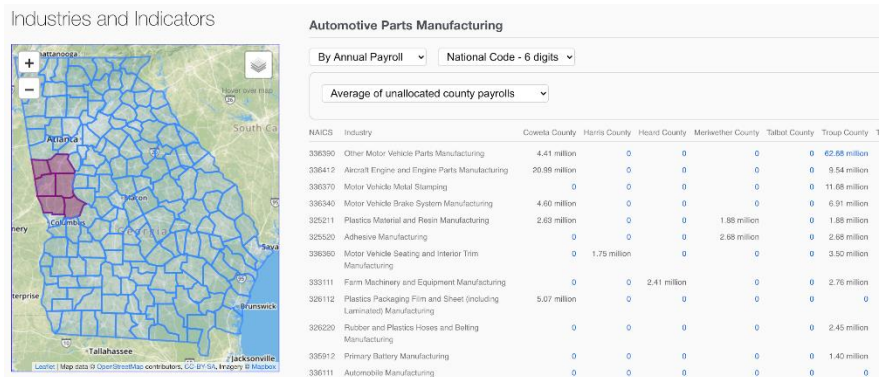




Overall, it has been a wonderful experience for me to be part of the 2020 Smart Community Corps and take this opportunity, created by the close collaboration between Georgia Tech, local government (GDEcD), and national research institute (US EPA), to better inform and benefit our local communities in Georgia. As a Ph.D. student in Urban Design and Statistics, I am always seeking to pave the way for a healthy and sustainable urban environment through data empowerment and planning policies implementations. From this standpoint, this project not only equip me with numerous analysis skills that will facilitate my future career but also create a channel through which we are able to explicitly inform the general public of our environmental footprint and impact created by human activities.

Specifically, my main responsibility is to build up the localized application of USEEIO, aka “United States Environmentally-Extended Input Output”, which analyzes the environmental impact from the perspective of



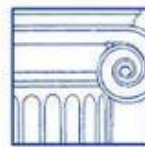
national economy and production. To tailor the national model for our local community users, I have worked closely with colleagues from US EPA and GDEcD to come up with effective approaches to disaggregating national model in order to obtain finer-grained output. We have also kept close contact with our first pilot users: city of LaGrange and SE Georgia Coalition, in order to match the work we have been doing to what they expect to see as much as possible. For instance, the expectation of city of LaGrange is to be aware of the benefit and challenges of recruiting automotive-related industries. We performed a geographically- and industrially-targeted hotspot analysis showing the types and magnitude of potential environmental impact as a result of recruiting new industries.

I have been very grateful for this internship, especially at the time full of uncertainty and hardship. Our mentors, Wesley, Valarie, and Loren have offered us tremendous help and guidance throughout the entire time. I would also like to express my gratitude to all smart community corps staff for their effort and care to make this program possible and beneficial. Last

but not least, I do believe that it is time to take action to learn more about our communities and be the change for sustainability.

All things are USEEIOful!

Yilun Zha



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