

Centre for Risk Studies

5th Risk Summit: Special Topics Seminar

Data for Risk Analysis

Roxane Foulser-Piggott

Centre for
Risk Studies



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
Judge Business School

Big Data

- Datasets that are too large or complex to manipulate or interrogate with commonly used methods or tools (Snijders et al., 2012) e.g. Boston “street bump” app, Google flu trends.
- “N = all” – no longer need to sample, the sample contains everyone.
- Challenges include capture, curation, storage, search, sharing, transfer, analysis and visualisation.
- Big data is difficult to work with using most relational database management systems and desktop statistics and visualisation packages.

Uncertainties

- Uncertainties in models can be divided into aleatory and epistemic uncertainties.
- Aleatory uncertainties are due to natural randomness and cannot be reduced.
- Epistemic uncertainties are due to lack of data or knowledge.
- Uncertainties in models can be reduced by acquiring more, better quality data.
- Does big data offer the capacity to reduce epistemic uncertainty?

Partitioning Uncertainty

$$Y = b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2$$

$$Y = f(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{X}_k)$$

$$Y - \hat{Y} = \sigma$$

Aleatory Epistemic

$$\sigma_T = \sqrt{\sigma_A^2 + \sigma_E^2}$$

$$\sigma_{T_{reduced}} = \sqrt{\sigma_T^2 - \sigma_{T_{vu}}^2}$$

$$\sigma_{T_{vu}}^2 = \left| \frac{\partial Y}{\partial X_1} \right|^2 \sigma_{X_1}^2 + \left| \frac{\partial Y}{\partial X_2} \right|^2 \sigma_{X_2}^2$$

- σ is often assumed to be aleatory.
- σ has epistemic components resulting from:
 1. Inexact form of the model and selection of particular model formulation
 2. Selection of a particular database
 3. Input variable measurement error
 4. Statistical errors in the estimation of parameters
- Points 2 and 3 in this list are directly related to the data used:
 - 2: Use decision tree techniques.
 - 3: Use MC simulations or FOSM.

Big Data Issues

- Boston “Street Bump” app, Google Flu trends, Twitter trends.
- “There are a lot of small data problems that occur in big data” Spiegelhalter¹.
- “N = all” Can big data ever give information about the whole population?
- Does measurement error still exist and is it significant?
- Can we be any clearer about causation and correlation in models using big data?

¹ Financial Times article: Big Data: are we making a big mistake, Tim Harford (March 28 2014)

