# R Notebook for Chapter 6: Mortality surface modeling

Companion Code to Gaussian Process Models for Quantitative Finance

Mike Ludkovski, Jimmy Risk

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This RMarkdown file presents an illustrative use of Gaussian Process surrogates for mortality surface modeling, linking to **Section 6.4** of the book.

## Accessing Mortality Data

We make use of the following packages

- DiceKriging: kriging methods for single-output GP (SOGP).
- rgenoud: genetic optimization solver used for Maximum Likelihood Estimation of GP hyperparameters.
- data.table: extension of data.frame to enhance data manipulation.

The script in the createMortData.R loads the csv files containing the Deaths and Exposures for the respective population.

```
library(dplyr)
library(rgenoud)
library(DiceKriging)
library(data.table)
library(plot3D)
source("createMortData.R")
```

The input data is an R dataframe with factors age, year, deaths and exposures. The corresponding log mortality rates are computed as

$$y^n = \log(D^n/E^n)$$

where  $D^n$  and  $E^n$  are, respectively, the number of deaths and midyear count of exposed lives for the *n*th age/year pair  $\mathbf{x}^n = (x_{aq}^n, x_{yr}^n)$ .

For the illustrations below we work with the dataset for Denmark Males.

```
mortData = createMortData(year_start=1990, year_end=2016,
age_start=60, age_end=80, sex="m", sex_cat="no") # M=males
mortData = mortData[country %in% c("Denmark")]
head(mortData)
```

```
## age year country rate y
## 1: 60 1990 Denmark 0.01561052 -4.159810
## 2: 60 1991 Denmark 0.01602873 -4.133373
## 3: 60 1992 Denmark 0.01762344 -4.038525
## 4: 60 1993 Denmark 0.01486386 -4.208822
## 5: 60 1994 Denmark 0.01553909 -4.164396
## 6: 60 1995 Denmark 0.01599507 -4.135475
```

## Fitting the baseline GP model

For our Gaussian Process Regression models, we utilize the package DiceKriging available on CRAN.

The function km() is used to fit a GP model based on input-output set (x,y) and the following parameters:

- formula determines the mean function  $\mu(x)$ ; formula = ~x.age corresponds to a prior mean function that is linear in Age  $\mu(x) = \beta_0 + \beta_{ag}^1 x_{ag}$
- covtype refers to kernel type, taken to be Matern-5/2, separable in Age and Year.
- nugget.estim=TRUE tells km() to infer the intrinsic (homoskedastic, input-independent) noise variance  $\sigma_{\epsilon}^2$  as part of the model.
- optim.method="gen" tells km() to utilize a genetic optimization algorithm from library **rgenoud**, which produces more reliable hyperparameter estimates and is recommended by **DiceKriging** authors.
- control=... are internal (recommended) parameters of the above optimization algorithm
- See package manual https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/DiceKriging/DiceKriging.pdf for a more detailed explanation of **km()** options.

mortModel\_nug

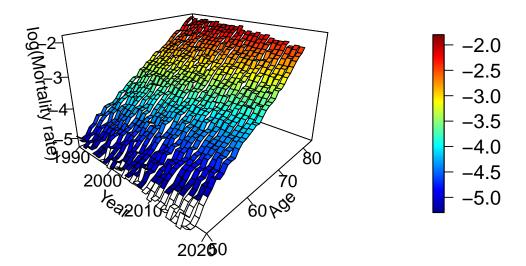
```
##
## Call:
## km(formula = ~x.age, design = data.frame(x = xMort), response = yMort,
##
       covtype = "matern5_2", nugget.estim = TRUE, optim.method = "gen",
       control = list(max.generations = 100, pop.size = 100, wait.generations = 8,
##
##
           solution.tolerance = 1e-05, trace = F))
##
##
  Trend coeff.:
##
                  Estimate
##
    (Intercept)
                   -9.8521
                    0.0919
##
          x.age
##
## Covar. type : matern5 2
  Covar. coeff.:
##
##
                   Estimate
##
   theta(x.age)
                    24.2729
## theta(x.year)
                     9.8827
##
## Variance estimate: 0.03687721
##
```

```
## Nugget effect estimate: 0.001787395
```

The above code output shows estimates of (in order)  $\beta_0$ ,  $\beta_{ag}^1$ ,  $\theta_{ag}$ ,  $\theta_{yr}$ ,  $\eta^2$  and  $\sigma_{\epsilon}^2$ . Despite the assumption of a nugget effect, **km()** by default treats the observations as without having noise variance. To be consistent with our setting, we re-enter the model using the above fitted parameters along with inputting **noise.var**:

#### Figure 6.2: raw and predicted mortality surfaces

We use the **plot3D** library to visualize the raw log-mortality surface (the ribbons emphasize that data is collected annually) for Males in Denmark.



