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Spatiotemporal Analytics: Finding Clusters of Geographic Objects or Events

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The temporal dimension of geographic data is often ignored such that outcomes from analysis of geographic objects or events are often misleading. Researchers often apply spatial analysis to identify hot/cold spots of geographic events, such as crime or diseases occurrences. However, hot/cold spots do not remain constant over time. There may be hot/cold spots that are just emerging or slowly diminishing. Alternatively, hot/cold spots may be stubborn through time, or some locations may never be hot/cold spots of the events. As the importance of temporal dimension embedded in geographic data slowly gaining attention, a number of quantitative methods have been developed for finding spatiotemporal clusters of geographic objects or events. This presentation will highlight some of these newly developed methods and their possible applications.

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