Spatio-temporal statistics (MATH4341) Michaelmas term, 2023

Handout 3: Point referenced data modeling / Geostatistics

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Aim. To introduce Point referenced data modeling / Geostatistics: regional variables, random field, variogram,

Reading list & references:

[1] Cressie, N. (2015; Part I). Statistics for spatial data. John Wiley & Sons.

[2] Gaetan, C., & Guyon, X. (2010; Ch 2 & 5.1). Spatial statistics and modeling (Vol. 90). New York: Springer.

Specialized reading.

[3] Wackernagel, H. (2003). Multivariate geostatistics: an introduction with applications. Springer Science & Business Media. (on Geostatistics)

[4] Kent, J. T., & Mardia, K. V. (2022). Spatial analysis (Vol. 72). John Wiley & Sons. (on Spatial analysis)

Part 1. Intro to building stochastic models & concepts

Note 1. We discuss basic stochastic models and concepts for modeling point referenced data in the Geostatistics framework.

1. Stochastic processes (or Random fields)

Definition 2. A stochastic process (or random field) $Z = (Z_s; s \in \mathcal{S})$ taking values in $\mathcal{Z} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^q$, $q \geq 1$ is a family of random variables $\{Z_s := Z_s(\omega); s \in \mathcal{S}, \omega \in \Omega\}$ defined on the same probability space $(\Omega, \mathfrak{F}, \Pr)$ and taking values in $\mathcal{Z}$. The label $s \in \mathcal{S}$ is called site, the set $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is called the (spatial) set of sites at which the process is defined, and $\mathcal{Z}$ is called the state space of the process.

Note 3. Given a set $\{s_1, ..., s_n\}$ of sites, with $s_i \in S$, the random vector $(Z(s_1), ..., Z(s_n))^\top$ has a well-defined probability distribution that is completely determined by its joint CDF

$$\mathrm{F}_{s_1,...,s_n}(z_1, ..., z_n) = \Pr(Z(s_1) \leq z_1, ..., Z(s_n) \leq z_n)$$

Finite dimensional distributions (or fidi's) of Z is called the ensemble of all such joint CDF's with $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\{s_i \in S\}$.

Note 4. According to Kolmogorov Thm 5, to define a random field model, one must specify the joint distribution of $(Z(s_1), ..., Z(s_n))^\top$ for all of n and all $\{s_i \in S\}_{i=1}^n$ in a consistent way.

Proposition 5. *(Kolmogorov consistency theorem) Let* $\Pr_{s_1,...,s_n}$ *be a probability on* $\mathbb{R}^n$ *with join CDF* $F_{s_1,...,s_n}$ *for every finite collection of points* $s_1, ..., s_n$*. If* $F_{s_1,...,s_n}$ *is symmetric w.r.t. any permutation* $\mathfrak{p}$

$$F_{\mathfrak{p}(s_1),...,\mathfrak{p}(s_n)}\left(z_{\mathfrak{p}(1)}, ..., z_{\mathfrak{p}(n)}\right) = F_{F_{s_1,...,s_n}}\left(z_1, ..., z_n\right)$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$*,* $\{s_i \in S\}$*, and* $\{z \in \mathbb{R}\}$*, and all if all permulations* $\mathfrak{p}$ *are consistent in the sense*

$$\lim_{z_n \to \infty} F_{s_1,...,s_n}\left(z_1, ..., z_n\right) = F_{s_1,...,s_{n-1}}\left(z_1, ..., z_{n-1}\right)$$

or all $n \in \mathbb{N}$*,* $\{s_i \in S\}$*, and* $\{z \in \mathbb{R}\}$*, then there exists a random field* Z *whose fidi's coincide with those in* F*.*

Example 6. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $\{f_i : T \to \mathbb{R};\ i = 1, ..., n\}$ be a set of constant functions, and let $\{Z_i \sim \mathrm{N}(0, 1)\}_{i=1}^{n}$ be a set of independent random variables. Then

$$\tilde{Z}_s = \sum_{i=1}^{n} Z_i f_i(s),\ s \in S \tag{1.1}$$

is a well defined stochastic process as it satisfies Thm 5.

