## USDA ERS Broadband: Comparison of boundary analysis methods for spatial models.


#### Abstract

This a weekly updated memo documenting progress in statistical modeling for the USDA ERS Broadband Project. Currently we aim to perform exploratory analysis, synthetic experiments comparing methods that detect geographical boundaries separating response behavior within a fixed spatial reference domain. We aim to also decide on a modeling framework suitable for the CoreLogic data.


## Meeting: 10/21/2020

We aim to perform synthetic experiments showcasing the performance of spatial regression discontinuity design (see Lee and Lemieux (2010), Hidano et al. (2015), Keele and Titiunik (2015)) under a variety of spatial patterns. All the experiments showcased compare regression discontinuity designs under (a) ordinary least squares, (b) two stage least squares with spatially lagged errors (Hidano et al. (2015), Kelejian and Prucha (1998)) (c) parametric fully Bayesian hierarchical spatial regression (Finley et al. (2007)) modeling frameworks. The reason behind the choice of a parametric spatial regression is motivated from a desired setup for comparing regression discontinuity designs with methods for wombling (Womble (1951)). We consider the synthetic data generating process (outlined in Hidano et al. (2015))

$$
Y=\beta_{0}+\alpha X+\delta(\sin (\overline{l a t})+\cos (\overline{\text { long }}))+\epsilon,
$$

where $\beta_{0}=60, \alpha=-1.5, \delta=2.5, \epsilon \sim N(0,1), \overline{\text { lat }}$ and $\overline{\text { long }}$ are the standardized latitude and longitude respectively. This introduces location specific effects to within the response. $X$ is the covariate determining the spatial location based discontinuity, i.e. it is 0 or 1 based on the location of the response. We select $\mathbf{s}=\left(s_{x}, s_{y}\right)^{\top} \in(0,20) \times(0,20) \subset \mathbb{R}^{2}$ as the spatial reference domain. The synthetic patterns considered are shown in figure 1. For the patterns shown the $X$ variable is selected as follows,

1. Sharp Regression Discontinuity:
(a) $X=0 \cdot I\left(s_{x}<10\right)+1 \cdot I\left(s_{x} \geq 10\right)$, (Open Curve)
(b) $X=1 \cdot I\left(s_{y}<s_{x}\right)+0 \cdot I\left(s_{y} \geq s_{x}\right)$, (Open Curve)
(d) $X=1 \cdot I\left(s_{y}<s_{x}^{3} / 400\right)+0 \cdot I\left(s_{y} \geq s_{x}^{3} / 400\right)$, (Open Curve)
(e) $X=1 \cdot I\left(\left(s_{y}-10\right)^{2}+\left(s_{x}-10\right)^{2}<36\right)+0 \cdot I\left(\left(s_{y}-10\right)^{2}+\left(s_{x}-10\right)^{2} \geq 36\right)$ (Closed Curve)
2. Fuzzy Regression Discontinuity:

- $X=-5 \cdot I\left(s_{y}>10, s_{x} \geq 5\right)+0.5 \cdot I\left(s_{y}<10, s_{x} \geq 10\right)+5 \cdot I\left(s_{y}<10, s_{x}<10\right)+0 \cdot I\left(s_{y}>10, s_{x}<5\right)$, (Open Curve)

(e) $(y-10)^{2}+(x-10)^{2}=6^{2}$

Figure 1: Synthetic spatial patterns.

The models being compared are:

1. OLS Model: $Y=\beta_{0}+\alpha X+\epsilon, \epsilon \sim N\left(0, \sigma^{2}\right)$
2. OLS Model: $Y=\beta_{0}+\alpha X+\lambda W Y+u, u=\rho M u+\epsilon, \epsilon \sim N\left(0, \sigma^{2}\right),|\lambda|<1,|\rho|<1$, where $M$ and $W$ are spatial loading matrices (Kelejian and Prucha (1998)) eq. 1.
3. Spatial Model: $Y(\mathbf{s})=\beta_{0}+\alpha X+\mathbf{Z}(\mathbf{s})+\epsilon, \mathbf{Z}(\mathbf{s}) \sim N(0, \Sigma), \epsilon \sim N\left(0, \tau^{2}\right), \Sigma=\sigma^{2} \exp \left(-\phi_{s}\left\|\mathbf{s}-\mathbf{s}^{\prime}\right\|\right)$, where $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{s}^{\prime}$ are locations within the random field. $\Sigma$ corresponds to the exponential covariance kernel.

It is important to note that the accuracy in estimating the regression discontinuity (if present) is highly dependent on the predictive power of the model. To that end, we use the root mean square error (RMSE) to measure model performance under the various synthetic patterns. Under each pattern we performed 10 replications and the number of locations ranged between $\{100,200,500\}$. Tables 1 and 2 shows the superiority in performance for the parametric spatial model based on RMSE.

