

GEOG 696C Physical Geography
SPATIOTEMPORAL DATA ANALYSIS
Autumn 2021

This course is designed as a graduate level class in a *workshop* format to give students practical experience, knowledge, and statistical tools for analyzing spatiotemporal datasets. Topics include basic matrix algebra and statistics, exploratory data analysis, field correlation and regression analysis, autocorrelation and its statistical consequences in time and space, parametric and non-parametric significance testing and error analysis, empirical orthogonal functions including rotation, singular spectrum analysis, maximum covariance and canonical correspondence analysis, and traditional and multitaper spectral analysis. The course encompasses practical instruction and training in MATLAB and in the use and manipulation of large multi-dimensional datasets.

The major outcome for the class for each student will be a new and independent analysis of a substantial space-time dataset, a formal manuscript describing the motivation, methods, and results of this analysis, and a professional oral presentation. Students are encouraged to bring with them or seek out data relevant to their research to use for their final project. Ideally, students' final projects will provide the material for a thesis chapter and/or peer-reviewed article.

This syllabus and course schedule are subject to change.
Please check regularly for updated information on D2L

Locations and Times

Monday and Wednesday, 12:00PM to 1:15PM
ENR2, Room S547
Course materials online via D2L (<http://d2l.arizona.edu>)

Instructor Information

Kevin Anchukaitis
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Laboratory of Tree Ring Research
Room S514, Environment and Natural Resources Building 2 (ENR2)
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Office Hours
Office Hours: TBD

Course Information

Prerequisites

Continuing graduate student status or permission from instructor. Prior mathematics or statistical courses are strongly encouraged. Prior programming experience encouraged.

Course Objectives

This course has the following objectives:

- **Factual:** You will acquire fundamental knowledge of mathematical and statistical methods for the analysis of space-time data. You will become familiar with the terminology used to describe space-

time data and the statistical procedures and outcomes applied in spatiotemporal data analysis. You will be able to locate and acquire appropriate data.

- **Conceptual:** You will develop an understanding of the available spatiotemporal statistical tools and when to best or appropriately apply them to exploratory data analysis, hypothesis testing, and data reduction and regularization. You will cultivate a first-order understanding of the motivations, advantages, and disadvantages for different procedures and how uncertainties in the underlying data and methods potentially propagate through your analyses. You will be able to identify sources of both signal and noise in your data and analyses.
- **Procedural:** You will learn how to apply specific methodologies to the analysis of spatiotemporal data, including the practical, hands-on procedures for managing data and implementing these methods and approaches in a high level programming language. You will be able to differentiate between the relative magnitudes and significance of effects or processes and recognize and remove errors associated with data or the implementation of your procedures ('debugging').
- **Metacognitive:** You will recognize the potential and limitation of statistical and data analytical methods with respect to the constraints from the underlying physical, deterministic processes you seek to explore. You will be able to identify reasonable (and unreasonable) inferences or conclusions from your analyses. You will develop an enhanced recognition of how potential biases – including both methodological as well as cognitive – enter into statistical analyses of both deterministic and stochastic systems and inference based on these results. You will practice deploying both quantitative analyses and qualitative reasoning using your methodological skills and systems-based knowledge.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to design and conduct a complete statistical analysis of a spatiotemporal dataset. The students will be able to build and test their own analytical programs using a high-level computer language and apply their code to the quantitative analysis of a dataset relevant to their own research. Students will be able to make abductive inferences about the physical or social system they are studying by applying their analysis and their understanding of the magnitude and sources of uncertainty. Students will be able to defend their inferences in a public presentation to the class.

Required Texts or Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings will be posted on D2L.

Precedent and Acknowledgement

This course and its structure and content was inspired and influenced by spatiotemporal data and objective analysis classes taught by Mike Evans (University of Maryland) and John Chiang (Berkeley).

Assignments and Methods of Assessment

Prework: [20%] These assignments will consist of readings and guided responses and will provide the theoretical or practical motivation or background for topics studied in this class. The assignments (including necessary readings) will be available a week or more prior to their due date, which will be indicated on the Course Schedule. These are individual assignments and students must prepare and submit to D2L an individual (non-collaborative) document. These assignments will be graded by the instructor. A rubric will be provided with each assignment.

Homework: [20%] These assignments will include mathematical, statistical, and programming problems intended to provide practical and hands-on learning in MATLAB, and to prepare students to conduct their own analyses of their own chosen dataset. Assignments will be posted one week (or more) before they are due. In most cases classroom workshop time will be available for students to query the instructor. These are individual assignments and students must prepare and submit to D2L an individual (non-collaborative) document, although students are encouraged to discuss programming challenges they encounter. These assignments will be *self-graded* (Edwards, 2007) using the D2L online quiz system and a suggested solution set provided by the instructor.