We then show the smooth surface based on GP projections from the previous **mortModel**. The predictive surface extends beyond the range of observed data: covering Ages [55,85] in the plot (beyond the training range of [60,80]) and covering the future years of 2017–2024 relative to the training range of 1990–2016.

```
agesForecast <- 55:85
yearsForecast <- 1990:2024
# build data frame for desired forecasts, then call predict
xPredImage <- data.frame(expand.grid(agesForecast, yearsForecast))</pre>
colnames(xPredImage) <- c("age","year")</pre>
mortPredImage <- predict(mortModel, newdata=data.frame(x=xPredImage),</pre>
                    cov.compute=TRUE,
                    se.compute=TRUE, type="UK")
mortPredImage <- matrix(mortPredImage$m,nrow=length(yearsForecast),byrow=TRUE)</pre>
persp3D(yearsForecast,agesForecast, z=mortPredImage,border="black",
        xlab="Year", ylab="Age", zlab="log(Mortality rate)", zlim=c(-5.3,-1.8),
        colkey = FALSE, clim=c(-5.3, -1.8),
        ticktype="detailed", phi=22, theta=42, expand=0.67, cex.axis=1.2,
        cex.lab=1.2, nticks=4)
colkey(side=4, length = 0.75, width = 0.6, dist=-0.09, cex.axis=1.3,
       clim=c(-5.3,-1.8), add=TRUE)
```

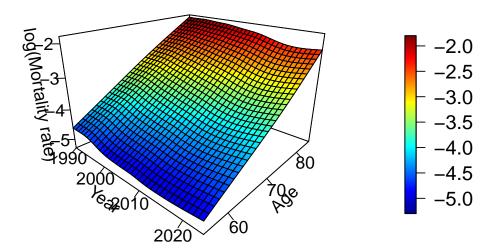


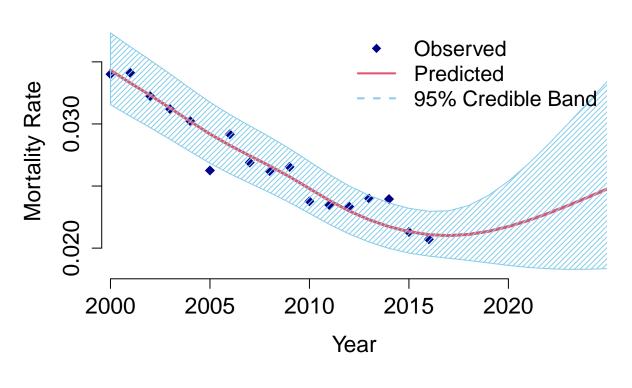
Fig 6.3 left: Mortality over time

After constructing a **km** object, the main workhorse is the **predict()** command. Among its outputs are the posterior mean, posterior standard deviation, and 95% credible bands. The **predict()** command allows for *any* test set with the same number of covariates as the training set. Our implementation of building a model with noise variance equal to the nugget causes **predict()** to return credible bands for the latent mortality surface  $f(\cdot)$  and not the observation process  $Y(\cdot)$ . Thus we need to add  $\sigma_{\epsilon}^2$  to achieve the bands for the observed mortality y that would be relevant for coverage tests.

