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ECOLOGICAL BOUNDARY DETECTION USING BAYESIAN AREAL WOMBING

Matthew C. Fitzpatrick*,1,2,3, Evan L. Preisser2, Adam Porter4, Joseph Elkinton4, Lance A. Waller5, Bradley P. Carlin6, Aaron M. Ellison3

1 University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Appalachian Lab, Frostburg, MD 21532
2 Department of Biological Sciences, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881
3 Harvard University, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA 01366
4 Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts
5 Department of Biostatistics, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
6 Division of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

*Author to whom correspondence should be addressed:
Matt Fitzpatrick
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Appalachian Lab
301 Braddock Road, Frostburg, MD 21532
e-mail: mfitzpatrick@umces.edu; phone: (301) 689-7131; fax: (301) 689-7200

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ABSTRACT

The study of ecological boundaries and their dynamics is of fundamental importance to much of ecology, biogeography, and evolution. Over the past two decades, boundary analysis (often termed wombling) has received considerable research attention, resulting in multiple approaches for the quantification of ecological boundaries. Nonetheless a number of issues remain unresolved, notably the inability of most methods to (i) analyze spatially-homogenized datasets (i.e., areal data in the form of polygons rather than point-reference data); (ii) account for spatial structure in these data and uncertainty associated with them; and (iii) objectively assign probabilities to boundaries once detected. Here we describe a method for ecological boundary detection used in public health that employs a Bayesian hierarchical framework and which addresses these issues. As examples, we analyze simulated data and the historic pattern of spread of an invasive species, the hemlock woolly adelgid (Adelges tsugae), across eastern North America, using county-level dates of first infestation and several covariates potentially important to influencing the observed spread dynamics.

KEYWORDS: boundary analysis, ecotones, edge detection, invasive species, spatial statistics

INTRODUCTION

A central challenge in ecology is determining the factors influencing species distributions and how these factors change across space and time (Holt and Keitt 2005). The increasingly serious threats to natural systems posed by global change emphasize the practical importance of identifying the environmental factors associated with range edges (e.g., Gavin and Hu 2006) and of determining how environmental changes may affect movement of both native and invasive
species across heterogeneous landscapes. At its core, understanding the dynamics of species
distributions is both a statistical problem of identifying boundaries between where a species is
present (or abundant) and absent (or rare), and an ecological problem of determining
environmental factors associated with these boundaries (Gaston 2003, Fortin et al. 2005).

Two major challenges limit detailed analysis of ecological and evolutionary processes
underlying the formation, persistence, and change of range edges. First, the spatiotemporal data
required for inference are lacking (Parmesan et al. 2005) or when available, are often spatially
homogenized as summaries over geopolitical or ecological regions such as counties, states, or
biomes. Such aggregation obscures fine-scale spatiotemporal characteristics in the data. Second,
data arising from neighboring regions are often more highly correlated than those from distant
neighbors. The spatial structure inherent in the data is often of ecological interest, but must be
accounted for to make valid inferences (Legendre 1993). Acknowledging spatial structure is
particularly important when considering the spread of invasive species because ecological
dynamics are inherently correlated in space and time.

Over the last decade a large body of ecological research has addressed boundary analysis
(sometimes called ‘wombling’ in recognition of William H. Womble, a pioneer in the field,
Womble 1951), with a corresponding increase in the number of analytical approaches available
for detecting and analyzing boundaries (see Jacquez et al. 2000 and Fagan et al. 2003 for recent
reviews and Jacquez et al. 2008 for a recent special issue on the topic). Wombling is a technique
for determining zones of abrupt change on a spatial surface that separate areas of lower and
higher values of a georeferenced unit (Fortin and Dale 2005). A common secondary concern is to
assign statistical significance or probabilities to the identified boundaries. At present, much of
the published literature on boundary analysis in ecology considers point-referenced data (i.e.,
geostatistical data comprised of spatial locations of points with known coordinates, such as latitude-longitude) that are either regularly (lattice or grid) or irregularly spaced. Although point-referenced data are becoming increasingly accessible (Graham et al. 2004), ecological data covering broad spatial and temporal scales are more commonly available as summaries over geographic regions. For example, herbaria data and records from the USDA PLANTS database (http://plants.usda.gov) are provided as county- or state-level summaries. Boundary analysis of such data, often term areal data, is well-developed in public health fields, but it has received minimal attention in ecology. Further, most of the boundary analysis approaches in current use in ecology assign significance or probabilities to detected boundaries using null distributions or arbitrary thresholds; such inferences are relative to predetermined and often subjective choices.

Here we describe a promising technique for ecological analysis of areal data developed by public health researchers (e.g., Lu and Carlin 2005, Ma et al. 2006, Wheeler and Waller 2008) that has as yet seen little use by ecologists. The method employs a Bayesian hierarchical framework that (i) uses areal data; (ii) accounts for spatial structure in these data and the spatial and nonspatial uncertainty associated with them; and (iii) provides a natural means of assigning probabilities to boundaries using posterior estimates of the modeled parameters. As an example, we analyze the historic pattern of spread of an invasive species, the hemlock woolly adelgid (‘HWA’, Adelges tsugae Annand). Although this pest threatens hemlock forests (both eastern hemlock, Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carr., and Carolina hemlock, Tsuga caroliniana Englemann, are susceptible) throughout eastern North America (Orwig et al. 2002) and is of great concern to both researchers and land managers, data on HWA spread exists primarily as county-level data documenting the first reported HWA infestation in that area. Our goal is to strengthen links between observed spread pattern and underlying ecological processes by identifying boundaries.
across which spread is slower than expected and to determine whether such boundaries are associated with environment features.

