

# Example application of the Cologne Protocol for the Early Neolithic of Central Europe using QGIS and SAGA

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## Notation conventions:

Name of file, folder or directory

Column- or row heading

/Menu / 1st submenu / 2. submenu / etc.; button

Option, value entries

(*exemplification*)

<default value/>

## Programs / Program Version:

- QGIS 3.10
- SAGA 2.3.1
- (R 3.6.2.)

This manual presents an example application of the **Cologne Protocol** using QGIS and SAGA. You can either execute the task stepwise by hand (chapter A “Manual”) or use the semi-automatic QGIS Python/R scripts (\*.py/\*.rsx) available at the GitHub Repository [<https://github.com/C-C-A-A/CologneProtocol-QGIS>] and described in chapter B (“Scripts”). The scripts are however experimental and manual and scripts come without any kind of guarantee, so please make sure to double-check your results. Regardless of what approach you choose, please read the manual and consult the publication and supplement (*Schmidt et al. 2020*).

The manual describes the first two parts of the Cologne Protocol, which are a GIS-analysis of site distribution and the identifying of so-called Core Areas. The construction of Voronoi diagrams and "Largest Empty Circles" are conducted in QGIS. Kriging and converting the kriging results into isolines is done in SAGA. The step of selecting the Optimally Describing Isoline is not explained in this manual and can be found in the R or the MapInfo manual. The aim of this manual is neither to explain the theoretical background nor the further steps of the Cologne Protocol. For these points please refer to the associated publication including the supplementary information.

Step 1-5 of the Cologne Protocol can be performed in QGIS (Pre-Processing.py), building the semivariogram is either done in SAGA or using an QGIS R-script

(Variogram.rsx). For kriging we use a SAGA function or call this function from QGIS (Kriging.py). Post-processing, e.g. creating contour lines and calculating the area and number of sites per isoline (Step 8-11) should be performed in SAGA as well or by using the Post-Processing.py from within QGIS. In short, the manual approach requires using QGIS and SAGA, is more flexible but can be tiring while the models and scripts can all be run from QGIS, do save time but require R to be installed as well.

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## A) Manual

### 1) Shape-Layer with sites as points

As case study we use part of a distribution map of Early Neolithic sites in Central Europe. The map is based on *Preuss (1998, Karte 1)* and available from the CRC 806 database (<https://crc806db.uni-koeln.de/start/>). Besides point symbols representing single sites the original map also included symbols for an agglomeration of five sites. The digital data set has been processed to resolve this issue.

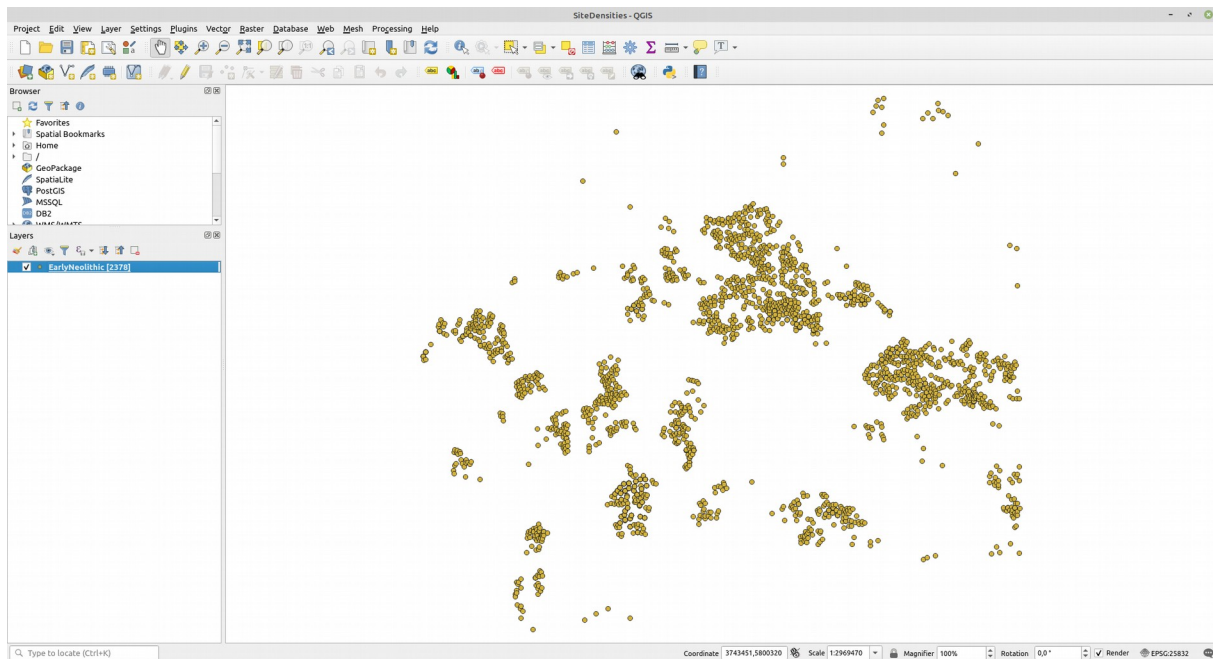
Make sure to download the files in Gauss-Krüger projection not the WGS84 (Latitude/Longitude) files.

Start QGIS and load your or the example data set:

*Layer / Add Layer / Add Vector Layer...*

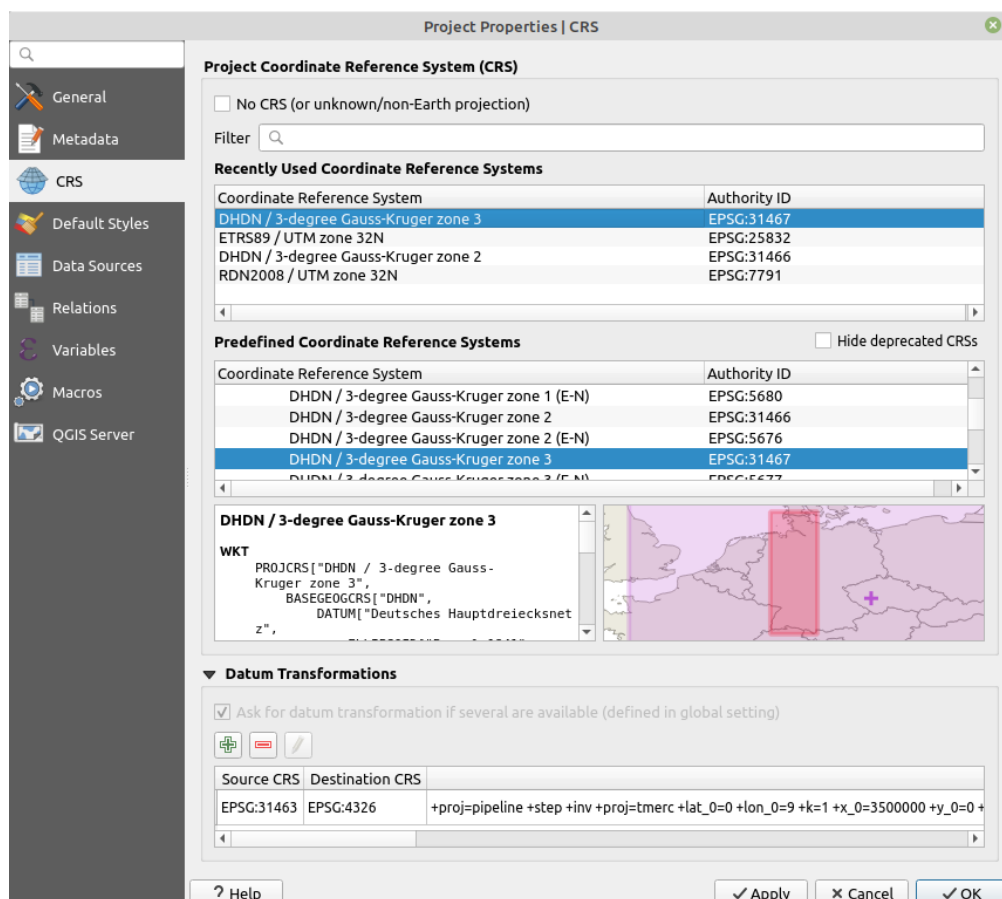
[13\\_earlyNeolithic\\_FRG\\_sites\\_GK3.shp](#)

Our example data set consists of 2378 early Neolithic sites.

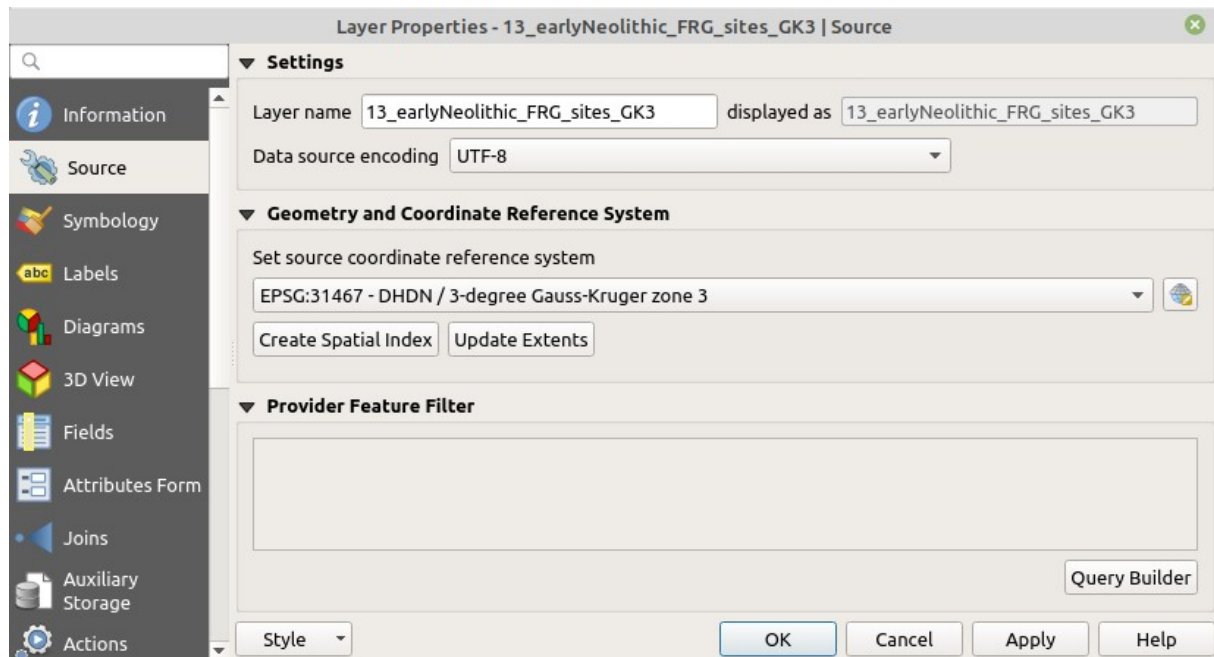


Check the projection system of your QGIS project and of the sites layer. Both should be EPSG 31467 (DHDN / 3-degree Gauss-Krüger zone 3). If they are not, change them accordingly.

