Progress in the R ecosystem for open source spatial analysis software

Roger Bivand

23 May 2019

Outline

- Introduction and background: why break stuff (why not)?
- Data input/output and representation: movement from legacy sp to standards-compliant sf representation; coordinate reference systems; developments similar to GeoPandas and Shapely in Python
- Spatial weights and measures of autocorrelation: software packages previously using the sp representation may add sf representation or replace sp with sf; spdep can use both for constructing spatial weights
- Spatial regression: model estimation and handling split out from spdep to spatialreg; fewer reverse dependencies, quicker changes

Introduction

The R ecosystem for open source spatial analysis software

- The R statistical programming language and environment has been used for analysing spatial data since its inception, partly building on its heritage from S and S-Plus.
- When the conceptualisation of spatial data was introduced in the **sp** package, it was expected that some packages would adopt its classes.
- Some years later, adoption rates had picked up strongly, as had use of the sp-based packages
 rgdal for input/output and rgeos for geometric manipulation of vector data.
- The packages depending on **sp** classes continue to require support as more adequate data representations are introduced in the **sf** and **stars** packages.

The sf package

- The sf package provides the input/output and geometry manipulation functionalities found in rgdal and rgeos, and an alternative class representation for vector data based on the Simple Features standard (Pebesma, Mailund, and Hiebert 2016; Pebesma 2018; Ucar, Pebesma, and Azcorra 2018)
- The stars package adds some facilities for handling spatio-temporal raster and vector data, building in part on work with the spacetime package.
- Finally, Pebesma and Bivand (2020) present a fuller picture of ongoing changes in the R
 spatial analysis ecosystem, going into more detail because Lovelace et al. (2019) provide an
 excellent introduction

Upstream geospatial software

- In addition there are many changes taking place in upstream geospatial software that will impact typical workflows.
- For vector data, it is very likely that the legacy shapefile file format will be replaced, probably by the geopackage format.
- One reason for this is that GPKG is designed to support multibyte string encoding.
- In addition, the representations of spatial/coordinate reference systems are being modernised, leading to breaking changes in most software.

Other packages; reproducible research

- Newer visualization packages, such as tmap, mapview and cartography, give broader scope for data exploration and communication.
- An overview of modelling and analysis packages shows the considerable range of approaches now available in contributed packages and other R code present in supplementary material to published papers.
- This provides a helpful mechanism supporting reproducible research and hands-on reviewing in which readers can read the code and scripts used in calculating the results presented in published work.

Package dependencies

- Because contributed packages form an ecosystem, some packages are used by others in turn in dependency trees.
- Class representations of data are central, with the data frame conceptualisation shaping much of the whole R ecosystem.
- For the modelling infrastructure to perform correctly, the relationships between objects containing data and formula interfaces constructing model responses and matrices are crucial.
- Because both sp and sf provide similar interfaces, transition from sp to sf representations is convenient by design.

Splitting the **spdep** package

- The **spdep** package has been split into **spdep** for constructing spatial weights and exploratory spatial data analysis, and the new package **spatialreg** for spatial regression.
- At present spatialreg functions can also be accessed from the pre-split spdep code, but this
 deprecation period will be short; this reorganisation is similar in form to that taking place in
 PySAL.
- The spdep and spatialreg packages have been adapted to accommodate data held in sf classes in addition to sp classes, so both approaches are viable.
- In order to retain backward compatibility, other central packages may choose to handle the coexistence of sp and sf classes in the same way.

Splitting the **spdep** package

- The first step taken was to add sf interfaces to existing spdep functions, mostly for creating neighbour objects (completed version 1.0-2 13 February)
- The package split was announced as a github issue on r-spatial/spdep and on Twitter on
 11 March
- With insight from Iñaki Ucar and Gábor Csárdi responding to my 9 March post on the R-pkg-devel mailing list, the reverse dependency functions were found using pkgapi::map_package()
- The deprecated split packages (spdep 1.1-2 and spatialreg 1.1-3) were published 1 & 5 April (see this post); the spdep model functions will be made defunct shortly

Comparative studies

- The performance of the spdep package implementations of global and local measures of spatial autocorrelation have been compared with other implementations by Bivand and Wong (2018).
- The spatial regression model fitting functions now in the spatialreg and sphet packages were compared with other implementations by Bivand and Piras (2015).
- Methods for computing the log determinant in spatial regression using maximum likelihood and Bayesian estimation methods were surveyed in Bivand et al. (2013).
- Bivand et al. (2017) survey spatial multilevel model estimation approaches.

Data input/output and

representation

Spatial data

Spatial data typically combine position data in 2D (or 3D), attribute data and metadata related to the position data. Much spatial data could be called map data or GIS data. We collect and handle much more position data since global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) like GPS came on stream 20 years ago, earth observation satellites have been providing data for longer. (Geocomputation with R may be useful, as may SDSR).



Data handling

We can download monthly CSV files of city bike use, and manipulate the input to let us use the stplanr package to aggregate origin-destination data. One destination is in Oslo, some are round trips, but otherwise things are OK. We can use CycleStreets to route the volumes onto OSM cycle paths, via an API and API key. We'd still need to aggregate the bike traffic by cycle path segment for completeness.

```
> bike fls <- list.files("../bbs")</pre>
> trips0 <- NULL
> for (fl in bike_fls) trips0 <- rbind(trips0,
+ read.csv(file.path("../bbs", fl), header=TRUE))
> trips0 <- trips0[trips0[, 8] < 6 & trips0[, 13] < 6.]
> trips <- cbind(trips0[,c(1, 4, 2, 9)], data.frame(count=1))</pre>
> from <- unique(trips0[.c(4.5.7.8)])</pre>
> names(from) <- substring(names(from), 7)</pre>
> to <- unique(trips0[,c(9,10,12,13)])</pre>
> names(to) <- substring(names(to), 5)</pre>
> stations0 <- st as sf(merge(from, to, all=TRUE).
  coords=c("station_longitude", "station_latitude"))
> stations <- aggregate(stations0, list(stations0$station id),</pre>
  head, n=1)
> suppressWarnings(stations <- st cast(stations. "POINT"))</pre>
> st crs(stations) <- 4326
> od <- aggregate(trips[,-(1:4)], list(trips$start_station_id,</pre>
   trips$end station id), sum)
> od <- od[-(which(od[.1] == od[.2])).]</pre>
> librarv(stplanr)
> od lines <- od2line(flow=od, zones=stations, zone code="Group.1".
   origin_code="Group.1", dest_code="Group.2")
> Sys.setenv(CYCLESTREET="xXxXXxXxXxXxXxXxX")
> od routes <- line2route(od lines, "route cyclestreet".
+ plan = "fastest")
```

Data handling

Origin-destination lines



Routed lines along cycle routes



Vector data

Spatial vector data is based on points, from which other geometries are constructed. Vector data is often also termed object-based spatial data. The light rail tracks are 2D vector data. The points themselves are stored as double precision floating point numbers, typically without recorded measures of accuracy (GNSS provides a measure of accuracy). Here, lines are constructed from points.

```
> all(st_is(byb, "XY"))
## [1] TRUE
> str(st_coordinates(st_geometry(byb)[[1]]))
## num [1:14, 1:3] 5.33 5.33 5.33 5.33 ...
## - attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
## ..$: chr [1:14] "4870663682" "331531217" "331531216" "331531215" ...
## ..$: chr [1:3] "%" "Y" "11"
```

Representing spatial vector data in R (sp)

The sp package was a child of its time, using S4 formal classes, and the best compromise we then had of positional representation (not arc-node, but hard to handle holes in polygons). If we coerce byb to the sp representation, we see the formal class structure. Input/output used OGR/GDAL vector drivers in the rgdal package, and topological operations used GEOS in the rgeos package.

```
> library(sp)
> str(stot(as(st_geometry(byb), "Spatial"), "lines")[[1]])
## Formal class 'Lines' [package "sp"] with 2 slots
## ... $: incomparison of 1
## ... $: Formal class 'Line' [package "sp"] with 1 slot
## ... ... acoords: num [1:14, 1:2] 5.33 5.33 5.33 5.33 5.33 5.33 ...
## ... ... - attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
## ... ... $: chr [1:14] "4870663682" "331531217" "331531216" "331
## ... ... ... $: chr [1:12] "lon" "lat"
## ... ID : chr "ID1"
```

Representing spatial vector data in R (sf)

The recent **sf** package bundles GDAL and GEOS (sp just defined the classes and methods. leaving I/O and computational geometry to other packages). sf used data.frame objects with one (or more) geometry column for vector data. The representation follows ISO 19125 (Simple Features), and has WKT (text) and WKB (binary) representations (used by GDAL and GEOS internally). The drivers include PostGIS and other database constructions permitting selection, and WFS for server APIs (rgdal does too, but requires more from the user).

```
> strwrap(st_as_text(st_geometry(byb)[[1]]))
## [1] "LINESTRING (5.333375 60.30436, 5.333386"
## [2] "60.30439, 5.333512 60.30463, 5.333664"
## [3] "60.30487, 5.3342 60.30559, 5.334472"
## [4] "60.30589, 5.334727 60.30613, 5.334901"
## [5] "60.30628, 5.33523 60.30652, 5.335494"
## [6] "60.30667, 5.335813 60.30652, 5.336282"
## [7] "60.30701, 5.336615 60.3071, 5.336872"
## [8] "60.30716)"
```