METHODS

Study system – HWA is a small (1 mm adult) flightless insect native to Asia that was first collected from hemlock in the eastern United States in spring of 1951, in Richmond, VA. New HWA infestations were collected next in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1969, followed by counties southwest of Richmond, VA (Fig. 1a, see Appendix A for a detailed description of these data). The observed pattern of county-level spread following these early events largely mimics a diffusive process although outlying infestations also have appeared in northwestern New York State. As an exploratory tool, ordinary kriging on the county-level spread pattern (Fig. 1b) shows slow initial spread from the three distinct early infestations, followed by spread to the northeast and southwest. Compressed contours along the Appalachian Mountains suggest that environmental or topographic aspects of this feature may be associated with reduction of spread rate to the west. In contrast, spread has been relatively rapid in the southeastern Appalachians, where contours are spaced broadly (Fig. 1b), suggesting topography alone may not influence spread rate. Despite their proximity to the initial infestation, counties south of Richmond, VA remain uninfested presumably because of a lack of hemlock.

Although population and dispersal dynamics of HWA remain poorly understood, we expect the pattern of spread to be a function of both environmental and social factors. Environmental factors such as hemlock abundance and winter temperature (Paradis et al. 2008, Trotter and Shields 2009) may alter spread rate by influencing population and dispersal dynamics. Social factors such as human population density may influence the pattern of spread
both by altering the environment (e.g., by reducing forest cover or planting hemlocks as landscape trees) and by influencing the detection and reporting of HWA infestations. To account for these processes, we generated a set of covariates for each county that could influence the spread and detection of the advancing HWA front, including mean winter temperature, human population density, and hemlock abundance (See Appendix A for details regarding the calculation of these variables). We did not consider physical barriers to spread such as rivers or mountains (e.g., Wheeler and Waller 2008) in this analysis because passive dispersal of HWA by wind and birds is unlikely to be directly influenced by such features at the county level.

Bayesian areal wombling – We follow recent work by Lu and Carlin (2005) and use a Bayesian hierarchical model to perform areal wombling. Wheeler and Waller (2008) extended Lu and Carlin’s (2005) research on human disease incidence to the spread of rabies using county-level reporting of rabid raccoons. Following Wheeler and Waller (2008), we modeled $Y_i$, the number of months elapsed between the first reported HWA infestation in 1951 and the first reported HWA infestation in each county $i$ as

$$Y_i \sim N\left(\mu_i, \frac{1}{\tau}\right), \quad (1)$$

where

$$\mu_i = \alpha + x_i \beta + \phi_i \quad (2)$$

is the expected number of months elapsed to first reported HWA infestation in county $i$, $\alpha$ is an intercept, $\tau$ is the precision, $x_i$ is a vector of the covariates, and $\phi_i$ is a spatial random effect. The spatial random effect $\phi_i$ is given an intrinsic conditionally autoregressive (CAR) prior expressed as
where \( m_i \) is the number of counties neighboring county \( i \) and \( \tau_C \) is the precision. The use of a CAR prior for the random effects serves two functions. Foremost, invasive spread is a spatial process, with neighboring counties more similar in date of first infestation than distant counties. Second, the CAR prior provides a degree of spatial smoothing and thereby may prevent the erroneous detection of barriers that arise from spurious departures from the overall spatial trend. For example, uncertainty in detection and therefore reporting of HWA infestations could be higher in counties where HWA populations remain at low densities (Fitzpatrick et al. 2009) because of scarcity of hemlock or where winter temperatures cause high mortality (Paradis et al. 2008, Trotter and Shields 2009). In our analysis, we consider counties to be neighbors if they share a common boundary; more sophisticated choices such as inverse distance weighting warrant investigation.

The above framework provides a smoothed expected value for the number of months to first HWA infestation in each county. Although spread rate is itself of ecological interest, our goal is to identify barriers that separate counties with substantially different times to first infestation and to assign probabilities to these boundaries. A boundary likelihood value (BLV) for boundary \((i, j)\) can be defined as the absolute difference in months (Lu and Carlin 2005) of first HWA infestation reported in neighboring counties \( i \) and \( j \) as,

\[
\Delta_y = |Y_i - Y_j|.
\]

Estimates of \( \Delta_y \) can be obtained using a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithm to draw \( G \) samples of the modeled response \( \mu_i^{(g)}, g = 1, \ldots, G \) from the posterior distribution \( p(\mu_i|y) \) for
each county $i$ and each MCMC iteration $g$ to obtain

$$
\Delta_{ij}^{(g)} = |\mu_i^{(g)} - \mu_j^{(g)}|.
$$

Boundary probabilities are then determined by simply counting the number of samples of $\Delta_{ij}^{(g)}$ that exceed a threshold $c$, where $c$ is some number of months. For example, if we wanted to know which county boundaries were associated with preventing spread for five years (i.e., difference in date of first detected HWA between adjacent counties is five years), $c$ would equal 60 months. The boundary probability is then simply the ratio of this count ($\# \Delta_{ij}^{(g)} > c$) to the total number of samples $G$ (2000 in our analyses), or

$$
\hat{p}_{ij} = \hat{P}(\Delta_{ij} > c \mid y) = \frac{\# \Delta_{ij}^{(g)} > c}{G}.
$$

This approach to determining boundary probabilities is known as fuzzy wombling. Alternatively, crisp wombling can be performed if boundaries are assigned a value of 1 when the BLV exceeds some predetermined threshold (e.g., 0.5) or 0 otherwise.

Although BLVs based on the expected values $\mu_i$ offer one means of investigating boundary probabilities, a potentially more informative approach is to calculate BLVs using the spatial random effects $\phi_i$. In essence, the $\phi_i$ can be interpreted as spatial residuals. High-probability boundaries based on residuals delineate adjacent regions that differ in their unmodeled heterogeneity and thus highlight regions where the covariates do not explain detected boundaries. In contrast, if no significant boundaries exist in a map of residual-based boundaries, then the covariates explain (or are at least correlated with factors that explain) detected boundaries. Close examination of boundary probabilities based on spatial residuals could prove extremely useful in ecological studies where the goal is to elucidate the factors determining range edges and how these vary across space.
The model described above can be fit in WinBUGS (Spiegelhalter et al. 2003) and output analyzed and plotted in R (R Development Core Team 2009). For all models described below we used a burn-in period of 100,000 iterations and an additional 100,000 iterations were used to estimate model parameters. For calculation of BLVs, we subsampled 2000 iterations from the posterior distributions of $\mu$ and $\phi$. We assessed model convergence using the Gelman-Rubin potential scale reduction statistic (Brooks and Gelman 1998). Details of model construction and selection of priors are available from the code provided in Appendix B.

