
Contents

Introduction: Why Geostatistics?	1
The Requirement for Spatially Related Statistics	1
The Concept of a Spatially Regionalized Variable	4
Subsurface Variables	4
Geological Influences	4
Geological Discontinuities	5
Origins in the Prediction of Gold Grades for Mining	7
Applications in the Geosciences	9
Evolution of an Integrated Approach	9
Integrated Computer Techniques	10
Characterization Quality Concerns	11
Advantages and Disadvantages of Geostatistics	13
Advantages of Geostatistics	13
Disadvantages of Geostatistics	14
Data Types and Structures for 3D Geostatistics	16
Data Types: Variables, Characteristics and 3D Conventions	16
Management of Information Sources	16
Data Types	17
Data Structures	17
Hole Data Structure for Borehole Samples and Observations	21
Hole Geometry	21
Hole Data Associations	22
Map Data Structure for Point, Survey and Map Information	24
Map Geometry	24
Map Data Associations	26
Volume Data Structure for Geological Structures and Stratigraphy	27
Volume Geometry	28
Volume Data Associations	29
Grid Data Structure for a Continuous Measure of a Regionalized Variable	31
3D Grid Geometry	31
3D Grid Data Associations	32

Basic Concepts and Theory of Geostatistics	34
Analysis for the Spatial Variability of a Regionalized Variable	34
Spatial Variability of a Regionalized Variable	34
Measurement of Spatial Variability	36
Derivation of a Mathematical Model of Spatial Variability	41
Understanding Geostatistical Semi-Variograms	42
Semi-Variogram Models	43
Geostatistical Estimation of a Regionalized Variable	45
Estimating a Regionalized Variable at a Point	45
Sample Selection Criteria for Geostatistical Estimation	47
Estimating a Continuous Measure of a Regionalized Variable	48
Cross-Validation and Other Checks on Geostatistical Estimation	52
Cross-Validation of a Semi-Variogram Model	52
Cross-Checking of the Results of Geostatistical Estimation	53
Common Problems in Geostatistical Estimation	55
Integration of Geology with Geostatistics	57
Analysis of Geological Influences in a Regionalized Variable	57
Analysis of Geological Influences	57
Estimation with Geological Influences	59
3D Interpretation of Geological Structures and Volumes	60
Sectional Interpretation of Geological Volumes	60
3D Interpolation of Geological Volumes	62
Generating Viewplane Sections Through Geological Volumes	63
Considerations for 3D Interpretation	65
Generation of Geological Volumes between Triangulated Surfaces	66
TIN Representation of a Geological Surface	67
Manipulation of TIN Surfaces	69
Derivation of Volumes from TIN Surfaces	70
Geostatistical Estimation with Geological Control	72
Volumetric Intersections of Geological Volumes	72
Geostatistical Estimation with Geological Control	73
Grid Data Structure Considerations	75
Alternative Approaches to Representation of Geology	77
Practical Application of Geostatistics	80
Data Transform for Non-Normal Sample Distributions	80
Non-Normal Sample Distributions	80
Log Transform	81
Indicator Transform	82
Rank Order Transform	83
Normal Scores Transform	84
Practical Application of Data Transforms	84
Underlying Trends and Estimation of Residual Values	86
Semi-Variogram Analysis with a Determinate Trend	86

Estimation with a Determinate Trend 87

Anisotropy and Estimation with Directional Control 88

 Analysis of Anisotropic Spatial Variability 88

 Estimation with Anisotropic Spatial Variability 89

Volume Estimation of a Regionalized Variable 91

 Estimation for a Volume Instead of a Point 91

Geostatistical Uncertainty and Probability 93

The Normal Distribution, Standard Error and Probability 93

 Estimation Uncertainty 93

 Spatial Variation of Uncertainty 95

Standard Error as a Measure of Estimation Uncertainty 97

 Estimation Volumetrics and Uncertainty 97

 Geological Estimation and Uncertainty 100

Sampling Control Applications in Geostatistics 102

 Sampling Control with Semi-Variogram Analysis 102

 Sampling Control with Estimation Uncertainty 103

Indicator Transforms and Probability Estimation 106

 Estimation of a Probability Variation 106

 Quantitative Approach 106

 Qualitative Approach 108

Other Techniques for Estimation of a Regionalized Variable 111

 Contour Techniques 111

 Conditional Simulation 112

 Direct Volume Estimation for Thin Seams 113

Visualization and Spatial Analysis 115

Volumetrics Analysis of a Regionalized Variable 115

Manipulation of the Results of Geostatistical Estimation 119

 Volume-Weighted Averaging of Estimated Variations 119

 Combining Two or More Estimated Variations 120

 Generation of a Net Value Variation 122

Direct Volume Estimation of a Regionalized Variable 124

 Geostatistical Approximations 124

 Theoretical Basis of Direct Volume Estimation 125

 Practical Application of Direct Volume Estimation 126

 Advantages of Direct Volume Estimation 127

Practical Data Management for Geostatistics 128

Data Integration Issues 128

 Coordinate Issues 128

 Geological Integration 128

 Data Capture Formats 129

Data Verification Techniques	131
Sampling Issues	131
Geological Observation Issues	131
Statistical Techniques	132
Geostatistical Techniques	133
Visualization Techniques	134
Qualification of the Results of Subsurface Characterization	135
Semi-Variogram Analysis	135
Cross-Validation Analysis	135
Estimation Comparisons	136
Estimation Uncertainty	137
Geological Uncertainty	137
Characterization Reporting	139
Practical Geostatistics	140
Worked Example: Grade Characterization of a Zinc Ore Deposit	140
Site Investigation	140
Data Review, Statistics & Semi-Variogram Analysis of Samples	141
Cross-Validation of Semi-Variogram Models	142
Unconfined Geostatistical Estimation of Ore Grades	142
Interpretation of Deposit Ore Types	143
Ore Grade Estimation with Geological Control	143
Spatial Analysis of Ore Grade Variation	144
Worked Example: Environmental Characterization and Assessment of Soil Contamination	145
Site Investigation	146
Data Review, Statistics and Geostatistical Analysis	146
Generation of Soil Geology	147
Probability of Contaminant Variations	147
Spatial Analysis and Volumetrics	148
Sample Optimization and Quality Control	149
Worked Example: Mineral Characterization of a Copper Ore Deposit	150
Site Investigation	151
Data Review, Statistics & Semi-Variogram Analysis of Samples	152
Interpretation of Deposit Geology	153
Ore Grade Estimation with Geological Control	153
Spatial Analysis of Ore Grade Variation	154
Worked Example: Geotechnical Characterization for a Tunnel Project	155
Site Investigation	156
Data Review, Statistics & Semi-Variogram Analysis of Samples	156
Interpretation of Project Geology	157
Probability Estimation of Soil Properties	157
Probability Estimation of Rock Properties	158
Source Data for the Worked Examples	159
Source Data Locations and Contents	159
Credits	161