# Discussion of Distance-Based Mixture Models for Prior Specification in Spatial Bayesian Analysis





Clustering of spatial (areal) data - on the response, a functional or spatial random effect

- Clustering/Grouping (Scan statistics or model-based clustering)
- Boundary detection or wobbling (like Lu and Carlin (2005) and Banerjee and Gelfand (2006))



Clustering of spatial (areal) data - on the response, a functional or spatial random effect

- Clustering/Grouping (Scan statistics or model-based clustering)
- Boundary detection or wobbling (like Lu and Carlin (2005) and Banerjee and Gelfand (2006))



## Clustering of spatial (areal) data - on the response, a functional or spatial

- Clustering/Grouping (Scan statistics or model-based clustering)
- Boundary detection or wobbling (like Lu and Carlin (2005) and Banerjee and Gelfand (2006))



# Clustering of spatial (areal) data - on the response, a functional or spatial random effect

- Clustering/Grouping (Scan statistics or model-based clustering)
- Boundary detection or wobbling (like Lu and Carlin (2005) and Banerjee and Gelfand (2006))



Clustering of spatial (areal) data - on the response, a functional or spatial random effect

- Clustering/Grouping (Scan statistics or model-based clustering)
- Boundary detection or wobbling (like Lu and Carlin (2005) and Banerjee and Gelfand (2006))

Contiguity... very problem-specific

2/11



Clustering of spatial (areal) data - on the response, a functional or spatial random effect

- Clustering/Grouping (Scan statistics or model-based clustering)
- Boundary detection or wobbling (like Lu and Carlin (2005) and Banerjee and Gelfand (2006))



Clustering of spatial (areal) data - on the response, a functional or spatial random effect

- Clustering/Grouping (Scan statistics or model-based clustering)
- Boundary detection or wobbling (like Lu and Carlin (2005) and Banerjee and Gelfand (2006))



Clustering of spatial (areal) data - on the response, a functional or spatial random effect

- Clustering/Grouping (Scan statistics or model-based clustering)
- Boundary detection or wobbling (like Lu and Carlin (2005) and Banerjee and Gelfand (2006))

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

#### Other methods

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

3/11

- contiguous
- flexible convex shapes
- very conservative

- Knorr-Held, L. and Raßer, G., 2000. Bayesian detection of clusters and discontinuities in disease maps. Biometrics, 56(1):13–21
  Bayesian Detection of Clusters and Discontinuities (BDCD).
- Hartigan (1990) Product partition model
- SKATER (Assunção et al. (2006)) → REDCAP, Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees of Teixeira et al. (2019)

 Teixeira, L.V., Assunção, R.M. and Loschi, R.H., 2019. Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees.
Journal of Machine Learning Research, 20(85), pp.1-35.
Very similar priors for the number of clusters and partition, from a different viewpoint (Maybe some framework for extending to space-time)

• Teixeira, L.V., Assunção, R.M. and Loschi, R.H., 2019. Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees. Journal of Machine Learning Research, 20(85), pp.1-35.

Very similar priors for the number of clusters and partition, from a different viewpoint (Maybe some framework for extending to space-time)

• Teixeira, L.V., Assunção, R.M. and Loschi, R.H., 2019. Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees. Journal of Machine Learning Research, 20(85), pp.1-35.

Very similar priors for the number of clusters and partition, from a different viewpoint (Maybe some framework for extending to space-time)

4/11

 Teixeira, L.V., Assunção, R.M. and Loschi, R.H., 2019. Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees. Journal of Machine Learning Research, 20(85), pp.1-35.
Very similar priors for the number of clusters and partition, from a different viewpoint (Maybe some framework for extending to space-time)

 Teixeira, L.V., Assunção, R.M. and Loschi, R.H., 2019. Bayesian space-time partitioning by sampling and pruning spanning trees. Journal of Machine Learning Research, 20(85), pp.1-35.
Very similar priors for the number of clusters and partition, from a different viewpoint (Maybe some framework for extending to space-time)

- Zhong, R., Chacón-Montalván, E.A. and Moraga, P., 2024. Bayesian spatial functional data clustering: applications in disease surveillance. arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.12633.
  - Contiguous clustering using MST and uniform partition prior with cluster-specific GLM efficient implementation circumventing most MCMC steps.