Table 1: Table showing RMSE and associated standard deviation (in brackets) for estimated parameters under the three different modeling frameworks for synthetic patterns pertaining to sharp regression discontinuity.

| Pattern (Sharp Reg. Discontinuity) | $N$ | OLS |  |  |  | 2SLS |  |  |  | Spatial |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\beta_{0}$ | $\alpha$ | Fitted | Cont. Prob. | $\beta_{0}$ | $\alpha$ | Fitted | Cont. Prob. | $\beta_{0}$ | $\alpha$ | Fitted | Cont. Prob. |
| $x=10$ | 100 | $\begin{gathered} \hline 3.050 \\ (0.262) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 3.326 \\ (0.222) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1.563 \\ (0.074) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} \hline 6.975 \\ (0.877) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.182 \\ (0.403) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1.420 \\ (0.066) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1.032 \\ (0.341) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1.036 \\ (0.424) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0.800 \\ (0.071) \end{gathered}$ | 0.800 |
|  | 200 | $\begin{gathered} 3.136 \\ (0.112) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.390 \\ (0.168) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.548 \\ (0.058) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 7.156 \\ (0.765) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.322 \\ (0.215) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.395 \\ (0.055) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 0.459 \\ (0.202) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.693 \\ (0.337) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.798 \\ (0.031) \end{gathered}$ | 0.700 |
|  | 500 | $\begin{gathered} 3.107 \\ (0.077) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.399 \\ (0.131) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.543 \\ (0.036) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 6.998 \\ (0.186) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.269 \\ (0.109) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.398 \\ (0.034) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 0.333 \\ (0.166) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.514 \\ (0.296) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.882 \\ (0.025) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 0.600 |
| $y=x$ | 100 | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2.579 \\ (0.248) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2.249 \\ (0.361) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1.941 \\ (0.149) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} \hline 6.254 \\ (1.292) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2.198 \\ (0.406) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1.836 \\ (0.151) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0.670 \\ (0.418) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0.530 \\ (0.349) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0.734 \\ (0.092) \end{gathered}$ | 1.000 |
|  | 200 | $\begin{gathered} 2.511 \\ (0.125) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.111 \\ (0.168) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.047 \\ (0.091) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 6.908 \\ (0.626) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.108 \\ (0.223) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.919 \\ (0.097) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 0.272 \\ (0.251) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.332 \\ (0.236) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.823 \\ (0.051) \end{gathered}$ | 1.000 |
|  | 500 | $\begin{gathered} 2.493 \\ (0.096) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.115 \\ (0.170) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.019 \\ (0.041) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 6.883 \\ (0.472) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.002 \\ (0.138) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.877 \\ (0.047) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 0.236 \\ (0.151) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.150 \\ (0.103) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.861 \\ (0.029) \end{gathered}$ | 1.000 |
| $y=x^{3} / 400$ | 100 | $\begin{gathered} 2.034 \\ (0.134) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.571 \\ (0.255) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.960 \\ (0.090) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} \hline 4.480 \\ (1.696) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.263 \\ (0.400) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.905 \\ (0.099) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 0.745 \\ (0.249) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.092 \\ (0.377) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.759 \\ (0.055) \end{gathered}$ | 0.700 |
|  | 200 | $\begin{gathered} 1.968 \\ (0.126) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.281 \\ (0.302) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.077 \\ (0.065) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 5.390 \\ (1.194) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.800 \\ (0.229) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.995 \\ (0.082) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 0.244 \\ (0.211) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.277 \\ (0.213) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.803 \\ (0.055) \end{gathered}$ | 1.000 |
|  | 500 | $\begin{gathered} 2.022 \\ (0.042) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.444 \\ (0.114) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.059 \\ (0.061) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 4.844 \\ (0.718) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.125 \\ & (0.09) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.001 \\ (0.067) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 0.275 \\ (0.2) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0.2700 \\ & (0.216) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.886 \\ (0.025) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 0.900 |
| $(y-10)^{2}+(x-10)^{2}=3^{2}$ | 100 | $\begin{gathered} 2.159 \\ (0.224) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1.040 \\ (0.383) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 2.193 \\ (0.221) \end{gathered}$ | 0.600 | $\begin{gathered} 5.697 \\ (3.582) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 1.259 \\ (0.754) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.045 \\ (0.145) \end{gathered}$ | 0.300 | $\begin{gathered} 0.574 \\ (0.510) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline 0.400 \\ (0.338) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.768 \\ (0.065) \end{gathered}$ | 0.900 |
|  | 200 | $\begin{gathered} 2.199 \\ (0.263) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.092 \\ (0.315) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.214 \\ (0.077) \end{gathered}$ | 0.700 | $\begin{gathered} 5.824 \\ (2.228) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.604 \\ (0.620) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.131 \\ (0.102) \end{gathered}$ | 0.100 | $\begin{gathered} 0.387 \\ (0.361) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.299 \\ (0.271) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.817 \\ (0.052) \end{gathered}$ | 0.900 |
|  | 500 | $\begin{gathered} 2.209 \\ (0.119) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1.101 \\ (0.176) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.232 \\ (0.065) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.700 \\ \hline \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.928 \\ (1.175) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.317 \\ (0.287) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.164 \\ (0.058) \end{gathered}$ | 0.000 | $\begin{gathered} 0.265 \\ (0.140) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.209 \\ (0.145) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.873 \\ (0.028) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 0.900 |