EXAMPLE ANALYSES

**Simulation study** – Our first example considers an analysis of simulated county-level spread data. We simulated, with added noise, the number of months to first infestation as a linear function of distance from Richmond, VA (Fig. 2a). By design, counties surrounding York County, Pennsylvania do not follow this pattern (Fig. 2b). Because distance from Richmond should not explain the detected boundaries around these outlier counties, even after smoothing, we expect high probability boundaries in the vicinity of York County, PA for both $\mu$- and $\phi$-based BLVs. We found the expected pattern: nearly all of the detected boundaries (Fig. 2c) are explained by the covariate other than those surrounding York County, Pennsylvania (Fig. 2d).

**Historic spread of HWA** – A model fit to the observed HWA spread data incorporated three covariates: human population density, mean winter temperature, and hemlock abundance. This model suggests several features of the spread of HWA (Fig. 3a). Most notably, boundary probabilities are highest (1) in the vicinity of counties where HWA first established and where spread may have been slow due to lag effects (Kowarik 1995) related to HWA population
dynamics, (2) along ridges of the Appalachian Mountains north of Tennessee, and (3) in the northernmost portions of HWA’s range in New England. In contrast there are few barriers south of Virginia’s southern border, where spread has been rapid. However, mean winter temperature and hemlock abundance are not significantly associated with barriers to spread; only the coefficient for human population density emerged as significantly different from zero. Except in for some northern counties and those in central Pennsylvania, boundary probabilities based on the spatial residuals (Fig. 3b) largely reflect those calculated using the expected value \( \mu \) (Fig. 3a).

In retrospect, the failure of temperature and hemlock abundance to explain barriers to spread may not be surprising. Global covariates, though useful in detecting and visualizing boundaries, do not couple regional heterogeneity in environmental conditions to local barriers to spread. For example, HWA can spread rapidly under warm temperatures only where hemlock is available. In addition, spread patterns are strongly a function of where propagules are first introduced. In the case of HWA, the earliest dates of infestation are found in counties with little or no naturally-occurring hemlock.

To better model the landscape influences that hinder spread, Bayesian spatially-varying coefficient models (Banerjee et al. 2004) can be used for wombling (e.g., Wheeler and Waller 2008), although these models offer greater technical challenges. Alternatively, rather than modeling the data arising from areal units, wombling can be performed on the county borders themselves (Ma et al. 2006, Ma et al. 2009). In this approach, every boundary segment is a data point and the response for each segment is the difference in the modeled value of interest between adjacent units. In the context of invasive spread, ‘local edge wombling’ is likely to be ecologically more sensible because differences (or similarities) between adjacent areal units may
be more important for, and therefore may better explain, spread dynamics than mean values of
covariates within counties. This approach also provides a more straightforward means to
represent physical barriers such as rivers, mountains or urban areas as binary indicator variables.

We modified our model (equations 1-3) for local edge wombling by examining the
difference in months to first infestation between adjacent counties:

\[ D_{ij} = Y_i - Y_j, \]  

\[ D_{ij} \sim N\left(\delta_{ij}, \frac{1}{\tau}\right), \text{ } i \text{ adjacent to } j, \]  

where

\[ \delta_{ij} = \alpha + x_{ij} \beta + \psi_{ij}. \]

As before, a spatial random effect ($\psi$) is included and is given a CAR prior. The vector of
covariates $x_{ij}$ in this version represents differences in covariates across borders and/or indicators
variables corresponding to known barriers. Because the response is the difference in months to
first infestation across borders, the calculation of BLVs is simplified slightly because they are
determined using the absolute values of the posterior estimates of $\delta_{ij}$ (or $\psi_{ij}$) themselves (as
opposed to post hoc calculation of these differences, Eq. 6) using a constant $c$. Code for fitting
this model is provided in Appendix B.

A local edge wombling model incorporating as covariates differences in population
density, mean winter temperature, and hemlock abundance across county borders reveals similar
results to those derived from the areal wombling model: high probability boundaries are
concentrated in the east and northeast (Fig. 4a, c). However, the covariates in the local edge
wombling model have more influence on the detected boundaries for BLV thresholds of both
three (Fig. 4b) and five years (Fig. 4d). The coefficients for hemlock abundance and population
density are significantly from zero. As before, boundaries associated with early spread in the eastern portion of the study region remain after accounting for the effects of the covariates, potentially reflecting demographic lag effects unrelated to environmental factors (Kowarik 1995).

CONCLUSIONS
Bayesian areal wombling is promising approach for analyzing ecological boundaries and the spread of invasive species. Many other applications for areal wombling can be envisioned. For example, wombling is commonly used in public health research to identify boundaries where disease incidence is higher/lower than expected. The same principle can be applied in ecology to understand patterns of both invasive species richness and distribution as well as patterns of distribution and abundance of native species. Important targets for future improvement of these models in ecology include exploration of alternate parameterizations for spatial smoothing, such as distance weighting or to estimate smoothing parameters from the data (Ma et al. 2009).

