



# Downscaling daily air-temperature measurements in the Netherlands

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## Abstract

High-resolution, regularly gridded air-temperature maps are frequently used in climatology, hydrology, and ecology. Within the Netherlands, 34 official automatic weather stations (AWSs) are operated by the National Met Service according to World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standards. Although the measurements are of high quality, the spatial density of the AWSs is not sufficient to reconstruct the temperature on a 1-km-resolution grid. Therefore, a new methodology for daily temperature reconstruction from 1990 to 2017 is proposed, using linear regression and multiple adaptive regression splines. The daily 34 AWS measurements are interpolated using eight different predictors: diurnal temperature range, population density, elevation, albedo, solar irradiance, roughness, precipitation, and vegetation index. Results are cross-validated for the AWS locations and compared with independent citizen weather observations. The *RMSE* of the reference method ordinary kriging amounts to 2.6 °C whereas using the new methods the *RMSE* drops below 1.0 °C. Especially for cities, a substantial improvement of the predictions is found. Independent predictions are on average 0.3 °C less biased than ordinary kriging at 40 high-quality citizen measurement sites. With this new method, we have improved the representation of local temperature variations within the Netherlands. The temperature maps presented here can have applications in urban heat island studies, local trend analysis, and model evaluation.

## 1 Introduction

High-resolution, regularly gridded temperature maps are essential for the construction of climatologies (Newman et al. 2015; Mohr and Tveito 2008; van den Hurk et al. 2006). Several scientific fields use these maps, examples are: the calculation of evapotranspiration (Enku and Melesse 2014; Lofgren et al. 2011; Hiemstra and Sluiter 2011), ecological relationships with bird and plant species occurrence (Vasseur et al. 2014), and the timing of pollen release (van Vliet et al. 2002). On the larger scale, homogenized gridded time series have been constructed to study temperature changes (van der Schrier et al. 2011). For example, the central Netherlands has warmed approximately

1 °C over the twentieth century (van Oldenborgh and Van Ulden 2003). These authors have used data from the automatic weather stations (AWSs) to estimate a regional representation of the warming trends. Western Europe has been warming much faster than climate models projected (van Oldenborgh et al. 2009). The resolution of climate models is increasing and therefore there is a need for high resolution temperature products for their evaluation.

For the construction of gridded temperature maps, air temperature observations from AWSs alone are often not sufficient to capture local variations, such as temperature differences between cities and the countryside. In the Netherlands, the temporal resolution of temperature measurements is high, but the spatial density is limited. The 34 AWSs are approximately 30km apart (Fig. 1), which allows for a reasonable representation of the spatial variation on country scale. Temperature variations at the scale of cities and forests are not captured. Although the Netherlands has a mild maritime climate, the average daily maximum canopy urban heat island (UHI) amounts to 2–3 °C, and in some cases above 5 °C (Steeneveld et al. 2011; Dirksen et al. 2019). Previous studies have established a physically based semi-empirical relationship to calculate the UHI. Theeuwes et al. (2017) have correlated the UHI to the sky view factor, vegetation fraction, solar irradiance, diurnal temperature

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**Fig. 1** Meteorological observations in the Netherlands used for the interpolation and validation of the methods. In red the 34 KNMI AWSs which were used for the temperature interpolation. The stations are spread almost equally throughout the country, although they slightly favor the western part. Meteorological stations networks used for the validation: in blue the Wunderground stations and in orange the Wageningen University Observatory (WUR) station. For the GGD network, see Fig. 2. A full overview of the metadata can be found in Table 1



range (DTR), and wind speed. Also several previous interpolation studies on country scale have used predictors in addition to AWS temperature measurements. The temperature within the Netherlands has been interpolated using the distance to the sea as variable (Sluiter 2012). The Norwegian meteorological institute used station elevation and average and lowest height of the surroundings, station latitude (which in this case is an approximation of the distance to the sea), and station longitude as independent predictors for the temperature interpolation (Mohr and Tveito 2008). Additionally, the Finnish meteorological institute added the relative land/water cover as a predictor (Aalto et al. 2013). Within Croatia soil temperature interpolation algorithms used latitude, longitude, distance from the sea, elevation, time, solar irradiance, and the MODIS Land Surface Temperature (LST) product (Hengl et al. 2012). Satellite datasets are of additional value as they provide local spatial information between the measurement locations. In

addition to the variables used for temperature interpolation in these different countries, Carlson and Boland (1978) stated that surface roughness and moisture availability are essential to determine the correct temperature.

Different interpolation techniques have been used to grid the air temperature with several predictors, these include: regression kriging, residual kriging, space-time kriging, and generalized additive models (Sluiter 2012; Mohr and Tveito 2008; Aalto et al. 2013; Hengl et al. 2012). One of the problems with the kriging interpolation techniques is the fitting of the variogram model, which is in most cases fitted for the whole domain (Haas 1990). This would assume the spatial correlation is similar for the whole domain and is in that sense domain dependent. Kuhn and Johnson (2016) introduced predictive modeling with different techniques such as linear regression and multiple adaptive regression splines which can handle more local variations. To prevent overfitting of the models, it is optional to add feature selection

(Kuhn and Johnson 2016). Cross-validation has been commonly used to validate the interpolation technique (Sluiter 2012; Aalto et al. 2013; Hengl et al. 2012; Mohr and Tveito 2008). The temperature will be predicted at the left out locations, which assumes that the training and test points are spatially independent. This assumption is not always justified. Ideally the temperature predictions would not only be validated at the representative AWS locations. Crowd-sourced weather observations networks like Wunderground have a high spatial coverage within the Netherlands, but long-term records are not available. These citizen weather observations are often used in urban heat island studies, since the coverage of traditional AWS is often not sufficient (Theeuwes et al. 2017; Chapman et al. 2017). These networks are not calibrated and therefore the stations need to be selected carefully (Bell et al. 2015; Theeuwes et al. 2017).

Extending these previous ideas of spatial predictors, our goal is to reconstruct daily temperature patterns in the Netherlands using eight different predictors: DTR, population density, elevation, albedo, surface solar irradiance, roughness, precipitation, and normalized difference vegetation index. As interpolation techniques, linear regression and multiple adaptive regression splines are compared. As reference interpolation, we used ordinary kriging, which only uses the AWS temperature observations. To validate the models, we will use both cross-validation and crowd-sourced measurements. The temperature is reconstructed on a 1-km grid for the period 1990–2017.

The structure of the article is as follows. Section 2 describes the temperature observations, predictors, interpolation techniques, and validation methods. The results are described in Section 3 which contains spatial climatology patterns from the different interpolation techniques and a detailed validation. A discussion is presented in Section 4 together with possible applications of the interpolation techniques for local warming trends. Conclusions are drawn in Section 5.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Meteorological observations

Daily air-temperature measurements from the 34 AWS locations in the Netherlands are used for the interpolation (Fig. 1). The station spreading slightly favors the west coast which is densely populated. The air temperature is measured at a height of 1.5m. The AWSs are maintained according to WMO standards. The total uncertainty of the temperature measurements, derived from the external errors, measurement uncertainty, and calibration error, is estimated at 0.13 °C (Bijma 2012). Homogeneity adjustments were made for the five longest time records: De Kooy, De

Bilt, Eelde, Vlissingen, and Maastricht. Using parallel measurements, the time series were corrected on a daily basis (Brandsma 2016). There have been a few relocations of other AWS measurement sites for which we have not corrected.