Table 2: Table showing RMSE and associated standard deviation (in brackets) for estimated parameters under the three different modeling frameworks for a synthetic pattern pertaining to fuzzy regression discontinuity.

| Pattern (Fuzzy Reg. Discontinuity) | $N$ | OLS |  |  |  |  |  | 2SLS |  |  |  |  |  | Spatial |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\beta_{0}$ | $\alpha_{1}$ | $\alpha_{2}$ | $\alpha_{3}$ | Fitted | Cont. Prob. | $\beta_{0}$ | $\alpha_{1}$ | $\alpha_{2}$ | $\alpha_{3}$ | Fitted | Cont. Prob. | $\beta_{0}$ | $\alpha_{1}$ | $\alpha_{2}$ | $\alpha_{3}$ | Fitted | Cont. Prob. |
| $x=10, y=10 I(0<y<10)+5 I(10<y<20)$ | 100 | 2.139 | 1.219 | 2.437 | 2.339 | 1.489 | 0.200 | 6.339 | 0.822 | ${ }^{2.716}$ | 2.705 | 1.355 | 0.100 | ${ }_{0} .660$ | 0.840 | ${ }^{0.763}$ | 0.715 | 0.738 | 0.966 |
|  |  | (0.326) | (0.469) | (0.403) | (0.330) | (0.115) |  | (1.558) | (0.556) | (0.409) | (0.384) | (0.108) |  | (0.429) | (0.557) | (0.480) | (0.422) | (0.072) |  |
|  | 200 | 2.445 | 0.891 | 2.661 | 2.630 | 1.517 | 0.233 | 6.724 | 0.523 | 2.955 | 3.023 | 1.375 | 0.066 | 0.421 | 0.343 | 0.618 | 0.660 | 0.822 | 0.966 |
|  |  | (0.291) | (0.363) | (0.508) | (0.193) | (0.050) |  | (0.788) | (0.270) | (0.442) | (0.193) | (0.070) |  | (0.346) | (0.205) | (0.465) | (0.365) | (0.034) |  |
|  | 500 | 2.218 | 1.130 | 2.386 | 2.508 | 1.505 | 0.033 | 5.970 | ${ }_{0} 0.726$ | 2.744 | 2.870 | 1.403 | 0.000 | 0.352 | 0.298 | 0.257 | 0.277 | 0.852 | 1.000 |
|  |  | (0.226) | (0.213) | (0.222) | (0.310) | (0.031) |  | (0.686) | (0.223) | (0.252) | (0.339) | (0.040) |  | (0.199) | (0.237) | (0.260) | (0.192) | (0.033) |  |

For the Bayesian hierarchical spatial model, we have the following parameters, $\boldsymbol{\theta}=\left\{\boldsymbol{\beta}^{\top}, \phi_{s}, \sigma^{2}, \tau^{2}\right\}$,
where $\boldsymbol{\beta}=\left(\beta_{0}, \alpha\right)^{\top}$ with the posterior likelihood being specified by

$$
\begin{align*}
& p(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid y) \propto U\left(\phi_{s} \mid a_{\phi}, b_{\phi}\right) \times I G\left(\sigma^{2} \mid a_{\sigma}, b_{\sigma}\right) \times I G\left(\tau^{2} \mid a_{\tau}, b_{\tau}\right) \times N\left(\boldsymbol{\beta} \mid \mu_{\beta}, \Sigma_{\beta}\right) \times N\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid 0, \Sigma\left(\sigma^{2}, \phi_{s}\right)\right)  \tag{1}\\
& \times \prod N\left(y \mid \beta_{0}+\alpha X, \tau^{2}\right)
\end{align*}
$$

We use the following hyperparameter specifications: $a_{\phi}=0, b_{\phi}=30, a_{\sigma}=2, b_{\sigma}=1, a_{\tau}=2, b_{\tau}=0.1$, $\mu_{\beta}=(0,0)^{\top}, \Sigma_{\beta}=\operatorname{diag}\left\{1 \times 10^{-3}, 1 \times 10^{-3}\right\}$. The posterior for $\phi_{s}$ is sampled using an adaptive Metropolis within Gibbs sampler. It was observed that for each simulation the true value $\tau^{2}=1$ was contained within the highest posterior density (HPD) intervals for the Bayesian hierarchical spatial model.

