

Assimilating Spatially Dense Data for Subsurface Applications—Balancing Information and Degrees of Freedom

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Uni Research CIPR

Two Porous Media

with different fluid conductivity (permeability)



Sandstone sample



Sponge

Two Porous Media

with different fluid conductivity (permeability)



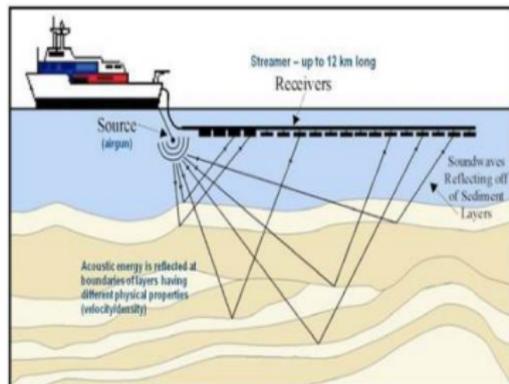
Sandstone sample



Sponge

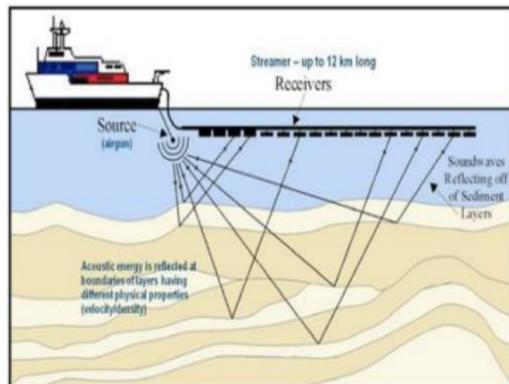
Task: estimate permeability, $k(x)$

Seismic Data



Offshore seismic data acquisition

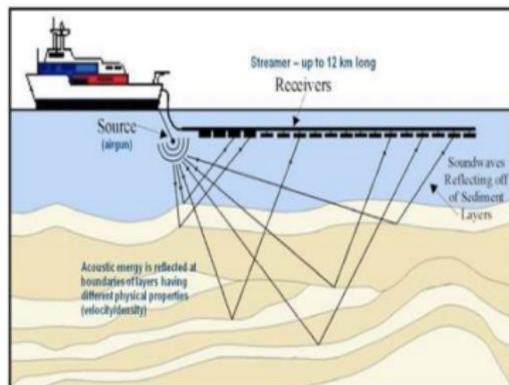
Seismic Data



Offshore seismic data acquisition

Seismic data are spatially dense

Seismic Data



Offshore seismic data acquisition

Seismic data are spatially dense

Link between seismic data and $k(x)$?

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Elastic properties → seismic modeling → simulated seismic data

Link between Seismic Data and $k(x)$

$k(x)$ → flow modeling → fluid pressure and fluid content

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Elastic properties → seismic modeling → simulated seismic data

We use elastic properties ('inverted seismic data') as 'seismic data' when estimating $k(x)$

Background

Inverted seismic data

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Inverted seismic data

Elastic properties: V_p , V_s , ρ , ... are pixel fields

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Spatially dense \rightarrow high potential for estimating $k(x)$

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Signal masked by errors (acquisition, processing, inversion, ...)

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\Rightarrow Extract data *features* with enhanced 'signal-to-noise ratio'

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Inverted seismic data

Elastic properties: V_p , V_s , ρ , ... are pixel fields

Spatially dense \rightarrow high potential for estimating $k(x)$

Signal masked by errors (acquisition, processing, inversion, ...)

\Rightarrow Extract data *features* with enhanced 'signal-to-noise ratio'

Some information will, however, be lost

Background

Ensemble-based methods

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Degrees of freedom (DOF) is limited by ensemble size, E (assuming no localization)

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Spatially dense data may lead to unwarranted strong uncertainty reduction in estimation results

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Feature extraction may alleviate this problem

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Feature extraction may alleviate this problem

Subspace pseudo inversion is another alternative

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Balancing information and DOF

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Need to balance the applied information content against available DOF

Scope

Balancing information and DOF

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Balancing information and DOF

How to reduce data influence sufficiently to avoid unwarranted strong uncertainty reduction without discarding important information?

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Balancing information and DOF

How to reduce data influence sufficiently to avoid unwarranted strong uncertainty reduction without discarding important information?

Alternatively:

How to increase ensemble size sufficiently to handle spatially dense data without increasing computational cost?

