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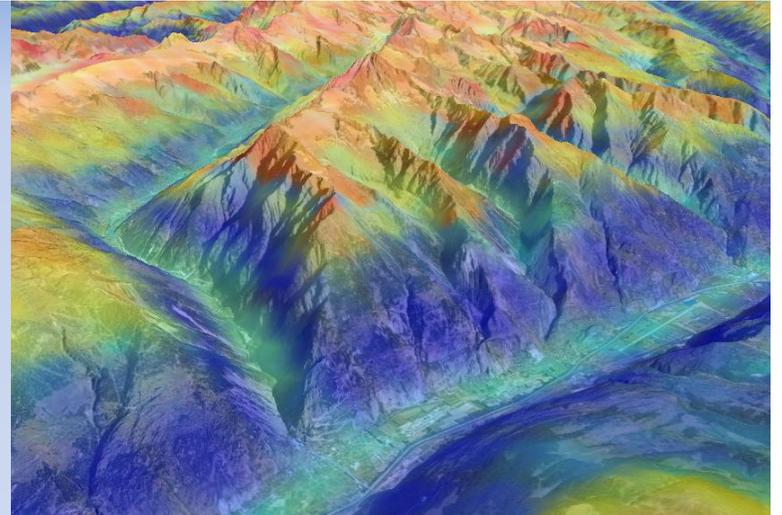
Advanced Analysis of Environmental Data Using Machine Learning

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Main Topics



- Introduction. Environmental data
- Generic methodology
- Machine Learning for Environmental Data Modelling and Visualization
- Challenges
- Conclusions

Our data:

- *small, medium and big data*
- *multi-scale*
- *multivariate*
- *uncertain*
- *nonhomogeneous*
- *high dimensionality*
- *nonlinearity*
- *complexity*

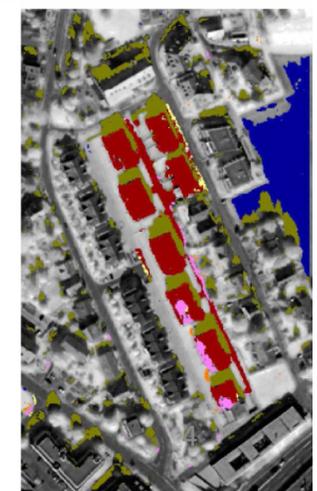
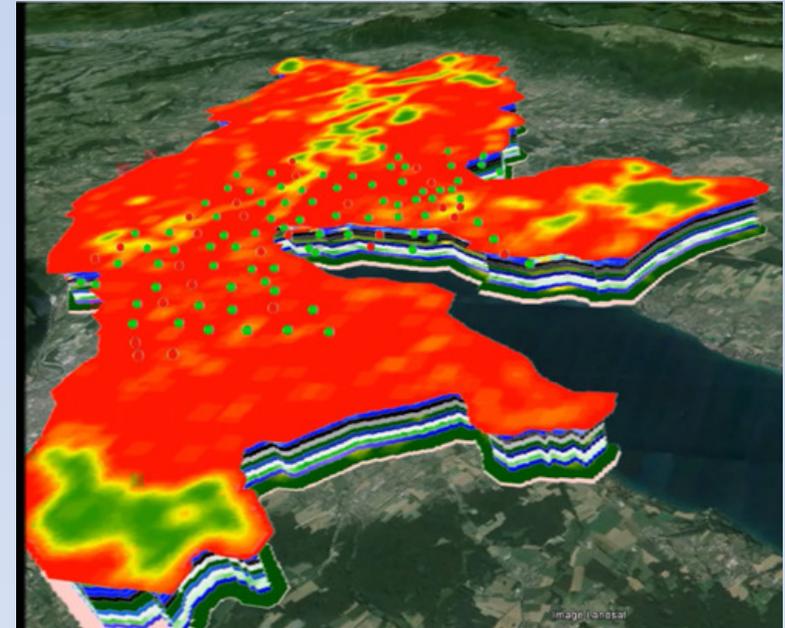
- *Integration of data and science-based models*

....



Cases Studies and Dimensionality

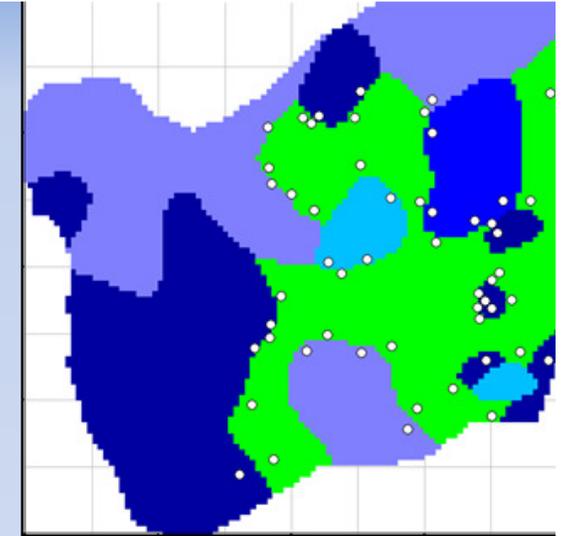
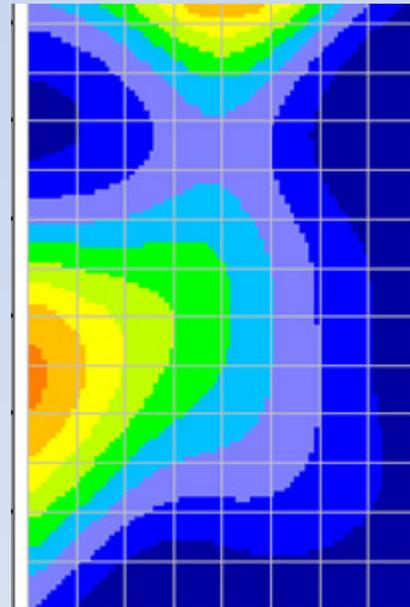
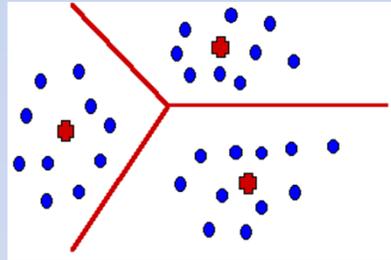
- *Monthly wind fields >13d,*
- *avalanches > 40d,*
- *landslides >18d,*
- *permafrost >20d,*
- *city pollution >50,*
- *remote sensing >100...*



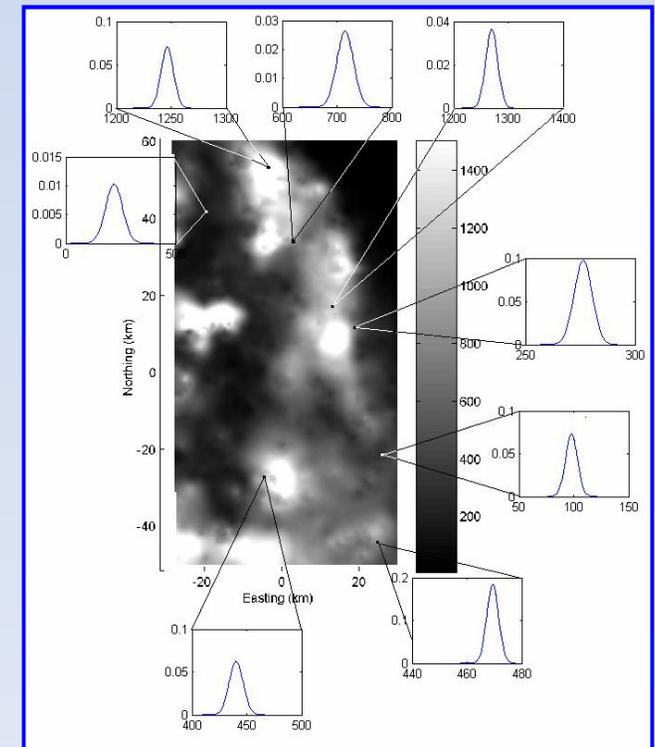
ML algorithms we have used for the environmental applications:

- Artificial neural networks of different architectures: Multilayer Perceptrons, Radial Basis Function Networks, General Regression Neural Networks, Probabilistic Neural Networks, Self-Organizing Maps, MDN, GMM,...
- Random Forests, Ensemble Learning
- Support Vector Machines; Support Vector Regression and many other Kernel-based models

Major fundamental questions for data-driven modelling



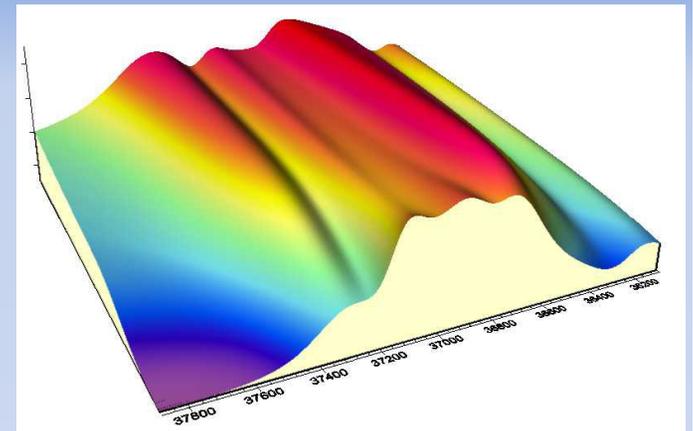
- Clustering
- Classification
- Regression
- Pdf modeling (risk analysis)



Approaches to geospatial environmental data

- Classical geostatistics: predictions/simulations
- Multi-point geostatistics
- Bayesian geostatistics, BME
- Machine Learning

Monitoring networks: clustering, preferential sampling, design, optimization...

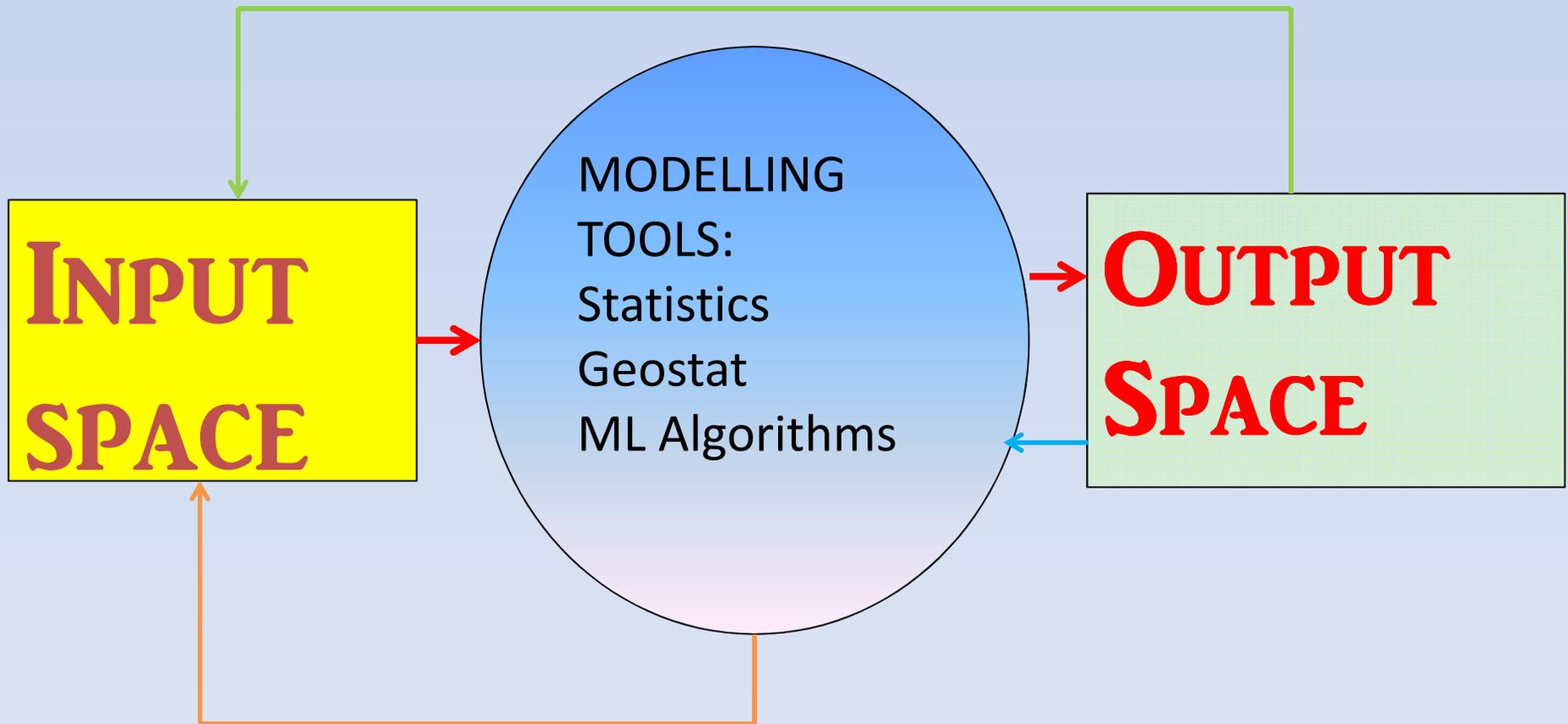


Learning of spatio-temporal data in terms of patterns/structures:

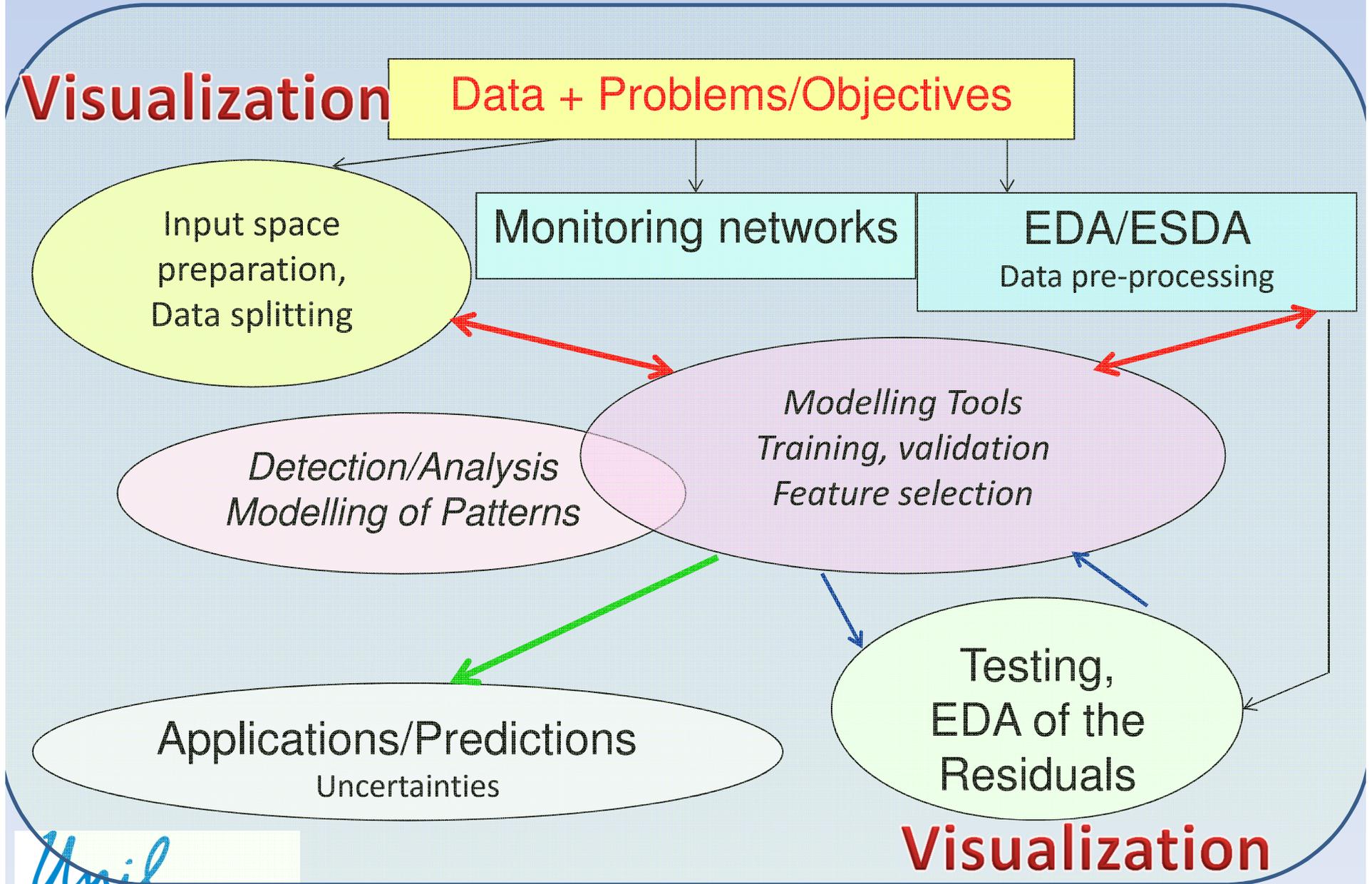
- *pattern recognition,*
- *pattern modelling,*
- *pattern predictions*

Generic Modelling Task

(classification, regression, density modelling)



Generic methodology

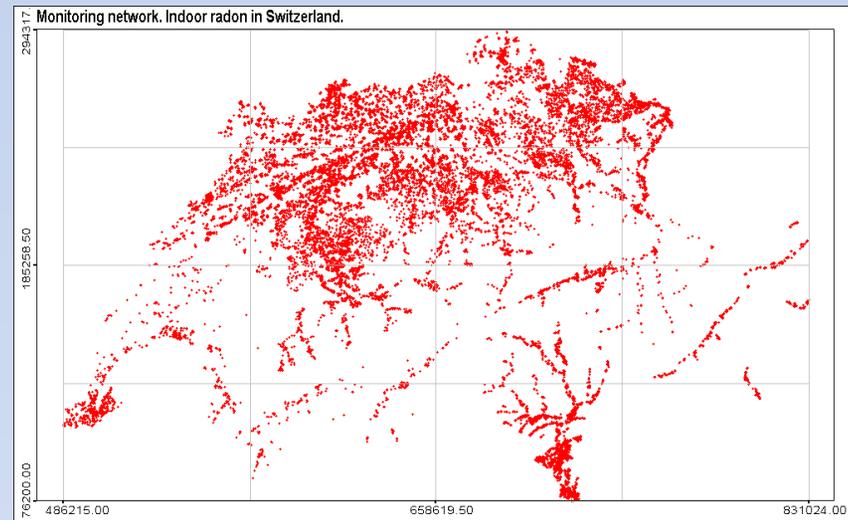
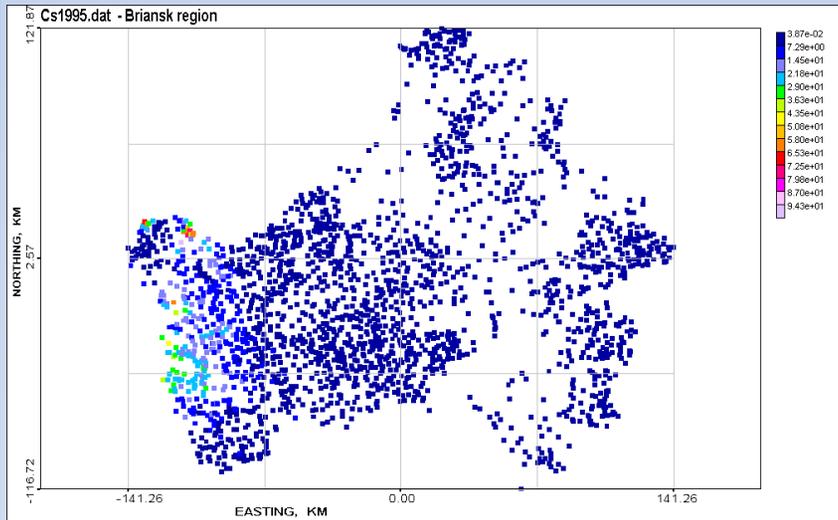


*First important question.
Monitoring networks:*

Clustering and Preferential Sampling

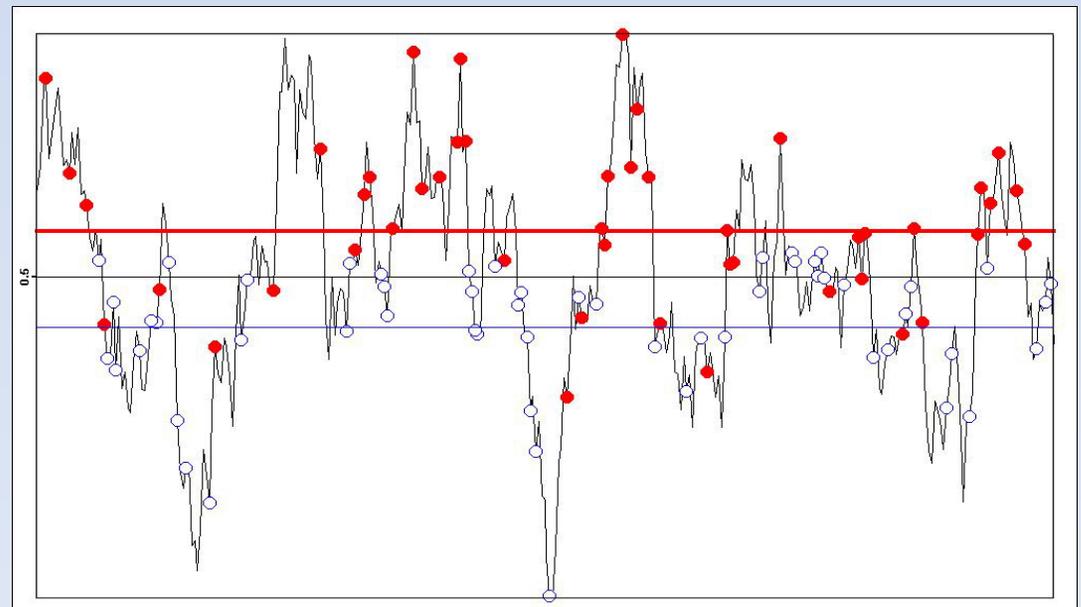
Spatial and Dimensional Resolutions

Monitoring networks

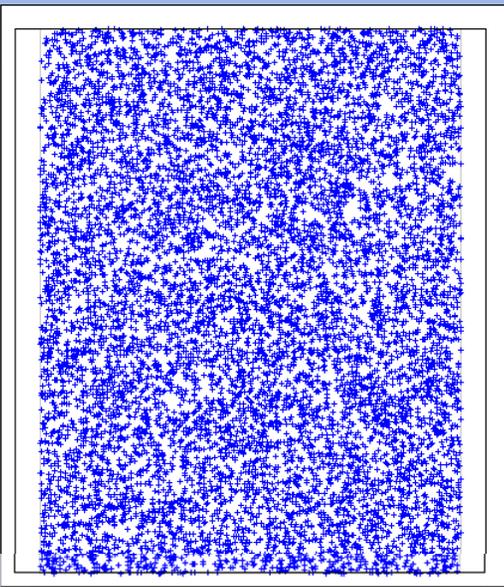


Measures of clustering:

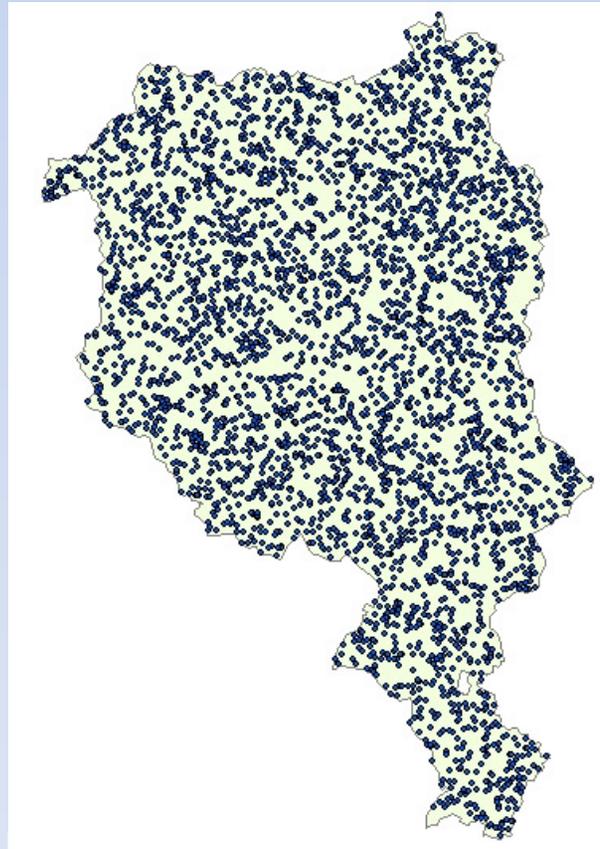
Topological
Statistical
Fractal



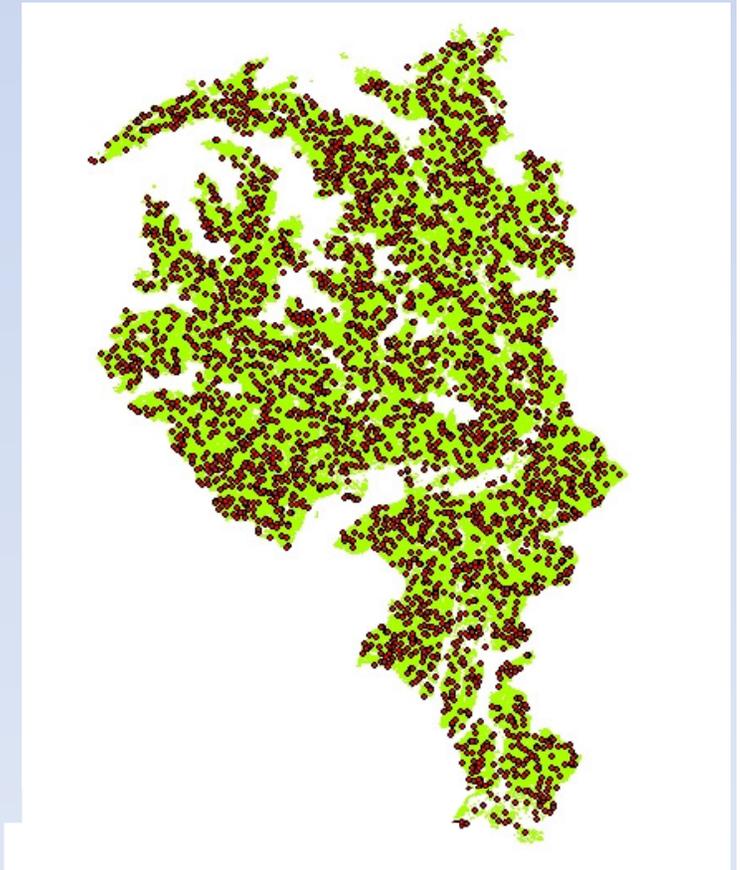
Validity domains: A- rectangular, B-admin, C- forest (points were randomly generated). d is estimated by a sand-box counting method



A: $d=1.96$

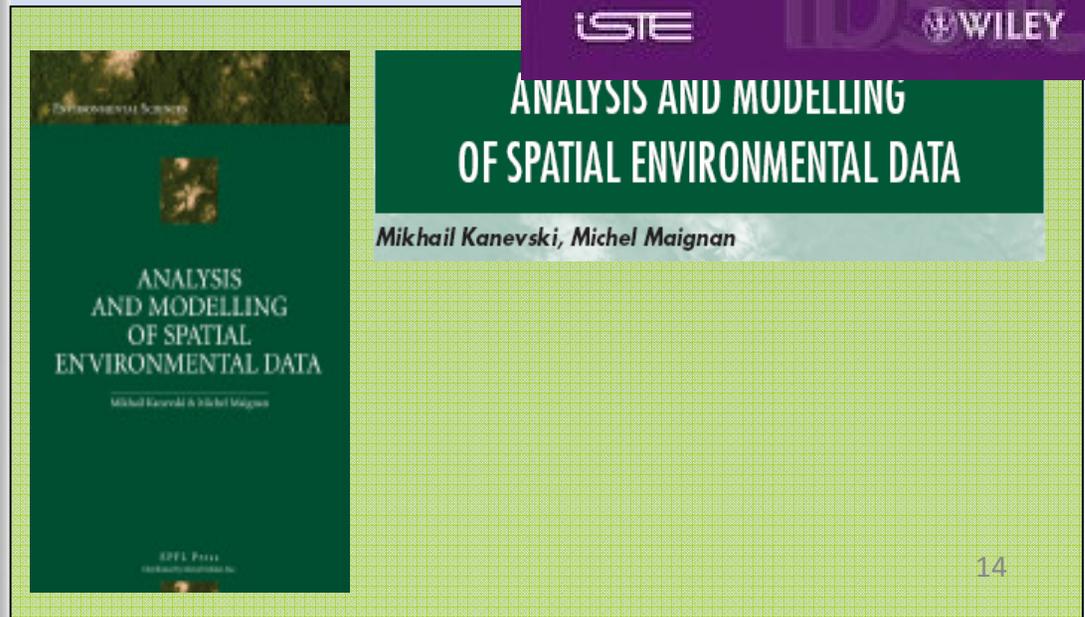
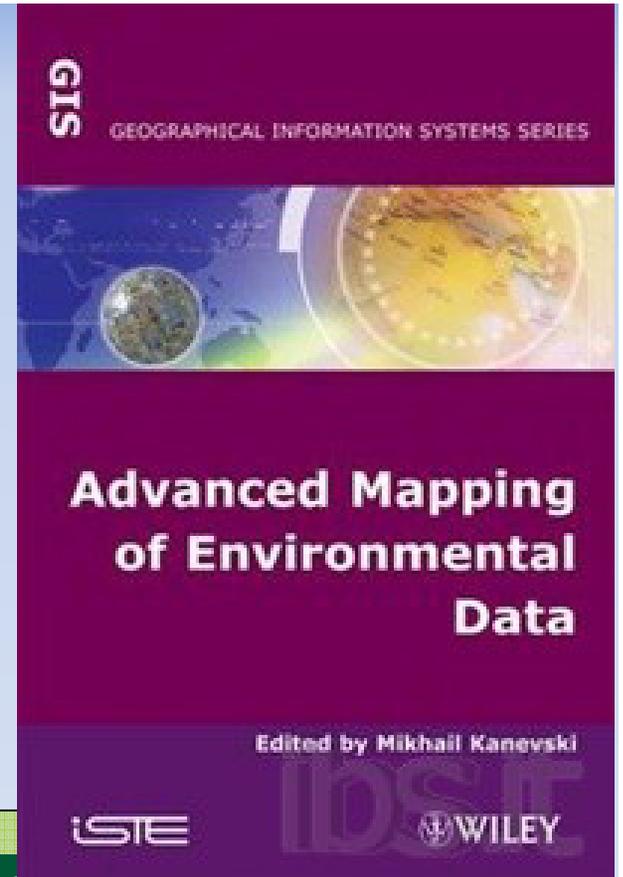
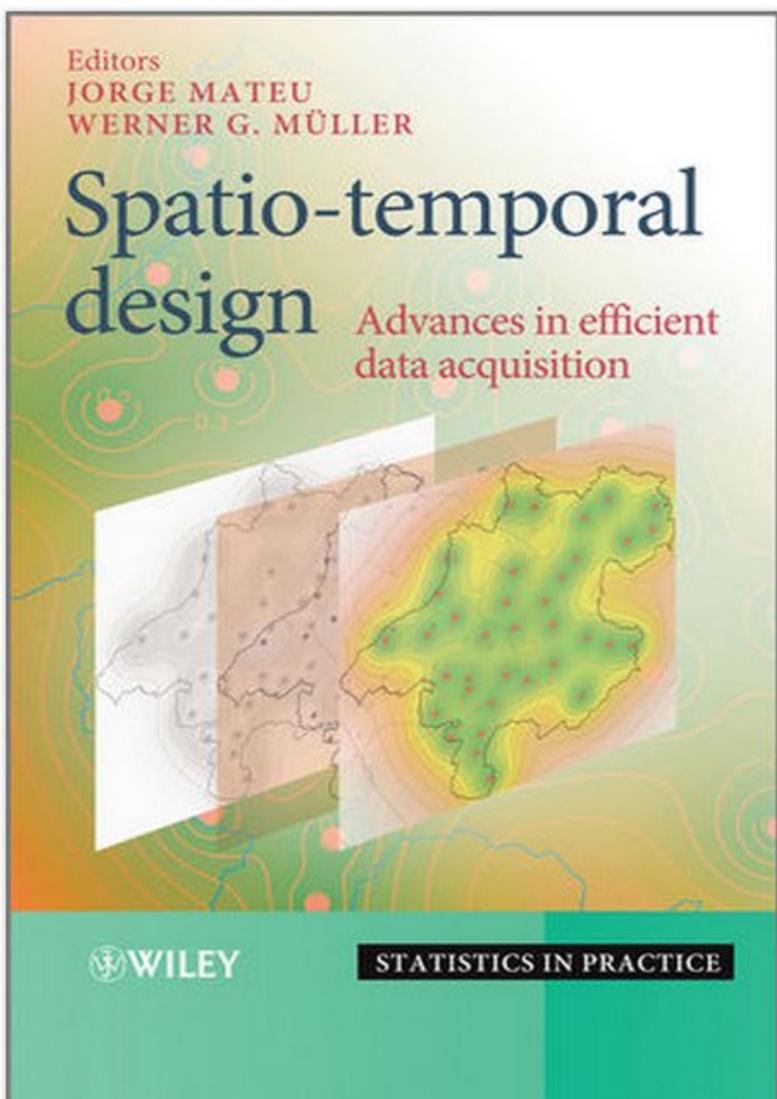


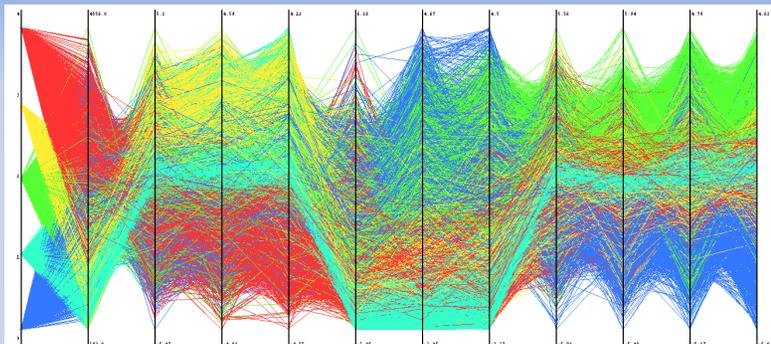
B: $d=1.88$



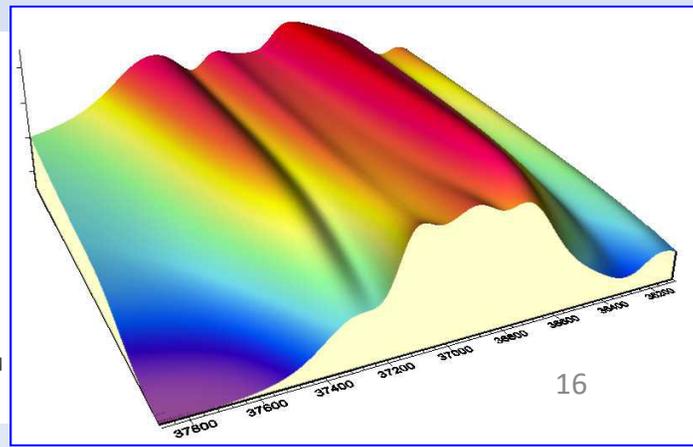
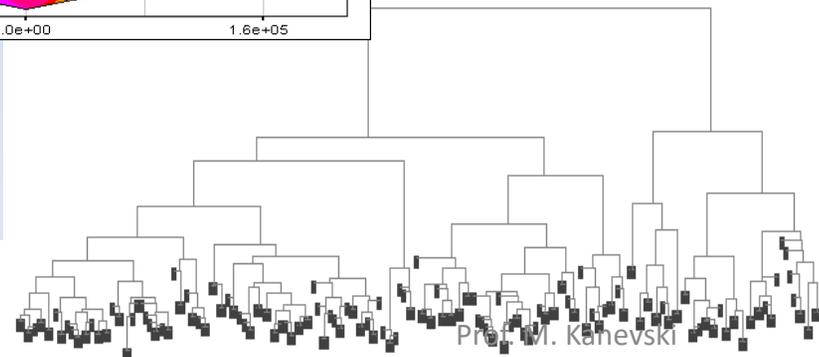
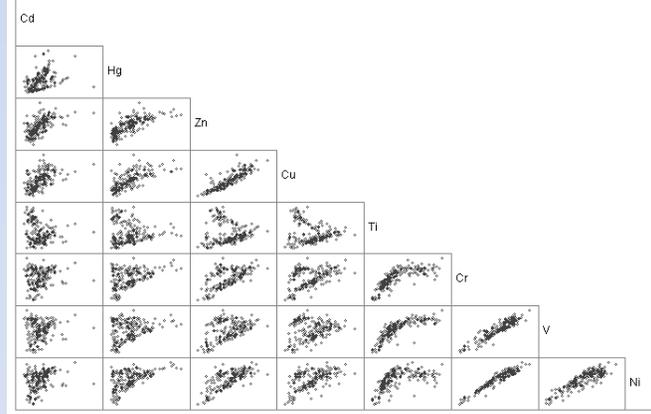
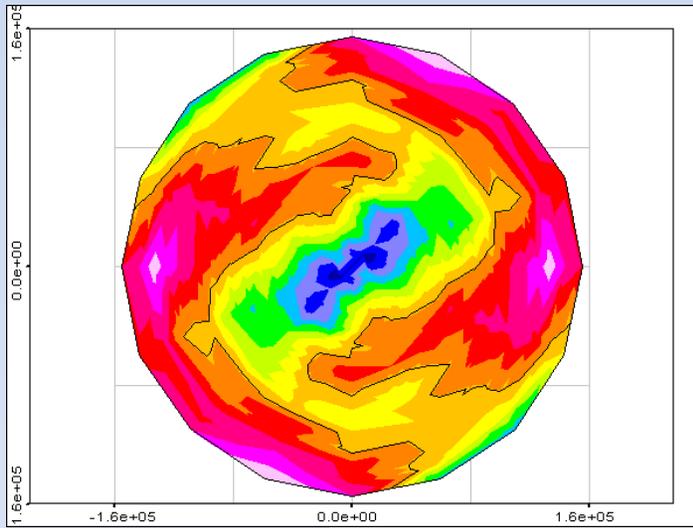
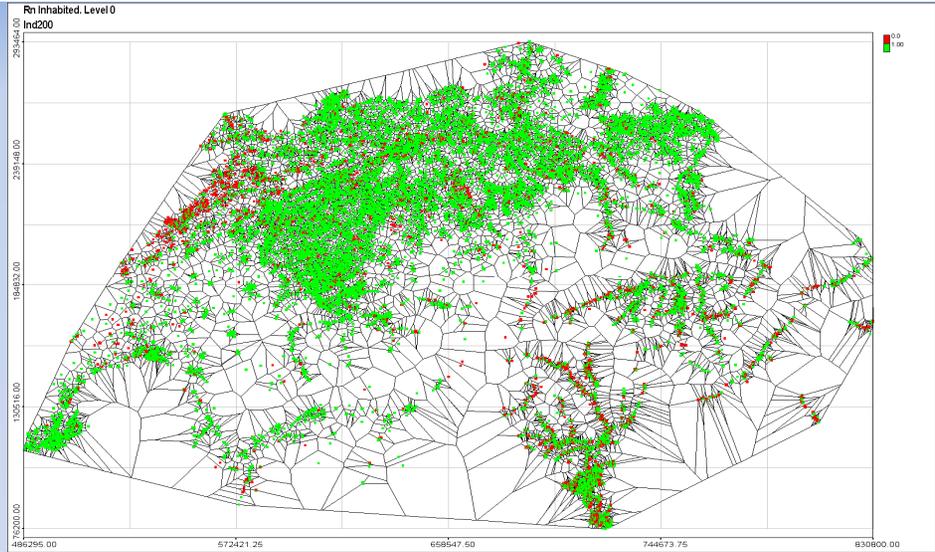
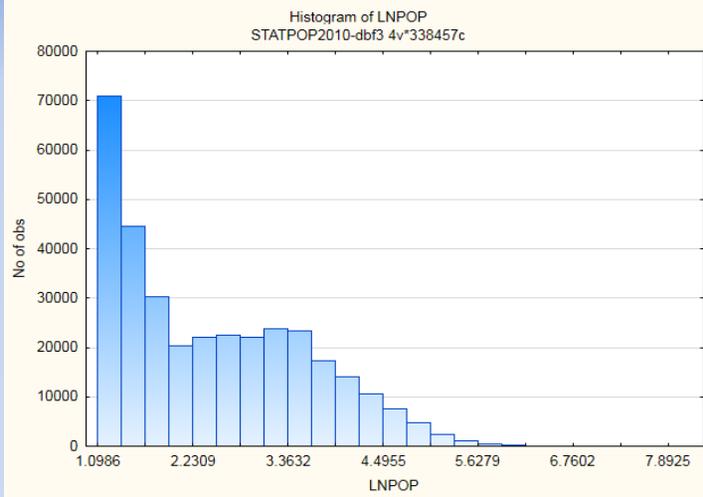
C: $d=1.75$

More on monitoring networks in:



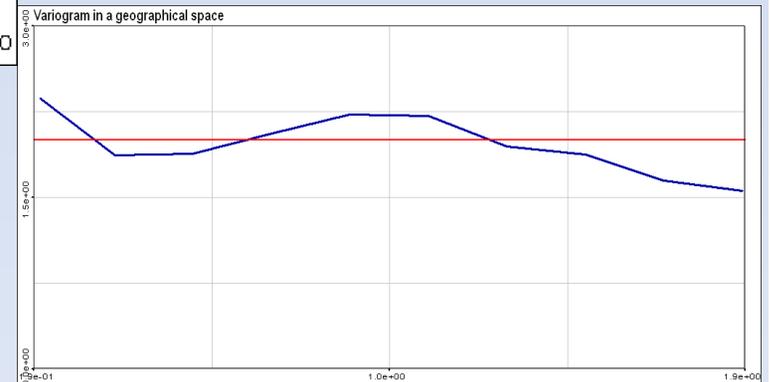
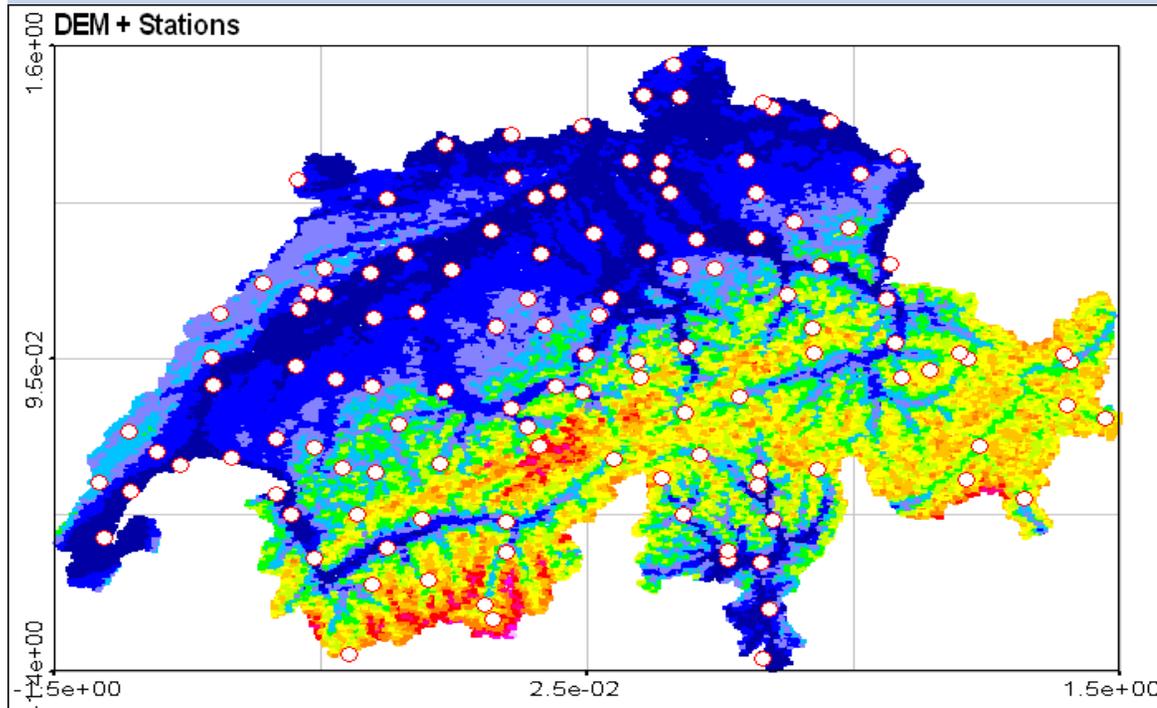