As illustration, we show evolution of mortality across time for a fixed Age. Decreasing trend corresponds to mortality improvement. Below, we additionally show the 95% credible intervals that quantify the (statistical) credibility of the smoothing. We use the library **dplyr** for easier data handling.

```
for(ageObs in agesForecast){
  rateObserved <- dplyr::filter(mortData, age == ageObs, year %in% yearsObserved)$rate
  dataPred <- dplyr::filter(xPred, age == ageObs, year %in% yearsForecast)</pre>
  # exponentiate to show actual mortality rates (not logged)
  ratePred <- exp(dataPred$m);</pre>
  upper95Pred <- exp(dataPred$upper95); lower95Pred <- exp(dataPred$lower95)
  plot(yearsObserved, rateObserved,
       pch=18, main = paste("Age", ageObs),
       xlab="Year", ylab="Mortality Rate", cex.axis=1.4, cex.lab=1.4, cex=1.4,
       xlim=c(2000.5,2024), ylim=c(min(lower95Pred),max(upper95Pred)), bty="n",
       col="darkblue")
  lines(yearsForecast,ratePred, col=2, lwd=3)
  polygon(c(yearsForecast,rev(yearsForecast)),c(lower95Pred,rev(upper95Pred)),
          col="skyblue", density=25,lwd=1)
  legend("topright",c("Observed","Predicted","95% Credible Band"),
       lwd=c(2,2,2), lty=c(0,1,2), pch=c(18,NA,NA),
       col=c("darkblue",2,"skyblue"), cex=1.3, bty="n")
```

## Age 70



### Figure 6.3 right: Mortality Improvement

It is common to interpret a mortality surface via the (annual) mortality *improvement factors* which measure longevity changes year-over-year. The raw annual percentage mortality improvement is:

$$MI^{raw}(\mathbf{x}) = 1 - \frac{\exp(y(x_{ag}, x_{yr}))}{\exp(y(x_{ag}, x_{yr} - 1))}.$$

The smoothed improvement factors are obtained by replacing y's by the GP model posterior  $m(\mathbf{x})$ 's:

$$MI^{GP}(\mathbf{x}) := 1 - \frac{\exp(m_*(x_{ag}, x_{yr}))}{\exp(m_*(x_{ag}, x_{yr} - 1))}.$$

The following code produces improvement rates  $MI^{GP}(\mathbf{x})$  for every odd calendar year and plots them.

```
agesForecast <- 60:80
yStart = 2008; yEnd = 2018;
yearsForecast <- yStart:yEnd</pre>
nYr <- length(yearsForecast)</pre>
nAg <- length(agesForecast)</pre>
xPred <- data.frame(age=rep(agesForecast,each=nYr), year=rep(yearsForecast,nAg))
mortPred <- predict(mortModel, newdata=data.frame(x=xPred), cov.compute=TRUE,</pre>
             se.compute=TRUE, type="UK")
xPred$m <- mortPred$mean
forwardPred <- dplyr::filter(xPred, age %in% agesForecast, year %in% (yStart+1):yEnd)$m
backwardPred <- dplyr::filter(xPred, age %in% agesForecast, year %in% yStart:(yEnd-1))$m
mibackgp <- 1-exp(forwardPred)/exp(backwardPred) # GP-smoothed improvement rate
xPred$mibackgp <- NA
xPred$mibackgp[which(xPred$year > yStart)] <- mibackgp</pre>
miPlot <- dplyr::filter(xPred, age %in% agesForecast, year == yEnd) $mibackgp
plot(c(0,100), c(0,0), type="l", lwd=1, xlab="Age", xaxs="i",
     ylab="YoY Mortality Improvement Rate", cex.axis=1.4, cex.lab=1.4, cex=1.5,
     ylim=c(-0.01, 0.04), xlim=c(60,80), bty='n')
for(yr in seq(yStart+1,yEnd-1,2)){
  # plot the MI for that year
  miPlot <- dplyr::filter(xPred, age %in% agesForecast, year == yr)$mibackgp
  lines(agesForecast, miPlot, col=(yr-2007)/2, lty=(yr-2007)/2, lwd=2)
}
legend("bottomright", legend=seq(yStart+1,yEnd-1,by=2), col=c(1:5,1),
       lwd=rep(2,5), lty=c(1:5,1), cex=1.5, bty='n')
```

