

SPATIAL INTERPOLATION OF ABOVE-GROUND BIOMASS IN LABANAN CONCESSION FOREST IN EAST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT. This study applied a geostatistical approach to quantify above-ground biomass (AGB) of the Labanan Concession Forest in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Forest inventory data collected via line-plot sampling were converted to AGB, and two approaches of estimating the spatial distributions of biomass, the global and stratified approaches, were compared. The global approach does not take local varying structures into account, whereas the stratified approach accounts for the heterogeneity of land cover types. Thus, AGBs estimated from each land cover type were pooled for the stratified approach. Ordinary kriging was performed to predict AGB at unsampled locations. The total estimates of AGB and root mean squared cross-validation errors (RMSCVE) for the global and stratified methods were 13,512,392.2 tons (161.92 ton/ha) and 13,607,205.5 tons (163.05 ton/ha), respectively, for AGB (0.7% difference) and 81.0 ton/ha and 81.2 ton/ha, respectively, for RMSCVE. Considering the different environmental conditions for each land cover type, the stratified method was expected to better capture the spatial structure particular to each land cover type, leading to more accurate estimates of AGB. However, the results suggest the degree of accuracy for the two methods was nearly similar.

Keywords: Spatial dependency, Line-plot sampling, Landscape heterogeneity, Ordinary kriging.

1 INTRODUCTION

Quantification of forest biomass is essential to assess forest growth and productivity. Quantification of forest biomass is also important to estimate carbon stored in a forest because carbon comprises about half of the dry biomass (Brown 1997). Due to the significant role of forests involved in the global carbon cycle (Pan et al. 2011), precise measurements of forest biomass is currently one of the most critical issues in the research of global climate change and carbon flux and sequestration in forests (Tanase et al. 2014), and quantifying forest biomass has gained a fair amount of interest over the past few decades (Usuga et al. 2010). Since field data of below-ground biomass cannot be collected easily, above-ground biomass (AGB) has usually been the only part of the carbon entity that has been estimated (Lu 2006).

So far, the estimation of AGB has been derived from techniques based on field measurements, remote sensing, and Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis

(Lu 2006; Wijaya et al. 2010a). Field measurements are obtained directly by felling trees and cutting them into sections, and then the parts are oven dried and weighed to derive estimate of AGB (Brown 1997). This method is known to be the most accurate way for estimating AGB by far (Djomo et al. 2010). Indirect tree measurements of AGB such as stem diameter or total height are often correlated to develop allometric equations for AGB estimation (Pearson et al. 2007; Basuki et al. 2009; Djomo et al. 2010; Blujdea et al. 2012; Rutishauser et al. 2013) that can then be used in subsequent estimations. In estimating AGB over a large region, a remote sensing method is useful, and is especially effective in assessing AGB in inaccessible areas where data collection is difficult (Lu 2006). Airborne small-footprint Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is currently being evaluated as the most promising tool for estimating spatial distributions of AGB over large areas (Laurin et al. 2014). Environmental measurements such as tree height, Nor-

malized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), and Leaf Area Index (LAI) obtained from remote sensing data are correlated with ground measurements of AGB since direct measurements of AGB are not available through remote sensing techniques (Saatchi et al. 2007; Basuki et al. 2009; Tsui et al. 2013). A GIS approach to estimate AGB is based on superimposing maps of supplementary information such as elevation, slope, soil, precipitation, and land cover into the GIS software (Lu 2006; Wijaya et al. 2010a) and then using this information to aid in AGB estimation.

In this work, a geostatistical approach was applied to estimate the spatial distribution of AGB over a forest region. Unlike the approaches aforementioned, geostatistics treats the observed data in the context of their locations by looking at the relationship in terms of distance between each point. Geostatistics takes stochastic assumptions on the observed dataset. The stochastic approach has the advantage of estimating the errors for the prediction. Spatial variation is assessed through variograms. Variograms model spatial dependency among the data as a function of distance. Based on the model of the variogram, predictions are made. The prediction is referred to as kriging in geostatistics (Ripley 1981; Webster and Oliver 2007).

Geostatistical methods have been widely used in the research of forestry to analyze spatial distribution and mapping of AGB over large areas. Two different approaches to derive spatial structures of AGB were applied according to the availability of secondary information, of which a lot of work using secondary information can be found in remote sensing applications. With available ground based AGB data, the deterministic part of AGB was modeled using remote sensing data (i.e., LiDAR, spectral bands, vegetation indices, satellite images, etc.) with which environmental variables are often combined (i.e., soils, vegetation type, elevation, etc.). After removing the deterministic part from AGB, the spatial structure of the residuals is assessed for kriging. Different kriging techniques have been applied including ordinary kriging regression kriging, co-kriging, and universal kriging (De Jong et al. 2003; Freeman and Moisen 2007; Sales et al. 2007; Castillo-Santiago et al. 2013; Lamsal et al. 2012; Tsui et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2014; Galeana-Pizaña et al. 2014). On the contrary, in cases without secondary information, some research directly explored spatially varying structures of AGB. Kriging estimates of AGB were derived from the model of spatial dependency of AGB (Hero et al. 2013).

