Patterns of Mortality Improvement over Age and Time for 201 Countries

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

Definition

 m_{xt}

- death rate at age x and time t

$$r_{xt} = -ln \frac{m_{xt+1}}{m_{xt}}$$

- rate of mortality improvement at age x and time t (1)

Or in continuous time:

$$\mu(x,t)$$

- force of mortality at age x and time t

$$r(x,t) = -\frac{d}{dt} \ln \mu(x,t)$$

- rate of mortality improvement at age x and time t

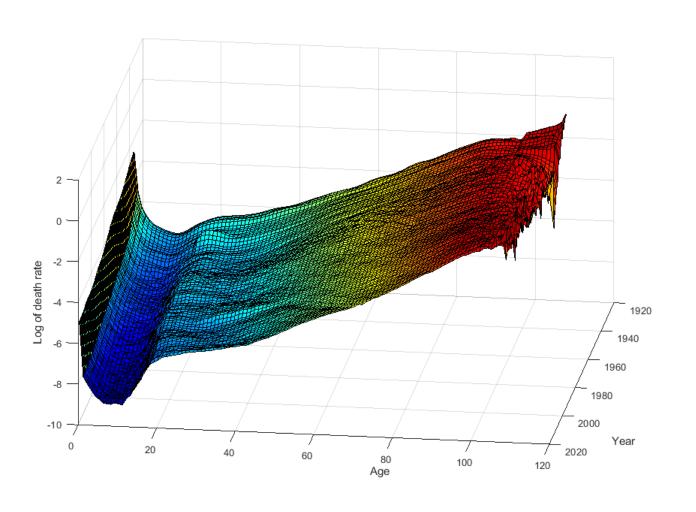
Why we need it?

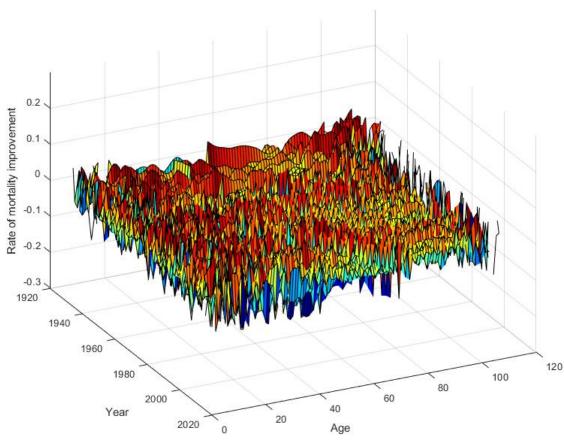
- Exploratory data analysis
- Presentation of trends in age-specific death rates
- Model building and evaluation
- Data quality assessment

Example: United States, Males, years 1933-2018

Log death rates, $\ln m_{\chi t}$

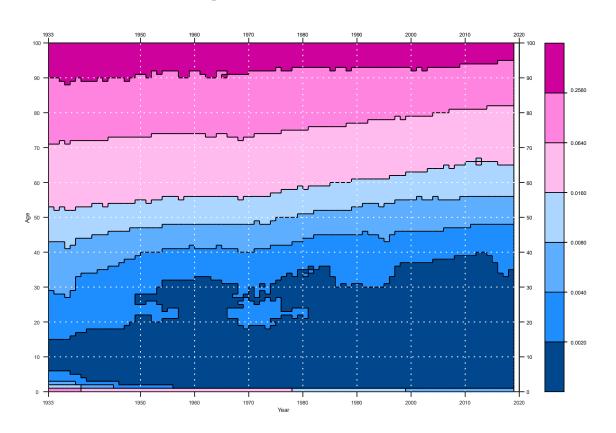
Rate of mortality improvement, r_{xt}



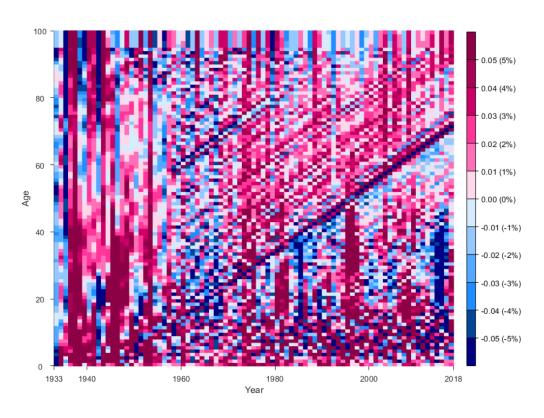


Example: United States, Males, years 1933-2018 Lexis Maps

Log death rates



Rate of mortality improvement



Estimation

Two approaches:

- A) First smooth matrix of death rates, m_{xt} , then compute r_{xt} , with Eq. (1)
- B) First compute r_{xt} from unsmoothed m_{xt} , and then apply a smoothing method

Smoothing methods

- Smooth each trend in an age-specific death rate
 - a) moving average
 - b) kernel smoothing / LOESS smoother
 - c) smoothing spline
 - d) Poisson regression incl. test of significance (Andreev, 1999)
- Smooth simultaneously over age and time
 - a) 2-dimensional moving average or kernel smoothing
 - b) tensor-product splines
 - c) p-splines (Camarda, 2012)

Estimation (cont.)

There no strict criteria exist how degree of smoothing must be selected. For splines, for example, cross-validation is commonly used for automatic selection of a smoothing parameter.

All methods produce similar results for comparable degrees of smoothing (Andreev, 2018).

References

Andreev, K. F. (1999). Demographic Surfaces: Estimation, Assessment and Presentation, with Application to Danish Mortality, 1835-1995. Ph.D. thesis. University of Southern Denmark. Online at https://bit.ly/3n8HmpW

Andreev, Kirill F. *Estimating Pattern of U.S. Mortality Improvement over Age and Time*. 2018 PAA Meeting. Online at http://kirillandreev.com/2018-04-25_PAA/Andreev_US-Mortality-Improvements_PAA2018_Apr2018_Poster.pdf

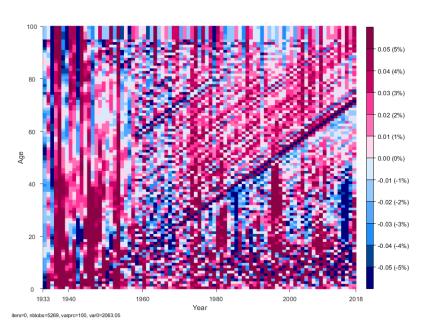
Camarda, C. G. (2012). MortalitySmooth: An R package for smoothing Poisson counts with *P*-splines. *Journal of Statistical Software*, *50*(1), 1–24.

Estimation (cont.)

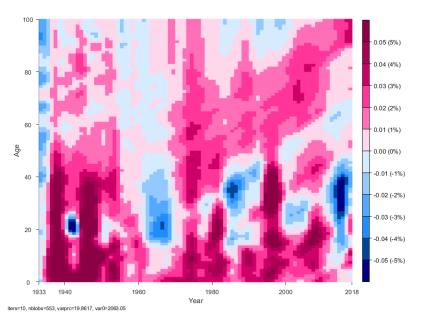
Iterative 2-dimensinal kernel smoother (gaussian 3x3 kernel) Smoothing criterion: number of blobs

United States, Males, 1933-2018

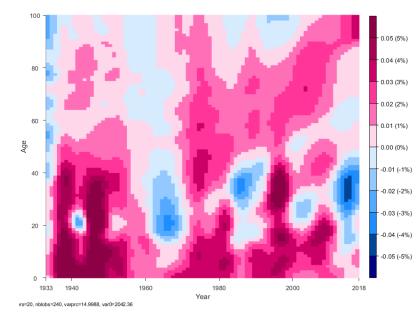
Number of iterations: 0 (no smoothing)

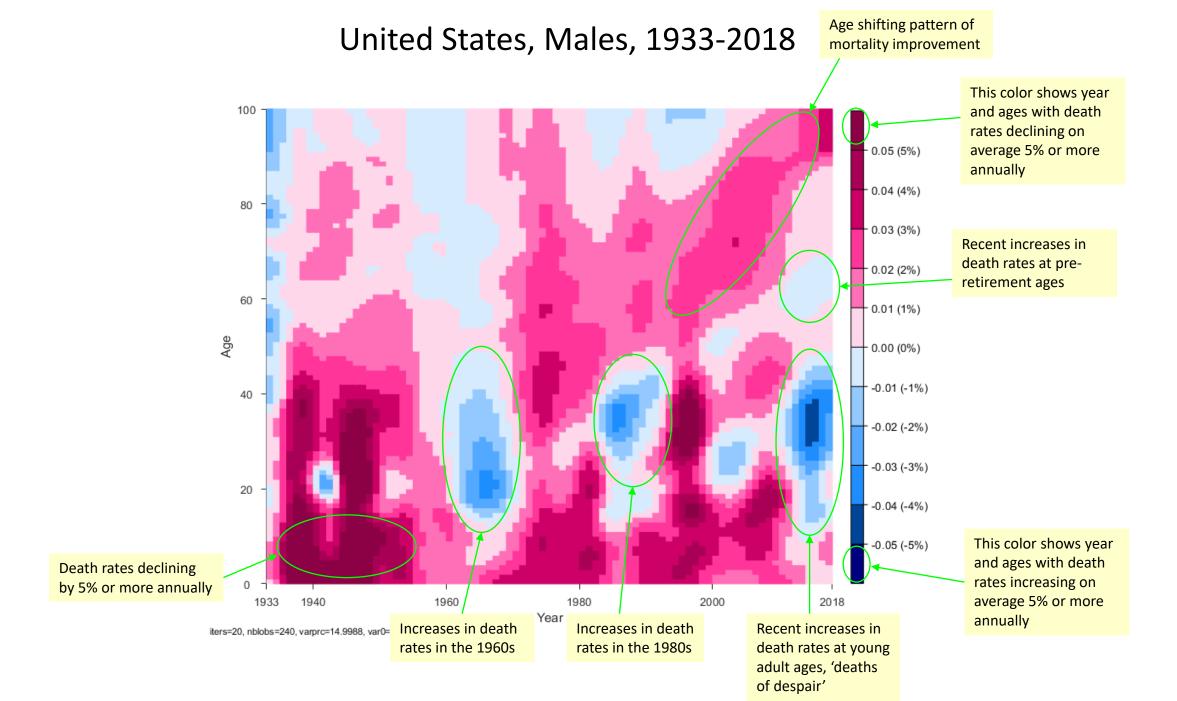


Number of iterations: 10



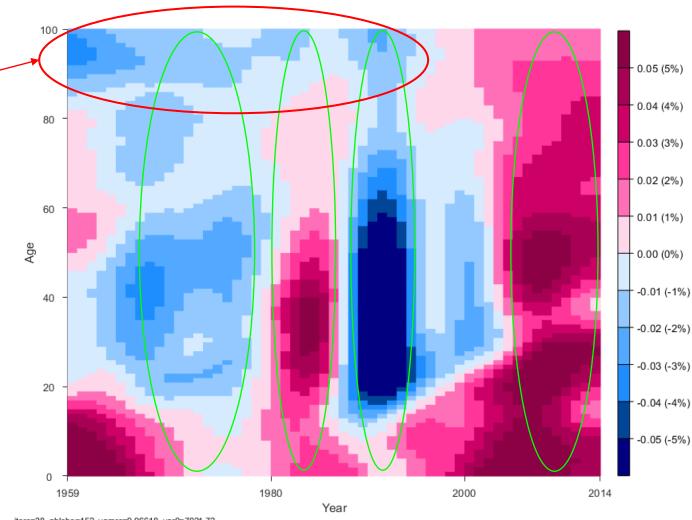
Number of iterations: 20 (final estimate)





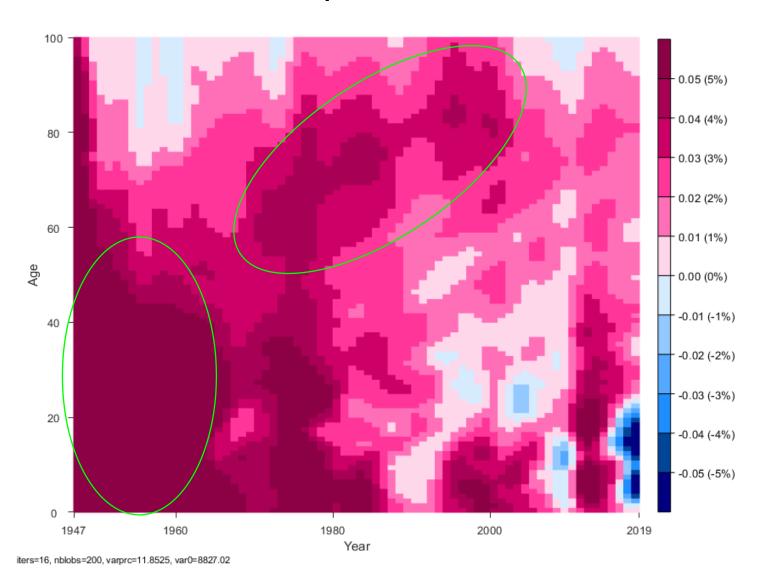
Predominantly period pattern of mortality improvement Russia, Males

Increasing death rates at older ages point to data quality problems at older ages.

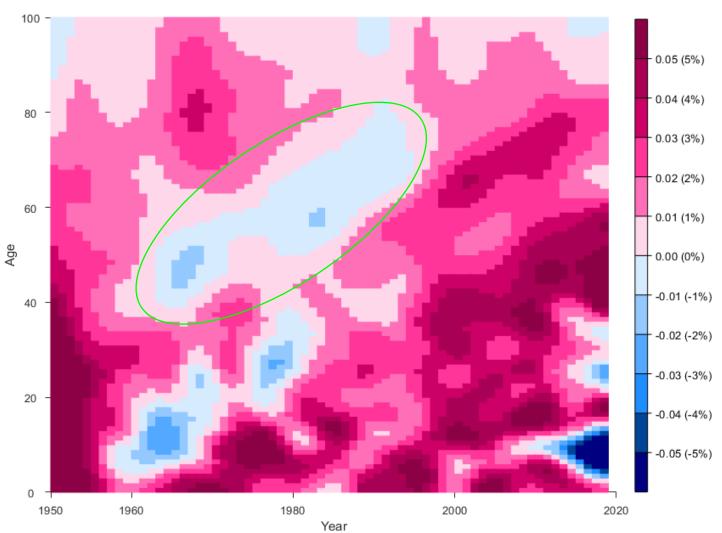


iters=38, nblobs=152, varprc=9.96618, var0=7021.72

Age-shifting pattern of mortality improvement Japan, Females

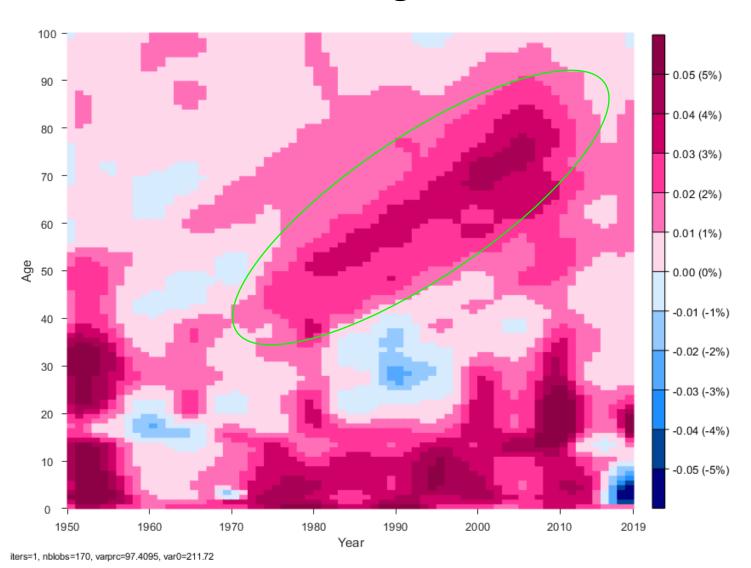


Cohort effect: deceleration of decline for specific cohorts Denmark, Females



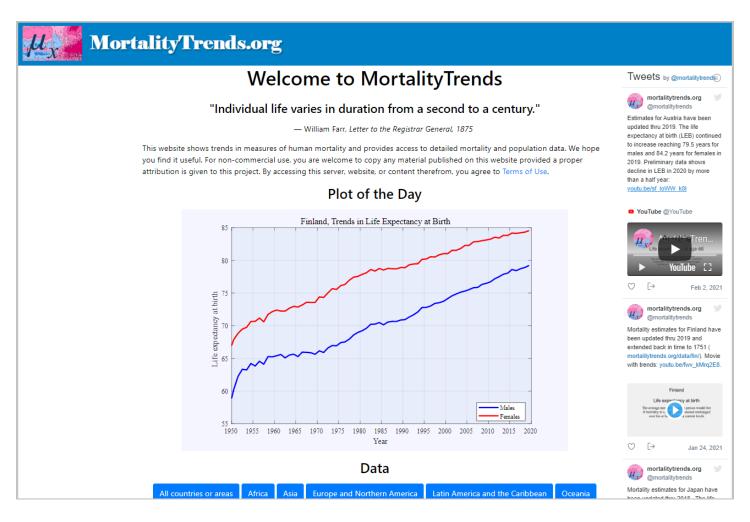
Jacobsen, R., Keiding, N., & Lynge, E. (2006). Causes of death behind low life expectancy of Danish women. *Scandinavian Journal of Social Medicine*, *34*(4), 432–436.

Cohort effect: acceleration of decline for specific cohorts United Kingdom, Males



Mortality improvement patterns for 201 countries are available at http://www.mortalitytrends.org/

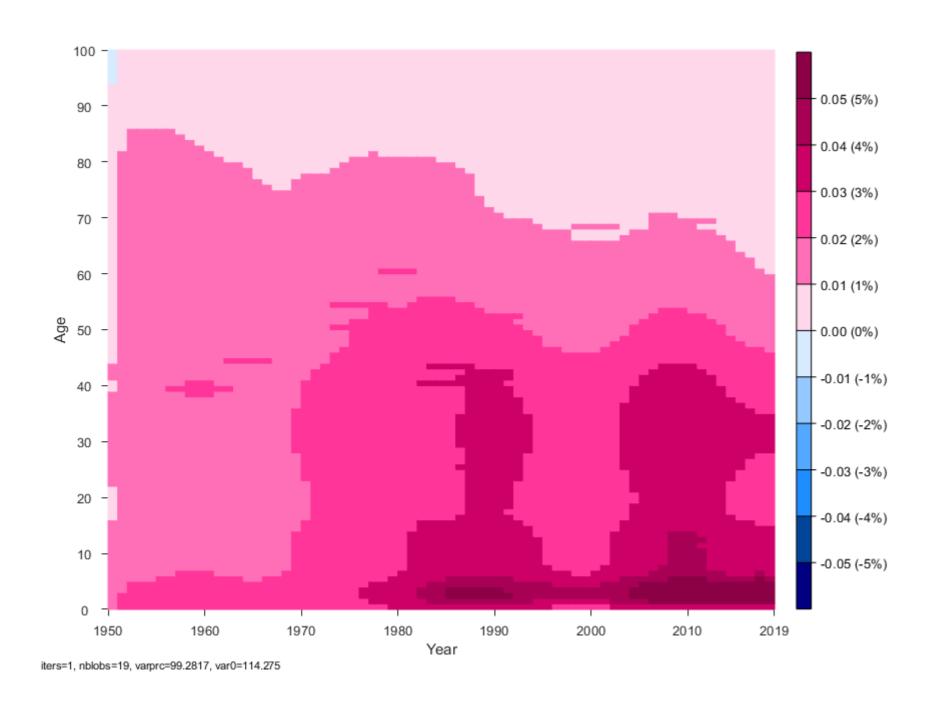
(work in progress)



Mortality improvement patterns for individual countries

Afghanistan

Males





iters=1, nblobs=24, varprc=99.4467, var0=140.464

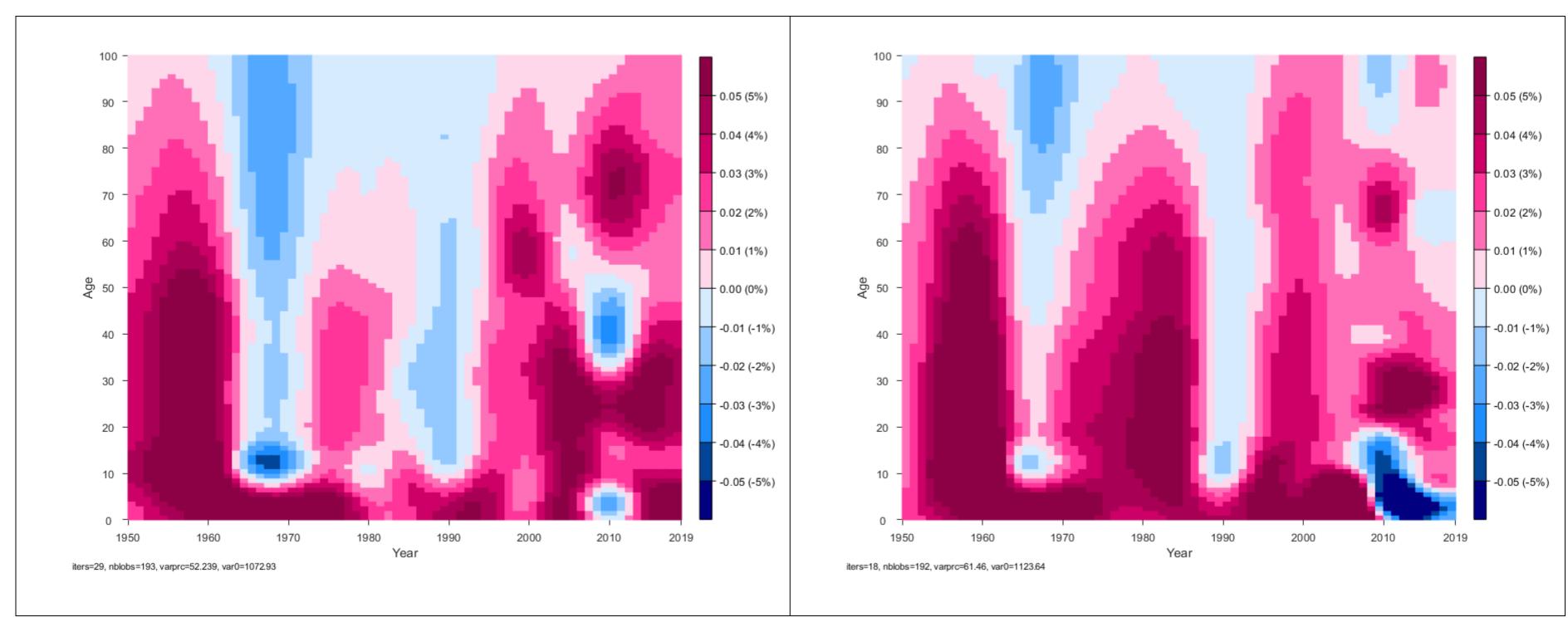
Year

-0.03 (-3%)

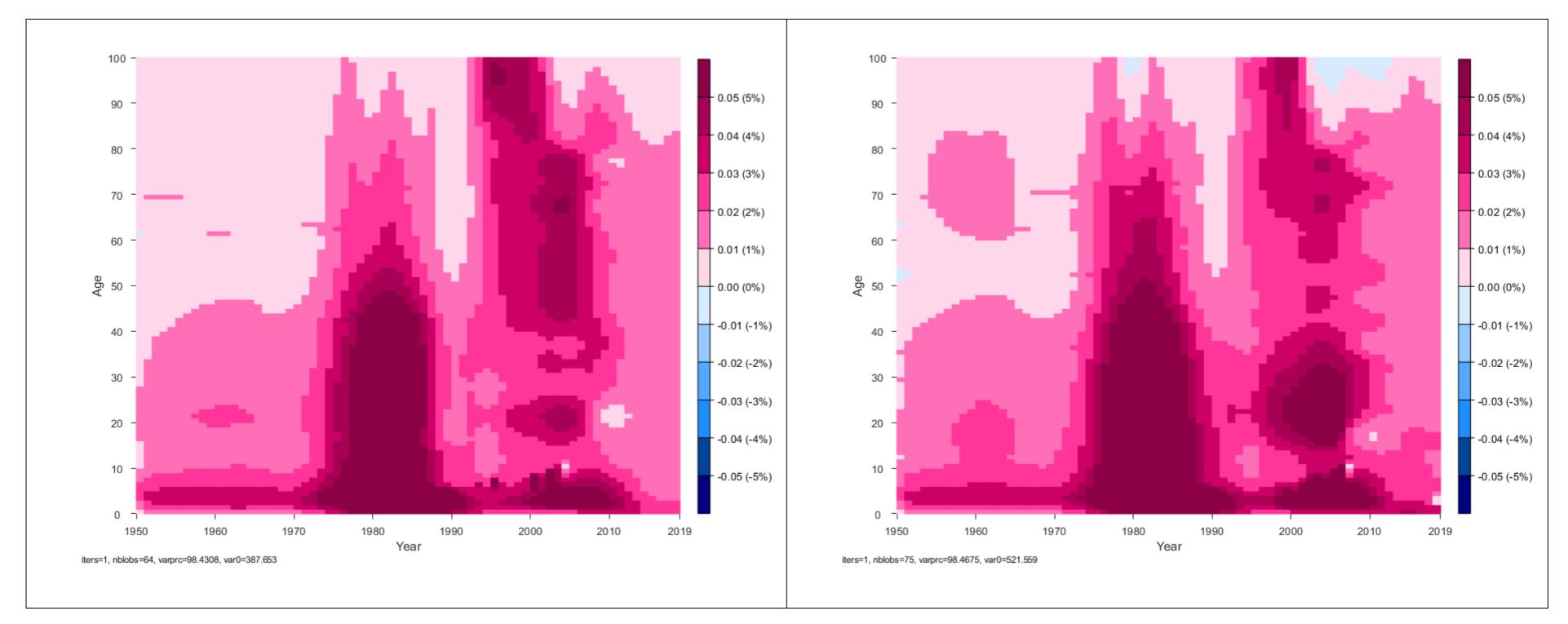
-0.04 (-4%)

-0.05 (-5%)

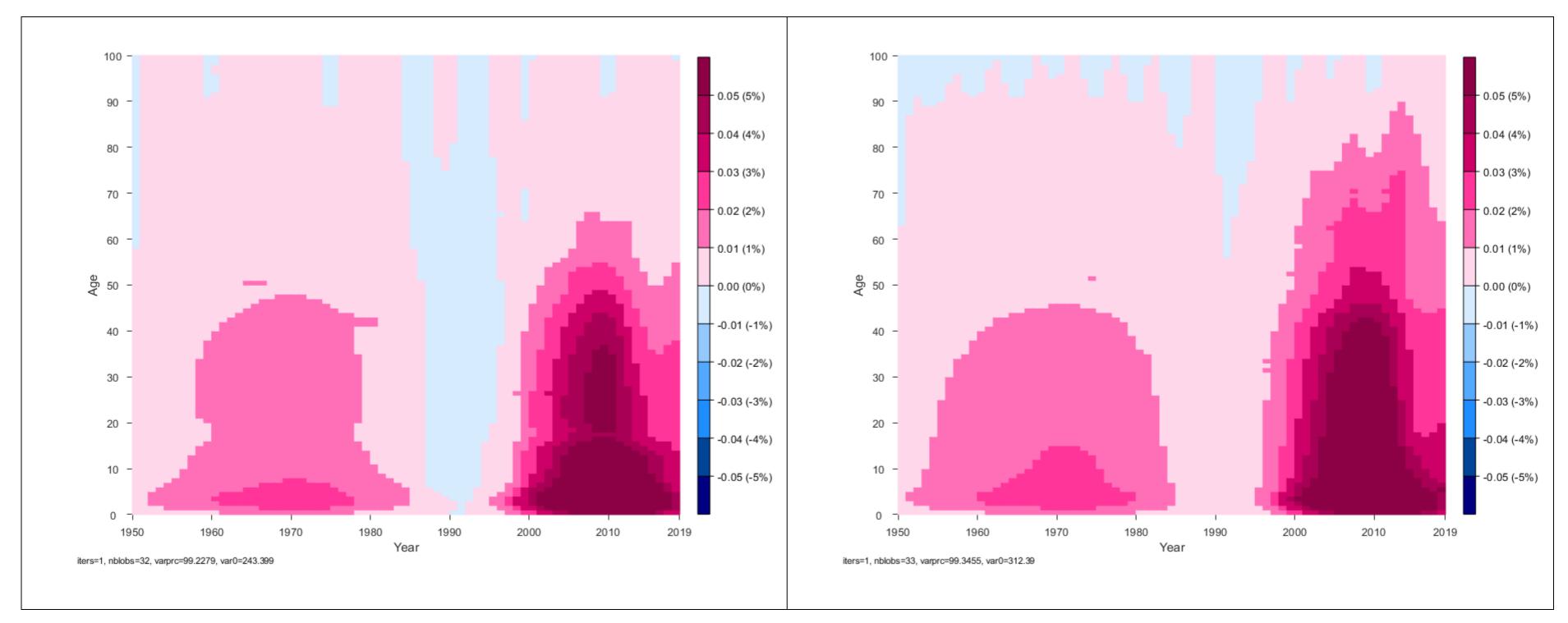
Albania



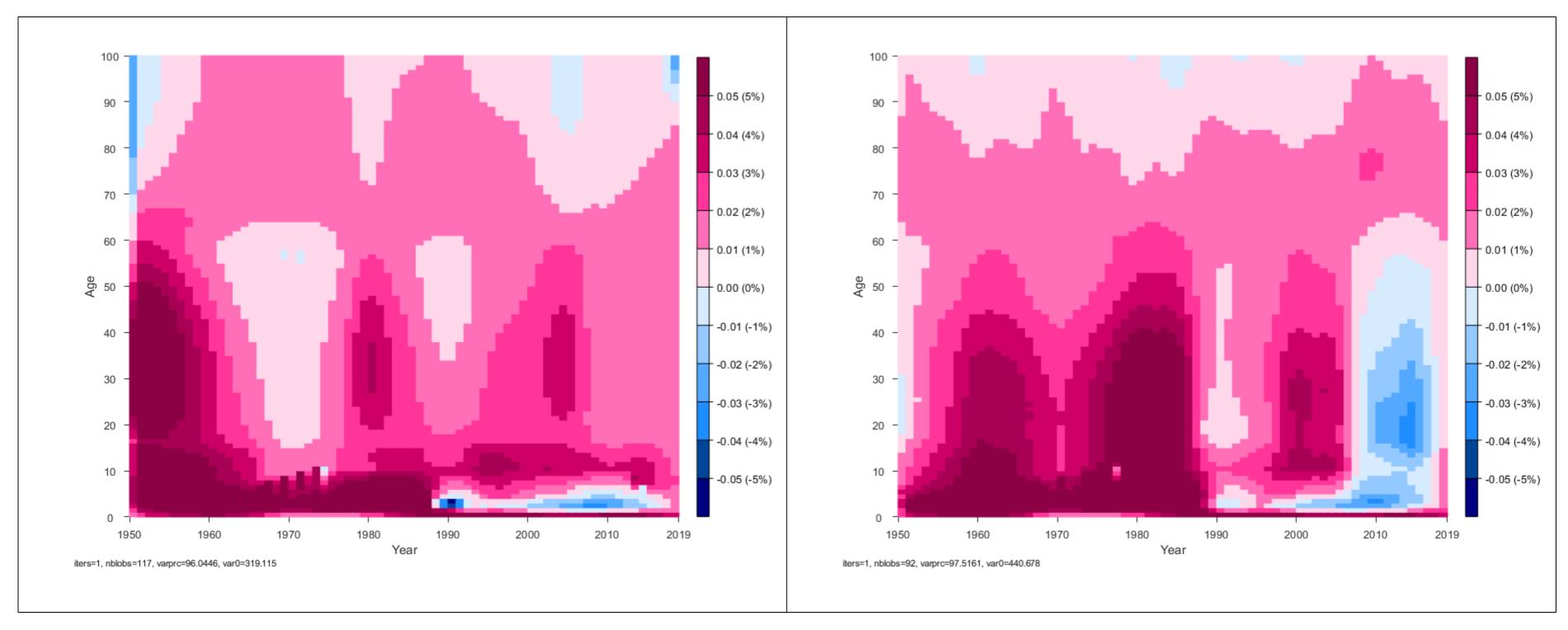
Algeria



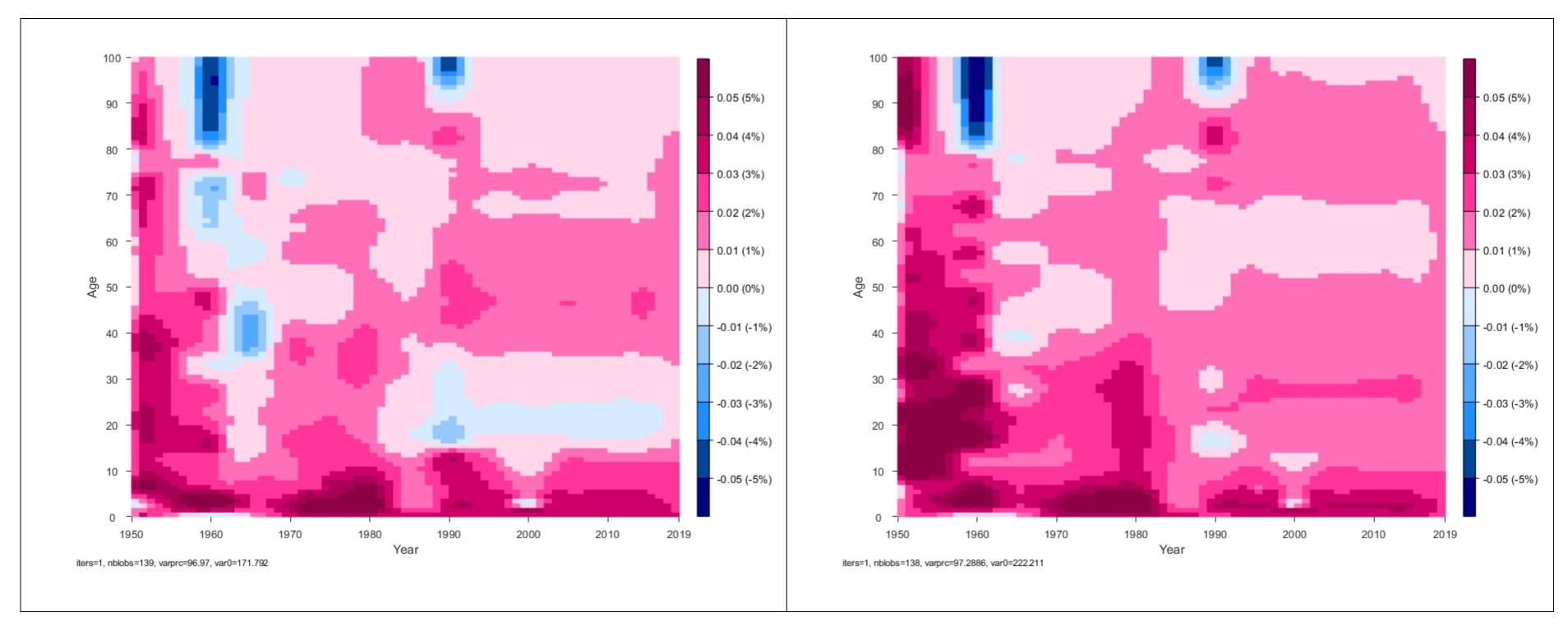
Angola



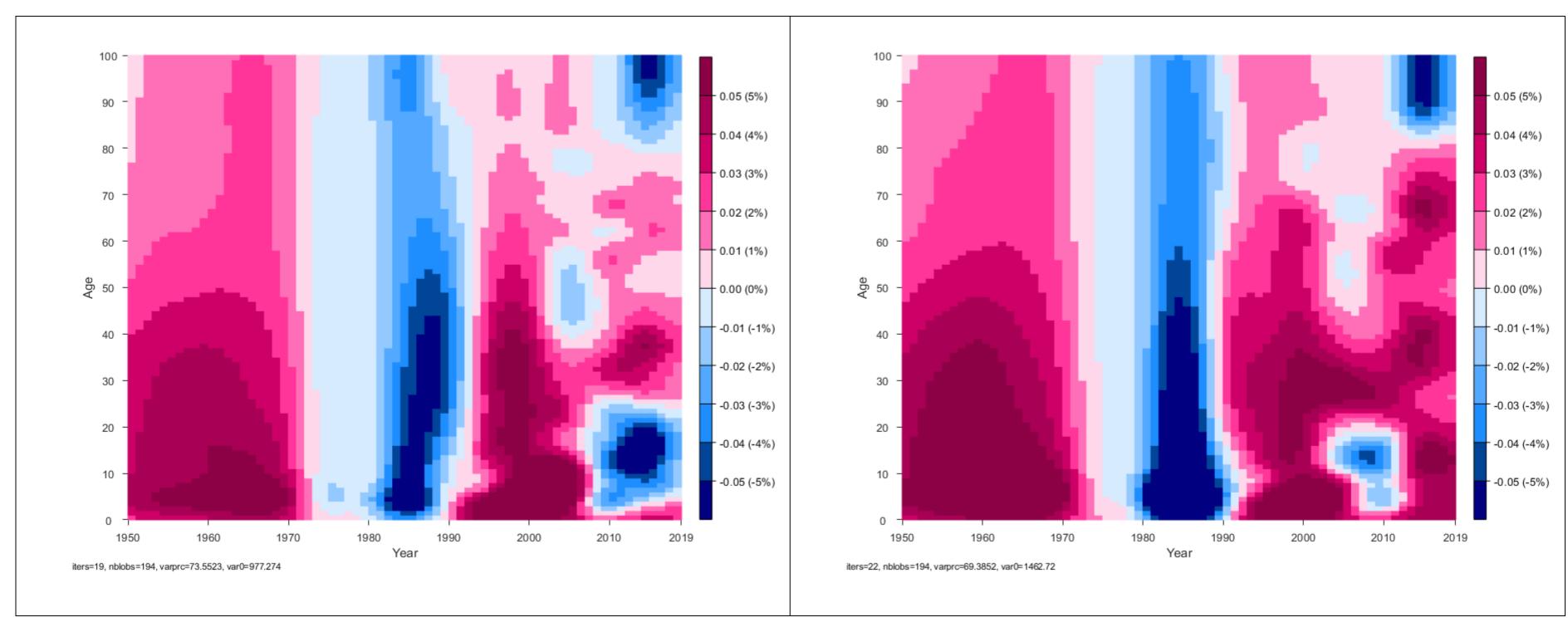
Antigua and Barbuda



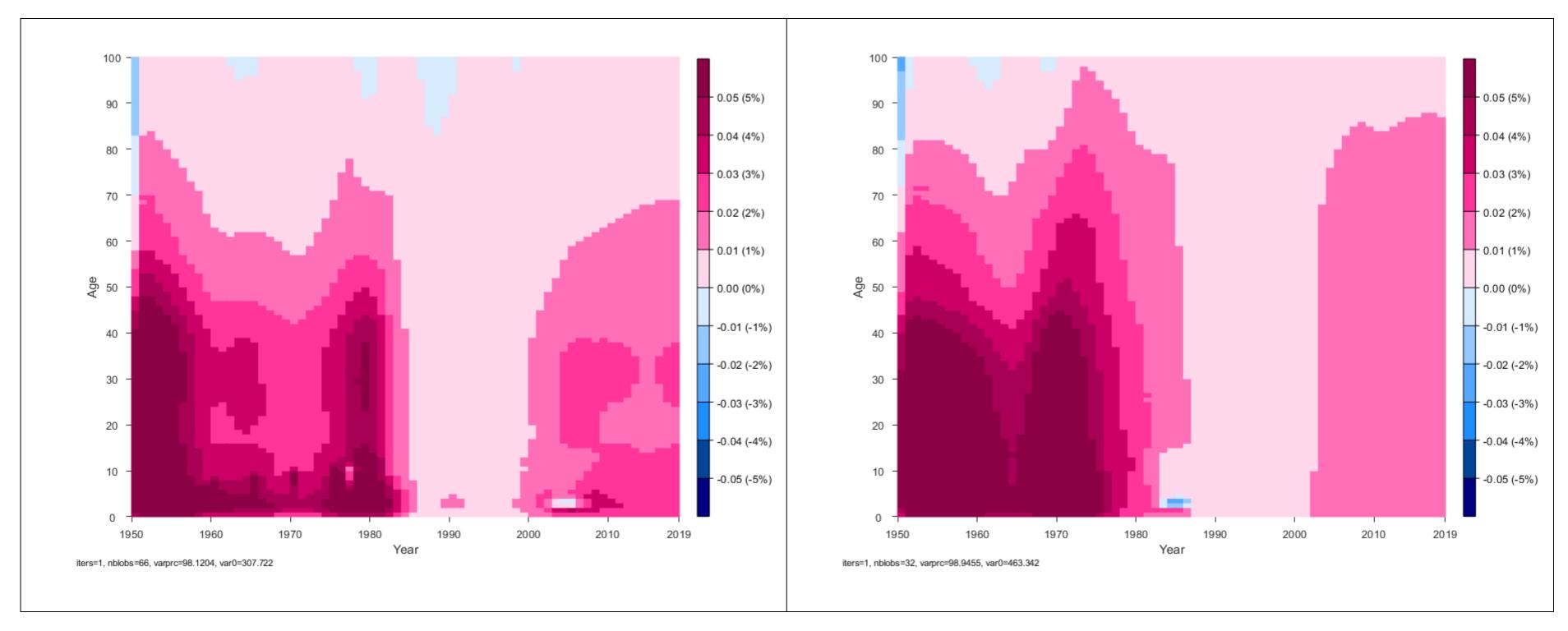
Argentina



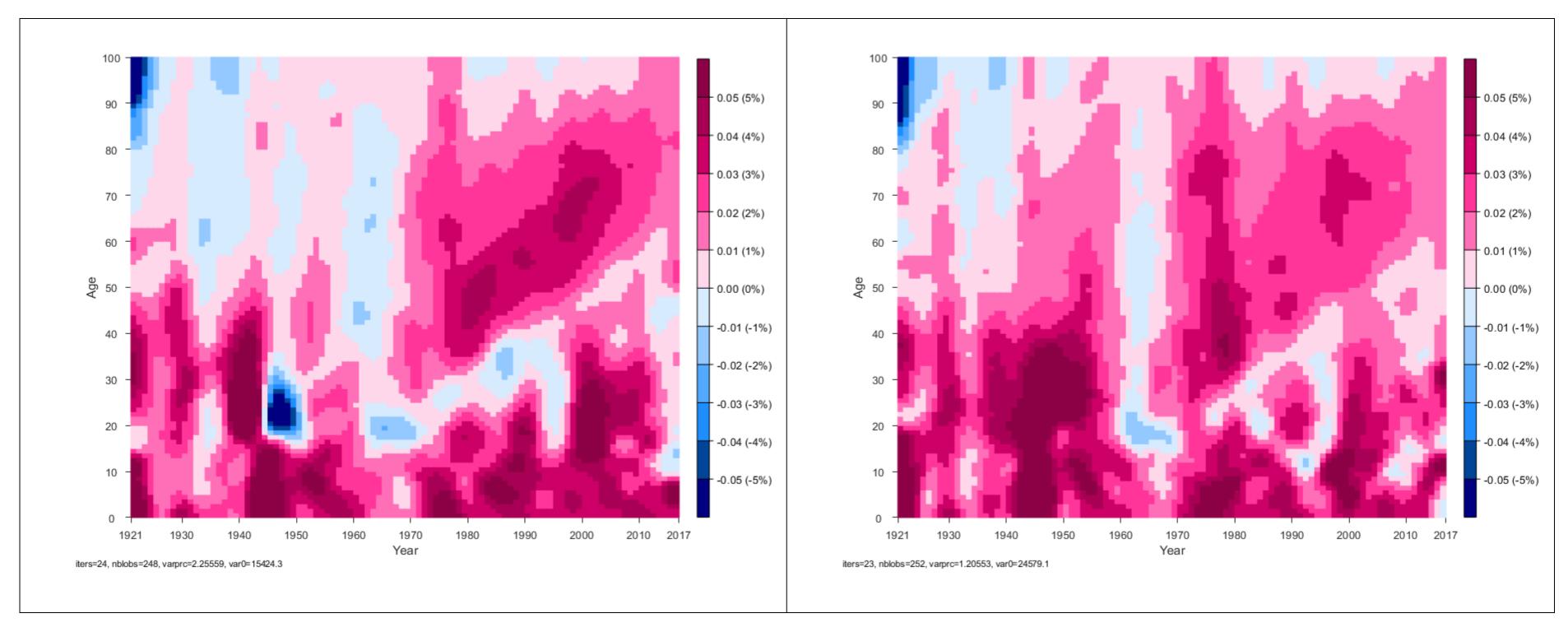
Armenia



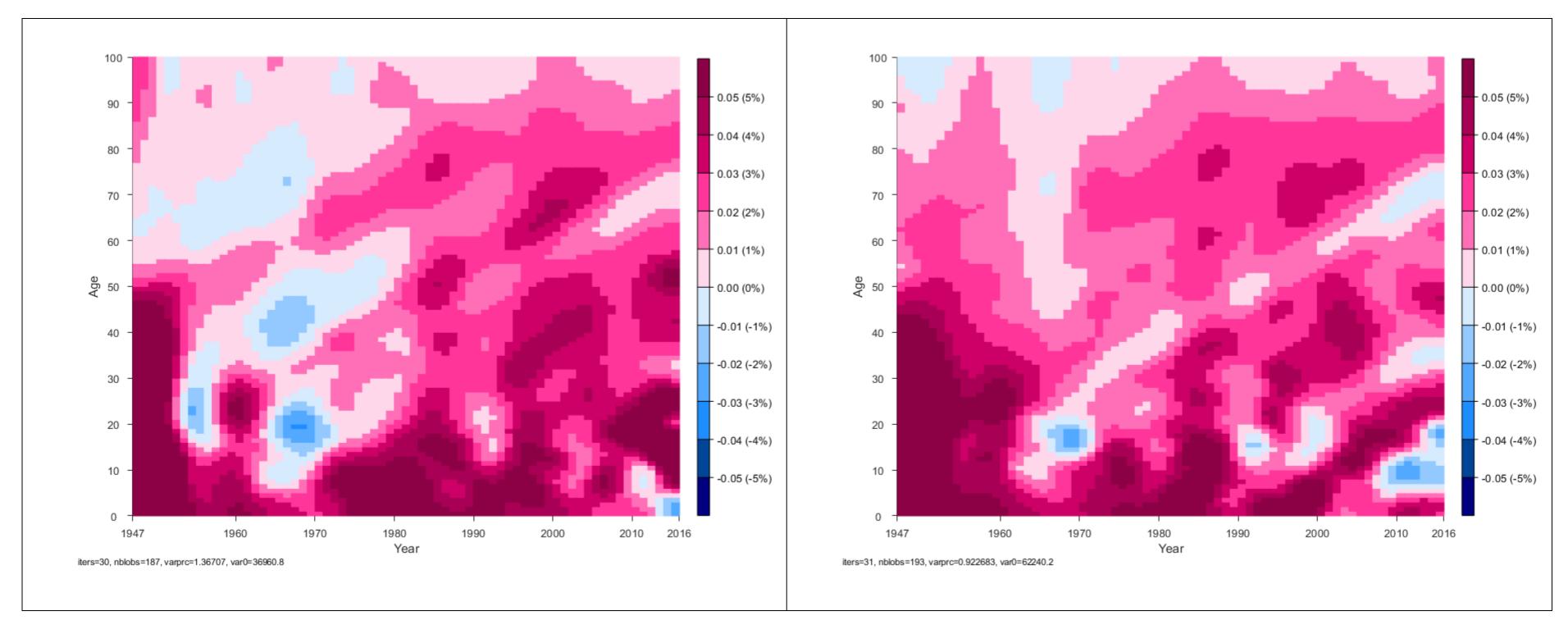
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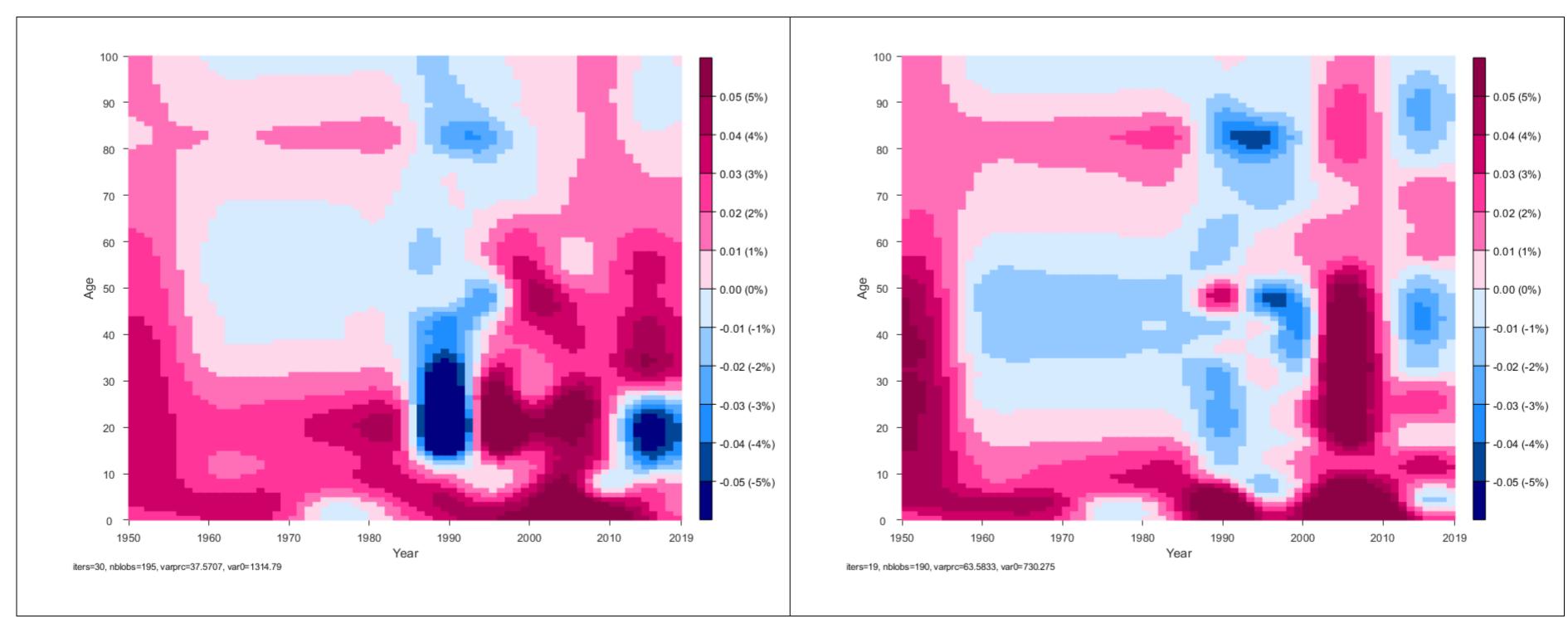
Australia



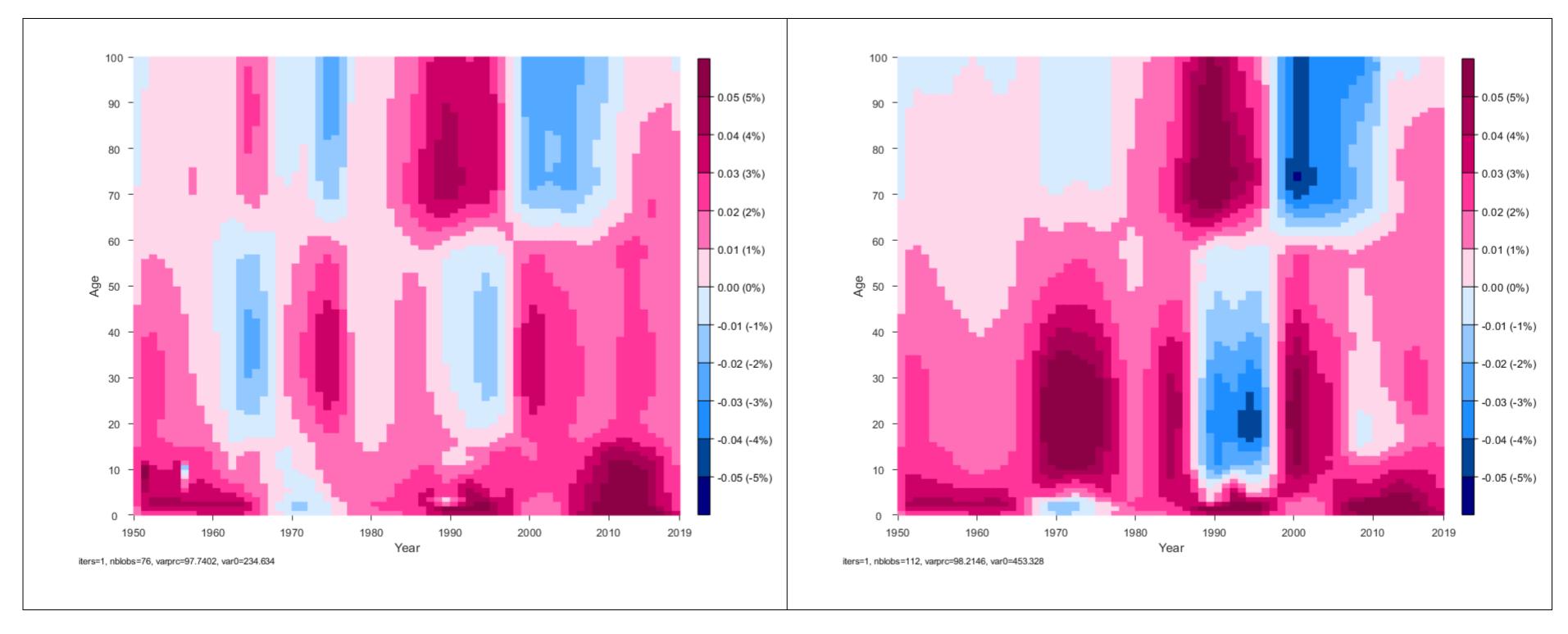
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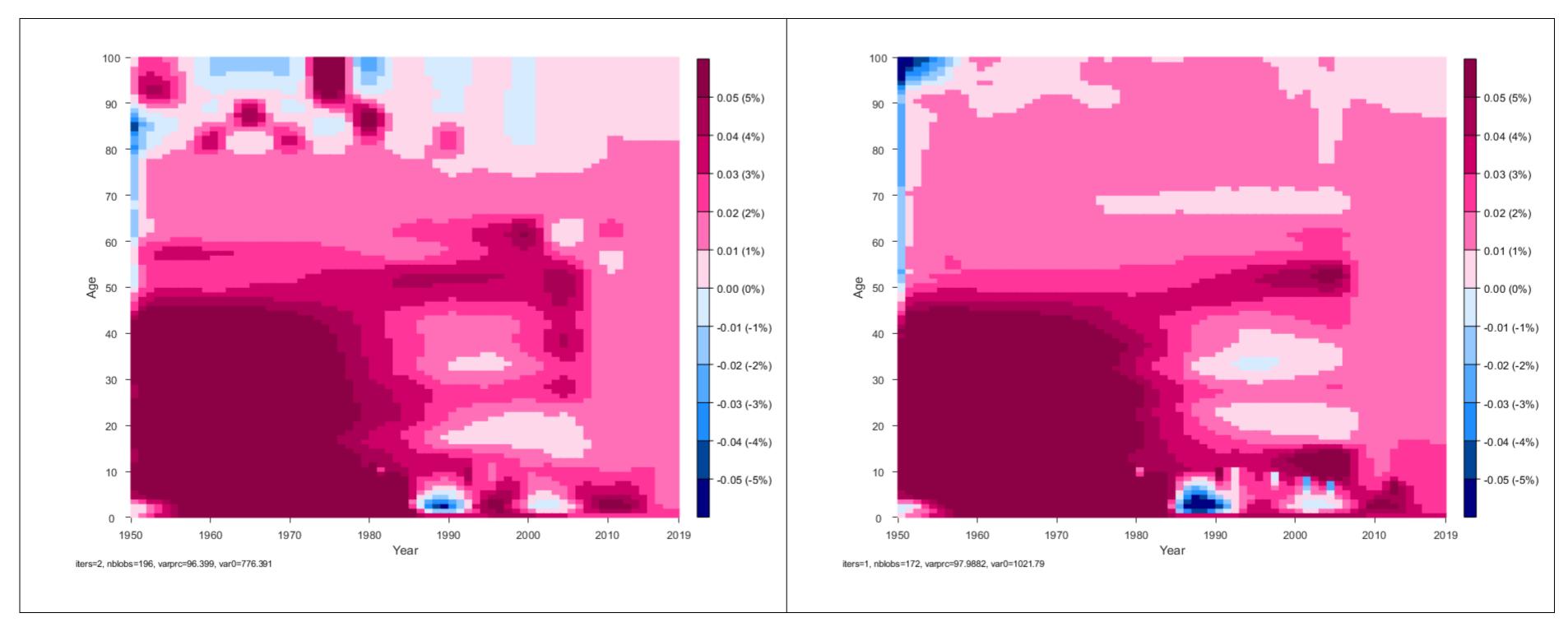
Azerbaijan



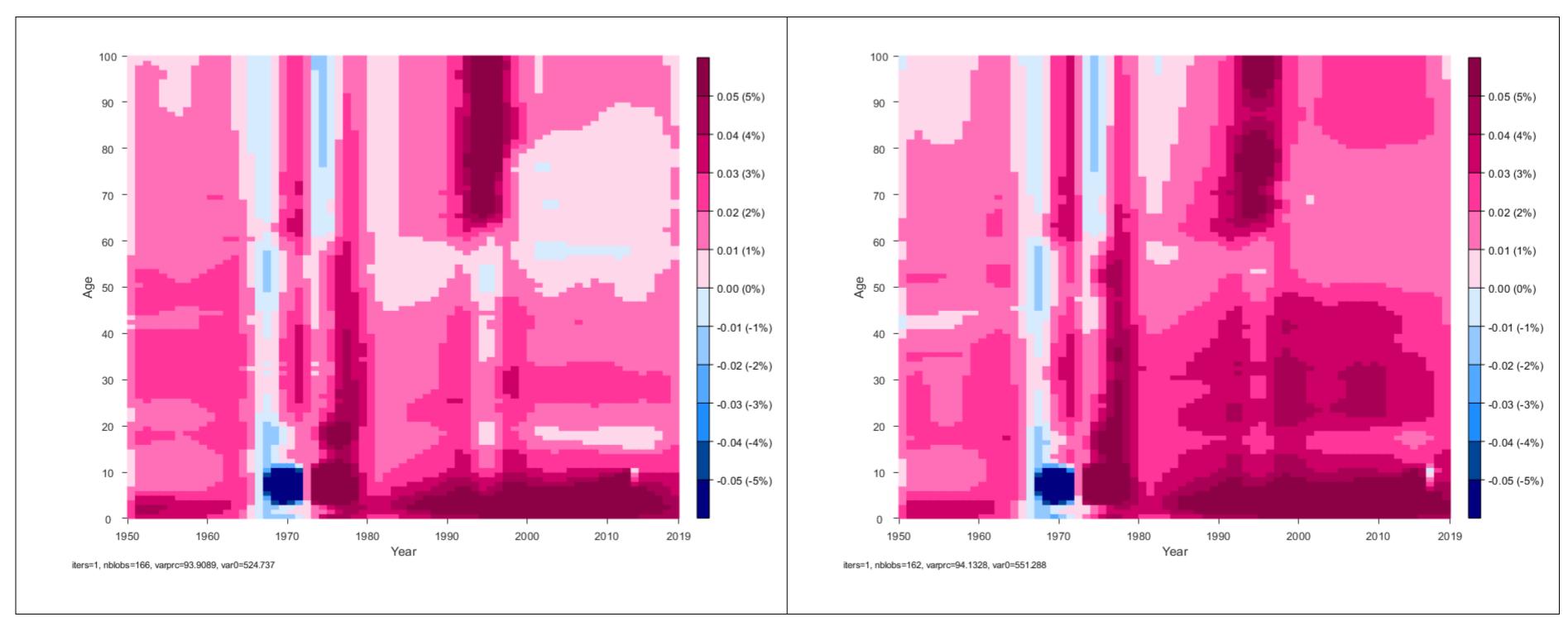
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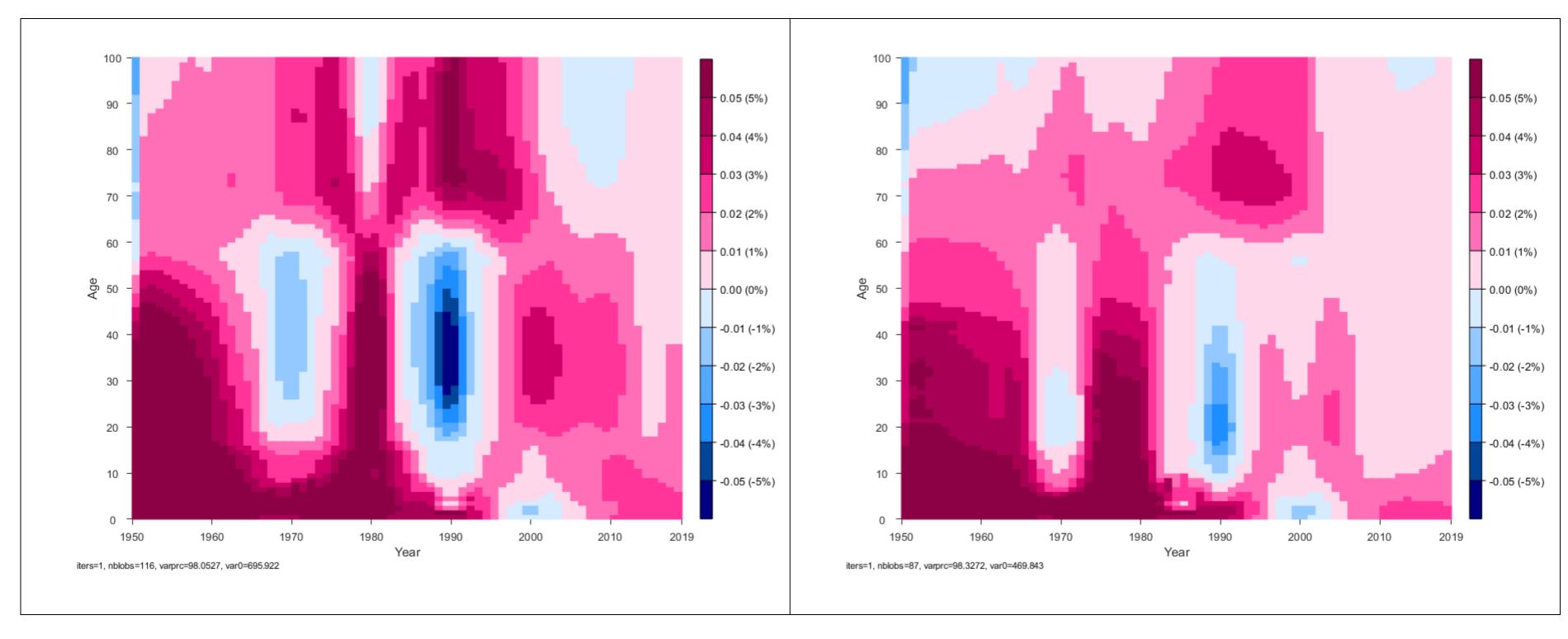
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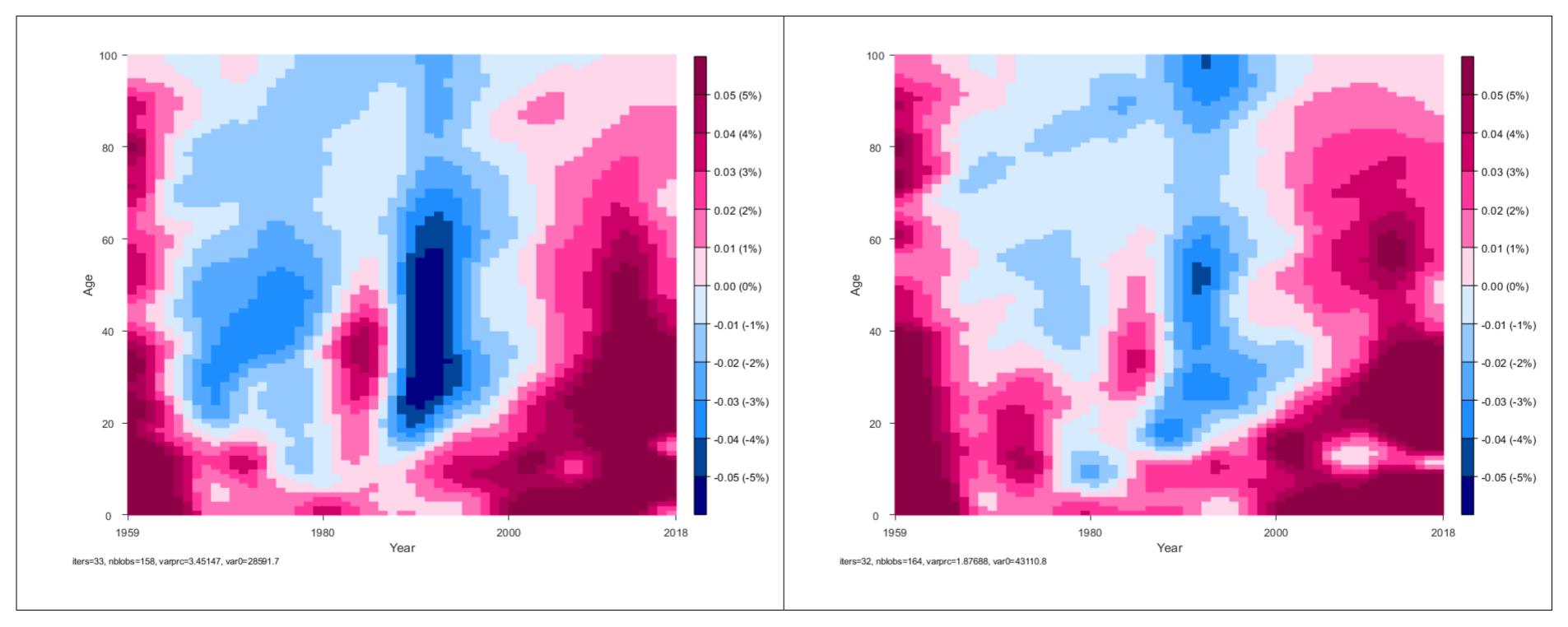
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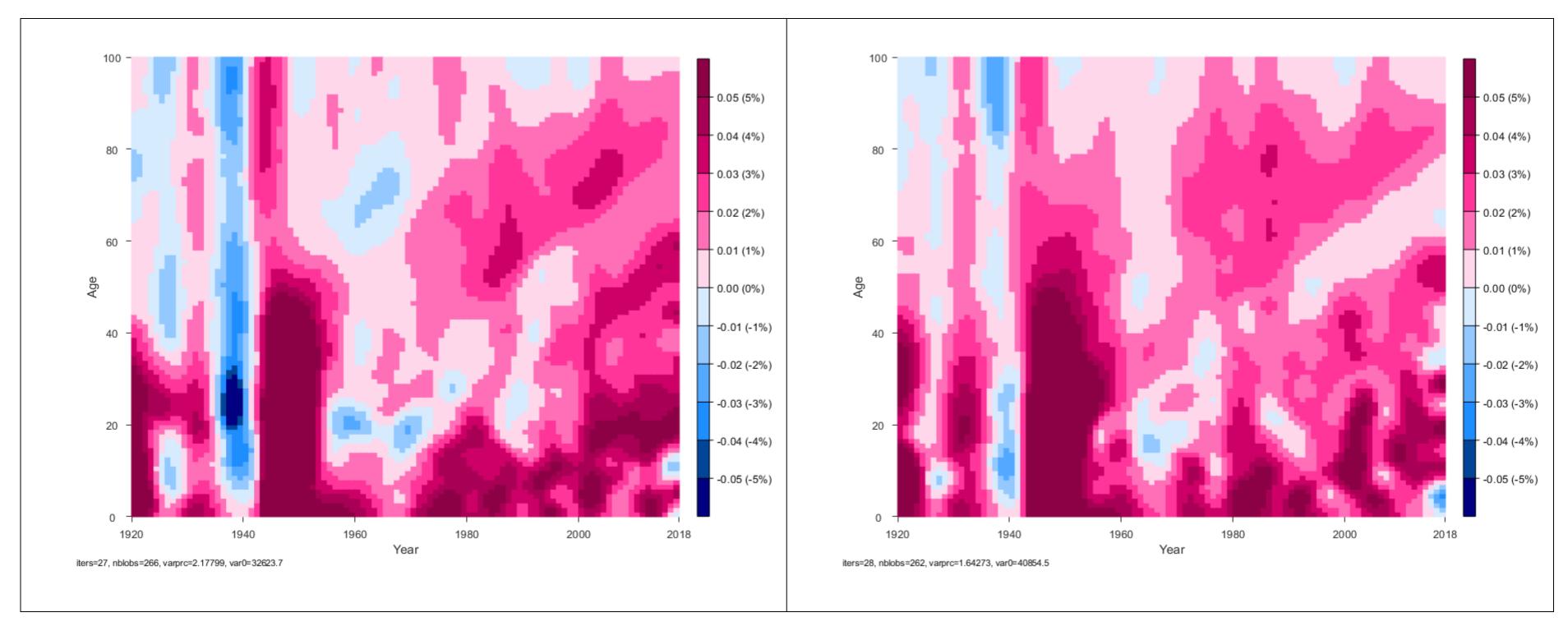
Barbados



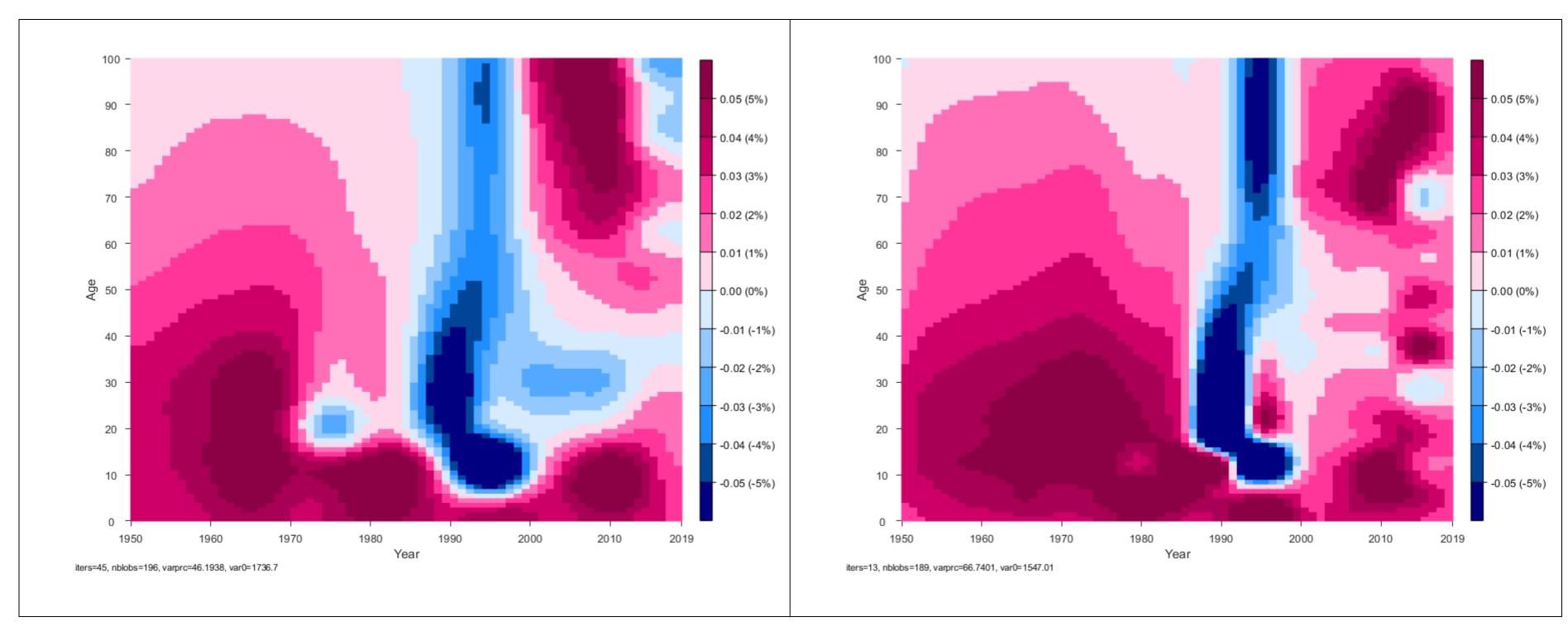
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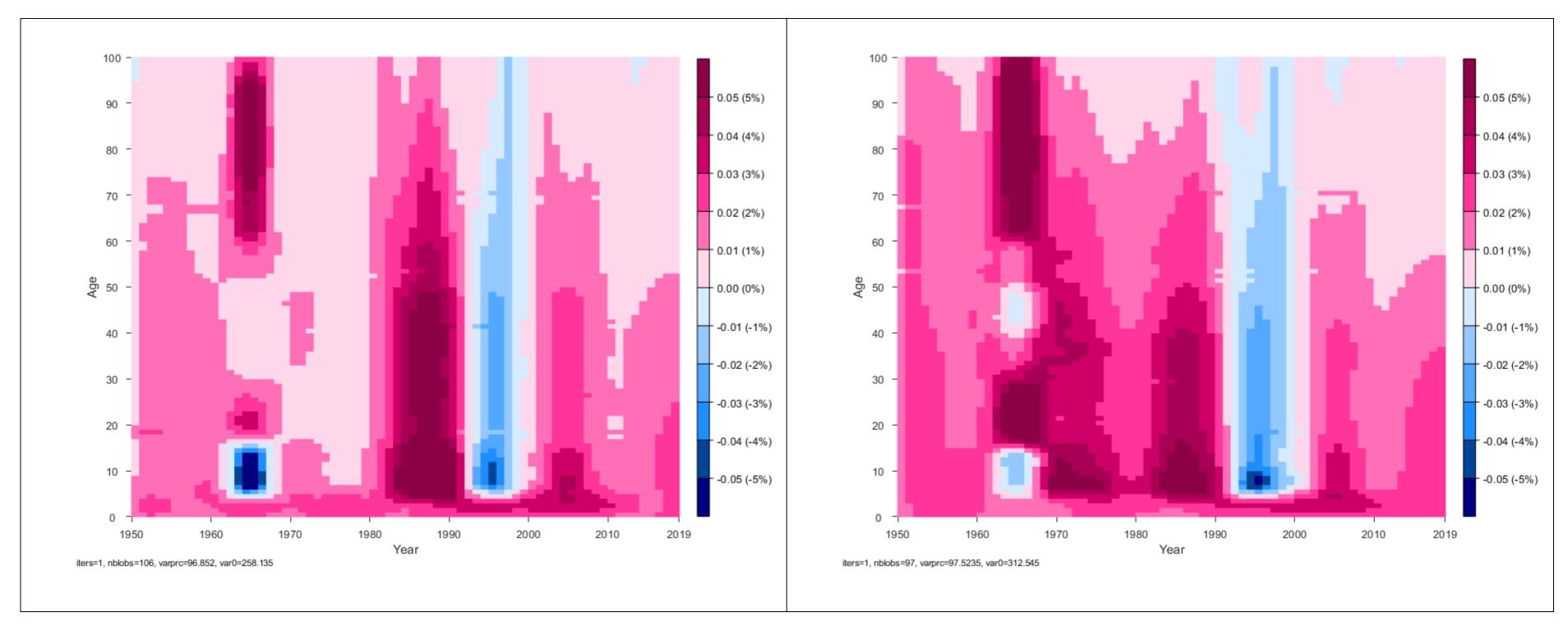
Belgium



