

# Introduction to Non-Gaussian Random Fields: a Journey Beyond Gaussianity

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Spring school on ...  
Toledo, March 17–21, 2010

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Non Gaussian Fields with Gaussian marginals
- 3 Transformed Random Fields
  - Introduction
  - Transformed Multigaussian Random Fields
  - Transformed Bi-Gaussian Random Fields
- 4 Excursion sets of Gaussian Random Fields
- 5 Random Sets
  - Introduction
  - Some models
  - Variograms associated to random sets
- 6 Truncated Gaussian Random Fields
- 7  Skew-Normal Random Fields

# Why Gaussian ?

Some **good reasons** for using Gaussian Random Fields (RF)

- Fully characterized with two moments
- Likelihood accessible
- Conditional expectation is linear
- Stability under linear combinations, marginalization and conditioning

## But data are rarely Gaussian

Environmental / climatic data are often

- **positive**: grade, composition, ...
- **in an interval**: humidity, ...
- **skewed**: pollution, temperature, ...
- **long tailed**: rain, grade, ...

Need to go beyond the Gaussian world

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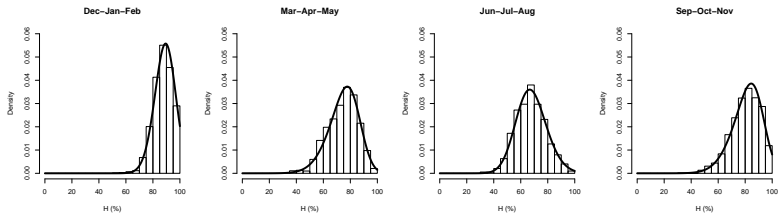
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# Humidity

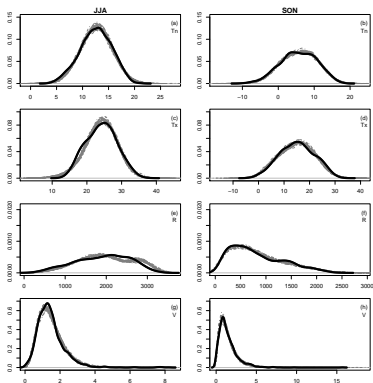
## Humidity per season (as a %), in Toulouse (France)





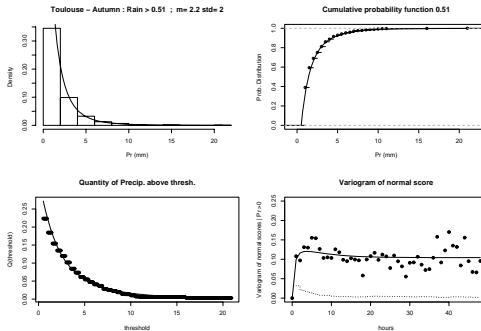
## 4 climatic variables

Tn, Tx, R and W in Toulouse, summer and autumn



# Rain in Toulouse (autumn)

## Histogram, cpf, and quantity above threshold



# Leaving the Gaussian world, but not to far...

There is a need for

- Non Gaussian RF, but which model ?
- With good mathematical properties, i.e. easy to handle

⇒ playing with Gaussian RFs

- Transforming : transformed multi- and bi- Gaussian RFs
- Thresholding : Excursion sets
- Truncating : Truncated Gaussian and transformed Gaussian RFs
- Conditioning : Skew-normal RFs

# General Outline

- ✓ Some reminders on Gaussian RFs
- ✓ Rfs with Gaussian marginals that are not Gaussian RFs
- ✓ Transformed multi- and bi- Gaussian RFs
- ✓ Quite specific tranformation: thresholding  
→ **Random Sets**
- ✓ Truncated (transformed) Gaussian RFs
- ✓ Skew-normal RFs

Illustrated with applications !

# Some reminders

## Gaussian RF

A RF is (multi-) Gaussian if **all** its finite-dimensional distributions are multivariate Gaussian.

## Characterization

A stationary Gaussian RF is characterized by its **expectation** and its **covariance function**,  $C(h)$

## Bochner's theorem

The covariance function is **semi positive definite** function; it is the Fourier Transform of a positive bounded measure.