## Scaleable Spatial Processes

We use two approximate spatial processes to provide scaleability to the spatial models viz. Nearest Neighbor Gaussian Processes (NNGP) and Integrated Nested Laplace Approximation (INLA). A synthetic comparison for a sharp regression discontinuity design $x=10$ is shown below.

Table 3: Table showing RMSE for estimates from NNGP and INLA for a shrap regression discontinuity pattern, $x=10$.

| $N$ | INLA |  | NNGP |  | Prediction |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\beta$ | $\alpha$ | $\beta$ | $\alpha$ | INLA | NNGP |
| 1000 | 0.353 | 0.111 | 0.209 | 0.089 | 2.258 | 2.258 |
|  | (0.070) | (0.075) | (0.075) | (0.071) | 0.029 | 0.029 |
| 5000 | 0.247 | 0.038 | 0.139 | 0.036 | 2.248 | 2.250 |
|  | (0.033) | (0.036) | (0.078) | (0.076) | 0.013 | 0.014 |
| 10000 | 0.113 | 0.022 | 0.061 | 0.016 | 4.498 | 2.251 |
|  | (0.044) | (0.050) | (0.108) | (0.068) | 7.114 | 0.005 |

## Wombling

For the purpose of synthetic illustrations for wombling we require differentiability of the underlying random field (as opposed to just continuity in the RD scenario). This is established by using differentiable kernels while constructing $\Sigma$ for the spatial models. In terms of kernel choices we have,

$$
\Sigma= \begin{cases}\tilde{K}(\|\Delta\|)=\sigma^{2} \exp \left(-\phi_{s}\|\Delta\|^{\nu}\right), & \nu \in[0,2], \text { (Power exponential Class) } \\ \tilde{K}(\|\Delta\|)=\sigma^{2}\left(\phi_{s}\|\Delta\|\right)^{\nu} K_{\nu}\left(\phi_{s}\|\Delta\|\right) . & \text { (Matérn Class). }\end{cases}
$$

$\nu$ controls the smoothness for process realizations. For the power exponential class $\nu=1$ is the exponential kernel which is just continuous admitting no derivatives, $\nu=2$ is the squared exponential or gaussian covariance, which is infinitely differentiable. Within the Matérn class we have $\nu=3 / 2$ admitting gradients
and $\nu=5 / 2$ admitting both first and second order gradients. If $\nu \rightarrow \infty$ we obtain the Gaussian covariance.
Furthermore, to check the validity of our estimation of gradients it is beneficial to have an analytic function that has a closed form analytic expression of the gradient. We select the following form within the spatial reference domain $\mathbf{s}=\left(s_{x}, s_{y}\right)^{\top} \in(0,1) \times(0,1)$ in $\mathbb{R}^{2}$.

$$
Y \sim N\left(5\left(\sin \left(3 \pi s_{x}\right)+\cos \left(3 \pi s_{y}\right)\right), \tau^{2}\right), \quad \tau^{2}=1
$$

Fig. (2) (a) shows the synthetic spatial pattern. Before we demonstrate gradient estimation, a spatial model with a Matérn kernel with $\nu=5 / 2$ is fit to the data. The advantage of fitting such a kernel is that both first and second order gradients exist for process realizations. Given the choice of our synthetic data generating process we should have,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \nabla_{x} Y=15 \pi \cos \left(3 \pi s_{x}\right), \quad \nabla_{y} Y=-15 \pi \sin \left(3 \pi s_{y}\right) \\
& \nabla_{x x} Y=-45 \pi^{2} \sin \left(3 \pi s_{x}\right), \quad \nabla_{y y} Y=-45 \pi^{2} \cos \left(3 \pi s_{y}\right), \quad \nabla_{x y} Y=0
\end{aligned}
$$



Figure 2: Interpolated spatial plots showing (a) the true pattern (b) the estimated fit from a spatial model with a Matérn $(\nu=$ $5 / 2$ ) kernel. Significant random effects in (b) are color coded accordingly based on their algebraic sign

From the fitted spatial process, we extract posterior samples of process parameters $\left\{\sigma^{2}, \phi_{s}, \tau^{2}, \mathbf{Z}(\mathbf{s})\right\}$ to estimate the gradients at regularly spaced points on a grid post-MCMC.

In a realistic setup wombling amounts to locating significant gradients and curvature along points on a curve, once such a curve is available we could replace the points on the grid with points on the curve to


Figure 3: Interpolated spatial plots showing (a) the true and estimated first order gradients, $\nabla_{x}$ and $\nabla_{y}$ (b) the true and estimated pure second order gradients, $\nabla_{x x}$ and $\nabla_{y y}$ over 360 points on a regular grid (marked using a dashed red line).
compute gradients/curvature along its normal direction.