*Project / Properties / CRS...*



*Right Click on Layer / Properties / Source...*



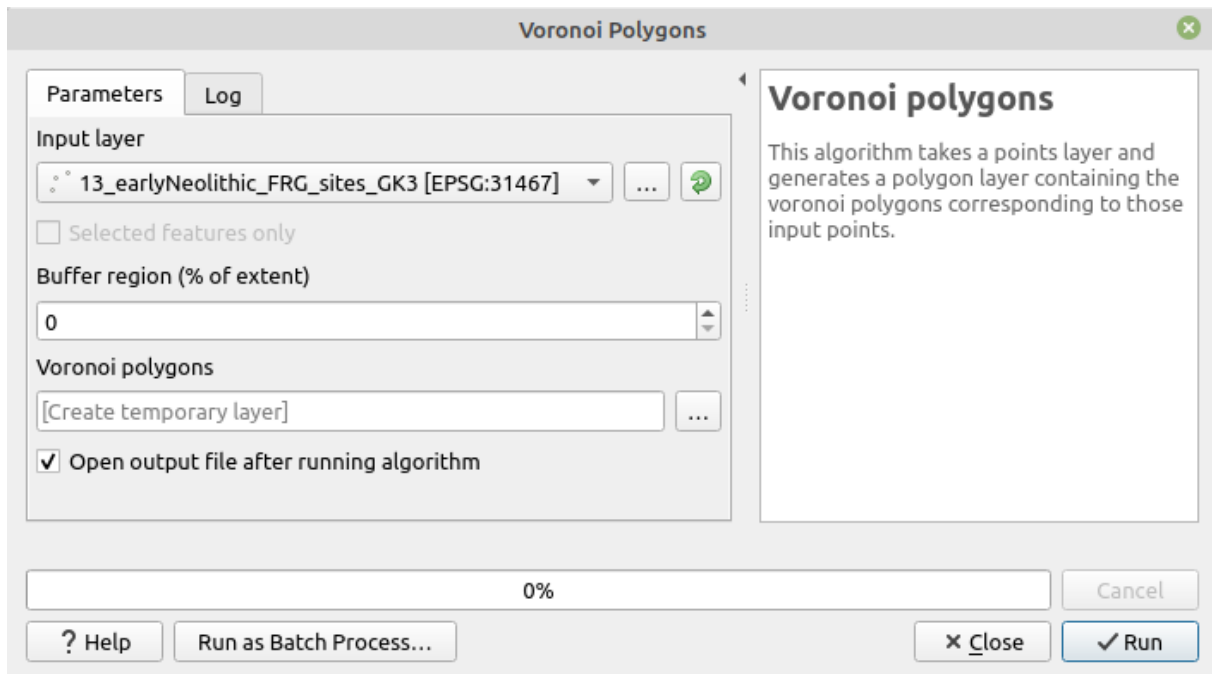
## 2) Creating Voronoi polygons

The Cologne Protocol uses the Largest Empty Circle (LEC) or more precisely the LEC radii to measure site distances. To locate the central points of the largest empty circles, voronoi diagrams are constructed and the voronoi vertices are extracted.

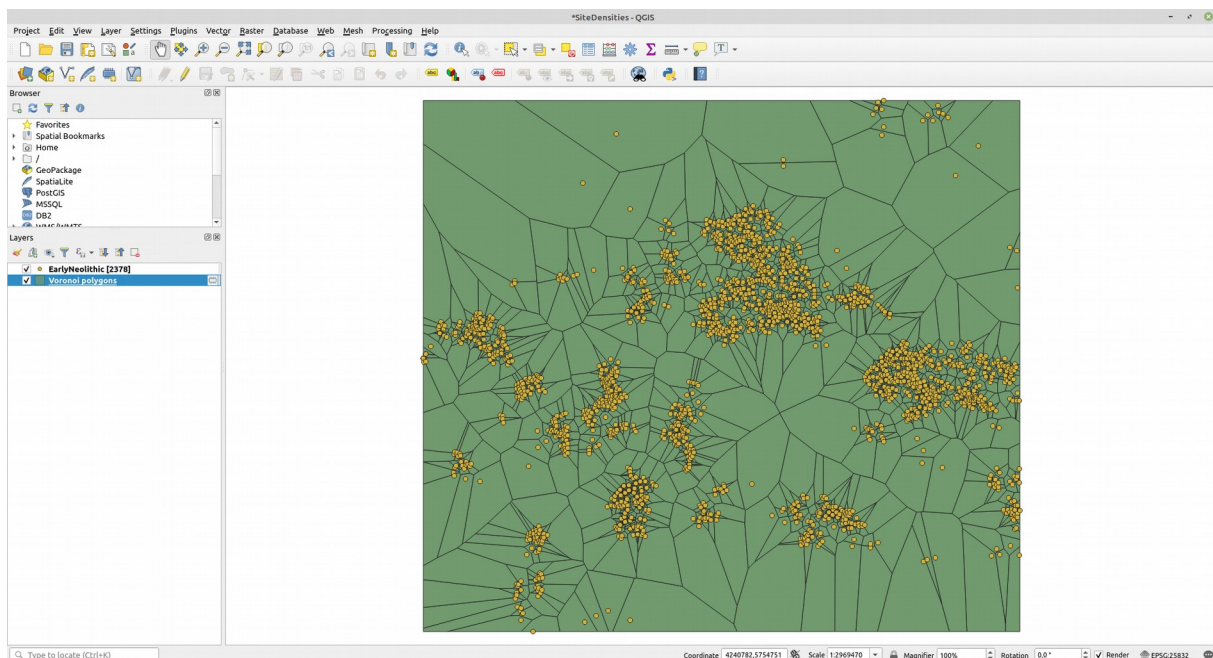
*Vector / Geometry Tools / Voronoi Polygons...*

Input Layer: [13\\_earlyNeolithic\\_FRG\\_sites\\_GK3.shp](#)

Buffer region (% of extent): 0



Result: [Voronoi polygons.shp](#)



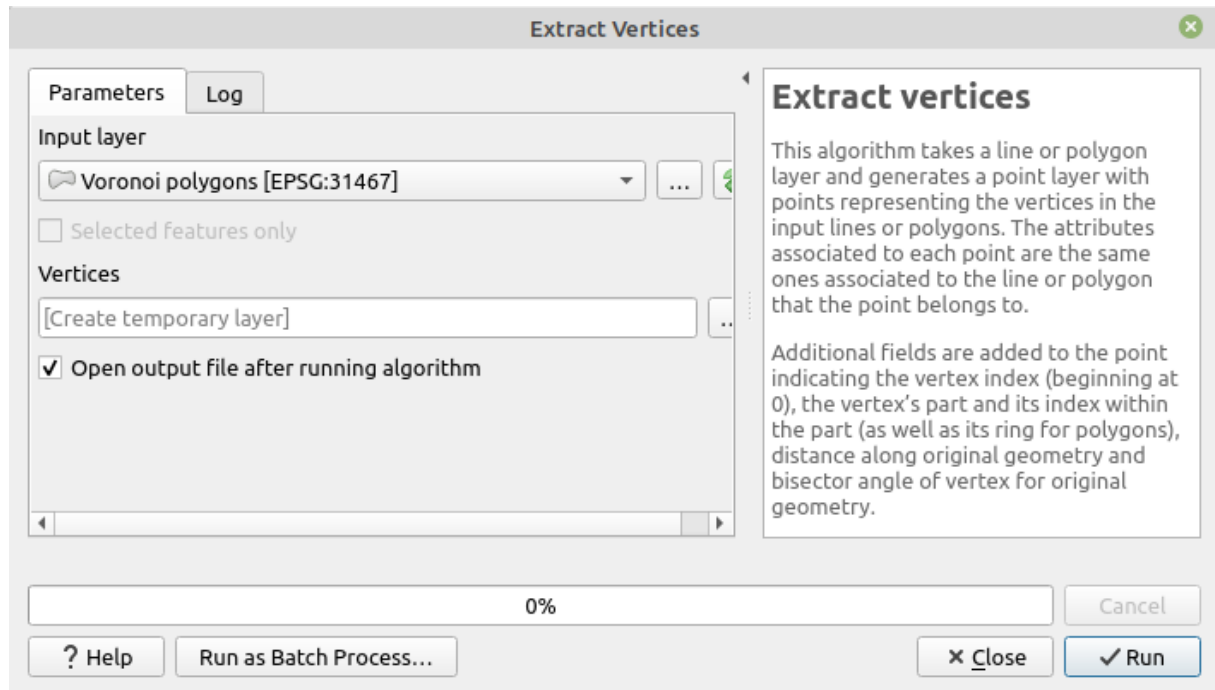


### 3) Extraction of vertices

Extract nodes/vertices of the voronoi diagrams.

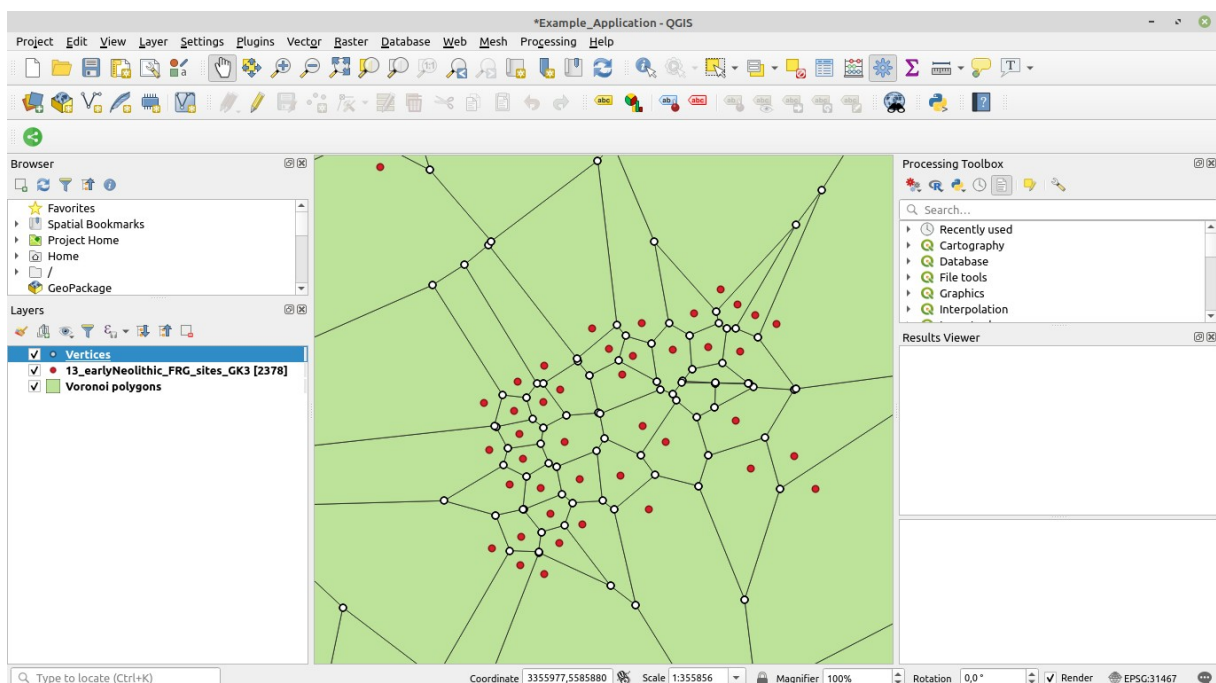
*Vector / Geometry Tools / Extract Vertices*

Input layer:            [Voronoi polygons](#)



Result: [Vertices.shp](#)

Close-up with sites as red dots, voronoi diagrams as black lines and nodes/vertices as white dots. Exactly three sites are located on every circumference of a LEC.