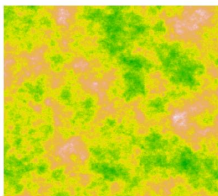
$$C(h) = \int e^{2\pi i \langle u, h \rangle} F(du), \quad \text{with} \quad \int F(du) < \infty$$

## Some reminders

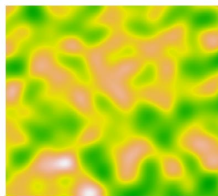
### Regularity of a stationary RF

- ✓ A RF is mean-squared continuous iff its covariance function is continuous at  $h = 0$
- ✓ A RF is mean-squared differentiable everywhere iff its covariance function has a second derivative at  $h = 0$


$$C(h) = e^{-\|h\|/a}$$



$$C(h) = e^{-\|h\|^2/a^2}$$



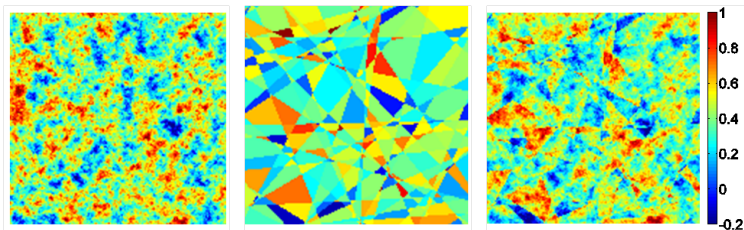
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# Non Gaussian Fields with Gaussian marginals

Same  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  pdf; same exponential covariance

[Garrigues, Allard and Baret (2007)]



Gaussian RF

Poisson Line RF

Mixture

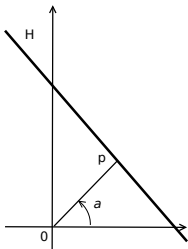


# Poisson tessellation

## Recall

A hyper-plane in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is specified by a direction  $\alpha \in S_d^+$  and a location  $p \in \mathbb{R}$

$$H(\alpha, p) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid \langle x, \alpha \rangle = p\}.$$



# Poisson tessellation

## Definition 1

A network of **Poisson hyperplanes** is parametrized by a Poisson process in  $S_d^+ \times \mathbb{R}$ . They define **Poisson cells**.

## Definition 2

Consider a Poisson hyperplane process on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . To each Poisson cell, associate an independent random variable. This defines a **Poisson hyperplane RF** on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

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# Covariance of Poisson cell models

## Proposition

The covariance function of a Poisson hyperplane RF is

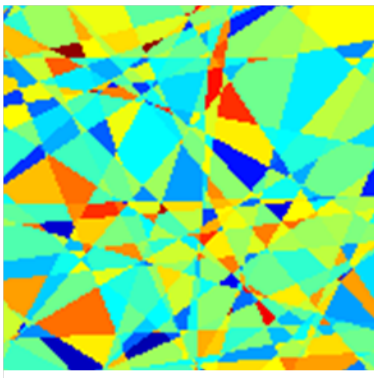
$$C(h) = \sigma^2 e^{-a\|h\|} = \sigma^2 \rho(h), \quad h \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

**Sketch of the proof:** The intersection of the Poisson hyperplanes with any line defines a 1D Poisson point process with intensity, say  $a$ .

## Example

Poisson lines in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  parametrized by a Poisson process in  $[0, \pi[ \times \mathbb{R}$  and i.i.d.  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  Gaussian random variables define a **marginal Gaussian Poisson cell model**.

# Illustration



## Illustration (ctd)

Use **variogram of order 1** (madogram)

$$\gamma_1(h) = 0.5E[|Y(x+h) - Y(x)|]$$

**Gaussian RF:** Let  $G \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \tau^2)$ . We know  $E[|G|] = \sqrt{2\tau^2/\pi}$ . Then,

$$\gamma_1(h) \propto \sqrt{\gamma(h)}$$

since  $Y(x+h) - Y(x) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 2\gamma(h))$ .

**Poisson RF:** Consider  $A = \{w, w+h \in \text{same cell}\}$ :  $P(\bar{A}) = 1 - \rho(h) = \gamma(h)$ .

$$E[|Y(x+h) - Y(x)| \mid A] = 0 \text{ and } E[|Y(x+h) - Y(x)| \mid \bar{A}] \propto \sigma^2$$

Thus  $\gamma_1(h) \propto \gamma(h)$ .

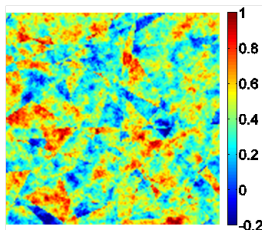
## Mixture RF:

Define

$$Y_m(x) = \sigma \left( w Y_G(x) + \sqrt{1 - w^2} Z_P(x) \right) + \mu$$

where  $Z_G(\cdot)$  and  $Z_P(\cdot)$  are (0, 1) Gaussian and Poisson RF with same exponential covariance.

If  $\gamma_G(h) = \gamma_P(h) = \gamma(h)$ , then  $\gamma(h)$  is the variogram of  $Y_m(\cdot)$  for all  $w$ .



