

A comparison study between fire-spotting models by a wildfire simulator based on a cellular automata approach

M. López-De-Castro; A. Trucchia; P. Fiorucci; G. Pagnini

*Marcos López De Castro,
BCAM - Basque Center for Applied Mathematics (Bilbao, Spain),
malopez@bcamath.org*



*European Geoscience Union General Assembly 2022
Vienna, 23-27 May 2022*

Acknowledgments

This research was conducted thanks to:

- The Basque Government through the BERC 2022-2025 programme.
- Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) through the BCAM Severo Ochoa excellence accreditation SEV-2017-0718.
- Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation through the Project PID2019-107685RB-I00.



Motivation

Motivation

Fire-spotting.

- **Uncertainty source**
 - Starts new fires (spot-fires).
 - Accelerate the spread of fire

Motivation

Fire-spotting.

- **Uncertainty source**
 - Starts new fires (spot-fires).
 - Accelerate the spread of fire

Two research approaches in its study.

Motivation

Fire-spotting.

- **Uncertainty source**
 - Starts new fires (spot-fires).
 - Accelerate the spread of fire

Two research approaches in its study.

Good fire-spotting model -> Accurate wildfire simulations.

Our work: Fire-spotting comparison models

Fire-spotting models.

- Trucchia A, Egorova V, Butenko A, Kaur I, Pagnini G (2019) RandomFront 2.3: a physical parameterisation of fire spotting for operational fire spread models – implementation in WRF-SFIRE and response analysis with LSFire+. *Geoscientific Model Development* **12**, 69–87. doi:10.5194/gmd-12-69-2019.
- Alexandridis A, Russo L, Vakalis D, Bafas GV, Siettos CI (2011) Wildland fire spread modelling using cellular automata: evolution in large-scale spatially heterogeneous environments under fire suppression tactics. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* **20**, 633. doi:10.1071/WF09119.
- Perryman HA, Dugaw CJ, Varner JM, Johnson DL (2013) A cellular automata model to link surface fires to firebrand lift-off and dispersal. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* **22**, 428. doi:10.1071/WF11045.

Our work: Fire-spotting comparison models

Fire-spotting models.

- Trucchia A, Egorova V, Butenko A, Kaur I, Pagnini G (2019) RandomFront 2.3: a physical parameterisation of fire spotting for operational fire spread models – implementation in WRF-SFIRE and response analysis with LSFIRE+. *Geoscientific Model Development* **12**, 69–87. doi:10.5194/gmd-12-69-2019.
- Perryman HA, Dugaw CJ, Varner JM, Johnson DL (2013) A cellular automata model to link surface fires to firebrand lift-off and dispersal. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* **22**, 428. doi:10.1071/WF11045.
- Alexandridis A, Russo L, Vakalis D, Bafas GV, Siettos CI (2011) Wildland fire spread modelling using cellular automata: evolution in large-scale spatially heterogeneous environments under fire suppression tactics. *International Journal of Wildland Fire* **20**, 633. doi:10.1071/WF09119.



PROPAGATOR



- **Georeferenced map with the burnt probability of each cell.**

The Alexandridis *et al.* parametrization

- It was developed in CA framework.
- Firebrand landing distance:

$$d_p = r_n \cdot P_w = r_n \exp \left(U_{C_2} (\cos \varphi - 1) \right) \quad (1)$$

- r_n is drawn from a normal distribution.

The Perryman *et al.* parametrization

- It is based in previously research.
- Firebrand landing distance:

$$d_p = \sqrt{d_{||}^2 + d_{\perp}^2} \quad (2)$$

- Paralell to wind direction ($d_{||}^2$)-> Lognormal distribution
- Perpendicular-to-wind direction(d_{\perp}^2) -> Normal distribution

RandomFront parametrization

- Lognormal distribution.

$$p(d) = \frac{1}{(\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma d)} \exp\left(\frac{-(\ln(d/\mu))^2}{(2\sigma^2)}\right) \quad (3)$$

- $\mu, \sigma \rightarrow$ Parametrizes the physics of the transport.