Baseline WKT and PROJ4

Spatial reference systems define how the geoid is viewed (prime meridian, ellipsoid, datum). and, if projected to the plane, where we are (central longitude, latitude, offsets, etc.). They also define the units - sf incorporates smart units handling. Projection (no datum change) and transformation are possible using PROI and its proj_api.h interface directly (rgdal::spTransform() and lwgeom::st transform proj()).or through GDAL (sf::st_transform()). Migration to the new **proj.h** API has begun.

```
> (WKT <- st crs(bvb))
## Coordinate Reference System:
    EPSG: 4326
    proj4string: "+proj=longlat +datum=WGS84 +no defs"
> strwrap(gsub(",", ", ", st as text(WKT)))
## [1] "GEOGCS[\"unknown\", DATUM[\"WGS_1984\","
## [2] "SPHEROID[\"WGS 84\", 6378137, 298.257223563,"
## [3] "AUTHORITY[\"EPSG\", \"7030\"]],"
## [4] "AUTHORITY[\"EPSG\", \"6326\"]],"
## [5] "PRIMEM[\"Greenwich\". 0, AUTHORITY[\"EPSG\"."
## [6] "\"8901\"]]. UNIT[\"degree\". 0.0174532925199433."
## [7] "AUTHORITY[\"EPSG\". \"9122\"]]."
## [8] "AXIS[\"Longitude\". EAST]. AXIS[\"Latitude\"."
## [9] "NORTH]]"
> byb utm <- st transform(byb. crs=32632)
> st crs(bvb utm)
## Coordinate Reference System:
    EDSG+ 32632
## proj4string: "+proj=utm +zone=32 +datum=WGS84 +units=m +no_defs"
```

Escaping the WGS84 hub: PROJ 6 and OGC WKT2

Changes in the legacy PROI representation and WGS84 transformation hub have been coordinated through the GDAL barn raising initiative. The syntax is changing to pipelines, but crucially WGS84 will often cease to be the pivot for moving between datums. A new OGC WKT is coming, and an SQLite EPSG file database is replacing CSV files. SRS will begin to support 3D by default, adding time too as SRS change.

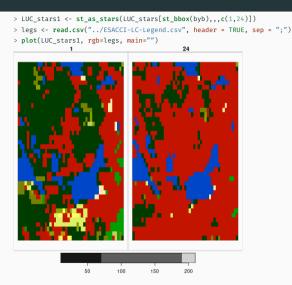
Representing spatial raster data in R (sf and stars)

The new stars - Scalable, Spatio-temporal Tidy Arrays - package started looking at array structures and has built-in proxy data. Like sf. the development of stars has been supported by the R Consortium, and stars uses the infrastructure of **sf** to use GDAL for input/output and manipulation. In sf. the interface to the C++ GDAL library is based on Rcpp, which was not available when rgdal was written. The LandGIS ESA CCI land cover series may be downloaded (API coming), and displayed.

```
> fl <- "../../bml19/ESACCI-LC-L4-LCCS-Map-300m-P1Y-1992 2015-v2.0.7.tif"
> library(stars)
## Loading required package: abind
> LUC stars <- read stars(fl. proxy=TRUE)
> LUC stars
## stars proxy object with 1 attribute in file:
## $`ESACCI-LC-L4-LCCS-Map-300m-P1Y-1992 2015-v2.0.7.tif`
    [1] "../../bml19/ESACCI-LC-L4-LCCS-Map-300m-P1Y-1992 2015-
v2.0.7.tif"
##
## dimension(s):
        from
                 to offset
                                 delta
          1 129600
                     -180 0.00277778
              64800
                        90 -0.00277778
              24
                                    ΝΔ
## band
##
                              refsvs point values
        +proj=longlat +datum=WGS8... FALSE
## x
                                             NULL
## v
        +proj=longlat +datum=WGS8... FALSE
                                             NULL
## band
                                             NULL
##
        [x]
        [v]
## v
## band
```

Representing spatial raster data in R (sf and stars)

The stars package, with links to the raster package, is developing fast, and permits spatial subsets from a proxy object using an sf bounding box, here from the downloaded > 1GB global spatio-temporal LULC climate modelling file. We can add the correct RGB colours, but not yet the list of LULC categories (see also this issue on github)



autocorrelation

Spatial weights and measures of

Neighbours

- The spdep package provides an nb class for neighbours, a list of length equal to the number of observations, with integer vector components.
- No-neighbours are encoded as an integer vector with a single element 0L, and observations
 with neighbours as sorted integer vectors containing values in 1L:n pointing to the
 neighbouring observations.
- This is a typical row-oriented sparse representation of neighbours. spdep provides many
 ways of constructing nb objects, and the representation and construction functions are
 widely used in other packages.

- spdep builds on the nb representation (undirected or directed graphs) with the listw object,
 a list with three components, an nb object, a matching list of numerical weights, and a single
 element character vector containing the single letter name of the way in which the weights
 were calculated.
- The most frequently used approach in the social sciences is calculating weights by row standardization, so that all the non-zero weights for one observation will be the inverse of the cardinality of its set of neighbours (1/card(nb[[i]])).

Data set (sf format)

We will be using election data from the 2015
Polish Presidential election in this chapter, with
2495 municipalities and Warsaw boroughs, and
complete count data from polling stations
aggregated to these areal units. The data are
an sf object:

```
> library(sf)
> data(pol pres15, package="spDataLarge")
> head(pol pres15[. c(1, 4, 6)])
## Simple feature collection with 6 features and 3 fields
## geometry type: MULTIPOLYGON
## dimension:
                   ΧV
## bbox ·
               xmin: 235157.1 vmin: 366913.3 xmax: 281431.7 vmax: 413016.6
## ensg (SRTD):
                   NΑ
## proj4string:
                 +proj=tmerc +lat 0=0 +lon 0=18.999999999999 +k=0.9993 +
5300000 +ellps=GRS80 +towgs84=0.0.0 +units=m +no defs
      TERYT
                           name
                                      types
## 1 020101
                    BOLESŁAWIEC
                                      Urban
## 2 020102
                    BOLESŁAWIEC
                                       Rural
## 3 020103
                       GROMADKA
                                      Rural
## 4 020104
                   NOWOGRODZIEC Urban/rural
## 5 020105
                     OSTECZNICA
                                      Rural
## 6 020106 WARTA BOLESŁAWTECKA
                                      Rural
##
                           geometry
## 1 MULTIPOLYGON (((261089.5 38...
## 2 MULTIPOLYGON (((254150 3837...
## 3 MULTIPOLYGON (((275346 3846...
## 4 MULTIPOLYGON (((251769.8 37...
## 5 MULTIPOLYGON (((263423.9 40...
## 6 MULTIPOLYGON (((267030.7 38...
```

The spdep/spatialreg split

- Between early 2002 and April 2019, spdep contained functions for constructing and handling neighbour and spatial weights objects, tests for spatial autocorrelation, and model fitting functions.
- The latter have been split out into **spatialreg**, and will be discussed in the next section.
- spdep now accommodates objects represented using sf classes and sp classes directly, going beyond the explorations made in this vignette.

Contiguous neighbours

The poly2nb() function in spdep takes the boundary points making up the polygon boundaries in the object passed as the pl= argument. For each observation checks whether at least one (queen=TRUE, default), or at least two (rook, queen=FALSE) points are within **snap**= distance units of each other. The distances are planar in the raw coordinate units, ignoring geographical projections. Once the required number of sufficiently close points is found, the search is stopped.

```
> suppressPackageStartupMessages(library(spdep))
> system.time(nb_q <- poly2nb(pol_pres15, queen=TRUE))
## user system elapsed
## 1.345 0.040 1.391
> nb_q
## Neighbour list object:
## Number of regions: 2495
## Number of nonzero links: 14242
## Percentage nonzero weights: 0.2287862
## Average number of links: 5.708216
```

Contiguous neighbours

Pre-finding candidate contiguous neighbours may be helpful with larger objects, by finding intersecting bounding boxes, removing self-intersections and duplicate intersections (contiguities are by definition symmetric, if i is a neighbour of j, then j is a neighbour of i); the foundInBox= argument is used.

[1] TRUE

Exchange of GAL files

Neighbour objects may be exported and imported in GAL format for exchange with other software. using write.nb.gal() and read.gal(). Using reticulate, it is possible to interoperate with the PySAL family of Python packages, first **libpysal** providing the basic weights handling infrastructure. As we can see. the percentage of non-zero neighbours is the same in both software systems.

```
> tf <- tempfile(fileext=".gal")
> write.nb.gal(nb_q, tf)
> library(reticulate)
> use_python(python='/usr/bin/python3')
> np <- import("numpy")
> libpysal <- import("libpysal")
> nb_gal_ps <- libpysal$io$open(tf)$read()
> nb_gal_ps$pct_nonzero
## [1] 0.2287862
```

Once neighbour objects are available, further choices need to made in specifying the weights objects. The nb2listw() function is used to create a listw weights object with an nb object, a matching list of weights vectors, and a style specification. Because handling no-neighbour observations now begins to matter, the **zero.policy**= argument is introduced. By default, this is FALSE. indicating that no-neighbour observations will cause an error, as the spatially lagged value for an observation with no neighbours is not available

By convention, zero is substituted for the lagged value, as the cross product of a vector of zero-valued weights and a data vector, hence the name of zero.policy.