## Mixture RF:

### Proposition

Garrigues, Allard and Baret (2007) obtain

$$\gamma_1(h) = \frac{\sigma}{\pi} \left[ w(1 - \gamma_{2,P}(h))\sqrt{\gamma_{2,G}(h)} + \gamma_{2,P}(h)\sqrt{w^2\gamma_{2,G}(h) + (1 - w^2)} \right]$$

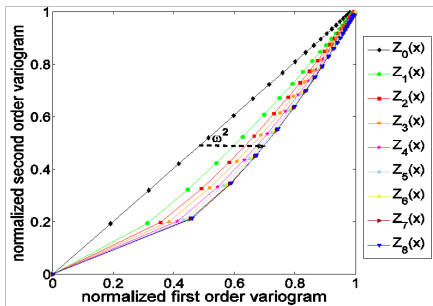
**Proof:** Condition on  $A$ ; use independence of  $Z_P$  in different cells



## In summary

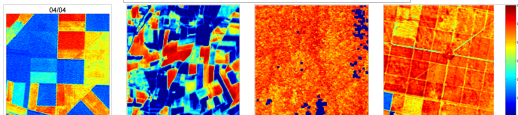
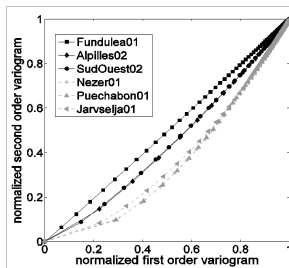
Relationship between first and second order variograms:

- Gaussian RF: **quadratic**
- Poisson RF: **linear**
- Mixture RF: intermediate




# Application

Modeling remote sensing images (NDVI)  
Fit simultaneously first and second order variograms  
 $w$  is a degree of tessellation of landscape (agriculture)



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## General framework

Assume  $Y(x)$  is a  $(0, 1, \rho(h))$  stationary Gaussian RF on a domain  $\mathcal{D}$ . Let  $\phi(\cdot)$  be a one-to-one mapping. Then consider,

$$Z(x) = \phi(Y(x)), \quad x \in \mathcal{D}.$$

- Transform the data:  $Y_i = \phi^{-1}(Z(x_i))$
- Use all nice Gaussian properties
- Back-transform predictions/simulations with  $\phi$
- **Pay attention to non linearities in case of prediction!**

Two theoretical frameworks:

- 1 Transformed Multi-Gaussian Random Field
- 2 Transformed Bi-Gaussian Random Field



# Lognormal Random Fields

## Definition

Use an exponential function for  $\phi(y)$

$$Z(x) = e^{\mu + \sigma Y(x)}, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}$$

is said to be a **lognormal** RF.

Using the general result  $E[e^{aY}] = e^{a^2/2}$  for  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , leads to:

$$\begin{aligned} E[Z(x)] &= m = e^{\mu} e^{\sigma^2/2} \\ \text{Cov}(Z(x), Z(x+h)) &= C(h) = m^2 \left( e^{\sigma^2 \rho(h)} - 1 \right) \\ \text{Var}[Z(x)] &= C(0) = m^2 \left( e^{\sigma^2} - 1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Lognormal Random Fields

Denoting  $\gamma(h) = 1 - \rho(h)$  the variogram of  $Y(\cdot)$  and  $\Gamma(h)$  the variogram of  $Z(\cdot)$ ,

$$\Gamma(h) = m^2 e^{\sigma^2} (1 - e^{-\sigma^2 \gamma(h)})$$

What if  $Y(\cdot)$  is not 2nd order stationary ? Matheron (1974)

- $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$  no longer exist
- need to condition on a domain  $V \supset \mathcal{D}$
- there exists  $m_V$  and  $A_V$  such that, for  $x, y \in V$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E[Y(x)] &= m_V \\ \text{Cov}(Y(x), Y(y)) &= A_V - \gamma(x - y), \end{aligned}$$

# Lognormal Random Fields

## Locally stationary log-normal RF (Matheron, 1974)

Let  $Y(x) \sim \text{IRF}(\gamma(h))$ , conditioned on  $V$  as above. Then  $Z(x)$  is a **locally (i.e. on  $V$ ) stationary** lognormal RF with

$$\begin{aligned} E[Z(x)] &= M_V = e^{m_V} e^{A_V/2} \\ \Gamma(h) &= M_V^2 e^{A_V} (1 - e^{-\gamma(h)}) \end{aligned}$$

[See also Schoenberg's theorem]

- Exponential flavour of  $\Gamma(h)$
- Finite range on  $V$  !!

# Using lognormal Random Fields

Data  $Z_i = Z(x_i) > 0, i \in I = \{1, \dots, n\}$

Goal : predicting  $Z_0$  at an unsampled location

- 1 Compute log-data  $Y_i = \ln Z_i, i \in I$
- 2 Estimate the variogram  $\gamma(\cdot)$  of  $Y(\cdot)$
- 3 Predict  $Y^* = E[Y_0 | (Y_i)_{i \in I}] = \sum_{i \in I} w_i Y_i$  (Gaussianity !)
- 4 Back transform  $Z^* = e^{Y^* + \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in I} w_i w_j \gamma_{ij} / 2}$

Note: used as driving intensity for non homogeneous point processes

[Møller, Syversveen, Waagepetersen, 1998]



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# Box-Cox transformation

For positive values  $Z(x)$

Box-Cox transformation

$$\phi_{\lambda}^{-1}(z) = \frac{z^{\lambda} - 1}{\lambda} \quad \text{if } \lambda \neq 0; \quad \phi_0^{-1}(z) = \ln z,$$

- Similar derivations; need to use

$$E[(\mu + \sigma Y)^p] = \sigma^p \{-i\sqrt{2} \operatorname{sgn}(\mu)\}^p U\left(-\frac{1}{2}p, \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}(\mu/\sigma)^2\right)$$

where  $U$  is a Kummer's confluent hypergeometric function

- Beware of bias correction !

