2023 Barnett Lecture: Exascale Geostatistics for Environmental Data Science

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Statistics groups at KAUST in October 2022: stat.kaust.edu.sa



KAUST Statistics Program 5 years anniversary (2012-2022)

My research group in 2012





Current Statistics core faculty









Dr Sameh Abdulah (ECRC)





WILEY SERIES IN PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

V. BARNETT T. LEWIS

OUTLIERS IN STATISTICAL DATA

3RD EDITION

WILEY SERIES IN PROBABILITY

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- 3.1 In 2021: Gaussian and non-Gaussian
- 3.2 In 2022: Nonstationary, space-time, multivariate
- 3.3 In 2023: Irregular locations, confidence/prediction intervals

1. Some Fundamental Problems in Environmental Data Science



Spatial data follow law of geography: "nearby things tend to be more alike than those far apart"



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1.1 Spatial Gaussian likelihood inference

- *n* irregularly-spaced observations from zero-mean Gaussian random field: $\mathbf{Z} = \{Z(\mathbf{s}_1), \dots, Z(\mathbf{s}_n)\}^{\top}$
- Matérn spatial covariance function:

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\boldsymbol{\theta})_{ij} = \mathsf{cov}\big\{Z(\boldsymbol{s}_i), Z(\boldsymbol{s}_j)\big\} = \frac{\sigma^2}{2^{\nu-1} \mathsf{\Gamma}(\nu)} \left(\frac{\|\boldsymbol{s}_i - \boldsymbol{s}_j\|}{\beta}\right)^{\nu} \mathcal{K}_{\nu}\left(\frac{\|\boldsymbol{s}_i - \boldsymbol{s}_j\|}{\beta}\right) + \tau^2 I\{i = j\}$$

where $\mathcal{K}_{\nu}(\cdot)$ is the modified Bessel function of the second kind of order ν ,

 $\Gamma(\cdot)$ is the Gamma function, and I is the indicator function

- The four components of the parameter vector θ : partial sill σ^2 , range $\beta > 0$, smoothness $\nu > 0$, and nugget τ^2
- Spatial Gaussian log-likelihood:

$$\ell(oldsymbol{ heta}) = -rac{n}{2} ext{log}(2\pi) - rac{1}{2} ext{log}|oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{Z}^ op oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{Z}^ op oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{Z}^ op oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{Z}^ op oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{U}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{U}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{U}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{U}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{ heta} + oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{ heta} + oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{ heta} + oldsymbol{ heta} oldsymbol{ heta} + oldsymbol{ heta}$$

- Log determinant and linear solver require a Cholesky factorization of the symmetric positive definite covariance matrix $\Sigma(\theta)$
- Cholesky factorization requires $O(n^3)$ floating point operations and $O(n^2)$ memory
- Computations become challenging for large n

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Likelihood vs least squares in spatial covariance estimation

- Functional boxplots for: functional data, functional simulations
- Other functions: variogram; covariogram; extremal coefficient; return level curve; log-periodogram; forecasting skill curve; etc.
- **Example**: exponential variogram $1 \exp(-h/\theta)$ with $\theta = 0.25$
- Mean-zero GP generated at 400 random locations in unit square
- Estimate θ by OLS, WLS, MLE; 1000 replicates



- Kriging is spatial interpolation (Best Linear Unbiased Predictor, BLUP)
- Let

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{Z}_1 \\ \mathbf{Z}_2 \end{array}\right) \sim \mathcal{N}_{n+m} \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} \boldsymbol{\mu}_1 \\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_2 \end{array}\right), \left(\begin{array}{c} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{12} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{21} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{22} \end{array}\right) \right)$$

then:

$$\left(\mathbf{Z}_{2}|\mathbf{Z}_{1}=\mathbf{z}_{1}\right)\sim\mathcal{N}_{m}\left(\boxed{\boldsymbol{\mu}_{2}+\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{21}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11}^{-1}(\mathbf{z}_{1}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_{1})}, \boxed{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{22}-\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{21}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{12}}\right)$$

- Kriging with conditional mean
- Uncertainty quantification with conditional variance
- Computations become challenging for large *n* and/or *m*

1.3 Gaussian random field simulations

Unconditional simulations:

