Perspectives on Spatial Data Analysis

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Preface

Spatial data analysis has seen explosive growth in recent years. Both in mainstream statistics and econometrics as well as in many applied fields, the attention to space, location, and interaction has become an important feature of scholarly work. The methods developed to deal with problems of spatial pattern recognition, spatial autocorrelation, and spatial heterogeneity have seen greatly increased adoption, in part due to the availability of user friendly desktop software. Through his theoretical and applied work, Arthur Getis has been a major contributing figure in this development.

In this volume, we take both a retrospective and a prospective view of the field. We use the occasion of the retirement and move to emeritus status of Arthur Getis to highlight the contributions of his work. In addition, we aim to place it into perspective in light of the current state of the art and future directions in spatial data analysis.

To this end, we elected to combine reprints of selected classic contributions by Getis with chapters written by key spatial scientists. These scholars were specifically invited to react to the earlier work by Getis with an eye toward assessing its impact, tracing out the evolution of related research, and to reflect on the future broadening of spatial analysis. The organization of the book follows four main themes in Getis' contributions:

- Spatial analysis
- Pattern analysis
- Local statistics
- Applications

For each of these themes, the chapters provide a historical perspective on early methodological developments and theoretical insights, assessments of these contributions in light of the current state of the art, as well as descriptions of new techniques and applications.

Putting together a volume such as this would not be possible without the efforts of many individuals. We feel most fortunate to have been in the skilled hands of the Springer-Verlag team and in particular wish to extend our gratitude to Katharina Wetzel-Vandai and Barbara Fess for their continued support during this project and to Manfred Fischer for his editorial suggestions. We are indebted to the authors of both the original pieces as well as the new contributions and the referees. The

project benefited enormously from the technical typesetting skills of Xinyue Ye of the Department of Geography at San Diego State University and David Folch of the School of Geographical Sciences at Arizona State University, without whose dedicated efforts this volume would not have been completed.

The Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and the Department of Geography at San Diego State University both provided institutional support during the early phases of this project. The GeoDa Center for Geospatial Analysis and Computation in the School of Geographical Sciences at Arizona State University provided critical support to bring the project to closure.

Finally, we would like to dedicate this volume to Arthur Getis whose contributions have impacted so many. We feel fortunate to not only count ourselves among those, but also to call him a valued friend.

Tempe, AZ, USA
August 2009

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