

Two new approaches to smoothing over complex regions

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useR! 2009, Rennes

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Smoothing over complex regions

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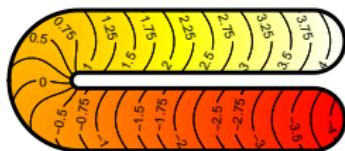
Smoothing in 2 dimensions

- ▶ Have some geographical region and wish to find out something about the biological population in it.
- ▶ Response is eg. animal distribution, wish to predict based on (x, y) and other covariates eg. habitat, size, sex, etc.
- ▶ This problem is relatively easy if the domain is simple.

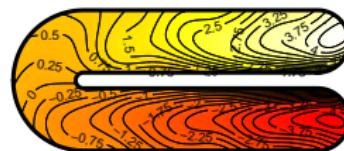


Smoothing over complex domains

- ▶ Smoothing of complex domains makes this a lot more difficult.
- ▶ Problem of leakage.
- ▶ Euclidean distance doesn't always make sense.
- ▶ Models need to incorporate information about the intrinsic structure of the domain.



(modified) Ramsay test function



Thin plate spline fit

Smoothing with penalties

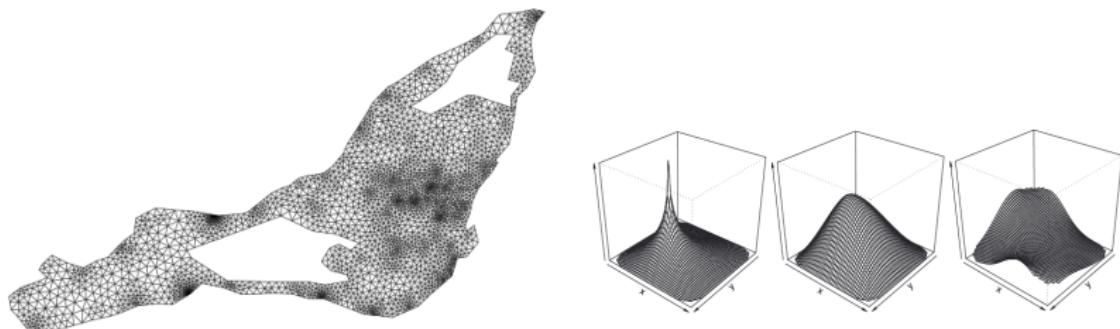
- ▶ Objective function takes the form:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (z_i - f(x_i, y_i; \theta))^2 + \lambda \int_{\Omega} Pf(x, y; \theta) d\Omega$$

- ▶ f is the function you want to estimate, made up of some combination of basis functions.
- ▶ P is some squared derivative penalty operator, usually $P = (\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2})^2$.
- ▶ This can be generalized to an additive model or GAM.

Possible solutions to leakage problems

- ▶ FELSPINE (Ramsay, (2002).)
- ▶ Domain morphing (Eilers, (2006).)
- ▶ Within-area distance (Wang and Ranalli, (2007).)
- ▶ Soap film smoothers (Wood *et al*, (2008).)

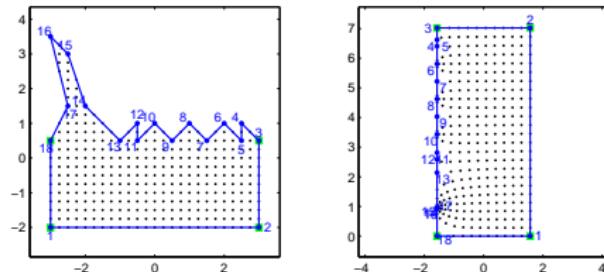


Why morph the domain?

- ▶ Takes into account within-area distance.
- ▶ Gives a known domain that is easier to smooth over.
- ▶ Potentially less computationally intensive.

However:

- ▶ Don't maintain isotropy - distribution of points odd.
- ▶ Not clear what this does to the smoothness penalty.



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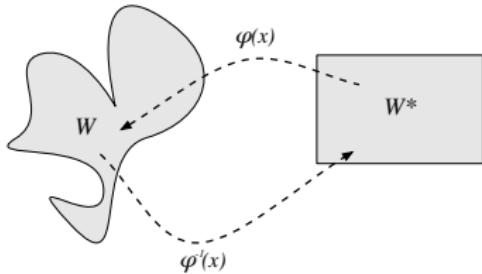
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The Schwarz-Christoffel transform

- ▶ Take a polygon in some domain W and morph it to a new domain W^* .
- ▶ We then have a function for the mapping, $\varphi(x, y)$.
- ▶ $\varphi(x, y)$ is a conformal mapping.
- ▶ Do this by starting at the new domain and working back to the polygon.
- ▶ Can draw a polygonal bounding box around some arbitrary shape.