Advanced Exploratory Data Analysis and VISUALIZATION



Data: Monthly wind speed in Switzerland

(data prepared by S. Robert, ETHZ)



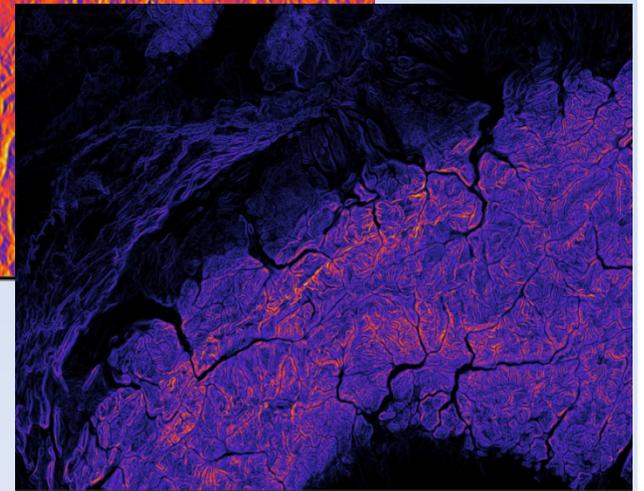
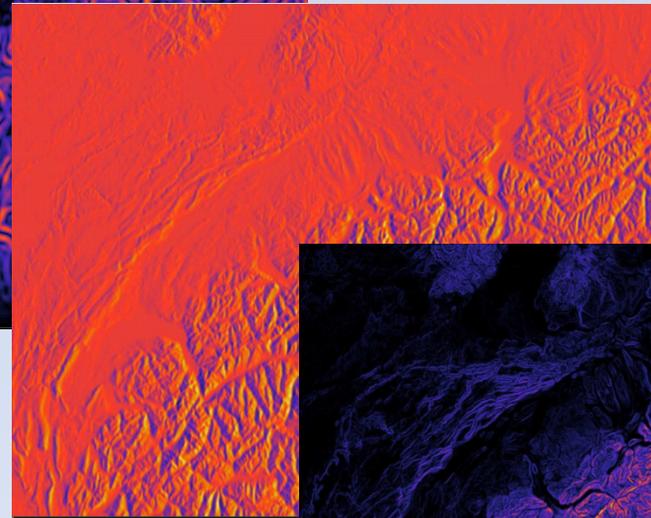
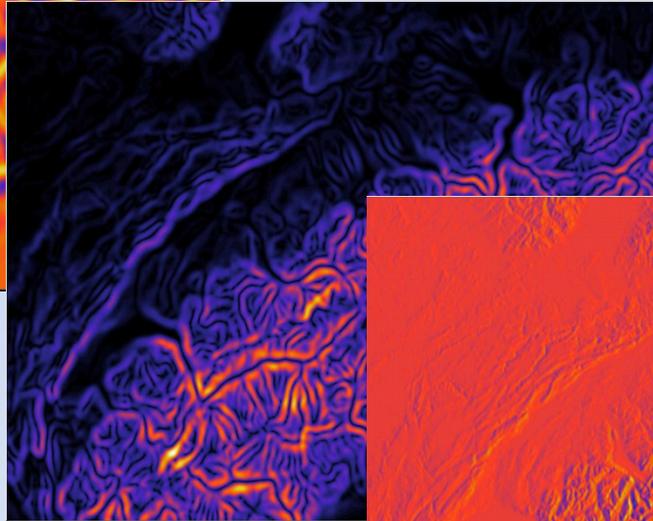
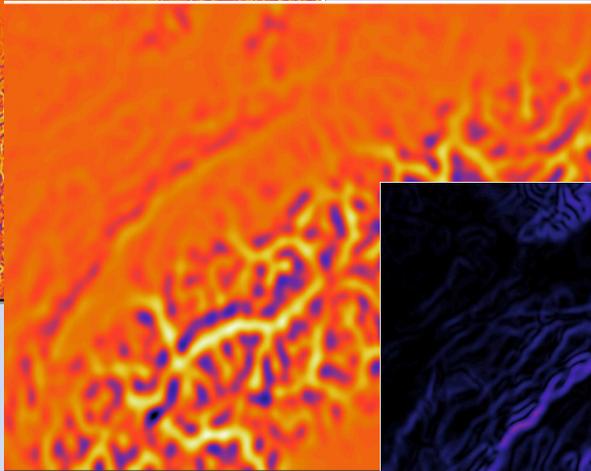
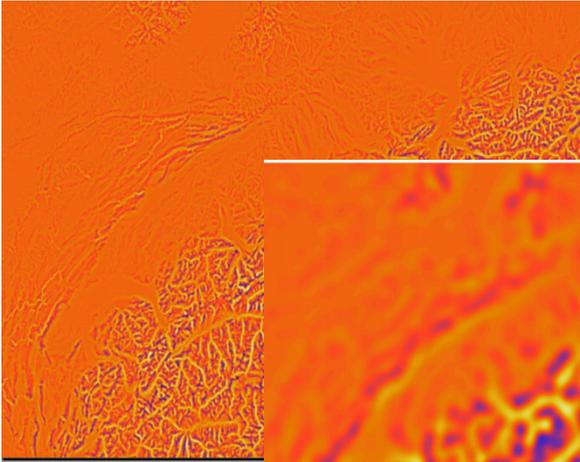
Embedding of raw data into a feature space

Table 1 Topographic features considered in the study

Number	Symbol	Type	Description	Modality
1 – 2	[X, Y]	Spatial coordinates	Location of the sample ^a	
3	[Z]	Altitude	Altitude of the sample ^a	
4 – 6	[DoG]	Difference of Gaussians	Substraction of two smoothed DEMs, describes convexity of terrain	Small / Medium / Large
7 – 9	[Slope]	Slope	Norm of terrain gradient, describe slopes of terrain	Small / Medium / Large
10 – 13	[DD]	Directional derivatives	highlight natural topographical obstacles that break wind	NorthSouth, EastWest at Small and Medium scales

^a Monitoring station or pixel extracted by DEM.

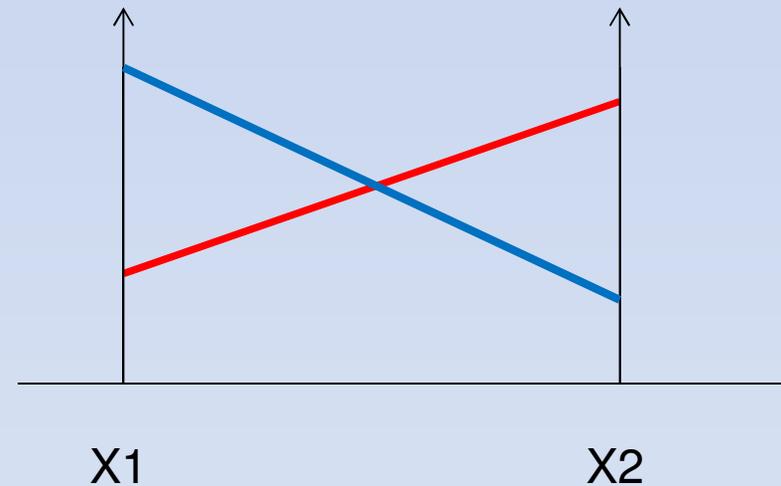
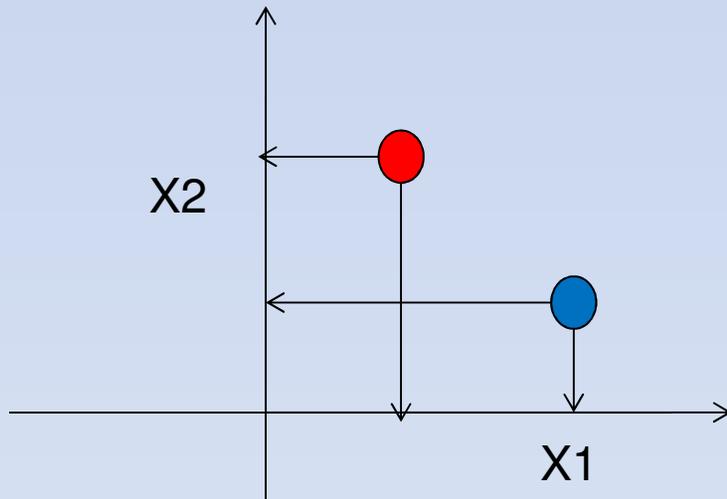
Some Features



Parallel coordinates (A. Inselberg)

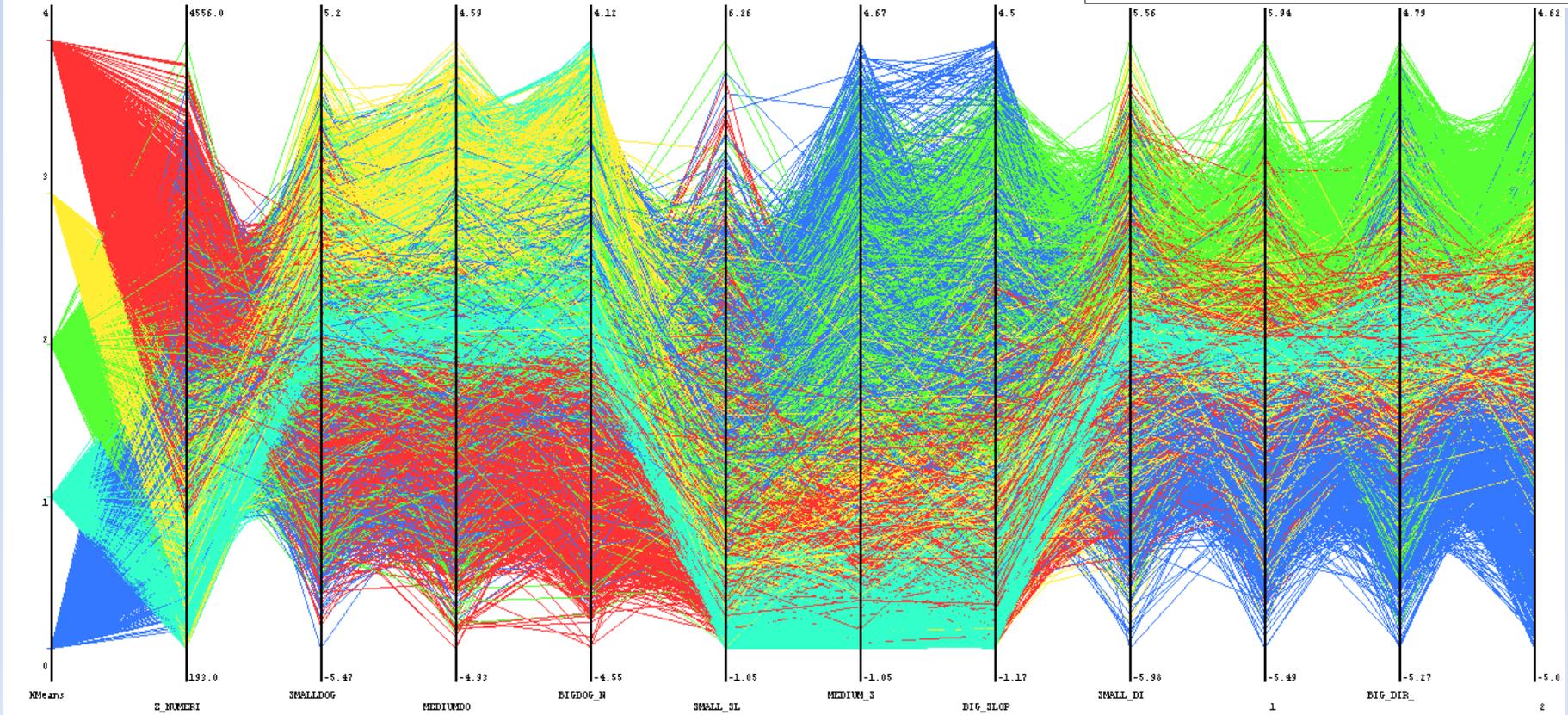
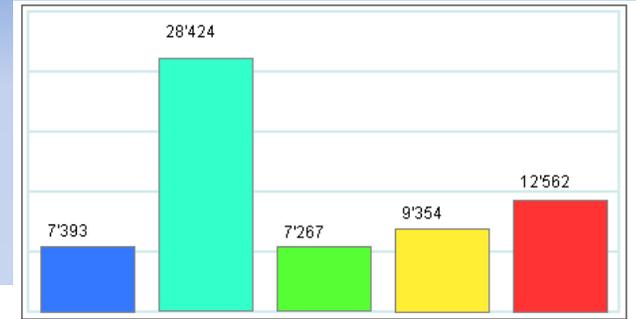
(very popular in high-dim data visualization)

From orthogonal coord. to parallel coord.



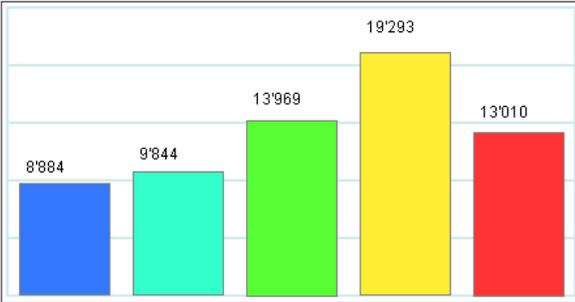
The same but in d -dimensional space. Usually scaling is done between min-max for each coordinate.

11d input space: 5 classes

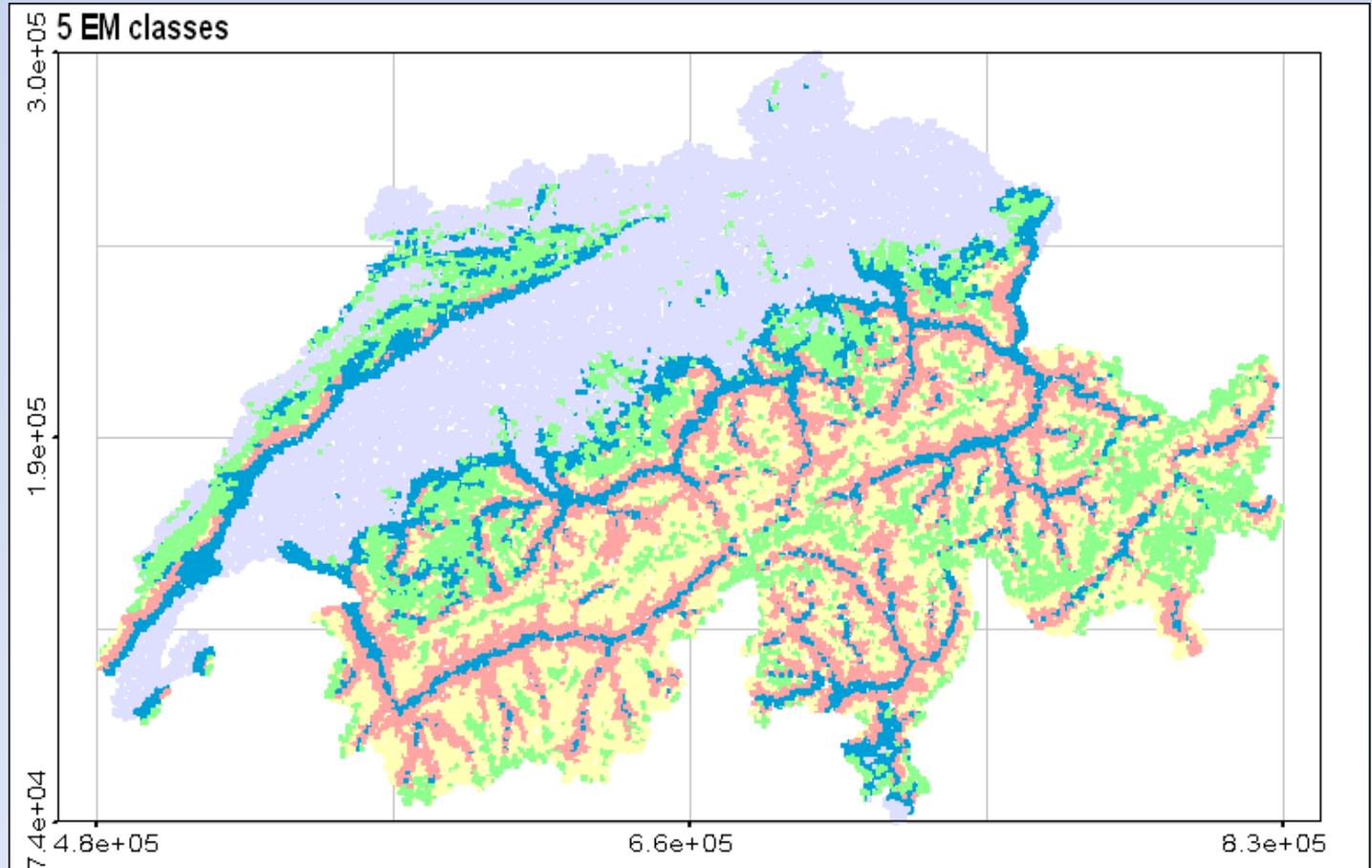


The same but in d-dimensional space. Usually scaling is done between min-max for each coordinate.

CH_GRIDNOXY-65K_CSV.CSV: 5 GROUPS, METHOD = EM,



EM algorithm 5 classes



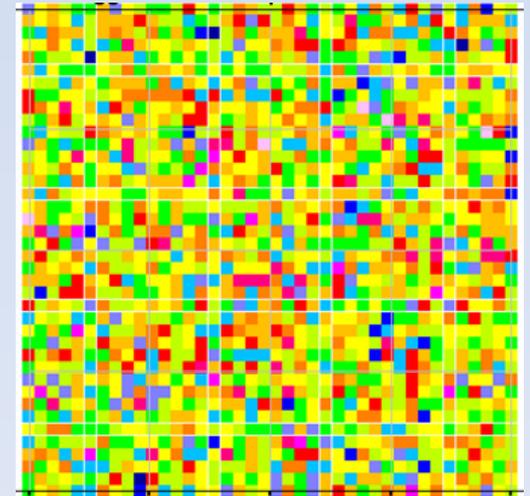
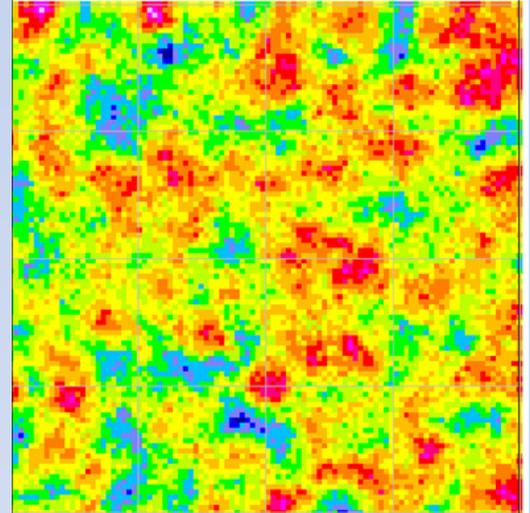
“General formula” of data (often used)

DATA=

Information/Structures/
Patterns

+

Noise



Information and noise

(very difficult problem)

Information/Structure/Pattern:

- To be defined, quantified, modelled
(data/task/objective dependent)

Noise (difficult problem). To be estimated:

- *Before (independently of) modelling – the best;*
- *As a result (during) of modelling*

Gamma test

Antonia J. Jones. *New tools in non-linear modelling and prediction. Computational Management Sciences 1: 109–149 (2004)*

Suppose we are given a set of input-output data

$$\{x_1(i), \dots, x_m(i), y_i\} = \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i); 1 \leq i \leq M\}$$

if the underlying relationship is of the form

$$y = m(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) + r$$

Gamma test

$$\delta_M(k) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \left[\mathbf{x}_{N(i,k)} - \mathbf{x}_i \right]^2$$

$$\gamma_M(k) = \frac{1}{2M} \sum_{i=1}^M \left\{ y_{N(i,k)} - y_i \right\}^2$$

$$\gamma_M(k) = \Gamma + A\delta_M(k)$$

$$\Gamma \rightarrow \text{Var}(r) \quad \text{when } M \rightarrow \infty$$

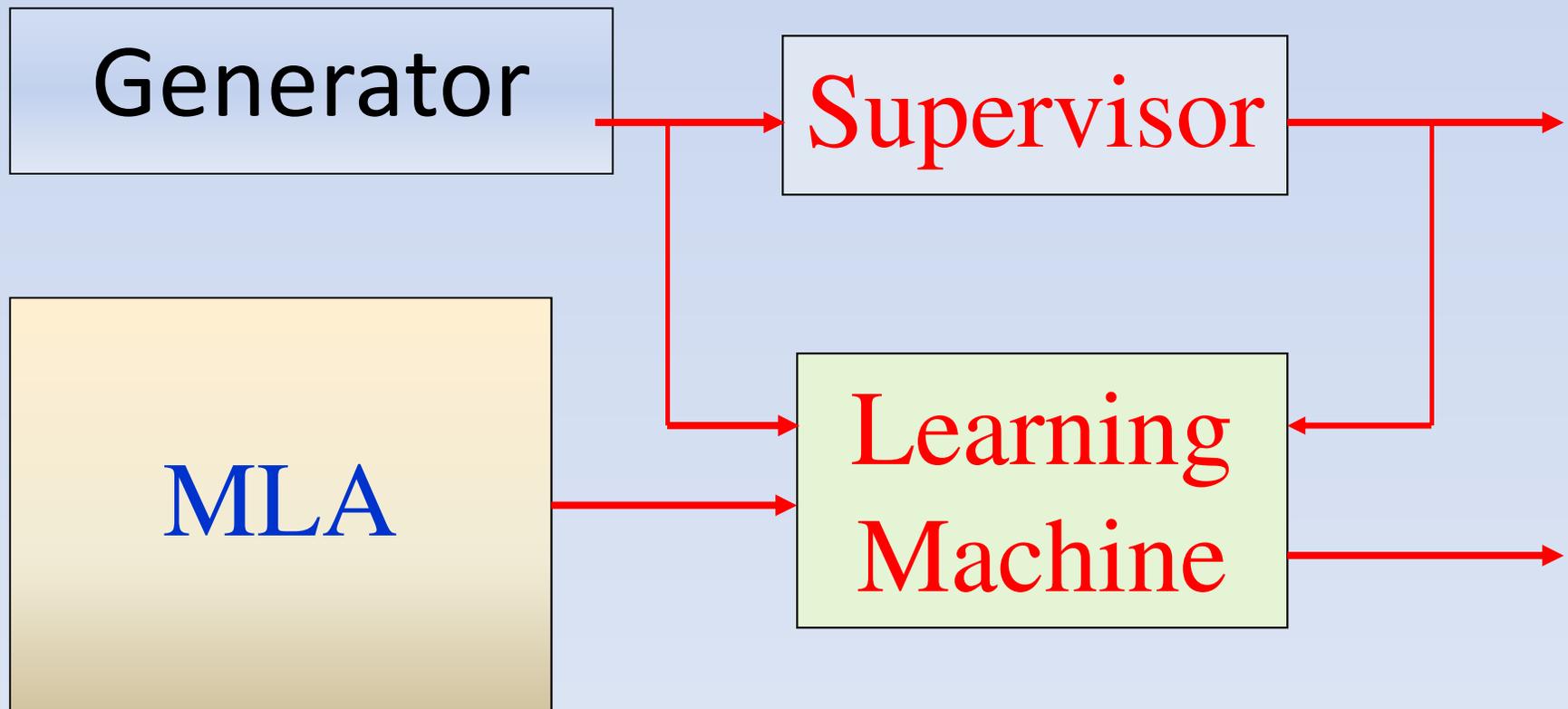
Calculating the regression line gradient can also provide helpful information on the complexity of the system under investigation (a steeper gradient indicates a model of greater complexity)

ML algorithms (WHY?)

