Modeling Beetle Infestation Throughout a Forest as a Spatial Stochastic Process

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# **Overview**

**Problem Statement:** 

How do we predict the spread of infection caused by Asian Long-horned Beetles in a forest?

### **Motivation**



Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB) is...

- Native to asia
- Discovered in Massachusetts in 1996
- Causes a disease to trees that **no known cure exists**



#### Data Analysis per Year

Overview

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Progress

- Data Analysis

- Model Construction

Next Steps

- Our data contains 2-D points of locations of infected trees in Massachusetts.
- The data set includes 2 parameters:
  - Year

• Species



### Data Analysis per Species

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- Our data contains 2-D points of locations of infected trees in Massachusetts.
- The data set includes 2 > parameters:
  - Year
  - Species



#### Data Analysis per Infestation Level

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- Data Analysis
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Next Steps

- Our data contains 2-D points of locations of infected trees in Massachusetts.
- The data set includes 3 parameters:

• Year

- $\circ$  Species
- Infestation Level



#### **Data Analysis per Year - Grouped**



### **Methods Employed**

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- Data Analysis
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Data analysis methods:

• KDE (Kernel Density Estimation)

Modeling Methods:

- Bayesian Inference
- Maximum Likelihood Approach (MLE)

#### **Norway Maple Species by Year**





#### Sugar Maple Species by Year



#### Silver Maple Species by Year



Circle data (Norway maple : year 2008 & 2009)



Circle data (Norway maple: year 2010 & 2011)



Circle data(Norway maple: year 2012 & 2013)



Circle data (Norway maple: year 2014 & 2015)



Circle data (Norway maple: year 2016)



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Circle data (Silver maple: year 2008 & 2009)



Circle data (Silver maple: year 2010 & 2011)



Circle data (Silver maple: year 2012 & 2013)



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Circle data (Silver maple: year 2014 & 2016)



Circle data (Sugar maple: year 2008 & 2009)



Circle data (Sugar maple: year 2010 & 2011)



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Circle data (Sugar maple: year 2014 & 2015)



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Circle data (Sugar maple: year 2016 & 2017)



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#### How is the data distributed?

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#### **Kernel Density Estimations (KDE)**

- We can approximate a 1-D or 2-D distribution as a Gaussian distribution.
- To do this, take a histogram of the data and fit a normal curve to each bin.
- Add all curves together to get our approximate (Gaussian) distribution.

#### How is the data distributed?

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#### **Kernel Density Estimations (KDE)**

• If  $(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$  are i.i.d. Samples from our distribution, we approximate the probability density function (PDF) via

$$\hat{p}_h(x) = \frac{1}{nh} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x - x_i}{h}\right)$$

- The parameter h > 0 is the *bandwidth* of the estimation.
- The function *K*() is the *kernel function*. We use the Gaussian probability density function Normal(0, 1).

# **2D Kernel Density Estimation**

#### Red Maple Species: 2008 & 2009



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# **2D Kernel Density Estimation**

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- Model Construction , <sup>4.689</sup>

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# **2D Kernel Density Estimation**

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Red Maple Species: 2012 & 2013



# **2D Kernel Density Estimation**

#### Red Maple Species: 2014 & 2015

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# **2D Kernel Density Estimation**

#### Red Maple Species: 2016 & 2017



2D KDE (Sugar maple: 2008 & 2009 data)



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2D KDE (Sugar maple: 2010 & 2011 data)



2D KDE (Sugar maple: 2012 & 2013 data)



#### 2D KDE (Sugar maple: 2014 & 2015 data)

#### Overview



#### 2D KDE (Sugar maple: 2016 data)



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#### 2D KDE (Norway maple: 2008 & 2009 data)

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#### 2D KDE (Norway maple: 2010 & 2011 data)

Overview



2D KDE (Norway maple: 2012 & 2013 data)



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#### 2D KDE (Norway maple: 2014 & 2015 data)



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- **Data Analysis**
- Model \_ Construction

#### 2D KDE (Norway maple: 2016)

2D Kernel Density Estimation 1e-6 1e6 Data Points 2.5 4.6835 4.6830 - 2.0 4.6825 -4.6820 1.5 Density ≻ 4.6815 - 1.0 4.6810 -4.6805 0.5 4.6800 0.0 268600 268800 269000 269200 269400 269600 х

#### Overview

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

2D KDE (Silver maple: 2008 & 2009 data)



#### Overview

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2D KDE (Silver maple: 2010 & 2011 data)