In the Netherlands, a huge amount of citizen weather data available is available, although of varying qualities. From the Wunderground network,<sup>1</sup> 19 stations have been selected which serve as an independent validation (Fig. 1). Comparing official and amateur temperature observations, the Davis Vantage instruments show the smallest absolute measurement errors around 0.2 °C and standard deviations around 0.3 °C (Bell 2014). The daytime solar irradiance-induced error was estimated on average between 0.6 and 0.7 °C (Cornes et al. 2019). The Davis Vantage (DV) temperature sensor is a PN junction silicone diode type with a measurement range from -40 up to 65 °C (Davis Instruments 2014). To ensure spatial coverage throughout the country, also one other system was selected, the Oregon Scientific Professional Weather Center (OSPWC) which has a thermo-hygro THGR800 sensor. This sensor measures from -30 up to 60 °C with an accuracy between 1 and 2 °C (Oregon Scientific 2009). The Wunderground network provides no high-quality sensors in Amsterdam (capital of the Netherlands).

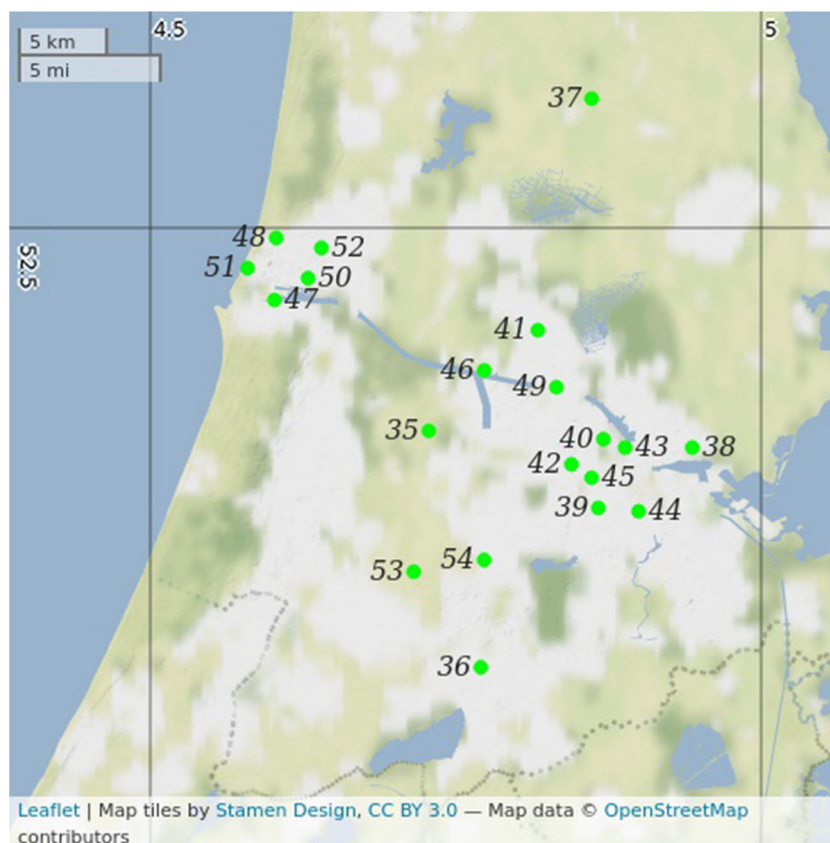
However, another network, operated by the local health service (GGD), is available since 2014 in this region (van der Zee and Helmink 2017). Next to each of the 20 air-quality measurement locations, temperature sensors were installed (Fig. 2). The temperature was measured with the BX-592 system (Met One Instruments 2016)<sup>2</sup>; the BX-592 system has the temperature sensor inside a white temperature hut and measures within the range from -30 up to 50 °C. This system has not been validated in the field by Bell (2014) or others. According to the instruction manual, the measurement error of the BX-592 system is 0.2 °C and should be of similar quality as the Davis Vantage instruments.

Rural measurements from station Haarweg near Wageningen University from 2001 until 2012 were also used for validation purposes (Jacobs et al. 2010). Currently, the new rural station Veenkampen, also from Wageningen University, is sited nearby (Fig. 1). Observations since 2011-06-01 were used for the validation. Compared with the Pt500 resistance which is used for the AWS stations, the Pt100 sensor is a bit more vulnerable due to its thinner platinum wire. The resistance of the Pt500 and Pt100 is respectively 500Ω and 100Ω. A complete metadata description of the meteorological observations used for our analysis is included in Table 1.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.wunderground.com>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.metone.com>

**Fig. 2** Meteorological observations used for the validation in the Amsterdam region from the GGD network. A full overview of the metadata can be found in Table 1



The citizen weather data was quality controlled to avoid extreme outliers and implausible measurements. Temperatures below  $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and above  $45\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  are rejected. If a value is repeated 8 times or more in a row, it was also rejected. The citizen weather data differs in temporal resolution for each station and is not always continuous in time. If the time between sequential measurements was more than 1 h, no daily average was calculated, additionally only sequential series longer than 1 week were selected. Next, the filtered temperature measurements were linearly interpolated to regular 10-min timestamps from which daily averages were calculated.

## 2.2 Spatial predictors

The temperature measurements from the AWSs were interpolated with auxiliary datasets. The climatological values for the predictors at the locations of the 34 AWSs are included in Table 2. The following datasets are taken into account: DTR, population density, elevation, albedo, solar irradiance, roughness, precipitation, and normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) (Fig. 3). All the predictors are regridded on a 1-km grid, which is considered to be the highest possible resolution with this input data. The spatial resampling of the data was performed in R using the raster package using bilinear resampling.

Additionally, the predictors were centered and scaled. To prevent over-fitting, for each day, highly correlated predictors (with a correlation coefficient of  $> 0.75$ ) are excluded.

### 2.2.1 Diurnal temperature range

The DTR is an essential variable for local temperature analysis (Theeuwes et al. 2017); here we will use the DTR as a background field. The DTR was calculated as the maximum temperature difference for the AWSs during the corresponding day. The temperature differences were interpolated using ordinary kriging. For the temperature interpolation, we used a monthly mean climatology. The 30-year mean range is shown in Fig. 3a. The pattern has a northwest-southeast gradient with relatively high values inland. Averaged over a longer time period, the DTR correlates strongly to the distance from the sea.

### 2.2.2 Population density

The population density is highest in the western part of the country, where the capital Amsterdam and main harbor of Rotterdam are situated (Fig. 3b). The relation between temperature and city population were initially established

