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The resilience and determinants of global mineral resource supply chains: a network percolation perspective

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Mineral resources are the basic materials for global economic development. Assessing mineral resource supply chain resilience is an important pillar of mineral resource supply chain stability management. The globality, heterogeneity and complexity of supply chain bring challenges to the resilience assessment of global mineral resource supply chain. To solve this problem, a method based on multi-region input-output model, network percolation model and econometric model is proposed, which is able to measure the resilience of global mineral resource supply chain and its influencing factors from the perspective of the whole system. The percolation phase transition is introduced to measure the critical state of global mineral resource supply chain system collapse facing external disruption. Using the proposed method, this paper conducts an empirical study on the evolution of global mineral resource supply chain resilience from 2005 to 2014. The results show that the resilience of global mineral resource supply chain declined by 39.6% in 2005–2014. Most of the critical links that caused the collapse of the global mineral resource supply chain network are the manufacturing sector and its upstream and downstream sectors. The structure of supply chain network plays a key role in network resilience. Increasing the number of linkages in upstream and downstream could improve network resilience, but the increase of linkage strength would deteriorate network resilience.

KEYWORDS

mineral resource, global supply chains, disruption, network percolation, resilience assessment

1 Introduction

Mineral resources are the basic materials and energy guarantee for world economic development (Jiang et al., 2023), and the security and stability of the supply chain of mineral resources are crucial. The mineral resources industry does not exist independently in the global supply chain, but interacts with other industries. As a general organization form of the global production network, minerals, services and technologies produced by one country or sector flow to other countries or sectors along the supply chain. Therefore, this paper explores the supply chain resilience of mineral resources from the perspective of global cross-region and cross-sector. With the development of globalization and the increase of multinational companies,

transnational production activities in the supply chain become more frequent (Wang et al., 2020). Many interwoven cross-border supply chains form a global supply chain Network (GSCN). The spatial pattern of GSCN also changes gradually with world economic growth (Fan and Liu, 2021), which highlights the complexity and systematization of the GSCN.

In recent years, the international political and economic landscape has been complex and volatile. At the same time, COVID-19 (Jomthanachai et al., 2021), trade friction, natural disasters and many other factors have disrupted the stability of the global supply chain to varying degrees (Ivanov and Dolgui, 2019). In this context, the stability management of GSCN is very important. An important pillar of stability management is to measure supply chain network resilience and quantify its determinants. Based on these results, follow-up actions can be taken to improve the resilience of the supply chain network and resist external disturbances. Current studies on supply chain resilience assessment mostly are assessed by quantitative resilience indicators, such as the resilience triangle (Moosavi and Hosseini, 2021). Later, some scholars proposed quantitative comprehensive indicators from multiple aspects such as time, cost and the level of recovery (Behzadi et al., 2020). Most of these studies are static evaluation, while external interruption produced cascade effects in the supply chain network, which is a dynamic process. Besides, ignoring the heterogeneity of the supply chain network may lead to a bias in assessing resilience. Therefore, this paper dynamically evaluates the resilience of GSCN from a system perspective.

As the impact of disruption on networks with different structures varies (Dixit et al., 2020), the structure of supply chain network has an important impact on network resilience (Ojha et al., 2018). Scholars have studied the disruption and resilience of supply networks, but mainly at the node level. For instance, nodes with high degree value and centrality are critical nodes (Craighead et al., 2007). However, the disruption is ignored from the perspective of the whole network. The disruption of some nodes will not lead to the collapse of the whole network (Kim et al., 2015). Therefore, this paper studies how the overall network collapse is generated from network components based on the perspective of percolation. If managers do not understand the structure of the overall network, they may misallocate resources just to increase the resilience of some important nodes and ignore the resilience of the whole network (Kim et al., 2015).

The preceding underlines the systematization and complexity of the resilience of GSCN. This study adds to the literature by proposing a model that combines input-output analysis, network percolation and econometrics to explain the dynamic variation in resilience of GSCN and its influencing factors. Specifically, this method reflects the interdependence between supply chains through the overall linkage effect of upstream and downstream based on multi-regional input-output (MRIO) model. The MRIO model can be used to better capture the complexity and transnational nature of global supply chain (Wang et al., 2020). Then, this paper uses the network percolation to model the fracture process of GSCN in the face of increasing disruption, which helps to capture the dynamic resilience of GSCN. Resilience here can be interpreted as the maximum capacity of the supply chain network to face disruption without the whole network collapse. Finally,