> args(nb2listw)
function (neighbours, glist = NULL, style = "W", zero.policy = NULL)
NULL

We will be using the helper function spweights.constants() below to show some consequences of varying style choices. It returns constants for a listw object. n is the number of observations, n1 to n3 are n-1,..., nn is n^2 and S_0, S_1 and S_2 are constants, S_0 being the sum of the weights. There is a full discussion of the constants in Bivand and Wong (2018).

```
> args(spweights.constants)
## function (listw, zero.policy = NULL, adjust.n = TRUE)
## NULL
```

The "B" binary style gives a weight of unity to each neighbour relationship, and typically upweights units with no boundaries on the edge of the study area.

The "W" row-standardized style upweights units around the edge of the study area that necessarily have fewer neighbours. This style first gives a weight of unity to each neighbour relationship, then divides these weights by the per unit sums of weights. Naturally this leads to division by zero where there are no neighbours, a not-a-number result, unless the chosen policy is to permit no-neighbour observations. We can see that S_0 is now equal to n

Global tests for autocorrelation (Morans I)

The implementation of Moran's I in spdep in the moran.test() function takes a vector of values x= and a listw object, and returns a list of htest (hypothesis test) objects defined in the stats package. The randomisation= argument indicates the underlying analytical approach used for calculating the variance of the measure.

```
> args(moran.test)
## function (x, listw, randomisation = TRUE, zero.policy = NULL,
## alternative = "greater", rank = FALSE, na.action = na.fail,
## spChk = NULL, adjust.n = TRUE, drop.EI2 = FALSE)
## NULL
```

Global tests for autocorrelation (Morans I)

The default for the randomisation=
argument is TRUE, but here we will simply show
that the test under normality is the same as a
test of least squares residuals with only the
intercept used in the mean model. The spelling
of randomisation is that of Cliff and Ord (1973).

The lm.morantest() function also takes a resfun= argument to set the function used to extract the residuals used for testing, and clearly lets us model other salient features of the response variable (Cliff and Ord 1981, 203).

```
> args(lm.morantest)
## function (model, listw, zero.policy = NULL, alternative = "greater",
## spChk = NULL, resfun = weighted.residuals, naSubset = TRUE)
## NULL
```

To compare with the standard test, we are only using the intercept here, and as can be seen, the results are the same.

The only difference between tests under normality and randomisation is that an extra term is added if the kurtosis of the variable of interest indicates a flatter or more peaked distribution, where the measure used is the classical measure of kurtosis.

> all.egual(3-e1071::kurtosis(pol.pres1551_turnout, type=1),

Under the default randomisation assumption of analytical randomisation, the results are largely unchanged.

The PySAL **esda** package contains the **Moran** function reporting the same results, here under randomisation. The function returns results under normality, randomisation and by permutation simulation. Similar comparisons may be made for other global measures; for details see Bivand and Wong (2018).

Bivand and Wong (2018) discuss issues impacting the use of local indicators, such as local Moran's I and local Getis-Ord G. Some issues affect the calculation of the local indicators, others inference from their values. Because n statistics may be being calculated from the same number of observations, there are multiple comparison problems that need to be addressed. Although the apparent detection of hotspots from values of local indicators has been quite widely adopted, it remains fraught with difficulty because adjustment of the inferential basis to accommodate multiple comparisons is not often chosen.

and as in the global case, mis-specification also remains a source of confusion. Further, interpreting local spatial autocorrelation in the presence of global spatial autocorrelation is challenging (Ord and Getis 2001; Tiefelsdorf 2002; Bivand, Müller, and Reder 2009).

> args(localmoran)
function (x, listw, zero.policy = NULL, na.action = na.fail, ## alternative = "greater", p.adjust.method = "none", mlvar = TRUE, ## spchk = NULL, adjust.x = FALSE)

In order to compare the results from localmoran() with the PySAL function in esda, we need first to re-run dividing by n-1 instead of n in parts of the calculation, by setting the argument mlvar=FALSE.

> locm_nml <- localmoran(pol_pres15\$1_turnout, listw=lw_q_B, alternative="two_sided", mlvar=FALSE)

Once this is done, the local estimates of Moran's I agree within machine precision. > np\$random\$seed(1L) > loc_I_ps <- esda\$Moran_Local(pol_pres15\$I_turnout, nb_gal_ps, transformation="B", permutations=0L) > all.equal(unname(locm_nml[,1]), c(loc_I_ps\$Is)) ## [1] TRUE

Local spatial heteroscedasticity (LOSH) statistic

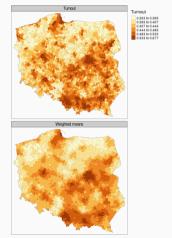
Local spatial heteroscedasticity (LOSH) statistics were introduced fairly recently, and an implementation was contributed to spdep even more recently, so there is as yet little experience with the approach (Ord and Getis 2012). It has been extended to provide bootstrap p-values for the measures of heterogeneity (Xu. Mei, and Yan 2014). The a= argument takes a default value of 2, giving a Chi-squared interpretation to output. > args(LOSH)

function (x, listw, a = 2, var_hi = TRUE, zero.policv = NULL.

na.action = na.fail. spChk = NULL)

> lh <- LOSH(pol pres15\$T turnout, listw=lw a B)

NIII I It is also possible to map local spatially weighted mean values derived from the local measures, showing a smoothing effect



Spatial regression with spatial weights

- Spatial autoregression models using spatial weights matrices were described in some detail using maximum likelihood estimation some time ago (Cliff and Ord 1973, 1981).
- A family of models were elaborated in spatial econometric terms extending earlier work, and in many cases using the simultaneous autoregressive framework and row standardization of spatial weights (Anselin 1988).
- The simultaneous and conditional autoregressive frameworks can be compared, and both can be supplemented using case weights to reflect the relative importance of different observations (Waller and Gotway 2004).

- Here we shall use the Boston housing data set, which has been restructured and furnished with census tract boundaries (Bivand 2017).
- The original data set used 506 census tracts and a hedonic model to try to estimate willingness to pay for clean air.
- The response was constructed from counts of ordinal answers to a 1970 census question about house value; the response is left and right censored in the census source.
- The key covariate was created from a calibrated meteorological model showing the annual nitrogen oxides (NOX) level for a smaller number of model output zones.
- The numbers of houses responding also varies by tract and model output zone.

We can start by reading in the 506 tract data set from **spData**, and creating a contiguity neighbour object and from that again a row standardized spatial weights object. If we examine the median house values, we find that they have been assigned as missing values, and that 17 tracts are affected.

```
> librarv(sf)
> suppressWarnings(boston 506 <- st read(system.file(</pre>
                                     "shapes/boston_tracts.shp",
                                     package="spData")[1]))
## Reading layer `boston tracts' from data source `/home/rsb/lib/r libs/spD
## Simple feature collection with 506 features and 36 fields
## geometry type: POLYGON
## dimension:
                   XV
## bbox:
                         xmin: -71.52311 vmin: 42.00305 xmax: -
70.63823 ymax: 42.67307
## epsg (SRID):
                   4267
## proj4string:
                 +proj=longlat +datum=NAD27 +no defs
> nb_q <- spdep::poly2nb(boston_506)</pre>
> lw a <- spdep::nb2listw(nb a, style="W")</pre>
> table(boston 506$censored)
##
  left
            no right
```

Next, we can subset to the remaining 489 tracts with non-censored house values, and the neighbour object to match. The neighbour object now has one observation with no neighbours.

```
> boston_489 <- boston_506[!is.na(boston_506$median),]
> nb_q_489 <- spdep::poly2nb(boston_489)
> lw_q_489 <- spdep::nb2listw(nb_q_489, style="W", zero.policy=TRUE)</pre>
```

The NOX_ID variable specifies the upper level aggregation, letting us aggregate the tracts to air pollution model output zones. We can create aggregate neighbour and row standardized spatial weights objects, and aggregate the NOX variable taking means, and the CHAS Charles River dummy variable for observations on the river.

The response is aggregated using the weightedMedian() function in matrixStats, and midpoint values for the house value classes. Counts of houses by value class were punched to check the published census values. which can be replicated using weightedMedian() at the tract level. Here we find two output zones with calculated weighted medians over the upper census question limit of USD 50.000, and remove them subsequently as they also are affected by not knowing the appropriate value to insert for the top class by value.

```
> nms <- names(boston 506)
> ccounts <= 23:31
> for (nm in nms[c(22, ccounts, 36)]) {
   boston 96[[nm]] <- aggregate(boston 506[[nm]].
                                 agg 96, sum)$x
> br2 <- c(3.50, 6.25, 8.75, 12.50, 17.50, 22.50,
          30.00. 42.50. 60.00)*1000
> counts <- as.data.frame(boston 96)[, nms[ccounts]]
> f <- function(x) matrixStats::weightedMedian(x=br2, w=x,</pre>
                                          interpolate=TRUE)
> boston 96$median <- apply(counts, 1, f)
> is.na(boston_96$median) <- boston_96$median > 50000
> summarv(boston 96$median)
     Min. 1st Ou. Median
                              Mean 3rd Ou.
                                              Max.
     9009
            20417
                    23523
                             25263
                                     30073
                                             49496
     NA's
```

Before subsetting, we aggregate the remaining covariates by weighted mean using the tract population counts punched from the census (Bivand 2017). We now have two data sets each at the lower, census tract level and the upper, air pollution model output zone level, one including the censored observations, the other excluding them.