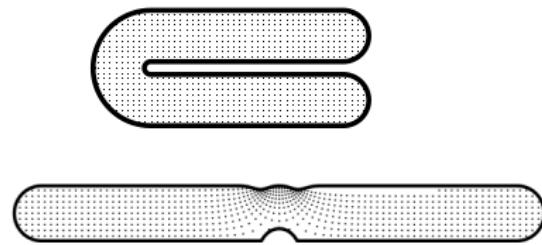


The mapping

- ▶ Use a bounding box around the horseshoe.

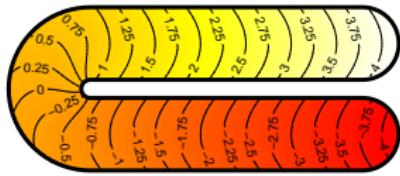


- ▶ Morphing the horseshoe shape still gives a slightly odd domain however, we are still doing better than before.

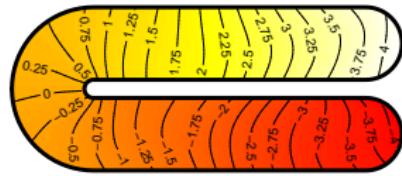


Horseshoe plots

Truth



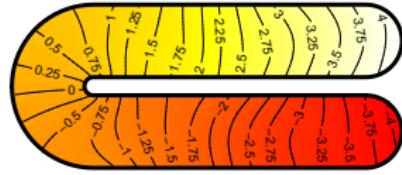
SC+PS



SC+TPRS



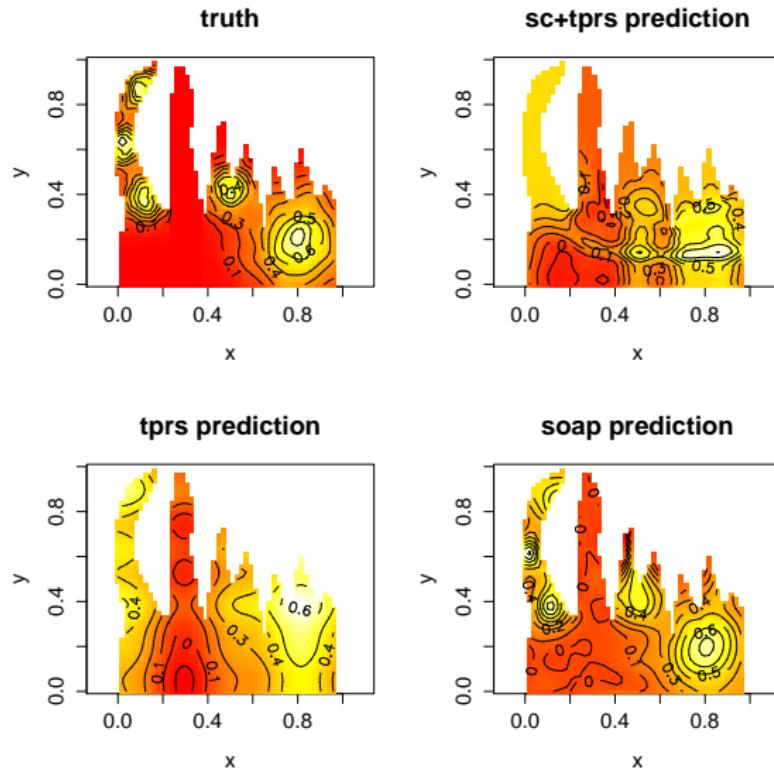
Soap film



Problems

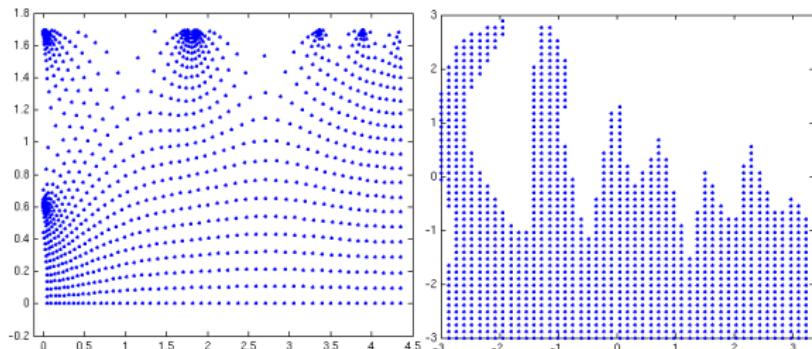
- ▶ Small:
 - ▶ Implementation is Matlab+R. (YUCK!)
- ▶ **BIG:**
 - ▶ Weird artifacts.
 - ▶ Morphing of domain appears to cause features to be smoothed over.
 - ▶ Arbitrary selection of vertices.

