

# Multivariate modelling and efficient estimation of Gaussian random fields with application to roller data

Reinhard Furrer, UZH

PASI, Búzios, 14-06-25

NZZ.ch

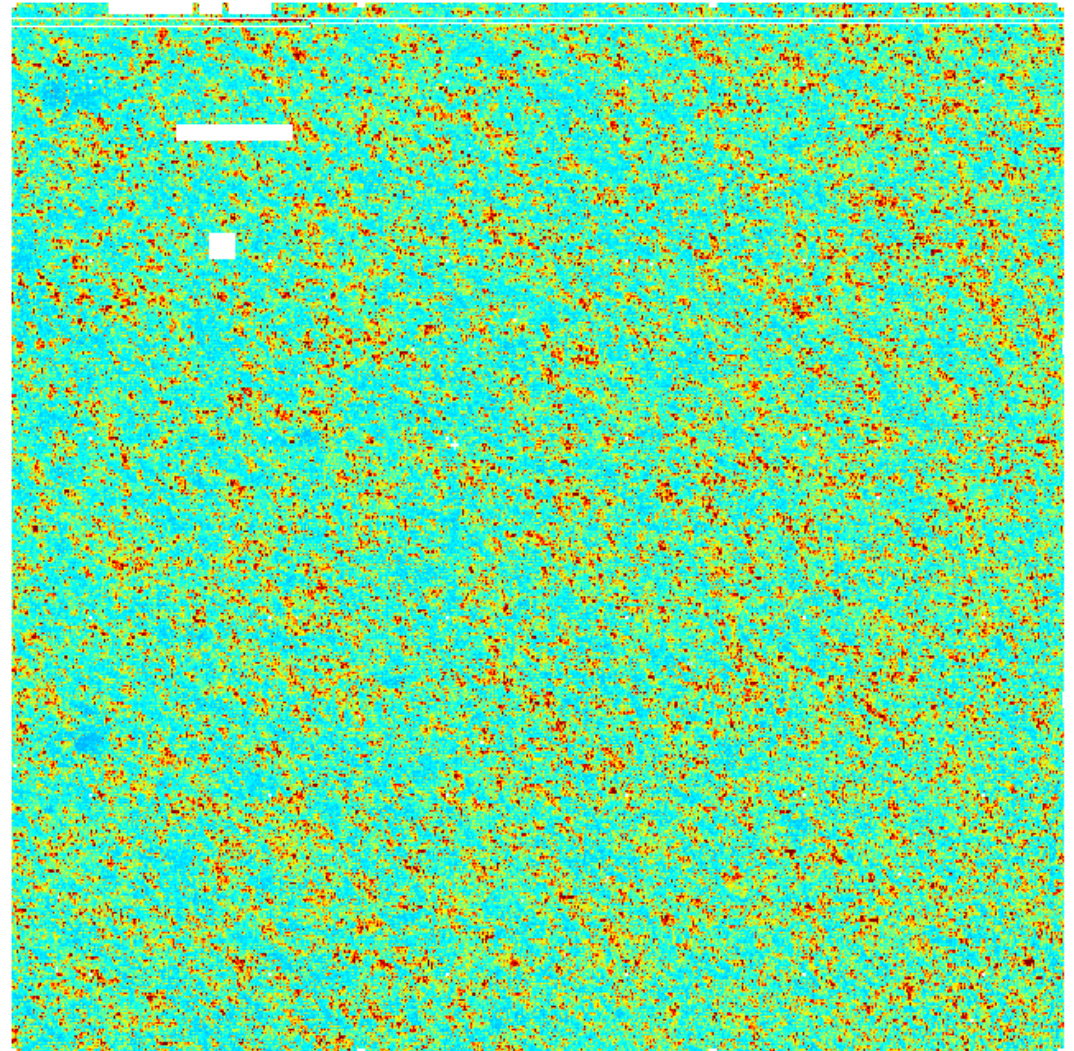


University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>

# Motivation

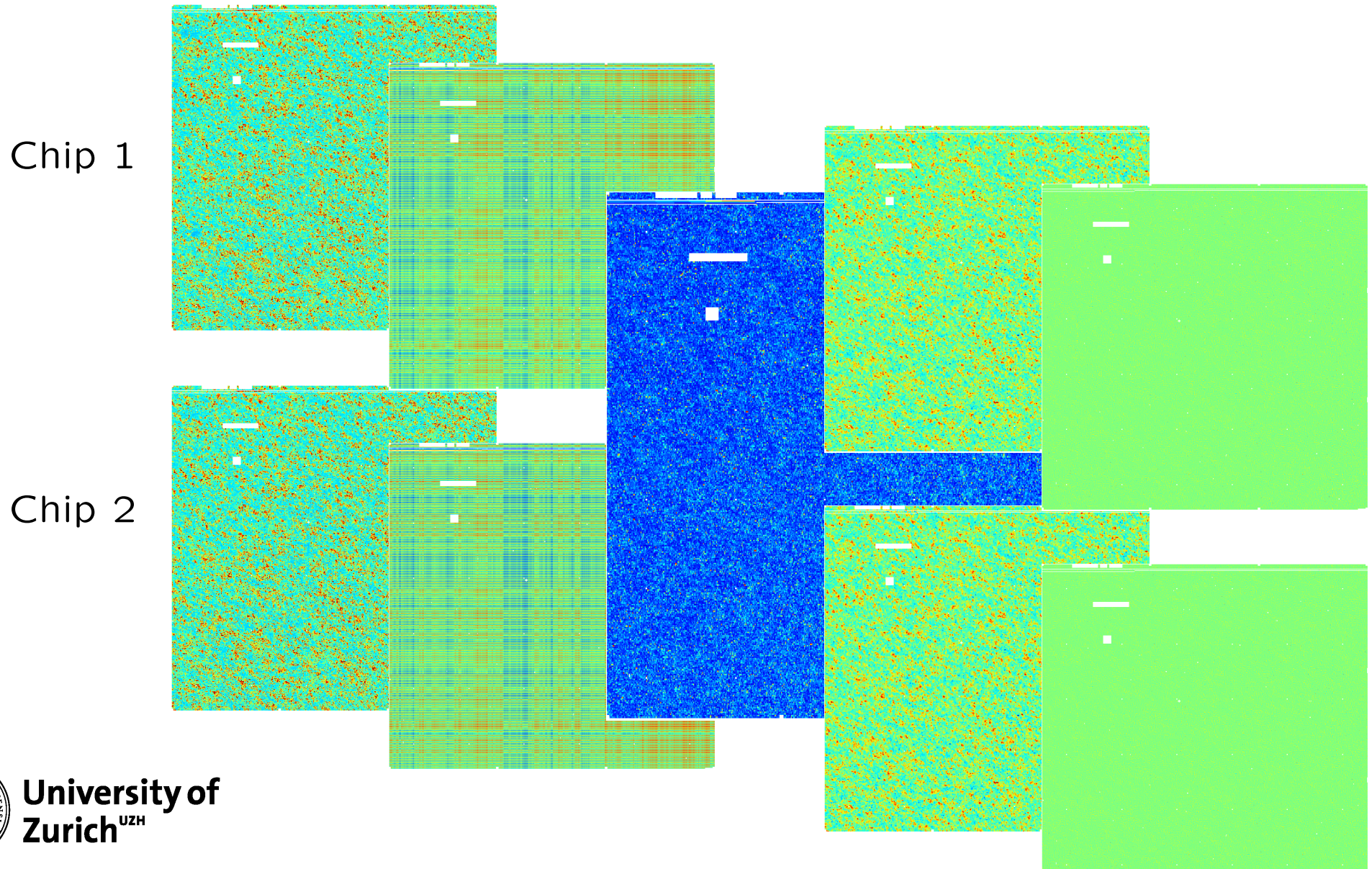
► Microarray data:

construct alternative  
“background” correction



# Motivation

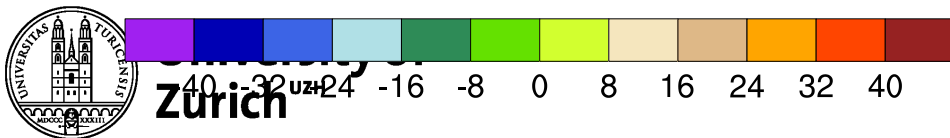
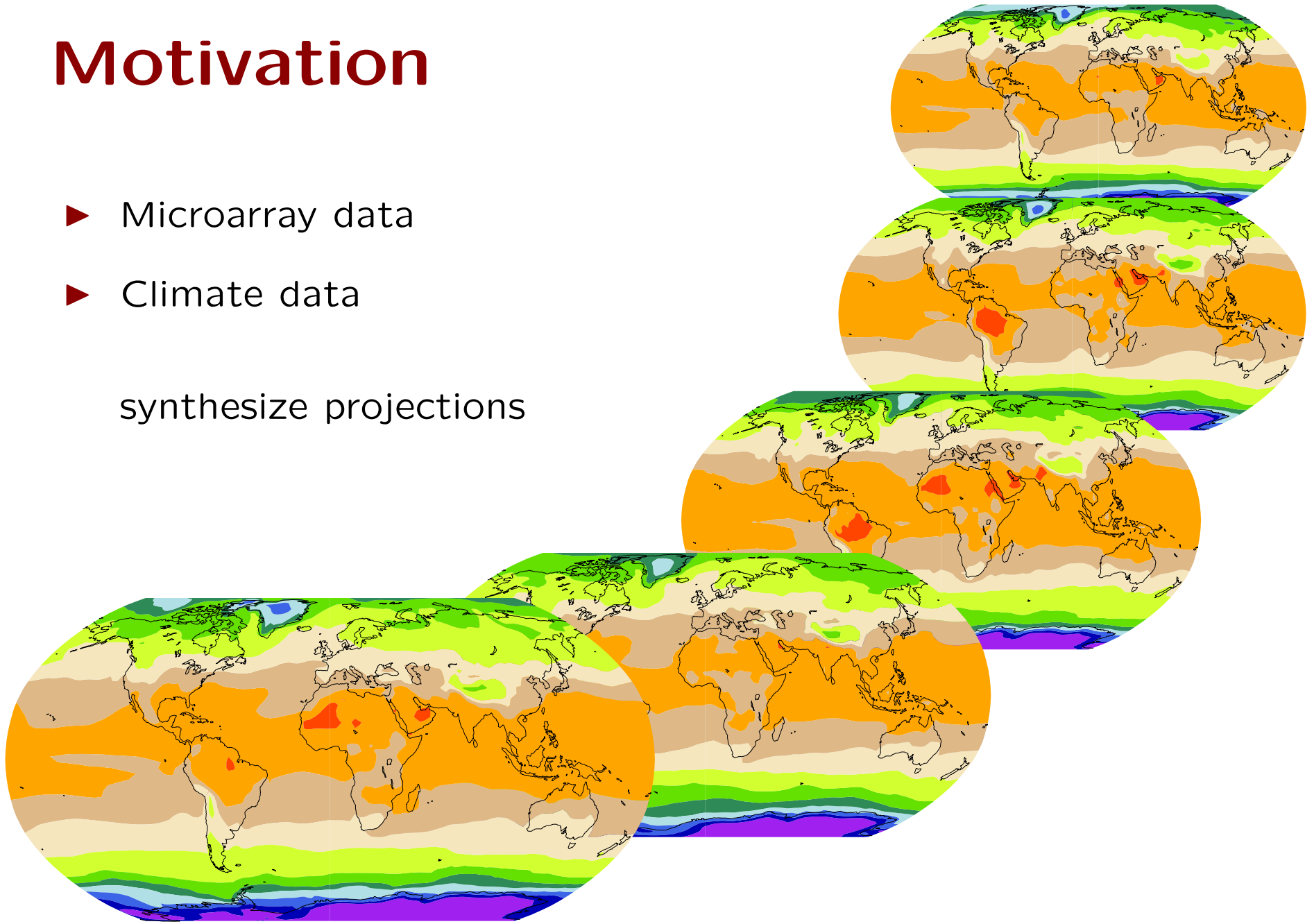
observations = fixed effects + spatial term + "noise"