In order to try out some of the variant models, we need to remove the no-neighbour observations from the tract level, and from the model output zone aggregated level, in two steps as reducing the tract level induces a no-neighbour outcome at the model output zone level.

```
> oo <- aggregate(boston_489[,"NOX_ID"], list(boston_489$NOX_ID),

+ unique)
> boston_94a <- st_cast(oo, "MULTIPOLYGON")
> nb_q_94a <- spdep::poly2nb(boston_94a)
> oo <- which(spdep::card(nb_q_94a) == 0)
> NOX_ID_no_neighs <- boston_94a$NOX_ID[oo]
> oo <- is.na(match(boston_489$NOX_ID, NOX_ID_no_neighs))
> boston_487 <- boston_489[oo,]
> oo <- aggregate(boston_487[, "NOX_ID"], list(ids=boston_487$NOX_ID),
+ unique)
> boston_93 <- st_cast(oo, "MULTIPOLYGON")
> row.names(boston_93) <- as.character(boston_93$NOX_ID)
> oo <- unique(as.character(boston_93$NOX_ID))
> nb_0 93 <- spdep::poly2nb(boston_93, row.names=po)
```

The original model related the log of median house values by tract to the square of NOX values, including other covariates usually related to house value by tract, such as aggregate room counts, aggregate age, ethnicity, social status, distance to downtown and to the nearest radial road, a crime rate. and town-level variables reflecting land use (zoning, industry), taxation and education (Bivand 2017). This structure will be used here to exercise issues raised in fitting spatial regression models, including the presence of multiple levels.

- In trying to model these spatial processes, we may choose to model the spatial autocorrelation in the residual with a spatial error model (SEM).
- If the processes in the covariates and the response match, we should find little difference between the coefficients of a least squares and a SEM, but very often they diverge, suggesting that a Hausman test for this condition should be employed (Pace and LeSage 2008).
- This may be related to earlier discussions of a spatial equivalent to the unit root and cointegration where spatial processes match (Fingleton 1999).

- Work reviewed by Mur and Angulo (2006) on the Durbin model, including the spatially lagged covariates in the model, permits a shared spatial process to be viewed and tested for as a Common Factor (Burridge 1981; Bivand 1984).
- The inclusion of spatially lagged covariates lets us check whether the same spatial process is manifest in the response and the covariates (SEM), whether they are different processes, or whether no process is detected.
- A model with a spatial process in the response only is termed a spatial lag model (SLM, often SAR - spatial autoregressive), and with different processes in the response and covariates a spatial Durbin model (SDM) (LeSage and Pace 2009).

- If we extend this family with processes in the covariates and the residual, we get a spatial error Durbin model (SDEM).
- If it is chosen to admit a spatial process in the residuals in addition to a spatial process in the response, again two models are formed, a general nested model (GNM) nesting all the others, and a model without spatially lagged covariates (SAC, also known as SARAR).
- If neither the residuals nor the residual are modelled with spatial processes, spatially lagged covariates may be added to a linear model, as a spatially lagged X model (SLX) (Elhorst 2010; Bivand 2012; Halleck Vega and Elhorst 2015).

- Although making predictions for new locations for which covariates are observed was raised
 as an issue some time ago, it has many years to make progress in reviewing the possibilities
 (Bivand 2002; Goulard, Laurent, and Thomas-Agnan 2017).
- The prediction method for SLM, SDM, SEM, SDEM, SAC and GNM models fitted with maximum likelihood were contributed as a Google Summer of Coding project by Martin Gubri.
- This work, and work on similar models with missing data (Suesse 2018) is also relevant for exploring censored median house values in the Boston data set.
- Work on prediction also exposed the importance of the reduced form of these models, in which the spatial process in the response interacts with the regression coefficients in the SLM, SDM, SAC and GNM models.

- The consequence of these interactions is that a unit change in a covariate will only impact the response as the value of the regression coefficient if the spatial coefficient of the lagged response is zero.
- Where it is non-zero, global spillovers, impacts, come into play, and these impacts should be reported rather than the regression coefficients (LeSage and Pace 2009; Elhorst 2010; Bivand 2012; Halleck Vega and Elhorst 2015).
- Local impacts may be reported for SDEM and SLX models, using linear combination to calculate standard errors for the total impacts of each covariate (sums of coefficients on the covariates and their spatial lags).

- Current work in the spatialreg package is focused on refining the handling of spatially lagged covariates using a consistent Durbin= argument taking either a logical value or a formula giving the subset of covariates to add in spatially lagged form.
- There is a speculation that some covariates, for example some dummy variables, should not be added in spatially lagged form.
- This then extends to handling these included spatially lagged covariates appropriately in calculating impacts.
- This work applies to cross-sectional models fitted using MCMC or maximum likelihood, and will offer facilities to spatial panel models.

- It is worth mentioning the almost unexplored issues of functional form assumptions, for which flexible structures are useful, including spatial quantile regression presented in the McSpatial package (McMillen 2013).
- There are further issues with discrete response variables, covered by some functions in McSpatial, and in the spatialprobit and ProbitSpatial packages (Wilhelm and Matos 2013; Martinetti and Geniaux 2017); the MCMC implementations of the former are based on LeSage and Pace (2009).
- Finally, Wagner and Zeileis (2019) show how an SLM model may be used in the setting of recursive partitioning, with an implementation using **spatialreg::lagsarlm()** in the **lagsarlmtree** package.

Estimators

- The review of cross-sectional maximum likelihood and generalized method of moments (GMM) estimators in spatialreg and sphet for spatial econometrics style spatial regression models by Bivand and Piras (2015) is still largely valid.
- In the review, estimators in these R packages were compared with alternative implementations available in other programming languages elsewhere.
- The review did not cover Bayesian spatial econometrics style spatial regression.

For models with single spatial coefficients (SEM and SDEM using errorsarlm(), SLM and SDM using lagsarlm()), the methods initially described by Ord (1975) are used. Both estimating functions take similar arguments, where the first two. formula= and data= are shared by most model estimating functions. The third argument is a listw spatial weights object, while na.action = behaves as in other model estimating functions if the spatial weights can reasonably be subsetted to avoid observations with missing values.

The weights = argument may be used to provide weights indicating the known degree of per-observation variability in the variance term

- this is not available for lagsarlm().
 > suppressPackageStartupMessages(library(spatialreg))
 > args(errorsarlm)
 ## function (formula, data = list(), listw, na.action, weights = NULL,
 ## Durbin, etype, method = "eigen", quiet = NULL, zero.policy = NULL,
 ## interval = NULL, tol.solve = .Machine\$double.eps, trs = NULL,
- ## NULL

control = list())

The **Durbin**= argument replaces the earlier type= and etype= arguments, and if not given is taken as FALSE. If given, it may be FALSE. TRUE in which case all spatially lagged covariates are included, or a one-sided formula specifying which spatially lagged covariates should be included. The method= argument gives the method for calculating the log determinant term in the log likelihood function. and defaults to "eigen", suitable for moderate sized data sets

The interval = argument gives the bounds of the domain for the line search using stats::optimize() used for finding the spatial coefficient. The control = argument takes a list of control values to permit more careful adjustment of the running of the estimation function.

```
> args(lagsarlm)
## function (formula, data = list(), listw, na.action, Durbin, type,
## method = "eigen", quiet = NULL, zero.policy = NULL, interval = NULL,
## tol.solve = .Machine$double.eps, trs = NULL, control = list())
## NULL
```

The sacsarlm() function may take second spatial weights and interval arguments if the spatial weights used to model the two spatial processes in the SAC and GNM specifications differ. By default, the same spatial weights are used. By default, stats::nlminb() is used for numerical optimization, using a heuristic to choose starting values.

```
> args(sacsarlm)
## function (formula, data = list(), listw, listw2 = NULL, na.action,
## Durbin, type, method = "eigen", quiet = NULL, zero.policy = NULL,
## tol.solve = .Machine$double.eps, llprof = NULL, interval1 = NULL,
## interval2 = NULL, trs1 = NULL, trs2 = NULL, control = list())
## NULL
```

Standard methods for fitted models are provided, such as **summary()**. The Nagelkerke= argument permits the return of a value approximately corresponding to a coefficient of determination, although the summary method anyway provides the value of stats::AIC() because a stats::logLik() method is provided for "sarlm" objects. If the "sarlm" object is a SEM or SDEM, the Hausman test may be performed by setting Hausman=TRUE to see whether the regression coefficients are sufficiently like least squares coefficients, indicating absence of mis-specification from that source.

```
> args(summary.sarlm)
## function (object, correlation = FALSE, Nagelkerke = FALSE, Hausman = FALSE
## adj.se = FALSE, ...)
## NULL
```