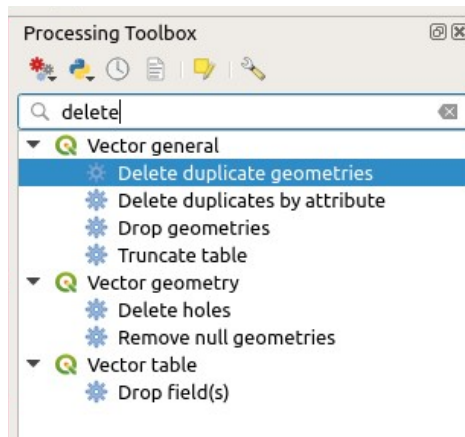
## 4) Aggregation of vertices

At the vertices/nodes several polygons meet, therefore extracting the nodes has led to duplicate vertices. Those have to be deleted. One possibility for deleting duplicates in QGIS is:

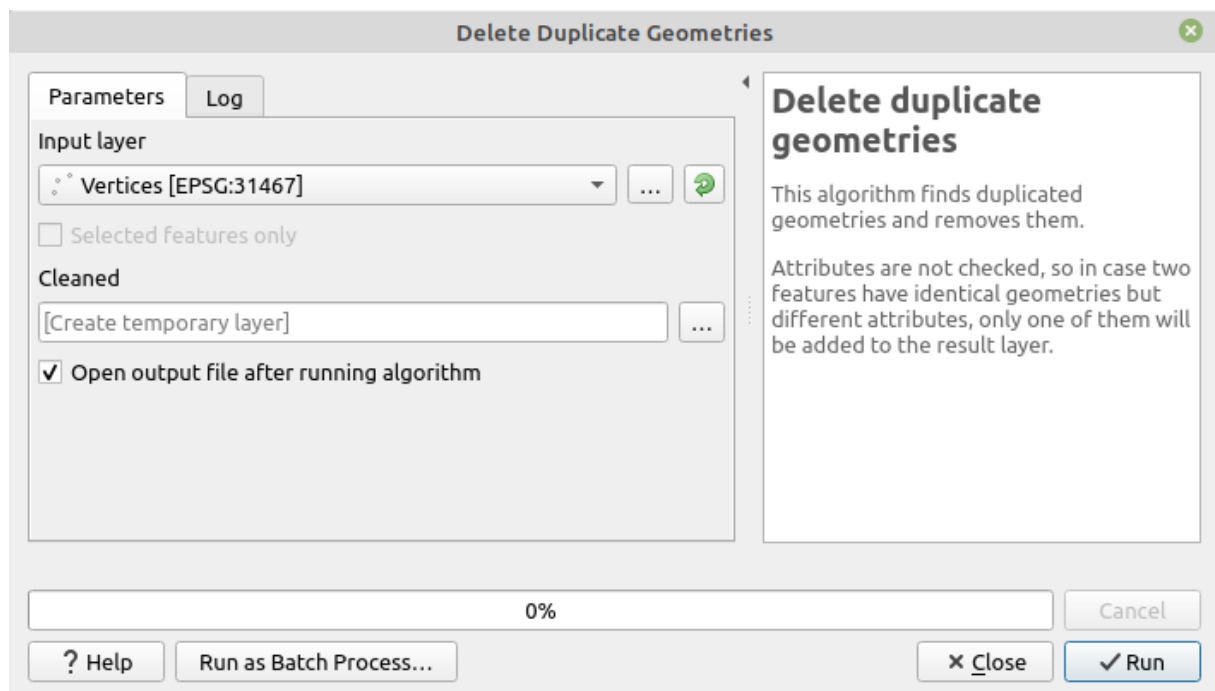
Open Processing Toolbox (Ctrl+Alt+T):

*/Processing Toolbox / Vector general / Delete duplicate geometries...*

Search for: *Delete duplicate geometries*



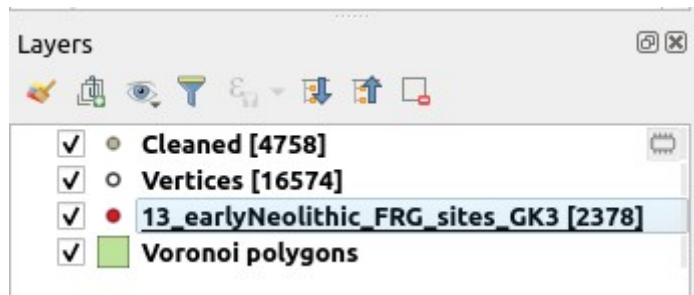
Input layer:      [Vertices](#)



Result: [Cleaned.shp](#)



Using the example data you should end up with about 4758 vertices (duplicates deleted). You can add the number of features to the Layers panel by right clicking on the layer and selecting “Show feature count”.



## 5) Defining the radius of the „Largest Empty Circle“

The distance between vertex/node and the nearest measurement (site) is equal to the radius of the Largest Empty Circle (LEC). We will now measure the distance between vertices and sites (measurements/observations).

*/ Processing Toolbox / Vector analysis / Distance to nearest hub (points)...*

Source points layer: Shape-File with Vertices ([Cleaned](#))

Destination hubs layer: Shape-File with sites ([13\\_earlyNeolithic...](#))

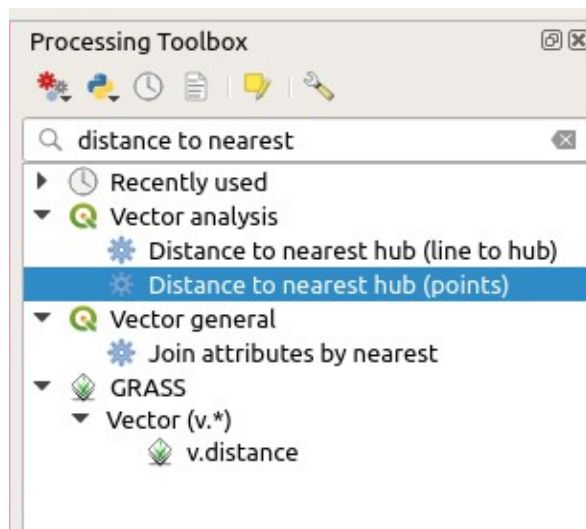
Hub layer name attribute: ID Column ([\\_ID](#))

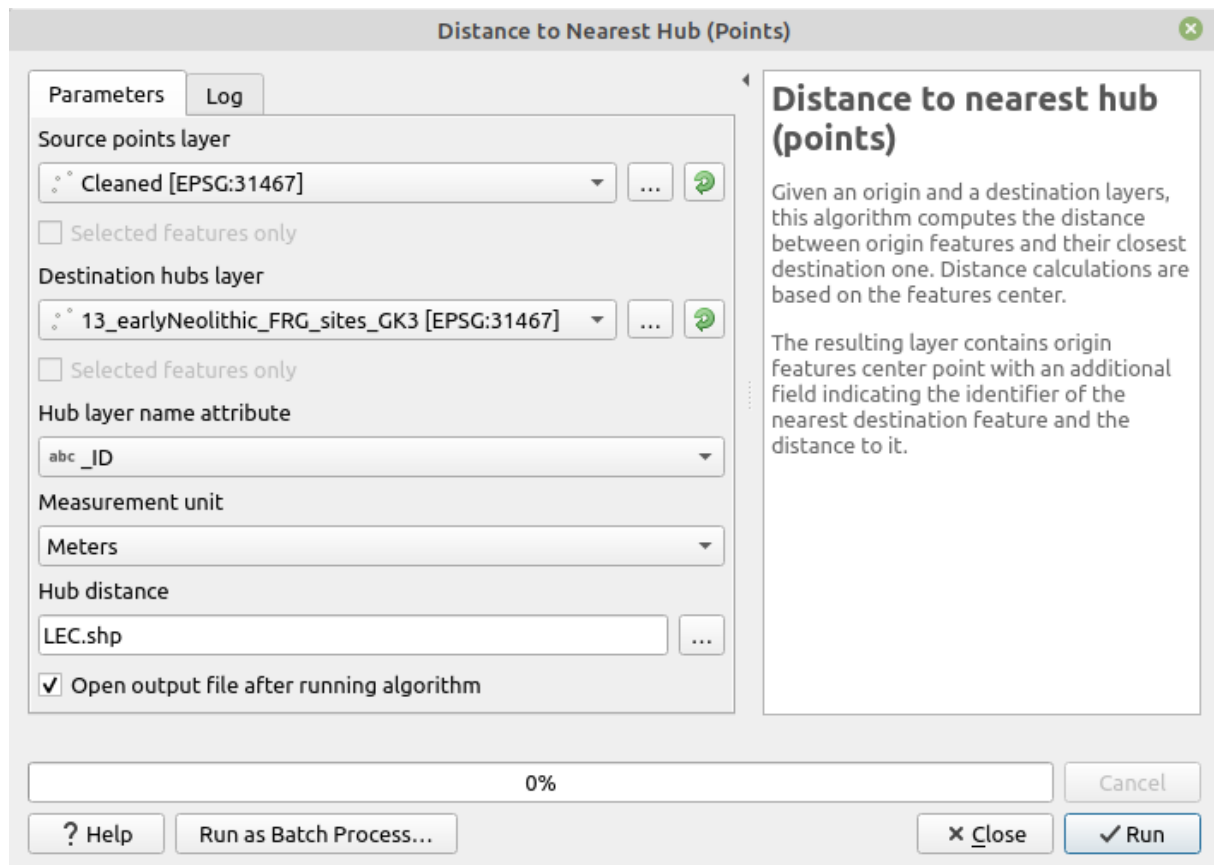
Measurement unit: Meters

Important: the unit of measurement has to be equal to the project unit of measurement (in our case meter).

This time it is vital to export the results, a temporary layer won't do because we will be using the LEC shp-File in SAGA. Save results as:

[LEC.shp](#)





Have a look at the resulting Shape-File:

*Choose Layer / Layer / Open Attribute Table...*

Among others, you should find following columns:

**HubName** ID of the nearest measurement (site)  
**HubDist** distance between node and measurement (LEC radius)

LEC :: Features Total: 4758, Filtered: 4758, Selected: 0

	RECHTS	HOCH	_ID	vertex_ind	vertex_par	vertex_p_1	vertex_p_2	distance	angle	HubName	HubDist
1	3456035,738...	5827111,980...	1.0.h.512	4	0	0	4	272876,8...	45,00...	1.0.h.512	223773,1...
2	3370705,849...	5705431,288...	1.0.h.127	4	0	0	4	226521,4...	62,52...	1.0.h.512	204644,0...
3	3279184,698...	5654403,582...	1.0.h.1	2	0	0	2	164599,2...	75,42...	1.0.h.1	148550,1...
4	3514606,826...	5282950,227...	1.0.h.244	5	0	0	5	222169,0...	213,1...	1.0.h.1010	134134,3...
5	3497844,694...	5887924,534...	1.0.h.2479	1	0	0	1	157761,5...	17,25...	1.0.h.512	133002,8...
6	3514606,826...	5282950,227...	1.0.h.244	4	0	0	4	211950,5...	141,2...	1.0.h.244	129395,1...

Show All Features

The maximum "HubDist" (LEC radius) for our dataset is ca. 223773 m.

To get basic Statistics for LEC-radii:

*Vector / Analysis Tools / Basic Statistics for Fields...*

Basic Statistics for Fields

ParametersLog

Input layer

LEC [EPSG:31467]

☐ Selected features only

Field to calculate statistics on

1.2 HubDist

Statistics

[Save to temporary file]

Basic statistics for fields

This algorithm generates basic statistics from the analysis of a values in a field in the attribute table of a vector layer. Numeric, date, time and string fields are supported.

The statistics returned will depend on the field type.

Statistics are generated as an HTML file.

0%

Cancel

? Help

Run as Batch Process...

