Spatio-Temporal Model for Presenting and Analyzing Humanities Research Resources

2009.10.09

Masatoshi KUBO
National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
kubom@idc.minpaku.ac.jp

Objective

Proposal of Model Structure for sharing various research resources among various fields, toward analysis and discovery of dynamic interrelation among research data.

Background

Research resources have not fully shared caused by differences in level of view, target of research theme, terminology, etc.

level; eg. macro (eg. sociology) vs. micro (eg. cultural anthropology)

theme; target domain define d by each discipline

terminology; even the same term is used in different meaning

Change of research style from intra-discipline to inter-discipline may lead to new and fruitful research results.

Initial motive to propose SpatioTemporal Model;

To understand eco-historical dynamic interrelation in complex system composed by political, social, economical, environmental network in time and space context.

Method

Prepare standardized framework for

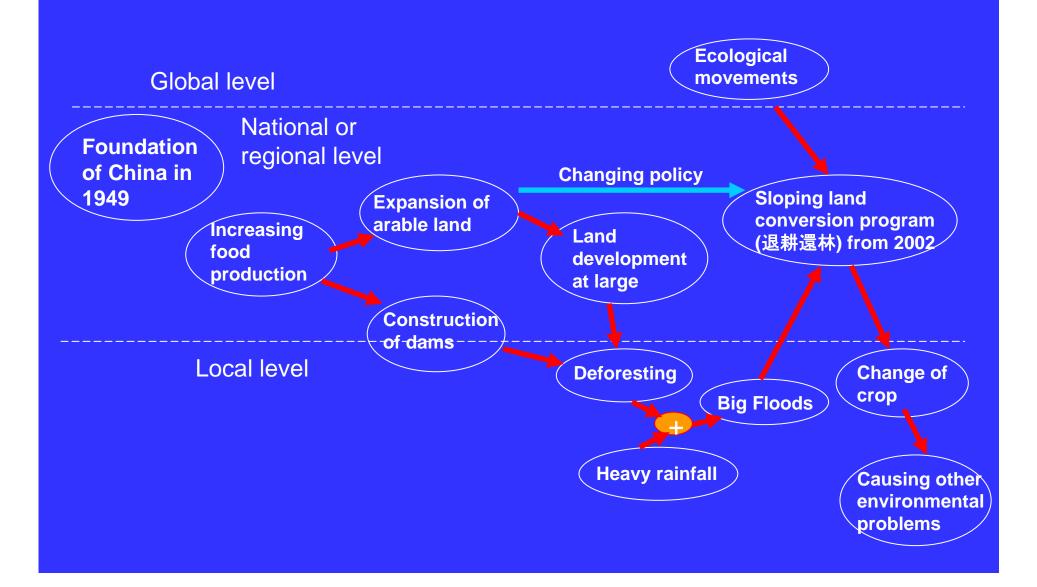
1st Stage: Archiving or making database for various research

resources

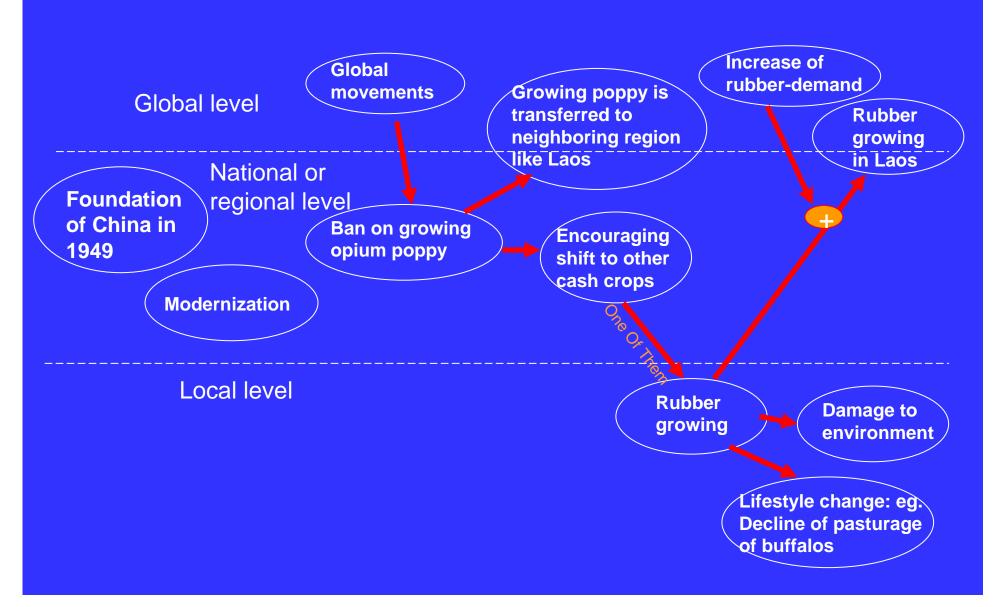
2nd Stage: Visual tools for presenting and analyzing

research resources

An example of dynamic interrelation among eco-historical events in Yunnan



Another example of interrelation among eco-historical events in Yunnan



Archiving with zoom-in and zoom-out mechanism

Any research resources, whether the form is text, image/video, or numerical data, may contain information related to "event," which is associated with value of "time-range", "space-range" and "theme or subject".

For example, as to bibliographic data, where and when the book was published on a theme is event information. As to museum objects, where and when it was produced, collected, curated or stored are events. As to image data, depicted scene or objects are also associated with "event." Historical textual description contains mixed events. Not only action, status may also be considered as "event".

Research resource may contain a mixture of several events. Thus, "event" may have attribute of "type-of-event."

Treating research resources in terms of time and space is essential for analyzing and finding *dynamic relationships* among research resources.

Theme value is also essential for *inter-disciplinary* data sharing and handling.

Archiving with zooming into micro and out to macro mechanism

Any event data may have *standardized* triplet of time, space and theme value

Space-range

Time-range

Thematic (subject) keywords (multiple)

Zoom in and out, in expression, retrieval analysis, etc.

micro name

area

sub-region

region

Etc.

Gazetteer

year.month.date

age

epoch

period

era

Etc.

detailed term

micro-item

middle-item

macro-item

Etc.

Name table of era, period etc.