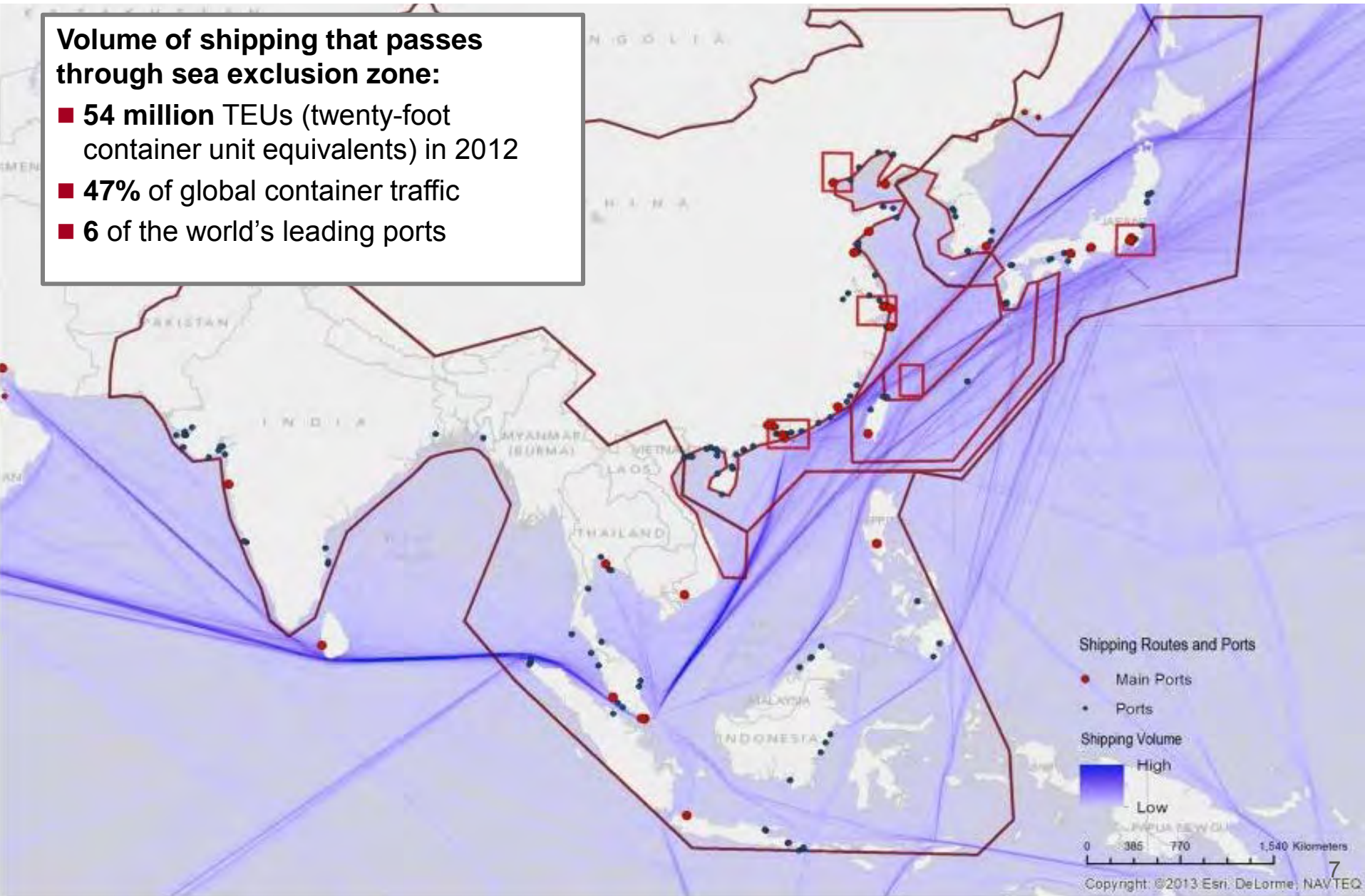
CRS Data

- CRS holds georeferenced datasets which can be used in risk analysis.
- So far, not “big data” but global, low resolution datasets.
- CRS database based on open source data.
- Allows broad understanding of connections between threats (hazards) and different networks (exposure).
- Data analysis example: China-Japan Conflict Scenario

Shipping Lanes Affected by Sea Exclusion Zones

Volume of shipping that passes through sea exclusion zone:

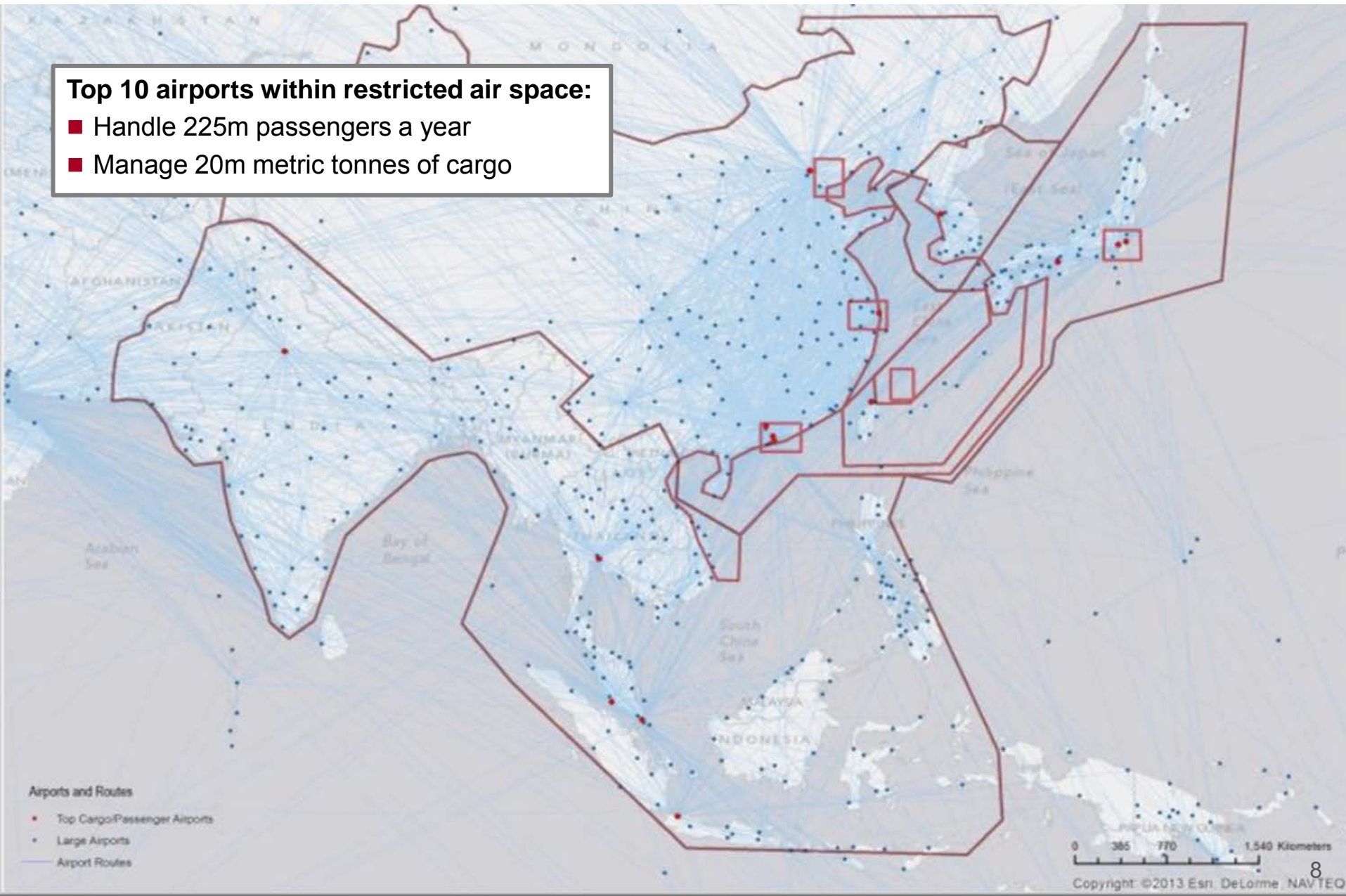
- **54 million** TEUs (twenty-foot container unit equivalents) in 2012
- **47%** of global container traffic
- **6** of the world's leading ports



