

Challenges of Developing a Logistics Hub

Dr. H. Donald Ratliff

Regents Professor of Logistics

Executive Director – Supply Chain & Logistics Institute



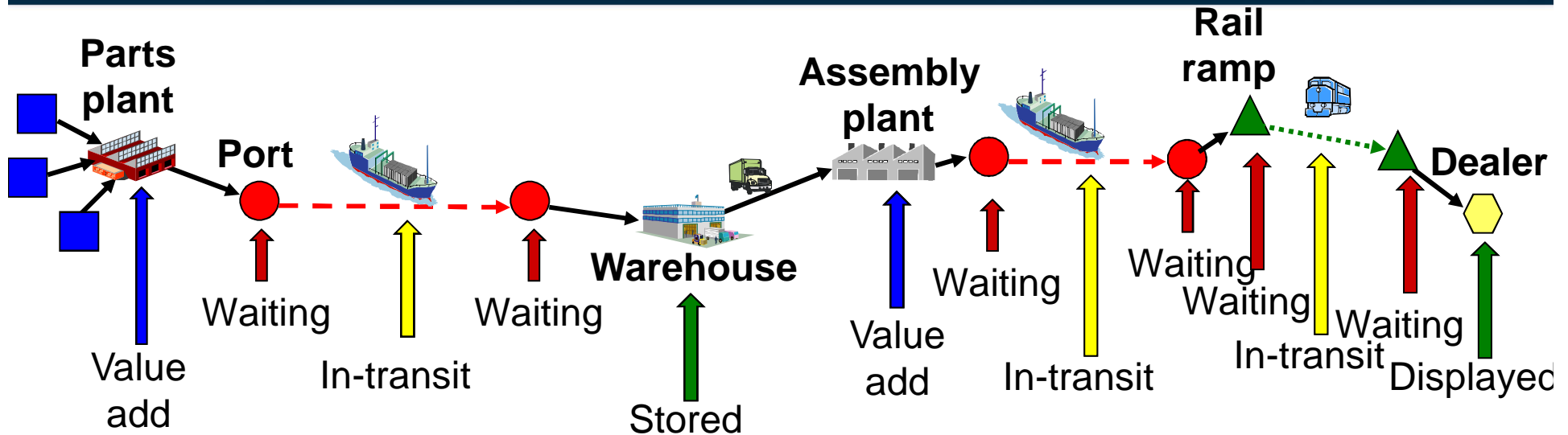
GEORGIA TECH
Supply Chain & Logistics Institute

EDUCATION ● INNOVATION ● LEADERSHIP

Georgia Tech Supply Chain & Logistics Research and Innovation Centers



Global Supply Chains



- **Supply chains are not well understood or documented**
- **Base manufacturing, assembly and sales are often in different countries**
- **Competition among countries to be included in the chain is increasing**
- **Complexity and lack of standards make integration difficult**
- **Increasing fuel cost and lack of capital encourage shorter trade routes**
- **Shippers are increasingly relying on a “total landed cost” approach to making supply chain decisions**



Latin American Logistics and Trade

- **Poor logistics performance is a major impediment to trade growth in most of Latin America**
- **Each potential trade route must compete based on its cost, transit time and dependability**
- **Trade routes generally involve a combination of land and sea components or land and air components, serve multiple customers and products**
- **Countries have generally taken a “siloes” approach to investment and regulation that considers the components, customers and products independently**
- **Countries must base their policies and investments on a “supply chain” view of the network with a focus on assuring performance of the entire chain in order to increase trade**
- **Logistics hubs are a critical component of trade networks but not every location can be hub**
- **There is a need for methodologies and analytical tools to assess where countries should invest in their logistics networks**





Trade Network Performance Drivers

- **Geography**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Connectivity**
- **Transportation costs and time**
- **Trade movement requirements**
- **Shipping dependability**
- **Transport and trade regulations**



Geography



- **External geography**
 - Positioning of a country with regards to other countries
 - Locations of a country's points of connectivity such as ports and border crossings
 - Tendency for countries to trade more if they have good external geography
 - Changing external geography either impossible or very expensive (e.g., Panama Canal)
- **Internal geography**
 - Positioning of the points of generation and consumption of goods within a country relative to each other
 - Positioning of the points of generation and consumption of goods within a country relative to other countries
 - More flexibility in changing transportation times than distances