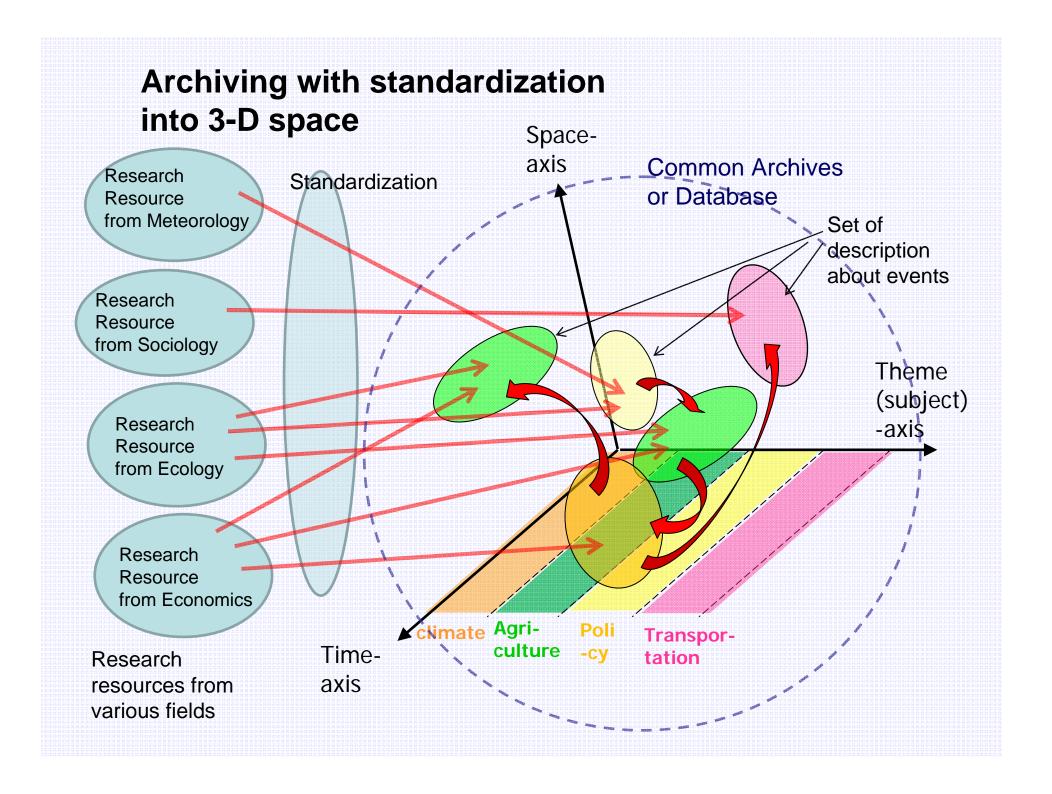
Many calendar systems

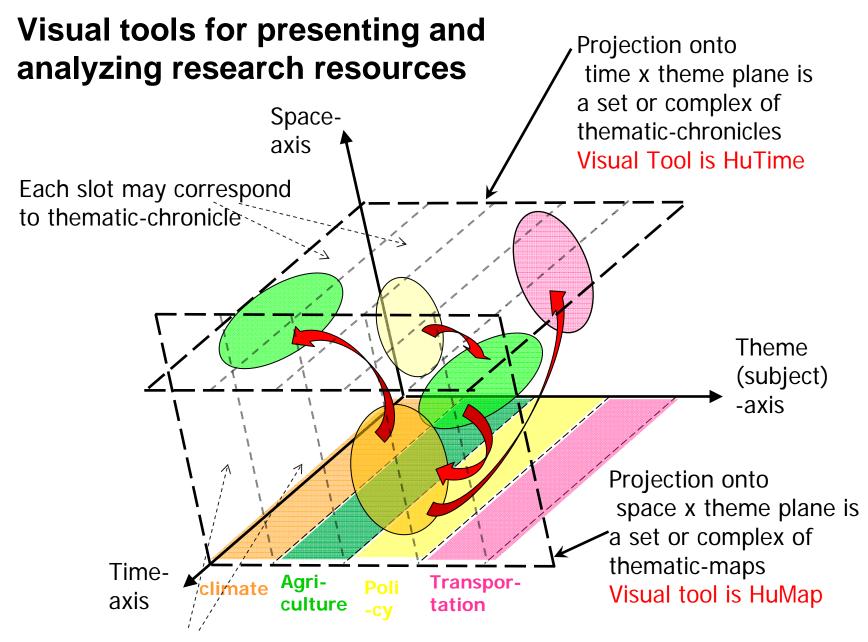
Mechanism for mediating fuzzy

expression

Thesauri for each specific research field

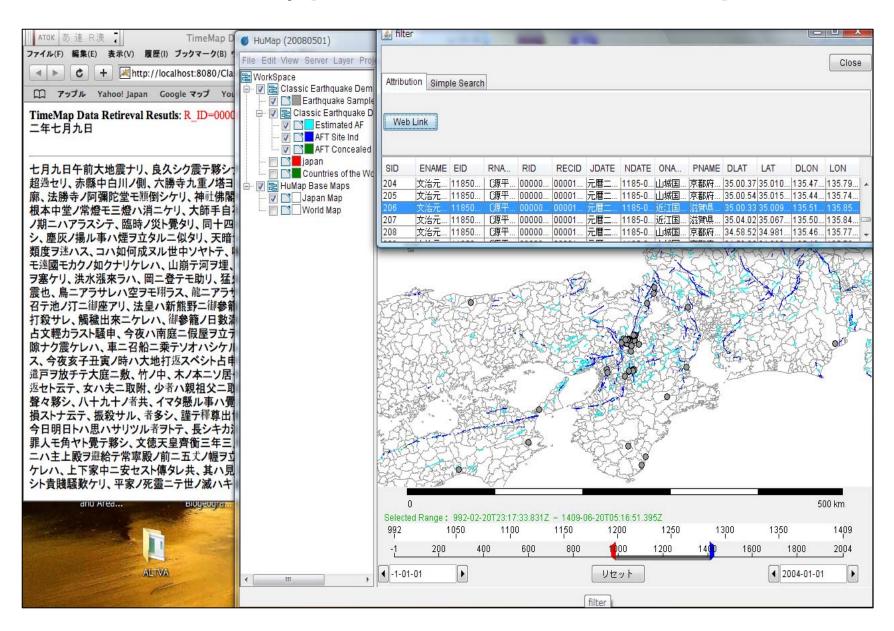
Support tools for standardization



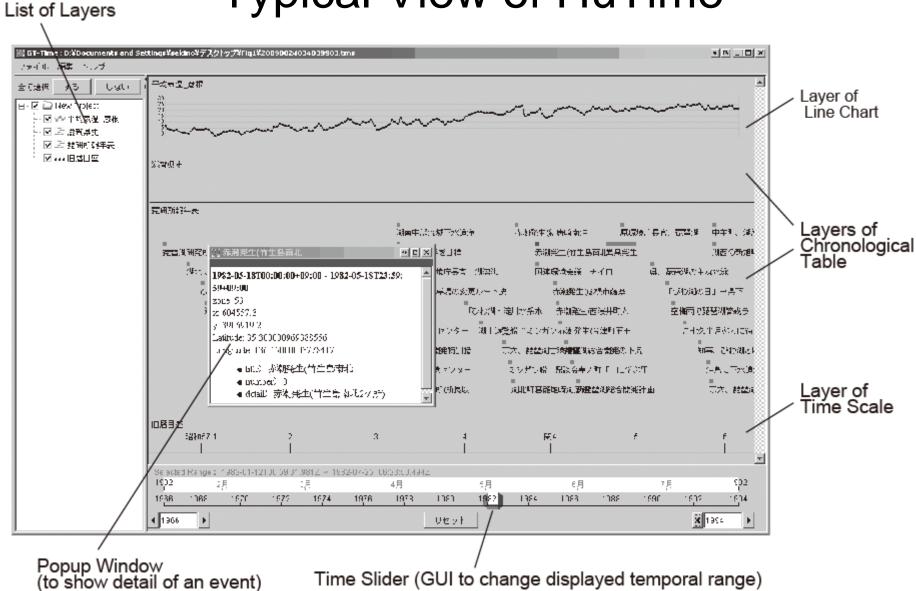


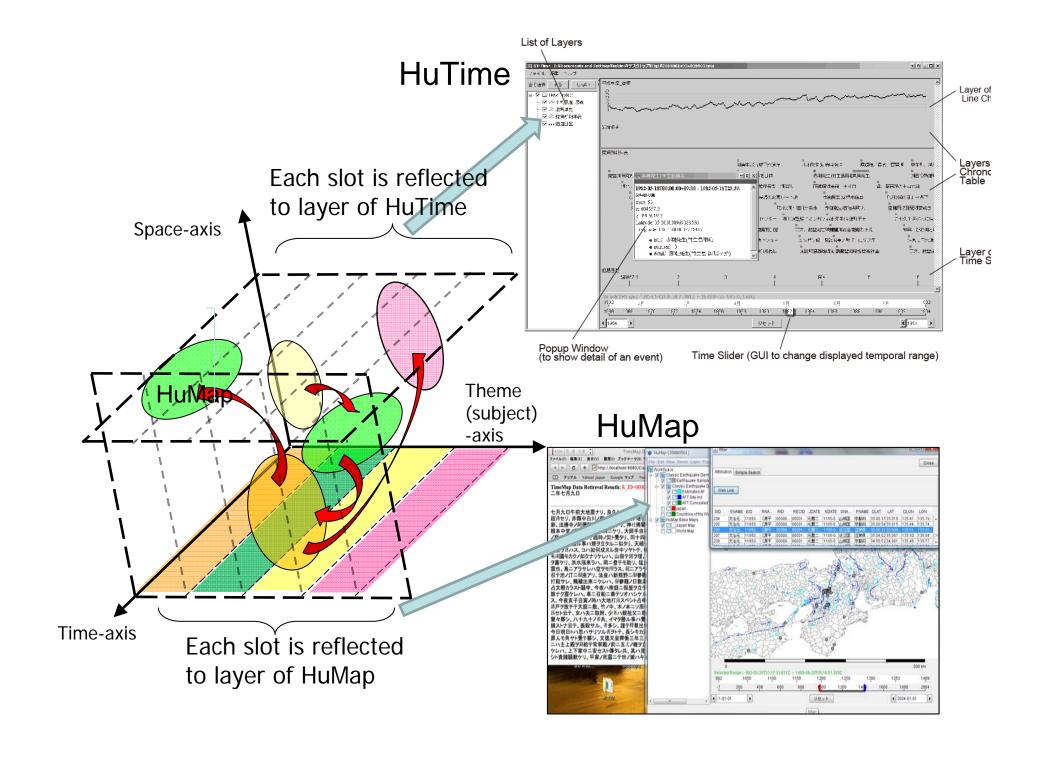
Each slot may correspond to thematic-map

Typical View of HuMap

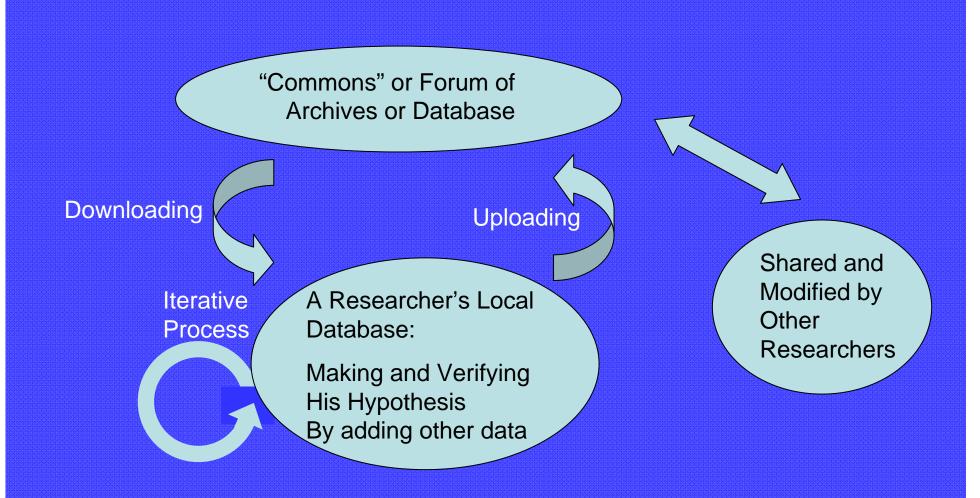


Typical View of HuTime





Data Sharing with Iteration: among researchers for promoting inter-disciplinary research



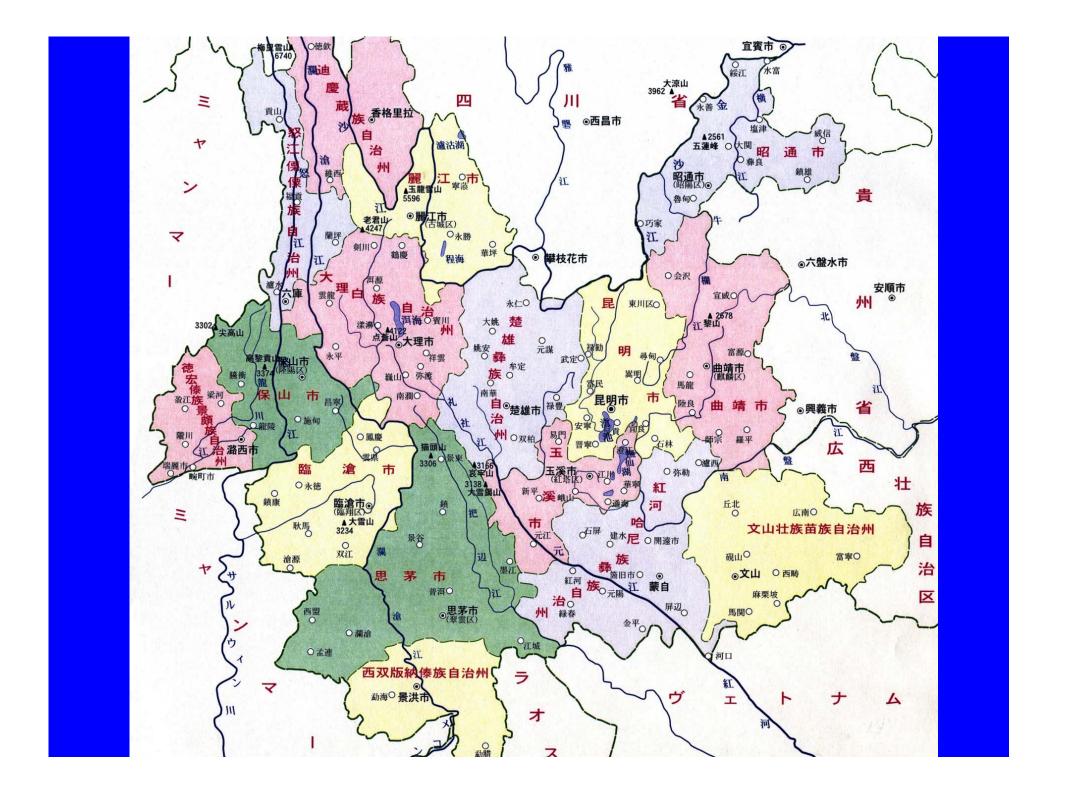
Yunnan Province Chronicles Database Project

- Sub-project of the Project "A Trans-disciplinary Study on the Regional Eco-History in Tropical Monsoon Asia: 1945—2005] (Leader: Dr. Tomoya Akimichi, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature Research Institute for Humanity and Nature
- A collection of Historical Record in each County of Yunnan Province is adopted as a base for making eco-historical chronicle; see below http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/ecohistory/annualreport2004/9chronicle2004pr.pdf)

Chinese National Project of Publishing Chronicle

Governmental Unit	Number	Number of chronicles planned	Number of chronicles already published by 2000
Province 省	34	2490	1583
Prefecture 市/地級	333	944	604
County 県	2861	2447	2100

Yunnan Province has 16 prefectures and 128 counties





Yunnan Province Chronicles:

for eco-historical analysis and description

- Important events in each hierarchical governmental unit (province, prefecture or city, county) are described in plain text form in chronological order.
- Time-Coverage: historic times, especially from 1949 of foundation of China, until 1990s.