Reduce Data Influence

Approaches

Reduce Data Influence

Approaches

Data coarsening

Reduce Data Influence

Approaches

Data coarsening

Structure extraction

Reduce Data Influence

Approaches

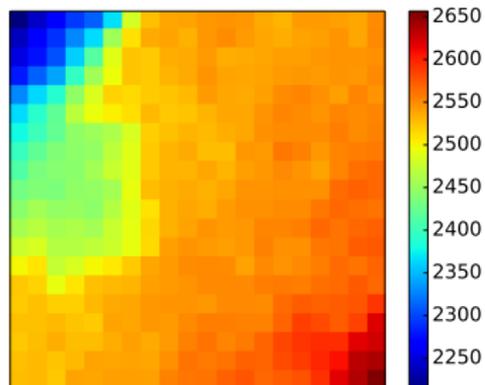
Data coarsening

Structure extraction

Subspace pseudo inversion

Reduce Data Influence—Approaches

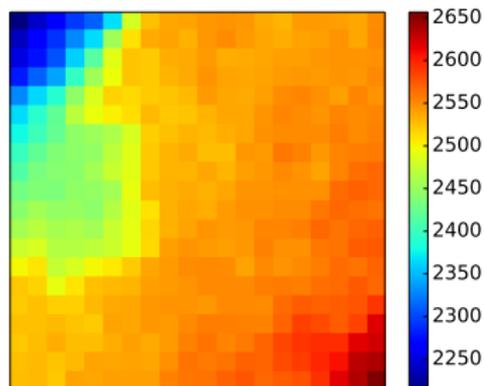
Data coarsening



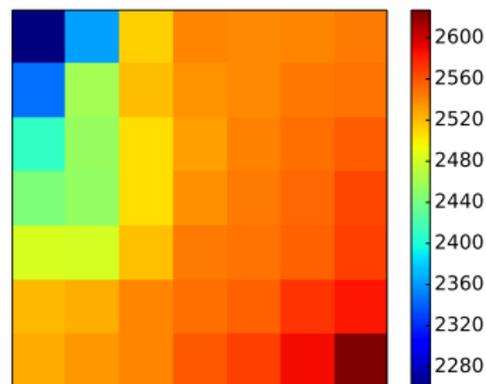
Data field
400 data

Reduce Data Influence—Approaches

Data coarsening



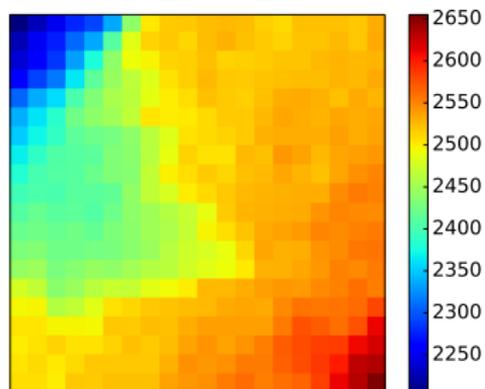
Data field
400 data



Coarsened data field
49 data

Reduce Data Influence—Approaches

Structure extraction

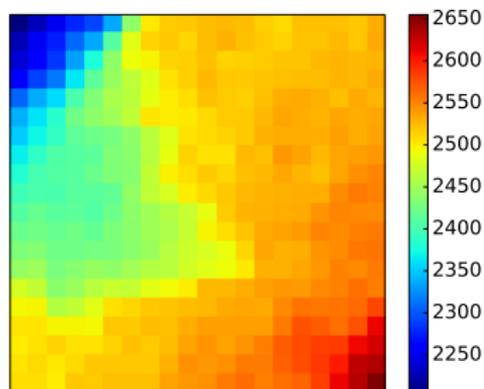


Data field

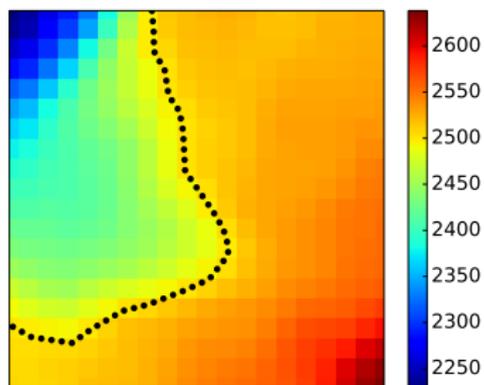
400 data

Reduce Data Influence—Approaches

Structure extraction



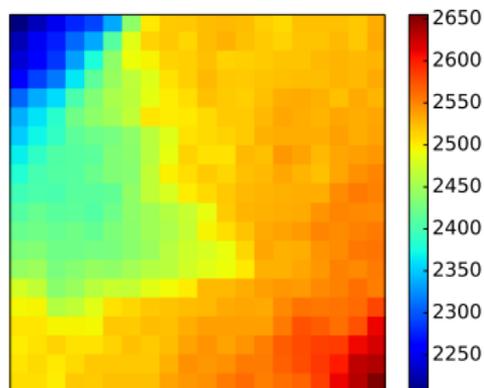
Data field
400 data



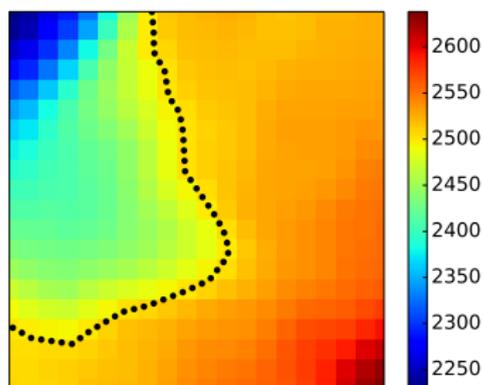
Smoothed field
with 60 data

Reduce Data Influence—Approaches

Structure extraction



Data field
400 data



Smoothed field
with 60 data

Structure data: point locations

Reduce Data Influence—Approaches

Subspace pseudo inversion¹

¹Evensen G, Data Assimilation; the Ensemble Kalman Filter 

Reduce Data Influence—Approaches

Subspace pseudo inversion¹

Matrix to be inverted in Kalman gain, $W = SS^T + (E - 1)C_D$, may be (numerically) singular

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Use pseudo inverse, W^+ , but this is costly for large no. of data