1.1. **Mean and covariance functions.**

Definition 7. The mean function $\mu(\cdot)$ and covariance function $c(\cdot, \cdot)$ of a random field $Z = (Z_s)_{s \in S}$ are defined as

$$\mu(s) = \mathrm{E}(Z_s), \qquad \forall s \in S \tag{1.2}$$

$$c(s, s') = \mathrm{Cov}(Z_s, Z_{s'}) = \mathrm{E}\left((Z_s - \mu(s))(Z_{s'} - \mu(s'))^{\top}\right), \qquad \forall s, s' \in S \tag{1.3}$$

Example 8. For (1.1), the mean function is $\mu(s) = \mathrm{E}\left(\tilde{Z}_s\right) = 0$ and covariance function is

$$\begin{aligned} c(s, s') &= \mathrm{Cov}(Z_s, Z_{s'}) = \mathrm{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} Z_i f_i(s), \sum_{j=1}^{n} Z_j f_j(s')\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(s) \sum_{j=1}^{n} f_j(s')\, \overset{1(i=j)}{\cancel{\mathrm{Cov}(Z_i, Z_j)}} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(s)\, f_i(s') \end{aligned}$$

1.1.1. *Construction of covariance functions.*

(The following provides the means for checking and constructing covariance functions.)

Proposition 9. *The function* $c : S \times S \to \mathbb{R}$*,* $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is the covariance function iff $c(\cdot, \cdot)$ is semi-positive definite; i.e. the Gram matrix $(c(s_i, s_j))_{i,j=1}^{n}$ is non-negative definite for any $\{s_i\}_{i=1}^{n}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Example 10. $c(s,s') = 1(s=s')$ is a proper covariance function as

$$\sum_i \sum_j a_i a_j c(s_i, s_j) = \sum_i a_i^2 \geq 0, \ \ \forall a$$

Note 11. Prop 12 uses the experience from basis functions, while Theorem 30 uses experience from characteristic functions to be incorporated int he process for modeling reasons.

Remark 12. One way to construct a c.f c is to set $c(s,s') = \psi(s)^\top \psi(s')$, for a given vector of basis functions $\psi(\cdot) = (\psi_1(\cdot), ..., \psi_n(\cdot))$.

Proof. From Prop 9, as

$$\sum_i \sum_j a_i a_j c(s_i, s_j) = (\psi a)^\top (\psi a) \geq 0, \ \ \forall a \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

□

2. Second order processes (or Random fields)

Definition 13. Second order process (or random field) $Z = (Z_s; s \in \mathcal{S})$ is called the stochastic process where $\mathrm{E}(Z_s^2) < \infty$ for all $s \in S$. Then the associated mean function $\mu(\cdot)$ and covariance function $c(\cdot,\cdot)$ exist.

3. Gaussian process

Definition 14. $Z = (Z_s; s \in S)$ indexed by $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is a Gaussian process (GP) or random field (GRF) if for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and for any finite set $\{s_1, ..., s_n; s_i \in \mathcal{S}\}$, the random vector $(Z_{s_1}, ..., Z_{s_n})^\top$ has a multivariate normal distribution.

Also Example of Proposition

Proposition 15. *A GP $Z = (Z_s; s \in S)$ is fully characterized by its mean function $\mu : S \to \mathbb{R}$ with $\mu(s) = E(Z_s)$, and its covariance function with $c(s,s') = Cov(Z_s, Z_{s'})$.*

Notation 16. Hence, we denote the GP as $Z(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\cdot), c(\cdot,\cdot))$.

Example 17. When using the GP as a model we may need to marametrize its matameters. An example of mean functions are polynomial expansions, such as $\mu(s) = \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} \beta_j s^j$ for some tunable unknown parameter β. Some examples of covariace functions (c.f.), for some tunable unknown parameter β,σ^2 are

(1) Exponential c.f. $c(s,s') = \frac{1}{2\beta} \exp\left(-\beta \|s-s'\|_1\right)$
(2) Gaussian c.f. $c(s,s') = \sigma^2 \exp\left(-\beta \|s-s'\|_2^2\right)$
(3) Nugget c.f. $c(s,s') = \sigma^2 1(s=s')$