Problem: Level of details, and selection of events are varied in each county depending on editorial policy.

However, when data in chronicles are verified by referring other documents and data, chronicles may be useful to get the global picture of dynamism in terms of eco-history, including environment, agriculture, trading, economics, politics, social issues, cultural issues, international relations, etc..

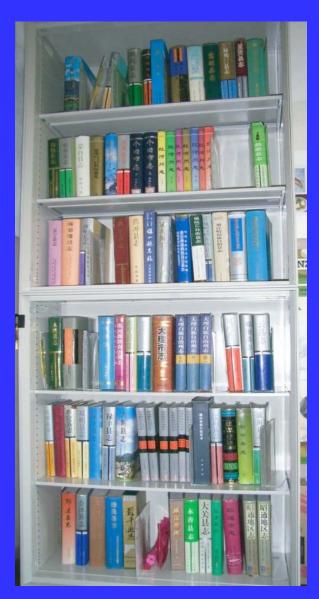
So that, we tried to translate the "general summary part" of each chronicle into Japanese for the first stage, then archive them.

Now 49 counties out of 128 are accumulated into GT-Time

Yunnan Province Chronicles



Purchase of County Chronicles at **Kunming, Jan.** 2005



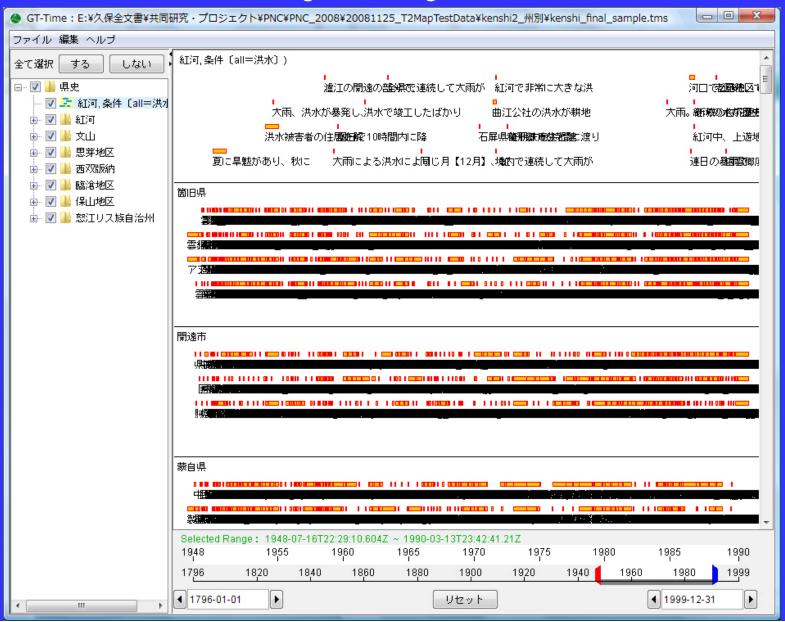
County Chronicles at Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Apr. 2005

Normalized form of County Chronicles "of the General Summary Part"

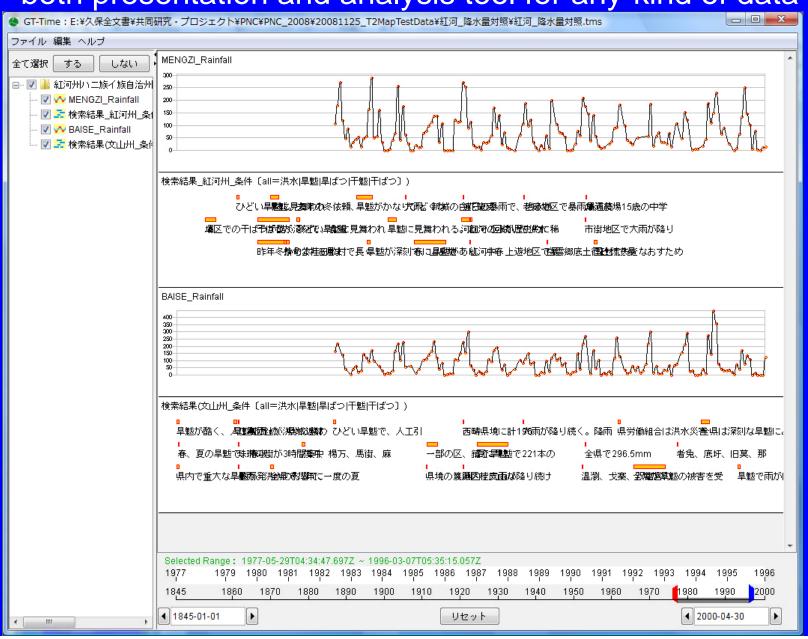
County Name	Year	а	m o n t h	a d di ti o n al	d a t e	a d di ti o n al.	Text	Begin Date	End Date	Date Displayed
剣川県	1912		9		9		"重九"の蜂起のあと、11月初旬、大理の官、地方豪族、軍、民が一つになって反抗し、"迤西自治機関部"を成立し、趙藩出が総理に推薦される。	1912/01/01	1912/12/31	1912年
剣川県	1912		1 2		9		剣川籍の昆明の学生、趙螽象ら十数人が故郷に戻り、"辛亥革命"を宣伝し、県役所へ突入して刑具が 燃やされ、無辜の数十人の住民が解放される。	1912/12/01	1912/12/31	1912年12月
剣川県	1913		9		9		剣川州が剣川県に改称する。	1913/01/01	1913/12/31	1913年
剣川県	1913		4		9		県蚕桑伝習所が設立され、湖桑【??】、ユーカリな どの種が県境に植えられる。	1913/04/01	1913/04/30	1913年4月
剣川県	1913		5		9		県城に郵政代辦所が作られる。	1913/05/01	1913/05/31	1913年5月
剣川県	1918		3		1 5	昼	県内の金華、沙渓などで強風が吹き、樹木や家屋が 倒れ、砂埃が天を覆う。	1918/03/15	1918/03/15	1918年3月 15日昼
剣川県	1918	冬	9		9		傷寒病【チフス】が大流行し、多数の死者が出る。	1918/12/01	1919/02/28	1918年冬
剣川県	1919		1 2		9		剣川ペー族青年の張伯簡が、広州からフランスへ苦学での留学へ行く。フランス滞在期間中、張伯簡は積極的に共産主義組織の活動に参加する。1922年に"旅欧中国少年共産党"が成立し、張伯簡は組織委員に選出される。	1919/12/01	1919/12/31	1919年12月