The objective of this study was to explore the structure of spatial continuity of AGB collected by line-plot sampling and estimate the total biomass in an Indonesian forest applying a geostatistical approach. Line-plot sampling is known to efficiently reflect varying structures

of land cover types (Tiryana 2005), which makes it useful for capturing spatial structures of collected data. Two estimates of AGB, global and pooled, were assessed. The global estimate uses the entire dataset for prediction without considering the varying local structures (land cover types). On the other hand, the pooled estimate accounts for the different local structures and the AGB assessment of each separate stratum is added to calculate the total AGB. Finally, a cross validation was performed to check the accuracy of the kriging estimates.

2 ORDINARY KRIGING

Let us define $Z(s)$ as a realized value from a spatial stochastic process $Z(\bullet)$, where s is the location of variable $Z(s)$ in domain D of \mathbb{R}^2 . The variation and continuity of realized single values from a spatial stochastic process $Z(s)$ is characterized through an experimental variogram. An experimental variogram $\hat{\gamma}(h)$ estimates spatial dependence and is quantified by the average difference between the pairs of sampled values according to their lag distance.

$$\hat{\gamma}(H_k) = \frac{1}{2n_k} \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} (Z(s_i + h) - Z(s_i))^2$$

where:

n_k is the numbers of pairs of samples separated apart by the length of vector h ($h \in H_k$); and

s_i is the location where variable $Z(s_i)$ is sampled.

A typical plot of experimental variogram has an increasing trend and reaches an asymptote as the length of vector h increases (Wackernagel 2003). The maximum value of the asymptote is called the sill and the range is the lag distance at which sill is reached. The discontinuity behavior at microscale near the origin, where $h = 0$, is called the nugget effect. The discontinuity indicates drastic changes of sample values at very short lag distances. Although the estimated value of experimental variogram must be 0 at $h = 0$, dissimilarity of sampled values at very short lag distances results in discontinuity at $h = 0$, in other words, non-zero positive value at $h = 0$ (Isaaks and Srivastava 1989). After the experimental variogram is estimated, the theoretical variogram is fitted. The theoretical variogram ensures that the covariance of the kriged estimate, which is a linear weighted sum of sample values, is non-negative (Schabenberger and Pierce 2002; Wackernagel 2003).

If spatial dependency of sample values can be verified by an appropriate variogram model, prediction of attribute values at unsampled locations can be made based on the variogram model. The most broadly used geostatistical interpolation technique is ordinary kriging

(Webster and Oliver 2007). Ordinary kriging is applied when the spatial processes are second-order or intrinsic stationary (Schabenberger and Pierce 2002). If the mean $E[Z(s)] = u$ is constant and the covariance function is dependent only on the distance separated by h between the two spatial points, $C(h) = E[(Z(s) - u)(Z(s+h) - u)]$, the spatial stochastic process is said to be second-order stationary (Kitanidis 1997; Schabenberger and Pierce 2002; Montes and Ledo 2010), whereas the intrinsic stationarity is defined by the mean and variances of the differences of $Z(s) - Z(s+h)$.

In kriging, an unknown value of $Z_0 = Z(s_0)$ is estimated by weighted linear average of observations from other measured locations s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n , where λ_i s are kriging weights such that

$$\hat{Z}_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i Z(s_i)$$

and in ordinary kriging, λ_i s should satisfy the following two conditions: (1) unbiasedness where $\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1$ so that the expectation of estimation error is zero and unbiasedness is guaranteed, and (2) minimum variance of the estimation error (Isaaks and Srivastava 1989; Kitanidis 1997).

3 MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 Study area This study analyzed the data collected from Labanan concession forest, the district of Berau East Kalimantan Indonesia (Figure 1). The Labanan concession forest is located near the equator within the geographic coordinates of $1^{\circ}45'$ to $2^{\circ}10'$ N and $116^{\circ}55'$ to $117^{\circ}20'$ E. The size is approximately 83,000 ha. The Labanan concession forest is situated in the interior land of coastal swamps and has diverse geographical and topographical features comprising of plains, slopes, steeps, and complex landforms with elevations ranging from 50 to 650 m. The landscape is characterized by aggregates of high hills and mountains sporadically spread across fluctuating plain surfaces. The forest type of the Labanan concession forest is a mixed lowland dipterocarp forest and categorized as a tropical moist forest. The temperature ranges from $23-33^{\circ}\text{C}$ with 26°C on average and the mean annual rainfall is 2,000 mm. The Labanan concession forest is operated by PT Inhutani I, a state owned company, and selective logging practices have been prevalent in the area since the 1970's (Wijaya et al. 2010a; Wijaya et al. 2010b)

3.2 Data and sampling plot descriptions Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) data of dipterocarp species collected from 1,460 sampling plots distributed across 16

