99 & 3.17 \\ -1.057 & 1.684 \\ -2.273 & 1.355 \\ -2.875 & 1.175 \\ -2.625 & 0.882 \\ -3.25 & -0.158 \\ 0.125 & -1.658 \\ 0.431 & 0.789 \\ -1.715 & -3.25 \\ 3.068 & -3.382 \\ 3.363 & -3.382 \\ 3.557 & -3.395 \end{bmatrix}$

Next we calculate the Buffer size and the maximum for the Likelyhood function within the "hunting region" of South Side Rapist

#26: BufferSize(M1) #27: 0.6512692307 #28: GridMax(M1, 0.44, 0.65127, -4, 4, -4, 4) #29: 0.2525160807

Because this is such a small value, we will look at points that have a value of 60% of the maximum value of the Likelyhood function.

#30: 0.6.0.2525160807

^{#31:} 0.1515096484 We now look at the 3D plot and the points that lie above 0.15.

#32: Likelyhood(x, y, M1, 0.44, 0.6512692307)



Projecting this region onto the map of the Rapist's hunting region in Lafayette Louisiana, we get two areas that look promising. It turned out that the rapist was a police detective who had moved from the area in the upper left to the area in the lower right of the map during the crime spree.



Jack the Ripper

Below are the regions (shown in red) selected as possibilities for Jack's base of operations by Rossmo as illustrated in his book.



We look at the matrix of crime scene locations for the infamous, and unknown, "Jack the Ripper".

#35: M3 := [-2.57 -2.64]
1.28 -2.62]
#35: M3 := [2.84 1.44]
-0.77 1.71]
-1.68 0.46]
#36: BufferSize(M3)
#37: 1.594

The more I thought about it, I really could have a much shorter program for finding the GridMax. So here is the new GridMax Program. This one ran a few tenths of a second faster than the original program.



#42: Likelyhood(x, y, M3, 0.44, 1.594)

#43: Likelyhood(x, y, M3, 0.44, 1.594) > 0.42



- 1. I need to read more criminology research concerning buffer zones and look at published numbers for different types of crimes.
- 2. The AHRP give values for β that are rather small. Is there a way to maybe use Saaty's reasoning on comparisons to expand the scale to $\beta = 0.1, \ldots, 0.9$
- 3. Would it be better to adjust functions to scale of map and assign a constant that will give a more reasonable rate of decay for the exponential functions?
- 4. Is there a way that the AHRP can be used to determine Rossmo's constants *f*, *g*, and *k*?
- 5. Rossmo's summing of probabilities represents a disjunction. I think that Canter's idea of the average showing the "strength of a relationship" makes much more sense. Does it?
- 6. Michael O'Leary of Towson State University in Maryland and his students developed a probability distribution for finding the home base of serial criminals. This may be a promising direction.

Bibliography

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