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Approximate W by $B = SS^T + (E - 1)SS^+C_D(SS^+)^T$, and use B^+ in Kalman gain

¹Evensen G, Data Assimilation; the Ensemble Kalman Filter 

Increase ensemble size without increasing cost

Approach—Upscaled simulations²

²Fossum K and Mannseth T, Coarse-scale data assimilation as a generic alternative to localization, *Comput Geosci* **21**(1) (2017)

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Standard forward model: $k(x) \rightarrow f(k(x))$

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Cost of E_u upscaled simulations equals that of E standard simulations

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Examples

Setup

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Original data: bulk-velocity (V_p) pixel field

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Notation for labelling plots:

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Notation for labelling plots:

True: results obtained with pixel data and $E = 4800$

Examples

Setup

Original data: bulk-velocity (V_p) pixel field

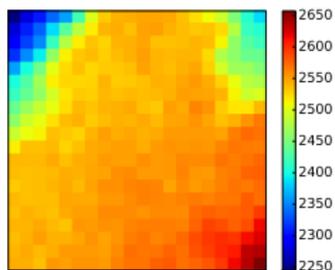
Notation for labelling plots:

True: results obtained with pixel data and $E = 4800$

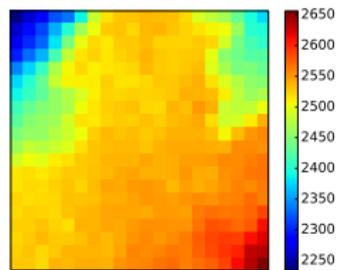
Estimate: results obtained with any type of data and computational cost corresponding to $E = 100$ standard simulations