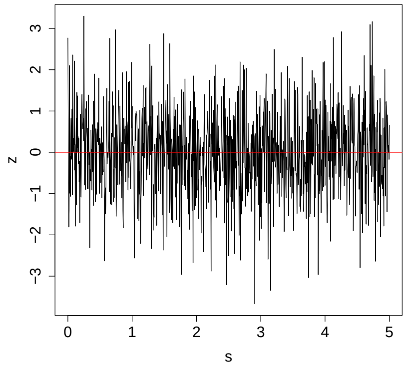
Example 18. Recall your linear regression lessons where you specified a sampling distribution $y_x|\beta,\sigma^2 \overset{\text{ind}}{\sim} \mathrm{N}\left(x^\top\beta, \sigma^2\right)$, $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d$; well that can be considered as a GP with $\mu_x = x^\top\beta$ and $c(x,x') = \sigma^2 1(x=x')$ in (3).

Example 19. Figs. 3.1 & 3.2 presents realizations of GRF $Z(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\cdot), c(\cdot,\cdot))$ with $\mu(s) = 0$ and differently parametrized covariance functions in 1D and 2D. In 1D the code to simulate the GP is given in Table .... Note that we actually discretaize it and simulate it from the fidi.

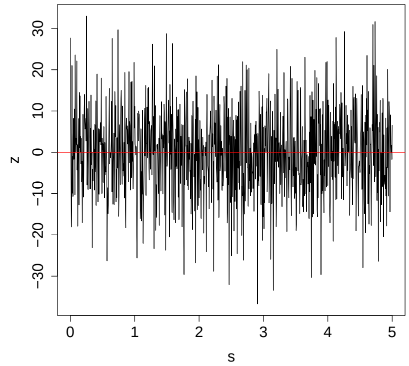
Algorithm 1 R script for simulating from a GP

```
# set the GP parametrized mean and covariance function
mu_fun <- function(s) { return (0) }
cov_fun_gauss <- function(s,t,sig2,beta) { return (
sig2*exp(-beta*norm(c(s-t),type="2")**2) ) }
# discretaize the problem in n = 100 spatial points
n <- 100
s_vec <- seq(from = 0, to = 5, length = n)
mu_vec <- matrix(nrow = n, ncol = 1)
Cov_mat <- matrix(nrow = n, ncol = n)
# compute the associated mean vector and covariance matrix of the fidi for n=100
sig2_val <- 1.0 ;
beta_val <- 5
for (i in 1:n) {
    mu_vec[i] <- mu_fun(s_vec[i])
    for (j in 1:n) {
        Cov_mat[i,j] <- cov_fun_gauss(s_vec[i],s_vec[j],sig2_val,beta_val)
    }
}
# simulate from the associated distribution z_vec <- mu_vec +
t(chol(Cov_mat))%*%rnorm(n, mean=0, sd=1)
# plot the path (R produces a line plot)
plot(s_vec, z_vec, type="l")
abline(h=0,col="red")
```

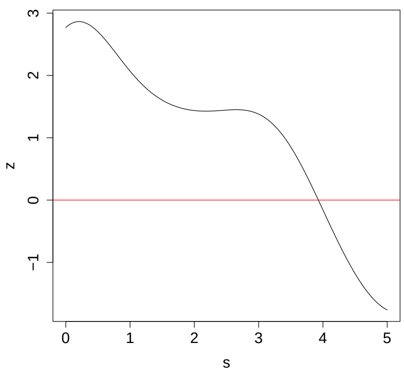
Nugget c.f. is the usual noise where the height of ups and downs are random and controlled by σ^2 (Fig. 3.1a & 3.1b ; Fig. 3.2a & 3.2b). In Gaussian c.f. the height of ups and downs are random and controlled by σ^2 (Fig.3.1c & 3.1d ; Fig. 3.2c & 3.2d), and the spatial dependence / frequency of the ups and downs is controlled by β (Fig. 3.1d & 3.1e ; Fig. 3.2d & 3.2e). Realizations with different c.f. have different behavior (Fig. 3.1a, 3.1d & 3.1e ; Fig. 3.2a, 3.2d & 3.2e)