Viewing Yunnan Chronicle using HuTime

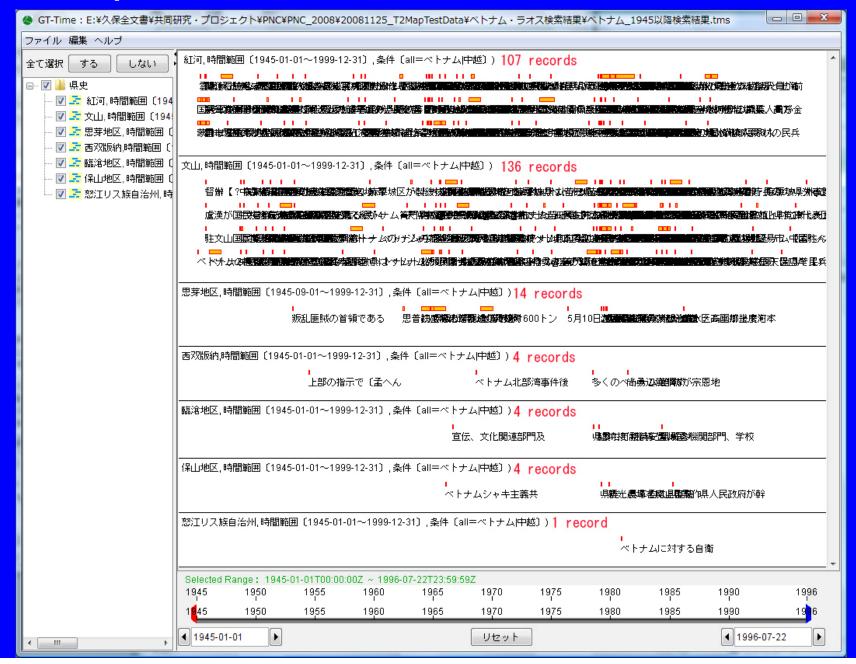
with horizontal time-axis using both "Begin" and "End" date of the event



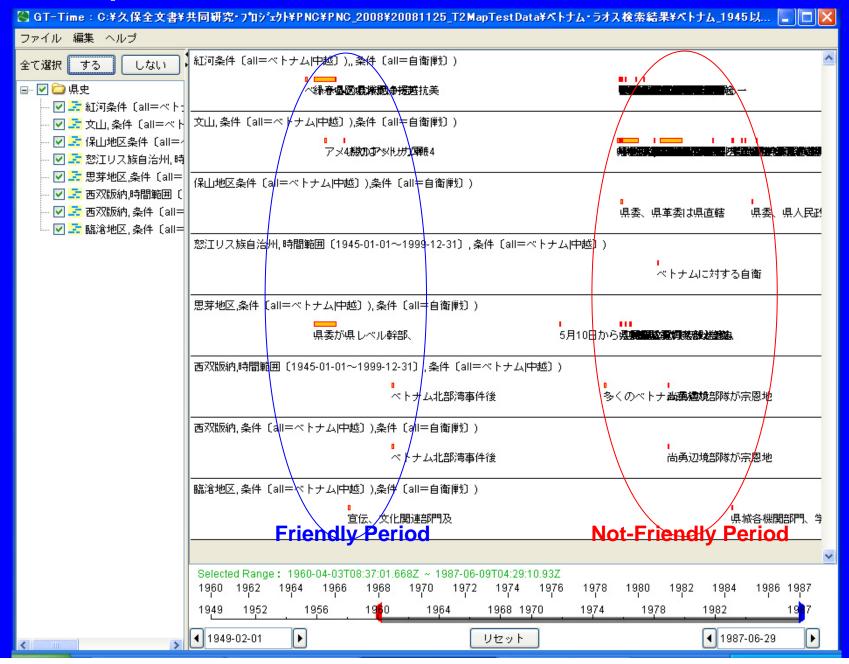
Function of HuTime: to provide both presentation and analysis tool for any-kind of data



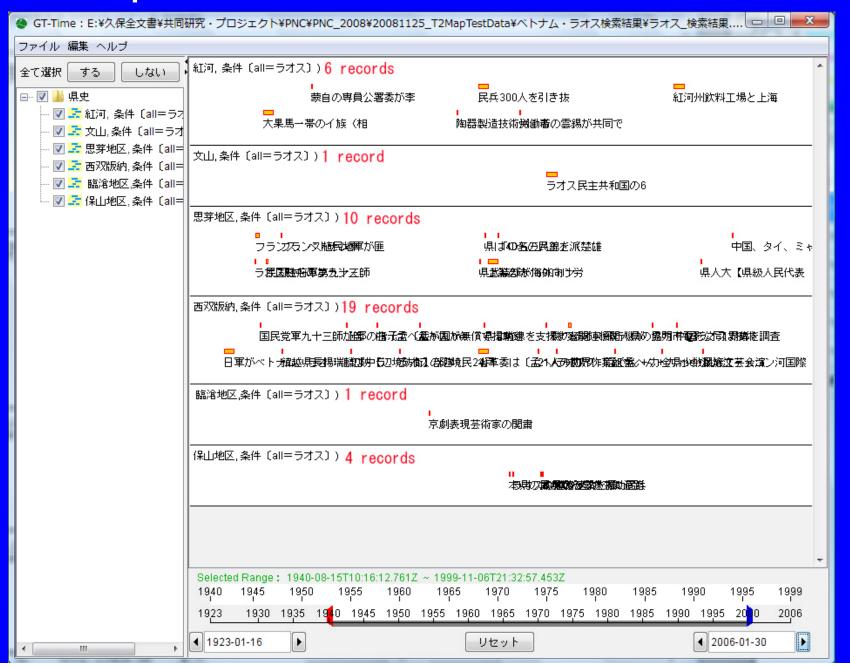
Example: International Relation with Vietnam



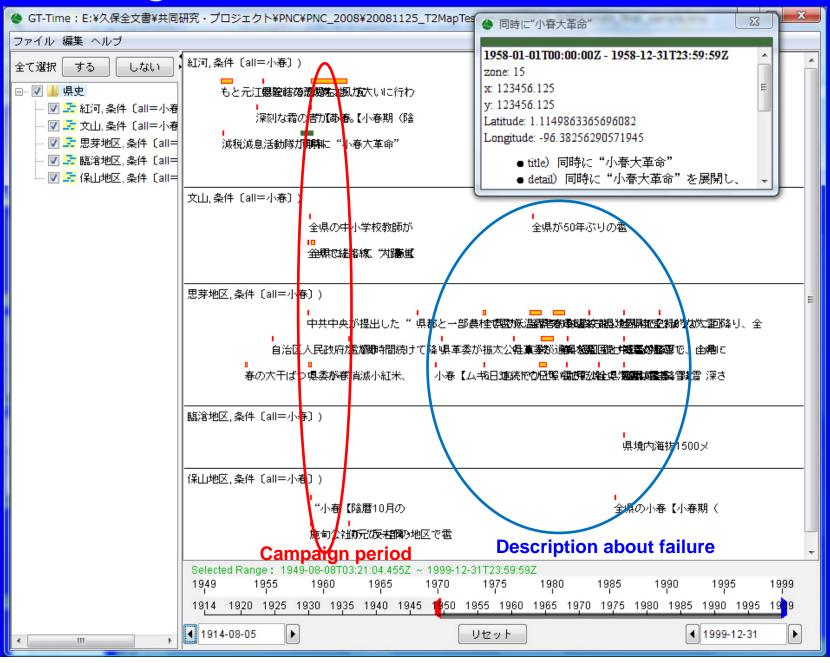
Example: International Relation with Vietnam