line-plots during April 1997 and January 1998 were used. A total of 13,050 trees with DBH ranging from 10 to 210 cm were measured (Wijaya et al. 2010a). Line-plot sampling was conducted in the direction of northwest 135° (Tiryana 2005). In each of the sixteen line-plots, plots were established at a distance between 60 m and 225 m with most of the plots about 100 m apart. The perpendicular distances between line-plots were approximately 2,000 m to 6,000 m apart averaging 5,000 m. The plot is a nested design and comprised of three levels of circular sub-plots, 0.125 ha for DBH >50 cm (radius of 19.95 m), 0.04 ha for DBH 20-49 cm (radius of 11.28 m), and 0.0125 ha for DBH 10-19 cm (radius of 6.31 m) with coordinates collected in the center of each plot (Figure 2). In addition to the DBH data, the land cover type of each plot was assessed and recorded. In total, eight land cover types were associated with the line-plots. A map of the concession area classified by land cover type is also available in a shape file format. There are four more land cover types recorded in addition to the eight land cover types associated with the line-plots, thus totaling 12 land cover types available in a shape file format. The land cover type data were obtained from Landsat Thematic-Mapper (TM) multi-spectral satellite images. The images were geometrically corrected and rectified with a 1:25,000 hydrology map to match the UTM 50 grid. The raw image was first enhanced with a contrast stretching, and then the enhanced image was classified into different land cover types based on visual interpretations, from which both textural and spectral features could be evaluated. For the verification, field visits were conducted, based on which the classification was later updated. The classified information of land cover types is described in Table 1 (Berau Forest Management Project 2001).

3.3 Derivation of AGB data An allometric equation based on DBH (cm) was used to calculate AGB. The equation was developed by harvesting and destructively sampling a total of 40 trees from 28 genera with DBH varying from 6 to 68.9 cm from tropical lowland dipterocarp forests (Samalca 2007; Wijaya et al. 2010a).

$$AGB = \exp(-1.2495 + 2.3109 \times \ln(DBH))$$

where the unit of AGB is in kg. Every measured tree in each plot was estimated and the unit of AGB was converted from a kg to a ton per hectare (ton/ha) basis to balance the scale for each tree. Then every tree in the plot was added up to represent one value for each plot. Therefore, the analysis was conducted at the plot level with 1,460 observations, which is the total number of sampling plots.

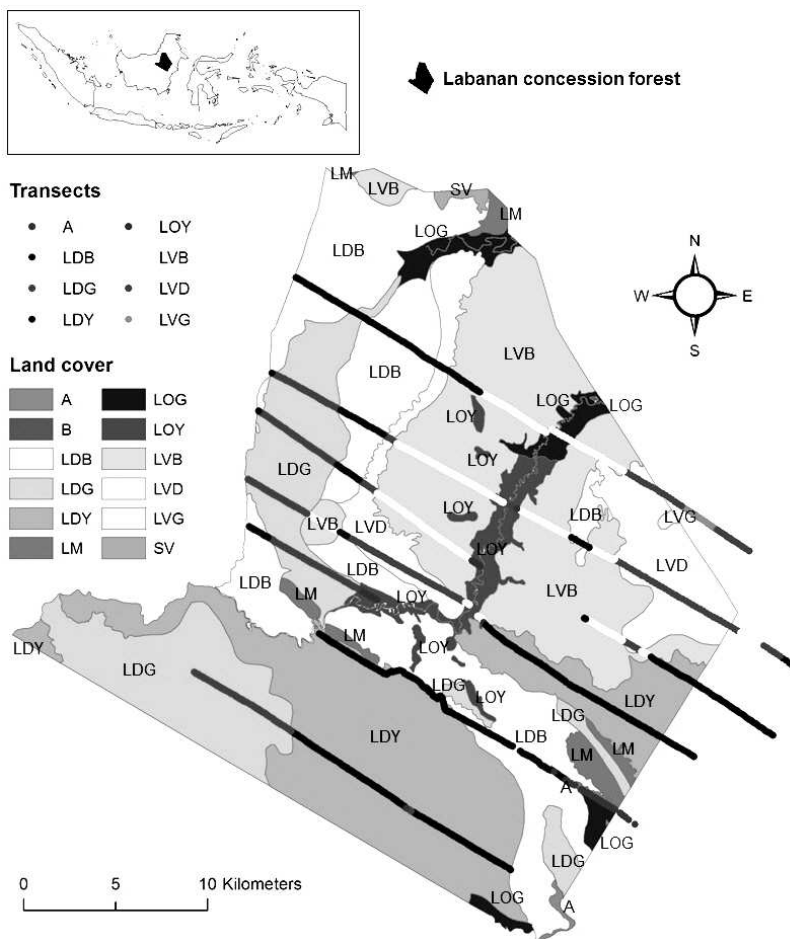


Figure 1: Map of Labanan concession forest in East Kalimantan, Indonesia by land cover and line-plots. The letters are land cover type abbreviations, and they are described in Table 1.

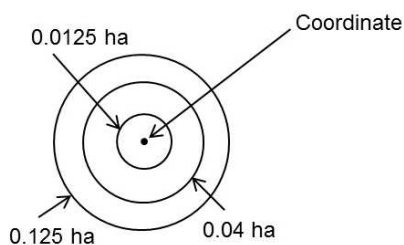


Figure 2: Nested plot design used for sampling at each plot.

3.4 Global vs. stratified method Two different approaches were applied to estimate the spatial distribution of AGB: global and stratified. The global method assumes a single correlation structure throughout the whole domain and uses all line-plot data, whereas the stratified method separately treats the data according to their land cover type. The stratified method assumes that each stratified domain will have a spatial process

particular to each stratum. The total AGB for the stratified method should be pooled based on the AGB estimate for each land cover type. However, the basic approaches for modeling the variograms and kriging are the same for both methods following the usual steps for geostatistical approach.

