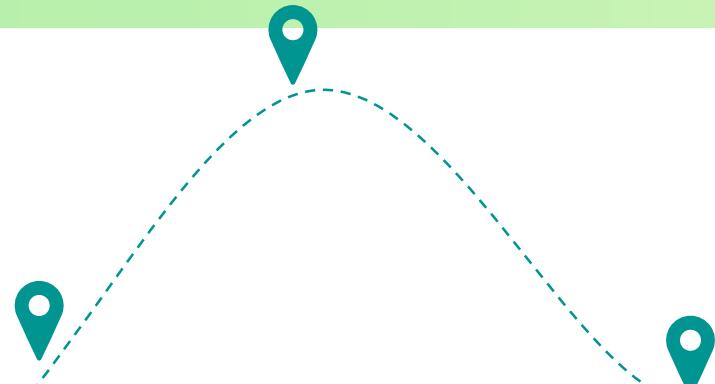


Center for Advanced Systems Understanding (CASUS)
Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf (HZDR)



HOME RANGE ESTIMATION

USING THE `CTMM` R PACKAGE



Inês Silva, Chris Fleming
i.silva@hzdr.de



THEORY

- 01 Definitions and concepts
- 02 Sample sizes, and parameter estimation
- 03 Home range estimators
- 04 Workflow for home range estimation
- 05 Biases and their mitigation measures

PRACTICE

- 06 Worked examples

 ANIMAL MOVEMENT

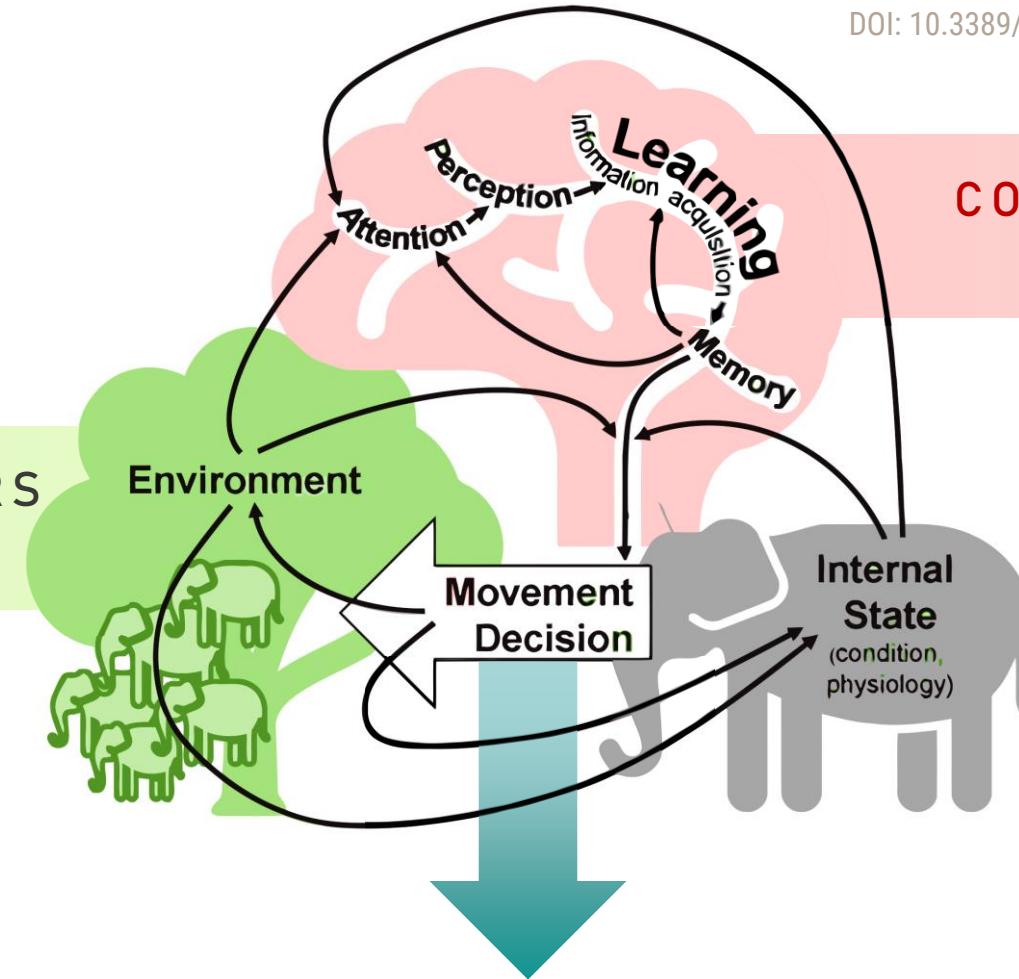
We cannot separate movement from space-use.

ENVIRONMENTAL DRIVERS OF MOVEMENT

Modified from Lewis et al. (2021)

DOI: 10.3389/fevo.2021.681704

COGNITIVE DRIVERS OF MOVEMENT



MOVEMENT TRAJECTORIES



ANIMAL MOVEMENT

Animal movement is autocorrelated.

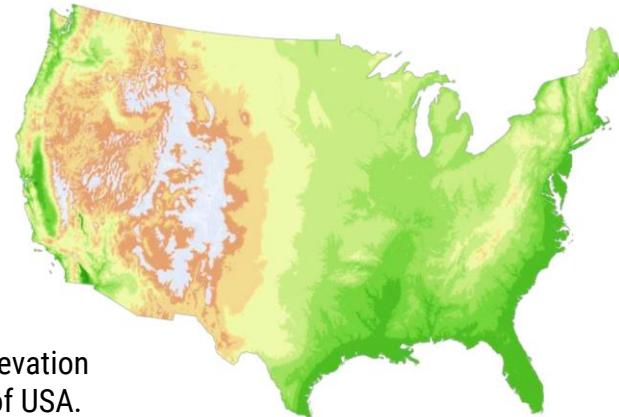
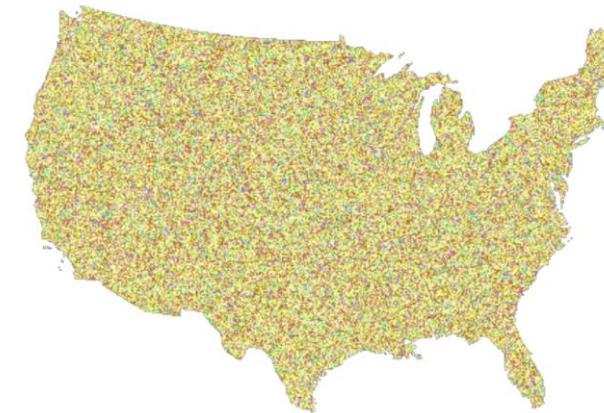


Fig. Elevation map of USA.

If features were not
autocorrelated



First Law of Geography

“

“Everything is related to everything else, but
near things are more related than distant
things”.

Tobler (1970)

 ANIMAL MOVEMENT

If not accounted for, non-independence can seriously undermine inferences and lead to overconfidence.

Autocorrelation is **informative**.

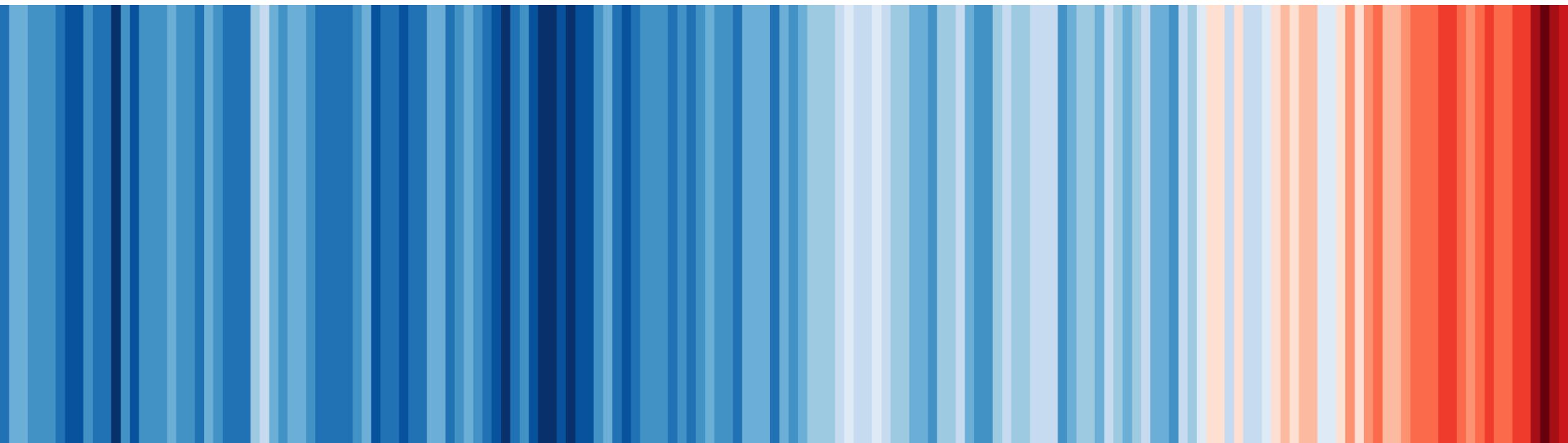


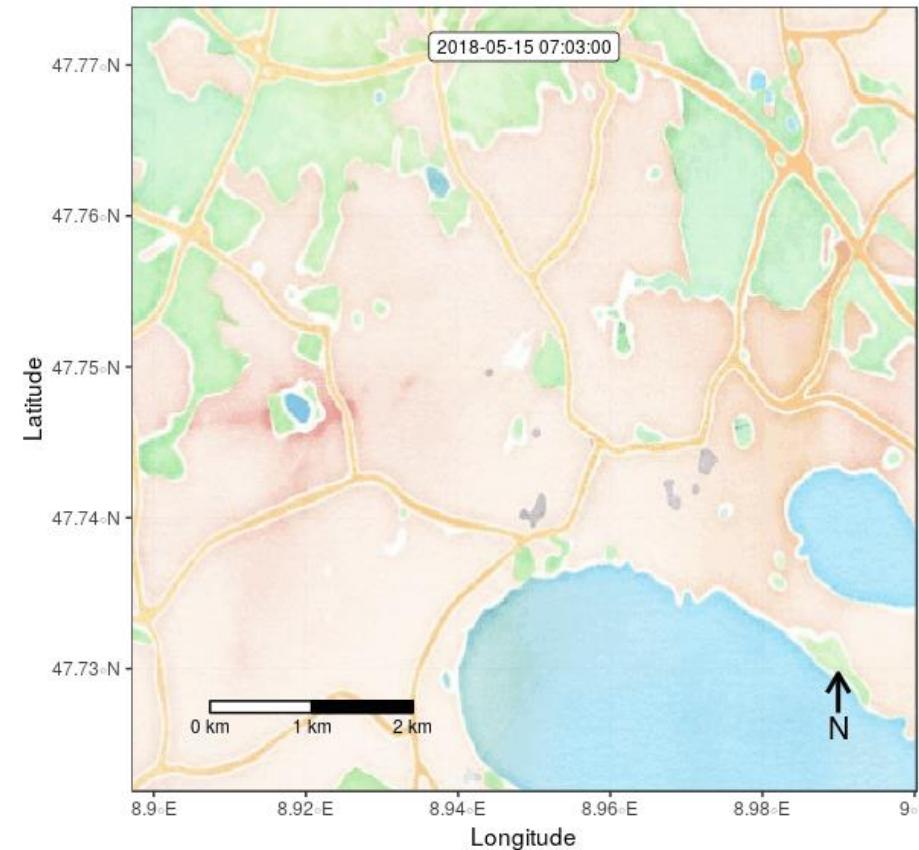
Fig. Average global temperature from 1850 (left) to 2018 (right)

Hawkins (2016)

 ANIMAL MOVEMENT

Animal movement is **autocorrelated**.
= Violates independence assumptions.

The autocorrelated nature of movement data is **critical** to explain animal movement and space-use patterns!



ANIMAL MOVEMENT

Although animal movement is a continuous process...
Tracking data does not necessarily reflect that.

ANIMAL MOVEMENT

≠

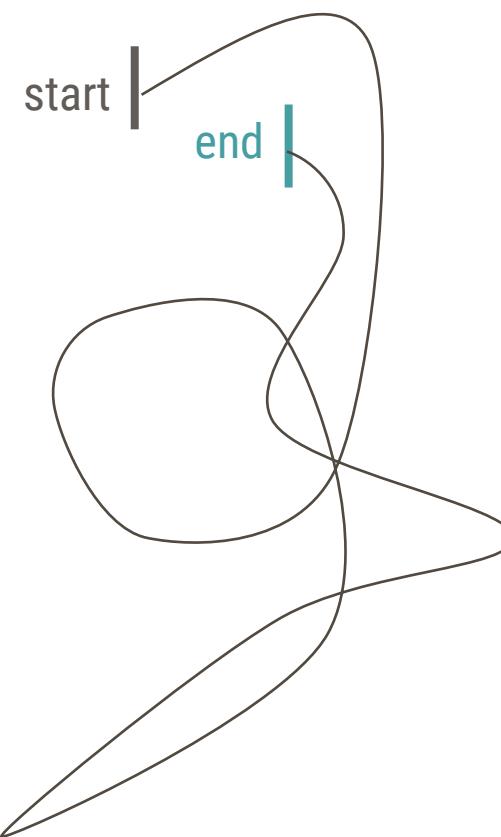
TRACKING DATA

“

“Our data is never a perfect reflection
of the real world.”

- ▶ only a subset: not real movement, only collected locations,
- ▶ collected by humans: guesstimation, precision and errors,
 - ▶ collected by machines: precisions and errors.

ANIMAL MOVEMENT

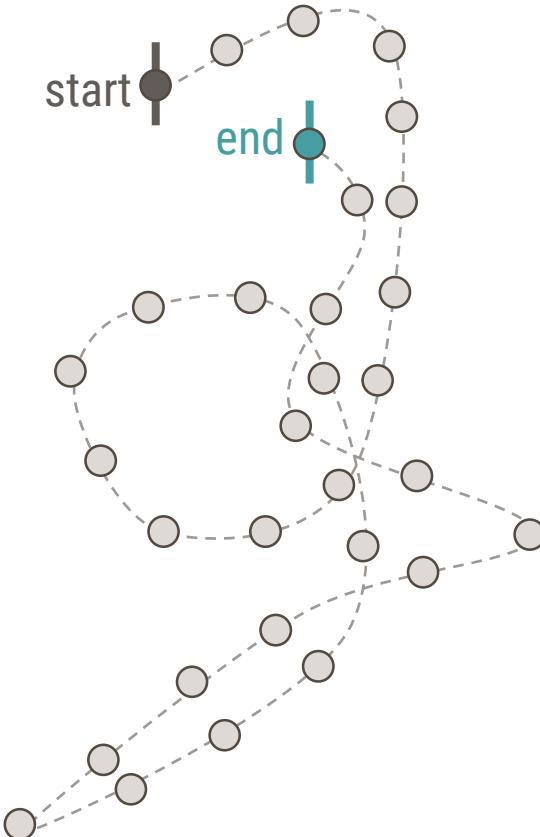


Animal movement

CONTINUOUS-TIME PROCESS



ANIMAL MOVEMENT



Animal movement

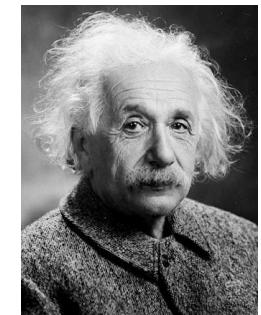
CONTINUOUS-TIME PROCESS



Animal tracking data
DISCRETE-TIME

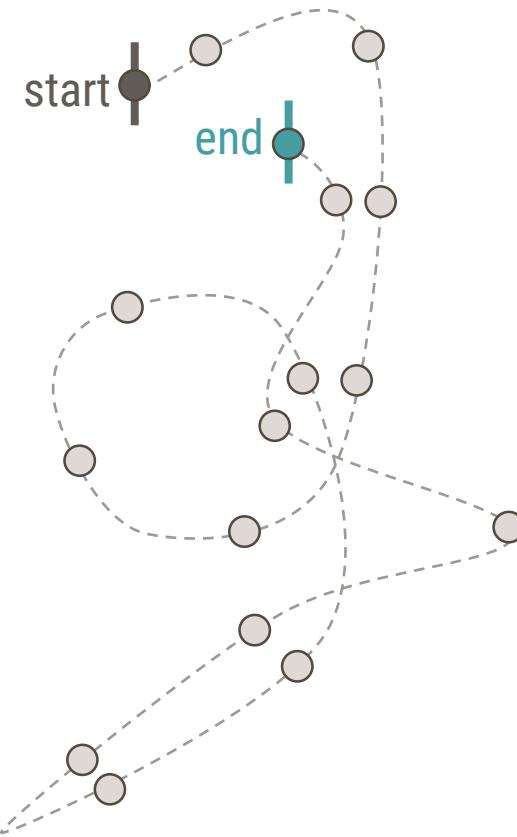
“

“Everything should be made as simple as possible ...
but not simpler.”





ANIMAL MOVEMENT



Animal movement

CONTINUOUS-TIME PROCESS

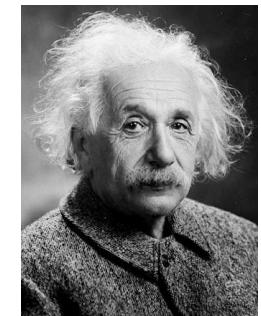


Loss of
information

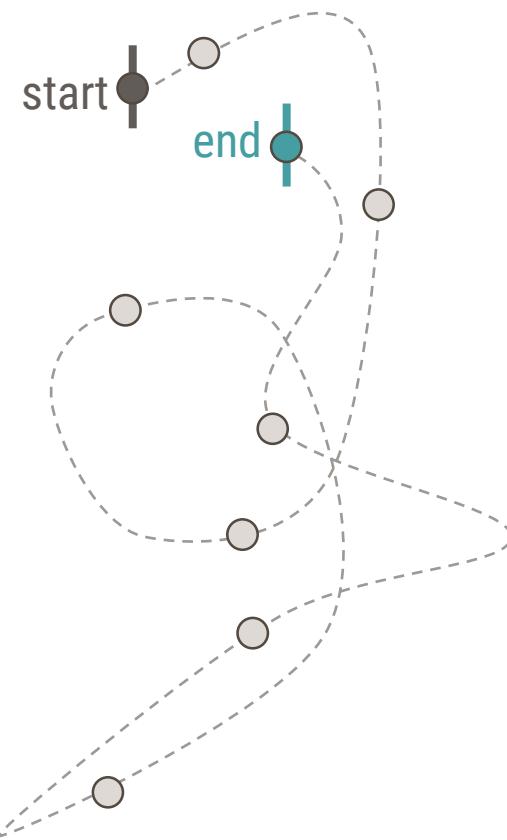
Animal tracking data
DISCRETE-TIME

“

“Everything should be made as simple as possible ...
but not simpler.”



ANIMAL MOVEMENT



Animal movement

CONTINUOUS-TIME PROCESS



MOVEMENT MODEL

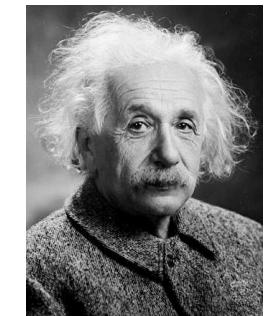


Loss of
information

Animal tracking data
DISCRETE-TIME

“

“Everything should be made as simple as possible ...
but not simpler.”



 HOME RANGE

First defined in Burt (1943) as:

“

“the area traversed by the individual in its normal activities of food gathering, mating, and caring for young. Occasional ventures outside the area, perhaps exploratory in nature, should not be considered part of the home range.”

 **HOME RANGE**

First defined in Burt (1943) as:

“

“the area traversed by the individual in its normal activities of food gathering, mating, and caring for young. Occasional ventures outside the area, perhaps exploratory in nature, should not be considered part of the home range.”

- ▶ How to quantify **home range area**.

HOME RANGE
not actively defended

≠

TERRITORY
actively defended

 HOME RANGE

First defined in Burt (1943) as:

“

“the area traversed by the individual in its normal activities of food gathering, mating, and caring for young. Occasional ventures outside the area, perhaps exploratory in nature, should not be considered part of the home range.”

- ▶ What constitutes an **exploratory move**.
- ▶ How to quantify an **exploratory move**.
- ▶ How to define the area from which **exploratory moves** are made.

In practice, it is hard to define when
a move is purely *exploratory*.



Exclusion of infrequent
outlying relocation points

UTILIZATION DISTRIBUTION

RANGE
DISTRIBUTION

*extrapolate space use
into the future*

***"How much space does an animal
need over the long term?"***

What is an animal's home range area?
What is their the population range area?
Are protected areas sufficiently large?

OCCURRENCE
DISTRIBUTION

*interpolate between data
points in the past*

***"Where did an animal go
during a period of observation?"***

Where did an animal cross a linear feature?
How likely is it that it visited a location of interest?
How much time did it spend in a specific habitat?



UTILIZATION DISTRIBUTION

RANGE
DISTRIBUTION

*extrapolate space use
into the future*

*"How much space does an animal
need over the long term?"*

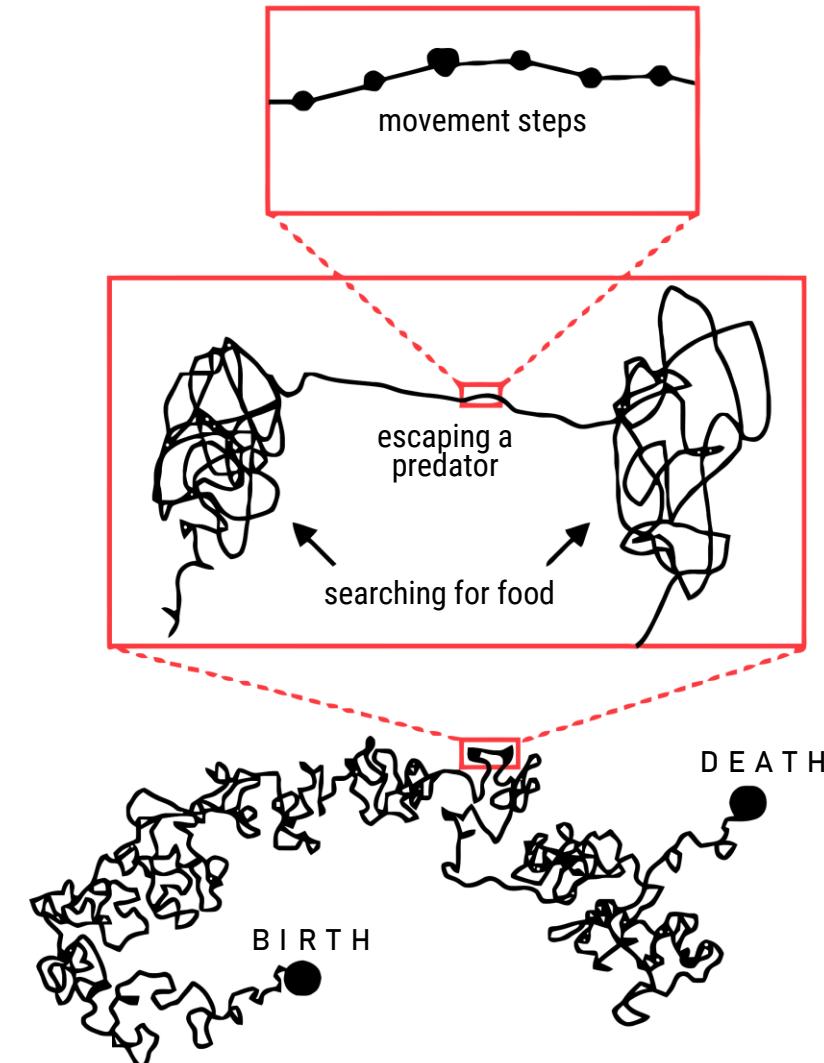
What is an animal's home range area?
What is their the population range area?
Are protected areas sufficiently large?

 HOME RANGE

Here, we follow the definition of home range as the area repeatedly used throughout an animal's **lifetime** for all its **normal behaviors** and **activities**, excluding occasional exploratory excursions.

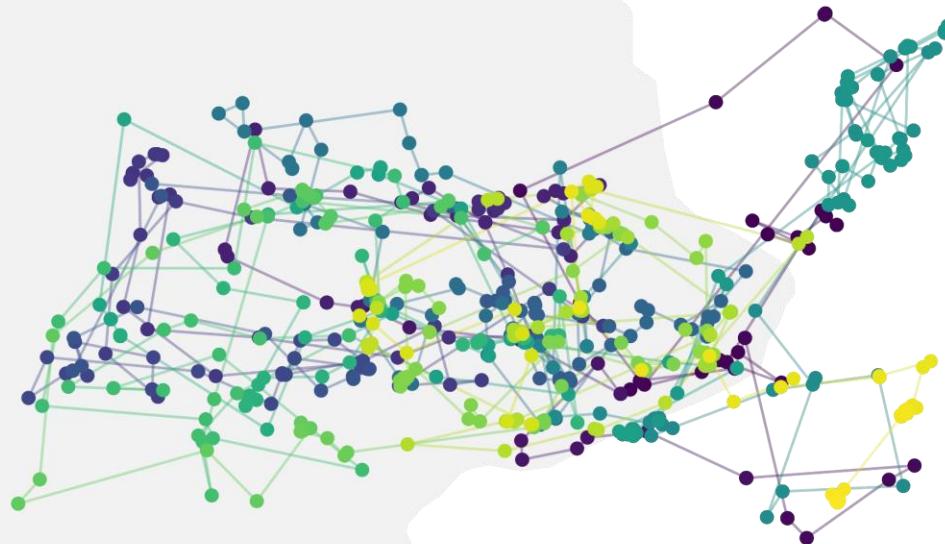


Home range area can be expected to include future locations.



 HOME RANGE

VHF data
Duration: 1 year



It is vital to capture the area repeatedly used throughout an animal's **lifetime**.

Example:

Conservation and management,
to understand human-wildlife conflict.

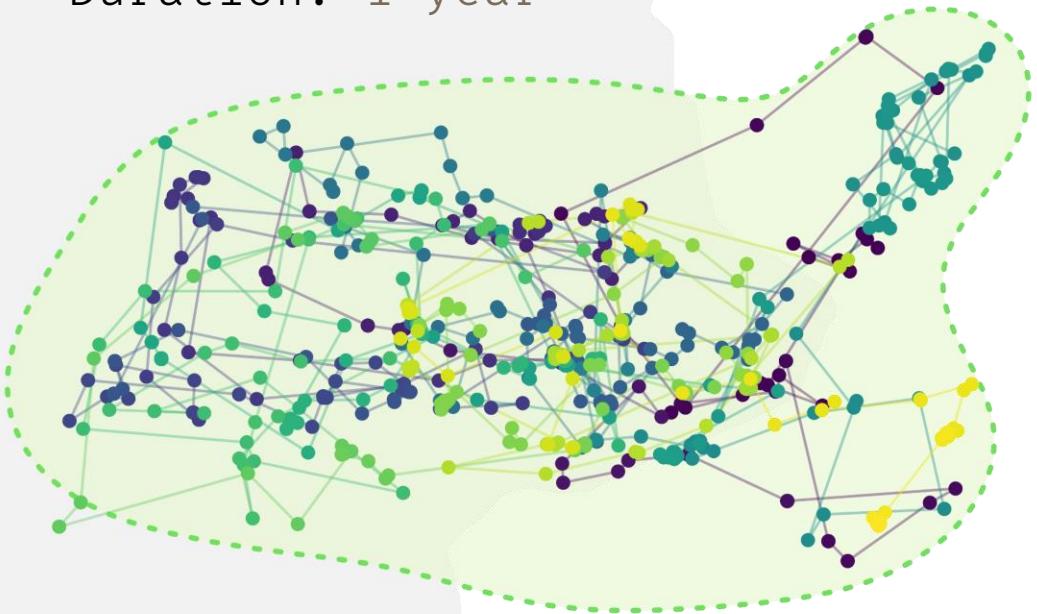
SPECIES
KING COBRA
Ophiophagus hannah

VU



It is vital to capture the area repeatedly used throughout an animal's **lifetime**.

VHF data
Duration: 1 year



PROTECTED AREA

UNPROTECTED AREA

Example:

Conservation and management,
to understand human-wildlife conflict.

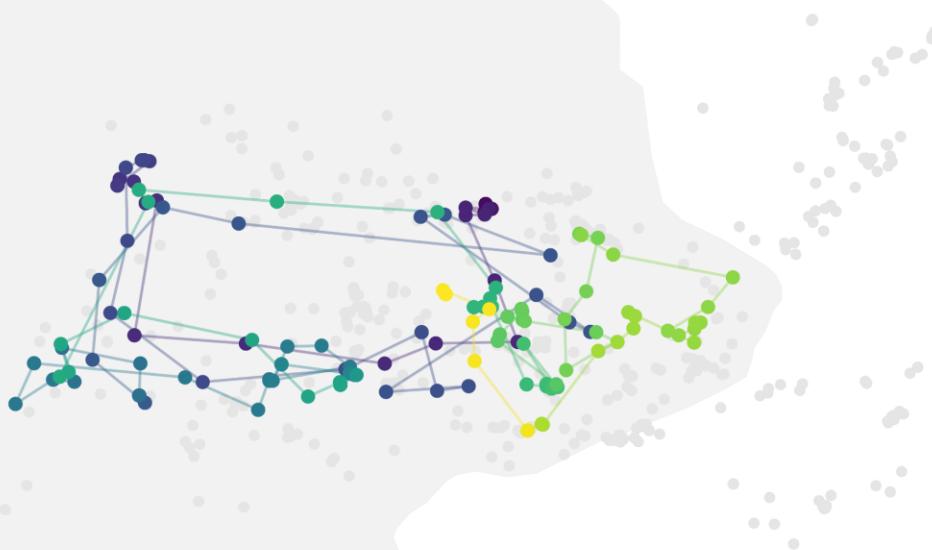
SPECIES
KING COBRA
Ophiophagus hannah

VU



 HOME RANGE

VHF data
Duration: 6 months



PROTECTED AREA

UNPROTECTED AREA

It is vital to capture the area repeatedly used throughout an animal's **lifetime**.

Example:

Conservation and management,
to understand human-wildlife conflict.

SPECIES
KING COBRA
Ophiophagus hannah

VU



 SAMPLE SIZE

It is important to distinguish two **sample size concepts**:

n

ABSOLUTE SAMPLE SIZE

SAMPLING DURATION

How long is an animal tracked for?

6 months



SAMPLING FREQUENCY

How frequently are locations collected?

1 fix every 20 minutes

17,520 locations

Total number of locations

 SAMPLE SIZE

It is important to distinguish two sample size concepts:

n

ABSOLUTE SAMPLE SIZE

SAMPLING DURATION

How long is an animal tracked for?

6 months



SAMPLING FREQUENCY

How frequently are locations collected?

1 fix every 20 minutes

17,520 locations
Total number of locations

N

EFFECTIVE SAMPLE SIZE

roughly estimated as T/τ_p

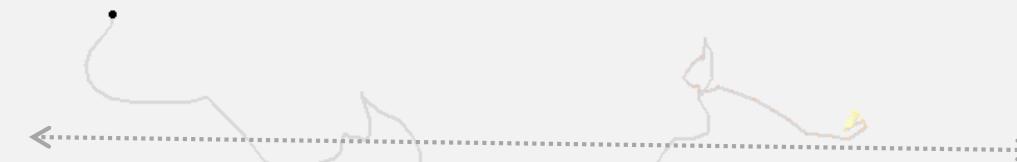


T is the sampling duration

τ_p is the average **home range crossing time**

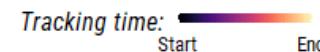
τ_p

HOME RANGE CROSSING TIMESCALE PARAMETER



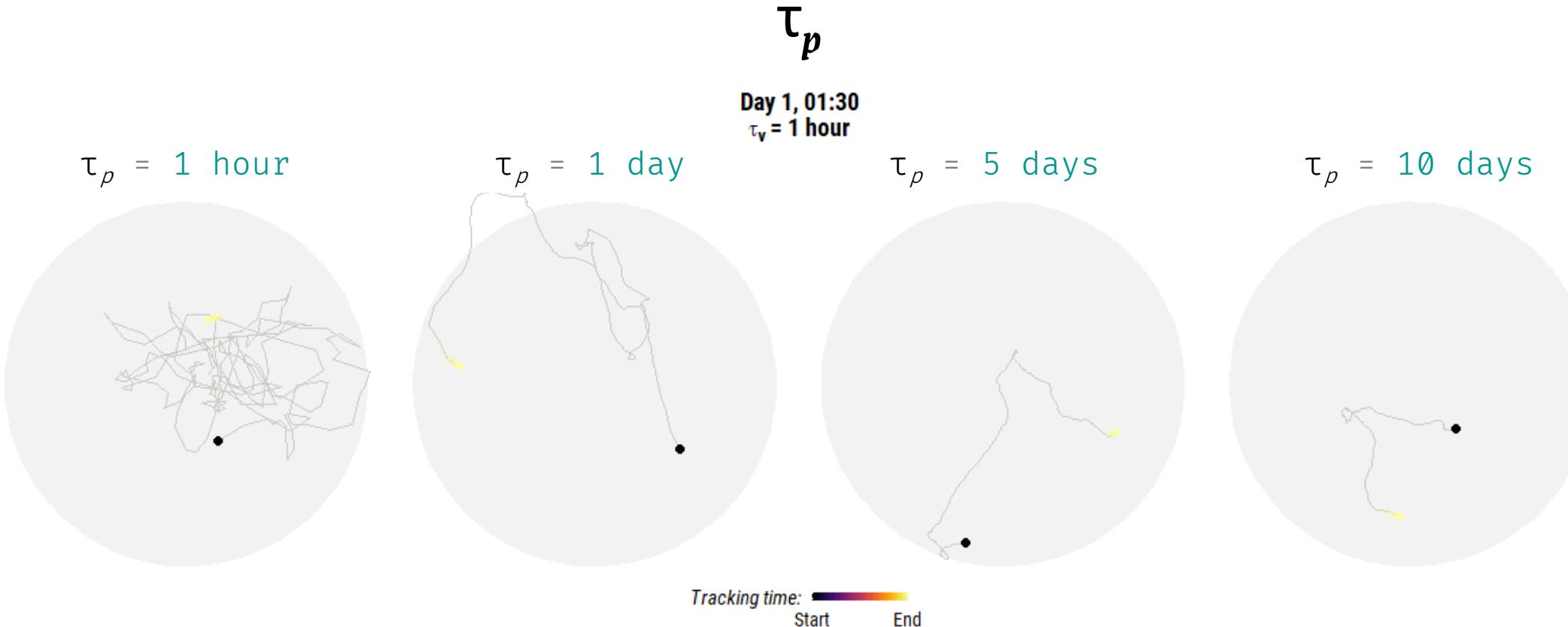
**How long does it take for an animal
to traverse the linear extent of its
home range?**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Duration} &= 1 \text{ day} \\ \tau_p &= 1 \text{ day} \end{aligned}$$

Tracking time:  Start End

PARAMETERS
SAMPLE SIZE

ANIMOVE 2022



Effective sample size (N) decreases as the *home range crossing time parameter* (τ_p) increases.