- Universal modelling tools
- Nonlinear
- Robust
- Data adapted, data driven
- Easy data and knowledge integration
- Good for high dimensional spaces
- Good generalization properties

- *Uncertainties characterisation*
- *Interpretability*

A Generic Model of Supervised Learning from Data/Examples



The Problem of Risk Minimization

*In order to choose the best available model to the supervisor's response, one measure the **LOSS** or discrepancy $L(y, f(x, \alpha))$ between the response y of the supervisor to a given input x and the response $f(x, \alpha)$ provided by the Loss Measure.*

Most of the ML problems are formulated in terms of Empirical Risk Minimization or Structural Risk Minimization principles

GRNN

General Regression Neural Networks

Non-parametric kernel regression

Consider a non-linear regression problem, described by a model whose observable output z_i in response to an input vector \mathbf{x}_i is defined by

$$z_i = f(\mathbf{x}_i) + \varepsilon_i \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

GRNN: short theory

Best prediction (Risk = MSE)

of $f(\mathbf{x})$ is the conditional mean value :

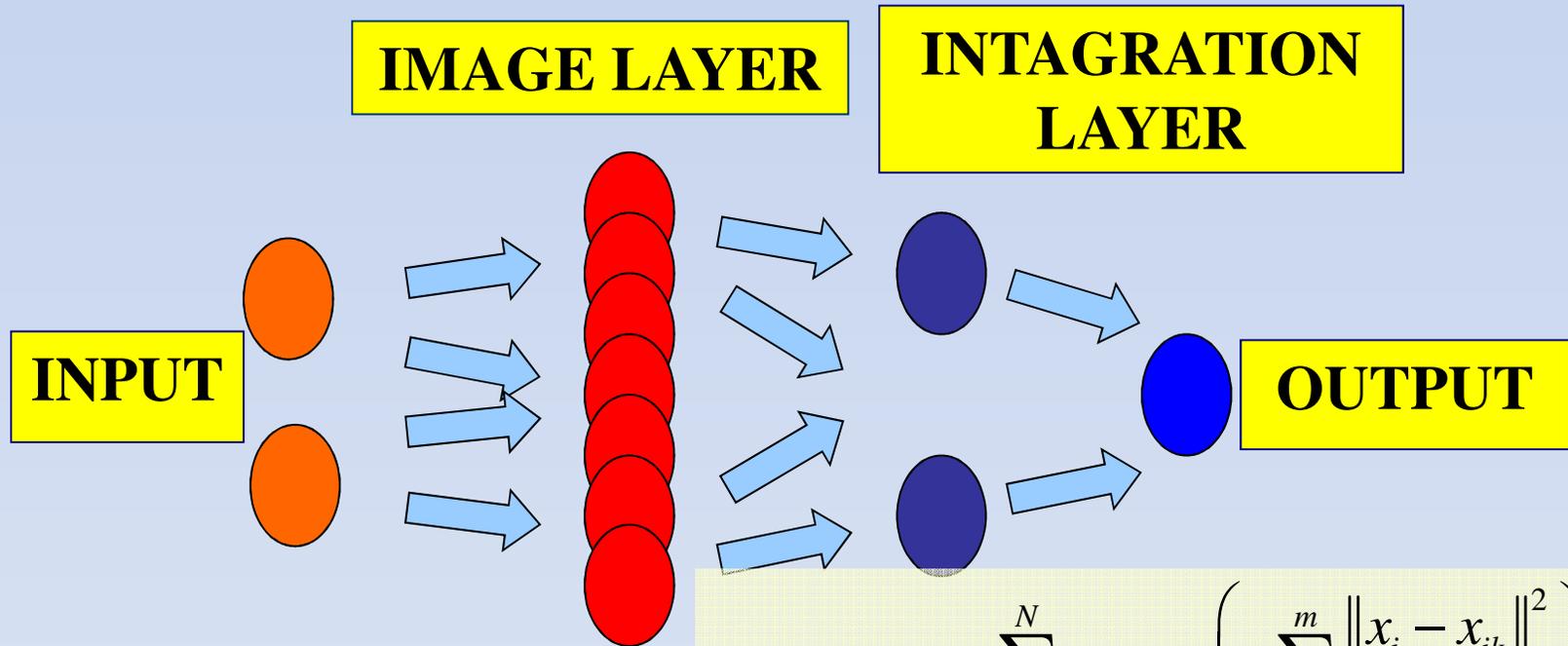
$$\hat{f}(\mathbf{x}) = E \langle z(\mathbf{x}) | \mathbf{x} \rangle = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} z(\mathbf{x}) p(\mathbf{x}, z) dz}{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} p(\mathbf{x}, z) dz}$$

where $p(x,y)$ is a joint input-output distribution function and is estimated using kernel density estimator

(A)GRNN

(see nonparametric statistics, Nadaraya-Watson estimator).

N – number of data; m – number of features



*GRNN estimate at a node
 D_i from samples Z_i :*

$$Z(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N Z_k \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\|x_i - x_{ik}\|^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right)}{\sum_{k=1}^N \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\|x_i - x_{ik}\|^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right)}$$

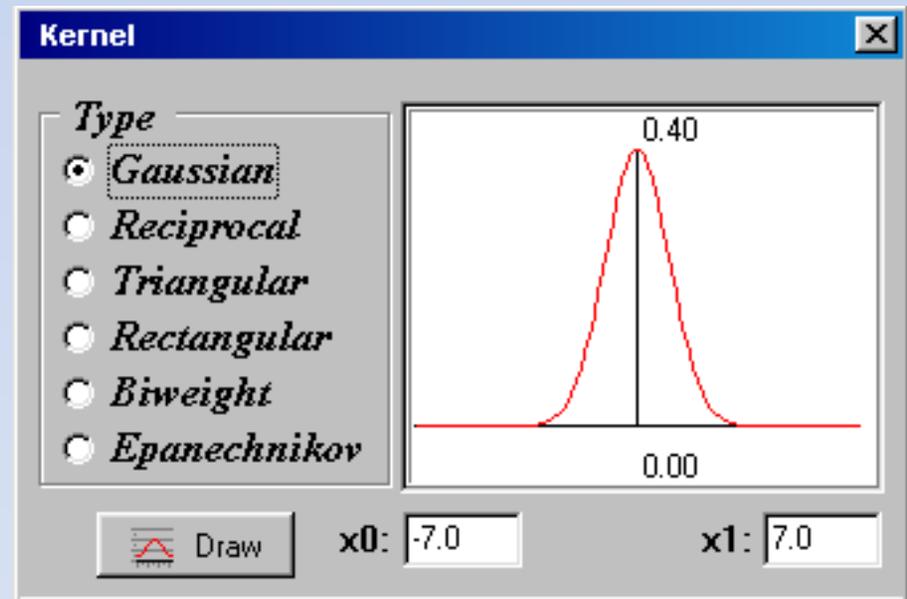
(Presented this way by Specht in 1991)

General Regression Neural Networks (GRNN)

Kernel Type:

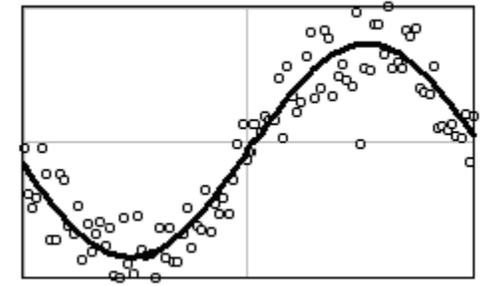
The **best** values of

σ_i – kernel widths, are found with the help of a **cross-validation** by minimising the mean square error:



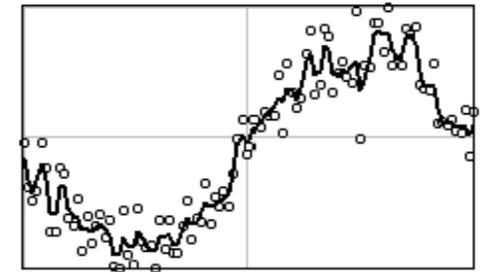
$$\sqrt{(1/N) \sum_i (Z_i^{NET} - Z_i)^2} \rightarrow \min$$

GRNN Training

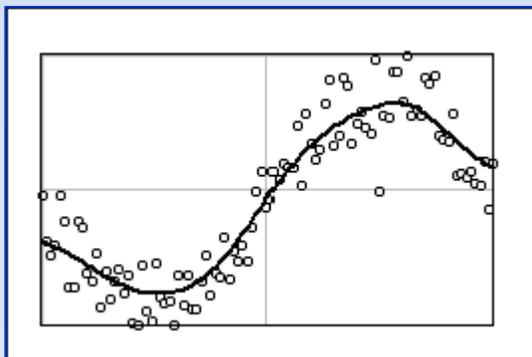


True function

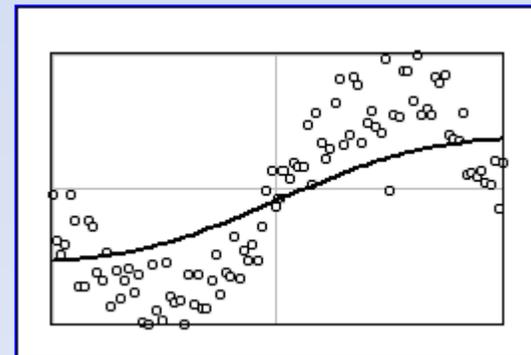
Too small, overfitting



Optimal



Too large, oversmoothing



Some useful properties of GRNN

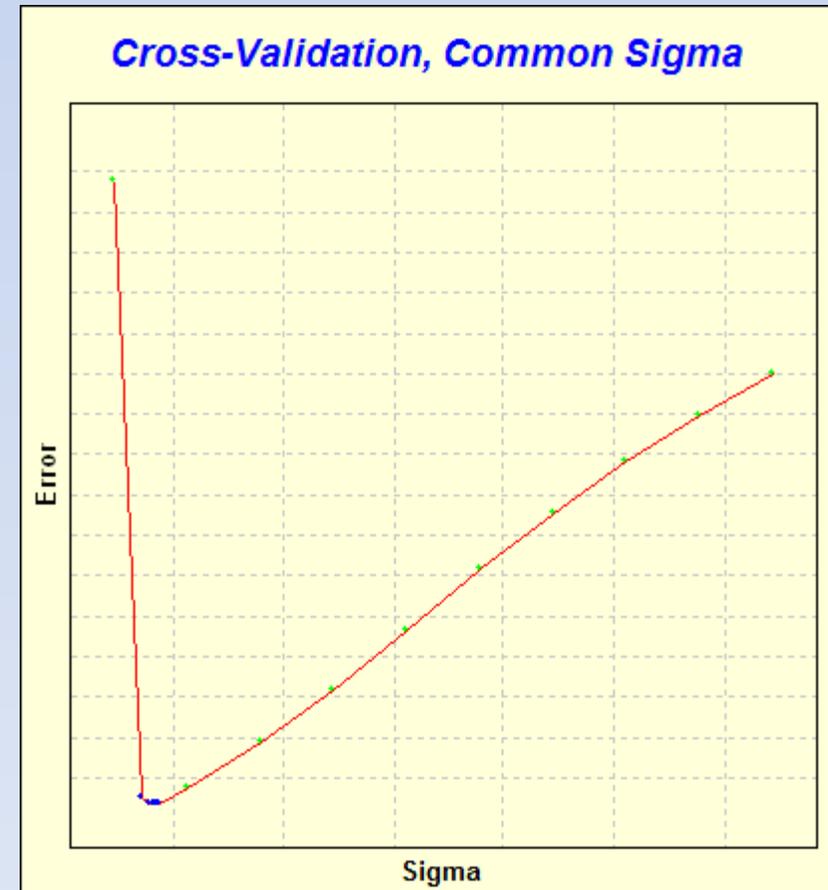
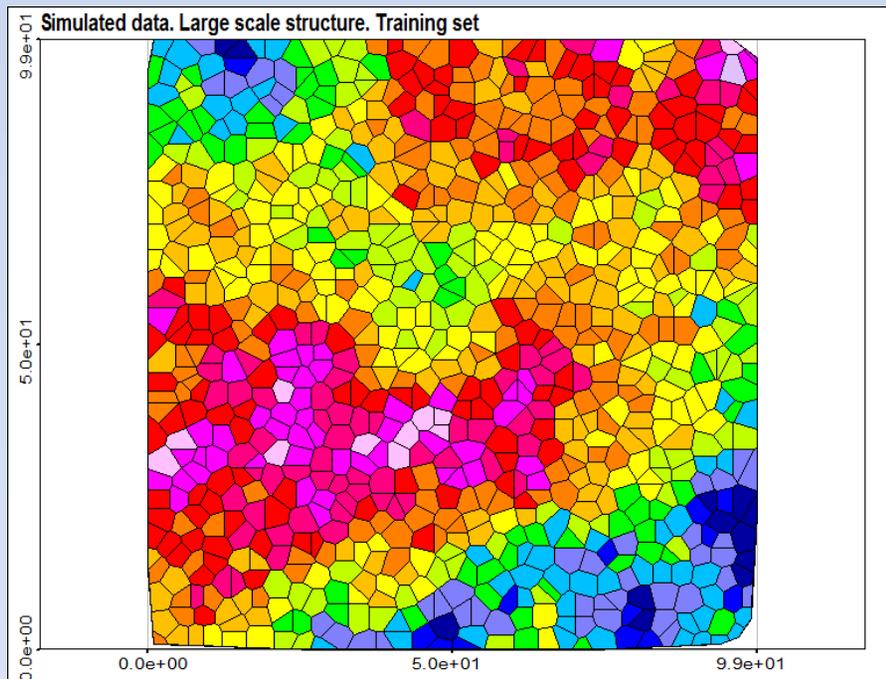
- When bandwidth is small:
 - nearest neighbour estimator
- When all bandwidths are larger than the region of the study:
 - there is no structure and

$$\hat{Z}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N Z_i$$

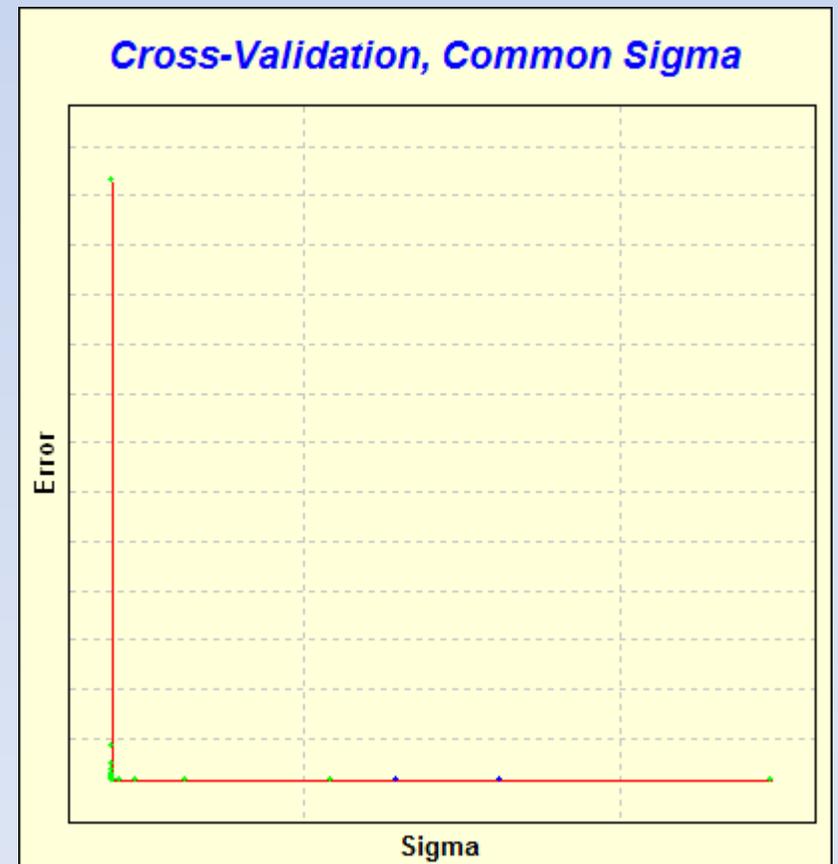
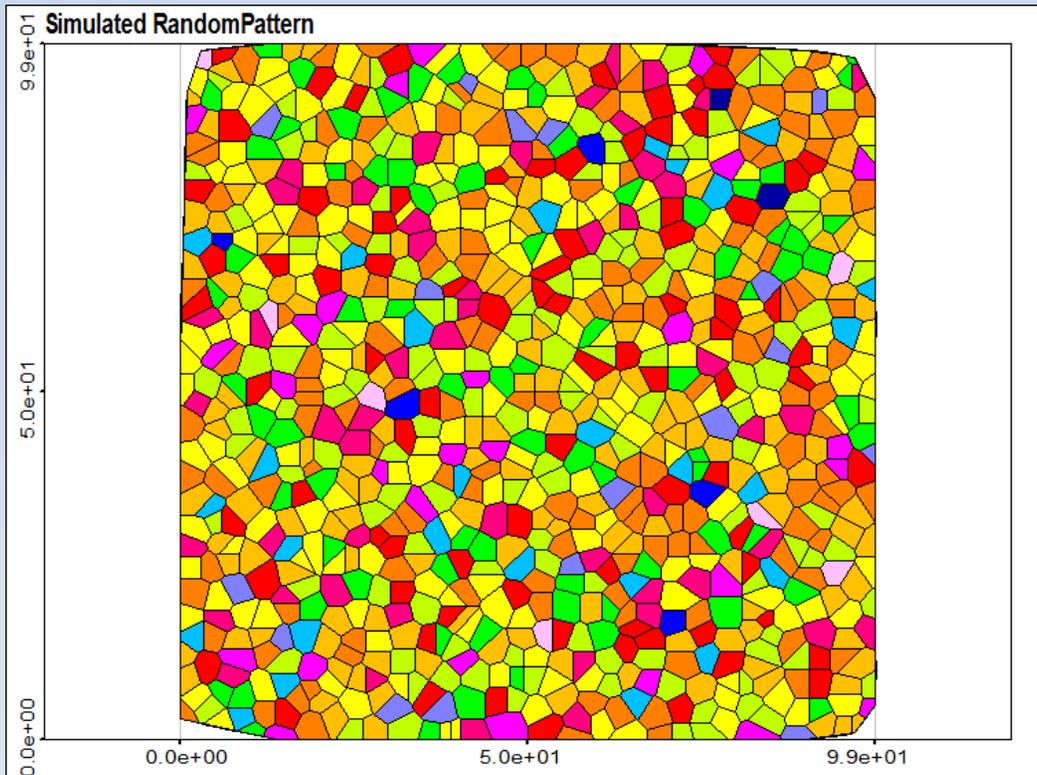
- When bandwidth for some coordinate/variable i is large, this coordinate will be filtered out (neglected) automatically:

$$\text{if } \frac{\|x_i - x_{in}\|^2}{2\sigma_i^2} \ll 1, \text{ then } \exp\left(-\frac{\|x_i - x_{in}\|^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right) \approx 1$$

GRNN learning of a pattern (structured data)



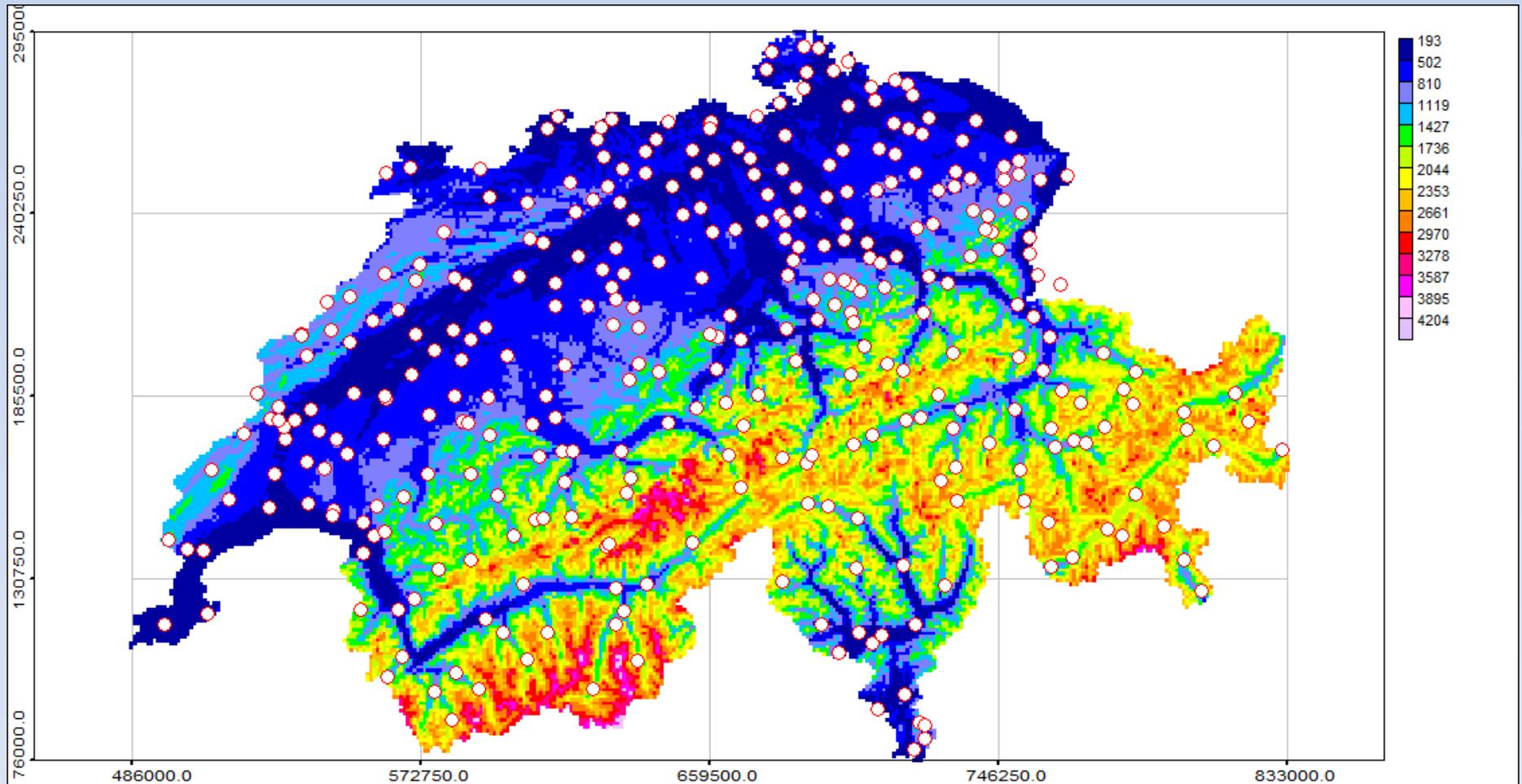
GRNN learning of a random pattern (useful to know - to study the residuals!)