RandomFront parametrization

➤ Mean:

$$\mu = H(H_{ABL}) \left(\frac{3\rho C_d}{2\rho_f} \right)^{1/2} \quad (4)$$

➤ Standard deviation:

$$\sigma = \sigma(\varphi, \omega) = \frac{1}{z_p} \ln \left\{ \frac{U \cos \varphi}{\sqrt{gr(1 + \tan^2 \omega)}} + \beta_2 \sqrt{\frac{2\rho_f}{3\rho C_d}} \frac{1.4U \cos \varphi + \sqrt{gh_0(1 + \phi_{wind} + \phi_{slope})^{2/3}} \tan \omega}{\sqrt{gh_0(1 + \phi_{wind} + \phi_{slope})^{2/3} - 1.4U \cos \varphi \tan \omega}} \right\} \quad (5)$$

Study area

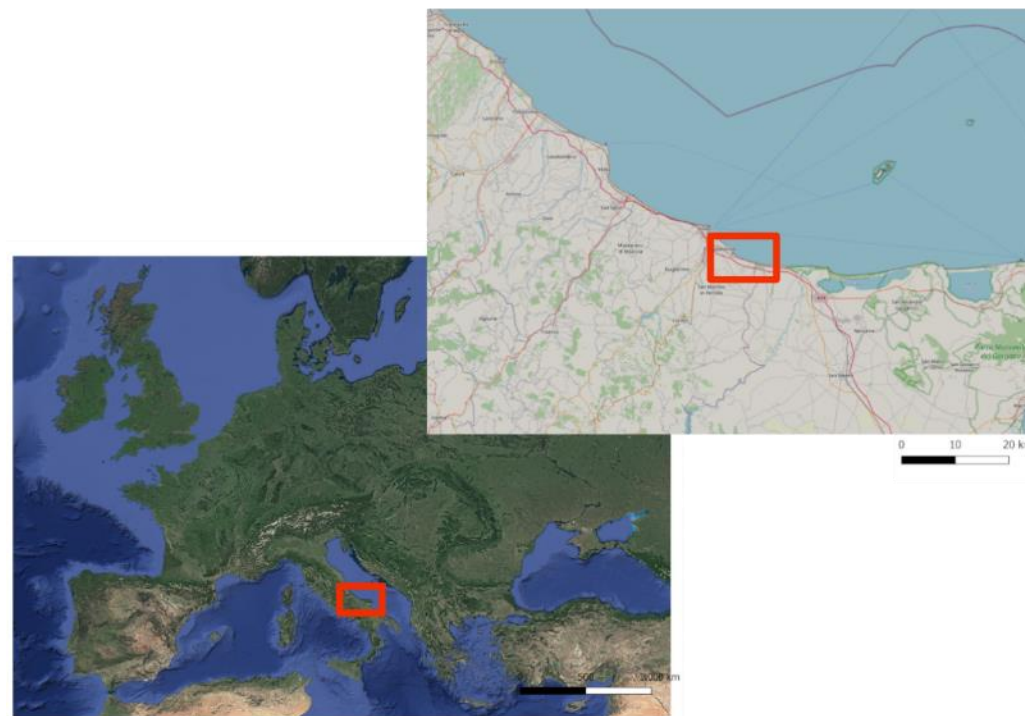


Figure 1

Study area

(a)



(b)