Examples

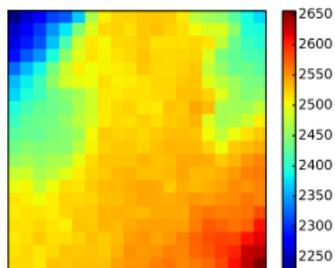
Pixel data



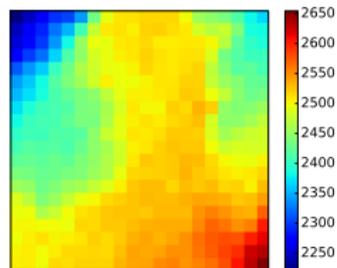
$t = t_1$



$t = t_2$



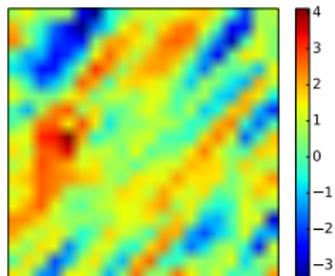
$t = t_3$



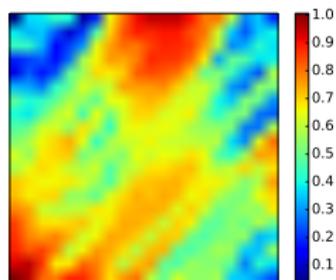
$t = t_4$

Examples

$k(x)$ estimate with pixel data on 20x20 grid



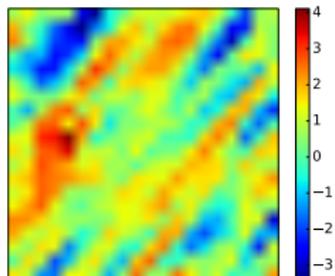
True mean



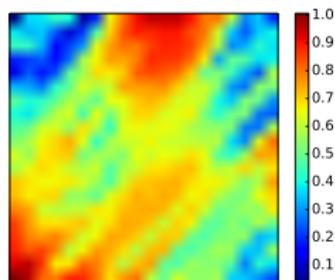
True stdv

Examples

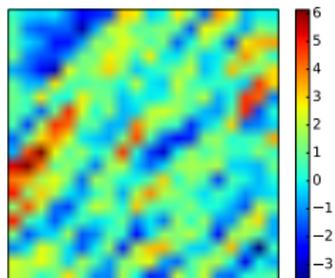
$k(x)$ estimate with pixel data on 20x20 grid



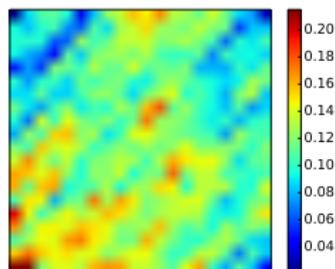
True mean



True stdv



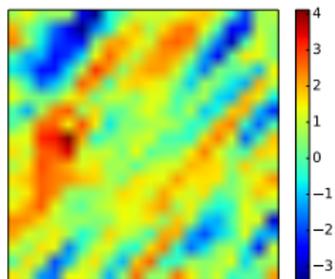
Estimate mean



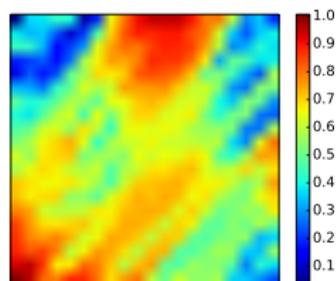
Estimate stdv

Examples

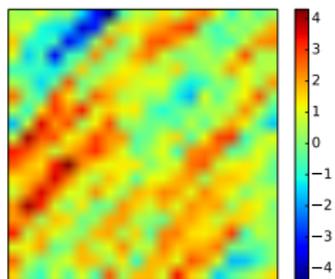
$k(x)$ estimate with data coarsening to 7×7 grid



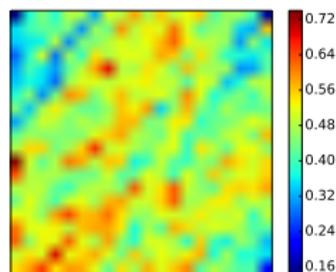
True mean



True stdv



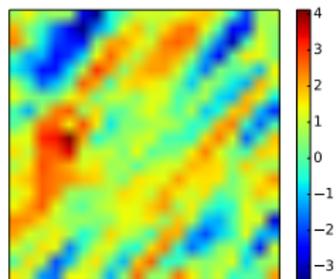
Estimate mean



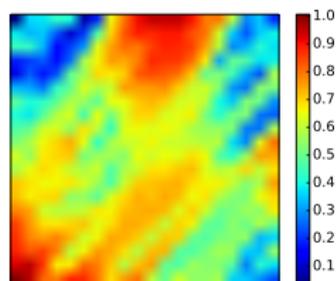
Estimate stdv

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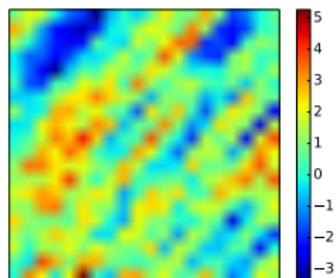
$k(x)$ estimate with 98% energy subspace pseudo inversion