Infrastructure

- **Seaports and roads make up the main infrastructure for intermodal sea network**
- **Seaports are limited by depth, berth space, storage space and equipment**
- **Roads are limited by traffic**



Infrastructure



- Of these ports only Panama and DR can handle new-panamax ships



Connectivity

- **In order for infrastructure to provide value, shipping lines must actually use the infrastructure to provide transport services**
- **The “connectivity” of a port is the capability actually provided by shipping lines to move containers between the port and other ports in the world**
- **Two ports can be connected either directly or via transshipment**
- **Transshipment requires the cost of unloading and reloading the container**
- **Both seaports and airports are largely at the mercy of the carriers regarding connectivity**
- **Different levels of connectivity**



How does transshipment in Panama impact inventory?

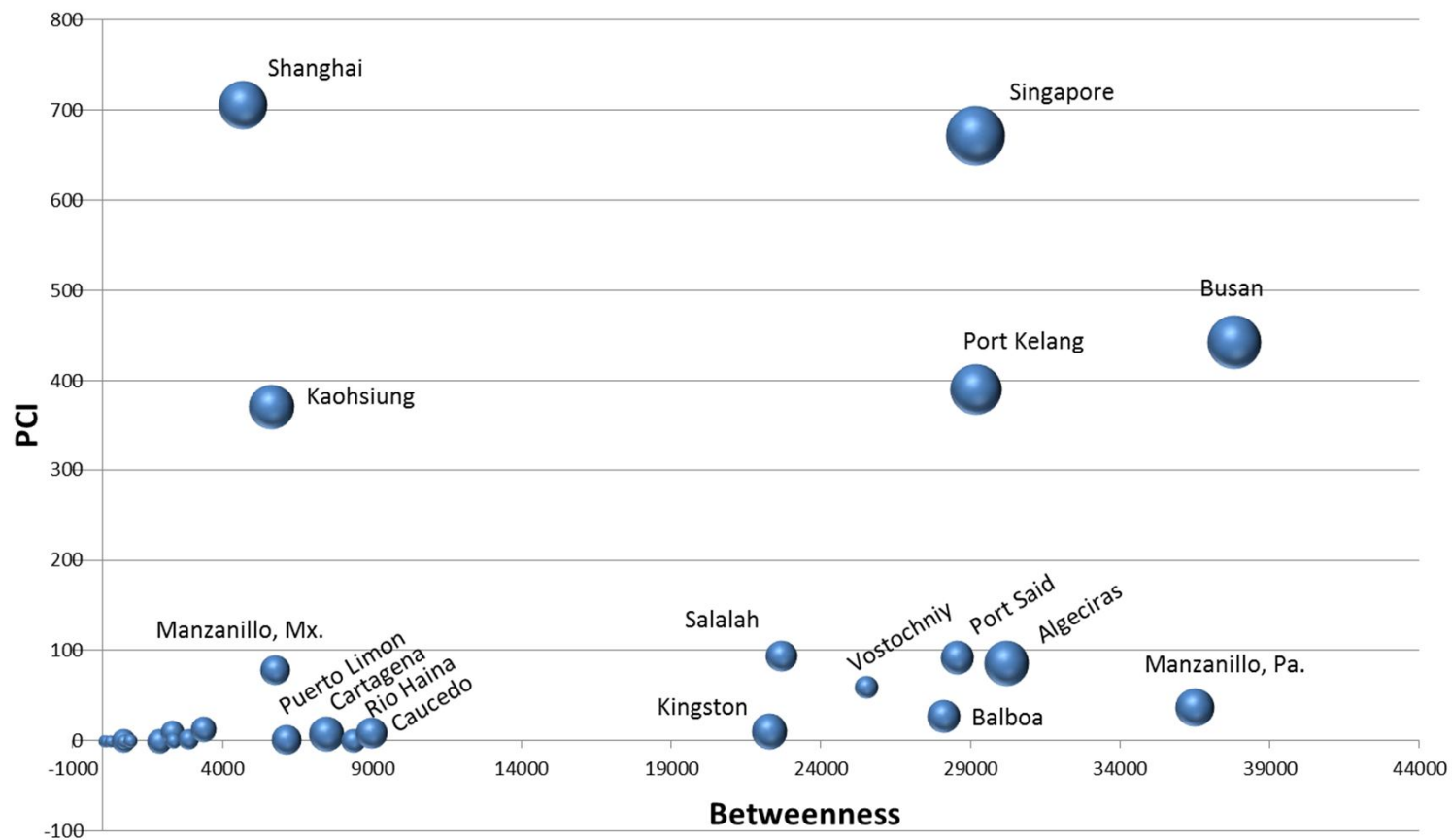
- Potential
 - Fewer multi-stop routes
 - More frequency
 - Less in-transit time
- Particular opportunity for “big” ships



