

MOVE Cost Call COST-STSM-IC0903-040213-027633

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Temporal dynamic model for Geographic Information: The cube of Time

Call for Short Term Scientific Missions -STSM

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# Final Activities Report

- 1. Cover letter
- 2. Host Report
- 3. COST STSM 2012 Report
- 4. Article submitted

# Final report

# **Objective**

To propose a model for analysing temporal relations and patterns derived from dynamic geographic phenomena. This model, entitled The Cube of Time (Ct), was conceived as a framework to identify possible relations and affections of geographic phenomena exclusively considering their temporal associate information. Its main purpose is to identify the way in which phenomena are correlated and evolve over time, and to analyse how different phenomena affect each other. The framework can be and will be experimented in the context of maritime data.

#### Institutions involved

Host Institution: Naval Academy Research Institute (L'Institut de Recherche de l'École

Navale - IRENav);

Home Institution: Technical University of Madrid (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid).

# **Activities performed**

During the six weeks period of the STSM, from 25th February to 8th April 2013, the following activities were performed:

- 1. During the first week, different personal talks with Professors, PhD students, and other researchers at the IRENav were developed. Such talks were useful because I identified common points with several researchers of the IRENav's staff pursuing new potential cooperation activities. The work plan for the coming weeks was also defined.
- 2. During the second week, in addition to made a presentation for the IRENav's staff regarding my ongoing research activities, we clarified the tasks to be developed during the STSM. We agreed two main tasks as follows. (i) Regarding the online bibliography about spatiotemporal modelling and cross-related topics, write a short paper and submit it to the SIGMOD Record Journal. (ii) Define the initial and fundamental elements for the temporal model.
- During the weeks 3 and 4, (i) I fulfilled some improvements to *Time*Bliography, the dynamic and online bibliography on Temporal GIS, <u>spaceandtime.wsiabato.info/tGIS.html</u>.
   (ii) We completed a short paper regarding the functionality and benefits of *Time*Bliography, and submitted it to the *ACM SIGMOD Record Journal*.
- 4. During the two final weeks, the core elements for the temporal analytical framework were defined. We established the properties and the logic of the cube. Elements such as *Temporal axes, Temporal points, Parallel planes, Bi-temporal planes, and linear functions* were theoretically defined. A draft document describing such elements was outlined. Figure 1 shows a representation of some of these elements. An in-progress draft report describes the core elements deeply. We also specified a case study for testing the model and develop a few experiments in the context of maritime data considering several datasets that the IRENav has collected during the last years.
- 5. Finally, I assisted to several speeches and talks that were made by other visitor researchers and IRENav's stuff researchers. Multiple academic links resulted from this activity.

#### **Outcomes and results**

As a result of the previous tasks, the following results were obtained:

1. We have submitted a paper to the ACM SIGMOD Record Journal, currently under review.

Siabato, W., Claramunt, C. & Manso-Callejo, M. Á. 2013, 'Timebliography: A Dynamic and Online Bibliography on Temporal GIS', *ACM SIGMOD Record*, vol. 42, no. 0, p. 0-0.

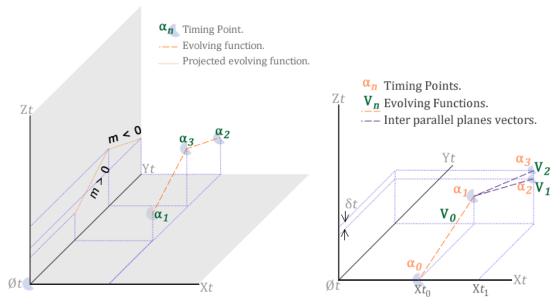


Figure 1. Representation of several constructs of the cube of time.

- 2. We have significantly improved the online bibliography *Time*Bliography. We expect that this online tool to be useful for researchers relating to spatio-temporal issues, especially in spatio-temporal modelling and Temporal GIS research activities.
- 3. We have outlined a draft report on the basic definitions of the dynamic temporal framework: The Cube of Time. This report is still in progress.
- 4. I have established rich academic relationships with IRENav's researchers and other research visitors, especially from Japan and Greece.