2D KDE (Silver maple: 2012 & 2013 data) Overview 2D Kernel Density Estimation 1e6 1e-7 2D Kernel Density Estimation 1e6 1e-8 Motivation Data Points 4.690 Data Points 4.696 - 1.0 - 1.0 Progress 4.694 4.688 - 0.8 Data 0.8 4.692 Analysis 4.686 - 0.0 Density - 0.0 Density Model \_ > 4.690 Construction 4.684 - 0.4 4.688 0.4 Next Steps 4.682 - 0.2 4.686 0.2 4.684 4.680 0.0 269000 270000 271000 272000 273000 274000 268000269000270000271000272000273000274000275000 Х Х

#### 2D KDE (Silver maple: 2014 data)



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## Application of the KDE

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### **Kernel Density Estimations (KDE)**

- We can approximate a 1-D or 2-D distribution as a Gaussian distribution.
- Take a histogram of the data and fit a normal curve to each bin. Then, adding all curves together will give us our approximate underlying distribution.
- The peak of the summed curve should indicate the peak of densities, corresponding to potential clusters.

### **One-Dimensional KDE: 2009 Data**

Overview



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In theory...

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- Data Analysis
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#### - Use 1-D KDE to pinpoint the 2-D clusters

### In reality...?

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### **One-Dimensional KDE: 2009 Data**

KDE of x Values for year 2009 KDE of y Values for year 2009 1e6 **Motivation** 4.694 Progress 0.0008 4.692 **Data Analysis** -Model \_ 0.0006 4.690 Construction Density × 4.688 Next Steps 0.0004 4.686 0.0002 4.684 0.0000 26600@6700@6800@6900@7000@7100@7200@73000 0.0000 0.0001 0.0002 0.0003 0.0004 0.0005 Density х





265000 266000 267000 268000 269000 270000 271000 272000 273000 x



266000 267000 268000 269000 270000 271000 272000 273000 X

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What about the other years?





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### In reality...

 Structures cannot be determined as good as eyeballing the data directly.



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### In reality...

 Structures cannot be determined as good as eyeballing the data directly.



of eyeballing with help from 2D KDEs.



Motivation

Progress

- Data Analysis
- Model Construction



In reality...

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

- Structures cannot be determined as good as eyeballing the data directly.
  - Resolving to determining clusters by eye

- Currently an open question!

### 2D KDE for Year 2008



### 2D KDE for Year 2009



### Temporal Shift by Year - 2008



### Temporal Shift by Year - 2009



### Temporal Shift by Year - 2010




















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### **Constructing a Model for Our Data**

• Important quantities to model:

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### **Constructing a Model for Our Data**

• Important quantities to model:

• The **number of points** in the grid

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### **Constructing a Model for Our Data**

• Important quantities to model:

- The **number of points** in the grid
- The **spread of the points** within the grid

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### **Constructing a Model for Our Data**

- Important quantities to model:
  - The **number of points** in the grid
  - The **spread of the points** within the grid

• We must create a model that **fits both of these parameters**.

### **Spatial Poisson Point Process**

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- Data Analysis

Model Construction

- We model the **number of points**  $\lambda$  as a Poisson random variable.
  - This distribution "counts" the number of events of the process in our grid.

### **Spatial Poisson Point Process**

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

- We model the **number of points**  $\lambda$  as a Poisson random variable.
  - This distribution "counts" the number of events of the process in our grid.
- The probability of k events occurring is given by

$$P\{X=k\} = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$$

• The parameter  $\lambda$  is both the **mean** and **variance**.

### **Non-Homogeneous Point Process**

#### Overview

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- Data Analysis

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Next Steps

• For a homogeneous point process,  $\lambda$  remains constant along the entire grid.

### **Non-Homogeneous Point Process**

#### Overview

Motivation

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

- For a homogeneous point process,  $\lambda$  remains constant along the entire grid.
- However, our data is **non-homogeneous**:  $\lambda(x)$ depends on the point x in the grid.



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Next Steps

• We estimate the values of  $\lambda(x)$  by first counting the points in our data set:

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Next Steps

• We estimate the values of  $\lambda(x)$  by first counting the points in our data set:

1. Draw circles  $C_1, \ldots, C_N$  around point clusters.

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

- We estimate the values of  $\lambda(x)$  by first counting the points in our data set:
  - 1. Draw circles  $C_1, \ldots, C_N$  around point clusters.
  - 2. Find the number of data points  $\hat{\lambda}(C_i)$  in each circle.

