

SpatIS tutorial: calculating Spatial Individual Specialization Indices

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1 Introduction

Individuals naturally differ from each other within populations. These differences manifest in their physiology, morphology, as well as in their behavior and preferences. To investigate the causes and consequences of interindividual variation, Bolnick et al. (2003) have related that with niche theory and coined the term “individual specialization”. According to this concept, a specialist individual would be one whose niche is much narrower than the niche of the population it is part of. As a consequence, to be considered generalist a population can follow different scenarios: to be composed by generalist individuals with similar niches, by specialists individuals with distinct niches, or by a gradient between these extremes.

In this context, the niche is generally represented by the type and amount of food items or other resources that are consumed by individuals. As resources are heterogeneously distributed in space along different habitats, it is expected that individual specialization leaves its shadow over space, or even that different environments or geographical space itself may be viewed as resources, so that individuals may be more or less specialists regarding their movement patterns, habitat selection, and use of space.

Here we describe how to calculate the Spatial Individual Specialization index (*SpatIS*) and the Spatial Individual Complementary Specialization Index (*SpatICS*) using the R function `SpatIS`, based on movement data of individuals of the same population. We also use the function `SpatIS.randomize` to test if *SpatIS* and *SpatICS* are significant for a population, i.e., if they are different from what it would be expected at random, if individuals were not specialists in their use of space. To that end, first we simulate a virtual landscape with some different resources located heterogeneously in space. Then we simulate five individuals that present preferences for different types of resources, which is reflected in their movement patterns. Finally we calculate *SpatIS* and *SpatICS* and run `SpatIS.randomize` to test for significance and statistical power for these indices, for this simulated population.

2 Simulating space and individuals

To represent the resource distribution in space, we are going to create **five** resource items (e.g. **trees**) located in a bidimensional landscape at locations (-40,35), (30,30), (40,-42), (-25,-30), and (0,0), with different sizes (or radii, in meters: 10, 5, 8, 10, 5). To draw that, we use the function `draw_circle` from `plotrix` package.

```
# Load library
library(plotrix)

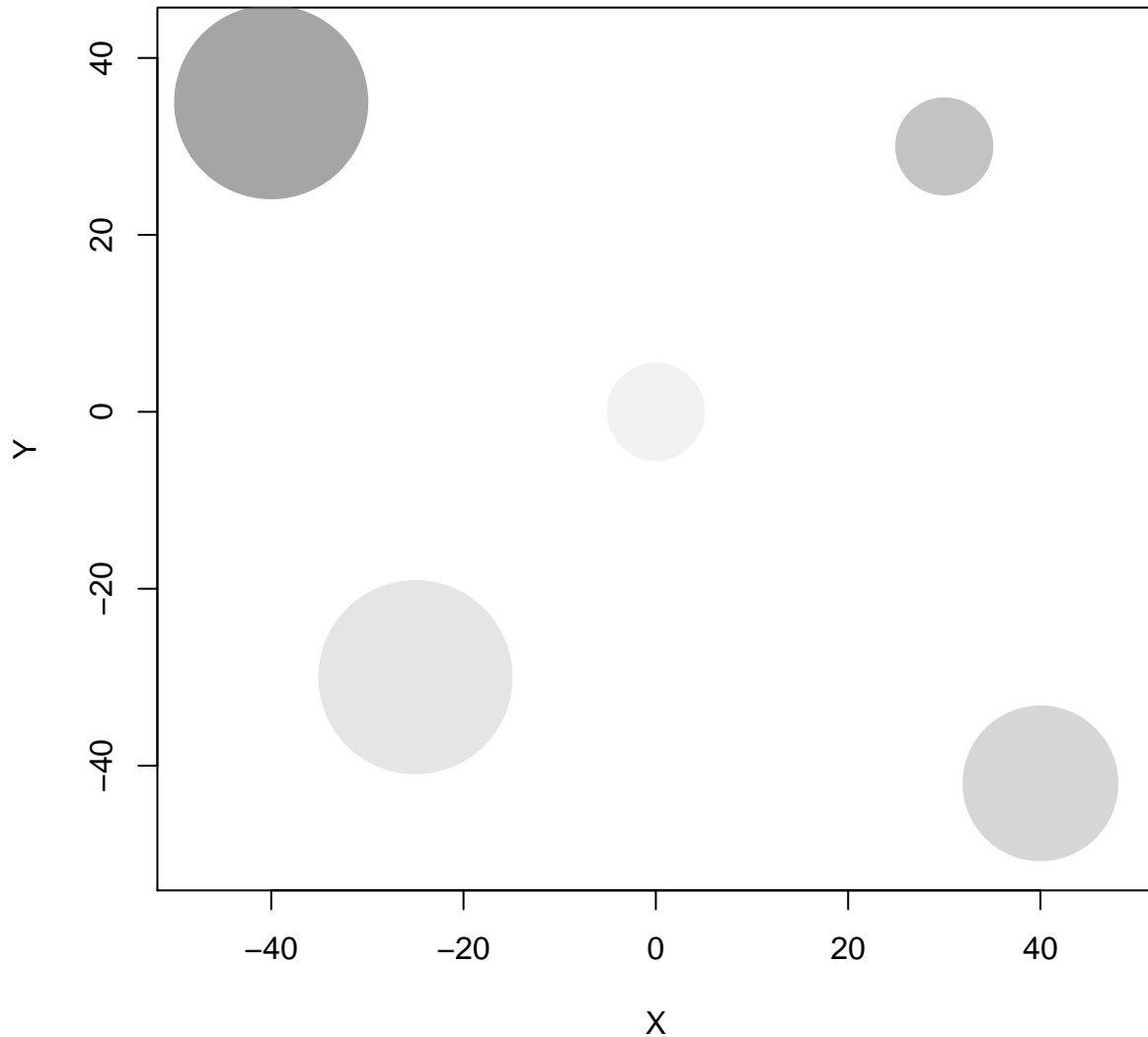
# Location of resources
x.resources <- c(-40, 30, 40, -25, 0)
y.resources <- c(35, 30, -42, -30, 0)
radius <- c(10, 5, 8, 10, 5)

# Draw landscape with preferred resources
cols <- grey.colors(length(x.resources), alpha = 0.5) # colors for each resource
# draw a landscape that encompasses the position of all resources
matplot(x.resources, y.resources, type="n",
        xlim=c(1.2*min(x.resources), 1.2*max(x.resources)),
```

```

ylim=c(1.2*min(y.resources),1.2*max(y.resources)),
xlab = "X", ylab = "Y")
for(i in 1:length(x.resources)) {
  draw.circle(x.resources[i], y.resources[i], radius = radius[i], border = cols[i],
             col = cols[i]) # draw resources
}