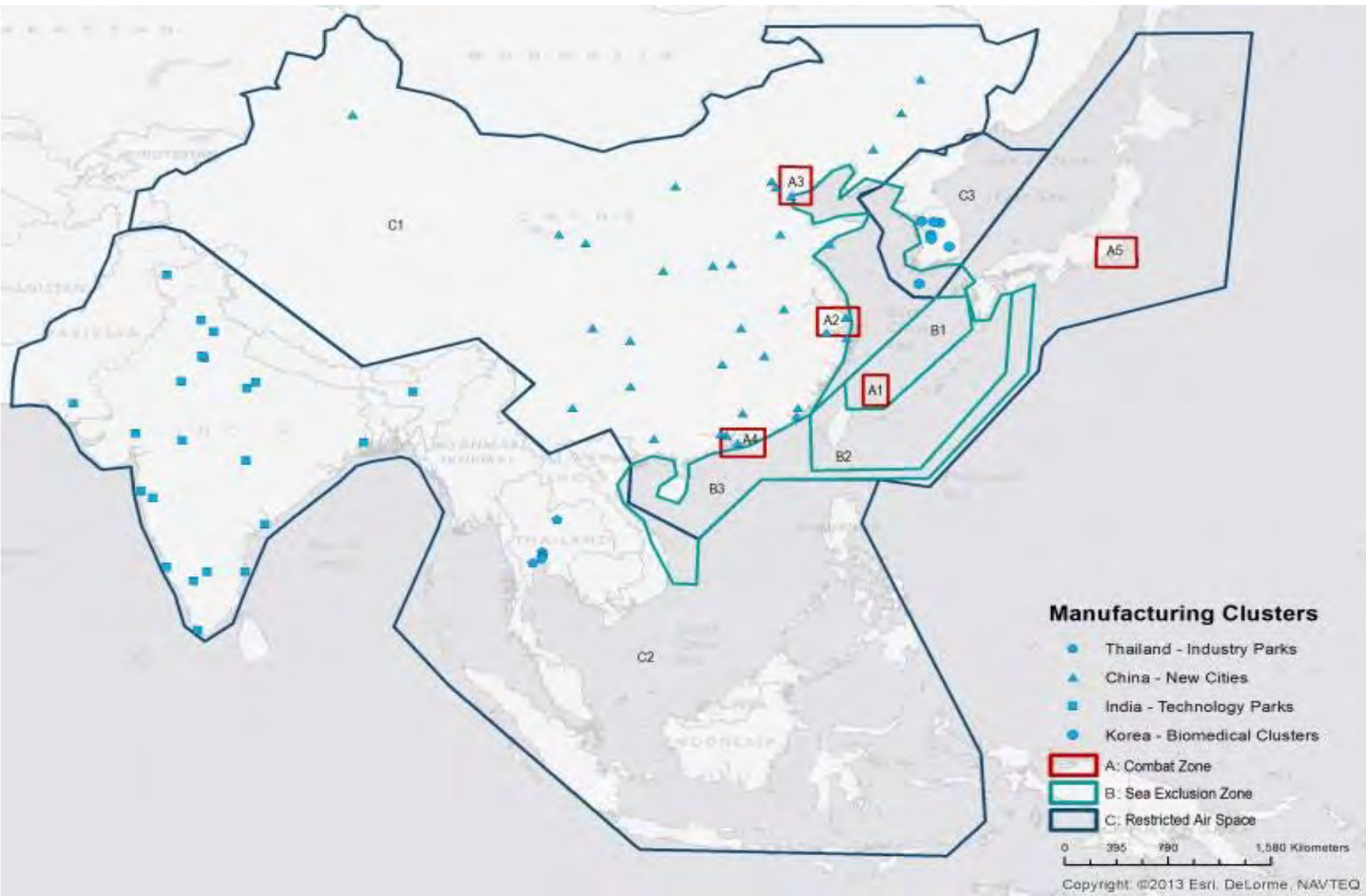
Commercial Flight Routes Affected by Restricted Air Space

Top 10 airports within restricted air space:

