

# **Nonstationary spatial process modeling Part II**

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# Nonstationary Models II

## A GENERAL MODELING FRAMEWORK

- ▶ Let  $Z(\cdot)$  be a realization of a **spatial stochastic process** defined for all  $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , where  $d$  is typically equal to 2 or 3
- ▶ We observe the value of  $Z(\cdot)$  at a finite set of locations  $\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_n \in \mathcal{D}$  and wish to learn about the underlying process
- ▶ For all  $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{D}$ , let

$$Z(\mathbf{s}) = \mu(\mathbf{s}) + Y(\mathbf{s}) + \epsilon(\mathbf{s})$$

where

- $\mu(\cdot)$  is a deterministic mean function
- $Y(\cdot)$  is a **mean-zero latent spatial process**
- $\epsilon(\cdot)$  is a spatially independent error process, which is assumed to be independent of  $Y(\cdot)$

## Nonstationary Models II

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*Definition* A process is said to be **second-order stationary** if

$$E[Y(\mathbf{s})] = E[Y(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{h})] = \mu$$

and

$$\text{cov}[Y(\mathbf{s}), Y(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{h})] = \text{cov}[Y(\mathbf{0}), Y(\mathbf{h})] = C(\mathbf{h})$$

where the function  $C(\mathbf{h})$ ,  $\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is called the **covariance function**

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→ Here,  $Y(\cdot)$  is a **nonstationary** spatial process with covariance function  $C(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) = \text{cov}(Y(\mathbf{s}_1), Y(\mathbf{s}_2))$

# Nonstationary Models II

- ▶ We focus on modeling  $C(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2)$ :
  1. has to be a **valid** covariance function
  2. has to be **estimable** (perhaps from only a single realization of the process)
- ▶ Following Sampson (2010)'s categorization, the following are a few approaches in the literature...
  1. Smoothing and weighted-average methods
  2. Basis function methods
  3. Process convolutions / spatially-varying parameters

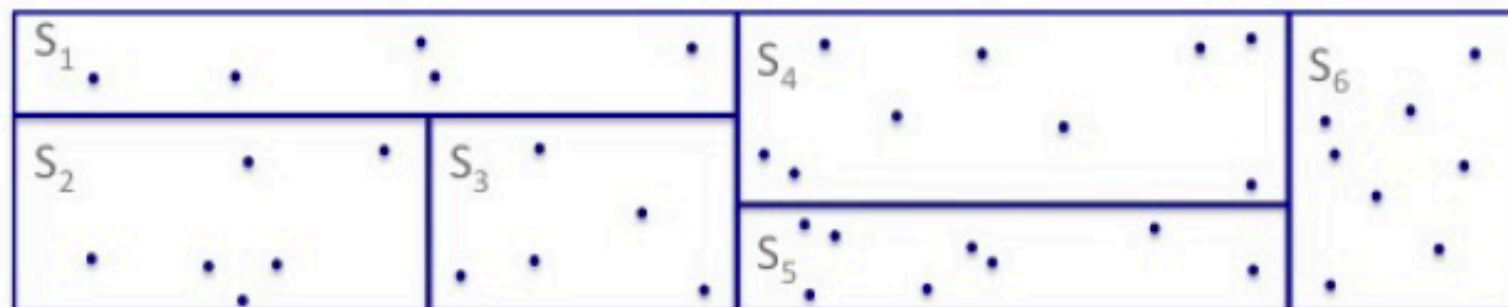
# Nonstationary Models II

## 1. SMOOTHING / WEIGHTED-AVERAGE METHODS

**Idea:** Construct a nonstationary spatial process by **smoothing several locally stationary processes**

**An example:** (Fuentes, 2001):

- Divide the spatial region  $\mathcal{D}$  into  $k$  disjoint subregions  $S_i$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , such that  $\mathcal{D} = \cup_{i=1}^k S_i$
- Let  $Y_1(\cdot), Y_2(\cdot), \dots, Y_k(\cdot)$  be stationary spatial processes associated with each of the subregions, with covariance functions estimated using the observations in each subregion



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- Construct a global nonstationary process as a **weighted average** of the **locally stationary processes**:

$$Y(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{i=1}^k w_i(\mathbf{s}) Y_i(\mathbf{s}),$$

where  $w_i(\mathbf{s})$  is weight function based on the distance between  $\mathbf{s}$  and the 'center' of region  $S_i$