```



To generate individual trajectories we are going to simulate 100-step paths of five individuals (e.g. bats) that follow a biased random walk, i.e., a random walk with attraction from a certain point in space (here defined by the location of resource items). Each individual starts near the origin (0,0) and will move biased towards a different resource item, with greater or lower intensity, what represents their preference for distinct resources at different degrees. This is only one possible mechanism that may generate individuals to present different movement and space use patterns, but it was used here to generate location points and exemplify the calculation of *SpatIS* and *SpatICS*.

Biased random walk code was kindly shared by and adapted from Prof. Juan M. Morales. The step length of walks is defined by a Weibull distribution (defined by its shape and scale parameters) and turning angles are drawn from a wrapped Cauchy distribution (with μ and ρ parameters). In turn, the preferred direction of travel μ is a function of β - the coefficient of attraction or bias - which controls how strongly individuals' movements are biased towards a certain resource. Below we simulate these five tracks.

```
# Load library circular
library(circular)

# Seed for random number generation
set.seed(122)

# Random walk parameters
# Coefficient of attraction or bias - positive values correspond to attraction,
#   negative values correspond to avoidance
beta <- c(1.5, 2, 1.8, 2.2, 0.1)
rho <- 0.6 # Concentration parameter around the bias absolute angle
scale <- 1 # Scale of the Weibull distribution for step length
shape <- 1 # Shape of the Weibull distribution for step length

# Number of individuals
ntracks <- 5
# Number of steps per trajectory/individual
nsteps <- 100

# Matrices of x and y locations - initialized with NA
X <- matrix(NA, nsteps, ntracks)
Y <- matrix(NA, nsteps, ntracks)

# Coordinates of the point of attraction/repulsion for each individual
# These coordinated correspond to the 5 different resources created in the landscape
xh <- x.resources
yh <- y.resources

# Simulating tracks
for(i in 1:ntracks){
  x <- numeric(nsteps)
  y <- numeric(nsteps)
  h <- numeric(nsteps)
  steps <- numeric(nsteps)

  # Initial positions of all individuals around the point (0,0)
  h[1] <- runif(1,1,2*pi)
  x[1] <- rnorm(1,0,1)
  y[1] <- rnorm(1,0,1)

  # Simulating following positions
  for(t in 2:nsteps){
    adj <- xh[i] - x[t-1]
    op <- yh[i] - y[t-1]
    r <- sqrt(adj^2 + op^2)
    ya <- sin(h[t-1]) + beta[i]*(op/r)
    xa <- cos(h[t-1]) + beta[i]*(adj/r)
    m_t <- atan2(ya,xa)
```

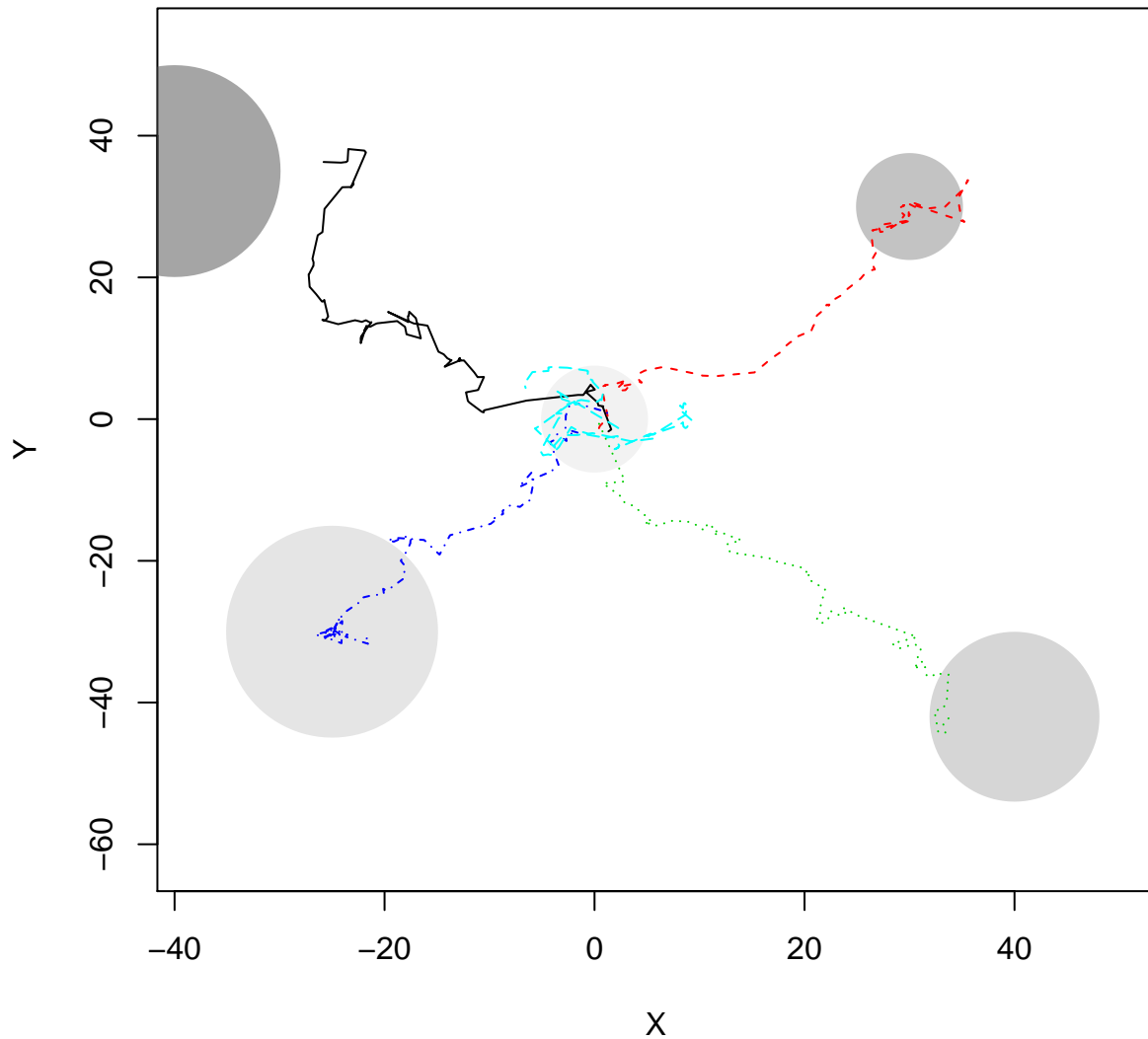
```

    h[t] <- rwrappedcauchy(1,mu=circular(m_t),rho=rho)
    steps[t-1] <- rweibull(1,scale=scale, shape=shape)
    x[t] <- x[t-1] + cos(h[t])*steps[t-1]
    y[t] <- y[t-1] + sin(h[t])*steps[t-1]
  }
  X[,i] <- x
  Y[,i] <- y
}

# Draw landscape with preferred resources
matplot(X,Y, type="n", xlim=c(1.4*min(X),1.4*max(X)), ylim=c(1.4*min(Y),1.4*max(Y)))
for(i in 1:length(x.resources)) {
  draw.circle(x.resources[i], y.resources[i], radius = radius[i], border = cols[i],
             col = cols[i])
}

# Plot individual trajectories
matplot(X, Y, type="l", pch=16, col=1:ntracks, asp=1,
        xlim=c(min(X),max(X)), ylim=c(min(Y),max(Y)), add = T)