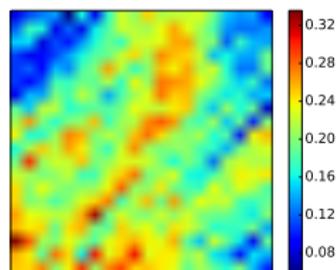
True mean



True stdv



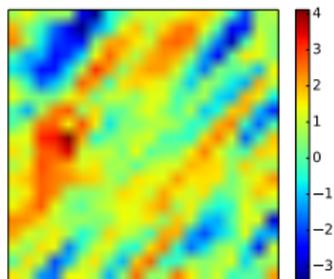
Estimate mean



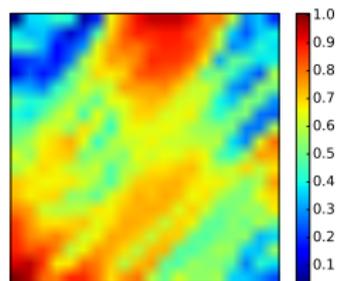
Estimate stdv

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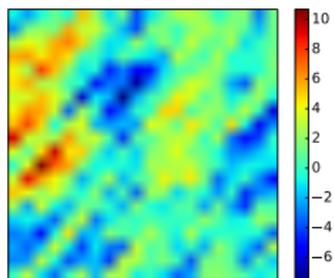
$k(x)$ estimate with 10x10 upscaled simulations



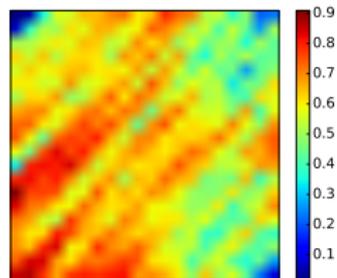
True mean



True stdv



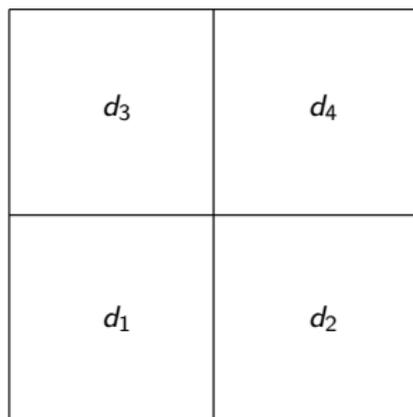
Estimate mean



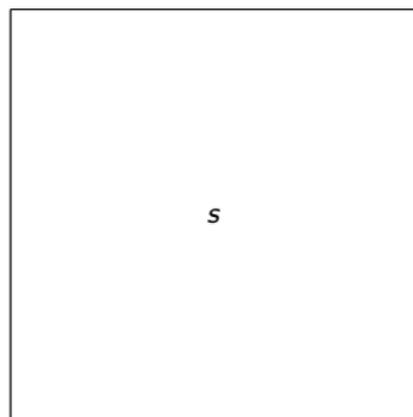
Estimate stdv

Grid Mismatch

Coarser simulation grid



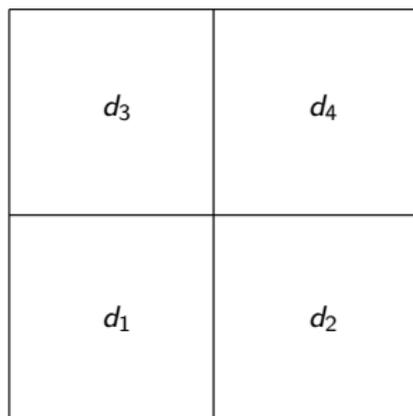
Data-grid detail



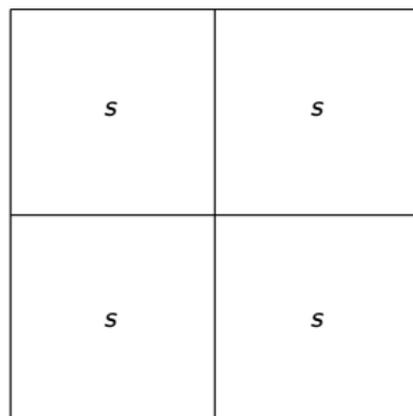
Simulation-grid detail

Grid Mismatch

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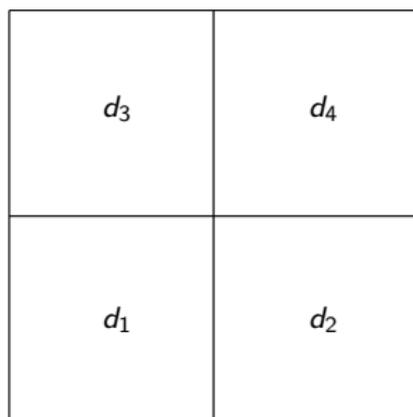
Data-grid detail