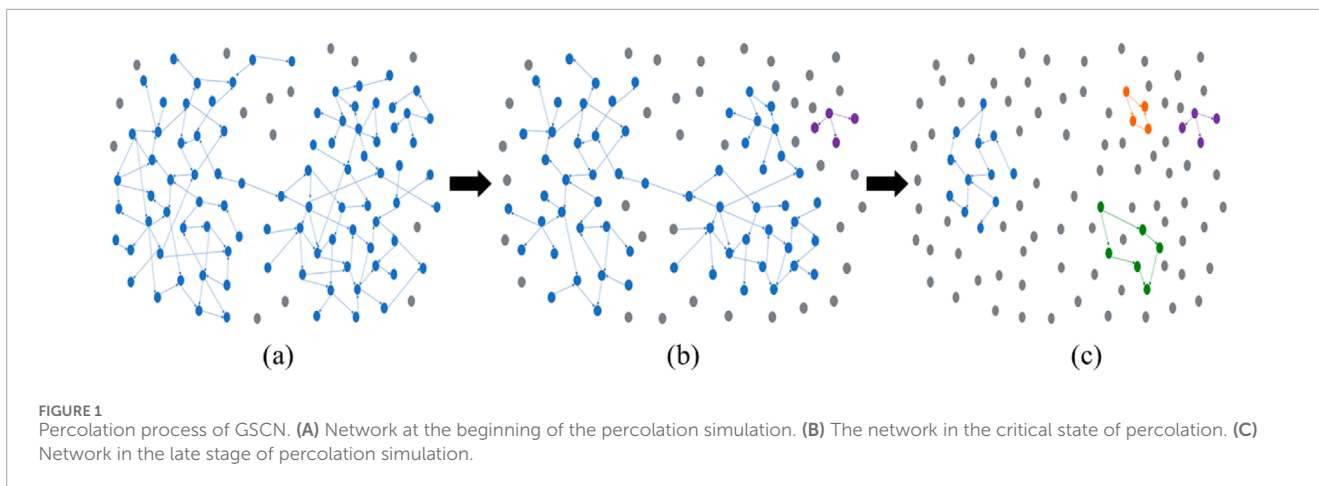
econometric model is used to study the determinants of the resilience.

2 Literature review

The research of supply chain resilience has attracted much attention by many scholars. From the perspective of research objects, there are studies on the resilience of a single supply chain, such as retail supply chain (Alikhani et al., 2021), manufacturing supply chain (Rajesh, 2021), blood supply chain in healthcare system (Kazemi Matin et al., 2021), hotel supply chain (Aigbedo, 2021), food supply chain (Coopmans et al., 2021); There are also assessments (Jomthanachai et al., 2021) and optimization design (Hasani, 2021) of global supply chain resilience. From the perspective of research methods, most studies calculate resilience based on probability estimation. Such as by quantification of resilience enablers and considering (Soni et al., 2014), bayesian network approach (Hosseini and Ivanov, 2019). And other studies quantified resilience from the perspective of recovery, such as control theory (Ivanov et al., 2016), a genome method based on a probabilistic perspective (Pavlov et al., 2018), Markov chain (Hosseini and Ivanov, 2019).

With the continuous development of globalization, it becomes relevant to study the structure and resilience of global supply chains. A large number of studies are devoted to studying the structure of supply chain from the perspective of industrial linkage (Lee, 2021; Norbu et al., 2021). Industrial linkage refers to the economic and technological linkages between various sectors through supply and demand, including direct linkages and indirect linkages (Lo Turco et al., 2019). Besides, industrial linkages are usually divided into forward linkages (Cahen-Fourot et al., 2020), backwards linkages (Norbu et al., 2021) and total linkages (Zhang et al., 2019). Total linkages refer to the driving effects generated by supply and demand between two sectors. Therefore, this paper evaluates the interdependence between various sectors of the supply chain by measuring the total linkages. A complex system is formed by the interlacing complex relationships among supply chain sectors, and the complex network is the most commonly used to study the complex system. Complex network studies the structural characteristics of the system from the perspective of the whole system and reveals the relationship between structure and function (Zheng et al., 2021a). In addition, complex network can further identify the role of the agent in the network through various network topology indicators. Therefore, there are many studies on supply chain network structure by using complex network (Fang et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2021), such as identifying key sectors and key countries.

However, in addition to the static analysis of supply chain network structure, there are few studies on the critical percolation state driven by supply chain network dynamics. The percolation model is one of the commonly used network dynamics methods to measure the dynamic changes of network connectivity (Li et al., 2021). The critical value of the percolation phase transition can be used to evaluate the resilience and efficiency of a system (Zeng et al., 2019a). For example, Zeng et al. (2020) observed the existence of a metastable regime in transportation system, providing a better understanding of traffic resilience management through percolation



model. Besides, the percolation model is also applied in many fields such as air pollution prevention and control (Du et al., 2020) and air transport system (Liu et al., 2020). Therefore, this paper evaluates the resilience of GSCN by using the change of the giant connected component in the simulated external disturbance, and explores the critical links that cause the collapse of GSCN.

