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meteo: package for automated spatio-temporal mapping

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Global spatio-temporal variograms and regression models described by Kilibarda et al. (2014) are stored in the meteo R package for the purpose of automated mapping of daily temperatures at 1 km/1 day resolution.

This article describes the R package meteo that is still under development. The package provides functionalities for the automated mapping of meteorological observations using spatio-temporal regression kriging. The automated spatio-temporal kriging interpolation procedure is a data driven approach designed for mapping with little or no human interaction. Currently, automated mapping with the meteo package can be decomposed in chunks:

- 1. defining input observations and covariates;
- 2. use of pre-calculated global models;
- 3. detecting and/or removing outliers;
- 4. creation of final prediction (and its export to GIS formats);

5. cartographic visualisation of results and/or creation of web maps (e.g. by using R package plotGoogleMaps (Kilibarda and Bajat 2012) for automatic creation of interactive web maps).

In addition, meteo offers the possibility of using user defined covariates, regressions and variograms; thereby giving more flexibility of using the package in a semi-automated approach.

The presented mapping framework enables the use of spatio-temporal regression kriging for meteorological mapping. The implementation of the fast searching algorithm provides an advantage in computing when completing interpolations over a large spatio-temporal grid. The advantage is especially noticeable in case of the grids containing longer time series (e.g. predictions made for the area of interpolation over a year period where each location contains around 365 observations).

References

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