- The number of subregions is chosen using BIC

# Nonstationary Models II

## Some other approaches:

- Fuentes and Smith (2002) propose a continuous extension of the original model where

$$Y(\mathbf{s}) = \int_{\mathcal{D}} w(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{u}) Y_{\theta(\mathbf{u})}(\mathbf{s}) d\mathbf{u}$$

- Nott and Dunsmuir (2002) propose letting

$$C(Y(\mathbf{s}_1), Y(\mathbf{s}_2)) = \Sigma_0 + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^k w_i(\mathbf{s}_1) w_i(\mathbf{s}_2) C_{\theta_i}(\mathbf{s}_1 - \mathbf{s}_2)}_{\text{local residual covariance structure}}$$

- Guillot et al. (2001) propose a **nonparametric kernel estimator** of a nonstationary covariance matrix
- Kim, Mallick, and Holmes (2005)'s approach automatically partitions the spatial domain into disjoint regions and then fits a **piecewise Gaussian process model**

# Nonstationary Models II

## 2. BASIS FUNCTION MODELS

**Idea:** decompose spatial covariance functions in terms of **basis functions**

**An example:** EOFs

- The **Karhunen-Loève (K-L) expansion** of a covariance function is

$$C_Y(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda_k \phi_k(\mathbf{s}_1) \phi_k(\mathbf{s}_2)$$

where  $\{\phi_k(\cdot) : k = 1, \dots, \infty\}$  and  $\{\lambda_k : k = 1, \dots, \infty\}$  are the eigenfunctions and eigenvalues, respectively, of the Fredholm integral equation:

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} C_Y(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) \phi_k(\mathbf{s}) d\mathbf{s} = \lambda_k \phi_k(\mathbf{s}_2)$$



## Nonstationary Models II

- Using this expansion, we can write the process as

$$Y(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k \phi_k(\mathbf{s}).$$

- It can be shown that the **truncated decomposition**

$$Y_p(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{k=1}^p a_k \phi_k(\mathbf{s})$$

is **optimal** in the sense that it minimizes the variance of the truncation error among all sets of basis function representations of  $Y(\cdot)$  of order  $p$ .

- The  $\phi_k(\mathbf{s})$ s can be obtained numerically by solving the Fredholm integral equation (can be difficult).

## Nonstationary Models II

- An alternative solution when repeated observations of the spatial process (e.g., over time) are available: perform a principal components analysis of the **empirical covariance matrix**

That is, if  $\hat{\Sigma}_Y$  is the empirical covariance matrix, we can solve the eigensystem

$$\hat{\Sigma}_Y \Phi = \Phi \Lambda,$$

where

- $\Phi$  is the matrix of eigenvectors  $\rightarrow$  called the “**empirical orthogonal functions**” or EOFs
- $\Lambda$  is the diagonal matrix with corresponding eigenvalues on the diagonal

# Nonstationary Models II

- We can use  $\Phi\alpha$  in place of  $\mathbf{Y} = (Y(\mathbf{s}_1), \dots, Y(\mathbf{s}_n))'$ , where  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)'$  are a collection of unknown parameters
    - typically, truncated version of this approach are used for **dimension reduction**
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*Advantages* of using EOFs:

1. naturally nonstationary

*Disadvantages* of using EOFs:

1. prediction
2. measurement error

# Nonstationary Models II

## Some other examples:

- ▶ Holland et al. (1998) represents a nonstationary spatial covariance function as the sum of a stationary model and a finite sum of EOFs
- ▶ Nychka (2002) uses multiresolution wavelets instead of EOFs for computational reasons. More recent work by Matsuo, Nychka, and Paul (2008) has extended the approach to handle irregularly spaced data
- ▶ Pintore and Holmes (2004) and Stephenson et al. (2005) induce nonstationarity by evolving the stationary power spectrum with a latent spatial power process
- ▶ Katzfuss (2014) propose a model with a low-rank representation of a nonstationary Matérn (with covariance tapering) model for computational considerations

# Nonstationary Models II

## 3. PROCESS CONVOLUTION MODELS / SPATIALLY-VARYING PARAMETERS

**Idea:** use a **constructive specification** of a (Gaussian) process to introduce nonstationarity

**An example:** (Higdon, 1998)

- Let  $k(\cdot) : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function satisfying

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k(\mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u} < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k^2(\mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u} < \infty$$

and  $W(\cdot)$  denotes  $d$ -dimensional Brownian motion.