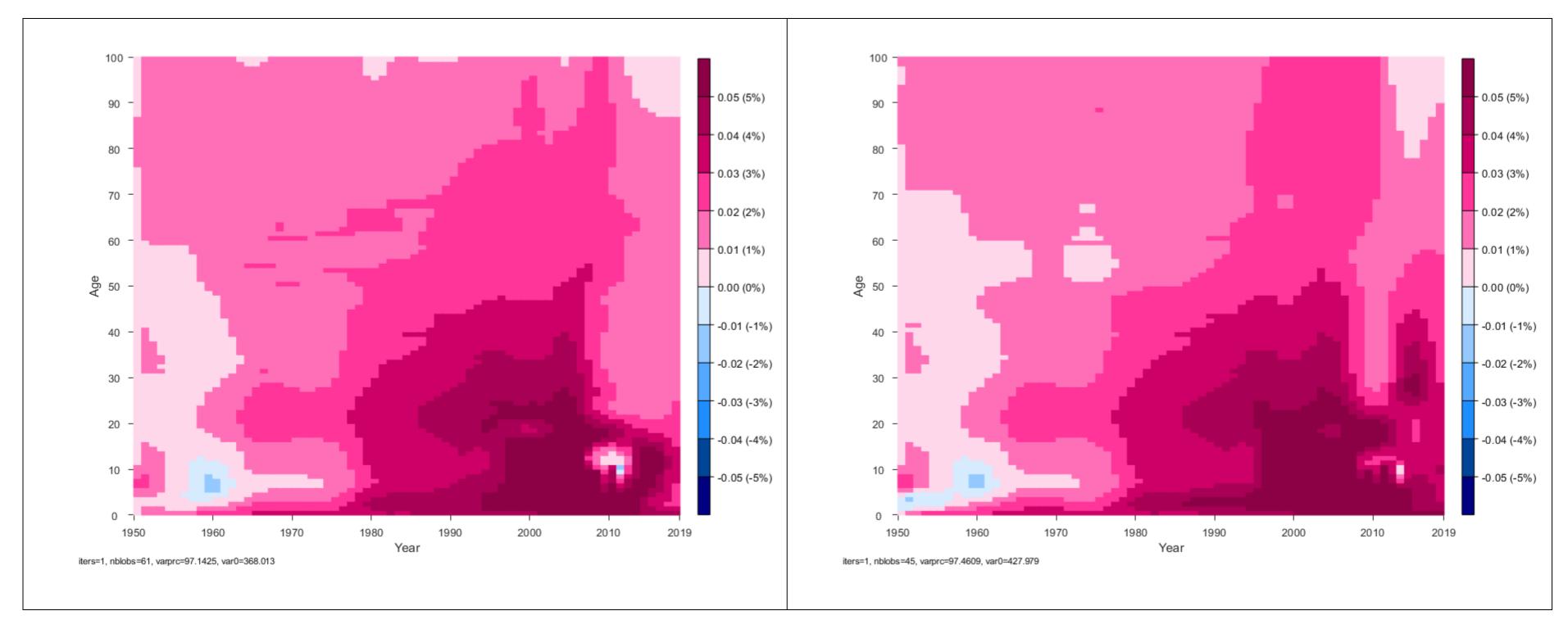
Belize



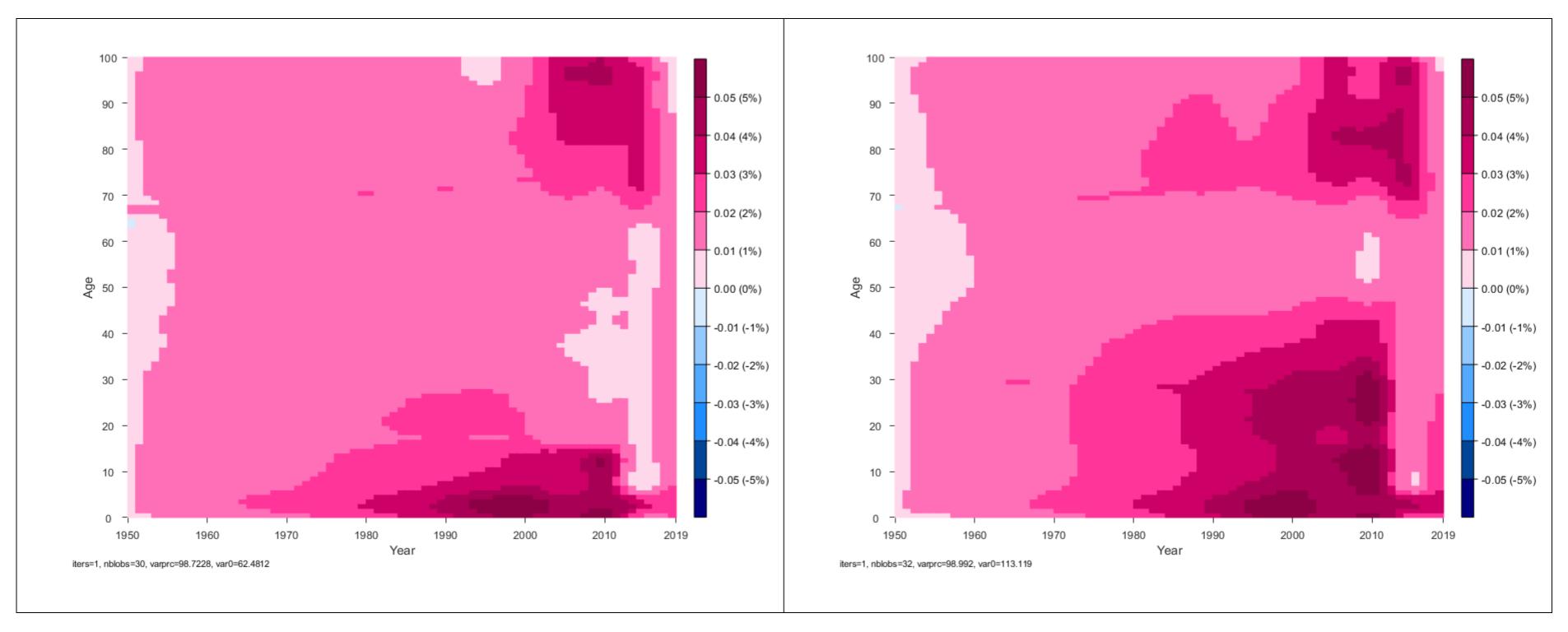
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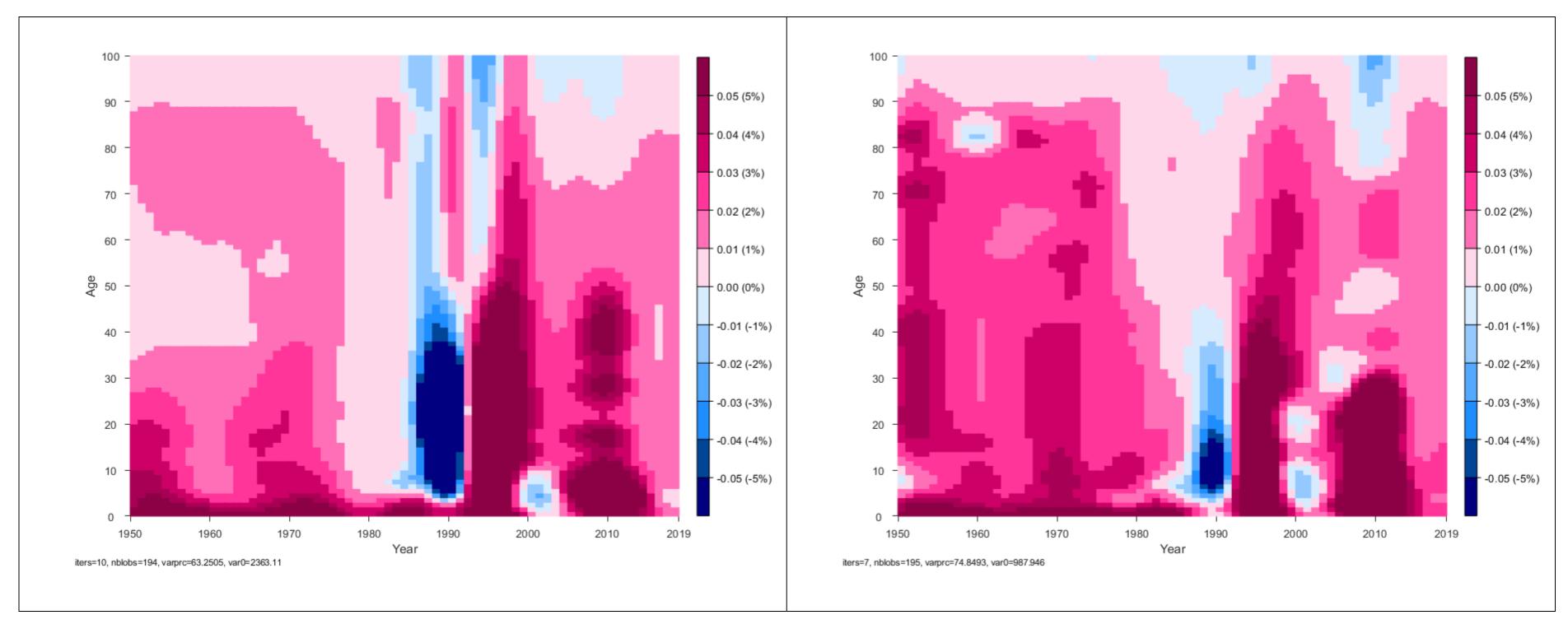
Bhutan



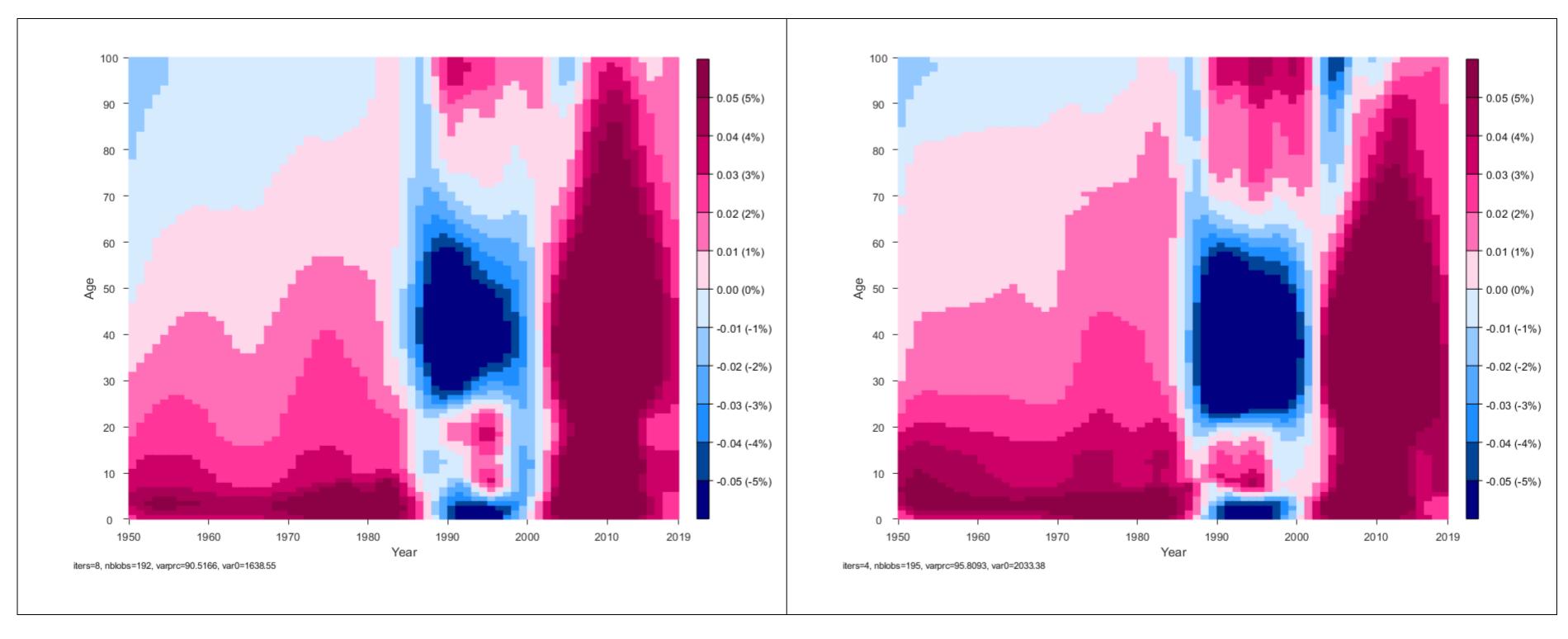
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)



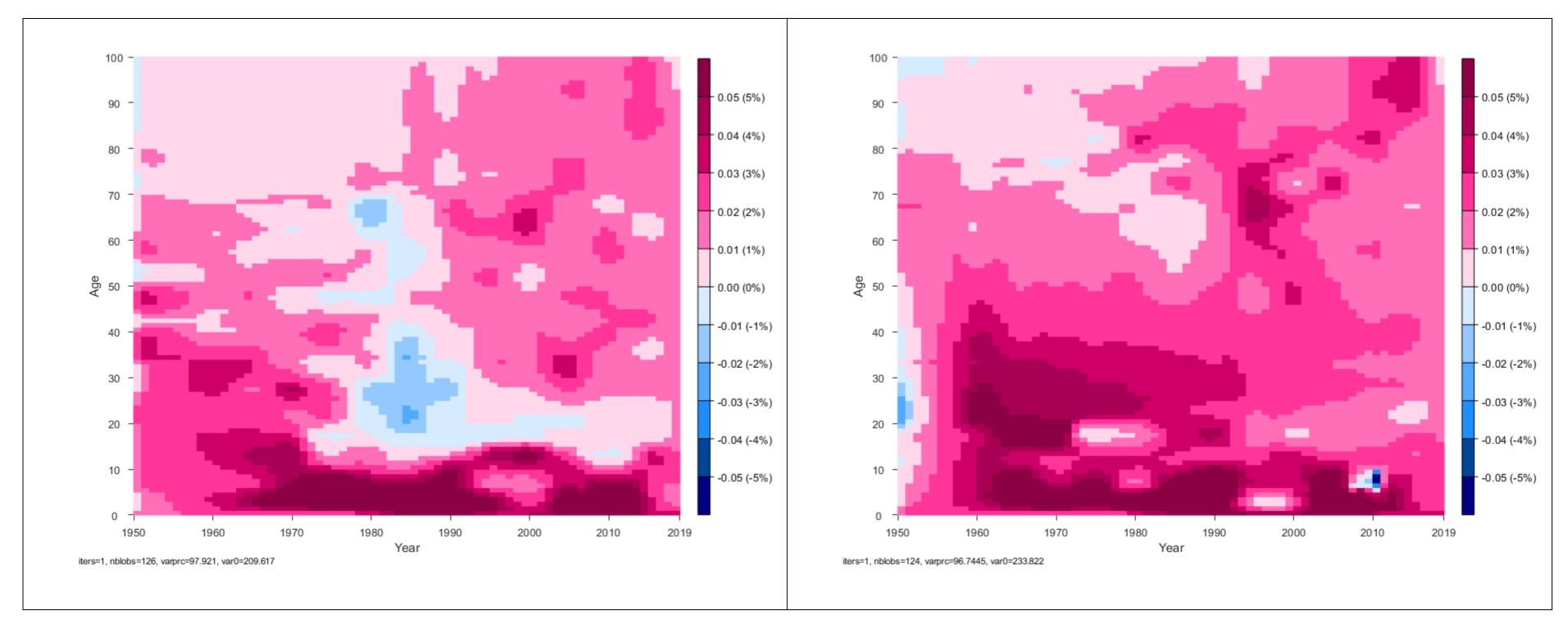
Bosnia and Herzegovina



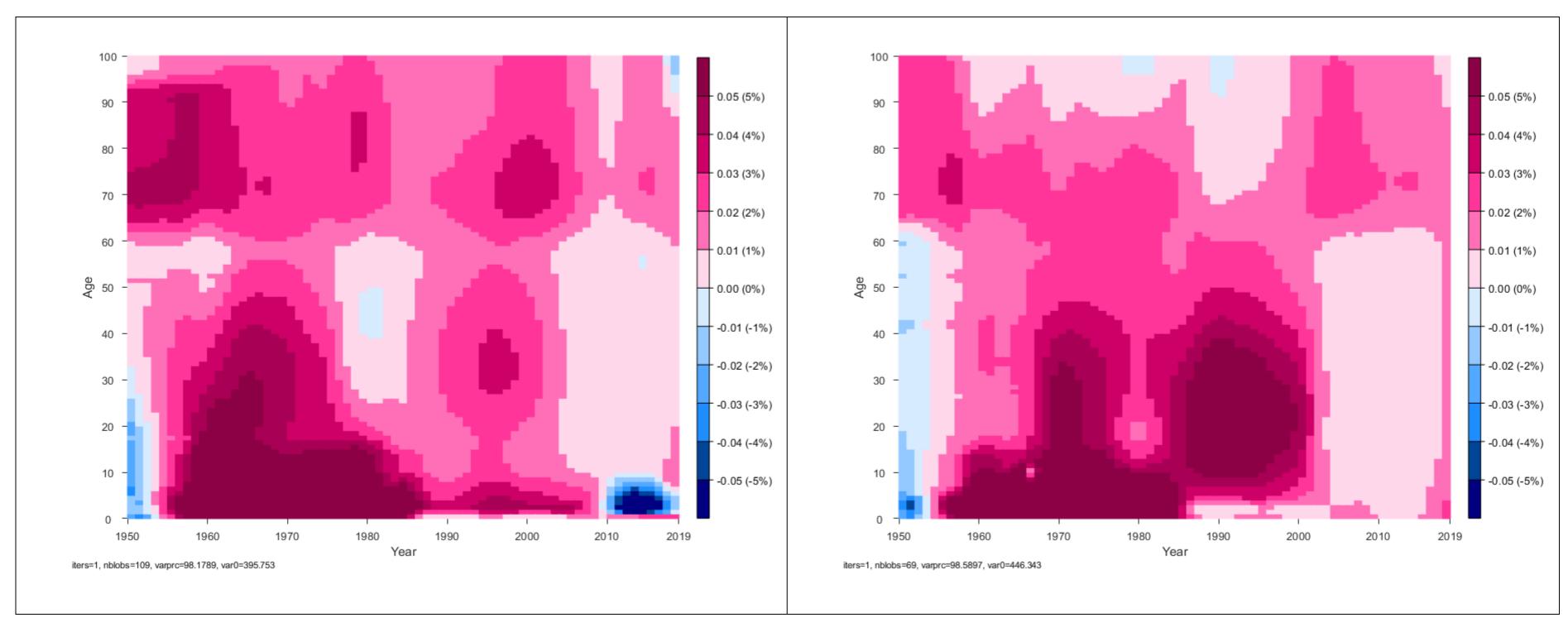
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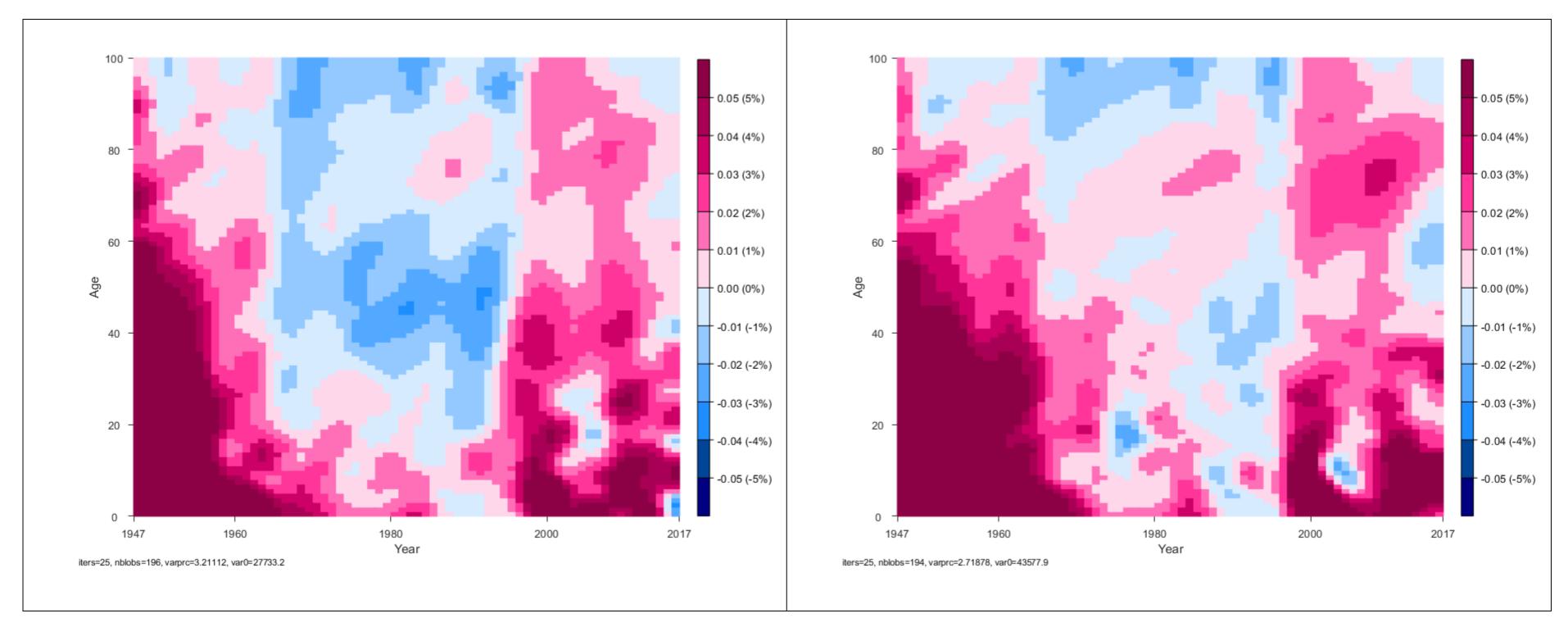
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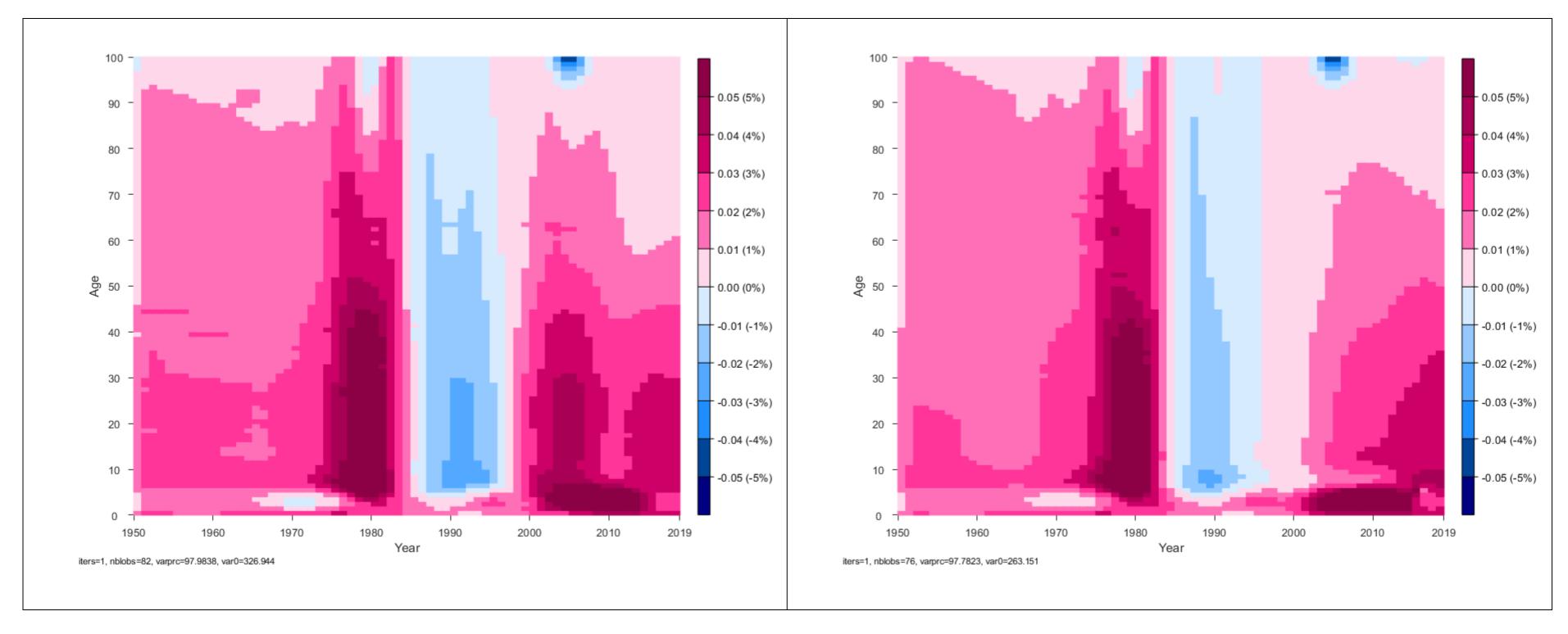
Brunei Darussalam



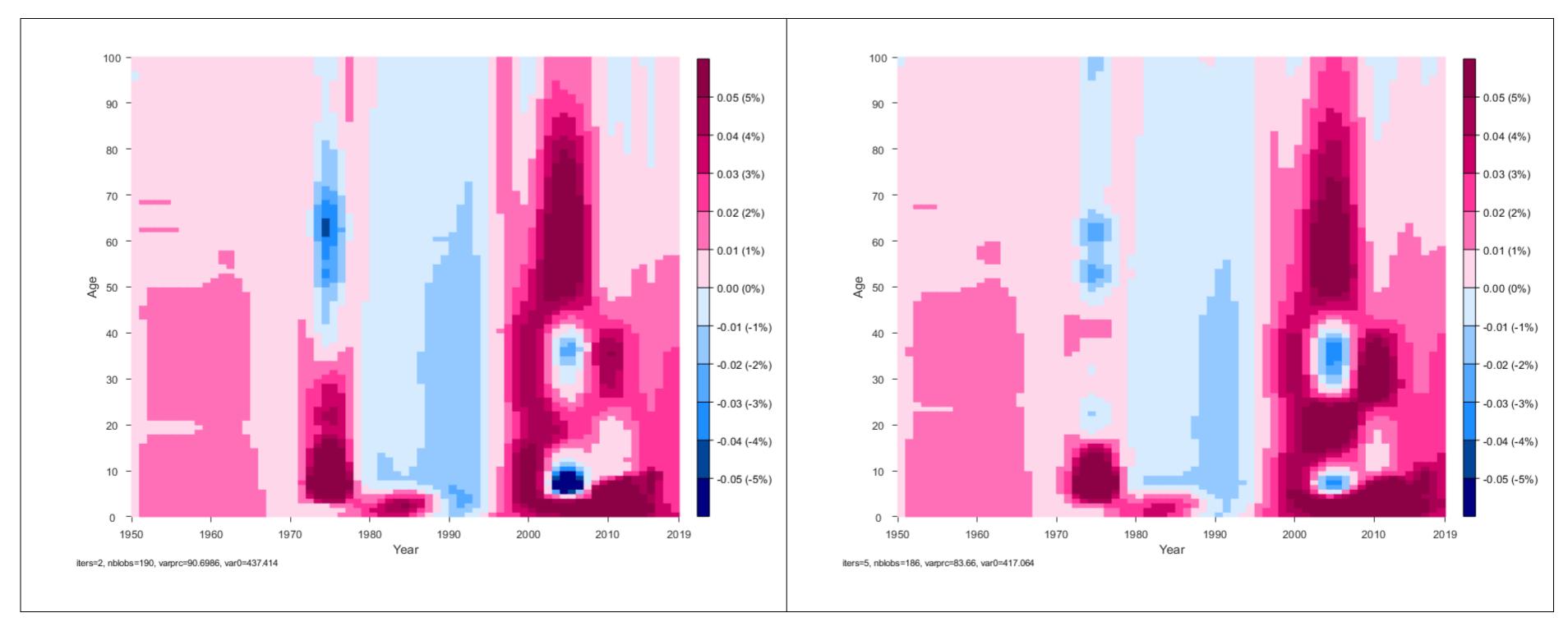
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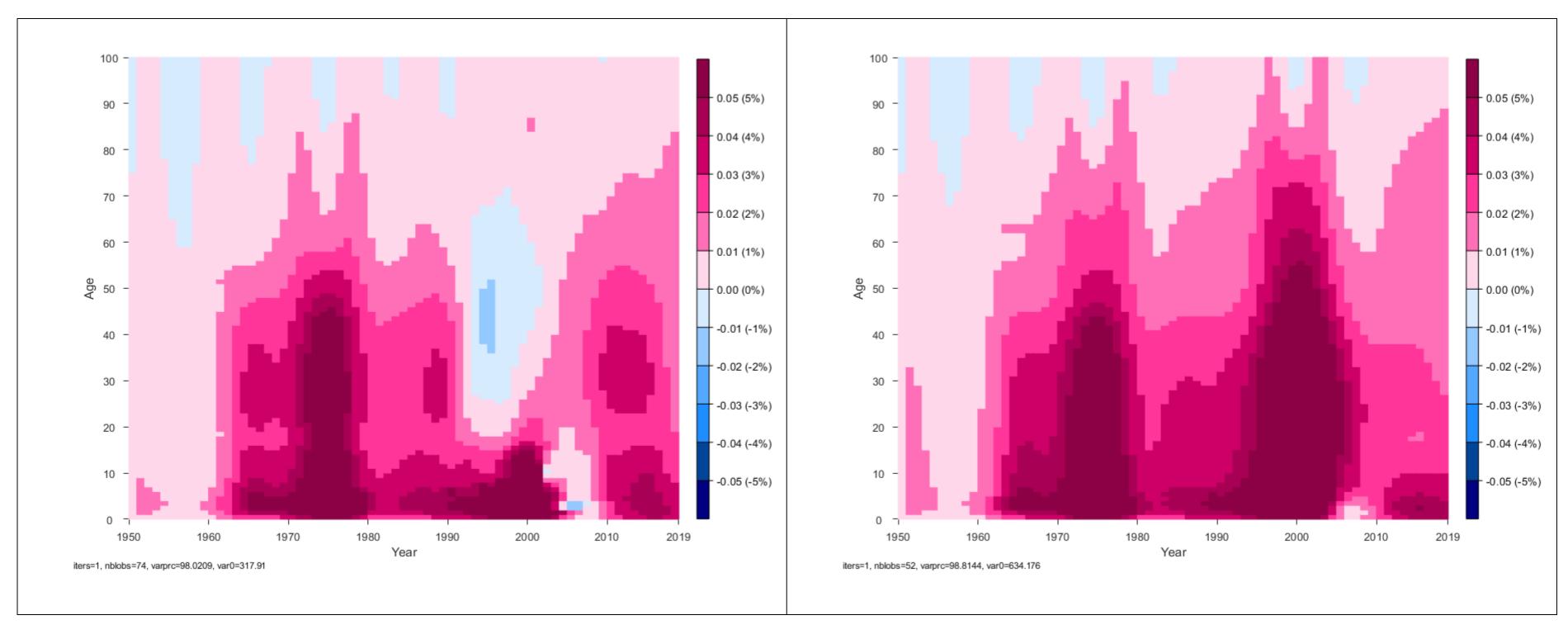
Burkina Faso



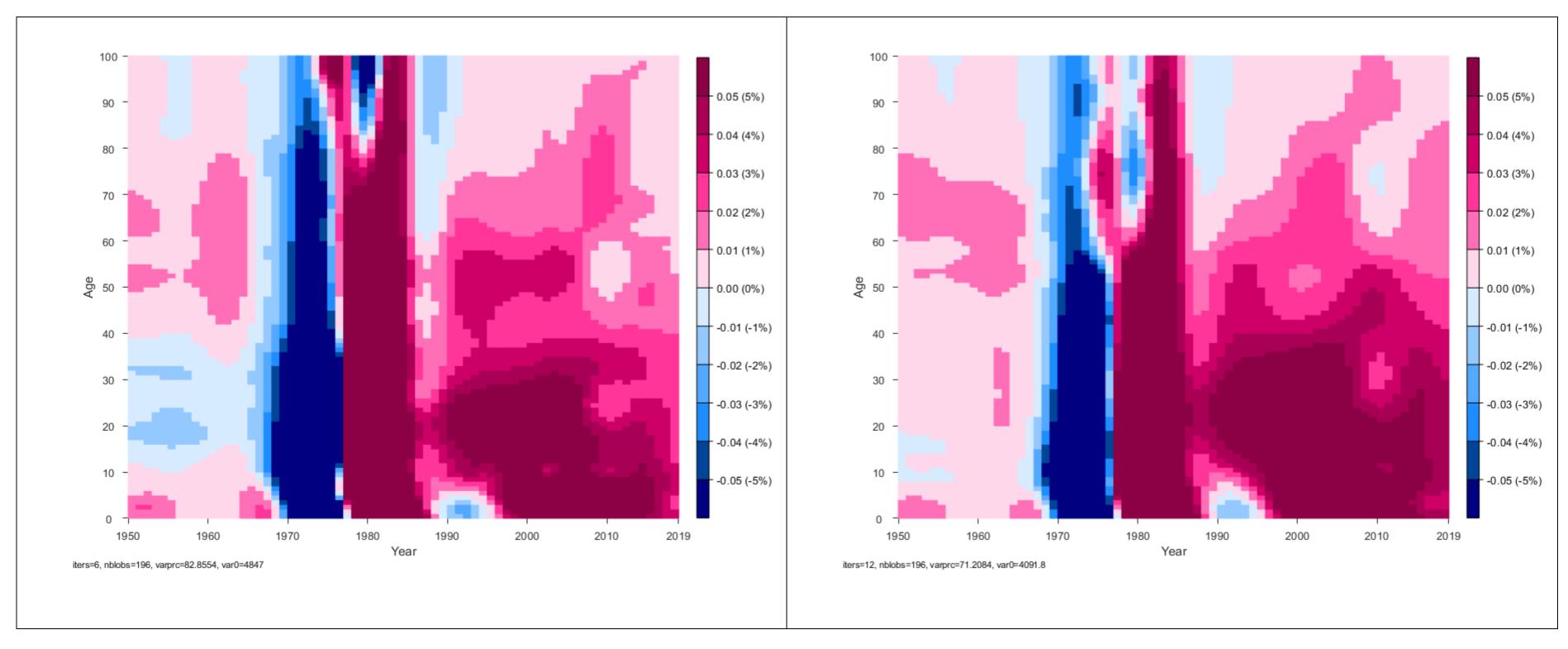
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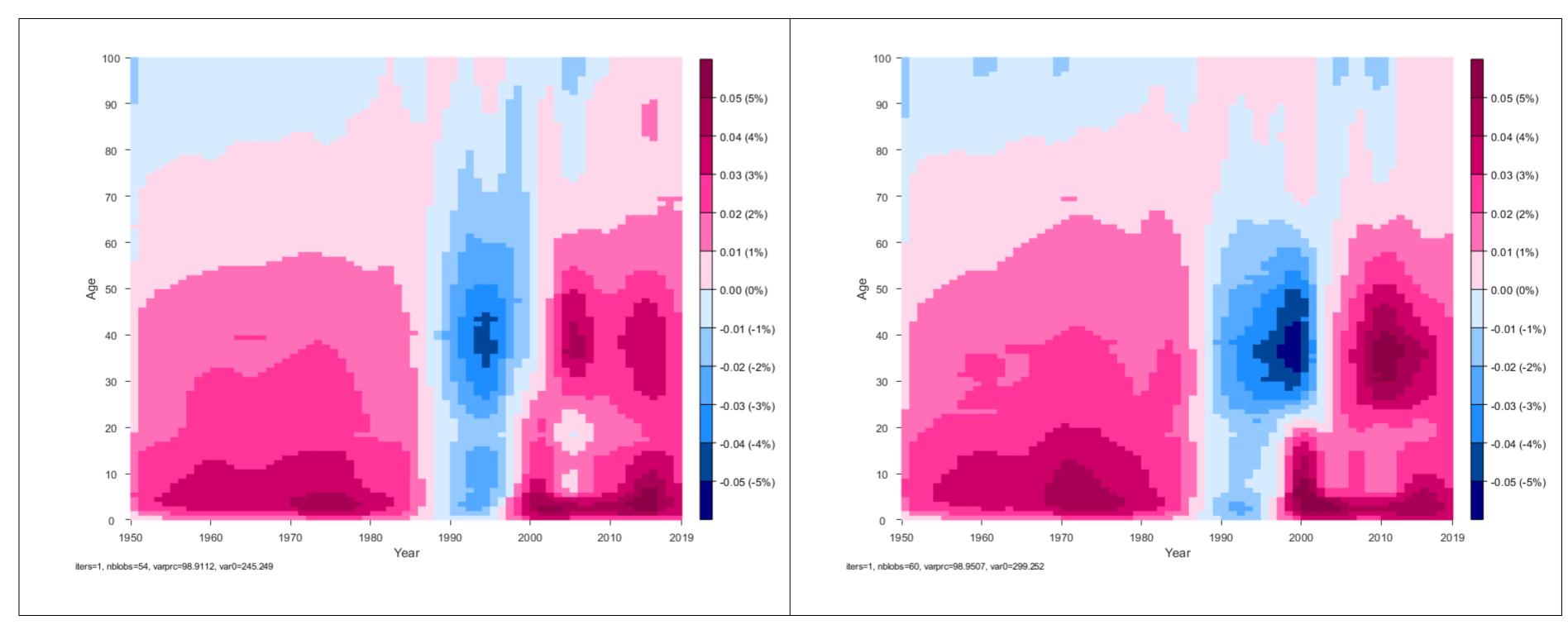
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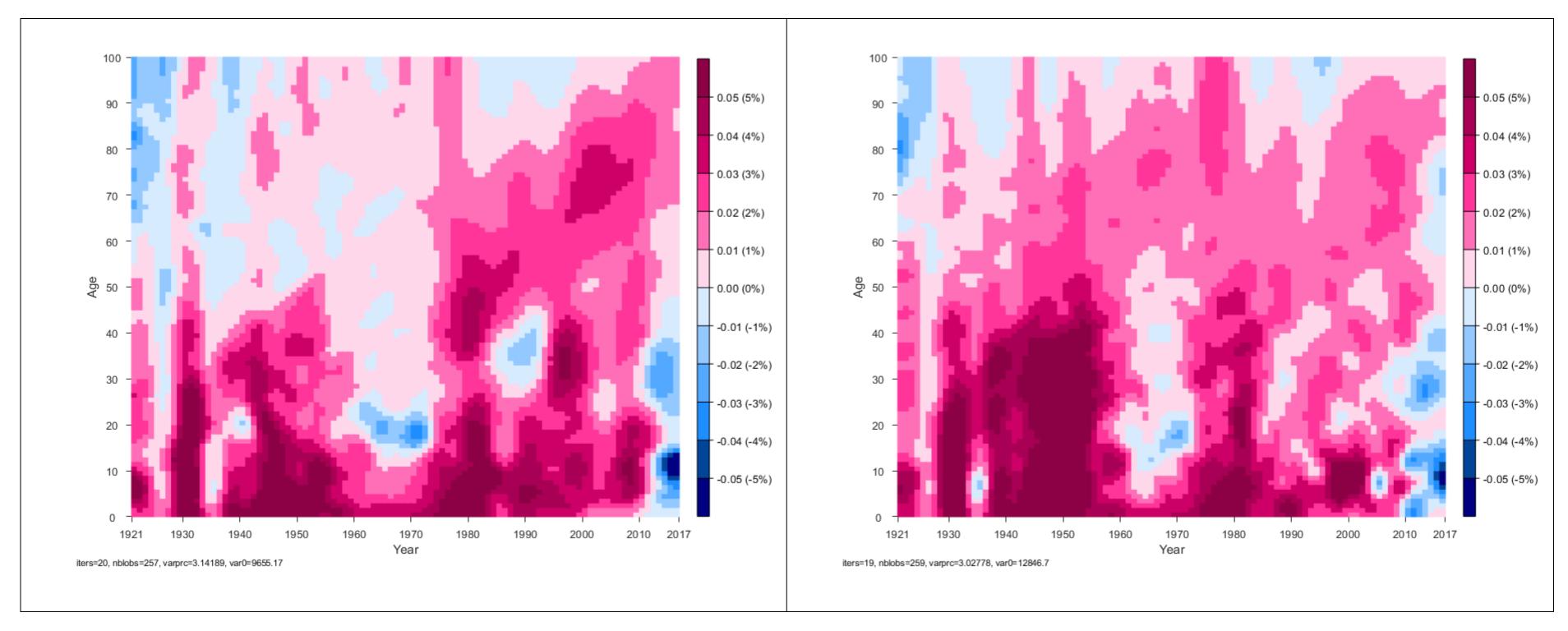
Cambodia



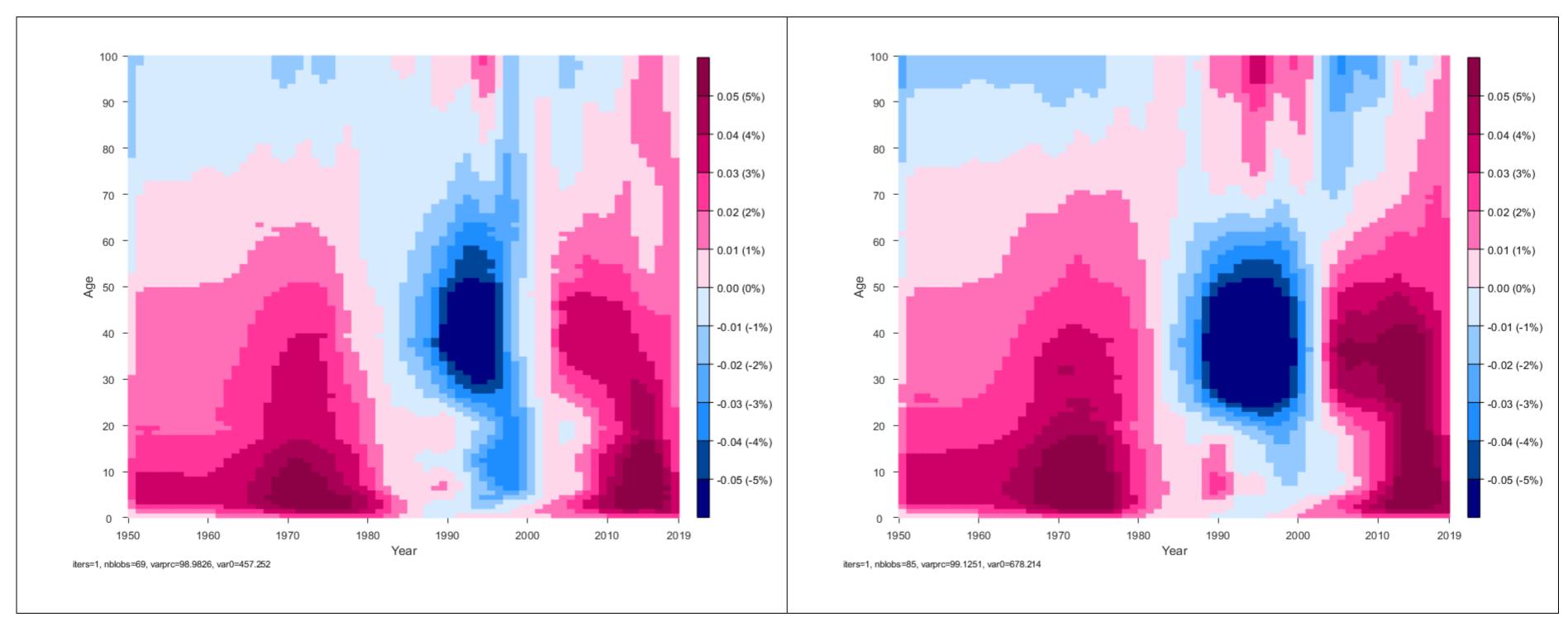
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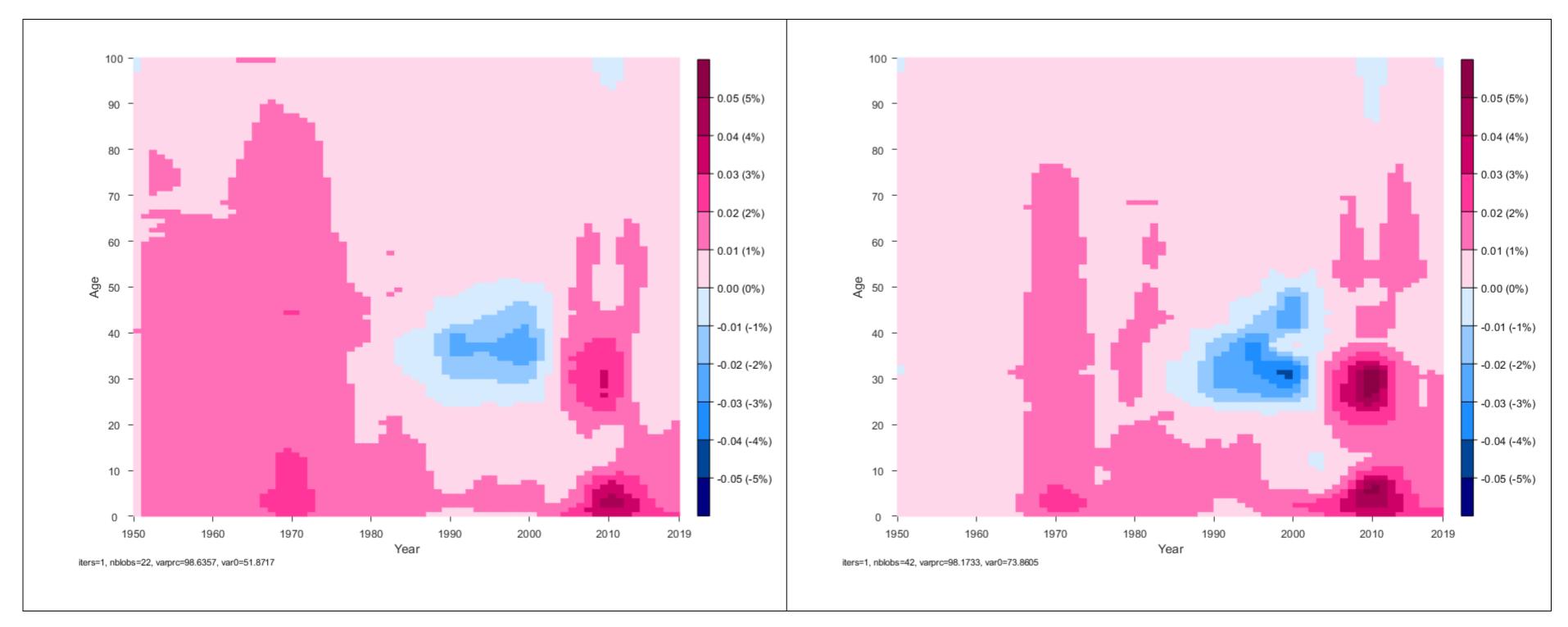


Canada

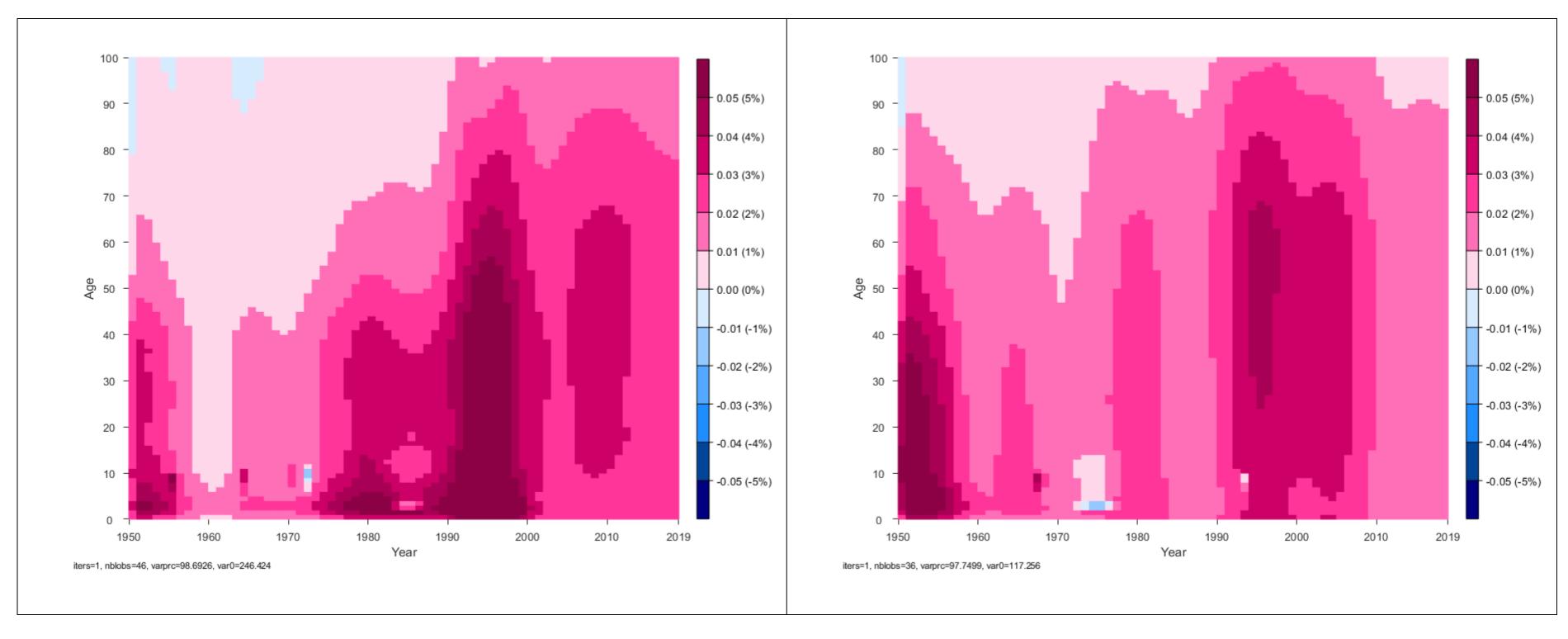


Central African Republic

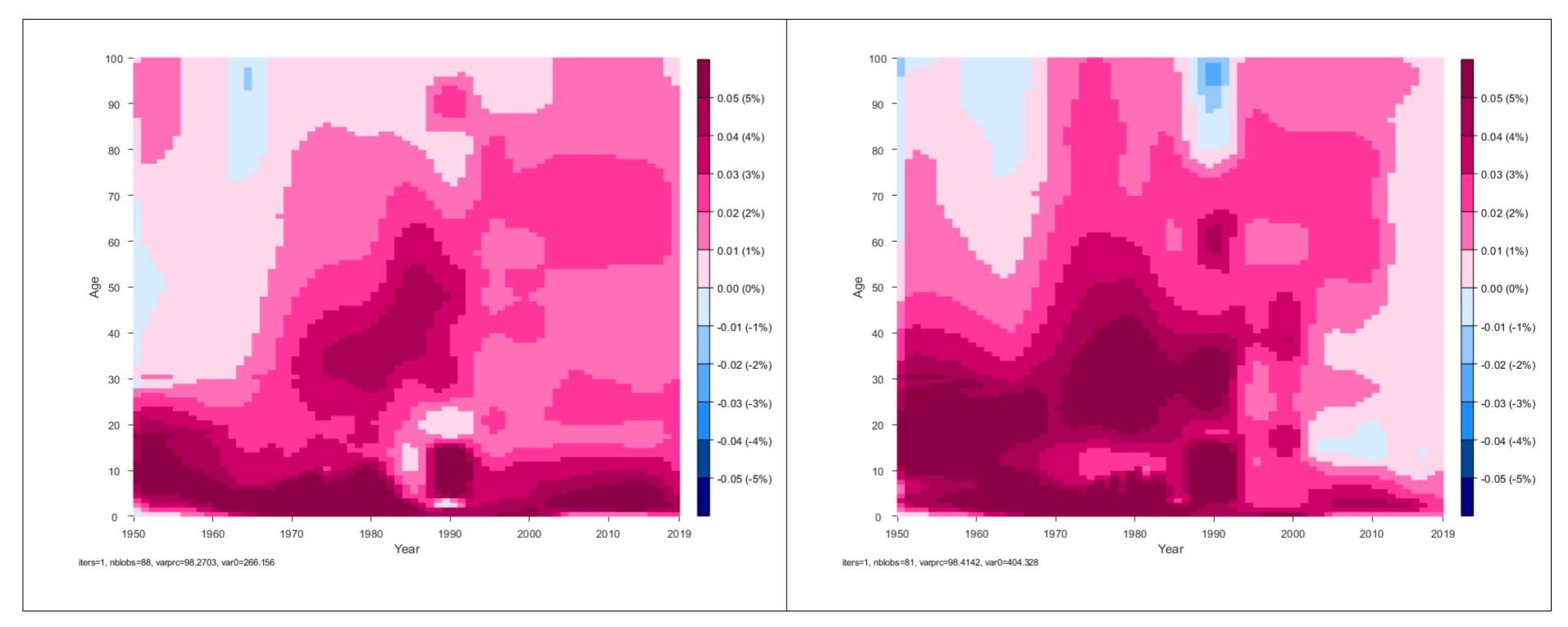




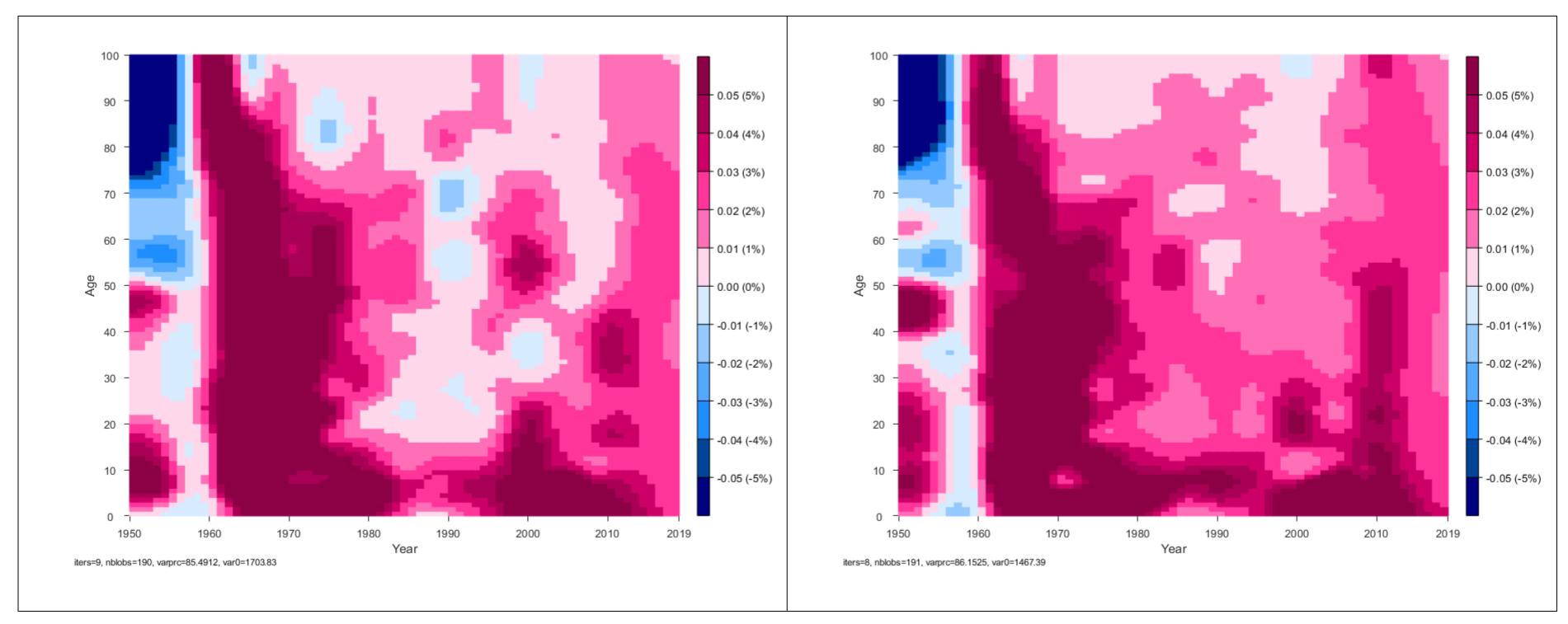
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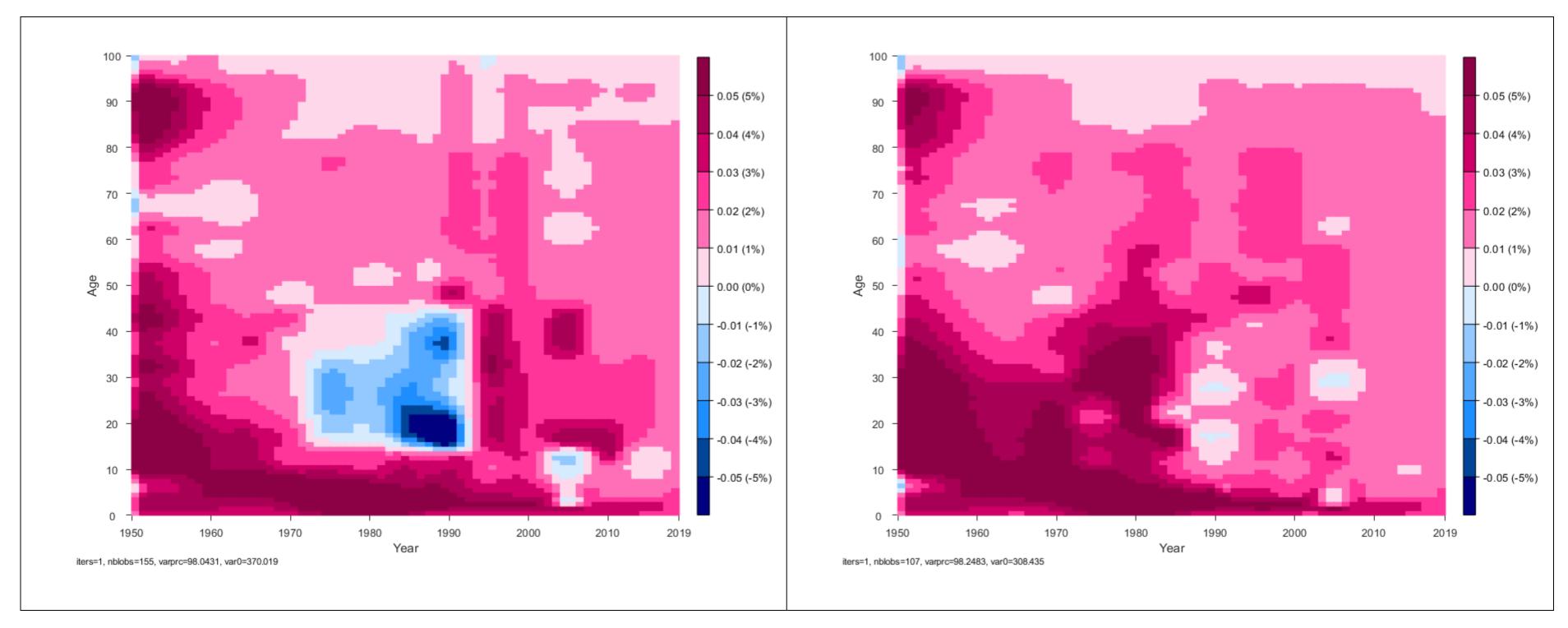
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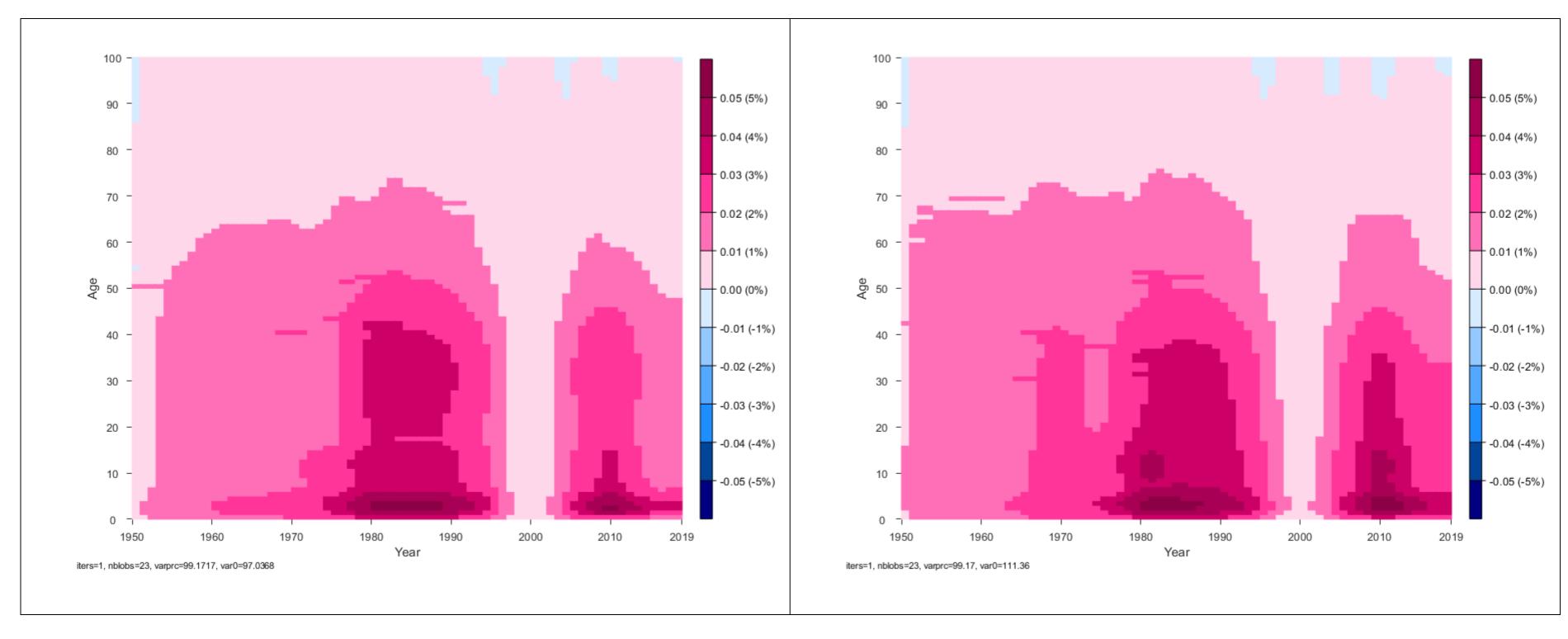
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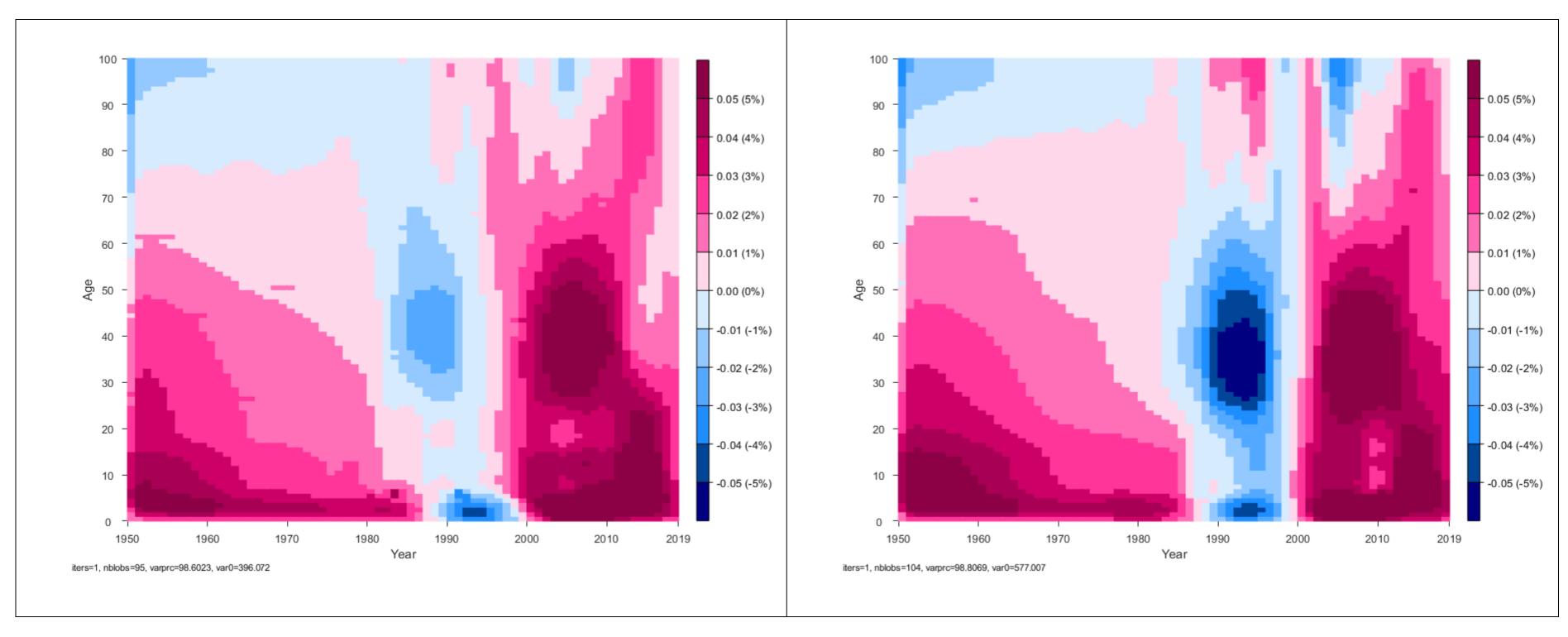
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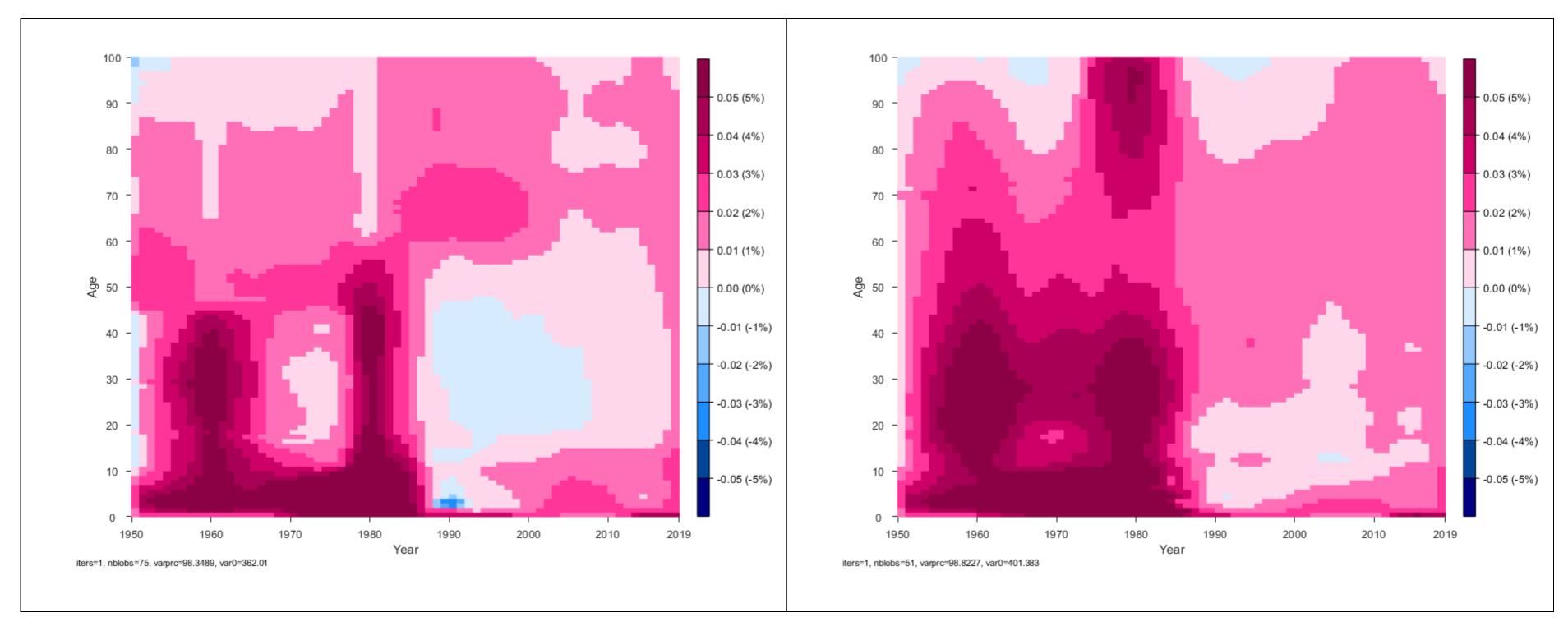
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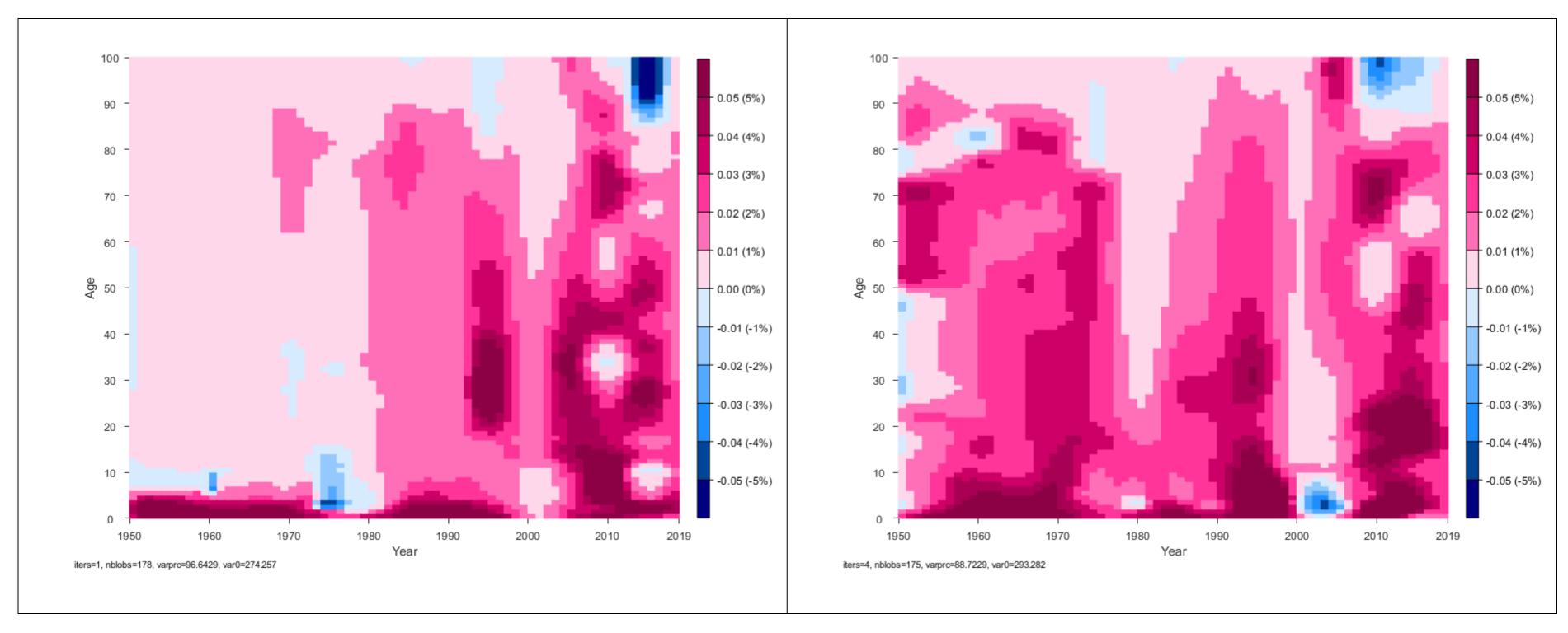
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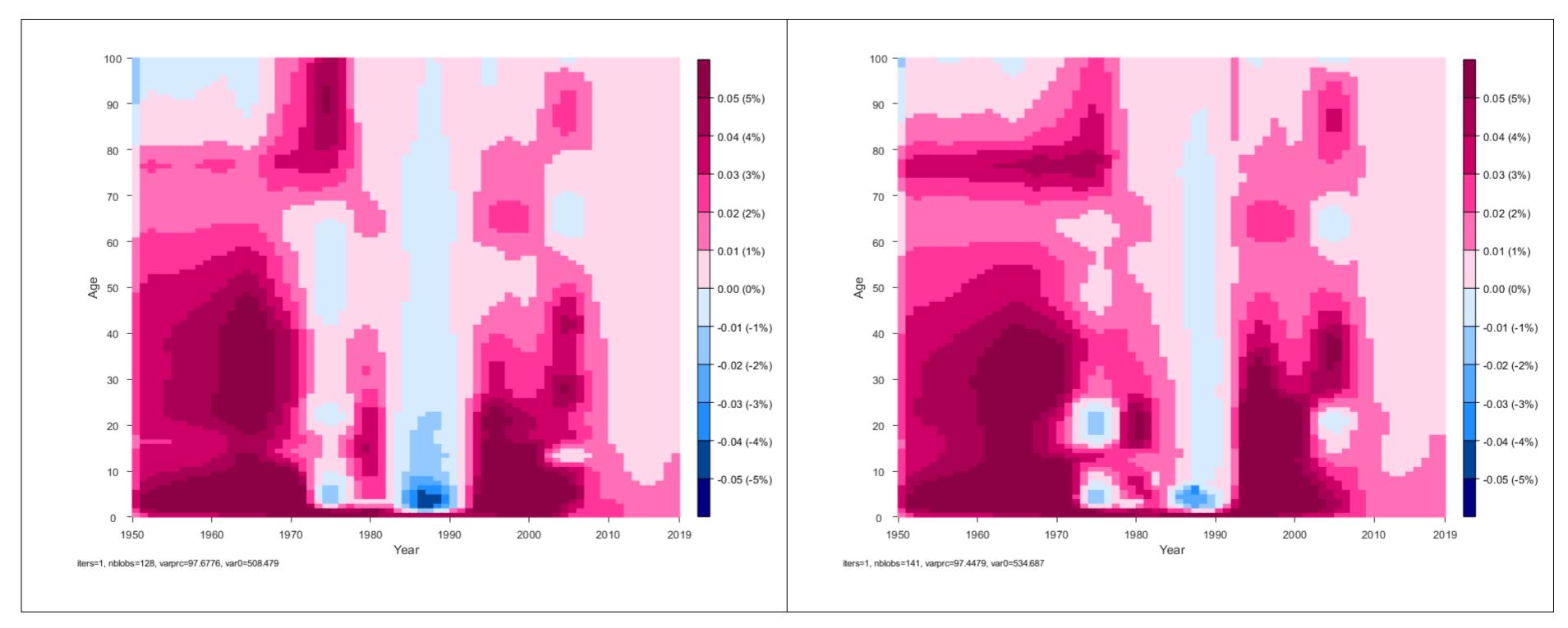
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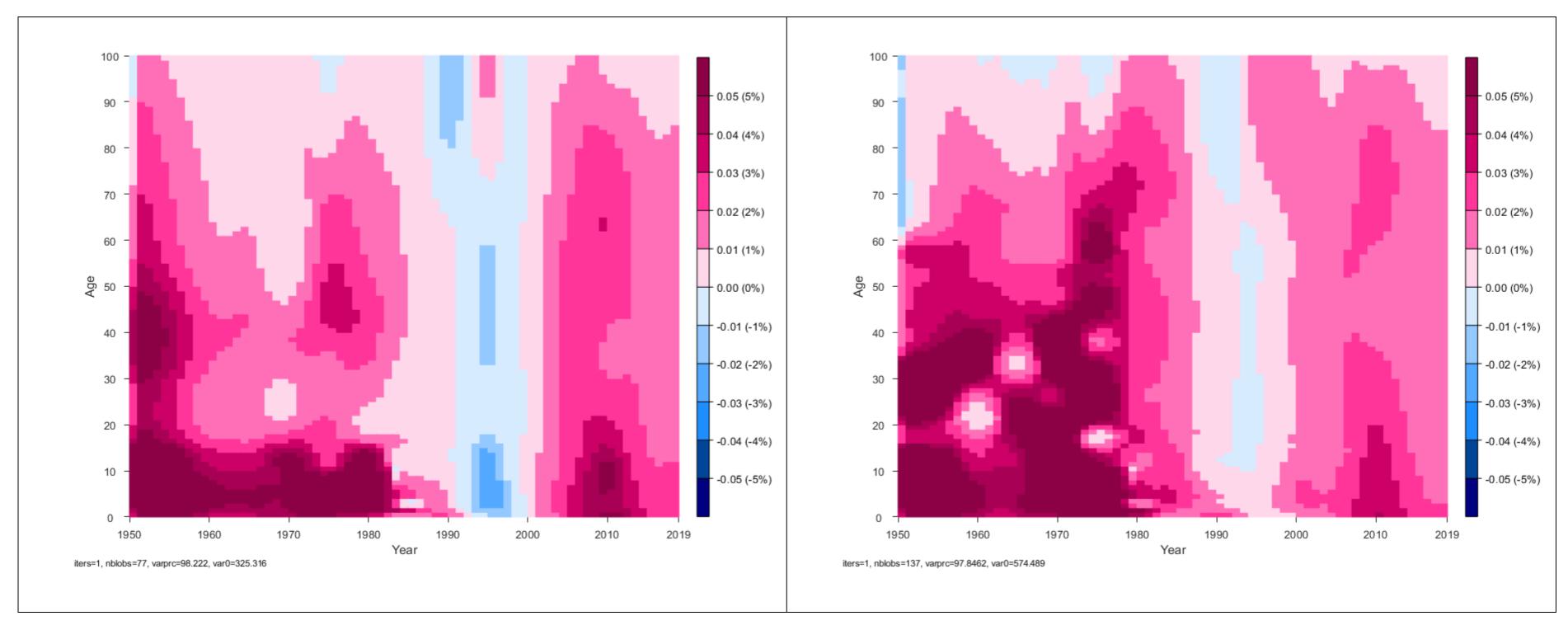
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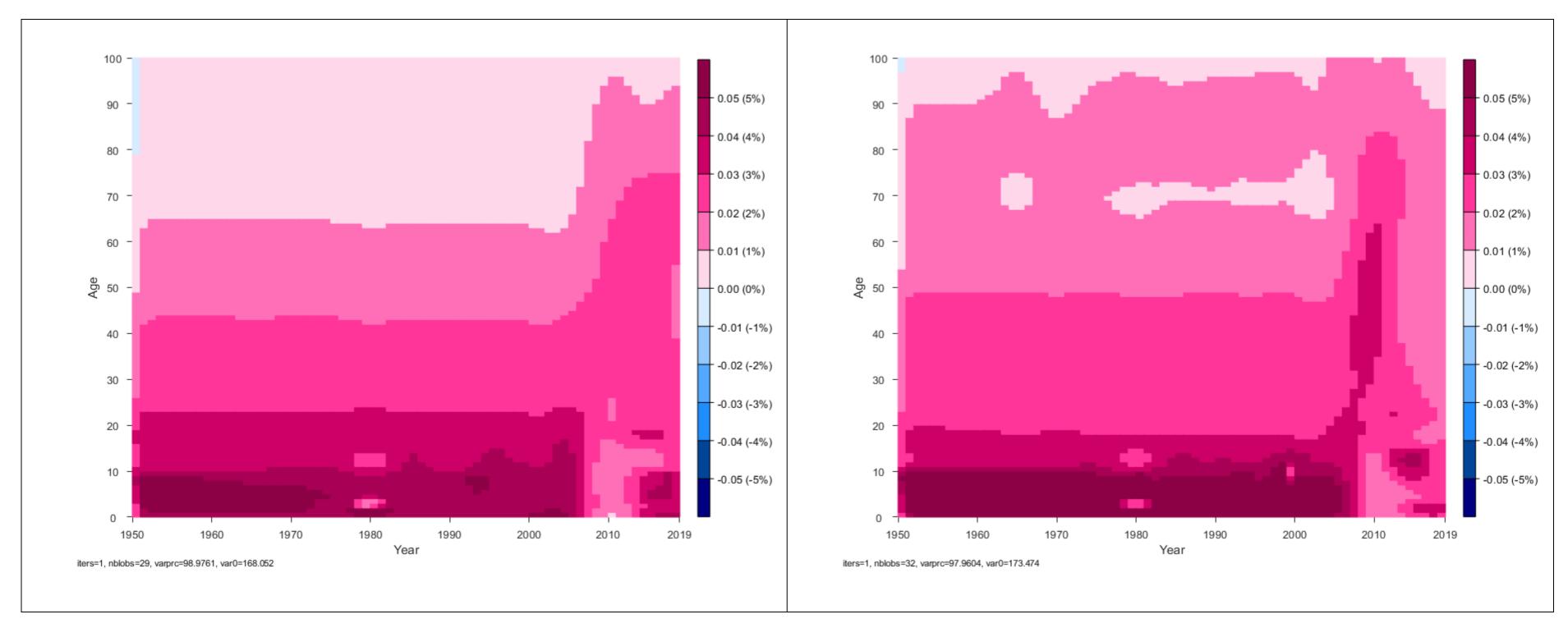
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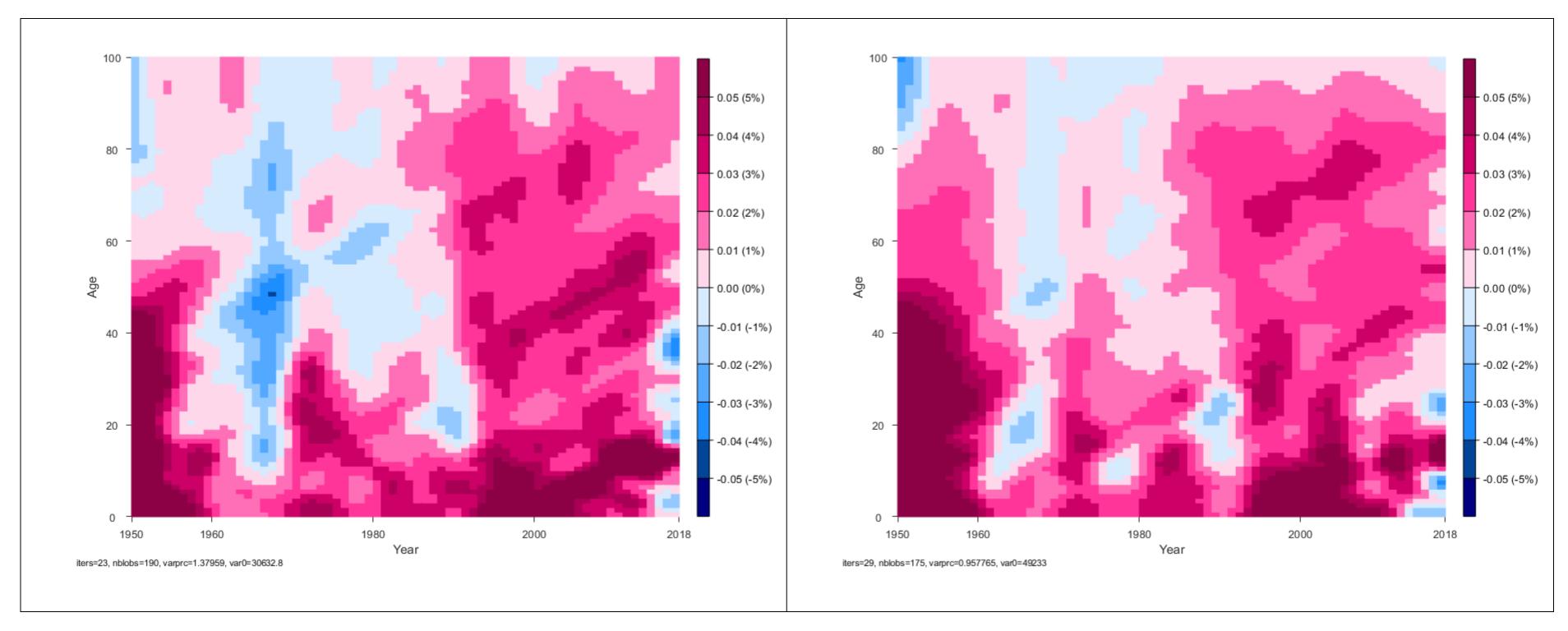
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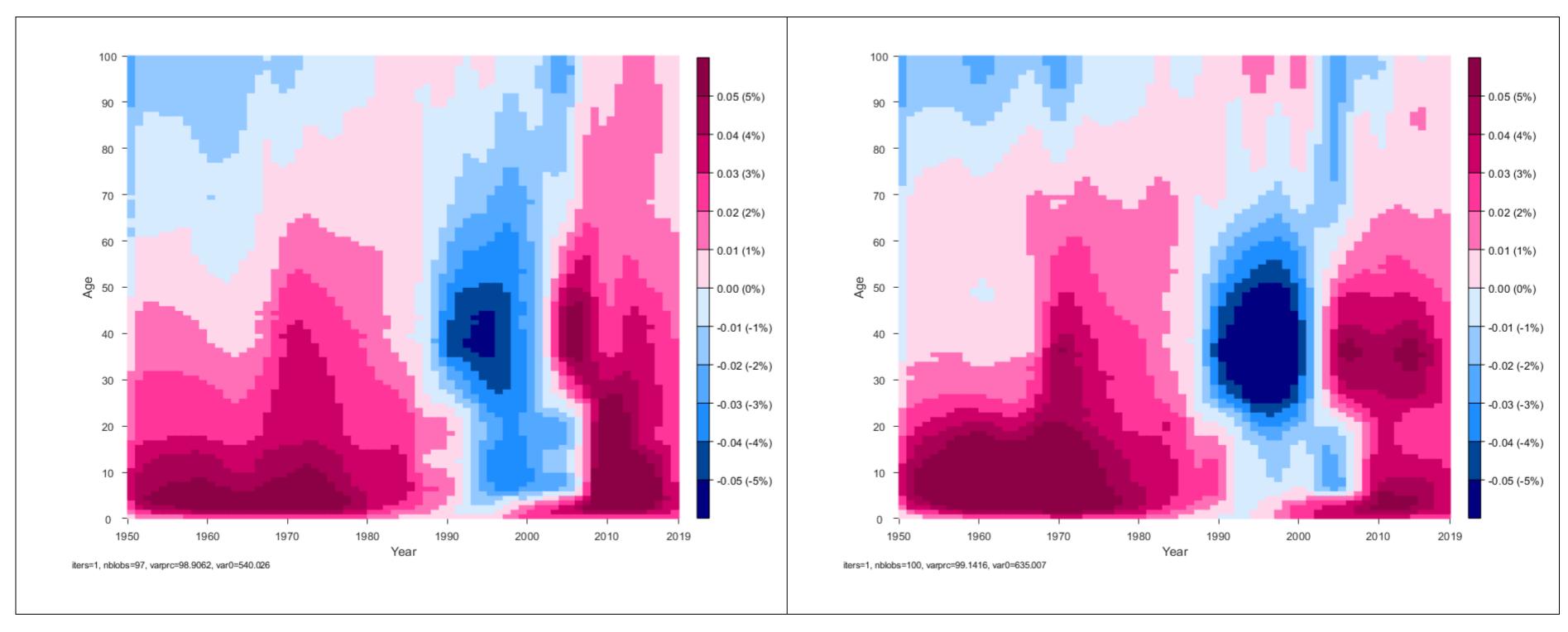
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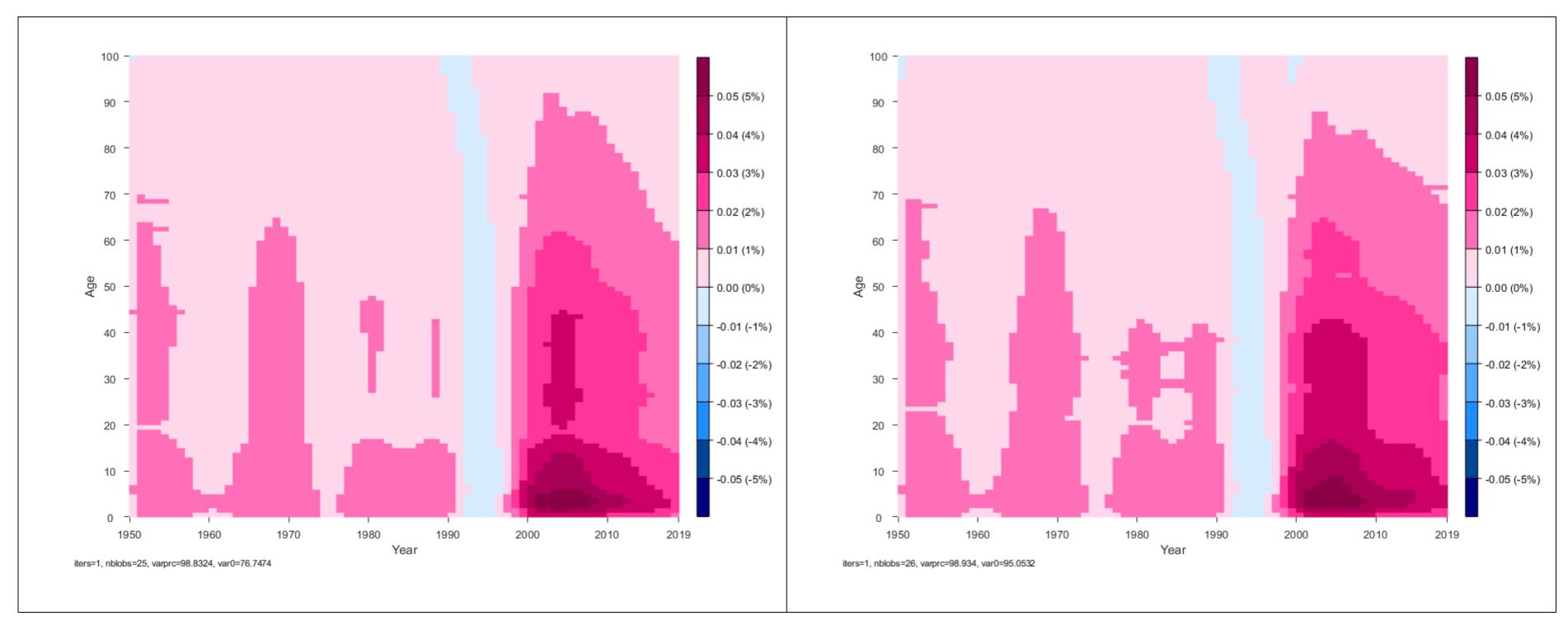
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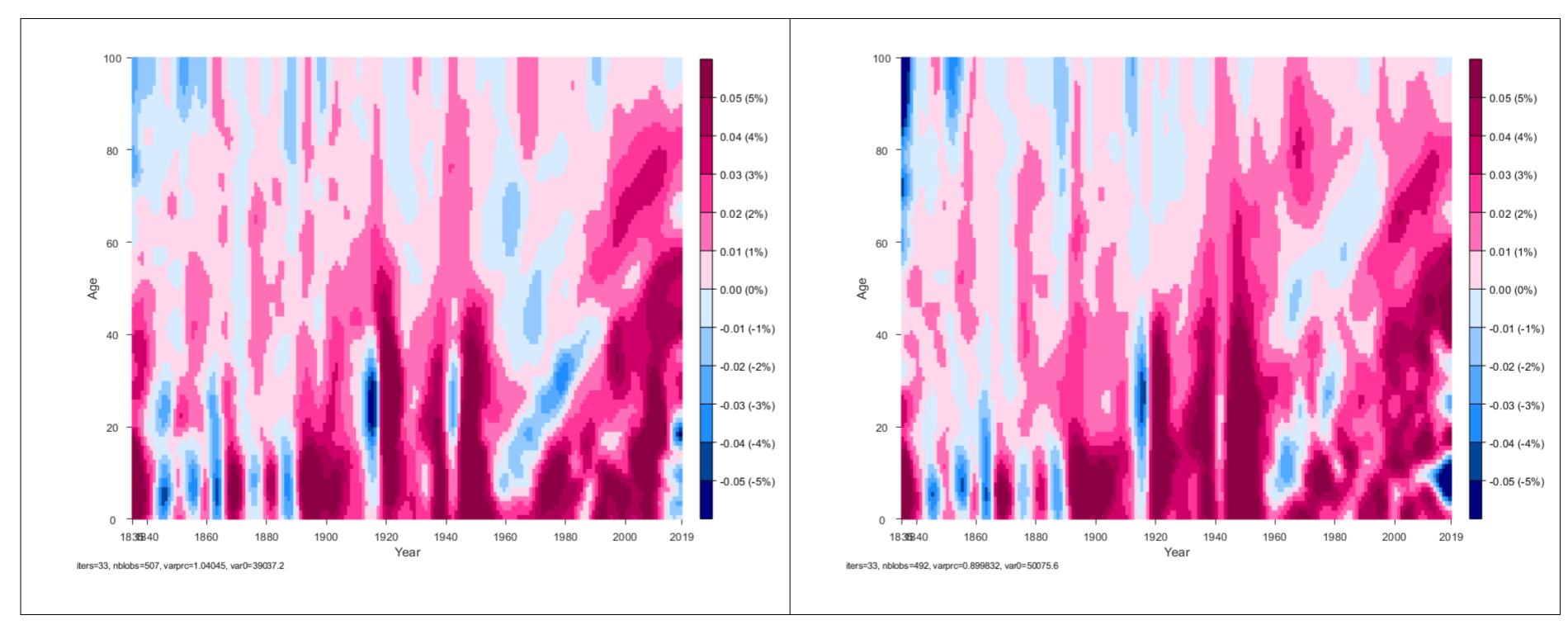
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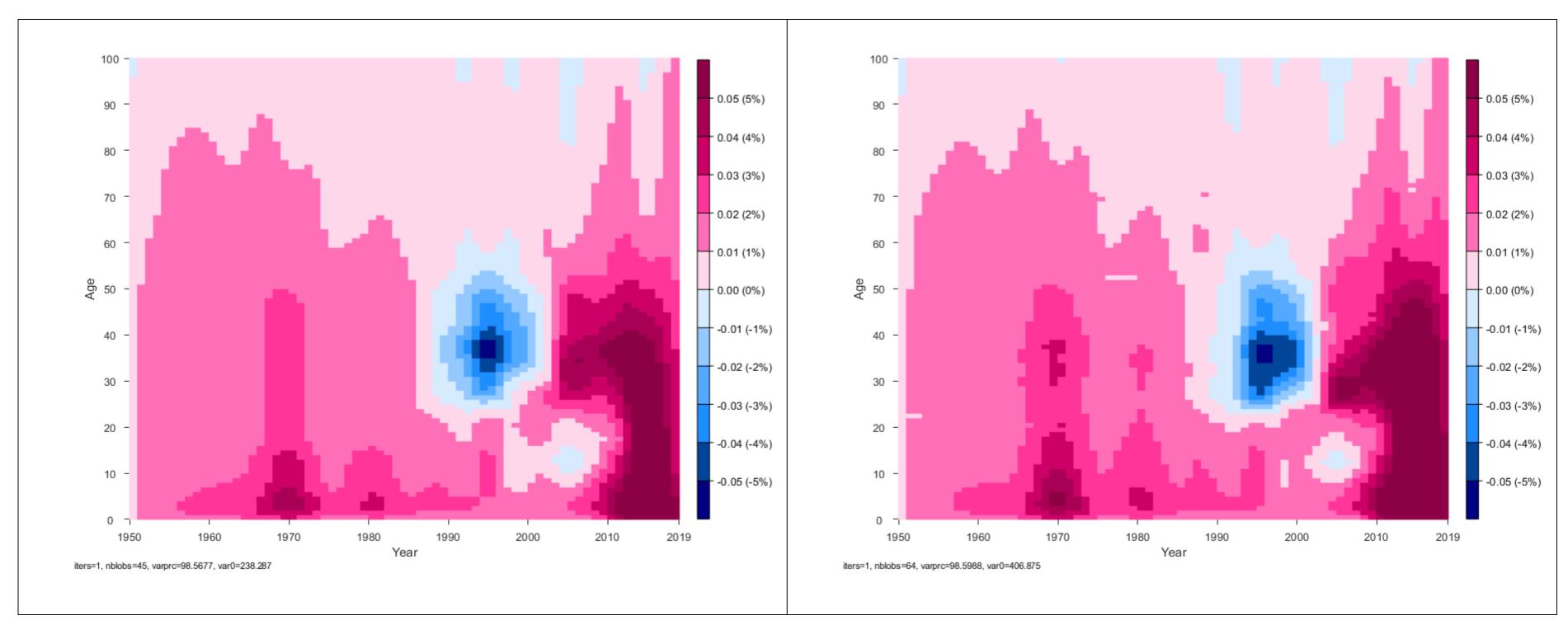
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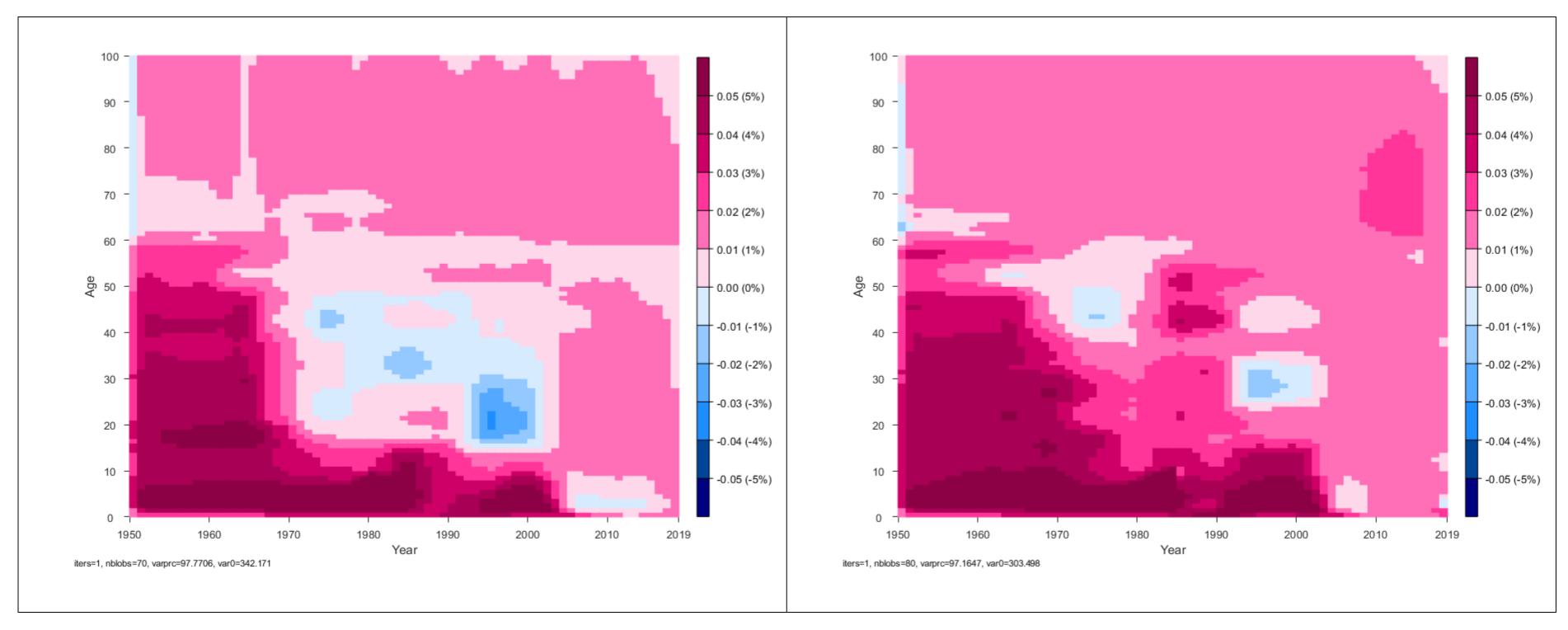
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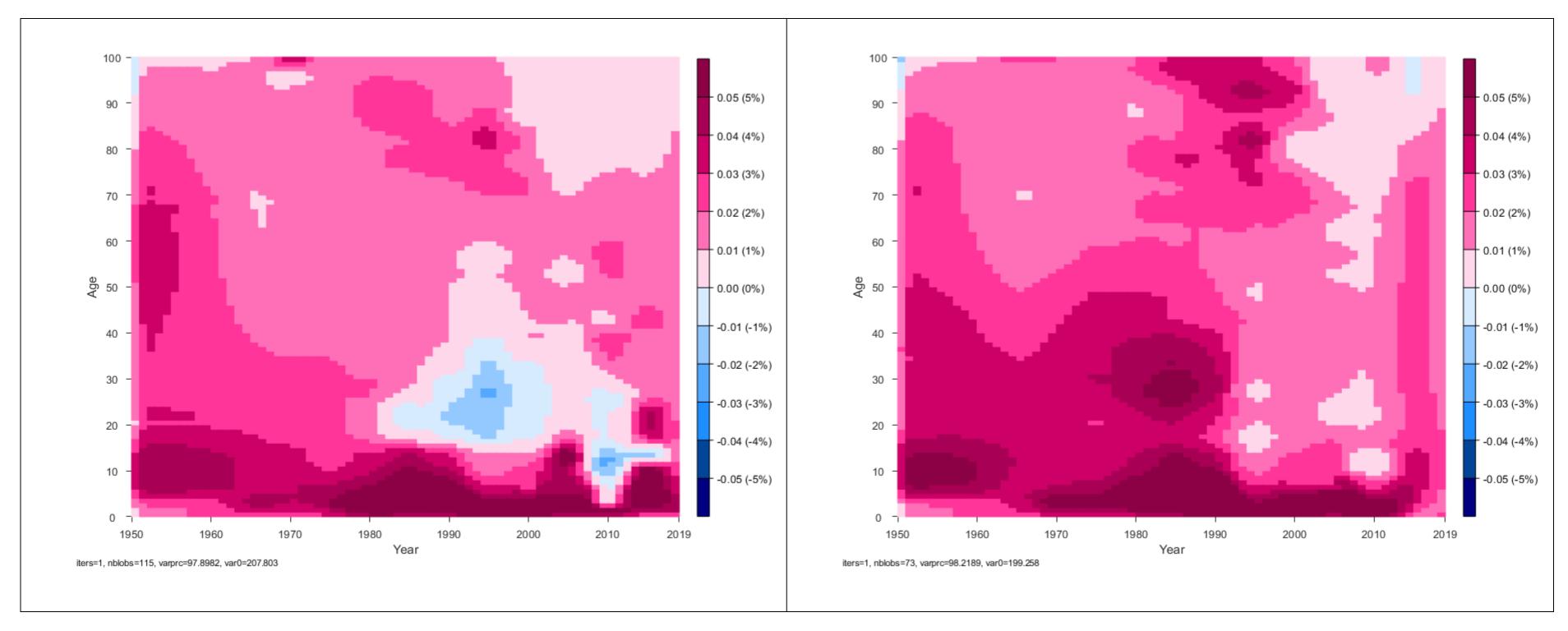
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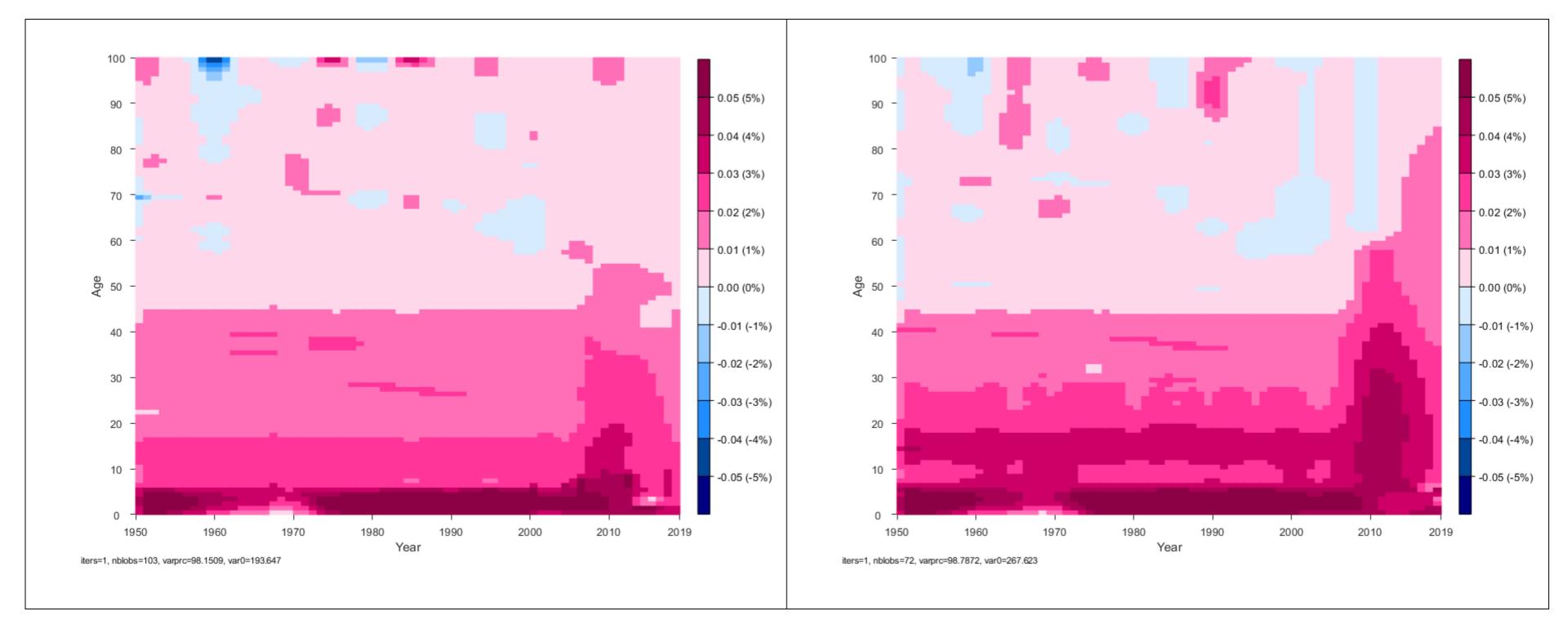