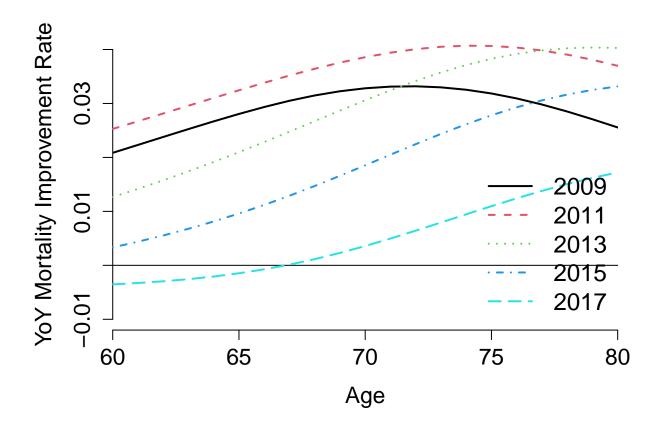


Figure 6.4 left: Life Expectancy Boxplot

To generate scenarios for period life expectancy, we train a model on a wider range of Ages. In the Danish dataset, observations are reliable up to age 103, so we use that for training the new mortDataE. Due to the larger training set (of size  $27 \times 44 = 1188$  training inputs), this takes a couple of minutes.

```
mortDataE = createMortData(year_start=1990, year_end=2016,
                            age_start=60, age_end=103, sex="m", sex_cat="no")
mortDataE = mortDataE[country %in% c("Denmark")]
control.params = list(max.generations=100,pop.size=100,
                       wait.generations=8, solution.tolerance=1e-5, trace=F)
# fit linear age-year trend model
xMortE <- data.frame(age = mortDataE$age, year = mortDataE$year)</pre>
yMortE <- mortDataE$y</pre>
mortModelE_nug <- km(formula = ~x.age+x.year, #linear in age, linear in year
                          design = data.frame(x = xMortE), response = yMortE,
                          nugget.estim=TRUE,
                          covtype="matern5_2",
                          optim.method="gen",
                          control=control.params)
nug_E <- mortModelE_nug@covariance@nugget</pre>
mortModelE <- km(formula = ~x.age+x.year,</pre>
```

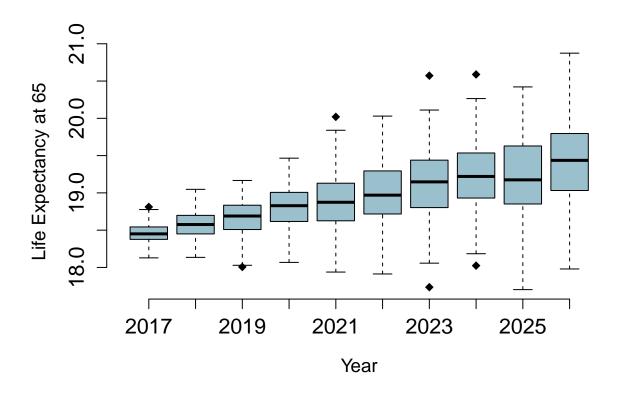
```
design = mortModelE_nug@X, response = mortModelE_nug@y,
noise.var = rep(nug_E,mortModelE_nug@n),
coef.trend = mortModelE_nug@trend.coef,
coef.cov = mortModelE_nug@covariance@range.val,
coef.var = mortModelE_nug@covariance@sd2,
covtype = mortModelE_nug@covariance@name)
```

We next generate 200 posterior samples (i.e., scenarios  $\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_n$ ) based on the GP posterior mortality curves in Age for the period Life Expectancy (LE)  $e_{65}$  at age 65 from the point of view of Year 2017 through 2026. After aggregating across samples, we visualize the resulting boxplots of simulated future  $e_{65}$ , computed as

$$e_{65}(t;\omega) = \sum_{x=66}^{103} \exp(f_*(x,t;\omega)) \cdot \left(\prod_{u=66}^{x-1} (1 - e^{f_*(u,t;\omega)})\right) \cdot (x - 65).$$

We find that the GP model projects an average gain in LE of about 1 year between 2016 and 2026, although the range is from 0 (no gain) to 2+ years of gain.

```
nsim <- 200
maxAge <- 105
agesForecast <- seq(65,maxAge, 1)</pre>
lifeExp65 <- array(0, dim=c(10,nsim)) # period life expectancy for each scenario
for (j in 1:10) {
  yearsForecast <- 2016+j #:2026</pre>
  xPredE <- data.frame(age=agesForecast, year=yearsForecast)</pre>
  mortPredE <- predict(mortModelE, newdata=data.frame(x=xPredE),</pre>
                    cov.compute=TRUE,
                    se.compute=TRUE, type="UK")
  sim <- simulate(mortModelE, nsim=nsim, newdata = data.frame(x=xPredE), cond=TRUE,</pre>
                  nugget.sim=nug_E/100)
  # first two terms: dying in the first year, dying in exactly the second year
  lifeExp65[j,] = exp(sim[,1]) *1 + exp(sim[,2])*(1-exp(sim[,1])) *2
  for (ag in 3:(maxAge-65+1)) # add probability of dying at age 'ag'
      lifeExp65[j,] = lifeExp65[j,] + exp(sim[,ag])*apply(1-exp(sim[,1:(ag-1)]),1,prod) * ag
}
# Display a boxplot for the distribution of future e_{65}
par(bty="n")
boxplot(t(lifeExp65), pch=18, main="", names=2017:2026, xlab="Year",
        ylab="Life Expectancy at 65", cex.axis=1.3, cex.lab=1.2, cex=1.2,col="lightblue3")
```