Hausman tests

2

As an example, we may fit SEM and SDEM to the 94 and 489 observation Boston data sets, and present the Hausman test results. Here we are using the control = list argument to pass through pre-computed eigenvalues for the

```
default "eigen" method.
```

```
> eigs 489 <- eigenw(lw a 489)
> SDEM 489 <- errorsarlm(form, data=boston 489, listw=lw g 489,
                        Durbin=TRUE, zero.policy=TRUE,
                        control=list(pre eig=eigs 489))
> SEM 489 <- errorsarlm(form, data=boston 489, listw=lw g 489,
                       zero.policy=TRUE.
                       control=list(pre eig=eigs 489))
> cbind(data.frame(model=c("SEM", "SDEM")).
       rbind(broom::tidv(Hausman.test(SEM 489)).
             broom::tidv(Hausman.test(SDEM 489))))[.1:4]
##
    model statistic
                         p.value parameter
           51 9862 2 8271920-86
                                         14
     SDFM
           48.6551 6.481654e-03
                                         27
```

```
> eigs 94 <- eigenw(lw a 94)
> SDEM 94 <- errorsarlm(form. data=boston 94. listw=lw g 94.
                       Durbin=TRUE.
                       control=list(pre_eig=eigs_94))
> SEM 94 <- errorsarlm(form, data=boston 94, listw=lw g 94,
                      control=list(pre eig=eigs 94))
> cbind(data.frame(model=c("SEM", "SDEM")),
       rbind(broom::tidv(Hausman.test(SEM 94)).
              broom::tidv(Hausman.test(SDEM 94))))[. 1:4]
    model statistic n.value parameter
      SEM 15.657083 0.3347612
                                     14
     SDEM 9.205152 0.9994394
                                     27
```

We can use **spatialreg::LR.sarlm()** to apply a likelihood ratio test between nested models. but here choose lmtest::lrtest(). which gives the same results, preferring models including spatially lagged covariates. > suppressWarnings(broom::tidv(lmtest::lrtest(SEM 489. SDEM 489))) ## # A tibble: 2 x 5 X.Df Loglik df statistic ## n.value <fdh1> <dhl> ## 1 16 273 NΔ NΔ 311. 74.4 1.23e-10 ## 2 29 13 > suppressWarnings(broom::tidv(lmtest::lrtest(SEM 94. SDEM 94))) ## # A tibble: 2 x 5 X.Df LogLik df statistic p.value ## <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> ## <fdh1> < fdb> ## 1 16 59.7 MΔ МΔ ## 2 29 81.3 13 43 2 0.0000421

The SLX model is fitted using least squares, and also returns a log likelihood value, letting us test whether we need a spatial process in the residuals

```
> SLX 489 <- lmSLX(form, data=boston 489, listw=lw g 489,
                  zero.policy=TRUE)
> suppressWarnings(broom::tidy(lmtest::lrtest(SLX 489, SDEM 489)))
## # A tibble: 2 x 5
     X.Df LogLik
                   df statistic
                                  n.value
    <fdb> < fdb> < fdb>
                           <fdh>>
                                    <dh1>
## 1
       28
           231
                             ΝΔ ΝΔ
           311.
                           159. 1.55e-36
## 2
       29
                   1
> SLX_94 <- lmSLX(form, data=boston_94, listw=lw_q_94)
> suppressWarnings(broom::tidy(lmtest::lrtest(SLX 94. SDEM 94)))
## # A tibble: 2 x 5
                   df statistic p.value
     X.Df LogLik
    <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                           < fdb>
                                 <dh1>
       28
           81.2
                    NΔ
                          NΔ
                                  NΔ
## 1
## 2
       29
            81.3
                    1
                          0.216 0.642
```

LR tests with weights

This outcome is sustained also when we use the counts of house units by tract and output zones as weights:

```
> SLX 94w <- lmSLX(form, data=boston 94, listw=lw g 94,
                 weights=units)
> SDEM 94w <- errorsarlm(form, data=boston 94, listw=lw g 94,
                       Durbin=TRUE, weights=units,
                       control=list(pre eig=eigs 94))
> suppressWarnings(broom::tidy(lmtest::lrtest(SLX_94w, SDEM_94w)))
## # A tibble: 2 x 5
     X.Df LogLik
                   df statistic p.value
    <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                          <dbl> <dbl>
## 1
     28 97.5 NA
                                 NA
## 2
       29 98.0
                  1
                        0.917 0.338
```

Impacts

Since sampling is not required for inference for SLX and SDEM models, linear combination is used for models fitted using maximum likelihood: results are shown here for the air pollution variable only. The literature has not vet resolved the question of how to report model output, as each covariate is now represented by three impacts. Where spatially lagged covariates are included, two coefficients are replaced by three impacts.

In the SLX and SDEM models, the direct impacts are the consequences for the response of changes in air pollution in the same observational entity, and the indirect (local) impacts are the consequences for the response of changes in air pollution in neighbouring observational entities. A recent question: how to correct standard errors for heterscedasticity before linear combination?

Markov chain Monte Carlo

- The Spatial Econometrics Library is part of the extensive Matlab code repository at https://www.spatial-econometrics.com/ and documented in LeSage and Pace (2009).
- The Google Summer of Coding project in 2011 by Abhirup Mallik mentored by Virgilio
 Gómez-Rubio yielded translations of some of the model fitting functions for SEM, SDEM, SLM,
 SDM, SAC and GNM from the Matlab code.
- These have now been added to spatialreg as spBreg_err(), spBreg_lag() and spBreg_sac() with Durbin= arguments to handle the inclusion of spatially lagged covariates.
- As yet, heteroskedastic disturbances are not accommodated.
- The functions return "mcmc" objects as specified in the coda package, permitting the use of tools from coda for handling model output.

Markov chain Monte Carlo

samples:

Fitting the SDEM model for the tracts takes about an order of magnitude longer than using ML, but there is more work to do subsequently, and this difference scales more in the number of samples than covariates or observations. The impacts are extracted directly from the

In the MCMC case, the gridded log determinants (200 LU decompositions) and sampling takes most time; in the ML case using eigenvalues is taken by log determinant setup and optimization, and by dense matrix

```
asymptotic standard errors:
```

```
> t(attr(SDEM 489B, "timings")[ , 3])
       set up SE classic set up complete setup
## [1.] 0.007
                          0.558
                                         0.105
       sampling finalise
## [1.]
          2.769
                   0.109
> t(errorsarlm(form, data=boston 489, listw=lw g 489, Durbin=TRUE,
              zero.policv=TRUE)$timings[.2])
       set up eigen set up eigen opt coefs
## [1.] 0.015
                     0 002
                               0 035 0 008
       eigen_hcov eigen_se
## [1.]
             0.109
                     0.251
```

Handling the log determinant term

- It has been known for over twenty years that the sparse matrix representation of spatial weights overcomes the difficulties of fitting models with larger numbers of observations using maximum likelihood and MCMC where the log determinant term comes into play (R. K. Pace and Barry 1997a, 1997d, 1997d, 1997b).
- During the development of these approaches in model fitting functions in spatialreg, use was
 first made of C code also used in the S-PLUS SpatialStats module (Kaluzny et al. 1998), then
 SparseM which used a compressed sparse row form very similar to "nb" and "listw"
 objects.
- This was followed by the use of spam and Matrix methods, both of which mainly use compressed sparse column representations. Details are provided in Bivand, Hauke and Kossowski (2013).
- We missed a method given by Martin (2005) which deserves implementation.

Handling the log determinant term

The domain of the spatial coefficient(s) is given by the interval = argument to model fitting functions, and returned in the fitted object; this case is trivial, because the upper bound is unity by definition, because of the use of row standardization. The interval is the inverse of the range of the eigenvalues of the weights matrix:

Finding the interval within which to search for the spatial coefficient is trivial for smaller data sets, but more complex for larger ones. It is possible to use heuristics implemented in lextrW() (Griffith, Bivand, and Chun 2015); or RSpectra::eigs() after coercion to a Matrix package compressed sparse column

representation:

Handling the log determinant term

The baseline log determinant term as given by Ord (1975) for a coefficient value proposed in sampling or during numerical optimization; this extract matches the "eigen" method (with or without control=list(pre eig=...)"): Using sparse matrix functions from Matrix, the LU decomposition can be used for asymmetric matrices: this extract matches the "LU" method:

```
> coef <- 0.5
> sum(log(1 - coef * eigs 94))
## [1] -2.867292
> I <- Diagonal(nrow(boston 94))
> LU <- lu(I - coef * W)
> dU <- abs(diag(slot(LU, "U")))</pre>
> sum(log(dU))
## [1] -2.867292
```

Cholesky decomposition for symmetric matrices, with similar.listw() used to handle asymmetric weights that are similar to symmetric. The default value od **super** allows Matrix to choose between supernodal or simplicial decomposition: this extract matches the "Matrix J" method; the "Matrix" and "spam_update" methods are to be preferred as they pre-compute the fill-reducing permutation of the decomposition since the weights do not change for different values of the coefficient. > W <- as(similar.listw(lw g 94), "CsparseMatrix")</pre>

[1] -2.867292

Handling the log determinant term

- Maximum likelihood model fitting functions in spatialreg and splm use jacobianSetup()
 to populate env= environment with intermediate objects needed to find log determinants
 during optimization; HSAR uses mcdet_setup() to set up Monte Carlo approximation terms.
- Passing environments to objective functions is efficient because they are passed by reference rather than value.
- As yet the Bayesian models are limited to control argument ldet_method="SE_classic" at present, using "LU" to generate a coarse grid of control argument nrho=200L log determinant values in the interval, spline interpolated to a finer grid of length control argument interpn=2000L, from which griddy Gibbs samples are drawn.
- It is hoped to add facilities to choose alternative methods in the future. This would offer
 possibilities to move beyond griddy Gibbs, but using gridded log determinant values seems
 reasonable at present.

