

Statistical inference for clustered point patterns

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Outline:

Background in tropical forest ecology

Intensity function and second order summary statistics

Poisson and Cox processes

Estimation

Optimal first-order estimating equations - quasi-likelihood

Decomposition of variance

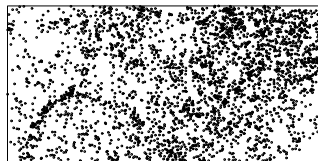
Background: Tropical rain forest ecology

Fundamental questions: which factors influence the spatial distribution of rain forest trees and what is the reason for the high biodiversity of rain forests ?

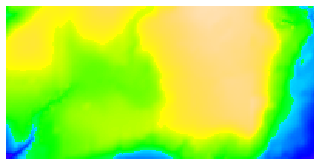
Key factors:

- ▶ environment: topography, soil composition,...
- ▶ seed dispersal limitation: by wind, birds or mammals...

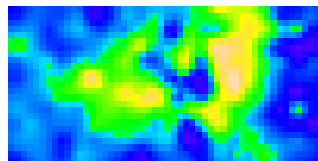
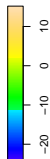
Data example: *Capparis Frondosa*



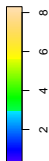
- ▶ observation window W
= 1000 m \times 500 m
- ▶ seed dispersal \Rightarrow clustering
- ▶ environment \Rightarrow inhomogeneity



Elevation



Potassium content in soil.

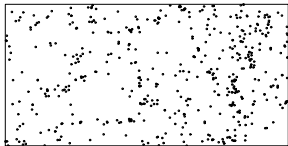


Quantify dependence on environmental variables taking into account clustering due to e.g. seed dispersal.

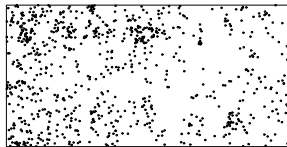
Example: modes of seed dispersal and clustering

Three species with different modes of seed dispersal:

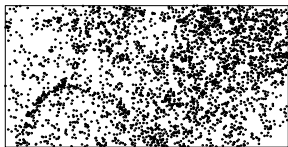
Acalypha Diversifolia explosive capsules



Loncocharpus Heptaphyllus wind



Capparis Frondosa bird/mammal



Quantify how much of the spatial variation is due to respectively environment and seed dispersal ?

Differences between species ?

Approach: Cox process model for joint effects of environment and seed dispersal.

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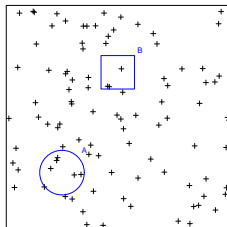
Mean and covariances of counts for spatial point process

Point process \mathbf{X} : random point pattern.

For A subset of the plane, count $N(A)$ is number of points in A .

$$\mathbb{E}N(A) = \int_A \rho(u) du$$

$\rho(\cdot)$: intensity function.



$$\mathbb{E}[N(A)N(B)] = \int_{A \cap B} \rho(u) du + \int_A \int_B \rho^{(2)}(u, v) dudv$$

$\rho^{(2)}(u, v)$: second order product density

Infinitesimal interpretation

Very small A and $B \Rightarrow N(A)$ and $N(B)$ binary:

$$\mathbb{E}N(A) \approx P(\mathbf{X} \text{ has a point in } A) \approx \rho(u)|A|, \quad u \in A$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}N(A)N(B) &\approx P(\mathbf{X} \text{ has a point in each of } A \text{ and } B) \\ &\approx \rho^{(2)}(u, v)|A||B| \quad u \in A, v \in B \end{aligned}$$

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Pair correlation

$$g(u, v) = \frac{\rho^{(2)}(u, v)}{\rho(u)\rho(v)} = \frac{P(\mathbf{X} \text{ has a point in each of } A \text{ and } B)}{P(\mathbf{X} \text{ has a point in } A)P(\mathbf{X} \text{ has a point in } B)}$$

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Pair correlation

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K-function

$$K(t) = \int_{\|h\| \leq t} g(h) dh$$

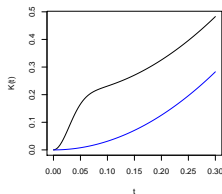
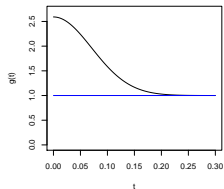
(provided $g(u, v) = g(u - v)$ i.e. \mathbf{X} second-order reweighted stationary)