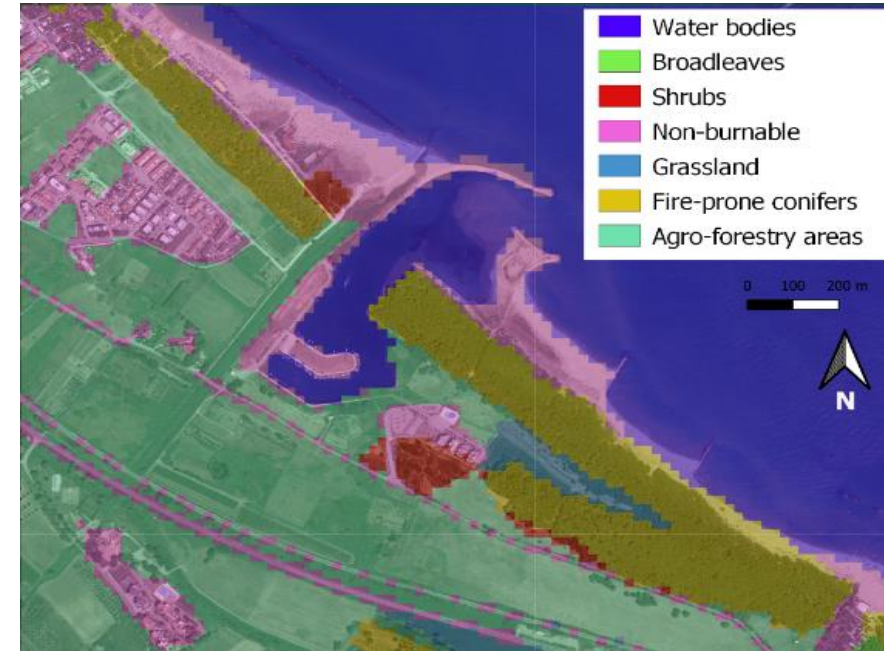


Figure 2

Results of the simulation

➤ Alexandridis Model

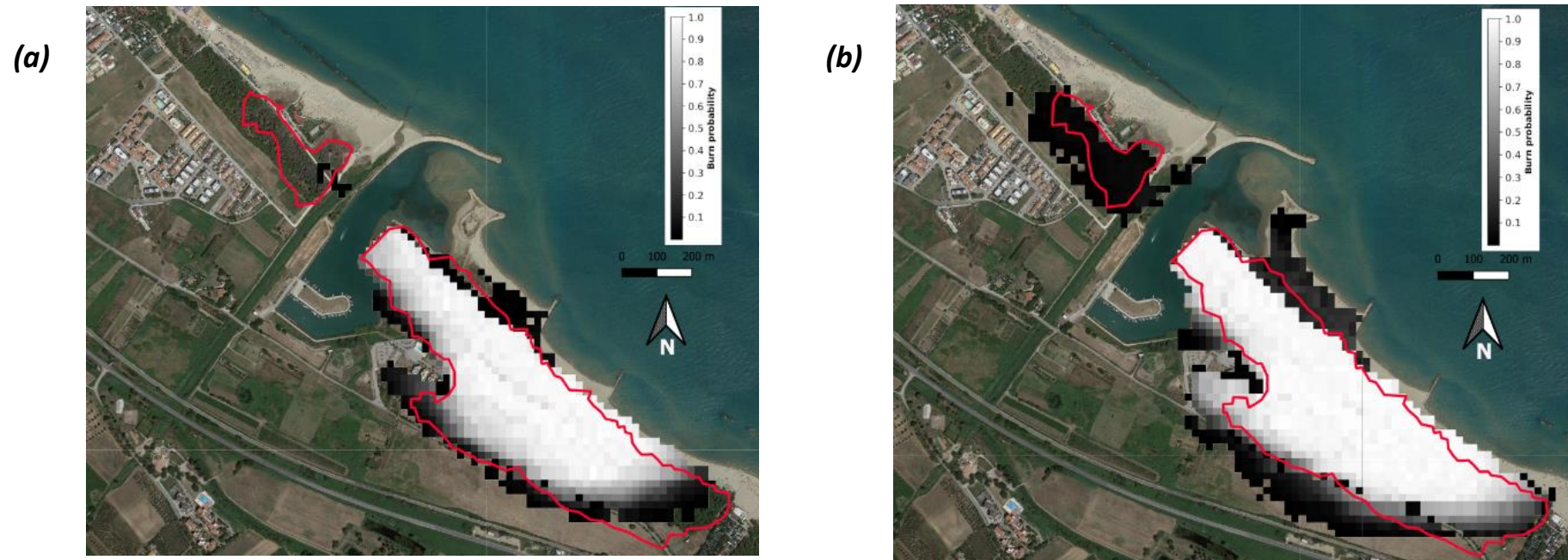


Figure 3.