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- We estimate the values of  $\lambda(x)$  by first counting the points in our data set:
  - 1. Draw circles  $C_1, \ldots, C_N$  around point clusters.
  - 2. Find the number of data points  $\hat{\lambda}(C_i)$  in each circle.
  - 3. Divide by the area of the circle:

$$\hat{\lambda}_i = \frac{\hat{\lambda}(C_i)}{area(C_i)}$$

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Motivation

- This gives us an estimate of the  $\lambda$  value within each circle  $C_i$ .
  - We want a formula for each point  $x \in C_i$ .

Progress

- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Overview

Motivation

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

- This gives us an estimate of the  $\lambda$  value within each circle  $C_i$ 
  - We want a formula for each point  $x \in C_i$ .
- To do this, we use a formula that decreases with distance:

$$\hat{\lambda}_i(x) = \hat{\lambda}_i e^{-dr^2(x)}$$

- $\circ r(x)$  is the distance from the circle's center
- *d* > 0 is the decay rate (Default: 0.01)

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- Data Analysis
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Next Steps

- Inside each circle  $C_i$  , we have some  $M_i$  data points

$$X_i = \{x_1, \dots, x_{M_i}\}$$

which we interpret as random samples.

Overview

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- Data Analysis
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Next Steps

- Inside each circle  $C_i$  , we have some  $M_i$  data points

$$X_i = \{x_1, \ldots, x_{M_i}\}$$

which we interpret as random samples.

• For each circle, we aim to calculate the *posterior distribution* 

$$p_i(\lambda_i|x)$$

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

• If we make an initial assumption about the distribution of the (random) values  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , then we can use *Bayesian Inference* to approximate the true distribution:

$$p_i(\lambda_i|x) = p_i(x|\lambda_i)f_i(\lambda_i)$$

Overview

Motivation

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

• If we make an initial assumption about the distribution of the (random) values  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ , then we can use *Bayesian Inference* to approximate the true distribution:

$$p_i(\lambda_i|x) = p_i(x|\lambda_i)f_i(\lambda_i)$$

• We assume a prior distribution  $f_i(\lambda_i)$  for these parameters.

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- Data Analysis

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Next Steps

• We use a **Gamma distribution** as our prior:

$$\lambda_i \sim f_i(\lambda_i) = Gamma(a_{\lambda_i}, b_{\lambda_i})$$

Overview

Motivation

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- Data Analysis

• Model Construction

Next Steps

• We use a **Gamma distribution** as our prior:

$$\lambda_i \sim f_i(\lambda_i) = Gamma(a_{\lambda_i}, b_{\lambda_i})$$

- A gamma distribution describes the spread of points with a shape and a rate  $b_{\lambda_i}$ .  $b_{\lambda_i}$ 
  - These can be thought of as **additional model parameters**.

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

• The *likelihood distribution* can be calculated from our data points:

$$p_i(x|\lambda_i) = \prod_{j=1}^M p_i(x_j|\lambda_i(x_j))$$

Overview

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

• The *likelihood distribution* can be calculated from our data points:

$$p_i(x|\lambda_i) = \prod_{j=1}^M p_i(x_j|\lambda_i(x_j))$$

• Each of these functions is given by the Poisson distribution.

Overview

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- Data Analysis
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Next Steps

• The prior distribution can be estimated from our (sampled) points:

 $f_i(\lambda_i) = \prod_{j=1}^M f_i(\lambda_i(x_j))$ 

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

• The prior distribution can be estimated from our (sampled) points:



 $\circ$  Recall that  $f_i(\lambda_i)$  is a Gamma distribution.

# **Sampling from a Posterior**

Overview

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- Data Analysis

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Next Steps

#### Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) Model

• From the paper "Bayesian Nonparametric Nonhomogeneous Poisson Process..." (arXiv:1907.03186):

 $\begin{aligned} k &\sim p(\cdot), \text{ where } p(\cdot) \text{ is a p.m.f on } \{1, 2, \ldots\} \\ \lambda_r \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(a, b), \quad r = 1, \ldots, k, \\ P(z_i = j \mid \pi, k) = \pi_j, \quad j = 1, \ldots, k, \ i = 1, \ldots, n, \\ \pi \mid k \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\gamma, \ldots, \gamma), \\ N(A_i) \mid z, \lambda, k \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda_{z_i}), \quad i = 1, \ldots, n, \end{aligned}$ 

## **Estimating Parameter Space**

Overview

#### Maximum Likelihood Estimate

Motivation

Progress

- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

• Our goal is to maximize the posterior distribution

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i = \operatorname*{argmax}_{\lambda_i} \{ p_i(\lambda_i | x) \}$$