```



3 Calculating SpatIS

To calculate *SpatIS* and *SpatICS*, first we have to load the **SpatIS** function. To do that we may use the `source` function, loading it directly from Github - which may not run depending on your Operational System - or downloading *SpatIS* source code into your local computer, unpacking it and loading it from your local environment. Below we show both options.

```
# Loading from the web
# source("https://github.com/LEEClab/SpatIS/blob/master/code/spatis_source_code_v1_0.R")

# Loading from the local environment, after downloading and unpacking
# Path to code folder in your computer
# setwd("/home/leecb/Github/SpatIS/code/")
source("../code/spatis_source_code_v1_0.R")
```

Then it is necessary to transform individuals' locations into a `SpatialPointsDataFrame` (a data frame with spatial information embedded; take a look here for more information), so that one of the columns indicates the individual ID. Below we show an example of how the space use data may be organized and how it looks like after the transformation into a `SpatialPointsDataFrame`.

```
# Organizing individual locations as an example of tabular data
ids <- sapply(1:ncol(X), rep, times = nrow(X)) # Generating array of IDs
ids.vector <- as.vector(ids)
X.vector <- as.vector(X) # Array of x positions
Y.vector <- as.vector(Y) # Array of y positions

# Creating a data frame with an ID column that represents individuals
data <- data.frame(ID = ids.vector, X = X.vector, Y = Y.vector)

# This is how the original data may look like
head(data)

##      ID          X          Y
## 1  1 1.3216090 -1.740196
## 2  1 1.5943292 -1.466210
## 3  1 0.7755649  1.762281
## 4  1 0.8398471  1.803869
## 5  1 0.3697159  1.910707
## 6  1 0.2945413  2.348632

# Transforming the original data into a SpatialPointsDataFrame
spdata <- SpatialPointsDataFrame(coords = cbind(data$X, data$Y),
                                data = subset(data, select = -c(X,Y)))

# This is how the SpatialPointsDataFrame will look like
head(spdata)

##      coordinates ID
## 1 (1.32161, -1.7402) 1
## 2 (1.59433, -1.46621) 1
## 3 (0.775565, 1.76228) 1
## 4 (0.839847, 1.80387) 1
## 5 (0.369716, 1.91071) 1
## 6 (0.294541, 2.34863) 1
## Coordinate Reference System (CRS) arguments: NA
```

After transforming the original data, it is easy to run `SpatIS` with this `SpatialPointsDataFrame` as input by specifying which column corresponds to individual ID. `SpatIS` is based on the estimation of utilization distributions (UDs) through `kernelUD` function and the calculation of the overlap between UD's through `kerneloverlap` function (both functions from the `adehabitatHR` package). `SpatIS` assesses the overlap in the utilization distribution or area of use between individuals and the whole population (assumed to be the combination of all individuals sampled). `SpatICS` is similar but assesses the overlap between the UD of each individual and the rest of the population (all individuals pooled but the one being analyzed). `SpatIS` and `SpatICS` are then defined as

$$SpatIS_{i,pop} = 1 - OverlapIndex_{i,pop}$$

$$SpatICS_{i,rest} = 1 - OverlapIndex_{i,rest}$$

where $OverlapIndex_{i,pop}$ is a measure of overlap between the space use of the individual i and the whole

population (*pop*), and $OverlapIndex_{i,rest}$ is a measure of overlap between the space use of the individual *i* and the rest of the population (*rest*, all individuals polled but the individual *i*). As they based on the calculation of the overlap of space use, *SpatIS* and *SpatICS* are direct adaptations from the spatial overlap indices described in Fieberg and Kochanny (2005), with the modification that one of the individuals for which the overlap is calculated is represented by the whole (or rest of the) population.