# Introduction

- ✓  $n$ -multivariate gaussianity for any  $n$  is a strong assumption, which can not be checked in practice — not speaking of testing
- ✓ Bi-variate gaussianity is a **weaker condition, that can be checked to a certain extent**

Is there a less demanding theory ?

Decomposition with Hermite polynomials

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Is there a less demanding theory ?

Decomposition with Hermite polynomials



# Hermite polynomials

- Denote  $g(y)$  and  $G(y)$  the  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  pdf and cdf.
- Consider the space Hilbert space  $L^2(G)$  of functions  $\phi(\cdot)$  such that  $\int \phi^2(y)g(y)dy < \infty$
- Consider the Hermite polynomials  $H_n$

$$H_n(y)g(y) = \frac{d^n}{dy^n}g(y) = yH_{n-1}(y) - (n-1)H_{n-2}(y),$$

with  $H_0(y) = 1$  and  $H_1(y) = -y$ .

- In addition, for  $k \geq 1$ ,  $E[H_k(Y)] = 0$ ,  $\text{Var}[H_k(Y)] = k!$

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# Hermite polynomials

- The normalized Hermite polynomials  $\chi_n(y) = H_n(y)/\sqrt{n!}$  form an orthonormal basis of  $L^2(G)$  w.r.t. gaussian density, i.e.

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \chi_n(y)\chi_m(y)g(y)dy = \delta_{nm} \Leftrightarrow E[\chi_n(Y)\chi_m(Y)] = \delta_{nm}$$

- Let  $\phi \in L^2(G)$ . Then,

$$Z = \phi(Y) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \varphi_k \chi_k(Y) \quad \text{with} \quad \varphi_k = E[\phi(Y)\chi_k(Y)]$$

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# Hermite polynomials (ctd)

- For a Bi-Gaussian pair  $U, V$

$$g_\rho(u, v) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \rho^k \chi_k(u) \chi_k(v) g(u) g(v)$$

- For a Bi-Gaussian vector  $(Y(x), Y(x+h))$  with correlation  $\rho(h)$ .

$$\text{Cov}[\phi(Y(x)), \phi(Y(x+h))] = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \varphi_k^2 \rho^k(h)$$



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# Example 1

$\phi(Y) = e^{\mu + \sigma Y}$ . Then,

$$\varphi_k = (-1)^k e^{\mu + \sigma^2/2} \frac{\sigma^k}{\sqrt{k!}}, \quad k \geq 0$$

i.e.

$$E[Z(x)] = \varphi_0 = e^{\mu + \sigma^2/2} = m \text{ and } \text{Cov}_Z(h) = m^2(e^{\sigma^2 \rho(h)} - 1)$$

identically to multi-gaussian RF.

## Example 2

$Z_y(x) = \phi(Y(x)) = \mathbf{1}_{Y(x) \geq y}$ . Then,

$$\varphi_k = -g(y) \frac{\chi_{k-1}(y)}{\sqrt{k}}, \quad k \geq 1$$

and  $\varphi_0 = 1 - G(y)$ . Hence

$$\text{Cov}_{Z_y}(h) = g(y)^2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\chi_{k-1}^2}{k} \rho(h)^k.$$

## Checking for bi-gaussianity

- ✓ Transform data  $Z(x_i)$  into Gaussian scores  $Y(x_i)$
- ✓ Crossplots  $Y(x), Y(x + h)$  should be elliptical
- ✓  $\gamma_{Y,1}(h)$  should be proportional to  $\sqrt{\gamma_{Y,2}(h)}$
- ✓ Denote  $\gamma_{Y,2}(h)$  a variogram fitted on  $Y(\cdot)$ . Then,

$$\gamma_{Z,2}(h) = \sum_k \varphi_k^2 \{1 - \gamma_{Y,2}(h)\}^2$$

should fit on  $Z(\cdot)$

# Disjunctive Kriging of $Z(x_0)$

- ✓ Estimate  $\varphi_k$  from empirical cpf
- ✓ For each  $k$ , do (simple) Kriging of  $\chi_k(Y(x_0))^*$
- ✓  $\phi(Y(x_0))^* = \sum_k \varphi_k \chi_k(Y(x_0))^*$
- ✓  $\sigma_{DK}^2 = \sum_k \varphi_k \sigma_k^2$  with  $\sigma_k^2 = \text{Var}[\chi_k(Y(x_0))^* - \chi_k(Y(x_0))]$