A more realistic domain



A more realistic domain - what's happening?

- ▶ Weird “crowding” effect.
- ▶ Different with each vertex choice. All bad.



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Multidimensional scaling and within-area distances

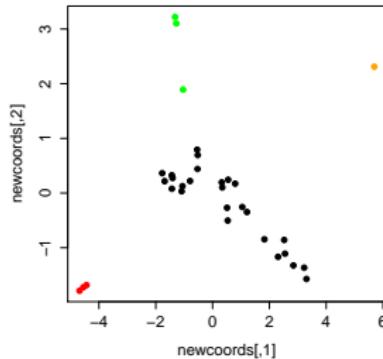
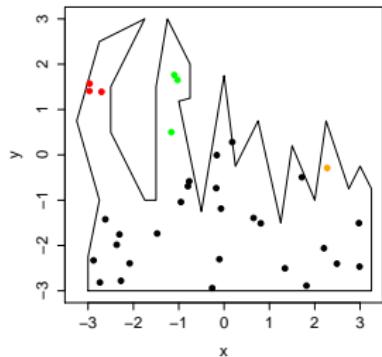
- ▶ Idea: use MDS to arrange points in the domain according to their “within-domain distance.”

Scheme:

- ▶ First need to find the within-area distances.
- ▶ Perform MDS on the matrix of within-area distances.
- ▶ Smooth over the new points.

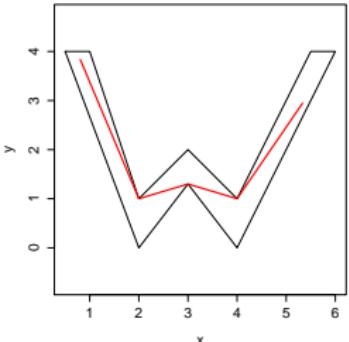
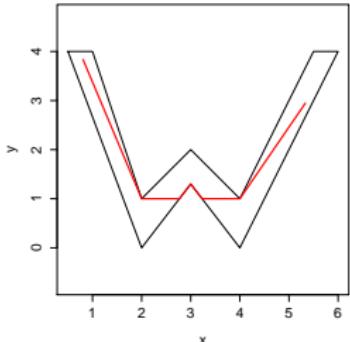
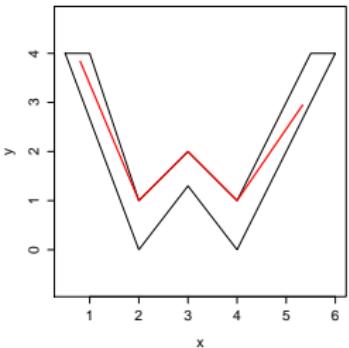
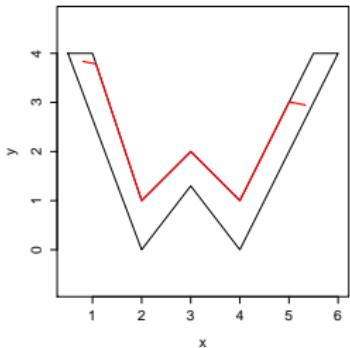
Multidimensional scaling refresher

- ▶ Double centre matrix of between point distances, D , (subtract row and column means) then find DD^T .
- ▶ Finds a configuration of points such that Euclidean distance between points in new arrangement is approximately the same as distance in the domain.
- ▶ Already implemented in R by `cmdscale`.



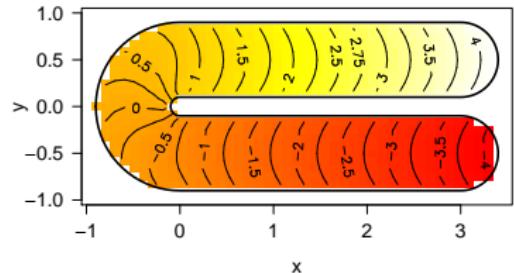
Finding within-area distances

- ▶ Use a new algorithm to find the within area distances.