Final Project (Paper): [50%] This assignment will be a manuscript, appropriately formatted for a significant peer-reviewed journal in the student's field of interest. Specific length and content (figures and tables) depend both on the analysis, the data, the hypothesis and research question, and the standard of the target journal and scientific field, but should reflect a substantial body of work, reflect the standards of the field and journal, be free of errors, and be of appropriate quality and significance that the manuscript could reasonably be finalized for actual submission. This is an individual assignment and students must prepare and submit to D2L an individual (non-collaborative) manuscript. This assignment will be graded by the instructor. A rubric will be provided no later than Friday, November 19th. The assignment is **due on D2L no later than Wednesday, December 15th at 5:00pm Arizona time.**

Final Project (Presentation): [10%] This assignment is a 12 minute (10 minute talk, 2 minutes for questions) professional talk describing the motivations and findings of the students' paper and manuscript. The presentation schedule will be determined and a rubric made available no later than Friday, November 22nd, 2019. Students are expected to prepare and give a talk reflecting the standards and practices of their field and to run within the given time window (12 minutes). This is an individual assignment. This assignment will be graded by the instructor with input from the student's peers. ***Attendance is required for all students for the student presentation days (December 6th and December 8th).***

Grade polices and Letter Grade Distribution:

University policies regarding grades and grading systems are available at:
<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/grade.htm>

Grade distribution for this course:

A: 90% and above

B: 80% to 89%

C: 70% to 79%

D: 65% to 69%

E: below 65%

Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively. Please be aware of deadlines for requesting these grades. Requests for reconsideration of a grade received on a paper, project, or exam must be made to the instructor no later than 1 week after the assignment is made available to be returned to the student.

There is no final exam for this course.

Late work

Assignments that are not completed or handed in on time, without prior arrangement with the instructor, will receive no more than 50% of the assigned points. Assignments not completed within 1 week of the original deadline, without prior arrangement with the instructor, receive no points for the assignment.

COVID-19 Policies

Face coverings are required in our classroom *As of the first week of class* and per University of Arizonas Directive (<https://covid19.arizona.edu/face-coverings>), face coverings that cover the nose, mouth, and chin are required to be worn in all indoor spaces where it is not possible to adequately and continuously maintain social distance, including classrooms. Any student who violates this directive will be asked to put on a mask or immediately leave the learning space and will be allowed to return only when they are wearing a face covering. Subsequent episodes of noncompliance will result in a Student Code of Conduct complaint being filed with the Dean of Students Office, which may result in sanctions being applied. The student will not be able to return to the learning space until the matter is resolved. The Disability Resource

Center is available to explore face coverings and accessibility considerations if you believe that your disability or medical condition precludes you from utilizing any face covering or mask option. DRC will explore the range of potential options as well as remote course offerings. Should DRC determine an accommodation to this directive is reasonable, DRC will communicate this accommodation with your instructor.

Classroom Attendance

1. If you feel sick or may have been in contact with someone who is infectious, stay home. Except for seeking medical care, avoid contact with others and do not travel.
2. Notify your instructors if you will be missing a course meeting or an assignment deadline.
3. Non-attendance for any reason does not guarantee an automatic extension of due date or rescheduling of examinations/assessments. Please communicate and coordinate any request directly with your instructor.
4. If you must miss the equivalent of more than one week of class, you should contact the Dean of Students Office DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu to share documentation about the challenges you are facing.
5. Voluntary, free, and convenient COVID-19 testing is available for students on Main Campus -<https://covid19.arizona.edu/covid19-testing>
6. If you test positive for COVID-19 and you are participating in on-campus activities, you must report your results to Campus Health. To learn more about the process for reporting a positive test, visit the Case Notification Protocol.
7. COVID-19 vaccine is available for all students at Campus Health - <https://covid19.arizona.edu/vaccine>
8. Visit the UArizona COVID-19 page for regular updates (<https://covid19.arizona.edu/>)

Life challenges If you are experiencing unexpected barriers to your success in your courses, please note the Dean of Students Office is a central support resource for all students and may be helpful. The Dean of Students Office can be reached at (520) 621-2057 or DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu.

Physical and mental-health challenges If you are facing physical or mental health challenges this semester, please note that Campus Health provides quality medical and mental health care. For medical appointments, call (520) 621-9202. For After Hours care, call (520) 570-7898. For the Counseling & Psych Services (CAPS) 24/7 hotline, call (520) 621-3334.

Remaining flexible If pandemic conditions warrant, the University may require that we return to remote operations. If that is the case, we will notify you by D2L Announcement and email that we are moving to remote operations.

University Policies

Course Communications

All communications concerning class are via official UA email addresses. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check for email communications concerning class information and policies, and to contact the instructor from the student's official UA email address.