Direct service

Measuring Connectivity Potential for Transshipment

Betweenness based on time vs PCI score: Ports scaled by total degree



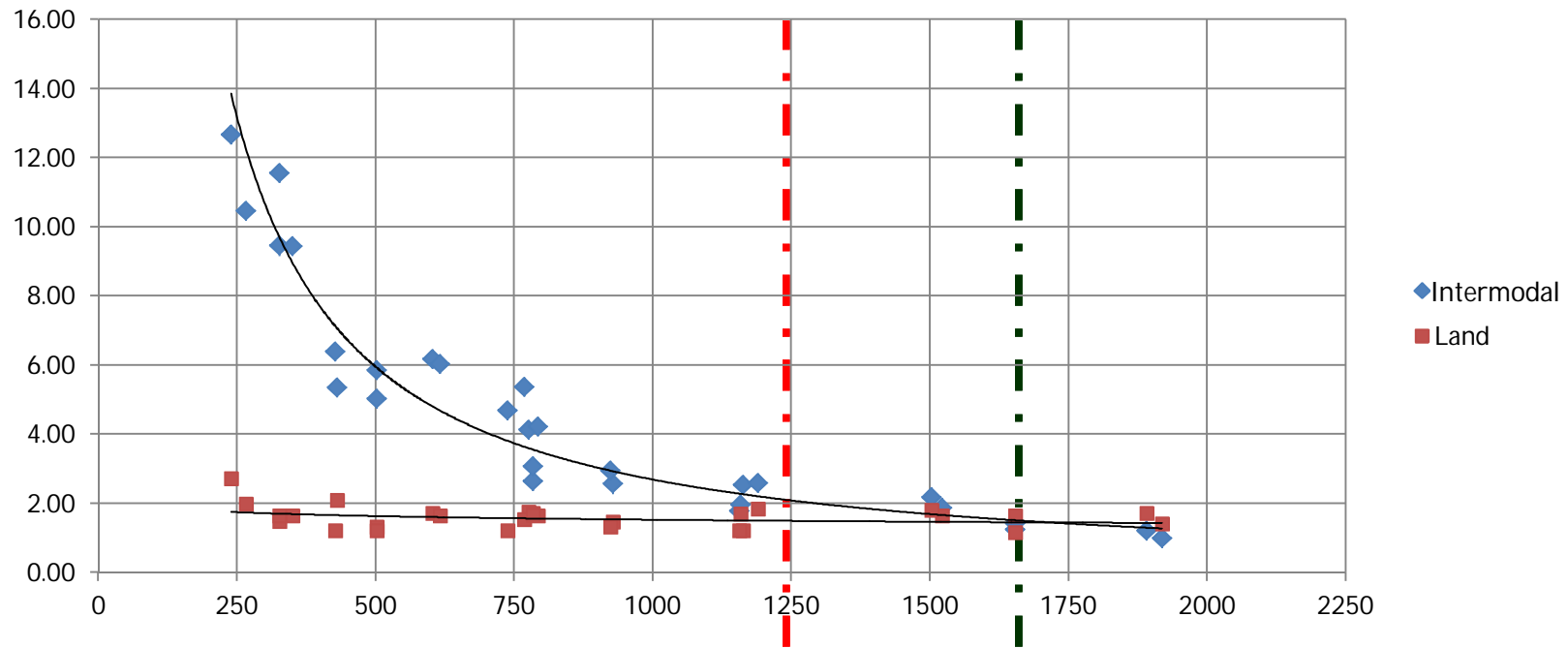
Transportation Costs and Times

- **Direct cost of transportation and cost of inventory caused by transportation**
 - Transportation transit time causes in-transit inventory
 - Transit time variability causes safety inventory
- **Direct cost of sea versus land**
 - Sea is cheaper if the distance is sufficiently long
 - The cost of each container lift is about \$200
 - Each sea shipment requires at least 2 container lifts
 - Transshipment requires 2 additional container lifts
 - Distance must be long enough to offset the lift cost