The strengths of wombling in a Bayesian framework should be clear. Beyond making good use of data with relatively coarse spatial and temporal resolution – data commonly available to ecologists – the Bayesian model easily incorporates uncertainty and provides a natural means of assigning probabilities to detected boundaries. Although there is not yet a single software package or R library that can be used to perform Bayesian areal wombling analyses of the sort described here, the code provided in Appendix B illustrates how to integrate several software packages to implement areal wombling models. Additional statistical challenges remain. The use of a CAR prior encourages local smoothing of dates of first infestation toward those of neighboring counties. Ideally, this accounts for uncertainty in detection, if, for example,
a single county reports a much later date of first infestation than its neighbors. Local smoothing can, however, have unanticipated effects. For example, a county that is colonized early but that is surrounded by counties with much later dates of colonization could have a modeled (smoothed) later date of first infestation. Although it is possible for the actual date of first infestation to be earlier than the reported date, it is unlikely that the actual date of first infestation would be later than the reported date (barring misidentification or data entry errors). Finally, the incorporation of spatially-correlated errors may alter estimates of fixed-effects coefficients in ways that are only beginning to be explored and which could lead to misinterpretation of residual-based wombling maps. Despite these issues, Bayesian areal wombling should be considered a complement to existing methods for ecological boundary analysis as one of the few techniques that can effectively utilize the coarse resolution datasets common in ecology and biogeography.

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LITERATURE CITED


FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Observed pattern of spread of the hemlock woolly adelgid at (a) the county level and (b) smoothed using ordinary kriging of these dates. Colors represent the number of months elapsed since the first reported infestation in Richmond, VA (red star) in 1951 and the first reported infestation in each county.

Figure 2. Bayesian areal wombling on (a) simulated dates of first infestation; and (b) a single simulated covariate related to distance from Richmond, VA, with a cluster of outlier counties centered on York County, PA (red shading). Panels (c) and (d) show posterior probabilities for boundaries for the expected values $\mu$ and the spatial residuals $\phi$ respectively and a threshold of 60 months. Darker shades of red indicate high boundary probabilities.

Figure 3. Posterior probabilities for Bayesian areal wombling boundaries calculated using either (a) the expected values $\mu$ or (b) the spatial residuals $\phi$ and a threshold of 60 months. Darker shades of red indicate high boundary probabilities.

Figure 4. Posterior probabilities for Bayesian local edge wombling boundaries calculated using either (a) the expected values $\delta$ or (b) the spatial residuals $\psi$ and a threshold of 36 months. Panels (c) and (d) show the same, but using a threshold of 60 months. Darker shades of red indicate high boundary probabilities.
Figure 1.
Figure 2.
Figure 3.
Figure 4.
APPENDIX A – Description of datasets

County-level spread records - We derived the dynamics of HWA’s spread for the years 1951 through 2009 using county-level records compiled by Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, Forest Health Protection personnel (http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa/maps/distribution.shtml). We updated these county-level records with more localized records drawn from multiple sources, including: the National Entomological Collection at the Smithsonian Institute (G. Miller), the Pennsylvania General Hemlock Survey executed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (B. Regester), township-level records for Massachusetts (C. Burnham) and New York (J. Denham), surveys performed by the Georgia Forestry Commission (J. Johnson), stand-level surveys for southwestern Virginia (T. McAvoy), surveys in southern Vermont by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation (B. Burns), and stand-level surveys in Connecticut and Massachusetts (D. Orwig). When these more local surveys indicated an earlier date of first infestation than the county-level records, we updated the county-level records as necessary. Finally, to simplify coding of the models, we removed 12 “island” counties, (i.e., counties with no infested neighbors possibly infested by long-distance jump dispersal). The final dataset comprised 322 counties with dates of first infestation ranging from 1951 to 2009.

Estimates of hemlock abundance - To produce a map of hemlock abundance we used the randomForests algorithm (Liaw and Wiener 2002) in R 2.9.1 (R Development Core Team 2009) to relate observed hemlock abundance (basal area, m² ha⁻¹) from the USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) database (comprised of 16,084 occurrences) to 26 environmental predictor
variables. Environment predictors included 23 bioclimatic variables describing minimum,
maximum, and seasonality in temperature and precipitation and water balance (Hijmans et al.
2005, Svenning and Skov 2005), two topographic variables (slope and compound topography
index) from the USGS HYDRO1k dataset
(http://eros.usgs.gov/#/Find_Data/Products_and_Data_Available/gtopo30/hydro), and an index
of net primary productivity (Zhao et al. 2005). All variables were manipulated in ArcGIS 9.3
such that they were spatially congruent, had a common resolution of 1 km, and were projected
using and equidistance conic projection to preserve distance characteristics between locations.

We used the resulting model to predict hemlock abundance across eastern North
America. Although Carolina hemlock (Tsuga caroliniana) is also susceptible to HWA, we did
not model its distribution as it is relatively rare and narrowly distributed and its distribution falls
entirely within the range of eastern hemlock. To account for the fact that most cells were not
100% forested, we multiplied the map of hemlock abundance by a corresponding remotely-
sensed estimate of percent forest cover. The result was a map of hemlock abundance adjusted for
forest cover that corresponds well with its known distribution and abundance.

*Estimate of human population density & mean winter temperature* – Estimates of human
population density were derived from 2000 U.S. census data
(December, January, February, March) at 1km spatial resolution were downloaded from the
Worldclim database (http://www.worldclim.org/, Hijmans et al. 2005). For all covariates, we
used the Zonal Statistics tool in ArcGIS 9.3 to calculate summaries of covariates for each
county.


APPENDIX B – WinBUGS Code

# MODEL: three global covariates, spatial error

# WinBUGS model to perform Bayesian areal wombling (boundary detection) with
# global covariates

# Y is time to first infestation: the number of months elapsed, for each county
# i, since the first report of hemlock woolly adelgid in eastern North America
# in 1951 (e.g., if a county was found to be infested in 1981, Y = 360)

# code is called from R using R2WinBUGS

model{
  # Likelihood
  for (i in 1:n.areas){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    # vector for plotting
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i] # SLDR, standardized late detection ratio,
    # is legacy terminology from B. Carlin's code and
    # has no meaning in this context
  }

  # CAR prior for the spatial random effects
  phi[1:n.areas] ~ car.normal(adj[], weights[], num[], tau.phi)  # CAR prior
  for (k in 1:sumNumNeigh){weights[k] <- 1}