## **Estimating Parameter Space**

Overview

#### Maximum Likelihood Estimate

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Motivation

Progress

- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

$$i = \underset{\lambda_i}{\operatorname{argmax}} \{ p_i(\lambda_i | x) \}$$
$$= \underset{\lambda_i}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{ -\log p_i(\lambda_i | x) \}$$
# **Estimating Parameter Space**

Overview

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- Data Analysis
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### Maximum Likelihood Estimate

• Using Bayesian Inference,

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i = \underset{\lambda_i}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{-\log p_i(x|\lambda_i) - \log f_i(\lambda_i)\}$$

### **Estimating Parameter Space**

#### Overview

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Next Steps

### Maximum Likelihood Estimate

• Using Bayesian Inference,

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i = \underset{\lambda_i}{\operatorname{argmin}} \{-\log p_i(x|\lambda_i) - \log f_i(\lambda_i)\}$$

$$= \underset{\lambda_i}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ -\sum_{j=1}^{M} \left( \log p_i(x_j | \lambda_i(x_j)) + \log f_i(\lambda_i(x_j)) \right) \right\}$$

Overview

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### Step 1

• Take the set of data points and draw circles  $C_1, \ldots, C_N$  around the **point clusters**.

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### Step 1

- Take the set of data points and draw circles  $C_1, \ldots, C_N$  around the **point clusters**.
  - Clusters should be at the center of the circle and the data points become more sparse as distance increases from the center.

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- Data Analysis
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- Step 1
  - Take the set of data points and draw circles  $C_1, \ldots, C_N$  around the **point clusters**.
    - Clusters should be at the center of the circle and the data points become more sparse as distance increases from the center.
  - In our case, this was done by hand.
    - There is no ideal algorithm to capture all clusters.

Step 2

Overview

Motivation

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- Data Analysis
- Model Construction

Next Steps

• Estimate the  $\lambda(x)$  values for our data points inside the circle:

$$\hat{\lambda}_i(x_j) = \hat{\lambda}_i e^{-dr^2(x_j)}$$

Step 2

Overview

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- Data Analysis
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Next Steps

• Estimate the  $\lambda(x)$  values for our data points inside the circle:

$$\hat{\lambda}_i(x_j) = \hat{\lambda}_i e^{-dr^2(x_j)}$$

• Recall that  $\hat{\lambda}_i$  is the estimated value for the circle  $C_i$ 

Step 2

Overview

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- Model Construction

Next Steps

• Estimate the  $\lambda(x)$  values for our data points inside the circle:

$$\hat{\lambda}_i(x_j) = \hat{\lambda}_i e^{-dr^2(x_j)}$$

- Recall that  $\hat{\lambda}_i$  is the estimated value for the circle  $C_i$ .
- This gives us an initial **expected** number of points around  $x_j$ .

Step 3

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Next Steps

• Next, use the values  $\hat{\lambda}_i(x_j)$  to generate the (initial) **number of** observed events  $k_j$  for each point  $x_j$ .

Step 3

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- Data Analysis

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- Next, use the values  $\hat{\lambda}_i(x_j)$  to generate the (initial) **number of** observed events  $k_j$  for each point  $x_j$ .
  - $\circ$   $% \lambda_{i}(x_{j})$  This is done by creating a Poisson random variable with mean  $\hat{\lambda}_{i}(x_{j})$  .

Step 3

Overview

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- Data Analysis

Model Construction

- Next, use the values  $\hat{\lambda}_i(x_j)$  to generate the (initial) **number of observed events**  $k_j$  for each point  $x_j$ .
  - $\circ$   $% \lambda_{i}(x_{j})$  This is done by creating a Poisson random variable with mean  $\hat{\lambda}_{i}(x_{j})$  .
  - It gives an idea of the number of data points we should find around  $x_j$ .

Step 4

Overview

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- Data Analysis

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Next Steps

• Use our calculations for the MLE to complete the optimization

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i = \underset{\lambda_i}{\operatorname{argmax}} \{ p_i(\lambda_i | x) \}$$

Step 4

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- Data Analysis

- Model Construction

Next Steps

$$\tilde{\lambda}_i = \underset{\lambda_i}{\operatorname{argmax}} \{ p_i(\lambda_i | x) \}$$

 $\circ$   $\;$  This also gives us the values  $\;a_{\tilde{\lambda}_i}, b_{\tilde{\lambda}_i}$  for the prior (Gamma) distribution.