**Table 1** Overview of the meteorological observations. The Wunderground network was abbreviated as “Wund.gd.”

Nr.	Network	Station name and ID	Lat (N), lon (E)	System	Start; stop	Days
1	AWS	Valkenburg (210)	(52.171, 4.430)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2016-05-04	9618
2	AWS	De Kooy (235)	(52.928, 4.781)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
3	AWS	Schiphol (240)	(52.318, 4.790)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
4	AWS	Vlieland (242)	(53.241, 4.921)	Pt500	1996-01-01; 2017-12-31	8016
5	AWS	Berkhout (249)	(52.644, 4.979)	Pt500	1999-03-12; 2017-12-31	6860
6	AWS	Hoorn, Terschelling (251)	(53.392, 5.346)	Pt500	1994-05-26; 2017-12-31	8616
7	AWS	De Bilt (260)	(52.100, 5.180)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
8	AWS	Soesterberg (265)	(52.130, 5.274)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2007-05-22	6894
9	AWS	Stavoren (267)	(52.898, 5.384)	Pt500	1990-06-18; 2019-03-18	9930
10	AWS	Lelystad (269)	(52.458, 5.520)	Pt500	1990-01-17; 2017-12-31	10,189
11	AWS	Leeuwarden (270)	(53.224, 5.752)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
12	AWS	Marknesse (273)	(52.703, 5.888)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,216
13	AWS	Deelen (275)	(52.056, 5.873)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
14	AWS	Lauwersoog (277)	(53.413, 6.200)	Pt500	1991-03-18; 2017-12-31	9787
15	AWS	Heino (278)	(52.435, 6.259)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,121
16	AWS	Hoogeveen (279)	(52.750, 6.574)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,190
17	AWS	Eelde (280)	(53.125, 6.585)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
18	AWS	Hupsel (283)	(6.658, 52.070)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
19	AWS	Nieuw Beerta (286)	(53.196, 7.150)	Pt500	1990-01-17; 2017-12-31	10,194
20	AWS	Twenthe (290)	(52.274, 6.891)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
21	AWS	Vlissingen (310)	(51.442, 3.596)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
22	AWS	Westdorpe (319)	(51.226, 3.861)	Pt500	1991-06-25; 2017-12-31	9688
23	AWS	Wilhelminadorp (323)	(51.527, 3.884)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	8763
24	AWS	Hoek van Holland (330)	(51.992, 4.122)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	9832
25	AWS	Woensdrecht (340)	(4.342, 51.449)	Pt500	1993-04-01; 2017-12-31	8283
26	AWS	Rotterdam (344)	(4.447, 51.960)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
27	AWS	Cabauw (348)	(4.926, 51.970)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
28	AWS	Gilze-Rijen (350)	(4.936, 51.566)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
29	AWS	Herwijnen (356)	(5.146, 51.859)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,192
30	AWS	Eindhoven (370)	(5.377, 51.451)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
31	AWS	Volkel (375)	(5.707, 51.659)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
32	AWS	Ell (377)	(5.763, 51.198)	Pt500	1999-05-01; 2017-12-31	6746
33	AWS	Maastricht (380)	(5.762, 50.906)	Pt500	1990-01-01; 2017-12-31	10,227
34	AWS	Arcen (391)	(6.197, 51.498)	Pt500	1990-06-18; 2017-12-31	10,044
35	GGD	Ams.-Spaarnwoude (703)	(4.729, 52.399)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1463
36	GGD	Oude Meer (565)	(4.771, 52.281)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1463
37	GGD	De Rijp (556)	(4.862, 52.565)	BX-592	1990-06-18; 2017-12-31	1451
38	GGD	Nieuwendammerdijk (3)	(4.944, 52.390)	BX-592	1990-06-18; 2017-12-31	1457
39	GGD	Vondelpark (14)	(4.867, 52.361)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1457
40	GGD	Westerpark (16)	(4.871, 52.395)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1460
41	GGD	Zaandam (701)	(4.817, 52.449)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1463
42	GGD	Einsteinweg (7)	(4.846, 52.382)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-29	1458
43	GGD	Van Diemenstraat (12)	(4.889, 52.391)	BX-592	1990-06-18; 2017-12-31	1462
44	GGD	Stadhouderskade (17)	(4.900, 52.359)	BX-592	1990-06-18; 2017-12-31	1462
45	GGD	Jan van Galenstraat (20)	(4.861, 52.376)	BX-592	2014-12-23; 2017-12-31	1107
46	GGD	Hoogtij (704)	(4.773, 52.429)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1459
47	GGD	IJmuiden (551)	(4.602, 52.464)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1461
48	GGD	Wijk aan Zee (553)	(4.603, 52.495)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1463

**Table 1** (continued)

Nr.	Network	Station name and ID	Lat (N), lon (E)	System	Start; stop	Days
49	GGD	Hemkade (546)	(4.832, 52.421)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1463
50	GGD	Staalstraat (572)	(4.629, 52.475)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1448
51	GGD	Reijndersweg (573)	(4.580, 52.480)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1461
52	GGD	Beverwijk-West (570)	(4.641, 52.490)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1459
53	GGD	Hoofddorp (564)	(4.715, 52.328)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1457
54	GGD	Badhoevedorp (561)	(4.774, 52.334)	BX-592	2014-01-01; 2017-12-31	1463
55	Wund.gd.	IEINDHOV167	(51.418, 5.493)	DVP2+	2016-06-22; 2017-12-31	550
56	Wund.gd.	IFLEVOLA43	(52.540, 5.593)	DVP2	2015-06-29; 2017-12-31	890
57	Wund.gd.	IFRIESLA101	(53.453, 5.811)	DVV	2015-01-28; 2017-12-31	1066
58	Wund.gd.	IFRIESLA82	(53.224, 6.000)	DVP2	2017-07-15; 2017-12-31	119
59	Wund.gd.	IGRONING106	(53.238, 6.602)	DVP2+	2015-01-09; 2017-12-31	1075
60	Wund.gd.	IGRONING45	(53.232, 6.604)	DVP2+	2012-04-13; 2017-12-31	2082
61	Wund.gd.	IGRONING91	(53.208, 6.579)	DVP2	2015-11-03; 2017-12-31	737
62	Wund.gd.	ILIMBURG84	(51.514, 6.084)	DVP2	2015-11-20; 2017-12-31	771
63	Wund.gd.	INOORDBR179	(51.428, 4.306)	DVP2+	2008-01-31; 2017-12-31	3598
64	Wund.gd.	INOORDHO205	(52.726, 5.011)	DVP2+	2010-12-12; 2017-12-31	2555
65	Wund.gd.	IOVERIJS145	(52.347, 6.482)	DVP2+	2017-09-30; 2017-12-31	90
66	Wund.gd.	IPWSOIRS2	(51.512, 5.317)	DVV	2015-07-31; 2017-12-31	856
67	Wund.gd.	ISCHIEDA60	(51.919, 4.410)	OSPWC	2017-06-20; 2017-12-31	189
68	Wund.gd.	IUTRECHT148	(52.123, 5.285)	DVP2	2013-07-15; 2017-12-31	960
69	Wund.gd.	IZEELAND47	(51.628, 3.996)	DVP2	2015-12-05; 2017-12-31	695
70	Wund.gd.	IZEEWOLD31	(52.389, 5.478)	DVP2	2015-06-01; 2017-12-31	891
71	Wund.gd.	IZUIDHOL226	(51.895, 4.568)	DVP2+	2016-02-29; 2017-12-31	659
72	Wund.gd.	IZUIDHOL230	(52.190, 4.705)	DVP2	2014-08-18; 2017-12-31	1225
73	Wund.gd.	IZUIDHOL36	(51.950, 4.571)	DVP2+ fan	2015-05-30; 2017-12-31	929
74	Haarweg	Veenkampen* <sup>1</sup>	(5.622, 51.981)	Pt100	2011-06-01; 2017-12-31	2636
75	Haarweg	Haarweg* <sup>1</sup>	(5.633, 51.967)	Pt100	2001-08-01; 2012-06-30	3987

The start and stop of the measurements within the entire period, with a minimum of 1990-01-01 and a maximum of 2017-12-31. Not all of the measurements are continuous; therefore, the number of temperature observation days within the 1990–2017 period is included. \*<sup>1</sup>The reference ID of the Haarweg and Veenkampen Network equal NLE00152462

by Oke (1982). On a local scale, the population density in the Dutch urban areas is positively correlated to the temperature (Steenefeld et al. 2011). As a measure of the urbanization and UHI effect, we therefore use the population density.<sup>3</sup> The population data from central agency for statistics (CBS)<sup>4</sup> has been documented in van Leeuwen et al. (2017). The dataset includes yearly averages from 2000 until 2014 with an original resolution of 100m by 100m. Before 2000 the population density of 2000 was used, similarly, between 2015 and 2017 the year 2014 was used. Hereby we assume that the population patterns are similar outside of the datasets range.

<sup>3</sup><http://www.nationaalgeoregister.nl>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.cbs.nl>

### 2.2.3 Elevation

Lapse rates are typically in the order of 0.6–1.0 °C per 100m. Most of the Netherlands is relatively flat, though some hills are present in the east and southeast of the country, with 322m as the highest elevation. We hypothesise that although height differences are small they still are of relevance to the temperature pattern within the Netherlands.