Close

Run

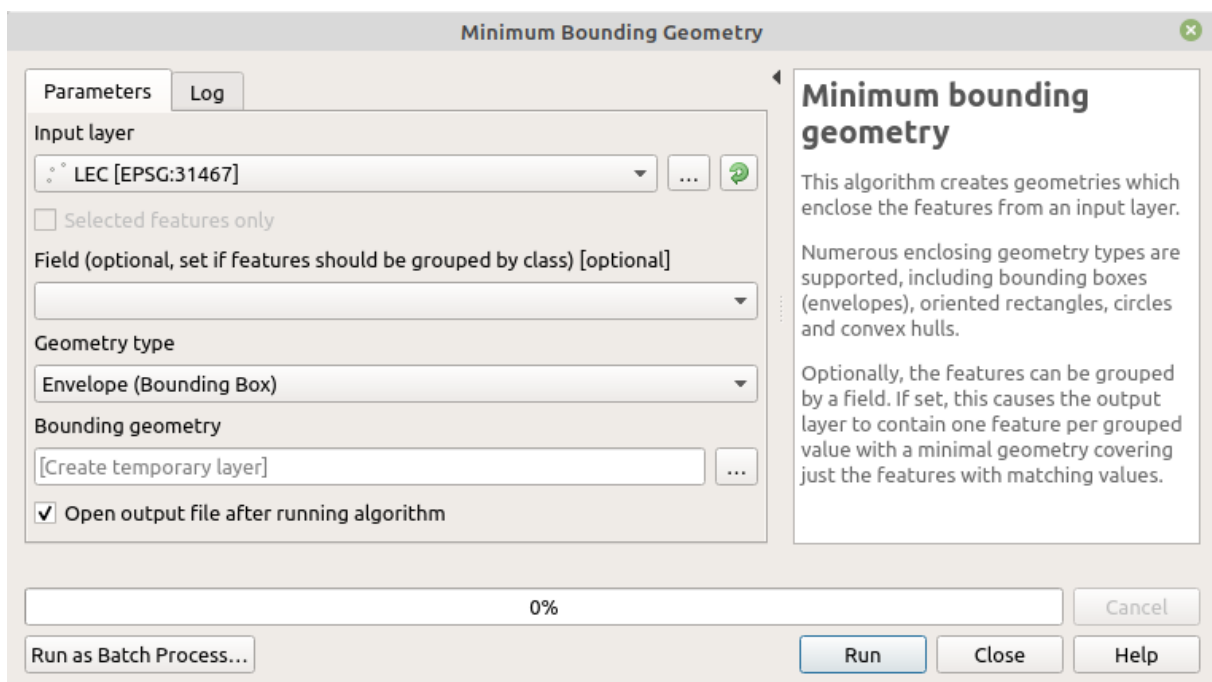
## 5a Calculate Statistics

The Kriging procedure requires the variables lag distance and maximum search distance. We will calculate these parameters in QGIS and then move on to SAGA to build a semivariogram and compute the interpolation. For the maximum search distance (MaxSearchDist) the diagonal of the LEC bounding box is divided by two. To estimate lag distance (LagDist) we divide the bounding box diagonal by 250. Both values will be used later in SAGA.

First, create the bounding box for the LEC/vertices:

*Processing Toolbox / Vector Geometry / Minimum bounding geometry...*

Input Layer:                      [LEC.shp](#)  
Field:                                ""  
Geometry Type:                  Envelope (Bounding Box)



Open Attribute Table of new layer "Bounding geometry" (*Right Click on Layer / Open Attribute Table*) and open Field Calculator (*Ctrl +I*)

Bounding geometry :: Features Total: 1, Filtered: 1, Selected: 0

id	width	height	area	perimeter
1	0	743080,428534	661461,240668	4915189021...

Show All Features

*Check "Create a new field"*

Output field name: [MaxSearchDist](#)

Output field type: Decimal number (real)

Output field length: 10

Precision: 3

Formula:  $\text{sqrt}(\text{"width"}^2 + \text{"height"}^2)/2$

Field Calculator

☐ Only update 0 selected Features

☒ Create a new field

☐ Update existing field

☐ Create virtual field

Output field name: MaxSearchDist

Output field type: Decimal number (real)

Output field length: 10 Precision: 3

Expression: {sqrt( "width" ^ 2+ "height"^2)}/2

Function Editor: row\_number, Aggregates, Arrays, Color, Conditionals, Conversions, Date and Time, Fields and Values, Files and Paths, Fuzzy Matching, General, Geometry, Map Layers

group aggregates: Contains functions which aggregate values over layers and fields.

Output preview: 497418.20839612046

? Help

Cancel OK

And you should also calculate the Lag Distance to be used in the Semivariogram:

*Check "Create a new field"*

Output field name: [LagDist](#)

Output field type: Decimal number (real)

Output field length: 10

Precision: 3

Formula:  $\text{sqrt}(\text{"width"}^2 + \text{"height"}^2)/250$

Field Calculator

☐ Only update 0 selected features

☒ Create a new field

☐ Create virtual field

Output field name

Output field type Decimal number (real)

Output field length  Precision

☐ Update existing field

Expression

Function Editor

= + - / \* ^ || ( ) \n

(sqrt( "width" ^ 2+ "height"^2))/250

Output preview: 3979.3456671689637

Search...

Show Help

group aggregates

Contains functions which aggregate values over layers and fields.

row\_number

Aggregates  
 Arrays  
 Color  
 Conditionals  
 Conversions  
 Date and Time  
 Fields and Values  
 Files and Paths  
 Fuzzy Matching  
 General  
 Geometry  
 Map Layers

? Help

Cancel

OK

Bounding geometry :: Features Total: 1, Filtered: 1, Selected: 0

123 id

=

Σ

Update All

Update Selected

	id	width	height	area	perimeter	MaxSearchDist	LagDist
1	0	743080,428534	661461,240668	4915189021...	2809083,338...	497418,208	3979,346

Show All Features

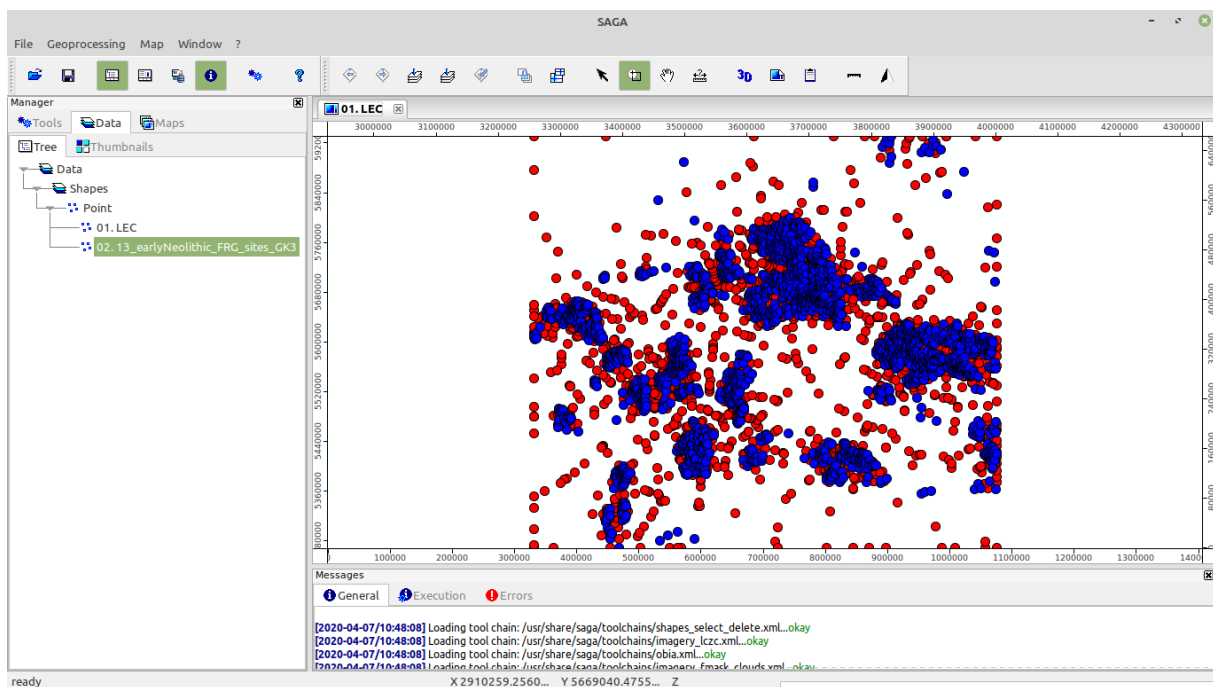
## 6) Kriging - Preparations and Grid

Save your results, close QGIS and start SAGA. Open the layers with the LEC-Radii and layer with initial measurements (sites):

*File / Open...*

*13\_earlyNeolithic\_FRG\_sites\_GK3.shp*  
*LEC.shp*

Double-clicking on the layer will add the points to a map.



For interpolation, we will be using the Ordinary Kriging Module from SAGA. The parameters for building the semivariogram and for Kriging have to be entered first. For kriging we need a grid of evenly distributed points. The interpolation algorithm will estimate the site distance (radius of LEC) at every point of the grid, based upon the available vertices and their values for the radius of the LEC. For the current example we will create a grid with a spacing of 1000 m between each point. That means a raster file with  $1 \times 1$  km pixels is created.

*Geoprocessing / Spatial and Geostatistics / Kriging / Ordinary Kriging...*





<u>Points:</u>	Layer we want to krig (LEC.shp)
<u>Attribute:</u>	HubDist
<u>Target Grid system:</u>	user defined
<u>Cellsize:</u>	1000
<u>Search Range:</u>	local
<u>Maximum Search Distance:</u>	497418
<u>Number of Points Minimum:</u>	3
<u>Maximum:</u>	10
<u>Direction:</u>	all directions

Check “Quality Measure” to get plot of the variance for checking the quality of the interpolation. You can also activate “Block Kriging” (Block Size: 100) for smoothing. Changing blocksize or not using block kriging won’t alter the results dramatically.

Press Okay to compute the sample semivariogram.

## 7) Kriging - Semivariogram

The kriging procedure requires a theoretical semivariogram, which is used to estimate the radii of the LEC at every point of the grid. To compute this theoretical semivariogram, we need to explore the experimental semivariogram first. The Semivariogram displays the ratio of distance between pairs of points to the similarity (difference) of points in distance classes (lags).

To adjust lag distance and enter a theoretical model (formula) click:

*Settings / Variogram Settings...*

Choose one of the following functions, either a linear regression/exponential model:

$$a + b * x + c * x ^2$$

or as an alternative, the power model:

$$a + b * x ^c$$

Variables explained:

a= nugget

b = sill

c = range

The spherical model doesn't seem to work, at least using our data set. Make sure to set nugget to zero ( $a = 0$ ). For example in the exponential model:

" $0 + b * x + c * x^2$ " or using the power model " $0 + b * x ^c$ ". Or simply:

Linear regression/exponential model:

$$b * x + c * x ^2$$

or as an alternative, the power model:

$$b * x ^c$$

Skip:

1

Lag Distance:

3979 (calculated in QGIS)

Maximum Distance:

497418 (= MaxSearchDist, calculated in QGIS)

Model:

$b * x ^c$

or

$b * x + c * x ^2$

Enter the model of your choice in "Model" and click "Okay" to return to the semivariogram.