# Nonstationary Models II

- It can be shown that the process

$$Y(\mathbf{s}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_{\mathbf{s}}(\mathbf{u}) W(d\mathbf{u})$$

is Gaussian with  $E[Y(\mathbf{s})] = 0$  and

$$C_Y(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) = \text{cov}[Y(\mathbf{s}_1), Y(\mathbf{s}_2)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_{\mathbf{s}_1}(\mathbf{u}) k_{\mathbf{s}_2}(\mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

for  $\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

If the kernels  $k_{\mathbf{s}}(\mathbf{u})$  are of fixed shape, such as Gaussian kernels varying only in location, the covariance is stationary, a function only of  $|\mathbf{s}_1 - \mathbf{s}_2|$ .

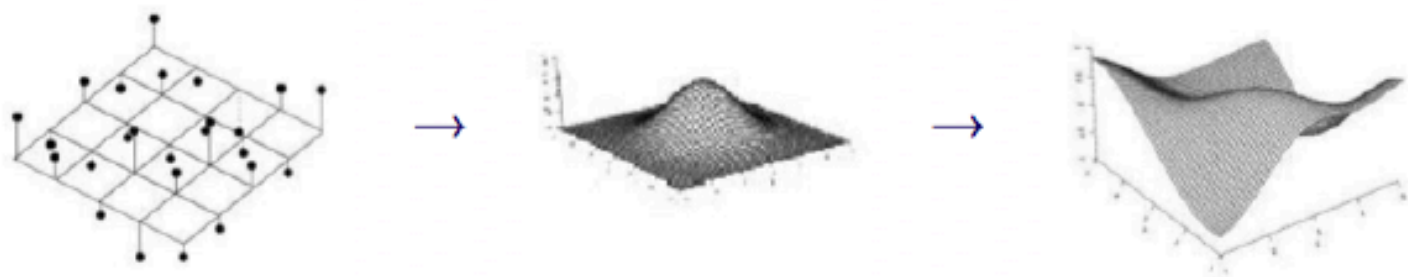
If the parameters of the kernels, such as orientation and anisotropy of elliptical contours, vary in space, we have a nonstationary model.

# Nonstationary Models II

- Higdon (1998) proposes a **discrete approximation** to a nonstationary Gaussian process:

$$Y(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{i=1}^k k_{\mathbf{s}}(\mathbf{u}_i) x_i$$

where the  $x_i$ 's are i.i.d.  $N(0, \lambda^2)$  random variables associated with each knot location  $\mathbf{u}_i$ .



# Nonstationary Models II

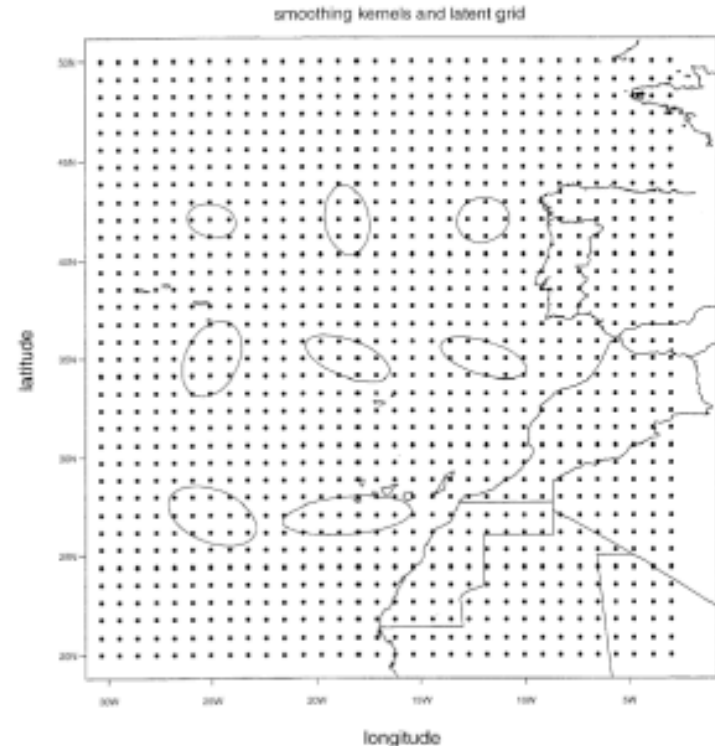
- Higdon (1998) proposes using this model for North Atlantic ocean temperatures. In this model, the kernels were weighted averages of fixed 'basis kernels'

$$Y(s) = \sum_{i=1}^k k_S(u_i) x_i$$

where

$$k_S(u_i) = \sum_{j=1}^8 w_j(s) k_{S_j^*}(u_i)$$

$$w_j(s) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\|s - s_j^*\|^2\right)$$