## Validity of the Continuity assumption: a model-based approach

Along with the conventional distance to boundary approach, using model based information criteria to inform about continuity/differentiability of the random field. For instance, for the first sharp discontinuity pattern we have
(a) Exponential Kernel (Continuous only) $\mathrm{AIC}=499.32, \mathrm{BIC}=772.87, \mathrm{DIC}=289.32$
(b) Matérn $(\nu=3 / 2)$ (Derivative exists) $\mathrm{AIC}=547.94, \mathrm{BIC}=821.48, \mathrm{DIC}=337.94$
(c) Matérn $(\nu=5 / 2)$ (Curvature exists) $\mathrm{AIC}=566.64, \mathrm{BIC}=840.18, \mathrm{DIC}=356.64$
(d) Gaussian (Infinitely differentiable) $\mathrm{AIC}=576.89, \mathrm{BIC}=890.44, \mathrm{DIC}=376.89$

The lower information criteria indicates a better model. The chosen exponential kernel points to only continuity and not differentiability of the random field thereby making it a better fit for RD analysis. As opposed to smooth synthetic patterns like the one considered for wombling presented with Materń $(\nu=5 / 2)$ showing the least information criteria indicating differentiability of the random field.

Table 4: Project Details for the BIPs compared.

| RUSID | Project ID | Name | Fisc.Yr. | Obligation <br> Date | Original <br> Obligation | Total Net <br> Obligation (CY 2020) | Adv. Amt. | Resc. Amt. | Year5_Subsc. | Net Grant |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Net <br> Loan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| VA 1108 | VA1108-A39 | LUMOS Telephone Inc. | 2010 | $08 / 10 / 10$ | $\$ 8,062,088$ | $\$ 7,692,552$ | $\$ 7,692,552$ | $\$ 369,536$ | Yes | $\$ 7,692,552$ |  | $\$-$ |
| WV 1103 | WV1103-A40 | Hardy Telecommunications, Inc. | 2010 | $08 / 06 / 10$ | $\$ 31,648,274$ | $\$ 31,622,782$ | $\$ 31,622,782$ | $\$ 25,492$ | Yes | $\$ 22,135,944$ | $\$ 9,486,838$ |  |

## CoreLogic Data: Spatial modeling, regression discontinuity design and

## wombling

## BIP: VA1108



Figure 4: (a) Spatially interpolated surface of log-house prices in and around the BIP (15 mile radius) (b) log-house prices plotted against distance to BIP (c) RDD applied to fitted model, the difference of predictions of log-house prices, $\lim _{d \downarrow 0} \log (\text { Price })_{B I P}(\mathbf{s}+d)--\lim _{d \uparrow 0} \log (\text { Price })_{B I P}(\mathbf{s}-d)$ (scale in $\log ($ US-Dollars)) significant discontinuities are marked in bold (b) Gradient analysis (Wombling) performed for the BIP (scale in $\log$ (US-Dollars)). Note: Raw estimated gradients are first scaled by length of line segment. Direction (of the associated normal to the line segment) of gradients are inside $\rightarrow$ outside of BIP, i.e. positive gradients $\Rightarrow$ inside $>$ outside log-price and vice-versa. Significant gradients are marked in bold. Gradient analysis took 22.17 mins.


Figure 5: (a) Spatially interpolated surface of log-house prices in and around the BIP ( 15 mile radius) (b) log-house prices plotted against distance to BIP (c) RDD applied to fitted model, the difference of predictions of log-house prices, $\lim _{d \downarrow 0} \log (\text { Price })_{B I P}(\mathbf{s}+d)--\lim _{d \uparrow 0} \log (\text { Price })_{B I P}(\mathbf{s}-d)$ (scale in $\log ($ US-Dollars) ), significant discontinuities are marked in bold (b) Gradient analysis (Wombling) performed for the BIP (scale in $\log$ (US-Dollars)). Note: Raw estimated gradients are first scaled by length of line segment. Direction (of the associated normal to the line segment) of gradients are inside $\rightarrow$ outside of BIP, i.e. positive gradients $\Rightarrow$ inside $>$ outside log-price and vice-versa. Significant gradients are marked in bold. Gradient analysis took 4.18 mins.

## Appendix: Tables

Table 5: Fitted model coefficients from the spatial model for BIP VA1108.