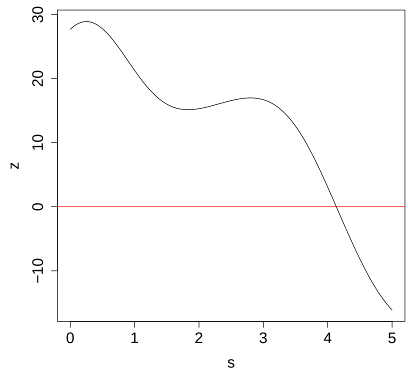
(A) Nugget c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$)



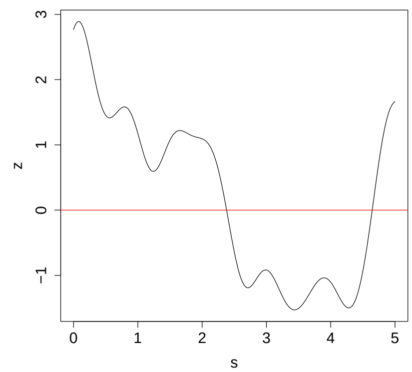
(B) Nugget c.f
($\sigma^2 = 100$)



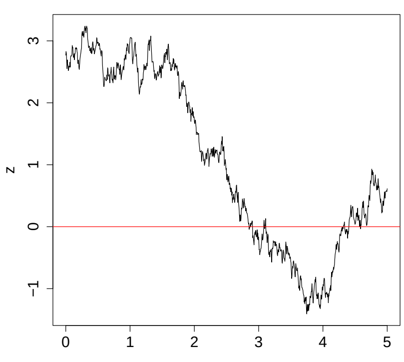
(C) Gauss c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$,$\beta = 0.5$)



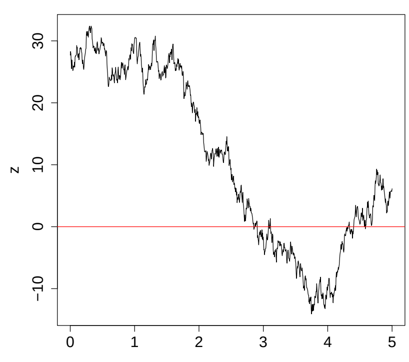
(D) Gauss c.f
($\sigma^2 = 100$,$\beta = 0.5$)



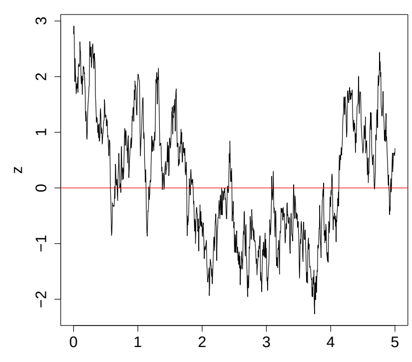
(E) Gauss c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$,$\beta = 5$)



(F) Exp c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$,$\beta = 0.5$)

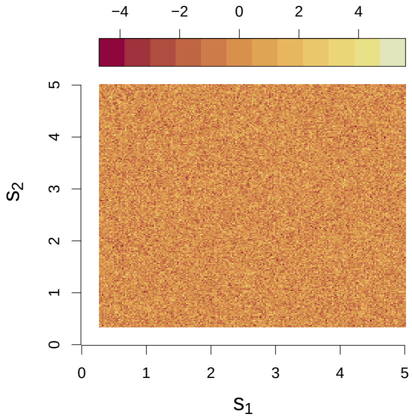


(G) Exp c.f
($\sigma^2 = 100$,$\beta = 0.5$)

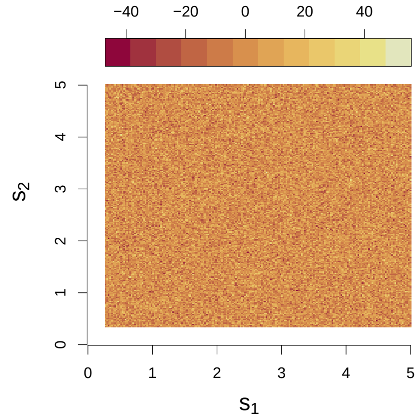


(H) Exp c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$,$\beta = 5$)