Moreover, investigating network resilience from the perspective of network structure has also attracted the attention of many scholars, including theoretical network (Crucitti et al., 2004) and realistic social ecological network (Holme et al., 2002). Previous studies have found that network connectivity and centrality affect network resilience (Janssen et al., 2006), and the resilience of scale-free network structure is much higher than the centralized structure (Kim et al., 2015). Despite the above achievements, the heterogeneity of real networks has been ignored. Therefore, on the basis of previous studies and in combination with the heterogeneity of GSCN, this study uses econometric methods to explore the relationship between network structure and network resilience of GSCN. The results are helpful to better understand the resilience management of global supply chain network and provide suggestions for improving network resilience.

3 Methodology

3.1 Resilience assessment of GSCN

We first apply the multi-regional input-output (MRIO) analysis to calculate the total linkages among economic sectors. In the input-output model, the direct consumption coefficient dc_{ij}^t between sector i and sector j in year t can be formulated by Equation 1 as follows:

$$dc_{ij}^t = \frac{x_{ij}^t}{x_j^t} \tag{1}$$

Where x_{ij}^t represents the direct consumption value of sector j to sector i in year t , and x_j^t represents the total input value of sector j in year t . Then, the complete consumption coefficient matrix CC^t in year t can be formulated by Equation 2 as follows:

$$CC^t = (I - DC^t)^{-1} - I \tag{2}$$

Where DC^t represents the direct consumption coefficient matrix, and I represents an identity matrix. Similar to the calculation process of CC^t , the direct distribution coefficient matrix DD^t and the complete distribution coefficient matrix CD^t in year t can be formulated by Equations 3, 4 as follows:

$$cd_{ij}^t = \frac{x_{ij}^t}{x_i^t} \tag{3}$$

$$DD^t = (I - CD^t)^{-1} - I \tag{4}$$

Where x_i^t represents the total output value of sector i in year t . Thus, the total linkage matrix TL^t in year t can be formulated by Equation 5 as follows (Zheng et al., 2021b):