PARAMETERS SAMPLE SIZE

ANIMOVE 2022



LC

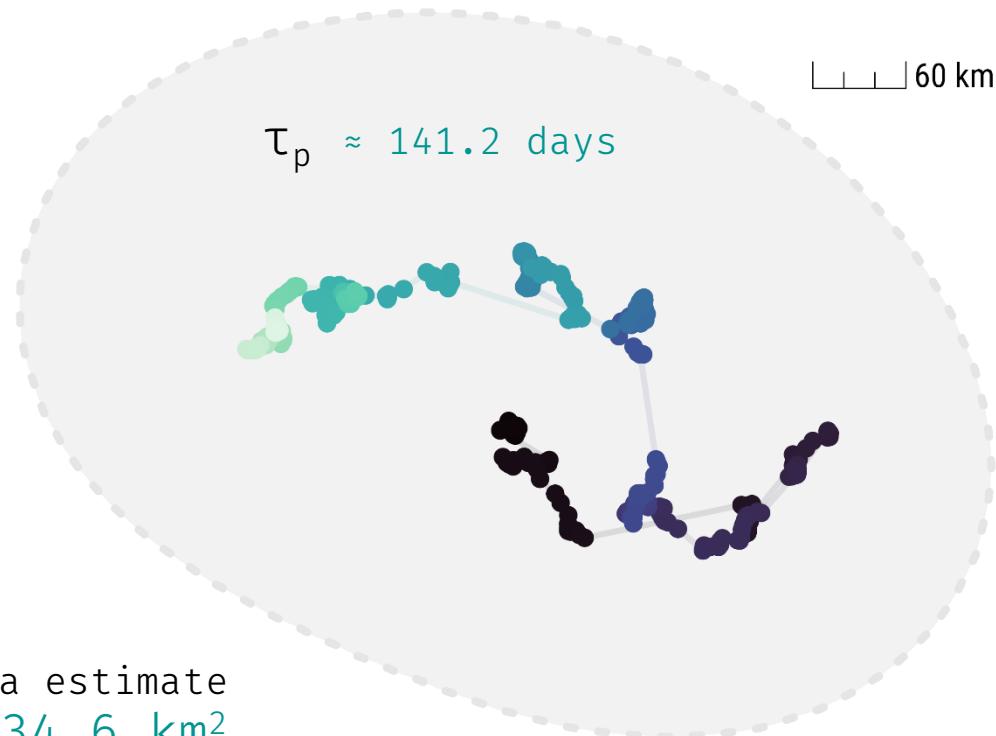
Sampling duration = tracked for 389 days

Sampling frequency \approx 1 fix every 5 hours

MONGOLIAN GAZELLE
PROCOPTERA GUTTUROSA

Absolute sample size n = 710 locations
Effective sample size N \approx 2.7 locations

Home range area estimate
303,434.6 km²



 SAMPLE SIZE

For **independent** data,

$$n = N$$

For **autocorrelated** data,

$$n \gg N$$

n = absolute sample size

N = effective sample size

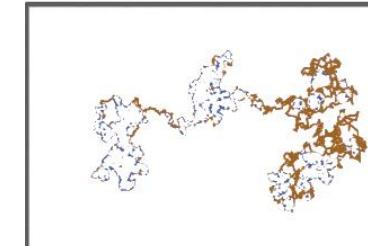
Many biases, including most that affect home range estimation, are exacerbated by small sample sizes.

 ESTIMATORS

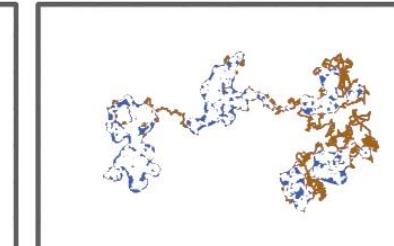
One of the primary reasons for collecting animal movement data is **home range estimation**.

However, not all methods are appropriate ...

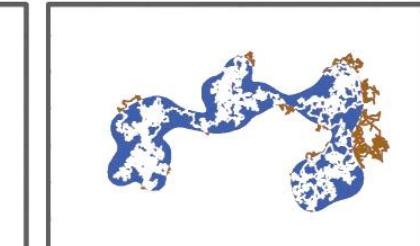
4 fixes per day



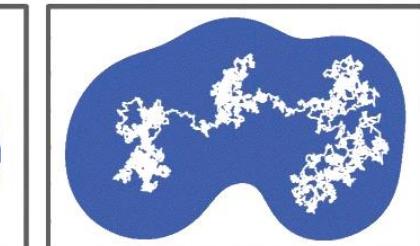
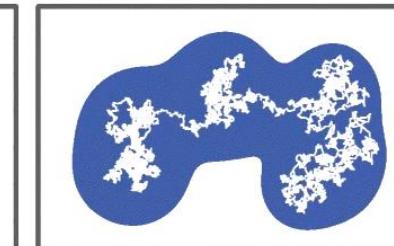
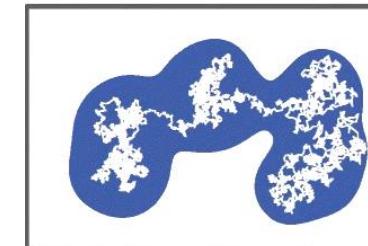
1 fix per day



1 fix per week

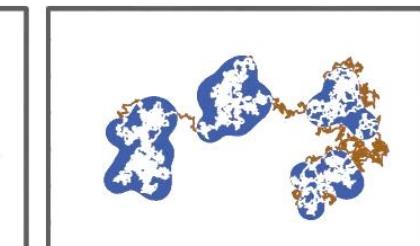
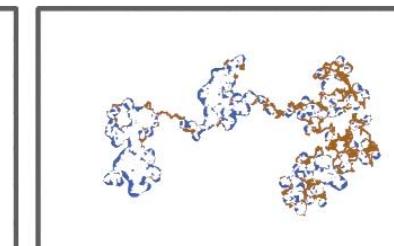
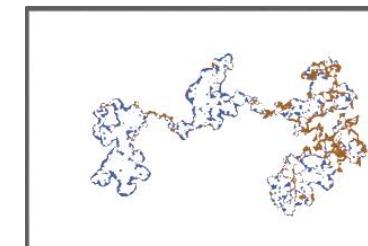


BBMM

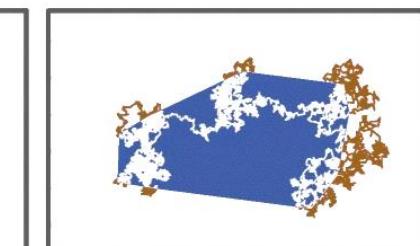
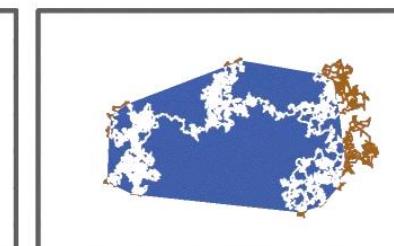
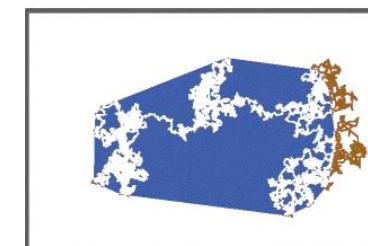


KDE href

KDE LSCV



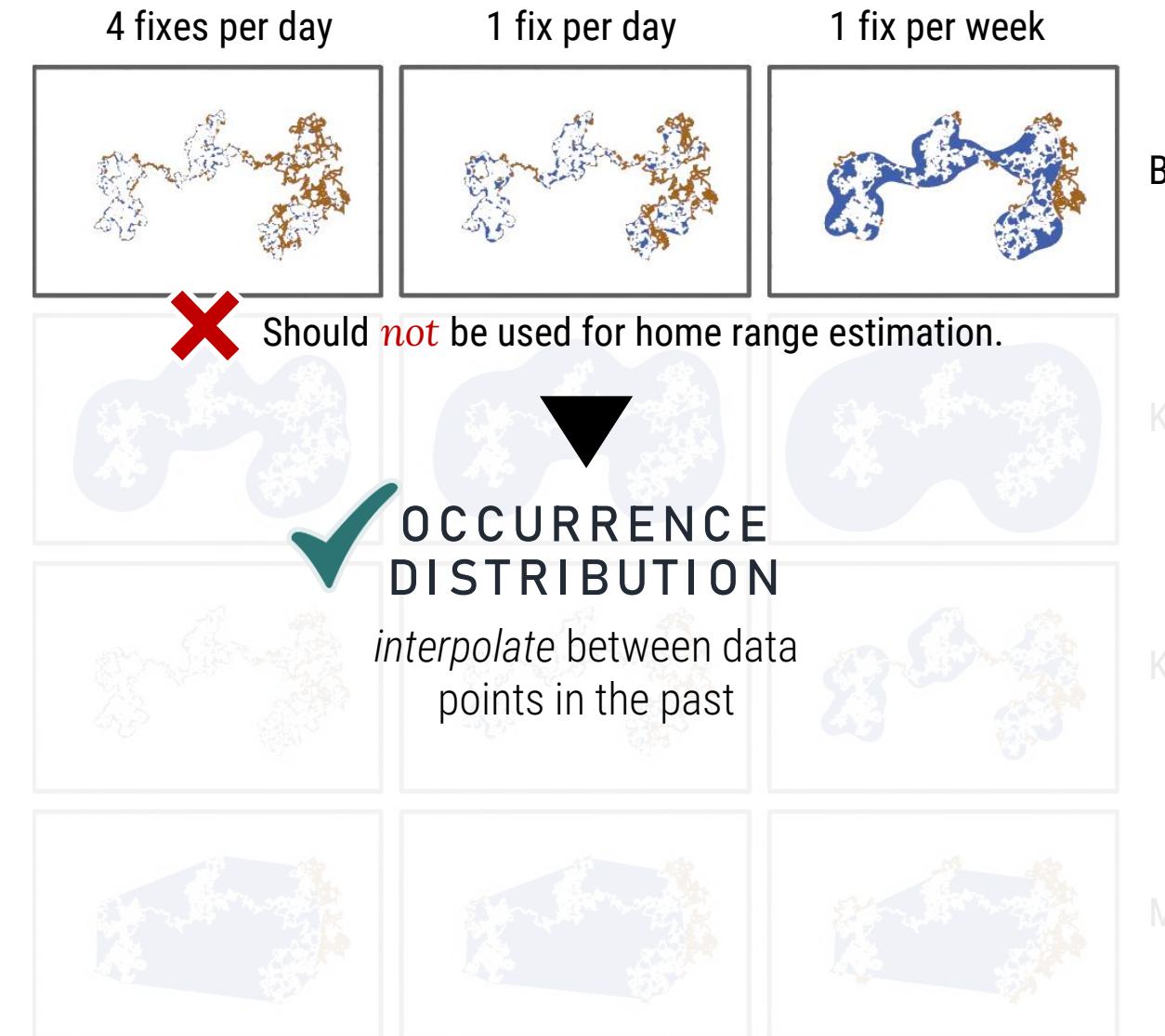
MCP



 ESTIMATORS

One of the primary reasons for collecting animal movement data is **home range estimation**.

However, not all methods are appropriate ...



 ESTIMATORS

One of the primary reasons for collecting animal movement data is **home range estimation**.

However, not all methods are appropriate ...

4 fixes per day



1 fix per day

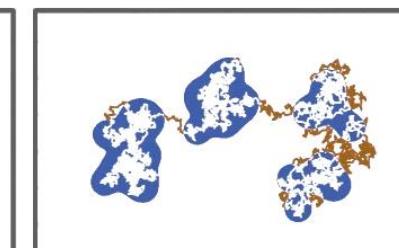
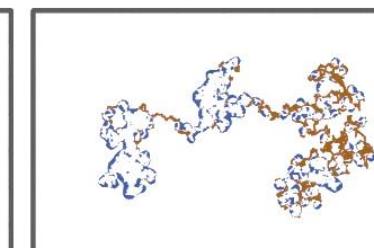
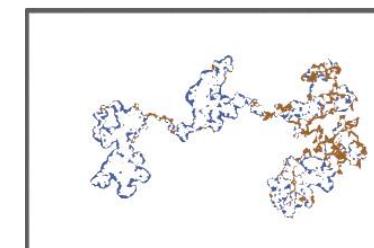
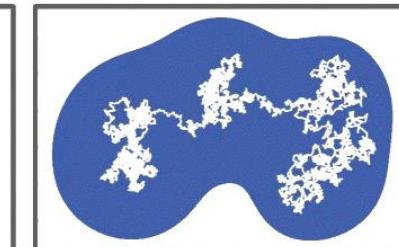
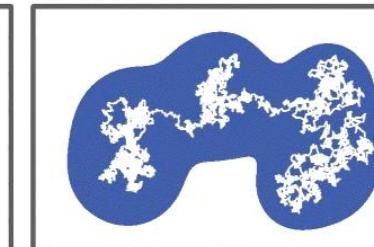
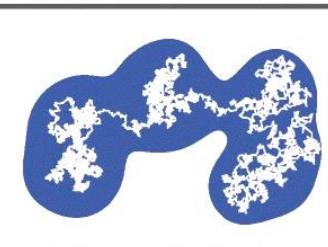


1 fix per week



BBMM

KDE href
Kernel density estimator



KDE LSCV
Kernel density estimator

MCP
Minimum Convex Polygons

 ESTIMATORS

Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP)
Kernel density estimator (KDE)

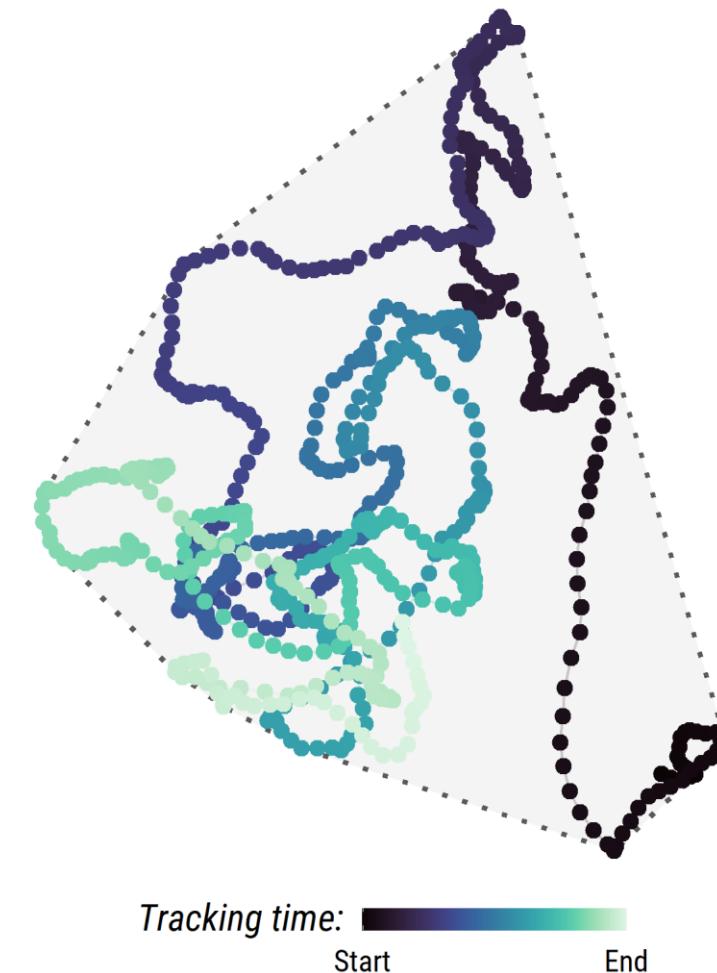


 ESTIMATORS

Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP)

Kernel density estimator (KDE)

- ▶ Assumes uniform use,
- ▶ Assumes locations are *independent*;
- ▶ Sensitive to *outliers* and point geometry.

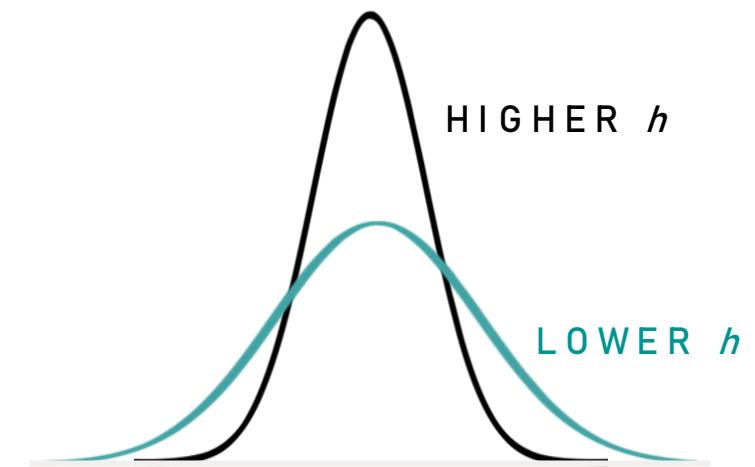
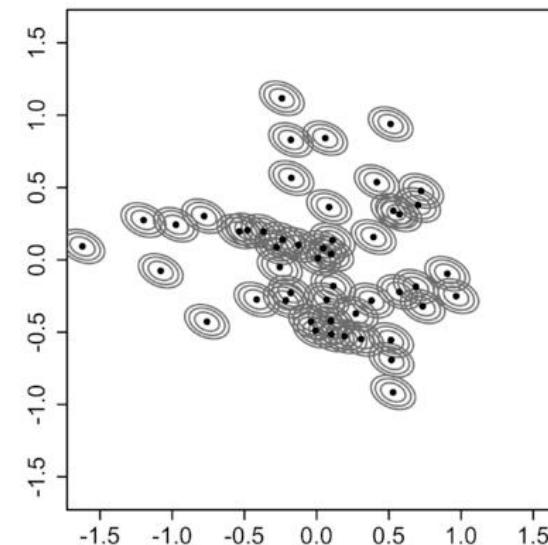
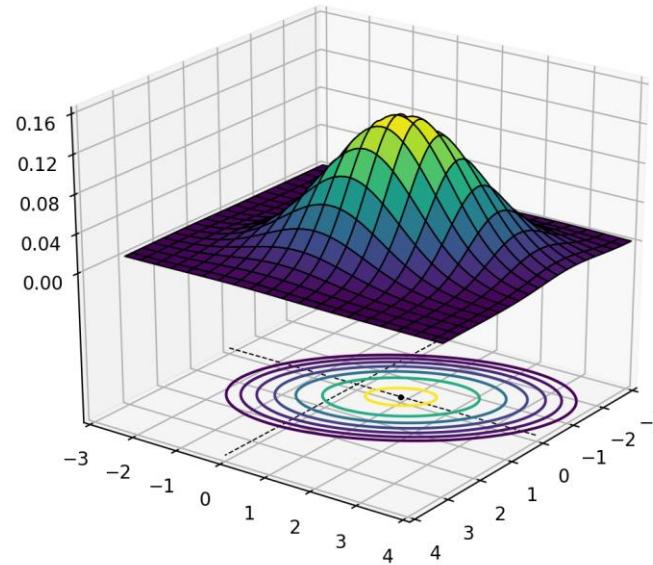


 **ESTIMATORS**

Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP)

Kernel density estimator (KDE)

Kernel density estimates describe not just the borders of the home range, but the probability of use.



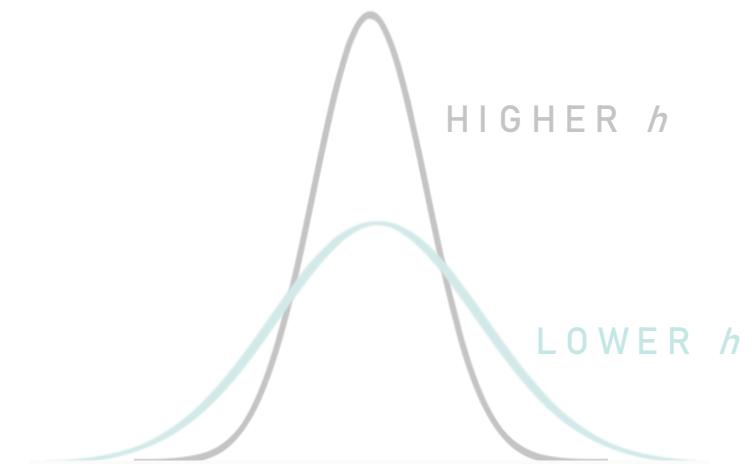
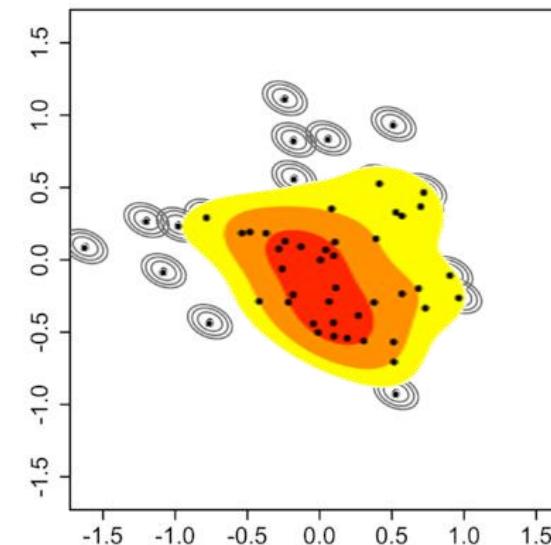
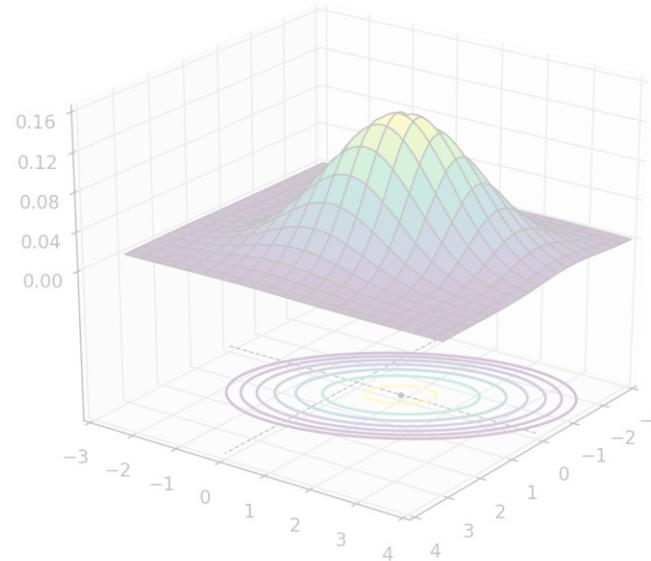
On an x–y plane, each location has a three-dimensional "hill", the **kernel**.
The shape and width of the kernel, called the **bandwidth** (h),
can be selected using algorithms.

 **ESTIMATORS**

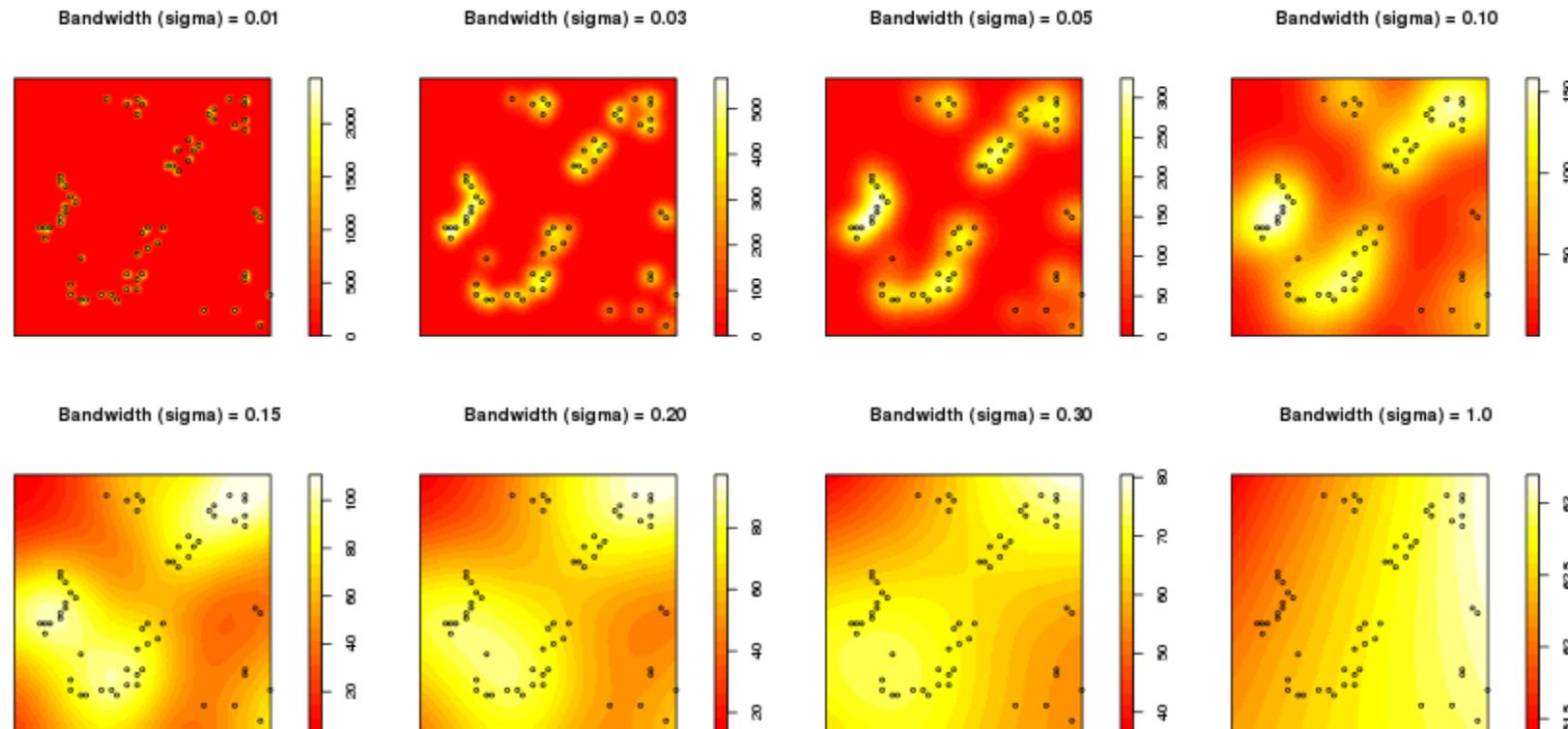
Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP)

Kernel density estimator (KDE)

Kernel density estimates describe not just the borders of the home range, but the probability of use.



These kernels are then averaged, showing an *estimate* of the *underlying distribution* of all locations.

 ESTIMATORSMinimum Convex Polygon (MCP)
Kernel density estimator (KDE)

bandwidth (h), or smoothing parameter

 ESTIMATORS

Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP)
Kernel density estimator (KDE)



Tracking time: 
Start End



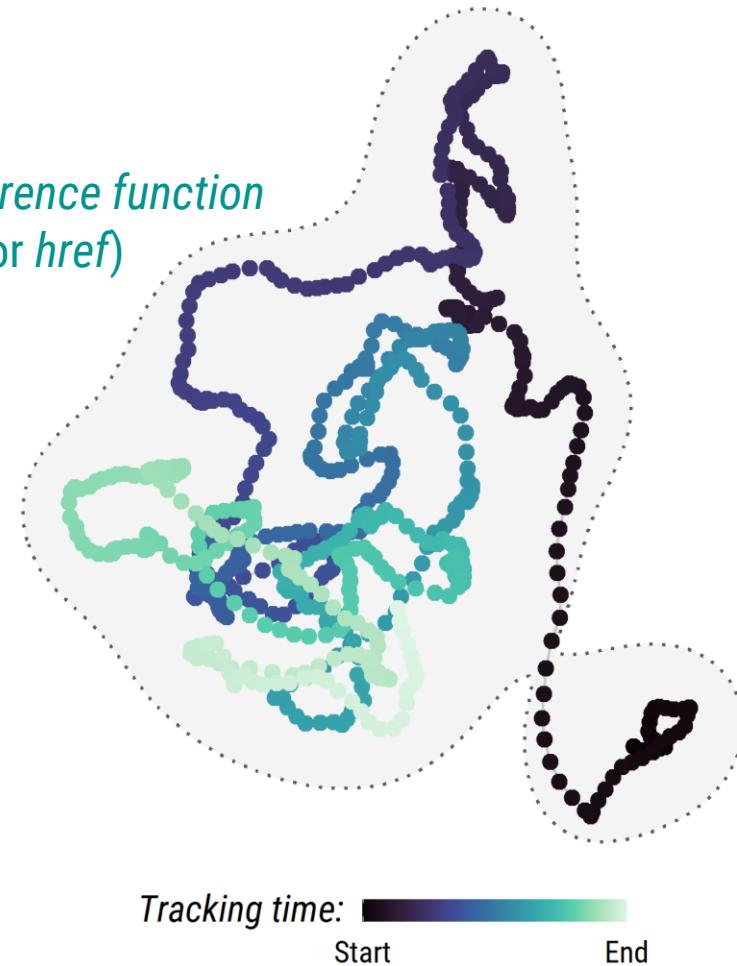
ESTIMATORS

Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP)

Kernel density estimator (KDE)

*Gaussian reference function
(GFR or href)*

- ▶ Assumes locations are *independent*;
- ▶ Sensitive to *bandwidth selection*.



ESTIMATORS

Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP)

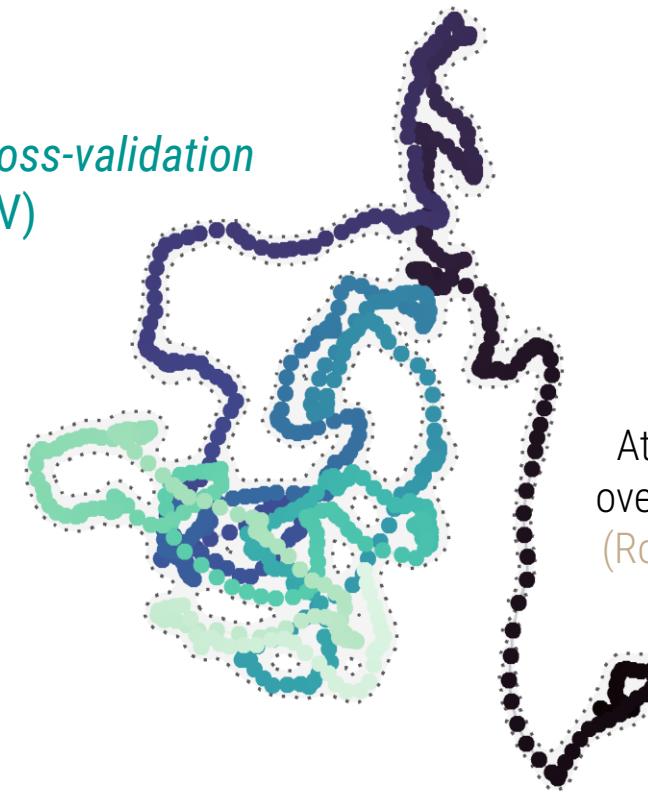
Kernel density estimator (KDE)

*Least-squares cross-validation
(LSCV)*

- ▶ Assumes locations are *independent*;
- ▶ Sensitive to *bandwidth selection*.



This algorithm performs poorly with **large sample sizes**, and still does not account for the locations' temporal structure.



Tracking time: 
Start End

Attempts to prevent oversmoothing of KDE
(Rodgers & Kie, 2010)

Thinning the data....

Fig. Tracking data representing *hourly locations* over *one month*.