We defined the default method to assess the overlap in space use the VI index from the `kerneloverlap` function, that calculates the intersection between the volumes of the individual and the population UD. However, since other methods to assess overlap in space use are available, *SpatIS* and *SpatICS* are also defined for each of them. See the Appendix S4, Fieberg and Kochanny (2005), and the documentation of `kerneloverlap` function for more details about these other methods.

There are two options for calling *SpatIS*. One is to create in the input `SpatialPointsDataFrame` a “new individual” that represents the whole population (or the rest of the population, for *SpatICS*), with locations of all individuals (or the rest of the individuals, for *SpatICS*) gathered, set a name for this “individual” (e.g. *pop* or *pop_rest*) and use it as input for the argument “population ID” when calling *SpatIS*. The other one is to let the function do it for you, if this “super individual” that represents the whole (rest of the) population is not present in the dataset yet (in this case, the option `population.ID` should be set to `NULL`, the default). We use the latter option in this tutorial, since we do not have an ID that represents the whole (rest of the) population. We put the results into an object called `observed.SpatIS`.

Therefore, the *SpatIS* function has at least 5 arguments:

- `data`, the input `SpatialPointsDataFrame`.
- `individuals.col`, the a string with the name of the column containing individual ID names.
- `population.ID`, the ID (temporary name) in the column `individuals.col` that represents the whole population (or the rest of the population).
- `index`, that controls which index is to be calculated: *spatis*, *spatics*, or both (use `c("spatis", "spatics")`). The name of the indices is not case sensitive.
- `method`, that controls which method to assess the overlap between UDs or areas of use should be used - these are passed to the `kerneloverlap` function. Options are “VI”, “HR”, “PHR”, “BA”, or “UDOI”. For more information, see the `?kerneloverlap` function help and the Appendix S4.

Besides these five, other arguments for the `kernelUD` and `kerneloverlap` function are also accepted.

```
# Replotting data
# cor <- rainbow(length(unique(spdata$ID)))
# plot(coordinates(spdata)[,1], coordinates(spdata)[,2], type = "n")
# points(spdata, pch = 20, col = cor[as.factor(spdata$ID)])

# Calculating SpatIS and saving the results into the object observed.SpatIS
observed.SpatIS <- SpatIS(spdata, individuals.col = "ID", population.ID = NULL,
                          index = c("spatis", "spatics"), method = "VI")
```

The result of *SpatIS* is a list of six elements:

- 1) `data`: The input locations points, a `SpatialPointsDataFrame`:

```
# First lines
head(observed.SpatIS$data)

##           coordinates ID
## 1 (1.32161, -1.7402)  1
## 2 (1.59433, -1.46621)  1
## 3 (0.775565, 1.76228)  1
## 4 (0.839847, 1.80387)  1
## 5 (0.369716, 1.91071)  1
## 6 (0.294541, 2.34863)  1
## Coordinate Reference System (CRS) arguments: NA
```

```
# Last lines
tail(observed.SpatIS$data)
```

```
##              coordinates ID
## 495  (-4.3938, 6.79819)  5
## 496  (-5.91664, 6.63695)  5
## 497  (-5.99262, 6.48406)  5
## 498  (-6.6824, 4.99822)  5
## 499  (-6.65972, 4.89188)  5
## 500  (-6.56448, 4.39379)  5
## Coordinate Reference System (CRS) arguments: NA
```

2) parms: The parameters used as input to call SpatIS:

```
# Parameters
observed.SpatIS$parms
```

```
## $individuals.col
## [1] "ID"
##
## $population.ID
## NULL
##
## $index
## [1] "spatis" "spatics"
##
## $method
## [1] "VI"
```

3) SpatIS.individual: the value of the Spatial Individual Specialization index for each one of the five individuals (i.e., the level of overlap between their utilization distribution and the population's utilization distribution, a value from 0 to 1):

```
# Individual SpatIS
observed.SpatIS$SpatIS.individual
```

```
##           1           2           3           4           5
## 0.6661083 0.6567337 0.7330505 0.6594467 0.7847597
```

4) SpatIS.population: the value of the Spatial Individual Specialization index for the whole population, defined as the individual SpatIS averaged over all individuals. Note that, to calculate *SpatIS* and *SpatICS*, a “new individual” representing the whole population is created. However, this is only for the calculation of the index for the individuals. This *SpatIS* population value shown below is the average of the individual *SpatIS* values, i.e., the average of the overlap between each individual and this “new individual” that represents the whole population. It represents how specialist is the population as a whole.

```
# Population SpatIS
observed.SpatIS$SpatIS.population
```

```
## [1] 0.7000198
```

5) SpatICS.individual: the value of the Spatial Individual Complementary Specialization index for each individual (i.e., the level of overlap between their utilization distribution and the rest of the population's utilization distribution, a value from 0 to 1):

```
# Individual SpatICS
observed.SpatIS$SpatICS.individual
```



```
##           1           2           3           4           5
## 0.8141360 0.8141360 0.8117282 0.9064550 0.8040123
```

- 6) `SpatICS.population`: the value of the Spatial Individual Complementary Specialization index for the whole population, defined as the `SpatICS` averaged over individuals. Note that, to calculate *SpatICS*, a “new individual” representing the rest of the population is created. However, this is only for the calculation of the index for the individuals. This *SpatICS* population value shown below is the average of the individual *SpatICS* values, i.e., the average of the overlap between each individual and this “new individual” that represents the rest of the population. It represents how specialist is the population as a whole, based on the idea of complementary specialization.

```
# Population SpatICS
observed.SpatIS$SpatICS.population
```

```
## [1] 0.8300935
```

By definition, *SpatICS* is generally higher than *SpatIS*.

