# Visualization Approach to a Korean Genealogy Data

Kyungwon Lee, Hanmin Choi, Seongmin Mun, Hyunwoo Han, Hyoji Ha, and Sangkuk Lee

Ajou University

## The Purpose of this Paper

- Simplify and visualize intricate historical materials for supporting the analysis to variegated research subjects
- Methodology development applied to a historical data especially having hierarchy structure from visualization approach
- Find ancestors' effect on individual's social achievement from visualization approach

### **Theoretical Framework**

- The succession range of property and office to next generation (Goody 1973)
- Tendency to "descent group mechanism" perspective
  - Intergenerational effects; measuring transmission of social positions within a two-generation (parent-to-offspring)
  - Multigenerational effects; measuring transmission of social positions from multigenerational influences (Mare 2011)

## Sociopolitical Background

- In pre-modern Korea
- Characterized by ambiguous status system
  - Guaranteed the possibility of social mobility
  - Clarity between status boundaries acted as an obstacle for social mobility
- Becoming a public office during this period was directly associated with salary and estate.
  - Stipend Land System and Rank Land Law in Goryeo dynasty(918-1392) and Joseon dynasty(1392-1910)

- The elite families' priority was to enter government service.
- Thus, individuals' and families' primary concern in the premodern Korean society is preoccupied with political intentions rather than the maximization of economic capital.

### <u>Data</u>

- The oldest genealogy in Korean history
  - The Genealogy of the Andong Gwon-ssi in the Cheonghua era 安東權氏成化 譜 (henceforth GAG)
- Including the multilateral kinships such as agnate kinship from blood ties and affinal kinship by marriage relationships





### Genealogy Structure



### **Derivative challenges**

- Derivative challenges from Progenitor-oriented-record structure
  - The possibility of artifacts; structural bias
  - Autocorrelation issue; the edges from a single genealogy are not independent
  - Boundedness, cohesion, size and cohesive relinking, types of relations and relinking, and groups or roles (White et al 1999)
- Trace the impact of patrilineal line or collateral relative like 'great uncle' on ego's social achievement from visualization approach

### Priorities to visualizing data

- Measure contribution levels of father, grandfather, great-grandfather on the son with standardized regression coefficients
- Product visualization with radial tree structure based on the contribution levels of each node
- Trace correlations among generations and marriage networks in each family through designated device filtering

- Measure individual's social status based on his government official
- Categorizing 7 levels in terms of individual's government official as well as non-officials
  - The first group; royal family
  - The second group; the senior and junior grades of the first to third court ranks
  - The third group; the senior and junior grades of the fourth to sixth court ranks
  - The fourth group; the senior and junior grades of the seventh to ninth court ranks.
  - The fifth group; hyangni clerks who served as assistants to local and central government officials.
  - The sixth group; prospective government officials and military personnel were not considered government officials.
  - Lastly, non-officials represented individuals without career

### Visualization of Existing Methods





#### Beck, etc. 2014



#### Genea quilt (Bezerianos 2010)



- Limitation of existing methods to a genealogy data
- Distance edge of showing nodal property, information, and influence in a view
  - Not easy to visualize numerous nodes in a view
  - Not easy to put the whole information on each node in a view
  - Not easy to trace impact measurement coefficients of each node in a view
  - Not easy to be intuitively aware of correlations in nodes in a view

### Applied visualization methods

- Directions of methodology development applied to a historical data
  - Consider the nature and size of a historical data
  - Consider the dynamics of a historical data as over passes
  - Consider researcher-centered design

### OUTCOME 1

- Applied method
  - Radial tree for intuitively showing whole nodes
- Exploration and compress by using a fisheye lens
- Visualization of influence
- Examine the influence of each node with color and circle size



### OUTCOME 2

- Applied method
  - Normal tree and Cartesian tree
- Show nodal property, information, and influence in a view
- Node density; influence indicator
- Upper position has stronger influence than lower position
- Father's and grandfather's influence on son's social achievement
- Collateral relative's (uncle) influence on nephew's social achievement



#### Overview of whole data

#### Father's influence

bokyagong sect(left) vs chumilgongsect(right)



#### **Uncle's influence**

bokyagong sect(left) vs chumilgongsect(right)



Visualization approach in terms of a family sect

## Findings and Implication

- Ancestors' effect on individual's achievement from visualization approach
  - Father's effect was much stronger than grandfather's one
  - Grandfather's effect was not so much strong
  - Uncle's effect was much stronger than we expect
  - In terms of a family sect, ancestors' effect on individual's achievement is different

### • Strong potential of visualization approach to a history research

- Challenge for influence index in nodes
- The aim of visualization approach is not only to show the nature and structure of data by intuition but also to explore the answers to research questions in a view