(Higdon, 1998)

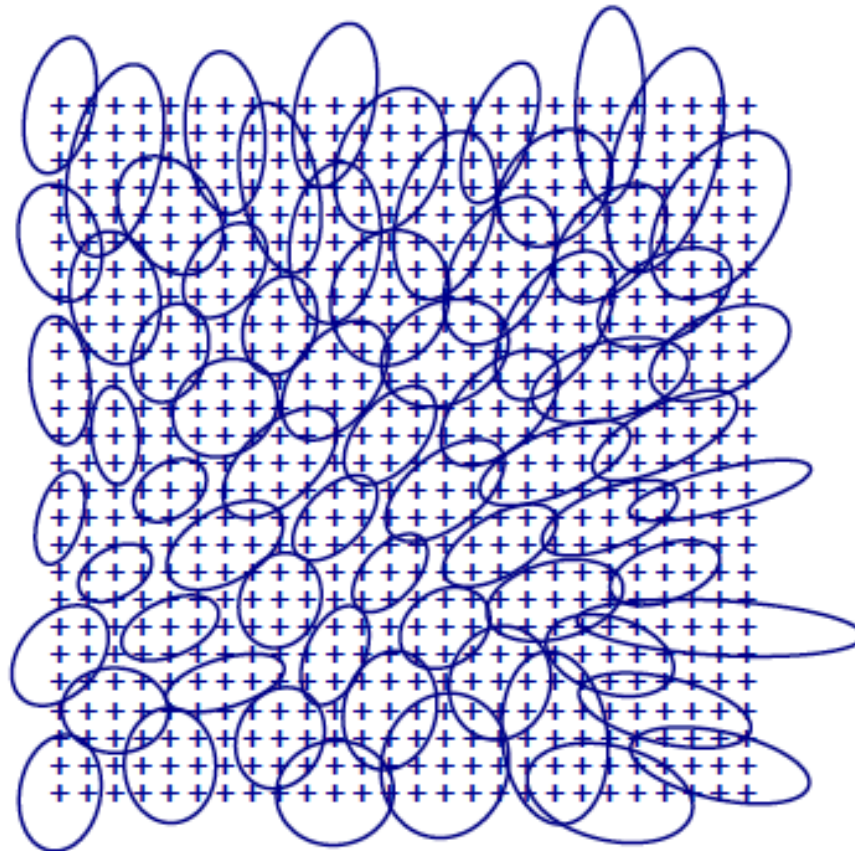
$$k_{S_j^*}(u_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} |\Sigma_{S_j^*}|^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(s_j^* - u_i)' \Sigma_{S_j^*}^{-1} (s_j^* - u_i)\right)$$



# Nonstationary Models II

## Some other examples:

- ▶ Kernel parameters can **vary smoothly in space** (Higdon, Swall, and Kern, 1999; Paciorek and Schervish, 2006):



## Nonstationary Models II

- ▶ A famous result (Thiebaux 1976; Thiebaux and Pedder 1987) uses a parametric class of Gaussian kernel functions in Equation 2 to give a closed-form covariance function; this result was later extended (Paciorek 2003; Paciorek and Schervish 2006; Stein 2005) to show that

$$C^{NS}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}'; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sigma(\mathbf{s})\sigma(\mathbf{s}') \frac{|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{s})|^{1/4} |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{s}')|^{1/4}}{\left| \frac{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{s}) + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{s}')}{2} \right|^{1/2}} g\left(\sqrt{Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}')}\right),$$

is a valid, nonstationary, parametric covariance function on  $R^d$ ;  $d \geq 1$ , when  $g(\cdot)$  is chosen to be a valid correlation function on  $R^d$ ;  $d \geq 1$ . Note that this equation no longer requires kernel functions to be specified.

$\boldsymbol{\theta}$  is a generic parameter vector,  $\sigma(\cdot)$  represents a spatially-varying standard deviation,  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\cdot)$  is a  $d \times d$  matrix that represents the **spatially-varying local anisotropy** (controlling both the range and direction of dependence), and

$$Q(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}') = (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}')^\top \left( \frac{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{s}) + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\mathbf{s}')}{2} \right)^{-1} (\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}')$$

## Nonstationary Models II

$Q(s, s')$  above is a Mahalanobis distance. Furthermore, choosing  $g(\cdot)$  to be the Matern correlation function also allows for the introduction of  $\kappa(s)$ , a spatially-varying smoothness parameter (Stein 2005; in this case, the Matern correlation function in the above equation has smoothness  $[\kappa(s) + \kappa(s')]/2$ ).

