

Interactive comment on “Spatio-temporal variability in N₂O emissions from a tea-planted soil in subtropical central China” by X. L. Liu et al.

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This is a fairly solid paper on a spatio-temporal kriging exercise on N₂O fluxes in tea plantations. It applies well-known methods and uses software that has been developed and published by Ben Graeler, Gerard Heuvelink and me over the past few years (in particular, R packages `gstat` and `spacetime`). The paper does not contain innovations in terms of parameterizations or model comparison. Its main contribution is the application of an established method to the use case at hand. Part of the conclusions (more variograms should be created, more efficient testing methods should be adopted, long-term observations should be collected) seem not to be supported by arguments, and have little to do with this particular use case. A solid discussion of the results is lacking.

The question is whether this manuscript fits the aims and scope of GMD. It has been

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submitted as a "development and technical paper", a category for "describing development such as new parameterizations or technical aspects of running models such as the reproducibility of results". None of these three aspects: new parameterizations, technical aspects of running models, or reproducibility, are present in a recognizable form in this paper, so I considered it to be out of scope for GMD. I can also not see it fit in one of the other paper categories that GMD accepts.

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