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Examples of pair correlation and K-functions:

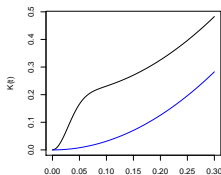
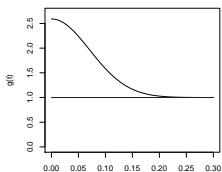


K-function

$$K(t) = \int_{\|h\| \leq t} g(h) dh$$

(provided $g(u, v) = g(u - v)$ i.e. \mathbf{X} second-order reweighted stationary)

Examples of pair correlation and K -functions:



Unbiased estimate of K -function (W observation window):

$$\hat{K}_\beta(t) = \sum_{u,v \in \mathbf{X} \cap W} \frac{\mathbf{1}[0 < \|u - v\| \leq t]}{\rho(u)\rho(v)} e_{u,v}$$

($e_{u,v}$ edge correction factor)

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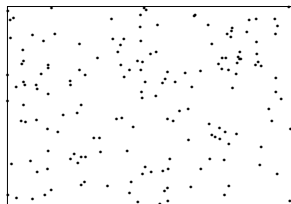
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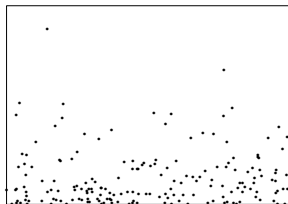
The Poisson process

\mathbf{X} is a Poisson process with intensity function $\rho(\cdot)$ if for any bounded region B :

1. $N(B)$ is Poisson distributed with mean $\mu(B) = \int_B \rho(u) du$
2. Given $N(B) = n$, the n points are independent and identically distributed with density proportional to intensity function $\rho(\cdot)$.



Homogeneous: $\rho = 150/0.7$



Inhomogeneous: $\rho(x, y) \propto e^{-10.6y}$

Back to rain forest: parametric models for intensity and pair correlation

Study influence of covariates

$$Z(u) = (Z_1(u), \dots, Z_p(u))$$

using log-linear model for intensity function:

$$\rho(u; \beta) = \exp[\beta Z(u)^T]$$

where

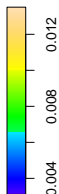
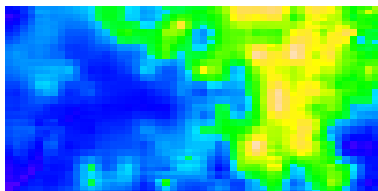
$$\beta Z(u)^T = \beta_1 Z_1(u) + \beta_2 Z_2(u) + \dots + \beta_p Z_p(u)$$

Capparis Frondosa and Poisson process ?

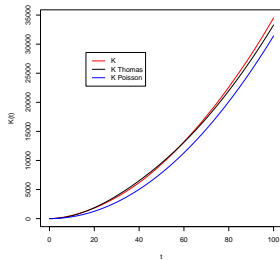
Fit model with covariates elevation and Potassium.

Fitted intensity function

$$\rho(u; \hat{\beta}) = \exp(\hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{\beta}_1 \text{Elev}(u) + \hat{\beta}_2 K(u)) :$$

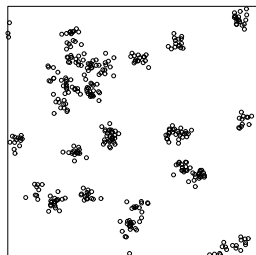


Estimated K -function and $K(t) = \pi t^2$ -function for Poisson process:



Not Poisson process - aggregation due to unobserved factors (e.g. seed dispersal)

Cluster process: Inhomogeneous Thomas process (W, 2007)



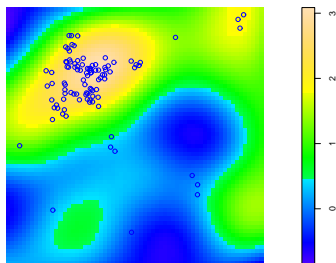
Parents stationary Poisson point process
intensity κ

Offspring distributed around mothers
according to Gaussian density with
standard deviation ω

Inhomogeneity: offspring survive
according to probability

$$p(u) \propto \exp(Z(u)\beta^T)$$

depending on covariates (independent
thinning).