While this equation no longer requires the notion of kernel convolution, we refer to  $\Sigma(\cdot)$  as the kernel matrix, since it was originally defined as the covariance matrix of a Gaussian kernel function (Thiebaux 1976).

- Kleiber and Nychka (2012) further extend this model to the multivariate setting.
- Calder (2007, 2008) proposes space-time versions of the Higdon model.
- Heaton (2014) extends process convolution models to spherical domains.

# Nonstationary Models II

## SUMMARY

- lots of models → some have been well studied, some haven't
- very little work on model comparison
- with the exception of the basis function models, computation is a BIG challenge
- no general software
- recent work has focused on understanding the reasons for nonstationarity (e.g., covariates)

## Nonstationary Models II

To appear in the *Journal of Statistical Software*:

Local Likelihood Estimation for Covariance Functions with Spatially-Varying Parameters: The convoSPAT Package for R

Mark D. Risser

Catherine A. Calder

## Nonstationary Models II

$$Z(s) = x(s)' \boldsymbol{\beta} + Y(s) + \epsilon(s)$$

where  $Y(s)$  is a spatially dependent, mean zero, Gaussian process with covariance function  $C^{NS}$  defined above, and  $\epsilon(s) \sim N(0, \tau^2(s))$  is measurement error with (possibly) spatially varying variance.

Let  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  represent the vector of all the variance-covariance parameters for  $Y(s)$  and  $\epsilon(s)$ . Then

$$\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{Y}, \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \sim N_n(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{D}(\boldsymbol{\theta}))$$

where the  $i^{\text{th}}$  row of  $\mathbf{X}$  is  $x(s_i)$  and  $\mathbf{D}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$  is the diagonal matrix with elements  $\tau^2(s_i)$ . Integrate out the latent process  $\mathbf{Y}$  and we have the *marginal likelihood* of the observed data  $\mathbf{Z}$  given all the parameters

$$\mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \sim N_n(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}, \mathbf{D}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \boldsymbol{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta}))$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\Omega}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$  has elements

$$\Omega_{ij}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = C^{NS}(s_i, s_j; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

the latter being specified by the parameters of the spatial correlation function  $g(\cdot)$  and the spatially varying  $\Sigma(\cdot)$ ,  $\sigma(s)$ ,  $\tau^2(s)$ , and/or  $\kappa(s)$ , if the Matern is used.

For a particular application, the practitioner can specify the underlying correlation structure (through the correlation function  $g(\cdot)$ ) as well as determine which of  $\Sigma(\cdot)$ ,  $\sigma(s)$ ,  $\tau^2(s)$ , and/or  $\kappa(s)$  should be fixed or allowed to vary spatially.

However, some care should be taken in choosing which quantities should be spatially-varying: for example, [Anderes and Stein \(2011\)](#) note that allowing both  $\Sigma(\cdot)$  and  $\kappa(s)$  to vary over space leads to issues with identifiability.

## Nonstationary Models II

To reduce the computational demands of fitting this model, Risser & Calder use the *discretized basis kernel* approach of Higdon (1998). The estimated Gaussian kernel function at any specified location is a weighted average of “basis” kernel functions, estimated locally over the region of interest.

Define *mixture component locations*, typically on a regular grid, with parameters  $\{\phi_k = (\Sigma_k, \sigma^2_k, \tau^2_k, \kappa_k): k = 1, \dots, K\}$ . Then the parameter set for arbitrary location  $s$  is calculated as:

$$\phi(s) = \sum_{k=1}^K \omega_k(s) \phi_k,$$
$$\omega_k(s) \propto \exp\left\{-\frac{\|s - b_k\|^2}{2\lambda_\omega}\right\}$$

For example, the kernel matrix for location  $s$  is  $\Sigma(s) = \sum_{k=1}^K \omega_k(s) \Sigma_k$ .

We must specify the tuning parameter  $\lambda_\omega$  as well as the size and spacing of the grid of mixture locations. The modeler chooses which parameters should be spatially-varying: the kernel matrices, the process variance, the nugget variance, and the smoothness.

Having done so, the number of parameters is linear in  $K$ , the number of mixture component locations, instead of  $n$ , the sample size.



## Nonstationary Models II

Prediction proceeds by the usual conditional Gaussian calculations using plug-in estimates of the parameters  $\hat{\beta}$  and  $\hat{\theta}$ , computed by local likelihood estimation, as explained below.

