

# Package ‘smile’

July 23, 2025

**Title** Spatial Misalignment: Interpolation, Linkage, and Estimation

**Version** 1.0.5

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**Description** Provides functions to estimate, predict and interpolate areal data. For estimation and prediction we assume areal data is an average of an underlying continuous spatial process as in Moraga et al. (2017) <[doi:10.1016/j.spasta.2017.04.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spasta.2017.04.006)>, Johnson et al. (2020) <[doi:10.1186/s12942-020-00200-w](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12942-020-00200-w)>, and Wilson and Wakefield (2020) <[doi:10.1093/biostatistics/kxy041](https://doi.org/10.1093/biostatistics/kxy041)>. The interpolation methodology is (mostly) based on Goodchild and Lam (1980, ISSN:01652273).

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.1

**SystemRequirements** GDAL (>= 2.0.1), GEOS (>= 3.4.0), PROJ (>= 4.8.0)

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, RcppArmadillo

**Imports** numDeriv, Rcpp, sf, mvtnorm, stats, parallel, Matrix

**Depends** R (>= 4.0)

**URL** <https://lcgodoy.me/smile/>, <https://github.com/lcgodoy/smile/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/lcgodoy/smile/issues/>

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, ggplot2, graphics, spelling

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Language** en-US

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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AI

*Areal Interpolation*

## Description

This function estimates variables observed at a "source" region into a "target" region. "Source" and "target" regions represent two different ways to divide a city, for example. For more details, see <https://lcgodoy.me/smile/articles/sai.html>.

## Usage

```
ai(source, target, vars)
```

```
ai_var(source, target, vars, vars_var, sc_vars = FALSE, var_method = "CS")
```

## Arguments

source	a sf object - source spatial data.
target	a sf object - target spatial data.
vars	a character representing the variables (observed at the source) to be estimated at the target data.
vars_var	a scalar of type character representing the name of the variable in the source dataset that stores the variances of the variable to be estimated at the target data.
sc_vars	boolean indicating whether vars should be scaled by its observed variance (if available).
var_method	a character representing the method to approximate the variance of the AI estimates. Possible values are "CS" (Cauchy-Schwartz) or "MI" (Moran's I).

**Value**

the target (of type sf) with estimates of the variables observed at the source data.

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find_phi	<i>Find phi parameter for the Exponential spatial auto-correlation function</i>
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**Description**

Function designed to find the phi parameter such that the correlation between points within a given distance d is at most a given value.

**Usage**

```
find_phi(
  d,
  nu,
  kappa,
  mu2,
  family = "matern",
  range = c(1e-04, 1000),
  cut = 0.05
)
```

**Arguments**

d	maximum distance for spatial dependence equal to cut.
nu	smoothness parameter associated with the Matern cov. function.
kappa	one of the smoothness parameters associated with the Generalized Wendland covariance function
mu2	one of the smoothness parameters associated with the Generalized Wendland covariance function
family	covariance function family, the options are c("matern", "gw", "cs", "spher", "pexp", "gaussian").
range	Minimum and maximum distance to be considered. The default is range = c(1e-04, 1000).
cut	desired spatial correlation at a distance d, the default is cut = .05.

**Value**

a numeric value indicating the range parameter such that the spatial correlation between two points at distance d is cut.

fit\_spm

*Fitting an underlying continuous process to areal data***Description**

Fitting an underlying continuous process to areal data

**Usage**

```
fit_spm(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'spm'
fit_spm(
  x,
  model,
  theta_st,
  nu = NULL,
  tr = NULL,
  kappa = 1,
  mu2 = 1.5,
  apply_exp = FALSE,
  opt_method = "Nelder-Mead",
  control_opt = list(),
  comp_hess = TRUE,
  ...
)

fit_spm2(
  x,
  model,
  nu,
  tr,
  kappa = 1,
  mu2 = 1.5,
  comp_hess = TRUE,
  phi_min,
  phi_max,
  nphi = 10,
  cores = getOption("mc.cores", 1L)
)
```

**Arguments**

**x** an object of type spm. Note that, the dimension of theta\_st depends on the 2 factors. 1) the number of variables being analyzed, and 2) if the input is a spm object.