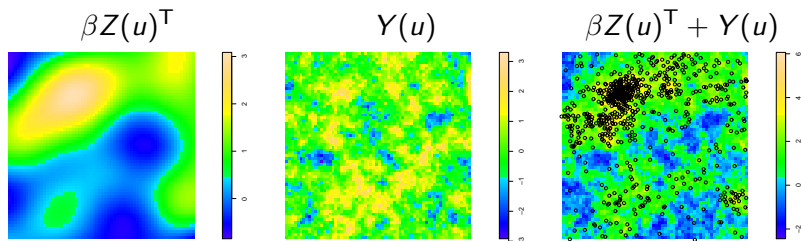
Cox processes

\mathbf{X} is a *Cox process* driven by the random intensity function Λ if, conditional on $\Lambda = \lambda$, \mathbf{X} is a Poisson process with intensity function λ .

Example: log Gaussian Cox process (Møller, Syversveen, W, 1998)

$$\log \Lambda(u) = \beta Z(u)^T + Y(u)$$

where $\{Y(u)\}$ Gaussian random field.



Shot-noise Cox process

$$\Lambda(u) = \sum_{v \in C} \gamma_v k(u - v)$$

where

- ▶ C homogeneous Poisson with intensity κ
- ▶ $k(\cdot)$ probability density.
- ▶ γ_v *iid* positive random variables independent of C

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NB: equivalent to cluster process with parents C , random cluster size γ_v and dispersal density f .

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NB: equivalent to cluster process with parents C , random cluster size γ_v and dispersal density f .

Inhomogeneous shot-noise:

$$\Lambda(u) = \exp(\beta Z(u)^T) \sum_{v \in C} \gamma_v k(u - v)$$

Inhomogeneous Thomas: inhomogeneous shot-noise with Gaussian $k(\cdot)$.

Moments for Cox processes

Intensity function

$$\rho(u) = \mathbb{E}\Lambda(u)$$

Second-order product density

$$\rho^{(2)}(u, v) = \mathbb{E}\Lambda(u)\Lambda(v) = \mathbb{Cov}[\Lambda(u), \Lambda(v)] + \rho(u)\rho(v)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{Cov}[N(A), N(B)] &= \int_{A \cap B} \mathbb{E}\Lambda(u) du + \int_A \int_B \mathbb{Cov}[\Lambda(u), \Lambda(v)] du dv \\ &= \int_{A \cap B} \rho(u) du + \int_A \int_B \rho(u)\rho(v)[g(u, v) - 1] du dv \\ &= \text{Poisson variance} + \text{extra variance due to } \Lambda\end{aligned}$$

Log-linear model

$$\Lambda(u) = \Lambda_0(u) \exp[\beta Z(u)^T]$$

where Λ_0 stationary non-negative reference process (both log Gaussian Cox process and inhom. shot-noise of this form).

Log-linear intensity (assume $\mathbb{E}\Lambda_0(u) = 1$)

$$\rho(u) = \mathbb{E}\Lambda(u) = \exp[\beta Z(u)^T]$$

Pair correlation function ($\mathbb{E}\Lambda_0(u) = 1$):

$$g(h) = 1 + c_0(h) \quad c_0(h) = \mathbb{Cov}[\Lambda_0(u), \Lambda_0(u+h)]$$

Specific models for $c_0(u - v) = \text{Cov}[\Lambda_0(u), \Lambda_0(v)]$

Log-Gaussian:

$$\Lambda_0(u) = \exp[Y(u)]$$

where Y Gaussian field.