Results of the simulation

➤ Perryman

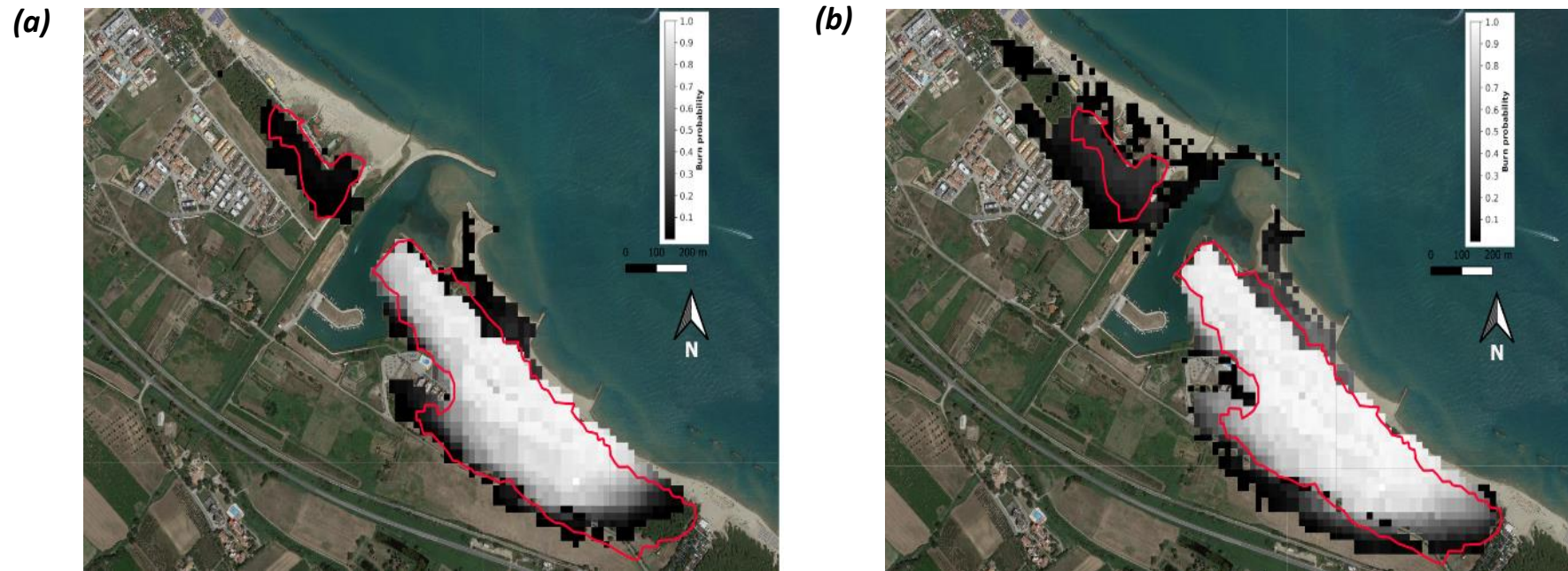


Figure 4

Results of the simulation

➤ RandomFront fomulation

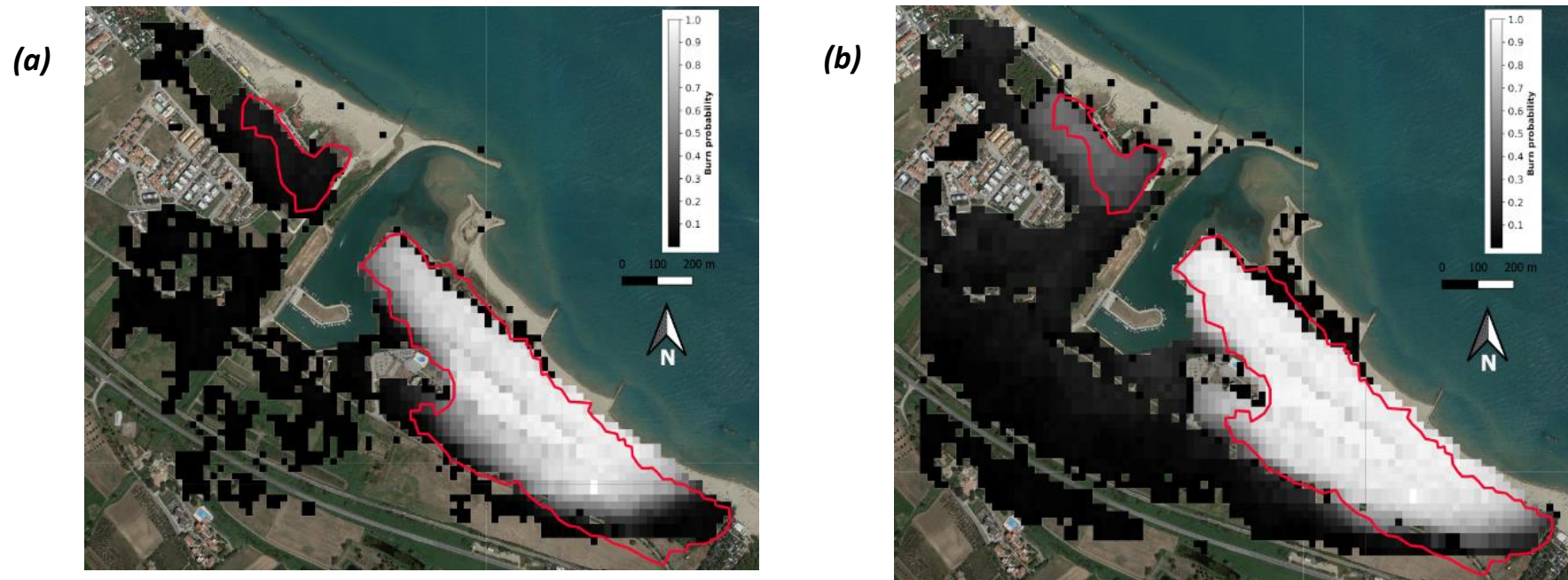


Figure 5

Results of the simulation

➤ Probability generated

Sub-model	East	West
Alexandridis	0.7938	0.0358
Perryman	0.7370	0.1330
RandomFront	0.7303	0.2868

Table 1 Main probability generated inside the reference Areas.

Results of the simulation

➤ Probability generated

Sub-model	East	West
Alexandridis	0.7938	0.0358
Perryman	0.7370	0.1330
RandomFront	0.7303	0.2868

Table 1 Main probability generated inside the reference Areas.

Conclusions and Further work

- Richer spread pattern is observed in physical models.

Conclusions and Further work

- Richer spread pattern is observed in physical models.
- Higher probability density with RF.

Conclusions and Further work

- Richer spread pattern is observed in physical models.
- Higher probability density with RF.
- The operational context is conserved.

Conclusions and Further work

- Richer spread pattern is observed in physical models.
- Higher probability density with RF.
- The operational context is conserved.
- Further work:
 - Analysis of the spread patterns in the ensemble contex.
 - Suitable fire-spotting metrics.
 - Firebrand generation process.
 - Spot ignition probability.

Thank you for your attendance!!

Trucchia A, Egorova V, Butenko A, Kaur I, Pagnini G (2019) [RandomFront 2.3: a physical parameterisation of fire spotting for operational fire spread models – implementation in WRF-SFIRE and response analysis with LSFire+](#). *Geoscientific Model Development* **12**, 69–87. doi:10.5194/gmd-12-69-2019.

Feel free to contact with me -> malopez@bcamath.org