**...** additional parameters, either passed to [stats::optim](#).

model	a character scalar indicating the family of the covariance function to be used. The options are c("matern", "pexp", "gaussian", "spherical", "gw").
theta_st	a numeric (named) vector containing the initial parameters.
nu	a numeric value indicating either the $\nu$ parameter from the Matern covariance function (controlling the process differentiability), or the "pexp" for the Powered Exponential family. If the model chosen by the user is Matern and nu is not informed, it is automatically set to .5. On the other hand, if the user chooses the Powered Exponential family and do not inform nu, then it is set to 1. In both cases, the covariance function becomes the so called exponential covariance function.
tr	tapper range
kappa	$\kappa \in \{0, \dots, 3\}$ parameter for the GW cov function.
mu2	the smoothness parameter $\mu$ for the GW function.
apply_exp	a logical scalar indicating whether the parameters that cannot assume negative values should be exponentiate or not.
opt_method	a character scalar indicating the optimization algorithm to be used. For details, see <a href="#">stats::optim</a> .
control_opt	a named list containing the control arguments for the optimization algorithm to be used. For details, see <a href="#">stats::optim</a> .
comp_hess	a boolean indicating whether the Hessian matrix should be computed.
phi_min	a numeric scalar representing the minimum <i>phi</i> value to look for.
phi_max	a numeric scalar representing the maximum <i>phi</i> value to look for.
nphi	a numeric scalar indicating the number of values to compute a grid-search over <i>phi</i> .
cores	a integer scalar indicating number of cores to be used. Default is getOption("mc.cores"). No effect on Windows.

## Details

This function uses the [stats::optim](#) function optimization algorithms to find the Maximum Likelihood estimators, and their standard errors, from a model adapted from. The function allows the user to input the control parameters from the [stats::optim](#) function through the argument control\_opt, which is a named list. Additionally, the one can input lower and upper boundaries for the optimization problem, as well as the preferred optimization algorithm (as long as it is available for [stats::optim](#)). The preferred algorithm is selected by the argument opt\_method. In addition to the control of the optimization, the user can select a covariance function among the following: Matern, Exponential, Powered Exponential, Gaussian, and Spherical. The parameter apply\_exp is a logical scalar such that, if set to TRUE, the exp function is applied to the nonnegative parameters, allowing the optimization algorithm to search for all the parameters over the real numbers.

The model assumes  $\text{deqn}\{Y(\mathbf{s}) = \mu + S(\mathbf{s})\}$  at the point level. Where  $\text{eqn}\{S \sim \text{GP}(\emptyset, \sigma^2 C(\text{Vert } \mathbf{s} - \text{Vert } \mathbf{s}_2, \text{theta}))\}$ . Further, the observed data is supposed to be  $\text{eqn}\{Y(B) = \text{Vert } B \text{Vert}^{-1} \int_{\{B\}} Y(\mathbf{s}) \, \text{textrm{d}} \mathbf{s}\}$ .

**Value**

a `spm_fit` object containing the information about the estimation of the model parameters.

**Examples**

```
data(liv_lsoa) ## loading the LSOA data

msoa_spm <- sf_to_spm(sf_obj = liv_msoa, n_pts = 500,
                     type = "regular", by_polygon = FALSE,
                     poly_ids = "msoa11cd",
                     var_ids = "leb_est")

## fitting model
theta_st_msoa <- c("phi" = 1) # initial value for the range parameter

fit_msoa <-
  fit_spm(x = msoa_spm,
          theta_st = theta_st_msoa,
          model = "matern",
          nu = .5,
          apply_exp = TRUE,
          opt_method = "L-BFGS-B",
          control = list(maxit = 500))

AIC(fit_msoa)

summary_spm_fit(fit_msoa, sig = .05)
```

---

<code>goodness_of_fit</code>	<i>Akaike's (and Bayesian) An Information Criterion for <code>spm_fit</code> objects.</i>
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**Description**

Akaike's (and Bayesian) An Information Criterion for `spm_fit` objects.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'spm_fit'
AIC(object, ..., k = 2)

## S3 method for class 'spm_fit'
BIC(object, ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>object</code>	a <code>spm_fit</code> object.
<code>...</code>	optionally more fitted model objects.
<code>k</code>	numeric, the <i>penalty</i> per parameter to be used; the default ' <code>k = 2</code> ' is the classical AIC. (for compatibility with <code>stats::AIC</code> .)