# Motivation

- ▶ Microarray data
- ▶ Climate data

synthesize projections

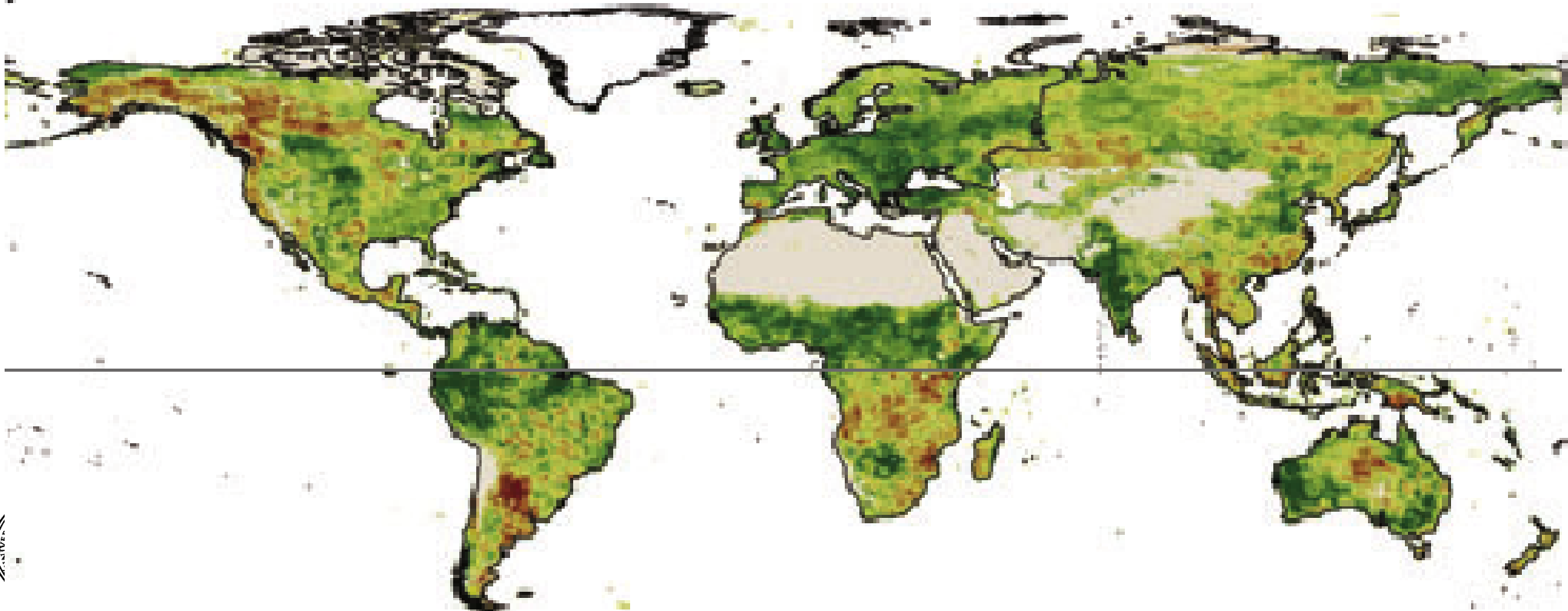


# Motivation

- ▶ Microarray data
- ▶ Climate data
- ▶ Satellite data



attribute spatial changes



# Motivation

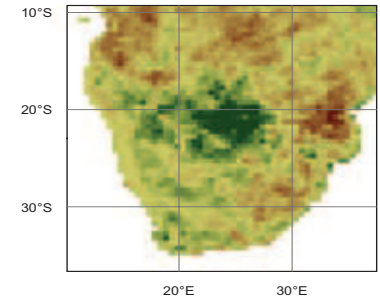
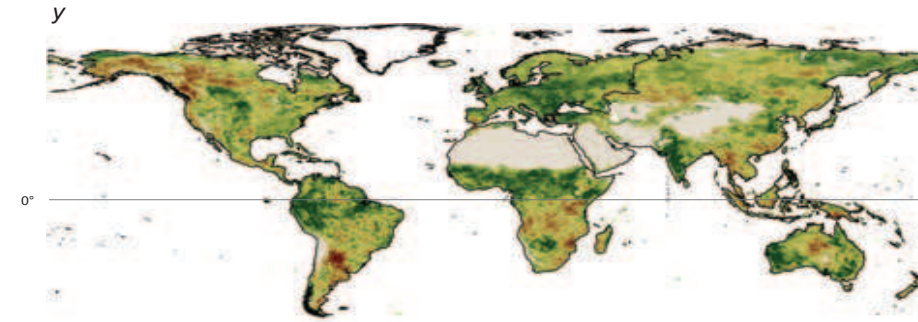
observations

trend

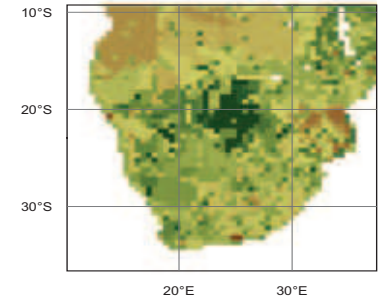
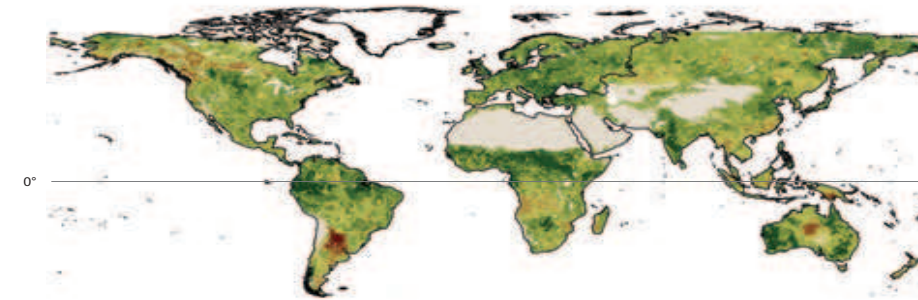
spatial term

“noise”

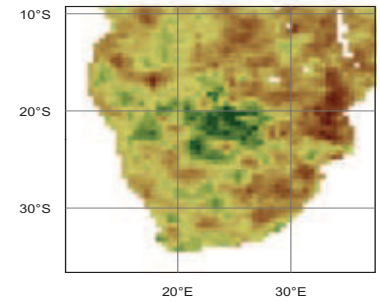
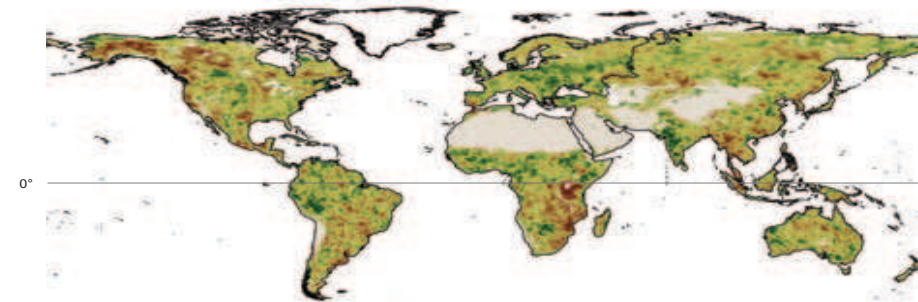
(a) Observed change in vegetation activity (1982–2008)



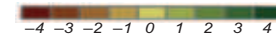
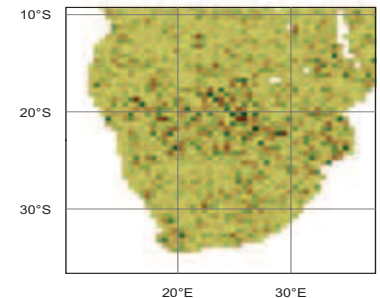
(b) Change explained by climatic effects  
 $x^T\beta$  (RT)



(c) Structured change not explained by climatic effects  
 $h$  (GRF)



(d) Residuals  
 $\varepsilon$



# Motivation for roller data analysis

Compaction for road construction:

- ▶ one vibrating drum  
(smooth drum or padfoot)
- ▶ rolling at 1m/s
- ▶ 20cm material per layer
- ▶ typical bed is 12–15m wide  
and 30–150m long
- ▶ sufficient compaction is  
'manually' tested after several  
layers of material (USA)



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Is an automatic quality assurance  
and intelligent compaction possible?



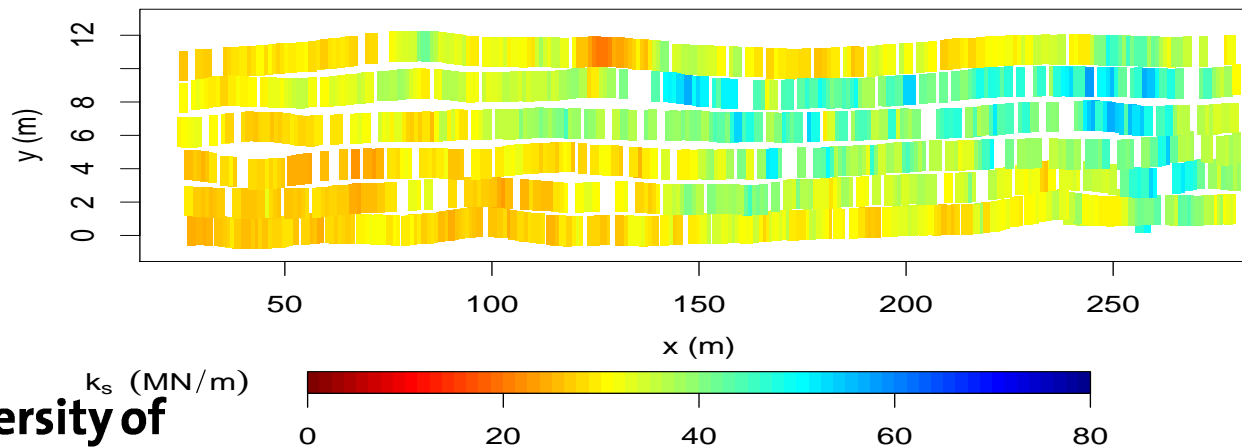
# Motivation

Current “intelligent” compaction:

- ▶ precise GPS positioning
- ▶ on-board visualization
- ▶ off-board processing

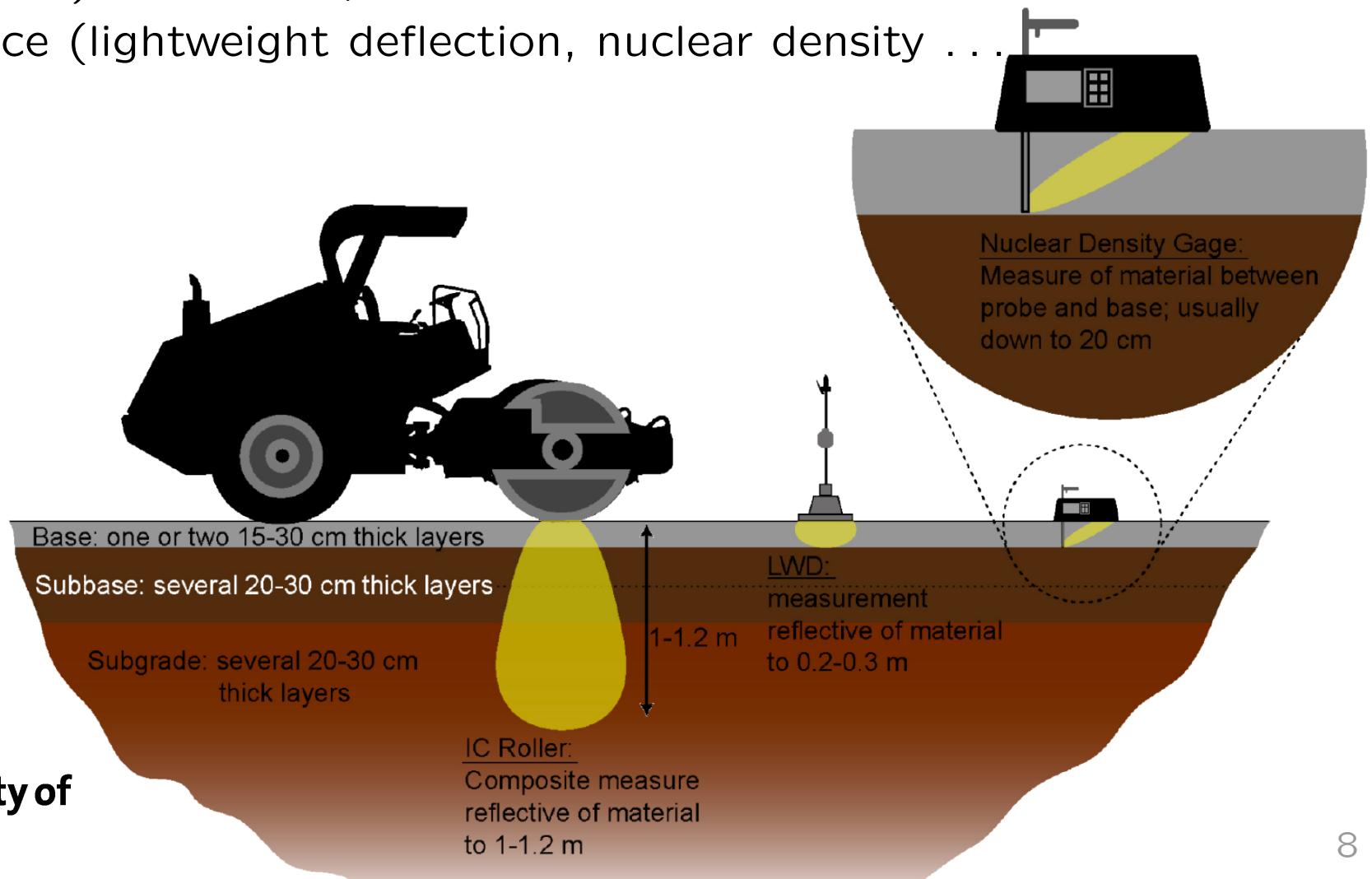


Source: [www.bomag.com](http://www.bomag.com)



# Motivation

- ▶ Relation between measurement and actual soil modulus is unknown.
- ▶ (Linear) relationship is determined with a second measurement device (lightweight deflection, nuclear density ...)



# Spatial model

Spatial, additive mixed effects model for roller measurement values:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RMV} = & \text{amplitude} + \text{roller type} + \text{driving direction} + \dots \\ & + \text{trend}(\mathbf{s}) + \text{spatial term}(\mathbf{s}) + \text{error} \end{aligned}$$

$$Y(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \alpha(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon(\mathbf{s}) \quad \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d, \quad d \geq 1$$

with

$\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}$ : fixed effects and trend

$\alpha(\mathbf{s})$ : spline component (trend)

$\gamma(\mathbf{s})$ : zero mean spatial Gaussian process

$\varepsilon(\mathbf{s})$ : iid noise, orthogonal to  $\gamma(\mathbf{s})$

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with

$\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}$ : fixed effects and trend  
coefficients  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$

$\alpha(\mathbf{s})$ : spline component (trend)  
basis function coefficients  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_\alpha$ ; smoothing parameter  $\lambda_\alpha$

$\gamma(\mathbf{s})$ : zero mean spatial Gaussian process  
parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_\gamma$  describing the covariance function

$\varepsilon(\mathbf{s})$ : iid noise, orthogonal to  $\gamma(\mathbf{s})$   
variance  $\sigma^2$

# Multivariate modeling: setting

Spatial, additive mixed effects model:

$$Y_1(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_1\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 + \alpha_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_1(\mathbf{s})$$

$\vdots$

$$Y_p(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_p\boldsymbol{\beta}_p + \alpha_p(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_p(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_p(\mathbf{s}) \quad \mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{D} \subset \mathbb{R}^d, \quad d \geq 1$$

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⋮

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Modeling the spatial processes themselves:

		Random field:	
		GRF	GMRF
Dependency:	cross-correlation model	①	③
	common process(es)	②	④

# Random field modeling

Dependency through a cross-correlation model ①:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X} &\sim \mathcal{N}_n(\boldsymbol{\mu}_X, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_X) \\ \mathbf{Y} &\sim \mathcal{N}_n(\boldsymbol{\mu}_Y, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_Y) \end{aligned} \quad \text{Cov}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{XY}}$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} \\ \mathbf{Y} \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}_{2n} \left( \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mu}_X \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_Y \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_X & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{XY}} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{XY}}^\top & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_Y \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

(e.g., Gneiting, Kleiber, Schlather 2010, Apanasovich, Genton, Sun 2012, ...)

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Dependency through common process(es) ②:

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$$\rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{Z} \\ \mathbf{Y} + \mathbf{Z} \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}_{2n} \left( \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mu}_X \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_Y \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_X + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_Z & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_Z \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_Z & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_Y + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_Z \end{pmatrix} \right)$$



# Backfitting

Recall:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_1(\mathbf{s}) &= \mathbf{X}_1\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 + \alpha_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_1(\mathbf{s}) \\ &\vdots \\ Y_p(\mathbf{s}) &= \mathbf{X}_p\boldsymbol{\beta}_p + \alpha_p(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_p(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_p(\mathbf{s}) \end{aligned}$$

# Backfitting

Recall:

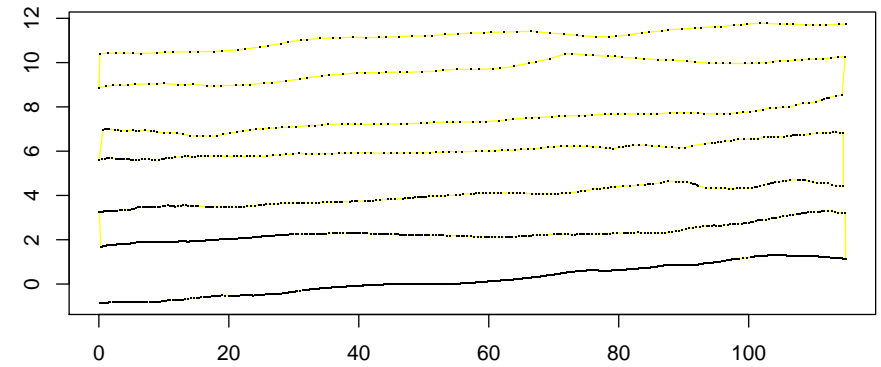
$$\begin{aligned} Y_1(\mathbf{s}) &= \mathbf{X}_1\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 + \alpha_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_1(\mathbf{s}) \\ &\vdots \\ Y_p(\mathbf{s}) &= \mathbf{X}_p\boldsymbol{\beta}_p + \alpha_p(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_p(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_p(\mathbf{s}) \end{aligned}$$

Extending the ‘classical’ backfitting approach to dependent data:

```
repeat until convergence
  repeat until convergence
    estimate fixed effects
  for all ‘stochastic’ effects
    estimate parameters
  predict smooth field
```

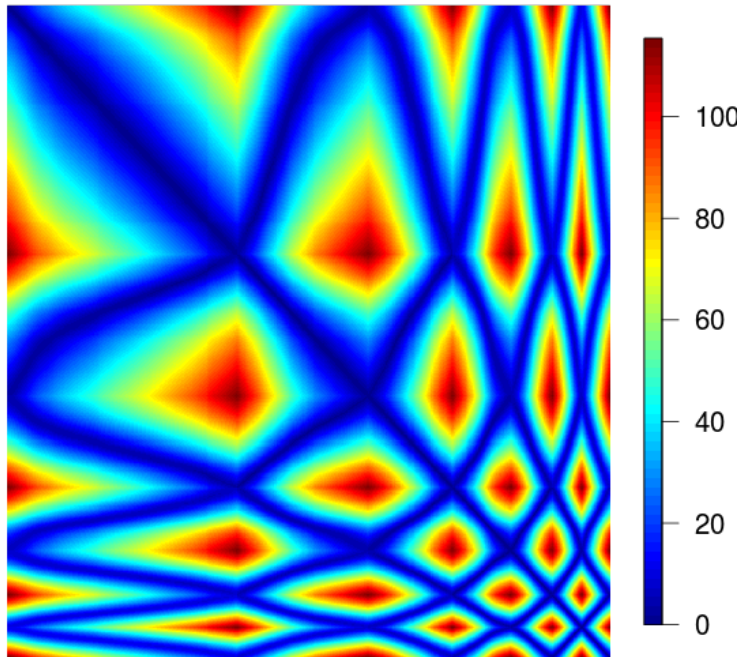
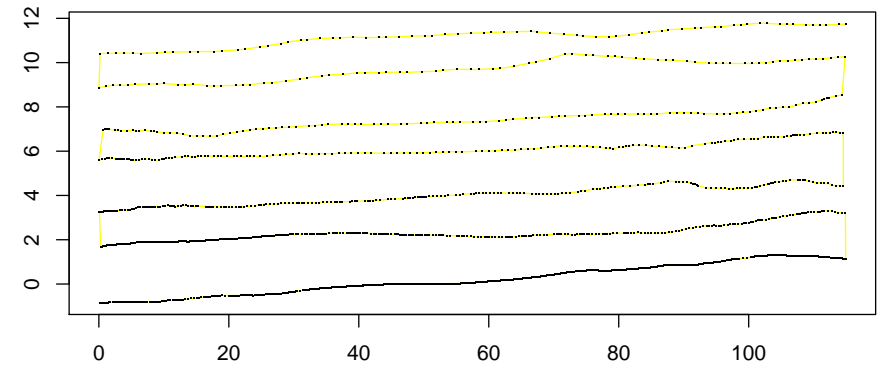
# Sparse covariance matrices

Calculate  $\Sigma$ :



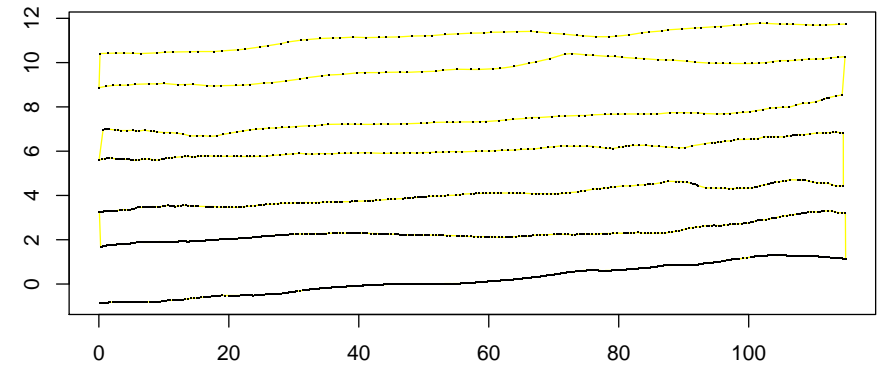
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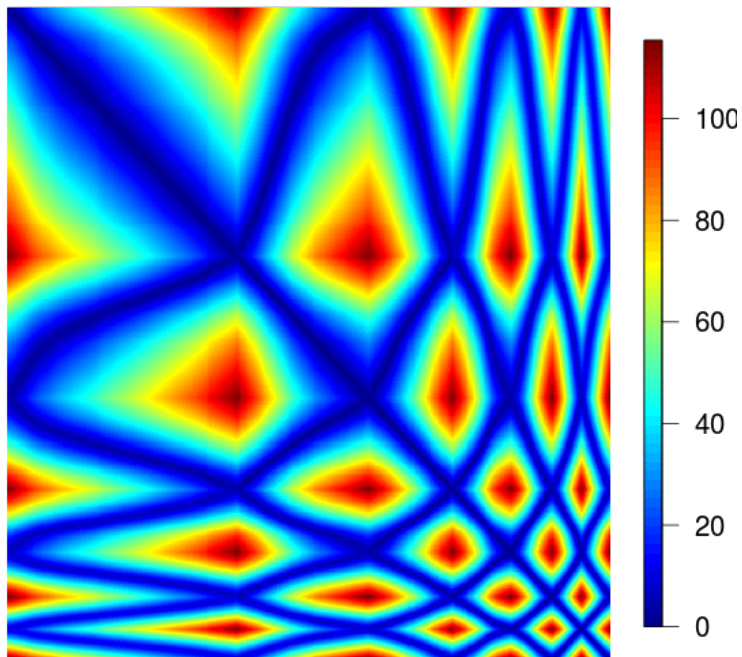