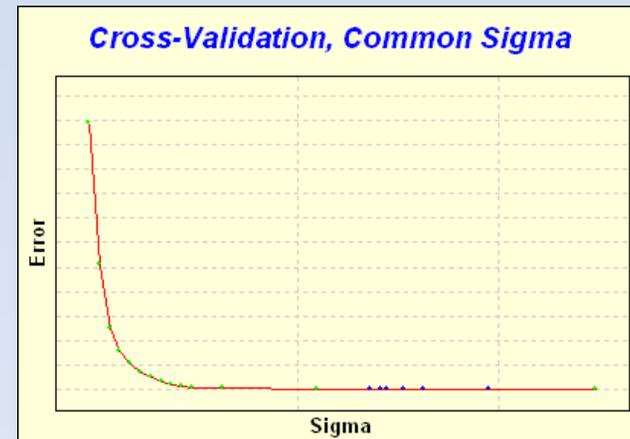
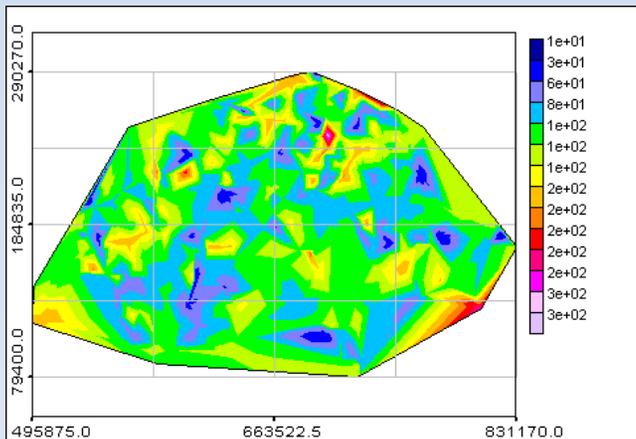
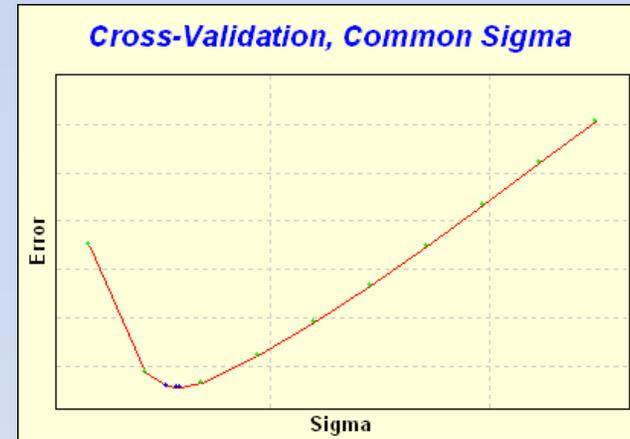
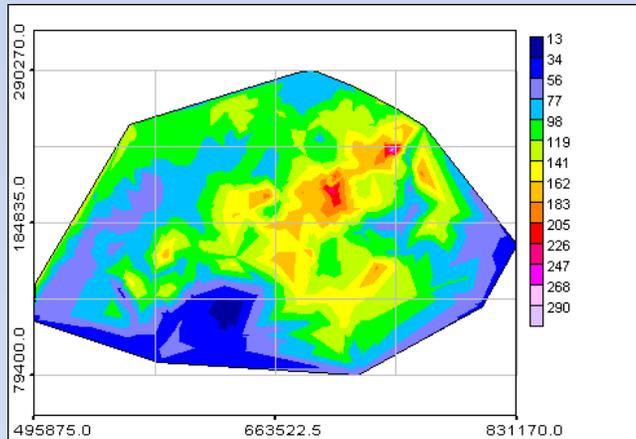
The same is valid for Adaptive GRNN!

*Independent variables (features, inputs)
which are irrelevant are “filtered out”
automatically.*

Swiss DEM and Precipitation Monitoring Network



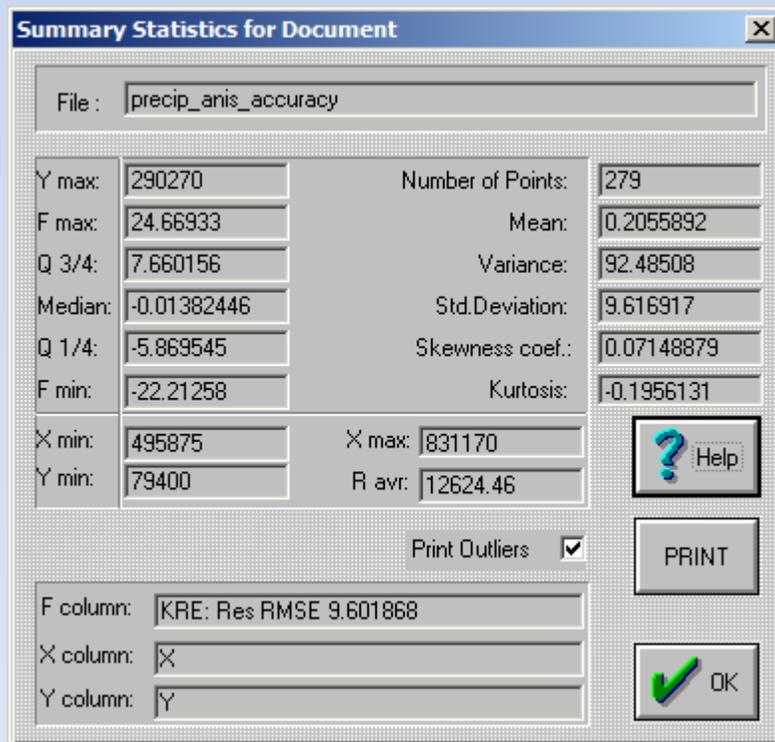
Data: raw (top) and shuffled (down) and corresponding training curves



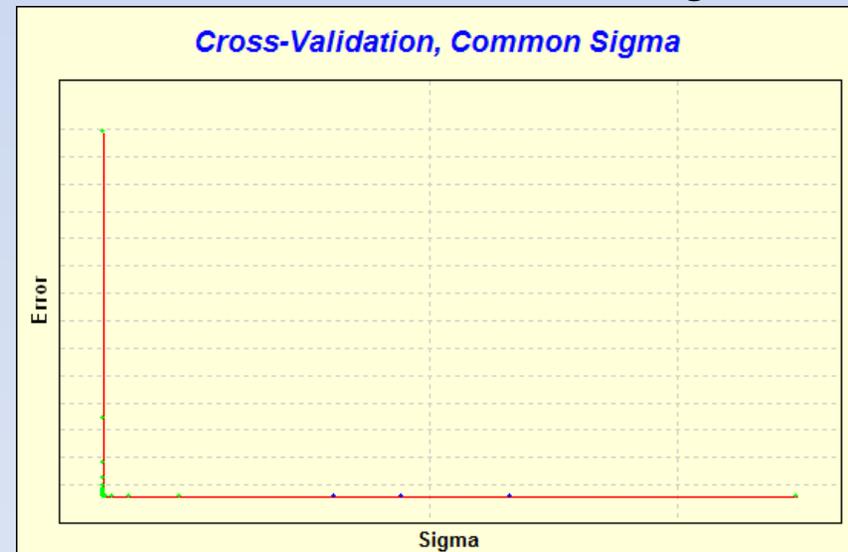
An example with added artificial coordinate: XYZ+ ZShuffled

Model	Cross-Validation error	Sigma values (metres)			
		σ_x	σ_y	σ_z	$\sigma_{Zshuffled}$
3D	419	7011	7601	192	
4D (3D+Noise)	420	6949	7474	191	4135

Quality of model? Analysis of the residuals using... GRNN!



CV error = 92.8; sigma=inf



Why feature selection

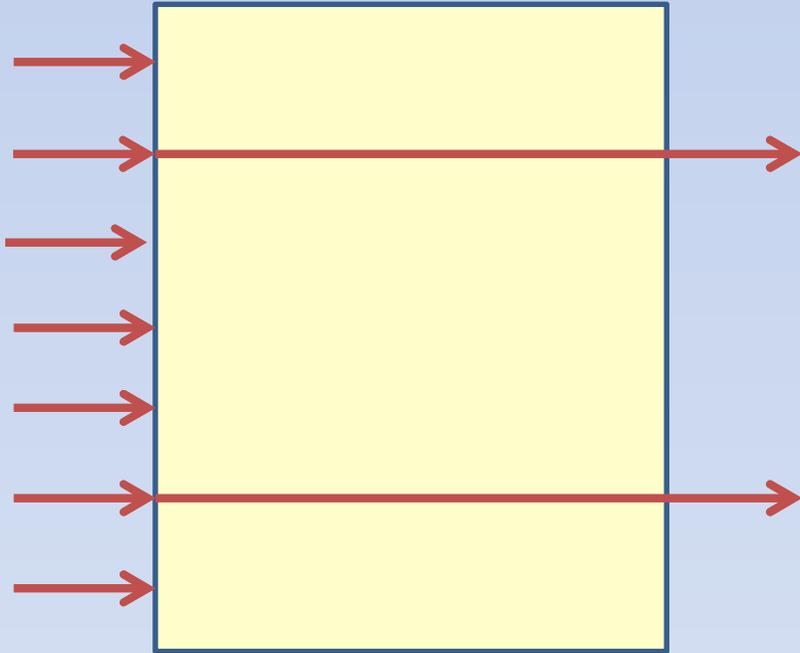
- **Interpretability and data collection**
 - Only relevant features
 - More parsimonious models
- **Generalization** (better predictability)
 - Lower dimensionality
- **Computational efficiency**
 - Faster
 - Number of parameters, overfitting
 - Scaling

Some models are sensitive to RD and IR variables (e.g. k-NN)

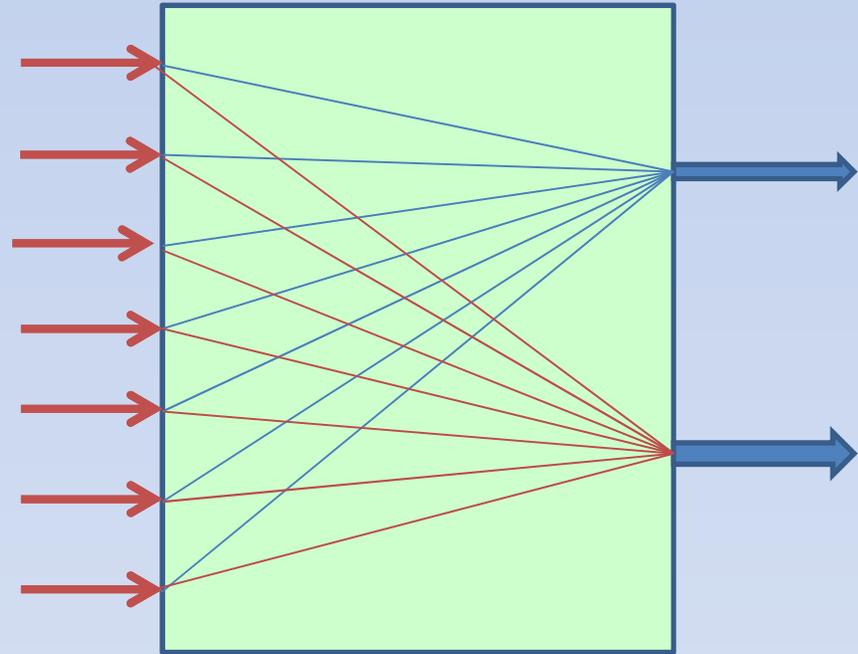
Features/Variables:

- Relevant (RL) (contribute)
- Redundant (RD) (strongly correlated)
- Irrelevant (IR) (do not contribute)

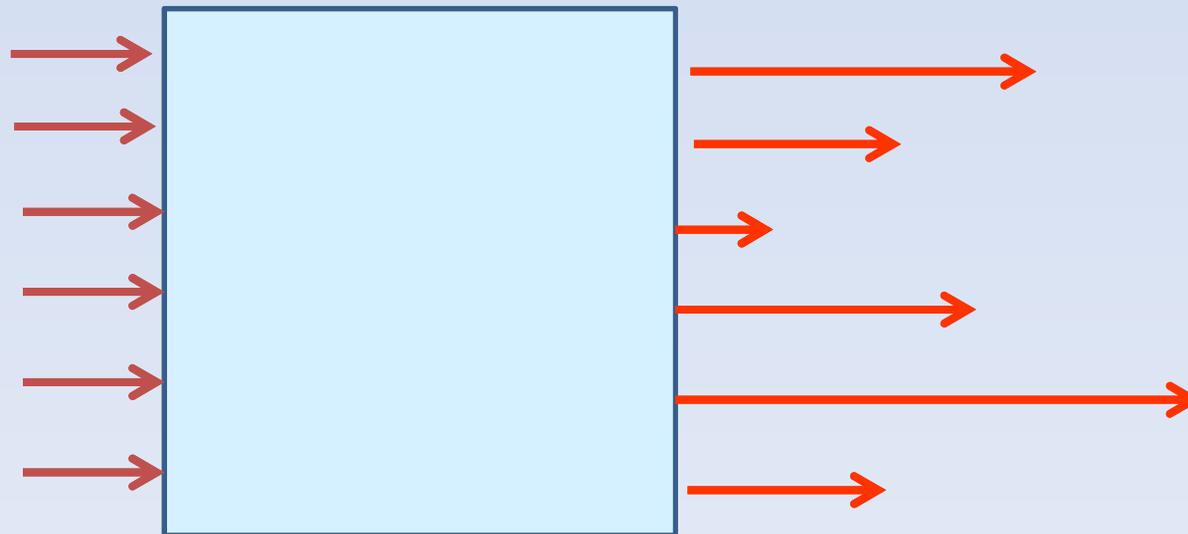
Feature Selection



Feature Extraction

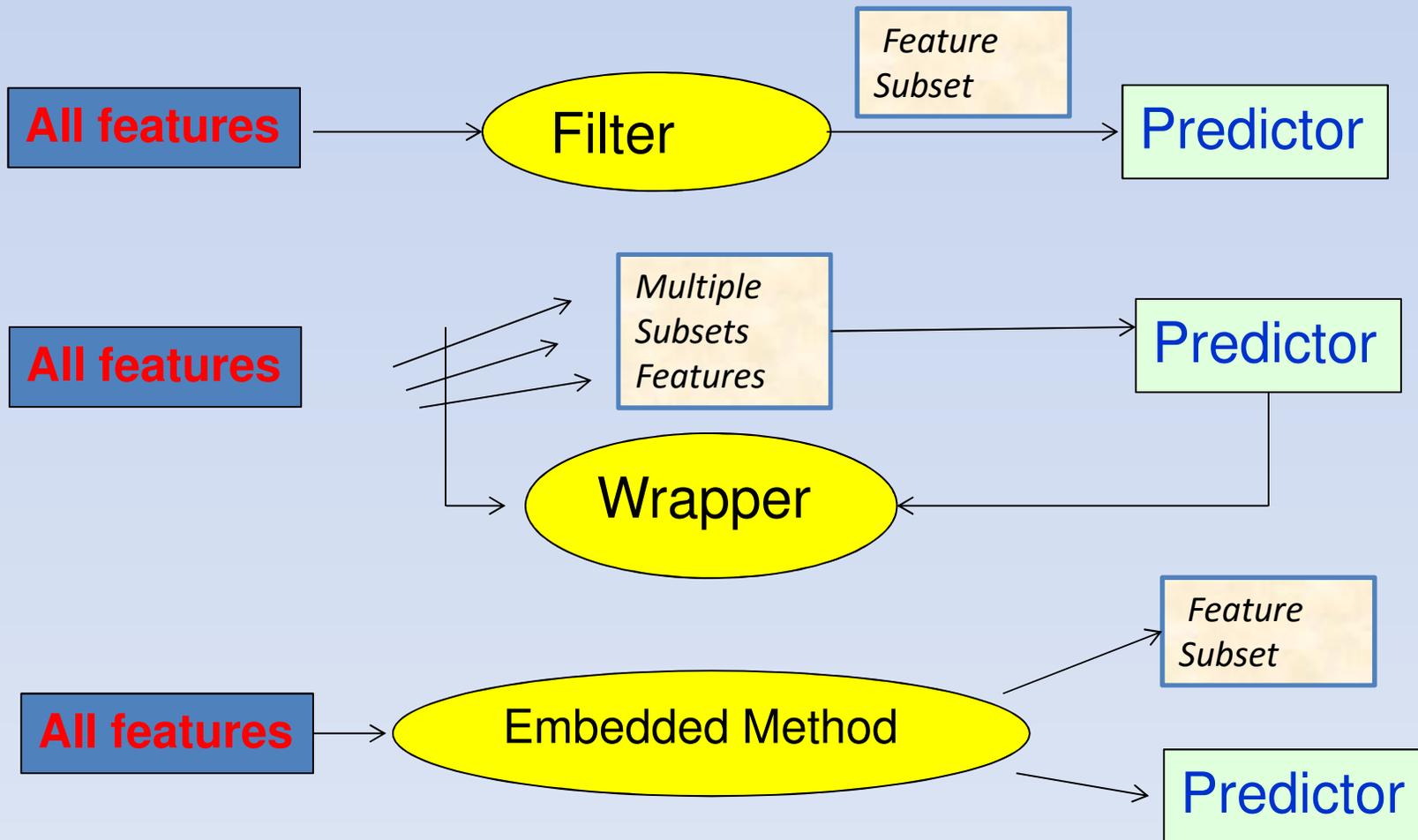


Feature Weighting



FS: fundamental approaches

(adapted from the lecture of I. Guyon and A. Eliseeff)



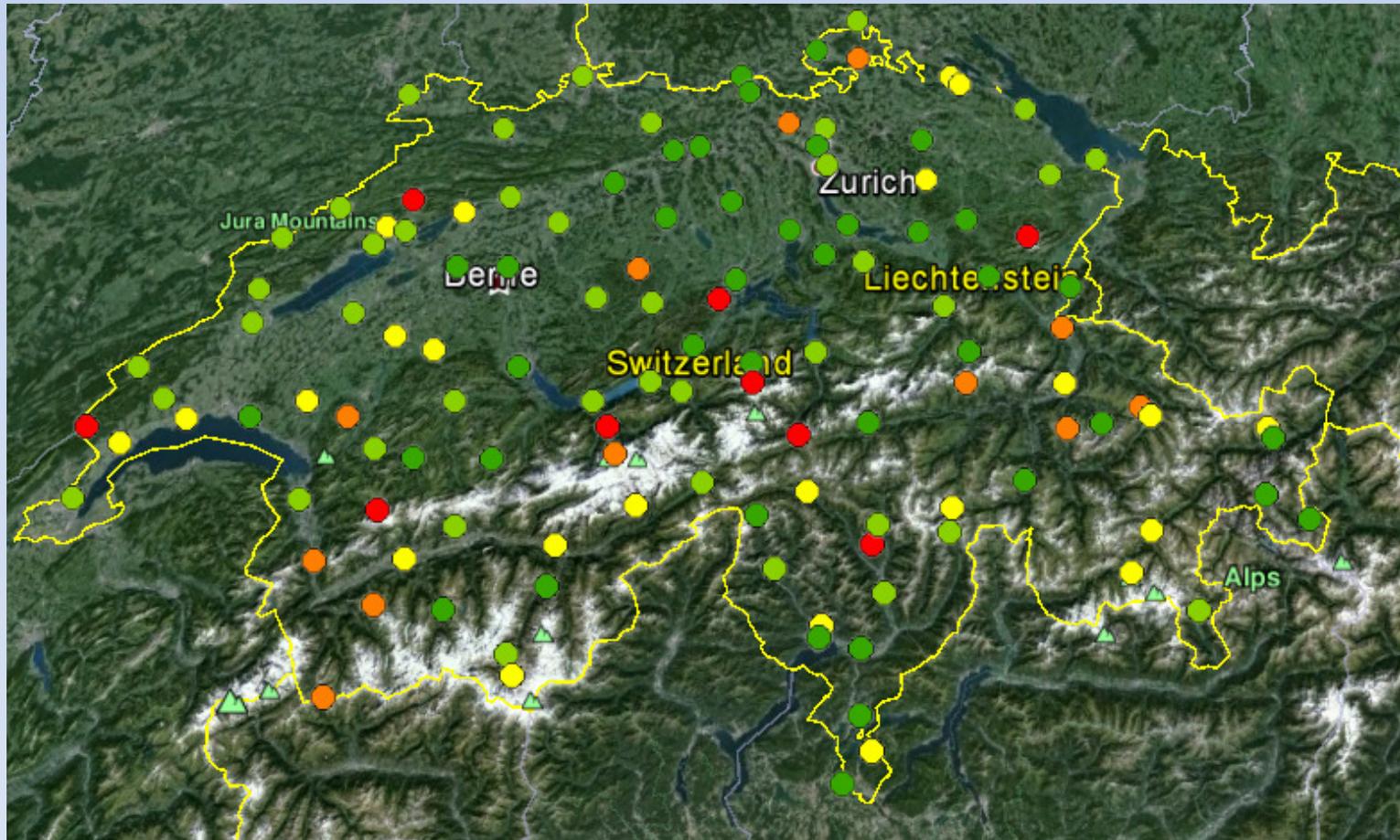
FS & Dimensionality reduction.