Intermodal vs. Land Cost for Central America Ports

Intermodal vs. Land rates



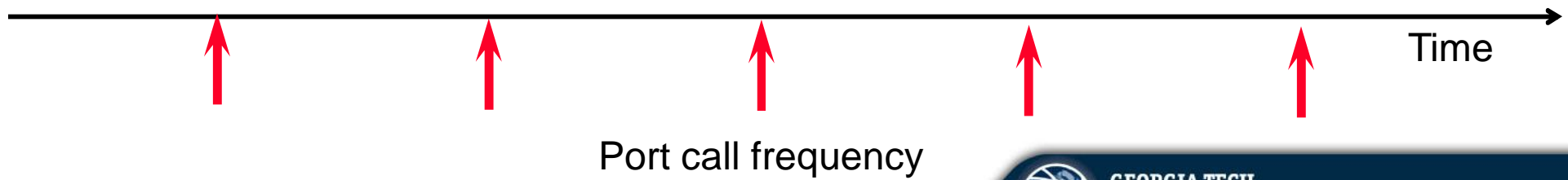
Inventory Cost

- **Value of a 40 ft container of product**
 - Typical Asia to US direct retail = \$50,000
 - Furniture = \$75,000
 - Small electronics = \$300,000
 - Sport shoes = \$1,500,000
- **Companies calculate inventory cost as a percent (8% - 20%) of inventory value**
 - A 40' container of retail Asia/US direct = $(\$50,000 * 8\%) / 365 = \$11/\text{day}$
 - A 40' container of sport shoes = $(\$1,500,000 * 8\%) / 365 = \$329/\text{day}$
- **Inventory requires capital**
 - Inventory appears on the balance sheet as a capital asset
 - When capital is hard to get companies are forced to reduce inventory



Impact of Frequency of Port Calls

- **Daily service Panama to New York transit time = 3 days**
- **Weekly service Panama to New York transit time = 3 days**
 - Max time = 10 days
 - Min time = 3 days
 - Ave time = 6.5 days
- **Weekly service adds 3.5 days average inventory**





Trade Movement Requirements

- **What needs to be moved and when is critical to analysis of transportation networks**
- **Reasonably good data from customs regarding value and weight of trade between countries**
- **Generally not good data regarding container shipments between ports**
- **Generally not good data regarding shipments within countries**
- **InterAmerican Development Bank is developing “observatories” to address the data problem**
- **MesoAmerica observatory located in GT Panama Logistics Center**