Highly accurate elevation measurements, covering the entire country excluding water bodies, from aircraft measurements have a point density of 6–10 points per  $m^2$  (Sitek et al. 2006; Isenburg 2013).<sup>3</sup> The elevation points are relative to the average sea level of the North-sea and have an error of 3cm (van der Zon 2013). Processing this 1.5-TB dataset and resampling it to the temperature prediction resolution of 1km would be computationally expensive;

**Table 2** Overview of climatological values of the prediction datasets at the AWS locations. The numbering is according to Fig. 1

Nr.	Station name and ID	DTR	Pop	Elev	Albedo	Irr	Rough	Precip	NDVI
		°C	$n/100m^2$	$m$	–	$W/m^2$	$m$	$mm/day$	–
1	Valkenburg (210)	7.10	57	1.85	134	123	0.34	2.53	-0.42
2	De Kooy (235)	6.26	30	1.85	121	122	0.11	2.28	-1.24
3	Schiphol (240)	7.30	65	-1.55	135	120	0.34	2.52	-0.66
4	Vlieland (242)	6.08	8	5.88	81	121	0.04	2.28	-2.58
5	Berkhout (249)	6.89	24	-1.37	153	120	0.14	2.45	0.24
6	Hoorn, Terschelling (251)	6.18	6	7.87	69	120	0.07	2.34	-1.83
7	Wijk aan Zee (257)	6.90	48	4.50	130	123	0.30	2.48	-0.37
8	De Bilt (260)	8.10	45	5.67	139	118	0.45	2.42	0.21
9	Stavoren (267)	6.64	12	0.58	132	121	0.11	2.28	0.57
10	Lelystad (269)	7.80	39	-1.27	137	119	0.23	2.35	-0.78
11	Leeuwarden (270)	6.72	22	0.17	171	118	0.13	2.27	0.45
12	Marknesse (273)	7.58	13	-0.33	156	119	0.14	2.36	-0.23
13	Deelen (275)	8.53	30	39.09	128	116	0.56	2.48	0.30
14	Lauwersoog (277)	6.57	13	1.11	128	116	0.09	2.35	-0.87
15	Heino (278)	8.32	16	6.56	169	117	0.23	2.33	0.80
16	Hoogeveen (279)	8.12	14	13.13	162	116	0.20	2.37	0.50
17	Eelde (280)	7.70	26	4.55	159	115	0.23	2.37	0.38
18	Hupsel (283)	8.67	13	28.80	168	118	0.08	2.25	0.87
19	Nieuw Beerta (286)	7.91	14	0.40	151	115	0.13	2.28	-0.33
20	Twenthe (290)	8.64	22	28.55	152	117	0.31	2.28	0.46
21	Vlissingen (310)	6.58	20	1.75	126	126	0.14	2.31	-0.98
22	Westdorpe (319)	7.24	24	1.41	146	123	0.15	2.32	-0.76
23	Wilhelminadorp (323)	6.89	23	0.44	114	125	0.09	2.35	-1.07
24	Hoek van Holland (330)	6.84	51	2.22	113	124	0.24	2.47	-1.37
25	Woensdrecht (340)	7.60	32	6.75	131	121	0.25	2.32	-0.37
26	Rotterdam (344)	7.27	62	-1.17	136	121	0.37	2.55	-0.81
27	Cabauw (348)	7.96	29	0.54	169	121	0.15	2.35	0.79
28	Gilze-Rijen (350)	8.40	35	10.64	149	120	0.38	2.32	0.15
29	Herwijnen (356)	8.36	18	2.05	167	121	0.16	2.28	0.49
30	Eindhoven (370)	8.69	31	19.86	144	120	0.40	2.19	0.21
31	Volkel (375)	8.80	16	14.78	156	120	0.25	2.19	0.25
32	Ell (377)	8.60	18	29.23	147	123	0.27	2.04	-0.04
33	Maastricht (380)	8.30	36	90.01	150	123	0.32	2.23	-0.27
34	Arcen (391)	8.80	17	21.29	148	121	0.34	2.15	-0.10

The population density (Pop.) is in inhabitants per  $100m^2$  averaged over  $1km$ , in the table abbreviated as  $n/100m^2$ . Elevation, solar irradiance, roughness, and precipitation, respectively, are abbreviated to Elev, Irr, Rough, and Precip

therefore, we have pre-processed the 2.5-m contours derived data (Fig. 3c).

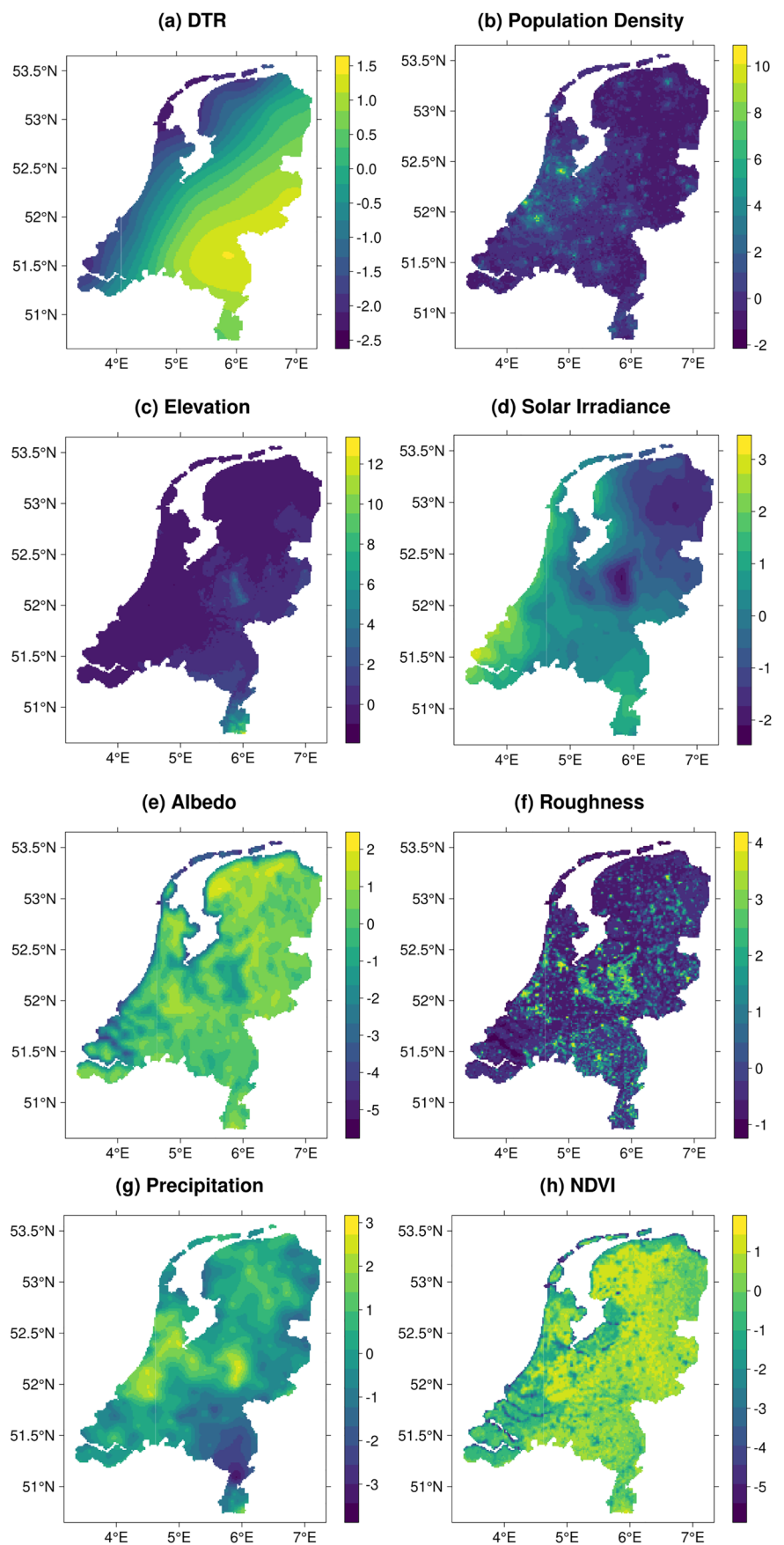
### 2.2.4 Solar Irradiance

The solar irradiance at the surface relates to the amount of energy which is available for surface heating (Müller et al. 2015) and is therefore essential for the temperature analysis.