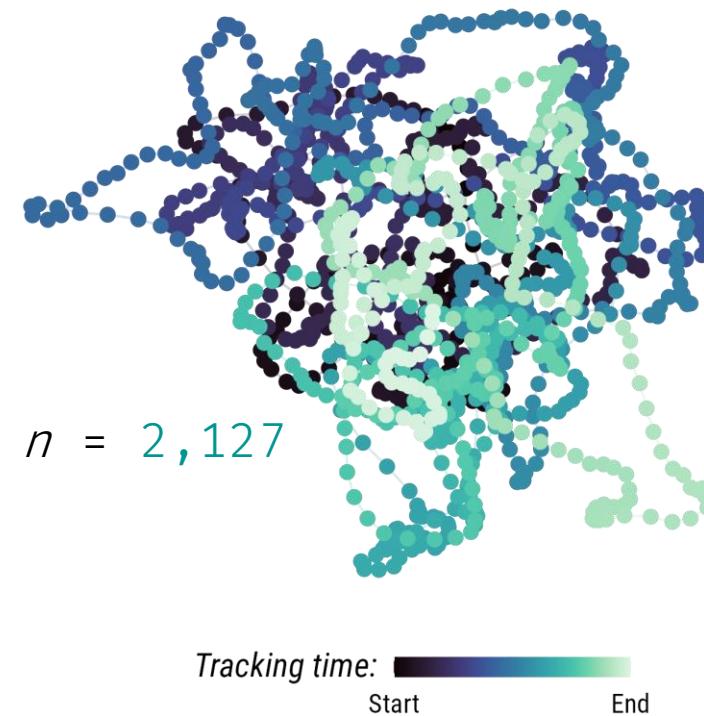
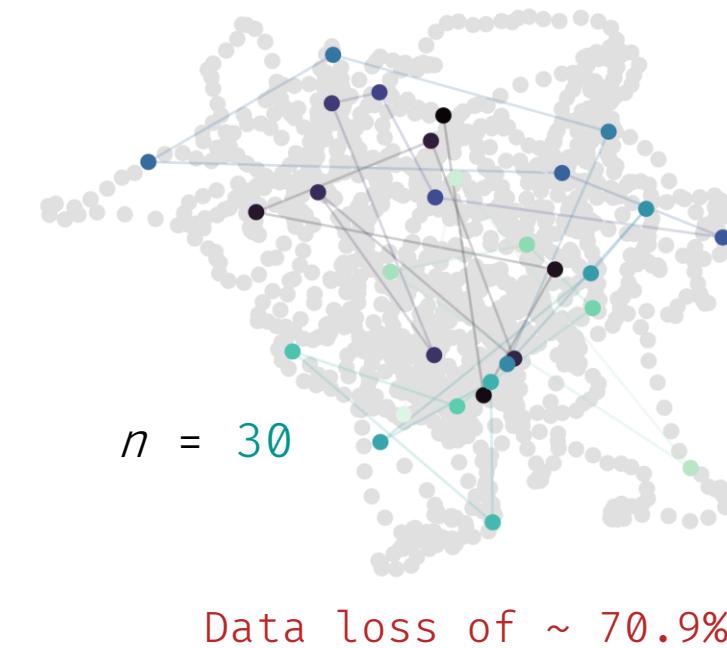


Fig. Tracking data subsampled so there is only *one location per day*.



Thinning the data....

Fig. Tracking data representing *hourly locations* over *one month*.

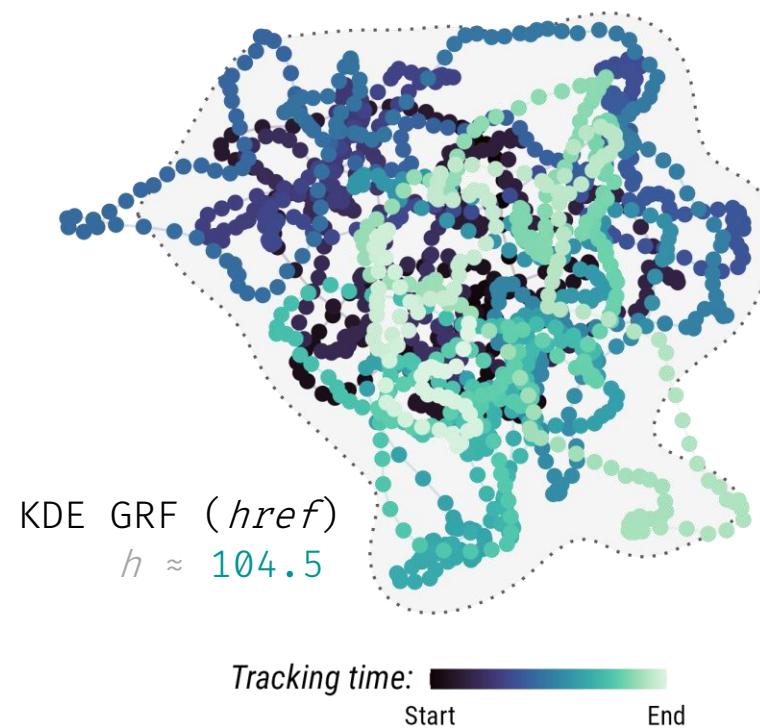
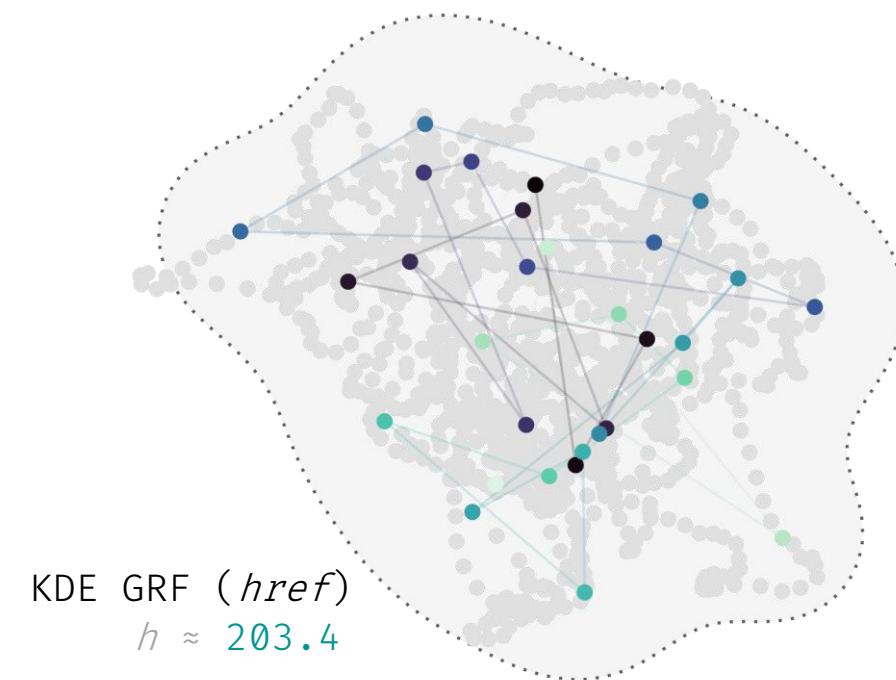


Fig. Tracking data subsampled so there is only *one location per day*.



Thinning the data....

Fig. Tracking data representing *hourly locations* over *one month*.

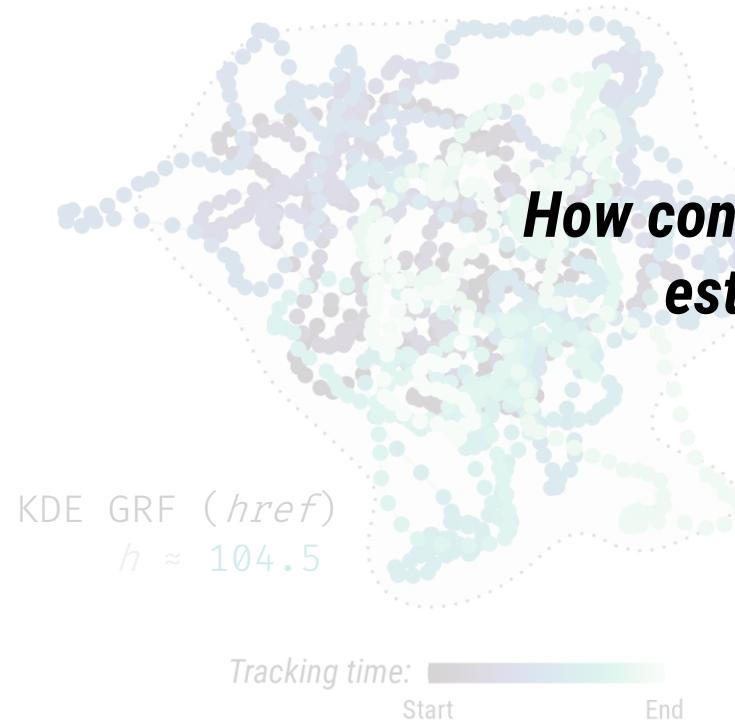


Fig. Tracking data subsampled so there is only *one location per day*.

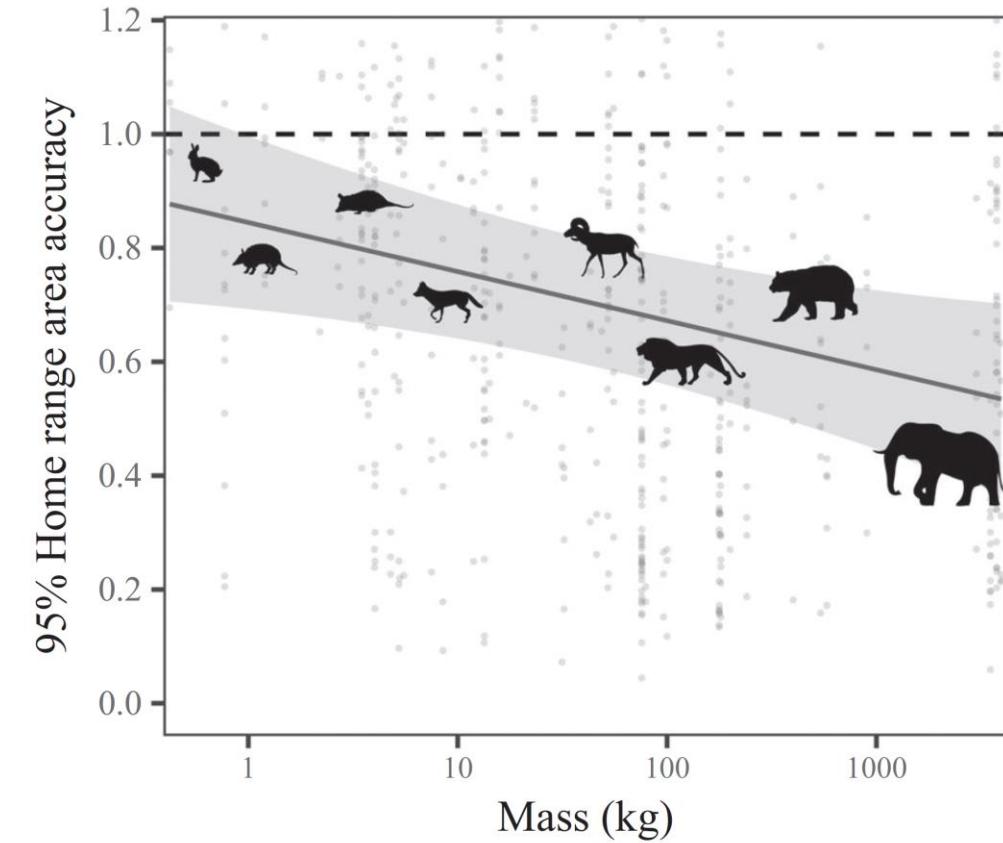
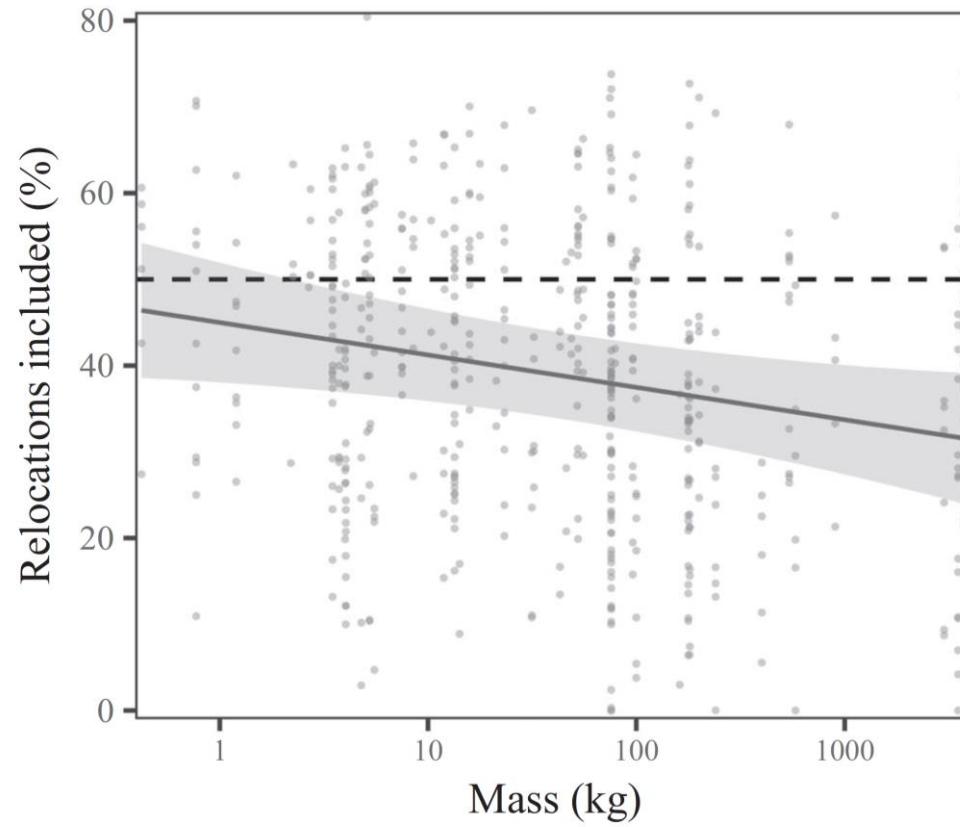


How confident are we in these estimates anyway?

 ESTIMATORS

Kernel density estimator (KDE)

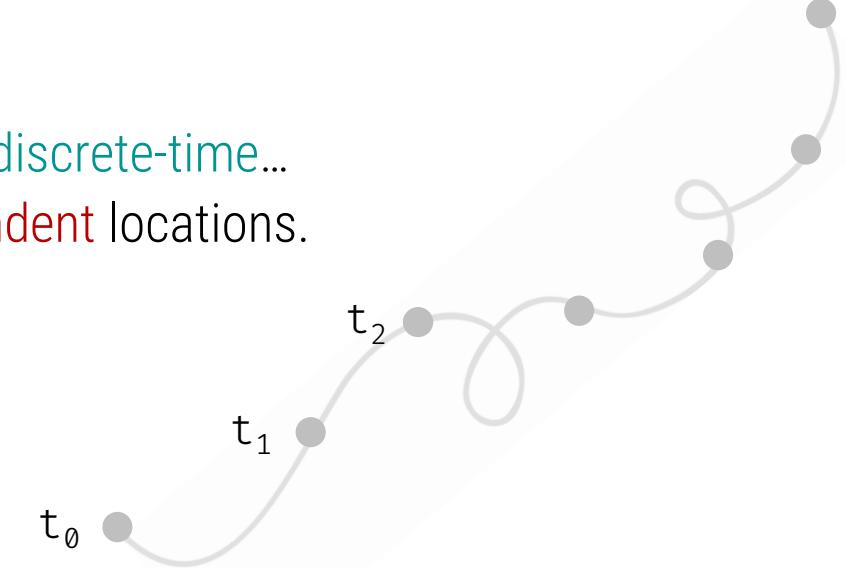
The magnitude of KDE's underestimation worsened as body mass increased.



 **ESTIMATORS**

✗ Assuming discrete-time...
...and independent locations.

Discrete-time models are
also scale-dependent.

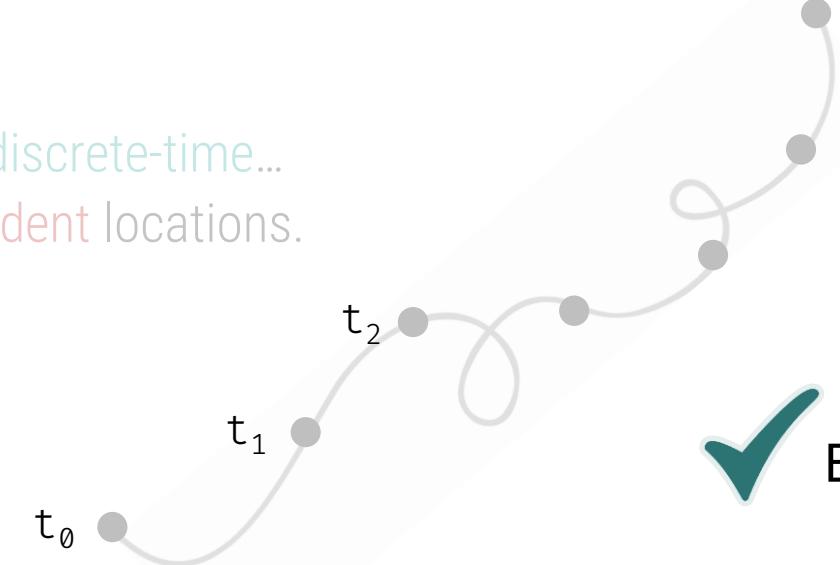


Sampling may be irregular in time,
and sampling schedules may differ across individuals.

 **ESTIMATORS**

✗ Assuming discrete-time...
...and independent locations.

Discrete-time models are
also scale-dependent.



✓ By considering continuous-time movement models!

Sampling may be irregular in time,
and sampling schedules may differ across individuals.

How do we fix this?

{ctmm} R package: Functions for identifying, fitting, and applying continuous-space, continuous-time stochastic movement models to animal tracking data.

WORKFLOW:

01

Range residency assumption

Checking if data is from a **range-resident** animal

02

Movement models

Selecting the best-fit movement model through **model selection**

03

Home range estimation

Reconstructing the **range distribution** from sampled locations

04

Mitigation measures

Accounting for common **biases** in animal movement data

WORKFLOW:

01

Range residency assumption

Checking if data is from a range-resident animal

02

Movement models

Selecting the best-fit movement model through model selection

03

Home range estimation

Reconstructing range distribution from sampled locations

04

Mitigation measures

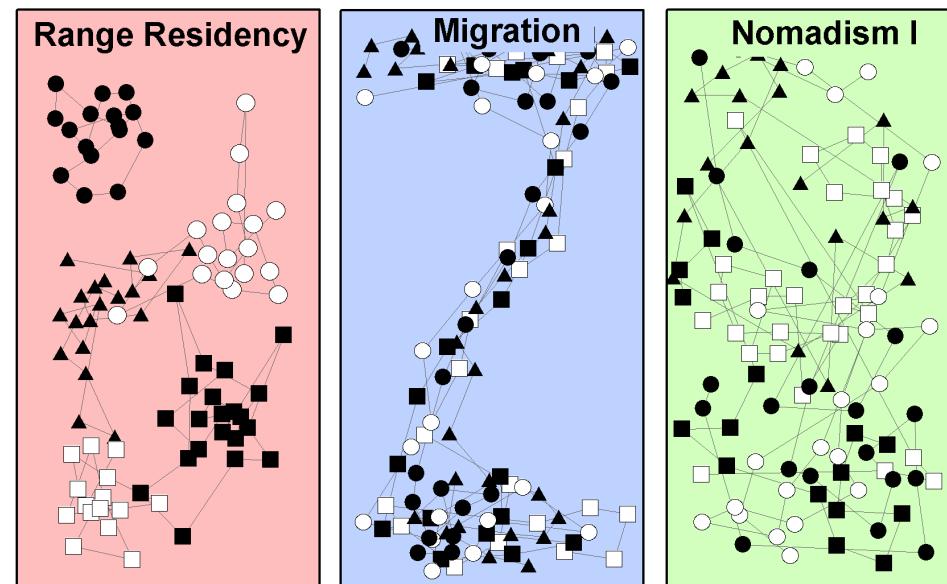
Accounting for common biases in animal movement data



RANGE RESIDENCY

There are three different behaviors that animals exhibit:

- ▶ **Resident** – individual occupies the same area throughout its lifetime.
- ▶ **Migratory** – regular movement to and from spatially disjoint ranges.
- ▶ **Nomadic** – does not follow regular temporal and spatial patterns.



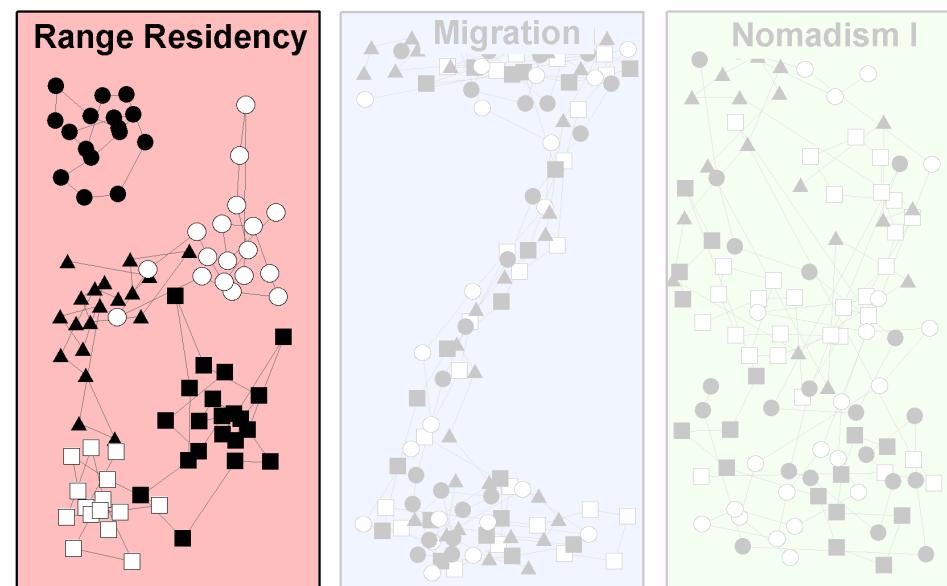
Mueller *et al.* (2008)

DOI: 10.1111/j.0030-1299.2008.16291.x



There are three different behaviors that animals exhibit:

- ▶ **Resident** – individual occupies the same area throughout its lifetime.
- ▶ **Migratory** – regular movement to and from spatially disjoint ranges.
- ▶ **Nomadic** – does not follow regular temporal and spatial patterns.

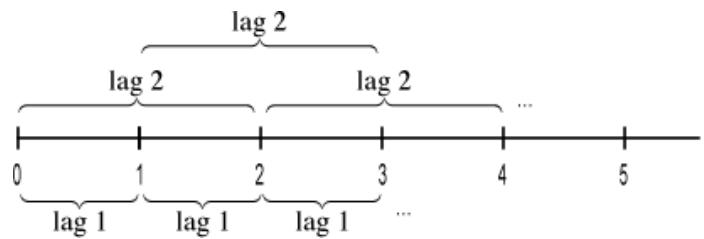


Mueller *et al.* (2008)

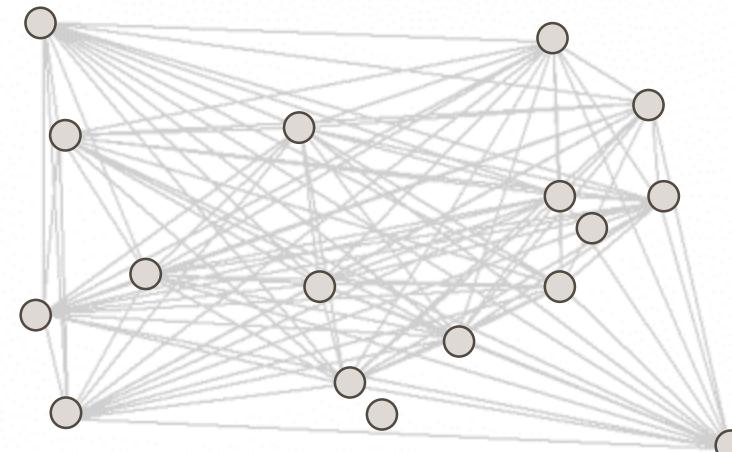
DOI: 10.1111/j.0030-1299.2008.16291.x

How can we measure and visualize autocorrelation?

Variogram, or **semivariogram**, plots time lags on the x-axis for all pairs of observations against their **semi-variance** (half of the variance for the distance each observation pair) on the y-axis.

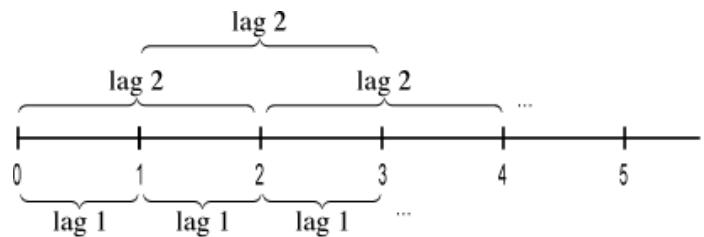


The more **similar** the pairs of locations are per lag, the **lower** the **semivariance** for that lag.

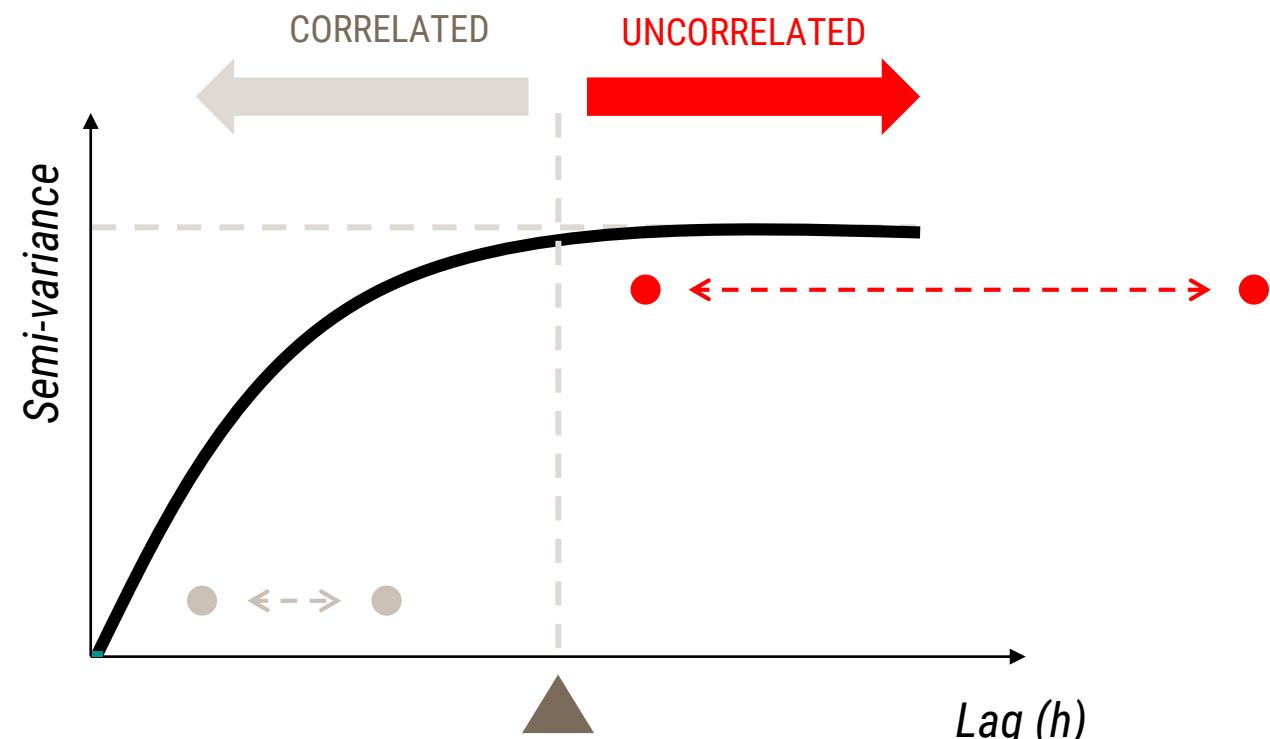


How can we measure and visualize autocorrelation?

Variogram, or **semivariogram**, plots time lags on the x-axis for all pairs of observations against their **semi-variance** (half of the variance for the distance each observation pair) on the y-axis.



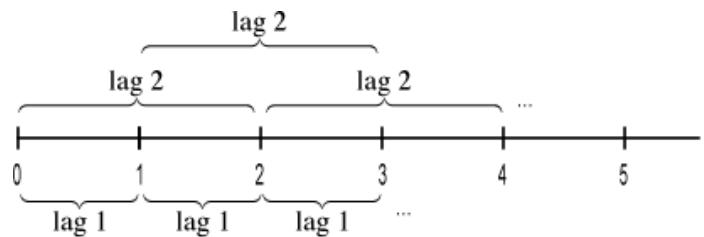
The more **similar** the pairs of locations are per lag, the **lower** the **semivariance** for that lag.



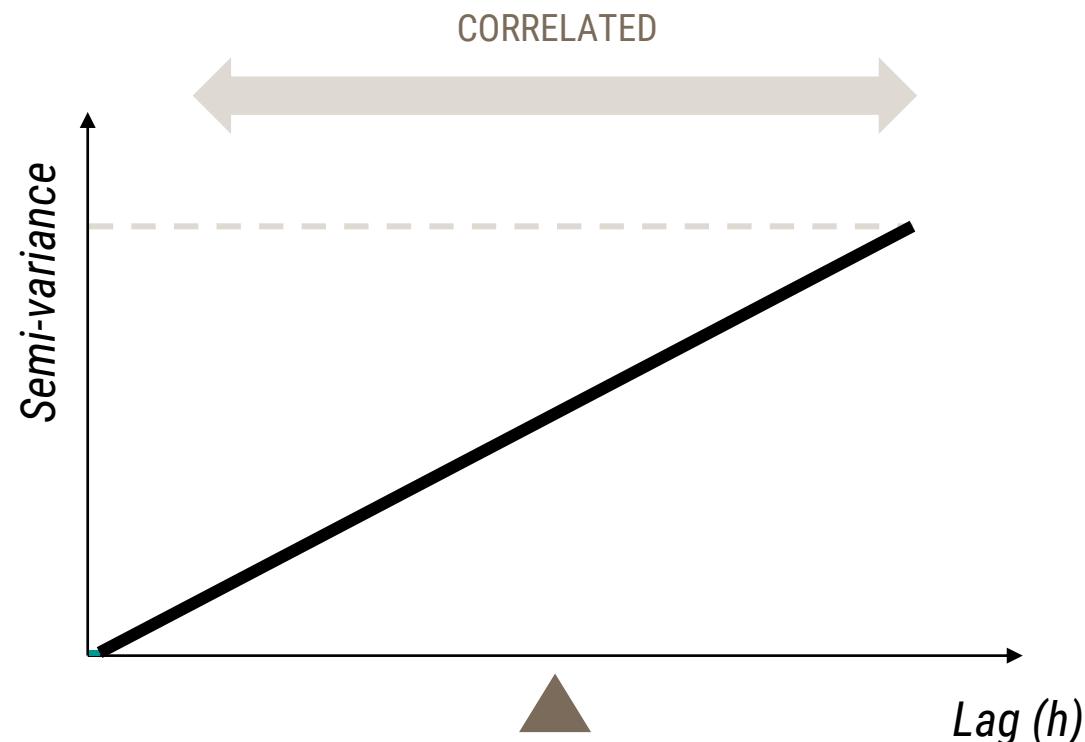
distance at which there is no evidence of spatial dependence

How can we measure and visualize autocorrelation?

Variogram, or **semivariogram**, plots time lags on the x-axis for all pairs of observations against their **semi-variance** (half of the variance for the distance each observation pair) on the y-axis.



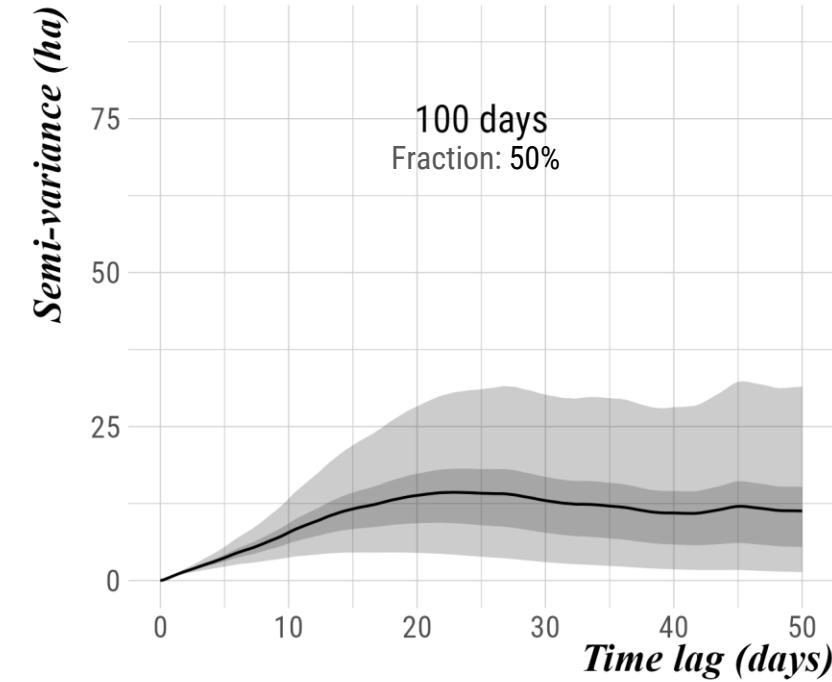
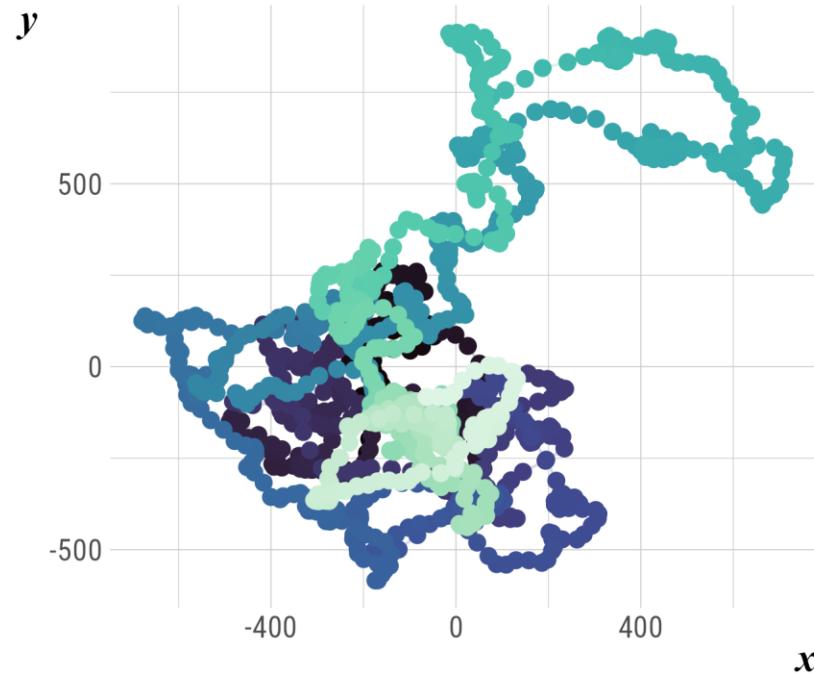
The more **similar** the pairs of locations are per lag, the **lower** the **semivariance** for that lag.



distance at which there is no evidence of spatial dependence



Tracking time: Start End



WORKFLOW:

01

Range residency assumption

Checking if data is from a range-resident animal

02

Movement models

Selecting the best-fit movement model through model selection

03

Home range estimation

Reconstructing range distribution from sampled locations

04

Mitigation measures

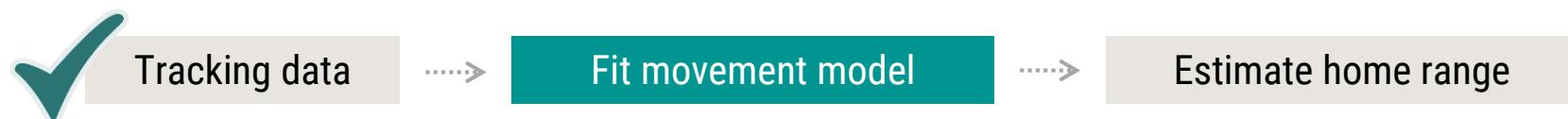
Accounting for common biases in animal movement data

CONVENTIONAL METHODS:



Assuming *independent locations*.