- Handle 225m passengers a year
- Manage 20m metric tonnes of cargo



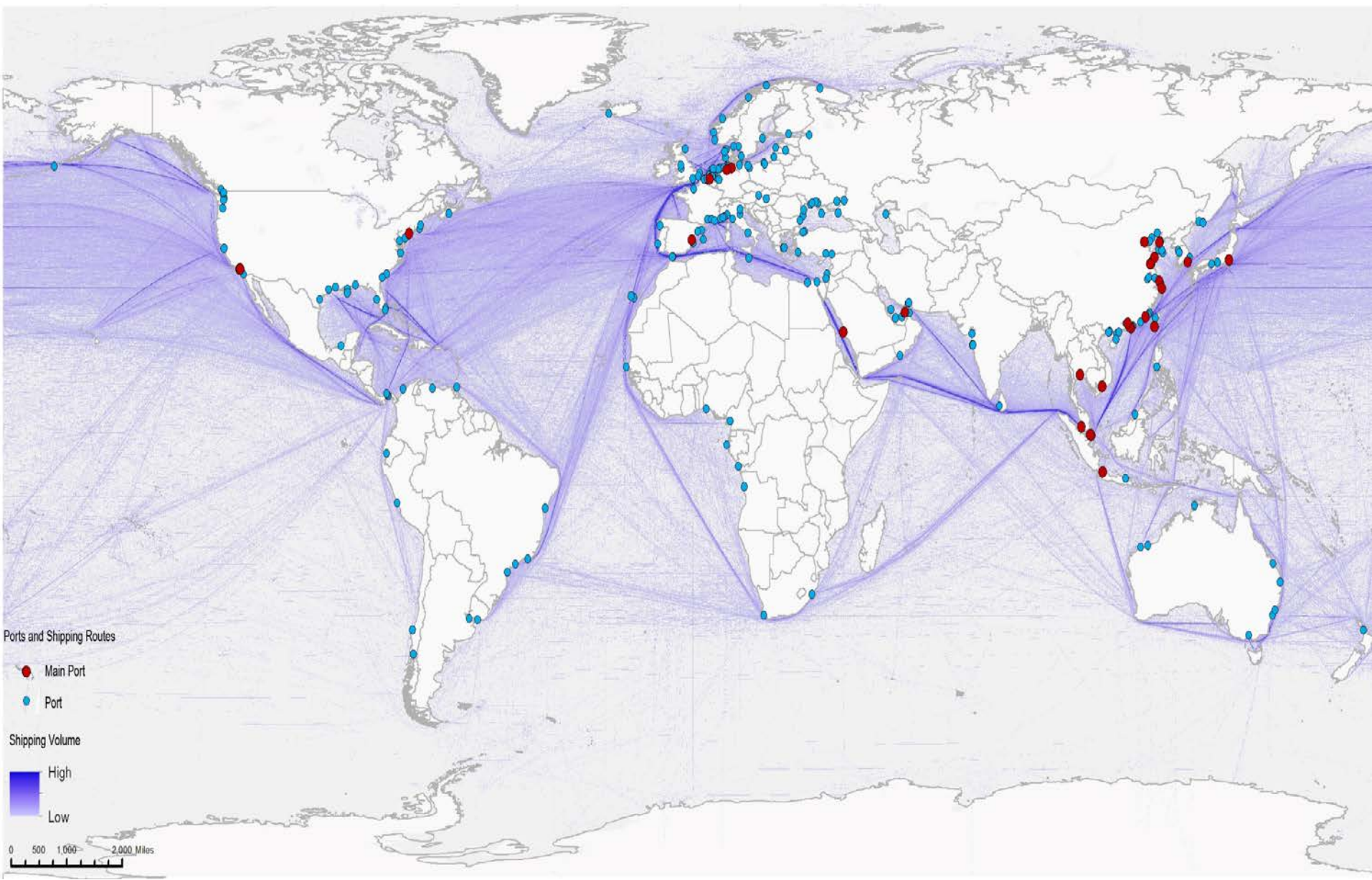
Hi-Tec Manufacturing in the War Zone



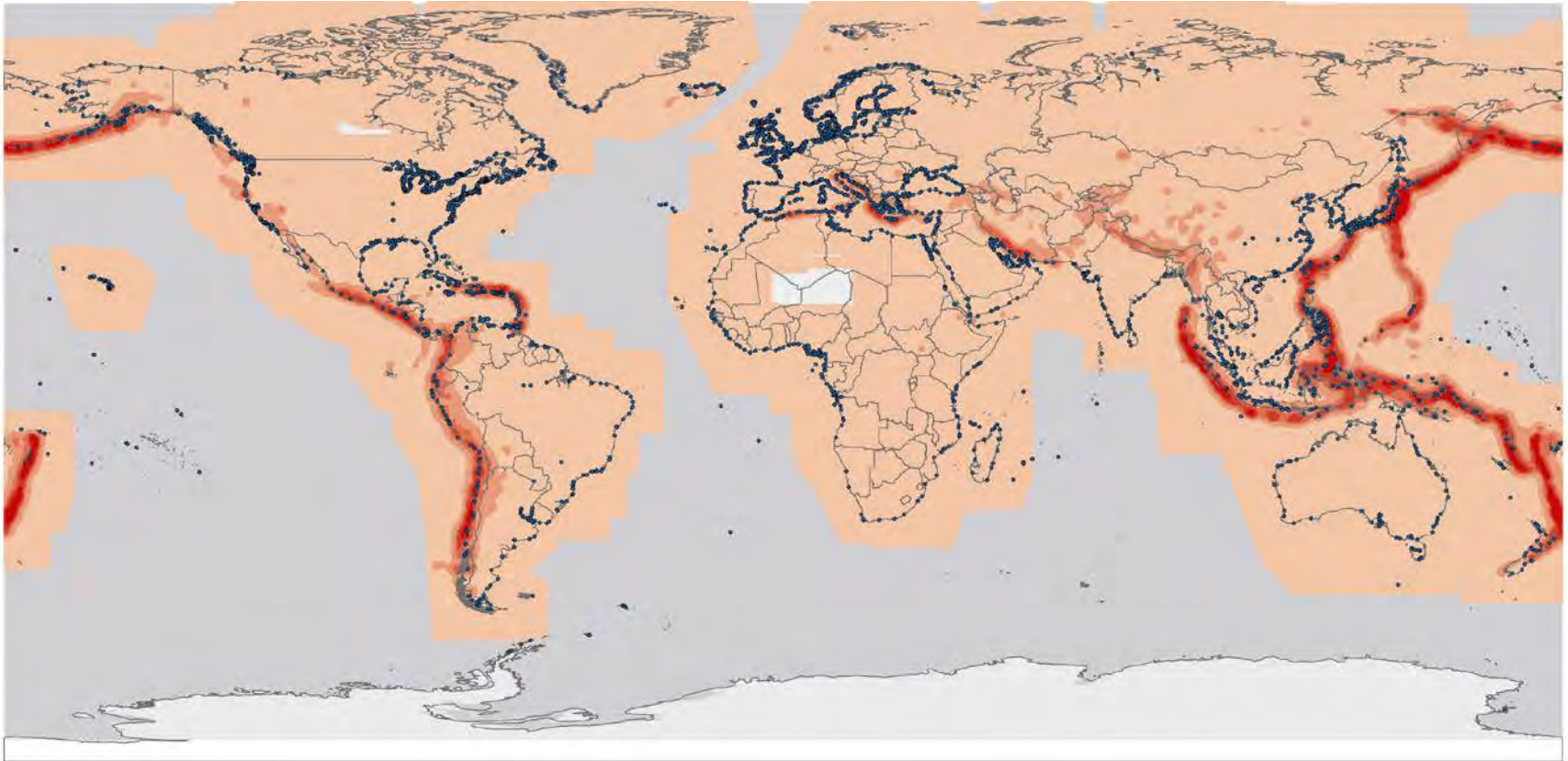
CRS Data – Future Directions

- An example problem: Risk analysis of Singapore port. Research conducted in collaboration with NTU Singapore and Imperial College London.
- CRS Data available:
 - Port location
 - Approximate shipping routes
 - Potential hazards
- Will collecting more data improve our ability to model systemic shocks?
- Will collecting more data reduce uncertainty?
- What data do we need to collect?
- Can we collect or use big data?