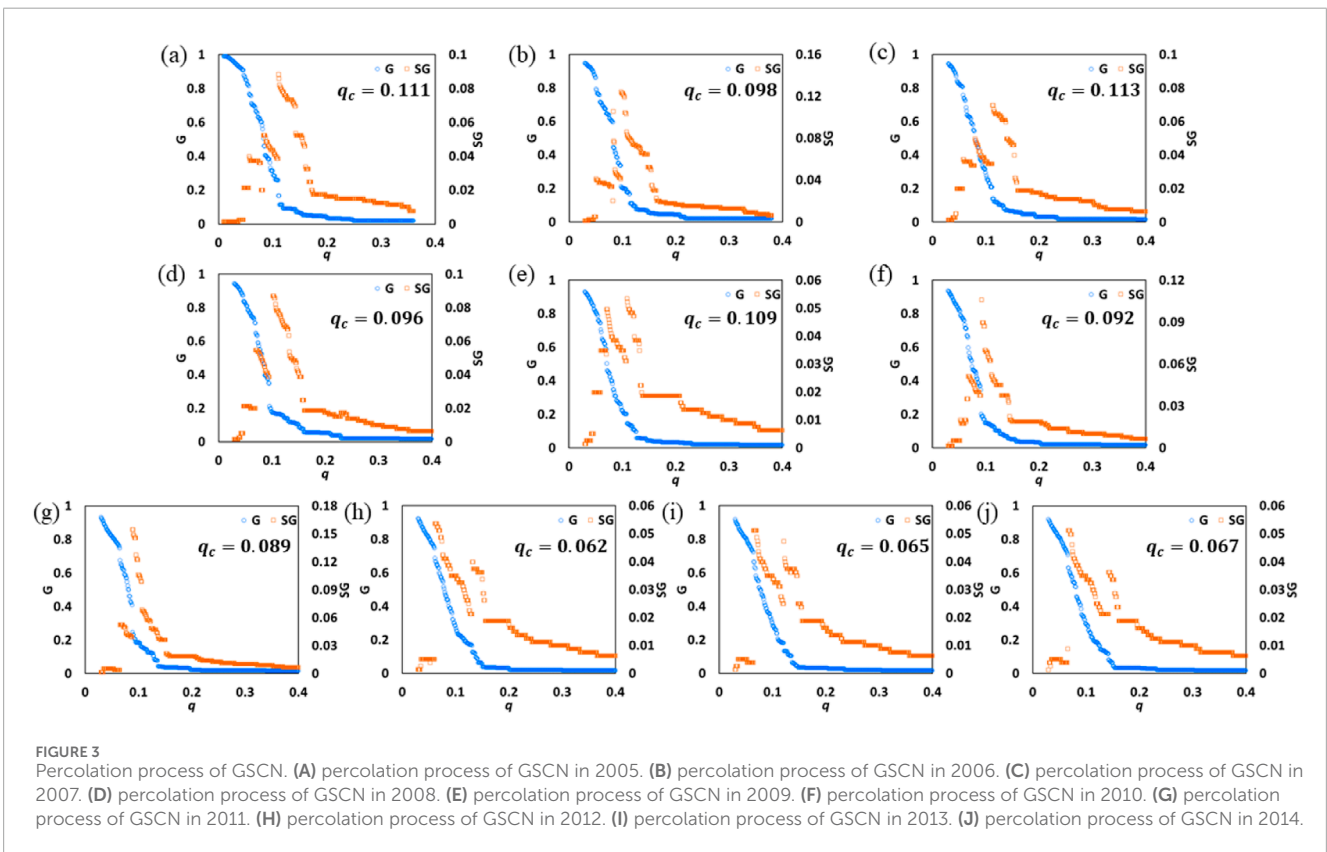
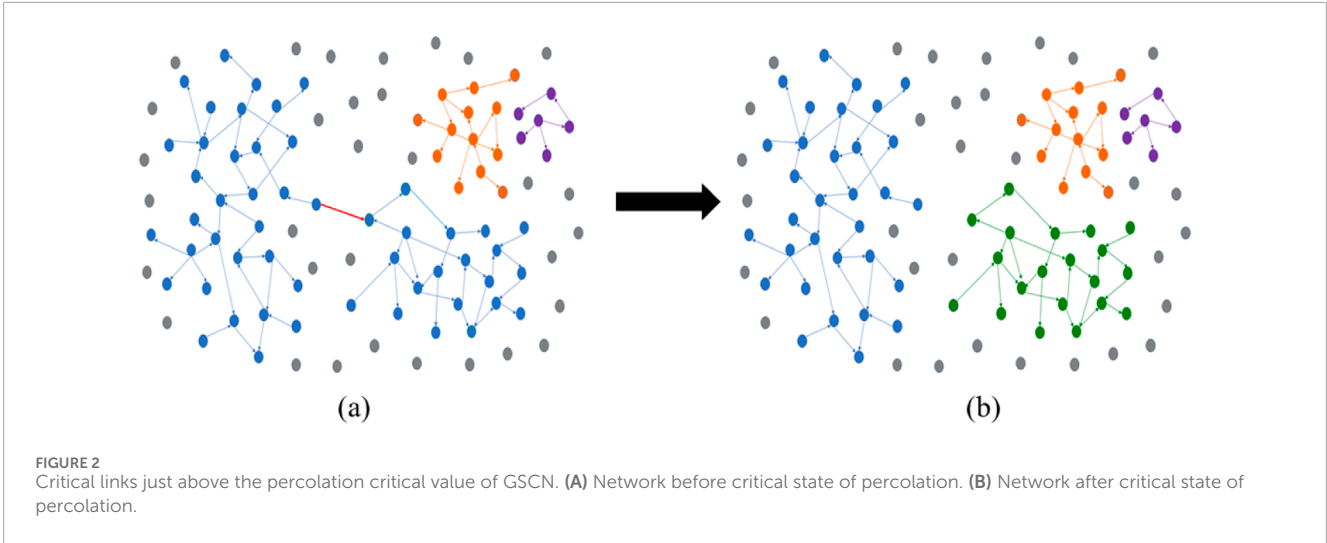
$$TL^t = CC^t + DD^t \tag{5}$$

Based on complex network theory, the global supply chain network GN^t in year t can be formulated by Equation 6 as follows:

$$GN^t = (NN^t, TL_{ij}^t) \tag{6}$$

Where NN indicates the nodes in network, which are various sectors. The edges $TL_{ij}^t = \{tl_{ij}^t\}$ and tl_{ij}^t are the total linkage of sector i on sector j . The values of tl_{ij}^t are defined as the weights of the edges.