The predominant pattern of the solar irradiance is the north-south gradient though from the climatology some coastal effects and height influences can be distinguished.

Geostationary satellites provide observations four times an hour within the Netherlands, from which incoming short-wave radiation is derived. The products from SARA (Müller et al. 2015) and SICCS (Greuell et al. 2013) are both based on radiative transfer modeling and, combined, they

**Fig. 3** Centered and scaled auxiliary datasets, in units standard deviations, which were used as additional information for the temperature interpolation. The datasets were centered and scaled using R. First, for each individual layer, the means are subtracted. Second, the layers are scaled by their standard deviation. For the plotting routine, the time varying variables are averaged over time. The eight different datasets are: **a** diurnal temperature range, **b** population density, **c** elevation, **d** albedo, **e** solar irradiance at the surface, **f** roughness, **g** precipitation, and **h** normalized difference vegetation index





provide an almost complete temporal coverage between 1990 and 2017. From 1990 to 2013, SARAHI was used, and from 2014 onward SICCS was used as a predictor. SARAHI has a spatial resolution of 0.05 degree; validation with the baseline surface radiation network (BSRN) shows a bias of  $1.3W/m^2$  (Müller et al. 2015). SICCS has a similar resolution of approximately 6km and a bias of  $6W/m^2$  (Greuell et al. 2013). Comparing the patterns of the overlapping time periods of SARAHI and SICCS, we found a median Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.94. In case the solar irradiance was not available, the monthly climatology from SARAHI 1990–2013 was used as a trend. An example of the SARAHI solar irradiance is included in Fig. 3d.

### 2.2.5 Albedo

Part of the solar irradiance is reflected back towards into the atmosphere. The amount of reflection is strongly related to the surface albedo (Moody et al. 2007). Albedo satellite measurements rely on cloud-free observations. During periods with a snow cover, the albedo is higher than in periods without snow. Occasionally, mainly during winter months, the Netherlands is covered with snow, influencing the temperature patterns both day and night. Therefore, on days with snow cover, the snow albedo from the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP) was used. This dataset consists of 16 different surface classes with related snow albedos. The snow albedo differs among surfaces, e.g., under high vegetation the maximum albedo is lower (Moody et al. 2007). The snow-free 5-year climatological albedo from MODIS has a spatial resolution of 1km and a temporal resolution of 16 days (Moody et al. 2008), see Fig. 3e. On days with a snow cover or partial snow cover, the daily albedo ( $\alpha_d$ ) was estimated from the IGBP snow albedo and snow-free albedo as:

$$\alpha_d = C_{sn} * \alpha_{sn+veg} + (1 - C_{sn}) * \alpha_{clim} \quad (1)$$

where  $\alpha_{sn+veg}$  is the snow albedo depending on the vegetation,  $\alpha_{clim}$  is the 16 days climatological albedo of the surface without snow valid for the corresponding day, and  $C_{sn}$  is the snow cover fraction which was calculated as:

$$C_{sn} = \min\left(1, \frac{D_{sn}}{0.1}\right) \quad (2)$$

where  $D_{sn}$  is the interpolated snow depth in meters (Dutra et al. 2010). The snow depth was interpolated, using a thin plate spline function (from the *Rs fields* package) and the 325 precipitation stations from the KNMI volunteer network.

### 2.2.6 Surface roughness

The surface roughness is the main contributor to differences in surface temperature between forested and open land (Burakowski et al. 2018). Above the canopy layer, the forest area experiences additional mixing. Due to the vegetation, mixing of the lower air is limited. The air temperature is not only cooler due to shadowing effect but part of the year evapotranspiration lowers the forests' temperatures. The forested areas experience less mixing below the canopy and therefore warmer nighttime temperatures and cooler daytime temperatures compared with open land. As a first-order estimate of this complex interaction, we use the surface roughness length.

The roughness length is based on land-use classification, which also forms the largest uncertainty. Lindenberg (2011) found improvements of the wind speed simulations using the roughness length based on the CORINE database compared with the USGS land-use data. CORINE uses 44 different land-use classes and has a resolution of 100m, derived from the European land-use database. For our analysis, we used the CORINE-based surface roughness.<sup>5</sup> Considering seasonal changes in roughness lengths, a different surface roughness is used during summer and winter (Fig. 3f).

### 2.2.7 Precipitation

The gridded daily precipitation files are based on 325 precipitation stations.<sup>6</sup> The manual precipitation network has remained almost the same over the entire period. Most of the measurement locations are in gardens of houses or near farm lands at a height of 0.40m above the ground. The precipitation is measured every 24 h at 8:00 UTC (Brandsma 2014). The measurements were interpolated using ordinary kriging (Sluiter 2012). From the daily data, the monthly mean precipitation was calculated, thereby providing an estimate of soil moisture availability. Precipitation and temperature over land are generally negatively correlated. This relationship however depends on the latitude; for the higher latitudes, the correlation is inversed (Trenberth and Shea 2005). This relationship is neither trivial nor fully understood because other variables such as the origin of the moist may play a key role. Despite this unclear relationship, precipitation is a key variable for the air temperature. The climatological precipitation patterns generally are wetter near the coast and dryer inland (Fig. 3g).

<sup>5</sup><https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/COR0-landcover>

<sup>6</sup><https://data.knmi.nl/datasets/Rd1/5?q=Rd1>

### 2.2.8 Normalized difference vegetation index

Vegetation absorbs and reflects solar irradiance and influences the heat exchange and therefore it influences the near surface temperature (Deng et al. 2018). Day and night-time temperatures are influenced by evapotranspiration and the isolating effect of vegetation. The NDVI is a commonly used vegetation index which we will use as a proxy for these processes. The NDVI mainly distinguishes between cities and vegetated areas. In the sections below, the different datasets are described accordingly.

The NDVI is derived from satellite images using visible red ( $0.6 - 0.7\mu m$ ) and near infrared ( $0.7 - 1.1\mu m$ ) wavelengths. The monthly NDVI product MOD13A3 (Didan and Huete 2006) from 2000 to 2016 has a resolution of 1km. For this product, the satellite cloud-free images are selected, which are corrected for the atmospheric influences and nadir-adjusted (Huete and Justice 1999). From MOD13A3 a monthly climatology was calculated by averaging 16 years of data (Fig. 3h).

### 2.3 Interpolation techniques

The interpolation/regression techniques ordinary kriging (*ok*), linear regression (*lm*), and multiple adaptive regression splines (*MARS*) will be compared (Table 3). The data analysis is performed in R, which is a programming language with useful statistical and geospatial techniques. The *ok* interpolation is implemented in the Rs *automap* package (Hiemstra 2015) and *gstat* package (Pebesma and Graeler 2017). The Rs *caret* package offers a large variety of regression techniques from which *lm* and *MARS* are further explored (Kuhn and Johnson 2016). The independent citizen weather observations are compared with the different methods. The RMSE and bias were calculated for all the citizen weather stations.