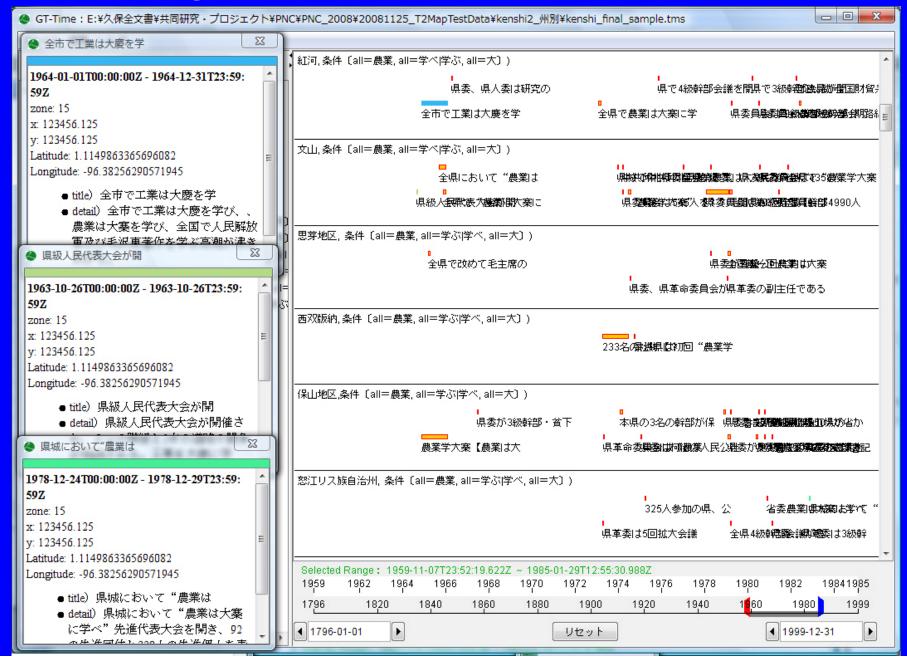
Example: International Relation with Laos



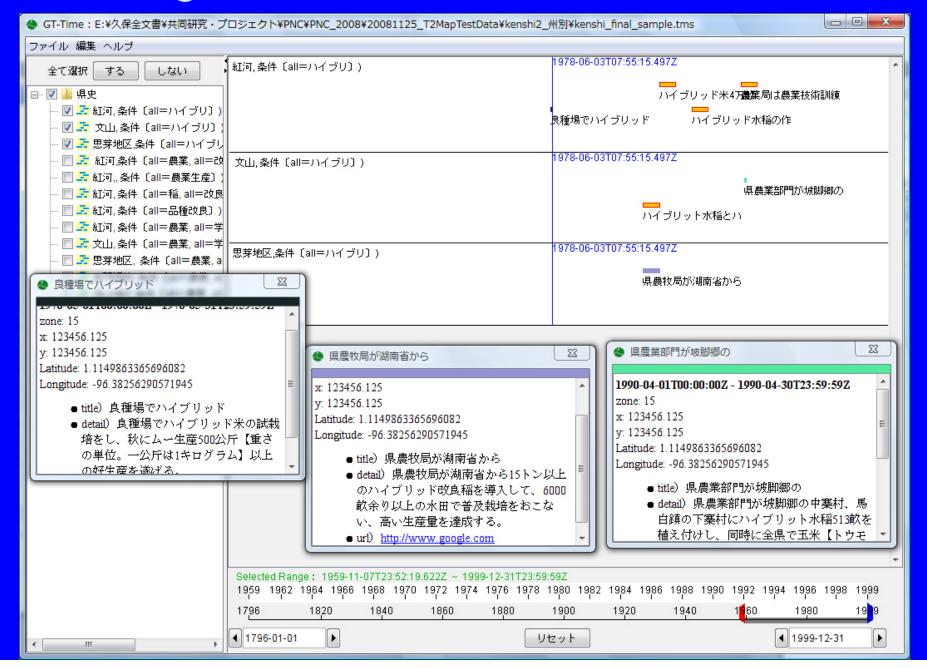
About Agriculture: small spring(小春) sowing campaign



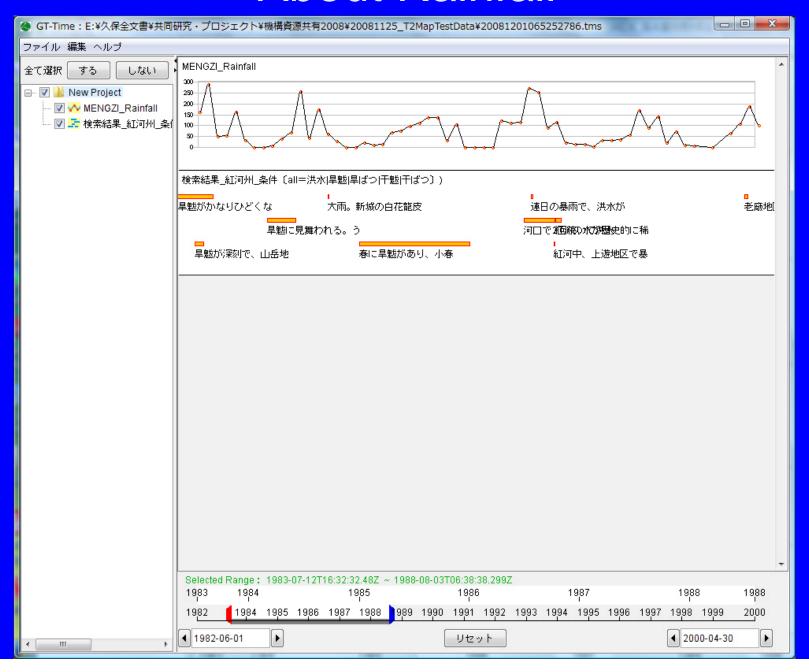
About Agriculture: Learn Dazhai (大寨に学べ) campaign



About Agriculture: Movement of Introducing Hybrid Rice



About Rainfall

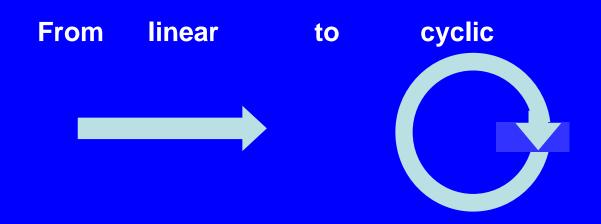


Another Idea of *Cychronicle*; "Cyclic chronicle"

How people conceive time-flow; (1) linear, (2) cyclic, (3) arbitrary

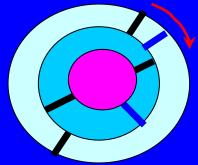
"Cycle" may be a key to manage and analyze culture in Monsoon Asia.

For this reason, conversion of linear chronicle into cyclic chronicle, "Cyclonicle", may help to analyze cultural events.



Idea of Cychronicle N years Fishery Agricultural **Annual Event** Cyclic time-flow Liner time-flow Calendar Calendar Calendar N years N years Chronicle Folding Extracting Calendar

- •N = 1 is the case of annual calendar
- when N is set longer, long-term change may be treated
- special event like "the beginning of rainy season",
 "the ritual for seeding rice", could be chosen for the indices
- •inversely, analysis of chronicle may lead to discovery a hidden "cycle".



By rotating to synchronize

To find out time-oriented, or spaceoriented changes from the viewpoints of cycle

Idea of Cychronicle

Extension of Hu-Time to *Cychronicle*

Secondary step for analysis; re-organization by time and space

Chronological data with (time, space, theme (keywords, or category terms)) are archived.