The percolation model comes from statistical physics and studies the dynamic evolution process of network connectivity (Grimmett, 2012). When the proportion of interrupted points or edges of a connected network reaches a critical value, the connectivity of the network suddenly breaks down, and the function of the network would collapse accordingly. During this process, the giant connected component (shown by the blue clusters in Figure 1) is constantly decreasing. When the number of nodes covered by the giant connected component is less than the square root of number of network nodes N , the whole network is divided into two parts, that is, the connectivity of the network has undergone a phase transition, which also belongs to the structural phase transition in complex network phase transition. Therefore, the critical value of percolation phase transition can be used to measure the resilience of maintaining network function against external interruptions (Zeng et al., 2020). Besides, the size distribution of clusters follows



a power law at criticality, and it can be formulated by Equation 7 as follows: (Zeng et al., 2019a):

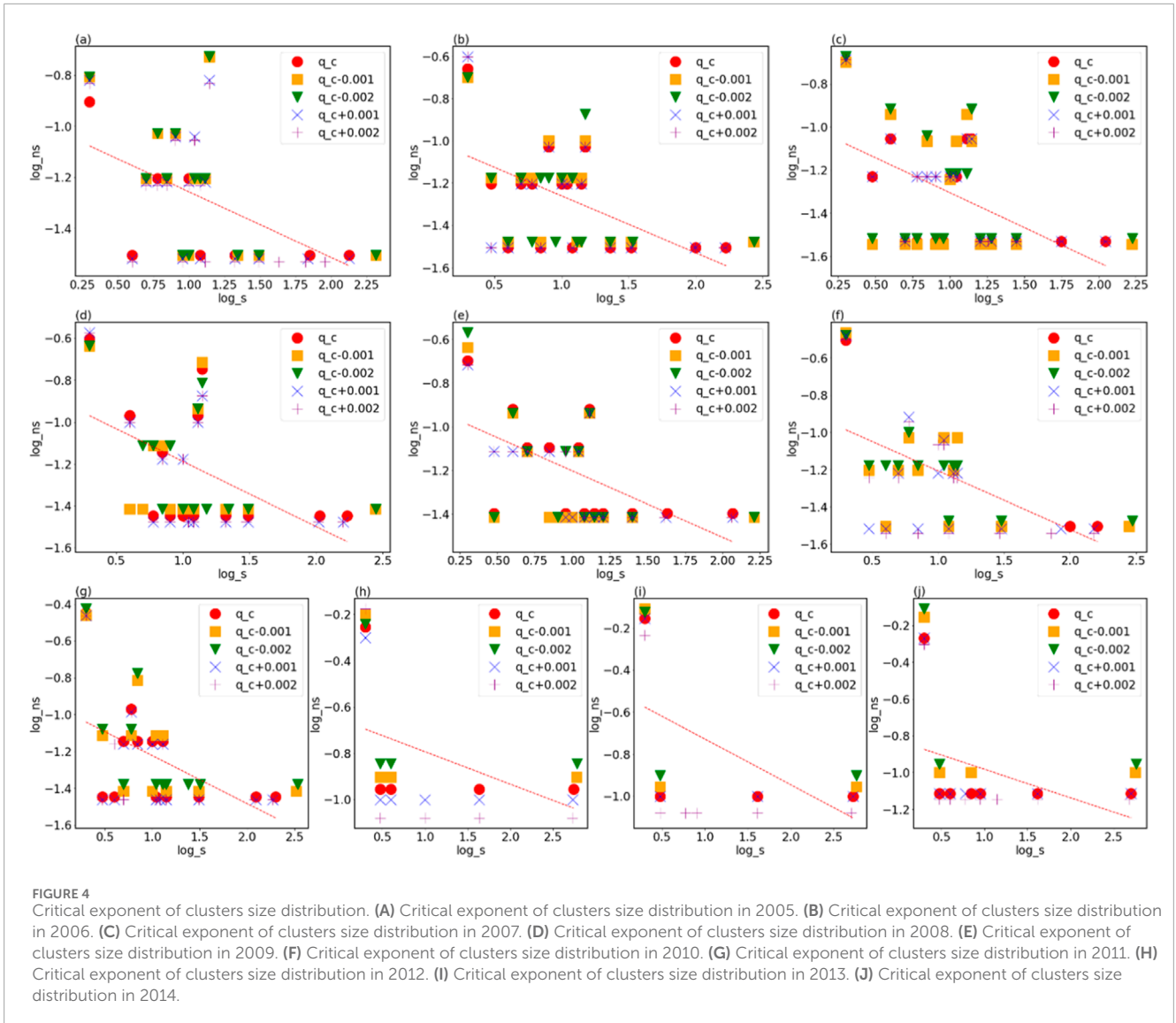
$$n_s \sim s^{-\tau} \tag{7}$$

Where s is the size of clusters, n_s is the ratio of the number of s -sized clusters to the total number of clusters, and τ is the critical exponent. In this paper, the original GSCN is a complete network. With the increase of external interruption q , more and more supply relations gradually break, and the network gradually becomes fragmented (as shown in Figure 1C). There is a critical state q_c in the process from complete

network to network fragmentation, and the critical links are identified by comparing the GSCN connectivity states near the critical threshold q_c . When the critical links (as shown in the red edges in Figure 2A) in the network break, the network collapses.