3.4.1 Variogram modeling Experimental variograms were only assessed in the directional angle of 135° since the distances among line-plots (approximately 2,000 m to 6,000 m apart averaging 5,000 m) were much larger than the distances between each sampling plot within each line-plot (ranging 60-225 m, about 100 m in average). The original sample values were square root transformed to normality using a Box-Cox transformation $(Z^\lambda - 1) / \lambda$, where Z is the original measurements and $\lambda = 0.5$ for a square root transformation, which was later back-transformed to the original scale after kriging. An estimate of simple back-transformation is known to be unbiased (Berthouex and Brown 2002). Detecting

Table 1: Measurements and descriptions for each land cover type. As noted, the last four land covers (B, LM, LOG, SV) are only available as shape file layers and not used in the analysis (Berau Forest Management Project 2001).

	Land cover	Mean DBH (cm/ha)	Mean biomass (ton/ha)	Number of plots	Description
Line-plots	A	17.4	124.2	37	A: agriculture or logging. Traces of developments along roads or rivers.
	LDB	20.3	161.8	238	L: logged over forest, D: dense structure, B: brown colors. Logging intensity & period: low & not available.
	LDG	20.6	122.7	250	L: logged over forest, D: dense structure, G: green colors. Logging intensity & period: medium & recent.
	LDY	19.6	168.0	451	L: logged over forest, D: dense structure, Y: yellow colors. Logging intensity & period: high & recent.
	LOY	19.1	87.7	21	L: logged over forest, O: open structure, Y: yellow colors. Logging intensity & period: very high & not available. Heights of existing vegetation lower than 10 m.
	LVB	22.0	177.3	270	L: logged over forest, V: very dense structure, B: brown colors. Logging intensity & period: low & not available.
	LVD	21.6	220.7	173	L: logged over forest, V: very dense structure, D: dark brown. No evidence of logging activities.
	LVG	20.0	345.5	20	L: logged over forest, V: very dense structure, G: green colors. Logging intensity & period: medium & recent.
Layers	B	–	–	–	B: Bare soil. Assumed to be agricultural fields.
	LM	–	–	–	L: logged over forest, M: mixed density and colors.
	LOG	–	–	–	L: logged over forest, O: open structure, G: green colors. Logging intensity & period: very high & not available. Heights of existing vegetation lower than 15 m.
	SV	–	–	–	S: Swamp forest, V: very dense structure. No evidence of logging activities.

Note: Brown colors (slightly logged), dark brown colors (very dense forest structure), green colors (moderately logged), and yellow colors (very heavily logged) reflect variation in the dominant colors besides red pixels (vegetation) from the satellite imagery. The satellite image was enhanced by contrast stretching and the colors are closely related to the stretching.

anisotropy was not possible due to the fact that line-plots were aligned in one direction. Webster and Oliver (2007) suggest three sampling directions at minimum to detect anisotropy in line-plot sampling. The lag interval was set to 1,000 m for the global method and 500 m for the stratified method except for LVG which was set to 205 m and the maximum lag distance of LVG was also confined to 3,000 m since the area for estimation was smaller than the others. Lag intervals were determined as such to estimate long range predictions although the plots were systematically collected at the average distance of 100 m along line-plots. Otherwise, predictions may not be continuous over long ranges if short range correlation is estimated (Goovaerts 1997). In our case, predictions between line-plot distances, which are approximately 5,000 m apart, may not show smooth transitions. The theoretical variogram model was fitted using weighted least squares, maximum likelihood (ML), and restricted

maximum likelihood (REML). The best fitted variogram model was selected depending on how well range parameters and trends after reaching an asymptote were realistically fitted considering the size of the study area and each land cover type among the three methods.

3.4.2 Kriging Ordinary kriging was performed. Ordinary kriging was selected since there was no prior information on the mean. A size of 100 m x 100 m grid was created since the unit was based on ton/ha and then the prediction was made. Kriging was conducted using a global neighborhood structure. That is, the whole line-plot dataset for the global method and all data confined to each land cover type for the stratified method are considered as neighbors for kriging. The global neighborhood structure was selected to avoid discontinuity of predictions resulting from the line-plot structure of data arrangements. The predicted kriging estimates show

Table 2: Theoretical variogram models by global and stratified methods (WLS: weighted least squares, REML: restricted maximum likelihood).

Land cover		Variogram model	Parameter estimation method
Global	All	sph: $35.74 + 13.73 \left[\frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{ h }{8495.29} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{ h }{8495.29} \right)^3 \right]$	WLS
Stratified	LDB	exp: $30.33 + 13.12 \left[1 - \exp \left(-\frac{ h }{5405.34} \right) \right]$	REML
	LDG	exp: $26.81 + 11.35 \left[1 - \exp \left(-\frac{ h }{7568.27} \right) \right]$	WLS
	LDY	sph: $47.01 + 5.02 \left[\frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{ h }{4324.02} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{ h }{4324.02} \right)^3 \right]$	REML
	LVB	sph: $24.42 + 11.65 \left[\frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{ h }{3174.15} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{ h }{3174.15} \right)^3 \right]$	WLS
	LVD	exp: $37.41 + 16.17 \left[1 - \exp \left(-\frac{ h }{4540.57} \right) \right]$	REML
	LVG	sph: $21.13 + 10.94 \left[\frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{ h }{1396.20} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{ h }{1396.20} \right)^3 \right]$	REML

Note: spherical (sph) model $\gamma(h) = c_0 + c_1 \left[\frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{|h|}{a} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{|h|}{a} \right)^3 \right]$ if $0 < |h| < a$, and $\gamma(h) = c_0 + c_1$ if $|h| \geq a$, and exponential (exp) model $\gamma(h) = c_0 + c_1 \left[1 - \exp \left(-\frac{|h|}{a} \right) \right]$, where c_0 : nugget, c_1 : sill, a : range, and h : lag.

multi-layered structures perpendicular to each line-plot if the number of neighbors is limited, since the distances between each plot, which are much smaller than the distances between each line-plot strongly affects predictions. After kriging, kriging estimates of AGB were clipped to the boundary of the concession area for the global method and each land cover type for the stratified method. The associated standard deviations of kriging estimates are also presented.