Global Shipping Network Routes and Port Locations



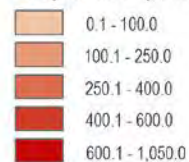
Earthquake Hazard



Ports and Peak Ground Acceleration

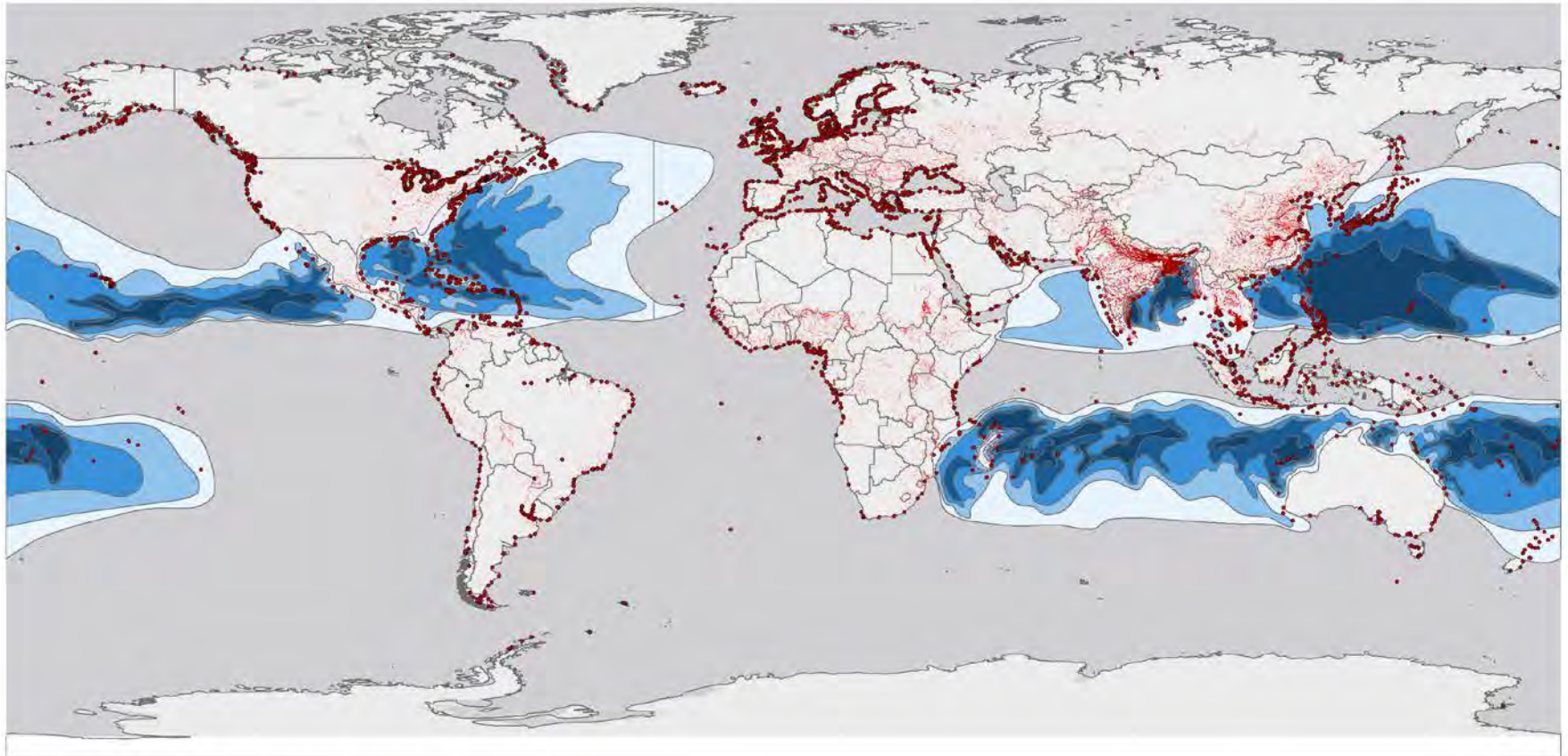
• Port

Peak Ground Acceleration for a
475 year return period (cm/s²)

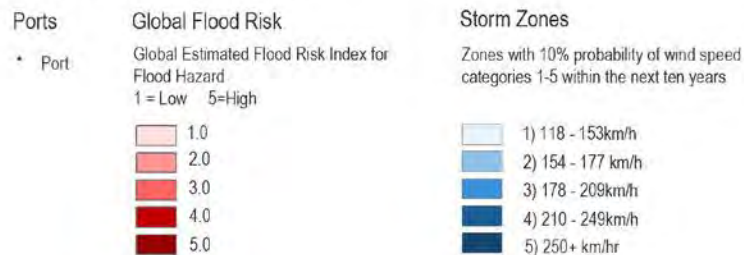


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Flood and Storm Hazard



Ports, Flood Risk and Storm Zones



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Defining the Problem

- The choice of methods for collecting data will depend on the variables to be measured, the source and the resources available.
- Aim is to reduce uncertainty in our model by acquiring more data.
- Data for risk analysis falls in three categories:
 - Hazards
 - Vulnerability
 - Exposure
- Detailed understanding of port operations necessary to model exposure and understand impacts of a hazard.

