

# Hierarchical Bayesian Statistical Modeling and Prediction

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Mark Berliner

Ohio State University

## MBI Workshop: Uncertainty in Ecological Analysis

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### Outline

I Issues and Motivations

II Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling

III Brief Example

IV Discussion

# I. Selected Issues

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- Complexity: Many processes at various space-time scales
- Advances in computing enable numerical modeling (biophysical, biogeochemical, biogeographic,...), but
  - coupling, parameterization, ...
  - dynamics and change
  - enlarges the list of stuff we don't know.
- Complex, diverse, large-to-massive, yet incomplete datasets.

# I. Goals

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- “Model-data fusion”, while maintaining uncertainty management
- Linking processes across space-time
- Quantifying information about change
- Decision making and decision support

# II. Framework: Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling

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- Bayesian principles
  - combine information
  - uncertainty quantification & management:  
inputs and outputs are probability distributions
  - decision making
- Practice
  - seek effective data-model compromises
  - hierarchical thinking!!

## II. Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling (BHM)

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- HM: sequence of conditional probability distributions

$$[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}] = [\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}] [\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{z}] [\mathbf{z}]$$

- BHM: Model the component distributions for all unknowns: observations, processes, parameters

## II. Meta-BHM

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1. Data Model      [  $Y \mid X, \theta$  ]

2. Process Model    [  $X \mid \theta$  ]

3. Parameter Model [  $\theta$  ]

Bayes' Theorem:    [  $X, \theta \mid Y$  ]

**Compare To “Strawmen”**

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- “Statistics”: [  $Y \mid \theta$  ]
- “Bayesian Statistics”: add [  $\theta$  ]
- “Scientific Tradition”: [  $X \mid \tilde{\theta}(Y)$  ]

## II. What Does This Buy Us?

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### Combining Information

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#### A Diverse datasets

- Satellite data and Station data on  $\mathbf{X}$  of interest  
Complicated dependence structure, but (?)

$$[\text{Sat}, \text{Sta} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}] = [\text{Sat} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}][\text{Sta} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}]$$

- Count data; Environment data on  $\mathbf{X}$

$$[\text{Cou}, \text{Env} | \text{Population}, \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}] = [\text{Cou} | \text{Population}, \boldsymbol{\theta}][\text{Env} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}]$$

$$[\text{Population}, \mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\theta}] = [\text{Population} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}][\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\theta}]$$

#### B Physical-statistical modeling: $[\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\theta}]$ from a model

- From PDE's to stochastic models
- Model output as data

#### C Various combinations

# Treatment of Complexity

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A “Unwrap” some complexities

B Conditioning of  $\mathbf{X}$  at different space-time scales

[local rain|regional rain]

“up/down-scaling”

C Space-time and dynamics

$$\mathbf{X}_{t+1} = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{X}_t, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \mathbf{e}_{t+1}$$

versus

$$\mathbf{X}_{t+1} = \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{X}_t, \boldsymbol{\theta}_t) + \mathbf{e}_{t+1}$$

[ $\{\boldsymbol{\theta}_t\}$ ]

## Problem Description: Meta-HBM

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- Climate and climate change:

Forcings → Climate → “Weather” → Impacts

$$[I|W][W|C][C|F][F]$$

Message: Regional/Local Env forecasting does not rely on forecasts of future “weather”, but rather its prob. distribution

- Evolution:

Forcings → Climate → “Weather” → Impacts  
→ Phenotype → Genotype

$$[G_{t+1}|P_t, G_t][P_t|G_t, I][G_t][I|W][W|C][C|F][F]$$

Message: Conjectures about how this works translate to testable assumptions on forms of conditional distributions

### III. Pacific SST: Berliner, Wikle & Cressie *J. Climate* 2000

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- Driven, quasi-periodic dynamic behavior of emergent structures.
- Data model: regress monthly SST data on spatial EOF (Prin. Comp.)

$$\mathbf{Y}_t = \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbf{a}_{i,t} \mathbf{u}_i + \mathbf{e}_t$$

Length of  $\mathbf{Y} = 2,520$ , but  $k = 9$ .