✕

**Options**

Skip	1
<b>Lag Distance</b>	<b>3979</b>
Maximum Distance	497418
<b>Model</b>	<b><math>0 + b * x + c * x^2</math></b>

Okay

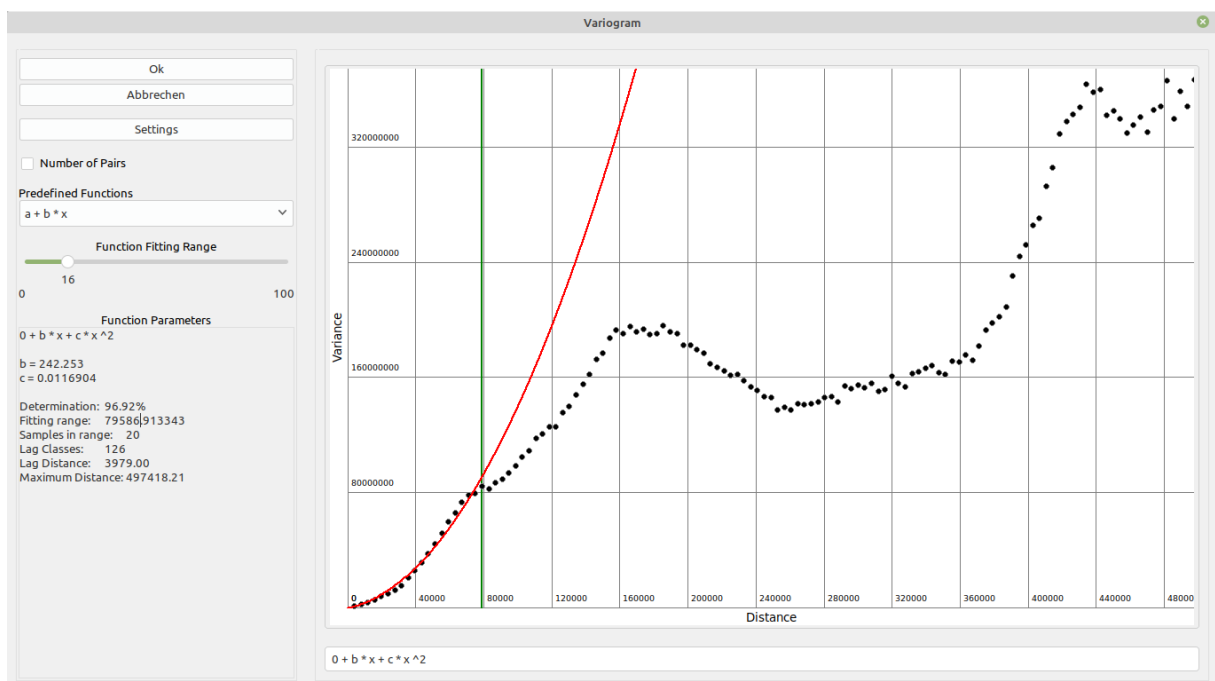
Abbrechen

Load

Save

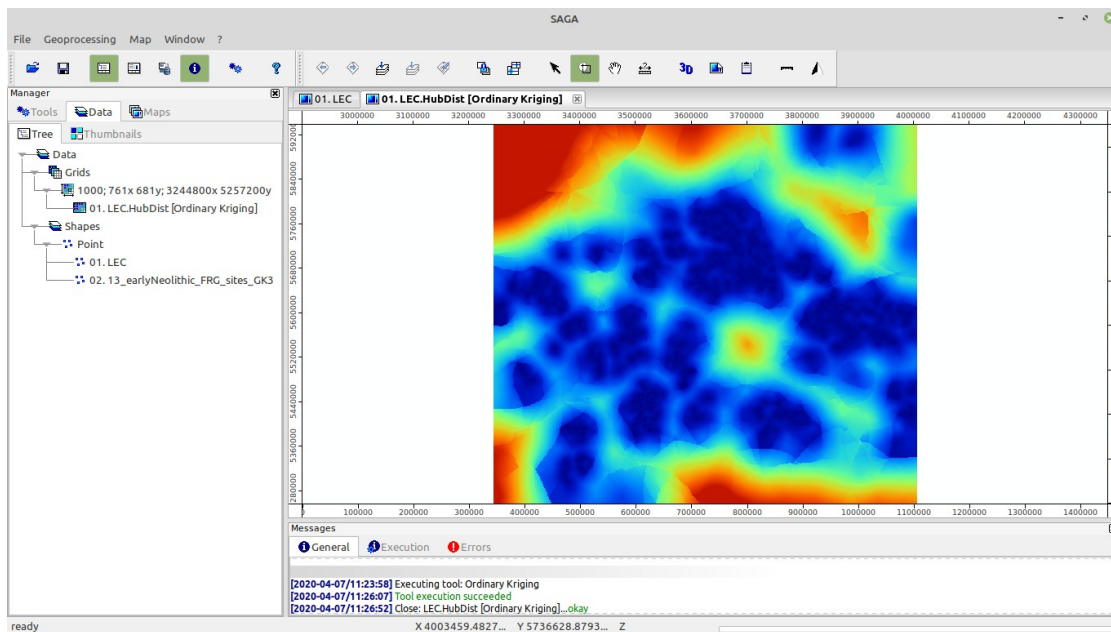
Defaults

Adjust the fitting range to the first peak or plateau of the distribution by using the slider “Function Fitting Range” on the left side of the panel. In our case study it is at ca. 79586 on the x-axis (Fitting range = 79586.9). Of course, a decision has to be made on a case-by-case basis.



## 8) Kriging - inspect and export raster output

The result of the kriging interpolation is a raster map of the prediction and, if you checked “Quality Measure”, the variance or standard deviation of the results. Double-click on the new grid to add it to a map.



You can export the raster as Surfer Grid so you can import it in QGIS later.

*Geoprocessing / File / Grid / Export / Export Surfer Grid...*

## 9) Creating contour lines (isolines)

Using the kriging raster we will create isolines, convert them to polygons and compute the area and number of sites per isoline. Number of sites and isoline area are important for selecting the “Optimally Describing Isoline” (Zimmermann *et al.* (2004, 53-55)).

First we will extract the isolines or contour lines from the raster. The easiest way to find functions in SAGA is to search for them:

*Geoprocessing / Find and run tool / Contour Lines from Grid...*

or

*Geoprocessing / Shapes / Grid / Vectorization / Contour Lines from Grid...*

Contour Lines from Grid	
<b>Data Objects</b>	
<b>Grids</b>	
<b>Grid system</b>	1000; 761x 681y; 3244800x 5257200y
<b>&gt;&gt; Grid</b>	01. LEC.HubDist [Ordinary Kriging]
<b>Shapes</b>	
<b>&lt;&lt; Contour</b>	<create>
<b>&lt; Polygons</b>	<not set>
<b>Options</b>	
<b>Vertex Type</b>	x, y
<b>Interpolation Scale</b>	1
<b>Split Parts</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Minimum Contour Value</b>	0
<b>Maximum Contour Value</b>	25000
<b>Equidistance</b>	500

**Vertex Type**  
Choice  
choose vertex type for resulting contours

In our case study we need contour lines starting at 0 and ending at 25000 m with an equidistance of 500 m. It is advised to calculate as few isolines as possible.

<u>Grid:</u>	our new Kriging grid (the original not the export)
<u>Contour:</u>	<create>
<u>Polygons:</u>	<not set> (we want lines not polygons yet)
<u>Vertex Type:</u>	x, y
<u>Interpolation Scale:</u>	1
<u>Split Parts:</u>	checked
<u>Minimum Contour Value:</u>	0

Maximum Contour Value: 25000  
Equidistance: 500

*Geoprocessing / Shapes / Conversion / Convert Lines to Polygons...*

Convert Lines to Polygons

Data Objects

- Shapes
  - << Polygons <create>
  - >> Lines 01. LEC\_neu [Interval 500.00]

Options

- Create Single Multipart Polygon ☐
- Merge Line Parts to One Polygon ☐

Buttons: Okay, Abbrechen, Load, Save, Defaults

Polygons: <create>  
Lines: the contour line layer created above  
Create Single Multipart Polygon: unchecked  
Merge Line Parts to One Polygon: unchecked

Dissolve Polygons using the iso-value (Z):

*Geoprocessing / Shapes / Polygons / Polygon Dissolve...*

**Polygon Dissolve**

**Data Objects**

- Shapes**
  - >> Polygons** 01. LEC [Interval 500.00]
    - 1. Attribute** Z
    - 2. Attribute** <not set>
    - Statistics** <no attributes>
    - << Dissolved Polygons** <create>
- Options**
  - Keep Boundaries** ☐

**1. Attribute**  
Table field

Buttons: Okay, Abbrechen, Load, Save, Defaults

Polygons:

1. Attribute:

2. Attribute:

Statistics:

<<Dissolved Polygons:

Keep Boundaries:

Polygon layer created above

[Z](#)

<not set>

<no attributes>

<create>

unchecked



## 10) Calculating the area and the number of sites per isoline

Use the newly created dissolved isoline polygon layer and check the box “Area” and “Number of Parts”

*Geoprocessing / Shapes / Polygons / Polygon Properties...*

Polygon Properties

**Data Objects**

- Shapes**
  - >> Polygons: 02. LEC [Interval 500.00] [Dissolved: Z]
  - < Polygons with Property Attributes: 02. LEC [Interval 500.00] [Dissolved: Z]
- Options**
  - Number of Parts: ☒
  - Number of Vertices: ☐
  - Perimeter: ☐
  - Area: ☒

Buttons: Okay, Abbrechen, Load, Save, Defaults

<u>Polygons:</u>	Dissolved polygon layer created above
<u>Polygons with Property Attributes:</u>	Dissolved polygon layer created above
<u>Number of Parts:</u>	checked
<u>Number of Vertices:</u>	unchecked
<u>Perimeter:</u>	unchecked
<u>Area:</u>	checked

The calculated areas will be in your map unit (in our case study: m<sup>2</sup>). If we want km<sup>2</sup> we have to:

*Processing / Table / Calculus / Table Calculator...*

Table Calculator		×
Options		Okay Abbrechen Load Save Defaults
Formula	f3 / 1000000	
Field Name	Area_km2	
Data Objects		
Tables		
>> Table		02. Polygons with Property Attributes
Field	AREA	
< Result	02. Polygons with Property Attributes	▼

<u>Formula:</u>	f3 / 1000000 (third field of the table)
<u>Field Name:</u>	Area_km2 (name of field to be created)
<u>&gt;&gt;Table:</u>	Polygon layer with attributes
<u>Field:</u>	AREA (field to be divided)
<u>&lt;Result:</u>	Polygon layer with attributes (update layer)

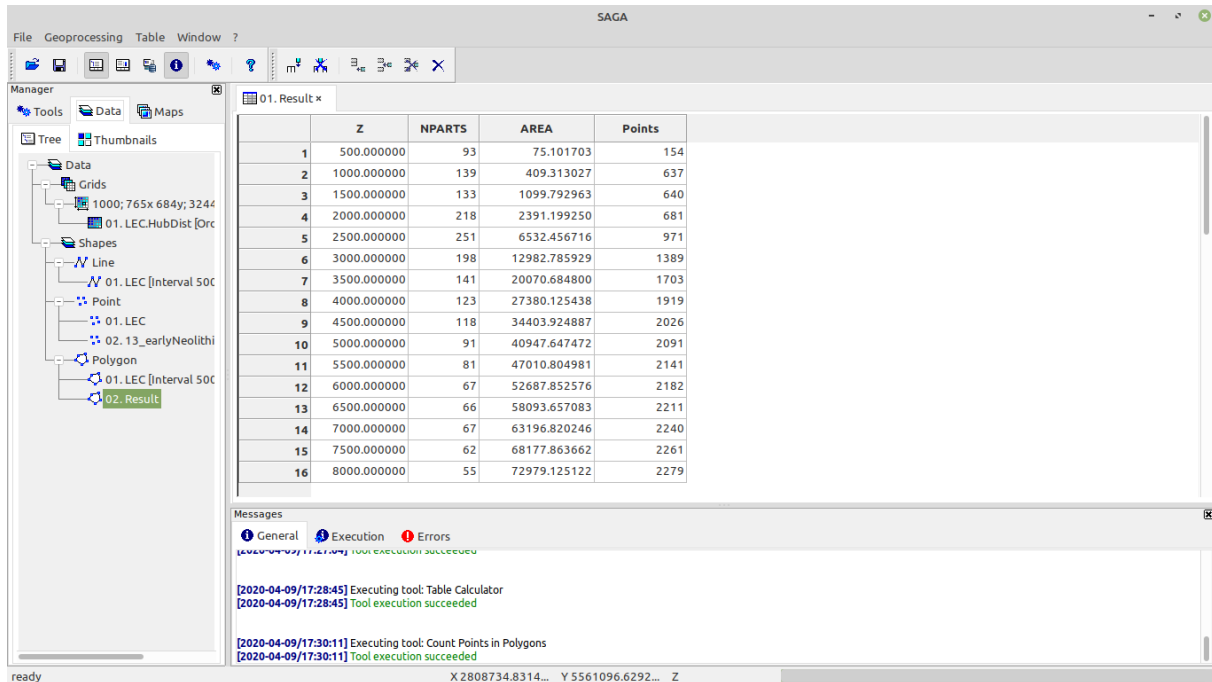
### *Geoprocessing / Shapes / Points / Points Count Points in Polygons*

Now we count the number of sites within each isoline. "Points" is the original layer with measurements (sites) and "Polygons" is the dissolved Isoline polygon layer (might be called "Polygons with Property Attributes" or "Result").