Dominican Republic

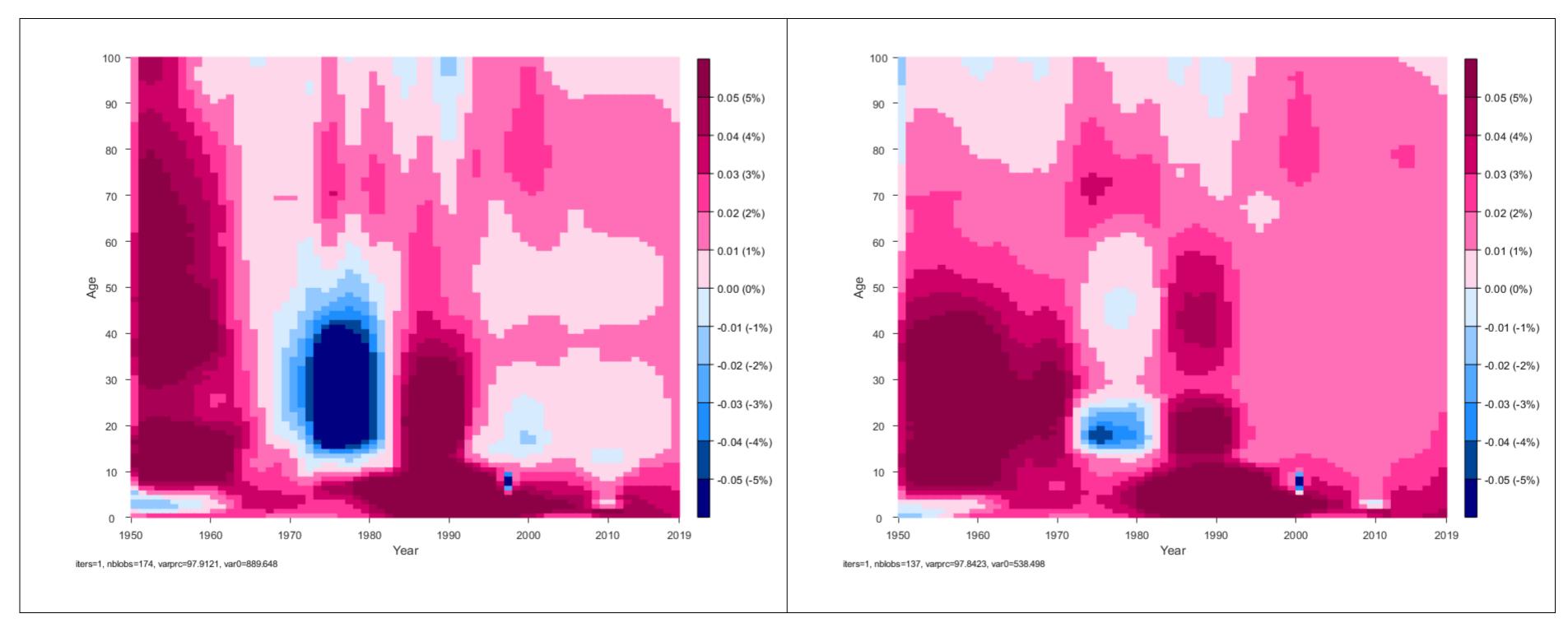


Ecuador

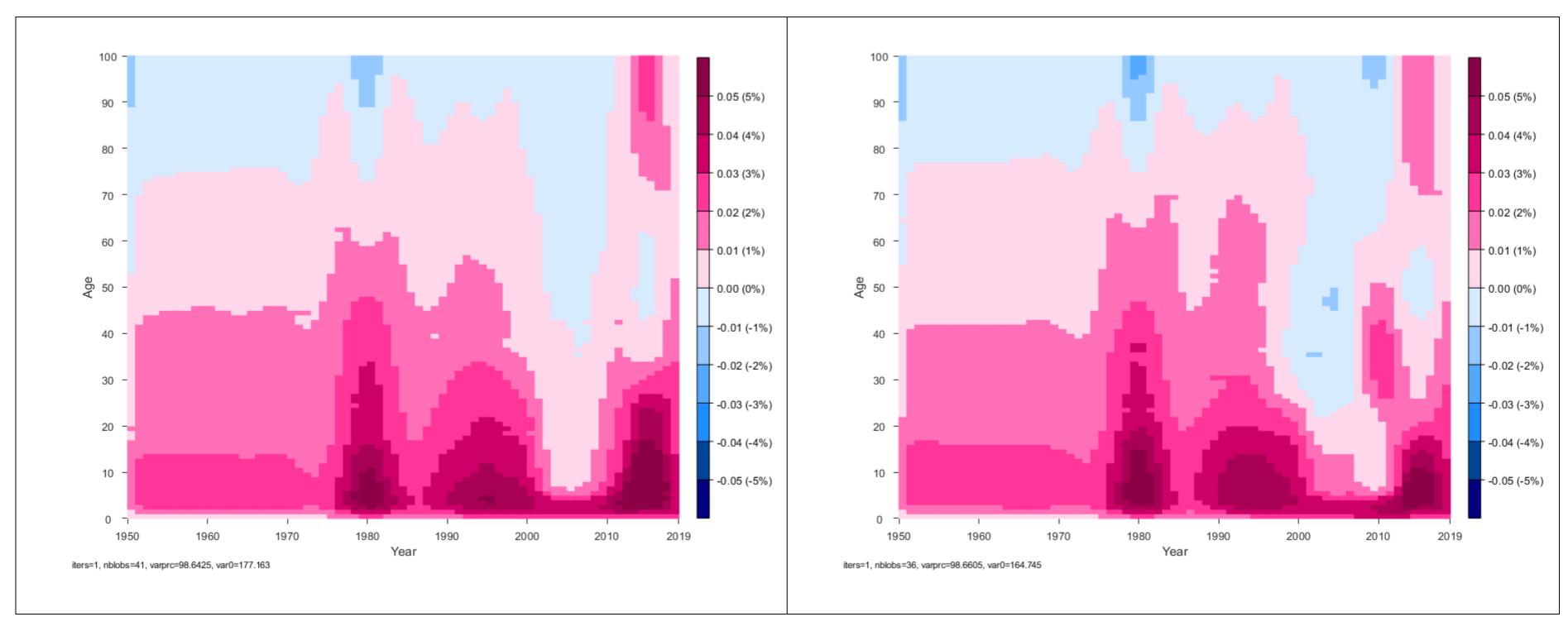




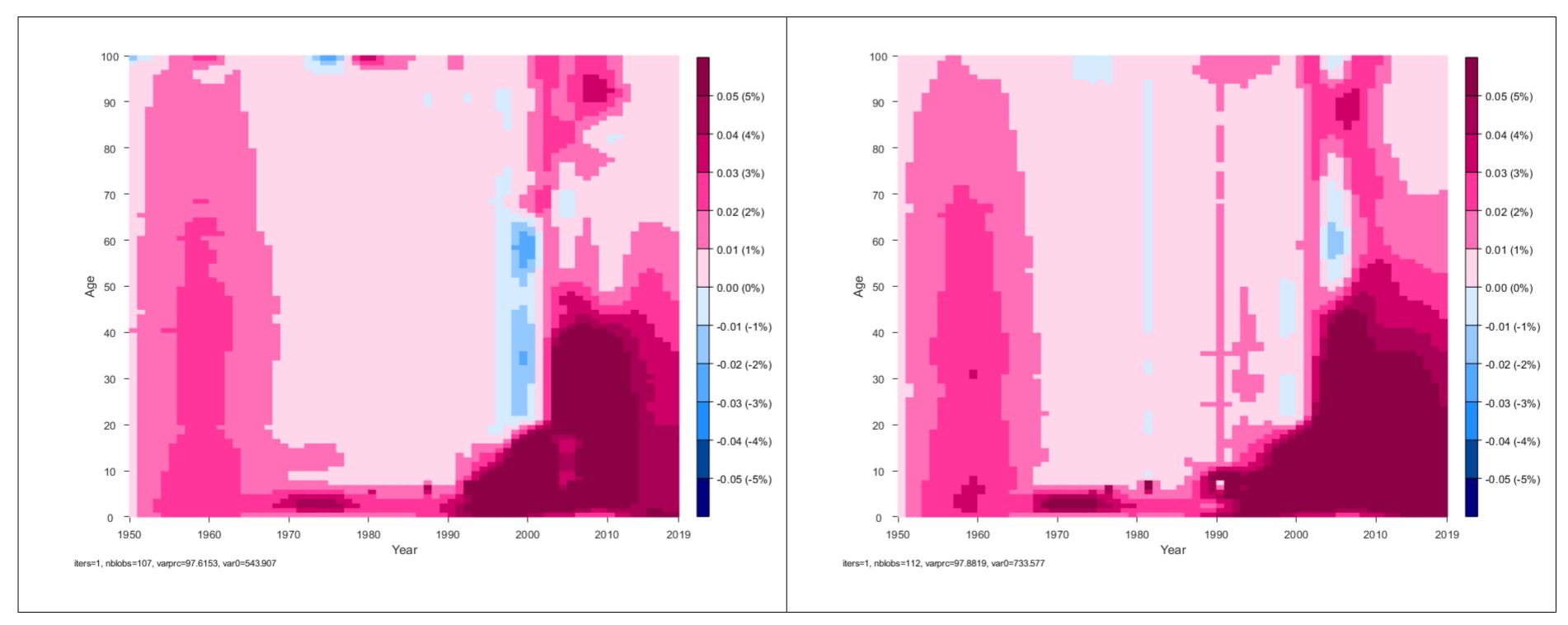
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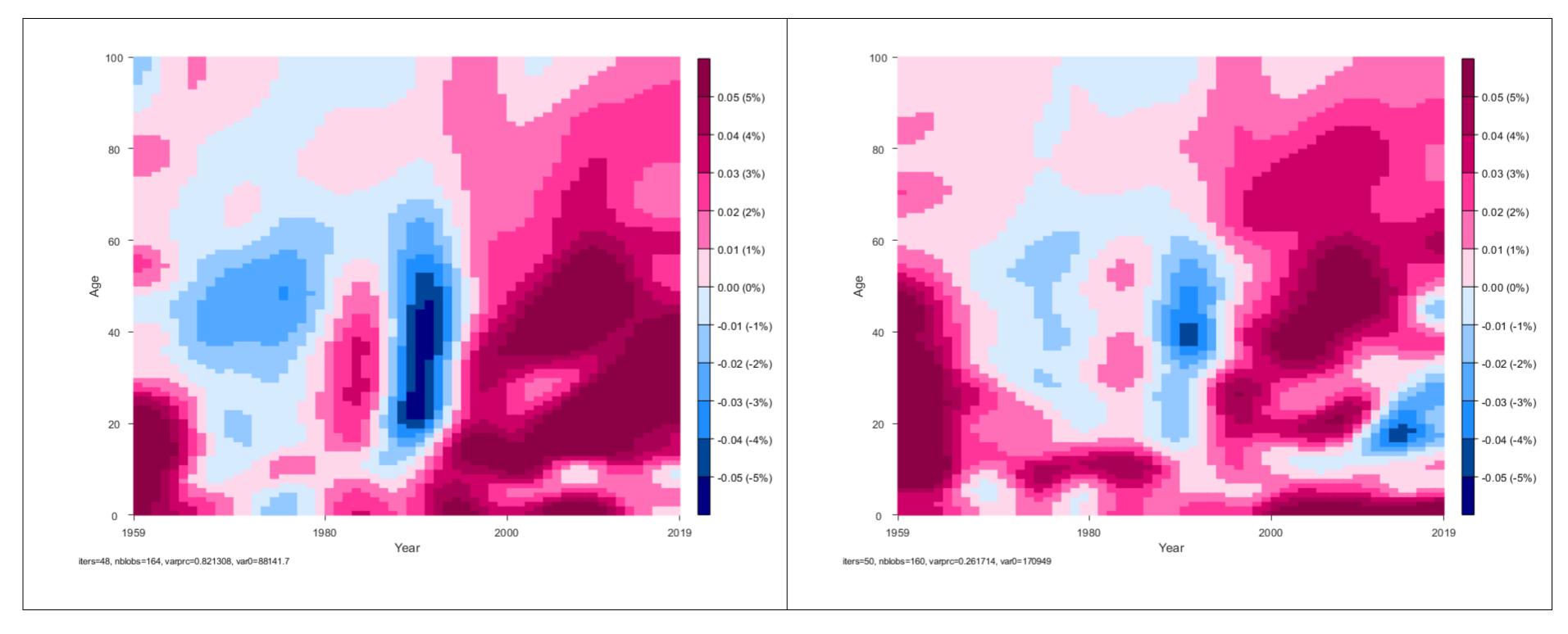
Equatorial Guinea



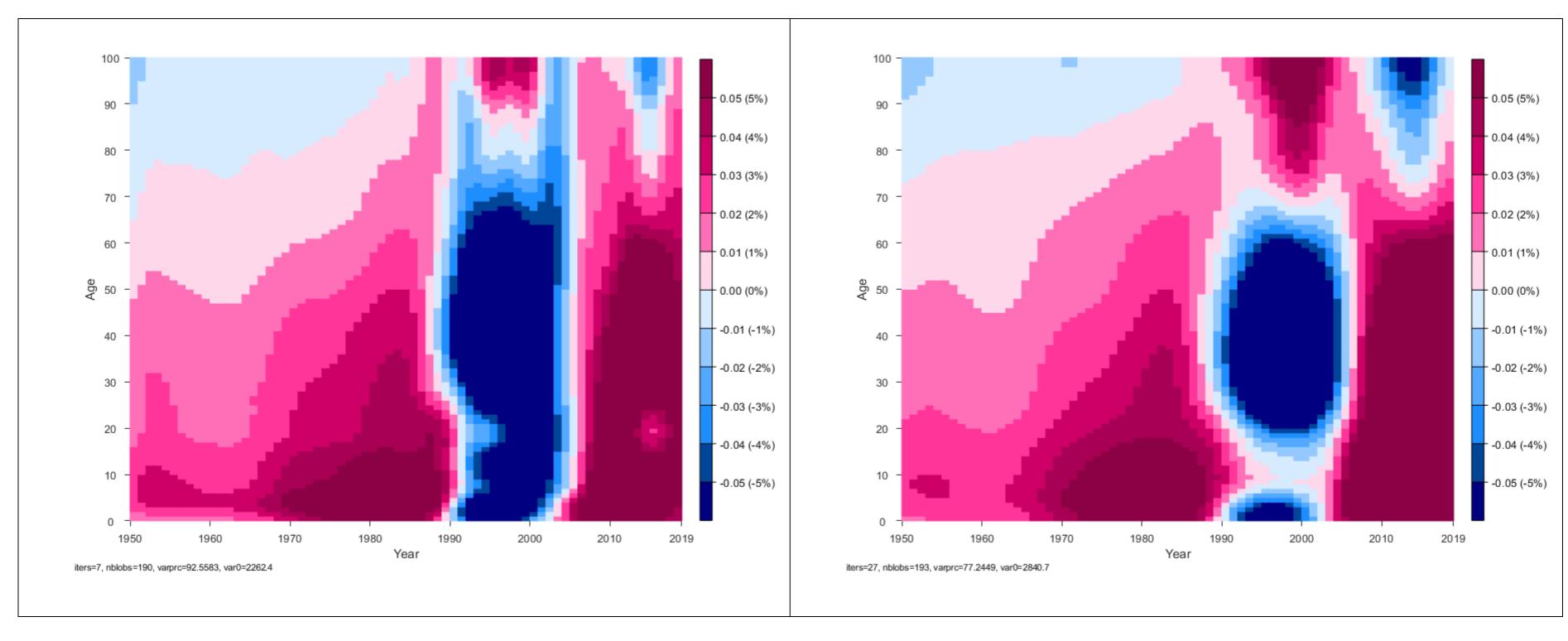
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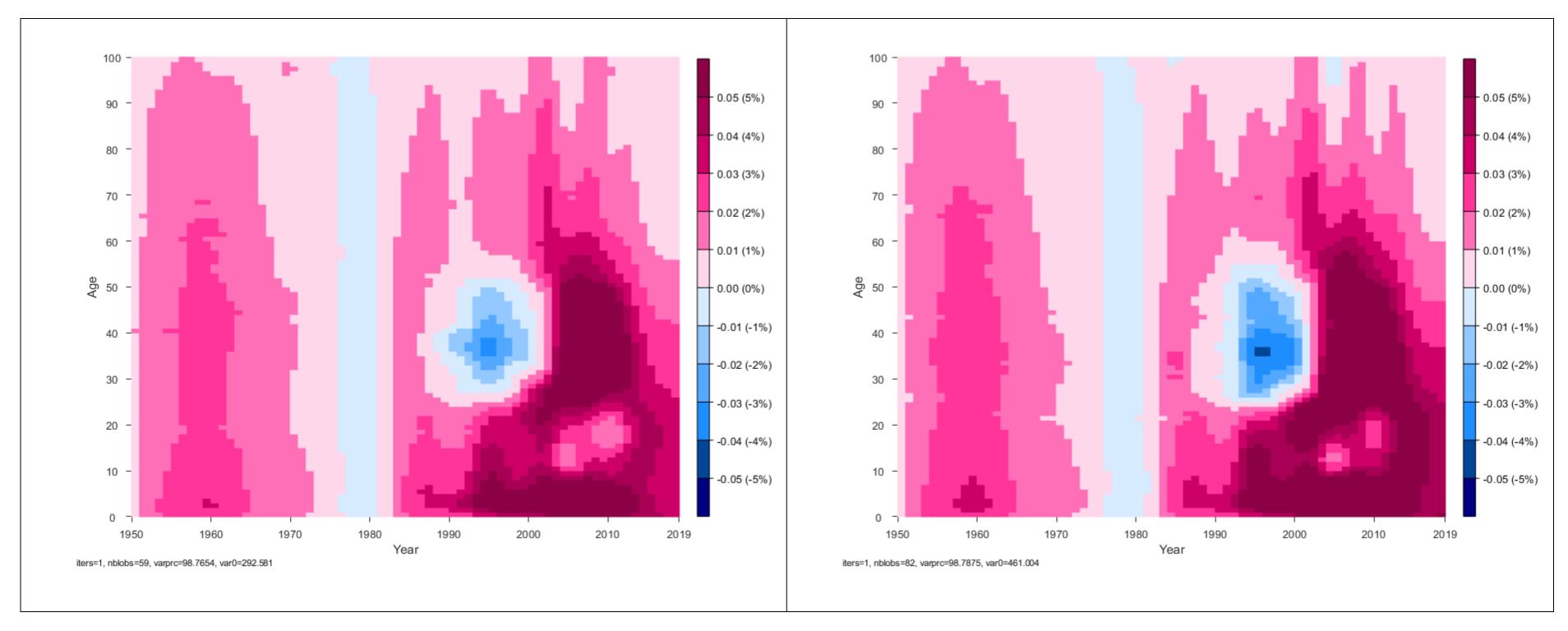
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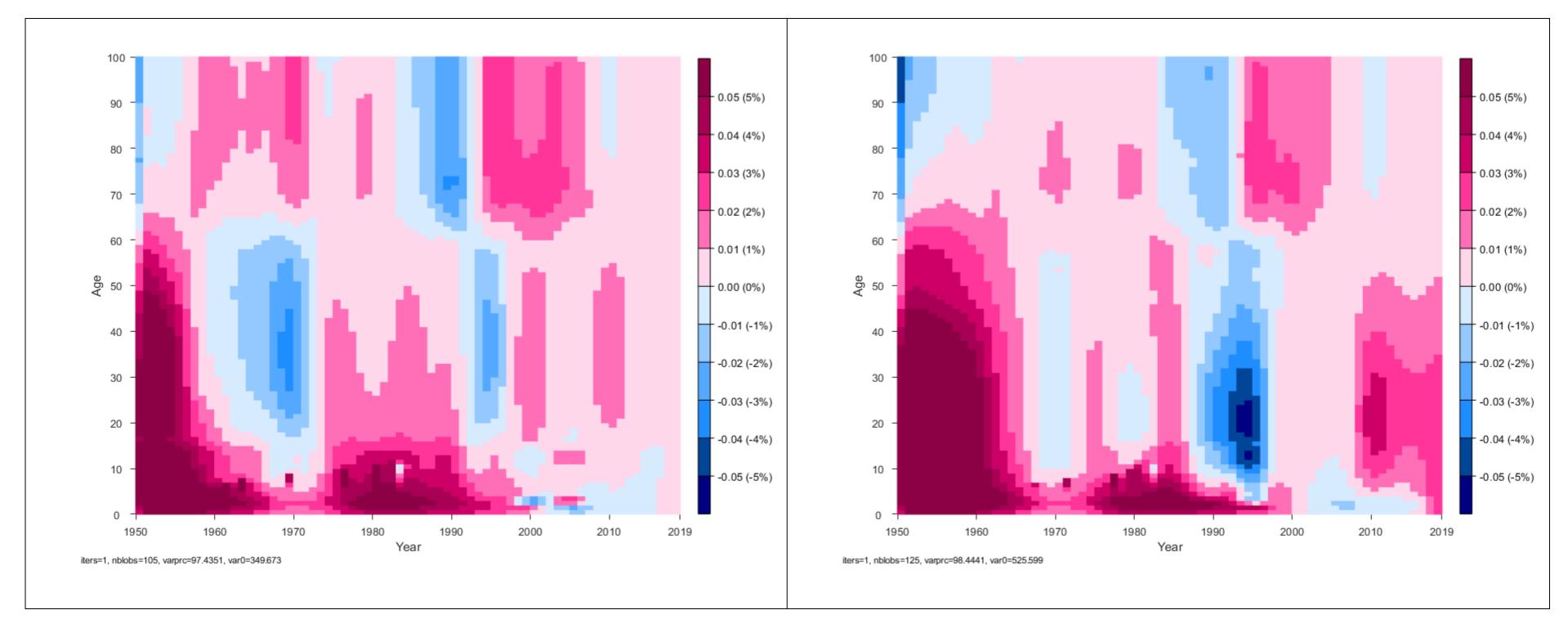
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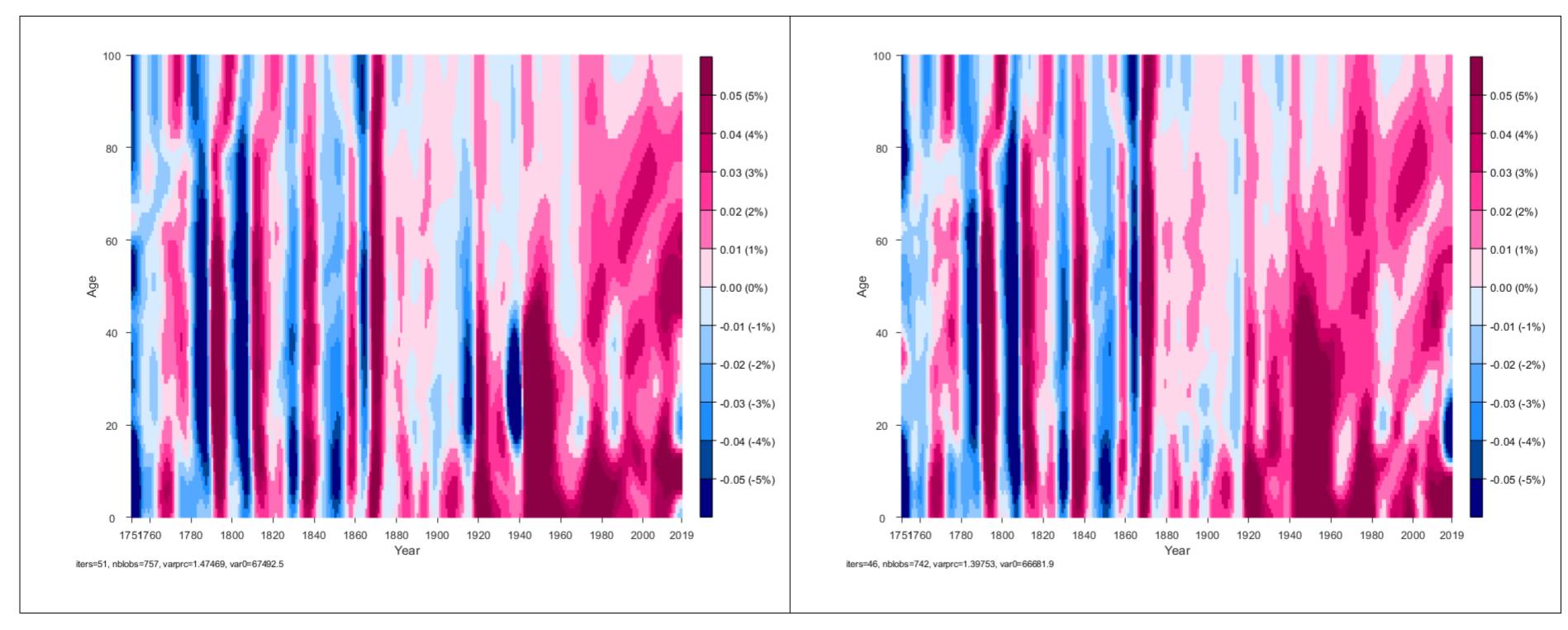
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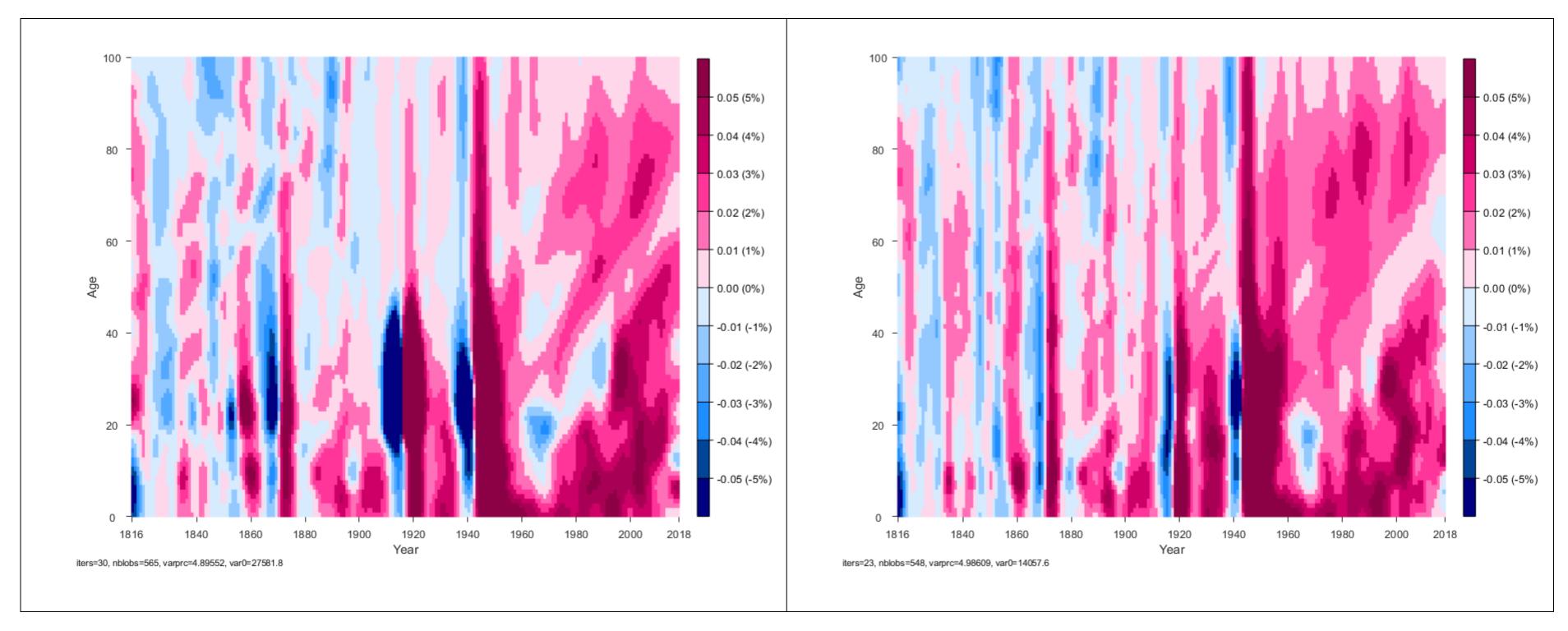
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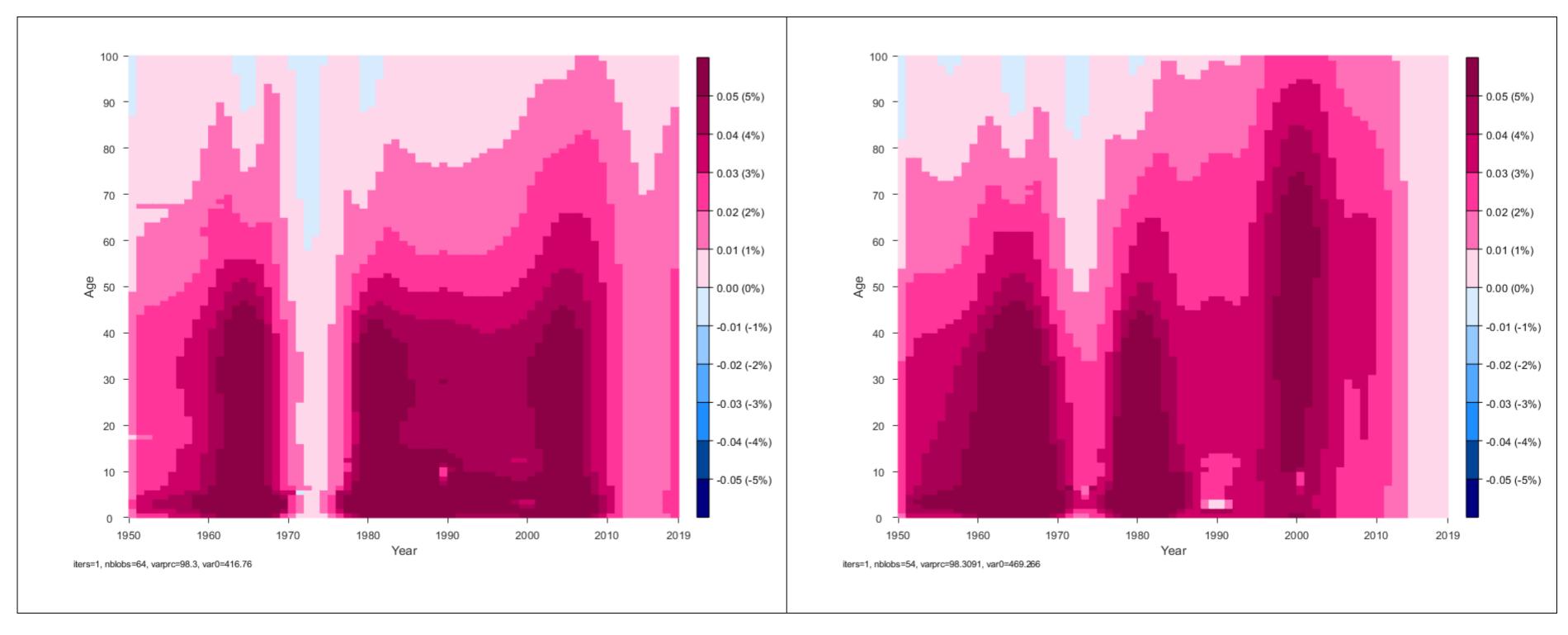
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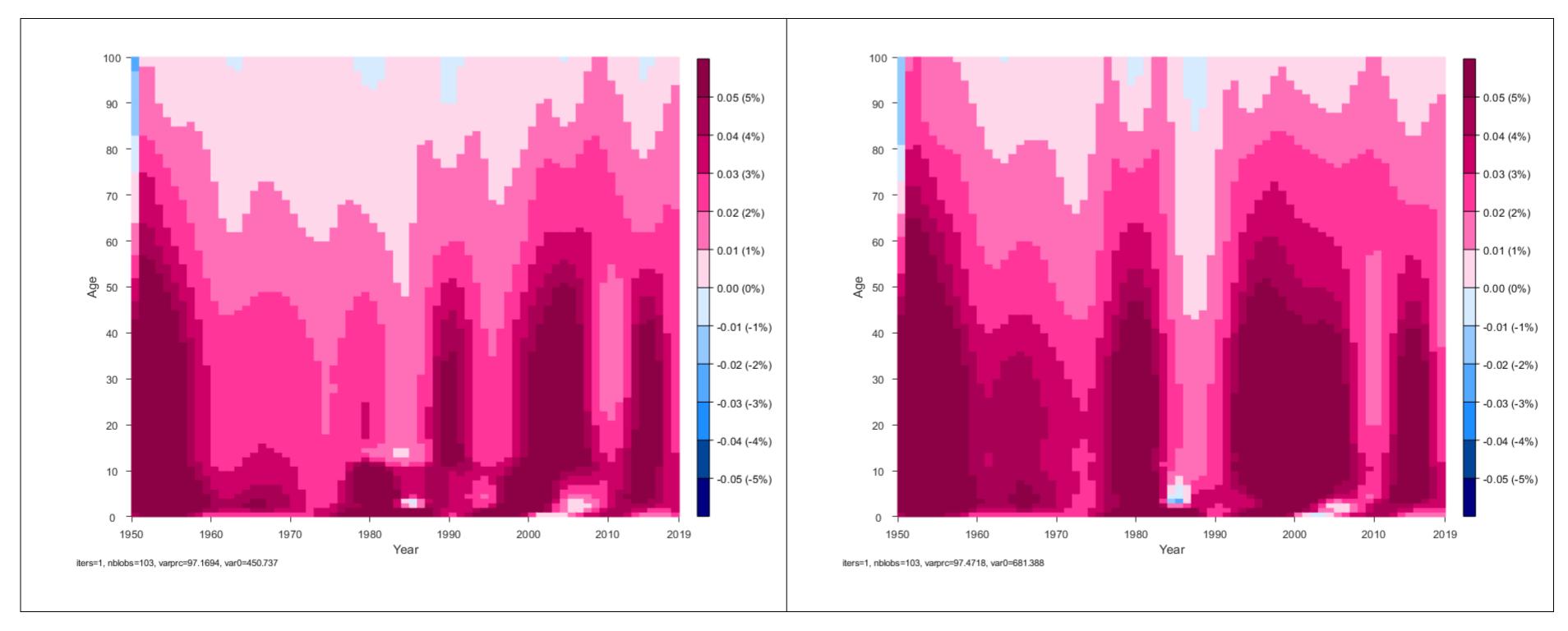
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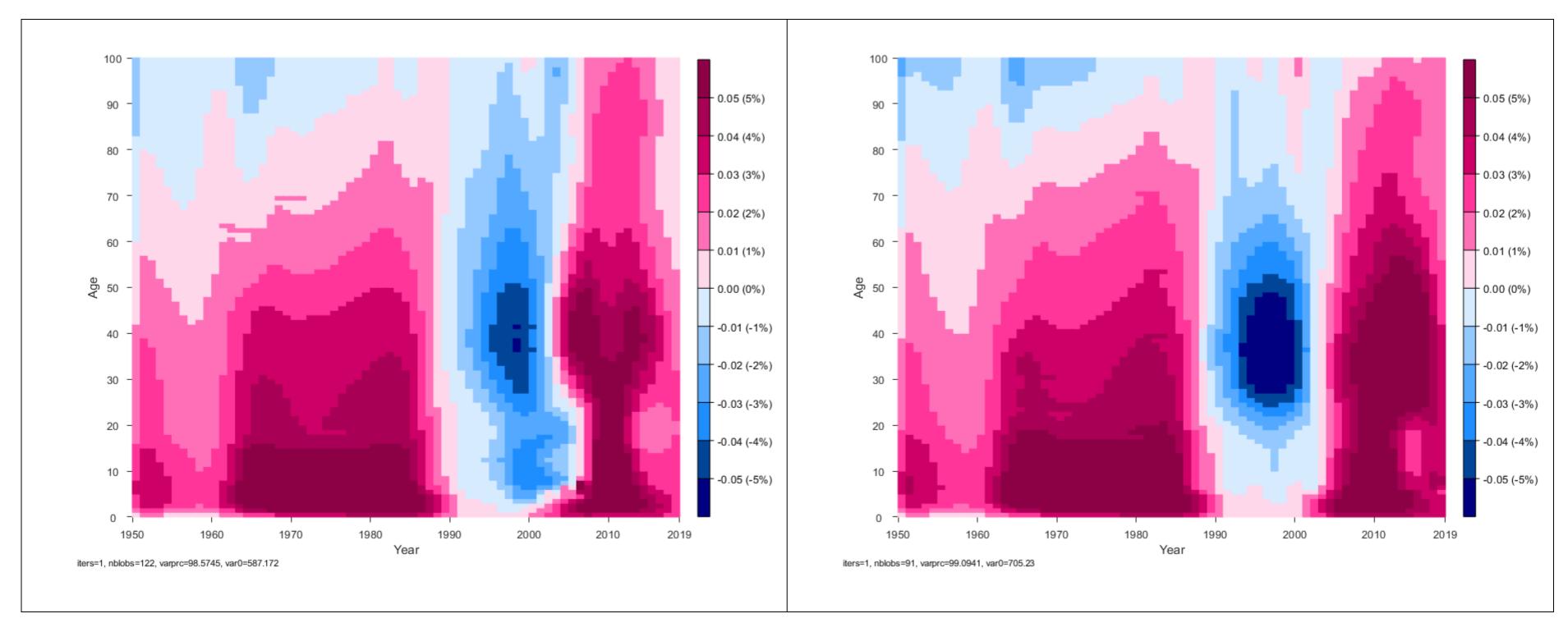
French Guiana