  # Other priors
  beta[1] ~ dflat()
  beta[2] ~ dnorm(0, 0.000001)
  beta[3] ~ dnorm(0, 0.000001)
  beta[4] ~ dnorm(0, 0.000001)
  tau.phi <- 1/pow(sdphi, 2)
  tau.err <- 1/pow(sdy, 2)
  sdphi ~ dunif(0,150)
  sdy ~ dunif(0,100)
}
# WinBUGS model to perform Bayesian local edge wombling (boundary detection)
# with three covariates & spatial error

# Y is the DIFFERENCE in time to first infestation

# Covariates are differences in values across edges

# Must have separate chunks of code for each edge without neighbors,
# IS in this example

# code is called from R using R2WinBUGS

model{
  # Likelihood
  Y[1] ~ dnorm(mu[1], tau.err)
  # psi term is to account for island edges that have no neighbors

  # vector for plotting
  SLDRhat[1] <- mu[1]) # SLDR, standardized late detection ratio,
  # is legacy terminology from B. Carlin code and has no
  # meaning in this context

  for (i in 2:38){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[1]
  }

  Y[39] ~ dnorm(mu[39], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[39] <- mu[39]

  for (i in 40:46){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[1]
  }

  Y[47] ~ dnorm(mu[47], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[47] <- mu[47]

  for (i in 48:110){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[1]
  }

  Y[111] ~ dnorm(mu[111], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[111] <- mu[111]

  for (i in 112:155){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
  }

  Y[156] ~ dnorm(mu[156], tau.err)
SLDRhat[156] <- nu[156]

for (i in 157:276){
  Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
  Y[277] ~ dnorm(mu[277], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[277] <- mu[277]
}

for (i in 278:282){
  Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
  Y[283] ~ dnorm(mu[283], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[283] <- mu[283]
}

for (i in 284:370){
  Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
  Y[371] ~ dnorm(mu[371], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[371] <- mu[371]
}

for (i in 372:445){
  Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
  Y[446] ~ dnorm(mu[446], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[446] <- mu[446]
}

for (i in 447:473){
  Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
  Y[474] ~ dnorm(mu[474], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[474] <- mu[474]
}

for (i in 475:588){
  Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
  Y[581] ~ dnorm(mu[581], tau.err)
  SLDRhat[581] <- mu[581]
}

for (i in 582:673){
  Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]

Y[674] ~ dnorm(mu[674], tau.err)
SLDRhat[674] <- mu[674]

for (i in 675:698){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
}

Y[699] ~ dnorm(mu[699], tau.err)
SLDRhat[699] <- mu[699]

for (i in 700:723){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
}

Y[724] ~ dnorm(mu[724], tau.err)
SLDRhat[724] <- mu[724]

for (i in 725:739){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
}

Y[740] ~ dnorm(mu[740], tau.err)
SLDRhat[740] <- mu[740]

for (i in 741:793){
    Y[i] ~ dnorm(mu[i], tau.err)
    SLDRhat[i] <- mu[i]
}

# CAR prior for the spatial random effects
phi[1:n.areas] ~ car.normal(adj[], weights[], num[], tau)  # CAR prior
for (k in 1:sumNumNeigh){weights[k] <- 1}

# prior for edges without neighbors
for (j in 1:115) {psi[j] ~ dnorm(0, tau.psi)}

# Other priors
beta[1] ~ dflat()
beta[2] ~ dunif(0, 0.0000001)
beta[3] ~ dunif(0, 0.0000001)
beta[4] ~ dunif(0, 0.0000001)
tau ~ 1/pow(sdfphi, 2)  # per Andrew Lawson
tau.err ~ 1/pow(sdy, 2)
tau.psi ~ 1/pow(sdpsi, 2)
sdfphi ~ dunif(0, 100)
sdy ~ dunif(0, 100)
sdpsi ~ dunif(0, 100)
}

R code to prepare data, call winBUGS code to perform Bayesian wombling, and plot output.

# 21 April 2010
# M. C. Fitzpatrick
# mfitzpatrick@umces.edu

# Most of this code is based on hard work by Brad Carlin & his students/post-docs. I have simply assembled many pieces into one place.
# In some instances, files available from:
# http://www.biostat.umn.edu/~brad/software.html are needed. See comments below.

# The analyses require a shapefile with a response of interest (in this case month of first infestation) and corresponding covariates

### chunk 1 - set wd and load libraries

```r
setwd("...")
source("womblingFuncs.R")
library(R2WinBUGS)
library(maptools)
library(spdep)
library(coda)
library(RColorBrewer)
library(classInt)
library(sp)
```

### chunk 2 - build adjacency & edge info

# Given a shapefile, this R code creates:
# (1) an areal adjacency matrix using maptools,
# (2) an edge adjacency matrix (indicating which edges touch each other)

# based on code provided from B. Carlin's website:
# http://www.biostat.umn.edu/~brad/software/getEdges_code.txt

# Also will need following two .exe files from B. Carlin's website
# (1) matchzip.exe
# (2) edgeneig.exe
# downloaded from: http://www.biostat.umn.edu/~brad/software/tutorial.zip

```r
setwd(".../edgefolder")
```

# output files will be saved under current directory
# copy "matchzip.exe" and "edgeneig.exe" to directory "edgefolder"
map <- readShapeSpatial("../hwa_wombling.shp")

# Use maptools to get polygon adjacency matrix
# two areas are neighbors if they share common edges with length > 0
nb.r <- poly2nb(map, queen=F)
mat <- nb2mat(nb.r, style="B")  # mat is the 0/1 adjacency matrix
n.site <- dim(mat)[1]  # n.site: number of areas
n.edge <- sum(mat)/2  # n.edge: number of unique pairs