Data Collection

HAZARD AND EXPOSURE DATA

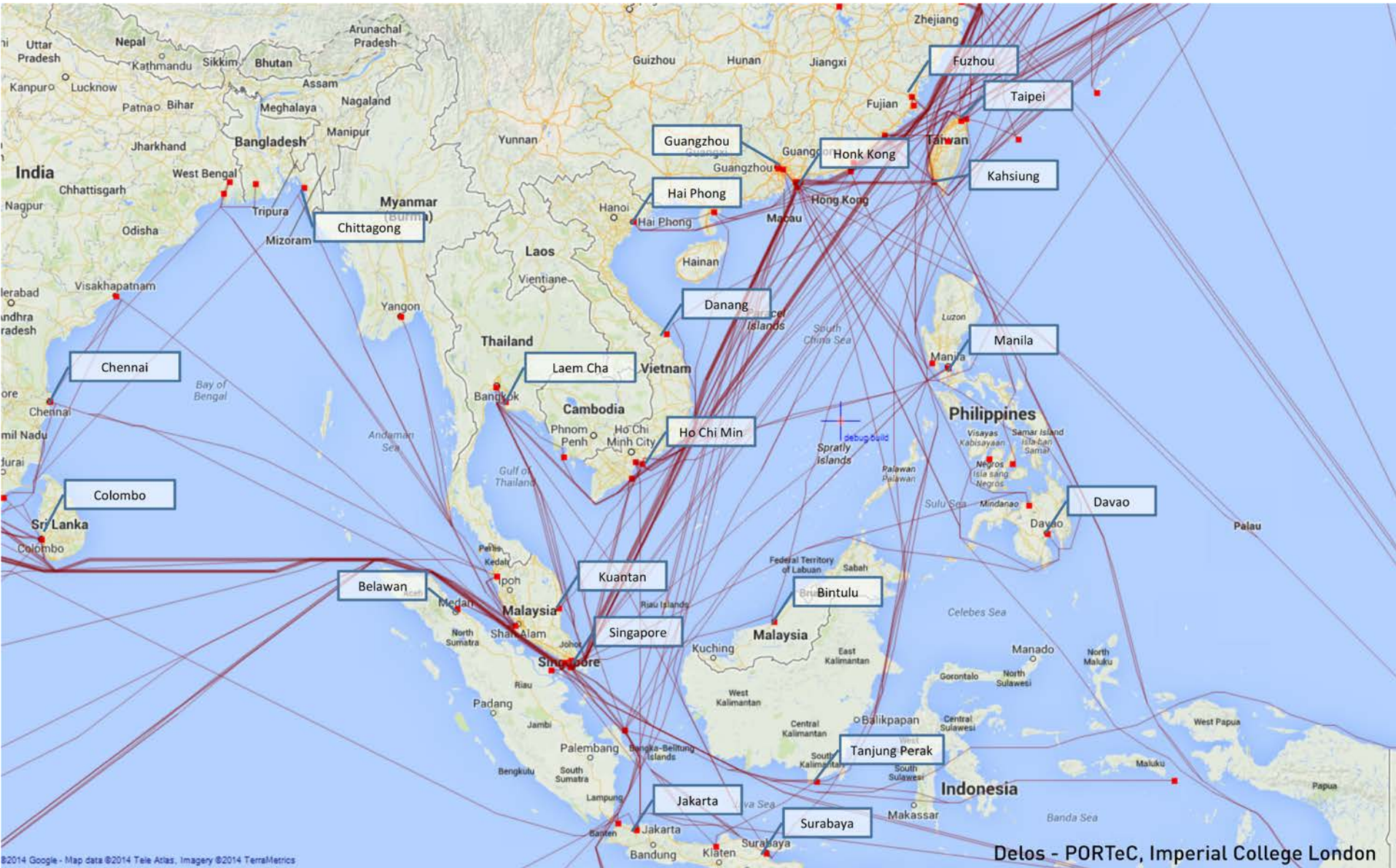
- Hazards in the region
- Shipping routes
- Vessel types
- Companies operating those routes
- Frequency of operations
- Port type
- Port operations
- Regional network of ports

VULNERABILITY

RISKS

- Nature of disruptions to the port and to the network
- Port impacts
- Network impacts
- Regional impacts