# Figure 6.4 right: Comparison of Mean-function specifications

km() takes in an object of class formula to specify the prior mean function  $\mu(\cdot)$ , just like with linear OLS model lm() and generalized linear model glm() fitting. The following code produces models with constant, linear and quadratic prior means.

```
coef.cov = mortModel3int_nug@covariance@range.val,
                    coef.var = mortModel3int_nug@covariance@sd2,
                    covtype = mortModel3int nug@covariance@name)
# fit linear trend model in both age and year
mortModel3lin_nug <- km(formula = ~x.age+x.year,</pre>
                                                   # linear in age, linear in year
                    design = data.frame(x = xMort3), response = yMort3,
                    nugget.estim=TRUE,
                    covtype="matern5_2",
                    optim.method="gen",
                    control=control.params)
nug_lin <- mortModel3lin_nug@covariance@nugget</pre>
mortModellin <- km(formula = ~x.age+x.year,</pre>
                    design = mortModel3lin_nug@X, response = mortModel3lin_nug@y,
                    noise.var = rep(nug_lin,mortModel3lin_nug@n),
                    coef.trend = mortModel3lin_nug@trend.coef,
                    coef.cov = mortModel3lin_nug@covariance@range.val,
                    coef.var = mortModel3lin_nug@covariance@sd2,
                    covtype = mortModel3lin_nug@covariance@name)
# fit quadratic-age trend model
mortModel3quad_nug <- km(formula = ~x.age+I(x.age^2)+x.year, # quadratic in age, linear in year
                         design = data.frame(x = xMort3), response = yMort3,
                         nugget.estim=TRUE,
                         covtype="matern5 2",
                         optim.method="gen",
                         control=control.params)
nug_quad <- mortModel3quad_nug@covariance@nugget</pre>
mortModelquad <- km(formula = ~x.age+I(x.age^2)+x.year,
                     design = mortModel3quad_nug@X, response = mortModel3quad_nug@y,
                     noise.var = rep(nug_quad,mortModel3quad_nug@n),
                     coef.trend = mortModel3quad_nug@trend.coef,
                     coef.cov = mortModel3quad_nug@covariance@range.val,
                     coef.var = mortModel3quad_nug@covariance@sd2,
                     covtype = mortModel3quad_nug@covariance@name)
```

Using **show()** we can compare the fitted coefficients of the trends, as well as the GP hyperparameters, such as the lengthscales  $\theta_{ag}$ ,  $\theta_{vr}$ .

```
show(mortModelint)
```

```
##
## Call:
## km(formula = ~1, design = mortModel3int_nug@X, response = mortModel3int_nug@y,
       covtype = mortModel3int_nug@covariance@name, coef.trend = mortModel3int_nug@trend.coef,
       coef.cov = mortModel3int_nug@covariance@range.val, coef.var = mortModel3int_nug@covariance@sd2,
##
##
       noise.var = rep(nug_int, mortModel3int_nug@n))
##
## Trend coeff.:
##
##
  (Intercept)
                   -3.5476
##
## Covar. type : matern5_2
```

```
## Covar. coeff.:
##
   theta(x.age)
                    32.6842
## theta(x.year)
                    34.0000
## Variance: 1.261979
show(mortModellin)
##
## Call:
## km(formula = ~x.age + x.year, design = mortModel3lin_nug@X, response = mortModel3lin_nug@y,
##
       covtype = mortModel3lin_nug@covariance@name, coef.trend = mortModel3lin_nug@trend.coef,
##
       coef.cov = mortModel3lin_nug@covariance@range.val, coef.var = mortModel3lin_nug@covariance@sd2,
##
       noise.var = rep(nug_lin, mortModel3lin_nug@n))
##
## Trend coeff.:
##
##
    (Intercept)
                   40.8071
##
          x.age
                    0.0965
                   -0.0255
##
         x.year
##
## Covar. type : matern5_2
## Covar. coeff.:
##
   theta(x.age)
                     5.1058
                     4.4593
## theta(x.year)
## Variance: 0.001748755
show(mortModelquad)
##
## Call:
## km(formula = ~x.age + I(x.age^2) + x.year, design = mortModel3quad_nug@X,
##
       response = mortModel3quad_nug@y, covtype = mortModel3quad_nug@covariance@name,
       coef.trend = mortModel3quad_nug@trend.coef, coef.cov = mortModel3quad_nug@covariance@range.val,
##
##
       coef.var = mortModel3quad_nug@covariance@sd2, noise.var = rep(nug_quad,
           mortModel3quad_nug@n))
##
##
##
  Trend coeff.:
##
##
    (Intercept)
                   44.2132
                    0.0292
##
          x.age
##
     I(x.age^2)
                    0.0005
##
         x.year
                   -0.0260
##
## Covar. type : matern5_2
## Covar. coeff.:
##
  theta(x.age)
                     4.9115
## theta(x.year)
                     3.2769
##
## Variance: 0.001201927
```