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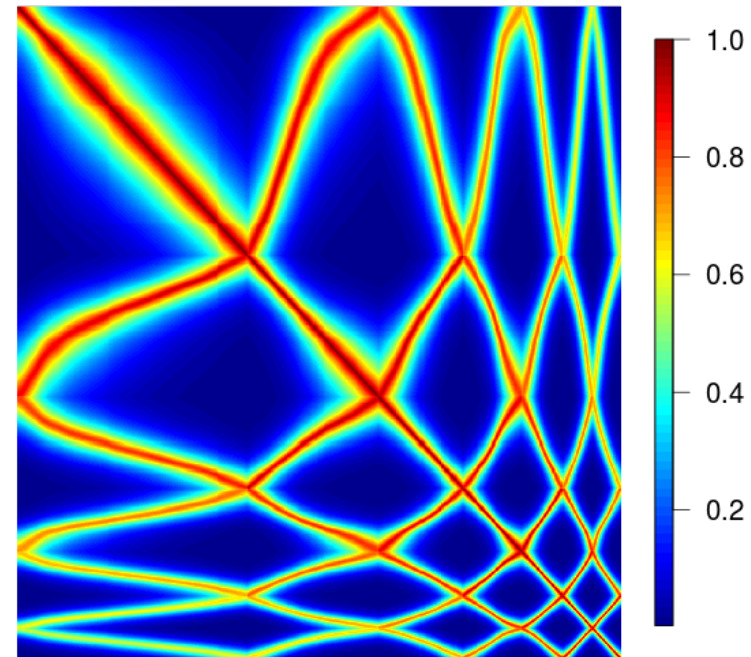
Calculate  $\Sigma$ :



Distances :



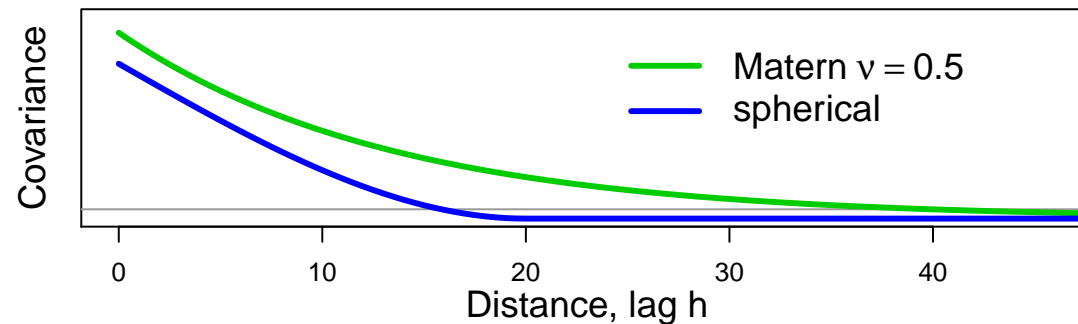
Correlation( Distances ) :



# Sparse covariance matrices

Sparseness is guaranteed when

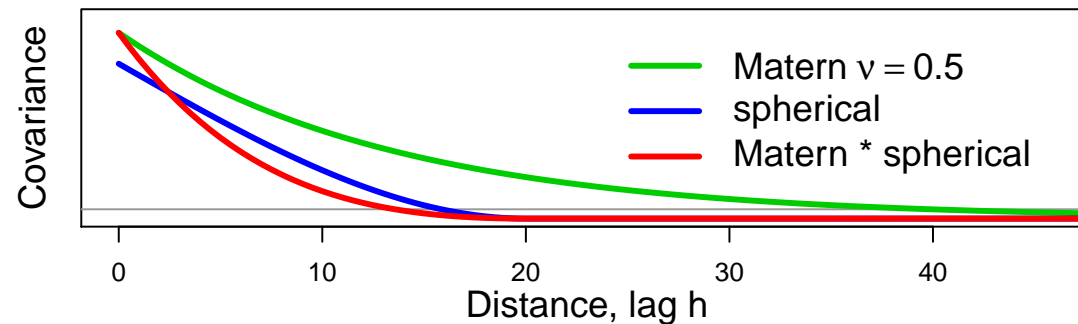
- ▶ the covariance function has a compact support
- ▶ a compact support is (artificially) imposed  $\rightsquigarrow$  tapering



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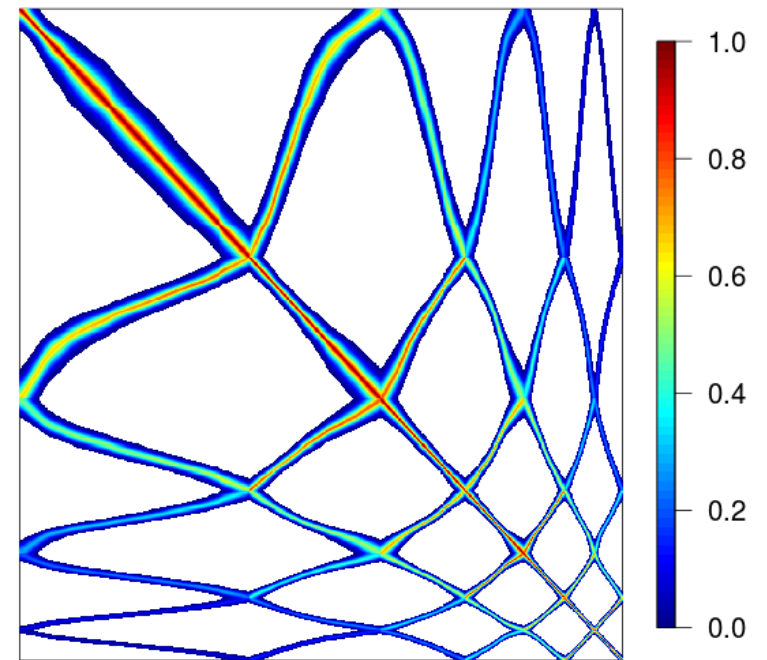
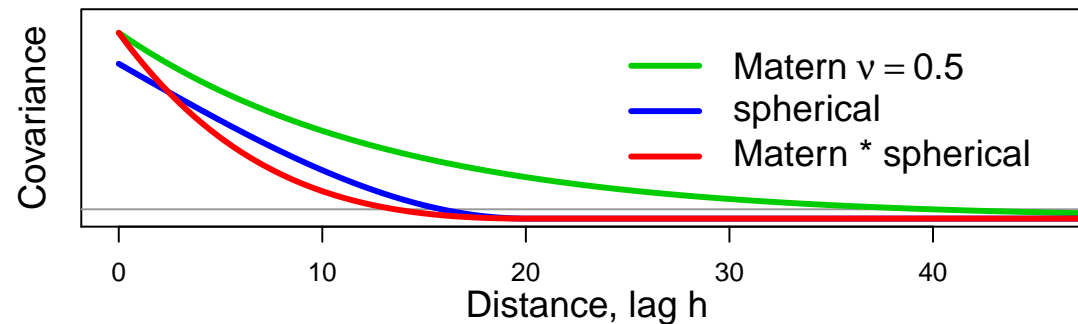
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spam for 

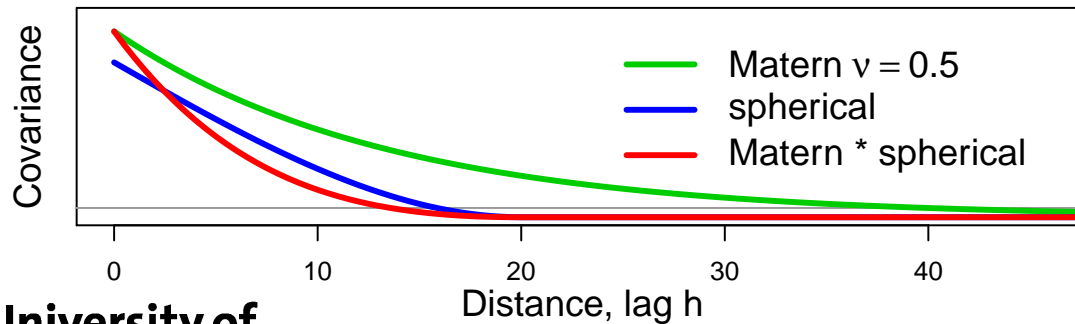


# Multivariate tapering

- ▶ Concept of Gaussian equivalent measures does not exist
- ▶ Domain increasing framework
- ▶  $\|\Sigma - \Sigma \circ \mathbf{T}\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