**Value**

a numeric scalar corresponding to the goodness of fit measure.

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liv\_lsoa

*Liverpool Lower Super Output Area.*

---

**Description**

A dataset containing the LSOA's for Liverpool along with estimates for Index of Multiple Deprivation. Data taken from [Johnson et al. 2020](#)

**Usage**

liv\_lsoa

**Format**

A sf data frame with 298 rows and 6 variables:

**lsoa11cd** LSOA code

**lsoa11cd** LSOA name

**male** Male population

**female** Female population

**imdscore** Index of Multiple Deprivation

**area** LMSOA area, in  $km^2$

**Details**

The data was projected to EPSG 27700 and units changed to km

**Source**

<https://ij-healthgeographics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12942-020-00200-w>

---

`liv_msoa`*Liverpool Middle Super Output Area.*

---

**Description**

A dataset containing containing the MSOA's for Liverpool along with estimates for Life Expectancy at Birth. Data taken from [Johnson et al. 2020](#)

**Usage**`liv_msoa`**Format**

A sf data frame with 61 rows and 4 variables:

**msoa11cd** MSOA code

**msoa11cd** MSOA name

**lev\_est** Estimated life expectancy at birth, in years

**area** MSOA area, in  $km^2$

**Details**

The data was projected to EPSG 27700 and units changed to km

**Source**

<https://ij-healthgeographics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12942-020-00200-w>

---

`nl_ct`*Nova Lima census tracts*

---

**Description**

A dataset containing containing the census tracts for the city of Nova Lima in Minas Gerais - Brazil.

**Usage**`nl_ct`



**Format**

A sf data frame with 113 rows and 14 variables:

**cd\_setor** unique identifier  
**hh\_density** average household density  
**var\_hhd** variance of the household density  
**avg\_income** average income per household  
**var\_income** variance of the income per household  
**pop** population in the census tract  
**avg\_age** average age of the inhabitants in the census tract  
**var\_age** variance of the variable age in the census tract  
**prop\_women** proportion of women  
**prop\_elder** proportion of people with 55 years of age or older  
**illit\_rate** illiteracy rate  
**prop\_white** proportion of self-declared white people  
**prop\_black** proportion of self-declared black people  
**prop\_native** proportion of self-declared native people

**Details**

The data is project using the SIRGAS 2000.

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predict_spm	<i>Prediction over the same or a different set of regions (or points).</i>
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**Description**

Realizes predictions that can be useful when researchers are interested in predict a variable observed in one political division of a city (or state) on another division of the same region.

**Usage**

```
predict_spm(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'spm_fit'
predict_spm(x, .aggregate = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'sf'
predict_spm(x, spm_obj, n_pts, type, outer_poly = NULL, id_var, ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	a sf object such that its geometries are either points or polygons.
<code>...</code>	additional parameters
<code>.aggregate</code>	logical. Should the predictions be aggregated? In case the input is only a "fit" object, the aggregation is made over the polygons on which the original data was observed. In case the input <code>x</code> is composed by sf POLYGONS, the aggregation is made over this new partition of the study region.
<code>spm_obj</code>	an object of either class <code>spm_fit</code> or <code>mspm_fit</code>
<code>n_pts</code>	a numeric scalar standing for number of points to form a grid over the whole region to make the predictions
<code>type</code>	character type of grid to be generated. See <code>st_sample</code> in the package <code>sf</code> .
<code>outer_poly</code>	(object) sf geometry storing the "outer map" we want to compute the predictions in.
<code>id_var</code>	if <code>x</code> is a set of POLYGONS (areal data) instead of a set of points, the <code>id_var</code> is the name (or index) of the unique identifier associated to each polygon.

**Value**

a list of size 4 belonging to the class `spm_pred`. This list contains the predicted values and the mean and covariance matrix associated with the conditional distribution used to compute the predictions.

**Examples**

```
data(liv_lsoa) ## loading the LSOA data
data(liv_msoa) ## loading the MSOA data

msoa_spm <- sf_to_spm(sf_obj = liv_msoa, n_pts = 500,
                     type = "regular", by_polygon = FALSE,
                     poly_ids = "msoa11cd",
                     var_ids = "leb_est")