Count Points in Polygons		×
Data Objects		Okay Abbrechen Load Save Defaults Info >>
Shapes		
>> Points	02. 13_earlyNeolithic_FRG_sites_GK3	
>> Polygons	04. Polygons with Property Attributes	

Have a look at the attributes

*Right Click on Layer > Attributes > Show*



You should end up with a shp-file of polygons and columns for each isoline value (Z), the number of part the isolines consist of (NPARTS), the area per isoline and the number of sites (Points) within each isoline. The figure above shows the results using the first formula (linear regression/exponential model).

## 11) Data export

Export the results (might be called “Polygons with Property Attributes” or “Result”) as comma-separated values (\*.csv):

*Geoprocessing / File / Tables / Export / Export Text Table...*

The 'Export Text Table' dialog box is shown. It has a title bar with a close button. The main area is divided into two panes. The left pane contains a tree view with 'Data Objects' expanded, showing 'Tables' and 'Options'. Under 'Tables', '04. Polygons with Property Attributes' is selected. Under 'Options', 'Headline' and 'Strings in Quota' are checked, 'Separator' is set to ';', and 'File' is highlighted. The right pane contains buttons: 'Okay', 'Abbrechen', 'Load', 'Save', 'Defaults', and 'Info >>'. Below the panes is a text area labeled 'File' with the text 'File path'.

and as shape-File:

*Geoprocessing / File / Shapes / Export / Export Shapes*

The 'Export Shapes' dialog box is shown. It has a title bar with a close button. The main area is divided into two panes. The left pane contains a tree view with 'Data Objects' expanded, showing 'Shapes' and 'Options'. Under 'Shapes', '04. Polygons with Property Attributes' is selected. Under 'Options', 'File' is highlighted and 'Format' is set to 'ESRI Shapefile'. The right pane contains buttons: 'Okay', 'Abbrechen', 'Load', 'Save', 'Defaults', and 'Info >>'. Below the panes is a text area labeled 'File' with the text 'File path'.

## **12) Selecting the "Optimally Describing Isoline"**

The step of selecting the Optimally Describing Isoline is not described in this manual. You can do this in a spreadsheet program (e.g. excel). Please refer to the R or the MapInfo manual.

## B) Scripts

### 0. Preconditions

Precondition for using the Python and R scripts is having QGIS 3.10, SAGA 2.3.1 and R 3.6.2 installed. SAGA is usually installed as default during the QGIS setup, if you are working with Linux you might have to download and install SAGA on your own.

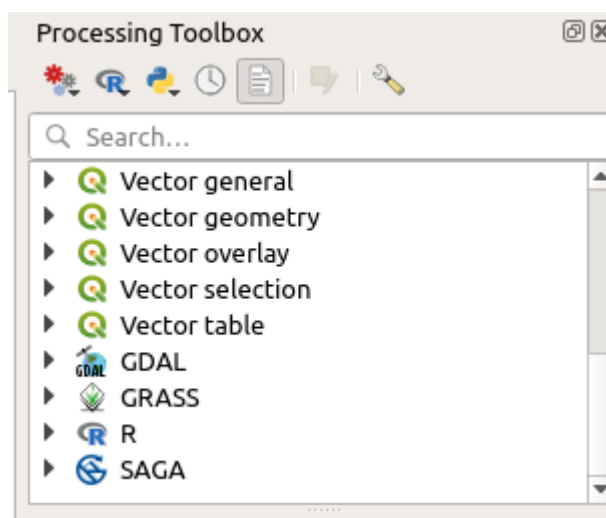
Download the four scripts from the GitHub Repository and unzip in a directory of your choice:

<https://github.com/C-C-A-A/CologneProtocol-QGIS>

Start QGIS and have a look at the Processing Toolbox:

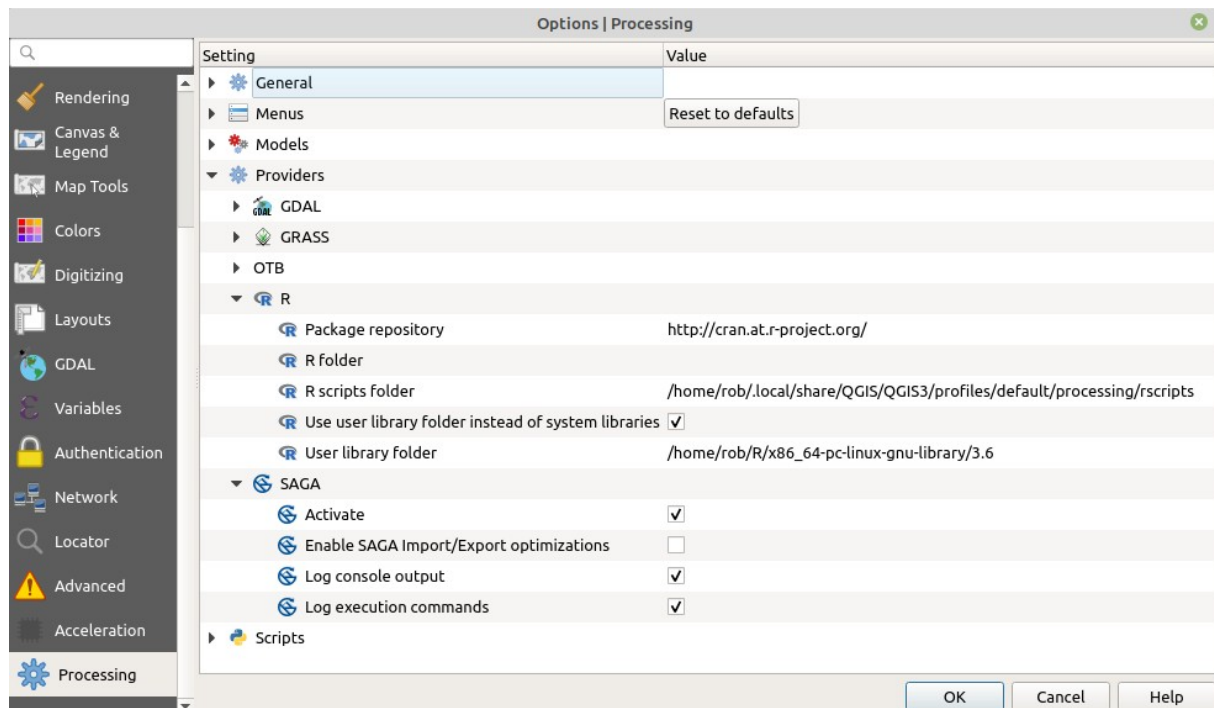
*Processing / Toolbox...*

There should be a R and SAGA icon in the box as well as a R and Python icon at the top of the panel:



If one of the icons is missing or a R or SAGA script or function cannot be run, check if R and SAGA is activated and if the program paths are right in :

*Settings / Options / Processing / Providers....*

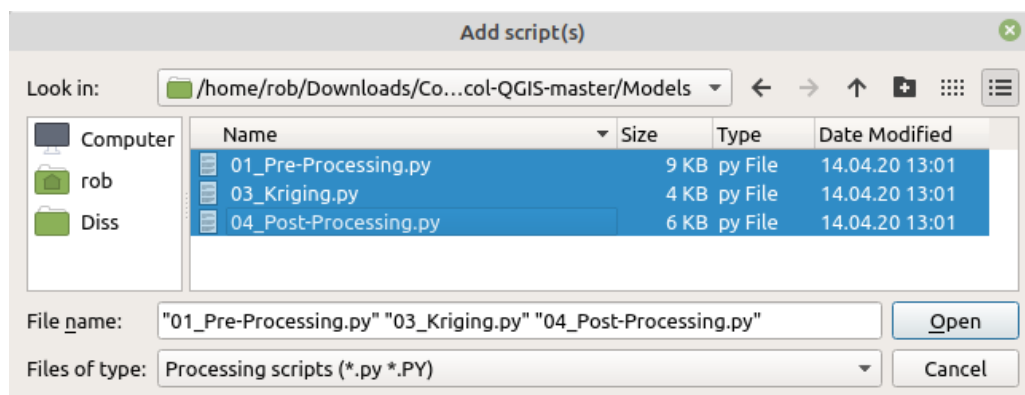


If it is still not working consult the QGIS User Guide:

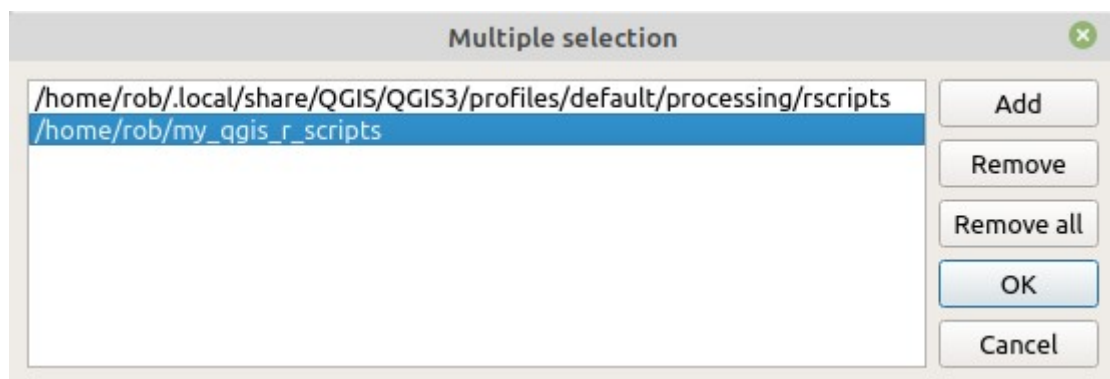
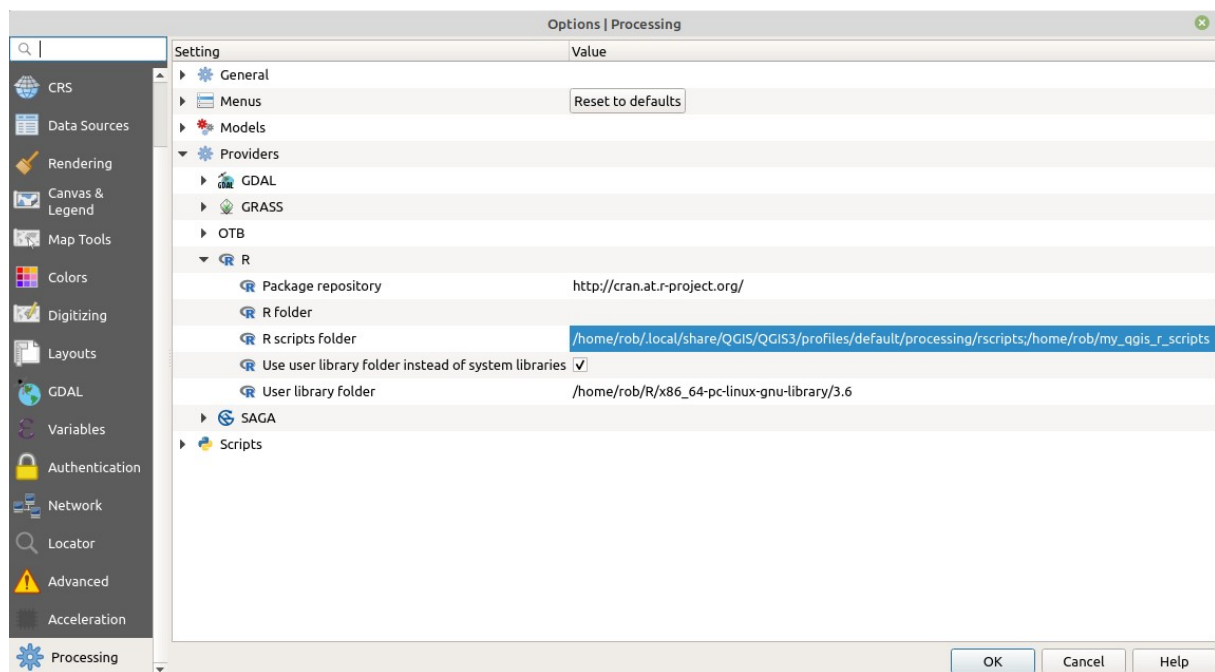
[https://docs.qgis.org/3.10/en/docs/user\\_manual/processing/3rdParty.html](https://docs.qgis.org/3.10/en/docs/user_manual/processing/3rdParty.html)