#### 2.3.1 Ordinary kriging

Kriging interpolation calculates spatial correlations between the observed and surrounding values. Simple kriging assumes that the covariance between the locations only depends on the distance between the locations and the mean residual is zero. Additionally, *ok* also assumes that the trend is a known mean value ( $m(x)$ ). The estimated value at an unmeasured location ( $Z(x)$ ) is calculated as:

$$Z(x) = m(x) + e(x) \quad (3)$$

where  $m(x)$  describes the trend and  $e(x)$  is the spatially dependent residual (Hiemstra and Sluiter 2011), also known as the error term. In order to minimize the error, an exponential variogram model is fitted through the residuals. The kriging interpolation uses leave one out cross-validation

(*LOOCV*) to determine model performance, according to Hiemstra (2015).

#### 2.3.2 Linear regression model

The 1.5m temperature ( $T_{1.5m}$ ) will be correlated to the auxiliary data using *lm*. The linear model is fit as follows:

$$T_{1.5m} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 V_1 + \beta_2 V_2 + \beta_i V_i + \beta_{...} V_{...} + \dots \quad (4)$$

where  $\beta_0$  is the fitted constant and  $\beta_i$  is the fitted value to the variable ( $V_i$ ). A summary of the model settings which were used for this analysis is shown in Table 3. To prevent over-fitting, the linear model uses recursive feature elimination (*rfe*), which uses a backwards selection. After excluding predictors, the feature importance is recalculated for the remaining predictors. Optimization of the linear model is based on tuning RMSE values (Kuhn and Johnson 2016). RMSE values for all models are calculated as:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{T}_i - T_i)^2} \quad (5)$$

where  $n$  is equal to the number of observations,  $\bar{T}_i$  is the observed temperature, and  $T_i$  is the predicted temperature. Detailed descriptions and examples are included in Kuhn and Johnson (2016).

#### 2.3.3 Multiple adaptive regression splines

The function *BagEarthGCV* described by Kuhn and Johnson (2016) is a wrapper function around the *MARS* from Friedman (1991). This extended linear model enables nonlinear fitting between the multiple predictors. The *MARS* model uses the build in general cross-validation (*GCV*) statistics to prune the model with backward feature selection. Mathematical details and a full derivation of the model can be found in Friedman (1991).

## 3 Results

Before running *lm* and *MARS*, predictors with a 75% correlation or higher were excluded from the analysis. In 93.6% of the cases, no predictors were excluded beforehand. For 3.5% of the cases, the DTR range was excluded, followed by the irradiance (2.0%), elevation (0.4%), and precipitation (0.4%). Only for a few cases multiple predictors were excluded, these include the DTR and precipitation (0.01%) and the precipitation and irradiance (0.01%). So, in most of the cases, all the predictors are considered in the analysis.

Looking into the overall variable importance of the predictors for the *lm* and *MARS* models shows different results.

**Table 3** Models used to predict the temperature field

Model	Abbr.	Rpackage	Function	Variables	Settings
Ordinary Kriging	<i>ok</i>	autoKrige	automap	AWS	Blocksize: 20.000 Variogram: Exp Validation: LOOCV
Linear model	<i>lm</i>	caret	lm	AWS Auxiliary data	rfe feature selection Validation: LOOCV
Regression splines	<i>MARS</i>	caret	bagEarthGCV	AWS Auxiliary data	GCV pruning Validation: LOOCV

For the *lm* predictions, the overall variable importance equals: albedo (75.3%), DTR (6.7%), elevation (4.1%), population density (3.5%), irradiance (3.6%), NDVI (2.9%), precipitation (2.1%), and roughness (1.8%). The overall variable importance for *MARS* equals: albedo (8.2%), DTR (19.0%), elevation (12.1%), population density (12.3%), irradiance (17.3%), NDVI (12.2%), precipitation (11.3%), and roughness (7.5%).

### 3.1 Spatial patterns

The daily 10%, 50%, and 90% temperature quantiles represent the lowest temperatures which occur in winter time, the yearly averaged temperature, and the warmest temperatures which occur in summer time, respectively. The daily temperature patterns for all models are similar on the relatively larger spatial scale (Fig. 4). In the southwestern part, the average temperatures amount to 10.5–11.0 °C. In the northeast, temperatures are colder and amount to 9.5–10.0 °C. The 10% temperature quantile, or the lowest temperatures, has a strong east-west pattern. The median temperatures pattern has a southwest-northeast gradient. The 90% temperature quantile, or the warmest temperatures, has a northwest-southeast pattern. However, on a local spatial scale, *ok* does not show variations in temperature, and this in contrast with *lm* and *MARS*. During the summer months, *lm* and *MARS* have an average *UHI* of 0.5 °C. In the southwestern part, a higher *UHI*, up to 1.0 °C, is found for *MARS*. The peat areas are on average 0.3–0.4 °C cooler. The central forest areas are in *MARS* 0.1–0.2 °C cooler. During the winter months, the *UHI* for *lm* and *MARS* is around 0.8 °C and 1.0 °C respectively.

#### 3.1.1 Low temperatures

The 10% temperature quantile varies between 1.0 °C in the eastern part of the country and 3.5 °C in the western coastal area. The *ok* model has a strong gradient in the southwestern part; this strong gradient is not supported by *lm* and *MARS*. Both *lm* and *MARS* have temperatures between 2.0 and 2.5 °C outside city areas near the coast.

Within the denser populated areas, *lm* and *MARS* predict temperatures respectively around 3.0 °C and 3.5 °C. In the southeastern part, an elevated area (Fig. 3), *MARS* predicts 0.5 °C lower temperatures than *ok* and *lm*.

#### 3.1.2 Median temperatures

The 50% temperature quantile in the northeast is around 10.0 °C and in the southwest 10.5–11 °C. The densely populated areas are approximately 0.5 °C warmer in *lm* and *MARS*. Similarly to the 10% temperature quantile, *MARS* predicts the lowest temperatures in the southeastern part (10.1 °C), and differences are 0.3 °C with *lm* and 0.6 °C with *ok*. The *lm* predictions are for the central elevated area 0.3 °C higher temperatures compared with *ok* and *MARS*. The peat areas in the central part of the Netherlands have, for *lm* and *MARS*, lower temperatures.