## fitting model
theta_st_msoa <- c("phi" = 1) # initial value for the range parameter

fit_msoa <-
  fit_spm(x = msoa_spm,
          theta_st = theta_st_msoa,
          model = "matern",
          nu = .5,
          apply_exp = TRUE,
          opt_method = "L-BFGS-B",
          control = list(maxit = 500))

pred_lsoa <- predict_spm(x = liv_lsoa, spm_obj = fit_msoa, id_var = "lsoa11cd")
```

---

sf_to_spm	<i>single sf to spm</i>
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## Description

Transforming a sf into a spm object (Internal use)

## Usage

```
single_sf_to_spm(
  sf_obj,
  n_pts,
  type = "regular",
  by_polygon = FALSE,
  poly_ids = NULL,
  var_ids = NULL,
  trunc_d = NULL
)
```

```
sf_to_spm(
  sf_obj,
  n_pts,
  type = "regular",
  by_polygon = FALSE,
  poly_ids = NULL,
  var_ids = NULL,
  trunc_d = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

sf_obj	a sf object s.t. its geometries are polygons.
n_pts	a numeric scalar representing the number of points to create a grid in the study region on which the polygons in sf_obj is observed. Alternatively, it can be a vector of the same length as nrow(sf_obj). In this case, it generates the given number of points for each polygon in sf_obj.
type	a character indicating the type of grid to be generated. The options are c("random", "regular", "hexagonal"). For more details, see st_sample in the sf package.
by_polygon	a logical indicating whether we should generate n_pts by polygon or for the n_pts for the whole study region.
poly_ids	a character vector informing the name of the variable in sf_obj that represents the polygons unique identifiers. In case this is not informed, we assume the id of the polygons are given by their row numbers.
var_ids	a scalar or vector of type character indicating the (numerical) variables that are going to be analyzed.

trunc\_d                    truncation distance for grid points. Consider using half of the maximum distance between polygons

**Value**

a named list of size 6 belonging to the class `spm`. This list stores all the objects necessary to fit models using the `fit_spm`.

**Examples**

```
data(liv_lsoa) # loading the LSOA data

msoa_spm <- sf_to_spm(sf_obj = liv_msoa, n_pts = 1000,
                      type = "regular", by_polygon = FALSE,
                      poly_ids = "msoa11cd",
                      var_ids = "leb_est")
```

---

smile	<i>smile: Spatial MIsaLignment Estimation</i>
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---

**Description**

smile: Spatial MIsaLignment Estimation

---

summary_spm_fit	<i>Summarizing spm_fit</i>
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---

**Description**

Provides a `data.frame` with point estimates and confidence intervals for the parameters of the model fitted using the `spm_fit` function.

**Usage**

```
summary_spm_fit(x, sig = 0.05)
```

**Arguments**

- x                    a `spm_fit` object.
- sig                  a real number between 0 and 1 indicating significance level to be used to compute the confidence intervals for the parameter estimates.

**Value**

a `data.frame` summarizing the parameters estimated by the `fit_spm` function.

---

vdl	<i>Voronoi Data Linkage</i>
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---

**Description**

Reminder, have to create an example. This will be exported after we submit the paper for publication.

**Usage**

```
vdl(coords_sf, areal_sf, vars, buff)
```

**Arguments**

coords_sf	sf POINT target dataset.
areal_sf	sf POLYGON source dataset.
vars	a character representing the variables (observed at the source - polygon) to be estimated at the target data.
buff	scalar numeric. Mostly for internal use.

**Value**

a sf object for the coords\_sf spatial data set.

---

vdl_var	<i>Voronoi Data Linkage - Single variable and variance</i>
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---

**Description**

Reminder, have to create an example. This will be exported after we submit the paper for publication.

**Usage**

```
vdl_var(coords_sf, areal_sf, res_var, variance, var_method = "CS", buff)
```

**Arguments**

coords_sf	sf POINT target dataset.
areal_sf	sf POLYGON source dataset.
res_var	a character - the name of the variable in the areal_sf to be estimated in the coords_sf.
variance	a character - the name of the variable variance in the areal_sf to be estimated in the coords_sf.
var_method	a character representing the method to approximate the variance of the AI estimates. Possible values are "CS" (Cauchy-Schwartz) or "MI" (Moran's I).
buff	scalar numeric. Mostly for internal use.

**Value**

a sf object, containing the `id_coords` variable and the `list_vars` for the `coords_sf` spatial data set.

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