FOUR WAY STREET?
SAUDI ARABIA’S BEHAVIOR AMONG
THE SUPERPOWERS, 1966-1999

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Paper prepared for the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. The work in this paper was supported by the National Science Foundation under its ITR program, grant number 0219673.
Purpose of Study

- Relate behavior of Saudi Arabia to the United States, Russia, and China.
- Analyze interconnections using vector autoregression (VAR).
- Analyze level of activity of Saudi Arabia vis-à-vis the United States, Russia, and China using hubs and authorities.
Events Data

- Consists of:
  - *Actor* that initiates action.
  - *Event* that is undertaken.
  - *Target* of the action.
  - *Date* action took place.

- Usually conflict-cooperation scale associated with data.
- Coded by hand or computer.
Interactions: Vector Autoregression

- Pre-Embargo.
  - Saudi behavior to US: friendly if Russia hostile to Saudi Arabia.
  - Saudi behavior to Russia: friendly if US and Russia friendly.

- Post-Embargo, Post Cold War.
  - Saudi behavior to US: Same as US behavior to Russia, friendly if China and US in conflict.
  - Saudi behavior to Russia: More cooperative, same as US behavior to Russia.
Hubs and Authorities

- Use as a measure of activity.
- Compare Saudi vs. Superpowers, Saudi vs. states in region.

Figure 3
Saudi Activities: Gulf Vs. Superpower

- Saudi to Gulf activity
- Saudi to Superpower activity
Conclusions

- Early years: Saudi Arabia keeps a low profile in the region, behavior driven by a few basic forces.
- Recent years: Saudi Arabia becomes more active with the superpowers, Saudi behavior driven by a more complex set of factors.
- Patterns in events data show that Saudi Arabia has assumed a more active and vigorous role vis-à-vis the US, Russia, and China.