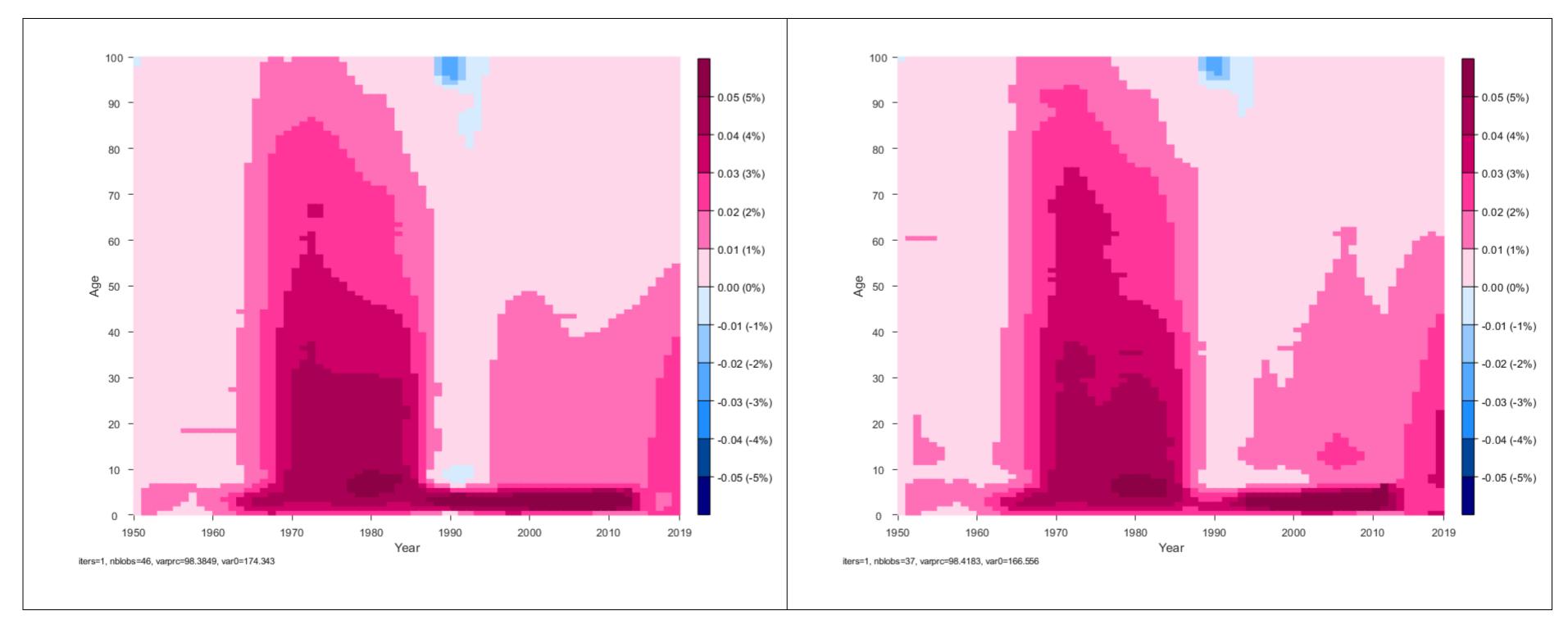
French Polynesia



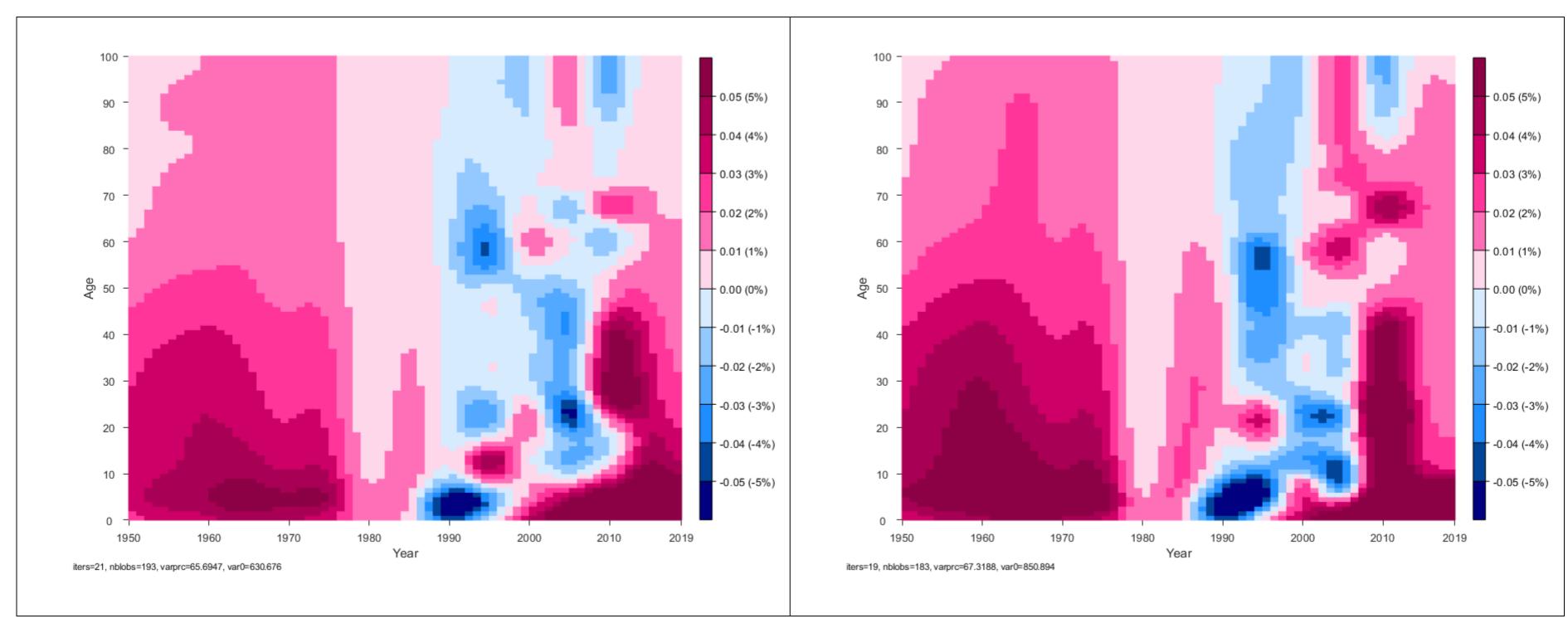
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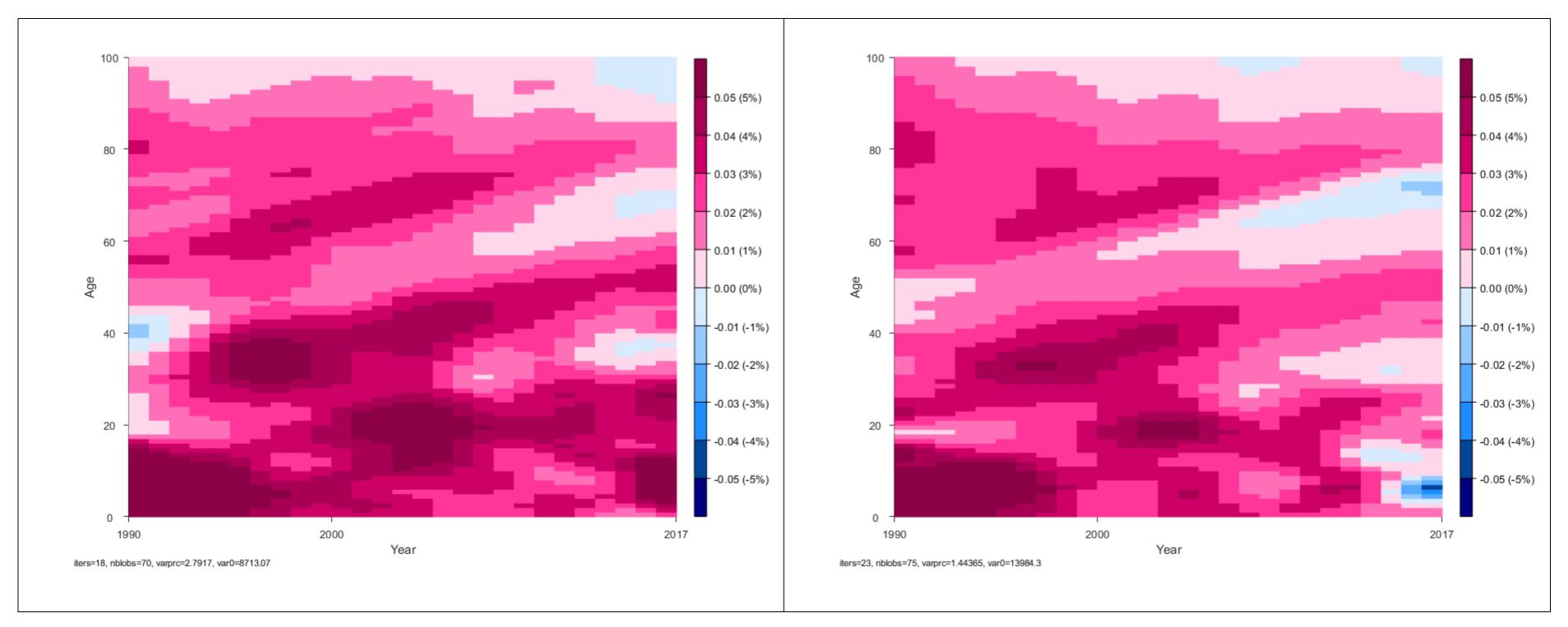
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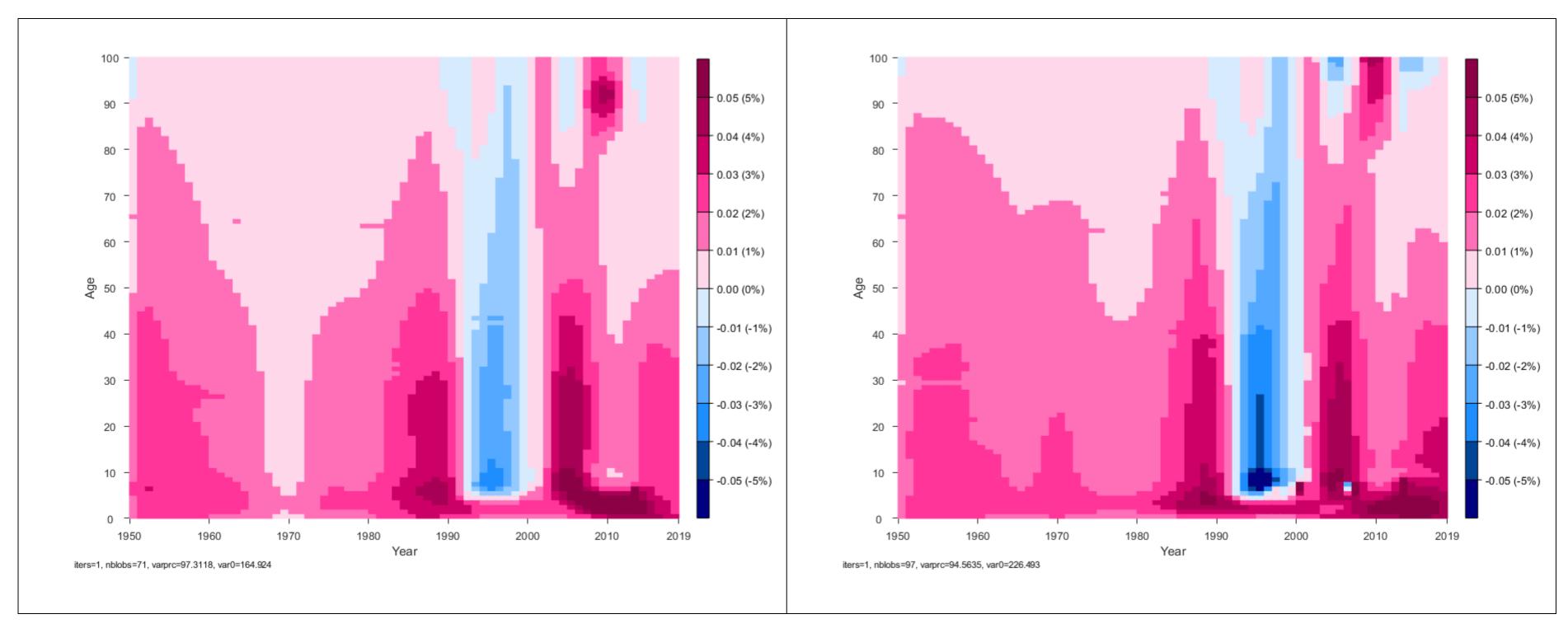
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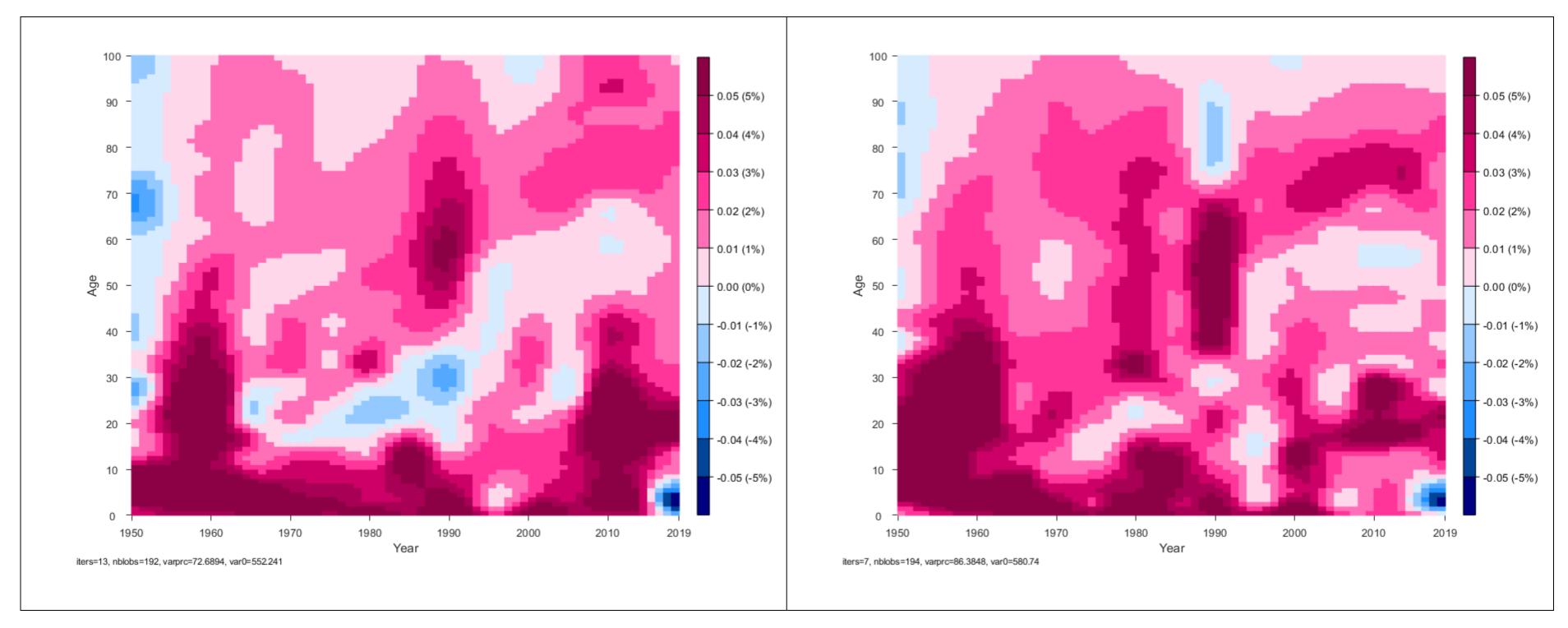
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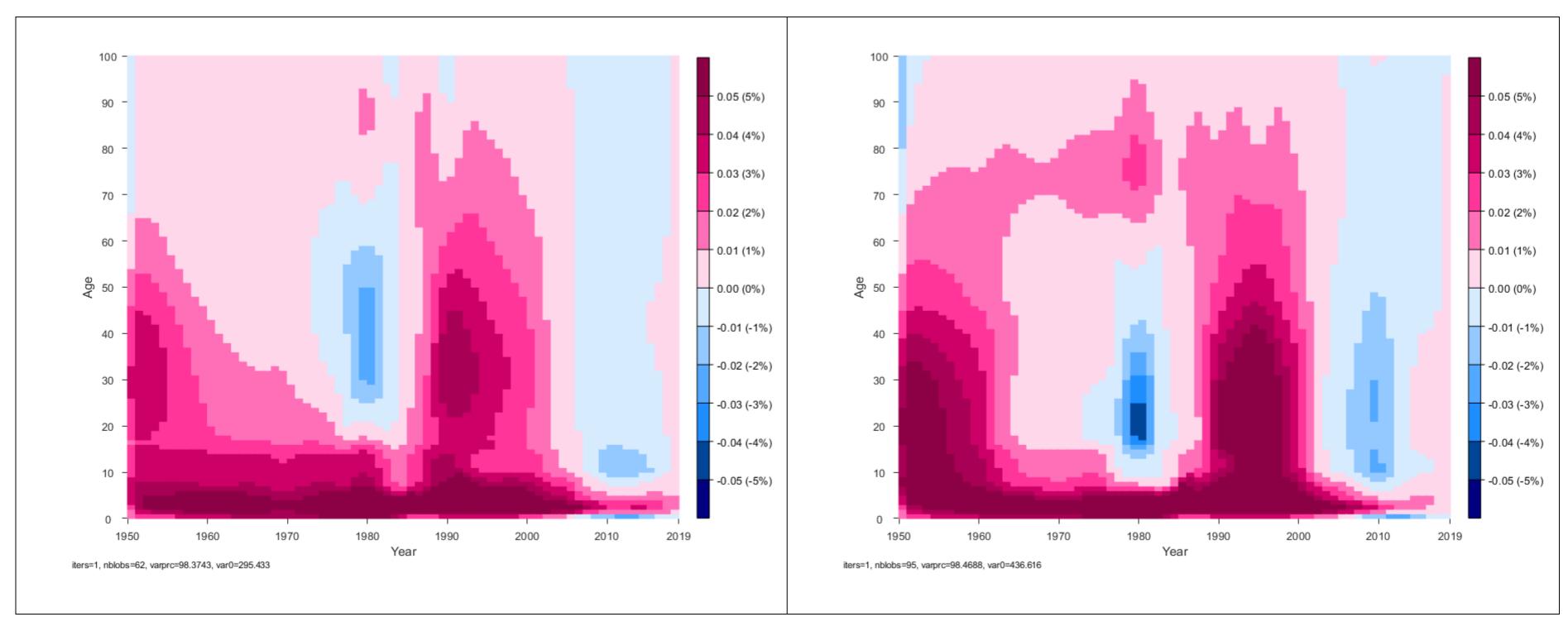
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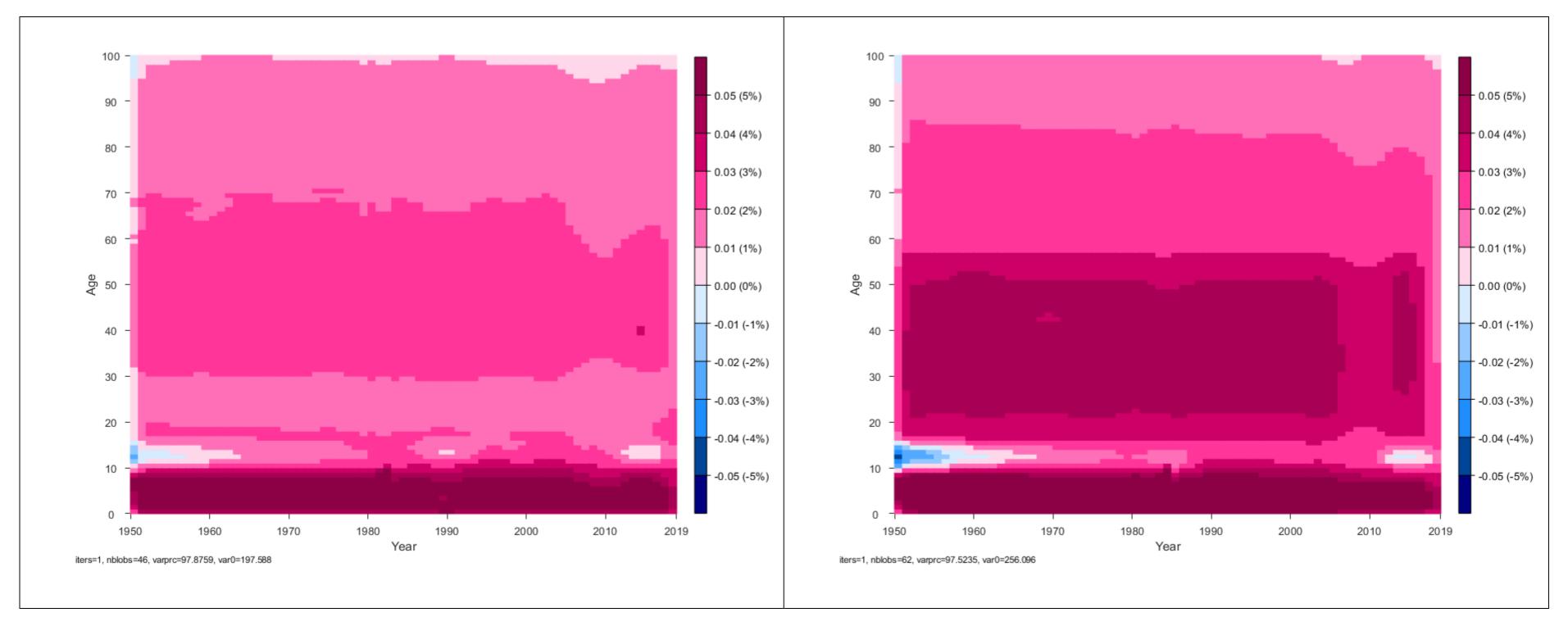
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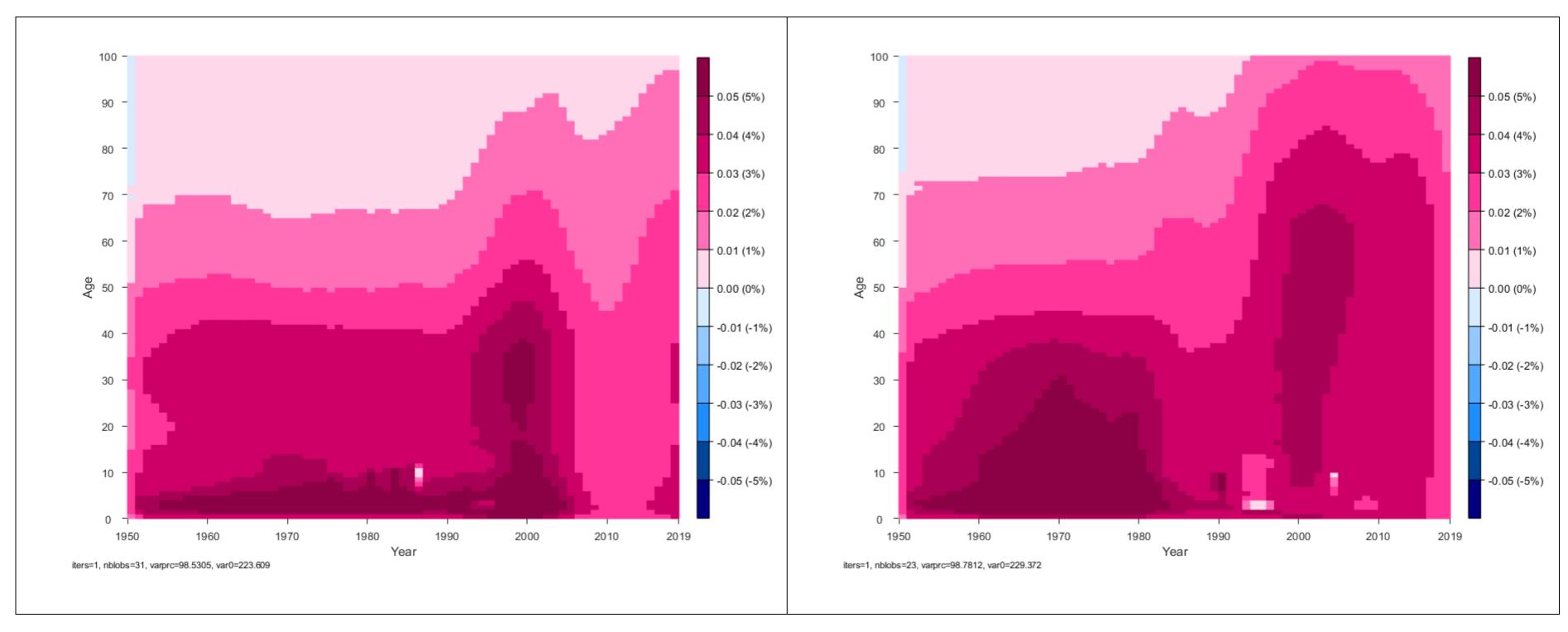
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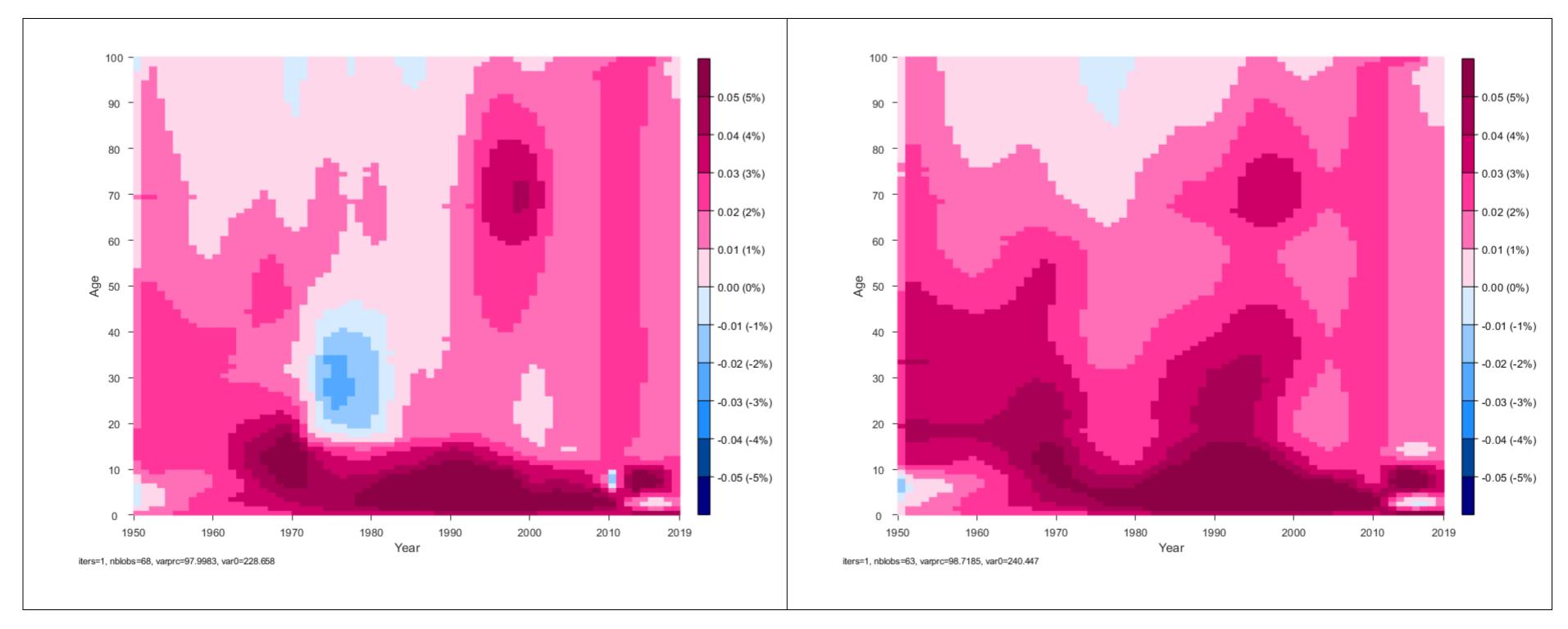
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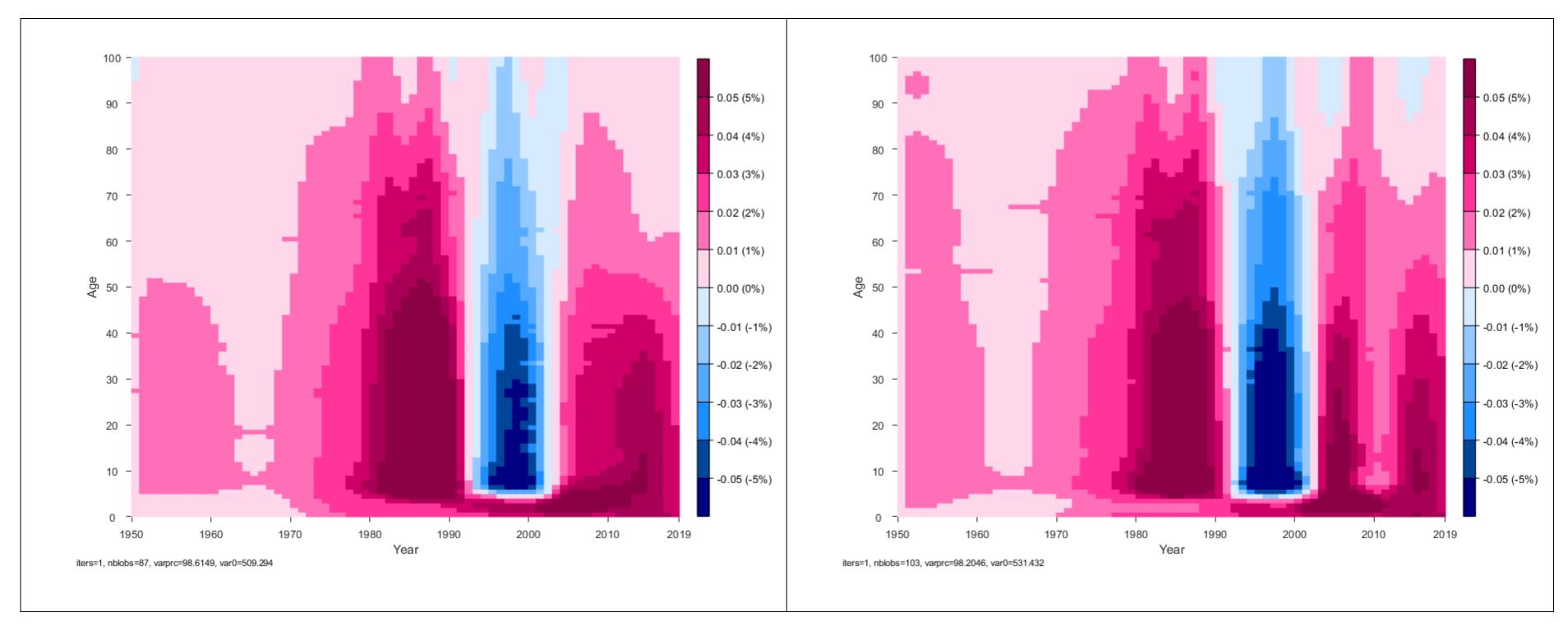
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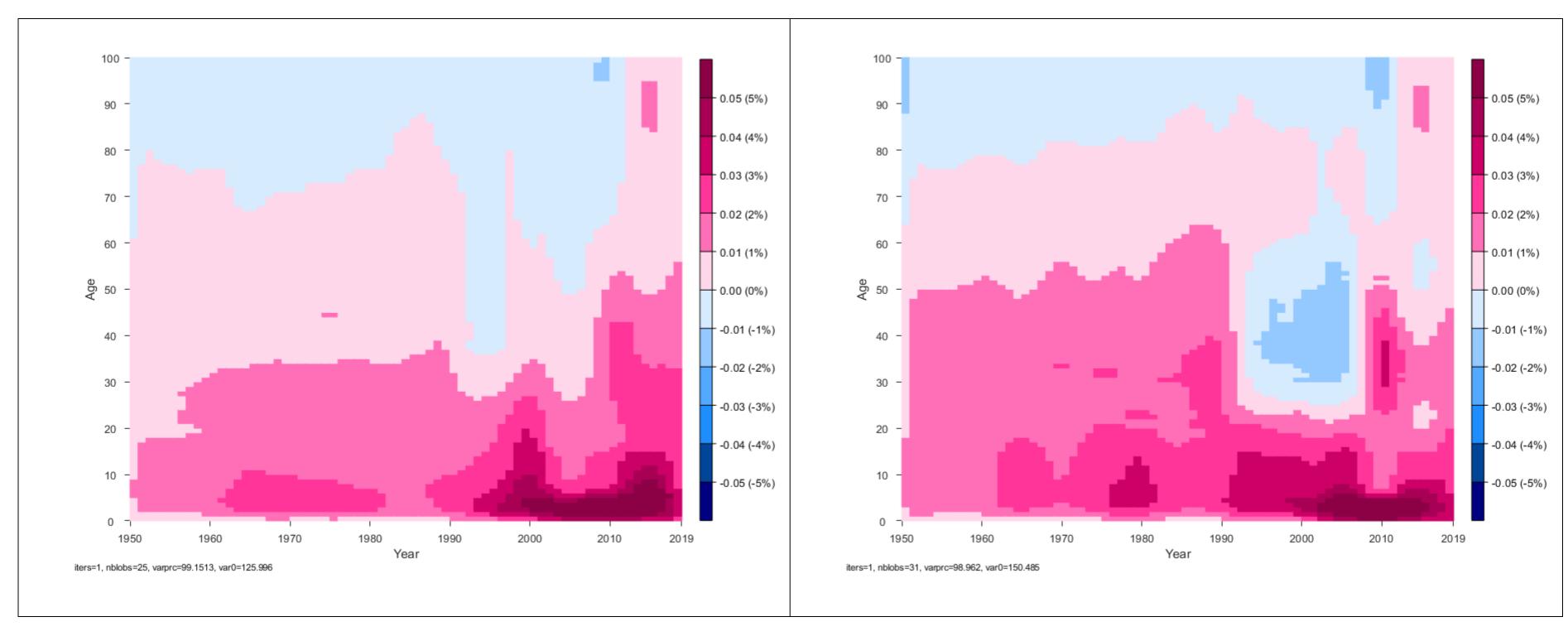
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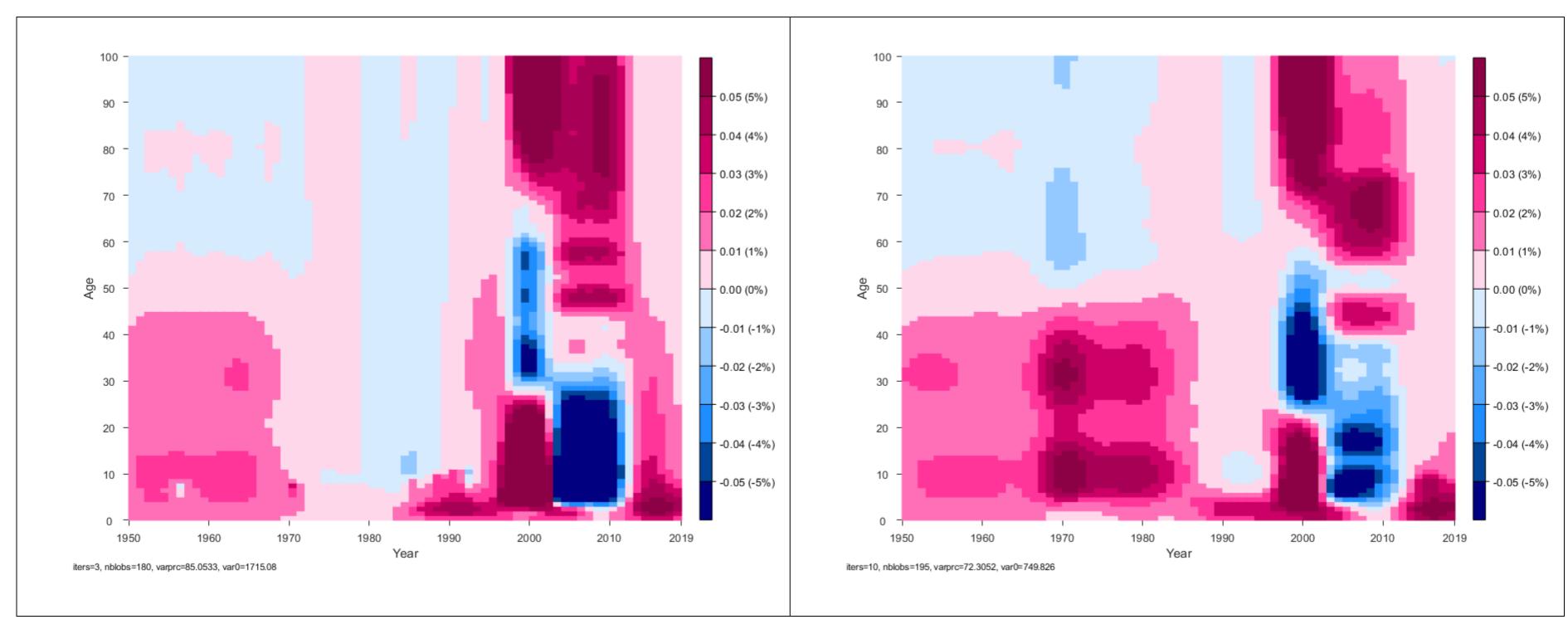
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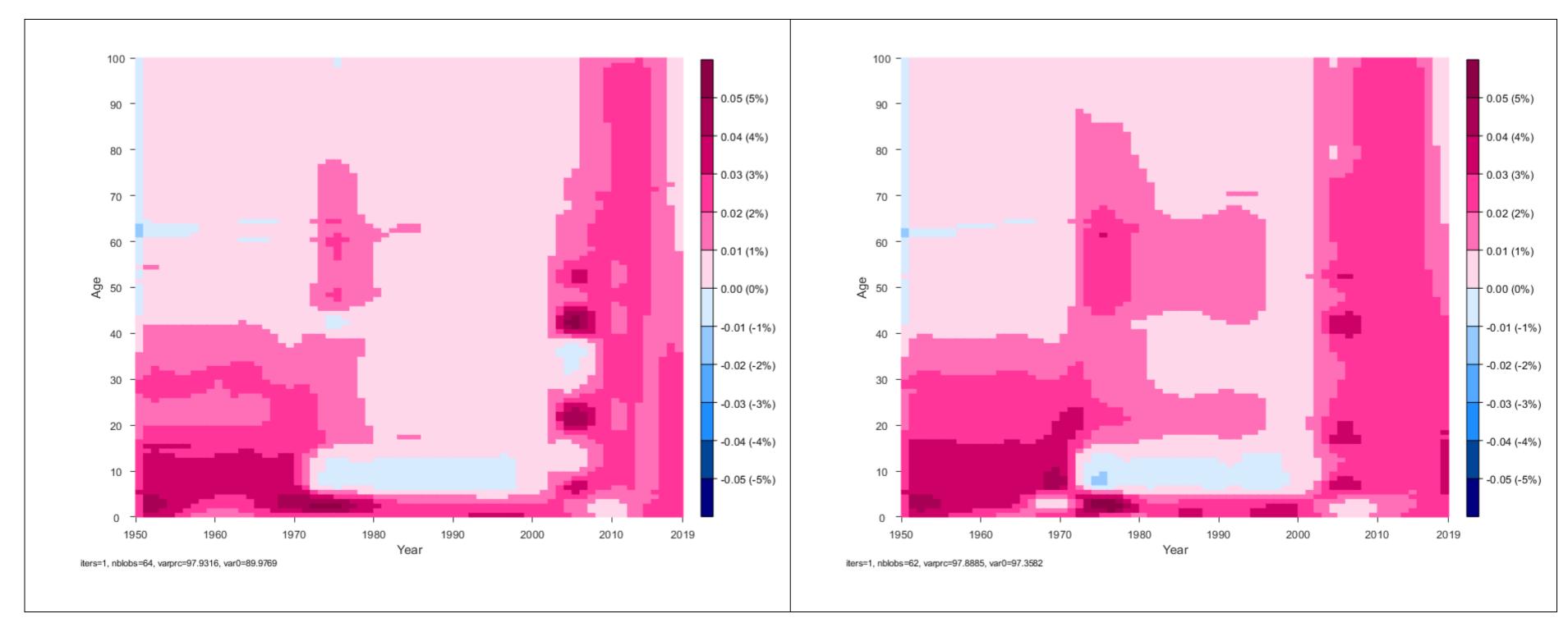
Guinea-Bissau



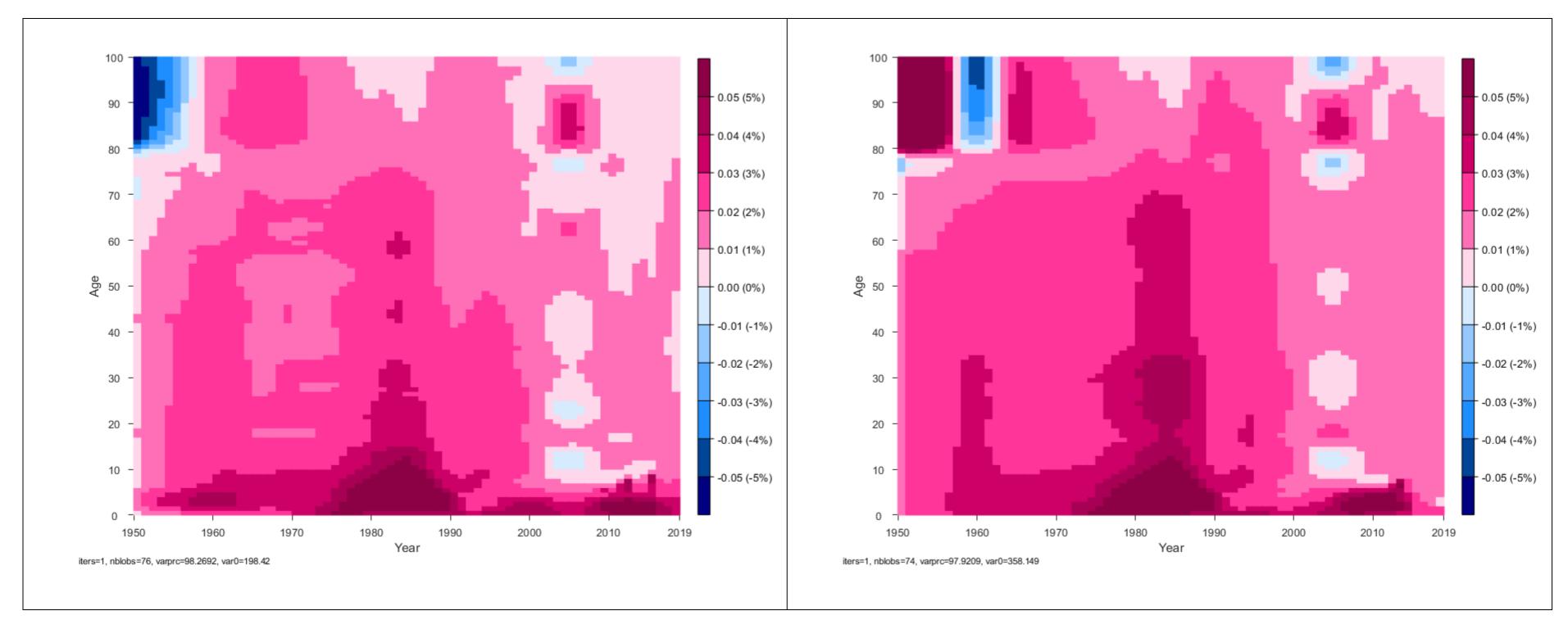
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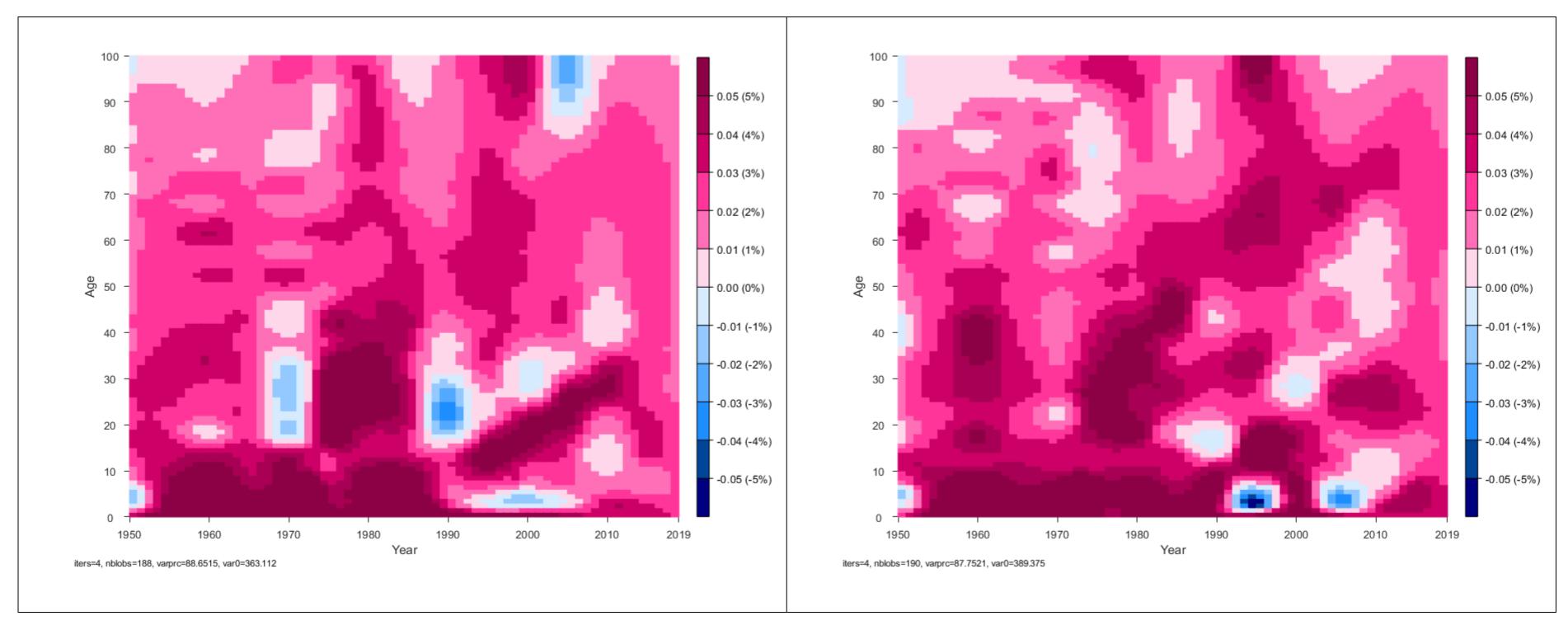
Haiti



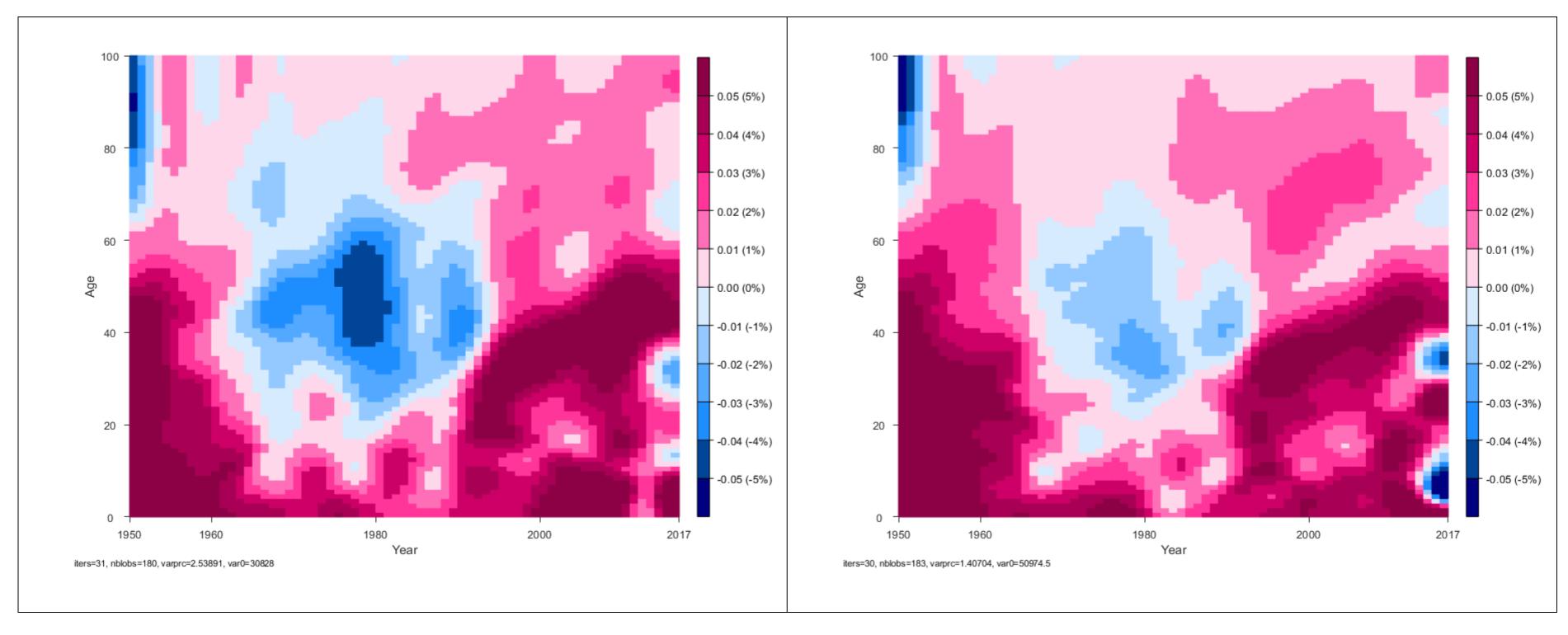
Honduras



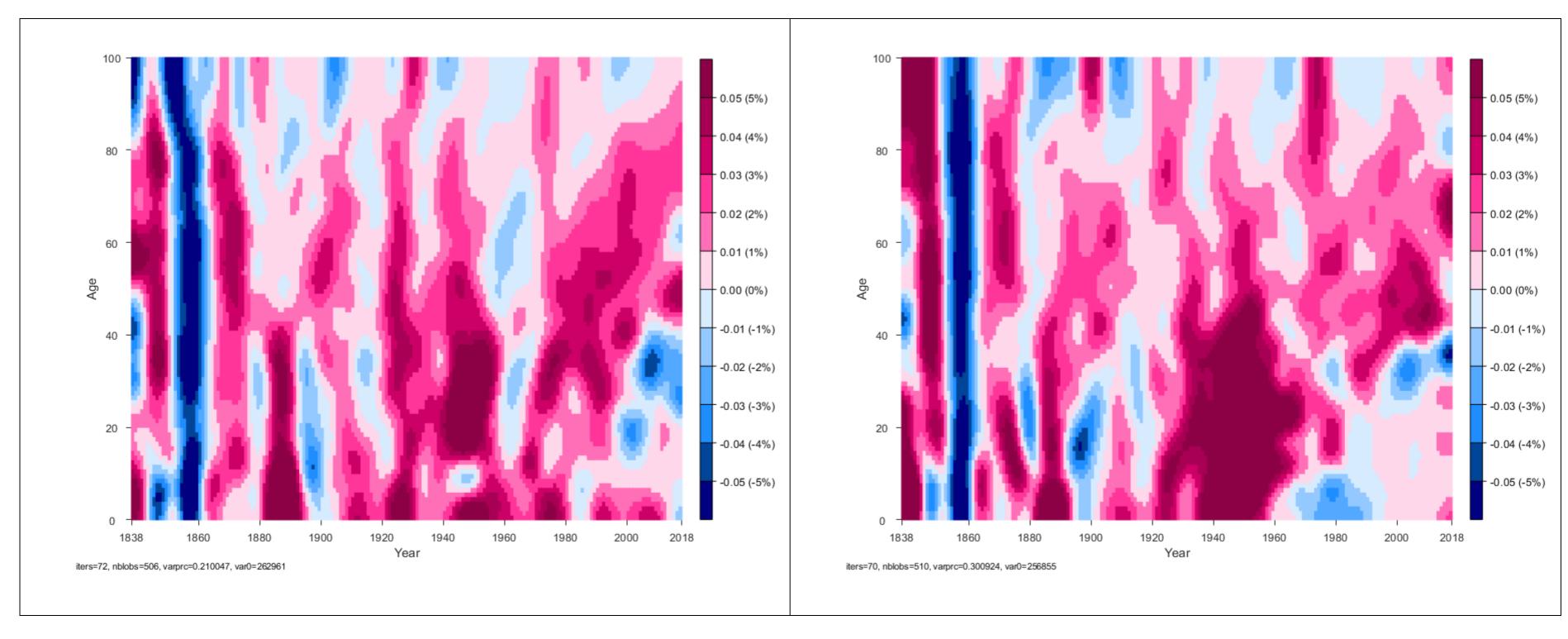
China, Hong Kong SAR



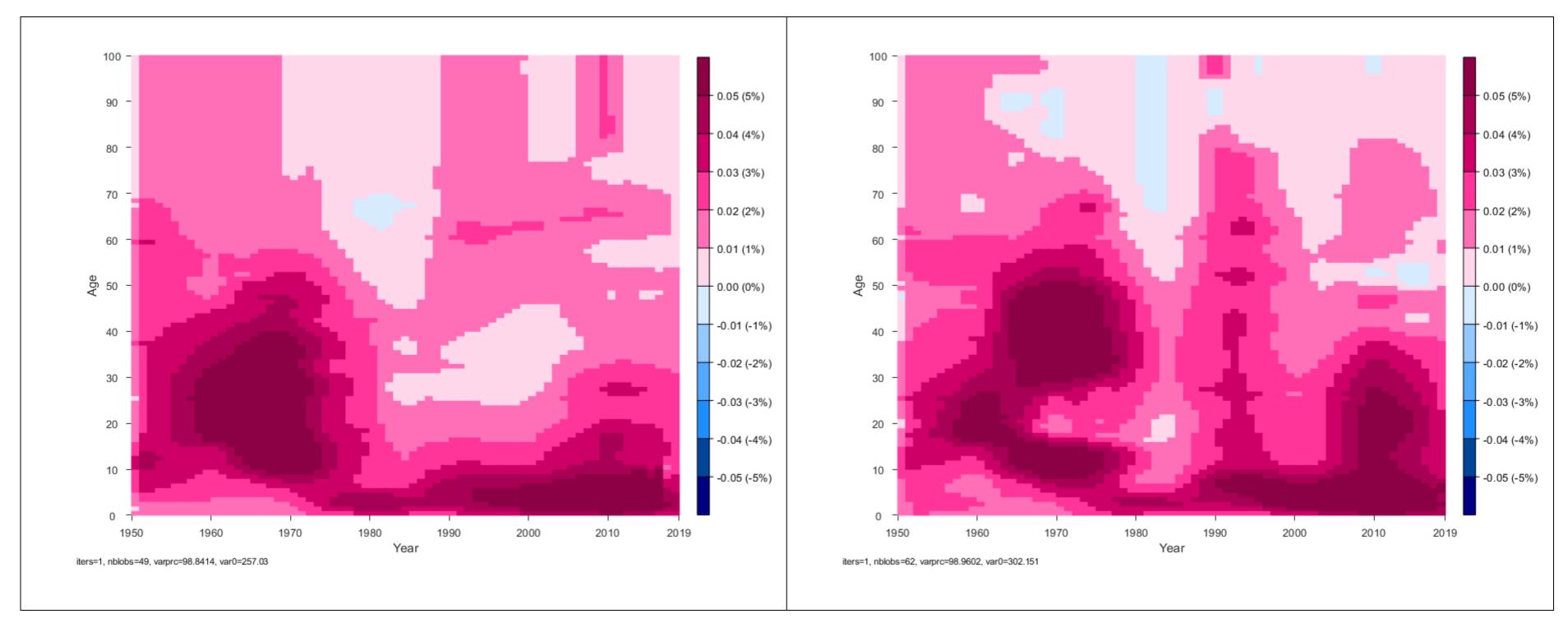
Hungary



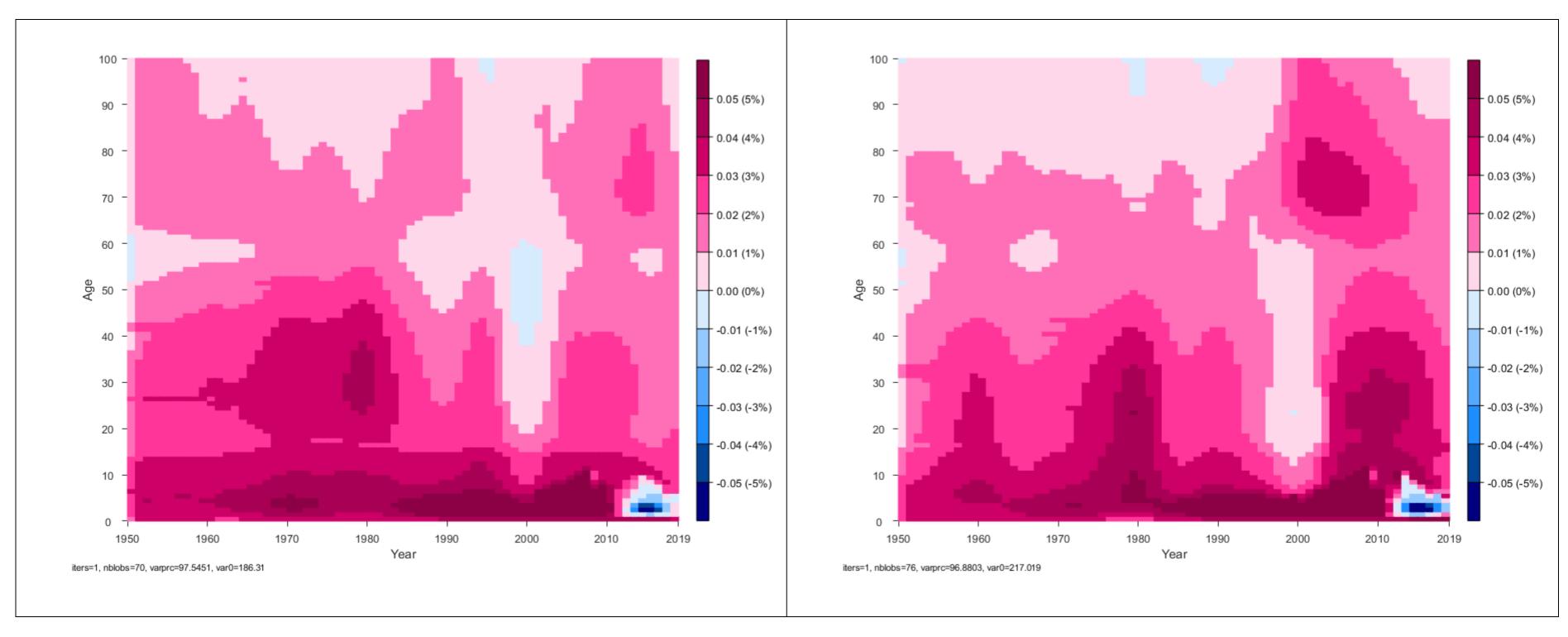
Iceland



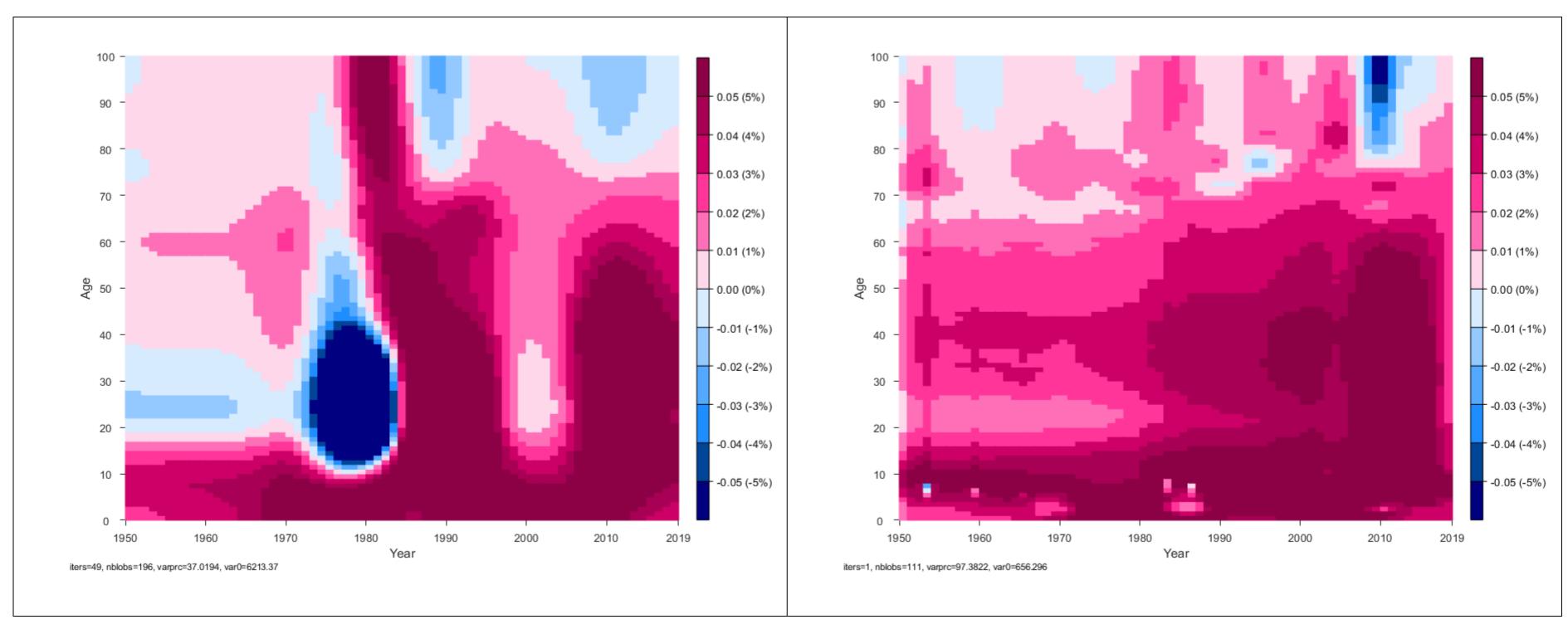
India

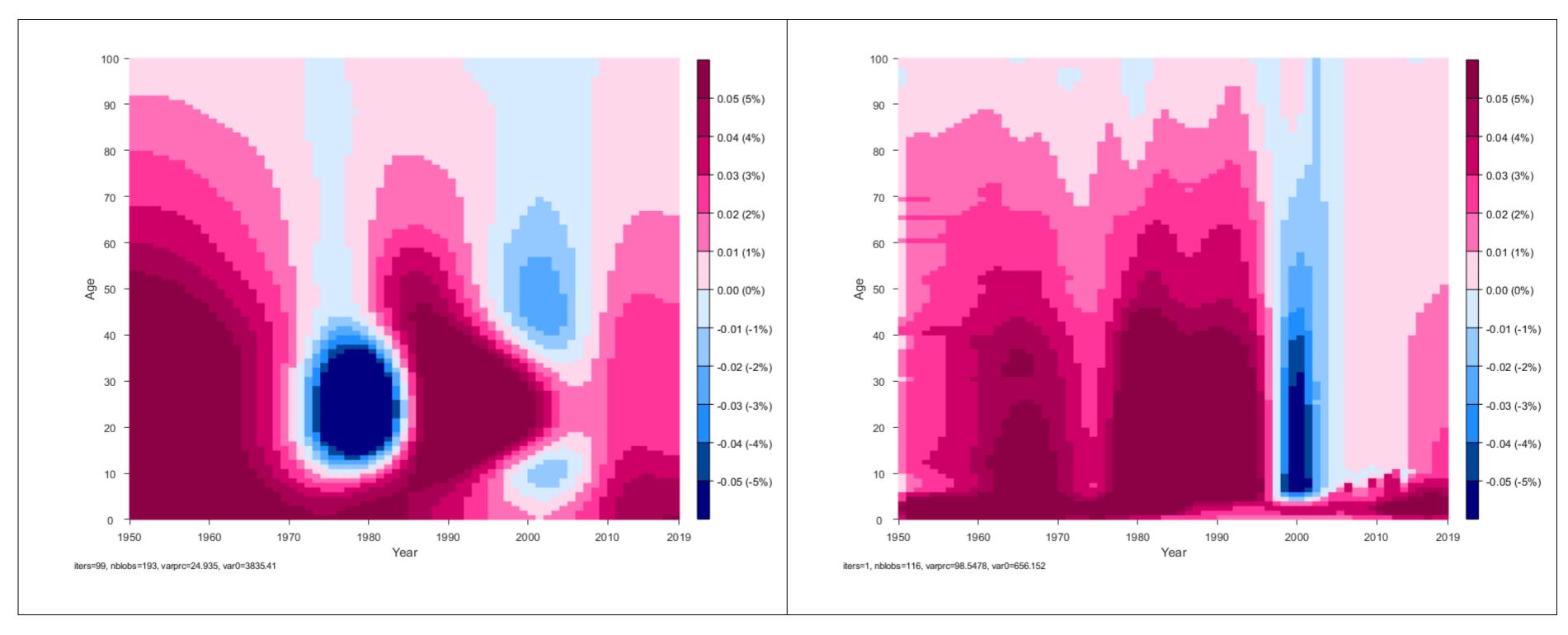


Indonesia

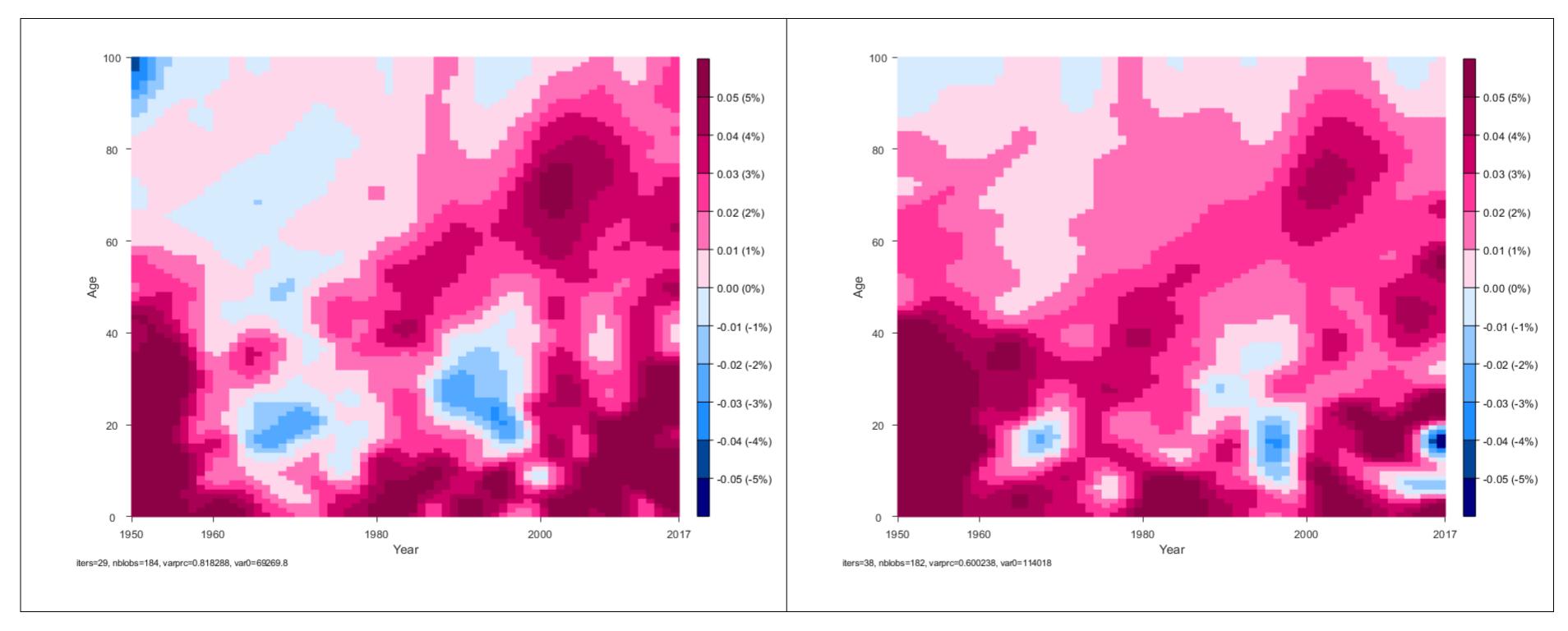


Iran (Islamic Republic of)