- $\mathbf{Y} = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)^\top$ where Y_i are iid from $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- Σ is an $n \times n$ covariance matrix with $(\Sigma)_{ij} = \text{cov}\{Z(\mathbf{s}_i), Z(\mathbf{s}_j)\}$
- $\Sigma^{1/2}$ from spectral decomposition or Cholesky decomposition of Σ
- Then: $|\mathbf{Z} = \boldsymbol{\mu} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{1/2} \mathbf{Y} \text{ is } \mathcal{N}_n(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$

Conditional simulations: If

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{Z}_1\\ \mathbf{Z}_2 \end{array}\right) \sim \mathcal{N}_{n+m} \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} \boldsymbol{\mu}_1\\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_2 \end{array}\right), \left(\begin{array}{c} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{12}\\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{21} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{22} \end{array}\right) \right)$$

then:

$$\left(\mathsf{Z}_2 | \mathsf{Z}_1 = \mathsf{z}_1
ight) \sim \mathcal{N}_m \left(\mu_2 + \Sigma_{21} \Sigma_{11}^{-1} (\mathsf{z}_1 - \mu_1), \Sigma_{22} - \Sigma_{21} \Sigma_{11}^{-1} \Sigma_{12}
ight)$$

Computations become challenging for large n and/or m

Gaussian random field simulations with Matérn correlation function



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1.4 Multivariate Gaussian probabilities

- Probit Gaussian process models
- Application: windspeed exceeds a threshold for energy production
- Windspeed at 140 m on January 21, 2014; threshold of 4 m/s
- Region includes NEOM and Dumat Al Jandal



$$\Phi_n(\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b};\boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \int_{\mathbf{a}}^{\mathbf{b}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{x}\right) d\mathbf{x}$$

- Also: Bayesian probit regression; unified skew-normal (SUN) distributions ($\propto \phi_n \Phi_n$); excursion/contour regions
- Computations become challenging for large *n*

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- Vic Barnett and Toby Lewis book: Outliers in Statistical Data
- More challenging for spatial data (position of outliers matters)
- Spatial breakdown point
- Highly robust variogram estimator
- Maximum L_q -likelihood estimator (MLqE) for Gaussian random fields:

$$egin{aligned} \ell_q(oldsymbol{ heta}) = \sum_{j=1}^R L_q \left[rac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})|}} \exp\left(-rac{1}{2}oldsymbol{Z}_j^ op oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})^{-1}oldsymbol{Z}_j
ight)
ight] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$L_q(u) = egin{cases} \log u, & ext{if} \quad q = 1 \ \left(u^{1-q} - 1
ight) / (1-q), & ext{if} \quad 0 < q < 1 \end{cases}$$

• Computations become challenging for large n and/or R, and many q's

2. Large-Scale Environmental Data Science with ExaGeoStat

When the size n of datasets becomes large:

- $O(n^3)$ floating point operations and $O(n^2)$ memory for exact computations of Cholesky factorization
 - High-Performance Computing (HPC) can help when n is large
 - ExaGeoStat software: https://github.com/ecrc/exageostat https://github.com/ecrc/exageostatr
 - Note: n = 1'000'000 then $n^3 = 10^{18} = 1$ billion billions
- ExaGeoStat for:
 - Likelihood inference/learning for Matérn covariance function (among others)
 - Spatial kriging (interpolation)
 - 8 Random field simulations
 - Multivariate Gaussian probabilities
 - 6 Robust spatial inference
- Various approximation methods have been proposed in literature to ease computation & memory burden
- 2021/2022/2023 KAUST Competitions on Spatial Statistics for Large Datasets investigate the performance of different approximation methods with large synthetic data generated by *ExaGeoStat*

- High-Performance Computing (HPC) is the use of advanced computing techniques and technologies to solve complex problems that require significant computational power
- HPC systems are designed to deliver high processing speeds, large-scale storage capacities, and high-speed data transfer capabilities
- They often have **multiple processors** (each with multi-cores) and may have **accelerators** (such as Graphics Processing Units (GPUs))
- HPC term applies to systems that **function above a TFLOPS** or $O(10^{12})$ floating-point operations per second (Flops/s)