3.2 Impact factor of network resilience

Previous studies found that network resilience depends on network structure (Kim et al., 2015), but only discussed the



structure of basic supply network, ignoring the heterogeneity of supply chain network itself. Therefore, this paper analyzes the impact of supply chain network structure on network resilience from four indicators: the maximum gap of linkage effects LD , the total strength of linkage effects TW , the network density NI , and the average weighted-degree AD . Each indicator can be formulated by Equations 8–11 as follows:

$$LD^t = t_{max}^t - t_{min}^t \tag{8}$$

$$TW^t = \sum_{i=1, j=1}^n t_{ij}^t \tag{9}$$

$$NI^t = \frac{NE^t}{n \times (n - 1)} \tag{10}$$

$$AD^t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n WD_i^t}{NN} \tag{11}$$

Where n is the number of sectors, WD_i^t represents the weighted-degree of node i in the supply network in year t . Then the regression method in econometrics is used to explore the relationship between network structure and network resilience. Network resilience is set as the dependent variable, and four parameters of GSCN are set as the independent variable.

4 Data

The global input-output tables used in this paper are collected from the World Input-Output Database (WIOD). The MRIO table covers 43 regions and a rest of the world (ROW) representing the remaining regions, with each region is further subdivided into 56 sectors. This paper combines 56 sectors into 20 industries, and the list and classification of regions and industries are given in Supplementary Appendix A, B respectively. This paper used the GDP deflator (constant 2010 US\$) to eliminate the influence of price changes (Wiedmann et al., 2015). With the latest available

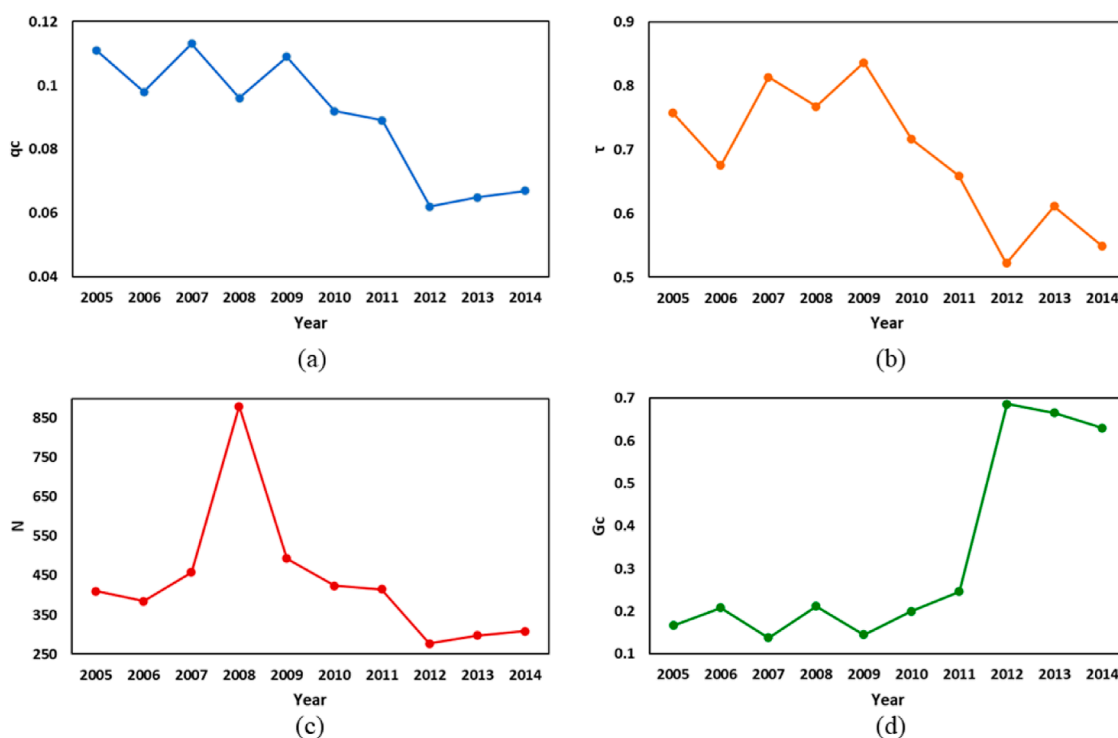


FIGURE 5 Percolation critical characteristics of GSCN at different time. (A) The resilience of GSCN. (B) the power exponent of GSCN. (C) the number of critical clusters of GSCN. (D) the maximum cluster of GSCN.

TABLE 1 Critical links of GSCN at different time.