| Effect | mean | sd | 0.025quant | $0.5 q u a n t$ | 0.975quant | mode |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (intercept) | 12.4275 | 1.4713 | 9.5387 | 12.4274 | 15.3140 | 12.4273 |
| BIP | 0.4344 | 0.0956 | 0.2473 | 0.4340 | 0.6230 | 0.4334 |
| age | -0.0007 | 0.0004 | -0.0016 | -0.0007 | 0.0001 | -0.0007 |
| nbaths | 0.3367 | 0.0161 | 0.3051 | 0.3367 | 0.3682 | 0.3367 |
| sqft_ratio | 0.2083 | 0.0305 | 0.1484 | 0.2083 | 0.2680 | 0.2083 |
| acres | 0.3163 | 0.1378 | 0.0459 | 0.3163 | 0.5866 | 0.3163 |
| land_square_footage | -0.2515 | 0.1368 | -0.5202 | -0.2515 | 0.0169 | -0.2515 |
| bedrooms | 0.0127 | 0.0067 | -0.0003 | 0.0127 | 0.0259 | 0.0127 |
| transaction_type:3 | 0.1972 | 0.0775 | 0.0451 | 0.1973 | 0.3492 | 0.1973 |
| transaction_type:6 | -0.1041 | 0.2175 | -0.5311 | -0.1041 | 0.3226 | -0.1042 |
| transaction_type:7 | -0.0977 | 0.1508 | -0.3938 | -0.0977 | 0.1981 | -0.0977 |
| bldg_code:A0G | 0.5311 | 0.3483 | -0.1513 | 0.5305 | 1.2159 | 0.5294 |
| bldg_code:C00 | 0.2151 | 0.3138 | -0.3996 | 0.2146 | 0.8319 | 0.2137 |
| bldg_code:MA0 | -0.2234 | 0.6718 | -1.5422 | -0.2235 | 1.0949 | -0.2237 |
| bldg_code:R00 | -0.0649 | 0.1294 | -0.3157 | -0.0662 | 0.1931 | -0.0686 |
| bldg_code:RM1 | -0.4514 | 0.2715 | -0.9828 | -0.4521 | 0.0829 | -0.4533 |
| bldg_code:RM2 | -0.0222 | 0.1349 | -0.2794 | -0.0249 | 0.2509 | -0.0306 |
| bldg_code:RS0 | 0.2945 | 0.1193 | 0.0694 | 0.2911 | 0.5390 | 0.2842 |
| pri_cat_code: B | -0.2246 | 0.1905 | -0.5986 | -0.2246 | 0.1490 | -0.2246 |
| pri_cat_code:D | 0.1345 | 0.3893 | -0.6299 | 0.1345 | 0.8983 | 0.1345 |
| zoning:1 | -0.0712 | 0.2919 | -0.6447 | -0.0711 | 0.5012 | -0.0709 |
| zoning:2 | 0.1349 | 0.3535 | -0.5590 | 0.1348 | 0.8287 | 0.1346 |
| zoning:3 | -0.5959 | 0.2257 | -1.0391 | -0.5960 | -0.1529 | -0.5960 |
| zoning:A-1 | -0.1928 | 0.3751 | -0.9324 | -0.1918 | 0.5404 | -0.1896 |
| zoning:A1 | 0.2625 | 0.0825 | 0.0999 | 0.2626 | 0.4240 | 0.2629 |
| zoning:A2 | 0.4099 | 0.1471 | 0.1191 | 0.4106 | 0.6970 | 0.4119 |
| zoning:AG1 | 0.2509 | 0.1276 | 0.0007 | 0.2508 | 0.5015 | 0.2506 |
| zoning:AG1S | 1.1493 | 0.6905 | -0.2064 | 1.1493 | 2.5039 | 1.1493 |
| zoning:AG3 | 0.2700 | 0.1365 | 0.0045 | 0.2690 | 0.5403 | 0.2672 |
| zoning:AL | 0.4828 | 0.5061 | -0.5112 | 0.4829 | 1.4756 | 0.4830 |
| zoning:AR | 0.0518 | 0.0794 | -0.1042 | 0.0518 | 0.2074 | 0.0519 |
| zoning:ARS | -0.1711 | 0.6760 | -1.4984 | -0.1711 | 1.1552 | -0.1711 |
| zoning:AV | 0.1982 | 0.3300 | -0.4496 | 0.1982 | 0.8455 | 0.1981 |
| zoning:B-1 | -0.1537 | 0.5257 | -1.1862 | -0.1535 | 0.8773 | -0.1533 |
| zoning:B-2 | -0.0911 | 0.5225 | -1.1179 | -0.0909 | 0.9332 | -0.0903 |
| zoning:B1 | -0.3057 | 0.2627 | -0.8214 | -0.3058 | 0.2096 | -0.3058 |
| zoning:C-1 | -0.0387 | 0.5390 | -1.0973 | -0.0386 | 1.0187 | -0.0384 |
| zoning:C1 | -0.4109 | 0.2570 | -0.9156 | -0.4109 | 0.0932 | -0.4109 |
| zoning:C2 | 0.0417 | 0.2052 | -0.3612 | 0.0417 | 0.4444 | 0.0417 |
| zoning:C3 | 1.1550 | 0.9419 | -0.6945 | 1.1550 | 3.0028 | 1.1552 |
| zoning:CFB2 | 0.0952 | 0.7075 | -1.2934 | 0.0950 | 1.4835 | 0.0947 |
| zoning: CFBD | 0.2815 | 0.4371 | -0.5767 | 0.2815 | 1.1389 | 0.2816 |
| zoning:CFBG | -0.2434 | 0.2403 | -0.7148 | -0.2436 | 0.2287 | -0.2439 |
| zoning:CFR1 | 0.1179 | 0.1988 | -0.2722 | 0.1177 | 0.5086 | 0.1174 |
| zoning:CFR2 | -0.2428 | 0.2026 | -0.6401 | -0.2430 | 0.1554 | -0.2435 |
| zoning:CFR3 | 0.0334 | 0.2711 | -0.4986 | 0.0333 | 0.5657 | 0.0330 |
| zoning:CFUK | 0.4527 | 0.3136 | -0.1629 | 0.4527 | 1.0679 | 0.4526 |
| zoning:CN | 0.5815 | 0.6681 | -0.7305 | 0.5816 | 1.8921 | 0.5818 |
| zoning:FC | 0.7314 | 0.2293 | 0.2822 | 0.7310 | 1.1822 | 0.7302 |
| zoning:IG | -0.1992 | 0.2182 | -0.6276 | -0.1993 | 0.2294 | -0.1995 |
| zoning:M1 | -0.9778 | 0.2620 | -1.4924 | -0.9778 | -0.4638 | -0.9777 |