Detailed Shipping Routes - Singapore



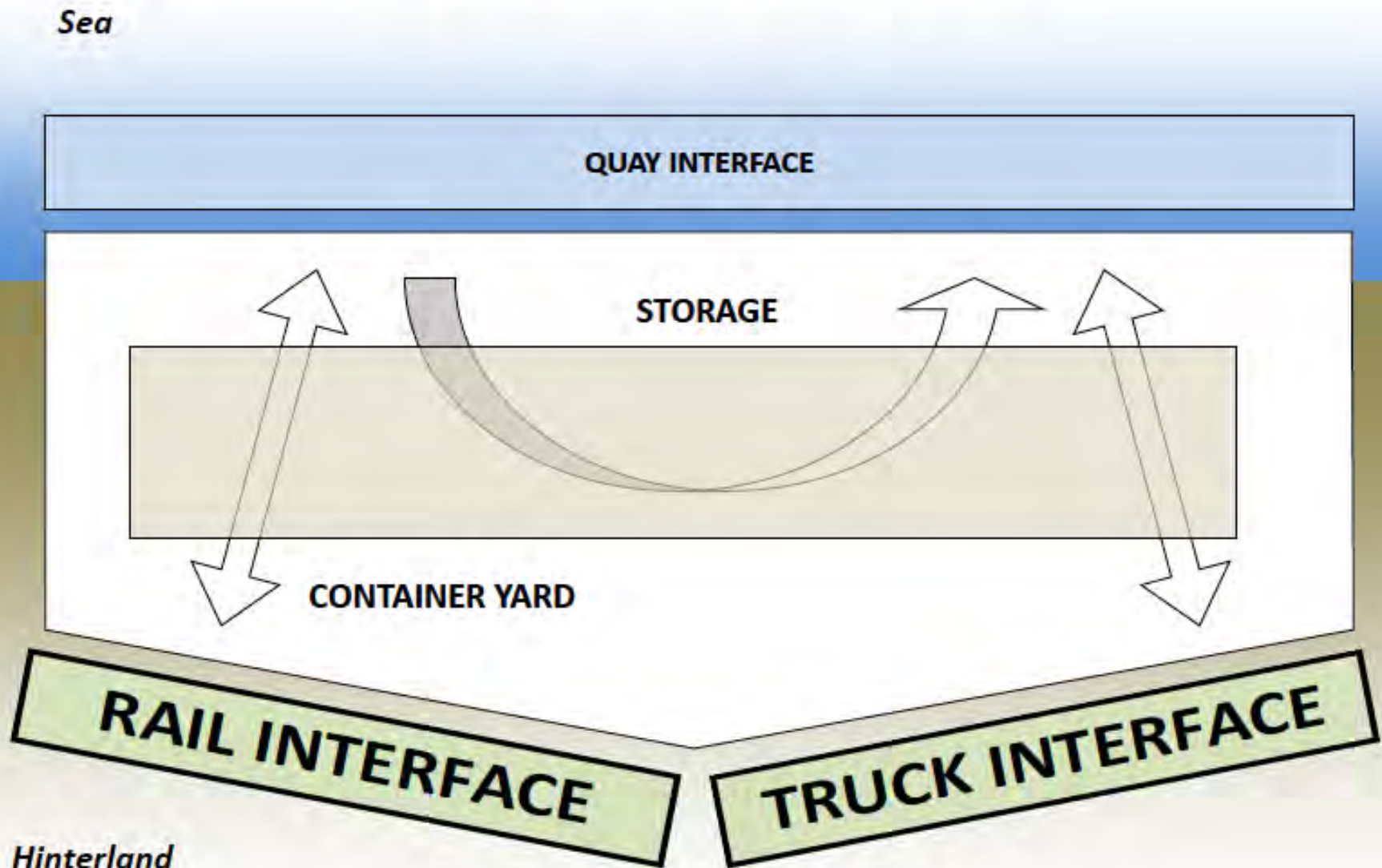


Slide courtesy of Dr. Panagiotis
Angeloudis, Imperial College.