SEind1 <- SEind2 <- 0
matmy <- mat
for(i in 1:(n.site-1)){
  for(j in (i+1):n.site){
    if (mat[i,j]>0) {SEind1<-c(SEind1,i)
      SEind2<-c(SEind2,j)
      matmy[i,j]<-matmy[j,i]<-length(SEind1)-1
    }
  }
}
SEind1 <- SEind1[-1]  # edges sorted by row of upper triangle of the adj. matrix
SEind2 <- SEind2[-1]  # SEind1[k]=i and SEind2[k]=j => kth edge is edge ij

dput(SEind1,"SEind1.txt")
dput(SEind2,"SEind2.txt")
dput(mat, "W.txt")

# create adjacency information needed for WinBUGS
mkAdj <- function(W){
  n <- nrow(W)
  adj <- 0
  for(i in 1:n){
    for(j in 1:n){
      if(W[i,j]==1){adj<-append(adj,j)
    }
  }
  adj <- adj[-1]
  return(adj)
}

dput(mkAdj(mat),"Sadj.txt")
dput(as.vector(rowSums(mat)),"Snum.txt")

# Create adj. matrix for the edges

# 1. prepare needed files and save them #
#   under the directory where you have #
#   matchzip.exe and edgeneig.exe   #
# Dump out the coordinates (by polygon) #
# Default order for polygons is by first column of map@data #
for(i in 1:n.site){
  write(t(map@polygons[[i]]@Polygons[[1]]@coords), paste(i,".txt",sep=""),
       ncolumns=2)
}

# Dump out SEind, the site-edge correspondence table #
write(rbind(SEind1, SEind2, paste("SEind.txt",sep=""), ncolumns=2 ))

# 2. Double click "matchzip.exe". A dos window will pop up. Type in SEind.txt. #
# This will produce many (n.edge) files at the current directory.       #
# Then use the following code to prepare the edge plotting code.         #
# "edgelines" should be dumped out and called in later when make edge plots. #
edgelines <- vector(mode="list",length=n.edge)
for(i in 1:n.edge){
  edgelines[[i]] <- read.table(paste("output-",i,".txt",sep=""), header=F,
                               na.strings="*")
}
edges <- edgelines
dput(edgelines,"edgelines.txt")

# 3. Double click "edgeneig.exe". A dos window will pop up. Type in SEind.txt #
# Two files will be produced (may take a while):                          #
# file 1 is the upper triangular of the W matrix for the edges;         #
# file 2 is the number of 1s for each row of the upper triangular matrix. #
# 4. Produce the Wstar matrix which provides neighborhoods of the edges #
tempn <- scan(paste("file2.txt",sep=""))
tempneig <- scan(paste("file1.txt",sep=""))
Wstar <- matrix(0, nrow=n.edge, ncol=n.edge)
start <- 1
end <- 0
for(i in 1:n.edge){
  if (tempn[i]>0){
    start <- end+1
    end <- start + tempn[i]-1
    neig <- tempneig[start:end]
    l <- tempn[i]
    for (k in 1:l){
      Wstar[i,neig[k]]<-Wstar[neig[k],i]<-1
    }
  }
}
edge_adj <- mkAdj(Wstar)
dput(edge_adj, "edge_adj.txt")
edgeSum <- as.vector(rowSums(Wstar))
dput(edgeSum, "edgeSum.txt")
dput(Wstar, "Wstar.txt")

# 5. Remove files not needed any more #
for(i in 1:n.edge){
  unlink(paste(i,".txt",sep=""))
  unlink(paste("output-",i,".txt",sep=""))
}
unlink(paste("file1.txt",sep=""))
unlink(paste("file2.txt",sep=""))
unlink(paste("SEind.txt",sep=""))

### chunk 3 - Areal wombling model #######
# Three global covariates, spatial error
# mu = beta0 + beta1*X1 + beta2*X2 + beta3*X3 + phi
map <- readShapeSpatial(".../hwa_wombling.shp")
temp <- map@data$WINTERTEMP
pop <- log(map@data$POP2000)
hemlock <- log(map@data$HEMLOCK)
Y <- (map$YEARINFEST-1951)*12
X1 <- pop
X2 <- hemlock
X3 <- temp
n.areas = length(Y)
adj <- dget(".../edgefolder/Sadj.txt")
num = dget(".../edgefolder/Snum.txt")
sumNumNeigh = sum(num)

# indexes required for plotting
ind1 <- ind2 <- rep(0,length(num))
ind1[1] <- 1
for(i in 1:length(num)){j <- i+1; ind1[j] <- num[i] + ind1[i]}
ind1 <- ind1[1:length(num)]
for(i in 1:length(num)){j <- i-1; ind2[i] <- ind1[i] + num[i]-1}
params <- 5 # number of parameters in the model

# initial values
phi1 <- rep(-10,n.areas)
phi2 <- rep(0, n.areas)
phi3 <- rep(10, n.areas)

init.mods5 <- list(list(phi=phi1, sdy=15, sdphi=5, beta=rep(-5, params)),
                  list(phi=phi2, sdy=25, sdphi=5, beta=rep(0, params)),
                  list(phi=phi3, sdy=35, sdphi=5, beta=rep(10, params)))

dat.in.mod5 <- list("Y", "n.areas", "num", "numNumNeigh", "adj", "X1", "X2",
                     "X3", "X4")

# call to Winbugs
mod <- bugs(data=dat.in.mod5, init.mods5,
             model.file=".../areal_wombling.bug",
             parameters.to.save=c("SLDRhat", "beta", "tau.err", "phi",
                                  "tau.phi"), n.chains = length(init.mods5), n.iter=200000,
             n.burnin=100000, save.history=F, debug=TRUE,
             bugs.directory=".../WinBUGS14/", working.directory="...")