Impacts

NIII I

Impacts are calculated using model object class specific impacts() methods. In the **sphet** package, the impacts method for "gstsls" uses the spatialreg impacts() framework, as does the **splm** package for "splm" fitted model objects. impacts() methods require either a tr= argument a vector of traces of the power series of the weights object typically computed with trW() or a listw= argument; the evalues= argument is experimental, and takes the eigenvalues of the weights matrix. > args(impacts.sarlm) ## function (obi. tr = NULL, R = NULL, listw = NULL, evalues = NULL, useHESS = NULL. tol = 1e-06, empirical = FALSE, O = NULL)

The summary method for the output of impacts() methods where inference from samples was requested by default uses the summary() method for "mcmc" objects defined in the coda package. It can instead report just matrices of standard errors, z-values and p-values by setting zstats= and short = to TRUE. Recently it was suggested that CI reporting may be easier to read. > args(summarv.lagImpact) ## function (object. zstats = FALSE, short = FALSE, report0 = NULL) ## NIII I

Impacts

In contrast to local indirect impacts in SLX and SDEM models, global indirect impacts are found in models including the spatially lagged response. For purposes of exposition, let us fit an SLM. Traces of the first m= matrices of the power series in the spatial weights are pre-computed (LeSage and Pace 2009). The type= argument is "mult" by default. > SLM 489 <- lagsarlm(form, data=boston 489, listw=lw g 489, zero.policv=TRUE.

In this case, the spatial process in the response is not strong, so the global indirect impacts

(here for the air pollution variable) are weak.

Impacts

Of more interest is trying to reconstruct the direct and total impacts using dense matrix methods; the direct global impacts are the mean of the diagonal of the dense impacts matrix, and the total global impacts are the sum of all matrix elements divided by the number of observations. The direct impacts agree, but the total impacts differ slightly.

```
> coef_SLM_489 <- coef(SLM_489)
> IrW <- Diagonal(489) - coef_SLM_489[1] * W
> S_W <- solve(IrW)
> S_NOX_W <- S_W **% (diag(489) * coef_SLM_489[7])
> c(Direct=mean(diag(S_NOX_W)), Total=sum(S_NOX_W)/489)
## Direct Total
## -0.005930731 -0.005940858
```

This bare-bones approach corresponds to using the listw= argument, and as expected gives the same output. The experimental evalues = approach which is known to be numerically exact by definition gives the same results as the matrix power series trace approach, so the sight difference may be attributed to the consequences of inverting the spatial process matrix.

```
> sapply(impacts(SLM_489, listw=lw_q_489), "[", 5)
## direct indirect total
## -5.930731e-03 -1.012671e-05 -5.940858e-03
> sapply(impacts(SLM_489, evalues=eigs_489), "[", 5)
## direct indirect total
## -5.930731e-03 -1.014747e-05 -5.940879e-03
```

Predictions and impacts

We'll use a predict() method for "sarlm" objects to double-check impacts, here for the pupil-teacher ratio (PTRATIO). The method was re-written by Martin Gubri based on Goulard, Laurent and Thomas-Agnan (2017). The pred.type= argument specifies the prediction strategy among those presented in the article. First we'll increment PTRATIO by one to show that, using least squares, the mean difference between predictions from the incremented new data and fitted values is equal to the regression coefficient.

In models including the spatially lagged response, and when the spatial coefficient in different from zero, this is not the case in general, and is why we need impacts() methods. The difference here is not great, but neither is it zero, and needs to be handled.

```
> nd 489 <- boston 489
> nd 489$PTRATIO <- nd 489$PTRATIO + 1
> OLS 489 <- lm(form, data=boston 489)
> fitted <- predict(OLS 489)</pre>
> nd fitted <- predict(OLS 489, newdata=nd 489)</pre>
> all.equal(unname(coef(OLS 489)[12]), mean(nd fitted - fitted))
## [1] TRUE
> fitted <- predict(SLM 489)
> nd_fitted <- predict(SLM_489, newdata=nd_489, listw=lw_q_489,</pre>
                       pred.type="TS", zero.policy=TRUE)
> (tot <- mean(nd fitted - fitted))</pre>
## [1] -0.03033088
> impacts(SLM 489. evalues=eigs 489)$total[11]
## [1] -0.03032871
> all.equal(unname(coef SLM 489[13]), tot)
## [1] "Mean relative difference: 0.001783086"
```

Predictions

In the Boston tracts data set, 17 observations of median house values, the response, are censored. Using these as an example and comparing some **pred.type**= variants for the SDEM model and predicting out-of-sample, we can see that there are differences, suggesting that this is a fruitful area for study. There have been a number of alternative proposals for handling missing variables (Gómez-Rubio. Bivand, and Rue 2015: Suesse 2018). Here, we'll list the predictions for the censored tract observations using three different prediction types, taking the exponent to get back to the IISD median house values

```
> nd <- boston 506[is.na(boston 506$median).]
> t0 <- exp(predict(SDEM 489, newdata=nd, listw=lw g.
                    pred.type="TS", zero.policy=TRUE))
> suppressWarnings(t1 <- exp(predict(SDEM 489, newdata=nd,</pre>
                                      listw=lw_q, pred.type="KP2",
                                      zero.policv=TRUE)))
> suppressWarnings(t2 <- exp(predict(SDEM 489, newdata=nd,</pre>
                                      listw=lw_q, pred.type="KP5",
                                      zero.policy=TRUE)))
> head(data.frame(fit TS=t0[.1], fit KP2=c(t1), fit KP5=c(t2).
             censored=boston 506$censored[as.integer(attr(t0.
                                                    "region.id"))1))
         fit TS fit KP2 fit KP5 censored
  13 23912.450 29477.240 28147.151
                                       right
  14 28125.588 27001.192 28516.159
                                       right
## 15 30553.380 36184.007 32476.053
                                       right
## 17 18518.448 19620.801 18878.244
                                       right
                                        left
      9563.613 6816.721 7561.353
      8371.200 7196.445 7383.139
                                        1oft
```

There is a large literature in spatial epidemiology using CAR and ICAR models in spatially structured random effects. These extend to multilevel models, in which the spatially structured random effects may apply at different levels of the model (Bivand et al. 2017).

The lme4 package lets us add an IID

unstructured random effect at the model

output zone level:
> library(lme4)
> MLM <- lmer(update(form, . ~ . + (1 | NOX_ID)), data=boston_487,
+ REMI_=FALSE)

> boston 93\$MLM re <- ranef(MLM)[[1]][.1]</pre>

Two packages, hglm and HSAR, offer SAR upper level spatially structured random effects, and require the specification of a sparse matrix mapping the upper level entities onto lower level entities, and sparse binary weights matrices:

The extension of hglm to sparse spatial setting extended its facilities (Alam, Rönnegård, and Shen 2015), and also permits the modelling of discrete responses. First we fit an IID random effect:

```
> suppressPackageStartupMessages(library(hglm))
> y_hglm <- log(boston_487$median)
> X_hglm <- model.matrix(lm(form, data=boston_487))
> suppressWarnings(HGLM_iid <- hglm(y=y_hglm, X=X_hglm, Z=Delta))</pre>
```

followed by a SAR model at the upper level (corresponding to a spatial error (SEM) model), which reports the spatially structured random effect without fully converging, so coefficient standard errors are not available:

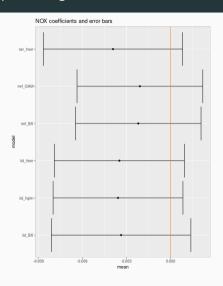
The HSAR package is restricted to the Gaussian response case, and fits an upper level SEM using MCMC; if **W**= is a lower level weights matrix, it will also fit a lower level SLM (Dong and Harris 2015; Dong et al. 2015):

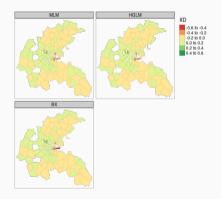
The R2BayesX package provides flexible support for structured additive regression models, including spatial multilevel models. The models include an IID unstructured random effect at the upper level using the "re" specification (Umlauf et al. 2015); we choose the "MCMC" method:

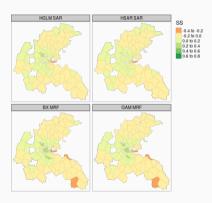
and the "mrf" (Markov random field) spatially structured random effect specification based on a graph derived from converting a suitable "nb" object for the upper level. The "region.id" attribute of the "nb" object needs to contain values corresponding the the indexing variable.