#### Forthcoming activities

- 1. To complete the report mentioned above in point 3 and write a position paper in order to submit it to a workshop.
- 2. To make some experiments of the analytical framework considering the maritime datasets.
- 3. To make stronger the academic links created.
- 4. To identify open calls in order to prepare a join proposal between the UPM and the IRENav.

# Timebliography: A Dynamic and Online Bibliography on Temporal GIS

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#### **Abstract**

This paper introduces an online bibliography on temporal GIS, a research area in which different fields and researchers have provided substantial results and literature over the past few years. We first define the scientific domain of temporal GIS, its origin and recent evolution, and the context of this bibliography. Then, the components and functionalities of the web application that support the online bibliography are described. The bibliography is accessible on the Web at http://spaceandtime.wsiabato.info.

#### 1. Introduction

Temporal geographic information systems (T-GIS) can be defined as the integration of the temporal dimension into geographic information systems (GIS) in order to model, manage, and analyse the intrinsic dynamic nature of geographic phenomena. Such integration is still a difficult issue due to the complexity of the modelling, analysis, and visualization of spatiotemporal data within a GIS. The fact that GIS is oriented to the representation of real-world phenomena implies contributions from a large set of scientific disciplines. Without being totally exhaustive, as many other sciences and fields can contribute to it (e.g., Mathematics, Psychology), the foundations of T-GIS are mainly rooted in four sciences: Geography, Computer Science, Information Science, and Geographic Information Science. Each of them contributes at different levels:

- (i) Geography is per principle an essential dimension of T-GIS since it provides methods and spatial data analysis foundations for the analysis and understanding of geographic phenomena.
- (ii) Computer Science covers the need for conceptual and formal models, spatio-temporal data structures, data query languages, data analysis and visualization methods, algorithms, and user interfaces.
- (iii) Information Science is closely related to the organization, storage, retrieval, interpretation, transmission, mining, transformation, and utili-

- zation of all sorts of information related to geographic data.
- (iv) Geographic Information Science (GIScience), as derived from these three fundamental sciences, integrates them in a sort of unified metadiscipline from which the modelling and analysis of geographic phenomena at large can be studied and solved.

Timebliography (/tim'bliografi/) is an online resource created in order to provide students and researchers with a dynamic bibliography whose focus is oriented towards temporal aspects of GIS and other cross-related topics. Several research communities have contributed to the development of T-GIS over the last two decades. However, there still exists the lack of an up-to-date bibliography related at large to T-GIS. This online bibliography intends to cover this lack and complement previous surveys and bibliographic compilations. As T-GIS is clearly a multidisciplinary research subject, the online bibliography involves significant contributions from the abovedescribed sciences. As of December 2012 over 1.100 references have been categorized in 36 topics according to the different research subjects that have made multiple contributions.

In the remainder of the article, section 2 presents a brief description of the origins of T-GIS, while section 3 introduces some previous surveys and bibliographies relevant to T-GIS, describes the components and functionality of the web application, and briefly presents the harvested bibliographic sources and repositories. Section 4 concludes by presenting some future works and recommendations.

# 2. Milestones in spatio-temporal modelling

Before the GIS research community even started thinking about the temporal dimension, other Computer Science domains had already made significant advances in the management and modelling of time.

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 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  This was suggested by Helen Couclelis at a GIScience 2012 invited talk.

In particular, research into conventional databases can be tracked back over 50 years [14, 21]. The development of spatial databases began with groundwork for the manipulation of geographic [8] and pictorial data [11] in information systems. Several spatial extensions were implemented into conventional database management systems (DBMS) during the 1980s (e.g., layered and dual architectures [4, 43]). These approaches laid the foundations for what later became the *Integrated Architecture*. This new architecture represented a turning point in the design of spatial databases and favoured the development of spatial DBMS such as POSTGRES [53].

