

Dr Shekhar is a co-PI of a NSF grant titled *CISE Expeditions in Computing: Understanding Climate Change: A Data Driven Approach* (Grant No. 1029711, \$10M approx, 08/2010-08/2015). This grant supported two graduate students (50%) and one summer month faculty salary each year.

Intellectual Merits: Results from recent projects were published in 8 peer-reviewed articles [1, 4, 3, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8]. Illustrative examples of results include: (1) Spatial decision tree for geographical classification (Preliminary results published at IEEE ICDM [3], extended version accepted with major revision by the IEEE TKDE [2]). (2) An inter-disciplinary survey on change footprint patterns and discovery techniques. (Published at the Wiley Interdisciplinary Review: Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery [5]). (3) Interesting sub-path discovery. (Initial results published at ACM SIGSPATIAL GIS [7], full results accepted with major revision by IEEE TKDE [6]). Our research results could also contribute to advancing computer science research in a broader range. Examples include the G-DAG representation and the RTCP algorithm [6], which also might be used for pattern discovery in image and video processing, and the interdisciplinary survey [5], which enabled cross-fertilization of techniques from various disciplines.

Broader Impact: This project has supported two Ph.D. students on their thesis research. Doctoral student X. Zhou supported by this project defended his Ph.D. thesis in June 2014. His thesis topic is "Spatiotemporal Big Data Analytics: Change Footprint Pattern Discovery". Another doctoral student Z. Jiang will take his thesis proposal exam in 2014, too. Jiang's thesis explores computational approaches to learning spatial decision trees for geographic classification. Using the results obtained in our project, we contributed towards improving STEM education by enhancing the curriculum of a course titled "Spatial databases (CSci 8715)." Dr. Shekhar also presented several invited lectures and keynotes at major conferences. Finally, the projects have engaged underrepresented students in research and education. In summer 2012, Ms. Rahni Sumler, an undergraduate student from North Carolina A&T University (a HBCU) had a six-week internship on spatiotemporal data analytics for understanding climate change. Ms. Reem Y. Ali joined group in Fall 2012 and is working on cloud computing approach to persistent change window discovery on Earth science data.

References

- [1] Zhe Jiang, Shashi Shekhar, Pradeep Mohan, Joseph Knight, and Jennifer Corcoran. Learning spatial decision tree for geographical classification: a summary of results. In *Proceedings of the 20th International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems*, pages 390–393. ACM, 2012.
- [2] Zhe Jiang, Shashi Shekhar, Xun Zhou, Joseph Knight, and Jennifer Corcoran. In *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (TKDE)*. (accepted with major revision).
- [3] Zhe Jiang, Shashi Shekhar, Xun Zhou, Joseph Knight, and Jennifer Corcoran. Focal-test-based spatial decision tree learning: A summary of results. In *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM)*. IEEE, 2013.
- [4] Pradeep Mohan, Xun Zhou, and Shashi Shekhar. Quantifying resolution sensitivity of spatial autocorrelation: A resolution correlogram approach. In *Geographic Information Science*, pages 132–145. Springer, 2012.
- [5] Xun Zhou, Shashi Shekhar, and Reem Y Ali. Spatiotemporal Change Footprint Pattern Discovery: An Inter-disciplinary Survey. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*, 4(1):1–23, 2014.
- [6] Xun Zhou, Shashi Shekhar, Pradeep Mohan, Stefan Liess, and Peter K Snyder. Discovering Interesting Sub-paths in Spatiotemporal Datasets. *IEEE Transection on Data and Knowledge Engineering (TKDE)*, accepted with major revision.

- [7] Xun Zhou, Shashi Shekhar, Pradeep Mohan, Stefan Liess, and Peter K Snyder. Discovering Interesting Sub-paths in Spatiotemporal Datasets: A Summary of Results. In *Proc. the 19th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems*, pages 44–53. ACM, 2011.
- [8] Xun Zhou, Shashi Shekhar, and Dev Oliver. Discovering persistent change windows in spatiotemporal datasets: A summary of results. In *Proc. 2nd ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on Analytics for Big Geospatial Data (BigSpatial-2013)*, Orlando, FL, Nov. 5, 2013. ACM. (Best Paper Award).