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- 7  Skew-Normal Random Fields

# Definitions

## Indicator function

Consider a  $(0, 1)$  Gaussian stationary RF  $Y(x)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with covariance function  $\rho(h)$ . Set a threshold  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ . Chose  $\phi(Y) = \mathbf{1}_{Y \geq y}$ , i.e.

$$Z_y(x) = 1 \text{ if } Y(x) \geq y; \quad X(x) = 0 \text{ otherwise.}$$

## Excursion sets

$$X_y = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : Y(x) \geq y\}$$

is the  $y$ -level **excursion set** of  $Y$ .

The  $X_y$ s are Random Sets verifying



$$u \leq v \implies X_u \supset X_v.$$

## Proposition (Lantuéjoul, 2002)

The variogram  $\gamma_{Z_y}$  of  $Z_y(x)$  is

$$\gamma_{Z_y}(h) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\rho(h)}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} e^{-y^2/(1+r)} dr.$$

### Proof

$$\gamma_{Z_y}(h) = \int_{-\infty}^y \int_y^{\infty} g_{\rho}(u, v) dudv \quad \text{with } g_{\rho}(u, v) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} e^{-u^2+v^2-2\rho uv/(1-\rho^2)}.$$

Direct computation yields

$$\frac{\partial g_{\rho}}{\partial \rho} = \frac{\partial^2 g_{\rho}}{\partial u \partial v},$$

from which

$$\frac{\partial \gamma_{Z_y}}{\partial \rho}(h) = \int_{-\infty}^y \int_y^{\infty} \frac{\partial^2 g_{\rho}}{\partial u \partial v} dudv = -g_{\rho}(y, y).$$

Hence

$$\gamma_{Z_y}(h) = \int_{\rho}^1 g_r(y, y, ) dr = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\rho(h)}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} e^{-y^2/(1+r)} dr.$$





## Regularity of excursion sets

Denote  $\gamma(h) = 1 - \rho(h)$ .

Perform the change of variable  $r = \cos(2t)$ . Then,

$$\gamma_y(h) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\arcsin \sqrt{\gamma(h)/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{2}(1 + \tan^2 t)\right) dt$$

For  $\gamma(h) \approx 0$

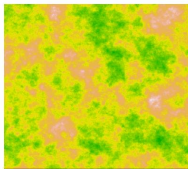
$$\gamma_y(h) \approx \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{\gamma(h)} e^{-y^2/2}, \quad h \approx 0$$

- If  $\gamma(h) \propto |h|^2$  near  $h = 0$ ,  $X_y$  has **finite specific perimeter**
- If  $\gamma(h) \propto |h|^\alpha$ ,  $\alpha < 2$  near  $h = 0$ ,  $X_y$ , has **infinite specific perimeter**

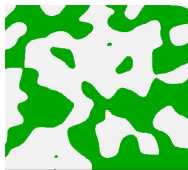
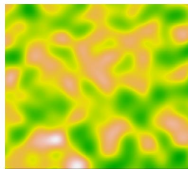


# Illustration

$$C(h) = e^{-\|h\|/a}$$



$$C(h) = e^{-\|h\|^2/a^2}$$



## Covariance function of excursion set

We have seen

$$\gamma_{Z_y}(h) = \int_{\rho}^1 g_r(y, y, \cdot) dr = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\rho(h)}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} e^{-y^2/(1+r)} dr.$$

### Open problem

- ✓ According to the above equation, the mapping  $\gamma \rightarrow \gamma_{Z_y}$  is one-to-one
- ✓ But, not all variograms can correspond to an excursion set (later...)
- ✓ What is the general form of variograms, or covariance functions of excursion sets ?
- ✓ Lantuéjoul (2002) shows that  $1 - e^{-||h||/a}$  is the variogram of an



Excursion set



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## Some applications

- ✓ Geometry of petroleum reservoirs  
[Heresim Group, 1992-1993] (in Fontainebleau) for setting up the method  
[Allard, 1994] for conditional simulations with connectivity constraints  
[Emery, 2007] for extension to pluri-Gaussian framework
- ✓ Latent variable of non-homogeneous point processes  
[Myllymäki and Penttinen 2009]

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# Introduction

We already have seen

- Excursion sets
- Poisson hyperplanes tessellation

It is time to present some theory on Random Sets

- Let  $X$  be a random set in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $Z(x) = \mathbf{1}_X(x)$  be its indicator function:

$$\mathbf{1}_X(x) = 1 \Leftrightarrow x \in X; \quad \mathbf{1}_X(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x \notin X, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

- $X$  can be a set of points, segments, lines, objects (balls), + finite or infinite unions and intersections of those
- Cannot be characterised by the family of finite distributions of the type  $P(x_1 \in X, \dots, x_n \in X, y_1 \notin X, \dots, y_m \notin X)$

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# Theory of random closed sets (Matheron, 1975)

A Random Closed Set  $X$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is fully characterized by its **avoiding functional**

$$Q(K) = P\{X \cap K = \emptyset\}, \quad K \text{ compact set } \subset \mathbb{R}^d$$

Its complement is the **hitting functional**

$$T(K) = P\{X \cap K \neq \emptyset\} = 1 - Q(K).$$

Works even if  $X$  is a countable set of points.