Overview

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Next Steps

### Step 5

• To create simulations, start with a **uniformly distributed** set of data points  $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_S\}$  inside our circle.

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### Step 5

- To create simulations, start with a **uniformly distributed** set of data points  $Y = \{y_1, \ldots, y_S\}$  inside our circle.
  - The number of points should be **proportional to the optimal value**  $\tilde{\lambda}_i$ .

Step 5

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- To create simulations, start with
  - To create simulations, start with a **uniformly distributed** set of data points  $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_S\}$  inside our circle.
    - The number of points should be proportional to the optimal value  $\tilde{\lambda}_i$ .
- Use the optimal values  $a_{\tilde{\lambda}_i}, b_{\tilde{\lambda}_i}$  for the Gamma distribution to generate samples from our prior distribution

$$\lambda_k \sim Gamma(a_{\tilde{\lambda}_i}, b_{\tilde{\lambda}_i})$$

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### Step 5

• These new  $\lambda_k$  samples are used to calculate the distance-adjusted  $\lambda_k(y_k)$  values for our new points.

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- Step 5
  - These new  $\lambda_k$  samples are used to calculate the distance-adjusted  $\lambda_k(y_k)$  values for our new points.
    - **Remove** the new points  $y_k$  whose lambda value  $\lambda_k(y_k)$  is below some tolerance (default: 0.01).

Step 5

Overview

Motivation

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- Data Analysis
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- These new  $\lambda_k$  samples are used to calculate the distance-adjusted  $\lambda_k(y_k)$  values for our new points.
  - **Remove** the new points  $y_k$  whose lambda value  $\lambda_k(y_k)$  is below some tolerance (default: 0.01).
- The remaining points will (approximately) live in the distribution of our data.

#### Overview

### Results: 2008 Trees (decay rate = 1e-5)

Motivation

#### Progress

- Data Analysis
- Model Construction



#### Overview

### Results: 2010 Trees (decay rate = 1e-6)

Motivation

#### Progress



- Model Construction



#### Overview

### Results: 2011 Trees (decay rate = 1e-6)

Motivation

#### Progress

- Data Analysis
- Model Construction



#### Overview

### Results: 2012 Trees (decay rate = 5e-6)

Motivation

#### Progress

- Data Analysis
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## **Model Pitfalls**

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Next Steps

### Ambiguity in the Algorithm

• There is no set way to identify the point clusters and create circles around them.

# **Model Pitfalls**

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### Ambiguity in the Algorithm

- There is no set way to identify the point clusters and create circles around them.
- The decay rate *d* may need to be different for each circle.

# **Model Pitfalls**

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### Ambiguity in the Algorithm

- There is no set way to identify the point clusters and create circles around them.
- The decay rate *d* may need to be different for each circle.
- The number of simulated points in each region can be better defined. We currently use

$$S = \hat{\lambda}_i$$

#### Overview

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**Next Steps** 

### **KDE for Cluster Identification**

• To identify the best places for circles, we can use the 2-D KDE estimation heat maps.





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#### **Next Steps**

### **Optimal Decay Rate and Number of Points**

• We would like to find the best values to use for the decay rate *d* and the number of points *S* to generate for our simulations.

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#### **Next Steps**

### **Optimal Decay Rate and Number of Points**

- We would like to find the best values to use for the decay rate *d* and the number of points *S* to generate for our simulations.
  - A larger decay rate *d* will mean more points are removed as the data moves further from the center.

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#### Next Steps

### **Optimal Decay Rate and Number of Points**

- We would like to find the best values to use for the decay rate *d* and the number of points *S* to generate for our simulations.
  - A larger decay rate *d* will mean more points are removed as the data moves further from the center.

• We want to find the **ideal balance** between these values.

Thank you!

Overview

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- Data Analysis

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**Next Steps** 

### **Better Model**

• From the paper "Bayesian Nonparametric Nonhomogeneous Poisson Process..." (arXiv:1907.03186):

 $\begin{aligned} k &\sim p(\cdot), \text{where } p(\cdot) \text{ is a p.m.f on } \{1, 2, \ldots\} \\ \lambda_r &\stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(a, b), \quad r = 1, \ldots, k, \\ P(z_i = j \mid \pi, k) = \pi_j, \quad j = 1, \ldots, k, \ i = 1, \ldots, n, \\ \pi \mid k \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\gamma, \ldots, \gamma), \\ N(A_i) \mid z, \lambda, k \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda_{z_i}), \quad i = 1, \ldots, n, \end{aligned}$