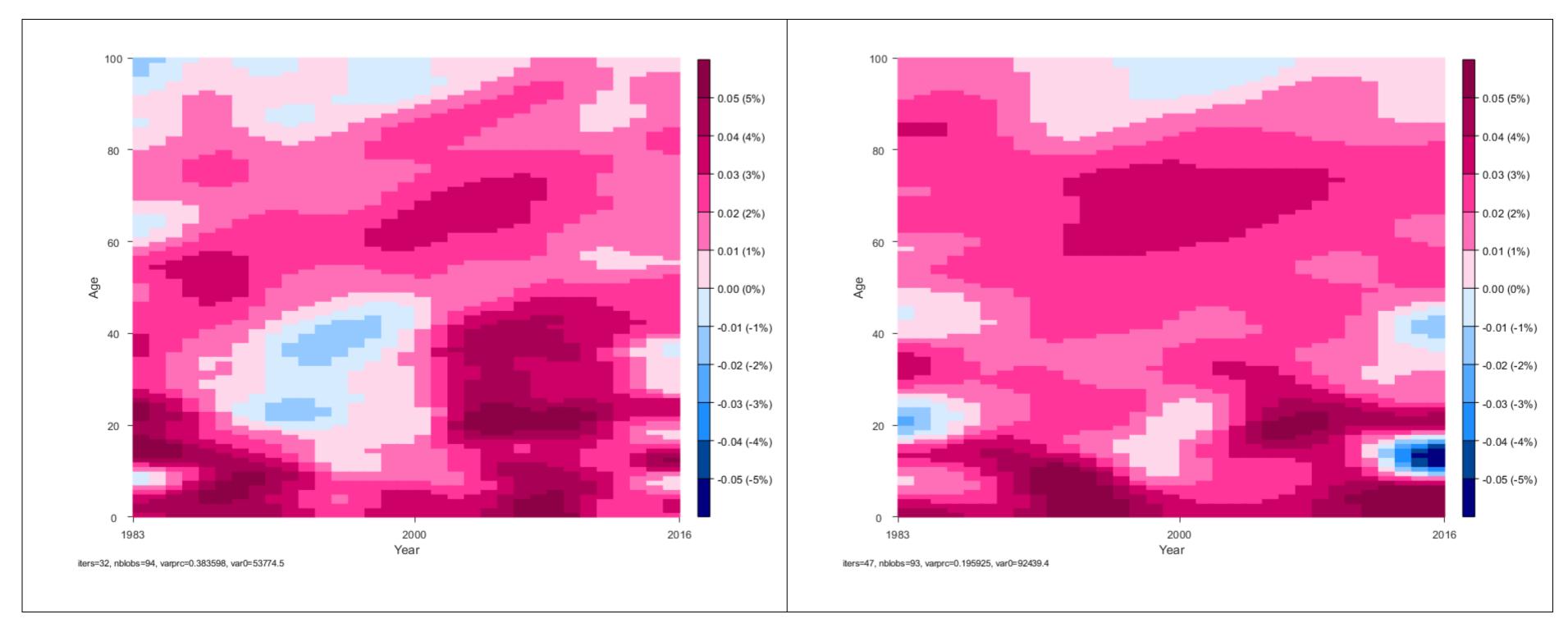


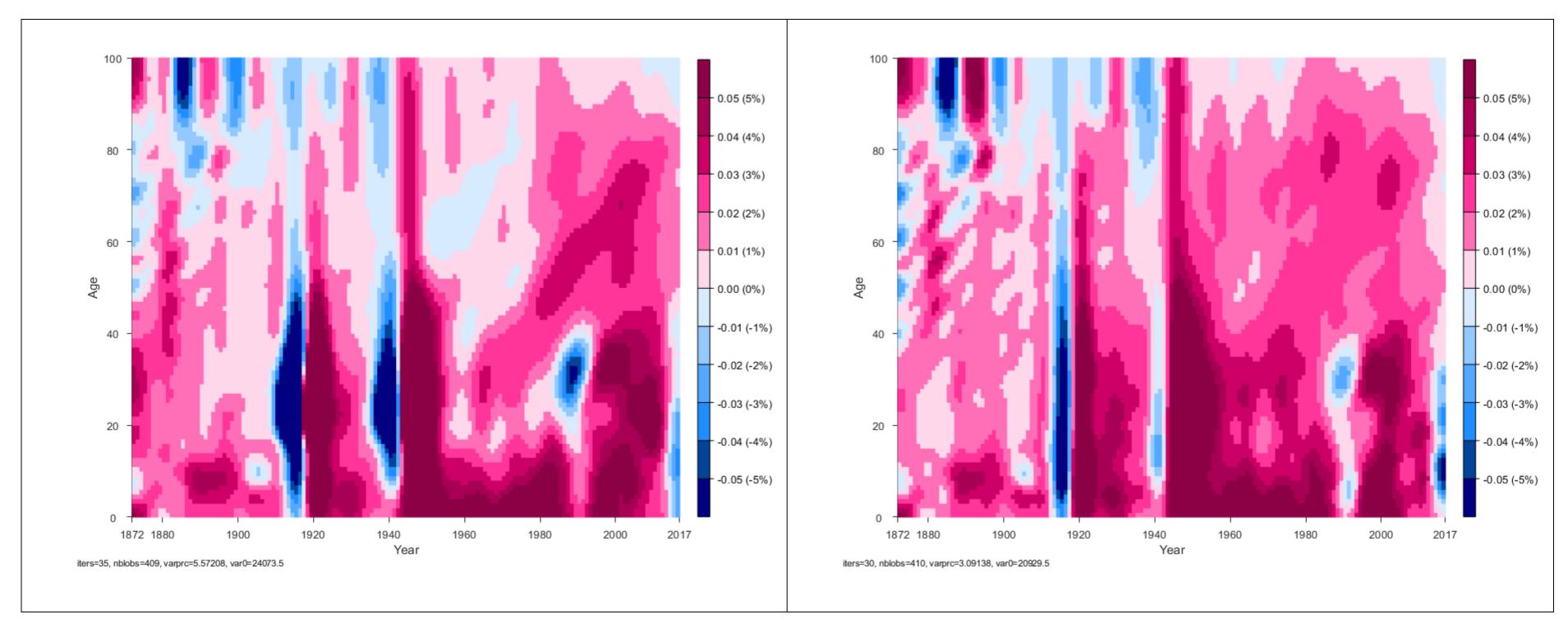


Ireland

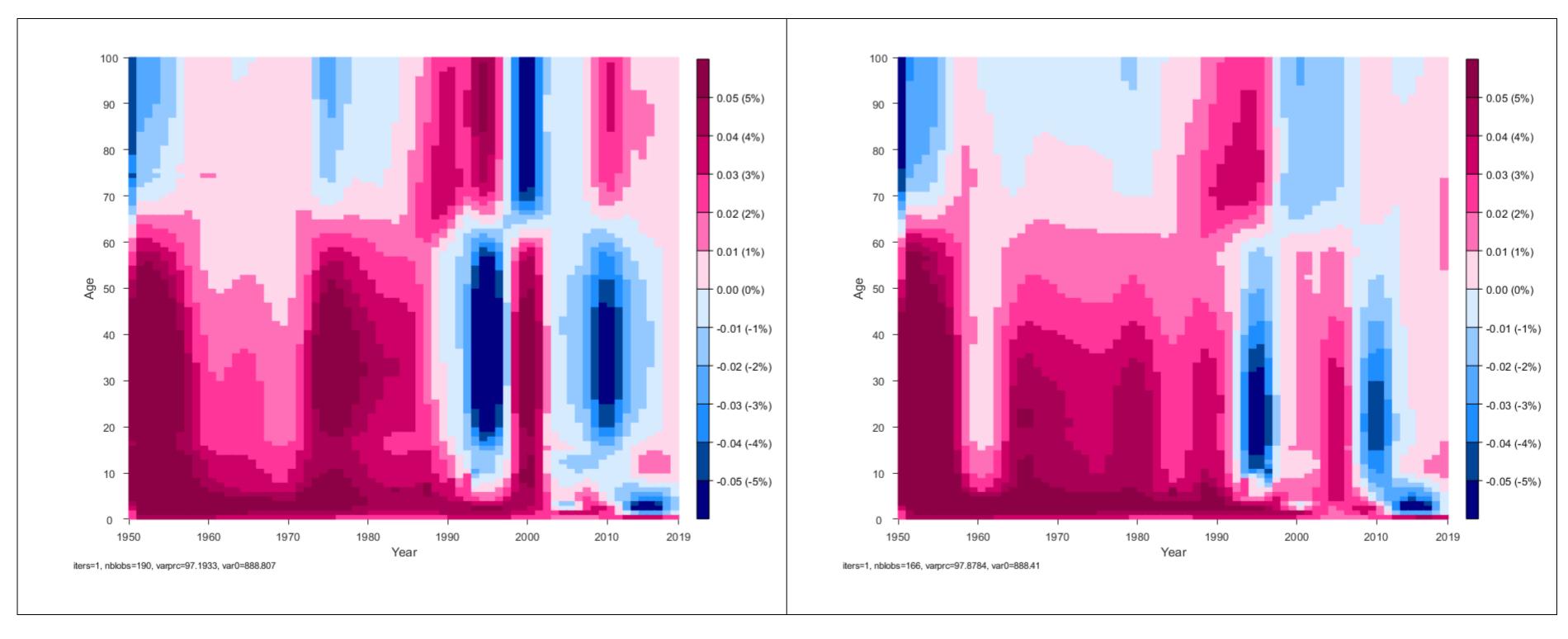


Israel

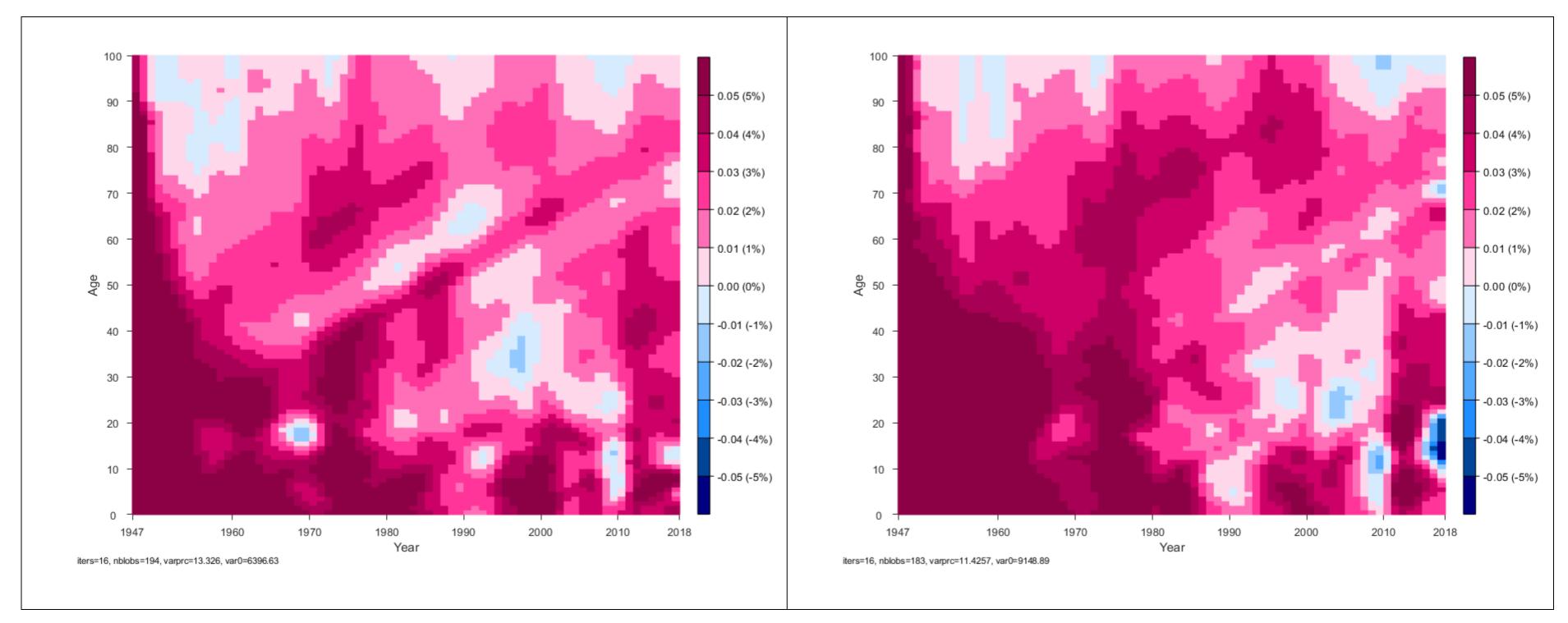




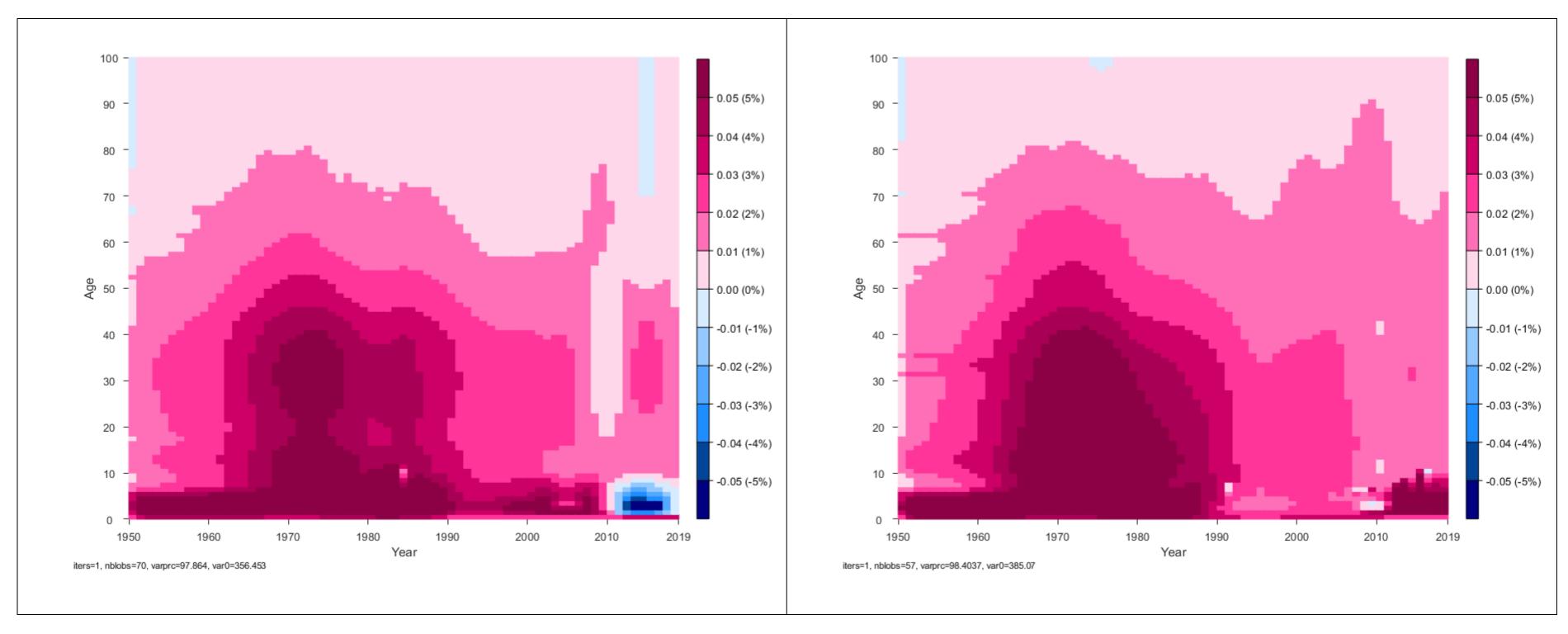
Jamaica



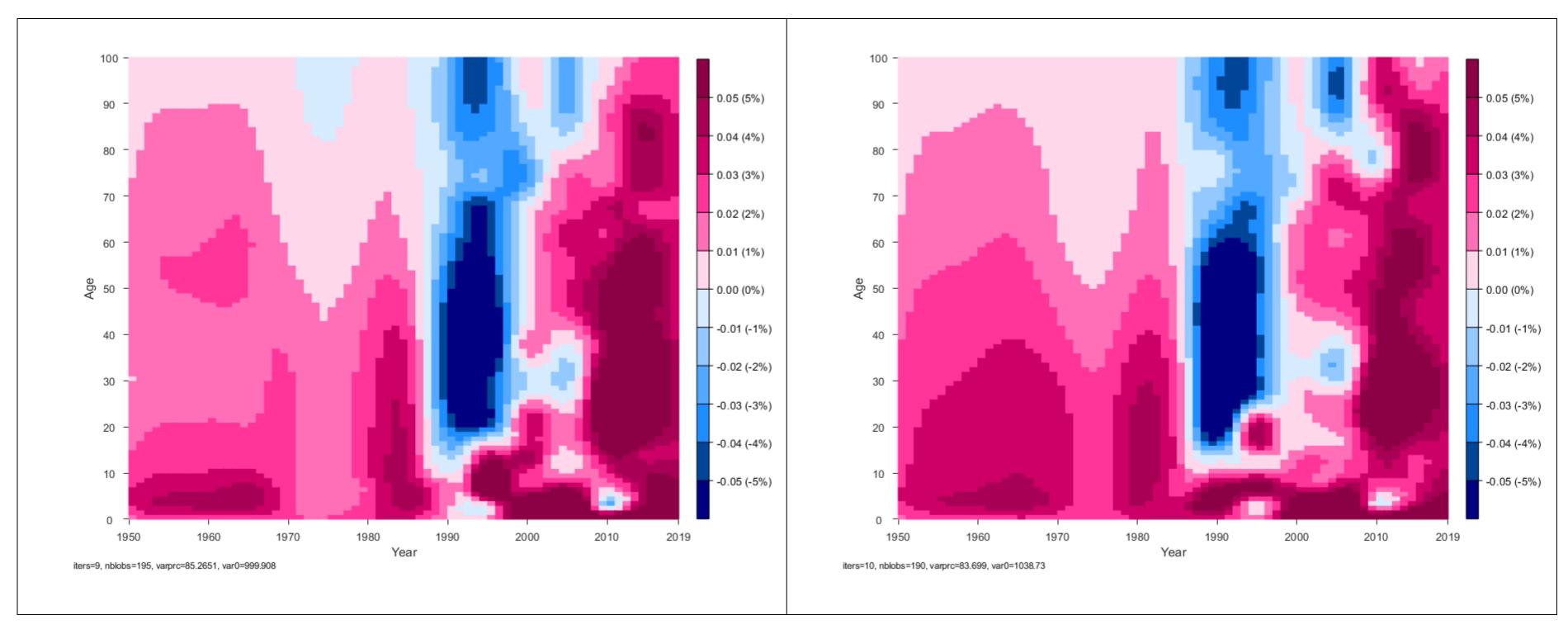
Japan



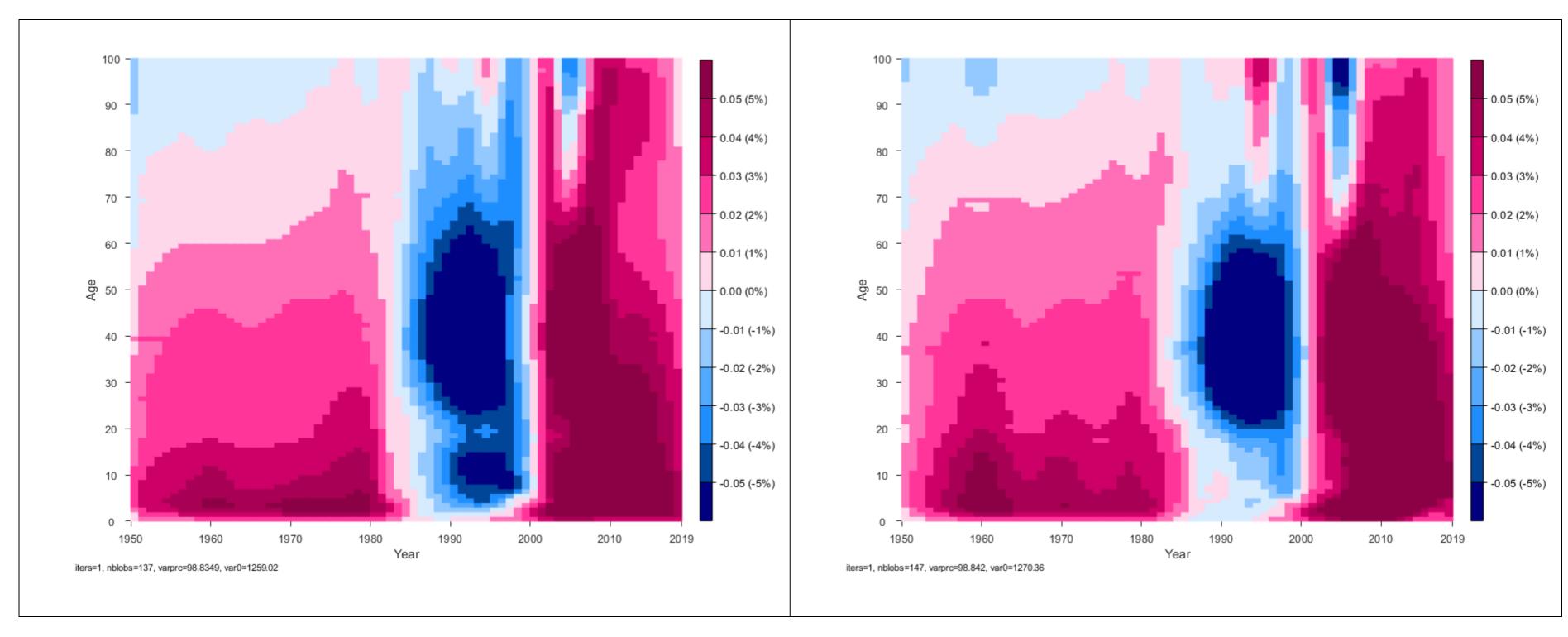
Jordan



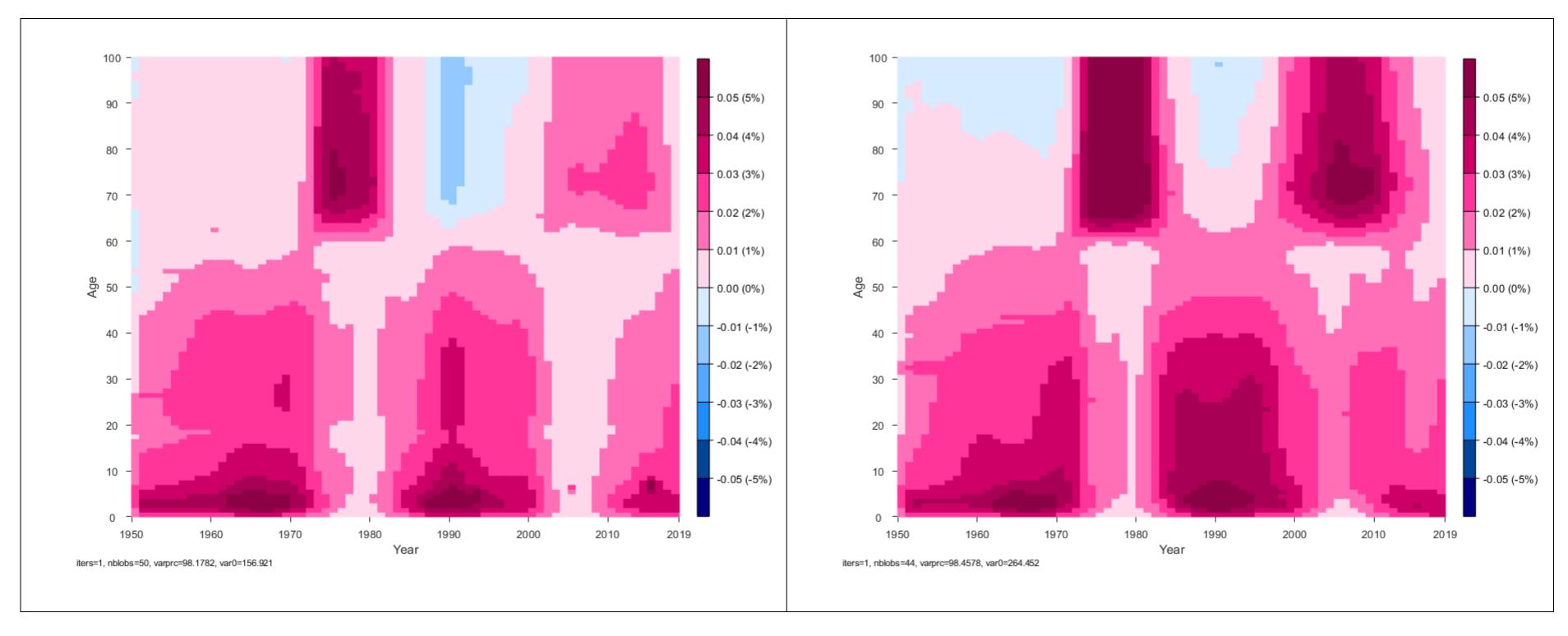
Kazakhstan



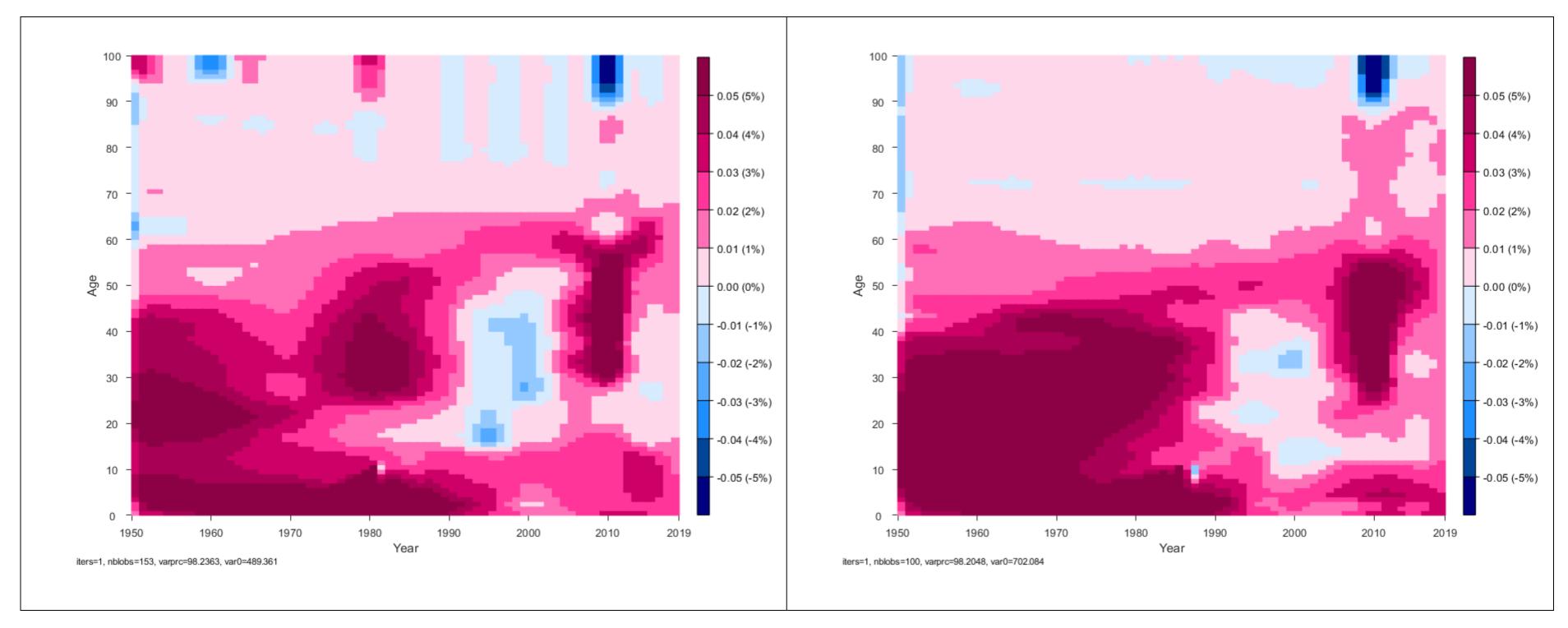
Kenya



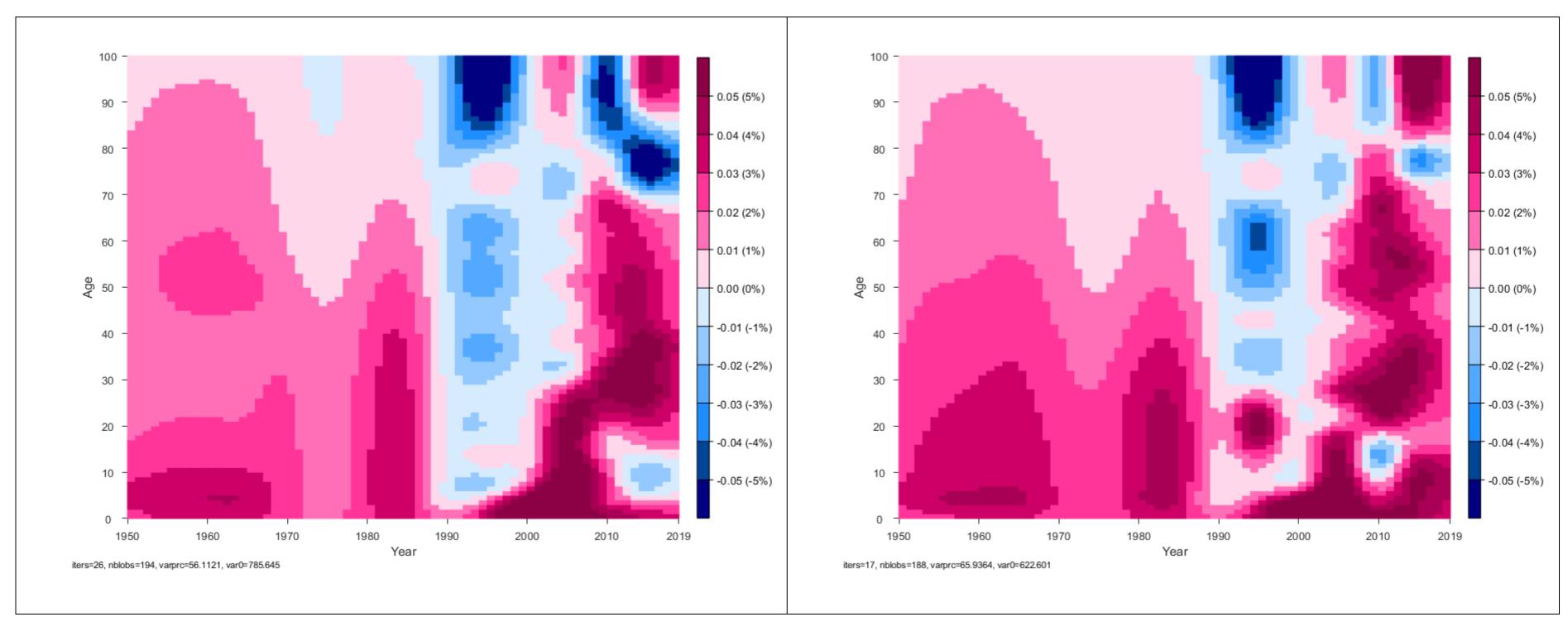
Kiribati



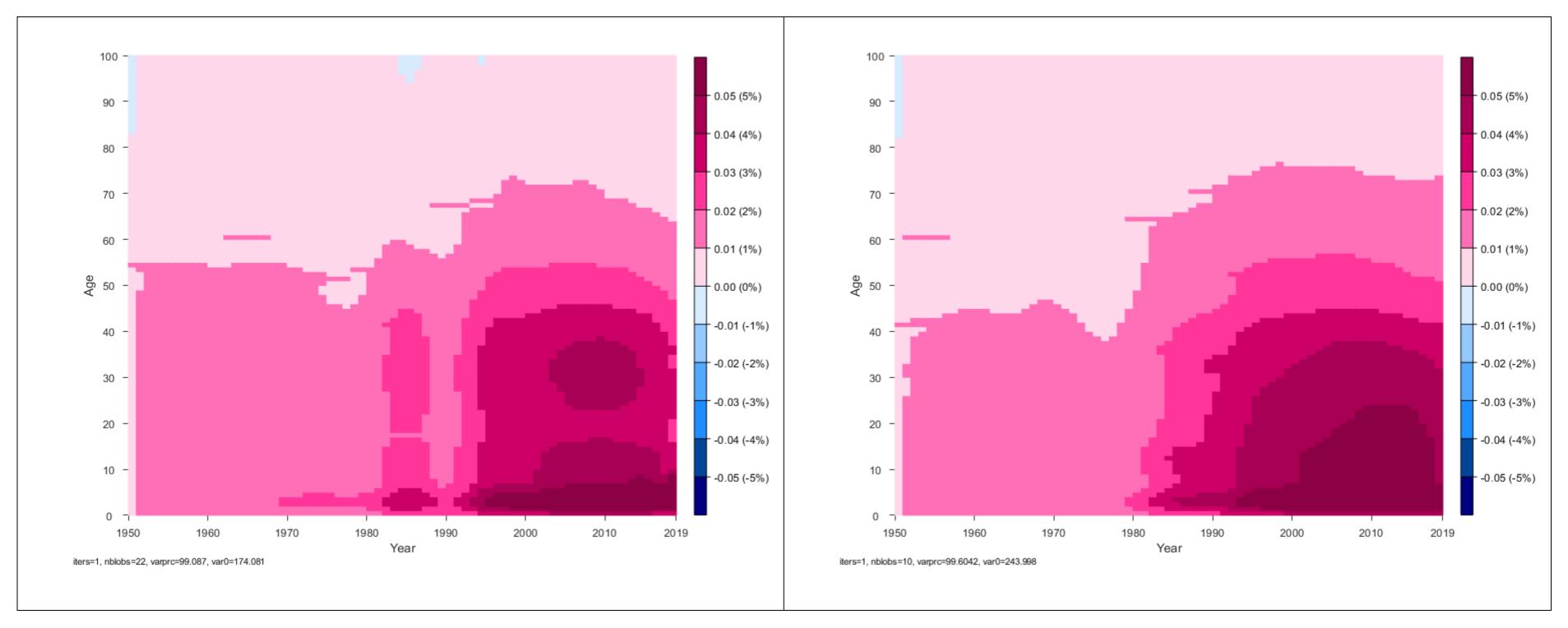
Kuwait



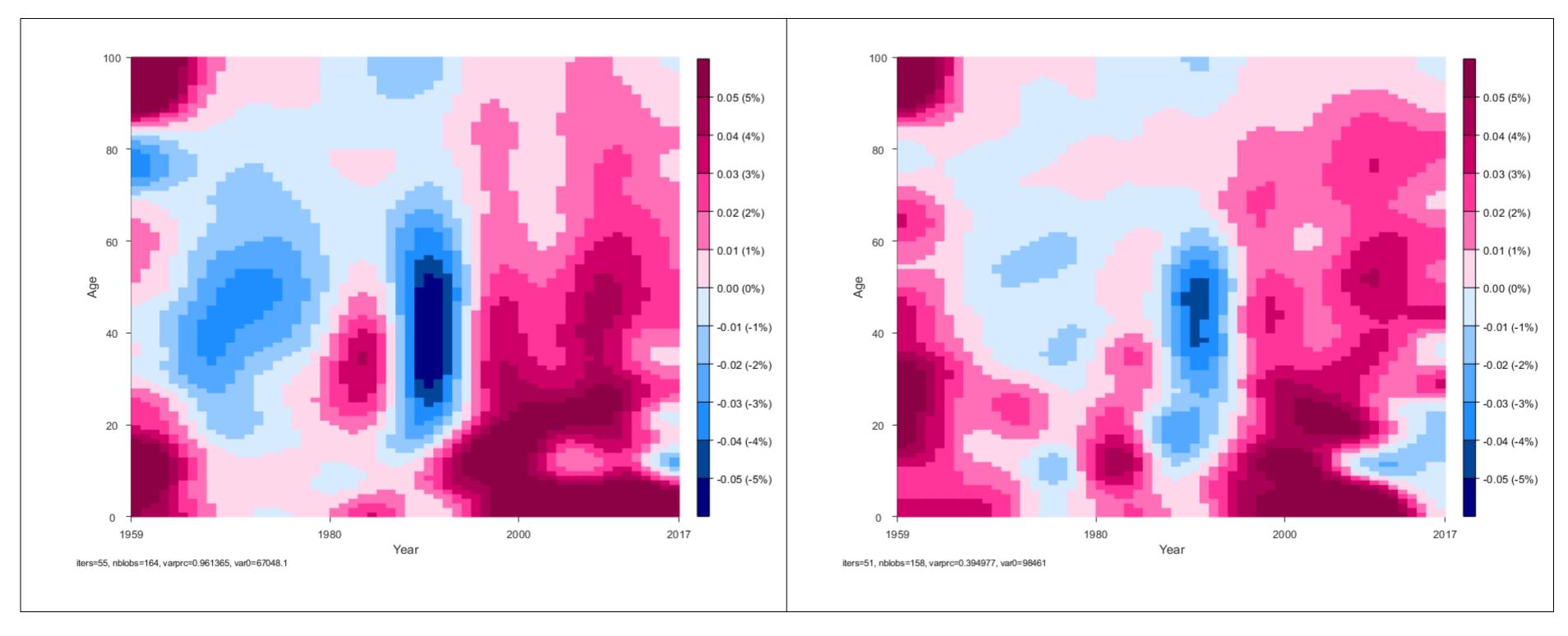
Kyrgyzstan



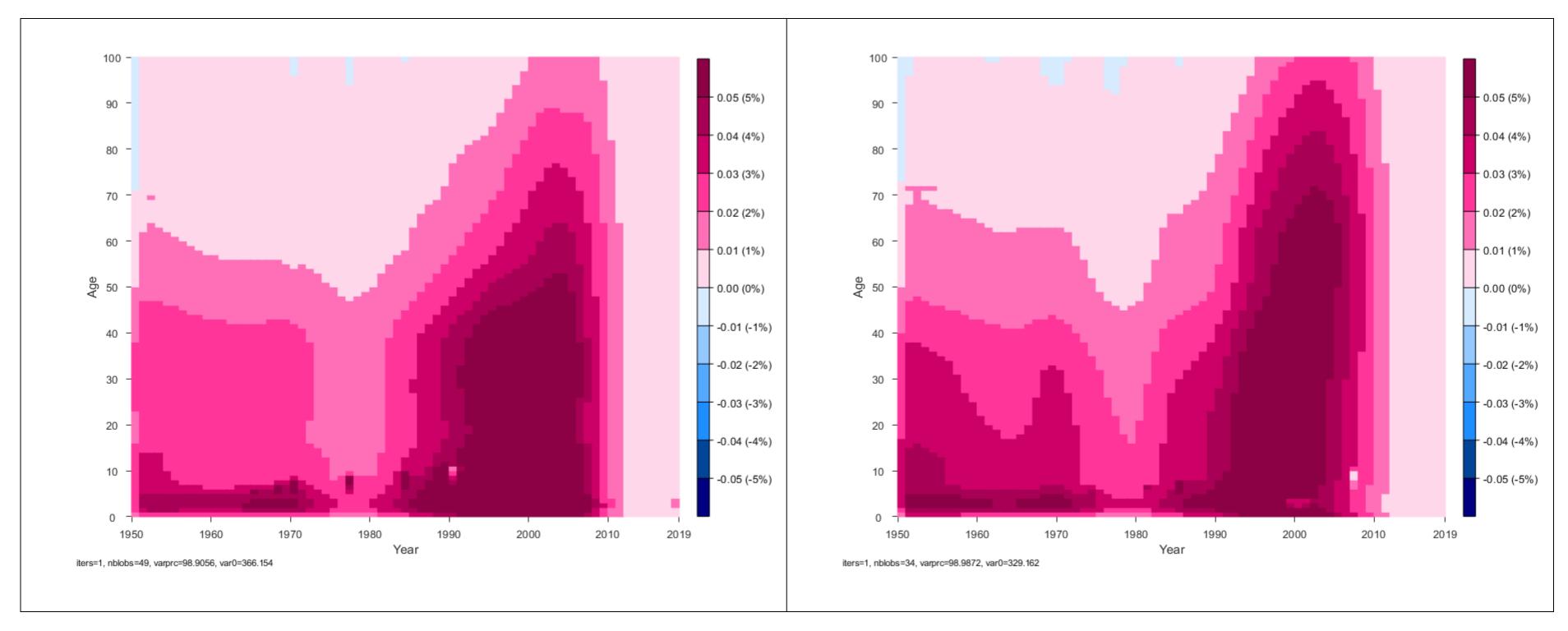
Lao People's Dem. Republic



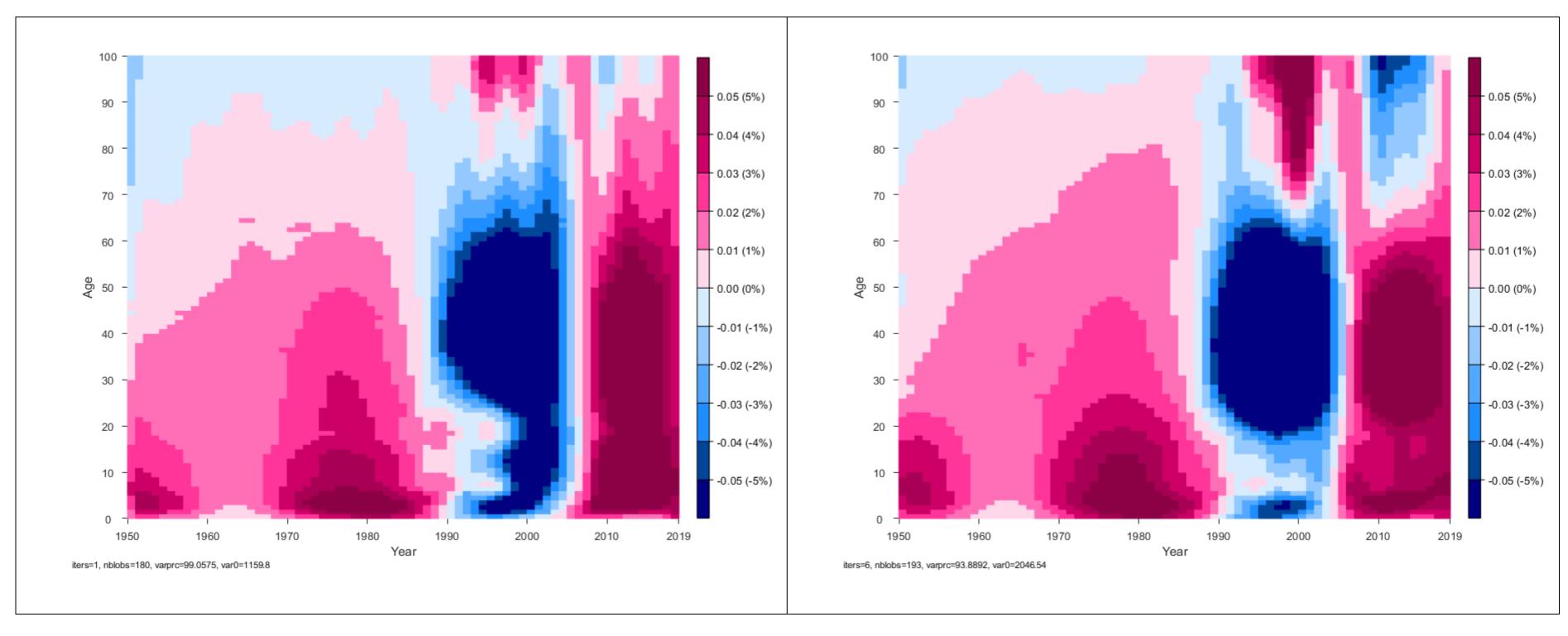
Latvia



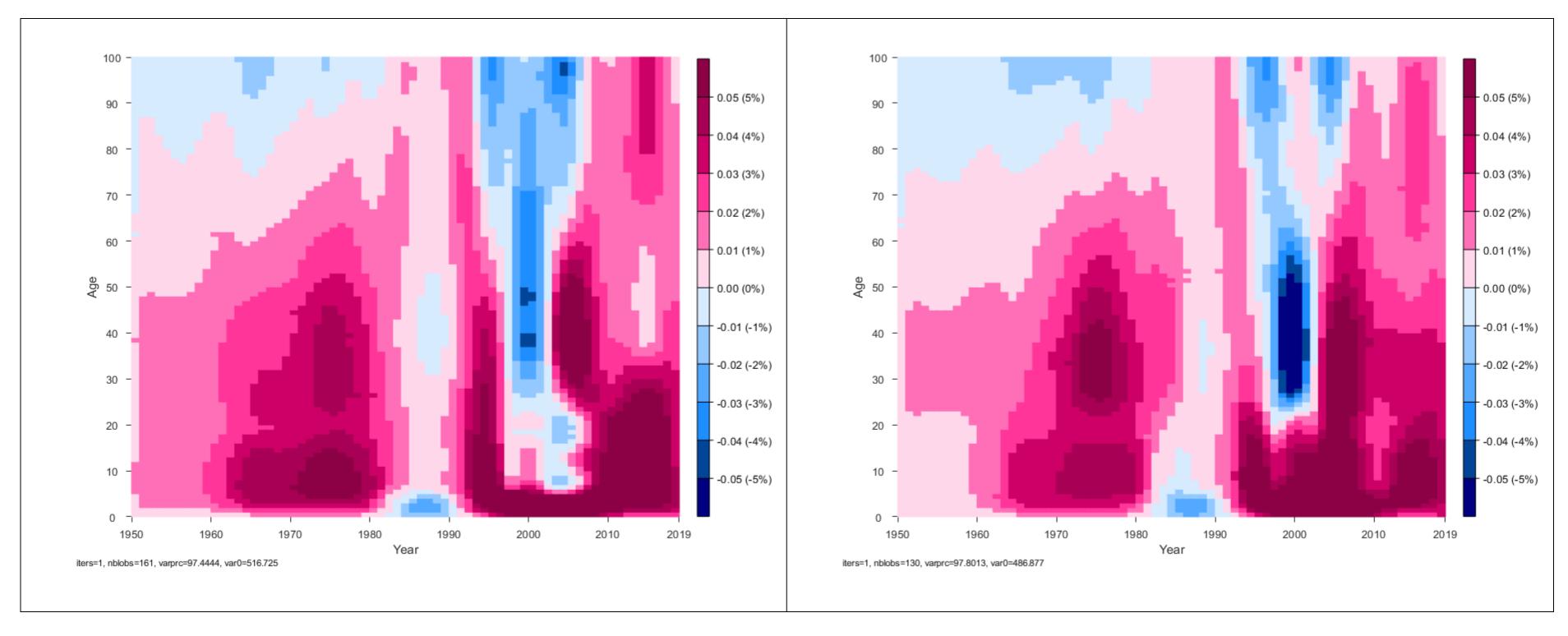
Lebanon



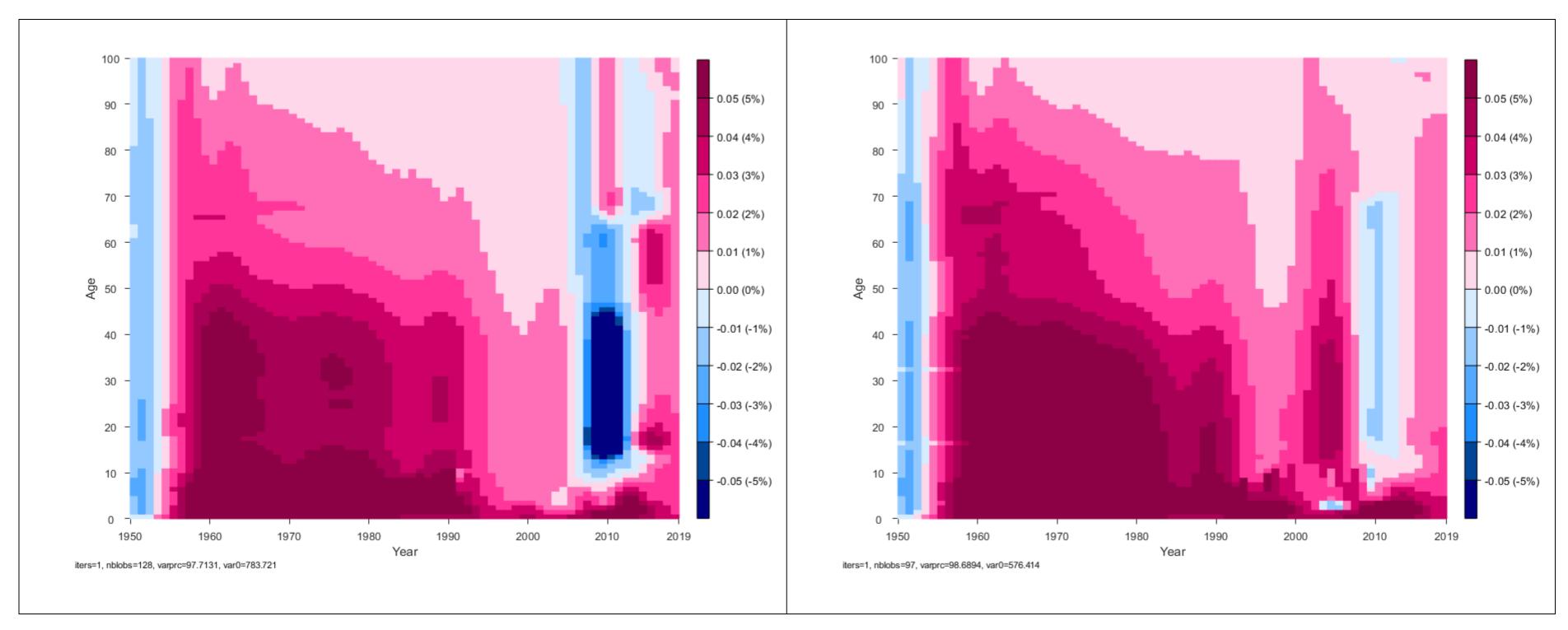
Lesotho



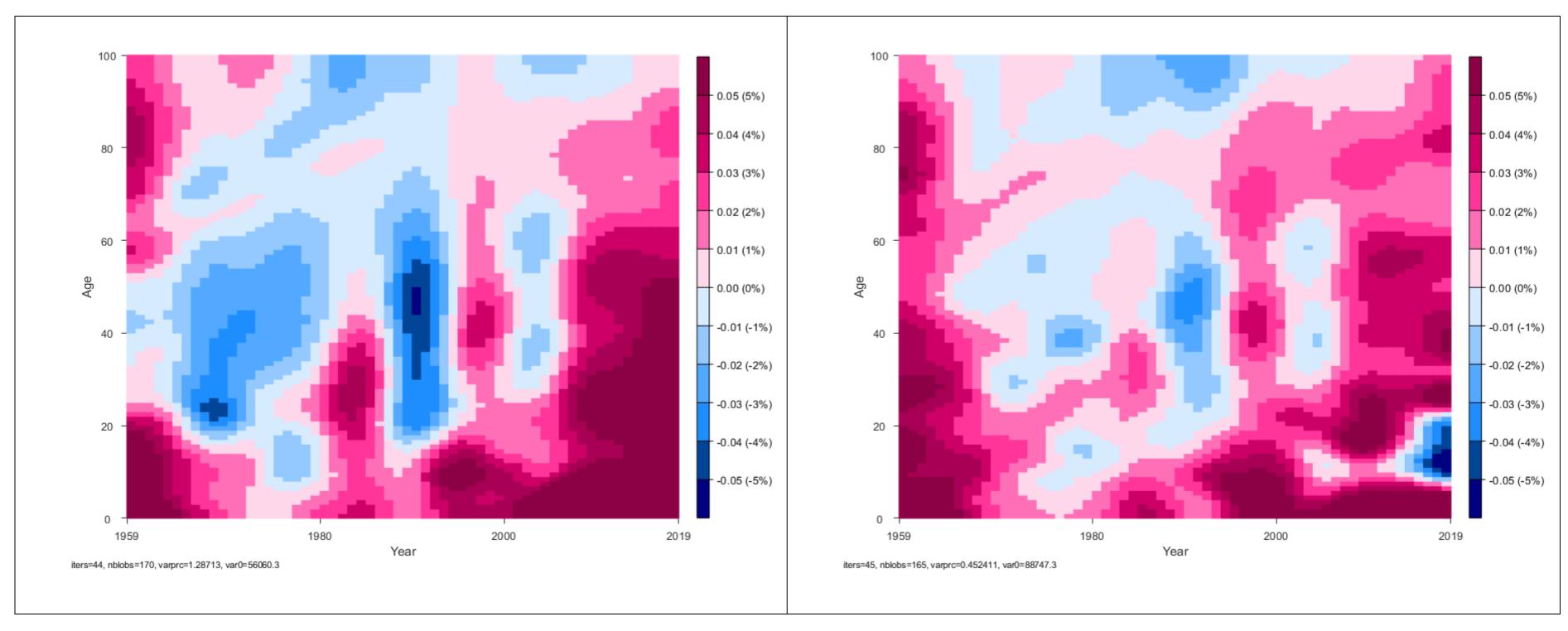
Liberia



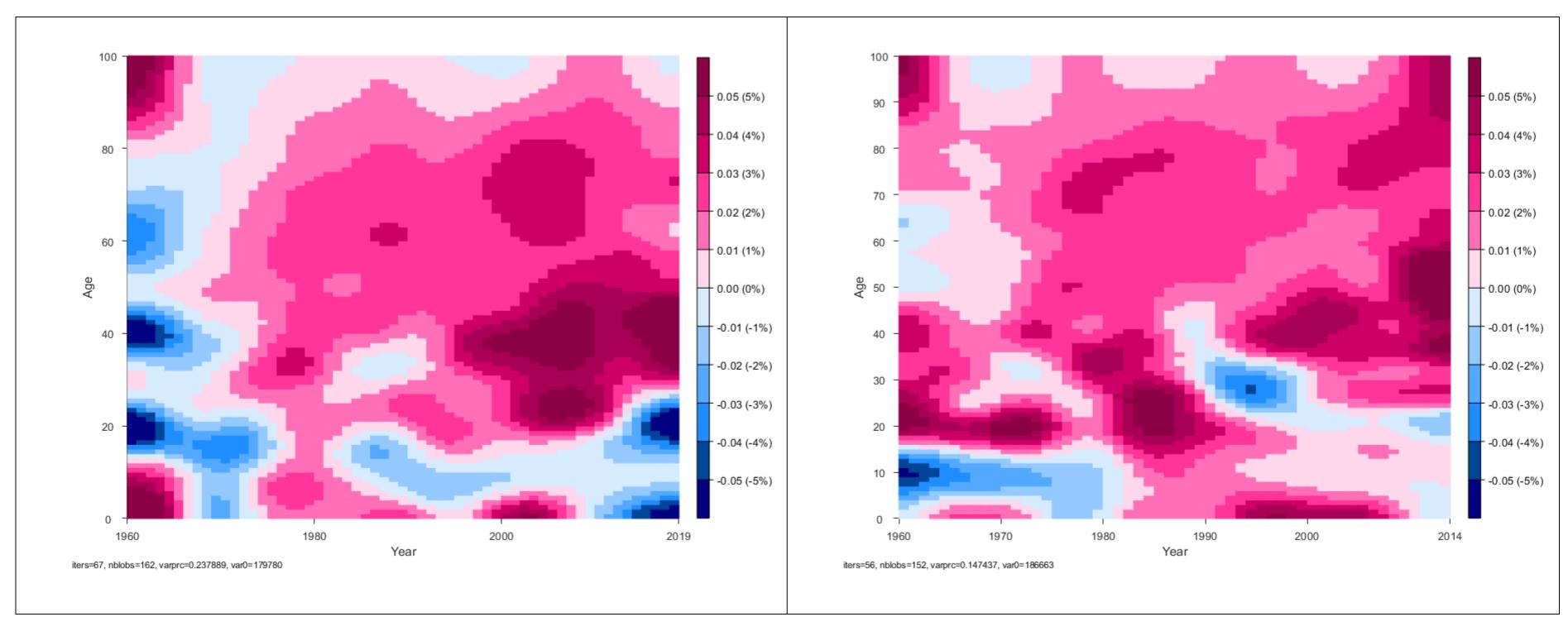
Libya



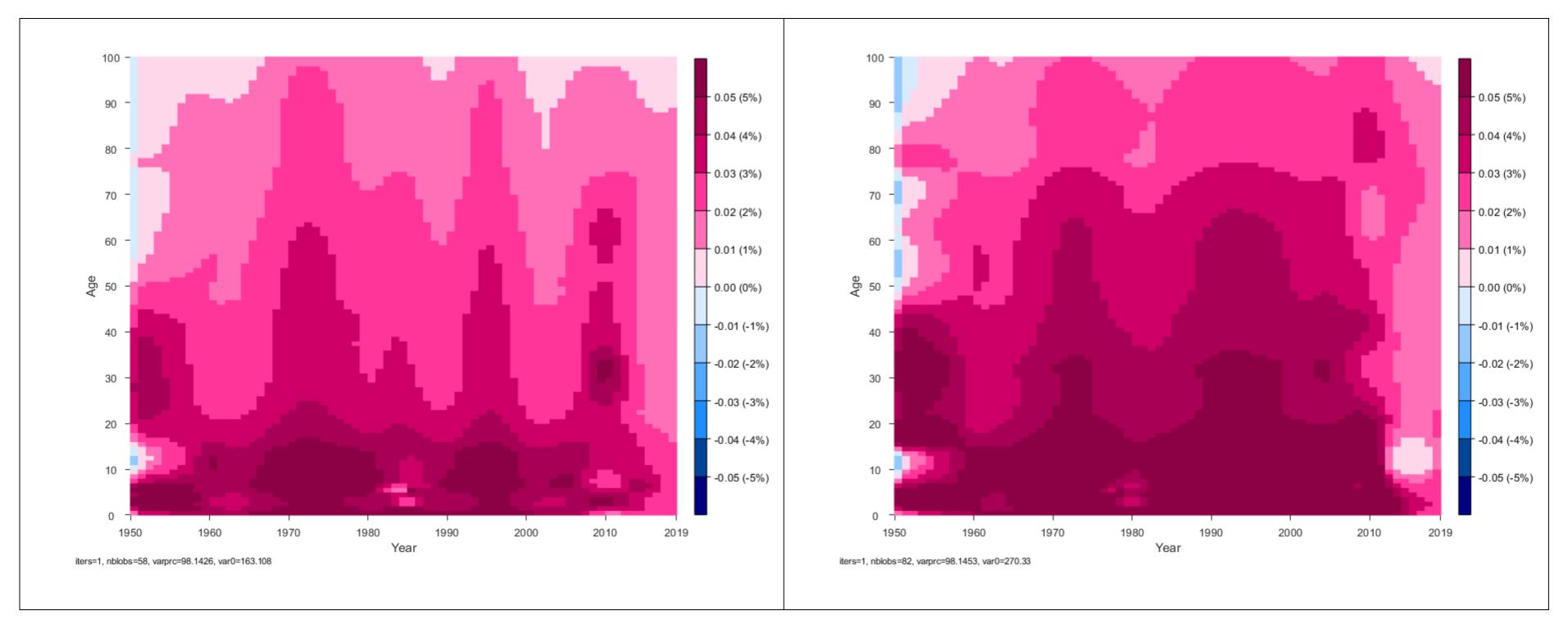
Lithuania



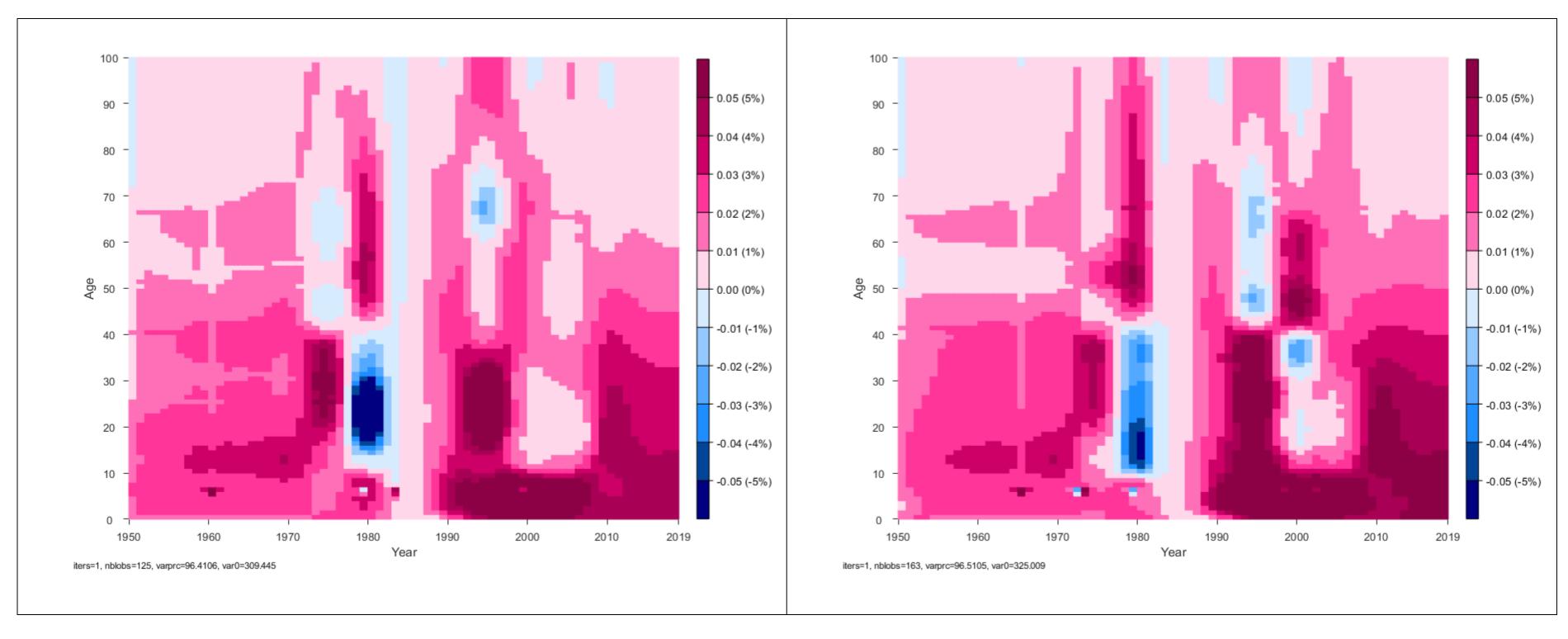
Luxembourg



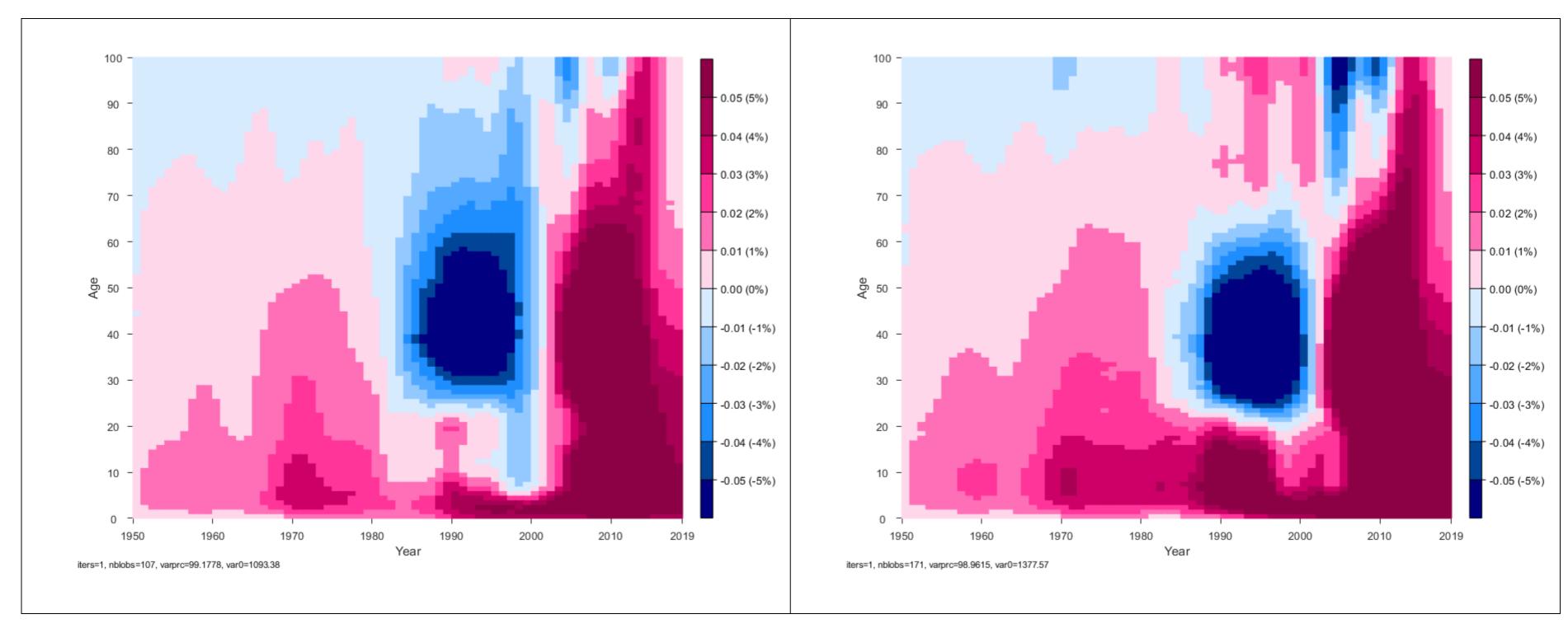
China, Macao SAR



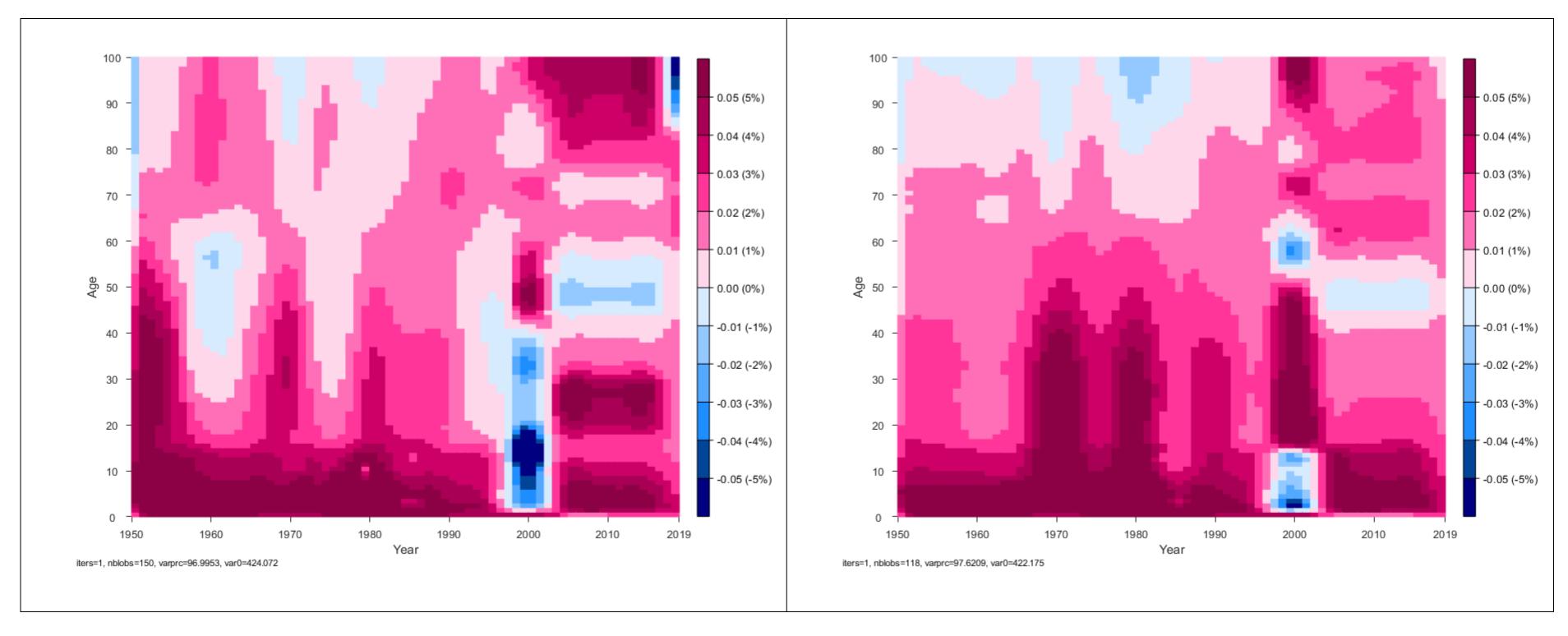
Madagascar



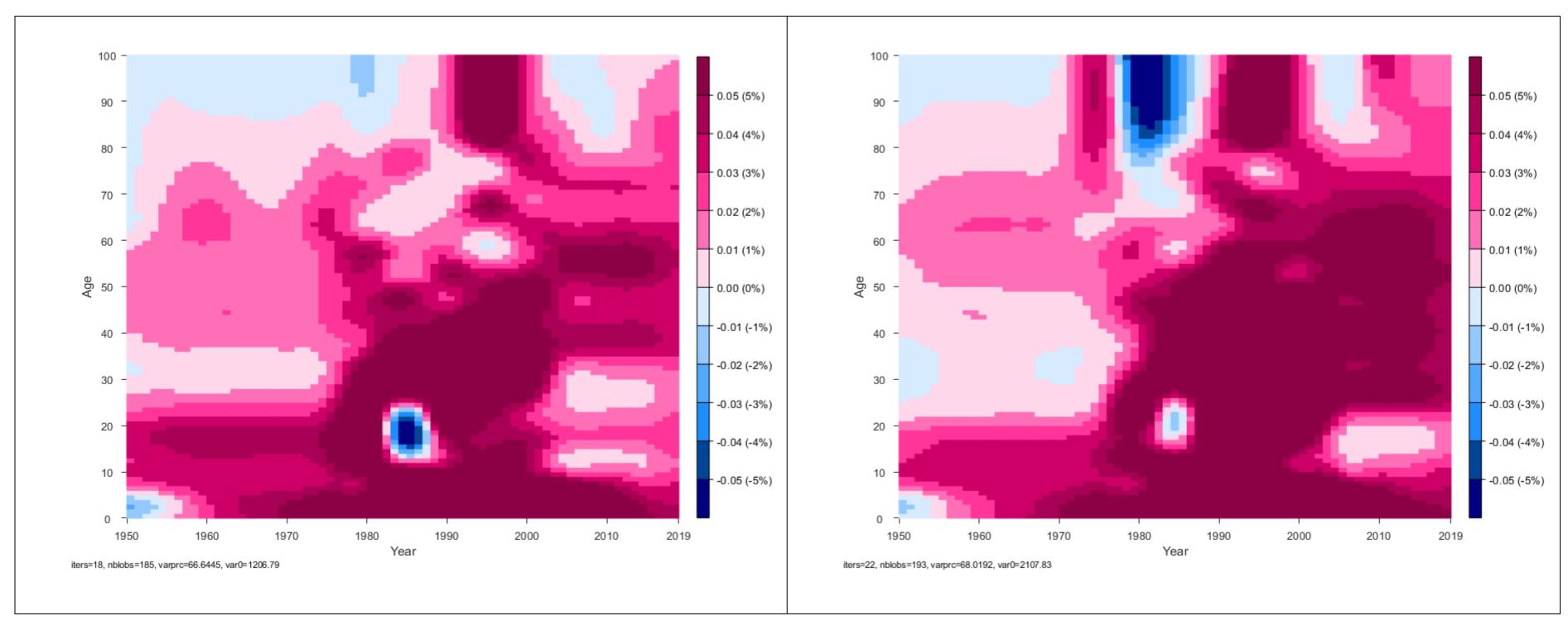
Malawi

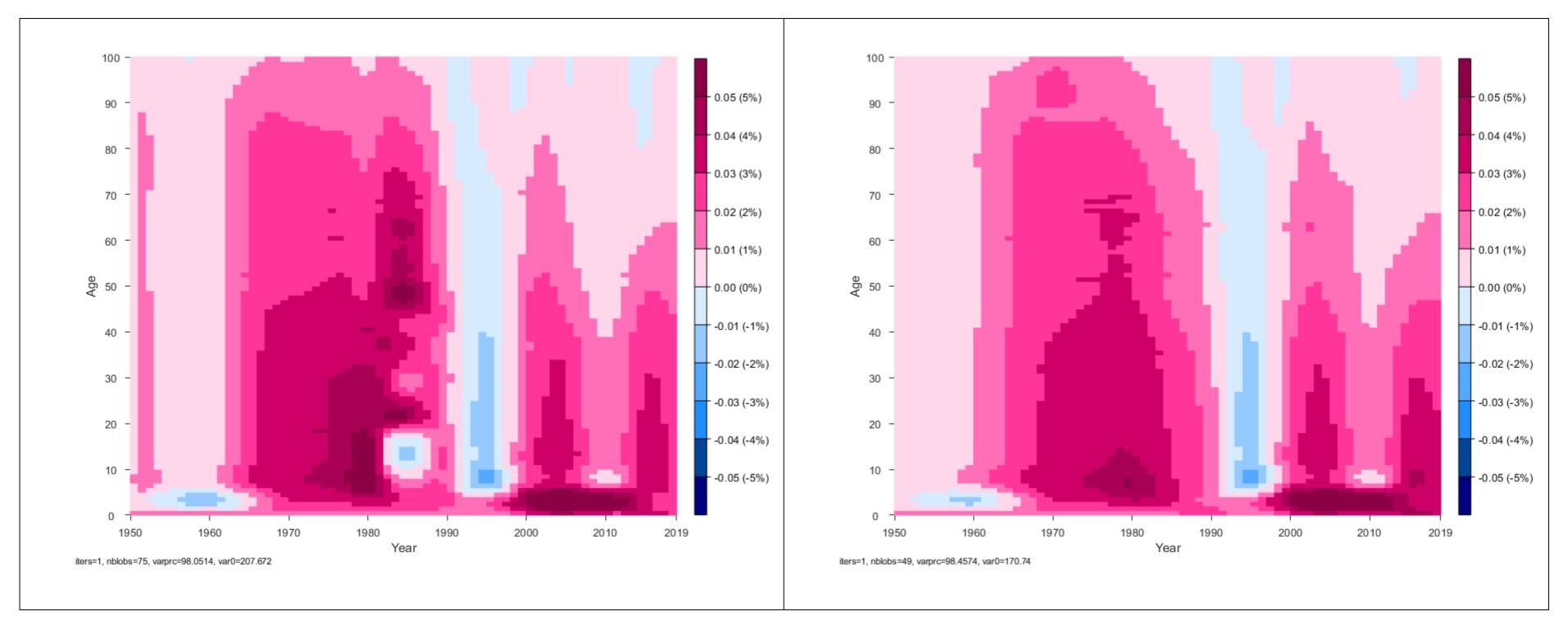


Malaysia

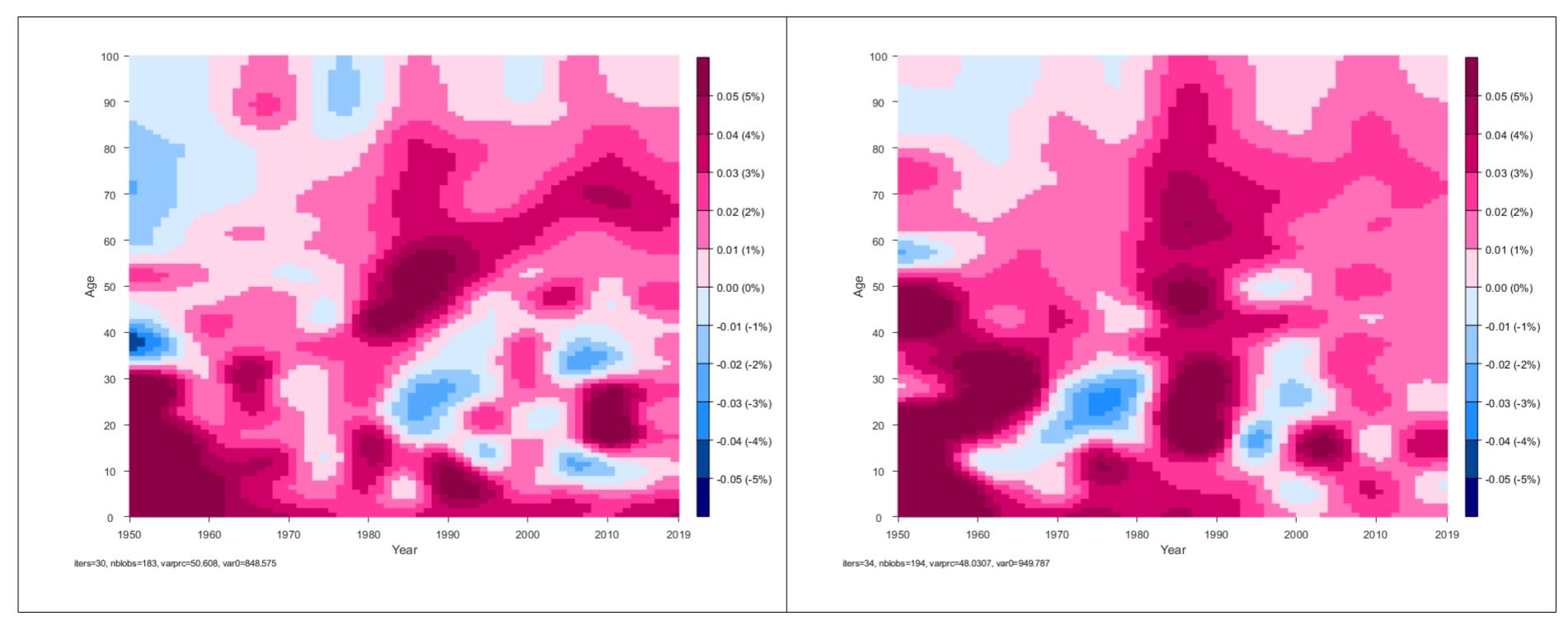


Maldives

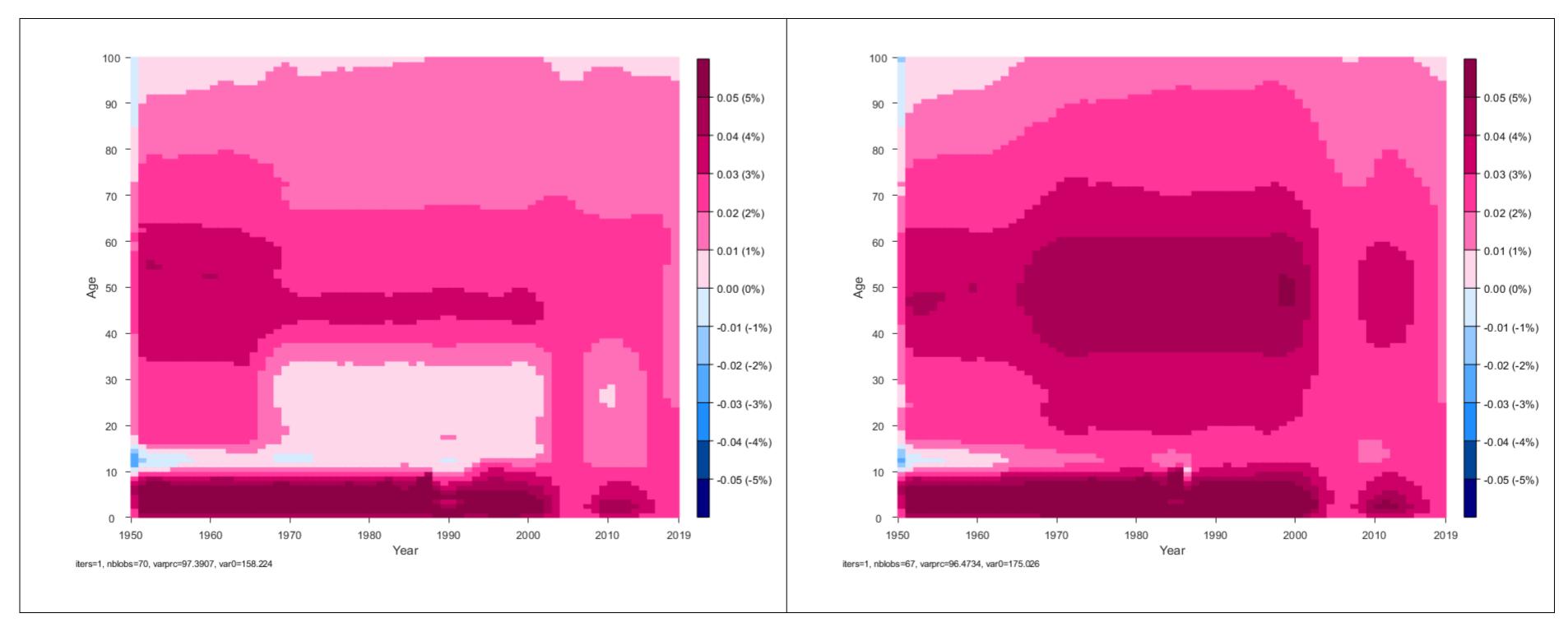




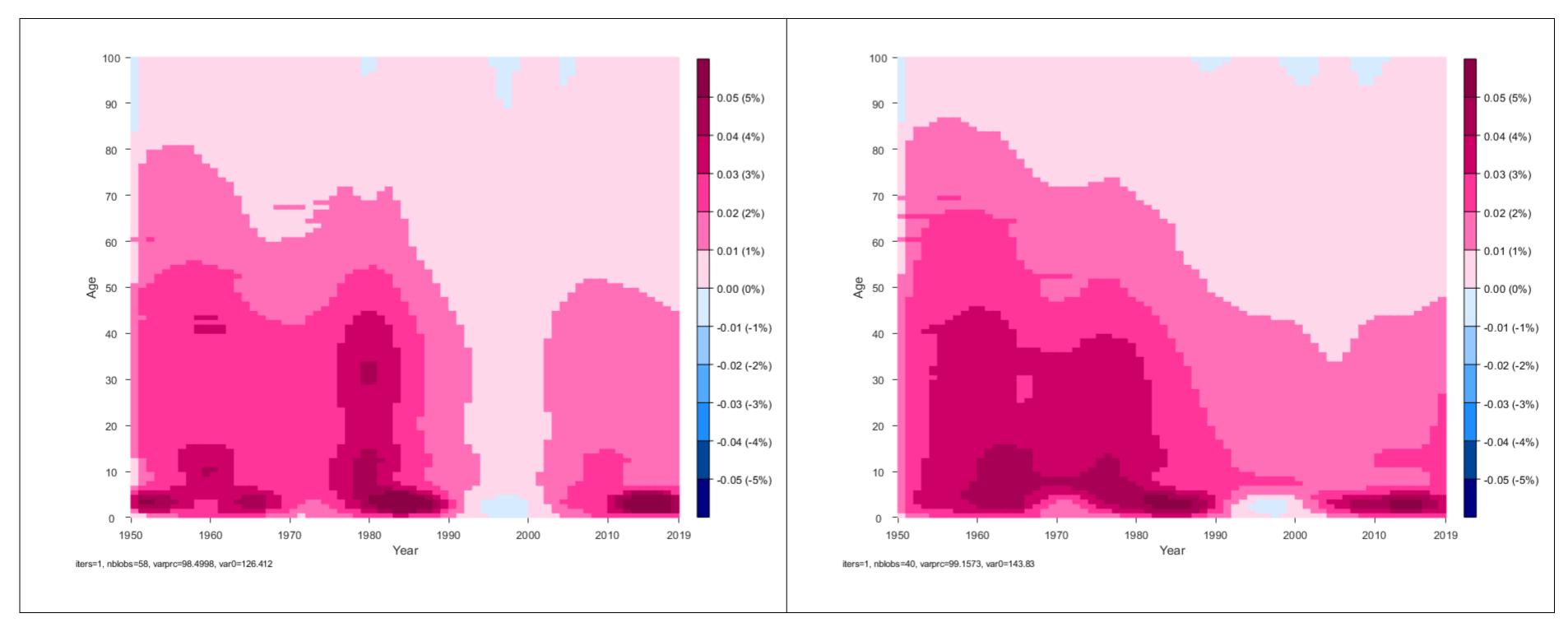
Malta



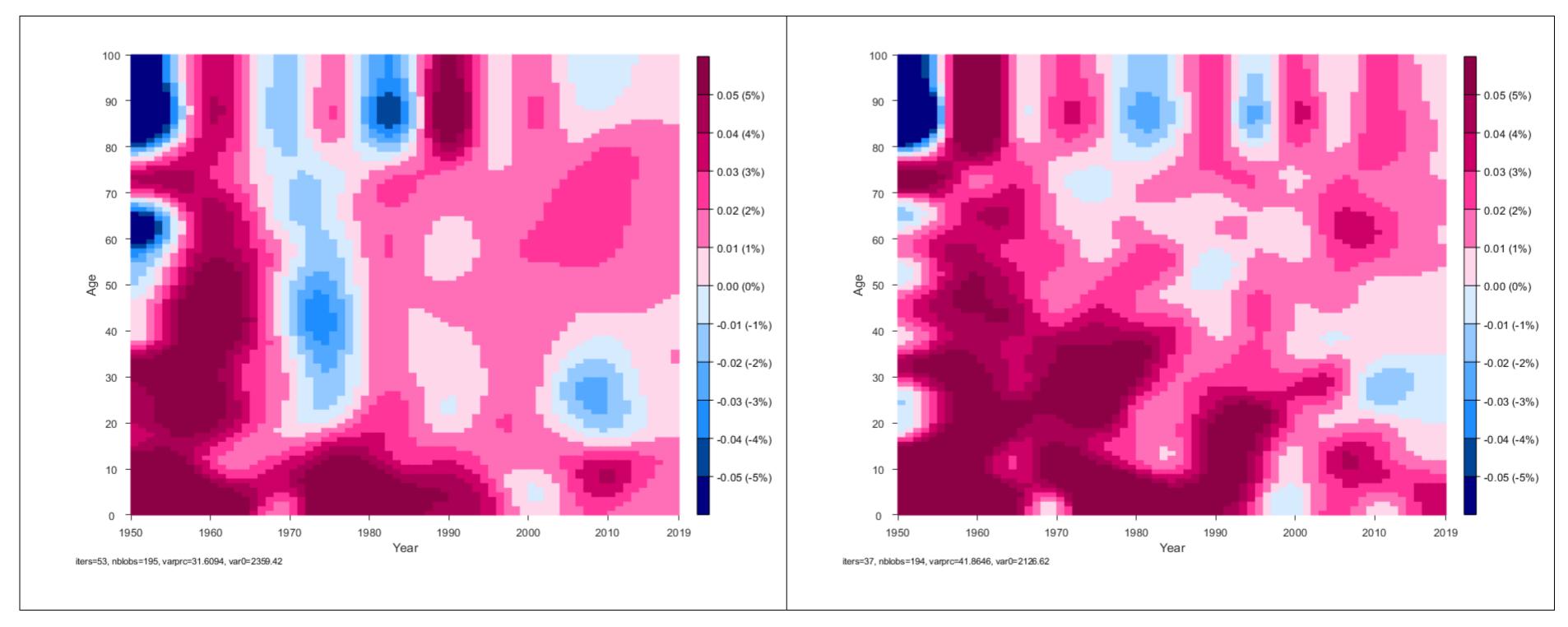
Martinique



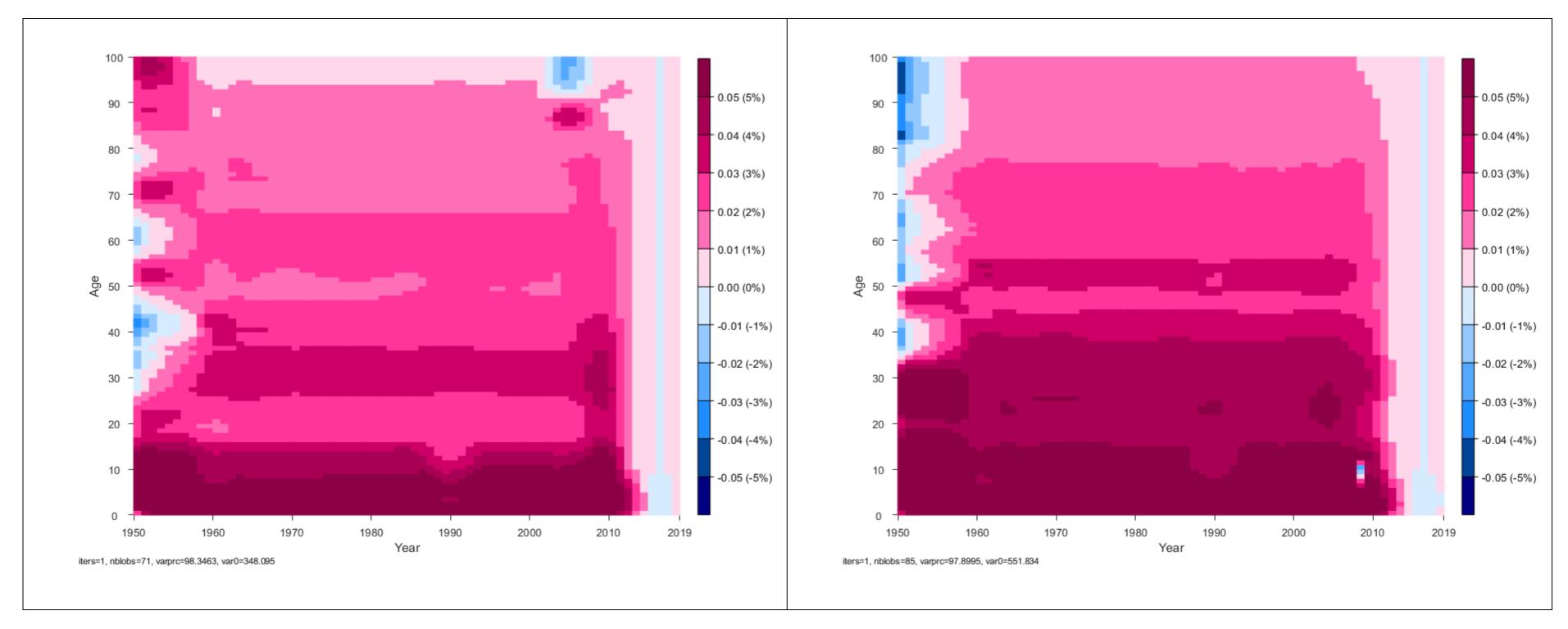
Mauritania



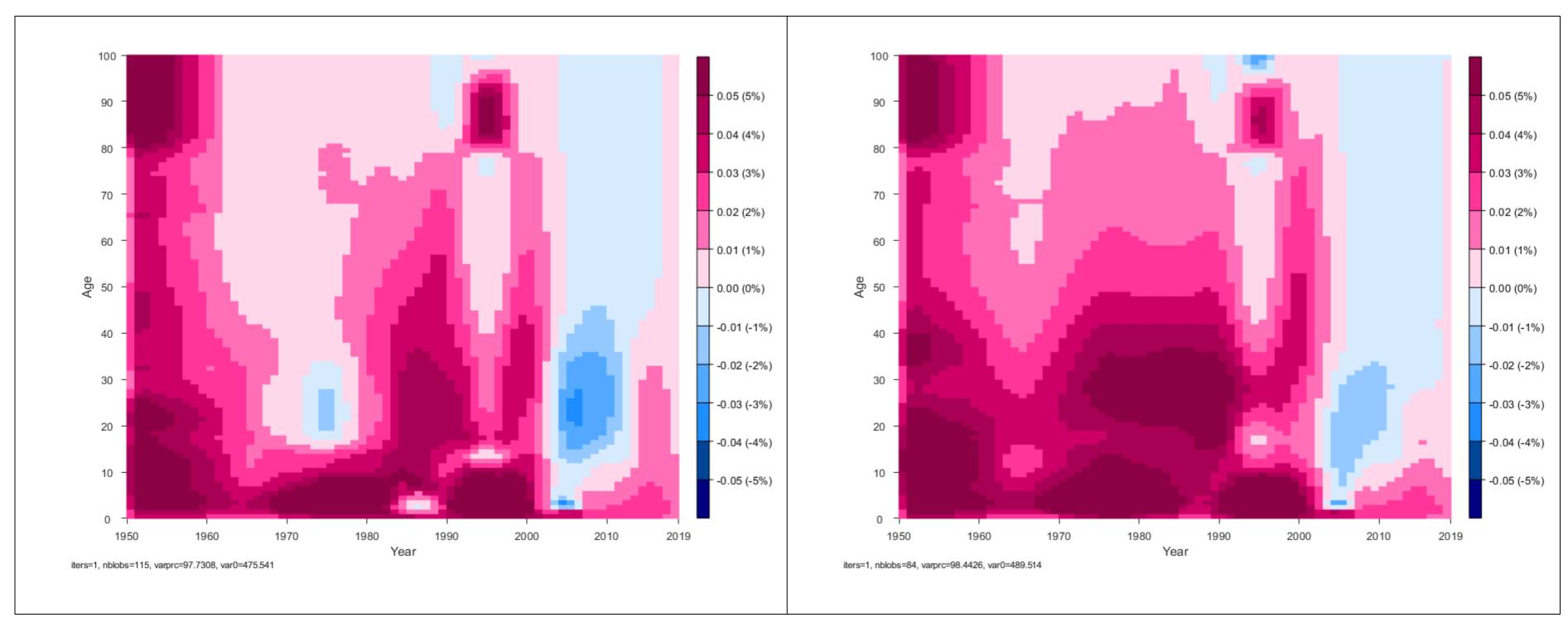
Mauritius



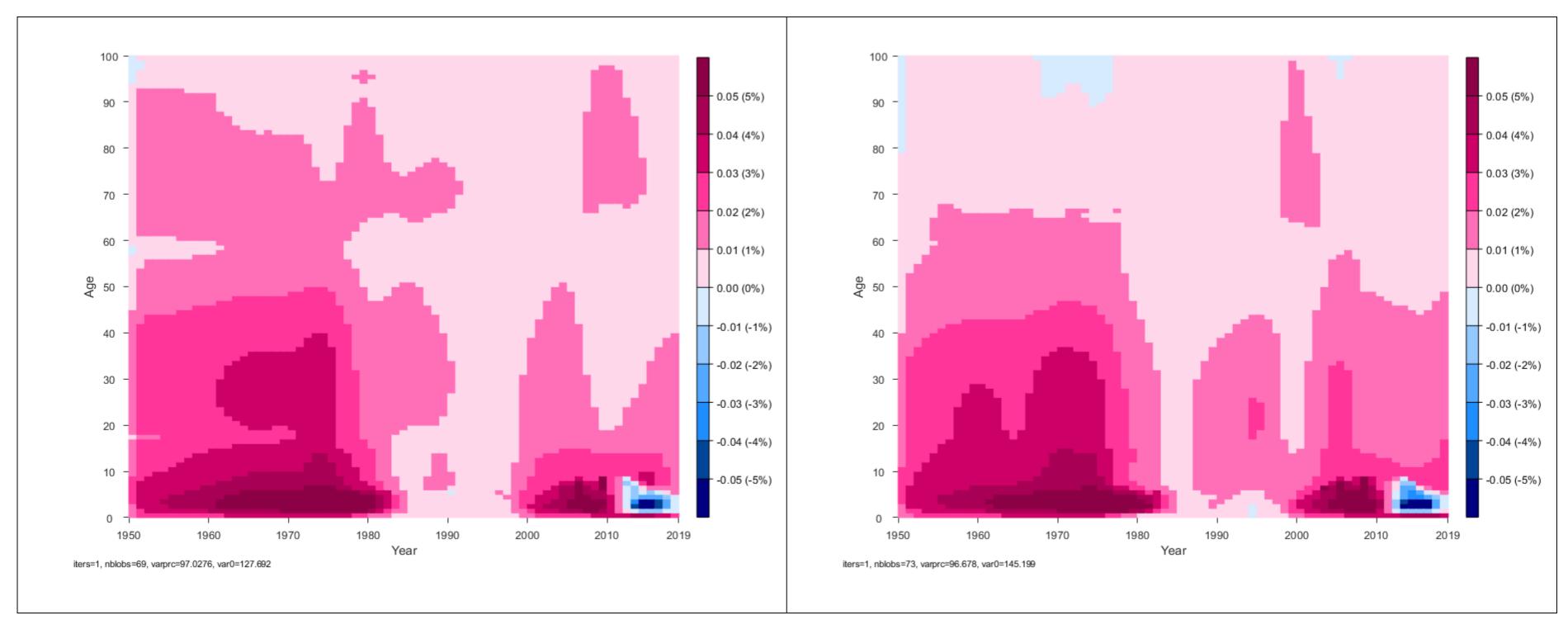
Mayotte



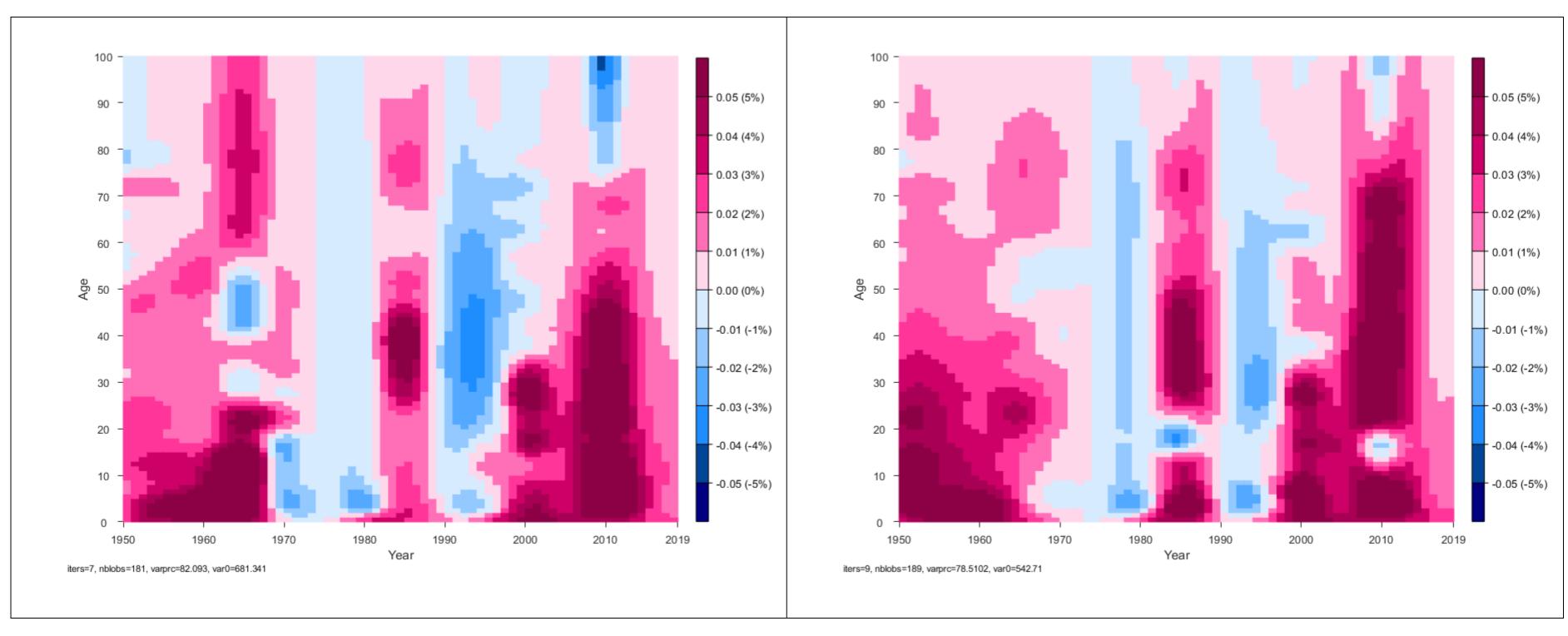
Mexico



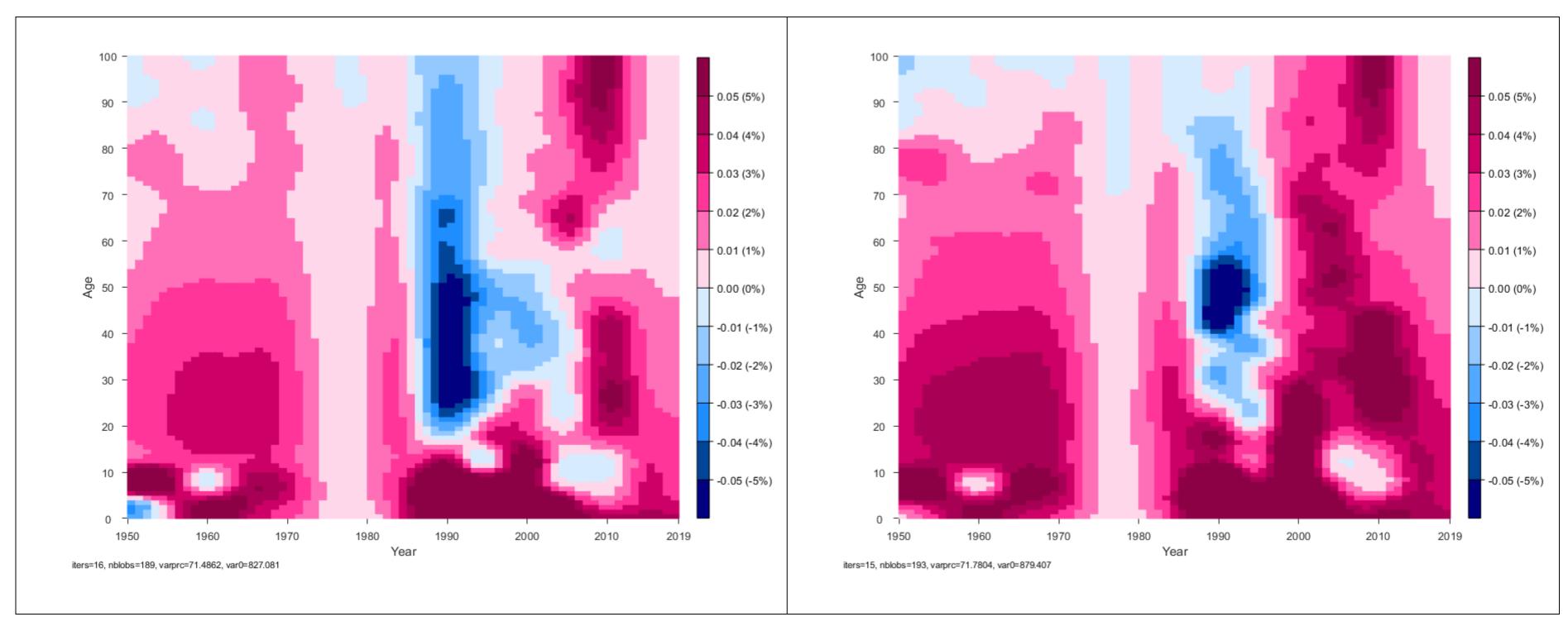
Micronesia (Fed. States of)