4 Plotting 95% kernels to represent the overlap in space use between individuals and the population

Below we plot the 95% kernel density estimation (KDE) isopleths for each individual and the whole population to illustrate the overlap in their space use, that is the basis for the calculation of *SpatIS*. The black line shows the population 95% KDE isopleth, and the colored lines represent different individuals' 95% KDE areas. This is just an illustration, however, since the values calculated above were based on the overlap between UD volumes, not on KDE areas.

```
# Calculate utilization distributions

# here first we create a "new individual" representing the population
pop.spdata <- observed.SpatIS$data
pop.spdata$ID <- "pop"
# then we append the data from this individual to the dataset
spdata <- rbind(observed.SpatIS$data, pop.spdata)

# now we calculate the UD for each individual and the population...
ids <- unique(spdata$ID)
UDs <- list()
for(i in 1:length(ids)) {
  kud <- adehabitatHR::kernelUD(spdata[,1][spdata$ID == ids[i],], h = "href")
  UDs[[i]] <- kud
}

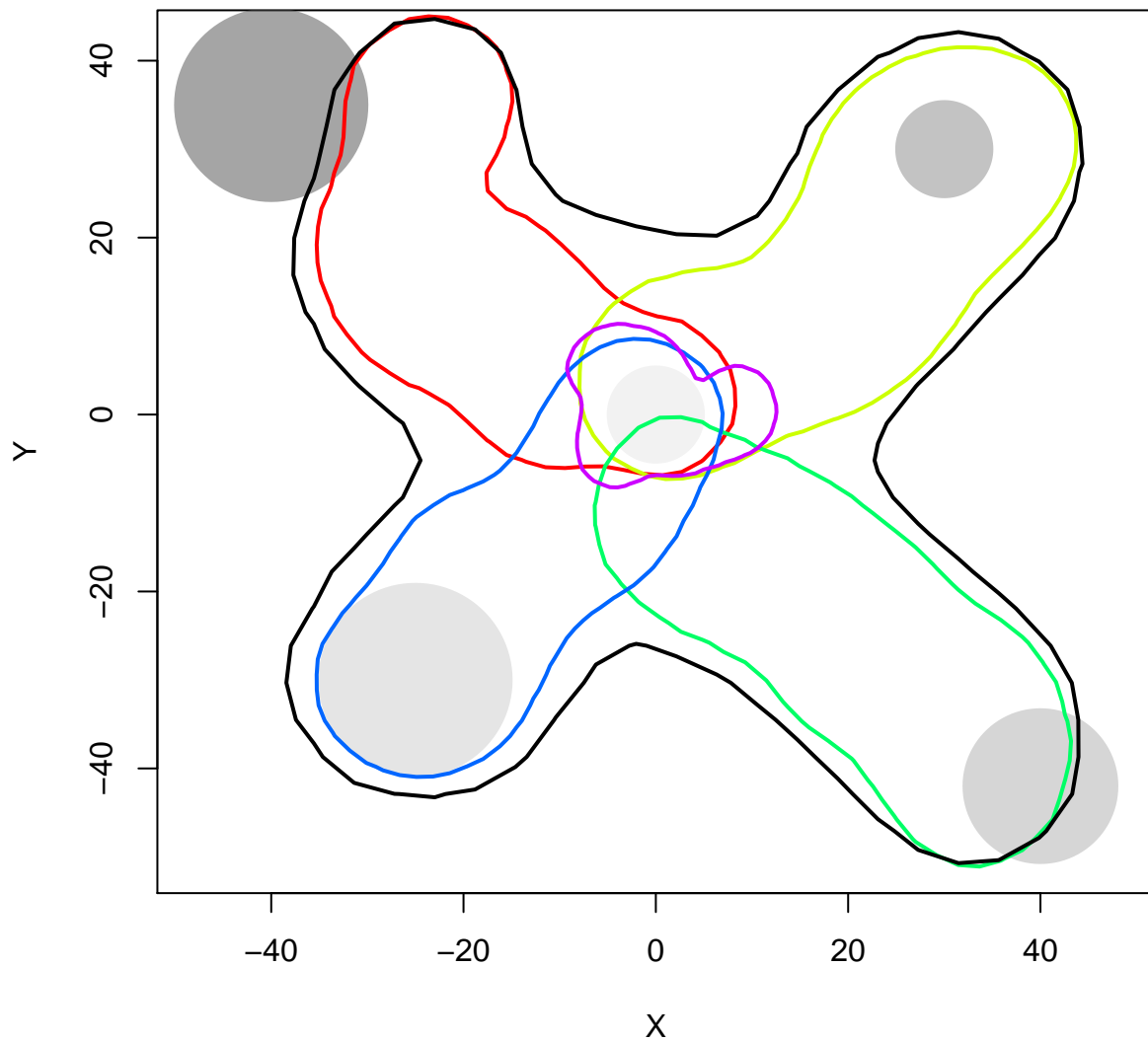
# ... and draw the landscape and the 95% kernel density estimation isopleths
# for the individuals and the population
colors <- c(rainbow(length(ids)-1), "black") # the last one is for the whole population
for(i in (1:length(ids))) {
  kernel95 <- adehabitatHR::getverticeshr(UDs[[i]], percent = 95)
  if(i == 1){
    # Draw the virtual landscape

    # Draw a landscape that encompasses the position of all resources
    matplot(x.resources, y.resources, type="n",
             xlim=c(1.2*min(x.resources), 1.2*max(x.resources)),
             ylim=c(1.2*min(y.resources), 1.2*max(y.resources)),
```

```

    xlab = "X", ylab = "Y")
  for(j in 1:length(x.resources)) {
    draw.circle(x.resources[j], y.resources[j], radius = radius[j], border = cols[j],
               col = cols[j]) # draw resources
  }
}
plot(kernel95, border=colors[i], lwd = 2, add = T) # plot KDE
}