In a very similar way, mgcv::gam() can take an "mrf" term using a suitable "nb" object for the upper level. In this case the "nb" object needs to have the contents of the "region.id" attribute copied as the names of the neighbour list components, and the indexing variable needs to be a factor (Wood 2017) (the "REML" method of bavesx() gives the same result here):

In the cases of hglm(), bayesx() and gam(). we could also model discrete responses without further major difficulty, and bavesx() and gam() also facilitate the generalization of functional form fitting for included covariates. Unfortunately, the coefficient estimates for the air pollution variable for these multilevel models are not helpful. All remain negative, but the inclusion of the model output zone level effects, be they IID or spatially structured. suggest that it hard to disentangle the influence of the scale of observation from that of covariates observed at that scale









Conclusions i

- Progress with the sf and stars packages, including regular spatio-temporal data structures, continues; proxy access to data via APIs or cloud repositories and raster and vector tiles are of growing importance
- Work on sf and its use in stars is linked to using Rcpp to interface external C and C++ libraries; should this be extended to other spatial analysis packages?
- Changes in handling coordinate reference systems through PROJ are continuing, and will impact most work; web mapping depends on knowing the correct CRS of the data
- The legacy shapefile format for vector data should be discontinued as soon as possible, with binary SQLite-based GeoPackage (GPKG) a more robust choice than text-based GeoJSON or GML if PostGIS is not an option

Conclusions ii

- Visualization does not need to be web mapping; the tmap and cartography packages provide
 modern thematic mapping functionality; ggplot2 also supports "sf" objects through
 geom_sf()
- As mentioned repeatedly, spdep has been split, and the stubs of modelling functions in spdep will shortly be defunct, avoiding confusing namespace clashes
- Should conditional permutation be added to tests for local spatial autocorrelation in **spdep**
- Comparative studies will continue with regard to spatialreg functionality, the next will cover
 Bayesian SAR and CAR models, and include the INLA "slm" latent model, as well as first
 prototypes for JAGS and STAN through R, for instance using brms (avoiding dense matrices is
 key)

Conclusions iii

- Other comparisons of spatial neighbours with graph methods, pagerank, and perhaps the Microsoft Space Partition Tree and Graph (SPTAG) algorithm are probably worth following up
- It is possible that models in spatialreg should move on from the "listw" object for spatial
 weights to only use sparse matrices defined in the Matrix package; timings need to be
 checked
- Possibly ML and MCMC fitting methods need to be unified across SLM/SEM/SAC and their Durbin variants to improve maintainability and to ease provision of unit testing
- The "eigen" and sparse matrix decomposition methods for computing the log determinant are adequate across the domain, but approximate methods weaken close to bounds, should we worry?

Conclusions iv

- Durbin formula valued arguments have been introduced, but have not yet been properly
 examined; their use in particular for dummy variables needs attention with consequences for
 impacts
- The Durbin interface needs to be systematised in spatialreg and exposed for use in other packages, especially splm
- Work on the lagsarlmtree package is needed to expose the SLM/SEM/SAC family also with Durbin terms and impacts
- An important reason for increasing attention on prediction is that it is fundamental for machine learning approaches, in which prediction for validation and test data sets drives model specification choice.

Conclusions v

- The choice of training and other data sets with dependent spatial data remains an open question for ML, and is certainly not as simple as with independent data.
- pkgdown documentation is in place for more packages (thanks to Angela Li): spdep and spatialreg



Aftermatter

R's sessionInfo() i

```
> sessionInfo()
## R version 3.6.0 (2019-04-26)
## Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)
## Running under: Fedora 29 (Workstation Edition)
##
## Matrix products: default
## BLAS:
          /home/rsb/topics/R/R360-share/lib64/R/lib/libRblas.so
## LAPACK: /home/rsb/topics/R/R360-share/lib64/R/lib/libRlapack.so
##
## locale:
    [1] LC CTYPE=en GB.UTF-8
                                   LC NUMERIC=C
                                                              LC TIME=en GB.UTF-8
                                                                                         LC COLLATE=en GB.UTF-8
    [5] LC MONETARY=en GB.UTF-8
                                   LC MESSAGES=en GB.UTF-8
                                                              LC PAPER=en GB.UTF-8
                                                                                         LC NAME=C
    [9] LC ADDRESS=C
                                   LC TELEPHONE=C
                                                              LC MEASUREMENT=en GB.UTF-8 LC IDENTIFICATION=C
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats
                graphics grDevices utils
                                               datasets methods
##
## other attached packages:
   [1] ggplot2_3.1.1
                           R2BayesX_1.1-1
                                             mgcv_1.8-28
                                                                 nlme_3.1-139
                                                                                    colorspace_1.4-1
                                                                                                      BayesXsrc_3.0-1
## [7] HSAR 0.4.2
                           hglm 2.2-1
                                             hglm.data 1.0-1
                                                                 MASS 7.3-51.4
                                                                                    MatrixModels 0.4-1 lme4 1.1-21
## [13] spatialreg 1.1-4
                           Matrix 1.2-17
                                             tmap 2.2
                                                                 reticulate 1.12
                                                                                    spdep 1.1-2
                                                                                                      spData 0.3.0
## [19] stars 0.3-1
                           abind 1.4-5
                                             sp 1.3-1
                                                                 mapview 2.6.3
                                                                                    sf 0.7-4
                                                                                                      osmdata 0.1.0
```

R's sessionInfo() ii

```
## [25] extrafont 0.17
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
   [1] minga 1.2.4
                           deldir 0.1-16
                                              class 7.3-15
                                                                 leaflet 2.0.2
                                                                                     rgdal 1.4-4
                                                                                                        satellite 1.0.1
##
    [7] base64enc 0.1-3
                           dichromat 2.0-0
                                              RSpectra 0.14-0
                                                                 fansi 0.4.0
                                                                                     lubridate 1.7.4
                                                                                                        xml2 1.2.0
## [13] codetools 0.2-16
                           splines 3.6.0
                                              knitr 1.22
                                                                 jsonlite 1.6
                                                                                     nloptr 1.2.1
                                                                                                        tmaptools 2.0-1
## [19] broom_0.5.2.9001
                                                                 rgeos_0.4-3
                                                                                     shiny_1.3.2
                                                                                                        compiler_3.6.0
                           Rttf2pt1_1.3.7
                                              png_0.1-7
## [25] httr 1.4.0
                           backports 1.1.4
                                              lazyeval 0.2.2
                                                                 assertthat 0.2.1
                                                                                     cli 1.1.0
                                                                                                        later 0.8.0
## [31] htmltools 0.3.6
                           tools 3.6.0
                                              gtable 0.3.0
                                                                 coda 0.19-2
                                                                                     glue 1.3.1
                                                                                                        dplvr 0.8.0.1
## [37] gmodels 2.18.1
                           Rcpp 1.0.1
                                              raster 2.8-19
                                                                 gdata 2.18.0
                                                                                     extrafontdb 1.0
                                                                                                        crosstalk 1.0.0
## [43] lmtest 0.9-37
                           lwgeom 0.1-7
                                              xfun 0.6
                                                                 stringr 1.4.0
                                                                                     ps 1.3.0
                                                                                                        rvest 0.3.3
## [49] mime 0.6
                           gtools 3.8.1
                                              XML 3.98-1.19
                                                                 LearnBayes 2.15.1 zoo 1.8-5
                                                                                                        scales 1.0.0
## [55] promises 1.0.1
                           parallel 3.6.0
                                              expm 0.999-4
                                                                 RColorBrewer 1.1-2 vaml 2.2.0
                                                                                                        curl 3.3
## [61] stringi 1.4.3
                           highr 0.8
                                              spDataLarge 0.3.1
                                                                 e1071 1.7-1
                                                                                     boot 1.3-22
                                                                                                        rlang 0.3.4
## [67] pkgconfig 2.0.2
                           matrixStats 0.54.0 evaluate 0.13
                                                                 lattice 0.20-38
                                                                                    purrr 0.3.2
                                                                                                        labeling 0.3
## [73] htmlwidgets 1.3
                           processx 3.3.0
                                              tidyselect 0.2.5
                                                                 plvr 1.8.4
                                                                                    magrittr 1.5
                                                                                                        R6 2.4.0
## [79] generics 0.0.2
                           DBI 1.0.0
                                              withr 2.1.2
                                                                 pillar 1.3.1
                                                                                     units 0.6-3
                                                                                                        tibble 2.1.1
## [85] cravon 1.3.4
                           KernSmooth 2.23-15 utf8 1.1.4
                                                                 rmarkdown 1.12
                                                                                     grid 3.6.0
                                                                                                        callr 3.2.0
## [91] digest_0.6.18
                           classInt 0.3-4
                                              webshot_0.5.1
                                                                 xtable 1.8-4
                                                                                     tidvr 0.8.3
                                                                                                        httpuv 1.5.1
## [97] stats4 3.6.0
                           munsell 0.5.0
                                              viridisLite 0.3.0
```

References i

Alam, Moudud, Lars Rönnegård, and Xia Shen. 2015. "Fitting Conditional and Simultaneous Autoregressive Spatial Models in Hglm." *The R Journal* 7 (2): 5–18. https://doi.org/10.32614/RJ-2015-017.