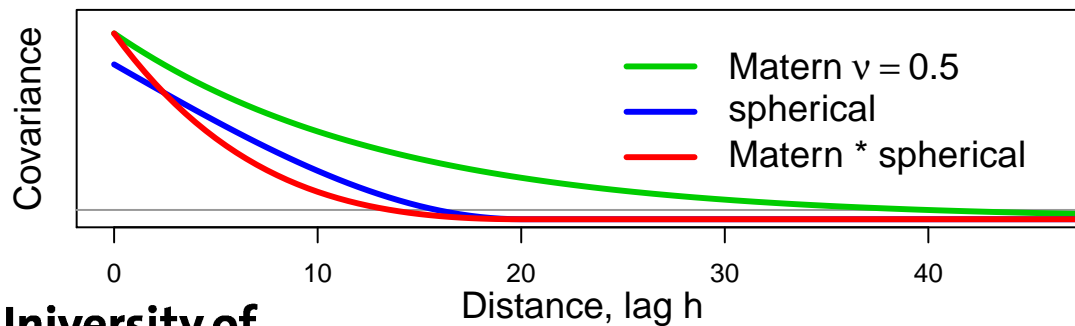
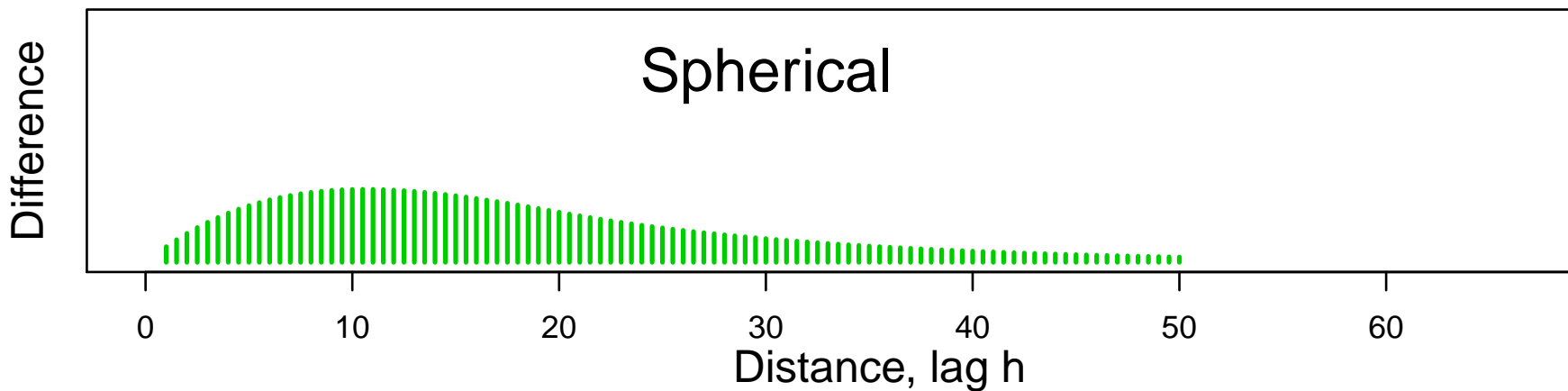
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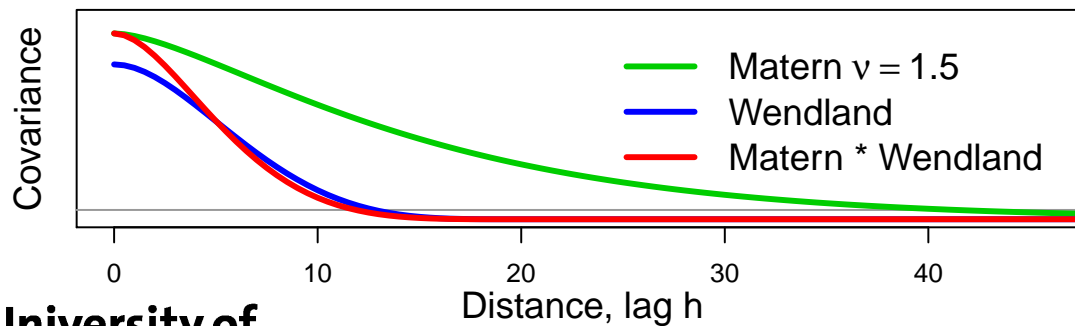
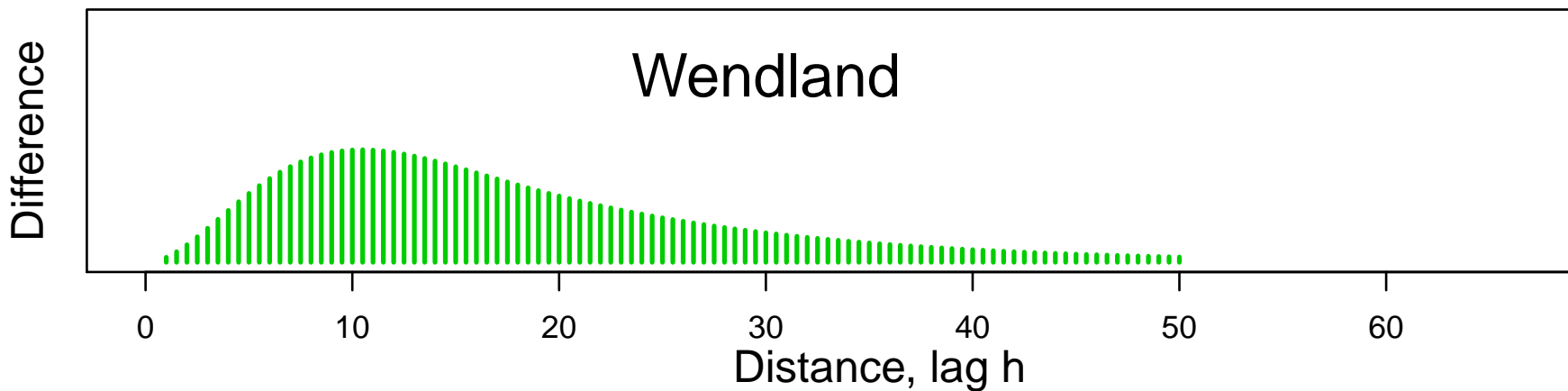
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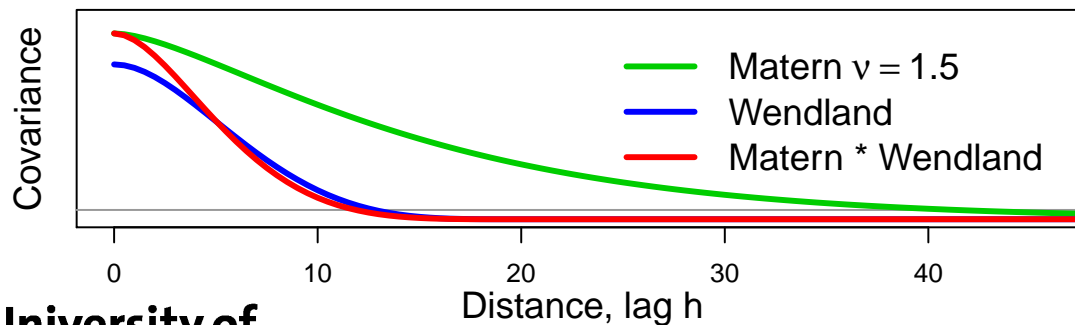
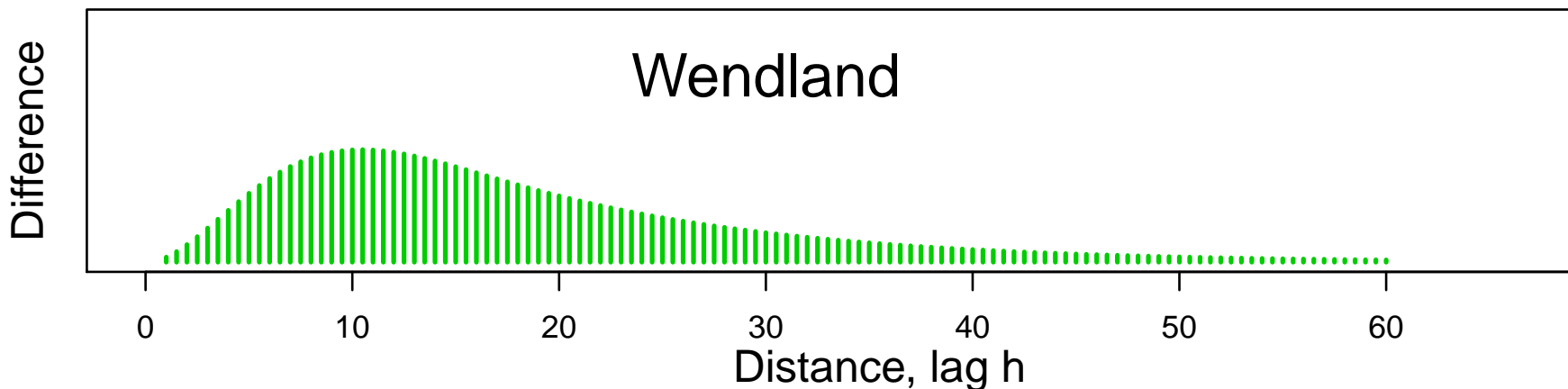
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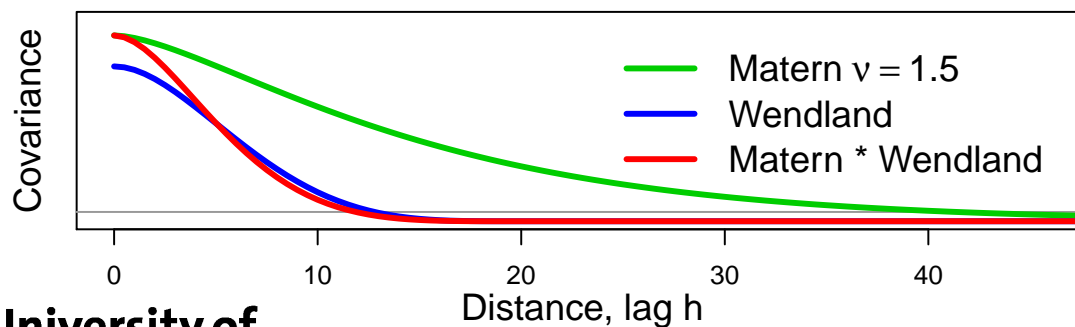
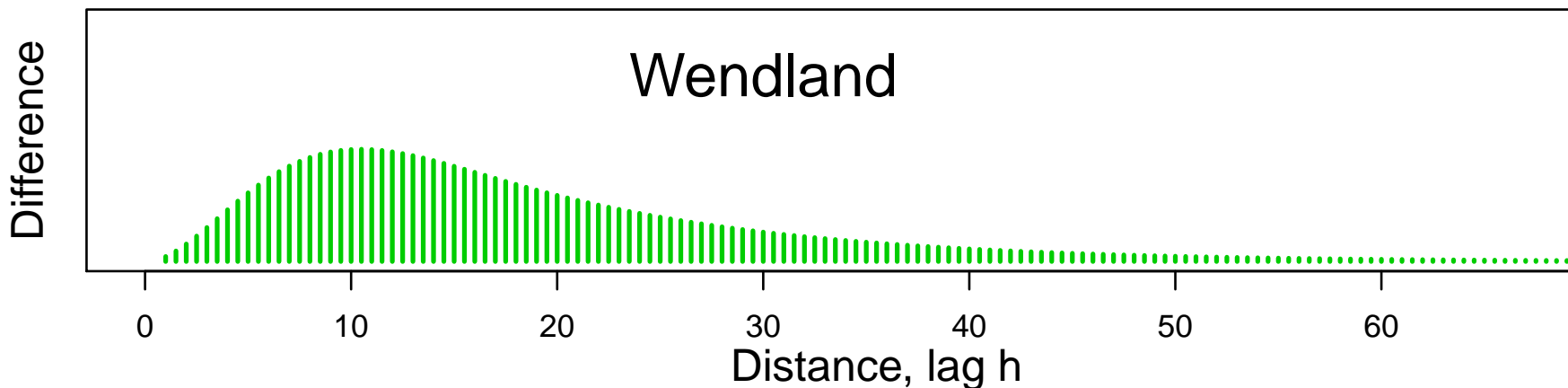
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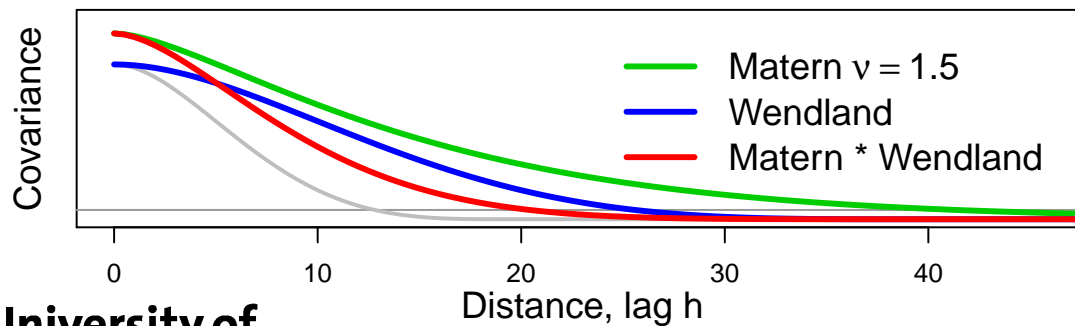
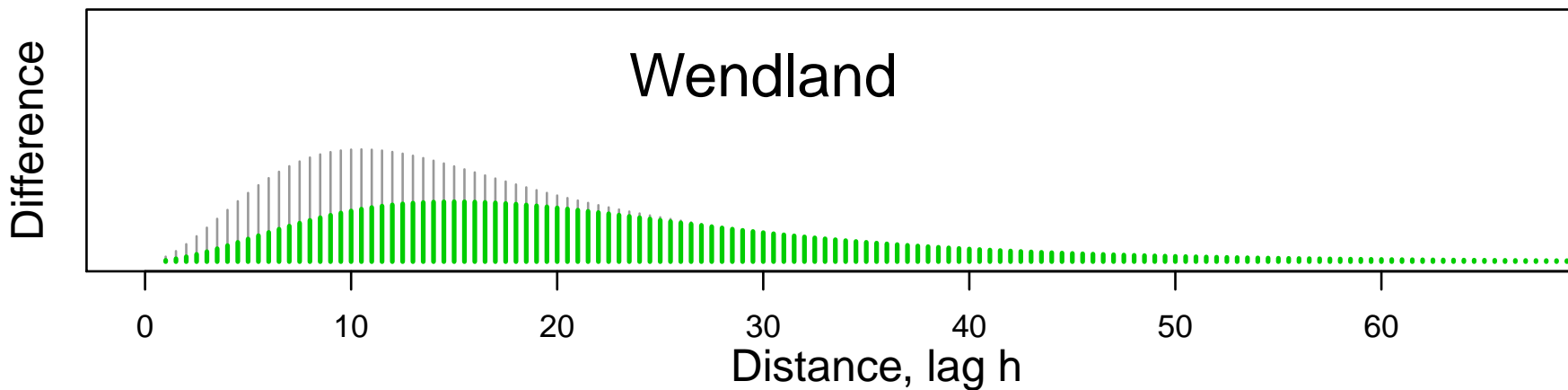
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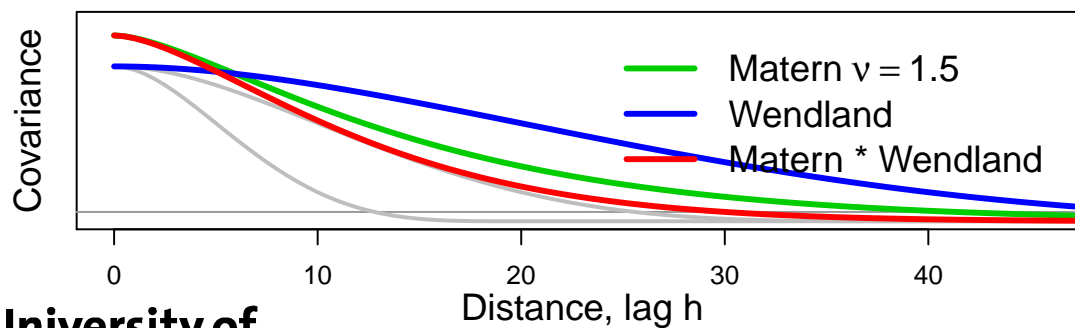
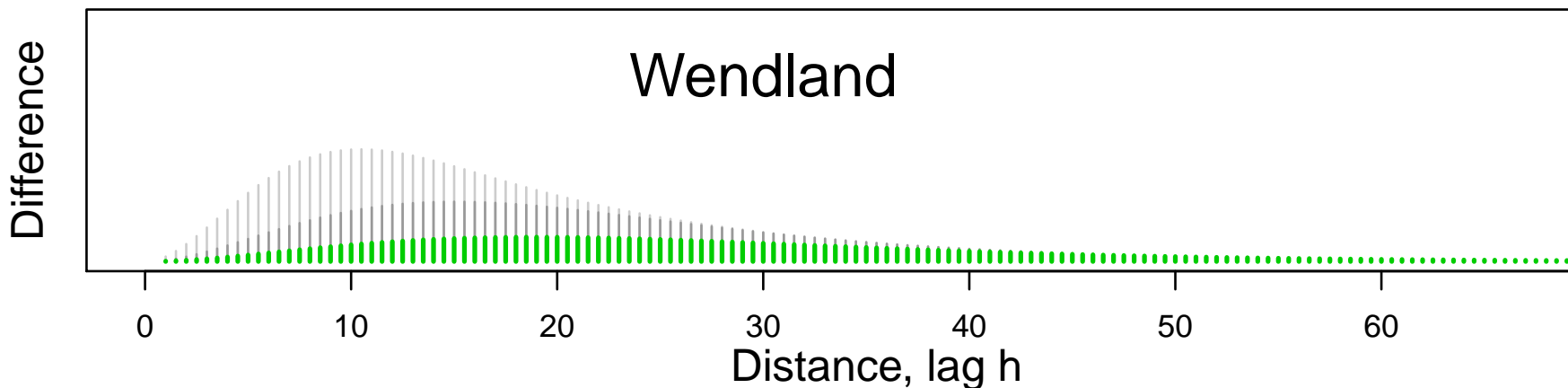
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# Multivariate tapering