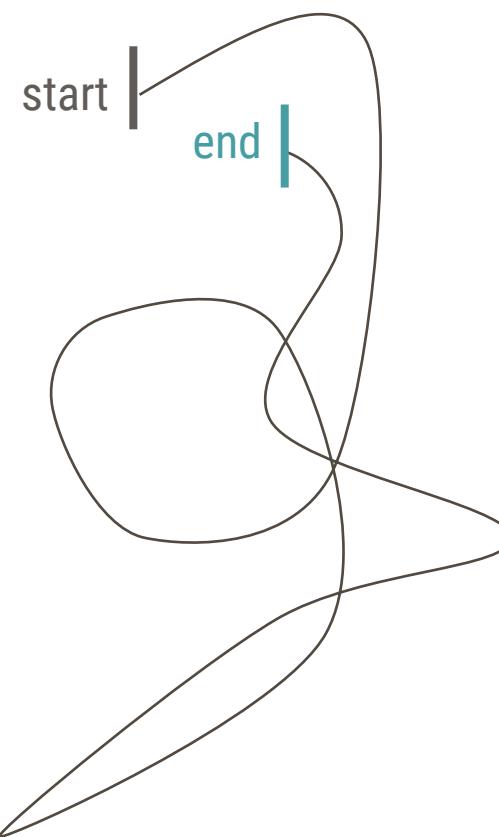
CTMM R PACKAGE:



What process explains a particular animal movement dataset?



MOVEMENT MODELS



MOVEMENT MODELS:

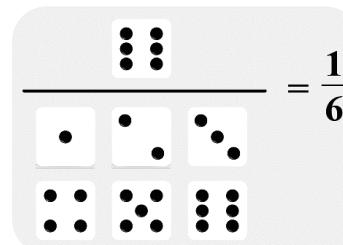
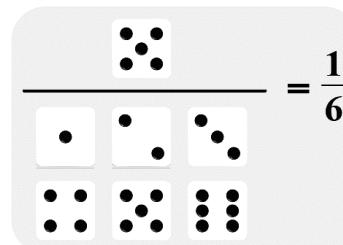
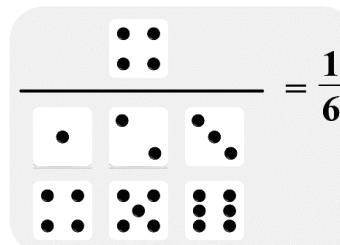
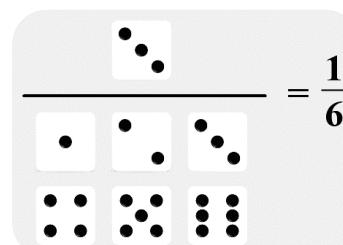
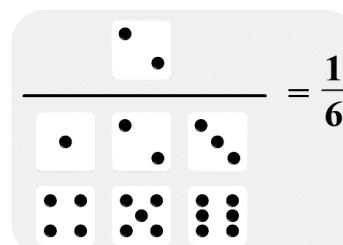
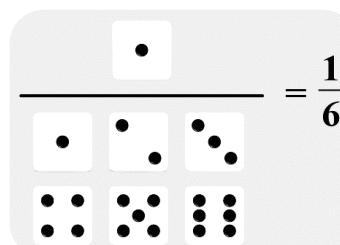
- 3.1. Independent and Identically Distributed (IID)
- 3.2. Brownian Motion (BM)
- 3.3. Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (OU)
- 3.4. Integrated Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (IOU)
- 3.5. Ornstein-Uhlenbeck with Foraging (OUF)

MOVEMENT MODELS

3.1. Independent and Identically Distributed (IID)



Stochastic process where each location has the same **probability distribution** as all others, and all are **mutually independent**.



SPATIAL DEPENDENCY

TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY

RESTRICTED

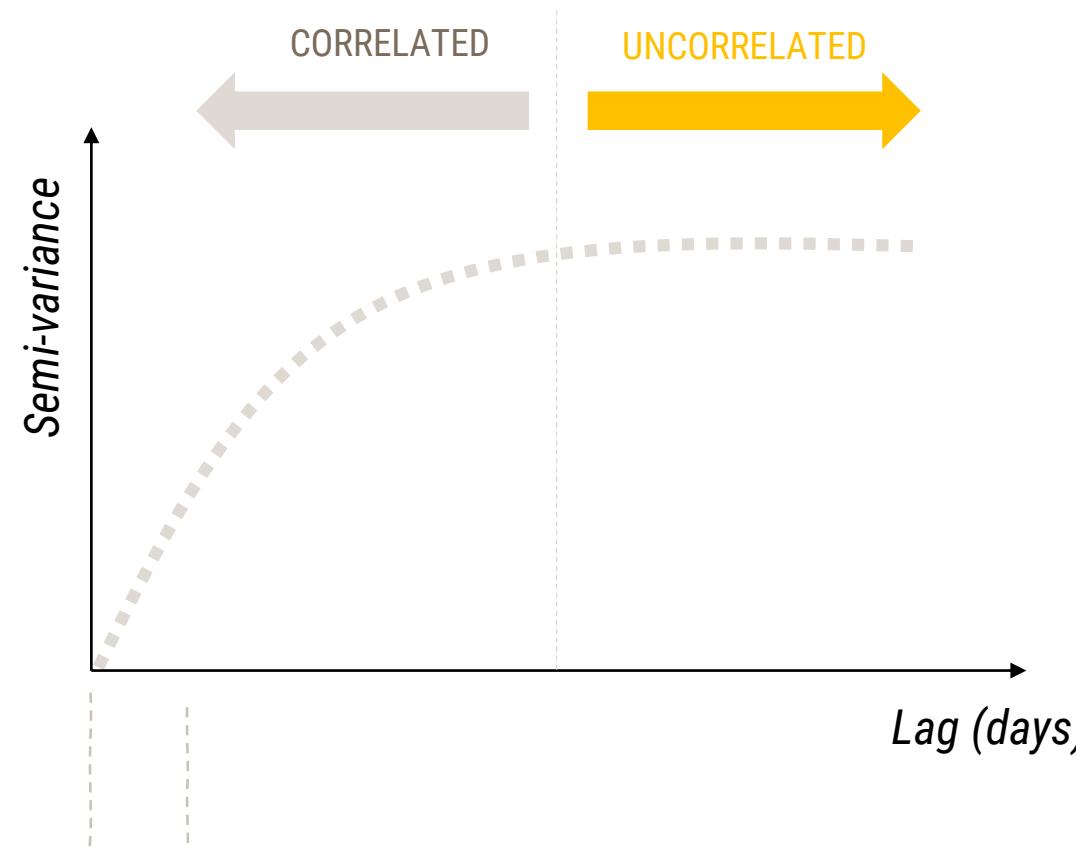
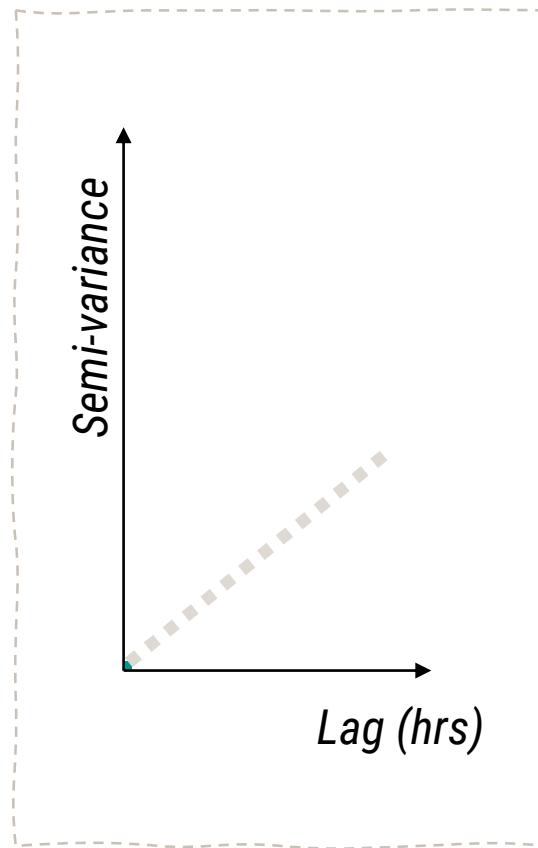
For example,



Dice rolls are **independent and identically distributed (IID)**

 MOVEMENT MODELS

3.1. Independent and Identically Distributed (IID)



CORRELATED

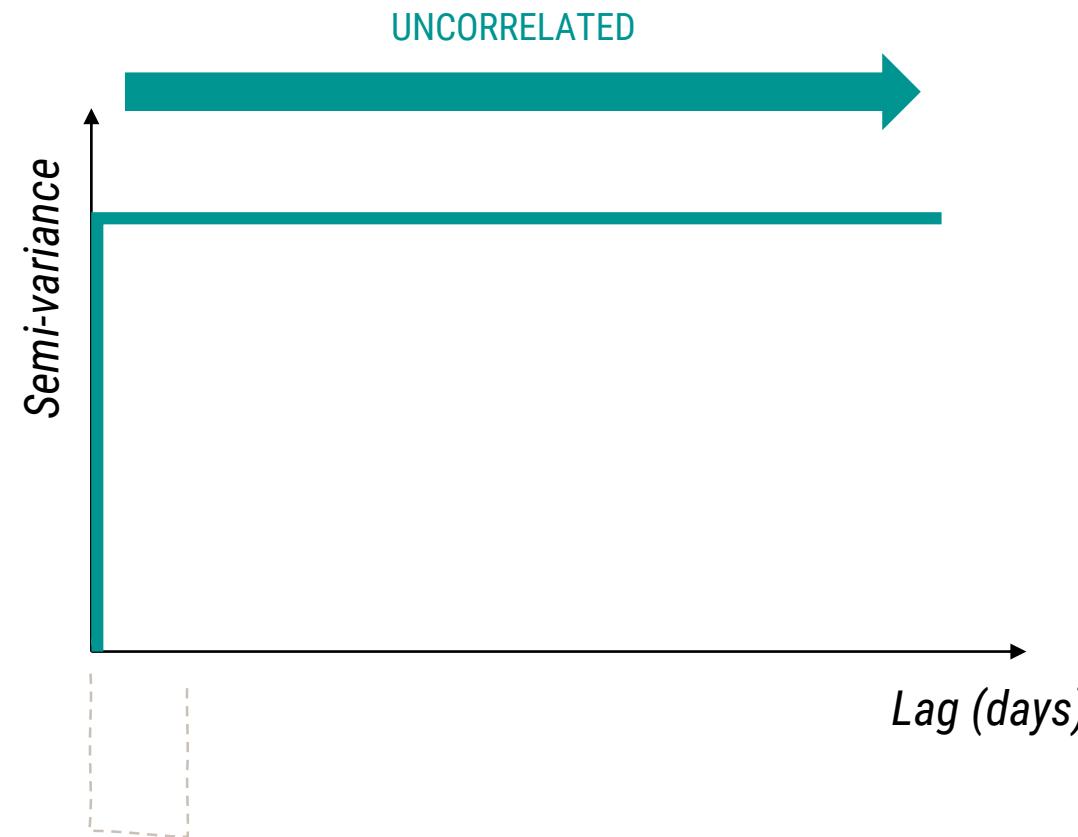
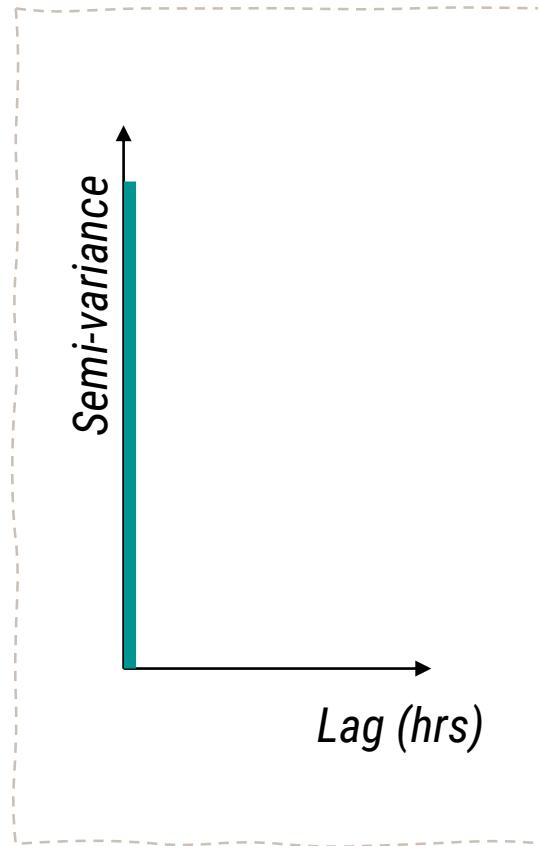
UNCORRELATED

- SPATIAL DEPENDENCY
- TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY
- RESTRICTED

 MOVEMENT MODELS

3.1. Independent and Identically Distributed (IID)

- ▶ How would the variogram of a **IID process** look like?



UNCORRELATED
SPATIAL DEPENDENCY
TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY
RESTRICTED

MOVEMENT MODELS

3.2. Brownian Motion (BM)

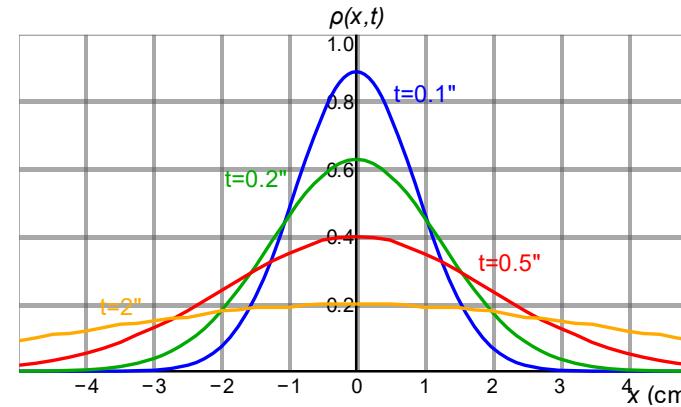
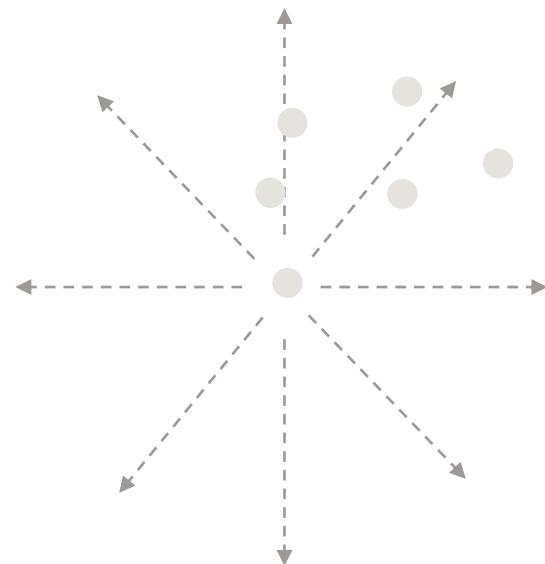


Stochastic process with stationary and **independent** increments,
i.e., no “memory” – the future behavior of a Brownian motion
process **does not depend on its past**. Diffusion is **constant**.

SPATIAL DEPENDENCY

TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY

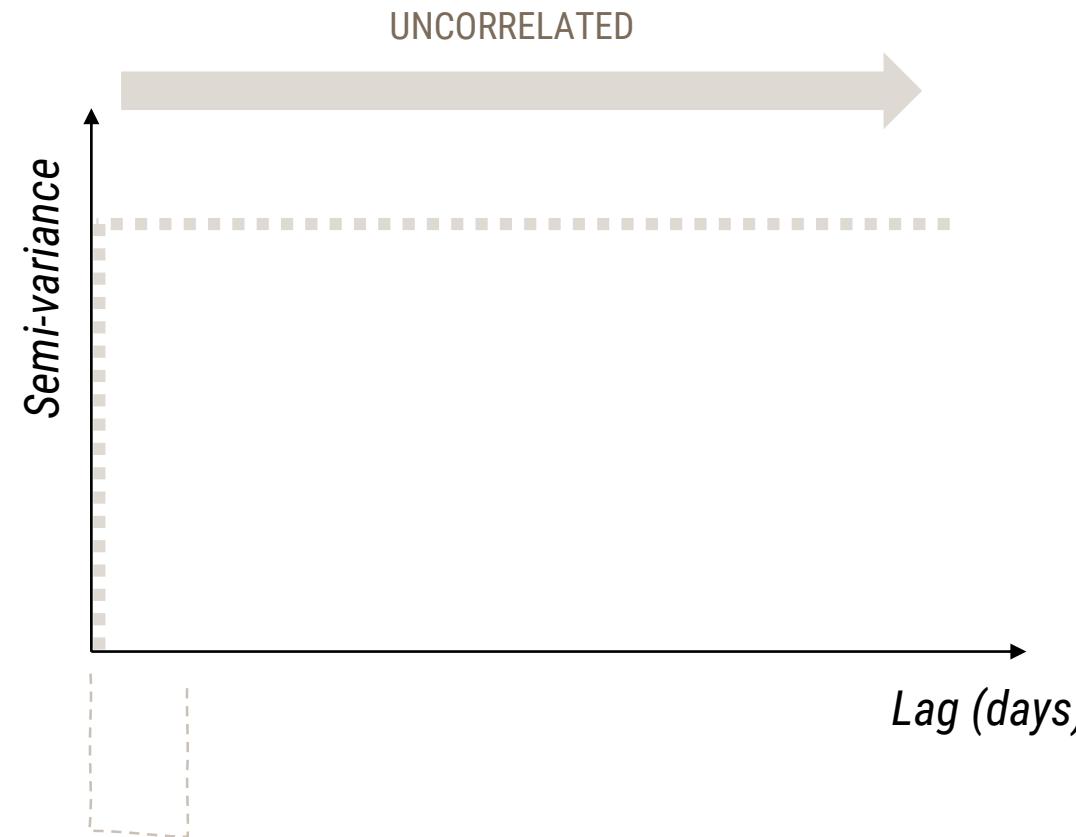
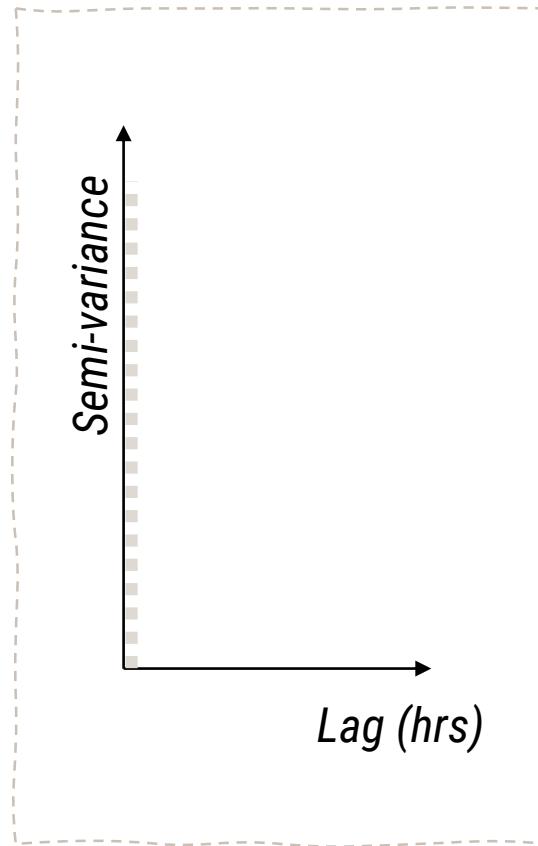
RESTRICTED



As time goes on, the animal is more likely to be further away from its starting location.

 MOVEMENT MODELS

3.2. Brownian Motion (BM)



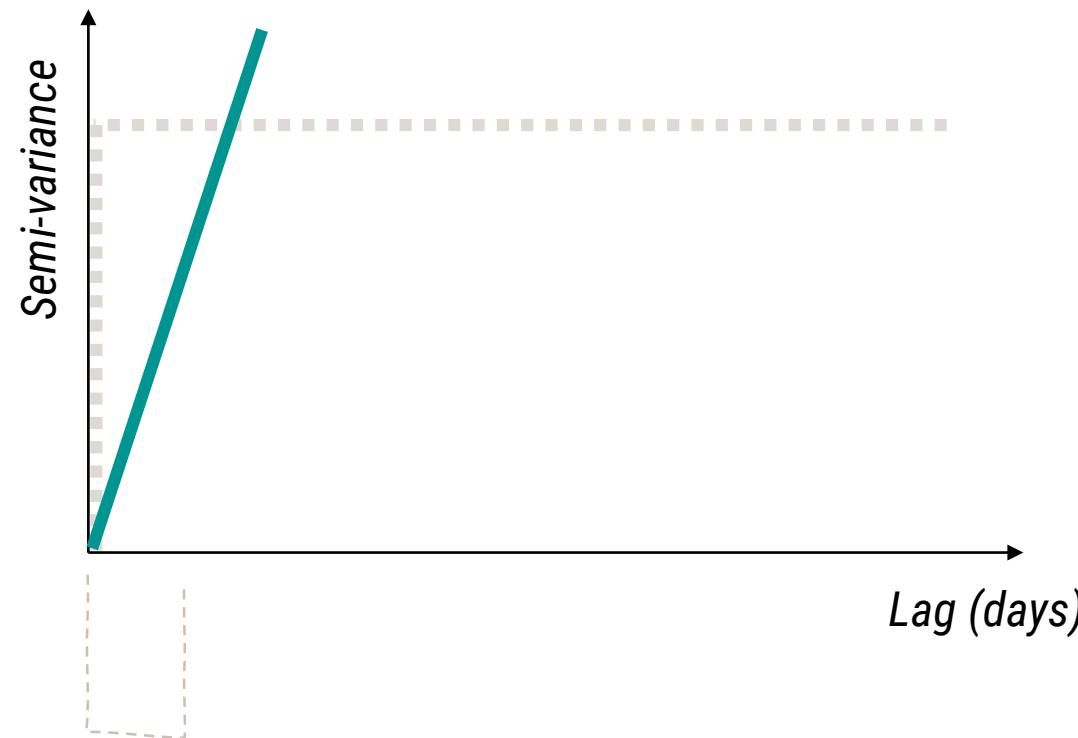
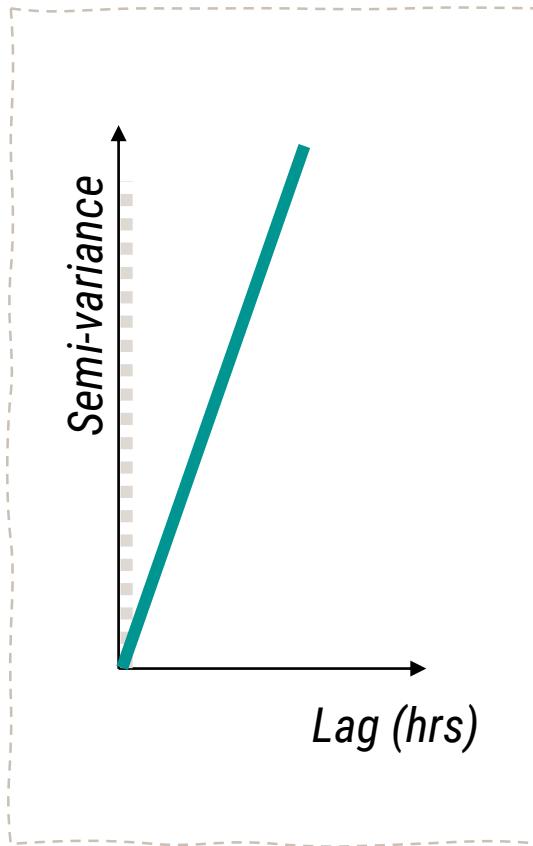
UNCORRELATED

- SPATIAL DEPENDENCY
- TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY
- RESTRICTED

MOVEMENT MODELS

3.2. Brownian Motion (BM)

- ▶ How would the variogram of a BM process look like?



SPATIAL DEPENDENCY
TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY
RESTRICTED

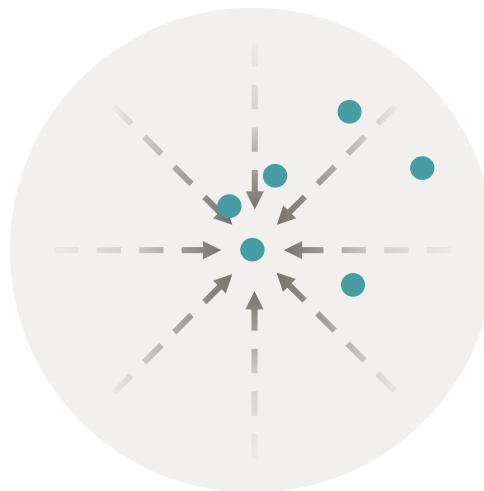


MOVEMENT MODELS

These processes are all modifications of Brownian motion:

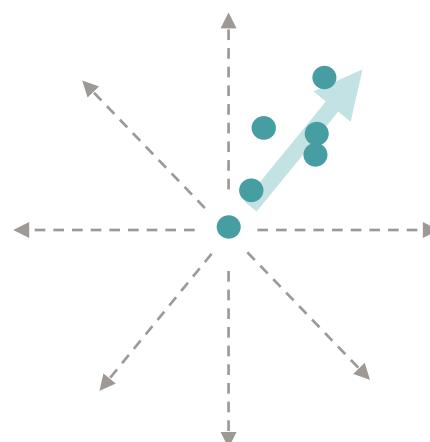
3.3. Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (OU)

- ▶ Unlike Brownian motion, OU tends to move back towards a central location (**bounded**), with a greater attraction the further away from the center.



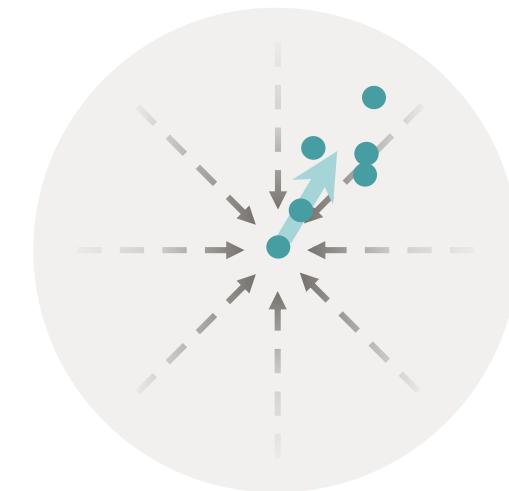
3.4. Integrated OU (IOU)

- ▶ Like Brownian motion, the integrated OU process exhibits **unbounded diffusion**, but with **persistence of motion**.



3.5. OU with Foraging (OUF)

- ▶ Unlike Brownian motion, OUF is **bounded**, but with **persistence of motion**.

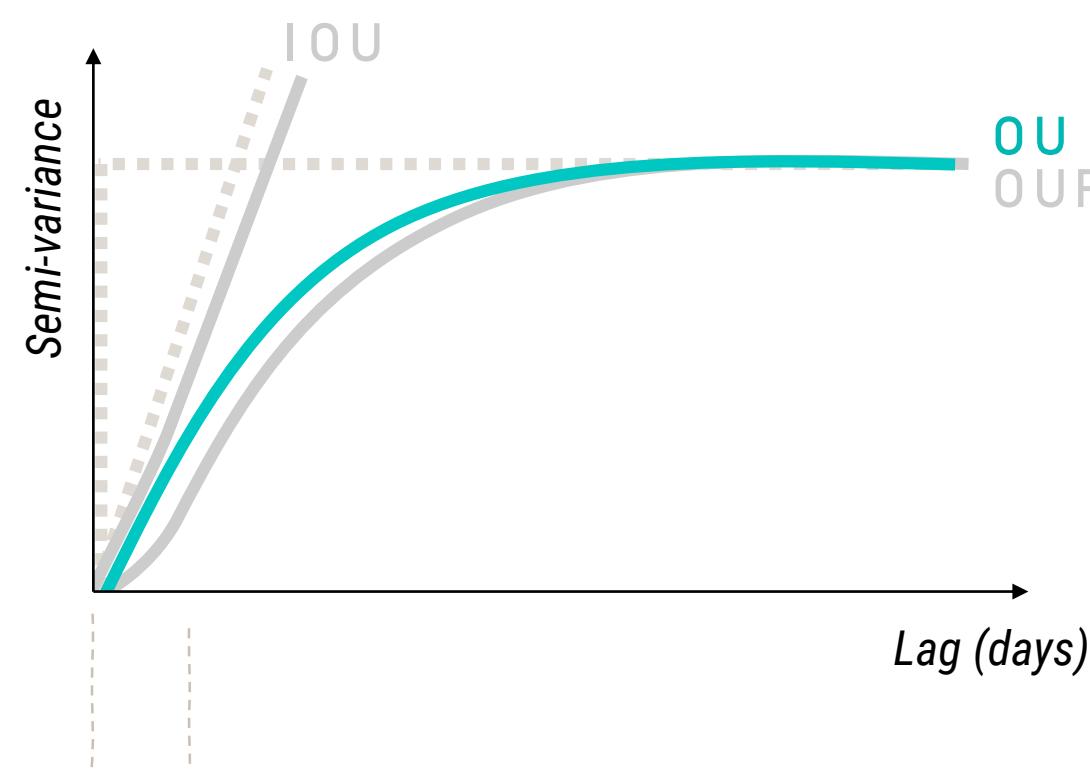
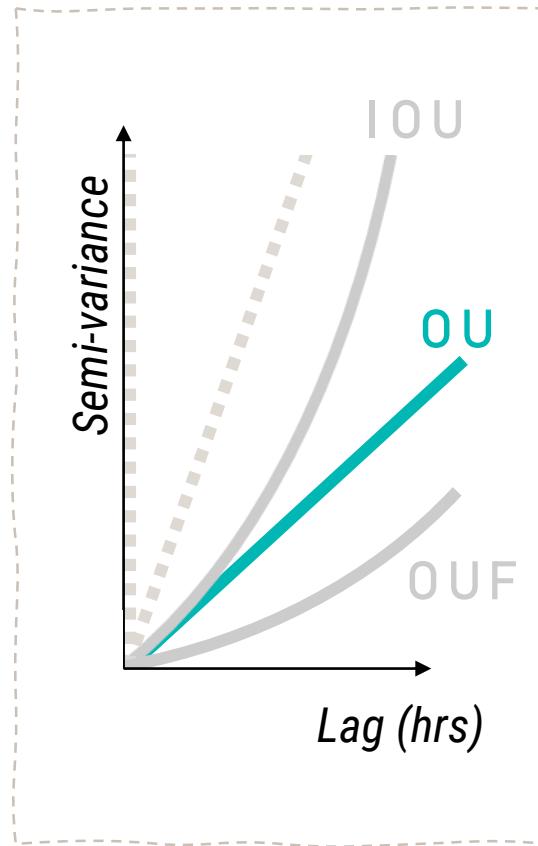


3.3. Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (OU)

3.4. Integrated OU (IOU)

3.5. OU with Foraging (OUF)

- ▶ How would the variograms of OU processes look like?