#### 3.1.3 High temperatures

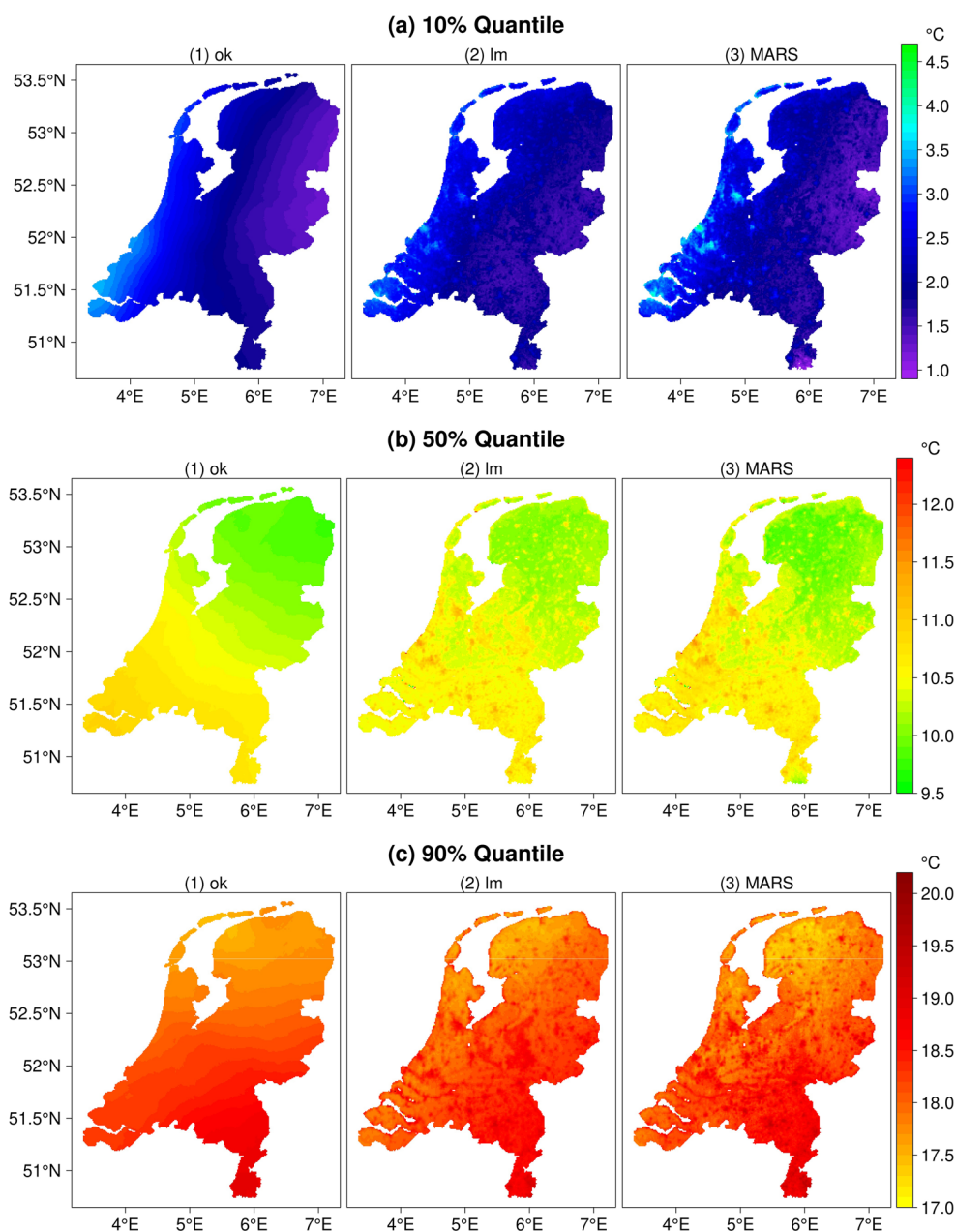
The 90% temperature quantile varies between 17.5 °C in the North and 19.0 °C in the southwest. Consistent with the 10% and 50% temperature quantiles, the city effect is pronounced for *lm* and *MARS*. In both cases, the temperatures are predicted on average 0.5 °C higher. Compared with *MARS*, the *lm* predicts higher temperatures in the central elevated area (18.6 °C compared with 18.3 °C). The *earths* temperatures in the peat areas are lower.

### 3.2 Model performance and comparison

The median *RMSE* LOOCV of the daily interpolations for *ok*, *lm*, and *MARS* are (with the standard deviation between brackets): 2.56 (3.57), 0.71 (0.38), and 0.60 (0.35) respectively. The mean absolute error equals respectively 0.34 (0.27), 0.57 (0.30), and 0.46 (0.26). For new predictions at the leave out locations of the AWSs, *MARS* is the most stable.

The observations are compared with the model predictions (Fig. 5). The bias at the locations of the AWSs equals zero; this is as expected. The *RMSE* at the AWSs is 0.52

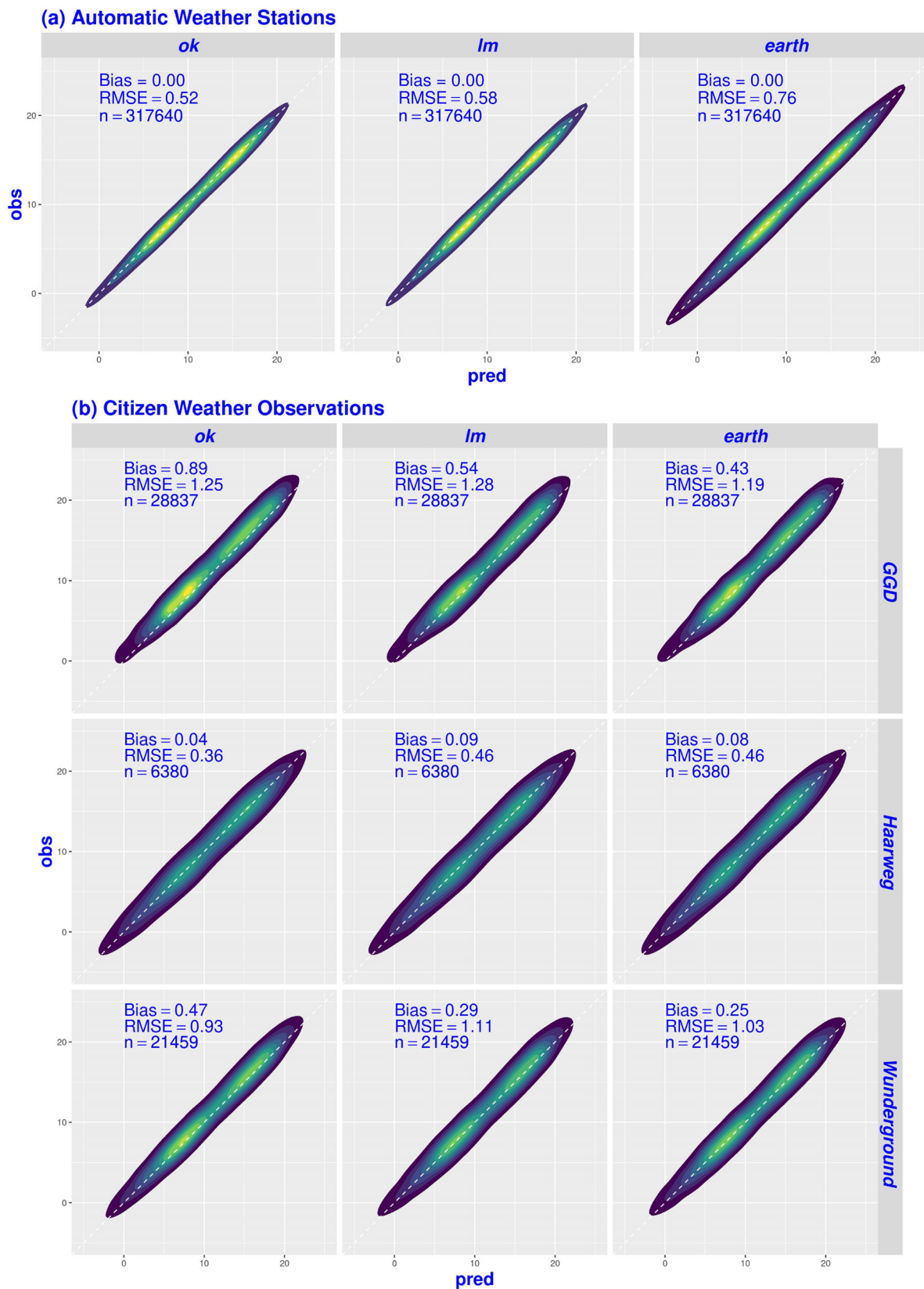
**Fig. 4** Climatology expressed as 10%, 50%, and 90% temperature quantiles: **a** lower temperatures, **b** median temperatures, and **c** the highest temperatures for the three different methods ordinary kriging (*ok*), linear regression (*lm*), and multiple adaptive regression splines (*earth*)



°C for *ok*, 0.58 °C for *lm*, and 0.76 °C for *MARS*. This is also reflected in the broader density spreading around the 1:1 line. The Haarweg station, which is situated in a similar setting as the AWSs, shows similar results. Here, the bias is non-zero and equals for *ok*, *lm*, and *MARS* respectively 0.04 °C, 0.09 °C, and 0.08 °C. The RMSE values for Haarweg are smaller than the AWS stations; *ok*, *lm*, and *MARS* have a RMSE of 0.36 °C, 0.46 °C, and 0.46 °C. Comparing the predictions with the citizen weather observations shows a different result. The *ok* interpolation has a cold bias of 0.86 °C for the GGD observations. Both *lm* and *MARS* have a smaller bias of 0.54 °C and 0.43 °C. RMSE

values are around 1.2 °C. The Wunderground observations have smaller RMSE with values around 1.0 °C. Similar to the GGD observations, *ok* has the largest bias of 0.47 °C. For *lm* and *MARS*, the bias equals 0.29 °C and 0.25 °C.