3.5 Validation The two kriging estimates were compared by applying “leaving-one-out cross-validation” (Ribeiro and Diggle 2001), a validation method that deletes one sample data in sequence from the dataset and then making a prediction at the removed location with $n - 1$ remaining sample data. This procedure is conducted until every sample data location is estimated (Wackernagel 2003). We applied the root mean squared cross-validation errors (RMSCVE) approach for the performance comparison of the two kriging estimates

$$\text{RMSCVE} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n [Z(s_i) - \hat{Z}(s_i)]^2}{n}}$$

where $\hat{Z}(s_i)$ is the estimated value at location s_i .

The variogram analysis and kriging was conducted using the geoR package (Ribeiro and Diggle 2001) of the statistical software R (R Core Team 2014). ArcMap 10.2

was used for clipping kriging estimates exported from R and map production (ESRI 2013).

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Variogram models Fitted variogram models and how parameters for the models were estimated are provided in Table 2. Spherical or exponential variogram models, which are mostly applied in the ecological studies (Fortin and Dale 2005), were selected to fit linear trends at short lag distances (Isaaks and Srivastava 1989), and one of the two models was chosen depending on the trends after reaching asymptote. High nugget effects are due to fluctuations of different adjacent values of biomass along line-plots, or uncertainties from the AGB equation. The AGB equation was developed from only a small number of samples, which may have influenced the precision of AGB leading to high values of nuggets in the variograms. Using plot level values of AGB, of which AGB values of individual trees were added up to represent one value for each plot, in the analysis may have also affected estimating small scale variation leading to high nugget effects. In addition, the deviation from typical patterns of experimental variograms, especially for the variograms for the stratified method, may be due to the uncertainties and irregularities in the AGB data stemming from model development. For land cover LDB and LDY, variograms were selected depending on the range parameters estimated and the accounted increas-

Table 3: Estimated total biomass from kriging.

Land cover	Kriging estimates of biomass (ton)			
	Global	Stratified	Difference: Stratified – Global (ton)	Percentage difference (%)
LDB	2,807,097.3	2,889,151.5	82,054.2	2.9
LDG	1,744,102.7	1,589,901.3	-154,201.4	9.3
LDY	3,109,625.6	3,137,919.9	28,294.3	0.9
LVB	3,283,258.6	3,302,659.1	19,400.5	0.6
LVD	1,563,045.2	1,679,084.0	116,038.8	7.2
LVG	22,804.7	26,031.6	3,226.9	13.2
Others	982,458.1	982,458.1	–	–
Total	13,512,392.2	13,607,205.5	94,813.3	0.7

Note: *Others* land cover class includes land cover A, B, LM, LOG, LOY, and SV.

ing trends at short lag distances. Graphs of global and stratified variogram models are presented in Figure 3 and 4.

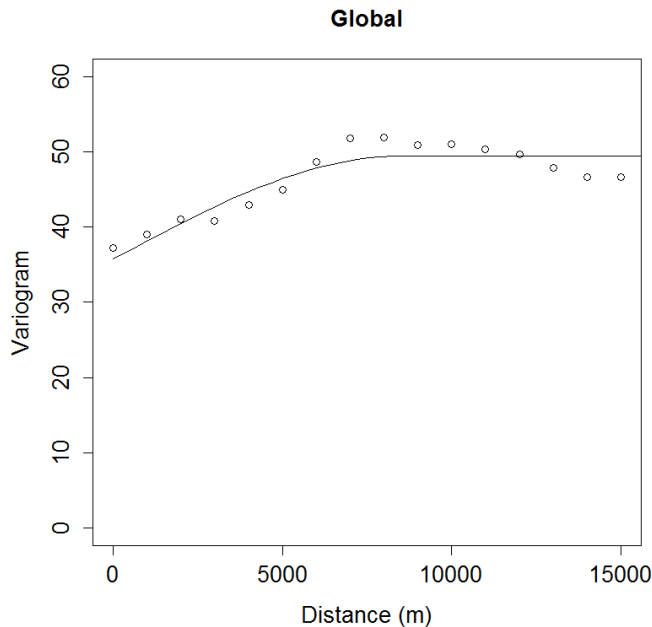


Figure 3: Global variogram using all land cover types combined. Experimental and theoretical variograms are depicted as open dots and a full line, respectively.

One thing to note is that the variograms for line-plot data of land cover A and LOY were not analyzed. Land cover A did not have an appropriate experimental variogram model for a theoretical variogram model, and in land cover LOY, the shape of map of the land cover was not suitable for the line-plot data to make predictions

within the land cover (refer to Figure 1). In other words, the line-plot data of LOY was not properly arranged within the land cover for kriging. How land cover A and LOY were treated is explained in detail in the following section.