- Zhong, R., Chacón-Montalván, E.A. and Moraga, P., 2024. Bayesian spatial functional data clustering: applications in disease surveillance. arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.12633.
  - Contiguous clustering using MST and uniform partition prior with cluster-specific GLM efficient implementation circumventing most MCMC steps.

 Zhong, R., Chacón-Montalván, E.A. and Moraga, P., 2024. Bayesian spatial functional data clustering: applications in disease surveillance. arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.12633.
Contiguous clustering using MST and uniform partition prior with cluster-specific GLM - efficient implementation circumventing most

- Zhong, R., Chacón-Montalván, E.A. and Moraga, P., 2024. Bayesian spatial functional data clustering: applications in disease surveillance. arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.12633.
  - Contiguous clustering using MST and uniform partition prior with cluster-specific GLM efficient implementation circumventing most MCMC steps.

- Zhong, R., Chacón-Montalván, E.A. and Moraga, P., 2024. Bayesian spatial functional data clustering: applications in disease surveillance. arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.12633.
  - Contiguous clustering using MST and uniform partition prior with cluster-specific GLM efficient implementation circumventing most MCMC steps.

• Yin, X., Anderson, C., Lee, D. and Napier, G., 2025. Risk estimation and boundary detection in Bayesian disease mapping. The International Journal of Biostatistics.

Find the divisive boundaries in relative risk over space

6/11

• Yin, X., Anderson, C., Lee, D. and Napier, G., 2025. Risk estimation and boundary detection in Bayesian disease mapping. The International Journal of Biostatistics.

Find the divisive boundaries in relative risk over space

6/11

- Yin, X., Anderson, C., Lee, D. and Napier, G., 2025. Risk estimation and boundary detection in Bayesian disease mapping. The International Journal of Biostatistics.
  - Find the divisive boundaries in relative risk over space

### Informative priors for MST



- Gangnon and Clayton (2000) geometry-based
- Hegarty and Barry (2008) PPM using cohesion functions
- Page and Quintana (2016) PPM using spatial dependence in prior and likelihood, anisotropy

### Informative priors for MST



- Gangnon and Clayton (2000) geometry-based
- Hegarty and Barry (2008) PPM using cohesion functions
- Page and Quintana (2016) PPM using spatial dependence in prior and likelihood, anisotropy

### Informative priors for MST



- Gangnon and Clayton (2000) geometry-based
- Hegarty and Barry (2008) PPM using cohesion functions
- Page and Quintana (2016) PPM using spatial dependence in prior and likelihood, anisotropy



- 1. What can we learn form clustering the random effect as in this case, instead of the data or functionals?
- 2. In which cases is contiguity useful or necessary?
- 3. How does the method compare with others?



- 1. What can we learn form clustering the random effect as in this case, instead of the data or functionals?
- 2. In which cases is contiguity useful or necessary?
- 3. How does the method compare with others?



- 1. What can we learn form clustering the random effect as in this case, instead of the data or functionals?
- 2. In which cases is contiguity useful or necessary?
- 3. How does the method compare with others?



- 1. What can we learn form clustering the random effect as in this case, instead of the data or functionals?
- 2. In which cases is contiguity useful or necessary?
- 3. How does the method compare with others?

#### References



- 1. Assunção, R.M., Neves, M.C., Câmara, G. and da Costa Freitas, C., 2006. Efficient regionalization techniques for socio-economic geographical units using minimum spanning trees. International Journal of Geographical Information Science, 20(7), pp.797-811.
- 2. Sudipto Banerjee and Alan E. Gelfand. Bayesian wombling: Curvilinear gradient assessment under spatial process models. Journal of the American Statistical Association, 101(476): 1487–1501, 2006.
- 3. Haolan Lu and Bradley P. Carlin. Bayesian areal wombling for geographical boundary analysis. Geographical Analysis, 37(3):265–285, 2005.
- 4. John A. Hartigan. Partition models. Communications in Statistics-Theory and Methods, 19 (8):2745–2756, 1990.

#### References



- 5. Avril Hegarty and Daniel Barry. Bayesian disease mapping using product partition models. Statistics in Medicine, 27(19):3868–3893, 2008.
- 6. Ronald E. Gangnon and Murray K. Clayton. Bayesian detection and modeling of spatial disease clustering. Biometrics, 56(3):922–935, 2000.
- 7. Garritt L. Page and Fernando A. Quintana. Spatial product partition models. Bayesian Analysis, 11(1):265–298, 03 2016. doi: 10.1214/15-BA971.