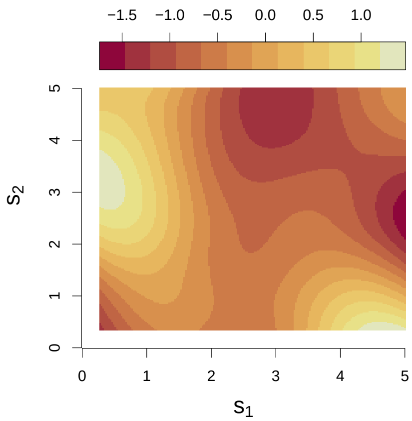
FIGURE 3.1. Realizations of GRF $Z(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\cdot), c(\cdot,\cdot))$ when $s \in [0, 5]$ (using same seed)



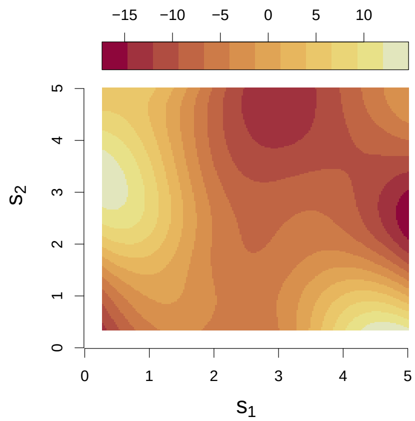
(A) Nugget c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$)



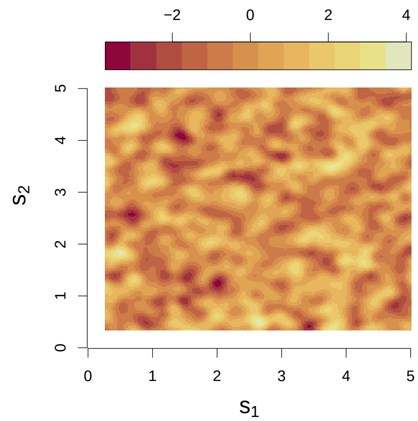
(B) Nugget c.f
($\sigma^2 = 100$)



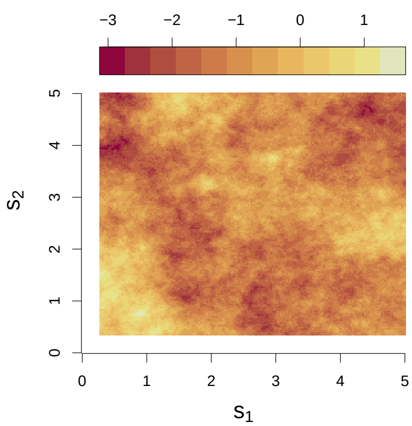
(C) Gauss c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$,$\beta = 0.5$)



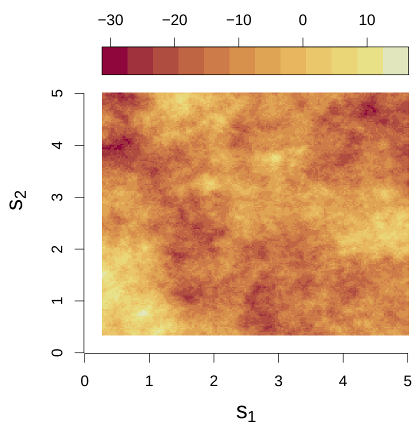
(D) Gauss c.f
($\sigma^2 = 100$,$\beta = 0.5$)



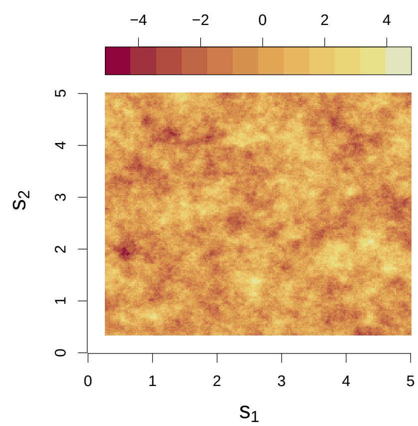
(E) Gauss c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$,$\beta = 5$)



(F) Exp c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$,$\beta = 0.5$)