|  | mean | sd | $0.025 q u a n t$ | $0.5 q u a n t$ | $0.975 q u a n t$ | mode |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| zoning:PR | 0.5510 | 0.2569 | 0.0469 | 0.5508 | 1.0559 | 0.5503 |
| zoning:R-1 | -0.1497 | 0.5488 | -1.2284 | -0.1494 | 0.9261 | -0.1487 |
| zoning:R-2 | -0.4660 | 0.6172 | -1.6783 | -0.4659 | 0.7445 | -0.4656 |
| zoning:R-4 | 0.5890 | 0.1895 | 0.2174 | 0.5888 | 0.9614 | 0.5884 |
| zoning:R1 | 0.4615 | 0.0800 | 0.3043 | 0.4615 | 0.6184 | 0.4616 |
| zoning:R1S | 1.1004 | 0.6685 | -0.2120 | 1.1004 | 2.4118 | 1.1004 |
| zoning:R2 | 0.1168 | 0.0859 | -0.0516 | 0.1168 | 0.2854 | 0.1167 |
| zoning:R3 | -0.0713 | 0.1063 | -0.2797 | -0.0714 | 0.1374 | -0.0715 |
| zoning:R4 | 0.1573 | 0.6748 | -1.1676 | 0.1572 | 1.4811 | 0.1572 |
| zoning:RR | -0.2018 | 0.2662 | -0.7226 | -0.2025 | 0.3225 | -0.2039 |
| zoning:RR-1 | 0.2995 | 0.3205 | -0.3284 | 0.2989 | 0.9300 | 0.2977 |
| zoning:RRA1 | -0.2894 | 0.3612 | -0.9998 | -0.2891 | 0.4182 | -0.2883 |
| zoning:RSF | 1.1787 | 0.1723 | 0.8403 | 1.1787 | 1.5167 | 1.1788 |
| after-2010 | 0.0110 | 0.0336 | -0.0549 | 0.0110 | 0.0771 | 0.0110 |
| after-2010 x BIP | 0.0674 | 0.0451 | -0.0212 | 0.0674 | 0.1559 | 0.0674 |
| hs_or-less | -0.1843 | 0.2176 | -0.6126 | -0.1840 | 0.2419 | -0.1833 |
| renters | 0.1785 | 0.1606 | -0.1411 | 0.1799 | 0.4900 | 0.1827 |
| poverty | -0.0552 | 0.3088 | -0.6616 | -0.0552 | 0.5507 | -0.0551 |
| age_65_older | -0.0604 | 0.4090 | -0.8703 | -0.0581 | 0.7359 | -0.0533 |
| hispanic | 0.1078 | 0.2451 | -0.3730 | 0.1075 | 0.5896 | 0.1069 |
| black | 0.1360 | 0.1619 | -0.1821 | 0.1360 | 0.4537 | 0.1360 |
| family | 0.4691 | 0.2070 | 0.0630 | 0.4689 | 0.8758 | 0.4686 |
| foreign | -0.3589 | 0.4082 | -1.1631 | -0.3579 | 0.4396 | -0.3561 |

Table 6: Fitted model coefficients from the spatial model for BIP WV1103.

