North Carolina State University is a land-grant university and a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina

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Dear EVNR student paper committee:

I am writing this letter in support of Sam Morris' entry into the student paper competition. I hope you look favorable upon his work.

This paper on spatial extremes constitutes the first and primary chapter of Sam's dissertation which is to be completed in the spring of 2016. Spatial extremes is dominated by complex probability models such as max-stable processes, which are accompanied by challenging computational algorithms that limit their use. In contrast, Sam's model based on a skewed-t process closely resembles the canonical Gaussian process of geostatistics. The spatial skew-t process for extremes still achieves extremal dependence and is shown to be competitive with more complicated methods. Therefore, I feel this is nice contribution to the spatial extremes toolkit.

As his thesis advisor, I helped Sam formulate the approach and guided his research. Sam is responsible for substantial model development, literature review, and all of the computing effort and writing. Therefore, it is primarily his work, and I would say he performed at least 80-90% of the job.

Thank you for considering his paper and your hard work on the committee. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian Reich

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