```



Now we do the same for the *SpatICS*. We plot the 95% KDE isopleth for one of the individuals and for the rest of the population to illustrate the overlap in their space use. The colored line represents the individual's 95% KDE area and the black line the 95% KDE of the rest of the population.

```

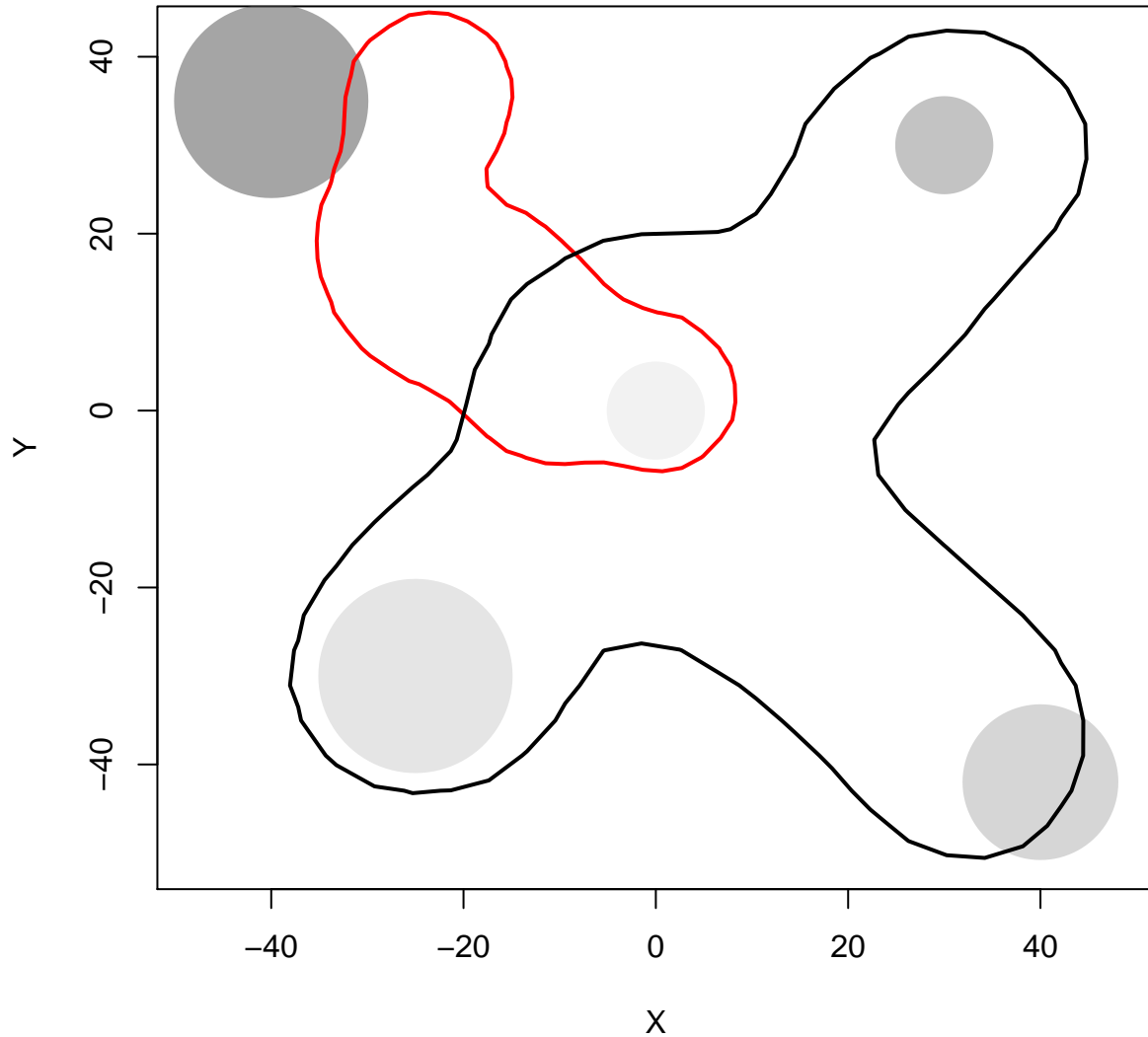
# Calculate utilization distributions

# all individuals that have the ID != 1 are considered as rest
spdata <- observed.SpatIS$data
spdata$ID[spdata$ID != "1"] <- "rest"
ids <- unique(spdata$ID)
UDs <- list()
for(i in 1:length(ids)) {
  kud <- adehabitatHR::kernelUD(spdata[,1][spdata$ID == ids[i],], h = "href")
  UDs[[i]] <- kud
}

# Drawing the landscape and the 95% kernel isopleths
colors <- c(rainbow(length(ids)-1), "black") # the last one is for the whole population
for(i in (1:length(ids))) {
  kernel95 <- adehabitatHR::getverticeshr(UDs[[i]], percent = 95)
  if(i == 1){
    # Draw the virtual landscape

    # Draw a landscape that encompasses the position of all resources
    matplot(x.resources, y.resources, type="n",
            xlim=c(1.2*min(x.resources), 1.2*max(x.resources)),
            ylim=c(1.2*min(y.resources), 1.2*max(y.resources)),
            xlab = "X", ylab = "Y")
    for(j in 1:length(x.resources)) {
      draw.circle(x.resources[j], y.resources[j], radius = radius[j], border = cols[j],
                  col = cols[j]) # draw resources
    }
  }
  plot(kernel95, border=colors[i], lwd = 2, add = T)
}