Name	Unit	Value
kiloFLOPS	kFLOPS	10^{3}
megaFLOPS	MFLOPS	10^{6}
gigaFLOPS	GFLOPS	10^{9}
teraFLOPS	TFLOPS	10^{12}
petaFLOPS	PFLOPS	10^{15}
exaFLOPS	EFLOPS	10^{18}
zettaFLOPS	ZFLOPS	10^{21}
yottaFLOPS	YFLOPS	10 ²⁴

- **Shared-memory systems:** a type of computer architecture where multiple processors or cores access a common physical memory, e.g., x86-64 (Intel and AMD processors), IBM POWER, Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)
- Distributed-memory systems: a type of computer architecture in which multiple processors or nodes have their own local memory and communicate with each other through message passing, e.g., clusters and supercomputers
- With sufficiently fast network we can in principle extend this approach to millions of CPU-cores and beyond
- Benefits: Scalability, reliability, and performance
- Challenges: Complex architectural, construction, and debugging processes



Distributed Computing

TOP 500 Supercomputers June 2023 (https://www.top500.org)

Rank	System	Cores	Rmax (PFlop/s)	Rpeak (PFlop/s)	Power (kW)
1	Prontier - HPE Cray EX235a, AMD Optimized 3rd Generation EPYC & C 20Hz, AMD Instinct MI250X, Stingshot-11, HPE DOE/SC/0AK Ridge National Laboratory United States	8,699,904	1,194.00	1,679.82	22,703
2	Supercomputer Fugaku - Supercomputer Fugaku, A64FX 48C 2.20Hz, Totu interconnect D, Fujitsu RIKEN Center for Computational Science Jepan	7,630,848	442.01	537.21	29,899
3	LUMI - HPE Cray EX235a, AMD Optimized 3rd Generation EPYC 64C 20Hz, AMD Instinct MI250X, Stingshot-11, HPE EuroHPC/CSC Fintand	2,220,288	309.10	428.70	6,016
4	Leonardo - DullSequana XH2000, Xeon Platinum 8358 320 2.60Hz, NVIDIA 100 SXM4 64 0B, Quad-rail NVIDIA HDR100 Infiniband, Alos EuroHPC/CINECA Haly	1,824,768	238.70	304.47	7,404
5	Summit - IBM Power System AC922, IBM POWER9 22C 3.070Hz, NVIDIA Volta GV100, Dual-rail Mellanox EDR Infiniband, IBM DDE/SC/Dak Ridge National Laboratory United States	2,414,592	148.60	200.79	10,096



You can think of Fugaku (cost \$1 billion!) as putting 20 million smartphones in a single room, or equivalently 300,000 standard servers in a single room

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Marry Statistics and HPC: High Performance Statistical Computing (HPSC)

Example: *ExaGeoStat* software for exascale geostatistics



ExaGeoStat software: Portability!



- Task-based parallelization is a parallel computing technique in which a large task or problem is divided into smaller subtasks that can be executed concurrently on multiple processors or cores
- Parallel coding on different hardware architectures requires different skills and coding tools:
 - Shared-memory systems (e.g., OpenMP)
 - GPUs (e.g., OpenCL, CUDA)
 - Distributed systems (e.g., Message Passing Interface (MPI))
- Dynamic runtime systems are software frameworks or environments that provide a layer of abstraction above the hardware and operating system, aiming to simplify the management and coordination of parallel and concurrent computations, e.g., StarPU (INRIA Bordeaux, France) and PaRSEC (UTK, USA)
- Dynamic runtime systems facilitate the creation, scheduling, and execution of tasks on available processing units (such as CPU cores or GPUs).

- **Tile-based linear algebra** refers to a technique used to optimize the execution of linear algebra operations on parallel architectures
- It involves breaking down large matrices into smaller submatrices, called **tiles**, to exploit the memory hierarchy and parallelism of modern processors
- It aims to enhance cache utilization and minimize data movement between different levels of memory, such as cache and main memory
- The size of the tiles is chosen based on factors such as cache size, memory bandwidth, and computational requirements
- Tile-based linear algebra algorithms can be parallelized to take advantage of multi-core processors, GPUs, or distributed computing environments
- Existing tile-based algorithms rely on task-based parallelism and runtime systems (e.g., StarPU and PaRSEC) to optimize the performance of existing linear algebra solvers over the modern HPC hardware