4.2 Kriging estimates and estimation variances

The total AGB kriging estimates of the global and stratified methods were 13,512,392.2 (161.92 ton/ha) and 13,607,205.5 tons (163.05 ton/ha), respectively. The stratified method had a larger estimate, of which the difference between the two estimates is 94,813.3 tons (0.7% difference in the estimates). Stratified method had larger estimates for each land cover type except for the land cover LDG. Lower kriging estimates of land cover LDG may be the result of the LDG data itself. The smaller mean value of AGB for land cover LDG suggests that the actual biomass measurements are lower compared to the other land covers. The lower global estimate is probably due to the number of weights assigned for kriging each grid (recall that global neighborhood is applied and the number of neighbors is 1,460). The weights of nearest line-plot data to each target grid for kriging may have been smoothed out because of the number of neighbors. The nearest weights account for the greatest portion of the total weight (Webster and Oliver 2007). As mentioned previously, land cover A and LOY were not individually analyzed. Land cover A and LOY were included together within the category *others*, of which line-plot data of land cover were not available but only the layers of shape files (B, LM, LOG, SV). The estimate of category *others* is subtracted value of the other land covers from the total estimate of global method (Table 3).

Figure 5 and 6 show the maps of total AGB kriging estimates and standard deviation of the estimates of global and stratified methods. The kriging estimates

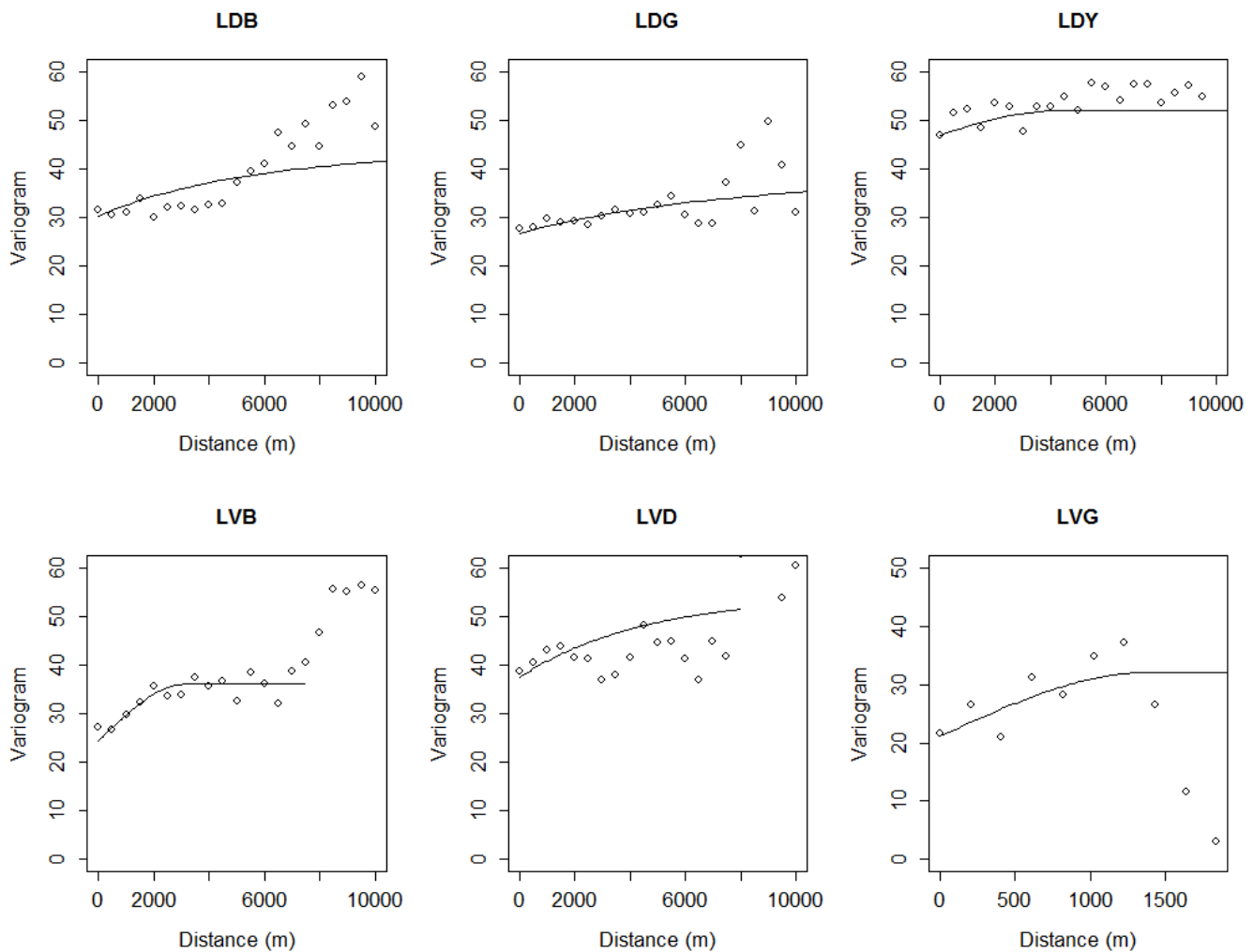


Figure 4: Stratified variograms. Experimental and theoretical variograms are depicted as open dots and full lines, respectively. Note the different maximum lag distances fitted to LVB (7,500 m), LVD (8,000 m), and LVG (3,000 m).