(G) Exp c.f
($\sigma^2 = 100$,$\beta = 0.5$)



(H) Exp c.f
($\sigma^2 = 1$,$\beta = 5$)

FIGURE 3.2. Realizations of GRF $Z(\cdot) \sim \mathcal{GP}(\mu(\cdot), c(\cdot,\cdot))$ when $s \in [0,5]^2$ (using same seed)

4. Strong stationarity

Note 20. Assume $\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{R}^d$ for simplicity. [1]

Definition 21. A random field $Z = (Z_s)_{s\in\mathbb{R}^d}$ is strongly stationary if for all finite sets consisting of $s_1, ..., s_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, for all $k_1, ..., k_n \in \mathbb{R}$, and for all $h \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\Pr\left(Z\left(s_1+h\right) \leq k_1, ..., Z\left(s_n+h\right) \leq k_n\right) = \Pr\left(Z\left(s_1\right) \leq k_1, ..., Z\left(s_n\right) \leq k_n\right)$$

5. Weak stationarity (or second order stationarity)

Note 22. Yuh... strong stationary may be a too "restricting" a characteristic for our modeling... Perhaps, we could only restrict the first two moments them properly; notice Def. 21 implies that, given $\mathrm{E}\left(Z_s^2\right) < \infty$, it is $\mathrm{E}\left(Z_s\right) = \mathrm{E}\left(Z_{s+h}\right) =$ contst... and $\mathrm{Cov}\left(Z_s, Z_{s'}\right) = \mathrm{Cov}\left(Z_{s+h}, Z_{s'+h}\right) \overset{h=-s'}{=} \mathrm{Cov}\left(Z_{s-s'}, Z_0\right) =$ funct of lag...

Definition 23. A random field $Z = (Z_s)_{s\in\mathbb{R}^d}$ is weakly stationary (or second order stationary) if, for all $s, s' \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

(1) $\mathrm{E}\left(Z_s^2\right) < \infty$ (finite)
(2) $\mathrm{E}\left(Z_s\right) = m$ (constant)
(3) $\mathrm{Cov}\left(Z_s, Z_{s'}\right) = c\left(s' - s\right)$ for some even function $c : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ (lag dependency)

Definition 24. Weakly (or second order) stationary covariance function is called the c.f. of a weakly stationary stochastic process.

6. Covariogram

Note 25. The definition of the covariogram function requires the random field to be weakly stationary.

Definition 26. Let $Z = (Z_s)_{s\in\mathbb{R}^d}$ be a weakly stationary random field. The covariogram function of $Z = (Z_s)_{s\in\mathbb{R}^d}$ is defined by $c : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ with

$$c\left(h\right) = \mathrm{Cov}\left(Z_s, Z_{s+h}\right), \ \forall s \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Example 27. For the Gaussian c.f. $c\left(s,t\right) = \sigma^2 \exp\left(-\beta \left\|s-t\right\|_2^2\right)$ in (Ex. 17(2)), we may denote just

$$c\left(h\right) = c\left(s, s+h\right) = \sigma^2 \exp\left(-\beta \left\|h\right\|_2^2\right) \tag{6.1}$$

Observe that, in Figs 3.1 &3.2, the smaller the β, the smoother the realization (aka slower changes). One way to justify this observation is to think that smaller values of β essentially bring the points closer by re-scaling spatial lags $h$in the c.f.

[1] Otherwise, we should set $s, s' \in \mathcal{S}$, $h \in \mathcal{H}$, such as $\mathcal{H} = \left\{h \in \mathbb{R}^d : s+h \in \mathcal{S}\right\}$.

Proposition 28. *If $c : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ is the covariogram of a weakly stationary random field $Z = (Z_s)_{s\in\mathbb{R}^d}$ then:*

(1) $c(0) \geq 0$
(2) $c(h) = c(-h)$ *for all* $h \in \mathbb{R}^d$
(3) $|c(h)| \leq c(0) = Var(Z_s)$ *for all* $h \in \mathbb{R}^d$
(4) $c(\cdot)$ *is semi-positive definite; i.e. for all* $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$, *and* $\{s_1, ..., s_n\} \subseteq S$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n} a_i a_j c(s_i - s_j) \geq 0$$

Note 29. The following helps in the specification of cavariograms by considering properties of characteristic functions.