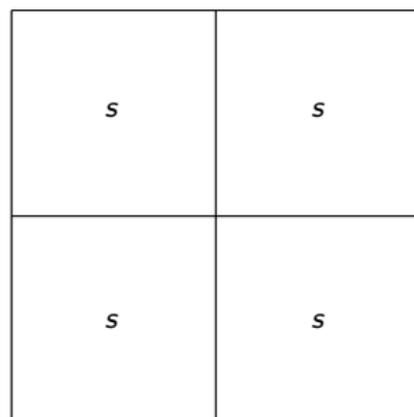
Simulation-grid detail
after downscaling to data
grid

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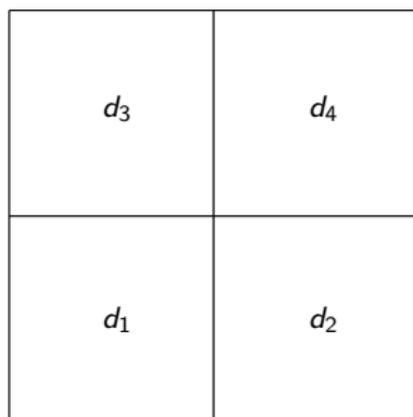


Simulation-grid detail
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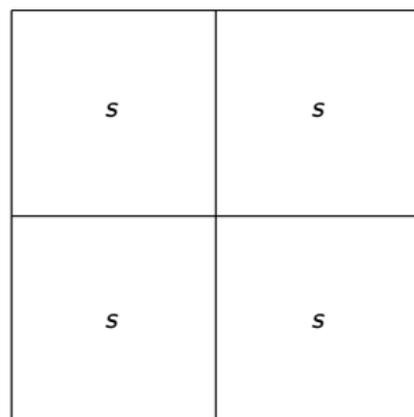
s cannot match four different values

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Data-grid detail



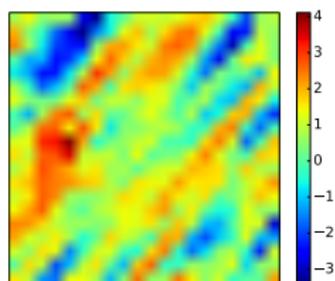
Simulation-grid detail
after downscaling to data
grid

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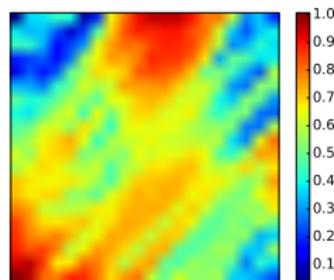
Not a problem with upscaled simulations and well data

Examples

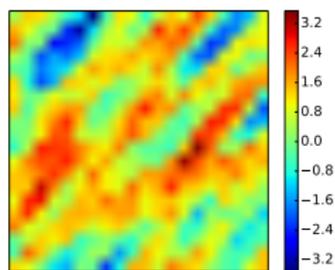
$k(x)$ estimate with 10x10 upscaled simulations and 10x10 data coarsening



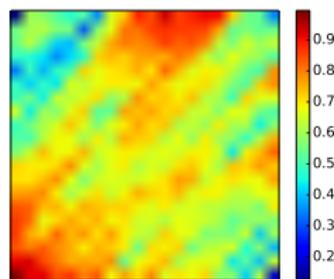
True mean



True stdv



Estimate mean



Estimate stdv

Summary

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Investigated how to balance information against available DOF

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Three ways of reduction of data-space influence (data coarsening, structure extraction, subspace pseudo inversion) and one way of increasing ensemble size without increasing cost (upscaled simulations) have been considered

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Reduction of data-space influence (all three ways) gave some improvement, with structure extraction as the least successful

Upscaled simulations did not give good results

Upscaled simulations combined with data coarsening gave good results, particularly when scales of simulation grid and data grid were similar

Acknowledgements

Partial financial support was provided by the CIPR/IRIS cooperative project '4D Seismic History Matching', which is funded by industry partners Eni, Petrobras and Total, as well as the Research Council of Norway (PETROMAKS II)