Our experience

PCA, KPCA, MI, Gamma test, GRNN/AGRNN, ELM, SVM/RFE, MKL, ASVM, RF, Fractal-based, Morisita index

Case studies: topo-climatic modelling, natural hazards (landslides, avalanches, forest fires), pollution (air, water, soil), renewable resources (wind fields), remote sensing images

Adaptive GRNN (AGRNN) Analysis of wind speed

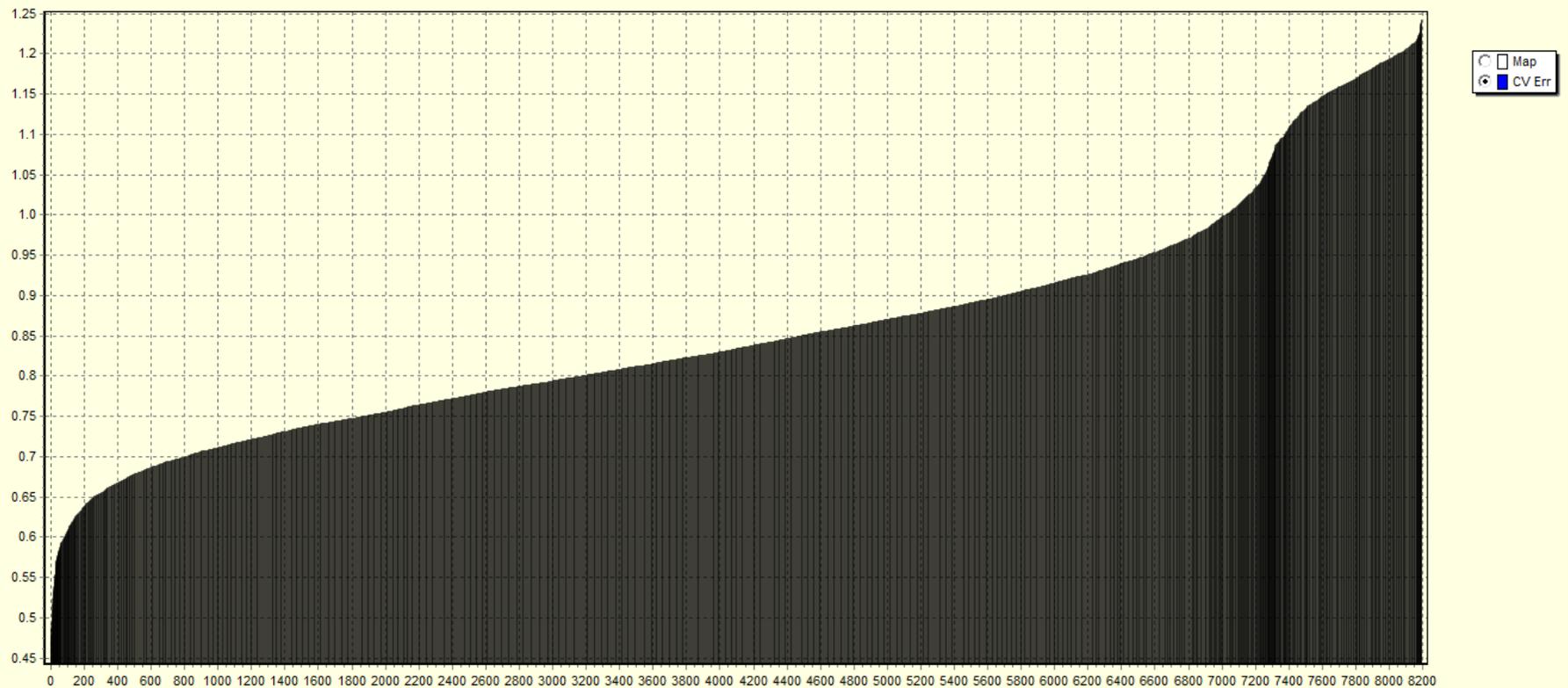


«Spatial prediction of monthly wind speeds in complex terrain with adaptive general regression neural networks». S. Robert, L. Foresti, M. Kanevski. International Journal of Climatology, 2013

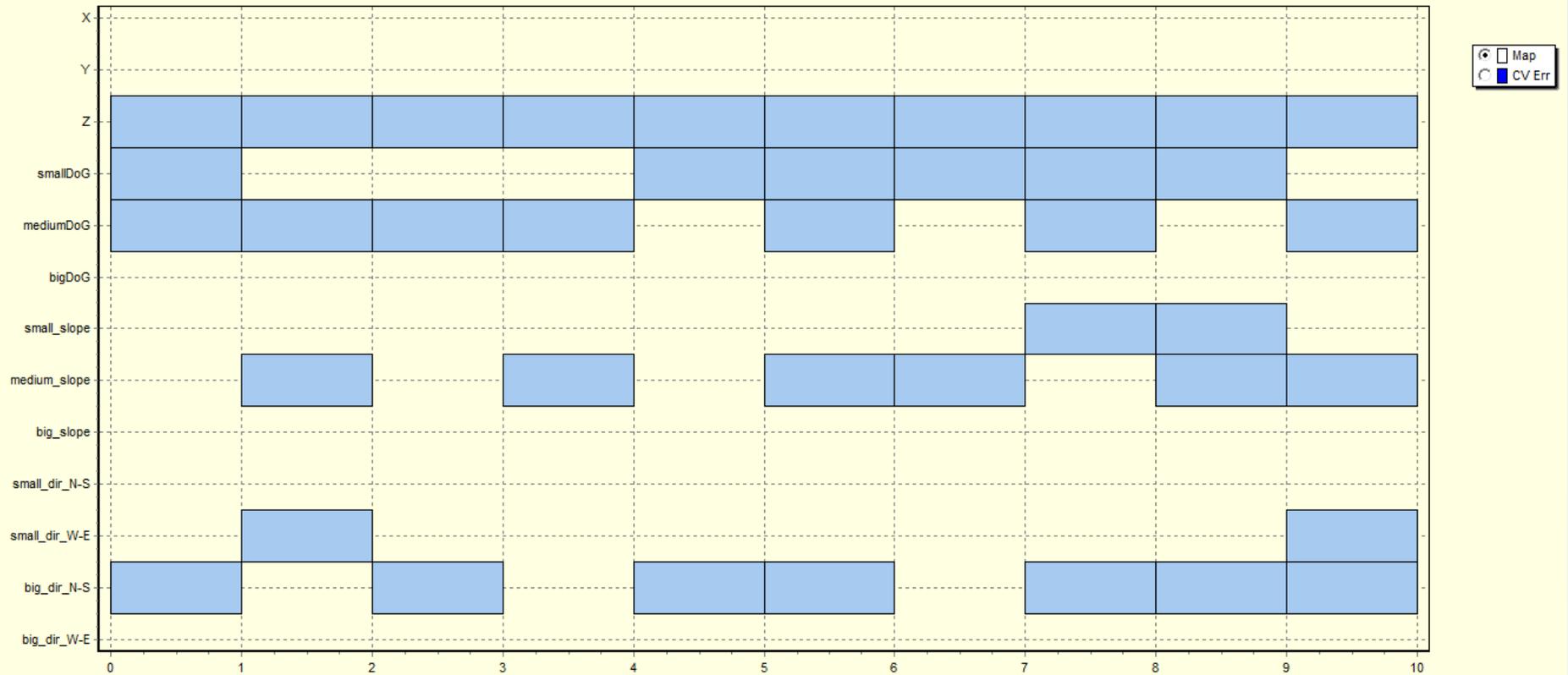
*Feature selection using
comprehensive GRNN analysis of all
possible models:*

$$\#Models = 2^d - 1 = 8191$$

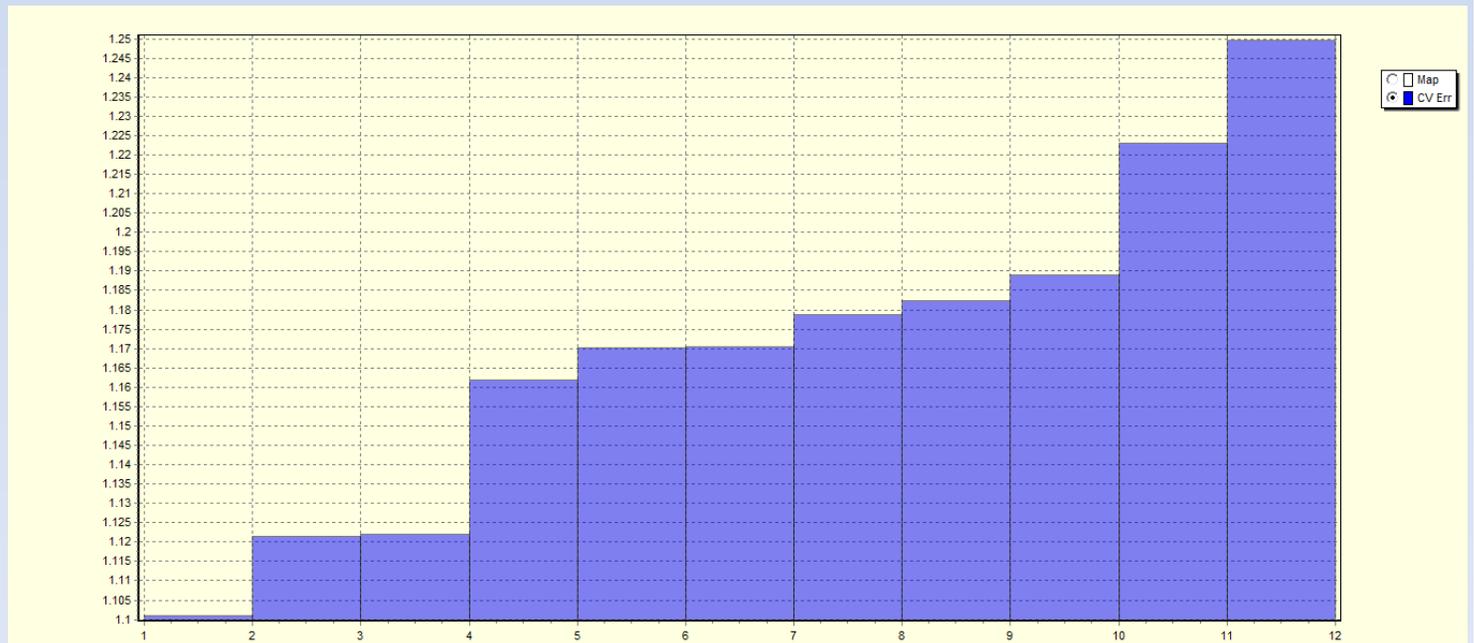
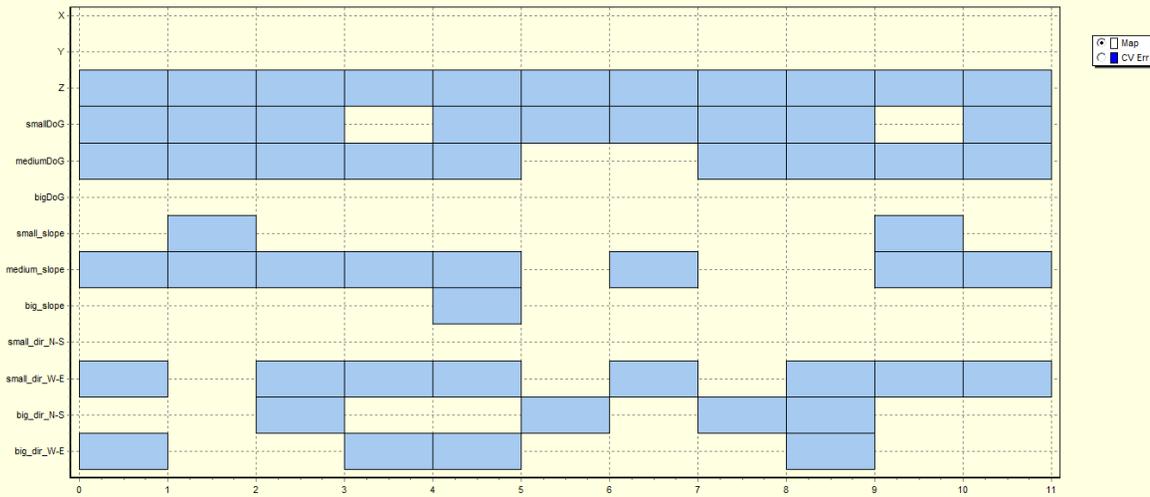
July 2008. CV error ordered from min to max



July 2008



January 2008

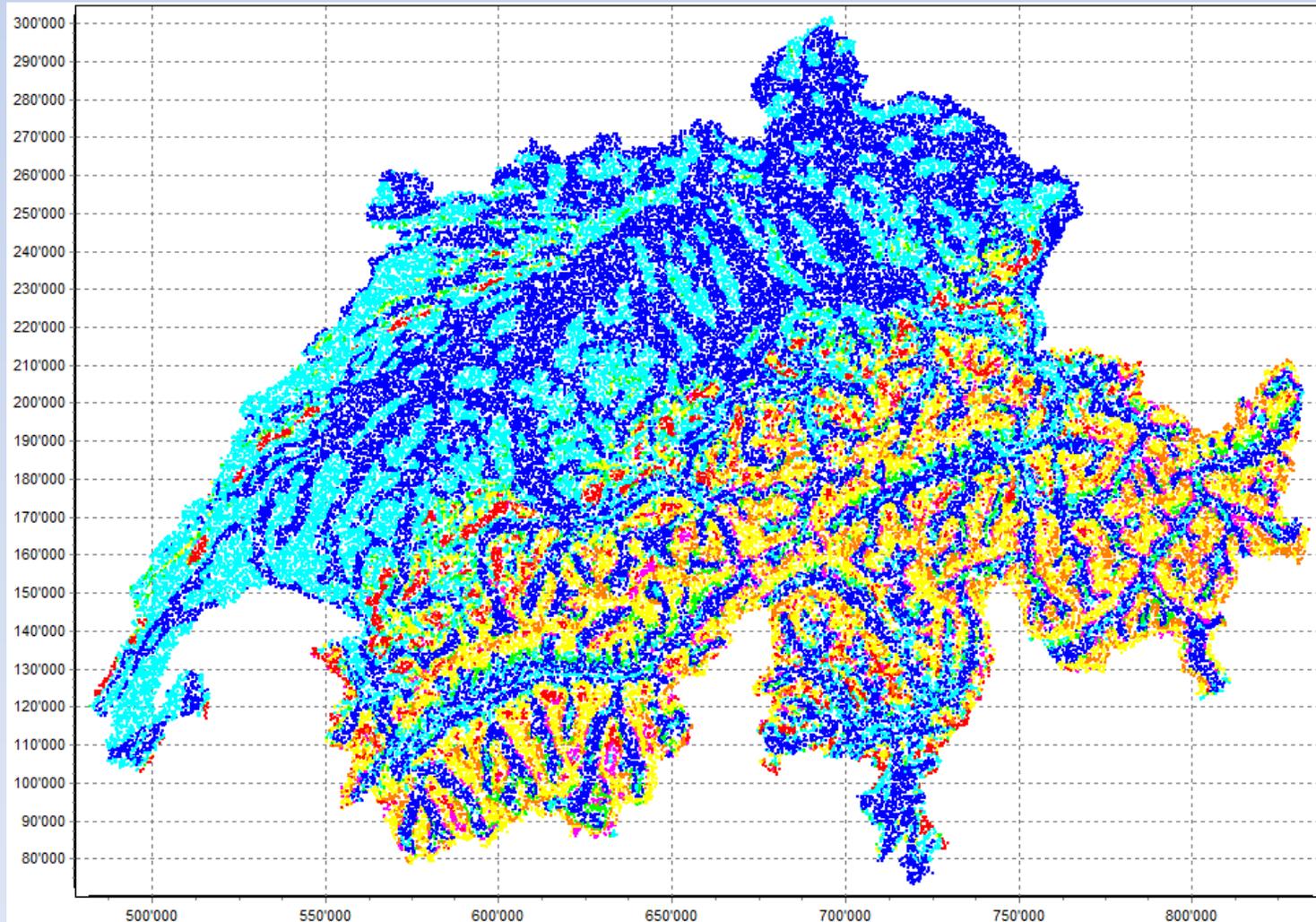


Comprehensive GRNN Analysis

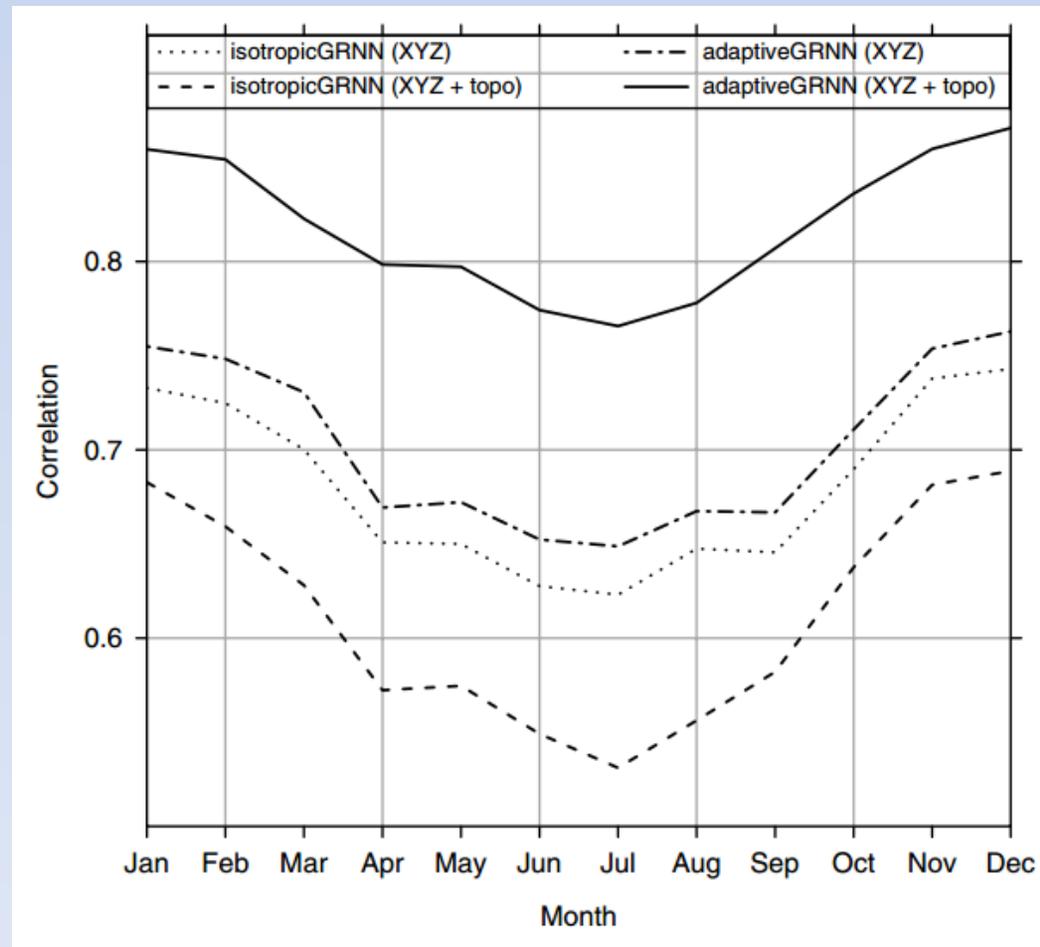
Januaries

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Time\Features	X	Y	Z	smallDoG	mediumDoG	bigDoG	small_slope	medium_slope	big_slope	small_dir_N-S	small_dir_W-E	big_dir_N-S	big_dir_W-E
1968			■		■	■							
1973		■		■	■	■			■	■		■	
1978				■		■							
1983			■		■	■	■						
1988			■	■	■	■				■		■	
1993			■	■	■	■				■		■	
1998			■	■	■			■			■		
2003			■	■				■				■	
2008			■	■	■			■			■		■