Covariance (Laplace transform):

$$c_0(h) = \exp[\text{Cov}(Y(u), Y(u + h))] - 1$$

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Shot-noise:

$$\Lambda_0(u) = \sum_{v \in C} \gamma_v k(u - v)$$

Covariance (convolution):

$$c_0(u - v) = \kappa \alpha^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} k(u) k(u+h) du$$

$$(\alpha = \mathbb{E}\gamma_v)$$

Bessel shot-noise/Matérn covariance

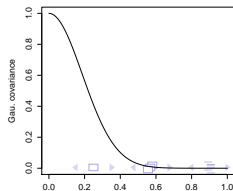
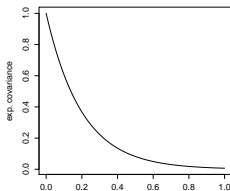
Suppose kernel $k(\cdot)$ given by variance-gamma density (Bessel density).

Y variance-gamma if $Y = \sqrt{W}Z$ where $W \sim \Gamma$ and $Z \sim N_p(0, I)$
 \Rightarrow closed under convolution.

Then Matérn covariance function:

$$c_0(h) = \sigma_0^2 \frac{(\|h\|/\eta)^\nu K_\nu(\|h\|/\eta)}{2^{\nu-1} \Gamma(\nu)}$$

$\nu = 1/2$: exponential model ' $\nu = \infty$ ': 'Gaussian' (mod. Thomas)



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Maximum likelihood estimation for Cox processes

Suppose \mathbf{x} observed point pattern (realization of \mathbf{X} inside observation window W). Likelihood (probability density) given Λ (Poisson process):

$$\prod_{u \in \mathbf{x}} \Lambda(u) \exp \left[- \int_W \Lambda(u) du \right]$$

Likelihood for Cox process (integrate out unobserved Λ):

$$f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}_{\theta} \left[\prod_{u \in \mathbf{x}} \Lambda(u) \exp \left[- \int_W \Lambda(u) du \right] \right]$$

Problem for Monte Carlo approximation: $\Lambda = \{\Lambda(u)\}_{u \in W}$ infinitely dimensional quantity.

Estimation of regression parameters

For log-linear model,

$$\Lambda(u) = \exp(\beta Z(u)^T) \Lambda_0(u)$$

intensity function is known:

$$\rho_\beta(u) = \exp(\beta Z(u)^T)$$

Poisson “likelihood”

$$\left[\prod_{u \in \mathbf{X} \cap W} \rho_\beta(u) \right] \exp \left(- \int_W \rho_\beta(u) du \right)$$

may be viewed as a composite likelihood for estimating β .

Composite likelihood obtained from binary random field

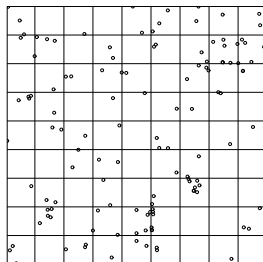
Disjoint subdivision $W = \cup_{i=1}^m C_i$ in
'cells' C_i .

Random count variables:

$N_i = N(C_i) = \#\mathbf{X} \cap C_i$ number of
points in C_i .

$X_i = 1[N_i > 0]$ binary random variable.

$P_\beta(X_i = 1) = \rho_\beta(u_i) |C_i|$.



Composite likelihood obtained from binary random field

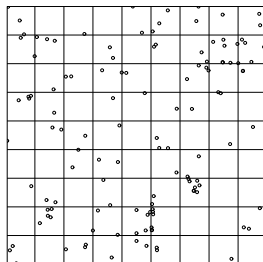
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Bernoulli composite likelihood

$$\prod_{i=1}^m P_\beta(X_i = 1)^{X_i} (1 - P_\beta(X_i = 1))^{1 - X_i} \equiv \prod_{i=1}^m \rho_\beta(u_i)^{X_i} (1 - \rho_\beta(u_i) |C_i|)^{1 - X_i}$$

has limit ($|C_i| \rightarrow 0$)

$$\text{CL}(\beta) = \left[\prod_{u \in \mathbf{X} \cap W} \rho_\beta(u) \right] \exp \left(- \int_W \rho_\beta(u) du \right)$$

Estimation of pair correlation function

Suppose parametric model $g(\cdot; \psi)$ for pair correlation.

Some options:

1. minimum contrast estimation based on so-called K -function.
2. second-order composite likelihood: composite likelihood based on indicators for joint occurrence of points in pairs of cells:

$$X_{ij} = 1[N_i > 0 \text{ and } N_j > 0]$$

$$P_{\beta, \psi}(X_{ij} = 1) = \rho_{\beta}(u_i)\rho_{\beta}(v_j)g(u_i - u_j; \psi)$$

Minimum contrast estimation for ψ

Computationally easy alternative if \mathbf{X} second-order reweighted stationary so that K -function well-defined.