Theorem 30. *A continuous even real-valued function $c : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ is a covariance function of a weakly stationary random process if and only if it can be represented as*

$$c(h) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left(i\omega^\top h\right) dF(\omega)$$

where $\mathrm{d}F(\omega)$ is a *symmetric positive finite measure on* $\mathbb{R}^d$.

- *Here, we will focus on cases of the form $dF(\omega) = f(\omega)\, d\omega$ where $f(\cdot)$ is called spectral density of $c(\cdot)$ i.e.*

  $$c(h) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left(i\omega^\top h\right) f(\omega)\, d\omega$$

  In this case, $\lim_{h\to\infty} c(h) = 0$

Theorem 31. *If $c(\cdot)$ is integrable, $F(\cdot)$ is absolutely continuous with spectral density $f(\cdot)$ of $Z = (Z_s; s \in \mathcal{S})$ then by Fast Fourier transformation*

$$f(\omega) = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\right)^d \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left(-i\omega^\top h\right) c(h)\, dh$$

Example 32. Consider the Gaussian c.f. $c(h) = \sigma^2 \exp\left(-\beta \|h\|_2^2\right)$ for $\sigma^2, \beta > 0$ and $h \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Then the spectral density from Thm 30 is

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(\omega) &= \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\right)^d \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \exp\left(-i\omega^\top h\right) \sigma^2 \exp\left(-\beta \|h\|_2^2\right) \mathrm{d}h \\
&= \sigma^2 \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\right)^d \prod_{j=1}^d \int_{\mathbb{R}} \exp\left(-i\omega_j h_j - \beta h_j^2\right) \mathrm{d}h \\
&= \sigma^2 \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\right)^d \prod_{j=1}^d \int_{\mathbb{R}} \exp\left(-\beta\left(h_j - \left(-i\omega/\left(2\beta\right)\right)\right)^2\right) \mathrm{d}h_j \\
&= \sigma^2 \left(\frac{1}{4\pi\beta}\right)^{d/2} \exp\left(-\|\omega\|_2^2 / \left(4\beta\right)\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

i.e. of a Gaussian form.

7. Intrinsic stationarity

Note 33. Getting greedier, we can further weaken the weak stationarity by considering lag dependent variance in the increments with purpose to be able to use more inclusive models; Def 23 implies that $\mathrm{Var}\left(Z_{s+h} - Z_s\right) = \mathrm{Var}\left(Z_{s+h}\right) + \mathrm{Var}\left(Z_s\right) - 2\mathrm{Cov}\left(Z_{s+h}, Z_s\right) = 2c(0) - 2c(h)$.

Definition 34. A random field $Z = \left(Z_s\right)_{s\in\mathbb{R}^d}$ is intrinsically stationary if, for all $h \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\left(Z_{s+h} - Z_s\right)_{s\in\mathbb{R}^d}$ is weakly stationary; i.e.

1. $\mathrm{E}\left(Z_{s+h} - Z_s\right)^2 < \infty$
2. $\mathrm{E}\left(Z_{s+h} - Z_s\right) = m$ (constant)
3. $\mathrm{Var}\left(Z_{s+h} - Z_s\right) = 2\gamma(h)$ for some function $\gamma : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ (lag dependent)

Definition 35. Intrinsically stationary covariance function is called the c.f. of an intrinsically stationary stochastic process.

Example 36. The following covariance function is not weakly but intrinsically stationary

$$c(s,t) = \frac{1}{2}\left(\|s\|^{2H} + \|t\|^{2H} - \|t-s\|^{2H}\right), \ H \in (0,1)$$

because for $h \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$$c(s, s+h) = \frac{1}{2}\left(\|s\|^{2H} + \|s+h\|^{2H} - \|h\|^{2H}\right)$$

and

$$\mathrm{Var}\left(Z_s - Z_{s+h}\right) = \mathrm{Var}\left(Z_s\right) + \mathrm{Var}\left(Z_{s+h}\right) - 2\mathrm{Cov}\left(Z_s, Z_{s+h}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\|h\|^{2H}$$