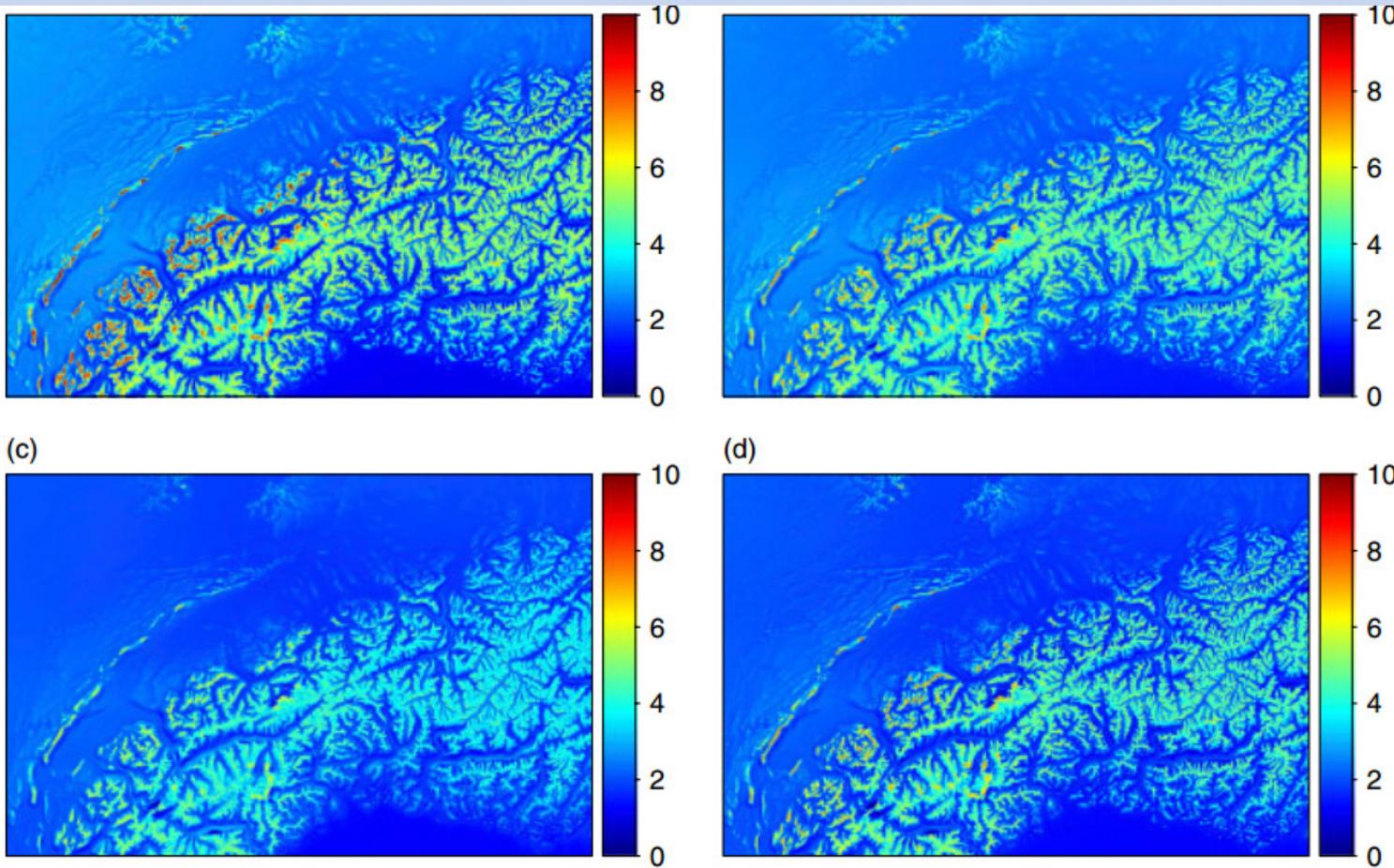
January 2008 (AGRNN)



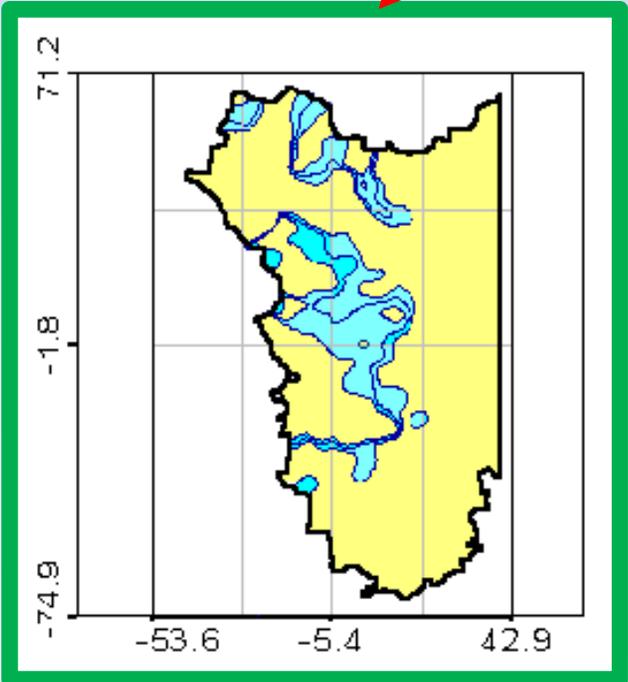
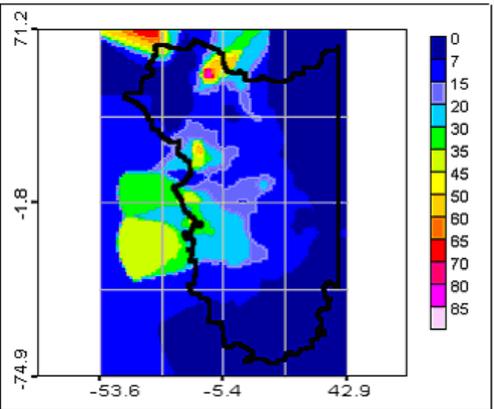
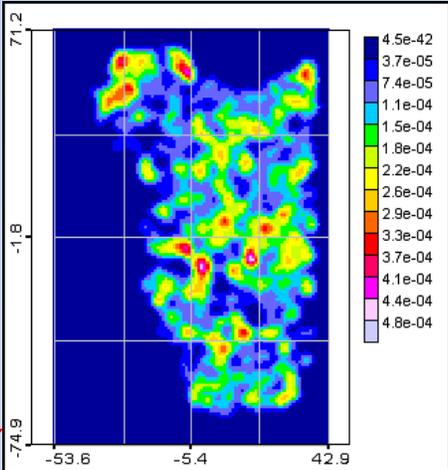
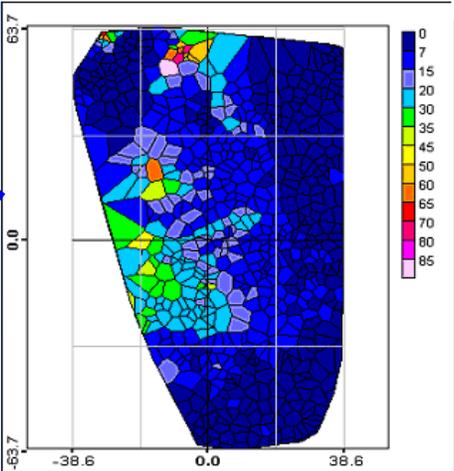
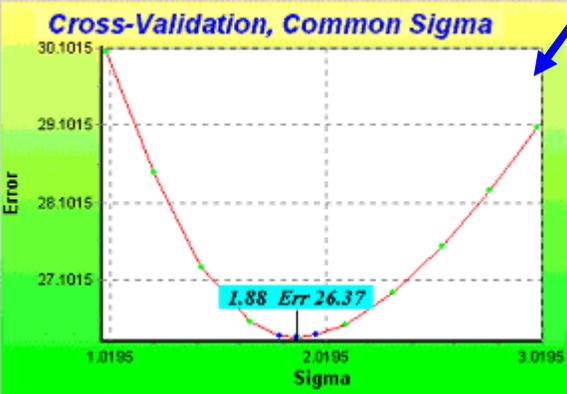
Monthly predictability



Seasonal maps



GRNN Mapping & uncertainties



Extreme Learning Machines for spatial environmental data

Michael Leuenberger & Mikhail Kanevski

Computers & Geosciences 85 (2015) pp. 64–73

Why ELM?

As the new proposed learning algorithm tends to

- reach the smallest training error,
- obtain the smallest norm of weights,
- the best generalization performance,
- and runs extremely fast,

in order to differentiate it from the other popular SLFN learning algorithms, it is called the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM)

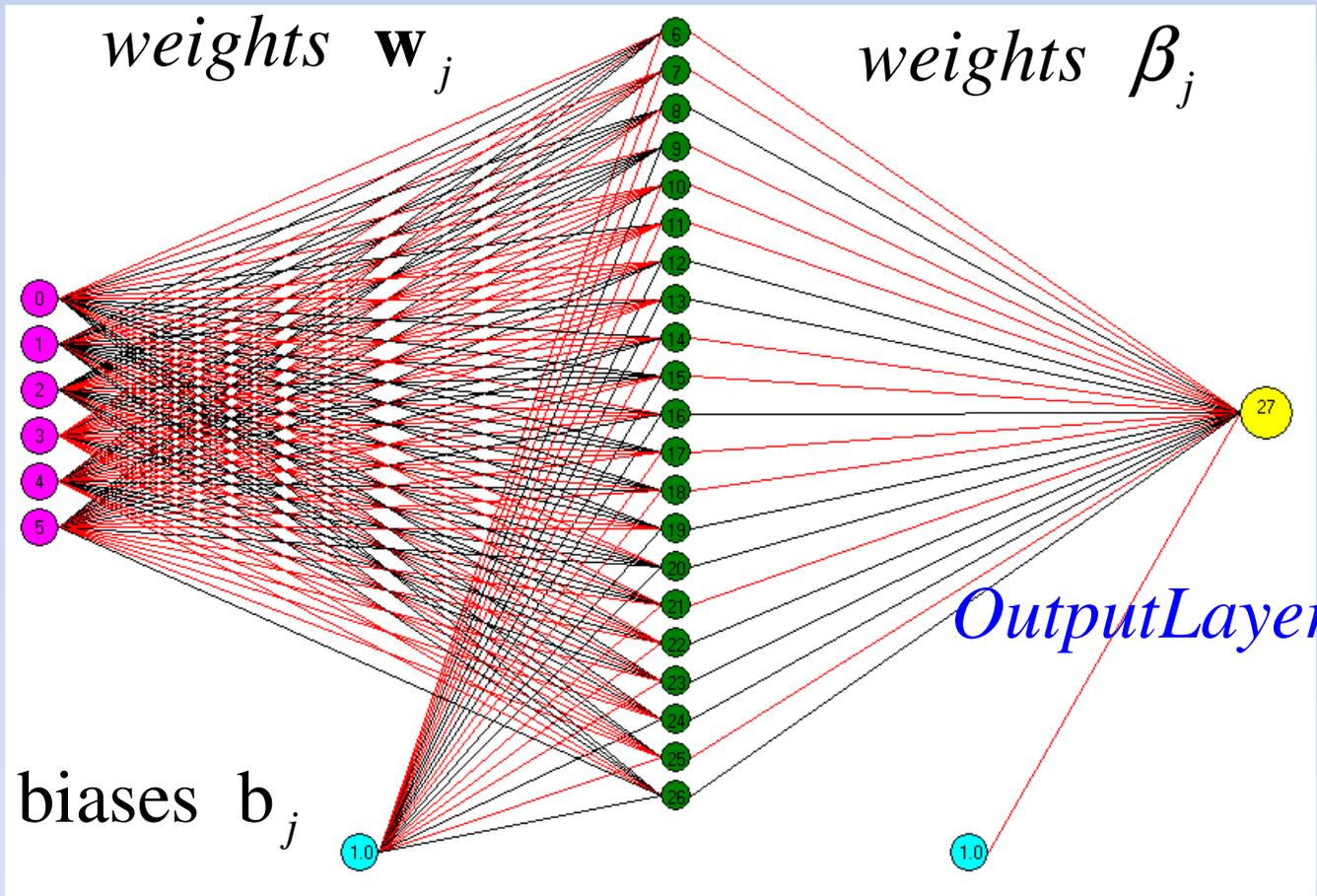
Many successful applications in classification and regression tasks, extensions to semi-supervised and unsupervised learning,....

MLP/ELM structure

InputLayer

HiddenLayer

OutputLayer



$$\sum_{j=0}^{\tilde{N}} \beta_j g(\mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{w}_j + b_j) = \hat{y}_i \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, N$$

$H\beta = \hat{y}$, where $H_{ij} = g(\mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{w}_j + b_j)$ is the output matrix of a hidden layer

Sigmoid function

$$g(\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-(\mathbf{w}\mathbf{x} + b))}$$

Gaussian function:

$$g(\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{x}) = \exp(-b \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{w}\|^2)$$

Fourier function

$$g(\mathbf{w}, b, \mathbf{x}) = \sin(\mathbf{w}\mathbf{x} + b)$$

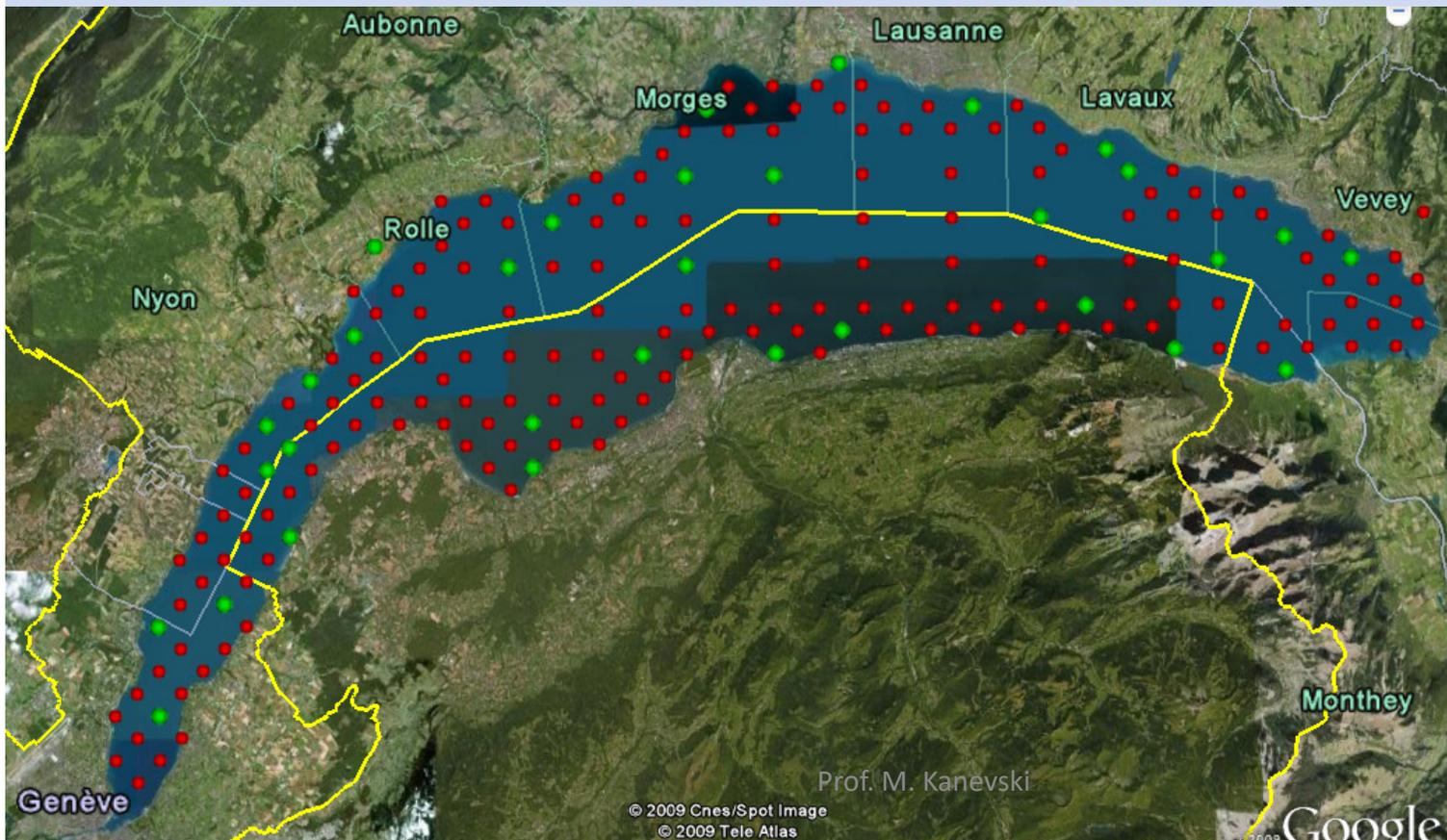
The ELM algorithm

- Define a transfer function (e.g., sigmoid)
- Project data into $[0,1]$ interval
- Split the data or use k-fold cross validation
- Select the hyper-parameter (the target of training): number of hidden neurons
- Generate randomly matrix weights and biases \mathbf{w}_j, b_j
- Calculate H, β_j
- Repeat for different number of hidden neurons and choose the solution with minimum CV error
- Test the model
- Make predictions

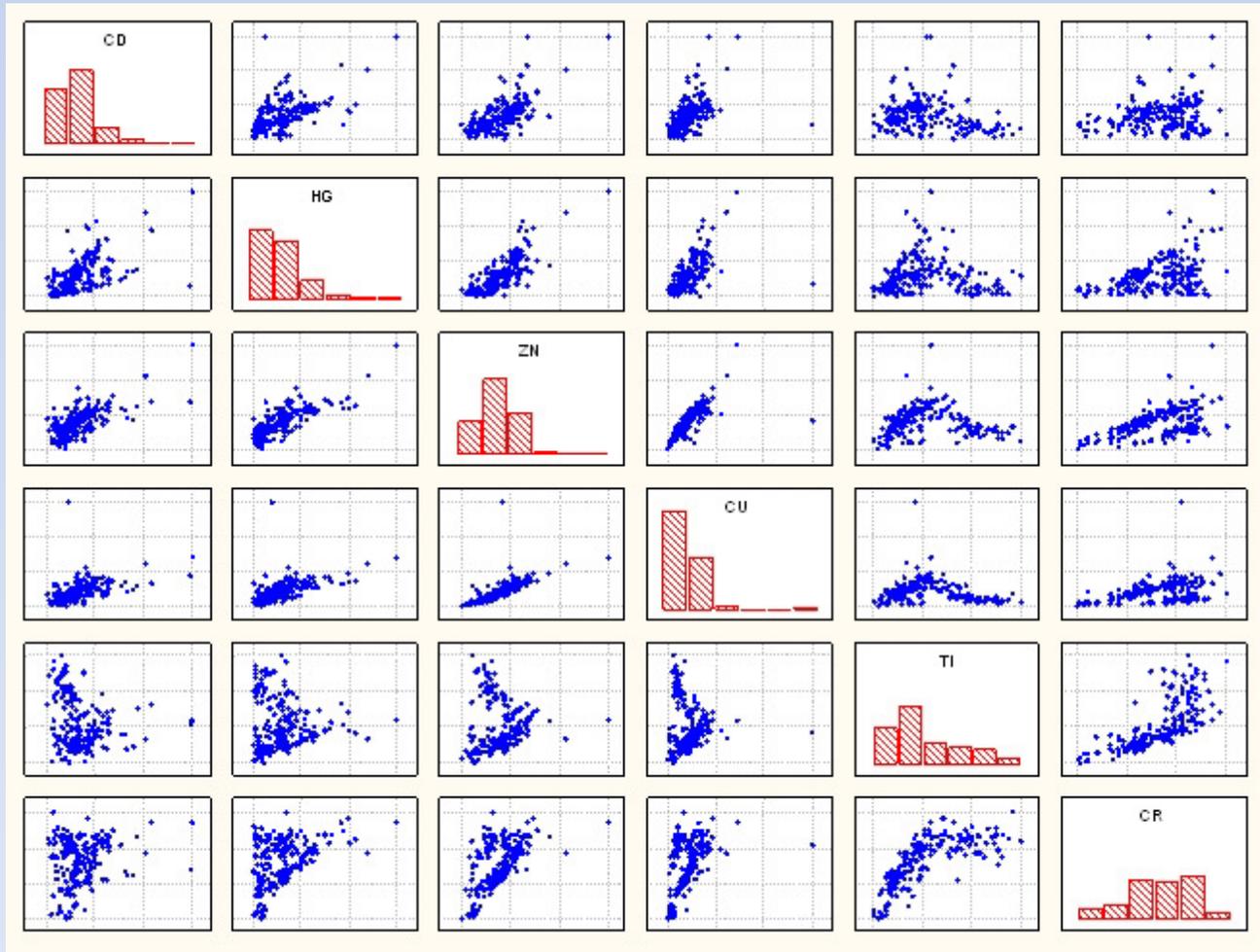
The ELM algorithm

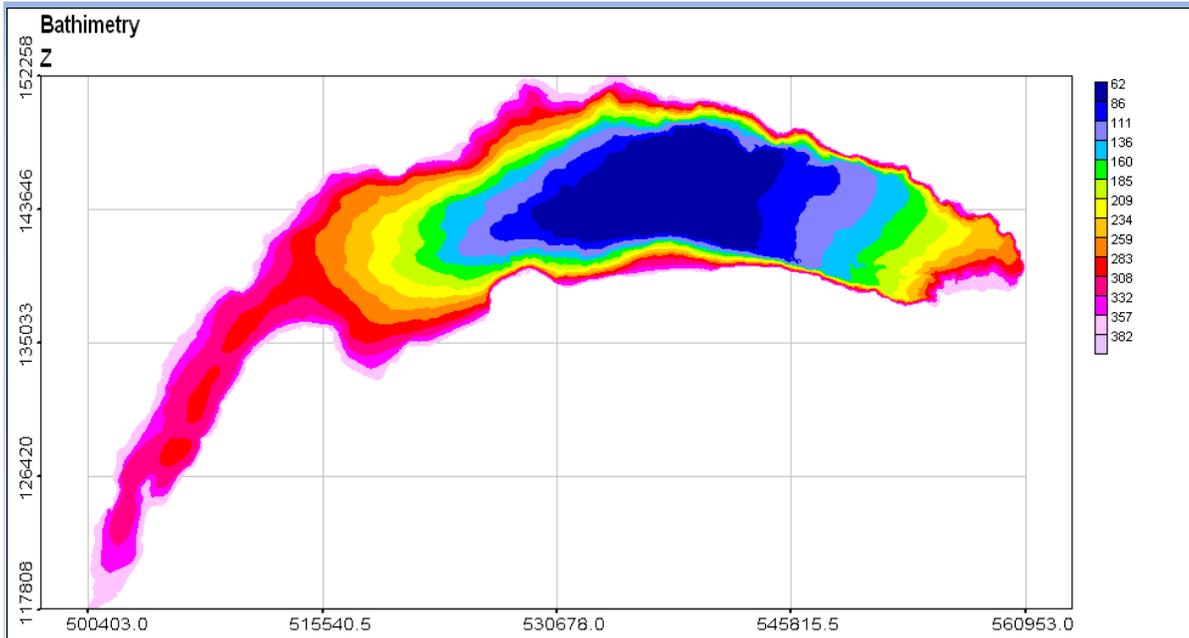
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Geneva lake data