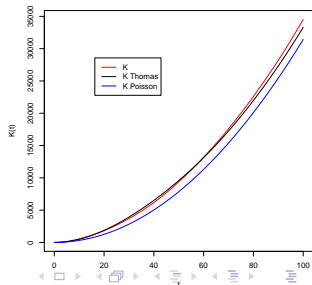
Estimate of K -function:

$$\hat{K}_\beta(t) = \sum_{u,v \in \mathbf{X} \cap W} \frac{\mathbf{1}[0 < \|u - v\| \leq t]}{\rho(u; \beta)\rho(v; \beta)} e_{u,v}$$

Unbiased if β 'true' regression parameter.

Minimum contrast estimation: minimize squared distance between theoretical K and \hat{K} :

$$\hat{\psi} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\psi} \int_0^r (\hat{K}_{\hat{\beta}}(t) - K(t; \psi))^2 dt$$



Second-order composite likelihood

Second-order composite likelihood (given $\hat{\beta}$):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CL}_2(\psi|\hat{\beta}) &= \sum_{\substack{\neq \\ u, v \in \mathbf{X} \cap W \\ \|u-v\| \leq R}} \log \rho^{(2)}(u, v; \hat{\beta}, \psi) \\ &\quad - \iint_{\|u-v\| \leq R} \rho^{(2)}(u, v; \hat{\beta}, \psi) du dv \end{aligned}$$

NB: translation invariance for pair correlation not required.

Two-step estimation

Obtain estimates $(\hat{\beta}, \hat{\psi})$ in two steps

1. obtain $\hat{\beta}$ using composite likelihood
2. obtain $\hat{\psi}$ using minimum contrast/second order composite likelihood

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First-order estimating equations

Score of first order composite likelihood is

$$\frac{d}{d\beta} \log CL(\beta) = \sum_{u \in \mathbf{X} \cap W} \frac{\rho'_\beta(u)}{\rho_\beta(u)} - \int_W \rho'_\beta(u) du$$

Special case of unbiased *first-order* estimating function

$$u_f(\beta) = \sum_{u \in \mathbf{X} \cap W} f_\beta(u) - \int_W f_\beta(u) \rho_\beta(u) du$$

with

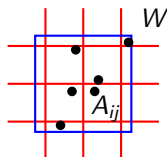
$$f_\beta(u) = \frac{\rho'_\beta(u)}{\rho_\beta(u)}$$

This is optimal choice for Poisson process (MLE) but what is optimal in the clustered case ?

Asymptotic results - first order estimating function

Divide \mathbb{R}^2 into quadratic cells

$$A_{ij} = [i, i + 1[\times]j, j + 1[$$



Then

$$u_f(\beta) = \sum_{ij: A_{ij} \subseteq W} U_{ij}$$

where

$$U_{ij} = \sum_{u \in \mathbf{X} \cap A_{ij}} f_\beta(u) - \int_{A_{ij}} f_\beta(u) \rho_\beta(u) du$$

Assuming \mathbf{X} is mixing, $\{U_{ij}\}_{ij}$ mixing random field and

$$|W|^{-1/2} u_f(\beta) \approx N(0, \Sigma_f)$$

(CLT for mixing random field $\{U_{ij}\}_{ij}$).

Mixing

Consider $E_1, E_2 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ and point configurations F_1 and F_2 .

Need polynomial decay of

$$|P(\mathbf{X} \cap E_1 \in F_1, \mathbf{X} \cap E_2 \in F_2) - P(\mathbf{X} \cap E_1 \in F_1)P(\mathbf{X} \cap E_2 \in F_2)|$$

as function of distance between E_1 and E_2 .

This can easily be verified for a shot-noise process where the kernel density decays fast enough.

Asymptotic results cntd.