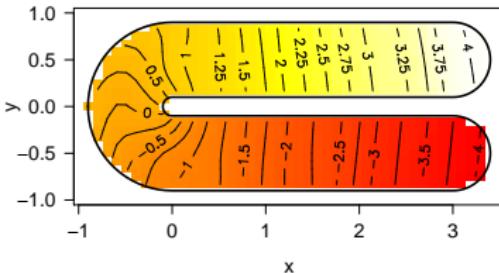


Ramsay simulationss

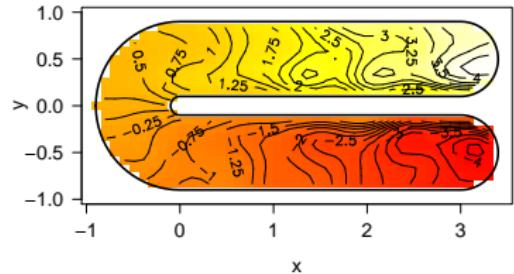
truth



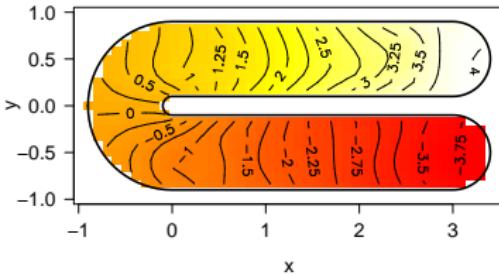
MDS



tprs

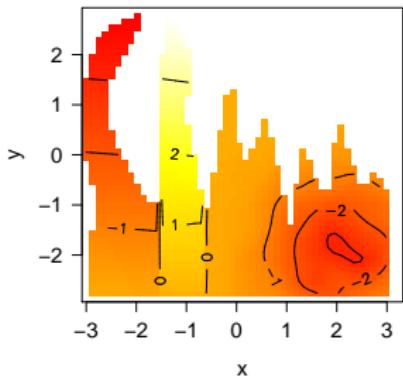


soap

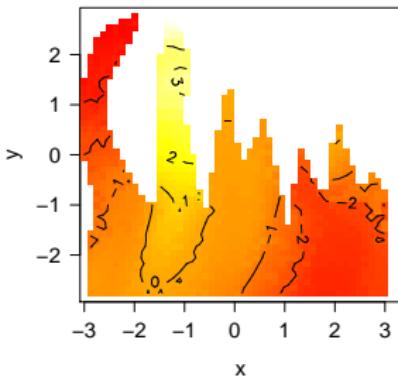


A different domain

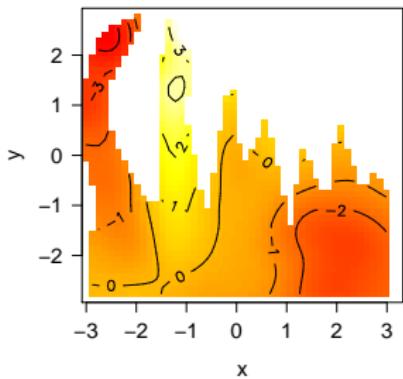
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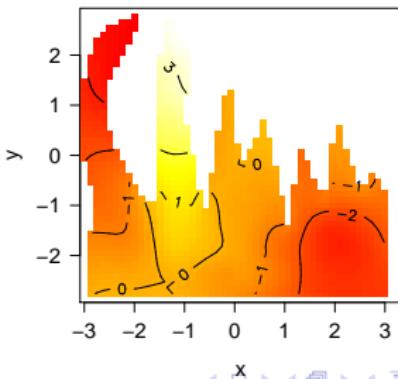
mds



tprs



soap



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- ▶ Seems that the S-C transform does not have much utility.
- ▶ MDS shows more promise, easier to transfer to higher dimensions.
- ▶ MDS does not impose strict boundary conditions so leakage still possible.
- ▶ Pushing the data into more dimensions might be useful to separate points.
- ▶ After initial “transform” calculation, both methods only use the same computational time as a thin plate regression spline. (Soap is expensive.)

References

- ▶ S.N. Wood, M.V. Bravington, and S.L. Hedley. *Soap film smoothing*. JRSSB, 2008
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- ▶ T.A. Driscoll and L.N. Trefethen. *Schwarz-Christoffel Mapping*. Cambridge, 2002
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- ▶ J.C. Gower. *Adding a point to vector diagrams in multivariate analysis*. Biometrika, 1968.

Slides available at <http://people.bath.ac.uk/dlm27>