On the other hand, the modelling of time as a specific research subject has been studied much before in several fields, such as natural language [10], information systems [23], logic [28, 37], and artificial intelligence [2]. The integration of time into databases can be traced over the past 30 years [5, 13, 50], whereas the development of spatio-temporal databases began in the late 1980s [6].

It was in the early 1990s that the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA) first envisioned the need for the integration of time into GIS [38]:

We assume that at least some temporal aspects of a GIS with temporal data will be similar to the problems of temporal data in other applications and the results of work done in other areas applicable to GIS. (p. 2)

Since then, the integration of temporal capabilities into GIS has been a matter of active research. One work considered as a starting point is that introduced by Langran and Chrisman [24] who first established several modelling concepts for the development of T-GIS. In another earlier work, Donna Peuquet [35] had suggested a taxonomy and a comprehensive review of spatial-data models and briefly mentioned the importance of time in spatial data systems and models. As she concluded regarding the integration of the fourth dimension (time) in the spatial data models:

This is the one area currently identified in spatial data models and computer spatial data handling where we have barely scratched the surface. (p. 110)

During the last few years, several spatio-temporal models have been proposed to evolve in this direction. Spatio-temporal modelling trends can be classified considering the theoretical approach on which each model is based, i.e., feature-based (e.g., [26, 27, 54]), event-based (e.g., [12, 34, 60, 62]), identity-based (e.g., [19]), process-based (e.g., [65]), semantic-based (e.g., [64, 67]), object-oriented (e.g., [7, 32,

40, 55, 57-59, 61]), the space-time composite model (e.g., [24, 25]), simple time stamping (e.g., [20, 39]), or the snapshot model (e.g., [6, 46]). Nowadays, an emerging domain in the modelling of dynamic geographic phenomena is oriented to the analysis and representations of moving objects (points) and trajectories (e.g., [16, 17, 31]).

These approaches have defined different methods and rules for describing temporal characteristics and the dynamic nature of geographic phenomena considering three main focuses of interaction: processes, objects or events. Abraham and Roddick [1] and Pelekis [33] provide a comprehensive overview of spatiotemporal databases and models.

#### 3. Online bibliography

Several bibliographic reviews and annotated bibliographies on temporal [9, 22, 29, 47-49, 51, 52, 56, 63] and spatial [18, 35, 42] databases have been published over the past 30 years, while more specific reviews oriented to spatio-temporal issues have also been published [1, 3, 33, 36, 41, 44, 66]. This online bibliography also references 60 previous surveys, bibliographies and studies relating to temporal and spatio-temporal aspects.

The main differences between Timebliography and previous bibliographies are (i) an online, dynamic interface, (ii) a thematic classification used for filtering references, and (iii) the fact that this bibliography is available on the Web with several interactive functionalities. Moreover, a large online documentation including the abstract and a link to the publisher's website through *doi name* is also available. When the *doi name* is not available, a link to other academic databases is provided, e.g., ACM Digital Library, CiteSeerX, DBLP, or Google Books.

Timebliography is organized in four disciplines and 36 areas. These areas reflect the scientific domains mentioned in the introduction.<sup>2</sup> Table 1 shows the main areas in which the defined categories are involved.

#### 3.1 Timebliography components

As shown in Figure 1, Timebliography's GUI (graphic user interface) is composed of nine elements: (1) sections and categories, (2) category filters, (3) publication filters, (4) textual filter, (5) pop-up descriptor, (6) timeline, (7) categorized reference list, (8) menu, and (9) multi-categorization.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Categories were defined by considering research agendas (e.g., [30]) and academic programmes (e.g., [15]) that have influenced the GIScience development.