Year	Source	Target	Inter-regional or intra-regional
2005	ESP-6	ESP-12	intra-regional
2006	RUS-2	RUS-4	intra-regional
2007	FRA-3	FRA-7	intra-regional
2008	JPN-3	JPN-15	intra-regional
2009	CZE-3	CZE-11	intra-regional
2010	JPN-3	AUS-2	Inter-regional
2011	DEU-3	POL-2	Inter-regional
2012	DNK-11	DNK-12	intra-regional
2013	TWN-7	TWN-10	intra-regional
2014	SVN-7	SVN-13	intra-regional

data up to 2014 (Wang et al., 2020), this paper used the proposed methods to assess the resilience of global supply chain networks and their influencing factors during 2005–2014.

5 Results and discussions

5.1 The resilience and critical links of GSCN

This paper first evaluates network resilience through percolation analysis of GSCN, taking 2005 and 2014 as examples, as shown in Fig.3 (a). As the external attack q increases, the giant cluster G of GSCN decreases, and the G shows a phase transition and becomes fragmented at critical point q_c . The G in 2014 is decreasing lower and slightly faster than in 2005, which indicating the resilience of GSCN in 2014 is lower than that in 2005. To further investigate the difference in network resilience at different time, we calculate the resilience by observing the distribution of the second-largest cluster SG (marked as yellow squares), as shown in Figures 3B, C. There existed a critical threshold value q_c where the G of GSCN breaks into fragment clusters and the SG reaches its maximum (Zeng et al., 2019b). Thus, the resilience value of GSCN in 2005 is 0.111, and that of 2014 is 0.067. In addition, the percolation critical value of the global supply chain network showed a decreasing trend from 2005 to 2014, which indicates that the resilience of the global supply chain network weakened after 2005.

Then, the size distributions of clusters near the critical threshold in 2005 and 2014 are calculated, as shown in Figures 4A, B. Results include size distribution at q_c (red circles), $q_c - 0.01$ (orange squares), $q_c - 0.02$ (green diamonds), $q_c + 0.01$ (blue triangles), and $q_c + 0.02$ (purple stars). The size distribution of clusters in 2005 and 2014 follow a power law at criticality. When $q > q_c$, the more q deviates from the critical value q_c , the more

TABLE 2 Results of OLS regression.

Variable	Coefficient	t-value	F-value	R ²	Eigenvalue	Condition index
<i>LD</i>	-0.740**	-3.112	9.686	0.491	0.002	28.908
<i>TW</i>	-0.796***	-3.725	13.875	0.589	0.000	81.393
<i>NI</i>	0.819***	4.033	16.267	0.629	0.000	716.858
<i>AD</i>	-0.810***	-3.901	15.217	0.612	0.000	78.062
τ	0.931***	7.200	51.846	0.850	0.011	13.676
<i>G</i>	-0.957***	-9.282	86.153	0.904	0.167	3.312

Note:***, **,and* represent significance at the 0.01, 0.05, 0.1 level, respectively.

TABLE 3 Results of ridge regression.

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-value
<i>LD</i>	-3.711E-03	3.243E-03	1.144
<i>TW</i>	-3.985E-03**	1.960E-03	2.033
<i>NI</i>	4.550E-03**	2.290E-03	1.987
<i>AD</i>	-3.921E-03**	1.94E-03	2.026
τ	1.59E-02***	3.87E-03	4.104
<i>G</i>	-1.35E-02***	2.41E-03	5.593

Note:***, **,and* represent significance at the 0.01, 0.05, 0.1 level, respectively.

the distribution curve deviates from the power-law distribution. Near the critical point, the cluster size distribution of the percolation system follows the power law distribution, which is a kind of scale behavior. Scaling is a typical phenomenon in the research of complex systems. This further reflects the serious heterogeneity of the global supply chain network.

Next, we explore the percolation critical characteristics of the GSCN at different time, as shown in Figure 5. The resilience q_c of GSCN is in the trend of fluctuation and decline as a whole. During the study period, global supply chain resilience decreased by 39.6%. Similarly, the power exponent τ also fluctuates and decreases with time, while the maximum cluster G_c increases at the critical point, which further proves that the size distribution of critical point cluster satisfies the power law distribution. An interesting phenomenon is that the number of critical clusters N in 2008 is much larger than that in other periods, indicating that the core structure of supply chain network in 2008 is smaller. Only a few industries are at the core, and most industrial sectors are in a state of marginal dispersion. Once the supply chain networks collapsed, the global supply chain networks were most fragmented in 2008. This may be due to the fragmentation of global demand patterns and international production as a result of the 2008 financial crisis.