2.4 Tile low-rank (TLR) linear algebra

- Tile-based low-rank approximation refers to an approach for approximating matrices by decomposing them into **low-rank structures** using a tile-based framework
- This technique aims to reduce the computational complexity and storage requirements associated with working with large-scale data by representing the original matrix as a combination of low-rank factor



2.5 Multi- and mixed-precision computational statistics

- **Double-precision computation** (64-bit) has been widely used as the primary representation for floating-point numbers in computations
- There has been a recent surge in studies driven by the demand from applications to use reduced representations, such as single (32-bit) or half (16-bit), in order to accelerate computations while maintaining an acceptable level of accuracy
- The concepts of multi- and mixed-precision computation have emerged:
 - Multi-precision computation uses a combination of different precisions in different parts of an algorithm
 - Mixed-precision computation uses varying precisions within the same algorithm's operation
- We introduced the new concept of mixed-precision tile-based linear solvers for spatial statistics:



• Benefits: Faster computations; memory savings, energy efficiency; scalability

MMPR: R package for Multi- and Mixed-Precision computational statistics

- MMPR is an advanced package designed to provide R users with a customized data structure
- MMPR is tailored for researchers and data scientists working with multi- or mixed-precision arithmetic
- The package provides support for **three distinct precisions**: half, single, and double. It also offers a **mixed-precision** data structure organized in a **tile-based format**
- MMPR achieves fast execution for lower precisions by leveraging highly optimized libraries such as MKL and OpenBLAS, whereas R uses Rblas
- Download: https://github.com/stsds/MMPR

Soon on CRAN!



MMPR-DP vs R-DP



2.6 *ExaGeoStat* software: Exascale geostatistics

ExaGeoStat covariance matrix representation

















ExaGeoStatR

ExaGeoStatR is a package for large-scale Geostatistics in R that supports parallel computation of the Gaussian maximum likelihood function, kriging and simulations on shared memory, GPU, and distributed memory systems





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Average over 100 samples



ExaGeoStatR performance on distributed-memory system (Shaheen-II)



ExaGeoStat performance on distributed-memory system (Fugaku)



Performance of space-time Matérn of strong correlation on 4096 & 48384 Fugaku nodes

ExaGeoStatR comparison with bigGP



(a) *ExaGeoStatR* on Intel Skylake

(b) *bigGP* on Intel Skylake

Comparison of *ExaGeoStatR* with *bigGP* from a performance perspective for Cholesky factorization on a distributed system (Ibex HPC cluster from KAUST using up to 16 40-core Intel Skylake nodes)

ExaGeoStatR for SST data kriging



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ExaGeoStatR for SST data kriging



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Adaptive mixed-precision maps & reduced power consumption on GPUs for Cholesky



3. Competitions on Spatial Statistics for Large Datasets

- Goal: investigate the performance of different approximation methods with large synthetic datasets generated by *ExaGeoStat*
- Through the competition, we can better understand when each approximation method is adequate
- The full datasets with one million locations are publicly available at: 2021: https://doi.org/10.25781/KAUST-8VP2V
 2022: http://dx.doi.org/10.25781/KAUST-4ADYZ
 2023: ...

which act as benchmarking data for future research

• The exact MLEs and lowest RMSEs achieved by researchers worldwide are released so that other/new methods can be easily compared



- Launched November 23, 2020; Ended February 1, 2021
- 29 research teams worldwide registered and 21 teams successfully submitted results
- Competition consists of four parts:

	Task	Data model	Data size
1a	GP estimation	GP	90,000
1b	prediction	GP	predict 10,000 conditional on 90,000
2a	prediction	Tukey g-and-h	predict 10,000 conditional on 90,000
2b	prediction	GP & Tukey g-and-h	predict 100,000 conditional on 900,000

• Metric for GP estimation:

Mean Loss of Efficiency (MLOE) and Mean Misspecification of the Mean Square Error (MMOM)

• Metric for prediction: RMSE

Sub-competition	Submission	Score	Rank
1a	ExaGeoStat(estimated-model)	154	0
	SpatStat-Fans	156	1
	GpGp	186	2
	RESSTE(CL/krig)	229	3
1b	ExaGeoStat(true-model)	72	0
	RESSTE(CL/krig)	78	1
	ExaGeoStat(estimated-model)	79	1.5
	HCHISS	93	2
	Chile-Team	113	3