Risser and Calder consider a number of out-of-sample evaluation criteria:

$$MSPE = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m (z_j^* - \hat{z}_j^*)^2$$

$$pMSDR = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{(z_j^* - \hat{z}_j^*)^2}{\hat{\sigma}_j}$$

And a continuous rank probability score, CRPS (Gneiting and Raftery 2007), which measures the fit of the predictive density. Larger CRPS (smaller negative values) indicates better model fit.

## Nonstationary Models II

### Computationally efficient inference.

Fast and efficient inference for a nonstationary process convolution model has yet to be made readily available for general use. The equation for the nonstationary spatial covariance,  $C^{NS}(s, s'; \theta)$ , requires some kind of constraints and has suffered from a lack of widespread use due to the complexity of the requisite model fitting and limited pre-packaged options. Focusing on the spatially-varying local anisotropy matrices, the covariance function requires a kernel matrix at every observation and prediction location of interest.

Paciorek and Schervish (2006) accomplish this by modeling  $\Sigma(\cdot)$  as itself a (stationary) stochastic process, assigning Gaussian process priors to the elements of the spectral decomposition of  $\Sigma(\cdot)$ ; alternatively, Katzfuss (2013) uses a basis function representation of  $\Sigma(\cdot)$ . Both of these models are highly parameterized and require intricate Markov chain Monte Carlo methods for model fitting.

## Nonstationary Models II

### Computationally efficient inference.

Risser and Calder achieve computational efficiency using

(1) the **discrete mixture representation** above, and its requisite specification of the size/spacing of the basis grid, and the tuning parameter for the weight function, and

(2) the idea of using **local likelihood estimation** (Tibshirani and Hastie, 1987), rather than aim to optimize the full log-likelihood.

## Nonstationary Models II

### Computationally efficient inference.

First, recall REML estimation. The full log likelihood is

$$\mathcal{L}^F(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{Z}) = -\frac{1}{2} \log |\boldsymbol{\Omega} + \mathbf{D}| - \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})^\top (\boldsymbol{\Omega} + \mathbf{D})^{-1} (\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}),$$

The “restricted” log likelihood (based on “n-p” linear combinations having expected value zero for all possible parameter values, can be written.

$$\mathcal{L}^R(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{Z}) = -\frac{1}{2} \log |\boldsymbol{\Omega} + \mathbf{D}| - \frac{1}{2} \log |\mathbf{X}^\top (\boldsymbol{\Omega} + \mathbf{D})^{-1} \mathbf{X}| - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{Z}^\top \mathbf{P} \mathbf{Z},$$

(See the paper for specification of the matrix P.) We maximize this and estimate  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  by

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}^\top (\hat{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} + \hat{\mathbf{D}})^{-1} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top (\hat{\boldsymbol{\Omega}} + \hat{\mathbf{D}})^{-1} \mathbf{Z},$$

## Nonstationary Models II

### Computationally efficient inference.

With **Local Likelihood Estimation** (LLE), rather than optimize the restricted likelihood directly, we maximize it on neighborhoods for each mixture component  $b_k$ , a neighborhood depending on a radius  $r$ , the “span” or window size for each mixture component:

$$N_k = \{s_i \in \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}: \|s_i - b_k\| \leq r\}$$

and

$$Z_{N_k} = \{Z(s): s \in N_k\}$$

Note: The restricted likelihood to be optimized for each neighborhood will be based on a **stationary** version of the spatial model:

$$\tilde{Z}(s) = \mathbf{x}(s)^\top \tilde{\beta} + \tilde{Y}(s) + \tilde{\epsilon}(s),$$

where  $\tilde{Y}$  is a stationary process with covariance function

$$C^S(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}') = \sigma^2 g\left(\|\Sigma^{-1/2}(\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{s}')\|\right)$$

## Nonstationary Models II

### Computationally efficient inference.

Note: The kernel matrices are parameterized in terms of the eigenvalues and angle of rotation of its spectral decomposition

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\eta) & -\sin(\eta) \\ \sin(\eta) & \cos(\eta) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\eta) & \sin(\eta) \\ -\sin(\eta) & \cos(\eta) \end{bmatrix}$$

The full model can be fit after plugging REML estimates into the covariance function  $C^{NS}(s, s'; \theta)$  using the discrete basis representation to calculate the likelihood for the observed data.