We can also print out the respective log-likelihood scores that can be converted into BIC scores and ultimately

into Bayes Factors for comparing goodness-of-fit across models. As expected, the quadratic prior mean has the highest log-likelihood because it has the most degrees of freedom. However, after applying the BIC penalties, the linear-mean model ends up with the highest BIC.

```
c(mortModel3int_nug@logLik,mortModel3lin_nug@logLik,mortModel3quad_nug@logLik)
```

```
## [1] 616.2822 633.9895 635.7808
```

Next, we use these three GP models to forecast temporal mortality trends at ages 60, 70, 80, to see how well they can extrapolate. In the plots below we compare their Age-specific forecasts for years 2005–2030, where 2017 and onward is an extrapolation compared to the training data.

*Note:* we plot all the GP predictions on the same plot since we have the natural ordering that (log-)mortality is much lower at Age 60 compared to Age 70 compared to Age 80.

```
# Setup the test data.frame to be displayed
agesForecast \leftarrow c(60,70,80)
yearsForecast <- 2005:2030</pre>
nYr <- length(yearsForecast)</pre>
nAg <- length(agesForecast)</pre>
xPred <- data.frame(age=rep(agesForecast,each=nYr), year=rep(yearsForecast,nAg))</pre>
# Setup the raw training data that was used
agesObserved <- 60:80
yearsObserved <- 1999:2016</pre>
rateObserved <- dplyr::filter(mortData,age %in% agesObserved, year %in% yearsForecast)$rate
# predict using the 3 GP models above on the same test set
mortPredInt <- predict(mortModelint, newdata=data.frame(x=xPred), cov.compute=TRUE,</pre>
             se.compute=TRUE, type="UK")
mortPredLin <- predict(mortModellin, newdata=data.frame(x=xPred), cov.compute=TRUE,</pre>
             se.compute=TRUE.tvpe="UK")
mortPredQuad <- predict(mortModelquad, newdata=data.frame(x=xPred), cov.compute=TRUE,
             se.compute=TRUE, type="UK")
xPred$mInt <- (mortPredInt$mean)</pre>
xPred$mLin <- (mortPredLin$mean)</pre>
xPred$mQuad <- (mortPredQuad$mean)</pre>
xPredag <- dplyr::filter(xPred,age==80)</pre>
rateObserved <- log(dplyr::filter(mortData, year %in% yearsObserved, age == 80)$rate)
# set-up the overall plot layout
plot(yearsObserved, rateObserved,
     bty='n', main="", pch=19, cex.axis=1.2, cex.lab=1.2, cex=1.3,
     xlab="Year", ylab="Log Mortality Rate", ylim=c(-5, -2), xlim=range(yearsForecast))
for(ag in agesForecast){
  rateObserved <- log(dplyr::filter(mortData, year %in% yearsObserved, age == ag)$rate)</pre>
  # add points representing training data of observed log-mortality
  points(yearsObserved,rateObserved,col="darkblue",
       pch=19, cex=1.3)
  text(2008, rateObserved[2]+0.1*(ag != 70), paste("Age ",ag), cex=1.15)
  # add lines representing GP posterior mean
```