Make T2-map, or chronicle: make layers with space, theme, or (space X theme).

Further retrieval by specified term like the beginning of rainy season, water flood, ritual for seeding rice, or condition of numerical value, etc.

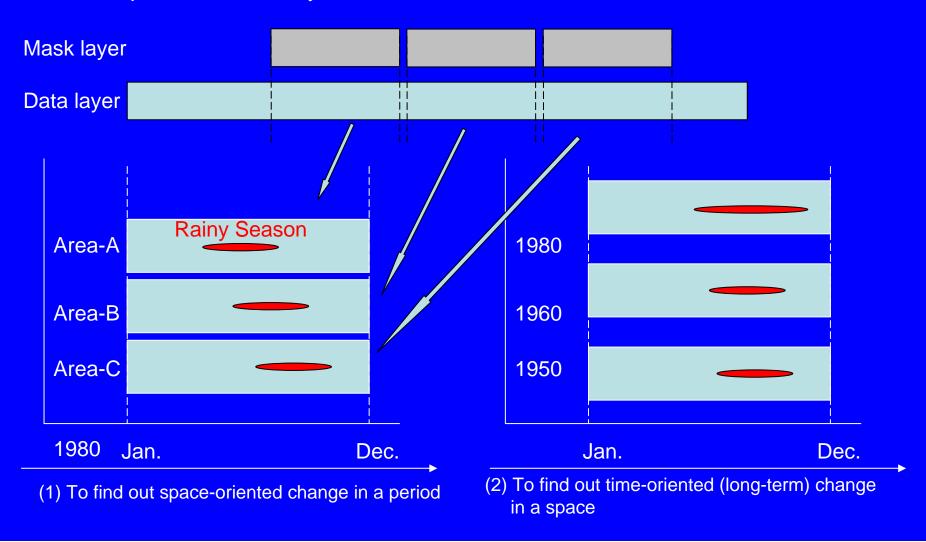
Clip-out layers into pieces by a "Mask", which may correspond to year-cycle, or fixed period like from July to next June, etc.

For making a seasonal calendar

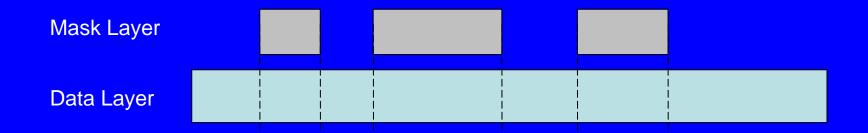
- (1) To find out space-oriented change in a period; Select with a fixed period Then <u>heap</u> pieces in the space-order
- (2) To find out time-oriented (long-term) change in a space; Select with a fixed space Then <u>heap</u> pieces in the period-order

Cychronicle: clip by mask, heap to compare

Clip-out layers into pieces by a "Mask", which may correspond to year-cycle, or fixed period like fiscal year, etc.



Cychronicle: clip by more general mask, heap to compare



MASK Layer will be made by several conditions like Keyword-type

eg. From: "sowing"

To: "harvest"