After configuring the external applications you can open the scripts. Click the Python icon at the head of the Processing Toolbox and choose “Add Script to Toolbox”. Add the three Python scripts (“01\_Pre-Processing.py”; “03\_Kriging.py”; “04\_Post-Processing.py”)

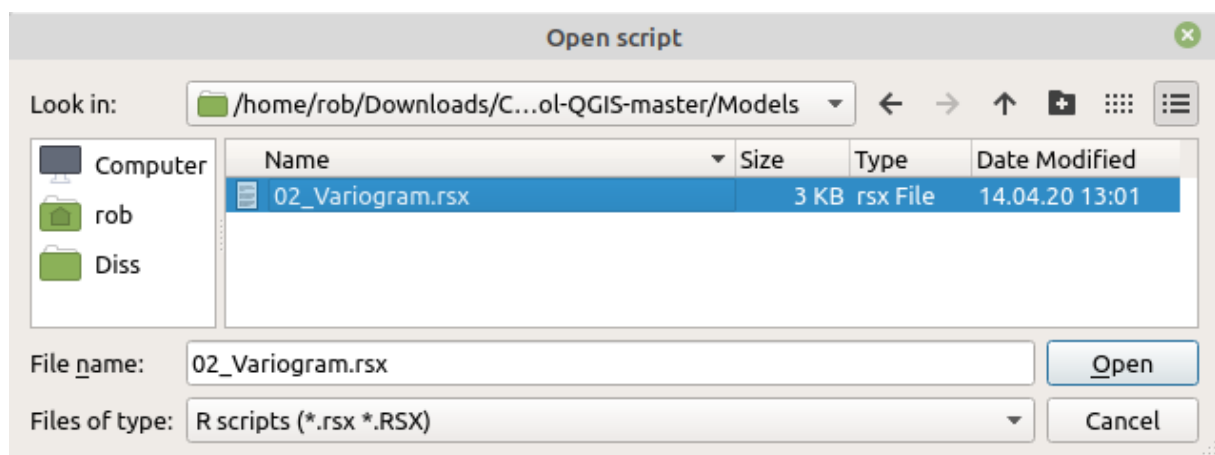
*Processing Toolbox / Python Icon / Add Script to Toolbox...*



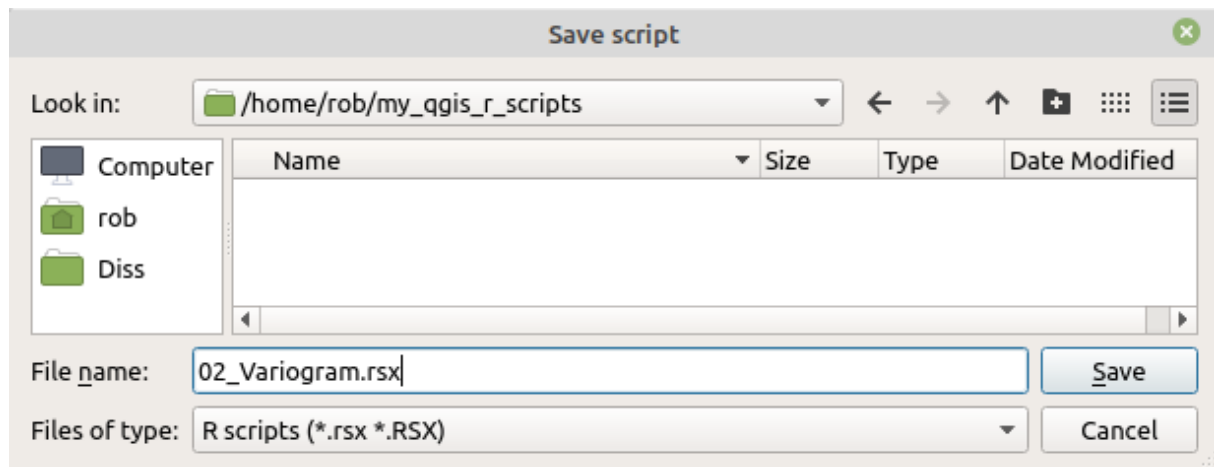
To open the R-script add your own or a new R scripts folder path to the processing options:



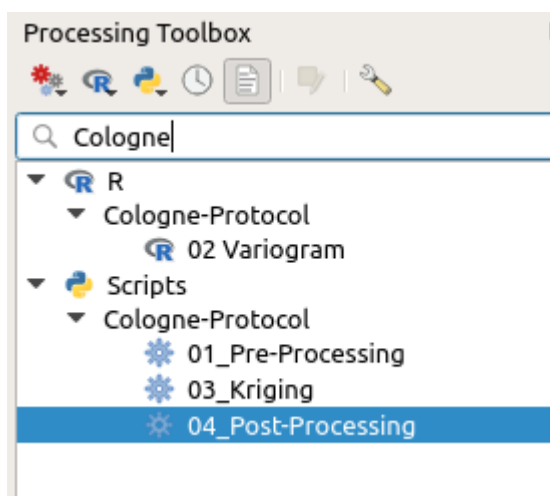
Then click the R icon in the Processing Toolbox header and choose “Create new R scrip” to add the\*.rsx file. Open “02\_Variogram.rsx” and save to the R scripts folder you just specified.







If you type "Cologne-Protocol" in the Processing Toolbox Search box you should be able to find all four scripts:



## 1. Pre-Processing

Double Click the “01\_Pre-Processing”-Script and enter the sites layer you want to use.

The screenshot shows the '01\_Pre-Processing' dialog box. It has two tabs: 'Parameters' and 'Log'. The 'Parameters' tab is active. It contains several sections, each with a text input field and a browse button ('...'). The sections are: 'Sites' (with a dropdown menu showing '13\_earlyNeolithic\_FRG\_sites\_GK3 [EPSG:31467]'), 'LEC\_Statistics' (with a text input field '[Save to temporary file]'), 'Bounding Geometry' (with a text input field '[Create temporary layer]'), 'LEC' (with a text input field '[Create temporary layer]'), 'Vertices\_cleaned' (with a text input field '[Create temporary layer]'), 'Sites\_cleaned' (with a text input field '[Create temporary layer]'), and 'Voronoi' (with a text input field '[Create temporary layer]'). Each section also has a checkbox 'Open output file after running algorithm' which is checked. At the bottom, there is a progress bar showing '0%', a 'Run as Batch Process...' button, and 'Run' and 'Close' buttons.

Running the script will create the following layers:

<a href="#">Sites_clean</a>	Input sites without duplicates
<a href="#">Voronoi</a>	Voronoi diagrams
<a href="#">Vertices_cleaned</a>	Vertices of the voronoi diagrams without duplicates
<a href="#">Bounding Geometry</a>	Minimum Bounding Geometry of the vertices/LECs with

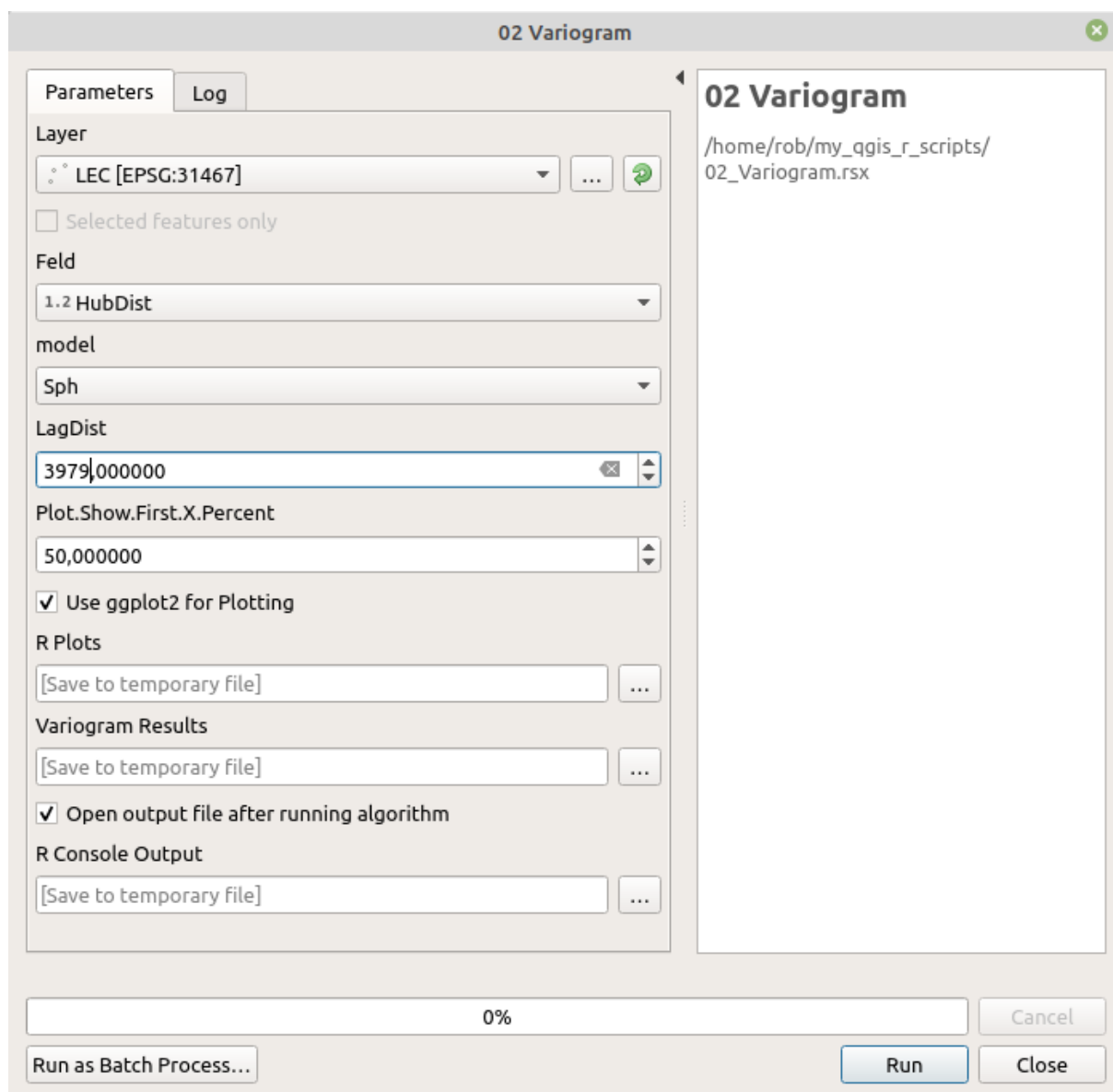
	Fields “ <a href="#">Diagonal</a> ” (Bounding Box Diagonal), “ <a href="#">MaxSearchDist</a> ” (Half of the Bounding Box Diagonal), “ <a href="#">LagDist</a> ” (Lag Distance = Bounding Box Diagonal / 250)
<a href="#">LEC</a>	Largest Empty Circles Centroids with Radius in the Field “ <a href="#">HubDist</a> ”

Bounding Geometry :: Features Total: 1, Filtered: 1, Selected: 0					
	HEIGHT	WIDTH	Diagonal	MaxSearchDist	LagDist
1	661461,2406677194	743080,4285340495	994836,417	497418,208	3979,346

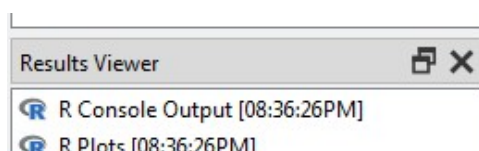
Show All Features

## 2. Variogram

The R (\*.rsx) Variogram script requires an input layer, the layer containing the LEC-Radii (LEC.shp) and the field with the LEC-Radii to be specified. You should also choose the theoretical model (spherical, exponential, Gaussian or Mat). Independent from your choice of model the script will compute a spherical, exponential and power model for your data. In the field LagDist you should enter the value calculated above (Layer „[Bounding Geometry](#)“, Field „[LagDist](#)“). The last two options specify if the frame of the plot should be zoomed to a certain percentage and whether the R base plot or ggplot2 is used for plotting.