# First and second moments

Consider  $X$  to be **regular**, (i.e. no infinitely thin components or any isolated points)

- Considering  $K = \{x\}$  yields the local proportion:

$$p(x) = 1 - Q(\{x\}) = P(x \in X)$$

$X$  stationnary  $\iff p(x) = p = 1 - q$  for all  $x$

- Considering  $K = \{x, x + h\}$  yields the non centered covariance.

$$q(x, x + h) = Q(\{x, x + h\}) = P(x \neq X, x + h \neq X).$$

$X$  stationnary  $\iff q(x, x + h) = q(h)$

- Associated variogram:

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(h) &= 0.5E[(Z(x) - Z(x + h))^2] = 0.5P\{Z(x) \neq Z(x + h)\} \\ &= 0.5\{P(x \in X, x + h \notin X) + P(x \notin X, x + h \in X)\} \\ &= P(x \notin X) - P(x \notin X, x + h \notin X) \\ &= q - q(h)\end{aligned}$$

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- ✓ Excursion sets:  $X = \{x : Y(x) \geq y\}$ . Exponential variogram OK
- ✓ Poisson hyperplanes tessellation: each cell is in  $X$ , independently with probability  $p$ : Exponential variogram
- ✓ Boolean model:

$$X = \bigcup_{\xi \in PP} A_i(\xi),$$

where

- $PP$  is a Poisson point process
- $A_i(\xi)$  is a random objet  $\sim A$  translated at  $\xi$

$$q = e^{-\theta E[|A|]}; \quad \gamma(h) = 1 - 2q + q^2(e^{\theta E[|A \cap A_h|]} - 1)$$

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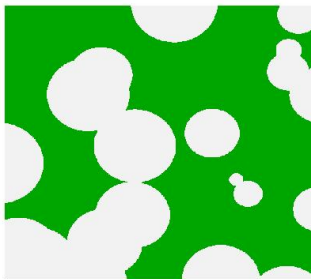
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# Example of a Boolean model



# More realistic examples of a Boolean model

Petroleum reservoir: channels and lenses



- ✓ Excursion sets:  $X = \{x : Y(x) \geq y\}$ . Exponential variogram OK
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- ✓ Other object models: random token model, dead leaves, boolean random functions...

## Indicator variogram: behaviour at the origin

Recall

$$\gamma(h) = 0.5E[\{\mathbf{1}_X(x) - \mathbf{1}_X(x+h)\}^2]$$

which is equivalent to

$$P(x \in X, x+h \notin X) = \gamma(h) = P(x \notin X, x+h \in X)$$

As  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\gamma(h)$  conveys information about the boundary of  $X$

### Specific surface (Matheron, 1975)

Let  $\sigma^{(d)}$  denote the specific  $(d-1)$ -volume of  $X$ . Assume  $X$  is isotropic

$$\sigma^{(d)} = \frac{d\omega_d}{\omega_{d-1}}\gamma'(0)$$

with  $\omega_d$  is the  $d$ -volume of the unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

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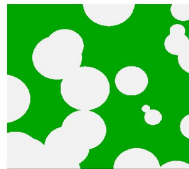
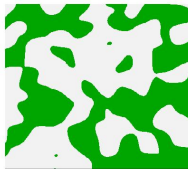
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with  $\omega_d$  is the  $d$ -volume of the unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

- If  $\gamma(h)$  has linear behavior at 0,  $\sigma^{(d)}$  is finite
- If  $\gamma(h)$  is parabolic at the origin,  $\sigma^{(d)} = 0$  !! Degenerate case
- If  $\gamma'(0) = \sigma^{(d)}$  is infinite: fractal RS



## Indicator variogram: triangular inequality

Since

$$\{\mathbf{1}_x(x) - \mathbf{1}_x(x+h)\}^2 = |\mathbf{1}_x(x) - \mathbf{1}_x(x+h)|$$

and using

$$|\mathbf{1}_x(x) - \mathbf{1}_x(x+h+h')| \leq |\mathbf{1}_x(x) - \mathbf{1}_x(x+h)| + |\mathbf{1}_x(x+h) - \mathbf{1}_x(x+h+h')|$$

the variogram must satisfy

$$\gamma(h+h') \leq \gamma(h) + \gamma(h')$$

Consider  $\gamma(h) \approx h^\alpha$ , when  $h \approx 0$ . Then, choosing  $h = h'$  yields

$$(2h)^\alpha \leq 2h^\alpha \Leftrightarrow \alpha \leq 1.$$

Excludes all regular variograms such as Gaussian or Matern with  $\kappa > 1/2$ .