```



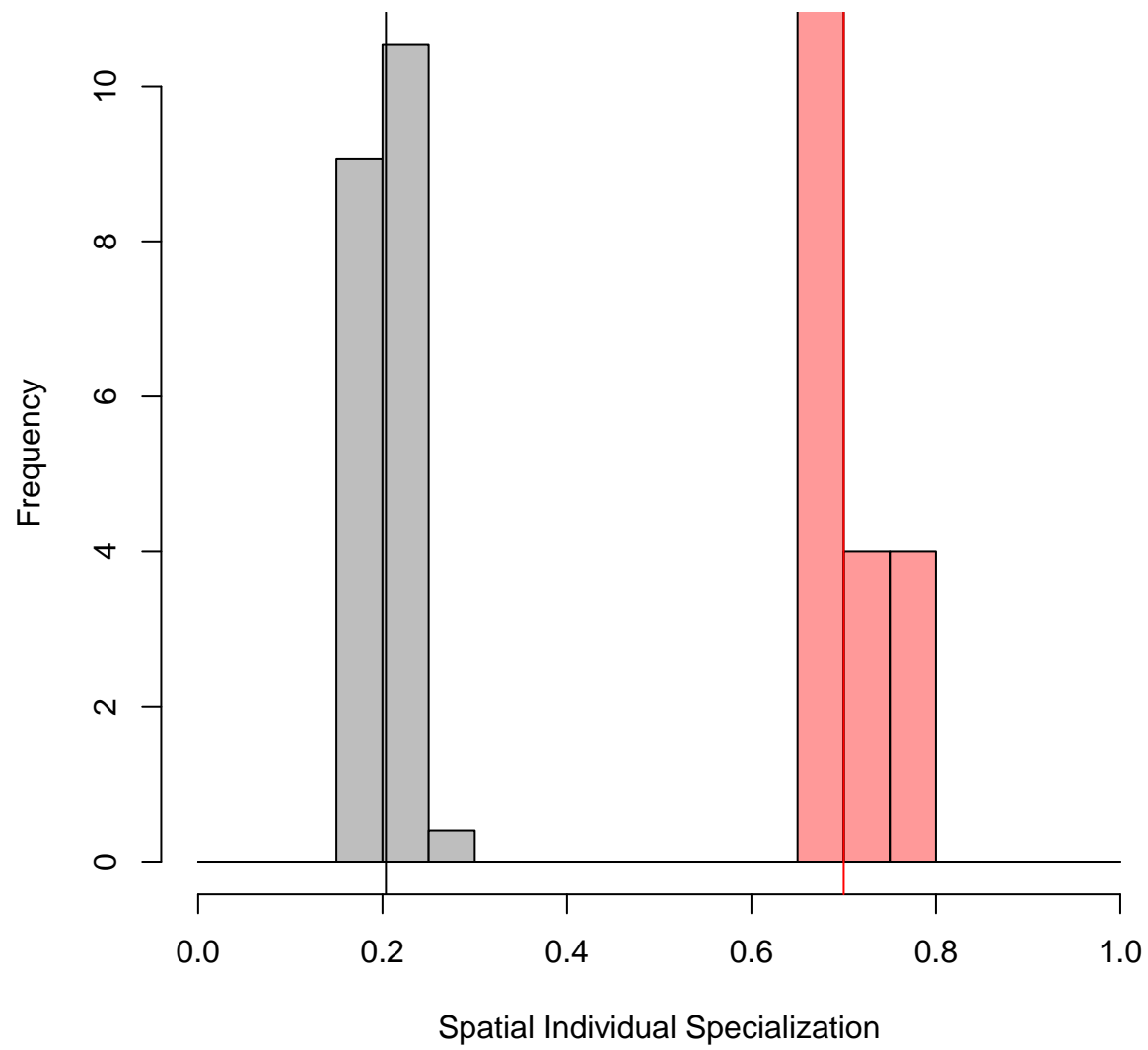
5 Calculating population SpatIS significance