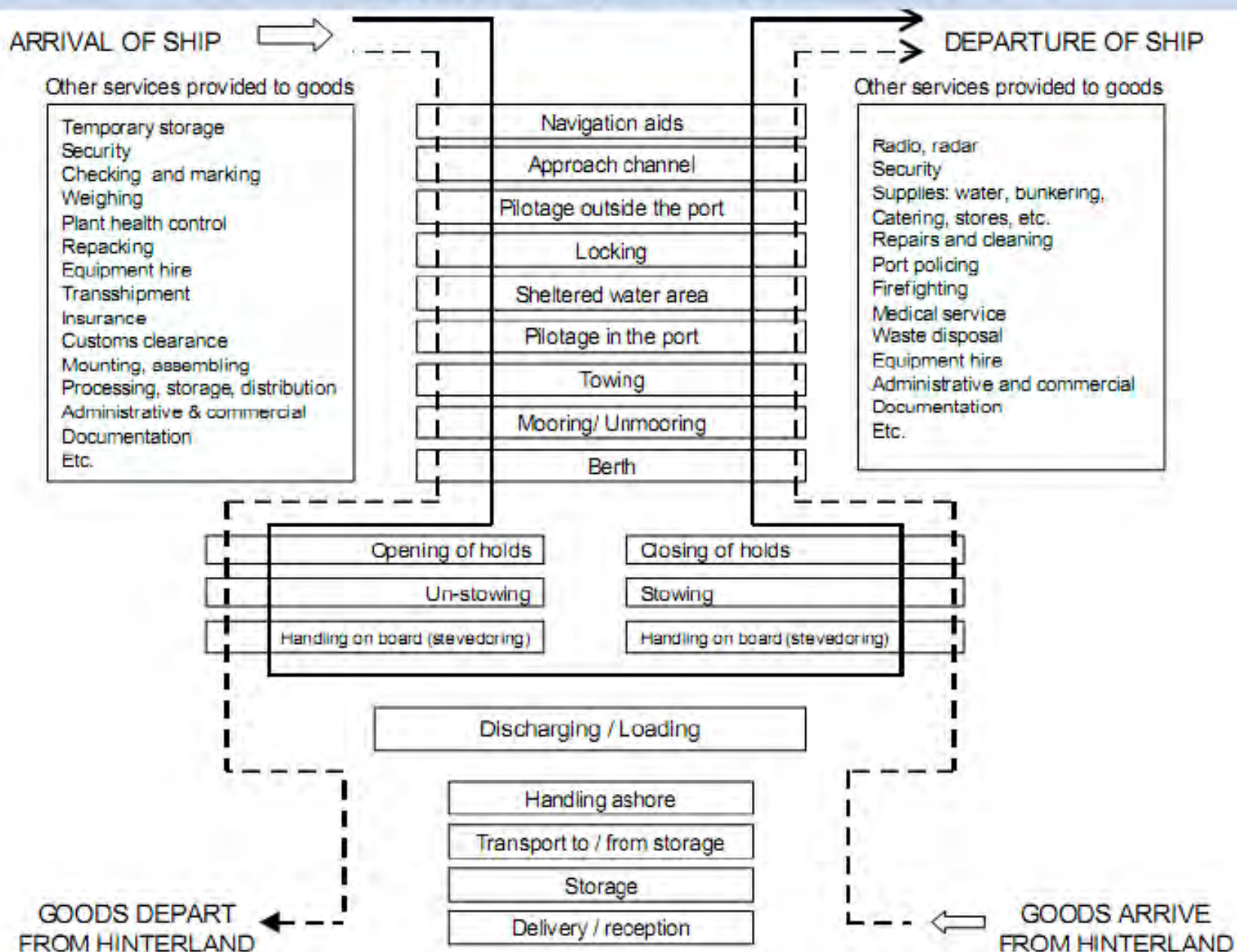


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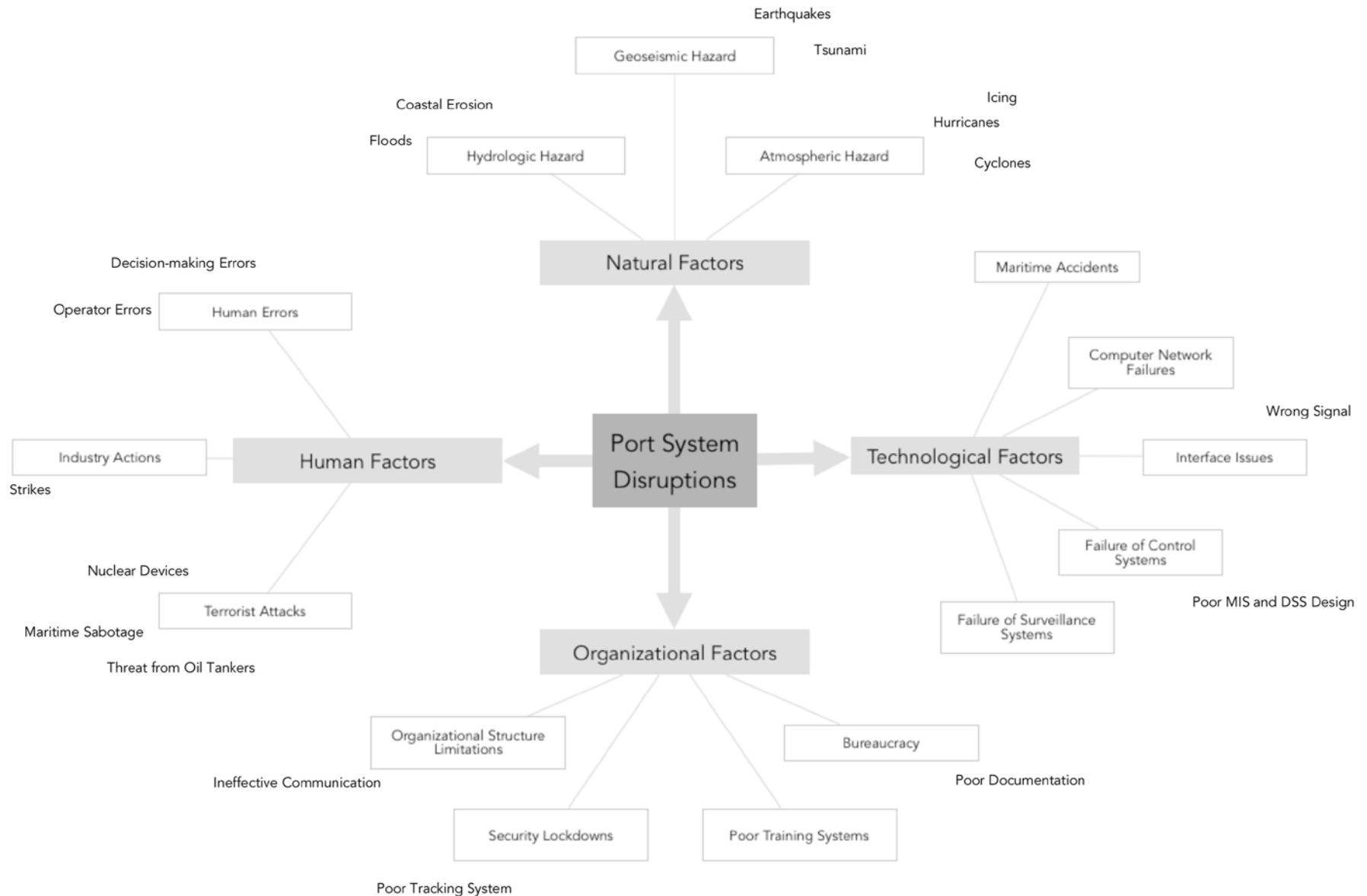
Summary of operations



Sum of operations



Port system disruptions



Big Data – Filling in the Gaps

- What “big data” datasets could improve our model for risk analysis of Singapore port?
 - Real-time tracking of ships?
 - Information on each individual container movement?
 - Real-time weather information?
 - Tesco clubcard information on truck drivers?
 - Tweets of dock workers?
- Can “big data” help answer the question?
- Is gathering more data reducing uncertainty or helping us partition uncertainty?

Summary

- Current CRS dataset allows broad understanding of connections between threats (hazards) and different networks (exposure).
- Using traditional datasets vs. big data to better understand a problem.
- Using traditional datasets vs. big data to better understand uncertainties and potentially reduce uncertainties in our models.
- Uncertainties in the data and their propagation through the model requires further research.
- There are challenges with storing, analysing and visualising high resolution data with global coverage.

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Dr. Roxane Foulser-Piggott
r.foulser-piggott@jbs.cam.ac.uk