## Nonstationary Models II

### Computationally efficient inference.

This is a very nice computational method, **but** it requires specification of many moving parts:

- the *number* and *placement* of *mixture component locations*,
- selecting *which of the spatial dependence parameters should be fixed* or allowed to vary spatially,
- the *tuning parameter*  $\lambda$  for the weighting function  $w$ ,
- the *fitting radius*  $r$  for the local likelihood estimation.

Parameter estimates for this model are likely to be sensitive to the choice of  $K$  and the placement of mixture component locations. [Tibshirani and Hastie \(1987\)](#) discuss the importance of choosing the radius  $r$ , suggesting that the model should be fit using a range of  $r$  values, and use a global criterion such as the maximized overall likelihood, cross-validation, or Akaike's Information Criterion to choose the final model. This strategy could either be implemented on a trial-and-error basis or in an automated scheme. Of course, regardless of the number and locations of the mixture component centroids, the radius  $r$  should be chosen such that a large enough number of data points are used to estimate a local stationary model.

# The convoSPAT package for R

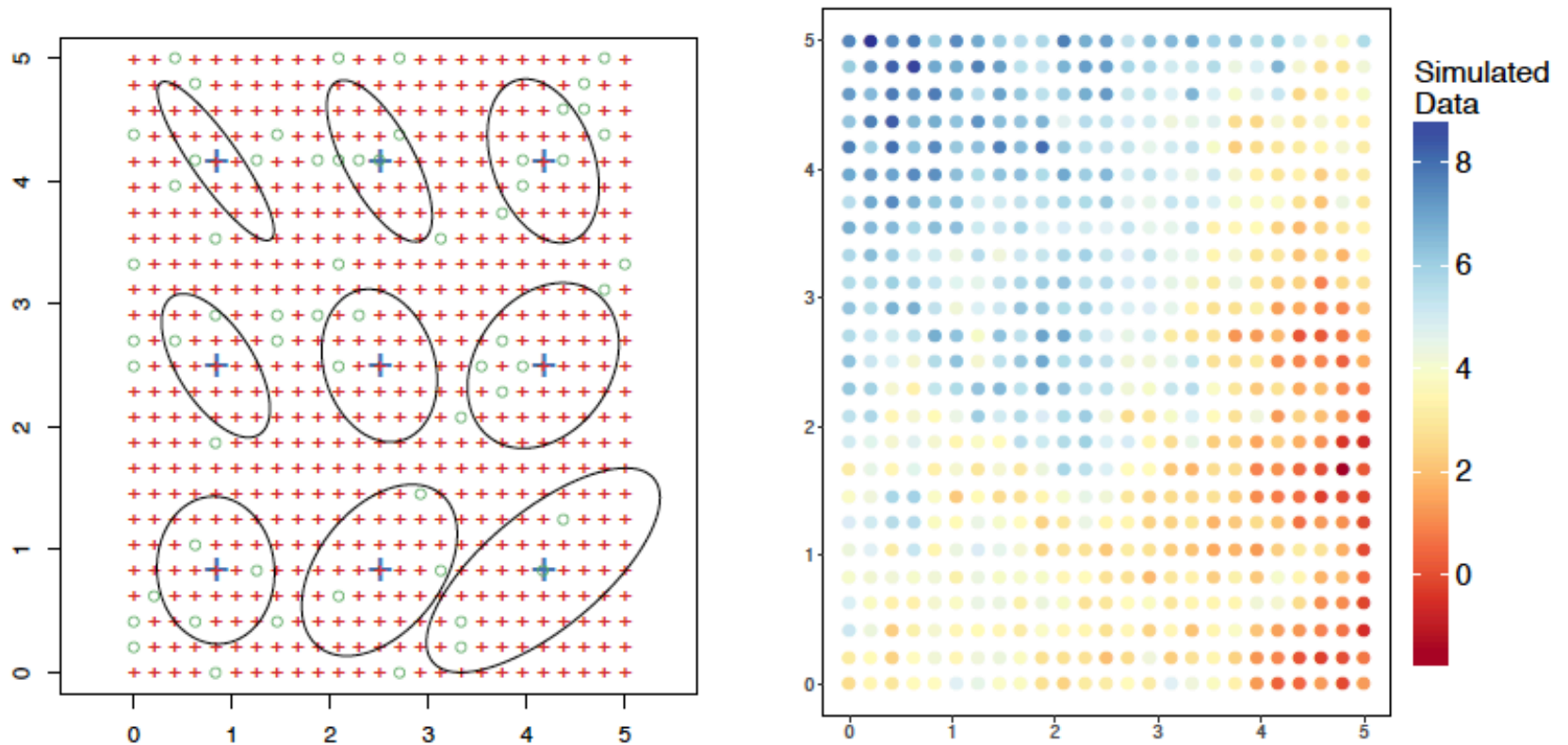


Figure 1: Left: true mixture component ellipses with observation locations (red) and validation locations (green). Right: simulated data.