Estimate $\hat{\beta}$ solves

$$u_f(\beta) = 0$$

And (Taylor)

$$u_f(\beta) \approx |W|(\hat{\beta} - \beta)S_f$$

where

$$S_f = -\mathbb{E} \frac{d}{d\beta^\top} u_f(\beta) / |W|$$

It follows that

$$\hat{\beta} \approx N(\beta, V_f / |W|)$$

where

$$V_f = S_f^{-1} \Sigma_f S_f^{-1}$$

Optimal first-order estimating equation

Optimal choice of f_β : smallest asymptotic variance

$$V_f = S_f^{-1} \Sigma_f S_f^{-1}$$

Optimal choice of f_β is solution of Fredholm equation

$$f_\beta(u) + \int_W t(u, v) f_\beta(v) du = \frac{\rho'_\beta(u)}{\rho_\beta(u)}, \quad u \in W,$$

where integral equation kernel is

$$t(u, v) = \rho(v)[g(u - v) - 1]$$

Numerical solution of Fredholm equation

Divide W into cells C_i of area $w_i = |C_i|$ and with representative points $u_i \in B_i$.

Matrix-vector approximation of Fredholm equation

$$f_\beta(u) + \int_W t(u, v) f_\beta(v) du = \frac{\rho'_\beta(u)}{\rho_\beta(u)}$$

becomes

$$\bar{f} + T\bar{f} = R^{-1}D \Leftrightarrow \bar{f} = (I + T)^{-1}R^{-1}D$$

where

$$\bar{f} = [f_\beta(u_i)]_i \quad T = [w_j \rho_\beta(u_j) [g(u_i, u_j) - 1]]_{ij}$$

and

$$R = \text{diag}[w_i \rho_\beta(u_i)] \quad D = [w_i d\rho(u_i)/d\beta_i]_{ii}$$

Let N_i count of points in C_i

$$\mu_i = \mathbb{E}N_i = w_i\rho(u_i),$$

and

$$V = R(I + T) = [V_{ij}]_{ij}$$

where

$$V_{ii} = \text{Var}N_i = \mu_i + \mu_i^2[g(u_i, u_i) - 1]$$

$$V_{ij} = \text{Cov}[N_i, N_j] = \mu_i\mu_j[g(u_i, u_j) - 1]$$

Then

$$\bar{f} = (I + T)^{-1}R^{-1}D = V^{-1}D$$

where

$$D = [w_i d\rho_\beta(u_i)/d\beta_l]_{il} = [d\mu(u_i)/d\beta_l]_{il}$$

Inserting stepfunction approximation \bar{f} into

$$\sum_{u \in \mathbf{X}} f_{\beta}(u) - \int_{\mathcal{W}} f_{\beta}(u) \rho_{\beta}(u) du$$

yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i \sum_{u \in \mathbf{X} \cap B_i} \bar{f}_i - \sum_i \bar{f}_i w_i \rho_{\beta}(u_i) &= \sum_i (N_i - \mu_i) \bar{f}_i \\ &= (N - \mu) \bar{f} \\ &= (N - \mu) V^{-1} D \end{aligned}$$

where

$$N = [N_1, \dots, N_m]$$

$(N - \mu) V^{-1} D$ is the *quasi-likelihood* (generalized estimating equation) based on count data vector N .

Practical implementation: IGLS

In practice: numerically approximated Fredholm equation \Rightarrow quasi-likelihood for N .

Pair correlation function inside V estimated by e.g. minimum contrast.

Solve for β using iterative generalized least squares:

$$(\beta^{(l+1)} - \beta^{(l)}) D(\beta^{(l)})^T V(\beta^{(l)})^{-1} D(\beta^{(l)}) = (N - \mu(\beta^{(l)})) V(\beta^{(l)})^{-1} D(\beta^{(l)})$$

One issue: use fine discretization (large m) $\Rightarrow V$ highdimensional matrix - e.g. V 10000×10000 .

Use tapering and sparse matrix Cholesky from `Matrix` library in `R`.

Simulation study

Consider variance of $\hat{\beta}$ obtained from either composite likelihood or GEE.

Reduction in variance for GEE relative to composite likelihood: 6% to 65%.

Large reductions when strong clustering and strong inhomogeneity.