SPATIAL DEPENDENCY
TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY
RESTRICTED

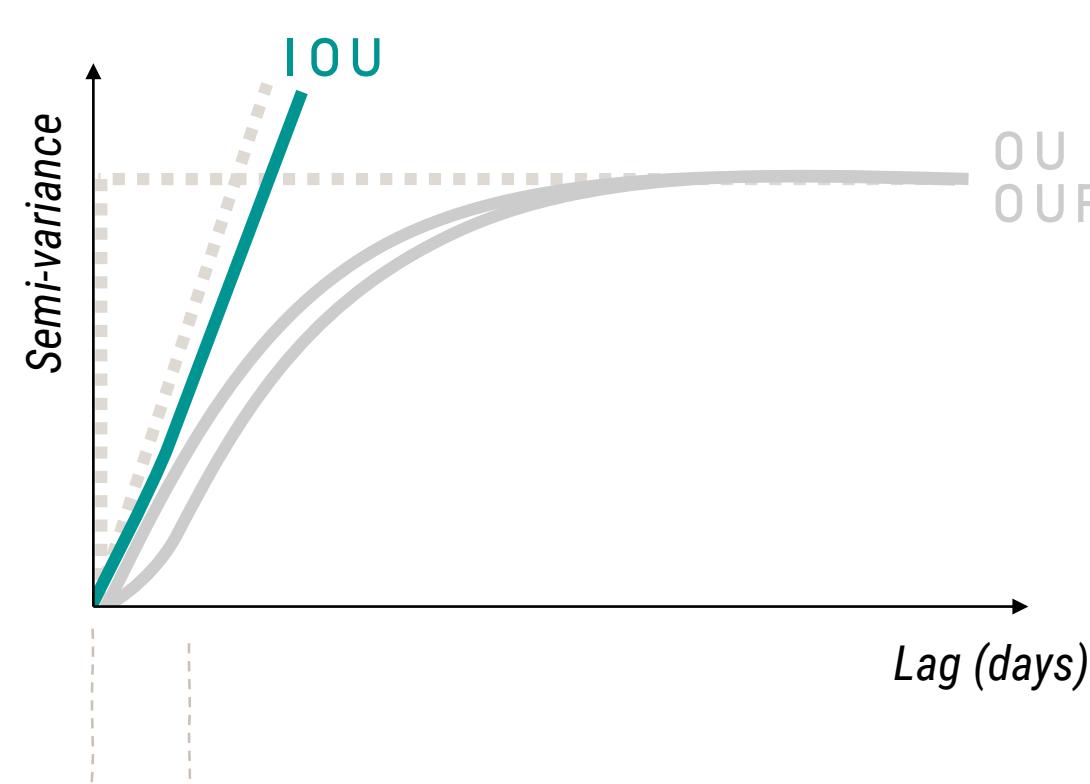
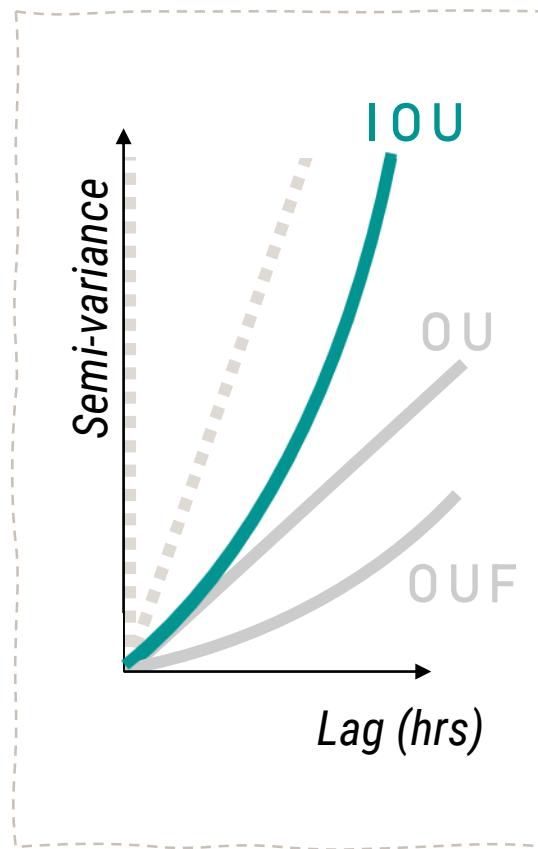
 MOVEMENT MODELS

3.3. Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (OU)

3.4. Integrated OU (IOU)

3.5. OU with Foraging (OUF)

- ▶ How would the variograms of OU processes look like?



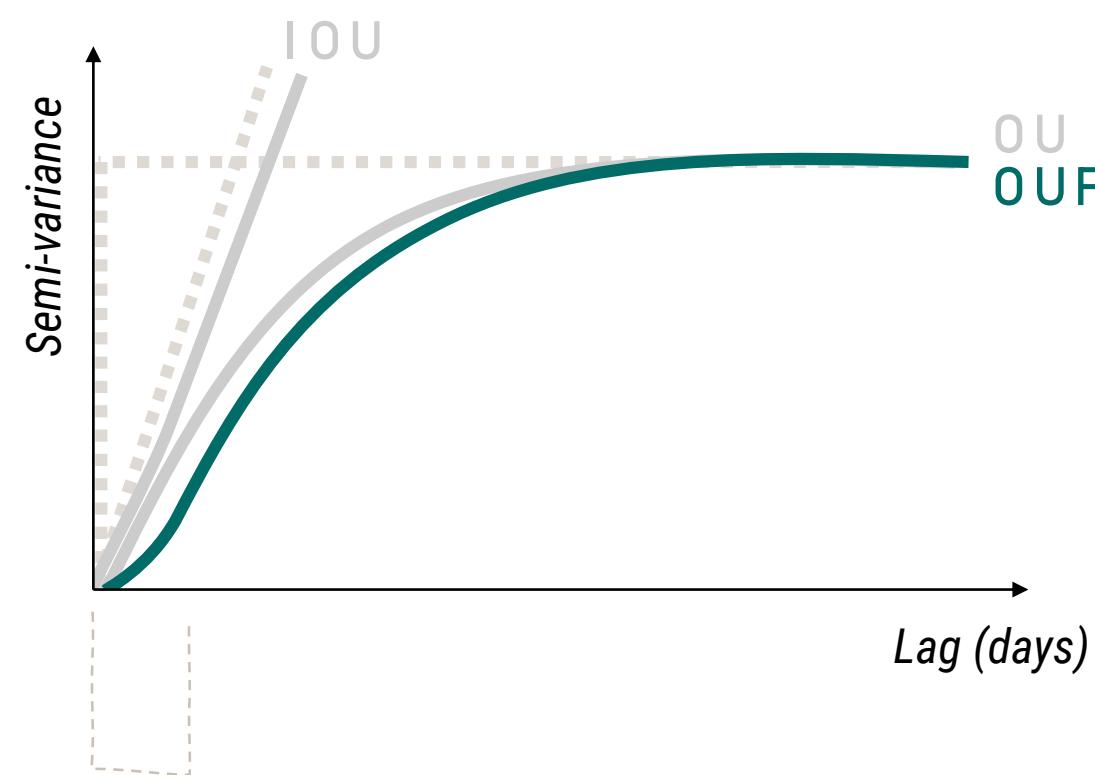
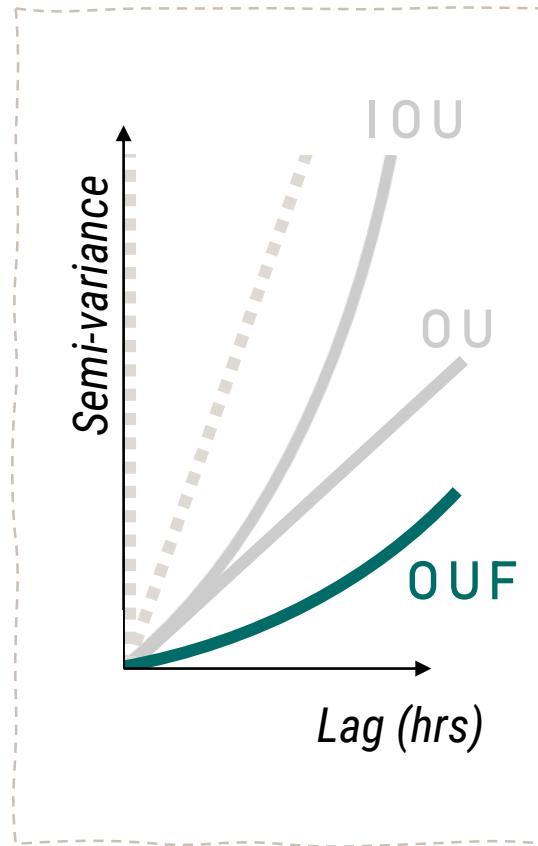
SPATIAL DEPENDENCY
TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY
RESTRICTED

3.3. Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (OU)

3.4. Integrated OU (IOU)

3.5. OU with Foraging (OUF)

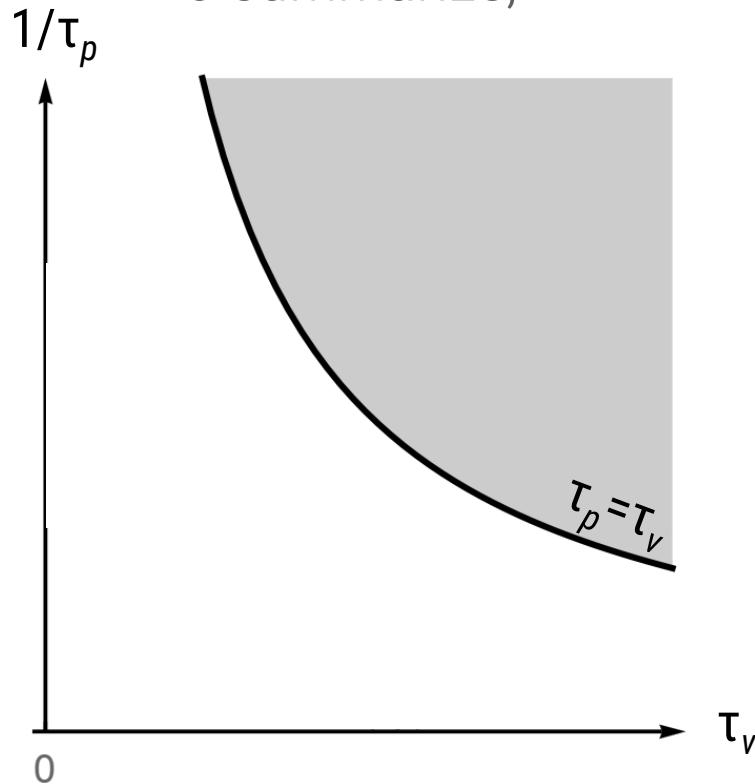
- ▶ How would the variograms of OU processes look like?



SPATIAL DEPENDENCY
TEMPORAL DEPENDENCY
RESTRICTED

MOVEMENT MODELS

To summarize,

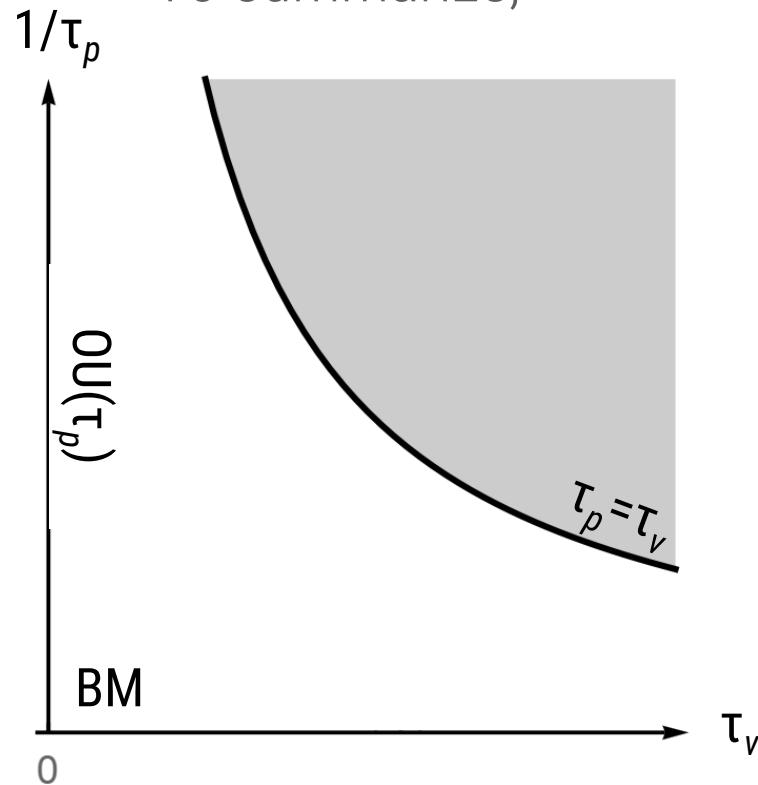


Model	Autocorrelation			Parameters:
	Position	Velocity	Restricted	
IID	No	No	Yes	$\tau = \text{NULL}$
BM	Yes	No	No	$\tau = \infty$
OU	Yes	No	Yes	$\tau = \tau_p$
IOU	Yes	Yes	No	$\tau = \{\infty, \tau_v\}$
OUF	Yes	Yes	Yes	$\tau = \{\tau_p, \tau_v\}$



MOVEMENT MODELS

To summarize,

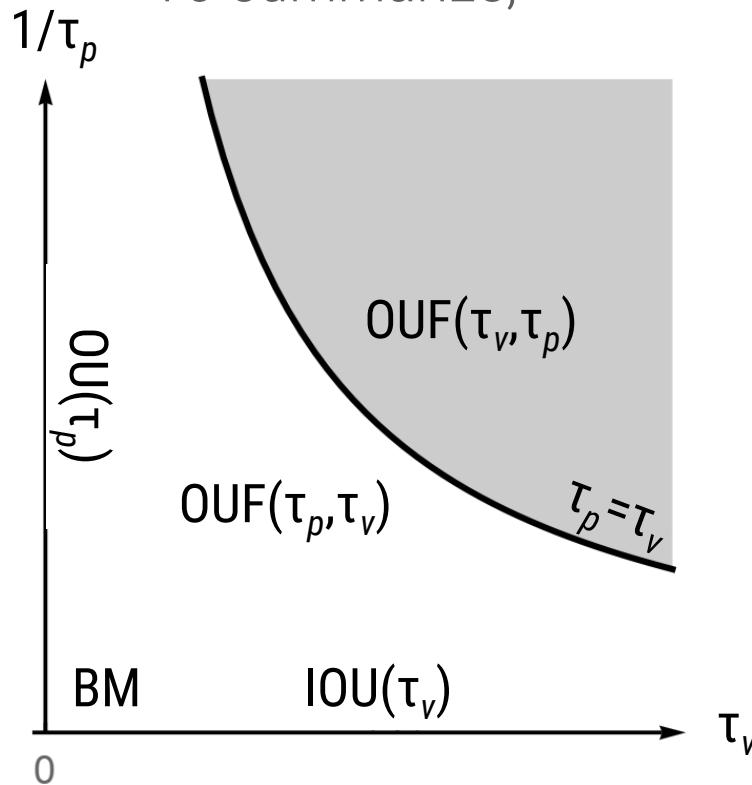


Model	Autocorrelation			Parameters:
	Position	Velocity	Restricted	
IID	No	No	Yes	$\tau = \text{NULL}$
BM	Yes	No	No	$\tau = \infty$
OU	Yes	No	Yes	$\tau = \tau_p$
IOU	Yes	Yes	No	$\tau = \{\infty, \tau_v\}$
OUF	Yes	Yes	Yes	$\tau = \{\tau_p, \tau_v\}$



MOVEMENT MODELS

To summarize,

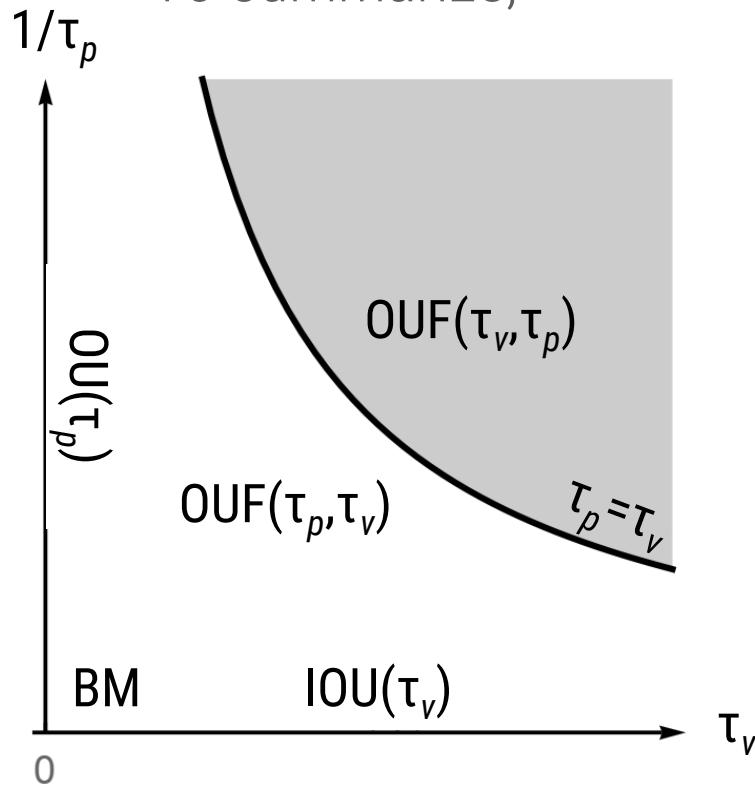


Model	Autocorrelation			Parameters:
	Position	Velocity	Restricted	
IID	No	No	Yes	$\tau = \text{NULL}$
BM	Yes	No	No	$\tau = \infty$
OU	Yes	No	Yes	$\tau = \tau_p$
IOU	Yes	Yes	No	$\tau = \{\infty, \tau_v\}$
OUF	Yes	Yes	Yes	$\tau = \{\tau_p, \tau_v\}$

OU model itself still requires tracking data that are coarse enough to not show autocorrelated velocities, and many modern, high-resolution tracking datasets do not meet this criterion.

MOVEMENT MODELS

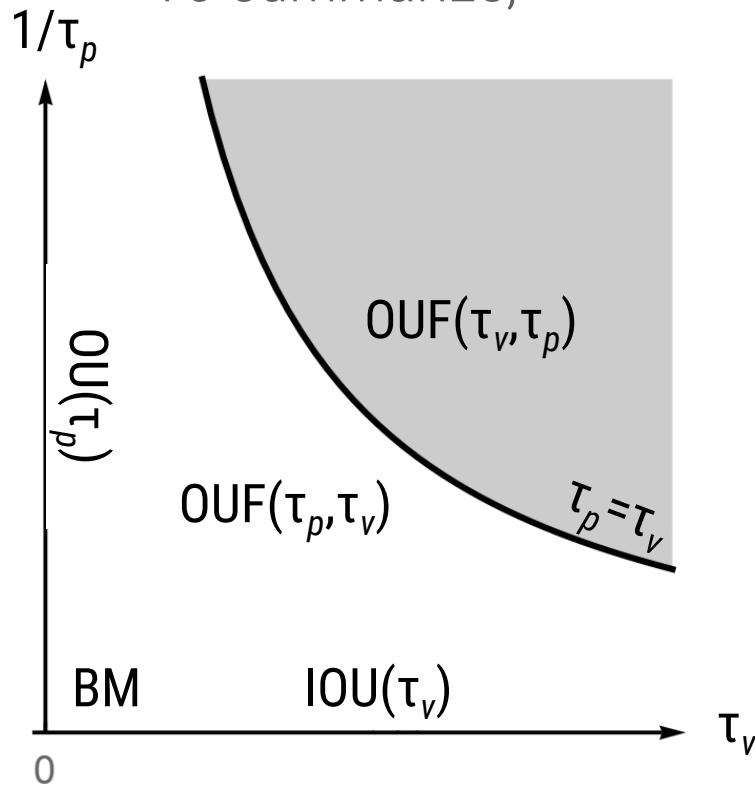
To summarize,



Model	Autocorrelation			Parameters:
	Position	Velocity	Restricted	
IID	No	No	Yes	$\tau = \text{NULL}$
BM	Yes	No	No	$\tau = \infty$
OU	Yes	No	Yes	$\tau = \tau_p$
IOU	Yes	Yes	No	$\tau = \{\infty, \tau_v\}$
OUF	Yes	Yes	Yes	$\tau = \{\tau_p, \tau_v\}$

MOVEMENT MODELS

To summarize,



Model	Autocorrelation			Parameters:
	Position	Velocity	Restricted	
IID	No	No	Yes	$\tau = \text{NULL}$
BM	Yes	No	No	$\tau = \infty$
OU	Yes	No	Yes	$\tau = \tau_p$
IOU	Yes	Yes	No	$\tau = \{\infty, \tau_v\}$
OUF	Yes	Yes	Yes	$\tau = \{\tau_p, \tau_v\}$

“

“All models are wrong, but some are useful.”

Box et al. (1987)

MOVEMENT MODELS

Animal tracking data



Fit movement model

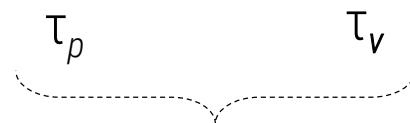


Estimate home range

What **movement model parameters** are most likely to characterize a given tracking dataset?

Autocorrelation

Model	Position	Velocity	Restricted	Parameters:
IID	No	No	Yes	$\tau = \text{NULL}$
BM	Yes	No	No	$\tau = \infty$
OU	Yes	No	Yes	$\tau = \tau_p$
IOU	Yes	Yes	No	$\tau = \{\infty, \tau_v\}$
OUF	Yes	Yes	Yes	$\tau = \{\tau_p, \tau_v\}$



One or more (unknown) parameters

MOVEMENT MODELS

Animal tracking data



Fit movement model

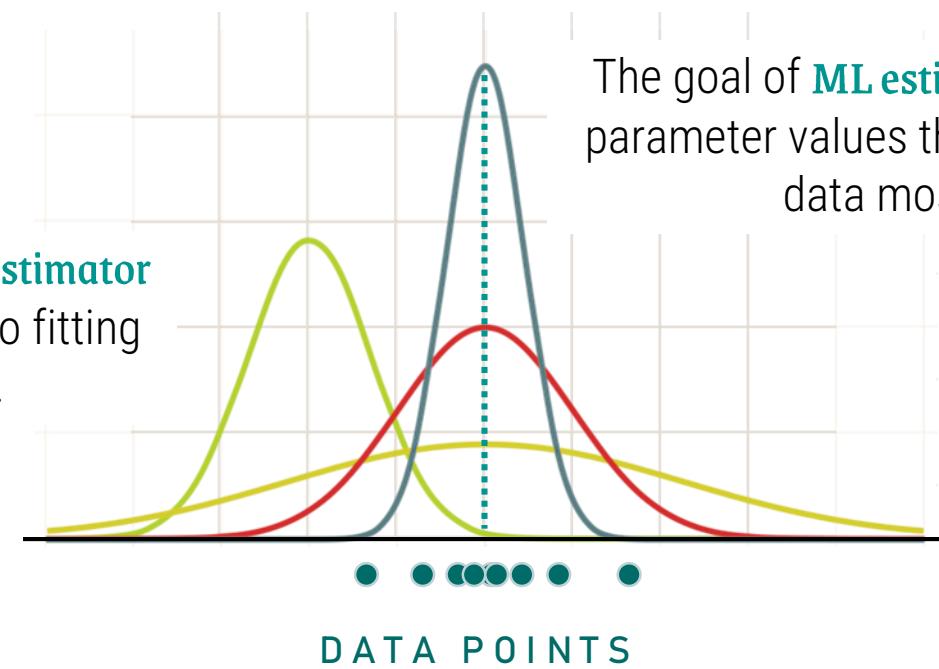


Estimate home range

What **movement model parameters** are most likely to characterize a given tracking dataset?

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD:

Maximum Likelihood (ML) estimator is the standard approach to fitting movement models.



Animal tracking data



Fit movement model



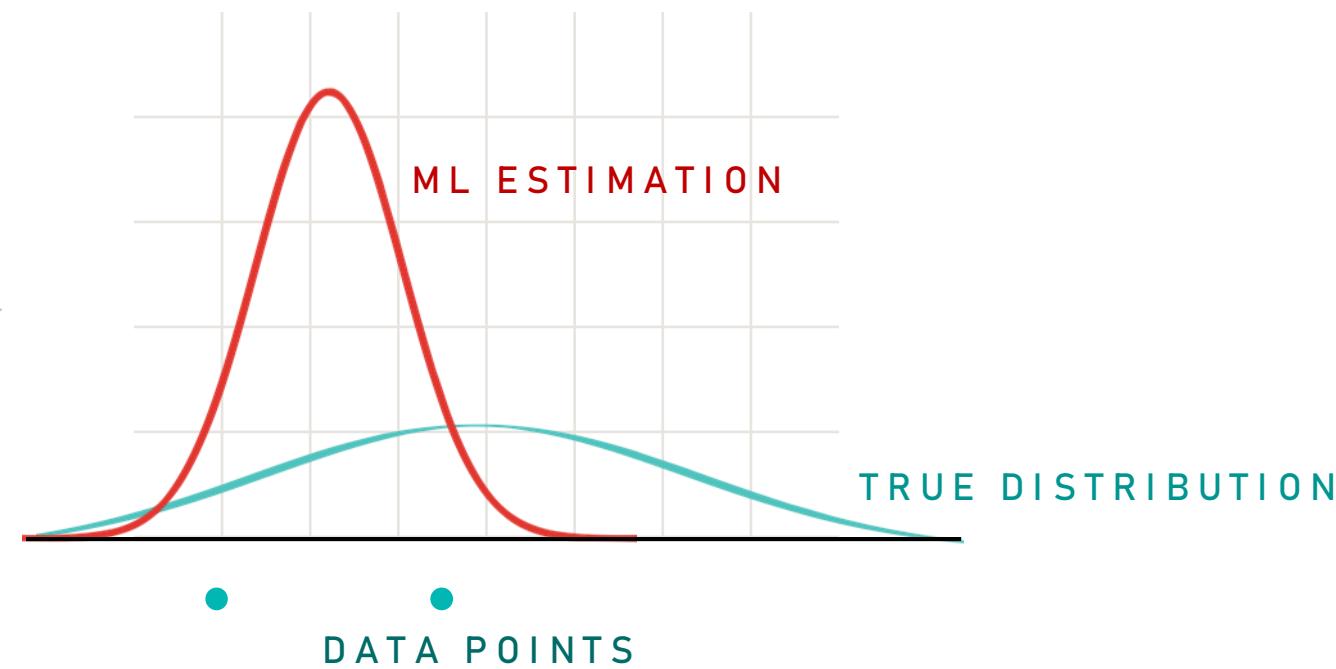
Estimate home range

What movement model parameters are most likely
to characterize a given tracking dataset?

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD:

Unfortunately, **ML**
performs poorly at
small sample sizes

(Cressie, 1993)



Animal tracking data



Fit movement model



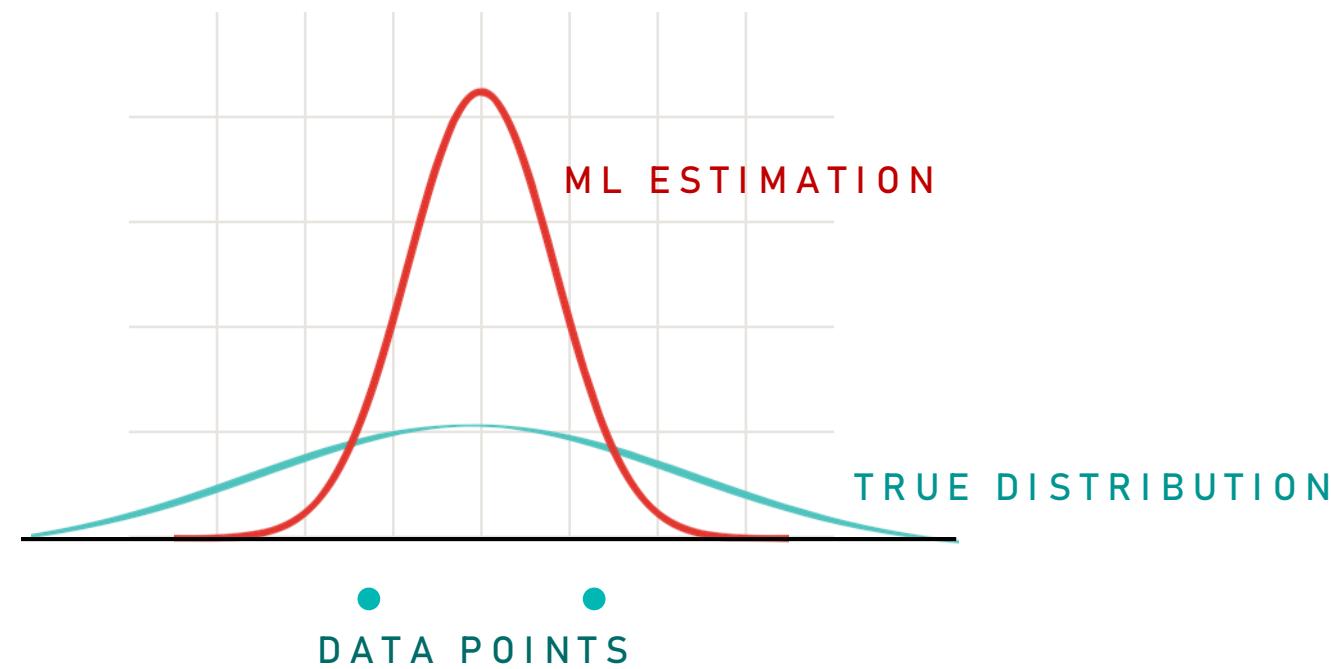
Estimate home range

What movement model parameters are most likely
to characterize a given tracking dataset?

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD:

Unfortunately, **ML**
performs poorly at
small sample sizes

(Cressie, 1993)



Animal tracking data



Fit movement model



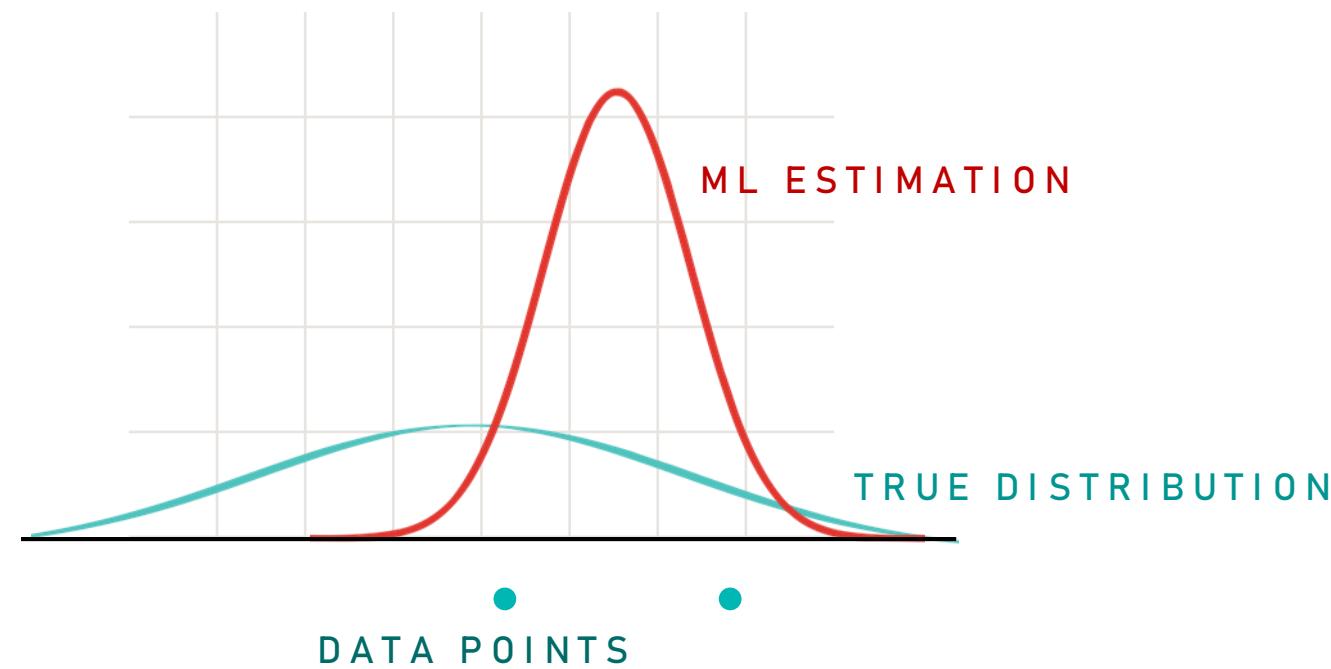
Estimate home range

What movement model parameters are most likely
to characterize a given tracking dataset?

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD:

Unfortunately, **ML**
performs poorly at
small sample sizes

(Cressie, 1993)



Animal tracking data



Fit movement model



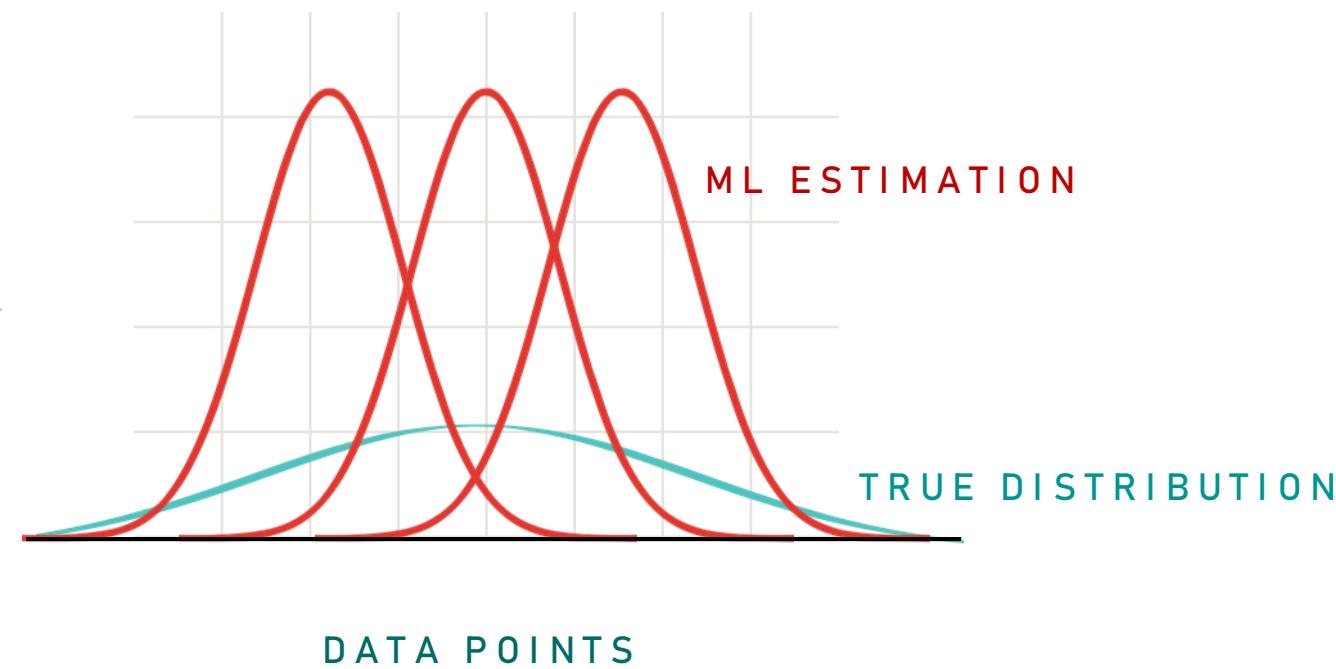
Estimate home range

What movement model parameters are most likely
to characterize a given tracking dataset?

MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD:

Unfortunately, **ML**
performs poorly at
small sample sizes

(Cressie, 1993)





We can tackle the **ML** bias in several ways.
For example:

Residual ML (or REML)

Widely used method for reducing bias in ML variance estimation, by maximizing the likelihood of residuals rather than the data.

Essentially, it trades *reduced bias* for *increase variability in parameter estimates*.

(Bartlett, 1937)



MOVEMENT MODELS

We can tackle the **ML** bias in several ways.
For example:

Residual ML (or REML)

Widely used method for reducing bias in ML variance estimation, by maximizing the likelihood of residuals rather than the data.

Essentially, it trades *reduced bias* for *increase variability in parameter estimates*.

(Bartlett, 1937)



However, REML is not always ideal for animal tracking data.

WORKFLOW:

01

Range residency assumption

Checking if data is from a range-resident animal

02

Movement models

Selecting the best-fit movement model through model selection

03

Home range estimation

Reconstructing range distribution from sampled locations

04

Mitigation measures

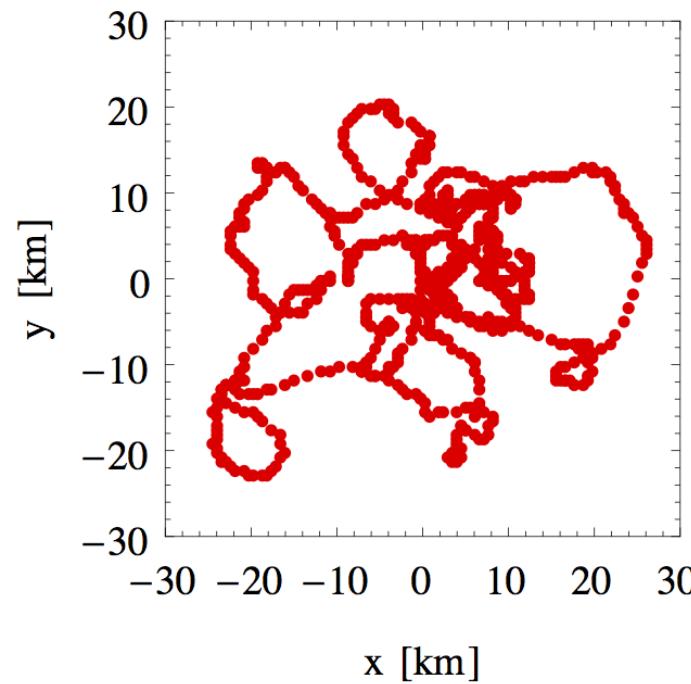
Accounting for common biases in animal movement data

Tracking data

Fit movement model

Estimate home range

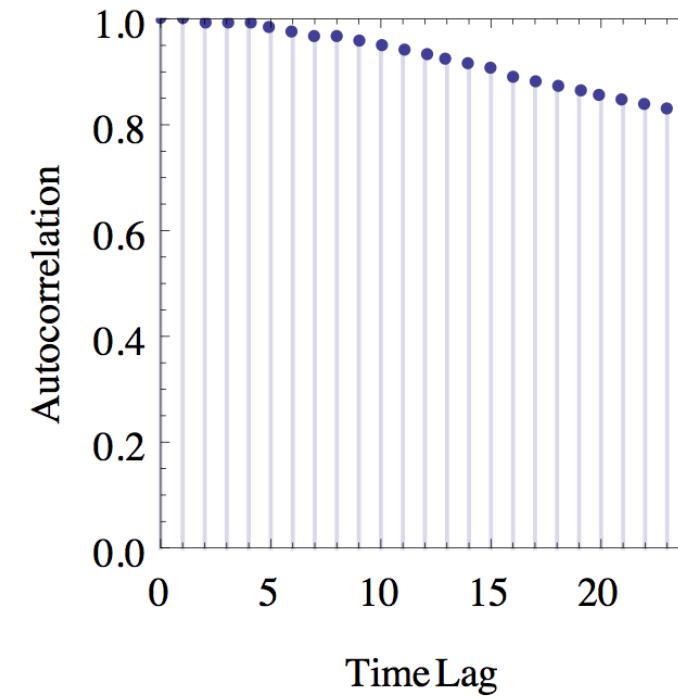
As sampling frequency increases, so does the autocorrelation.



Autocorrelated Kernel Density Estimator (AKDE)

Described in Fleming et al. (2015)

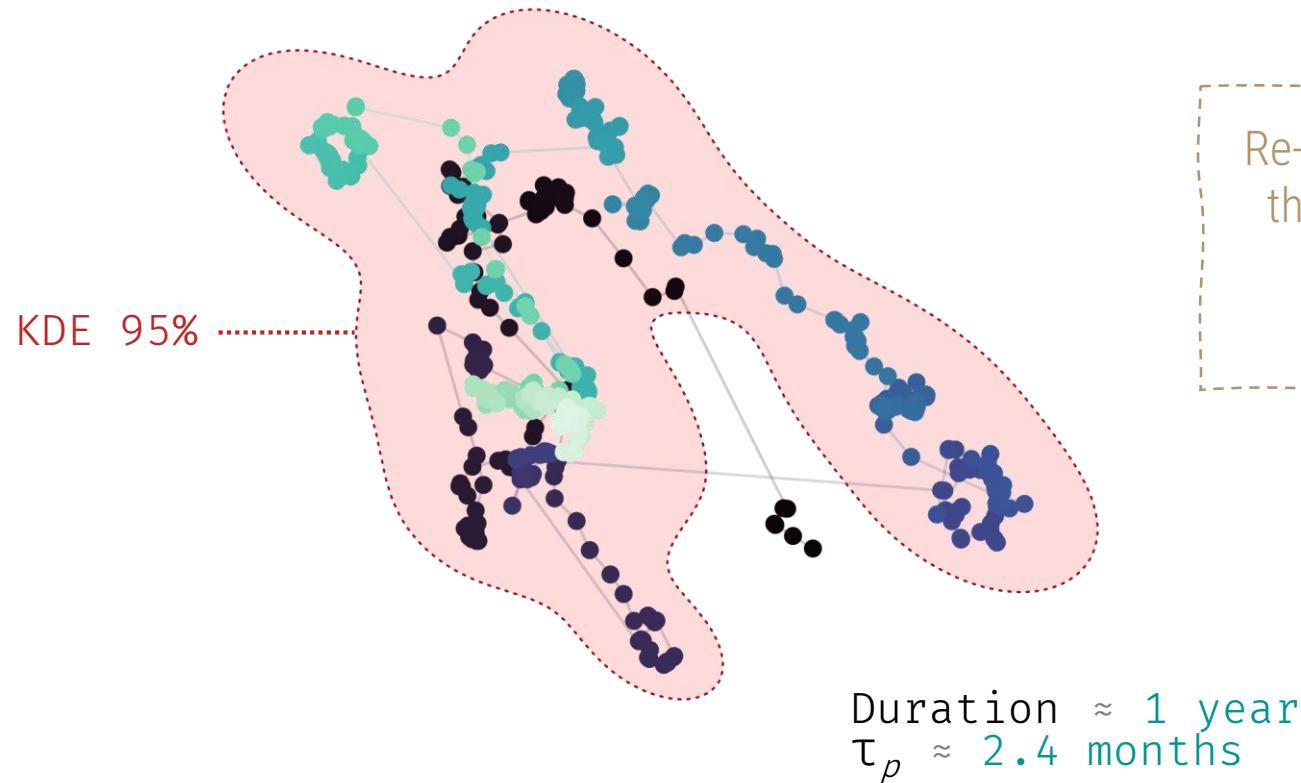
DOI: 10.1890/14-2010.1



Tracking data

Fit movement model

Estimate home range



Autocorrelated Kernel Density Estimator (AKDE)

Described in Fleming et al. (2015)

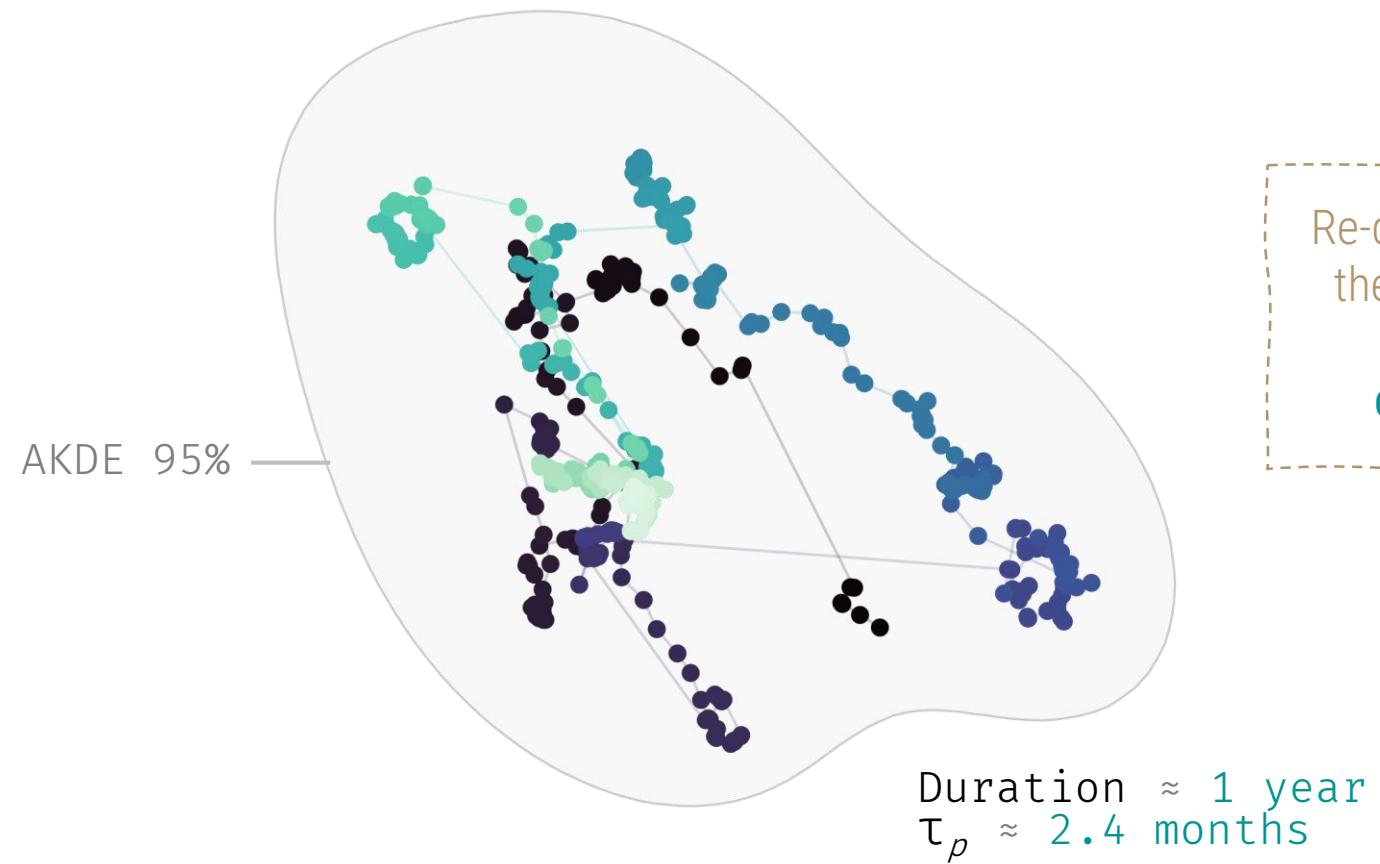
DOI: 10.1890/14-2010.1

Re-derived KDE that explicitly assumes the data represents a sample from a nonstationary, autocorrelated, continuous movement process.

Tracking data

Fit movement model

Estimate home range



Autocorrelated Kernel Density Estimator (AKDE)

Described in Fleming et al. (2015)

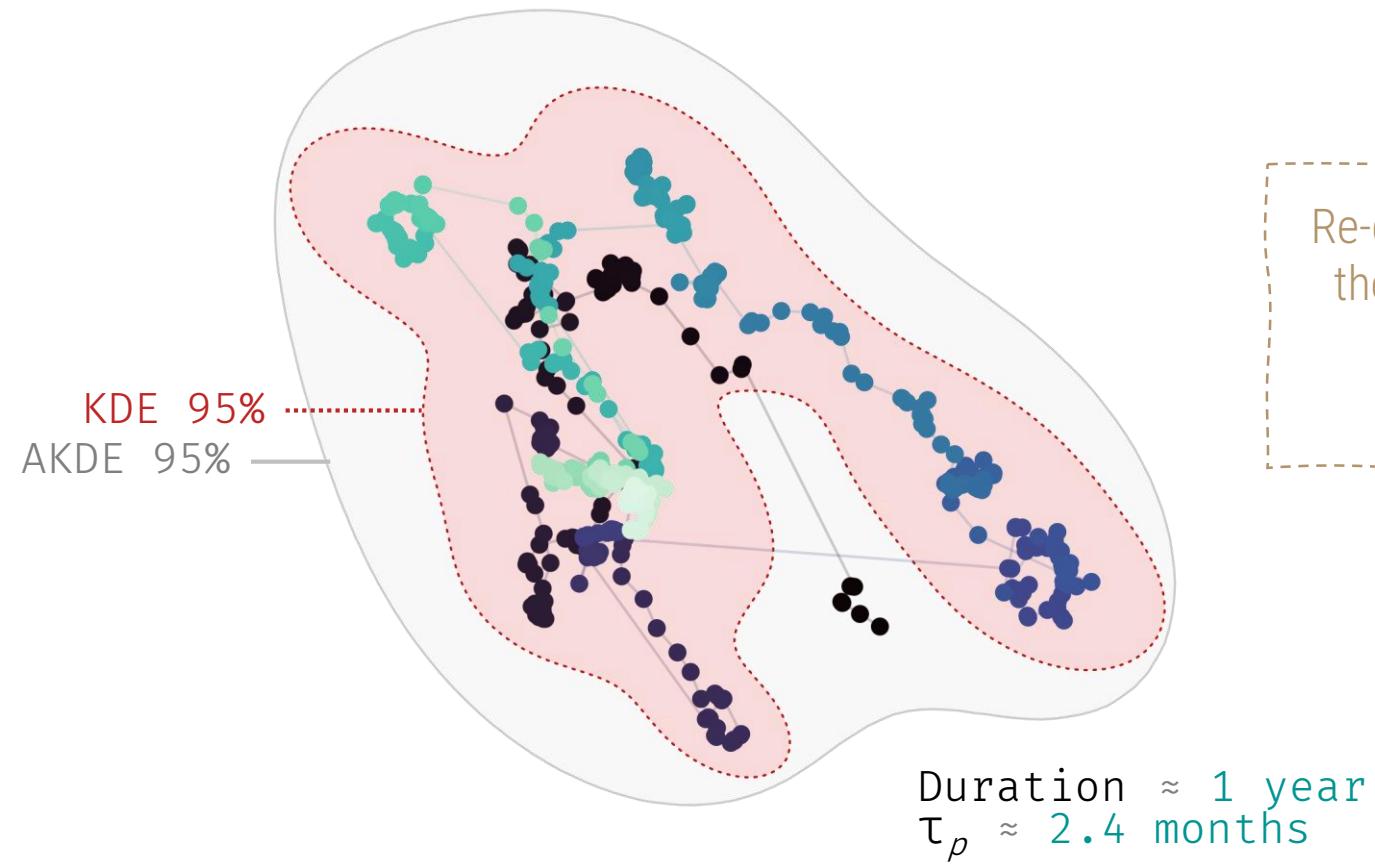
DOI: 10.1890/14-2010.1

Re-derived KDE that explicitly assumes the data represents a sample from a nonstationary, autocorrelated, continuous movement process.

Tracking data

Fit movement model

Estimate home range



Autocorrelated Kernel Density Estimator (AKDE)

Described in Fleming et al. (2015)

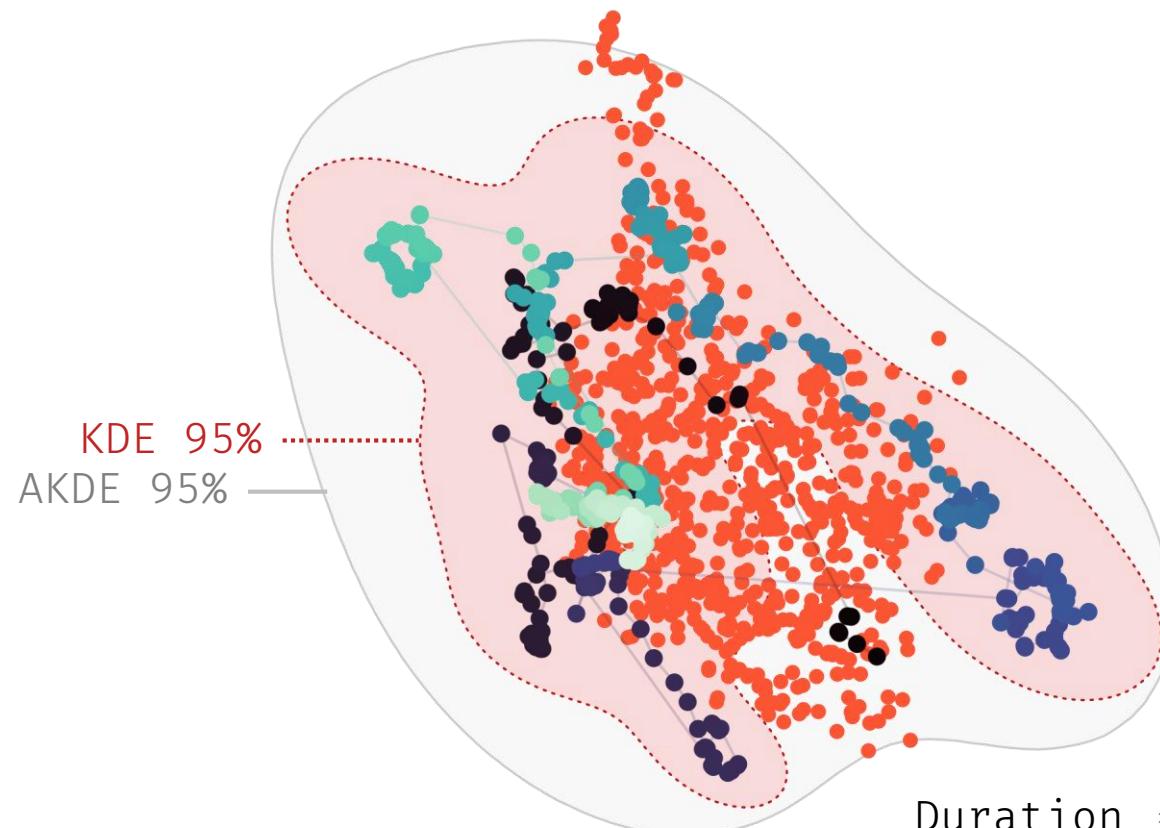
DOI: 10.1890/14-2010.1

Re-derived KDE that explicitly assumes the data represents a sample from a nonstationary, autocorrelated, continuous movement process.

Tracking data

Fit movement model

Estimate home range



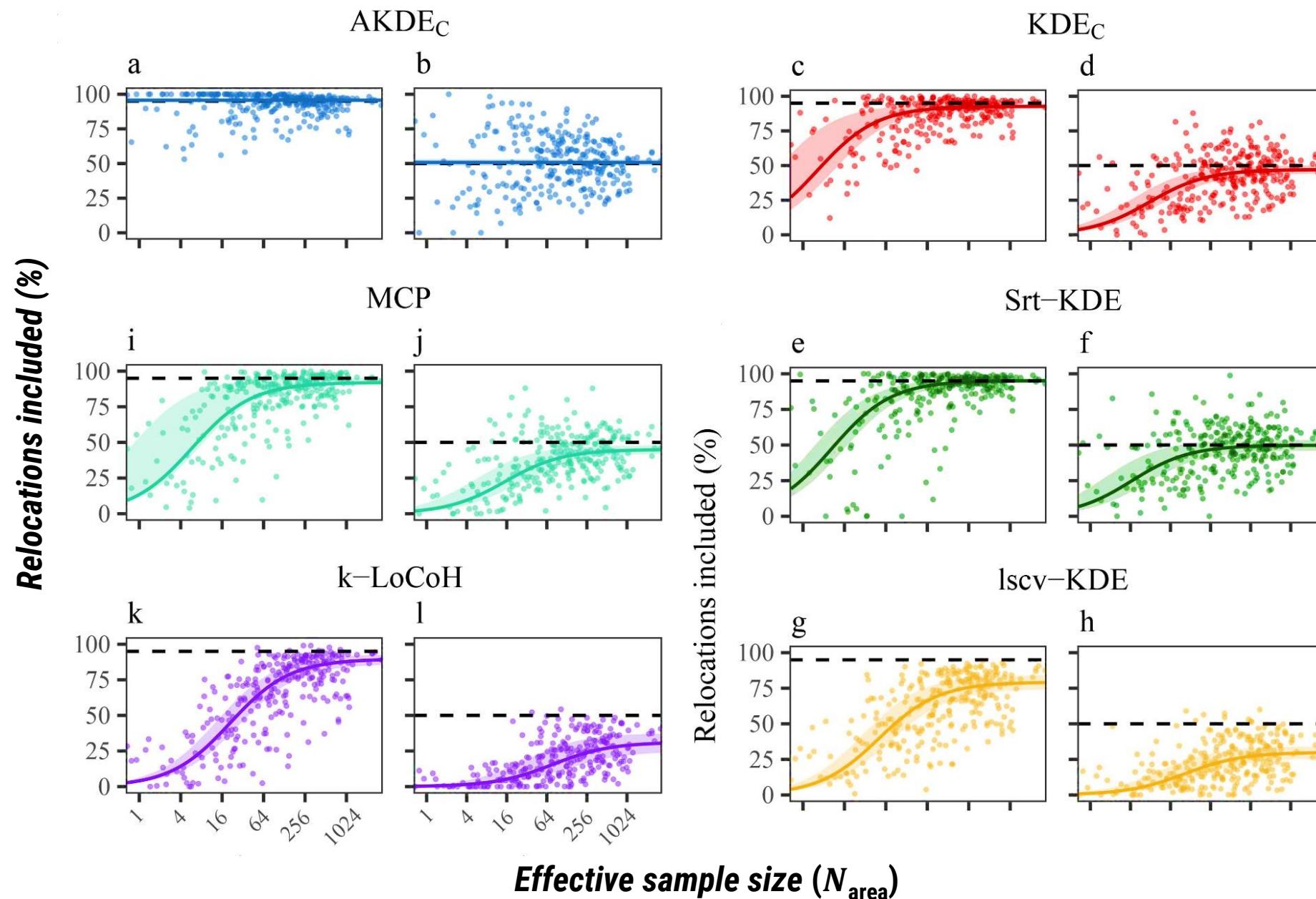
Duration ≈ 1 year \dashrightarrow Extrapolated to 2 years
 $\tau_p \approx 2.4$ months

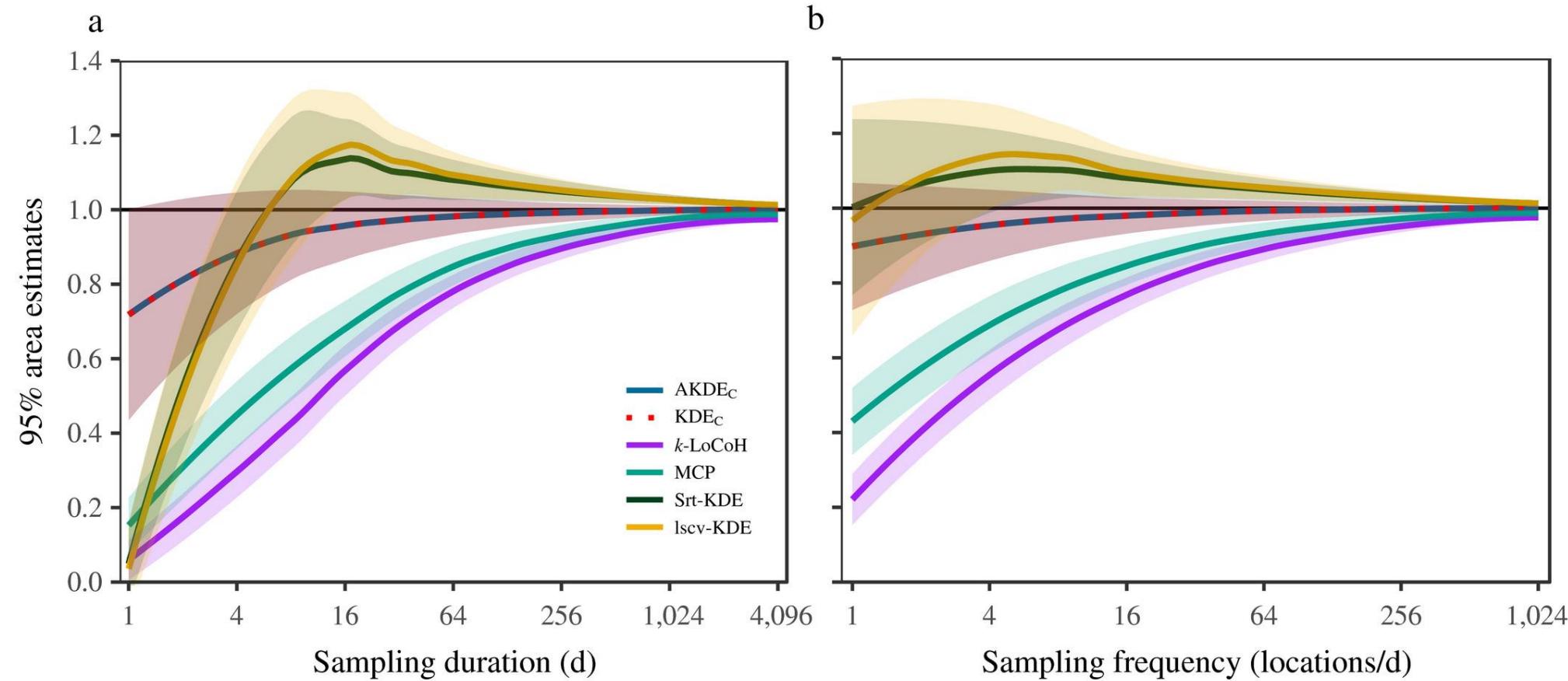
Autocorrelated Kernel Density Estimator (AKDE)

Described in Fleming et al. (2015)

DOI: 10.1890/14-2010.1

Re-derived KDE that explicitly assumes the data represents a sample from a nonstationary, autocorrelated, continuous movement process.





Conventional KDE_C, and MCP estimates were, on average, smaller than AKDE_C's estimates by a factor of ~ 3 , and by a factor of ~ 13 for Iscv-KDE and k-LoCoH.

Tracking data

Fit movement model

Estimate home range

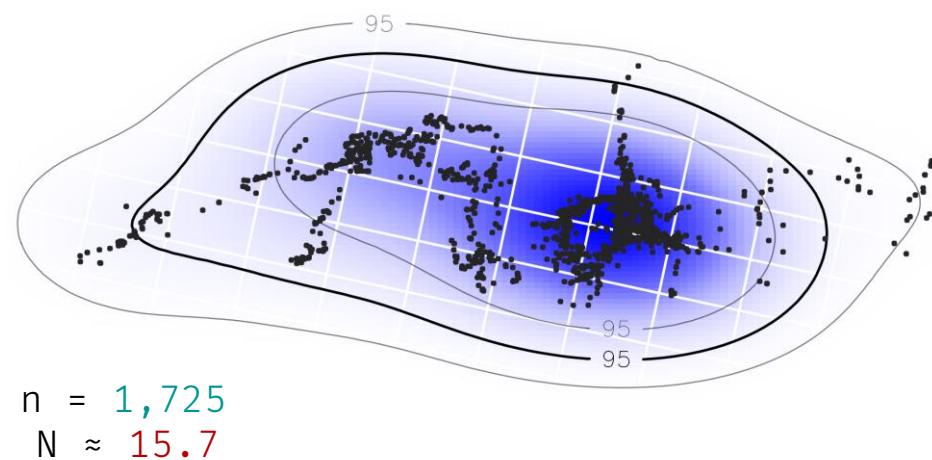
AKDEs explicitly requires a movement model that accounts *autocorrelated* data.

Autocorrelation

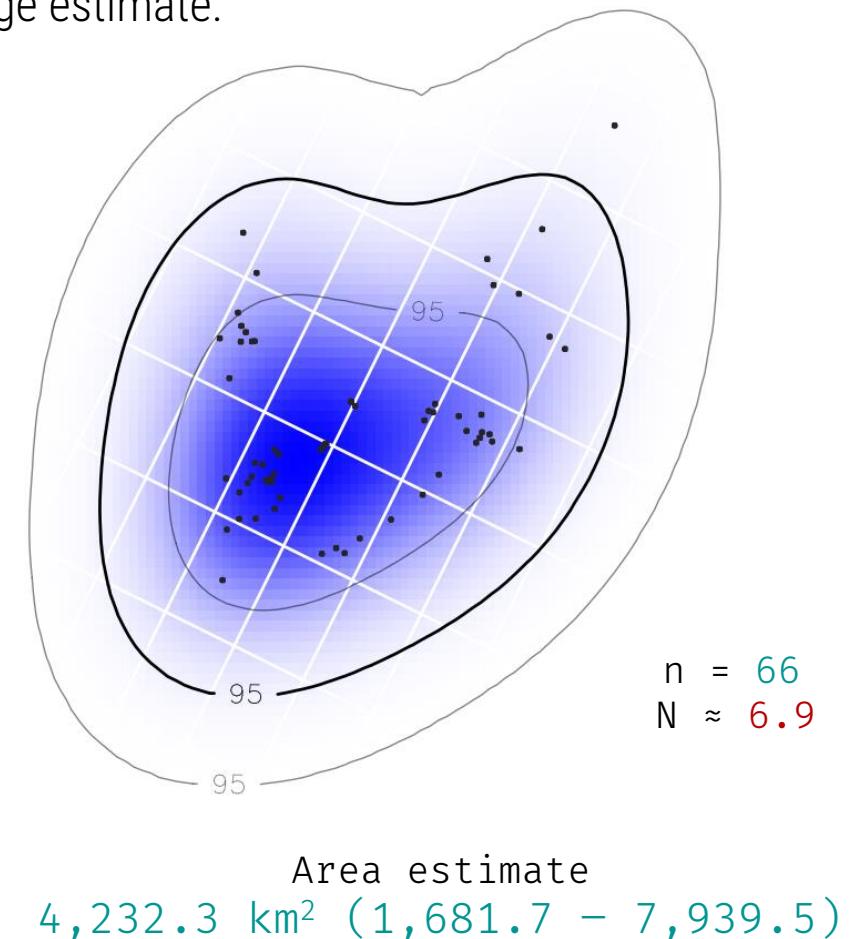
Model	Position	Velocity	Restricted	Parameters:
IID	No	No	Yes	$\tau = \text{NULL}$
BM	Yes	No	No	$\tau = \infty$
OU	Yes	No	Yes	$\tau = \tau_p$
IOU	Yes	Yes	No	$\tau = \{\infty, \tau_v\}$
OUF	Yes	Yes	Yes	$\tau = \{\tau_p, \tau_v\}$

AKDE reduces to the conventional KDE in the limit where autocorrelation vanishes, and locations are truly independent.

AKDEs also provide accurate **confidence intervals** that can diagnose situations where the data are insufficient to provide a reasonable home range estimate.