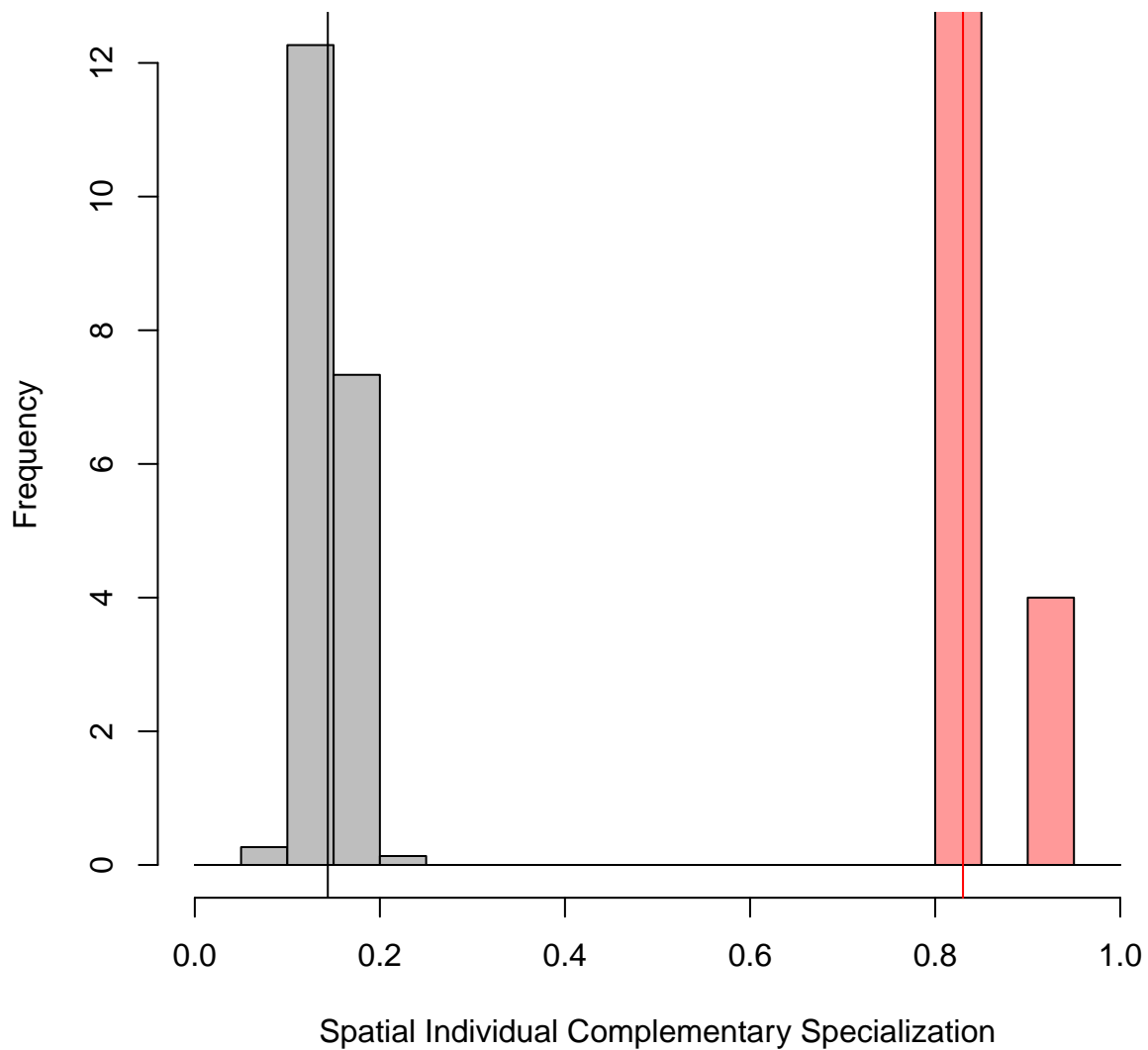
To check whether the observed population *SpatIS* and *SpatICS* are different from random, we use the function `SpatIS.randomize`. This function recalculates the population *SpatIS* and *SpatICS* values after randomizing the population locations between individuals. This randomization procedure is repeated a number of times (the default is `iterations = 99`) and used to calculate significance (a *p* value) through a comparison (a *t test*) between the distributions of observed and expected (after randomization of locations) individual *SpatIS*/*SpatICS* values. The randomization process may be a bootstrap (randomize locations with replacement) or a permutation procedure (without replacement; this option is controlled by the argument `bootstrap`, which by default is `FALSE`) and the significance is calculated based on an alpha threshold (`alpha` parameter; default is 0.05). The input used for running `SpatIS.randomize` is the list that results from `SpatIS` function. The function also plots (if `plot = TRUE`) how far is the observed value (in red) from permuted ones.

`SpatIS.randomize` function also allows one not to shuffle positions that do not represent resources of interest. For example, if the individual specialization in foraging behavior is being assessed, the roost or nest positions can be kept without changes. This is controlled by two parameters. `not.randomize.col` represents the name or number of the column of the `SpatialPointsDataFrame` (which is input to the `SpatIS` function) which categorizes the locations between those that should or should not be randomized. `not.randomize.val` indicates which value (a string or a number) from the `not.randomize.col` column represents the locations that should not be randomized.

The output is a list containing the random *SpatIS* and *SpatICS* values, the observed *SpatIS* and *SpatICS* calculated through `SpatIS` function (all of them for the individuals and the whole population), the significance object (the result of a *t test*), and two objects regarding statistical power analysis, for the indices selected. The figures produced below by the function show a histogram (and mean value) for the observed (real population, in **red**) and randomized (after randomization of locations, in **grey**) *SpatIS* and *SpatICS*.

```
# Run permutation
permutations <- SpatIS.randomize(observed.SpatIS, iterations = 30)
```





```
# Show permutation results
str(permutations, max.level = 2)
```

```
## List of 2
## $ :List of 7
## ..$ SpatIS.individual.random :List of 30
## ..$ SpatIS.individual.observed: Named num [1:5] 0.666 0.657 0.733 0.659 0.785
## .. ..- attr(*, "names")= chr [1:5] "1" "2" "3" "4" ...
## ..$ SpatIS.population.random : num [1:29] 0.205 0.201 0.202 0.199 0.207 ...
## ..$ SpatIS.population.observed: num 0.7
## ..$ SpatIS.significance :List of 10
## .. ..- attr(*, "class")= chr "htest"
## ..$ SpatIS.power : num 1
## ..$ SpatIS.power.curve : 'data.frame': 4 obs. of 2 variables:
```

```
## $ :List of 7
## ..$ SpatICS.individual.random :List of 30
## ..$ SpatICS.individual.observed: Named num [1:5] 0.814 0.814 0.812 0.906 0.804
## .. ..- attr(*, "names")= chr [1:5] "1" "2" "3" "4" ...
## ..$ SpatICS.population.random : num [1:29] 0.161 0.146 0.143 0.132 0.145 ...
## ..$ SpatICS.population.observed: num 0.83
## ..$ SpatICS.significance :List of 10
## .. ..- attr(*, "class")= chr "htest"
## ..$ SpatICS.power : num 1
## ..$ SpatICS.power.curve : 'data.frame': 4 obs. of 2 variables:
```

Citation

If you need more information or calculate *SpatIS* and *SpatICS*, please refer to

Kerches-Rogeri, P.; Niebuhr, B. B.; Muylaert, R. L., Mello, M. A. R. Individual specialization in the space use of frugivorous bats. *Journal of Animal Ecology*.

Additional references

Bolnick, D. I. et al. 2003. The ecology of individuals: incidence and implications of individual specialization. *American Naturalist*, 161, 1–28.

Calenge, C. 2006. The package adehabitat for the R software: a tool for the analysis of space and habitat use by animals. *Ecological Modelling*, 197, 516–519.

Fieberg, J. & Kochanny, C.O. (2005) Quantifying Home-Range Overlap: the Importance of the Utilization Distribution. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 69, 1346–1359. doi: 10.2193/0022-541X(2005)69[1346:QHOTIO]2.0.CO;2

Prof. Juan Manuel Morales webpage. <https://sites.google.com/site/pajarom/>.