- ▶ Concept of Gaussian equivalent measures does not exist
- ▶ Domain increasing framework
- ▶  $\|\Sigma - \Sigma \circ \mathbf{T}\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$
  
- ▶ Tapering is purely pragmatic
- ▶  $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{Q} \otimes \mathbf{T}_i$        $\mathbf{Q} = \epsilon \mathbf{I} + (1 - \epsilon) \mathbf{J}$



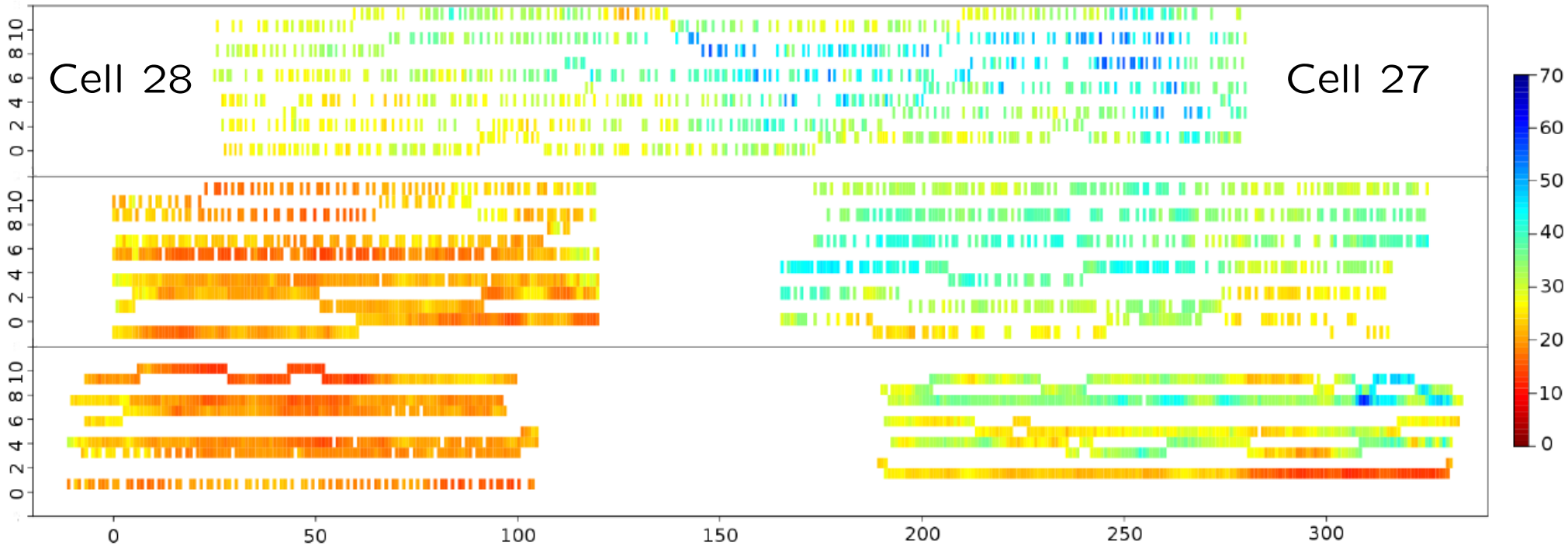
# “All models are wrong, but . . .”

- ▶ Iterative approaches
  - + Flexible, numerically feasible
  - Uncertainties
- ▶ Maximum likelihood
  - + Uncertainties, asymptotics
  - Numerical issues
- ▶ Bayesian hierarchical models
  - + Flexible, uncertainties
  - MCMC
- ▶ SPDE models
  - + flexible, scalable



# Example: Backfitting

Minnesota testbed:



Subgrade, subbase, base (top to bottom).

# Example: Backfitting

Minnesota testbed:

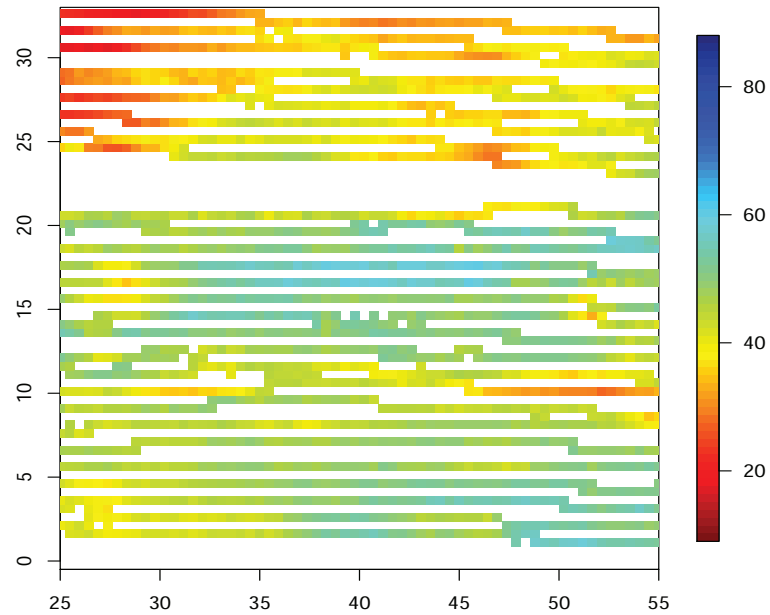
Model:

$$Y_1(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_1\beta_1 + \gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_1(\mathbf{s})$$

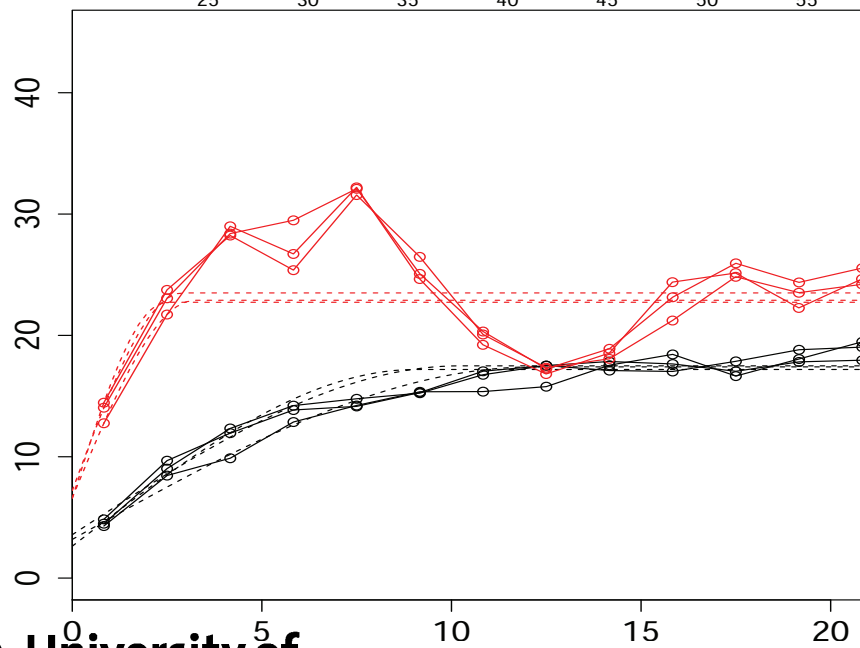
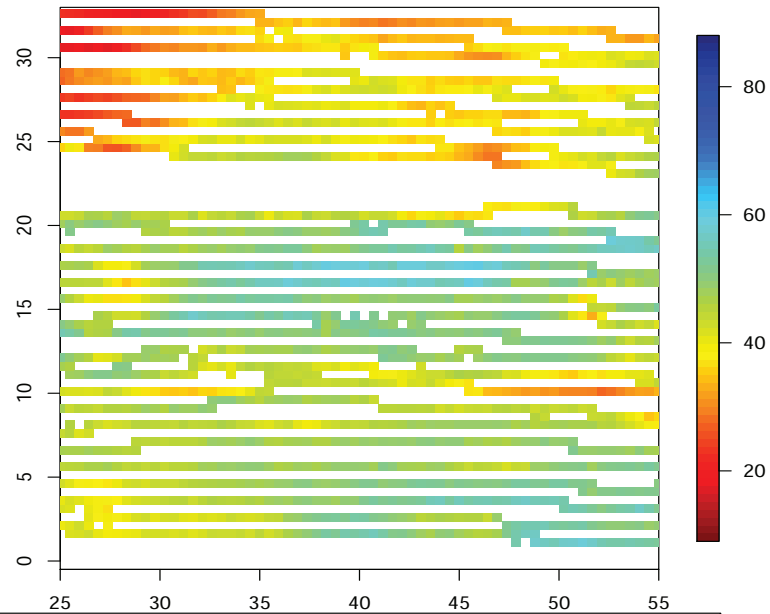
$$Y_2(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_2\beta_2 + c_1\gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_2(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_2(\mathbf{s})$$

$$Y_3(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_3\beta_3 + c_2(c_1\gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_2(\mathbf{s})) + \gamma_3(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_3(\mathbf{s})$$