The Variogram-Script will produce two html results in the “Results Viewer”. The “R Console Output” which is a text based log and “R plots” with the semi-variogram.



In the „R Console Output“ you can look up the the nugget, psill and range of the computed variogram as well as the formulas of the different models you can use later on.

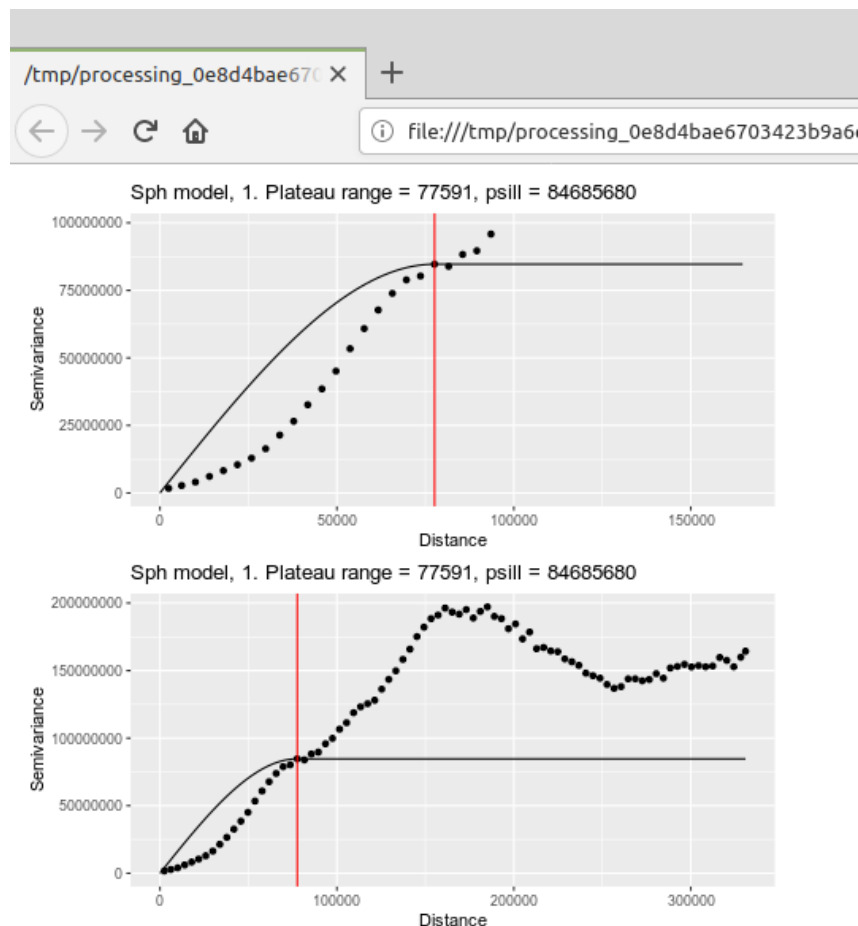
```

R Output

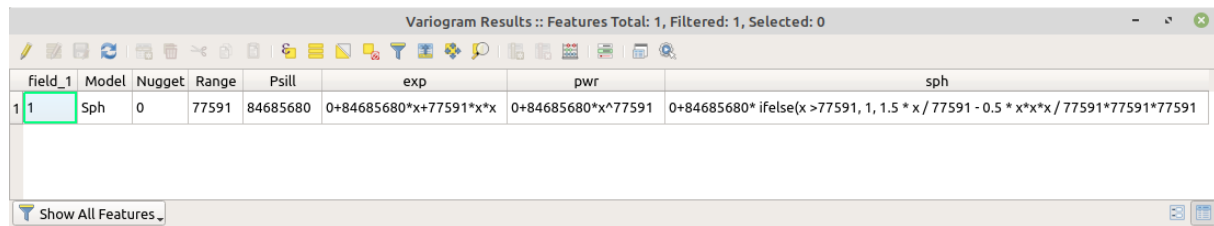
[1] "/home/rob/R/x86_64-pc-linux-gnu-library/3.6/gstat"
Registered S3 method overwritten by 'xts':
method from
as.zoo.xts zoo
[1] "/home/rob/R/x86_64-pc-linux-gnu-library/3.6/ggplot2"
[1] "/home/rob/R/x86_64-pc-linux-gnu-library/3.6/gridExtra"
[1] "/home/rob/R/x86_64-pc-linux-gnu-library/3.6/sf"
Linking to GEOS 3.8.0, GDAL 2.2.3, PROJ 4.9.3
WARNING: different compile-time and runtime versions for GEOS found:
Linked against: 3.8.0-CAPI-1.13.1 compiled against: 3.6.2-CAPI-1.10.2
It is probably a good idea to reinstall sf, and maybe rgeos and rgdal too
[1] "/home/rob/R/x86_64-pc-linux-gnu-library/3.6/raster"
Lade nötiges Paket: sp
[1] 20
Warnmeldungen:
1: Removed 100 rows containing missing values (geom_path).
2: Removed 60 rows containing missing values (geom_point).
[1] ""
[1] ""
[1] "*****"
[1] ""
[1] "RESULTS:"
[1] ""
[1] "model psill range"
1 Nug 0 0.00
2 Sph 84685680 77590.52
[1] ""
[1] "model = Sph"
[1] "nugget = 0"
[1] "psill = 84685680"
[1] "range = 77591"
[1] ""
[1] "Exponential Model:"
[1] "0+84685680*(1-exp(-x/77591))"
[1] "Power Model:"
[1] "0+84685680*x^77591"
[1] "Spherical Model:"
[1] "0+84685680* ifelse(x > 77591, 1, 1.5 * x / 77591 - 0.5 * x*x / 77591*77591)"
[1] ""
[1] ""
[1] "*****"
[1] ""
[1] ""

```

„R Plots“ consist of a overall plot (bottom) and the zoomed in version (top). The sample variogram is plotted as black points, the theoretical model as black line and the range at the 1st plateau signified as vertical red line.



All variogram results can be found in newly created „Variogram Results“ table:



field_1	Model	Nugget	Range	Psill	exp	pwr	sph
1	Sph	0	77591	84685680	$0+84685680*x+77591*x*x$	$0+84685680*x^{77591}$	$0+84685680* \text{ifelse}(x > 77591, 1, 1.5 * x / 77591 - 0.5 * x*x*x / 77591*77591)$

Show All Features

### 3. Kriging

The Kriging script requires again the layer and field with the LEC-radii (Layer: [LEC.shp](#); Field: „[HubDist](#)“). You should also enter the cell size of the raster layer to be created, the formula of the theoretical variogram model you want to choose (look up in „[Variogram Results](#)“ table), the Lag Distance and Maximum Search Distance (look up in „[Bounding Geometry](#)“ layer). For testing try to use a coarse grid.

03\_Kriging

Parameters

Log

LEC

° LEC [EPSG:31467]

...

HubDist\_LEC\_Radii

1.2 HubDist

Grid\_Cellsize

1000

Formel

0+84685680\*x+77591\*x\*x

✖

ε

LagDist

3979

✖

☒ Block\_Kriging

Block\_Size

100

MaxSearchDist

497418

✖

Number\_of\_Pts\_Min

3

Number\_of\_Pts\_Max

10

0%

Cancel

Run as Batch Process...

Run

Close

## 4. Post-Processing

Choose the just created Kriging raster and the “[Sites\\_clean](#)” layer (important, not your original layer) and enter minimum and maximum of the contour lines to be extracted as well as the distance between contour lines (equidistance) in meter.

The screenshot shows the '04\_Post-Processing' dialog box. It has a 'Parameters' tab and a 'Log' tab. The 'Parameters' section includes the following fields and options:

- Kriging\_Raster**: A dropdown menu showing 'Prediction [EPSG:31467]' with a browse button (...).
- sites**: A dropdown menu showing 'Sites\_cleaned [EPSG:31467]' with a browse button (...).
- Contour\_Min**: A numeric input field with the value '0'.
- Contour\_Max**: A numeric input field with the value '25000'.
- Contour\_Equidist**: A numeric input field with the value '500'.
- Contour\_Line**: A text input field with the value '[Save to temporary file]' and a browse button (...).
- ☒ **Open output file after running algorithm**
- Contour\_Poly\_area\_n**: A text input field with the value '[Save to temporary file]' and a browse button (...).
- ☒ **Open output file after running algorithm**

At the bottom of the dialog, there is a progress bar showing '0%', a 'Run as Batch Process...' button, a 'Run' button, and a 'Close' button.

The most important results are saved in the Layer „[Contour\\_Poly\\_Area\\_n](#)“ with Fields containing the contour line value („[Z](#)“, e.g. 1000 = 1 km contour line), the number of polygon parts („[NPARTS](#)“), the area enclosed by the contour line („[AREA](#)“) and the number of sites within each contour line („[NUM](#)“).

The Area of Contour-Polygons is in m<sup>2</sup> and should be converted to km<sup>2</sup>:

Open Attribute Table of new layer (*Right Click on Layer / Open Attribute Table*) and open Field Calculator (Ctrl +I):



Check "Update existing field"

Output field name: [AREA](#)  
Formula: "AREA" / 1000000

Field Calculator

☐ Only update 0 selected features

☐ Create a new field ☒ Update existing field

☐ Create virtual field

Output field name:

Output field type: Whole number (integer)

Output field length: 10 Precision: 3

1.2 AREA

Expression Function Editor

= + - / \* ^ || ( ) \n

"AREA" / 1000000

Output preview: 1053.8836682

row\_number

- Aggregates
- Arrays
- Color
- Conditionals
- Conversions
- Date and Time
- Fields and Values
- Files and Paths
- Fuzzy Matching
- General

group aggregates

Contains functions which aggregate values over layers and fields.

**i** You are editing information on this layer but the layer is currently not in edit mode. If you click OK, edit mode will automatically be turned on.

OK Cancel Help

## Bibliography

Preuss, J. (ed.), **1998**. Das Neolithikum in Mitteleuropa: Kulturen, Wirtschaft, Umwelt vom 6. bis 3. Jahrtausend v. u. Z., Übersichten zum Stand der Forschung (Weissbach 1998).

Schmidt, I., Hilpert, J., Kretschmer, I., Peters, R., Broich, M., Schiesberg, S., Vogels, O., Wendt, K. P., Zimmermann, A., Maier, A., **2020**. Approaching Prehistoric Demography: Proxies, Scales and Scope of the Cologne Protocol in European contexts. *Philosophical Transactions B*.

Zimmermann, A., Richter, J., Frank, T., Wendt, K.P., **2004**. Landschaftsarchäologie II. Überlegungen zu Prinzipien einer Landschaftsarchäologie. *Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission 85, 2004, 37-96*.

Zimmermann, A., Wendt, K.P., Frank, T., Hilpert, J., **2009**. Landscape Archaeology in Central Europe. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society 75, 2009, 1-53*.