| Effects | mean | sd | $0.025 q u a n t$ | $0.5 q u a n t$ | 0.975 quant | mode |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (intercept) | 4.0544 | 6.4612 | -8.6459 | 4.0585 | 16.7204 | 4.0672 |
| BIP | 0.0969 | 0.1400 | -0.1754 | 0.0960 | 0.3738 | 0.0942 |
| age | 0.0001 | 0.0007 | -0.0013 | 0.0001 | 0.0014 | 0.0001 |
| nbaths | 0.2211 | 0.0300 | 0.1621 | 0.2211 | 0.2800 | 0.2211 |
| sqft_ratio | 0.1141 | 0.1509 | -0.1822 | 0.1141 | 0.4101 | 0.1141 |
| acres | -0.4761 | 0.5856 | -1.6279 | -0.4754 | 0.6713 | -0.4741 |
| land_square_footage | 0.6173 | 0.5839 | -0.5274 | 0.6167 | 1.7648 | 0.6153 |
| bedrooms | 0.0427 | 0.0267 | -0.0098 | 0.0427 | 0.0952 | 0.0427 |
| transaction_type:1 | 0.3582 | 0.6459 | -0.9098 | 0.3580 | 1.6259 | 0.3578 |
| transaction_type:3 | 0.4559 | 0.6743 | -0.8679 | 0.4557 | 1.7793 | 0.4554 |
| transaction_type:6 | 0.0106 | 0.6758 | -1.3159 | 0.0104 | 1.3371 | 0.0101 |
| transaction_type:7 | 0.1679 | 0.6632 | -1.1339 | 0.1677 | 1.4695 | 0.1674 |
| bldg_code:C00 | 0.3039 | 1.8017 | -3.2372 | 0.3044 | 3.8388 | 0.3057 |
| bldg_code:R00 | -0.0142 | 1.6776 | -3.3135 | -0.0132 | 3.2761 | -0.0110 |
| bldg_code:RCA | 0.0313 | 1.7582 | -3.4259 | 0.0323 | 3.4796 | 0.0345 |
| bldg_code:RM0 | -0.1446 | 1.7466 | -3.5796 | -0.1434 | 3.2803 | -0.1408 |
| bldg_code:RM1 | -0.2206 | 1.7433 | -3.6485 | -0.2196 | 3.1985 | -0.2175 |
| bldg_code:RM2 | -0.4926 | 1.7024 | -3.8408 | -0.4915 | 2.8459 | -0.4890 |
| bldg_code:RS0 | 0.0165 | 22.3767 | -43.9165 | 0.0158 | 43.9127 | 0.0165 |
| bldg_code:RT0 | -0.1787 | 1.6817 | -3.4865 | -0.1775 | 3.1190 | -0.1749 |
| bldg_code:X0M | -0.6285 | 1.6995 | -3.9703 | -0.6276 | 2.7050 | -0.6256 |
| pri_cat_code:B | -0.8341 | 0.3817 | -1.5835 | -0.8342 | -0.0852 | -0.8342 |
| pri_cat_code:C | -0.8581 | 0.6471 | -2.1284 | -0.8582 | 0.4119 | -0.8585 |
| pri_cat_code:D | 0.1525 | 0.3378 | -0.5108 | 0.1525 | 0.8154 | 0.1525 |
| zoning:0000 | -0.0587 | 0.2420 | -0.5340 | -0.0587 | 0.4159 | -0.0586 |
| zoning:A2 | 0.0482 | 0.1996 | -0.3369 | 0.0453 | 0.4502 | 0.0396 |
| zoning:R2 | -0.0769 | 0.4575 | -0.9741 | -0.0774 | 0.8221 | -0.0783 |
| zoning:RA | 0.0165 | 22.3767 | -43.9165 | 0.0158 | 43.9127 | 0.0165 |
| zoning:RR1 | -0.0599 | 0.2484 | -0.5458 | -0.0610 | 0.4315 | -0.0630 |

Table 7: Fitted model coefficients from the spatial model for BIP WV1103.

| Effects | mean | sd | $0.025 q u a n t$ | $0.5 q u a n t$ | $0.975 q u a n t$ | mode |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| after-2010 | 0.0018 | 0.0934 | -0.1817 | 0.0018 | 0.1849 | 0.0019 |
| after-2010 x BIP | -0.0278 | 0.1049 | -0.2337 | -0.0279 | 0.1780 | -0.0279 |
| hs_or_less | -0.0636 | 0.8332 | -1.7245 | -0.0619 | 1.5866 | -0.0585 |
| renters | -0.2416 | 0.6205 | -1.4619 | -0.2411 | 0.9746 | -0.2400 |
| poverty | -1.3835 | 1.4376 | -4.2029 | -1.3860 | 1.4464 | -1.3908 |
| age_65_older | -0.1044 | 1.7163 | -3.4538 | -0.1125 | 3.2863 | -0.1289 |
| hispanic | 6.4113 | 4.8210 | -3.0833 | 6.4194 | 15.8515 | 6.4362 |
| black | 0.5787 | 0.6605 | -0.7225 | 0.5797 | 1.8732 | 0.5818 |
| family | -0.3155 | 1.7246 | -3.7030 | -0.3157 | 3.0703 | -0.3161 |
| foreign | -11.7145 | 9.6347 | -30.5914 | -11.7311 | 7.2356 | -11.7635 |

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