Table 1. Main research areas related to T-GIS

Discipline	Areas
Geography	Time Geography
	Spatial Analysis
Computer Science	Databases
	Artificial Intelligence –AI–
	Temporal Modelling
	Data Structures
	Visualization
Information Science	Information Retrieval –IR–
	Geographic Information Retrieval
	Temporal Information Retrieval
GIScience	GIS
	Temporal GIS (Spatio-temporal Data Modelling)
	Spatial Data Modelling and Handling
	Spatial Data Infrastructures –SDI–

#### Sections and categories

Timebliography is classified into four sections: *Core*, *Secondary*, *Others*, and *Standards*. Each of the sections organizes the 36 categories according to their relevance and impact on T-GIS. In order to identify the section to which a reference belongs easily, they are represented according to three different colours. Similarly, the *Standards* section is categorized using different symbols that represent the standardization institutions (i.e., W3C, ISO and OGC). The 36 categories are classified as follows:

- (i) The *Core* section includes the most relevant categories that have impacted the development of T-GIS.
- (ii) The Secondary section includes the categories that, although not being a direct part of T-GIS, play a relevant role in its development. Key concepts such as the conceptual modelling of time (e.g. AI and Logic) or spatial data modelling and reasoning are considered particularly for the integration of the temporal variable in GIS.
- (iii) The *Others* section includes those research areas that, being considered as individual subjects, are not relevant enough to be directly related to the development of T-GIS.
- (iv) The *Standards* section includes articles, institutions, norms, and standards that rule temporal and spatio-temporal aspects in GIS and cross-

related areas. Mainly, standards from OGC, ISO, and W3C are referenced.

Over 1.100 references are classified according to these categories. A reference can be categorized in one or more areas. Categories are listed in Table 2, while their relative importance is presented in Figure 5 in the Annex. Figure 2 shows the *Core* section.

#### **Tools and functionalities**

The categorized references can be searched and filtered by four criteria: sections and categories, type of publication, article title, and first author's last name.

Filters. Users can filter the referenced articles by considering either a specific section, or a category, or a type of publication using the checkbox controls available in the GUI (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).

In the same way that colours are used to recognize sections, the *type of publication* can easily be recognized by nine different font colours (Figure 3). Similarly, the *categories* are represented by a set of geometrical identifiers carefully selected to avoid confusion between them. Overall, any reference is classified into a section, category, and type of publication.

References can also be filtered by taking into account author and title. The *textual filter* supports a search for references according to any criterion specified by the user. While a user is typing a search criterion, the references which match such criteria appear in the timeline. Searches by title can contain any fragment of it but must follow a strict word order, e.g., ... *relationships in temporal spaces*. The *textual filter* just considers the first author's last name. This function does not act as a search by multiple keywords.

Pop-up descriptor. This descriptor provides users with a detailed description of each reference including the abstract, author's/s' full name(s), publisher, date of publication, and a link to the publisher's website, where extra information and related references can be viewed when available. In some cases, when papers are published under open licence, the link redirects to the article itself. As mentioned above, Timebliography mainly uses doi name to link articles' websites; nonetheless, when the doi name is not available, other academic databases are linked (see Table 3, Annex 1). If the doi name or CiteSeerX ID is available, the pop-up shows a green code (doi:10\*.\*.\*.\*\*) below the abstract. In any other case, the URL website is linked to the article's title. When no website is linked, the title looks red in colour. Figure 4 shows an example of a pop-up descriptor. This link extends Timebliography's functionality to the linked repositories, allowing users to acquire more information relating to the reference.

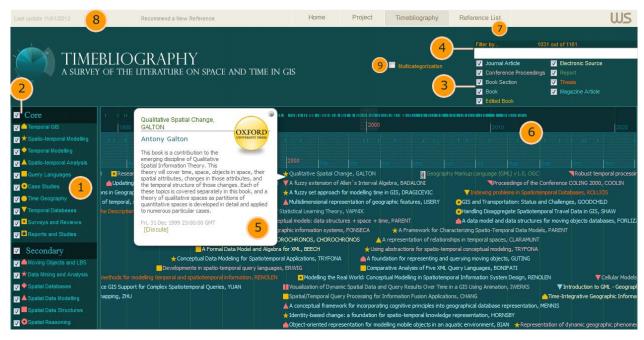


Figure 1. General overview of Timebliography's interface (http://spaceandtime.wsiabato.info)

