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Spatial Statistics

Fortin, M.-J., P. M. A. James, A. MacKenzie, S. J. Melles, and B. Rayfield. 2012. Spatial statistics, spatial regression, and graph theory in ecology. Spatial Statistics 1:100–109.

Liebhold, A. M., and J. Gurevitch. 2002. Integrating the statistical analysis of spatial data in ecology. Ecography 25:553–557.

Spatial ecology





- Island biogeography
- Metapopulation dynamics
- Niche vs neutral community structure
- Conservation ecology

Spatial ecology



Hanski, I. 1998. Metapopulation dynamics. Nature 396:41–49.

- Abiotic spatial heterogeneity
 - Habitat quality, resource availability, dispersal probability, mortality rate, colonization probability
- Biotic spatial heterogeneity
 - Territoriality, competition, predation, disease, local dispersal

Spatial ecology

- Is there a spatial pattern?
- What process produces this spatial pattern?
- Does the "neighborhood" influence the process I am interested in?
- At what scale does spatial heterogeneity or pattern become apparent? (scaling)
- What is a "patch" and how can we describe groups of patches?
- Are there differences between or among study areas or landscapes with respect to spatial patterns?

Types of spatial data

- Point patterns
 - location of an event such as trees in a forest or bird nests
- Area data
 - Data that can be separated into zones that differ in intensity
 - E.g. Soil type, time since disturbance, density or number of species within an area
- Continuous data
 - Events that change across space
 - E.g. gradients of precipitation or salinity



Spatial statistics

- Test for aggregation
- Tests for spatial autocorrelation
- Maps of continuous response variables (kriging)
- Modeling spatially explicit responses (spatial impacts of neighbors)



- Ripley's K
- Calculated based on number of spatial points in a circular search window

$$\widehat{K}(t) = \frac{\lambda^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} I_t(e_i, e_j)}{n}$$
for $i \neq j$ and $t > 0$

Ripley's K and L $\widehat{K}(t) = \frac{\lambda^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} I_t(e_i, e_j)}{n} \qquad \widehat{L}(t) = t - \left(\frac{\widehat{K}(t)}{\pi}\right)^{1/2}$ for $i \neq j$ and t > 0



- Expected value of L(t) under a Poisson process is zero
- Positive values = spatial clustering
- Negative values = spatial segregation

Correlogram

 Autocorrelation value plotted against distance classes



Correlogram



Correlogram correlations

+ +

• Autocorrelation calculation

– Pearson's correlation coefficient



Moran's I

Pearson's correlation

$$\rho = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2\right]^{1/2}},$$

weight for observation pair (neighbouring function)

Moran's I

$$I = \frac{n}{S_0} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n w_{ij} (x_i - \bar{x}) (x_j - \bar{x})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2},$$

- Positive correlation I > 0 (I = 1 perfect correlation)
- Negative correlation I < 0 (I = -1 perfect dispersion
- No correlation I = 0
- Null hypothesis expected value of I : E(I) = -1/(N -1)
- Measure of "global" spatial autocorrelation

Geary's C

- Inversely related to Moran's I
- More sensitive to local spatial autocorrelation

Moran's I:
$$I(d) = \frac{\frac{1}{W} \sum_{h=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_{hi} (y_h - \bar{y}) (y_i - \bar{y})}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2} \text{ for } h \neq i$$

2/2

Geary's c:

$$c(d) = \frac{\frac{1}{2W} \sum_{h=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_{hi} (y_h - y_i)^2}{\frac{1}{(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - y_i)^2} \quad \text{for } h \neq i$$

Geary's C

Geary's c:

$$c(d) = \frac{\frac{1}{2W} \sum_{h=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_{hi} (y_h - y_i)^2}{\frac{1}{(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \overline{y})^2} \quad \text{for } h \neq i$$

- No correlation C = 1
- Positive correlation 0 < C < 1
- Negative correlation C > 1
- Null hypothesis expected value of C : E(C) = 1
- More sensitive to local spatial autocorrelation



Correlogram





Correlograms



Legendre, P., and L. F. J. Legendre. 1998. Numerical Ecology. Elsevier.

Correlogram



Correlogram example

• Counts of adult barnacles per plate (1.7 by 1.7)



Variograms (semi-variograms)

- Based in geostatistical methods
- Used to identify and **model** spatial patterns
- Spatial structure of the data is estimated based on spatial variance (experimental variogram)
- Estimated spatial structure and parameters are then used in kriging models

$$\gamma(d) = \frac{1}{2W} \sum_{h=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_{hi} (y_h - y_i)^2 \text{ for } h \neq i$$

• Non-standardized form of Geary's C



- Shape of the experimental variogram can be used to characterize the spatial structure of the data
 - Spatial range (a): distance over which the underlying spatial process occurs
 - Nugget effect (Co): estimate of error inherent in the measurement
 - Sill (C): quantification of the intensity of the spatial pattern

Spatial model selection and parameterization



Kriging: used defined spatial model to predict values at unmeasured locations

Kriging



Spatial autoregressive models

- Simultaneous autoregressive (SAR) models
- Conditional autoregressive (CAR) models

$$E(y_i | y_{-i}) = x_i \beta + \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij} [y_j - x_i \beta]$$