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OD Maps for Studying Historical Internal Migration in Ireland

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OD Maps have helped us study historical migration patterns in Ireland (1851 and 1911) because they preserve spatial structure, are non-occluding and provide overviews that can show differences in distance and direction. This is important on a small island like Ireland where internal migration patterns have been difficult to discern.

How OD Maps work

1. Take the 32 counties and transform to a grid map, trying to preserve county adjacency.
2. Nest destination maps in each origin.
3. Transform nested maps to grid maps.
4. This is an OD Map. It's just a geographically reordered OD matrix!

Gender differences in 1851

Red indicates a higher proportion of women migrated than men.

Gender differences in 1911

Red indicates a higher proportion of women migrated.

Diversity of destination counties

Darkness shows what proportion of migrants in the origin county went to destinations in 1911. Darkest colours indicate most migrants went to one county.

Differences between 1851 and 1911

Purple indicates a higher proportion of migration in 1911, orange indicates this was higher in 1851.

Home square, where origin and destination are the same.