ranged from 81.3 ton/ha (LVG) to 342.1 ton/ha (LVD) for the global method, and from 80.8 ton/ha (LDG) to 360.3 ton/ha (LVG) for the stratified method. The spatial distribution of AGB kriging estimates were largely affected by the arrangement of the line-plots, as indicated by Figures 5 and 6. Although there were indications of logging activities along the roads and near villages within the site, where low densities of AGB can be observed, incorporating specific features of the landscape into the kriging estimates of AGB was not possible due to the lack of data. The standard deviations of the estimate are small close to the line-plots and become larger as the distance increases away from the line-plots. It can be observed that standard deviations are also large in regions where kriging estimates are large. This is due to

the transformation of the original data using a square root in the analysis, where $\lambda = 0.5$ for Box-Cox transformation in our case (Diggle and Ribeiro 2007). Note that kriging estimates and standard deviation are discontinuous by each land cover type in the map of the stratified method.

4.3 Validation Assessing accuracy of kriging estimates through cross-validation had similar results for both methods. The RMSCVE for the global and the stratified methods were 81.0 ton/ha and 81.2 ton/ha each. Land cover class *others* was excluded in the calculation. By each land cover type, land cover LDG and LVG of stratified method had larger RMSCVE than the global method. With more available information accounted for, it was expected that the stratified method, by cap-

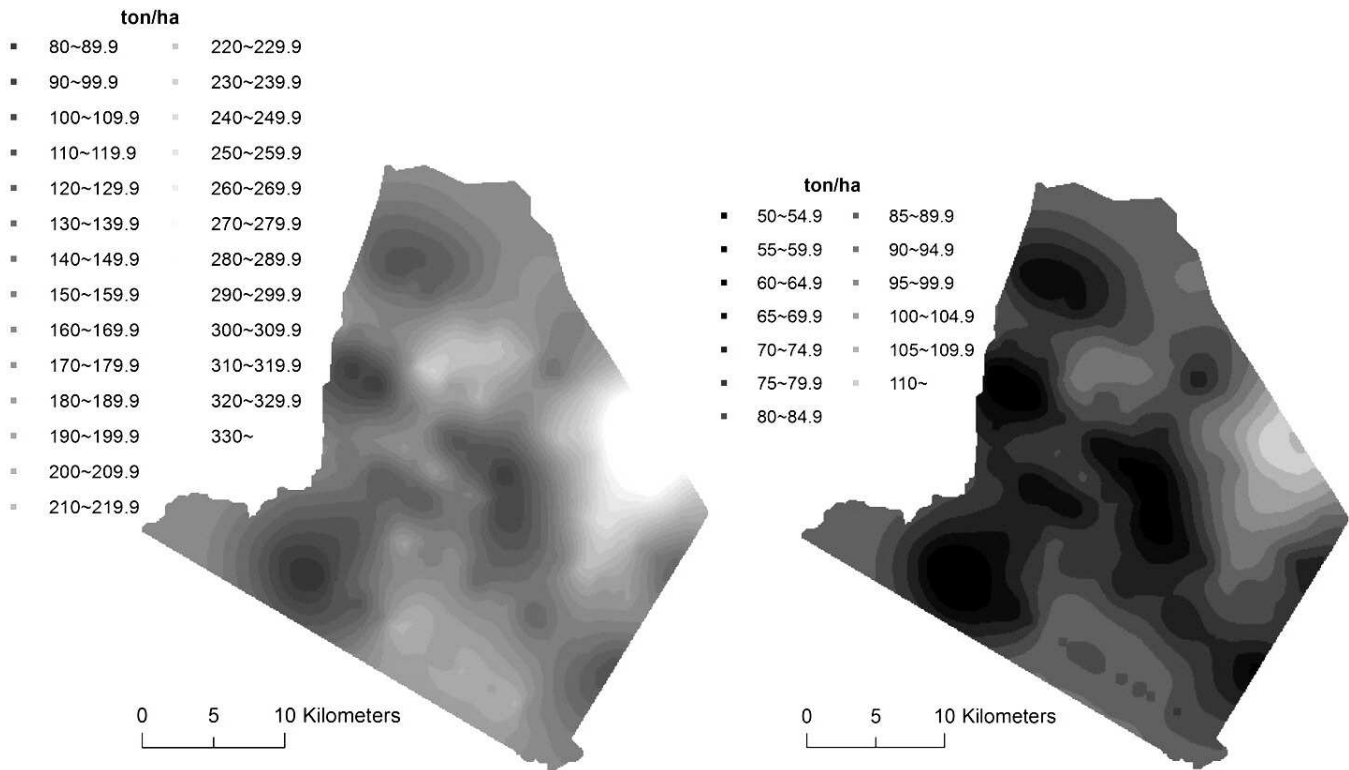


Figure 5: Maps of kriging estimates of AGB (left) and associated standard deviation (right) of the global method.