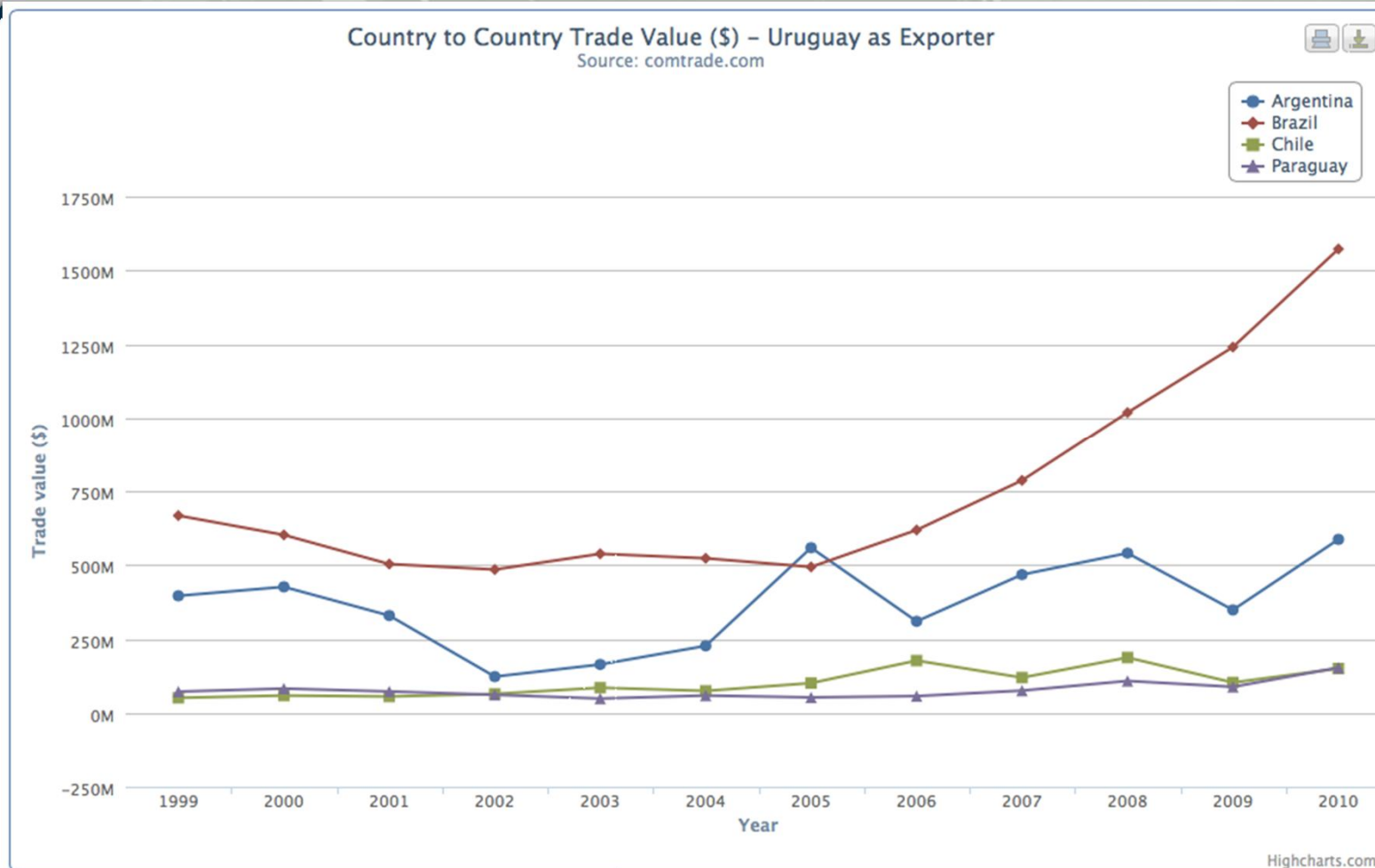


Trade Movement Requirements using Montevideo?

- Uruguay imports and exports
- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Chile imports and exports
- Generally difficult to get adequate data for analysis
- Country to country trade data is available
- Port to port data is mostly not available
- Interamerican Development Bank is developing “observatories”
- Panama Center will house Mesoamerica observatory



Uruguay Exports to Neighbors



- Not sufficient for in-depth logistics analysis!



Shipping Dependability

- **Ideally a supply chain works like a conveyor belt**
- **Dependability of each node and link in the trade network is extremely important to shippers and carriers**
- **Variability in transit times requires shippers to carry inventory to protect against running out of product**
- **Whenever there is a disruption in the network, the impact cascades out from the point of disruption**
- **Transshipment points are particularly critical**



Example - Panama Disruption

- Ideally Panama's ports function as a single port
- Port of Balboa is the largest container port in Latin America with about 2 million containers (3.2 million TEUs) handled in 2011
- About 93% of these containers are transshipped
- Balboa shut down for a few days in April 2012 due to labor problems
- On the worst day one carrier had more than 80,000 containers that had to be repositioned
- Effect cascaded
- Months to return to normal



Example - Panama Disruption



- Ideally Panama's ports function as a single port
- Port of Balboa is the largest container port in Latin America with about 2 million containers (3.2 million TEUs) handled in 2011
- About 93% of these containers are transshipped
- Balboa shut down for a few days in April 2012 On the worst day one carrier had more than 80,000 containers that had to be repositioned
- Effect cascaded
- Months to return to normal





Transport and Trade Regulations

- **Customs**
- **Inspections**
- **Special economic zones**



Keys to Successful Logistics Network Development

- **Analysis**
 - Geography
 - Infrastructure
 - Connectivity
 - Transportation costs and time
 - Trade movement requirements
 - Shipping dependability
 - Transport and trade regulations
- **Supply chain investment view**
 - All elements of the chain must perform well
- **Performance measures**
 - Transportation cost
 - Transit time
 - Dependability



Potential for Uruguay

- **Sea/land hub – Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Chile**
- **Other countries find Brazil and Argentina difficult to do business with**
- **Chile and Paraguay are transportation challenged**
- **Uruguay is an attractive location for expats**
- **Uruguay needs to be “supply chain” focused**
- **Uruguay needs to make an concrete value case for being a hub**