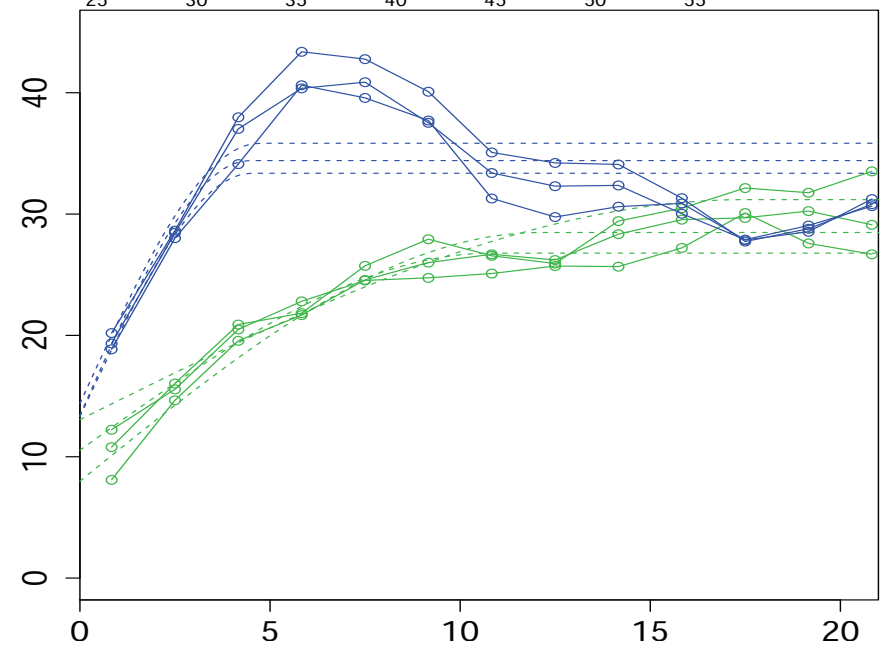
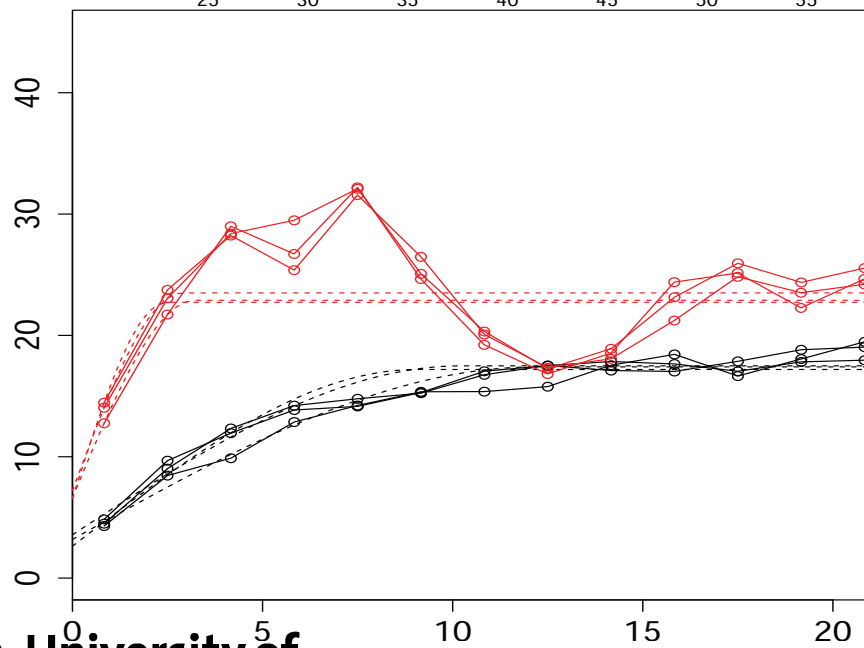
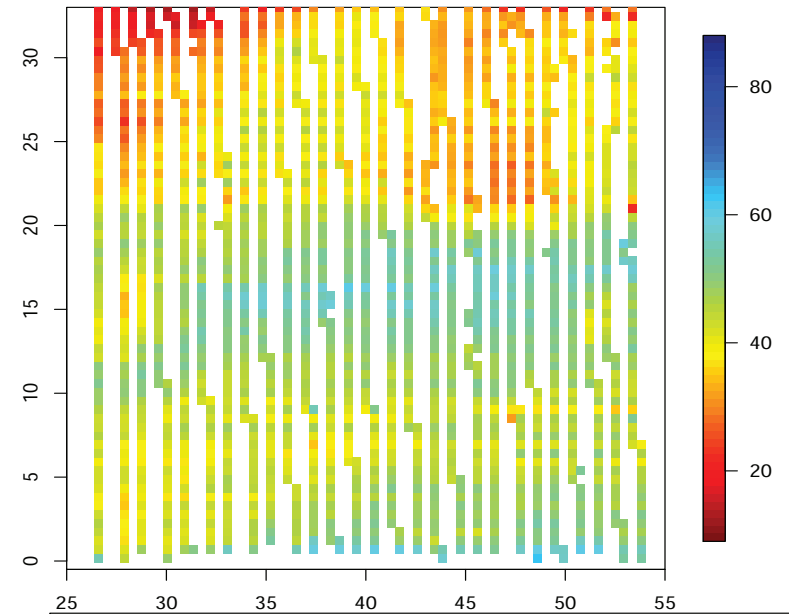
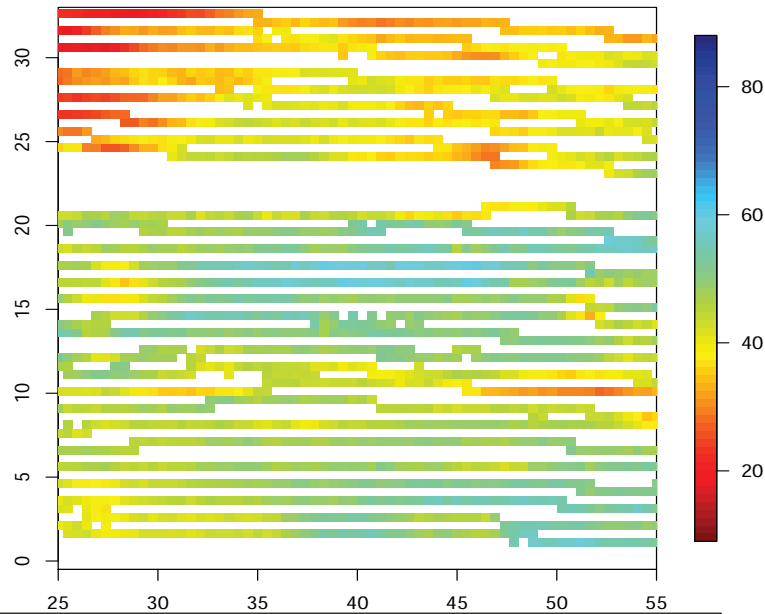
# Inset: nonstationarity



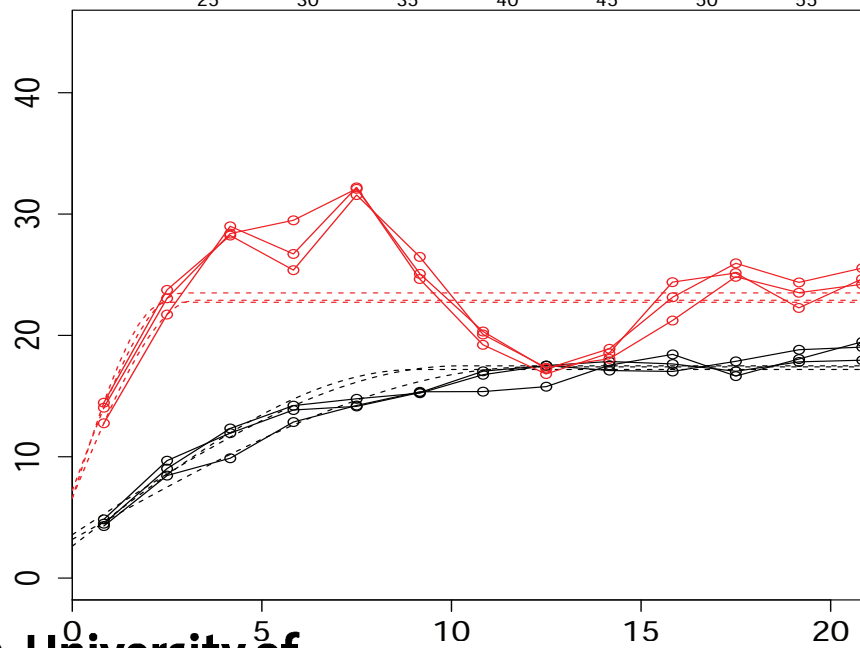
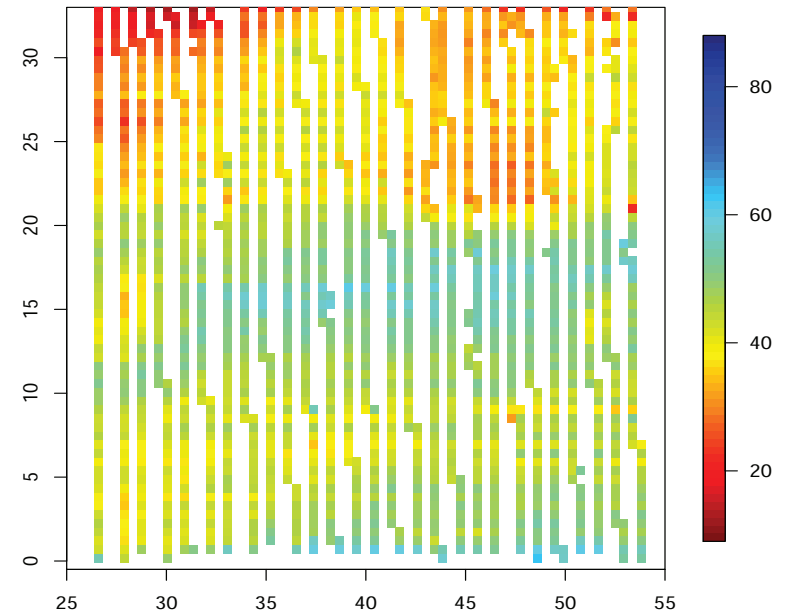
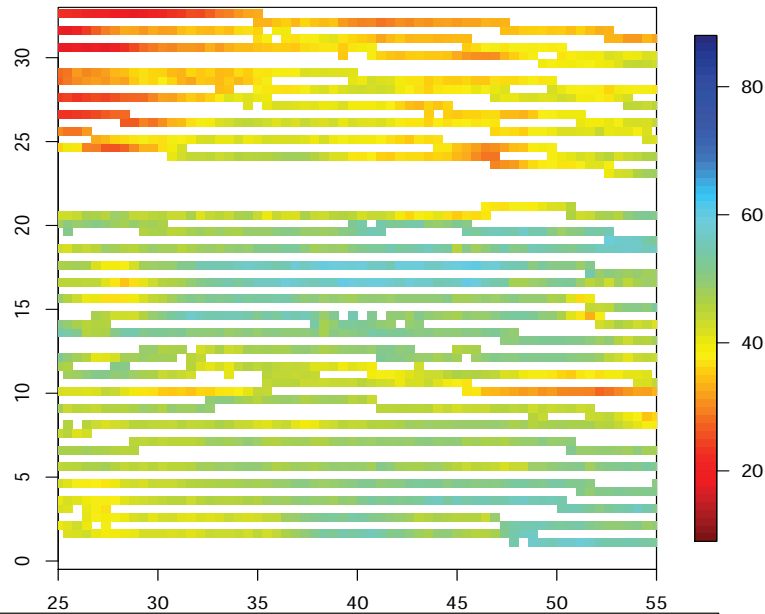
# Inset: nonstationarity



# Inset: nonstationarity



# Inset: nonstationarity



Geometric anisotropy  
directionally colored noise





# Example: Backfitting

Minnesota testbed:

Model:

$$Y_1(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_1\beta_1 + \gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_1(\mathbf{s})$$

$$Y_2(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_2\beta_2 + c_1\gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_2(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_2(\mathbf{s})$$

$$Y_3(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_3\beta_3 + c_2(c_1\gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_2(\mathbf{s})) + \gamma_3(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_3(\mathbf{s})$$

(add measurement operator ...)