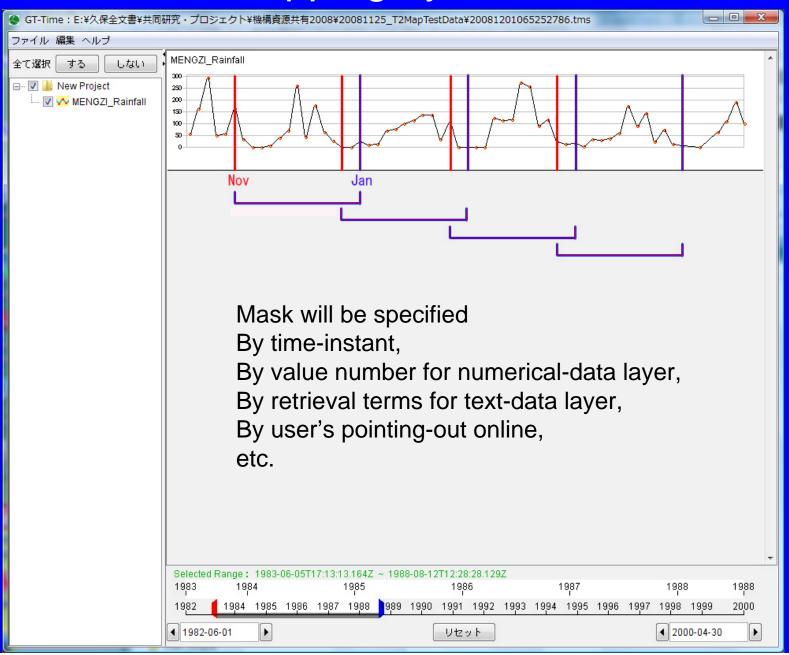
Value-type

eg. From: the value of X exceeds A,

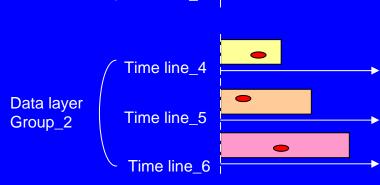
To: the value of X falls below B

By User's pointing-out type

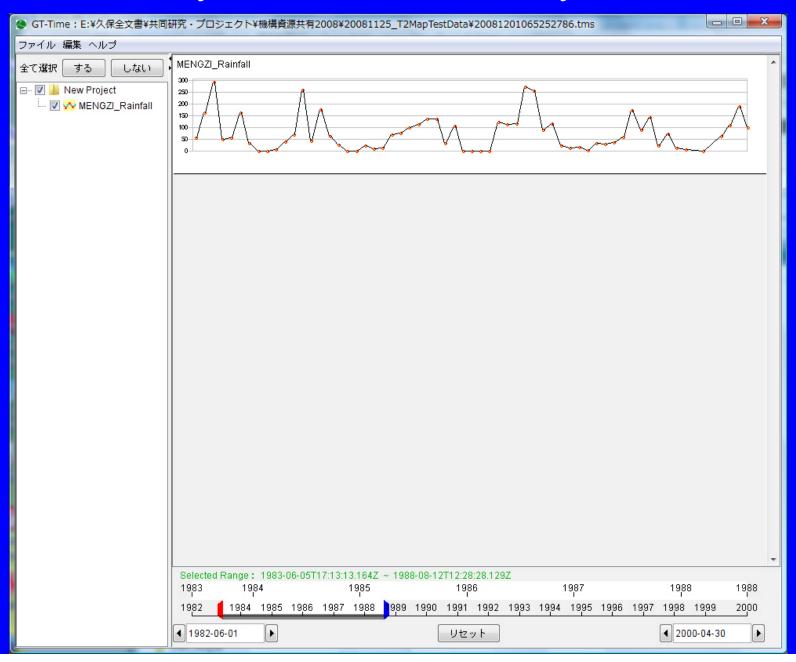
Clipping by Mask



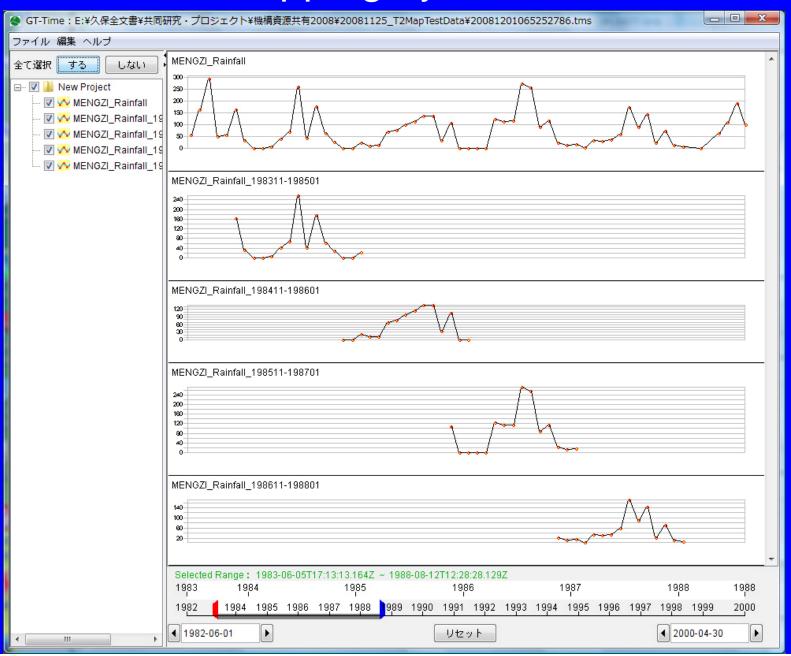
Clip and Heap to discover a hidden "cycle-like" change from chronicle Mask Layer_1 Data Layer_1 Align by Clip Align by an "anchor" Time line_1 Time line_1 Time line_2 Time line_2 Time line_3 Time line_3 Heap group of data layer using relative time-axis Time line_1 **Data layer** Time line_2 Group_1 Time line_3



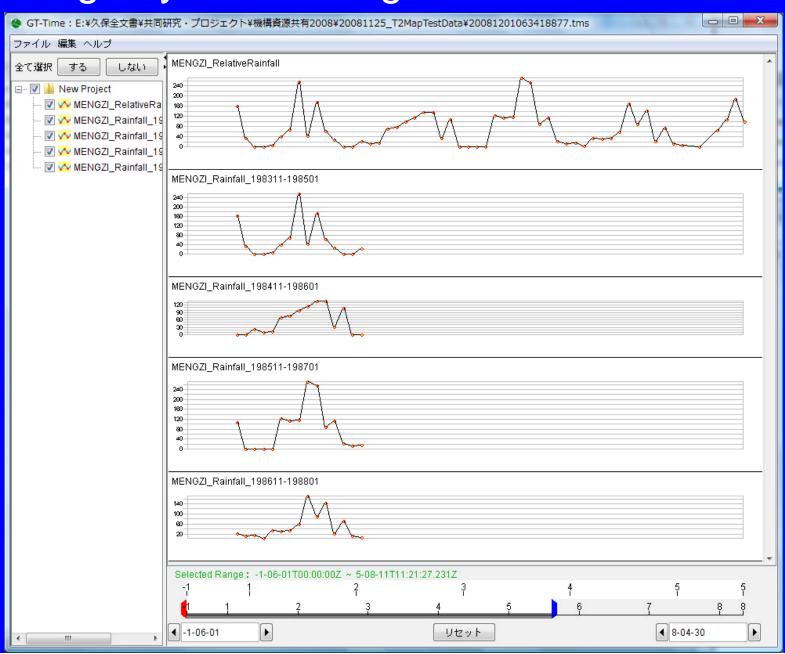
Ordinary Numerical Data by Hu-Time



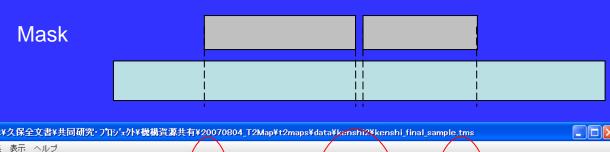
Clipping by Mask

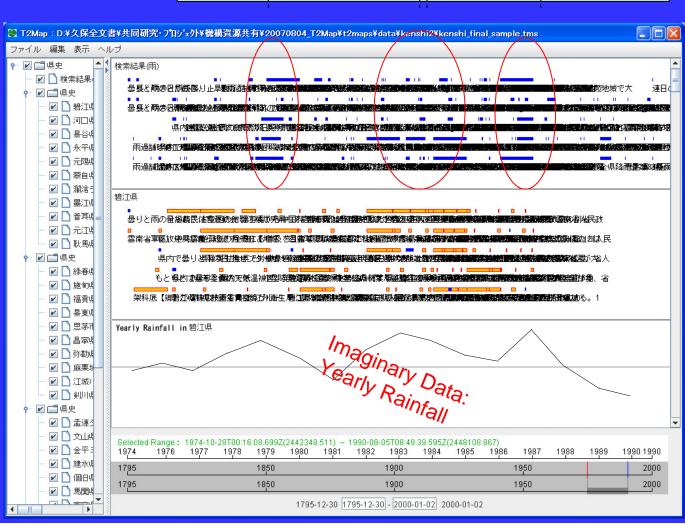


Align by Introducing Relative Time-axis

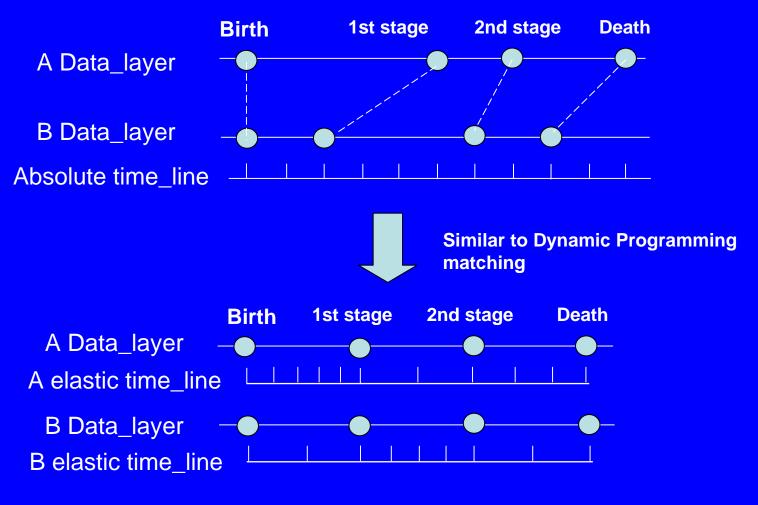


To discover a hidden "cycle-like" change from chronicle





Idea of Adjusting and Comparing Events using Elastic time axis for presenting partial-order relation



Ex.1 Lifecycle of living thing

Ex2: Agricultural calendar, Fishery calendar

Future task

- •The ideas given today is still in the experimental level. The future task is;
- •To implement basic and essential part of time-space integrated archives system. To provide Humanities researchers with friendly tools to upload and download actual data-set, online data-modification including thematic keywords.

How to archiving data by attaching triplet if data contains many events without explicitly expressed triplet such as Yunnan chronicle, while numerical data from meteorological research has explicit triplet in data field.

- To implement various cultural/local calendar system, gazetteer, thesauri for specific theme, etc.
- •To provide Humanities researchers with their-friendly tools for them to upload and download actual data-set, online data-modification including thematic keywords.
- Integration of HuMap and HuTime which allows user to dynamic switch from one to another.
- •To discuss and verify whether it is worthy to introduce and implement the ideas of recording interrelation link and *cychronicle*, into HuMap and HuTime.