# read & summarize coda files
mod.coda <- read.coda.interactive()
# codaIndex.txt, coda1.txt, coda2.txt, coda3.txt

dimnames(mod.coda$coda1.txt)
samps <- mcmc.list(mcmc(mod.coda$coda1.txt[,c(323:328,651,652)]),
                   mcmc(mod.coda$coda2.txt[,c(323:328,651,652)]),
                   mcmc(mod.coda$coda3.txt[,c(323:328,651,652)]))

xyplot(samps)
gelman.plot(samps)
densityplot(samps)

merge.chains <- (mod.coda$coda1.txt + mod.coda$coda2.txt + mod.coda$coda3.txt)/3
SLDRhat <- merge.chains[,1:322]

rows <- nrow(SLDRhat)
cols <- ncol(SLDRhat)
ph <- merge.chains[,329:650]

# calculate posterior estimates of mu (sldrhat)
phi.samp <- matrix(0, ncol=cols, nrow=rows)
for(i in 1:n.areas){
  from<--(i-1)*rows+1
  to<-i*rows
  SLDRhat.samp[,i]<- SLDRhat[from:to]
  phi.samp[,i] <- phi[from:to]
}

# calculate differences in spread dates across county edges
delta.sldr <- matrix(0, ncol=sum(num)/2,nrow=rows)
delta.phi <- matrix(0, ncol=sum(num)/2,nrow=rows)
k <- 0
for( i in 1:n.areas){
for(j in ind1[i]:ind2[i]){
  if(adj[j]>i){
    k=k+1
    delta.sldr[,k]<-abs(SLDRhat.samp[,i] - SLDRhat.samp[,adj[j]])
    delta.phi[,k]<-abs(phi.samp[,i] - phi.samp[,adj[j]])
  }
}

# Boundary likelihood values
p.sldr.5years <- apply(apply(delta.sldr,2,cut.func.5years)/rows,2,sum)
p.phi.5years <- apply(apply(delta.phi,2,cut.func.5years)/rows,2,sum)

# color palette for plotting boundaries
n.col = 4
col.br <- colorRampPalette(c("gray", "lightpink2", "red2", "red4"))
col.pal <- col.br(n.col)

# breaks for boundary groupings & legend text
br <- c(0.0,0.4,0.6,0.9,1.0)
leg.txt <- paste("","br[n.col]," ~ ",br[n.col+1],"",sep="")
for(i in (n.col-1):1){
  leg.txt <- append(leg.txt, paste("","br[i]," ~ ", br[i+1]," ", sep=""),)
}
leg.txt <- rev(leg.txt)

# Plot maps with boundary probabilities
edgelines <- dget(".../edgefolder/edgelines.txt")

probPlot(map, edgelines, p.sldr.5years, n.col, add=F, col.pal=col.pal)
legend(locator(), legend=leg.txt, col=col.pal, lty="solid", lwd=c(2,3,4,5),
  cex=1.8, ncol=1,
  bty="n", title="Boundary Probability")

probPlot(map, edgelines, p.phi.5years, n.col, add=F, col.pal=col.pal)
legend(locator(), legend=leg.txt, col=col.pal, lty="solid", lwd=c(2,3,4,5),
  cex=1.8, ncol=1,
  bty="n", title="Boundary Probability")

# Prepare data for edge wombling
map <- readShapeSpatial(".../hwa_wombling.shp")
Y <- (map$YEARINFEST-1951)*12
mapDat <- map$data[,7:9]

# Prepare data for edge wombling
# edge deltas

SEind1 <- dget(".../edgefolder/SEind1.txt")
SEind2 <- dget(".../edgefolder/SEind2.txt")
edgelines <- dget(".../edgefolder/edgelines.txt")
n.edge <- length(SEind1)

deltaY <- weight.calculate(Y, SEind1, SEind2, n.edge)
deltaCov <- matrix(NA, n.edge, ncol(mapDat))
for(i in 1:ncol(mapDat)){
  covar <- mapDat[,i]
  dx <- delta.calculate(covar, SEind1, SEind2, n.edge)
  deltaCov[,i] <- dx
}
colnames(deltaCov) <- names(mapDat)
Y <- deltaCov

adj = dget(".../edgefolder/edge.adj.txt")
num = dget(".../edgefolder/edgeSum.txt")
n.areas = length(Y)
sumNumNeigh = sum(num)

X1 <- deltaCov[,"POP2000"]
X2 <- deltaCov[,"HEMLOCK"]
X3 <- deltaCov[,"WINTERTEMP"]

params <- 4 # number of parameters in the model

# initial values
phi1 <- rep(10, n.areas)
phi2 <- rep(0, n.areas)
phi3 <- rep(-1, n.areas)

phi1[which(num==0)] <- NA # for edges with no neighbors
phi2[which(num==0)] <- NA
phi3[which(num==0)] <- NA

psi1 <- rep(10, length(which(num==0))) # for edges with no neighbors
psi2 <- rep(1, length(which(num==0)))
psi3 <- rep(0, length(which(num==0)))

inits.mod10 <- list(list(psi=psi1, phi=phi1, sdy=15, sdphi=5, sdpsi=1,
                           beta=rep(5, params)), list(psi=psi2, phi=phi2, sdy=25,
                           sdphi=5, sdpsi=5, beta=rep(-2, params)), list(psi=psi3,
                           phi=phi3, sdy=35, sdphi=5, sdpsi=5, beta=rep(-50,
                           params)))
edit(inits.mod10)
dat.in.mod10 <- list(sumNumNeigh=sumNumNeigh, n.areas=n.areas, Y=Y, num=num, 
    adj=adj, X1=X1, X2=X2, X3=X3)
edit(dat.in.mod10)

#call to Winbugs
mod10 <- bugs(data=dat.in.mod10, inits.mod10, model.file="...edge_womble.bug", 
    parameters.to.save=c("SLDRhat", "beta", "tau.err", "phi", "psi"), 
    n.chains = length(inits.mod10), n.iter=20000, n.burnin=10000, 
    save.history=F, debug=TRUE, bugs.directory=".../WinBUGS14/", codaPkg=T, 
    working.directory="...")