Anselin, L. 1988. Spatial Econometrics: Methods and Models. Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Bivand, Roger S. 1984. "Regression Modeling with Spatial Dependence: an Application of Some Class Selection and Estimation Methods." *Geographical Analysis* 16: 25–37.

——. 2002. "Spatial Econometrics Functions in R: Classes and Methods." *Journal of Geographical Systems* 4: 405–21.

References ii

——. 2012. "After 'Raising the Bar': Applied Maximum Likelihood Estimation of Families of Models in Spatial Econometrics." *Estadística Española* 54: 71–88.

——. 2017. "Revisiting the Boston Data Set — Changing the Units of Observation Affects Estimated Willingness to Pay for Clean Air." *REGION* 4 (1): 109–27. https://doi.org/10.18335/region.v4i1.107.

Bivand, Roger S., Jan Hauke, and Tomasz Kossowski. 2013. "Computing the Jacobian in Gaussian Spatial Autoregressive Models: An Illustrated Comparison of Available Methods." *Geographical Analysis* 45 (2): 150–79. https://doi.org/10.1111/gean.12008.

Bivand, Roger S., Werner Müller, and Marcus Reder. 2009. "Power Calculations for Global and Local Moran's I." Computational Statistics and Data Analysis 53: 2859–72.

References iii

Bivand, Roger S., and Gianfranco Piras. 2015. "Comparing Implementations of Estimation Methods for Spatial Econometrics." *Journal of Statistical Software* 63 (1): 1–36. https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v063.i18.

Bivand, Roger S., Zhe Sha, Liv Osland, and Ingrid Sandvig Thorsen. 2017. "A Comparison of Estimation Methods for Multilevel Models of Spatially Structured Data." *Spatial Statistics*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spasta.2017.01.002.

Bivand, Roger S., and David W. S. Wong. 2018. "Comparing Implementations of Global and Local Indicators of Spatial Association." *TEST* 27 (3): 716–48. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11749-018-0599-x.

Burridge, P. 1981. "Testing for a Common Factor in a Spatial Autoregression Model." *Environment and Planning A* 13: 795–800.

References iv

Cliff, A. D., and J. K. Ord. 1973. Spatial Autocorrelation. London: Pion.

---. 1981. Spatial Processes. London: Pion.

Dong, G., and R. Harris. 2015. "Spatial Autorgressive Models for Geographically Hierarchical Data Structures." *Geographical Analysis* 47 (2): 173–91.

Dong, G., R. Harris, K. Jones, and J. Yu. 2015. "Multilevel Modeling with Spatial Interaction Effects with Application to an Emerging Land Market in Beijing, China." *PLOS One* 10 (6). https://doi.org/doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0130761.

Elhorst, J. Paul. 2010. "Applied Spatial Econometrics: Raising the Bar." *Spatial Economic Analysis* 5: 9–28.

References v

Fingleton, B. 1999. "Spurious spatial regression: Some Monte Carlo results with a spatial unit root and spatial cointegration." *Journal of Regional Science* 9: 1–19.

Goulard, Michel, Thibault Laurent, and Christine Thomas-Agnan. 2017. "About Predictions in Spatial Autoregressive Models: Optimal and Almost Optimal Strategies." *Spatial Economic Analysis* 12 (2-3). Routledge: 304–25. https://doi.org/10.1080/17421772.2017.1300679.

Gómez-Rubio, Virgilio, Roger S. Bivand, and Håvard Rue. 2015. "A New Latent Class to Fit Spatial Econometrics Models with Integrated Nested Laplace Approximations." *Procedia Environmental Sciences* 27: 116–18. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proenv.2015.07.119.

References vi

Griffith, Daniel, Roger S. Bivand, and Yongwan Chun. 2015. "Implementing Approximations to Extreme Eigenvalues and Eigenvalues of Irregular Surface Partitionings for Use in Sar and Car Models." *Procedia Environmental Sciences* 26: 119–22.

https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.proenv.2015.05.013.

Halleck Vega, Solmaria, and J. Paul Elhorst. 2015. "The SLX Model." *Journal of Regional Science* 55 (3): 339–63. https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12188.

Kaluzny, S.P., S.C. Vega, T.P. Cardoso, and A.A. Shelly. 1998. S+SpatialStats. New York, NY: Springer.

LeSage, James P., and Kelley R. Pace. 2009. *Introduction to Spatial Econometrics*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

References vii

Lovelace, Robin, Jakub Nowosad, and Jannes Muenchow. 2019. *Geocomputation with R.* Chapman; Hall/CRC. https://geocompr.robinlovelace.net/.

Martin, R. J. 2005. "Some Fast Methods for Fitting Some One-Parameter Spatial Models." *Journal of Mathematics and Statistics* 1: 326–36. https://www.thescipub.com/pdf/10.3844/jmssp.2005.326.336.

Martinetti, Davide, and Ghislain Geniaux. 2017. "Approximate Likelihood Estimation of Spatial Probit Models." *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 64: 30–45.

https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.regsciurbeco.2017.02.002.

McMillen, D. P. 2013. Quantile Regression for Spatial Data. Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag.

Mur, Jesús, and Ana Angulo. 2006. "The Spatial Durbin Model and the Common Factor Tests." Spatial Economic Analysis 1 (2). Routledge: 207–26. https://doi.org/10.1080/17421770601009841.

References viii

Ord, J. K. 1975. "Estimation Methods for Models of Spatial Interaction." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 70 (349): 120–26.

Ord, J. K., and A. Getis. 2001. "Testing for Local Spatial Autocorrelation in the Presence of Global Autocorrelation." *Journal of Regional Science* 41 (3): 411–32.

---. 2012. "Local Spatial Heteroscedasticity (LOSH)." Annals of Regional Science 48 (2): 529–39.

Pace, R. K., and R. P. Barry. 1997a. "Fast CARs." Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation 59 (2): 123–45.

---. 1997b. "Fast spatial estimation." *Applied Economics Letters* 4 (5): 337–41.

——. 1997c. "Quick computation of spatial autoregressive estimators." *Geographics Analysis* 29 (3): 232–47.

References ix

---. 1997d. "Sparse spatial autoregressions." Statistics & Probability Letters 33 (3): 291–97.

Pace, RK, and JP LeSage. 2008. "A Spatial Hausman Test." *Economics Letters* 101: 282–84.

Pebesma, Edzer. 2018. "Simple Features for R: Standardized Support for Spatial Vector Data." *The R Journal* 10 (1): 439–46. https://journal.r-project.org/archive/2018/RJ-2018-009/index.html.

Pebesma, Edzer, and Roger S. Bivand. 2020. Spatial Data Science.

https://deploy-preview-20--keen-swartz-3146c4.netlify.com/.

Pebesma, Edzer, Thomas Mailund, and James Hiebert. 2016. "Measurement Units in R." *The R Journal* 8 (2): 486–94. https://doi.org/10.32614/RJ-2016-061.

References x

Suesse, Thomas. 2018. "Marginal Maximum Likelihood Estimation of Sar Models with Missing Data." Computational Statistics & Data Analysis 120: 98–110.

https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csda.2017.11.004.

Tiefelsdorf, M. 2002. "The Saddlepoint Approximation of Moran's I and Local Moran's I_i Reference Distributions and Their Numerical Evaluation." Geographical Analysis 34: 187–206.

Ucar, Iñaki, Edzer Pebesma, and Arturo Azcorra. 2018. "Measurement Errors in R." *The R Journal* 10 (2): 549–57. https://journal.r-project.org/archive/2018/RJ-2018-075/index.html.

Umlauf, Nikolaus, Daniel Adler, Thomas Kneib, Stefan Lang, and Achim Zeileis. 2015. "Structured Additive Regression Models: An R Interface to BayesX." *Journal of Statistical Software* 63 (21): 1–46. http://www.jstatsoft.org/v63/i21/.

References xi

Wagner, Martin, and Achim Zeileis. 2019. "Heterogeneity and Spatial Dependence of Regional Growth in the EU: A Recursive Partitioning Approach." *German Economic Review* 20 (1): 67–82. https://doi.org/10.1111/geer.12146.

Waller, Lance A., and Carol A. Gotway. 2004. *Applied Spatial Statistics for Public Health Data*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Wilhelm, Stefan, and Miguel Godinho de Matos. 2013. "Estimating Spatial Probit Models in R." *The R Journal* 5 (1): 130–43. https://doi.org/10.32614/RJ-2013-013.

Wood, S.N. 2017. Generalized Additive Models: An Introduction with R. 2nd ed. Chapman; Hall/CRC.

Xu, M., C. L. Mei, and N. Yan. 2014. "A Note on the Null Distribution of the Local Spatial Heteroscedasticity (LOSH) Statistic." *Annals of Regional Science* 52 (3): 697–710.