## Indicator variogram: open problem

Not all variograms can be the variogram of a random set. Must

- be bounded
- verify triangular inequality
- not be too regular

Is there a general characterization ?

## Indicator variogram: open problem

Is there a general characterization ?

Conjecture, Matheron (1975)

Let  $(x_i)_{i=1,n}$  be a finite sequence of points, and  $(\varepsilon_i)_{i=1,n}$  a sequence of values in  $\{-1, 0, 1\}$  such that  $\sum_{i=1,n} \varepsilon_i = 1$ . An indicator variogram is a bounded, conditionally definite negative function fulfill the condition

$$\sum_{i=1,n} \sum_{j=1,n} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \gamma(x_i - x_j) \leq 0.$$

It is a necessary condition (containing the triangular inequality); is it sufficient ?

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# The Closed Skew-Normal (CSN) distribution

## General idea

new density = constant  $\times$  density  $\times$  cpf

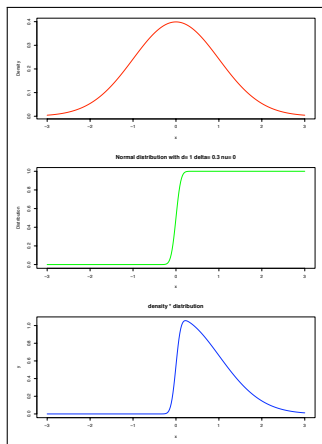
La densité  $CSN_{n,m}(\mu, \Sigma, D, \nu, \Delta)$

$$f(y) = \frac{1}{\Phi_m(0; \nu, \Delta + D^t \Sigma D)} \phi_n(y; \mu, \Sigma) \Phi_m(D^t(y - \mu); \nu, \Delta)$$

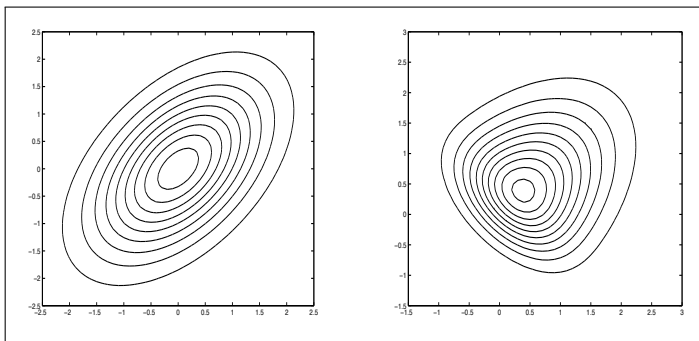
- If  $D = 0$ :  $N_n(\mu, \Sigma)$
- If  $m = 1$ : skew-normal distribution (Azzalini, 1985; Azzalini, 1986)

## Example

$$m = n = 1; \mu = 0, \sigma^2 = 1, d = 1, \nu = 0.3, \Delta = 0.3$$



# Gaussian and CSN bivariate density





## Some properties of CSN distributions

### Linearity

$$\mathbf{A} \times \text{CSN}_{n,m}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\Delta}) \sim \text{CSN}_{r,m}(\mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{A}}, \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{A}}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\Delta}_{\mathbf{A}})$$

where

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{A}^T, \quad \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{A}} = \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{A}^T\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{A}}^{-1}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Delta}_{\mathbf{A}} = \boldsymbol{\Delta} + \mathbf{D}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\mathbf{D}^T - \mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{A}}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{A}}^T$$

### Sum (particular case)

$$N(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) + \text{CSN}_{n,m}(\boldsymbol{\psi}, \boldsymbol{\Omega}, \mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\Delta}) \sim \text{CSN}_{n,m}(\boldsymbol{\psi} + \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Omega} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{\Delta})$$

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## Some properties of CSN distributions

### Conditioning

Consider  $Y = (Y_1, Y_2) \sim \text{CSN}_{n,m}(\mu, \Sigma, D, \nu, \Delta)$ .