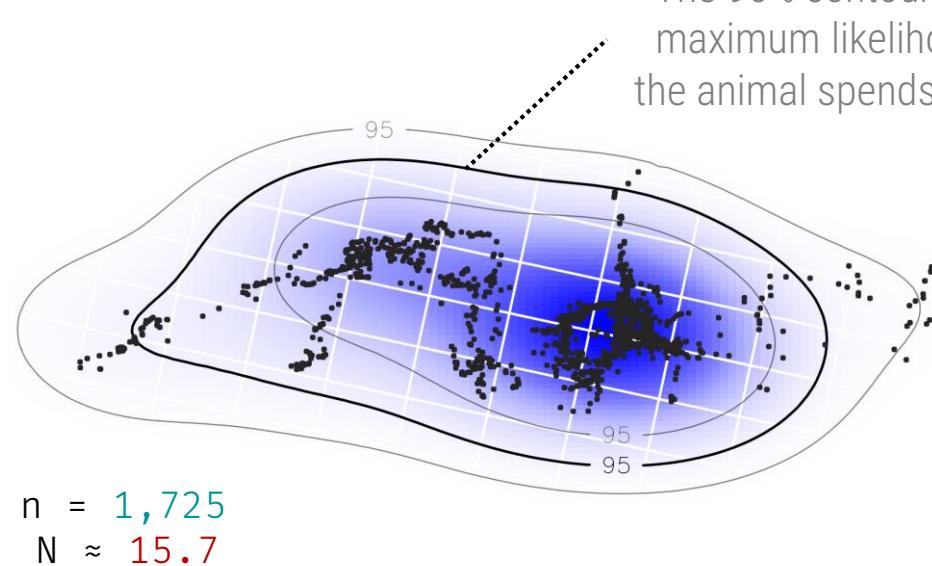


Area estimate
757.5 km² (430.0 – 1,176.2)

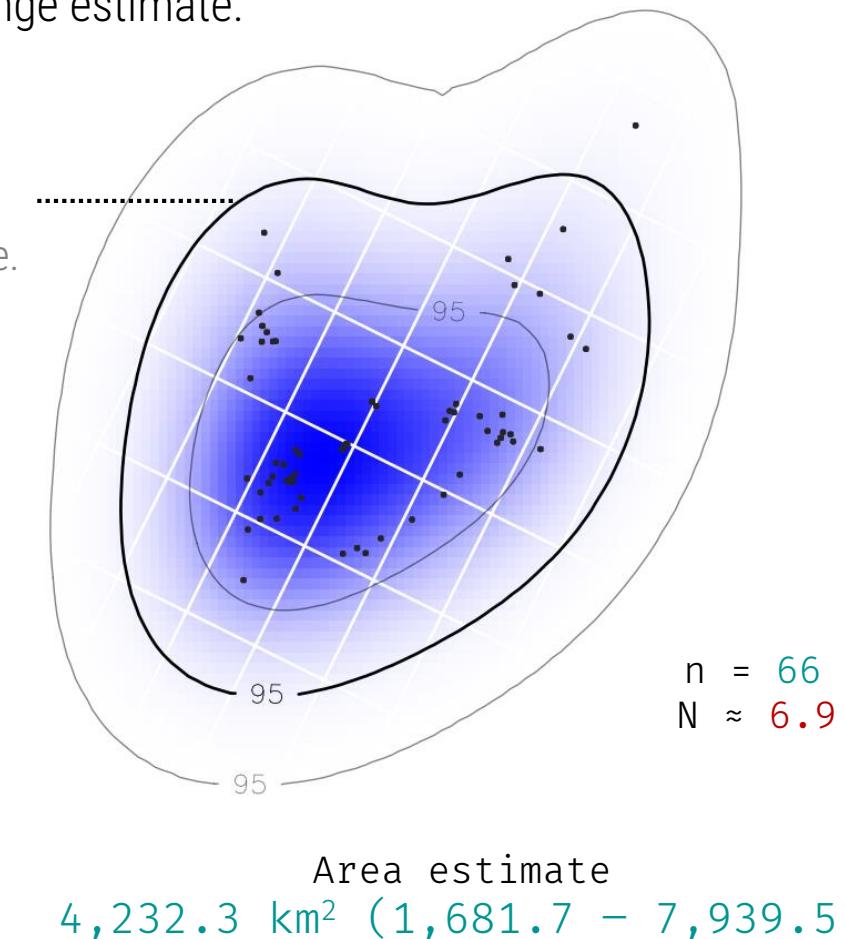


 HR ESTIMATION

AKDEs also provide accurate **confidence intervals** that can diagnose situations where the data are insufficient to provide a reasonable home range estimate.



Area estimate
757.5 km² (430.0 – 1,176.2)

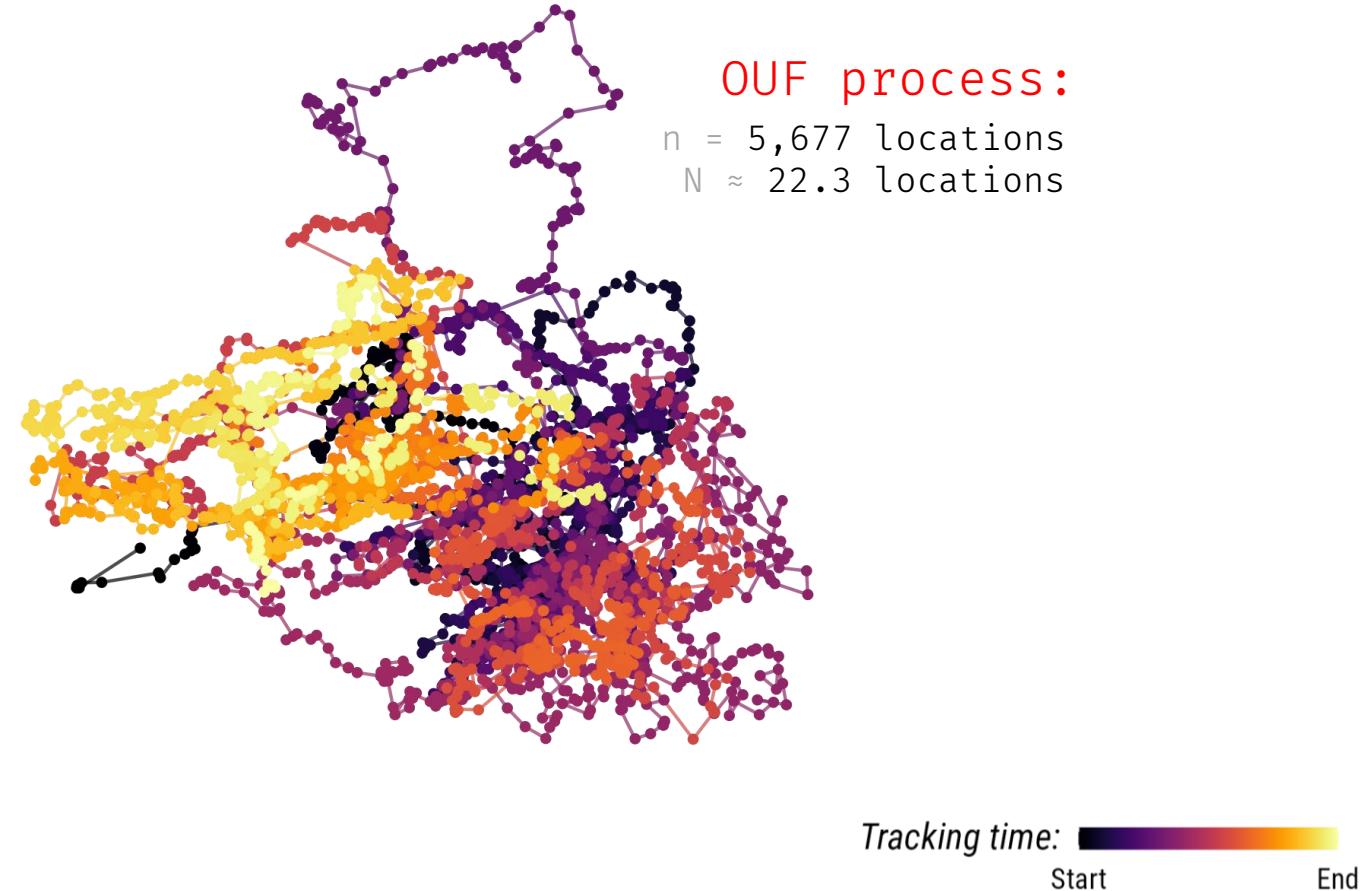




HR ESTIMATION



AFRICAN BUFFALO
SYNCERUS CAFFER



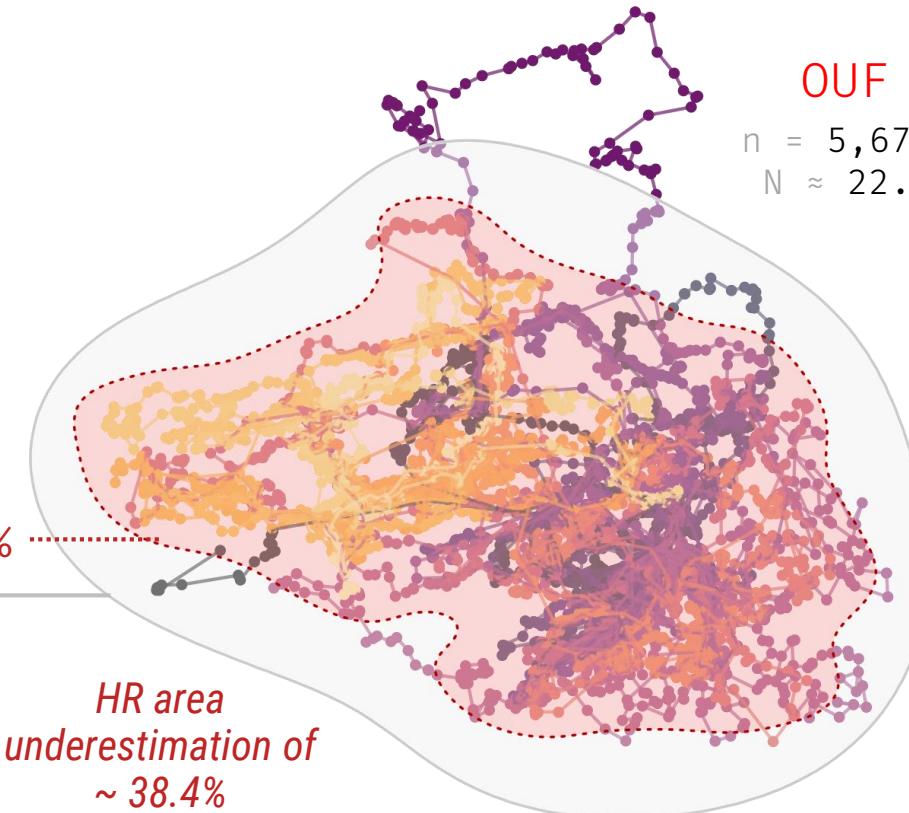
HR ESTIMATION



AFRICAN BUFFALO
SYNCERUS CAFFER

KDE 95%
AKDE 95%

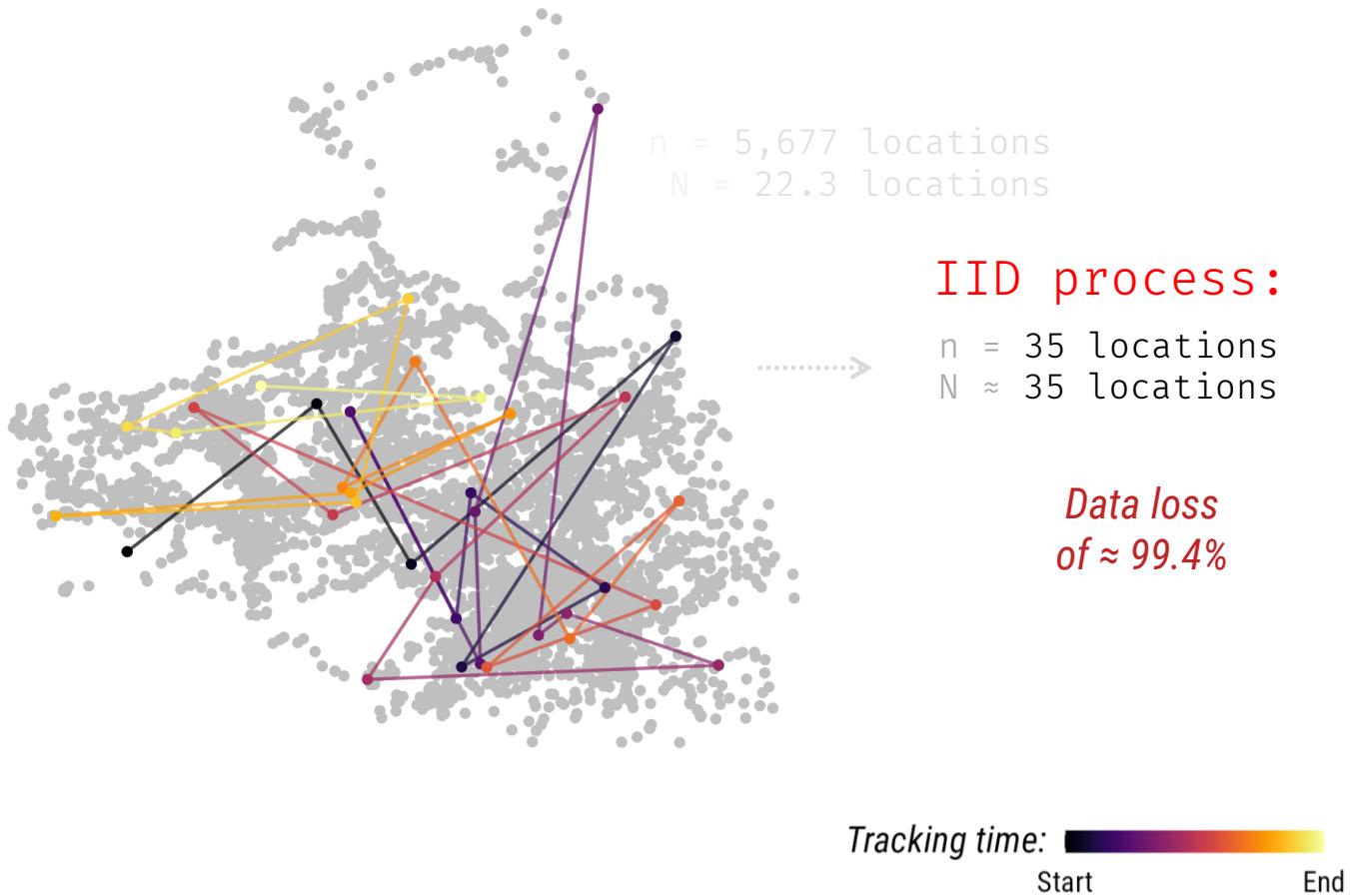
HR area
underestimation of
~ 38.4%



Tracking time:
Start End

 HR ESTIMATION

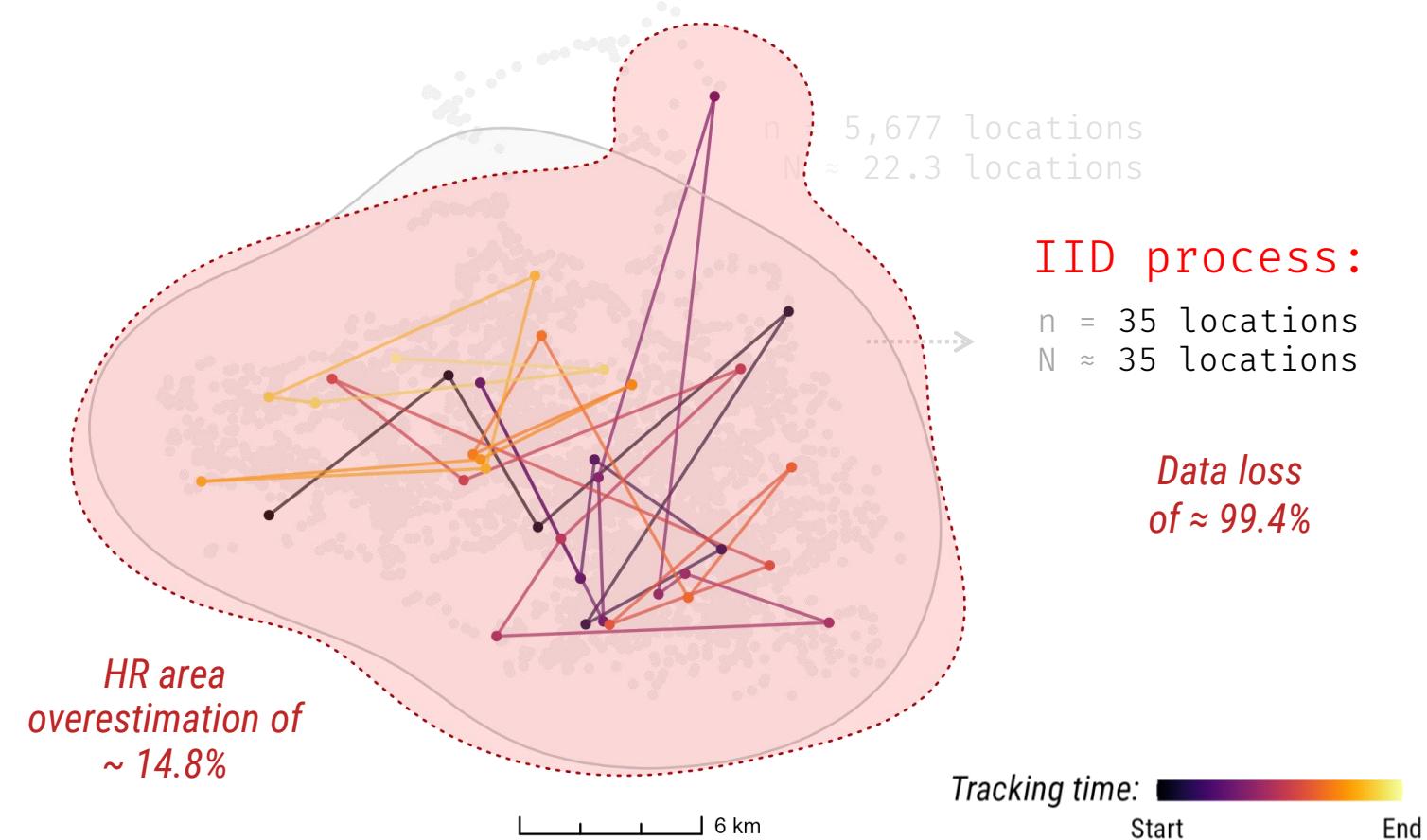
AFRICAN BUFFALO
SYNCERUS CAFFER



HR ESTIMATION



AFRICAN BUFFALO
SYNCERUS CAFFER



WORKFLOW:

01

Range residency assumption

Checking if data is from a range-resident animal

02

Movement models

Selecting the best-fit movement model through model selection

03

Home range estimation

Reconstructing range distribution from sampled locations

04

Mitigation measures

Accounting for common biases in animal movement data



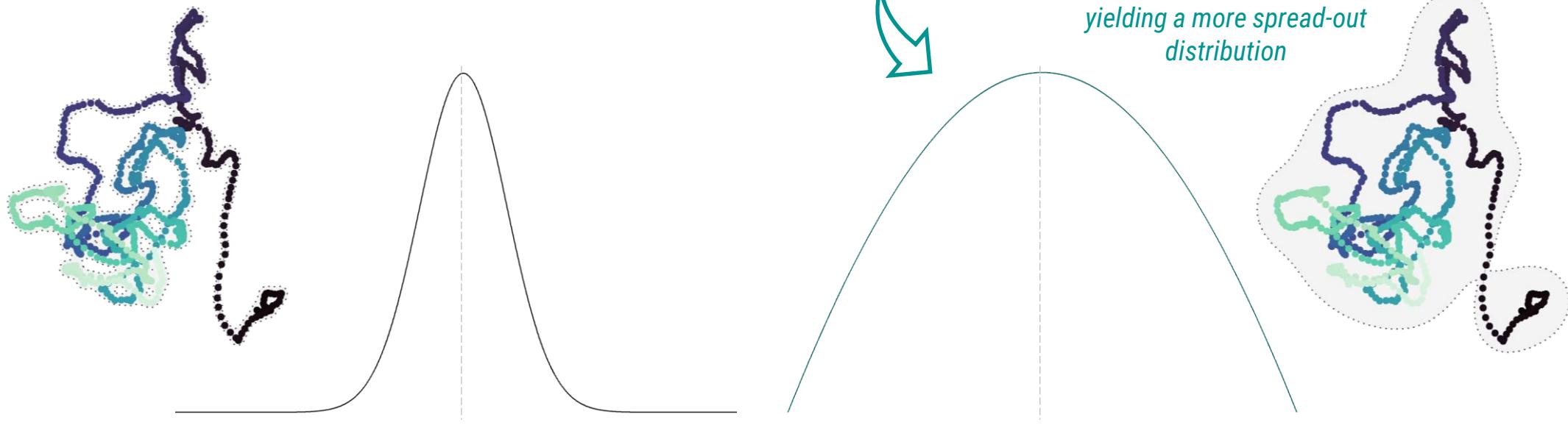
MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDE_c

Area-corrected AKDE or AKDE_c
Deals with: *oversmoothing*



Even when we account for autocorrelation, GRF-KDEs remain biased due to the natural tendency of the GRF approximation to *oversmooth*.



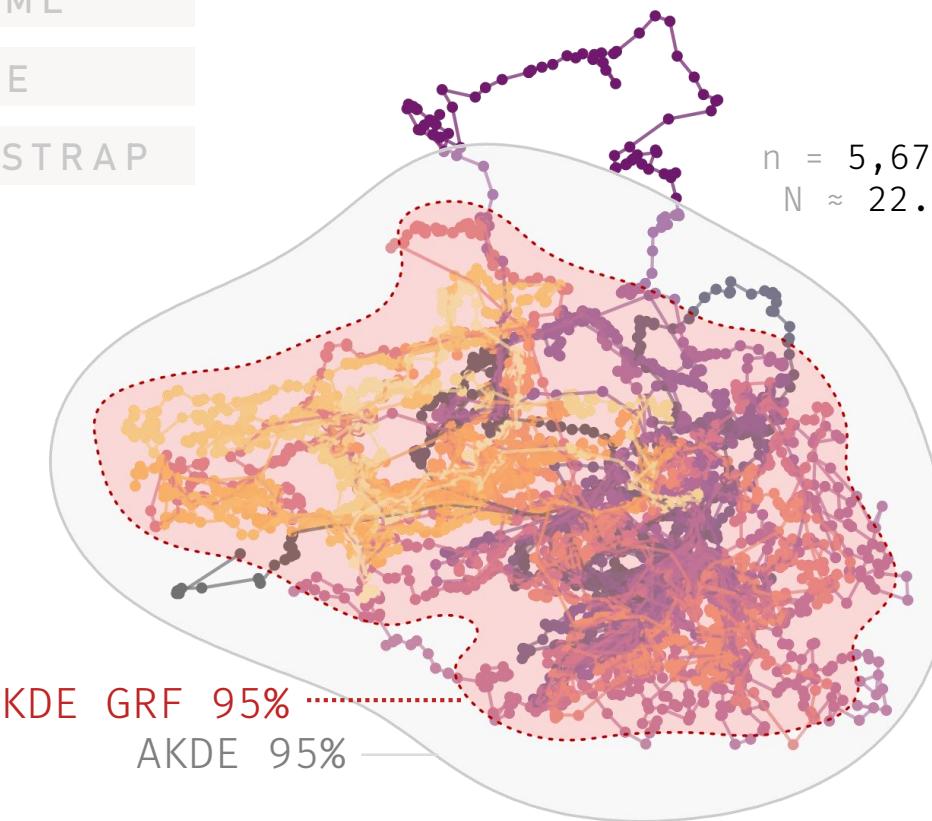
MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDE_c

PHREML

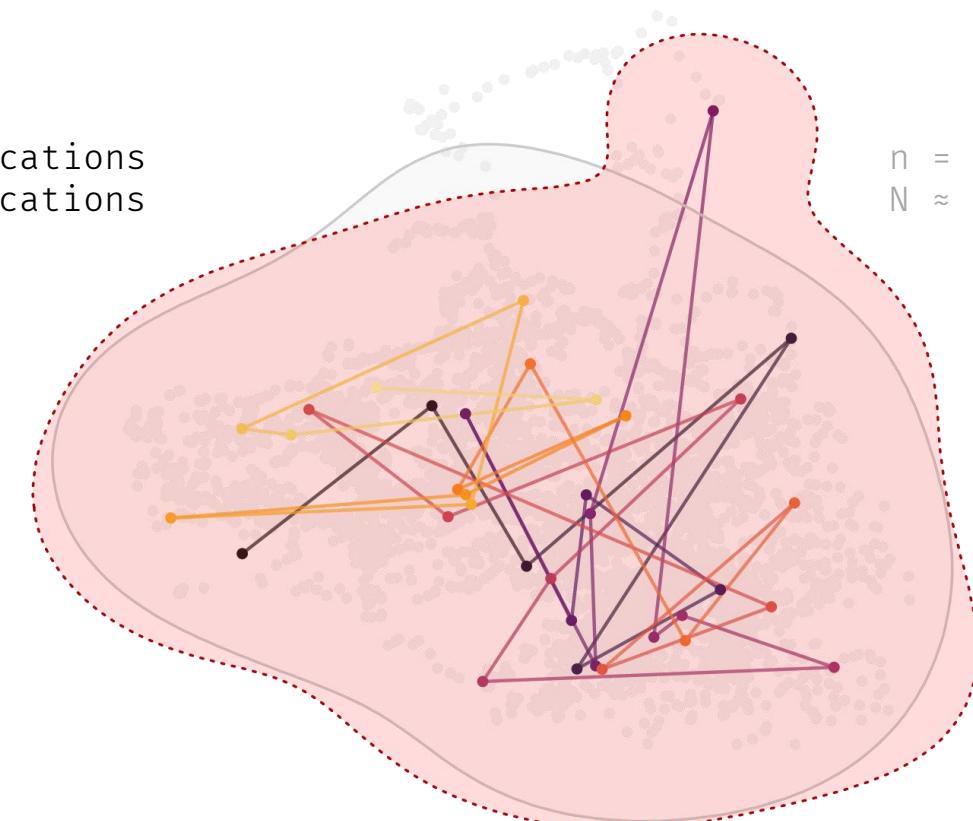
wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP



KDE GRF 95%
AKDE 95%

n = 5,677 locations
N ≈ 22.3 locations



n = 35 locations
N ≈ 35 locations

6 km



MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDE_c

PHREML

wAKDE

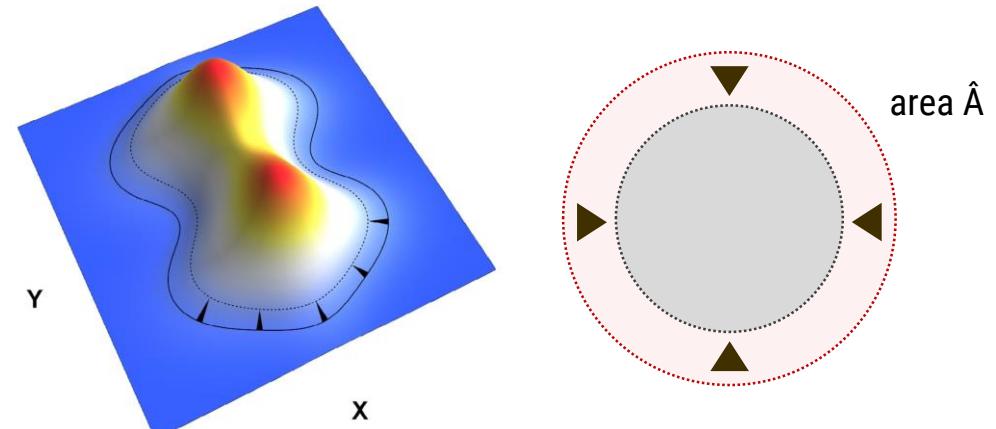
BOOTSTRAP

Area-corrected AKDE or **AKDE_c**Deals with: *oversmoothing*

Even when we account for autocorrelation, GRF-KDEs remain biased due to the natural tendency of the GRF approximation to *oversmooth*.

Derived an *improved (A)KDE* that pulls the contours of the location distribution estimate inward towards the data without distorting its shape.

Fleming & Calabrese (2017)
DOI: 10.1111/2041-210X.12673





MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDE_c

Area-corrected AKDE or AKDE_c
Deals with: *oversmoothing*

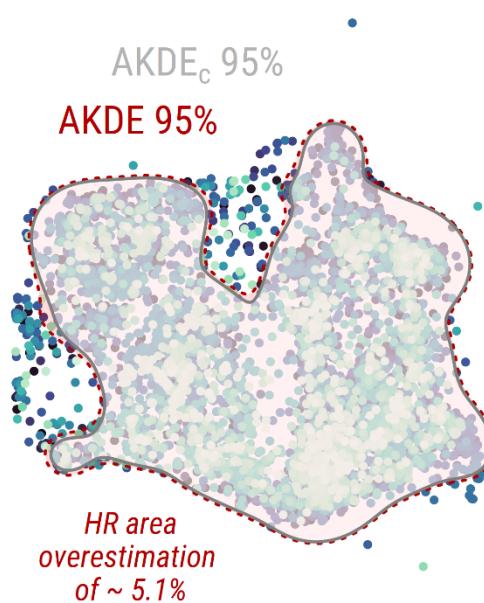
PHREML

wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

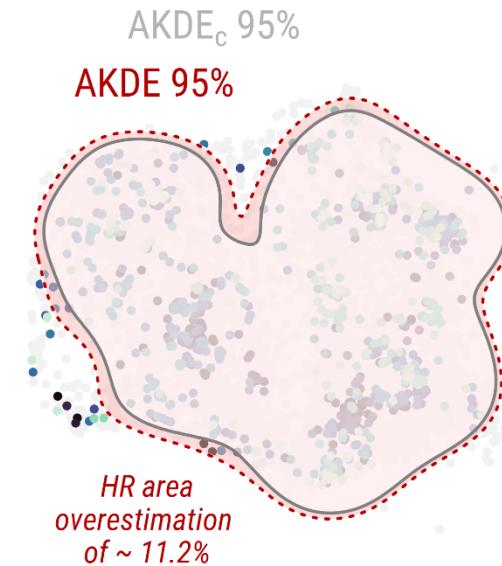
Large effective sample size

Sampling duration \approx 1 year



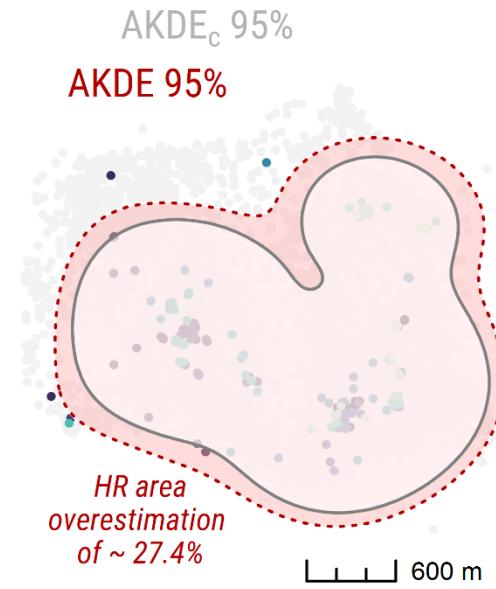
Medium effective sample size

Sampling duration \approx 3 months



Small effective sample size

Sampling duration \approx 15 days





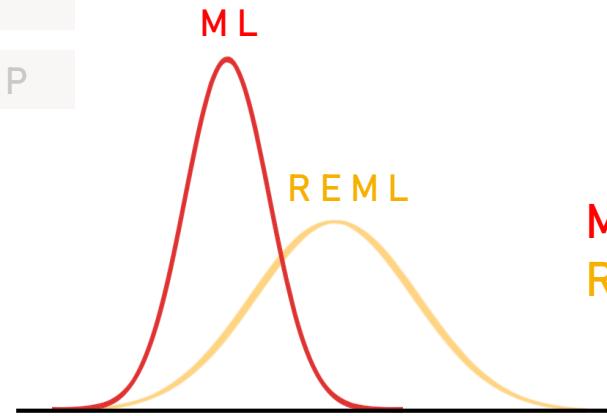
MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDEC

PHREML

wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP



pHREML AKDE

Deals with: *autocorrelation estimation bias*

For optimal performance, we need to estimate autocorrelation correctly.



ML — performs poorly at small sample sizes.

REML — performs poorly at small *effective* sample sizes.

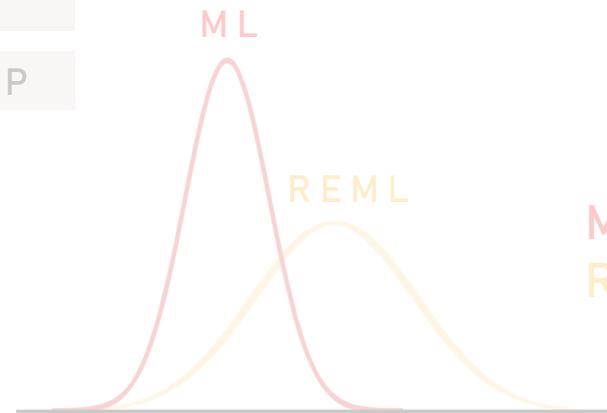
 MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDEC

PHREML

wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP



pHREML AKDE

Deals with: *autocorrelation estimation bias*

For optimal performance, we need to estimate autocorrelation correctly.



ML — performs poorly at small sample sizes.

REML — performs poorly at small *effective* sample sizes.



As such, we consider other parameter estimation methods:

perturbative REML (pREML)

Hybrid REML (HREML)

perturbative Hybrid REML (pHREML)

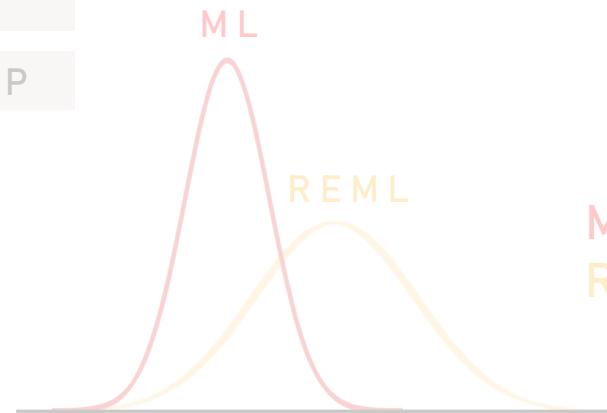
 MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDEC

PHREML

wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP



pHREML AKDE

Deals with: *autocorrelation estimation bias*

For optimal performance, we need to estimate autocorrelation correctly.



ML — performs poorly at small sample sizes.
REML — performs poorly at small *effective* sample sizes.