# Example: Backfitting

Minnesota testbed:

Model:

$$Y_1(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_1\beta_1 + \gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_1(\mathbf{s})$$

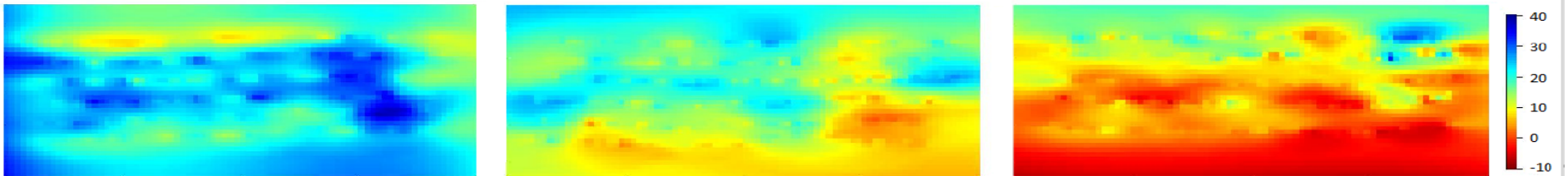
$$Y_2(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_2\beta_2 + c_1\gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_2(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_2(\mathbf{s})$$

$$Y_3(\mathbf{s}) = \mathbf{X}_3\beta_3 + c_2(c_1\gamma_1(\mathbf{s}) + \gamma_2(\mathbf{s})) + \gamma_3(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_3(\mathbf{s})$$

(add measurement operator ...)

Cell 27:

Fitted smooths:



# Multiresolution analysis

- ▶ Simultaneous inference for IC and QA  
↪ “which features are ‘really there’?”
- ▶ Using Holmström et al. (2010), extensions from original SiZER  
↪ Ready to use software
- ▶ Decomposition into different scales:

$$0 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \dots < \lambda_L = \infty$$

smoothing parameters

$$\gamma = \sum_{i=1}^{L-1} (\mathbf{s}_{\lambda_i} - \mathbf{s}_{\lambda_{i+1}}) \gamma + \mathbf{s}_{\lambda_L} \gamma$$

$$\equiv \mathbf{z}_1 + \mathbf{z}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{z}_L$$

# Multiresolution analysis

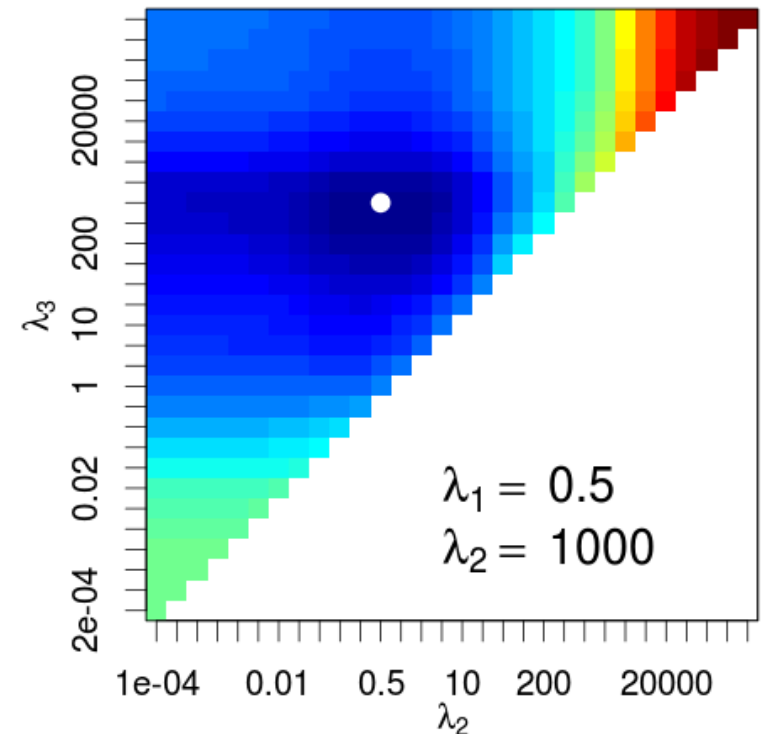
- ▶ Simultaneous inference for IC and QA  
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smoothing parameters

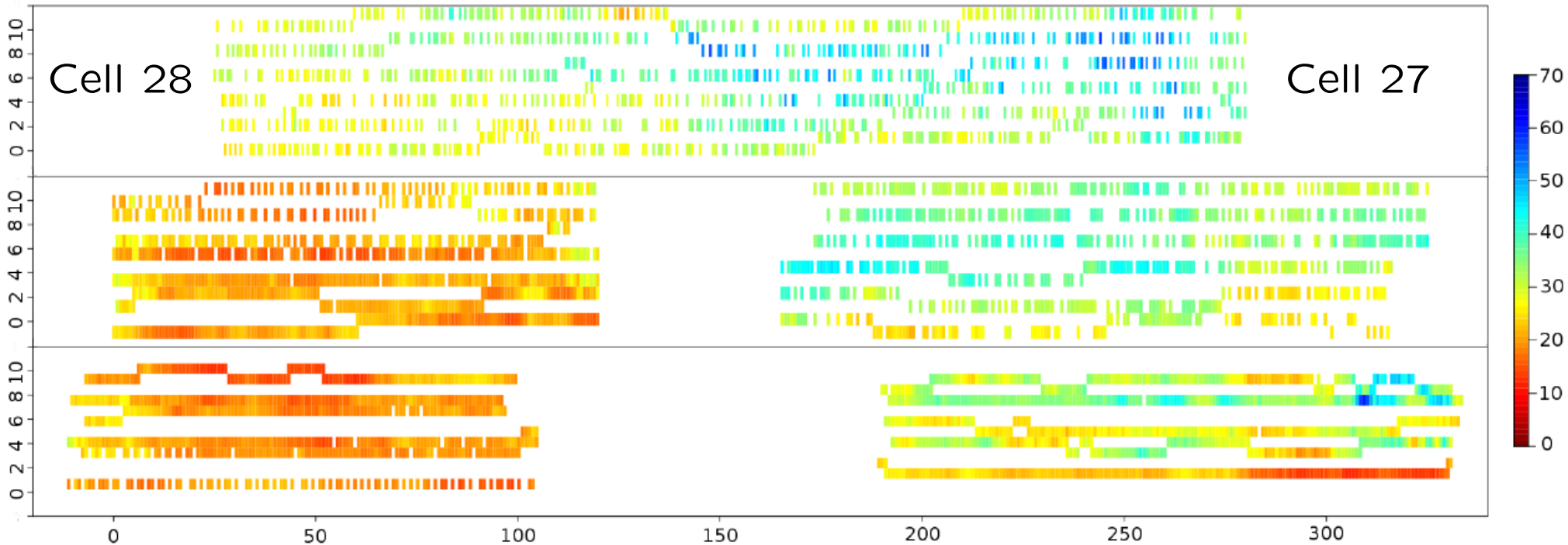
$$\gamma = \sum_{i=1}^{L-1} (\mathbf{S}_{\lambda_i} - \mathbf{S}_{\lambda_{i+1}}) \gamma + \mathbf{S}_{\lambda_L} \gamma$$

$$\equiv \mathbf{z}_1 + \mathbf{z}_2 + \dots + \mathbf{z}_L$$



# Example: multiresolution analysis

Minnesota testbed:

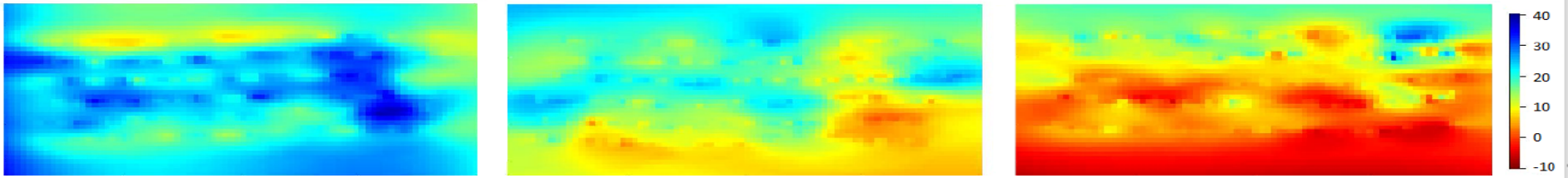


Subgrade, subbase, base (top to bottom).

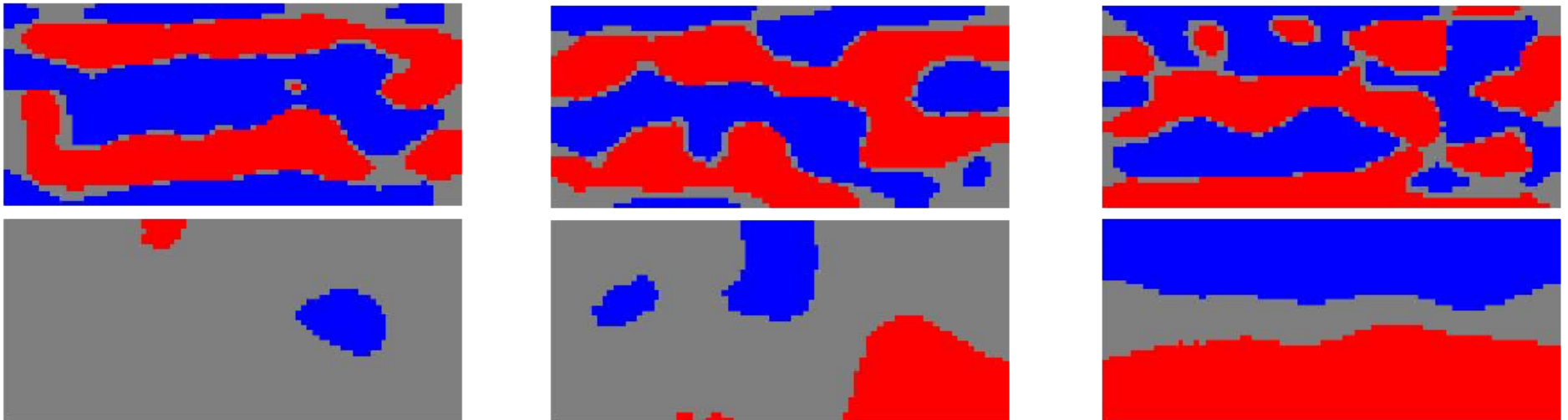
# Example: Multiresolution analysis

Cell 27:

Fitted smooths:



Multiresolution analysis:



subgrade

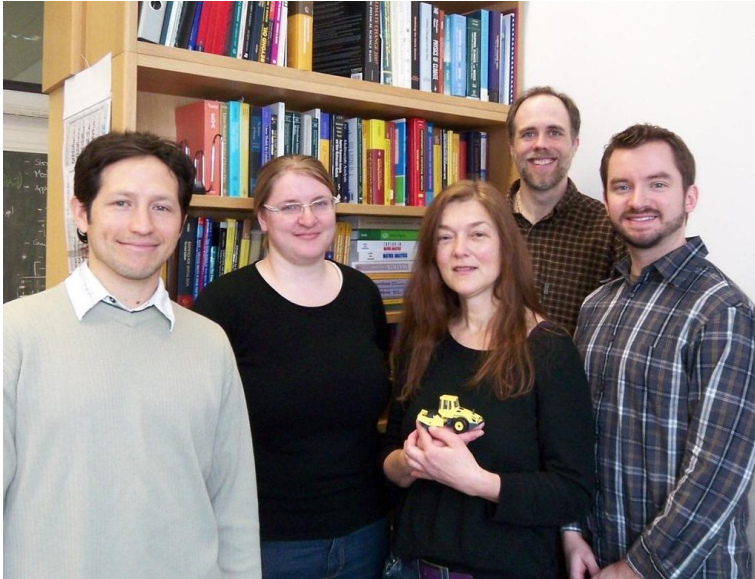
subbase

base



# Afterthoughts/outlook

- ▶ Flexible setting . . . toolbox(es)
- ▶ Multivariate spatial (spatio-temporal) non-stationary data
- ▶ Bayesian framework
- ▶ Non-Gaussian data



Collaboration with:

- Daniel Heersink, now Research Scientist at CSIRO, Canberra
- Mike Mooney, CSM
- Roland Anderegg, FHNW . . .

URPP Systems Biology/Functional Genomics &  
URPP Global Change and Biodiversity



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