Message: Dimension reduction for emergent structures

- **Process model:**

- **Dynamic model for parameters, with time-varying parameters**

$$\mathbf{a}_{t+7} = \mathbf{H}_t \mathbf{a}_t + \epsilon_{t+7}$$

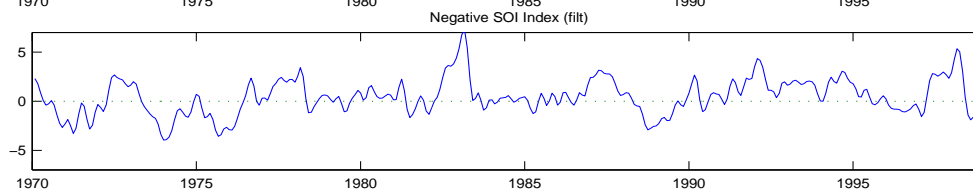
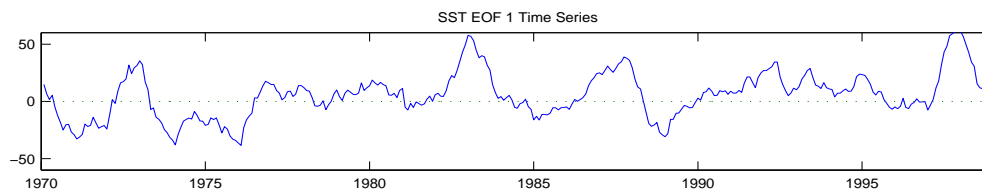
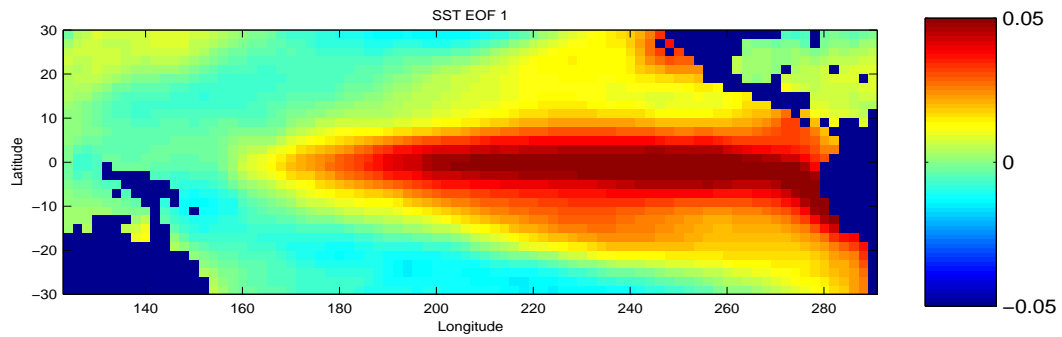
- **Markov mixture model: cool, normal, warm states (9  $\mathbf{H}_t$ 's)**

**Message: More of emergent structures**

- **mixture prob's depend on atmosphere:**

**SOI (pressure), & Winds**

**Message: Build in the “drivers”, or surrogates, of the dynamics**



## IV. Discussion

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- Using Science Models: Review [Berliner \(2003\) JGR](#)
  - [Scipione & Berliner \(1992\) Proc. Bayesian Sect. ASA](#) “Lorenz-3” example.
  - [Royle et al. \(1998\) Winds over Labrador Sea.](#)
  - [Wikle et al. \(2001\) JASA](#) Spatio-temporal winds over tropical ocean.
  - [Hoar et al. \(2003\) JCGS](#) More of the previous.
  - [Berliner et al. \(2003\) JGR](#) Air-sea interaction.

$$\left(\nabla^2 - \frac{1}{r^2}\right) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\mathbf{J}(\psi, \nabla^2 \psi) - \beta \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \frac{1}{\rho H} \text{curl}_z \tau(\mathbf{W}) - \gamma \nabla^2 \psi + a_h \nabla^4 \psi$$

- Computation: MCMC and ISMC Hybrids
- Challenge: Linking models over space-time
- Meta-BHM to real BHM: science, statistics, & dimension reduction