In addition to evaluating the resilience of supply chain network, it is also important to identify the critical links that cause the network collapse. The collapse of the supply chain network is a process

of gradual accumulation of external interruptions. Therefore, like the last straw that broke the camel's back, the last broken link that caused the network crash is the critical link of this paper. Critical links in the study sample period are shown in Table 1. From the regional perspective, 80% of the critical links are industrial sectors within the same region. Only in 2010 and 2011, the critical links involve trans-regional industries, namely, the linkage between Japan's manufacturing industry (sector 3) and Australia's mining and quarrying industry (sector 2), and the linkage between Germany's manufacturing industry (sector 3) and Poland's mining and quarrying industry (sector 2). From an industry perspective, critical sectors include the manufacturing (sector 3), the construction (sector 7), the mining and quarrying (sector 2), the financial and insurance activities (sector 11) and the real estate activities (sector 12), especially the linkage effects of manufacturing industry (sector 3) on various industries need to be paid attention to. With the change of time, the importance of the tertiary industry is also gradually increasing.

5.2 The relationship between resilience and network structure of GSCN

After calculating the resilience of supply chain network, this paper tries to explore the influencing factors of network resilience from the perspective of network structure. OLS regression was first used to explore the relationship between network indicators and network resilience, and the results are shown in Table 2. Eigenvalue of each variable is about 0, and the condition index is greater than 10, indicating the existence of multicollinearity among variables. Ridge regression model is a biased estimation regression for collinear analysis (Panzone et al., 2021), and the results of ridge regression are shown in Table 3. The significance and direction of influence of ridge regression were similar to OLS, which also proved the robustness of the model.

The regression results show that *TW*, *AD* and *G* have significant negative influence on network resilience. Linkage strength reflects the dependence between upstream and downstream. The higher the linkage strength of a sector, the stronger its dependence. Once there is a shortage of material supply, the supply chain would face the risk of fracture, thus affecting the upstream and

downstream production, such cascading transmission may even lead to the collapse of the global supply chain. Therefore, to improve the resilience of GSCN, the linkage strength between global supply chains should be reduced, whether it is the global total linkage strength or the average linkage strength of individual sectors. In addition, the giant connected component reflects the core structure of the supply chain network, and the existence of core nodes greatly weakens the robustness of the network. Once the core node is maliciously attacked, it can quickly paralyze the network. Therefore, the size of core node clusters should be reduced as much as possible to improve the network's resilience against external attacks. In contrast, NI and τ have a significant positive effect on resilience, indicating that a dense network (with more edges) tends to be more resilient. This is also consistent with some traditional views of supply chain resilience, that is, redundancy could increase the resilience of supply chain network (Kamalahmadi et al., 2024).

6 Conclusion

The objective of this paper is to evaluate resilience of global mineral resource supply chain network and its determinants. The two main contributions are as follows. First, this paper develops a method based on MRIO model, network percolation model and econometric model to evaluate the resilience and its determinants. With the increase of external disturbance, the critical value of network percolation phase transition is used to measure the resilience of GSCN. By comparing the network structure at the moment of the network crash, the critical links causing the network crash are identified. In addition, the relationship between network structure and resilience is explored to provide reference for designing a more resilient supply chain network. Compared with other supply chain resilience in the existing literature, the key advantage of the proposed approach is that it dynamically captures the transnational, heterogeneity and complexity of the global supply chain network from a systematic perspective.

Secondly, we apply the proposed method to the empirical research for 2005–2014. The results show that GSCN has serious heterogeneity. The resilience of GSCN declined by 39.6% during the sample period. Our regression results also showed that network structure plays a significant role in resilience. Strengthen the diversification of the supply chain system, and increase the network density by establishing more supply chain cooperative relations, that is, increase the redundancy is conducive to improve the resilience. However, the linkage strength between the upstream and downstream of the supply chain, that is, the interdependence relationship should be reduced. Excessive linkage strength deteriorates network resilience.

There are inevitably some limitations in this study, which is worth further study. First, due to the time-lag of global MRIO tables, the empirical data in this paper are a little old. However, the model proposed in this paper is still applicable when the new input-output table is released. Secondly, the simulation is carried out from the perspective of edges percolation in supply network, and the critical value of network collapse can be studied from the perspective of node percolation in the future. Finally, there may be

a nonlinear relationship between network structure indicators and resilience, and future research can be explored from a nonlinear perspective.

Data availability statement

Publicly available datasets were analyzed in this study. This data can be found here: <https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/valuechain/wiod/home>.

Author contributions

HZ: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Visualization, Writing—original draft. WZ: Funding acquisition, Project administration, Supervision, Writing—review and editing. XX: Formal Analysis, Supervision, Writing—review and editing.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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Supplementary Material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/feart.2024.1443668/full#supplementary-material>

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