As such, we consider other parameter estimation methods:

- Focus on:
- small *effective* sample sizes
 - small *absolute* sample sizes
 - small *absolute* and *effective* sample sizes
- *perturbative REML (pREML)*
- *Hybrid REML (HREML)*
- *perturbative Hybrid REML (pHREML)*

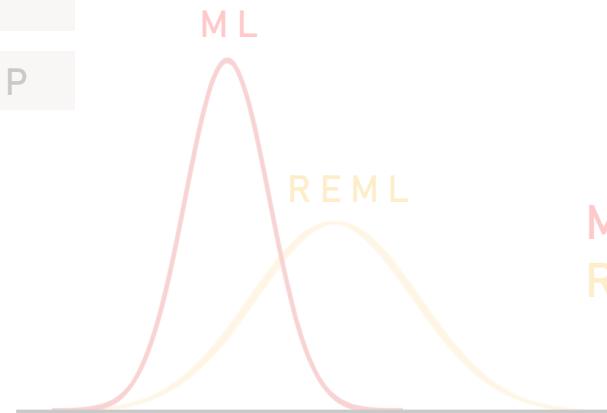
 MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDEC

PHREML

wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP



pHREML AKDE

Deals with: *autocorrelation estimation bias*

For optimal performance, we need to estimate autocorrelation correctly.



ML — performs poorly at small sample sizes.

REML — performs poorly at small *effective* sample sizes.



As such, we consider other parameter estimation methods:

perturbative REML (pREML)

Hybrid REML (HREML)

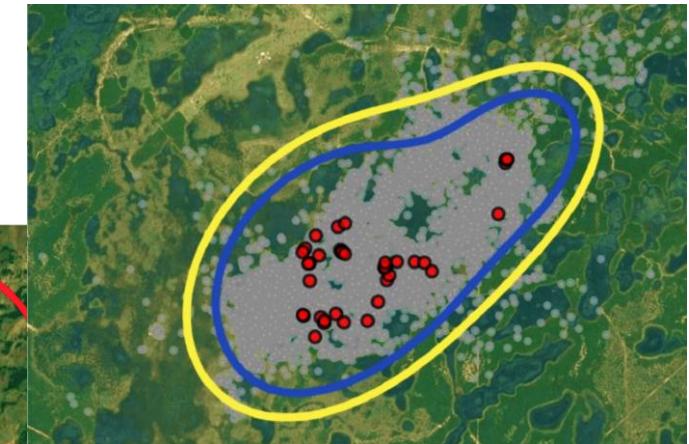
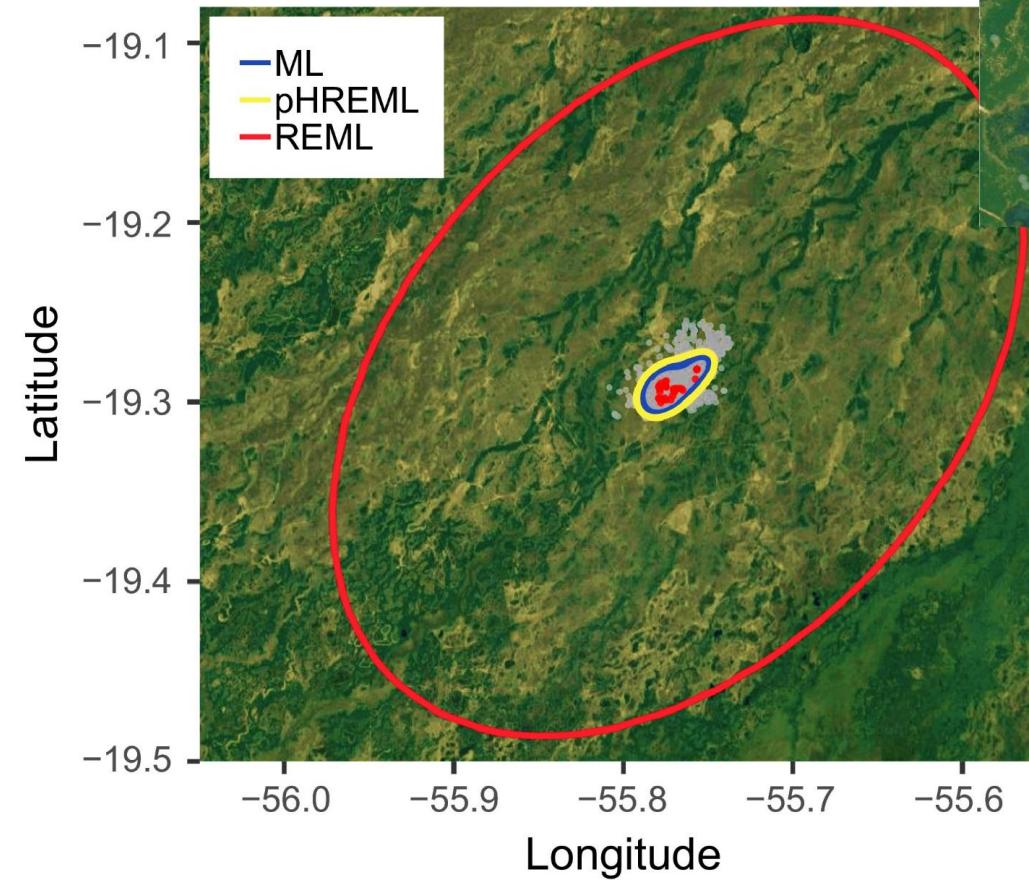
perturbative Hybrid REML (pHREML)

Fleming et al. (2019)
DOI: 10.1111/2041-210X.13270

Tracking data (1-hr intervals for 19 months), truncated to **2 days**.



LOWLAND TAPIR
TAPIRUS TERRESTRIS



 MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDEC

PHREML

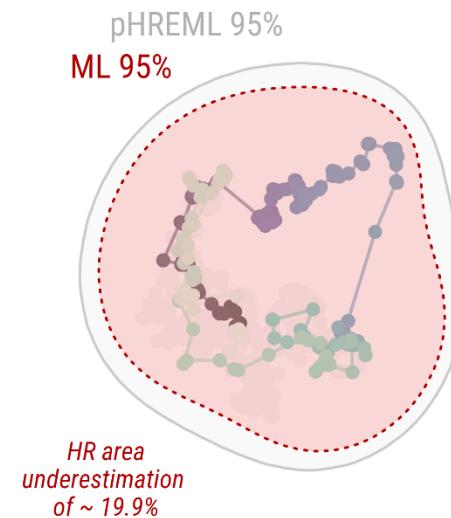
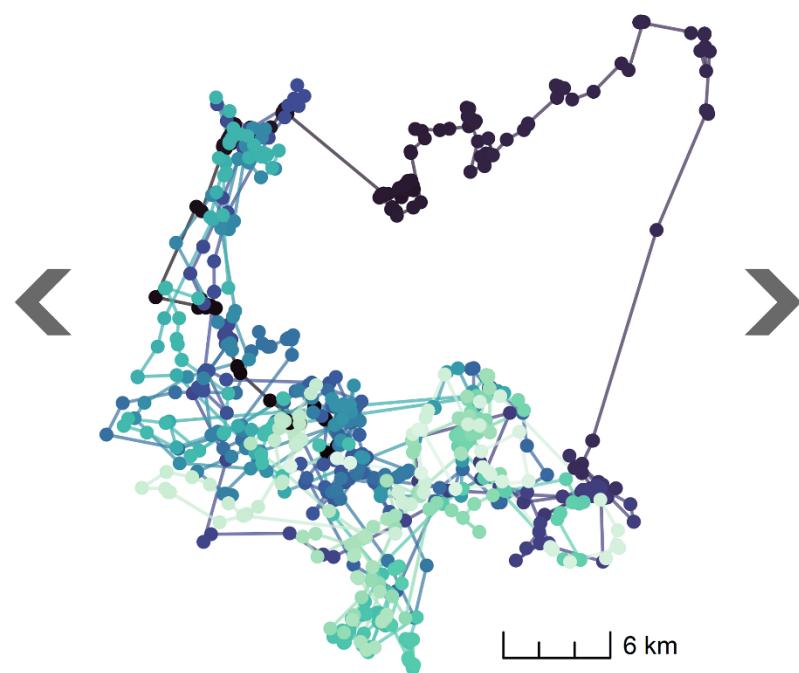
wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

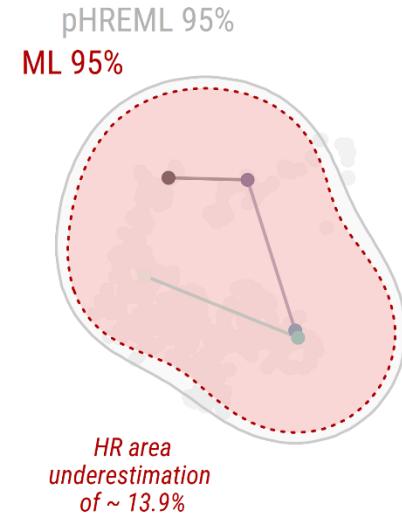
pHREML AKDE

Deals with: *autocorrelation estimation bias*

**Large absolute &
Small effective sample size**
 $n = 363 \quad N \approx 3.1$

 $n = 1010 \quad N \approx 14.5$ 

**Small absolute &
Small effective sample size**
 $n = 5 \quad N \approx 4$





MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDEC

PHREML

WAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

Weighted AKDE or wAKDE

Deals with: *unrepresentative sampling in time*

- ▶ Many real-world issues can lead to *irregular sampling*:
duty-cycling tags to avoid wasting battery,
acceleration-informed sampling,
device malfunction,
habitat-related signal loss,
and other causes.
- ▶ Shifting *sampling schedules* (based on behavioral or seasonal patterns) is also a common strategy.

wAKDE optimally *upweights* observations that occur during *under-sampled times*, while optimally *downweighting* observations occurring during *over-sampled times*.

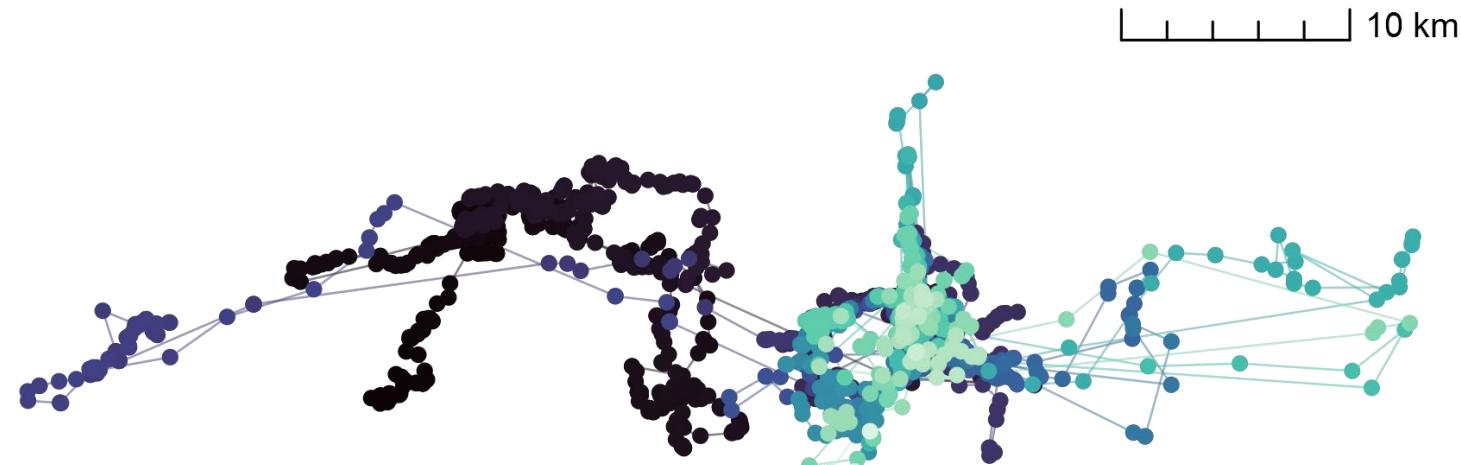
AKDEC

PHREML

WAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

Weighted AKDE or wAKDE

Deals with: *unrepresentative sampling in time***Fig.**

African buffalo dataset (nicknamed "Pepper") with an irregular sampling schedule.

 MITIGATION MEASURES

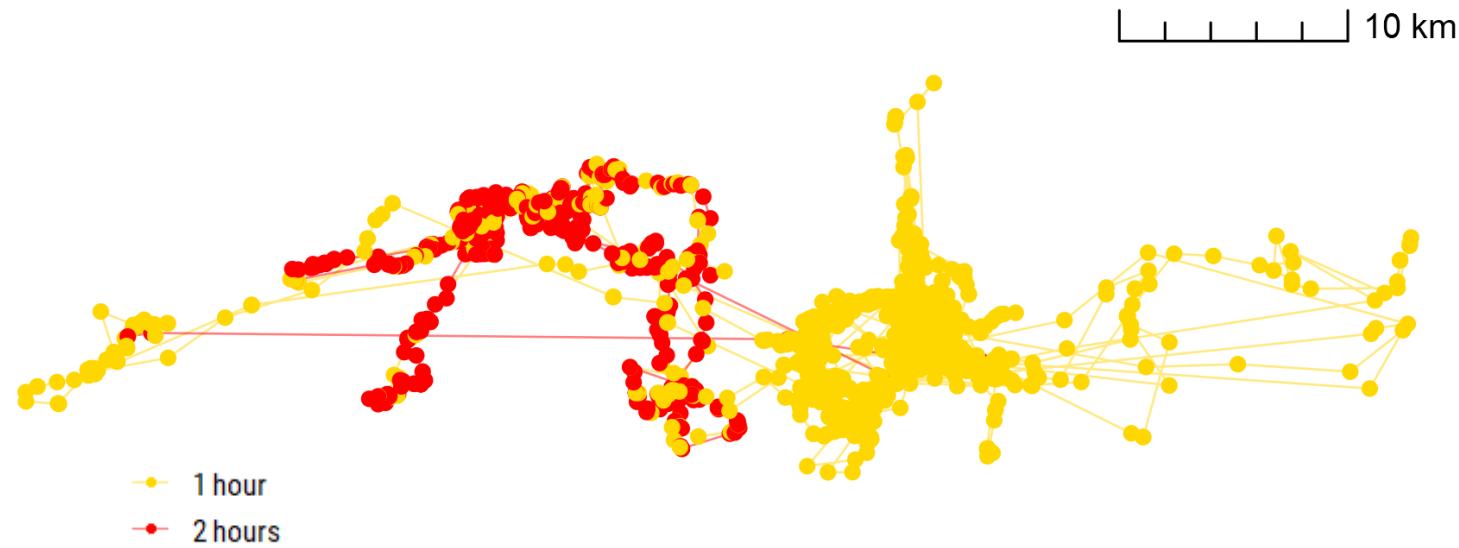
AKDEC

PHREML

WAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

Weighted AKDE or wAKDE

Deals with: *unrepresentative sampling in time***Fig.**

African buffalo dataset (nicknamed “Pepper”) with an irregular sampling schedule. Sampling rate shifted from 1 fix every hour to 1 fix every 2 hours.

 MITIGATION MEASURES

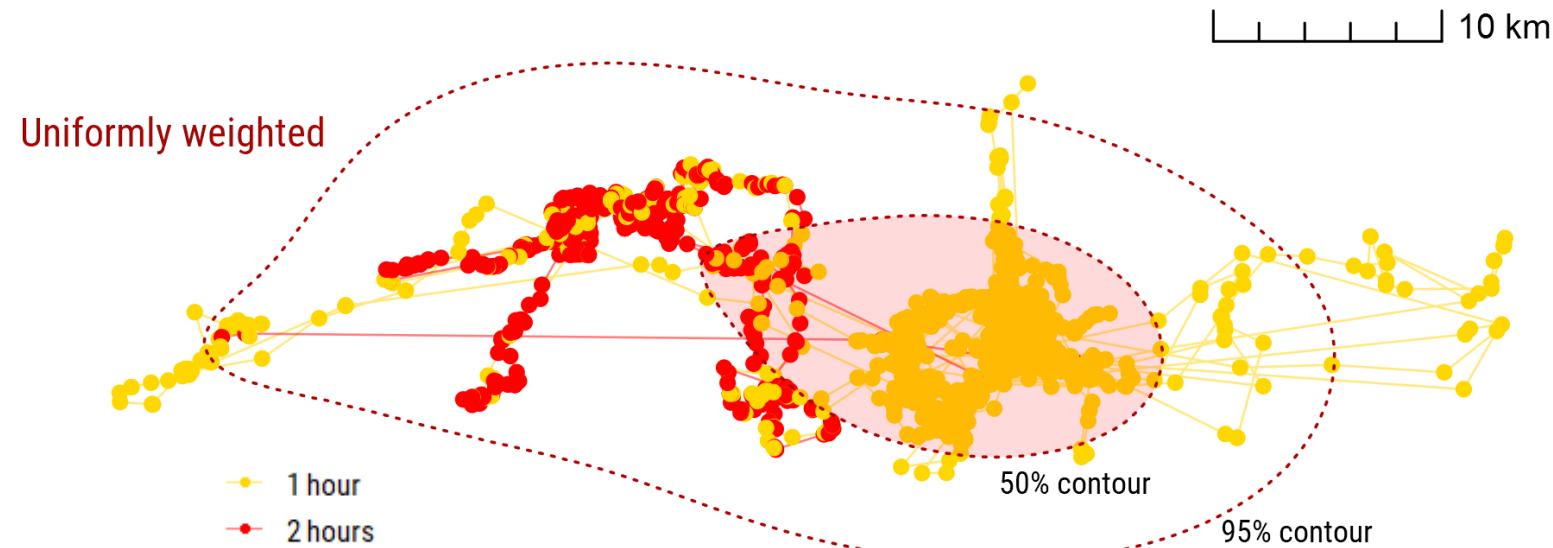
AKDEC

PHREML

WAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

Weighted AKDE or wAKDE

Deals with: *unrepresentative sampling in time***Fig.**

African buffalo dataset (nicknamed “Pepper”) with an irregular sampling schedule. Sampling rate shifted from 1 fix every hour to 1 fix every 2 hours.

 MITIGATION MEASURES

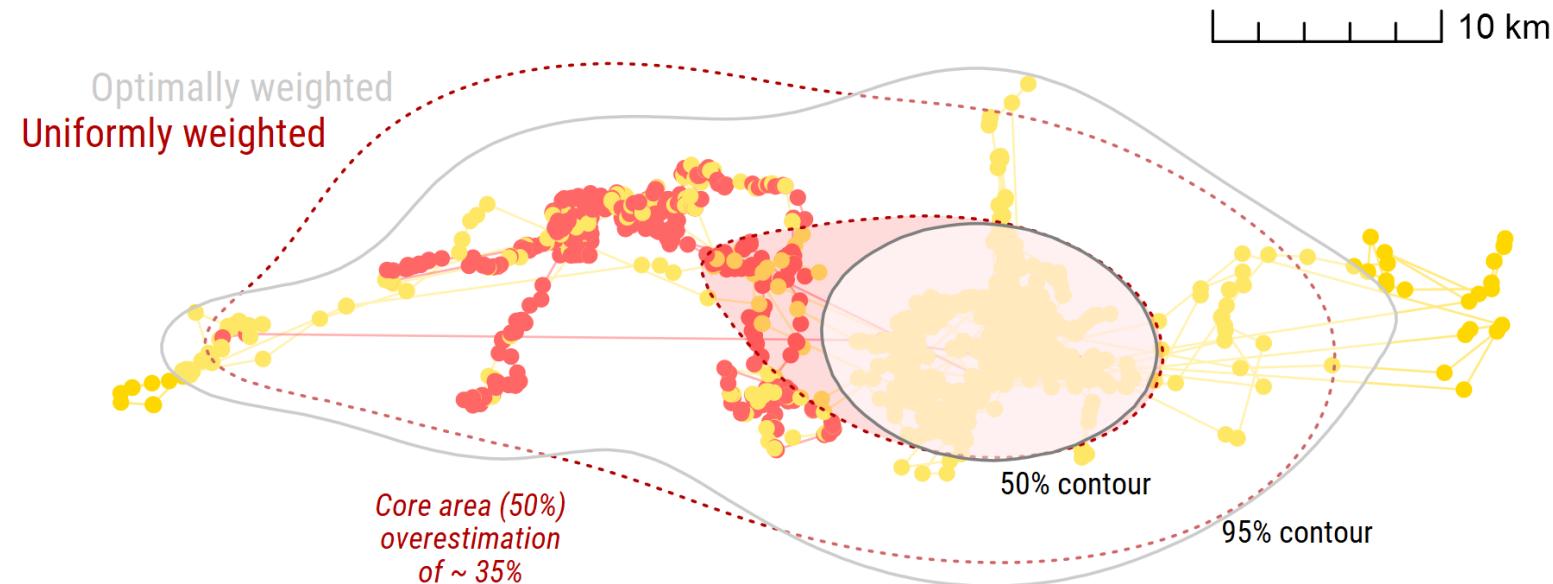
AKDEC

PHREML

WAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

Weighted AKDE or wAKDE

Deals with: *unrepresentative sampling in time***Fig.**

African buffalo dataset (nicknamed “Pepper”) with an irregular sampling schedule. Sampling rate shifted from 1 fix every hour to 1 fix every 2 hours.

 MITIGATION MEASURES

AKDEC

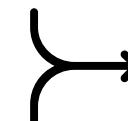
PHREML

wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

Bartlett (1937)
Residual ML (or REML)

Fleming *et al.* (2019)
perturbative Hybrid REML (pHREML)



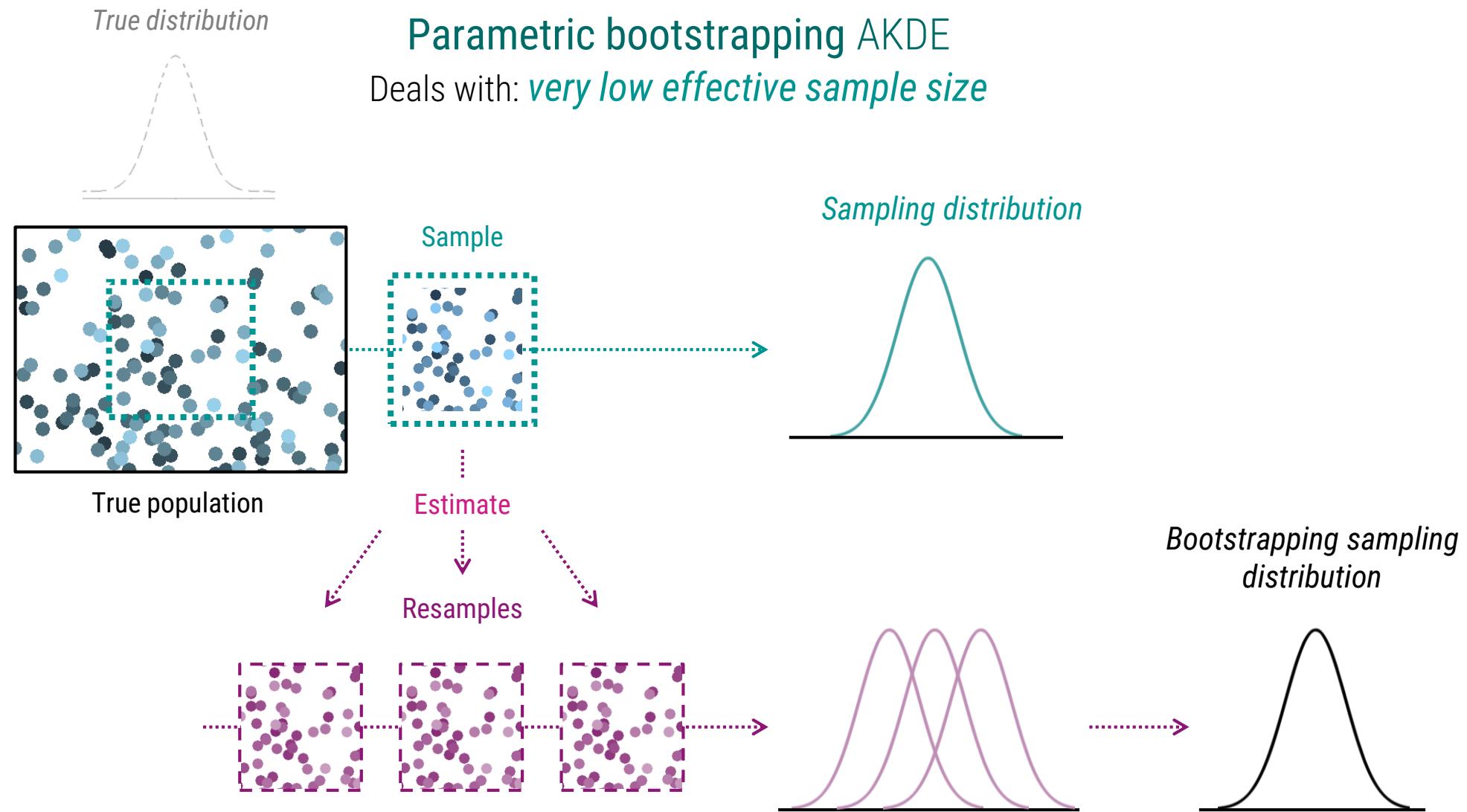
Parametric bootstrapping AKDE
Deals with: *very low effective sample size*

Efron & Efron (1982)
Parametric bootstrapping

The parametric bootstrap estimates the bias and variance of an estimator by *approximating* the sampling distribution of the true movement model with that of the best-fit model.

 MITIGATION MEASURESAKDEC
PHREML
wAKDE

BOOTSTRAP

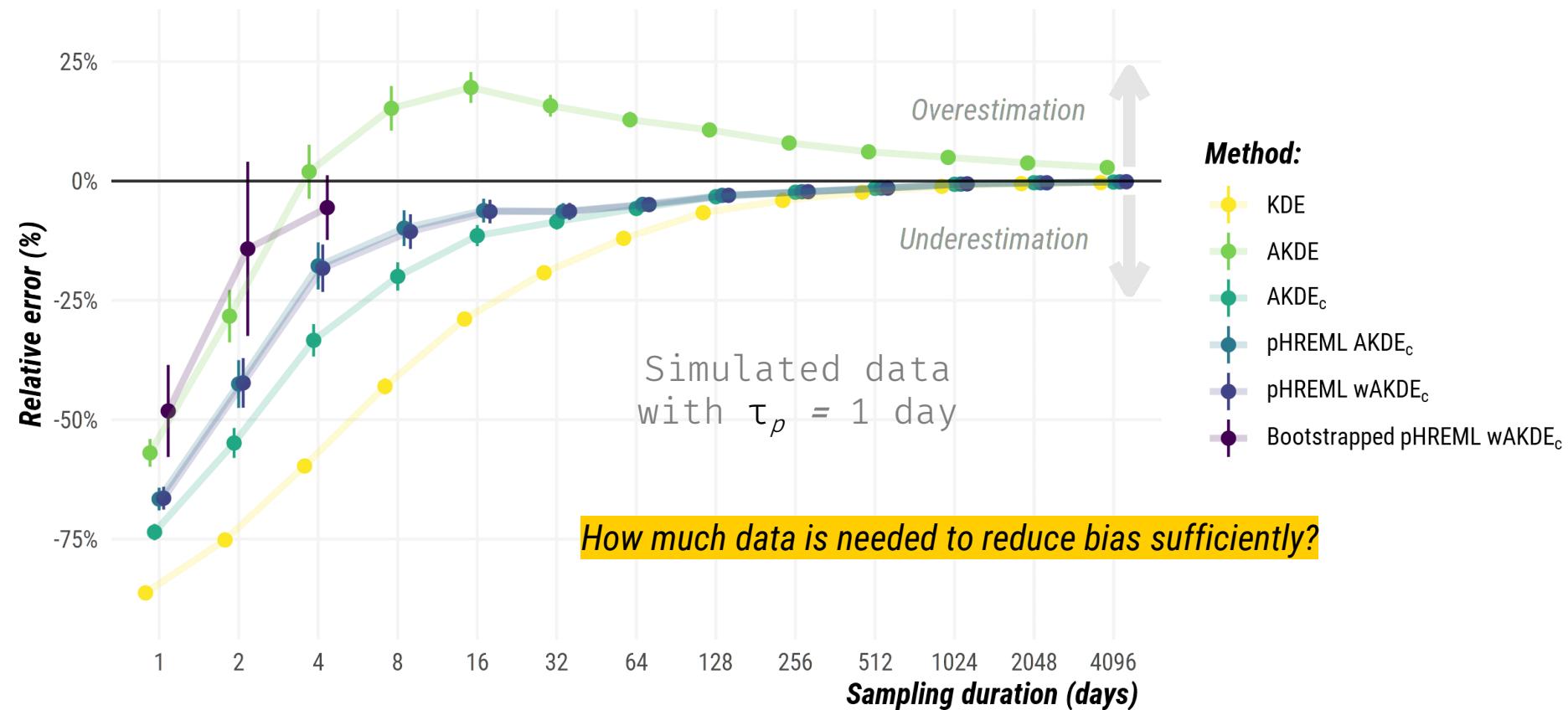




MITIGATION MEASURES

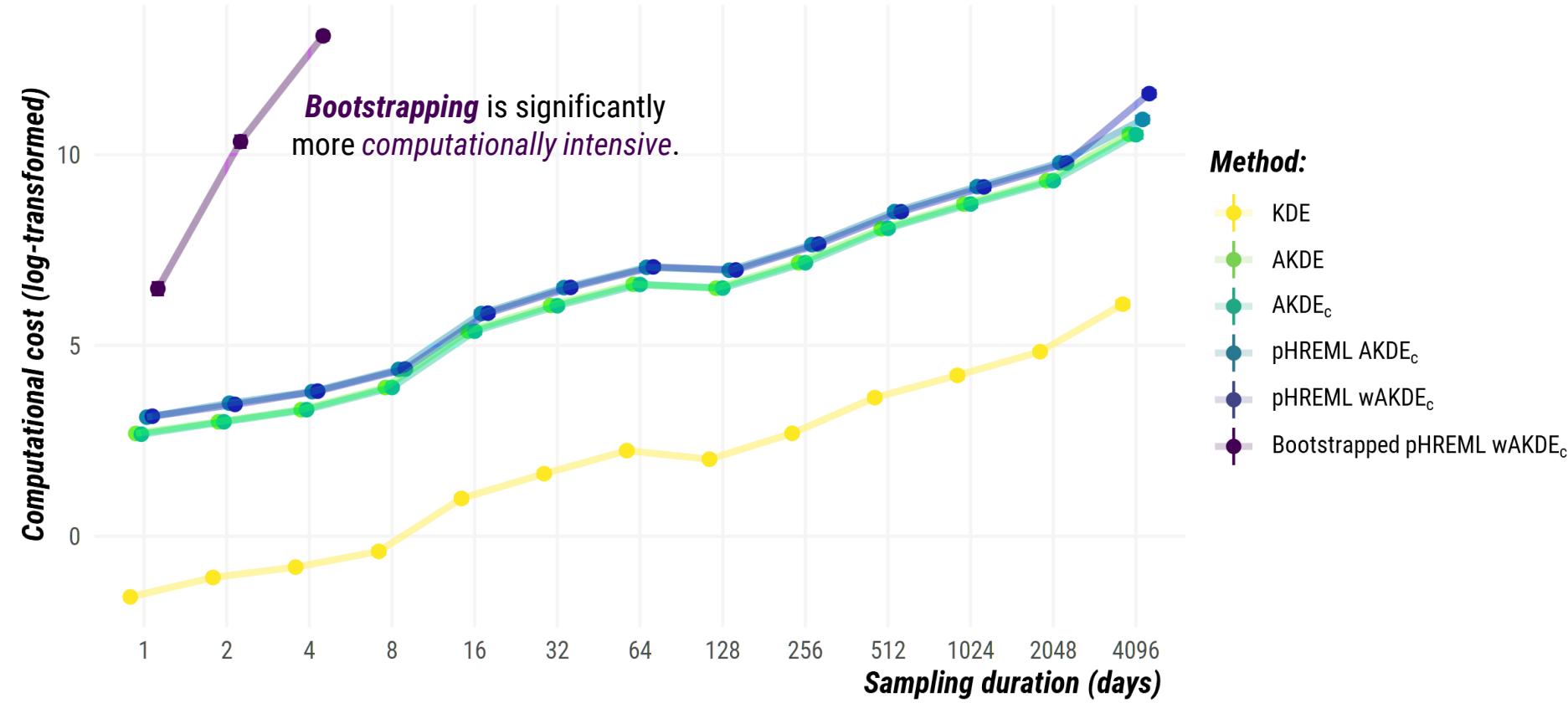
AKDE family

Relative error *versus* sampling duration



AKDE family

Computational cost *versus* sampling duration





References

- Calabrese, J. M., Fleming, C. H., & Gurarie, E. (2016). [ctmm: An R package for analyzing animal relocation data as a continuous-time stochastic process](#). *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 7(9), 1124-1132.
- Fleming, C. H., & Calabrese, J. M. (2017). [A new kernel density estimator for accurate home-range and species-range area estimation](#). *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 8(5), 571-579.
- Fleming, C. H., Noonan, M. J., Medici, E. P., & Calabrese, J. M. (2019). [Overcoming the challenge of small effective sample sizes in home-range estimation](#). *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 10(10), 1679-1689.
- Fleming, C. H., Sheldon, D., Fagan, W. F., Leimgruber, P., Mueller, T., Nandintsetseg, D., Noonan, M. J., Olson, K. A., Setyawan, E., Sianipar, A. & Calabrese, J. M. (2018). [Correcting for missing and irregular data in home-range estimation](#). *Ecological Applications*, 28(4), 1003-1010.
- Silva, I., Fleming, C. H., Noonan, M. J., Alston, J., Folta, C., Fagan, W. F., & Calabrese, J. M. (2021). [Autocorrelation-informed home range estimation: a review and practical guide](#). *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 13(3), 534-544.