Outline:

Background in tropical forest ecology

Intensity function and second order summary statistics

Poisson and Cox processes

Estimation

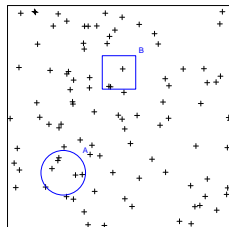
Optimal first-order estimating equations - quasi-likelihood

Decomposition of variance

Decomposition of variance for a count

Prediction of count $N(B)$ given Λ :

$$\hat{N}(B) = \mathbb{E}[N(B)|\Lambda] = \int_B \Lambda(u) du$$



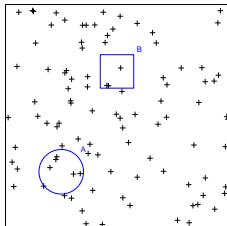
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$\text{Var}N(B) =$

variation =



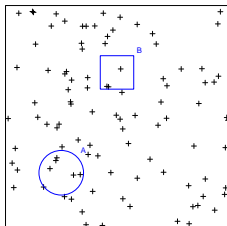
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variation = variation Λ



Decomposition of variance for a count

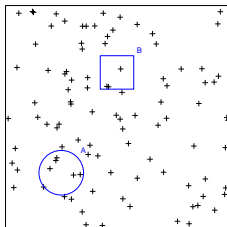
Prediction of count $N(B)$ given Λ :

$$\hat{N}(B) = \mathbb{E}[N(B)|\Lambda] = \int_B \Lambda(u) du$$

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variation = variation Λ + 'Poisson noise'

$$\text{Further, } \hat{\Lambda}(u) = \mathbb{E}[\Lambda(u)|Z]$$



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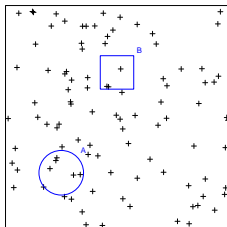
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$$\text{Var}\Lambda(u) =$$

structured variation =

$$\text{SST} =$$



Decomposition of variance for a count

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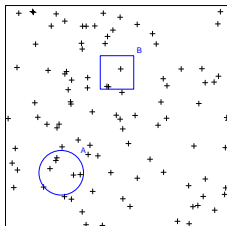
variation = variation Λ + 'Poisson noise'

Further, $\hat{\Lambda}(u) = \mathbb{E}[\Lambda(u)|Z]$

$$\text{Var}\Lambda(u) = \text{Var}\hat{\Lambda}(u)$$

structured variation = variation due to environment

$$\text{SST} = \text{SSR}$$



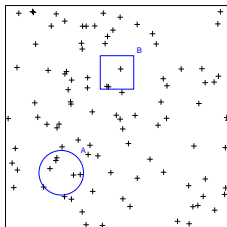
Decomposition of variance for a count

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variation = variation Λ + 'Poisson noise'



Further, $\hat{\Lambda}(u) = \mathbb{E}[\Lambda(u)|Z]$

$$\text{Var}\Lambda(u) = \text{Var}\hat{\Lambda}(u) + \text{Var}[\Lambda(u) - \hat{\Lambda}(u)]$$

structured variation = variation due to environment + other sources

$$\text{SST} = \text{SSR} + \text{SSE}$$

Measure of influence of environmental covariates Z :

$$R^2 = \frac{SSR}{SST} = \frac{\text{VarE}[\Lambda(u)|Z]}{\text{Var}\Lambda(u)}$$

(right hand side does not depend on u in case of stationary environment)

Additive and log-linear models

Model influence of environment using linear model:

$$\tilde{Z}(u) = \beta Z(u)^T$$

Additive model:

$$\Lambda(u) = \beta Z(u)^T + \Lambda_0 = \tilde{Z}(u) + \Lambda_0(u)$$

(superposition of point processes with intensity functions \tilde{Z} and Λ_0
- convenient for variance decomposition)

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(superposition of point processes with intensity functions \tilde{Z} and Λ_0
- convenient for variance decomposition)

Log-linear model

$$\Lambda(u) = \exp[\beta Z(u)^T] \Lambda_0(u) = \exp[\tilde{Z}(u)] \Lambda_0(u)$$

(independent thinning of point process \mathbf{X}_0 with intensity function Λ_0)