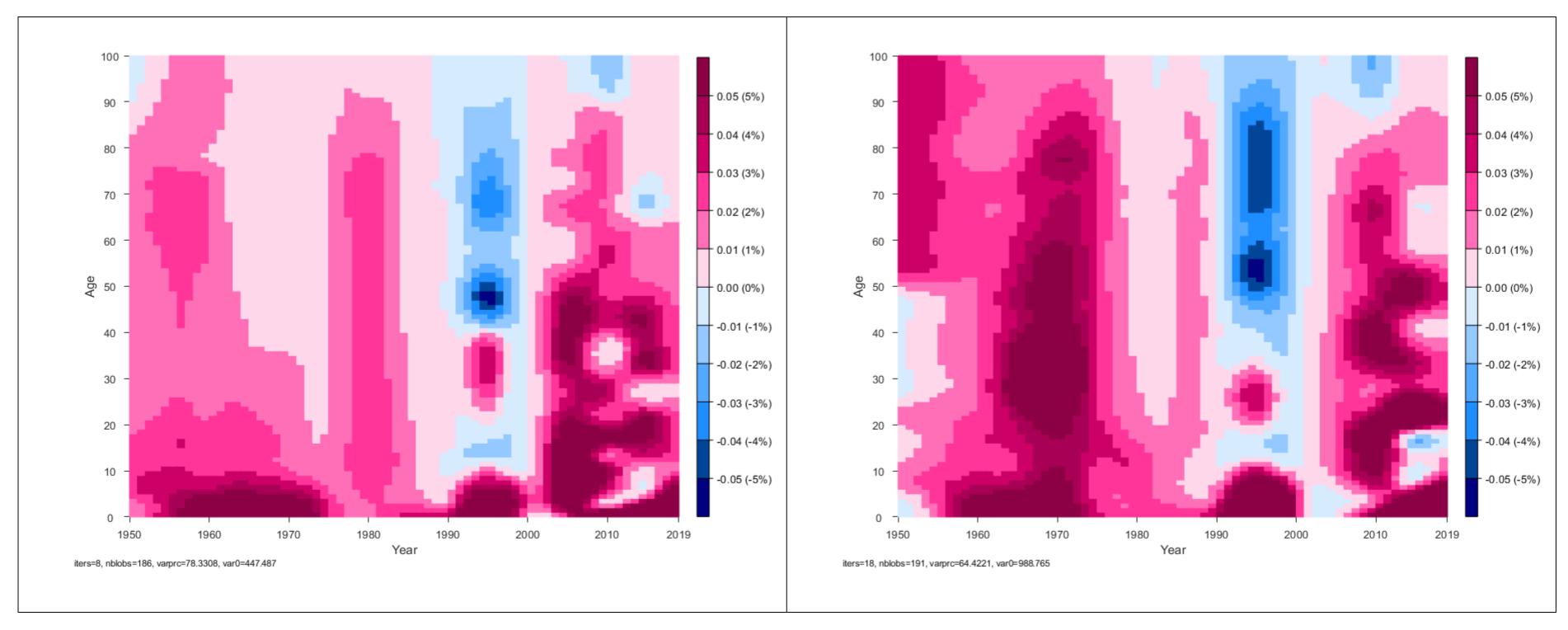
Republic of Moldova



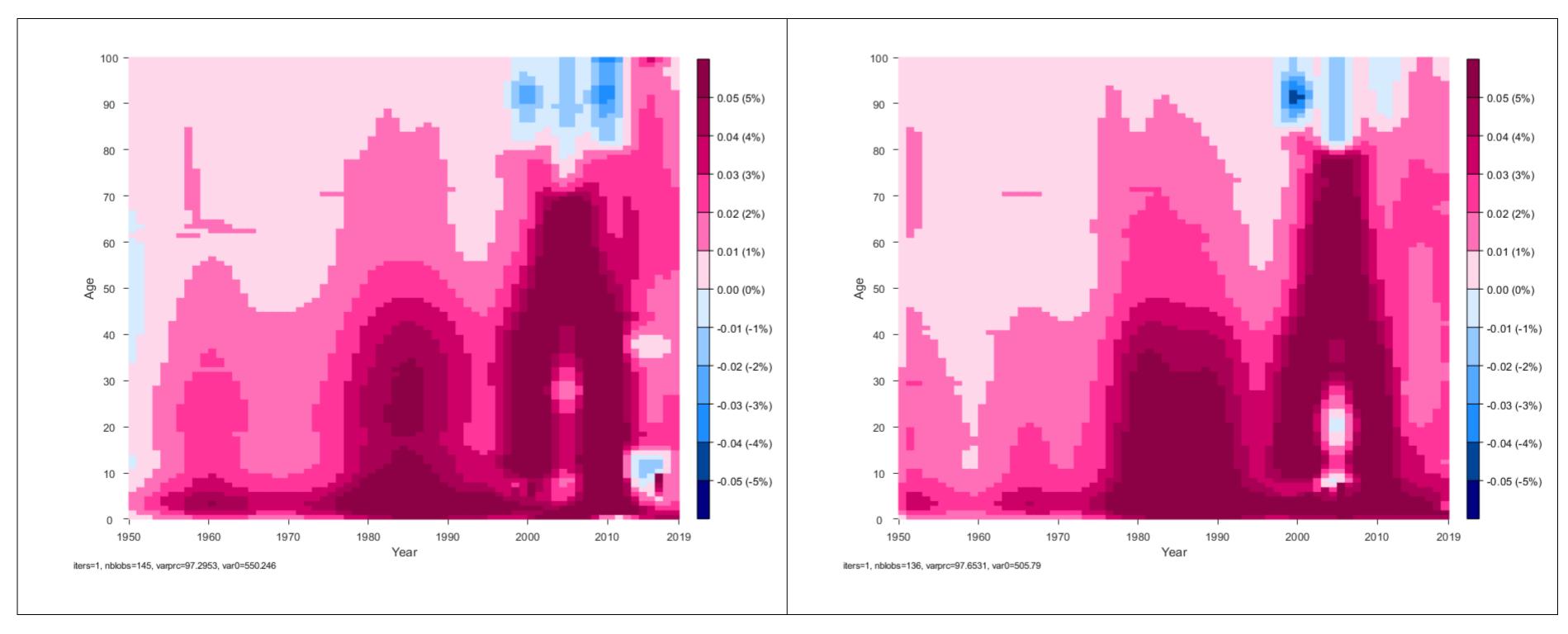
Mongolia



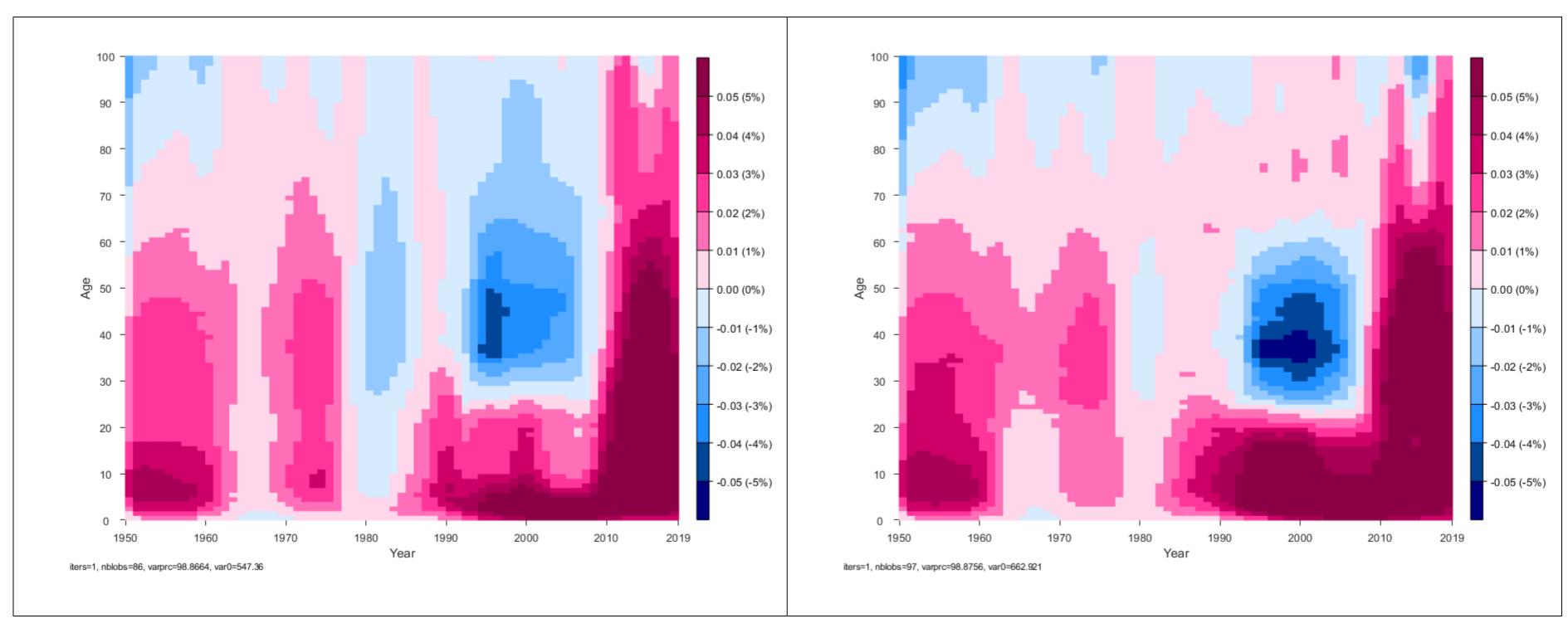
Montenegro



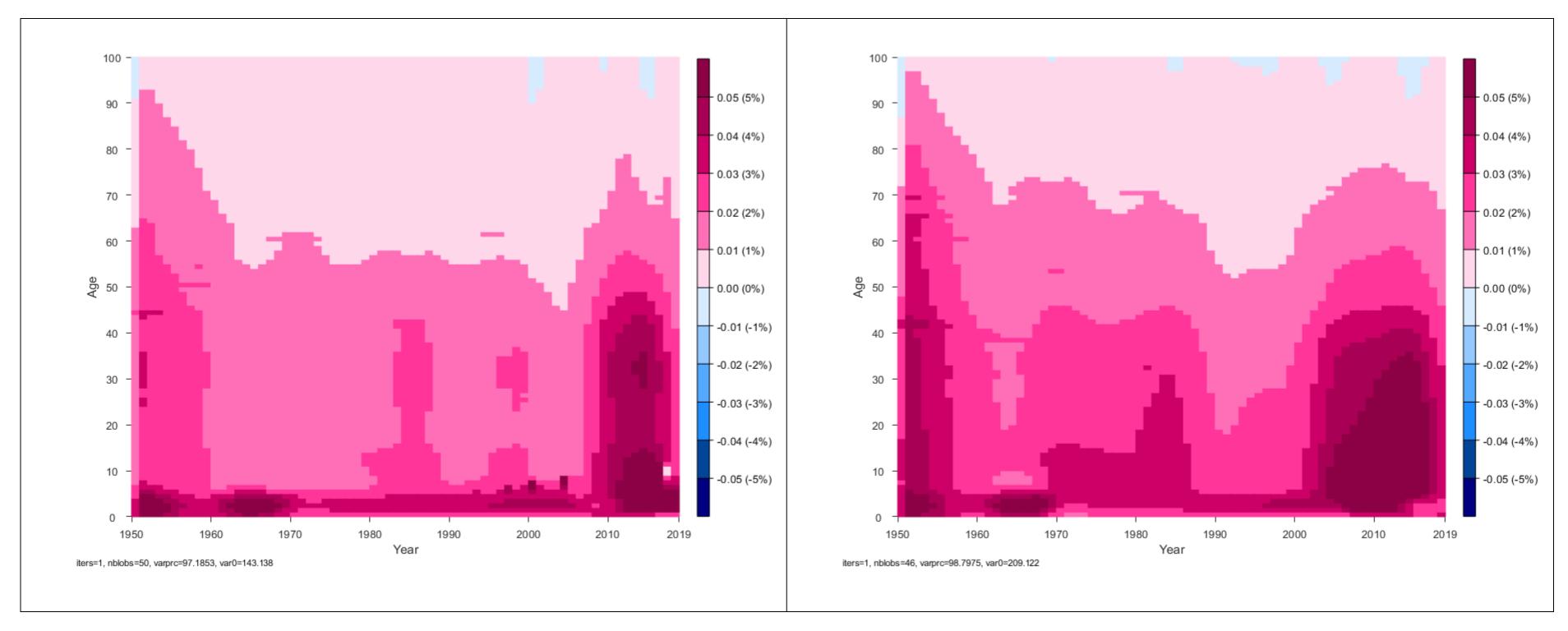
Morocco



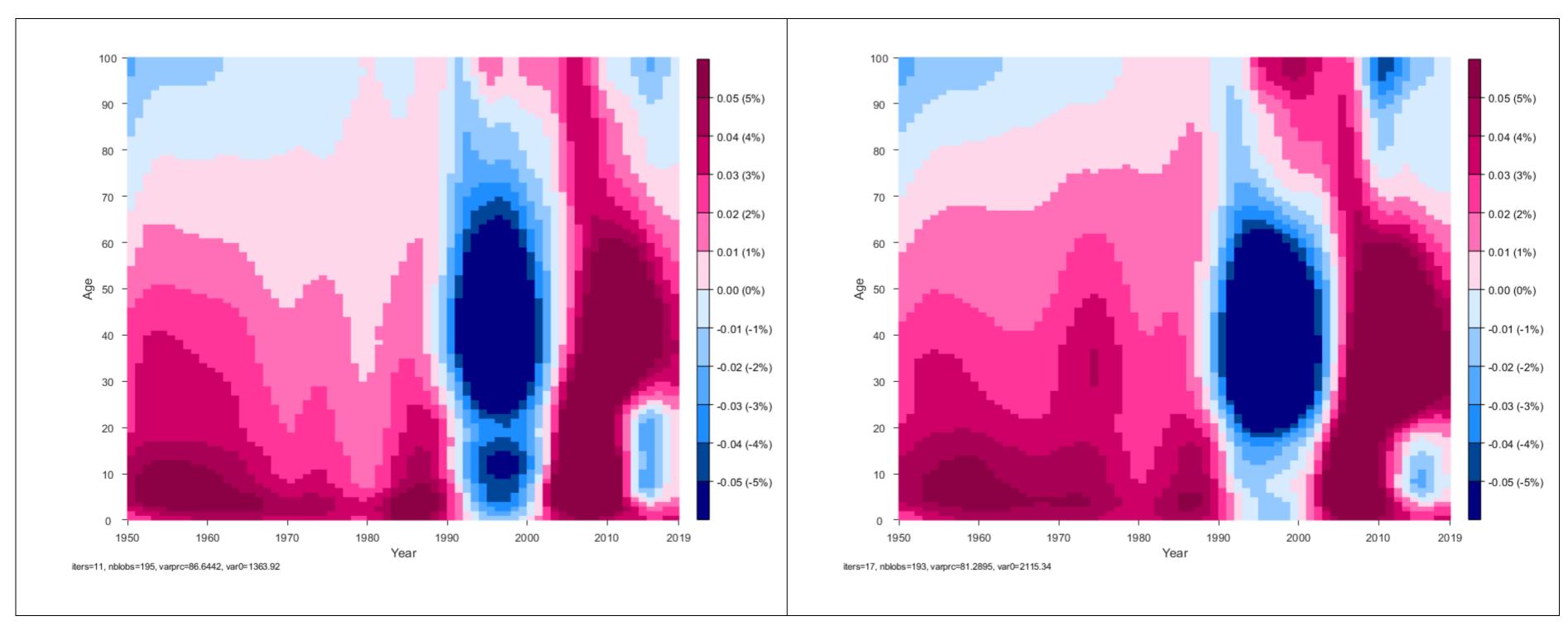
Mozambique

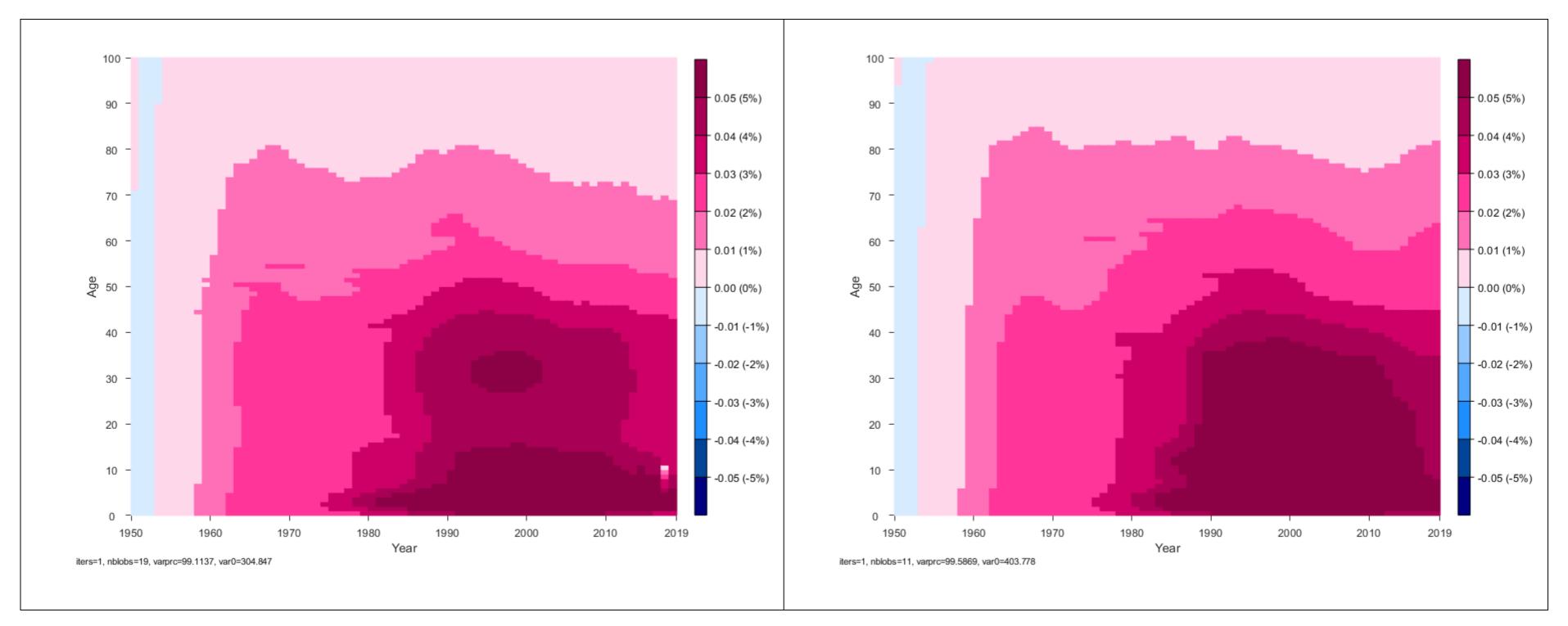


Myanmar

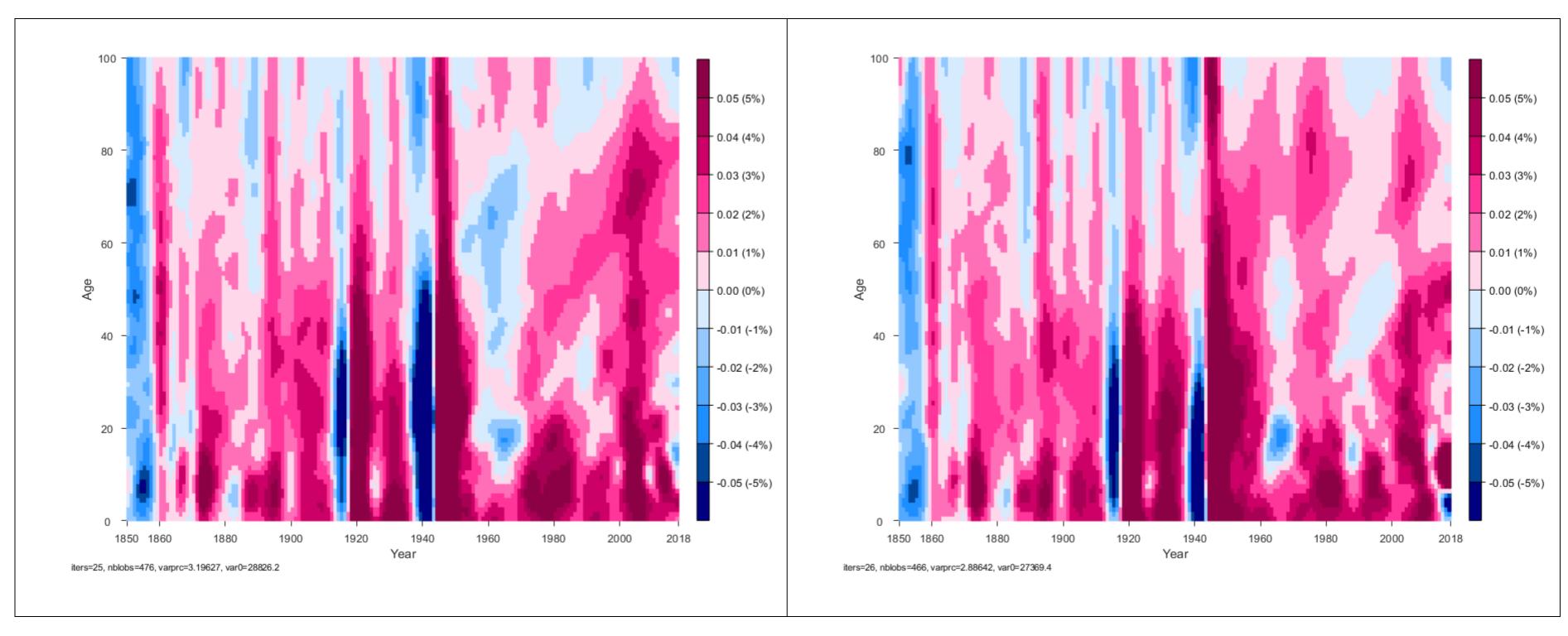


Namibia

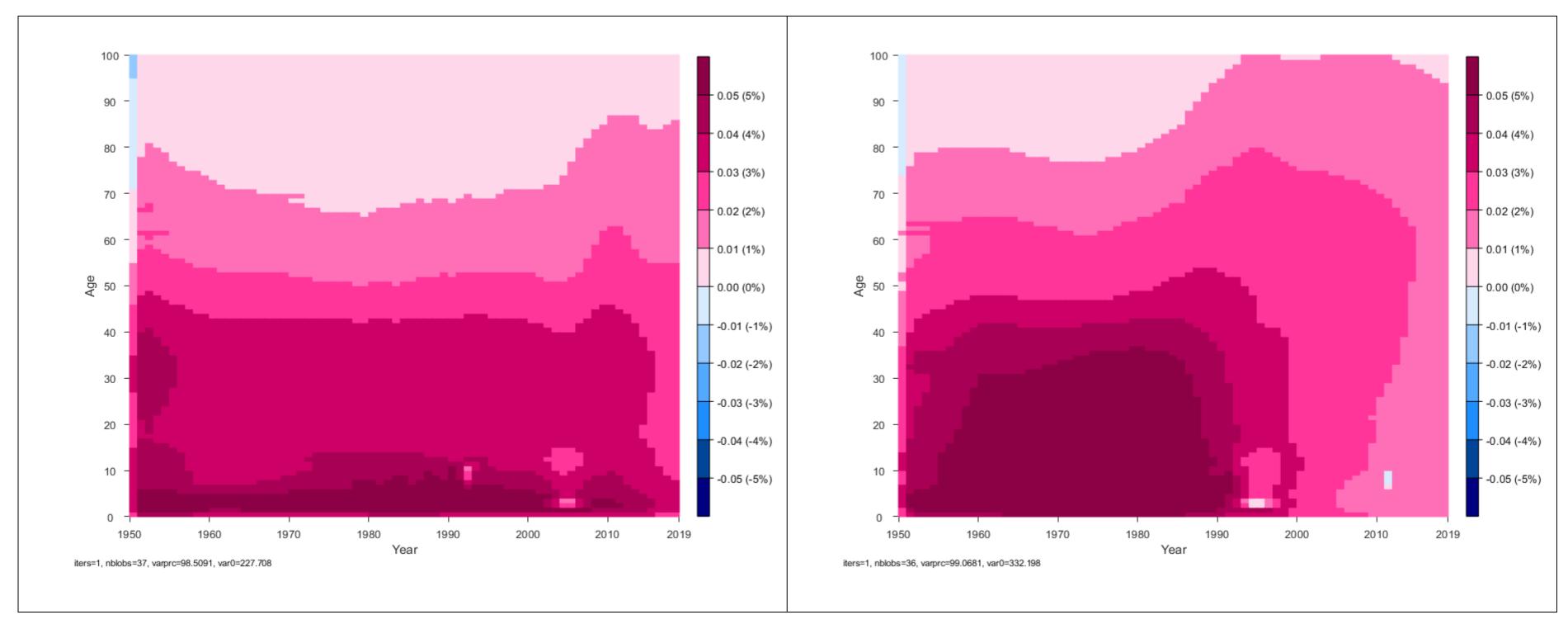




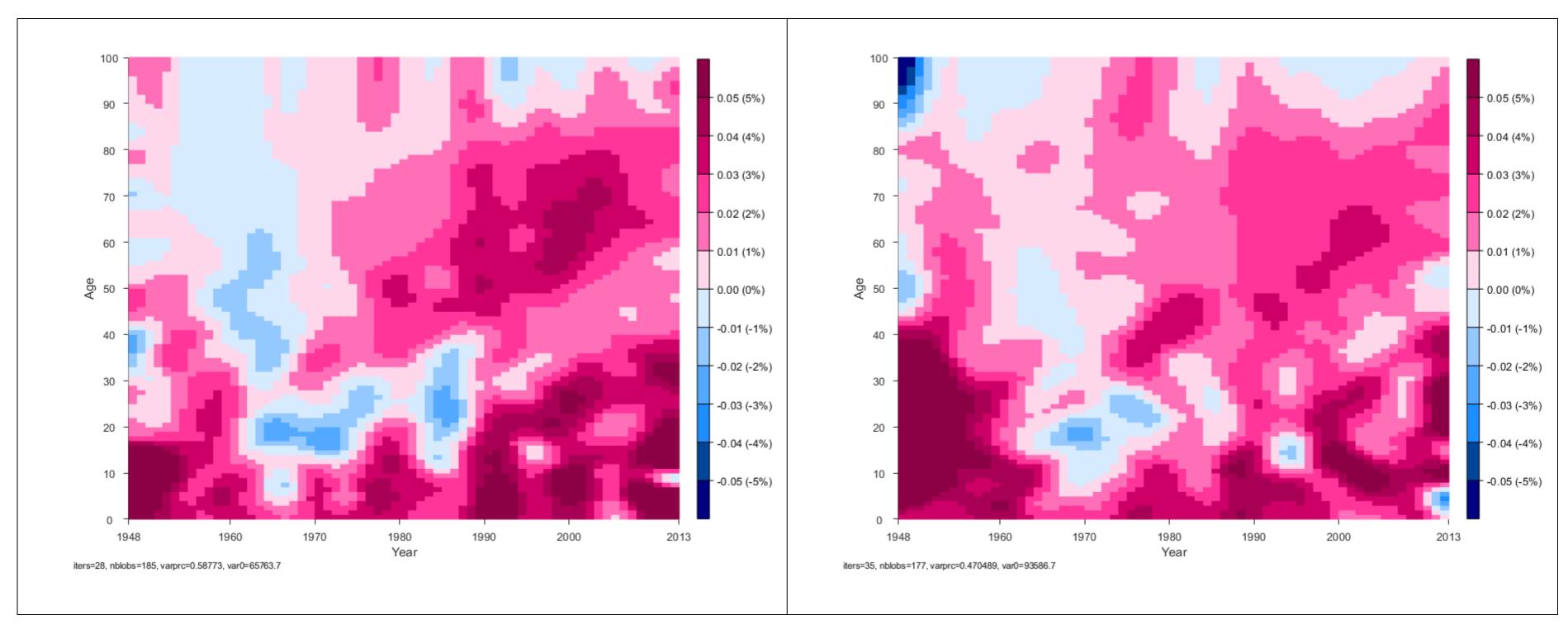
Netherlands



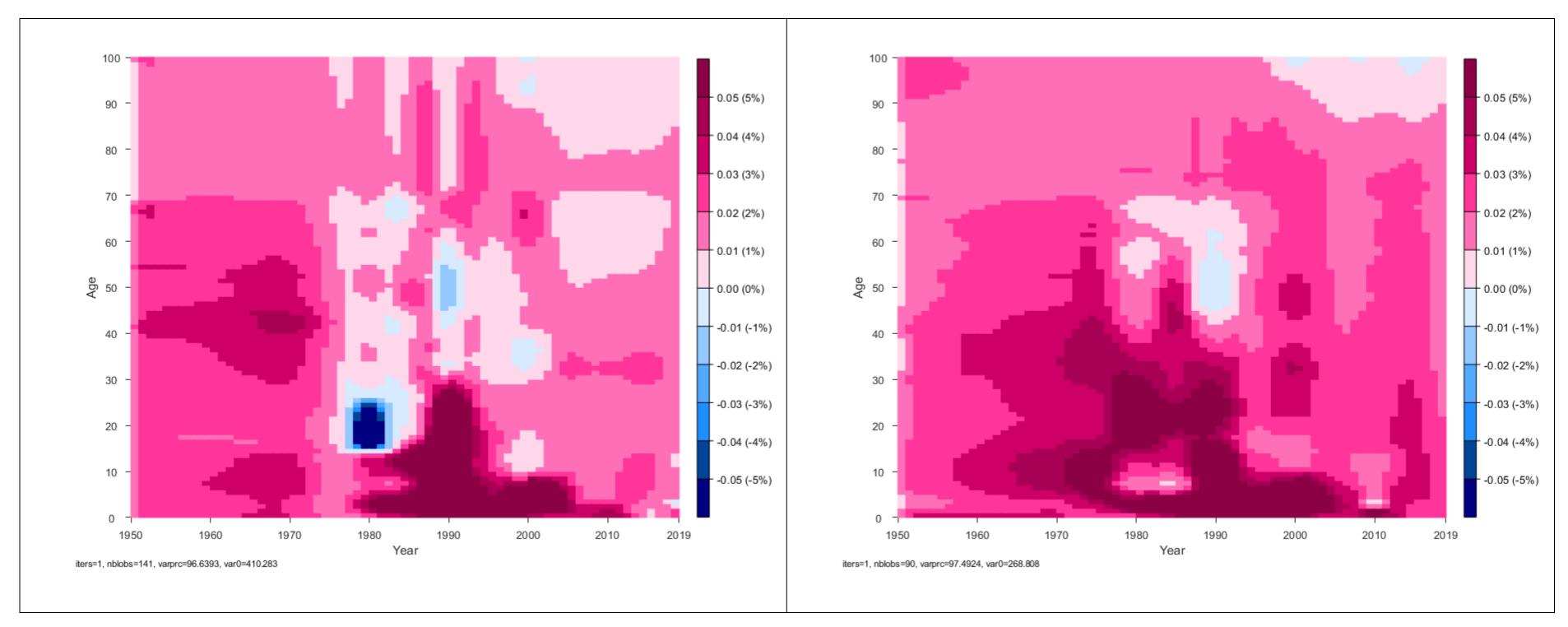
New Caledonia

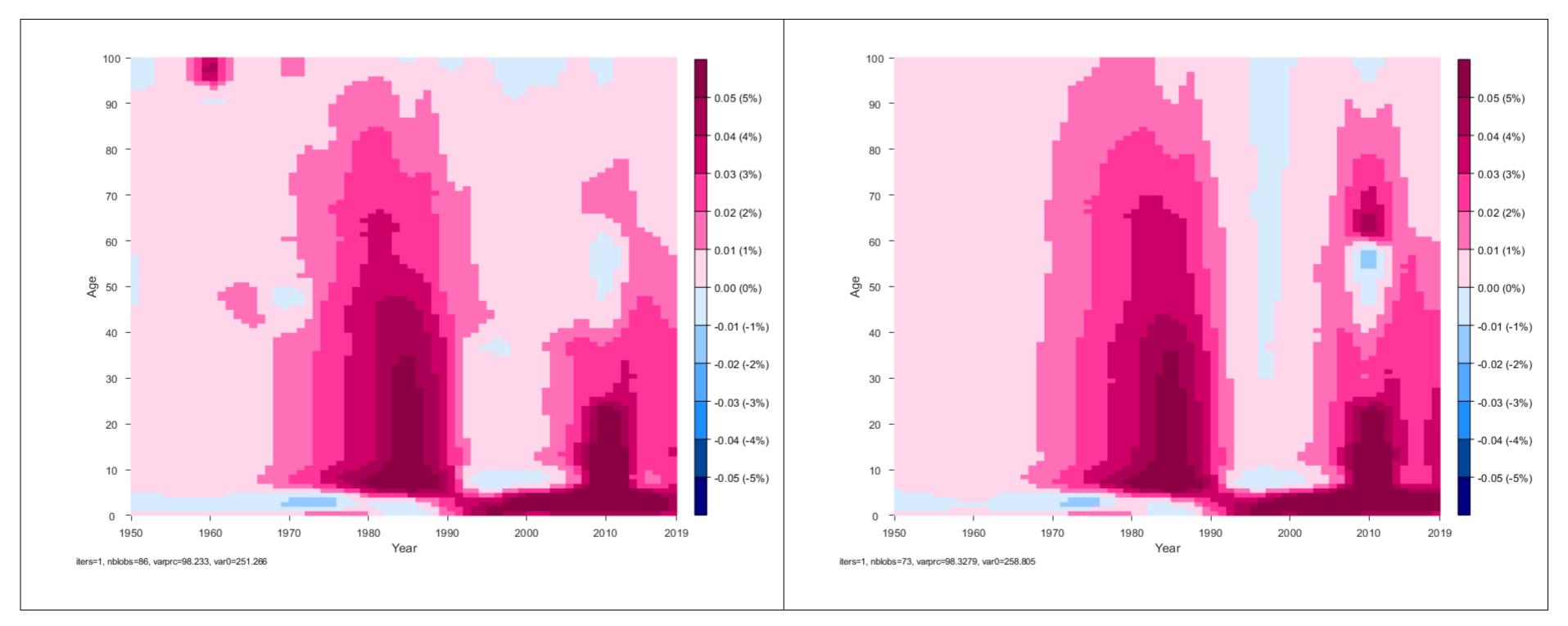


New Zealand

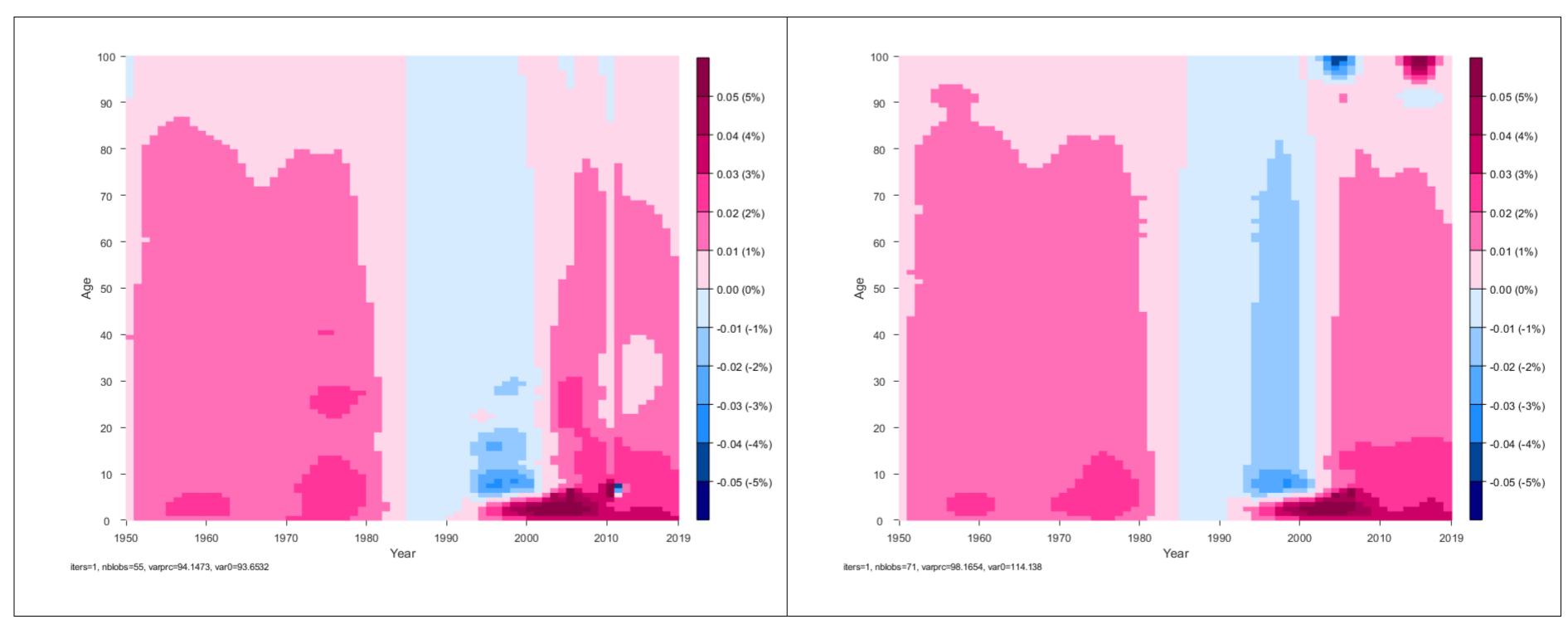


Nicaragua

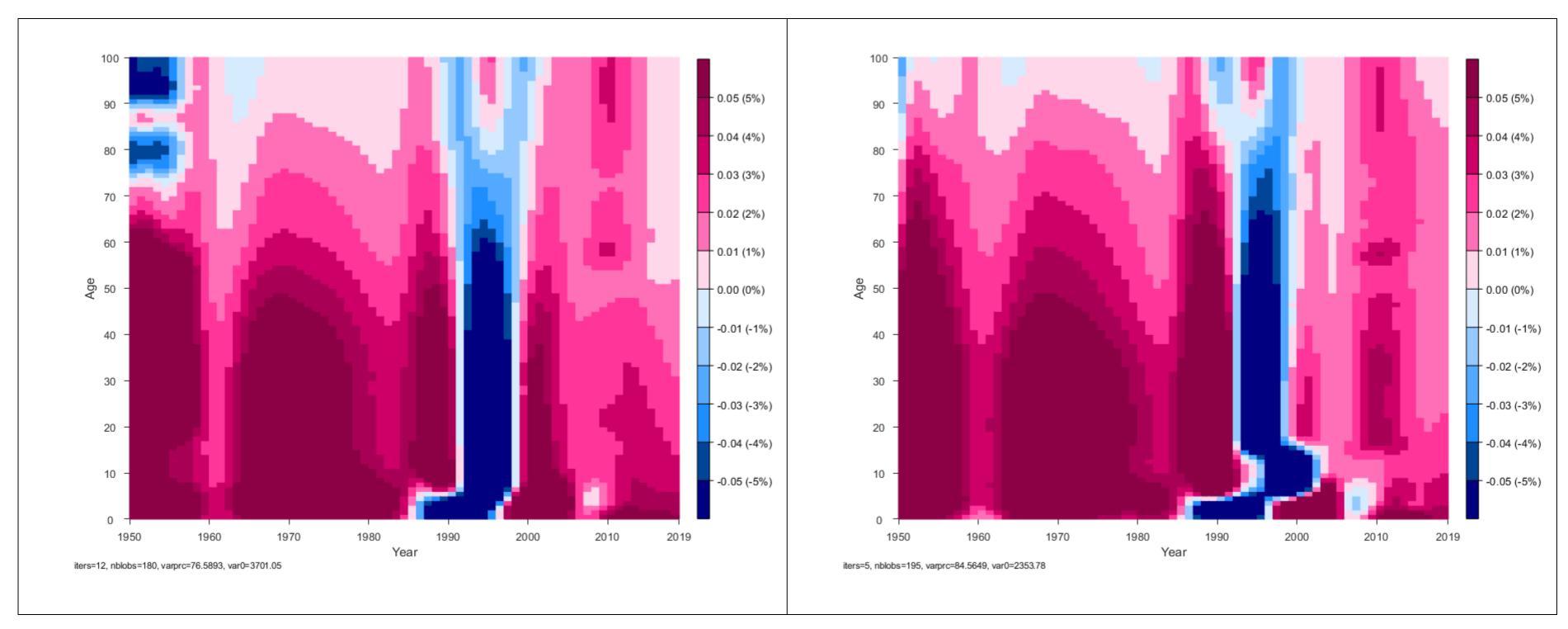




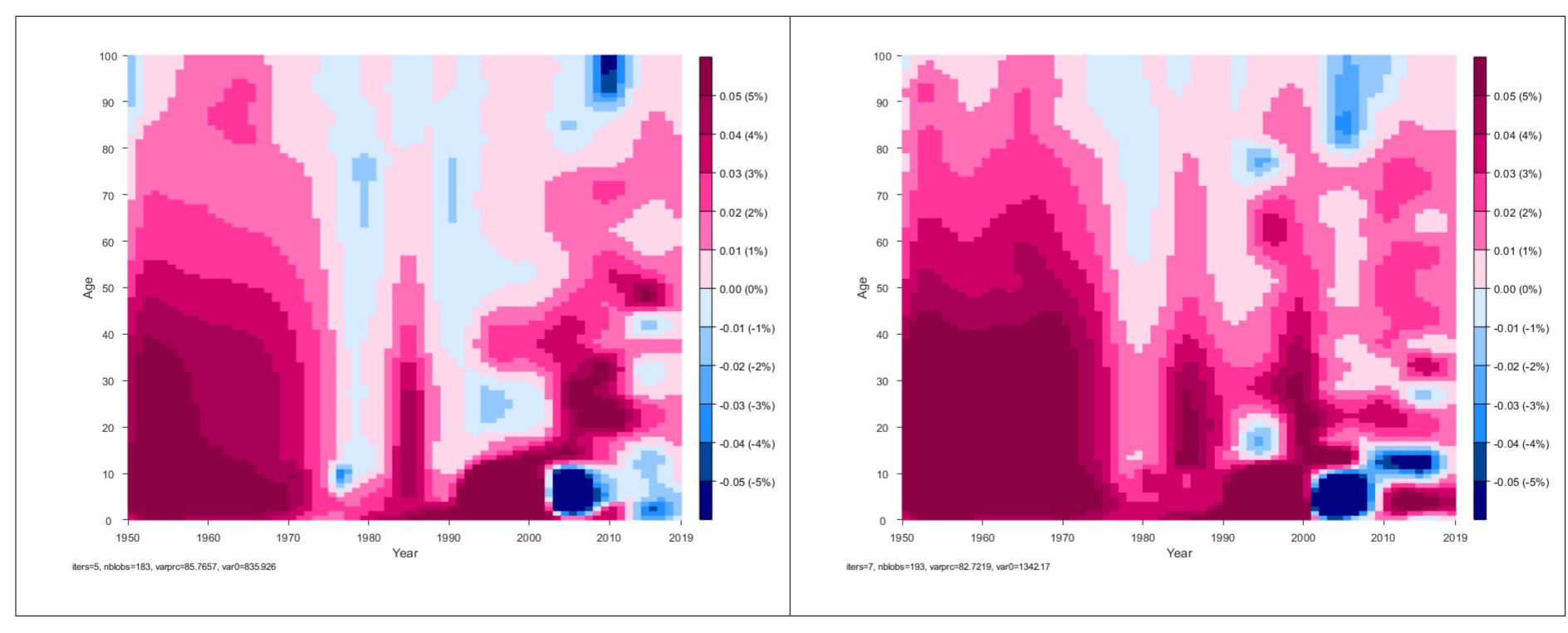
Nigeria



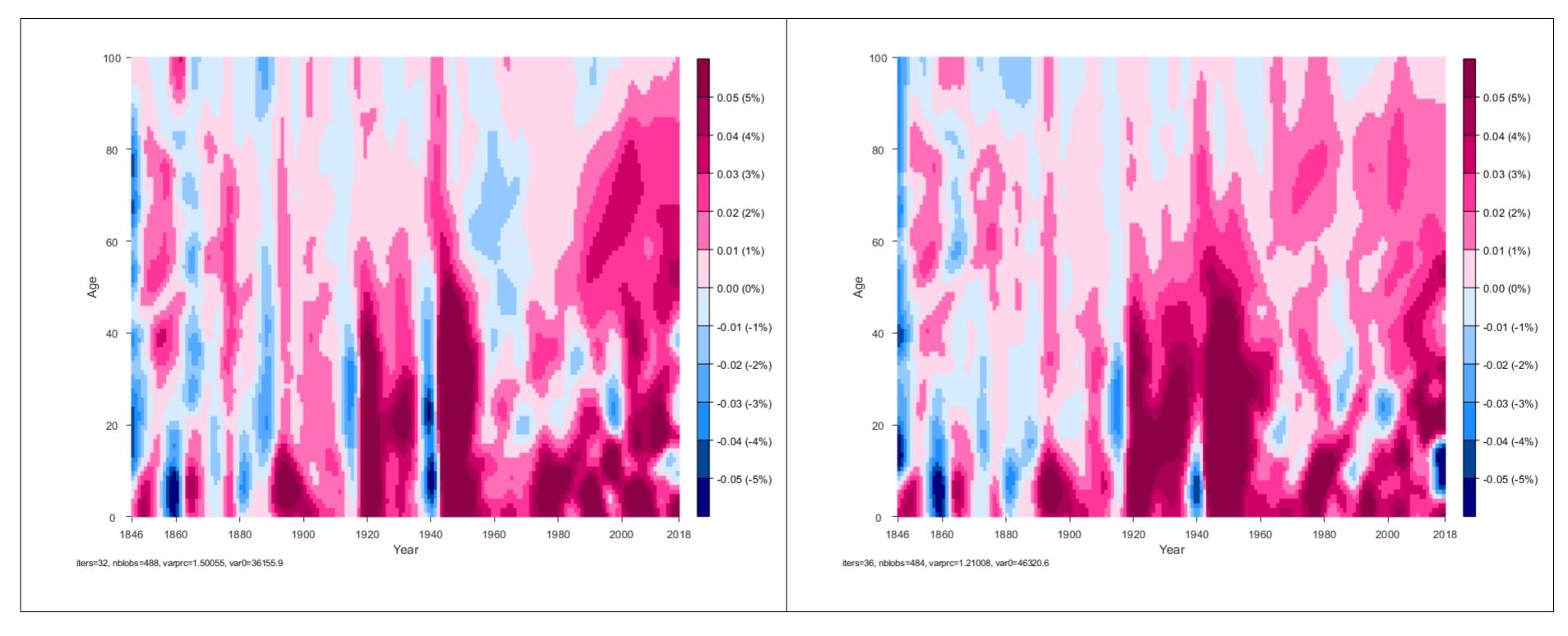
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea



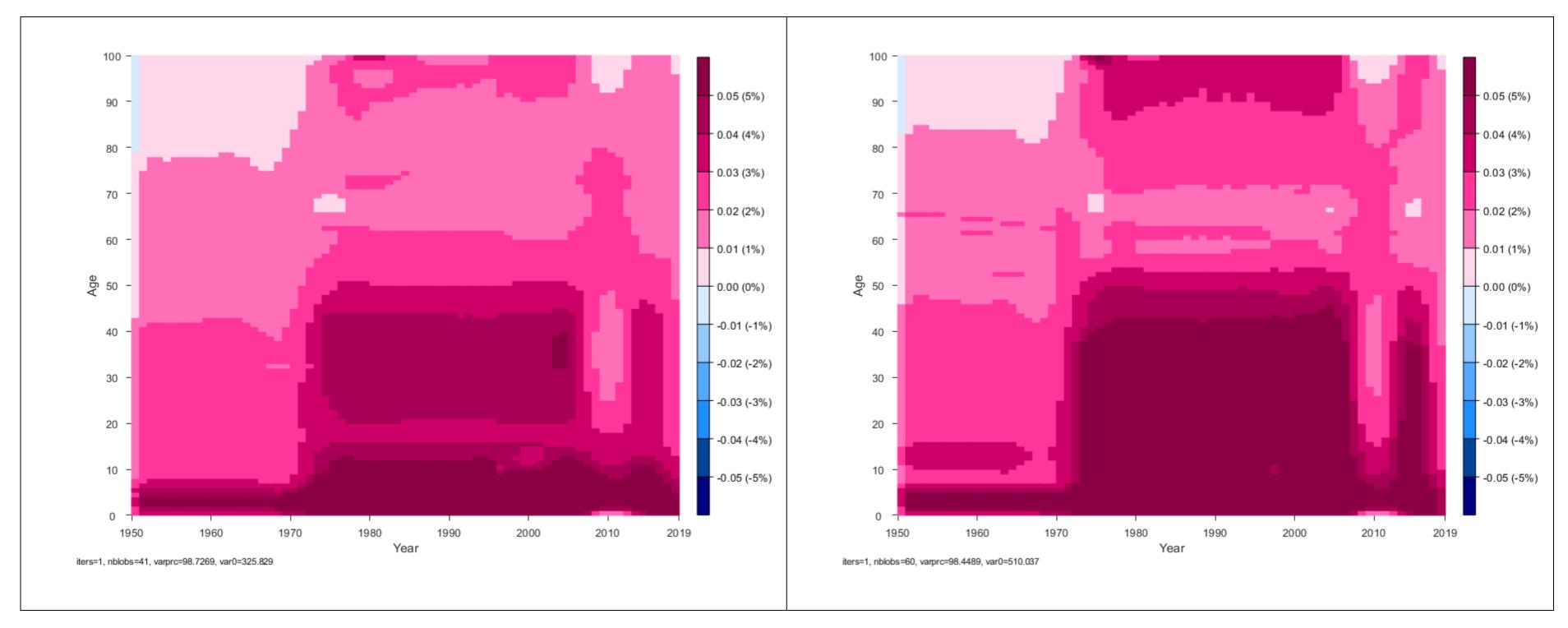
North Macedonia



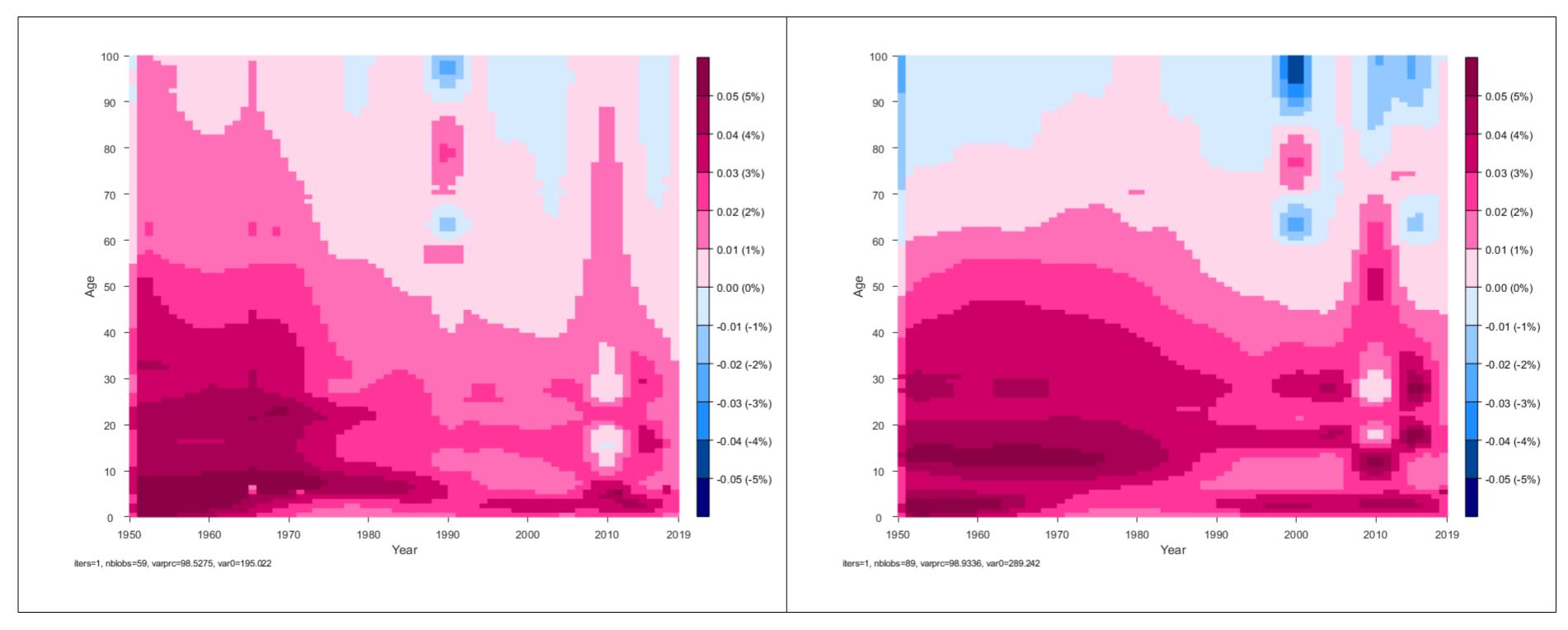
Norway



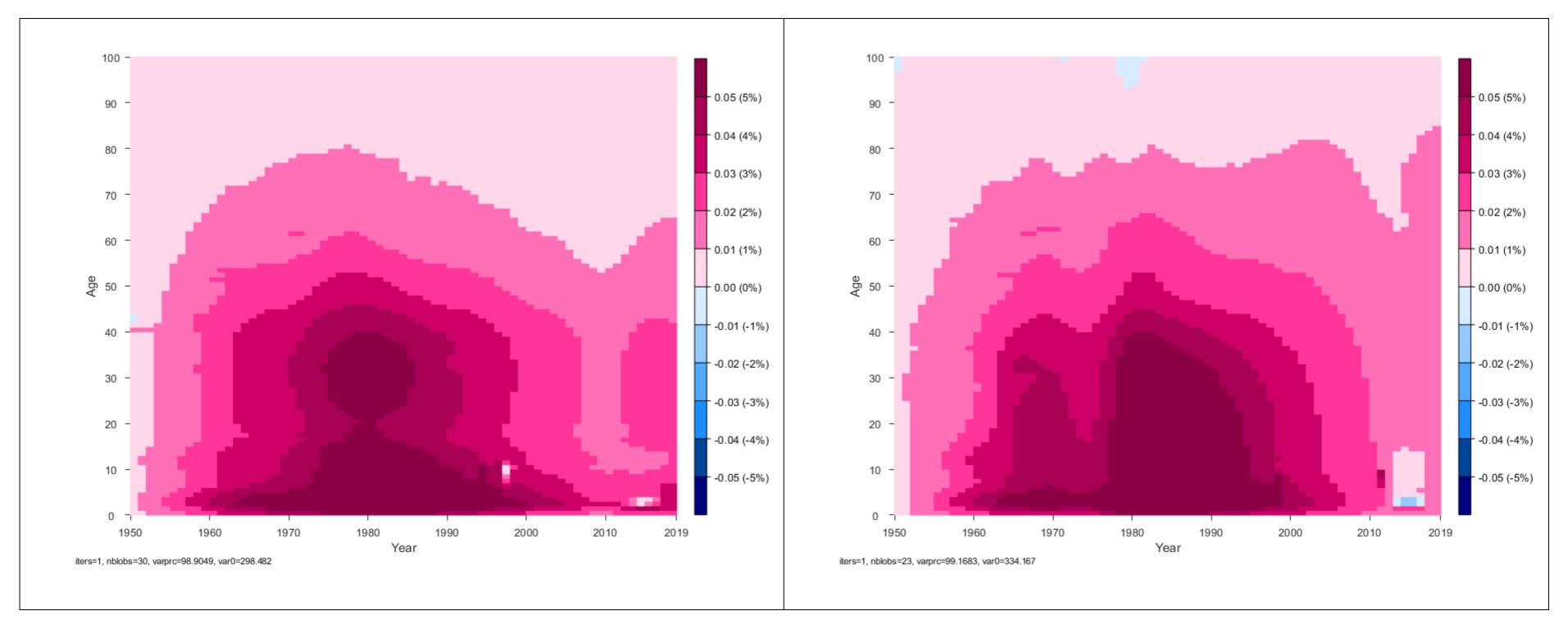
Oman



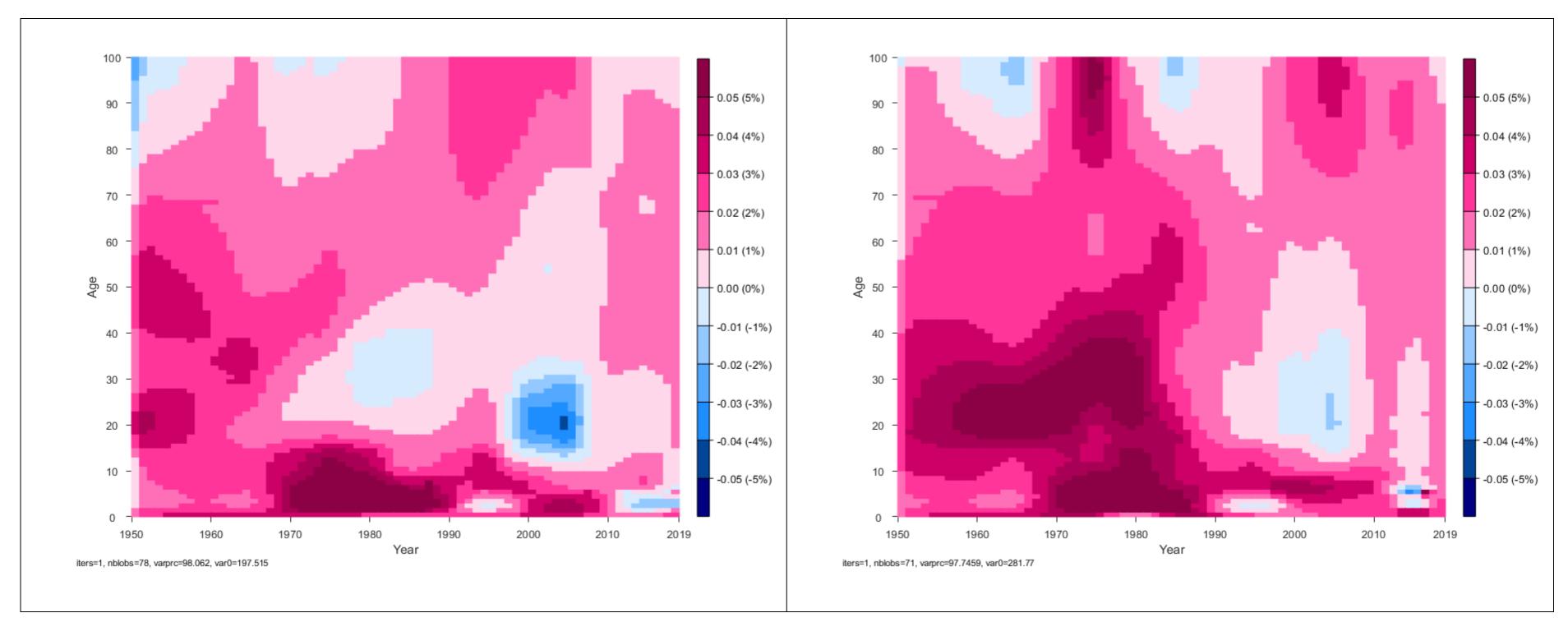
Pakistan



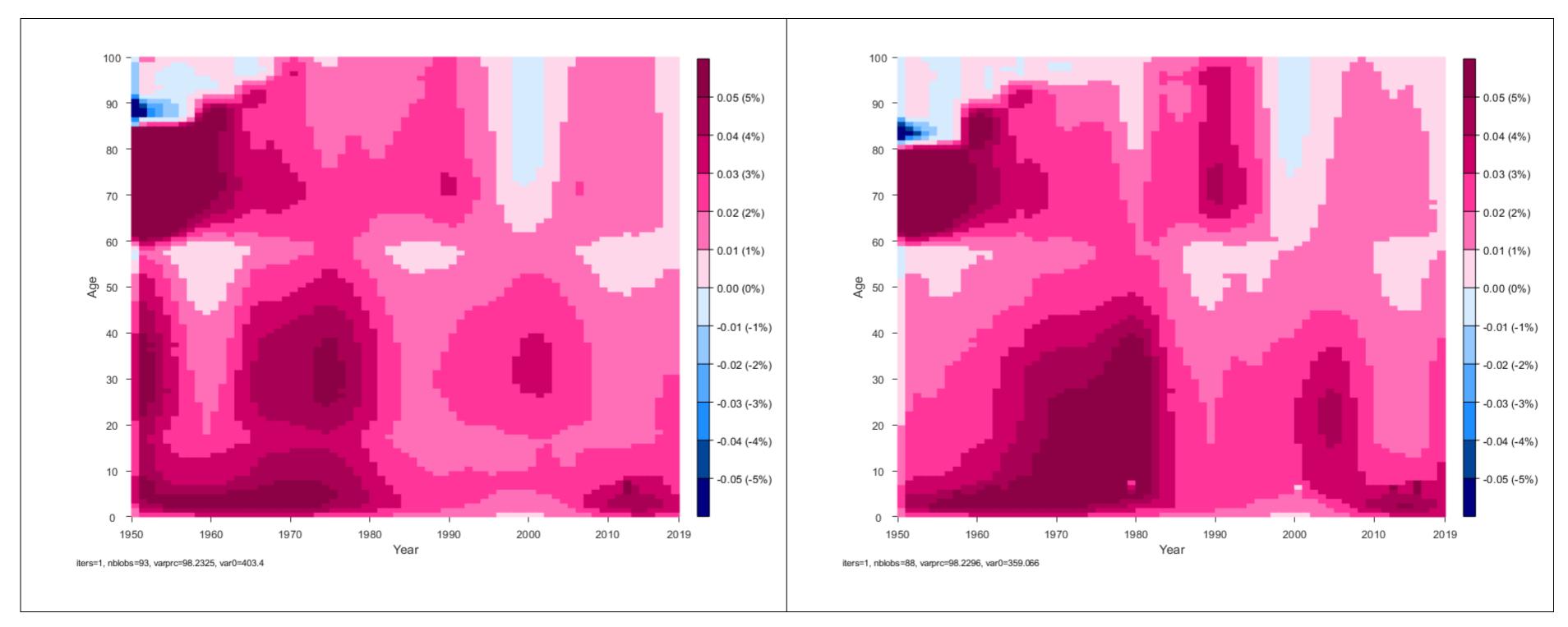
State of Palestine



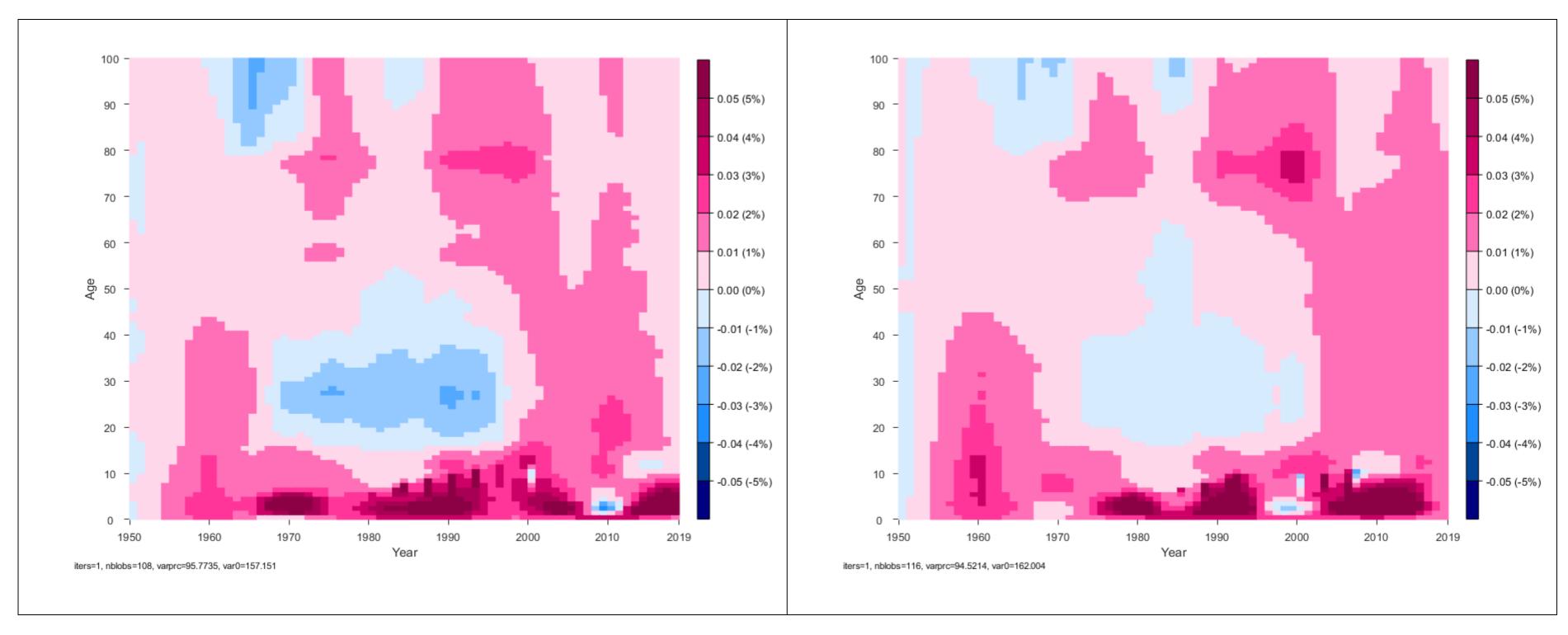
Panama



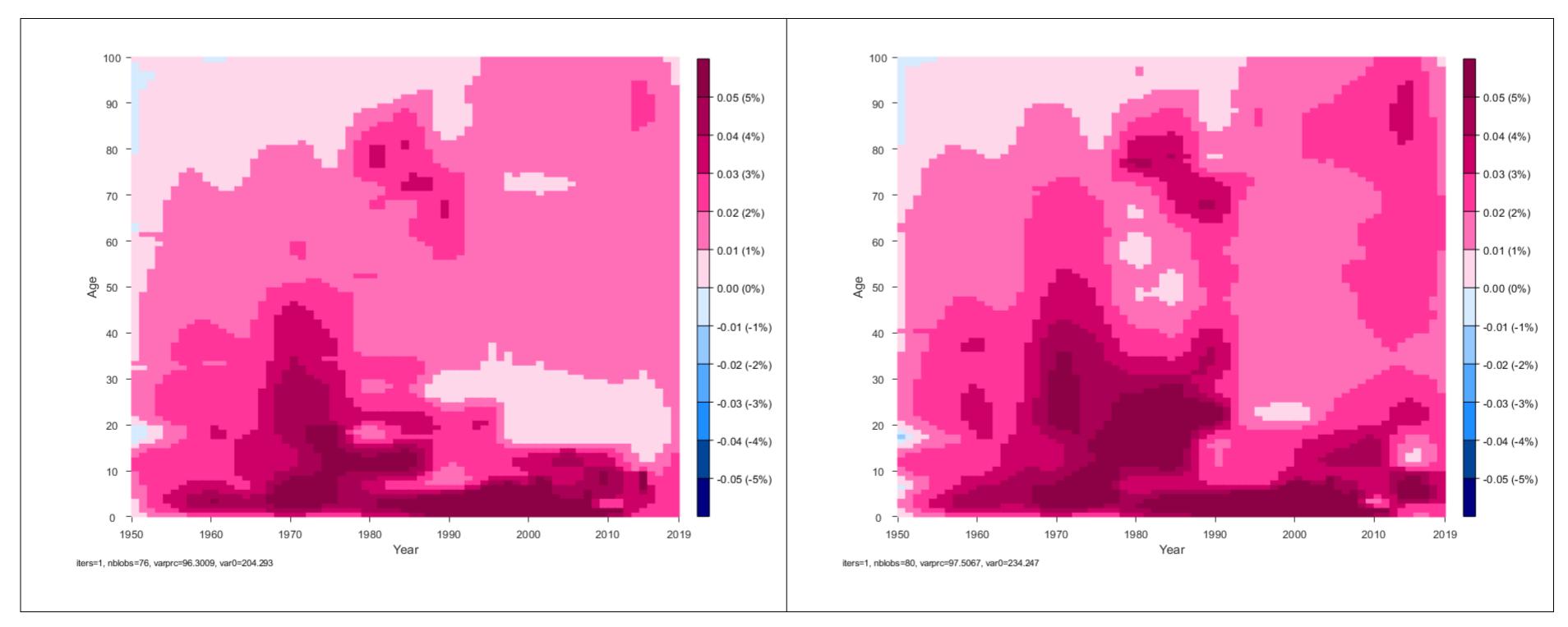
Papua New Guinea



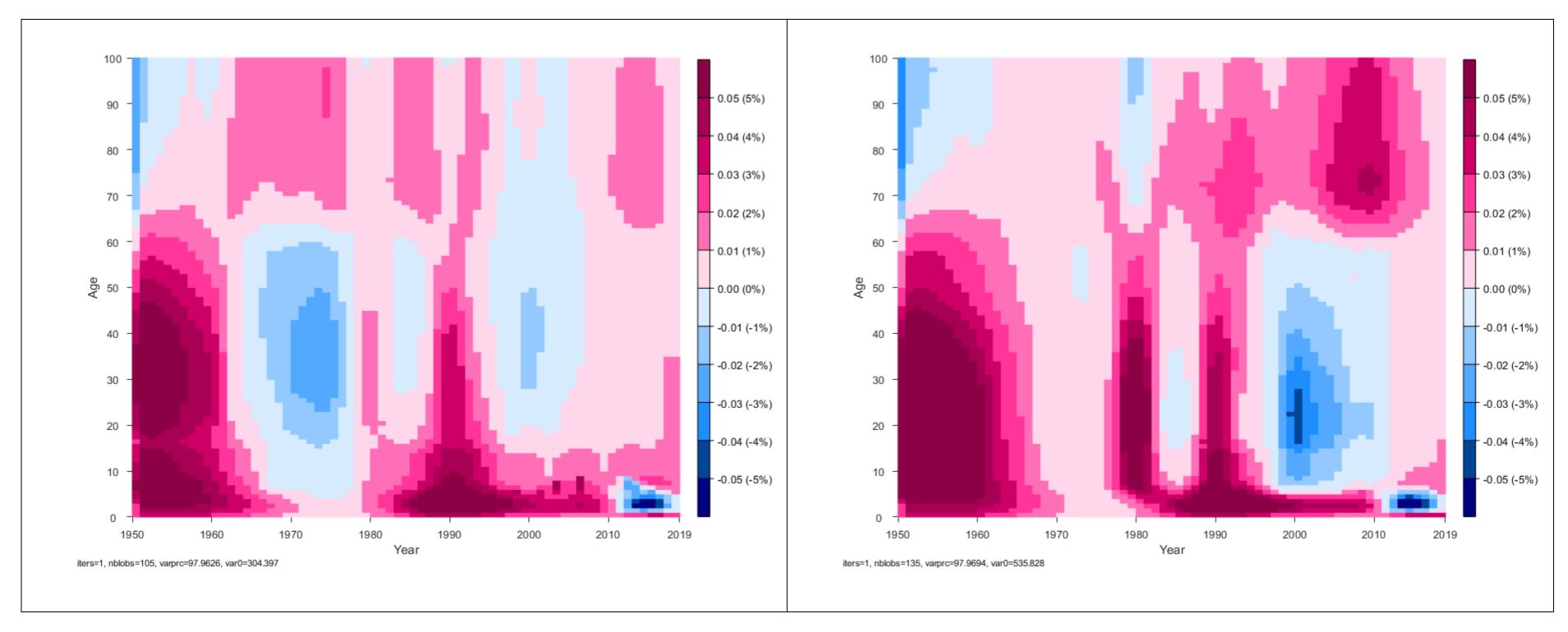
Paraguay



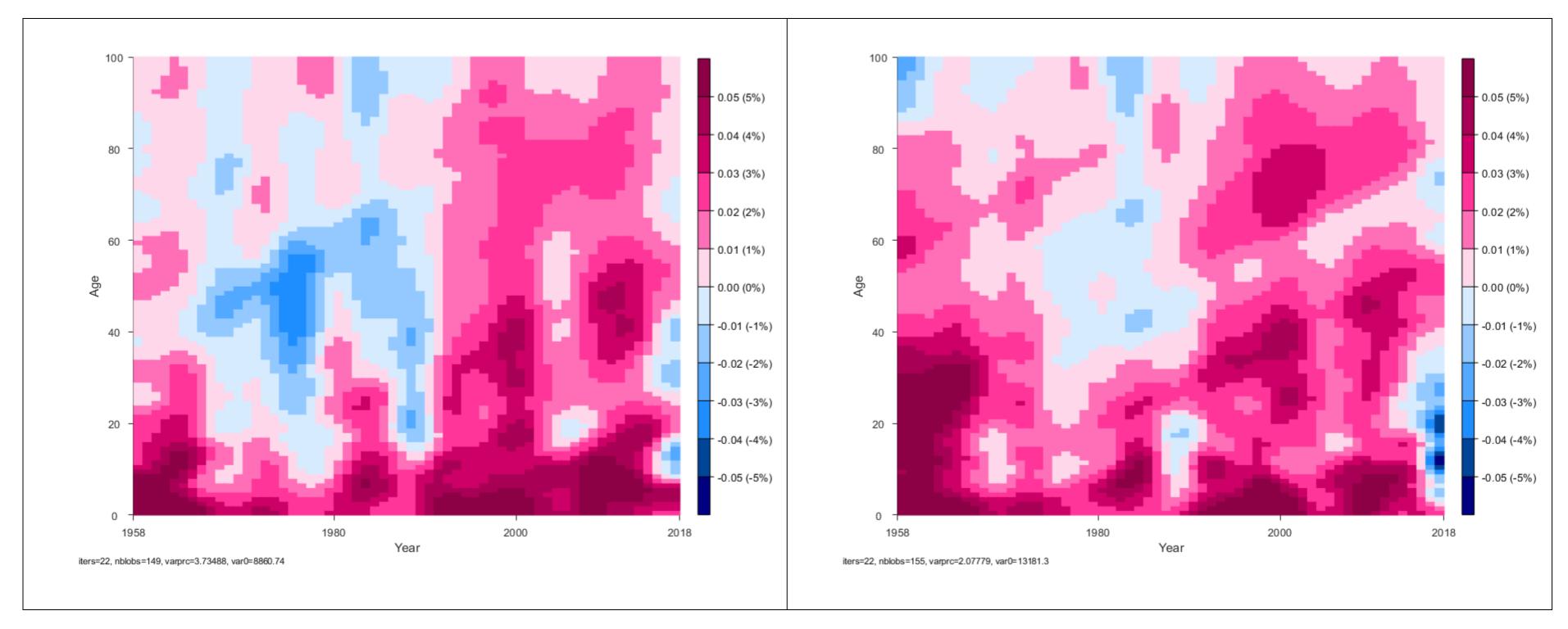
Peru



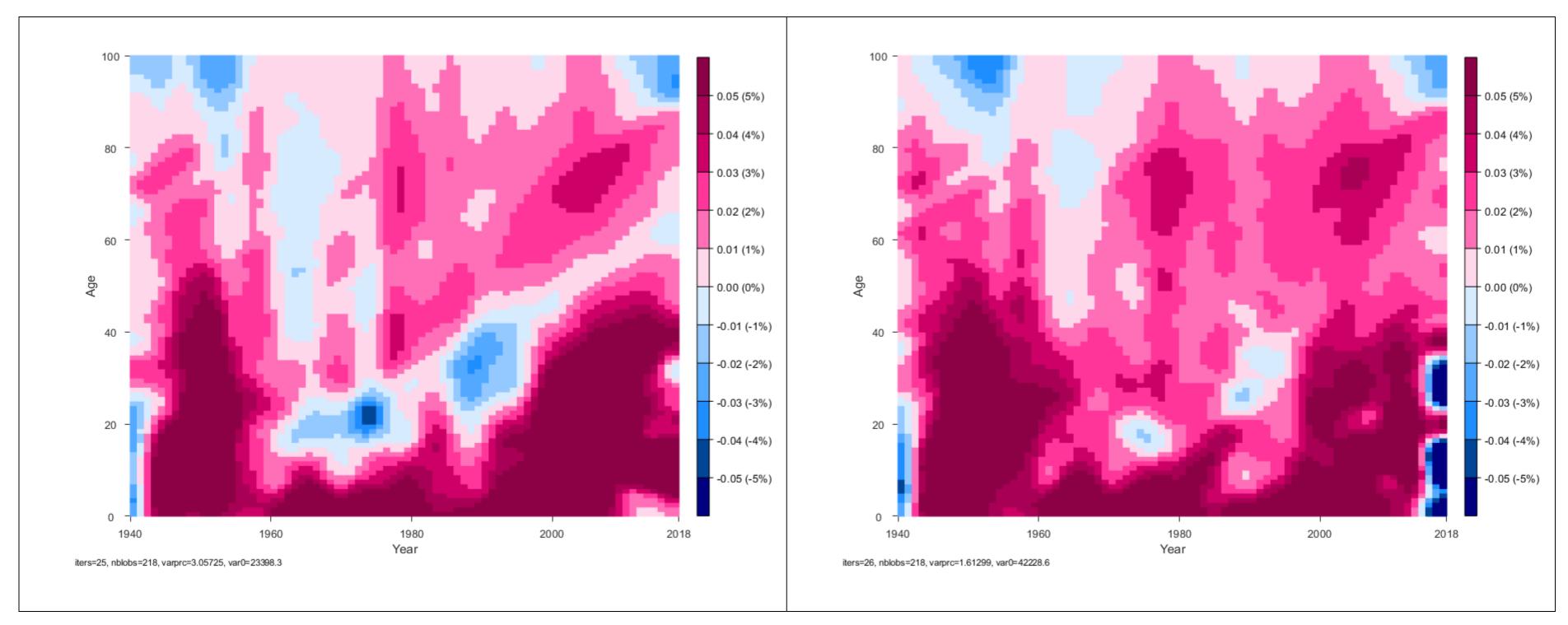
Philippines



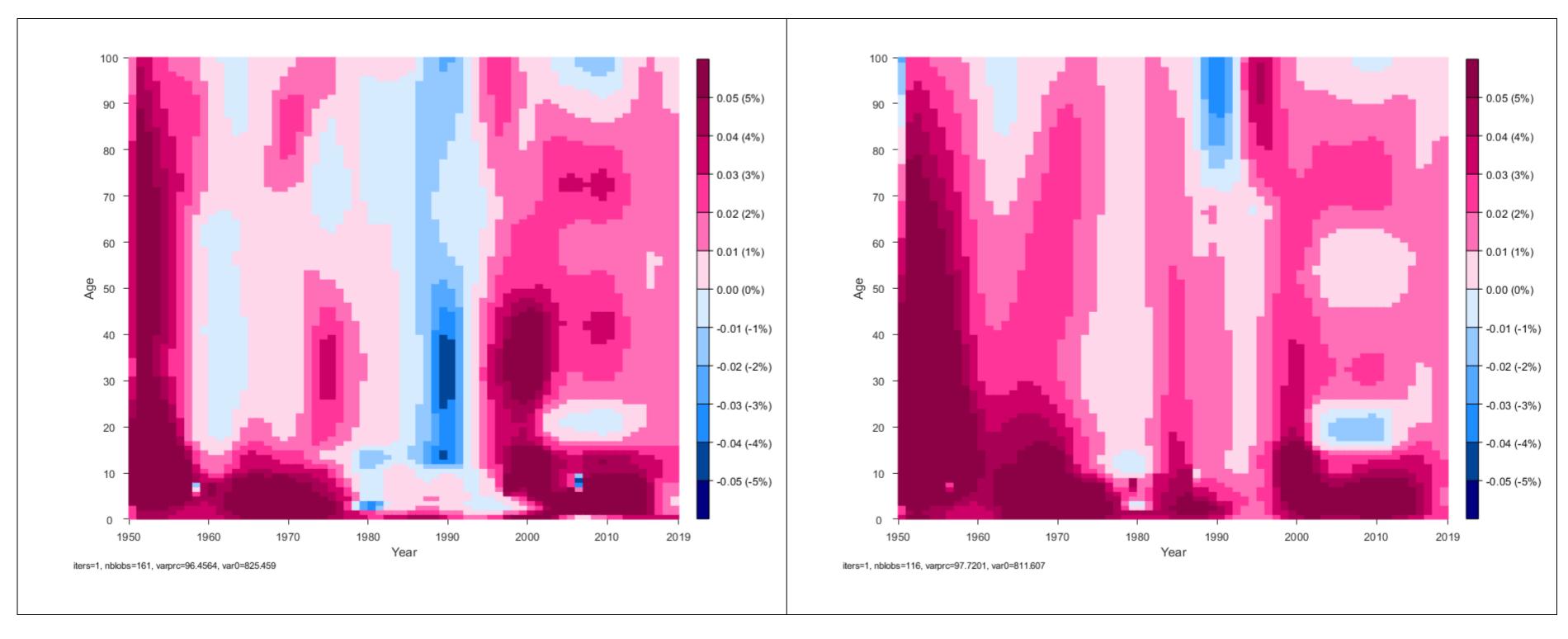
Poland



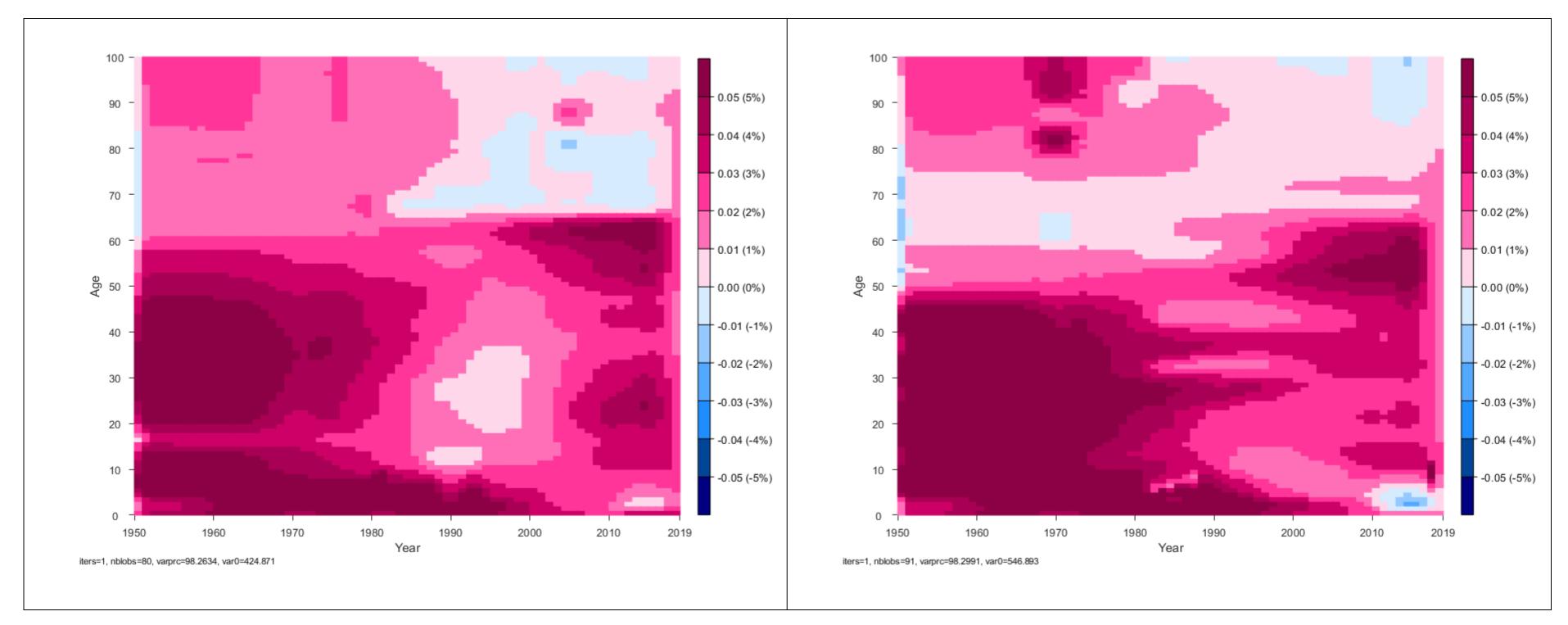
Portugal



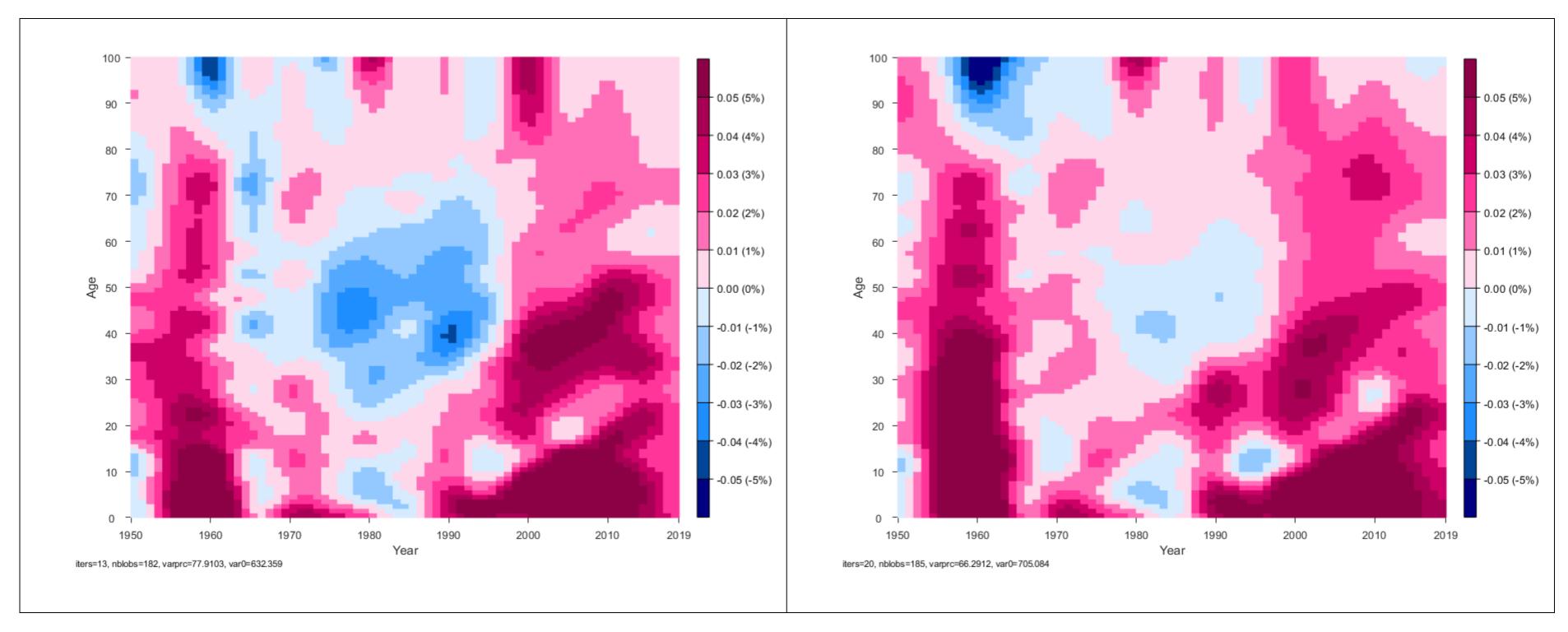
Puerto Rico



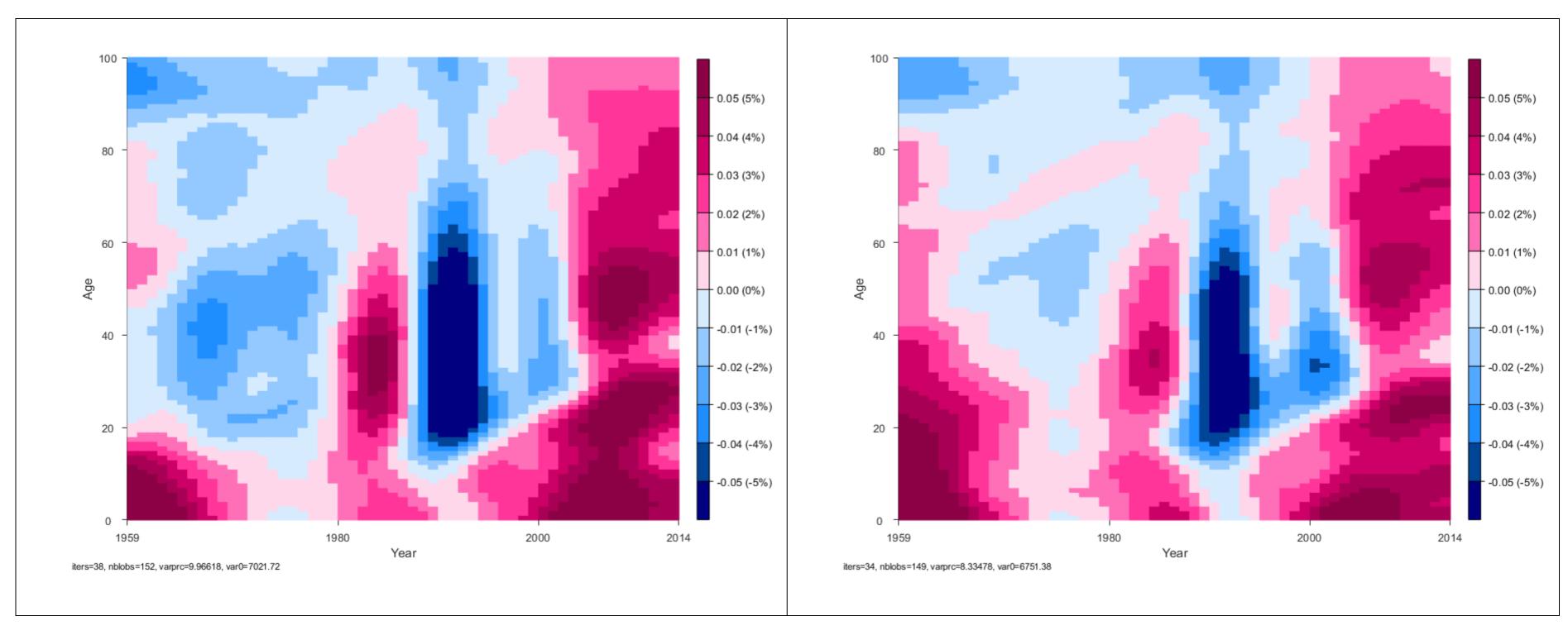
Qatar



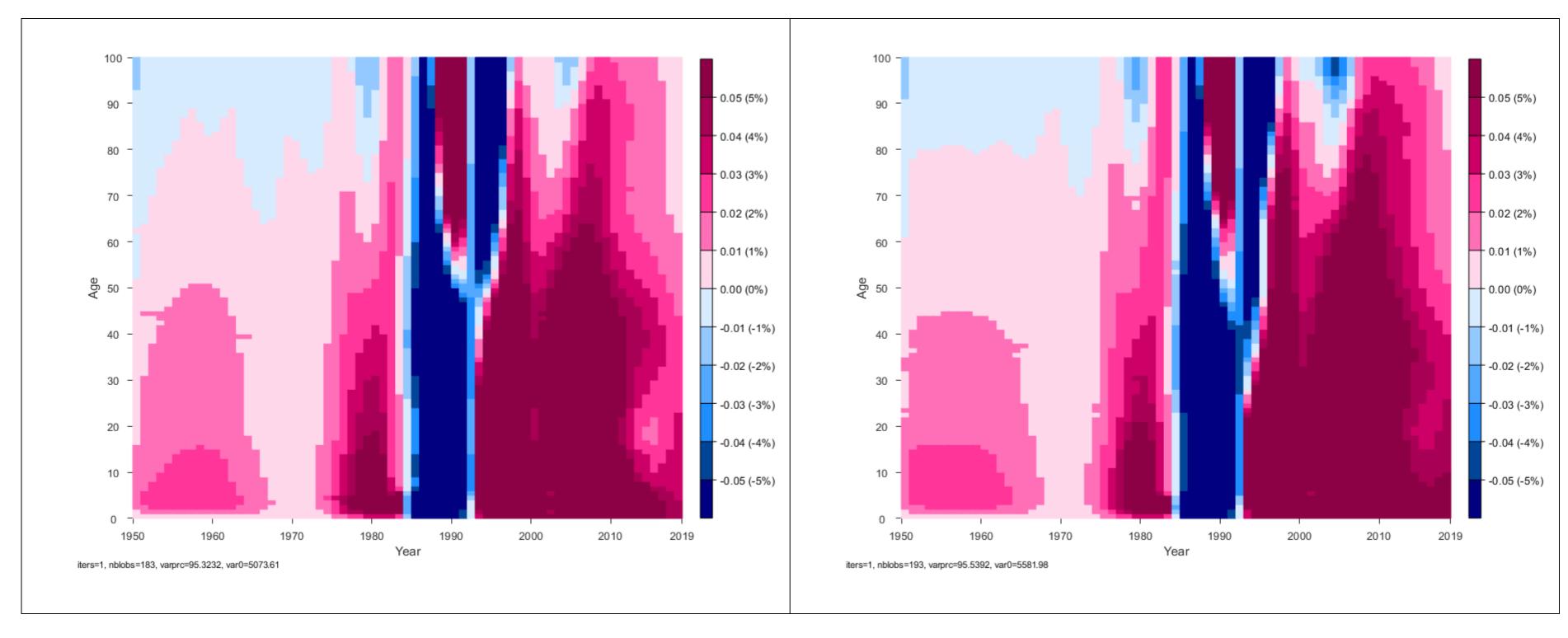
Romania



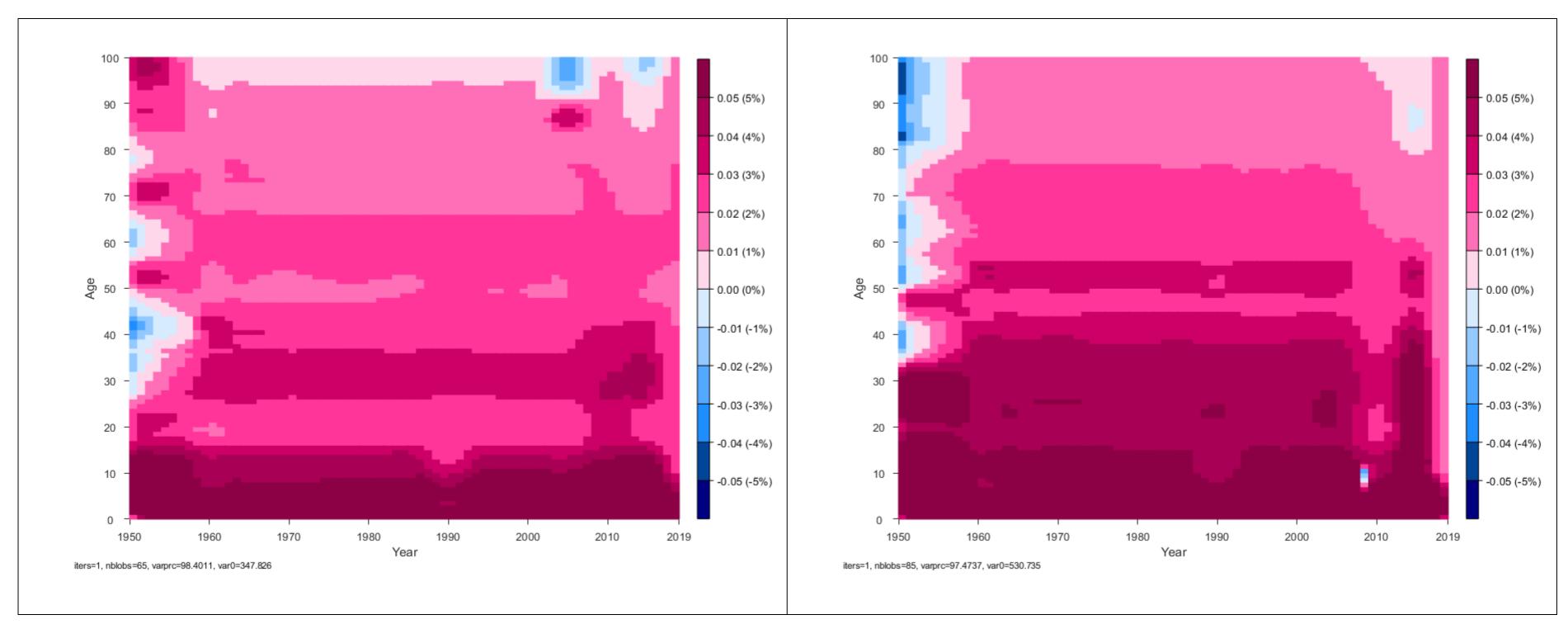
Russian Federation



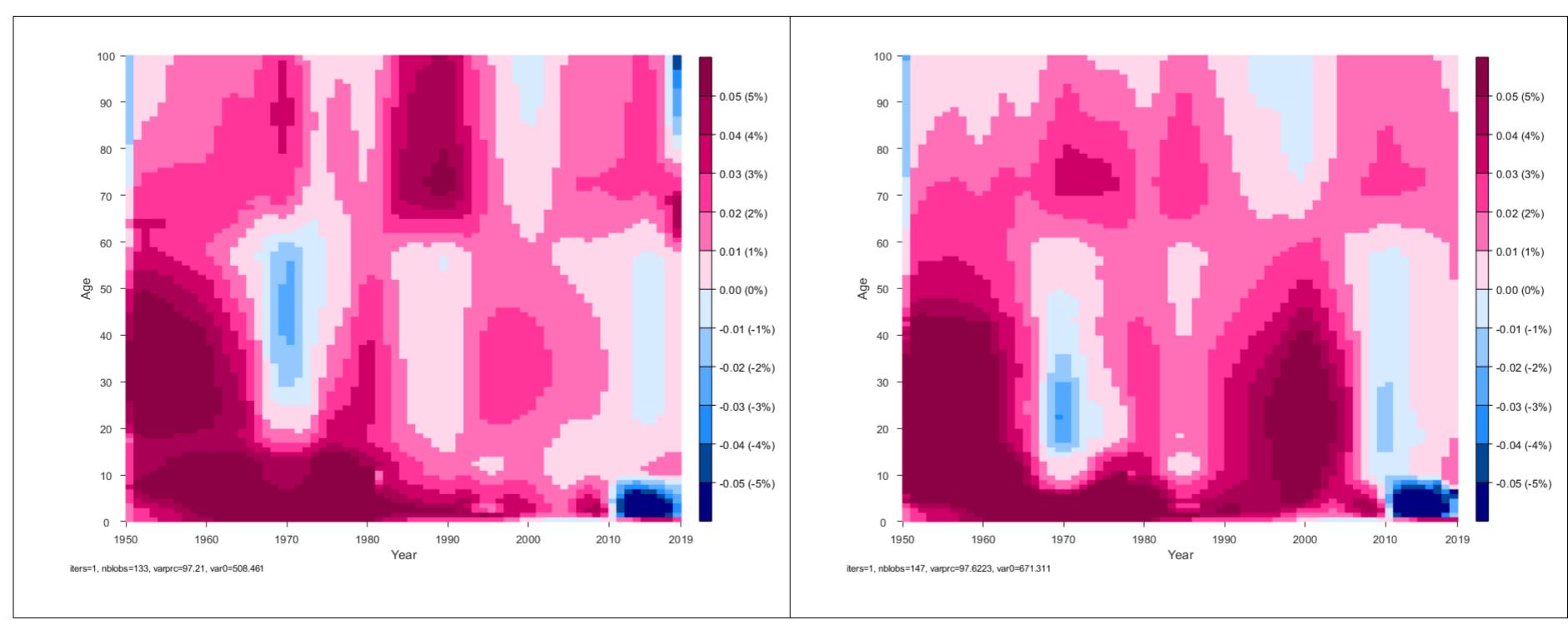
Rwanda



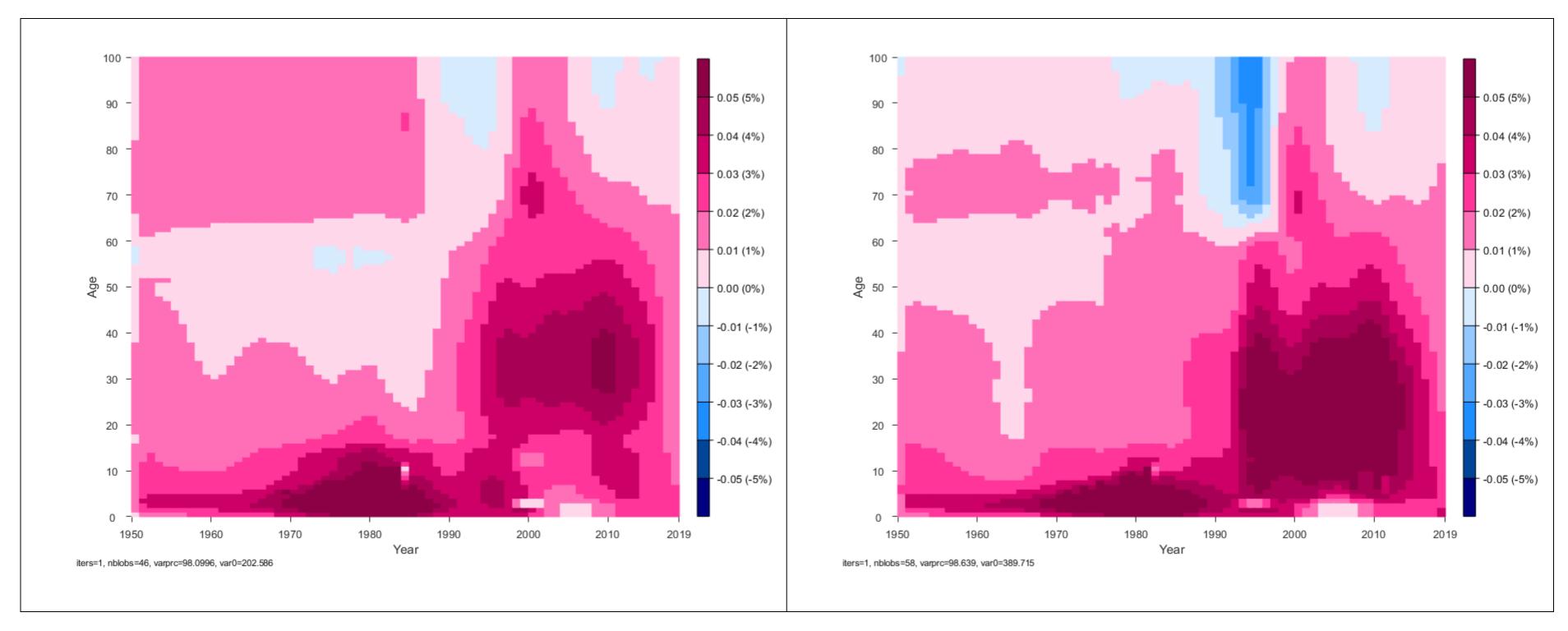
Réunion



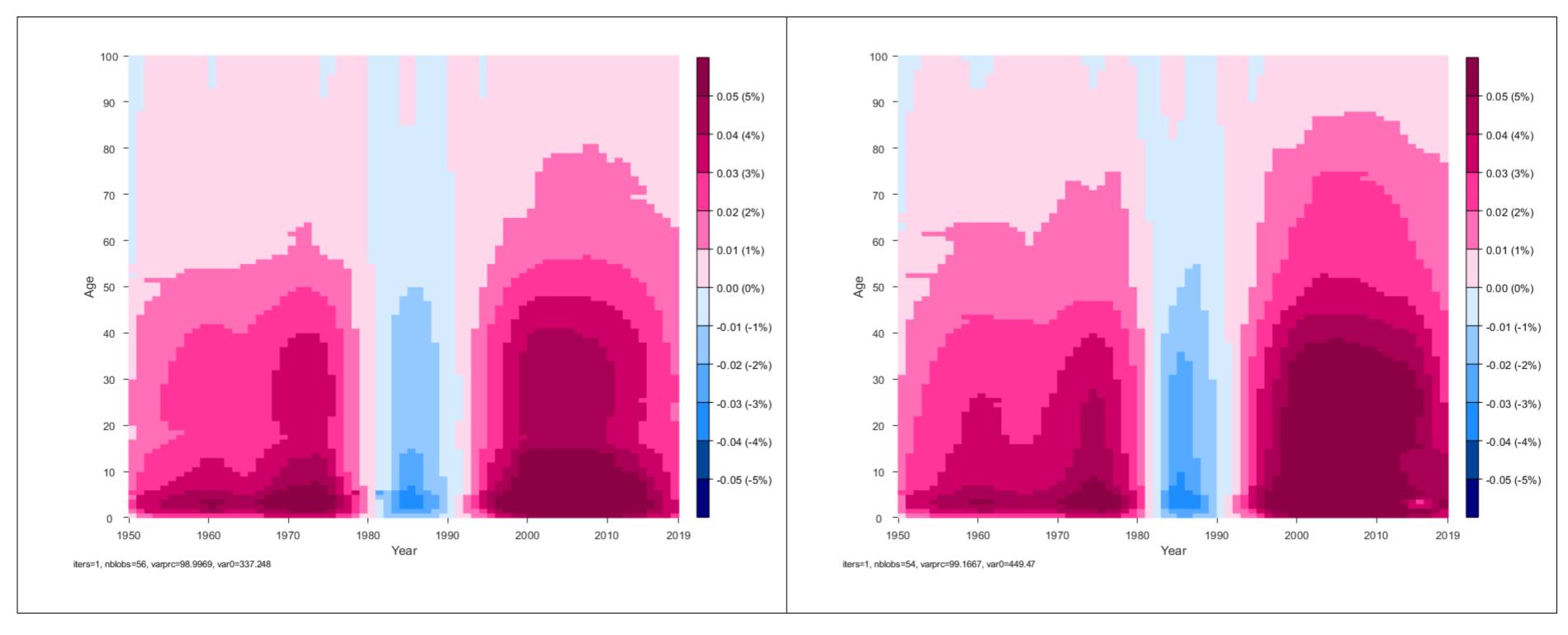
Saint Lucia



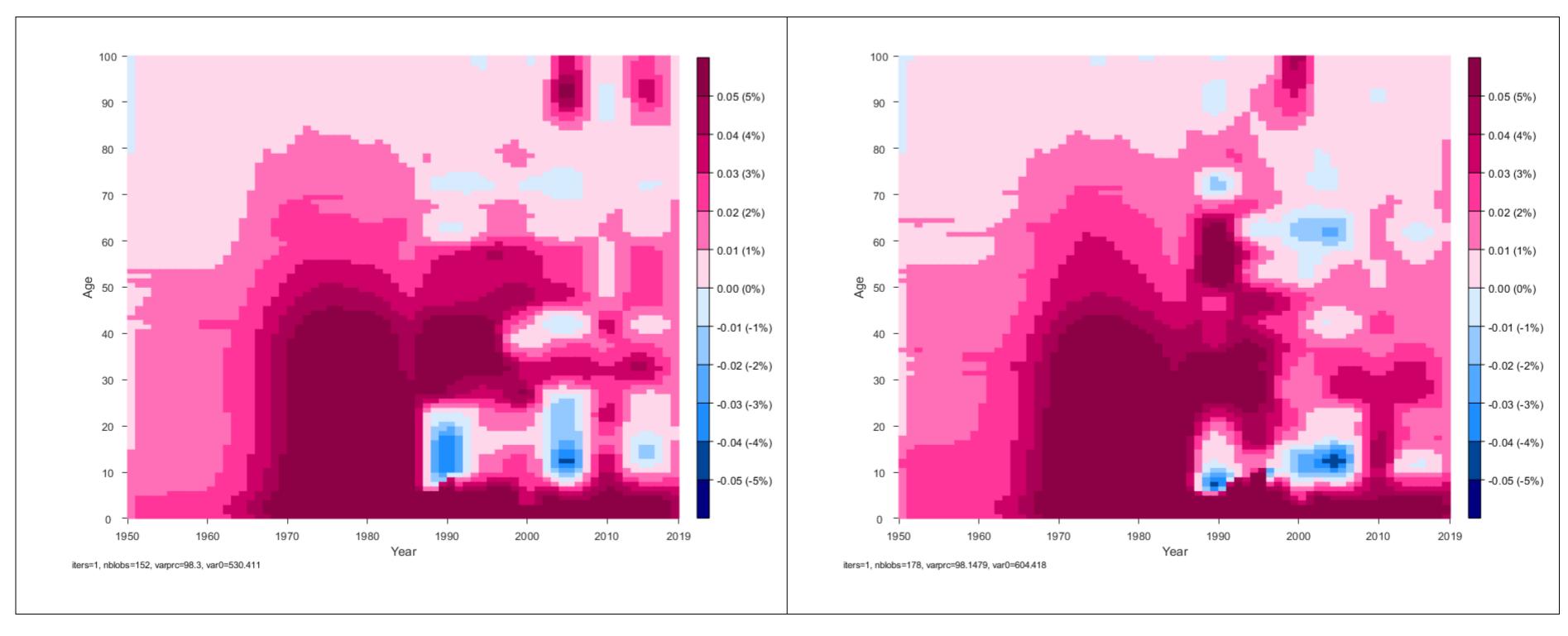
Samoa



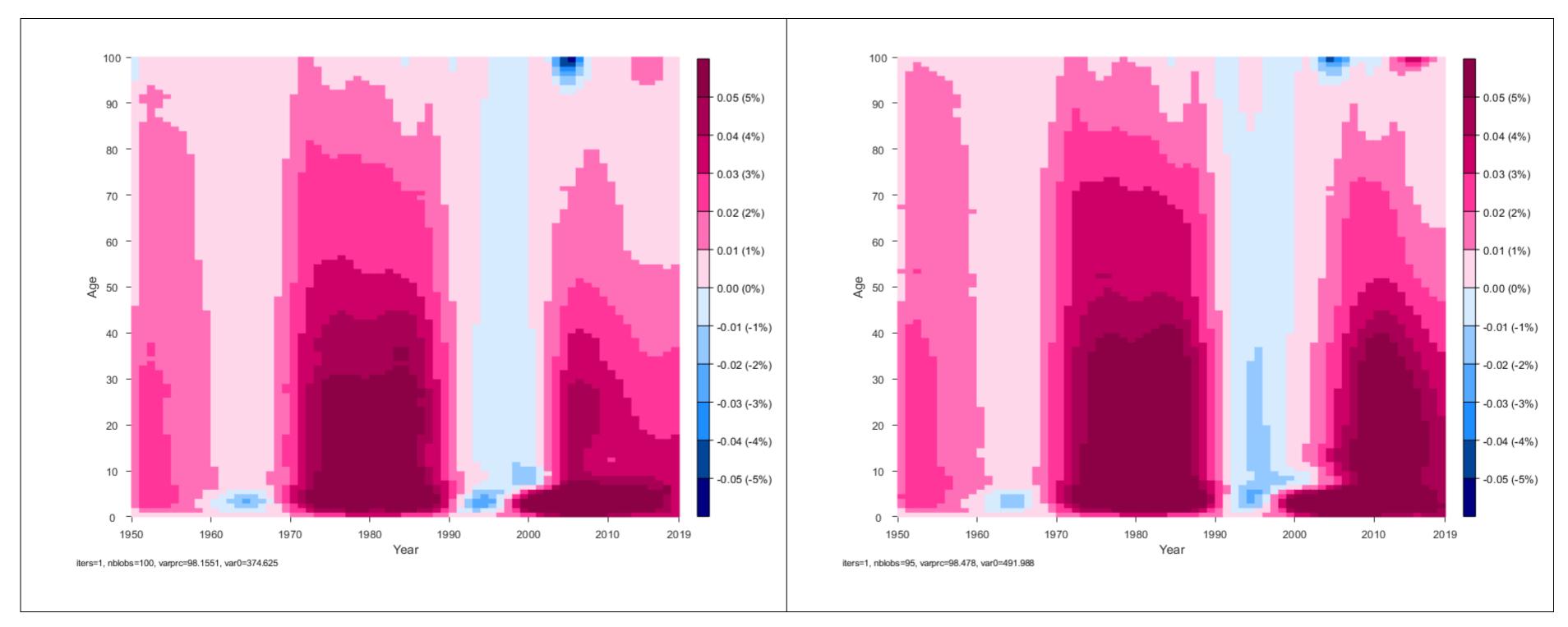
Sao Tome and Principe



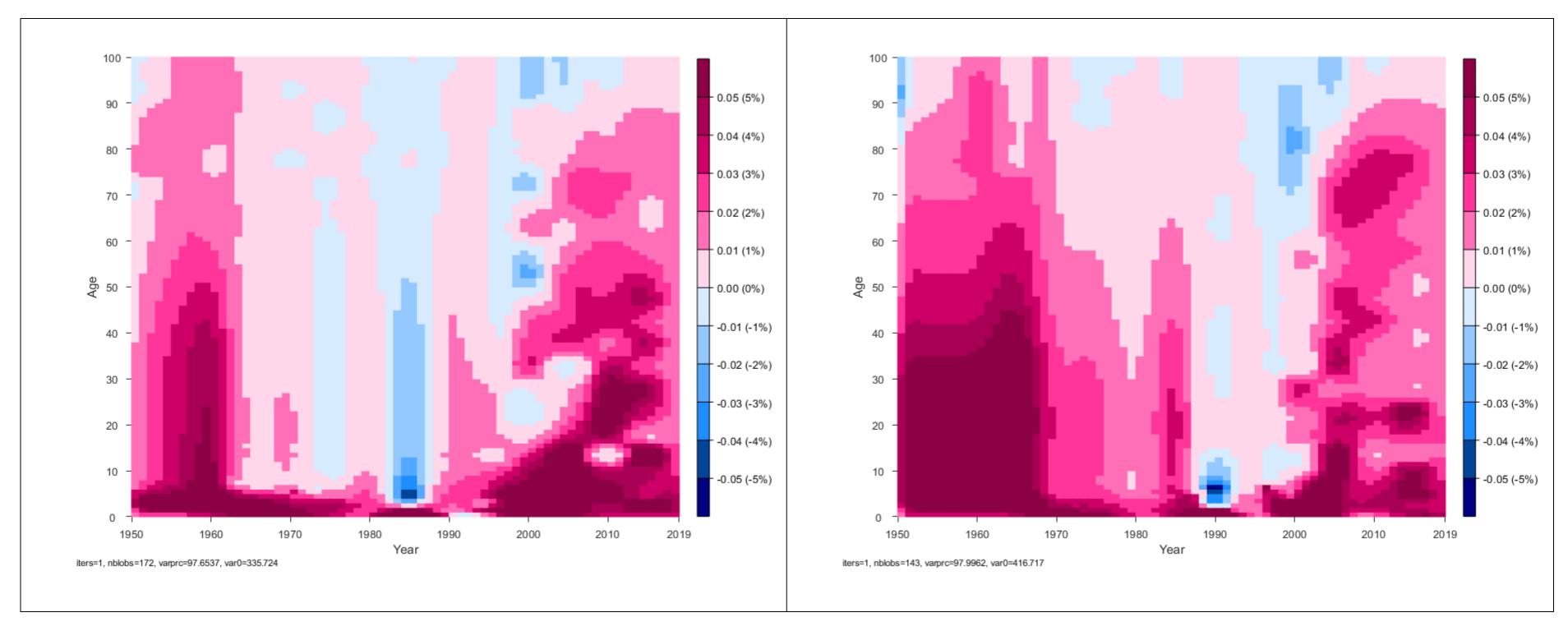
Saudi Arabia



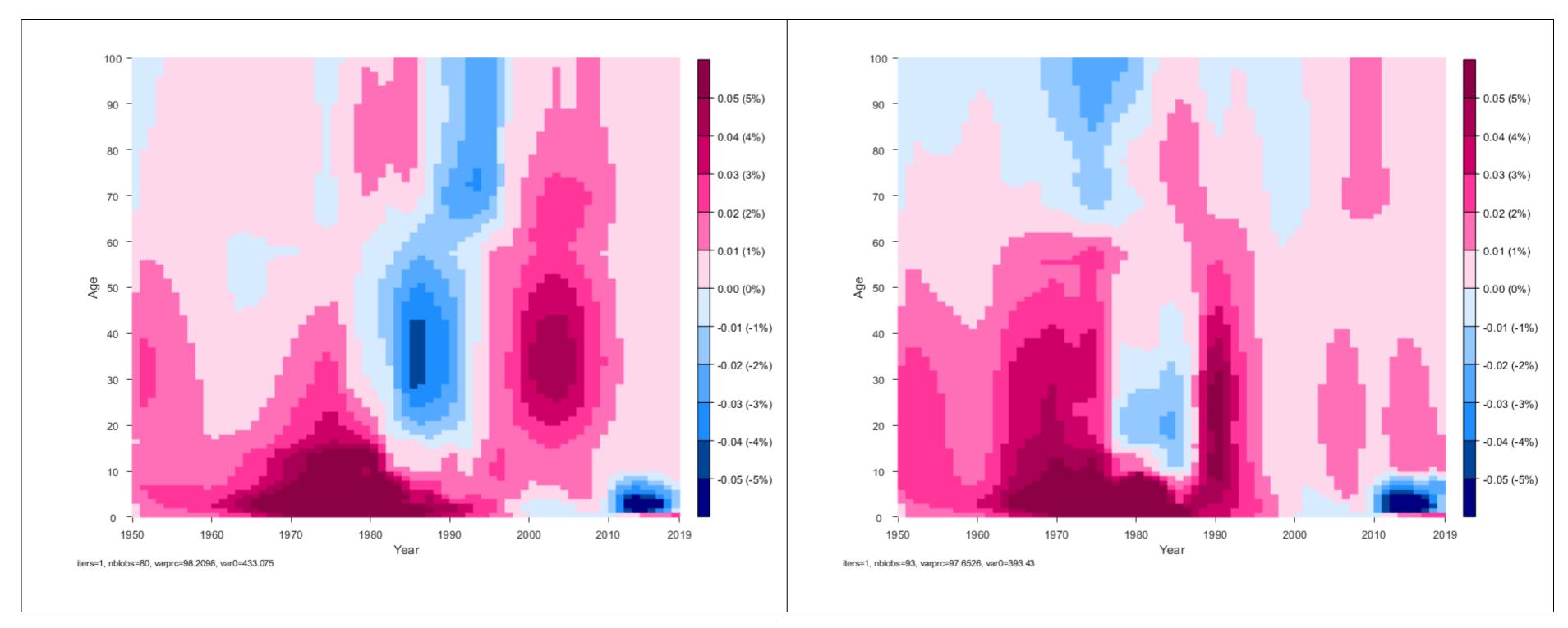
Senegal



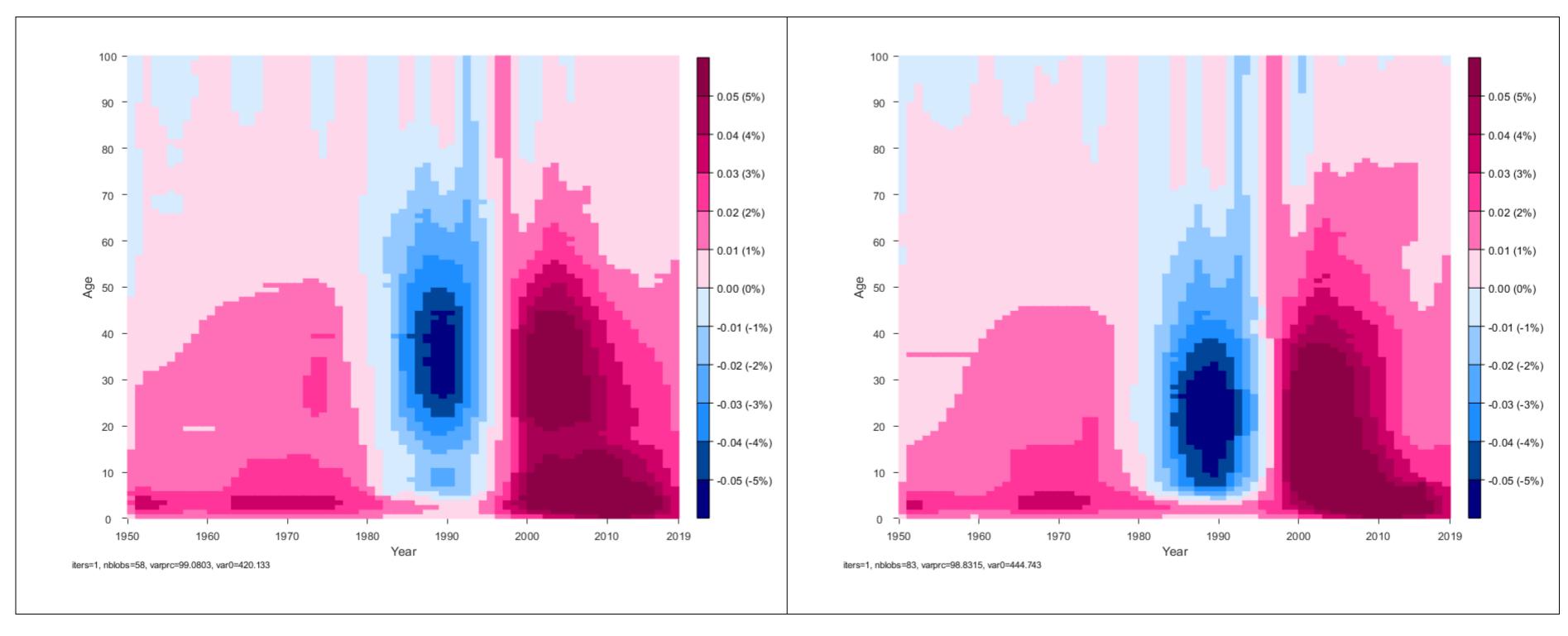
Serbia



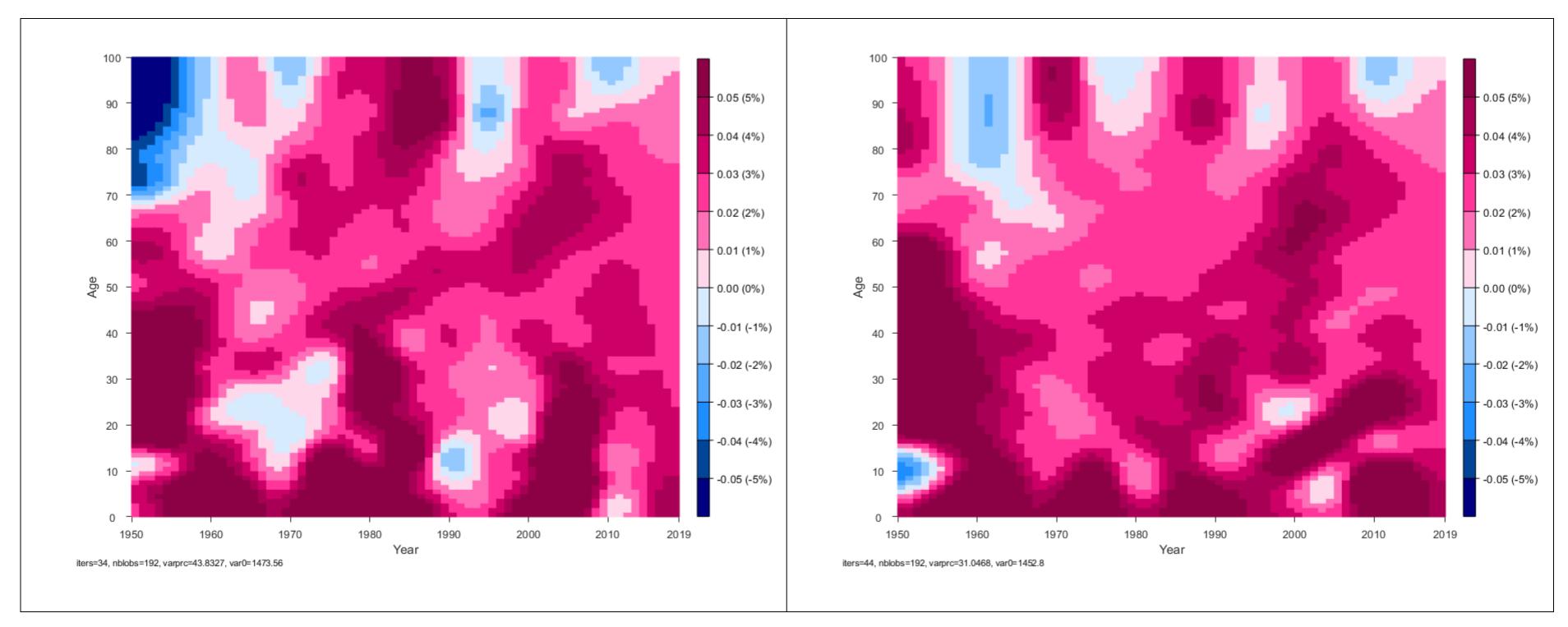
Seychelles



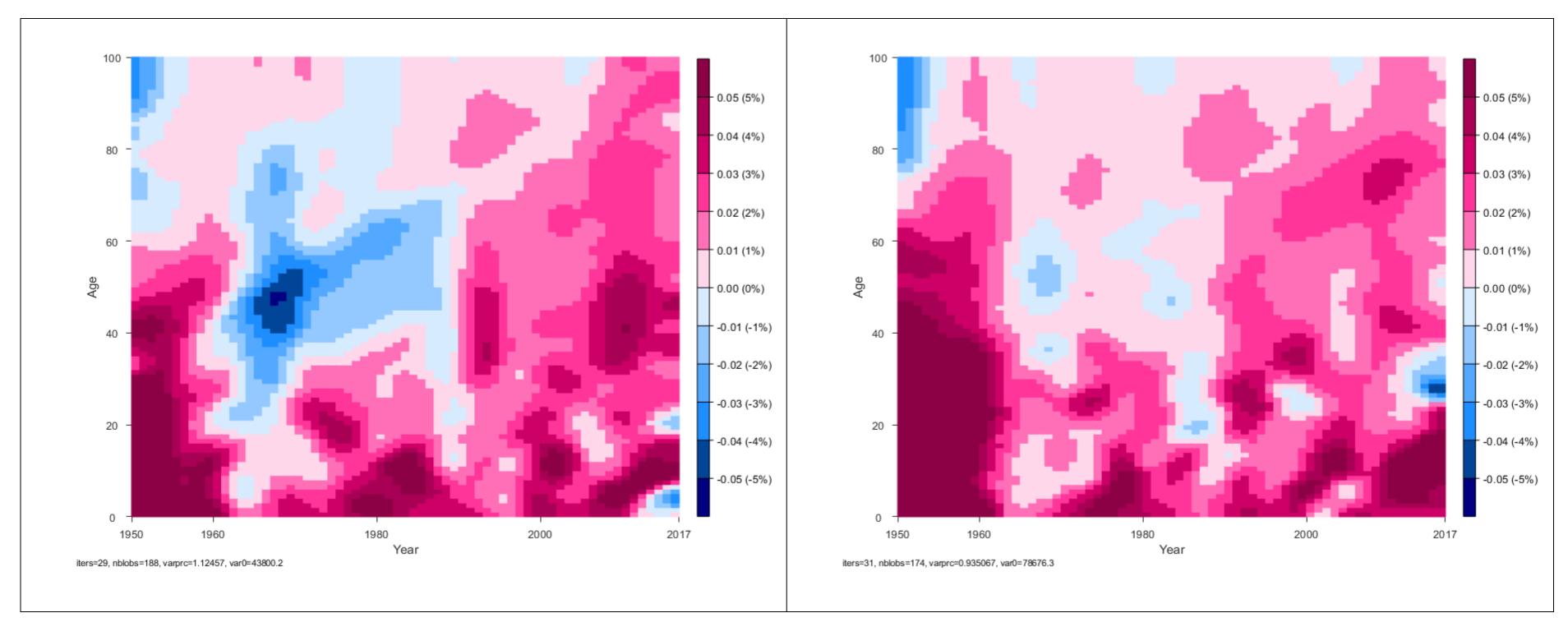
Sierra Leone



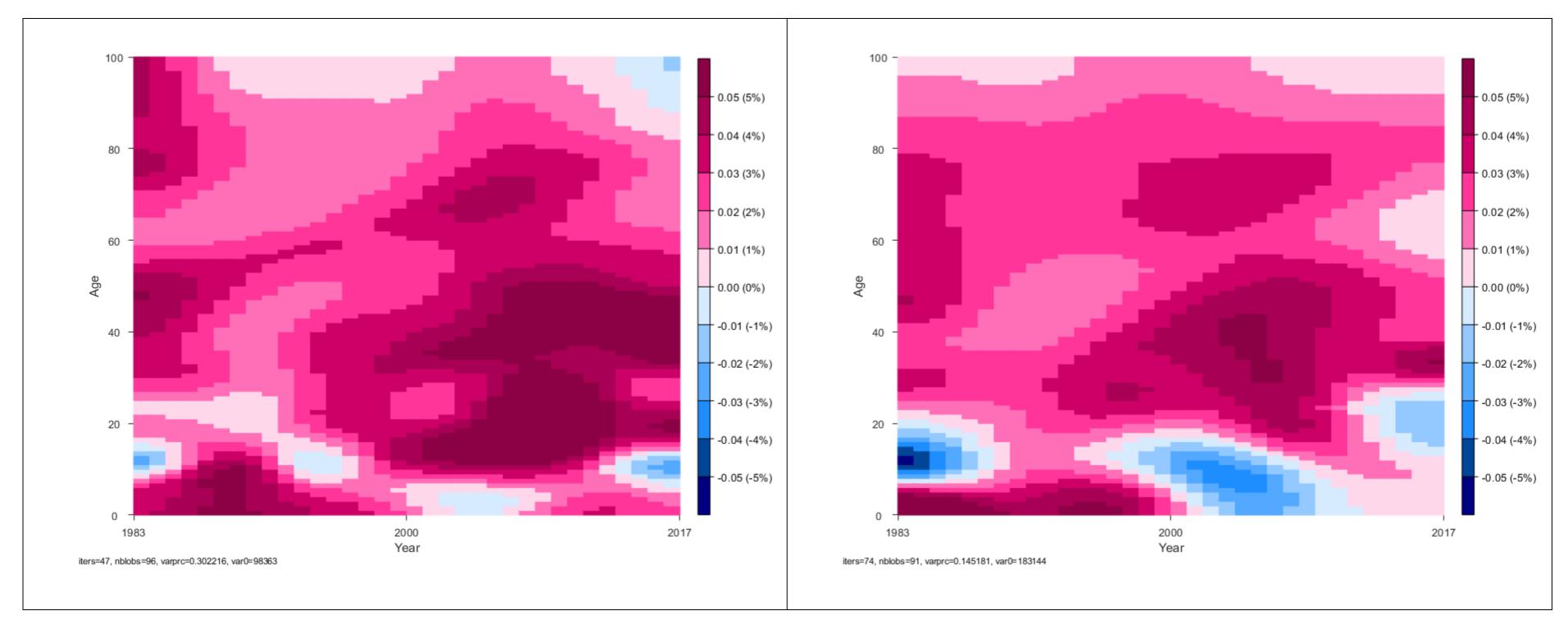
Singapore



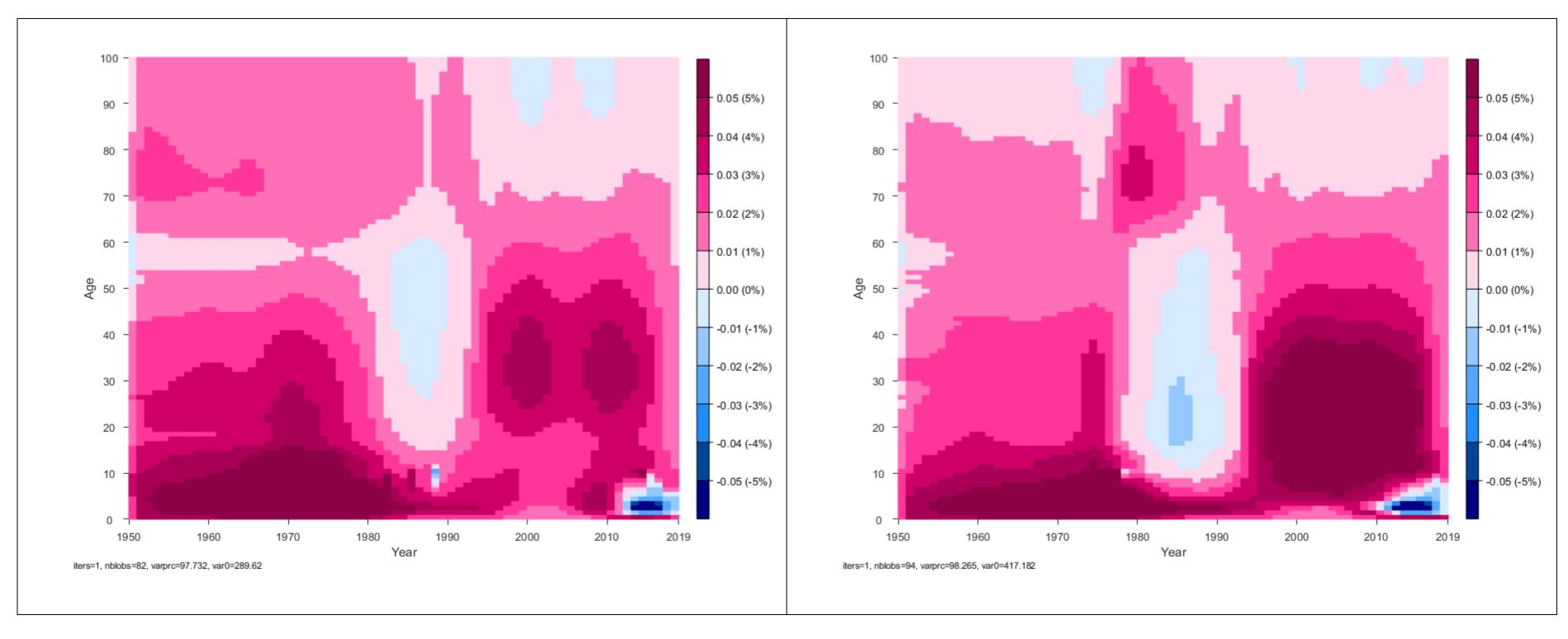
Slovakia



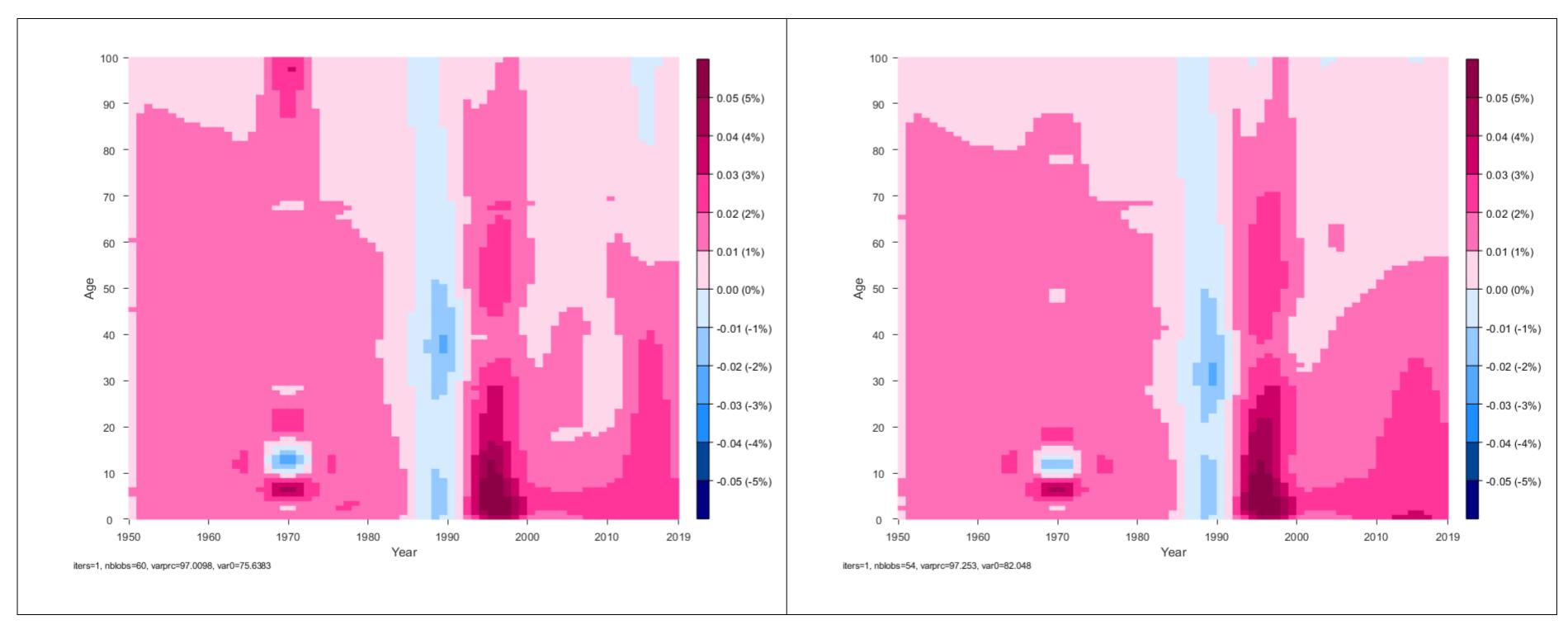
Slovenia



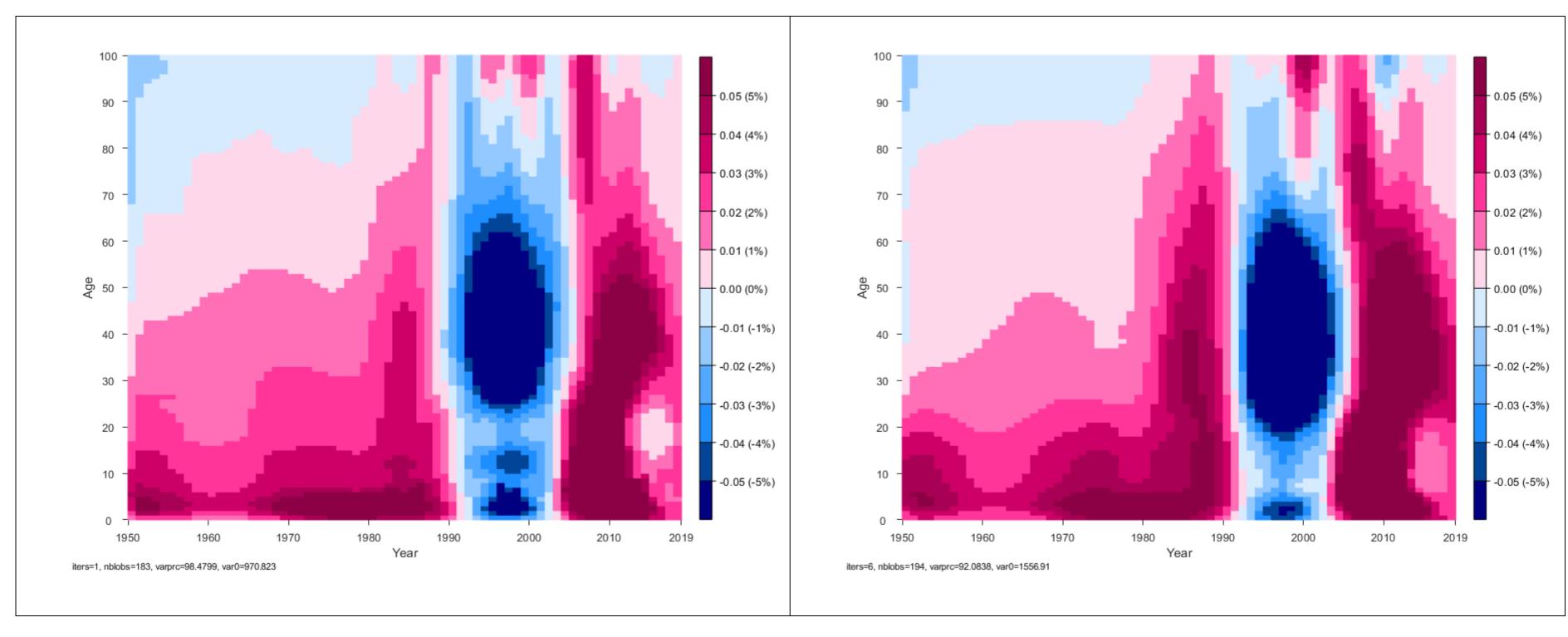
Solomon Islands



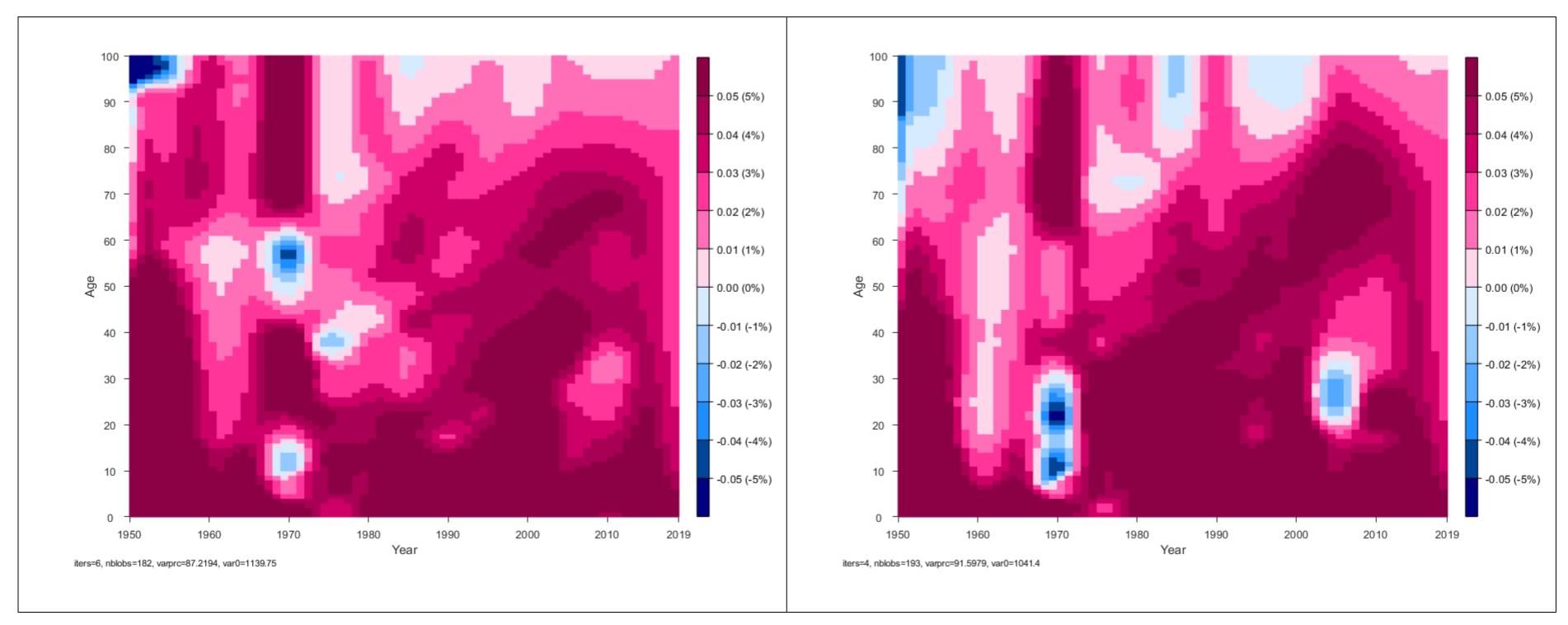
Somalia



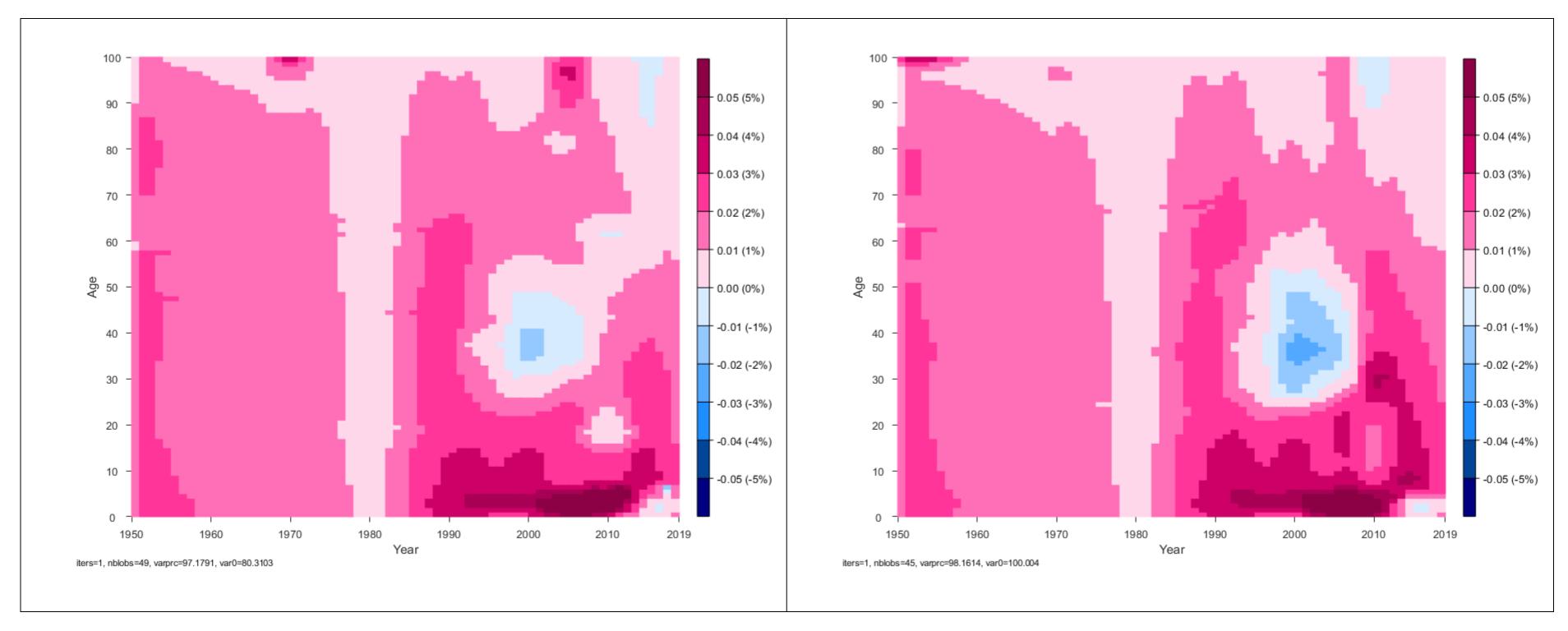
South Africa



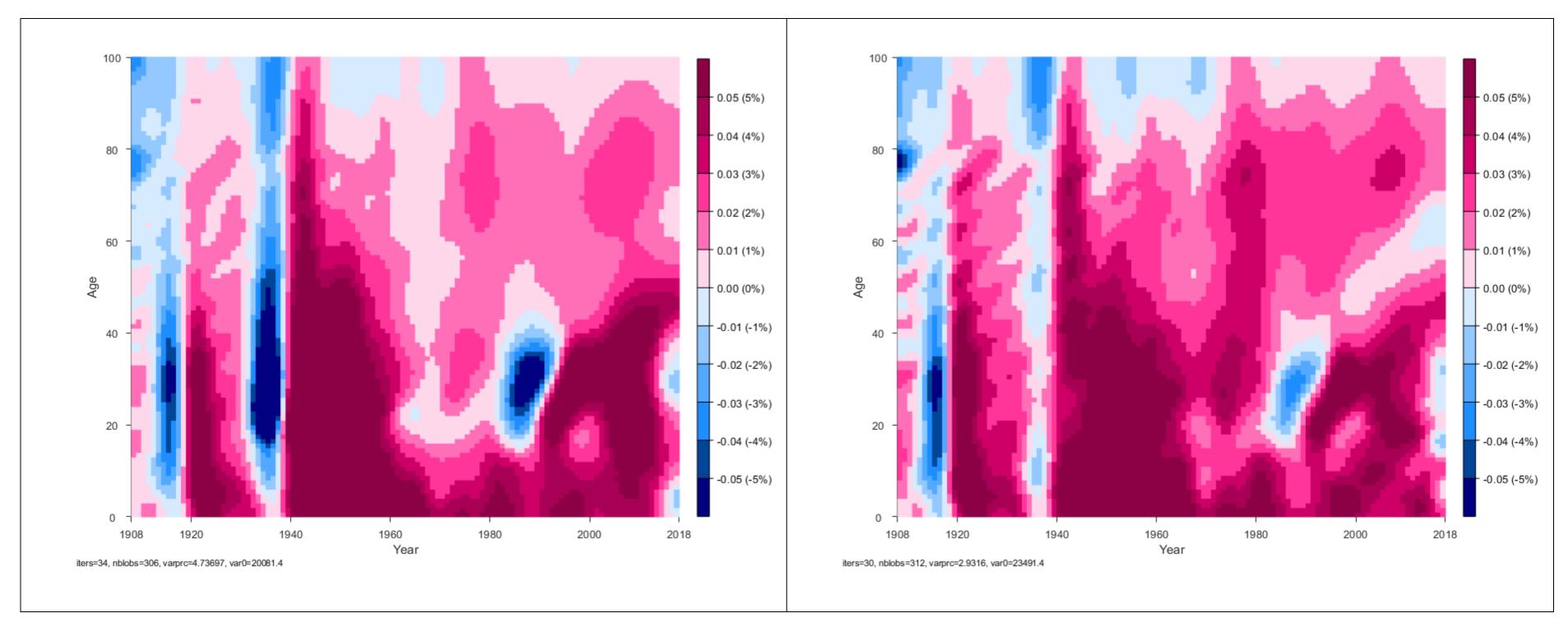
Republic of Korea



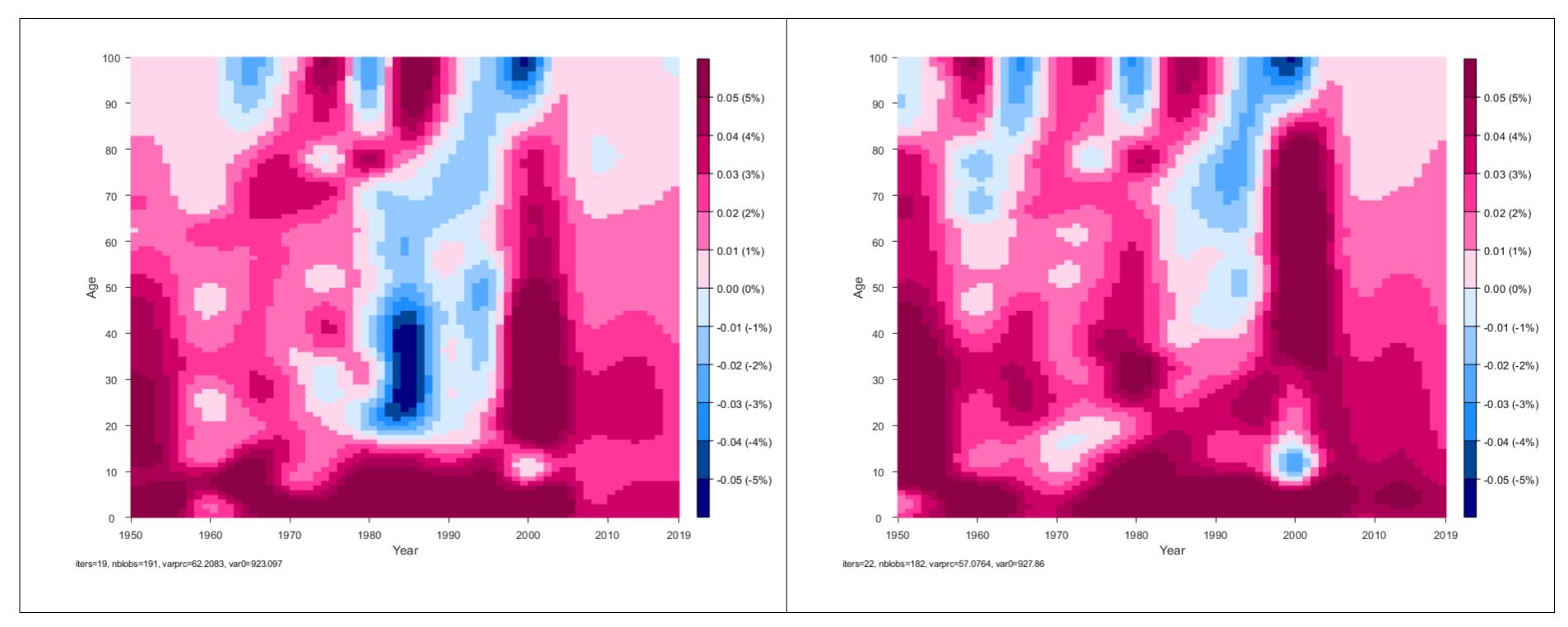
South Sudan



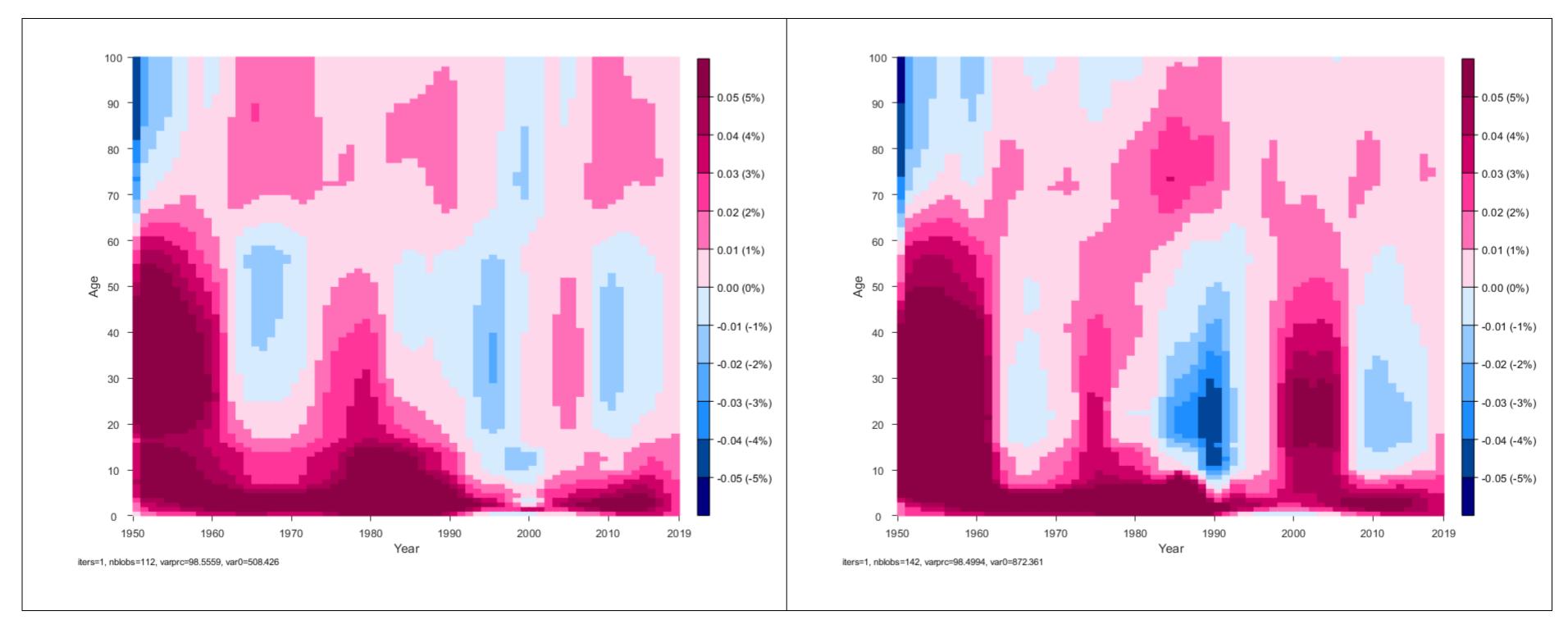
Spain



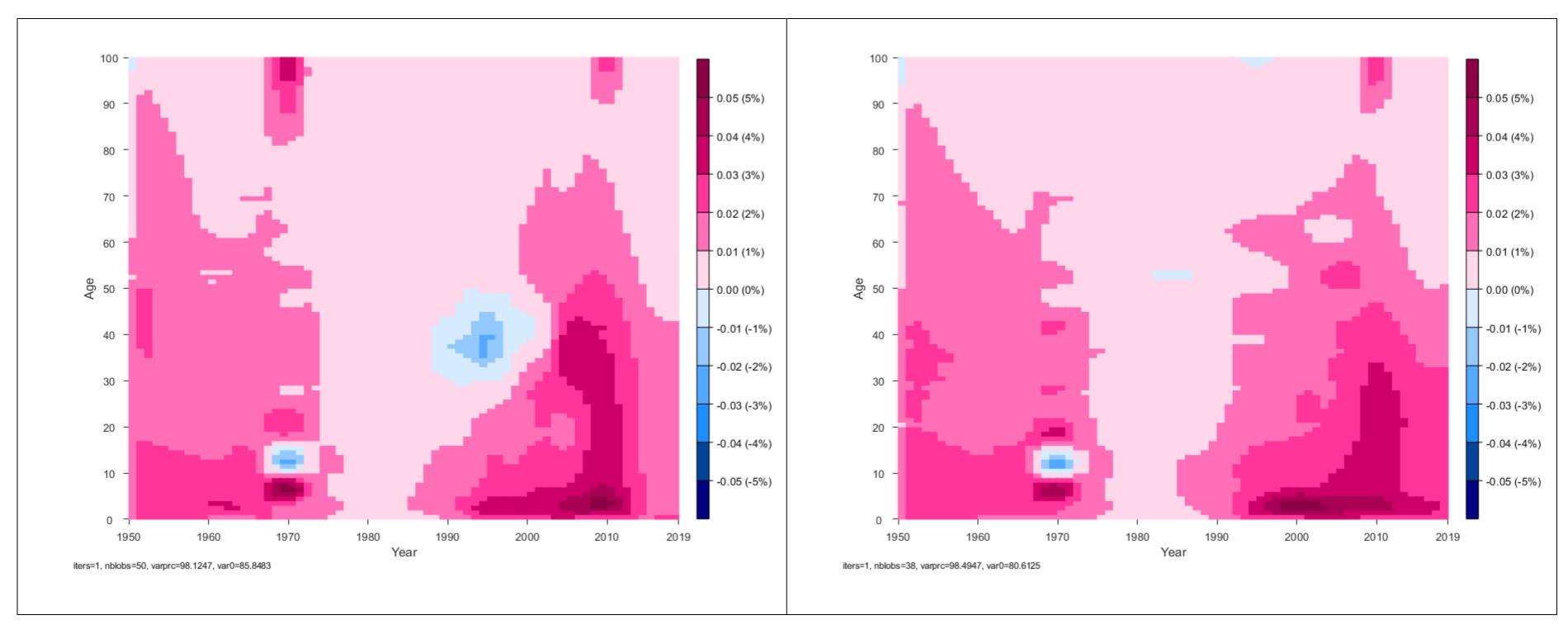
Sri Lanka



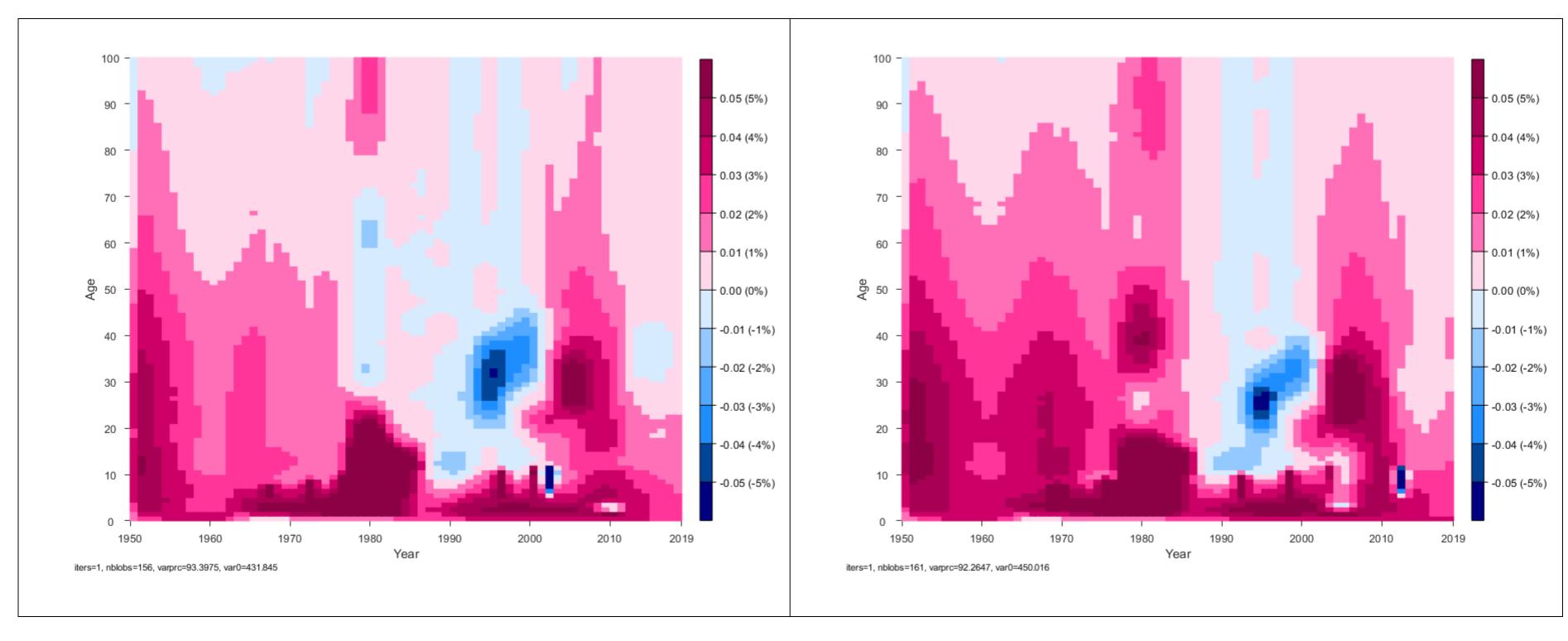
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