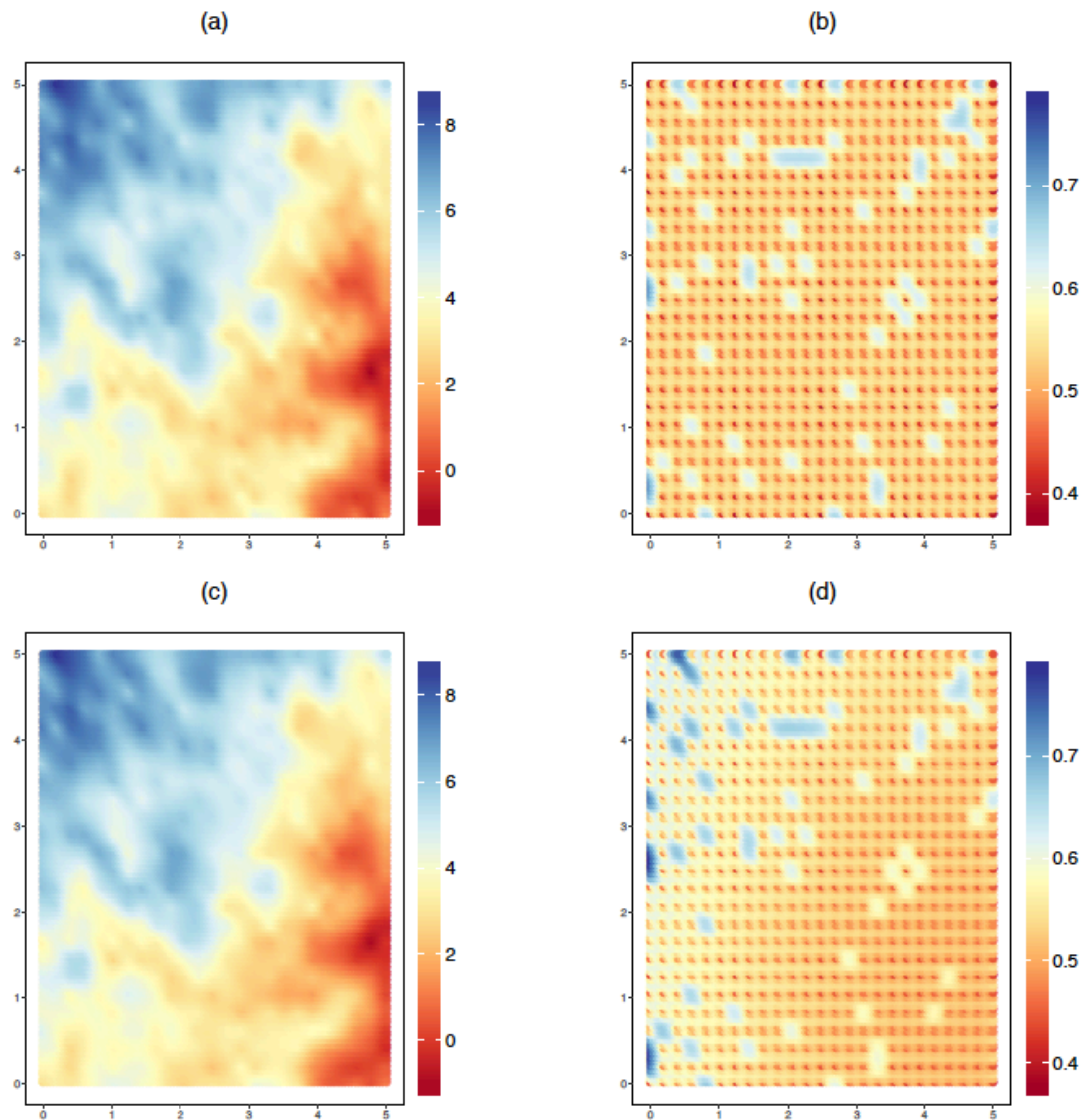


Figure 2: Predictions and prediction errors from the stationary model (a. and b.) and the nonstationary model (c. and d.).