R^2 for additive and log-linear models

Additive $\Lambda(u) = \tilde{Z}(u) + \Lambda_0(u)$:

$$R^2 = \frac{\sigma_{\tilde{Z}}^2}{\sigma_{\tilde{Z}}^2 + \sigma_0^2}$$

$$\sigma_{\tilde{Z}}^2 = \text{Var}\tilde{Z}(u) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_0^2 = \text{Var}\Lambda_0(u)$$

R^2 for additive and log-linear models

Additive $\Lambda(u) = \tilde{Z}(u) + \Lambda_0(u)$:

$$R^2 = \frac{\sigma_{\tilde{Z}}^2}{\sigma_{\tilde{Z}}^2 + \sigma_0^2}$$

$$\sigma_{\tilde{Z}}^2 = \text{Var}\tilde{Z}(u) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_0^2 = \text{Var}\Lambda_0(u)$$

Log-linear $\Lambda(u) = \exp[\tilde{Z}(u)]\Lambda_0(u)$:

$$R^2 = \frac{\sigma_{\exp \tilde{Z}}^2}{\sigma_{\exp \tilde{Z}}^2 + \sigma_0^2 [\sigma_{\exp \tilde{Z}}^2 + \mu_{\exp \tilde{Z}}^2]}$$

$$\sigma_{\exp \tilde{Z}}^2 = \text{Var} \exp[\tilde{Z}(u)] \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_{\exp \tilde{Z}} = \mathbb{E} \exp[\tilde{Z}(u)]$$

Estimation: environmental variances

Z observed on grid $G = \{u_i\}_{i=1,\dots,M}$

Simple empirical estimates, e.g.

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\tilde{Z}}^2 = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{u \in G} (\hat{\tilde{Z}}(u) - \hat{\mu}_{\tilde{Z}})^2$$

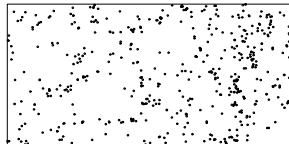
where

$$\hat{\mu}_{\tilde{Z}} = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{u \in G} \hat{\tilde{Z}}(u)$$

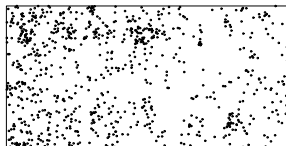
and $\hat{\tilde{Z}}(u) = \hat{\beta}Z(u)^T$.

Three species with different modes of seed dispersal:

Acalypha Diversifolia explosive capsules



Loncocharpus Heptaphyllus wind



Capparis Frondosa bird/mammal



Estimation using first and second-order composite likelihood.

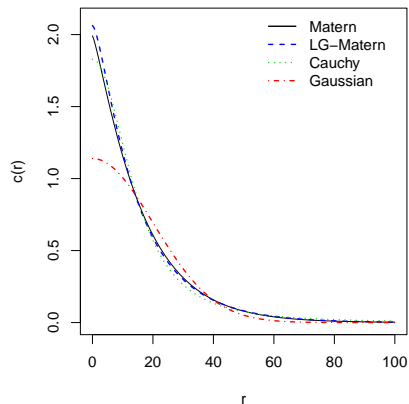
(additive model not second-order reweighted stationary so minimum contrast estimation does not work)

Results for rain forest data

Species	model for Λ	c_0	$\Delta CL_2(\hat{\psi} \hat{\beta})$	R^2
Acalypha	log-linear	'Gaussian'	27438	0.01
		Matérn	28507	0.01
	additive	'Gaussian'	0	0.01
		Matérn	1129	0.02
Loncocharpus	log-linear	'Gaussian'	82007	0.11
		Matérn	82327	0.06
	additive	'Gaussian'	0	0.17
		Matérn	702	0.09
Capparis	log-linear	'Gaussian'	5013	0.28
		Matérn	5343	0.11
	additive	'Gaussian'	0	0.29
		Matérn	466	0.12

Some conclusions

Covariance functions for *Ioncocharpus*



Best fit with Matérn (heavy tails for covariance/cluster density).

Best fit with log-linear model (interpretation in terms of survival).

Largest R^2 for *Capparis* (bird/mammal seed dispersal), smallest for *Acalypha* (explosive capsules).

Thanks to co-authors Yongtao Guan and Abdollah Jalilian
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and

Thanks for your attention !