The difference in variable importance (see Section 3) also explains the prediction differences: *MARS* predicts higher temperature in cities and lower temperatures in elevated areas since these are considered to be more important. Within cities the *MARS* predictions are closer to the observed citizen weather temperatures than *lm*, and this suggests that the variable importance of *MARS* is more realistic.



**Fig. 5** Predicted versus observed temperature values: **a** at the locations of the AWSs, validated for the entire time period, and **b** for the different citizen weather observations. The GGD observations were

mainly after 2014. The Haarweg observations include measurements from 2001 onward and the first Wunderground observations start in 2008

## 4 Discussion

Regression kriging has been used by Sluiter (2012), Mohr and Tveito (2008), and Aalto et al. (2013) and has also been explored in our analysis (not shown). Because of the large number of variables, the variogram fitting proves to be unstable. Regression kriging does not have a built-in feature selection such as *lm* and *MARS*. The additional predictors used for the *lm* and *MARS* resulted in a higher spatial variability which is also reflected in the RMSE values of the AWS stations. The comparison with independent citizen weather observation has shown that both *lm* and *MARS* have a smaller bias compared with the *ok* method which does not use additional predictors. Errors for higher temperatures could possibly be caused by the non-optimal or absent ventilation systems (Bell et al. 2015).

It may be possible that the high-resolution temperature grids that we present here can be used to analyze local warming trends. For the station De Bilt, located in the center of the Netherlands, van Oldenborgh and Van Ulden (2003) fitted a linear warming trend from which 1 °C is contributed to warming, including an increase in southwesterly circulation, and 0.6 °C is the standard deviation error or noise factor. Between 1975 and 2010, the warming in the Bilt was 0.049 °C per year (van der Schrier et al. 2011). For our time period (1990–2017), we found a linear warming trend in de Bilt of 0.025 °C per year. Analyzing the linear warming trend from 1990 to 2017 from our gridded temperature dataset shows an average warming of 0.027 °C per year with a noise factor of 0.64 °C for *ok*. A possible lack of significant spatial variability in the *ok* temperature grids is due to the inherited spatial smoothing of *ok*. The fitted trends for *lm* and *MARS* have similar noise values though their warming trends do show a spatial pattern. The first and third quantiles for *lm* and *MARS* are respectively 0.026–0.029 °C and 0.027–0.031 °C. These variations are supported by the yearly linear warming trends including:

- The AWS stations near the coast: De Kooy (0.029 °C), Vlissingen (0.024 °C), and Rotterdam (0.025 °C).
- A bit further inland the warming trend of AWS Schiphol was estimated at 0.031 °C.
- In the central part of the country, the warming trends of De Bilt, Cabauw, and Deelen were 0.025 °C, 0.030 °C, and 0.021 °C respectively.
- In the east, the AWS Twenthe had a warming trend of 0.026 °C.
- In the northern part of the country, warming trends of the AWS stations Leeuwarden and Eelde were 0.032 °C and 0.030 °C respectively.

It has been suggested that the warming near the coast is slower than further inland. The North Sea is likely to delay the warming in the coastal regions. Also,

additional warming due to an increase in southwesterly winds, as suggested by van Oldenborgh and Van Ulden (2003), is possibly stronger inland. Besides these large-scale variations in warming trends, also variations near the expanding cities can be observed. It is unclear to what extent this trend is artificial (induced by the input from population density) or representative because long-term records in cities are not available to support the trends.

Several recent studies have been dedicated to compare and validate observational data with numerical weather prediction (NWP) model or reanalysis data (Mohammadi et al. 2017; Carrera et al. 2019; Heintzman 2019; Rontu et al. 2019). Observational data helps to identify model biases and allows for bias corrections. Also interpolated or gridded products have been compared with models (Hutchison et al. 2017; Jain and Flannigan 2017; Ouyang et al. 2018; Krauskopf and Huth 2019; López Gómez et al. 2020). This comparison is complex because it not only highlights model biases but also deficits from interpolated grids. Therefore, Krauskopf and Huth (2019) compared different sources of (gridded) observations and reanalysis. In certain regions (e.g., the Pyrenees or Scandinavia) and on small scales, the largest differences were found. Our interpolation product, combined with independent citizen weather observations, can be used to improve high-resolution weather forecasts and to improve the quantification of the urban heat island effect.

The interpolation method presented here could also be applied to different countries or regions provided that the same predictors are available. It does however require an observational network which is representative for the interpolation area. If the network is too sparse, over-fitting may become an issue. It is therefore of great importance to validate the interpolation with independent observational data such as citizen weather observations.

## 5 Conclusions

With a final resolution of 1km, the daily air temperature within the Netherlands was reconstructed for the period 1990–2017. The goal of this study was to develop a new methodology; therefore, we used eight different spatial predictors and compared linear regression and multiple adaptive regression splines, to reconstruct daily temperature patterns. As a reference run, ordinary kriging, which does not use spatial predictors, was compared with the more advanced methods. The spatial predictors included: diurnal temperature range (DTR), population density, elevation, albedo, solar irradiance, roughness, precipitation, and normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI). These were fit to the temperature observations of the 34 automatic weather stations (AWSs), which are spread throughout the country. In order to prevent over-fitting, highly correlated predictors were excluded beforehand and

the fitting routine used backwards feature selection. The models were validated using leave one out cross validation (LOOCV) for each of the 34 AWS locations. The *RMSE* for ordinary kriging (*ok*) was 2.6 °C. Using linear model (*lm*) and multiple adaptive regression splines (*MARS*) resulted in a significantly smaller *RMSE*: 0.7 °C and 0.6 °C, respectively. Since the AWS locations are used during the interpolation, the predictions were validated with citizen weather observations (including stations from the Wunderground network), GGD network, and Wageningen University Observatory. In contrast to the *ok* model, the *lm* and *MARS* models are 0.2–0.5 °C less biased compared with citizen weather temperature observations.

On country scale, temperature patterns are similar, though the temperature gradient found by *ok* is generally stronger. Temperature patterns of the median climatology show a southwest-northeast gradient. In the southwest, the highest mean temperatures occur. The 10% temperature quantile has a strong east-west temperature gradient, with the lowest temperatures in the east. The 90% temperature quantile has the highest temperatures in the southwest and lowest in the northeast. Both the temperature patterns from *lm* and *MARS* show local temperature variations. The *MARS* temperature predictions are lower in peat areas in the central part of the country and elevated areas. Higher temperatures are found in densely populated areas which is supported by the crowd-sourced measurements.

There is a preference towards the *MARS* model as it is closer to the citizen weather temperature observations. Additionally, the scale-ability of the *MARS* algorithm for larger areas with different climatological influences makes it preferable above *lm*.

Regional and local variations in warming trends are not captured with *ok*. However, our new interpolation methodology, with explanatory predictors, feature selection, and independent validation, does show local spatial variability. The warming trend from 1990–2017, from the temperature grids of *lm* and *MARS*, show a warming between 0.027 °C per year and 0.031 °C per year. Although some small-scale variations in warming trends are left unexplained, we have been able to validate regional-scale trends; these results are the first step towards local warming trend analysis. With the improved representation of local temperature variations, the high-resolution maps presented here can have applications in urban heat island studies, local trend analysis, and model evaluation.

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