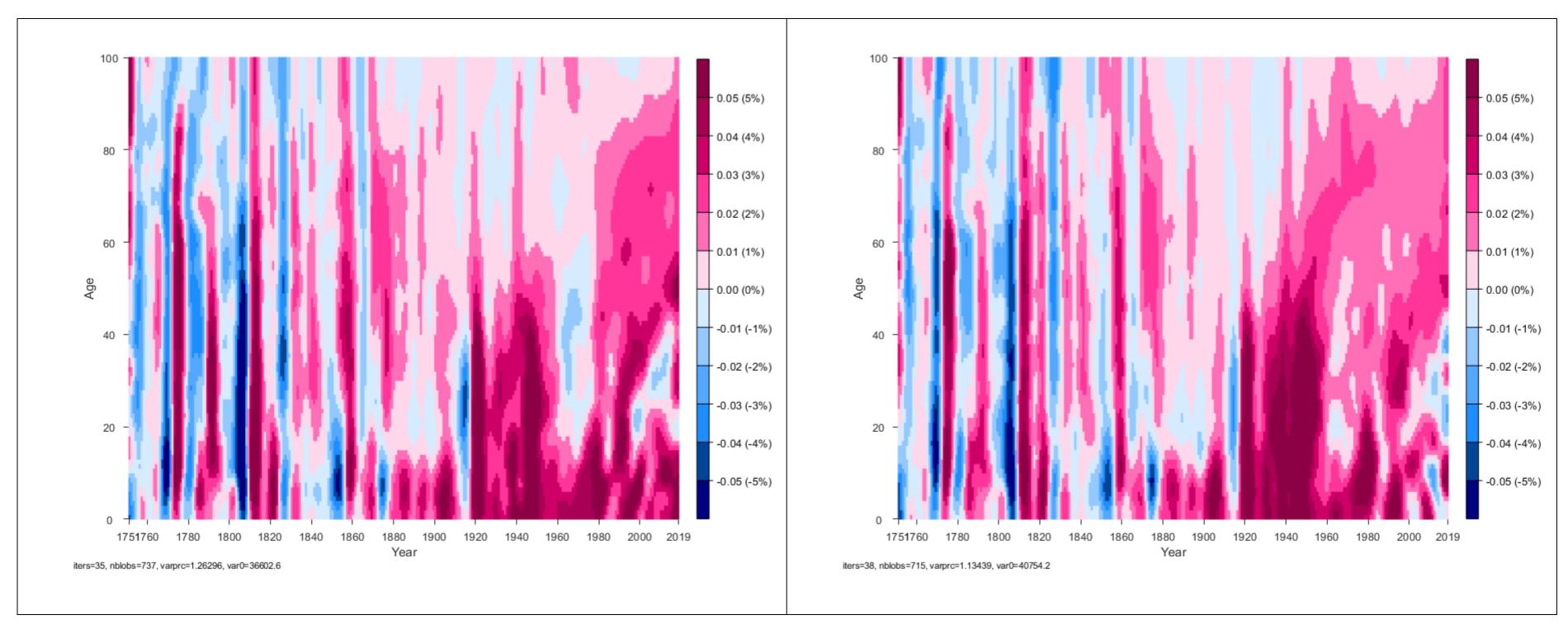
Sudan



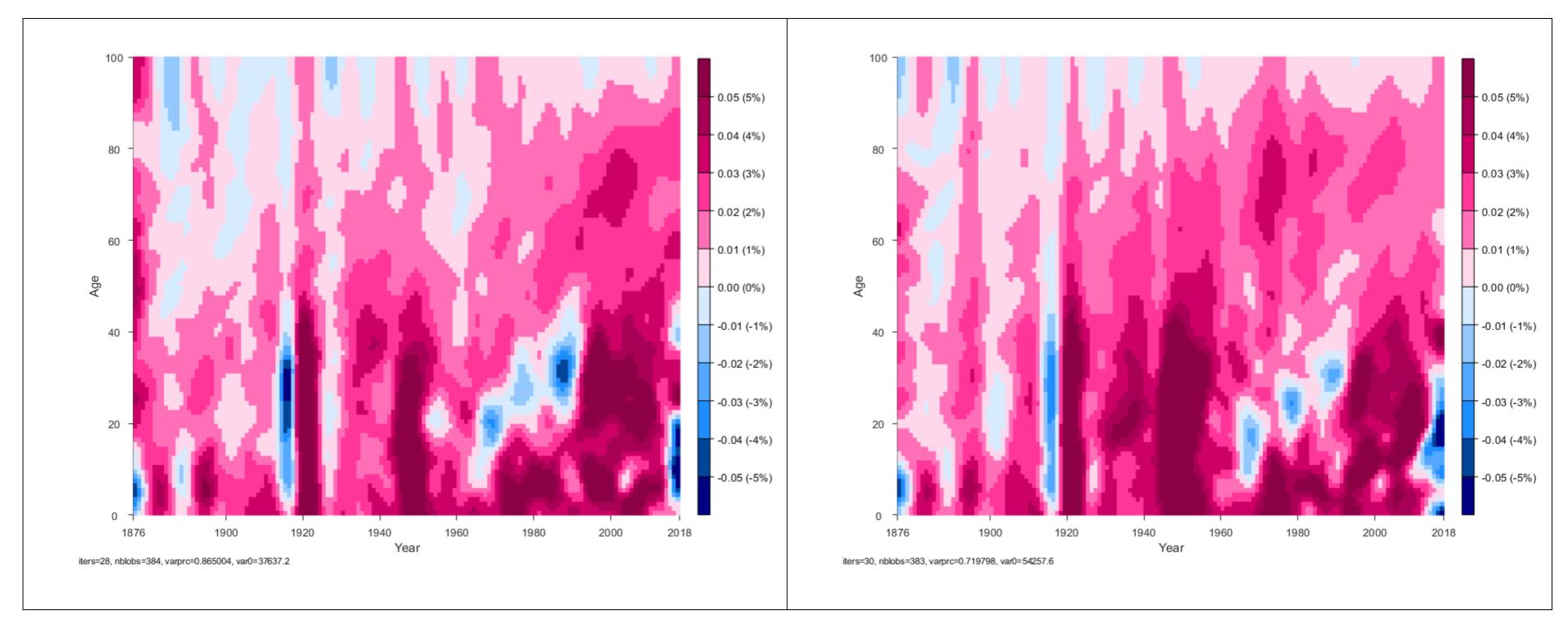
Suriname



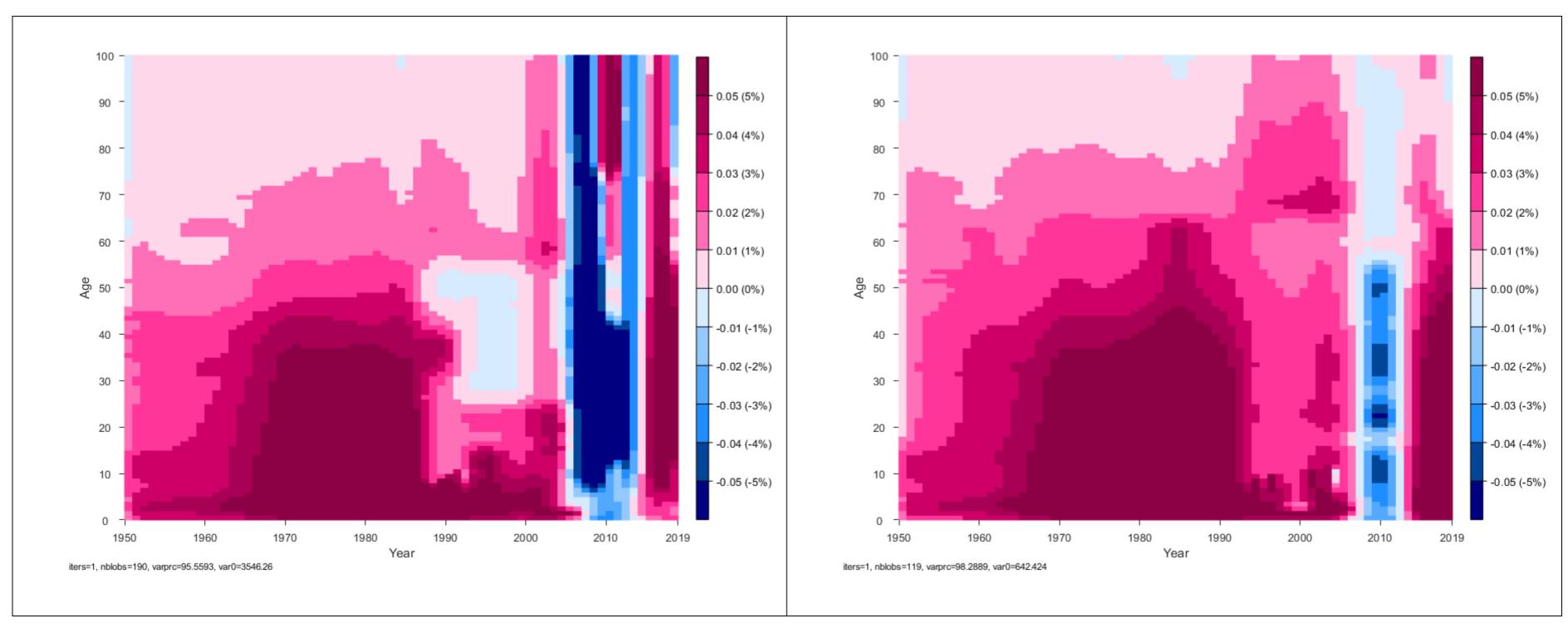
Sweden



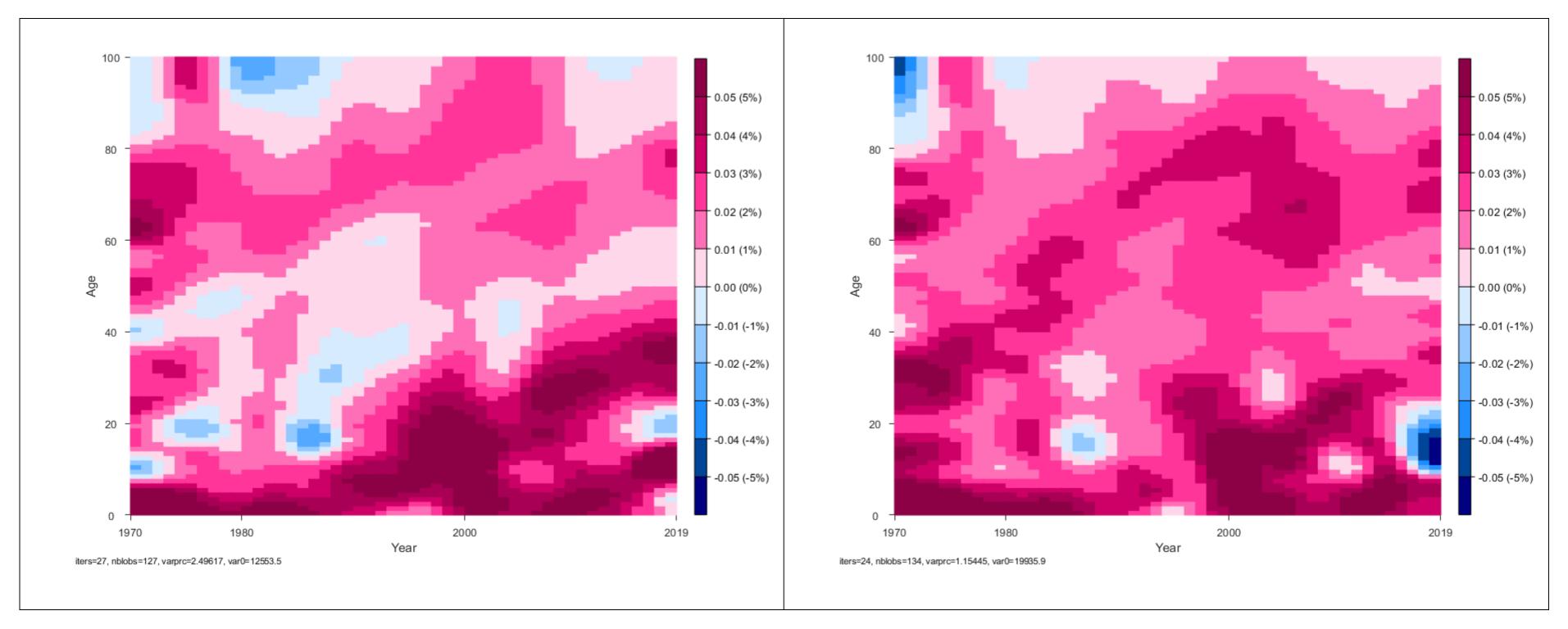
Switzerland



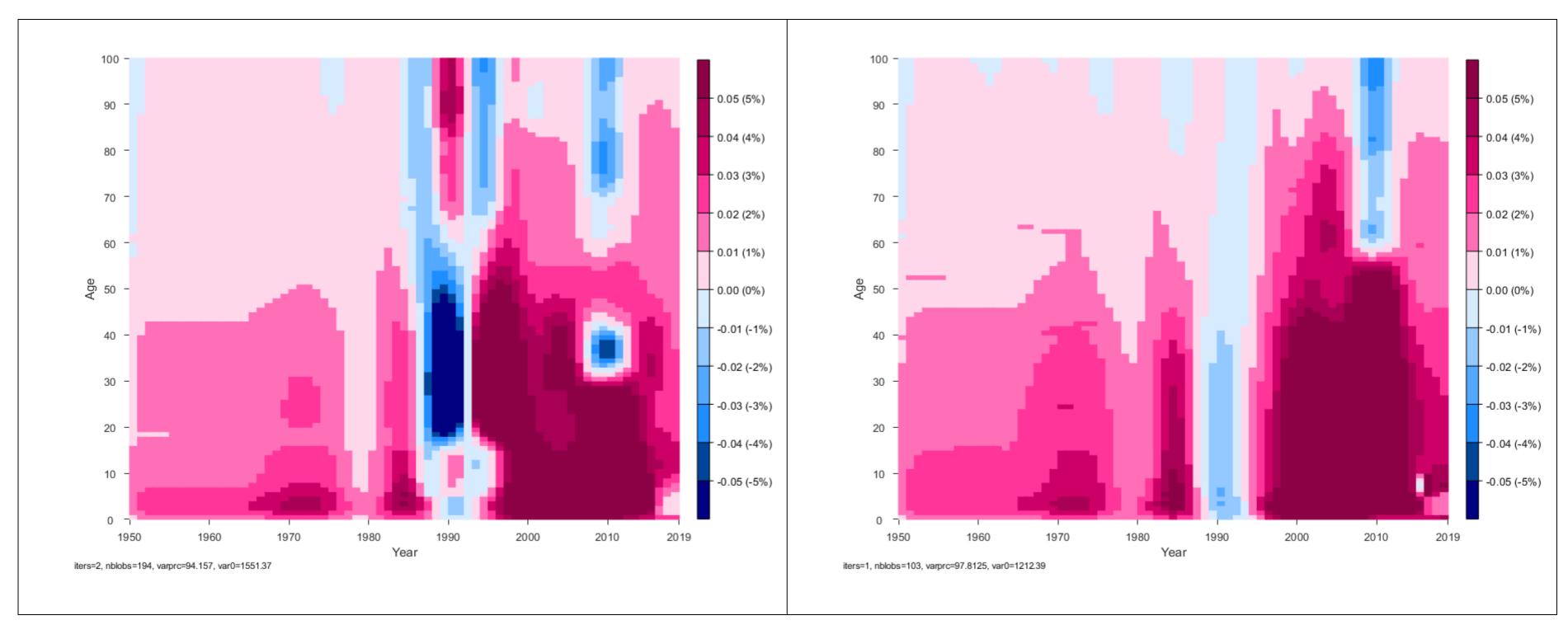
Syrian Arab Republic



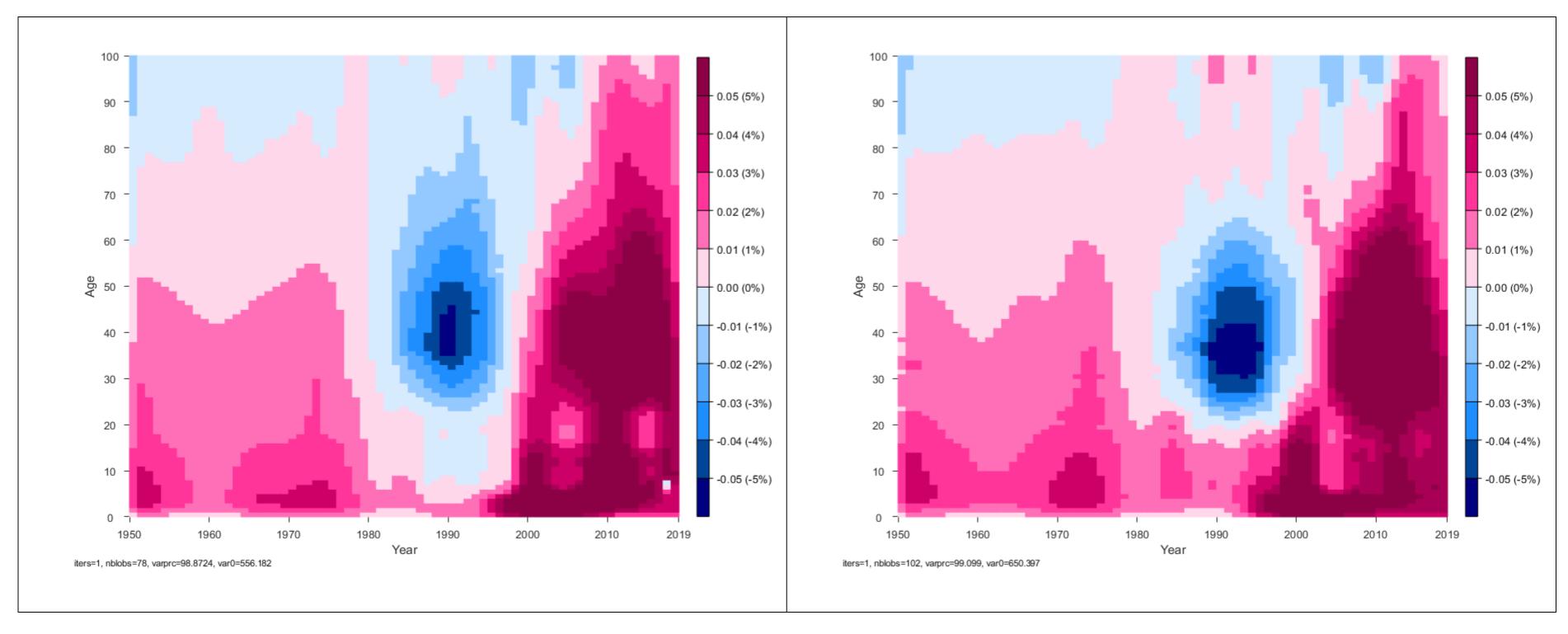
China, Taiwan Province of China



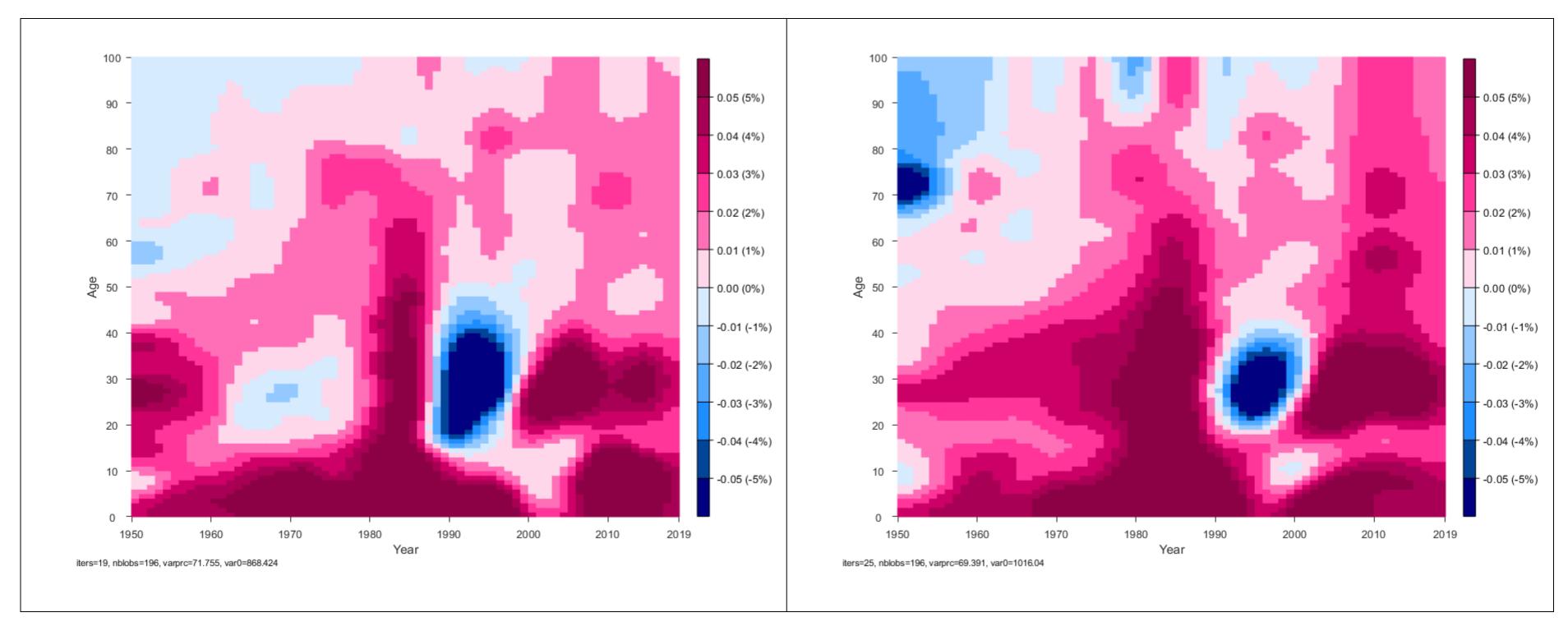
Tajikistan



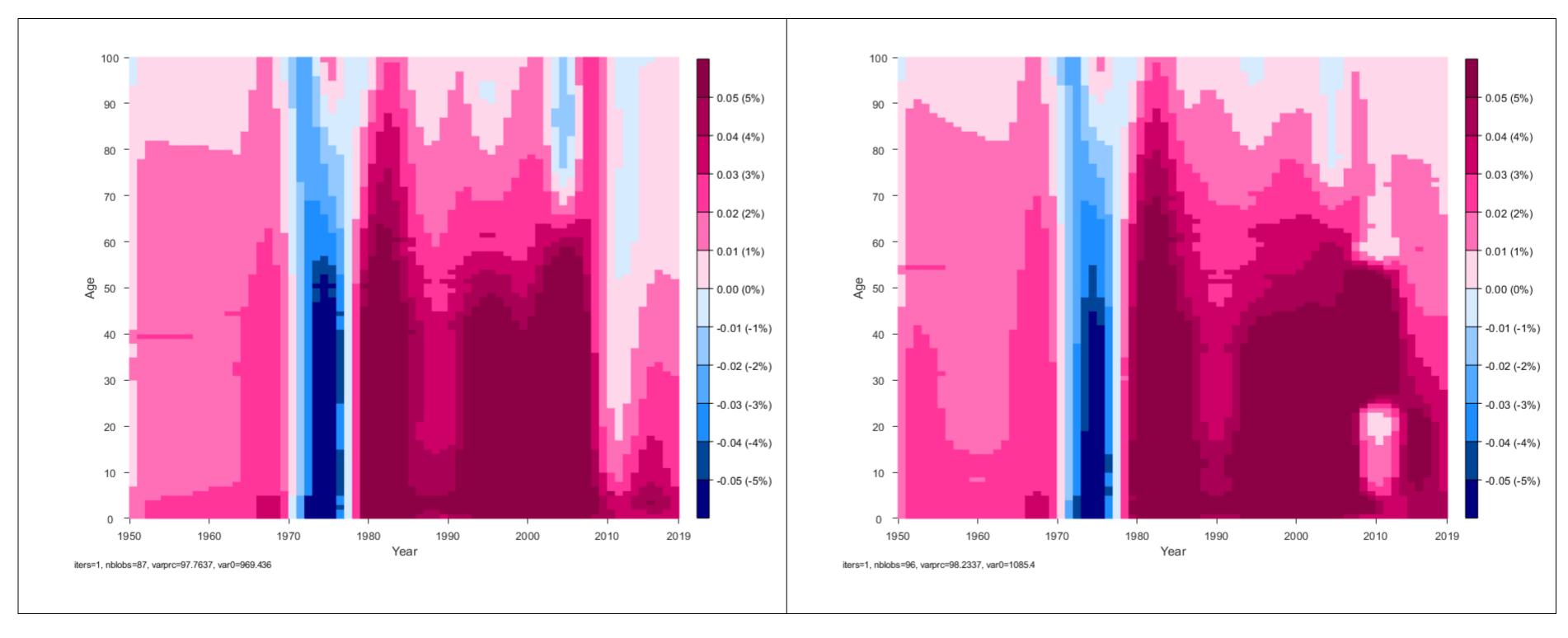
United Republic of Tanzania

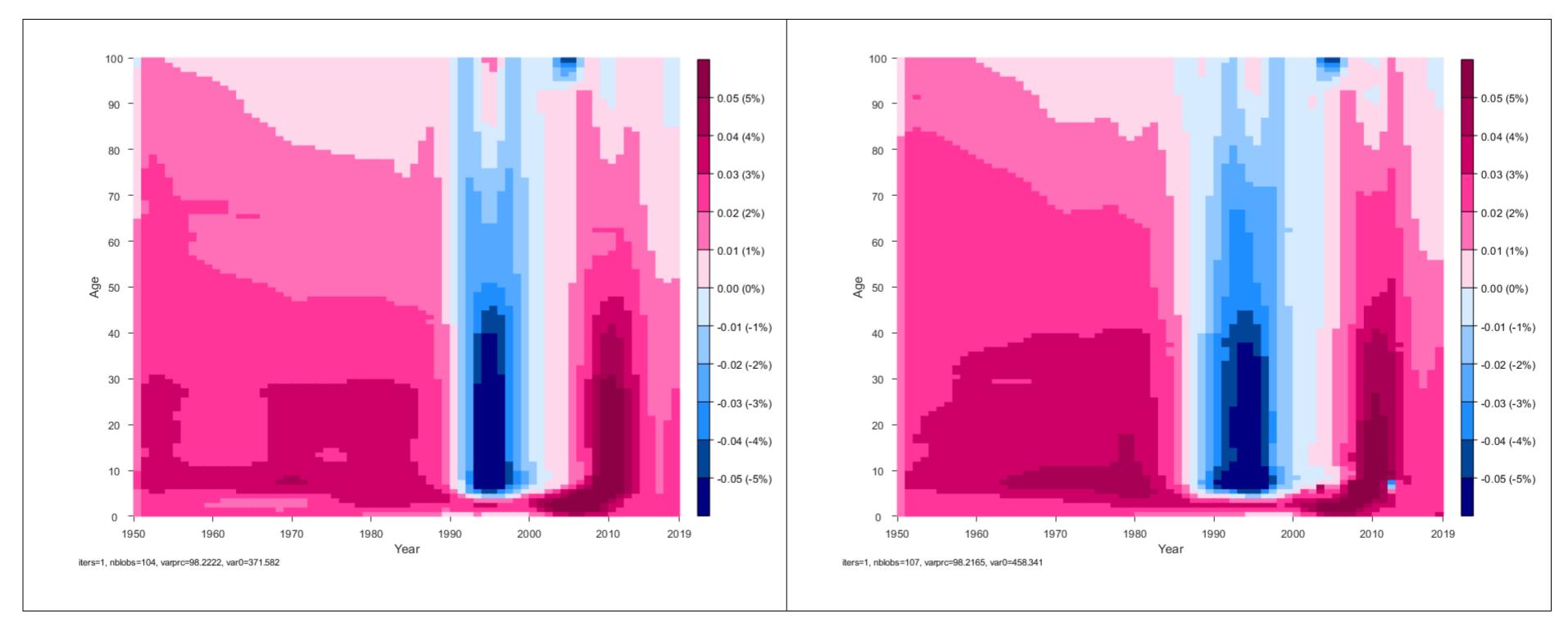


Thailand

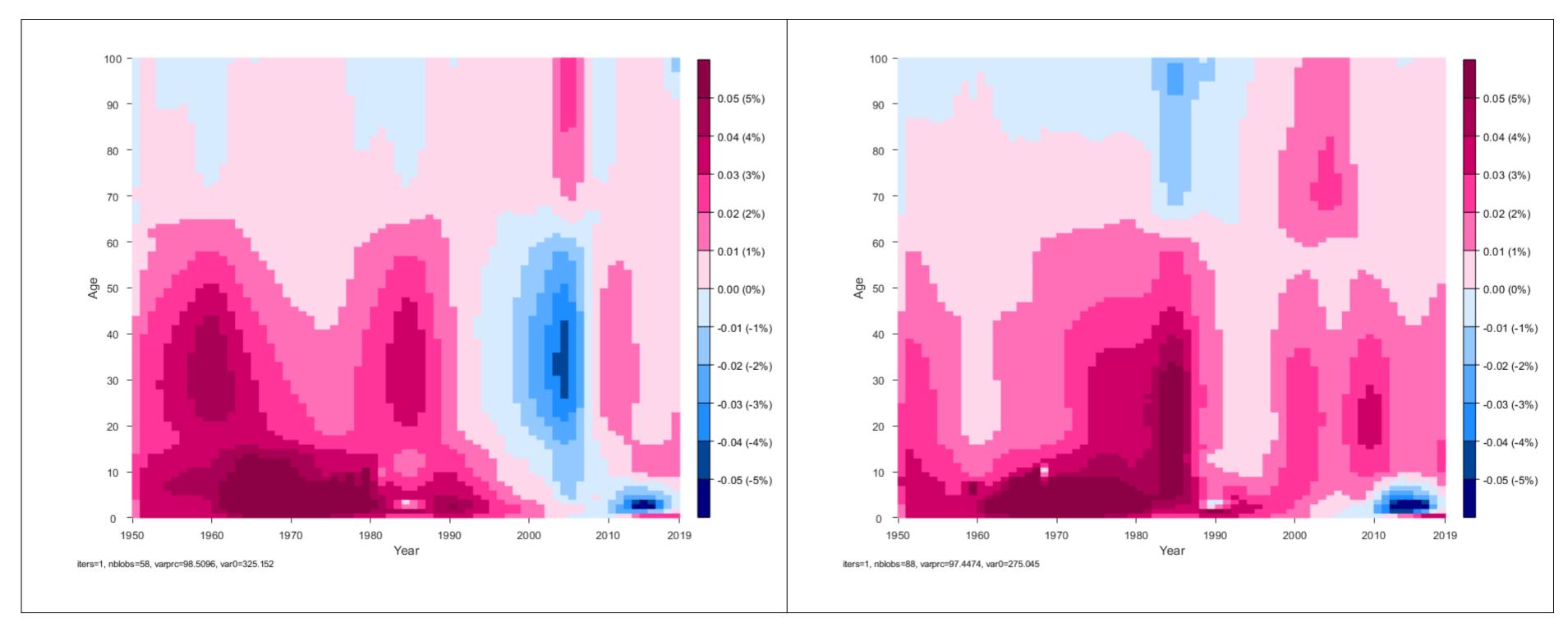


Timor-Leste

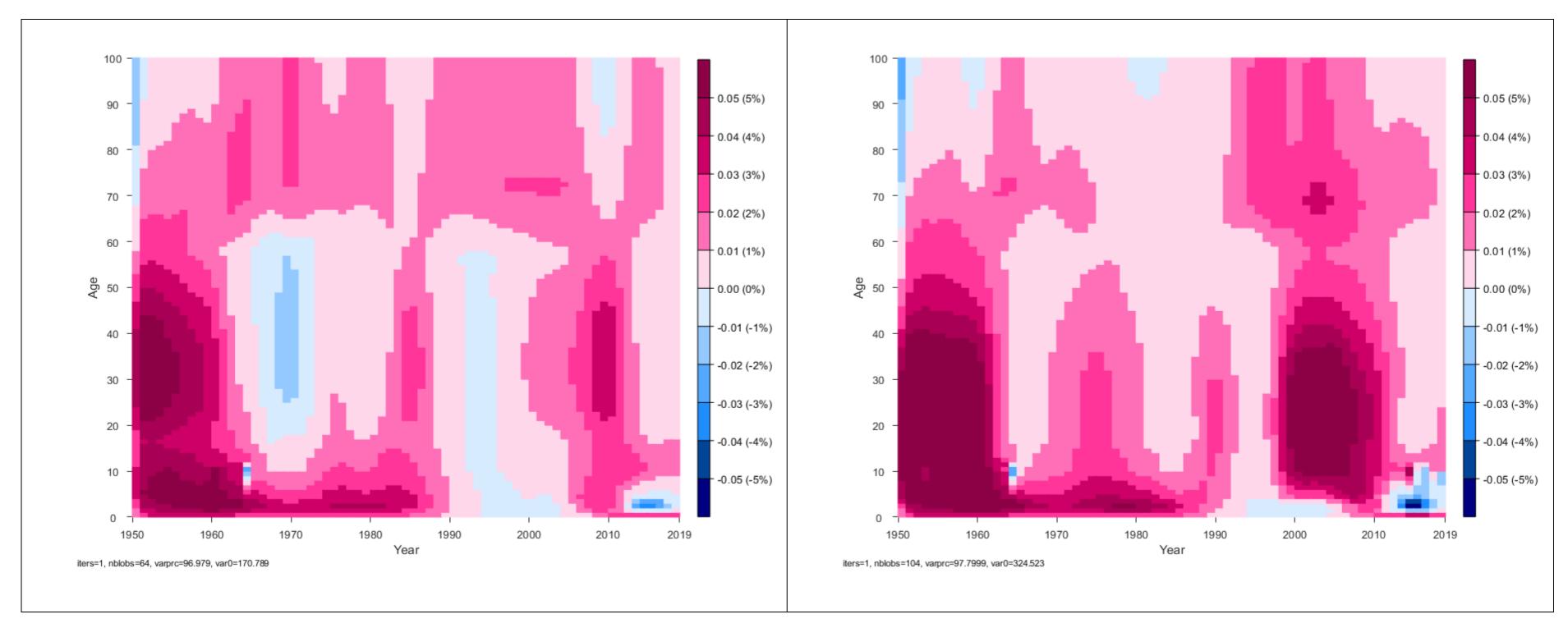




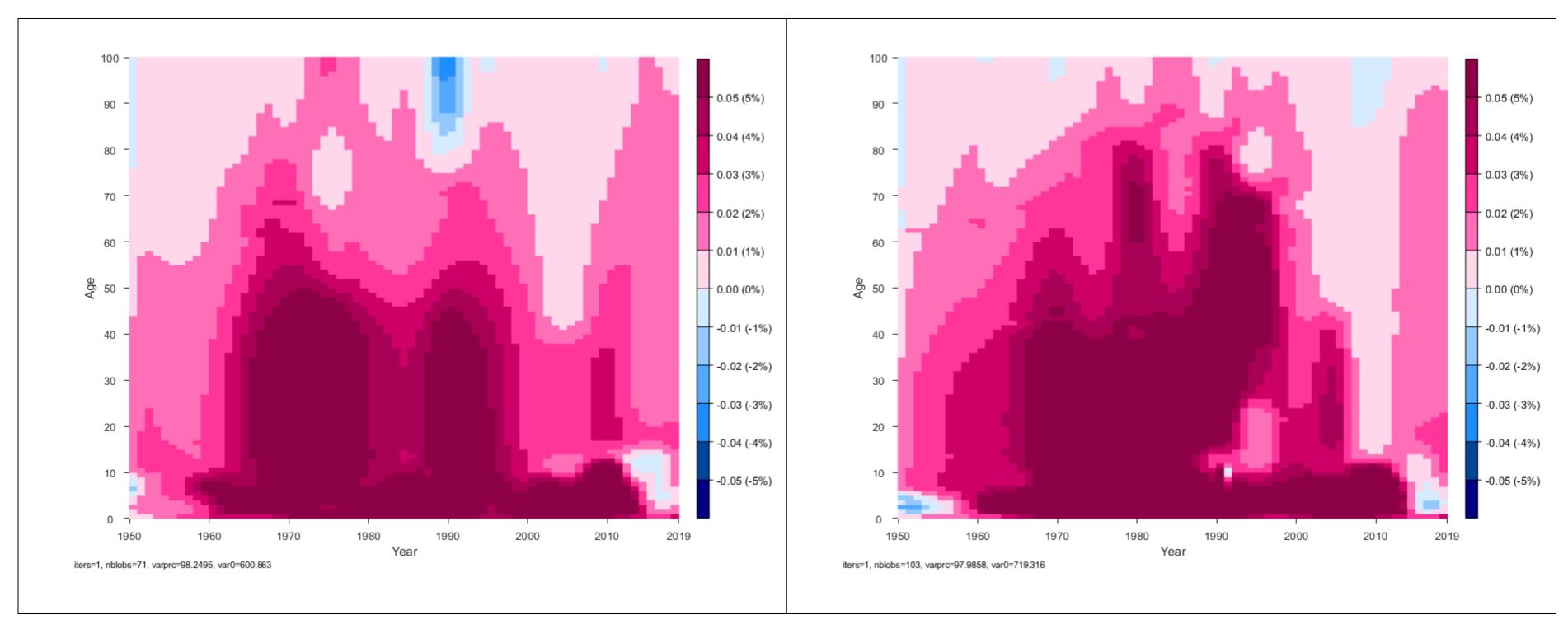
Tonga



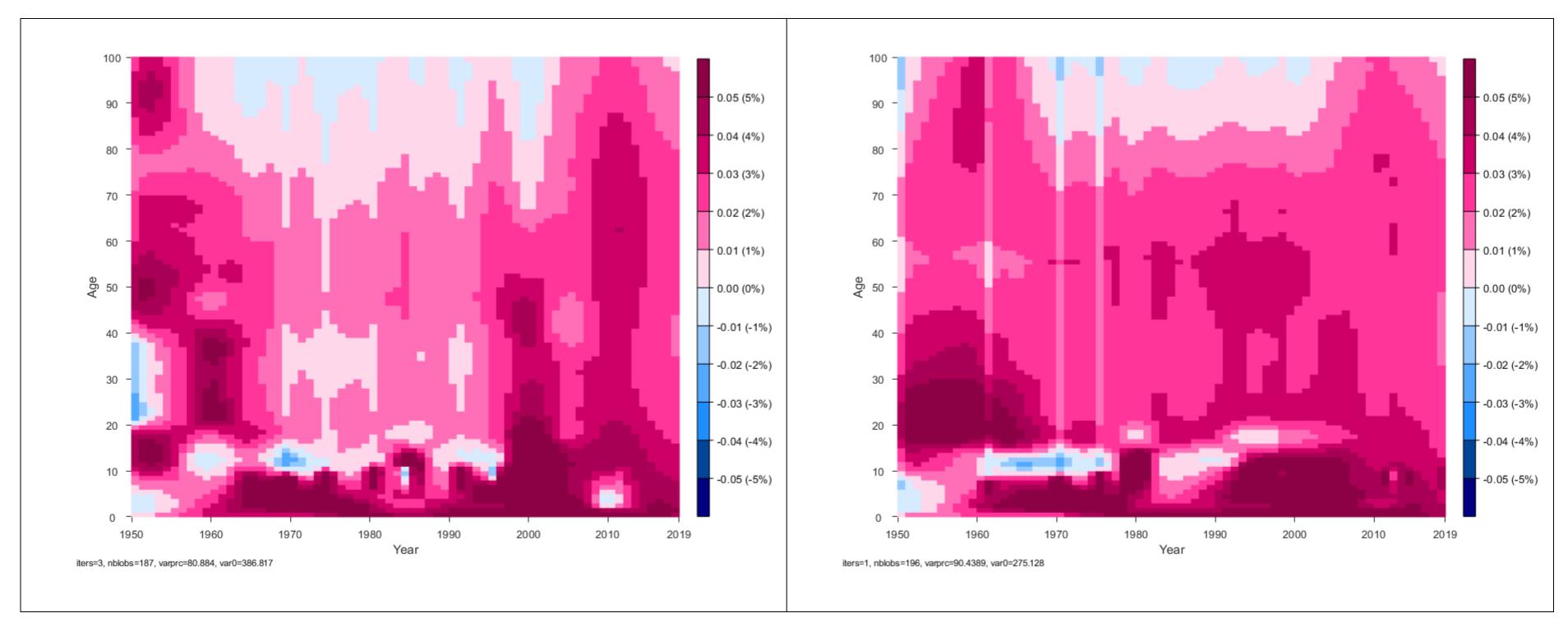
Trinidad and Tobago



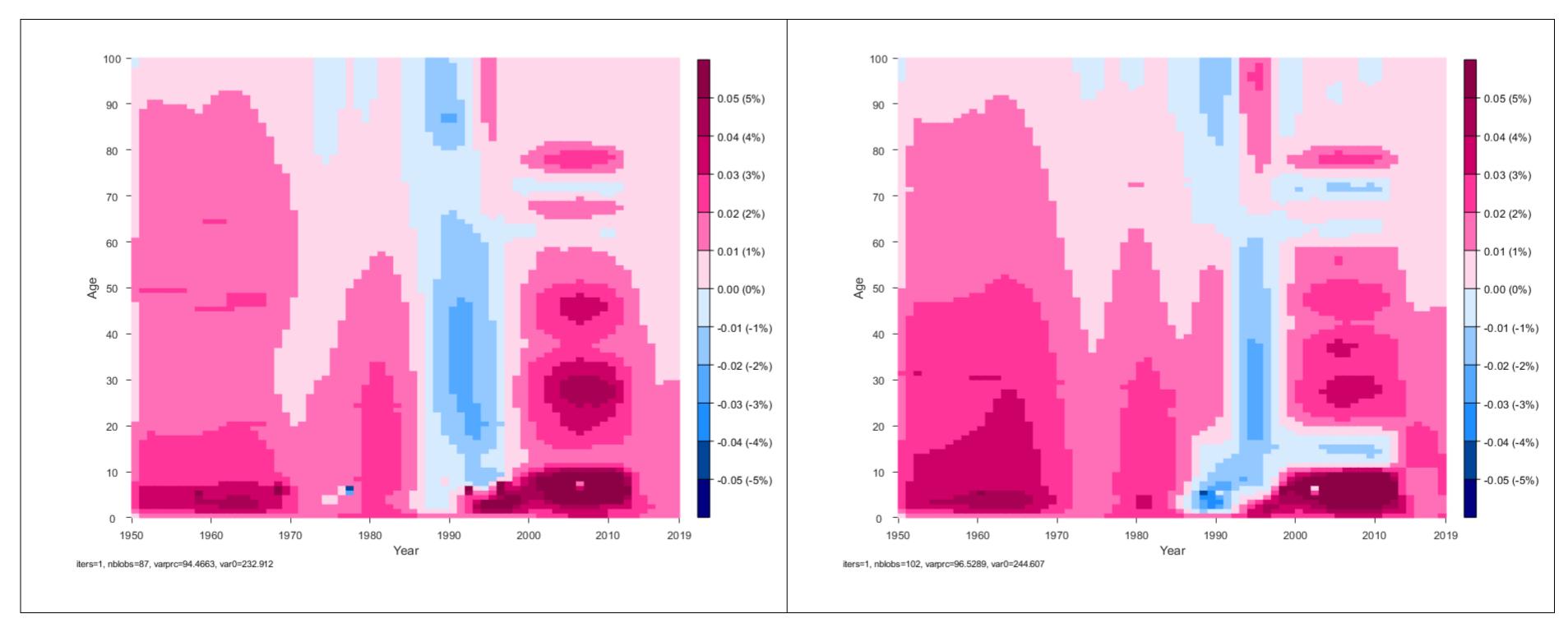
Tunisia



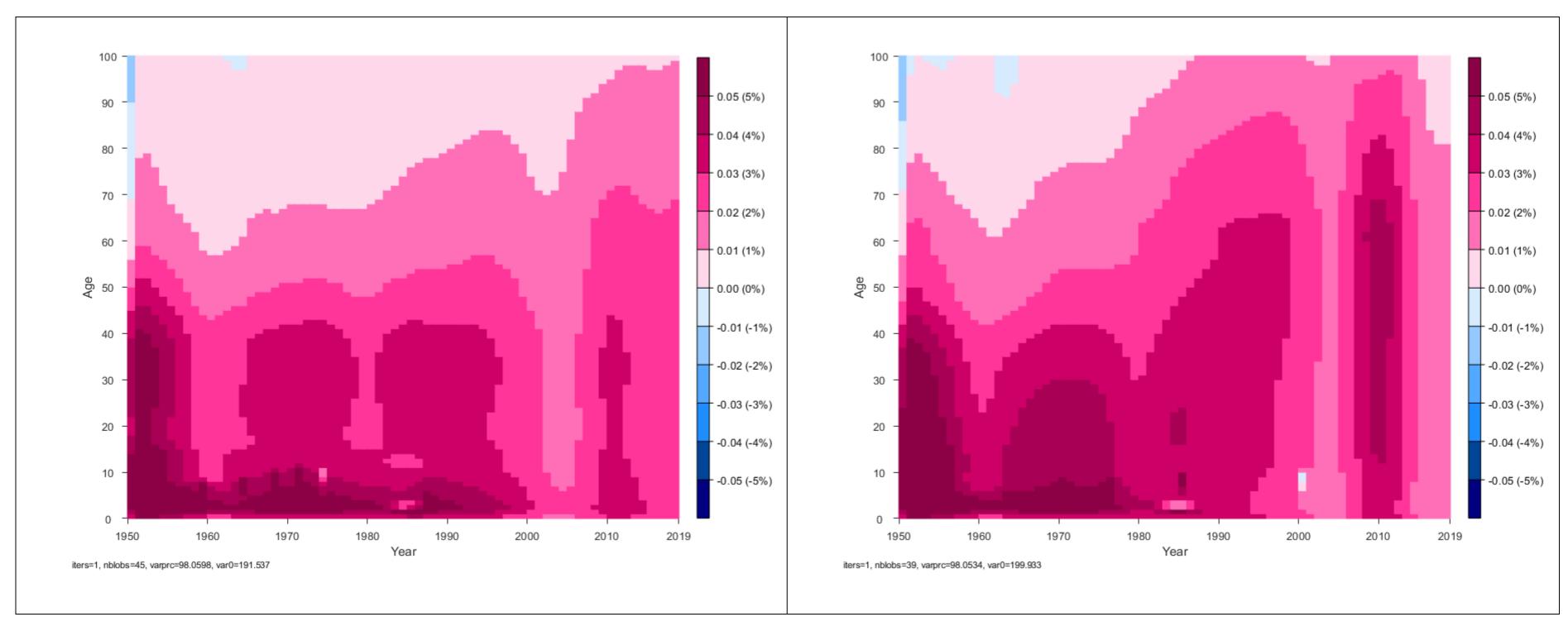
Turkey



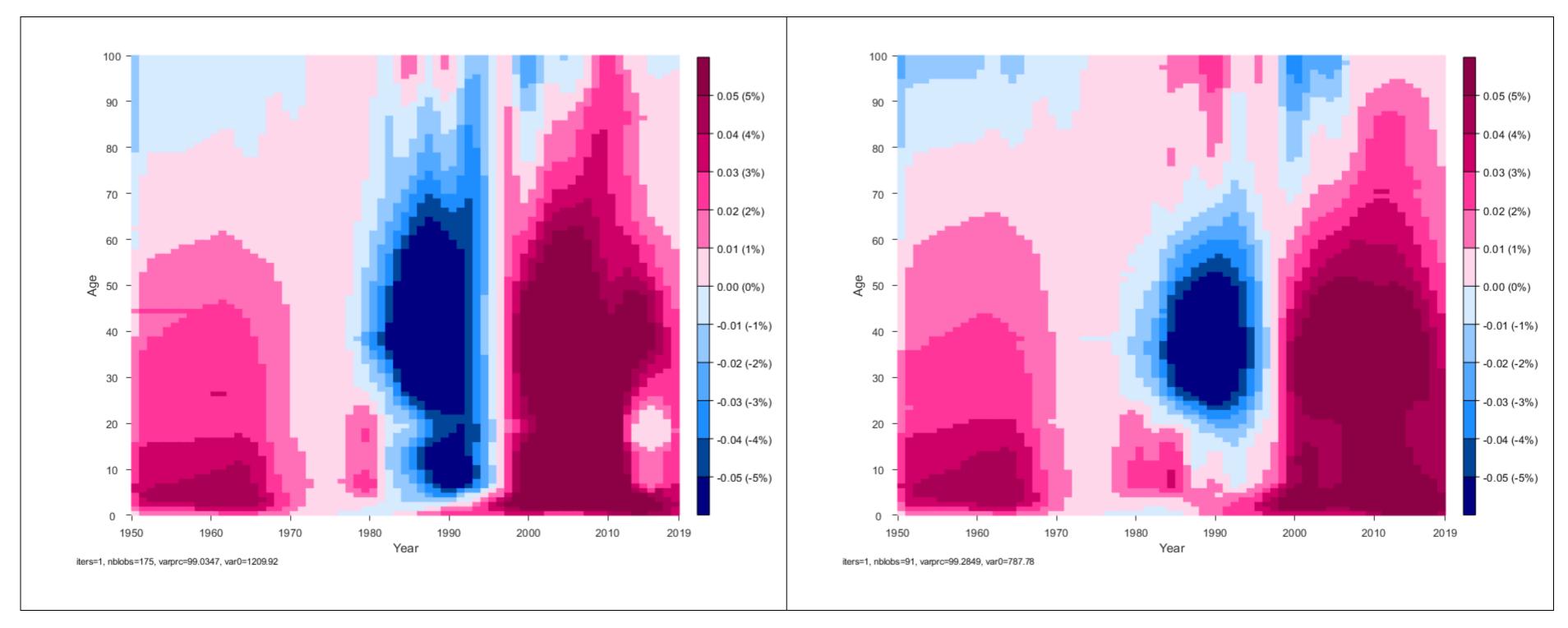
Turkmenistan



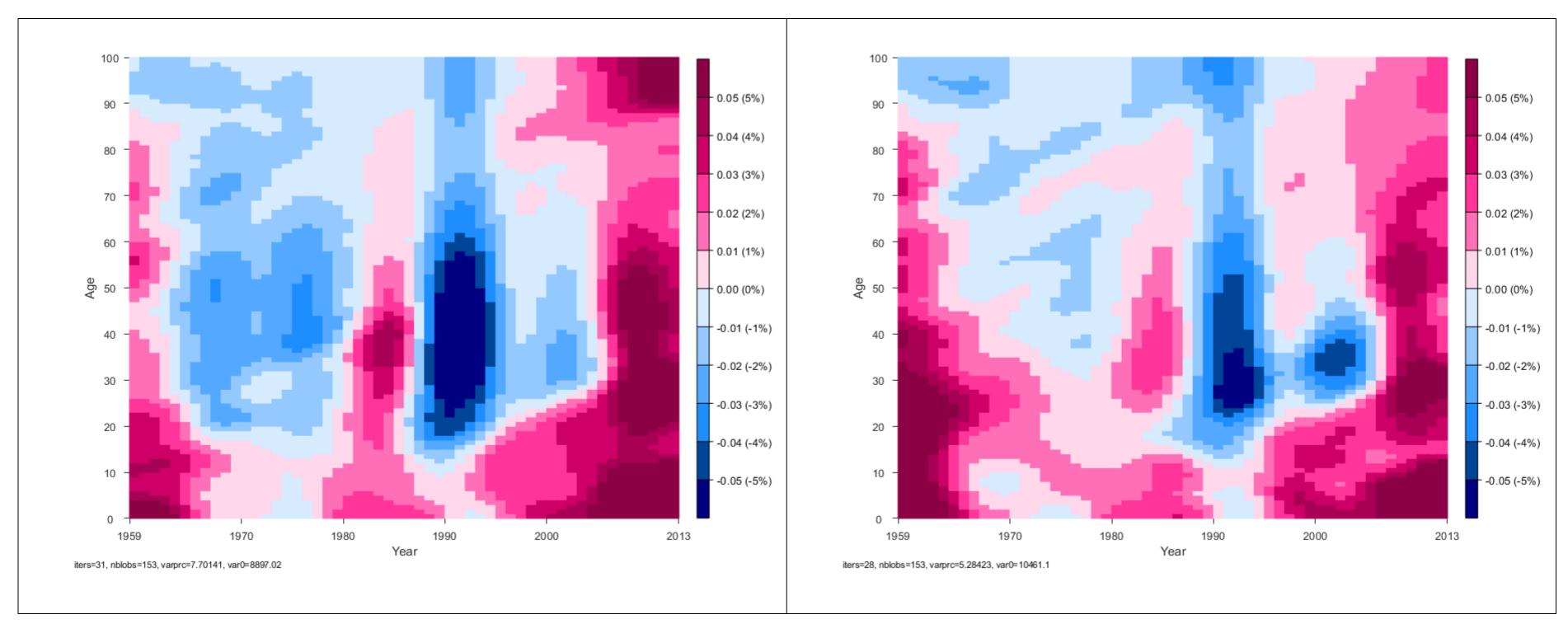
United States Virgin Islands



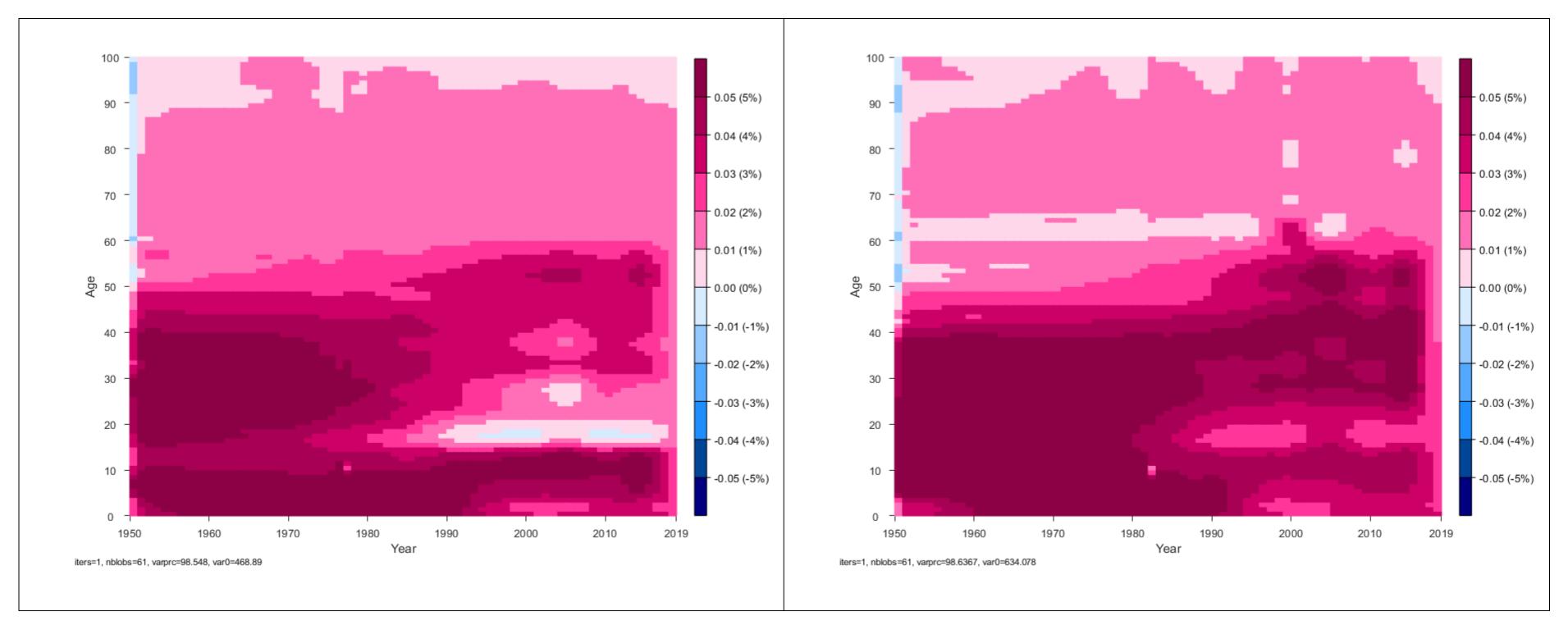
Uganda



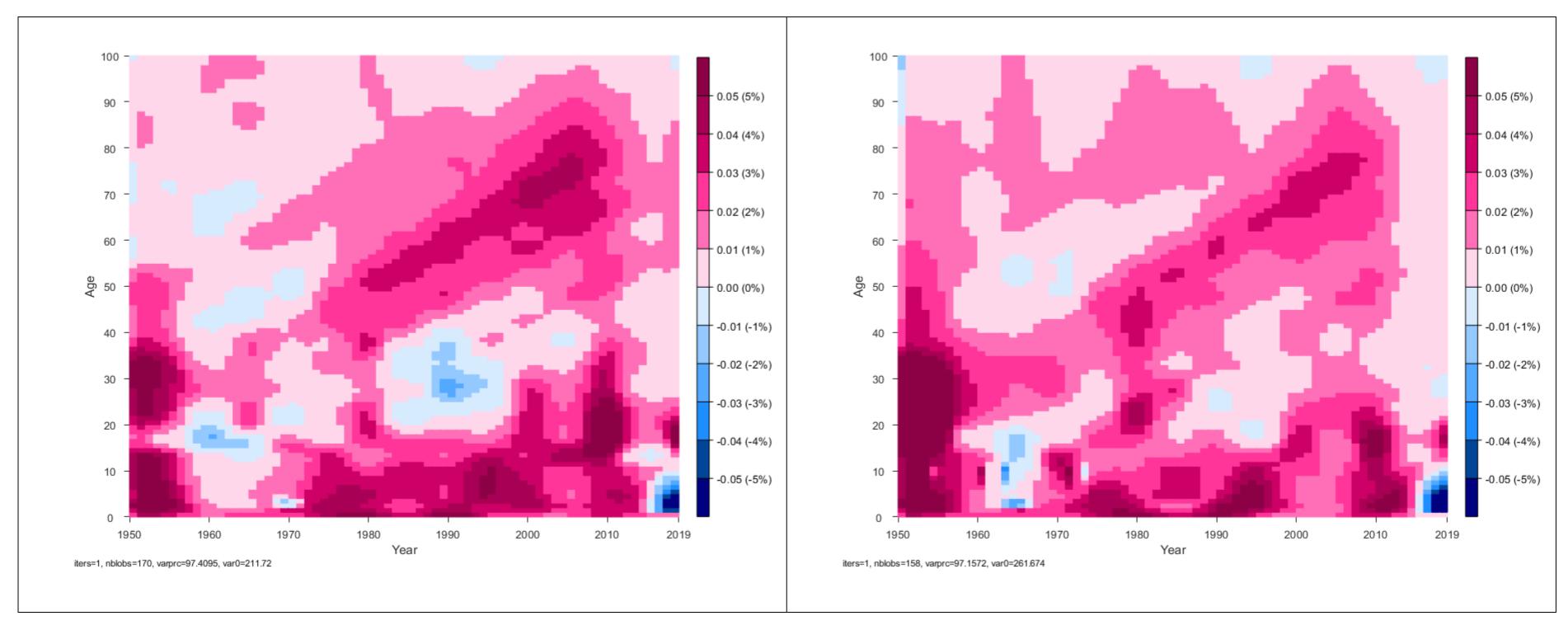
Ukraine



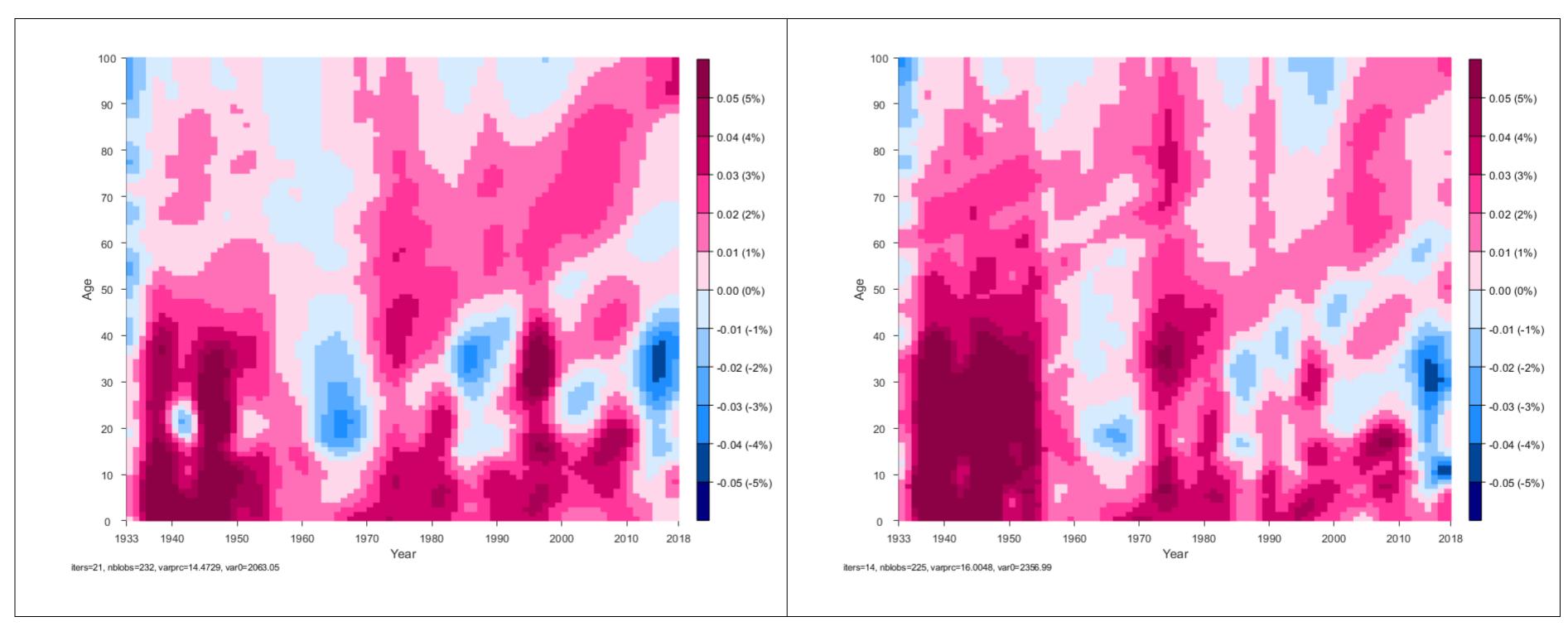
United Arab Emirates



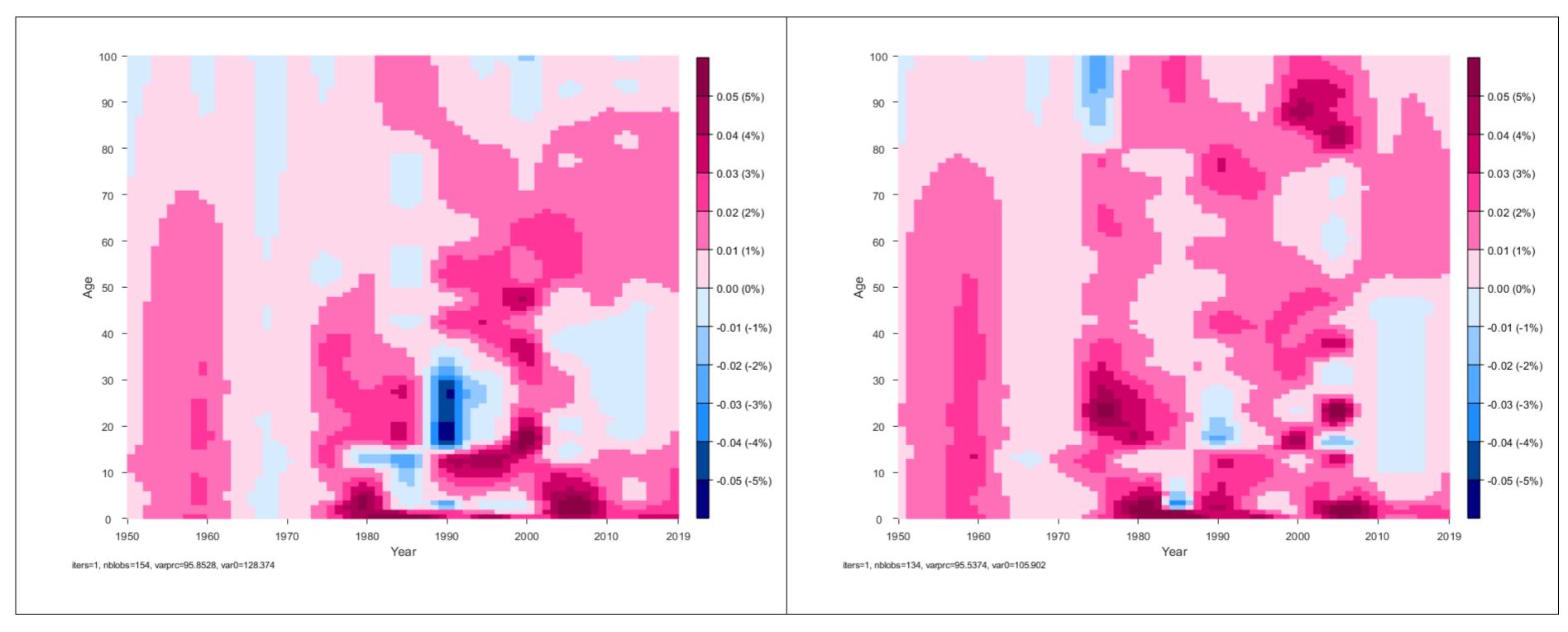
United Kingdom



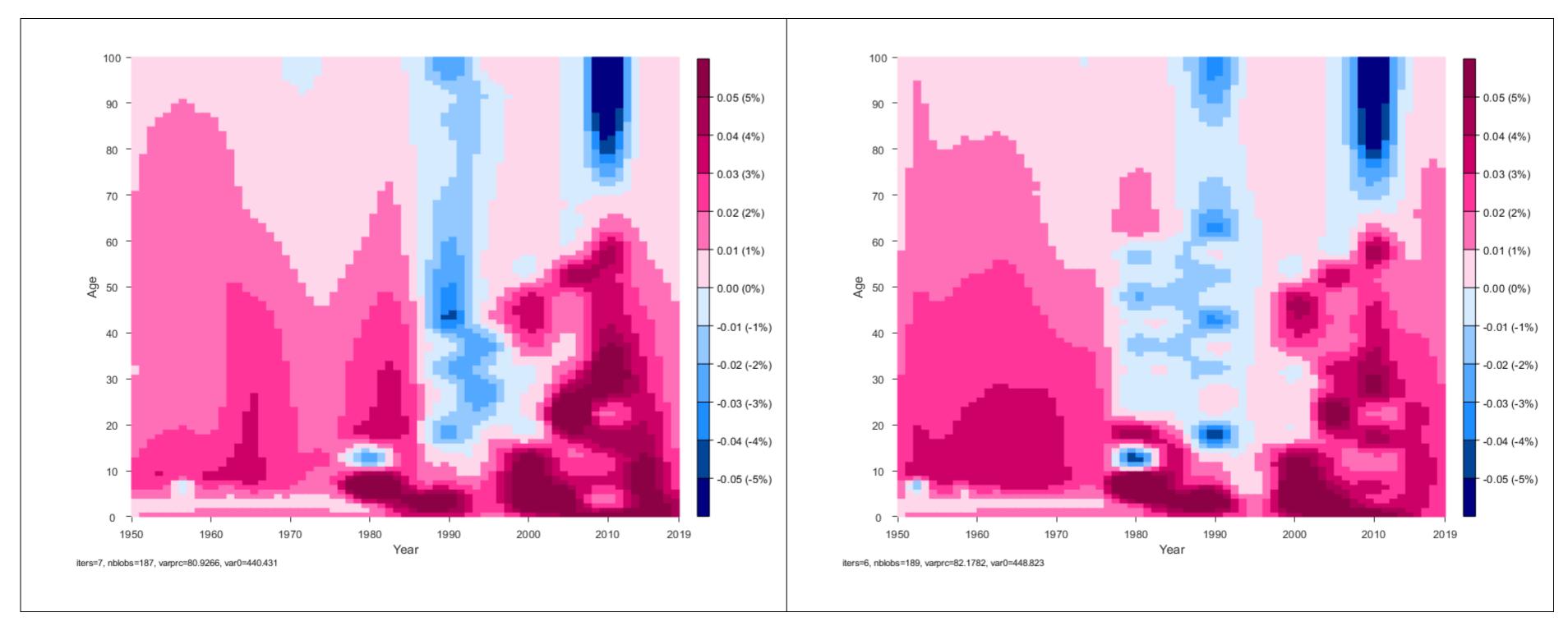
United States of America



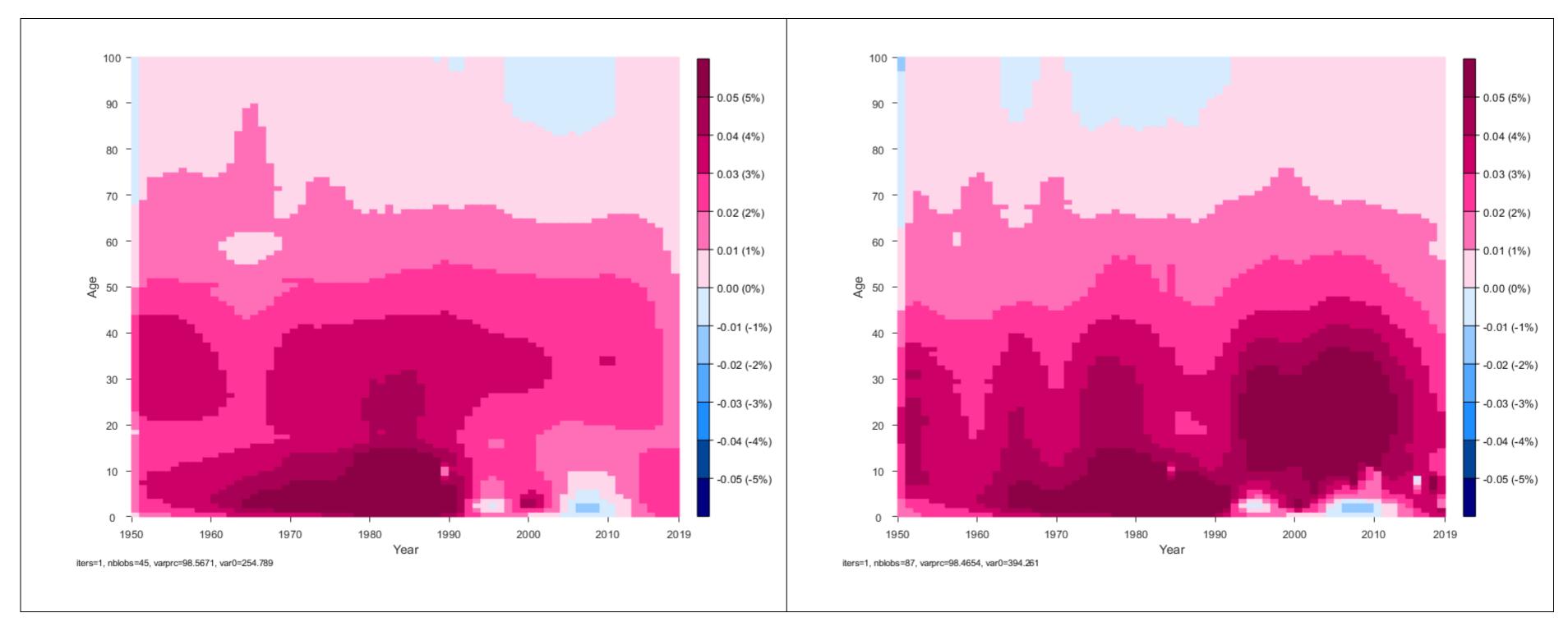
Uruguay



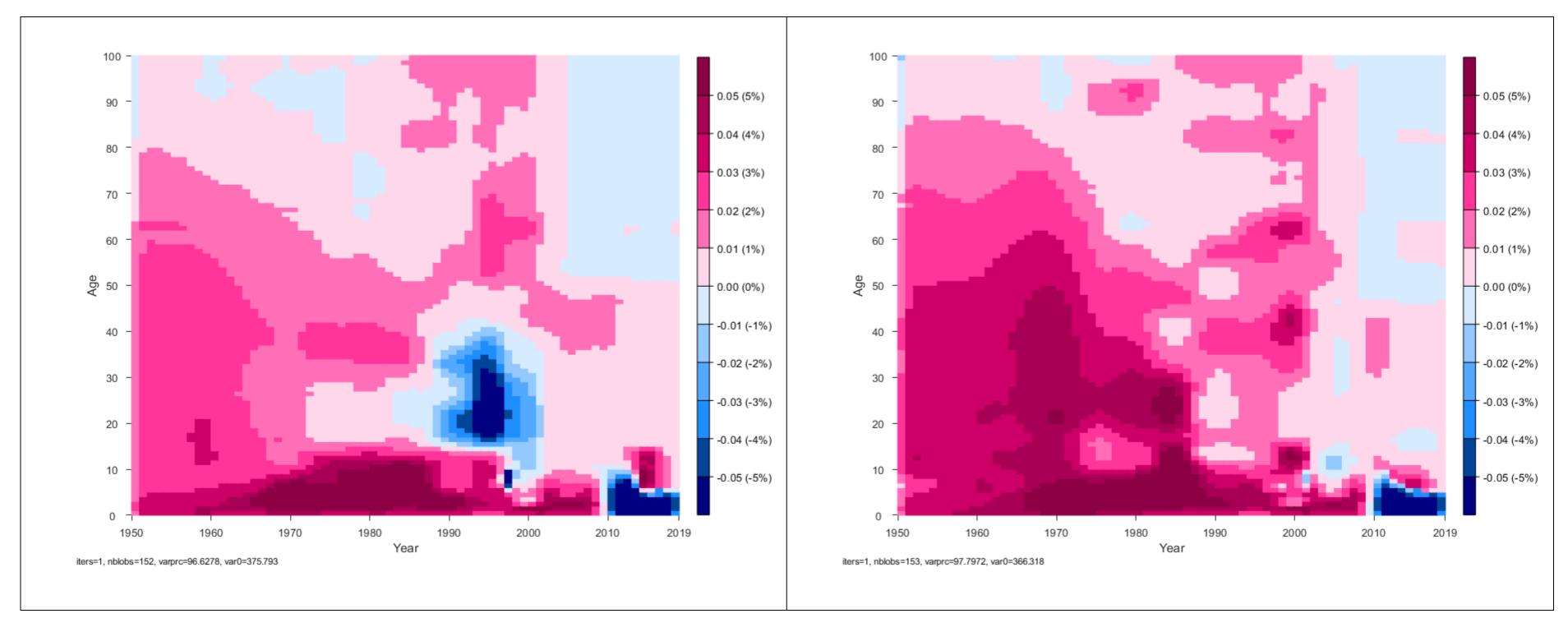
Uzbekistan



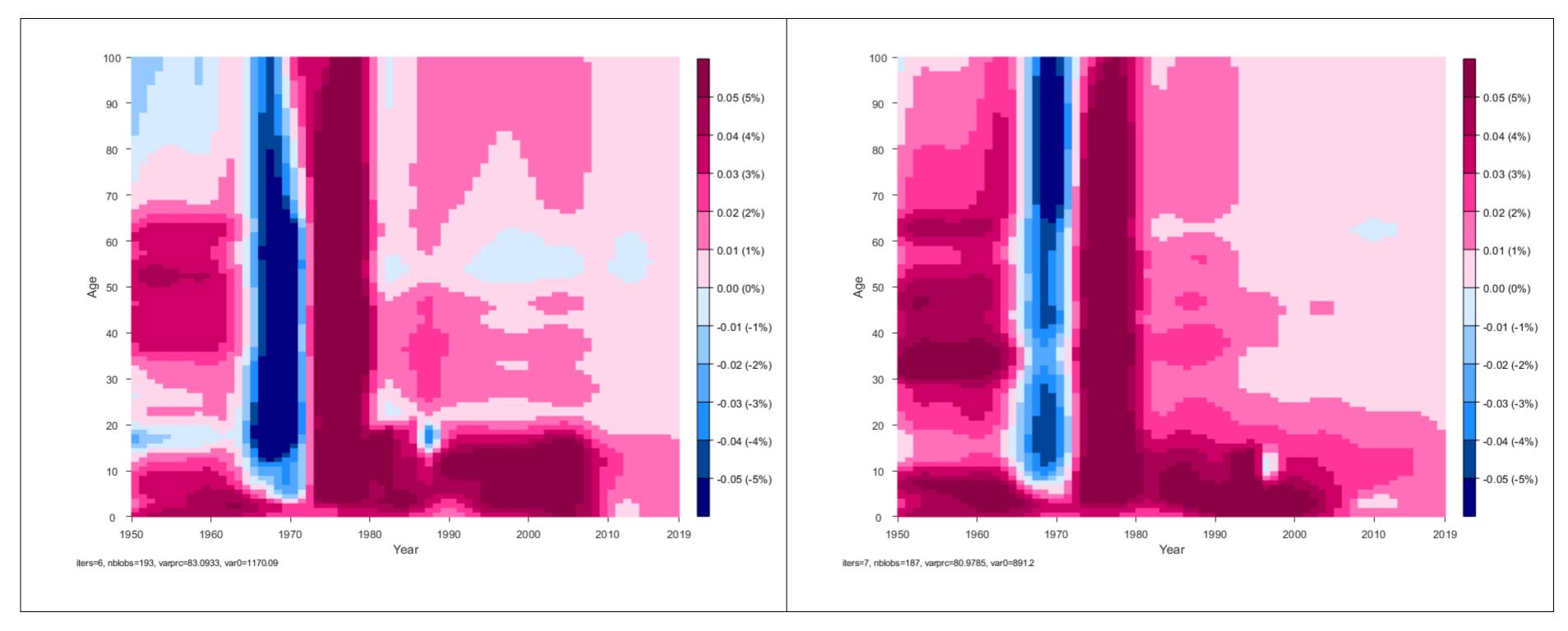
Vanuatu



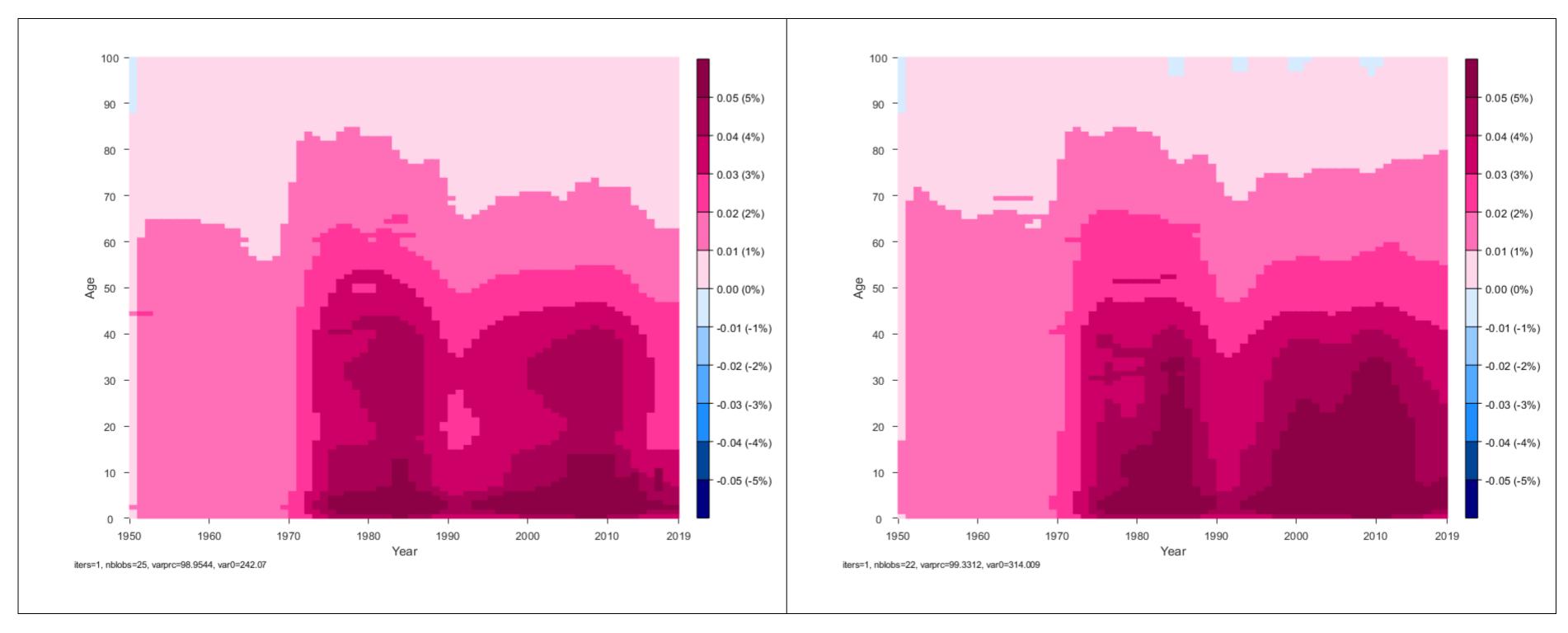
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)



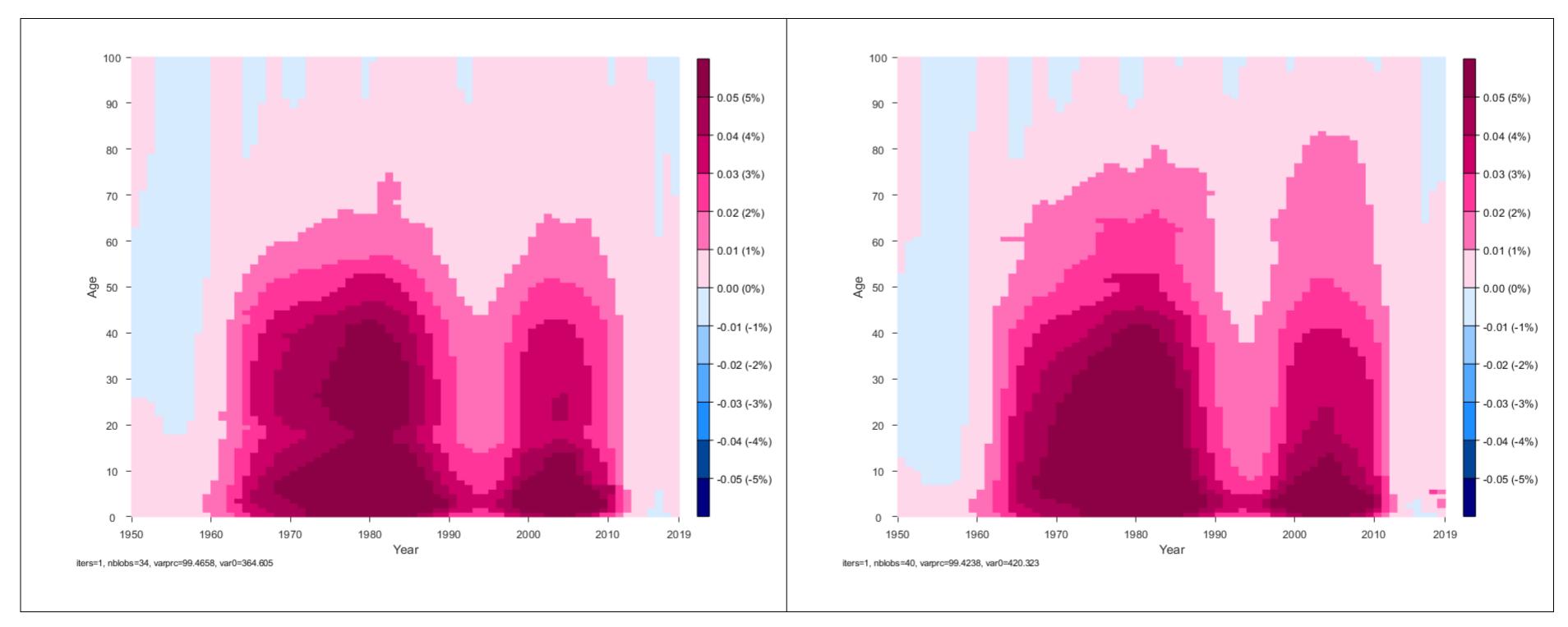
Viet Nam



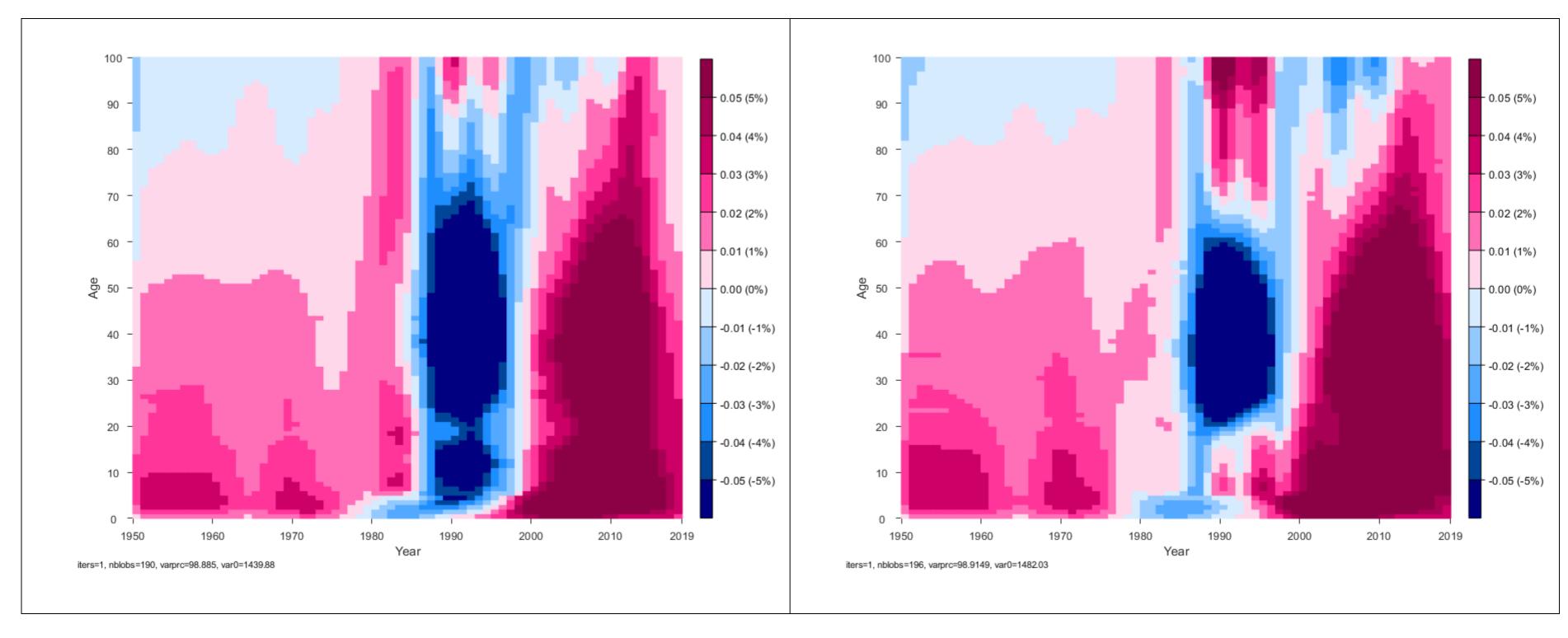
Western Sahara



Yemen



Zambia



Zimbabwe