3.2 In 2022: Nonstationary, space-time, multivariate

- Launched March 1, 2022; Ended May 1, 2022
- 20 research teams worldwide registered
- Hosted the competition on the Kaggle machine learning and data science platform

Sub-	Setting	True	# of	Training	Testing
comp		Data Model	Datasets	Data Size	Data Size
1a	Univariate	GP with	2	90K	10K
	Nonstationary	Nonstationary			
	Spatial	Mean or Cov			
1b	Univariate	GP with	2	900K	100K
	Nonstationary	Nonstationary			
	Spatial	Mean or Cov			
2a	Univariate	GP with	9	90K	10K
	Stat. ST	Non-Separable Cov			
2b	Univariate	GP with	9	900K	100K
	Stat. ST	Non-Separable Cov			
3a	Bivariate	GP with	3	45K	5K
	Stationary	Parsimonious/Flexible			
	Spatial	Matérn Cross-Cov			
3b	Bivariate	GP with	3	450K	50K
	Stationary	Parsimonious/Flexible			
	Spatial	Matérn Cross-Cov			
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3.3 In 2023: Irregular locations, confidence/prediction intervals

- Launched February 1, 2023; Ended May 1, 2023
- 11 research teams worldwide registered
- Five different **designs** considered for the locations of the observations:
 - 1. Chessboard; 2. Left-bottom; 3. Satellite; 4. Clusters; 5. Regular

Sub-comp	Model	Target	# designs	Training	Testing
1a	Gaussian	Estimation	5	90K	-
	Matérn	(95% conf interval)			
1b	Gaussian	Estimation	5	900K	-
	Matérn	(95% conf interval)			
2a	Gaussian	Prediction	5	90K	10K
	Matérn	(95% pred interval)			
2b	Gaussian	Prediction	5	900K	100K
	Matérn	(95% pred interval)			

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Summary

• 1.1 Spatial Gaussian likelihood inference

$$\ell(oldsymbol{ heta}) = -rac{n}{2} ext{log}(2\pi) - rac{1}{2} ext{log}|oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{Z}^ op oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})| - rac{1}{2} oldsymbol{Z}^ op oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{ heta})|$$

• 1.2 Spatial kriging

 $\mu_2 + \Sigma_{21} \Sigma_{11}^{-1} (\mathsf{z}_1 - \mu_1)$, $\Sigma_{22} - \Sigma_{21} \Sigma_{11}^{-1} \Sigma_{12}$

• 1.3 Gaussian random field simulations

$$\mathbf{Z} = \boldsymbol{\mu} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{1/2} \mathbf{Y} \text{ is } \mathcal{N}_n(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) , \quad (\mathbf{Z}_2 | \mathbf{Z}_1 = \mathbf{z}_1) \sim \mathcal{N}_m \left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_2 + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{21} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11}^{-1} (\mathbf{z}_1 - \boldsymbol{\mu}_1), \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{22} - \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{21} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{12} \right)$$

• 1.4 Multivariate Gaussian probabilities

$$\Phi_n(\mathbf{a},\mathbf{b};\mathbf{\Sigma}) = \int_{\mathbf{a}}^{\mathbf{b}} rac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\mathbf{\Sigma}|}} \exp\left(-rac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^ op \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1} \mathbf{x}
ight) \mathrm{d} \mathbf{x}$$

• 1.5 Robust inference for spatial data

$$\ell_q(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{j=1}^R L_q \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\boldsymbol{\theta})|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{Z}_j^\top \boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\boldsymbol{\theta})^{-1} \boldsymbol{Z}_j\right) \right]$$

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Summary

Some Fundamental Problems in Environmental Data Science

- 1.1 Spatial Gaussian likelihood inference
- 1.2 Spatial kriging
- 1.3 Gaussian random field simulations
- 1.4 Multivariate Gaussian probabilities
- 1.5 Robust inference for spatial data

2 Large-Scale Environmental Data Science with ExaGeoStat

- 2.1 What is HPC?
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QUESTIONS?

Tile size effect:

16-core Intel Sandy Bridge Xeon E5-2650 Chip