Table 2. Timebliography's categories by section

Section I: Core	Section II: Secondary	Section III: Others	Section IV: Standardization
Temporal GIS	Moving Objects and LBS	Interoperability	Standardization
Spatio-temporal Modelling	Data Mining and Analysis	SDI and Geoservices	Institutions
Temporal Modelling	Spatial Databases	GIS and GIScience	ISO
Spatio-temporal Analysis	Spatial Data Modelling	GI and Data	W3C
Query Languages	Spatial Data Structures	Software	OGC
Case Studies	Spatial Reasoning	Calendars	
Time Geography	Databases	3D/4D	
Temporal Databases	AI and Logic		
Surveys and Reviews	Semantics and NLP		
Reports and Studies	IR, GIR and TIR		
	Annotating Time		
	Ontologies		
	Visualization		
	Topology		

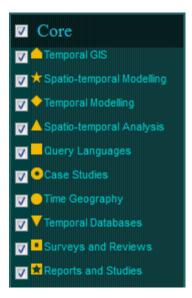


Figure 2. Preview of the Core section

Timeline. The timeline organizes references chronologically. References are organized left-right according to publication date and top-down according to type of publication. Panning functions allow users to move across the timeline intuitively. Browsing can be annually or monthly. The timeline functionality is based on the API SIMILE [45].

Reference list. Timebliography also provides a static, conventional reference list. This list is organized and classified according to the defined categories. It also contains the links available in the *pop-up descriptor*.

*Menu*. The Timebliography menu allows users to browse through its web pages: *timeline*, *reference list* webpage, project description, and home. Last but not least, additional references can be suggested, as well as reporting errors, by using the function *Recommend a New Reference*.



Figure 3. Publication types

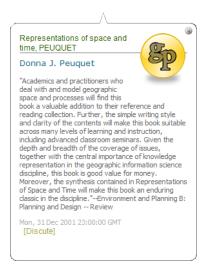


Figure 4. Example of a pop-up descriptor

Multi-categorization. A reference can be related to one or more areas and, therefore, be part of one or more category. When a user chooses this option, not only will the individual references of the active category be shown, but also those references registered in other categories. The reference will always take the geometrical identifier of the main category.

#### 3.2 Online bibliography implementation

As a dynamic bibliography, Timebliography is evolving, both in number of references and in functionality. The first version was made available online in December 2011 and since then, the number of references has been increased by 30% and functionalities for filtering and searching extended. Web metrics based on Google Analytics show that from July 2012 to January 2013 a total number of 905 visits<sup>3</sup> (573 unique visitors) were registered. A bounce rate of 68% and an average visit duration of 04:40 shows that the prototype is being consulted by multiple users multiple times. A returning visitor rate of 43% could be interpreted as satisfactory. Most users are located in Europe, and North and South America.

A thoughtful bibliographic review was done taking into consideration relevant bibliographic sources and databases. The main sources of Timebliography are described in Table 3 (see Annex 1). Further description, statistics, bibliometrics, as well as an up-to-date bibliographic compilation are also available at http://spaceandtime.wsiabato.info.

References are stored in a database repository managed by MySQL 5.0. UTF-8 Unicode encoding has been used to avoid typos in authors' names and article titles. The web application is based on JavaScript (jQuery Library), CSS, Ajax, and HTML standard

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> From 24/06/2012 to 31/01/2013

4.01. Although most browsers render the application properly, some problems with Internet Explorer 9 have been identified. This browser is not able to organize reference titles as expected. The use of Mozilla Firefox (13+), Chrome, or Safari is recommended for browsing Timebliography. All resources and sources are available upon request.

While Timebliography is loading bibliographic data from the database, a brief how-to tutorial is displayed. This tutorial is intended to show users how to interact with the application.