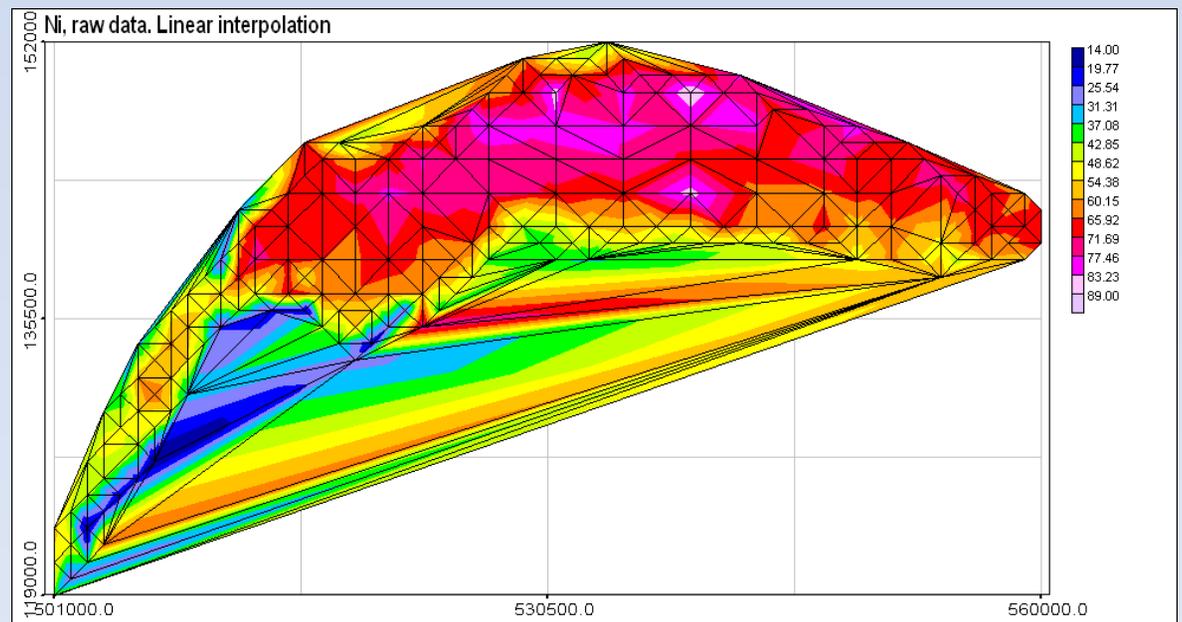
Matrix scatterplot





Geneva lake: bathymetry

Ni raw data



Geneva lake case study

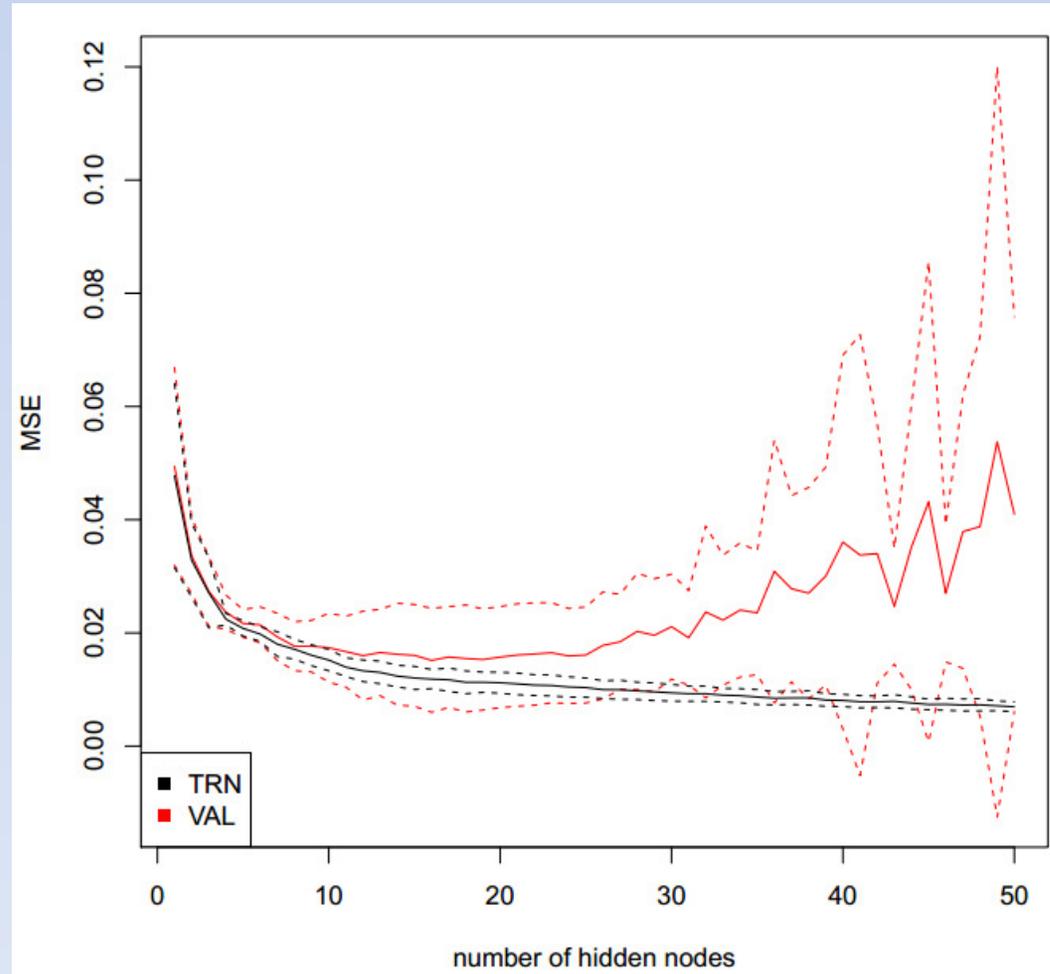
- To find optimal number of hidden neurons, data were split into training (148) and testing (48) subsets
- Data were normalized to $[0,1]$ interval
- Training was done by 5-fold cross validation restarted 20 times.

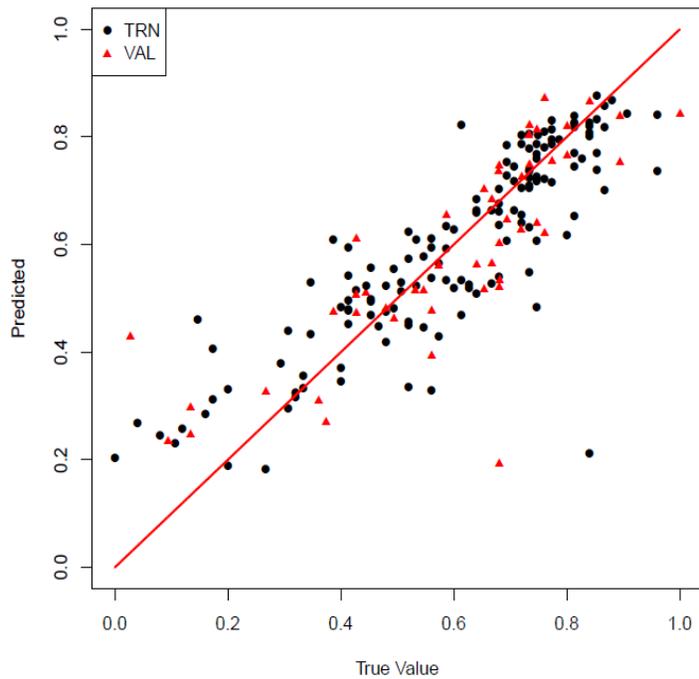
ELM training.

Optimal model: #hiddenNeurons = 16

Training error: 0.013
Testing error: 0.017

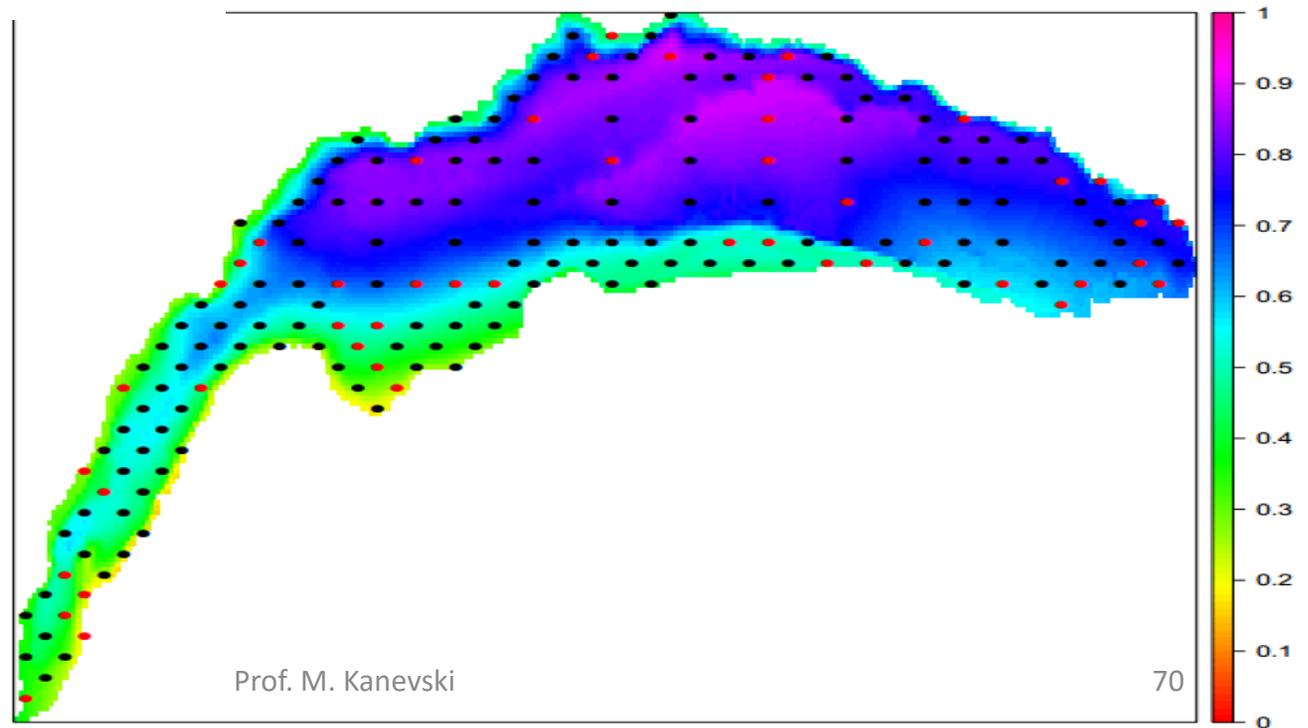
Variography of Ni:
Estimated nugget ~ 0.013





Ni 3d mapping. ELM(16)

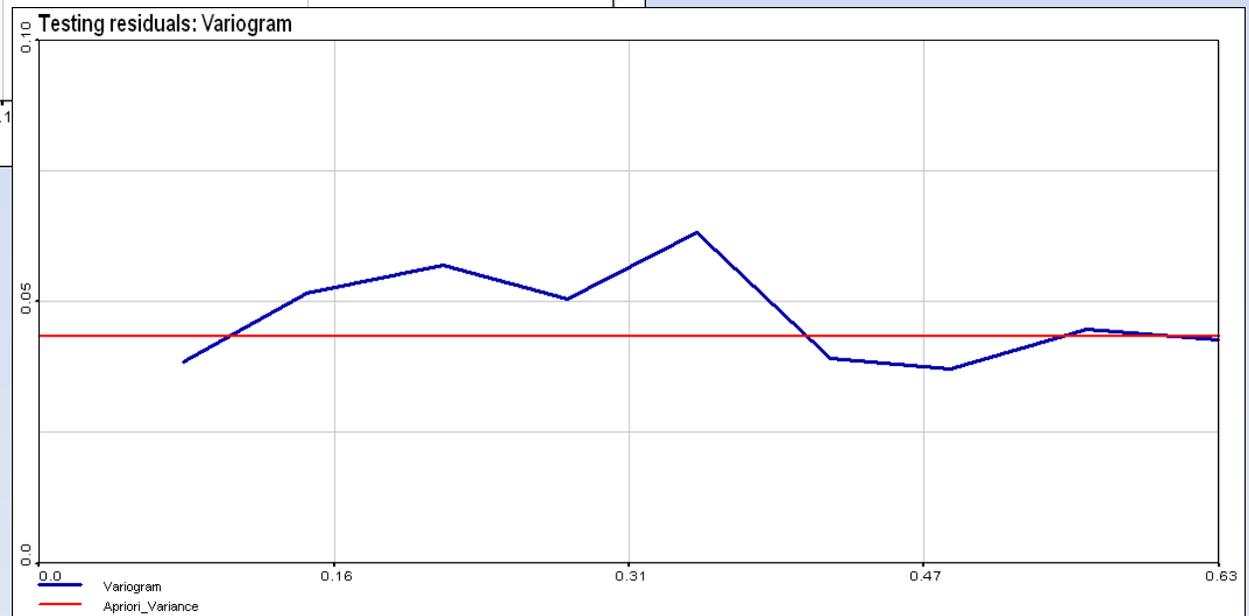
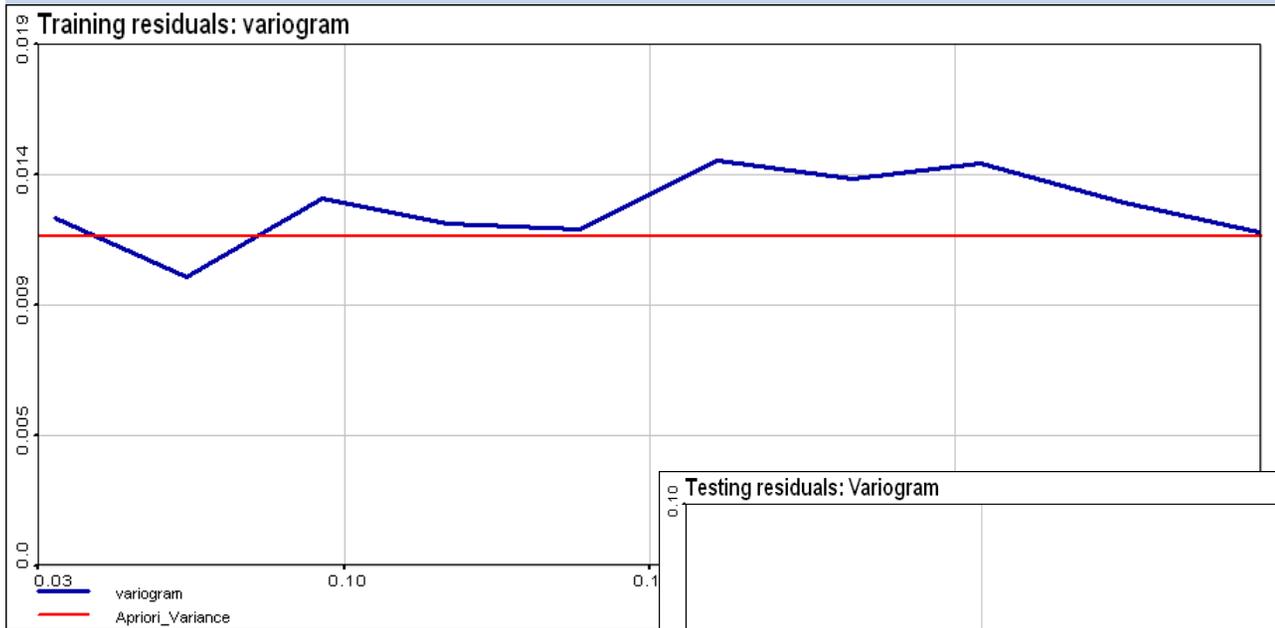
Ni mean prediction



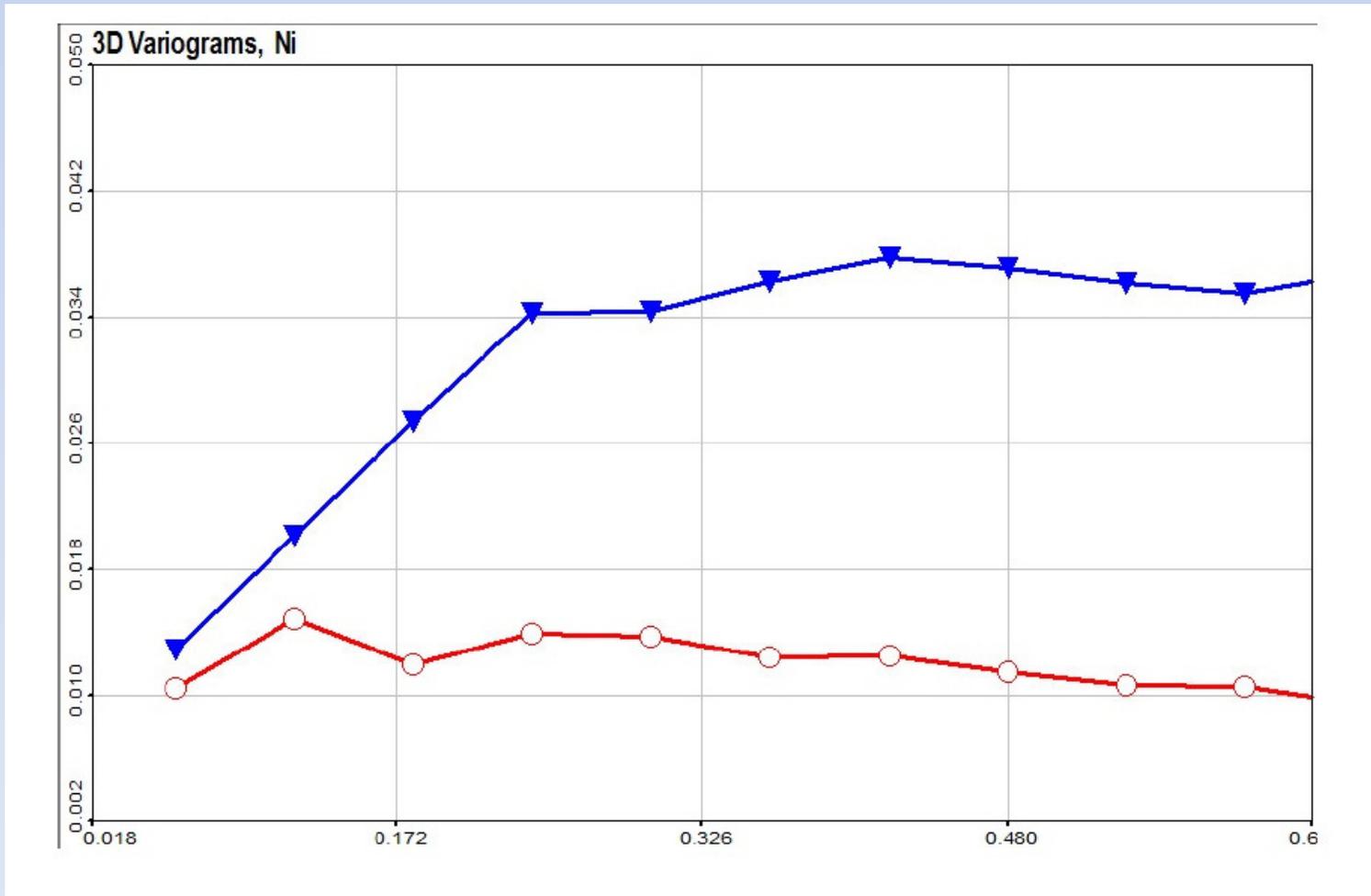
Prof. M. Kanevski

70

Analysis of the training (top) and testing (down) residuals



Variography: raw data and the residuals



Conclusions

MLA are efficient tools in environmental data analysis and modelling.

Recent our developments:

MLA for risk assessments (natural hazards, pollution)

New methods for FS (ELM, Morisita index, AGRNN)

Applications: permafrost modelling, forest fires

Applications: Nonlinear Land Use Regression models (air pollution in a city)

Unsupervised learning of local clustering

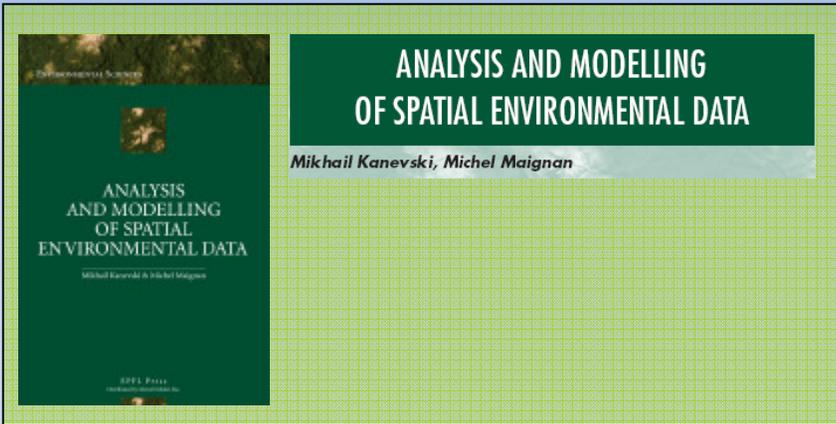
Deep understanding and methodologically correct use of ML are necessary

Challenges

- **Environmental** data mining (to be continued).
- “**Fractal data mining**”: **Intrinsic** dimension estimation, Dimensionality reduction, Feature selection
- Scaling: dimensionality, volume (**BIG**) & complexity
- Active learning and **Monitoring Networks Optimization**
- From dependencies to **cause-effect** relationships
- Uncertainties. Risks and **extremes**
- Integration of **science-based** and **data-driven** models.

From Advanced Analysis to ADVANCED THINKING!

Thank you for your attention!



*Environmental
Data
Science*