Course materials

Course materials will be available online via D2L (<http://d2l.arizona.edu>)

Absence and Class Participation Policy

The UAs policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>. The UA

policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or the dean's designee) will be honored. Active participation in the course is vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is strongly encouraged at all meetings of the class.

Assignment and Grading Policy for Students Who Register Late

Students who register late for the course will be required to complete all assignments. Due dates for assignments given prior to the student adding the course will be agreed upon by both student and the instructor.

Classroom Behavior Policy

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.). Students observed engaging in disruptive activity will be asked to cease this behavior. Those who continue to disrupt the class will be asked to leave lecture or discussion and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

Threatening Behavior Policy

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

Accessibility and Accommodations

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu>. If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at: <https://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism>.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructors express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>. Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

Additional Resources for Students

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at:
<http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>.

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at:
<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Confidentiality of Student Records

Please see the University's policy on the confidentiality of student records here: <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Course Schedule

Date	Content and Assignments
Monday, August 23	Course introduction and overview, class survey Philosophy, statistics, inference, programming, MATLAB,
Wednesday, August 25	Spatiotemporal Data Introduction to MATLAB; Data handling, formats, sources, and large datasets
Monday, August 30	Spatiotemporal data as matrices Introduction to matrix algebra & statistics Pre-Work #1 due at start of class (Data and uncertainty)
Wednesday, September 1	Matrix algebra & statistics in MATLAB Variance and covariance <i>Homework #1</i> assigned (Covariance and Correlation)
Monday, September 6	<i>No Class - Labor Day</i>
Wednesday, September 8	Prework #2 due at start of class (Linear Algebra) Autocovariance, co-linearity, and correlation
Monday, September 13	Empirical orthogonal functions <i>Homework #2</i> assigned (Empirical Orthogonal Functions)
Wednesday, September 15	Homework #1 due at start of class Workshop
Monday, September 20	Workshop and Code Critique
Wednesday, September 22	Empirical orthogonal functions Homework #2 due at start of class <i>Homework #3</i> assigned (Empirical Orthogonal Function analysis)
Monday, September 27	Workshop and Code Critique
Wednesday, September 29	Empirical orthogonal functions, Significance Testing, and Noise Prework #3 due at start of class (Selection, Significance, Meaning) Homework #3 due at start of class
Monday, October 4	Empirical orthogonal functions (rotation) Prework #4 due at start of class (Orthogonal Rotation and Interpretation) Workshop and Code Critique
Wednesday, October 6	Empirical orthogonal functions and compositing <i>Homework #4</i> assigned (Significance and Compositing)
Monday, October 11	Prework #5 due at start of class (EOF interpretation) Workshop and Code Critique
Wednesday, October 13	Maximum Covariance Analysis (MCA) Prework #6 due at start of class (coupled fields) Homework #4 due at start of class <i>Homework #5</i> assigned (Coupled patterns, CCA, and MCA)

Date	Content and Assignments
Monday, October 18	<i>No class - Kevin giving a talk at NAU</i> Workshop
Wednesday, October 20	<i>No class - Kevin giving a talk at NAU</i> Workshop
Monday, October 25	Spatial correlation and regression Field significance and spurious relationships Homework #5 due at start of class Prework #7 due at start of class (Field significance) <i>Homework #6</i> assigned (Field correlation and significance)
Wednesday, October 27	Workshop
Monday, November 1	Prework #8 due at start of class (Spectral analysis) Introduction to Spectral Analysis
Wednesday, November 3	Spectral analysis, continued Homework #6 due at start of class <i>Homework #7</i> assigned (Singular spectrum analysis)
Monday, November 8	Workshop and Code Critique
Wednesday, November 10	Time uncertainty in spatiotemporal data analysis Prework #9 due at start of class (Time uncertainty) Interpolation in time and space Workshop
Monday, November 15	A coherent framework for spatiotemporal data analysis Student Project Work Workshop and Code Critique Homework #7 due at start of class
Wednesday, November 17	Student Project Work Workshop and Code Critique Tutorials
Monday, November 22	<i>No class, Thanksgiving Break.</i>
Wednesday, November 24	<i>No class, Thanksgiving Break.</i>
Monday, November 29	Student Project Work Workshop and Code Critique Tutorials
Wednesday, December 1	Student Project Work Workshop and Code Critique Tutorials
Monday, December 6	Student Presentations
Wednesday, December 8	Student Presentations

Final Paper

The final paper will be due no later than Wednesday, December 15th by 5pm. Students attending the AGU are encouraged to turn their papers in before the beginning of the meeting.

Workshop topics

Depending on the interests of the students and the type of data analysis questions posed during the course,

additional optional instruction may be designed for workshop days

References

Edwards, N. M. (2007), Student self-grading in social statistics, *College Teaching*, 55(2), 72–76.