

# Areal Relevance with Kernels

Yidan Xu

*Supervised by Dr Seth Flaxman,  
Department of Mathematics*



# Case Study: Primary Biliary Cirrhosis in Newcastle-upon-tyne

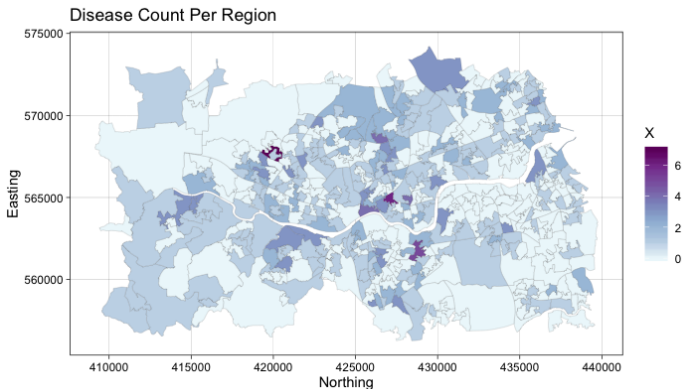


Figure 1: Number of diagnosed disease cases in each region.

# Implicit Conditional Autoregressive (ICAR)

Spatial interactions between a pair of areal units  $i$  and  $j$  can be modelled conditionally as a spatial random variable

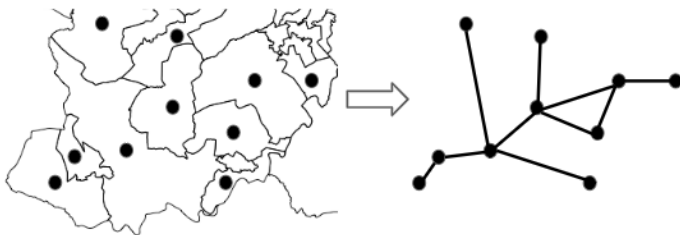
$\phi = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n)^t$ .

$$\mathcal{P}(\phi_i | \phi_j, j \neq i, \tau_i^{-1}) = N\left(\frac{\sum_{i \sim j} \phi_j}{d_{i,i}}, \frac{1}{d_{i,i} \tau_i}\right) \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} Y_i | \varphi_i &\sim \text{Poisson}(E_i e^{\varphi_i}) \\ \varphi &= x\beta + \theta + \phi \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$\tau_i$  is the mean and precision parameter for  $i$ ;

$d_{i,i}$  is the number of neighbours for region  $i$ .



**Figure 2:** ICAR model gives simplification of the spatial relations as a graphical model.

# Log-Gaussian Cox Process

The LGCP is a doubly stochastic point process model.

## Definition

For any space region  $S \subset W$ ,  $N(S)$  a Poisson distributed random variable, counting the number of points in  $S$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\log \Lambda &\sim GP(\mu, k_\theta(\cdot, \cdot)) \\ N(S) | \Lambda &\sim \text{Poisson}\left(\int_S \Lambda(s) \, ds\right)\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

$k_\theta(\cdot, \cdot)$  the covariance function with respect to lengthscale  $\theta$ .

Matérn 5-2 Kernel with varying lengthscale

## Areal Relavance with Kernels

Consider disjoint regions  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , with population density distribution  $W_1$  and  $W_2$  respectively.

$$\begin{aligned}\kappa_{\theta}(R_1, R_2) &= \int_{R_1} \int_{R_2} k_{\theta}(u, v) \, dW_1(u) dW_2(v) \\ &\approx \sum_{n_1} \sum_{n_2} k_{\theta}(u_i, v_j) w_1(u_i) w_2(v_j) h^2\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

$u_i$  and  $v_j$  is the centroids of the grid cells.  
 $h$  is the cell width.

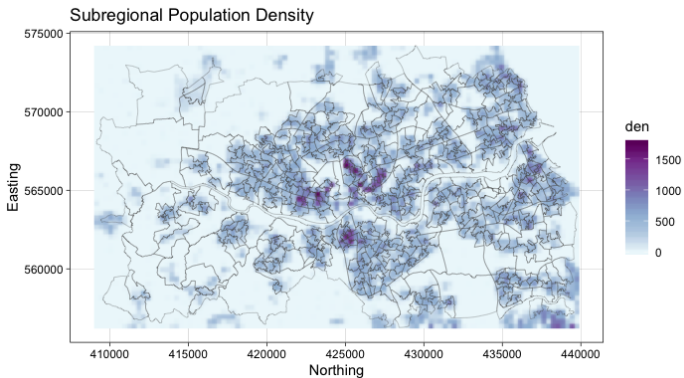
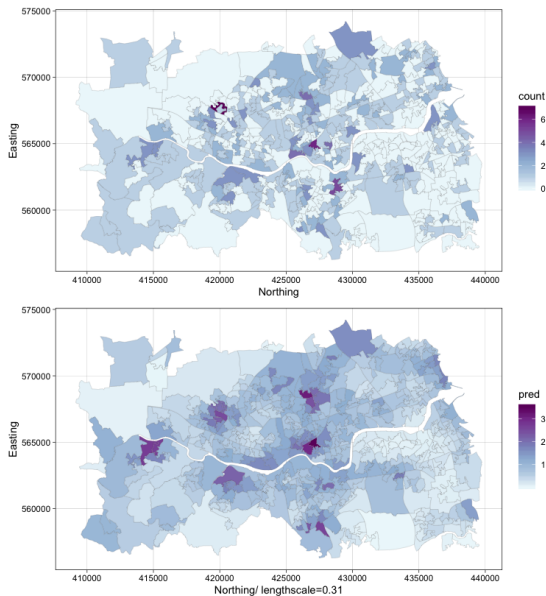


Figure 3: Sub-regional population density over a grid with 300m by 300m resolution.



Kernel  $\kappa_{\theta}(\cdot, \cdot)$  with varying lengthscale.



**Figure 4:** Original count data and the mean of posterior LGCP model fitted with cross-validated lengthscale.