# read & summarize coda files
mod.coda <- read.coda.interactive()
# codaIndex.txt, coda1.txt, coda2.txt, coda3.txt
dimnames(mod.coda$coda1.txt)
samps <- mcmc.list(mcmc(mod.coda$coda1.txt[,]c(794:798, 1592:1594)), 
    mcmc(mod.coda$coda2.txt[,]c(794:798, 1592:1594)), 
    mcmc(mod.coda$coda3.txt[,]c(794:798, 1592:1594)))
xyplot(samps)
gelman.plot(samps)
densityplot(samps)
merge.chains <- (mod.coda$coda1.txt + mod.coda$coda2.txt + mod.coda$coda3.txt)/3
SLDRhat <- merge.chains[,1:793]
phi <- merge.chains[,799:1576]
psi <- merge.chains[,1577:1591]
rows <- nrow(SLDRhat)

# Boundary likelihood values at 5 years
p.sldr.5years <- apply(apply(abs(SLDRhat),2,cut.func.5years)/rows,2,sum)
p.phi.5years <- apply(apply(abs(phi),2,cut.func.5years)/rows,2,sum)
p.psi.5years <- apply(apply(abs(psi),2,cut.func.5years)/rows,2,sum)
num1 <- ifelse(num==0,0,1)

#combine island vector with index and sort
indx <- seq(1:length(Y))
srt <- as.data.frame(cbind(num1, indx))
srt <- srt[order(srt$num1, srt$indx),]

# bind phi and psi and then to srt df
phiX <- c(p.psi.5years, p.phi.5years)
srt <- cbind(srt,phiX)

# sort to original order and extract new psi vector
phi.df <- srt[order(srt$index),]
p.phi.5years <- phi.df$phiX

# color palette for plotting boundaries
n.col = 4
col.br <- colorRampPalette(c("gray", "lightpink2", "red2", "red4"))
col.pal <- col.br(n.col)

# breaks for boundary groupings & legend text
br <- c(0.0, 0.4, 0.6, 0.9, 1.0)
leg.txt <- paste("","br[n.col]," \sim ","br[n.col+1],"\)
for(i in (n.col-1):1){
  leg.txt <- append(leg.txt, paste("","br[i]," \sim ","br[i+1],"\), sep=""))
}
leg.txt <- rev(leg.txt)

# Plot maps with boundary probabilities
edgelines <- dget(".../edgefolder/edgelines.txt")

# map of mu-based boundaries
probPlot(map, edgelines, p.sldr.5years, n.col, add=F, col.pal=col.pal)
legend(locator(), legend=leg.txt, col=col.pal, lty="solid", lwd=c(2,3,4,5),
  cex=1.8, ncol=1, bty="n", title="Boundary Probability")

# map of phi-based boundaries
probPlot(map, edgelines, p.phi.5years, n.col, add=F, col.pal=col.pal)
legend(locator(), legend=leg.txt, col=col.pal, lty="solid", lwd=c(2,3,4,5),
  cex=1.8, ncol=1, bty="n", title="Boundary Probability")

# Boundary likelihood values at 3 years
p.sldr.3years <- apply(apply(abs(SLDRhat), 2, cut.func.3years)/rows, 2, sum)
p.phi.3years <- apply(apply(abs(phi), 2, cut.func.3years)/rows, 2, sum)
p.psi.3years <- apply(apply(abs(psi), 2, cut.func.3years)/rows, 2, sum)
num1 <- ifelse(num==0,0,1)

# combine island vector with index and sort
indx <- seq(1:length(Y))
srt <- as.data.frame(cbind(num1, indx))
srt <- srt[order(srt$num1, srt$indx),]

# bind phi and psi and then to srt df
phiX <- c(p.psi.3years, p.phi.3years)
srt <- cbind(srt, phiX)

# sort to original order and extract new psi vector
phi.df <- srt[order(srt$indx),]
p.phi.3years <- phi.df$phiX

# map of mu-based boundaries
probPlot(map, edgelines, p.sldr.3years, n.col, add=F, col.pal=col.pal)
legend(locator(), legend=leg.txt, col=col.pal, lty="solid", lwd=c(2,3,4,5),
  cex=1.8, ncol=1, bty="n", title="Boundary Probability")

# map of phi-based boundaries
# functions needed to format data & results and make plots

```r
probPlot <- function(map, edgelines, y, n.col, add, col.pal) {
  require(classInt)
  polylist <- map@polygons
  br <- c(0, 0.4, 0.6, 0.9, 1)
  y.grp <- findInterval(y, vec=br, rightmost.closed = TRUE, all.inside = TRUE)
  y.shad <- col.pal[y.grp]
  linewd <- y.grp + 1

  plot(map, axes=F, auxvar=Y, add=add)

  for (i in 1:length(edgelines)) {
    lines(as.matrix(edgelines[[i]]),col=y.shad[i],lwd=linewd[i])
  }
}
```

# functions to calculate boundary probs at different thresholds

```r
cut.func.1years <- function(x){
  c.ind<-as.numeric(x>12)
  return(c.ind)
}
cut.func.2years <- function(x){
  c.ind<-as.numeric(x>24)
  return(c.ind)
}
cut.func.3years <- function(x){
  c.ind<-as.numeric(x>36)
  return(c.ind)
}
cut.func.4years <- function(x){
  c.ind<-as.numeric(x>48)
  return(c.ind)
}
cut.func.5years <- function(x){
  c.ind<-as.numeric(x>60)
  return(c.ind)
}
cut.func.6years <- function(x){
  c.ind<-as.numeric(x>72)
  return(c.ind)
}
cut.func.8years <- function(x){
  c.ind<-as.numeric(x>96)
}
```
cut.func.10years <- function(x){
c.ind<-as.numeric(x>120)
return(c.ind)
}

# functions need to calculate deltas across boundaries
delta.calculate <- function(x, ind1, ind2, n){
delta<-rep(0,n)
for (k in 1:n){
i <- ind1[k]
j <- ind2[k]
delta[k] <- x[j] - x[i]
}
return(delta)
}

weight.calculate <- function(x, ind1, ind2, n){
delta<-rep(0,n)
for (k in 1:n){
i <- ind1[k]
j <- ind2[k]
delta[k] <- x[j] - x[i]
}
return(delta)
}