Then,  $Y_2 | Y_1 = y_1$  is

$$\text{CSN}(\mu_2 + \Sigma_{21}\Sigma_{11}^{-1}(y_1 - \mu_1), \Sigma_{22} - \Sigma_{21}\Sigma_{11}^{-1}\Sigma_{12}, D_2, \nu - D_1y_1, \Delta)$$

### Moment generating function

$$M(t) = \frac{\Phi_m(D^t\Sigma t; \nu, \Delta + D\Sigma D^T)}{\Phi_m(0; \nu, \Delta + D\Sigma D^T)} \exp\{\mu^T t + \frac{1}{2}(t^T \Sigma t)\}$$

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## Some properties of CSN distributions

### First moment

$$EY = \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial t} M_Y(t) \right|_{t=0} = \mu + \Sigma D' \psi,$$

where

$$\psi = \frac{\Phi_q^*(0; \nu, \Delta + D\Sigma D')}{\Phi_q(0; \nu; \Delta + D\Sigma D')},$$

and, for any positive definite matrix  $\Omega$

$$\Phi_q^*(s; \nu, \Omega) = [\nabla_s \Phi_q(s; \nu, \Omega)]',$$

where  $\nabla_s = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial s_q} \right)'$  is the gradient operator.

# Some properties of CSN distributions

## Second moment

$$\begin{aligned} E(\mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}') &= \left. \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{t} \partial \mathbf{t}'} M_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{t}) \right|_{\mathbf{t}=\mathbf{0}} \\ &= \Sigma + \boldsymbol{\mu}\boldsymbol{\mu}' + \boldsymbol{\mu}\boldsymbol{\psi}' D\Sigma + \Sigma D\boldsymbol{\psi}\boldsymbol{\mu}' + \Sigma D' \Lambda D\Sigma \end{aligned}$$

$$\Lambda = \frac{\Phi_q^{**}(\mathbf{0}; \boldsymbol{\nu}, \Delta + D\Sigma D')}{\Phi_q(\mathbf{0}; \boldsymbol{\nu}; \Delta + D\Sigma D')},$$

$$\Phi_q^{**}(\mathbf{t}; \boldsymbol{\nu}, \Omega) = \nabla_{\mathbf{t}} \nabla_{\mathbf{t}}' \Phi_q(\mathbf{t}; \boldsymbol{\nu}, \Omega).$$

## Simulating a CSN R.V.

$$\begin{pmatrix} Y \\ X \end{pmatrix} \sim N_{n+m} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \nu \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \Sigma & -D^t \Sigma \\ -\Sigma D & \Delta + D^t \Sigma D \end{pmatrix} \right),$$

Then

$$\mu + (Y|X \leq 0) = \text{CSN}_{n,m}(\mu, \Sigma, D, \nu, \Delta)$$

Simulation algorithm

- 1 simulate a vector  $X \sim N_m(\nu, \Delta + D^t \Sigma D)$ , conditional on  $X \leq 0$
- 2 simulate a vector  $Y$  conditionally on  $X$ , according to the bivariate model above
- 3 return  $\mu + Y$

## Temporal application: a weather generator

- One of the priority of INRA is to **explore the impact of climate change** on agriculture and forest
- GCM provide output variables at scale 50 km
- Series are not numerous

Need for very long/numerous series of weather variables at local scale

Building a stochastic weather generator **WACS-gen**



## General principle of WACS-gen

Ph. D. thesis of Cédric Flecher (D. Allard and P. Naveau co-advisors)

- ✓ We consider five variables  $X(t) = (R, T_n, T_x, RR, W)^t(t)$
- ✓  $R$  is log-transformed
- ✓ Series are centered and standardized using medians a mean absolute deviation
- ✓ The following parameters are estimated independently for each season:
- ✓  $K$  weather types are determined using MCLUST
- ✓ Weather types form a Markov Chain
- ✓ In each class residuals  $\sim$  CSN (4 or 5)
- ✓ Temporal correlation is accounted for

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# CSN vectors

## Reminder

$CSN_{n,m}(\mu, \Sigma, D, \nu, \Delta)$ :

$$f_{n,m}(y) = \frac{1}{\Phi_m(0; \nu, \Delta + D^t \Sigma D)} \phi_n(y; \mu, \Sigma) \Phi_m(D^t(y - \mu); \nu, \Delta)$$

In WACS-gen,

To simplify the model, we set  $k = m = n$ ;  $D = \Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}} S$ ;  $\Delta = I_k - S^2$ ;  
 $S = \text{diag}(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k)^t$ .

$$CSN_k^*(\mu, \Sigma, S) : f_{k,k}(y) = 2^{-k} \phi_k(y; \mu, \Sigma) \Phi_k(S \Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}}(y - \mu); 0, I_k - S^2).$$

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Hence

$$\tilde{X} = \Sigma^{-1/2}(X - \mu) \sim CSN_5^*(0, I_5, \mathbf{S}).$$

## Estimation of the parameters

Estimation is done by weighted moments (Flecher, Allard and Naveau, 2009 Stat. Prob. Letters)

$$E[\Phi_n(Y, 0, I_n)] = 2^n \Phi_{2n} \left( 0; \begin{bmatrix} -m\mu \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma + I_n & \lambda \Sigma^{1/2} \\ \lambda \Sigma^{1/2} & I_n \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

Bivariate example:  $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \sigma_1 = \sigma_2 = 1$ ;  $\lambda = 0.89$  et  $\rho = 0.8$ .