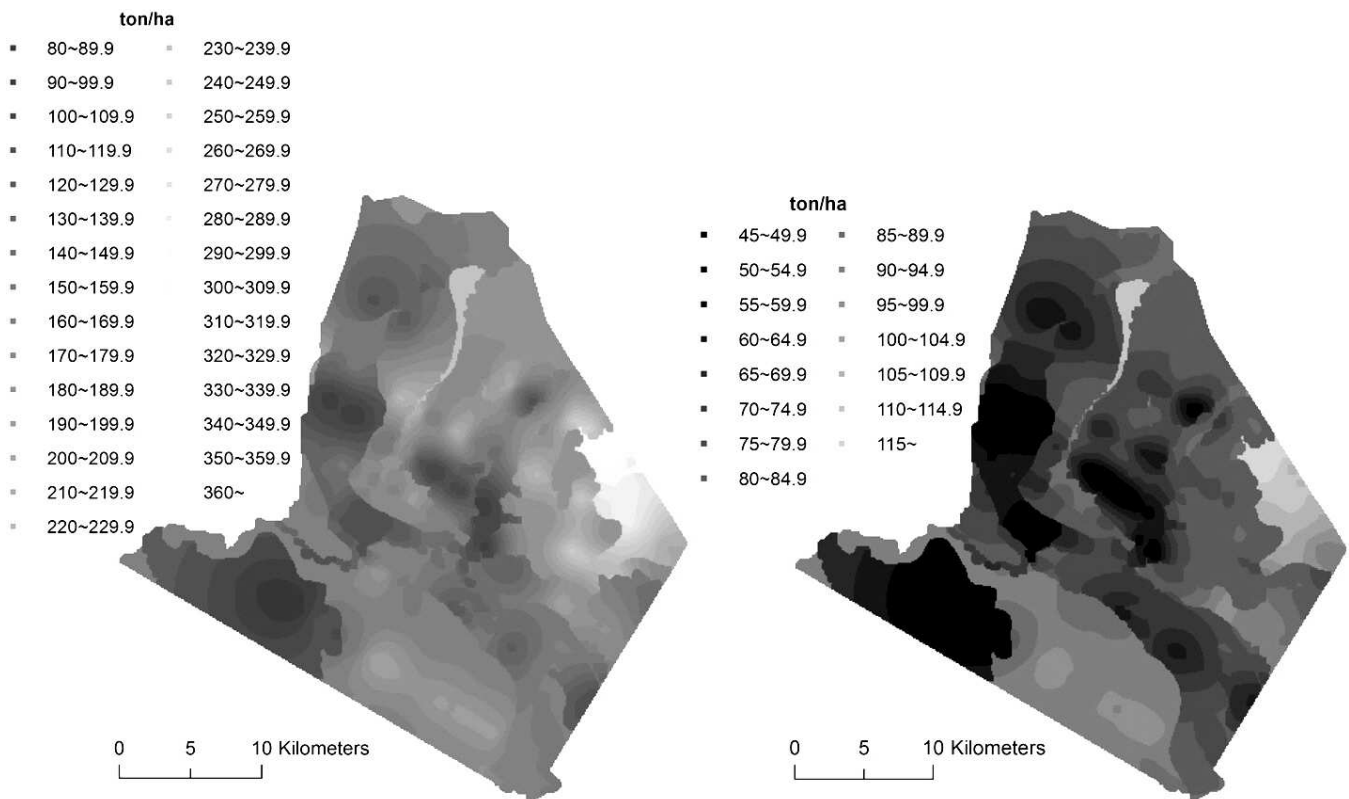


Figure 6: Maps of kriging estimates of AGB (left) and associated standard deviation (right) of the stratified method.

turing spatial structures particular to each land cover type, would exhibit more accurate result than the global method. However, the accuracy of both methods was actually largely affected by high nuggets in the prediction, as suggested by associated standard deviations of predictions.

5 CONCLUSIONS

This study estimated above-ground biomass (AGB) of Labanan concession forest in Indonesian using two different kriging approaches: a global method and a stratified method. The stratified method had a larger estimate of total biomass over the area by 95,000 tons (0.7% difference). By evaluating the accuracy of AGB estimates by cross-validation, it was difficult to conclude that the one method has an advantage over the other method. Standard deviations associated with kriging estimates were also relatively high due to high nugget effects for both methods. Nugget effects may be reduced by developing a more precise model of AGB so that measurement error can be reduced, or increasing sampling intensity by establishing more plots between each sampling line to better estimate spatial structures.

For a better assessment of accuracy in the estimates, a more realistic approach would be comparing estimates obtained from different methods such as remote sensing, or more extensive collection of data from ground measurements. Depending on the validation criteria for comparing true and estimated values, non-geostatistical methods could yield better estimates of AGB. For example, Freeman and Moisen (2007) applied a geostatistical approach to improve the initial estimates of AGB assessed from nonparametric methods with kriging residuals but found no noticeable improvement in minimizing mean squared error (MSE). Zhang et al. (2014) showed that a non-geostatistical multiple regression model ($R^2 = 0.60$) had better estimates of AGB than the kriging method ($R^2 = 0.29$). The suggested nonparametric and multiple regression models in the two examples were estimated using remote sensing data and environmental variables. Therefore, it is advisable to apply both geostatistical and non-geostatistical methods especially when AGB can be modeled by secondary information.

Finally, the geostatistical approach may be one of the most useful techniques in the aspect of data requirements and cost efficiency to estimate AGB over a large region. Required information are ground based AGB estimates and their associated locational data. To apply this geostatistical approach, it is important to check if the spatial process of the region of interest is stationary and has a proper model of spatial dependency for prediction.

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