#### 4. Conclusion

To the best of our knowledge, Timebliography is the first attempt to provide an interactive T-GIS bibliography on the Web. This application should provide researchers and postgraduate students interested in the development of T-GIS with an interactive, up-to-date and comprehensive resource to survey previous work in the field. Timebliography considers the state of the art, latest developments, and current trends in T-GIS, as well as in temporal and spatio-temporal modelling and analysis methods and techniques.

We plan to guarantee the evolution of the prototype and maintain the updating of the bibliography by adding new references and including users' feedback. Future functionalities will include search by keywords, semantics extension of the pop-up descriptor, integration of visual aids for multi-categorization, and additional interactions of the timeline with the reference list. The possibility for users to include, and not only suggest, new references in the database could eventually be considered as long as a review procedure is also included. In the near future, when the number of references and users increases, performance issues will be observed and addressed if and when necessary.

As usual in this kind of compilation, we may have overlooked some relevant papers and we would be glad if they were brought to our attention. For this purpose, Timebliography provides a method for suggesting the inclusion of overlooked references.

The bibliography is fully accessible online at http://spaceandtime.wsiabato.info

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#### Annex 1

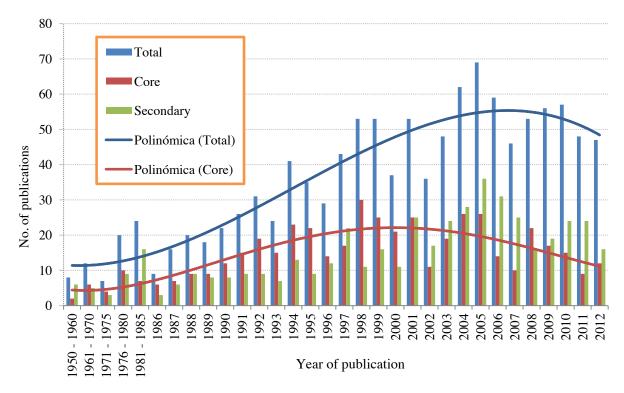


Figure 5. Trends in the publication of spatio-temporal topics compiled in Timebliography

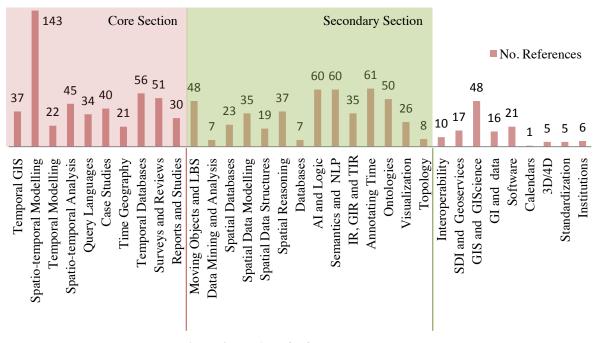


Figure 6. Number of references per category

Table 3. Main scientific databases searched for the definition of Timebliography

Source	URL		
ISI Web of Knowledge	http://isiknowledge.com		
IEEE Xplore Digital Library	http://ieeexplore.ieee.org		
ACM Digital Library	http://dl.acm.org		
SpringerLink	http://www.springerlink.com		
Scopus	http://www.scopus.com		
Scirus	http://www.scirus.com		
ScienceDirect	http://www.sciencedirect.com		
CiteSeerX	http://citeseer.ist.psu.edu		
Pion Publications Ltd.	http://www.pion.co.uk		
The DBLP Computer Science	http://www.informatik.uni-trier.de/~ley/db		
WorldCat	http://firstsearch.oclc.org		
Ingenta	http://www.ingentaconnect.com		
Engineering Village	http://www.engineeringvillage2.org		
The AutoCarto Archives	http://mapcontext.com/autocarto/proceedings		
International Archives of the ISPRS	http://www.isprs.org/publications/archives.aspx		
EBSCO Host	http://search.ebscohost.com		